

Ramnit Lab

Scenario

Our intrusion detection system has alerted us to suspicious behavior on a workstation, pointing to a likely malware intrusion. A memory dump of this system has been taken for analysis. Your task is to analyze this dump, trace the malware's actions, and report key findings.

Questions

1. What is the name of the process responsible for the suspicious activity?
2. What is the exact path of the executable for the malicious process?
3. Identifying network connections is crucial for understanding the malware's communication strategy. What IP address did the malware attempt to connect to?
4. To determine the specific geographical origin of the attack, Which city is associated with the IP address the malware communicated with?
5. Hashes serve as unique identifiers for files, assisting in the detection of similar threats across different machines. What is the SHA1 hash of the malware executable?
6. Examining the malware's development timeline can provide insights into its deployment. What is the compilation timestamp for the malware?
7. Identifying the domains associated with this malware is crucial for blocking future malicious communications and detecting any ongoing interactions with those domains within our network. Can you provide the domain connected to the malware?

Analysis

We are provided with a `memory.dmp` file, with the size of 4.1G.

```
(cybersec labunix@cybersec labunix)-[~/Lab]
$ du memory.dmp -h
4.1G    memory.dmp
```

By quickly running a `file` command on the file, we can get some basic information about the dump file.

```
(cybersec labunix@cybersec labunix)-[~/Lab]
$ file memory.dmp
memory.dmp: MS Windows 64bit crash dump, version 15.19041, 4 processors, DumpType (0x1), 1048576 pages
```

```
memory.dmp:
  MS Windows 64bit crash dump,
  version 15.19041,
  4 processors,
  DumpType (0x1),
  1048576 pages
```

We can also try to peak inside the file to check what it's made of. I chose to use a `hexdump` and then `strings` to get some more information about the file.

```
(cyberseclabunix@cyberseclabunix)-[~/Lab]
$ hexdump -C 16 memory.dmp | head -n 256
hexdump: 16: No such file or directory
00000000  50 41 47 45 44 55 36 34 0f 00 00 00 61 4a 00 00 | PAGEDU64....aJ.. |
00000010  02 d0 1a 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 a2 ff ff | ..... |
00000020  90 a2 02 4a 00 f8 ff ff 60 df 01 4a 00 f8 ff ff | ...J....J.... |
00000030  64 86 00 00 04 00 00 00 80 00 00 00 50 41 47 45 | d.....PAGE |
00000040  54 44 4f 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 | TDO..... |
00000050  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 | ..... |
00000060  50 41 47 45 50 41 47 45 50 41 47 45 50 41 47 45 | PAGEPAGEPAGEPAGE |
*
00000080  20 0b 00 4a 00 f8 ff ff 02 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 | ..J..... |
00000090  00 00 10 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 | ..... |
000000a0  00 00 0c 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 10 00 00 00 00 00 | ..... |
000000b0  00 00 04 00 00 00 00 00 50 41 47 45 50 41 47 45 | .....PAGEPAGE |
000000c0  50 41 47 45 50 41 47 45 50 41 47 45 50 41 47 45 | PAGEPAGEPAGEPAGE |
*
00000370  50 41 47 45 50 41 47 45 0f 00 10 00 80 1f 00 00 | PAGEPAGE..... |
00000380  10 00 2b 00 2b 00 53 00 2b 00 18 00 86 02 04 00 | ..+..S.+..... |
00000390  50 41 47 45 50 41 47 45 50 41 47 45 50 41 47 45 | PAGEPAGEPAGEPAGE |
```

We can safely consider this a 64-bit Windows pagefile. Next what we are going to do is to use a popular digital forensic tool called **Volatility**.

```
(venv)-(cyberseclabunix@cyberseclabunix)-[~/volatility3]
$ vol
Volatility 3 Framework 2.26.2
usage: vol [-h] [-c CONFIG] [--parallelism [{processes,threads,off}]] [-e EXTEND] [-p PLUGIN_DIRS] [-s SYMBOL_DIRS] [-v] [-l LOG] [-o OUTPUT_DIR] [-q] [-r RENDERER] [-f FILE]
        [--write-config] [--save-config SAVE_CONFIG] [--clear-cache] [--cache-path CACHE_PATH] [--offline] [-u URL] [--filters FILTERS] [--hide-columns [HIDE_COLUMNS ...]]
        [--single-location SINGLE_LOCATION] [--stackers [STACKERS ...]] [--single-swap-locations [SINGLE_SWAP_LOCATIONS ...]]
        PLUGIN ...
vol: error: Please select a plugin to run (see 'vol --help' for options)
```

First, what want to do is get basic information of this Windows pagefile. We will use `windows.info` plugin.

```
$ vol -f memory.dmp windows.info
```

```
(venv)-(cyberseclabunix@cyberseclabunix)-[~/volatility3]
$ vol -f memory.dmp windows.info
Volatility 3 Framework 2.26.2
Progress: 100.00 PDB scanning finished
Variable Value

Kernel Base 0xf80049400000
DTB 0x1ad000
Symbols
file:///home/cyberseclabunix/volatility3/volatility3/symbols/windows/ntkrnlmp.p
db/68A17FAF3012B7846079AEECDBE0A583-1.json.xz
Is64Bit True
IsPAE False
layer_name 0 WindowsIntel32e
memory_layer 1 WindowsCrashDump64Layer
base_layer 2 FileLayer
KdDebuggerDataBlock 0xf8004a000b20
NTBuildLab 19041.1.amd64fre.vb_release.1912
CSDVersion 0
KdVersionBlock 0xf8004a00f398
Major/Minor 15.19041
MachineType 34404
KeNumberProcessors 4
SystemTime 2024-02-01 19:54:11+00:00
NtSystemRoot C:\Windows
NtProductType NtProductWinNt
```

```
NtMajorVersion 10
NtMinorVersion 0
PE MajorOperatingSystemVersion 10
PE MinorOperatingSystemVersion 0
PE Machine 34404
PE TimeDateStamp Wed Jun 28 04:14:26 1995
```

This dump file is from a Windows 10 (x64) desktop/server.

What I like to do first when analyzing Windows 10 is to look at the active connections. We can achieve this by using `vol -f memory.dmp windows.netstat`. I would recommend to always save the output to a file, for convenience.

I'm looking for something that stands out (i.e. uncommon port). And we already got something interesting.

```
14 0xca82b38b0730, TCPv4, 192.168.19.133, 49765, 52.179.219.14, 443, ESTABLISHED, 2500, svchost.exe, 2024-02-01 19:52:58.0000
15 0xca82b78cba20, TCPv4, 192.168.19.133, 49694, 95.100.200.202, 443, CLOSE_WAIT, 5912, WWAHost.exe, 2024-02-01 19:49:20.0000
16 0xca82b7e5a700, TCPv4, 192.168.19.133, 49700, 95.100.200.202, 443, CLOSE_WAIT, 5912, WWAHost.exe, 2024-02-01 19:49:20.0000
17 0xca82b8bc2b30, TCPv4, 192.168.19.133, 49682, 58.64.204.181, 5202, SYN_SENT, 4628, ChromeSetup.exe, 2024-02-01 19:48:51.0000
18 0xca82b8baea20, TCPv4, 192.168.19.133, 49696, 95.100.200.202, 443, CLOSE_WAIT, 5912, WWAHost.exe, 2024-02-01 19:49:20.0000
19 0xca82b1c2ed30, TCPv4, 0.0.0.0, 135, 0.0.0.0, 0, LISTENING, 928, svchost.exe, 2024-02-01 19:48:24.000000 UTC
```

A ChromeSetup.exe (4628) is trying to connect to 58.64.204.181 via 5202/tcp. Let's check the reputation of this address.

The screenshot shows the VirusTotal interface for the IP address 58.64.204.181. On the left, there is a circular gauge showing a 'Community Score' of 0 out of 94, with a red star icon below it. The main header area displays the IP address '58.64.204.181 (58.64.204.0/22)' and the AS 'AS 17444 (HKBN Enterprise Solutions Limited)'. To the right of the AS information, there is a red star icon and the text 'Last Analysis Date 2 days ago'. Below the header, there are tabs for 'DETECTION', 'DETAILS', 'RELATIONS', and 'COMMUNITY'. The 'DETAILS' tab is selected. A green banner at the top of the details section encourages joining the community. Below this, the 'Basic Properties' section lists the following information: Network (58.64.204.0/22), Autonomous System Number (17444), Autonomous System Label (HKBN Enterprise Solutions Limited), Regional Internet Registry (APNIC), Country (HK), and Continent (AS).

I expected this address to belong to Google's address space, but Virustotal says otherwise. We have the answer to our first question.

What is the name of the process responsible for the suspicious activity? → **ChromeSetup.exe**

Now we can check the process tree of this suspicious process by using `vol -f input/memory.dmp windows.pstree --pid 4628`.

```
1 Volatility 3 Framework 2.26.2
2
```

PID	PPID	ImageFileName	Offset(V)	Threads	Handles	SessionId	Wow64	CreateTime	ExitTime	Audit	Cmd
Path											
624	516	winlogon.exe	0xca82b28cb080	4	-	1	False	2024-02-01 19:48:23.000000 UTC	N/A		
\Device\HarddiskVolume3\Windows\System32\winlogon.exe winlogon.exe C:\Windows\system32\winlogon.exe											
6*	4508	624	userinit.exe	0xca82b7426340	0	-	1	False	2024-02-01 19:48:26.000000 UTC	2024-02-01	
19:48:52.000000 UTC \Device\HarddiskVolume3\Windows\System32\userinit.exe - -											
7**	4568	4508	explorer.exe	0xca82b7440340	55	-	1	False	2024-02-01 19:48:26.000000 UTC	N/A	
\Device\HarddiskVolume3\Windows\explorer.exe C:\Windows\Explorer.EXE C:\Windows\Explorer.EXE											
8***	4628	4568	ChromeSetup.exe	0xca82b830a300	4	-	1	True	2024-02-01 19:48:50.000000 UTC	N/A	
\Device\HarddiskVolume3\Users\alex\Downloads\ChromeSetup.exe "C:\Users\alex\Downloads\ChromeSetup.exe" C:											
\Users\alex\Downloads\ChromeSetup.exe											

```
9
```

We can also achieve this by using `windows.cmdline` plugin.

```
(venv)-(cyberseclabunix@cyberseclabunix)-[~/Lab]
$ vol -f input/memory.dmp windows.cmdline --pid 4628
Volatility 3 Framework 2.26.2
Progress: 100.00 PDB scanning finished
PID Process Args
4628 ChromeSetup.ex "C:\Users\alex\Downloads\ChromeSetup.exe"
```

We've got the answer to our second question!

What is the exact path of the executable for the malicious process? →

C:\Users\alex\Downloads\ChromeSetup.exe

We can also answer the third and the fourth question.

Identifying network connections is crucial for understanding the malware's communication strategy. What IP address did the malware attempt to connect to? →

58.64.204.181

To determine the specific geographical origin of the attack, Which city is associated with the IP address the malware communicated with? →

Hong Kong

Now we would like to get the hash of the malicious file. First we need to fetch the handles of the process. We will use `windows.handles` and `windows.dumpfiles` Volatility plugins.

```
(venv)-(cyberseclabunix@cyberseclabunix)-[~/Lab]
$ vol -f input/memory.dmp windows.handles --pid 4628 | grep -e "File"
4628ressChromeSetup.ex 0xca82b8217680a0x40 finFile 0x100020 \Device\HarddiskVolume3\Windows
4628 ChromeSetup.ex 0xca82b82171d0 0x8c File 0x100020 \Device\HarddiskVolume3\Users\alex\Downloads
4628 ChromeSetup.ex 0xca82b8219110 0x23c File 0x120089 \Device\DeviceApi\CMapi
4628 ChromeSetup.ex 0xca82b821a0b0 0x258 File 0x100003 \Device\KsecDD
4628 ChromeSetup.ex 0xca82b821a6f0 0x294 File 0x100020 \Device\HarddiskVolume3\Windows\WinSxS\x86_microsoft.windows.common-controls_6595b641
44ccf1df.6.0.19041.1110 none_a8625c1886757984
4628 ChromeSetup.ex 0xca82b8538680 0x2f4 File 0x100001 \Device\CNG
4628 ChromeSetup.ex 0xca82b853870 0x2f4 File 0x16010f \Device\Afd\Fdapipt
```

Executing `vol -f input/memory.dmp windows.dumpfiles --pid 4628` will carve out all files related to this process. We are looking for out `ChromeSetup.exe` files

```
(venv)-(cyberseclabunix@cyberseclabunix)-[~/Lab]
$ ls -lh | grep Chrome
-rw----- 1 cyberseclabunix cyberseclabunix 980K Jun 8 18:00 file.0xca82b85325a0.0xca82b7e06c80.ImageSectionObject.ChromeSetup.exe.img
-rw----- 1 cyberseclabunix cyberseclabunix 980K Jun 8 18:00 file.0xca82b85325a0.0xca82b83c7770.DataSectionObject.ChromeSetup.exe.dat
```

I've renamed these files to `ChromeSetup.exe.img` and `ChromeSetup.exe.dat`. What we are interested in is the file with `.img` extension.

```
(venv)-(cyberseclabunix@cyberseclabunix)-[~/Lab]
$ sha1sum Chrome*
b9921cc2bfe3b43e457cdbc7d82b849c66f119cb ChromeSetup.exe.dat
280c9d36039f9432433893dee6126d72b9112ad2 ChromeSetup.exe.img
```

The hash we are looking for is the second one: **280c9d36039f9432433893dee6126d72b9112ad2**. This is our answer to the fifth question

Hashes serve as unique identifiers for files, assisting in the detection of similar threats across different machines. What is the SHA1 hash of the malware executable? →

280c9d36039f9432433893dee6126d72b9112ad2

We can look it up in VirusTotal to verify this is it.

The screenshot shows the VirusTotal analysis interface. At the top, a red circle indicates a community score of 67/71. Below this, the file's SHA1 hash is displayed: 1ac890f5fa78c857de42a112983357b0892537b73223d7ec1e1f43f8c6b7496. The file name is file.0xca82b85325a0.0xca82b7e06c80.ImageSectionObject.ChromeSetup.exe.img. The size is 980.00 KB, and the last analysis date is 3 months ago. The file is flagged as malicious by 67/71 security vendors. The analysis shows various tags: peexe, persistence, detect-debug-environment, spreader, checks-network-adapters, and checks-user-input. The detection tab is active, showing a popular threat label of virus.nimnul/vjadtre and threat categories of virus and trojan. The security vendors' analysis table is also visible.

Security vendors' analysis	Do you want to automate checks?
Acronis (Static ML) Suspicious	AhnLab-V3 Win32/VJadtre.Gen
Alibaba Trojan:Win32/Mikcer.35a	AliCloud Virus:Win/VJadtre
ALYac Win32.VJadtre.3	Antiy-AVL Virus/Win32.Nimnul.f

I always like to look at other reports, which you can find in **Behavior** tab > **Full reports** and select whichever you'd like. I went with Zenbox.

The sixth question ask us to find out the compilation timestamp of the malicious binary file. We will use **objdump** for this task.

```
objdump -p ChromeSetup.exe.img | grep "Time/Date"
```

```
Time/Date Sun Dec 1 09:36:04 2019
```

You can also achieve this using **rabin2**.

```
rabin2 -I ChromeSetup.exe.img | grep "timestamp"
```

Now since my lab is in +0100 timezone, I have to substract one hour to get the UTC time.

Examining the malware's development timeline can provide insights into its deployment. What is the compilation timestamp for the malware? → **2019-12-01 08:36**

Getting the answer to the last question, we can simply look for domains in one of the Virustotal full reports I mentioned above. Looking at the **Zenbox report**, we can find one domain.

Domain	IP Resolutions	Signatures
ddos.dnsnb8.net <small>active</small>	34.174.61.199	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Downloads files from webservers via HTTP • Performs DNS lookups • URLs found in memory or binary data • Detected TCP or UDP traffic on non-standard ports • Uses a known web browser user agent for HTTP communication

Identifying the domains associated with this malware is crucial for blocking future malicious communications and detecting any ongoing interactions with those domains within our network. Can you provide the domain connected to the malware? → **dnsnb8.net**

Answers

1. What is the name of the process responsible for the suspicious activity?

ChromeSetup.exe

2. What is the exact path of the executable for the malicious process?

C:\Users\alex\Downloads\ChromeSetup.exe

3. Identifying network connections is crucial for understanding the malware's communication strategy. What IP address did the malware attempt to connect to?

58.64.204.181

4. To determine the specific geographical origin of the attack, Which city is associated with the IP address the malware communicated with?

Hong Kong

5. Hashes serve as unique identifiers for files, assisting in the detection of similar threats across different machines. What is the SHA1 hash of the malware executable?

280c9d36039f9432433893dee6126d72b9112ad2

6. Examining the malware's development timeline can provide insights into its deployment. What is the compilation timestamp for the malware?

2019-12-01 08:36

7. Identifying the domains associated with this malware is crucial for blocking future malicious communications and detecting any ongoing interactions with those domains within our network. Can you provide the domain connected to the malware?

dnsnb8.net

Resources used

- <https://www.speedguide.net/port.php?port=5202>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uk3DEgY5Ue8>
- <https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-e&channel=entpr&q=58.64.204.181>
- <https://www.virustotal.com/gui/ip-address/58.64.204.181>
- <https://www.virustotal.com/gui/file/1ac890f5fa78c857de42a112983357b0892537b73223d7ec1e1f43f8fc6b7496/behavior>

- https://vtbehaviour.commondatastorage.googleapis.com/1ac890f5fa78c857de42a112983357b0892537b73223d7ec1e1f43f8fc6b7496_CAPE_Sandbox.html?GoogleAccessId=758681729565-rc7fgq07icj8c9dm2gi34a4cckv235v1@developer.gserviceaccount.com&Expires=1749399369&Signature=GbFtNI8dtx2Ur9onw3wBZNBKbx59QTWuVHIwtuLLUiu9so%2FPmeJgSC8AIUmCh9cvdcUen%2FYodq5IIN0djnsBZvfZZioudKV50xVOMrLwMYh%2B6CYt3I8GSOEsJ6dTGlb8Ic8T%2F13O9nkDshNdAgswqoxFWtmloh6CSOcRjCFyQbfcJ2pPUDzVMEeD7ROsFx3WqFayGYobXanUoKbRn87hyPzDN04L2t71je%2FBbSE772UO9LZoaPTkJnsPP%2BLub431NMZkvZrwHC0dtmKhqrVILSgkxTjaicP5RlcTGKDDGYMLXiSMuB10nXYPrgyneWuOly43H6%2B1xSgXgcuaBtzA%3D%3D&response-content-type=text%2Fhtml;#behavior
- https://vtbehaviour.commondatastorage.googleapis.com/1ac890f5fa78c857de42a112983357b0892537b73223d7ec1e1f43f8fc6b7496_Zenbox.html?GoogleAccessId=758681729565-rc7fgq07icj8c9dm2gi34a4cckv235v1@developer.gserviceaccount.com&Expires=1749399179&Signature=iRWWvTrwx2A9Plgs8sKGDACiR%2FBJlexakDdV5wjH7mwLHUNqQ5Sq9fFwnmACmts8TBEQxspzlrjTvcXUCgRh3LQ6jtB77tgo156tTGohDYHE0gZrxf%2BeqZqKL%2FpWpDZLkDpgj2iFXPkRMBh5QhXDWA3yC%2FY1B2xkb%2FSBmfd3fKmfD%2B71blMfcgrXPTeMFOBXk49P2uhjJsvLqebHzlnmgnsQUGbNoxA%2FOYiBjNlky4Xkz7My2UwKmPLbTTRdKefxHtiito0dlyXecyuFjlW38Ke0hOHwYFXdLZEUh%2Fai1L4MxAiCbhc0Q6VTcUQaeXhE4TJuSAW5YTNeUudBeTSQ%3D%3D&response-content-type=text%2Fhtml;#overview