

# PCAP Analysis Report

## CryptoWall Ransomware (Angler EK)

(2015-07-24)

### Investigation Using Zeek and Wireshark

Prepared by

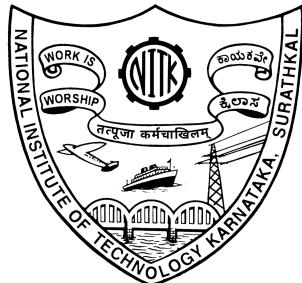
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# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Scenario Overview</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Infection Chain and Delivery Mechanism</b>	<b>3</b>
4.1	Compromised Landing Page . . . . .	3
4.2	Angler Exploit Kit Redirection . . . . .	3
<b>5</b>	<b>Methodology</b>	<b>3</b>
5.1	Zeek-Based Analysis . . . . .	3
5.2	Wireshark-Based Analysis . . . . .	4
5.3	Observed Protocols . . . . .	4
<b>6</b>	<b>Key Findings</b>	<b>5</b>
6.1	Network Entities . . . . .	5
6.2	Victim Profiling . . . . .	6
6.3	Infection Vector . . . . .	7
6.4	Exploit Delivery . . . . .	8
6.5	Payload Deployment . . . . .	9
6.6	Post-Infection Behavior (C2) . . . . .	9
<b>7</b>	<b>Indicators of Compromise (IOCs)</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Attack Chain Reconstruction</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Protocol Analysis</b>	<b>12</b>
9.1	Malicious Protocols . . . . .	12
9.2	Normal Background Protocols . . . . .	13
<b>10</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>13</b>

# 1 Introduction

The report presents a detailed forensic analysis of a packet capture (PCAP) file, captured on July 24, 2015, following Snort alerts indicating a potential CryptoWall ransomware infection. CryptoWall is a notorious file-encrypting ransomware family that utilizes exploit kits for distribution and connects to Command and Control (C2) servers to manage encryption keys.

In this sample, we observed a Windows host visiting a legitimate website that had been compromised. The host was redirected to an exploit kit landing page, which delivered a malicious payload. The analysis of this malicious traffic is done using the Zeek Network Security Monitor and the Wireshark network analyzer tool. Our objective is to trace the key events in the traffic, identify the patient zero, and understand how the Angler Exploit Kit delivered the CryptoWall payload.

# 2 Objective

The objective is to reconstruct the complete infection lifecycle, beginning with benign user browsing activity and ending with the ransomware execution.

The key goals include:

- Identifying the infected host and its network behavior.
- Reconstructing the infection chain from initial access to exploit delivery.
- Detecting the exploit kit and understanding its mechanisms.
- Analyzing post-infection Command and Control (C2) activity.
- Extracting Indicators of Compromise (IOCs).
- Demonstrating how Zeek and Wireshark complement each other.

# 3 Scenario Overview

Snort alerts flagged suspicious outbound communication from internal host 192.168.137.85, identifying potential CryptoWall activity. A PCAP file covering traffic from 14:56 to 15:04 UTC was collected, containing the entire infection sequence. A timestamp issue caused the date to appear as July 23, but it corresponds to July 24.

CryptoWall 3.0 was widespread in 2015 and often delivered through Angler Exploit Kit, known for exploiting Adobe Flash vulnerabilities.

The infection begins from a compromised legitimate website and progresses into a full ransomware deployment.

## 4 Infection Chain and Delivery Mechanism

The infection chain identified in this analysis does not rely on email phishing but rather a "Drive-by Download" mechanism utilizing a compromised legitimate website.

### 4.1 Compromised Landing Page

The victim initially visited a legitimate website, [www.twentyone-development.com](http://www.twentyone-development.com). This site had been compromised by attackers to host a malicious iframe or script redirection code.

### 4.2 Angler Exploit Kit Redirection

Upon visiting the compromised site, the victim's browser was silently redirected via an HTTP Referer chain to a malicious domain: [kiralyi.arcadiumentertainment.com](http://kiralyi.arcadiumentertainment.com). This domain hosted the **Angler Exploit Kit**, a dominant exploit kit in 2015 known for targeting vulnerabilities in Adobe Flash Player and Microsoft Silverlight.

## 5 Methodology

The investigation used two complementary approaches:

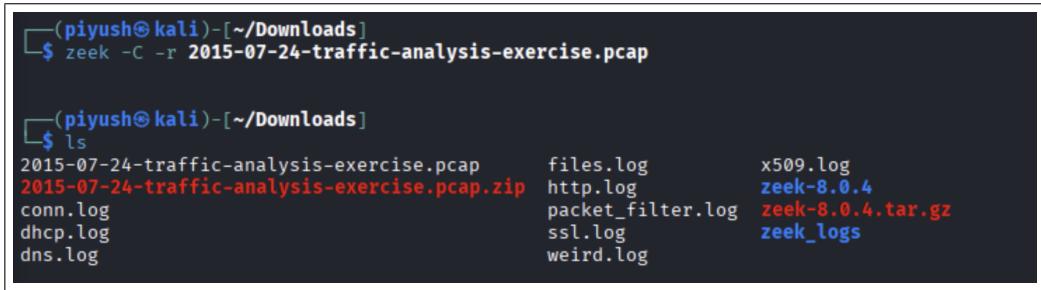
### 5.1 Zeek-Based Analysis

Zeek provided structured metadata through logs such as:

- `conn.log` – Connection metadata.
- `dns.log` – DNS queries and responses.
- `http.log` – Web requests and responses.
- `files.log` – File downloads and MIME types.

Zeek helped identify:

- Suspicious domain activity.
- HTTP redirection patterns.
- Malicious Flash exploit files.
- C2 connections.



```
(piyush㉿kali)-[~/Downloads]
$ zeek -C -r 2015-07-24-traffic-analysis-exercise.pcap

(piyush㉿kali)-[~/Downloads]
$ ls
2015-07-24-traffic-analysis-exercise.pcap      files.log      x509.log
2015-07-24-traffic-analysis-exercise.pcap.zip  http.log       zeek-8.0.4
conn.log                                         packet_filter.log  zeek-8.0.4.tar.gz
dhcp.log                                         ssl.log        zeek_logs
dns.log                                          weird.log
```

Figure 1: Zeek generated logs

## 5.2 Wireshark-Based Analysis

This section provides a comprehensive analysis of the malicious network activity captured in the file `2015-07-24-traffic-analysis-exercise.pcap`. Our goal is to identify the victim, reconstruct the attack, and confirm the payload.

Wireshark enabled packet-level inspection:

- Reconstructing malicious TCP streams.
- Extracting Flash exploit files.
- Recovering binary payloads.
- Visualizing ransom note retrieval.

Together, Zeek and Wireshark provided full visibility of the attack chain.

## 5.3 Observed Protocols

The analysis revealed the following key protocols:

1. **HTTP:** Used for the initial browsing, the delivery of the exploit, and the downloading of the ransomware payload.
2. **DNS:** Heavy DNS traffic was observed as the malware attempted to resolve multiple C2 domains.

3. **TCP**: Facilitated the transport of the Flash exploit and the application/octet-stream payload.

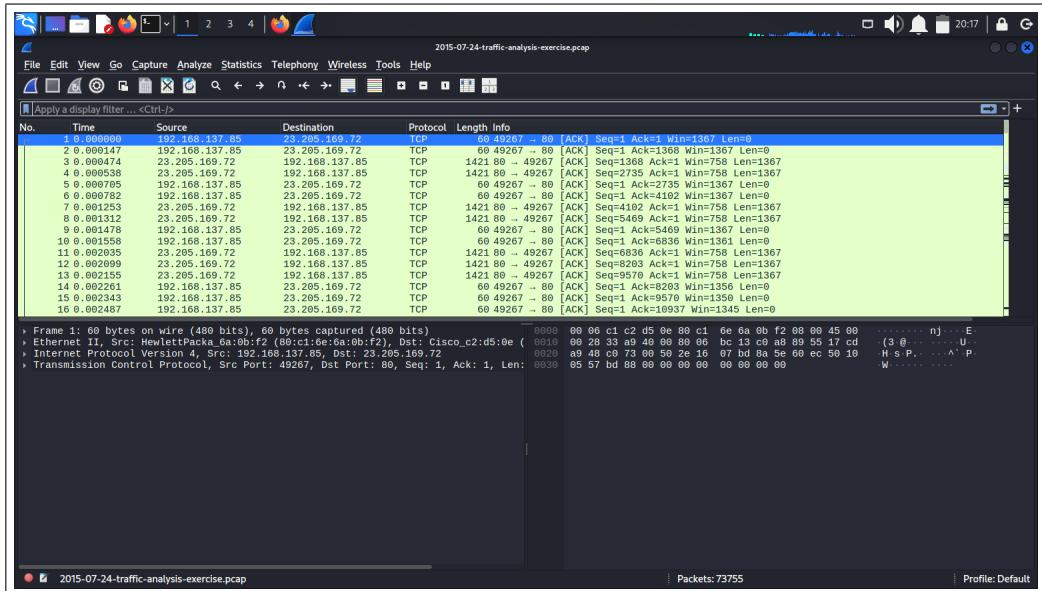


Figure 2: PCAP File Opening in Wireshark

## 6 Key Findings

### 6.1 Network Entities

- **Victim Host: 192.168.137.85** (Hostname: Leonardo-PC). Identified as the top talker in the capture with over 900 connections.

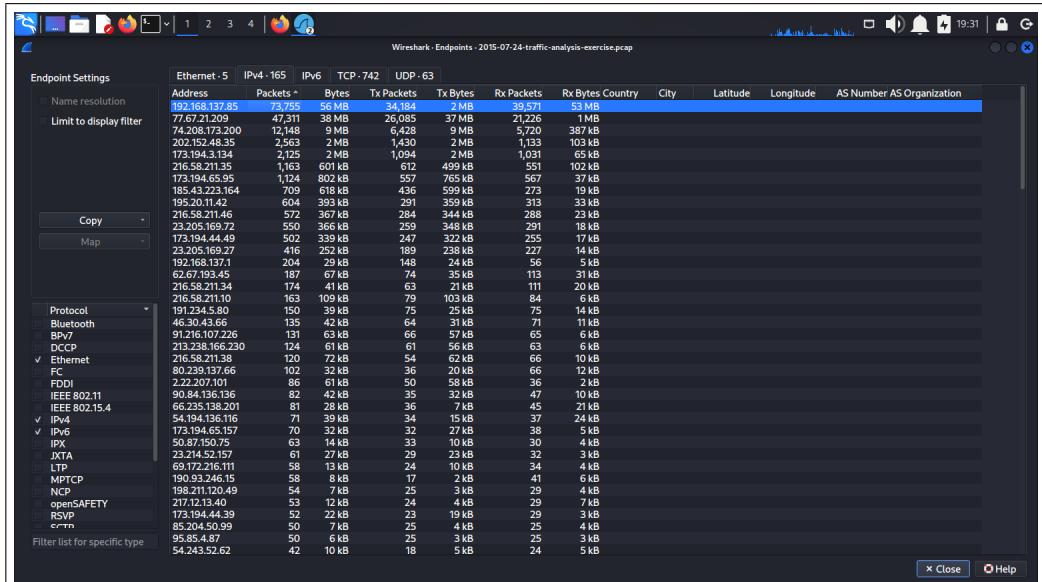


Figure 3: 192.168.137.85 identified as Top talker

- **Exploit Kit Server:** 185.43.223.164 (Domain: `kiralyi.arcadiumentertainment.com`).
- **C2 Server:** 46.30.43.66 (Domain: `ministryordas.com`).

## 6.2 Victim Profiling

Using DHCP logs and HTTP User-Agent analysis, we profiled the victim machine:

- **OS:** Windows 7 (Windows NT 6.1)
- **Browser:** Internet Explorer 11 (Trident/7.0)
- **MAC Address:** 80:c1:6e:6a:0b:f2

This configuration was highly susceptible to Flash-based exploits prevalent in 2015.

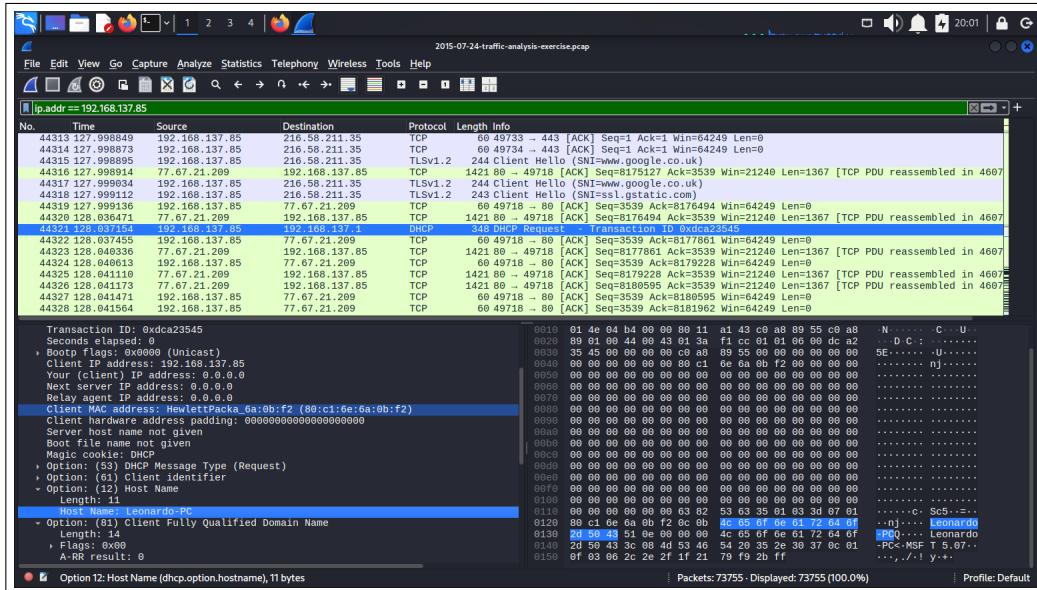


Figure 4: Finding Host Name and MAC address

```
(piyush㉿kali)-[~/Downloads]
$ cat http.log | zeek-cut user_agent | sort | uniq -c
10 -
29 Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 7.0; Windows NT 6.1; Trident/7.0; SLCC2; .NET CLR 2.0.50727; .NET CLR 3.5.30729; .NET CLR 3.0.3072
9; Media Center PC 6.0)
308 Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; Trident/7.0; rv:11.0) like Gecko
```

Figure 5: Identifying OS and Browser through Zeek

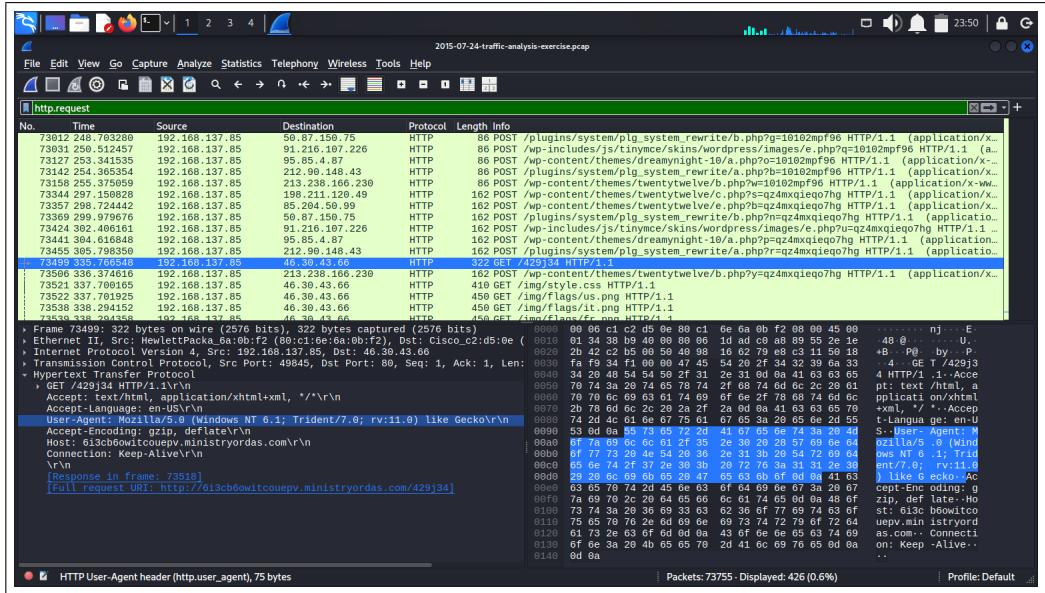


Figure 6: Identifying OS and Browser on Wireshark

### 6.3 Infection Vector

The user visited:

- [www.twentyone-development.com](http://www.twentyone-development.com) (compromised site)

which redirected to:

- [kiralyi.arcadiumentertainment.com](http://kiralyi.arcadiumentertainment.com) (Angler Exploit Kit)

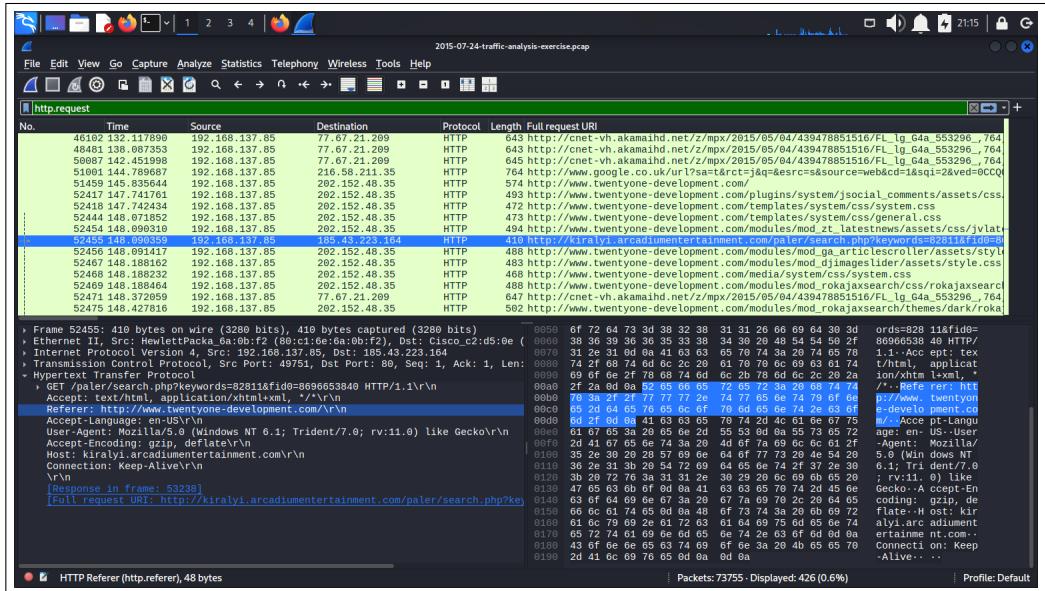


Figure 7: Finding the Infection Vector

```

Session Actions Edit View Help
└$ cat http.log | zeek-cut id.orig_h host | \
grep "192.168.137.85" | awk '{print $2}' | sort | uniq -c | sort

81 www.bluproducts.com
73 www.twentyone-development.com
25 cnet.vh.akamaihd.net
25 www.indonesia-investments.com
18 api.bing.com
16 6i3cb6owitcouepv.ministryordas.com
9 om.cbsi.com
9 -
4 www.google.co.uk
4 www.google.com
4 pubads.g.doubleclick.net
4 kiralyi.arcadiumentertainment.com
4 hotfrance.ru
4 hajuebo.de
4 ehsansurgical.com
4 biganddigital.com
4 bibubracelets.ro
4 beybladeoyunlari.org
4 100pour100unity.com
3 pixel.rubiconproject.com
3 ajax.googleapis.com
2 www.google-analytics.com
2 video-ad-stats.googlesyndication.com
2 mpc.nl.mxptint.net
2 ma61-r.analytics.edgesuite.net
2 google.com
1 www.youtube.com
1 www.gstatic.com
1 vidtech.cbsima.com
1 sync.tidaltv.com
1 static.ak.facebook.com
1 secure-us.imrworldwide.com
1 rtd.tubemogul.com
1 rs.gwallet.com
1 px.owneriq.net
1 pixel.sitescout.com
1 magnetic.i.domdex.com
1 ip-addr.es

```

Figure 8: Finding the Infection Vector on zeek

## 6.4 Exploit Delivery

**Exploit:** The server sent a file with Content-Type `application/x-shockwave-flash`. This confirms the Angler EK used a Flash vulnerability to breach the browser.

- fingerprinted the browser,
- identified vulnerable Flash Player,

- delivered malicious .swf files.

## 6.5 Payload Deployment

**Payload:** Immediately following the exploit, a file with Content-Type `application/octet-stream` was transferred. This encrypted binary is the CryptoWall 3.0 ransomware.

CryptoWall payload delivered as:

- MIME type: `application/octet-stream`,
- followed by immediate execution.

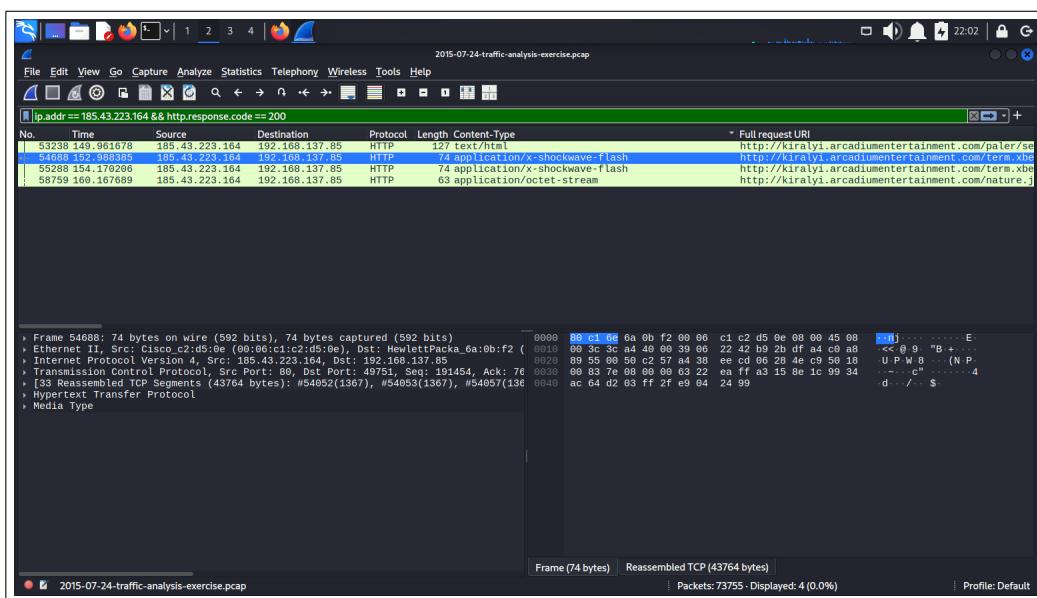


Figure 9: The Exploit & Payload

## 6.6 Post-Infection Behavior (C2)

Following the payload execution, the malware exhibited characteristic "Phone Home" behavior:

- **IP Check:** A GET request to `ip-addr.es` was observed. This is a common technique for malware to identify the public IP of the infected machine.

– C2 domains contacted:

`ip-addr.es`

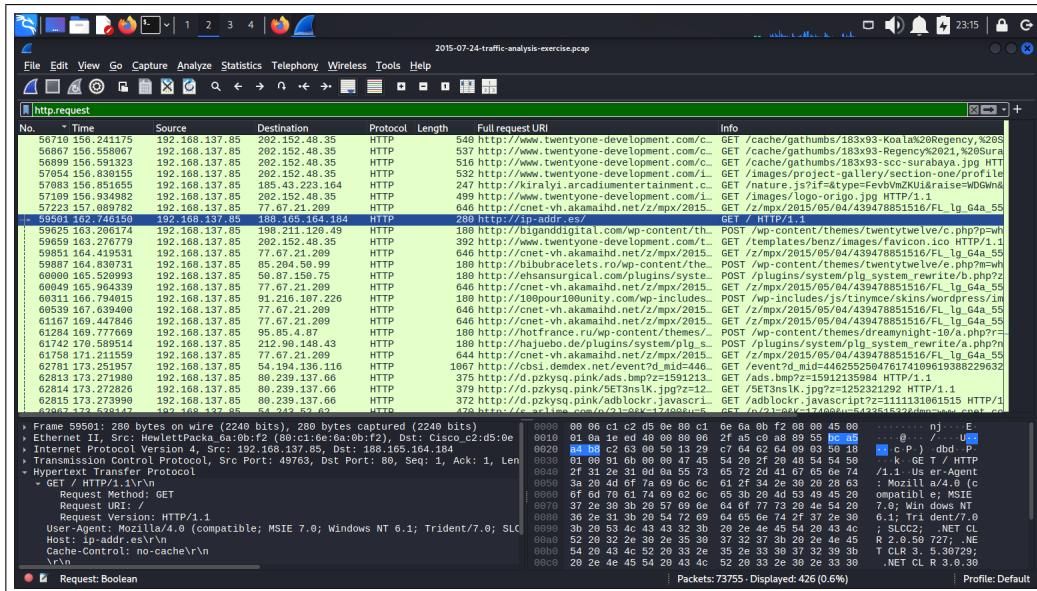


Figure 10: The Ip Check

– 6i3cb6owitcouepv.ministryordas.com

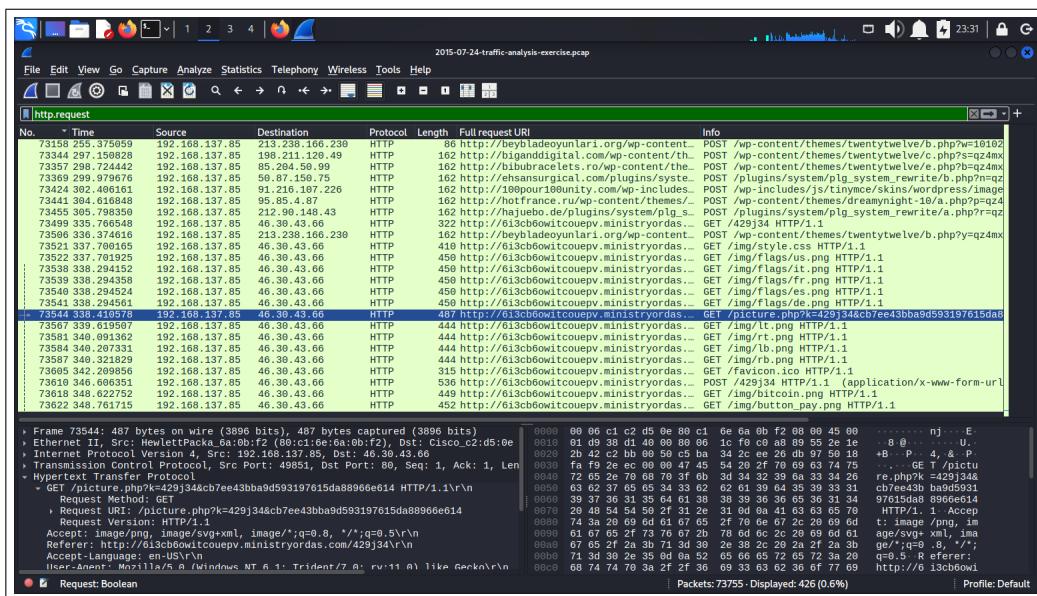


Figure 11: The C2 Callback

- **Ransom Note Generation:** The infected host made HTTP GET requests to `ministryordas.com` to retrieve image assets, specifically `bitcoin.png` and `button_pay.png`.

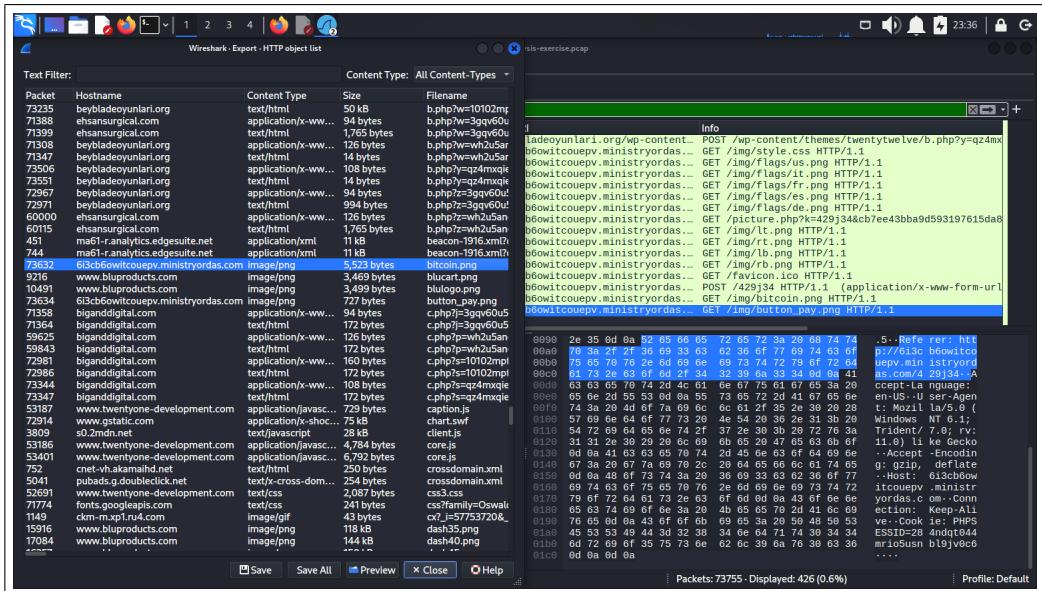


Figure 12: The Ransom Note Indicators

Downloaded assets:

- `bitcoin.png`, `button_pay.png`, `flags/us.png`



Figure 13: Recovered visual assets used in the ransomware payment portal

These confirm ransomware execution.

## 7 Indicators of Compromise (IOCs)

The following Indicators of Compromise were identified from the PCAP analysis, corresponding to the attacker infrastructure and compromised domains.

### Network IOCs

- **Compromised Referrer:** `twentyone-development.com`
- **Exploit Kit Domain:** `kiralyi.arcadiumentertainment.com` (185.43.223.164)

- **Ransomware C2 Domain:** 6i3cb6owitcouepv.ministryordas.com (46.30.43.66)
- **IP Check Domain:** ip-addr.es (188.165.164.184)

Table 1: Indicators of Compromise (IoCs)

Type	Indicator	Description
Domain	kiralyi.arcadiumentertainment.com	Angler EK landing page
IP Address	185.43.223.164	Exploit Kit server
Domain	ip-addr.es	C2 callback
Domain	6i3cb6owitcouepv.ministryordas.com	Ransom note delivery
Files	bitcoin.png, button_pay.png	Ransom note images

## 8 Attack Chain Reconstruction

1. User visits compromised website.
2. Hidden redirect triggers Angler Exploit Kit.
3. EK fingerprints system and selects Flash exploit.
4. Malicious Flash files delivered.
5. CryptoWall payload downloaded.
6. Malware executes and contacts C2 servers.
7. Ransom note components retrieved.

## 9 Protocol Analysis

### 9.1 Malicious Protocols

**DNS** – Domain lookups for EK and C2 servers. **HTTP** – Exploit delivery, payload transfer, ransom note retrieval.

## 9.2 Normal Background Protocols

- DHCP – IP configuration
- ARP – Local address resolution
- LLMNR / NetBIOS – Local network discovery
- SSL/TLS – Legitimate encrypted browsing

## 10 Conclusion

The PCAP analysis clearly indicates that the host **Leonardo-PC** was infected with **CryptoWall 3.0** via a drive-by download attack. The victim visited a compromised page which redirected them to the Angler Exploit Kit. The kit leveraged a Flash Player vulnerability to install the ransomware. Post-infection traffic confirmed the successful execution through C2 callbacks and the retrieval of ransom note graphical assets.

The infection chain confirms:

- Angler Exploit Kit successfully exploited a Flash vulnerability.
- CryptoWall ransomware executed on the victim host.
- C2 communications and ransom page assets were retrieved.

Zeek provided high-level insights while Wireshark validated payloads and malicious resources. Together, they allowed complete reconstruction of the attack.

## Appendix A: Zeek Commands Used

Command	Purpose
<code>zeek -C -r 2015-07-24-traffic-analysis-exercise.pcap</code>	Run Zeek on the PCAP to generate all logs.
<code>cat dns.log   zeek-cut ts id.orig_h query answers</code>	Extract DNS queries and responses.
<code>cat http.log   zeek-cut ts id.orig_h host uri</code>	List all HTTP requests with full URLs.
<code>grep -Ei "swf js" http.log</code>	Identify exploit files and suspicious JavaScript.
<code>grep -E "bitcoin flags" http.log</code>	Detect ransom note retrieval.

## Appendix B: Wireshark Filters Used

Filter	Purpose
<code>http &amp;&amp; ip.addr == 192.168.137.85</code>	All HTTP traffic of victim host.
<code>dns &amp;&amp; ip.addr == 192.168.137.85</code>	DNS queries from victim.
<code>ip.addr == 185.43.223.164</code>	Traffic to exploit kit server.
<code>frame contains "bitcoin.png"</code>	Identify ransom note images.