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Malware Analysis Report

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Submitted to
Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology

November 2, 2021



DECLARATION

I declare that this is my own work, and this report does not incorporate without acknowledgement any material previously submitted for a degree or diploma in any other university or Institute of higher learning and to the best of my knowledge and belief it does not contain any material previously published or written by another person except where the acknowledgement is made in the text.

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ABSTRACT

Cybercrime is becoming more common with each passing day, and criminals are coming up with new ways to destroy their targets through propagating worms and malware. In a fast - changing world technologies and innovations are released on a daily basis; it is possible to attack a system and exploit the system's vulnerabilities. Malware's impact, according to studies, is worsening. Malware is any harmful software that is designed to carry out malicious actions on a computer system. Virus, worms, backdoors, trojans, backdoors and adware are some examples for malwares. There are various kind of malware analysis such as dynamic analysis, static analysis and behavior analysis. There are some drawbacks to static malware analysis. Dynamic malware analysis is the preferred method of malware analysis, and it can be done with a variety of tool and techniques. Portable Document Format (PDF) files are one of the methods used to distribute malware. Keyloggers are another type of malware that users may encounter. These malwares get installed in the systems with or without the user concern. They have the ability to steal, damage, corrupt important or the personal data which is owned by the user. Every day, antivirus companies get a thousand pieces of potentially harmful software that might disrupt systems.

Key words: Portable Document Format (PDF), Dynamic malware analysis, malware, cyber crime

CONTENTS

DECLARATION.....	2
ABSTRACT	3
LIST OF FIGURES	5
LIST OF TABLES	7
LIST OF APPENDICES	7
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS.....	8
ABOUT COMPANY	9
APPRAISAL RECEIVERS	9
INTRODUCTION.....	10
BACKGROUND	12
FINDINGS 01	14
FINDINGS 02	23
FINDINGS 03	40
GLOSSARY	49
SUMMARY.....	51
REFERENCE.....	52
APPENDICES.....	53

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: File Type.....	17
Figure 2: Malware File	18
Figure 3: File type identification.....	18
Figure 4: Hash Calculation	19
Figure 5: PE Studio usage in analysis	19
Figure 6: Executed PDF malware file.....	20
Figure 7: PDF stream object	21
Figure 8: PDF Body	21
Figure 9: PDF Body	21
Figure 10: Using PEiD	26
Figure 11: Using Exeinfo PE.....	27
Figure 12: Using HashCalc.....	28
Figure 13: Using pestudio	28
Figure 14: VirusTotal Report.....	29
Figure 15: File type identification.....	29
Figure 16: Imports.....	30
Figure 17: Malware File Opened in MS Word.....	30
Figure 18: Malware File Opened in MS Word.....	31
Figure 19: Using PE Explorer.....	31
Figure 20: Malware Execution Cycle.....	32
Figure 21: Get Temp Path	33
Figure 22: GetTempPathW.....	33
Figure 23: CreateFileW	34
Figure 24: sfx_main	34
Figure 25: Dropped Files.....	35
Figure 26: creating Hidden folders within the system folder	35
Figure 27: Numerous files are dropped into the concealed folder, and the keylogger's activation starts.....	36

Figure 28: Temp file imports.....	37
Figure 29: SetKeyHook subroutine.....	38
Figure 30: Using x32dbg.....	39
Figure 31: LoadLibraryW.....	39
Figure 32: SSL cert list.....	43
Figure 33: File Type identification	44
Figure 34: HxD	45
Figure 35: Hash Calculation	45
Figure 36: Compilation Timestamp	46
Figure 37: Using Exeinfo PE.....	46
Figure 38: Using PE Explorer.....	47
Figure 39: Using x32 dgb.....	47
Figure 40: Using IDA.....	48
Figure 41: Malware is checking to see if the command "m*&ghfge4wer" was received from the proxy target.....	48
Figure 42: Virus Total Report.....	53
Figure 43: Any Run report.....	54
Figure 44: Process graph of keylogger.....	55
Figure 45: Virus Total report.....	56
Figure 46: Executed Malware.....	56

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1:	Appraisal Receivers
Table 2:	PE Section
Table 3:	Glossary

LIST OF APPENDICES

<i>Appendix</i>	<i>Page Number</i>
Appendix A	53
Appendix B	54
Appendix C	56

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<i>Abbreviation</i>	<i>Description</i>
PDF	Portable Document Format
PE	Portable Executable
OS	Operating System
HxD	Hex editor

ABOUT COMPANY

Stark Industries can be considered as a well-reputed weapons manufacture in the United State. Stark Industries has received the majority of US military contracts and has also involved in the private military sector. Specifically, with S.H.E.I.L.D., which is a private entity funded by the security council of the world. The entire company is based in Manhattan, New York, and it comprises of the headquarters, manufacturing unit, storage unit, and distribution unit.

As Stark Industries is a world-renowned weapon manufacturer, it rents firearms and imports and exports weaponry for other countries. Stark industries contain a large number of assets such as Experimental Weapons Information System (EWIS), Sales Management System (SMS), Employee Management System (EMS), Workforce Management System (WMS), Importing and Exporting Firearms management System (IEFMS), Document Management System (DMS), Inventory Management System (IMS), Rental Management System (RMS).

APPRAISAL RECEIVERS

Table 1: Appraisal Receivers

Position	Name
Organization Owner	Tony Stark
CEO	Pepper Potts
System Custodian	James Rhodes
Database Administrator	Peter Parker
Security Administrator	Happy Hogan
Network and Computer System Administrator	Nick Fury

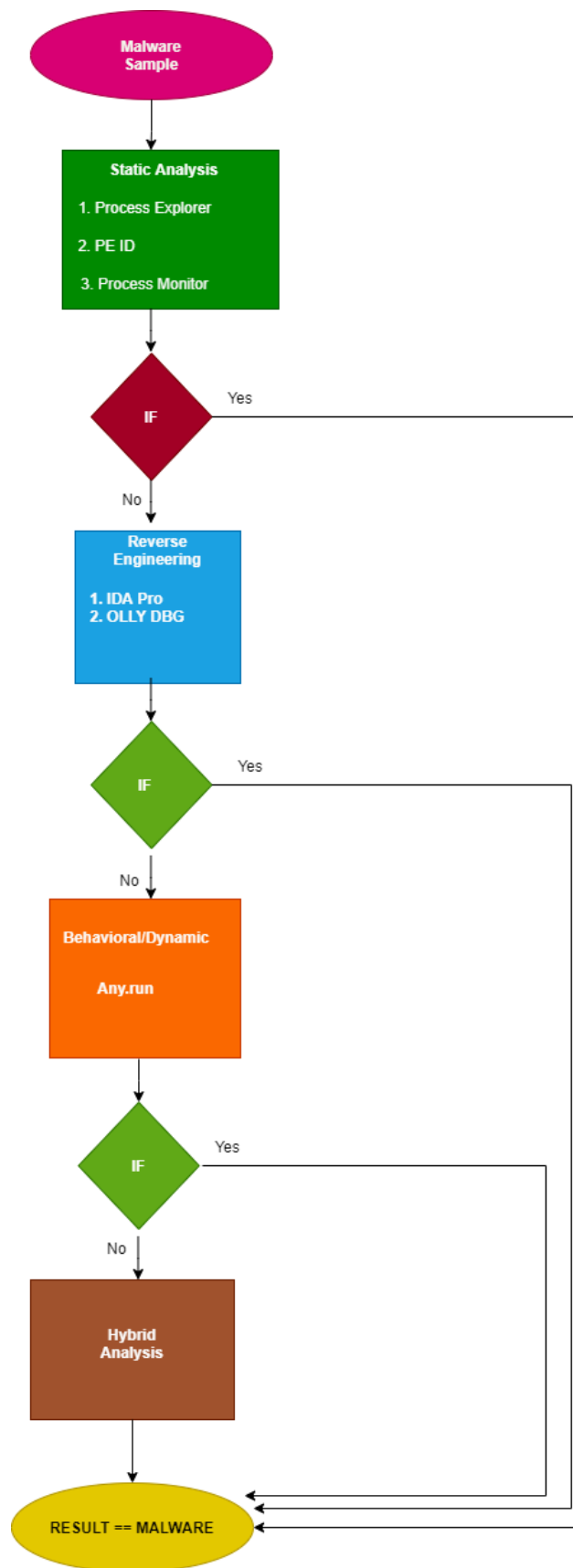
INTRODUCTION

Malware is an abbreviation for malicious software, which is meant to harm a computer without the user's knowledge. There are various kind of malwares such as viruses, trojans, worms, spywares and rootkits. Malware is a key element of several vulnerabilities. Companies struggle to comprehend the malware that they come across. Understanding how to detect malware allows you to take control of the situation. The process of determining the objective and features of a given malware sample, such as a virus, worm, or Trojan horse, is known as malware analysis. The procedure is required in order to build efficient detecting tools for malicious programs. Static analysis tools attempt to analyze a binary without actually running it. After a binary has been executed, live analysis techniques will examine its behavior.

Static analysis refers to the process of evaluating software without running it. There are various kind of static analysis techniques. Additionally, useful information can be retrieved by exploiting the metadata of a specific file format. It includes a number on UNIX, that may indicate the type of the file. A lot of information can be gathered like the compilation time stamp, imports and exports. Mostly malwares are in obfuscated format. It is done by using packers. When the malware is packed it is hard to recover. Major part of static analysis is the disassembly. It is done with tools like IDA Pro, that are able of reversing machine code to assembly language. Because the source code is not executed in static analysis, it is more secure than dynamic analysis.

Dynamic malware analysis is the process of analyzing malware within a controlled environment. It is done in order to analyze the behavior of the malware. This is conducted with the use of a sandbox. And the sandbox is a controlled environment that is used to isolate the process of malware.

The malware analysis report covers the malicious attacks that Stark Industries had to deal with. The figure below illustrates the malware analysis process that was used during the analysis.



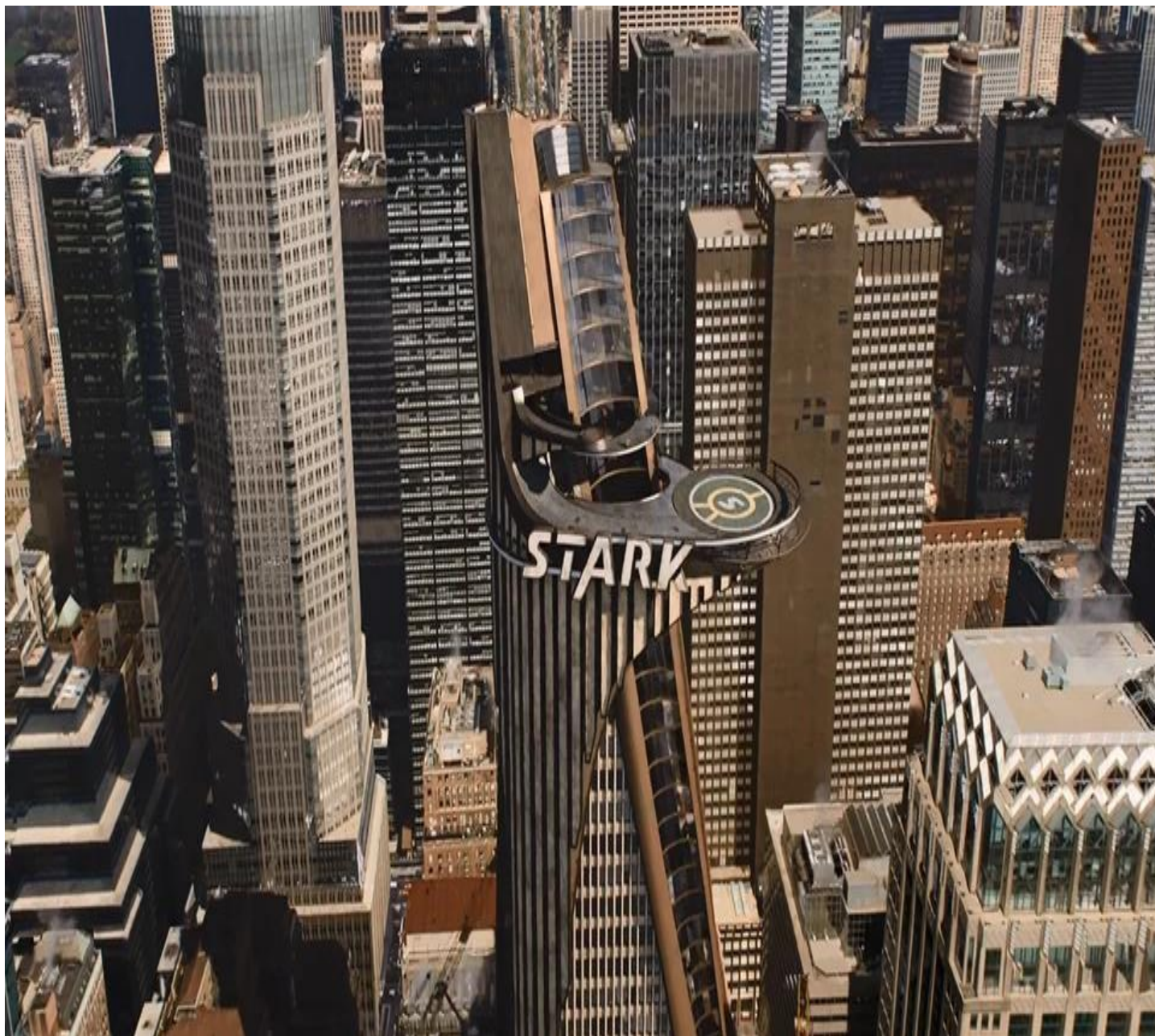
BACKGROUND

This malware analysis report was conducted over stark industries, Manhattan, New York City, from October 5th, 2021, to November 5th, 2021. The malware analysis is carried out by identifying significant malwares that have an impact on the company's information assets, as well as potential threats to information security aspects such as the confidentiality, availability and integrity, of the company's entire critical data resources. known malware analysis techniques, tools and technologies. The goal of this malware analysis approach was to identify and assess vulnerabilities and risks associated to Stark Industries' various critical information assets.

In the United States, Stark Industries is a well-known firearm manufacturer. Stark Industries receives the majority of US military contracts, and it has also been involved in private military industries.

Stark Industries own a Documents Management System (DMS) which may keep all the documents. The Documents Management System (DMS) is used to collect, track, monitor, and store all types of documents in order to eliminate paper. Also, this Document Management System (DMS) includes licenses, patents, agreements and also the permits. Every day, the administrators of the Documents Management System received emails, and this malware analysis report is about a Malicious payload PDF file that they received from an unknown sender.

And also, the analysis team could find a keylogger which was installed to track all the passwords, administrator's internet behaviors, chat messages among the high-level management of the Stark Industries. The keylogger aimed the Experimental Weapons Information System (EWIS) of the company. This EWIS is a \$100,000 system that contains all information on weapons in the experimental stage. Designing, developing, modifying, testing, and analyzing are all processes in an experiment.



FINDINGS 01

025ba9ce4a2118a9ca7b115c8869ff73bc16bad3732ba359cef1e60ad8f961f9

Labels

Phishing

Basic Details

Name: 025ba9ce4a2118a9ca7b115c8869ff73bc16bad3732ba359cef1e60ad8f961f9

File Type: PDF

File Size: 40.96 KB

MD5: 01f03f3cc923583a5157243f2a90879d

SHA-1: 0ccc56a8c890053314ac4d0948a5f1f040624ed5

SHA-256: 025ba9ce4a2118a9ca7b115c8869ff73bc16bad3732ba359cef1e60ad8f961f9

Vhash: 9dcf8653401561d19b368901d71bd53eb

SHA-512:

41698e5ca4579b369372e3e3a7e5e05004e25eb9965e650df30b98ba7ec2182a374c7560c1d5f1e06a9b

282aa864153d6c4b1d6ed04300b6a8d359aec4a117df

SSDEEP:

768:6gGzpD9KyYiQy+w13VJsxOG0ZTD+qB5F+x06qH2RnzJttJLf:nGF5PYE+w10rcjF+x060Untt
tJLf

TrID: Adobe Portable Document Format

Entropy: 7.711

First-Bytes: hex,25 50 44 46 2D 31 2E 34 0A 31 20 30 20 6F 62 6A 0A 3C 3C 0A 2F 54 69 74 6C 65
20 28 FE FF 00 44 00

First-bytes: text, % P D F - 1 . 4 .. 1 0 o b j .. < < .. / T i t l e (.. . . D ..

Document creator: LibreOffice

Document producer: LibreOffice

Document title: Death in Tehran Parable

Document subject: Death in tehran parable. From a number of different stories to existentialism/humanism, one story that has always lingered in

Document Pages: 2

Anti-Virus

Antiy-AVL: Trojan/Generic.ASMalwRG.12D

CAT-Quick Heal: PDF.Phishing.39982

DrWeb: PDF.Phisher.197

GData: PDF.Trojan-Stealer.Phishing. E

Ikarus: Trojan.PDF.Phishing

Description

A Spear - phishing Link was discovered in the malicious PDF document. In an attempt to obtain access to the victim's systems, adversaries may send Spear - phishing emails with malicious links. A URL is included in the PDF file. These are the URLs included in the document.

"https://ttraff.me/wix?keyword=death+in+tehran+parable" "025ba9ce4a2118a9ca7b115c8869ff73bc16bad3732ba359cef1e60ad8f961f9")	(Based	on:
"https://static.usrfiles.com/ugd/5be868_661b97dcf71e4c54800795ecce1d754a.pdf" "025ba9ce4a2118a9ca7b115c8869ff73bc16bad3732ba359cef1e60ad8f961f9")	(Based	on:
"http://files.all4pawsdogrescue.com.au/uploads/1/3/0/7/130776296/3560341.pdf" "025ba9ce4a2118a9ca7b115c8869ff73bc16bad3732ba359cef1e60ad8f961f9")	(Based	on:
"http://bujilami.vitalis-foundation.net/uploads/1/3/2/6/132681495/3872217.pdf" "025ba9ce4a2118a9ca7b115c8869ff73bc16bad3732ba359cef1e60ad8f961f9")	(Based	on:
"https://static.usrfiles.com/ugd/6cf804_8f214cda00aa458092795d69de279b5c.pdf" "025ba9ce4a2118a9ca7b115c8869ff73bc16bad3732ba359cef1e60ad8f961f9")	(Based	on:
"https://static.usrfiles.com/ugd/e9cba9_d58e05da9d6a4b8699d554058415ce5e.pdf" "025ba9ce4a2118a9ca7b115c8869ff73bc16bad3732ba359cef1e60ad8f961f9")	(Based	on:
"https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0428/8148/2919/files/birches_analysis.pdf" "025ba9ce4a2118a9ca7b115c8869ff73bc16bad3732ba359cef1e60ad8f961f9")	(Based	on:
"https://static.usrfiles.com/ugd/d8966e_d9f7c2b6768e4d719f413432cd8e6e0b.pdf" "025ba9ce4a2118a9ca7b115c8869ff73bc16bad3732ba359cef1e60ad8f961f9")	(Based	on:
"http://files.midvalleydouglas.net/uploads/1/3/1/4/131406391/lonanis-rulufuwigivur.pdf" "025ba9ce4a2118a9ca7b115c8869ff73bc16bad3732ba359cef1e60ad8f961f9")	(Based	on:
"https://static.usrfiles.com/ugd/911c12_4e6864392c234d5b99364c831dda6646.pdf" "025ba9ce4a2118a9ca7b115c8869ff73bc16bad3732ba359cef1e60ad8f961f9")	(Based	on:

Customer Impact

➤ Change internet explorer settings.

TypeValue: REG_DWORD

Key:

HKEY_CURRENT_USER\SOFTWARE\MICROSOFT\INTERNETEXPLORER\MAIN\FEATURECONTROL\
FEATURE_BROWSER_EMULATION

Value: 10001

Name: ACRORD32.EXE

Operation: WRITE

➤ Start Internet Explorer

Cmdline:"C:\Program Files\Internet Explorer\iexplore.exe"

<https://ttraff.me/wix?keyword=death+in+tehran+parable>

Analysis Process

A PDF may contain texts, images, and also codes. The flexibility of the PDFs is used by hackers unnecessarily. Hackers may exploit these PDFs. These PDF files may expose important details and also it may open the backdoor for hackers to enter your working environment.

➤ Hex Editor (HxD)

As shown in the figure 3 first the file type should be identified. File type identification is very useful because it helps to identify the targeted Operating System and the architecture. Here the found malware is in PDF format. If the file type contains %PDF-1.4 or something it gives the file type is PDF and its version is 1.4. Hex editor is used to identify the file type.

Offset(h)	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	0A	0B	0C	0D	0E	0F	Decoded text
00000000	25	50	44	46	2D	31	2E	34	0A	31	20	30	20	6F	62	6A	%PDF-1.4.1 0 obj
00000010	0A	3C	3C	0A	2F	54	69	74	6C	65	20	28	FE	FF	00	44	.<<./Title (pÿ.D
00000020	00	65	00	61	00	74	00	68	00	20	00	69	00	6E	00	20	.e.a.t.h. .i.n.
00000030	00	74	00	65	00	68	00	72	00	61	00	6E	00	20	00	70	.t.e.h.r.a.n. .p
00000040	00	61	00	72	00	61	00	62	00	6C	00	65	29	0A	2F	43	.a.r.a.b.l.e)./C
00000050	72	65	61	74	6F	72	20	28	FE	FF	00	77	00	6B	00	68	reator (pÿ.w.k.h

Figure 1: File Type

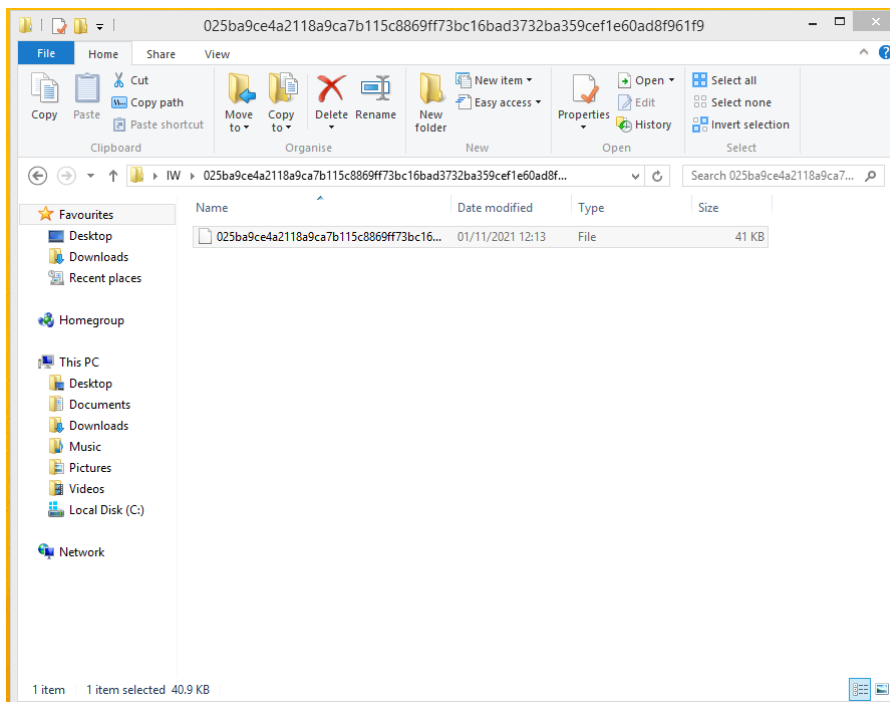


Figure 2: Malware File

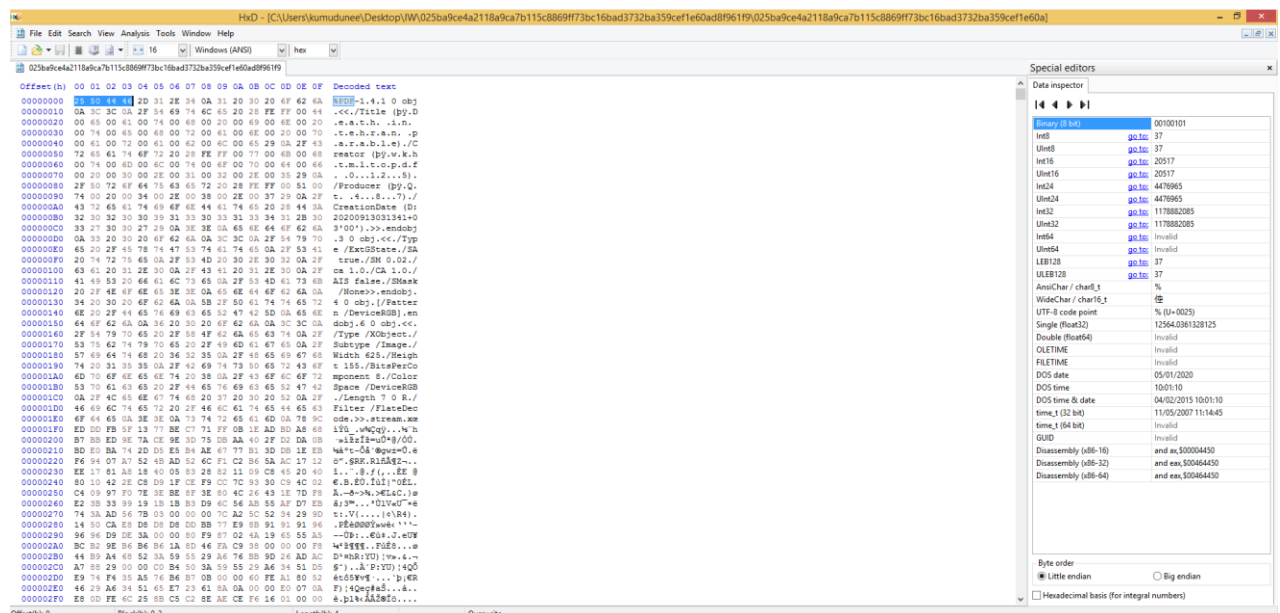


Figure 3: File type identification

➤ HashCalc

Hash calculation is used to generate the cryptographic hashes for the malware file. MD 5, SHA-1, SHA-256, SHA-512 are the hashing algorithms which are using in the malware identification process. This process may give use a unique digest which is called as fingerprint. In order to identify malwares accurately hashes are used, and it make the analysis process easy.

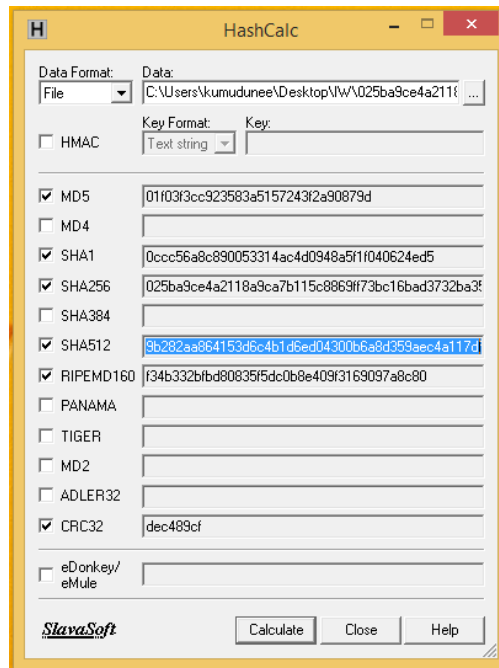


Figure 4: Hash Calculation

➤ PE Studio

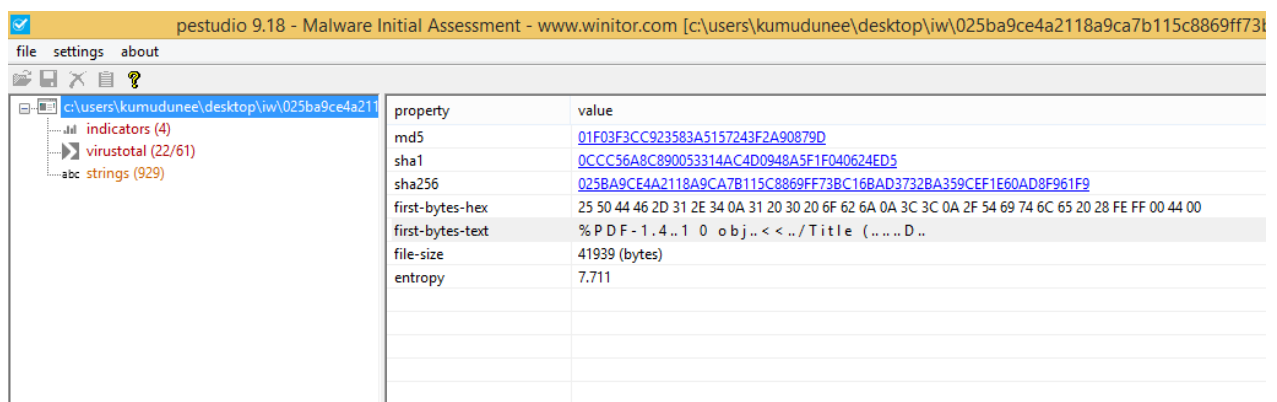


Figure 5: PE Studio usage in analysis

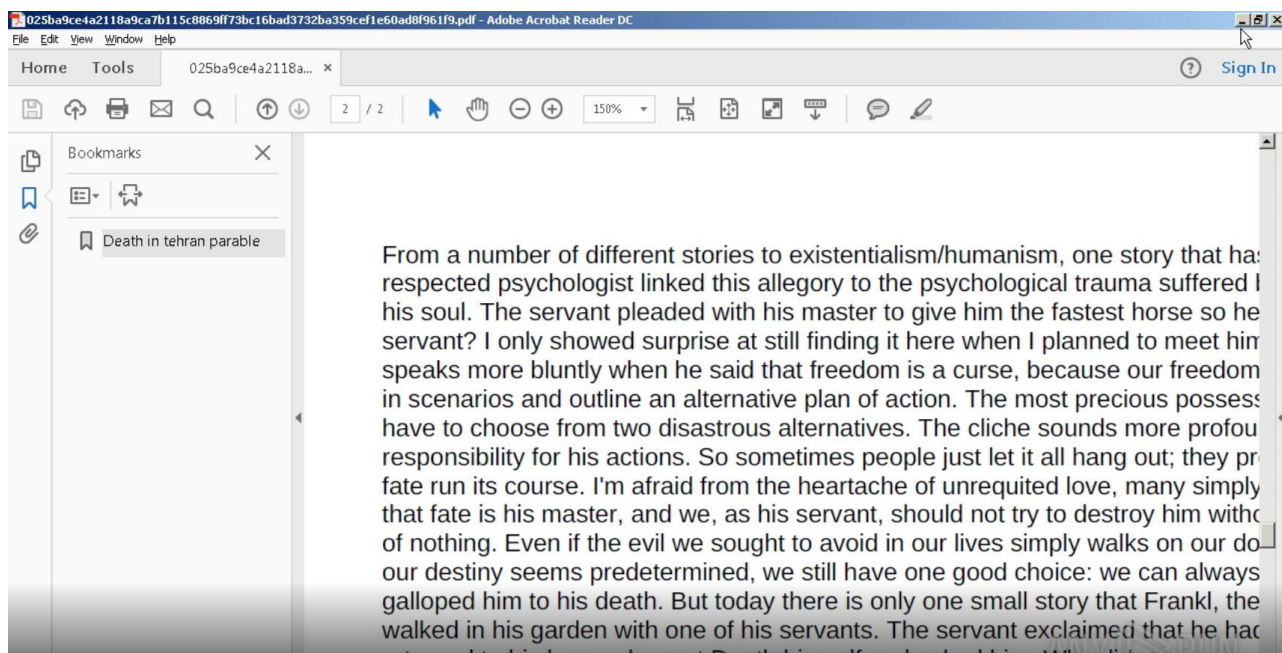


Figure 6: Executed PDF malware file

➤ PdfStreamDumper

In order to analyze the body of the PDF file PdfStreamDumper is used. A PDF document is a group of objects that each consist of a single self-contained sequence of bytes together with the related structural information. The header includes details about the PDF language's version. A PDF file's header appears at the top of the document. If the file's header is missing, the PDF renderer ignores it.

The body is made up with one or more items. Objects come in a variety of forms, including strings, numbers, dictionaries, bool, and streams. Fonts, pictures, pages, and embedded scripts such as JavaScript and Acrobat forms are all part of an object's information.

```

%PDF-1.4.1 0 obj
<<./Title (pÿ.D
.e.a.t.h. .i.n.
.t.e.h.r.a.n. .p
.a.r.a.b.l.e)./C
reator (pÿ.w.k.h
.t.m.l.t.o.p.d.f
. .0...1.2...5).
/Producer (pÿ.Q.
t. .4...8...7)./
CreationDate (D:
20200913031341+0
3'00') .>>.endobj

```

Figure 7: PDF stream object

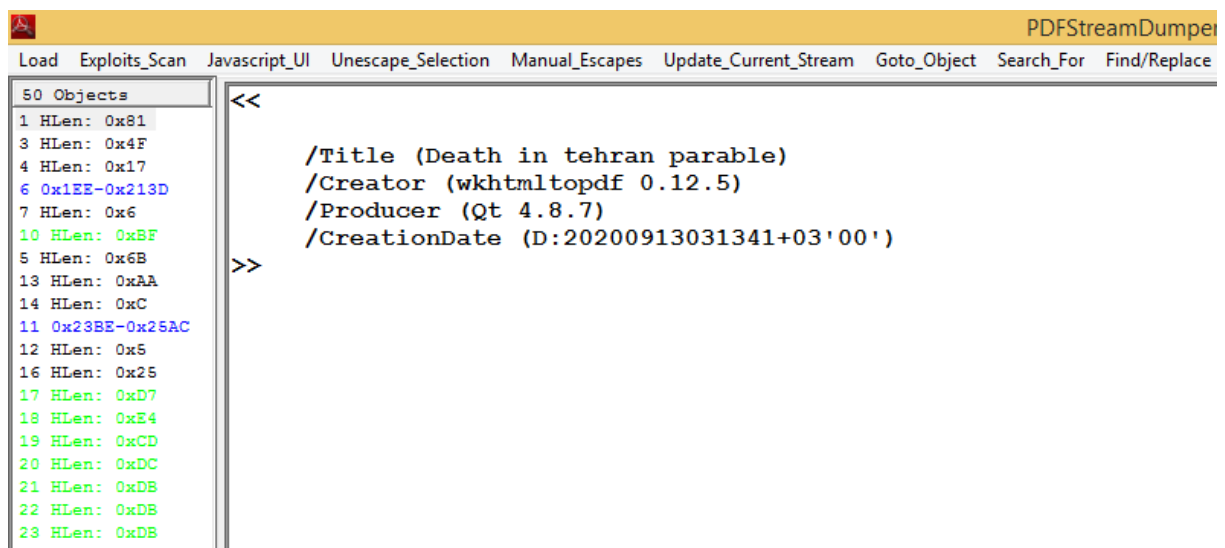


Figure 8: PDF Body

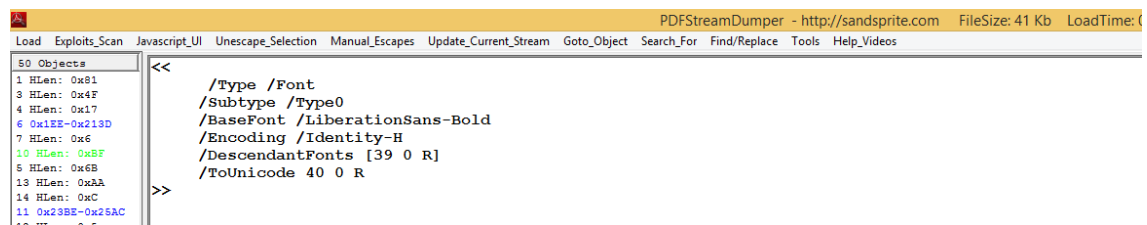


Figure 9: PDF Body

```
%PDF-1.4
1 0 obj
<<
/Title (pÿ.D.e.a.t.h. .i.n. .t.e.h.r.a.n.p.a.r.a.b.l.e)
/Creator (pÿ.w.k.h.t.m.l.t.o.p.d.f..0..1.2...5)
/Producer (pÿ.Q.t..4...8...7)
/CreationDate (D:20200913031341+03'00')
>>
endobj

3 0 obj
<<
/Type /ExtGState
/SA true
/SM 0.02
/ca 1.0
/CA 1.0
/AIS false
/SMask /None
>>
Endobj
4 0 obj
[/Pattern /DeviceRGB]
endobj

6 0 obj
<<
/Type /XObject
/Subtype /Image
/Width 625
/Height 155
/BitsPerComponent 8
/ColorSpace /DeviceRGB
/Length 7 0 R
/Filter /FlateDecode
>>
stream
```

Here is an example of a PDF document.

Mitigations and Best Practices

- Advanced email security should be implemented.
- JavaScript can be disabled from the PDF reader that you are using
- Don't permit PDF readers to use external apps to execute non-PDF files.
- Make sure that your PDF readers software and Antivirus software are updated.
- c6f78Should not download or open files which are sent by unknown email senders.
- It is better to educate users
- Keep regular offline backups.

FINDINGS 02

Ardamax Keylogger

Labels

Keylogger

Basic Details

Name: ArdamaxKeylogger

File Type: Win32 EXE

File Size: 783.91 KB

MD5: e33af9e602cbb7ac3634c2608150dd18

SHA-1: 8f6ec9bc137822bc1ddf439c35fedc3b847ce3fe

SHA-256: 8c870eec48bc4ea1aca1f0c63c8a82aaadaf837f197708a7f0321238da8b6b75

SHA-512:

2ae5003e64b525049535ebd5c42a9d1f6d76052cccaa623026758aabe5b1d1b5781ca91c727f3ecb9ac3
0b829b8ce56f11b177f220330c704915b19b37f8f418

Vhash 085046655d151bzf18lz1fz

Authentihash: bd0ef20d5ab6f6ab56355b666d16639d8770b54c003d046799d19491aca168e5

SSDEEP:

12288:0E9uQlDTt8c/wtocu3HhGSrIilDhlPnRq/iI7UOvqF8dtbcZl36VBqWPH:FuqD2cYWzBGZohl
E/zUD8/bgl2qW/

TrID: Generic Win/DOS Executable (50%)

TrID: DOS Executable Generic (49.9%)

Entropy: 7.997

Magic: PE32 executable for MS Windows (GUI) Intel 80386 32-bit

PEiD packer: Microsoft Visual C++

Subsystem: GUI

Anti-Virus

Ad-Aware: Dropped: Application.Keylogger. Ardamax.Gen

AhnLab-V3: Trojan/Win32.Ardamax.R1645

Alibaba: TrojanSpy: Win32/Ardamax.582c6805

ALYac: Trojan.Keylogger. ArdamaxKey

Portable Executable Information

Compilation Timestamp: Wed Mar 04 14:29:05 2009

Description

Ardamax Keylogger is a commercialized keylogger that captures every keystroke entered and follows the user's internet behavior. It has the amazing ability to hide itself when functioning. Logs are either emailed to a customizable address or uploaded to a specified FTP server. This should be manually installed.

It has the ability to capture chats. It may allow to record the conversations in google Talk, Skype, yahoo messenger etc. They can stay invisible. It hides from the task manager, start menu and also from the windows start folder. Consumers will be unaware that a key logger is recording every phrase they write in a chat window or password field on their devices. The application records the names and addresses of all websites visited in Internet Explorer, Chrome, Firefox, and Opera, as well as other popular browsers. It will keep tracks of all concealed letters or characters typed passwords and the URLs.

Customer Impact

- Change the system partition.
- Remove data from the device
- For maximum impact, data is encrypted.
- Utilize accessibility features to your advantage
- Lockout the device.
- Carrier billing fraud

Remote service Effects

- Without authorization, track a device remotely.
- Data wiped remotely without any authentication
- Have the ability to obtain cloud backups of the device.

Network Effects

- Swapping sim cards
- Control device communication
- Spy on unencrypted network traffic
- Denial of service or jamming

- Wi-fi access points are rouged.

Mitigating Techniques

- Train users on possible phishes as well as how to manage them effectively on a regular basis.
- Keep firmware updates and patches up to date
- Keep backup data.

Analysis Process

When the malware is uploaded to the virustotal.com platform, we could see the malware has been identified as a keylogger by so many antivirus programs. So, it is also possible that it's a keylogger (Figure 14). As shown in the Figure 15 file type is identified. Here the file type is MZE. The Exeinfo PE tool is used to check whether the malware is packed or not, as shown in Figure 10.

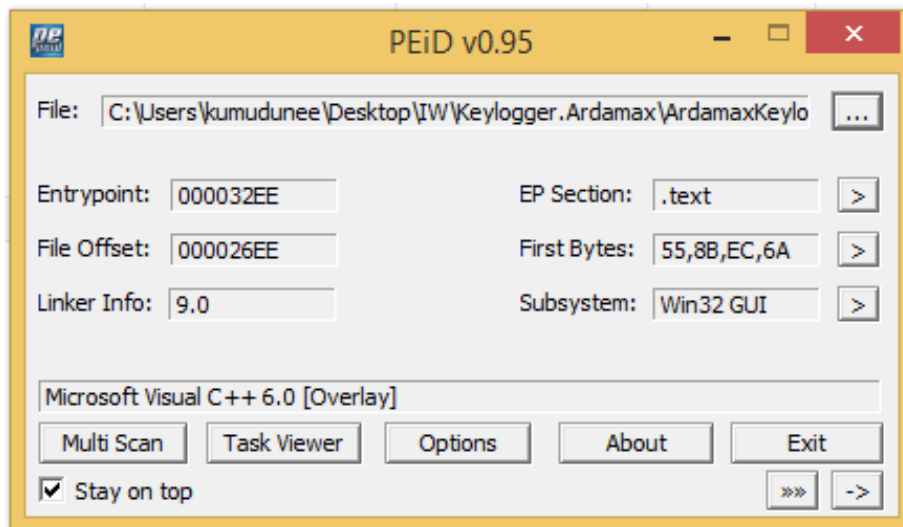


Figure 10: Using PEiD

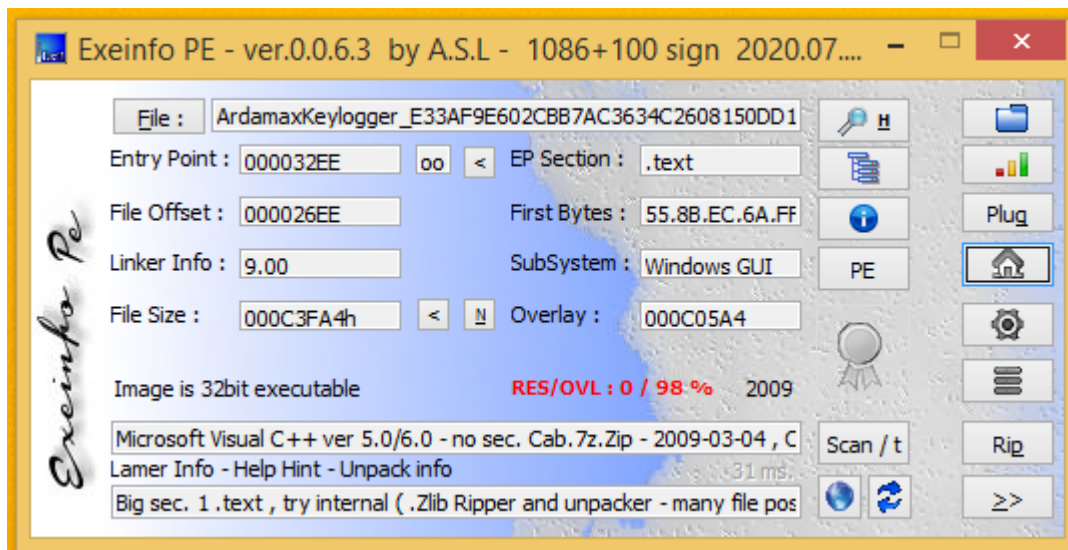


Figure 11: Using Exeinfo PE

When evaluated with the strings.exe program, there have been no related keylogger functions in this virus. I believe this malware is packaged and so does not display any relevant imports. With the use of ExEinfo PE (Figure 11) and PEiD (Figure 10) tool we could find that the malware contains an overlay. Executing this malware sample has the ability to drop down the directories in C:\% Windir%\System32.

https://www.virustotal.com/gui/file/8cd70eec48bc4ea1f0c63c8a2aada837197708a7f0321238da8b6b75/detection

8cd70eec48bc4ea1f0c63c8a2aada837197708a7f0321238da8b6b75

60 / 69

40 security vendors and 1 sandbox flagged this file as malicious

ArdamaxKeylogger_E33AF9E602CBB7AC3634C2608150DD18

783.91 KB Size 2021-06-07 09:54:09 UTC 4 months ago

EXE

Community Score

DETECTION DETAILS RELATIONS BEHAVIOR COMMUNITY

Detection	Details	Relations	Behavior	Community
Ad-Aware		Dropped:Application-Keylogger-Ardamax...	AhnLab-V3	Trojan:Win32-Ardamax.R1645
Alibaba		Trojan:Win32/Ardamax.582c6805	AliYac	Trojan-Keylogger-ArdamaxKey
Antiy-AVL		Trojan:Generic.ASMalwS.202	Arcabit	Application-Keylogger-Ardamax.Gen
Avast		Win32-Ardamax-LV [Spy]	AVG	Win32-Ardamax-LV [Spy]
Avira (no cloud)		TR/Spy.Ardamax.chp	BitDefender	Dropped:Application-Keylogger-Ardamax...
CAT-QuickHeal		PUA.MauvaisR.55242723	ClamAV	Win.Packed.Ardamax-4965118-0
Comodo		Trojan:Win32/TrojanSpy.Ardamax-201...	CrowdStrike Falcon	Win.Malicious_confidence_100% (W)
Cybereason		Malicious.602cbb	Cylance	Unsafe
Cynet		Malicious (score: 100)	Cyren	W32/Trojan.PVQV-6749
DrWeb		Trojan.MulDrop4.11451	Elastic	Malicious (high Confidence)
Emisoft		Dropped:Application-Keylogger-Ardamax...	eScan	Dropped:Application-Keylogger-Ardamax...
F-Secure		Win32/Kaul-nomex.Ardamax.NBR	F-Secure	Trojan:Win32/Kaul-nomex.DR.W

Figure 14: VirusTotal Report

HxD - [C:\Users\kumudunee\Desktop\IW]

File Edit Search View Analysis Tools Window Help

16 Windows (ANSI) hex

ArdamaxKeylogger_E33AF9E602CBB7AC3634C2608150DD18

Offset (h)	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	0A	0B	0C	0D	0E	0F	Decoded text
00000000	4D	5A	45	00	01	00	00	00	04	00	00	00	FF	FF	00	00	MZE.....ÿÿ..
00000010	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	40	00	00	00	53	72	58	46	.....@...SrXF
00000020	00	3A	00	00	D0	00	0C	00	2A	0D	56	62	D4	3E	00	00	...B...*.VbO>..
00000030	01	00	00	00	A1	4D	1C	3B	00	00	00	00	C0	00	00	00	...;M.;...À...
00000040	B8	00	4C	CD	21	00	00	00	85	F8	FF	62	C1	99	91	31	..Lí!.....öÿbA™¹
00000050	C1	99	91	31	C1	99	91	31	E6	5F	EA	31	C5	99	91	31	A™¹A™¹1æ_ê1A™¹¹
00000060	C1	99	90	31	E8	99	91	31	29	86	95	31	C2	99	91	31	A™¹.1æ™¹¹)†•1A™¹¹
00000070	42	85	9F	31	C0	99	91	31	29	86	9A	31	C0	99	91	31	B...Ÿ1A™¹¹)†š1A™¹¹
00000080	29	86	9B	31	CA	99	91	31	C8	E1	15	31	C4	99	91	31	)†>1F™¹¹Eá.1A™¹¹
00000090	C8	E1	12	31	C9	99	91	31	DF	CB	05	31	C0	99	91	31	Eá.1F™¹¹18E.1A™¹¹
000000A0	C8	E1	00	31	C0	99	91	31	52	69	63	68	C1	99	91	31	Eá.1A™¹¹1RichA™¹¹
000000B0	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	.....
000000C0	50	45	00	00	4C	01	04	00	31	90	AE	49	00	00	00	00	PE..L...1.0I....
000000D0	00	00	00	00	E0	00	03	01	0B	01	09	00	00	26	00	00	...à.....&..
000000E0	00	22	00	00	00	00	00	00	EE	32	00	00	00	10	00	00	.."......i2.....
000000F0	00	40	00	00	00	00	40	00	00	10	00	00	00	02	00	00	..@.....@.....
00000100	05	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	05	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	.....
00000110	00	80	00	00	00	04	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	02	00	80	..€.....€.....
00000120	00	00	10	00	00	10	00	00	00	00	10	00	00	10	00	00	.....
00000130	00	00	00	00	10	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	.....
00000140	4C	44	00	00	50	00	00	00	70	00	00	A0	03	00	00	00	LD..P....p... ..
00000150	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	.....
00000160	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	.....

Figure 15: File type identification

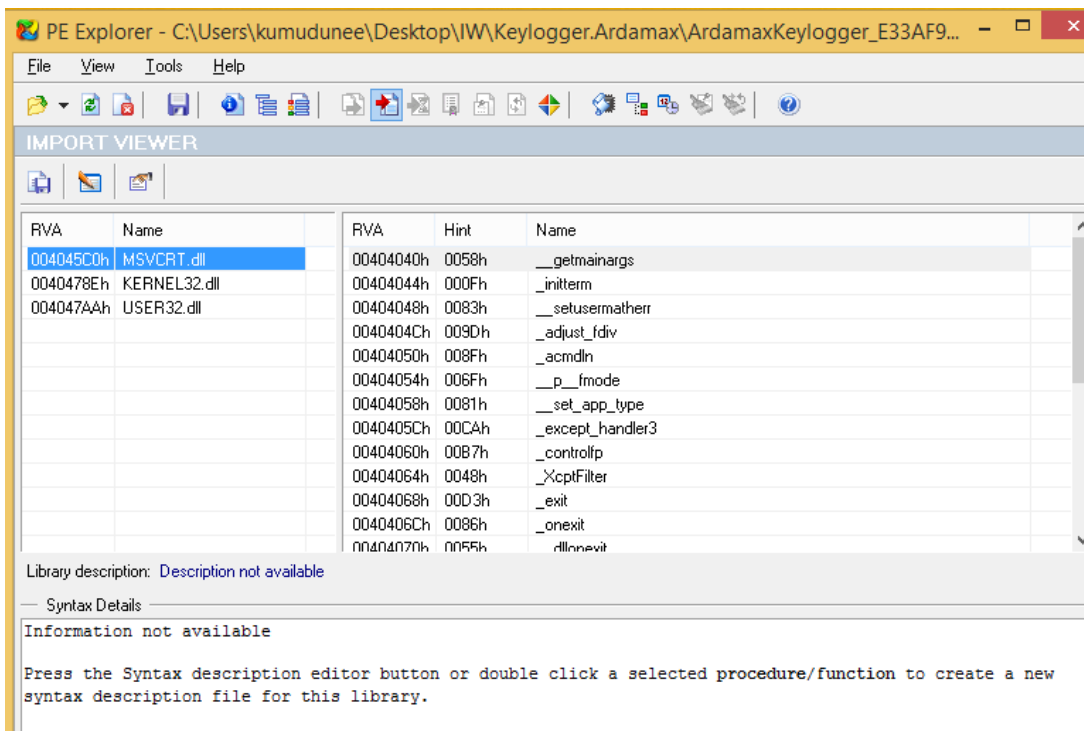


Figure 16: Imports

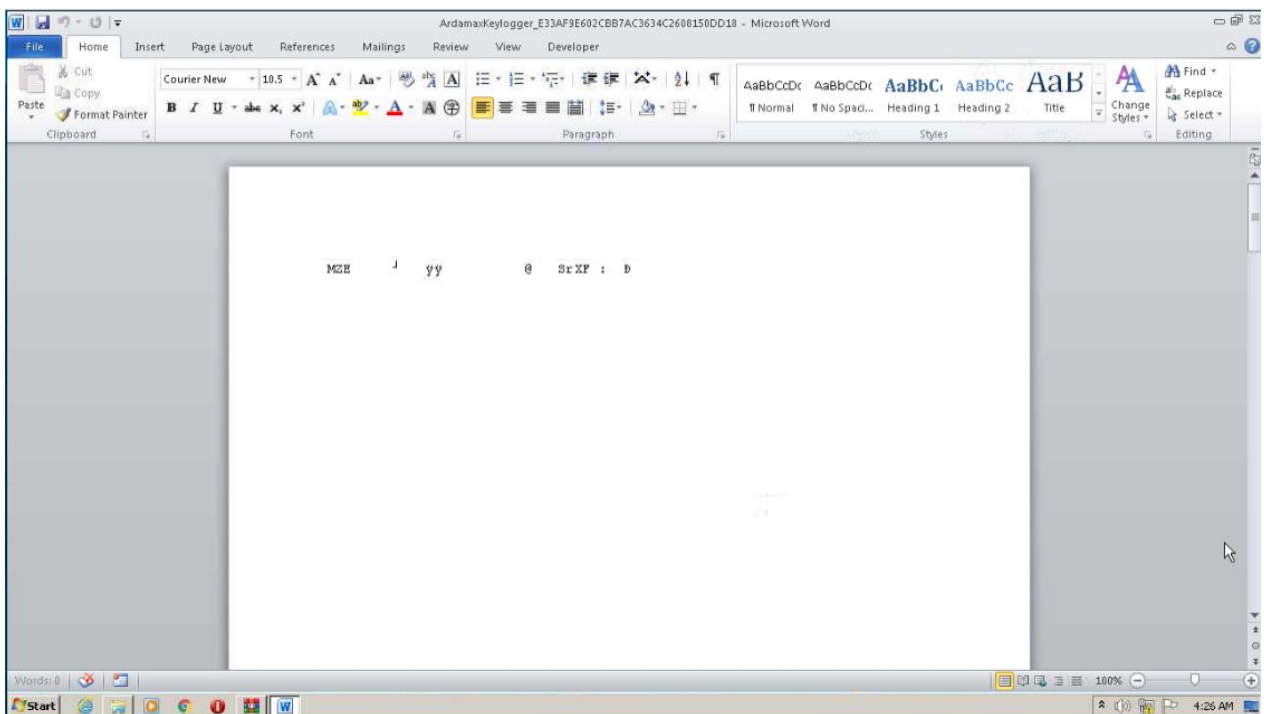


Figure 17: Malware File Opened in MS Word

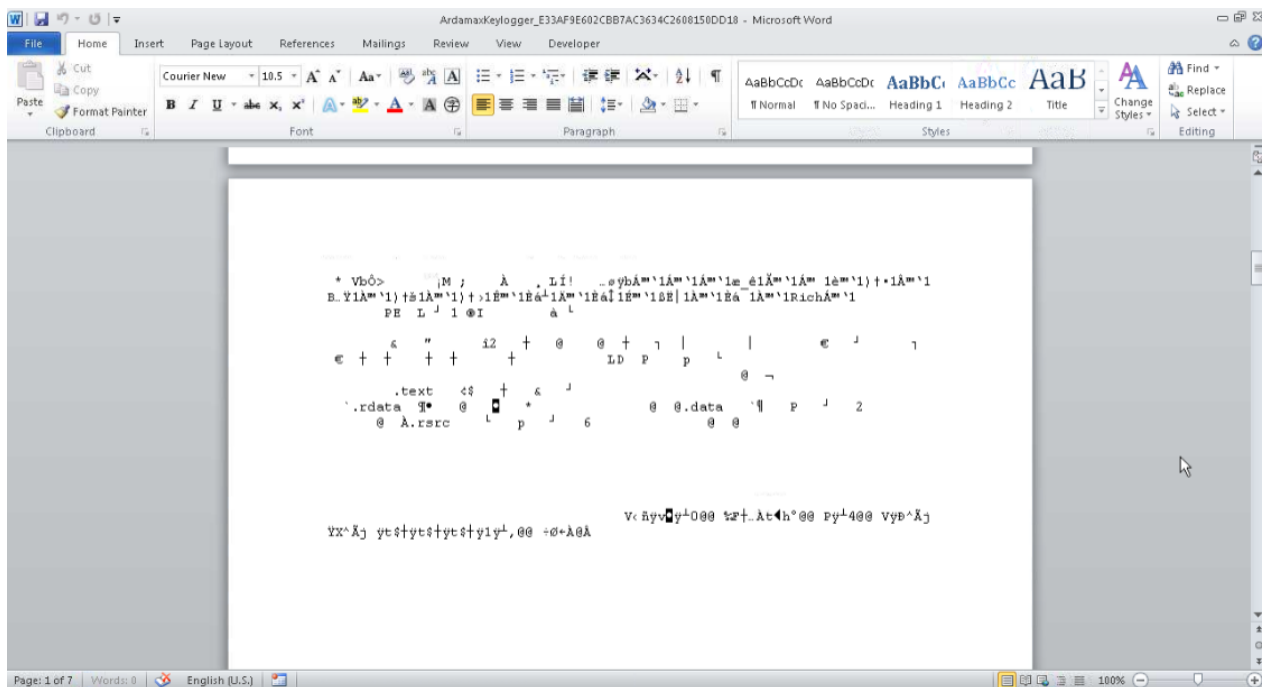


Figure 18: Malware File Opened in MS Word

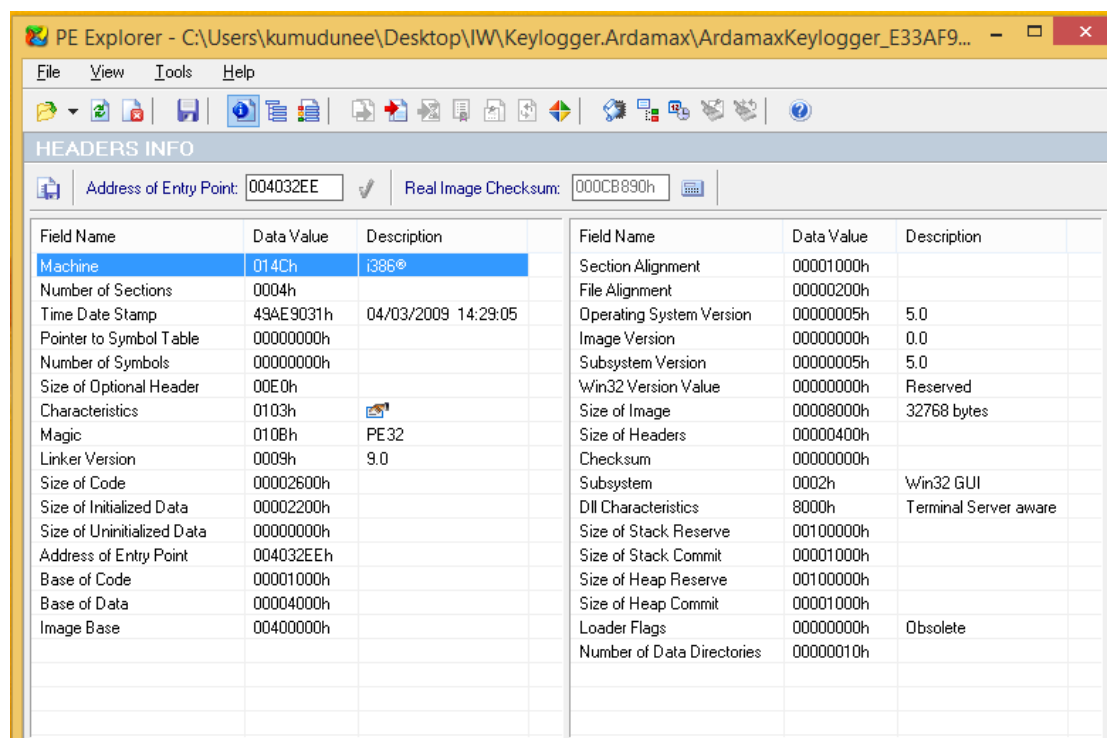


Figure 19: Using PE Explorer

The malware's execution cycle has the following steps.

- The keylogger executable file drops a numerous file, including DLL, to the %tmp% folder.
- The harmful method Ardamax.exe executes the dropped DLL, which is used to place the keylogger files in a hidden location in the system folder.
- Lastly, the keylogger DPBJ.exe is run, which logs keystrokes and captured screenshots.

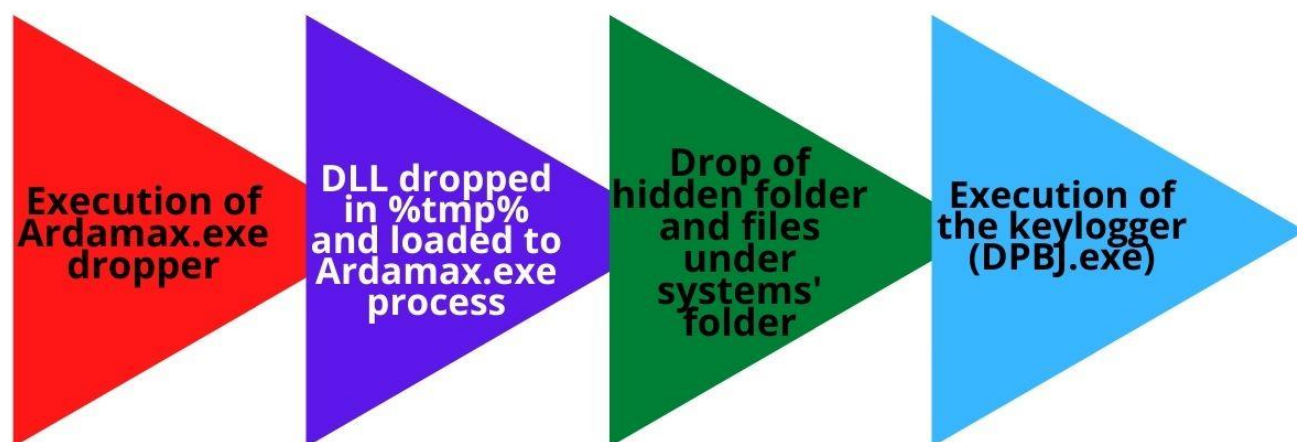


Figure 20: Malware Execution Cycle

Execution of Ardamax Dropper

When the victim executes, the keylogger Ardamax.exe runs in the GetTemp path, that may collect the windows %temp% for subsequent use (Figure 21).

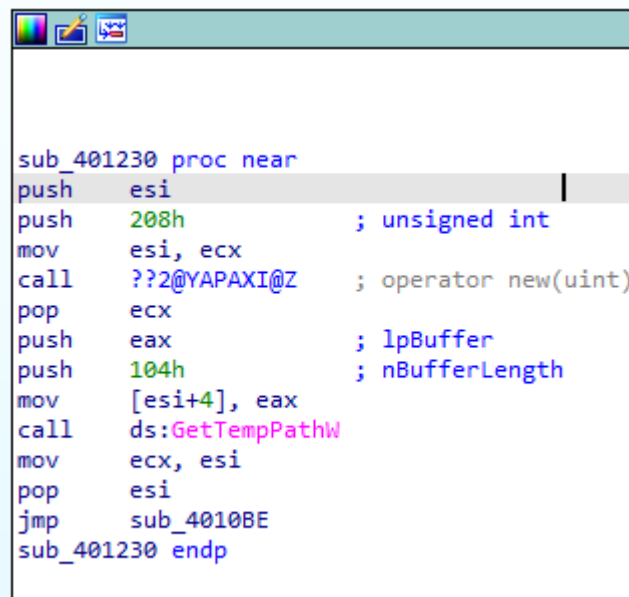
```

push    ebp
mov     ebp, esp
sub     esp, 3Ch
push    ebx
push    esi
mov     esi, offset off_4050B4
mov     ecx, esi
call    GetTemp_Path
mov     ebx, eax
test    ebx, ebx
jz      short loc_401479

```

Figure 21: Get Temp Path

GetTemp Path invokes GetTempPathW to acquire the system's temporary file based on the disassembly output from IDA.



```

sub_401230 proc near
push    esi
push    208h                ; unsigned int
mov     esi, ecx
call    ???@YAPAXI@Z        ; operator new(uint)
pop     ecx
push    eax                ; lpBuffer
push    104h                ; nBufferLength
mov     [esi+4], eax
call    ds:GetTempPathW
mov     ecx, esi
pop     esi
jmp     sub_4010BE
sub_401230 endp

```

Figure 22: GetTempPathW

The next procedure invokes CreateFileW. Ardamax drops numerous files to the temp folder during this operation, such as the previously indicated randomly named DLL.

```

push    edi                ; hTemplateFile
push    80h ; '€'          ; dwFlagsAndAttributes
push    3                  ; dwCreationDisposition
push    edi                ; lpSecurityAttributes
push    1                  ; dwShareMode
push    80000000h          ; dwDesiredAccess
lea     eax, [ebp+Filename]
push    eax                ; lpFileName
call    ebx ; CreateFileW
push    edi                ; dwMoveMethod
push    edi                ; lpDistanceToMoveHigh
push    1Ch                ; lDistanceToMove
push    eax                ; hFile

```

Figure 23: CreateFileW

Execution of Ardamax DLL

When the DLL load is successfully, the dropper would execute GetProcAddress to obtain the sfx_main address of the DLL.

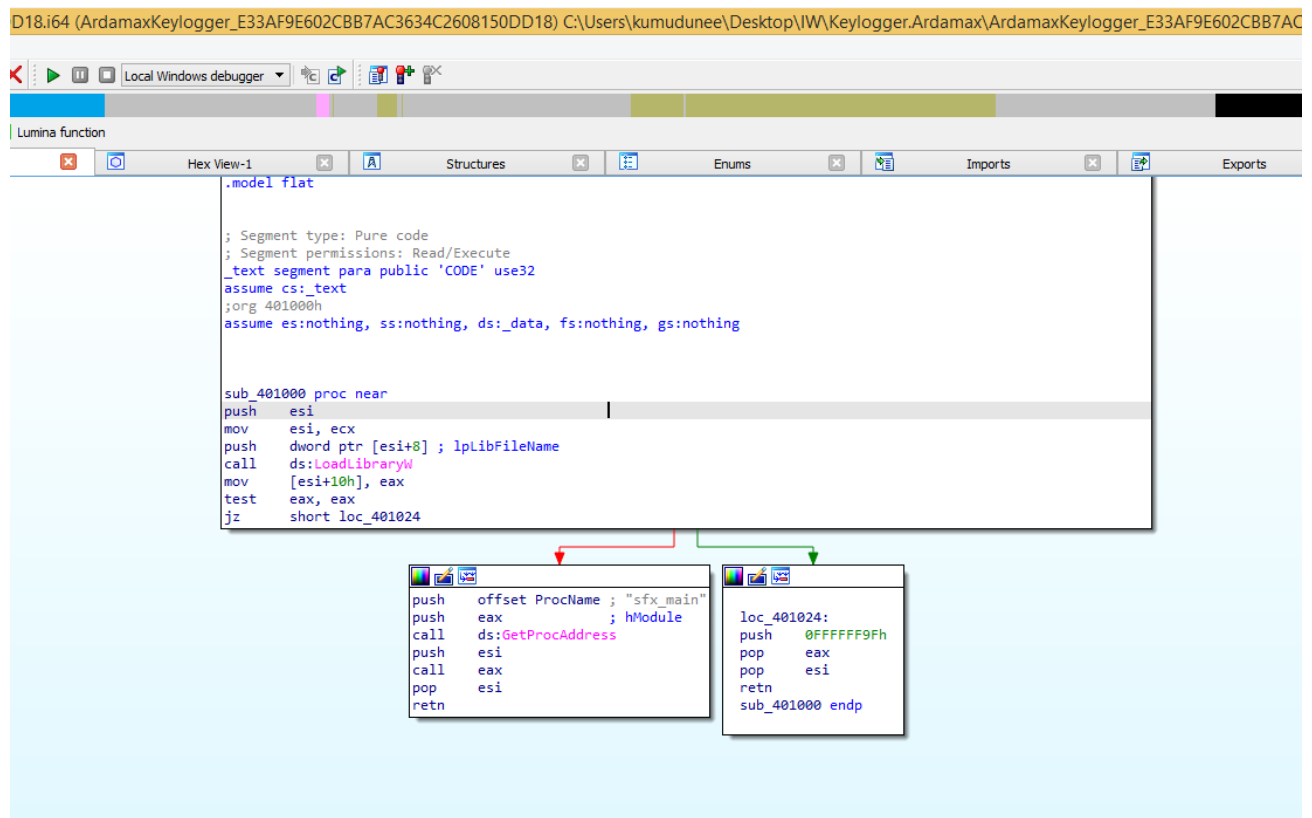


Figure 24: sfx_main

PID	Process	Filename	Type
3964	ArdamaxKeylogger_E33A F9E602CBB7AC3634C26 08150DD18.exe	C:\Users\admin\AppData\Local\VirtualStore\Windows\System32\28463\DPBJ.006 MD5: 35B24C473BDCDB4411E326C6C437E8ED SHA256: 4530FCC91E4D0697A64F5E24D70E2B327F0ACAB1A9013102FF04236841C5A617	executable
3964	ArdamaxKeylogger_E33A F9E602CBB7AC3634C26 08150DD18.exe	C:\Users\admin\AppData\Local\Temp\@9608.tmp MD5: D73D89B1EA433724795B3D2B524F596C SHA256: 8AEF975A94C800D0E3E4929999D05861868A7129B766315C02A48A122E3455D6	executable
3964	ArdamaxKeylogger_E33A F9E602CBB7AC3634C26 08150DD18.exe	C:\Users\admin\AppData\Local\VirtualStore\Windows\System32\28463\DPBJ.007 MD5: A8E19DE6669E831956049685225058A8 SHA256: 34856528D8B7E31CAA83F350BC4DBC861120DC2DA822A9EB896B773BC7E1F564	executable
3964	ArdamaxKeylogger_E33A F9E602CBB7AC3634C26 08150DD18.exe	C:\Users\admin\AppData\Local\VirtualStore\Windows\System32\28463\key.bin MD5: 639D75AB6799987DFF4F0CF79FA70C76 SHA256: FC42AB050FFDFED8C8C7AAC6D7E4A7CAD4696218433F7CA327BCFDF9F318AC98	binary
3964	ArdamaxKeylogger_E33A F9E602CBB7AC3634C26 08150DD18.exe	C:\Users\admin\AppData\Local\Temp\@9609.tmp MD5: B2707130CE8F32AE3DA605FF9B541989 SHA256: A67B19BADAD7B971CF7918716CCE81FA3B63C3E7B593C583C5F99F744937F136	binary
3964	ArdamaxKeylogger_E33A F9E602CBB7AC3634C26 08150DD18.exe	C:\Users\admin\AppData\Local\VirtualStore\Windows\System32\28463\DPBJ.001 MD5: 7A0F1FA20FD40C047B07379DA5290F2B SHA256: B0AD9E9D3D51E8434CC466BEC16E2B94FC2D03BAB03B48CCF57DB86AE8E2C9B6	binary

Figure 25: Dropped Files

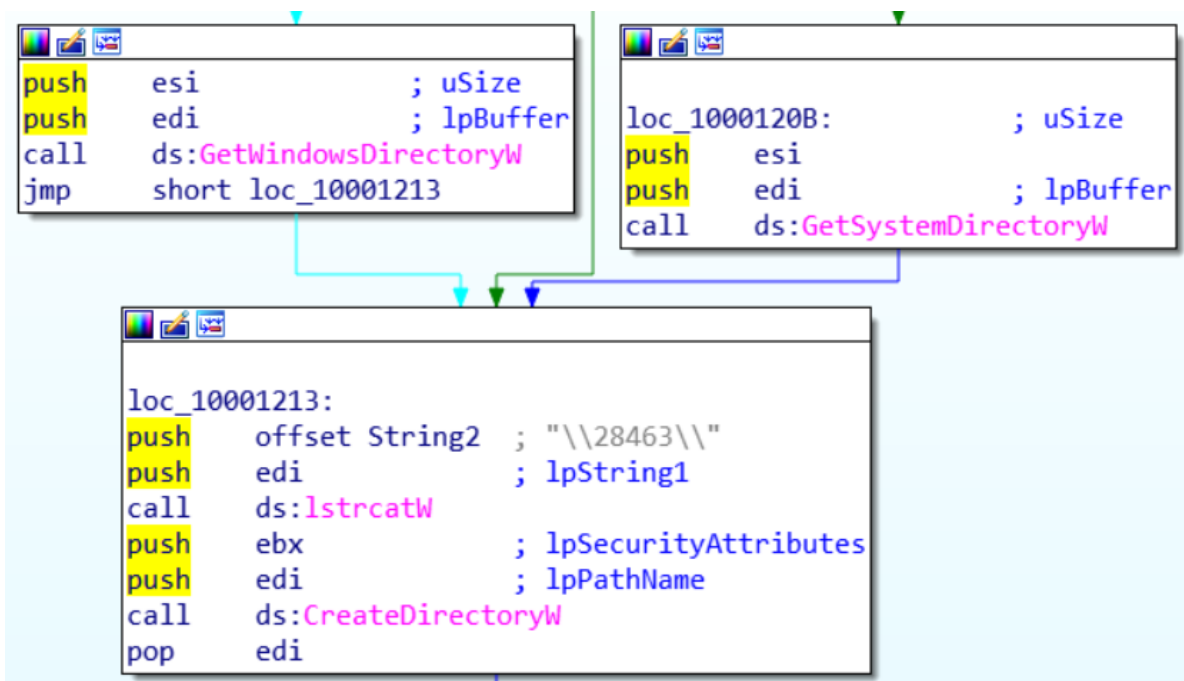


Figure 26: creating Hidden folders within the system folder

After copying all files to the specified folder, it's main program, DPBJ.exe, get executed with the ShellExecuteW.

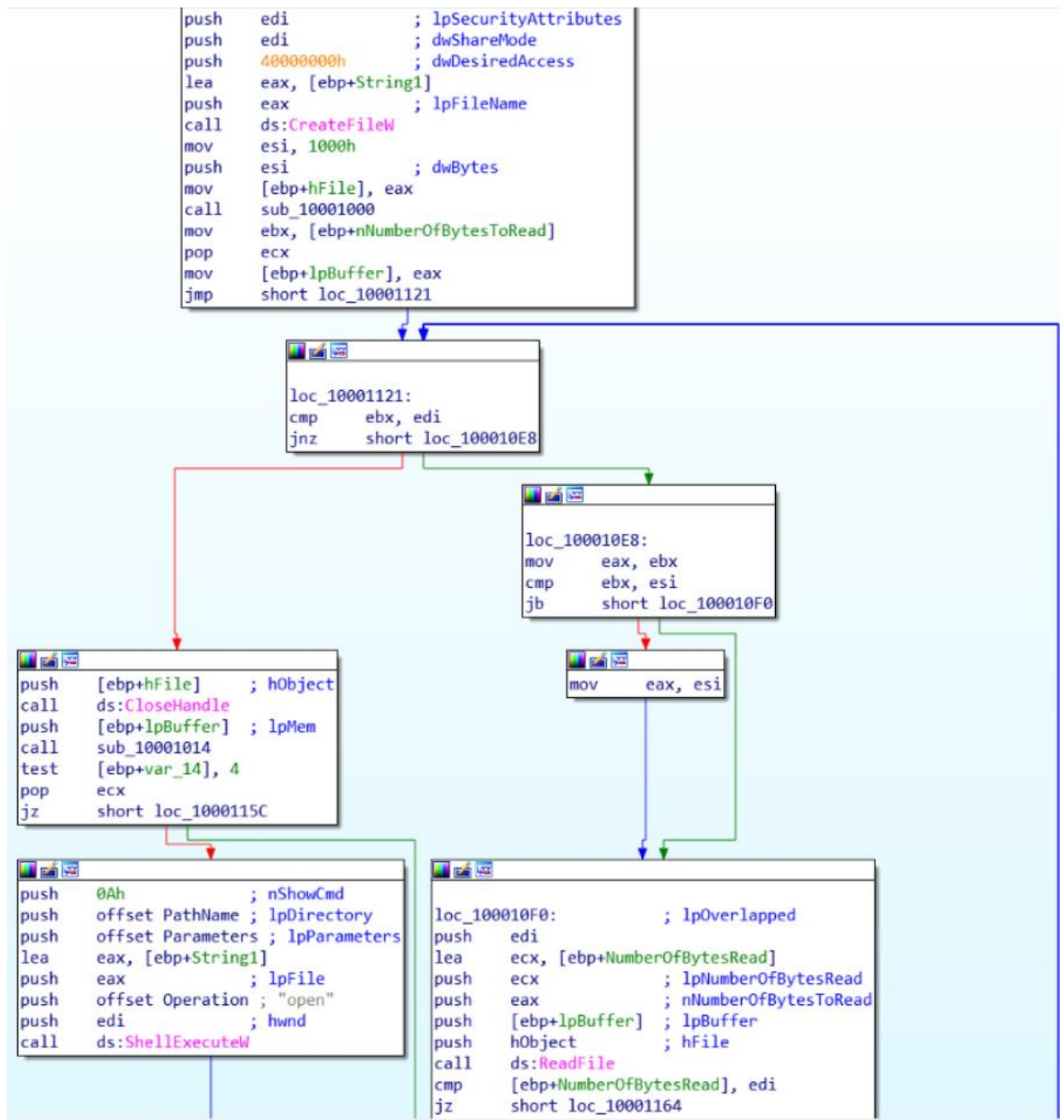


Figure 27: Numerous files are dropped into the concealed folder, and the keylogger's activation starts.

Imports

- SHELL32.dll
 - ShellExecuteW
- KERNEL32.dll
 - HeapFree
 - GetWindowsDirectoryW
 - ReadFile
 - GetSystemDirectoryW
 - GetTempPathW
 - CreateFileW
 - WriteFile
 - HeapAlloc
 - CloseHandle
 - CreateDirectoryW
 - ▼
- USER32.dll
 - SendMessageW
 - FindWindowW

Figure 28: Temp file imports

Execution of Keylogger

The SetWindowsHookEx function is used in the following procedure with an idHook of 2 (WH_KEYBOARD) that handles keystroke events and consequently logs them:



Figure 29: SetKeyHook subroutine

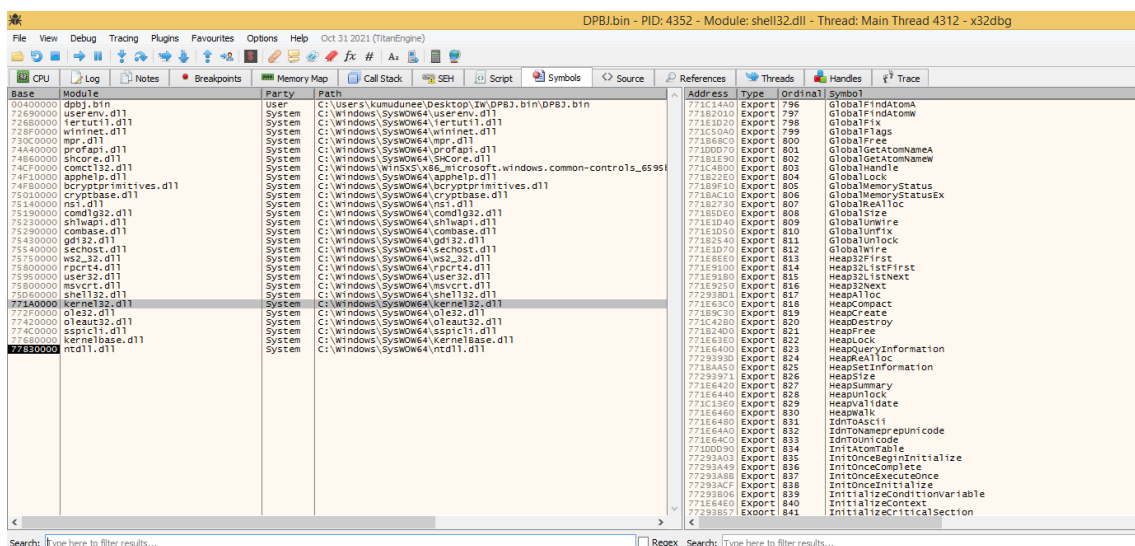


Figure 30: Using x32dbg



Figure 31: LoadLibraryW

The loss of validation in the LoadLibraryW call provides a potential backdoor for the built executable. This permits a DLL to be loaded just based on its name, therefore any third-party attacker takes advantage of this method simply creating his own malicious DLL and replacing it with the exact name ("DPBJ.006," in this example). Finally, when DPBJ.exe is invoked, it will load the forged DLL of the substituted attacker.

FINDINGS 03

d1f3b9372a6be9c02430b6e4526202974179a674ce94fe22028d7212ae6be9e7

Labels

Trojan agent, backdoor agent

Basic Details

Name: INETSVC.EXE

File Type: Win32 EXE

File Size: 204.00 KB

MD5: c6f78ad187c365d117cacbee140f6230

SHA-1: 5116f281c61639b48fd58caaed60018bafdefe7a

SHA-256: d1f3b9372a6be9c02430b6e4526202974179a674ce94fe22028d7212ae6be9e7

Vhash: 025046651d6d1048z45uz137z

SHA-512:

41698e5ca4579b369372e3e3a7e5e05004e25eb9965e650df30b98ba7ec2182a374c7560c1d5f1e06a9b
282aa864153d6c4b1d6ed04300b6a8d359aec4a117df

SSDEEP:

1536:X86D0r4QxG5+XCFpaG7+esyzktLYUwnZ7hUOKYUwnZ7hUOaeYUwnZ7hUOKYUwnZr:
X8O0IgCvH7+UzktMxzxgRxzx9

Magic PE32 executable for MS Windows (GUI) Intel 80386 32-bit

TrID: Win32 Executable MS Visual C++ (generic) (38.8%)

TrID: Microsoft Visual C++ compiled executable (generic) (20.5%)

TrID: Win64 Executable (generic) (13%)

TrID: Win32 Dynamic Link Library (generic) (8.1%)

TrID: Win16 NE executable (generic) (6.2%)

Target Machine: Intel 386 or later processors and compatible processors

Entropy: 7.711

File Signature Verification

File is not signed

Anti-Virus

AhnLab-V3: Backdoor/Win32.Akdoor.R176413

ALYac: Trojan.Agent.45056A

Portable Executable Information

Compilation Timestamp: 2016-02-07 03:17:51

PE Sections

Table 2: PE Section

Name	Raw Size	Entropy	MD5
.text	53248	6.51	08112b571663ff5ed42e331a00ccce0c
.rdata	8192	4.57	ca61927558a4dfe9305eb037a5432960
.data	139264	6.94	bb49b2fb00c1ae88ad440971914711a7
.sxdata	4096	0.18	c58b62cf949e8636ebd5c75f482207c3

Imports

ADVAPI32.dll
SSLEAY32.dll
KERNEL32.dll
WS2_32.dll
LIBEAY32.dll

Packers

Name: Microsoft Visual C++ ver 5.0/6.0 - no sec. Cab.7z.Zip - 2016-02-07

Unpacker: Big sec. 3 .data , Not packed , try www.ollydbg.de or x64 debug v0025 www.x64dbg.com

Description

It is a malicious Windows 32-bit executable. This application appears to be intended to enable an infected system to act as a proxy server, according to the analysis. When the virus is run, it connects to the infected system's port 8000 and listens for incoming connections. It may read the windows installation date.

3376 rundll32.exe (1)

2952 rundll32.exe (1)

3056 rundll32.exe (1)

Operation: READ

Name: INSTALLDATE

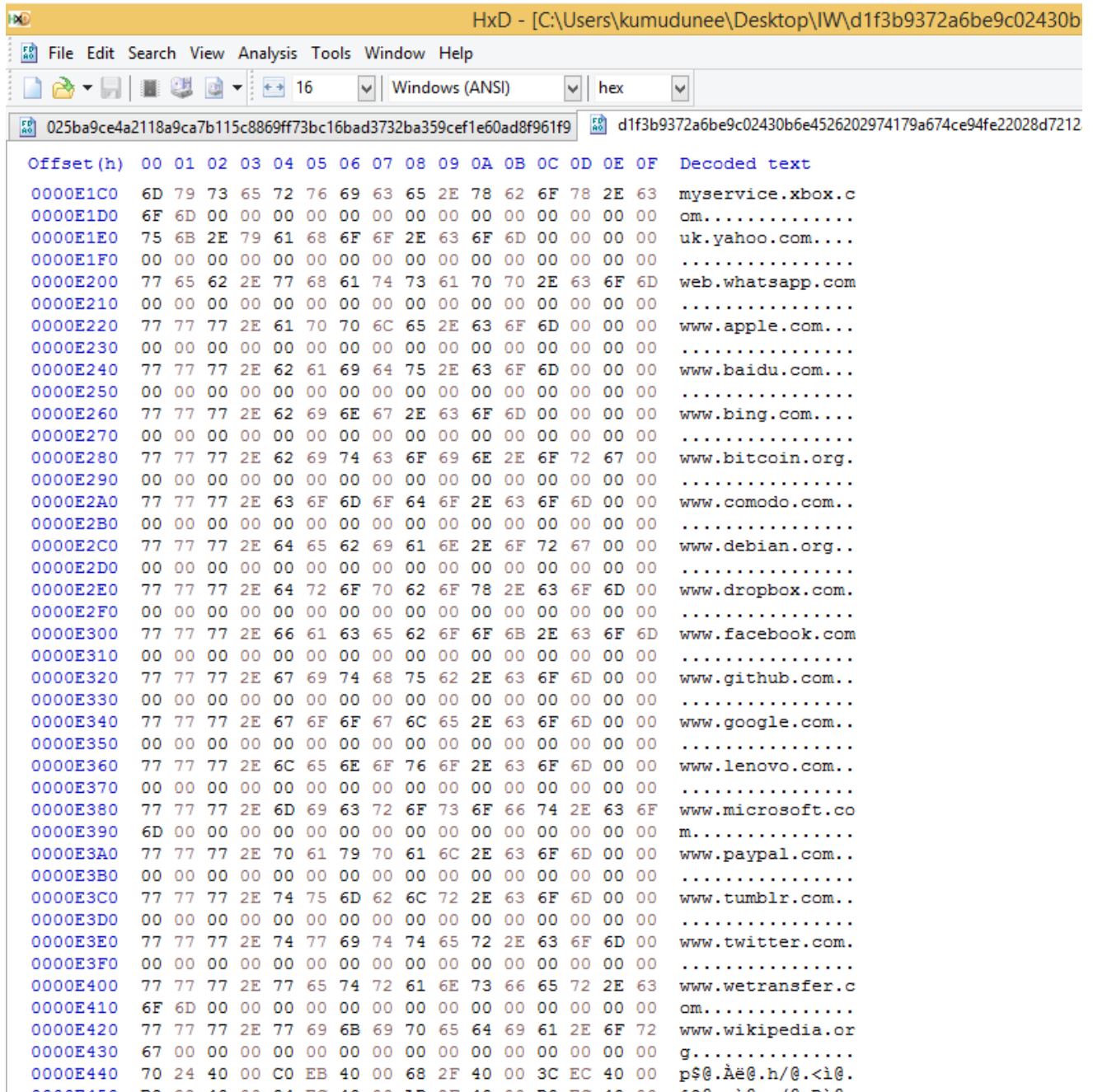
Value:

Key: HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\MICROSOFT\WINDOWS NT\CURRENTVERSION

TypeValue: REG_DWORD

Also, it has the ability to modify the phishing filter for Internet Explorer and also change the internet zones settings.

The domains for which the virus has public SSL certificates, which are used to initiate "FAKE TLS" sessions are shown in the Figure 10.



The screenshot shows the HxD hex editor interface. The title bar indicates the file path: HxD - [C:\Users\kumudunee\Desktop\IW\d1f3b9372a6be9c02430b]. The menu bar includes File, Edit, Search, View, Analysis, Tools, Window, and Help. The toolbar shows various file operations. The status bar at the bottom displays the current offset (16) and the encoding (Windows (ANSI)). The main window shows a hex dump of a file. The first column is labeled 'Offset(h)' and ranges from 0000E1C0 to 0000E440. The second column shows the hex values in groups of four. The third column shows the decoded text, which is a list of domains. The domains listed are: myservice.xbox.c, cm., uk.yahoo.com., web.whatsapp.com, www.apple.com., www.baidu.com., www.bing.com., www.bitcoin.org., www.comodo.com., www.debian.org., www.dropbox.com., www.facebook.com., www.github.com., www.google.com., www.lenovo.com., www.microsoft.co, m., www.paypal.com., www.tumblr.com., www.twitter.com., www.wetransfer.c, om., www.wikipedia.or, g., p\$@.Å@.h/@.<i@.

Offset(h)	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	0A	0B	0C	0D	0E	0F	Decoded text
0000E1C0	6D	79	73	65	72	76	69	63	65	2E	78	62	6F	78	2E	63	myservice.xbox.c
0000E1D0	6F	6D	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	cm.
0000E1E0	75	6B	2E	79	61	68	6F	6F	2E	63	6F	6D	00	00	00	00	uk.yahoo.com.
0000E1F0	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	web.whatsapp.com
0000E200	77	65	62	2E	77	68	61	74	73	61	70	70	2E	63	6F	6D	www.apple.com.
0000E210	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	www.baidu.com.
0000E220	77	77	77	2E	61	70	70	6C	65	2E	63	6F	6D	00	00	00	www.bing.com.
0000E230	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	www.bitcoin.org.
0000E240	77	77	77	2E	62	61	69	64	75	2E	63	6F	6D	00	00	00	www.comodo.com.
0000E250	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	www.debian.org.
0000E260	77	77	77	2E	62	69	6E	67	2E	63	6F	6D	00	00	00	00	www.dropbox.com.
0000E270	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	www.facebook.com.
0000E280	77	77	77	2E	62	69	74	63	6F	69	6E	2E	6F	72	67	00	www.github.com.
0000E290	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	www.google.com.
0000E2A0	77	77	77	2E	63	6F	6D	6F	64	6F	2E	63	6F	6D	00	00	www.lenovo.com.
0000E2B0	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	www.microsoft.co
0000E2C0	77	77	77	2E	64	65	62	69	61	6E	2E	6F	72	67	00	00	m.
0000E2D0	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	www.paypal.com.
0000E2E0	77	77	77	2E	64	72	6F	70	62	6F	78	2E	63	6F	6D	00	www.tumblr.com.
0000E2F0	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	www.twitter.com.
0000E300	77	77	77	2E	66	61	63	65	62	6F	6F	6B	2E	63	6F	6D	www.wetransfer.c
0000E310	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	om.
0000E320	77	77	77	2E	67	69	74	68	75	62	2E	63	6F	6D	00	00	www.wikipedia.or
0000E330	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	g.
0000E340	77	77	77	2E	67	6F	6F	67	6C	65	2E	63	6F	6D	00	00	p\$@.Å@.h/@.<i@.
0000E350	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
0000E360	77	77	77	2E	6C	65	6E	6F	76	6F	2E	63	6F	6D	00	00	
0000E370	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
0000E380	77	77	77	2E	6D	69	63	72	6F	73	6F	66	74	2E	63	6F	
0000E390	6D	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
0000E3A0	77	77	77	2E	70	61	79	70	61	6C	2E	63	6F	6D	00	00	
0000E3B0	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
0000E3C0	77	77	77	2E	74	75	6D	62	6C	72	2E	63	6F	6D	00	00	
0000E3D0	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
0000E3E0	77	77	77	2E	74	77	69	74	74	65	72	2E	63	6F	6D	00	
0000E3F0	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
0000E400	77	77	77	2E	77	65	74	72	61	6E	73	66	65	72	2E	63	
0000E410	6F	6D	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
0000E420	77	77	77	2E	77	69	6B	69	70	65	64	69	61	2E	6F	72	
0000E430	67	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
0000E440	70	24	40	00	C0	EB	40	00	68	2F	40	00	3C	EC	40	00	

Figure 32: SSL cert list

Analysis Process

File type is identified with the use of hex editor.

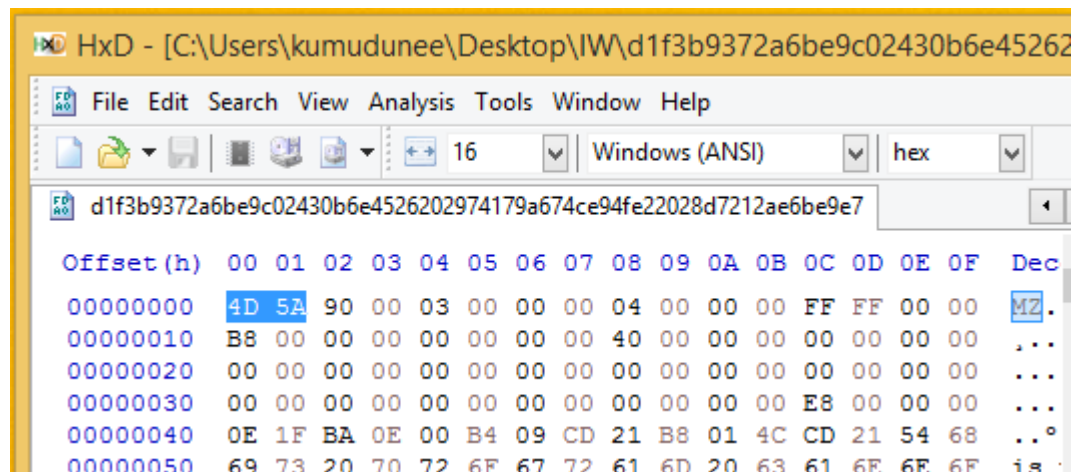


Figure 33: File Type identification

MZ stands for Portable Executable. There is a clear indication of that the program can not run in DOS mode. Which means the program does not compatible with oldish system. Portable Executables can be in formats such as exe, dll etc. In order to identify the file, type the file signature should be analyzed. We use this technique to avoid the false positives caused because of the double extension. In the first two bytes of a PE file, the file signature is represented by the hexadecimal numbers 4D, 5A, or MZ.

Offset(h)	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	0A	0B	0C	0D	0E	0F	Decoded text
00000000	4D	5A	90	00	03	00	00	00	04	00	00	00	FF	FF	00	00	MZ.....ÿÿ..
00000010	B8	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	40	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	,.....@.....
00000020	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	.....
00000030	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	E8	00	00	00	.....è...
00000040	0E	1F	BA	0E	00	B4	09	CD	21	B8	01	4C	CD	21	54	68	..°...!.í!..Lí!Th
00000050	69	73	20	70	72	6F	67	72	61	6D	20	63	61	6E	6E	6F	is program cannot
00000060	74	20	62	65	20	72	75	6E	20	69	6E	20	44	4F	53	20	be run in DOS
00000070	6D	6F	64	65	2E	0D	0D	0A	24	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	mode.....\$.....
00000080	2C	01	25	7C	68	60	4B	2F	68	60	4B	2F	68	60	4B	2F	,.¸|h`K/h`K/h`K/
00000090	EB	7C	45	2F	7B	60	4B	2F	5E	46	41	2F	3E	60	4B	2F	è|E/{`K/^FA/>`K/
000000A0	08	68	07	2F	69	60	4B	2F	08	68	06	2F	6F	60	4B	2F	.h./i`K/.h./o`K/

Figure 34: HxD

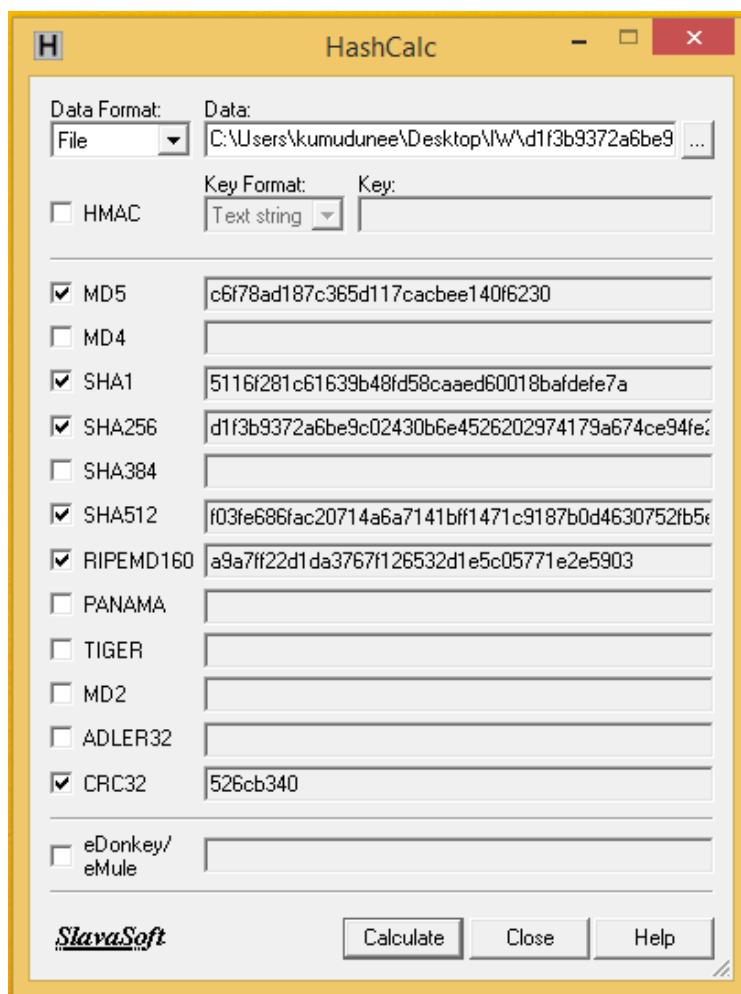


Figure 35: Hash Calculation

HEADERS INFO					
Address of Entry Point: 00405A58			Real Image Checksum: 0003E258h		
Field Name	Data Value	Description	Field Name	Data Value	Description
Machine	014Ch	i386®	Section Alignment	00001000h	
Number of Sections	0004h		File Alignment	00001000h	
Time Date Stamp	5586975Fh	07/02/2016 03:17:51	Operating System Version	00000004h	4.0
Pointer to Symbol Table	00000000h		Image Version	00000000h	0.0
Number of Symbols	00000000h		Subsystem Version	00000004h	4.0
Size of Optional Header	00E0h		Win32 Version Value	00000000h	Reserved
Characteristics	010Fh		Size of Image	00034000h	212932 bytes
Magic	0108h	PE32	Size of Headers	00001000h	
Linker Version	0006h	6.0	Checksum	00000000h	
Size of Code	0000D000h		Subsystem	0002h	Win32 GUI
Size of Initialized Data	00026000h		Dll Characteristics	0000h	
Size of Uninitialized Data	00000000h		Size of Stack Reserve	00100000h	
Address of Entry Point	00405A58h		Size of Stack Commit	00001000h	
Base of Code	00001000h		Size of Heap Reserve	00100000h	
Base of Data	0000E000h		Size of Heap Commit	00001000h	
Image Base	00400000h		Loader Flags	00000000h	Obsolete
			Number of Data Directories	00000001h	

Figure 36: Compilation Timestamp

Figure 13 shows the compilation timestamp.

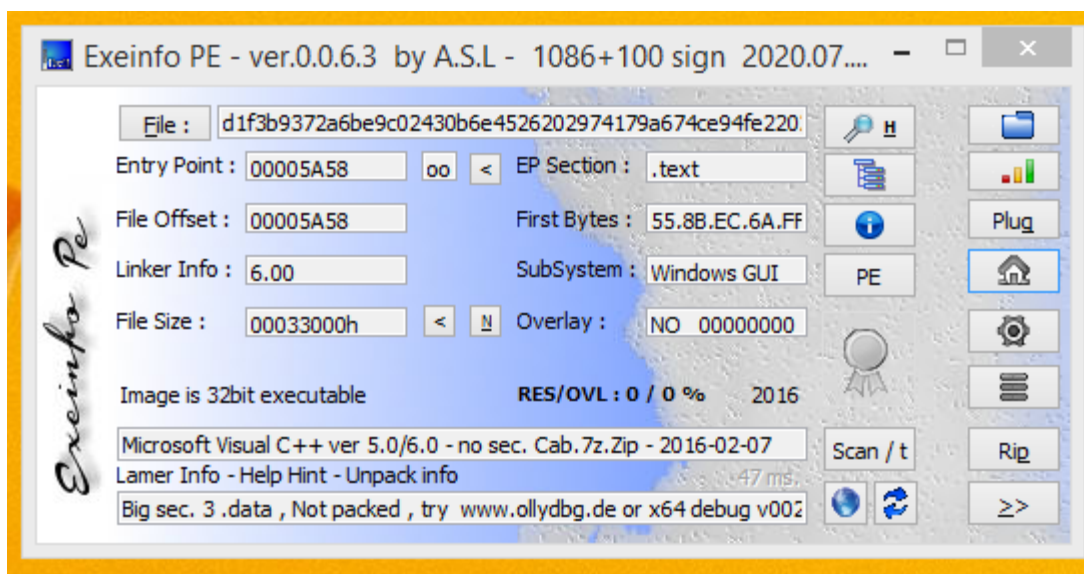


Figure 37: Using Exeinfo PE

With the use of Exeinfo PE tool we could found that the packer Microsoft Visual C++ is used to pack the malware and the version is 6.0.

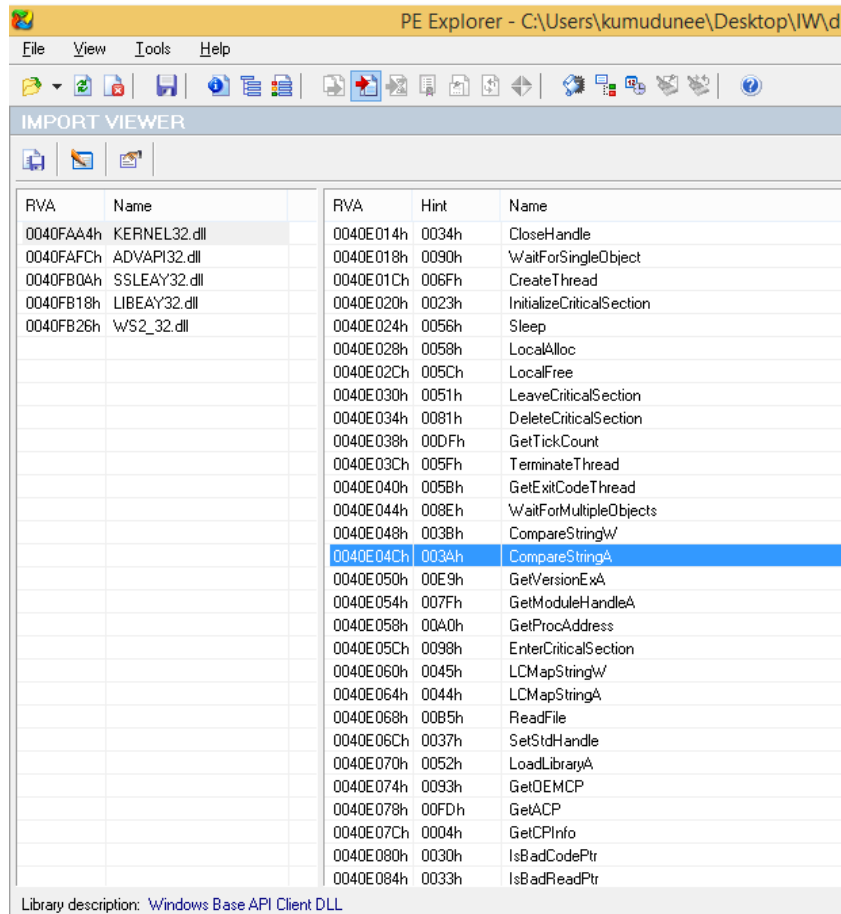


Figure 38: Using PE Explorer

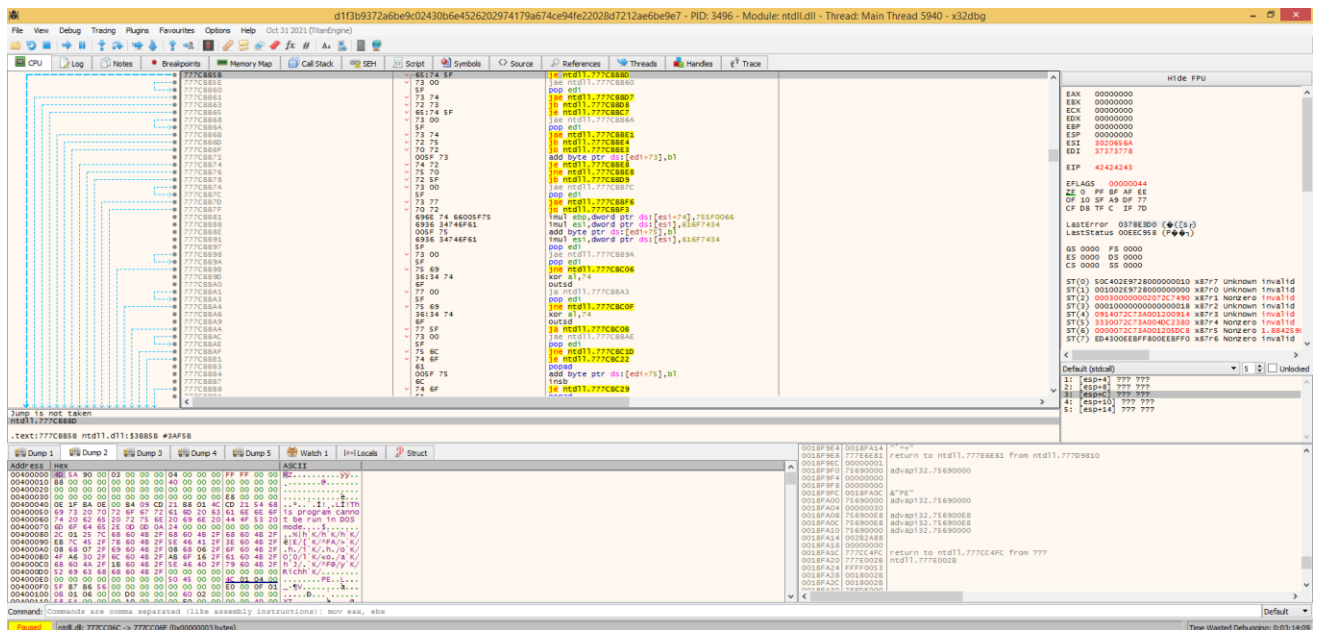


Figure 39: Using x32 dbg

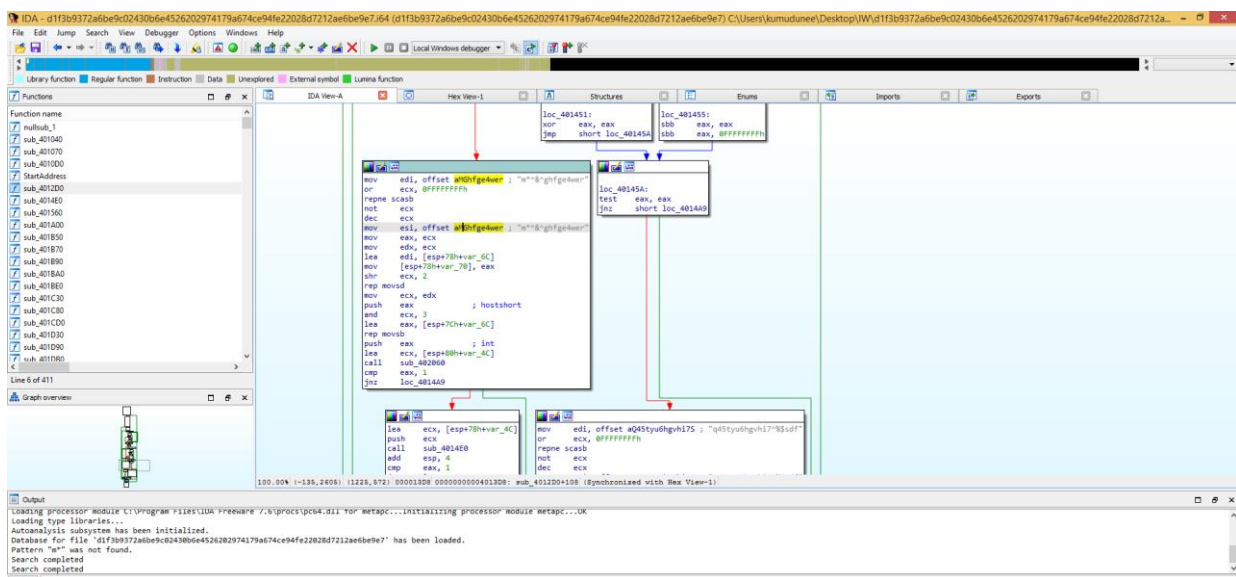


Figure 40: Using IDA

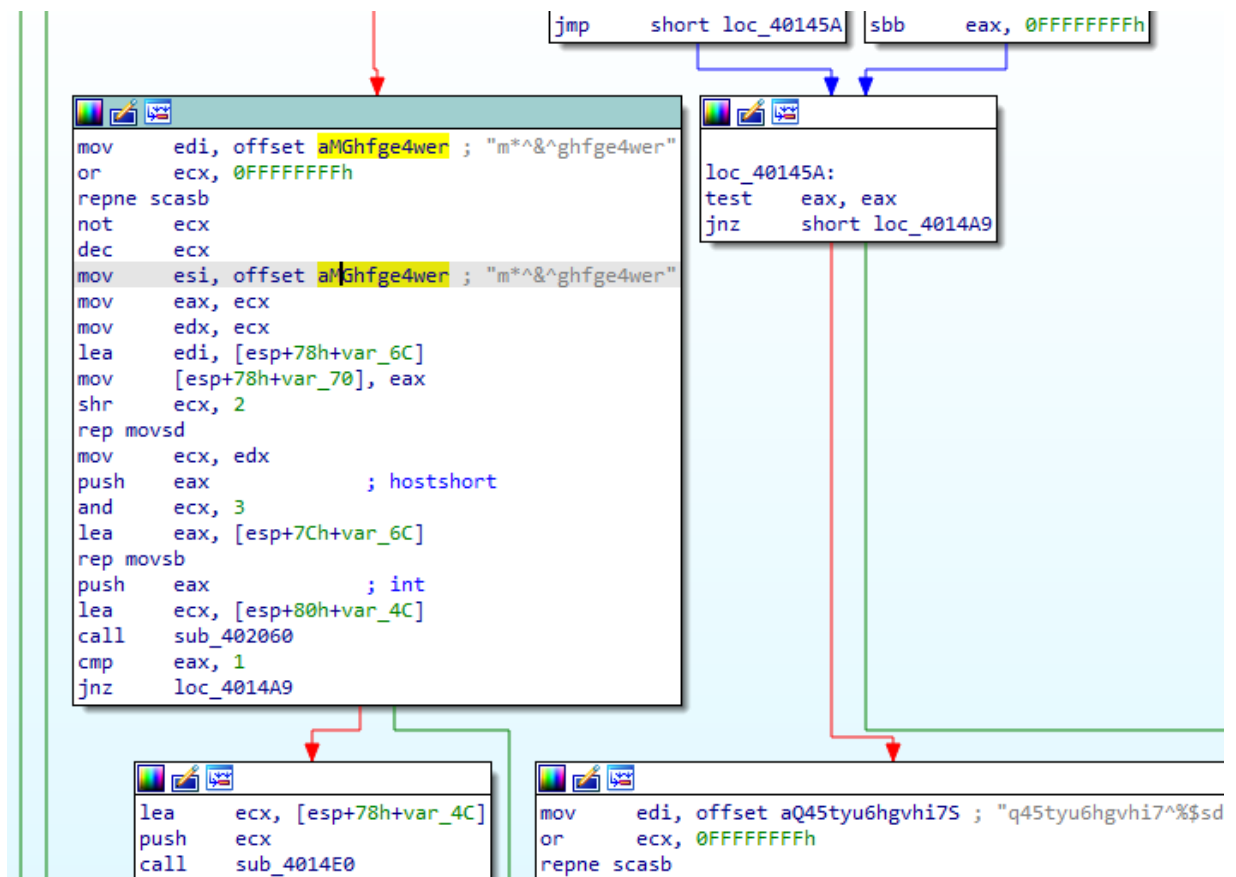


Figure 41: Malware is checking to see if the command "m*ghfge4wer" was received from the proxy target.

GLOSSARY

Table 3: Glossary

HxD	The software which is used to view and modify binary files.
HashCalc	A quick and simple generator for calculating message digests, checksums, and HMACs as well as text and hex strings.
PE Studio	A free tool which helps the user to conduct an initial malware evaluation without affection the system or analyzing the code.
PdfStreamDumper	A tool which is used to analyze malicious PDFs.
Exeinfo PE	This tool allows the user to verify the executable file and inspect it's properties.
X32 dbg	It is a debugger which compatible with 32 bits.
X64 dbg	It is a debugger compatible with 64 bits.
IDA Pro	This program is well-known within malware investigators, reverse engineers, and vulnerability testers. This allows for interactive disassembly.
VirusTotal	Malicious file can be submitted and verified using a variety of anti-virus tools, using the results indicating whether the signature is present. For the scanning process URLs can also be included.
Any.run	It can be defined as a malware analyzing sandbox.

Virtual Machine	Virtual machines enable users to execute an os in an application window on ones desktop that acts like a full-fledged pc.
PE Explorer	This application, like PE View, has functionality like the ability to unpack folders packaged by malware packers like UPX and Ns Packs.
PEiD	A program that assists in the identification of complicated malwares. And it uses a signature-based identification method with almost 600 malware fingerprints.
Hybrid Analysis	A sophisticated security program that analyzes uploaded malware files and the URLs. It necessitates a more in-depth understanding of windows and programing languages.

SUMMARY

This malware analysis report for stark industries has illustrated the many kinds of tools and techniques for analyzing a specific threat. In this brief study, we provided a technical description of three kinds of malwares, as well as additional functionality added to the malware intensify the damage it inflicts on the businesses the malware target. The malwares identified by Stark Industries' security team require fast action to prevent massive financial losses and reputational damage.

We strongly advise that the controls be installed in the following order:

Document Management System -

Install the latest Power Systems firmware (version FW920.30) to solve the CVE-2018-12384 Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures vulnerability, as well as the McAfee NSP intrusion prevention system. Immediate action is required.

Work Force Management System –

Need to be updated with the new versions supplied by the vendor. Immediate actions are not required.

REFERENCE

- [1] Stark Industries - https://marvel-movies.fandom.com/wiki/Stark_Industries
- [2] Stark Industries - https://marvelcinematicuniverse.fandom.com/wiki/Stark_Industries
- [3] Stark Tower - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stark_Tower
- [4] <https://patchlinks.com/ardamax-keylogger-crack/>
- [5] Bhojani, Nirav. (2014). Malware Analysis. 10.13140/2.1.4750.6889.
- [6] Datta, Arkajit & Anil Kumar, Kakelli & D, Aju. (2021). An Emerging Malware Analysis Techniques and Tools: A Comparative Analysis.

APPENDICES

Appendix A

025ba9ce4a2118a9ca7b115c8869ff73bc16bad3732ba359cef1e60ad8f961f9

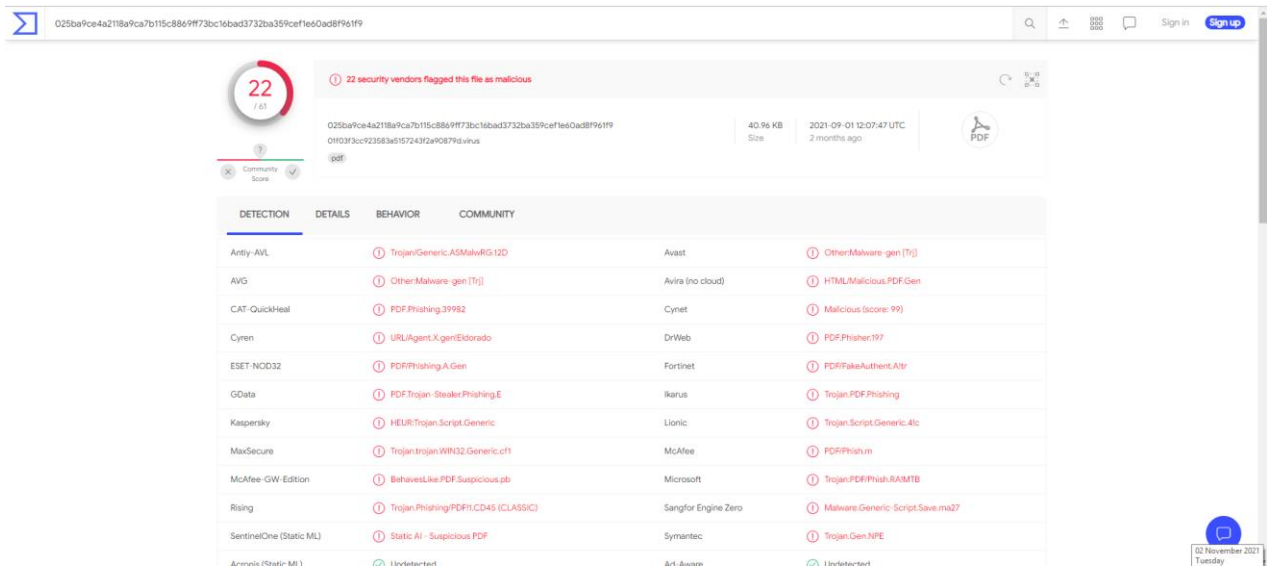


Figure 42: Virus Total Report

Ardamax Keylogger

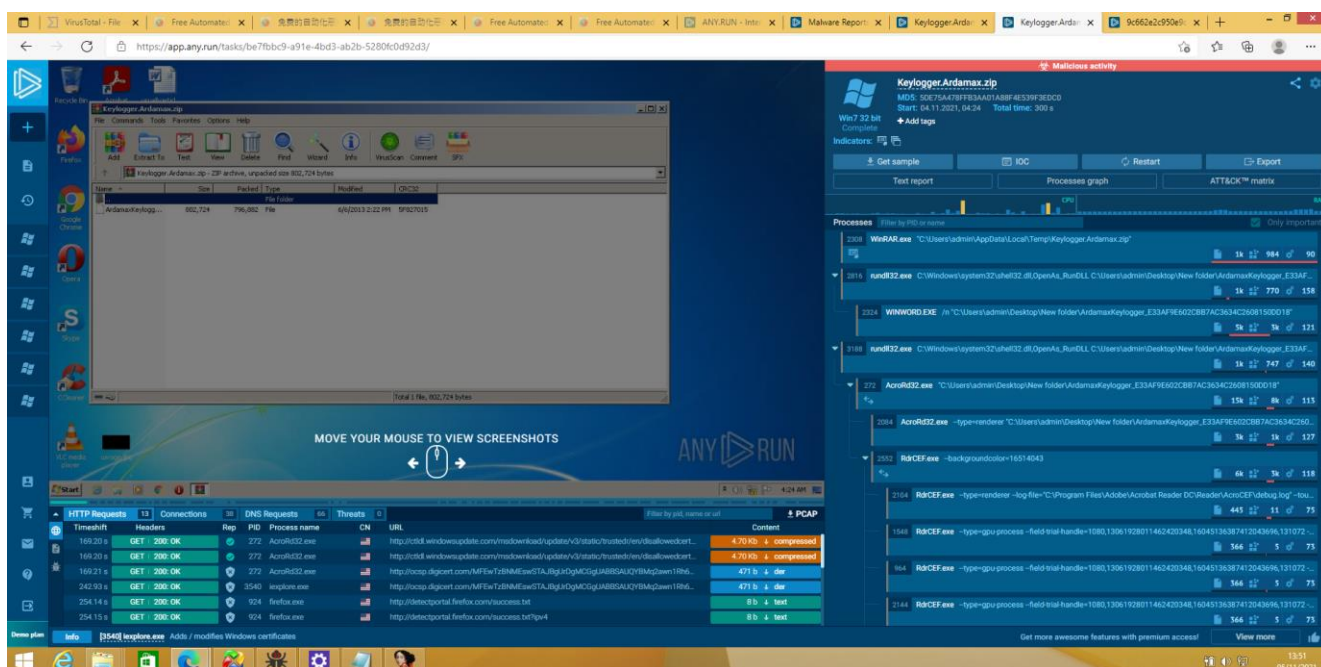


Figure 43: Any Run report

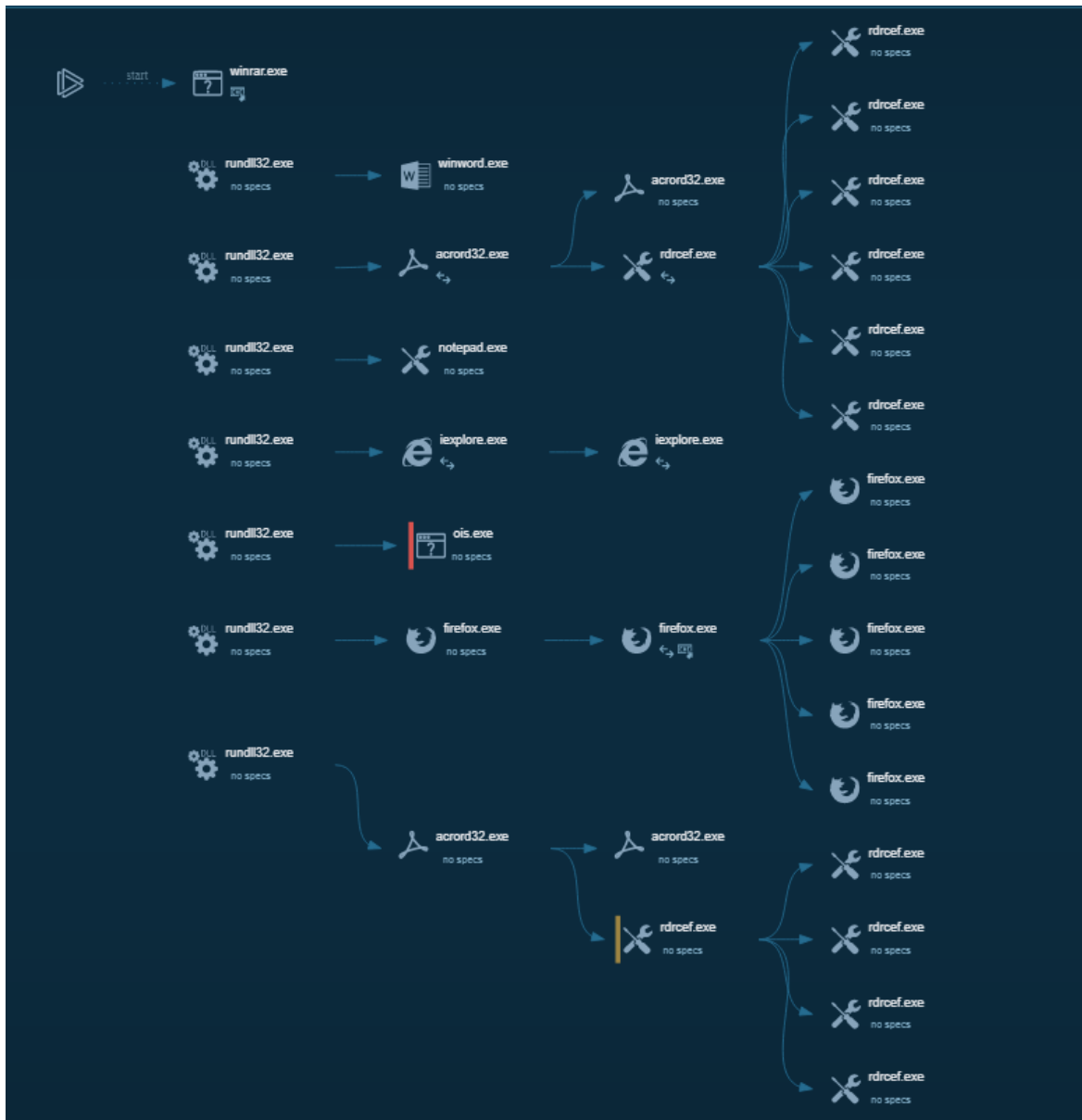


Figure 44: Process graph of keylogger

Appendix C

d1f3b9372a6be9c02430b6e4526202974179a674ce94fe22028d7212ae6be9e7

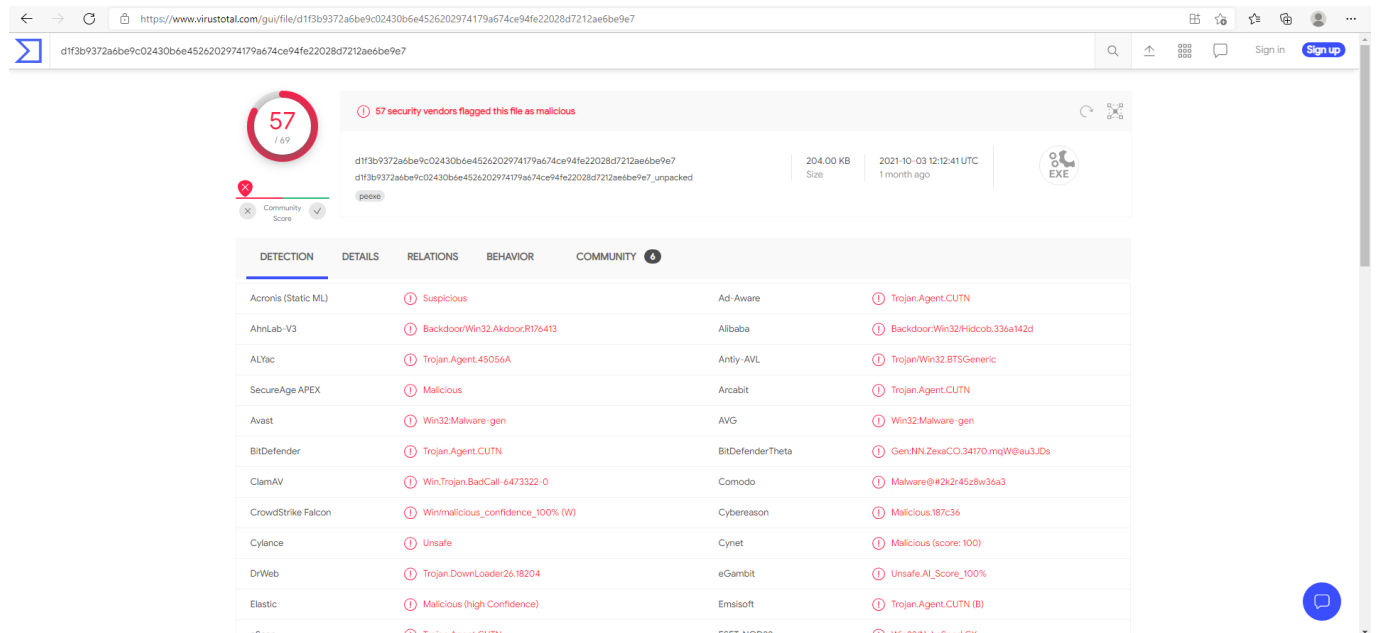


Figure 45: Virus Total report



Figure 46: Executed Malware

