

Practical Malware Analysis & Triage Malware Analysis Report

Malware.stage0.exe

Nov 2022 | Zandmann | v1.0



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Executive Summary

SHA256 hash FCA62097B364B2F0338C5E4C5BAC86134CEDFFA4F8DDF27EE9901734128952E3

Malware.stage0.exe is a 32-bit dropper binary first identified on May 14th 2021. It is targeting Windows OS and it is using process injection in order to evade detection and run it's reverse shell code inside legitimate Werfault.exe process.

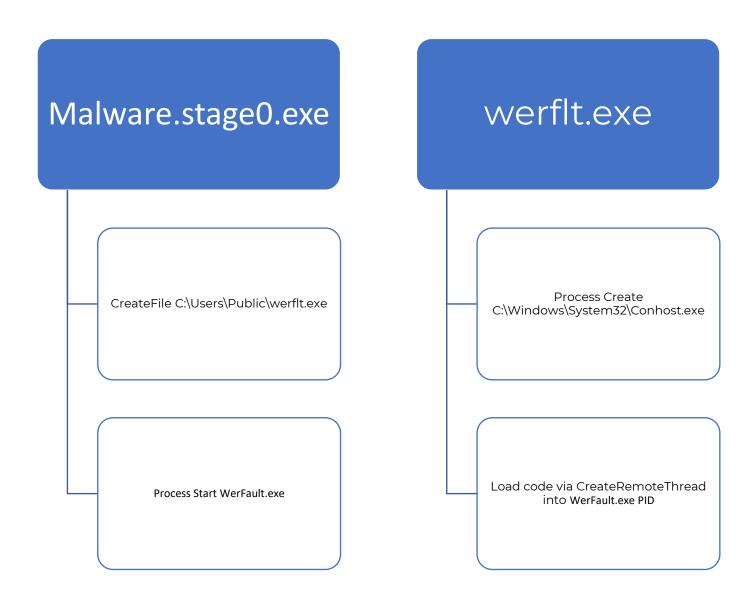
YARA signature rules are attached in Appendix A. Malware sample and hashes have been submitted to VirusTotal for further examination.



High-Level Technical Summary

Malware.stage0.exe consists of two parts: a packed stage 1 dropper and a stage 2 command execution program. Stage 1 creates a stage 2 executable C:\Users\Public\werflt.exe and starts WerFault.exe process, allowing stage 2 binary to inject it's code into WerFault.exe process.

WerFault.exe is then attempting to connect to localhost on port 8443. If succeeds, reverse shell is spawned.





Malware Composition

DemoWare consists of the following components:

File Name	SHA256 Hash
Malware.stage0.exe	fca62097b364b2f0338c5e4c5bac86134cedffa4f8ddf27ee9901734128952e3
werflt.exe	0516009622b951c6c08fd8d81a856eaab70c02e6bc58d066bbdfafe8c6edabea

Malware.stage0.exe

The initial executable that creates a file C:\Users\Public\werflt.exe and start WerFault.exe process.

Werflt.exe

Created executable file containing the second stage payload.



Basic Static Analysis

{Screenshots and description about basic static artifacts and methods}

Stage 1

FCA62097B364B2F0338C5E4C5BAC86134CEDFFA4F8DDF27EE9901734128952E3

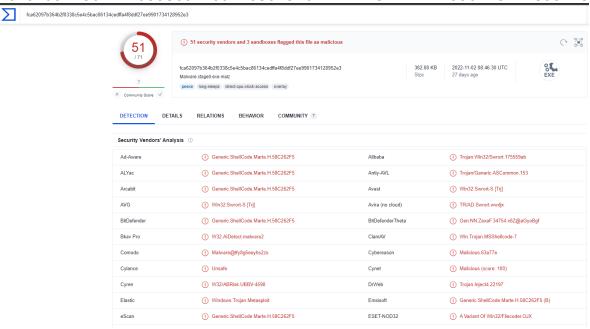


Figure 1 - Virus Total result for dropper file

STRINGS

@C:\Users\Public\werflt.exe

@C:\Windows\SysWOW64\WerFault.exe



We may assume, the binary is written in .nim

```
C:\Users\\T_\times\\Desktop
\( \) cat floss.txt | grep .nim
fatal.nim
io.nim
fatal.nim
@iterators.nim(222, 11) `len(a) == L` the length of the string changed while iterating over it
streams.nim
strutils.nim
oserr.nim
@iterators.nim(222, 11) `len(a) == L` the length of the string changed while iterating over it
@osproc.nim(770, 14) `p.errStream == nil or
@osproc.nim(770, 14) `p.outStream == nil or
@osproc.nim(763, 14) `args.len == 0`
stdlib_io.nim.c
stdlib_times.nim.c
stdlib_times.nim.c
stdlib_assertions.nim.c
onimAddInt
__nimSubInt
stdlib_widestrs.nim.c
__nimTocStringCon
__nimTocStringCon
__nimGc_setStackBottom
@nimGcVisit@8
@nimIntToStr@4
@nimRegisterThreadLocalMarker@4
@nimRegisterThreadLocalMarker@4
@nimRegisterThreadLocalMarker@4
@nimInt64ToStr@8
```

Figure 2 - floss output for dropper file

With some help of pestudio we may spot, virtualized section and embedded files

section > virtualized	<u>.bss</u>	2
overlay > file-ratio	<u>15.10%</u>	2
overlay > entropy	<u>4.665</u>	2
overlay > size	<u>59187 bytes</u>	2
file > embedded	signature: executable, location: .rdata, offset: 0x0000BE28, size: 9060	2
file > embedded	signature: unknown, location: overlay, offset: 0x00051400, size: 59187	2
overlay > signature > name	<u>unknown</u>	2
		_

Figure 3 - indicators (pestudio)

IMPORTS

Imports might give us a tip of binary capabilities.

imports (71)	flag (4)	first-thunk-original (INT)	first-thunk (IAT)	hint	group (8)	type (1)	ordinal (0)	library (3)
VirtualProtect	×	0x0001B44E	0x0001B44E	1469 (0x05BD)	memory	implicit	-	KERNEL32.dll
GetCurrentProcessId	×	0x0001B2E4	0x0001B2E4	544 (0x0220)	execution	implicit	-	KERNEL32.dll
GetCurrentThreadId	×	0x0001B2FA	0x0001B2FA	548 (0x0224)	execution	implicit	-	KERNEL32.dll
TerminateProcess	x	0x0001B3F2	0x0001B3F2	1401 (0x0579)	execution	implicit	_	KERNEL32.dll

Figure 4 - imports data for dropper (pestudio)

VirtualProtect is often used by malware to modify memory protection (often to allow write or execution). Therefore, this might indicate mentioned Process Injection technique.



Stage2

0516009622b951c6c08fd8d81a856eaab70c02e6bc58d066bbdfafe8c6edabea

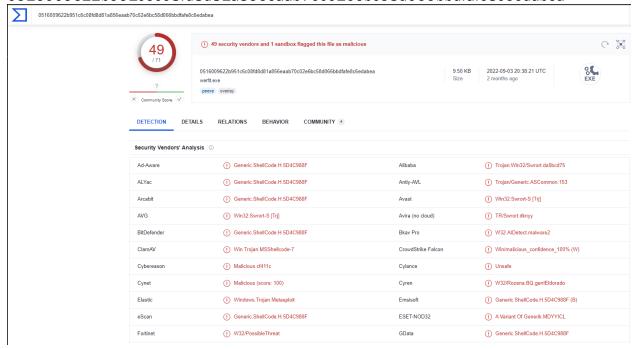


Figure 5 - Virus Total result for stage 2

STRINGS:

!This program cannot be run in DOS mode. C:\Users\Administrator\source\repos\CRTInjectorConsole\Release\CRTInjectorConsole.pdb WriteProcessMemory **OpenProcess** CloseHandle VirtualAllocEx CreateRemoteThread GetModuleHandleW <?xml version='1.0' encoding='UTF-8' standalone='yes'?> <assembly xmlns='urn:schemas-microsoft-com:asm.v1' manifestVersion='1.0'> <trustInfo xmlns="urn:schemas-microsoft-com:asm.v3"> <security> <requestedPrivileges> <requestedExecutionLevel level='asInvoker' uiAccess='false' /> </requestedPrivileges> </security> </trustInfo> </assembly>



IMPORTS

At this point we might be pretty sure, this binary is performing process injection

						1		
imports (46)	flag (6)	first-thunk-original (INT)	first-thunk (IAT)	hint	group (7)	type (1)	ordinal (0)	library (8)
WriteProcessMemory	x	0x00002878	0x00002878	1567 (0x061F)	memory	implicit	-	KERNEL32.dll
<u>OpenProcess</u>	x	0x0000288E	0x0000288E	1039 (0x040F)	execution	implicit	-	KERNEL32.dll
CreateRemoteThread	x	0x000028BC	0x000028BC	234 (0x00EA)	execution	implicit	-	KERNEL32.dll
GetCurrentThreadId	×	0x00002C88	0x00002C88	543 (0x021F)	execution	implicit	-	KERNEL32.dll
GetCurrentProcessId	x	0x00002C72	0x00002C72	539 (0x021B)	execution	implicit	-	KERNEL32.dll
<u>TerminateProcess</u>	×	0x00002C28	0x00002C28	1424 (0x0590)	execution	implicit	-	KERNEL32.dll

Figure 6 - imports data for dropper

Basic Dynamic Analysis

{Screenshots and description about basic dynamic artifacts and methods}

After execution of Malware.stageO.exe, CreateFile werflt.exe operation is performed

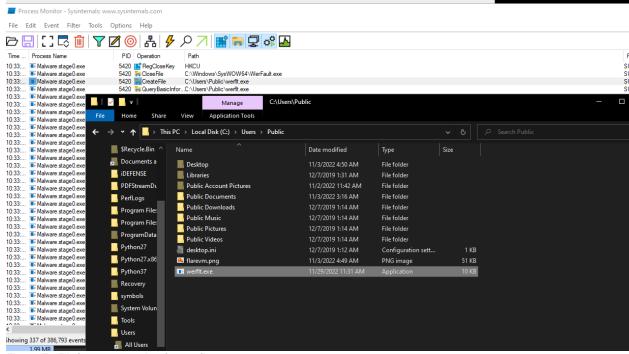


Figure 7 - FileCreate operation for werflt.exe

legitimate WerFault.exe run and werflt.exe execute with legitimate process (WerFault.exe) PID as argument



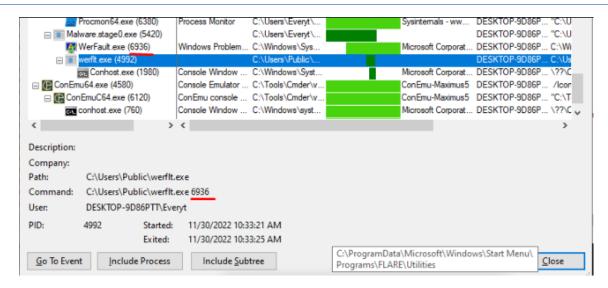


Figure 8 - Process Tree after dropper execution

Cmdline was also spotted for a brief moment

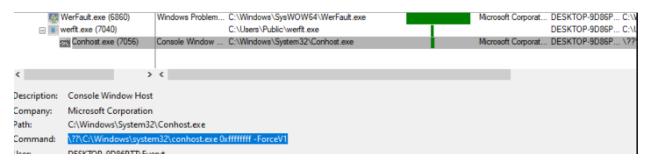


Figure 9 - Process Tree after dropper execution

WerFault.exe tries to connect to 127.0.0.1 on port 8443



Figure 10 - output from tcpview



After setting up noat listener we receive a reverse shell and TCP connection is established

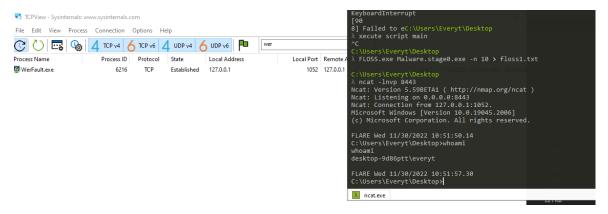


Figure 11 - TCP connection for reverse shell

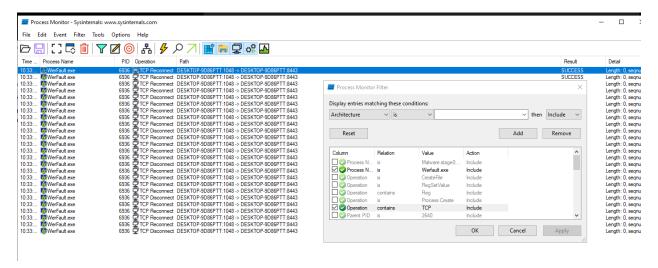


Figure 12 - TCP connections (process monitor)



Advanced Static Analysis

{Screenshots and description about findings during advanced static analysis}

In assembly we may observe a typical pattern for CreateRemoteThread with process injection

```
[0x00401000]
159: int main (int32_t arg_ch);
; var LPCVOID lpBuffer @ ebp-0x14c
; var int32_t var_4h @ ebp-0x4
; arg int32_t arg_ch @ ebp+0xc
                                  ; [00] -r-x section size 4096 named .text
push
       ebp
        ebp, esp
mov
        esp, 0x14c
sub
        eax, dword [0x403004]
        eax, ebp
        dword [var_4h], eax
mov
        eax, dword [arg_ch]
mov
        ecx, 0x51
                                  ; 'Q'; 81
mov
push
        edi
push
        esi, 0x402110
mov
lea
        edi, [lpBuffer]
push dword [eax + 4]
                                  ; const char *str
rep movsd dword es:[edi], dword ptr [esi]
movsb byte es:[edi], byte ptr [esi]
                                 ; 0x40205c ; int atoi(const char *str)
call dword [atoi]
       esp, 4
add
push
                                  ; BOOL bInheritHandle
push
       0x1fffff
                                  ; DWORD dwDesiredAccess
push
       dword [OpenProcess]
                                  ; 0x402004 ; HANDLE OpenProcess(DWORD dwDesiredAccess, BOOL bI...
call 
       0x40
                                  ; '@' ; 64
push
        0x3000
       0x145
push
       edi, eax
mov
                                  ; LPVOID lpAddress
push
                                  ; HANDLE hProcess
push
       edi
                                  ; 0x40200c ; LPVOID VirtualAllocEx(HANDLE hProcess, LPVOID lpA...
        dword [VirtualAllocEx]
push
                                   ; SIZE_T *lpNumberOfBytesWritten
        esi, eax
mov
        eax, [lpBuffer]
lea
       0x145
                                   ; 325 ; SIZE_T nSize
push
                                   ; LPCVOID lpBuffer
                                   ; LPVOID lpBaseAddress
push
        esi
                                   ; HANDLE hProcess
call
        dword [WriteProcessMemory] ; 0x402000 ; BOOL WriteProcessMemory(HANDLE hProcess, LPVOID 1...
```

Figure 13 - CreateRemoteThread code snippet (cutter)



```
push
push
push
       esi
push
                                   ; LPSECURITY_ATTRIBUTES lpThreadAttributes
push
                                   ; HANDLE hProcess
push
       edi
       dword [CreateRemoteThread] ; 0x402010 ; HANDLE CreateRemoteThread(HANDLE hProcess, LPSECU...
call
                                 ; HANDLE hObject
push
       edi
call
       dword [CloseHandle]
                                  ; 0x402008 ; BOOL CloseHandle(HANDLE hObject)
        ecx, dword [var_4h]
        eax, eax
       edi
pop
xor
       ecx, ebp
        esi
        fcn.0040109f
mov
        esp, ebp
pop
        ebp
```

Figure 14 - CreateRemoteThread code snippet (cutter)

API calls:

OpenProcess

```
add esp, 4
push eax
push 0 ; BOOL bInheritHandle
push 0x1fffff ; DWORD dwDesiredAccess
call dword [OpenProcess] ; 0x402004 ; HANDLE OpenProcess(DWORD dwDesiredAccess, BOOL bI...
push 0x40
push 0x2000 call dword [OpenProcess] ; 0x402004 ; HANDLE OpenProcess(DWORD dwDesiredAccess, BOOL bInheritHandle, DWORD dwProcessId)
```

Figure 15 - OpenProcess API call code snippet

uses 3 parameters, with the most interesting one being dwProcessId, which is used in order to get access to WerFault.exe process

and desiredAccess

```
PROCESS_ALL_ACCESS (0x1fffff) All possible access rights for a process object.
```

Figure 16 - reference do MS documentation

dwProcessId was stored in eax after arg_ch was moved into it before this function call

```
mov dword [var_4h], eax
mov eax, dword [arg_ch]
mov ecx, 0x51
```

Figure 17 - OpenProcess API call code snippet

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VirtualAllocEx

Next, eax (process handle at this point) was moved into edi

```
mov edi, eax
```

Figure 18 - VirtualAllocEx API call code snippet

And edi is used in next function in order to allocate memory inside of that process

Figure 19 - VirtualAllocEx API call code snippet

WriteProcessMemory

The same handle is used in this API call in order to write to allocated section of its memory with bytes in previously declared variable

```
159: int main (int32_t arg_ch);
; var LPCVOID lpBuffer @ ebp-0x14c
; var int32_t var_4h @ ebp-0x4
; arg int32_t arg_ch @ ebp+0xc
```

Figure 20 - WriteProcessMemory API call code snippet

```
push 0x145 ; 325 ; SIZE_T nSize
push eax ; LPCVOID lpBuffer
push esi ; LPVOID lpBaseAddress
push edi ; HANDLE hProcess
call dword [WriteProcessMemory] ; 0x402000 ; BOOL WriteProcessMemory(HANDLE hProcess, LPVOID l...
```

Figure 21 - WriteProcessMemory API call code snippet

```
mov esi, eax
lea eax, [lpBuffer]
push oX145 ; 325 ; SIZE_T nSize
push eax ; LPCVOID lpBuffer
push esi ; LPVOID lpBuffer
push edi ; LPVOID lpBaseAddress
push edi ; LPVOID lpBaseAddress
call dword [WriteProcessMemory] ; 0x402000 ; BOOL WriteProcess, LPVOID 1...
push 0
call dword [WriteProcessMemory] ; 0x402000 ; BOOL WriteProcessMemory(HANDLE hProcess, LPVOID lpBaseAddress, LPCVOID lpBuffer, SIZE_T nSize, SIZE_T "lpNumberOfBytesWritten)
```

Figure 22 - WriteProcessMemory API call code snippet

CreateRemoteThread

Two parameters are used in this API call



esi - Start address which is the base address of the data written during VirtualAlloc call

```
push eax ; LPCVOID lpBuffer
push esi ; LPVOID lpBaseAddress
push edi ; HANDLE hProcess
call dword [WriteProcessMemory] ; 0x402000 ; BOOL WriteProcessMemory(HANDLE
```

Figure 23 - CreateRemoteThread API call code snippet

```
LPTHREAD_START_ROUTINE lpStartAddress
```

edi - process handle

```
METAD.dll_current

| METAD.dll_current
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| METAD.dll_current
| METAD.dll_current
| METAD
```

Figure 24 - CreateRemoteThread API call code snippet

With the above actions, a shellcode was injected into WerFault.exe process.

After having a closer look at WerFault.exe in Process Hacker we may observe an extensive amount of permissions (RWX) for a particular section

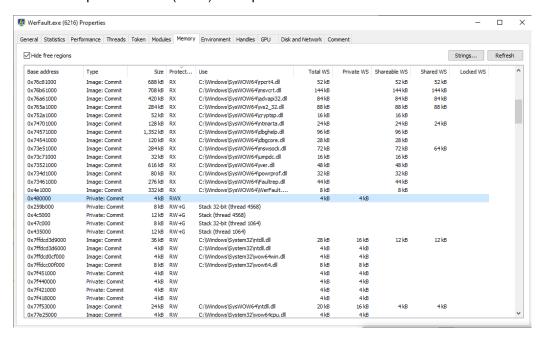


Figure 25 - Process Hacker



With injected shellcode in it

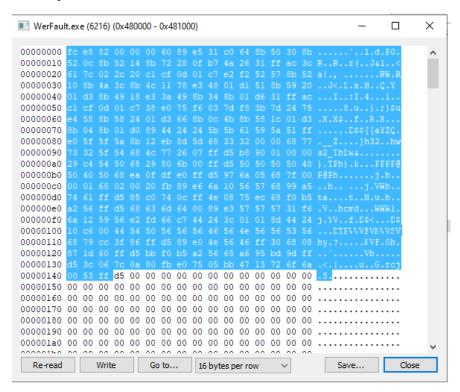


Figure 26 - Process Hacker



Advanced Dynamic Analysis

{Screenshots and description about advanced dynamic artifacts and methods}

API calls present in stage1 file

Figure 27 - main API calls (x32dbg)



Indicators of Compromise

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

Network Indicators

{Description of network indicators}

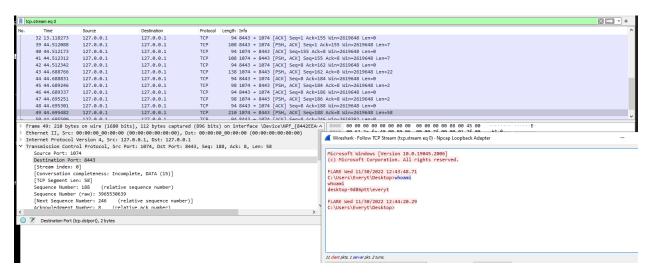


Figure 28 - WireShark Packet Capture of reverse shell connection

Host-based Indicators

{Description of host-based indicators}

Strings:

@C:\Users\Public\werflt.exe

@C:\Windows\SysWOW64\WerFault.exe

Registry (RegSetValue):

Filename:

Malware.stage0.exe werflt.exe C:\Users\Public\werflt.exe

sha256 hash:

fca62097b364b2f0338c5e4c5bac86134cedffa4f8ddf27ee9901734128952e3 0516009622b951c6c08fd8d81a856eaab70c02e6bc58d066bbdfafe8c6edabea

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Rules & Signatures

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

{Information on specific signatures, i.e. strings, URLs, etc}



Appendices

A. Yara Rules

Full Yara repository located at: https://github.com/Zandmann/YARA

```
rule Yara_Malware {

meta:
    last_updated = "2022-11-30"
    author = "Zandmann"
    description = "Yara for Malware.stage0.exe"

strings:
    // Fill out identifying strings and other criteria
    $string1 = "C:\\Users\\Public\\werflt.exe" ascii nocase
    $string2 = "C:\\Windows\\SyswOW64\\WerFault.exe" ascii nocase
    $string3 = "CRTInjectorConsole.pdb" ascii nocase
    $PE_magic_byte = "MZ"
    $sus_hex_string = { FF 15 10 20 40 }

condition:
    // Fill out the conditions that must be met to identify the binary
    $PE_magic_byte at 0 and
    ($string1 and $string2) or

    ($sus_hex_string and $string3)
}
```

B. Callback IPs

IPs	Port
127.0.0.1	8443



C. Decompiled Code Snippets

```
mov
        esi, 0x402110
        edi, [lpBuffer]
lea
        dword [eax + 4]
                                   ; const char *str
        movsd dword es:[edi], dword ptr [esi]
rep
        byte es:[edi], byte ptr [esi]
movsb
                                   ; 0x40205c ; int atoi(const char *str)
call
        dword [atoi]
add
        esp, 4
push
        eax
                                   ; BOOL bInheritHandle
push
push
                                   ; DWORD dwDesiredAccess
        dword [OpenProcess]
                                   ; 0x402004 ; HANDLE OpenProcess(DWORD dwDesiredAccess, BOOL bI...
call
push
        0x40
push
        0x3000
push
        0x145
mov
        edi, eax
                                   ; LPVOID lpAddress
push
                                   ; HANDLE hProcess
        edi
                                   ; 0x40200c ; LPVOID VirtualAllocEx(HANDLE hProcess, LPVOID lpA...
call
        dword [VirtualAllocEx]
push
                                   ; SIZE_T *lpNumberOfBytesWritten
mov
        esi, eax
        eax, [lpBuffer]
lea
push
        0x145
                                   ; 325 ; SIZE_T nSize
        eax
                                    ; LPCVOID lpBuffer
                                     LPVOID lpBaseAddress
        esi
                                    ; HANDLE hProcess
push
        dword [WriteProcessMemory]; 0x402000; BOOL WriteProcessMemory(HANDLE hProcess, LPVOID 1...
call
push
push
        esi
push
                                   ; LPSECURITY_ATTRIBUTES lpThreadAttributes
push
                                    ; HANDLE hProcess
call
        dword [CreateRemoteThread]; 0x402010; HANDLE CreateRemoteThread(HANDLE hProcess, LPSECU...
push
                                   ; HANDLE hObject
        dword [CloseHandle]
                                   ; 0x402008 ; BOOL CloseHandle(HANDLE hObject)
        ecx, dword [var_4h]
xor
        eax, eax
        edi
        ecx, ebp
```

Figure 29 - Process Injection Routine in Cutter



D. MITRE

T1055.003

T1129

```
C:\Users\Public>capa werflt.exe
loading : 100%|
matching: 100%|
                                                                                                                 485/485 [00:00<00:00, 610.13 rules/s]
| 60/60 [00:02<00:00, 23.91 functions/s]
   md5
                                       0da707ecf411cf8859a221879cc60ea4
                                       b52f520eae2f03ce043602a2361ebf4af64e3f47
   sha1
                                       0516009622b951c6c08fd8d81a856eaab70c02e6bc58d066bbdfafe8c6edabea
   sha256
   path
                                       werflt.exe
  ATT&CK Tactic
                                     | ATT&CK Technique
                                       Process Injection::Thread Execution Hijacking [T1055.003] Shared Modules [T1129]
                                            MBC Behavior
  MBC Objective
                                              Allocate Memory [C0007]
Create Thread [C0038]
Terminate Process [C0018]
   CAPABILITY
                                                                                 NAMESPACE
                                                                                   executable/pe/pdb
executable/pe/section/rsrc
host-interaction/process/inject
host-interaction/process/terminate
   terminate process
terminate process via fastfail (2 matches)
parse PE header (2 matches)
                                                                                    host-interaction/process/terminate
                                                                                    load-code/pe
                                                                                    load-code/shellcode
```

Figure 30 - MITRE mapping (CAPA)