Cyber Forensics and Incident Response

Course code: MMI126272 & MMI125225

Case Title: Digital Forensics Investigation Report

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Disclaimer:

"This piece of coursework is our own original work and has not been submitted elsewhere in fulfillment of the requirement of this or any other award"

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1. Background

This document presents the outcomes derived from a digital forensic investigation on George Bernard, a 35-year-old software developer believed to be operating a credit card fraud ring. During an enforcement operation, several items of digital evidence were collected, which comprised a hard drive image (.dd) alongside a mobile phone extraction (.xry) and a suspicious executable file (.exe). This particular examination aimed at analyzing the foregoing artifacts to establish any fraudulent schemes.

2. Executive Summary

Following internationally accepted standards on digital forensic analysis [1], this investigation evaluation document consists of the following findings and evidence in question:

- ***Hard Drive Analysis:*** Retrieved deleted files containing sensitive credit card information, noted installed privacy applications (Tor, VPN), and found evidence of cryptocurrency activities [2]. Hash checksum was obtained during data acquisition.
- ***Mobile Device Analysis:*** Identified communications indicating job sharing with a counterpart ("Danny") along with browsing activity concerning illegal financial activities [3].
- ***Malware Sample:*** The file was identified as a UPX-packed Trojan (Trojan.Zusy), employing process injection for stealthy evasion of detection [4][5].

2.1 Techniques for Preservation

2.1.1. *Table1:File Integrity Check Techniques*

Technique	Method
Hash Verification	Verified file integrity using MD5, SHA1, and SHA256 algorithms [6]
Chain of Custody	Documented every transfer or interaction with evidence to maintain integrity
Read-only Analysis	Ensured analysis tools did not alter original files [1]

2.1.2. *Table 2: Tools used for the Analysis*

Tools	Version	Purpose
Autopsy	4.21.0	Conducted forensic analysis on the hard drive[2]
HashCal	Latest	Used to calculate file hashes[6]
Xamn	7.7.0	Analyzed mobile phone extraction[3]
Process Hacker 2	2.39.124	Carried out static analysis of executable[4]
Pestudio	9.58	Monitored processes during runtime[7]
APIMiner	1.0.0	Tracked API calls for behavioral malware analysis[5]

2.2 Chain of Custody Documentation

Throughout the investigation, all procedures designed to maintain the integrity of custody were followed to ensure that any digital evidence obtained would remain uncontaminated and usable in a court of law. The first step was to obtain the Android model .xry image file, which was precisely described and enclosed. After this, all interactions with the evidence were logged to ensure that no unauthorized actions were performed, and the data was accessed using the Autopsy tool. Interaction with the hard drive image was equally monitored and logged.

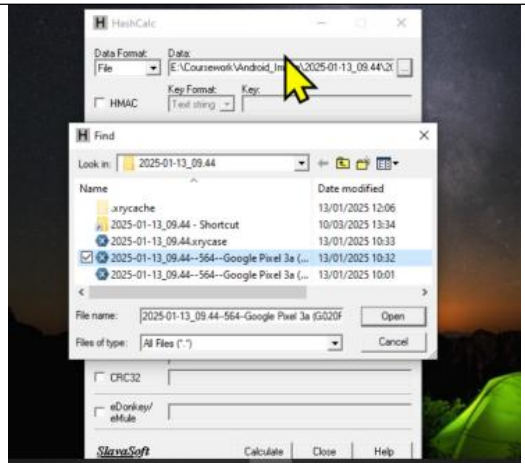
All interactions with devices and databases were passed through the XAMN tool before the evidence was presented regarding the relevant mobile device's data, such as contacts, messages, and browsing history. All examinations performed and actions taken during interactions with the device were logged.

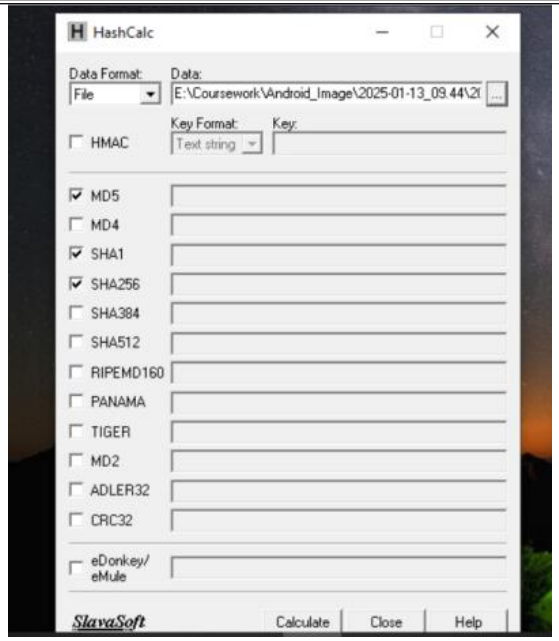
Suspicious PE files were subjected to both static and dynamic analysis where relevant information was collected using read-only modes. Each step taken was precisely timestamped and those responsible for each individual action were logged in detail including the actions they performed, when, and for what reason. Such a detailed approach at each stage of the court presentation and investigation ensures that the evidence is valid and reliable.

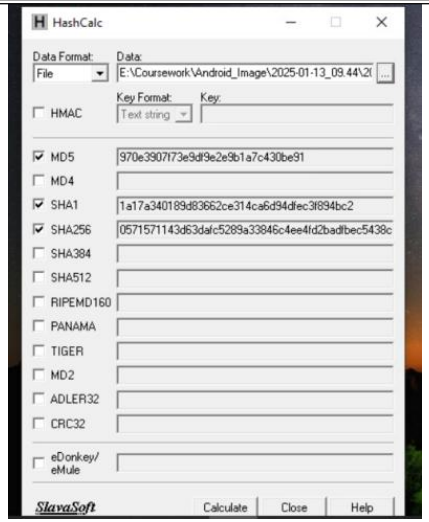
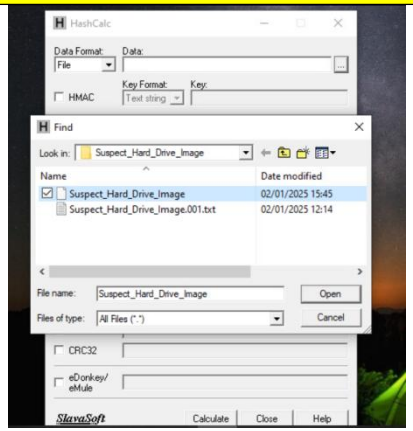
3. Technical Report

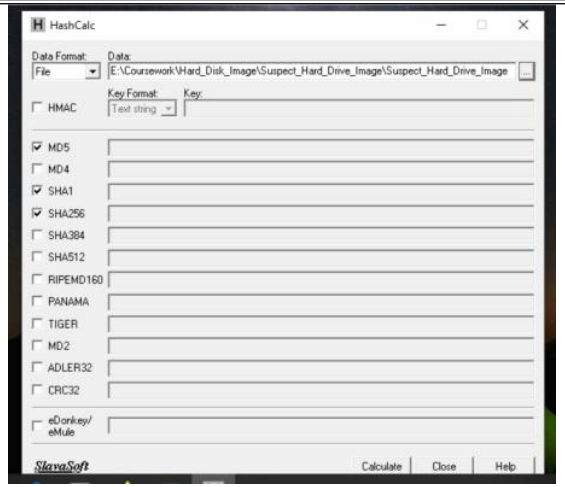
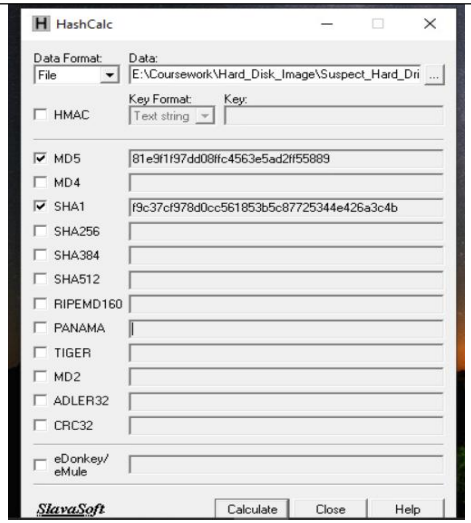
This section present the analysis and evidence as shown in the table. Provide a description of the analysis methods that were used, and also explain the findings of the analysis. Include proof of your findings, such as screenshots and commands (tables make the report more readable and concise). It is important that the evidence provide enough information for the reader to understand the incident completely

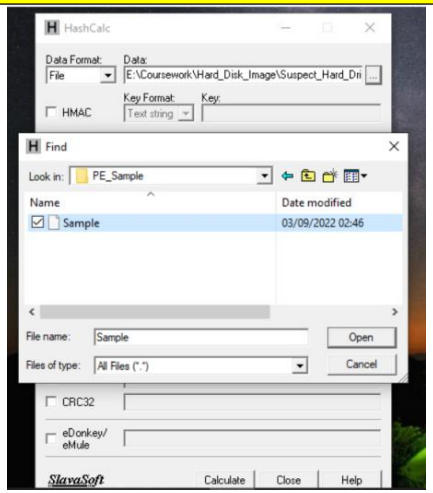
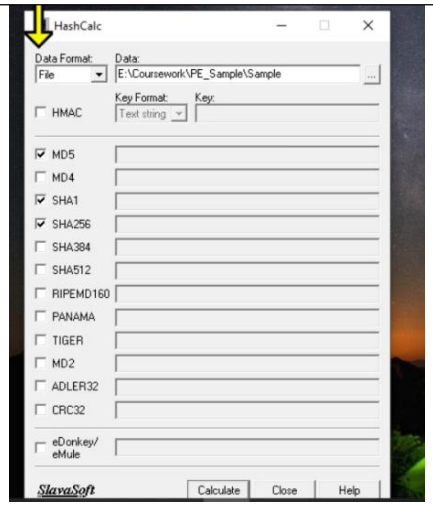
3.1. Table 3: Shows the process used for the Hard drive analysis, PE file and Android Image.*File integrity check using Hashcal*

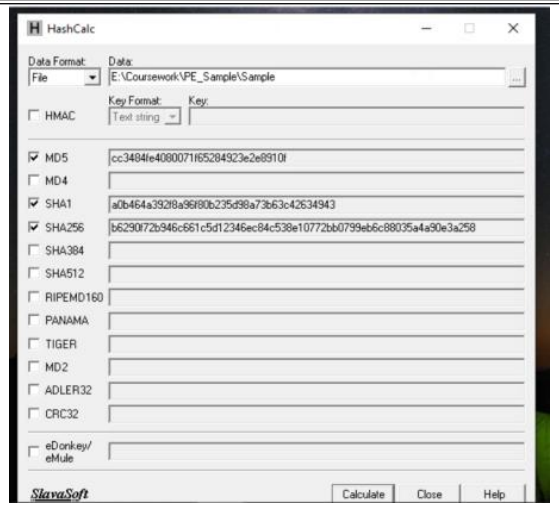
Date/ time	Process	Evidence
Android Image Analysis		
13:34 10-03-2025	Launch Hashcal	
13:41 10-03-2025	Select file format as File	
	Upload file in hashcal from location E:\Coursework\Android_Image\2025-01-13_09.44\2025-01-13_09.44--564--Google Pixel 3a (G020F).xry	

13:43 10-03-2025	Select algorithm MD5 , SHA1 and SHA256 Click on Calculate button	

13:51 10-03-2025	Computed Hash value will be generated MD5: 970e3907f73e9df9e2e9b1a7c430be91 SHA1: 1a17a340189d83662ce314ca6d94dfec3f894bc2 SHA256: 0571571143d63dafc5289a33846c4ee4fd2badfbec5438c5fbed2fbf185b569f	
Hard Drive Image		
13:53 10-03-2025	Select file format as File Upload file in hashcal from location E:\Coursework\Hard_Disk_Image\Suspect_Hard_Drive_Image\Suspect_Hard_Drive_Image	

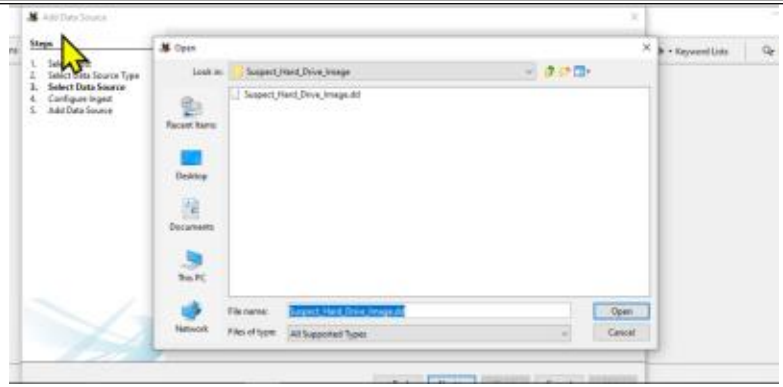
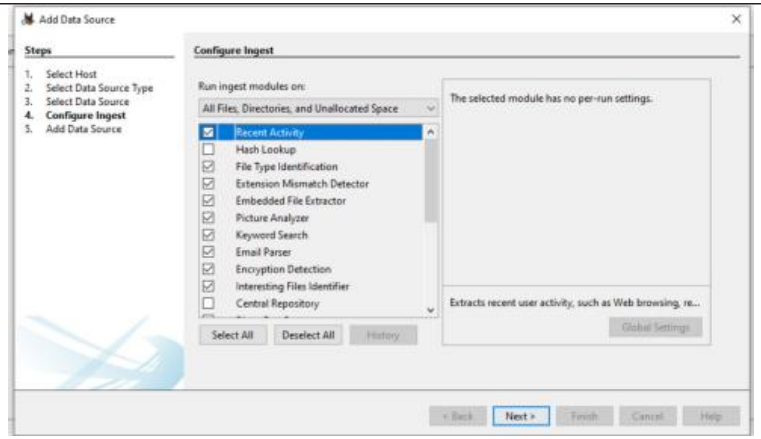
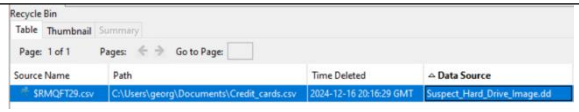
13:55 10-03-2025	Select algorithm MD5 , SHA1 Click on Calculate button	
14:15 10-03-2025	Computed Hash value will be generated MD5 checksum: 81e9f1f97dd08ffc4563e5ad2ff55889 SHA1 checksum: f9c37cf978d0cc561853b5c87725344e426a3c4b	

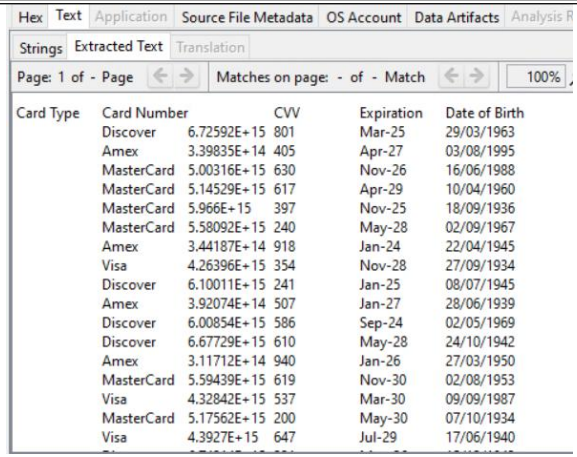
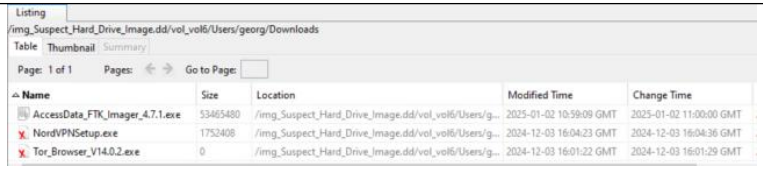
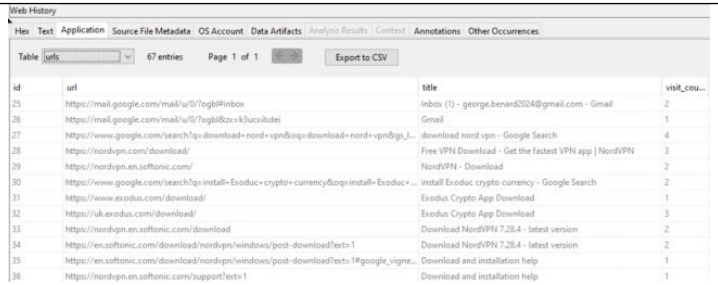
Portable Executable Sample		
14:16 10-03-2025	Select file format as File Upload file in hashcal from location E:\Coursework\PE_Sample\Sample	
14:18 10-03-2025	Select algorithm MD5 , SHA1 and SHA256 Click on Calculate button	

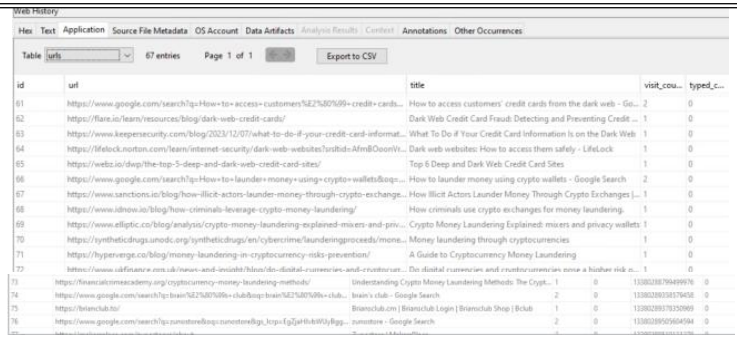
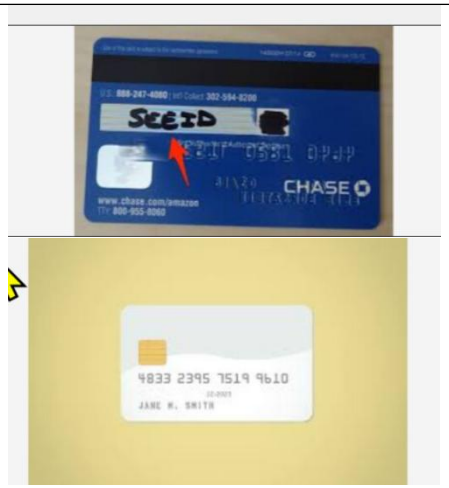
14:20 10-03-2025	Computed Hash value will be generated MD5: cc3484fe4080071f65284923e2e8910f SHA1: a0b464a392f8a96f80b235d98a73b63c42634943 SHA256: b6290f72b946c661c5d12346ec84c538e10772bb0799eb6c88035a4a90e3a258	

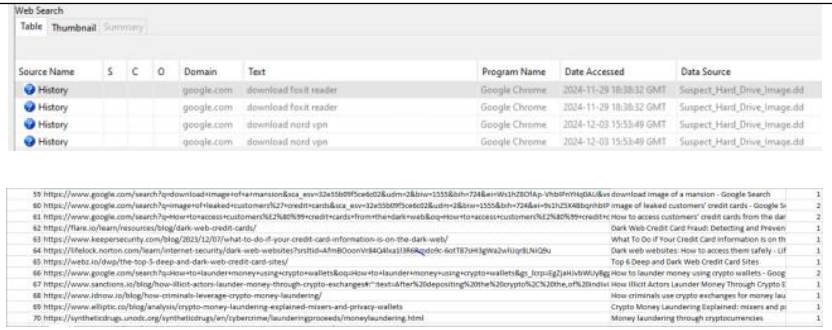
3.2. Table 4: This process show examine a suspect's storage device *Hard drive image analysis using Autopsy tool* without altering the original data.

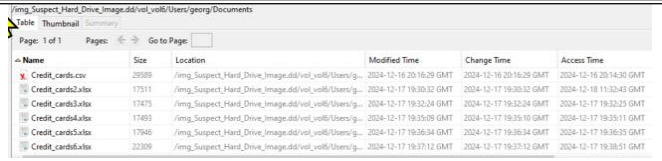
Date/time	Process	Evidence
18:09 17-03-2025	Open Autopsy	

18:15 17-03-2025	Select the file from E:\Coursework\Hard_Disk_Image\Suspect_Hard_Drive_Image	
18:34 17-03-2025	Selected appropriate Configure Ingest	
19:30 17-03-2025	Credit details of all users excel file found in recycle bin	

	Csv file has user sensitive details like username, credit card type & number, CVV and DOB	
19:50 17-03-2025	Evidence found George has downloaded Tor browser, Nord VPN for accessing dark web	
20:15 17-03-2025	Evidence found in web history search on Nord VPN, Exodus (cryptocurrency)	

21:00 17-03-2025	Evidence of web history folder where George has made search of money laundry , credit card access , image of leaked credit cards etc.	
21:30 17-03-2025	Found different credit and debit card images in web cache data, which can be used for purchasing things	
22:15 17-03-2025	This image show the George has purchase things from different credit and debit card	

22:30 17-03-2025	This evidence show Mozilla browser sites in Web bookmark folder	
22:45 17-03-2025	As shown in the both figure of web search where George has search for crypto currency, dark web access, credit cards	

23:00 17-03-2025	Evidence of six excel sheets with card details which was found in documents folder	

/img_Suspect_Hard_Drive_Image.dd/vol_vol6/Users/georg/Documents

Table | Thumbnail | Summary

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Name	Size	Location	Modified Time	Change Time	Access Time
Credit_cards.csv	29589	/img_Suspect_Hard_Drive_Image.dd/vol_vol6/Users/g...	2024-12-16 20:16:29 GMT	2024-12-16 20:16:29 GMT	2024-12-16 20:14:30 GMT
Credit_cards2.xlsx	17511	/img_Suspect_Hard_Drive_Image.dd/vol_vol6/Users/g...	2024-12-17 19:30:32 GMT	2024-12-17 19:30:32 GMT	2024-12-18 11:32:43 GMT
Credit_cards3.xlsx	17475	/img_Suspect_Hard_Drive_Image.dd/vol_vol6/Users/g...	2024-12-17 19:32:24 GMT	2024-12-17 19:32:24 GMT	2024-12-17 19:32:25 GMT
Credit_cards4.xlsx	17493	/img_Suspect_Hard_Drive_Image.dd/vol_vol6/Users/g...	2024-12-17 19:35:09 GMT	2024-12-17 19:35:10 GMT	2024-12-17 19:35:11 GMT
Credit_cards5.xlsx	17946	/img_Suspect_Hard_Drive_Image.dd/vol_vol6/Users/g...	2024-12-17 19:36:34 GMT	2024-12-17 19:36:34 GMT	2024-12-17 19:36:35 GMT
Credit_cards6.xlsx	22309	/img_Suspect_Hard_Drive_Image.dd/vol_vol6/Users/g...	2024-12-17 19:37:12 GMT	2024-12-17 19:37:12 GMT	2024-12-17 19:38:51 GMT

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Credit_cards

Card Type	Card Number	CVV	Expiration	Date of Birth
Discover	6725922527326990	801	Mar-25	3/29/63
Amex	339835437814842	405	Apr-27	8/3/95
MasterCard	5003157401062980	630	Nov-26	6/16/88
MasterCard	5145290906867860	617	Apr-29	4/10/60
MasterCard	5965999529461370	397	Nov-25	9/18/36
MasterCard	5580915152260140	240	May-28	9/2/67
Amex	344186636954390	918	Jan-24	4/22/45
Visa	4263958568836580	354	Nov-28	9/27/34
Discover	6100105188103500	241	Jan-25	7/8/45
Amex	392073991313292	507	Jan-27	6/28/39
Discover	6008544390505500	586	Sept-24	5/2/69
Discover	6677291541887230	610	May-28	10/24/42
Amex	311711696409085	940	Jan-26	3/27/50
MasterCard	5594389455767720	619	Nov-30	8/2/53
Visa	4328419482277700	537	Mar-30	9/9/87
MasterCard	5175619105480550	200	May-30	10/7/34

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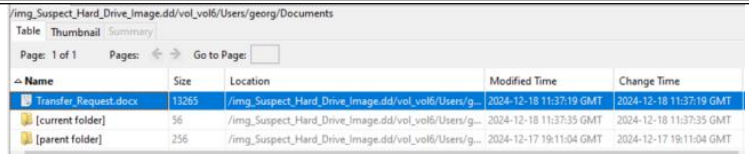
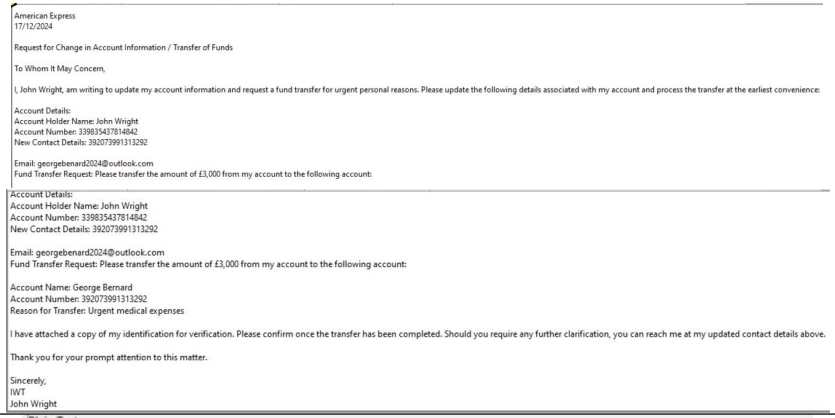
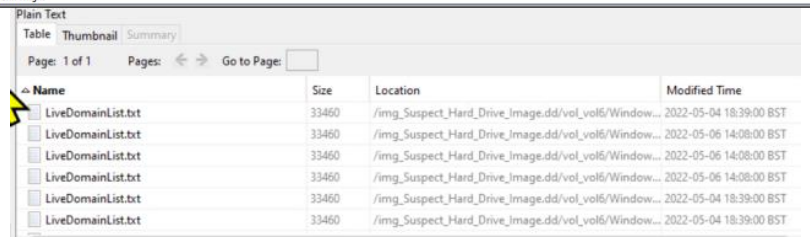
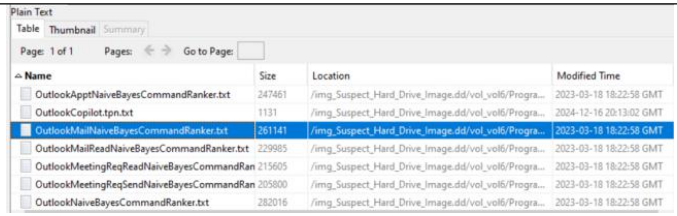
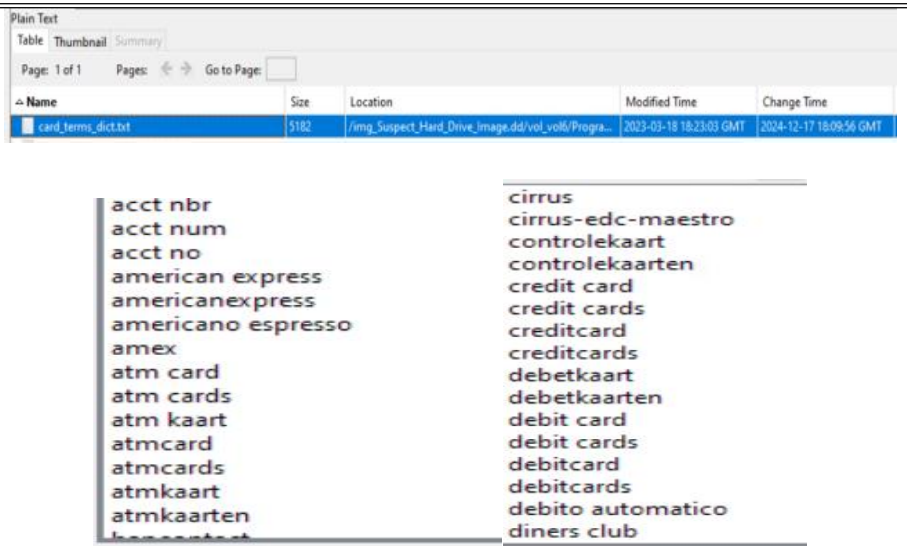
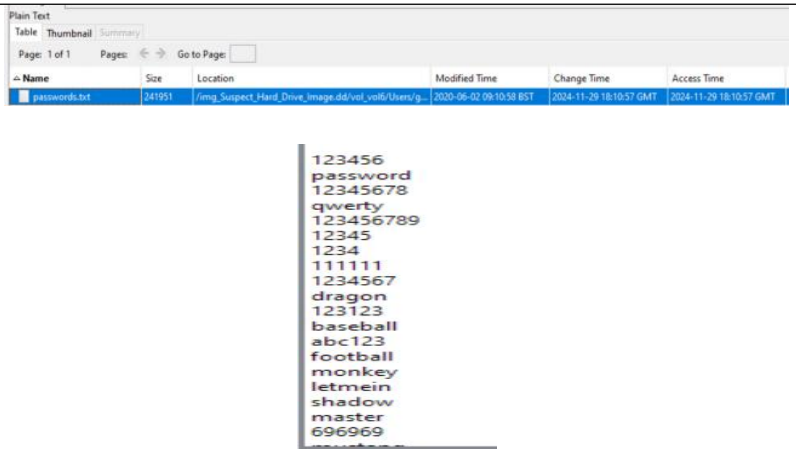
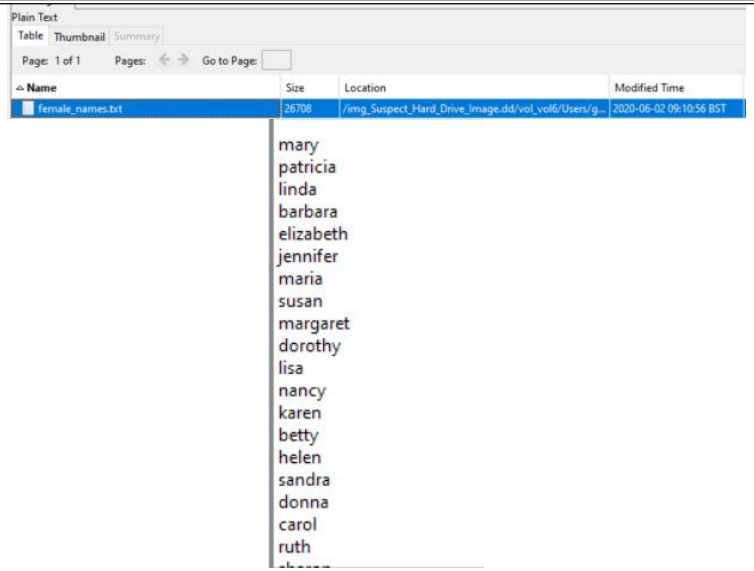
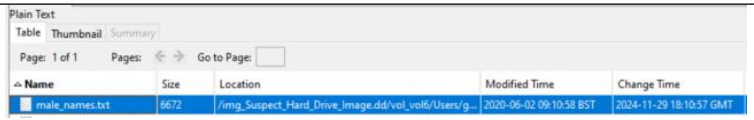
Credit_cards

Card Type	Card Number	CVV	Expiration	Date of Birth
MasterCard	5972823742636740	166	Apr-25	1/23/41
Visa	4533249729670350	355	Jun-27	7/25/57
Visa	4360930575815540	383	Apr-27	4/20/53
Amex	361209858206482	776	Aug-29	6/9/68
Visa	4885711528443560	620	Jan-28	4/25/77
Amex	399987953712440	23	Oct-27	7/30/98
MasterCard	5311559683341300	347	Dec-24	6/1/84
Amex	388120311026283	872	Sept-29	1/2/82
Visa	4598918367057070	654	May-24	9/17/49
Visa	4882381682615270	379	Feb-25	9/14/76
MasterCard	5877007410838050	221	Sept-27	11/6/71
Discover	6759730132211210	548	Jun-27	6/22/80
Visa	4410932167189040	736	Sept-24	2/22/06
MasterCard	5605029916103950	144	Feb-25	9/14/66
Visa	4170531555033180	55	Sept-26	9/20/62
Amex	325604989760657	427	Feb-29	10/14/62

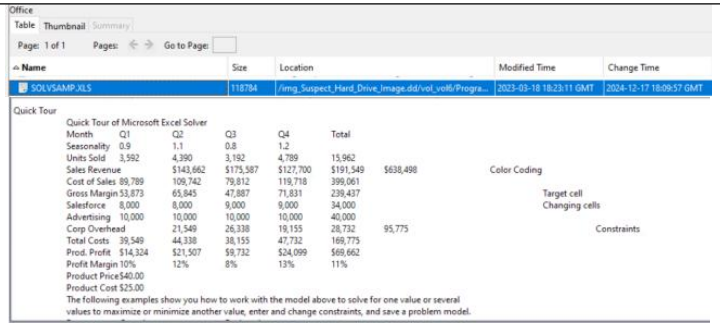
11:00 18-03-2025	Evidence of Transfer request for funds by George was found in Document folder	 
11:30 18-03-2025	List of Domain names are found in Plain text folder which indicate domains Gorge has access	

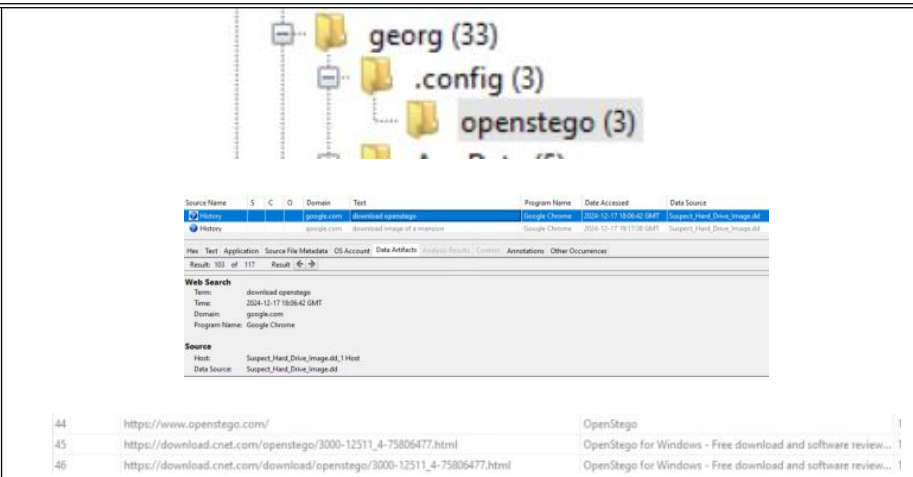
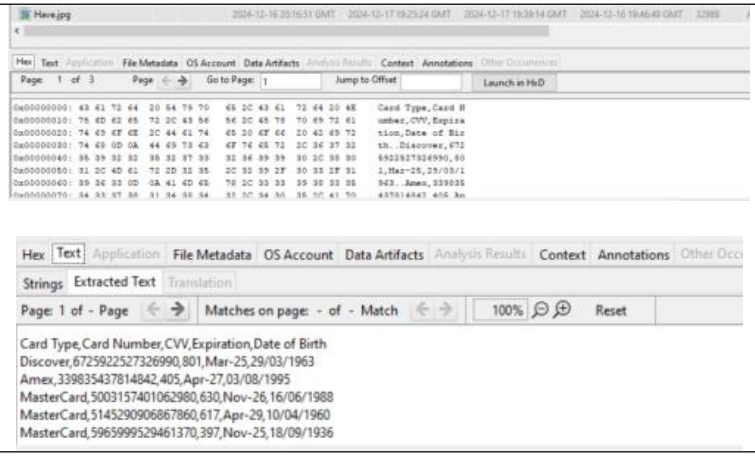
		
12:18 18-03-2025	Outloook mail box has request to Naives bay command ranker are found in Plain text folder	

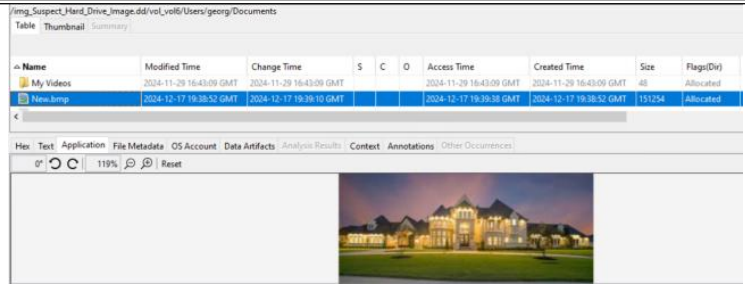
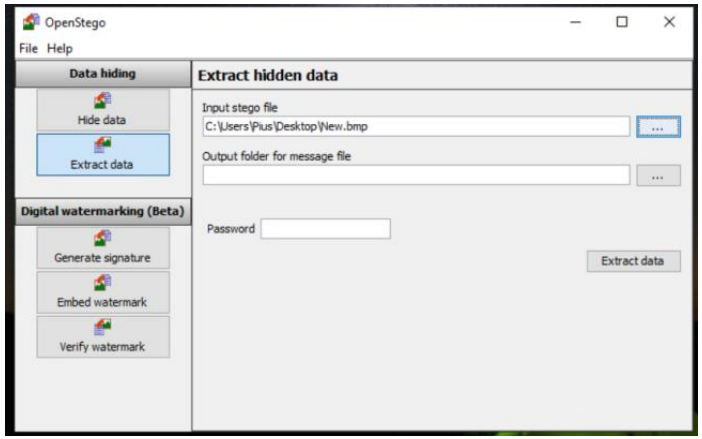
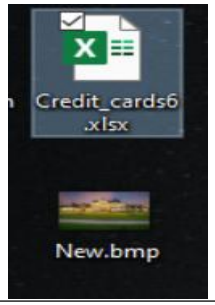
13:26 18-03-2025	Different type of Card names file was found under Plain text folder ,which can be use for selecting different cards on payment page	
14:00 18-03-2025	Password file was found in Documents folder under Plain text which can be use as any file passwords	

14:39 18-03-2025	Female names file was found in under Plain text folder which can be use as username in card details	
14:40 18-03-2025	Male names file was found in under Plain text folder which can be use as username in card details	

		james john robert michael william david richard charles joseph thomas christopher daniel paul mark donald george kenneth steven edward
14:50 18-03-2025	Surname names file was found in under Plain text folder which can be use as username in card details	

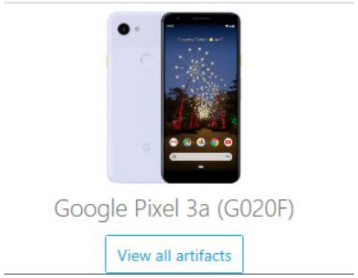
		
15:15 18-03-2025	SLOVSAMP.XLS file found in Office folder has financial data about the unit sold , sales revenue	

15:50 18-03-2025	Openstego file was found in .config and web history of download	
16:15 18-03-2025	Image Have.jpg is image file but its hex value is different and size of file is also more When click on text tab the file contain the card details as seen image	

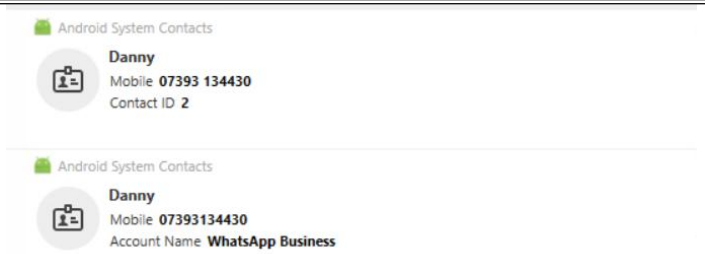
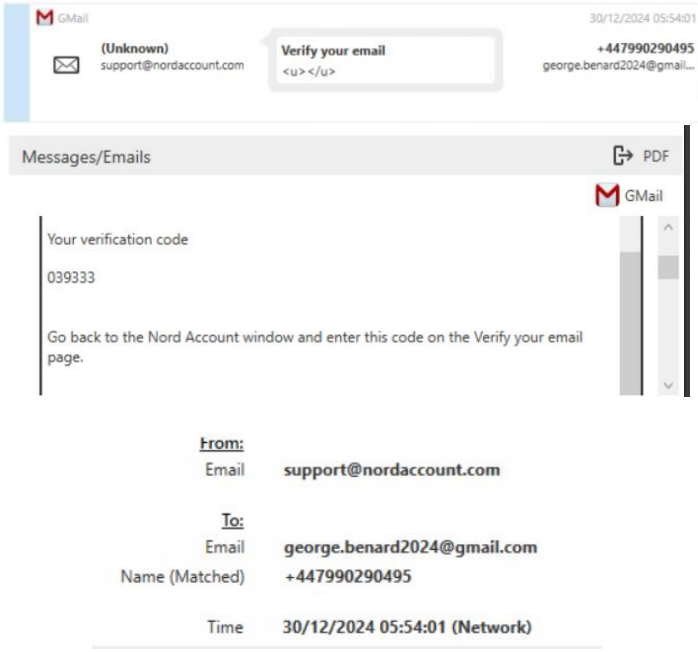
17:15 18-03-2025	New.bmp when data was extracted from it using OpenStego tool , excel sheet with credit cards details where found	  

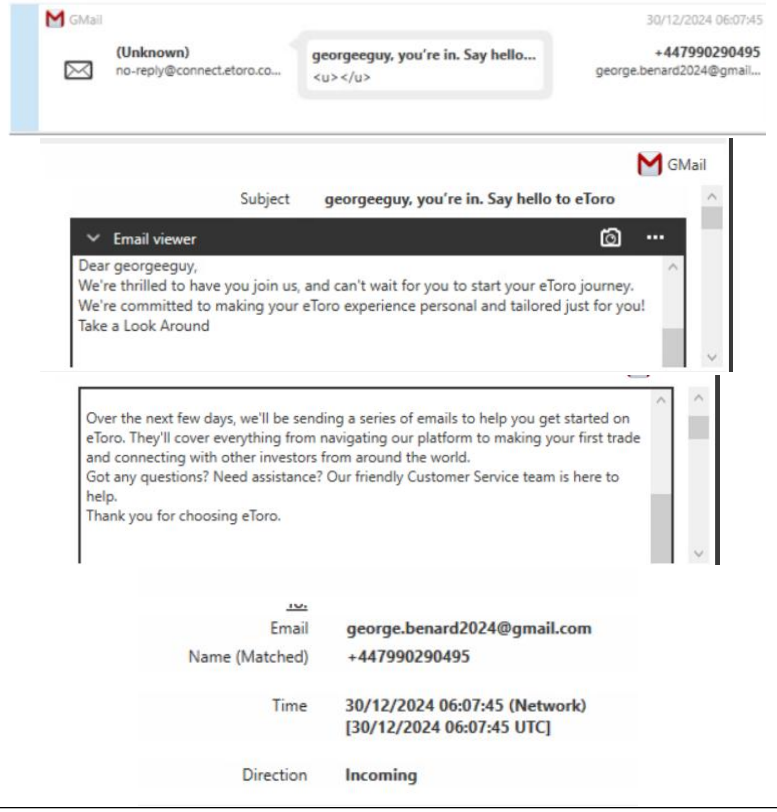
	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Card Type	Card Number	CVV	Expiration	Date of Birth	
2	Discover	6075461977952940	155	May-24	26/04/1975	
3	Amex	383409061536789	991	Dec-26	22/05/2000	
4	MasterCard	5388815550183470	267	Nov-30	10/10/1974	
5	Discover	6834508773782740	833	Jan-28	11/05/1940	
6	MasterCard	5642097616886540	418	Apr-28	10/04/1984	
7	Visa	4723505268921230	776	Jun-25	28/09/1950	
8	Discover	6272248356248050	451	Jun-27	13/05/1951	
9	Visa	4885930111638090	693	Oct-28	07/08/1982	
10	Amex	301114226475752	258	Apr-28	19/10/1979	
11	MasterCard	5670045653939150	50	Apr-28	12/02/1944	
12	Discover	6754797358920520	351	Jul-24	12/06/1963	

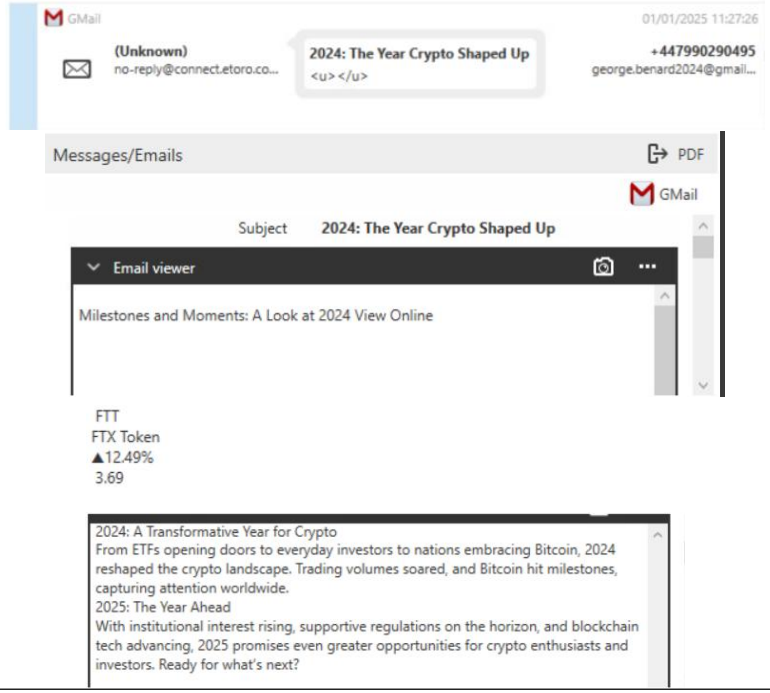
3.3. Table 5: This process show examine a suspect's *Mobile device analysis using Xamn tool* without altering the original data.

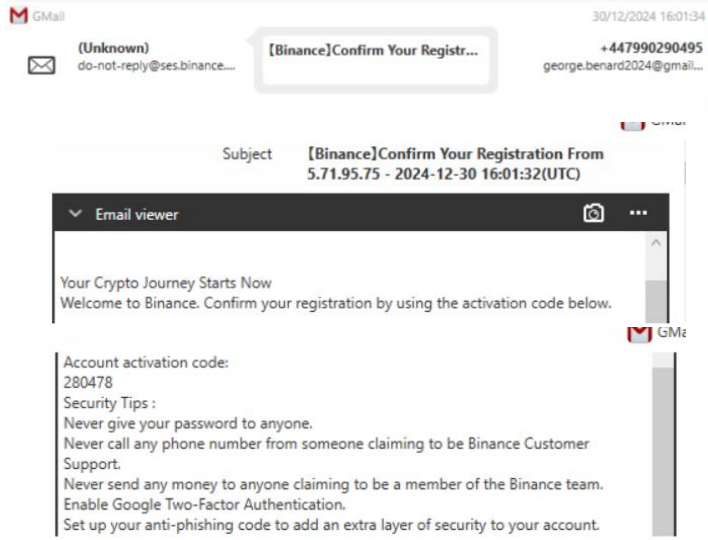
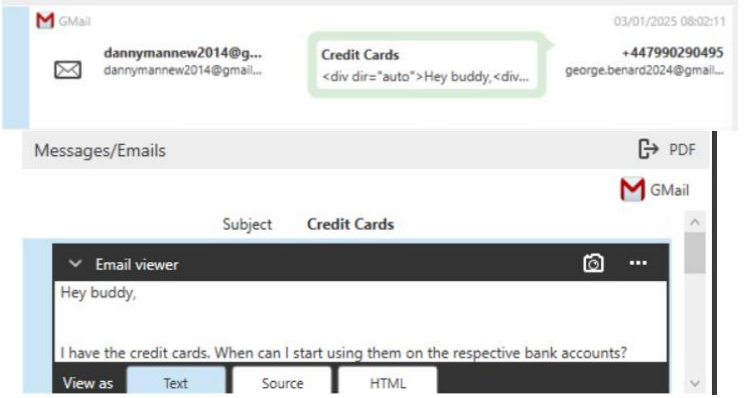
Date/time	Process	Evidence
22:36 22-03-2025	Open Xamn tool	
23:13 22-03-2025	Google Pixel 3a .xry file This are details of device.	

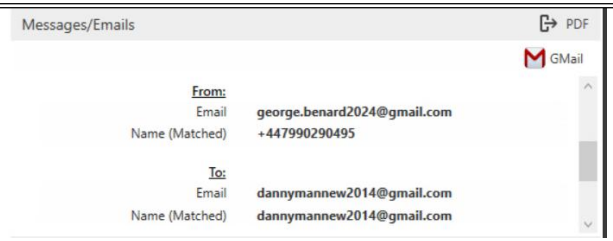
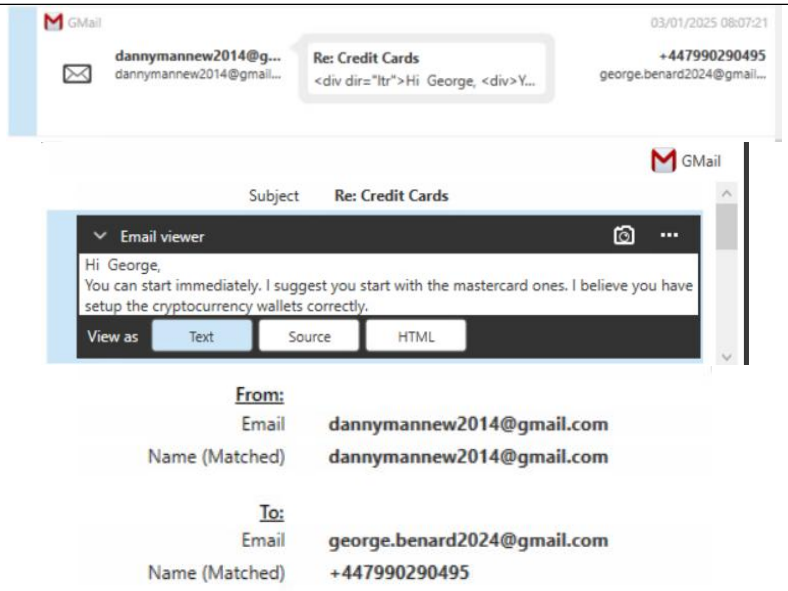
		DETAILS FOR: 2025-01-13_09.44--564--Google Pixel 3a (G020F).xry Device Family **Phone** User rooted **Yes** Device Name **Google Pixel 3a (G020F)** Model **Pixel 3a** Manufacturer Code Name **sargo** Manufacturer **google/Google** Device Personal Name **Pixel 3a** SIM Status **LOADED** Network Code (from IMSI) **23415** Service Provider Name **Vodafone** Device Timezone **Europe/London** Baseband Version **sdm** Android ID **90bd3e17d73fe233** Device Clock **13/01/2025 09:49:26 UTC** Airplane Mode **Enabled** Bluetooth Address **88:54:1F:2E:EF:5E** Device SDK version **32** Device OS version **12** Device Security Patch Level **2022-05-05** Revision **12/SP2A.220505.008** PC Clock **13/01/2025 09:49:30 UTC, GMT Standard Time** Advertising ID **c1a48ffe-65cc-4d4e-a86c-552ebf56aba0** Device SDK version **32** Device OS version **12** Device Security Patch Level **2022-05-05** Revision **SP2A.220505.008** Revision **SP2A.220505.008** Device Personal Name **Pixel 3a** Android ID **90bd3e17d73fe233** Number **+447990290495** Subscriber Id (IMSI) **234159550946778** Service Provider Name **CARD** Revision **google/sargo/sargo:12/SP2A.220505.008/8782922:user/release-keys** Revision **12**
23:16 22-03-2025	Evidence indicate Danny contact was deleted from contact list as they did cryptocurrency discussion.	

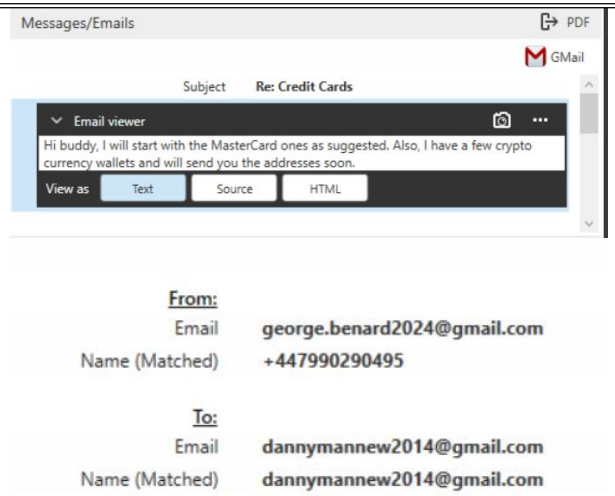
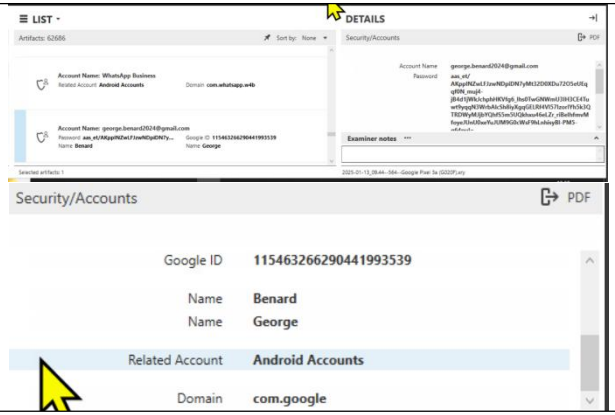
23:20 22-03-2025	Gorge contact list has only Danny's number	
13:08 23-03-2025	Verification code of Nord VPN on Gorge phone , downloaded Nord VPN entries where found in hard drive even to access the dark web	

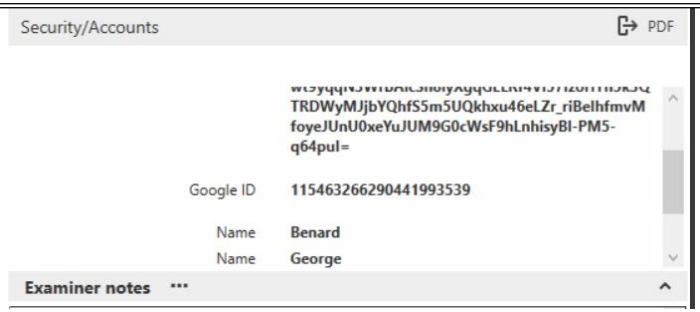
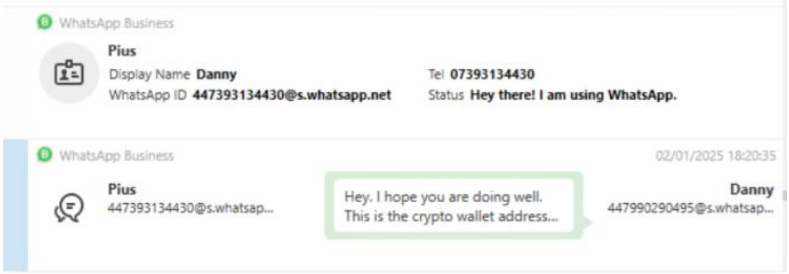
13:17 23-03-2025	In Messages we found George has created the eToro account which is used for trading in cryptocurrency	

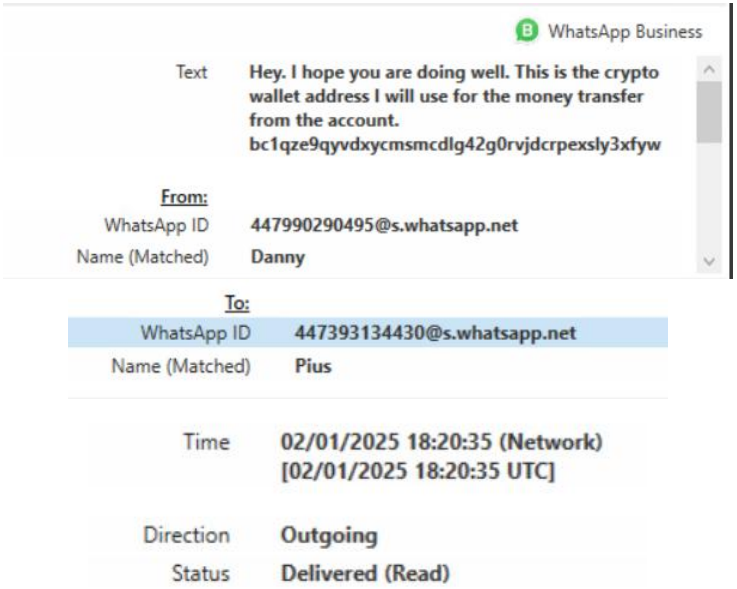
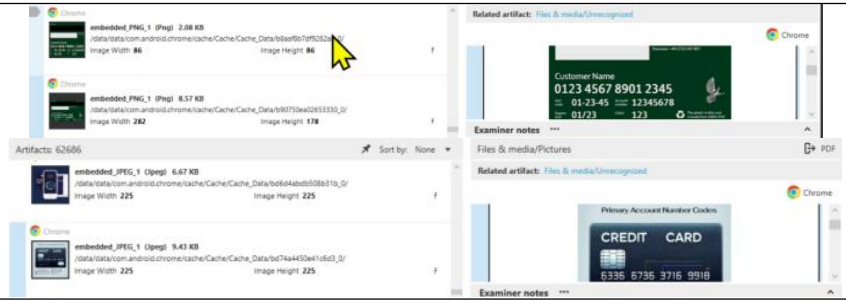
13:19 23-03-2025	In Messages folder we have found that email to George to invest in cryptocurrency trading	

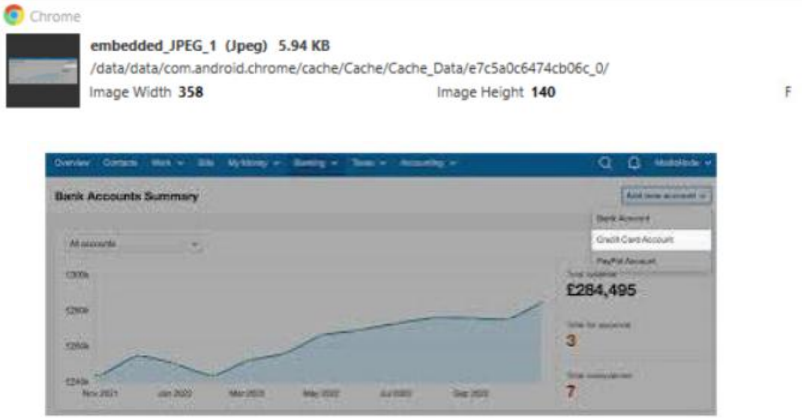
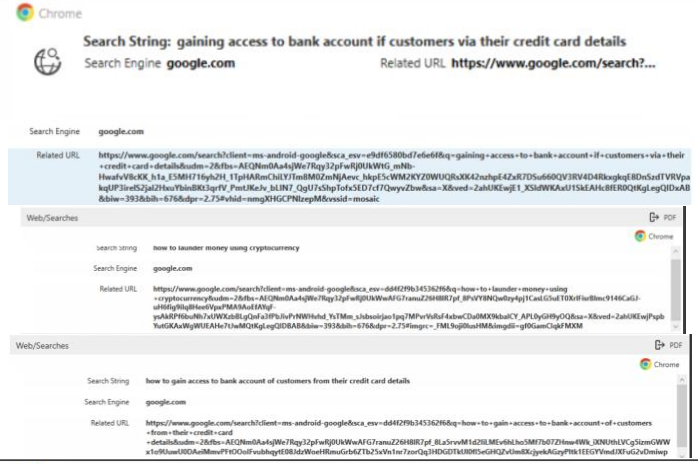
13:25 23-03-2025	In Messages folder we have found that Gorge has registered account in world largest cryptocurrency exchange digital trading	
13:37 23-03-2025	Email from George has to Danny where George claim to have credit card. This email where send on 2nd Jan 2025 but email id was wrong. Then on 3rd Jan, 2025 with proper email id of Danny , George has send mail.	

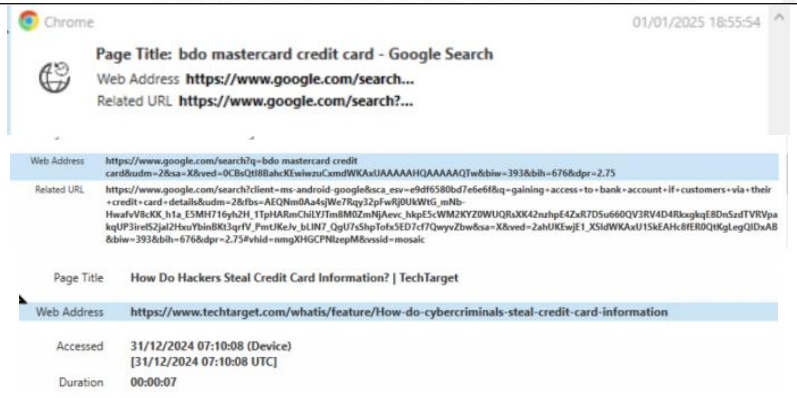
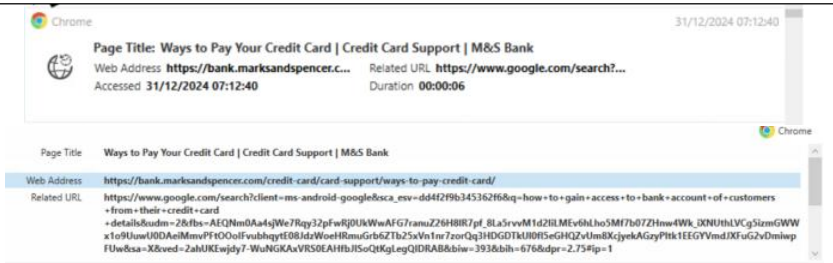
		
13:40 23-03-2025	In Emails where George has received the reply from Danny regarding start of using MasterCard with cryptocurrency wallet setup	
13:47 23-03-2025	Evidence found in Emails where George has replied to Danny	

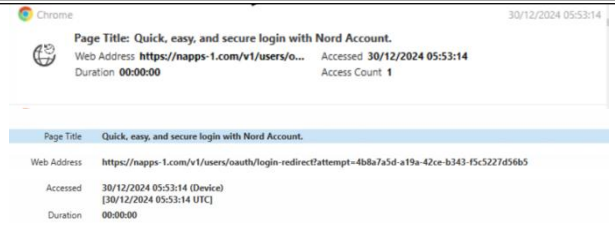
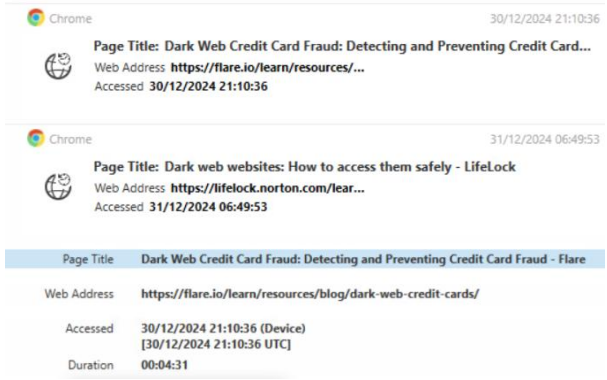
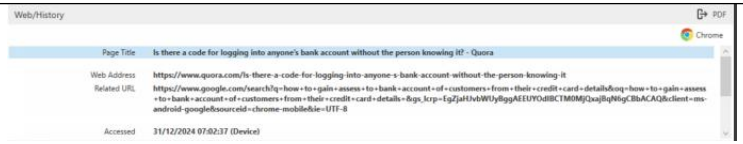
		
13:50 23-03-2025	George Android account password found in Message folder	

		
13:55 23-03-2025	Danny was in contact using whatsapp business.	

	Danny is using crypto wallet to transfer the money	
14:18 23-03-2025	Found credit card phones in media folder	

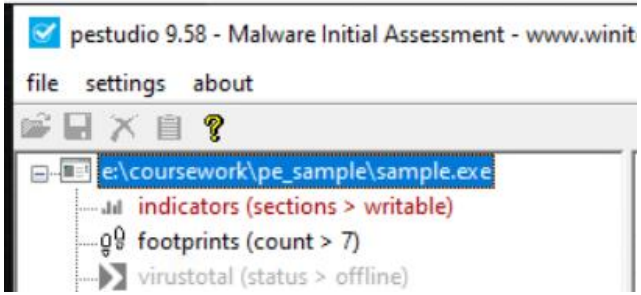
14:26 23-03-2025	Bank account summary details found in Media folder	
14:42 23-03-2025	Chrome search history of Gaining access to bank account via credit cards	
14:45 23-03-2025	Chrome search history of How to handle BidenCash fraud incident	

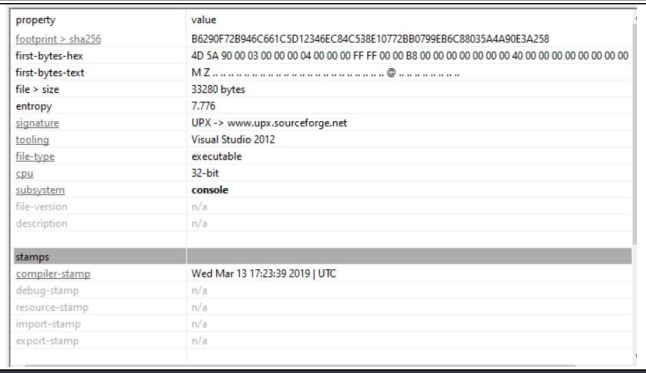
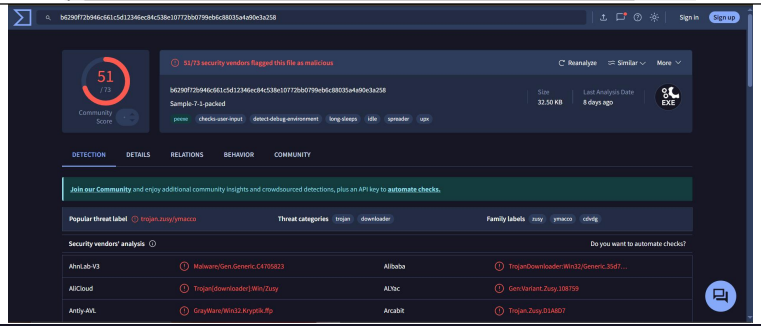
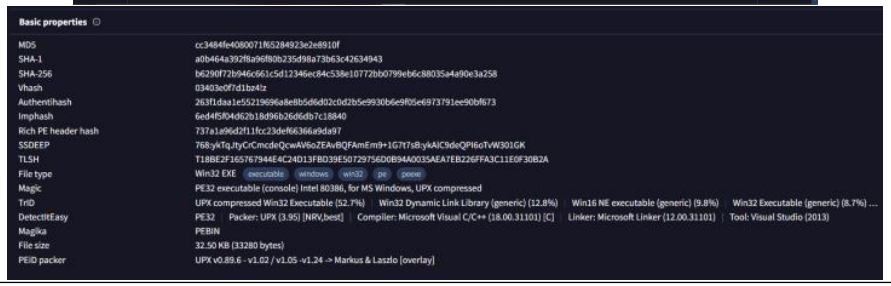
		
14:50 23-03-2025	Chrome search history of Steal credit card information	
14:43 23-03-2025	Chrome search history of Credit payment to M&S bank	

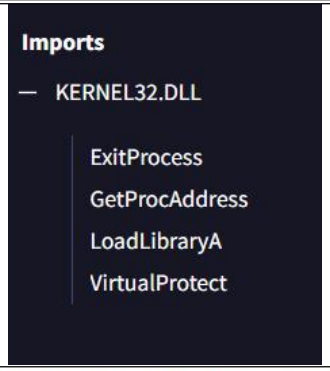
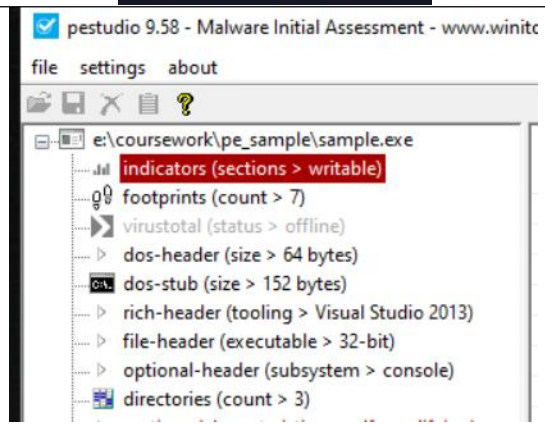
14:58 23-03-2025	Chrome search history of opening Nord account for using VPN	
15:00 23-03-2025	Chrome search history of Accessing Dark web for credit card fraud	
15:02 23-03-2025	Chrome search history of code to logging in anyone bank account	

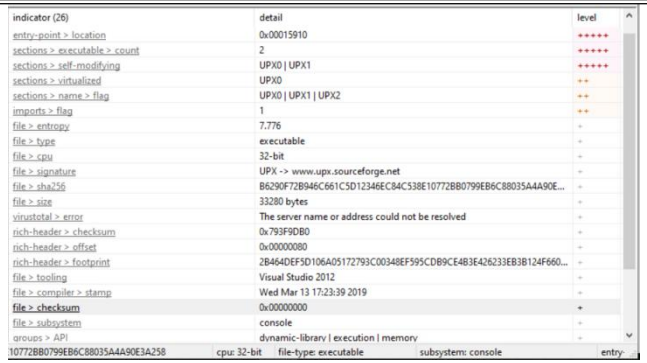
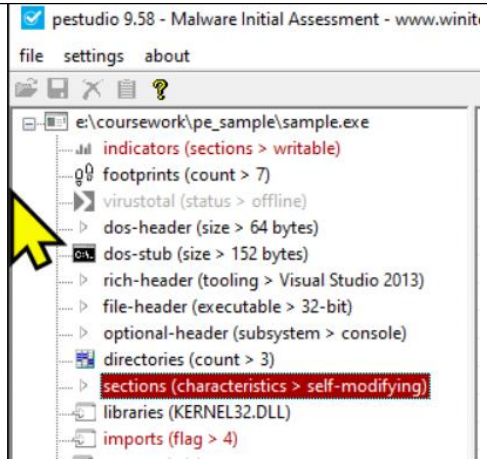
15:20 23-03-2025	Message found money transfer by George to Danny	

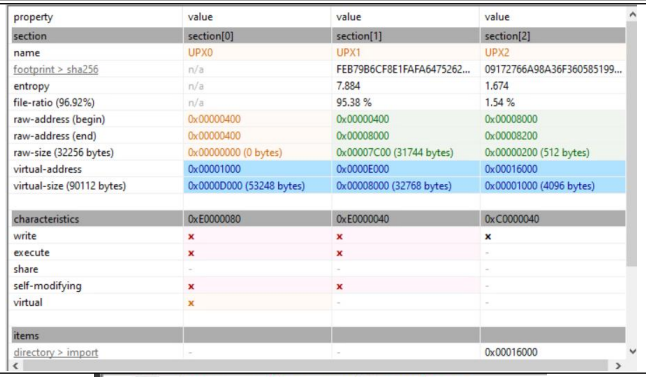
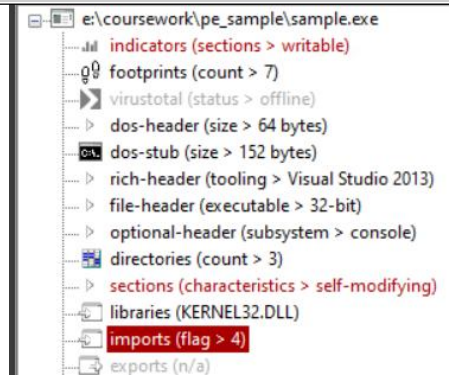
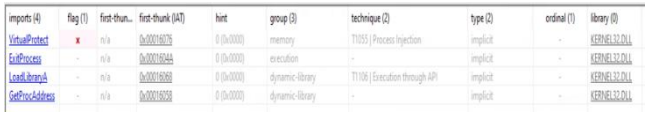
3.4. Table 6: This process show performing the *Static analysis* on PE sample using *Pestudio tool*

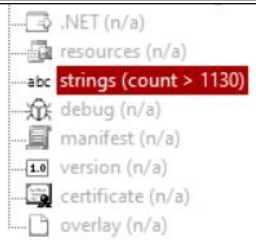
Date/ time	Process	Evidence
21:00 23-03-2025	Open Pestudio	
21:05 23-03-2025	Entropy is 7.776 which is very high.	
	It indicate the data has been compressed, encrypted, or obfuscated.	
	"4D 5A" value in the first-byte-hexadecimal and the "M Z" string in the first-byte-text, it confirms it is a portable executable file (.exe).	

	UPX, a popular packer for compression look like to have been used to pack t he file.	
21:10 23-03-2025	Copy the hash code Paste in Virus total Family it below to is trojan.zusy/ymacco	 

		
21:20 23-03-2025	Sections >> writable and self-modifying, a behavior commonly found in malware to evade detection. The file is UPX-packed (UPX0 | UPX1 | UPX2), often used to obfuscate malicious code. Kernel32.dll is imported, commonly used for system-level API calls, including process injection or privilege escalation.	

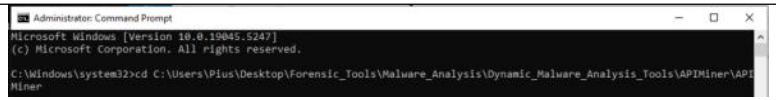
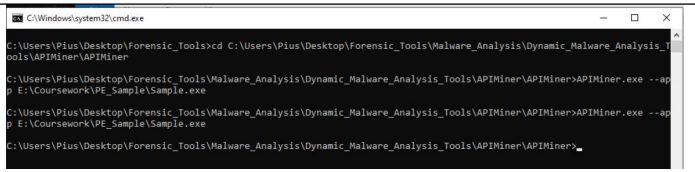
	virtualization -> UPX0 suggests further obfuscation techniques	
	The checksum is 0x0000000, which may indicate tampering.	
21:40 23-03-2025	Go to section	
	Section shows the file is UPX-packed (UPX0 | UPX1 | UPX2) with each entropy and dile-ratio and in which UPX1 entropy is very high	

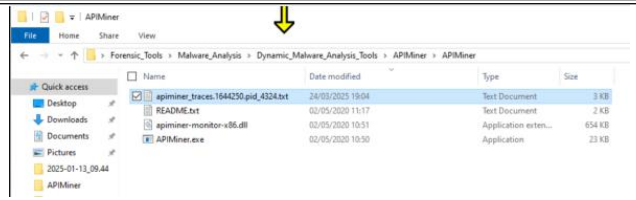
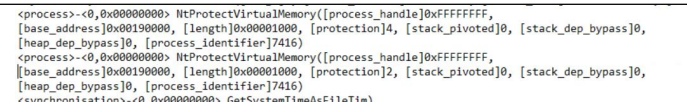
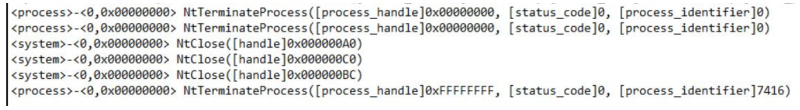
	As seen in Characteristics UPX1 has all RWX rights UPX1 and UPX2 have execution permissions, meaning they will run code after unpacking.	
22:00 23-03-2025	Go to imports (flag > 4)	
	VirtualProtect (Process Injection - T1055) Used to change memory protection (e.g., making code writable/executable).	
	LoadLibraryA & GetProcAddress (T1106 - Execution via API) Malware can load additional malicious modules at runtime.	

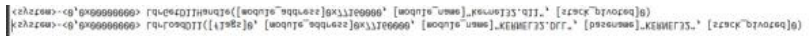
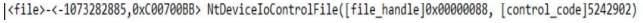
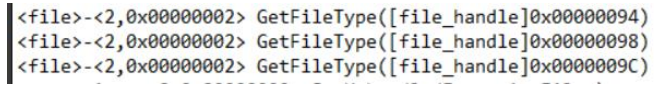
22:05 23-03-2025	VirtualProtect code injection (e.g., modifying memory permissions to execute injected shellcode).	 
	ExitProcess → Execution Control May indicate anti-analysis behavior terminating execution under specific conditions.	
	Sleep → (T1497 | Sandbox Evasion) Could be delaying execution to evade detection in sandboxes.	
	GetProcAddress & LoadLibrary → (T1106 | Execution through API) Used for dynamically resolving function addresses (common in malware to hide API calls).	

encoding (1)	size (bytes)	location	flag (1)	label (10)	group (3)	technique (3)
ascii	14	section:UPX2	x	import	memory	T1055 | Process Injection
ascii	11	section:UPX2	-	import	execution	-
ascii	5	section:UPX1	-	-	execution	T1497 | Sandbox Evasion
ascii	14	section:UPX2	-	import	dynamic-library	-
ascii	11	section:UPX2	-	import	dynamic-library	T1106 | Execution through API
ascii	4	-	-	utility	-	-
ascii	4	-	-	utility	-	-

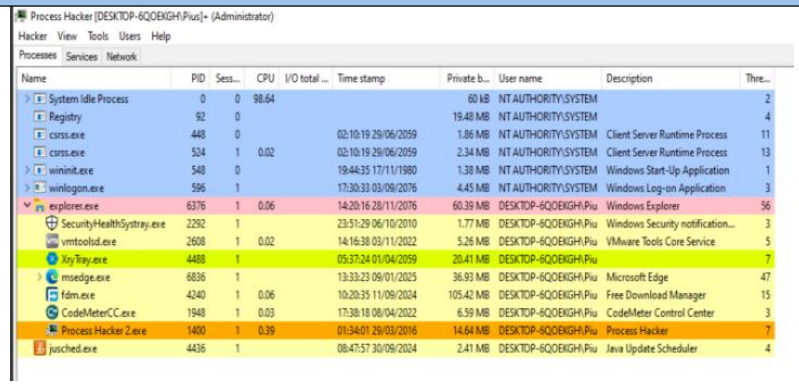
3.5. Table 7: This process show *Dynamic Analysis using API miner tool* examine a API calls without altering the original data.

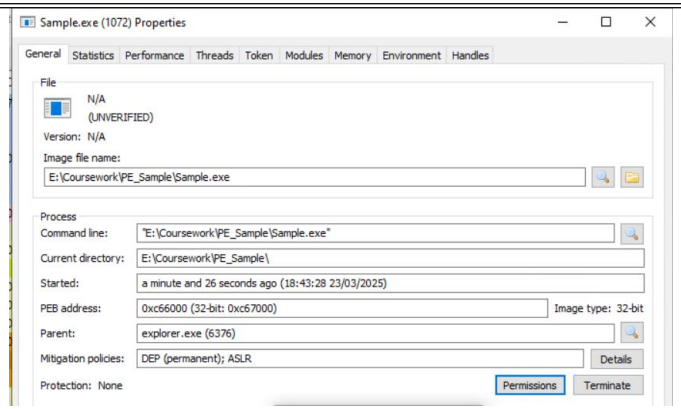
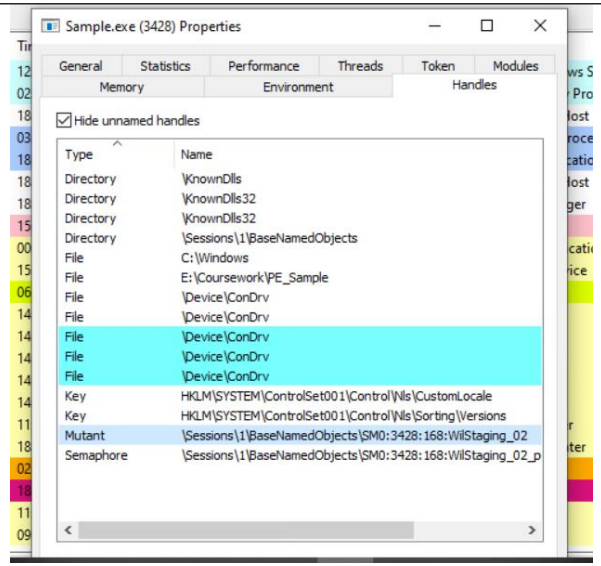
Date/ Time	Process	Evidence
19:00 24-03-2025	Open API Miner	
19:01 24-03-2025	Open CMD >> Run as administrator	
19:02 24-03-2025	Write below command cd C:\Users\Pius\Desktop\Forensic_Tools\Malware_Analysis\Dynamic_Malware_Analysis_tools\APIMiner\APIMiner Hit Enter	
19:05 24-03-2025	Write command APIMiner.exe --app E:\Coursework\PE_Sample\Sample.exe	
19:07 24-03-2025	Hit Enter Sample.exe file will run	

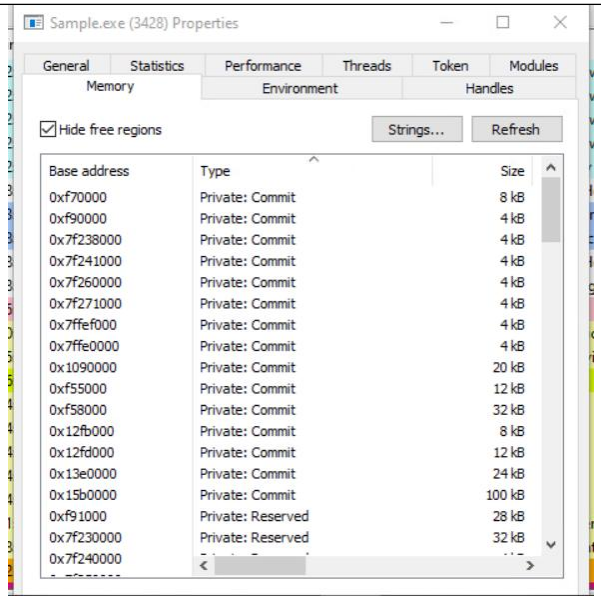
19:08 24-03-2025	Go to APIMiner apiminer_traces.1782031.pid_7416.txt is generated	
19:09 24-03-2025	Open file apiminer_traces.1782031.pid_7416.txt User can check the API logs	
19:12 24-03-2025	NtProtectVirtualMemory is used twice, modifying memory protections at base_address 0x00190000 with protection values 4 and 2.	
	Changing memory protections can indicate code injection, unpacking, or evasion techniques.	
19:15 24-03-2025	Multiple calls to NtTerminateProcess, potentially trying to evade analysis or terminate security tools.	

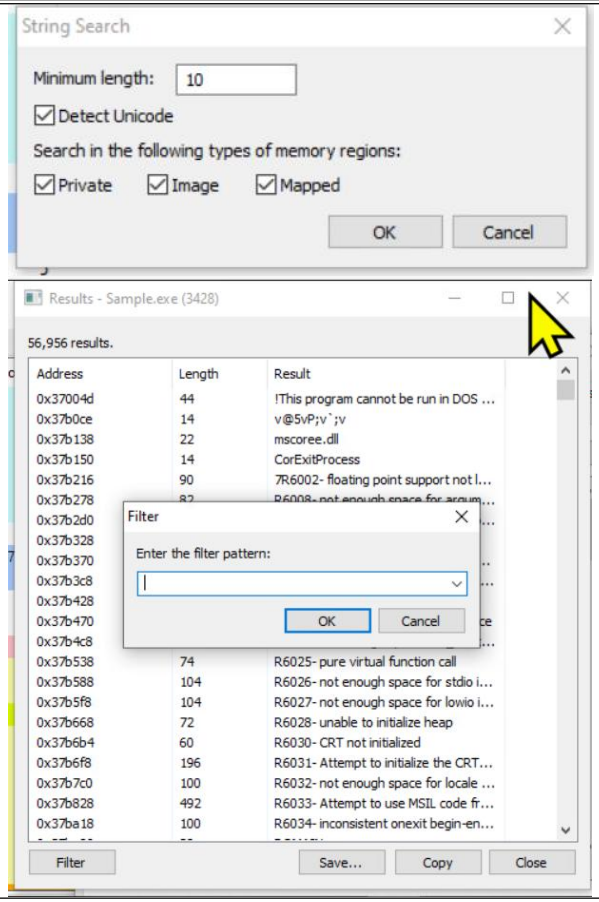
19:16 24-03-2025	LdrLoadDll loads KERNEL32.DLL, which is a standard Windows DLL but is commonly abused in process hollowing or DLL injection.	
19:20 24-03-2025	NtDeviceIoControlFile is seen with control code 5242902. This might be interacting with a driver, possibly indicating rootkit-like behavior.	
19:25 24-03-2025	GetFileType is used multiple times, likely checking for the existence of files before execution.	

3.6. Table 8: This process show examine a *PE sample file using Process hacker tool* without altering the original data.

Date/ Time	Process	Evidence
20:05 24-03-2025	Open Process Hacker	
20:08 24-03-2025	Run file Sample.exe from E:\Coursework\PE_Sample folder	

20:10 24-03-2025	No verified signature	
21:15 24-03-2025	Double-click on sample.exe	
	Click on Handles	
	Mutant are found in file	

	Mutant are object used by windows to ensure that only one instance of application is running at time	
22:00 24-03-2025	Click on memory>> strings	
	In string search select all	
	Filter the strings and try to find unusual strings and search on google about it	

	In this case no unusual string was found	

4. Conclusion

Following are the conclusion drawn from forensic examination of each file.

- Hard-drive: Evidence found in George Bernard hard drive are files that had been purged from the recycle bin were restored, revealing critical data including credit card details, CVV codes, and personal identifiers. The use of privacy tools, Tor and NordVPN, indicated attempts to conceal online activities, while browsing history and downloads suggested the suspect engaged in cryptocurrency dealings and dark web surfing. The sophisticated methods of information concealment employed in this operation were further revealed by the presence of credit card information that had been steganographically encoded within image files.

- Mobile Device : Through the Xamn tool mobile device examination, several communications, as well as contacts alongside data, reaffirmed the suspect’s active engagement in activities. Suspect's calls and messages gave the indication of coordinating with fellow named Danny with cryptocurrency trading and account setups on several trading platforms. Furthermore, the device was stored with images of several credit cards, and Chrome history pertaining to credit card scams. These results, in addition to corroborating the digital traces observed from the hard disk, also gave momentary views of the fraudulent activities and alliances the suspect was executing.

- PE Sample :The comprehensive analysis both static and dynamic of the suspicious PE executable confirmed it is indeed a malicious file whose nature is identified as a UPX-packed Trojan.Zusy. Employment of Pestudio and API Miner highlighted the presence of malware attributes which include, but are not limited to, high entropy values, self-modifying algorithms, code harvesting, and the application of obscurantism. The executable made use of Windows API functions related to sandbox evasion and code injection. Moreover, Process Hacker displayed active manipulation at the system level with Mutex objects, string memory, and other regions that are not available to public viewing which further strengthens the suspicion that the file was designed for stealthy persistence exploits of sensitive channels siphoning confidential financial information or maintain accessibility to compromised devices..

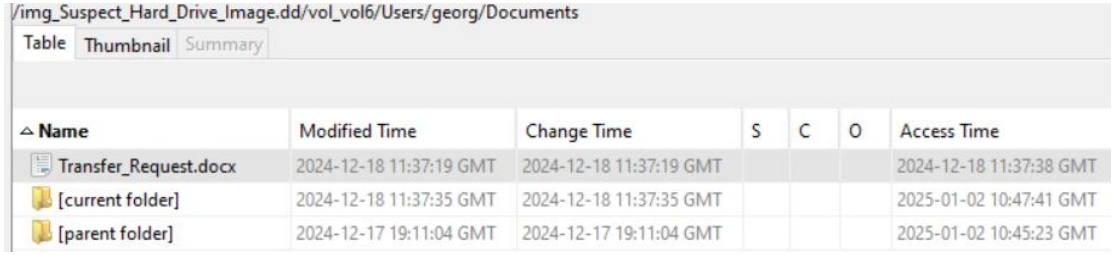
All forensic activities were conducted with the protocols of the relevant accepted practices and would withstand scrutiny for accuracy, reproducibility, and court admission.

5. Reference

[1] ISO/IEC, Guidelines for digital evidence preservation, ISO/IEC 27037:2012, 2012.
[2] NIST, Secure Hash Standard (SHS), FIPS PUB 180-4, 2015.
[3] [5] B. Carrier, “Autopsy Digital Forensics Tool,” 2025. [Online]. Available: https://www.autopsy.com/. Accessed: Mar. 23, 2025.
[4] MSAB, XAMN Forensic Software, 2025. [Online]. Available: https://www.msab.com/products/xamn/.
[5] PeStudio, Malware Initial Assessment, 2025. [Online]. Available: https://www.winitor.com/.
[6] MITRE, ATT&CK Framework: Process Injection (T1055), 2025. [Online]. Available: https://attack.mitre.org/.
[7] APIMiner, Dynamic Analysis Documentation, 2025. [Online]. Available: https://apiminer.com/docs.

6. Appendix

Transfer request image



American Express
17/12/2024

Request for Change in Account Information / Transfer of Funds

To Whom It May Concern,

I, John Wright, am writing to update my account information and request a fund transfer for urgent personal reasons. Please update the following details associated with my account and process the transfer at the earliest convenience:

Account Details:
Account Holder Name: John Wright
Account Number: 339835437814842
New Contact Details: 392073991313292

Email: georgebenard2024@outlook.com
Fund Transfer Request: Please transfer the amount of £3,000 from my account to the following account:

Account Details:
Account Holder Name: John Wright
Account Number: 339835437814842
New Contact Details: 392073991313292

Email: georgebenard2024@outlook.com
Fund Transfer Request: Please transfer the amount of £3,000 from my account to the following account:

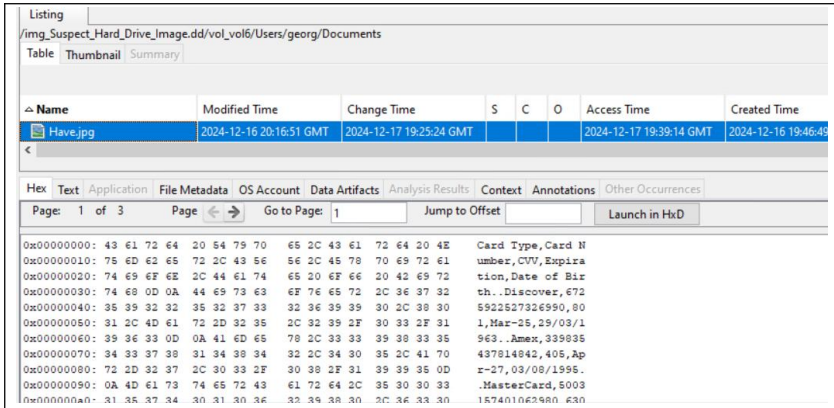
Account Name: George Bernard
Account Number: 392073991313292
Reason for Transfer: Urgent medical expenses

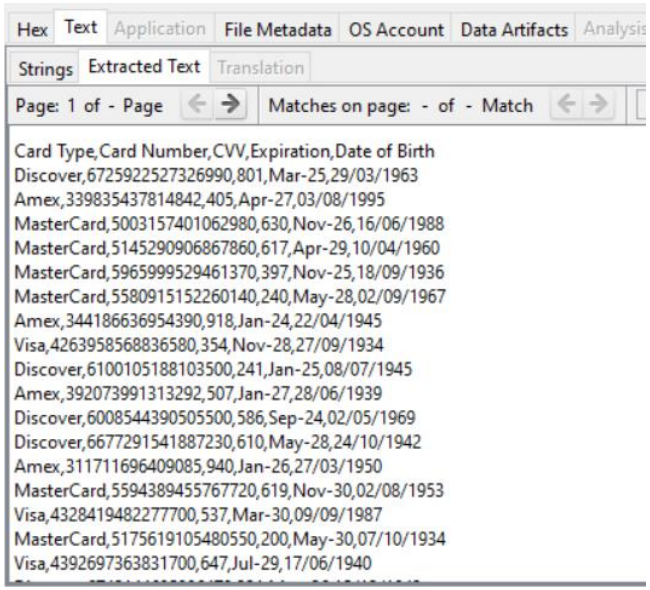
I have attached a copy of my identification for verification. Please confirm once the transfer has been completed. Should you require any further clarification, you can reach me at my updated contact details above.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

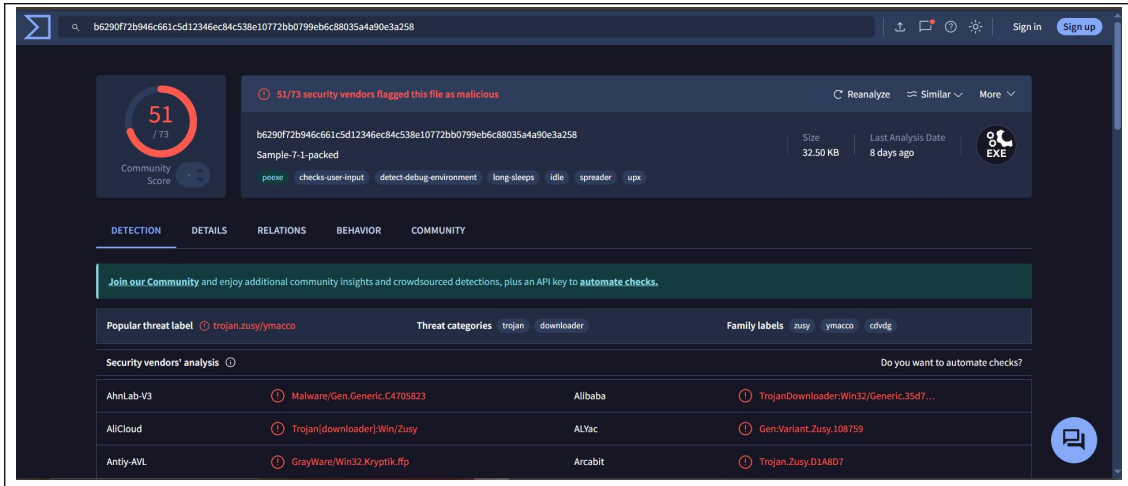
Sincerely,
IWT
John Wright

Stegno image

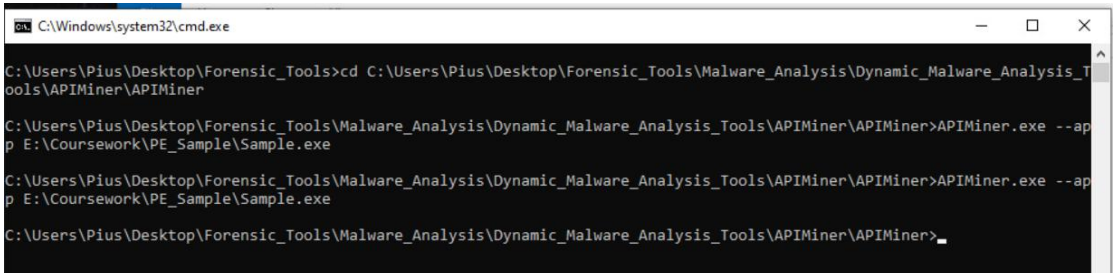




Virus total - Malware family name


b6290f72b946c661c5d12346ec84c538e10772bb0799eb6c88035a4a90e3a258
Sign in
Sign up
51
/ 73
Community Score
51/73 security vendors flagged this file as malicious
Reanalyze
Similar
More
b6290f72b946c661c5d12346ec84c538e10772bb0799eb6c88035a4a90e3a258
Sample-7-1-packed
peexe
checks-user-input
detect-debug-environment
long-sleeps
idle
spreader
upx
Size
32.50 KB
Last Analysis Date
8 days ago
EXE
DETECTION
DETAILS
RELATIONS
BEHAVIOR
COMMUNITY
Join our Community and enjoy additional community insights and crowdsourced detections, plus an API key to automate checks.
Popular threat label
trojan.zusy/ymacco
Threat categories
trojan
downloader
Family labels
zusy
ymacco
cdvdg
Security vendors' analysis
Do you want to automate checks?
AhnLab-V3
Malware/Gen.Generic.C4705823
Alibaba
TrojanDownloader:Win32/Generic.35d7...
AliCloud
Trojan[downloader]:Win/Zusy
ALYac
Gen:Variant.Zusy.108759
Antiy-AVL
GrayWare/Win32.Kryptik.ffp
Arcabit
Trojan.Zusy.D1A8D7

API file


C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe
C:\Users\Pius\Desktop\Forensic_Tools>cd C:\Users\Pius\Desktop\Forensic_Tools\Malware_Analysis\Dynamic_Malware_Analysis_Tools\APIMiner\APIMiner
C:\Users\Pius\Desktop\Forensic_Tools\Malware_Analysis\Dynamic_Malware_Analysis_Tools\APIMiner\APIMiner>APIMiner.exe --app E:\Coursework\PE_Sample\Sample.exe
C:\Users\Pius\Desktop\Forensic_Tools\Malware_Analysis\Dynamic_Malware_Analysis_Tools\APIMiner\APIMiner>APIMiner.exe --app E:\Coursework\PE_Sample\Sample.exe
C:\Users\Pius\Desktop\Forensic_Tools\Malware_Analysis\Dynamic_Malware_Analysis_Tools\APIMiner\APIMiner>


*apiminer_traces.381531.pid_5576.txt - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
<__notification__>-<0,0x00000000> __process__([time_low]-1006024823, [time_high]31171414, [pid]5576, [ppid]5148, [module_path]"E:\Coursework\PE_Sample\Sample.exe",
[command_line]""E:\Coursework\PE_Sample\Sample.exe" ", [is_64bit]0, [track]1)
<__notification__>-<0,0x00000000> __action__([action]"gatherer")
<__notification__>-<0,0x00000000> __action__([action]"gatherer")
<file>-<-1073282885,0xC00700BB> NtDeviceIoControlFile([file_handle]0x00000088, [control_code]5242902)
<system>-<0,0x00000000> LdrLoadDll([flags]0, [module_address]0x75480000, [module_name]"KERNEL32.DLL", [basename]"KERNEL32", [stack_pivoted]0)
<process>-<0,0x00000000> NtProtectVirtualMemory([process_handle]0xFFFFFFFF, [base_address]0x00B50000, [length]0x00001000, [protection]4,
[stack_pivoted]0, [stack_dep_bypass]0, [heap_dep_bypass]0, [process_identifier]5576)
<process>-<0,0x00000000> NtProtectVirtualMemory([process_handle]0xFFFFFFFF, [base_address]0x00B50000, [length]0x00001000, [protection]2,
[stack_pivoted]0, [stack_dep_bypass]0, [heap_dep_bypass]0, [process_identifier]5576)
<synchronisation>-<0,0x00000000> GetSystemTimeAsFileTim)
<system>-<0,0x00000000> LdrGetDllHandle([module_address]0x75480000, [module_name]"kernel32.dll", [stack_pivoted]0)
<file>-<2,0x00000002> GetFileType([file_handle]0x00000094)
<file>-<2,0x00000002> GetFileType([file_handle]0x00000098)
<file>-<2,0x00000002> GetFileType([file_handle]0x0000009C)
<exception>-<0,0x00000000> SetUnhandledExceptionFilte)
<synchronisation>-<0,0x00000000> NtDelayExecution([milliseconds]1215752192, [skipped]1)
<system>-<-1073741515,0xC0000135> LdrGetDllHandle([module_address]0x00000000, [module_name]"mscoree.dll", [stack_pivoted]0)
<process>-<0,0x00000000> NtTerminateProcess([process_handle]0x00000000, [status_code]0, [process_identifier]0)
<process>-<0,0x00000000> NtTerminateProcess([process_handle]0x00000000, [status_code]0, [process_identifier]0)
<system>-<0,0x00000000> NtClose([handle]0x000000A0)
<system>-<0,0x00000000> NtClose([handle]0x000000C0)
<system>-<0,0x00000000> NtClose([handle]0x000000BC)
<process>-<0,0x00000000> NtTerminateProcess([process_handle]0xFFFFFFFF, [status_code]0, [process_identifier]5576)
<
Ln 10, Col 1
100%