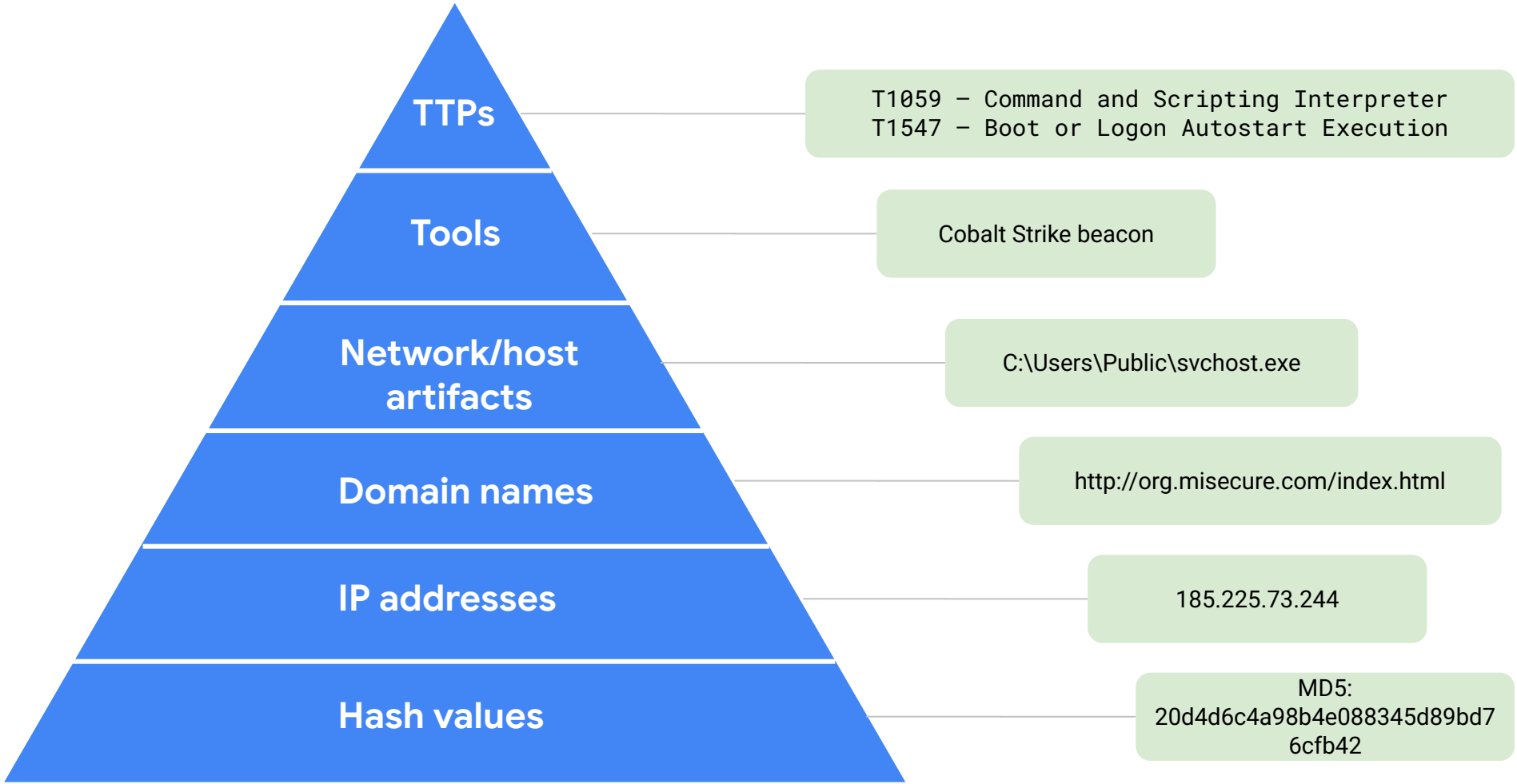
Has this file been identified as malicious? Explain why or why not.

Yes, the file has been identified as malicious.
Based on the VirusTotal report, numerous security vendors have flagged the file as malicious. The Vendors' Ratio shows a high detection rate, and the Community Score is negative. The Detection tab also includes named malware families associated with the file, confirming it contains a malicious payload.


TTPs
Tools
Network/host artifacts
Domain names
IP addresses
Hash values
T1059 – Command and Scripting Interpreter
T1547 – Boot or Logon Autostart Execution
Cobalt Strike beacon
C:\Users\Public\svchost.exe
http://org.misecure.com/index.html
185.225.73.244
MD5: 20d4d6c4a98b4e088345d89bd76cfb42