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INTRODUCTION

NukeSped malware, a Remote Access Trojan (RAT) belonging to the Lazarus Apt group, reveals that it shares multiple features because these malware samples were compiled for 32-bit systems. They also contain encrypted strings to prevent analysis. Malware dynamically decodes functions. There is also the fact that the import table is short and imports few common DLL's and functions.

They connected and strengthened this connection with the use of code to Lazarus, the most well-known of these groups, written by many North-Korean hacker groups. The main function of the malware is to allow attackers to remotely manage the infected host. While making analysis difficult within the system, it encrypts each API name and prevents its analysis in Sandboxes while filling its memory with API hammering method.

FileName	n5JNGFT14Q.exe
MD5	fdc66cdabd46bc3b26aba4e59943726b
SHA1	c341002cc5f9214cc8fd71e633efef673267d1fd
SHA256	5c2f339362d0cd8e5a8e3105c9c56971087bea2701ea3b7324771b0ea2c26c6c
First Seen	06.20.2021 10:36:59 UTC

Loaded DLL's

Malware first loads the following DLL's into the system. After performing the necessary installation, it checks all the API's and writes the necessary API's to its own memory by encrypting them.

user32.dll	kernel32.dll	ntdll.dll
winnsi.dll	iphlpapi.dll	kernelbase.dll
lpk.dll	gdi32.dll	rpcrt4.dll
msctf.dll	ws2_32.dll	usp10.dll
imm32.dll	nsi.dll	mscvrt.dll

API Obfuscation

The malware takes handle in the module specified by the GetModuleHandleW API and calls the API from it and controls the API's. Then it writes API names to memory with the help of GetProcAddress

```
| Description |
```

API Obfuscation

It encrypts all API's and calls matching API's one by one. The malware loads the API's it calls with GetProcAddress into its own memory.

```
| Assemble | Assemble
```

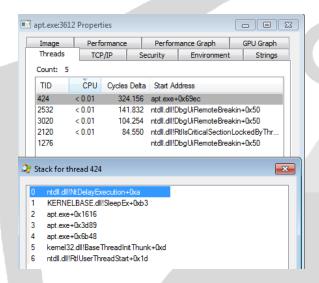
API Obfuscation

```
48: 88C8
48: 88F8000
48: 88F8000
48: 80F8
6784 E000000
48: 8000 44450100
887 3973FFFF
8885 8800F
48: 8800F
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 mov rcx,rbx
mov rcx,rbx
mov rdi,rax
call apt.18F725320
test rdi,rdi
lea rs,qword ptr ss:[rbp+30]
lea rs,qword ptr ds:[18F73F180]
mov dword ptr ss:[rbp+30],esi
call apt.18F724010
mov edx,dword ptr ss:[rbp+30]
mov rcx,rax
mov rbx,rax
mov rbx,rax
mov rdx,rbx
mov rdx,rbx
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    rcx:"PeekMessageW", 000000013F73F1B0:"i1q2o2RU5RRVtH3J
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             mov rox.rax
call apt.13F723790
mov rox.rbx
mov quord ptr ds:[24GetProcaddresss]
mov qword ptr ds:[31F745450], rax
call apt.13F725320
lea F6, word ptr ds:[13F745450], rax
call apt.13F725320
lea F6, word ptr ds:[13F745710]
mov dword ptr ds:[13F745710]
mov dword ptr ds:[13F745710]
mov dword ptr ds:[7bp+30], esi
call apt.13F723790
mov rox.rbx
call apt.13F723790
mov rox.rbx
call apt.13F723790
mov rox.rbx
call apt.13F723790
mov dx, rbx
call apt.13F723790
mov rox.rbx
call apt.13F723790
mov dx, rbx
call qword ptr ds:[24GetProcaddresss]
mov rcx, rbx
call qword ptr ds:[24GetProcaddresss]
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    rbx:"PeekMessageW"
rcx:"PeekMessageW"
000000013F724C93
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    rcx:"jky2uhoDuANYvw==", 000000013F2DF1D0:"j02yplpd9xNRnn3tql1WdQ=="
                                                                                                                                                                  rcx:"PeekMessageW"
rbx:"PeekMessageW"
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      rbx:"PeekMessageW"
rcx:"PeekMessageW"
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    rcx:"PeekMessageW", rbx:"PeekMessageW"
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    rcx:"PeekMessageW", 000000013F73F1F0:"n1aguEhF9Q95tmvtkFtURw=="
                                                                                                                                                                      8855 30
48:88C8
48:88D8
E8 87EAFFFF
48:88D3
48:88CF
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                rcx:"PeekMessageW"
rbx:"PeekMessageW"
                                                                                                                                                                      FF15 1B070200
48:8BCB
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                rcx:"PeekMessageW", rbx:"PeekMessageW"
```

After calling and checking the encrypted API's from memory, it performs analysis and compares it with the list in its memory. If the checked API is correct, it loads the analyzed API's into its own memory with the GetProcAddress API.

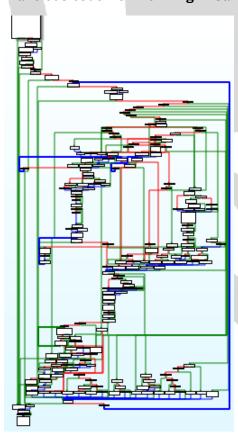
API Hammering

Along with the API hammering method, the malware loops itself quite a lot, and then fills the space with a lot of unnecessary information, slowing down the system and delaying the call process. Thanks to this method, malicious code analysis is not performed in Sandboxes. If this is overload, the system also gives a DelayExecution error.

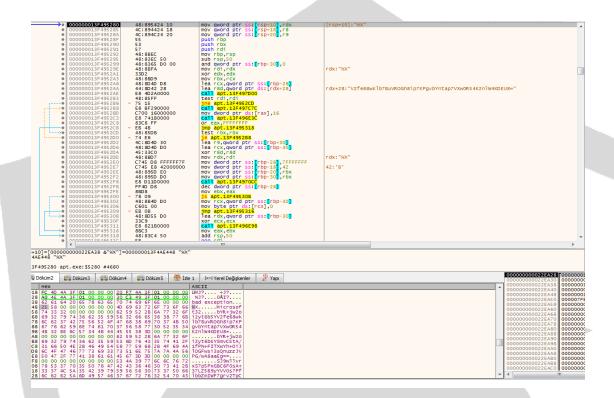


The main API's that can be given in this malware using hammering are: GetProcAddress, LoadLibraryA, GetModuleHandleW.

By using these API's malware creates congestion and delay on the system and prevents this malicious code from running in Sandboxes.



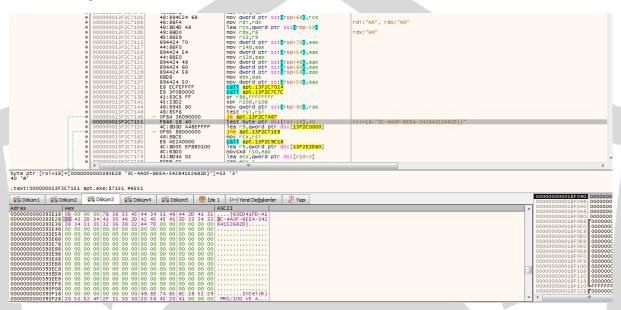
Creating Mutex



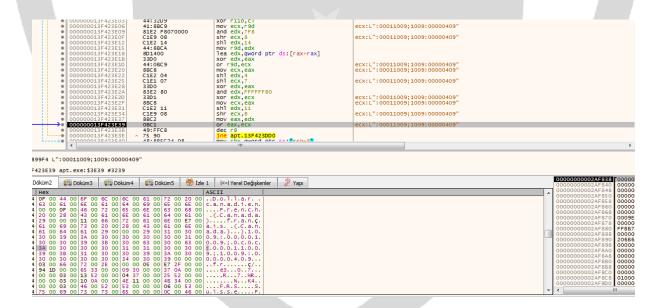
The malware creates a mutex under the name Microsoft32 and writes this mutex information to memory in an encrypted way.

Getting System Information

The malware takes the model number of the wi-fi adapter of the computer it uses and writes it into its own system.



Input profiles help automatically identify the language and region of the input language entered and the keyboard in which it is entered.

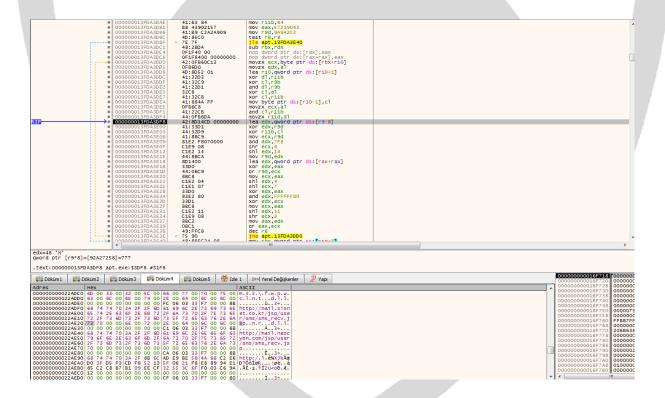


Starting a Thread Under an Event

The malware runs the thread under this command line, which it will control and run under the event Execution Configuration "Global\\BFE_Notify_Event_{6585def3-da73-4483-a4ea-dd858969ee5f}". In this way, it makes it difficult to analyze.



Malware dynamically analyzes the URL information it keeps with encrypted form. Resolved URL information: "mail[.]sisnet[.]co[.]kr/jsp/user/sms/sms_recv_jsp" links to the address it parses. After establishing a connection, it opens a port on the system and listens.



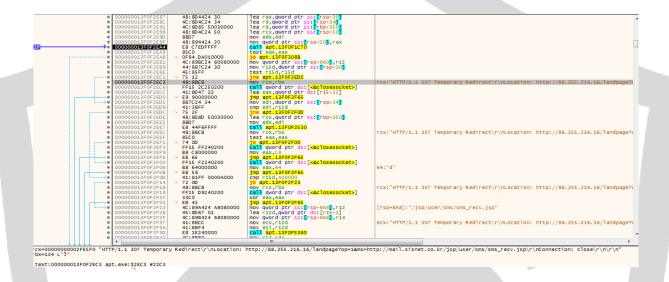
The connection to the encrypted address ("mail[.]net[.]net[.]kr") and expires after a while.

After connecting to this address, malware encrypts the URL of the malware which is uses again and writes it to its memory. Againward, malware connects and listen to another "mail[.]neocyon[.]com/jsp/user/sms/sms_rec[.]jsp" extension and encrypts its own URL address and writes it to its memory.

After connecting to the "mail[.]sisnet[.]co[.]kr" the malware sends an HTTP/1.1 200 code over the system to confirm that it has connected a connection with the server, and sends a confirmation code that it has established the connection.

After establishing a connection, it assigns a unique cookie session id to each connection.

After the malware connects ,it gives 307 error, that is, it avoids the internet provider's browsing and redirects it to its own sites. Thus , it is easier to go to the e-mail site that they make themselves without getting any errors.

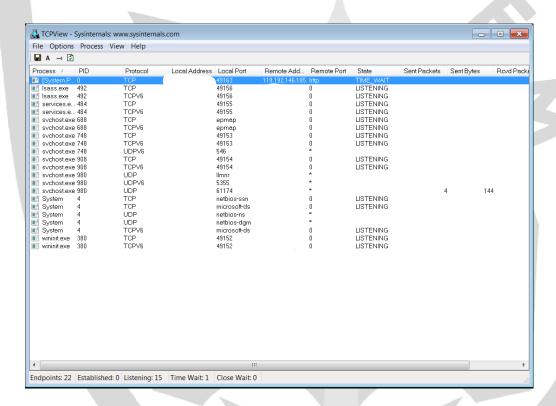


Network Analysis

After connecting to the internet site, it provides a remote connection to port 80 of the ip address 119[.]146[.]185.



Because it is a malware which type is a backdoor, it constantly connects and terminates the connection, as it waits for a command from the specified ip address.



Mitre Att&ck Table

Execution	Persistence	Privilege Escalation	Defense Evasion	Discovery	Collection	Command and Control
T1059 Command and Scripting Interpreter	T1546.011 Application Shimming	T1055 Process Injection	T1497 Virtualization Sandbox Evasion	T1124 System Time Discovery	T1560 Archive Collected Data	T1573 Encrypted Channel
		T1546.011 Application Shimming	T1055 Process Injection	T1518.001 Securtiy Software Discovery	T1005 Data From Local System	T1105 Ingress Tool Transfer
	2		T1140 Deobfuscate Decode Files or Information	T1018 Remote System Discovery	3	T1071 Application Layer Protocol
			T1027 Obfuscated Files or Information	T1016 System Network Configuration Discovery		

Yara Rule

```
import "hash"
rule APT NukeSped: RAT
{
meta:
description = "n5JNGFT14Q.exe"
strings:
$str1= "mail.sisnet.co.kr/jsp/user/sms/sms_recv_jsp"
$str2= "mail.neocyon.com/jsp/user/sms/sms_recv.jsp"
$str3="bYR+jw2oi2yt6b5YSmvC5tA/1fPN+FITXwYh+OiJlOGFwsi3sQnuzzJVPG/wA8aaEg=
$str4= "Global\\BFE_Notify_Event_{6585def3-da73-4483-a4ea-dd858969ee5f}"
$str5="bYR+jw2oi2yt6b5YV2fe68wklb7BuVROGh8ip7KPgvbYntap7VXw0R54K2nlW4KDEU8
$str5= "119.192.146.185"
$command1 = "CreateMutexA"
$command2 = "Microsoft32"
$command3 = "GetProcAddress"
$command4 ="LoadLibraryA"
$command5 = "GetModuleHandleW"
$command6 = "DelayExecution"
condition:
hash.md5(0,filesize) == "fdc66cdabd46bc3b26aba4e59943726b" or all of them
}
```

Solution Proposals

There are ways to protect against a type of Backdoor malware Nukeped:

- Use of up-to-date, reliable anti-virus software in systems,
- Careful attention to incoming e-mails and not to open unconsciously without analyzing the attachments,
- Disregard of spam emails,
- -Pay attention when manually authorizing the administrator permission of the applications will be opened,
- Solutions such as the creation of Mutex objects on the system , type of Backdoor malware NukeSped is contaminated with the system prevents it.

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