

Hands on Project

NotPetya

Introduction

NotPetya is a destructive ransomware that caused widespread damage and disruption across various organizations and industries in June 2017. It is considered one of the most damaging cyberattacks in history, affecting thousands of computers worldwide. This report provides an analysis of NotPetya, including its origins, impact, and mechanisms.

Acquisition of Virus File: The virus file used for analysis in this report was acquired from a GitHub repository maintained by NTFS123, a cybersecurity researcher. The repository, located at <https://github.com/NTFS123/MalwareDatabase>, contains samples of various malware, including NotPetya, for research and analysis purposes.

Configuration Information

To analyze the NotPetya malware, we utilized a controlled environment with the following configuration:

Virtualization Platform: Virtual Box

VM used : Windows

Analysis Tools: IDA Pro, Process Monitor, Process Hacker

Understanding of the Malware

NotPetya is a type of ransomware that spreads rapidly across networks by exploiting vulnerabilities in Microsoft Windows systems. It encrypts the Master Boot Record (MBR) and individual files on the infected system, rendering it inoperable until a ransom is paid. However, unlike traditional ransomware, NotPetya was designed to cause maximum disruption rather than generate ransom payments.

Understanding of the Malicious Mechanisms

- **Infection Vector:** NotPetya primarily spreads through the EternalBlue exploit, which targets a vulnerability in the Windows Server Message Block (SMB) protocol (CVE-2017-0144). It also utilizes the EternalRomance and EternalChampion exploits to propagate within networks.
- **Propagation:** Once inside a network, NotPetya uses legitimate Windows management tools such as PsExec and Windows Management Instrumentation (WMI) to move laterally and infect other machines. It also exploits weak or default credentials to access systems.

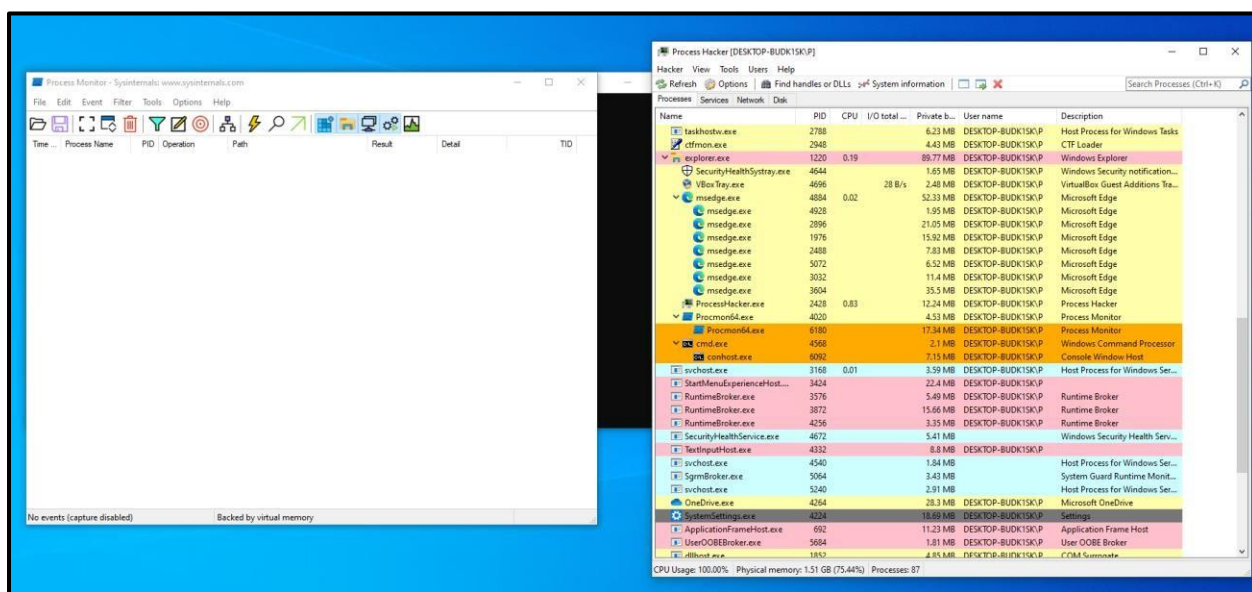
- **Encryption:** NotPetya encrypts the Master File Table (MFT) and overwrites the Master Boot Record (MBR) with a custom bootloader. It uses a combination of symmetric (AES-128) and asymmetric (RSA-2048) encryption algorithms to encrypt files.
- **Payload:** After encryption, NotPetya displays a ransom note demanding a Bitcoin payment in exchange for the decryption key. However, analysis suggests that the malware's encryption implementation is flawed, making decryption impossible even with the correct key.
- **Destructive Component:** NotPetya includes a destructive component that irreversibly damages the infected system. It overwrites the MBR, making it impossible to boot the system, and modifies the system's files and structures, resulting in permanent data loss.

Working

So first we downloaded the virus file from the github repo that I have mentioned above in my windows VM.

Then I downloaded the required tools.

Once the setup is done, I opened Prochacker tool and Procmon.



Then we ran the virus file which is notPetya.dll with the following command in the admin command prompt **rundll32 notPetya.dll , #1** we are giving #1 since that is the first point of entry for this file.

Results - rundll32.exe (6720)		
2,538 results.		
Address	Length	Result
0x1e3292	30	R:\AppData\Local
0x1e3520	62	C:\Windows\AppPatch\sysmain.sdb
0x1e45f0	24	C:\Users\P\A
0x1e48b8	176	"C:\Users\P\AppData\Local\Temp\6812.tmp" \\.pipe\{3A06E7A0-C076-41C6-8F6A-AE636C49831F}
0x1e4eac	54	C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe
0x1e5080	150	Microsoft Strong Cryptograph\pipe\{3A06E7A0-C076-41C6-8F6A-AE636C49831F}
0x1e52d0	76	C:\Windows\system32\shutdown.exe /r /f
0x1e5530	174	schtasks /Create /SC once /TN "" /TR "C:\Windows\system32\shutdown.exe /r /f" /ST 22:28
0x1e55f0	36	\\.\PhysicalDrive0
0x1e58b8	60	C:\Users\P\AppData\Local\Temp\
0x1e9d3a	70	pi-ms-win-core-delayload-l1-1-0.dll
0x1e9e40	68	C:\Windows\SYSTEM32\kernelbase.dll
0x1ea2c8	102	System\CurrentControlSet\Services\LDAP\rundll32.exe

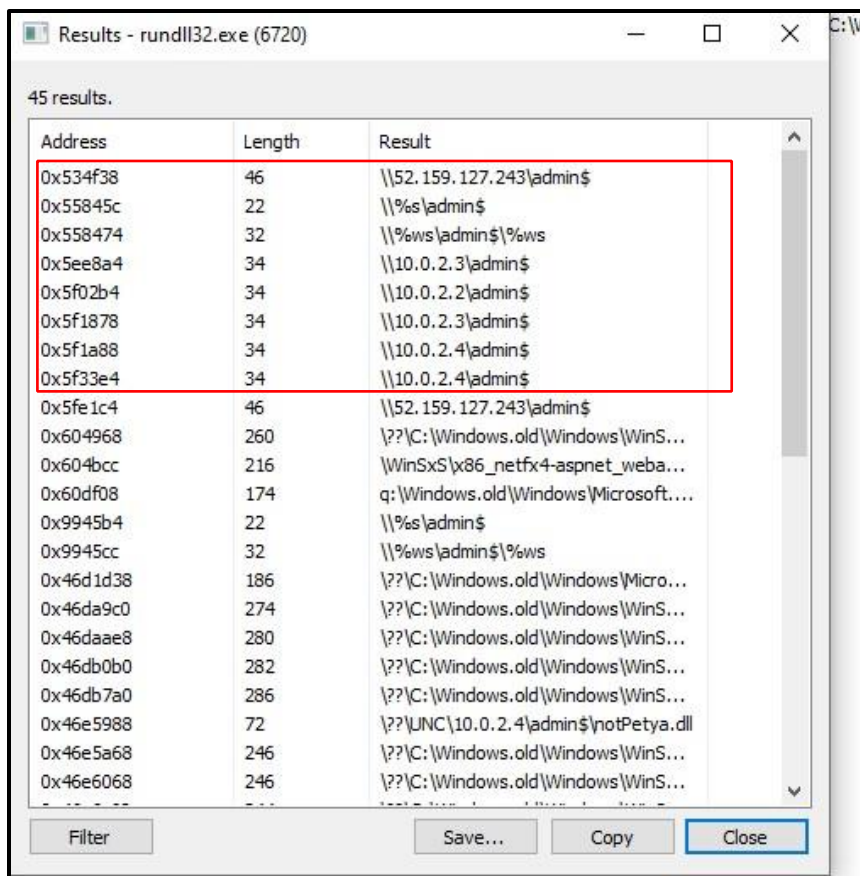
We can also see the exact details of this action by using the task scheduler.

In this application we can see the exact time the action is going to be executed.

Task Scheduler							
File Action View Help							
Task Scheduler (Local)							
Task Scheduler Library							
Name	Status	Triggers	Next Run Time	Last Run Time	Last Run Result	Author	Created
(AD2F33F5-6...	Ready	At 10:28 PM on 4/25/2024	4/25/2024 10:28:00 PM	11/30/1999 12:00:00 AM	The task has not yet run. (0x41303)	DESKTOP-BUDK1SK\P	4/25/2024 9:25:38 PM
MicrosoftE...	Ready	Multiple triggers defined	4/26/2024 7:27:19 PM	4/25/2024 7:27:19 PM	The operation completed successfully. (0x0)		
MicrosoftED...	Ready	At 6:57 PM every day - After triggered, repeat every 1 hour for a duration of 1 day.	4/25/2024 9:57:19 PM	4/25/2024 8:57:27 PM	The operation completed successfully. (0x0)		
OneDrive Re...	Ready	At 7:44 PM on 4/24/2024 - After triggered, repeat every 1.00:00:00 indefinitely.	4/26/2024 7:44:49 PM	4/25/2024 7:44:57 PM	The operation completed successfully. (0x0)	Microsoft Corporation	
OneDrive St...	Ready	At 6:00 PM on 5/1/1992 - After triggered, repeat every 1.00:00:00 indefinitely.	4/26/2024 9:57:41 PM	11/30/1999 12:00:00 AM	The task has not yet run. (0x41303)	Microsoft Corporation	
General Triggers Actions Conditions Settings History (disabled)							
When you create a task, you must specify the action that will occur when your task starts. To change these actions, open the task property pages using the Properties command.							
Action	Details						
Start a program	C:\Windows\system32\shutdown.exe /r /f						

Again coming back to the strings section of Procmon, we filtered for the commands that included admin in it.

We can see that it will execute various ip addresses with admin



Next we found out the exact command that it will execute during ransom attack that is the “Oops, your important files are encrypted...” string.

0x5532b0	46	inflate 1.2.8 Copyright 1995-2013 Mark Adler
0x553de0	17	\\.\PhysicalDrive
0x553df4	58	123456789ABCDEFGHIJKLMNPQRSTUVWXYZ
0x553e30	34	1Mz7153HMuxXTuR.2R.1t78mGSdzaAtNbBWx
0x553e58	72	Your personal installation key:
0x553ea4	56	wowsmith123456@posteo.net.
0x553ee0	142	2.Send your Bitcoin wallet ID and personal installation key to e-mail
0x553f70	76	1Mz7153HMuxXTuR.2R.1t78mGSdzaAtNbBWx
0x553fc0	1074	Oops, your important files are encrypted.If you see this text, then your files are no longer accessible, because they have been encrypted. Perhaps you are busy looking for a way to recover your files, but do...
0x5543f8	720	MIIBCgKCAQEAxP/9qKc0yle9JhVfPMQGWJIT06WpXWnKSNQAYT0065CRBPjQInTeHxExFOz2JmURVW/JuB0ZlQJwCYJbWJhQ8Eq3DqmN19Oo7NtyEJmbYmopcc+YL1BZqZ2TK0A2DX4GRKxEELCY7P12E...
0x5546cc	22	C:\Windows;
0x5546e8	540	.3ds.7z.accdB.ai.asp.aspx.avhd.back.bak.c.cfg.conf.cpp.cs.ctf.dbf.disk.djvu.doc.docx.dwg.eml.fdb.gz.h.hdd.kdxb.mail.mdb.msg.ng.ora.ost.ova.ovf.pdf.php.pfm.ppt.pptx.pst.pvi.py.pyc.rar.rtf.sh.sql.tar...
0x554928	106	Microsoft Enhanced RSA and AES Cryptographic Provider
0x554994	20	README.TXT

After further analysis we got to know the email address that this attack will display to collect the ransom.

0x553c88	12	buffer error
0x553c98	20	incompatible version
0x553cb0	46	inflate 1.2.8 Copyright 1995-2013 Mark Adler
0x553de0	17	\\.\PhysicalDrive
0x553df4	58	123456789ABCDEFGHIJKLMNPQRSTUVWXYZ
0x553e30	34	1Mz7153HMuxXTuR.2R.1t78mGSdzaAtNbBWx
0x553e58	72	Your personal installation key:
0x553ea4	56	wowsmith123456@posteo.net.
0x553ee0	142	2.Send your Bitcoin wallet ID and personal installation key to e-mail
0x553f70	76	1Mz7153HMuxXTuR.2R.1t78mGSdzaAtNbBWx
0x553fc0	1074	Oops, your important files are encrypted.If you see this text, then your files are no longer accessible, because they have been encrypted. Perhaps you are busy looking for a way to recover your files, but do...

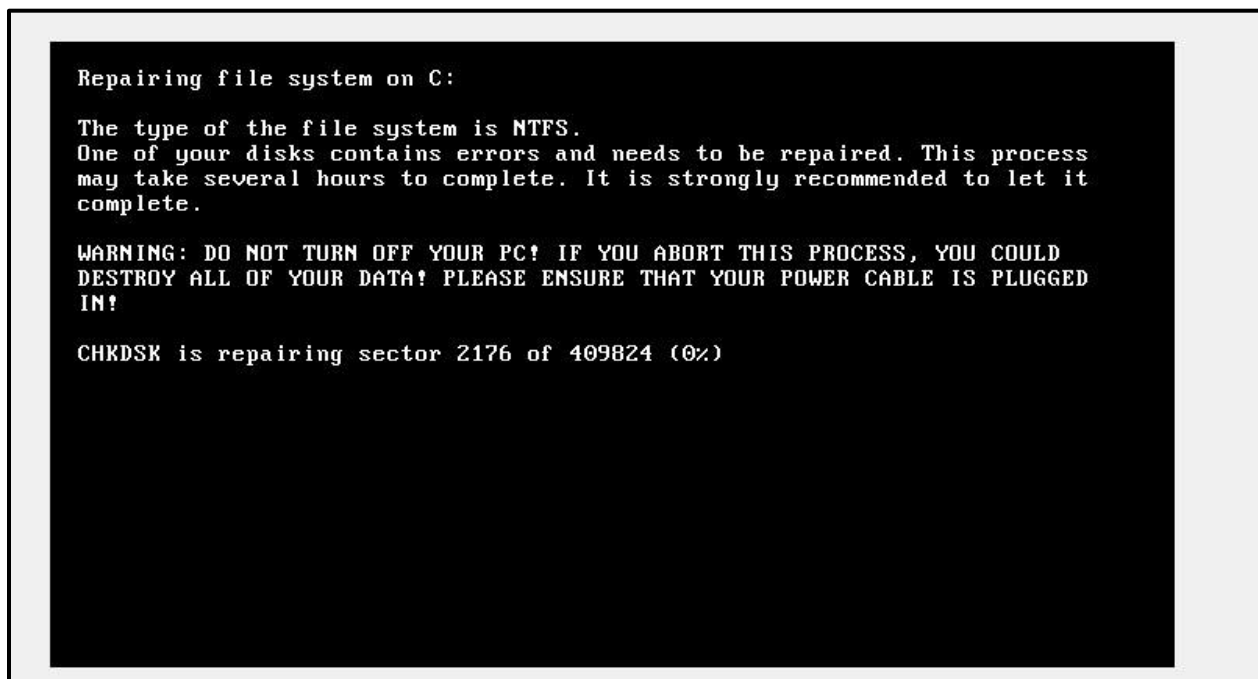
This command will delete the files on the system once the attack is successful.

0x557f38	19	GetExtendedCapabilities
0x557f4c	22	%u, %u, %u, %u
0x557fa0	28	SetCbPrivilege
0x557fc0	38	SetShutdownPrivilege
0x557fe8	32	SetDebugPrivilege
0x55800c	22	C:\Windows\
0x558058	242	wevtutil d Setup & wevtutil d System & wevtutil d Security & wevtutil d Application & fsutil usn deletejournal /D %c:
0x558150	118	schtasks %ws/Create /SC once /TN "" /TR "%ws" /ST %02d:%02d
0x5581c8	32	at %02d:%02d %ws
0x5581ec	36	shutdown.exe /r /f
0x558214	26	/RU "SYSTEM"
0x558234	22	dllhost.dat
0x558258	16	NIRaiseHardError
0x558274	18	\\PhysicalDrive0

Now we rebooted the system to start the attack early instead of waiting for the given time.

This screen is just a cover.

To be safe from the attack a person should turn his system off at this point right away and not wait for the sectors to be completed.



Once this is loaded, that is when the attack has successfully entered your system and this screen appears

Ooops, your important files are encrypted.

If you see this text, then your files are no longer accessible, because they have been encrypted. Perhaps you are busy looking for a way to recover your files, but don't waste your time. Nobody can recover your files without our decryption service.

We guarantee that you can recover all your files safely and easily. All you need to do is submit the payment and purchase the decryption key.

Please follow the instructions:

1. Send \$300 worth of Bitcoin to following address:

1Mz7153HMuxXTuR2R1t78mGSdzaAtNbBWx

2. Send your Bitcoin wallet ID and personal installation key to e-mail wowsmith123456@posteo.net. Your personal installation key:

o7XeBG-Y9iP5D-MwGgYJ-8UU7FP-DH49Se-BRKSSP-iSHDbA-G9TBXm-t474gP-bSUJhU

If you already purchased your key, please enter it below.

Key: _

This is the ransom attack screen where it has asked for \$300 worth of Bitcoin.

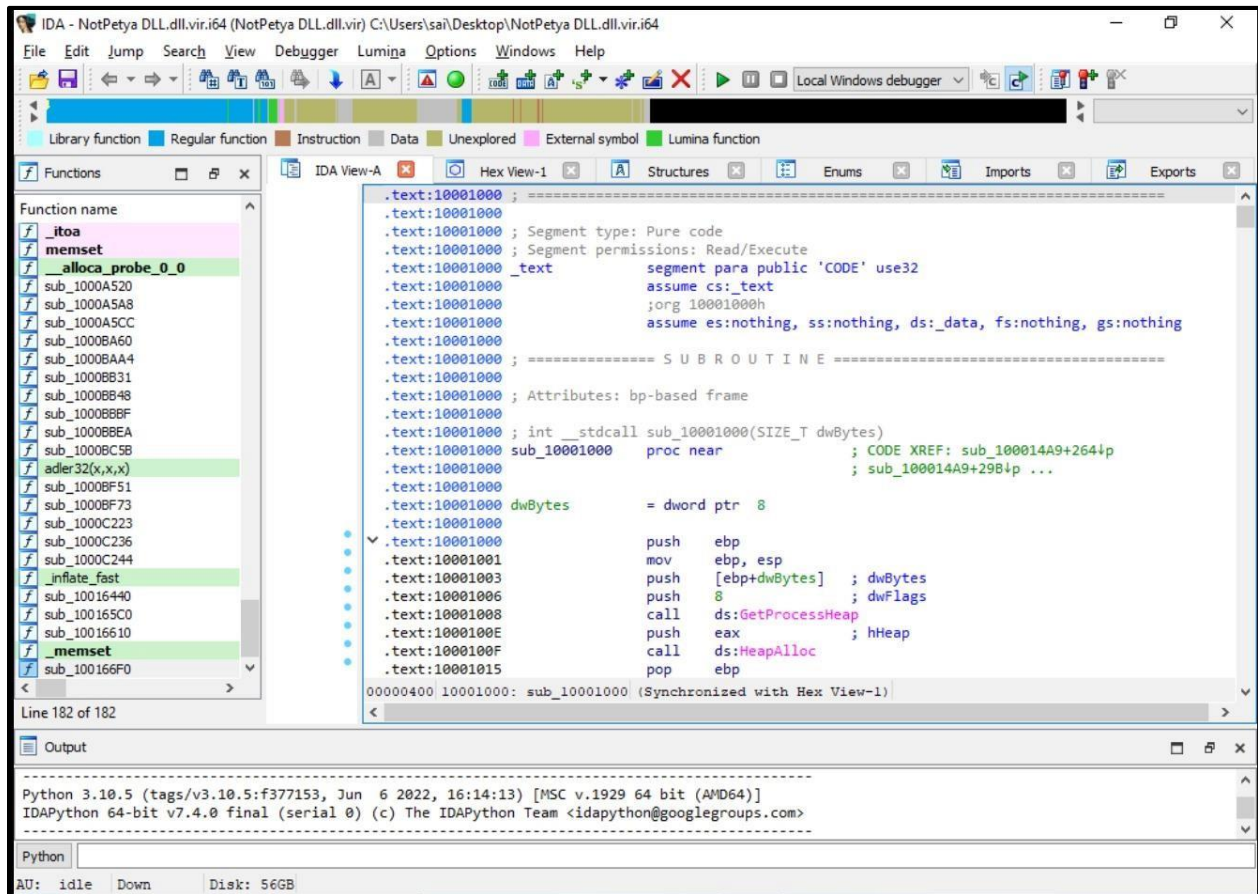
And also provides the victim with a personal key that he has to give along with his wallet ID to the attacker's email address that is given.

No matter which key the victim puts the system won't accept it.

This is how you come to know that you have become a victim of this attack.

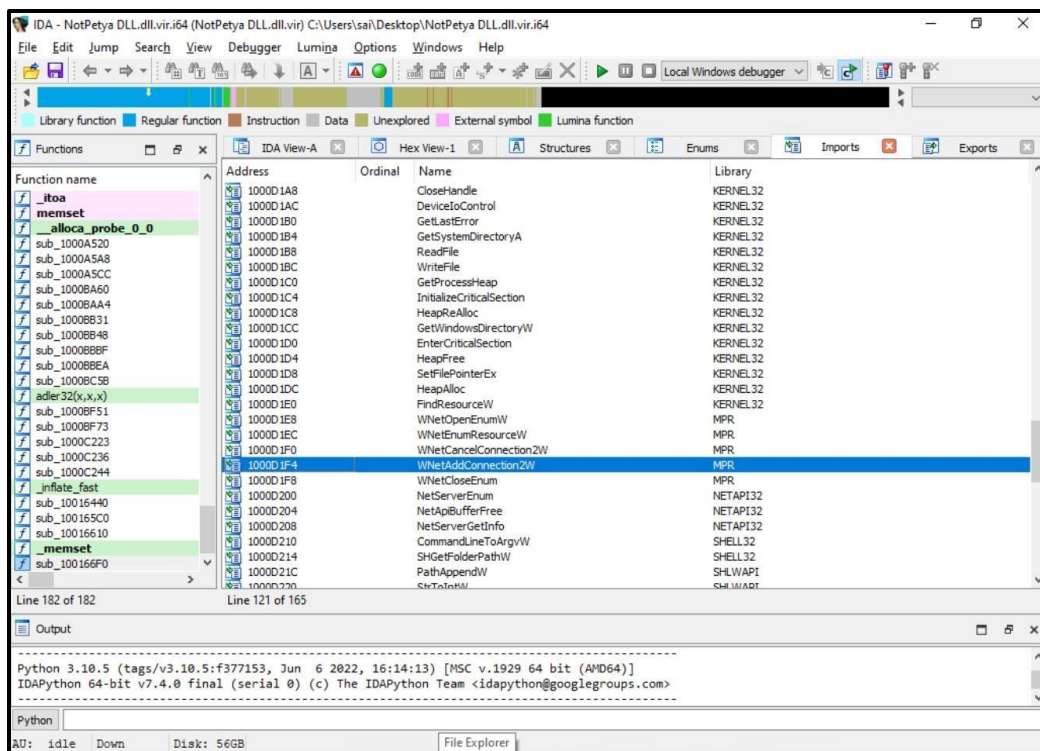
Analysis

We analyzed this virus in IDA pro,

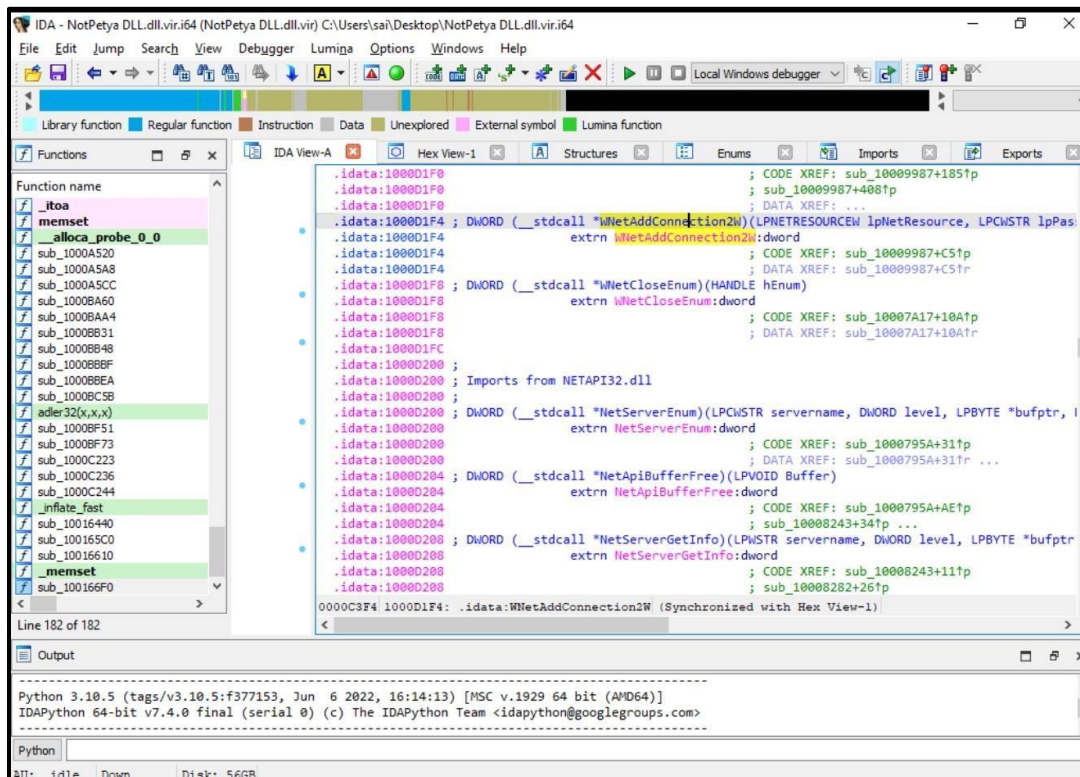


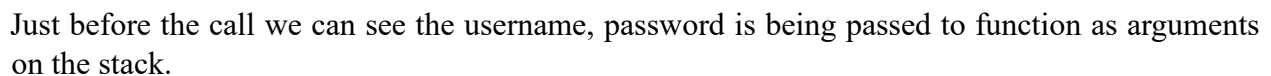
We started analyzing the virus by going through the names list that consists of the names of the imports of the API calls which the malware uses and there are network connections being created.

The one that is important for us is the `WNetAddConnection2W`



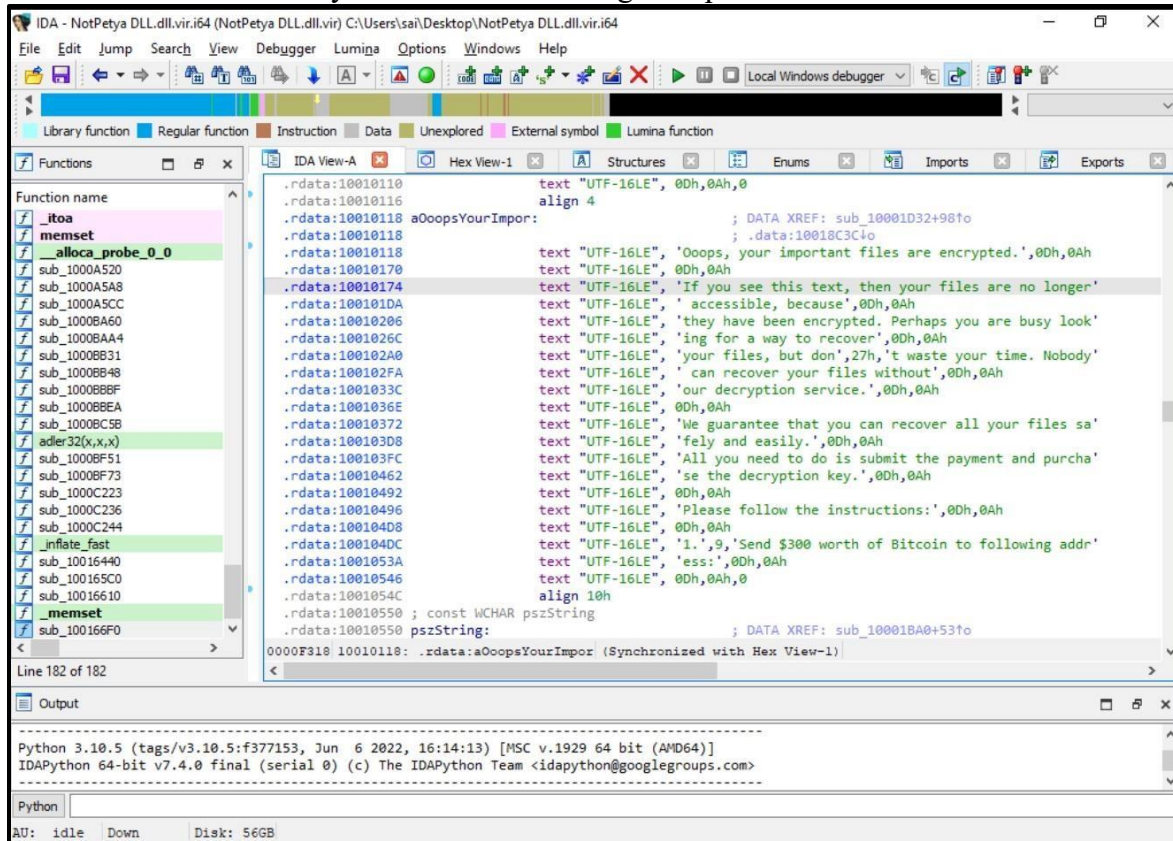
This is the reference to the API call. We then press X, we can see where that call is being cross referenced and doubleclick to go to that part of the code.





We can see the strings that the malware will execute.

So this how we have analyzed the malware using IDA pro.



Conclusion

In conclusion, the analysis of NotPetya provides valuable insights into the workings of one of the most destructive ransomware attacks in recent history. By acquiring the malware file from a reputable source and performing static analysis using IDA Pro, we gained a deeper understanding of its behavior and mechanisms.

Our implementation of NotPetya on a controlled system allowed us to observe its impact and behavior firsthand. We confirmed its ability to encrypt files and overwrite the Master Boot Record, rendering the system inoperable. Additionally, the analysis revealed the sophisticated propagation methods used by NotPetya to spread within networks and exploit vulnerabilities.

Through static analysis with IDA Pro, we dissected the malware's code and identified key functions responsible for encryption, propagation, and payload execution. This analysis provided crucial insights into how NotPetya operates and allowed us to understand its malicious mechanisms.