

Flare-On 10 Challenge 5: where_am_i

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Overview

The `where_am_i.exe` program is a repurposed in-memory dropper, which is named as STONEBRIDGE in Mandiant, that executes the final payload in a newly created `Explorer.exe` process through [Asynchronous Procedure Call \(APC\)](#). The STONEBRIDGE employs multiple staged shellcodes and different crypto algorithms to archive the execution of its payload. The repurposed `where_am_i.exe` is intended for the player to find the encrypted flag and the decryption routine, only debug skills and a bit of PE structure knowledge are required to solve the challenge.

As a typical Windows malware analysis workflow, we will analyze the sample using the [FLARE VM](#) of Windows 10 as our primary virtual machine. All the tools mentioned in this solution are available in the default installation.

Static Analysis

Before diving into executing the sample, it is generally better using static analysis tools to gain insights of the sample,

- [Detect It Easy](#), for identifying PE architecture, packer, entropy, sections etc.
- [CFF Explorer](#), for viewing PE structure, extracting resource
- [FLOSS](#), for extracting strings
- [CAPA](#), for inspecting capabilities of the sample

Based on the output of these tools, the sample appears to be a MFC application written in C++, that is signed and contains resources. The FLOSS extracted strings are not very interesting, but the CAPA tells of a capability of data encryption using RC4, RWX memory allocation and runtime linking. These capabilities ring a bell of possible shellcode execution.

The summary of identified capabilities as follows:

CAPABILITY	NAMESPACE
reference analysis tools strings	
encrypt data using RC4 PRGA	anti-analysis
contain a resource (.rsrc) section	data-manipulation/encryption/rc4
extract resource via kernel32 functions (6 matches)	executable/pe/section/rsrc
delete file	executable/resource
get file attributes	host-interaction/file-system/delete
move file	host-interaction/file-system/meta
read .ini file	host-interaction/file-system/move
set application hook	host-interaction/file-system/read
get graphical window text (2 matches)	host-interaction/gui
allocate thread local storage	host-interaction/gui/window/get-text
allocate RWX memory	host-interaction/process
terminate process	host-interaction/process/inject
query or enumerate registry value (2 matches)	host-interaction/process/terminate
set registry value	host-interaction/registry
get kernel32 base address	host-interaction/registry/create
link many functions at runtime	linking/runtime-linking
resolve function by parsing PE exports (2 matches)	linking/runtime-linking
	load-code/pe

Figure 1. CAPA Summary

The `-vv` option of CAPA outputs the details of the matched rules, that includes the virtual address of interest.

```
encrypt data using RC4 PRGA
namespace  data-manipulation/encryption/rc4
author     moritz.raabe@mandiant.com
scope      function
att&ck   Defense Evasion::Obfuscated Files or Information [T1027]
mbc      Cryptography::Encrypt Data:::RC4 [C0027.009], Cryptography::Generate Pseudo-random Sequence:::RC4 PRGA [C0021.004]
function @ 0x448733
and:
  match: contain loop @ 0x448733
  or:
    characteristic: loop @ 0x448733
count(characteristic(nzxor)): 1 @ 0x4489B8
count(characteristic(calls from)): 4 or fewer @ 0x460218, 0x46021C, 0x478370
count(basic block): between 4 and 50 @ 0x448733, 0x44876D, 0x448773, 0x448778, and 29 more...
or:
  count(mnemonic(movzx)): 4 or more @ 0x4488C0, 0x4488CC, 0x448948, 0x448986, and 2 more...
optional:
  or:
    number: 0x100 @ 0x448739, 0x448750, 0x44878A, 0x4487DA, and 8 more...
```

Figure 2. CAPA RC4 rule match output

By looking at the disassembly or decompilation at the virtual address 0x448733, we can determine the code is indeed a RC4 decryption routine. Checking the cross reference to this address, we're lucky to find only one reference and further analyze the function can determine this is the 1st stage of the sample, at virtual address 0x448650. In essence, the sample loads and decrypts an embedded resource of type bitmap into executable heap memory. The sample reads the resource name from the file offset 0x3e0, a DWORD value 0x1. The sample reads two DWORD values, 0x6012adda and 0x1e8fc667 from the file offset 0x3f0. The DWORDs are part of a RC4 key. The RC4 key is 256 bytes long, with hex value of 67 c6 8f 1e da ad 12 60 00 00 ... (the remaining are all null bytes).

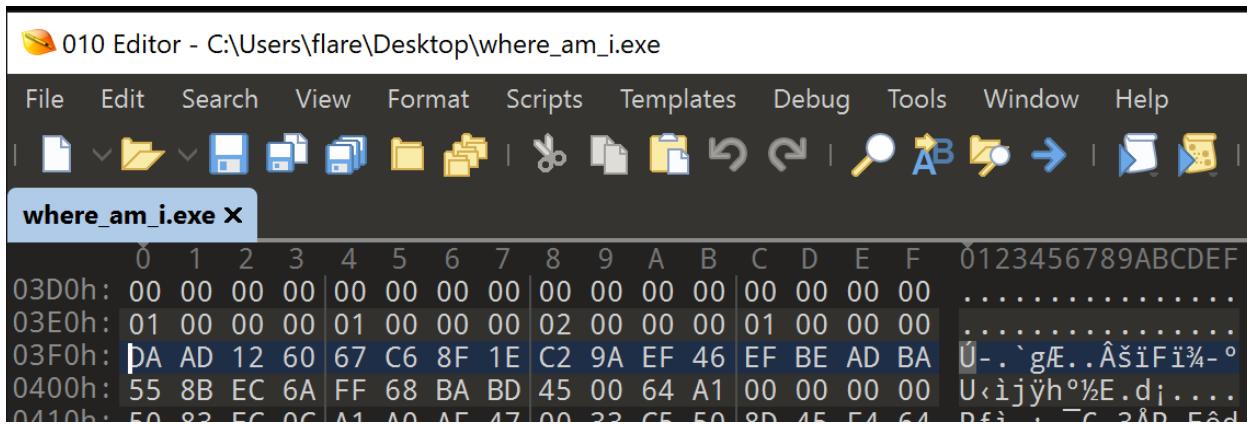


Figure 3. RC4 key at file offset 0x3f0

At this point, let's follow the call and jump into dynamic analysis.

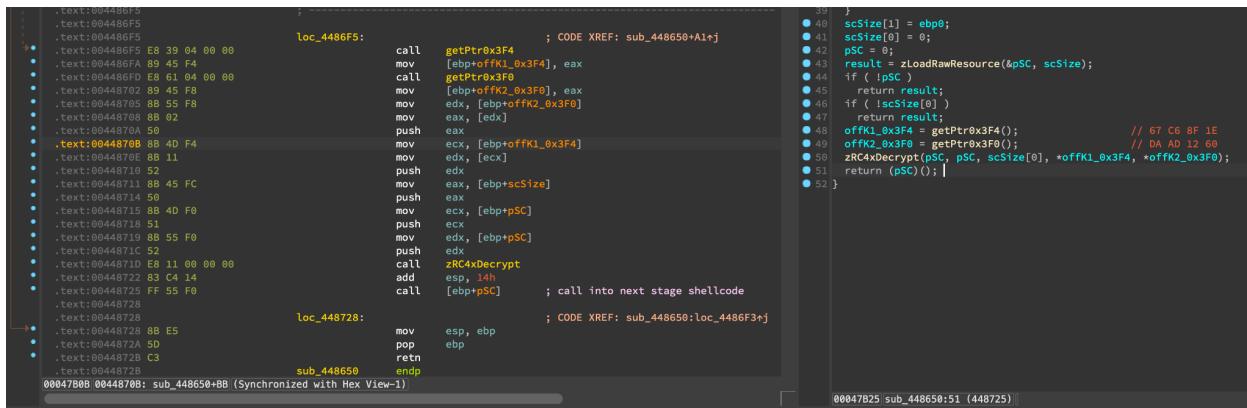


Figure 4. First stage code in IDA

Dynamic Analysis

As we analyzed in static analysis, the sample allocates RWX memory and executes the next stage shellcode. One can use a debugger of choice to analyze the sample from the specific virtual address. But for this sample, we may first execute the sample and check logs in Process Monitor and Process Explorer, which both are generally useful for understanding the malware execution:

- [Process Monitor](#), for monitoring file system, registry, process/thread activity and network connections
- [Process Explorer](#), for displaying information of running process

Upon execution of the sample, a dialog box displayed with a message that appears the full path of the executable.

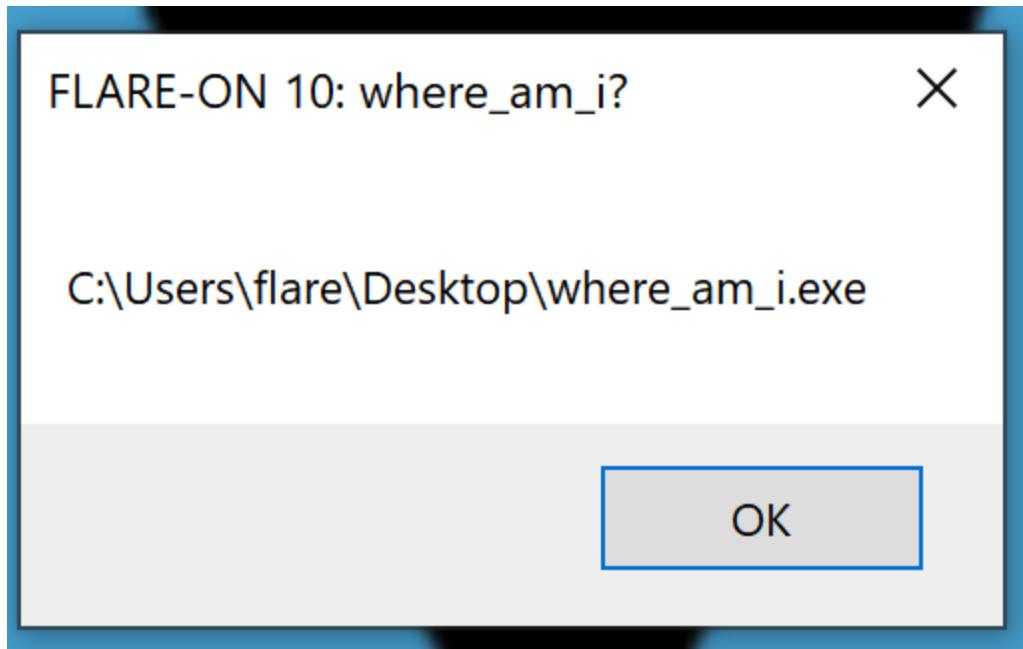


Figure 5. Dialog of execution

The events of Process Monitor do not look too interesting , except the creation of a new Explorer .exe process.

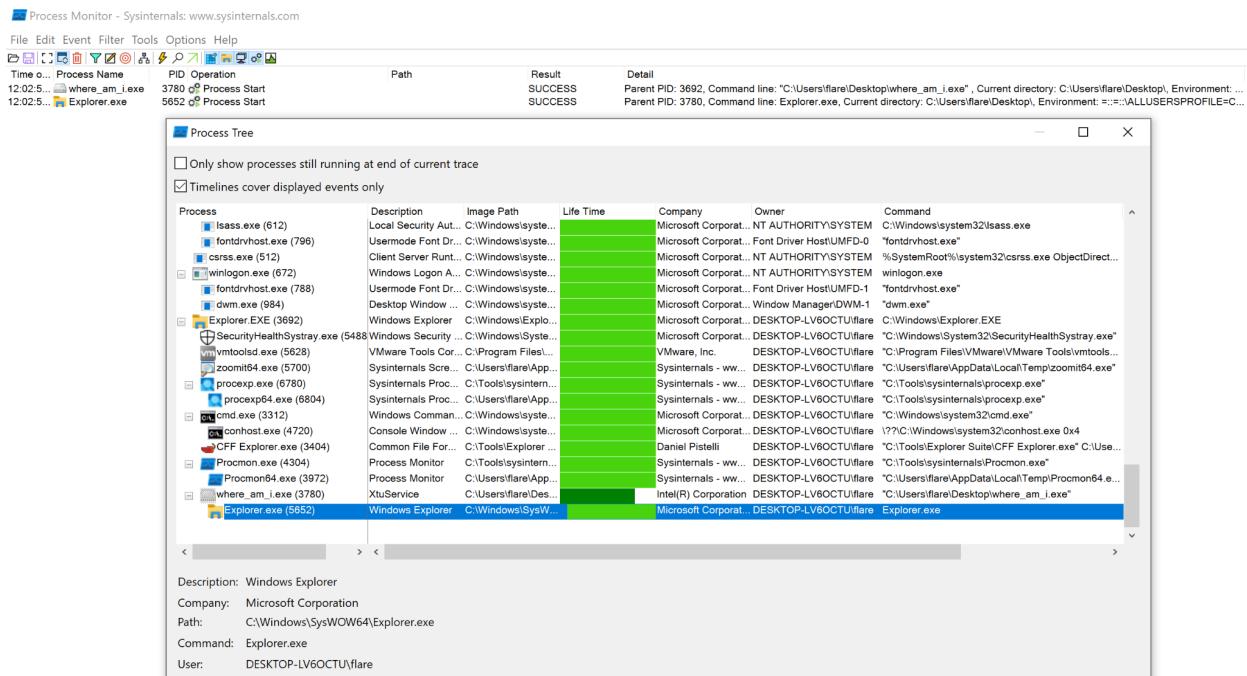


Figure 6. Process Monitor - Process Tree

The where_am_i.exe process exits shortly, so we can attach a debugger to the newly created Explorer.exe process and poke around a bit. As the message box pops, the call stack reveals the thread originated from the ntdll!RtlDispatchAPC call, the virtual address starts with 0x11 and 0x54 are most interesting, as these might be the injected payload or another shellcode.

I prefer using WinDbg and the following is the call stack output of command ~*k when attached.

```
0:001> ~*k
0 Id: 1614.1450 Suspend: 1 Teb: 0022e000 Unfrozen
# ChildEBP RetAddr
00 000df490 75ee4a43      win32u!NtUserWaitMessage+0xc
01 000df4d0 75ee4934      user32!DialogBox2+0x102
02 000df500 75f41aeb      user32!InternalMessageBox+0xd9
03 000df5cc 75f40881      user32!SoftModalMessageBox+0x72b
04 000df728 75f41347      user32!MessageBoxWorker+0x314
05 000df7b0 75f4117e      user32!MessageBoxTimeoutW+0x197
06 000df7e4 75f40e95      user32!MessageBoxTimeoutA+0xae
07 000df804 005410da      user32!MessageBoxA+0x45
WARNING: Frame IP not in any known module. Following frames may be wrong.
08 000df894 005417f7      0x5410da
09 000df8d4 005418d9      0x5417f7
0a 000df8e8 00111293      0x5418d9
0b 000df92c 00110514      0x111293
0c 000df944 7779d5b9      0x110514
0d 000df99c 77784e4b      ntdll!RtlDispatchAPC+0x615a9
0e 000dfdf04 77776391     ntdll!KiUserApcDispatcher+0x4b
0f 000dfdf10 00000000     ntdll!LdrInitializeThunk+0x11

# 1 Id: 1614.d0c Suspend: 1 Teb: 00249000 Unfrozen
# ChildEBP RetAddr
00 0048ff40 777bdce9      ntdll!DbgBreakPoint
01 0048ff70 774300c9      ntdll!DbgUiRemoteBreakin+0x39
02 0048ff80 77777b1e      KERNEL32!BaseThreadInitThunk+0x19
03 0048ffdc 77777aae      ntdll!__RtlUserThreadStart+0x2f
04 0048ffec 00000000     ntdll!_RtlUserThreadStart+0x1b
```

Table 1. Call stack of threads

Checking the relevant disassembly code at virtual address 0x5410da and memory of the parameter reveals an interesting hint, Heard there's RC6 somewhere, is that true?. Poking around those virtual addresses starts with 0x11 and 0x54, you may find codes likely a shellcode starting from 0x110000. Keep these virtual addresses and offsets in mind, as we will observe them in a debugger.

```
0:003> ub 0x5410da
005410c1 56          push    esi
005410c2 ff1510e05400  call    dword ptr ds:[54E010h]
005410c8 8b3528e15400  mov     esi,dword ptr ds:[54E128h]
005410ce 6a00          push    0
005410d0 68942c5500  push    552C94h
005410d5 57          push    edi
005410d6 6a00          push    0
005410d8 ffd6          call    esi
```

```

0:003> ln poi(54E128h)
Browse module
Set bu breakpoint

(75f40e50) user32!MessageBoxA | (75f40ea0) user32!MessageBoxExA
0:003> db 552C94h
00552c94 46 4c 41 52 45 2d 4f 4e-20 31 30 3a 20 77 68 65 FLARE-ON 10: whe
00552ca4 72 65 5f 61 6d 5f 69 3f-00 00 00 00 66 6c 61 72 re_am_i?....flar
00552cb4 65 00 00 00 43 3a 5c 55-73 65 72 73 5c 50 75 62 e...C:\Users\Pub
00552cc4 6c 69 63 5c 00 00 00 00-48 65 61 72 64 20 74 68 lic\....Heard th
00552cd4 65 72 65 27 73 20 52 43-36 20 73 6f 6d 65 77 68 ere's RC6 somewh
00552ce4 65 72 65 2c 20 69 73 20-74 68 61 74 20 74 72 75 ere, is that tru
00552cf4 65 3f 00 00 c0 00 00 00-00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 e?.....
```

Table 2. Disassembly code and memory content

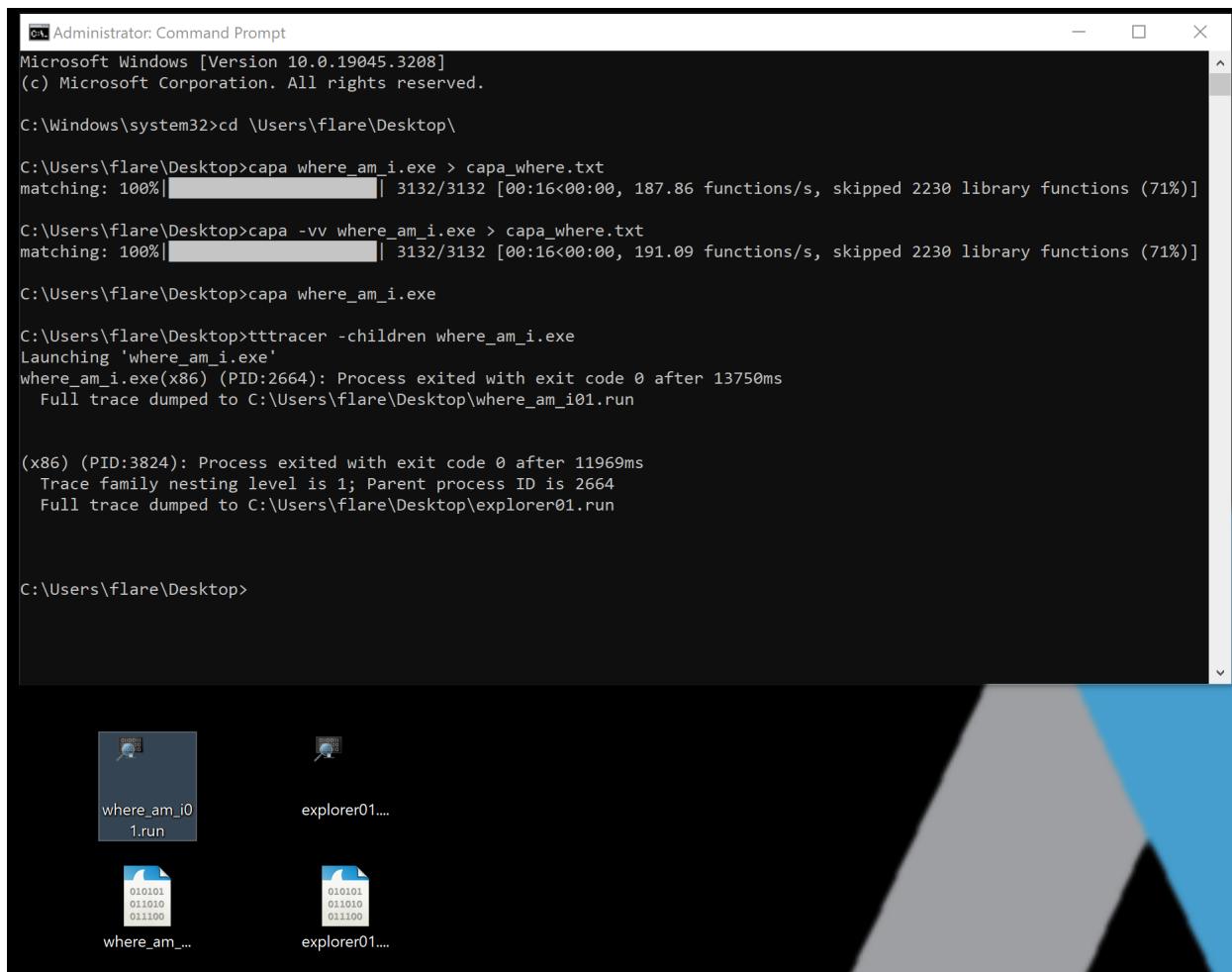
At this point, we've found out:

- There's RC4 involved in decrypting the 1st stage shellcode
- Process injection of final payload in `Explorer.exe`
- Likely has another stage of shellcode
- Found a hint: Where is the RC6

This is a perfect scenario for using Time Travel Debugging(TTD), that once a sample execution recording trace file is created, we can play it back and forth within WinDbg. There are pros and cons of using TTD:

- Pros
 - The utility is built into the system of Windows 10 and above, namely `tttracer.exe`
 - Step back and forth without executing the sample again, great for collaboration with colleagues
- Cons
 - Slow down execution
 - Large disk storage may be required

While there's less help information of `tttracer.exe` online, the command line options are similar to the ones used in standalone utility of [TTD](#). We can generate a full trace of the sample by using `tttracer.exe -children where_am_i.exe`, run as an administrator. The `-children` option instructs the tracer to follow the child process and generate the trace file. The output files are `where_am_i01.run`, `explorer01.run` and corresponding log files.



The screenshot shows a Windows desktop environment. At the top, there is a Command Prompt window titled "Administrator: Command Prompt". The window displays the following command-line session:

```
Administrator: Command Prompt
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.19045.3208]
(c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Windows\system32>cd \Users\flare\Desktop\

C:\Users\flare\Desktop>capa where_am_i.exe > capa_where.txt
matching: 100%|██████████| 3132/3132 [00:16<00:00, 187.86 functions/s, skipped 2230 library functions (71%)]

C:\Users\flare\Desktop>capa -vv where_am_i.exe > capa_where.txt
matching: 100%|██████████| 3132/3132 [00:16<00:00, 191.09 functions/s, skipped 2230 library functions (71%)]

C:\Users\flare\Desktop>capa where_am_i.exe

C:\Users\flare\Desktop>tttracer -children where_am_i.exe
Launching 'where_am_i.exe'
where_am_i.exe(x86) (PID:2664): Process exited with exit code 0 after 13750ms
  Full trace dumped to C:\Users\flare\Desktop\where_am_i01.run

(x86) (PID:3824): Process exited with exit code 0 after 11969ms
  Trace family nesting level is 1; Parent process ID is 2664
  Full trace dumped to C:\Users\flare\Desktop\explorer01.run

C:\Users\flare\Desktop>
```

Below the Command Prompt window, on the desktop, there are two .run files: "where_am_i01.run" and "explorer01....".

Figure 7. Output of tttracer.exe

Having the .run tracing file generated and opened in WinDbg, all the live debug commands are available as one may use to be. We can set breakpoints at specific API, virtual address or simply g to the previous address we found.

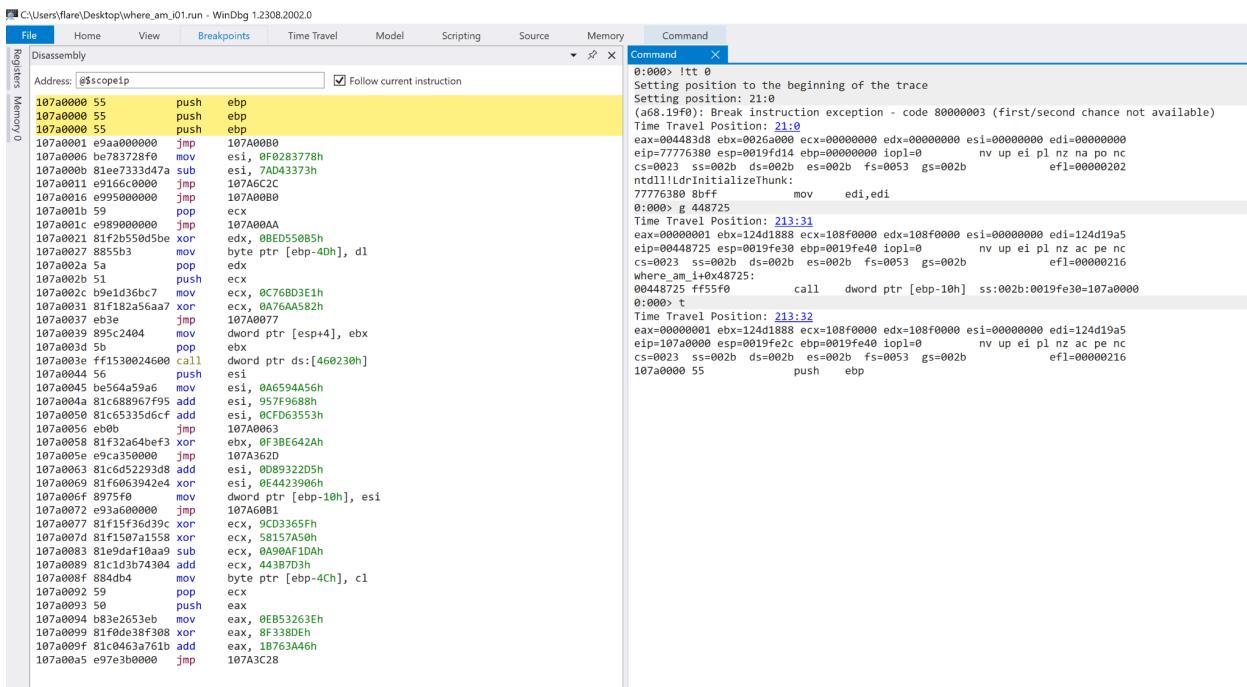


Figure 8. First stage shellcode entry point

Shortly after step over some instructions of the 1st stage shellcode, it appears the control flow is obfuscated and offsets are calculated using sequences of opcodes like mov, add, sub, xor and etc. It becomes tedious to single step in/over opcodes.

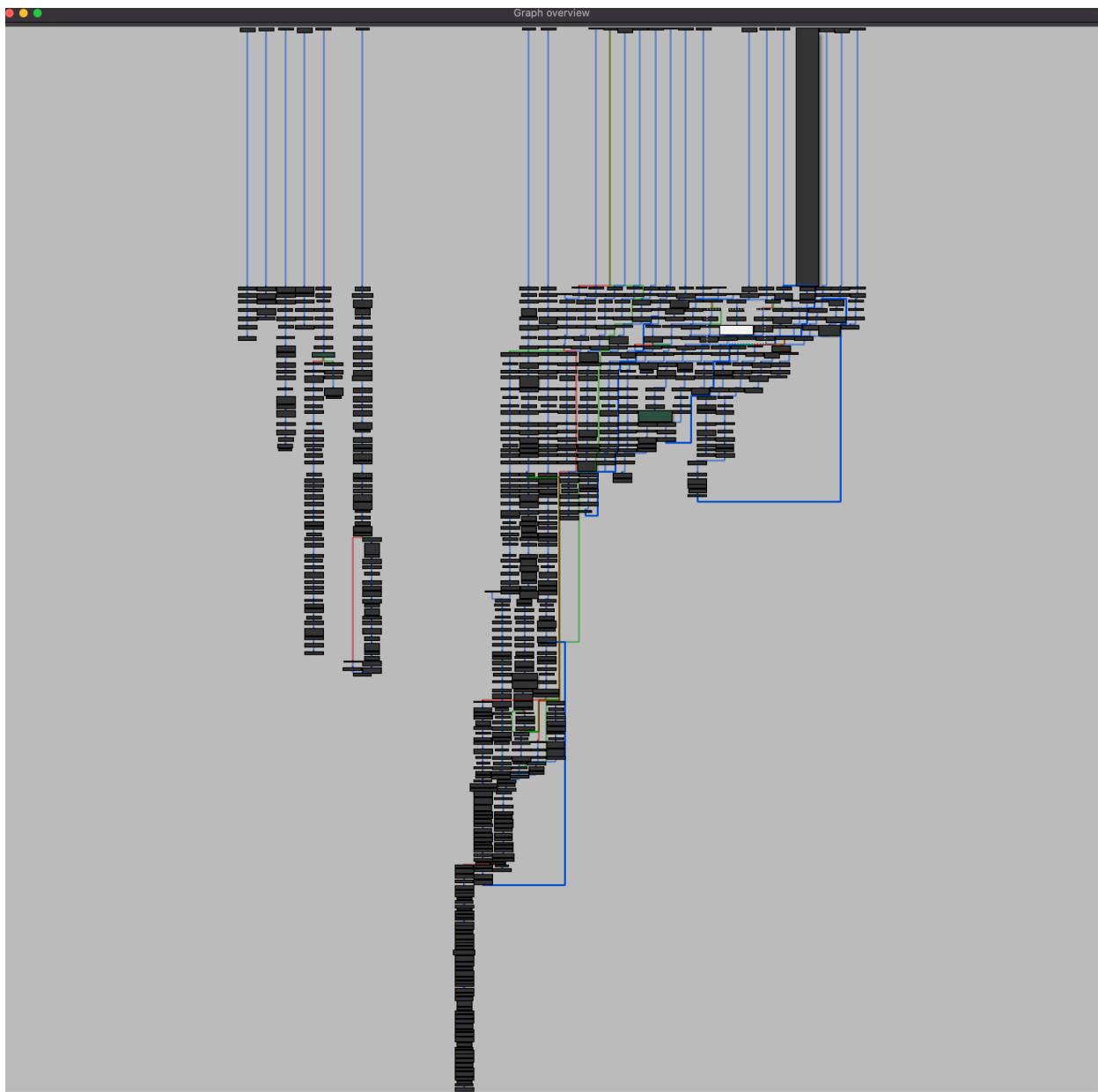


Figure 9. Graph view of the shellcode

Tracing into/over commands like `pa` would be helpful in certain cases, the [debugger data model](#) and ability of [using LINQ with the debugger objects](#) provides much more power to the user. For example, one can query the api usage of `kernel32!VirtualAllocStub` like the following:

```
dx -g @$cursession.TTD.Calls("kernel32!VirtualAllocStub").Select(r > new {TimeStart = r.TimeStart,  
TimeEnd = r.TimeEnd, Function = r.Function, FunctionAddress = r.FunctionAddress, ReturnAddress  
= r.ReturnAddress, ReturnValue = r.ReturnValue})
```

```
Command X
0:000> dx -g @$cursession.TTD.Calls("kernel32!VirtualAllocStub").Select(r => new {TimeStart = r.TimeStart, TimeEnd = r.TimeEnd, Function = r.Function, FunctionAddress = r.FunctionAddress, ReturnAddress = r.ReturnAddress, ReturnValue = r.ReturnValue})
TimeStart TimeEnd Function FunctionAddress ReturnAddress ReturnValue
[0x0] 143:451 145:8 kernel32!VirtualAllocStub 0x7742f9f0 0x448ae3 0x107a0000
[0x1] 22B:999 22D:8 kernel32!VirtualAllocStub 0x7742f9f0 0x107a11b2 0x107b0000

0:000> !tt 143:451
Setting position: 143:451
(a68.19f0): Break instruction exception - code 80000003 (first/second chance not available)
Time Travel Position: 143:451
eax=00484a38 ebx=124d1888 ecx=00006c44 edx=00400000 esi=00000000 edi=124d19a5
eip=7742f9f0 esp=0019fddec ebp=0019fe20 iopl=0 nv up ei pl zr na pe nc
cs=0023 ss=002b ds=002b es=002b fs=0053 gs=002b efl=00000246
KERNEL32!VirtualAllocStub:
7742f9f0 8bff     mov     edi,edi
0:000> dd esp 18
0019fddec 00484a38 00000000 00006c44 00003000
0019fdfc 00000040 00484a38 e6490001 00006c44
```

Figure 10. LINQ query of VirtualAllocStub call

The example shows the occurrence of allocating RWX memory for the first stage shellcode of size 0x6c44, and the ReturnValue is 0x107a0000.

Inspired by the Axel Souchet's [codecov plugin](#), I've included the script for API tracing in Appendix, which helps to get all of the APIs called within specified address range. The script in essence queries the call instructions and finds the referenced API name. Despite the obfuscated control flow hinders analyzing, we can infer the full code logic based on the API calls, which loads another resource and injects into the Explorer.exe process through kernel32!QueueUserAPC call. The TimeStart values are useful for time traveling back and forth.

	(+) TimeStart	RVA	Address	Called
[0x0] : KERNEL32!SetErrorModeStub (77430cb0)	213:56	0x674	0x107a0674	KERNEL32!SetErrorModeStub (77430cb0)
[0x1] : KERNEL32!GetSystemDefaultLangIDStub (77425120)	217:B	0x8fc	0x107a08fc	KERNEL32!GetSystemDefaultLangIDStub (77425120)
[0x2] : KERNEL32!GetAtomNameA (774633b0)	228:E6	0x5744	0x107a5744	KERNEL32!GetAtomNameA (774633b0)
[0x3] : KERNEL32!FindResourceA (77422eb0)	228:1E6	0x12e4	0x107a12e4	KERNEL32!FindResourceA (77422eb0)
[0x4] : KERNEL32!SizeofResourceStub (77430b20)	228:5FA	0x3277	0x107a3277	KERNEL32!SizeofResourceStub (77430b20)
[0x5] : KERNEL32!LoadResourceStub (7742ee70)	228:T2A	0x5d88	0x107a5d88	KERNEL32!LoadResourceStub (7742ee70)
[0x6] : KERNEL32!LockResourceStub (7742f970)	22B:94B	0x63cd	0x107a63cd	KERNEL32!LockResourceStub (7742f970)
[0x7] : KERNEL32!VirtualAllocStub (7742f9f0)	22B:99B	0x11ac	0x107a11ac	KERNEL32!VirtualAllocStub (7742f9f0)
[0x8] : KERNEL32!GetProcessHeapStub (7742f9b0)	4E3:22D0	0x592a	0x107a592a	KERNEL32!GetProcessHeapStub (7742f9b0)
[0x9] : ntdll!RtlAllocateHeap (77755dc0)	4E3:22C4	0x594b	0x107a594b	ntdll!RtlAllocateHeap (77755dc0)
[0xa] : KERNEL32!GetProcessHeapStub (7742f9b0)	3F20:84F	0x6409	0x107a6409	KERNEL32!GetProcessHeapStub (7742f9b0)
[0xb] : KERNEL32!HeapFreeStub (7742e590)	3F20:855	0x6410	0x107a6410	KERNEL32!HeapFreeStub (7742e590)
[0xc] : KERNEL32!SleepStub (774315a0)	3F22:61	0x24cc	0x107a24cc	KERNEL32!SleepStub (774315a0)
[0xd] : KERNEL32!OpenMutexA (77422e60)	3F24:9A	0x5ca6	0x107a5ca6	KERNEL32!OpenMutexA (77422e60)
[0xe] : KERNEL32!CreateProcessAStub (77444110)	3F28:19B5	0x6a59	0x107a6a59	KERNEL32!CreateProcessAStub (77444110)
[0xf] : KERNEL32!VirtualAllocExStub (774465c0)	4110:104	0x1a9d	0x107a1a9d	KERNEL32!VirtualAllocExStub (774465c0)
[0x10] : KERNEL32!WriteProcessMemoryStub (774465c0)	411F:6B	0x6538	0x107a6538	KERNEL32!WriteProcessMemoryStub (774465c0)
[0x11] : KERNEL32!QueueUserAPCStub (77429790)	4126:44	0x4bc6	0x107a4bc6	KERNEL32!QueueUserAPCStub (77429790)
[0x12] : KERNEL32!ResumeThreadStub (77431f90)	4128:23	0x3601	0x107a3601	KERNEL32!ResumeThreadStub (77431f90)
[0x13] : KERNEL32!GetModuleFileNameAStub (774314d0)	412A:2C	0xecfa	0x107a0eca	KERNEL32!GetModuleFileNameAStub (774314d0)
[0x14] : ADVAPI32!InitializeSecurityDescriptor (7607f3b0)	412E:96	0x2945	0x107a2945	ADVAPI32!InitializeSecurityDescriptor (7607f3b0)
[0x15] : ADVAPI32!SetSecurityDescriptorDacl (7607f110)	412E:E6	0x3792	0x107a3792	ADVAPI32!SetSecurityDescriptorDacl (7607f110)
[0x16] : KERNEL32!SleepStub (774315a0)	412E:13C	0x6509	0x107a6509	KERNEL32!SleepStub (774315a0)
[0x17] : KERNEL32!CreateFileA (774337d0)	47E4:8A	0x250c	0x107a250c	KERNEL32!CreateFileA (774337d0)
[0x18] : KERNEL32!WriteFile (77433c50)	47E8:90	0x5565	0x107a5565	KERNEL32!WriteFile (77433c50)
[0x19] : KERNEL32!CloseHandle (77433580)	47EE:1F	0x4532	0x107a4532	KERNEL32!CloseHandle (77433580)
[0x1a] : KERNEL32!ExitProcessImplementation (77435940)	47F2:23	0x2bb6	0x107a2bb6	KERNEL32!ExitProcessImplementation (77435940)

Figure 11. API trace list of 1st stage shellcode

The resource appears to be a bitmap of name as DWORD value 0x2, that is specified in the file offset 0x3e8.

Time travel to the moment of writing shellcode into target process through kernel32!WriteProcessMemory call, we will see the target remote address is 0x110000, local buffer

address is 0x107b0031 and the size is 0x1512f. The address 0x107b0000 is allocated RWX memory from the previous VirtualAlloc call, and appears in the next stage shellcode.

```
Command X
0:000> !tt 411F:6B
Setting position: 411F:6B
(a68.19f0): Break instruction exception - code 80000003 (first/second chance not available)
Time Travel Position: 411F:6B
eax=0000010c ebx=124d1888 ecx=107b0031 edx=00110000 esi=00000000 edi=124d19a5
eip=107a6538 esp=0019fb28 ebp=0019fe08 iopl=0 nv up ei ng nz ac pe cy
cs=0023 ss=002b ds=002b es=002b fs=0053 gs=002b ef1=00000297
107a6538 ff1580834700 call dword ptr [where_am_i+0x78380 (00478380)] ds:002b:00478380={KERNEL32!WriteProcessMemoryStub (774465c0)}
0:000> dd esp 18
0019fb28 00000010c 00110000 107b0031 0001512f
0019fb38 00000000 77782bbc 00000000 536cd652
0:000> db 107b0031 120
107b0031 eb 22 eb 19 81 c1 56 d2-72 a6 81 f1 f8 c4 f0 24 . ....V.r.....$ 
107b0041 e9 c5 00 00 00 eb 06 04-30 02 c1 eb 5f 39 0e e9 .....0..._9..
0:000> u 107b0031
107b0031 eb22 jmp 107b0055
107b0033 eb19 jmp 107b004e
107b0035 81c156d272a6 add ecx,0A672D256h
107b0038 81f1f8c4f024 xor ecx,24F0C4F8h
107b0041 e9c5000000 jmp 107b010b
107b0046 eb06 jmp 107b004e
107b0048 0430 add al,30h
107b004a 02c1 add al,c1
0:000> db 107b0000
107b0000 0a 77 65 6c 63 6f 6d 65-5f 6d 61 69 6e 00 00 00 .welcome_main...
107b0010 00 00 00 00 01 31 00-00 00 2f 51 01 00 5c 5c .....1.../Q..\\
107b0020 2e 5c 70 69 70 65 5c 77-68 65 72 65 61 6d 69 00 .\pipe\whereami.
107b0030 00 eb 22 eb 19 81 c1 56-d2 72 a6 81 f1 f8 c4 f0 .. ....V.r.....
107b0040 24 e9 c5 00 00 00 eb 06-04 30 02 c1 eb 5f 39 0e $.....0..._9.
107b0050 e9 f7 01 00 00 e9 d6 01-00 00 81 c0 2c b5 9f c7 .....:|0...V...9.
107b0060 81 f0 de 8a 3a 7c 51 b9-f8 c7 56 98 81 c1 39 c6 .....:|0...V...9.
107b0070 a1 47 81 f1 59 c7 a3 03-81 e9 65 60 f8 a4 eb 1d .G..Y.....e`....
```

Figure 12. WriteProcessMemory

By checking the memory read and write access at address 0x107b0000, it appears at the beginning of execution the content was indeed a copy of resource 0x2, at the end of execution the content is decrypted as above.

Time travel back to the last writing operation on the address 0x107b0000, and checking the return address of the last call, to identify if there is a decrypt routine.

```

Command X
0:000> dx @$memory(0x107b0000, 0x107b0000+1, "w").Last().TimeStart.SeekTo()
(a68.19f0): Break instruction exception - code 80000003 (first/second chance not available)
Time Travel Position: 4F1:1F5E
@$memory(0x107b0000, 0x107b0000+1, "w").Last().TimeStart.SeekTo()
0:000> k
# ChildEBP RetAddr
WARNING: Frame IP not in any known module. Following frames may be wrong.
00 0019fde4 107a05d2 0x107a3e6b
01 0019fdfc 107a69e4 0x107a05d2
02 0019fe28 00448728 0x107a69e4
03 0019fe44 00452894 where_am_i+0x48728
04 0019fe84 00452a39 where_am_i+0x52894
05 0019fec8 00452b80 where_am_i+0x52a39
06 0019fef0 0044831e where_am_i+0x52b80
07 0019ff70 774300c9 where_am_i+0x4831e
08 0019ff80 77777b1e KERNEL32!BaseThreadInitThunk+0x19
09 0019ffdc 77777aee ntdll!__RtlUserThreadStart+0x2f
0a 0019ffec 00000000 ntdll!_RtlUserThreadStart+0x1b
0:000> ub 0x107a05d2
107a05b8 8d4cd016 lea    ecx,[eax+edx*8+16h]
107a05bc 53      push   ebx
107a05bd e9b60a0000 jmp    107a1078
107a05c2 81c639ff2be8 add    esi,0E82BFF39h
107a05c8 8b0c2e  mov    ecx,dword ptr [esi+ebp]
107a05cb 5e      pop    esi
107a05cc 51      push   ecx
107a05cd e8f3230000 call   107a29c5
0:000> g- 107a05cd
Time Travel Position: 4EF:26E
eax=00015160 ebx=124d1888 ecx=107b0000 edx=108f3d00 esi=00000000 edi=124d19a5
eip=107a05cd esp=0019fdec ebp=0019fdfc iopl=0          nv up ei pl nz ac po cy
cs=0023 ss=002b ds=002b es=002b fs=0053 gs=002b         efl=00000213
107a05cd e8f3230000 call   107a29c5
0:000> dd esp 14
0019fdec 107b0000 00015160 108f3d00 108f3d00
0:000> db 107b0000 110
107b0000 ce 4b a4 c5 1b d7 27 02-ed d6 bd 76 97 b1 29 26 .K....'....v...)&
0:000> db 108f3d00 110
108f3d00 a2 15 17 72 1f 01 bb 28-96 44 b2 96 66 24 b2 cd ...r...(D..f$..
0:000> p
Time Travel Position: 3F20:833
eax=00015160 ebx=124d1888 ecx=00015160 edx=5bf6ba7e esi=00000000 edi=124d19a5
eip=107a05d2 esp=0019fdec ebp=0019fdfc iopl=0          nv up ei pl zr ac pe cy
cs=0023 ss=002b ds=002b es=002b fs=0053 gs=002b         efl=00000257
107a05d2 83c40c add    esp,0Ch
0:000> db 107b0000 110
107b0000 0a 77 65 6c 63 6f 6d 65-5f 6d 61 69 6e 00 00 00 .welcome_main...
0:000> db
107b0010 00 00 00 00 00 01 31 00-00 00 2f 51 01 00 5c 5c .....1.../Q..\\
107b0020 2e 5c 70 69 70 65 5c 77-68 65 72 65 61 6d 69 00 .\pipe\whereami.
107b0030 00 eb 22 eb 19 81 c1 56-d2 72 a6 81 f1 f8 c4 f0 .."....V.r.....
107b0040 24 e9 c5 00 00 00 eb 06-04 30 02 c1 eb 5f 39 0e $.....0..._9.
107b0050 e9 f7 01 00 00 e9 d6 01-00 00 81 c0 2c b5 9f c7 .....,...,..
107b0060 81 f0 de 8a 3a 7c 51 b9-f8 c7 56 98 81 c1 39 c6 .....|Q...V...9.
107b0070 a1 47 81 f1 59 c7 a3 03-81 e9 65 60 f8 a4 eb 1d .G..Y.....e`....
107b0080 81 f0 40 38 ca d8 81 c0-d2 be f9 54 81 c0 71 2b ..@8.....T..q+

```

Figure 13. Resource decryption in TTD

Looks like we found a routine of decrypting at virtual address 0x107a29c5, would this be the RC6 one referenced in the hint?

Checking the heap memory write access at address 0x108f3d00, it appears the call originated from 0x107a5832.

```
Command X
0:000> dx @$memory(0x108f3d00, 0x108f3d00+1, "w").Where(r => r.Value != 0).First().TimeStart.SeekTo()
(a68.19f0): Break instruction exception - code 80000003 (first/second chance not available)
Time Travel Position: AE5:1C8
@$memory(0x108f3d00, 0x108f3d00+1, "w").Where(r => r.Value != 0).First().TimeStart.SeekTo()
0:000> r
eax=ef0001ba ebx=124d1888 ecx=108f3d00 edx=b7e15163 esi=00000000 edi=124d19a5
eip=107a386f esp=0019fdfc ebp=0019fde8 iopl=0 nv up ei ng nz na po nc
cs=0023 ss=002b ds=002b es=002b fs=0053 gs=002b efl=00000282
107a386f 8911 mov dword ptr [ecx],edx ds:002b:108f3d00=00000000
0:000> k
# ChildEBP RetAddr
WARNING: Frame IP not in any known module. Following frames may be wrong.
00 0019fdde8 107a5837 0x107a386f
01 0019fdfe 107a69e4 0x107a5837
02 0019fe28 004448728 0x107a69e4
03 0019fe44 00452894 where_am_i+0x48728
04 0019fe84 00452a39 where_am_i+0x52894
05 0019fec8 00452b80 where_am_i+0x52a39
06 0019fef0 0044831e where_am_i+0x52b80
07 0019ff70 774300c9 where_am_i+0x4831e
08 0019ff80 77777b1e KERNEL32!BaseThreadInitThunk+0x19
09 0019ffdc 77777aee ntdll!__RtlUserThreadStart+0x2f
0a 0019ffec 00000000 ntdll!__RtlUserThreadStart+0x1b
0:000> ub 0x107a5837
107a5813 81ea4e4e9b31f sub edx,1FB3E9E4h
107a5819 81ea360cb185 sub edx,85B10C36h
107a581f 81c2ec739ac9 add edx,0C99A73ECh
107a5825 e9cab5ffff jmp 107a0df4
107a582a b9dd34a760 mov ecx,60A734DDh
107a582f eb45 jmp 107a5876
107a5831 51 push ecx
107a5832 e8a7f5ffff call 107a4dde
0:000> g- 107a5832
Time Travel Position: AE5:BA
eax=108f3d00 ebx=124d1888 ecx=baadbeef edx=00000000 esi=00000000 edi=124d19a5
eip=107a5832 esp=0019fdf0 ebp=0019fdfc iopl=0 nv up ei pl nz na pe nc
cs=0023 ss=002b ds=002b es=002b fs=0053 gs=002b efl=00000206
107a5832 e8a7f5ffff call 107a4dde
0:000> dd esp 14
0019fdf0 baadbeef 108f3d00 108f3d00 0019fe28
```

Figure 14. Check origin of memory write in TTD

Tracing into the call would be useful to understand the code logic, be alarmed the output may overflow the maximum lines of WinDbg UI, best redirect the output into a local file instead.

The call 0x107a4dde appears to be responsible for initializing the buffer pointed by address 0x108f3d00, using the parameter 0xbaadbeef.

Command	Notes	X
0:000> .logopen c:\Users\flare\Desktop\trace-107a4dde.txt		
Opened log file 'c:\Users\flare\Desktop\trace-107a4dde.txt'		
0:000> ta 107a5837	// trace until the return address of the call	
ta 107a5837		
eax=108f3d00 ebx=124d1888 ecx=baadbeef edx=00000000 esi=00000000 edi=124d19a5		
eip=107a4dde esp=0019fddec ebp=0019fdfc iopl=0 nv up ei pl nz na pe nc		
cs=0023 ss=002b ds=002b es=002b fs=0053 gs=002b efl=00000206		
107a4dde 55 push ebp		
...		
107a386b 8b1428 mov edx,dword ptr [eax+ebp] ds:002b:0019fdc4=b7e15163		
eax=fffffdcc ebx=124d1888 ecx=108f3d00 edx=b7e15163 esi=00000000 edi=124d19a5		
eip=107a386e esp=0019fdb8 ebp=0019fde8 iopl=0 nv up ei ng nz na po nc		
cs=0023 ss=002b ds=002b es=002b fs=0053 gs=002b efl=00000282		
107a386e 58 pop eax		
...		
eax=b7e15163 ebx=124d1888 ecx=00000001 edx=108f3d00 esi=00000000 edi=124d19a5		
eip=107a3340 esp=0019fdb8c ebp=0019fde8 iopl=0 nv up ei ng nz na pe nc		
cs=0023 ss=002b ds=002b es=002b fs=0053 gs=002b efl=00000286		
107a3340 0345f4 add eax,dword ptr [ebp-0Ch] ss:002b:0019fddc=9e3779b9		
...		
eax=ef0001ba ebx=00000024 ecx=108f3d00 edx=b7e15163 esi=00000000 edi=124d19a5		
eip=107a5384 esp=0019fdb8 ebp=0019fde8 iopl=0 nv up ei pl nz ac pe nc		
cs=0023 ss=002b ds=002b es=002b fs=0053 gs=002b efl=00000216		
107a5384 395de8 cmp dword ptr [ebp-18h],ebx ss:002b:0019fdd0=00000001		
eax=ef0001ba ebx=00000024 ecx=108f3d00 edx=b7e15163 esi=00000000 edi=124d19a5		
eip=107a5387 esp=0019fdb8 ebp=0019fde8 iopl=0 nv up ei ng nz ac pe cy		
cs=0023 ss=002b ds=002b es=002b fs=0053 gs=002b efl=00000297		
107a5387 5b pop ebx		
eax=ef0001ba ebx=124d1888 ecx=108f3d00 edx=b7e15163 esi=00000000 edi=124d19a5		
eip=107a5388 esp=0019fdb8c ebp=0019fde8 iopl=0 nv up ei ng nz ac pe cy		
cs=0023 ss=002b ds=002b es=002b fs=0053 gs=002b efl=00000297		
107a5388 0f83fbfeffff jae 107a5289 [br=0]		

Figure 15. Trace log of 0x107a4dde

While the log file will be large, you may find some constant value of 0xb7e15163 and 0x9e3779b9 referenced at the beginning, and the loop pattern of round counter 0x24. By googling these constants, hopefully you find this [rc6_init code snippet](#) a good reference. I'm no crypto expert, but the function of 0x107a4dde looks like a variant of RC6 key initializer, the key is the dword value Oxbaadbeef read from file offset 0x3fc. The function at virtual address 0x107a29c5 is the RC6 decrypt routine.

At this point, we've found out:

- The RC6 initialize routine at virtual address 0x107a4dde
- The RC6 decrypt routine at virtual address 0x107a29c5
- The RC6 key is Oxbaadbeef read from the file offset 0x3fc

Now we can turn to the trace file of Explorer.exe to figure out if the flag is hidden there.

The screenshot shows the WinDbg interface with the assembly window open. The assembly window displays a series of instructions, many of which are highlighted in yellow. The command window at the bottom shows several commands entered by the user, including setting the trace position, time travel position, and dumping memory. The assembly code includes various jumps, adds, and XOR operations, typical of shellcode.

```

C:\Users\flare\Desktop\explorer01.run - WinDbg 1.2308.2002.0
File Home View Breakpoints Time Travel Model Scripting Source Memory
Address: $scopeip Follow current instruction
0:000> !tt 0
Setting position to the beginning of the trace
Setting position: 4165:0
(e0.fec): Break instruction exception - code 80000003 (first/second chance not available)
Time Travel Position: 4165:0
eax=00ef7acd ebx=002b0000 ecx=00000000 edx=00000000 esi=00000000 edi=00000000
eip=07776380 esp=0000fd14 ebp=00000000 iopl=0 nv up ei pl nz na po nc
cs=0023 ss=002b ds=002b es=002b fs=0053 gs=002b efl=00000202
ntdll!LdrInitializeThunk:
77776380 8bff        mov    edi,edi
0:000> g 110000
Time Travel Position: 41C7:73
eax=000df968 ebx=002b3000 ecx=00110000 edx=00000000 esi=00000000 edi=0000df984
eip=00110000 esp=0000f948 ebp=000df994 iopl=0 nv up ei pl nz na po nc
cs=0023 ss=002b ds=002b es=002b fs=0053 gs=002b efl=00000246
00110000 eb22        jmp    00110024
0:000> k
# ChildEBP RetAddr
WARNING: Frame IP not in any known module. Following frames may be wrong.
00 0000f944 7779d5b9 0x100000
01 0000f95c 7778d4b  ntdll!RtlDispatchA+C+0x615a0
02 0000fd04 77776391  ntdll!KUserApDispatcher+0x4b
03 0000fd00 00000000  ntdll!LdrInitializeThunk+0x11
0:000>

```

Figure 16. Shellcode entry point in Explorer.exe

While the shellcode is similar to the 1st stage one that obfuscated control flow hinders the analysis, with the insight gained from static analysis, the kernel32!VirtualAllocStub call is a good back tracing point.

```

Command X
0:000> dx -g @$calls("kernel32!VirtualAllocStub")
[+ EventId] [+ ThreadId] [+ UniqueThreadId] [+ TimeStart] [+ TimeEnd] [+ Function] [+ FunctionAddress] [+ ReturnAddress] [+ ReturnValue]
[0x0] 0x0 0xfec 0x2 4515:450 4517:8 kernel32!VirtualAllocStub 0x7742f9f0 0x1110b4 0x150000
0:000> !tt 4517:8
Setting position: 4517:8
(eff0.fec): Break instruction exception - code 80000003 (first/second chance not available)
Time Travel Position: 4517:8
eax=00150000 ebx=7742f9f0 ecx=00000000 edx=00000000 esi=0011066d edi=0011066f
eip=001110b4 esp=000df8fc ebp=000df92c iopl=0 nv up ei pl nz na pe nc
cs=0023 ss=002b ds=002b es=002b fs=0053 gs=002b efl=00000246
001110b4 0f74f14 movzx ecx,word ptr [edi+14h] ds:002b:00110683<0e0
0:000> dx -g @$memory(0x1110b4, 0x1110b4+1, "w"); $s query the TimeStart of decoding current instruction
[+ EventId] [+ ThreadId] [+ UniqueThreadId] [+ TimeStart] [+ TimeEnd] [+ AccessType] [+ IP] [+ Address] [+ Size] [+ Value] [+ OverwrittenValue]
[0x0] 0x1 0xfec 0x2 41E1:213D 41E1:213D Write 0x11007d 0x1110b4 0x1 0xf 0x5
0:000> !tt 41E1:213D
Setting position: 41E1:213D
(eff0.fec): Break instruction exception - code 80000003 (first/second chance not available)
Time Travel Position: 41E1:213D
eax=00110604 ebx=00014ac2 ecx=00000048 edx=00000046 esi=00000007 edi=001110b4
eip=0011060d esp=000df914 ebp=000df924 iopl=0 nv up ei pl nz na pe nc
cs=0023 ss=002b ds=002b es=002b fs=0053 gs=002b efl=00000207
0011060d 3007 xor byte ptr [edi],al ds:002b:001110b4<0
0:000> k; $s check the return address to find the call
# ChildEBP RetAddr
WARNING: Frame IP not in any known module. Following frames may be wrong.
00 000df924 00110454 0x11007d
01 000df944 7779d5b9 0x110454
02 000df99c 77784e4b nt!_RtlDispatchAPC+0x615a9
03 000dfda4 77776391 nt!_KiUserApcDispatcher+0x4b
04 000dfdb0 00000000 nt!_LdrInitializeThunk+0x11
0:000> ub 0x110454
00110434 81f0205e95d4 xor eax,0d4955e20h
00110434 81e85a0ecf92 sub eax,92CF0E5Ah
00110440 81c0120d35ab add eax,0AB350D012h
00110446 e904fcffff jmp 0011004f
0011044b 59 pop ecx
0011044c 53 push ebx
0011044d 8bc e mov ecx,esi
0011044f e8abfeffff call 001102f
0:000> g 0011044f; $s go back to the call and check params{ebx, ecx}
Time Travel Position: 41C8:16C5
0:000> db ebx
00110655 95 fb a3 d2 ef 76 42 d9 33 44 48 83 be 22 13 37 . . . . . v8.30H..7
00110665 c2 4a 01 00 32 08 00 00-34 6f c6 32 23 ab 34 11 .J..2...40.2#4.4.
00110675 66 7d 7b 48 f3 a9 47 6c-cb 32 db 0b 1f 79 94 0c n}H..G1.2.....
00110685 65 58 75 b8 f8 78 43 ae-c7 2e d7 8f 25 ad 78 12 exU..x.c....%z.
00110695 63 75 c7 ae f2 57 49 7e-cd 34 d3 e2 21 a9 76 0e cu..Wl~.4..l.v.
001106a5 66 6b 80 ac ee 53 45 68-c9 30 df 09 27 af 72 8a ik...SEH.0..'.r.
001106b5 65 77 7a b8 f4 59 4b 70-c5 2c d5 95 22 ab 78 14 ewz..YKp.,..".x.
001106c5 6b 7d 78 b4 f0 55 46-cb 33 db 0b 0f a7 74 1c k)xi..UE1.3..t.
0:000> db ex 110
0011066d 34 6f c6 32 23 ab 34 11-6e 7d 7b 48 f3 a9 47 6c 40.2#4.n}{H..G1
0:000> p; $$ step over the call and check the return value
Time Travel Position: 44F7:21A1
0:000> r
eax=0011066d ebx=00110655 ecx=00014ac2 edx=000021be esi=0011066d edi=00000832
eip=00110454 esp=000df92c ebp=000df944 iopl=0 nv up ei pl nz na pe nc
cs=0023 ss=002b ds=002b es=002b fs=0053 gs=002b efl=00000246
00110454 83c408 add esp,8
0:000> db eax
0011066d f1 43 13 37 00 00 4c 01-85 00 03 fc 00 00 .C.7..L..... .
0011067d 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00-02 21 0b 01 00 23 00 c6 .....!..#..
0011068d 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00-00 00 00 bd 10 00 00 00 10 ..... .
0011069d 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00-00 10 00 10 00 00 00 02 ..... .
001106ad 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00-00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ..... .
001106bd 00 00 00 00 01 00 00 04-00 00 00 00 00 00 00 02 ..... .
001106cd 40 01 00 00 10 00 00 10-00 00 00 10 00 00 10 ..... @. .....
[<]
0:000>

```

Figure 17. Backtrace from the VirtualAllocStub

The shellcode is slightly simpler than the previous one, that executes as an egg-hunter for searching DWORD value 0xd2a3fb95 and decrypting the following payload using a rolling xor. The xor key is hex value 95 fb a3 d2 ef 76 42 d9 33 44 48 83 be 22 13 37. The final payload is a reflective loader, that the DOS header stripped, and PE signature modified to hex value f1 43 13 37 00 00. The entry point of the reflective loader is transferred from address 0x110511.

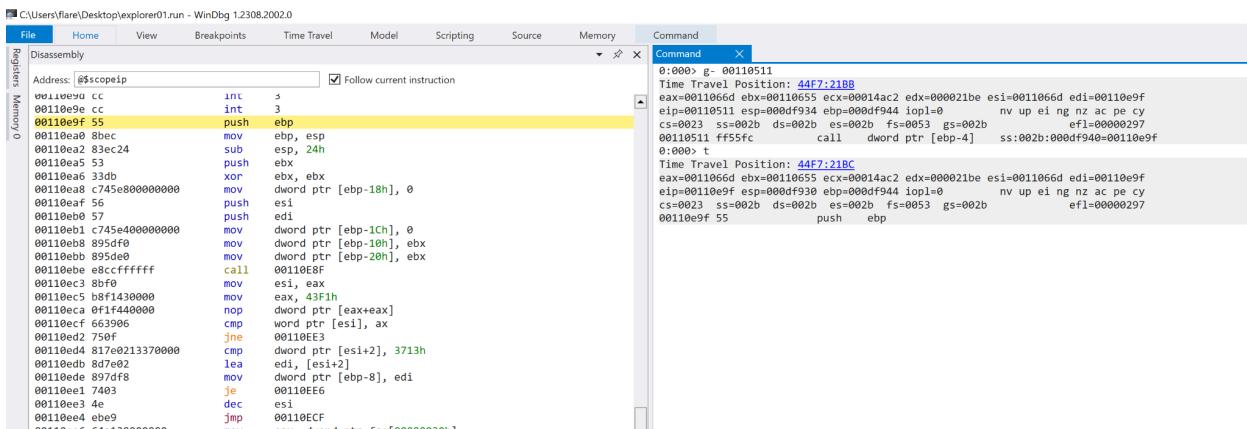


Figure 18. Reflective loader entry point

The reflective loader checks the signature of header to be hex value f1 43 and 13 37 00 00, and continues to allocate RWX memory based on the following PE structure, right after copying section data and before resolving import tables, a hidden memcpy that copies a chunk data of size 0x500 into the virtual offset 0x3fc of the newly allocated RWX memory at 0x150000.

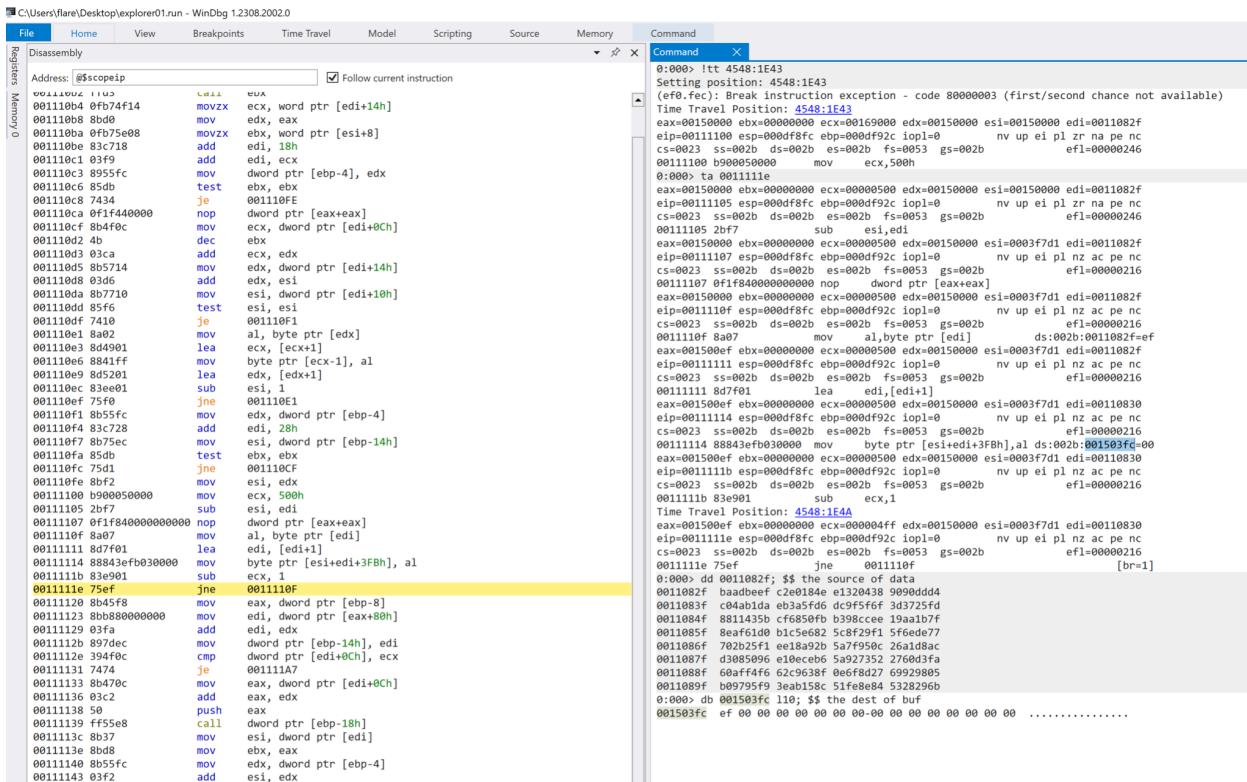


Figure 19. memcpy data into virtual offset 0x3fc

The offset 0x3fc and 0xbaadbeef ring a bell that previously staged shellcode of RC6 decryption. The flag is embraced with the hex value ef be ad ba.

Command X

0:000> pc

Time Travel Position: 4549:103F

eax=00163b2c ebx=00000000 ecx=00150000 edx=00150000 esi=0003f7d1 edi=0016392c
eip=00111139 esp=000df8f8 ebp=000df92c iopl=0 nv up ei pl nz na po nc
cs=0023 ss=002b ds=002b es=002b fs=0053 gs=002b ef1=000000202
00111139 ff55e8 call dword ptr [ebp-18h] ss:002b:000df914={KERNEL32!LoadLibraryAStub (77431270)}

0:000 db 1503fc l300; \$\$ check the raw flag

001503fc ef be ad ba 4e 18 e0 c2-38 04 32 e1 d4 dd 90 90N...8.2....
0015040c da b1 4a c0 d6 5f 3a eb-6f 5f 9f dc fd 25 37 3d ..J._.:o_.%7=
0015041c 5b 43 11 88 fb 50 68 cf-ee cc 98 b3 7f 1b aa 19 [C...Ph.....
0015042c d0 61 af 8e 82 e6 c5 b1-f1 29 8f 5c 77 de 6e 5f .a.....).\\w.n_
0015043c f1 25 2b 7b a9 18 ee-0c 95 7f 5a ac d8 a1 26 .%+pt.....Z...&
0015044c 96 50 08 d3 b6 ce 0e e1-52 73 92 5a fa d3 60 27 .P.....Rs.Z..`
0015045c f6 f4 af 60 8f 63 c9 62-27 8d 6f 0e 05 98 92 69c.b'.o...i
0015046c f9 95 97 b0 8c 15 ab 3e-84 8e fe 51 6b 29 28 53>...Qk)(S
0015047c 32 79 d8 47 8a f2 23 ab-3a 14 d4 b1 d1 15 a4 18 2y.G..#:.
0015048c 8f 1d fd e0 53 90 fd 69-f1 86 2c e7 44 1b dd ebS..i.,.D..
0015049c 4d bc 31 65 ff ea 77 65-a8 f8 30 be 77 6a d9 c3 M.1e..we..0.wj..
001504ac 8d 1c f5 7d bd 5b f2 91-1a bd d0 0a 9e 06 53 8e}.[.....S.
001504bc e0 5b e3 00 e5 82 54 d6-4e 3a fc 5f 17 27 54 df .[....T.N:..-'T.
001504cc 7a 8a 23 9e 16 86 60 d8-cd 79 50 f1 f6 4c d7 z.#...`y.P..L.
001504dc cb 98 5c df b4 d9 e8 3a-41 f3 2d 24 00 1d 45 e9 ..\....:A.-\$..E.
001504ec de 88 4f d2 3b a0 b4 c6-1d 03 5a ca fb 1c 77 18 ..0.,....Z..W.
001504fc 31 26 7e 96 36 2e 80 9b-04 e7 57 c6 ef 83 7b 23 1&~.6....W..[#
0015050c 06 a9 7b 7f df 22 1d 96-58 98 22 11 44 43 42 55".X."DCBU
0015051c 52 62 a4 b6 ef 97 75 0e-6c 44 3e 29 d0 fb 6e 19 Rb.....u.1D>..n.
0015052c 4b 02 ef a5 ca a0 14 42-60 5a e3 fd 91 cb a8 fc K.....B'Z.....
0015053c d6 98 ee 28 9c 92 5e 35-84 12 e0 5f ae de 4f a6 ...(^5...._0.
0015054c 01 f2 2f 14 4e 22 6e 17-7b ae c9 58 42 7a 0c 0e/N^n.[..XBz..
0015055c 85 5c ca 80 7d 1f cc bd-cd a8 14 8a f0 e1 7c e5 ..\..}.....|.
0015056c 79 54 ae 33 31 d7 18 c3-58 28 51 e5 8a 7b ba fc yT.31...X(Q.{..
0015057c b6 fb 79 6d 5f 0b 99 d3-27 be ff f8 61 2a 29 d5 ..ym...`..a*).
0015058c cb 7b 0e 97 78 3d 36 74-d7 ac 6e 4d 3e d8 18 ef ..{..x=6t..nM>...
0015059c a8 40 3e 33 57 f7 d4 4f-5b 7f d2 d9 3f 90 3f 2c .@>3W..O[...??.
001505ac 70 26 e5 54 73 1a 79 1a-34 a4 d1 0e 03 d7 f3 84 p&Ts.y.4.....
001505bc 14 1e f9 4f fc 57 07 c8-b0 8f c1 4e 51 3d 68 36 ...O.W....NQ=h6
001505cc cb 06 fe f3 38 57 2a f2-67 e6 b0 34 d4 1c bd de ...8W*.g..4....
001505dc cb ea d3 6b d4 bf c6 fd-cd df 88 81 2e e8 85 1b ...k.....
001505ec 38 ab 0e 14 eb e0 d9 88-84 17 06 e4 d2 11 76 d0 8.....V.
001505fc 41 d9 ab 1f d7 c2 5b d2-f4 56 af a2 48 ea a1 54 A.....[..V..H..T
0015060c 40 0d a8 c1 1d 85 33 91-02 9f 24 02 5b 0c 3f a3 @.....3...\$.[.?.
0015061c b5 e6 41 6c cd ca b4 e2-56 f3 79 ba a2 ca 92 95 ..A1....V.y.....
0015062c 4d 61 45 03 f8 61 59 6d-96 43 d8 d6 30 df d0 aa MaE..aYm.C..0...
0015063c 8b 53 b4 d5 e7 c6 38 6d-f1 e0 96 90 17 b7 48 c6 .SL...8m.....H.
0015064c dc 58 da 91 90 4a 72 fd-71 cc 21 1d d9 f1 f6 83 .X...Jr.q.!....
0015065c 67 50 b2 61 78 3d 01 42-f9 6f d8 d0 82 c8 1a 48 gP.ax=.B.o.....H
0015066c 4e 01 53 b3 41 0e 0f c2-88 3e 0b 27 6c 34 59 bd N.S.A....>.'14Y.
0015067c f0 ca db 1d ef be ad ba-00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ..
0015068c 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00-00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ..
0015069c 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00-00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ..
001506ac 00 00 00 00 00 00 00-00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ..
001506bc 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00-00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ..
001506cc 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00-00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ..
001506dc 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00-00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ..
001506ec 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00-00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ..
0:000> .writemem c:\Users\flare\Desktop\flag.bin 1503fc+4 1280; \$\$ save the raw flag
Writing 280 bytes.

Figure 20. Save encrypted flag into local file

Once the reflective loader finished loading the PE into RWX memory, fixed the import tables and resolved the relocation RVAs, the execution switches to the payload's entry point. The code is straightforward that connects to the pipe `\.\.\pipe\whereami` created by 2nd stage shellcode, retrieves the sample full path and creates the message box. If the computer user name is flare, and the sample full path contains `C:\Users\Public\`, it continues to check if the file offset 0x3fc contains DWORD value `0xbaadbeef`, the message box with hint information would reveal.

Let's verify by live debugging the `where_am_i.exe`, and manipulating the parameters for the RC6 decrypt routine.

```

Command X
0:000> bp kernel32!VirtualAllocStub; $$ break at VirtualAlloc
0:000> g
ModLoad: 76b00000 76b25000 C:\Windows\SysWOW64\IMM32.DLL
Breakpoint 0 hit
eax=00484438 ebx=024e1a48 ecx=00006c44 edx=00400000 esi=00000000 edi=024e1b65
eip=7742f9f0 esp=0019fe00 ebp=0019fe20 iopl=0 nv up ei pl zr na pe nc
cs=0023 ss=002b ds=002b es=002b fs=0053 gs=002b efl=00000246
KERNEL32!VirtualAllocStub:
7742f9f0 8bff        mov     edi,edi
0:000> gu; $$ get the alloc'd shellcode addr
0:000> r
eax=00610000 ebx=024e1a48 ecx=f8180000 edx=00610000 esi=00000000 edi=024e1b65
eip=00448ae3 esp=0019fe00 ebp=0019fe20 iopl=0 nv up ei pl zr na pe nc
cs=0023 ss=002b ds=002b es=002b fs=0053 gs=002b efl=00000246
where_am_i+0x48ae3:
00448ae3 8945f0      mov     dword ptr [ebp-10h],eax ss:002b:0019fe10=0044d10c
0:000> bd 0
0:000> ba e1 @eax+5cd; $$ set bp at RC6 decrypt routine
0:000> g
Breakpoint 1 hit
eax=00015160 ebx=024e1a48 ecx=02250000 edx=00637e28 esi=00000000 edi=024e1b65
eip=006105cd esp=0019fdcc ebp=0019fdcc iopl=0 nv up ei pl nz ac po cy
cs=0023 ss=002b ds=002b es=002b fs=0053 gs=002b efl=00000213
006105cd e8f3230000  call    006129c5
0:000> dd esp 14; $$ check params, encrypted data buf, size
0019fdcc 02250000 00015160 00637e28 00637e28
0:000> .dvalloc 0x300; $$ alloc new memory for setting raw flag
Allocated 1000 bytes starting at 00620000
0:000> .readmem c:\Users\flare\Desktop\flag.bin 00620000 l?280
Reading 280 bytes.
0:000> ed esp 00620000 280; $$ update params on the stack; dd esp 14
0019fdcc 00620000 00000000 00637e28 00637e28
0:000> p; $$ step over the RC6 decrypt routine;
0:000> db 00620000 1280; $$ may the flag be with you :>
00620000 57 68 65 72 65 20 61 6d-20 49 3f 20 49 27 6d 20 Where am I? I'm
00620010 6c 6f 73 74 20 69 6e 20-63 79 62 65 72 2c 0d 0a lost in cyber,..
00620020 41 20 70 6c 61 63 65 20-77 68 65 72 65 20 62 69 A place where bi
00620030 74 73 20 61 6e 64 20 62-79 74 65 73 20 63 6f 6e ts and bytes con
00620040 73 70 69 72 65 2c 0d 0a-54 6f 20 74 61 6b 65 20 spire,..To take
00620050 6d 65 20 6f 6e 20 61 20-6a 6f 75 72 6e 65 79 20 me on a journey
00620060 66 61 72 2c 0d 0a 46 72-6f 6d 20 77 68 65 72 65 far...From where
00620070 20 49 20 61 6d 20 74 6f-20 77 68 65 72 65 20 79 I am to where y
00620080 6f 75 20 61 72 65 2e 0d-0a 0d 0a 54 68 65 20 77 ou are....The w
00620090 6f 72 6c 64 20 69 73 20-76 61 73 20 64 66 64 orld is vast and
006200a0 20 66 75 6c 6c 20 6f 66-20 77 6f 6e 64 65 72 2c full of wonder,
006200b0 0d 0a 42 75 74 20 68 65-72 65 20 49 20 61 6d 2c ..But here I am,
006200c0 20 6a 75 73 74 20 6c 6f-73 74 20 69 6e 20 74 68 just lost in th
006200d0 75 6e 64 65 72 2c 0d 0a-4f 66 20 64 61 74 61 20 under...Of data
006200e0 73 74 72 65 61 6d 73 20-61 6e 64 20 65 6e 64 6c streams and endl
006200f0 65 73 73 20 63 6f 64 65-2c 0d 0a 41 20 70 6c 61 ess code,..A pla
00620100 63 65 20 77 68 65 72 65-20 6f 6e 65 73 20 61 6e ce where ones an
00620110 64 20 7a 65 72 6f 65 73-20 65 78 70 6c 6f 64 65 d zeroes explode
00620120 2e 0d 0a 0d 0a 42 75 74-20 73 74 69 6c 6c 20 49 ....But still I
00620130 20 73 65 61 72 63 68 2c-20 66 6f 72 20 77 68 61 search, for wha
00620140 74 20 49 20 73 65 65 6b-2c 0d 0a 41 20 70 6c 61 t I seek,..A pla
00620150 63 65 20 77 68 65 72 65-20 61 6e 73 77 65 72 73 ce where answers
00620160 20 63 6f 6d 65 20 74 6f-20 6d 65 74 2c 0d 0a come to meet,..
00620170 4d 79 20 71 65 73 74-69 6f 6e 73 20 64 65 65 My questions dee
00620180 70 20 61 6e 64 20 66 75-6c 6c 20 6f 66 20 74 68 p and full of th
00620190 6f 75 67 68 74 2c 0d 0a-41 20 70 6c 61 63 65 20 ought,..A place
006201a0 77 68 65 72 65 20 6b 6e-6f 77 6c 65 64 67 65 20 where knowledge
006201b0 63 61 6e 20 62 65 20 73-6f 75 67 68 74 2e 0d 0a can be sought...
006201c0 0d 0a 41 6e 64 20 74 68-65 6e 20 49 20 73 65 65 ..And then I see
006201d0 2c 20 61 20 6c 69 67 68-74 20 73 6f 20 62 72 69 , a light so bri
006201e0 67 68 74 2c 0d 0a 49 74-20 73 68 69 6e 65 73 20 ght,..It shines
006201f0 73 6f 20 74 72 75 65 2c-20 69 74 27 73 20 71 75 so true, it's qu
00620200 69 74 65 20 61 20 73 69-67 68 74 2c 0d 0a 4f 68 ite a sight,..Oh
00620210 20 6d 79 20 46 4c 41 52-45 2c 20 74 68 65 72 65 my FLARE, there
00620220 20 79 6f 75 20 61 72 65-2c 20 57 68 65 52 33 5f you are, WheR3_
00620230 34 6d 5f 49 5f 66 72 30-6d 5f 30 54 46 40 66 6c 4m_I_fr0m_0TF@fl
00620240 61 72 65 2d 6f 6e 2e 63-6f 6d 0d 0a 4d 79 20 67 are-on.com..My g
00620250 75 69 64 69 6e 67 20 73-74 61 72 2c 20 6d 79 20 uiding star, my
00620260 73 68 69 6e 69 6e 67 20-73 74 61 72 2e 0d 0a 00 shining star....
00620270 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00-00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ..... .
0:000>

```

Figure 21. Live debugging solution

Congratulations! The flag is **WheR3_4m_I_fr0m_0TF@flare-on.com**

References

1. [Time Travel Debugging - TTD.exe command line utility](#)
2. [Time Travel Debugging - JavaScript Automation](#)
3. [Using LINQ With the debugger objects](#)
4. Axel Souchet's [codecov plugin](#)

Appendix

```
// WinDbg dbgInit.js
// @binjo, 2023-05-04
"use strict";

delete Object.prototype.toString;

const log = host.diagnostics.debugLog;
const logIn = p => host.diagnostics.debugLog(p + "\n");

function invokeScript() {
    return logIn("===== WinDbg init done... =====");
}

function ReadPtr(Addr) {
    let Value = null;
    let is64 = host.namespace.Debugger.State.PseudoRegisters.General.ptrsize == 8;
    try {
        if (is64) {
            Value = host.memory.readMemoryValues(
                Addr, 1, 8
            )[0];
        } else {
            Value = host.memory.readMemoryValues(
                Addr, 1, 4
            )[0];
        }
    } catch(e) {
    }

    return Value;
}

function GetSym(Addr) {
    if(Addr == undefined) {
        logIn(" !getsym <addr>");
        return;
    }
}
```

```

let dis = host.namespace.Debugger.Utility.Code.CreateDisassembler();
let ins = dis.DisassembleInstructions(Addr);
let addr = ins.First().Operands.Last().ImmediateValue; // get rid of calling address, no need
to care about x64/x86/far/near
let ptr = ReadPtr(addr);
let temp = host.namespace.Debugger.Utility.Control.ExecuteCommand(`.printf"%y",
${ptr.toString(16)}`)[0];
return temp;
}

class __CallItem {
constructor(ts, rva, addr, sym) {
    this.TimeStart = ts;
    this.RVA = rva;
    this.Address = addr;
    this.Called = sym;
}
toString() {
    return `${this.Called}`;
}
}

class __CallTrace {
constructor(baseAddress, size) {
    this.__BaseAddress = baseAddress;
    this.__Size = size;
    this.__mod_cov = host.currentSession.TTD.Memory(baseAddress, baseAddress + size, "ec");
    this.__mod_calls = this.__mod_cov.Where(r => r.Size == 6 && (r.Value & 0xffff) == 0x15ff);
}
*[Symbol.iterator]() {
    let mod_calls = this.__mod_calls;
    for (var cal of mod_calls) {
        var sym = GetSym(cal.Address);
        yield new __CallItem(cal.TimeStart, cal.Address - this.__BaseAddress, cal.Address,
sym);
    }
}

toString() {
    return "TraceCalls";
}
}

let calls = x => host.currentSession.TTD.Calls(x);
let memory = (x, y, z) => host.currentSession.TTD.Memory(x, y, z);

let Traces = {

```

```

__mytrace : {},  
  

get TraceCalls() {  

    if (!(Traces.__mytrace && Traces.__mytrace[this.Name]))  

        Traces.__mytrace[this.Name] = new __CallTrace(this.BaseAddress, this.Size);  

    return Traces.__mytrace[this.Name];  

},  
  

// dx @$curprocess.Modules[0].TraceInRange(..., ...)  

TraceInRange : function (baseAddr, size) {  

    if (!(Traces.__mytrace && Traces.__mytrace[baseAddr.toString()] ))  

        Traces.__mytrace[baseAddr.toString()] = new __CallTrace(baseAddr, size);  

    return Traces.__mytrace[baseAddr.toString()];  

},  
  

TraceClear : function () {  

    if (Traces.__mytrace) {  

        delete Traces.__mytrace;  

    }  

    logIn("Trace cache cleared...");  

}  

}  
  

function initializeScript() {  

    return [  

        new host.apiVersionSupport(1, 3),  

        new host.functionAlias(calls, "calls"),  

        new host.functionAlias(memory, "memory"),  

        new host.functionAlias(GetSym, "getsym"),  

        new host.namedModelParent(Traces, "Debugger.Models.Module")  

    ];  

}
}

```

Table 3. WinDbg helper script