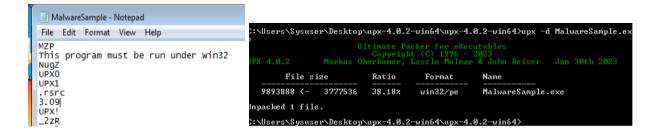
Final Project Malware Analysis

Fingerprint:



Unpacking the Malware:

Upon downloading my malware sample, I ran strings and saw that it had been compressed with UPX. This meant I had to use "upx -d FinalMalwareSample.exe" to unpack the sample.



Strings of Interest:

After unpacking, I look for anything that may be suspicious by running strings once again and find these suspicious URLs.

```
AccountPass
RandomizePass
http://izhesler.dax.ru/botcreator
UpdateLink
CheckUpdatess

_^[
nil
http://passport.yandex.ru/passport?mode=constructlogin&login=
input_login_status
free
```

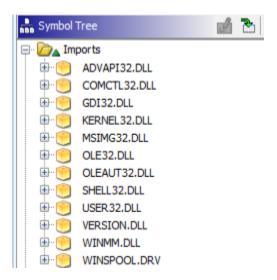
These were just four of the domains that stood out to me after scrolling through the txt file. I used VirusTotal's URL checker to find out that they are not inherently malicious but are in fact Russian. Afterwards, I used PEStudio to flag strings it found particularly interesting.



These are only a few of the flagged strings but ones that stood out to me were GetKeyState which makes me think of Keylogging and WriteFile which could have many malicious purposes.

Imports:

These are the imported libraries,



Some methods of interest include these 49 which were flagged by PEStudio.

imports (475)	flag (49)	first-thunk-original (INT)	first-thunk (IAT)	hint	group (19)	technique (13)	type (5)	ordinal (1)	library (0)
<u>GetWindowTextW</u>	×	n/a	0x0014C1FE	0 (0x0000)	windowing	T1010 Window Discovery	implicit		user32.dll
GetWindowTextA	×	n/a	0x0014C20E	0 (0x0000)	windowing	T1010 Window Discovery	implicit		user32.dll
GetForegroundWindow	x	n/a	0x0014C42C	0 (0x0000)	windowing	T1010 Window Discovery	implicit		user32.dll
GetDesktopWindow	x	n/a	0x0014C44C	0 (0x0000)	windowing		implicit		user32.dll
GetClassLongA	x	n/a	0x0014C4BC	0 (0x0000)	windowing		implicit		user32.dll
EnumThreadWindows	×	n/a	0x0014C548	0 (0x0000)	windowing		implicit		user32.dll
WinHelpA	×	n/a	0x0014BD10	0 (0x0000)	shell		implicit		user32.dll
Copylmage	×	n/a	0x0014C6E8	0 (0x0000)	resource		implicit		user32.dll
WritePrivateProfileStringA	x	n/a	0x0014AA66	0 (0x0000)	registry		implicit		KERNEL32.DLL
RegFlushKey	x	n/a	0x0014B37C	0 (0x0000)	registry	T1112 Modify Registry	implicit		advapi32.dll
QueryPerformanceFrequency	×	n/a	0x0014AB68	0 (0x0000)	reconnaissance		implicit		KERNEL32.DLL
GetCurrentProcessId	×	n/a	0x0014AE4C	0 (0x0000)	reconnaissance	T1057 Process Discovery	implicit		KERNEL32.DLL
VirtualAlloc	×	n/a	0x0014AAB2	0 (0x0000)	memory	T1055 Process Injection	implicit		KERNEL32.DLL
VirtualAlloc	×	n/a	0x0014B096	0 (0x0000)	memory	T1055 Process Injection	implicit		KERNEL32.DLL
MapVirtualKeyA	×	n/a	0x0014C0AC	0 (0x0000)	input-output	T1056 Input Capture	implicit		user32.dll
GetKeyboardState	×	n/a	0x0014C3C0	0 (0x0000)	input-output	T1179 Hooking	implicit		user32.dll
GetKeyState	×	n/a	0x0014C3FE	0 (0x0000)	input-output	T1056 Input Capture	implicit		user32.dll
GetKeyNameTextA	×	n/a	0x0014C40C	0 (0x0000)	input-output		implicit		user32.dll
GetKeyboardType	×	n/a	0x0014C7C2	0 (0x0000)	input-output	T1179 Hooking	implicit		user32.dll
UnhookWindowsHookEx	×	n/a	0x0014BD48	0 (0x0000)	hooking	T1179 Hooking	implicit		user32.dll
SetWindowsHookExA	x	n/a	0x0014BE0E	0 (0x0000)	hooking	T1179 Hooking	implicit	-	user32.dll
CallNextHookEx	×	n/a	0x0014C736	0 (0x0000)	hooking	T1179 Hooking	implicit		user32.dll
WriteFile	×	n/a	0x0014AA82	0 (0x0000)	file	-	implicit		KERNEL32.DLL
FindNextFileA	×	n/a	0x0014AF06	0 (0x0000)	file	T1083 File and Directory Discovery	implicit		KERNEL32.DLL
FindFirstFileA	×	n/a	0x0014AF16	0 (0x0000)	file	T1083 File and Directory Discovery	implicit		KERNEL32.DLL
FindFirstFileA	×	n/a	0x0014B254	0 (0x0000)	file	T1083 File and Directory Discovery	implicit		KERNEL32.DLL
WriteFile	x	n/a	0x0014B298	0 (0x0000)	file		implicit		KERNEL32.DLL
SHGetSpecialFolderLocation	×	n/a	0x0014BC80	0 (0x0000)	file		implicit		shell32.dll
SHGetFileInfoA	×	n/a	0x0014BCCE	0 (0x0000)	file		implicit		shell32.dll
GetCurrentThreadId	×	n/a	0x0014AE38	0 (0x0000)	execution	T1057 Process Discovery	implicit		KERNEL32.DLL
GetCurrentThreadId	×	n/a	0x0014B0F0	0 (0x0000)	execution	T1057 Process Discovery	implicit		KERNEL32.DLL
ShellExecuteA	×	n/a	0x0014BCBE	0 (0x0000)	execution	T1106 Execution through API	implicit		shell32.dll
GetWindowThreadProcessId	×	n/a	0x0014C1CE	0 (0x0000)	execution	T1057 Process Discovery	implicit		user32.dll
RaiseException	×	n/a	0x0014AB58	0 (0x0000)	exception		implicit		KERNEL32.DLL
RaiseException	×	n/a	0x0014B2F2	0 (0x0000)	exception		implicit		KERNEL32.DLL
GlobalFindAtomA	×	n/a	0x0014AC68	0 (0x0000)	data-exchange		implicit		KERNEL32.DLL
GlobalDeleteAtom	x	n/a	0x0014AC7A	0 (0x0000)	data-exchange		implicit		KERNEL32.DLL
GlobalAddAtomA	×	n/a	0x0014AC9A	0 (0x0000)	data-exchange		implicit		KERNEL32.DLL
SetClipboardData	×	n/a	0x0014BF04	0 (0x0000)	data-exchange	T1115 Clipboard Data	implicit		user32.dll
RegisterClipboardFormatA	×	n/a	0x0014BFBE	0 (0x0000)	data-exchange	T1115 Clipboard Data	implicit		user32.dll
OpenClipboard	×	n/a	0x0014C02E	0 (0x0000)	data-exchange	T1115 Clipboard Data	implicit		user32.dll
GetClipboardData	×	n/a	0x0014C48A	0 (0x0000)	data-exchange	T1115 Clipboard Data	implicit		user32.dll

Some of the more familiar and dangerous functions I identify in this list include: GetKeyState, GetKeyboardState, SetWindowsHookExA, WriteFile, and MapVirtualKeyA. These are some of the methods that I will start my search with in the disassembled view in Ghidra.

Disassembly:

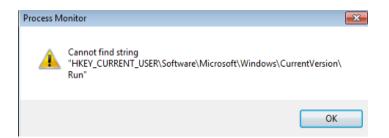
I started my analysis in Ghidra by checking and finding the main function. I did this by tracing to it from the entry point. This allowed me to understand and trace the execution of the program.

I then tried looking at the method GetKeyState and GetKeyboardState but they were both only referenced once in the code each at different unsuspicious locations. This made me look back at the imports where I found OLE32.dll. This was familiar from the CTFs that used COM interface. I checked references to the oleinitialize method and found FUN_0048e43c which calls FUN_0048e170 which retrieves and modifies all sorts of files in your system.

```
void FUN_0048e170(void)
 IShellFolder *in_FS_OFFSET;
 IShellFolder IVar1:
 IShellFolder IStack24:
 undefined *puStack20;
 undefined *puStack16;
 IShellFolder local c:
 LPITEMIDLIST local_8;
 puStack16 = &stack0xffffffffc;
 local c = (IShellFolder)0x0;
 puStack20 = &DAT_0048e1e1;
                                                                                       4 void UndefinedFunction_0048e43c(void)
 IStack24 = *in_FS_OFFSET;
 *(IShellFolder **)in_FS_OFFSET = &IStack24;
 IVar1 = DAT_005455f0;
 SHGetSpecialFolderLocation((HWND)0x0,(int)DAT_005455f0,&local_8);
 if (local 8 != (LPITEMIDLIST) 0x0) {
                                                                                           bVar1 = _DAT_00548d1c == 0;
   FUN 0048e160((IShellFolder **)&local c);
                                                                                             DAT_00548d1c = _DAT_00548d1c + -1;
   DAT 00545654 = FUN 0048e208((int *)&PTR FUN 0048dfb4,1,0,(int **)local c,local 8);
                                                                                           if (bVar1) {
                                                                                             FUN 0048e170();
   FUN 0048e110();
                                                                                              InitializeCriticalSection((LPCRITICAL_SECTION)&lpCriticalSection_00548d20);
 *in FS OFFSET = IVar1;
                                                                                             OleInitialize((LPVOID)0x0);
 IStack24 = (IShellFolder) &LAB 0048e1e8:
 FUN_0040646c((int **) &local_c);
                                                                                           return;
```

Procmon:

Here are some of the ways I have analyzed this malware for persistence mechanisms:



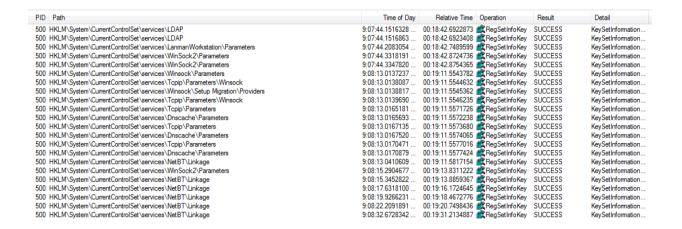
I defaulted to this as this is what was discussed in class and in the textbook but I could not find anything containing the path "\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run".

Next, I looked for any DLL injections. I did this by searching for "\SOFTWARE\Wow6432Node\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Windows\AppInit_DLLs" but this was the closest thing I could find.



Additionally, it only queries that value so it does not seem too suspicious but I'm still documenting it in case it does become important later.

Next, I check to see if it potentially installs itself as a service so I make a note of these RegSetInfoKey operations in the "\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services" path.



None of this appeared too out of the ordinary.

UpdateLink=http://izhesler.dax.ru/botcreator

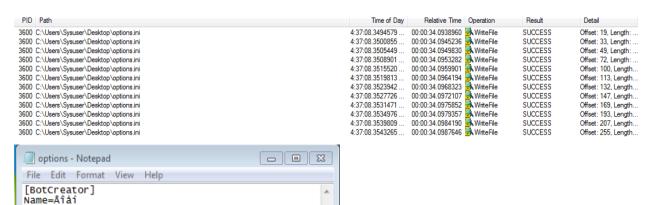
Surname=Óï÷ê
AvatarDir=avatars
Page30Percent=1
ProxyServer=
Pageclosed=0
ProxyPort=8080
GenerateMode=1
MailboxPass=upyachka
AccountPass=upyachka
RandomizePass=1

checkUpdates=1

The following are the COM surrogates captured in the Procmon process tree when the malware sample was detonated.



The only file that the malware writes to is this options.ini file. I believe this may have to do with exfiltrating the data.



INetSim:

== Report for session '6335' ===

Real start date : 2024-04-30 11:09:38 Simulated start date : 2024-04-30 11:09:38

Time difference on startup: none

2024-04-30 11:09:42 First simulated date in log file

2024-04-30 11:09:42 DNS connection, type: A, class: IN, requested name: www.practicalmalwareanalysis.com 2024-04-30 11:09:42 HTTP connection, method: GET, URL: http://www.practicalmalwareanalysis.com/start.htm, file name: /var/lib/inetsim/http/fakefiles/sample.html

2024-04-30 11:09:58 DNS connection, type: A, class: IN, requested name: teredo.ipv6.microsoft.com

2024-04-30 11:10:59 DNS connection, type: A, class: IN, requested name: passport.yandex.ru

2024-04-30 11:10:59 HTTP connection, method: GET, URL: http://passport.yandex.ru/passport?mode=register, file name: /var/lib/inetsim/http/fakefiles/sample.html

2024-04-30 11:10:59 HTTP connection, method: POST, URL: http://passport.yandex.ru/passport?mode=register, file name: /var/lib/inetsim/http/postdata/c6d8150ebfb764d189350b12349063b3c9ecfe48285f4e6c18408f5d83a69> 2024-04-30 11:10:59 HTTP connection, method: GET, URL: http://passport.yandex.ru/digits?idkey=, file name: /var/lib/inetsim/http/fakefiles/sample.html

2024-04-30 11:11:04 HTTP connection, method: GET, URL: http://passport.yandex.ru/passport?mode=register, file name: /var/lib/inetsim/http/fakefiles/sample.html

2024-04-30 11:11:04 HTTP connection, method: POST, URL: http://passport.yandex.ru/passport?mode=register, file name: /var/lib/inetsim/http/postdata/c6d8150ebfb764d189350b12349063b3c9ecfe48285f4e6c18408f5d83a69> 2024-04-30 11:11:04 HTTP connection, method: GET, URL: http://passport.yandex.ru/digits?idkey=, file name: /var/lib/inetsim/http/fakefiles/sample.html

2024-04-30 11:11:14 DNS connection, type: A, class: IN, requested name: watson.microsoft.com 2024-04-30 11:11:15 HTTP connection. method: GET. URL:

 $\label{lem:http://watson.microsoft.com/StageOne/FinalMalwareSample_exe/0_2_1_0/2a425e19/FinalMalwareSample_exe/0_2_1_0/2a425$

2024-04-30 11:11:15 Last simulated date in log file

===

Wireshark:

5 0.02581400 192.168.56.102	192.168.56.101	TCP	66 49292 > http [SYN] Seg=0 Win=8192 Len=0 MSS=1460 WS=256 SACK_PERM=1
6 0.02638700 192.168.56.101	192.168.56.102	TCP	66 http > 49292 [SYN, ACK] Seq=0 Ack=1 Win=64240 Len=0 MSS=1460 SACK_PERM=1 WS=128
7 0.02649700 192.168.56.102	192.168.56.101	TCP	54 49292 > http [ACK] Seq=1 ACk=1 win=65536 Len=0
8 0.04047200 192.168.56.102	192.168.56.101	HTTP	355 GET /passport?mode=register HTTP/1.1
9 0.04154400 192.168.56.101	192.168.56.102	TCP	60 http > 49292 [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=302 Win=64128 Len=0
10 0.04989900 192.168.56.101	192.168.56.102	TCP	204 [TCP segment of a reassembled PDU]
11 0.05186200 192.168.56.101	192.168.56.102	HTTP	312 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html)
12 0.05188700 192.168.56.102	192.168.56.101	TCP	54 49292 > http [ACK]
13 0.05213100 192.168.56.102	192.168.56.101	TCP	54 49292 > http [FIN, ACK]
14 0.05276300 192.168.56.101	192.168.56.102	TCP	60 http > 49292 [ACK] Seq=410 Ack=303 Win=64128 Len=0
15 0.05579300 192.168.56.102	192.168.56.101	TCP	66 49293 > http [SYN]
16 0.05710600 192.168.56.101	192.168.56.102	TCP	66 http > 49293 [SYN, ACK] Seq=0 Ack=1 Win=64240 Len=0 MSS=1460 SACK_PERM=1 WS=128
17 0.05713600 192.168.56.102	192.168.56.101	TCP	54 49293 > http [ACK]
18 0.07439100 192.168.56.102	192.168.56.101	TCP	452 [TCP segment of a reassembled PDU]
19 0.07529800 192.168.56.101	192.168.56.102	TCP	60 http > 49293 [ACK] Seq=1 ACk=399 win=64128 Len=0
20 0.07534700 192.168.56.102	192.168.56.101	HTTP	178 POST /passport?mode=register HTTP/1.0 (application/x-www-form-urlencoded)

```
• [Expert Info (Chat/Sequence): GET /passport?mode=register HTTP/1.1\r\n]

          Request Method: GET
          Request URI: /passport?mode=register
          Request Version: HTTP/1.1
        Connection: Keep-Alive\r\n
        Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded\r\n
        Host: passport.yandex.ru\r\n
        Accept: */*\r\n
        Accept-Charset: windows-1251\r\n
        Accept-Encoding: identity\r\n
        Accept-Language: ru\r\n
        Referer: http://mail.yandex.ru/\r\n
        User-Agent: Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 7.0; Windows NT 5.1; MRA 5.2 (build 02415))\r\n

    ∃ Hypertext Transfer Protocol

  ■ POST /passport?mode=register HTTP/1.0\r\n
    Expert Info (Chat/Sequence): POST /passport?mode=register HTTP/1.0\r\n]
      Request Method: POST
      Request URI: /passport?mode=register
      Request Version: HTTP/1.0
    Connection: Keep-Alive\r\n
    Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded\r\n
  \blacksquare Content-Length: 124\r\n
    Host: passport.yandex.ru\r\n
    Accept: */*\r\n
    Accept-Charset: windows-1251\r\n
    Accept-Encoding: identity\r\n
    Accept-Language: ru\r\n
    Referer: http://passport.yandex.ru/passport?mode=register\r\n
    User-Agent: Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 7.0; Windows NT 5.1; MRA 5.2 (build 02415))\r\n
```

From the activity in Inetsim and Wireshark, I am led to believe that this malware uses network connection to exfiltrate the data that it captures. I believe it may potentially use the Russian yandex email service to send the data to some unknown attacker as it is mentioned in the HTTP GET request.

Ollydbg:

Nothing that was not discovered previously in the static and dynamic analysis were found in the debugger. However, I did learn that if you close the program while it is running it crashes trying to access memory out of bounds to write to.

```
ECX=00090FFC1=??? (current registers)

Access violation when writing to [00090FFC] - application was unable to process exception
```

How to Clean Machine:

- 1. Disconnect the machine from the internet and any other networks to prevent the malware from receiving any further instructions from a remote server.
- 2. Restart the machine in safe mode. This prevents any non-essential programs from running.

- 3. Backup important files that you do not want to lose. Make sure not to back up any .exe files as they may be infected.
- 4. Use Antivirus and Anti-Malware Programs to scan and remove malicious programs.
- 5. Clear system restore points as these can still hold copies of the malware.
- 6. Reset all browsers
- 7. Update your software
- 8. Change all your passwords
- 9. Monitor your systems behavior going forward to make sure all steps taken did in fact clean your system.

Conclusion:

This malware is a sophisticated multi-faceted approach that tries to obfuscate its intentions by employing an unsuspecting GUI on run name botcreator.exe. I can't tell exactly what the "purpose" of the GUI is because it is in russian but it does not matter. Upon running the executable, the malware spreads through the file system and uses the COM interface to collect data and modify registries. Lastly, the malware sends the data through network connection to Russian URLs.