Topic: Guloader Malware analysis

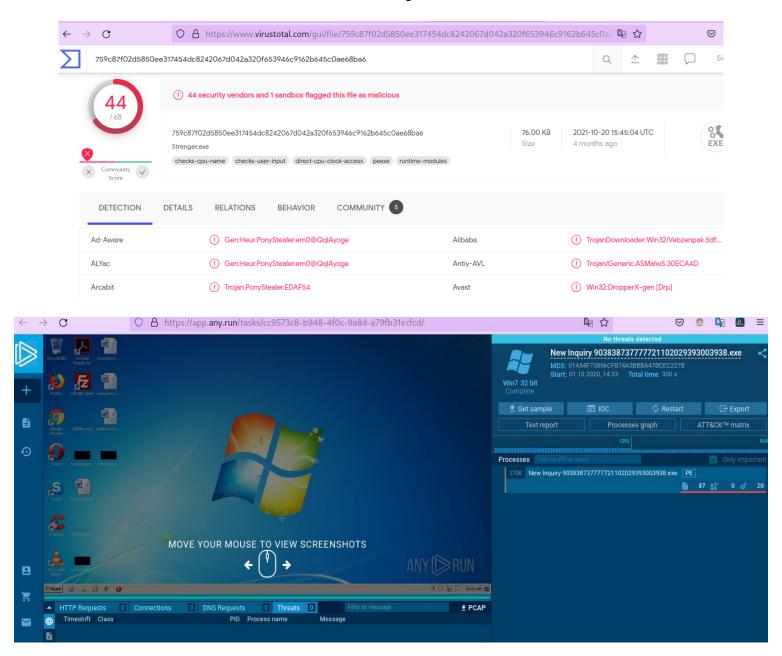
Malware Hash :-

• **sha256**: - 759c87f02d5850ee317454dc8242067d042a320f653946c9162b645c0ae68ba6

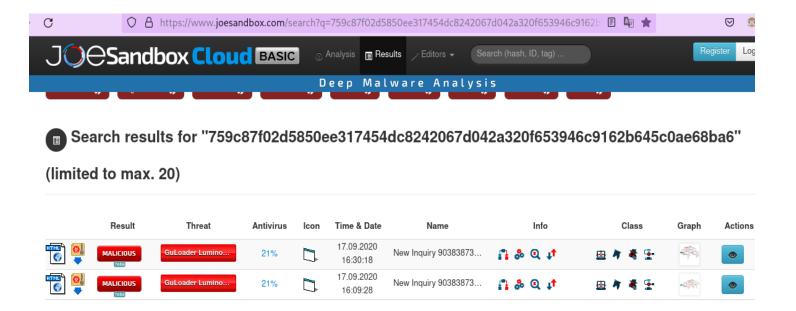
Tools: Windbg, Cutter, online malware sandbox, Process hacker

<u>Overview</u>: Malware downloaders are becoming extrememly popular amoung malicious actor's as it provides a way to gather information about the execution environment. Guloader is popular downloader malware and famous for its anti-debugging and anti-VM capabilities. The evasion tactics make it hard to analyse the malware. In this writeup we analyse the Guloader downloader malware and take a look at the various techniques used by the malware.

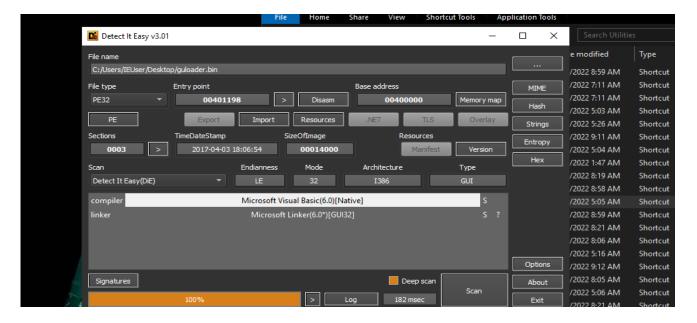
We first take a look various online sandbox as to get an overview...



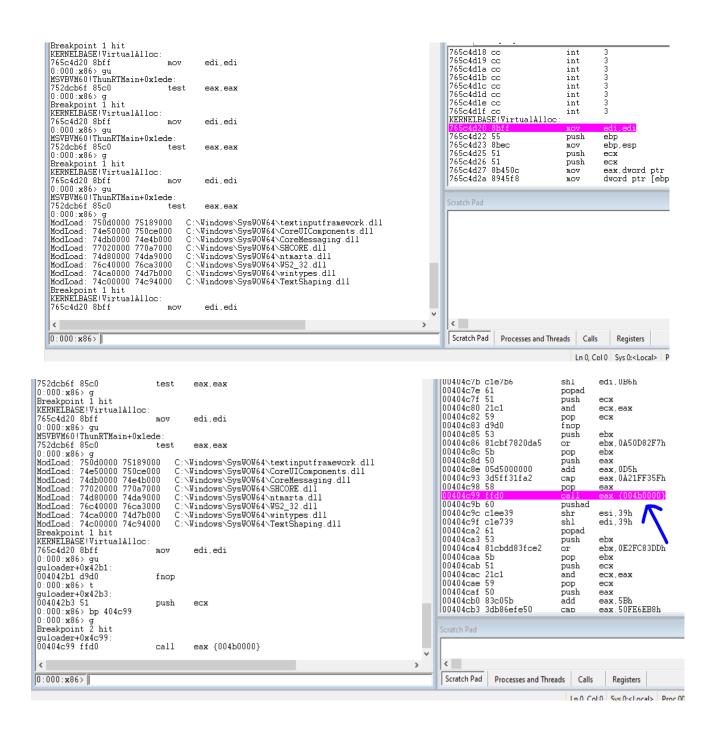
Looking at **app.any.run** we can see that it does not even recognize the file as malicious. On the other hand, **Virustotal** does have more than 44 vendors recognizing it as malware, more precisely as **Trojan Downloader**. If you look closely, we can see that **PonyStealer** is being detected. That is mostly because of similarity code for the malware's. Joe sandbox does detect it as Guloader malware downloader.



Taking a look at the file type we can see that it's a Visual basic file, but later we will see it does extract a shellcode and executes it which we can debug using window's debugger.



The malware allocates memory, decrypts the required shellcode and then directly jumps to it as seen below.



The malware at various points uses hashes for strings to retrieve the desired API. Some of the API's required for important functionality for the malware are given below. The stack address are also given, which will be usefull to understand the disassembly later.

→ 60AF076D - kernel32!TerminateProcess

→ B76339E - kernel32.ExitProcess

→ 82962C8 - NtProtectVirtualMemory

→ 321C9581 - ntdll.DbgBreakpoint

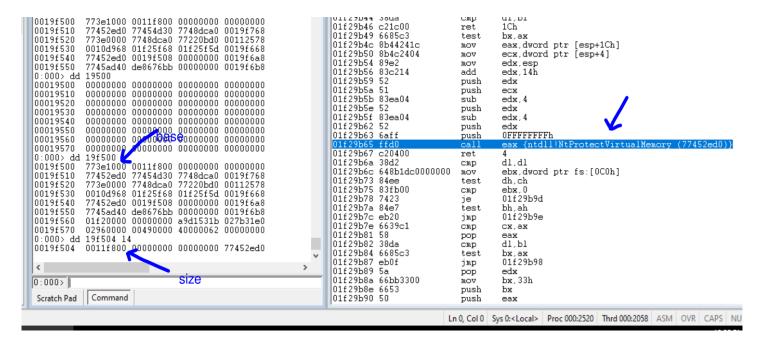
→ 6F0BDB18 - ntdll.DbgUiRemoteBreakpoint

→ EB96C5FA - kernel32.CreateFileA

→ 54212E31 - NtSetInformationThread

→ 6793C34C	 ntdll.ZwAllocateVirtualMemory 		
→ 9E0E1A44	- ntdll.NtGetContextThread	-	[ebp+28]
→ 308BE0D0	 NtSetContextThread 	-	[ebp+2C]
→ 95F3A792	 ntdll.ZwWriteVirtualMemory 	-	[ebp+30]
→ D02E20D0	- ntdll.NtCreateSection	-	[ebp+38]
→ 231F196A	ntdII.NtMapViewOfSection	-	[ebp+3C]
→ C29C5019	- NtOpenFile	-	[ebp+FC]
→ 8B8E133D	- ntdll.ZwClose	-	[ebp+40]
→ 2C7B3D30	- NtResumeThread	-	[ebp+118]
→ 4DA0ACCC	- kernel32.CreateProcessInternalW	-	[ebp+50]
→ E19E5FE	- kernel32.Sleep	-	[ebp+BC]
→ 7F08F451	 kernel32.CreateThread 	-	[ebp+C0]
→ ECCDA1BA	 kernel32.WaitForSingleObject 	-	[ebp+34]
→ 87AE6A46	kernel32.TerminateThread	-	[ebp+C4]
→ EB96C610	- kernel32.CreaterFileW	-	[ebp+78]
→ 663CEC80	- kernel32.WriteFile	-	[ebp+B0]
→ 3870CA07	- kernel32.CloseHandle	-	[ebp+54]
→ 7891C520	 kernel32.GetFileSize 	-	[ebp+120]
→ 71019921	- kernel32.ReadFile	-	[ebp+124]

The malware uses <ntdll.ZwProtectVirtualMemory> to change the rights of the ntdll file to write and executable.



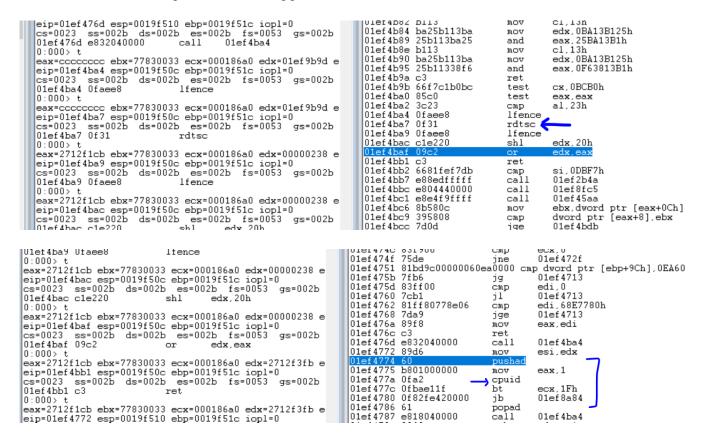
It then goes on to patch the API's <ntdI.DbgBreakPoint> with NOP and <ntdI.DbgUiRemoteBreakin> with a call to <Kernel32.ExitProcess> API.

```
|eax=00000000 ebx=773e1000 ecx=473c0000 edx=0(
                                                                         01f2950e 6a40
                                                                                                                           40h
eip-01f29520 esp-0019f4fc ebp-0019f5fc iopl=(
cs=0023 ss=002b ds=002b es=002b fs=0053 
01f29520 8b442418 mov eax,dword pt
                                                                                                              push
                                                                         01f29510 e837060000
                                                                                                                           01f29b4c
                                                                                                               call
                                                                         01f29518 0f8538050000
                                                                                                                           01f29a56
                                                                                                               jne
eax=77454d30 ebx=773e1000 ecx=473c0000 edx=0(eip=01f29524 esp=0019f4fc ebp=0019f51c iop1=(cs=0023 ss=002b ds=002b es=002b fs=0053 01f29524 c60090 mov byte ptr [ea
                                                                         01f2951e 84e4
01f29520 8b442418
                                                                                                               test
                                                                                                                           ah.ah
                                                                                                                           eax, dword ptr [esp+18h]
                                                                                                               MOV
                                                                                                                                                                  ds:002b:77454d30=cd
                                                                         01f29524 c60090
01f29527 f7c1631f686d
01f2952d 39c1
                                                                                                                          byte ptr [eax
ecx.6D681F63h
                                                                                                               test
                                                                                                              CMD
                                                                                                                           ecx.eax
0:000> u @eax
                                                                         01f2952f 8b44241c
                                                                                                                           eax, dword ptr [esp+1Ch]
                                                                                                               MOV
ntdll!DbgBreakPoint:
                                                                         01f29533 c6006a
01f29536 c6400100
                                                                                                               MOV
                                                                                                                          byte ptr [eax],6Ah
byte ptr [eax+1],0
77454d30 cc
                                                 3
                                                                                                              MOV
77454d31 c3
                                     ret
                                                                         01f2953a 6685cb
                                                                                                                           bx,cx
77454d32 cc
                                                                        01f2953d c64002b8
01f29541 38d3
01f29543 66f7c645e3
01f29548 8b953c010000
01f2954e 895003
                                      int
                                                                                                                          byte ptr [eax+2],0B8h
bl,dl
                                                                                                               MOA
77454d33 cc
                                                  3
                                                                                                              CMD
77454d34 cc
                                      int
                                                  3
                                                                                                               test
                                                                                                                           si,0E345h
77454d35 cc
                                                  3
                                      int
                                                                                                                          edx,dword ptr [ebp+13Ch]
dword ptr [eax+3],edx
                                                                                                              MOA
77454d36 cc
                                      int
                                                  3
                                                                                                              MOA
77454d37 cc
                                     int
                                                  3
                                                                         01f29551 c64007ff
01f29555 85db
01f29557 c64008d0
                                                                                                               mov
                                                                                                                           byte ptr [eax+7],0FFh
                                                                                                               test
                                                                                                                           ebx.ebx
                                                                                                                           byte ptr [eax+8],0D0h
                                                                                                              MOA
                                                                                                                           ax,3DF2h
                                                                         01f2955b 663df23d
0:000>
                                                                                                              cmp
                                                                                                                          byte ptr [eax+9],0C2h
byte ptr [eax+0Ah],4
                                                                         01f2955f c64009c2
01f29563 c6400a04
                                                                                                              MOA
 Scratch Pad | Command
                                                                                                              MOV
                                                                                                                        Ln 0, Col 0 Sys 0:<Local> Proc 000:2520 Thrd 000:2058 ASM OVR
0:000> u @eax
ntdl1!DbgBreakPoint:
                                                        CCA, OPOULE OF
                                                                                 |01f2950c 85d8
                                                                                                                                        eax.ebx
                                                                                                                           test
                                                                                 01f2950e 6a40
                                                                                                                           push
                                                                                                                                         40h
                                                                                                                                        01f29b4c
                                                                                 01f29510 e837060000
                                                                                                                           call
  77454d30 90
                                           nop
  77454d31 c3
                                           ret
                                                                                  01f29518 0f8538050000
                                                                                                                                        01f29a56
                                                                                                                           jne
  77454d32 cc
                                           int
                                                                                 01f2951e 84e4
01f29520 8b442418
                                                                                                                           test
                                                                                                                                        ah.ah
  77454d33 cc
                                           int
                                                        3
                                                                                                                                        eax, dword ptr [esp+18h]
                                                                                                                           mov
  77454d34 cc
                                           int
                                                                                                                                        byte ptr [eax],90h
ecx,6D681F63h
                                                                                 01f29524 c60090
01f29527 f7c1631f68
                                                                                                                           MOA
  77454d35 cc
                                           int
                                                        3
  77454d36 cc
                                           int
                                                                                 01f2952d 39c1
01f2952f 8b44241c
                                                                                                                           cmp
                                                                                                                                        ecx,eax
  77454d37 cc
                                           int
                                                                                                                                        eax,dword ptr [esp+1Ch]
byte ptr [eax],6Ah
byte ptr [eax+1],0
 0:000>
ntdll!DbgBreakPoint:
                                                                                                                           mov
                                                                                  01f29533 c6006a
                                                                                                                           mov
                                                                                 01f29536 c6400100
01f2953a 6685cb
                                                                                                                           mov
   7454d30<sup>9</sup>0
                                           nop
                                                                                                                           test
                                                                                                                                        bx.cx
  77454d31 c3
                                           ret
                                                                                 01f2953d c64002b8
01f2953d c38002b8
01f29541 38d3
01f29548 8b953c010000
01f29548 8b953c010000
                                                                                                                                        byte ptr [eax+2],0B8h
bl,dl
si,0E345h
                                                                                                                           mov
   7454d32 cc
                                           int
                                                                                                                           cmp
 77454d33 cc
77454d34 cc
                                           int
                                                                                                                           test
                                           int
                                                                                                                                        edx,dword ptr [ebp+13Ch]
dword ptr [eax+3],edx
byte ptr [eax+7],0FFh
ebx,ebx
                                                                                                                           mov
 77454d35 cc
77454d36 cc
                                                        3
                                           int
                                                                                                                           MOV
                                           int
                                                                                 01f29551 c64007ff
01f29555 85db
  77454d37 cc
                                           int
                                                                                                                           test
                                                                                 01f29557 c64008d0
01f2955b 663df23d
01f2955f c64009c2
                                                                                                                                        byte ptr [eax+8],0D0h
ax,3DF2h
                                                                                                                           mov
                                                                                                                           cmp
                                                                                                                                        byte ptr [eax+9],0C2h
byte ptr [eax+0Ah],4
 0:000>
                                                                                                                           mov
                                                                                 01f29563 c6400a04
01f29567 6639db
  Scratch Pad | Command
                                                                                                                                        hx hx
                                                                                                                                                     eax,dword ptr [esp+18h]
byte ptr [eax],90h
ecx,6D681F63h
                                                                                                I01f29520 8b442418
                                                                                                                                         MOV
7748dcc0
7748dcd0
                 18a16428 f6000000 000fca80 19752000
00fc6583 fc7057e8 3307ebff 8bc340c0
                                                                                               01f29524 c60090
01f29527 f7c1631f686d
01f2952d 39c1
                                                                                                                                         mov
                                                                                                                                         test
 7748dce0
                  45c7e865 fffffefc e8006aff fffbd7c0
                                                                                                                                         CMD
                                                                                                                                                      ecx.eax
                 ccccccc ccccccc ccccccc ccccccc
8b55ff8b 0d8b64ec 00000018 8908458b
000f2481 04c25d00 cccccc00 cccccccc
 7748dcf0
                                                                                                01f2952f 8b44241c
                                                                                                                                                      eax,dword ptr [esp+1Ch]
 7748dd00
 7748dd10
                                                                                                01f29536 c6400100
                                                                                                                                                      byte ptr [eax+1],0
 0:000> u @eax
ntdll!DbgUiRemoteBreakin
                                                                                                01f2953a 6685cb
                                                                                                                                         test
                                                                                                                                                      bx.cx
                                                                                                01f2953d c64002b8
                                                                                                                                         mov
                                                                                                                                                      byte ptr [eax+2],0B8h
 7748dca0 6a08
7748dca2 6870cb4e77
7748dca7 e8589ffdff
                                         push
                                                      offset ntdll!QueryReg:
ntdll!_SEH_prolog4 (7:
eax,dword ptr fs:[0000
                                                                                                01f29541 38d3
01f29543 66f7c645e3
                                                                                                                                                     bl,dl
si,0E345h
                                                                                                                                         cmp
test
                                          push
                                          call
                                                                                                01f29548 8b953c010000
01f2954e 895003
                                                                                                                                                     edx,dword ptr [ebp+13Ch]
dword ptr [eax+3],edx
byte ptr [eax+7],0FFh
ebx,ebx
                                                                                                                                         mov
  7748dcac 64a130000000
                                          mov
                                                                                                                                         MOV
 7748dcb2 80780200
7748dcb6 7509
                                          cmp
                                                       byte ptr [eax+2].0
ntdll!DbgUiRemoteBreal
                                                                                                01f29551 c64007ff
01f29555 85db
01f29557 c64008d0
                                                                                                                                         mov
                                          ine
 7748dcb8 f605d402fe7f02
7748dcbf 7428
                                                                                                                                         test
                                                      byte ptr [SharedUserDantdll!DbgUiRemoteBrea]
                                          test
                                                                                                                                                     byte ptr [eax+8],0D0h
ax,3DF2h
byte ptr [eax+9],0C2h
                                                                                                                                         MOV
                                          ie
                                                                                                01f2955b 663df23d
                                                                                                                                         mov
                                                                                                                                                     byte ptr [eax+9],0C2h
byte ptr [eax+0Ah],4
                                                                                                01f2955f c64009c2
                                                                                                01f29563 c6400a04
                                                                                                                                         MOV
                                                                                                01f29567 6639db
                                                                                                                                         CMD
                                                                                                                                                      bx.bx
                                                                                                01f2956a c6400b00
01f2956e 85d9
                                                                                                                                                     byte ptr [eax+0Bh],0
ecx,ebx
                                                                                                                                         MOA
 0:000>
                                                                                                                                         test
  Scratch Pad Command
                                                                                                01f29570 84e6
                                                                                                                                                      dh, ah
```

Ln 0, Col 0 Sys 0:<Local> Proc 000:2520 Thrd 000:205

```
erp-01127708 esp-00171410 epp-00171510 ropr-0
cs=0023 ss=002b ds=002b es=002b fs=0053 gs=002b
01f29568 c6400b00 mov byte ptr [eax+0Bh],0
                                                                  nv up er pr zr na p
efl=0000
                                                                                                                                       byte ptr [eax+8],0D0h ax,3DF2h
                                                                                               01f29557 c64008d0
                                                                                               01f2955b 663df23d
                                                                                                                              cmp
                                                                                               01f2955f c64009c2
                                                                                                                                        byte ptr [eax+9],0C2h
                                                                                                                              MOV
0:000> p
eax=7748dca0 ebx=773e1000 ecx=473c0000 edx=77224e10 esi=00000000 edi=01f2
                                                                                               01f29563 c6400a04
                                                                                                                                        byte ptr [eax+0Ah],4
                                                                                               01f29567 6639db
                                                                                                                                        bx.bx
                                                                                                                              cmp
eip=01f2956e esp=0019f4fc ebp=0019f51c iopl=0
                                                                 nv up ei pl zr na p
efl=0000
                                                                                               01f2956a c6400b00
                                                                                                                                        byte ptr [eax+0Bh],0
                                                                                                                              MOV
cs=0023 ss=002b ds=002b es=002b fs=0053 gs=002b
01f2956e 85d9
                               test
                                        ecx.ebx
                                                                                               01f29570 84e6
01f29572 85d8
                                                                                                                                        dh, ah
                                                                                                                              test
0:000> u @eax
                                                                                                                                        eax.ebx
                                                                                                                              test
ntdll!DbgUiRemoteBreakin:
                                                                                               01f29574 89d8
                                                                                                                                        eax,ebx
7748dca0 6a00
7748dca2 b8104e2277
                                         0
                               push
                                                                                               01f29576 03442408
                                                                                                                              add
                                                                                                                                        eax, dword ptr [esp+8]
                                         eax, offset KERNEL32!ExitProcessImplement
                               MOV
                                                                                               01f2957a 43
                                                                                                                              inc
                                                                                                                                        ebx
7748dca7 ffd0
                               call
                                         eax
                                                                                               01f2957b 39c3
                                                                                                                              cmp
7748dca9 c20400
                               ret
                                                                                               01f2957d 0f84d8040000
                                                                                                                                        01f29a5b
7748dcac 64a130000000
                                         eax, dword ptr fs: [00000030h]
                               MOV
                                                                                               01f29583 803bb8
                                                                                                                                       byte ptr [ebx],0B8h
01f2957a
                                                                                                                              CMD
                                         byte ptr [eax+2].0
ntdll!DbgUiRemoteBreakin+0x21 (7748dcc1)
byte ptr [SharedUserData+0x2d4 (7ffe02d4
7748dcb2 80780200
                               cmp
                                                                                               01f29586 75f2
                                                                                                                              jne
7748dch6 7509
                                                                                               01f29588 837b0100
01f2958c 75ec
01f2958e 84e4
                                                                                                                                        dword ptr [ebx+1],0
7748dcb8 f605d402fe7f02
                               test
                                                                                                                              jne
                                                                                                                                        01f2957a
                                                                                                                              test
                                                                                                                                        ah, ah
                                                                                                                                        byte ptr [ebx+5],0BAh
01f2957a
                                                                                               01f29590 807b05ba
                                                                                               01f29594 75e4
                                                                                                                              jne
                                                                                               01f29596 8b5306
                                                                                                                                        edx.dword ptr [ebx+6]
0:000>
                                                                                                                              MOA
                                                                                               01f29599 f7c16232598d
                                                                                                                                        ecx, 8D593262h
 Scratch Pad | Command
                                                                                               01f2959f 83c30a
                                                                                                                              add
                                                                                                                                        ebx.OAh
                                                                                                   Ln 0, Col 0 | Sys 0:<Local> | Proc 000:2520 | Thrd 000:2058 | ASM | OVR | CAPS | 1
```

The malware uses **rdtsc** and **cpuid** for anti-debugging and anti-vm. The usage of rdtsc is simple, being called twice and then the difference between the two timings is used to judge if the malware is running inside a debugger.



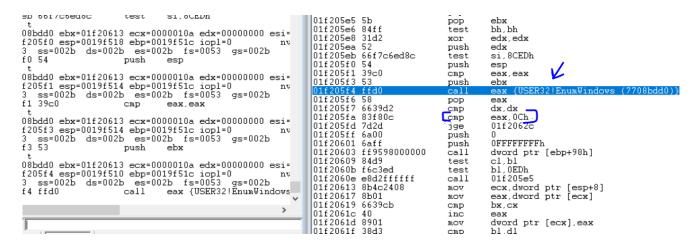
As can be seen above, CPUID is used with a value of 1 being passed to eax. This returns CPU feature information in ecx register. The 31st bit of the 32 bit value returned determines if the environment is a hypervisor or not. If inside a hypervisor, the malware process ends.

	17101			
25	sse	SSE instructions (a.k.a. Katmai New Instructions)	aes	AES instruction set
26	sse2	SSE2 instructions	xsave	XSAVE, XRESTOR, XSETBV, XGETBV
27	ss	CPU cache implements self-snoop	osxsave	XSAVE enabled by OS
28	htt	Hyper-threading	avx	Advanced Vector Extensions
29	tm	Thermal monitor automatically limits temperature	f16c	F16C (half-precision) FP feature
30	ia64	IA64 processor emulating x86	rdrnd	RDRAND (on-chip random number generator) feature
31	pbe	Pending Break Enable (PBE# pin) wakeup capability	hypervisor	Hypervisor present (always zero on physical CPUs)[12][13]
			-	

Reserved fields should be masked before using them for processor identification purposes.

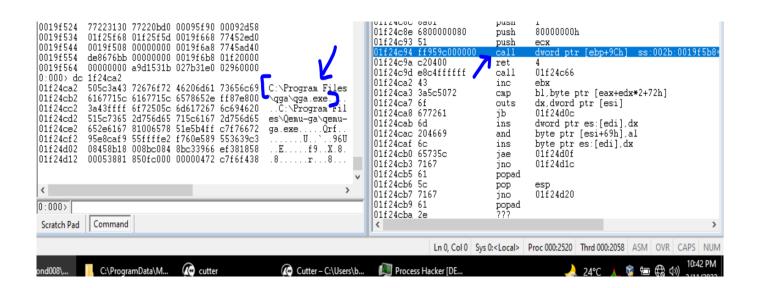
EAX=2: Cache and TLB Descriptor information [edit]

Then the malware uses the **EnumWindows** API. The EnumWindows API enumerates all the process and executes a callback function for each process. In this case, it just increments a counter and later compares it with 0xc. Depending on the value, the malware proceeds or exits.



Guloader then uses another anti-vm trick, it tries to open files '<u>C:\Program</u> files\Qemu-ga\qemu-ga.exe' and '<u>C:\Program</u> Files\qga\qga.exe' to check if the malware is running under Virtual Machine or not.

```
|01f24c88 6a03
                                                                                                                                        push
0019f504
              00000003 00000000 00000000 01f24c54
                                                                                                    01f24c8a 6a00
                                                                                                                                        push
0019f514
             01f24cc4 01f20a9b 0019f768 77200000
77223130 77220bd0 00095f90 00092d58
                                                                                                    01f24c8c 6a01
                                                                                                                                        push
0019f524
                                                                                                   01f24c8e 6800000080
01f24c93 51
                                                                                                                                                    80000000h
                                                                                                                                        push
              01f25f68
                          01f25f5d 0019f668
                                                                                                                                        push
                                                                                                                                                   ecx
0019f544
              0019f508 00000000 0019f6a8
                                                     7745ad40
              de8676bb 00000000 0019f6b8 01f20000
0019f554
                                                                                                   01f24c9a c20400
01f24c9d e8c4ffffff
                                                                                                                                        ret
              00000000 a9d1531b 027b31e0 02960000
0019f564
                                                                                                                                                    01f24c66
                                                                                                                                        call
0:000> dc
              1f24cc4
             1124CC4
505c3a43 72676f72 46206d61 73656c69
6d65515c 61672d75 6d65715c 61672d75
6578652e b4ff8100 667251e5 caf9c7f7
ffe295e8 e58955ff 39c3f760 8b185536
                                                                                                    01f24ca2 43
                                                                 C:\Program Files
\Qemu-ga\qemu-ga
.exe ...Qrf....
                                                                                                                                        inc
                                                                                                                                                    ebx
01f24cc4
                                                                                                    01f24ca3 3a5c5072
                                                                                                                                                   bl.byte ptr [eax+edx*2+72h]
dx.dword ptr [esi]
                                                                                                                                        cmp
01f24cd4
                                                                                                    01f24ca7 6f
                                                                                                                                        outs
01f24ce4
                                                                   01f24ca8 677261
                                                                                                                                                    01f24d0c
                                                                                                                                        ib
01f24cf4
                                                                                                                                                   dword ptr es:[edi],dx
byte ptr [esi+69h],al
byte ptr es:[edi],dx
                                                                                                   01f24cab 6d
01f24cac 204669
                                                                                                                                        ins
                          3966008b 18588bc3
01f24d04
              c0840845
                                                     3881ef38
                                                                                                                                        and
                                                                   ....d..f..C.S..
01f24d14
              c0000005 0472850f f4380000 83e3c7f6
                                                                                                   01f24caf 6c
01f24cb0 65735c
01f24cb3 7167
01f24cb5 61
                                                                                                                                        ins
             840f00fb 00000464 43c7f766 e48453b0
fff7f2e8 38c389ff e8d939ff fffff866
01f24d24
                                                                                                                                                    01f24d0f
                                                                                                                                        jae
01f24d34
                                                                                                                                        ino
                                                                                                                                                    01f24d1c
                                                                                                                                        popad
                                                                                                   01f24cb6 5c
01f24cb7 7167
01f24cb9 61
                                                                                                                                        pop
                                                                                                                                                   esp
01f24d20
                                                                                                                                        jno
0:000>
                                                                                                                                        popad
???
                                                                                                    01f24cba 2e
Scratch Pad | Command
```



The API <ntdI.NtSetInformationThread> is then used to hide the thread as seen below.

```
call fcn.01f24c36_anti_vm ; checks for Qemu files
0x01f20a96
0x01f20a9b
                cmp ah, bh
0x01f20a9d
                cmp bh, ch
0x01f20a9f
                cmp edx, ebx
                mov ecx, dword [ebp
0x01f20aa1
                mov edx, <u>0x54212e31</u>;
                                       '1.!T'
0x01f20aa4
                                             ; NtSetInformationThread
               call fcn.01f281cf
                                    ; retrieve address NtSetInformationThread()
0x01f20aa9
0x01f20aae
                mov dword [ebp + 0x130], eax
0x01f20ab4
                test bh, bh
                test si, 0x8c8f
0x01f20ab6
0x01f20abb
                cmp eax, eax
0x01f20abd
                push 0
0x01f20abf
                push 0
0x01f20ac1
                push 0x11
                                    ; 17
0x01f20ac3
                cmp dx, dx
                push 0xffffffffffffe
0x01f20ac6
                                   ; call NtSetinformationThread()
0x01f20ac8
                call eax
                test of bl
0v01f20aca
```

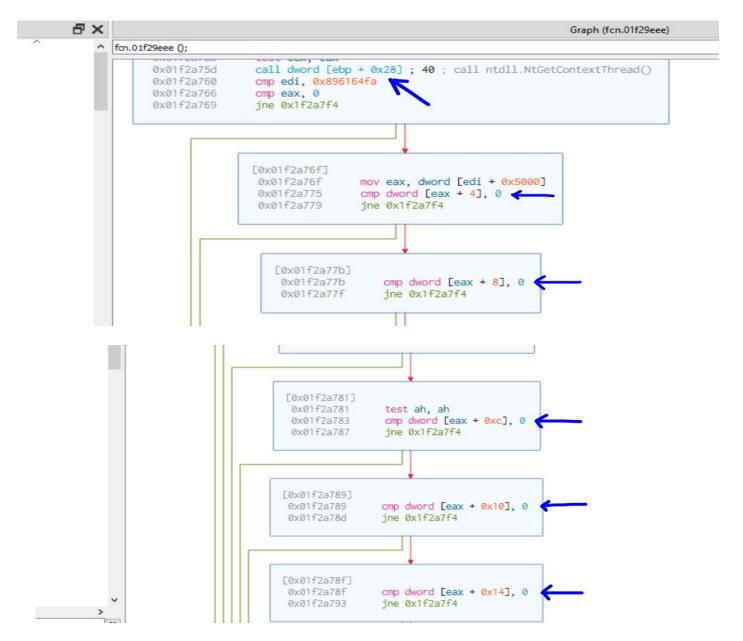
The <ntdIl.NtSetInformationThread> API here is called with an undocumented value of 0x11 for the second parameter ThreadInformationClass. This will cause the main thread to be hidden, and no information will be passed to the debugger. If any breakpoint is placed in code inside this thread, the debugger will get stuck. The function fcn.01f281cf retrieves the address of the API NtSetinformationthread using the hash value 0x54212e31. The function is repeatedly used to retrieve addresses of API's. The method to retrieve the address of the API involves using the Export Address Table of the PE file. For more information on dynamic API address resolution, please refer to my previous write-up here.

The malware then gets a handle for the service manager using **ADVAPI32.OpenSCManagerA** API and goes on to check for services related to Virtual Machines using **EnumServiceStatusA** API.

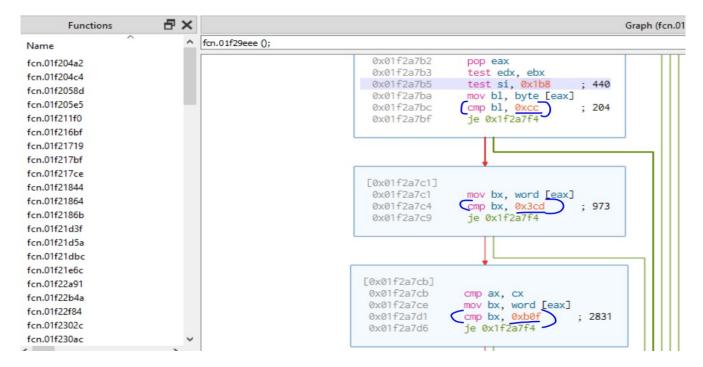
```
fcn.01f211f0
                                                               test dl, cl
fcn.01f216bf
                                                               mov ecx, dword [ebp + 0x5c]
                                              0x01f20b5a
fcn.01f21719
                                              0x01f20b5d
                                                               test ebx, ecx
fcn.01f217bf
                                              0x01f20b5f
                                                               cmp ebx, ebx
                                                               mov edx, 0xbaef4789
                                              0x01f20b61
fcn.01f217ce
                                              0x01f20b66
                                                               test di. 0xe1c4
                                                               call fcn.01f281cf
fcn.01f21844
                                              0x01f20b6b
                                                                                    ; retrieve address of ADVAPI32!OpenSCManagerA
fcn.01f21864
                                              0x01f20b70
                                                               push 4
fcn.01f2186b
                                              0x01f20b72
                                                               push 0
fcn.01f21d3f
                                              0x01f20b74
                                                               cmp bl, bl
fcn.01f21d5a
                                              0x01f20b76
                                                               test cl, dl
                                              0x01f20b78
                                                               push 0
fcn.01f21dbc
                                                               push eax
call fcn.01f29eee
                                              0x01f20b7a
fcn.01f21e6c
                                              0x01f20h7h
                                                                                    ; anti debug and calls the api whose address is retrieved above
fcn.01f22a91
                                              0x01f20b80
                                                               test dl, cl
                                            [0x01f20b8b]
                                             0x01f20b8b
                                                              test ebx, ecx
                                             0x01f20b8d
                                                              cmp ebx, ebx
                                             0x01f20b8f
                                                              mov dword [ebp + 0x9c], eax
                                             0x01f20b95
                                                              test di, 0xb188
                                             0x01f20b9a
                                                              mov ecx, dword [ebp + 0x5c]
                                                              mov edx, 0x19c2c923 call fcn.01f281cf; retrieve address of ADVAPI32!EnumServiceStatusA()
                                             0x01f20b9d
                                             0x01f20ba2
                                             0x01f20ba7
                                                              cmp bl, bl
                                             0x01f20ba9
                                                              test cl, dl
                                             0x01f20bab
                                                              mov edi, dword [ebp + 0x20]
                                             0x01f20bae
                                                              add edi, 0x10000
                                             0x01f20bb4
                                                              push edi
                                             0x01f20bb5
                                                               test dl, cl
                                             0x01f20bb7
                                                              add edi, 4
                                             0x01f20bba
                                                              test ebx, ecx
                                                              push edi
                                             0x01f20bbc
                                             0x01f20bbd
                                                              cmp ebx, ebx
                                                              add edi, 4
                                             0x01f20bbf
```

The malware before calling the actual Windows API first retrieves the address from the hash of the API using the function **fcn.01f281cf**. It then calls the function fcn.01f29eee which calls the required windows API. This pattern is repeated most of the time. The function fcn.01f29eee does anti-debug checks before calling the API.

Function **fcn.1f29eee** first uses the **GetContextthread API** to get the thread context which contains the values of the debug registers DR1, DR2 etc. The value of these registers are then compared to 0 to check if hardware breakpoints are setup.



After **hardware breakpoints**, the malware checks for **software breakpoints** by comparing the starting address of the API with **bytes 0xCC**, **0x3CD**, **0xB0F** as seen below.



After doing away with all the necessary Anti-VM and Anti-Debugging checks and retrieving the address of the required APIs it does move to the process injection phase. The Process Injection Technique basically involves the following APIs.

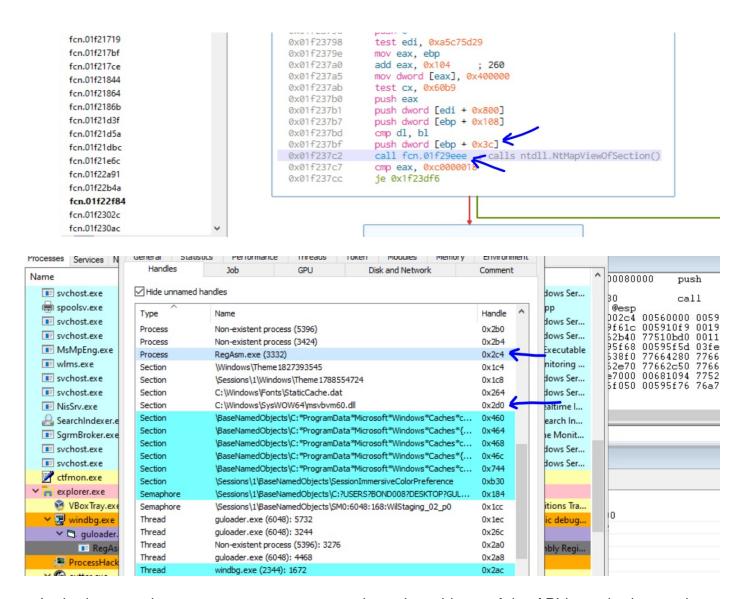
- → kernel32.CreateProcessInternalW
- → ntdll.NtCreateSection
- → ntdll.NtMapViewOfSection
- → ntdll.ZwAllocateVirtualMemory
- → ntdll.ZwWriteVirtualMemory
- → ntdll.NtGetContextThread
- → ntdll.NtSetContextThread
- → ntdll.NtResumeThread

This version of Guloader malware uses the executable file namely "C:\Windows\ Microsoft.NET\Framework\v2.0.50727\RegAsm.exe" for process creation. The windir path is derived using the PEB, the address of PEB is derived using Thread Environment Block located at fs:[18]. The instruction mov eax, dword [eax+48] moves the pointer to the environment variables to register eax. This pointer is then used to retrieve the address of windir which is C:\Windows. The rest of the string is retrieved from the malware binary itself.

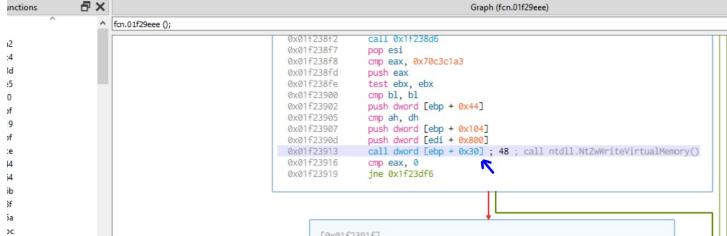
```
rktop/guioauei_payioauɔ.biii
Debug Help
    Type flag name or address here
×
                                                                             Graph (fcn.01f27c58)
   fcn.01f27c58 (int32_t arg_4h_2, int32_t arg_4h);
                                                             140: fcn.01f27c58 (int32_t arg_4h_2, int32_t arg_4h);
                                                             ; var int32_t var_4h @ esp+0x18
                                                             ; arg int32_t arg_4h_2 @ esp+0x1c
                                                              arg int32_t arg_4h @ esp+0x20
                                                             0x01f27c58
                                                                             test dh, bh
                                                             0x01f27c5a
                                                                             mov eax, dword fs:[0x18]
                                                             0x01f27c60
                                                                             test dx, dx
                                                                             mov eax, dword [eax + 0x30]
                                                             0x01f27c63
                                                                             mov eax, dword [eax + 0x10]
                                                             0x01f27c66
                                                             0x01f27c69
                                                                              test ah, bh
                                                           0x01f27c6b
                                                                           mov eax, dword [eax + 0x48]
                                                             0x01f27cбе
                                                                             cmp edx, eax
                                                                             sub eax, 2
                                                             0x01f27c70
                                                             0x01f27c73
                                                                             cmp ax, dx
                                                             0x01f27c76
                                                                             mov esi, dword [arg_4h]
                                                             0x01f27c7a
                                                                             cmp ecx, ecx
```

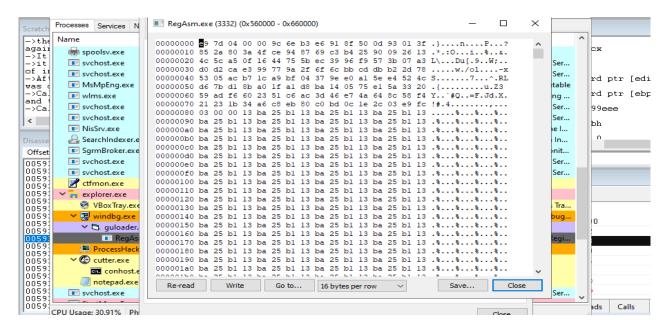
The malware first create a process using <Kernel32.CreateProcessInternalW> API setting the file parameter as 'C:\Windows\Microsoft.NET\Framework\v2.0.50727\RegAsm.exe'. It then obtains the handle to the file C:\Windows.syswow64\msvbvm60.dll using the Kernel32.CreateFileA API and passes the handle to the ntdll.NtCreateSection. The ntdll.NtMapViewOfSection API is used to map this section to the RegAsm.exe process created previously.



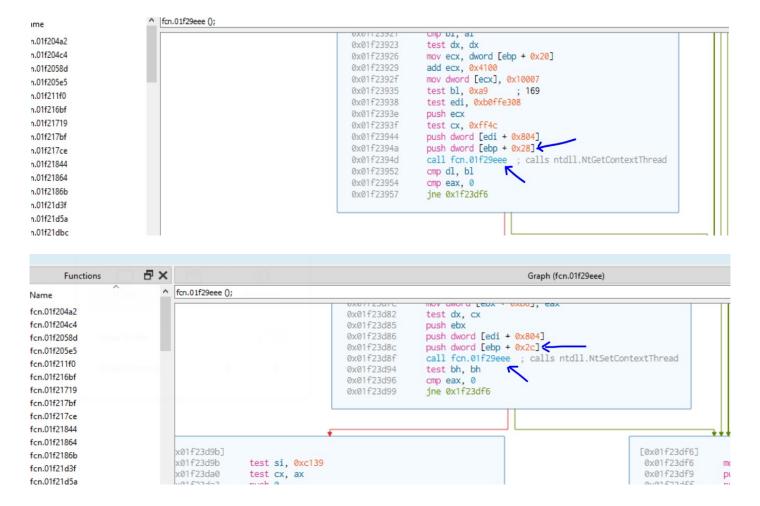


In the images above, we can see a pattern where the address of the API is pushed on to the stack and the function fcn.01f29eee is called. This function does anti debugging as previously discussed and calls the required API. The malware then uses the **ZwAllocateVirtualMemory** and **ZwWriteVirtualMemory** to allocate memory inside the process and write shellcode to that memory.





<ntdII.NtGetContextThread> and <ntdII.NtSetContextThread> APIs are used to change the entry point of the process to that of the start of the shellcode in the process. Finally, <ntdII.NtResumeThread> API is used to resume the suspended process.



```
BX
                                                                             Graph (fcn.01f29eee)
    ^ fcn.01f29eee ();
           10x01+23d9h
           0x01f23d9b
                           test si, 0xc139
                                                                                                           0x01f23df6
                                                                                                                           mov edi, dword [ebp +
                           test cx, ax
           0x01f23da0
                                                                                                           0x01f23df9
                                                                                                                          push dword [ebp + 0x10
           0x01f23da3
                                                                                                           0x01f23dff
                                                                                                                           push dword [ebp + 0x40
                           push 0
                        push dword [edi + 0x804]
push dword [ebp + 0x118]
           0x01f23da5
                                                                                                           0x01f23e02
                                                                                                                           call fcn.01f29eee
                                                                                                                          push dword [ebp + 0x10
           0x01f23dab
                                                                                                           0x01f23e07
                       call fcn.01f29eee ; calls ntdll.NtResumeThread()
push 0xffff
push dword [edi + 0x804]
                                                                                                                           push dword [ebp + 0x40
           0x01f23db1
                                                                                                           0x01f23e0d
           0x01f23db6
                                                                                                           0x01f23e10
                                                                                                                           call fcn.01f29eee
           0x01f23dbb
                                                                                                          0x01f23e15
                                                                                                                          test eax, eax
           0x01f23dc1
                          push dword [ebp + 0x134]
                                                                                                          0x01f23e17
                                                                                                                           push 0
                        cmp ah, bh
                                                                                                                          push dword [edi + 0x80
           0x01f23dc7
                                                                                                           0x01f23e19
                               .string "\xe8 a" ; len=4
           0x01f23dc9
                                                                                                           0x01f23e1f
                                                                                                                           push dword [ebp + 0x98
                        add byte [ebp - 0x2c7a9928], al
           0x01f23dcd
                                                                                                           0x01f23e25
                                                                                                                           cmp dh, 0x8a
           0x01f23dd3 ret
                                                                                                           0x01f23e28
                                                                                                                           call fcn.01f29eee
                                                                                                           0x01f23e2d
                                                                                                                          test bh, 3
                                                                                                                                            ; 3
                                                                                                          0x01f23e30
                                                                                                                           cmp bl, bl
                                                                                                          0x01f23e32
                                                                                                                          add dword [ebp + 0x11c
                                                                                                                          cmp ah, dh
                                                                                                           0x01f23e39
                                                                                                           0v01f22o2h
```

Indicators of Compromise:-

- Host Based IOC
 - File hash :-759c87f02d5850ee317454dc8242067d042a320f653946c9162b645c0ae68ba6

<u>Conclusion</u>:- Guloader is a highly evasive windows malware downloader. As seen in the analysis, it uses multiple checks at various points for VM and debugger presence. The code also contains useless instructions all along. These features make malware downloaders like Guloader highly attractive for threat actor's and malware developer's. Instead of directly executing the malware on the victim's machine, guloader provide a way to check the execution environment to see if inside a vm or debugger and If needed download the actual payload which can be another malware.