Malware Analysis

Malware is any software that does something that causes harm to a user, computer, or network. Malware includes viruses, Trojan horses, worms, rootkits, scareware, ransomware and spyware.
Malware analysis is the process of determining the functionality, origin and potential impact of a given malware sample.
Malware analysis is classified into two types – static and dynamic. Static techniques involve analysis of code while dynamic techniques analyze the behavior of a malware.

The project
My project discusses and presents the importance of the process of malware analysis in the field of cybersecurity. As a security incident occurs as a result of a malware, malware analysis is a crucial step during the incident response phase as in order to take the necessary actions for recovery, understanding of the malware is the starting point.

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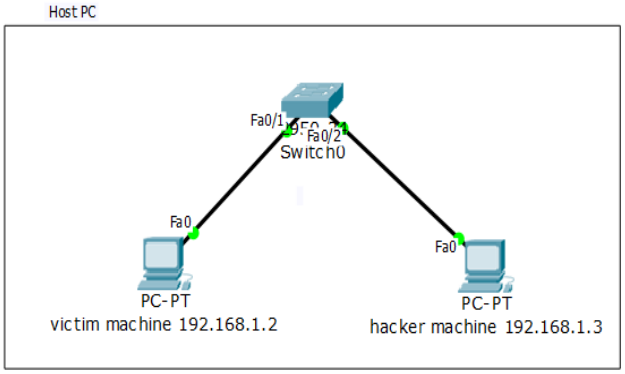
The environment

1) Introduction

My environment is bases on virtual machines - using VMware.
A closed and safe environment based on virtual machines will allow me to securely investigate the malware without putting the other machines that are connected to the same network at risk.

My environment consists of 2 different virtual machines:



1- Win 10 - the machine that is using for attacking
2 - Win 10 - the "victim's" computer, the machine that is going to be infected with the malware for the sake of the analysis.

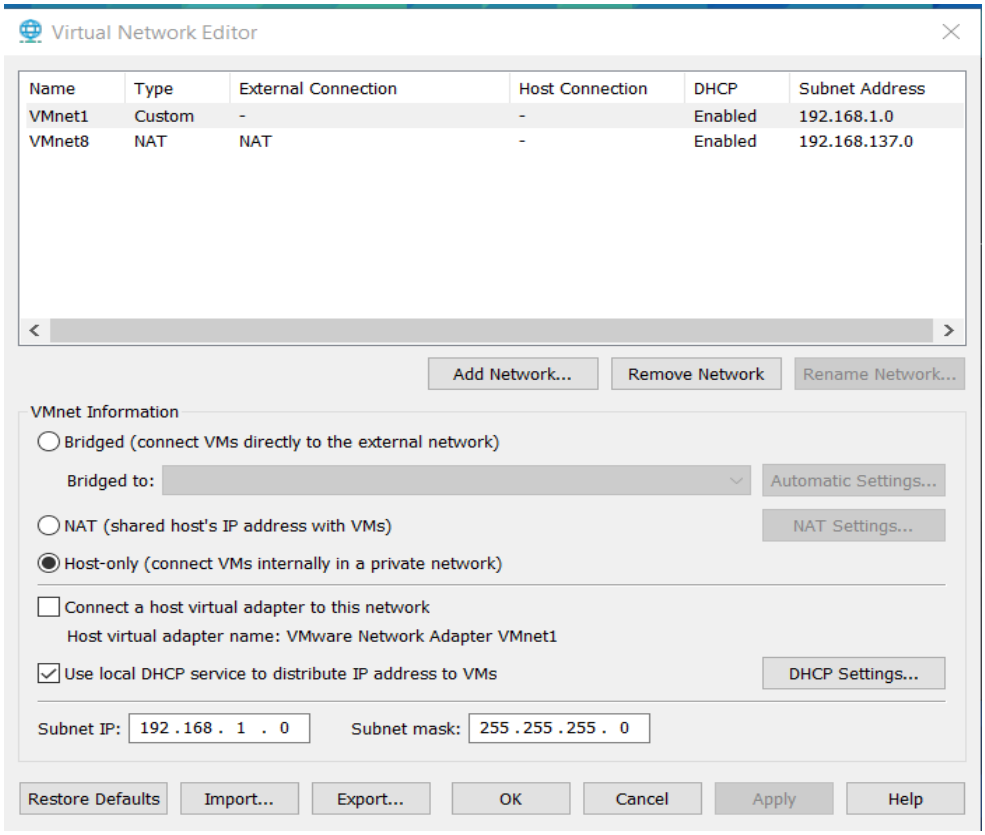
I chose the Windows 10 operating system because of the fact that windows is by far the most common operating system today.

Both of the machines are on the same network so that communication would be enabled.
In order to prevent the malware from spreading to the host, the virtual machines' network adapter is set on "host only". When "host only" is configured, VMware creates a virtual network adapter on the host and on the virtual machines and connect the 2 machines without relying on the host's physical network adapter. The host's physical network adapter is still connected to the internet or any other network. This means that the virtual machines are not connected to the internet or any other network in order to prevent the malware from spreading onto different networks and machines.

Both the attacking machine and the "victim's" machine have got to be on the same network so that the attacking machine would be able to share the malware with the "victim's" computer and by that - infecting it with the malware. Furthermore, since the machines are on the same network, capturing the network traffic between them is possible and by that enabling investigation of the traffic as the malware is running (executed).

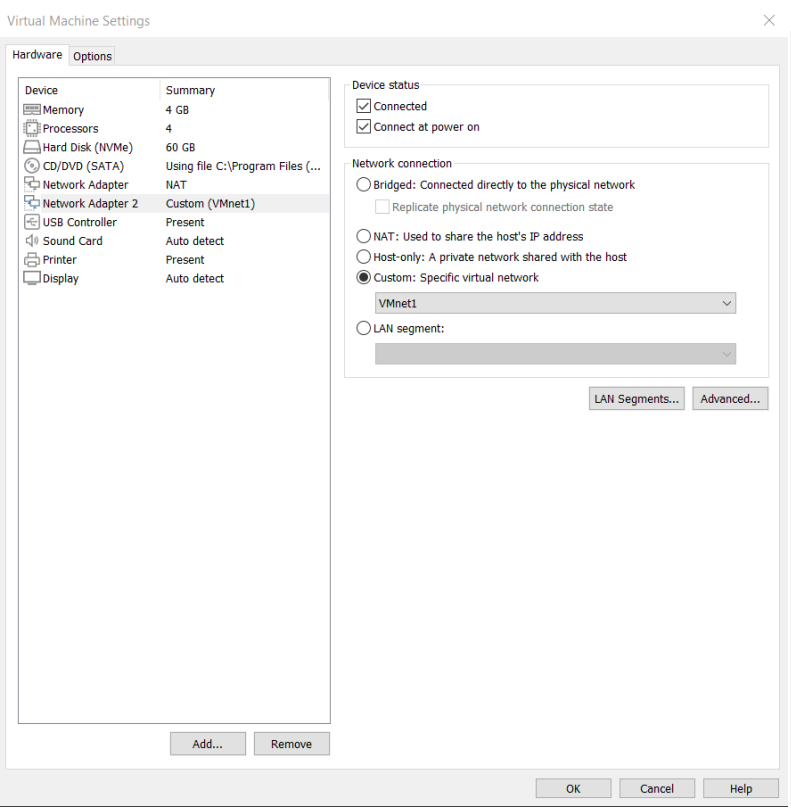
2) Configuring The Network

VMware "Virtual Network Editor" setting:
network adapter name- **VMnet1**
Type-"**host only**"
IP addresses + subnet mask- **192.168.1.0/24**

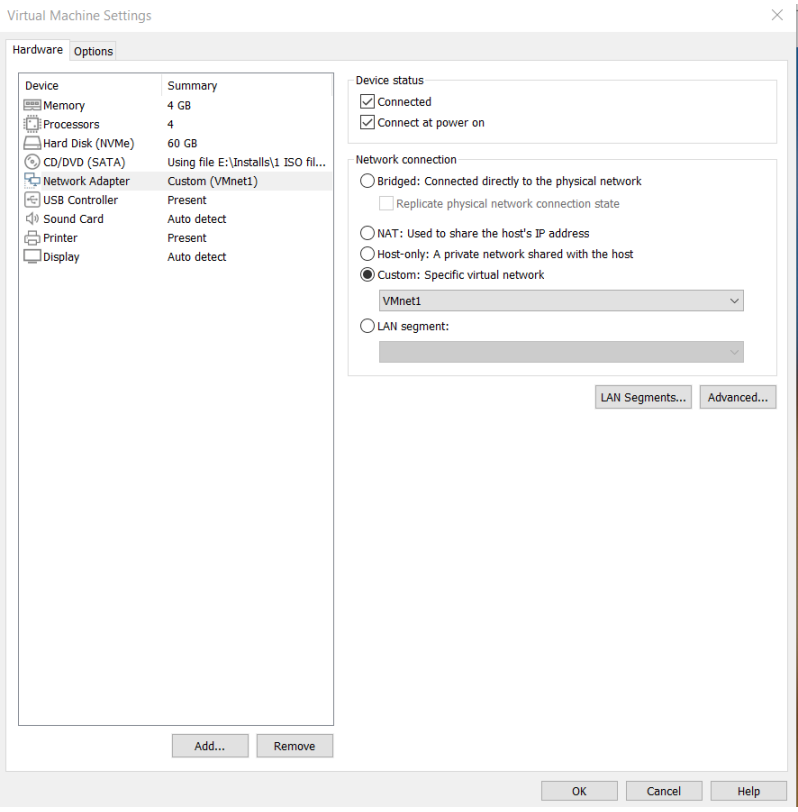


Configuring the machines network adapters
(the same network) – **VMnet1 - host only**

The attacker's machine



The victim's machine



IP Addresses:

The attacker's machine:
IP address-192.168.1.3 /24
the second adapter (Ethernet0) will be specified (later)

```
C:\Windows\system32>ipconfig

Windows IP Configuration


Ethernet adapter Ethernet0:

   Media State . . . . . . . . . . . : Media disconnected
   Connection-specific DNS Suffix  . : localdomain

Ethernet adapter Ethernet1:

   Connection-specific DNS Suffix  . : localdomain
   Link-local IPv6 Address . . . . . : fe80::d8d0:4080:1b5f:5433%11
   IPv4 Address. . . . . . . . . . . : 192.168.1.3
   Subnet Mask . . . . . . . . . . . : 255.255.255.0
   Default Gateway . . . . . . . . . :
```

The victim's machine:
IP address-192.168.1.2 /24

```
C:\Users\user1>ipconfig

Windows IP Configuration


Ethernet adapter Ethernet0:

   Connection-specific DNS Suffix  . : localdomain
   Link-local IPv6 Address . . . . . : fe80::6d34:1629:fde1:f3b1%13
   IPv4 Address. . . . . . . . . . . : 192.168.1.2
   Subnet Mask . . . . . . . . . . . : 255.255.255.0
   Default Gateway . . . . . . . . . :
```

Checking connection between them:

The attacker's machine pinged the victim's machine successfully

```
C:\Windows\system32>ping 192.168.1.2

Pinging 192.168.1.2 with 32 bytes of data:
Reply from 192.168.1.2: bytes=32 time<1ms TTL=128
Reply from 192.168.1.2: bytes=32 time=7ms TTL=128
Reply from 192.168.1.2: bytes=32 time<1ms TTL=128
Reply from 192.168.1.2: bytes=32 time<1ms TTL=128
```

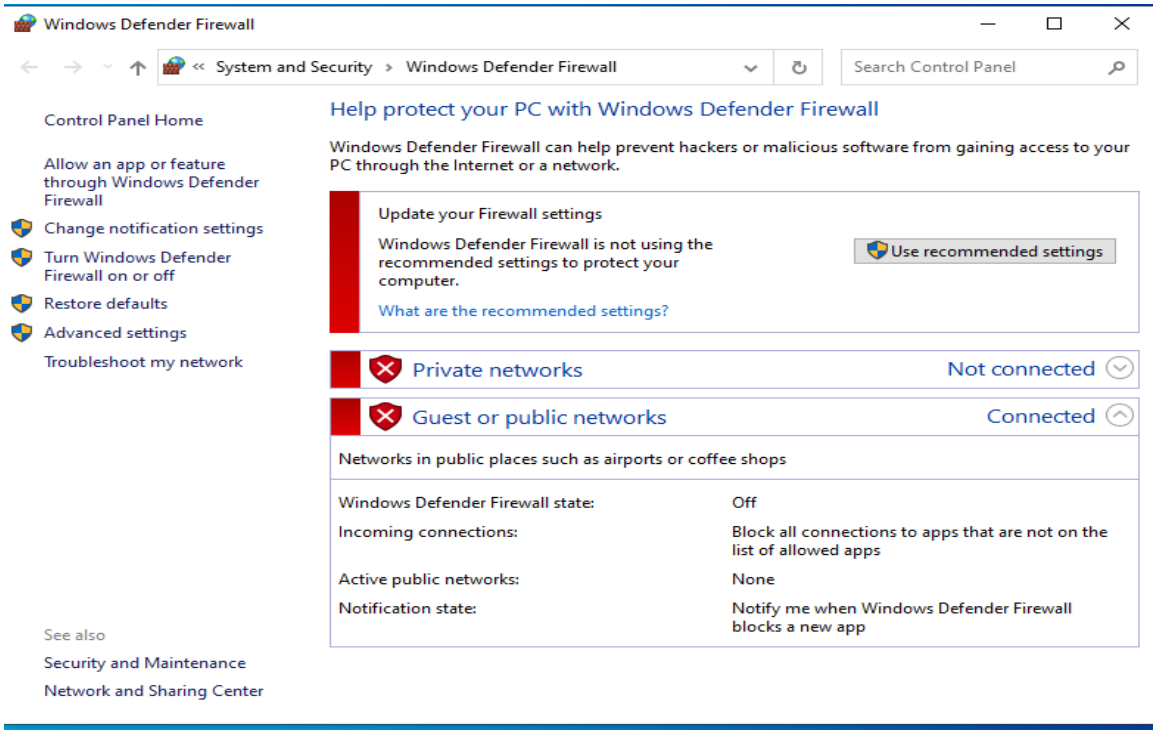
The victim's machine pinged the attacker's machine successfully

```
C:\Users\user1>ping 192.168.1.3

Pinging 192.168.1.3 with 32 bytes of data:
Reply from 192.168.1.3: bytes=32 time<1ms TTL=128
Reply from 192.168.1.3: bytes=32 time=1ms TTL=128
Reply from 192.168.1.3: bytes=32 time<1ms TTL=128
Reply from 192.168.1.3: bytes=32 time<1ms TTL=128
```

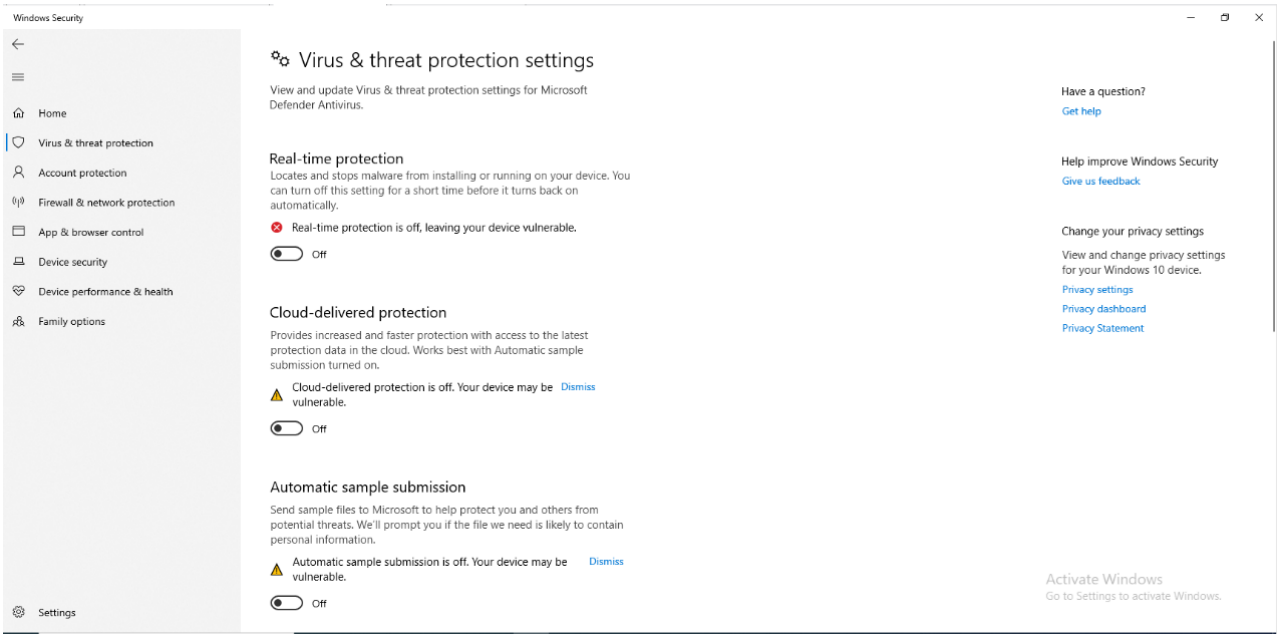
3) Preparing the machines for the analysis

In order to prevent the malware file from being on the computer or from being executed on the computer, both the firewall and the real-time protection need to be turned off so they won't block or prevent the malware from taking actions.

Windows defender firewall is disabled on both machines



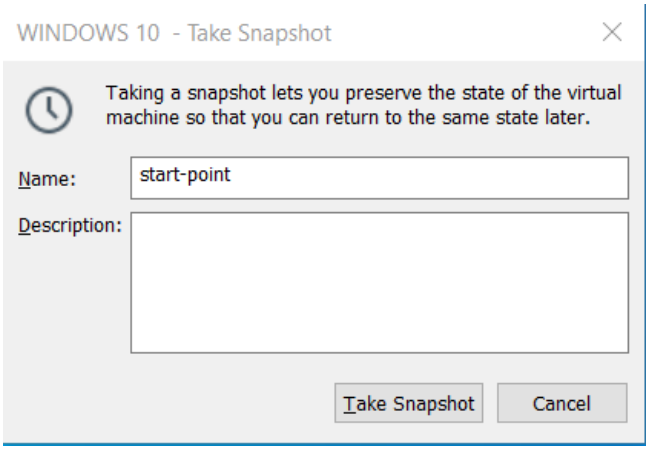
Windows Real-Time Protection is disabled on both machines



4) Taking snapshots

VMware's virtual machine "snapshot" option allows us to save a computer's current state and return to the same state later, in case of need. Taking snapshots when performing "malware analysis" lab is extremely important because of the high probability that the malware would perform changes on the machine (the malware might add keys, delete files, etc.) and snapshots can help us get back to the starting point at any time.

After I've installed the OS and the required analysis tools on the virtual machine and configured the network settings, I took a snapshot. That snapshot is now the foundation of my lab.



Afterwards, I installed all the tools for the analysis and took another snapshot.
I executed the malware, performed the analysis, and reverted to the initial snapshot in order to run another lab under the same conditions as the previous lab.
(This will be presented below)

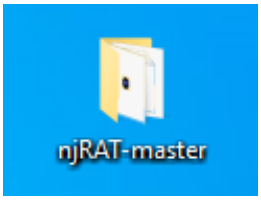
The Malware

In this project I will analyze the malware "NJrat". I chose this malware because of its extensive capabilities and also because "NJrat" is one of the most used RAT's in the world.

NJrat is a variant of Remote Access Trojan that is also known as "Bladabindi" and it is used to gain remote control over infected machines. NJrat has the ability to activate the machine's webcam, log keystrokes, steal passwords from the web browser, access the machine's command line, kill running processes, and manipulate the machine's registry and more.

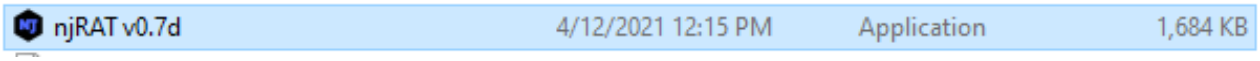
The NJrat malware uses quite a few attack vectors to infect its "victims". For example, the malware targets discord users as span campaigns. Another way the malware finds its way to infect machines is through a compromised website. The website tricks users to download a fake software update that installs the malware on the machine.
Once the NJrat arrived at the targeted machine and infected it, its malicious activity has begun.

The creation of the malware - attacker's computer:
This machine has 2 network adapters:
- NAT- (temporary) - to enable internet connection in order to download the NJrat malware.
- VMnet1 - the internal network that consists of the 2 machines discussed in my lab.
I got the NJrat from https://github.com/AliBawazeEer/RAT-NjRat-0.7d-modded-source-code.git , I extracted the files and saved it on the desktop.

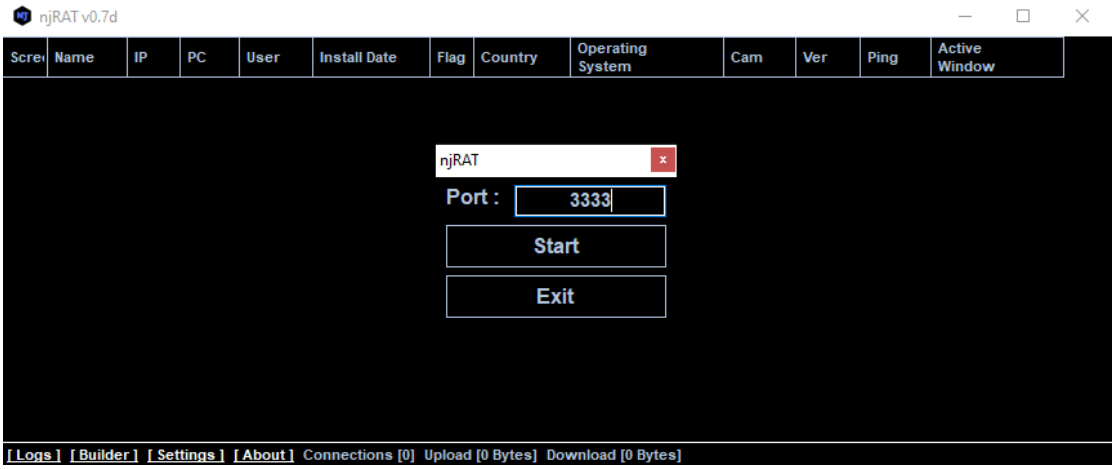


After downloading, the NAT network adapter is not necessary and therefore disconnected.

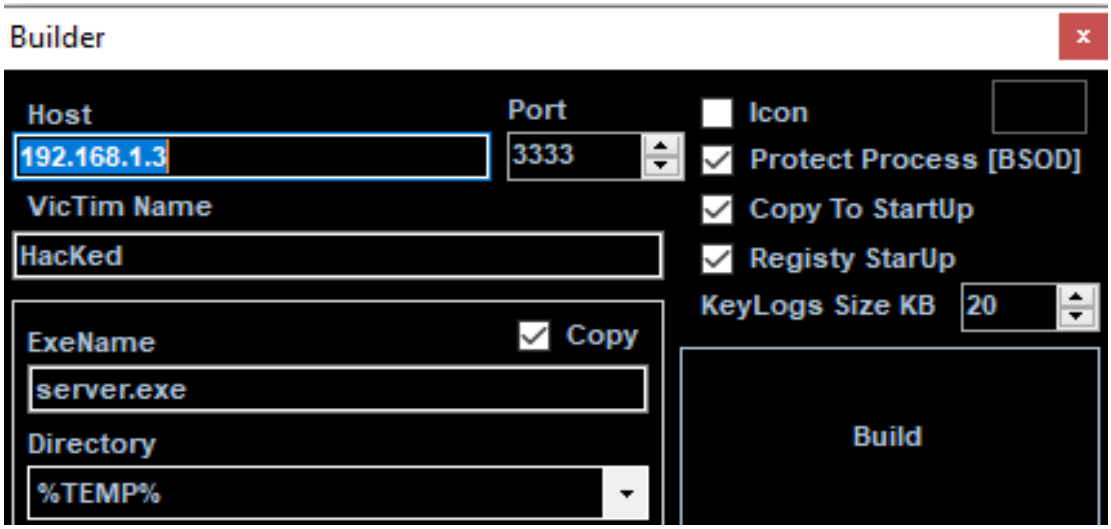
This application is the malware building. NjRAT provides a simple C2 (command & control) interface allowing the threat actor to easily interact with victim's machines.



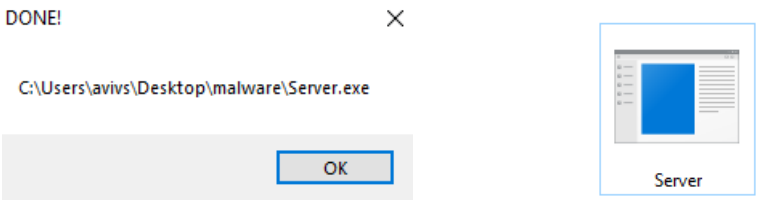
When I open the NJrat malware I first choose the port number I want the software to listen to. I chose port 3333 since it is easy to find when using "Wireshark". After choosing the port number, I hit "start



After this, I built the “server” file.



The Host – 192.168.1.3 (the attacker's machine).
The malware will connect to port 3333 on the attacker's machine. I pressed "Build" button and the "Server" file was created. I saved it inside a folder named "Malware". The .exe file will open a remote connection to the "victim's" machine.



Before I infect the "victim's" machine with the malware, I must prepare the machine and install the analysis tools required for my investigation of the malware and take a snapshot of this state in order to come back in case of need.

The Tools

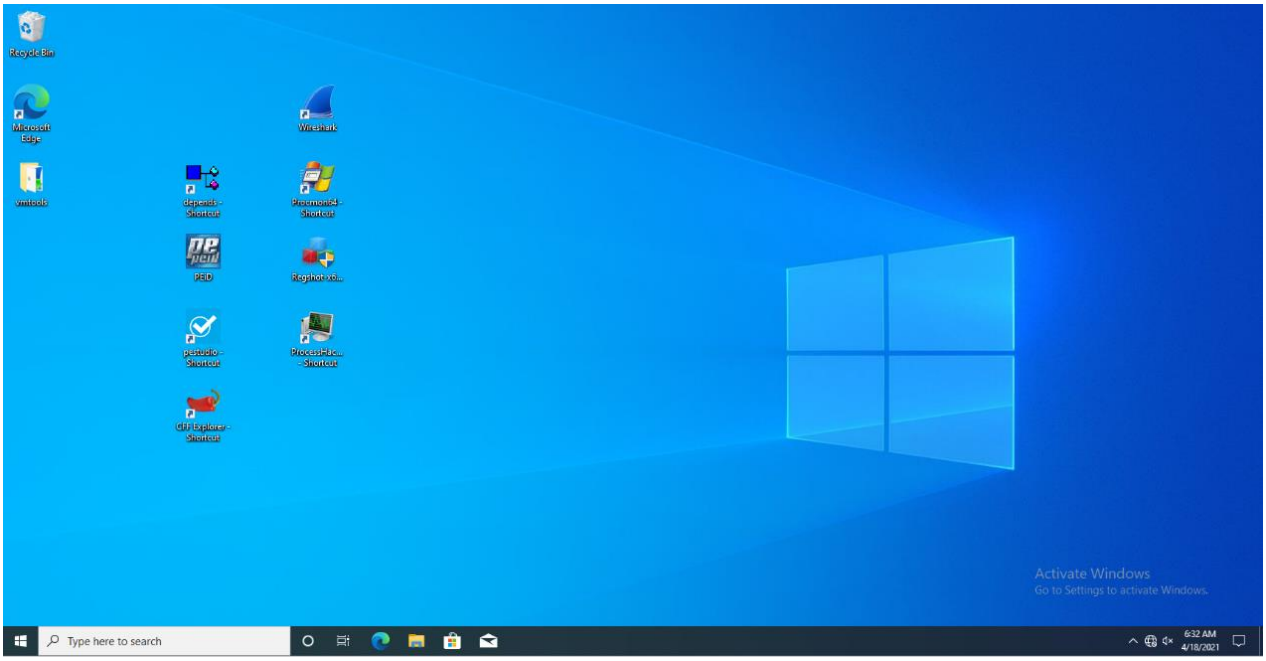
Static analysis tools-

DIE- Detect It Easy
Dependency Walker
PEstudio
CFF Explorer

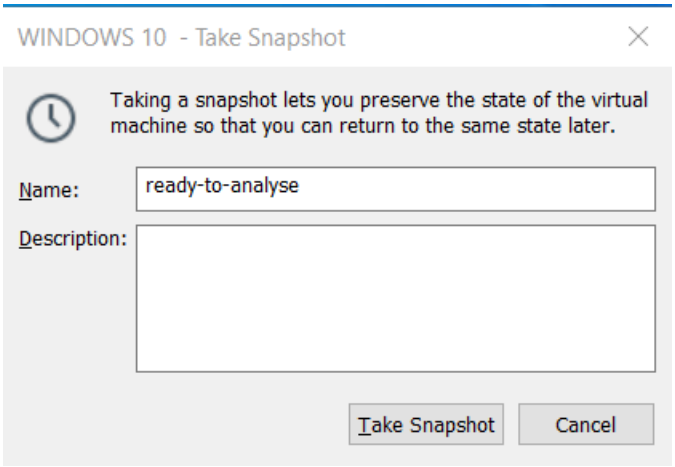
Dynamic analysis tools-

Wireshark
Process Monitor
Process Hacker
Regshot

The victim's computer- with the tools

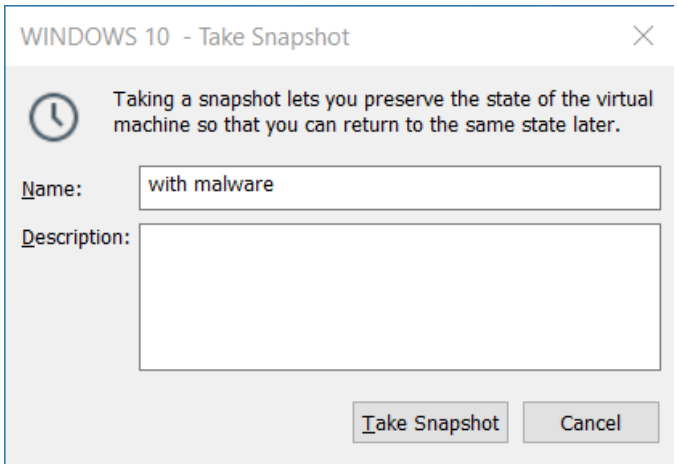


Snapshot of this state- Ready-to-analyze



In order to get the malware to be on my machine that is used for analysis purposes, I shared the "malware" folder from the attacker's machine onto the network, on the "victim's" machine I copied the file "server.exe" and put it on the desktop.

As soon as the malware was present on my analysis machine plus I had all the required tools to analyze it, I took a snapshot of the machine's current state and called it "With Malware".



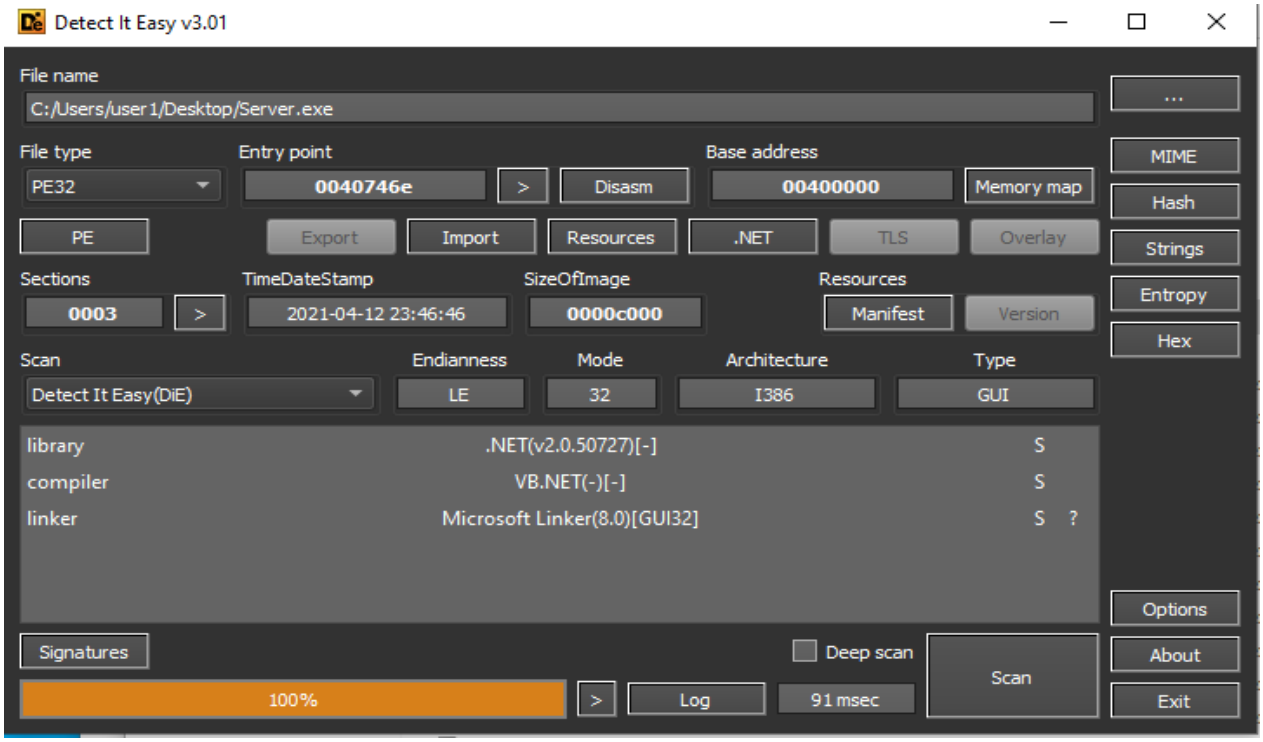
Static Analysis

The "Static Analysis" phase consists of examining the executable file without viewing the actual instructions. Basic static analysis can confirm whether or not a file is malicious, provide information about its functionality and sometimes even provide information that will allow you to produce simple network signatures. Basic static analysis is a straight-forward procedure that can be quick but it is largely ineffective against more sophisticated malware and it can miss important behaviors.

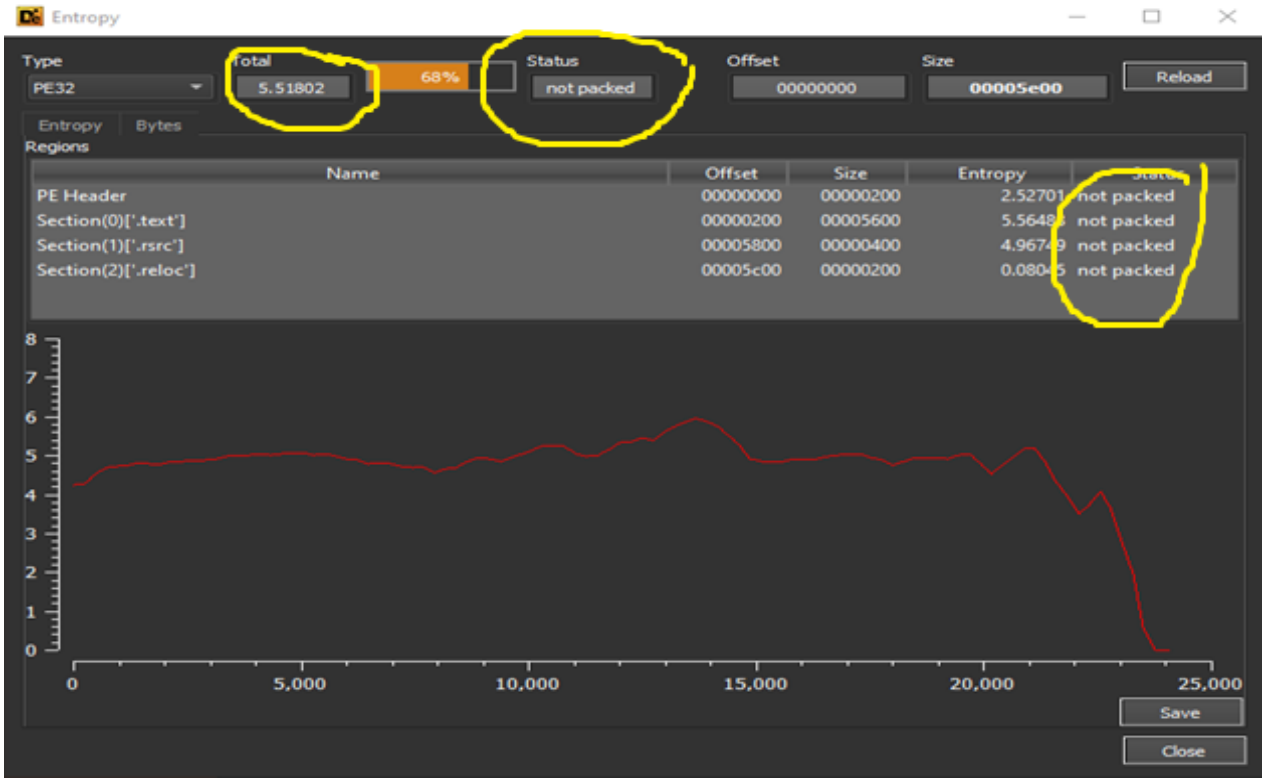
Packers:
Malware writers or creators often use packing or obfuscation to make their files more difficult to analyze and detect. Obfuscated programs are processes in which the author of the malware has attempted to hide. Packed programs are a subset of obfuscated programs in which the malicious file is compressed and cannot be analyzed. Both techniques would severely limit your chances to successfully statically analyze the malware.

DIE- Detect It Easy is an application that has been built as a packer identifier in order to help define a file type.

I'm using DIE to find whether the malware is packed or not:



measuring the code's entropy may help malware researchers determine whether or not a sample of the malware has been obfuscated in a way, compressed or encrypted. The most popular way to measure the entropy of the code is based on "Shannon's Formula". Using this formula, each binary is measured on a scale from 0 to 8.15. Entropy has a very clear relationship with malware, the more the entropy the more it is likely to be obfuacated or contain encrypted data; therefore the likeliness of a malicious file increases.

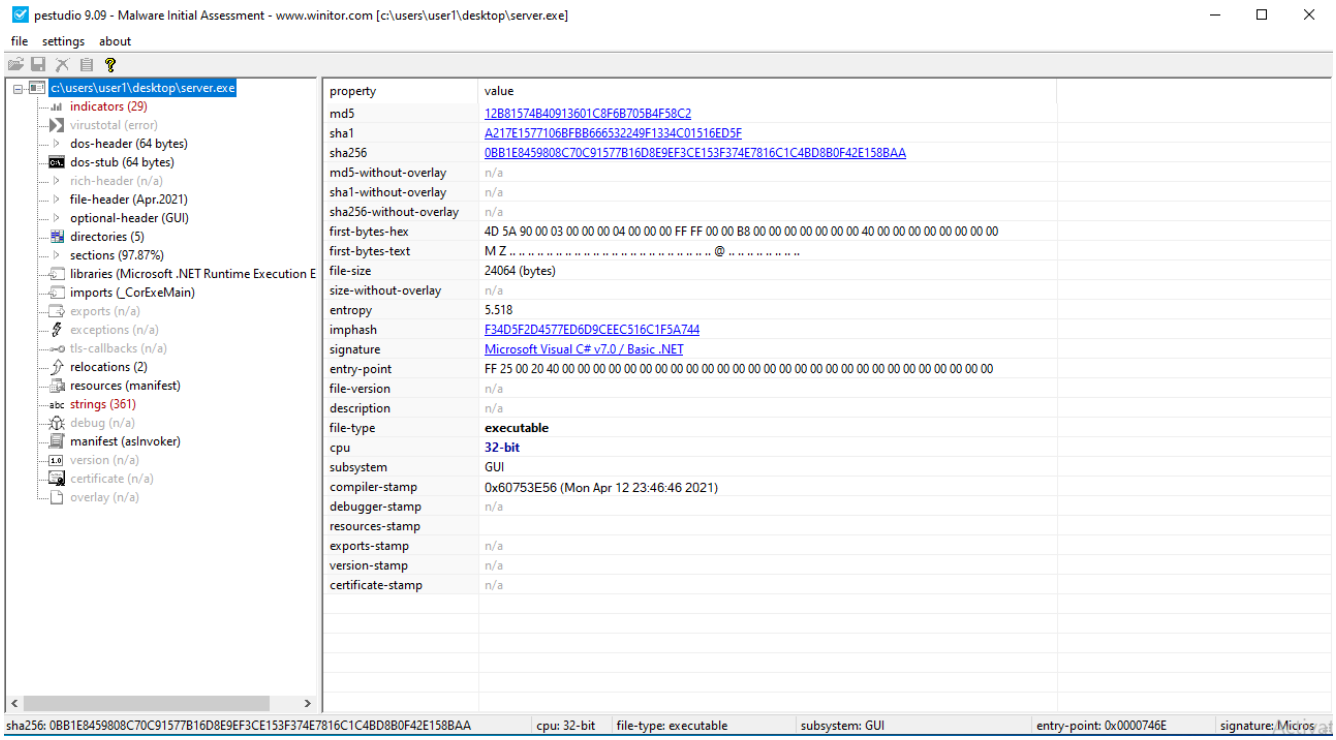


These finding show:
- The file is compiled with .NET4.0 which means it's written in C or C++. Malware creators often use multiple .NET obfuscations in order to avoid detection by antivirus software.
- The malware is not packed (text entropy is under 5).

Another way to confirm it is by looking at the strings of the malware's code and if the strings are readable, it means that the code isn't packed and obfuscated.
For looking at the strings, I'm using a tool called- PEstudio.

PEstudio is a free and portable tool which uses static analysis (and other techniques) to help you discover more about suspicious applications.

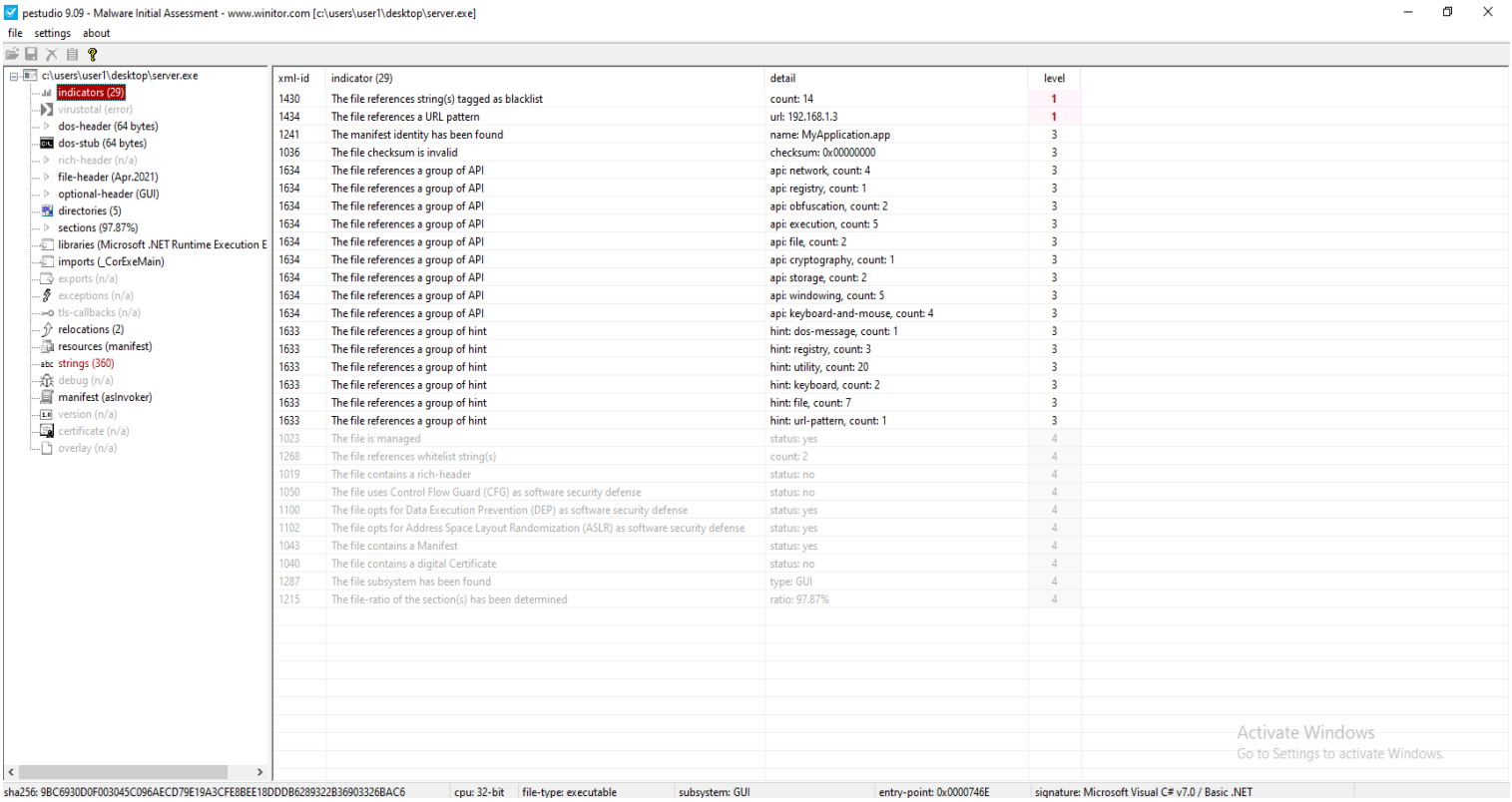
Before I present the strings, I want to show what other important data I can retrieve about the malware using PEstudio:



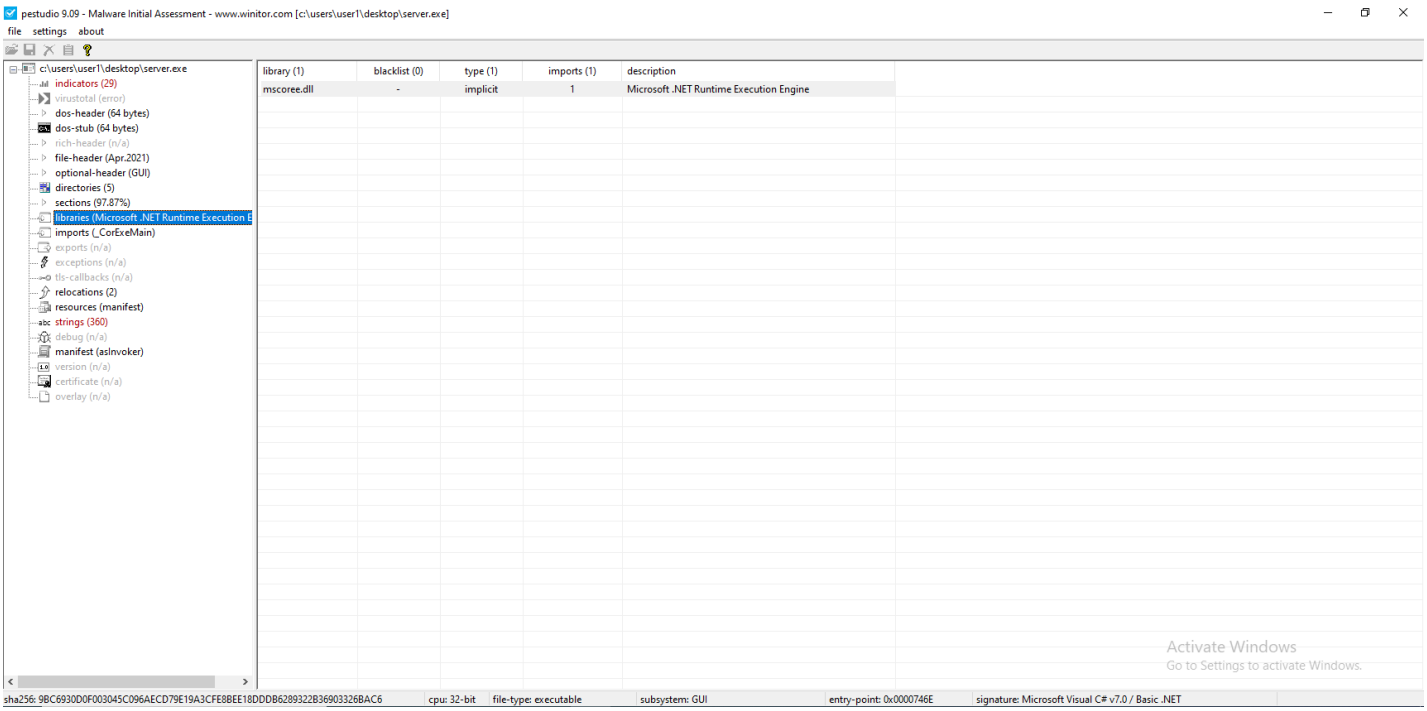
Hashes:
Md5- 12B81574B40913601C8F6B705B4F58C2
Sha1- A217E1577106BFBB666532249F1334C01516ED5F
Sha256-
0BB1E8459808C70C91577B16D8E9EF3CE153F374E7816C1C4BD8B
0F42E158BAA

File information:
File type- executable, first bytes hex- 4D 5A…, First bytes text- M Z …
File size- 24064 (bytes)
System type- GUI x32 bit
Signature- Microsoft Visual C# v7.0 / Basic .NET (written in C# language)

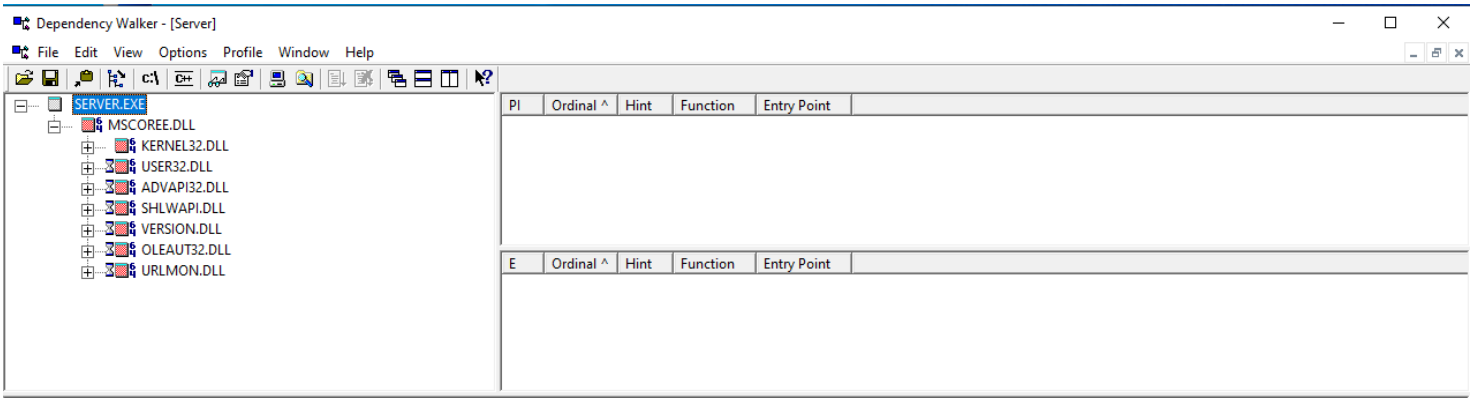
IOC- Indictors Of Compromise:



Present pieces of code that indicate that this is a suspicious file
-14 strings tagged as blacklist.
- An IP address (to which the malware is connected to).
-The manifest identity – MyApplication.app.
-The API's groups (network, registry, keyboard-and-mouse, etc.)



The only library that was found is- mscoree.dll.
MSCorEE.dll is a Microsoft library file which is essential for the execution of "managed code" applications written for use with the .NET Framework.
This library contains all the sub libraries the executable (.exe) file is using. In order to see all the libraries the file is using, I use a tool named "Dependency Walker"- This tool can recursively scan all the dependent DLLs that are used by a program:



In addition, those libraries will be presented on the strings list.
A program contains strings if it prints a message, connects to a URL, or copies a file to a specific location, etc. Searching through the strings can be a simple way to get hints about the functionality of a program.

PEstudio- Strings:

blacklist (14)	hint (34)	group (9)	value (360)
x	utility	network	connect
-	utility	-	Replace
-	utility	-	Load
-	utility	-	Shell
-	utility	-	Delete
-	utility	-	Write
-	utility	-	Process
-	utility	-	Start
-	utility	-	Copy
x	utility	-	Send
-	utility	-	Connect
-	utility	-	netsh firewall delete allowedprogram "
-	utility	-	cmd.exe /c ping 0 -n 2 & del "
-	utility	-	netsh firewall add allowedprogram "
-	utility	-	Execute ERROR
-	utility	-	Download ERROR
-	utility	-	Execute ERROR
-	utility	-	start
-	utility	-	Update ERROR
-	utility	-	Update ERROR
-	url-pattern	-	192.168.1.3
-	registry	-	RegistryKey
-	registry	-	Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run
-	registry	-	Software\
-	keyboard	-	Space
-	keyboard	-	Enter
-	file	-	System.Net
-	file	-	j.exe
-	file	-	avicap32.dll
-	file	-	user32.dll
-	file	-	mscoree.dll
-	file	-	server.exe
-	file	-	.exe
-	dos-message	-	!This program cannot be run in DOS mode.
x	-	windowing	GetForegroundWindow
-	-	windowing	GetWindowText
-	-	windowing	GetWindowText
-	-	windowing	GetWindowTextLength
-	-	windowing	GetWindowTextLength

-bit | file-type: executable | subsystem: GUI | entry-point: 0x0000746E | signature: Microsoft Visual C+

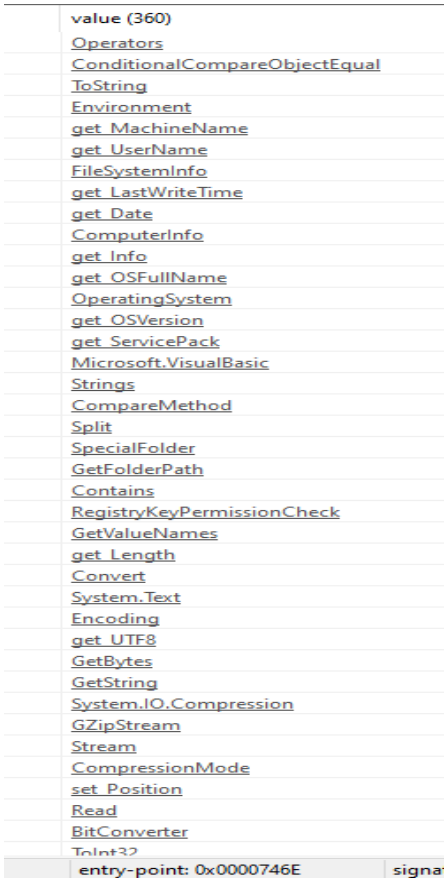
Connect, 192.168.1.3- tries to connect the URL address.
Replace, Copy, Write, Load, Delete, Start, Process- All of which are actions taken on processes.
Shell, cmd.exe, ping 0 –n2 - using command line trying to make a connection.
Netsh firewall delete\add aloowedprogram- Netsh command is used for configuring firewall and its exceptions. It will create a firewall policy to add itself as an 'allowedprogram'.
Registrykey, Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run- making changes on the registry- keys.
Avicap32.dll, user32.dll mscoree.dll- the dll files (shown before)

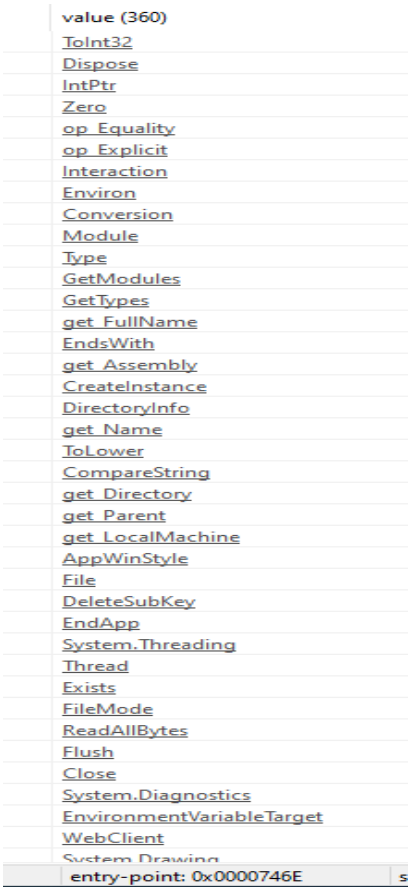
blacklist (14)	hint (34)	group (9)	value (360)
-	-	windowing	GetWindowTextLength
-	-	windowing	GetWindowTextLength
x	-	storage	GetVolumeInformation
x	-	storage	GetVolumeInformation
-	-	registry	CreateSubKey
-	-	obfuscation	ToBase64String
-	-	obfuscation	FromBase64String
-	-	network	System.Net.Sockets
-	-	network	TcpClient
-	-	network	NetworkStream
x	-	keyboard-and-mouse	GetKeyboardState
x	-	keyboard-and-mouse	MapVirtualKey
-	-	keyboard-and-mouse	GetKeyboardLayout
x	-	keyboard-and-mouse	GetAsyncKeyState
x	-	file	GetTempFileName
-	-	file	WriteAllBytes
-	-	execution	Sleep
x	-	execution	SetEnvironmentVariable
-	-	execution	GetCurrentProcess
x	-	execution	NtSetInformationProcess
x	-	execution	GetWindowThreadProcessId
x	-	cryptography	System.Security.Cryptography
-	-	-	(?u`
-	-	-	.text
-	-	-	`.rsrc
-	-	-	@.reloc
-	-	-	3)rY
-	-	-	j3wr
-	-	-	3 rK
-	-	-	BSJB
-	-	-	v2.0.50727
-	-	-	#Strings
-	-	-	#GUID
-	-	-	#Blob
-	-	-	<Module>
-	-	-	System.Runtime.CompilerServices
-	-	-	CompilationRelaxationsAttribute
-	-	-	.ctor
-	-	-	RuntimeCompatibilityAttribute

it	file-type: executable	subsystem: GUI	entry-point: 0x0000746E	signatu

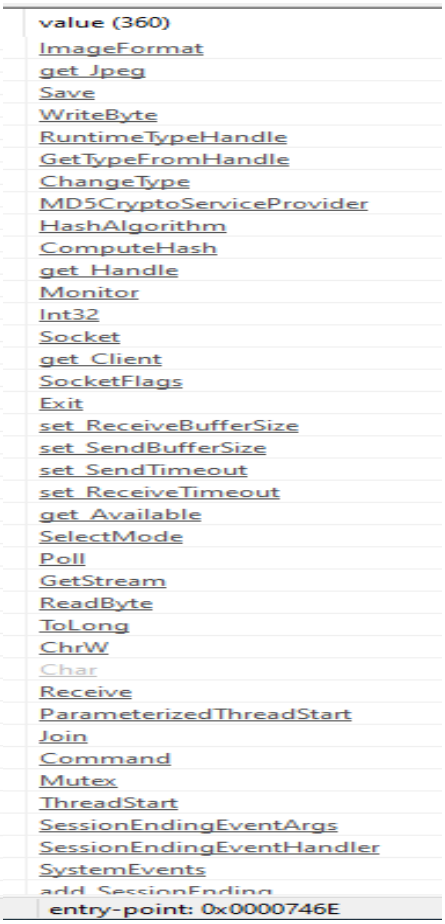
GetWindowText, GetWindowTextLength- Changes the text of the specified window's title bar.
GetVolumeInformation- Retrieves information about the file system and volume associated with the specified root directory.
CreateSubKey- adding sub key.
System.Net.Sockets, TcpClient, NetworkStream-Creating netork connections.
GetKeyboardState, MapVirtualKey, GetKeyboardLayout, GetAsyncKeyState- using keyboard and mouse state.
Sleep- has the ability to turn the computer to "sleep" mode.
SetEnvironmentVariable, GetCurrentProcess, NtSetInformationProcess, GetWindowThreadProcessId- intervention in processes.
System.Security.Cryptography- using cryptographic services, including secure encoding and decoding of data, as well as many other operations, such as hashing, random number generation, and message authentication.

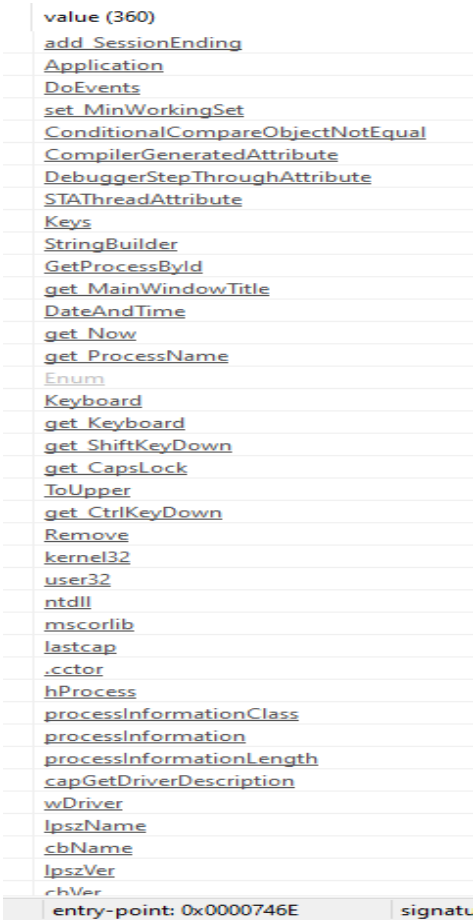

value (360)
RuntimeCompatibilityAttribute
System
Object
Microsoft.VisualBasic.CompilerServices
StandardModuleAttribute
System.IO
FileInfo
FileStream
Microsoft.VisualBasic.Devices
Computer
MemoryStream
Conversions
ToBoolean
System.Reflection
Assembly
GetEntryAssembly
get_Location
Byte
Exception
Microsoft.VisualBasic.MyServices
RegistryProxy
ServerComputer
get_Registry
Microsoft.Win32
get_CurrentUser
String
Concat
OpenSubKey
DeleteValue
ProjectData
SetProjectError
ClearProjectError
RuntimeHelpers
GetObjectValue
GetValue
RegistryValueKind
SetValue
DateTime
entry-point: 0x0000746E
signature: M

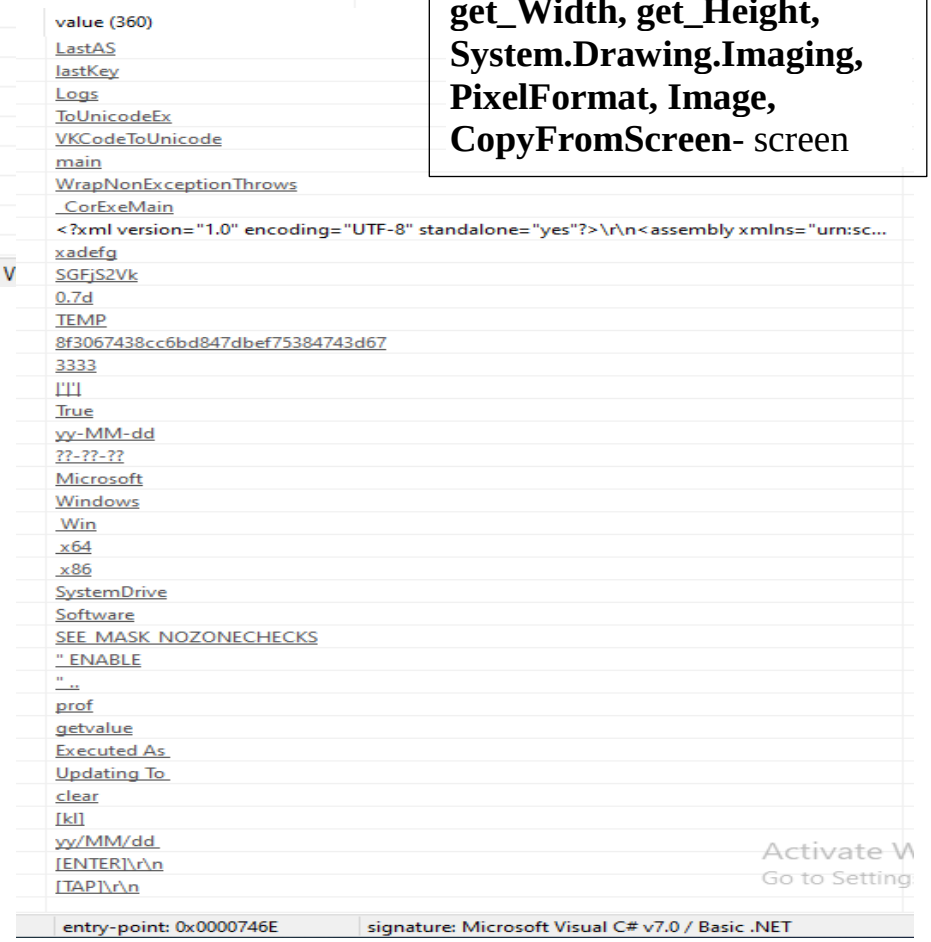

value (360)
Operators
ConditionalCompareObjectEqual
ToString
Environment
get_MachineName
get_UserName
FileSystemInfo
get_LastWriteTime
get_Date
ComputerInfo
get_Info
get_OSFullName
OperatingSystem
get_OSVersion
get_ServicePack
Microsoft.VisualBasic
Strings
CompareMethod
Split
SpecialFolder
GetFolderPath
Contains
RegistryKeyPermissionCheck
GetValueNames
get_Length
Convert
System.Text
Encoding
get_UTF8
GetBytes
GetString
System.IO.Compression
GZipStream
Stream
CompressionMode
set_Position
Read
BitConverter
entry-point: 0x0000746E


value (360)
ToInt32
Dispose
IntPtr
Zero
op_Equality
op_Explicit
Interaction
Environ
Conversion
Module
Type
GetModules
GetTypes
get_FullName
EndsWith
get_Assembly
CreateInstance
DirectoryInfo
get_Name
ToLower
CompareString
get_Directory
get_Parent
get_LocalMachine
AppWinStyle
File
DeleteSubKey
EndApp
System.Threading
Thread
Exists
FileMode
ReadAllBytes
Flush
Close
System.Diagnostics
EnvironmentVariableTarget
WebClient
entry-point: 0x0000746E


value (360)
System.Drawing
Graphics
Bitmap
Rectangle
Size
ConcatenateObject
get_Chars
ToArray
DownloadData
Path
get_Message
NewLateBinding
LateSet
LateCall
Boolean
LateGet
CompareObjectEqual
OrObject
System.Windows.Forms
Screen
get_PrimaryScreen
get_Bounds
get_Width
get_Height
System.Drawing.Imaging
PixelFormat
Image
FromImage
CopyPixelOperation
CopyFromScreen
Cursor
Cursors
get_Default
Point
get_Position
Draw
ToInteger
DrawImage
entry-point: 0x0000746E


value (360)
ImageFormat
get_Jpeg
Save
WriteByte
RuntimeTypeHandle
GetTypeFromHandle
ChangeType
MD5CryptoServiceProvider
HashAlgorithm
ComputeHash
get_Handle
Monitor
Int32
Socket
get_Client
SocketFlags
Exit
set_ReceiveBufferSize
set_SendBufferSize
set_SendTimeout
set_ReceiveTimeout
get_Available
SelectMode
Poll
GetStream
ReadByte
ToLong
ChrW
Char
Receive
ParameterizedThreadStart
Join
Command
Mutex
ThreadStart
SessionEndingEventArgs
SessionEndingEventHandler
SystemEvents
entry-point: 0x0000746E


value (360)
add_SessionEnding
Application
DoEvents
set_MinWorkingSet
ConditionalCompareObjectNotEqual
CompilerGeneratedAttribute
DebuggerStepThroughAttribute
STAThreadAttribute
Keys
StringBuilder
GetProcessById
get_MainWindowTitle
DateAndTime
get_Now
get_ProcessName
Enum
Keyboard
get_Keyboard
get_ShiftKeyDown
get_CapsLock
ToUpper
get_CtrlKeyDown
Remove
kernel32
user32
ntdll
mscorlib
lastcap
.cctor
hProcess
processInformationClass
processInformation
processInformationLength
capGetDriverDescription
wDriver
lpszName
cbName
lpszVer
entry-point: 0x0000746E



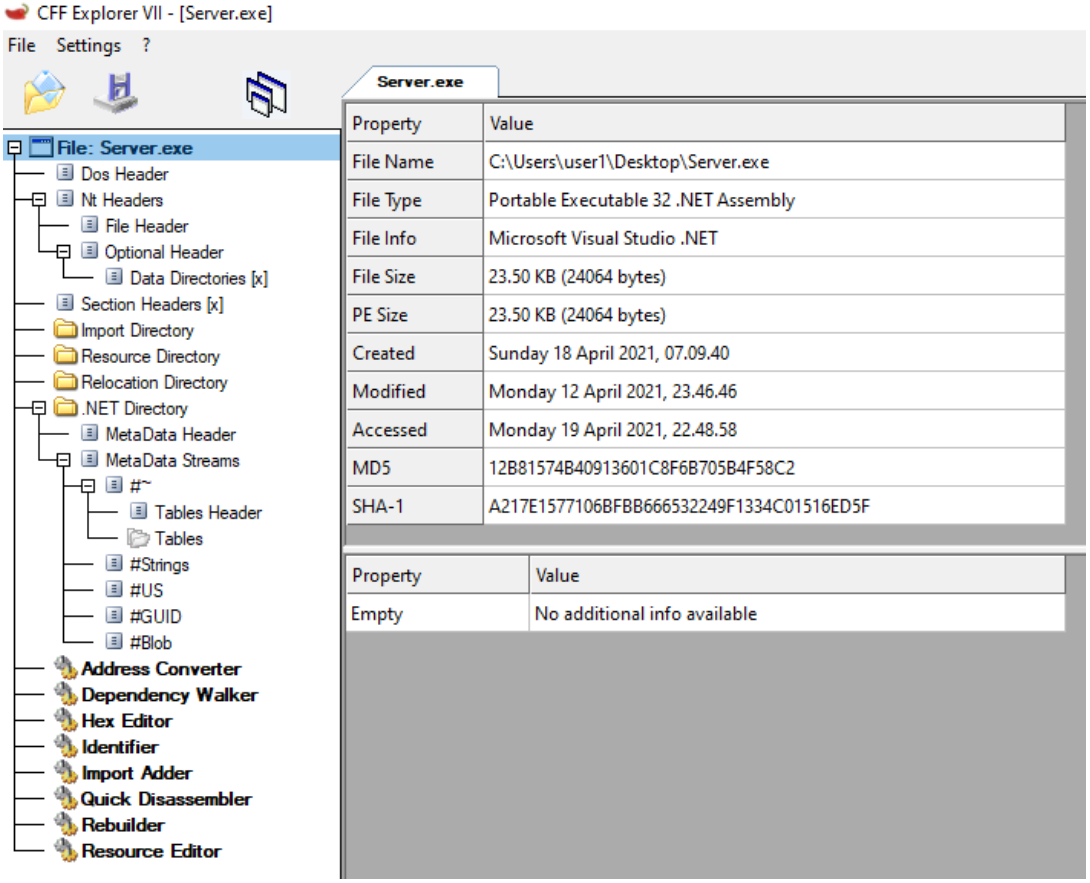
get_MachineName, get_UserName, FileSystemInfo, get_LastWriteTime, ComputerInfo- Collect information about the infected pc.
get_OSFullName, OperatingSystem, get_OSVersion- Collect information about the OS type+version, computer version+ name.
DirectoryInfo, get_FullName, get_Name, get_Parent- collect information from the directories.
CompareString- maybe try hashing. to decipher
get_PrimaryScreen, get_Width, get_Height, System.Drawing.Imaging, PixelFormat, Image, CopyFromScreen- screen

Keyboard, get_Keyboard, get_ShiftKeyDown, get_CapsLock, ToUpper, get_CtrlKeyDown- checking keyboard station (clicks)

3333- Listening on port 3333.
TEMP folder- explanation in the dynamic analysis.
get_Date, yy-mm-dd, yy/mm/dd- date templates, collect the date information.

The strings are clearly readable, the words are written in clear text - which confirms that the code is not obfuscated.

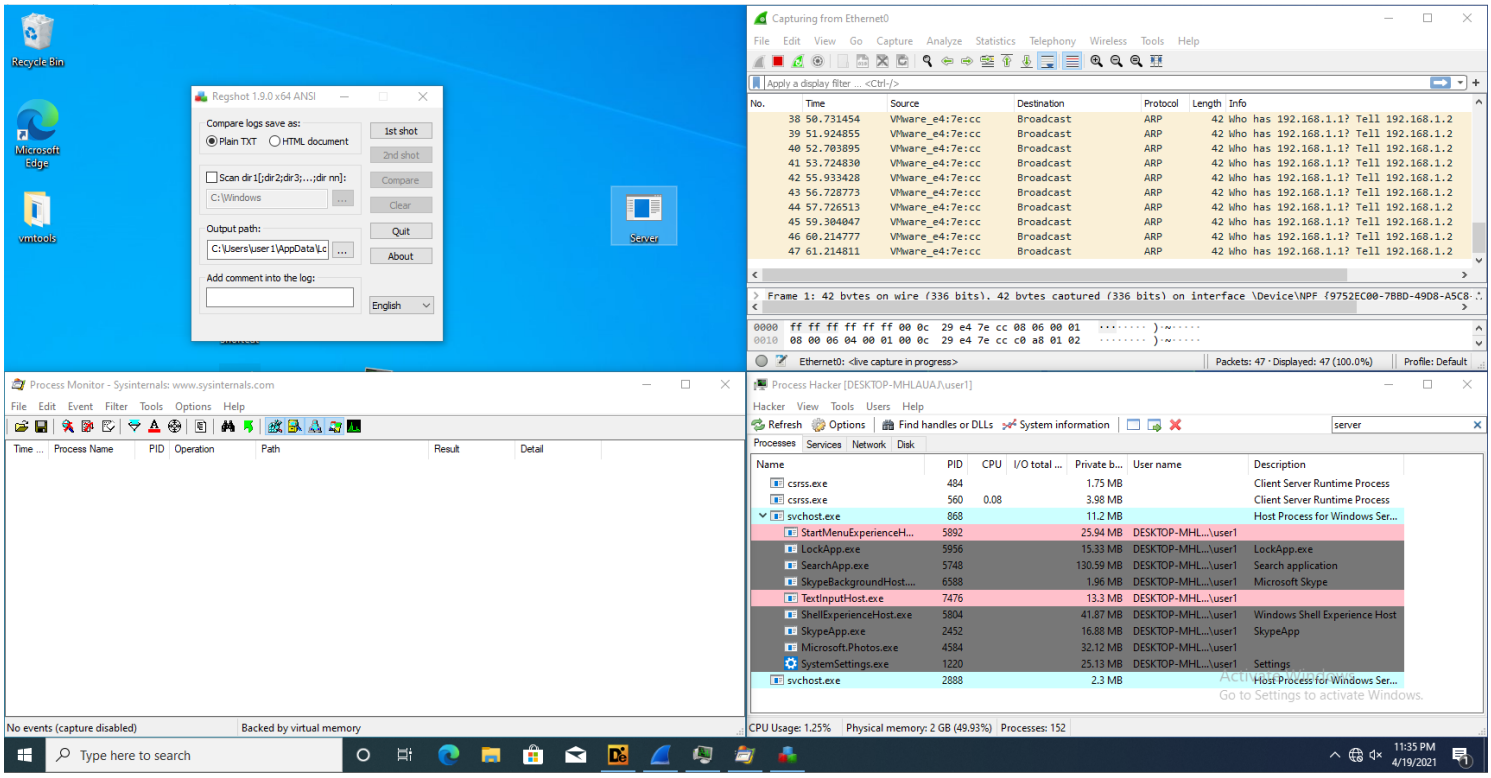
Another tool that can provide some information about the malware file is –
CFF explorer - PE editor tool.



Dynamic Analysis

Dynamic analysis is any examination performed after executing malware. Dynamic analysis techniques are the second step in the malware analysis process. Dynamic analysis is typically performed after basic static analysis has reached to the end. It involves monitoring malware as it runs and examining the system after the malware has executed.

Prior to running the malware, the following tools need to be opened and ready for use so that during the malware's activity I will be able to capture its activity in the background.



"Wireshark"- with Wireshark I capture the network traffic between the malware to the C&C server- on the attacker's machine.

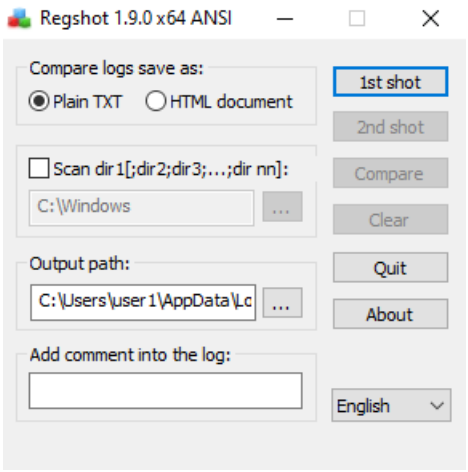
"Process Hacker" - with this tool it is possible to see all the active processes that are running on the machine. For example, I can check whether the Server.exe file is running.
In the filter bar I wrote - "Server".

"Process Monitor" - with this tool it is possible to see the real-time file-system, registry and thread or process activity. I stopped and deleted all

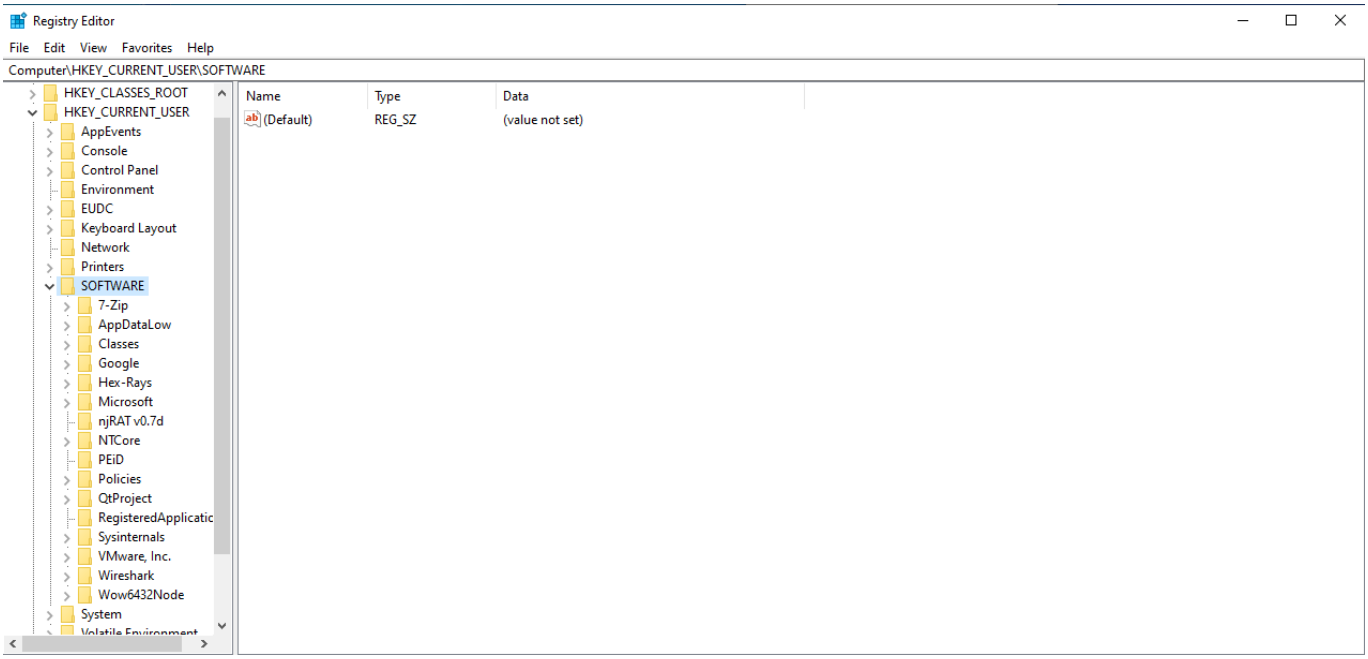
the running activities so that there are no any unnecessary processes running on the machine.

"Regshot" – this tool allows me to quickly take a snapshot of the machine's registry and then compare it with a second one, which is done after doing system changes.

At first, I will take a snapshot of the machine's registry before running the malware:

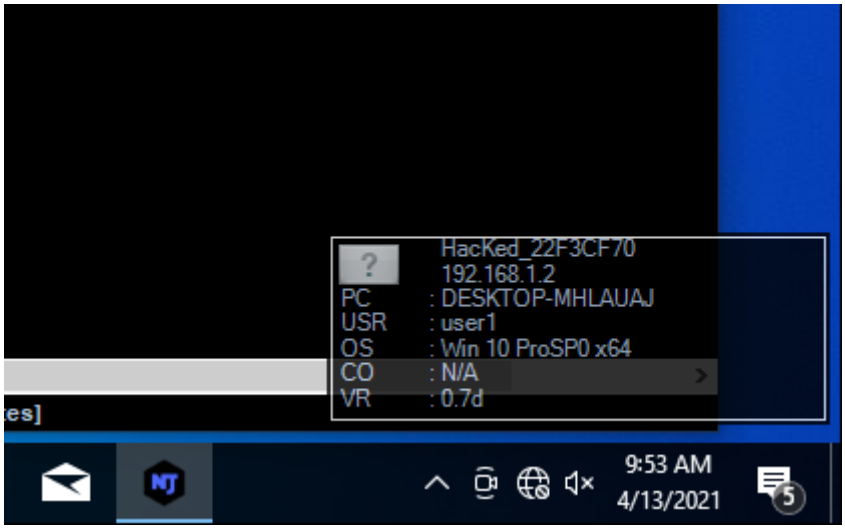


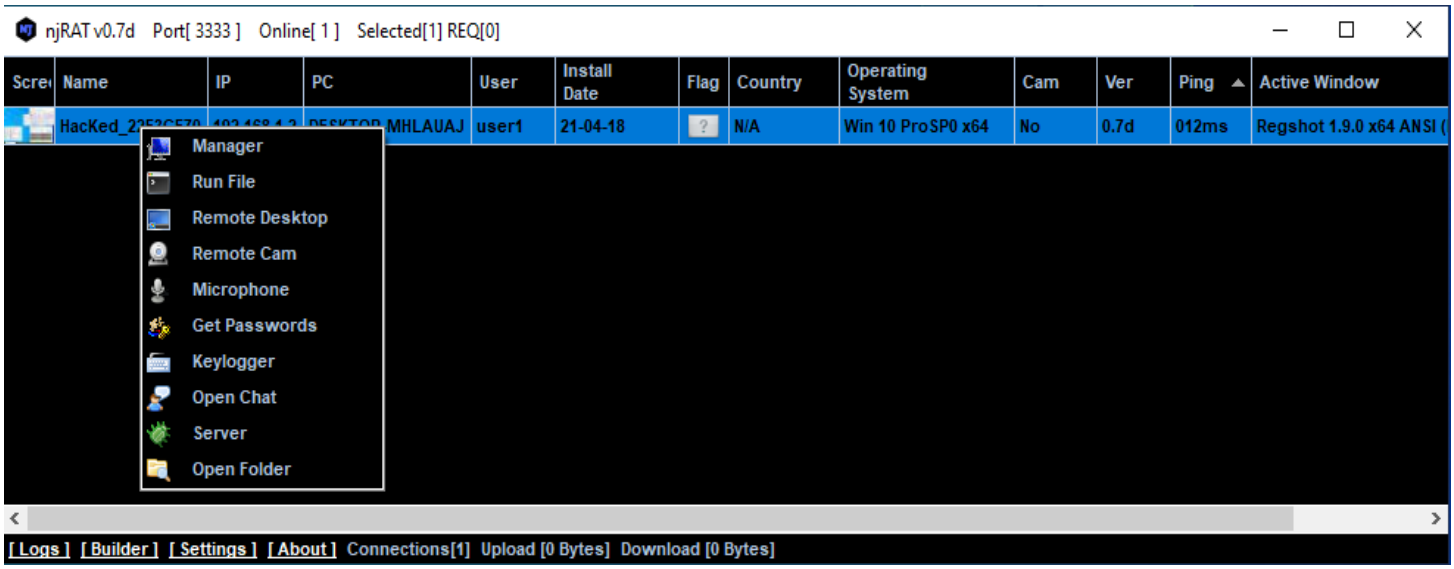
secondly, I want to look at the Registry Editor before the execution:



Thirdly, I started monitoring the activities using "Process Monitor".

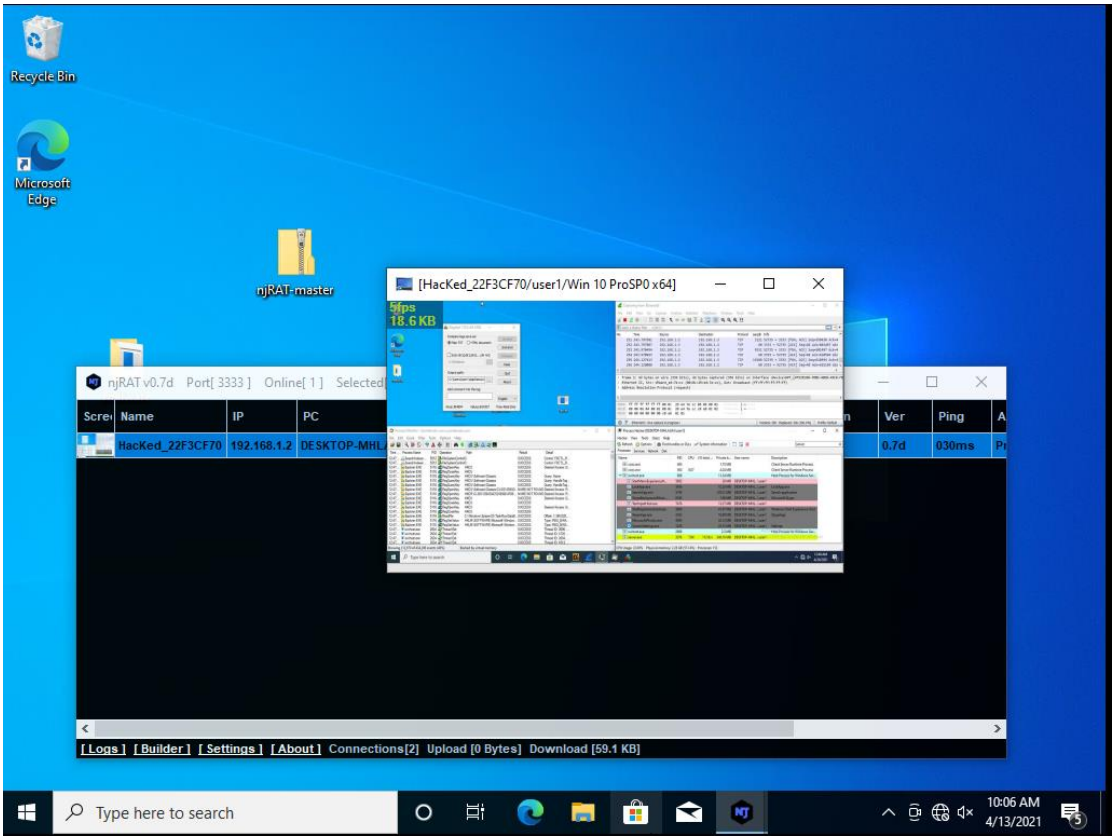
At this point, the machine is ready for the execution of the malware and all the necessary tools are up and running.
In order to execute the malware I double-clicked the "Server.exe" file. A short while afterwards an alert popped up on the attacker's machine and all the options were available:



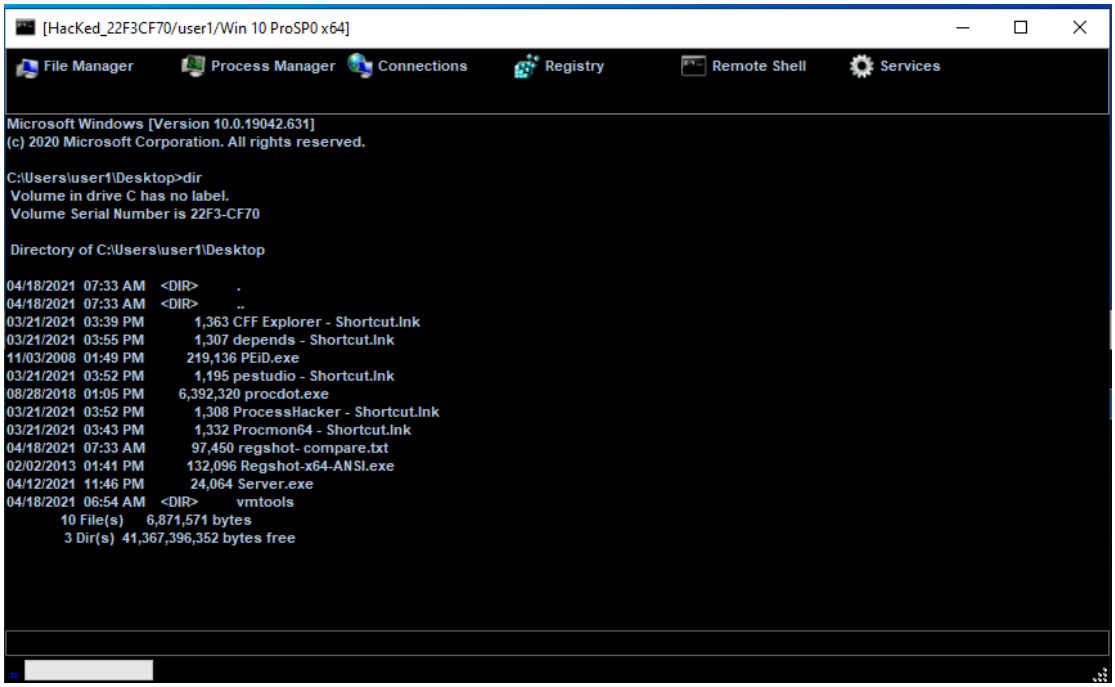


Examples:

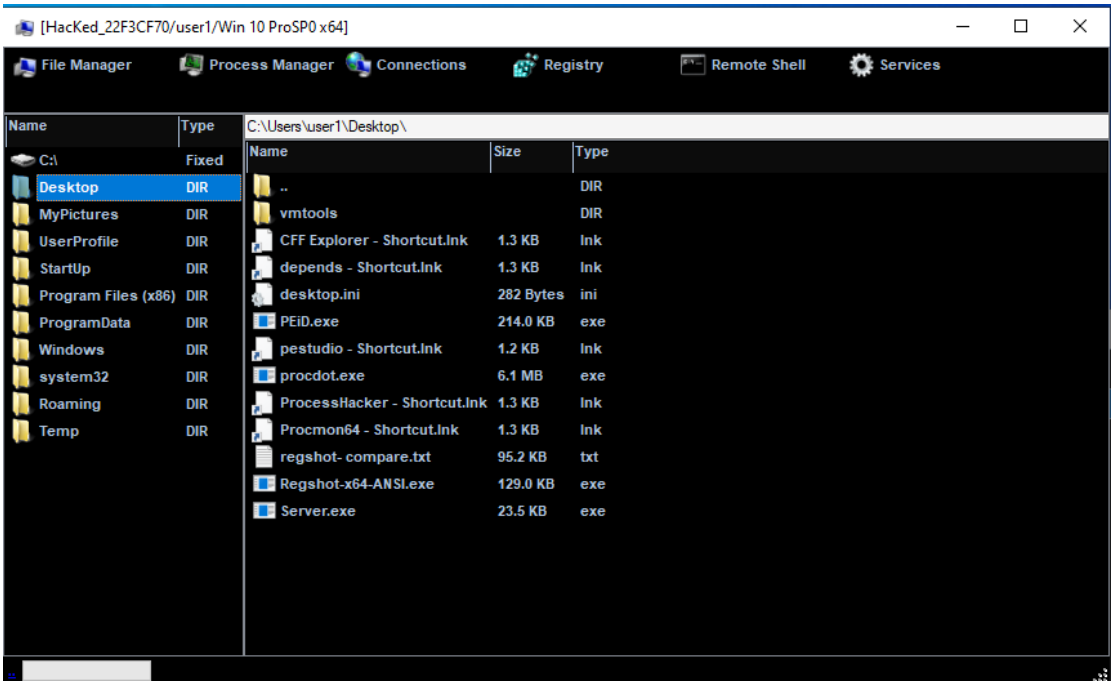
Remote Desktop- gives me the picture of the victim's pc state.



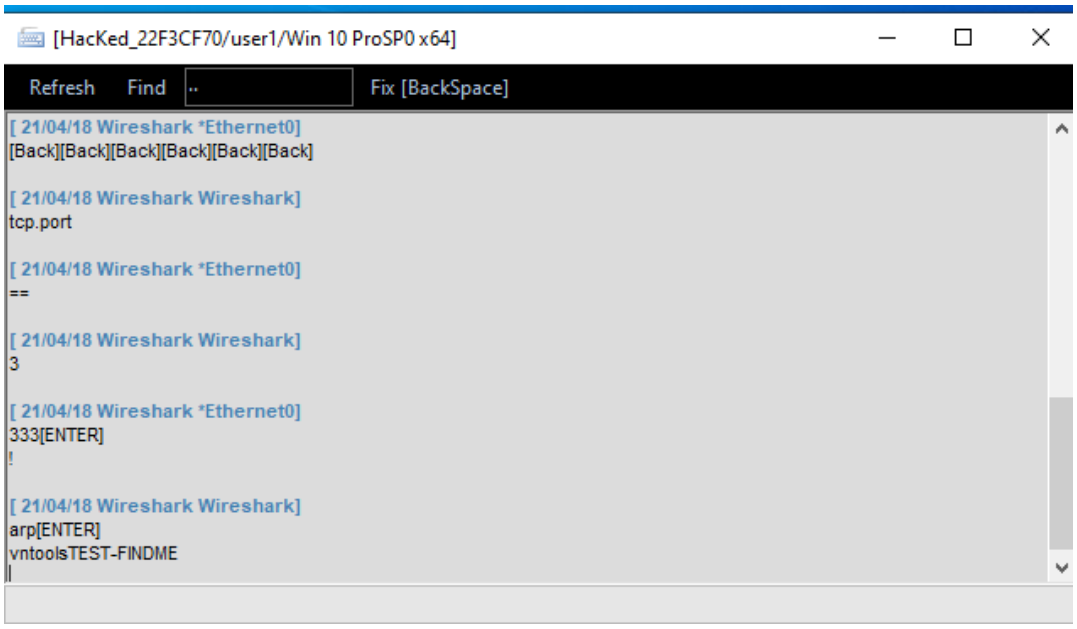
Remote Shell- launch a command shell interface for executing



File Manager- remotely execute and manipulate files

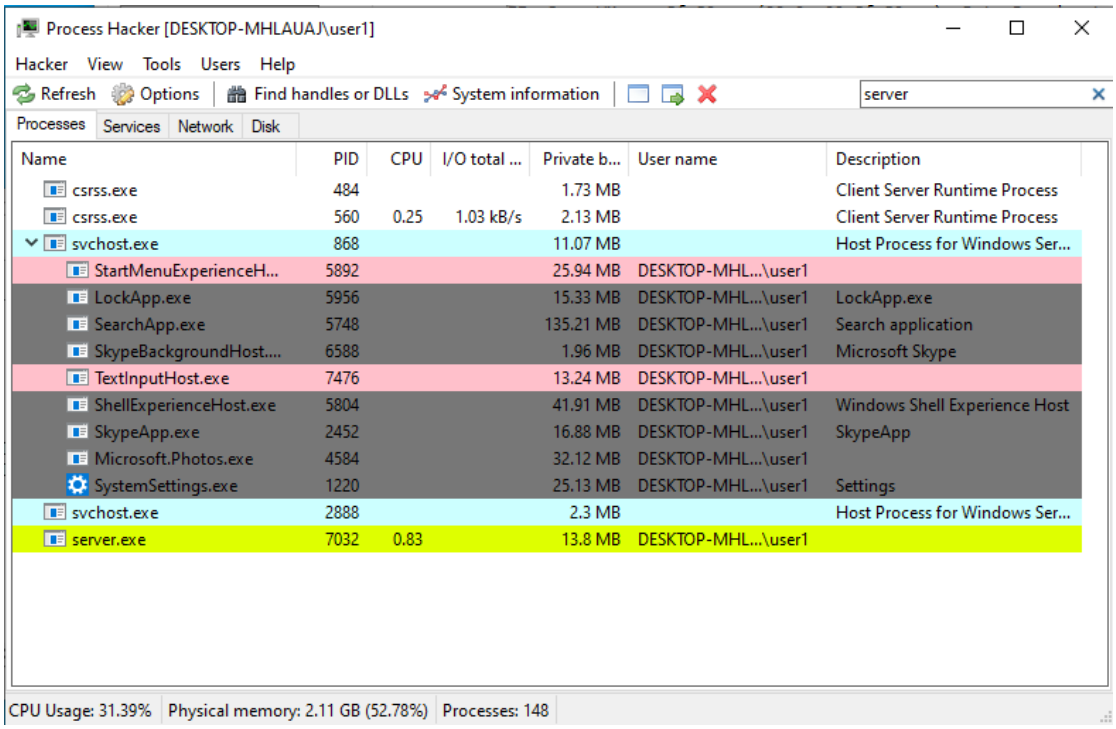


Keylogger- record keystrokes made by the victim

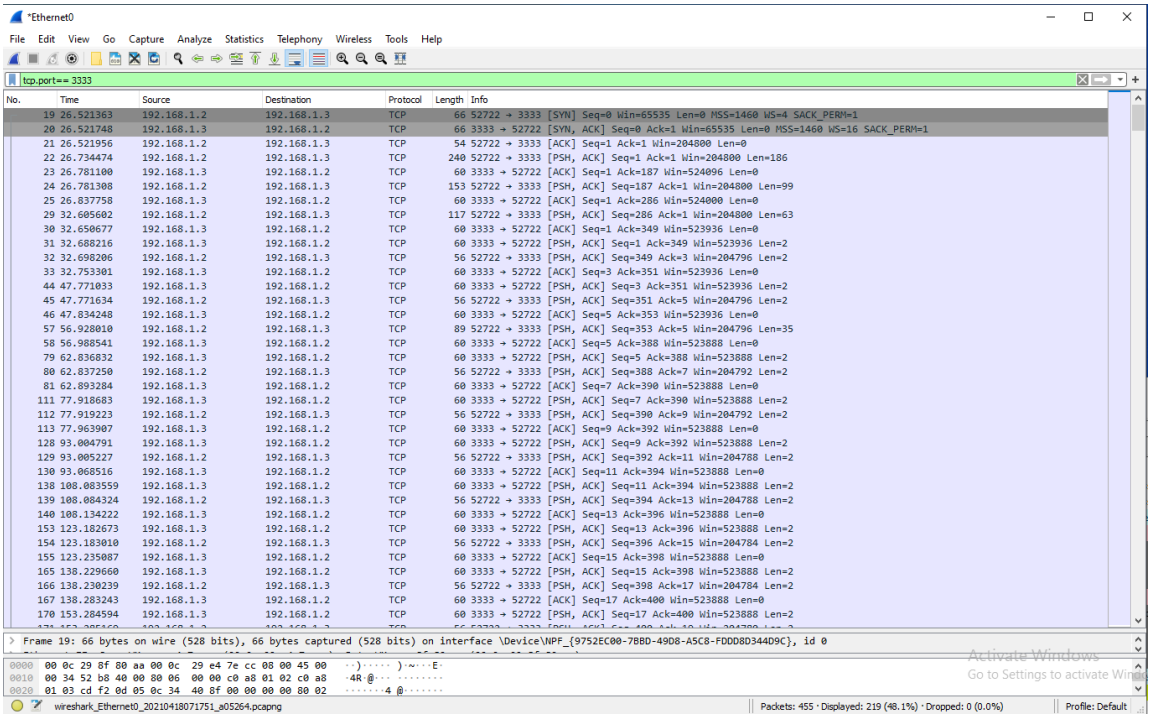


After a few operations on the attacker's side, I returned to analyzing the software on the "victim's" machine:

On "Process Hacker" I can see that the "Server.exe" file is running:



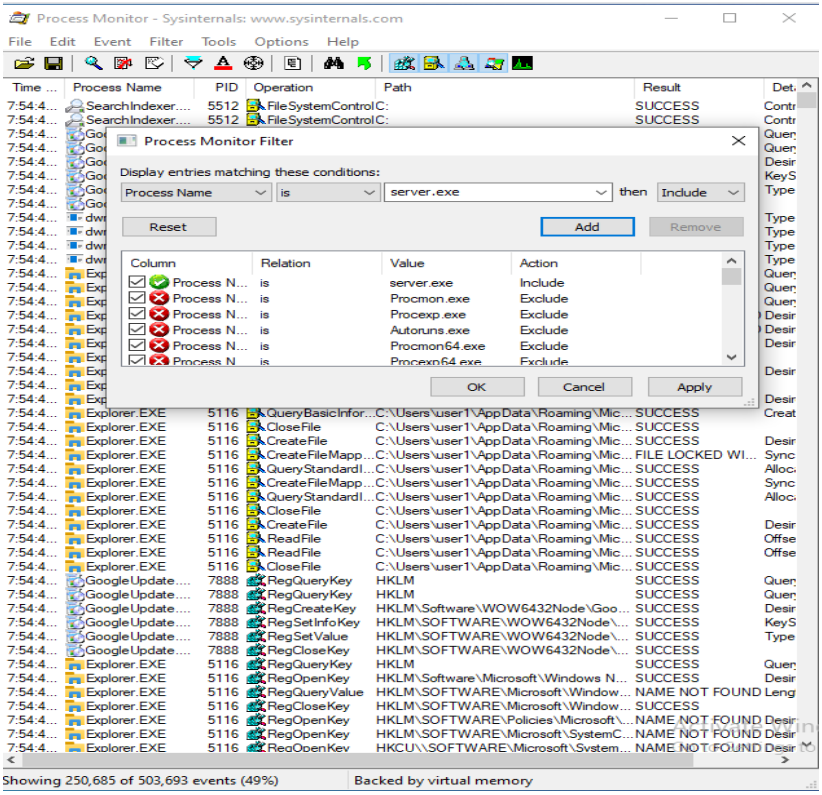
On "Wireshark" I filtered the traffic by using the "tcp.port==3333" display filter in order to present only the network traffic related to the malware:



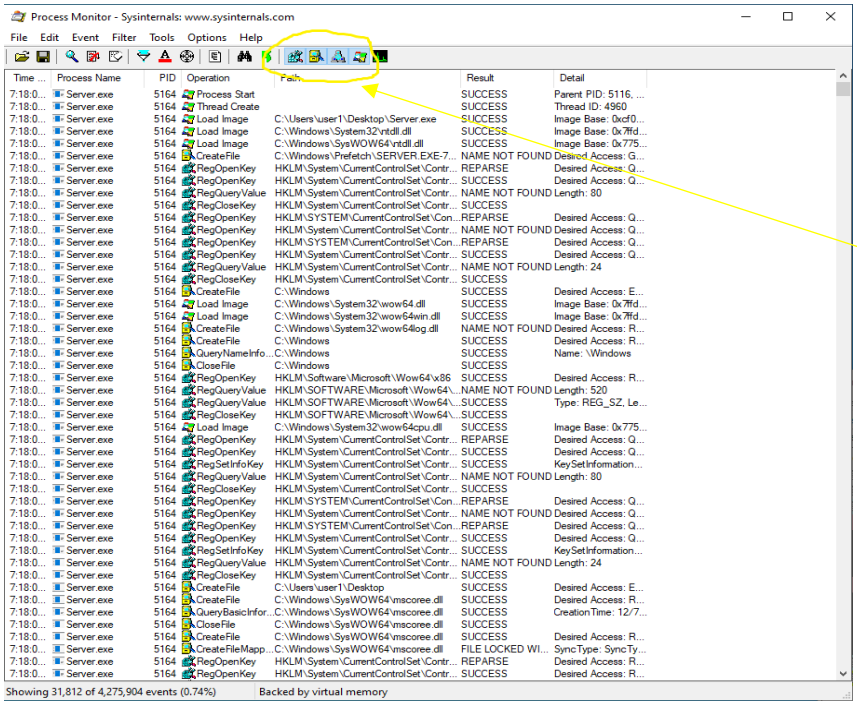
This picture (or screenshot if you took a screenshot \ snapshot) presents the TCP connection between the malware ("victim's" machine - 192.168.1.2) and the C&C server (attacker's machine - 192.168.1.3). The first 3 packets are the TCP 3-way-handshake and all the other packets are transformation of data \ TCP stream between the two machines..

Since the victim and the attacker's machines are on the same network, the malware doesn't try to go out on the internet and connect to its C&C server.
However, when the incident response team are dealing with an unknown malware, they will investigate the malware to its source.
In this situation, it is extremely important to capture the malware's network traffic. Based on the malware's network traffic behavior it will be possible to retrieve important information such as: the attacker's IP address, DNS queries made by the malware, what information it sends to its server and more.

In "Process Monitor" I filtered all the events in order to see only the events that are linked to the "Server.exe" process.
I added the process name – "Server.exe", I presses the "add" button, the filter was added to the list, I pressed "apply" and "ok"



Process Monitor- with server.exe filter



As these indicators are marked we can see: (from right to left)

-process and thread activity.

-network activity

- file system activity

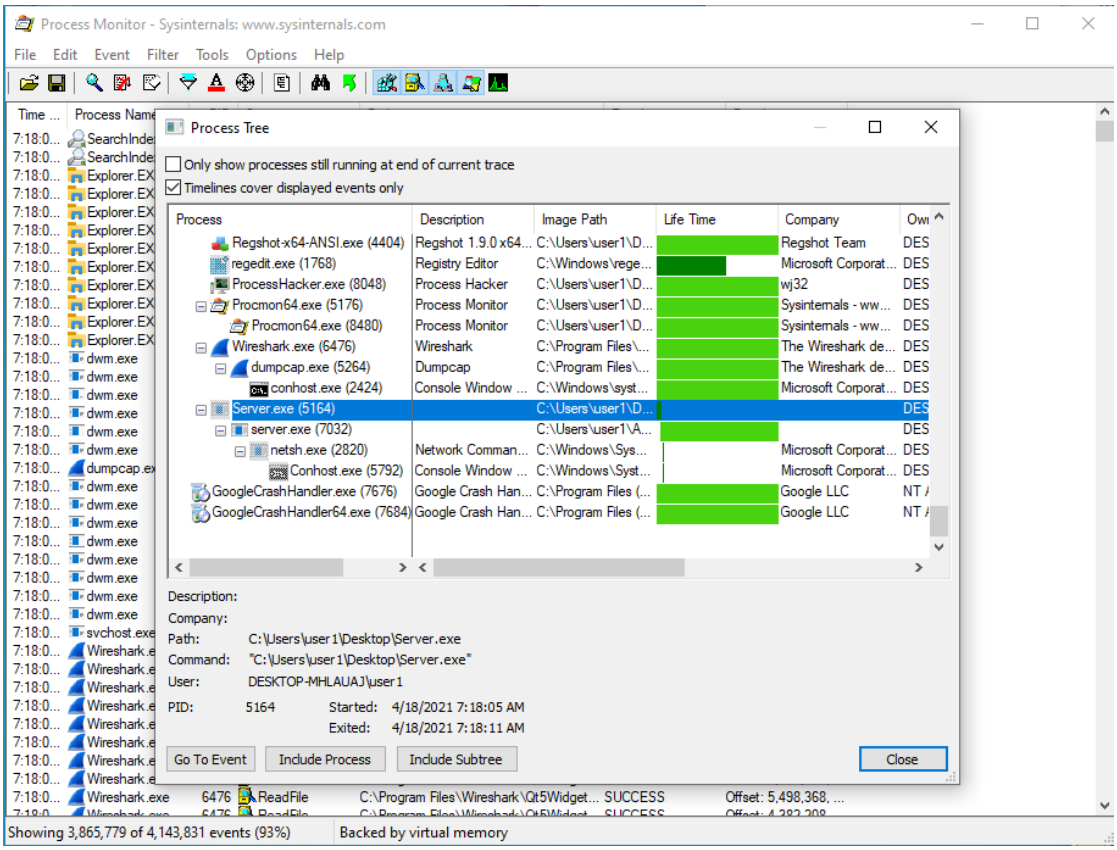
- Registry activity

We can see over 4 million events that have occurred while the malware was running on the machine: Registry modifications, files' changes, processes intervention and more.

"Process Monitor" has a toll called "Tree".
The "Tree" tool shows the relationships of all the running processes (parent-processes and child-processes).

Using this tool we can see that the main "server.exe" file ran and it has a very short "Life Time".

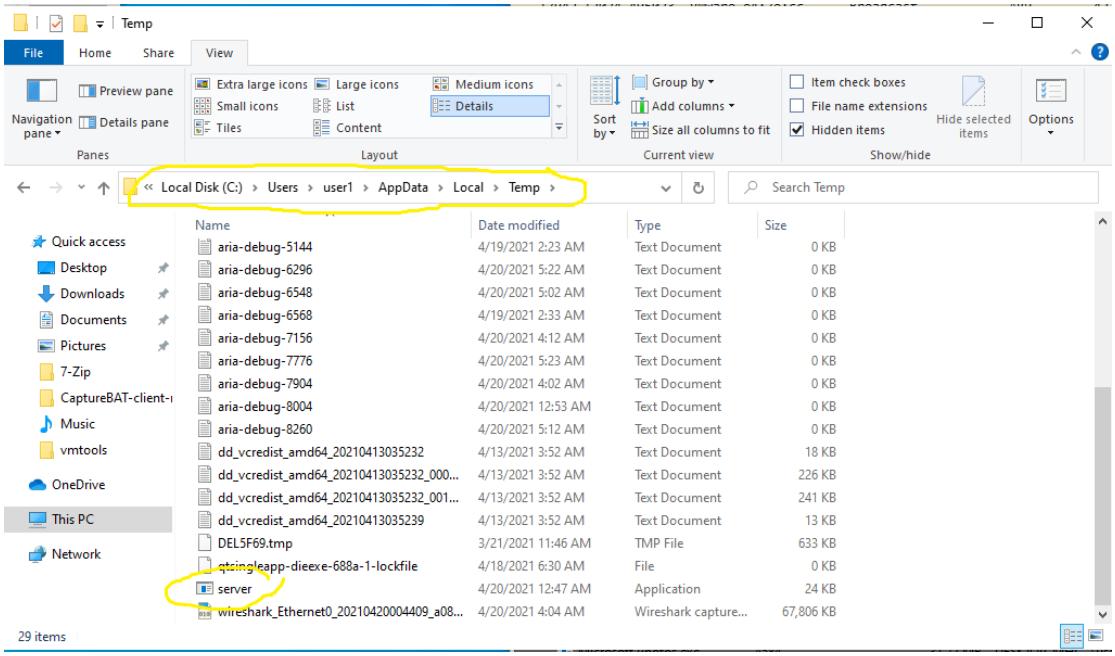
Below it, we can see another process called "server.exe" but this one has a long "Life Time".



If we focus on the path of the file we will be able to get some important information:

The first "Server.exe" file that is located on the desktop is the file I executed because this is the malware I intended to run on my "victim's" machine.
After quite a short while the second "Server.exe" file that is located in the Temp directory was running and the first file's process was killed.
That happened because the malware copied itself to the "TEMP" directory.

Malware software tend to copy themselves into different and hidden directories in order to hide themselves so that they would still be present on the machine even after the original file has been deleted or removed. If I open this path (C:\Users\User1\AppData\Local\Temp), I will see the "Server.exe" file:



Netsh.exe- network shell, is a command-line utility included in Microsoft's Windows NT line of operating system. It allows local or remote configuration of network devices.

Conhost.exe- Console Window Host is the process of a program (cryptominer) that is designed to mine Monero cryptocurrency. Generally, cyber criminals trick people into downloading and installing this program to generate revenue. In summary, the program uses computer resources to mine cryptocurrency. The presence of this malware significantly diminishes computer performance.

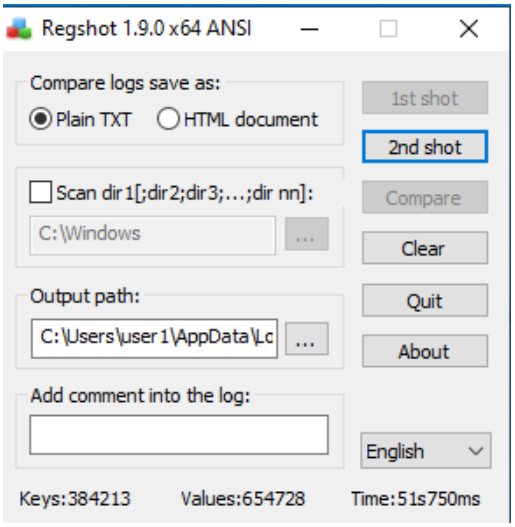
NJrat can target cryptocurrency wallet applications and steal cryptocurrency from PCs. For example, it can grab a bitcoin wallet and access credit card information, which is usually stored in cryptocurrency apps as a way to purchase cryptocurrency.

Both the "Conshot.exe" file and the "netsh.exe" file are having a short "Life Time" because the machines have no internet connection therefore these processes were terminated.

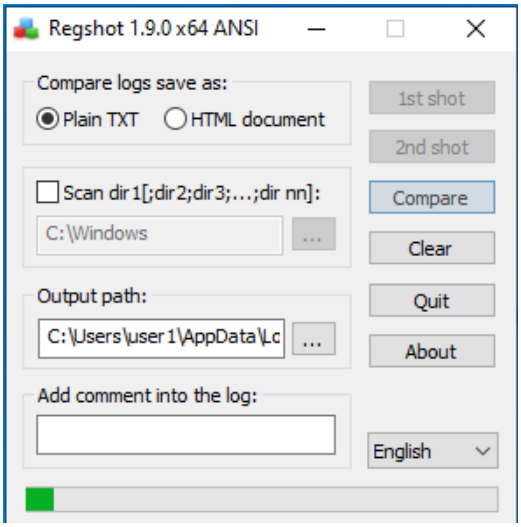
Regshot - snapshot #2:

After executing the malware and giving it time to make changes on the machine, I took a second snapshot of the registry in order to compare it to the first snapshot (taken before the execution of the malware):

1- I pressed - "2nd shot"



2- I pressed - "Compare"



The Comparing File

~res-x64 - Notepad

File Edit Format View Help

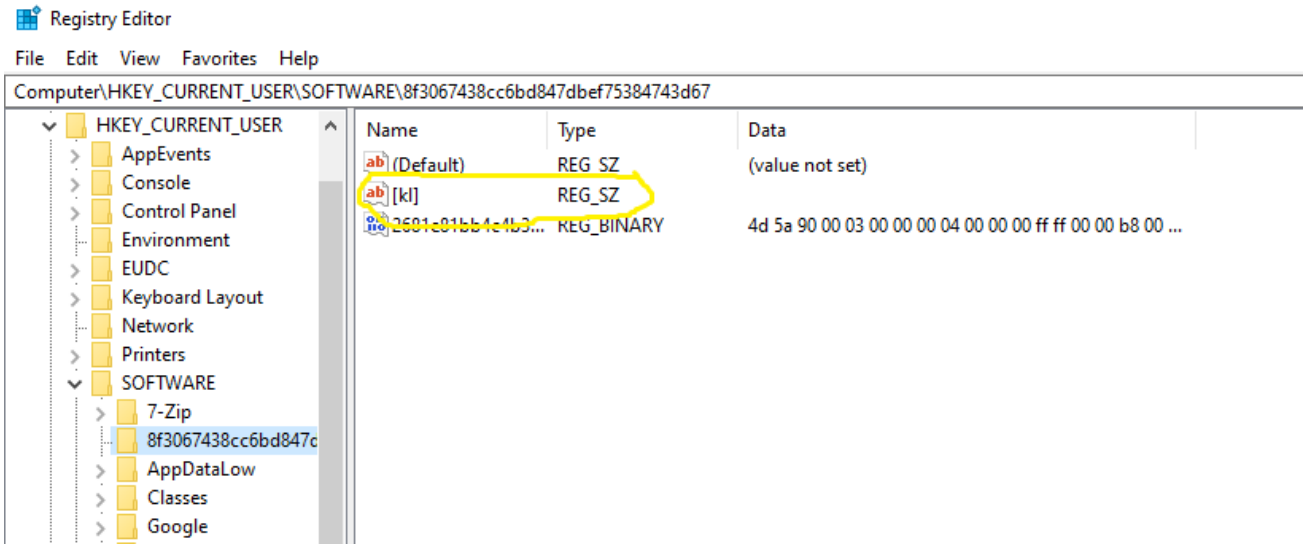
```
Regshot 1.9.0 x64 ANSI
Comments:
Datetime: 2021/4/18 14:13:21  ,  2021/4/18 14:20:37
Computer: DESKTOP-MHLAUAJ , DESKTOP-MHLAUAJ
Username: user1 , user1

----------------------------------
Keys deleted: 1
----------------------------------
HKU\S-1-5-21-3594942170-1877286029-1651760625-1001\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\SessionInfo\1\ApplicationViewManagement\W32:0000000002B04E4

----------------------------------
Keys added: 16
----------------------------------
HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\SystemCertificates\AuthRoot\Certificates\3679CA35668772304D30A5FB873B0FA77BB70D54
HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Group Policy\ServiceInstances
HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Group Policy\ServiceInstances\bd9f47d2-2a3c-4be2-bbae-4b39c81c55cc
HKLM\SOFTWARE\WOW6432Node\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Group Policy\ServiceInstances
HKLM\SOFTWARE\WOW6432Node\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Group Policy\ServiceInstances\bd9f47d2-2a3c-4be2-bbae-4b39c81c55cc
HKLM\SOFTWARE\WOW6432Node\Microsoft\SystemCertificates\AuthRoot\Certificates\3679CA35668772304D30A5FB873B0FA77BB70D54
HKU\S-1-5-21-3594942170-1877286029-1651760625-1001\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Applets\Regedit
HKU\S-1-5-21-3594942170-1877286029-1651760625-1001\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\SessionInfo\1\ApplicationViewManagement\W32:0000000000210432
HKU\S-1-5-21-3594942170-1877286029-1651760625-1001\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\SessionInfo\1\ApplicationViewManagement\W32:00000000003D053C
HKU\S-1-5-21-3594942170-1877286029-1651760625-1001\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\SessionInfo\1\ApplicationViewManagement\W32:00000000003F030C
HKU\S-1-5-21-3594942170-1877286029-1651760625-1001\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\SessionInfo\1\ApplicationViewManagement\W32:00000000004201DE
HKU\S-1-5-21-3594942170-1877286029-1651760625-1001\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\SessionInfo\1\ApplicationViewManagement\W32:00000000004205AE
HKU\S-1-5-21-3594942170-1877286029-1651760625-1001\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\SessionInfo\1\ApplicationViewManagement\W32:00000000004405AE
HKU\S-1-5-21-3594942170-1877286029-1651760625-1001\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\SessionInfo\1\ApplicationViewManagement\W32:00000000004C01EC
HKU\S-1-5-21-3594942170-1877286029-1651760625-1001\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\SessionInfo\1\ApplicationViewManagement\W32:000000000096041A
HKU\S-1-5-21-3594942170-1877286029-1651760625-1001\SOFTWARE\8f3067438cc6bd847dbef75384743d67

----------------------------------
Values deleted: 1
```

In addition, I examine the registry activities using "Process Monitor".
(By canceling all the others signs)

3872	RegQueryKey	HKCU
3872	RegQueryKey	HKCU
3872	RegOpenKey	HKCU\Software\8f3067438cc6bd847dbef75384743d67
3872	RegSetInfoKey	HKCU\SOFTWARE\8f3067438cc6bd847dbef75384743d67
3872	RegQueryValue	HKCU\SOFTWARE\8f3067438cc6bd847dbef75384743d67\[kl]
3872	RegQueryKey	HKCU\SOFTWARE\8f3067438cc6bd847dbef75384743d67
3872	RegSetValue	HKCU\SOFTWARE\8f3067438cc6bd847dbef75384743d67\[kl]
3872	RegQueryValue	HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run\8f3067438cc6bd847dbef75384743d67
3872	RegQueryKey	HKCU
3872	RegQueryKey	HKCU
3872	RegOpenKey	HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run
3872	RegSetInfoKey	HKCU\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run
3872	RegQueryValue	HKCU\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run\8f3067438cc6bd847dbef75384743d67
3872	RegQueryKey	HKCU\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run

The information written above indicates that the malware has added a new key to the registry - **8f3067438cc6bd847dbef75384743d67** with the **value** of - **[kl].**

In order to confirm it I checked it on the Registry Editor:



1- The malware created a key with the name **[kl]** into the path **HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\8f3067438cc6bd847dbef75384743d67.**

2- The malware has added another key into the following path **HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\CurrentVersion\Run\8f3067438cc6bd847dbef75384743d67.**

The above key is at the USER level and it is used by the malware to achieve persistence
Malware often use persistence so that the malware can communicate with the infected system even after the system reboots or logs-off. The persistence on the system, the malware's author can also use the affected system to infiltrate to other systems in the local network.

Summary:

NjRAT has the ability to:

* Remote control over the infected machine.14

* See the victim's IP address and view the machine's information such as computer name, username, operating system, install-date, version, etc.

* Remotely execute a file.

* Manipulate files.

* Open a remote shell, providing the attacker with access to a command line.

* Open "Process Manager" tool and kill running processes.

* Manipulate the remote-system's registry.

* Record the computer's camera footage and microphone.

* Log keystrokes.

* Steal passwords that are stored on the installed web browsers or on other applications.

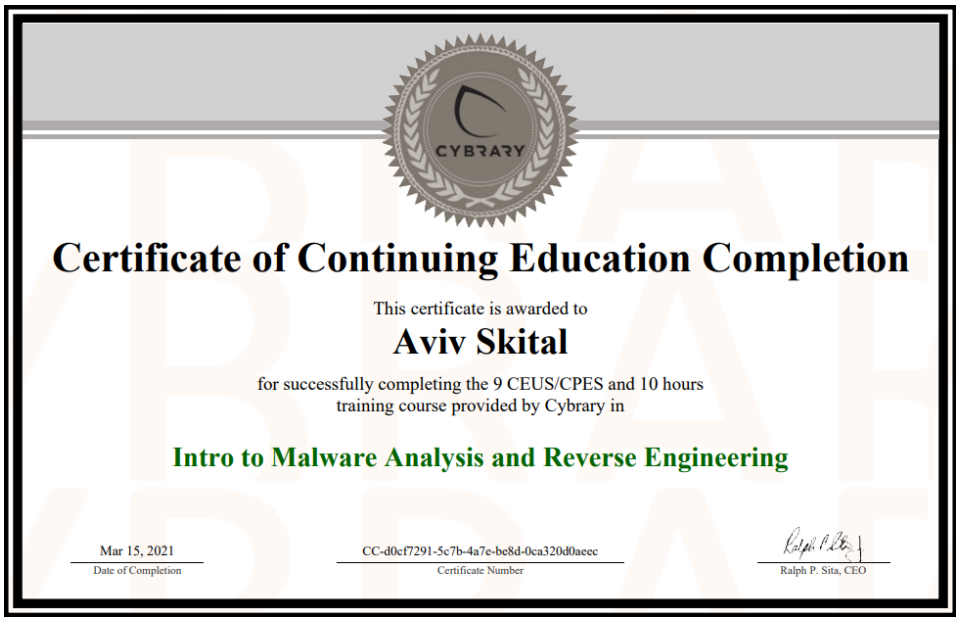
* Target cryptocurrency wallet applications and steal cryptocurrency from PC's.

Self-reflection and takeaways:

This project has given me the ability to study and have an in-depth understanding of how malware work. I learned to investigate and search for information over the internet in an accurate and consistent manner. Furthermore, I learned about the "Windows" operating system and the tools included in it. This project has given me many tools in the field of Cyber-Security in general and in the field of incident response in particular.

Sources of information

1- Online course on Cybrary.it:



2- Websites:

https://www.logsign.com/blog/malware-analysis-things-you-should-know

https://www.cynet.com/attack-techniques-hands-on/njrat-report-bladabindi

https://www.file.net/process/mscoree.dll.html

https://blog.cyberint.com/njrat-bulletin

https://www.carbonblack.com/blog/threat-analysis-unit-tau-threat-/intelligence-notification-njrat

https://www.pcrisk.com/removal-guides/14828-conhost-exe-virus

https://resources.infosecinstitute.com/topic/common-malware-/persistence-mechanisms

https://whiteheart0.medium.com/entropy-analysis-a-critical-test-for-malwares-69939f5b8b1

3- Books:

* Practical Malware Analysis- The Hands-On Guide to Dissecting.
* Malicious Software/ Richard Bejtlich.
* Operating Systems / Barak Gonen.