

# MalBuster

## Introduction

This room aims to be a practice room for Dissecting PE Headers and Static Analysis 1. In this scenario, you will act as one of the Reverse Engineers that will analyse malware samples based on the detections reported by your SOC team.

## Prerequisites

This room requires basic knowledge of Malware Static Analysis. We recommend going through the following rooms before attempting this challenge.

- [Intro to Malware Analysis](#)
- [Dissecting PE Headers](#)
- [Basic Static Analysis](#)

## Scenario

You are currently working as a Malware Reverse Engineer for your organization. Your team acts as a support for the SOC team when detections of unknown binaries occur. One of the SOC analysts triaged an alert triggered by binaries with unusual behaviour. Your task is to analyse the binaries detected by your SOC team and provide enough information to assist them in remediating the threat.

## Investigation Platforms

The team has provided two investigation platforms, a FLARE VM and a REMnux VM. You may utilize the machines based on your preference.

If you prefer FLARE VM, you may start the machine attached to this task. Else, you may start the machine on the task below to start REMnux VM.

The machine will start in a split-screen view. In case the VM is not visible, use the blue Show Split View button at the top-right of the page.

You may also use the following credentials for alternative access via Remote Desktop (RDP):

- Username: administrator
- Password: letmein123!
- IP Address: MACHINE\_IP

Lastly, you may find the malware samples on C:\Users\Administrator\Desktop\Samples.

WE ADVISE YOU NOT TO DOWNLOAD THE MALWARE SAMPLES TO YOUR HOST.

## Challenge Questions

### Investigation Platform

If you prefer REMnux, you may use the machine attached to this task by accessing it via the split-screen view.

Else, start the machine from the previous task to spin up the FLARE VM.

In addition, you can find the malware samples provided by the SOC team at `/home/ubuntu/Desktop/Samples`.

The machine will start in a split-screen view. In case the VM is not visible, use the blue Show Split View button at the top-right of the page.

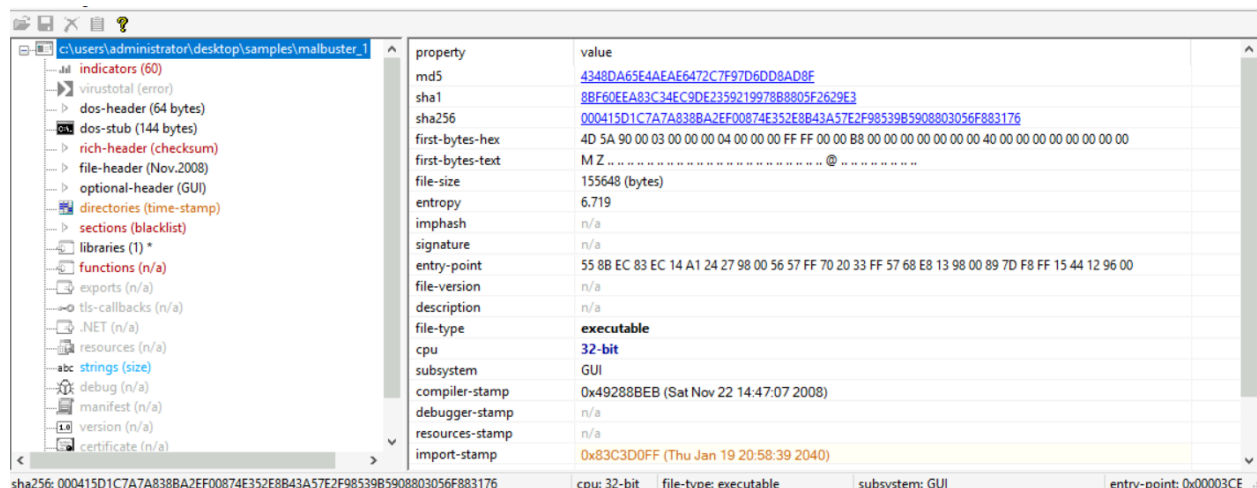
WE ADVISE YOU NOT TO DOWNLOAD THE MALWARE SAMPLES TO YOUR HOST.

Good luck!

\*\*\*\*\*

Answer the questions below:

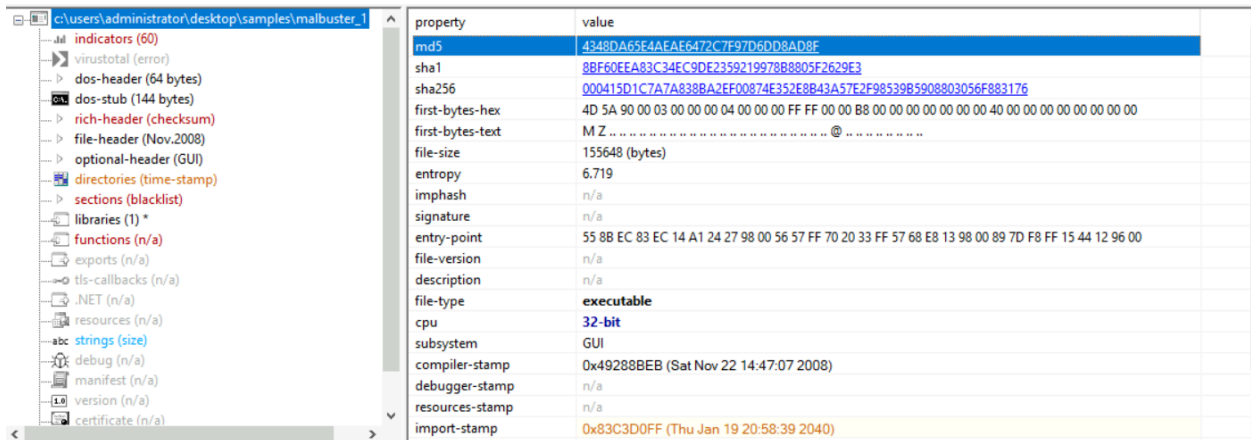
Based on the ARCHITECTURE of the binary, is malbuster\_1 a 32-bit or a 64-bit application? (32-bit/64-bit)



Opening sample 1 in PEStudio we can see, under the CPU section, this is a 32-bit application.

Answer: 32-bit

What is the MD5 hash of malbuster\_1?



The screenshot shows a file analysis tool interface. On the left, a tree view lists various file properties such as indicators, headers, sections, and libraries. The main pane on the right displays a detailed list of properties and their values. The 'md5' property is highlighted in blue, showing the hash '4348DA65F4AEAF6472C7F97D6DD8AD8F'. Other properties like 'sha1', 'sha256', 'file-size', and 'file-type' are also visible.

property	value
md5	4348DA65F4AEAF6472C7F97D6DD8AD8F
sha1	8BF60FEA83C34EC9DE2359219978B8805F2629E3
sha256	000415D1C7A7A8388A2EF00874E352E8B43A57E2F96539B5908803056F883176
first-bytes-hex	4D 5A 90 00 03 00 00 00 04 00 00 00 FF FF 00 00 B8 00 00 00 00 00 00 40 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
first-bytes-text	M Z ..... @ .....
file-size	155648 (bytes)
entropy	6.719
imphash	n/a
signature	n/a
entry-point	55 8B EC 83 EC 14 A1 24 27 98 00 56 57 FF 70 20 33 FF 57 68 E8 13 98 00 89 7D F8 FF 15 44 12 96 00
file-version	n/a
description	n/a
file-type	executable
cpu	32-bit
subsystem	GUI
compiler-stamp	0x49288BEB (Sat Nov 22 14:47:07 2008)
debugger-stamp	n/a
resources-stamp	n/a
import-stamp	0x83C3D0FF (Thu Jan 19 20:58:39 2040)

Answer: 4348da65e4aeae6472c7f97d6dd8ad8f

Using the hash, what is the popular threat label of malbuster\_1 according to VirusTotal?

000415d1c7a7a838ba2ef00874e352e8b43a57e2f98539b5908803056f883176

59/72 security vendors flagged this file as malicious

Community Score: 59/72

Size: 152.00 KB | Last Analysis Date: 21 days ago

peexe detect-debug-environment corrupt overlay checks-user-input spreader

DETECTION DETAILS RELATIONS BEHAVIOR COMMUNITY 17

Join our Community and enjoy additional community insights and crowdsourced detections, plus an API key to automate checks.

Popular threat label: trojan.zbot/razy

Threat categories: trojan pua spyware

Family labels: zbot razy smrl

Answer: **trojan.zbot/razy**

**Based on VirusTotal detection, what is the malware signature of malbuster\_2 according to Avira?**

First, open sample 2 in PEStudio.

c:\users\administrator\desktop\samples\malbuster\_2

indicators (25)

virustotal (error)

dos-header (64 bytes)

dos-stub (64 bytes)

rich-header (n/a)

file-header (Jul.2021)

optional-header (GUI)

directories (5)

sections (99.94%)

libraries (mscorlib.dll) \*

functions (849)

exports (n/a)

tls-callbacks (n/a)

.NET (v2.0.50727)

resources (9) \*

strings (7133)

debug (n/a)

manifest (asInvoker)

version (7/7pE.exe)

certificate (n/a)

property	value
md5	1D7EBED1BAECF67A31CE0A17A0320CB2
sha1	F0B75348BE8941EE8B1CE41BFA70DBEC406B5CD4
sha256	ACE3A5F5849C1C00760DFE67ADD397775F5946333357F5F8DEE25CD4363E3686
first-bytes-hex	4D 5A 90 00 03 00 00 00 04 00 00 00 FF FF 00 00 B8 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
first-bytes-text	M Z . . . . . @ . . . . .
file-size	855040 (bytes)
entropy	7.184
imphash	2F8F9C82CAF24434CA572440FB373FA4
signature	Microsoft Visual C# v7.0 / Basic .NET
entry-point	FF 25 00 20 40 00
file-version	1.0.0.0
description	Factory Reset
file-type	executable
cpu	32-bit
subsystem	GUI
compiler-stamp	0x60FB70E0 (Fri Jul 23 18:46:08 2021)
debugger-stamp	n/a
resources-stamp	0x00000000 (empty)
import-stamp	0x00000000 (empty)

Search the hash on VirusTotal.

ace3a5e5849c1c00760dfe67add397775f5946333357f5f8dee25cd4363e36b6

58 / 72  
Community Score -3

58/72 security vendors flagged this file as malicious

Reanalyze Similar More

ace3a5e5849c1c00760dfe67add397775f5946333357f5f8dee25cd4363e36b6  
TJYpE.exe  
Size: 835.00 KB  
Last Analysis Date: 21 days ago

peexe persistence runtime-modules detect-debug-environment long-sleeps checks-user-input assembly direct-cpu-clock-access spreader cve-2014-3931 exploit

DETECTION DETAILS RELATIONS BEHAVIOR COMMUNITY 13+

Join our Community and enjoy additional community insights and crowdsourced detections, plus an API key to [automate checks](#).

Popular threat label [trojan.msil/agenttesla](#) Threat categories [trojan](#) Family labels [msil](#) [agenttesla](#) [variadic](#)

Security vendors' analysis Do you want to automate checks?

AhnLab-V3	Trojan:Win.PWSX-gen.C4565347	Alibaba	Trojan:MSIL/AgentTesla.4c64d230
AliCloud	Trojan:MSIL/AgentTesla.CFY2XJC	Arcabit	Trojan.Variadic.A.304.2
Arctic Wolf	Unsafe	Avast	Win32:MalwareX-gen [Pws]
AVG	Win32:MalwareX-gen [Pws]	Avira (no cloud)	HEUR/AGEN.1306860
BKDR Defender	Gen:Heur.Variadic.A.304.2	BKDR Defender	Win32:MalwareX-gen [Pws]

Avira (no cloud) HEUR/AGEN.1306860

Answer: **HEUR/AGEN.1306860**

malbuster\_2 imports the function `_CorExeMain`. From which DLL file does it import this function?

Open the functions tab on PEStudio.

c:\users\administrator\desktop\sai

indicators (25)

virustotal (error)

dos-header (64 bytes)

dos-stub (64 bytes)

rich-header (n/a)

file-header (Jul.2021)

optional-header (GUI)

directories (5)

sections (99.94%)

libraries (mSCOREE.dll) \*

functions (849)

exports (n/a)

tls-callbacks (n/a)

.NET (v2.0.50727)

resources (9) \*

strings (7133)

debug (n/a)

manifest (asInvoker)

version (TJYpE.exe)

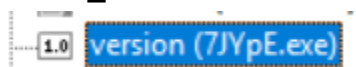
certificate (n/a)

functions (849)	blacklist (0)	ordinal (0)	library (1)
<b>CorExeMain</b>	-	-	<b>mSCOREE.dll</b>
ctor	-	-	-
Dispose	-	-	-
InitializeComponent	-	-	-
get_OffsetMarshaler	-	-	-
get_ReturnMessage	-	-	-
StartGame	-	-	-
UpdateSky	-	-	-
InitiateMountain	-	-	-
InitiateCloud	-	-	-
DrawCloudAndProcessData	-	-	-
DrawSea	-	-	-
FireGun_MyJet	-	-	-
BombDrop_MyJet	-	-	-
GetMyJetCurrentDirection	-	-	-
KeepMyJetWithinCanvas	-	-	-
DrawMyJet	-	-	-
DrawMyJetBulletAndProcess...	-	-	-
AttackEnemyJet	-	-	-

And `_CorExeMain` is the first function on the list and to the right under the library section we see the DLL that imports the function.

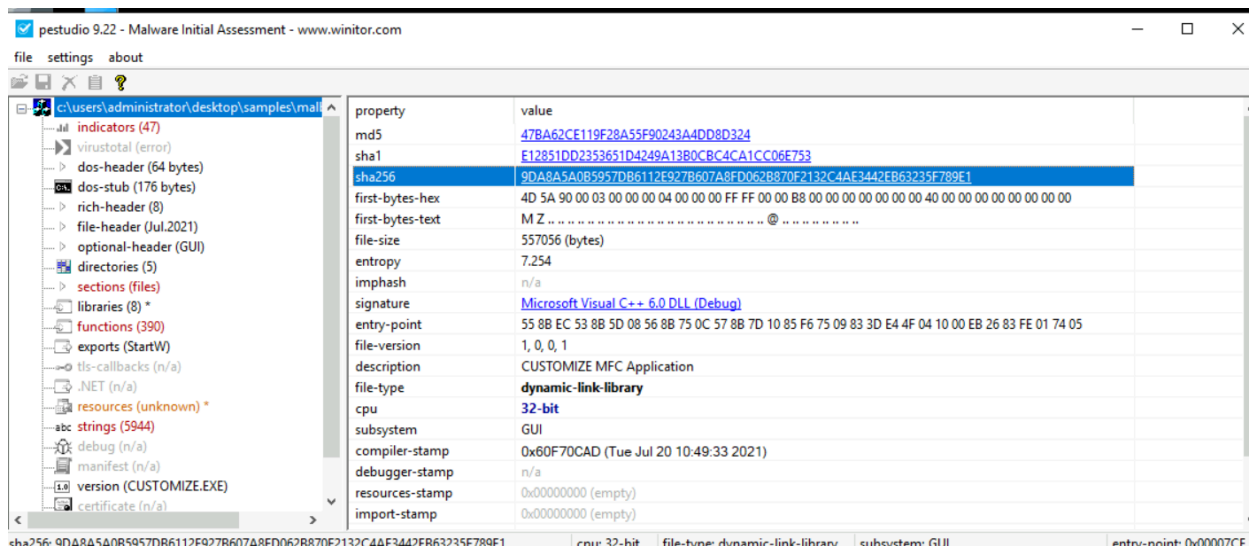
Answer: **mSCOREE.dll**

Based on the VS\_VERSION\_INFO header, what is the original name of malbuster\_2?



Answer: 7JYpE.exe

Using the hash of malbuster\_3, what is its malware signature based on [abuse.ch](https://www.abuse.ch)? Again, open sample 3 in PEStudio but this time we'll copy the SHA256 hash and take it over to [bazaar.abuse.ch](https://bazaar.abuse.ch) to search for the sample.



Search

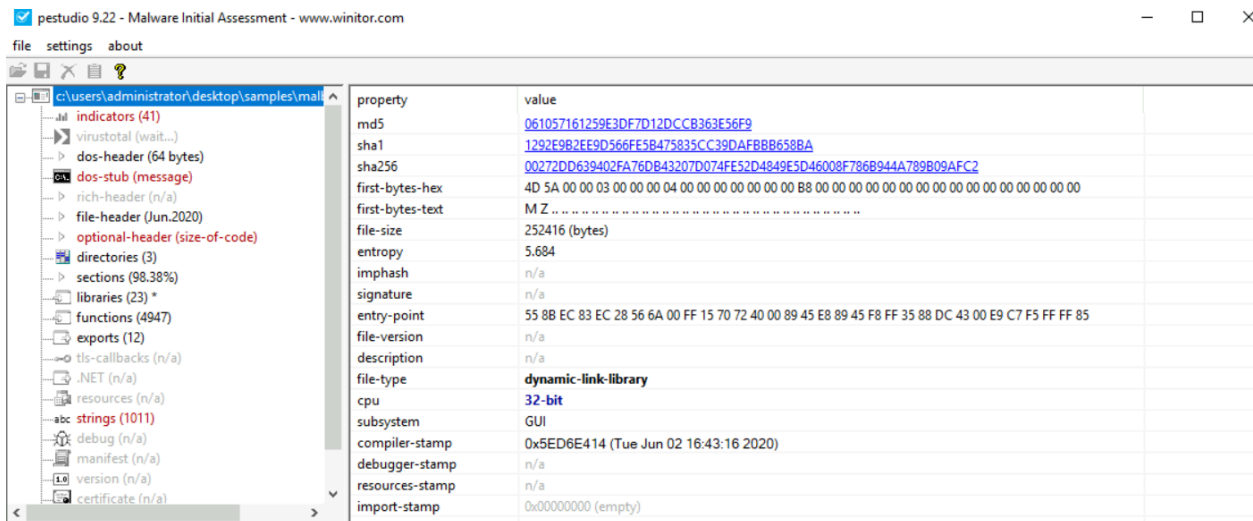
sha256:9DA8A5A0B5957DB6112E927B607A8FD062B870F2132C4AE3442EB63235F789E1 on the Bazaar.

Date (UTC)	SHA256 hash	Type	Signature	Tags	Reporter	DL
2021-07-22 17:12	9da8a5a0b5957db6112e...	dll	TrickBot	dll rob109 TrickBot	abuse_ch	

We can see the signature is tagged Trickbot.

Answer: Trickbot

Using the hash of malbuster\_4, what is its malware signature based on [abuse.ch](https://www.abuse.ch)? Repeat the process of the last question but this time using sample 4.



Open the file in PESTUDIO and copy the SHA256 hash.

Search

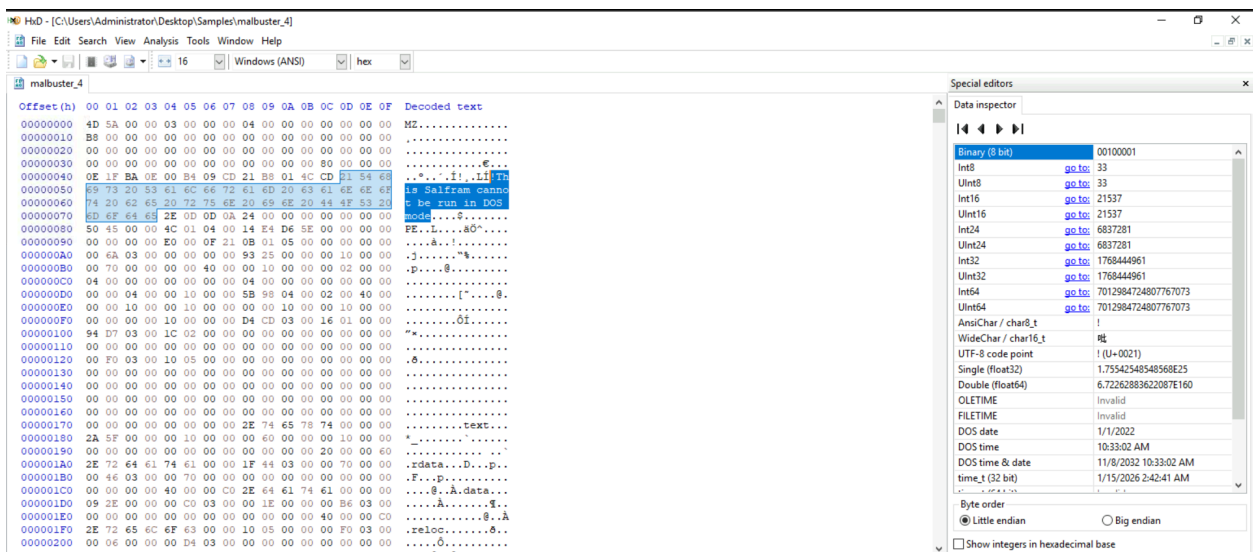
sha256:00272DD639402FA76DB43207D074FE52D4849E5D46008F786B944A789B09AFC2 on [bazaar.abuse.ch](https://bazaar.abuse.ch/).

Date (UTC)	SHA256 hash	Type	Signature	Tags	Reporter	DL
2020-07-05 20:48	00272dd639402fa76db4...	exe	ZLoader	dll ZLoader	Racco42	

Signature is tagged as ZLoader.

Answer: **ZLoader**

What is the message found in the DOS\_STUB of malbuster\_4?



Using HxD we can open sample 4 and see the message.

Answer: **This Salfram cannot be run in DOS mode.**

**malbuster\_4 imports the function ShellExecuteA. From which DLL file does it import this function?**

Like an earlier question I went to PESTudio looking under functions to find ShellExecuteA and the DLL that imports it but when I did so I only got gibberish. So I switched to trying PEVIEW.

0000750C	00006398	Hint/Name RVA	0000	DragQueryFileW
00007510	000063AA	Hint/Name RVA	0000	SHGetMalloc
00007514	000063B8	Hint/Name RVA	0000	SHGetPathFromIDListW
00007518	000063D0	Hint/Name RVA	0000	SHGetSpecialFolderPathW
0000751C	000063EA	Hint/Name RVA	0000	SHGetPathFromIDListA
00007520	00006402	Hint/Name RVA	0000	SHGetSpecialFolderLocation
00007524	00006420	Hint/Name RVA	0000	ShellExecuteExW
00007528	00006432	Hint/Name RVA	0000	SHBindToParent
0000752C	00006444	Hint/Name RVA	0000	SHBrowseForFolderW
00007530	0000645A	Hint/Name RVA	0000	SHGetDesktopFolder
00007534	00006470	Hint/Name RVA	0000	SHChangeNotify
00007538	00006482	Hint/Name RVA	0000	SHFileOperationW
0000753C	00006496	Hint/Name RVA	0000	SHGetFileInfoW
00007540	000064A8	Hint/Name RVA	0000	SHGetFolderPathW
00007544	000064BC	Hint/Name RVA	0000	CommandLineToArgvW
00007548	000064D2	Hint/Name RVA	0000	ShellExecuteA
0000754C	000064E2	Hint/Name RVA	0000	Shell_NotifyIconW
00007550	000064F6	Hint/Name RVA	0000	ShellExecuteW
00007554	00000000	End of Imports		shell32.dll

Here we see all the imports from shell32.dll and the ShellExecuteA we're looking for is here.

Answer: **shell32.dll**

**Using capa, how many anti-VM instructions were identified in malbuster\_1?**

(c) 2018 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.	
FLARE Tue 05/27/2025 0:26:34.18	
C:\Users\Administrator>capa.exe C:\Users\Administrator\Desktop\Samples\malbuster_1	
loading : 100%	485/485 [00:00:00:00, 995.30 rules/s]
matching: 100%	412/412 [00:27:00:00, 15.17 functions/s]
md5	4348da65e4aae6472c7f97d6dd8ad8f
sha1	8bf60ee83c34ec9de2359219978b8805f2629e3
sha256	000415dc7a7a838ba2ef00874e352e8b43a57e2f98539b5908803056f883176
path	C:\Users\Administrator\Desktop\Samples\malbuster_1
ATT&CK Tactic	ATT&CK Technique
DEFENSE EVASION	Obfuscated Files or Information [T1027]
EXECUTION	Virtualization/Sandbox Evasion::System Checks [T1497.001]
	Shared Modules [T1129]
MBC Objective	MBC Behavior
ANTI-BEHAVIORAL ANALYSIS	Virtual Machine Detection::Instruction Testing [B0009.029]
	Virtual Machine Detection [B0009]
COMMUNICATION	HTTP Communication::Read Header [C0002.014]
CRYPTOGRAPHY	Encrypt Data::RC4 [C0027.009]
	Generate Pseudo-random Sequence::Mersenne Twister [C0021.005]
	Generate Pseudo-random Sequence::RC4 PRGA [C0021.004]
	Generate Pseudo-random Sequence [C0021]
DATA	Checksum::CRC32 [C0032.001]
	Encoding::XOR [C0026.002]
DEFENSE EVASION	Obfuscated Files or Information::Encoding-Standard Algorithm [E1027.m02]



CAPABILITY	NAMESPACE
execute anti-VM instructions (3 matches)	anti-analysis/anti-vm/vm-detection
reference anti-VM strings	anti-analysis/anti-vm/vm-detection
check HTTP status code (2 matches)	communication/http/client
hash data with CRC32	data-manipulation/checksum/crc32
encode data using XOR (10 matches)	data-manipulation/encoding/xor
encrypt data using RC4 PRGA (3 matches)	data-manipulation/encryption/rc4
generate random numbers using the Delphi LCG	data-manipulation/prng/lcg
generate random numbers using a Mersenne Twister	data-manipulation/prng/mersenne
enumerate PE sections	load-code/pe
parse PE exports	load-code/pe
parse PE header (3 matches)	load-code/pe

Answer: 3

## Using capa, which binary can log keystrokes?

Running Capa on sample 3 we see that it has keylogging capabilities.

```
C:\Users\Administrator>capa.exe C:\Users\Administrator\Desktop\Samples\malbuster_3
```

loading : 100%  
matching: 100%

md5	47ba62ce119f28a55f90243a4dd8d324
sha1	e12851dd2353651d4249a13b0cbc4ca1cc06e753
sha256	9da8a5a0b5957db6112e927b607a8fd062b870f2132c4ae3442eb63235f789e1
path	C:\Users\Administrator\Desktop\Samples\malbuster_3

ATT&CK Tactic	ATT&CK Technique
COLLECTION	Input Capture::Keylogging [T1056.001]
DEFENSE EVASION	Hide Artifacts::Hidden Window [T1564.003]
	Indicator Removal on Host::Timestamp [T1070.006]
	Obfuscated Files or Information [T1027]
DISCOVERY	Application Window Discovery [T1010]
	File and Directory Discovery [T1083]
	Query Registry [T1012]
	System Information Discovery [T1082]
EXECUTION	Command and Scripting Interpreter [T1059]
	Shared Modules [T1129]

MBC Objective	MBC Behavior
ANTI-BEHAVIORAL ANALYSIS	Debugger Detection::Software Breakpoints [B0001.025]
COLLECTION	Keylogging::Application Hook [F0002.001]
	Keylogging::Polling [F0002.002]
CRYPTOGRAPHY	Encrypt Data::RC4 [C0027.009]
	Encryption Key::RC4 KSA [C0028.002]
	Generate Pseudo-random Sequence::RC4 PRGA [C0021.004]
DATA	Encoding::XOR [C0026.002]
DEFENSE EVASION	Obfuscated Files or Information::Encoding-Standard Algorithm [E1027.m02]
FILE SYSTEM	Delete File [C0047]
	Get File Attributes [C0049]
	Read File [C0051]
	Write File [C0052]

Answer: malbuster\_3

Using capa, what is the MITRE ID of the DISCOVERY technique used by malbuster\_4?

```
C:\Users\Administrator>capa.exe C:\Users\Administrator\Desktop\Samples\malbuster_4
```

loading : 100%	
matching: 100%	
md5	061057161259e3df7d12dcc363e56f9
sha1	1292e9b2ee9d566fe5b475835cc39dafbbb658ba
sha256	00272dd639402fa76db43207d074fe52d4849e5d46008f786b944a789b09afc2
path	C:\Users\Administrator\Desktop\Samples\malbuster_4
ATT&CK Tactic	ATT&CK Technique
DEFENSE EVASION	Virtualization/Sandbox Evasion::System Checks [T1497.001]
DISCOVERY	File and Directory Discovery [T1083]
MBC Objective	MBC Behavior
ANTI-BEHAVORIAL ANALYSIS	Virtual Machine Detection::Instruction Testing [B0009.029]
FILE SYSTEM	Read File [C0051]
CAPABILITY	NAMESPACE
execute anti-vm instructions	anti-analysis/anti-vm/vm-detection
authenticate HMAC (2 matches)	data-manipulation/hmac
extract resource via kernel32 functions (3 matches)	executable/resource
get common file path (2 matches)	host-interaction/file-system
read .ini file	host-interaction/file-system/read

Answer: **T1083**

### Which binary contains the string GodMode?

Using the command `strings.exe C:\Users\Administrator\Desktop\Samples\* | findstr /i god` to search all the samples for strings that contain “god” regardless of capitalization I got the answer.

```
C:\Users\Administrator>strings.exe C:\Users\Administrator\Desktop\Samples\* | findstr /i god
C:\Users\Administrator\Desktop\Samples\malbuster_2: get_GodMode
C:\Users\Administrator\Desktop\Samples\malbuster_2: set_GodMode
C:\Users\Administrator\Desktop\Samples\malbuster_2: GodMode
FINDSTR: Line 83013 is too long.
FINDSTR: Line 83013 is too long.
FINDSTR: Line 83013 is too long.
FINDSTR: Line 83013 is too long.
```

Answer: **malbuster\_2**

### Which binary contains the string Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 6.0; Windows NT 5.1; SV1)?

Repeat the same process as the previous question but search for Mozilla/4.0 instead. Command executed: `strings.exe C:\Users\Administrator\Desktop\Samples\* | findstr /i mozilla/4.0`

```
C:\Users\Administrator>strings.exe C:\Users\Administrator\Desktop\Samples\* | findstr /i mozilla/4.0
C:\Users\Administrator\Desktop\Samples\malbuster_1: Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 6.0; Windows NT 5.1; SV1)
C:\Users\Administrator\Desktop\Samples\malbuster_1.viv: Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 6.0; Windows NT 5.1; SV1)
FINDSTR: Line 83013 is too long.
FINDSTR: Line 83013 is too long.
FINDSTR: Line 83013 is too long.
FINDSTR: Line 83013 is too long.
```

Answer: **malbuster\_1**