Zeus (Zbot) Banking Trojan - Malware Analysis

Report Overview

- Resources
- Background Information
- Malware Composition
- Basic Static Analysis
- Basic Dynamic Analysis
- Advanced Static Analysis
- Indicators of Compromise
- Callback URLs
- Network Indicators
- Host-based Indicators
- Detection Rules (Yara)

Resources

- https://samples.vx-underground.org/root/Papers/Malware Defense/Malware Analysis/2023-03-14 - The Zeus Trojan Malware - Definition and Prevention.pdf
- https://www.malwarebytes.com/blog/news/2021/07/the-life-and-death-of-the-zeus-trojan
- https://krebsonsecurity.com/2015/02/fbi-3m-bounty-for-zeus-trojan-author/
- https://zeusmuseum.com/actors/
- https://github.com/ytisf/theZoo/tree/master/malware/Binaries/ZeusBankingVersion_26Nov2013
- https://web.archive.org/web/20210416013527/https://pfarrside.com/zeus-malware-analysis-remnux/

Background Information

- Primarily created to be a financial banking trojan.
- First spotted in the wild in 2007 when Zeus Trojan was caught stealing sensitive information from systems owned by the US Department of Transportation.
    - Since then, there have been 573+ known versions with 36 known families of the Zeus Trojan, according to website https://zeusmuseum.com/.
- Malicious code become public in 2011 after a leak. The suspected malware author of is Evgeniy Mikhailovich Bogachev (source: https://krebsonsecurity.com/2015/02/fbi-3m-bounty-for-zeus-trojan-author/)

- Delivery Methods:
  - Drive-by downloads: Require a user to visit a website that has the backdoor trojan code on it. Modern web browsers block these downloads by default. Attack vector is mostly obsolete.
  - Phishing & Spam Campaigns: Main infection method.
- Primary Goals:
  - Steal people's financial information to exfiltrate financial information.
  - Add machines to a globally distributed P2P botnet (depends on the family).
- Crackdown History:
  - FBI cracked down on Gameover Zeus (which was a prolific variant of the Zeus Trojan) in 2014.
  - An estimated 25% of computers were infected in the United States.
  - $100+ million in financial damages due to Gameover Zeus.
  - Evgeniy Mikhailovich Bogachev had a $3 million dollar bounty from the FBI. Continues to be one of the most wanted hackers.
- Impact:
  - Inspired hundreds of additional variants which use parts of source code.
  - Millions of infected machines with associated costs in damages in the millions.

Lab

Malware Composition

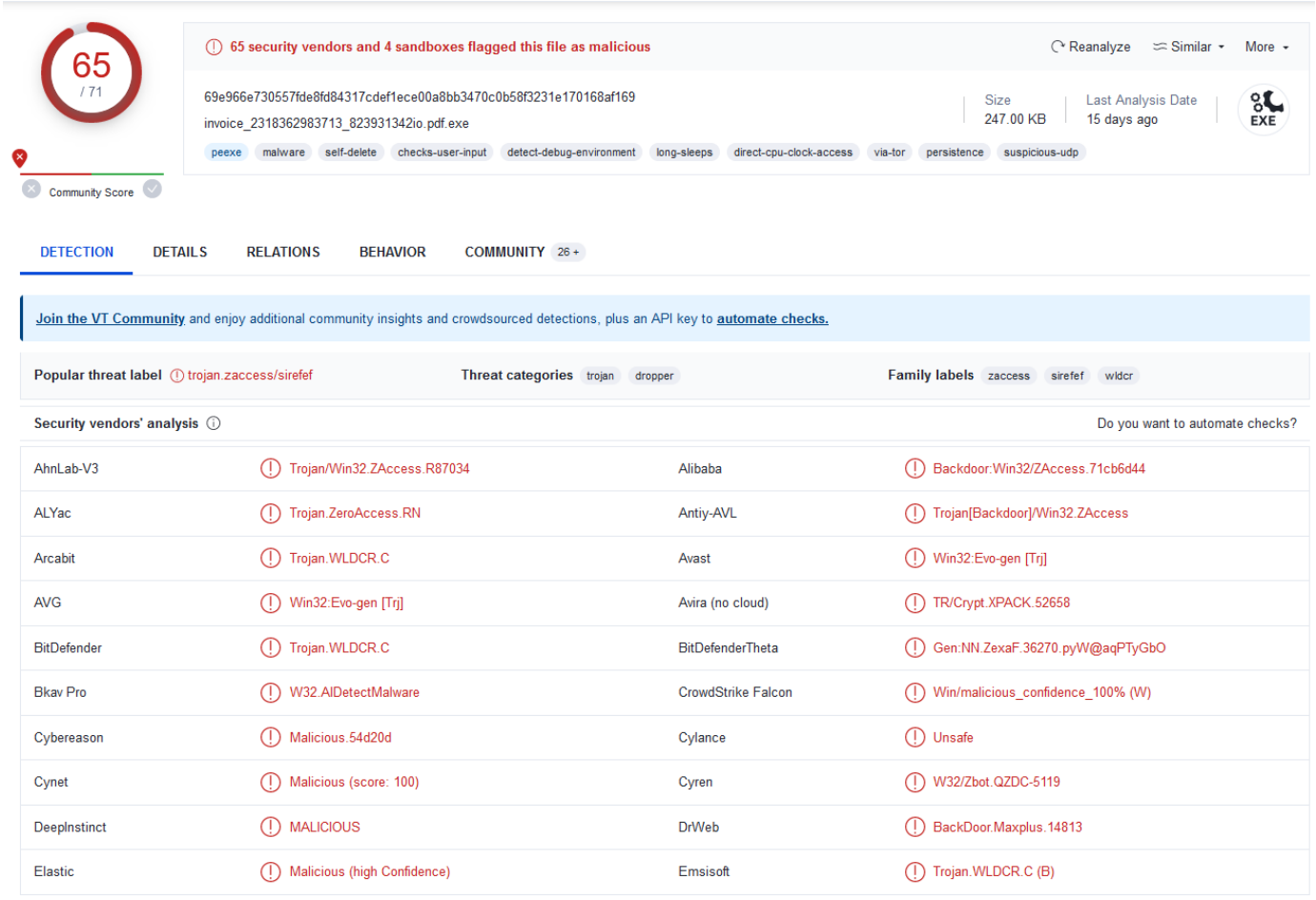
Filename: `invoice_2318362983713_823931342io.pdf.exe`

Hashes:

- md5: `EA039A854D20D7734C5ADD48F1A51C34`
- sha1: `9615DCA4C0E46B8A39DE5428AF7DB060399230B2`
- sha256: `69E966E730557FDE8FD84317CDEF1ECE00A8BB3470C0B58F3231E170168AF169`

Basic Static Analysis

Virus Total



65/71 security vendors flagged as malicious.

Strings

Tools Used: PeStudio, Floss.exe, & Capa

```
corect.com
```

```
AsksmaceaglyBubuPulsKaifTeasMistPeelGhisPrimChaoLyreroeno
KERNEL32.MulDiv
BagsSpicDollBikeAzonPoopHamsPyasmap
KERNEL32.SetCurrentDirectoryA
BardHolyawe
SHLWAPI.SHFreeShared
BathEftsDawnvilepughThroCymakohloverMitefuzerat
SHLWAPI.PathMakeSystemFolderW
BemaCadsPodsWavyCedeRadsbrioOustPerefenom
USER32.SetDlgItemTextW
BullbonyaweeWaitsnugTierDriblibye
KERNEL32.VirtualQuery
CameValeWauler
USER32.IsIconic
CedeSalsshulLimyThroliraValeDonabox
USER32.CreateCaret
```

CellrotoCrudUntohighCols
KERNEL32.CreateFileA
DenyLubeDunssawsOresvarut
SHLWAPI.PathRemoveFileSpecA
DragRoutflusCrowPeatmownNewsyaksSerfmare
USER32.DestroyIcon
Dumpcotsavo
USER32.SetDlgItemInt
DungBadebankBangGelthoboCocaBozotsksWheyVaryShoghoseNipsCadisi
USER32.EndPaint
ExitRollWoodGumsgamaSloerevsWussletssinkYearZitiryesHypout
USER32.GetClassInfoW
FociTalcileador
KERNEL32.ConvertDefaultLocale
GeneAilshe
KERNEL32.FindFirstFileA
GhisGoodHowlCoonCigscateged
KERNEL32.GetWindowsDirectoryA
GimpWadsdashHoraYardSeatDeanScanscowRantKeasfib
KERNEL32.LCMapStringW
Haesourfe
USER32.GetKeyNameTextA
HoggSoonLasstwaeNapeCeilBawlscopdub
KERNEL32.SystemTimeToFileTime
Icontellnoway
SHLWAPI.PathRemoveBlanksW
ImidslatJokyCombdrubChefBilkSale
USER32.GetShellWindow
IzararfsFlamWostAirsconsMouefemelallPoretweeSacsOxidMinx
SHLWAPI.PathAddExtensionA
JabsNaveFateLariManyLeeksecshiesBawlwoo
KERNEL32.CreateIoCompletionPort
KatsDoreOmerBetsKoraKeef
KERNEL32.GetShortPathNameA
KineChamLows
KERNEL32.SetCurrentDirectoryW
LeerMiff
KERNEL32.LeaveCriticalSection
MaarSectFiscNextMattbamsErasnimstoeaBadshon
USER32.GetClassInfoW
MarkMokeOsesShwaSkegpornlimemim
KERNEL32.GetStartupInfoW
MeanOrrabirogirtWorkGawpSassPirnVinoLotaPledEidefe

```
SHLWAPI.SHLockShared
NextLoveOralwanySurfhm
KERNEL32.VerSetConditionMask
NisiBoyolineJiaoveryObiaowedblamHaetMaulweensky
SHLWAPI.PathCanonicalizeW
OastcabskamiKartDumbInksSomsMass
KERNEL32.SetCurrentDirectoryA
PeckQuinFillrillsaw
KERNEL32.GetThreadPriority
RamilimaputtHastJobs
KERNEL32.FindNextFileW
RemsSlaySoreAnoaaxalbuffusesemeuMapsyogaHangLoud
SHLWAPI.PathMakePrettyA
RidsFineZingMickMomsdue
USER32.GetMonitorInfoW
SeminerdsoloseenYaginobox
SHLWAPI.PathIsLFNFileSpecA
SiretomsbritGrewIckyNapaLumsBoaren
KERNEL32.OpenFileMappingA
SlabKitsSlayseptPfftjiffSabsdeskOafsNowtMemsKirnKepiMiffDunt
KERNEL32.OpenSemaphoreW
SoldKartAgueiliaRushWauldhal
SHLWAPI.PathIsUNCW
SuitplieGunsMaidBaitFeusJiaotodycolyAlbsLuneToyspe
USER32.GetPropW
SungActaKopsMaarposyparefuzedeck
SHLWAPI.PathIsDirectoryA
ToeaTailecusGeesSoliCadeSpueEndsPlaykaphall
SHLWAPI.PathRemoveArgsW
Vavsrubepodsjadebrooli
USER32.GetUpdateRgn
VeerCrawFlateel
SHLWAPI.PathParseIconLocationA
WainMeekPinyWonkpooflaudsir
KERNEL32.GetWindowsDirectoryW
WhopTestrangrapsdebsTzarNipaYins
KERNEL32.DeleteFileA
YeukMags
KERNEL32.GlobalHandle
ZetaBeduPirnhipsjailTingSrisTeleAposhuskNameHoerflagemuwo
USER32.LoadIconA
```

```
<?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>
```

Interesting API Calls

- AllowSetForegroundWindow: Allows a specified process to set the foreground window even if the process does not currently own the foreground windows focus.
- GetCapture
- GetWindowTextLength
- GetEnvironmentVariable
- GetEnvironmentVariable
- VkKeyScan: Translates a character to the corresponding virtual-key code.
- GetAsyncKeyState: Allows you to determine whether a particular key is currently pressed or released.
- PathRenameExtension
- WriteFile
- FindNextFile
- GetCurrentThread
- WinExec: Legacy function used to launch an application or execute a command line. Available in earlier versions of Windows.
- GlobalAddAtom: Adds a string to the atom table. Atom table are used for storing small pieces of string-based data. Legacy mechanism.
- GetClipboardOwner
- GetClipboardData
- EnumClipboardFormats
- DdeQueryNextServer
- GetConsoleAliasExesLength: Retrieves executable files.
- SetCurrentDirectory

Virtual Size vs Raw Data

raw-address	0x00000400	0x0000BA00	0x0001E400	0x0001EE00	0x00036C00	0x0003C600
raw-size (251904 bytes)	0x0000B600 (46592 bytes)	0x00012A00 (76288 bytes)	0x00000A00 (2560 bytes)	0x00017E00 (97792 bytes)	0x00005A00 (23040 bytes)	0x00001600 (5632 bytes)
virtual-address	0x00001000	0x0000D000	0x00020000	0x00021000	0x00039000	0x0003F000
virtual-size (250379 bytes)	0x0000B571 (46449 bytes)	0x000128B1 (75953 bytes)	0x0000084D (2125 bytes)	0x00017CBE (97470 bytes)	0x000058F2 (22770 bytes)	0x000015EC (5612 bytes)

Likely not packed (compressed).

Libraries

- KERNEL32.dll
- SHLWAPI.dll
- USER32.dll

File Header

```
4D 5A 90 00 03 00 00 00 04 00 00 00 FF FF 00 00 B8 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 40
00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 D8 00 00 00 0E 1F BA 0E 00 B4 09 CD 21 B8 01
4C CD 21 54 68 69 73 20 70 72 6F 67 72 61 6D 20 63 61 6E 6E 6F 74 20 62 65
20 72 75 6E 20 69 6E 20 44 4F 53 20 6D 6F 64 65 2E 0D 0D 0A 24
```

Basic Capa Output

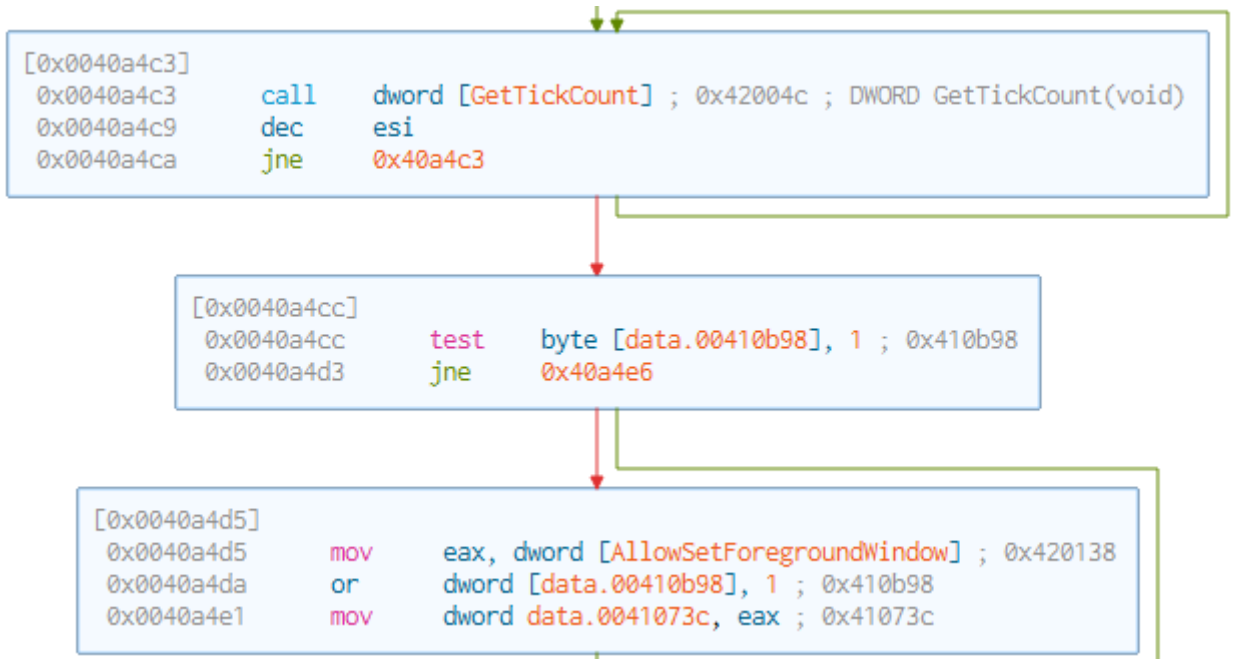
```
+-----------------------+-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------+
| ATT&CK Tactic         | ATT&CK Technique                                                                        |
|-----------------------+-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| DEFENSE EVASION       | Virtualization/Sandbox Evasion::System Checks T1497.001                                 |
+-----------------------+-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------+

+---------------------------+-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------+
| MBC Objective             | MBC Behavior                                                                      |
|---------------------------+-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ANTI-BEHAVIORAL ANALYSIS  | Virtual Machine Detection [B0009]                                                 |
+---------------------------+-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------+

+-------------------------------------------------+-------------------------------------------------------------+
| CAPABILITY                                      | NAMESPACE                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------+-------------------------------------------------------------|
| reference anti-VM strings targeting VMWare      | anti-analysis/anti-vm/vm-detection                          |
| contain a resource (.rsrc) section              | executable/pe/section/rsrc                                  |
| resolve function by parsing PE exports          | load-code/pe                                                |
+-------------------------------------------------+-------------------------------------------------------------+
```

Appears this Zeus variant uses VM / Sandbox Evasion techniques to avoid inspection.

Defense Evasion



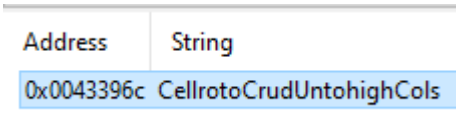
Tests to see how long the Windows machine has been running with the GetTickCount() function. (MITRE ATT&CK sub-technique 3 T1497.003).

String Address Location

Looking into a set of extracted strings (random gibberish followed by a DLL function):

```
CellrotoCrudUntohighCols
KERNEL32.CreateFileA
```

I suspect each of these random blobs of strings is the programs function name for the specific function called within the DLLs function.



The string `icgH` has an offset of 19 address space away from the `KERNEL32.MulDiv` function, meaning they are relatively close.

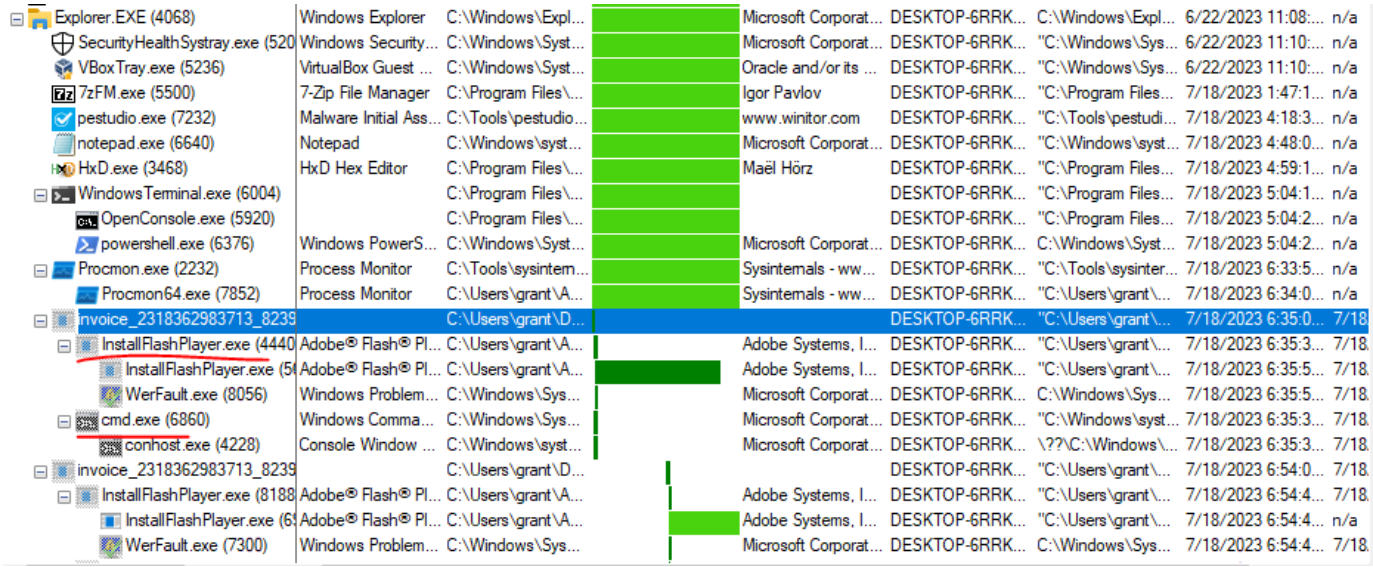
Address	String
0x00433985	KERNEL32.CreateFileA

```
0x0043397c      push    0x43686769 ; 'ighC'
0x00433981      outsd   dx, dword [esi]
0x00433982      insb    byte es:[edi], dx
0x00433983      jae     0x433985
0x00433985      dec     ebx
```

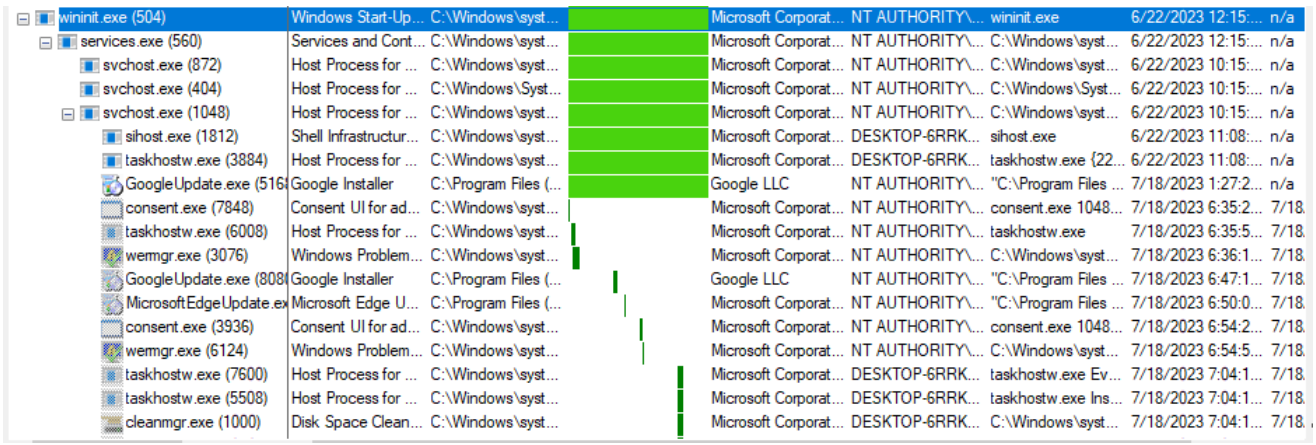
Basic Dynamic Analysis

Host-based Indicators

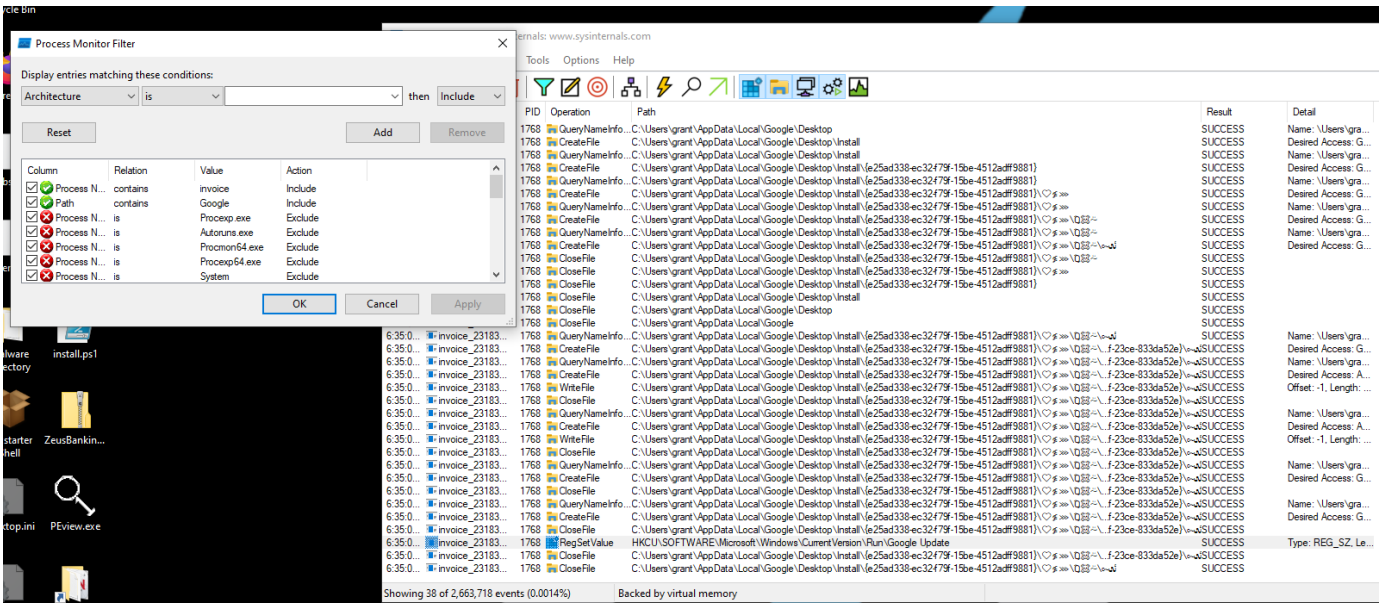
Tools Used: Procmon, INetSim, & Wireshark



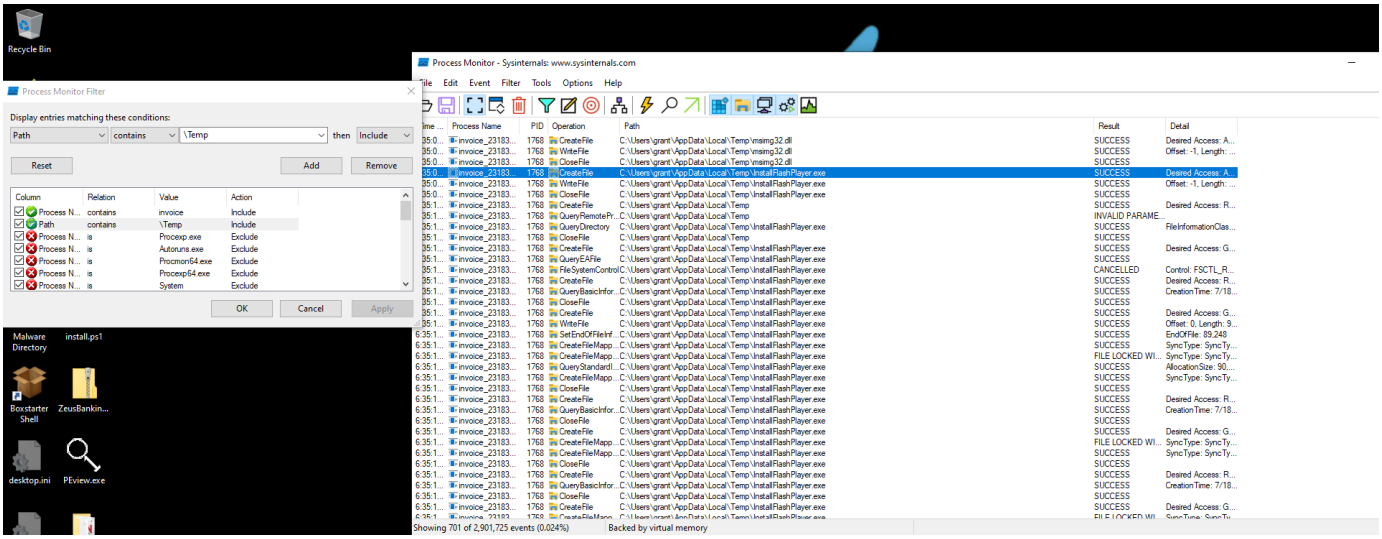
Under invoice parent process has two child processes, including a suspended `cmd.exe` with a child `conhost.exe`.



Under `wininit.exe` -> `svchost.exe` -> `GoogleUpdate.exe` is dropped.



Creates a new registry value in the Google Update location. It is likely this means each time Chrome updates, the malware will be executed.

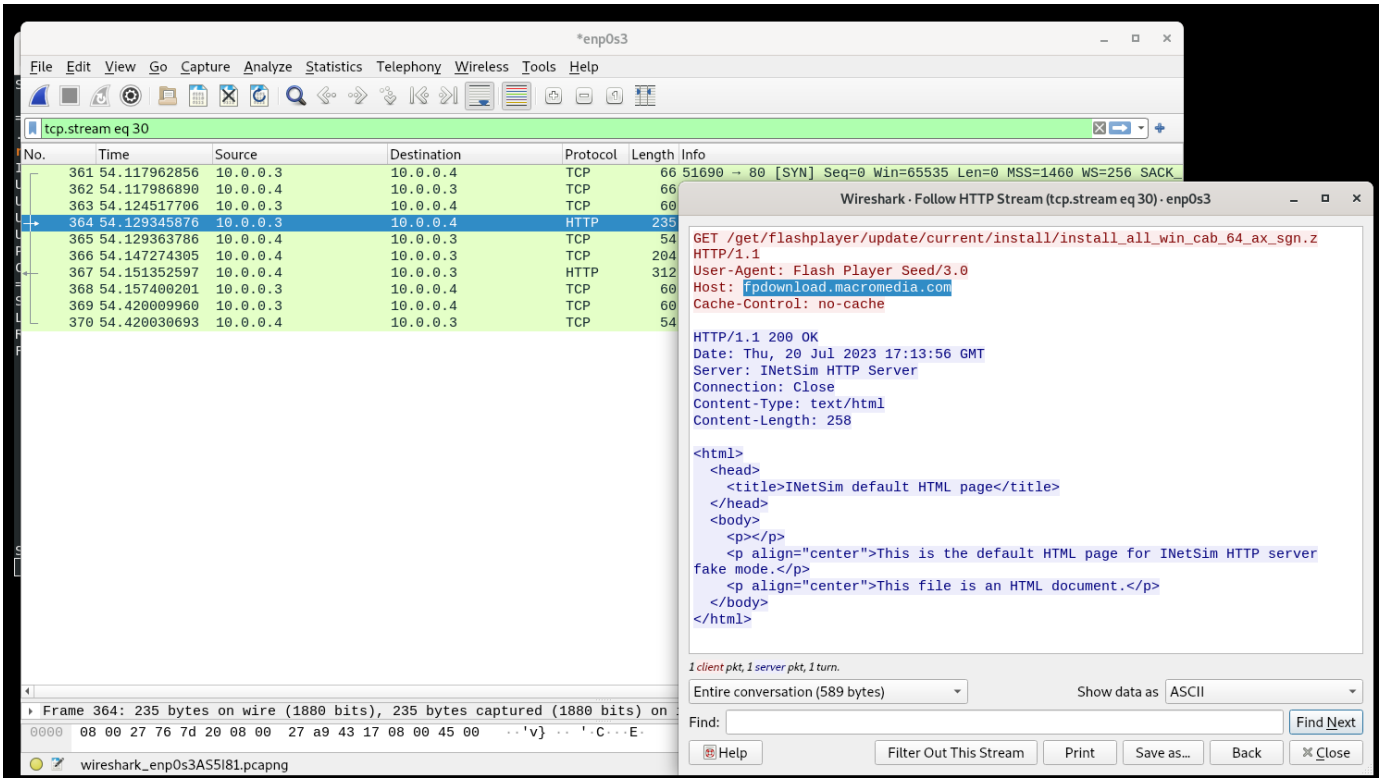


Drops `msimg32.ddl` and `InstallFlashPlayer.exe` into `C:\Users\grant\AppData\Local\Temp\InstallFlashPlayer.exe`.

Network-based Indicators

```
> remnux@remnux:~$ INetSim 1.3.2 (2020-05-19) by Matthias Eckert & Thomas Hungenberg
Using log directory:      /var/log/inetsim/
Using data directory:     /var/lib/inetsim/
Using report directory:   /var/log/inetsim/report/
Using configuration file: /etc/inetsim/inetsim.conf
Parsing configuration file.
Configuration file parsed successfully.
=== INetSim main process started (PID 6241) ===
Session ID:     6241
Listening on:   10.0.0.4
Real Date/Time: 2023-07-20 14:23:12
Fake Date/Time: 2023-07-20 14:23:12 (Delta: 0 seconds)
 Forking services...
  * dns_53_tcp_udp - started (PID 6245)
  * smtp_25_tcp - started (PID 6248)
  * http_80_tcp - started (PID 6246)
  * https_443_tcp - started (PID 6247)
  * pop3_110_tcp - started (PID 6250)
  * smtps_465_tcp - started (PID 6249)
  * ftp_21_tcp - started (PID 6252)
  * ftps_990_tcp - started (PID 6253)
  * pop3s_995_tcp - started (PID 6251)
 done.
Simulation running.
```

Started `inetsim` to simulate DNS server and Wireshark for packet capture.



Captured a suspicious HTTP request out to `fpdownload.macromedia.com`.

```
remnux@remnux:~/dnschef$ sudo ./dnschef.py -i 10.0.0.4
```

Downloaded DNSChef to serve as a DNS proxy to identify if any other domains were being reached out to. Listened on the `ensp0` interface.

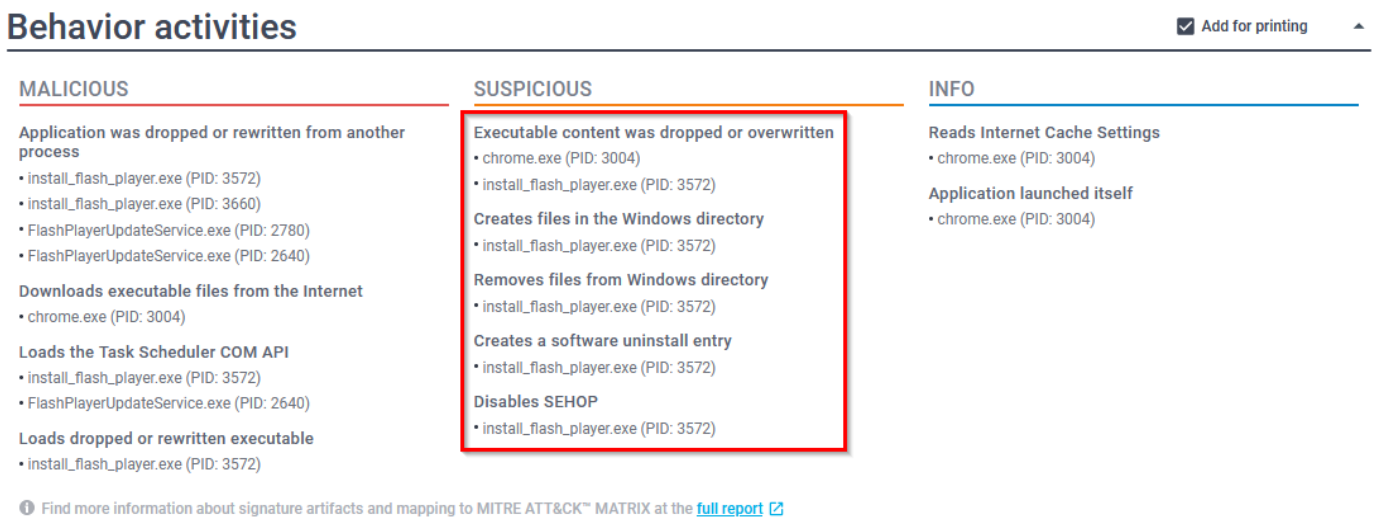
```
[*] 10.0.0.3: proxying the response of type 'A' for fpdownload.macromedia.com
[!] [!] Could not proxy request: [Errno 101] Network is unreachable
```

`fpdownload.macromedia.com` is being reached out to.

```
C:\Users\colli>nslookup fpdownload.macromedia.com
Server:  RAC2V1S
Address:  192.168.1.1

Non-authoritative answer:
Name:    e13914.dscd.akamaiedge.net
Addresses:  2600:1407:e800:586::365a
          2600:1407:e800:58b::365a
          23.192.235.212
Aliases:  fpdownload.macromedia.com
          fpdownload.macromedia.com.edgekey.net
```

Issuing `nslookup` on `fpdownload.macromedia.com` shows an IP address of `23.192.235.212`, which is not flagged as malicious on VirusTotal.



Source: [Any.Run](Any.Run)

Searching for the domain `fpdownload.macromedia.com` displays an Any.Run analysis web page, which displays a similar behavior as seen when executing the binary.

Detection Rules (YARA)

YARA rule used to detect the Zeus Banking Trojan Version 26-Nov-2013.

```
// import pe

rule Zeus {

    meta:
        author="Grant C."
        description="A detection rule against ZuesBankingVersion_26Nov2013"

    strings:
```

```
        $file_name="invoice_2318362983713_823931342io.pdf.exe" ascii
        // Suspected name of functions and DLL functionalities.

$function_name_KERNEL32="AsksmaceaglyBubuPulsKaifTeasMistPeelGhisPrimChaoLyr
eroeno" ascii
        $function_name_KERNERL32_CreateFileA="CellrotoCrudUntohighCols"
ascii
        $function_name_KERNEL32_FINDFIRSTFILEA="GeneAilshe" ascii

        // PE Magic Byte.

        $PE_magic_byte="MZ"

        // Hex String Function Name + DLL.

        $hex_string_SHLWAPI_PATHREMOVEFILESPECA= {44 65 6E 79 4C 75 62 65 44
75 6E 73 73 61 77 73 4F 72 65 73 76 61 72 75 74 00 53 48 4C 57 41 50 49}

    condition:
        // Use the pe library to create fine-grained rules for PE files.
        // pe.ispie
        $PE_magic_byte at 0 and $filename
        and $function_name_KERNEL32
        or $function_name_KERNERL32_CreateFileA
        or $function_name_KERNEL32_FINDFIRSTFILEA
        and $hex_string_SHLWAPI_PATHREMOVEFILESPECA


}
```

```
C:\Users\grant\Desktop
λ yara64 zeus_rule.yara invoice_2318362983713_823931342io.pdf.exe -s -w -p 32
Zeus invoice_2318362983713_823931342io.pdf.exe
0x315a2:$function_name_KERNEL32: AsksmaceaglyBubuPulsKaifTeasMistPeelGhisPrimC
haoLyreroeno
0x3176c:$function_name_KERNERL32_CreateFileA: CellrotoCrudUntohighCols
0x318fa:$function_name_KERNEL32_FINDFIRSTFILEA: GeneAilshe
0x0:$PE_magic_byte: MZ
0x3179a:$hex_string_SHLWAPI_PATHREMOVEFILESPECA: 44 65 6E 79 4C 75 62 65 44 75
 6E 73 73 61 77 73 4F 72 65 73 76 61 72 75 74 00 53 48 4C 57 41 50 49
```

Run the `yara64 zeus_rule.yara invoice_2318362983713_823931342io.pdf.exe -s -w -p 32` to detect this malware variant based on unique strings.

- `-s`: Print matched strings to stdout.
- `-w`: Ignore warnings.

- `p 32`: Allocate 32 threads.