

Computer Science 491/691
Malware Analysis
Final Exam
Assigned: May 13, 2019
Due: 11:59pm May 20, 2019

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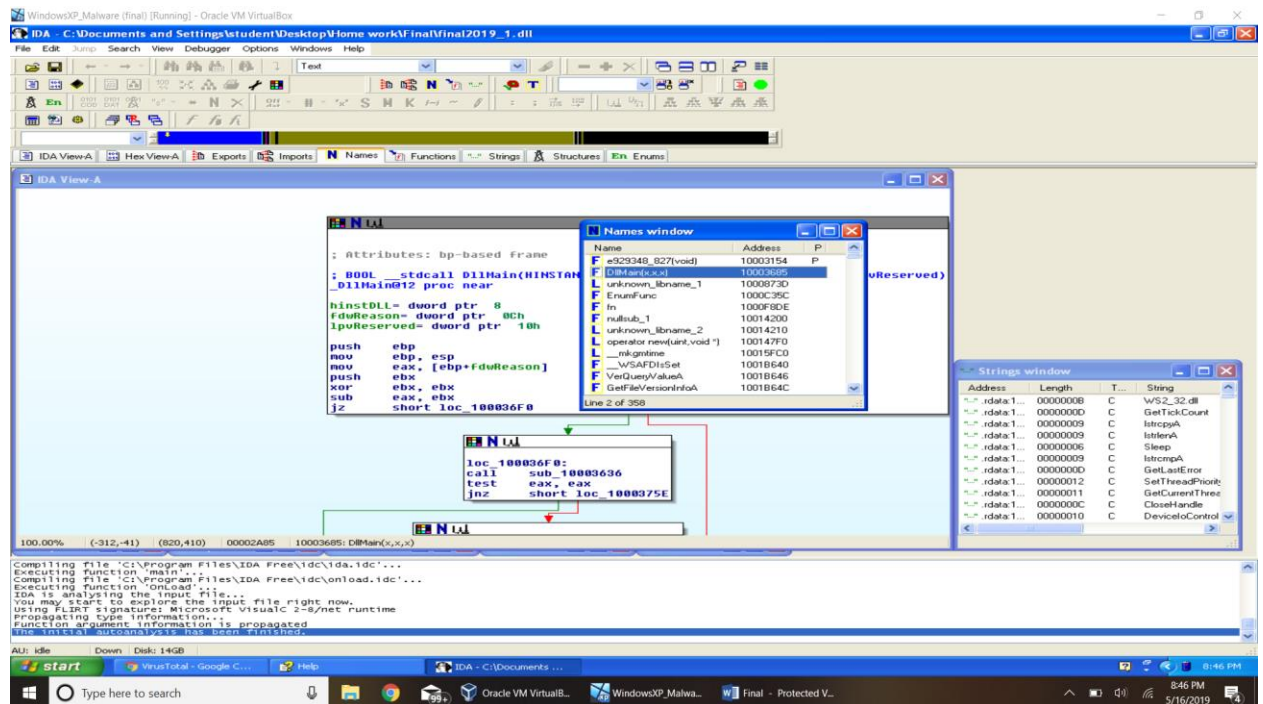
Download and extract final2019.7z on a Windows XP virtual machine. The password is infected. Make sure to disconnect your VM from the network!

There are 110 points available, but scores will be computed on a base of 100. So 100/110 is a "perfect" score. This is a form of built-in curve...

Part 1: final2019_01.dll (Total 55 pts)

1) What is the address of the DLLMain function? (2 pts)

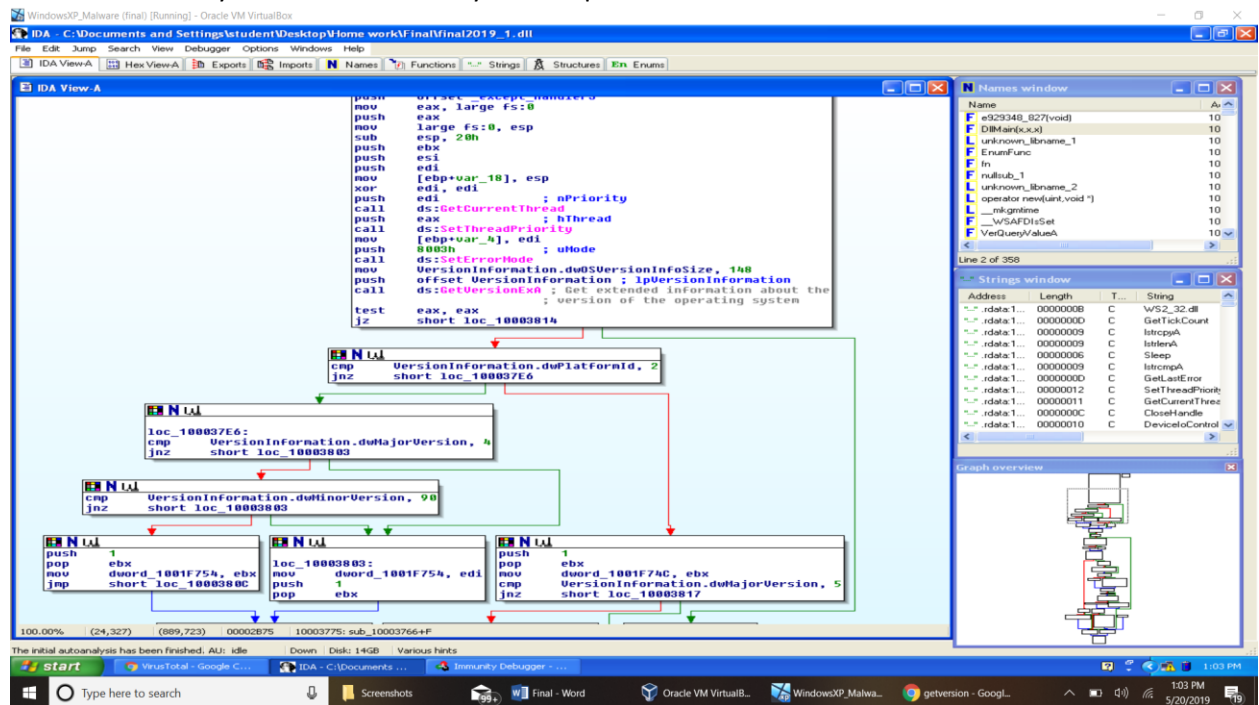
Address of DLLMain function is 10003685



- 2) The malware checks the version of Windows that it is running on and exits prematurely if it is not running on the right version. What is the full name of the minimum Windows operating system version that the malware will run on? Justify your answer. (10 pts)

The function that is responsible for checking the version of the host operating system is sub_10003766. By inspecting the function we can see that the malware uses GetVersion to identify the operation system info. This Windows API returns major – operating system platform and minor – operating system version.

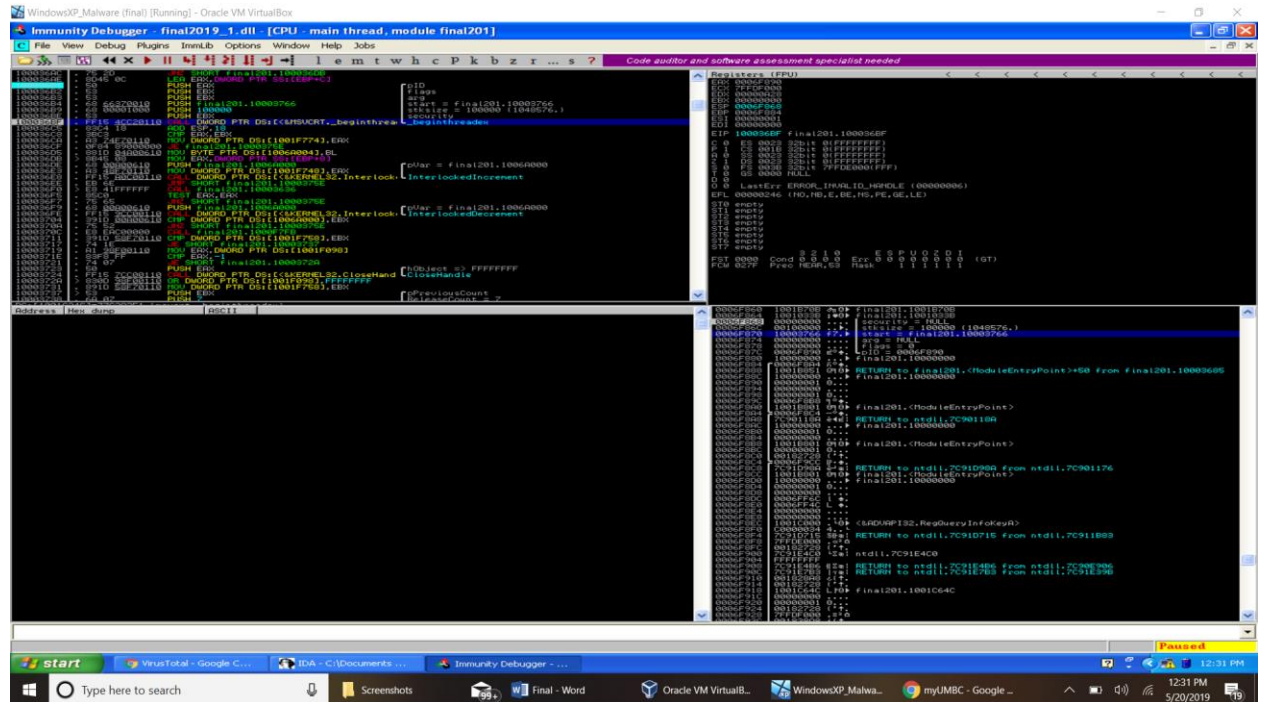
We can see that the function has two cmp statements which compare the return value of GetVersion against majorversion 5 and platformed 2, here 2 signifies if it's a 32 bit platform or not. So we can say that the minimum system requirement is Windows XP.



Value	Meaning
VER_PLATFORM_WIN32_NT 2	The operating system is Windows 7, Windows Server 2008, Windows Vista, Windows Server 2003, Windows XP, or Windows 2000.
Windows Server 2008	6.0
Windows XP 64-Bit Edition	5.2
Windows Server 2003 R2	5.2
Windows Server 2003	5.2
Windows XP	5.1

3) What is the address of the function that is executed by the call to `_beginthreadex` in `DLLMain`? (3 pts)

The function `_beginthreadex` takes 6 parameters out of which the third parameter is an offset value to a function whose address is 10003766. So we can say that the address of the function that is executed by the call to `_beginthreadex` is 10003766



4) List 5 imported functions that you believe are suspicious. For each import, summarize what it does and why you chose it. (5 pts)

a) `SetWindowsHook`: Sets a hook function to be called whenever a certain event is called. Commonly used with keyloggers and spyware, this function also provides an easy way to load a DLL into all GUI processes on the system. This function is sometimes added by the compiler. Could be used to perform keylogging. (with combination of `CallNextHook`, `UnHookWindowsHook`)

b) `GetTickCount`: Retrieves the number of milliseconds that have elapsed since the system was started. Could be used to perform anti-debugging.

c) `GetHostByName`: Used to perform a DNS lookup on a hostname prior to making an IP connection to a remote host. Could be used to connect/ check network connectivity, sometimes `WSAStartup` also could be used to check/ to initialize low-level network functionality probably to connect to something.

d) `GetProcAddress` – Gets the address of a function from a DLL in memory. Could be used to perform runtime linking. (with a combination of `LoadLibrary`).

e) `Send/Recv`: Sends data on a connected socket. Receives data from a remote machine. Malware often uses this function to receive data from a remote command-and-control server.

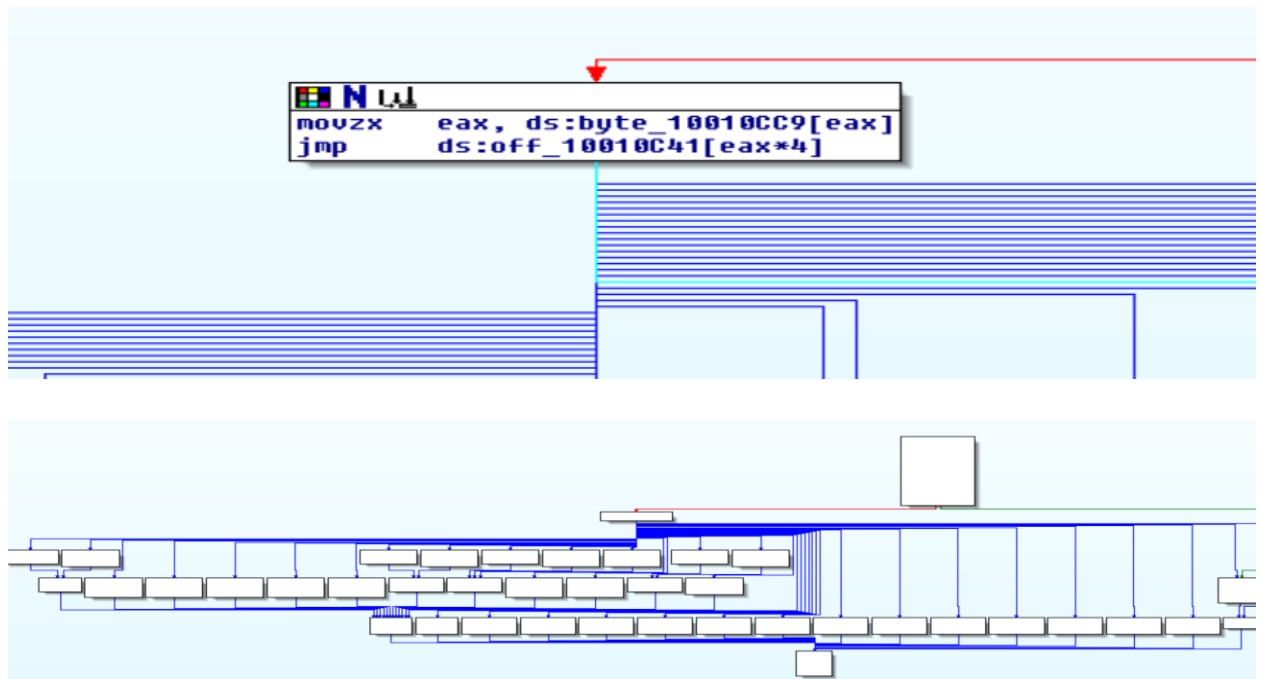
- 5) What is the address of the function in which both `ImpersonateLoggedOnUser` and `OpenProcessToken` are called? In a few sentences, describe what this function does. (8 pts)

Address of function in which both `ImpersonateLoggedOnUser` and `OpenProcessToken` are called is `sub_10011B0E`, where `ImpersonateLoggedOnUser` is called at `10011B65` and `OpenProcessToken` is called at `10011B52`.

This function opens a local (existing) process and then gets the access token to that process. It uses the token handle that it got by using the API call `OpenProcessToken` and uses it to modify the security context of that process (`ImpersonateLoggedOnUser`) giving it all access pass. Later it checks for any errors that occurred while performing this operation and then closes the handle to the process.

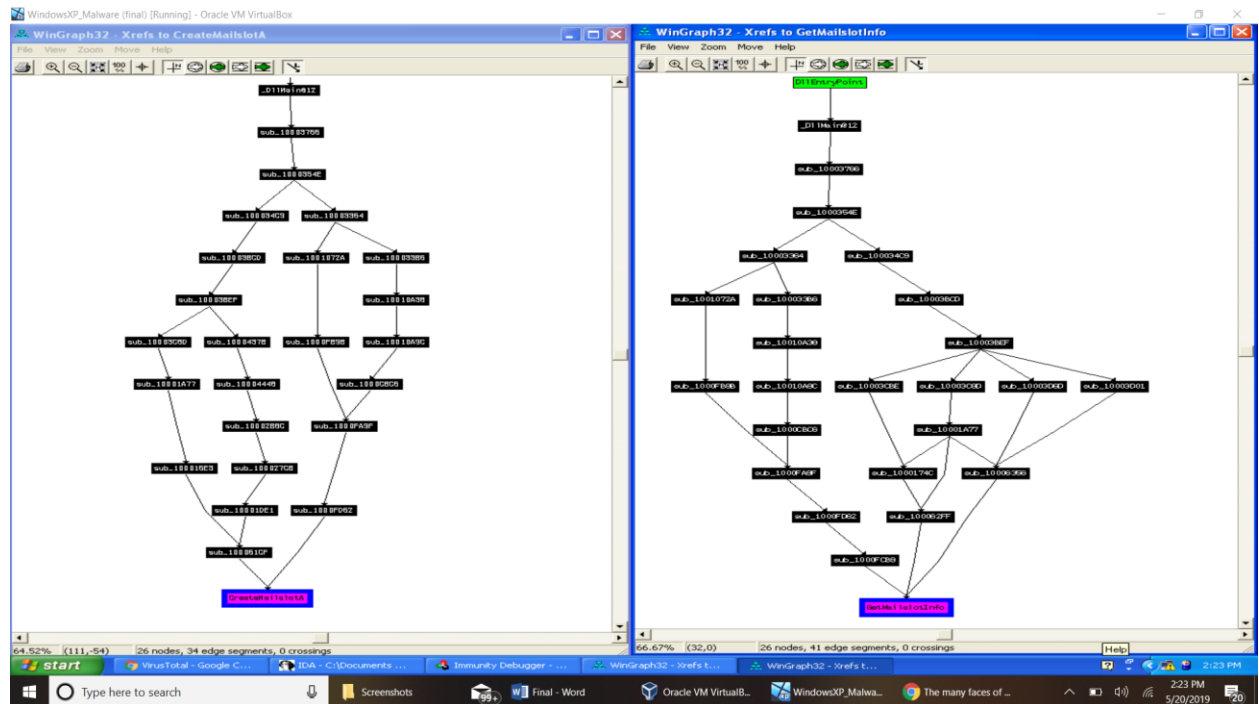
- 6) What kind of uncommon C code construct is present in the function `sub_10010A9C`? What is the malware's purpose for this function? (7 pts)

The code construct looks like a switch statement, where figure 1 shows the switch condition and all the branching out shows switch cases. Here `eax` register stores the condition for the switch statement and `jmp` statement specifies which switch case it should jump to. The malware might be doing this for two possible reasons. One, based on the arguments pushed at the calling function, the switch statement will decide what location to execute (Upon going to the calling function of `sub_10010A9C` we can see that it is in a loop, so we can conclude that it is trying to perform operations based on the result from other functions which changes for every iteration.) or Two, to throw off the analyst because looking at the `add` and `compare` statements it looks like the code in fig 1 is never executed. It goes to two other functions where `ReleaseSemaphore` is being called.



- 7) All of the calls to CreateMailSlotA and GetMailSlotInfo can eventually be traced back to one common function. What is the address of this function? Why is it necessary for this malware to use mailslots rather than pipes? (8 pts)

Using the option Charts from Xref to Operands we can obtain the follows charts that helps us trace back function calls. From the chart both CreateMailSlotA and GetMailSlotInfo can be traced back to one unction which is 1000354E. Mailslots are primarily used for broadcast messages and retrieve information stored buy the author, in a situation where one is trying to connect to all the systems in a range Mailslots are useful, this is more like UDP – one way connection. Whereas Pipes are like TCP, it is connection oriented and it waits for response from client.



- 8) What category of malware do you believe final2019_1.dll belongs to? In a paragraph, justify your answer using specific examples from IDA Pro. (12 pts)

By examining the DLL it is clear that the malware is performing Process Injection, Anti-Debugging Timing Checks, Privilege Escalation, Access Token Manipulation, Stealing Credentials and performing Runtime Linking. Because it uses mailslots (all this can be analyzed based on the info from IDA Pro) we could also say that it a POC related virus. So final2019_1.dll belong is trojan that sets up a backdoor and steals credentials.

Part 2: final2019_2.exe (55 pts)

1) In a few sentences, describe what sub_4019E8 does. Why is the malware doing this? (8 pts)

The function sub_4019E8 uses various Windows API calls such as GetCurrentProcess, OpenProcessToken, LookupPrivilegeValue, AdjustTokenPrivilege and CloseHandle. This function first gets a pseudo handle of the current running process and retrieves the access token of that process. Now by using the access token of that it retrieves LUID which is the unique identifier for the process. Using LUID it modifies the security description of the process giving it all access pass. The malware might be doing this for escalate privileges for itself or a specific process.

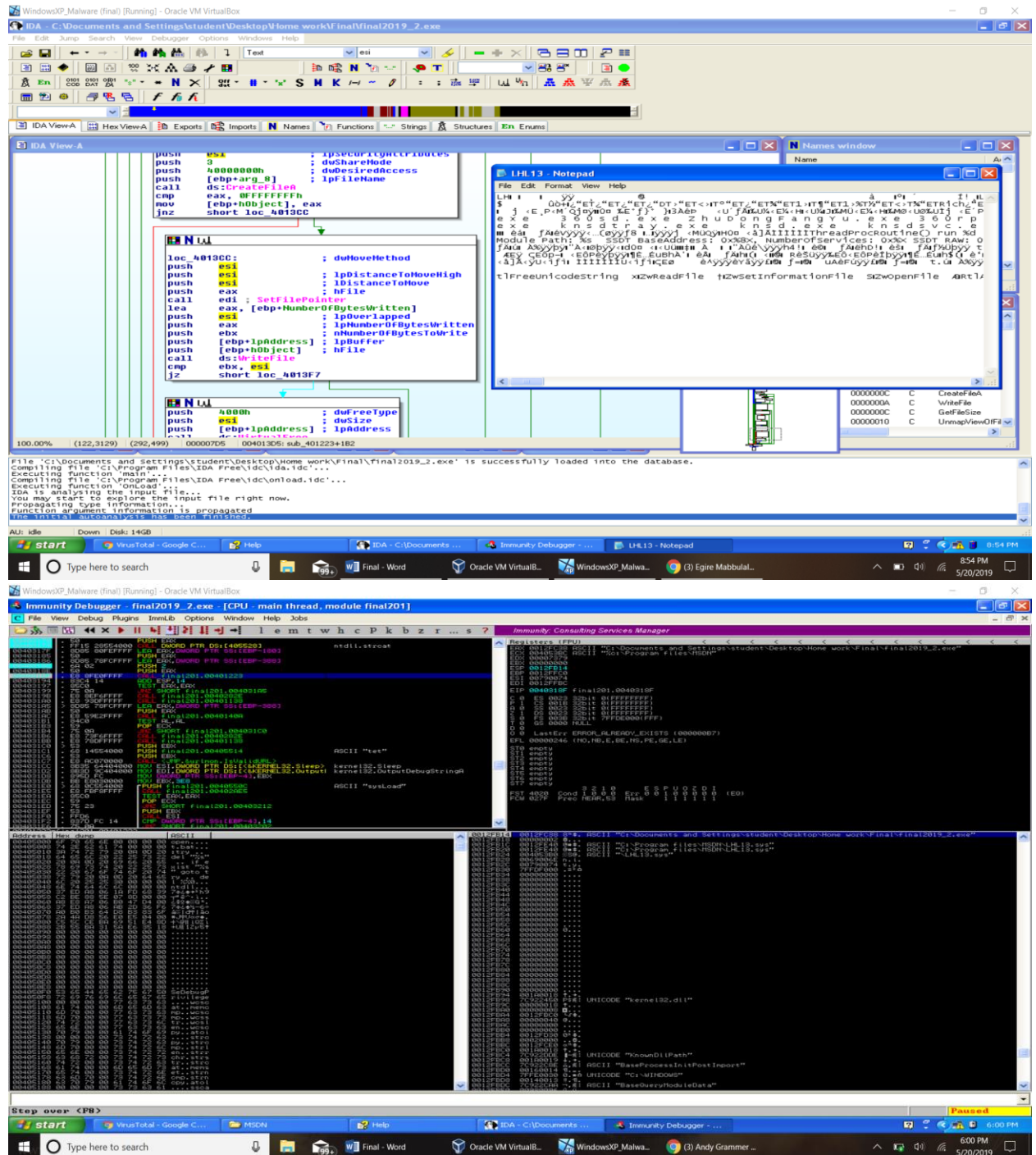
2) What is the name of the function that dword_405528 points to after the instruction at 0x402790 is executed? When dword_405528 is called at 0x403179, it returns a pointer to a file path. What is the value of this file path? (8 pts)

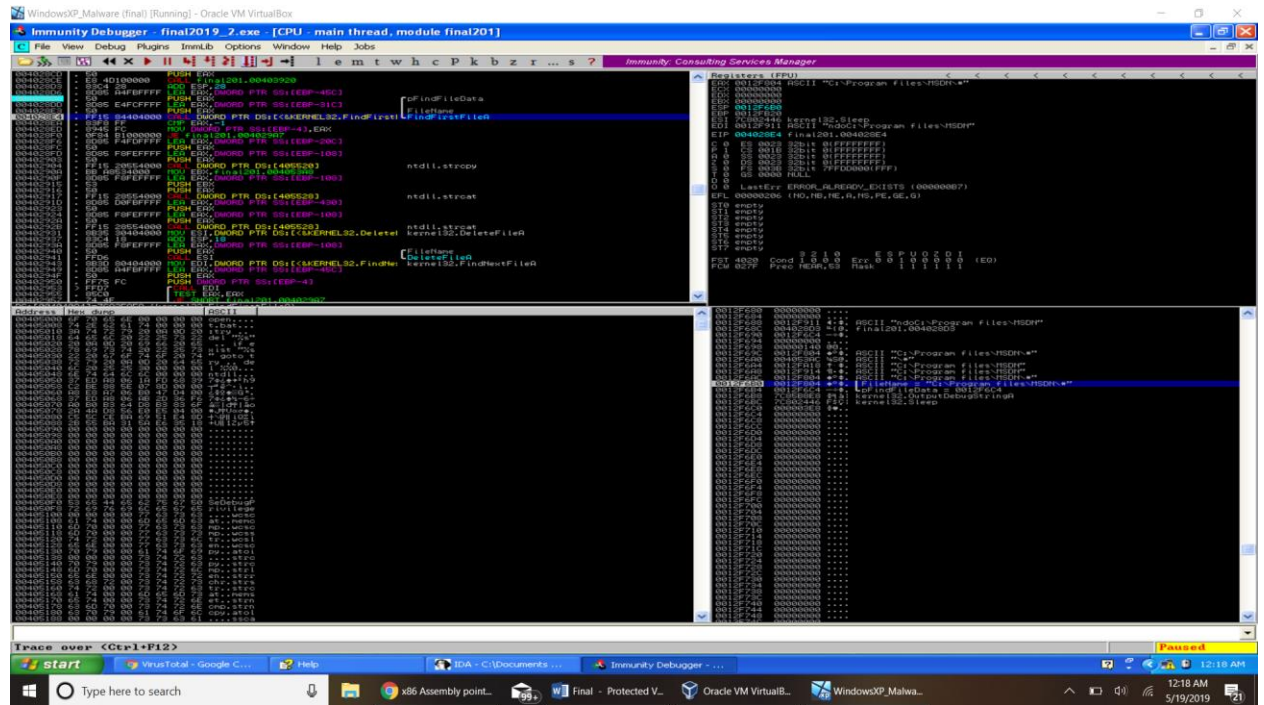
Name of the function that dword_405528 points to after the instruction at 402790 is executed is strcat. File path when dword_45528 is called at 403179 is C:\Program files\MSDN\LHL13.sys

The screenshot shows the Immunity Debugger interface. The main window displays the assembly code of the function sub_4019E8. A breakpoint is set at address 0x403179. The right pane shows the register values, including EIP pointing to final2019_2.00403179. The bottom pane shows the variable list, including a pointer to 'C:\Program Files\MSDN\LHL13.sys'.

- 3) When sub_401223 is called at 0x40318F, it writes the file from the previous question to disk. Investigate this file. What malicious action does it likely perform? Justify your answer. (8 pts)

The file name when the function sub_401223 is LHL13.sys. Upon inspecting the function, we can see that there is a write statement which is writing into the file LHL13.sys. So, we can say that this function is writing data from final2019_2.exe to LHL13.sys. Upon going to the directory MSDN we can see that the file LHL13.sys is a binary file and it contains executable code.





- 5) What is the value of the third argument passed to ShellExecuteA at 0x401214? Why is the malware doing this? (8 pts)

The third argument passed to ShellExecuteA at 401214 is

C:\DOCUME~1\student\LOCALS~1\Temp\t.bat.

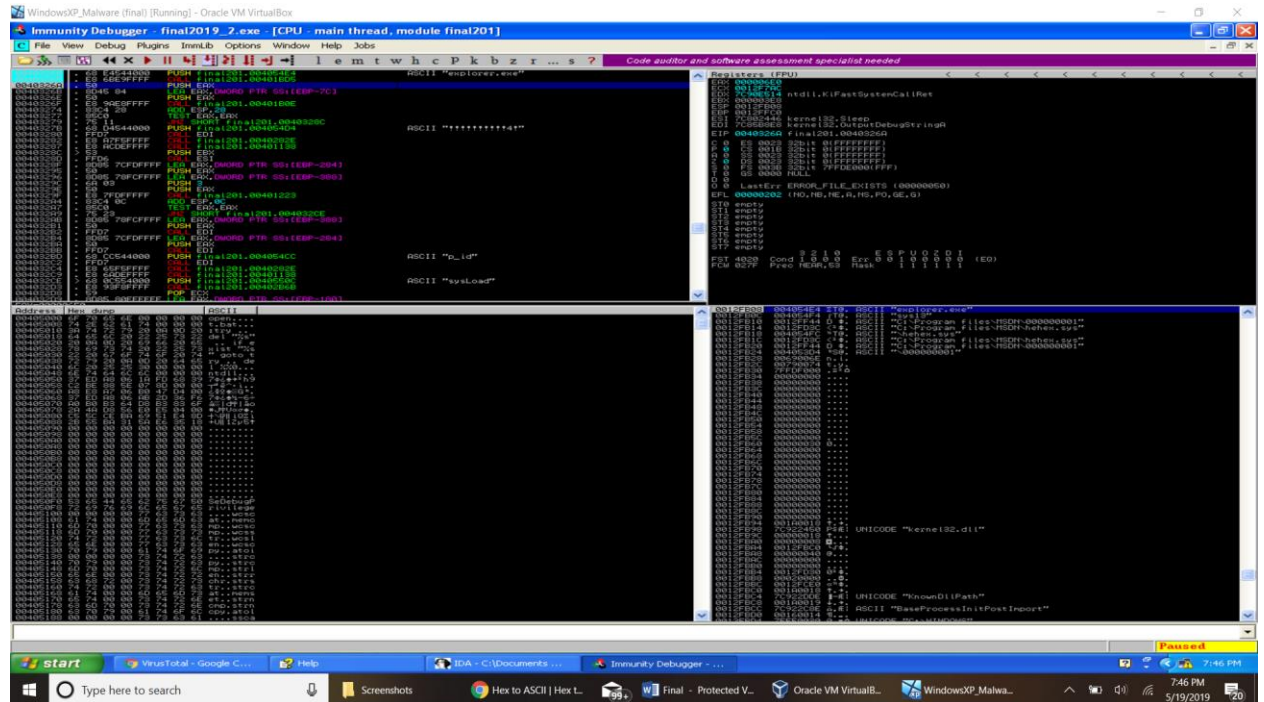
It is passing a .bat file which is used to store command line instructions in plain text. Malware is using this t.bat file to pass instructions that will be executed in a shell.

The screenshot shows the Immunity Debugger interface with the CPU window displaying assembly code. The instruction at address 0x401214 is `CALL [EAX], 0x401214`, which is a call to `ShellExecuteA`. The third argument, located at `[EAX]`, is `C:\DOCUME~1\student\LOCALS~1\Temp\t.bat`. The stack window shows the arguments passed to the function: `hInst = 0x00000000`, `lpFile = C:\DOCUME~1\student\LOCALS~1\Temp\t.bat`, `lpParameters = 0x00000000`, and `dwFlags = 0x00000000`. The register window shows `EAX = 0x00000000`, `ECX = 0x00000000`, `EDX = 0x00000000`, `EBX = 0x00000000`, `ESI = 0x00000000`, `EDI = 0x00000000`, `EIP = 0x401214`, and `EIP2 = 0x401214`. The taskbar at the bottom shows the Windows taskbar with the Start button, search bar, and several open applications including Immunity Debugger, x64 Assembly point, Final - Protected V..., Oracle VM VirtualBox, and WindowsXP Malware.

6) In a few sentences, describe what sub_401BD5 does. What does the function return? (7 pts)

Creates a snapshot of all the processes (probably running in explorer.exe) using `CreateToolHelp32Snapshot` and then retrieves information about the first process in the snapshot using `Process32First`. Then it converts all the lower-case characters in upper case by doing so it also converts hem from Unicode to ansi. Later retrieves information about the next process in the snapshot and again converts in into uppercase. It repeats this process until it finishes all the processes in the snapshot and closes the handle.

Upon examining the `eax` register, which usually stores the return value of the function we can see 6E0 (in the screenshot below). This return value is a handle to the process that is of interest.



7) What kind of malicious behavior does the malware perform in the function sub_401B0E? Justify your answer in a sentence or two. (8 pts)

The function sub_401B0E first calls two more function sub_4019E8 (which is discussed in question 1) and sub_402712, which pushes many predefined C function and calls them. My guess is it gathers information about the files in question (on using Immunity Debugger we can see the file is 000000001.sys). Later it opens a process and calls one more function sub_401662 which allots virtual memory, creates a files, writes on the allotted virtual memory, reads it and then frees it. And if it the write was successful it will then allot virtual memory(again), read it (again) create a remote thread to execute it. Upon inspecting the file I could find that 000000001.sys is a binary file which contains code. So writing, reading and creating remote thread makes sense because it is trying to execute the binary.

