

# Practical 2: Report TrickBot

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## Executive Summary

After analysis of the malware it can be concluded that the malware is some form of BotNet/RAT that connects to a remote command and control (C&C) host. Upon infection of the computer the malware quickly deletes itself and runs behind the scenes. The malware attempts to retrieve the external IP address of the victim by querying myexternalip.com. If this fails the malware checks other sites for the external IP. After the external IP is established the malware begins to perform reverse DNS queries to identify multiple remote IP addresses, likely used for C&C. The malware communicates with the host server by first encrypting its messages with the ECDSA P348 algorithm and sending them over http. Through the analysis and research it was found that the name of the malware is TrickBot.

Malware MD5 Hash: E05D85ACC62B2795BFB94A681E64E20F

Unpacked MD5 Hash: D86F7FE3B79CACC664B4B4F50BD61273

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## Static Analysis

(a) Identify the apparent compilation date of the program.

The compilation date of the program appears to be Friday August 19, 13:54:32 2016. After unpacking the code and viewing the compilation date it is noted that the compilation date is later, namely Thursday November 24, 16:57:31 2016. This is suspicious because the resource should have been compiled before the main sample2.exe program. This suggests that the dates may have been manipulated.

(b) Identify any suspicious properties of the program's Imports.

The unpacked file of the program does not have many imports. It mainly includes functions from the KERNEL32 library such as LoadResource, SizeOfResource, LoadLibraryA, and others. The main purpose of most of these imports is to load the resource section and other libraries. Because most of the code is hidden in the resources of the malware the extracted unpacked malware contains some interesting imports. Some of these imports include cryptography functions such as CryptDecrypt, CryptBinaryToStringW, CryptDestroyKey, and others. These imports suggest that the malware does some sort of encrypting of local files. The malware also includes functions from KERNEL32 to create new processes that could allow the

malware to exit its main process and function behind the scenes if the program is terminated. Some of these functions include `CreateProcessW`, `TerminateProcess`, `CreateThread` and more. The malware also imports `ReadFile` and `WriteFile` along with other functions that handle directories and files, suggesting that the malware may edit some of the files on the victim's system. Finally, the malware uses functions from the `WINHTTP` library such as `WinHttpOpenRequest`, `WinHttpConnect`, `WinHttpSendRequest`, and more. All of these functions suggest that the malware is at least reporting back to a server or acting as an access point for C&C.

(c) Identify any suspicious or relevant strings (IP addresses, URLs, process names, file names, etc.).

There are many suspicious URLs in the string section of the PE of the unpacked code. Some of these include `wtfismyip.com`, `spam.dsnnl.sorbs.net`, `myexternalip.com`, `icanhazip.com`, `ip.anysrc.net`, `dsnnl-1.uceprotect.net`, `cbl.abuseat.org`, `api.ipify.org`, `b.barracudacentral.org`. Most of these URLs seem to get the IP of the victim. Along with the URLs there are many strings that refer to `WinHttp` functions. There are some other interesting strings that deal with cryptography. `BCryptImportKeyPair` suggests that the malware uses some form of public key cryptography. Other blacklisted strings include function names such as `DeleteFile` and `FindNextFile` that suggest the malware alters or even deletes some files. Some other suspicious strings are `IDR_x86BOT`, `IDR_x64BOT`, and `IDR_X64LOADER`. These are names for portions of the `.rsrc` and are likely the names of programs for specific architectures. This is suggesting that the malware is a botnet and comes equipped with a x64 and x86 version. It is interesting to note the image below (image 1) reveals the type of encryption the malware uses to encrypt its data. It uses `ECDSA_P384`. This would be useful in further analysis to figure out the contents of the malware's communication. Further static analysis also revealed that the malware checks if a domain name has been blacklisted by the DNS. This is likely how the malware selects which website to query when attempting to figure out the external IP of the victim (image 2).

```
Decompile: FUN_1400059e0 - (sample2_prune.exe)
22 local_28 = 0;
23 local_24 = 0;
24 local_18 = 0;
25 DVar2 = GetVersion();
26 if ((byte)DVar2 < 6) {
27     uVar5 = 1;
28 }
29 else if (((_DAT_140019758 == 0) || (*param_1 == (longlong *)0x0)) || (**param_1 == 0)) {
30     uVar5 = 0;
31 }
32 else {
33     pBVar4 = crypt_createhash(param_2,param_3,&local_10,&local_28,0x800d);
34     pBVar1 = local_10;
35     if (((((int)pBVar4 != 0) && (iVar3 = (*DAT_1400197b0)(local_18,L"ECDSA_P384",0,0), -1 < iVar3)
36         ) && ((iVar3 = (*DAT_140019788)(local_18,0,L"ECCPUBLICBLOB",&local_20,**param_1,
37             *(undefined4 *)(*param_1 + 1),0), -1 < iVar3 &&
38             ((uVar5 = 0, param_5 != 0 ||
39                 (iVar3 = (*DAT_140019770)(local_20,L"SignatureLength",&param_5,4,&local_24,0),
40                 -1 < iVar3)))))) &&
41         (iVar3 = (*DAT_140019790)(local_20,0,pBVar1,local_28,param_4,param_5,0),
42             iVar3 != -0x3fff6000)) && (uVar5 = 0, -1 < iVar3)) {
43         uVar5 = 1;
44     }
45     if (local_20 != 0) {
46         (*DAT_1400197a0)();
47     }
48     if (local_18 != 0) {
```

Image 1.



Yes the program is obfuscated. The largest indicator of obfuscation is the entropy of the file. The total entropy of the file is 7.971 and the entropy of the .rsrc section, which contains 94% of the file, is 7.997 of 8. The closer the entropy of a file is to 8 the more random the contents of the file are. A normal file would have an entropy of about 6. Another indicator that the program is packed is in the strings of the program there is a string towards the end of the file that reads: "PADDINGXXPADDINGXX...". This string is suggestive that the program was packed and needed some padding to fill in the blank space. Another indicator of the program being packed is that it only reports using 4 libraries in the PE header, suggesting that only functions needed for loading and unpacking code are included. Most unpacked programs import more libraries because of the need for more functionality. All of these factors contribute to the conclusion that the program is packed.

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## Dynamic Analysis

(a) Interesting behaviors that occur after the malware has executed.

After the malware has been executed it deletes itself but copies itself to the AppData folder and deletes itself again. While in the AppData folder, the malware makes a Modules directory and two files. The created files are a client\_id file and a group\_tag. The client id contains the string: DESKTOP-KFUTCHB\_W629200.2003545586CB84B29E440898202CD1E1 which is likely an identifier for the machine running the software, the other file contains the string: ser9. The malware also spawns several threads. The threads mostly deal with cryptography. It is hypothesized that the cryptography is used to encrypt data before sending them over http. There is a lot of network activity as well (image 3). It is hypothesized that the malware is a form of a botnet and is attempting to connect for C&C to these IP addresses. Because the VM testing the malware is not connected to the internet the connections do not make it through to the actual servers, although the malware continues to attempt to connect to these servers.

Time of Day	Process Name	PID	Operation	Path	Result	Detail
11:46:01.6850862 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Connect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50165 -> 133.245.168.192.in-addr.arpa:http	SUCCESS	Length: 0, mss: 1460, sackopt: 1, tsx
11:46:01.6855520 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Send	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50165 -> 133.245.168.192.in-addr.arpa:http	SUCCESS	Length: 89, starttime: 76548, endtime
11:46:01.7186612 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Receive	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50165 -> 133.245.168.192.in-addr.arpa:http	SUCCESS	Length: 150, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:46:01.7211813 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Receive	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50165 -> 133.245.168.192.in-addr.arpa:http	SUCCESS	Length: 258, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:46:01.7214079 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Disconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50165 -> 133.245.168.192.in-addr.arpa:http	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:46:02.8632353 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50166 -> 6.176.37.36.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:46:04.8632654 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50166 -> 6.176.37.36.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:46:08.8632547 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50166 -> 6.176.37.36.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:46:16.8788482 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50166 -> 6.176.37.36.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:46:22.8789206 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Disconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50166 -> 6.176.37.36.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:46:38.9100923 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50168 -> 6.176.37.36.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:46:40.9139090 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50168 -> 6.176.37.36.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:46:44.9260861 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50168 -> 6.176.37.36.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:46:52.9414102 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50168 -> 6.176.37.36.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:46:58.9570026 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Disconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50168 -> 6.176.37.36.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:47:14.9882809 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50170 -> 6.176.37.36.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:47:17.0038691 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50170 -> 6.176.37.36.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:47:21.0039077 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50170 -> 6.176.37.36.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:47:29.0194993 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50170 -> 6.176.37.36.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:47:35.0195678 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Disconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50170 -> 6.176.37.36.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:47:51.0507923 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50173 -> 143.25.189.192.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:47:53.0508085 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50173 -> 143.25.189.192.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:47:57.0508007 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50173 -> 143.25.189.192.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:48:05.0508037 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50173 -> 143.25.189.192.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:48:11.0508399 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Disconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50173 -> 143.25.189.192.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:48:27.0820433 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50175 -> 143.25.189.192.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:48:29.0976062 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50175 -> 143.25.189.192.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:48:33.0976234 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50175 -> 143.25.189.192.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:48:41.1132504 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50175 -> 143.25.189.192.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:48:47.1132583 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Disconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50175 -> 143.25.189.192.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:49:03.1421560 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50316 -> 143.25.189.192.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:49:05.1577782 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50316 -> 143.25.189.192.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:49:09.1577867 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50316 -> 143.25.189.192.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:49:17.1733919 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50316 -> 143.25.189.192.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:49:23.1890603 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Disconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50316 -> 143.25.189.192.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:49:39.2202666 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50337 -> 110.75.35.207.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:49:41.2361065 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50337 -> 110.75.35.207.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:49:45.2515696 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50337 -> 110.75.35.207.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:49:53.2671988 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50337 -> 110.75.35.207.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:49:59.2828107 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Disconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50337 -> 110.75.35.207.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:50:15.3296470 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50339 -> 110.75.35.207.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:50:17.3452811 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50339 -> 110.75.35.207.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:50:21.3609300 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50339 -> 110.75.35.207.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:50:29.3765725 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50339 -> 110.75.35.207.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:50:35.4077648 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Disconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50339 -> 110.75.35.207.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:50:51.4390295 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50342 -> 110.75.35.207.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:50:53.4546677 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50342 -> 110.75.35.207.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:50:57.4546777 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50342 -> 110.75.35.207.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0
11:51:05.4547297 PM	sample2_prune.....	5984	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-KFUTCH8:50342 -> 110.75.35.207.in-addr.arpa:https	SUCCESS	Length: 0, seqnum: 0, connid: 0

Image 3.

(b) Machines and services the malware attempts to identify or contact by IP or domain/host name.

The malware attempts to connect to many hosts through IP addresses on an http connection. This is known by setting up a fake dns server on the remnux machine and allowing it to communicate and serve DNS requests sent from the malware being run on the windows 10 machine. The fake DNS has many reverse DNS queries in an attempt to locate some of the IP addresses that the malware was requesting. The malware also made a request to myexternalip.com likely to figure out the external IP of the victim machine. Procmon was used to view the activity on the victim machine while the malware was running. Procmon identified many attempts to communicate over the network as seen in image 3.

(c) Registry Keys created/modified by the malware.

Procmon located many attempts for the malware to view registry keys, but it did not recognize any activity of the malware changing registry keys or values.

(d) Files created/modified by the malware.

The malware creates two files as mentioned earlier. There is a client ID file and a group\_tag file. These files are used for identifying this machine.

(e) Processes started by the malware.

After the malware is run it promptly copies then deletes itself and starts running again. The malware also starts a service which allows it to run if it is closed. There are also numerous threads spawned by the malware. These threads are used for making http connections and encrypting data before communicating with an external host.

(f) Persistence mechanisms employed by the malware.

The malware has a couple of persistence mechanisms in place. One of them is to delete itself. This makes the malware more stealthy by not leaving a footprint. The malware also has startup privileges. When the computer is rebooted the malware is started as soon as the reboot is complete. The malware also creates a service to allow for persistent running.

(g) Deobfuscation, anti-debugging, and/or anti-VM techniques.

#### Deobfuscation

Because the malware is packed, it cannot be directly analyzed. According to the PE header file of the original file 95% of the program is stored in the .rsrc section of the program and it has an entropy of 7.99 which means it is packed. To depack it the malware was opened with x32dbg. Because the malware is mostly in the .rsrc section and it is backed there must be a small chunk of code in the .text section to unpack it and run it. First the malware must load the



code from the resource section and then unpack it so a breakpoint for LoadResource is set. After the breakpoint is hit and stepped out to the code in the .text section, there are a couple interesting calls to take note of such as the calls to RtlAllocateHeap and SizeOfResource (image 4). This section of code is taking the packed resource allocating space on the heap and copying it to the allocated space. Looking at the parameters for the memcpy are seen on the stack (image 4 lower right) and are noted as the destination, the source and the amount of bytes to copy. The destination is then followed in the dump. Stepping through a couple more instructions leads to a loop with an xor in it. This loop is unpacking the copied code in the heap (image 5). A breakpoint can be set after this loop to unpack all of the code. Next, the section containing the unpacked code is dumped to a file. The offset of the section is calculated by taking the heap address of the copy destination and subtracting the section containing the copied code's base address. The length of the unpacked code can be found on the stack when resource size was called. A tool such as dd can be used to carve out the unpacked executable using the offset and the length of the code. Finally we have an unpacked binary that we can further analyze.

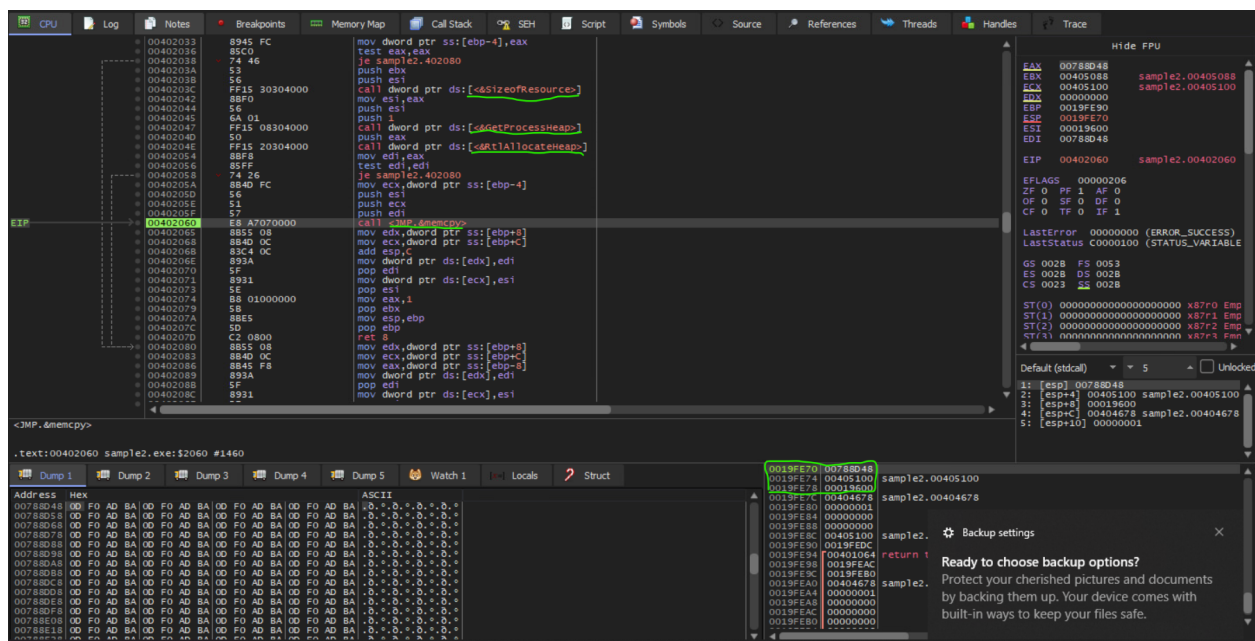


Image 4.



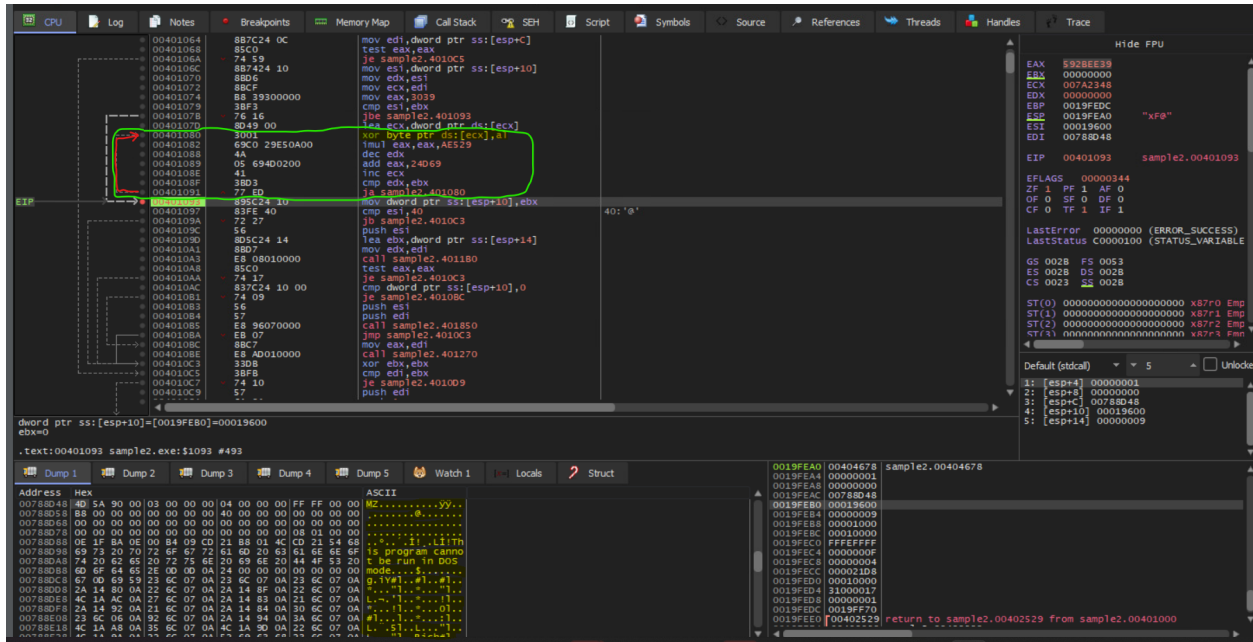


Image 5.

## Anti-VM

The malware does use anti-vm techniques to hide itself from an analyst. In order to get past the anti-vm techniques, first, the VMware tools service was stopped. This is in an attempt to hide the virtual environment from the malware. Although the VMware tools are disabled the malware can still find other indicators that it is being run in a vm. Virtual machines use MAC addresses that all lie within a range. This fact can be checked by the malware in order to identify that it is being run in a virtual environment. In this example the MAC address was changed to AA.AA.AA.AA.AA.AA. Another preventative measure taken was to change the resolution of the display. The final measure to hide the VM is to alter the registry keys so if the malware checks the registry for evidence of a VM it won't find any. The altered key is: HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\Disk\Enum\0. Most Virtual machines connect through NAT. As seen in image 4 the malware checks if the machine is behind a NAT.

```

iVar8 = FUN_1400058b0();
if (iVar8 < 0) {
    pwVar26 = L"failed";
    lpMem = L"NAT status";
}
else if (iVar8 == 0) {
    pwVar26 = L"client is behind NAT";
    lpMem = L"NAT status";
}
else {
    pwVar26 = L"client is not behind NAT";
    lpMem = L"NAT status";
}

```

Image 4.

## Indicators of Compromise

The main indicator of compromise for this sample of malware would be the internet traffic. Although many applications that are not malware communicate over http, this sample makes requests to myexternalip.com along with many other obscure IPAddresses. This is a good indicator of compromise for any malware but not unique to this sample. Other indicators of compromise would be an unknown process running behind the scenes. After finding the unknown process, If the suspicious process is stopped and a service restarts it, it could be this sample as this behavior has been observed. The malware was also observed to delete itself after opening, but remained executing on the machine. This is a strong indicator of infection, but it is still not unique to this sample. One of the final indicators of compromise would be evidence of the files that the malware creates. If a folder named Modules and two files named client\_id and group\_tag are found then it is highly likely that the machine is infected. If all of the described behavior above is observed the following Yara rule can be run to identify if the malware is in fact the same as this sample. This Yara rule was tested on other executables and only returned positive for this sample. If Yara finds the malware with this rule then it can be confirmed that the machine has been infected with this sample. The rule checks for a string at the entrypoint of the executable.

Yara rule:

Rule TrickBot

```
{
    strings:
        $a = {E8 47 04 00 00}
    condition:
        $a at entrypoint
}
```