

CyberOps Associates v1.0 – Skills Assessment

Introduction

You have been hired as a junior security analyst. As part of your training, you were tasked to determine any malicious activity associated with the **Pushdo trojan**.

You will have access to the internet to learn more about the events. You can use websites, such as **VirusTotal**, to upload and verify threat existence.

The tasks below are designed to provide some guidance through the analysis process.

You will practice and be assessed on the following skills:

- Evaluate event alerts using **Squid** and **Kibana**.
- Use Google search as a tool to obtain intelligence on a potential exploit.
- Use **VirusTotal** to upload and verify threat existence.

Content for this assessment was obtained from <http://www.malware-traffic-analysis.net/> and is used with permission. We are grateful for the use of this material.

Required Resources

- Host computer with at least 8GB of RAM and 45GB of free disk space
- Latest version of **Oracle VirtualBox**
- **Security Onion** virtual machine requires 4GB of RAM using 25GB disk space
- Internet access

Instructions

Part 1: Gather the Basic Information

In this part, you will review the alerts listed in **Security Onion VM** and gather basic information for the interested time frame.

Step 1: Verify the status of services

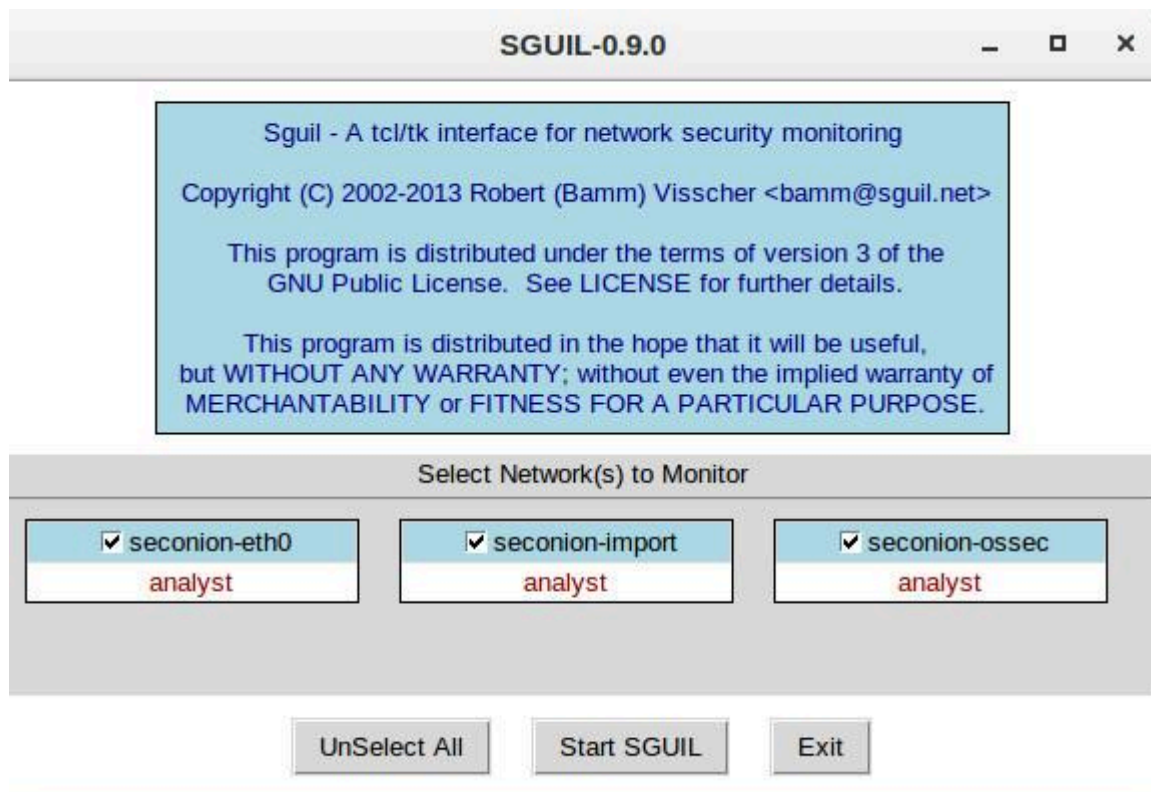
- Log into **Security Onion VM** using with the username **analyst** and password **cyberops**.
- Open a **terminal** window. Enter the `sudo so-status` command to verify that all the services are ready.

Right click Desktop background, go to **Open Terminal**

```
analyst@SecOnion:~$ sudo so-status
Status: securityonion
* squid server [ OK ]
Status: seconion-import
* pcap_agent (squid) [ OK ]
* snort_agent-1 (squid) [ OK ]
* barnyard2-1 (spooler, unified2 format) [ OK ]
Status: Elastic stack
* so-elasticsearch [ OK ]
* so-logstash [ OK ]
* so-kibana [ OK ]
```

* so-freqserver [OK]

c. When the nsm service is ready, log into **Sguil** or **Kibana** with the username **analyst** and password **cyberops**. Open **Sguil** using the shortcut on the **Desktop**. Login with the username **analyst** and password **cyberops**. Click **Select All** to select the interfaces and then **Start SGUIL**.



Step 2: Gather basic information.

a. Identify time frame of the **Pushdo** trojan attack, including the date and approximate time.
2017-06-27 from 13:38:34 to 13:44:32

Applications Places Sguil.tk Sat 12:36

SGUIL-0.9.0 - Connected To localhost

File Query Reports Sound: Off ServerName: localhost UserName: analyst UserID: 2 2020-12-26 12:36:13 GMT

RealTime Events Escalated Events

ST	CNT	Sensor	Alert ID	Date/Time	Src IP	SPort	Dst IP	DPort	Pr	Event Message
RT	4	seconion-...	5.78	2017-01-27 22:55:28	172.16.4.193	49212	198.105.121.50	80	6	ET INFO HTTP Request to a *.top domain
RT	5	seconion-...	5.410	2017-06-27 13:38:34	119.28.70.207	80	192.168.1.96	49184	6	ET CURRENT_EVENTS WinHttpRequest Do...
RT	5	seconion-...	5.415	2017-06-27 13:38:34	119.28.70.207	80	192.168.1.96	49184	6	ET POLICY PE EXE or DLL Windows file do...
RT	1	seconion-...	5.420	2017-06-27 13:43:52	145.131.10.21	80	192.168.1.96	49190	6	ET POLICY PE EXE or DLL Windows file do...
RT	1	seconion-...	5.421	2017-06-27 13:43:54	192.168.1.96	49191	143.95.151.192	80	6	ET CURRENT_EVENTS Terse alphanumeric ...
RT	6	seconion-...	5.422	2017-06-27 13:43:54	143.95.151.192	80	192.168.1.96	49191	6	ET POLICY PE EXE or DLL Windows file do...
RT	2	seconion-...	5.428	2017-06-27 13:44:01	192.168.1.96	59029	208.67.222.222	53	17	ET POLICY External IP Lookup Domain (myl...
RT	1	seconion-...	5.429	2017-06-27 13:44:01	192.168.1.96	49193	198.1.85.250	80	6	ET TROJAN Backdoor.Win32.Pushdo.s Chec...
RT	7	seconion-...	5.431	2017-06-27 13:44:04	62.210.140.158	80	192.168.1.96	49250	6	ET TROJAN Pushdo.S CnC response
RT	1	seconion-...	5.438	2017-06-27 13:44:32	208.83.223.34	80	192.168.1.96	49932	6	ET POLICY TLS possible TOR SSL traffic
RT	3	seconion-...	5.149	2018-08-11 05:15:17	192.168.1.95	54515	192.168.1.6	53	17	ET POLICY DNS Update From External net
RT	5	seconion-...	5.150	2018-08-11 05:20:59	149.129.222.112	80	192.168.1.95	49335	6	ET INFO Packed Executable Download
RT	5	seconion-...	5.155	2018-08-11 05:20:59	149.129.222.112	80	192.168.1.95	49335	6	ET POLICY PE EXE or DLL Windows file do...

IP Resolution Agent Status Snort Statistics System Msg

☐ Reverse DNS ☒ Enable External DNS

Src IP:
Src Name:
Dst IP:
Dst Name:
Whois Query: ☒ None ☐ Src IP ☐ Dst IP

Show Packet Data Show Rule

IP	Source IP	Dest IP	Ver	HL	TOS	len	ID	Flags	Offset	TTL	chkSum
TCP	Source Port	Dest Port	RRRCSSYI	1	0	G	K	H	T	N	N
	Seq #	Ack #	Offset	Res	Window	Urp	ChkSum				
DATA											

b. List the alerts noted during this time frame associated with the trojan.

ET CURRENT_EVENTS WinHttpRequest Downloading EXE
 ET POLICY PE EXE or DLL Windows file download HTTP
 ET POLICY PE EXE or DLL Windows file download HTTP
 ET CURRENT_EVENTS Terse alphanumeric executable downloader high likelihood of being hostile
 ET POLICY PE EXE or DLL Windows file download HTTP
 ET POLICY External IP Lookup Domain (myip.opendns .com in DNS lookup)
 ET TROJAN Backdoor.Win32.Pushdo.s Checkin
 ET TROJAN Pushdo.S CnC response

ET POLICY TLS possible TOR SSL traffic

c. List the internal IP addresses and external IP addresses involved.

Internal IP address:

- 192.168.1.96

External IP addresses:

- 143.95.151.192
- 119.28.70.207
- 145.131.10.21
- 62.210.140.158
- 119.28.70.207
- 208.67.222.222
- 208.83.223.34
- 198.1.85.250

Part 2: Learn about the Exploit

In this part, you will learn more about the exploit.

Step 1: Infected host

a. Based on the alerts, what is the IP and MAC addresses of the infected computer? Based on the MAC address, what is the vendor of the NIC chipset? (Hint: **NetworkMiner** or internet search)

IP: 192.168.1.96

MAC: 00-15-C5-DE-C7-3B

NIC Vendor: Dell Inc.

Explanation: Right-click Alert ID: 5410 → Select NetworkMiner.

The screenshot shows the SGUIL-0.9.0 interface. The top bar indicates 'Connected To localhost' and the user is 'analyst'. The main window displays a list of alerts. Alert ID 5410 is selected, and the 'NetworkMiner' option is highlighted in the context menu. Below the alerts table, the 'NetworkMiner 2.4' window is open, displaying details for the host 192.168.1.96 (Windows).

ST	CNT	Sensor	Alert ID	Date/Time	Src IP	SPort	Dst IP	DPort	Pr	Event Message
RT	4	seconion-...	5.78	2017-01-27 22:55:28	172.16.4.193	49212	198.105.121.50	80	6	ET INFO HTTP Request to a...
RT	5	seconion-...	5.410	2017-06-27 13:38:34	119.28.70.207	80	192.168.1.96	49184	6	ET CURRENT_EVENTS Win...
RT	5	seconion-...								Event History
RT	1	seconion-...								Transcript
RT	1	seconion-...								Transcript (force new)
RT	6	seconion-...								Wireshark
RT	2	seconion-...								Wireshark (force new)
RT	1	seconion-...								NetworkMiner
RT	7	seconion-...								NetworkMiner (force new)
RT	1	seconion-...								Bro
RT	3	seconion-...								Bro (force new)
RT	3	seconion-...	5.149	2018-08-11 05:15:17	192.168.1.95	54515	192.168.1.6	53	17	ET POLICY DNS Update Fro...
RT	5	seconion-...	5.150	2018-08-11 05:20:59	149.129.222.112	80	192.168.1.95	49335	6	ET INFO Packed Executable...
RT	5	seconion-...	5.155	2018-08-11 05:20:59	149.129.222.112	80	192.168.1.95	49335	6	ET POLICY PE EXE or DLL ...

NetworkMiner 2.4

File Tools Help

Hosts (2) | Files (1) | Images | Messages | Credentials | Sessions (1) | DNS | Parameters (12) | Keywords | Anon

Sort Hosts On: IP Address (ascending) Sort and Refresh

119.28.70.207 [matied.com]

192.168.1.96 (Windows)

- IP: 192.168.1.96
- MAC: 0015C5DEC73B
- NIC Vendor: Dell Inc.
- MAC Age: 9/9/2005
- Hostname:
- OS: Windows
- TTL: 128 (distance: 0)
- Open TCP Ports:
- Sent: 119 packets (6,644 Bytes), 0.00 % cleartext (0 of 0 Bytes)
- Received: 90 packets (264,039 Bytes), 0.00 % cleartext (0 of 0 Bytes)
- Incoming sessions: 0
- Outgoing sessions: 1
- Host Details

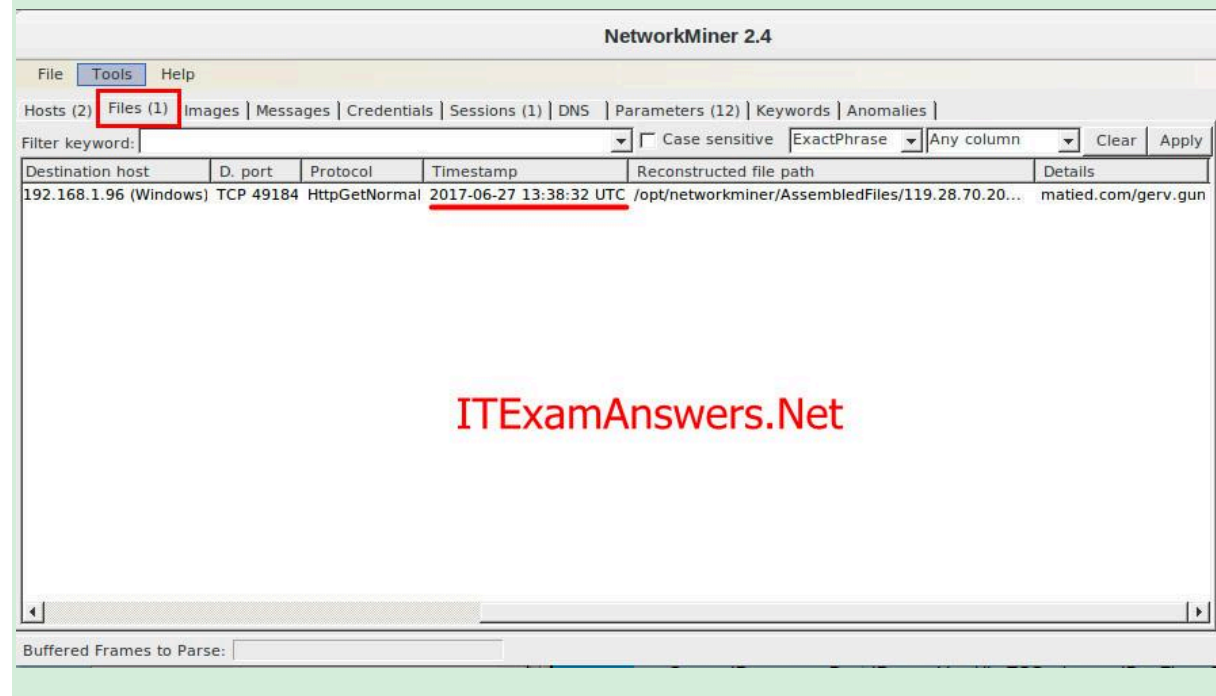
Buffered Frames to Parse:

b. Based on the alerts, when (date and time in UTC) and how was the PC infected? (**Hint:** Enter the command **date** in the terminal to determine the time zone for the displayed time)

2017-06-27 13:38:32 UTC

The **gerv.gun** malware was executed through the **Pushdo trojan**.

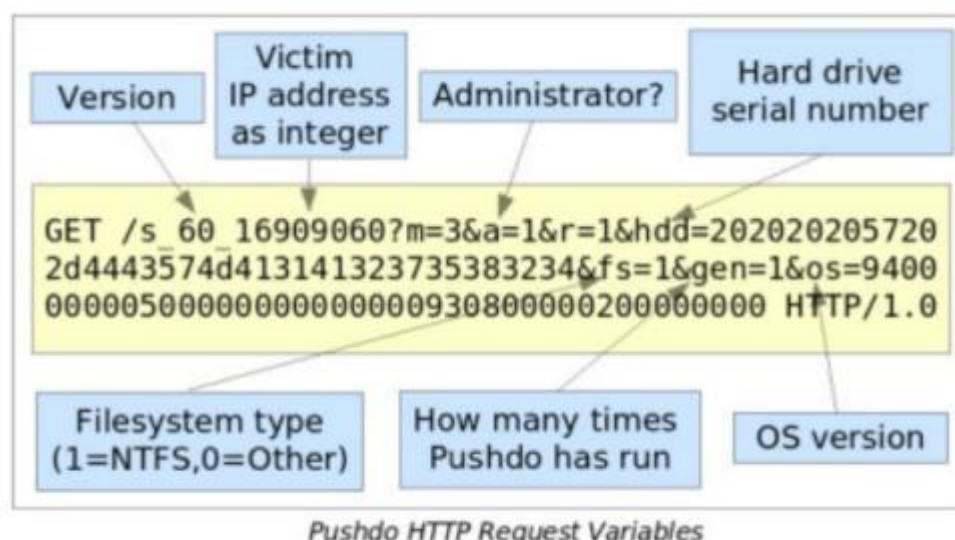
On **NetworkMiner** windows, click **Files** tab to determine date and time in UTC:



How did the malware infect the PC? Use an internet search as necessary.

The user in the **192.168.1.96** PC accessed a malicious domain, and the Pushdo trojan was used to install the malware.

Pushdo is a "downloader" trojan, meaning its purpose is to download and install additional malicious software. When executed, Pushdo reports back to one of several control server IP addresses embedded in its code. The server listens on TCP port 80, and pretends to be an Apache webserver. If the HTTP request contains the correct parameters, one or more executables will be delivered via HTTP. The malware to be downloaded by Pushdo depends on the value following the "s-underscore" part of the URL.



Pushdo keeps track of the IP address of the victim, whether or not that person is an administrator on the computer, their primary hard drive serial number (obtained by SMART_RCV_DRIVE_DATA IO control code),

whether the filesystem is NTFS, how many times the victim system has executed a Pushdo variant, and the Windows OS version as returned by the GetVersionEx API call.

Step 2: Examine the exploit.

a. Based on the alerts associated with HTTP GET request, what files were downloaded? List the malicious domains observed and the files downloaded.

gerv.gun – matied.com/gerv.gun

trou.exe – lounge-haarstudio.nl/oud/trou.exe

wp.exe – vantagepointtechnologies.com/wp.exe

Explanation: Right-click **Alert ID: 5410** → Select **Transcript**

seconion-import-1_410

File

Sensor Name: seconion-import-1
Timestamp: 2017-06-27 13:38:34
Connection ID: .seconion-import-1_410
Src IP: 192.168.1.96
Dst IP: 119.28.70.207
Src Port: 49184
Dst Port: 80
OS Fingerprint: 192.168.1.96:49184 - Windows XP/2000 (RFC1323+, w+, tstamp-) [GENERIC]
OS Fingerprint: Signature: [8192:128:1:52:M1460,N,W8,N,N,S::Windows:?]
OS Fingerprint: → 119.28.70.207:80 (distance 0, link: ethernet/modem)

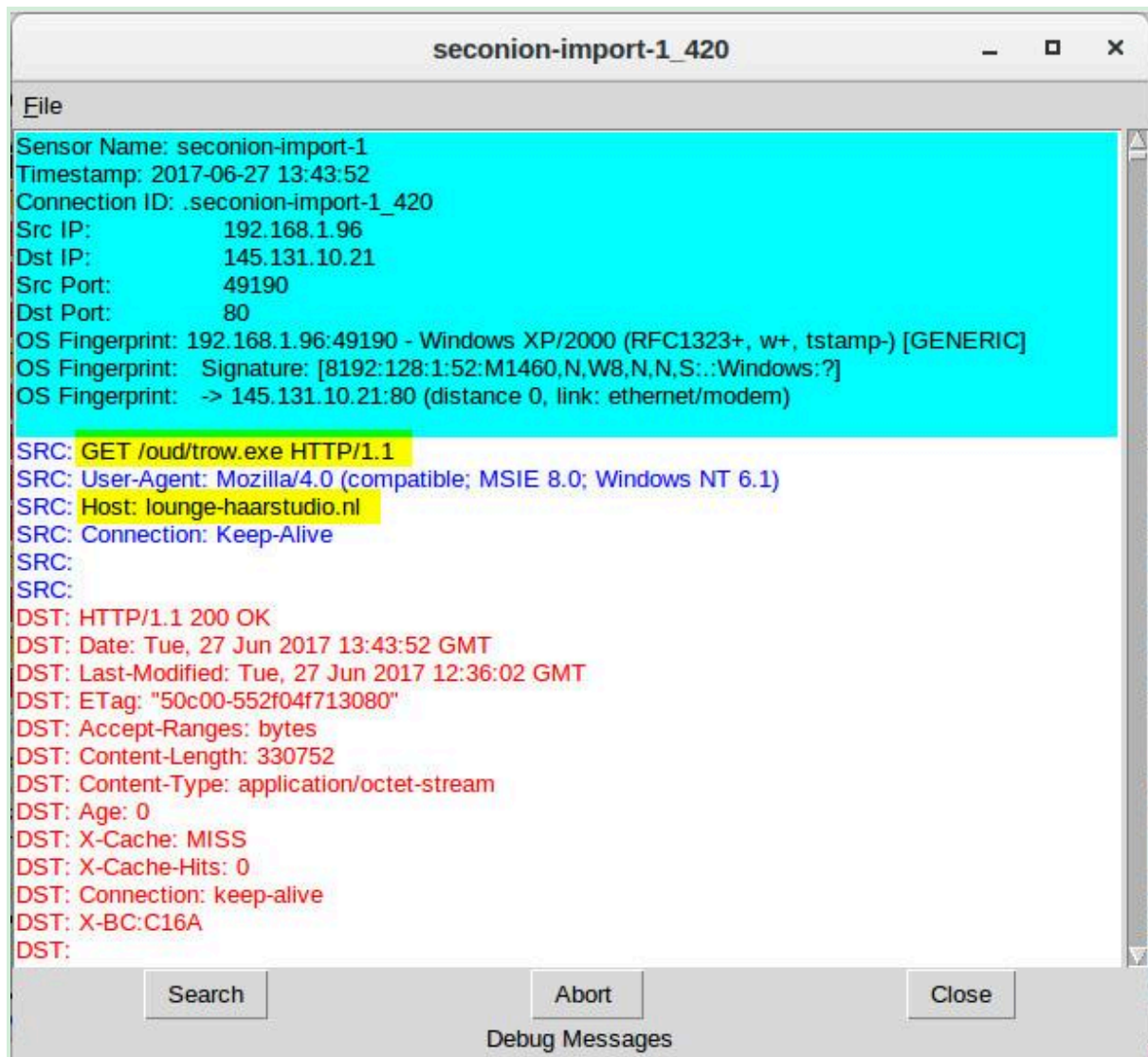
SRC: GET /gerv.gun HTTP/1.1
SRC: Connection: Keep-Alive
SRC: Accept: /*
SRC: Accept-Language: en-us
SRC: User-Agent: Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; Win32; WinHttp.WinHttpRequest.5)
SRC: Host: matied.com
SRC:
SRC:
DST: HTTP/1.1 200 OK
DST: Server: nginx
DST: Date: Tue, 27 Jun 2017 13:38:33 GMT
DST: Content-Type: application/octet-stream
DST: Content-Length: 241664
DST: Connection: keep-alive
DST: Last-Modified: Mon, 26 Jun 2017 19:09:45 GMT
DST: ETag: "59515bf9-3b000"
DST: Accept-Ranges: bytes
DST:
DST: MZ.....@.....!..L!This program cannot be run in DOS

ITExamAnswers.net

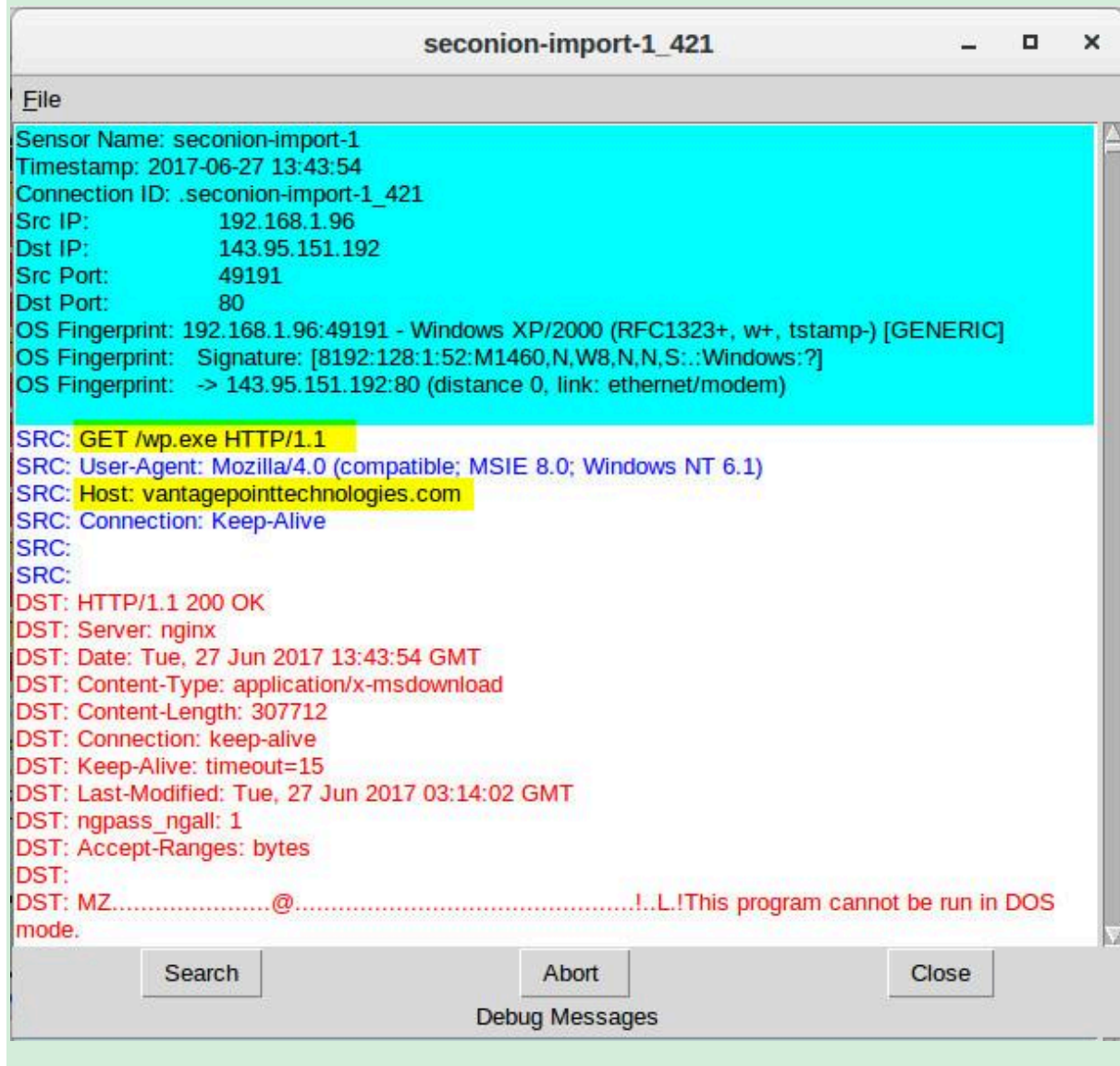
Search Abort Close

Debug Messages

Right-click **Alert ID: 5420** → Select **Transcript**



Right-click **Alert ID: 5421** -> Select **Transcript**



Use any available tools in **Security Onion VM**, determine and record the **SHA256** hash for the downloaded files that probably infected the computer?

gerv.gun = 0931537889c35226d00ed26962ecacb140521394279eb2ade7e9d2afcf1a7272

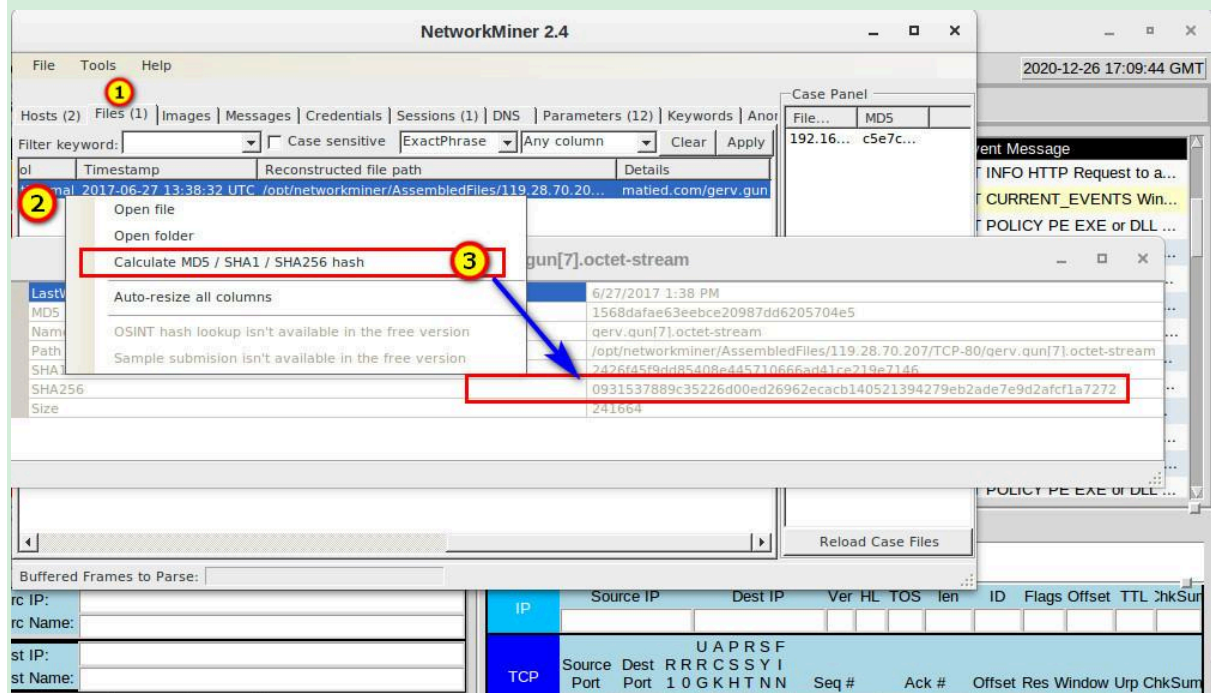
trw.exe = 94a0a09ee6a21526ac34d41eabf4ba603e9a30c26e6a1dc072ff45749dfb1fe1

wp.exe = 79d503165d32176842fe386d96c04fb70f6ce1c8a485837957849297e625ea48

Explanation: Use **NetworkMiner** tool:

Right-click **Alert ID: 5410** -> Select **NetworkMiner** -> Click **Files** tab -> Right click first line -> Select **Calculate**

MD5 / SHA1 / SHA256 hash



Do the same for Alert ID: **5420** and **5421** to determine **SHA256** hash for the files: **trow.exe** and **wp.exe**

b. Navigate to www.virustotal.com input the SHA256 hash to determine if these were detected as malicious files. Record your findings, such as file type and size, other names, and target machine. You can also include any information that is provided by the community posted in **VirusTotal**.

gerv.gun:

- 58 engines detected this file
- File type: Win32 EXE
- File size: 236.00 KB (241664 bytes)
- Names:
 - gerv.gun
 - test
 - tmp523799.697
 - tmp246975.343
 - tmp213582.420
 - extract-1498570714.111294-HTTP-FG0jno3bJLilzR4hrh.exe
 - 0931537889c35226d00ed26962ecacb140521394279eb2ade7e9d2afcf1a7272.bin
 - vector.tui
- Target Machine: Intel 386 or later processors and compatible processors

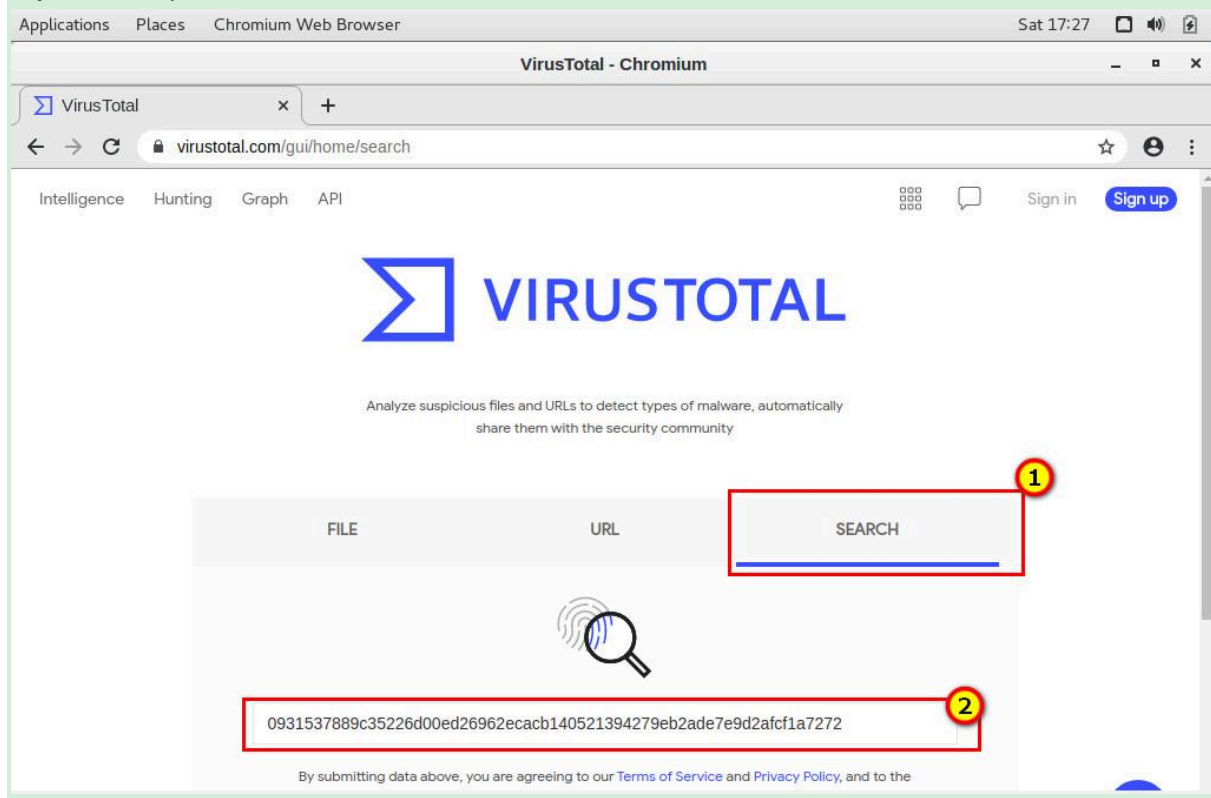
trow.exe:

- 63 engines detected this file
- File type: Win32 EXE
- File size: 323.00 KB (330752 bytes)
- Names:
 - Pedals
 - Pedals.exe
 - trow.exe
 - test3
 - 2017-06-28_18-18-14.exe
 - bma2beo4.exe
- Target Machine: Intel 386 or later processors and compatible processors

wp.exe:

- 55 engines detected this file
- File type: Win32 EXE
- File size: 300.50 KB (307712 bytes)
- Names:
 - wp.exe
 - test2
 - test_3
 - 4da48f6423d5f7d75de281a674c2e620.viobj
 - wp.exe.x-msdownload
- Target Machine: Intel 386 or later processors and compatible processors

Explanation:Open Chromium Web Browser → access to www.virustotal.com → Click **Search** → Enter Hash



ApplicationsPlacesChromium Web Browser

Sat 17:28

VirusTotal - Chromium

VirusTotal

virustotal.com/gui/file/0931537889c35226d00ed26962ecacb140521394279eb2ade7e9d2afcf1a7272/details

0931537889c35226d00ed26962ecacb140521394279eb2ade7e9d2afcf1a7272

58
/ 71

58 engines detected this file

0931537889c35226d00ed26962ecacb140521394279eb2ade7e9d2afcf1a7272

236.00 KB
Size

2020-12-19 20:44:29 UTC
6 days ago

gerv.gun

direct-cpu-clock-accesspeexeruntime-modules

EXE

Community Score

DETECTIONDETAILSBEHAVIORCOMMUNITY 5

Basic Properties

MD5	1568dafae63eebce20987dd6205704e5
SHA-1	2426f45f9dd85408e445710666ad41ce219e7146
SHA-256	0931537889c35226d00ed26962ecacb140521394279eb2ade7e9d2afcf1a7272
Vhash	025046655d1561z32z11z457z3021z11z62z24fz
Authentihash	5408000ed5abd58237d0416b856b9cd8f86d184e70b629ab573021097a240ef8
Imphash	c5979d2156f4721c0252a9b4b3089326

The image displays two screenshots of the VirusTotal web interface, showing file analysis results for two different files.

Top Screenshot:

- File ID:** 94a0a09ee6a21526ac34d41eabf4ba603e9a30c26e6a1dc072ff45749dfb1fe1
- Score:** 63 / 71
- Engines:** 63 engines detected this file
- Size:** 323.00 KB
- Uploaded:** 2020-12-14 02:20:35 UTC (12 days ago)
- File Type:** EXE
- Community Score:** (X) Community Score (V)
- Tags:** direct-cpu-clock-access, long-sleeps, peexe, runtime-modules, via-tor
- Basic Properties:**

MD5	fb75d4f81be51074bb4147e781e5b402
SHA-1	55e512ebfe4f3a08a66c35500506837ad2c473c8
SHA-256	94a0a09ee6a21526ac34d41eabf4ba603e9a30c26e6a1dc072ff45749dfb1fe1
Vhash	035046655d15712033z8005b7z13z41z12z14fz
Authentihash	67361cc755255414dd3ba47ad0b98961cc944f612d001f35dd44f67b4460671e
Imphash	ad71acfa5be5581bd34fb2e9ffc57da6

Bottom Screenshot:

- File ID:** 79d503165d32176842fe386d96c04fb70f6ce1c8a485837957849297e625ea48
- Score:** 55 / 69
- Engines:** 55 engines detected this file
- Size:** 300.50 KB
- Uploaded:** 2020-11-30 20:38:44 UTC (25 days ago)
- File Type:** EXE
- Community Score:** (X) Community Score (V)
- Tags:** wp.exe, peexe
- Basic Properties:**

MD5	4da48f6423d5f7d75de281a674c2e620
SHA-1	93aa24323d60b2b053e158abf5a3e839f5ea58ae
SHA-256	79d503165d32176842fe386d96c04fb70f6ce1c8a485837957849297e625ea48
Vhash	035046555d1570b8z14hze3zffz
Authentihash	1d026a3ec67510fc3ca11d1b5e689041b670790a5ddabdc9c5f95c8f8758da50
Imphash	8e13617e4c8562cfb43fc1dd44b43653

c. Examine other alerts associated with the infected host during this timeframe and record your findings

ET POLICY External IP Lookup Domain (myip.opendns.com in DNS lookup) – infection started when the user of the 192.168.1.96 host performed a DNS lookup through a malicious domain – destination IP: 208.67.222.222

SGUIL-0.9.0 - Connected To localhost

File Query Reports Sound: Off ServerName: localhost UserName: analyst UserID: 2 2020-12-26 17:35:06 GMT

RealTime Events Escalated Events

ST	CNT	Sensor	Alert ID	Date/Time	Src IP	SPort	Dst IP	DPort	Pr	Event Message
RT	4	seconion-...	5.78	2017-01-27 22:55:28	172.16.4.193	49212	198.105.121.50	80	6	ET INFO HTTP Request to a *.top domain
RT	5	seconion-...	5.410	2017-06-27 13:38:34	119.28.70.207	80	192.168.1.96	49184	6	ET CURRENT_EVENTS WinHttpRequest D...
RT	5	seconion-...	5.415	2017-06-27 13:38:34	119.28.70.207	80	192.168.1.96	49184	6	ET POLICY PE EXE or DLL Windows file d...
RT	1	seconion-...	5.420	2017-06-27 13:43:52	145.131.10.21	80	192.168.1.96	49190	6	ET POLICY PE EXE or DLL Windows file d...
RT	1	seconion-...	5.421	2017-06-27 13:43:54	192.168.1.96	49191	143.95.151.192	80	6	ET CURRENT_EVENTS Terse alphanumeric...
RT	6	seconion-...	5.422	2017-06-27 13:43:54	143.95.151.192	80	192.168.1.96	49191	6	ET POLICY PE EXE or DLL Windows file d...
RT	2	seconion-...	5.428	2017-06-27 13:44:01	192.168.1.96	59029	208.67.222.222	53	17	ET POLICY External IP Lookup Domain (m...
RT	1	seconion-...	5.429	2017-06-27 13:44:01	192.168.1.96	49193	198.1.85.250	80	6	ET TROJAN Backdoor.Win32.Pushdo.s Ch...
RT	7	seconion-...	5.431	2017-06-27 13:44:04	62.210.140.158	80	192.168.1.96	49250	6	ET TROJAN Pushdo.S CnC response
RT	1	seconion-...	5.438	2017-06-27 13:44:32	208.83.223.34	80	192.168.1.96	49932	6	ET POLICY TLS possible TOR SSL traffic
RT	3	seconion-...	5.149	2018-08-11 05:15:17	192.168.1.95	54515	192.168.1.6	53	17	ET POLICY DNS Update From External net
RT	5	seconion-...	5.150	2018-08-11 05:20:59	149.129.222....	80	192.168.1.95	49335	6	ET INFO Packed Executable Download
RT	5	seconion-...	5.155	2018-08-11 05:20:59	149.129.222....	80	192.168.1.95	49335	6	ET POLICY PE EXE or DLL Windows file d...

IP Resolution Agent Status Snort Statistics System Msg

☐ Reverse DNS ☒ Enable External DNS

Src IP:
 Src Name:
 Dst IP:
 Dst Name:
 Whois Query: ☒ None ☐ Src IP ☐ Dst IP

☒ Show Packet Data ☒ Show Rule

alert udp \$HOME_NET any -> any 53 (msg:"ET POLICY External IP Lookup Domain (myip.opendns.com in DNS lookup)"; content:"|01|"; offset:2; depth:1; content:"|00 01 00 00 00 00|"; distance:1;

IP	Source IP	Dest IP	Ver	HL	TOS	len	ID	Flags	Offset	TTL	chkSum
192.168.1.96	208.67.222.222		4	5	0	62	1278	0	0	128	5031

UDP	Source Port	Dest Port	Length	ChkSum
59029	53		42	15361

00 02 01 00 01 00 00 00 00 00 00 04 6D 79 69myi
 70 07 6F 70 65 6E 64 6E 73 03 63 6F 6D 00 00 01 p.opendns.com...

Step 3: Report Your Findings

Summarizes your findings based on the information you have gathered from the previous parts, summarize your findings.

The host with IP 192.168.1.96, a PC running Windows, accessed a malicious domain for a DNS query, and was infected with the Pushdo trojan. The Pushdo trojan pretends to be an Apache webserver, listening on port 80. After infection, the Pushdo trojan downloads various malware. In the examined PC, three malwares were downloaded and installed – gerv.gun, throw.exe and wp.exe. These files were checked in virustotal.com, using their SHA256 hash, and verified as malware by most source.