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Ryuk in 5 Hours

October 18, 2020

Intro

The Ryuk threat actors went from a phishing email to domain wide ransomware in 5 hours. They escalated privileges using Zerologon (CVE-2020-1472), less than 2 hours after the initial phish. They used tools such as Cobalt Strike, AdFind, WMI, and PowerShell to accomplish their objective.

Ryuk has been one of the most proficient ransomware gangs in the past few years, with the FBI claiming \$61 million USD having been paid to the group as of February 2020. Earlier in the year, the group grew a little quiet, but that seems to have changed in the past few weeks, with incidents like what occurred at **UHS** hospitals.

Case Summary

In our previous Ryuk case, we saw the threat actors leverage access to an environment via the Bazar Loader malware. This time around, we saw them accomplish their objective faster, but the general tactics and techniques stayed similar between incidents.

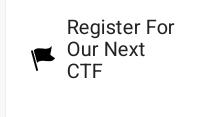
Bazar was introduced to the environment again with the delivery via phishing emails. For an in depth breakdown on this loader, see this analysis by Roman Marshanski & Vitali Kremez. Bazar, once running, was seen again injecting into explorer.exe, svchost.exe, and spawning command shell processes.

From this loader we saw initial mapping of the domain, using built-in windows utilities such as NItest. However, unlike the last case, the threat actors started at a lower privileged user and rather than proceed slowly or cautiously, they exploited the recently disclosed Zerologon vulnerability (CVE-2020-1472) to reset the machine password of the primary domain controller.

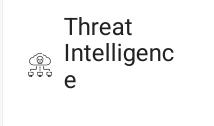
Lateral movement was initiated via SMB file transfers and WMI executions of Cobalt Strike Beacons. The network indicators align similarly to the prior campaign and were noted by Kyle Ehmke in response to our last post pivoting off the prior report's intel. From memory analysis, we were also able to conclude the actors were using a trial version of Cobalt Strike with the EICAR string present in the network configuration for the beacon. Both portable executable and DLL beacons were used.

After moving laterally to the secondary domain controller, the threat actor started on more domain discovery via Net and the PowerShell Active Directory module. From there, the threat actors appeared to use the default named pipe privilege escalation module on the server. At this point, the threat actors used RDP to connect from the secondary domain controller, to the first domain controller, using the built in Administrator account.











Once on the main domain controller, another Cobalt Strike beacon was dropped and executed. Then more domain reconnaissance was performed using <u>AdFind</u>. Once this completed, at the four hour mark, the threat actors were ready for their final objective.

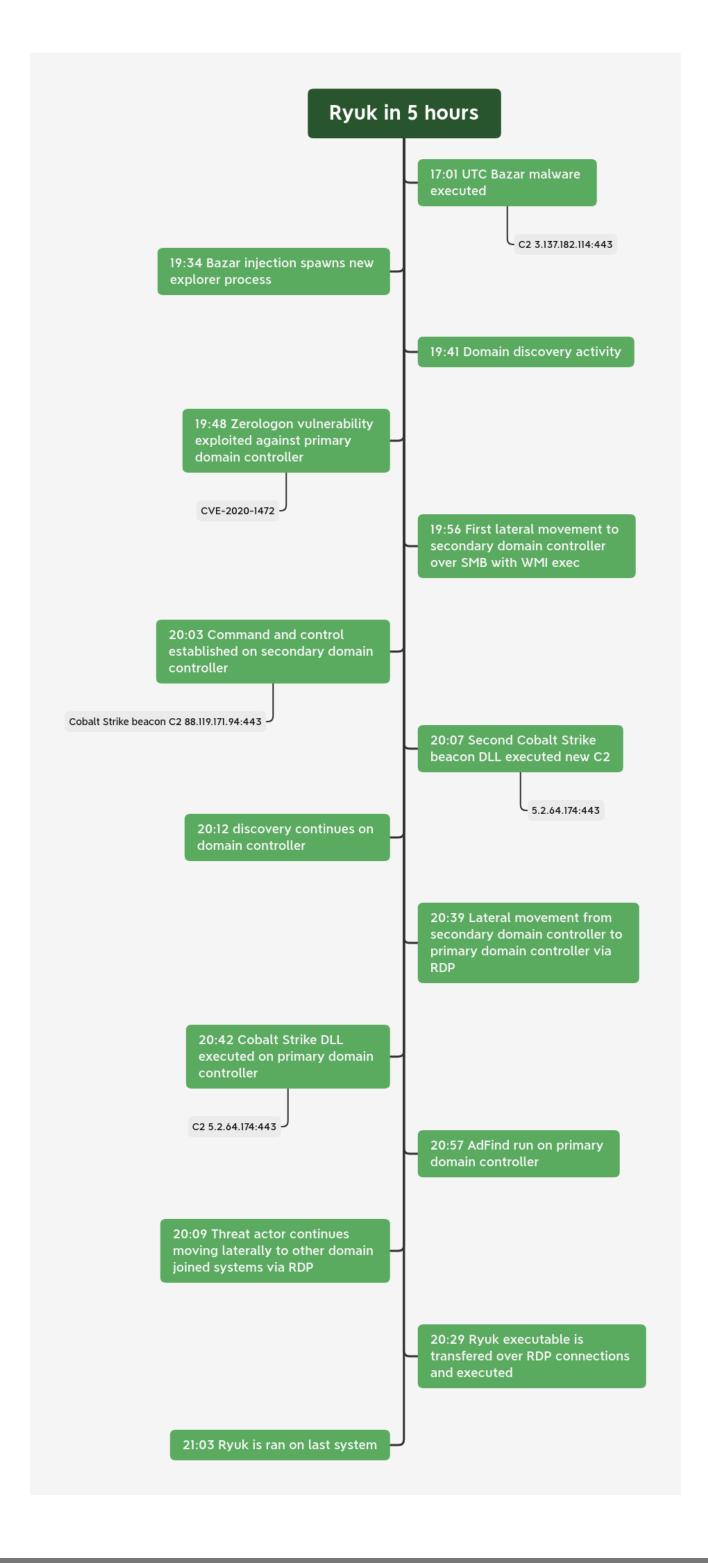
Four hours and 10 minutes in, the threat actors used the pivot from the primary domain controller to RDP into the Backup server. Backup servers were again targeted first for deployment of the ransomware executable, followed by servers and then workstations. The threat actors finished their objective by executing the ransomware on the primary domain controller, and at the 5 hour mark, the attack completed.

While last time we commented on the lead time between the first and second day to aid detection and response activity, this case goes to show that you can't count on that kind of timescale. You need to be ready to act in less than an hour, to make sure you can effectively disrupt the threat actor.

Timeline







MITRE ATT&CK

Initial Access

Access was initiated by a phishing email leading to the Bazar Loader malware executable.

Execution

Bazar relies on user execution of an executable to run. This user was a Domain User and did not have any other permissions.

Privilege Escalation

CVE-2020-1472 was used to reset the credentials on one of the domain controllers in the environment. After resetting the password, the threat actors then targeted a different domain controller, potentially due to breaking services by use of their exploit.

Packet showing the zeroed out password.

On one of the domain controllers we saw use of the Cobalt Strike named pipe escalation.

```
C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe /c echo 92d8cc45954 >; \\.\pipe\446b3c
```

Defense Evasion

On the first domain controller that the treat actors connected to after their initial connection, they dropped a DLL and executed it via rundll32.

```
C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe /C rundll32 C:\Windows\system32\SQL.dll, S
```

Dropped via RDP and executed via rundll32 on the second domain controller.

```
rundll32 C:\PerfLogs\arti64.dll, rundll
```

Shortly after, the DLL was called again via regsrv32.

```
regsvr32 C:\PerfLogs\arti64.dll
```

Then a 2nd DLL was dropped and executed in a similar manner on the 2nd DC.

```
rundll32 C:\\PerfLogs\\socks64.dll, rundll
```

Discovery

Ran on the beachhead.

```
nltest /domain_trusts /all_trusts
nltest /dclist:DOMAIN
net group "Domain admins" /DOMAIN
```

Ran on a domain controller.

```
net group "enterprise admins" /domain
nltest /domain_trusts /all_trusts
nltest /dclist:"DOMAIN"
ping DOMAINCONTROLLER
cmd.exe /C time
net user administrator /domain
```

Then they imported the PowerShell Active Directory module.

They then ran the following looking for host names, operating systems and last logon dates of all AD systems.

```
C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe /C Get-ADComputer -Filter {enabled -eq $tr
```

After already completing the above discovery work and having already pivoted to their 2nd domain controller, the threat actors moved on to AdFind for further domain reconnaissance.

```
C:\Windows\Temp\adf\AdFind.exe
C:\Windows\Temp\adf\adf.bat
```

Contents of the script ran the following with AdFind.

```
adfind.exe -f "(objectcategory=person)"
adfind.exe -f "objectcategory=computer"
adfind.exe -f "(objectcategory=organizationalUnit)"
adfind.exe -sc trustdmp
adfind.exe -subnets -f (objectCategory=subnet)
adfind.exe -f "(objectcategory=group)"
adfind.exe -gcb -sc trustdmp
```

The threat actor then ran this command a few times.

nltest /domain trusts /all trusts

Lateral Movement

The first lateral movement occurred to the domain controller not affected by the use of CVE-2020-1472. An executable was transferred to it via SMB using a domain administrator account.

After transferring the exe, the threat actors utilized WMI from the beachhead host to execute the file.

C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe /C WMIC/node:"DC.DOMAIN.local" process cal

The presence of the EICAR strings point to the Cobalt Strike software being used as a <u>trial</u> <u>version</u>.

They accessed the GPO's for the domain but none were modified or added.

```
mmc.exe" "C:\Windows\System32\gpedit.msc"
```

Shortly there after we saw a Cobalt Strike DLL transferred via the RDP connection.

RDP was used to pivot from the main domain controller and distribute the final ransomware payload enterprise wide.

Command and Control

After our previous report, <u>@kyleehmke</u> pivoted off of our prior Ryuk report and used the network data to link several of these <u>domains</u> which we saw in this case.

Bazar:

Report_Print.exe

3.137.182.114:443

cstr3.com

Cobalt Strike:

servisses.exe

88.119.171.94:443

Certificate [86:77:d8:5e:51:69:ac:e2:08:07:2e:b0:dc:6c:10:9e:25:80:70:a6]

Not Before <u>2020/10/06 13:33:55 UTC</u> Not After <u>2021/10/06 13:33:55 UTC</u>

Issuer Org <u>lol</u>

Subject Common <u>havemosts.com</u>

Subject Org lol

Public Algorithm <u>rsaEncryption</u>

JA3: 57f3642b4e37e28f5cbe3020c9331b4c JA3s: e35df3e00ca4ef31d42b34bebaa2f86e

SQL.dll

5.2.64.174:443

Certificate [36:d5:68:f9:be:2a:34:e1:76:3d:89:78:e5:62:4d:fc:ae:02:97:ad]

Not Before <u>2020/10/02 16:45:57 UTC</u> Not After <u>2021/10/02 16:45:57 UTC</u>

Issuer Org <u>lol</u>

Subject Common quwasd.com

Subject Org lol

Public Algorithm <u>rsaEncryption</u>

JA3: a0e9f5d64349fb13191bc781f81f42e1 JA3s: ae4edc6faf64d08308082ad26be60767

<u>Impact</u>

Starting around 4.5 hours after the initial Bazar malware was executed, the Ryuk threat actors acted on their final objectives and initiated RDP connections from the domain controller previously exploited, to the rest of the environment. This time they initiated the ransomware first on the secondary domain controller (their 1st pivot) and transferred the Ryuk executable over the RDP connection.

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We also have pcaps, files, memory images, Kape and Redline packages available <u>here</u>.

IOCs

https://misppriv.circl.lu/events/view/80223 & https://otx.alienvault.com/pulse/5f8cce76f5614d9b220181b6

Network

```
3.137.182.114:443
cstr3.com
88.119.171.94:443
havemosts.com
5.2.64.174:443
quwasd.com
```

File

```
servisses.exe
d971827d974effedaeaf7d62b619b1dd
c3a846eb04e2fe765e56fa15a0d5c1eb650ccba3
1d8b7faf5f290465cc742e07abca78fac419135b191071cc77912263cd1dde1d
socks64.dl1
890206f0c506366d480e02fc9fed988a
ba1542d9b55fff21bda9495ed884404b0436cff2
feb8c2bcb71da02dbbeecb999869e053cf96af8cce6f9705cadca4338133d3b5
SQL.dl1
3785d87f6995b4b95d9b55f8d2556237
```

```
9b44a8f0bb2d65fb19e7ca7bbd85b36c176f3d60
d67461ba45a4edf3b2a69b3e64303fda8130bd1fc7a1173f35c1fe67b40c9639
arti64.dll
3785d87f6995b4b95d9b55f8d2556237
9b44a8f0bb2d65fb19e7ca7bbd85b36c176f3d60
d67461ba45a4edf3b2a69b3e64303fda8130bd1fc7a1173f35c1fe67b40c9639
xxx.exe
5b8b66ddbbf1fd67211e9a4bf78c1700
cdb042dd8e9dc17f677c991b386f4cd242f2628d
ccde47a0d315dcd4740fccfe8e8110fbb1fd85bb305734fec409f52051790c98
```

Detections

Network

```
GPL NETBIOS SMB-DS IPC$ share access
ET POLICY SMB2 NT Create AndX Request For a DLL File - Possible Latera
ET POLICY SMB2 NT Create AndX Request For an Executable File
```

Sigma

https://github.com/Neo23x0/sigma/blob/master/rules/windows/malware/win_mal_ryuk.yml

https://github.com/Neo23x0/sigma/blob/master/rules/windows/process_creation/win_powers
hell_suspicious_parameter_variation.yml

https://github.com/Neo23x0/sigma/blob/master/rules/windows/process_creation/win_susp_wmi_execution.yml

https://github.com/Neo23x0/sigma/blob/master/rules/windows/process_creation/win_trust_discovery.yml

 $\underline{https://github.com/Neo23x0/sigma/blob/master/rules/windows/process_creation/win_susp_n}\\ \underline{et_execution.yml}$

Detects AdFind usage from a past case:

```
title: AdFind Recon
description: Threat Actor using AdFind for reconnaissance.
author: The DFIR Report
date: 2019/8/2
references:
    - https://thedfirreport.com/2020/08/03/dridex-from-word-to-domain-
tags:
    - attack.remote_system_discovery
    - attack.T1018
logsource:
    category: process creation
   product: windows
detection:
    selection 1:
        CommandLine | contains:
            - adfind -f objectcategory=computer
    selection 2:
        CommandLine|contains:
            - adfind -gcb -sc trustdmp
    condition: selection 1 or selection 2
falsepositives:
```

```
- Legitimate Administrator using tool for Active Directory querying level: medium status: experimental
```

Yara

```
/*
YARA Rule Set
Author: The DFIR Report
Date: 2020-10-13
Identifier: Case 1006 Ryuk
Reference: https://thedfirreport.com
* /
import "pe"
rule ryuk 1006 servisses procdump {
meta:
description = "files - file servisses-procdump.exe"
author = "The DFIR Report"
reference = "https://thedfirreport.com"
date = "2020-10-13"
hash1 = "387894a0b404c67e722799308b12ff2be31d2e8ce798aa53d971f0c13805c
$s1 = "c:/crossdev/src/winpthreads-svn6233/src/mutex.c" fullword ascii
$s2 = "mutex global shmem" fullword ascii
$s3 = "mutex global static shmem" fullword ascii
$s4 = " pthread key dest shmem" fullword ascii
$s5 = "_pthread_key_sch_shmem" fullword ascii
$s6 = " pthread key max shmem" fullword ascii
$s7 = "_pthread_key_lock_shmem" fullword ascii
$s8 = "cannot find name of executable" fullword ascii
$s9 = "tiles32.png" fullword ascii
$s10 = "GetModuleFileName: %s" fullword ascii
$s11 = "IP DEST HOST UNREACHABLE (11003)" fullword ascii
$s12 = "This program requires Windows NT!" fullword ascii
$s13 = "SNMP INVALID SESSION" fullword ascii
$s14 = "SNMP TRAP ERRORS" fullword ascii
$s15 = "SNMP SELECT FDERRORS" fullword ascii
$s16 = "Some different radices: %d %x %o %#x %#o " fullword ascii
$s17 = "c:/crossdev/src/winpthreads-svn6233/src/rwlock.c" fullword asc
$s18 = " pthread tls shmem" fullword ascii
$s19 = "IP DEST PORT UNREACHABLE (11005)" fullword ascii
$s20 = "pthr root shmem" fullword ascii
condition:
uint16(0) == 0x5a4d and filesize < 2000KB and
(pe.imphash() == "a90d500745a1ce2417c01fecefbc2851" or 8 of them)
rule ryuk 1006 files socks64 {
meta:
description = "files - file socks64.dll"
author = "The DFIR Report"
reference = "https://thedfirreport.com"
date = "2020-10-13"
hash1 = "feb8c2bcb71da02dbbeecb999869e053cf96af8cce6f9705cadca4338133d
$x1 = "C:\\Users\\Izidu\\Desktop\\2019\\WindowsSDK7-Samples-master\\Wi
```

```
$s2 = "C:\\Users\\Izidu\\Desktop\\2019\\WindowsSDK7-Samples-master\\Wi
$s3 = "PluginSample.dll" fullword ascii
$s4 = "AppPolicyGetProcessTerminationMethod" fullword ascii
$s5 = "luginSample.pdb" fullword ascii
$s6 = "rundll" fullword ascii
$s7 = "AcquireSamplePlugin::DisplayConfigureDialog" fullword wide
$s8 = "AppPolicyGetThreadInitializationType" fullword ascii
$s9 = "`template-parameter-" fullword ascii
$s10 = "operator<=>" fullword ascii
$s11 = "operator co await" fullword ascii
$s12 = "AppPolicyGetWindowingModel" fullword ascii
$s13 = "Transfer Completed Successfully!" fullword wide
$s14 = "AppPolicyGetShowDeveloperDiagnostic" fullword ascii
$s15 = "noexcept" fullword ascii
$s16 = "Read-Only Photo Acquire Plugin" fullword wide
$s17 = "api-ms-win-appmodel-runtime-l1-1-2" fullword wide
$s18 = "Software\\Microsoft\\Windows\\CurrentVersion\\Photo Acquisitic
$s19 = ".?AUIUserInputString@@" fullword ascii
$s20 = "q0DVNrB\"Rtf#" fullword ascii
condition:
uint16(0) == 0x5a4d and filesize < 2000KB and
( pe.imphash() == "Ofd22f187f22ab4ec2eb55f91ccefa7a" and ( pe.exports(
rule ryuk 1006 Report Print {
meta:
description = "files - file Report Print.exe"
author = "The DFIR Report"
reference = "https://thedfirreport.com"
date = "2020-10-13"
hash1 = "23ac461f9b5128841cafabb4282432252ea7b57874595cf6fe8457fc1ac65
strings:
$s1 = "kErNel32.Dll" fullword wide
$s2 = "DOOKOL.exe" fullword ascii
$s3 = "c:/crossdev/src/winpthreads-svn6233/src/mutex.c" fullword ascii
$s4 = "hmutex" fullword ascii
$s5 = ". FindPESectionExec" fullword ascii
$s6 = "mutex global shmem" fullword ascii
$s7 = "processthreadsapi.h" fullword ascii
$s8 = "mutex global static shmem" fullword ascii
$s9 = "TargetIp" fullword ascii
s10 = "c:\\crossdev\gccmaster\build-tdm64\gcc\x86 64-w64-mingw32
$s11 = "h:\\crossdev\\gccmaster\\build-tdm64\\runtime\\mingw-w64-crt"
$s12 = "J__mingw_winmain_lpCmdLine" fullword ascii
$s13 = "GNU C 4.8.1 - mtune = generic - march = x86 - 64 - g - 02 - 02 - fbuil
$s14 = "GNU C 4.8.1 - mtune = generic - march = x86 - 64 - g - 02 - 02 - fbuil
$s15 = "GNU C 4.8.1 -m64 -mtune=generic -march=x86-64 -g -O2 -std=gnu9
$s16 = "GNU C 4.8.1 -mtune=generic -march=x86-64 -g -02 -02 -02 -fbuil
$s17 = "9lpszCommandLine" fullword ascii
$s18 = "= mingw GetSectionForAddress" fullword ascii
$s19 = "__mingw_winmain_lpCmdLine" fullword ascii
$s20 = "%Target" fullword ascii
condition:
uint16(0) == 0x5a4d and filesize < 3000KB and
(pe.imphash() == "8f0088451a1156246379abc67514cacf" and pe.exports("Column temperature of the column temperature of the 
rule ryuk 1006 files xxx {
meta:
description = "files - file xxx.exe"
author = "The DFIR Report"
reference = "https://thedfirreport.com"
```

```
date = "2020-10-13"
hash1 = "ccde47a0d315dcd4740fccfe8e8110fbb1fd85bb305734fec409f52051790
strings:
$s1 = "DOOKOL.exe" fullword ascii
$s2 = "c:/crossdev/src/winpthreads-svn6233/src/mutex.c" fullword ascii
$s3 = "hmutex" fullword ascii
$s4 = "mutex global shmem" fullword ascii
$s5 = "processthreadsapi.h" fullword ascii
$s6 = "mutex global static shmem" fullword ascii
$s7 = "fake get output format" fullword ascii
$s8 = "&rvaTarget" fullword ascii
$s9 = "h:\\crossdev\\gccmaster\\build-tdm64\\runtime\\mingw-w64-crt" f
s10 = "c:\\crossdev\gccmaster\build-tdm64\gcc\x86 64-w64-mingw32
$s11 = "E mingw winmain lpCmdLine" fullword ascii
$s14 = "GNU C 4.8.1 -m32 -mtune=generic -march=x86-64 -g -02 -02 -02 -
$s15 = "GNU C 4.8.1 -m32 -mtune=generic -march=x86-64 -g -O2 -std=gnu9
$s16 = " mingw winmain lpCmdLine" fullword ascii
$s17 = "Npthread getspecific" fullword ascii
$s18 = " gthread getspecific" fullword ascii
$s19 = "= mingw GetSectionForAddress" fullword ascii
$s20 = "4lpszCommandLine" fullword ascii
condition:
uint16(0) == 0x5a4d and filesize < 2000KB and
(pe.imphash() == "00f3261b5b33a9b1e8b6003f4056a885" and pe.exports("Continuous pe.exports))
rule ryuk 1006 servisses {
meta:
description = "files - file servisses.exe"
author = "The DFIR Report"
reference = "https://thedfirreport.com"
date = "2020-10-13"
hash1 = "1d8b7faf5f290465cc742e07abca78fac419135b191071cc77912263cd1dc
strings:
$s1 = "DOOKOL.exe" fullword ascii
$s2 = "c:/crossdev/src/winpthreads-svn6233/src/mutex.c" fullword ascii
$s3 = "mutex global shmem" fullword ascii
$s4 = "mutex global static shmem" fullword ascii
$s5 = "_pthread_key_dest_shmem" fullword ascii
$s6 = " pthread key max shmem" fullword ascii
$s7 = "_pthread_key_sch_shmem" fullword ascii
$s8 = " pthread key lock shmem" fullword ascii
$s9 = "cannot find name of executable" fullword ascii
$s10 = "tiles32.png" fullword ascii
$s11 = "GetModuleFileName: %s" fullword ascii
$s12 = "IP DEST HOST UNREACHABLE (11003)" fullword ascii
$s13 = "This program requires Windows NT!" fullword ascii
$s14 = "SNMP INVALID SESSION" fullword ascii
$s15 = "SNMP TRAP ERRORS" fullword ascii
$s16 = "SNMP SELECT FDERRORS" fullword ascii
$s17 = "Some different radices: %d %x %o %#x %#o " fullword ascii
$s18 = "c:/crossdev/src/winpthreads-svn6233/src/rwlock.c" fullword asc
$s19 = "_pthread_tls_shmem" fullword ascii
$s20 = "IP DEST PORT UNREACHABLE (11005)" fullword ascii
condition:
uint16(0) == 0x5a4d and filesize < 2000KB and
(pe.imphash() == "a90d500745a1ce2417c01fecefbc2851" and pe.exports("Kenther State of the Control of the Contr
rule ryuk_1006_files_SQL {
```

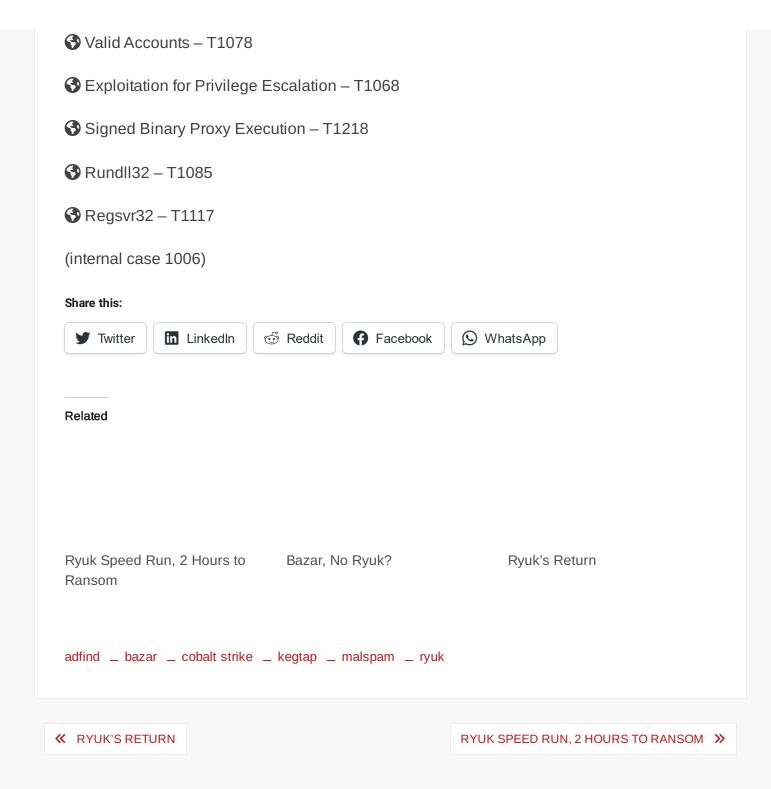
```
meta:
description = "files - file SQL.dll"
author = "The DFIR Report"
reference = "https://thedfirreport.com"
date = "2020-10-13"
hash1 = "d67461ba45a4edf3b2a69b3e64303fda8130bd1fc7a1173f35c1fe67b40c9
strings:
$s1 = ".data$_ZN12_GLOBAL__N_110fake_mutexE" fullword ascii
$s2 = ".data$_ZZN12_GLOBAL__N_116get_static_mutexEvE4once" fullword as
$s3 = "DOOKOL.dll" fullword ascii
$s4 = " ZN12 GLOBAL N 110fake mutexE" fullword ascii
$s5 = " ZZN12 GLOBAL N 116get static mutexEvE4once" fullword ascii
$s6 = ".data$_ZN12_GLOBAL__N_115emergency_mutexE" fullword ascii
$s7 = ".data$ ZN12 GLOBAL N 1L12static mutexE" fullword ascii
$s8 = "__shmem_winpthreads_grabber_mutex_global_shmem" fullword ascii
$s9 = " shmem winpthreads init mutex global_shmem" fullword ascii
$s10 = "__shmem_winpthreads_ptr_mutex_global_shmem" fullword ascii
$s11 = "c:/crossdev/src/winpthreads-svn6233/src/mutex.c" fullword asci
$s12 = "pthread_mutex_lock_intern" fullword ascii
$s13 = " shmem winpthreads init mutex global static shmem" fullword a
$s14 = "__shmem_winpthreads_grabber_mutex_global_static_shmem" fullwor
$s15 = " shmem winpthreads_ptr_mutex_global_static_shmem" fullword as
$s16 = " Z7ExecutePv" fullword ascii
$s17 = "hmutex" fullword ascii
$s18 = ". FindPESectionExec" fullword ascii
$s19 = "_ZN9__gnu_cxx17__recursive_mutex6unlockEv" fullword ascii
$s20 = ".text$ ZN9 gnu cxx17__recursive_mutex6unlockEv" fullword asci
condition:
uint16(0) == 0x5a4d and filesize < 2000KB and
(pe.imphash() == "d16819dafefb97404d0d0e42adb82e5c" and (pe.exports())
```

If you have detections you would like to add to this section, please contact us and we will credit you.

MITRE

Spearphishing Link – T1192

- Remote Desktop Protocol T1076
- Remote File Copy T1105
- ♦ Windows Management Instrumentation T1047
- Command-Line Interface T1059
- Omain Trust Discovery T1482
- Remote System Discovery T1018
- System Time Discovery T1124
- Onata Encrypted for Impact T1486
- ♦ Commonly Used Port T1043
- Standard Application Layer Protocol T1071
- Standard Cryptographic Protocol T1032
- ♦ User Execution T1204



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