WANGARY RANSOMWARE

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Background on wannacry

WannaCry exploited a vulnerability in the SMB protocol, known as EternalBlue. It quickly spread across networks, encrypting files and demanding Bitcoin payments to restore access.



How it works?

Initial Infection 3 Persistence

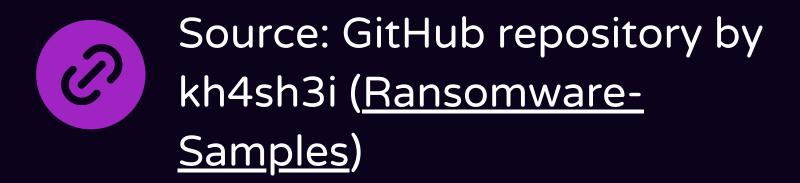
Encryption 4 Kill-Switch Mechanism

- Understanding malware behavior
- 2 Identifying API calls
- 3 Debugging
- 4 Dumping

Overview of tools



Sample used



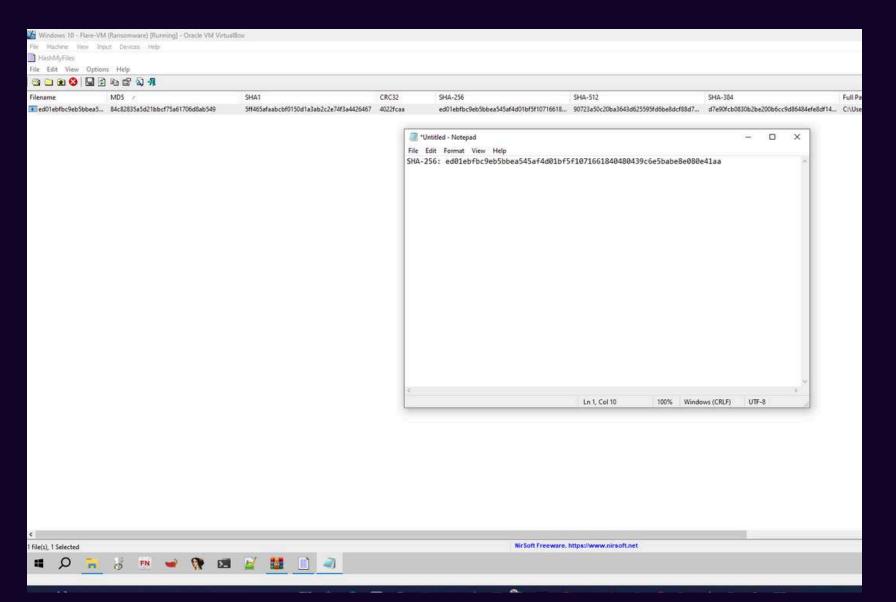


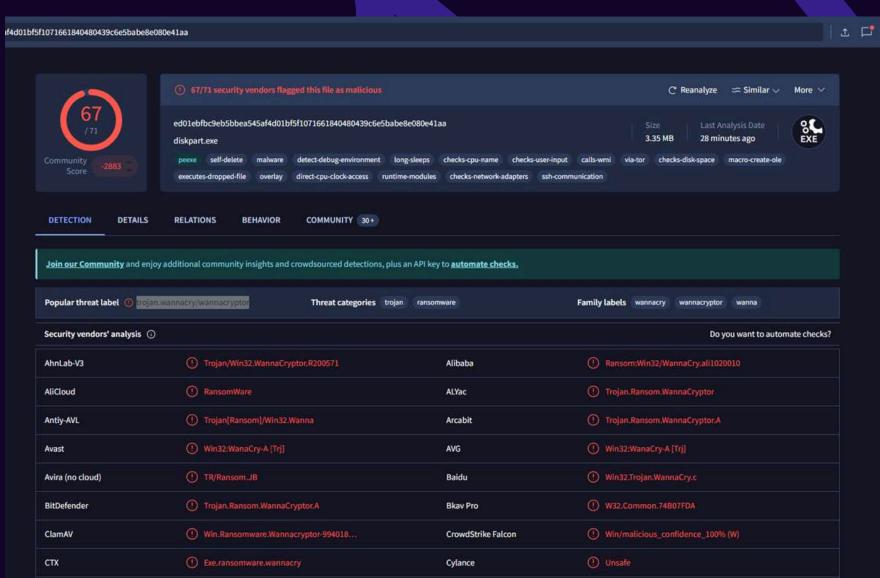
Sample Verification: Calculating the file hash with HashMyFiles

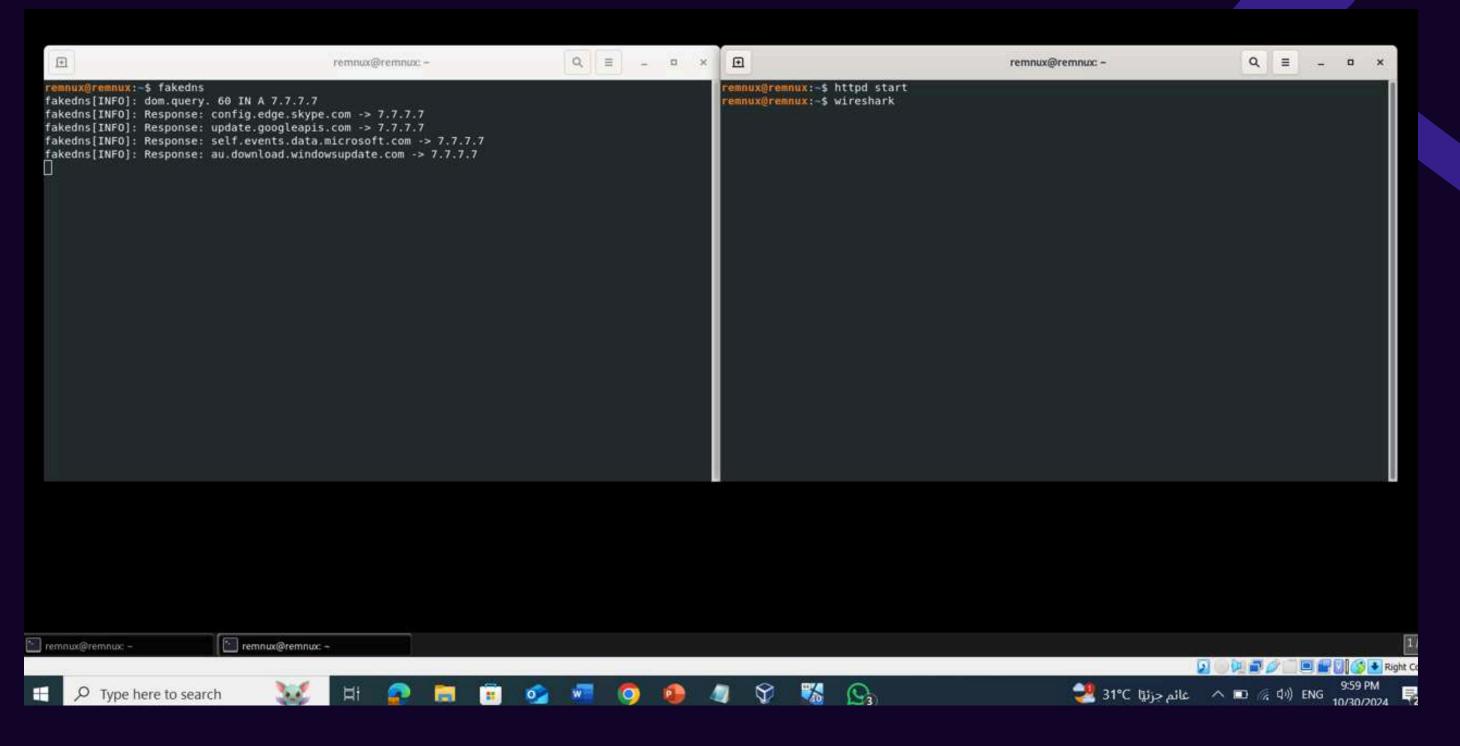


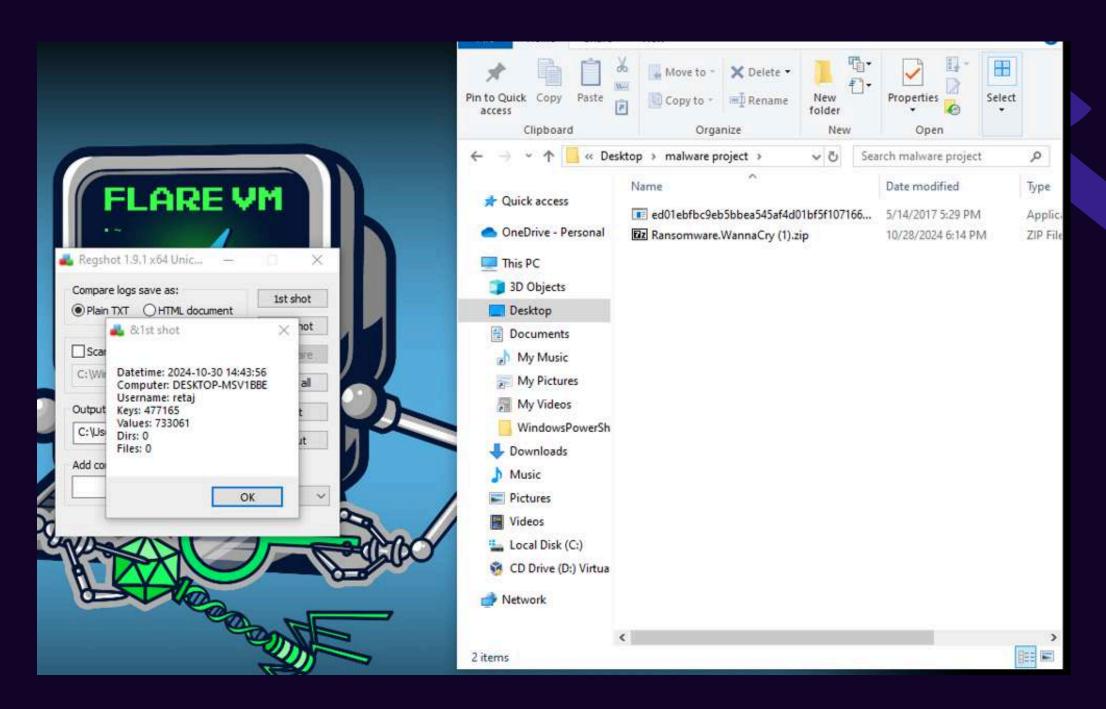
Comparison: Verifying the hash with VirusTotal's database for integrity and authenticity

Sample used



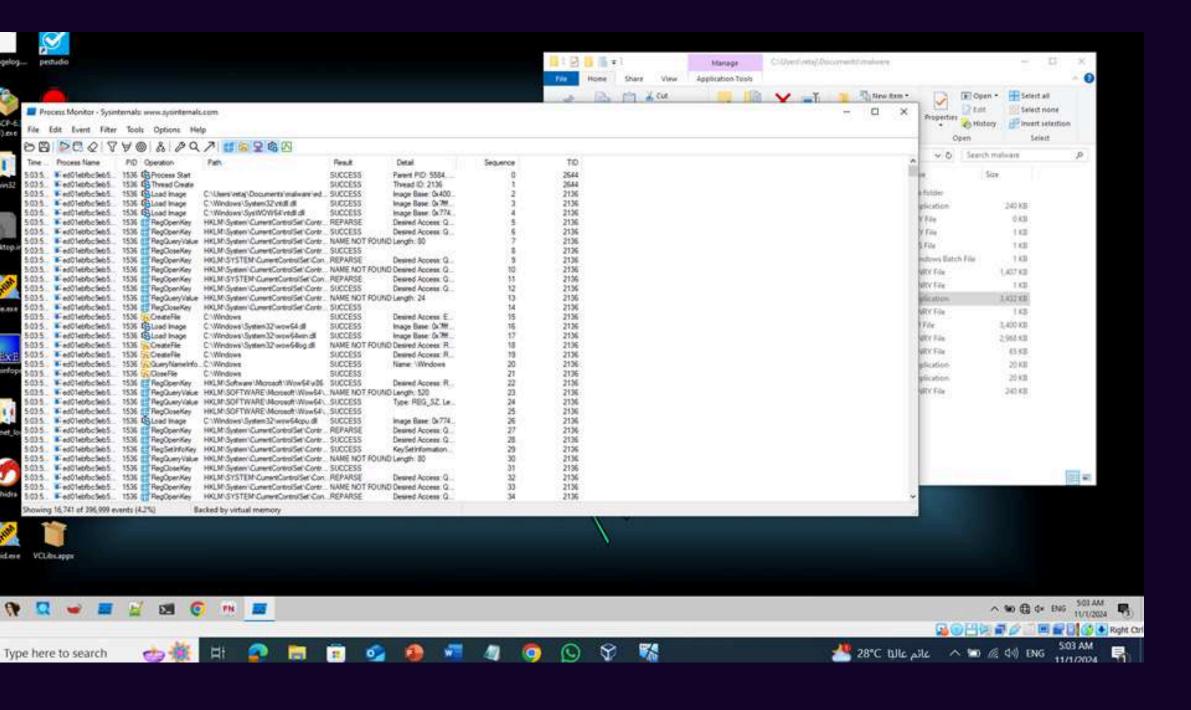


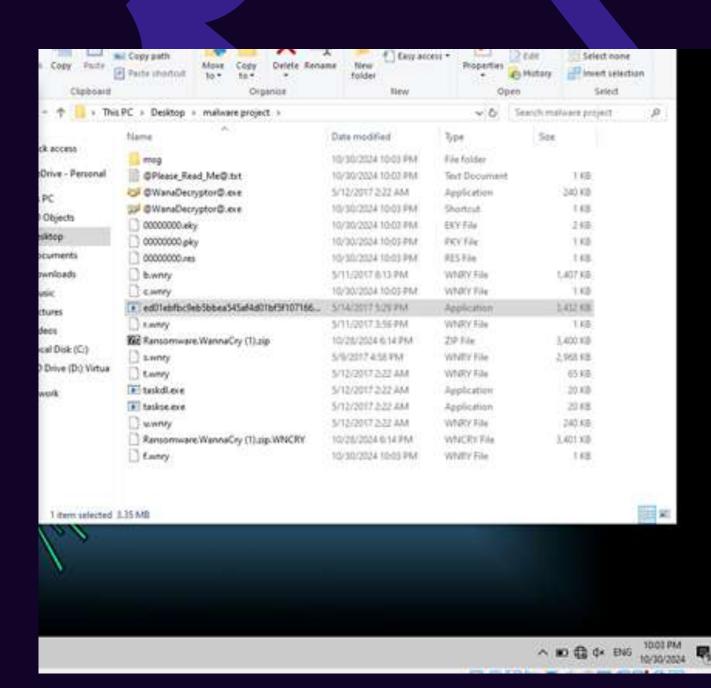




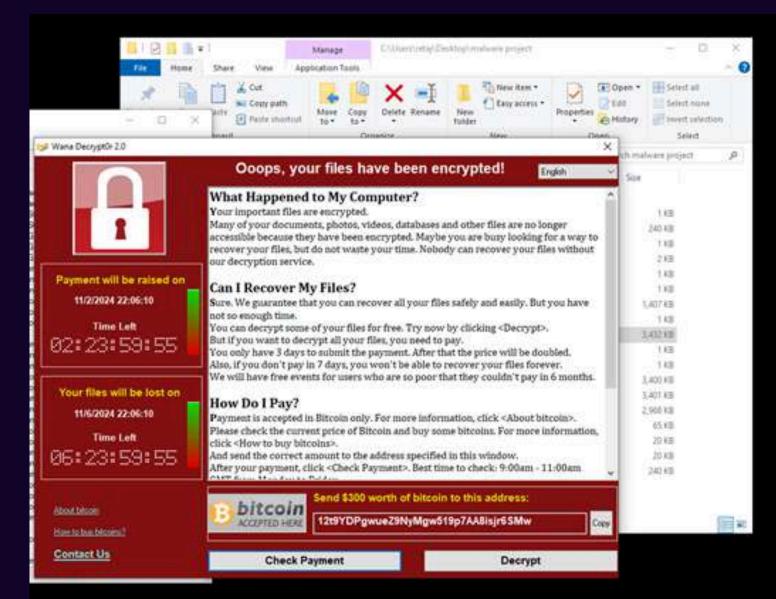
first shot

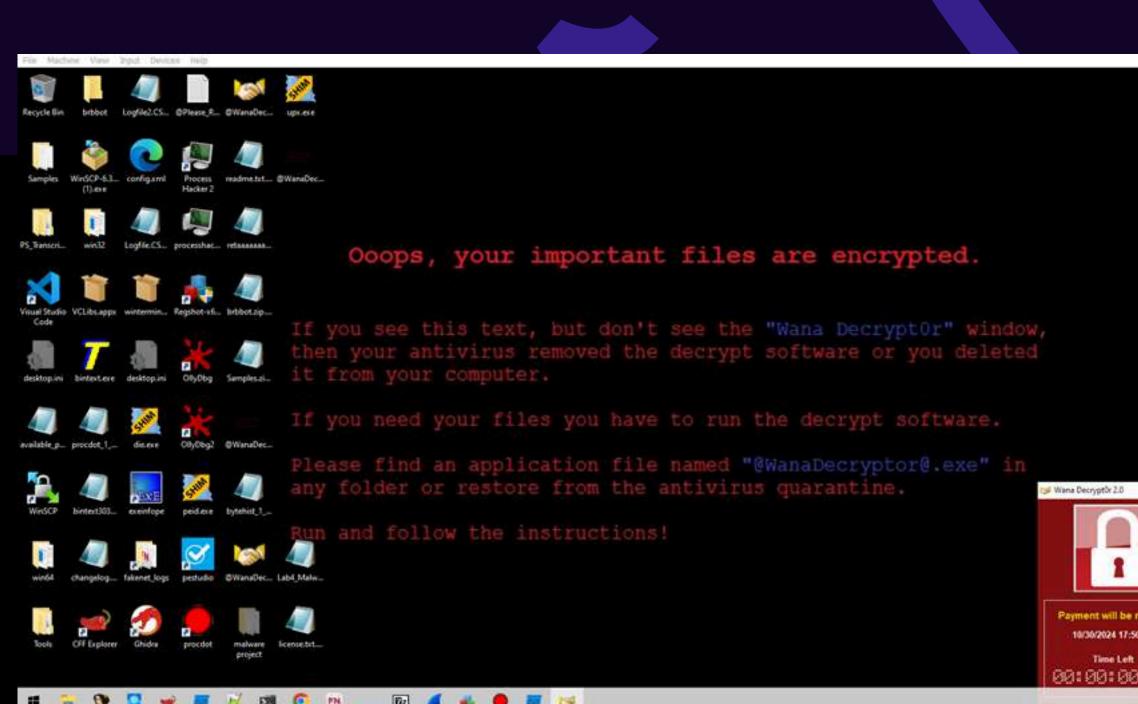
after running the malware





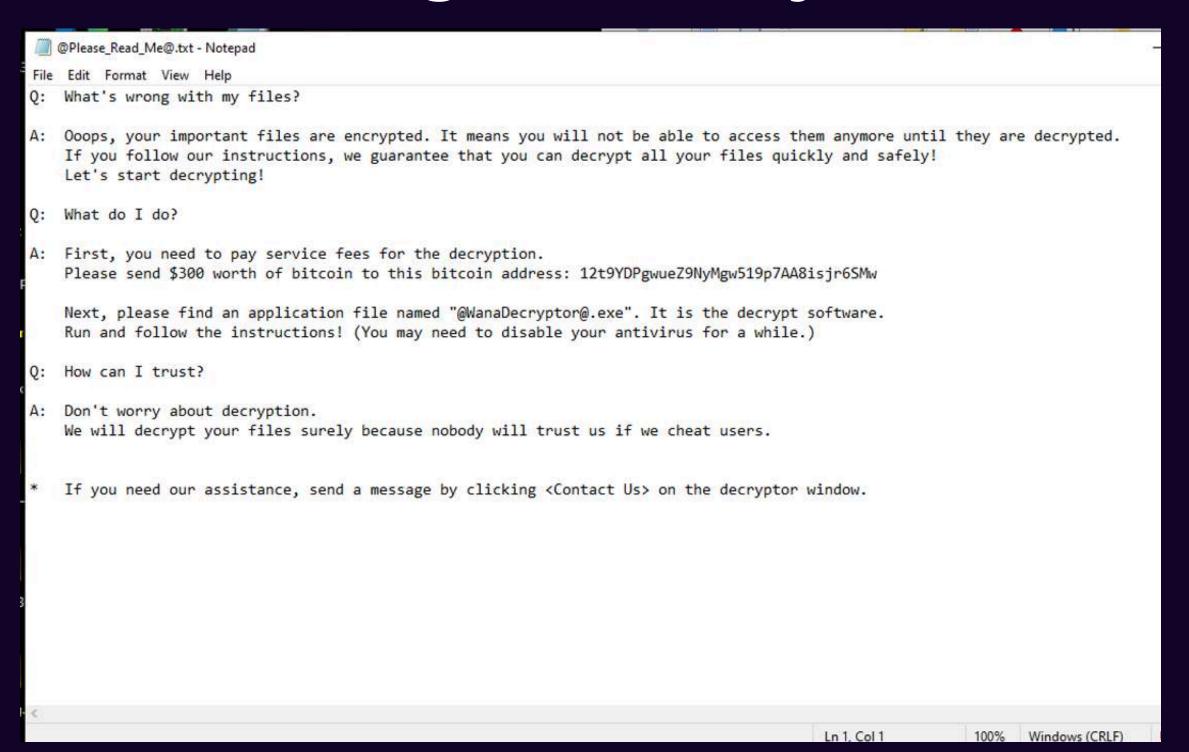
Ransom note





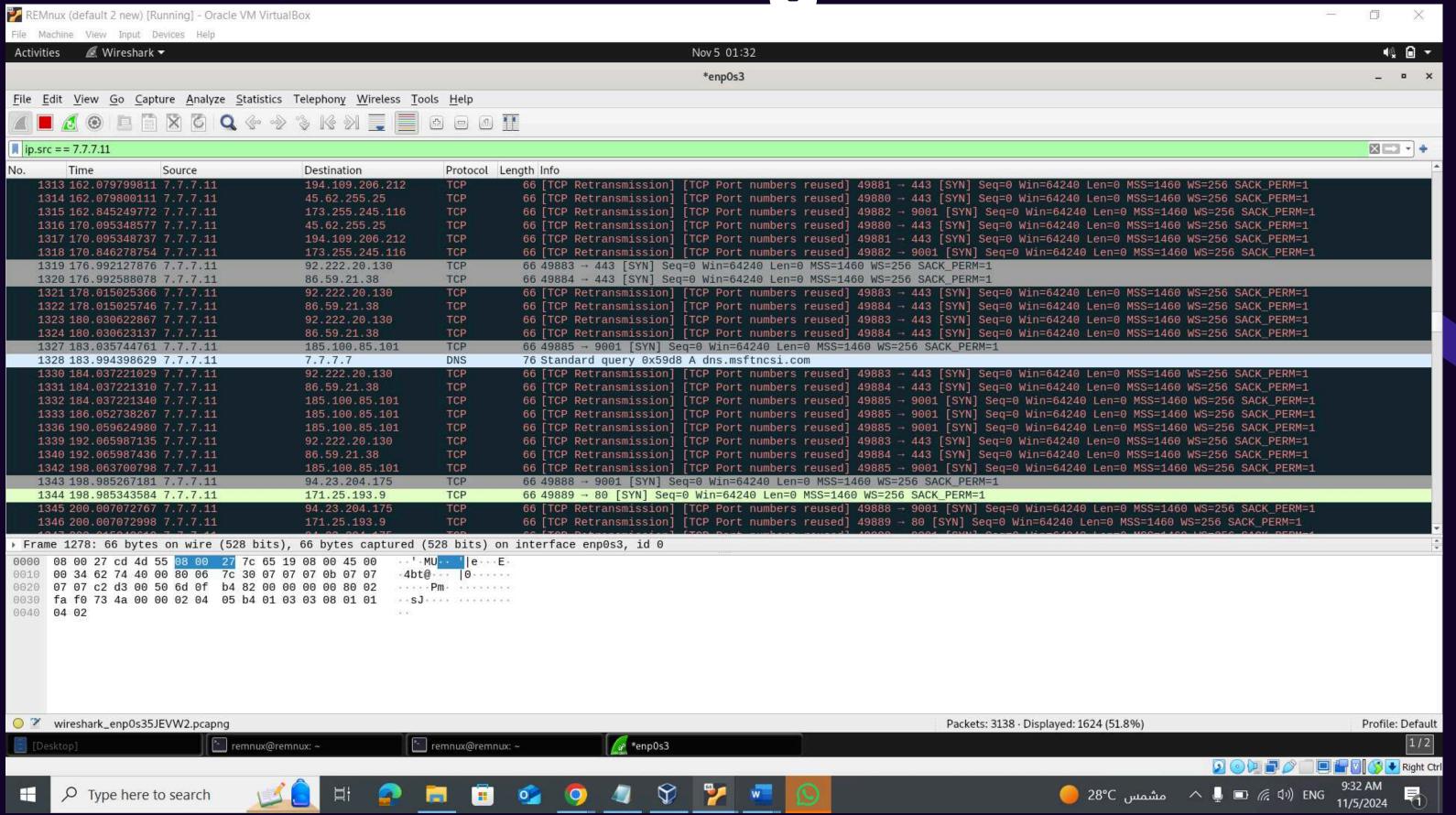
31°C like wanta - A V

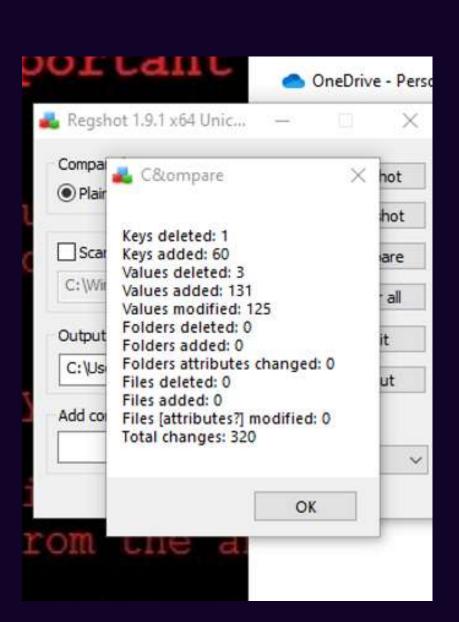
ransom note generated by the WannaCry malware.



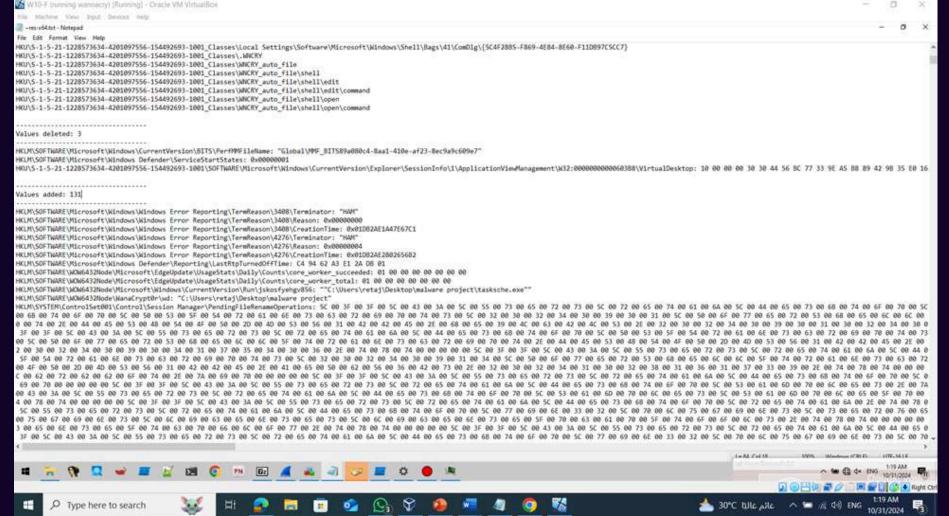
```
*retaj.txt - Notepad
    Edit Format View Help
hi im retaj farhan
this is malware project
cyber security
```

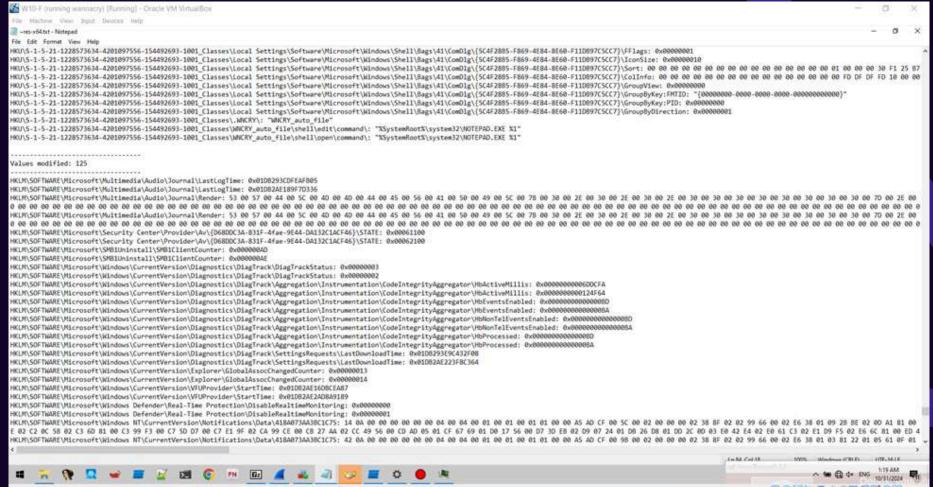
before running the malware after running the malware





```
File Machine View Input Devices Help
-res-x64.txt - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
Regshot 1.9.1 x64 Unicode (beta r321)
Comments:
Datetime: 2024-10-30 15:35:55, 2024-10-30 15:45:21
Computer: DESKTOP-MSV1BBE, DESKTOP-MSV1BBE
Username: retaj, retaj
Keys deleted: 1
HKU\S-1-5-21-1228573634-4201097556-154492693-1001\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\SessionInfo\1\ApplicationViewManagement\W32:000000000000603B8
Keys added: 60
HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\Windows Error Reporting\TermReason\3408
HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\Windows Error Reporting\TermReason\4276
HKLM\SOFTWARE\WOW6432Node\WanaCrypt@r
HKLM\SYSTEM\WPA\8DEC0AF1-0341-4b93-85CD-72606C2DF94C-7P-64
HKU\S-1-5-21-1228573634-4201097556-154492693-1001\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Office\16.0\Common\Experiment\excel
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HKU\S-1-5-21-1228573634-4201097556-154492693-1001\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Office\Common\Smart Tag\Applications
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HKU\S-1-5-21-1228573634-4201097556-154492693-1001\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\FileExts\.WNCRY\OpenWithProgids
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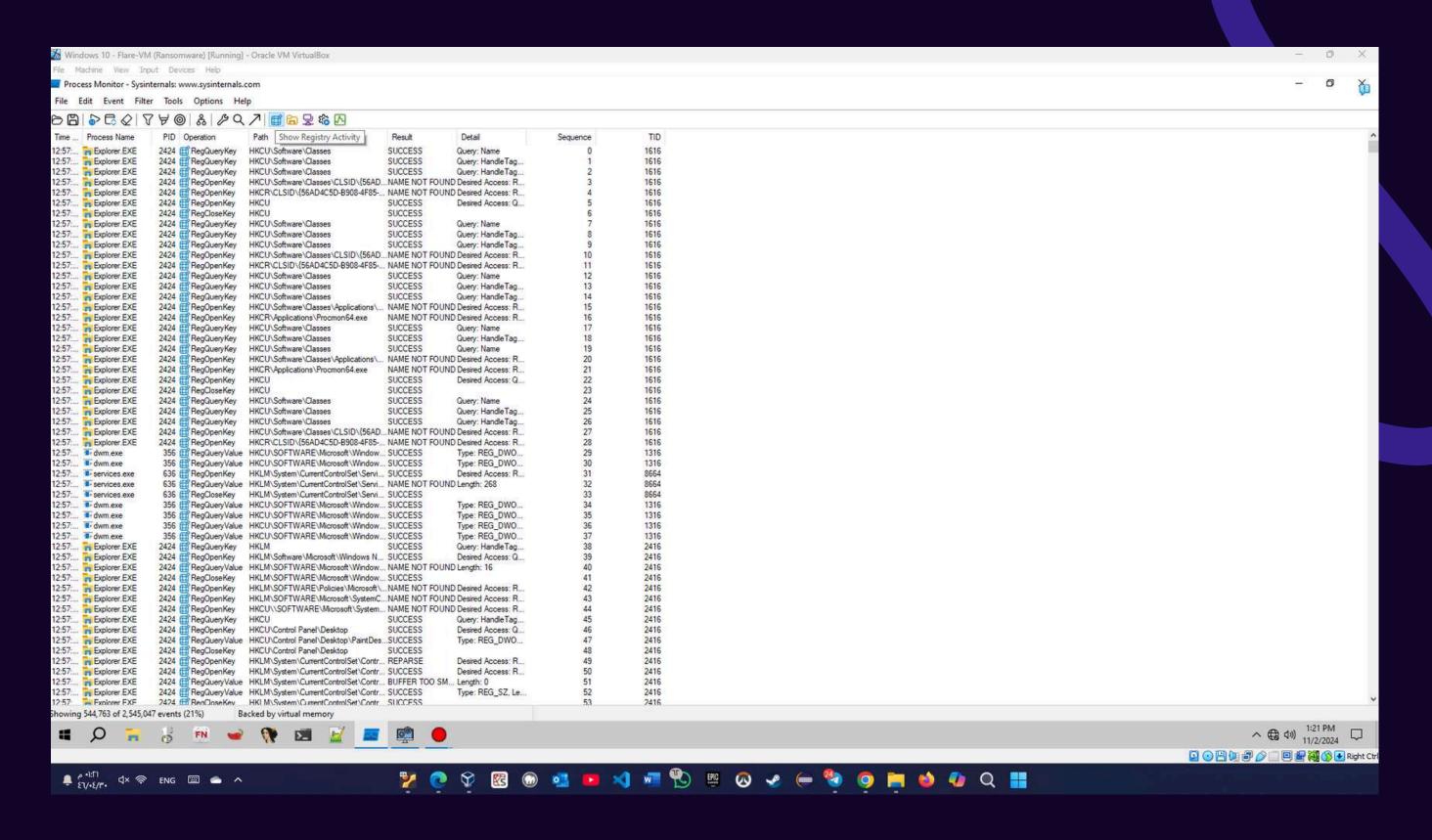
Type here to search

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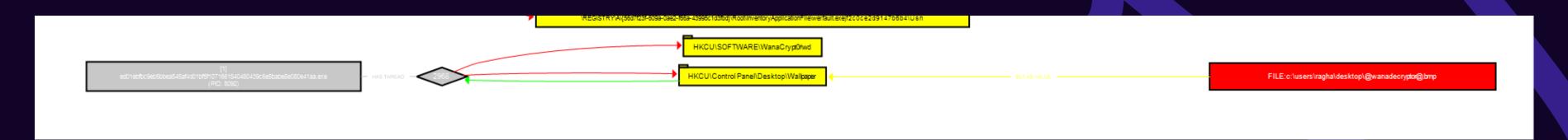
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Total changes: 320
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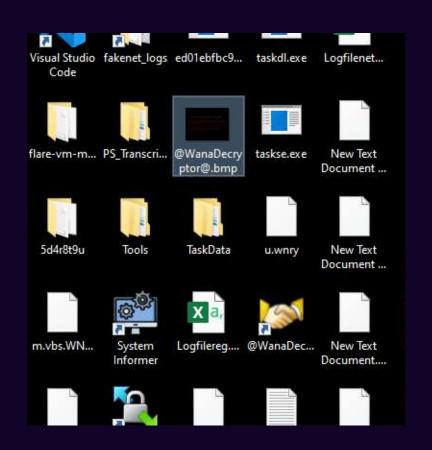
INTERNATION IN Wednesday (INC. 1015, 1615)

Show Registry activity



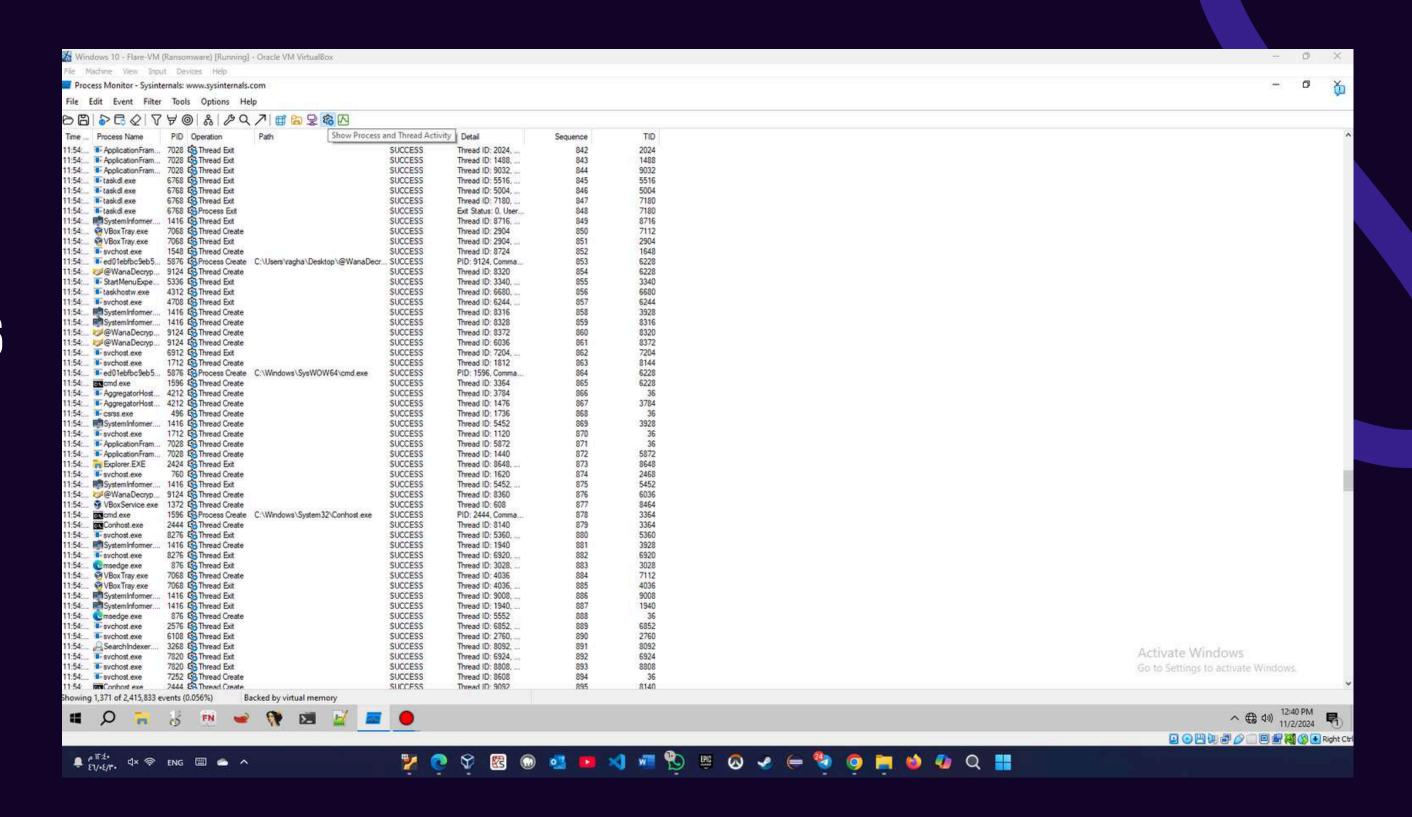
ProcDot tool:

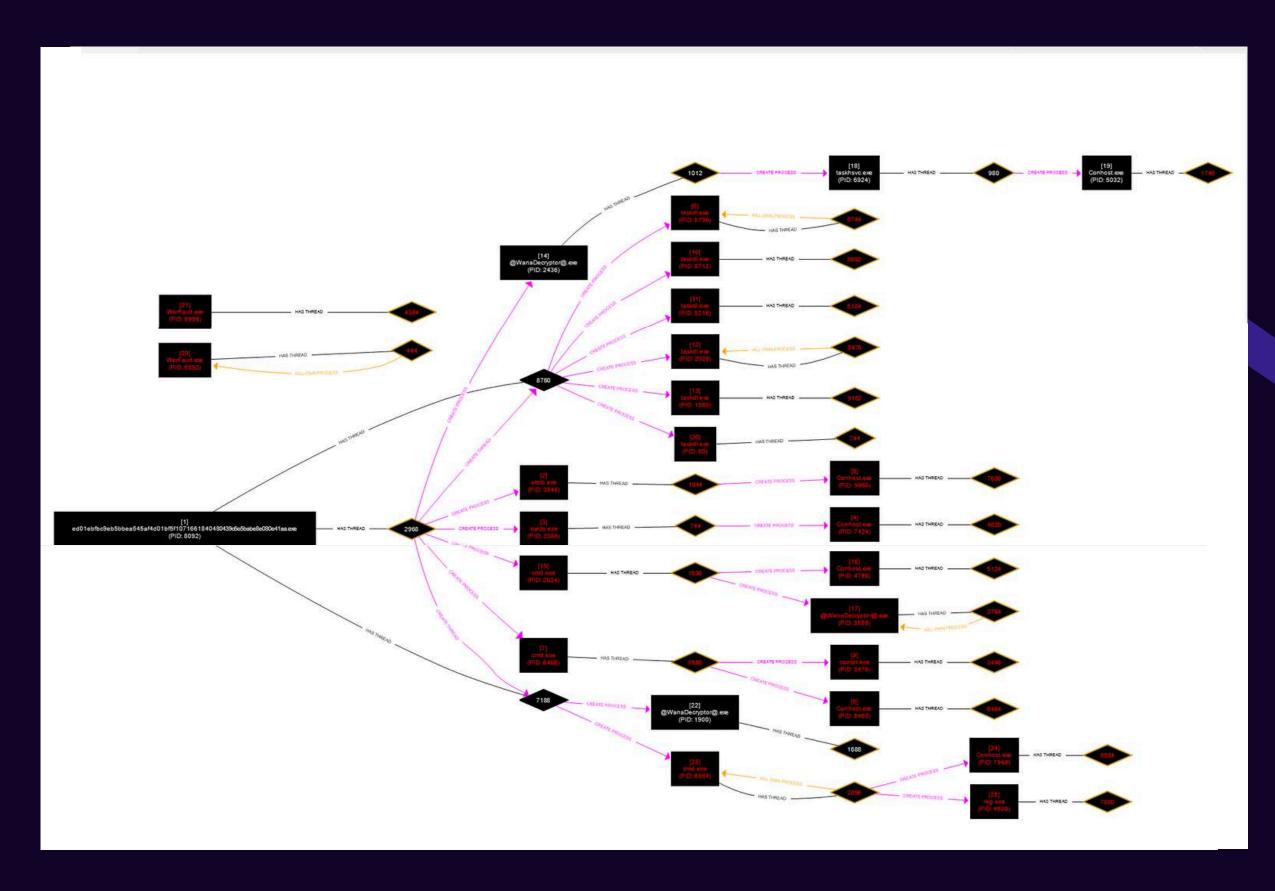




This is the ransom note image created by WannaCry ransomware.

Show process and thread activity





Workflow of WannaCry Ransomware

Identify Malicious API API

Purpose:

Understand how the malware interacts with the system to perform harmful actions.

Tool Used:

pestudio

Overview of the Listed DLLs

kernel32.dll: This library includes the basic and core functionality for all programs, including reading a file and writing a file.

advapi32.dll: This library is used mainly for working with the registry and cryptography

| а | library (4) | duplica |
|---|--------------|---------|
| | KERNEL32.dll | _ |
| | USER32.dll | _ |
| | ADVAPI32.dll | - |
| | MSVCRT.dll | - |
| | | |

| imports (114) | flag (11) | first-thunk-original (INT) | first-thunk (IAT) | hint | group (0) | technique (11) | type (6) | ordinal (1) | library (0) |
|-----------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|----------|-------------|----------------|
| InitializeCriticalSection | - | 0x0000D930 | 0x0000D930 | 547 (0x0223) | synchro | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| DeleteCriticalSection | - | 0x0000D94C | 0x0000D94C | 129 (0x0081) | synchro | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| <u>LeaveCriticalSection</u> | - | 0x0000D98A | 0x0000D98A | 593 (0x0251) | synchro | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| <u>EnterCriticalSection</u> | - | 0x0000D9A2 | 0x0000D9A2 | 152 (0x0098) | synchro | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| <u>OpenMutexA</u> | - | 0x0000DA84 | 0x0000DA84 | 644 (0x0284) | synchro | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| WaitForSingleObject | - | 0x0000D81C | 0x0000D81C | 912 (0x0390) | synchro | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| CreateServiceA | x | 0x0000DC2A | 0x0000DC2A | 100 (0x0064) | services | T1543 Create or Modify System Proc | implicit | - | ADVAPI32.dll |
| <u>OpenServiceA</u> | - | 0x0000DC62 | 0x0000DC62 | 431 (0x01AF) | services | T1543 Create or Modify System Proc | implicit | - | ADVAPI32.dll |
| <u>StartServiceA</u> | - | 0x0000DC52 | 0x0000DC52 | 585 (0x0249) | services | T1569 System Services | implicit | - | ADVAPI32.dll |
| CloseServiceHandle | - | 0x0000DC3C | 0x0000DC3C | 62 (0x003E) | services | T1569 System Services | implicit | - | ADVAPI32.dll |
| <u>OpenSCManagerA</u> | - | 0x0000DC72 | 0x0000DC72 | 429 (0x01AD) | services | T1569 System Services | implicit | - | ADVAPI32.dll |
| SizeofResource | - | 0x0000DA3A | 0x0000DA3A | 853 (0x0355) | resource | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| LockResource | - | 0x0000DA4C | 0x0000DA4C | 613 (0x0265) | resource | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| <u>LoadResource</u> | - | 0x0000DA5C | 0x0000DA5C | 599 (0x0257) | resource | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| <u>FindResourceA</u> | - | 0x0000DA6C | 0x0000DA6C | 227 (0x00E3) | resource | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| <u>RegCreateKeyW</u> | - | 0x0000DC04 | 0x0000DC04 | 467 (0x01D3) | registry | T1112 Modify Registry | implicit | - | ADVAPI32.dll |
| <u>RegSetValueExA</u> | х | 0x0000DBF2 | 0x0000DBF2 | 516 (0x0204) | registry | T1112 Modify Registry | implicit | - | ADVAPI32.dll |
| RegQueryValueExA | - | 0x0000DBDE | 0x0000DBDE | 503 (0x01F7) | registry | T1012 Query Registry | implicit | - | ADVAPI32.dll |
| RegCloseKey | - | 0x0000DBD0 | 0x0000DBD0 | 459 (0x01CB) | registry | - | implicit | - | ADVAPI32.dll |
| <u>GetWindowsDirectoryW</u> | - | 0x0000DA0C | 0x0000DA0C | 500 (0x01F4) | reconnaissance | T1083 File and Directory Discovery | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| <u>GetStartupInfoA</u> | - | <u>0x0000DF5E</u> | 0x0000DF5E | 439 (0x01B7) | reconnaissance | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| <u>GetComputerNameW</u> | - | 0x0000D8B2 | 0x0000D8B2 | 279 (0x0117) | reconnaissance | T1082 System Information Discovery | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| <u>VirtualAlloc</u> | x | 0x0000DAC8 | 0x0000DAC8 | 897 (0x0381) | memory | T1055 Process Injection | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| VirtualFree | - | 0x0000DAD8 | 0x0000DAD8 | 899 (0x0383) | memory | T1055 Process Injection | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| <u>HeapAlloc</u> | - | 0x0000DAF4 | 0x0000DAF4 | 528 (0x0210) | memory | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| <u>GetProcessHeap</u> | - | 0x0000DB00 | 0x0000DB00 | 419 (0x01A3) | memory | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| <u>VirtualProtect</u> | x | 0x0000DB36 | 0x0000DB36 | 902 (0x0386) | memory | T1055 Process Injection | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| <u>HeapFree</u> | - | <u>0x0000DB58</u> | 0x0000DB58 | 534 (0x0216) | memory | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| GlobalAlloc | - | <u>0x0000D874</u> | 0x0000D874 | 504 (0x01F8) | memory | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| GlobalFree | - | 0x0000D844 | 0x0000D844 | 511 (0x01FF) | memory | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| <u>memset</u> | - | <u>0x0000DD00</u> | 0x0000DD00 | 665 (0x0299) | memory | - | implicit | - | MSVCRT.dll |
| <u>memcmp</u> | - | <u>0x0000DD4C</u> | 0x0000DD4C | 662 (0x0296) | memory | - | implicit | - | MSVCRT.dll |
| <u>memcpy</u> | - | <u>0x0000DDA2</u> | 0x0000DDA2 | 663 (0x0297) | memory | - | implicit | - | MSVCRT.dll |
| <u>malloc</u> | - | <u>0x0000DDFA</u> | 0x0000DDFA | 657 (0x0291) | memory | - | implicit | - | MSVCRT.dll |
| <u>GetFileAttributesW</u> | - | <u>0x0000D8FC</u> | 0x0000D8FC | 353 (0x0161) | file | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| <u>GetFileSizeEx</u> | - | <u>0x0000D912</u> | 0x0000D912 | 356 (0x0164) | file | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| <u>CreateFileA</u> | - | <u>0x0000D922</u> | <u>0x0000D922</u> | 83 (0x0053) | file | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| ReadFile | - | <u>0x0000D964</u> | 0x0000D964 | 693 (0x02B5) | file | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| <u>GetFileSize</u> | - | 0x0000D970 | 0x0000D970 | 355 (0x0163) | file | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| <u>WriteFile</u> | х | <u>0x0000D97E</u> | <u>0x0000D97E</u> | 932 (0x03A4) | file | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| <u>SetFileAttributesW</u> | - | <u>0x0000D9BA</u> | <u>0x0000D9BA</u> | 794 (0x031A) | file | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| <u>CreateDirectoryW</u> | - | 0x0000D9E8 | 0x0000D9E8 | 78 (0x004E) | file | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| <u>GetTempPathW</u> | - | 0x0000D9FC | 0x0000D9FC | 470 (0x01D6) | file | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dII ✓ |
| | | | | | | | | | |

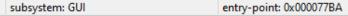
| imports (114) | flag (11) | first-thunk-original (INT) | first-thunk (IAT) | hint | group (0) | technique (11) | type (6) | ordinal (1) | library (0) |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|---|----------|-------------|--------------|
| <u>CopyFileA</u> | - | 0x0000DAA6 | 0x0000DAA6 | 67 (0x0043) | file | T1105 Remote File Copy | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| <u>SystemTimeToFileTime</u> | - | 0x0000DB64 | 0x0000DB64 | 859 (0x035B) | file | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| LocalFileTimeToFileTime | - | 0x0000DB7C | 0x0000DB7C | 602 (0x025A) | file | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| <u>CreateDirectoryA</u> | - | 0x0000DB96 | 0x0000DB96 | 75 (0x004B) | file | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| SetFilePointer | - | 0x0000D8D4 | 0x0000D8D4 | 795 (0x031B) | file | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| SetFileTime | - | 0x0000D8C6 | 0x0000D8C6 | 799 (0x031F) | file | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| fclose | - | 0x0000DCB8 | 0x0000DCB8 | 588 (0x024C) | file | - | implicit | - | MSVCRT.dll |
| <u>fwrite</u> | - | 0x0000DCC2 | 0x0000DCC2 | 614 (0x0266) | file | - | implicit | - | MSVCRT.dll |
| fread | - | 0x0000DCCC | 0x0000DCCC | 605 (0x025D) | file | - | implicit | - | MSVCRT.dll |
| fopen | - | 0x0000DCD4 | 0x0000DCD4 | 599 (0x0257) | file | - | implicit | - | MSVCRT.dll |
| Sleep | - | 0x0000DA7C | 0x0000DA7C | 854 (0x0356) | execution | T1497 Sandbox Evasion | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| GetCurrentDirectoryA | - | 0x0000D89A | 0x0000D89A | 320 (0x0140) | execution | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| CreateProcessA | x | 0x0000D832 | 0x0000D832 | 102 (0x0066) | execution | T1106 Execution through API | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| <u>TerminateProcess</u> | x | 0x0000D808 | 0x0000D808 | 862 (0x035E) | execution | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| GetExitCodeProcess | - | 0x0000D7F2 | 0x0000D7F2 | 346 (0x015A) | execution | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| GetModuleFileNameA | - | 0x0000DAB2 | 0x0000DAB2 | 381 (0x017D) | dynamic-library | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| FreeLibrary | - | 0x0000DAE6 | 0x0000DAE6 | 248 (0x00F8) | dynamic-library | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| GetModuleHandleA | - | 0x0000DB12 | 0x0000DB12 | 383 (0x017F) | dynamic-library | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| <u>LoadLibraryA</u> | - | 0x0000D864 | 0x0000D864 | 594 (0x0252) | dynamic-library | T1106 Execution through API | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| <u>GetProcAddress</u> | - | 0x0000D852 | 0x0000D852 | 416 (0x01A0) | dynamic-library | T1106 Execution through API | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| SetLastError | - | 0x0000DB26 | 0x0000DB26 | 808 (0x0328) | diagnostic | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| CryptReleaseContext | х | 0x0000DC14 | 0x0000DC14 | 160 (0x00A0) | crypto | T1027 Obfuscated Files or Information | implicit | - | ADVAPI32.dll |
| rand | x | 0x0000DCE6 | 0x0000DCE6 | 678 (0x02A6) | crypto | T1027 Obfuscated Files or Information | implicit | - | MSVCRT.dll |
| srand | х | <u>0x0000DCEE</u> | <u>0x0000DCEE</u> | 692 (0x02B4) | crypto | T1027 Obfuscated Files or Information | implicit | - | MSVCRT.dll |
| <u>SetCurrentDirectoryW</u> | - | 0x0000D9D0 | 0x0000D9D0 | 779 (0x030B) | - | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| <u>MultiByteToWideChar</u> | - | 0x0000D8E6 | 0x0000D8E6 | 629 (0x0275) | - | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| <u>IsBadReadPtr</u> | - | 0x0000DB48 | 0x0000DB48 | 563 (0x0233) | - | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| <u>SetCurrentDirectoryA</u> | x | 0x0000D882 | 0x0000D882 | 778 (0x030A) | - | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| <u>CloseHandle</u> | - | 0x0000D7E4 | 0x0000D7E4 | 52 (0x0034) | - | - | implicit | - | KERNEL32.dll |
| wsprintfA | - | 0x0000DBB8 | 0x0000DBB8 | 727 (0x02D7) | - | - | implicit | - | USER32.dll |
| realloc | - | 0x0000DDDC | 0x0000DDDC | 679 (0x02A7) | - | - | implicit | - | MSVCRT.dll |
| <u>sprintf</u> | - | 0x0000DCDC | 0x0000DCDC | 690 (0x02B2) | - | - | implicit | - | MSVCRT.dll |
| strcpy | - | <u>0x0000DCF6</u> | 0x0000DCF6 | 698 (0x02BA) | - | - | implicit | - | MSVCRT.dll |
| <u>strlen</u> | - | 0x0000DD0A | 0x0000DD0A | 702 (0x02BE) | - | - | implicit | - | MSVCRT.dll |
| wcscat | - | 0x0000DD14 | 0x0000DD14 | 735 (0x02DF) | - | - | implicit | - | MSVCRT.dll |
| <u>wcslen</u> | - | <u>0x0000DD1E</u> | <u>0x0000DD1E</u> | 742 (0x02E6) | - | - | implicit | - | MSVCRT.dll |
| CxxFrameHandler | - | 0x0000DD28 | 0x0000DD28 | 73 (0x0049) | - | - | implicit | - | MSVCRT.dll |
| ??3@YAXPAX@Z | - | 0x0000DD3C | 0x0000DD3C | 16 (0x0010) | - | - | implicit | - | MSVCRT.dll |
| _except_handler3 | - | 0x0000DD56 | 0x0000DD56 | 202 (0x00CA) | - | - | implicit | - | MSVCRT.dll |
| local unwind2 | - | 0x0000DD6A | 0x0000DD6A | 316 (0x013C) | - | - | implicit | - | MSVCRT.dll |
| <u>wcsrchr</u> | - | 0x0000DD7C | 0x0000DD7C | 747 (0x02EB) | - | - | implicit | - | MSVCRT.dll |
| swprintf | - | 0x0000DD86 | 0x0000DD86 | 715 (0x02CB) | - | - | implicit | - | MSVCRT.dll |
| ??2@YAPAXI@Z | - | 0x0000DD92 | 0x0000DD92 | 15 (0x000F) | - | - | implicit | - | MSVCRT.dll • |
| 80439C6E5BABE8E080E41AA | cpu: 32 | 2-bit file > type: executal | ble subsystem: (| GUI | entry-point: 0x00 | 00077BA | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | 11.17 DA4 |



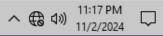














Determining the File Architecture



Identifying the file architecture to choose the correct debugger.

Tool Used:

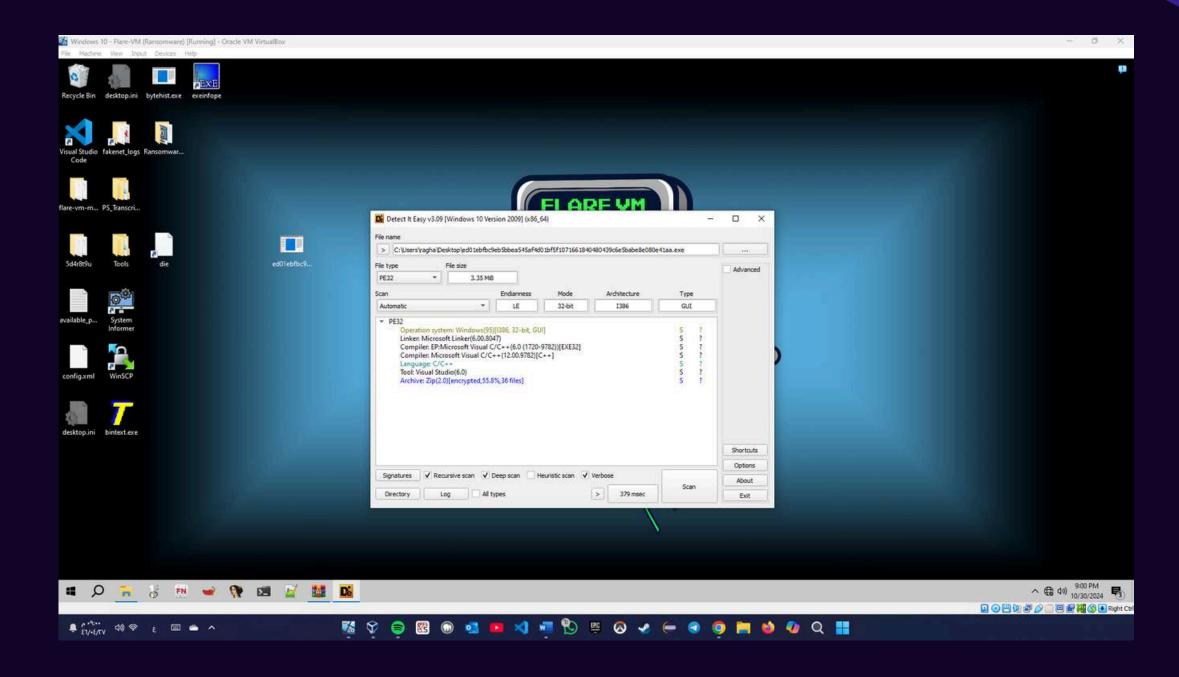
Detect It Easy (DIE).

Result:

Confirmed the architecture as 32-bit, allowing us to use x32dbg for analysis.

Determining the File Architecture





Determining Workflow of WannaCry Ransomware

Purpose:

Identifying the

API used by

Wannacry to

detrmine the

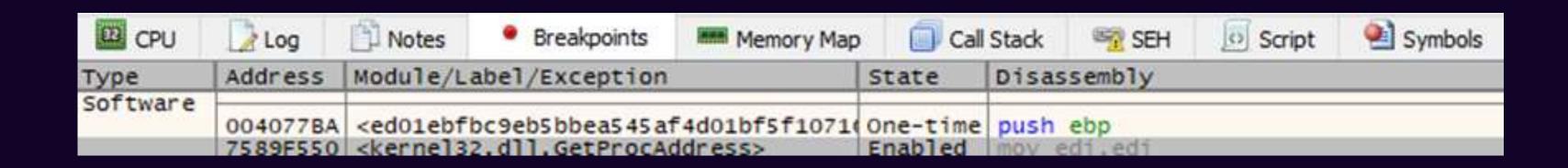
workflow

Tool Used:

dbgx32

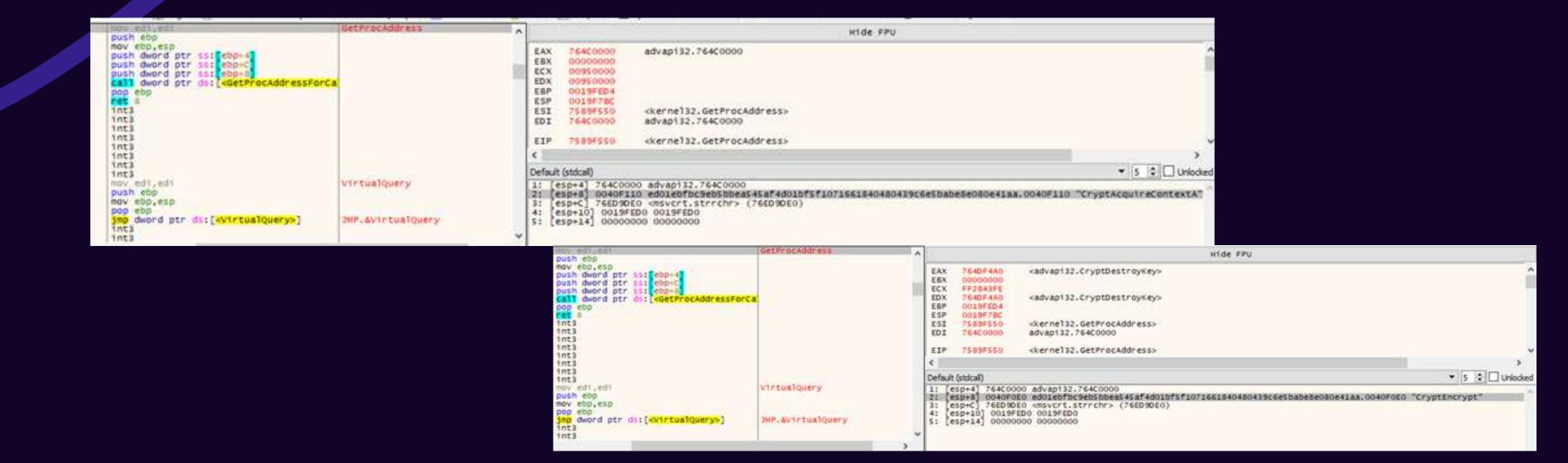
Determining Workflow of WannaCry Ransomware

first we made a breakpoint at GetProcAddress to detrmine what API function WannaCry are using



Determining Workflow of WannaCry Ransomware

and this some of the calls by the ransomware



Initial Steps and Cryptographic Setup

Prepare for file encryption by establishing cryptographic keys

CryptAcquireContext

WannaCry first sets up its cryptographic environment by acquiring a handle to the cryptographic service provider (CSP).



WannaCry may generate a new encryption key using a specified algorithm usually AES-256



CryptImportKey

WannaCry might import a predefined key if it doesn't generate a new one, allowing it to use a consistent key across multiple infections.

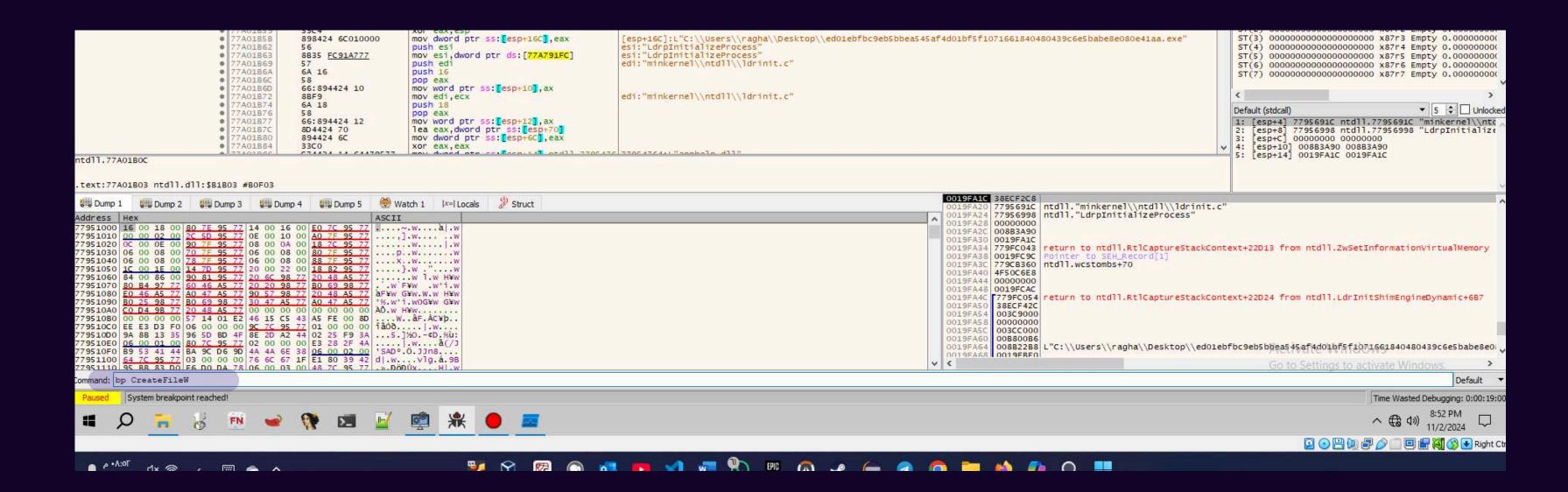
File Targeting and Access with CreateFileW

CreateFileW

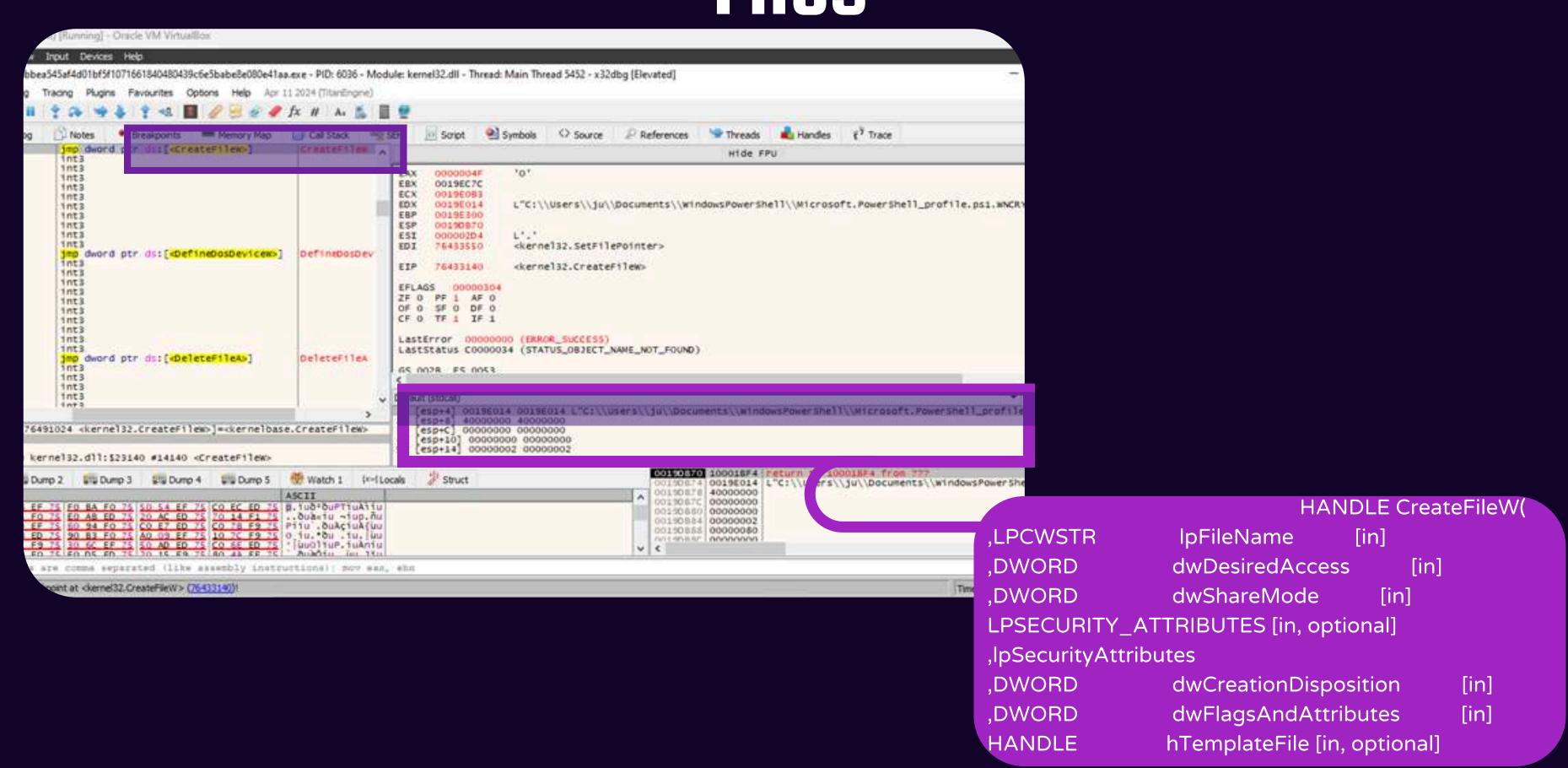
WannaCry uses CreateFileW to access and manipulate files for encryption or to leave ransom notes.

setting a breakpoint on CreateFileW, we can view the file paths and names, confirming which files WannaCry targets

Setting a breakpoint on CreateFileW



Debugging Analysis – Observing Targeted Files



Types of Files Created or Modified by WannaCry

Based on the debugging analysis, WannaCry creates and modifies several types of files. These serve different roles in the attack process, from ransom notes to encrypted and temporary files

Ransom Note Files

Encrypted Files

Temporary Files

Registry Modifications for Persistence

Ransom Note Files

@Please_Read_Me@.txt

Filename: @Please_Read_Me@.txt - found in each directory with encrypted files.

Purpose: Contains instructions for the victim, including:

- Ransom Demand: Amount of payment required.
- Payment Instructions: How to pay in Bitcoin.

Ransom Note Files

@Please Read Me@.txt

```
@Please Read Me@.txt - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
   What's wrong with my files?
   Ooops, your important files are encrypted. It means you will not be able to access them anymore until they are decrypte
    If you follow our instructions, we guarantee that you can decrypt all your files quickly and safely!
    Let's start decrypting!
   What do I do?
  First, you need to pay service fees for the decryption.
    Please send $300 worth of bitcoin to this bitcoin address: 115p7UMMngoj1pMvkpHijcRdfJNXj6LrLn
    Next, please find an application file named "@WanaDecryptor@.exe". It is the decrypt software.
    Run and follow the instructions! (You may need to disable your antivirus for a while.)
   How can I trust?
A: Don't worry about decryption.
    We will decrypt your files surely because nobody will trust us if we cheat users.
    If you need our assistance, send a message by clicking (Contact Us) on the decryptor window.
```

Encrypted Files with .WNCRY Extension

Filename Extension: .WNCRY – appended to files post-encryption.

Targeted File Types:

- Documents: .doc, .docx, .xls, .xlsx, .ppt, .pptx.
- Images: .jpg, .png, .bmp.
- Archives: .zip, .rar, .7z.
- Database Files: .sql, .db, .sqlite.

Purpose: Encryption makes the files inaccessible without a decryption key, which is the core function of the ransomware.

Temporary Files with .tmp Extension

Filename Example: ~SD8F67.tmp – typically used for intermediary data storage during encryption.

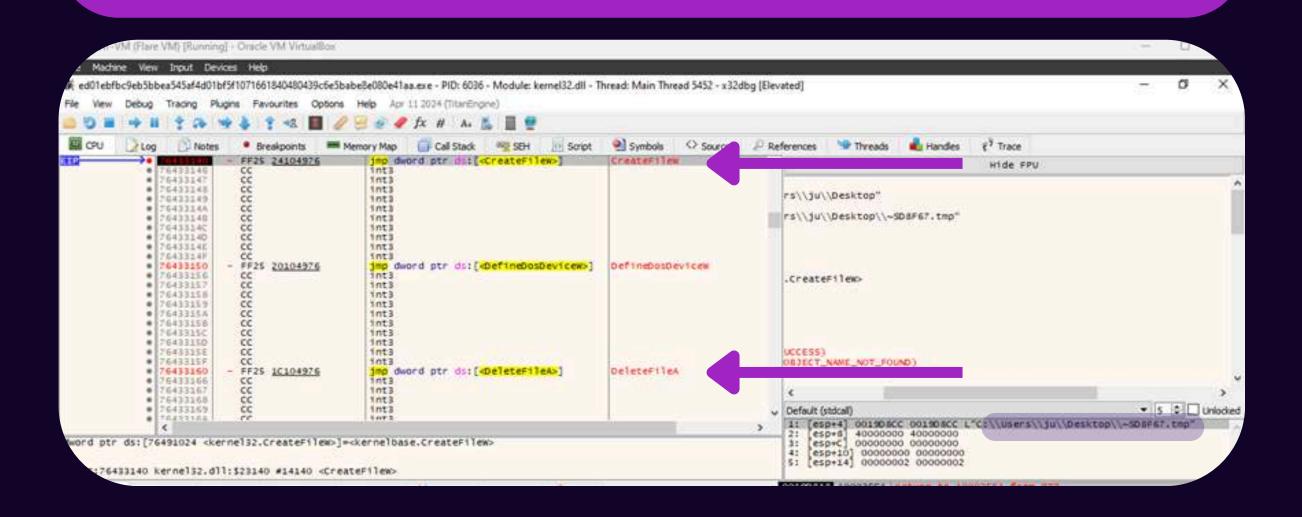
Purpose:

- Holds Unencrypted Data: Prepares data before encryption.
- Encryption Process Storage: Stores intermediate encryption data.

Cleanup Strategy: These temporary files are often deleted after encryption to minimize forensic traces.

Temporary Files with .tmp Extension

Cleanup Strategy



Registry Modifications for Persistence

Registry Path: WannaCry adds entries under:

• HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run

Purpose: Ensures WannaCry restarts every time the system boots.

The registry key points to WannaCry's executable, making it difficult to remove the infection without cleaning the registry.

Read File Contents

Reads file contents into memory as plaintext

ReadFile

Prepares the file data for encryption, so it can later be overwritten with ciphertext

Encrypt File Data

CryptEncrypt

Encrypts plaintext data in memory using the established cryptographic key, transforming it into ciphertext

This encryption step makes the file unreadable without a decryption key, fulfilling the ransomware's purpose.

Write Encrypted Data to File

WriteFile

Writes the ciphertext back to the file, replacing the original content.

Overwrites the file with encrypted data, enforcing the ransom demand by making the original data inaccessible.

Handle closure and Key destruction

CryptDestroyKey

Destroys the encryption key handle, preventing key recovery.

CloseHandle

Closes all file and cryptographic handles

By destroying keys and closing handles WannaCry performs a thorough cleanup which prevent any recovery of resources

Persistence Mechanism Observed with RegCreateKeyW

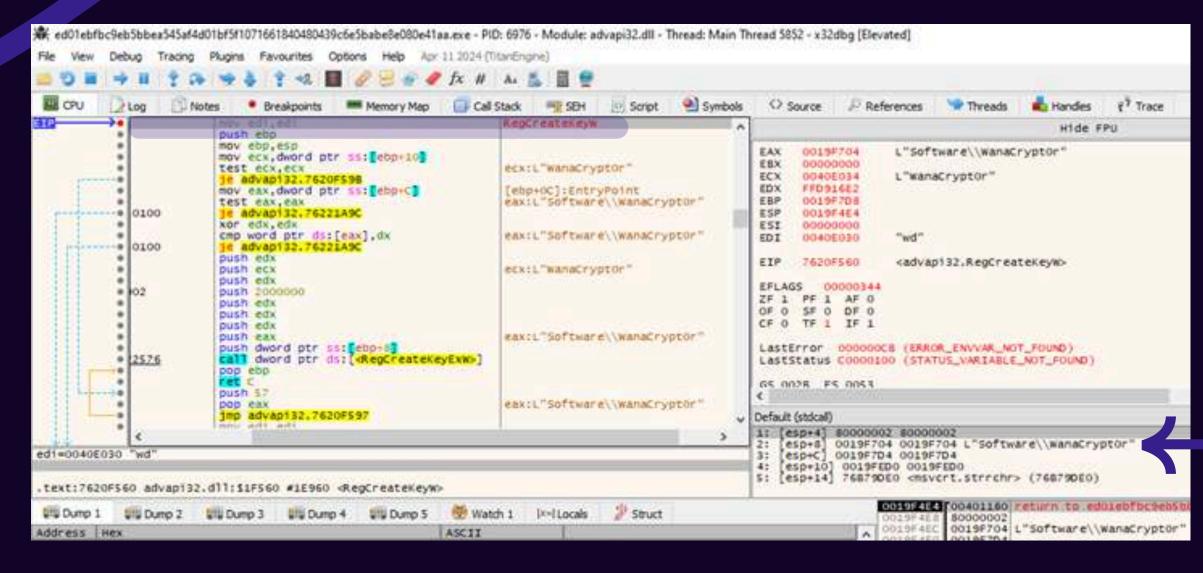
RegCreateKeyW

Enables WannaCry to re-establish itself after a system reboot, ensuring it remains active on the infected machine



By createing a specific registry keys to store settings, configurations, or status information to guarantee that WannaCry relaunches on each reboot.

Persistence Mechanism Observed with RegCreateKeyW



By making a breakpoint at

RegCreateKeyW

we can see from IpSubKey set

to "software\\wanacryptor"



Initialize Cryptographic Context Access
Target
Files and
Create
Temporary
/Ransom

Note Files

Encrypt and Overwrite
File Content

Clean Up and Destroy Handles Set Up
Persistence
via Registry
Key

Dump And Extract

Importance and Storage of AES Key in WannaCry

Finding the AES key is important because it allows analysts to decrypt files and understand the ransomware's effects. Also Understanding the encryption method used and helps in developing tools to respond to similar ransomware in the future.

WannaCry hides its AES key using functions like <u>CryptGenKey</u> and <u>CryptProtectData</u>, which secure the key in memory. Sometimes, the key is also hidden within DLL files or encrypted with an RSA key, adding extra layers of protection and making it harder to locate.

Dumping and Extraction Setup



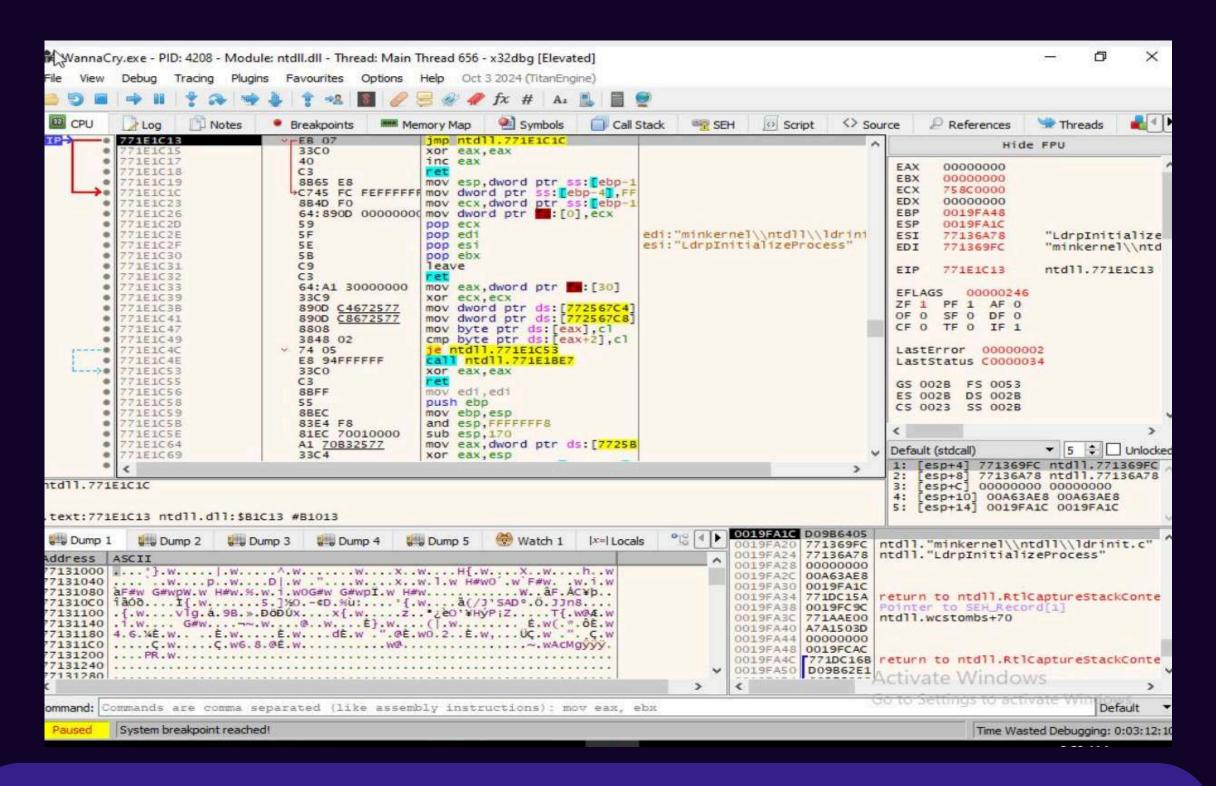
To prepare tools to locate and extract key data, enabling deeper analysis of its encryption methods.

Tool Used:

x32dbg HxD PeStudio Result:

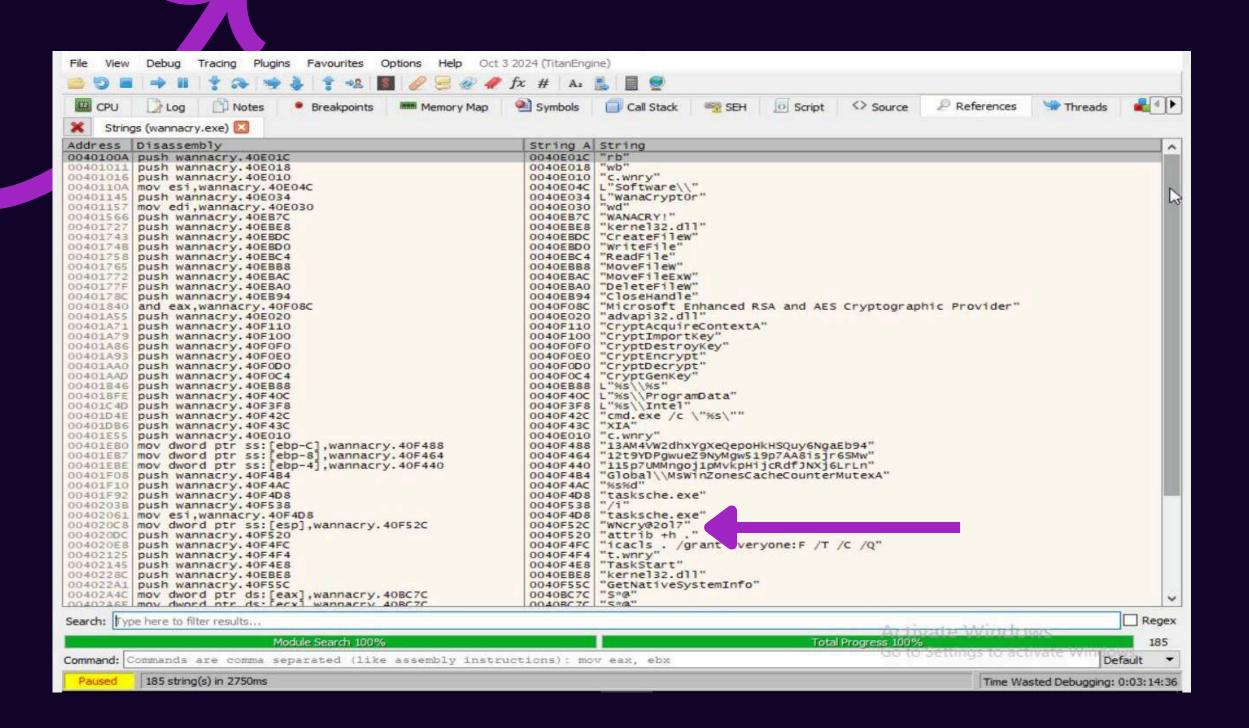
Extracted AES key and relevant data from WannaCry.

Locating the AES Key



In x32dbg, a breakpoint was set on functions or dlls related to encryption. This allowed us to monitor WannaCry's behavior and track down the AES key location.

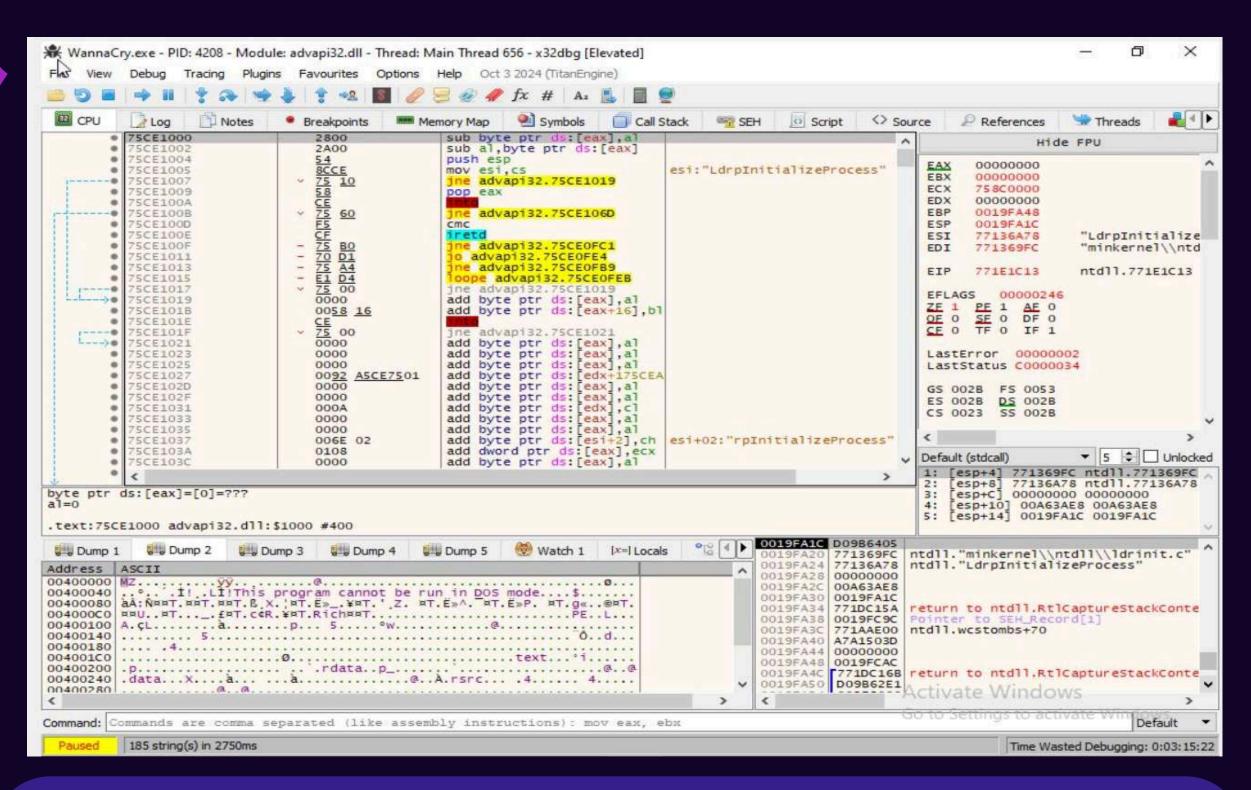
Locating the AES Key



we found the AES key stored in ntdll.dll

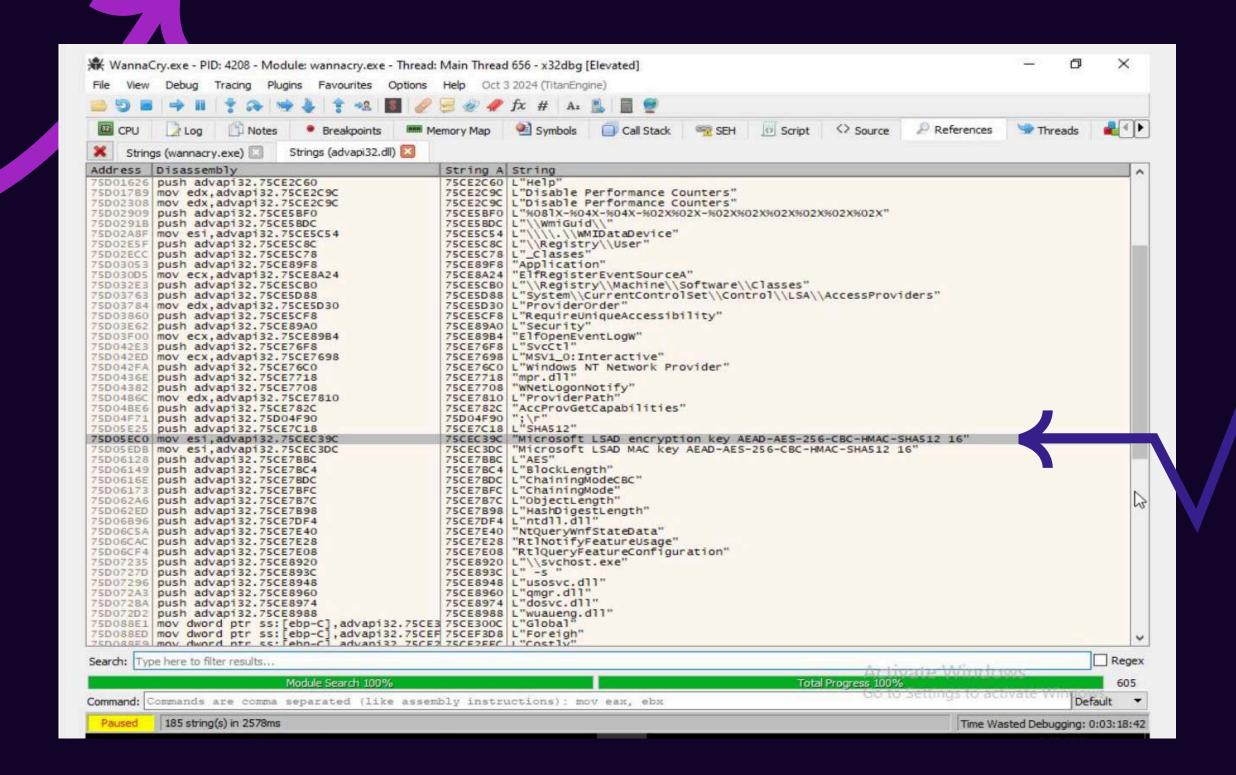
This shows how WannaCry hides critical data within system DLLs for added security.

Discovering Key Encryption Algorithm



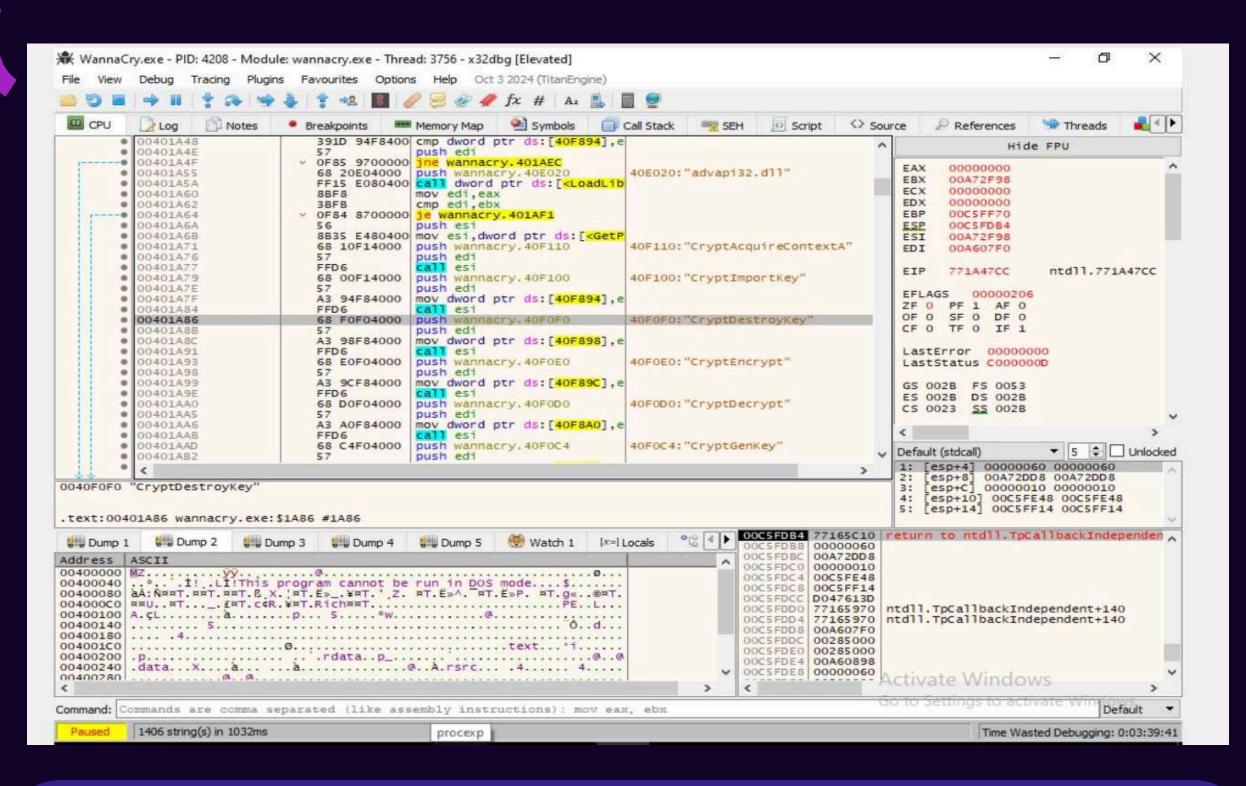
A breakpoint was set in advapi32.dll, targeting cryptographic functions to identify WannaCry's encryption algorithm.

Discovering Key Encryption Algorithm



After the breakpoint, we found the encryption algorithm used by WannaCry

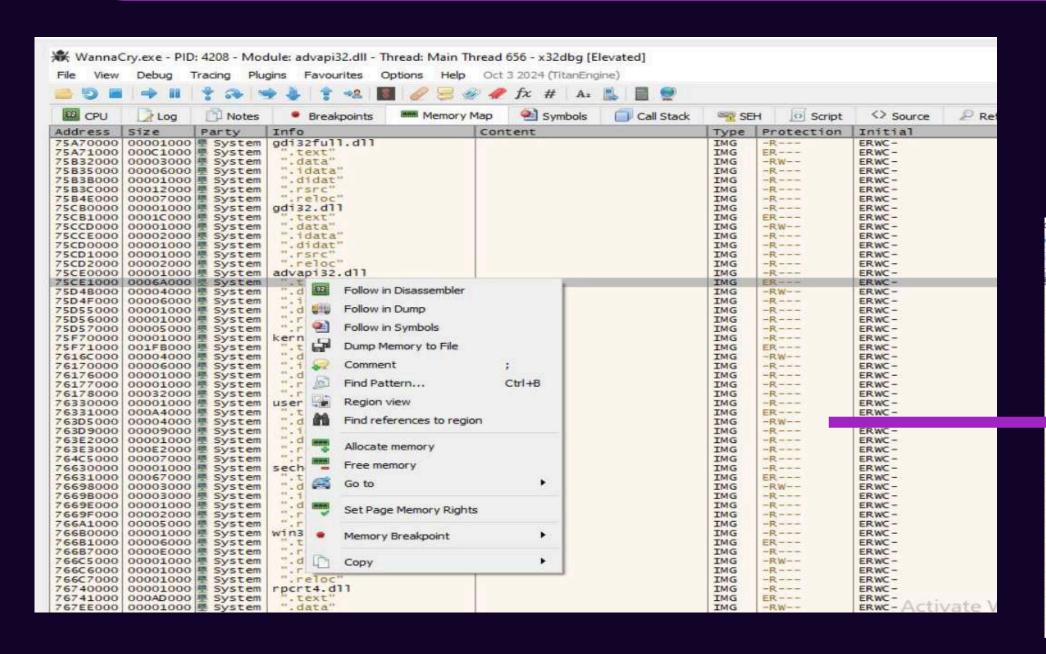
Intercepting CryptDestroyKey for Insights

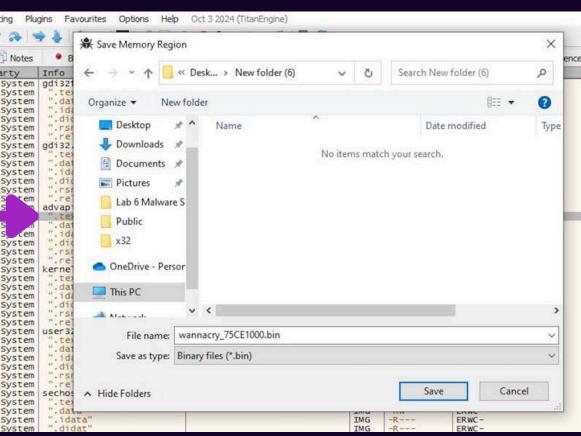


We use CryptDestroyKey as a breakpoint to capture the AES key and other valuable information before they are erased, providing crucial insights for analysis.

Dumping Key Data

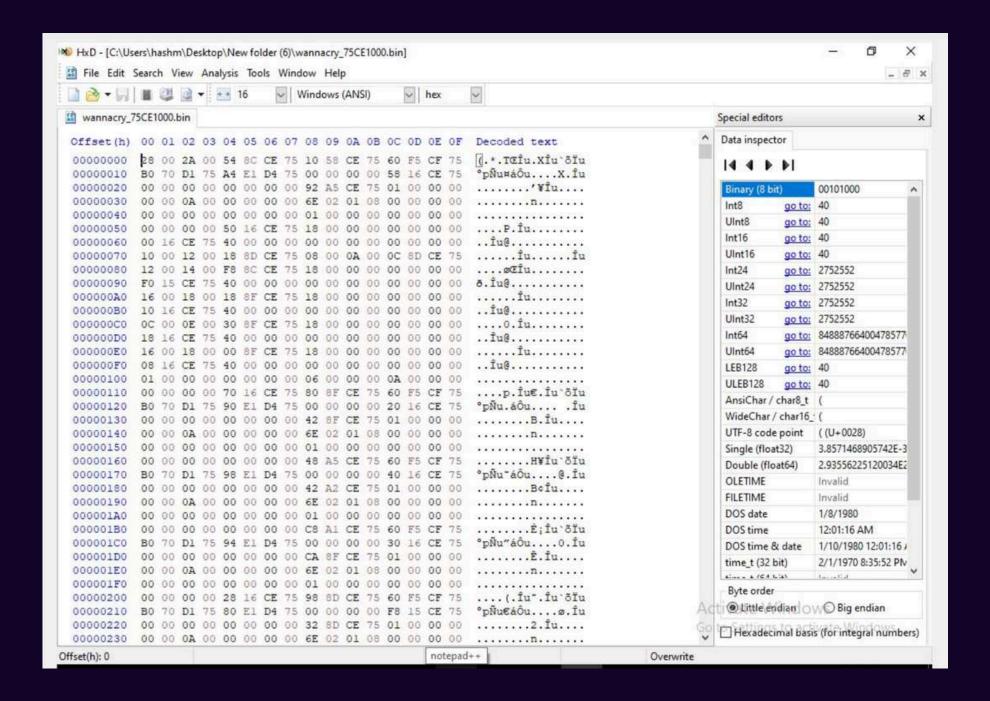
After hitting the CryptDestroyKey and also advapi breakpoint, we saved a memory dump from dll, This dump includes decrypted data and essential information





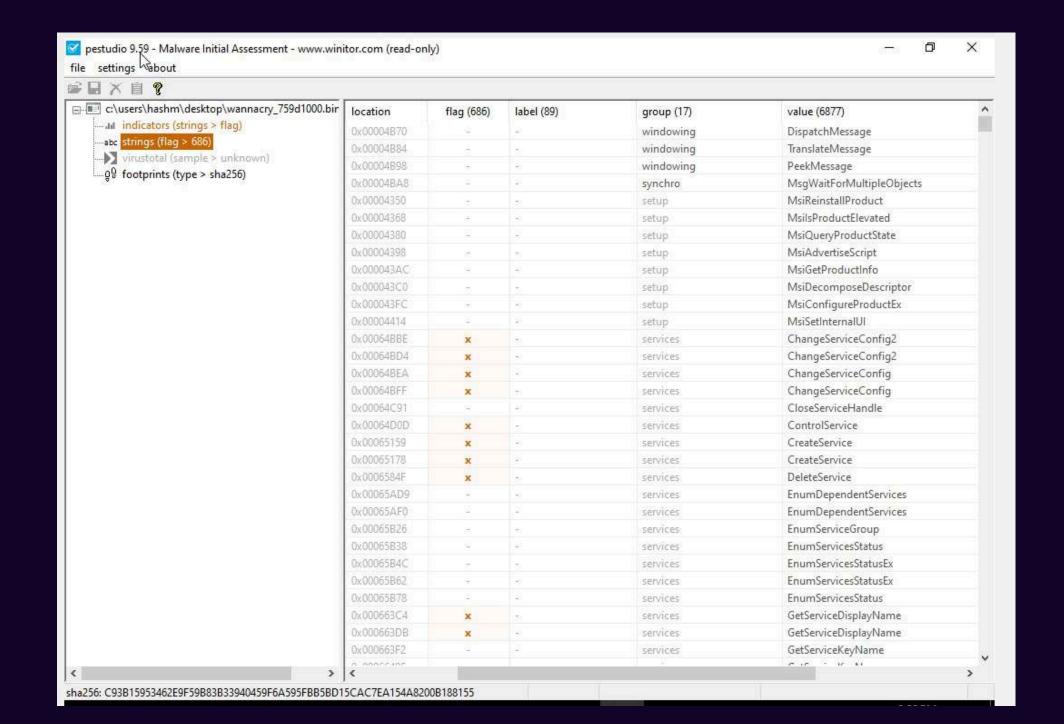
Examining the Dump in HxD

The saved dump was opened in HxD, a hex editor, to inspect and correct the binary data. HxD is useful for low-level file corrections



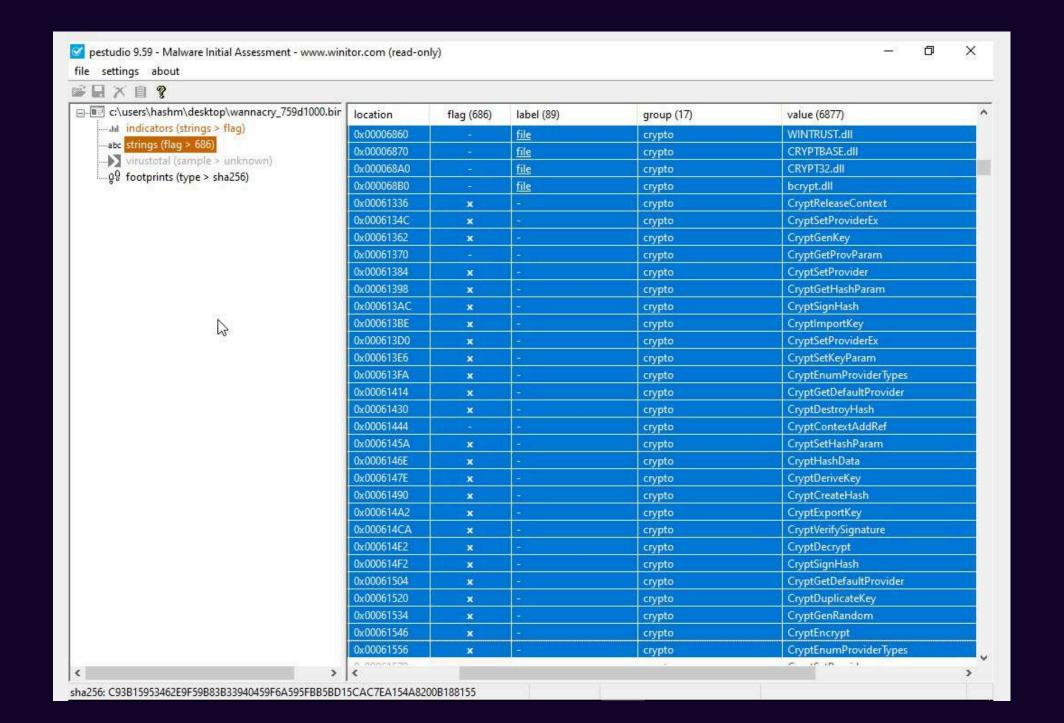
PeStudio String Analysis for Hidden Clues

Using PeStudio, we analyzed strings within the dumped file to identify interesting text and clues about the ransomware's behavior.



PeStudio String Analysis for Hidden Clues

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THANK YOU