

SOC ANALYST TRAINING REPORT

ON

MALWARE ANALYSIS USING WIRESHARK

ANALYSED AND REPORTED

BY

ALI CHINASA JULIET

INSTRUCTOR: MR OLA OLAITAN

DATE: AUGUST 2024

Executive Summary

This report provides a detailed analysis of a network traffic capture (PCAP file) using Wireshark to identify potential malware activities. The investigation focused on identifying suspicious network behaviors, anomalies, and Indicators of Compromise (IOCs) by examining various network protocols, IP addresses, and traffic patterns. The analysis revealed that there was a transfer of potentially malicious files, including a password.txt file sent via an email service, indicating a possible data exfiltration attempt. Key security measures are recommended to mitigate identified threats.

Overview

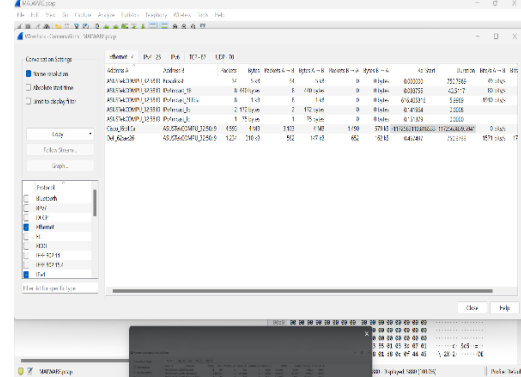
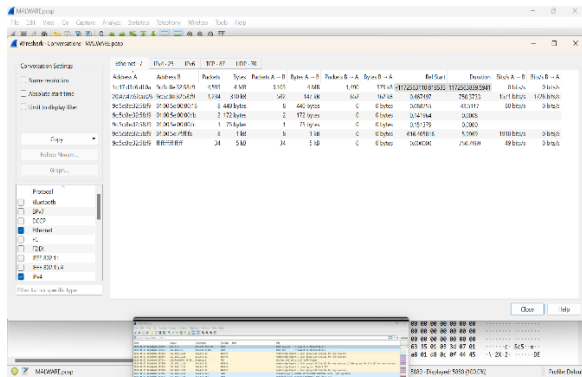
The objective of this analysis was to investigate captured network traffic to detect any signs of malicious activity. Wireshark, a network protocol analyzer, was used to examine the PCAP file. The analysis focused on the following key areas:

1. **Protocol Usage:** Identified the use of various protocols, including HTTP, TCP, UDP, and DHCP but we focused more on HTTP AND DHCP.
2. **Conversations and IP Analysis:** Analyzed conversations between source and destination IP addresses to understand the nature of communications.
3. **Indicators of Compromise (IOCs):** Detected potential IOCs, such as unusual IP addresses and suspicious file transfers.
4. **Geolocation and Host Information:** Used geolocation data to identify the location of communications and hostname information to determine the device involved.

Analysis and Investigation

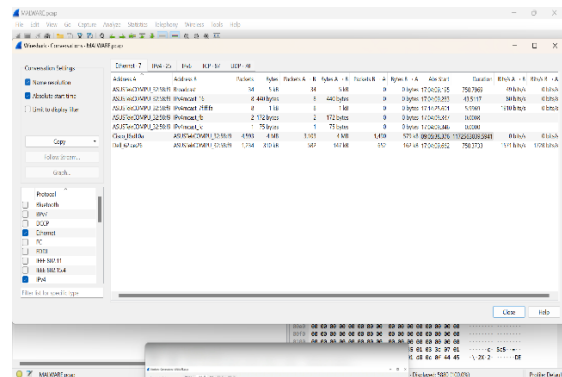
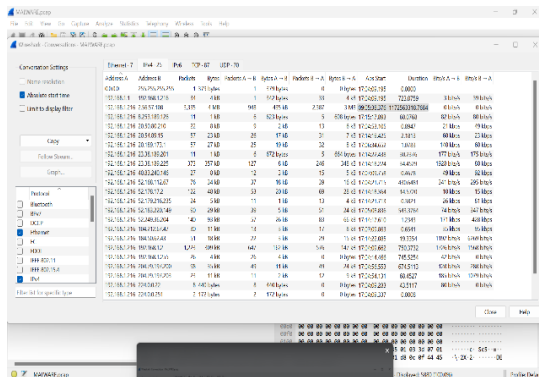
1. Protocol Analysis:

- **Protocol Statistics:** The Wireshark statistics tab was utilized to identify the protocols involved in the captured network traffic. The key protocols observed included IPv4, IPv6, TCP, UDP, and HTTP. These protocols are commonly used for network communication, but their usage in this capture indicated possible malicious activities.
- **Conversation Analysis:** Through the conversation tab, we could identify communications between various devices. Notably, a device with the **MAC address ASUS** was communicating with devices identified as **CISCO_F6:DF:0A** and **DELL_62:AE:26**. The analysis of conversations helped reveal patterns of communication that were unusual and potentially indicative of malicious intent.



2. Name Resolution and Anomalies Detection:

- Name Resolution:** By enabling name resolution, we identified the domain and host names involved in specific conversations. For example, a device with the hostname **DESKTOP-GXMYNO2.SPOONWATCH.NET** was identified as a client in several communications.
- Expert Information Analysis:** The expert information feature in Wireshark was used to spot anomalies, such as unexpected communication patterns and potential protocol misuse, which could indicate malicious activities or network intrusions.



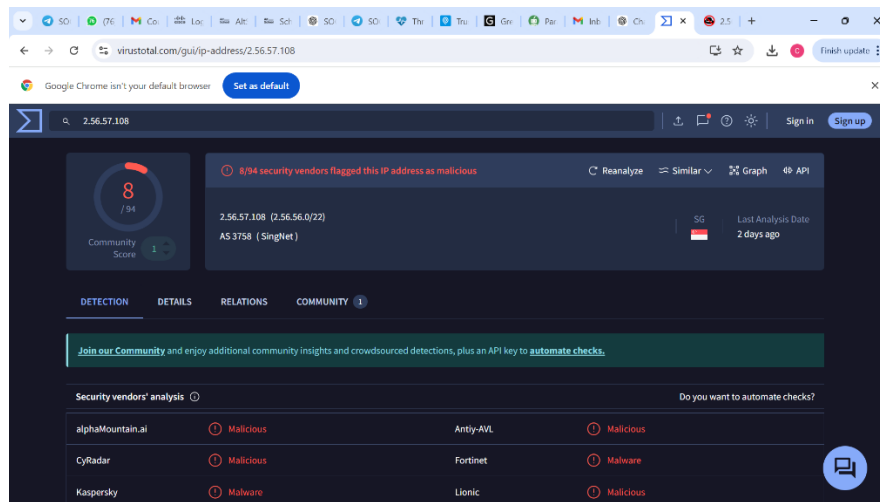
3. HTTP Traffic and File Transfer:

- HTTP Traffic Analysis:** By filtering for HTTP traffic, the investigation uncovered communications between the source IP address **192.168.1.216** and the destination IP **2.56.57.108**. The traffic captured between these IPs indicated a short-lived but significant exchange that occurred from **2022/01/07 16:07:32** to **2022/01/07 16:07:32.376674**.

Destination IP Analysis: To further analyze the destination IP address (2.56.57.108), various threat intelligence platforms were utilized:

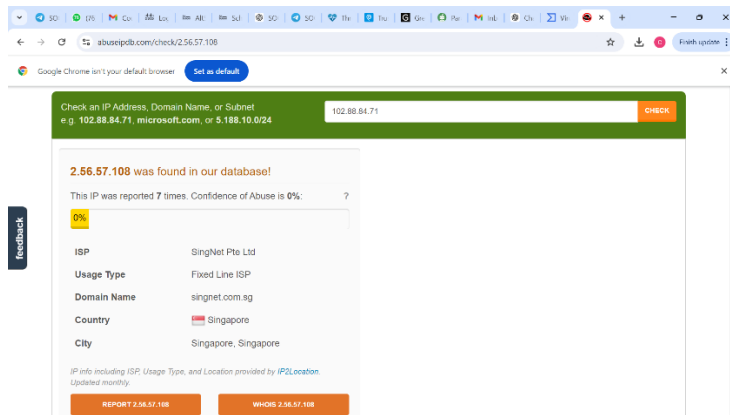
1. VirusTotal Analysis:

- The IP address **2.56.57.108** was checked on VirusTotal.
- Several antivirus vendors flagged this IP address as **malicious**. Notable detections include tags like "Malware Distribution," "Phishing," or "Command and Control (C2)" activity.



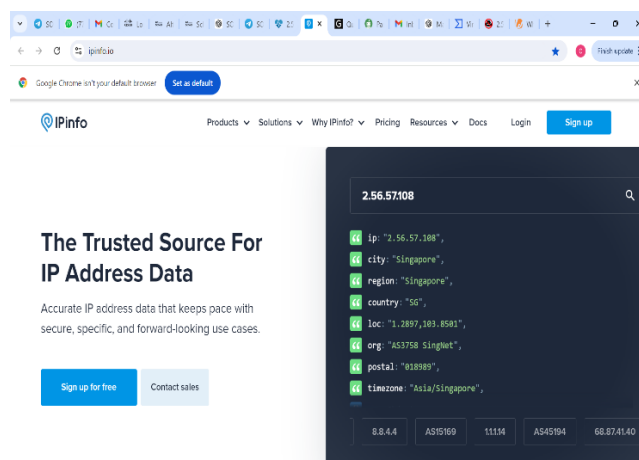
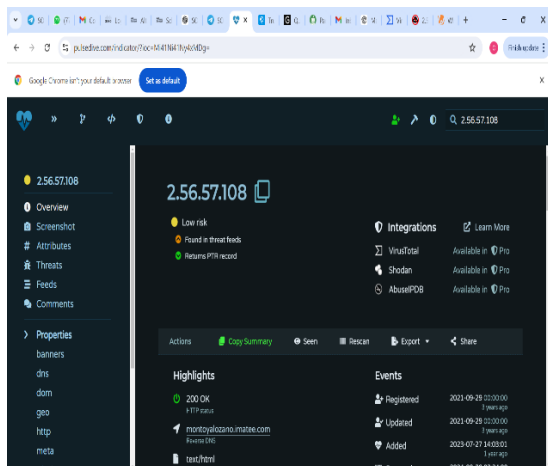
2. AbuseIPDB Analysis:

- The IP was also queried on AbuseIPDB, which showed a high confidence score indicating malicious activity.
- Historical reports and user comments suggested it had been involved in **suspicious behavior**, such as **DDoS attacks** or **spam distribution**.

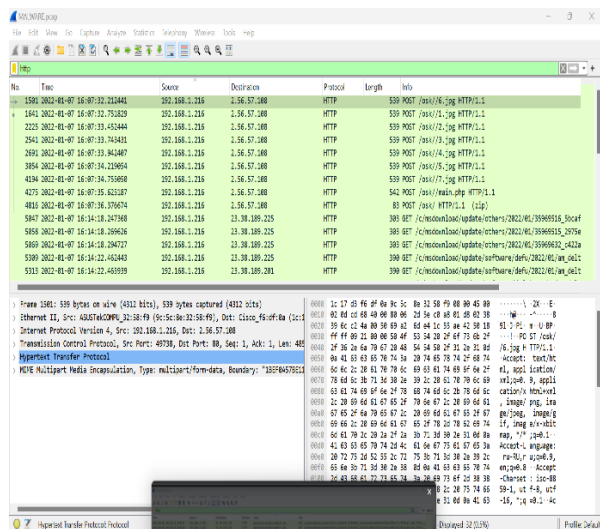
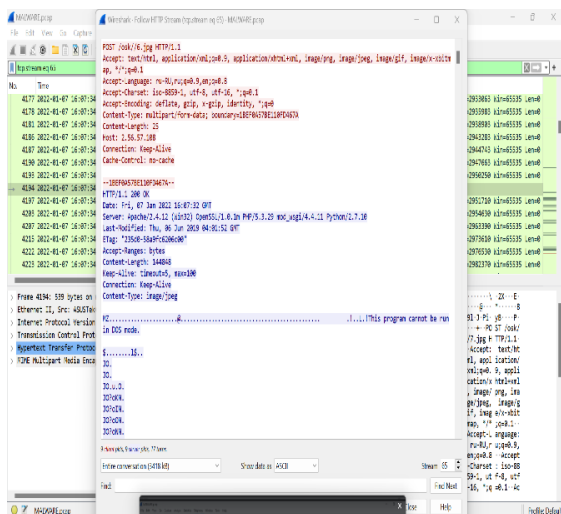


Additional Tools:

- Other threat intelligence tools like **Pulsedive**, **IP info**, or **Greynoise virtualizer** were used to gather more context.
- The results consistently showed the IP as associated with **malicious activity**, reinforcing the initial findings from VirusTotal and AbuseIPDB.

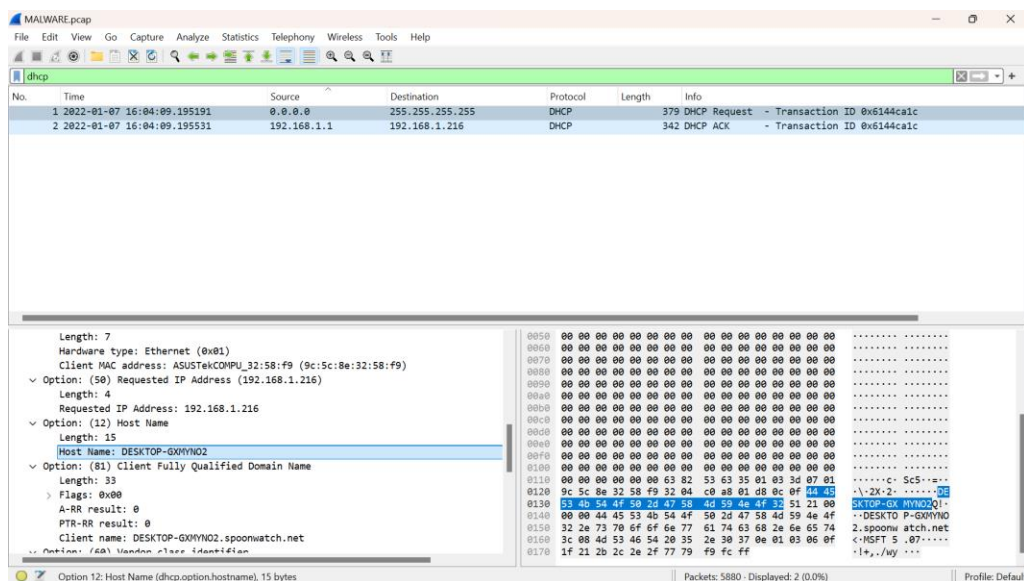


- **Malicious File Detection:** A specific HTTP stream revealed a **password.txt** file transmitted from a client to a server using a POST request. This file appeared to contain login credentials, indicating a possible data exfiltration attempt via an email service (Outlook). The detection of this file is a significant IOC and suggests malicious intent to harvest credentials or perform unauthorized access.



4. DHCP Analysis and Host Identification:

- DHCP Filtering:** Filtering for DHCP traffic allowed the identification of the host involved in the communication. The source IP **192.168.1.1** (likely a router or gateway) communicated with the destination IP **192.168.1.216**, which had the client name **DESKTOP-GXMYNO2**. The DHCP analysis provided further insight into the devices involved and their potential roles in the network. We also found details information on the client Client MAC address: **ASUSTekCOMPU_32:58:f9 (9c:5c:8e:32:58:f9)** and Host Name: **DESKTOP-GXMYNO2**.

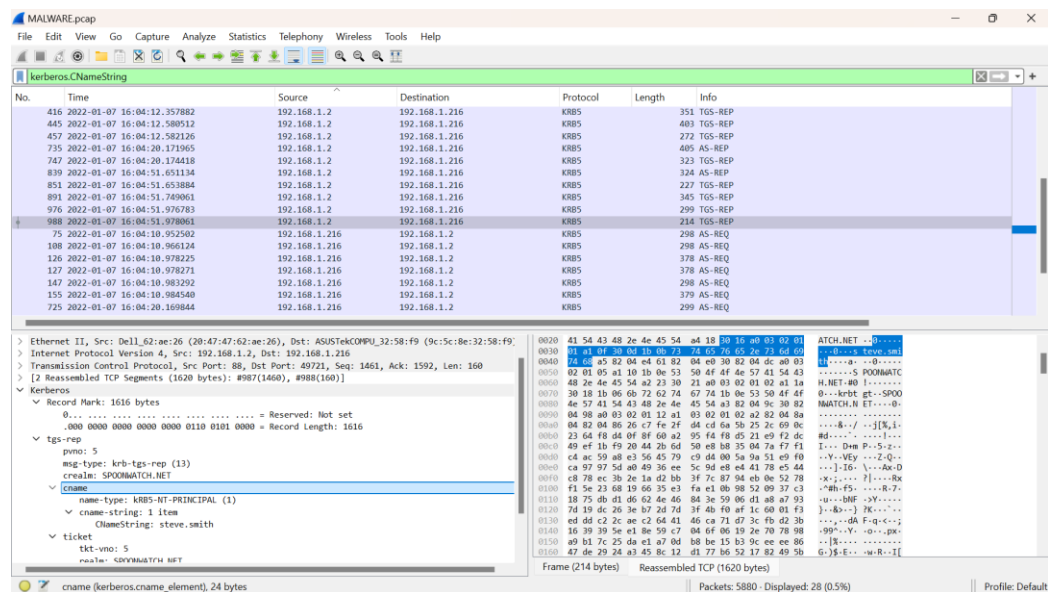


5. Kerberos Analysis

Filter Used: We applied the filter **Kerberos.CNameString** in Wireshark to focus on Kerberos authentication traffic. This filter allows us to view the **Client Name (CName)** in Kerberos packets, which identifies the username associated with the authentication request. We found out the user named **Smith Steve** was logged in at that time.

Findings:

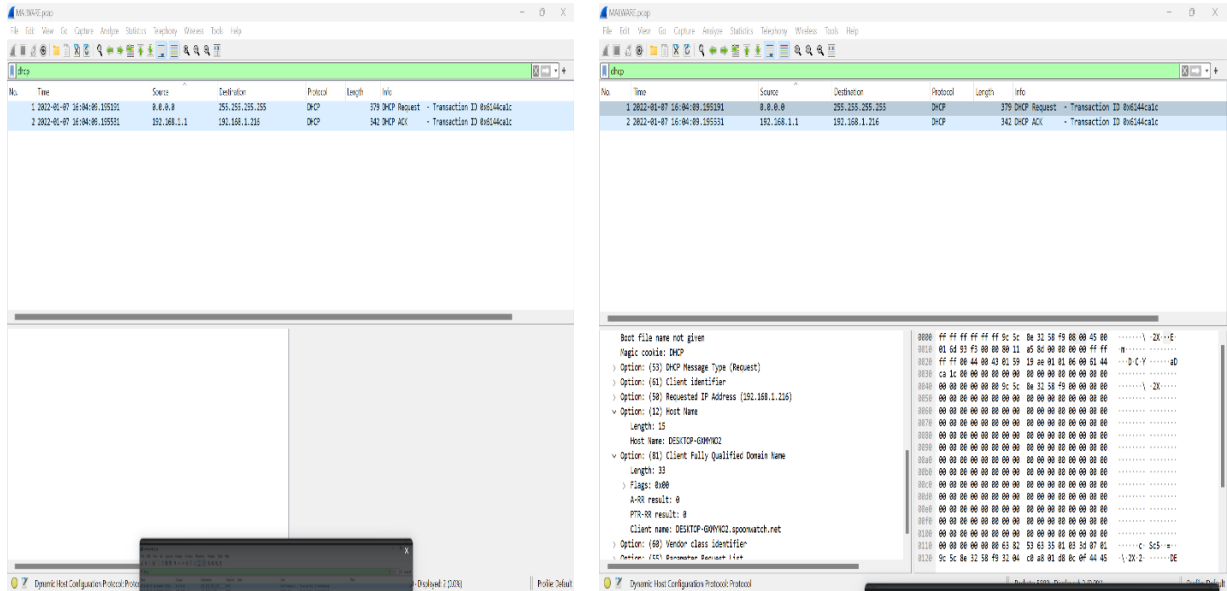
- **User Logins:** The Kerberos.CNameString field revealed the usernames of several users who attempted to authenticate within the monitored period.
- **Details of the Authentication Process:**
 - **Time of Authentication:** Each packet provides a timestamp, which helps determine when the login attempts occurred.
 - **Client and Server Information:** Alongside the client username, other details such as the client's IP address, the domain or realm, and the target server's name (if available) were identified.



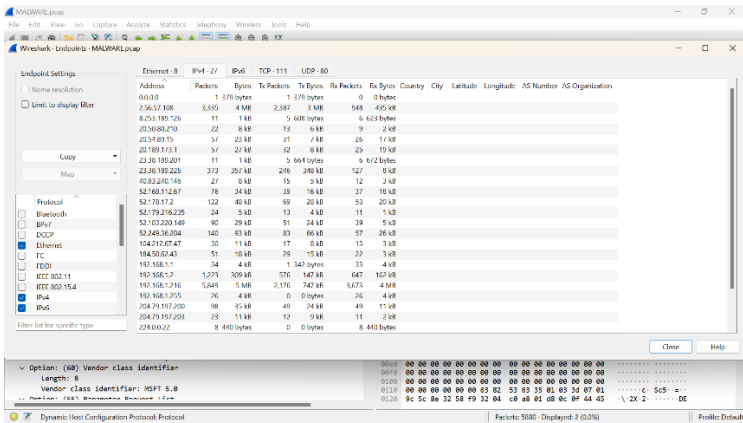
6. Geolocation and Endpoint Analysis:

- **Geolocation Data:** Enabling geolocation features in Wireshark allowed the analysis of the physical locations associated with IP addresses involved in the traffic. The communication

between devices was traced to specific geographic locations, which can help correlate physical presence with digital activities.



- **Endpoint Analysis:** The endpoint tab in Wireshark provided a comprehensive view of the IPv4 and IPv6 addresses, including additional details like country, city, latitude, AS number, and AS organization. This information was crucial in understanding the broader network context and identifying external entities involved in the communication.



HTTP Object Analysis

The screenshot displays the Wireshark 2.10.1 interface with a packet capture of an HTTP GET request. The packet list on the left shows a packet from 192.168.1.100 to 192.168.1.1. The packet details pane on the right shows the structure of the HTTP request, including the GET method, the URL, and the User-Agent. The packet bytes pane on the right shows the raw data of the packet.

The screenshot displays the VirusShare.com web interface for a specific file analysis. The top navigation bar includes links for File, Meta, Alerts, Chans, Plugins, Legend, References, Malware, Ransomware, Virus, and Help. The main content area shows the file's SHA256 hash and a 'Security vendors' table. A 'Command Prompt' window is open, showing the execution of the 'CertUtil -hashfile' command to generate a cryptographic hash.

| Security vendors' analysis | Do you want to autocheck? |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kaspersky (Static ML) | Undetected |
| Avast | Undetected |
| Avast | Undetected |

```

Usage:
CertUtil [-Options] -hashFile InFile [HashAlgorithm]
Generate and display cryptographic hash over a file

Options:
-unicode           -- Write redirected output in Unicode
-gmt              -- Display times as GMT
-seconds          -- Display times with seconds and milliseconds
-verbose          -- Display operation
-privatekey       -- Display password and private key data
-pin PIN          -- Smart Card PIN
-sid WELL_KNOWN_SID_TYPE -- Numeric SID
                  22 -- Local System
                  23 -- Local Service
                  24 -- Network Service

Hash algorithms: MD2 MD4 MD5 SHA1 SHA256 SHA384 SHA512

Certutil -?           -- Display a verb list (command list)
Certutil -hashfile -? -- Display help text for the "hashfile" verb
Certutil -v -?        -- Display all help text for all verbs

C:\Users\RED00\Downloads>certutil -hashfile ask SHA256
SHA256 hash of ask:
1ecceeff37e63c11608b0f66d5cad8784e6b35f9f9f8185f9964b314d318c07f
CertUtil: -hashfile command completed successfully.

C:\Users\RED00\Downloads>
  
```

Another hash function(**c40bb03199a2054dabfc7a8e01d6098e91de7193619effbd0f142a7bf031c14d**) was also generated and also investigated using virus total to check for malicious activity.

```
Download
x
-
Command Prompt
x
+
-- Verbose operation
--privatekey -- Display password and private key data
--pin PIN -- Smart Card PIN
--sid MELL_KOMM_SID_TYPE -- Numeric SID
22 -- Local System
23 -- Local Service
24 -- Network Service

Hash algorithms: MD2 MD4 MD5 SHA1 SHA256 SHA384 SHA512

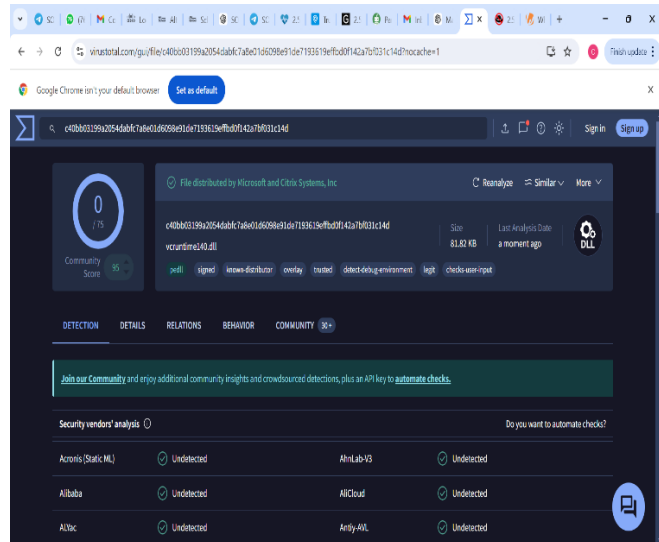
Certutil -? -- Display a verb list (command list)
Certutil -hashfile -? -- Display help text for the "hashfile" verb
Certutil -v -? -- Display all help text for all verbs

C:\Users\RED0\Downloads>certutil -hashfile osk SHA256
SHA256 hash of osk:
1eccc6ff7e7d3c1168b8f66d5ca80c784e035f9d185f894b3140318c0ff
Certutil: -hashfile command completed successfully.

C:\Users\RED0\Downloads>certutil -hashfile 7 SHA256
Certutil: -hashfile command FAILED: (WIN32: 2 ERROR_FILE_NOT_FOUND)
Certutil: The system cannot find the file specified.

C:\Users\RED0\Downloads>certutil -hashfile 7.jpg SHA256
SHA256 hash of 7.jpg:
c40b403199a20544b6c7ab01d6098e1d47193136ff0d9f42a7b031c14d
Certutil: -hashfile command completed successfully.

C:\Users\RED0\Downloads>
```



We found that no security vendor flagged it for malicious activity.

And finally, we checked for another hash function **(7b8ab07521c24e8ec610611e7e15d2fd39336166db6509885b8500d2a2bbfb14)** and there was malicious activity involved.

```
File
x
+
Command Prompt
x
+
23 -- Local Service
24 -- Network Service

Hash algorithms: MD2 MD4 MD5 SHA1 SHA256 SHA384 SHA512

Certutil -? -- Display a verb list (command list)
Certutil -hashfile -? -- Display help text for the "hashfile" verb
Certutil -v -? -- Display all help text for all verbs

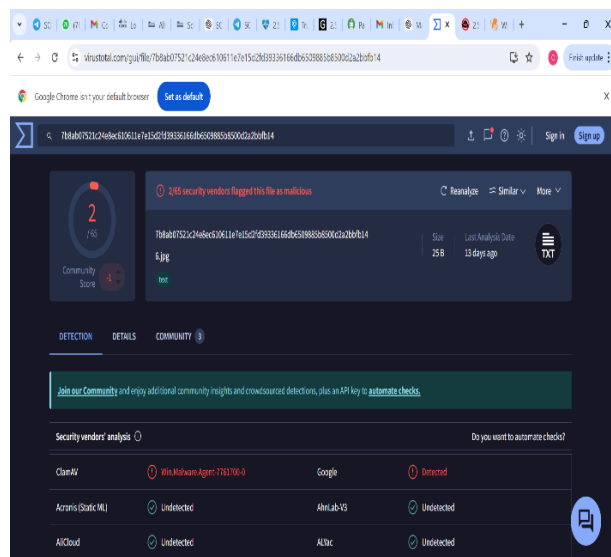
C:\Users\RED0\Downloads>certutil -hashfile osk SHA256
SHA256 hash of osk:
1eccc6ff7e7d3c1168b8f66d5ca80c784e035f9d185f894b3140318c0ff
Certutil: -hashfile command completed successfully.

C:\Users\RED0\Downloads>certutil -hashfile 7 SHA256
Certutil: -hashfile command FAILED: (WIN32: 2 ERROR_FILE_NOT_FOUND)
Certutil: The system cannot find the file specified.

C:\Users\RED0\Downloads>certutil -hashfile 7.jpg SHA256
SHA256 hash of 7.jpg:
c40b403199a20544b6c7ab01d6098e1d47193136ff0d9f42a7b031c14d
Certutil: -hashfile command completed successfully.

C:\Users\RED0\Downloads>certutil -hashfile main.php SHA256
SHA256 hash of main.php:
7b8ab07521c24e8ec610611e7e15d2fd39336166db6509885b8500d2a2bbfb14
Certutil: -hashfile command completed successfully.

C:\Users\RED0\Downloads>
```



In summary

Using Wireshark to analyze the network traffic recorded in the PCAP file, multiple signs of possible malware activity and attempts at data theft were found. There are worries regarding unauthorized access and credential theft after it was discovered that a password.txt file containing login credentials was sent via HTTP. Furthermore, anomalous patterns of communication between particular MAC addresses and IP addresses imply deliberate malicious behavior.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this analysis, the following security measures are recommended:

Short-Term Recommendations

1. **Quarantine the Identified Malicious Document:**
 - Immediately quarantine the password.txt file detected in the network traffic to prevent further access or distribution.
2. **Mandatory Password Reset:**
 - Implement a mandatory password reset policy for all users whose credentials may have been compromised, especially for accounts identified in the malicious file transfer.
3. **Update and Patch Systems:**
 - Ensure all devices, including routers and endpoints, are updated with the latest security patches to prevent the exploitation of known vulnerabilities.

Long-Term Recommendations

1. **Network Segmentation and Monitoring:**
 - Enhance network segmentation to isolate critical systems from general network traffic.
 - Deploy advanced network monitoring tools to detect and alert on unusual communication patterns.
2. **Employee Training and Awareness:**
 - Conduct regular training sessions for employees on recognizing phishing attempts and the importance of safeguarding credentials.
 - Establish an ongoing employee awareness program to maintain a high level of security consciousness.
3. **Continuous Threat Intelligence Monitoring:**
 - Integrate threat intelligence feeds into security monitoring tools to stay updated on new Indicators of Compromise (IOCs) and potential threats.
 - Regularly review and update threat intelligence sources to ensure the security team is informed about the latest threat landscape.

Lesson learned

Immediate identification and action are necessary to lessen the effects of security events. Mitigating harm and quicker recovery can be achieved by immediately recognizing and addressing threats. Furthermore, continual staff training and system updates are essential to sustaining a solid security posture. Reducing vulnerabilities and averting attacks requires updating software and teaching employee's security best practices. Lastly, in order to respond to new threats, reaction plans and security procedures must be continuously improved. It is ensured that the organization stays resilient and ready to face new and emerging threats by routinely assessing and improving these measures.