



## Ransomware Key Recovery



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This training exercise is meant to be completed in groups.

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In May 2017, the WannaCry ransomware crypto worm spread worldwide, encrypting a victims' data and demanding a ransom to be paid in the form of bitcoin. Over 200,000 victims were affected by this attack worldwide including the National Health Service hospitals in England and Scotland. Although a kill switch has been addressed to combat the worm, the danger continues in the different emerging variants.

**You and your partner are part of an elite research group, developing the next vaccine for the flu. The machine being used to store data requires software that is only compatible with an older version of Windows 7, making it vulnerable to attacks. In an attempt to look for a better alternative, your coworker, Alice, comes across a free program. Unfortunately, the program turned out to be ransomware and infected the network.**

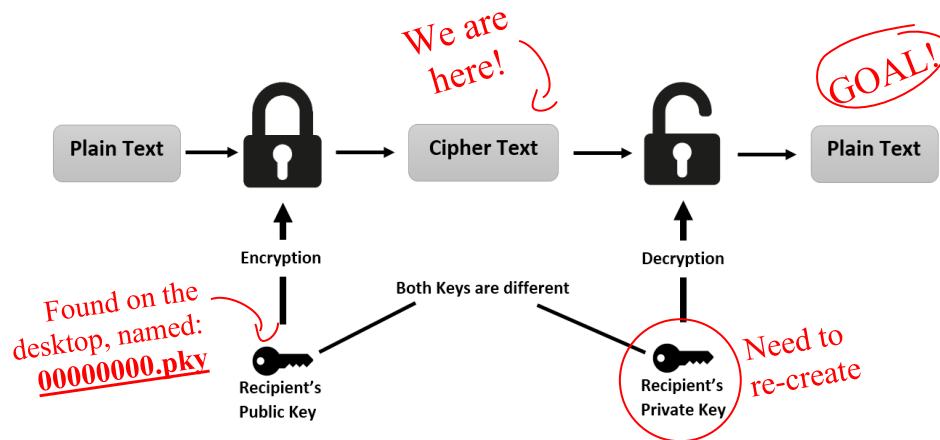


Figure 1 RSA encryption protocol.

**Luckily, your personal computer was updated to include the latest security patch and you decide to use it to analyze the malware. Alice helps by drawing out the plan above. You and your partner need to help Alice recover the data to finish the vaccine on time!**

Your RIG consists of the following.

- **Win7-keyRecovery VM:** the machine that you will infect with the WannaCry ransomware.
- **CleanWin7 VM:** the machine that you will use for analysis and to generate a decryption key.
- A directory called **Shared folder** used for sharing files between the machines. This folder is located on the Desktop of both machines.

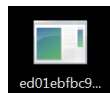
## Step 1 - Dynamic Analysis of the Process Memory (Win7-keyRecovery Machine)

Run the WannaCry malware in your sandbox and observe its behavior on the machine.

1. Start the Win7-keyRecovery by clicking on the corresponding link in your browser. You should see a Windows Desktop. If prompted, login using the following credentials:

Username: **Reversing**

Password: **malware**



2. Open **WannaCry** by double clicking on this file: `ed01ebfbc9...` on the desktop. Click **No** on any prompts that may come up.
3. The program will execute and will finish once you receive the message shown below.



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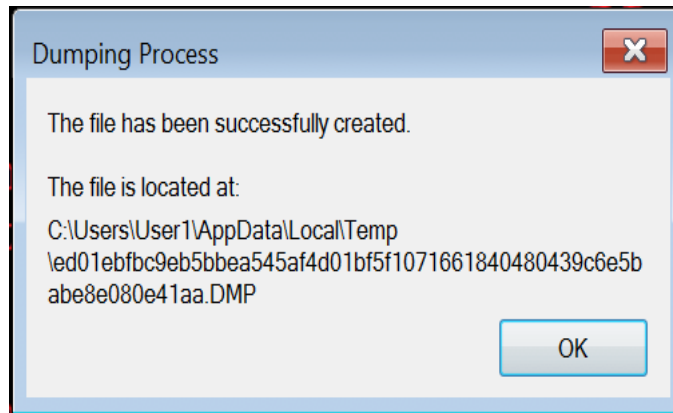
You are smart, so you want to freeze and save a copy of the computer so you can analyze it later. You do this as soon as possible to make sure the ransomware or the operating system don't remove important artifacts that are essential for undoing the chaos.


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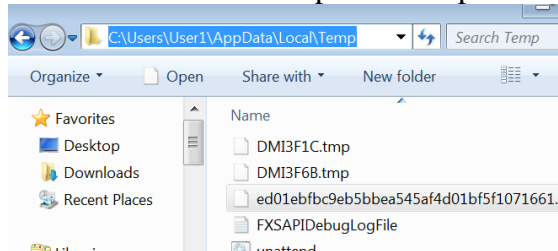
4. Open **Task Manager** by pressing the *windows key* and searching *task manager*. Clicking on '**View running processes with Task Manager**'
5. Click on the **Processes** tab and click on **Show processes from all users**. Find the WannaCry process (it starts with `ed01ebfbc...`)


UWINL.EXE	User1	00	190 K	Desktop Wi...
ed01ebfbc9eb5...	User1	00	14,064 K	DiskPart
avrilner.exe	User1	00	23,016 K	Windows F

6. Right-click and select **Create Dump File**. You should see the following screen.



7. Open an explorer window  and then enter the path in the path bar as shown below.



8. Drag and drop the memory dump file to the Desktop.
9. Now let's copy a few files to a shared folder so we can analyze them on a separate machine. Start by double clicking the folder on the desktop named: **Shared Folder**
10. Locate the **public key file**, named: **00000000.pky** on the Desktop. Copy both this **public key file** and the **memory dump file** to the shared folder.
11. Open **HxD Hex Editor** by **double-clicking** on  on the desktop. Then click **File->Open** and select the **public key** located on the desktop.

The next big step is to figure out the bad guy's private key. We'll need to look at a few values from the public key: a **special header**, the **exponent**, and the **modulus**.

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The public key can be seen in the image below and consists of a **special header** (red), the public **exponent** (yellow), and the **modulus** (blue). Figure 2 is colored to identify components easier. When using HxD, the components will not be colored. There is a bit of an issue as the values are actually in the reverse order that we will need them. For example, if we encounter the following 8 digits **12 34 56 78**, we would need to convert them to the following instead: **78 56 34 12**. (This is actually a known issue in computing called little versus big endianness).

For example, consider the public exponent bytes in little-endian: **01 00 01 00**. The actual value of these bytes would be **00 01 00 01**. The bytes are reversed.

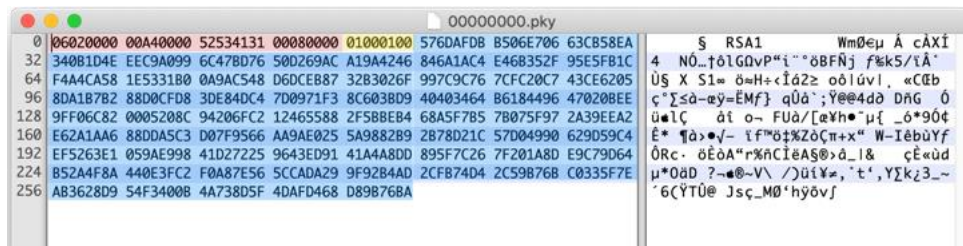


Figure 2 Public Key (Color-Coded) – Consists of header (in red), exponent (in yellow), and modulus (in blue).

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12. Look at your hex editor and identify your public exponent. Write down your public exponent, *as displayed in the hex editor*? \_\_\_\_\_
13. **Reverse** the bytes from number 1215 as described above and then write them here. Hint: it should match the example explained above. \_\_\_\_\_
14. Look at your hex editor and identify your modulus. What are the *first 8 characters (or 4 bytes)* of the modulus, *as displayed in the hex editor*? \_\_\_\_\_
15. Look at your hex editor and identify your modulus. What are the *last 8 character (or 4 bytes)* of the modulus, *as displayed in the hex editor*? \_\_\_\_\_
16. **Reverse** the bytes from number 15 as described above and then write them here.  
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Now you will use IDA Pro to search for a few more numbers that were present in the memory dump for the ransomware process.

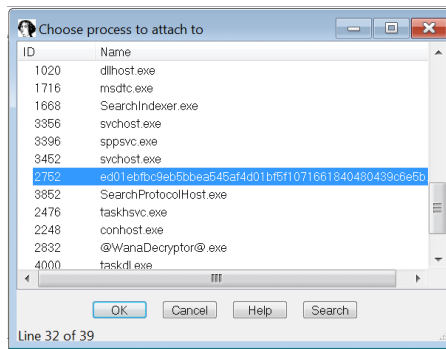
You will also simulate the effects of restarting the machine, as a first instinct, in the hopes that everything will go back to normal.

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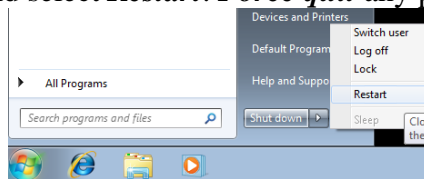


17. Open up **IDA Pro Free** by **double-clicking** on IDA Pro Free on the desktop. Then click on **GO**.

18. On the toolbar, click on **Debugger -> Attach -> Local Windows Debugger**. Then look for the WannaCry process (it starts with **ed01ebfbc...**) and click **OK**.



19. When the main IDA Pro Window opens, on the toolbar click on the **Play** button just below the toolbar and then click the **Pause** button.
20. Now open the search Windows by clicking **Search -> sequence of bytes**. This will take a few seconds to complete.
21. In the String box, type in your **answer for number 16**. Make sure **Find all occurrences** is selected. How many occurrences did it find? \_\_\_\_\_
22. Click on the **Windows button** and select **Restart. Force quit** any processes that are active.



23. After restart, run the **WannaCry process** on the Desktop again.
24. **Repeat steps 17 – 21**.
25. How many occurrences did it find this time? \_\_\_\_\_
26. Did the number of occurrences change? Write down a few reasons why you think this is the case.

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## Step 2 – Extracting Encryption Parameters from the Memory Dump (CleanWin7 Machine)

Recall that in the previous step, you froze a copy of the process data before you restarted. Now you can look in this image to find all of the values you need to recreate the decryption key!

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Before building the private key, we'll take a closer look at the full structure of the RSA keys. The RSA structure contains several items in addition to the ones you captured previously; many of which we'll need eventually to re-create the private key as shown in Figure 1. The memory dump will provide us with the two prime numbers and the rest can be obtained with a calculator.

Name	Size	Variable name in RSA equation	Color-code
Heading	16 bytes (32 characters)	N/A	Red
Public Exponent	4 bytes (8 characters)	<b>E</b>	Yellow
Modulus	256 bytes (512 characters)	<b>N</b>	Blue
Prime Number 1	128 bytes (256 characters)	<b>P</b>	Green
Prime Number 2	128 bytes (256 characters)	<b>Q</b>	Orange
CRT Exponent 1	128 bytes (256 characters)	<b>dP</b>	Purple
CRT Exponent 2	128 bytes (256 characters)	<b>dQ</b>	Light Blue
CRT Exponent Coefficient	128 bytes (256 characters)	<b>qInv</b>	Black
Private Exponent	256 bytes (512 characters)	<b>D</b>	Pink



Figure 3 Format with Color-coded values

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1. Exit the current Windows machine by clicking the Back button in your Browser. Now, start the CleanWin7 by clicking on the corresponding link.
2. Open **HxD Hex Editor** by *double-clicking* on  the desktop. Then open the *public key* that you stored in the shared folder (00000000.pky).


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When WannaCry creates the public key, it uses two prime numbers to calculate a key value. The primes are stored in memory until they are overwritten or cleared. Creating the dump file in a timely manner decreases the chance of losing that data (Note: newer machines clear the memory right away).

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3. Click on **File -> Open** and selecting the **DMP file** on the shared folder (it starts with **ed01ebfbc...**).
4. On the toolbar click on **Search -> Find**. Then click on the **Hex-values** tab and select **All** for the search directions.
5. In the search bar, enter your *answer from Step 1, number 15* and click on **Search all**.
6. Double-click through the occurrences and find the one that contains the following characters right after the value you searched: **11000110**.

Now we need to extract a few numbers from the rest of this memory dump. They're mixed with other numbers, so we'll have to skip a few numbers and paste only what we need into a temporary spreadsheet file named **Calculations Template**.

7. Open **Calculations Template** by *double-clicking* on  on the desktop we'll start filling in highlighted the green and blue cells.
8. Enter you answer from **Step 1, number 12** under **Public Exponent (little endian)**.
9. Go back to the HxD application. See Figure 4 on the next page (your values and their placement will be different). From the found value (the *end of modulus*). Look roughly **8 rows up** to find the value from **Step 1 number 14**. This is the start of the modulus.



- Highlight the bytes corresponding with the entire modulus the HxD program (the length of bytes you select can be seen at the bottom of application labeled "**Length(d):**" make sure it's **256 bytes**). **Copy and paste** the modulus into the **Calculations Template** spreadsheet under **Modulus (little endian)**.

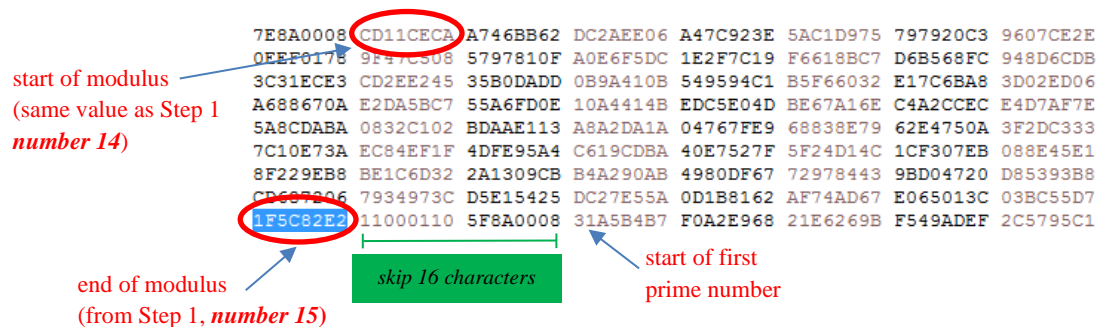
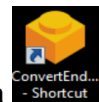
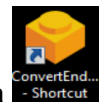


Figure 4 Encryption numbers in DMP file.

- After the end of the modulus, skip 16 characters (**8 bytes**), and then the next 256 characters (**128 bytes**) make up the **first prime number** (see Figure 4). Highlight the bytes corresponding with the first prime number the HxD program (the length of bytes you select can be seen at the bottom of application – make sure it's **128 bytes**) and then **copy** and **paste** them into the spreadsheet under **Prime 1 (little endian)**.
- After the first prime number, skip another 16 characters (**8 bytes**), and then the next 256 characters (**128 bytes**) make up the **second prime number**. Highlight and copy the second prime number and place it under **Prime 2 (little endian)**. The length of bytes you select can be seen at the bottom of the HxD application – make sure it's **128**.

We've found all of the values we need from our memory dump. The next step is to get the reverse of some of the numbers (or the **big endian** version) for the modulus and primes.



- Open the **Endian Converter** by **double-clicking** on  on the desktop. From the **Calculations Template** copy over the values under **Modulus (little endian)**, click **Convert** and then paste the result back into the **Calculations Template** under **Modulus (big endian)**.

If the converter prompts you that your number is **not even**, make sure there is no space at the end. If there is no space, add a 0 (zero) to the start of your number and try again.

- Repeat the conversion process from **number 13** for all of the little endian values in your spreadsheet (**primes, public exponent, special header**). Hint: Public Exponent (big endian) should match your answer from Step 1, number 13.

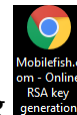


### Step 3 – Calculating the Missing Encryption Values

The following shows the mapping between values and their variable name in RSA equations.

Name	Variable name in RSA equation	Status
Heading	N/A	Found
Public Exponent	<b>e</b>	Found
Modulus	<b>n</b>	Found
Prime Number 1	<b>p</b>	Found
Prime Number 2	<b>q</b>	Found
CRT Exponent 1	<b>dP</b>	Need to Calc
CRT Exponent 2	<b>dQ</b>	Need to Calc
CRT Exponent Coefficient	<b>qInv</b>	Need to Calc
Private Exponent	<b>d</b>	Need to Calc

You'll need to calculate a few more numbers with a script conveniently located on your Desktop.



1. Open the ***RSA key generation*** script by ***double-clicking*** on the desktop. Scroll down until you see the ***Input online RSA key generation form***.
2. ***Copy and paste*** the ***PRIME 1 (big endian)*** and ***PRIME 2 (big endian)*** from ***Calculations Template*** into the boxes.

A screenshot of a web form titled 'Input online RSA key generation:'. The form has a light green background. It contains a section 'Step 1: Enter or generate prime numbers'. Under this section, there are two main input areas for prime numbers p and q. Each area has a dropdown menu set to 'hexadecimal', a 'Bitsize: 0' label, and a large text input box. Red text annotations with blue arrows point to these input boxes: 'PRIME 1 goes here (big endian)' points to the first prime number input box, and 'PRIME 2 goes here (big endian)' points to the second prime number input box. There are also buttons for 'Auto generate prime number p and q' and 'Enter prime number (p)\*:' and 'Enter prime number (q)\*:'.

3. Scroll down further until you see ***Step 2: Enter public exponent***. Enter your value for the ***public exponent (big endian)*** from the ***Calculations Template***, and then click on the ***Generate Keys*** button.

**Step 2: Enter public exponent**

Public exponent (e) is a \*: hexadecimal

Public exponent (e)\*: 00010001


Demo 1 Clear

**Step 3: Generate public / private keys based on prime numbers and exponent**

Convert generated keys to \*: hexadecimal

Generate keys

4. Scroll down and verify that the *modulus* matches what you have in your spreadsheet.
5. Look through the form and copy the private exponent (d) into the *private exponent (big endian)* on your spreadsheet. Continue through and also copy into the spreadsheet the *big endian* values for CRT exponent 1 (*dP*), CRT exponent 2 (*dQ*), and CRT coefficient (*qInv*).
6. You should now have all of the values in your spreadsheet under the *big endian* column filled.

Use the Endian Converter  to calculate and then fill in the missing values in the little endian column.

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If you are asking yourself, where do these equations come from? These equations are standard for the creation of RSA keys; however, the formatting and layout may differ.

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Once you're done, close all other windows except for the  
*Calculations Template* and the *HxD application*.

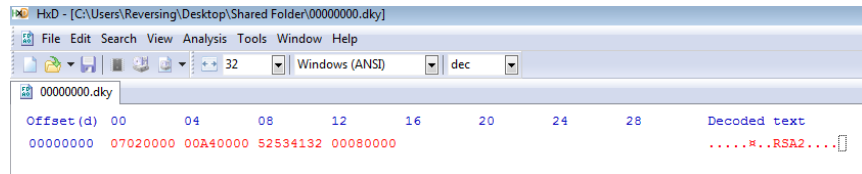
## Step 4 – Regenerate the Private Key

At last, you have all of the values you need to regenerate the private key. Now you need to put them in the correct order (required by the ransomware) using the hex editor.

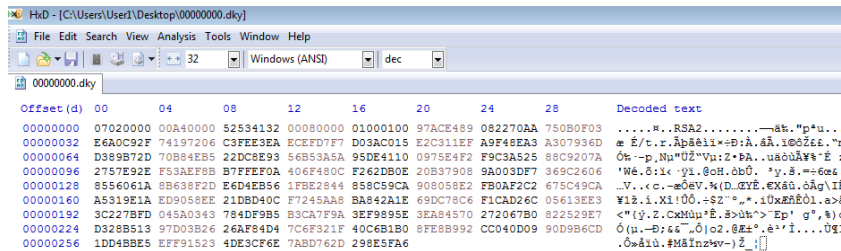
1. Create a new file by clicking **File->New** to begin creating the private key. Click on **File->Save As...** and name the file **00000000.dky** (8 zeroes) on the **Desktop**. You can switch between the two files using the tabs at the top.

The key that WannaCry reads uses the *little endian* format; now we just have to create the key using the values that we've obtained in the previous steps.

2. First, we'll create the *special header*. Make sure that your cursor is at the beginning of the file. Copy the value from your spreadsheet under the *Special Header, Little Endian* column. If a warning appears, select the *don't ask again* box and continue.



3. Next, copy over the little **Public Exponent**, **Little Endian Column** and the **Modulus**, **Little Endian Column**. At this point, your file should have values through 8 full rows and 5 columns in the 9<sup>th</sup> row.



4. Recall the following Table and Figure from earlier. Continue by filling in the rest of the values starting with Prime Number 1 (use **little endian from here on**) to create the key structure as shown below.

Name	Size	Variable name in RSA equation	Color-code
Heading	16 bytes (32 digits)	N/A	Red
Public Exponent	4 bytes (8 digits)	e	Yellow
Modulus	256 bytes (512 digits)	n	Blue
Prime Number 1	128 bytes (256 digits)	p	Green
Prime Number 2	128 bytes (256 digits)	q	Orange
CRT Exponent 1	128 bytes (256 digits)	dP	Purple
CRT Exponent 2	128 bytes (256 digits)	dQ	Light Blue
CRT Exponent Coefficient	128 bytes (256 digits)	qInv	Black
Private Exponent	256 bytes (512 digits)	d	Pink

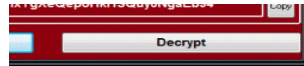


5. Once done, save the key to your desktop.
6. Move the key you just created (000000000.dky) to the *Shared Folder*.

## Step 5 – Decrypting Files using the Re-Generated Private Key (Win7-keyRecovery Machine)

**You created your own private key and now it is time to test it on the infected machine!**

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1. Exit the current Windows machine by clicking the Back button in your Browser. Now, click again on the link corresponding with the Win7-keyRecovery machine.
2. *Move the private key* (000000000.dky) from the Shared Folder to the *desktop*.
3. Click on *Decrypt* on the message prompting you to pay. 
4. Click *Start*.
5. As a test to make sure it worked, open *Important.txt* to make sure you can read the data.

**Great job! You've successfully analyzed a binary and decrypted your ransomed files!!!**