

# Forensic Case Study

Chin Rivas

18-01-2022



# Context

- Critical cyber-incident at a GAST affiliate agency
- The targeted employee was working from home.
- Nextcloud server set up in the affiliate's network

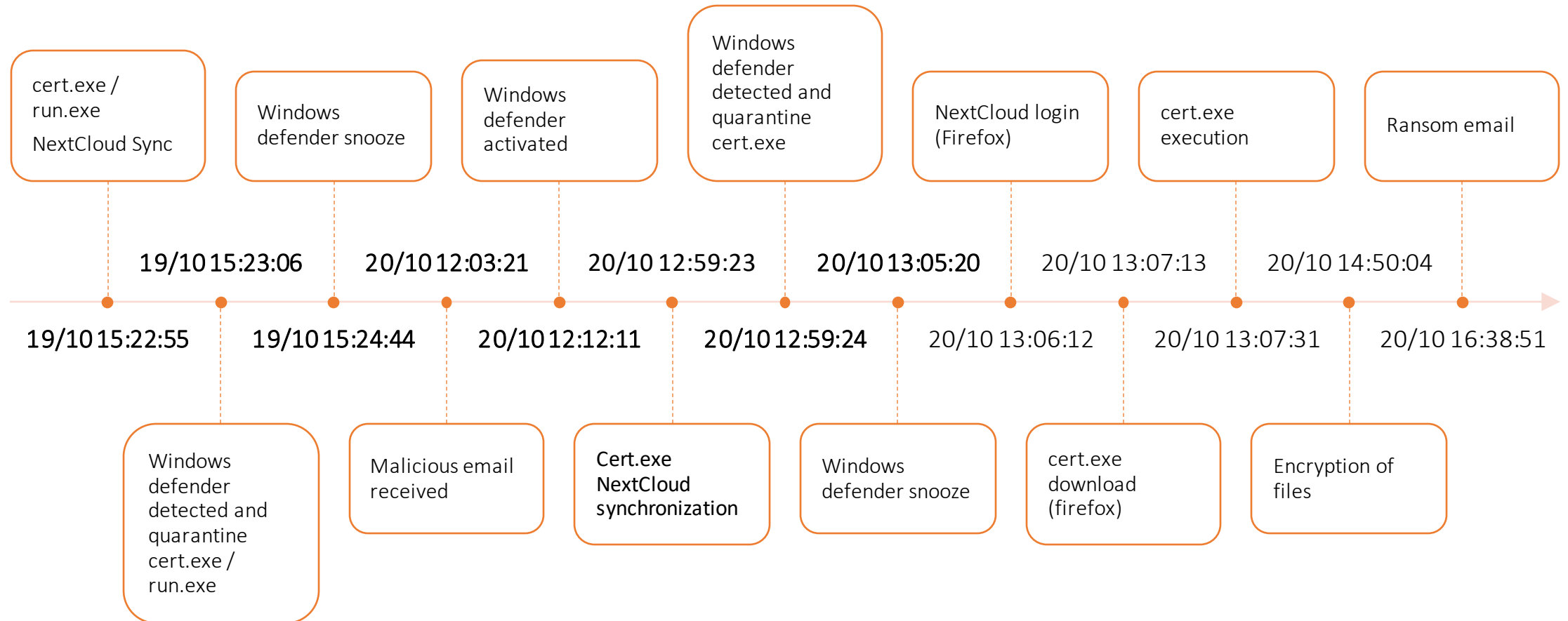
# Information

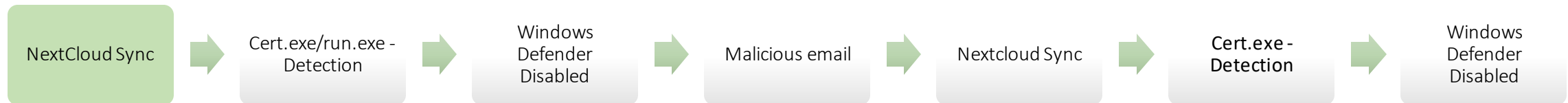
- Confidential documents were obtained and then encrypted by a hacker group.
- 2021-10-20 at 16:39 - Employee received anonymous message.
- 2021-10-20 at 16:40 - Technician arrived at the workstation.
- 2021-10-20 at 16:48 – Acquisition of evidence started.
- Hard drive image of workstation is provided by the technician.

# Workstation information

- Username : vagrant
- User full name: Victoria Timmers
- Account created: 2021-03-17 at 16:53:21
- Last Login: 2021-10-17 at 18:43:43

# Timeline

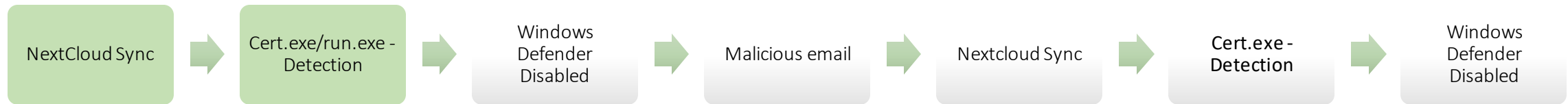




## NextCloud Logs

```
##### Syncrun started 2021-10-19T13:22:55Z
##### Propagation starts 2021-10-19T13:22:56Z (last step: 682 msec, total: 682 msec)
||Projects/Tools|8|2|1634641217|616ea5415cd7e|0|00000562oc2ilciw4ftj|4||0|0|0||
13:22:56|Projects/Tools/cert.exe|8|2|1634564850|abd32716fdcd898b10a1d069ae63c332|7168|00000611oc2ilciw4ftj|3|WindowsError: e1: Operation did not complete
successfully because the file contains a virus or potentially unwanted software.|200|0|0|903de4a8-6d2a-4b50-b08c-54bdec44c931|
13:22:56|Projects/Tools/run.exe|8|2|1634131489|ec91cd9a4d199466e4ecef4f2b47c639|7168|00000615oc2ilciw4ftj|3|WindowsError: e1: Operation did not complete
successfully because the file contains a virus or potentially unwanted software.|200|0|0|af984671-dc78-46c7-9877-bee18e4efd6d|
##### Syncrun finished 2021-10-19T13:23:00Z (last step: 3667 msec, total: 4349 msec)
```

**Nextcloud\_sync.log**  
**cert.exe and run.exe**  
**October 19 at 15:22:55**



## Event Logs (Windows Defender logs)

Microsoft Defender Antivirus a détecté un logiciel malveillant ou potentiellement indésirable.  
Pour plus d'informations, reportez-vous aux éléments suivants :  
<https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?linkid=37020&name=Trojan:Win64/Meterpreter.D&threatid=2147721792&enterprise=0>

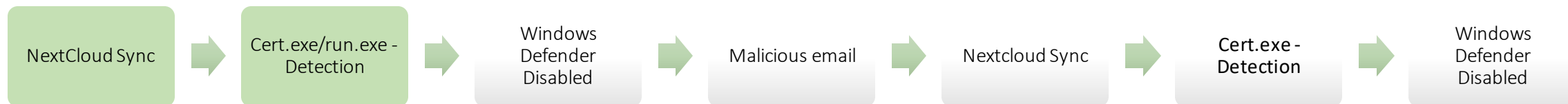
Nom : Trojan:Win64/Meterpreter.D  
ID : 2147721792  
Gravité : Severe  
Catégorie : Trojan  
Chemin : [file: C:\Users\vagrant\Nextcloud\Projects\Tools\cert.exe~3ebc](#)  
Origine de la détection : Local machine  
Type de détection : Concrete  
Source de détection : Real-Time Protection  
Utilisateur : DESKTOP-M816OL5\vagrant  
Nom du processus : C:\Program Files\Nextcloud\nextcloud.exe  
Version de la veille de sécurité : AV: 1.351.595.0, AS: 1.351.595.0, NIS: 1.351.595.0  
Version du moteur : AM: 1.1.18600.4, NIS: 1.1.18600.4

**cert.exe detection**  
**October 19 at 15:23:06**

Microsoft Defender Antivirus a détecté un logiciel malveillant ou potentiellement indésirable.  
Pour plus d'informations, reportez-vous aux éléments suivants :  
<https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?linkid=37020&name=Trojan:Win64/Meterpreter.E&threatid=2147721833&enterprise=0>

Nom : Trojan:Win64/Meterpreter.E  
ID : 2147721833  
Gravité : Severe  
Catégorie : Trojan  
Chemin : [file: C:\Users\vagrant\Nextcloud\Projects\Tools\run.exe~70c3](#)  
Origine de la détection : Local machine  
Type de détection : Concrete  
Source de détection : Real-Time Protection  
Utilisateur : DESKTOP-M816OL5\vagrant  
Nom du processus : C:\Program Files\Nextcloud\nextcloud.exe  
Version de la veille de sécurité : AV: 1.351.595.0, AS: 1.351.595.0, NIS: 1.351.595.0  
Version du moteur : AM: 1.1.18600.4, NIS: 1.1.18600.4

**run.exe detection**  
**October 19 at 15:23:11**



## Event Logs (Windows Defender logs)

Microsoft Defender Antivirus a entrepris une action pour protéger cet ordinateur contre des logiciels malveillants ou d'autres logiciels potentiellement indésirables.  
Pour plus d'informations, reportez-vous aux éléments suivants :  
<https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?linkid=37020&name=Trojan:Win64/Meterpreter.D&threatid=2147721792&enterprise=0>

Nom : Trojan:Win64/Meterpreter.D  
ID : 2147721792  
Gravité : Severe  
Catégorie : Trojan  
Chemin : <file://C:\Users\vagrant\Nextcloud\Projects\Tools\cert.exe~3ebc>  
Origine de la détection : Local machine  
Type de détection : Concrete  
Source de détection : Real-Time Protection  
Utilisateur : NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM  
Nom du processus : C:\Program Files\Nextcloud\nextcloud.exe  
Action : Quarantine  
État de l'action : No additional actions required

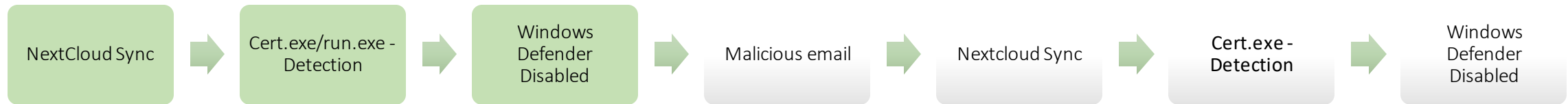
**cert.exe quarantine**  
**October 19 at 15:23:54**

Microsoft Defender Antivirus a entrepris une action pour protéger cet ordinateur contre des logiciels malveillants ou d'autres logiciels potentiellement indésirables.  
Pour plus d'informations, reportez-vous aux éléments suivants :  
<https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?linkid=37020&name=Trojan:Win64/Meterpreter.E&threatid=2147721833&enterprise=0>

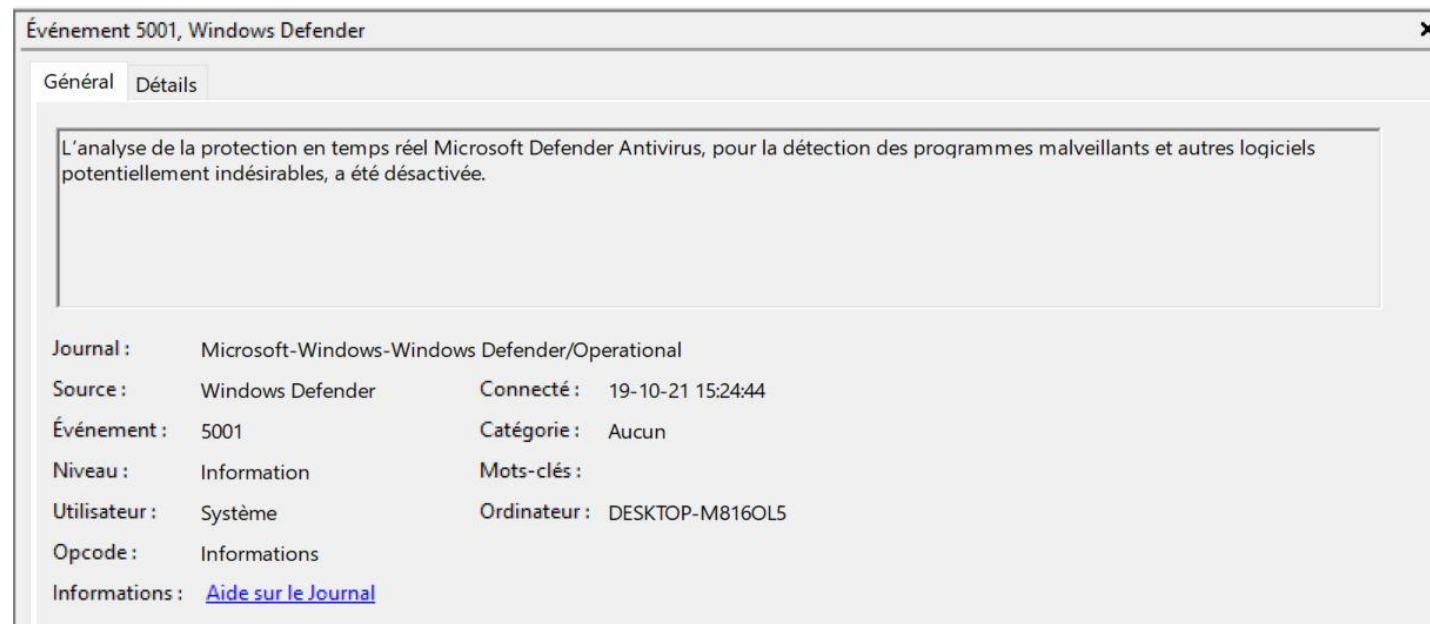
Nom : Trojan:Win64/Meterpreter.E  
ID : 2147721833  
Gravité : Severe  
Catégorie : Trojan  
Chemin : <file://C:\Users\vagrant\Nextcloud\Projects\Tools\run.exe~70c3>  
Origine de la détection : Local machine  
Type de détection : Concrete  
Source de détection : Real-Time Protection  
Utilisateur : DESKTOP-M816OL5\vagrant  
Nom du processus : C:\Program Files\Nextcloud\nextcloud.exe  
Action : Quarantine  
État de l'action : No additional actions required  
Code d'erreur : 0x00000000  
Description de l'erreur : The operation completed successfully.  
Version de la veille de sécurité : AV: 1.351.595.0, AS: 1.351.595.0, NIS: 1.351.595.0  
Version du moteur : AM: 1.1.18600.4, NIS: 1.1.18600.4

**run.exe quarantine**  
**October 19 at 15:24:16**



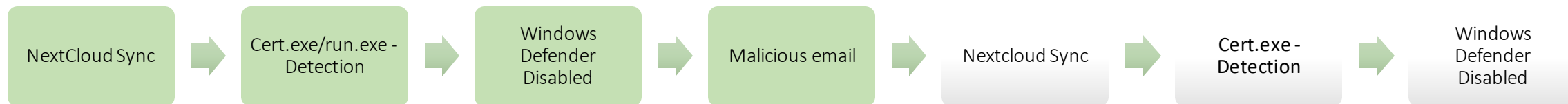


## Event Logs (Windows Defender logs)

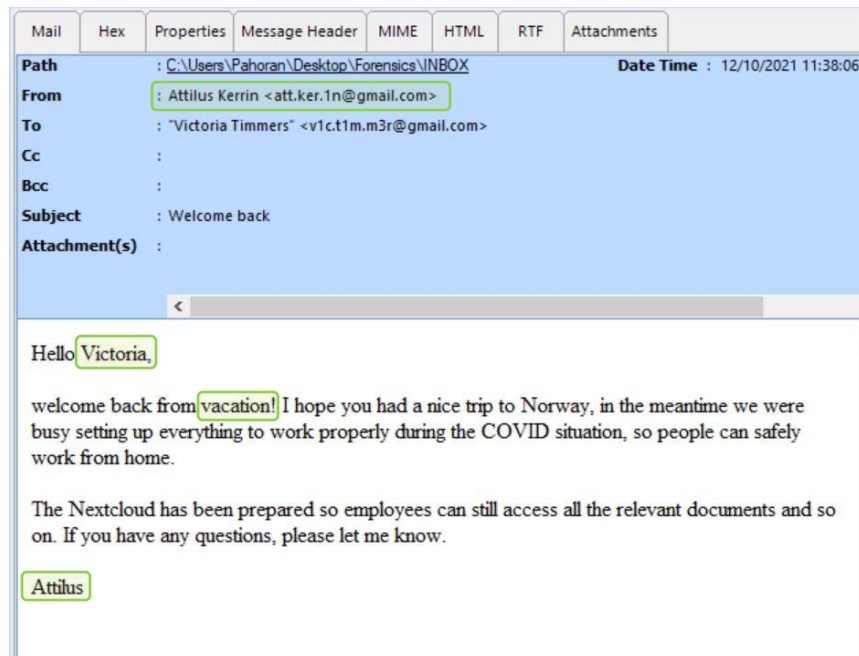


**Windows Defender Disabled**

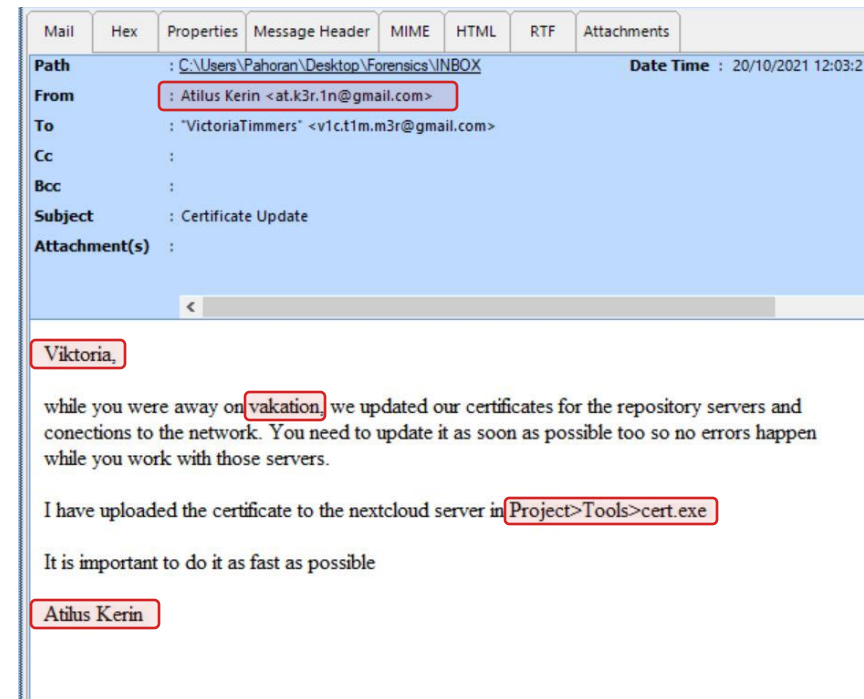
**October 19 at 15:24:44**



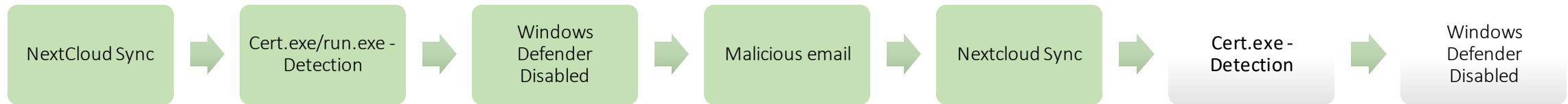
## Attilus Kerrin normal email



## Attacker's malicious email



**Malicious Email**  
**October 20 at 12:03:21**

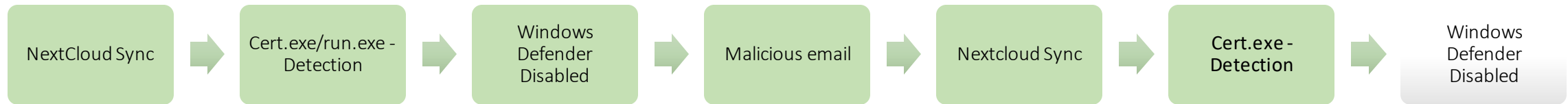


## NextCloud Logs

```
##### Syncrun started 2021-10-20T10:59:23Z
##### Propagation starts 2021-10-20T10:59:23Z (last step: 191 msec, total: 191 msec)
10:59:24| Projects/Tools/cert.exe | 8| 2| 1634564850| b9484f2337f4d9b571b86d50129c0d4c| 7168| 000006210c2ilciw4ftj| 3| WindowsError: e1: Operation did not complete
successfully because the file contains a virus or potentially unwanted software.| 200| 0| 0| d1070ff3-fe0c-4079-91ae-7dfda9fee3a4|
##### Syncrun finished 2021-10-20T10:59:24Z (last step: 146 msec, total: 338 msec)
```

**cert.exe**

**October 20 at 12:59:23**



## Event Logs (Windows Defender logs)

Microsoft Defender Antivirus a détecté un logiciel malveillant ou potentiellement indésirable.  
Pour plus d'informations, reportez-vous aux éléments suivants :  
<https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?linkid=37020&name=Trojan:Win64/Meterpreter.D&threatid=2147721792&enterprise=0>

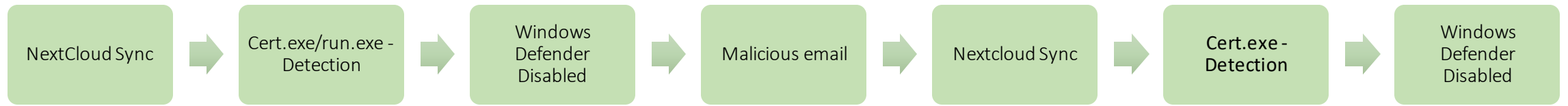
Nom : Trojan:Win64/Meterpreter.D  
ID : 2147721792  
Gravité : Severe  
Catégorie : Trojan  
Chemin : [file: C:\Users\vagrant\Nextcloud\Projects\Tools\cert.exe~56fa](file:C:\Users\vagrant\Nextcloud\Projects\Tools\cert.exe~56fa)  
Origine de la détection : Local machine  
Type de détection : Concrete  
Source de détection : Real-Time Protection  
Utilisateur : DESKTOP-M816OL5\vagrant  
Nom du processus : C:\Program Files\Nextcloud\nextcloud.exe  
Version de la veille de sécurité : AV: 1.351.726.0, AS: 1.351.726.0, NIS: 1.351.726.0  
Version du moteur : AM: 1.1.18600.4, NIS: 1.1.18600.4

**cert.exe detected**  
**October 20 at 12:59:24**

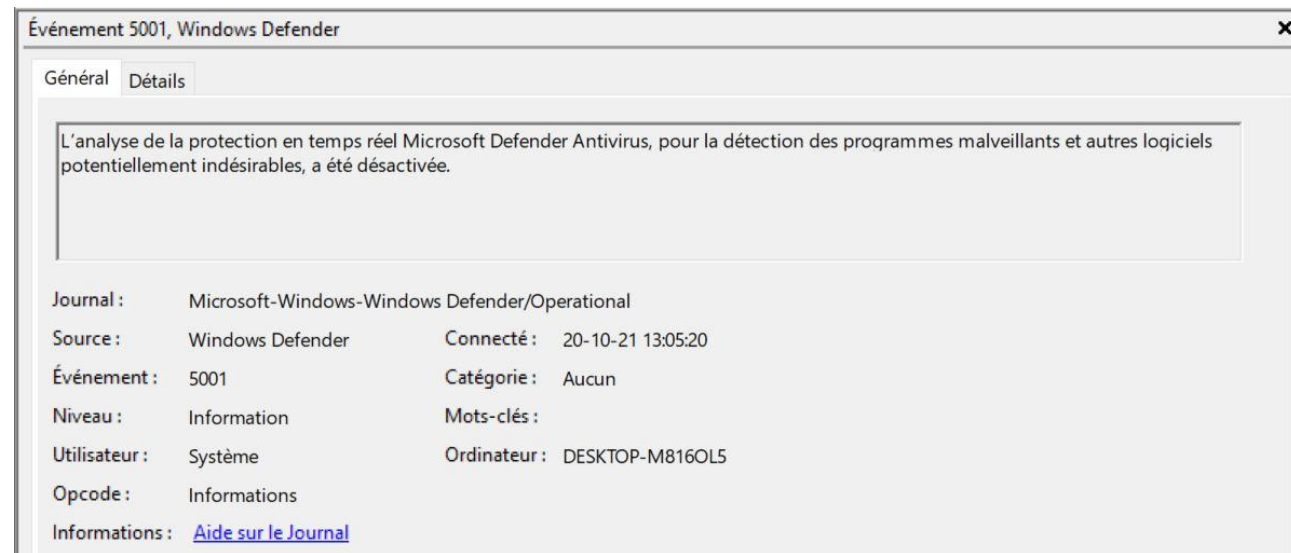
Microsoft Defender Antivirus a entrepris une action pour protéger cet ordinateur contre des logiciels malveillants ou d'autres logiciels potentiellement indésirables.  
Pour plus d'informations, reportez-vous aux éléments suivants :  
<https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?linkid=37020&name=Trojan:Win64/Meterpreter.D&threatid=2147721792&enterprise=0>

Nom : Trojan:Win64/Meterpreter.D  
ID : 2147721792  
Gravité : Severe  
Catégorie : Trojan  
Chemin : [file: C:\Users\vagrant\Nextcloud\Projects\Tools\cert.exe~56fa](file:C:\Users\vagrant\Nextcloud\Projects\Tools\cert.exe~56fa)  
Origine de la détection : Local machine  
Type de détection : Concrete  
Source de détection : Real-Time Protection  
Utilisateur : NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM  
Nom du processus : C:\Program Files\Nextcloud\nextcloud.exe  
Action : Quarantine  
État de l'action : No additional actions required  
Code d'erreur : 0x00000000  
Description de l'erreur : The operation completed successfully.  
Version de la veille de sécurité : AV: 1.351.726.0, AS: 1.351.726.0, NIS: 1.351.726.0  
Version du moteur : AM: 1.1.18600.4, NIS: 1.1.18600.4

**Cert.exe quarantine**  
**October 20 at 12:59:49**



## Event Logs (Windows Defender logs)



**Windows Defender Disabled**  
**October 10 at 13:05:20**



## Web Browser Forensics (Firefox)

23	71	https://www.youtube.com/	YouTube	moc.ebutuoy.www.	4	0	0	229	1634727997432000	-qY9Si
24	128	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cjA5TwUsMjk	English Songs - Justin Bieber, Maroon 5, Ed...	moc.ebutuoy.www.	1	0	0	98	1634728001964000	fEFcl-t
25	54	http://192.168.1.11/index.php/apps/files/	Files - Nextcloud	11.1.861.291.	2	0	0	166	1634728006704000	CxTkr
26	55	http://192.168.1.11/index.php/apps/files/?dir=/&fileid=432	Projects - Files - Nextcloud	11.1.861.291.	2	0	0	166	1634728011818000	kZwoF
27	56	http://192.168.1.11/index.php/apps/files/?dir=/Projects&fileid=201	Tools - Files - Nextcloud	11.1.861.291.	2	0	0	166	1634728026649000	rBgntI
28	129	http://192.168.1.11/index.php/apps/files/?dir=/Projects/Tools&fileid=562	Tools - Files - Nextcloud	11.1.861.291.	1	0	0	98	1634728028311000	k9S5-l
29	130	http://192.168.1.11/remote.php/webdav/Projects/Tools/cert.exe?downloadStartSecret=01afywlhifij	cert.exe	11.1.861.291.	0	0	0	0	1634728033208000	ahUEf
30	131	http://www.facebook.com/	NULL	moc.koobecaf.www.	1	0	1	1950	1634729605900000	jt8AljS
31	68	https://www.facebook.com/	Facebook - Log In or Sign Up	moc.koobecaf.www.	2	0	0	1984	1634729606278000	niTYyf
32	132	http://reddit.com/	NULL	moc.tidder.	1	0	1	1950	1634731128755000	C8PGz
33	133	https://reddit.com/	NULL	moc.tidder.	1	1	0	24	1634731128860000	58gEH
34	134	https://www.reddit.com/	Reddit - Dive into anything	moc.tidder.www.	1	0	0	49	1634731129280000	D1Bb-

113 - 133 of 134

Go to: 1

UTF-8

**NextCloud log in**  
**October 20 at 13:06:12**





## Web Browser Forensics (Firefox)

30	30	119	2	{"state":1,"endTime":1634489129778,"fileSize":6771}	0	4	3	1634489129820000	1634489129820000
31	31	121	1	file:///E:/about-hedgehogs.jpg	0	4	3	1634489143208000	1634489143208000
32	32	121	2	{"state":1,"endTime":1634489143436,"fileSize":168712}	0	4	3	1634489143468000	1634489143468000
33	33	124	1	file:///E:/...	0	4	3	1634489228689000	1634489228689000
34	34	124	2	{"state":1,"endTime":1634489249581,"fileSize":429402}	0	4	3	1634489249593000	1634489249593000
35	35	125	1	file:///E:/Hedgehog%20-%20Wikipedia.htm	0	4	3	1634489312072000	1634489312072000
36	36	125	2	{"state":1,"endTime":1634489321829,"fileSize":342793}	0	4	3	1634489321841000	1634489321841000
37	37	130	1	file:///C:/Users/vagrant/Downloads/cert.exe	0	4	3	1634728033267000	1634728033267000
38	38	130	2	{"state":1,"endTime":1634728033518,"fileSize":7168}	0	4	3	1634728033759000	1634728033759000

**Download of cert.exe**  
**October 20 at 13:07:13**

NextCloud  
Login (Firefox)



Cert.exe  
Download  
(Firefox)



Cert.exe  
Execution

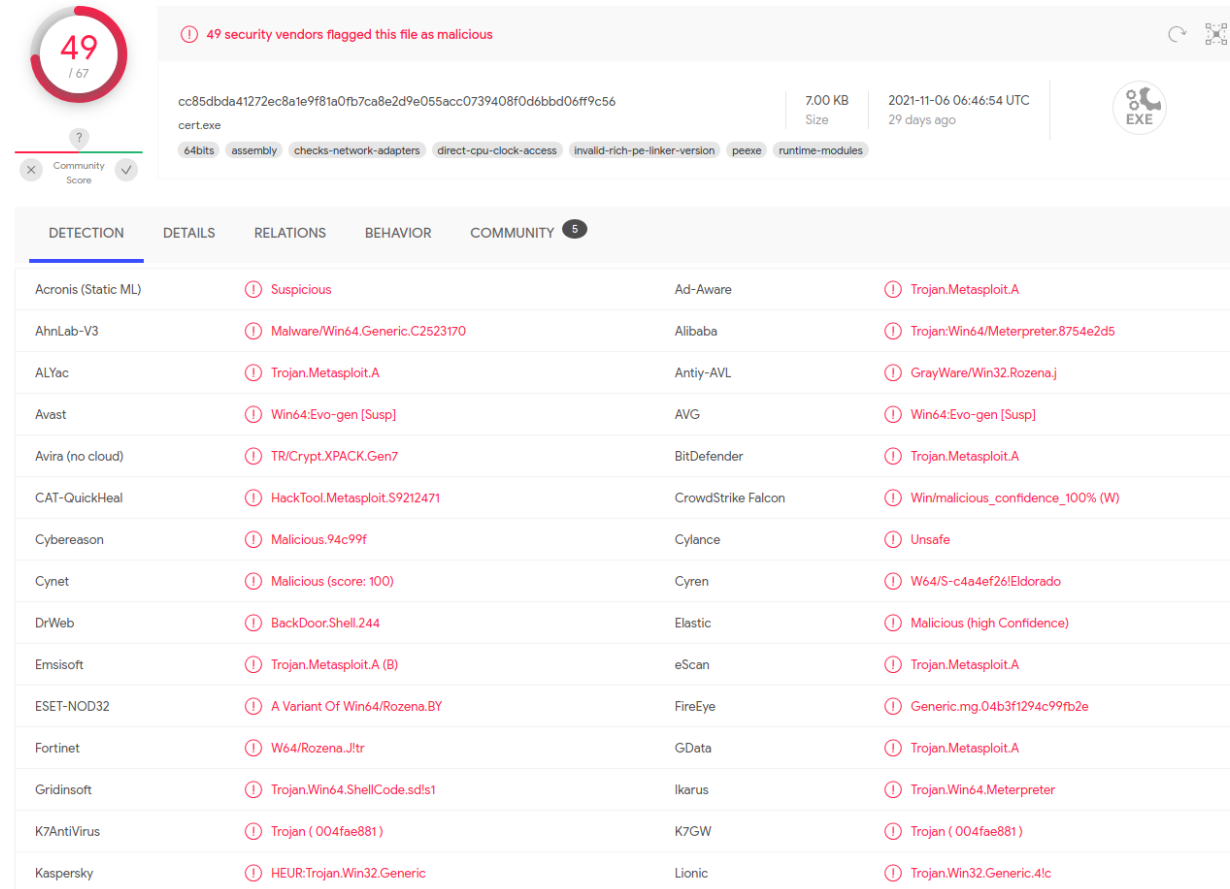


Encryption of  
files



Ransom Email

# cert.exe Analysis

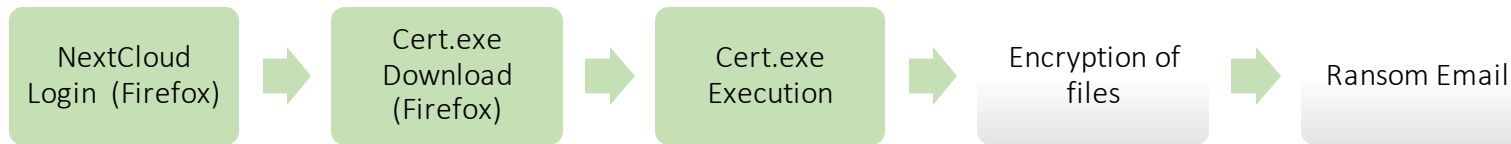


The screenshot shows the VirusTotal analysis interface for the file 'cert.exe'. At the top, a red circle indicates that 49 out of 67 security vendors flagged the file as malicious. Below this, the file's SHA-256 hash is displayed: cc85dbda41272ec8a1e9f81a0fb7ca8e2d9e055acc0739408f0d6bbd06ff9c56. The file size is 7.00 KB, and it was uploaded on 2021-11-06 06:46:54 UTC, 29 days ago. The file type is identified as EXE. A row of tags includes 64bits, assembly, checks-network-adapters, direct-cpu-clock-access, invalid-rich-pe-linker-version, peexe, and runtime-modules. The main section is a table with five tabs: DETECTION, DETAILS, RELATIONS, BEHAVIOR, and COMMUNITY. The DETECTION tab is active, showing a list of security vendors and their classifications for the file. The table has four columns: Vendor, Detection Name, and two additional columns for related information.

Vendor	Detection Name	Related Information 1	Related Information 2
Acronis (Static ML)	Suspicious	Ad-Aware	Trojan.Metasploit.A
AhnLab-V3	Malware/Win64.Generic.C2523170	Alibaba	Trojan:Win64/Meterpreter.8754e2d5
ALYac	Trojan.Metasploit.A	Antiy-AVL	GrayWare/Win32.Rozena.j
Avast	Win64:Evo-gen [Susp]	AVG	Win64:Evo-gen [Susp]
Avira (no cloud)	TR/Crypt.XPACK.Gen7	BitDefender	Trojan.Metasploit.A
CAT-QuickHeal	HackTool.Metasploit.S9212471	CrowdStrike Falcon	Win/malicious_confidence_100% (W)
Cybereason	Malicious.94c99f	Cylance	Unsafe
Cynet	Malicious (score: 100)	Cyren	W64/S-c4a4ef26/Eldorado
DrWeb	BackDoor.Shell.244	Elastic	Malicious (high Confidence)
Emsisoft	Trojan.Metasploit.A (B)	eScan	Trojan.Metasploit.A
ESET-NOD32	A Variant Of Win64/Rozena.BY	FireEye	Generic.mg.04b3f1294c99fb2e
Fortinet	W64/Rozena.Jltr	GData	Trojan.Metasploit.A
Gridinsoft	Trojan.Win64.ShellCode.sdfs1	Ikarus	Trojan.Win64.Meterpreter
K7AntiVirus	Trojan ( 004fae881 )	K7GW	Trojan ( 004fae881 )
Kaspersky	HEUR:Trojan.Win32.Generic	Lionic	Trojan.Win32.Generic.41c

<https://www.virustotal.com>



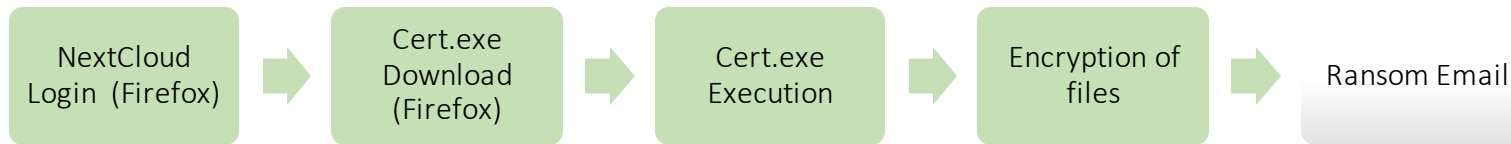


## UserAssist Registry Key

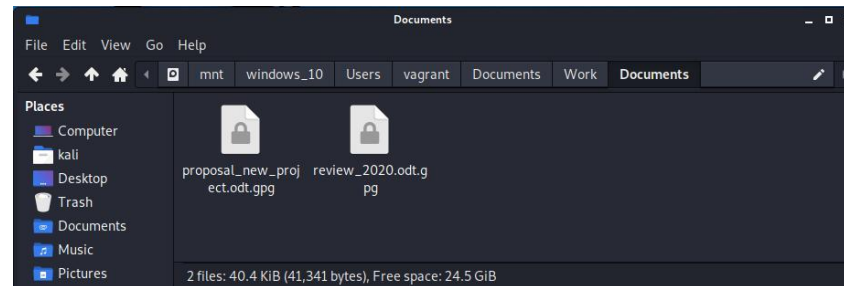
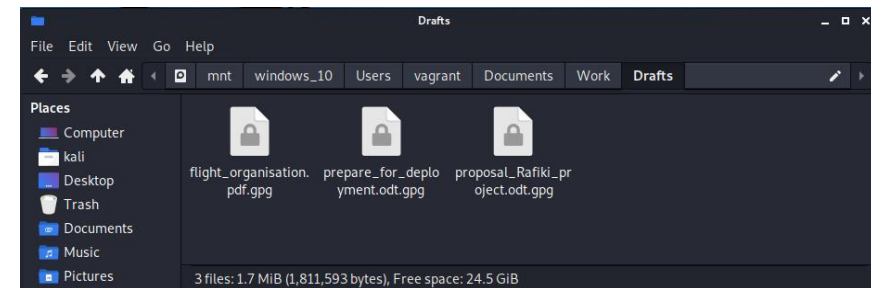
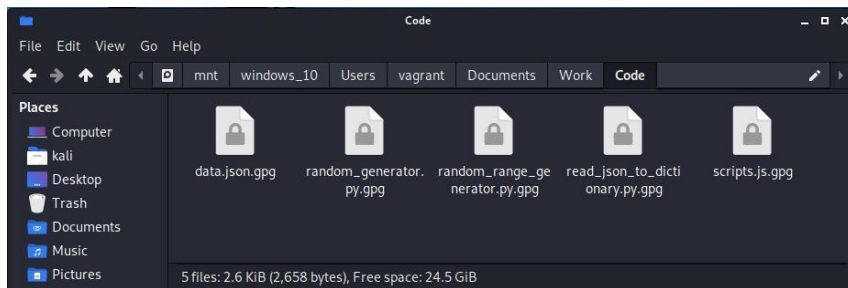
```
(root@kali)~/mnt/windows_10/Users/vagrant
# rip.pl -r NTUSER.DAT -p userassist
Launching userassist v.20170204
UserAssist
Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\UserAssist
LastWrite Time 2021-03-17 15:54:03Z

{9E04CAB2-CC14-11DF-BB8C-A2F1DED72085}
{A3D53349-6E61-4557-8FC7-0028EDCEE6F6}
{B267E3AD-A825-4A09-82B9-EEC22AA3B847}
{BCB48336-4DDD-48FF-BB0B-D3190DACB3E2}
{CAA59E3C-4792-41A5-9909-6A6A8D32490E}
{CEBFF5CD-ACE2-4F4F-9178-9926F41749EA}
2021-10-20 14:41:13Z
E:\ULB_project\FTK Imager\FTK Imager.exe (1)
2021-10-20 14:23:57Z
D78BF5DD33499EC2 (5)
2021-10-20 11:59:01Z
TheDocumentFoundation.LibreOffice.Writer (11)
2021-10-20 11:08:09Z
Microsoft.XboxGamingOverlay_8wekyb3d8bbwe!App (39)
2021-10-20 11:08:04Z
{7C5A40EF-A0FB-4BFC-874A-C0F2E0B9FA8E}\Ninja\Ninja.exe (5)
2021-10-20 11:07:31Z
C:\Users\vagrant\Downloads\cert.exe (1)
2021-10-20 11:07:22Z
Microsoft.Windows.Explorer (23)
2021-10-20 10:57:40Z
{1AC14E77-02E7-4E5D-B744-2EB1AE5198B7}\notepad.exe (11)
2021-10-19 13:35:13Z
{6D809377-6AF0-444B-8957-A3773F02200E}\Notepad++\notepad++.exe (2)
2021-10-19 13:27:58Z
```

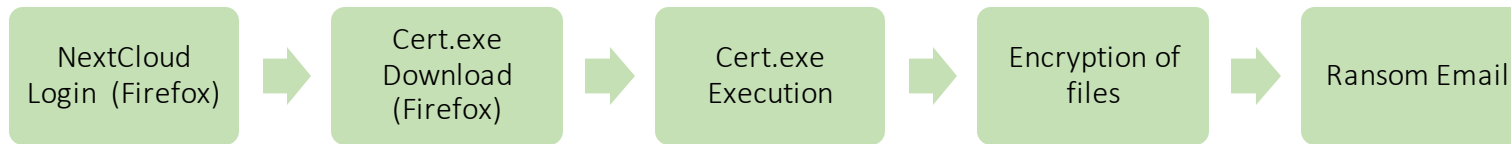
**cert.exe Execution**  
**October 20 at 13:07:31**



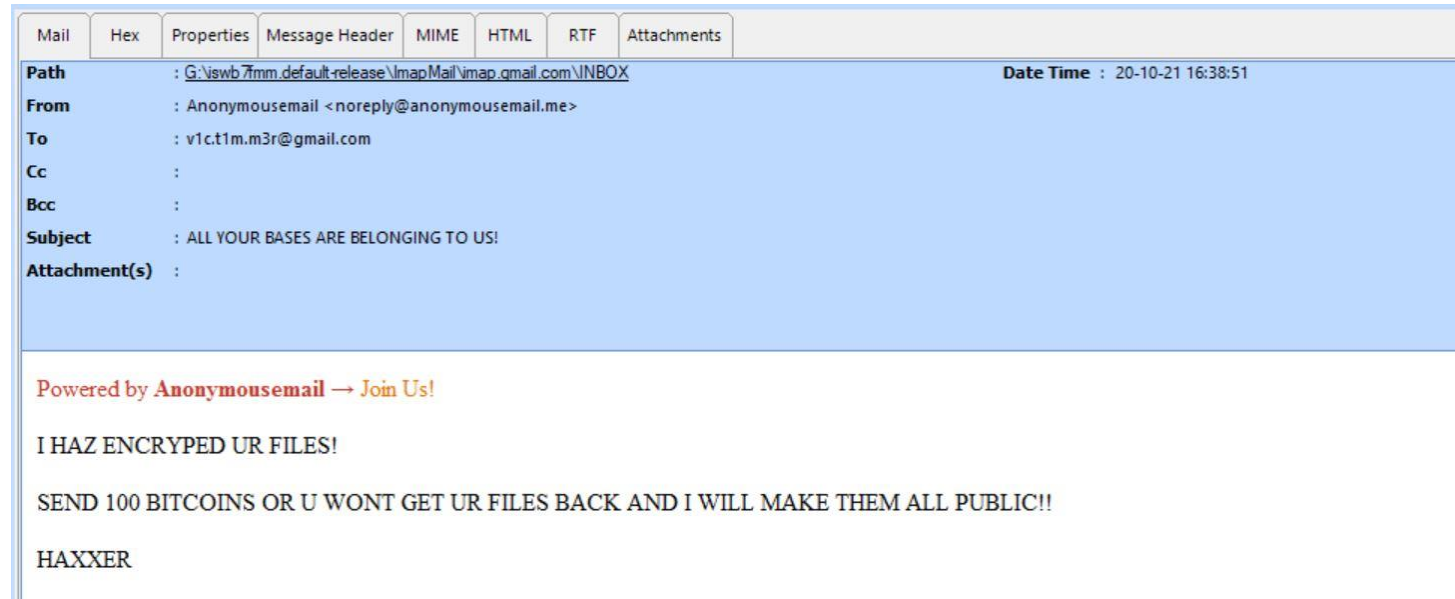
## Encrypted files



**Encryption**  
**October 20 at 14:50:04**



## Ransom email



**October 20 at 16:38:51**

# What do we know about the Attacker?

- He has access to the Nextcloud server
- He has knowledge of the relationship between Victoria and Attilus Kerrin
- He knows Victoria Timmers email address

# What do we know about the workstation's user?

- Disabled Windows Defender twice
- Received a malicious email from the attacker to get her to download the malware
- Log in and download the malware using the Firefox browser



# Questions

- Was workstation's user implicated in the incident?
- Was he acting responsibly and could not have prevented the incident ?
- Was he of good faith but negligent?
- Was he willfully committing sabotage?

# Recommendations

- If possible, avoid giving users admin rights.
- Files uploaded to Nextcloud server should be scanned for malicious files.
- Configuration and storage of relevant Nextcloud server logs that can be used in the forensic investigation.
- Installing better email filters to minimize receiving malicious emails.



# Questions?