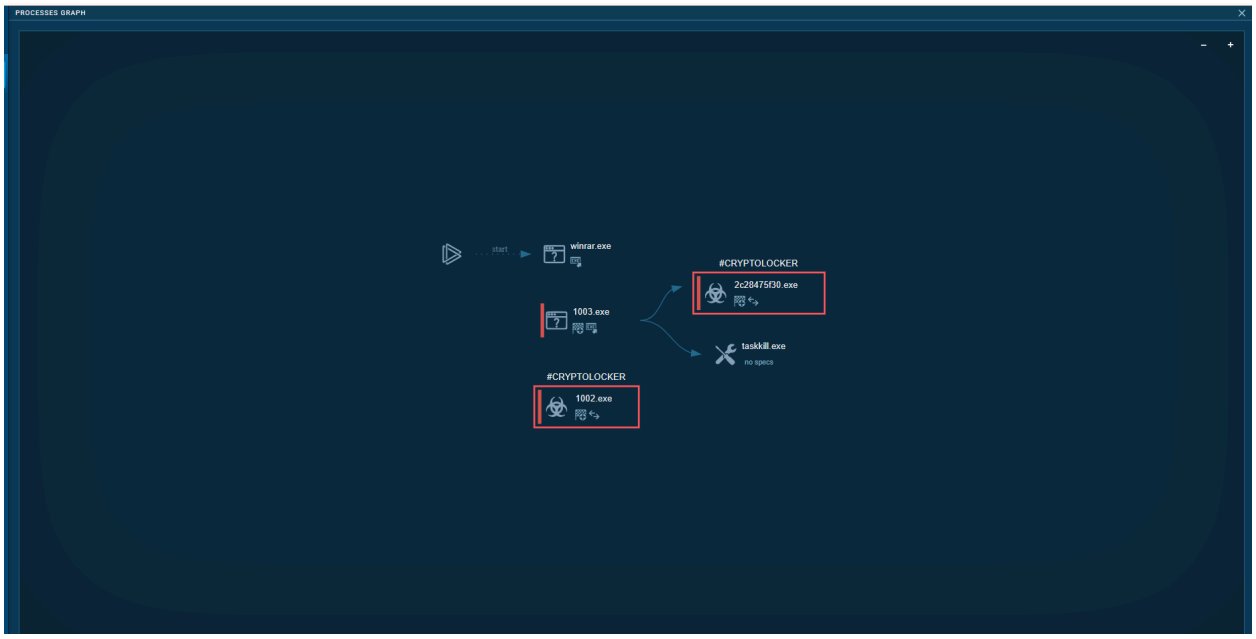
Task 2

For this task, we use a Malware sample from the Malware Zoo.

The sample I decided to use was the Crypto.Locker malware from January 22 2014.

Now with that out of the way, we can go with the analysis

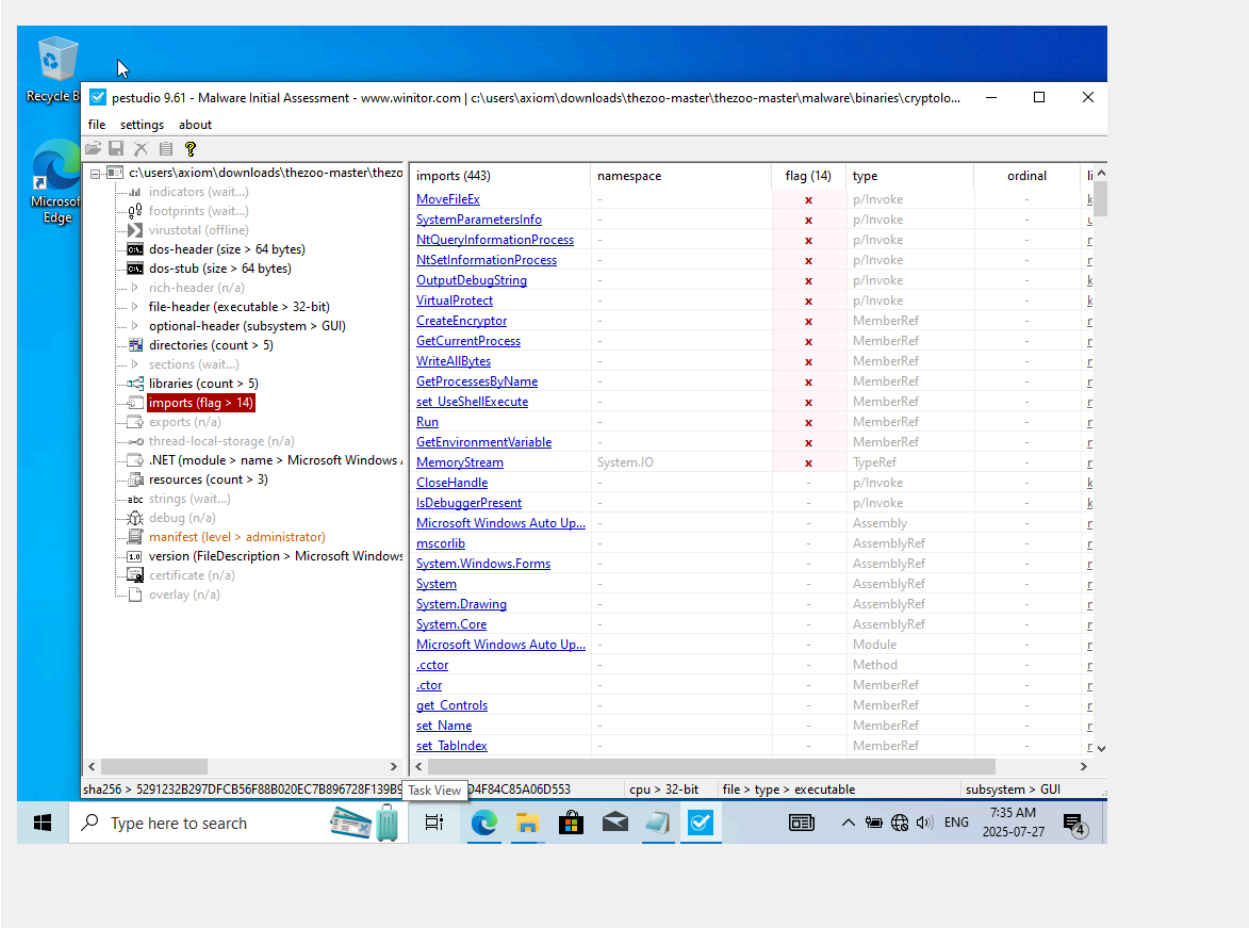
According to our Any.run report, our process graph looks like this:



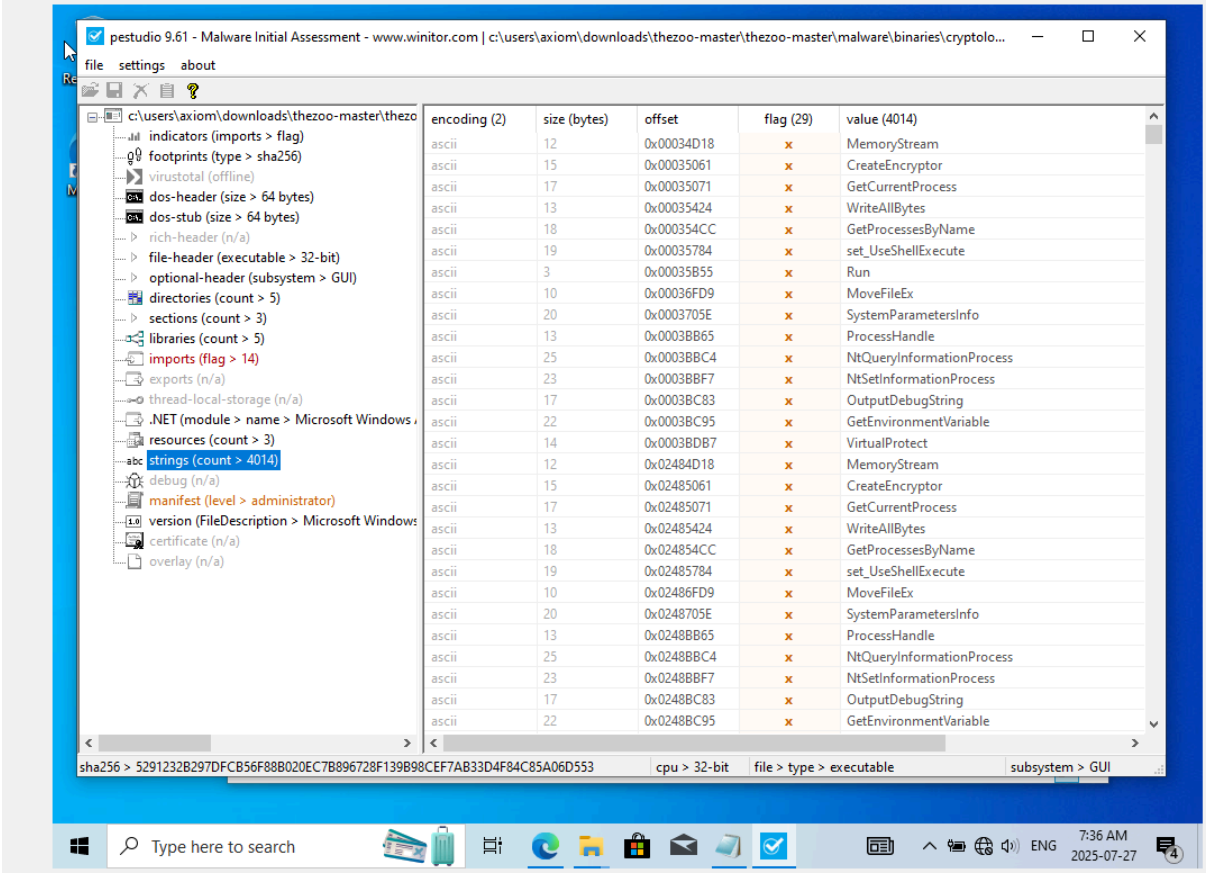
As we can see there is one exe file that drops our ransomware onto the victim system. While the actual exe is wrapped into the dropper exe. The Dropper exe file is 1003.exe while the actual ransomware is in 1002.exe, but the report assigns it a filename of 2c8475f30.exe. Which for our purposes, is the same executable.

Static Analysis

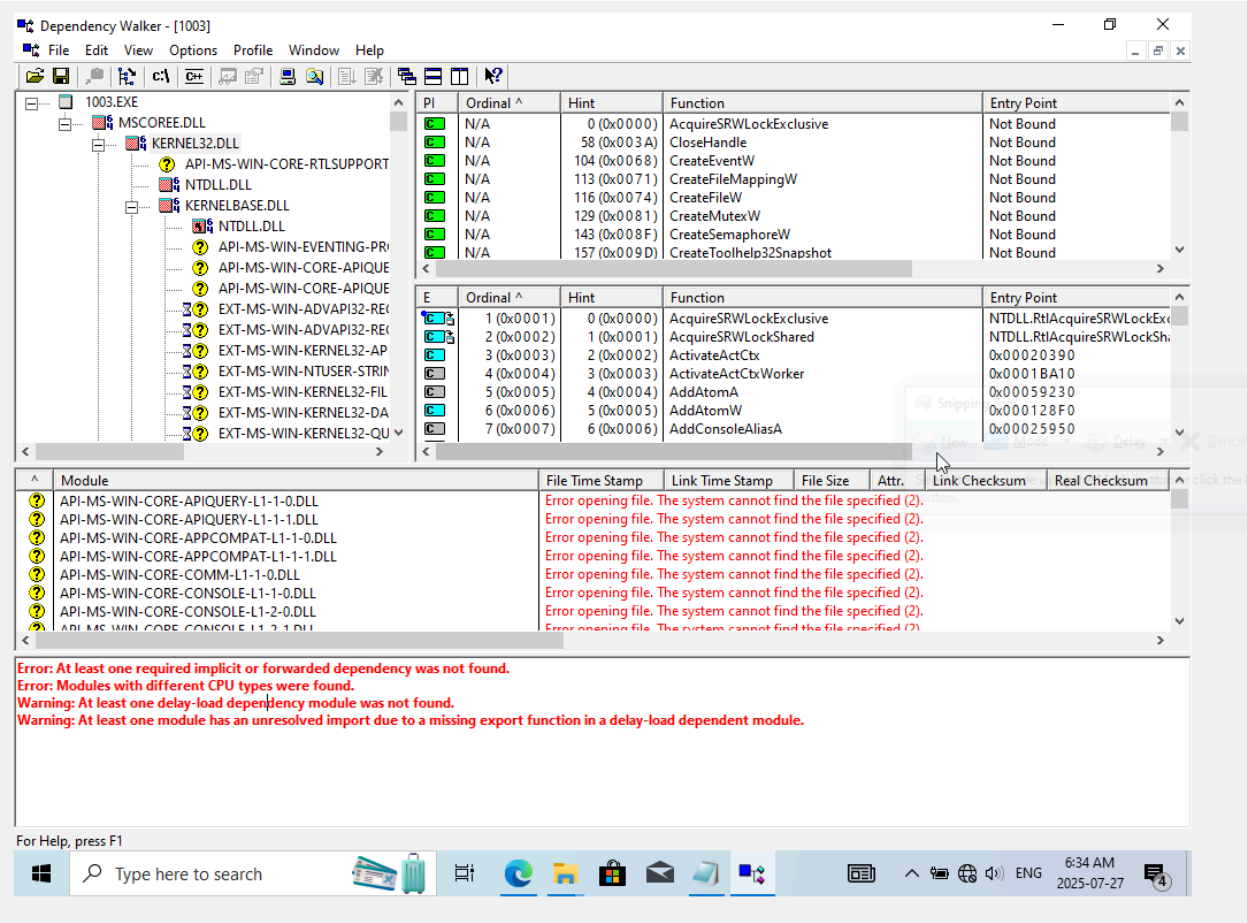
Screenshots from PEStudio:



As we can see from the “Imports Tab” , PEstudio has flagged more than several library calls from our sample. The most interesting ones are “MoveFileEx”, “SystemParametersInfo” and “CreateEncryptor”. These three function calls all suggest that not only the victim’s user profile might be modified in some fashion. But also MoveFileEx and CreateEncryptor suggest that not only the the ransomware copies itself onto the user’s disk but also perhaps encrypts itself to avoid detection by AV and EDR systems.



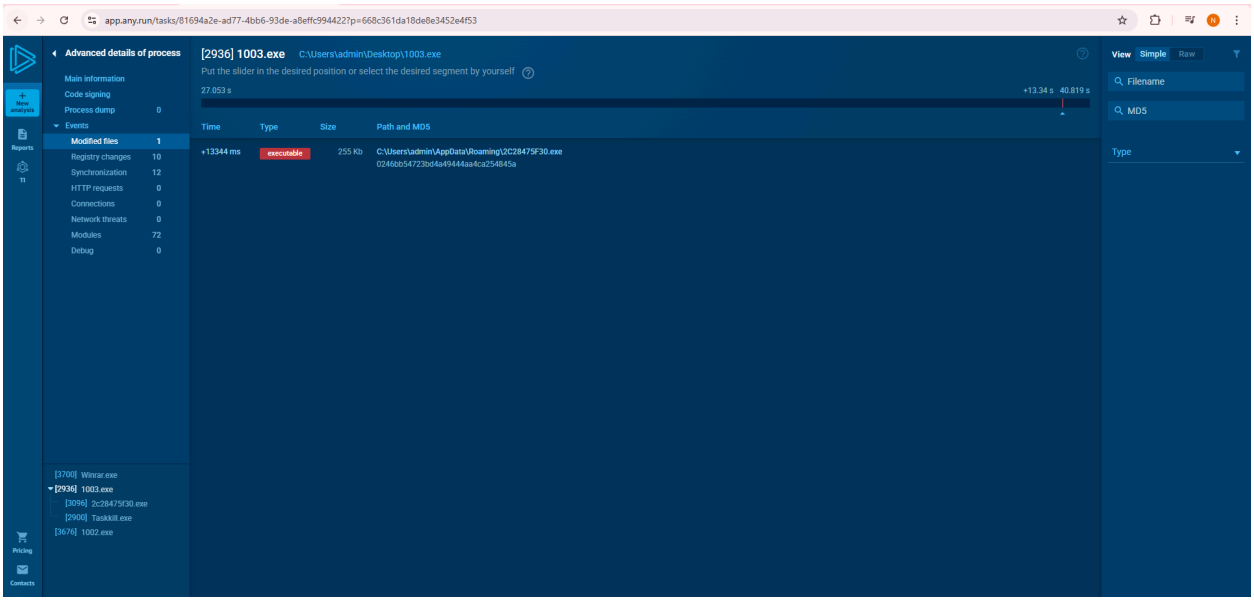
From looking at the strings section, The PEStudio program has flagged at least 100 strings that it deems suspicious in the malware sample. As one can see from the screenshot we can see the MoveFileInfo, SystemParametersEx, and CreateEncryptor calls from before. Along with we can see that set_UseShellExecute is invocated to perhaps execute 1002.exe after decryption.



If that is still not convincing enough, we also run our 1003.exe into Dependency Walker:

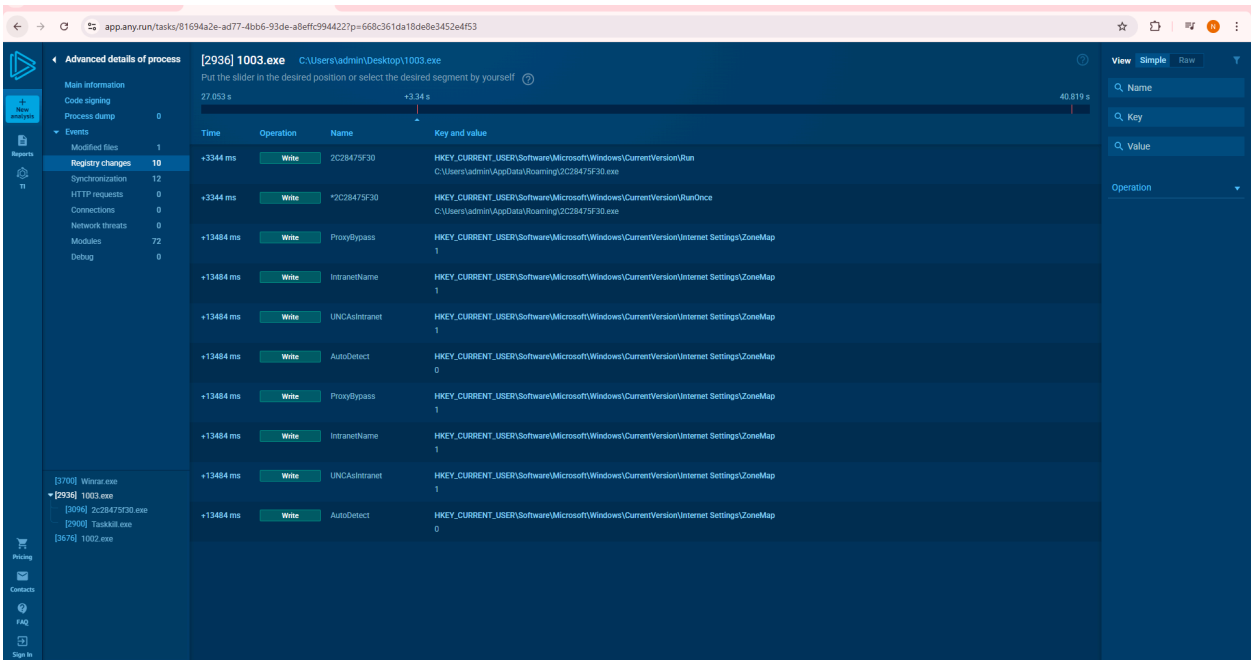
As we can see, the most important DLLs for analysis here are MSCOREE, NTDLL, and KERNALBASE. MSCOREE the DLL associated with the .NET Core framework and is associated with the runtime engine for .NET applications. Meaning, the application itself is written in .NET. NTDLL, contains libraries and data that are used by other programs and is a crucial operating system file. And KERNALBASE is invocated when there are kernel level changes made to the operating system itself. So combining all of these three finds together, we know that the Cryptolocker is an executable meant to make changes to the operating system and trying to bypass the memory protections offered by the operating system itself by executing itself in kernel mode.

Dynamic Analysis:



Obtaining the the Any.run report for the Cryptolocker malware, we can see that the malware makes some changes to the C:\users\admin\Appdata\Roaming\ directory. Appdata contains application specific data and data placed in the Roaming folder are synced onto other devices that are logged in from the same domain. So in other words, logging into a different computer on the same domain would cause the ransomware to spread.

Also 1003.exe makes a lot of Registry Changes listed below:



So in other words our IOCs then go as follows:

Modifications are made to
C:\users\admin\Appdata\Roaming\

Modifications are made to:
HKEY_CURRENT_USER\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run

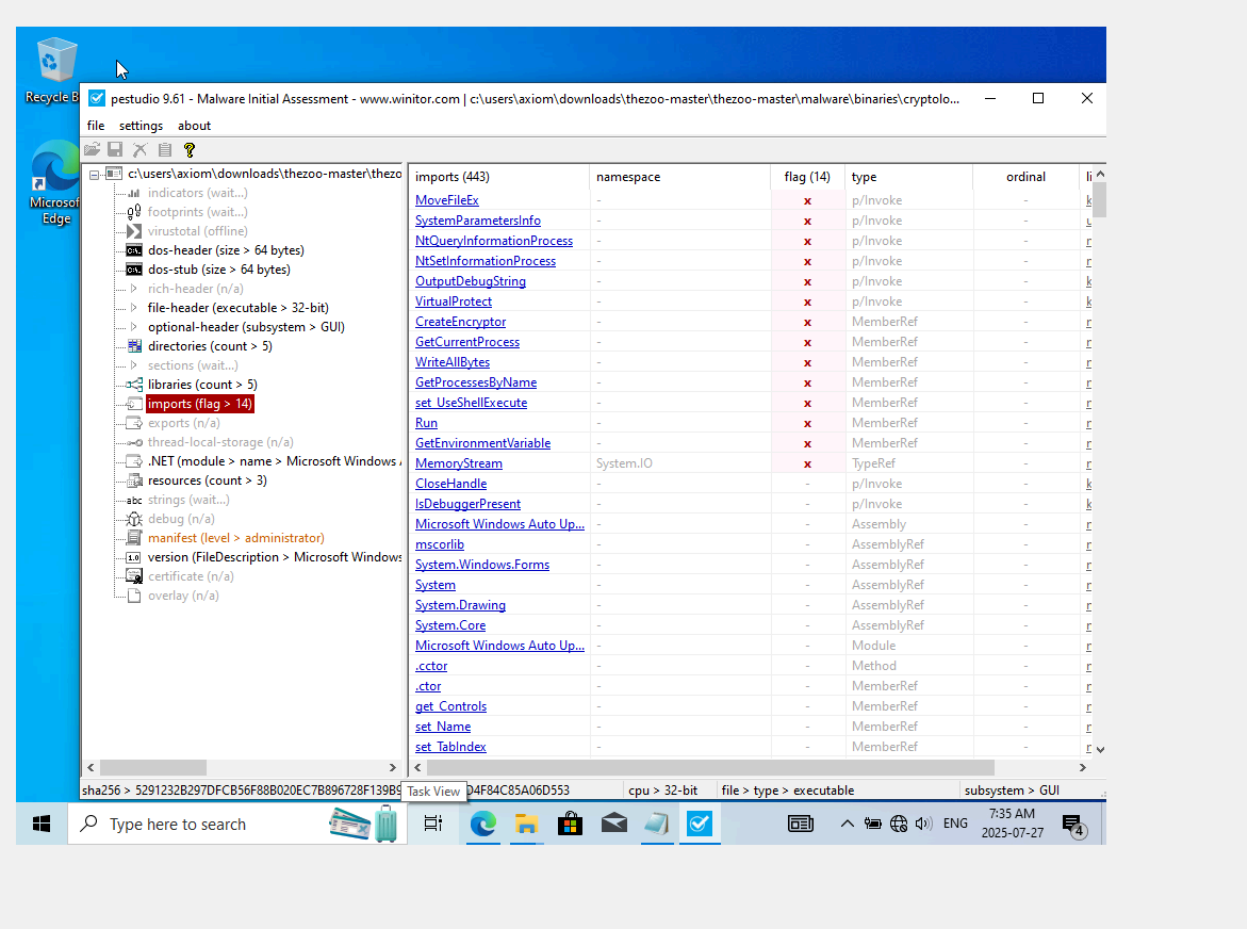
Modifications are made to:

HKEY_CURRENT_USER\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Internet Settings\Zonemap

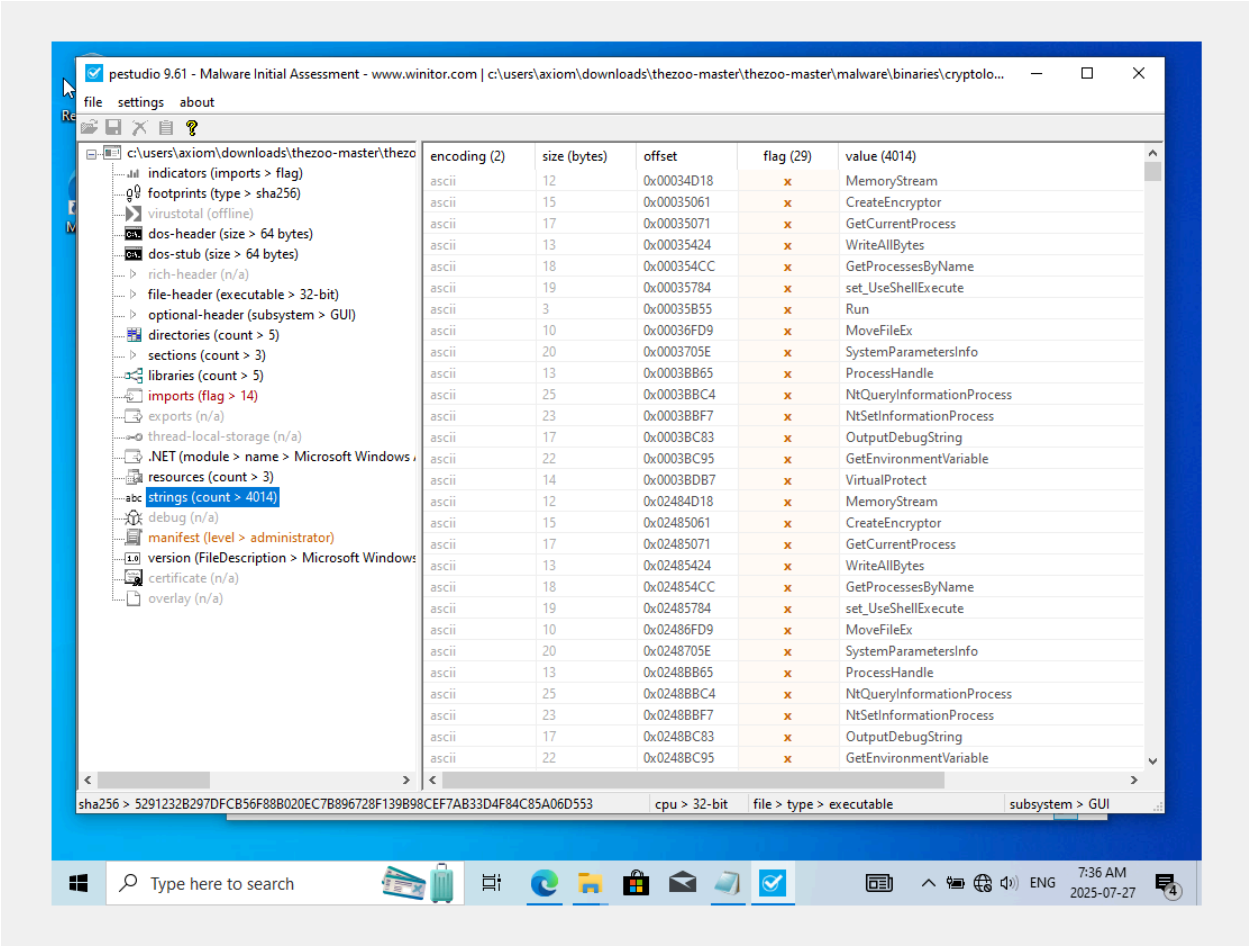
Moving on, we then go on with our analysis of 1002.exe the actual exe file the name of our Cryptolocker.

Static Analysis

As we can see, our Cryptolocker uses roughly the same libraries as 1003.exe.

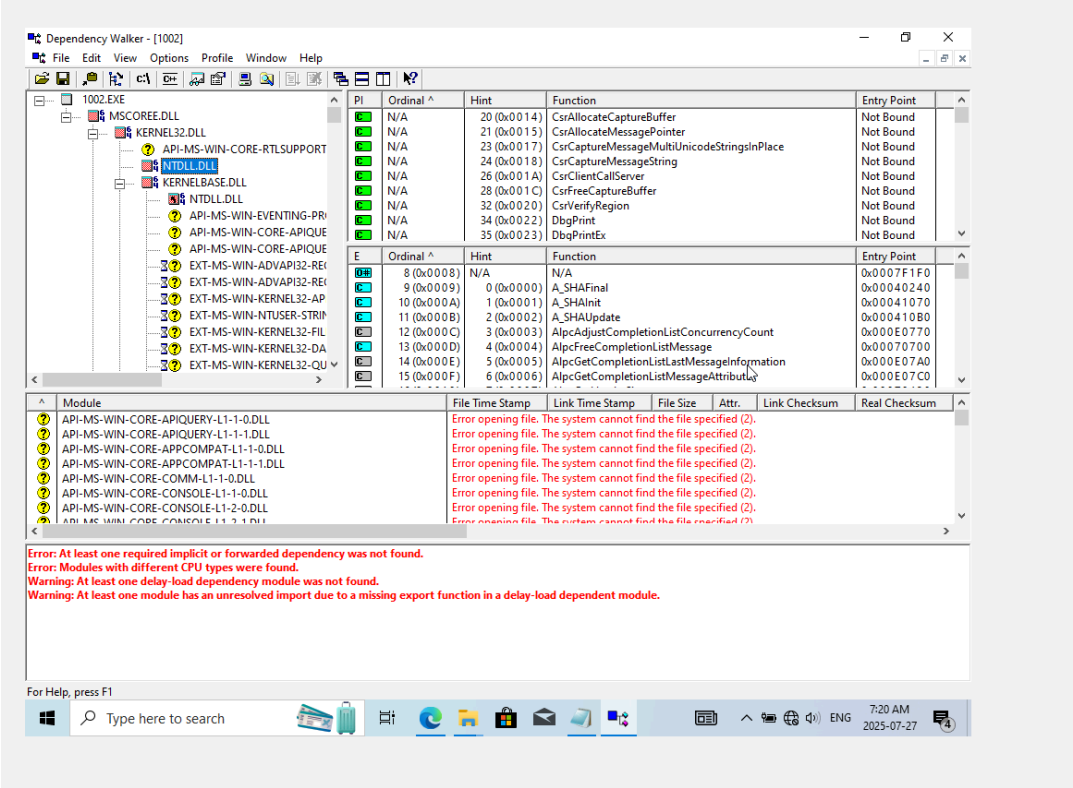


However it seems like the purpose of using the functions are different. Rather instead of encrypting itself to drop on the victim system, it seeks to move the files on the victim's system and encrypt all of the files on the victim's system. I believe some combination of MoveFileInfo, SystemParametersEx, and CreateEncryptor calls are used to achieve this.



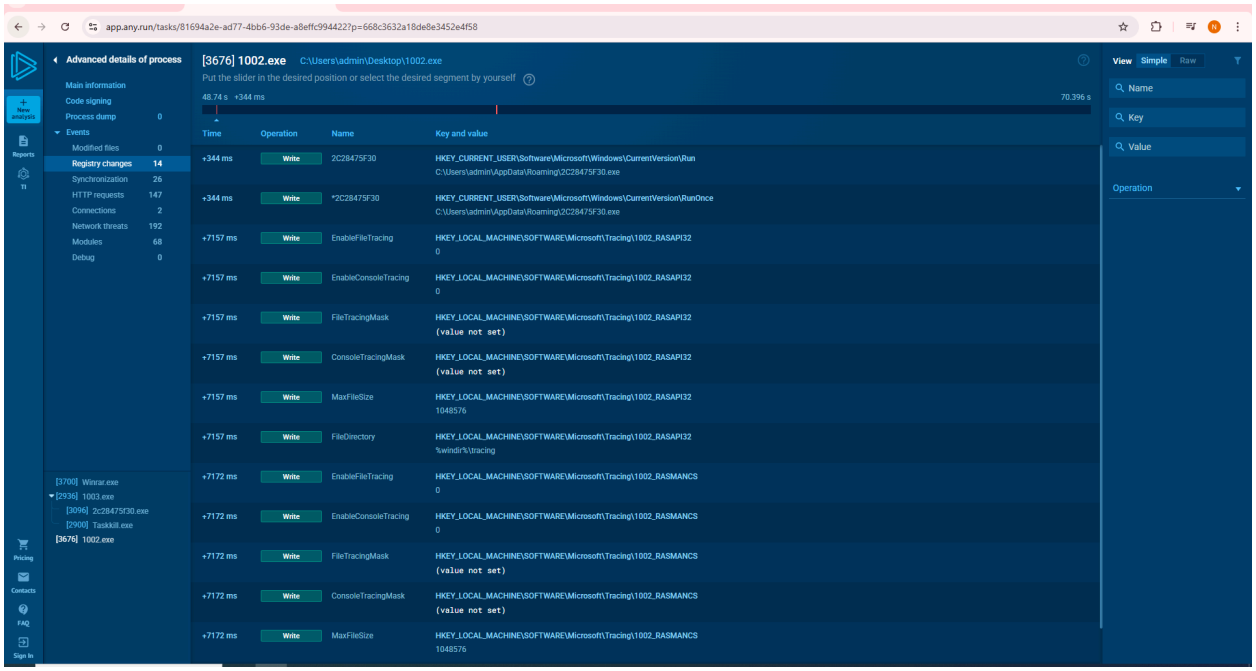
Going further into our strings tab in PEstudio, we can see that PEstudio has flagged the WriteAllBytes call, suggesting to use that the malware might encrypt the user's files.

Also running our sample through PEStudio, we obtain the following DLL tree that looks like this.



Somewhat similar to our DLL analysis that we did for 1003.exe; MSCOREE is the DLL associated with the .NET Core framework and is associated with the runtime engine for .NET applications. Meaning, the application itself is written in .NET. NTDLL, contains libraries and data that are used by other programs and is a crucial operating system file. And KERNALBASE is invocated when there are kernel level changes made to the operating system itself. So combining all of these three finds together, we know that the Cryptolocker is an executable meant to make changes to the operating system and trying to bypass the memory protections offered by the operating system itself by executing itself in kernel mode.

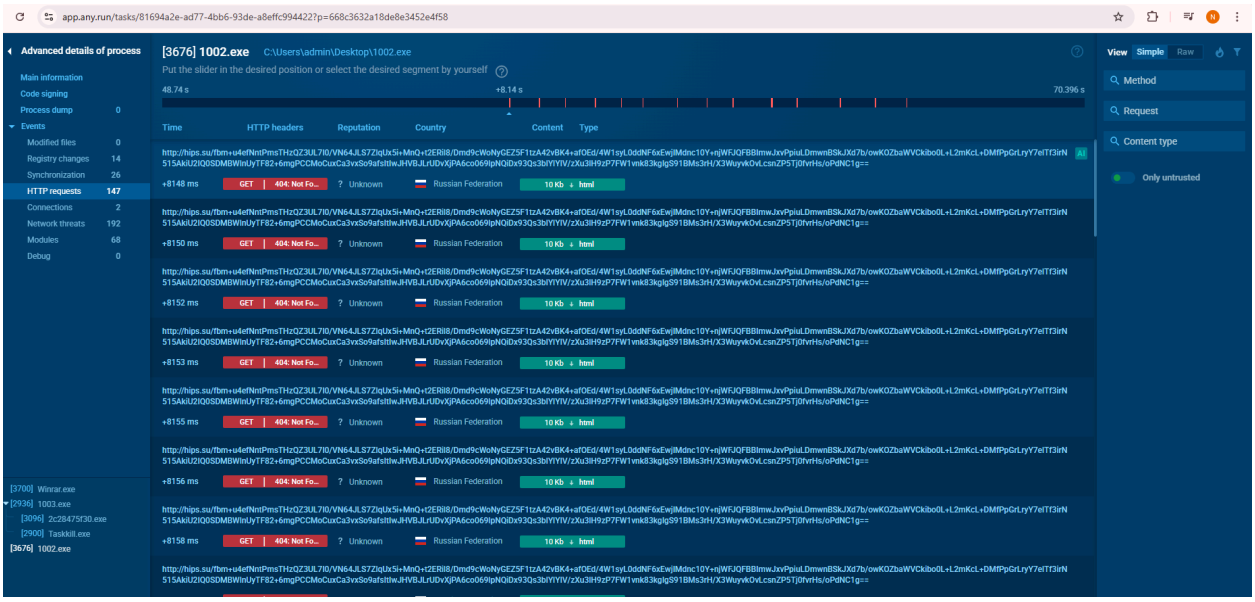
Dynamic Analysis:



As one can see here, multiple Registry keys are being modified. But we can group them together as follows:

- HKEY_CURRENT_USER\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run
- HKEY_CURRENT_USER\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\RunOnce
- HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Tracing\

Also 1002.exe seems to attempt to make connection request to a .su domain. SU I believe denotes Soviet Union, so we can deduce that the domain is of Russian origin



In other words our IOCs for 1002.exe goes as follows:

- The following registry keys have been modified:
    - HKEY_CURRENT_USER\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run
    - HKEY_CURRENT_USER\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\RunOnce
    - HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Tracing\
- The malware attempts to make a connection request to a malicious .su domain