

CNIT 58100 CFM: CYBERFORENSICS OF MALWARE – LAB 1 (PART 1)

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Lab – Part 1

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## Abstract

This lab covers the skills discussed in chapter 1 of the text. The practice covered in these labs is all based on malware analysis. The malware files used are provided as an extension of the text for practical purposes.

Each of the labs consists of multiple questions that require short answers. Depending on the question, certain special tools might be required to fully analyze the malware and find answers to the question.

This paper provides answers to Chapter 1 labs. The lab uses 5 different files which are: *Lab01-01.dll*, *Lab01-01.exe*, *Lab01-02.exe*, *Lab01-03.exe*, and *Lab01-04.exe*. These files are malwares are therefore could be harmful if used for non-training purposes.

The tools used to analyze the files used in this lab are: Virustools, PEview, PEiD, Resource Hacker, and String. The results collected after analyzing the files includes: existing virus definitions, indications whether the files are packed or obfuscated, compilation date, imports, host or network based indicators and file resource.

## Lab 1-1

This lab uses the files Lab01-01.exe and Lab01-01.dll

### Questions:

- Q1. Upload the files to <http://www.virustotal.com/> and view the reports. Does either file match any existing antivirus signatures?
- Q2. When were these files compiled?
- Q3. Are there any indications that either of these files is packed or obfuscated? If so, what are these indicators?
- Q4. Do any imports hint at what this malware does? If so, which imports are they?
- Q5. Are there any other files or host-based indicators that you could look for on infected systems?
- Q6. What network-based indicators could be used to find this malware on infected machines?
- Q7. What would you guess is the purpose of these files?

### Answers:

- 1: Both files *Lab01-01.exe* and *Lab01-01.dll* were uploaded to <http://www.virustotal.com/> and the front page which is the analysis shows that both files match existing antivirus signatures. As shown in figure 1 and 2 below for both files respectively.

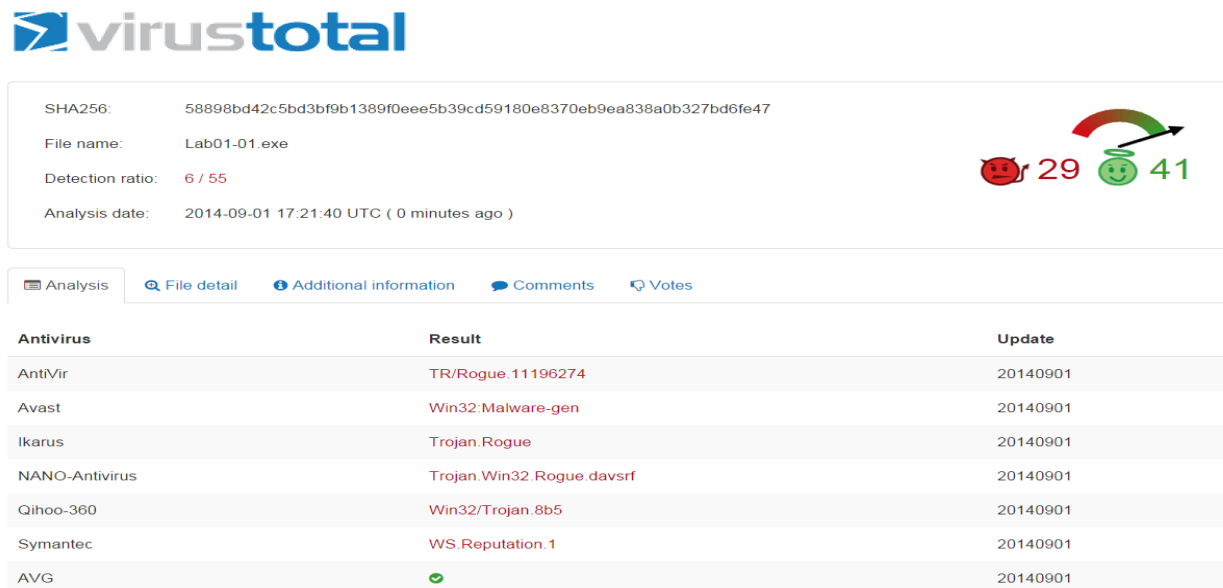


Figure 1: Lab01-01.exe Analysis



SHA256: f50e42c8dfaab649bde0398867e930b86c2a599e8db83b8260393082268f2dba

File name: Lab01-01.dll

Detection ratio: 1 / 53

Analysis date: 2014-09-01 18:47:26 UTC ( 0 minutes ago )

🟢 **Probably harmless!** There are strong indicators suggesting that this file is safe to use.

👤 22 🟢 13

Analysis | File detail | Additional information | Comments | Votes

Antivirus	Result	Update
Symantec	WS.Reputation.1	20140901
AVG	🟢	20140901
AVware	🟢	20140901
Ad-Aware	🟢	20140901
AegisLab	🟢	20140901
Agnitum	🟢	20140901
AhnLab-V3	🟢	20140901

Figure 2: Lab01-01.dll Analysis

- 2: Navigating to the next column “File detail” on the <http://www.virustotal.com/> shows the compilation date and time of each file. The compilation date for both *Lab01-01.exe* and *Lab01-01.dll* are: 2010-12-19.

The compilation time could also be viewed using the PEView by uploading the files and navigating to the **IMAGE\_NT\_HEADERS** then **IMAGE\_FILE\_HEADER** viewing the Time Date Stamp field. Figure 3, 4, 5 and 6 below shows the compilation date and time for both files.



SHA256: 58898bd42c5bd3bf9b1389f0eee5b39cd59180e8370eb9ea838a0b327bd6fe47

File name: Lab01-01.exe

Detection ratio: 6 / 55

Analysis date: 2014-09-01 17:21:40 UTC ( 0 minutes ago )

👤 29 🟢 41

Analysis | File detail | Additional information | Comments | Votes

The file being studied is a **Portable Executable file!** More specifically, it is a Win32 EXE file for the Windows command line subsystem.

🔍 Packers identified

PEID Armadillo V1.71

📄 PE header basic information

Target machine	Intel 386 or later processors and compatible processors
Compilation timestamp	2010-12-19 16:16:19
Entry Point	0x00001820
Number of sections	3

📄 PE sections

Figure 3: Lab01-01.exe Compilation Timestamp using www.virustotal.com

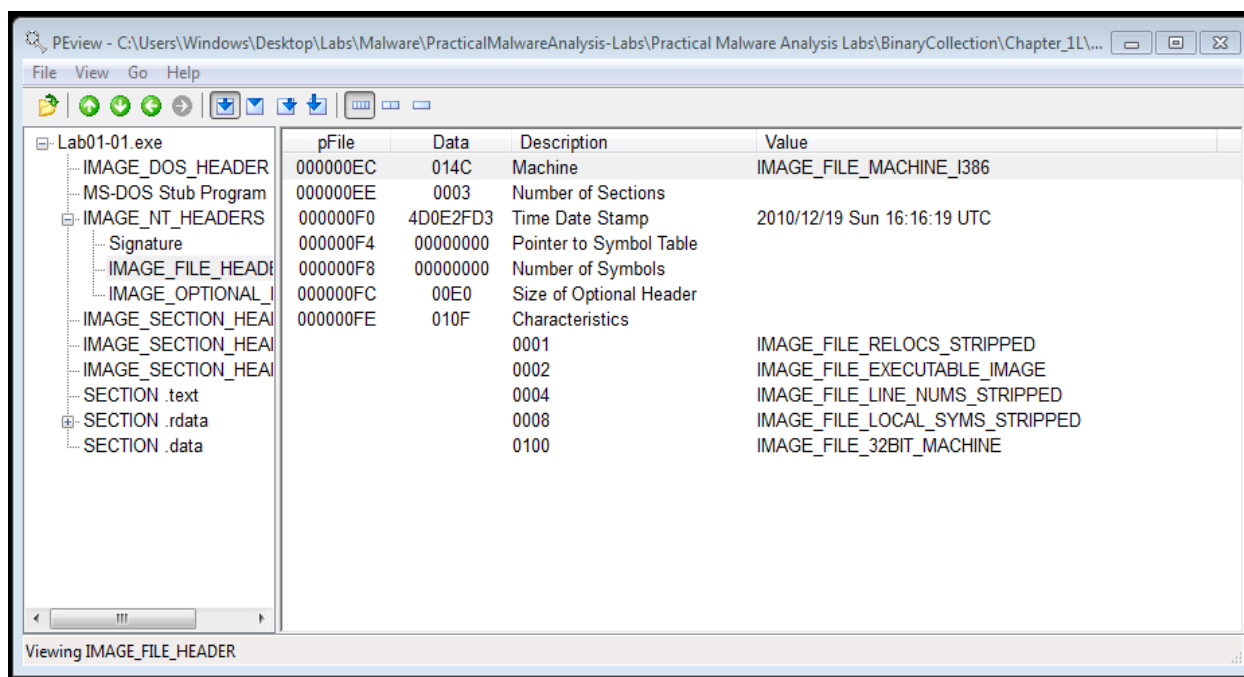


Figure 4: Lab01-01.exe Compilation Timestamp using PVIEW



SHA256: f50e42c8dfa6b649bde0398867e930b86c2a599e8db83b8260393082268f2dba

File name: Lab01-01.dll

Detection ratio: 1 / 53

Analysis date: 2014-09-01 18:47:26 UTC ( 0 minutes ago )

🟢 **Probably harmless!** There are strong indicators suggesting that this file is safe to use.

🔍 Analysis | 🔍 File detail | ⓘ Additional information | 💬 Comments | 🗳 Votes

**The file being studied is a Portable Executable file!** More specifically, it is a Win32 DLL file for the Windows GUI subsystem.

📦 **Packers identified**

PEiD: Armadillo v1.xx - v2.xx

≡ **PE header basic information**

Target machine	Intel 386 or later processors and compatible processors
Compilation timestamp	2010-12-19 16:16:38
Entry Point	0x000012FA
Number of sections	4

📁 **PE sections**

Figure 5: Lab01-01.dll Compilation Timestamp using www.virustotal.com

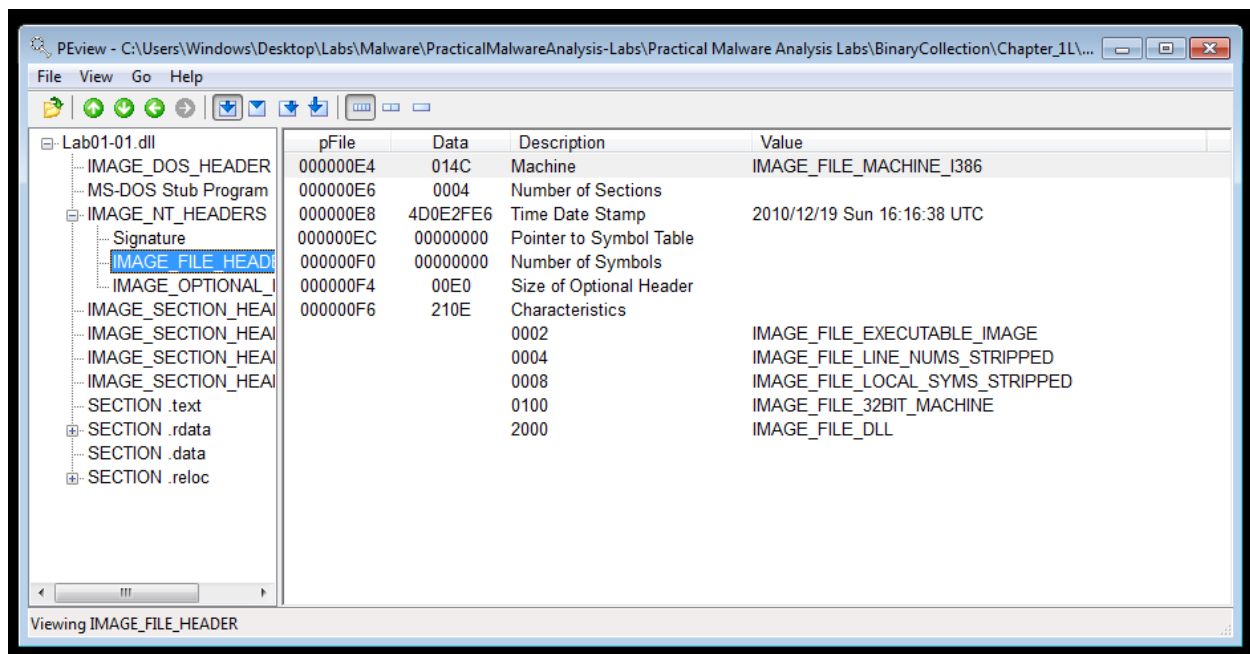


Figure 6: Lab01-01.dll Compilation Timestamp using PEView

3. PEiD shows that both files are unpacked and were compiled with Microsoft Visual C++. To view this, upload the respective file to PEiD and analyze. The figure below shows both files uploaded to PEiD and analyzed.

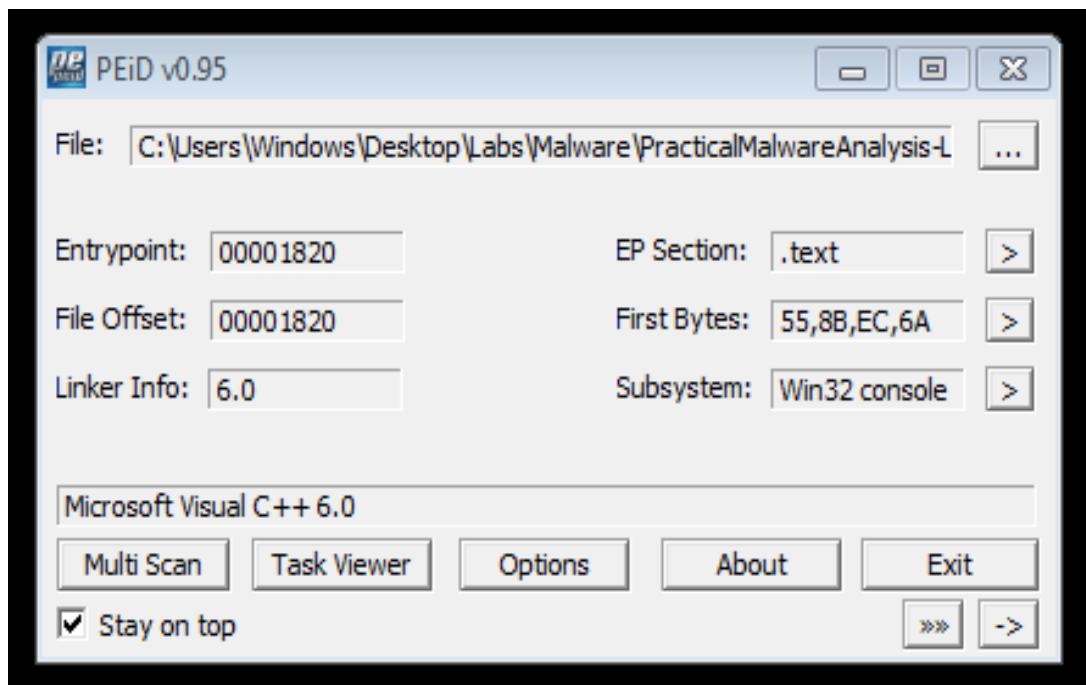


Figure 7: Lab01-01.exe uploaded and analyzed using PEiD

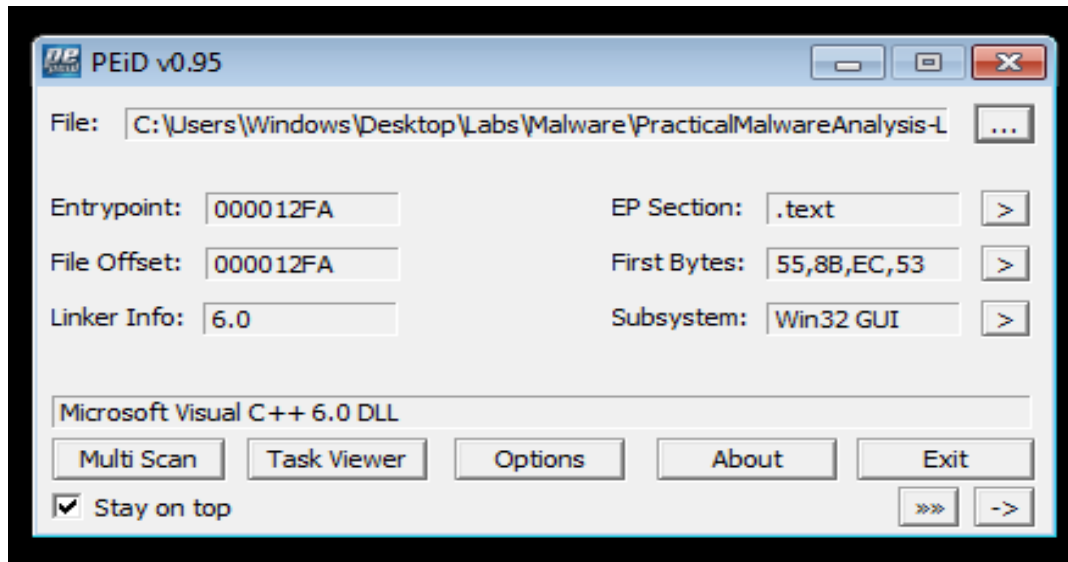


Figure 8: Lab01-01.dll uploaded and analyzed using PEiD

4. For the Lab01-01.exe, the import shows us that this malware is used to manipulate files, the PE imports shows 2 different imports: **KERNEL32.dll** which includes files like *MapViewOfFile*, *FindFirstFileA*, *FindClose*, *CreateFileA* etc. could all be attributed to creating and change the behavior of files. Under the different import **MSVCRT.dll**, it includes files like *exit*, this could be directive files used to command or instruct files.

The figures below show both files under the **KERNEL32.dll** and **MSVCRT.dll** imports of *Lab01-01.exe*

PE imports	
[+] KERNEL32.dll	
MapViewOfFile	
UnMapViewOfFile	
FindFirstFileA	
FindNextFileA	
FindClose	
CopyFileA	
CloseHandle	
CreateFileMappingA	
CreateFileA	
IsBadReadPtr	
[+] MSVCRT.dll	
ExifTool file metadata	
MIMEType	application/octet-stream
Subsystem	Windows command line
MachineType	Intel 386 or later, and compatibles
TimeStamp	2010.12.19 17:16:19+01:00
FileType	Win32 EXE
PEType	PE32
CodeSize	4096
LinkerVersion	6.0
FileAccessDate	2014.08.17 22:45:19+01:00

Figure 9: Lab01-01.exe KERNEL32.dll import

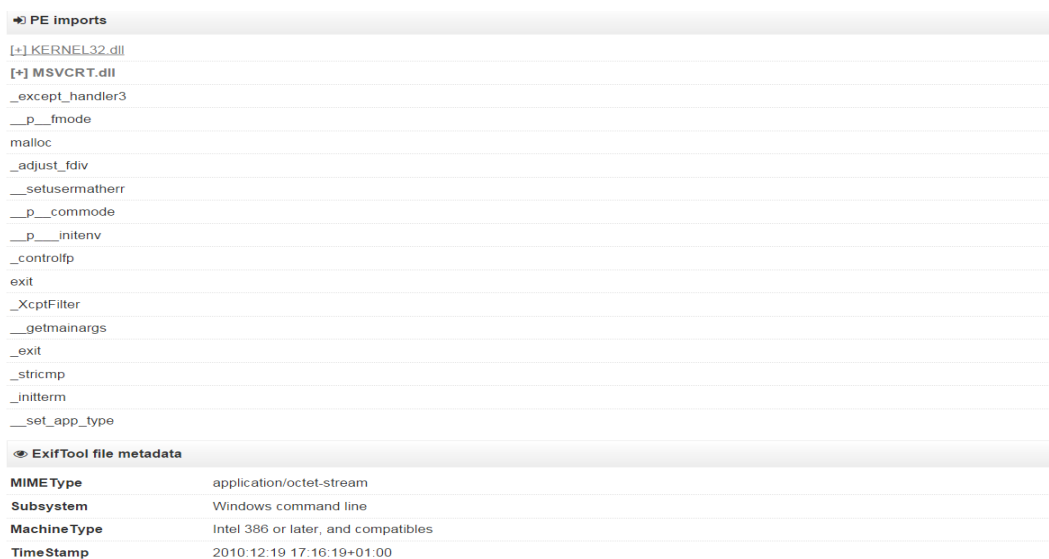


Figure 10: Lab01-01.exe MSVCRT.dll import

As for the *Lab01-01.dll* imports: The PE imports of the [www.virustotal.com](http://www.virustotal.com) page shows 3 different imports which are: **KERNEL32.dll**, **MSVCRT.dll** and **WS2\_32.dll**. From all indications it shows that the .exe and .dll files of Lab01-01 are of the same behavior, expanding the **KERNEL32.dll** file shows files such as *Sleep*, *CloseHandle* and *CreateProcessA*. These files can be concluded as manipulative files used to control and change the behavior of the victim.

Also the **MSVCRT.dll** and **WS2\_32.dll** have files such as *free*, *shutdown*, *send* etc. These files command the behavior of how a file should act. The figure below shows the *Lab01-01.dll* imports.



Figure 11: Lab01-01.dll KERNEL32.dll, MSVCRT.dll, and WS2\_32.dll imports



5. Yes! We can take a look at the *inet\_addr* configuration file usually located in system32 of windows or the localhost for UNIX to see if the network or host configuration has been altered.

Taking a look at Figure 11, we can see that the WS2\_32.dll contains a file *inet\_addr*, from a networking point of view; the *inet\_addr* can be used to covert or manipulate the IP address of any host, without the host knowing what is going on.

6. IP address and subnets are always a good start in identifying infected machines. Thoroughly analyzing the IP address and knowing where the address routes to, or if it redirects to a certain location is a good network-based indicator to use on malware systems. Most times malwares don't really change the behavior of the victim, but in most cases it reroutes all information and data to a specific drop point, usually the dumping site of the fraudster. Carefully analyzing the addresses of the host and network could be a great indicator for analyzing malware in infected systems.

7. From my guess I will say the *Lab01-01.exe* is an executable file, probably used to execute the malware.

And the *Lab01-01.dll* is a library (considering that all .dll files are libraries) that contain codes that can be used by more than one program at the same time. It is mostly like the file that contains the malware to be executed by the .exe.

## Lab 1-2

### Questions:

- Q1: Upload the *Lab01-02.exe* file to <http://www.virustotal.com/>. Does it match any existing definitions?
- Q2: Are there any indications that this file is packed or obfuscated? If so, what are these indicators? If the file is packed, unpack it if possible.
- Q3: Do any imports hint at this program functionality? If so, which imports are they and what do they tell you?
- Q4: What host or network-based indicators could be used to identify this malware on infected machine?

### Solution:

1. Yes it does! The *Lab01-02.exe* file was uploaded to <http://www.virustotal.com/> and it matches existing antivirus definitions as shown in the figure below:

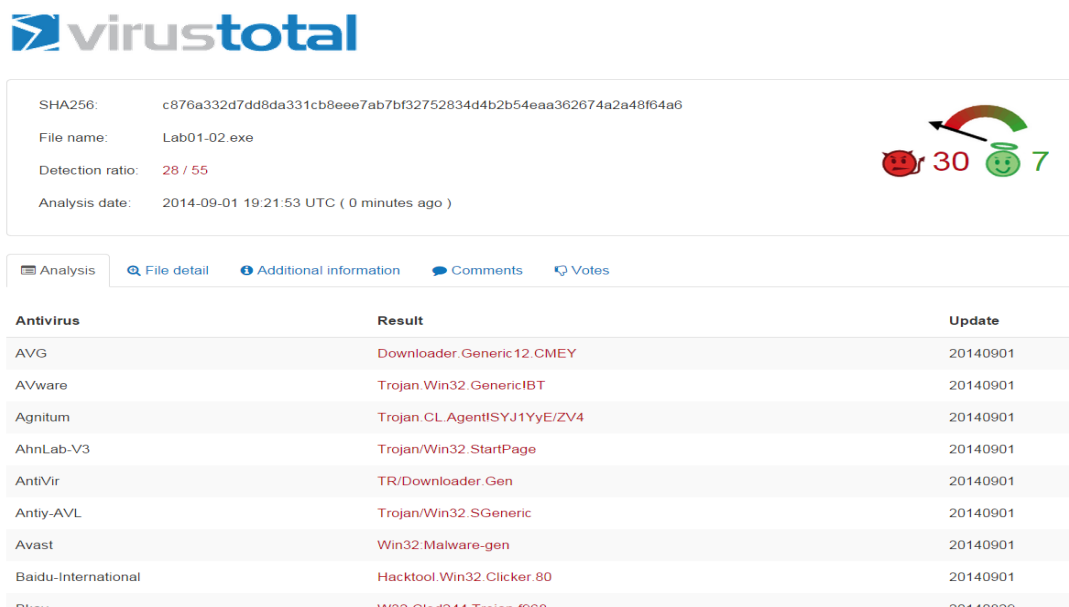
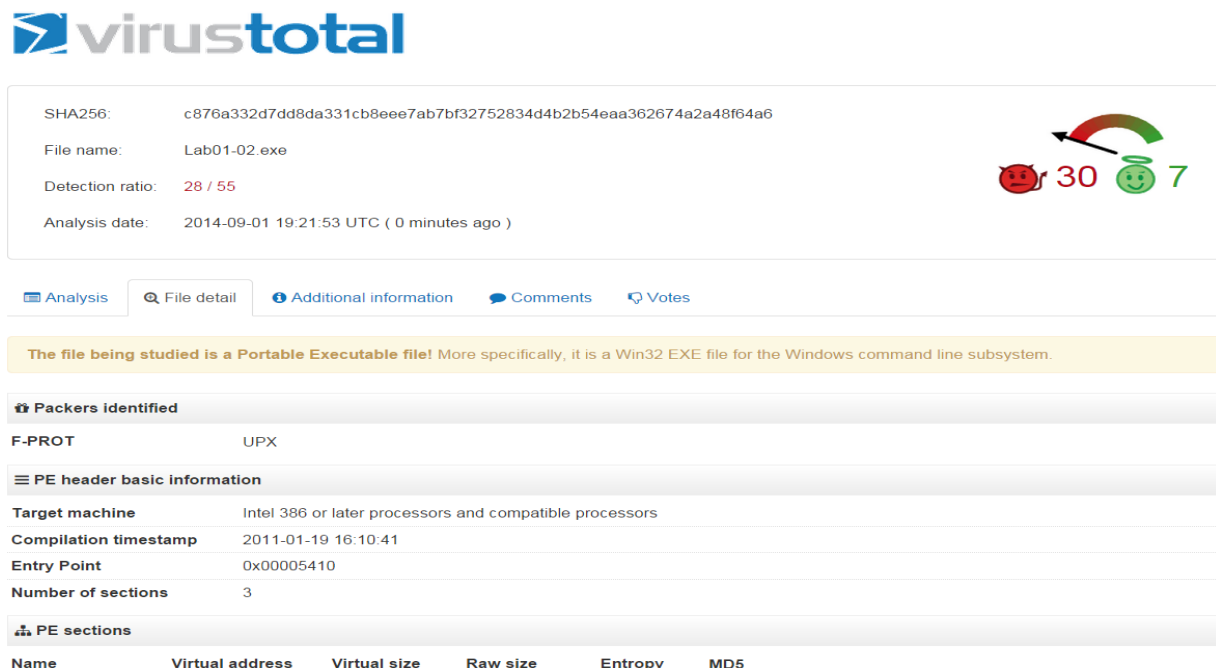


Figure 12: Lab01-02.exe definitions

- Navigating to the file details tab in <http://virustotal.com/> under the packet identified – **F-PROT** shows that the file is packed with UPX, also opening the file with PEview, some indicators such as **IMAGE\_SECTION\_HEADER UPX0**, **IMAGE\_SECTION\_HEADER UPX1** and **IMAGE\_SECTION\_HEADER UPX2** identified the file as UPX packed. The figures below using <http://virustotal.com/> and PEview shows the file UPX packed.

Figure 13: Lab01-02.exe UPX-packed using [www.virustotal.com](http://www.virustotal.com/)

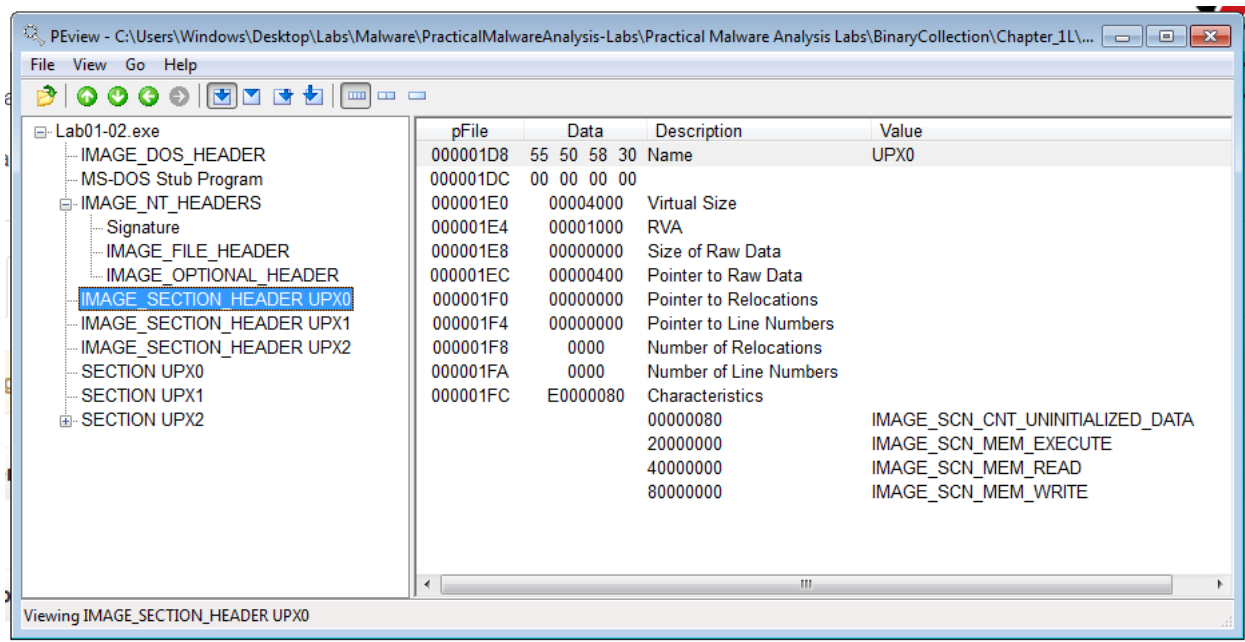


Figure 14: Lab01-02.exe UPX-packed using PView

3. As shown in the [www.virustotal.com](http://www.virustotal.com) figure below: the imports are **ADVAPI32.dll** with the *CreateServiceA* in it, **KERNEL32.DLL** with *VirtualFree*, *ExitProcess*, *VirtualProtect*, *LoadLibraryA*, *VirtualAlloc*, and *GetProcAddress*. **MSVCRT.dll** with *exit*, and finally **WININET.dll** with *InternetOpenA* in it. The imports files with much consideration will be the *CreateService*, *InternetOpen*, *ExitProcess* and *GetProcAddress*. From these files we could tell that the files connect to a network, obviously the Internet, and it manipulates and changes the data of the victim's computer or device.

Entry Point	0x00005410				
Number of sections	3				
PE sections					
Name	Virtual address	Virtual size	Raw size	Entropy	MD5
UPX0	4096	16384	0	0.00	d41d8cd98f00b204e9800998ecf8427e
UPX1	20480	4096	1536	7.07	ad0f236c2b34f1031486c8cc4803a908
UPX2	24576	4096	512	2.80	f998d25f473e69cc89bf43af3102beea
PE imports					
[+] ADVAPI32.dll					
CreateServiceA					
[+] KERNEL32.DLL					
VirtualFree					
ExitProcess					
VirtualProtect					
LoadLibraryA					
VirtualAlloc					
GetProcAddress					
[+] MSVCRT.dll					
exit					
[+] WININET.dll					
InternetOpenA					
ExifTool file metadata					
MIME Type	application/octet-stream				

Figure 15: Lab01-02.exe imports

4. From the previous lab, same approach could be used to identify this malware on infected system. Which is IP address and subnets is always a good start in identifying infected machines. Thoroughly analyzing the IP address and knowing where the address routes to, or if it redirects to a certain location is a good network-based indicator to use on malware systems. Most times malwares don't really change the behavior of the victim, but in most cases it reroutes all information and data to a specific drop point, usually the dumping site of the fraudster. Carefully analyzing the addresses of the host and network could be a great indicator for analyzing malware in infected systems.

### Lab 1-3

#### Questions:

- Q1: Upload the *Lab01-03.exe* file to the <http://virustotal.com/>. Does it match any existing antivirus definitions?
- Q2: Are there any indications that this file is packed or obfuscated? If so, what are these indicators? If the file is packed, unpack it if possible.
- Q3: Do any imports hint at this program's functionality? If so, which imports are they and what do they tell you?
- Q4: What host or network-based indicators could be used to identify this malware on infected machines?

#### Solution:

1. Like all the previous labs, yes it does! Figure below shows the existing antivirus definitions.



SHA256: 7983a582939924c70e3da2da80fd3352ebc90de7b8c4c427d484ff4f050f0aec  
File name: Lab01-03.exe  
Detection ratio: 39 / 55  
Analysis date: 2014-09-01 20:17:24 UTC ( 0 minutes ago )

Analysis | File detail | Additional information | Comments | Votes

Antivirus	Result	Update
AVG	Generic4_c.APWM	20140901
AVware	Trojan.Win32.GenericIBT	20140901
Ad-Aware	Packer.FSG.A	20140901
Agnitum	Trojan.GenomelqjszR3auxbA	20140901
Avast	Win32:Malware-gen	20140901
BitDefender	Packer.FSG.A	20140901
Bkav	W32.Clod2b6.Trojan.e924	20140829
CAT-QuickHeal	Trojan.gen.r3	20140901

Figure 16: Lab01-03.exe antivirus definition

- From [www.virustotal.com](http://www.virustotal.com) we can see that the file is **FSG**-packed (as shown in the Figure below). However the file could not be analyzed when tried with PView.

The file being studied is a Portable Executable file! More specifically, it is a Win32 EXE file for the Windows command line subsystem.

Packers identified

Command	FSG
F-PROT	FSG
PEID	FSG v1.00 (Eng) -> dulek/xt

PE header basic information

Target machine	Intel 386 or later processors and compatible processors
Entry Point	0x00005000
Number of sections	3

PE sections

Name	Virtual address	Virtual size	Raw size	Entropy	MD5
t	4096	12288	0	0.00	d41d8cd98f00b204e9800998ecf8427e
ta	16384	4096	652	7.36	dcbb3117347a183b93cc9e50e09abd92
a	20480	4096	512	4.51	83d2bc9613dfc4bc5c714214023f386f

PE imports

[+] KERNEL32.dll  
LoadLibraryA  
GetProcAddress

ExifTool file metadata

MIME Type	application/octet-stream
Subsystem	Windows command line

Figure 17: Lab01-03.exe FSG-Packed

- Considering the file could not be analyzed using PView and [www.virustotal.com](http://www.virustotal.com) only shows 1 import which is **KERNEL32.dll** with files *LoadLibraryA* and *GetProcAddress* (as seen in figure above), we don't have sufficient information to tell what the file does.

4. As a result of lack of imports, we don't have sufficient information to answer this question.

## Lab 1-4

### Questions:

- Q1: Upload the file *Lab01-04.exe* file to <http://virustotal.com/>. Does it match any existing antivirus definitions?
- Q2: Are there any indications that this file is packed or obfuscated? If so, what are these indicators? If the file is packed, unpack it if possible.
- Q3: When was this program compiled?
- Q4: Do any imports hint at this program's functionality? If so, which imports are they and what do they tell you?
- Q5: What host or network-based indicators could be used to identify this malware on infected machines?
- Q6: This file has one resource in the resource section. Use resource hacker to examine that resource, and then use it to extract the resource. What can you learn from the resource?

### Solution:

1. Yes it does! The figure below shows the existing antivirus definitions from [www.virustotal.com](http://www.virustotal.com)

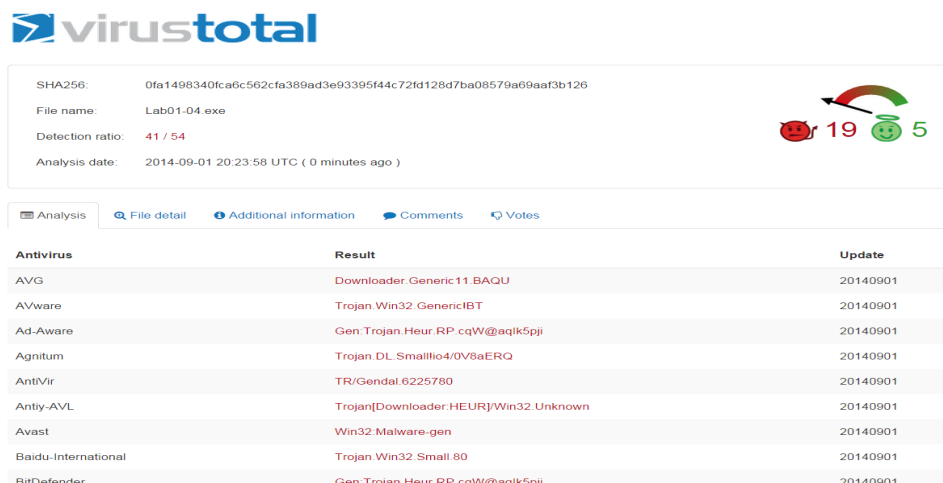


Figure 18: Lab01-04.exe virus definitions

2. As shown in figures below. The results from both [www.virustotal.com](http://www.virustotal.com) and PView did not show that the file is packed or obfuscated.

The file being studied is a Portable Executable file! More specifically, it is a Win32 EXE file for the Windows GUI subsystem.

★ Packers identified

PEiD Armadillo v1.71

≡ PE header basic information

Target machine Intel 386 or later processors and compatible processors

Compilation timestamp 2019-08-30 22:26:59

Entry Point 0x000015CF

Number of sections 4

📁 PE sections

Name	Virtual address	Virtual size	Raw size	Entropy	MD5
.text	4096	1824	4096	3.12	77df9f7ebc4a2bc4bdf2b454d7635aee
.rdata	8192	978	4096	1.59	d630e1eb49ed821e38202aefef911a39
.data	12288	332	4096	0.51	d9a3822a7733a76776d8b6e64e364b9d
.rsrc	16384	16480	20480	0.71	398569177d4d82090d3e1747be560f9a

➔ PE imports

[+] ADVAPI32.dll  
[+] KERNEL32.dll  
[+] MSVCRT.dll

📊 Number of PE resources by type

BIN 1

Figure 19 – *Lab01-04.exe* packing information from [www.virustotal.com](http://www.virustotal.com)

PEview - C:\Users\Windows\Desktop\Labs\Malware\PracticalMalwareAnalysis-Labs\Practical Malware Analysis Labs\BinaryCollection\Chapter\_11\...

File View Go Help

Lab01-04.exe

- IMAGE\_DOS\_HEADER
- MS-DOS Stub Program
- IMAGE\_NT\_HEADERS
  - Signature
  - IMAGE\_FILE\_HEADER
  - IMAGE\_OPTIONAL\_HEADER
- IMAGE\_SECTION\_HEADER .text
- IMAGE\_SECTION\_HEADER .rdata
- IMAGE\_SECTION\_HEADER .data
- IMAGE\_SECTION\_HEADER .rsrc
- SECTION .text
- SECTION .rdata
- SECTION .data
- SECTION .rsrc

pFile	Data	Description	Value
000000EC	014C	Machine	IMAGE_FILE_MACHINE_I386
000000EE	0004	Number of Sections	
000000F0	5D69A2B3	Time Date Stamp	2019/08/30 Fri 22:26:59 UTC
000000F4	00000000	Pointer to Symbol Table	
000000F8	00000000	Number of Symbols	
000000FC	00E0	Size of Optional Header	
000000FE	010F	Characteristics	
	0001		IMAGE_FILE_RELOCS_STRIPPED
	0002		IMAGE_FILE_EXECUTABLE_IMAGE
	0004		IMAGE_FILE_LINE_NUMS_STRIPPED
	0008		IMAGE_FILE_LOCAL_SYMS_STRIPPED
	0100		IMAGE_FILE_32BIT_MACHINE

Viewing IMAGE\_FILE\_HEADER

Figure 20: *Lab01-04.exe* packing information from PView

3. According to the information on both figures above, the file was compiled 2019/08/30. Obviously this is wrong, and therefore the compilation date cannot be determined.

4. From the figure below, some of the imports, especially the ones under ADVAPI32.dll can be attributed to files permissions. Also the import from KERNEL32.dll and MSVCRT.dll tells us that the program manipulates files by reading/writing and also executes to disk.

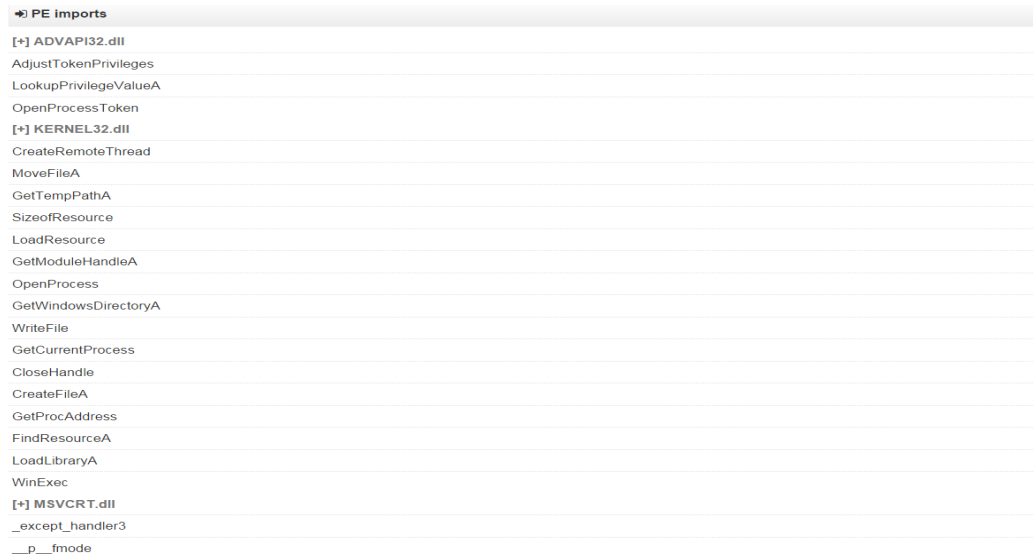


Figure21: Lab01-04.exe imports

5. Same approach used in previous labs can be followed. IP address and subnets is always a good start in identifying infected machines. Thoroughly analyzing the IP address and knowing where the address routes to, or if it redirects to a certain location is a good network-based indicator to use on malware systems. Most times malwares don't really change the behavior of the victim, but in most cases it reroutes all information and data to a specific drop point, usually the dumping site of the fraudster. Carefully analyzing the addresses of the host and network could be a great indicator for analyzing malware in infected systems.
6. As shown in the figure below, Resource Hacker was used to examine the program, however the result from Resource Hacker was difficult to analyze, considering everything is in binary format. To continue analyzing the file we had to view it in PView. In other to do that, first we had to save the resource as binary files by clicking on Action and then Save resource as a binary file. After saving the resource file, we then open it using PView as shown in the figure below.



Looking at the imports, there is a file *URLDownloadToFile*, this is a common file used by malicious downloaders. There is also another file *WinExec* which probably executes the downloaded file.

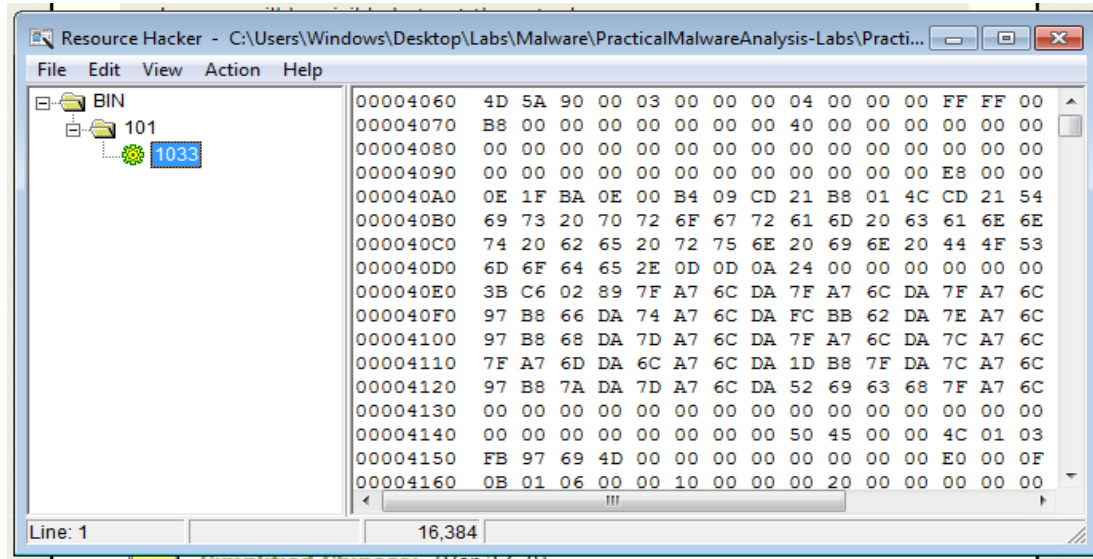


Figure 22: Lab01-04.exe analyzed using Resource Hacker

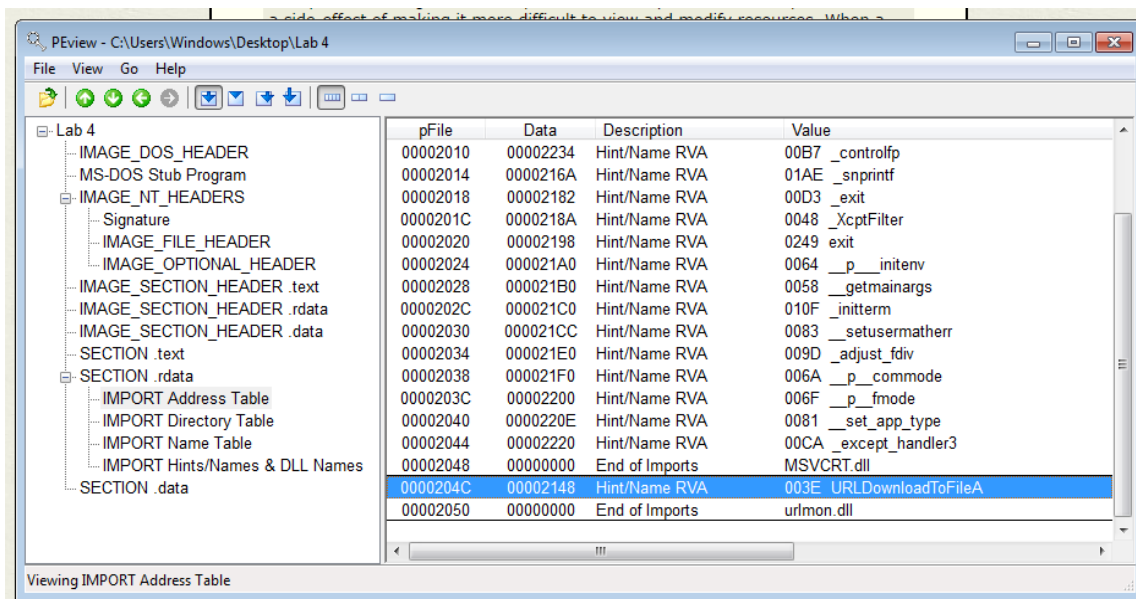


Figure 23: Lab01-04 analyzed using PView after saving resource as a binary file.

## Conclusion

This lab aims to provide knowledge of what a malware does and how it could be analyzed. What attributes of a malware means what. Upon completion of this lab, we can understand how to find out if a program is a malware or not by uploading the file to [www.virustotal.com](http://www.virustotal.com). We can also view the compilation date of the program, which gives us an idea and an update about when the program was created; we can do that through the PEview program. We could also use some special tools such as Strings, Resource Hacker and PEiD to analyze the program more if it is a malware or not. Conclusion can be made after thoroughly analyzing the imports of each program, which clearly tells us what the program is designed to do.