TOFSEE

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS REPORT

ZAYOTEM
ZARARLI YAZILIM ÖNLEME VE TERSİNE MÜHENDİSLİK

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Overview

Tofsee is a powerful Trojan-type malware family that can be used as a botnet, causing serious damage including financial loss and computer infections.

Active since 2013, Tofsee malware spreads via spam emails advertising adult dating and drug sites. It is also known to originate mainly from Russia and Ukraine.

Despite being an email-oriented tool, having Tofsee installed can lead to many other problems. These problems include;

- Download malicious software,
- Sending spam emails,
- Conducting phishing attacks,
- Updating yourself,
- Steal various account credentials,
- Perform DDoS attacks,
- There may be methods such as forcing victims' computers to join other botnets.

Stage1 Analysis

Name	Fameborb.exe
MD5	9f9e5f55dc8cb3809e24b14fb8f9c27d
SHA256	b984128113ff555edf24f086dcec400c697413f9095c8510da1058a98a2cc4ad
File Type	PE32/EXE

Static Analysis

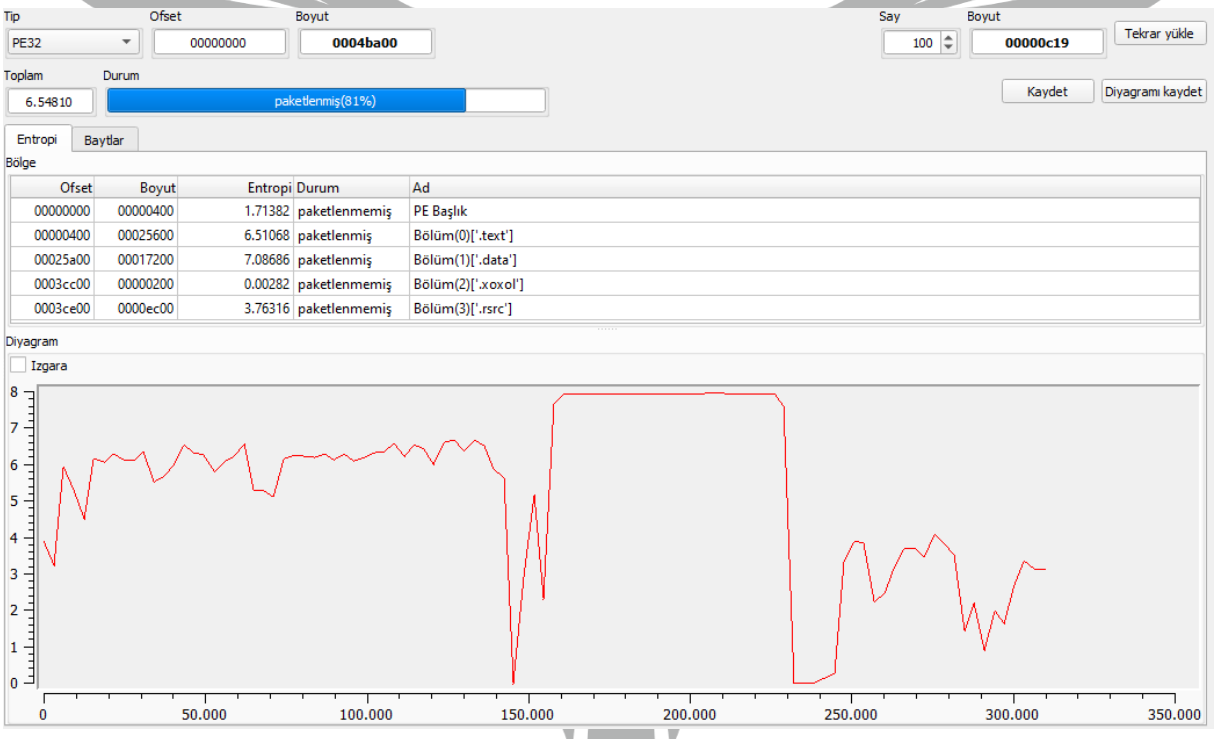

Figure 1 - Observing the Packing Process in the Malware

At first glance, the malware appears to be packed.

```
GetCPInfoExA(0, 0, &CPInfoEx);
DeleteVolumeMountPointW(&szVolumeMountPoint);
FindFirstFileW(&off_4040EC, &FindFileData);
DebugActiveProcessStop(0);
GetModuleHandleW(&off_40410C);
WriteConsoleA(0, 0, 0, &NumberOfCharsWritten, 0);
GetNamedPipeHandleStateW(0, &State, &CurInstances, &MaxCollectionCount, &CollectDataTimeout, UserName, 0);
GetModuleHandleA(0);
WriteConsoleA(0, 0, 0, &v14, 0);
UpdateResourceW(0, &off_404150, &off_404124, 0, 0, 0);
GetCurrentDirectoryW(0, Buffer);
```

Figure 2 - Obfuscate

It was observed that it was aimed to confuse the analyst by **obfuscating** the malware with empty and unnecessary API calls.

Dynamic Analysis

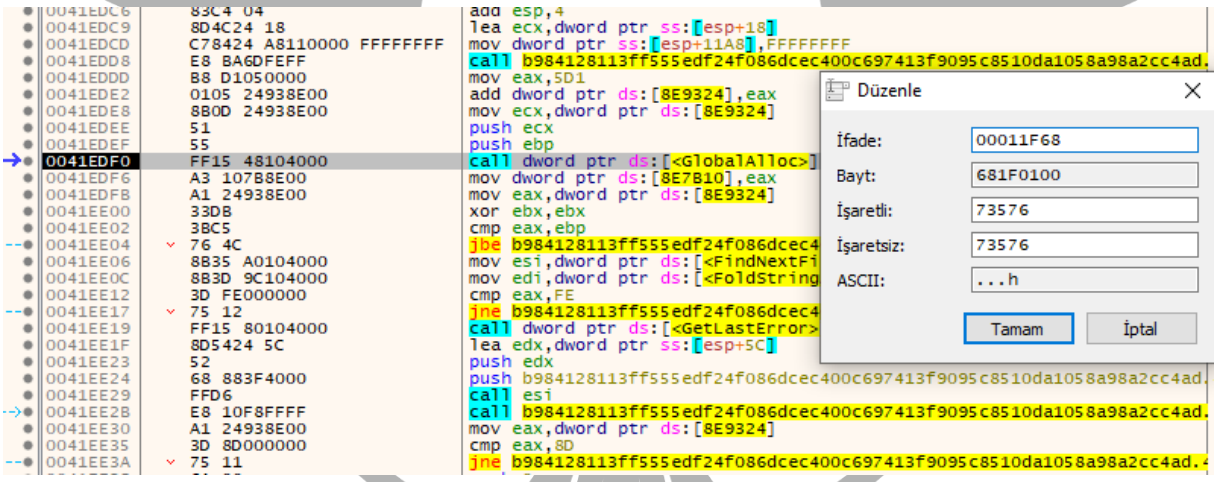

Figure 3 – Allocating Memory Space

The malware was first observed to allocate **73576** bytes of memory with **GlobalAlloc**.

Figure 4 – Permission to Write to Address in Memory

It was found that **Kernel32.dll** was loaded with **LoadLibraryW** and the location reserved with **GlobalAlloc** was then granted **PAGE_EXECUTE_READWRITE** permission using **VirtualProtect**.

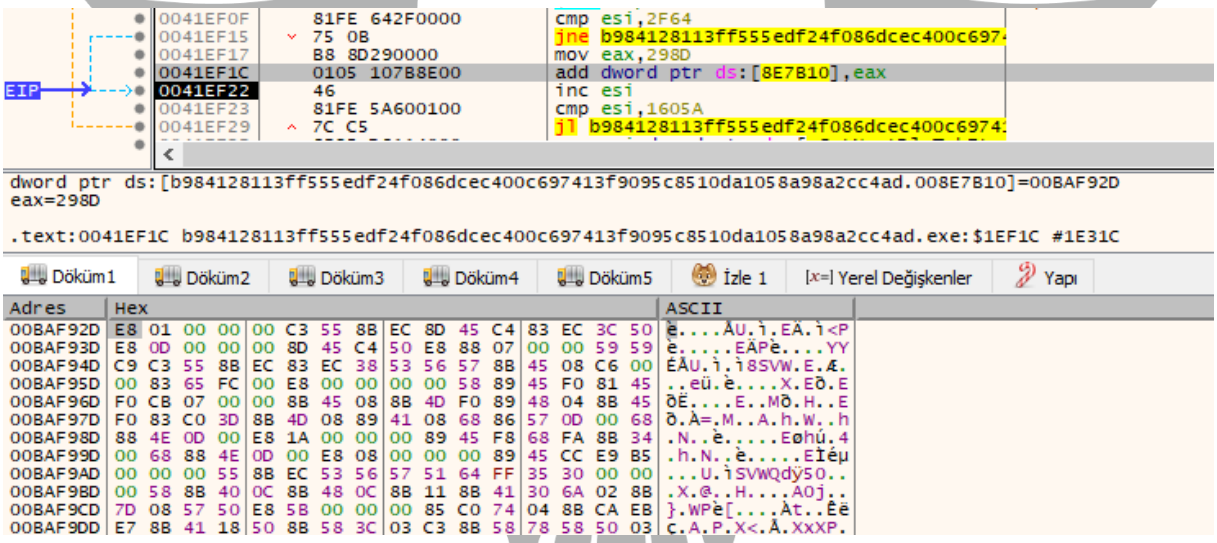

Figure 5 – Setting Shellcode Address

It was observed that the **shellcode** address was set by shifting the value of the address whose permission was set **10637** bytes forward.

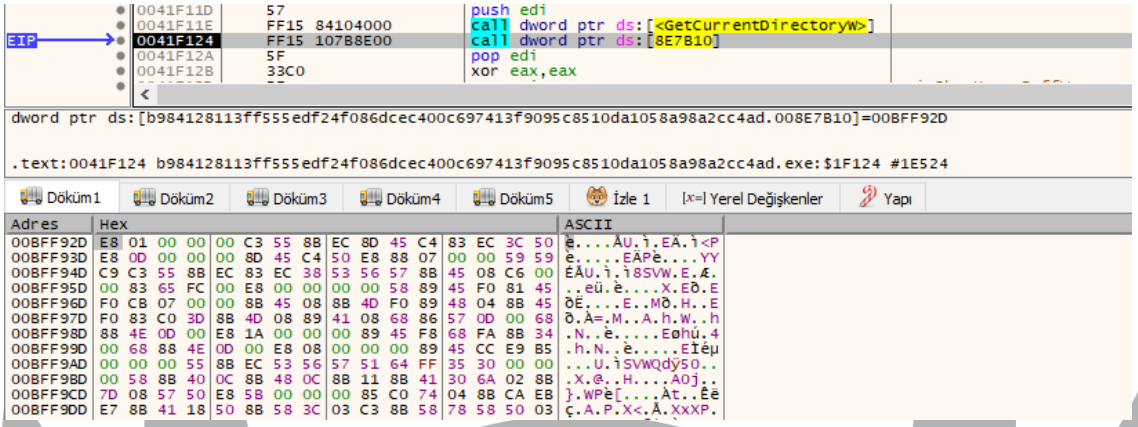

Figure 6 – Getting the Current Directory

Then the relevant **shellcode** is executed by jumping to this address.

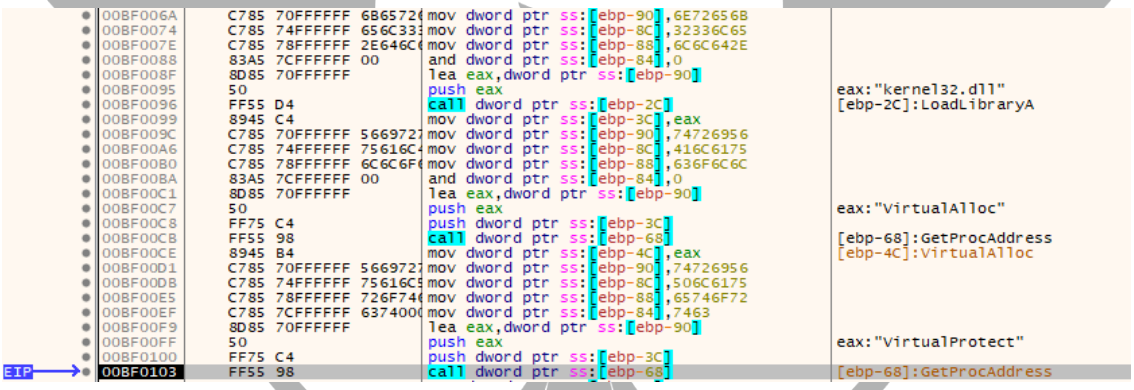

Figure 7 - API Resolving

When the examination continues, it is observed that **API Resolving** operation is performed using **GetProcAddress**. Related API Calls are resolved at runtime to be used later.

API calls resolved respectively with API Resolving:

- VirtualAlloc
- VirtualProtect
- VirtualFree
- GetVersionExA
- TerminateProcess
- ExitProcess
- SetErrorMode

```
025902380   83C4 0C     add esp,C
025902383   6A 04       push 4
025902385   68 00100000 push 1000
025902420   8B85 58FFFF mov eax,dword ptr ss:[ebp-A8]
025902428   FF70 06     push dword ptr ds:[eax+6]
025902480   6A 00       push 0
EIP ->
025902482   FF55 B4     call dword ptr ss:[ebp-4C]      [ebp-4C]:VirtualAlloc
025902500   8945 F0     mov dword ptr ss:[ebp-10],eax
025902530   8365 DC 00  and dword ptr ss:[ebp-24],0
```

Figure 8 – Allocating Memory Space

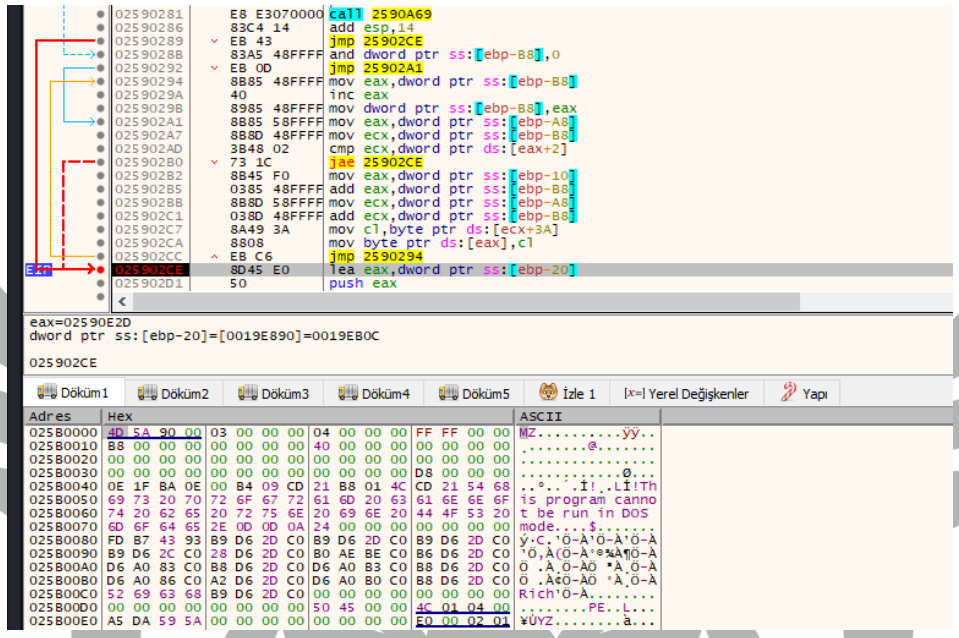

Figure 9 – Extracting Executable File in Memory

Continuing the analysis, it can be seen that **VirtualAlloc** is used to allocate memory space and an executable file is transferred to the allocated memory.

```
025902CE    8D45 E0     lea eax,dword ptr ss:[ebp-20]
025902D1    50          push eax
025902D2    6A 40       push 40
025902D4    8B85 58FFFF mov eax,dword ptr ss:[ebp-A8]
025902DA    FF70 0A     push dword ptr ds:[eax+A]
025902DD    FFB5 50FFFF push dword ptr ss:[ebp-B0]
EIP ->
025902E3    FF55 D8     call dword ptr ss:[ebp-28]      [ebp-28]:VirtualProtect
025902E6    8945 F4     mov dword ptr ss:[ebp-C],eax
```

Figure 10 - Bellekteki Adrese Yazma İzni Veriliyor

The malware grants **PAGE_EXECUTE_READWRITE** permission to the address set with **VirtualProtect**.

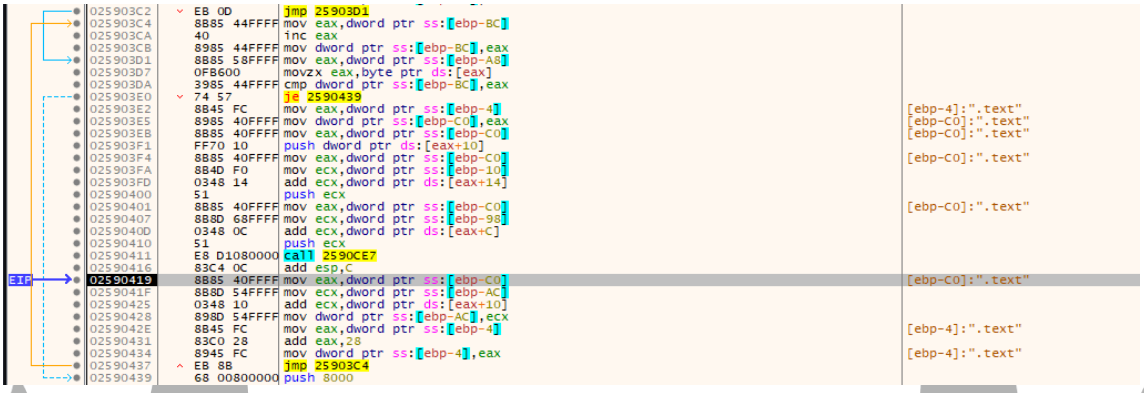

Figure 11 - Self Modifying Process

It was found that the malware performs **self-modifying** by setting its own sections as **text**, **rdata**, **data** and **reloc** sections of the relevant executable file, respectively.

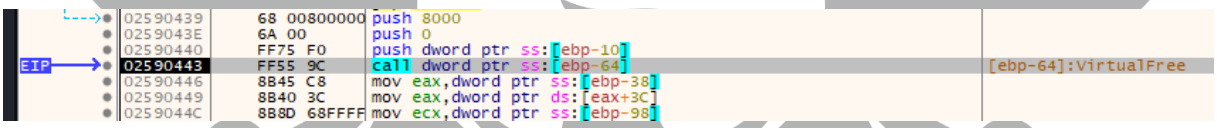

Figure 12 – Freeing Up Memory Space

After the partitions are set, the executable's space in memory is freed.

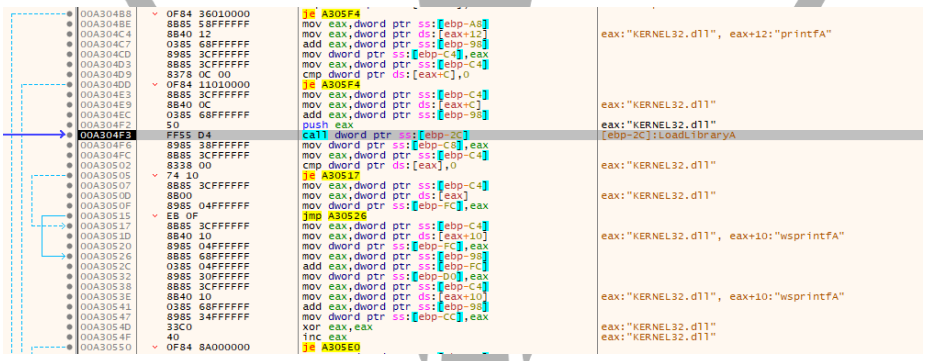

Figure 13 – Importing DLL Files

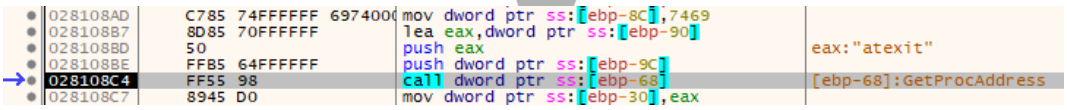

Figure 14 – Receiving API Calls

It is observed that the malware perform **Dynamic API Resolution** by retrieving certain API functions from the relevant DLL files with **GetProcAddress**.

Some important API Calls resolved with the Dynamic API Resolution technique:

WS2_32.dll	**Kernel32.dll**	**ADVAPI32.dll**	**SHELL32.dll**
ioctlsocket	GetCurrentProcess	CreateProcessWithLogonW	ShellExecuteA
send	WriteFile	RegCreatekeyExA	ShellExecuteExW
connect	ReadFile	StartServiceCtrlDispatcherA	
setsockopt	CreateFileA	RegisterServiceCtrlHandlerA	
bind	LoadLibraryA	SetServiceStatus	
accept	GetEnvironmentVariableA	RegDeleteValueA	
getsockname	DeleteFileA	RegSetValueExA	
htonl	WriteProcessMemory	ReqQueryValueExA	
gethostname	VirtualAlloc	RegEnumKeyA	
socket	VirtualAllocEx	RegOpenKeyExA	
select	GetProcAddress	RegEnumValueA	
recv	CreateProcessA	GetUserNameW	
htons	CreateFileW	LookupAccountNameW	
sendto	ResumeThread	LookupAccountNameA	
gethostbyaddr	SetThreadContext	GetUserNameA	
gethostbyname	CreateThread	RegCloseKey	

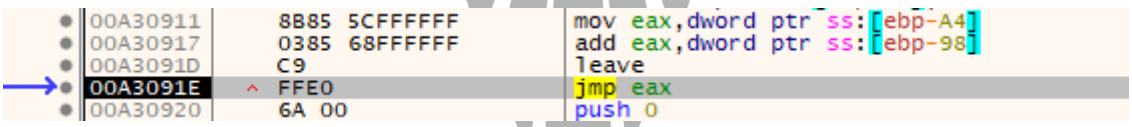

Figure 15 – Making a Jump to the Related Executable File

The malware then moves to the **text section** updated with the **jmp eax** instruction and executes the code of the corresponding executable.

Stage2 Analysis

Name	ce88300e4893d0317ee89dbddec08557537af9e8bd88989b51a962fcf1620da2.exe
MD5	95fc3460859b033780774fc0d5ec768d
SHA256	ce88300e4893d0317ee89dbddec08557537af9e8bd88989b51a962fcf1620da2
File Type	PE32/EXE

Static Analysis

004101FC	19	send	WS2_32
00410200	4	connect	WS2_32
00410204	21	setsockopt	WS2_32
00410208	2	bind	WS2_32
0041020C	13	listen	WS2_32
00410210	1	accept	WS2_32
00410214	6	getsockname	WS2_32
00410218	8	htonl	WS2_32
0041021C	57	gethostname	WS2_32
00410220	23	socket	WS2_32
00410224	18	select	WS2_32
00410228	16	recv	WS2_32

Figure 16 – API Calls Belonging to WS2_32.dll

The malware appears to import API calls belonging to **WS2_32.dll** such as **socket**, **recv**, **listen**. These APIs are known to be used to communicate with the C2 server over the **TCP/UDP** protocol.

```
.text:00403EDA                jnz     short loc_403F14
.text:00403EDC                push    esi
.text:00403EDD                call    sub_406DC2
.text:00403EE2                push    offset aPipe    ; "\\\\.\\pipe\\"
.text:00403EE7                push    edi
.text:00403EE8                mov     esi, eax
.text:00403EEA                call    sub_40EF00
```

Figure 17 - Pipeline Observed

The **pipe** string is prominent in the malware. A pipe is a communication mechanism used to allow the output produced by one process to be received by another process.

Dynamic Analysis

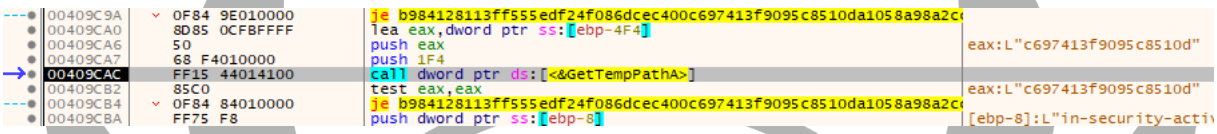

Figure 18 – Getting Temp Directory

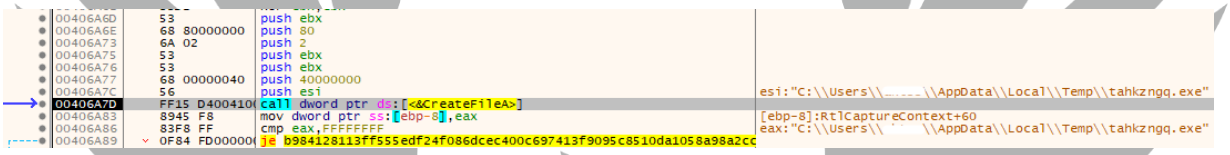

Figure 19 – Creating File in Temp Directory

The malware first takes the temp directory and creates a file.

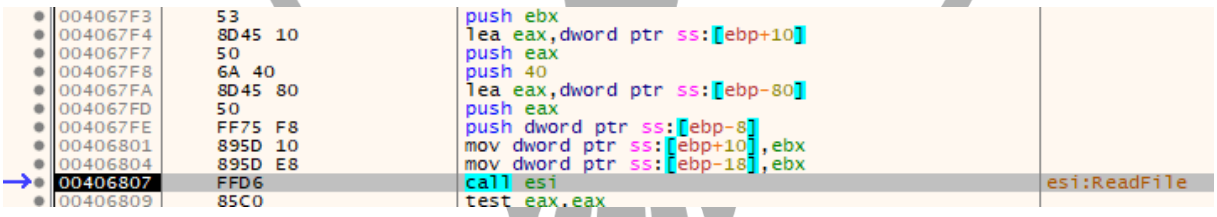

Figure 20 – Self-Reading Process

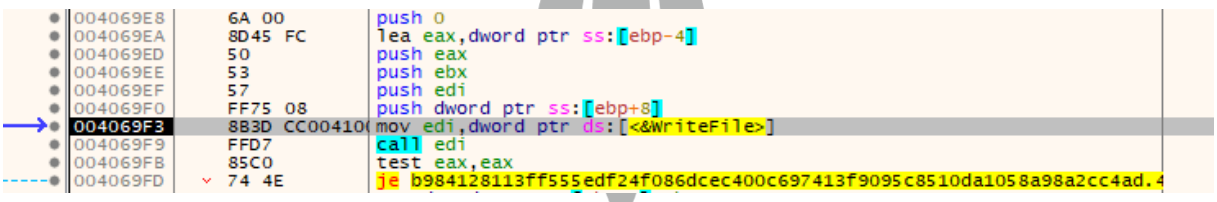

Figure 21 – Writes Itself to the Related File

The malware is then observed to write itself into this file.

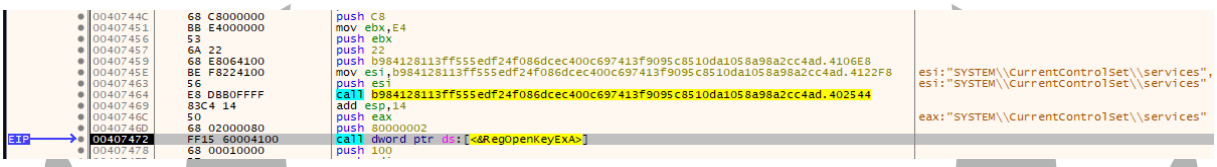

Figure 22 – Receiving Services

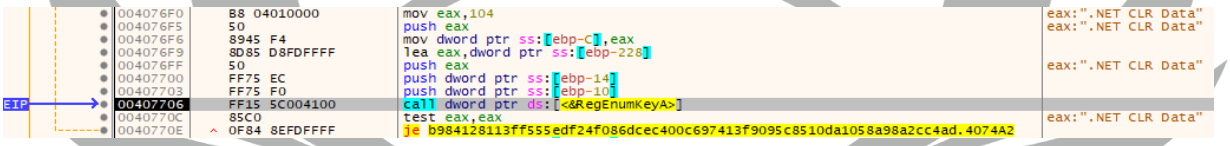

Figure 23 – Checking Services

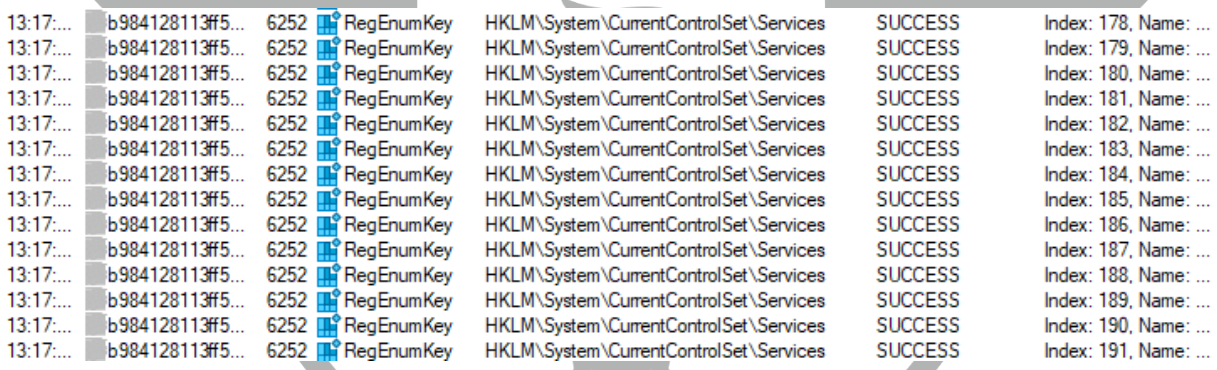

Figure 24 – Procmon Display of Controlled Services

By enumerating services, the malware checks whether a specific service has been created before.

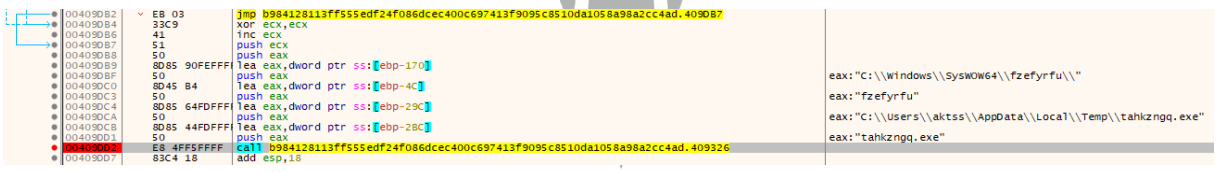

Figure 25 - İlgili Değerler Fonksiyona Veriliyor

The malware was observed to give the function the name and path of the file it had previously created and written itself in the temp directory, the **fzefyrfu** string and the **SysWOW64** directory.

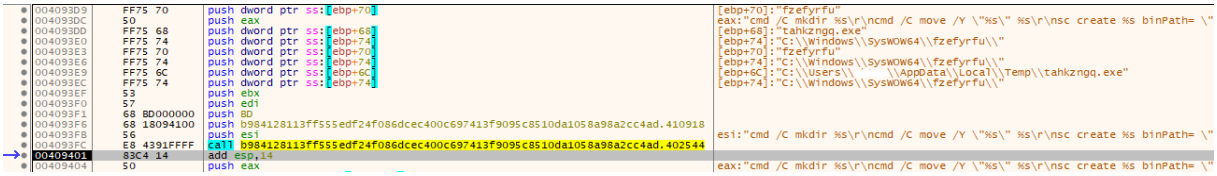

Figure 26 – Parse Function

Figure 27 – Performing Parse Operation

In the related function, it is observed that terminal commands are combined with the given strings and character strings are set.

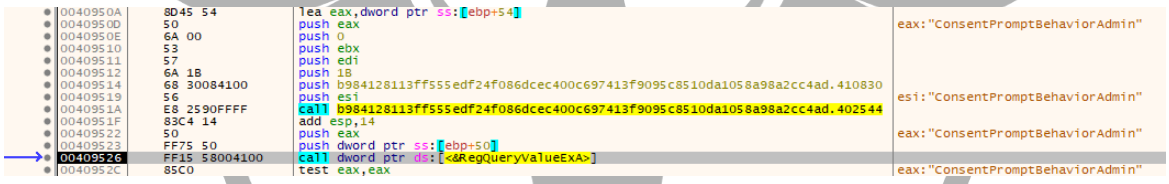

Figure 28 - ConsentPromptBehaviorAdmin Anahtarının Değiştirilmesi

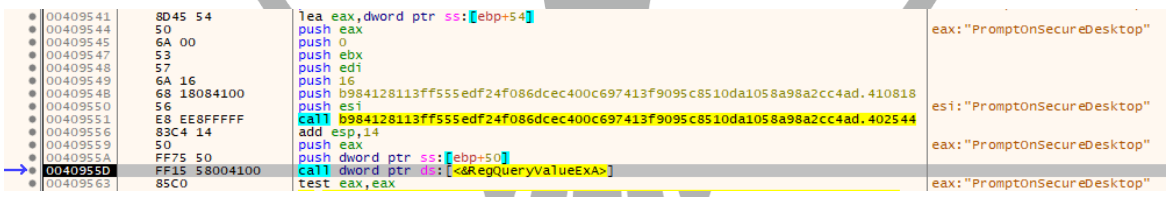

Figure 29 - PromptOnSecureDesktop Anahtarının Değiştirilmesi

The malware was found to attempt to disable UAC control by modifying the **ConsentPromptBehaviorAdmin** and **PromptOnSecureDesktop** switches before executing commands.

User Account Control (UAC) is used to prevent unauthorized changes to the computer. **ConsentPromptBehaviorAdmin** determines whether to display a confirmation dialog to the user for operations that require administrator permission, while **PromptOnSecureDesktop** determines whether to display this dialog on a secure desktop.

Figure 30 – Executing Commands

The relevant commands are executed respectively.

When the commands are examined, it is seen that it moves itself to the **fzefyrfu** folder in **SysWOW64** and creates a service names **fzefyrfu**. The service starts itself with the **/d** parameter and sets the start=auto parameter to start the service automatically.

It is then seen that the malware allows **svchosts.exe** traffic by adding a firewall rule with the **netsh** command.

```
cmd /C mkdir C:\\Windows\\SysWOW64\\fzefyrfu\\\r

cmd /C move /Y \"C:\\Users\\aktss\\AppData\\Local\\Temp\\tahkzngq.exe\"
C:\\Windows\\SysWOW64\\fzefyrfu\\

sc create fzefyrfu binPath=
\"C:\\Windows\\SysWOW64\\fzefyrfu\\tahkzngq.exe
/d\\\"C:\\Users\\user\\Desktop\\b984128113ff555edf24f086dcec400c697413f90
95c8510da1058a98a2cc4ad.exe\\\"\" type= own start= auto DisplayName=
\"wifi support\"

sc description fzefyrfu \"wifi internet conection\"

sc start fzefyrfu

netsh advfirewall firewall add rule name=\"Host-process for services of
Windows\" dir=in action=allow
program=\"C:\\Windows\\SysWOW64\\svchost.exe\" enable=yes>nul
```

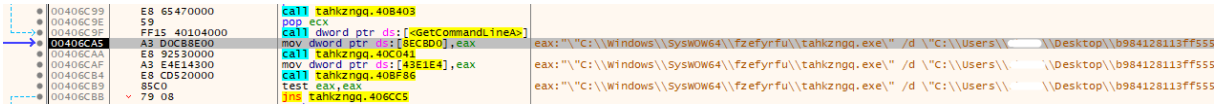

Figure 31 – Receiving Parameters

Figure 32 – Passing Related Paramater to Function

When the malware is run with the relevant parameters and the examination continues, it is observed that the malware receives the paramaters with **GetCommandLineA** and gives the values to the relevant function after performing ***/d*** parameter control.

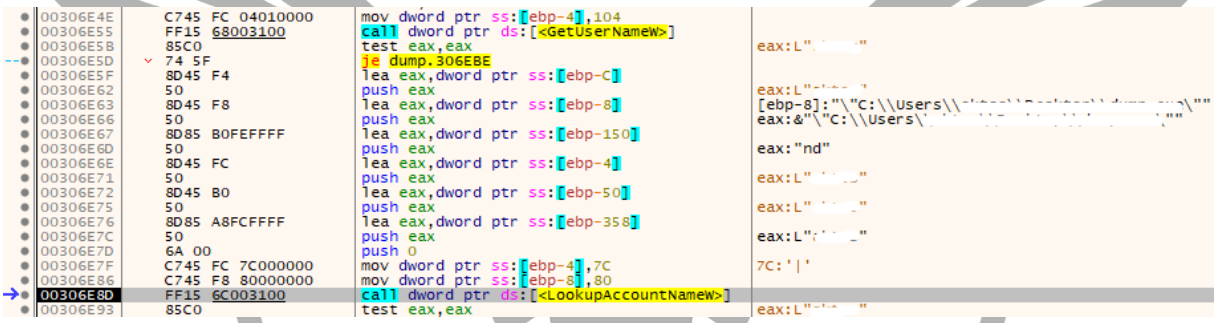

Figure 33 – Getting SID Value

The username and **SID** of the user are retrieved.

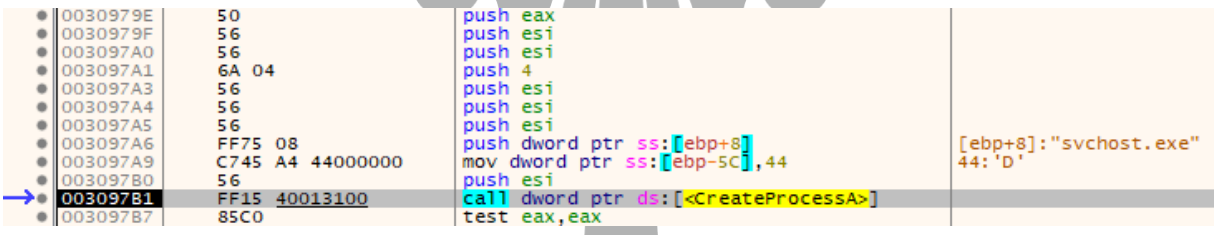

Figure 34 – Running Svchost

It has been observed that the malware runs the **svchost.exe** file.

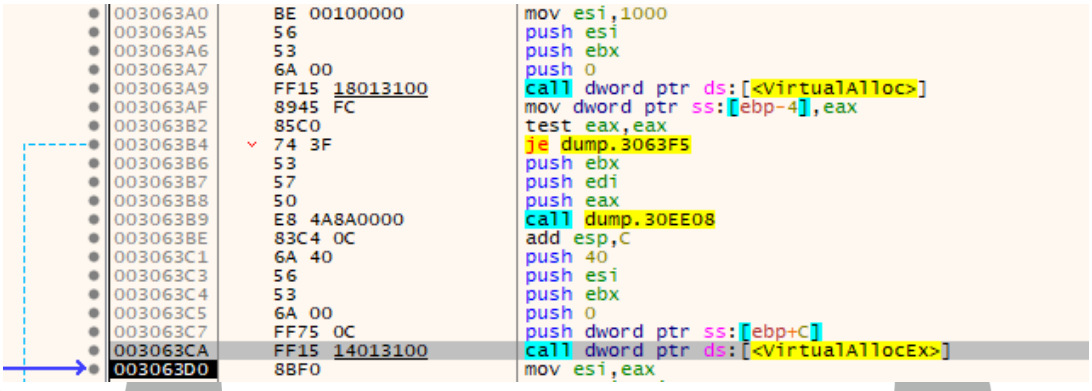

Figure 35 – Allocating Memory Space

In this executed file, space is allocated using the **VirtualAlloc** and **VirtualAllocEx** API calls.

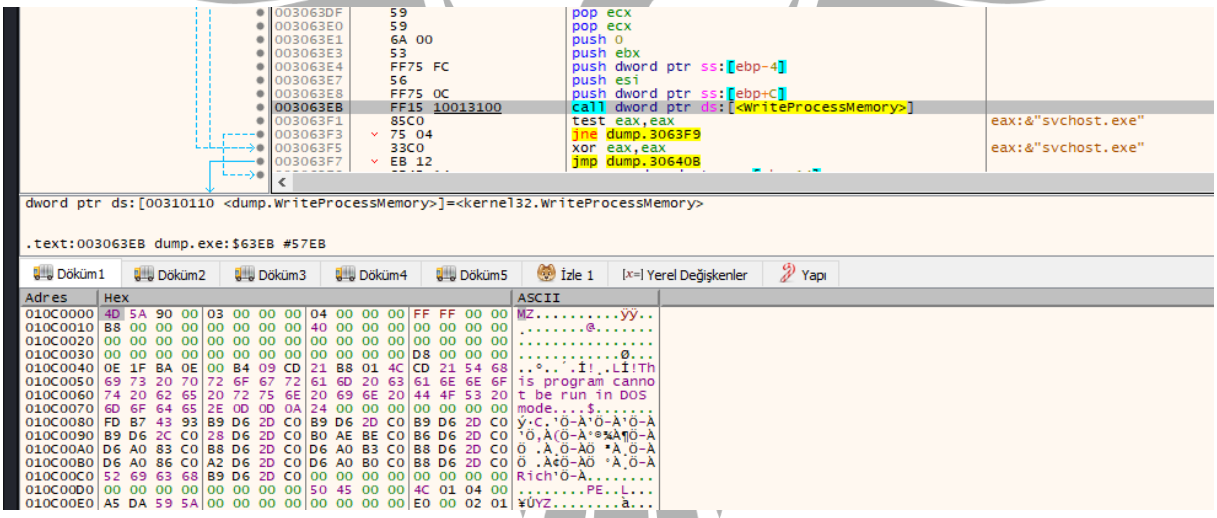

Figure 36 – Printing Executable File to Svchost Memory

The malware was found to perform **Process Hallowing** by writing itself to this reserved location with **WriteProcessMemory**.

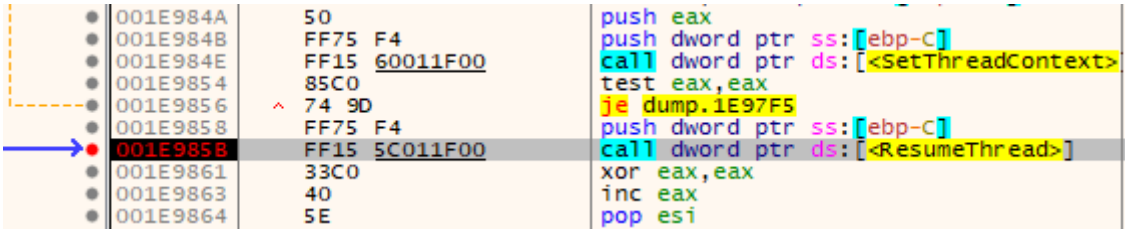

Figure 37 – Svchost Continues to Run with Updated Version

It is observed that the relevant process continues to run using **ResumeThread**.

API functions called in the process of using the **Process Hallowing** technique:

- CreateProcessA
- VirtualAlloc
- VirtualAllocEx
- GetThreadContext
- SetThreadContext
- WriteProcessMemory
- ResumeThread

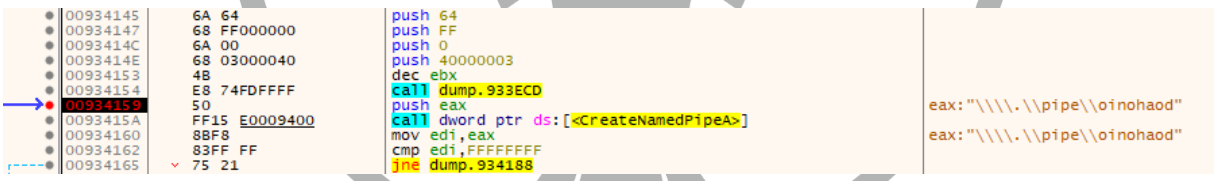

Figure 38 – Creating a Pipe

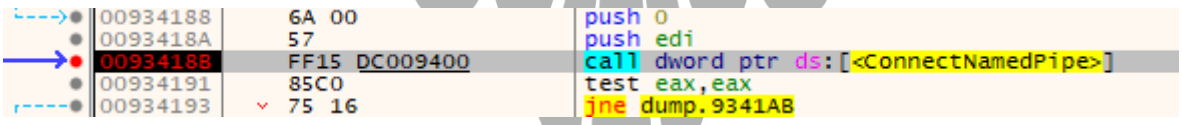

Figure 39 – Pipe Connection Observed

It has been observed that the malware forms pipeline.

Figure 40 – Creating Bat File in Temp Directory

After all this, the malware creates a .bat file in the temp directory.

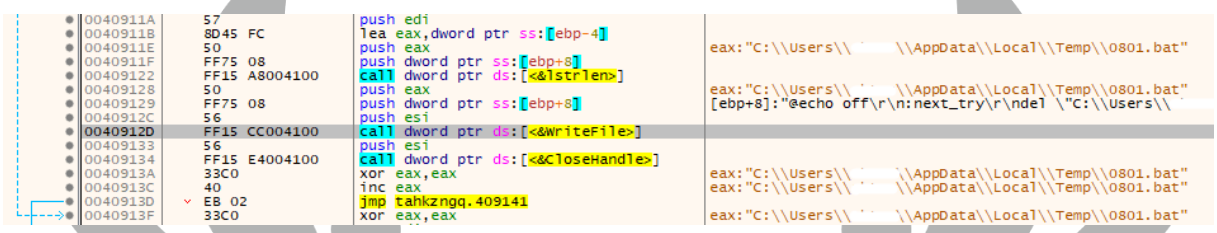

Figure 41 – Updating Bat File Content

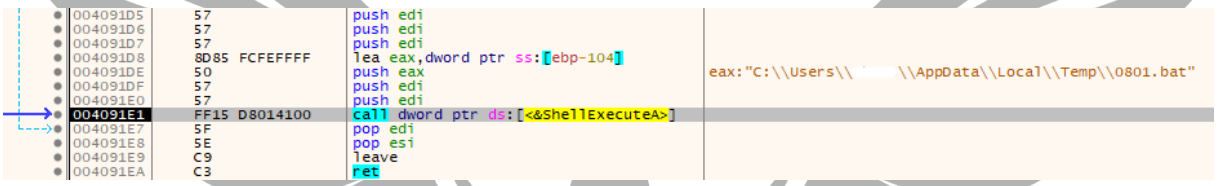

Figure 42 – Running Bat File

It was observed that it runs after writing to the relevant **.bat** file.

It appears that the bat file first deletes the main exe file specified with the /d parameter and deletes itself.

```
@echo off
:next_try
del "C:\Users\user\Desktop\
b984128113ff555edf24f086dcec400c697413f9095c8510da1058a98a2cc4ad.exe
">nul
if exist "C:\Users\user\Desktop\
b984128113ff555edf24f086dcec400c697413f9095c8510da1058a98a2cc4ad.exe
" (
ping 127.0.0.1 >nul
goto next_try
)
del %0
```

Network Analysis

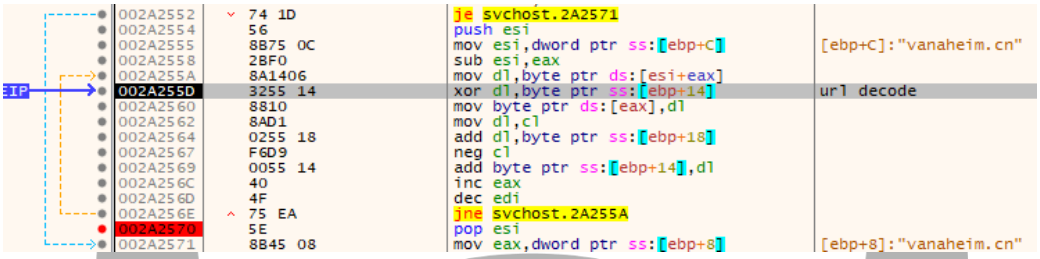

Figure 43 - Runtime Decryption

In the related **svchost** process, the malware decrypts the C2 Servers to be contacted with the **Runtime Decrypt** process.

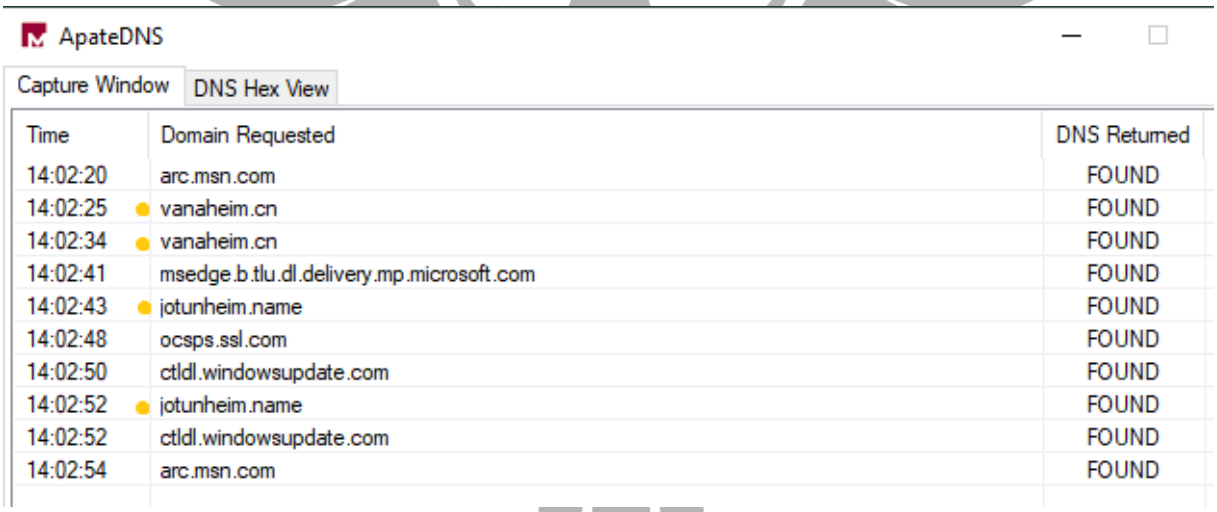

Figure 44 – Monitoring C2 Servers with ApateDNS

It was observed that attempts were made to connect to **vanaheim[.]cn** and **jotunheim[.]name** domain addresses resolved in the dynamics.

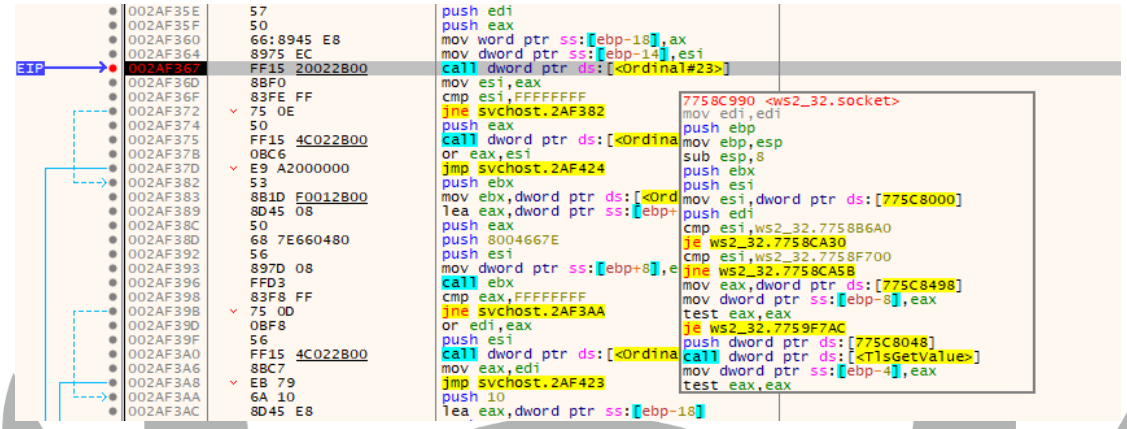

Figure 45 – Establishing Connection with Socket

Relevant addresses are contacted using sockets.

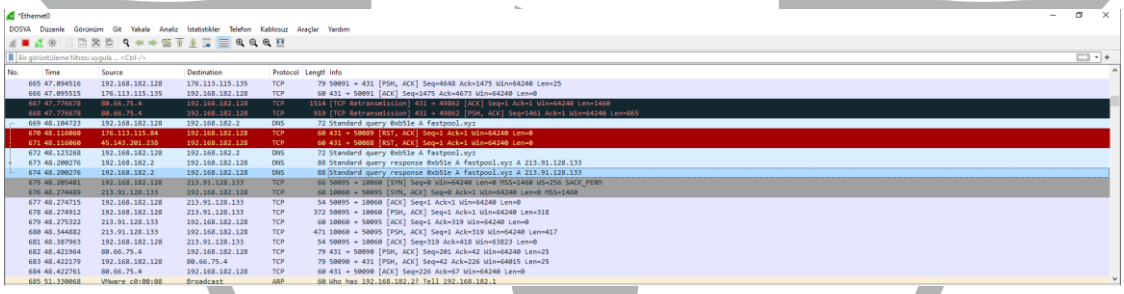

Figure 46 – Monitoring TCP Connection with Wireshark

Other domain services are contacted according to the commands received from the relevant C2 servers.

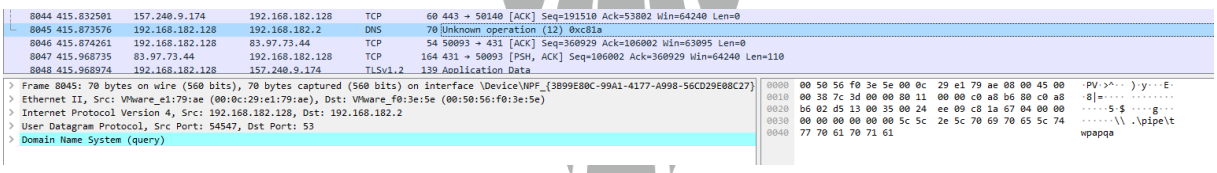

Figure 47 – Pipe Monitoring with Wireshark

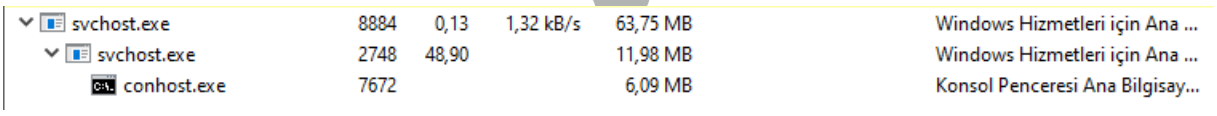

Figure 48 – Viewing Child Process via Procmon

It was observed that the malware can start a child process according to the commands returned from the C2 server and communicate with the parent process using **pipes**. With this method, the malware aims to bypass the **EDR**.

Time ...	Process Name	PID	Operation	Path	Result
19:51:...	svchost.exe	1116	TCP Send	DESKTOP-JOR9PCQ.localdomain:49877 -> 62.122.184.58:487	SUCCESS
19:51:...	svchost.exe	1116	TCP Receive	DESKTOP-JOR9PCQ.localdomain:49877 -> 62.122.184.58:487	SUCCESS
19:51:...	svchost.exe	1116	TCP Disconnect	DESKTOP-JOR9PCQ.localdomain:49877 -> 62.122.184.58:487	SUCCESS
19:51:...	svchost.exe	1116	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-JOR9PCQ.localdomain:49880 -> mail-dm3nam060036.inbound.protection.outlook.com:smtp	SUCCESS
19:51:...	svchost.exe	1116	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-JOR9PCQ.localdomain:49880 -> mail-dm3nam060036.inbound.protection.outlook.com:smtp	SUCCESS
19:51:...	svchost.exe	1116	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-JOR9PCQ.localdomain:49880 -> mail-dm3nam060036.inbound.protection.outlook.com:smtp	SUCCESS
19:51:...	svchost.exe	1116	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-JOR9PCQ.localdomain:49880 -> mail-dm3nam060036.inbound.protection.outlook.com:smtp	SUCCESS
19:51:...	svchost.exe	1116	TCP Disconnect	DESKTOP-JOR9PCQ.localdomain:49880 -> mail-dm3nam060036.inbound.protection.outlook.com:smtp	SUCCESS
19:51:...	svchost.exe	1116	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-JOR9PCQ.localdomain:49881 -> mtaproxy2.free.mail.vip.bf1.yahoo.com:smtp	SUCCESS
19:51:...	svchost.exe	1116	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-JOR9PCQ.localdomain:49881 -> mtaproxy2.free.mail.vip.bf1.yahoo.com:smtp	SUCCESS
19:52:...	svchost.exe	1116	TCP Reconnect	DESKTOP-JOR9PCQ.localdomain:49881 -> mtaproxy2.free.mail.vip.bf1.yahoo.com:smtp	SUCCESS
19:52:...	svchost.exe	1116	TCP Connect	DESKTOP-JOR9PCQ.localdomain:49886 -> 176.113.115.135:431	SUCCESS
19:52:...	svchost.exe	1116	TCP Connect	DESKTOP-JOR9PCQ.localdomain:49887 -> 176.113.115.136:431	SUCCESS
19:52:...	svchost.exe	1116	TCP Connect	DESKTOP-JOR9PCQ.localdomain:49888 -> 83.97.73.44:431	SUCCESS
19:52:...	svchost.exe	1116	TCP Connect	DESKTOP-JOR9PCQ.localdomain:49882 -> 62.122.184.92:431	SUCCESS
19:52:...	svchost.exe	1116	TCP Receive	DESKTOP-JOR9PCQ.localdomain:49886 -> 176.113.115.135:431	SUCCESS

Figure 49 – Contacting SMTP Services

It has been determined that there is a continuous attempt to establish a connection with SMTP services.

STAGE1 YARA Rule

```
import "hash"

rule Tofsee

{

    meta:

        author="Alper Aktaş"

        description="tofsee"

        report_date="3.3.2024"

    strings:

        $str1 = ".?AVbad_alloc@std@@" ascii

        $str2= ".?AV?$basic_stringbuf@DU?$char_traits@D@std@@V?$” ascii

        $str3 = "`non-type-template-parameter" ascii

        $str4 = "cli::pin_ptr<" ascii

        $str5 = “GlobalAlloc” ascii

        $str5 = “VirtualProtect” ascii

        $technique = {E8 04 00 00 00 00 00 00}

    condition:

        hash.md5(0, filesize) == "9f9e5f55dc8cb3809e24b14fb8f9c27d" or all of them

}
```

STAGE2 YARA Rule

```
import "hash"
rule Tofsee
{
    meta:
        author="Alper Aktaş"
        description="tofsee"
        report_date="3.3.2024"

    strings:
        // encrypted vanaheim[.]cn
        $ip = {92 CC 1A 5C 6C A8 FD 30 0A 8E DA}
        // encrypted jotunheim[.]name
        $ip2 = {8E C2 00 48 6A A5 F1 34 49 C3 DA}

        $str1 = "%RND_NUM" ascii
        $str2 = "\\\\.\\pipe\\" ascii
        $str3 = "ret=%p" ascii

    condition:
        hash.md5(0, filesize) == "95fc3460859b033780774fc0d5ec768d" or all of them

}
```

MITRE ATTACK TABLE

Execution	Persistence	Defense Evasion	Credential Access	Discovery	Collection	Command and Control	Exfiltration
T1569 System Services	T1547 Boot or Login Autostart Discovery	T1055 Process Injection		T1012 Query Registry		T1105 Ingress Tool Transfer	
		T1112 Modify Registry		T1083 File and Directory Discovery		T1095 Non-Application Layer Protocol	
		T1562 Impair Defenses		T1082 System Information Discovery		T1571 Non-Standard Port	
		T1027 Obfuscated Files or Information					

Solution Suggestions

1. Attachments or links presented in emails from unknown, suspicious addresses should not be opened.
2. Keep software cracking tools and unreliable software download sources away from your computer.
3. To avoid exposure to malicious websites and downloads, use trusted websites and make downloads from trusted sources.
4. The applications used must be licensed and up-to-date.
5. By regularly updating your security software and operation system, you can strengthen its defenses against known attacks.

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