

Malware Analysis in Virtual Machines

Dynamic Analysis

- Running malware deliberately, while monitoring the results
- Requires a safe environment
- Must prevent malware from spreading to production machines
- Real machines can be ^{off line} **airgapped** –no network connection to the Internet or to other machines

Real Machines

- Disadvantages
 - No Internet connection, so parts of the malware may not work
 - Can be difficult to remove malware, so re-imaging the machine will be necessary
- Advantage
 - Some malware detects virtual machines and won't run properly in one

Virtual Machines

- The most common method
- We'll do it that way
- This protects the host machine from the malware
 - Except for a few very rare cases of malware that escape the virtual machine and infect the host

VMware Player

- Free but limited
- Cannot take snapshots
- VMware Workstation or Fusion is a better choice, but they cost money
- You could also use VirtualBox, Hyper-V, Parallels, or Xen.

Windows XP

- The malware we are analyzing targets Windows XP, as most malware does

Configuring VMware

- You can disable networking by disconnecting the virtual network adapter
- Host-only networking allows network traffic to the host but not the Internet

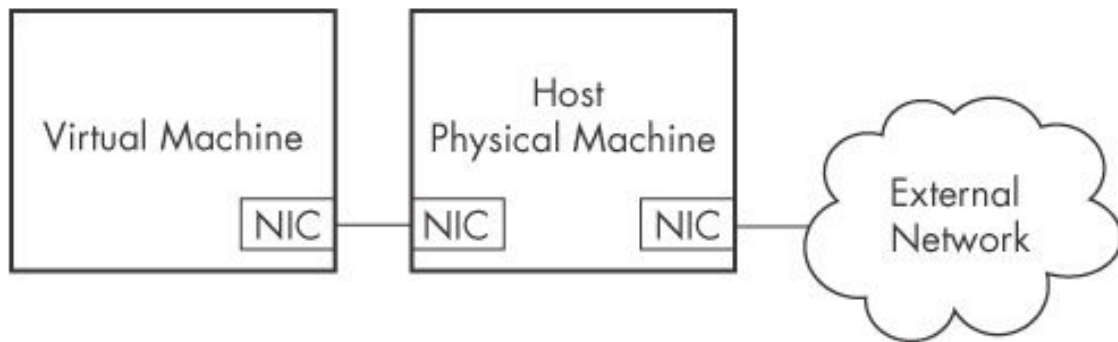
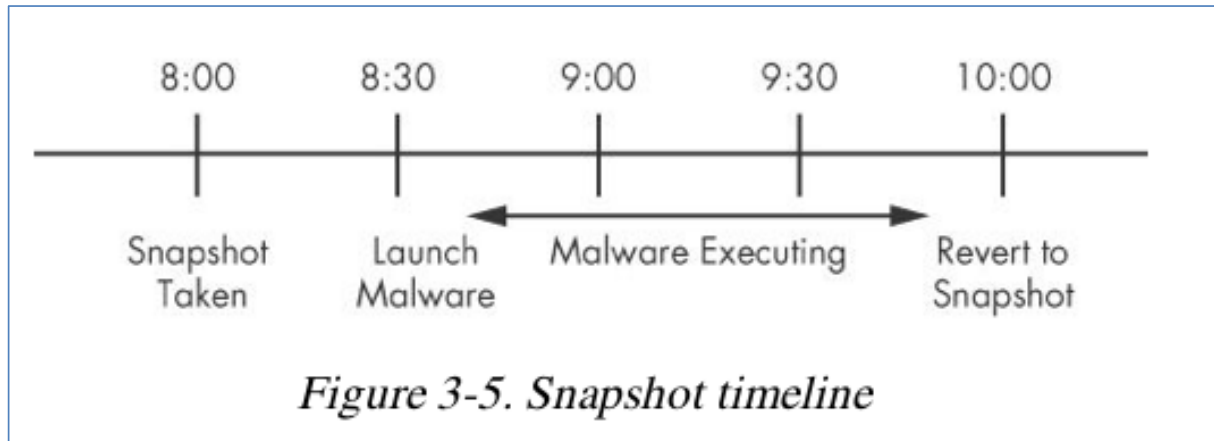


Figure 3-3. Host-only networking in VMware

Connecting Malware to the Internet

- NAT mode lets VMs see each other and the Internet, but puts a virtual router between the VM and the LAN
- Bridged networking connects the VM directly to the LAN
- Can allow malware to do some harm or spread – controversial
- You could send spam or participate in a DDoS attack

Snapshots



Risks of Using VMware for Malware Analysis

- Malware may detect that it is in a VM and run differently
- VMware has bugs; malware may crash or exploit it
- Malware may spread or affect the host – don't use a sensitive host machine
- **All the textbook samples are harmless**

Practical Malware Analysis

Ch 3: Basic Dynamic Analysis

Why Perform Dynamic Analysis?

- Static analysis can reach a dead-end, due to
 - Obfuscation
 - Packing
 - Examiner has exhausted the available static analysis techniques
- Dynamic analysis is efficient and will show you exactly what the malware does

Sandboxes: The Quick-and-Dirty Approach

Sandbox


- All-in-one software for basic dynamic analysis
- Virtualized environment that simulates network services
- Examples: Norman Sandbox, GFI Sandbox, Anubis, Joe Sandbox, ThreatExpert, BitBlaze, Comodo Instant Malware Analysis
- They are expensive but easy to use
- They produce a nice PDF report of results

Running Malware

Launching DLLs

- EXE files can be run directly, but DLLs can't
- Use Rundll32.exe (included in Windows)
rundll32.exe *DLLname, Export arguments*
- The *Export* value is one of the exported functions you found in Dependency Walker, PEview, or PE Explorer.

Launching DLLs

- Example
 - rip.dll has these exports: **Install** and **Uninstall**
 - rundll32.exe rip.dll, Install
- Some functions use **ordinal** values instead of names, like
103
rundll32.exe xyzzy.dll, #5
- It's also possible to modify the **PE header** and convert a **DLL** into an **EXE**


Monitoring with Process Monitor

Process Monitor

- Monitors registry, file system, network, process, and thread activity
- All recorded events are kept, but you can filter the display to make it easier to find items of interest
- Don't run it too long or it will fill up all RAM and crash the machine

Launching Calc.exe

Process Monitor - Sysinternals: www.sysinternals.com

File Edit Event Filter Tools Options Help

Time of Day	Process Name	PID	Operation	Path	Result	Detail
1:17:48.5991893 PM	Explorer.EXE	3188	RegOpenKey	HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\...	SUCCESS	Desired Access: Query Value
1:17:48.5992018 PM	Explorer.EXE	3188	RegCloseKey	HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersi...	SUCCESS	
1:17:48.5998061 PM	Explorer.EXE	3188	CloseFile	C:\Windows\winsxs\x86_microsoft.windows.common-...	SUCCESS	
1:17:48.6001092 PM	calc.exe	2072	RegOpenKey	HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Windows\Windows Error ...	SUCCESS	Desired Access: Query Value
1:17:48.6001273 PM	calc.exe	2072	RegQueryValue	HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\Windows Err...	SUCCESS	Type: REG_DWORD, Length: 4, ...
1:17:48.6001350 PM	calc.exe	2072	RegCloseKey	HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\Windows Err...	SUCCESS	
1:17:48.6001722 PM	calc.exe	2072	ReadFile	C:\Windows\System32\calc.exe	SUCCESS	Offset: 103,424, Length: 32,768, l...
1:17:48.6011060 PM	calc.exe	2072	CreateFile	C:\Windows\System32\WindowsCodecs.dll	SUCCESS	Desired Access: Read Attributes, ...
1:17:48.6011278 PM	calc.exe	2072	QueryBasicInfor...	C:\Windows\System32\WindowsCodecs.dll	SUCCESS	CreationTime: 7/13/2009 4:29:14 ...
1:17:48.6011337 PM	calc.exe	2072	CloseFile	C:\Windows\System32\WindowsCodecs.dll	SUCCESS	
1:17:48.6012132 PM	calc.exe	2072	CreateFile	C:\Windows\System32\WindowsCodecs.dll	SUCCESS	Desired Access: Read Data/List ...
1:17:48.6012344 PM	calc.exe	2072	CreateFileMapp...	C:\Windows\System32\WindowsCodecs.dll	FILE LOCKED WI...	SyncType: SyncTypeCreateSecti...
1:17:48.6012901 PM	calc.exe	2072	CreateFileMapp...	C:\Windows\System32\WindowsCodecs.dll	SUCCESS	SyncType: SyncTypeOther
1:17:48.6013372 PM	calc.exe	2072	Load Image	C:\Windows\System32\WindowsCodecs.dll	SUCCESS	Image Base: 0x73aa0000, Image ...
1:17:48.6013796 PM	calc.exe	2072	CloseFile	C:\Windows\System32\WindowsCodecs.dll	SUCCESS	
1:17:48.6015378 PM	calc.exe	2072	RegOpenKey	HKCU\Software\Classes	SUCCESS	Desired Access: Maximum Allowe...
1:17:48.6015591 PM	calc.exe	2072	RegQueryKey	HKCU\Software\Classes	SUCCESS	Query: Name
1:17:48.6015697 PM	calc.exe	2072	RegOpenKey	HKCU\Software\Classes\CLSID\{FAE3D380-FEA4-4...	NAME NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Read
1:17:48.6015797 PM	calc.exe	2072	RegOpenKey	HKCR\CLSID\{FAE3D380-FEA4-4623-8C75-C6B6111...	SUCCESS	Desired Access: Read
1:17:48.6015937 PM	calc.exe	2072	RegQueryKey	HKCU\Software\Classes	SUCCESS	Query: Name
1:17:48.6016002 PM	calc.exe	2072	RegOpenKey	HKCU\Software\Classes\CLSID\{FAE3D380-FEA4-4...	NAME NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Read
1:17:48.6016130 PM	calc.exe	2072	RegOpenKey	HKCR\CLSID\{FAE3D380-FEA4-4623-8C75-C6B6111...	NAME NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Read

Showing 128,723 of 253,268 events (50%) Backed by virtual memory

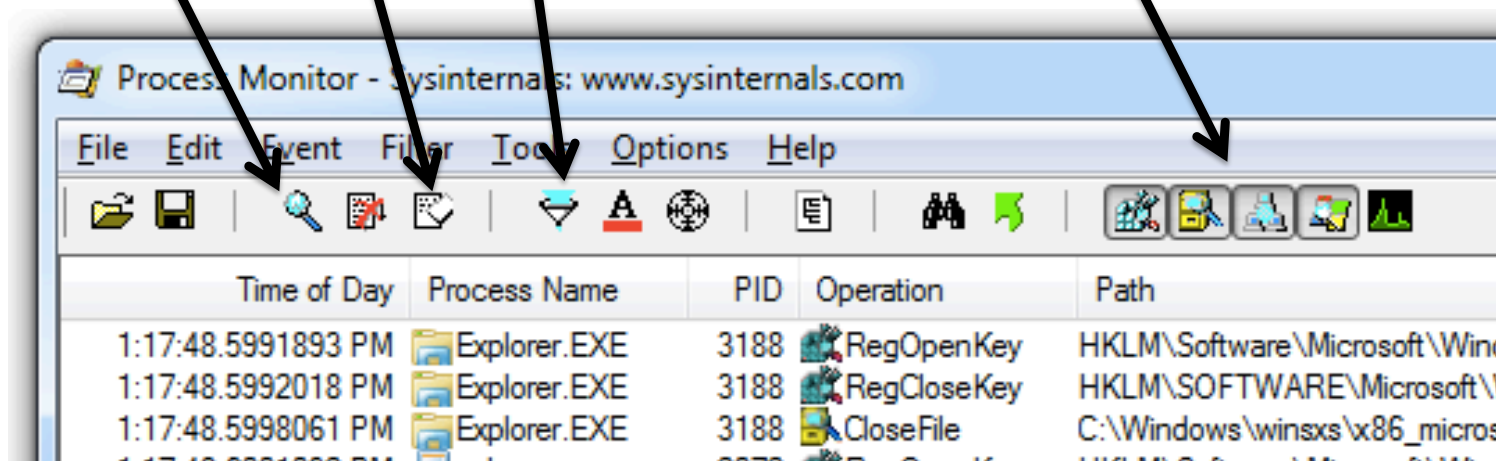
Process Monitor Toolbar

Start/Stop
Capture

Erase

Filter

Default Filters
Registry, File system, Network, Processes

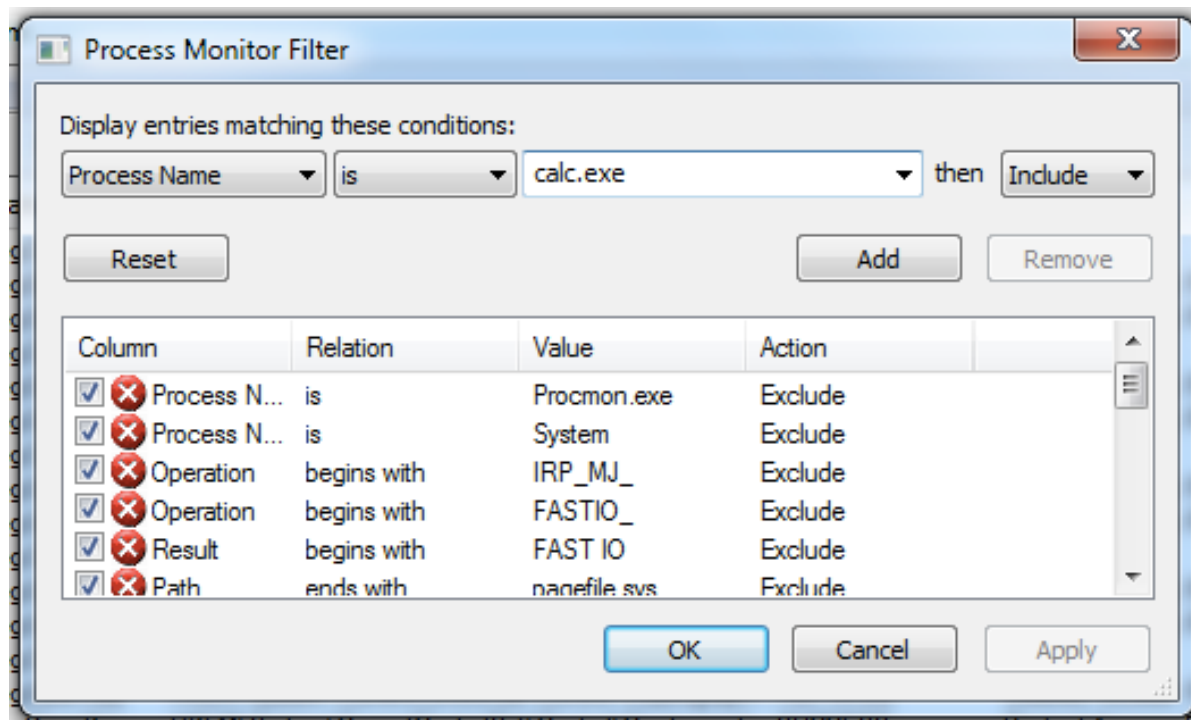


Filtering with Exclude

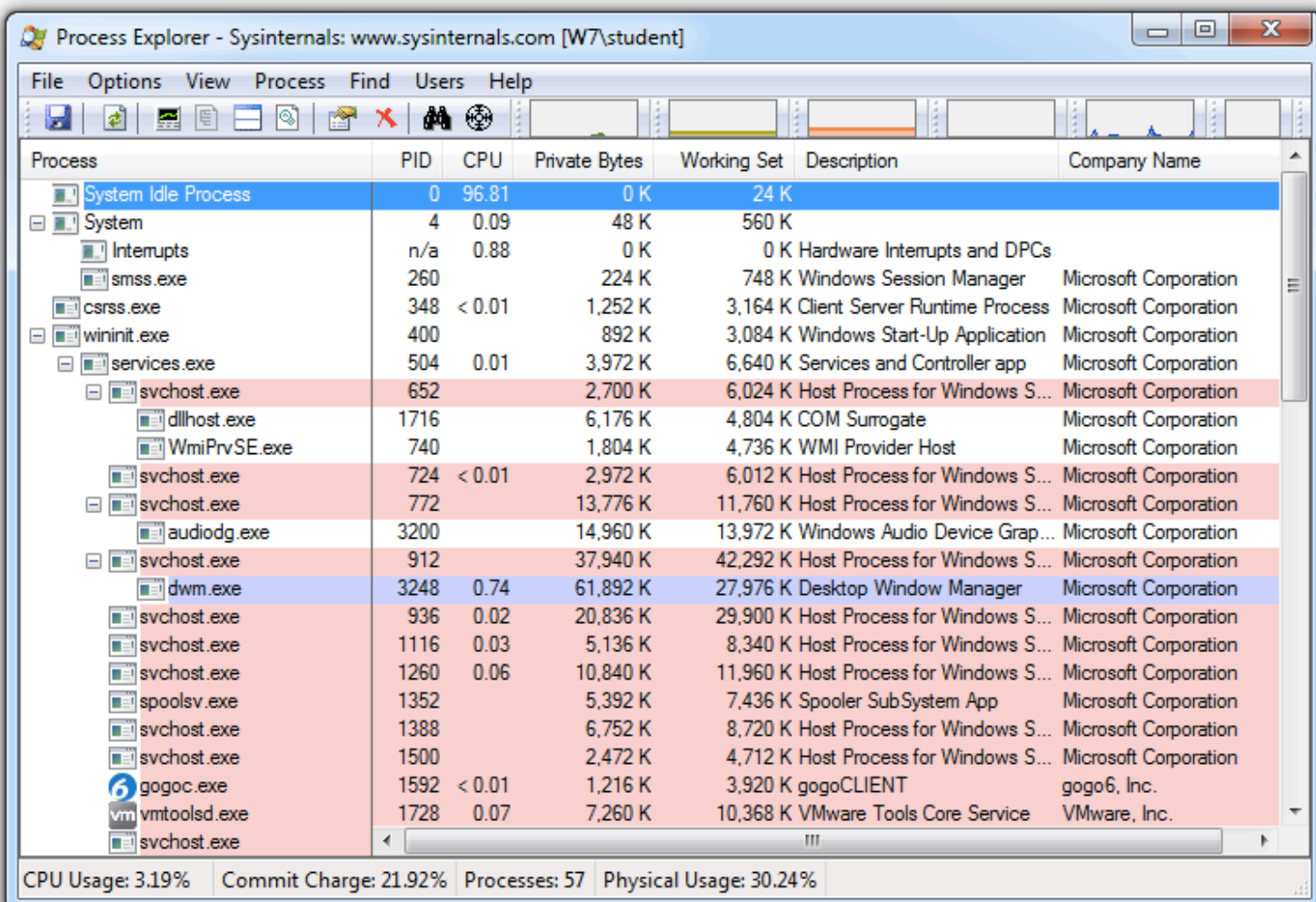
- One technique: hide normal activity before launching malware
- Right-click each Process Name and click **Exclude**
- Doesn't seem to work well with these samples

Filtering with Include

- Most useful filters: Process Name, Operation, and Detail



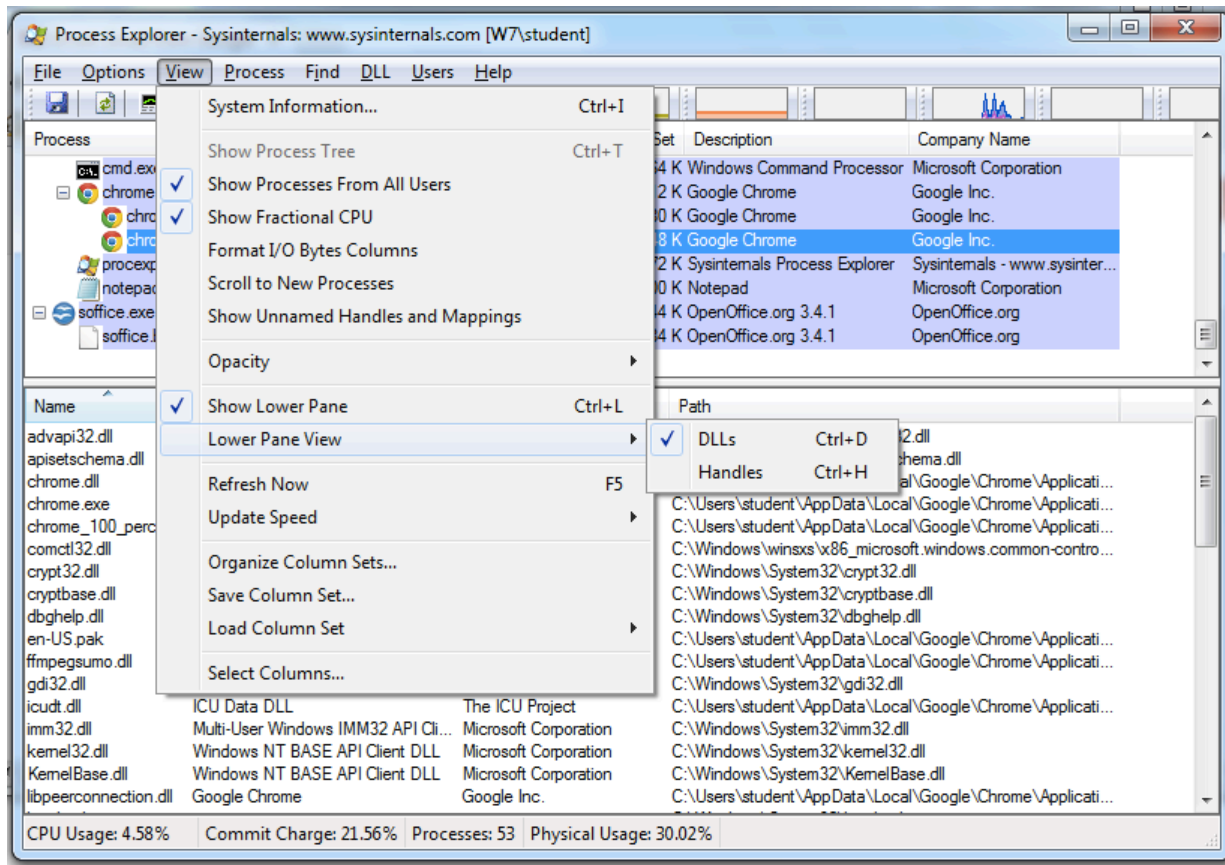
Viewing Processes with Process Explorer



Coloring

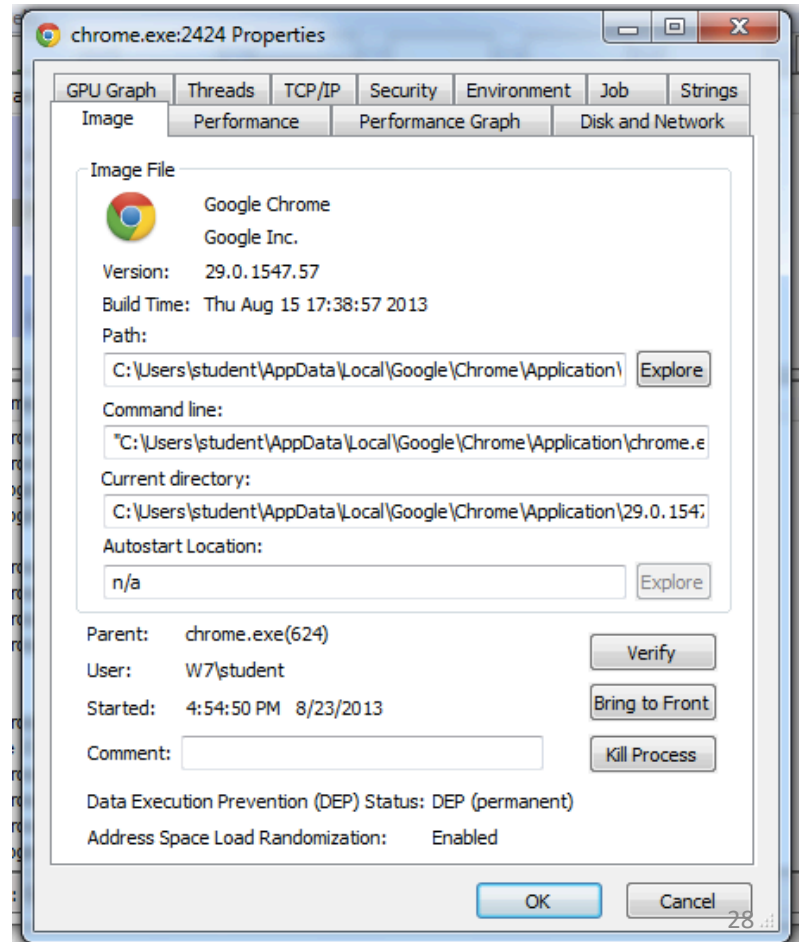
- Services are pink
- Processes are blue
- New processes are green briefly
- Terminated processes are red

DLL Mode



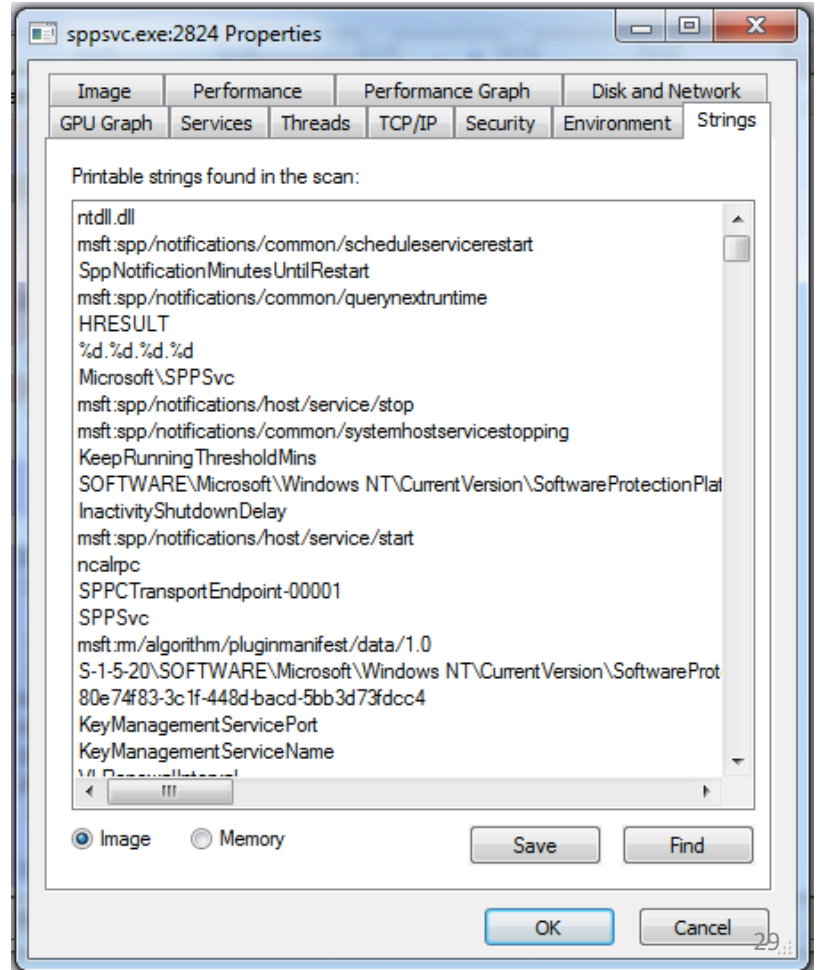
Properties

- Shows DEP and ASLR status
- Verify button checks the disk file's Windows signature
 - But not the RAM image, so it won't detect **process replacement**



Strings

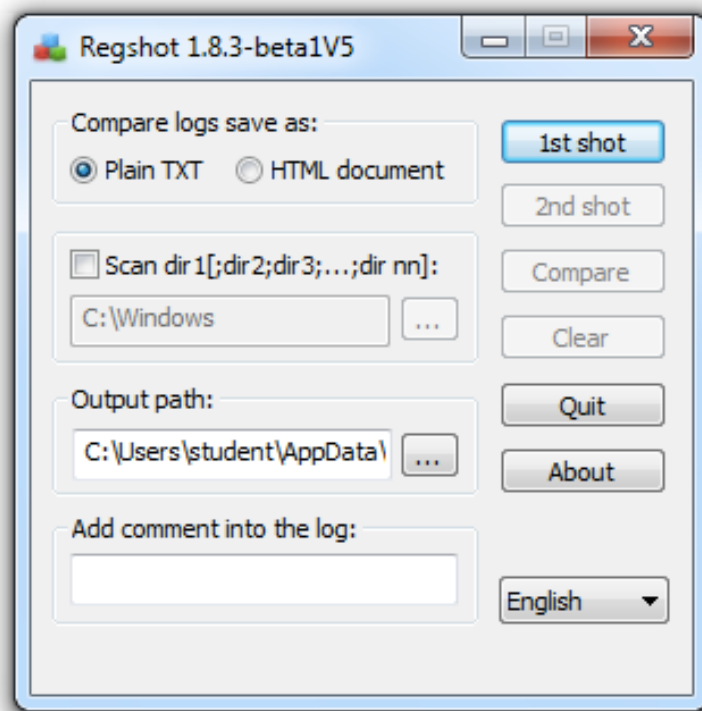
- Compare Image to Memory strings, if they are very different, it can indicate process replacement



Detecting Malicious Documents

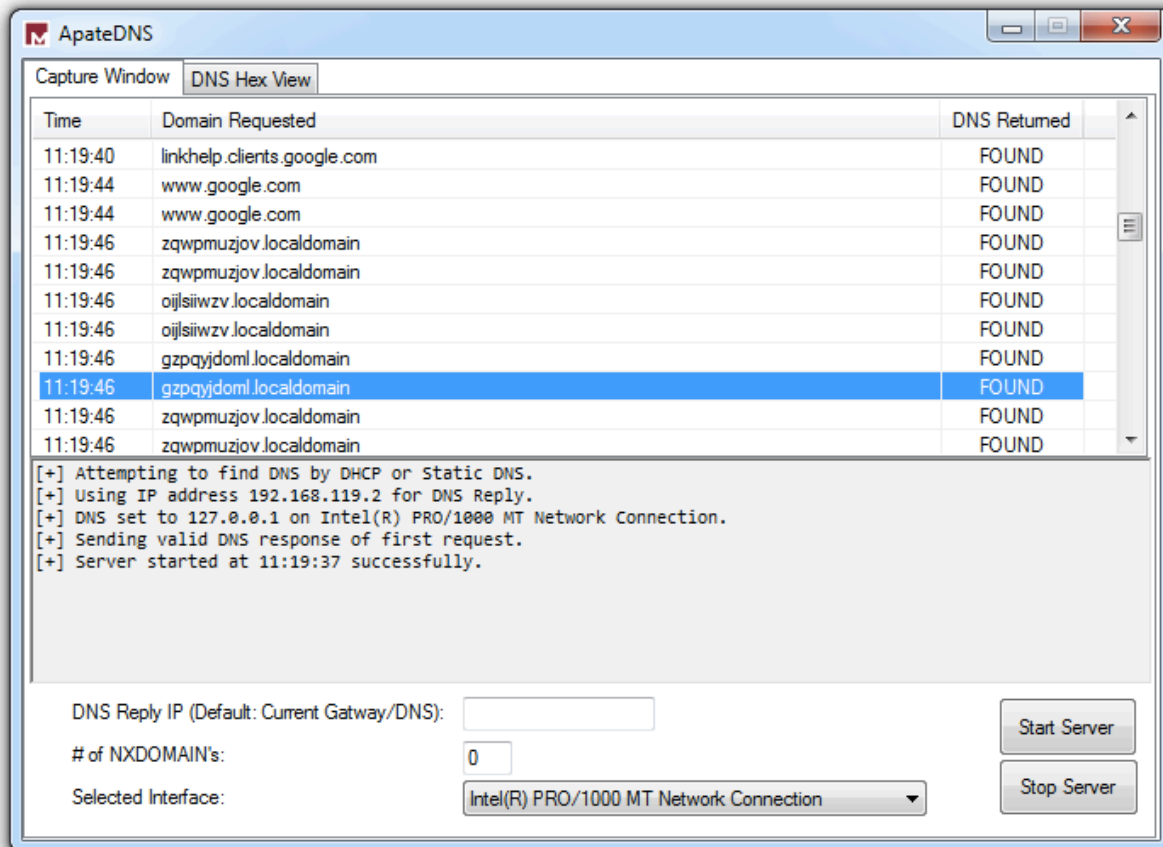
- Open the document (e.g. PDF) on a system with a vulnerable application
- Watch Process Explorer to see if it launches a process
- The Image tab of that process's Properties sheet will show where the malware is

Comparing Registry Snapshots with Regshot

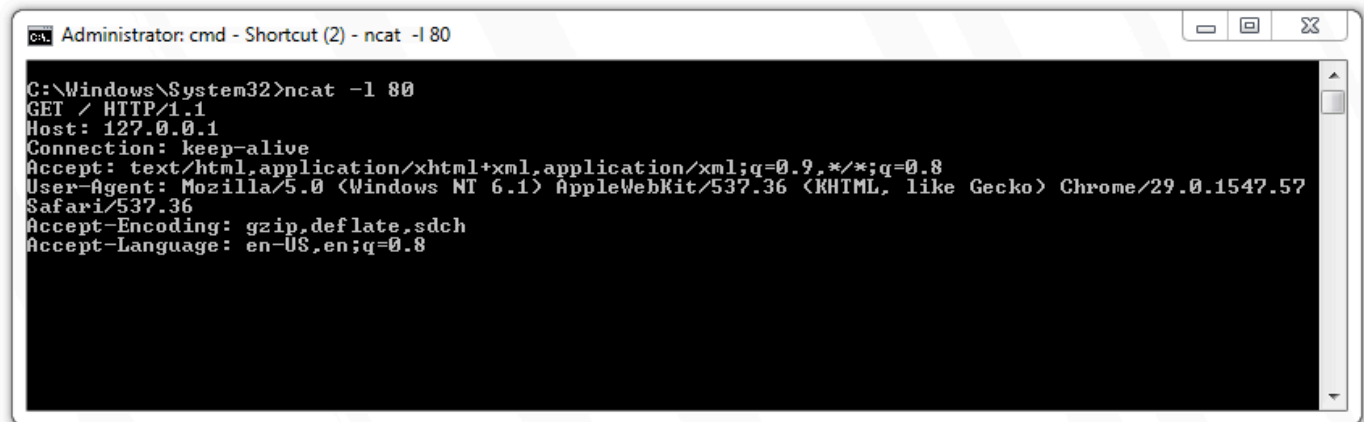


Faking a Network

Using ApateDNS to Redirect DNS Resolutions

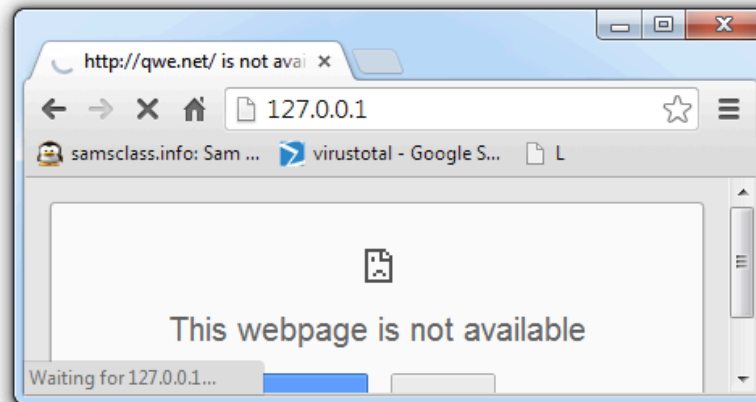


Monitoring with Ncat (included with Nmap)



```
Administrator: cmd - Shortcut (2) - ncat -l 80

C:\Windows\System32>ncat -l 80
GET / HTTP/1.1
Host: 127.0.0.1
Connection: keep-alive
Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,*/*;q=0.8
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/29.0.1547.57 Safari/537.36
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, sdch
Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.8
```



Packet Sniffing with Wireshark

The image displays the Wireshark network protocol analyzer interface. The top menu bar includes File, Edit, View, Go, Capture, Analyze, Statistics, Telephony, Tools, Internals, and Help. Below the menu is a toolbar with various icons for file operations, capture control, and analysis. The main window is divided into three panes:

- Filter:** A text box containing the filter "http".
- Packet List:** A table showing a list of captured packets. The columns are No., Time, Source, Destination, Protocol, and Info. The packets are filtered by the "http" filter.
- Packet Details:** A pane showing the details of the selected packet (Frame 48). It includes the Ethernet II header, Internet Protocol Version 4 header, and the HTTP request body.

The packet list shows the following data:

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Info
1101	7.515707	192.168.119.154	23.65.1.224	HTTP	GET /f.gif?_id=137/45/23/561
1106	7.537336	18.181.0.31	192.168.119.154	HTTP	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (PNG)
1108	7.557449	93.184.216.139	192.168.119.154	HTTP	[TCP Retransmission] cont
1110	7.590291	23.65.1.224	192.168.119.154	HTTP	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (GIF89a)
1111	7.691258	23.65.1.224	192.168.119.154	HTTP	[TCP Retransmission] HTTP/
1189	36.858744	192.168.119.154	199.16.156.21	HTTP	GET /widgets/timelines/pac
1193	36.881799	192.168.119.154	199.16.156.21	HTTP	GET /widgets/timelines/pac
1196	36.954204	199.16.156.21	192.168.119.154	HTTP	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (applicat
1199	37.045979	199.16.156.21	192.168.119.154	HTTP	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (applicat
1369	96.750725	192.168.119.154	199.16.156.21	HTTP	GET /widgets/timelines/pac
1373	96.772892	192.168.119.154	199.16.156.21	HTTP	GET /widgets/timelines/pac
1376	96.846439	199.16.156.21	192.168.119.154	HTTP	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (applicat
1381	96.944497	199.16.156.21	192.168.119.154	HTTP	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (applicat

The packet details pane shows the following information for the selected packet (Frame 48):

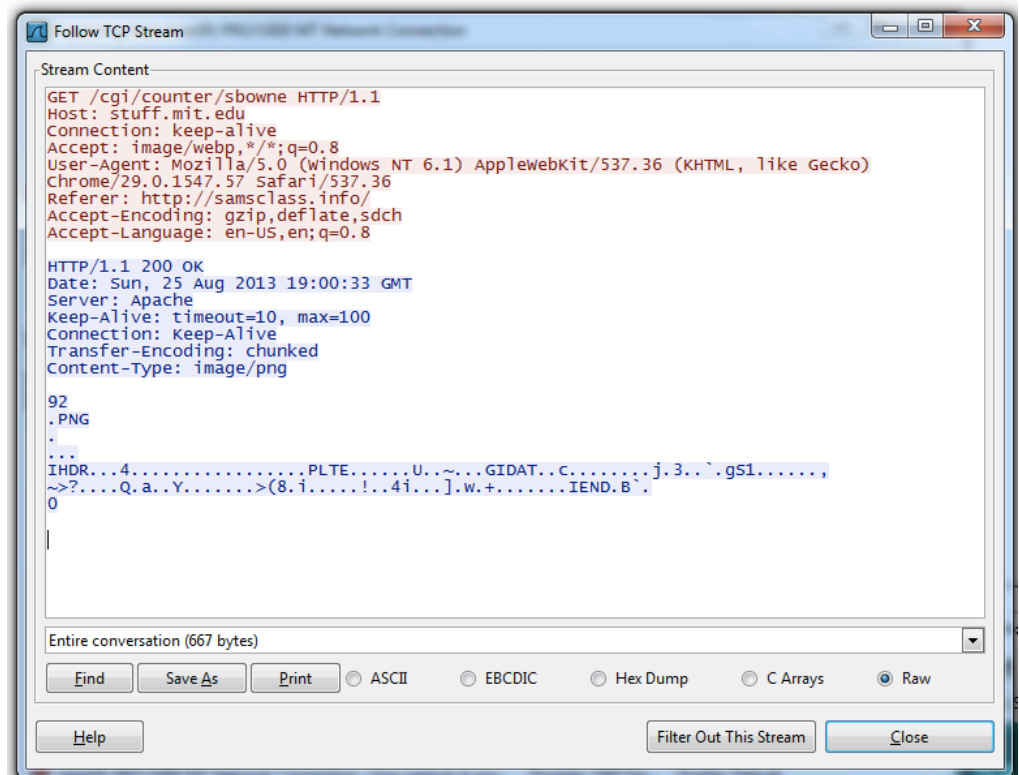
- Frame 48: 437 bytes on wire (3496 bits), 437 bytes captured (3496 bits)
- Ethernet II, Src: vmware_52:34:92 (00:0c:29:52:34:92), Dst: vmware_e3:22:f1 (00:50:56:a3:22:f1)
- Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 192.168.119.154 (192.168.119.154), Dst: 141.101.1.1

The packet bytes pane shows the raw data of the selected packet, including the HTTP request body:

```
0000 00 50 56 e3 22 f1 00 0c 29 52 34 92 08 00 45 00 .PV."... )R4...E.  
0010 01 a7 10 25 40 00 80 06 00 00 c0 a8 77 9a 8d 65 ...%@... ....w..e  
0020 75 98 05 a9 00 50 0c 80 cd 2e dc ff 73 93 50 18 u....P. ....S.P.  
0030 fa f0 3c da 00 00 47 45 54 20 2f 20 48 54 54 50 ..<...GE T / HTTP  
0040 2f 31 2e 31 0d 0a 48 6f 73 74 3a 20 73 61 6d 73 /1...HO st: sams  
0050 63 6c 61 73 73 2e 69 6e 66 6f 0d 0a 43 6f 6e 6e class.in fo..Conn  
0060 65 63 74 69 6f 6e 3a 20 6b 65 65 70 2d 61 6c 69 ection: keep-all  
0070 76 65 0d 0a 41 63 63 65 70 74 3a 20 74 65 78 74 ve..Acce pt: text  
0080 2f 68 74 6d 6c 2c 61 70 70 6c 69 63 61 74 69 6f /html,ap plicatio  
0090 6e 2f 78 68 74 6d 6c 2b 78 6d 6c 2c 61 70 70 6c n/xhtml1+ xml,appl  
00a0 69 63 61 74 69 6f 6e 2f 78 6d 6c 3b 71 3d 30 2e ication/ xml;q=0.
```

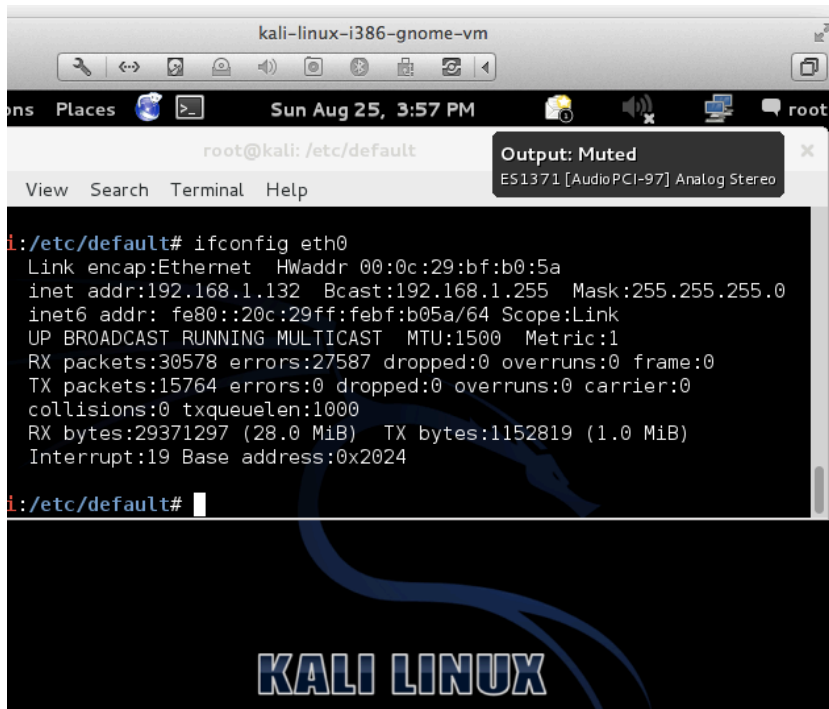
Follow TCP Stream

- Can save files from streams here too



Using INetSim

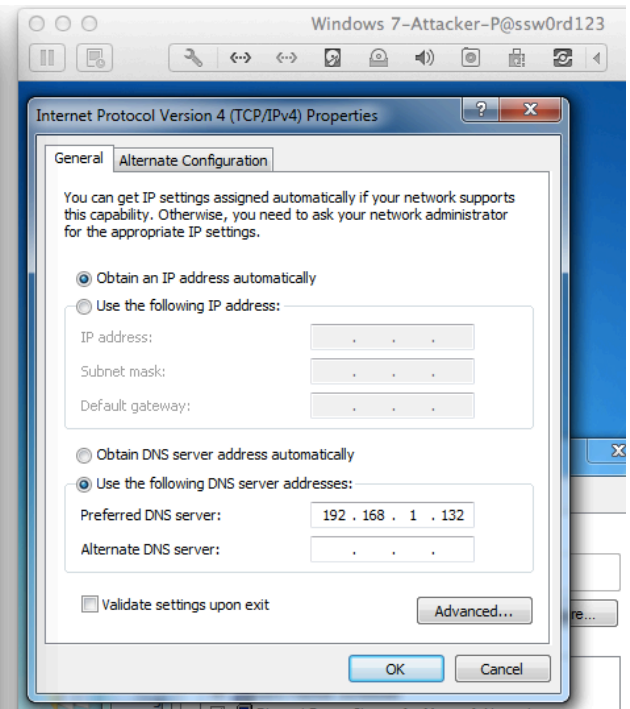
inetsim



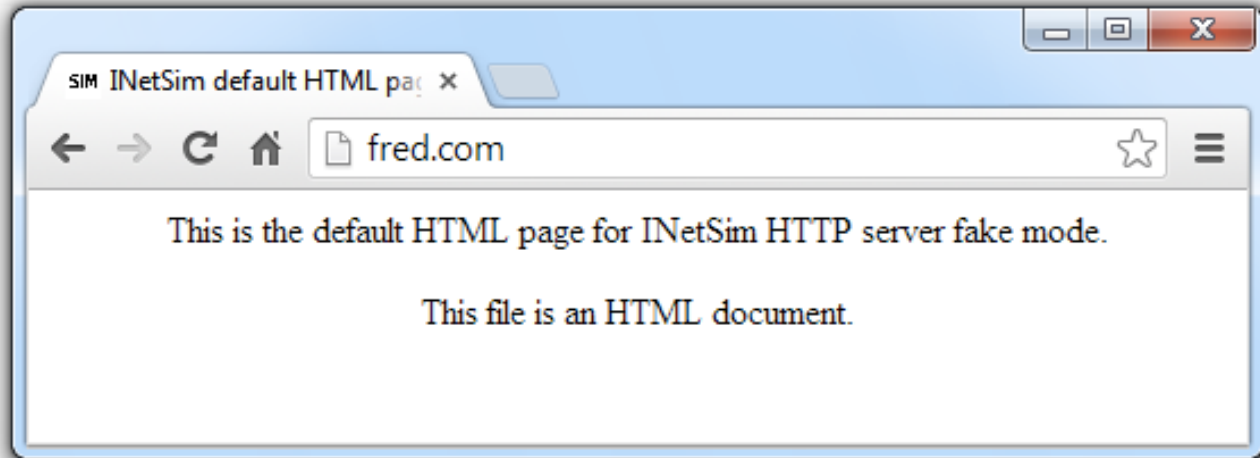
The screenshot shows a Kali Linux terminal window with the title bar 'kali-linux-i386-gnome-vm'. The terminal prompt is 'root@kali: /etc/default'. The command 'ifconfig eth0' has been executed, and the output is displayed. The output shows the configuration for the 'eth0' interface, including its MAC address, IP address (192.168.1.132), broadcast address (192.168.1.255), netmask (255.255.255.0), and other statistics like RX and TX packets, errors, and bytes. The terminal also shows a 'KALI LINUX' logo at the bottom.

```
root@kali: /etc/default# ifconfig eth0
Link encap:Ethernet  HWaddr 00:0c:29:bf:b0:5a
inet addr:192.168.1.132  Bcast:192.168.1.255  Mask:255.255.255.0
inet6 addr: fe80::20c:29ff:febf:b05a/64 Scope:Link
UP BROADCAST RUNNING MULTICAST  MTU:1500  Metric:1
RX packets:30578 errors:27587 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0
TX packets:15764 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0
collisions:0 txqueuelen:1000
RX bytes:29371297 (28.0 MiB)  TX bytes:1152819 (1.0 MiB)
Interrupt:19 Base address:0x2024

root@kali: /etc/default#
```



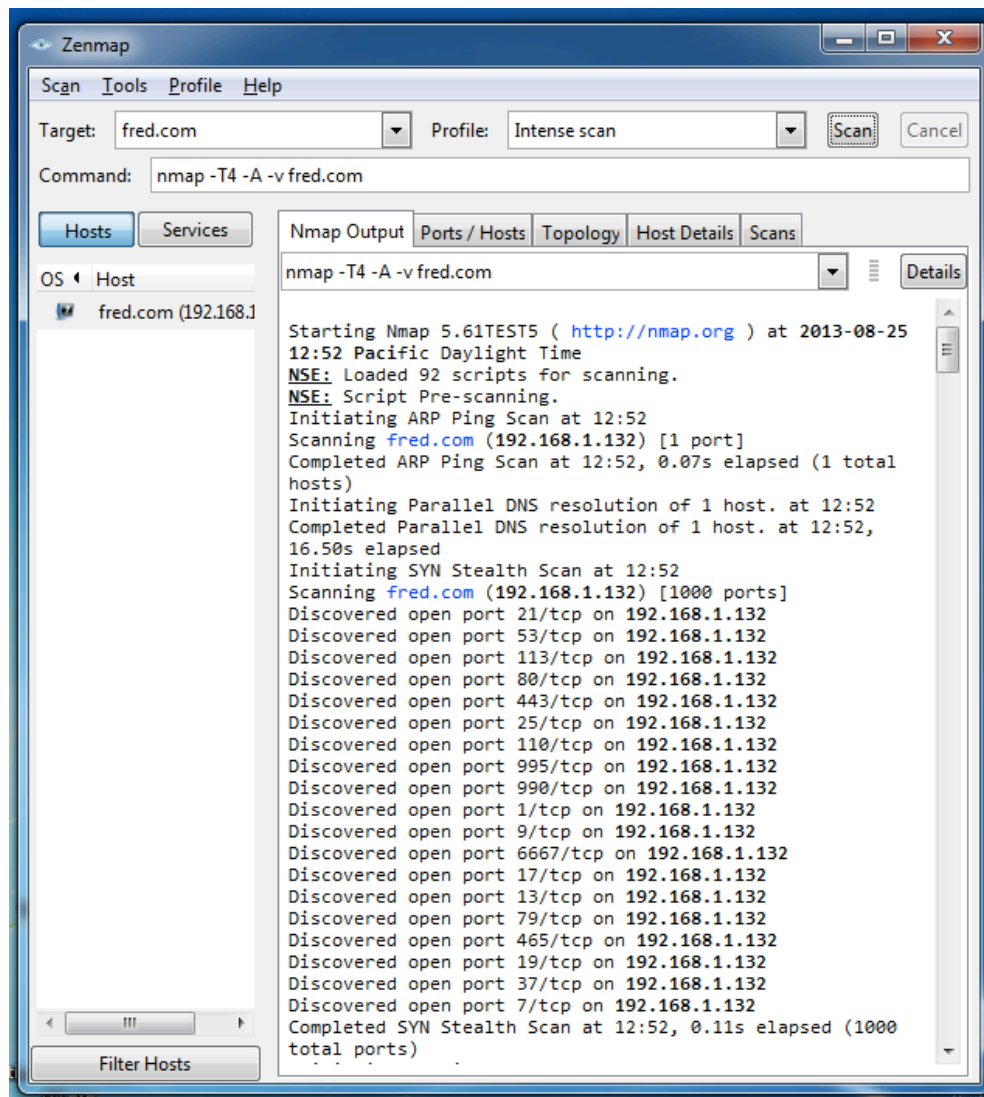
INetSim Fools a Browser



INetSim

Fools

Nmap



Basic Dynamic Tools in Practice

Using the Tools

- Procmon
 - Filter on the malware executable name and clear all events just before running it
- Process Explorer
- Regshot
- Virtual Network with INetSim
- Wireshark

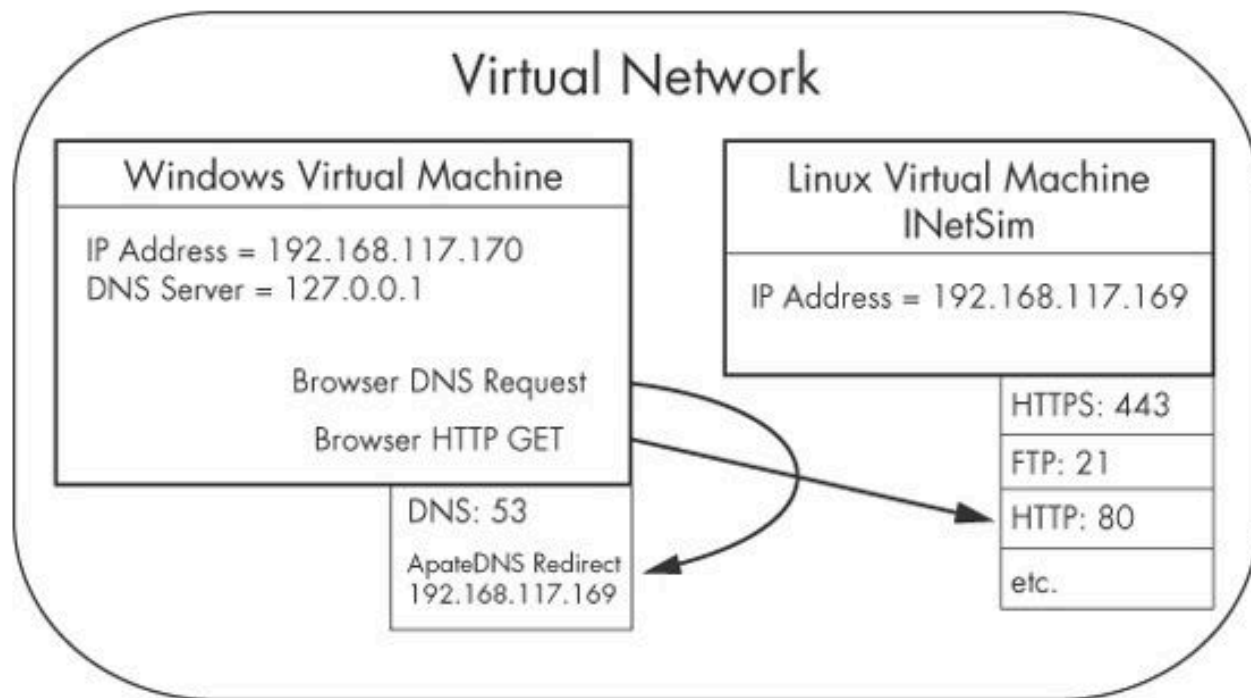


Figure 4-12. Example of a virtual network