## **Reversing and Technical Analysis of Emotet Malware:**

#### Introduction:

Emotet is a banking trojan which was first find out in the year 2014. The initial attack vector for it was spam mail to infect the victim host operating system. Its main objective is to access sensitive information. Back in the day its has also exploit vulnerability which is very interesting for a malware to do.

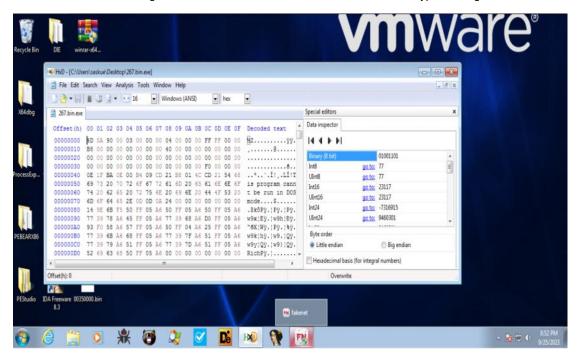
# Methodology:

Initial Static Analysis
Initial Dynamic Analysis
Unpacking of the malware
Decryption and Deobfuscation
Reversing and analysis
Detection Content
YARA Signature
Sigma Rules
Mapping to MITRE Framework

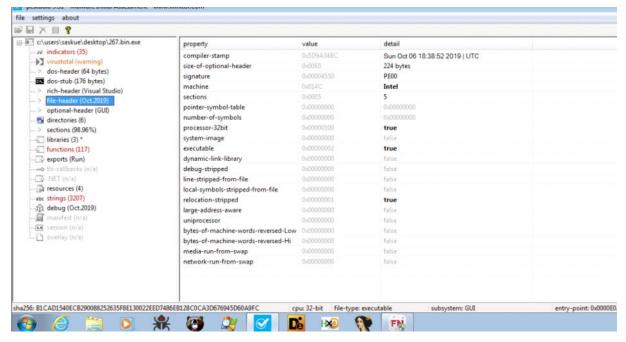
#### Initial static analysis:

For the initial static analysis we will try to find if the malware is packed pr not and also will try to get as much information as possible. For this we are going to stick with HexEditor, Pestudio and DIE. I always proceed with HexEditor to see if we are dealing with standard binary or its malformed into another format. Let's get started.

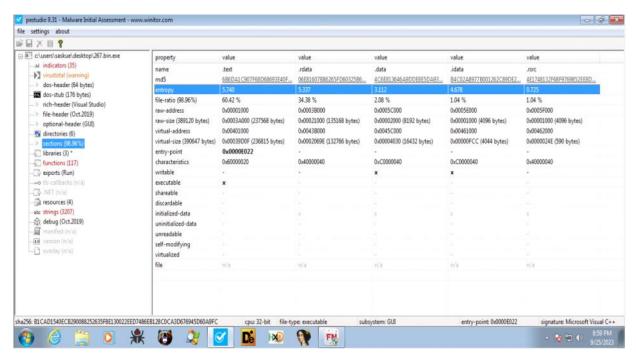
It seems we are dealing with standard executable file format with lot of encrypted strings.



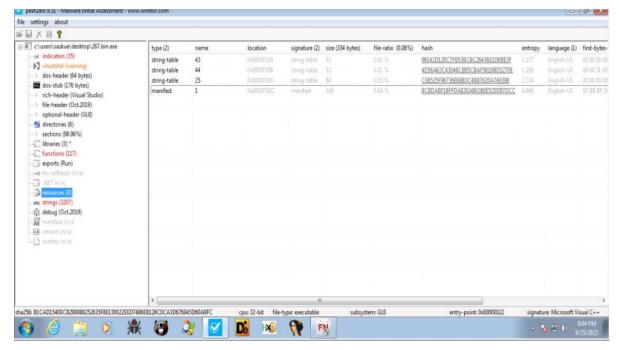
When I first look the executable using Pestudio the first thing I look for is timestamp which gives an idea as to how old malware might be. But I take this information with a pinch of salt. Here its: 6 Oct 2019



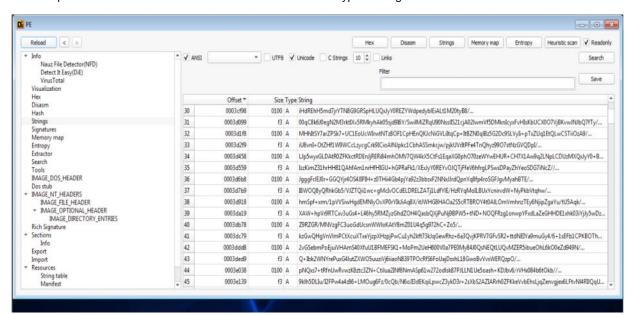
Next thing I look for is the section information which in most case is the starting point for mapping the next stage payload into memory. (Unpacked version). Here the entropy of all section seems close to 5 i.e not high but that doesn't mean its clean.



Next thing to look for resource section as most of time the next stage payload are most of time encrypted and stored as resources which later in the process are decrypted and mapped into memory. In emotet case, entropy level seems reasonable therefore it could be possible that low encryption algorithm might be used but it has couple of resources so it could be possible that one of it might be mapped into memory.



When I opened the executable inside DIE find out that lot of encrypted string at first few offset.



With that I will now move to dynamic analysis stating that malware seems packed and there is no valid reason to study the packed malware in depth.

Something to remember is that there is a possibility that text such might be decrypted in later stager and could be initial entrypoint of unpacking.

#### Initial Dynamic analysis:

For initial dynamic analysis we will try to observed how the malware is getting unpacked ie. Is it following some injection technique or some section is encrypted pe which is later into process get decrypted and mapped let's see what happens down the process.

For this we are going to use processExplorer, ProcMon and if required might use tinytracer to trace the api for manual unpacking.

When launched the binary it create a child process of itself and then exit the parent one and again launch the executable as new parent processname and then create a child process of itself and then exit the parent one.

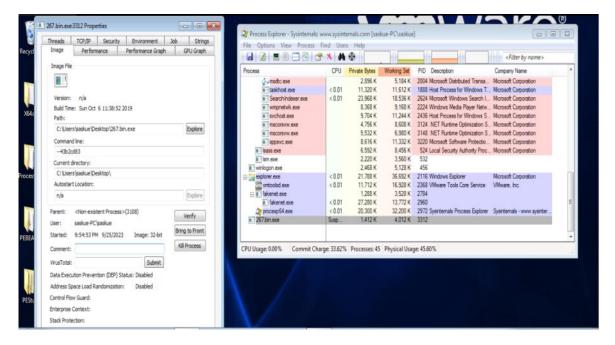
This one is the first stage

267.EXE - Parent Process

267.EXE - Chile Process (Commandline --43b2cd83)

Dropped the next stage in folder: C:\Users\saskue\AppData\Local\definepublish

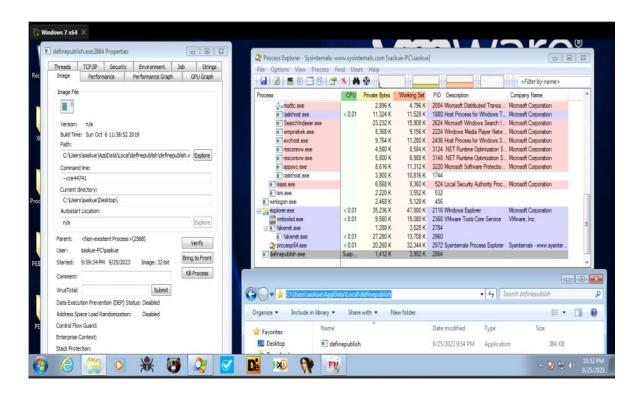
Here define publish is newly created directory inside which next stage payload is dropped



Once resume the suspended child process it will launch a new process with same pattern. Definepublish.exe - Parent Process

Definepublish.exe - Child Process (--43b2cd83)

Now that we know how the malware is getting unpacked so let's move to next stage i.e. unpacking the malware.



#### Unpacking the malware:

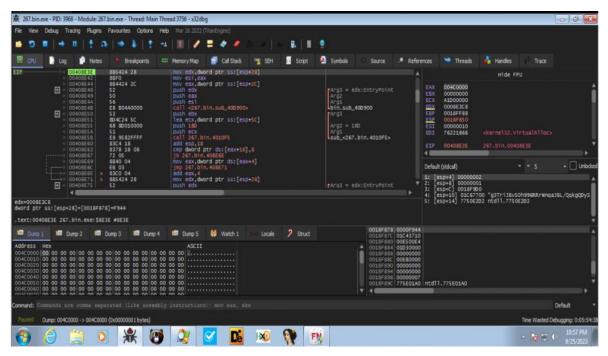
For unpacking of the malware we are going to use x32dbg and set breakpoint on windows api.

Most of the api I first set breakpoint on are:

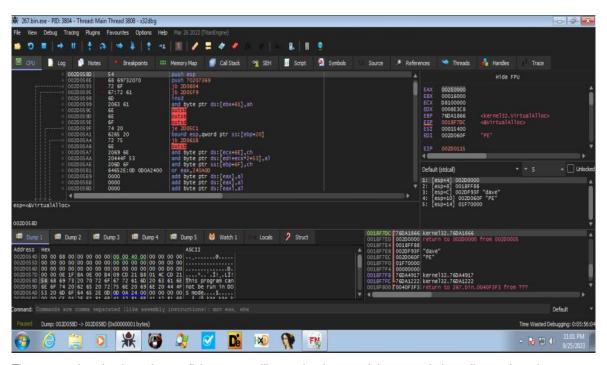
- 1-VirtualAlloc
- 2-VirtualAllocEx
- 3-CreateprocessA/W
- 4-resumethreat
- 5-SetThreadcontext
- 6-Writeprocessmemory

Let's get started with unpacking stage.

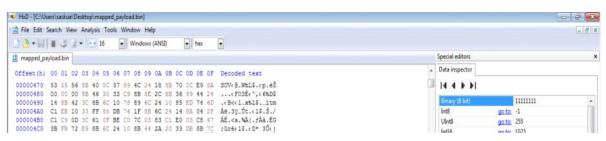
After setting the breakpoint on above stated api we have hit Virtualalloc first and currently the newly memory has been allocated but nothing wriiten so let's move on.

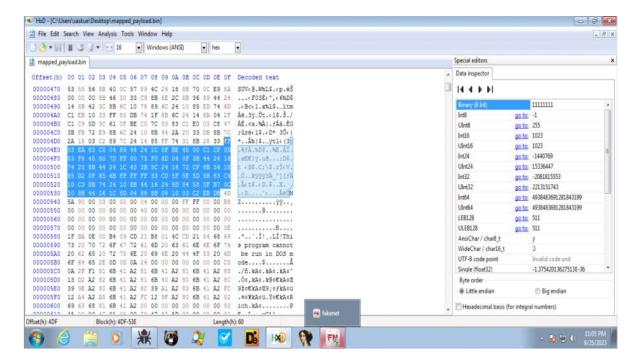


After hitting the second time virtualalloc we will get the unpacked malware in the previous memory region allocated using virtualalloc.



The mapped payload need some fixing so we will save the dump and then open in hexeditor and cut the useless bytes and then save it all together.





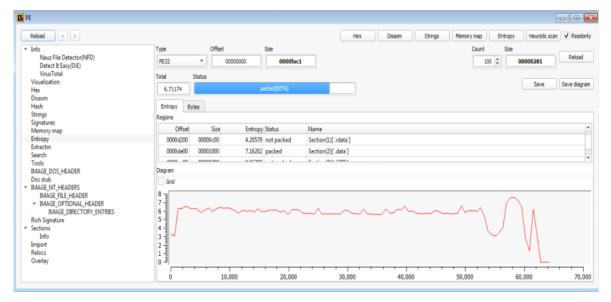
We now have the unpacked malware.



## Decryption and deobfuscation:

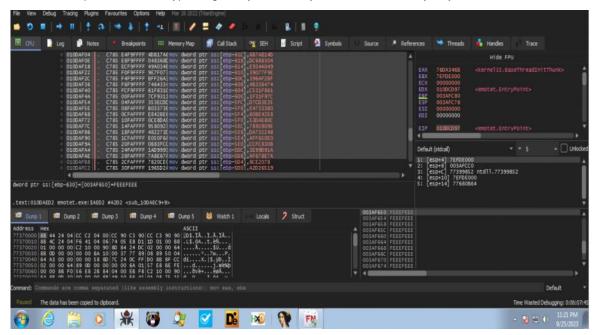
After doing some quick analysis I found out that malware is hevaily obfuscated so for decryption/deobfuscation we are going to use x32dbg and trace important function and will rely on debugger for dynamically deobfuscating the interesting strings.





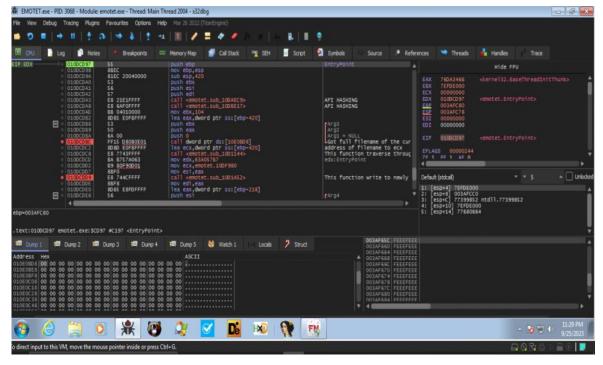
## API HASHING TECHNIQUES:

It seems the api is hashed for bypassing the dynamic analysis and from the analyst eye.

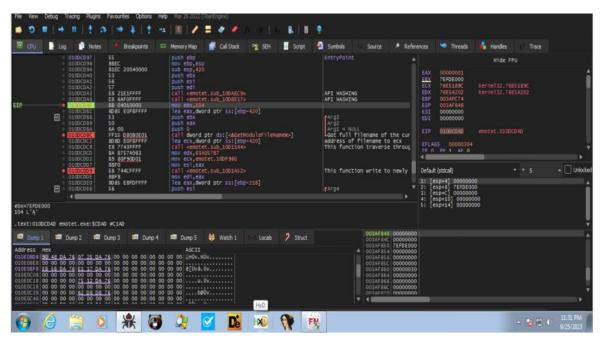


To deal with API HASHING TECHNIQUE we are run through it and it will resolve the hash to respective api name.

Before passing through API Hash resolving function:

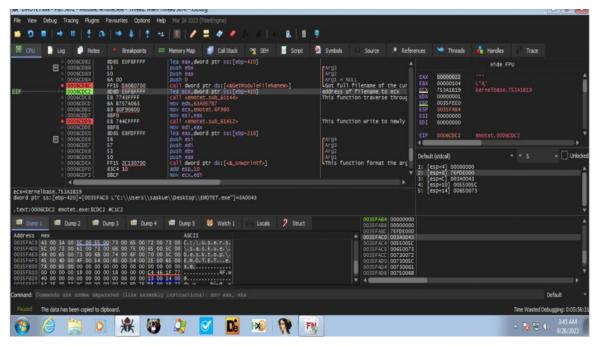


AFTER API HASHING TECHNIQUE WE WILL GET THE API NAME.

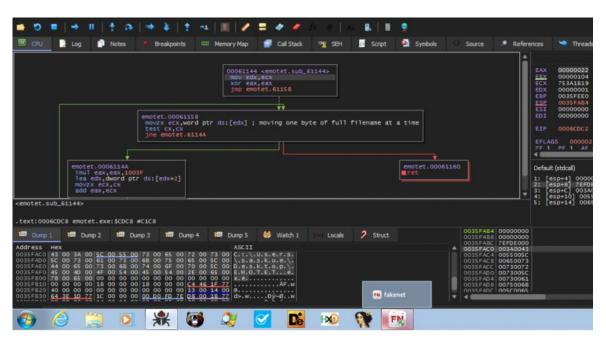


It first get the full path of the malware which is loaded into process memory via GetModuleFilenameW

0035FAC0 43 00 3A 00 5C 00 55 00 73 00 65 00 72 00 73 00 C.:.\.U.s.e.r.s. 0035FAD0 5C 00 73 00 61 00 73 00 6B 00 75 00 65 00 5C 00 \.s.a.s.k.u.e.\. 0035FAE0 44 00 65 00 73 00 6B 00 74 00 6F 00 70 00 5C 00 D.e.s.k.t.o.p.\. 0035FAF0 45 00 4D 00 4F 00 54 00 45 00 54 00 2E 00 65 00 E.M.O.T.E.T...e. 0035FB00 78 00 65 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 x.e.......



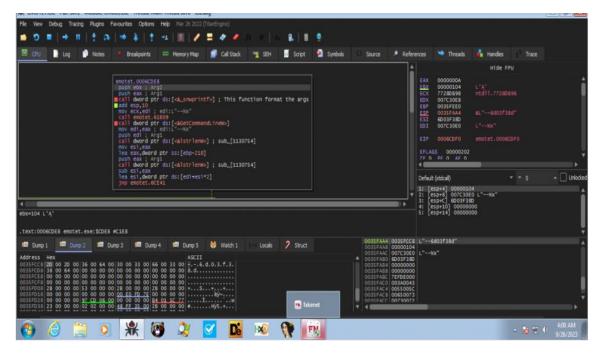
After that an immediate function is called which traverse through the whole file path.



After this there is an allocation of memory via rtlallocateheap and data is written to that newly allocated memory

007C30E0 2D 00 2D 00 25 00 78 00 36 00 64 00 42 00 6E 00 -.-.%.x.6.d.B.n. 007C30F0 BD A3 97 D4 86 C3 00 00 C4 00 7C 00 C4 00 7C 00 ½£.Ô.Ã..Ä.|.Ä.|.

Later on we can also see that snwprintf is called which format a memory buffer with string: --6d03f38d which is a unicode string which also happened to be argument passed to the malware.



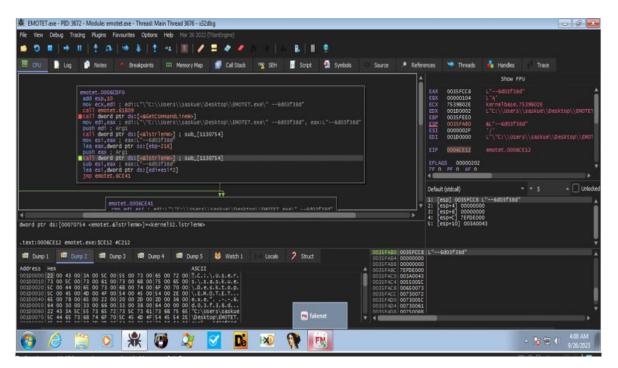
After that there is a called to GETCOMMANDLINEW which get args passed along with full file path ie:

"C:\Users\saskue\Desktop\EMOTET.exe" --6d03f38d.

After that there is string calculation of two strings:

1-"C:\Users\saskue\Desktop\EMOTET.exe" --6d03f38d.

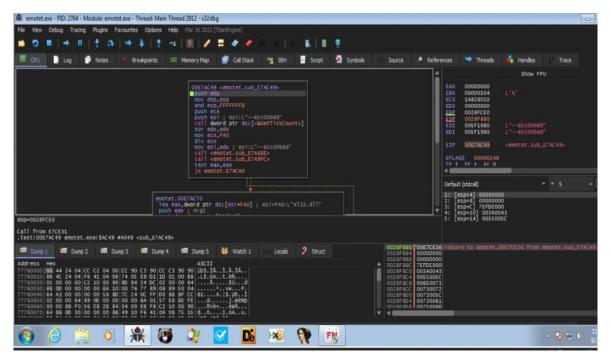
2- "--6d03f38d"



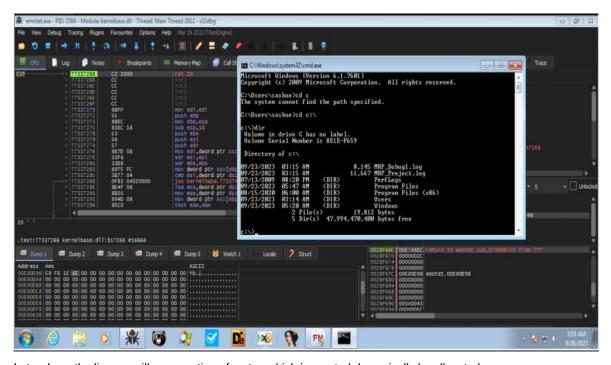
Later on these two string are compared using Istrcmpiw to check if there are equal or not which basically led to parsing of args from the first string and using the string for next logic. Later on we see some techniques down the line.

Anti Debugging technique such as:

1- GetTickCount

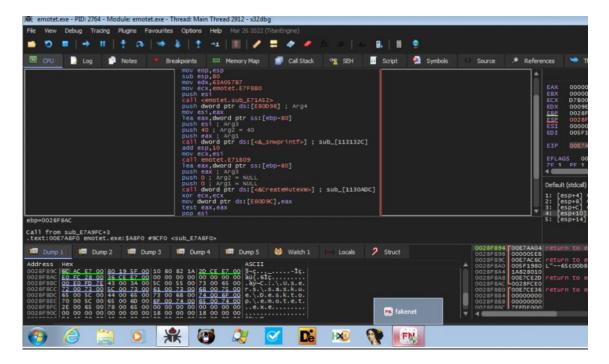


Later down the line it get C:\Windows directory and then from it extract C Drive from there it get the Volume serial Number from C:\ Driver by using getvolumeinformationw. Here the volume serial number is : 8E1E-F659.



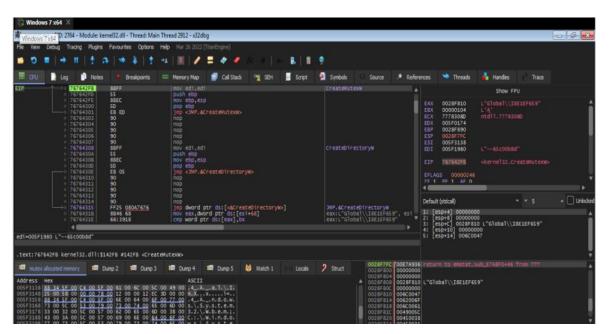
Later down the line we will see creation of mutex which is created dynamically by allocated new memory and writing the name of mutex into the buffer.

005F3138 47 00 6C 00 6F 00 62 00 61 00 6C 00 5C 00 49 00 G.l.o.b.a.l.\.l. 005F3148 25 00 58 00 10 00 78 00 B2 21 33 0D EC 3D 00 00 %.X...x. $^2$ !3.i=..



After this there is a call to snwprintf which will created the string acting as mutex name here its gonna be: G.I.o.b.a.I.\.I. 8.E.1.E.F.6.5.9. After creation of mutex name string the previous mentioned allocated memory will be freed using getprocessheap and heapfree.

Now mutex object will be created with name as: G.I.o.b.a.I.\.I. 8.E.1.E.F.6.5.9.

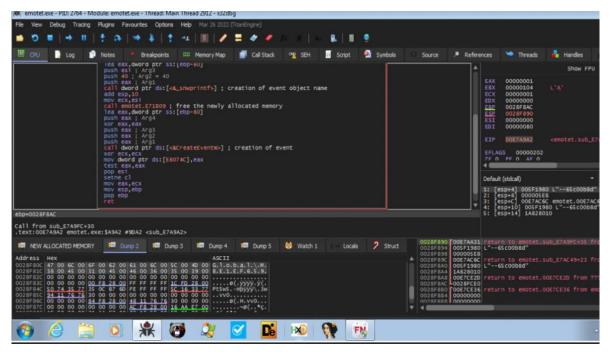


After that waitforsingleobject is set for above mention mutex object to be signalled immediately i.e it does not wait. After that again a new memory has been allocated and written into the new memory: 005F3138 47 00 6C 00 6F 00 62 00 61 00 6C 00 5C 00 4D 00 G.l.o.b.a.l.\.M. 005F3148 25 00 58 00 29 00 52 00 B2 21 33 0D EC 3D 00 00 %.X.).R.2!3.i=..

Once again the same call pattern is called that is creation of mutex object. 0028F80C 47 00 6C 00 6F 00 62 00 61 00 6C 00 5C 00 4D 00 G.l.o.b.a.l.\.M. 0028F81C 38 00 45 00 31 00 45 00 46 00 36 00 35 00 39 00 8.E.1.E.F.6.5.9.

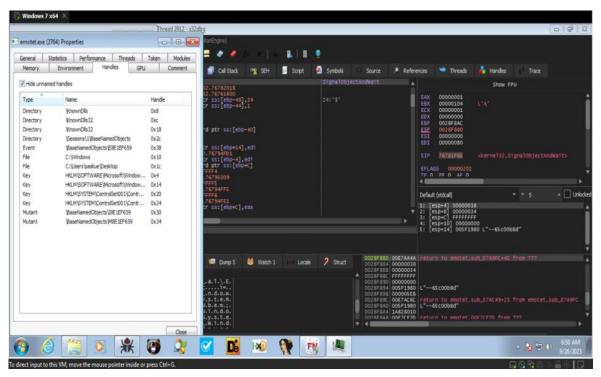
Mutex object name: GLOBAL\M8E1EF659

After this event object is created with name : GLOBAL\E8E1EF659 (Note : Event object is non-signaled state)

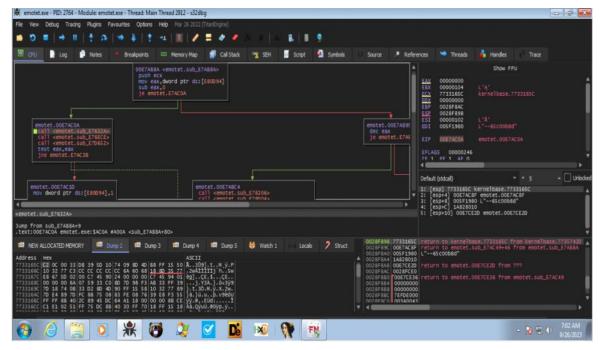


Now there is call to signaled the event object and wait for mutex object for completion.

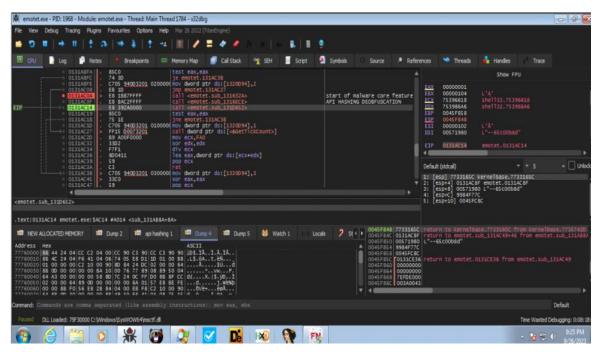
Then there is called to resetevent to set the event object as non -signaled followed by release of mutex and closing the handle.



We will now enter the malware core functionality.



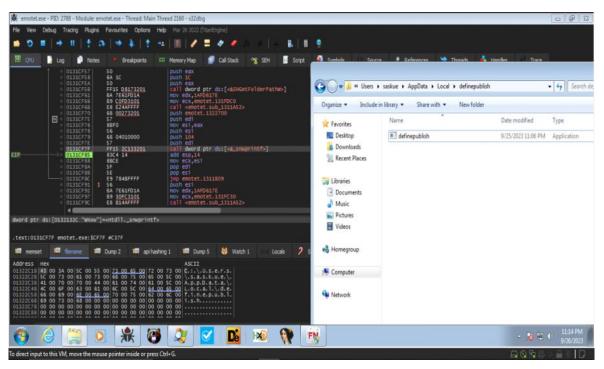
We could see dynamic loading of library called advapi32.dll. Later on I notice that these function are converting hash value into api function name. Moving on to the third call.



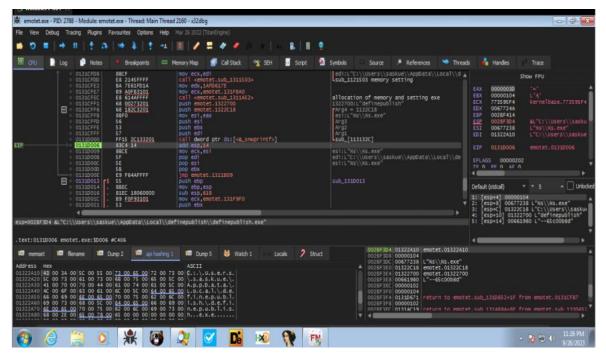
Connection is made to service control manager for ACTIVE DATABASE but since no active database was found so it exit the function. After that there is an allocation of memory and data written into the buffer. Probably decryption function and these are list of strings after decryption.

```
00676D10 \  \, 65\ 00\  \, 6E\ 00\  \, 67\ 00\  \, 69\ 00\  \, 6E\ 00\  \, 65\ 00\  \, 2C\  \, 00\  \, 66\  \, 00\  \, en.n.g.l.n.e.,.f. 00676D20 \  \, 69\ 00\  \, 6E\ 00\  \, 69\ 00\  \, 73\ 00\  \, 68\ 00\  \, 2C\ 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 00\  \, 10\  \, 01\  \, 00\  \, i.n.i.s.h.,.m.a. 00676D30 \  \, 67\ 00\  \, 6E\ 00\  \, 69\ 00\  \, 66\ 00\  \, 79\ 00\  \, 2C\ 00\  \, 72\ 00\  \, 65\ 00\  \, g.n.i.f.y.,.r.e. 00676D507 \  \, 73\ 00\  \, 61\ 00\  \, 70\  \, 00\  \, 69\  \, 00\  \, 2C\  \, 00\  \, 70\  \, 00\  \, 65\  \, 00\  \, s.a.p.i.,.q.u.e. 00676D507 \  \, 72\  \, 00\  \, 79\  \, 00\  \, 2C\  \, 00\  \, 73\  \, 00\  \, 69\  \, 00\  \, 2C\  \, 00\  \, 70\  \, 00\  \, 2C\  \, 00\  \, r.y.,.s.k.i.p.,. 00676D507 \  \, 73\  \, 00\  \, 2C\  \, 00\  \, 73\  \, 00\  \, 69\  \, 00\  \, 2C\  \, 00\  \, 70\  \, 00\  \, 50\  \, 07\  \, 20\  \, 00\  \, s.u.b.i.,s.v.c. 00676D507 \  \, 73\  \, 00\  \, 62\  \, 00\  \, 69\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 70\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 70\  \, 00\  \, s.u.b.i.,s.v.c. 00676D508 \  \, 2C\  \, 00\  \, 63\  \, 00\  \, 72\  \, 00\  \, 63\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 2C\  \, 00\  \, 80\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \, 60\  \, 00\  \,
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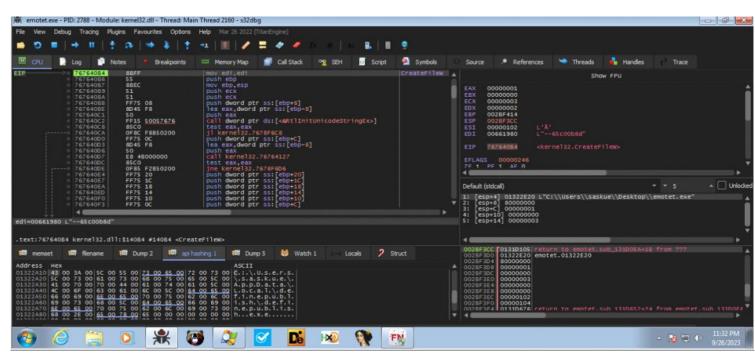
After this the length of this big string is calculated. (0x177 or 375 bytes), it then get folder path to AppData/Local. After this from the above mention string two string are combined and resultant string is used to create the directory and exe is dropped in the folder which is next stage payload. But then next stage payload follow same pattern.



I later on observe that the malware is getting ready for the next stage payload too.



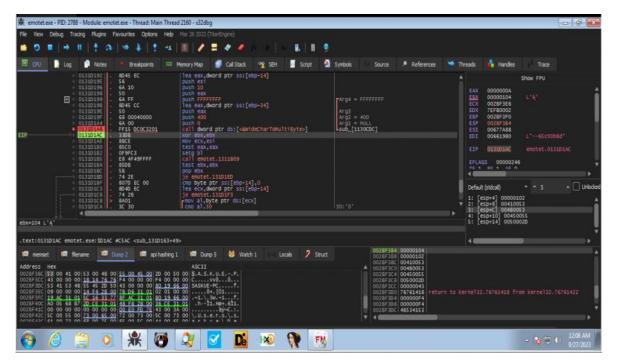
Next an handle is made to open and read the existing file emotet.exe (Open existing file and share mode is File\_Share\_Read).



Gathering information:

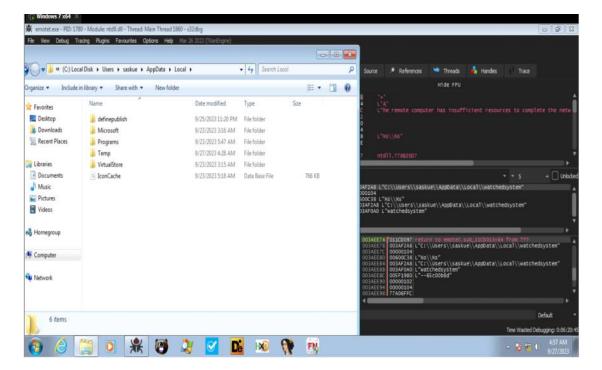
Computername: SASKUE-PC (wide)

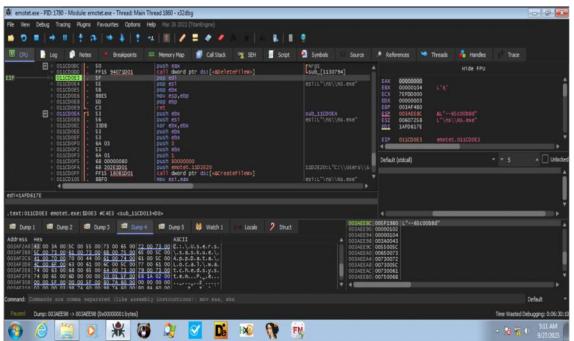
After this there is conversion from wide character to multi-character.



After that again decryption call is made an above mentioned strings are decrypted ones. Next possibly will be creation of directory named watchedsystem followed by executable as watchedsystem.exe.

After this there is a called to deletefilew for deleting above mention executable but since no such file exists therefore status is false.





File and directory enumeration:

1- C and its all Directory information enumeration via getfileattributesw

C:\\

C:\\Users

C:\\Users\\saskue

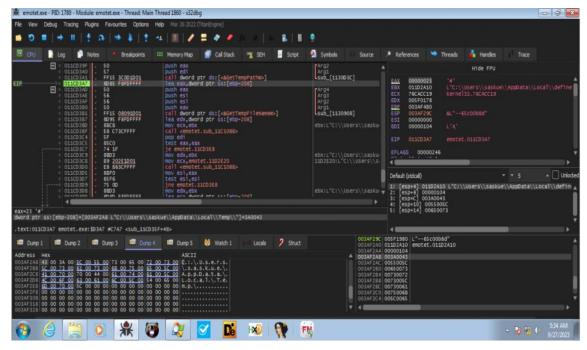
C:\\Users\\saskue\\AppData

C:\\Users\\saskue\\AppData\\Local

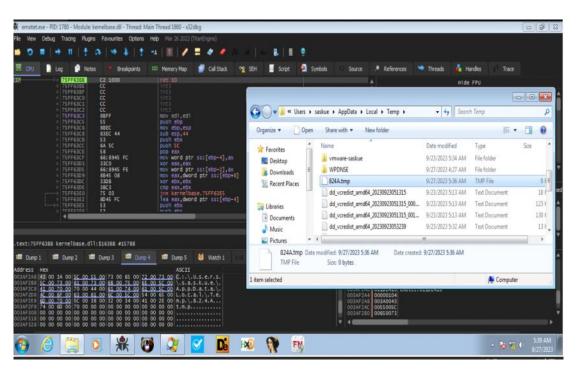
Once its reached the next stage payload function exit too.

2- Temporary directory enumerations :

C:\\User\\AppData\\Local\\Temp

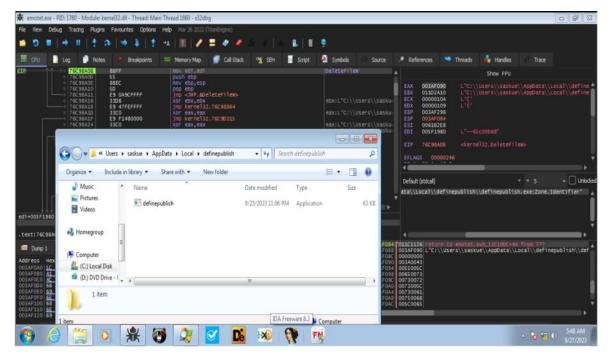


It then create a file inside the temporary directory here its : 824A.tmp



Deletion of file:

C:\\Users\\saskue\\AppData\\Local\\definepublish\\definepublish.exe:Zone.Identifier



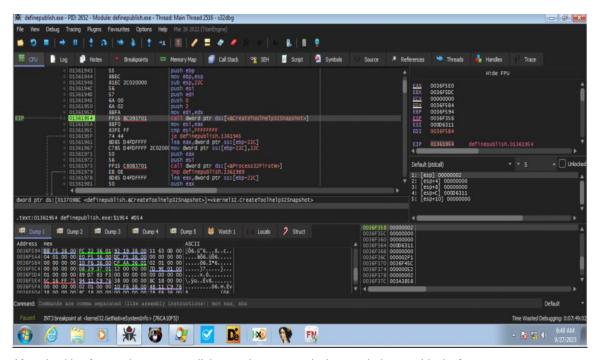
It seems we have reached the next stage and I could see creation of process. Dropped file will be launched as a new process via Createprocessw, after creation of the new process the process which we are debugging is gonna exit via exitprocess.

### System enumeration:

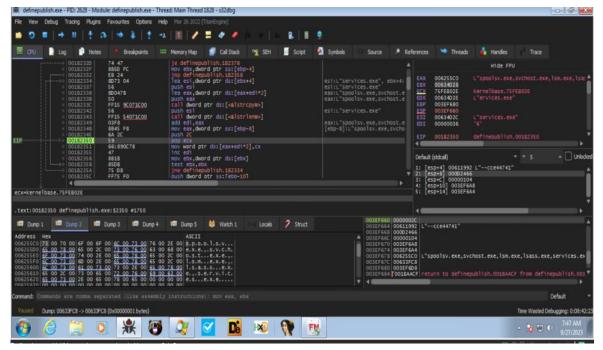
Os version: servicepack1 via RTLGETVERSION

#### Process Enumeration:

Checking for running process possible for injection or for anti techniques via CreateTool32HelpSnapshot

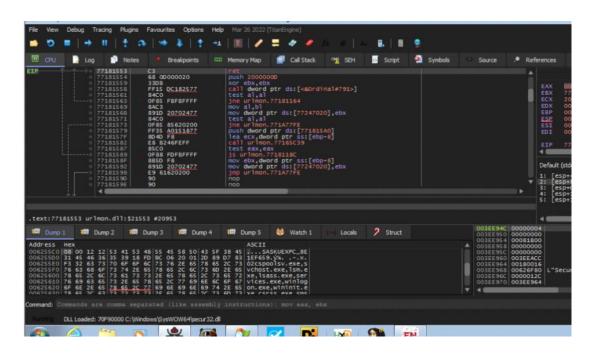


After checking for running process all the running process is then copied to one block of memory.



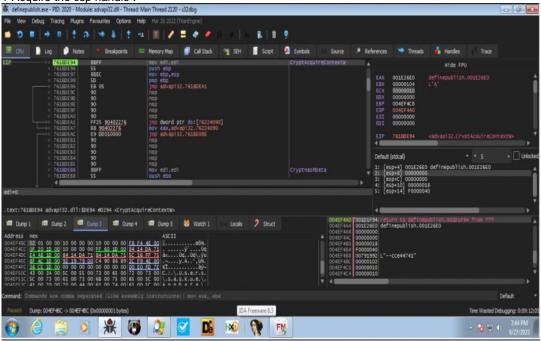
006255C0 73 00 70 00 6F 00 6F 00 6C 00 73 00 76 00 2E 00 s.p.o.o.l.s.v... 006255D0 65 00 78 00 65 00 2C 00 73 00 76 00 63 00 68 00 e.x.e.,.s.v.c.h. 006255E0 6F 00 73 00 74 00 2E 00 65 00 78 00 65 00 2C 00 o.s.t...e.x.e.,. 006255F0 6C 00 73 00 6D 00 2E 00 65 00 78 00 65 00 2C 00 l.s.m...e.x.e.,. 00625600 6C 00 73 00 61 00 73 00 73 00 2E 00 65 00 78 00 I.s.a.s.s...e.x. 00625610 65 00 2C 00 73 00 65 00 72 00 76 00 69 00 63 00 e.,.s.e.r.v.i.c. 00625620 65 00 73 00 2E 00 65 00 78 00 65 00 2C 00 77 00 e.s...e.x.e.,.w. 00625630 69 00 6E 00 6C 00 6F 00 67 00 6F 00 6E 00 2E 00 i.n.l.o.g.o.n... 00625640 65 00 78 00 65 00 2C 00 77 00 69 00 6E 00 69 00 e.x.e.,.w.i.n.i. 00625650 6E 00 69 00 74 00 2E 00 65 00 78 00 65 00 2C 00 n.i.t...e.x.e.,. 00625660 63 00 73 00 72 00 73 00 73 00 2E 00 65 00 78 00 c.s.r.s.s...e.x. 00625670 65 00 2C 00 73 00 6D 00 73 00 73 00 2E 00 65 00 e.,.s.m.s.s...e. 00625680 78 00 65 00 2C 00 00 00 62 FB 3C 3E 12 06 00 00 x.e.,...bû<>.... 00625690 E0 41 63 00 40 4F 63 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 àAc.@Oc....... 

After getting information such as list of running process and hostname it is then written into memory location after that encryption is being performed. As you can see in the image below that first hostname is written to memory location followed by list of running processes in the dump window.

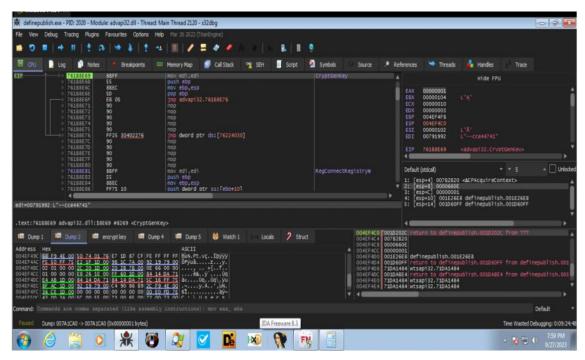


Later in the process we could also see cryptographic function being called to encrypt the above mention data .

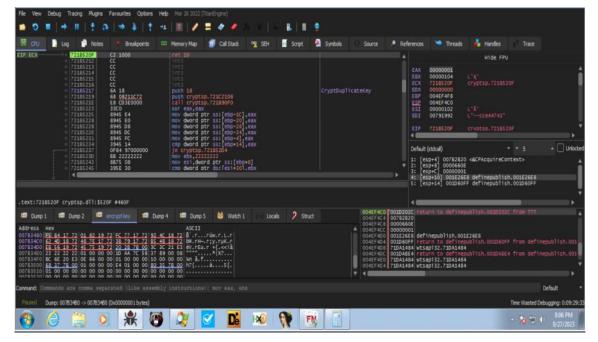
1-Acquire the csp handle:



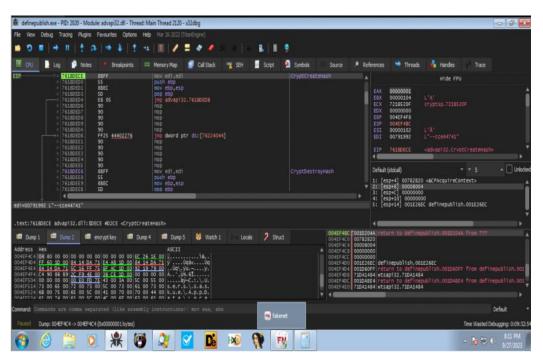
2- Cryptgenkey is called with second parameter being 0x660e which is CALG\_AES\_128



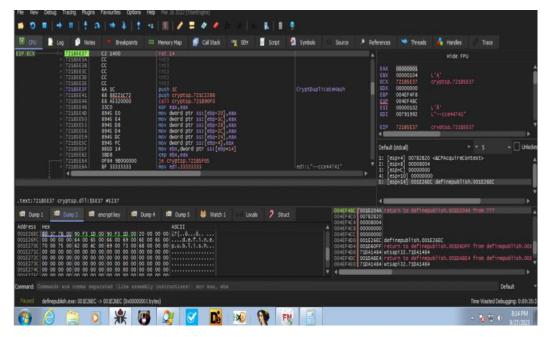
For getting the key go to address pointed out by fourth parameter there you will find the AES key.



For hashing for stream of target data sha hashing algo is used by calling to CryptCreateHash focus on second parameter which indicate algo used 8004 which is CALG\_SHA.

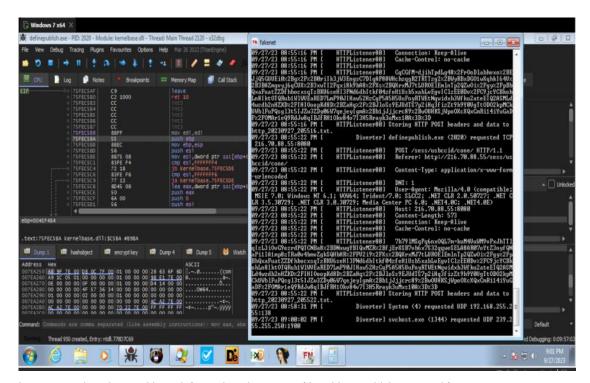


Handle to hash object:

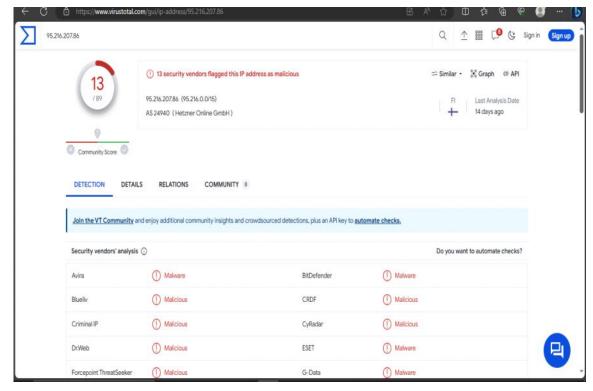


# C2 Communication:

For c2 communication it create the server request from list of ip address and then send victim data over http protocol for communication.



Let us see what virustotal have information about one of ip address which are used for communication. 95.216.207.86



# List of c2 ip address :

95.216.207.86 216.70.88.55 113.52.135.33 216.75.37.196 94.177.253.126 192.241.220.183 176.58.93.123 201.196.15.79 203.99.188.203 144.76.62.10

# **Detection Content:**

#### Indicator of compromise:

MD5 HASH ==> 10E60D2522A420D2FB67B7EA740B577D
MD5 HASH ==> 8BF98B245E94222FE4E748618A78834F
MD5 HASH ==> 28F8BAED2D657C8169D8FA0F2B72FC42
MD5 HASH ==> 45FA126CC4CA7CD909698659B3C36611
MD5 HASH ==> C02C5830C9DD9F08C0F9D5A7FBCBA43A
MD5 HASH ==> E10DFC274947C77028BBB801742DD46F
SHA256 ==>
96488477ED1702984C1FA3F56873E9AAC4EFB871F97A03EEA50233B13080C2F0
IMPHASH ==> C0B14A53A0C0AE1FBA074982A12351B7

## Yara rules:

https://github.com/Deepanjalkumar/Malware-Signature/blob/main/Emotet./emotet.yar

#### SIGMA RULES:

https://github.com/Deepanjalkumar/Malware-Signature/blob/main/Emotet./emotet.yml

# Mapping to MITRE ATTACK:

TECHNIQUE NAME	TECHNIQUE ID
PROCESS DISCOVERY	T1057
DYNAMIC API RESOUTION	T1027.007
DATA ENCRYPTION	T1486
FILE DELETION	T1630.002