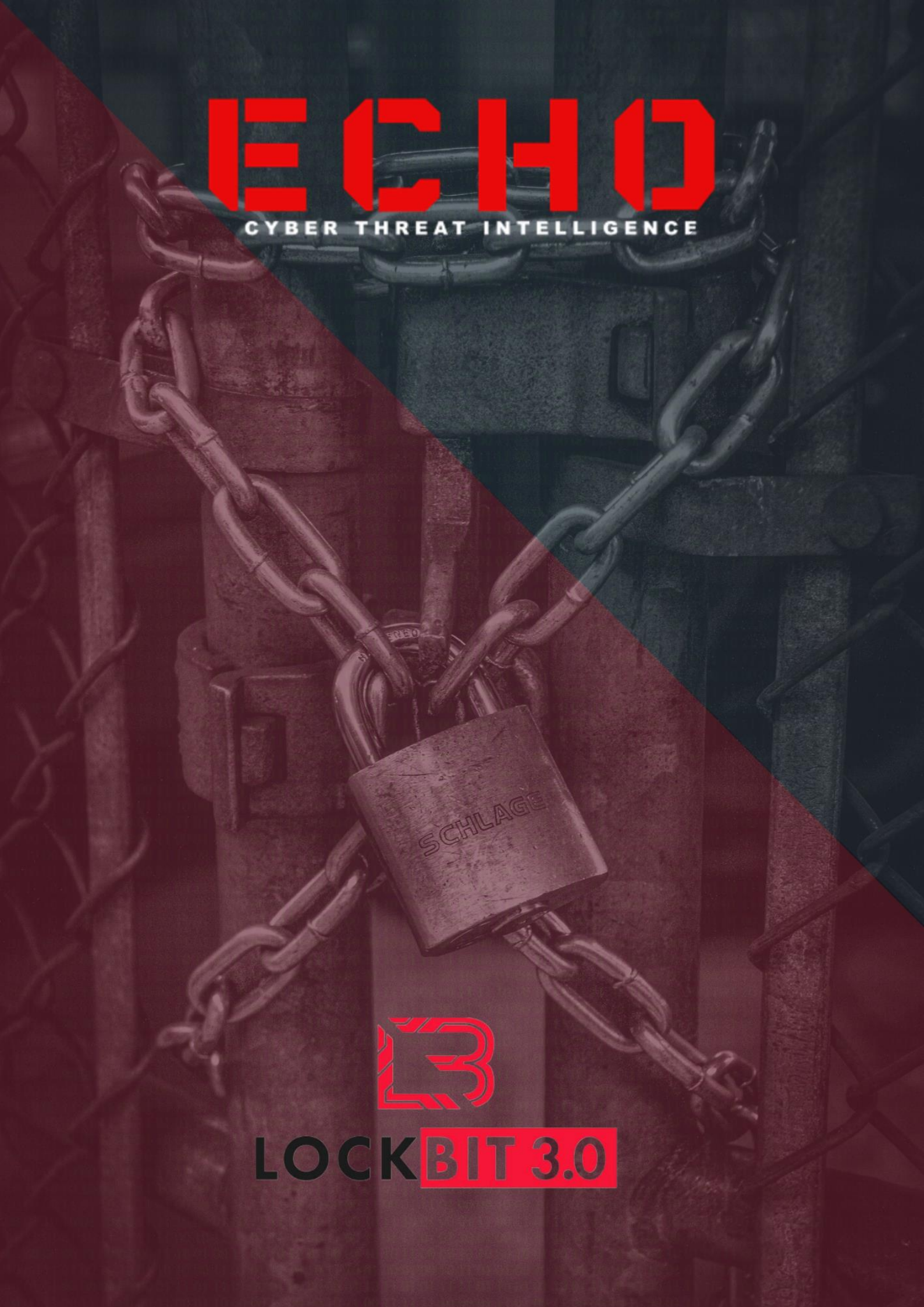

ECHO
CYBER THREAT INTELLIGENCE
SCHLAGE
LOCKBIT 3.0

Content

Introduction

LockBit 3.0, since its emergence in 2019, has become an exceedingly perilous member within the family of ransomware. As a result, it poses a significant cybersecurity threat to numerous organizations worldwide. LockBit operates by encrypting data on victim systems and subsequently demanding a ransom in exchange for data decryption. However, LockBit 3.0 goes beyond mere data encryption; it also threatens victims with the online publication of their data, thus tarnishing the reputation and credibility of organizations. When deployed on a victim's system, LockBit 3.0 employs highly advanced encryption algorithms, rendering the decryption of data exceedingly challenging and coercing victims into making ransom payments. Ransom payments are usually made using cryptocurrencies, making it nearly impossible to trace the paid ransom.

LockBit 3.0 targets numerous countries worldwide. However, some countries stand out as being more heavily impacted or intensively targeted by this malicious ransomware (CISA,2023). These countries are:

- Russia: LockBit 3.0 frequently targets organizations within Russia, potentially affecting both large and small businesses, government institutions, and individuals.
- United States: Given its status as one of the world's largest economies, the United States is an appealing target for LockBit 3.0. Sectors such as finance, healthcare, manufacturing, and technology are frequently targeted.
- Canada: Canada is another country targeted by LockBit 3.0, and various sectors within Canada may experience the impacts of this ransomware.
- United Kingdom: With one of Europe's largest economies, the United Kingdom represents an attractive target for LockBit 3.0. Sectors such as finance and healthcare are frequent targets.
- Germany: Germany, with its technology, manufacturing, and other sectors, is often heavily targeted by LockBit 3.0.

LockBit 3.0 targets organizations operating across various sectors, and many of these sectors have already experienced the effects of this ransomware (BleepingComputer,2023). The targeted sectors include:

- Healthcare Sector: Healthcare organizations are often targeted by ransomware due to the sensitive patient data they store. LockBit 3.0 aims at hospitals, clinics, and health insurance companies.
- Financial Sector: LockBit 3.0 can cause significant damage to the financial sector by targeting banks, financial consulting firms, and financial institutions.
- Manufacturing Sector: Manufacturing facilities and industrial enterprises are critical in terms of production processes and supply chain management. LockBit 3.0 can lead to production disruptions in the manufacturing sector.
- Technology Sector: Technology companies may become targets of LockBit 3.0 due to the customer information and intellectual property they store. This can significantly impact the reputation and competitiveness of technology firms.
- Other Sectors: LockBit 3.0 can also target organizations in education, retail, energy, and various other sectors.

All these threats collectively make LockBit 3.0 a substantial cybersecurity menace for organizations. It is crucial for organizations to implement robust security measures and develop defense strategies against ransomware. This report provides an in-depth analysis of LockBit 3.0, offering essential information on how organizations can protect themselves against this threat. Taking the appropriate security measures is a critical step in safeguarding data and reputation for organizations.

Attack Chain

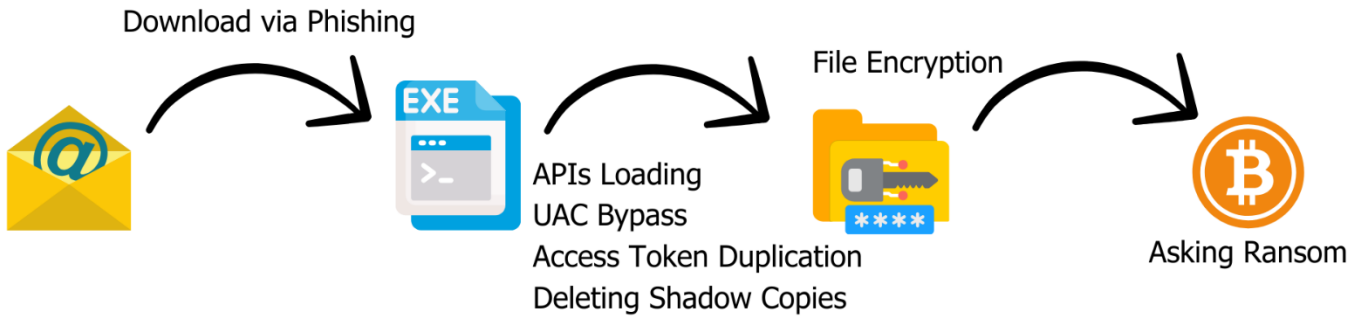


Figure 1 Attack Chain

Technical Analysis

Analysing of Payload.bin

MD5	bbe63d8efc8d8dc7f387b08ee07721ba
SHA256	2e8aaa6338cbf95d8d268559fb8afac64e1c0dfc9ded4bb2de63a9db634e354d
File Type	PE32/EXE

Figure 2 General File Information

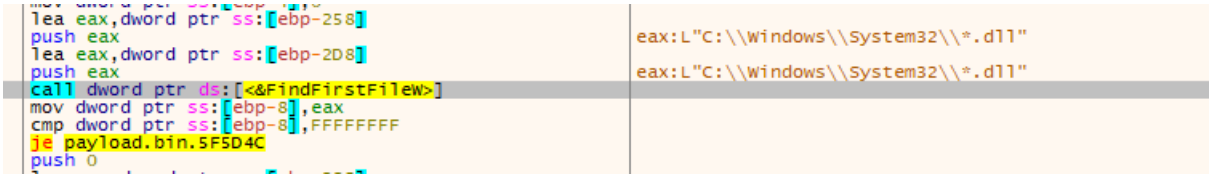


Figure 3 FindFirstFile: C:||Windows||System32||.dll*

It has been observed that the malicious entity sequentially traverses the DLL files within the "**System32"** directory.

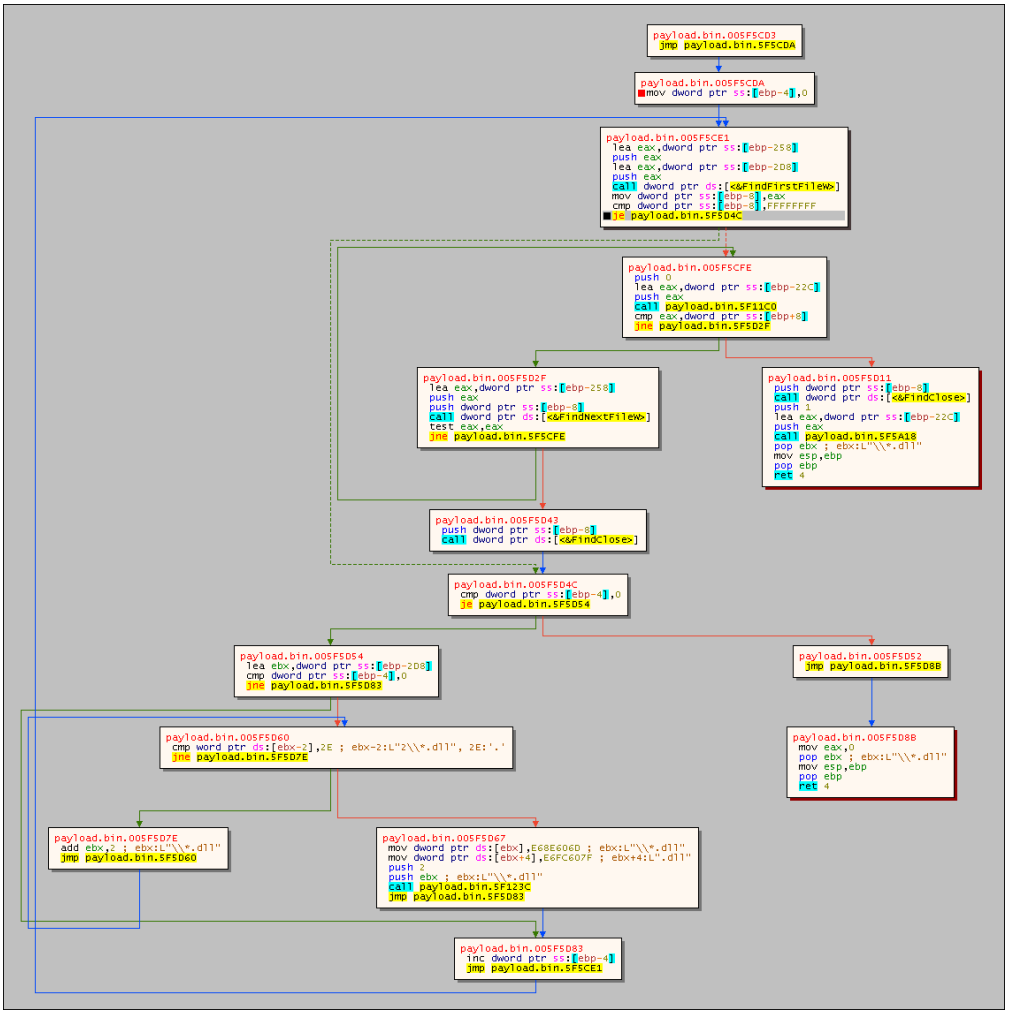


Figure 4 Traversal Algorithm

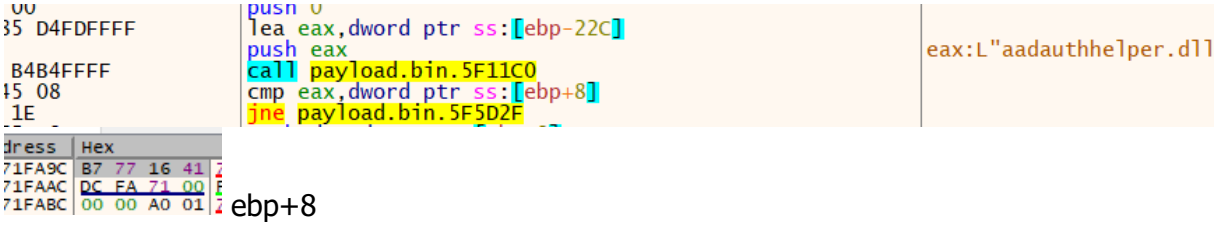


Figure 5 Hash Generating and Comparing

During the traversal process, one notable operation stands out: generating hash for DLL files. Similar to the malicious API Hashing method, it creates hashes of DLL names and then compares them to reach the desired DLL file.

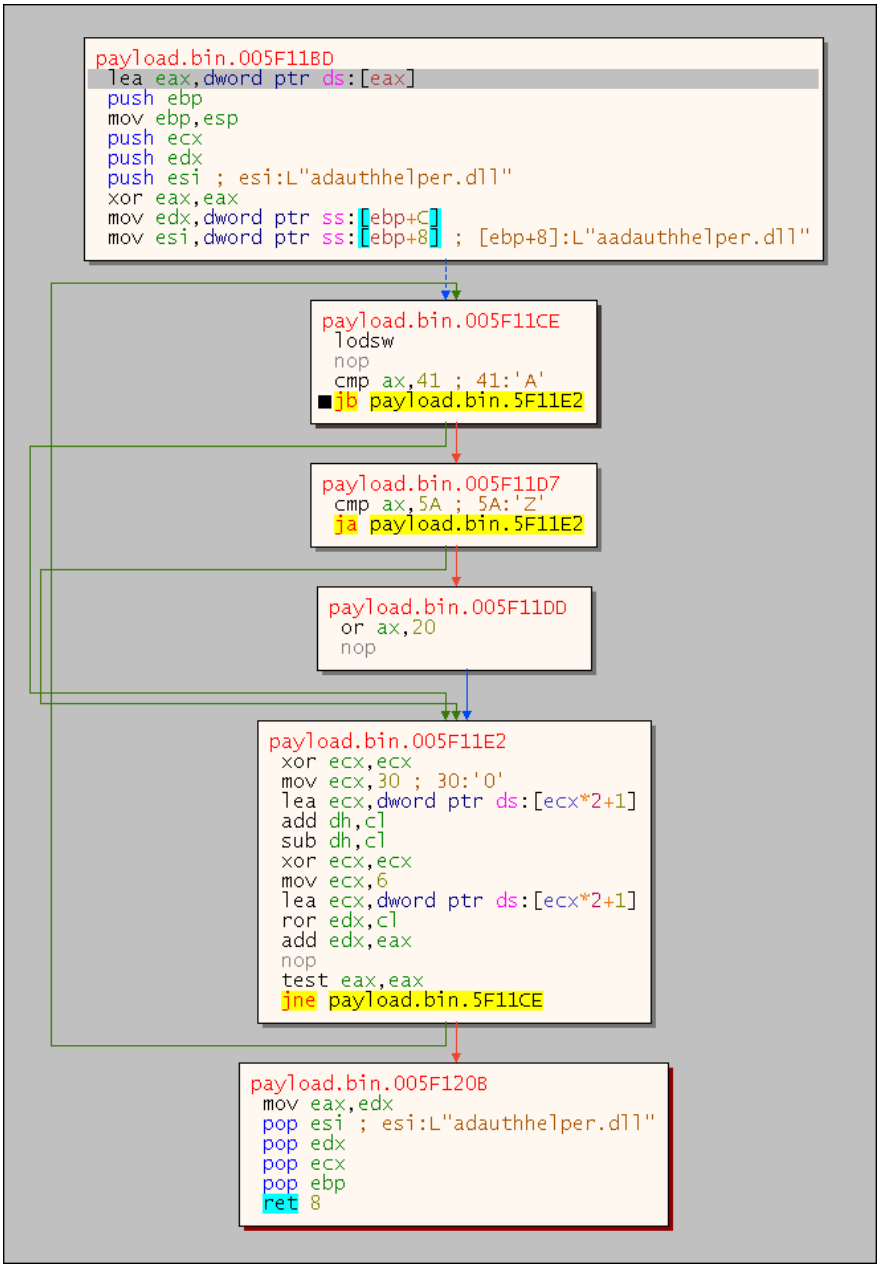


Figure 6 DLL Name Hashing Algorithm

The hash information for the searched DLL file has been determined to be **"41 16 77 B7"** and it has been identified to correspond to the **"ntdll.dll"** file.

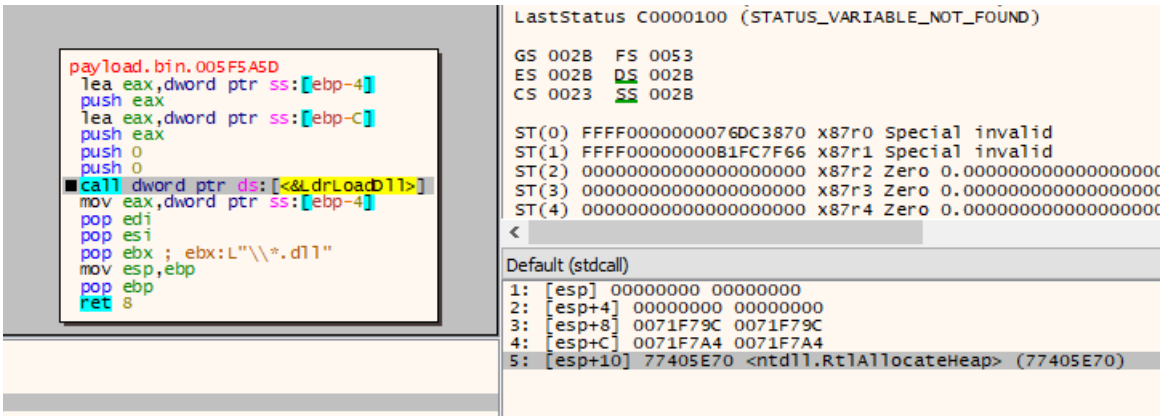


Figure 7 LdrLoadDll

It is observed that the DLL files are loaded using the **LdrLoadDll** API. It is noted that the malicious actor avoids using the **LoadLibrary** API.

Furthermore, it has been determined that the malicious entity employs the API Hashing technique. Unlike the traditional API Hashing method, it is observed that the **LdrLoadDll** and **LdrGetProcedureAddress** functions are used instead of **LoadLibrary** and **GetProcAddress** functions.

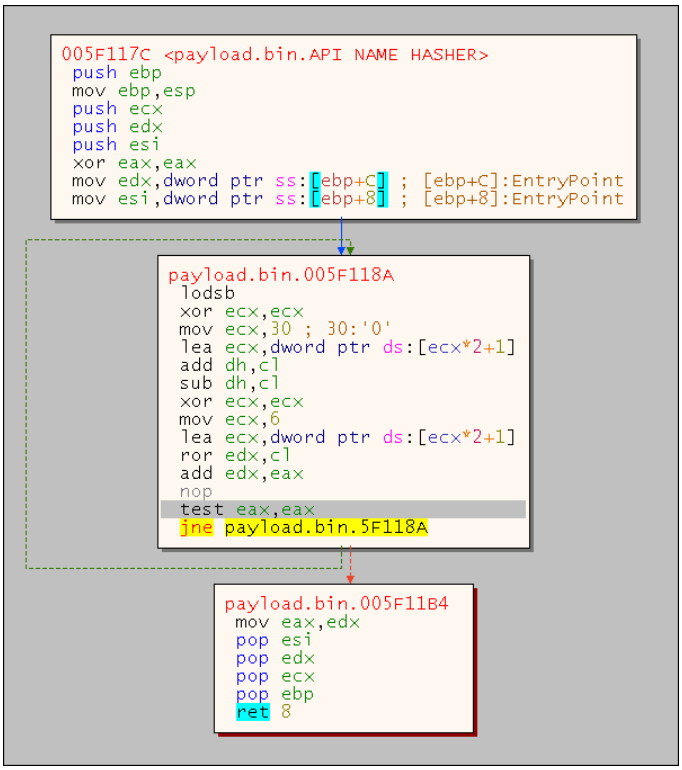


Figure 8 API Name Hashing Algorithm

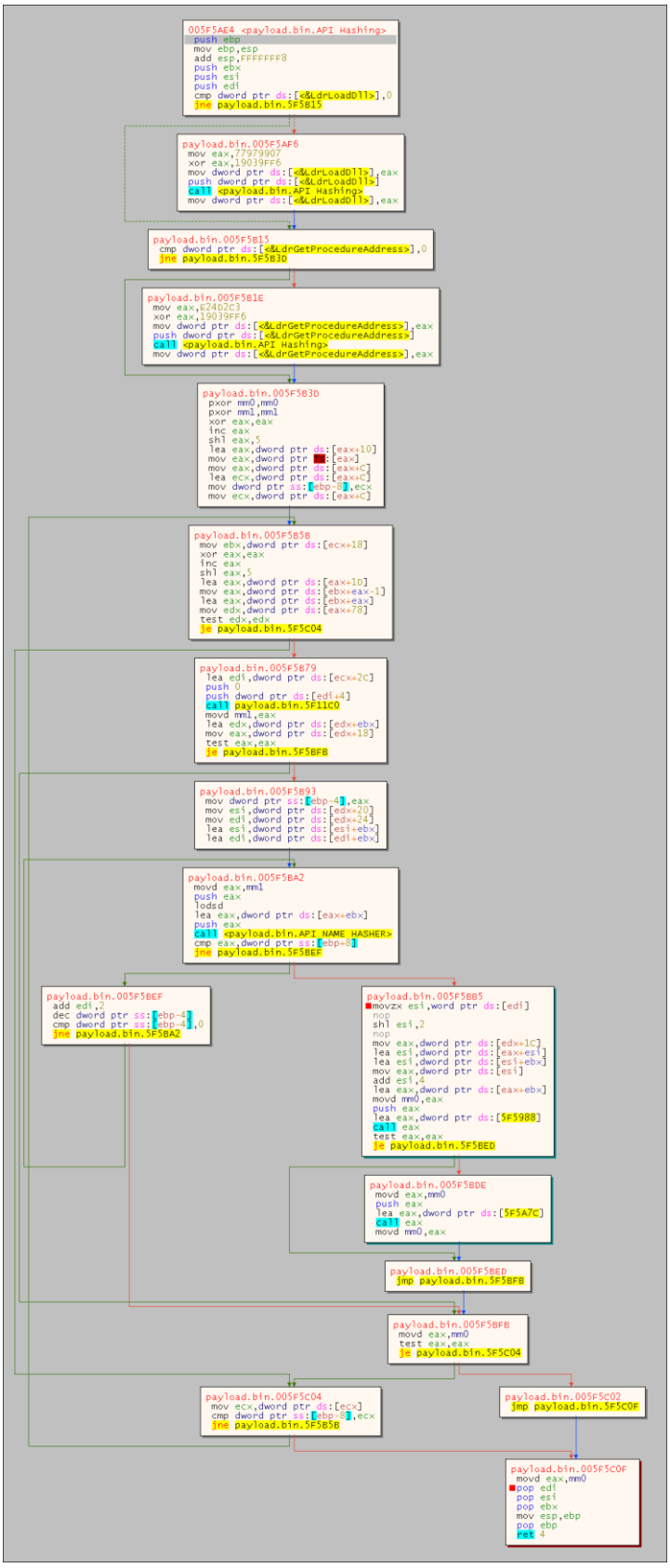


Figure 9 API Hashing Algorithm

It has additionally been identified that the malicious actor employs some anti-debugging techniques. These techniques take advantage of the differences in a heap structure in a debug state compared to its normal state.

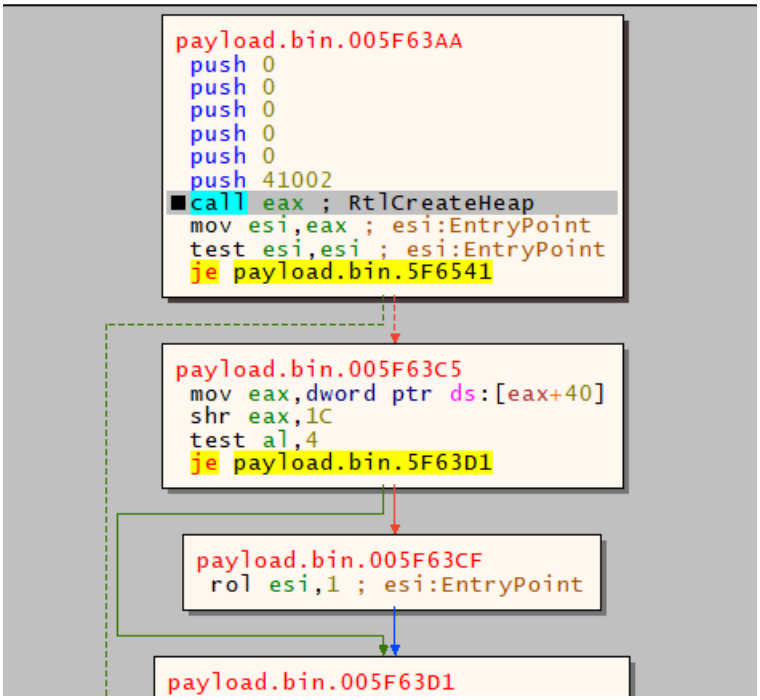


Figure 10 Anti-Debug: Heap Based

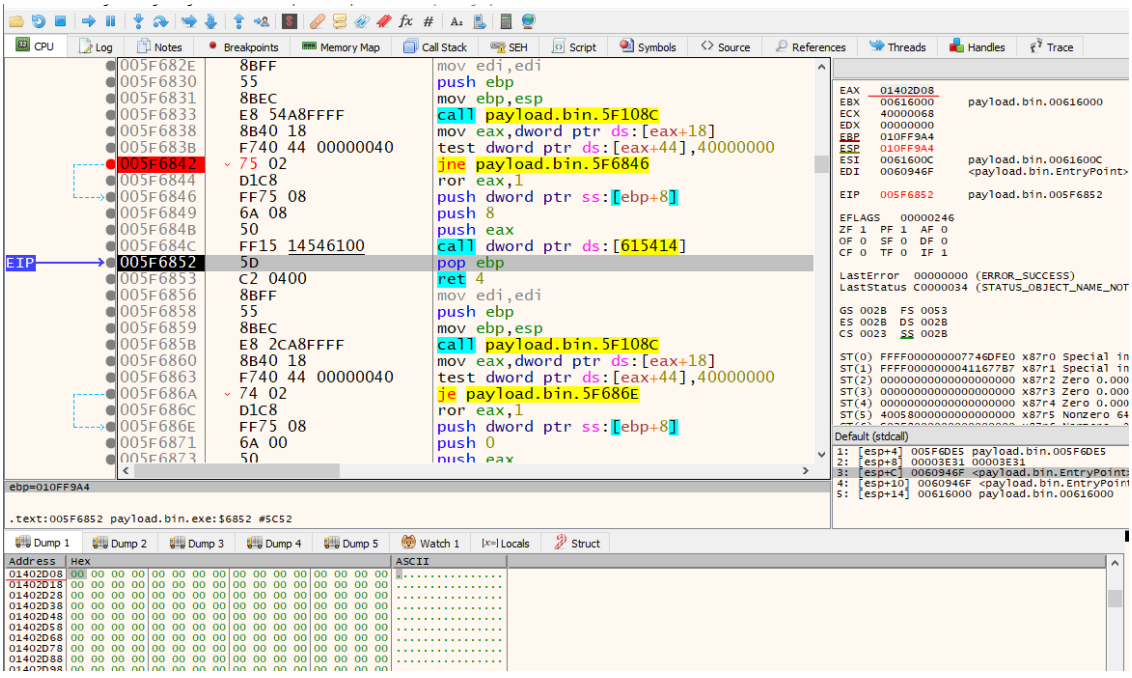


Figure 11 Anti-Debug: Heap Based

Another **heap-based** anti-debugging technique has been identified. Figure 12 contains the code in a patched state.

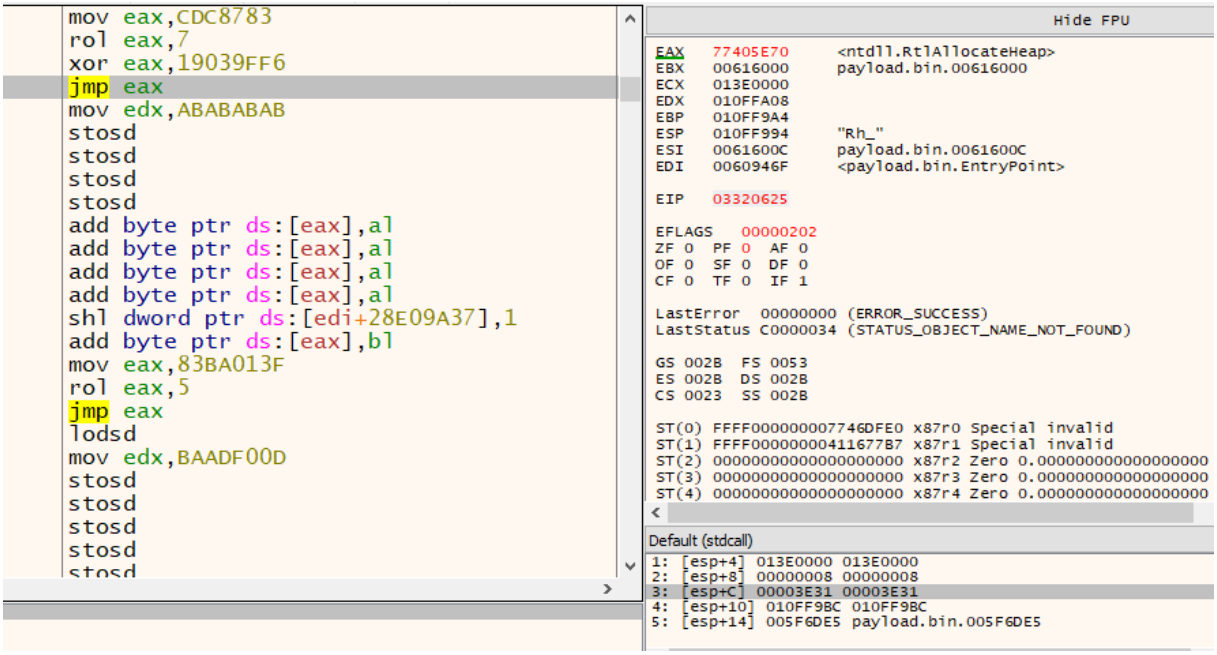


Figure 12 RtAllocateHeap: 15921 byte

It was observed that after bypassing the anti-debug techniques, **15,921** bytes of space were allocated.

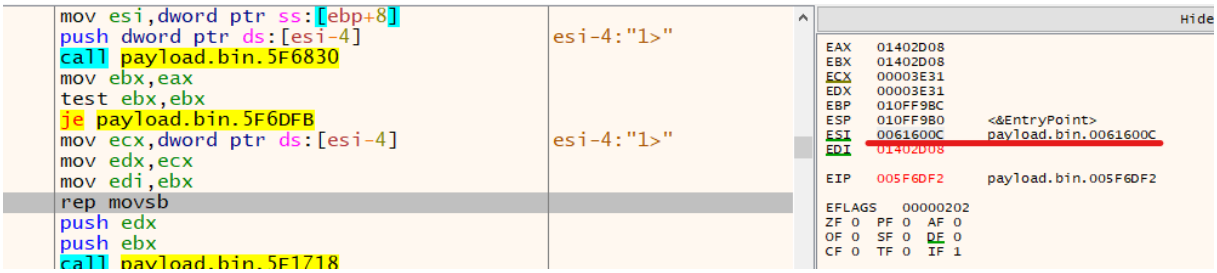


Figure 13 Writing .pdata section

When the data to be written to the allocated space was monitored, it was determined that the starting address of the **.pdata** section is identified.

Address	Size	Party	Info	Content	Type	Protection	Initial
005F0000	00001000	User	payload.bin.exe		IMG	-R---	ERWC-
005F1000	00018000	User	".text"	Executable code	IMG	ER---	ERWC-
00609000	00001000	User	".itext"		IMG	ER---	ERWC-
0060A000	00001000	User	".rdata"	Read-only initialized data	IMG	-R---	ERWC-
0060B000	0000B000	User	".data"	Initialized data	IMG	-RWC-	ERWC-
00616000	00004000	User	".pdata"	Exception information	IMG	-RWC-	ERWC-
0061A000	00001000	User	".reloc"	Base relocations	IMG	-R---	ERWC-

Figure 14 .pdata section

Upon examination of the mentioned section, it is evident that it is encrypted

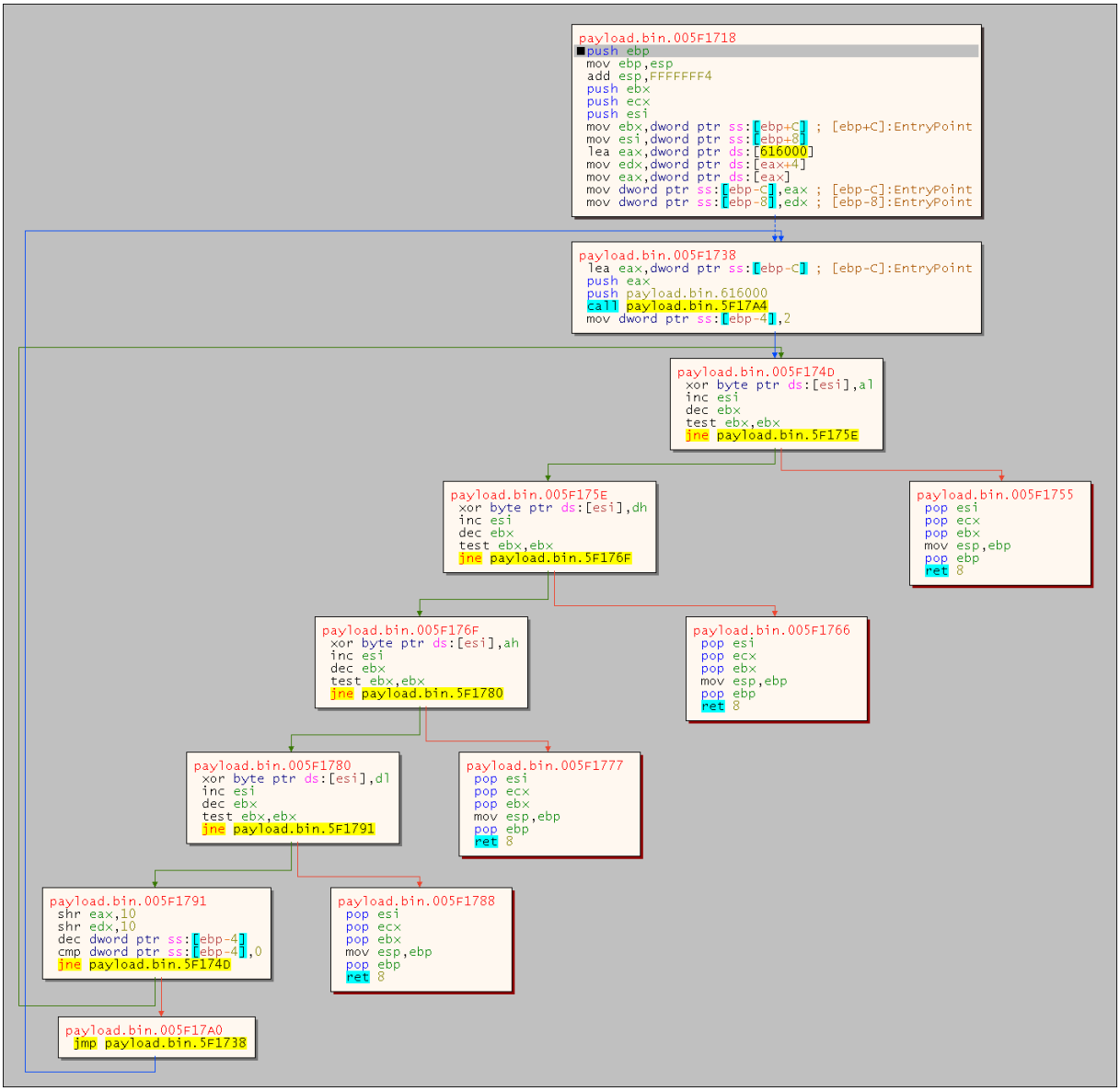


Figure 15 Decryption of .pdata

The algorithm used to decrypt the data found in the .pdata section is as depicted in Figure 15.

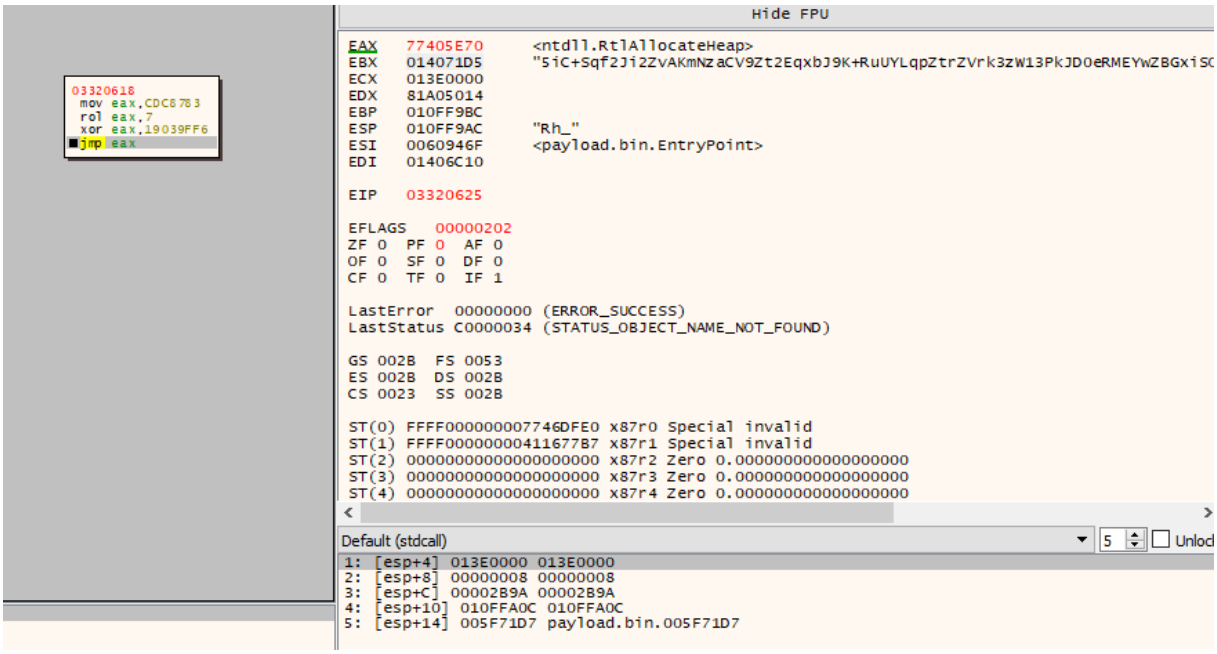


Figure 16 RtlAllocateHeap

It has been determined that an 11KB space is allocated, and the decrypted data is written into the allocated space.

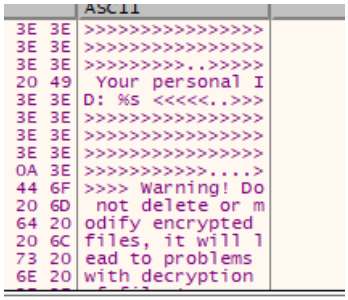


Figure 17 README.txt Content Decryption

When the decrypted data was examined, it was observed that it is the content of the README.txt file to be created later. It has been determined that the malicious actor generates a unique ID for each computer. VictimID struct: "BD23223ABCFA78BC"+<randomly_generated_16_character>

The generated VictimID is integrated into the content of the README.txt file.

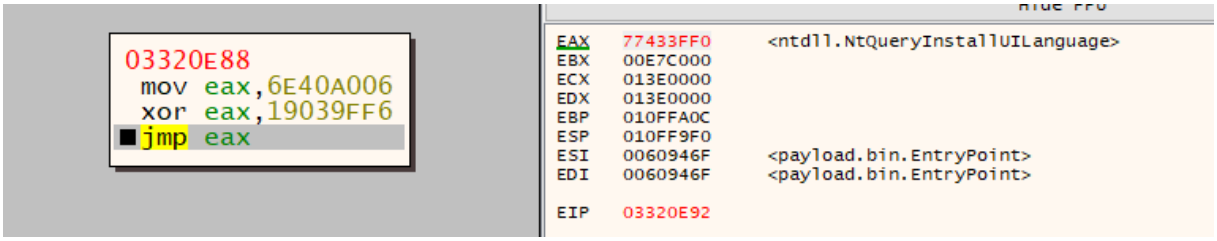


Figure 18 NtQueryInstallUILanguage

It was observed that the language information used by the system is obtained.

Countries Where LockBit 3.0 Family Does Not Operate:

- Ukraine
- Belarus
- Tajikistan
- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Georgia
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Turkmenistan
- Uzbekistan
- Tatarstan
- Romania
- Russia
- Moldova
- Saudi Arabia
- Syria

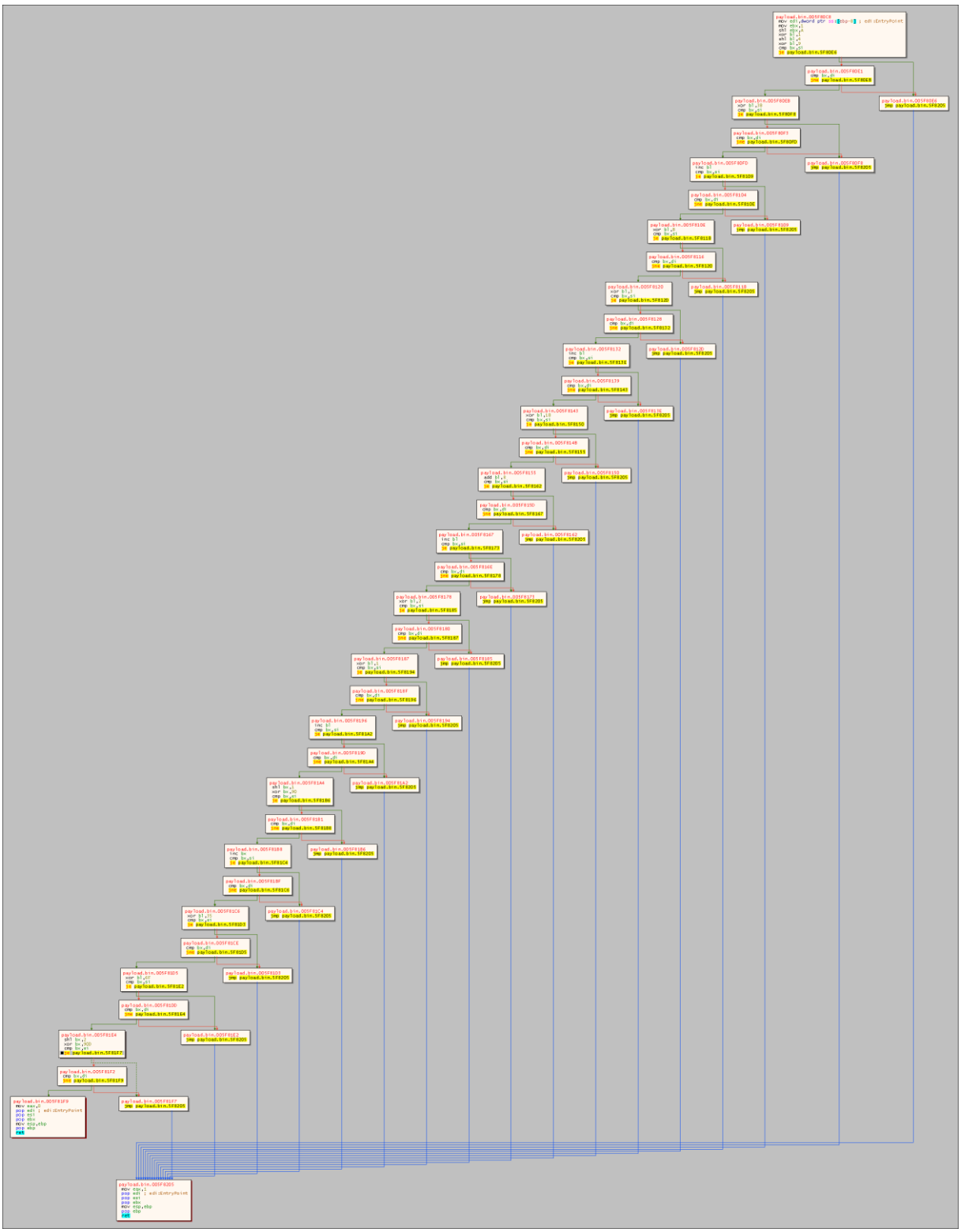


Figure 19 Country Checking

```
mov eax,E0EE867A
rol eax,7
jmp eax                                  NtOpenProcessToken
lodsd
mov edx,BAADF00D
```

Figure 20 NtOpenProcessToken

It has been determined that the Access token handle specific to the process is obtained.

```
mov eax,C8165ECD
ror eax,5
xor eax,19039FF6
jmp eax                                  ZwQueryInformationToken
mov edx,ABABABAB
stosd
stosd
stosd
stosd
add byte ptr ds:[eax],al
```

```
GS 002B  FS 0053
ES 002B  DS 002B
CS 0023  SS 002B

ST(0) FFFF000000007746DFE0 x87r0 S
ST(1) FFFF000000004116778 x87r1 S
ST(2) 00000000000000000000 x87r2 Z
ST(3) 00000000000000000000 x87r3 Z
ST(4) 00000000000000000000 x87r4 Z

Default (stdcall)
1: [esp+4]  000002D8 000002D8
2: [esp+8]  00000002 00000002
3: [esp+C]  0141BE98 0141BE98
4: [esp+10] 00000140 00000140
5: [esp+14] 010FF9FC 010FF9FC
```

Figure 21 ZwqueryInformationToken

It has been observed that the user group information is retrieved using the Access token structure in which the process is running.

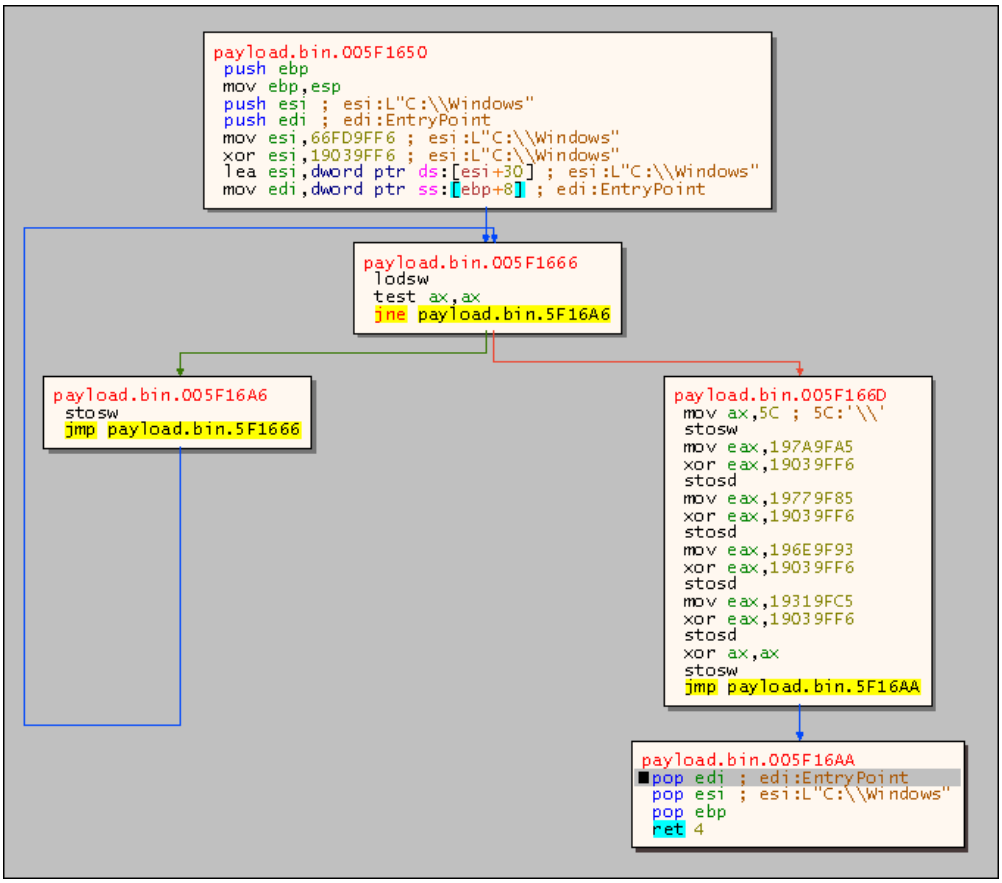


Figure 22 Creation System32 Path

In Figure 22, the expression **"C:\Windows\System32"** is being constructed. It is observed that XOR method is used to evade security products.

Figure 23 Decryption Algorithm

The expressions decrypted with the algorithm shown in Figure 23 are as follows:

- dllhost.exe
- Elevation:Administrator!new:{{3E5FC7F9-9A51-4367-9063-A120244FBEC7}}

```
DWORD* decryption_function(DWORD *arry,size_t size) {

	for (int i = 0; i < size; i++) {

		arry[i] = arry[i] ^ 0x19039ff6;
		arry[i] = ~(arry[i]);

		std::cout << std::hex<< arry[i]<<" ";

	}
	return arry;
}
```

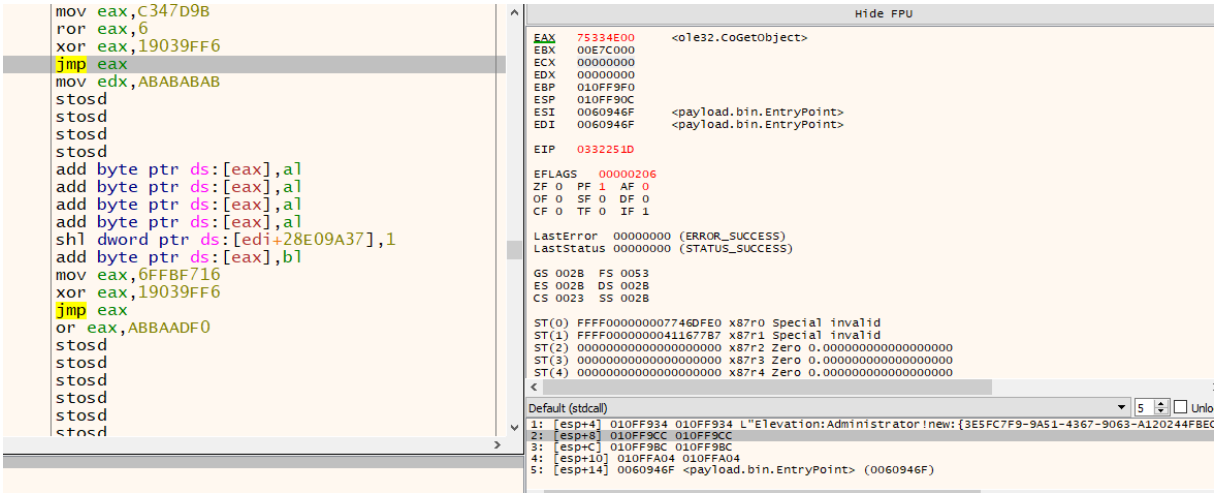


Figure 24 CoGetObject

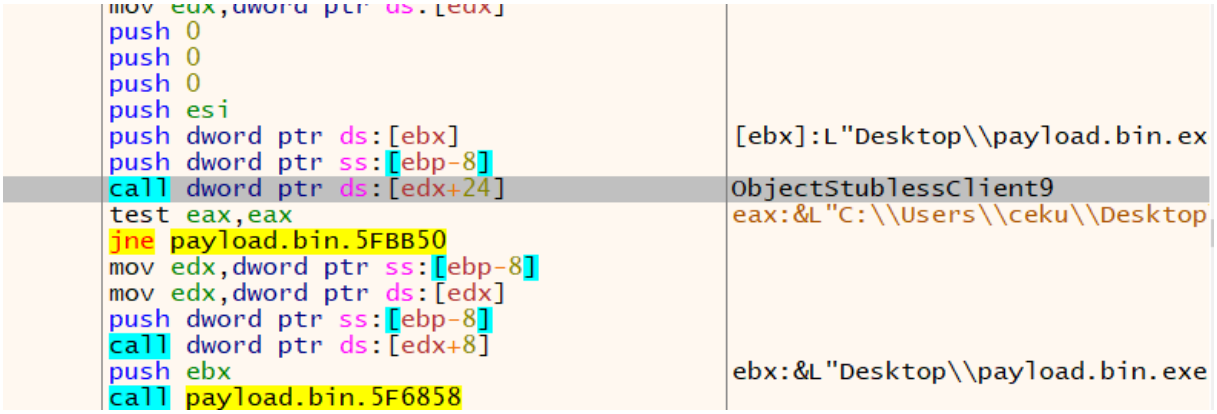


Figure 25 ObjectStublessClient9

It has been determined that it operates as a child process under dllhost.exe by bypassing UAC.

It has been observed that a portion of the previously decrypted data is hashed using the MD5 method.

The data hashed with MD5 is as follows:

```
3a2223bd  bc78fabc  bb04ea7f  3286dcc7
0860c7ff  c03edf06  3e570a04  9c55aaee
6a051e98  96cd73c8  d17595fc  a1ad958b
fa52e8cc  8b65411c  587767a2  fd5a5db2
809964a8  0cf2a551  be0e3392  1b07e687
ec4c1f53  605e4e11  293dbfd1  5540bb91
b186938a  9c496dae  d13d64ea  a6577138
4b9adcb3  c985d873  11100549  5892daf0
```

Following another decryption process, the resulting expression is as follows:
"{{%08X-%04X-%04X-%02X%02X-%02X%02X%02X%02X%02X%02X}}"

The MD5 hash is integrated into the specified format in the above text.

Figure 26 ZwQuerySystemInformation

It has been determined that information about the processes running on the system is retrieved

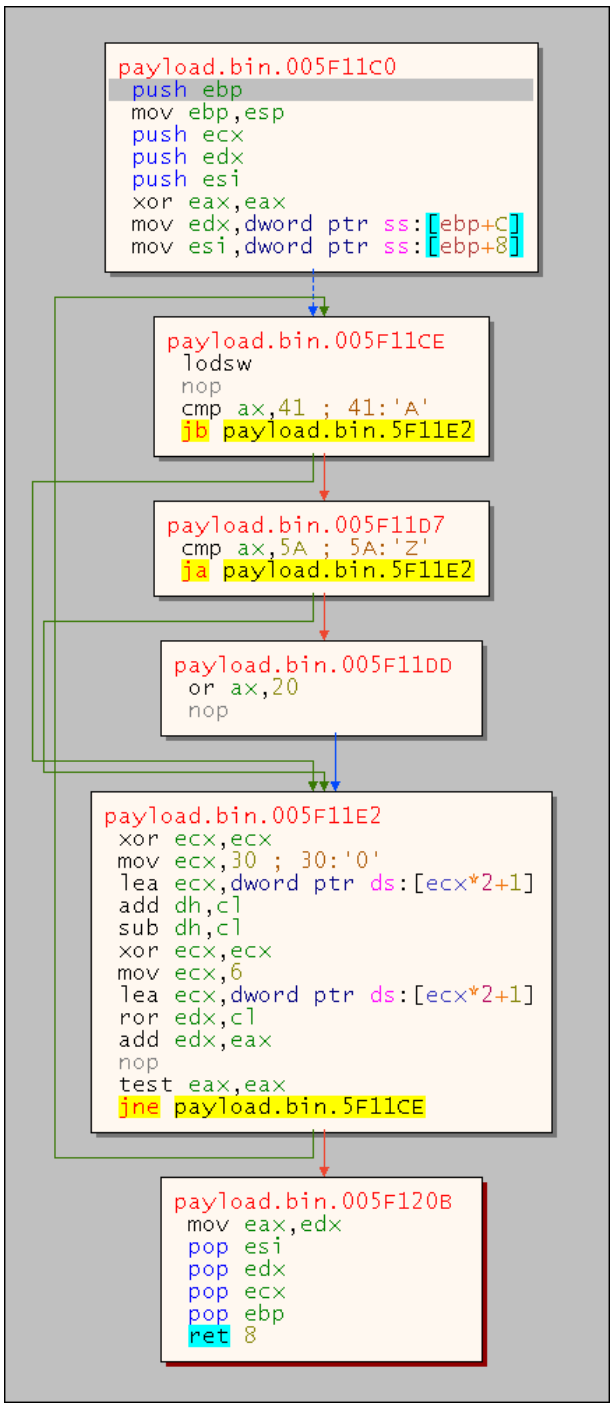


Figure 27 Process Name Hashing Algorithm

It has been observed that, similar to navigating through DLL files, hashes are generated for process names and compared with the hash of a desired process name. It was determined that the target process name is **"explorer.exe"**.

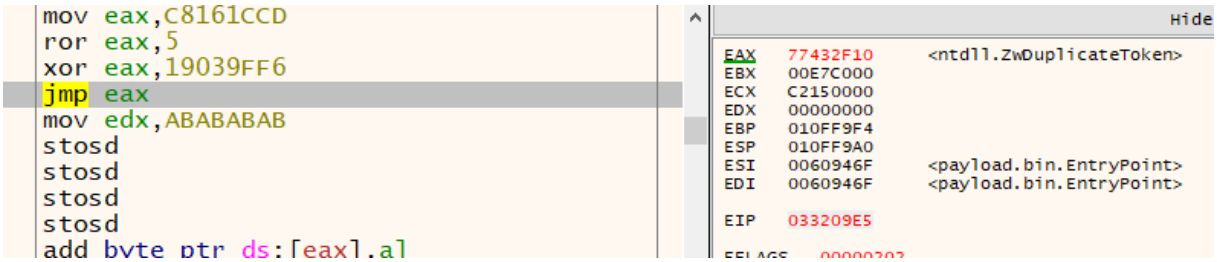


Figure 28 DuplicateToken

It was determined that the process access token information for the **"explorer.exe"** process was copied

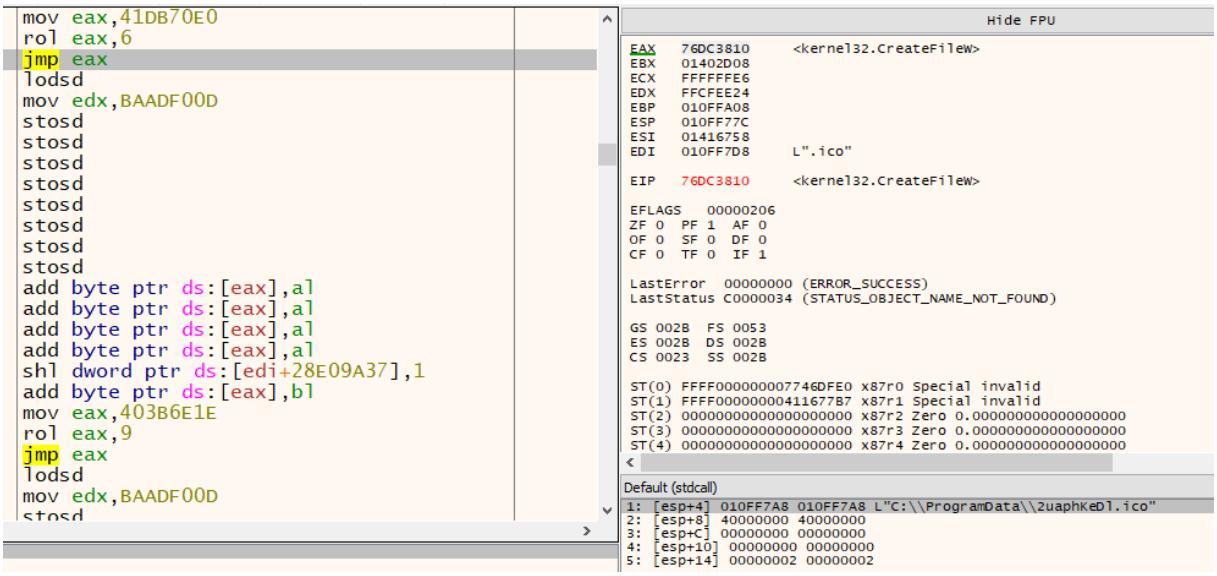


Figure 29 CreateFile: Creation LockBit Icon File

It was determined that the **"C:\\ProgramData\\2uaphKeDl.ico"** file was created.

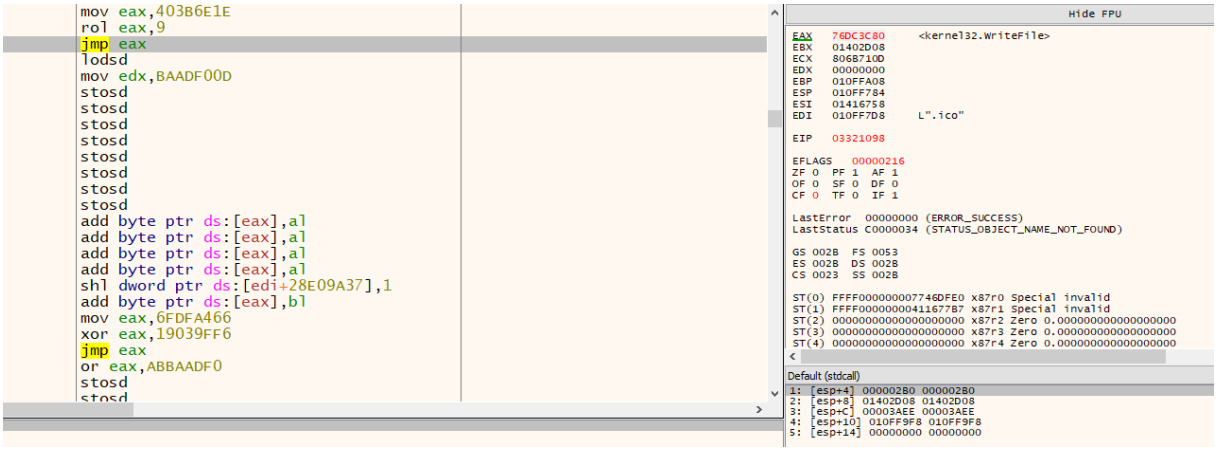


Figure 30 WriteFile: LockBit Icon

It was determined that the content of the famous LockBit file icon was being written.

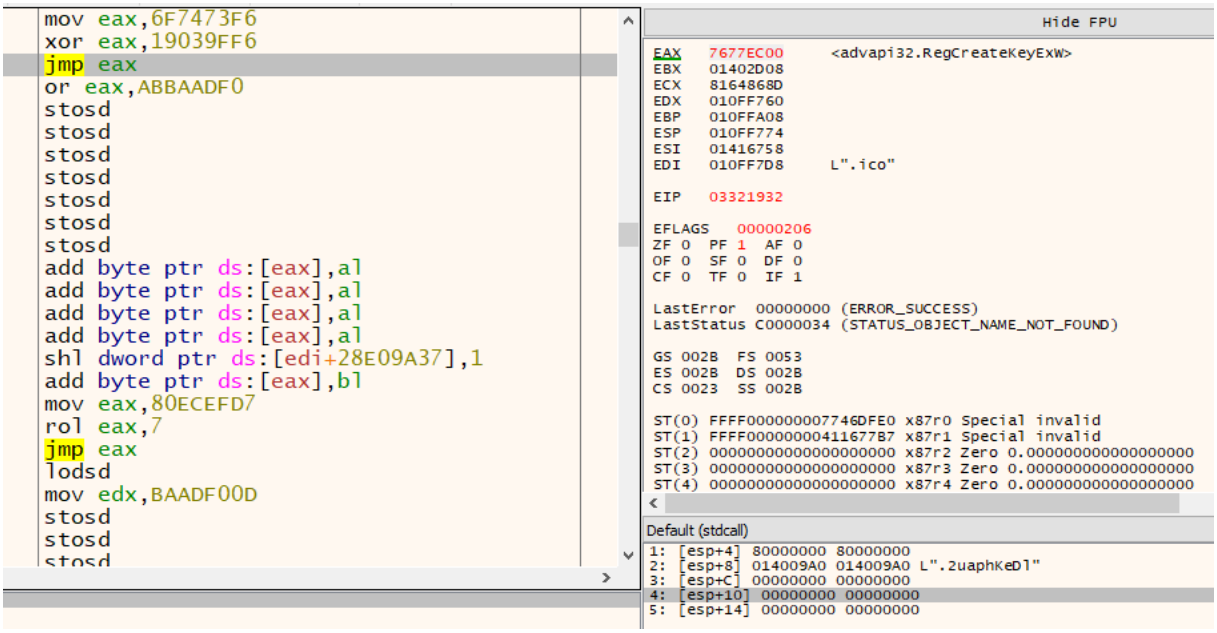


Figure 31 RegCreateKeyExW

It was determined that a subkey named **".2uaphKeDl"** was created under the **"HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT"** key.

Figure 32 RegCreateKeyExW: DefaultIcon

It was determined that a subkey named **"DefaultIcon"** was also opened under the **".2uaphKeDl"** subkey**.**

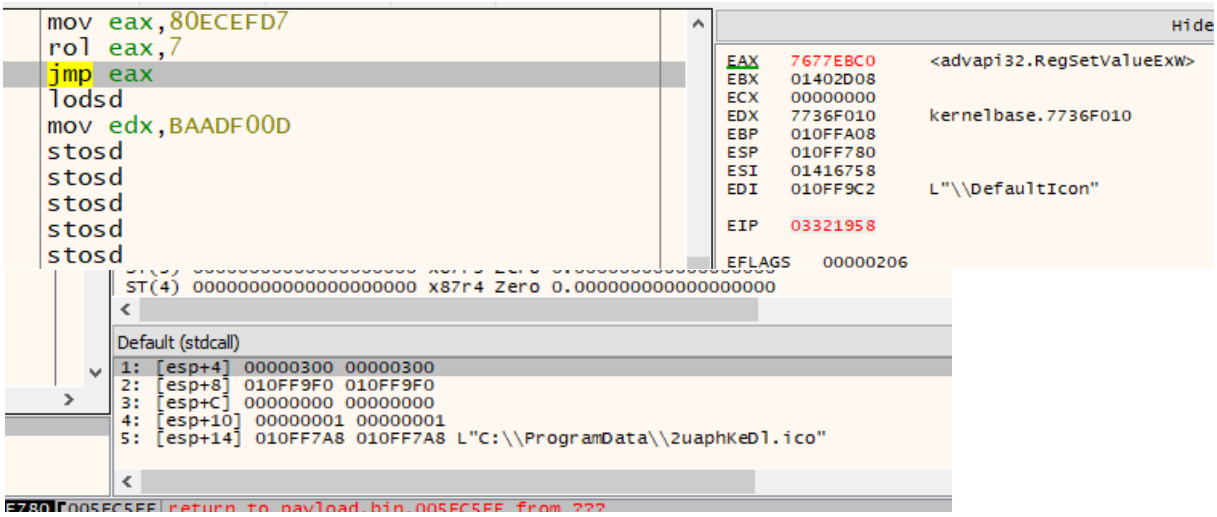


Figure 33 RegSetValueExW: Setting Icon File Path

The value contained in the created subkey specifies the directory of the created icon file.

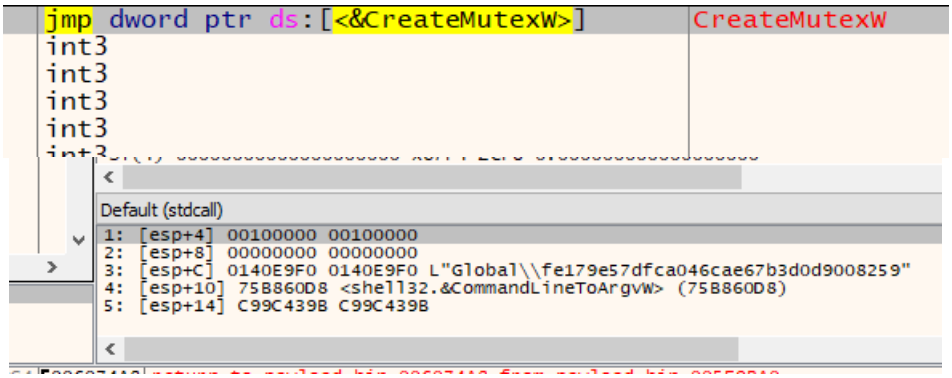


Figure 34 CreateMutex

It was determined that a Mutex named **"Global\\fe179e57dfca046cae67b3d0d9008259"** was created.

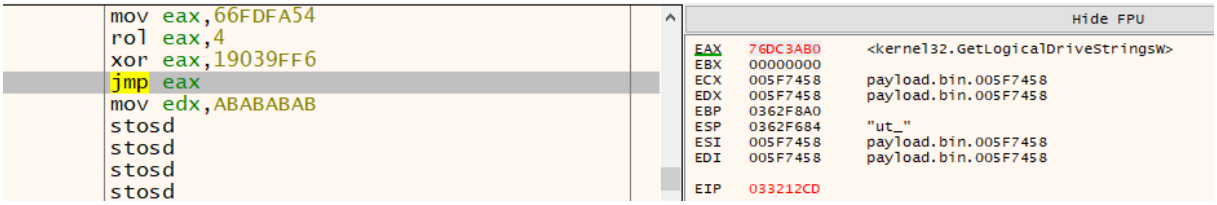


Figure 35 GetLogicalDriveStringsW

Directory information of the drivers on the device is being retrieved. The retrieved drivers are being checked for whether they are a storage unit, such as a hard disk.

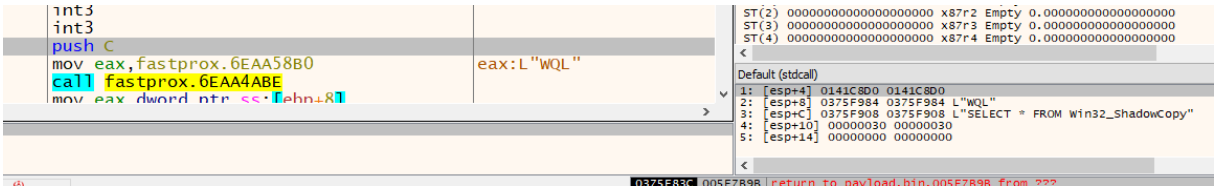


Figure 36 Delete Shadow Copies

It was determined that a WMI query is executed to collect Shadow copies.

Subsequently, it encrypts files by traversing directories, especially those under the **"C:\"** directory.

Unlike traditional ransomware, it has been observed that it traverses directories and encrypts files using a single thread. The main reasons for its speed despite using a single thread are as follows: checking the importance of the traversed directories and using custom encryption functions instead of ready-made functions while encrypting files.

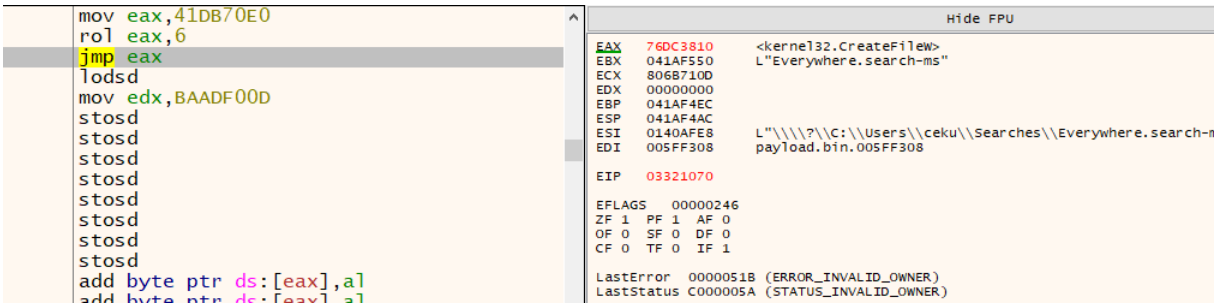
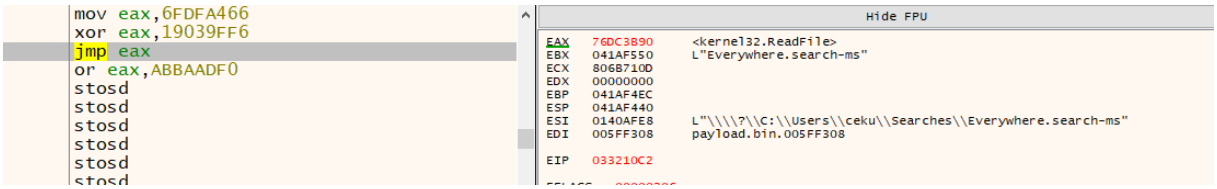


Figure 37 Opening File that will Encrypt

The opening of the detected file,



The reading,

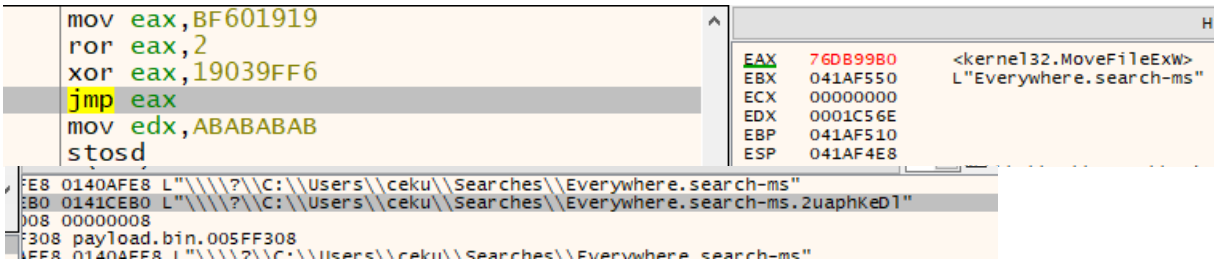
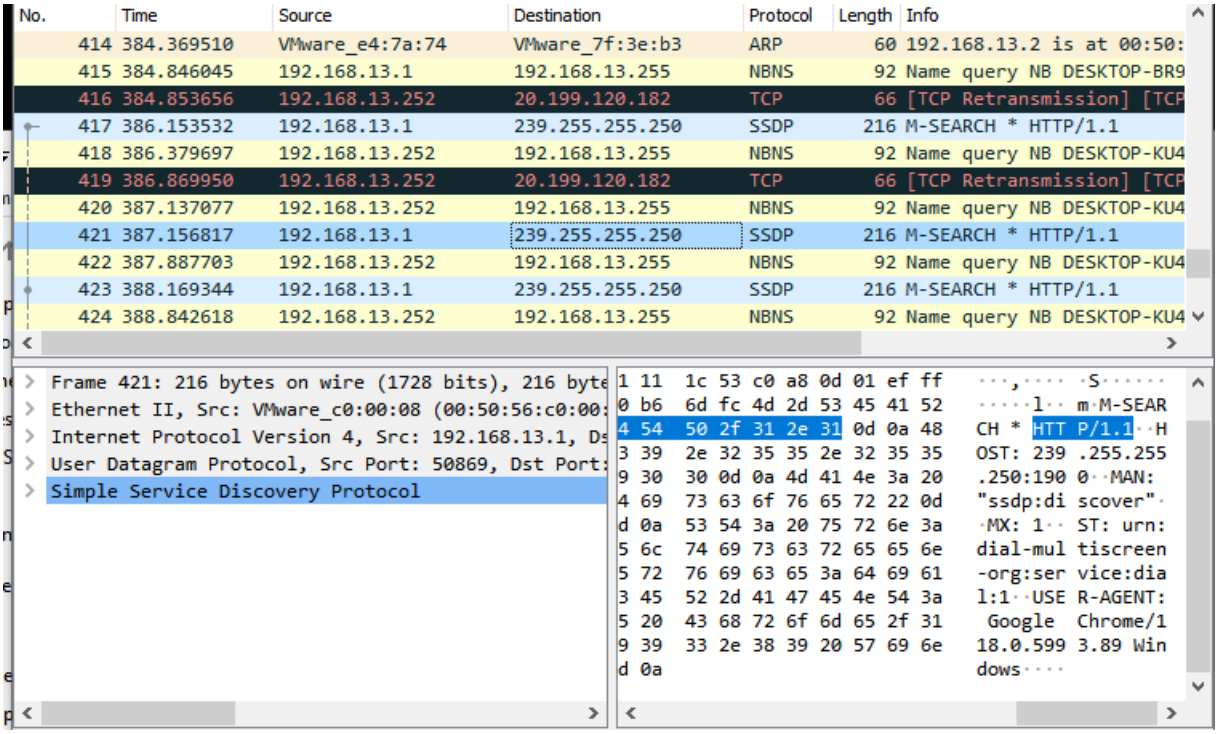


Figure 38 MoveFileExW

A copy is created with a different extension. Then, the newly created file is opened, and its content is encrypted and overwritten on the same file again.



As a result of the investigations, some IP information that could be associated with the malicious software has been identified. These are:

- 239.255.255.250
- 224.0.0.252

Rules

YARA

```
rule LockBit_3_0{

meta:
    date = "2023-10-26"
    description = "Detects LockBit 3.0"
    author = "Bilal BAKARTEPE - EchoCTI Malware Team"
    hash = "bbe63d8efc8d8dc7f387b08ee07721ba"
    verdict = "dangerous"
    platform = "windows"

strings:
    $hash1={2D D8 63 77} //ntdll RtlAllocateHeap
    $hash2={54 31 19 c3} //FindFirstFile
    $hash3={23 56 69 4e} //FindNextFile
    $hash4={8a a5 43 61} //FindClose
    $hash5={f6 9f 03 19} //MD4Init

    $xorkey={f6 9f 03 19} //xor key for hashed API's

    $opc1={55 8B EC 51 52 56 33 C0 8B 55 0C 8B 75 08 AC 33 C9 B9 30 00 00 00 8D 0C 4D 01 00 00 00 02
F1 2A F1 33 C9 B9 06 00 00 00 8D 0C 4D 01 00 00 00 D3 CA 03 D0 90 85 C0 75 D6 8B C2 5E 5A 59 5D} //API
name hasher algorithm
    $opc2={55 8B EC 56 57 BE F6 9F FD 66 81 F6 F6 9F 03 19 8D 76 30 8B 7D 08 66 AD 66 85 C0 75 39 66
B8 5C 00  66 AB B8 A5 9F 7A 19 35 F6 9F 03 19 AB B8 85 9F 77 19  35 F6 9F 03 19 AB  B8 93 9F 6E 19  35
F6 9F 03 19  AB B8 C5 9F 31 19  35 F6 9F 03 19 AB 66 33 C0 66 AB EB 04 66 AB EB BC 5F 5E 5D C2 04 00}
//deobfuscating "C:\\windows\\system32" string
    $opc3={C7 03 55 60 D6 E6 C7 43 04 27 60 98 E6 C7 43 08 65 60 90 E6 C7 43 0C 09 60 FC
E6}//deobfuscating "*.dll" string
    $opc4={55 8B EC 51 52 8B 4D 08 8B 55 0C 90 81 31 F6 9F 03 19 F7 11 90 83 C1 04 4A 75 F1 5A 59 5D}
//deobfuscating "*.dll" string together
    $opc5={66 83 F8 41 72 0B 66 83 F8 5A 77 05 66 83 C8 20  90 33 C9 B9 30 00 00 00 8D 0C 4D 01 00 00
00 02 F1 2A F1 33 C9 B9 06 00 00 00 8D 0C 4D 01 00 00 00 D3 CA 03 D0 90 85 C0 75 C3} //Dll name
hashing
    $opc6={8B 40 18 F7 40 44 00 00 00 40 74 02 D1 C8}//Heap-based Anti-debug
    $opc7={B9 5D 34 A8 B2 81 F1 F6 9F 03 19 39 48 10 74 01 AB C6 00 B8}//Heap-based Anti-debug

condition:
    any of ($opc*) or (any of ($hash*)and $xorkey)
}
```

SIGMA – 1

```
title: LockBit 3.0 Registry Operation
status: experimental
description: Detects LockBit 3.0 icon file definition
author: Bilal BAKARTEPE
date: 2023/10/26
logsource:
  category: registry_set
  product: windows
detection:
  selection:
    CommandLine|contains|all:
    - HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT
    - .2uaphKeDl
    TargetObject|endswith: reg.exe
  condition: selection
falsepositives:
- Unknown
level: high
```

SIGMA - 2

```yaml
title: Win32_ShadowCopy Query Alert
description: Detects a query for Win32_ShadowCopy class in WMI.
author: Bilal BAKARTEPE
date: 2023-10-26
logsource:
  product: windows
  service: security
detection:
  selection:
    EventID: 10  # Event ID for WMI Queries (Adjust this if needed)
    Query: "*FROM Win32_ShadowCopy*"
  condition: selection
level: high
tags:
  - wmi
  - windows
  - alert
falsepositives:
  - Legitimate use of WMI for querying Win32_ShadowCopy
fields:
  - Query
  - EventID
  - ComputerName
  - User
  - ProcessName
  - ParentProcessName
  - ParentProcessID
  - CommandLine
```

MITRE ATT&CK Table

Tactic	ID	Technic Name
Privilege Escalation	T1548.002	Abuse Elevation Control Mechanism: Bypass User Account Control
Privilege Escalation	T1134	Access Token Manipulation
Discovery	T1083	File and Directory Discovery
Discovery	T1069.002	Permission Groups Discovery: Domain Groups
Discovery	T1082	System Information Discovery
Execution	T1047	Windows Management Instrumentation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