Practical Assignment 1 Report

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Assignment P0x01

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Executive Summary

The malware sample that was provided seems to be some form of trojan belonging to the Carberp family of trojans. The malware repeatedly sends requests over the network to three different Command and Control(C&C) servers. The malware does not appear to perform any malicious activity without first successfully connecting to one of the C&C servers.

After running the malware, it will copy itself to a windows startup directory to achieve persistence and delete the original executable. It will then spawn a process that imitates svchost.exe which creates some temp files and a directory in C:\ containing a .dat and .inf file. Indicators of compromise are the existence of the copied executable in a windows startup directory, some specific files and directories being created, and the network requests to the C&C server.

Static Analysis

Basic Static Analysis

Initial analysis of the program was done using PEStudio, which provides a detailed breakdown of portable executable (PE) files. The compiler stamp shows the malware was compiled on November 19th, 2008, though this may have been modified by the malware creator.

compiler-stamp 0x4924BC43 (Wed Nov 19 20:24:19 2008)

PEStudio was also able to identify that this program as a Windows GUI program rather than a Command-line program.

Regarding packing, PEStudio does not recognize a signature for a packer and there is a high number of imports and strings that are being found though which typically indicates that the malware is less likely to be packed. However, the entropy of the text section is substantially over 7. High entropy values, between 7 and 8, indicate that an executable is most likely packed. Based on just this information it is likely that the program is packed.

property	value	value	value	value	value
name	.text	.rdata	.data	.rsrc	.reloc
md5	F09D2536AE870ED5B64B955	020E34F80C467FFB1BC01CD	6B13C848F593A48F5059FAA	4B56ECCC0E70AE95918987F	B29DF4118B6429018C6F062
entropy	7.727	7.920	7.862	2.727	5.268
file-ratio (99.35%)	49.51 %	35.50 %	12.70 %	0.65 %	0.98 %
raw-address	0x00000400	0x00013400	0x00020E00	0x00025C00	0x00026000
raw-size (156160 bytes)	0x00013000 (77824 bytes)	0x0000DA00 (55808 bytes)	0x00004E00 (19968 bytes)	0x00000400 (1024 bytes)	0x00000600 (1536 bytes)
virtual-address	0x00401000	0x00414000	0x00422000	0x0044E000	0x0044F000
virtual-size (313856 bytes)	0x00013000 (77824 bytes)	0x0000DA00 (55808 bytes)	0x0002B600 (177664 bytes)	0x00000400 (1024 bytes)	0x00000600 (1536 bytes)
entry-point	0x00011710		-	-	-
characteristics	0x60000020	0×40000040	0xC0000040	0x40000040	0x42000040
writable	-	-	x	-	-
executable	x	-	-	-	=
shareable	-	-	-	-	-
discardable	-	-	-		X
initialized-data	-	x	×	×	x.
uninitialized-data	-	-	-	-	-
unreadable	100	-	-		
self-modifying	2	-	-		-
virtualized	-		-	-	
file	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

The imports section of PEStudio finds many functions which are imported from various libraries. Some interesting functions are LoadLibraryA, and various functions from wininet.dll, ws2_32.dll, and wldap32.dll. From these libraries being included it seems likely that the program will probably try to perform network activity. It is strange that there are so many libraries found in malware that is likely packed.

name (224)	group (14)	type (1)	ordinal (0)	blacklist (132)
<u>LoadLibraryA</u>	dynamic-library	implicit	-	-
<u>LoadUrlCacheContent</u>	network	implicit	-	x
LocalCompact	memory	implicit	-	x
<u>LockFileEx</u>	file	implicit	-	x

name (224)	group (14)	type (1)	ordinal (0)	blacklist (132)	anti-debug (0)	undocumented (5)	deprecated (10)	library (6)
FindFirstUrlCacheContai	network	implicit	-	×	-	×	-	wininet.dll
InternetSetCookieExW	network	implicit	-	×	-	10		wininet.dll
Internet Close Handle	network	implicit	-	×	-	-		wininet.dll
InternetSecurityProtocol	network	implicit	-	x	-	x	12	wininet.dll
InternetTimeFromSyste	network	implicit	-	×	-	-		wininet.dll
name (224)	group (14)	type (1)	ordinal (0)	blacklist (132)	anti-debug (0)	undocumented (5)	deprecated (10)	library (6)
WSALookupServiceEnd	network	implicit	-	×	-	-	-	ws2_32.dll
WSARecvFrom	network	implicit	-	×	-	-	-	ws2_32.dll
WSAInstallServiceClassA	network	implicit	-	×	-	-	-	ws2_32.dll
WSAAsyncGetServByPort	network	implicit	-	x	-	-	-	ws2_32.dll
WSACancelBlockingCall	network	implicit	-	×	-	-	-	ws2_32.dll
WSALookupServiceBeginA	network	implicit	-	×	-	-	-	ws2_32.dll
ntohl	network	implicit	-	×	-	-	-	ws2_32.dll
name (224)	group (14)	type (1)	ordinal (0)	blacklist (132)	anti-debug (0)	undocumented (5)	deprecated (10)	library (6)
ldap count values	directory	implicit	-	×	-	-	-	wldap32.dl
Idap create sort controlW	directory	implicit	-	×	-	-		wldap32.d
Idap create vIv controlA	directory	implicit	-	×	-	-	-	wldap32.d
ldap delete	directory	implicit	-	×	-	-	-	wldap32.dl
ldap delete sW	directory	implicit	-	×	-	-	-	wldap32.dl
ldap explode dnW	directory	implicit		×				wldap32.dl

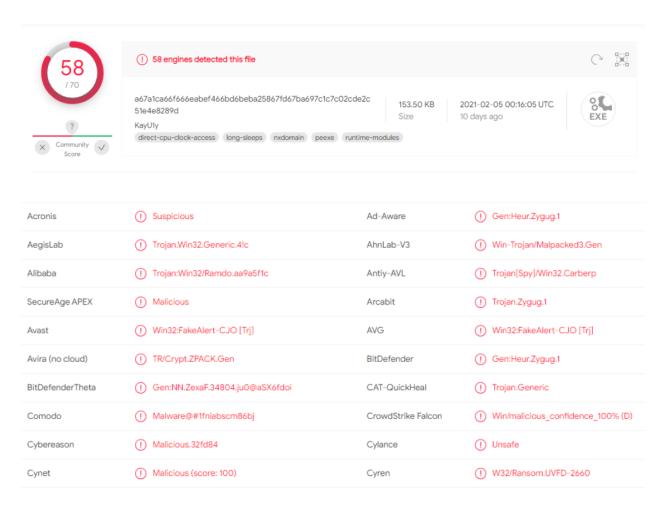
Looking through the strings section of PEStudio does not provide any relevant information, the only readable string that are found are function names and the names of the imported dlls.

type (2)	size (bytes)	file-offset	blacklist (96)	hint (10)	group (16)	value (1759)	A
ascii	6	0x00013916	x	-	compression	<u>LZInit</u>	
ascii	25	0x00013726	×	-	-	CancelDeviceWakeupRequest	
ascii	22	0x00013A18	×	-	-	<u>SetTimeZoneInformation</u>	
ascii	4	0x00006631	-	utility	-	exec	
ascii	10	0x00013B90	-	file	network	WS2 32.dll	
ascii	11	0x000142B6	-	file	network	WININET.dll	
ascii	11	0x00013E26	-	file	directory	WLDAP32.dll	

The program sections also do not provide much information useful to analysis aside from the entropy indicating it likely being packed.

Virus Total

After performing analysis in PEStudio, the malware sample was hashed and uploaded to VirusTotal, a site which checks the hash against many malware detection engines. A very high number of these engines detected the program as malware. Of the engines that recognized the program as malware there were many that recognized it as a Trojan, and a few recognized as belonging to the Carberp family of trojans.



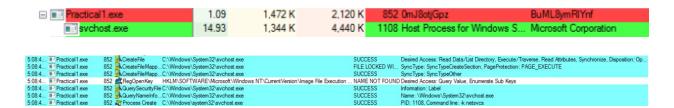
Virus Total also provides a list of hashes and other properties of the program, which identifies the program as a Windows 32-bit executable file.

Basic Properti	es ①
MD5	3ea4b7a32fd84202938e79616a223832
SHA-1	59a72240bba9233a1d37b96d86b432d678380e38
SHA-256	a67a1ca66f666eabef466bd6beba25867fd67ba697c1c7c02cde2c51e4e8289d
Vhash	015056757d75155az57qz2300227z
Authentihash	f1ddc42298039028e3e7273c0156c6f6945af6de8bc3cb20cc7d7f05c2972b9a
Imphash	e914ee5933dcbf97ecfbcd451d87890d
SSDEEP	3072:0d6bnzbZZvufCrkR/K25KeqDYNdf4Z5x8M5+Kb4V9pDVor:0d6vbZZG6rktKyTkCfQx8M5+E4VDs
TLSH	T133E302B3FD503627F80A64B91677E326A33937B103B38319BA955A8535E6EC5A805313
File type	Win32 EXE
Magic	PE32 executable for MS Windows (GUI) Intel 80386 32-bit
TrID	Win64 Executable (generic) (28.6%)
TrID	Win16 NE executable (generic) (19.1%)
TrID	Win32 Dynamic Link Library (generic) (17.8%)
TrID	Win32 Executable (generic) (12.2%)
TrID	Win16/32 Executable Delphi generic (5.6%)
File size	153.50 KB (157184 bytes)

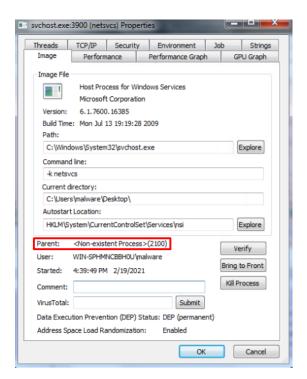
Dynamic Analysis

Process Behaviors

When the malware is run the executable Practical1.exe is visible in process explorer for a short amount of time. In that time, it spawns an instance of svchost.exe and after a few seconds the Practical1.exe process is stopped while the svchost.exe process continues to execute.



Once this happens the executable that was used to start the malware will be missing. Killing the svchost.exe process will stop it for a few seconds, but the process is started again after. The svchost.exe process has Non-existent Process listed as its parent and is not shown under any other processes in process explorer unlike the other instances of svchost.exe.



The task list shows a list of currently running processes, using the option /svc shows all the services for each process. Using a pipe to filter for svchost.exe shows the services being hosted by each instance of svchost.exe, the instance that was started by the malware has an N/A for the tasks meaning it is not actually hosting any services as it would be expected of an instance of svchost.exe to be doing.

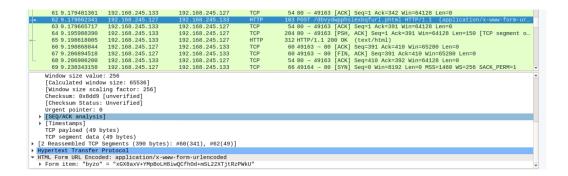
```
- - X
C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe
C:\Users\malware>tasklist /svc
                                                                find "svchost.exe"
                                                                  ind "svchost.exe"
DcomLaunch, PlugPlay, Power
RpcEptMapper, RpcSs
Audiosrv, Dhcp, eventlog, Imhosts, wscsvc
AudioEndpointBuilder, CscService, Netman,
AeLookupSvc, gpsvc, iphlpsvc, LanmanServer,
EventSystem, netprofm, nsi, sppuinotify,
CryptSvc, Dnscache, LanmanWorkstation,
BFE, DPS, MpsSvc
WinDefend
svchost.exe
suchost.exe
 svchost.exe
 svchost.exe
 svchost.exe
 sychost.exe
 suchost.exe
 :vchost.exe
 vchost.exe
                                                                    WinDefend
 vchost.exe
                                                                    SSDPSRV, upnphost
  vchost.exe
```

Network Activity

Using FakeDNS to spoof DNS responses showed the domains that the malware was attempting to reach. There are three separate domains that are looped through until it can make a connection to one of them. These are likely the C&C servers which the malware contacts to send information to or receive instructions from.

```
remnux@remnux:~$ fakedns
fakedns:: dom.query. 60 IN A 192.168.245.133
Response: fromamericawhichlov.com -> 192.168.245.133
Response: malborofrientro.com -> 192.168.245.133
Response: hillaryklinton.com -> 192.168.245.133
```

Running INetSim and using Wireshark to capture packets showed some interesting requests being made. When a successful connection to one of the C&C servers was simulated with INetSim, the malware stopped sending TCP requests trying to find the other C&C server and began sending HTTP requests to the one it connected to. The requests are made to a .phtml page and have a form item attached that looks like base64 but trying to decode it using Burp Suite's Decoder tool was not successful.



Registry Keys

There does not seem to be too much interesting registry activity. Using RegShot before and after running the malware and comparing the two shot showed a lot of registry changes but not any that seemed very compromising on inspection.

Filesystem Activity

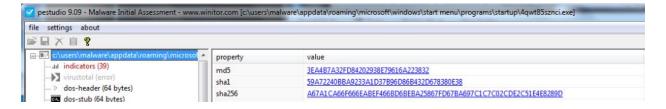
The most obvious filesystem activity is that the executable of the malware is deleted. Using ProcMon to monitor changes to files also provided a log of this deletion happening.

```
508.4. Epplorer EXE 216 ACreat File C\Users\makware\Desktop\Practical1 exe SUCCESS Desired Access: Wite Attributes. Synchronize, Disposition: Open, Options: Synchronize ID Non-Alert, Open ... Creation Time: 0, LastAccess Time:
```

ProcMon showed a lot of activity in the C:\Users\{user}\AppData\Microsoft\Start Menu\ Programs\Startup folder, including the creation of a .exe file. This startup folder will run whatever programs are in it when Windows startups.

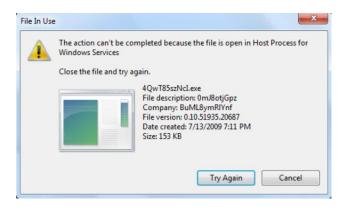


Looking at the executable that was dropped in PEStudio shows that the hash is the same as the original executable. This means that this executable is the malware copying itself to the startup directory to achieve persistence, it may be necessary to uncheck "Hide protected operating system files" in Folder Options for this executable to be visible.

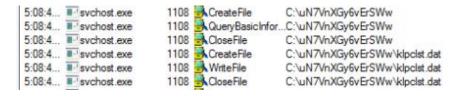


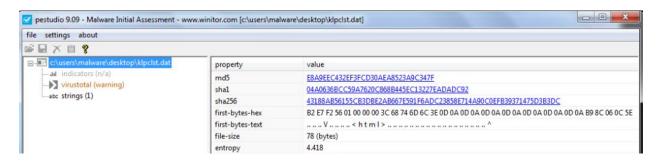
Deleting this dropped executable will stop the malware from running again when the computer is restarted. If the computer is restarted after the malware has been run this executable attempting

to delete the executable will give a notice the file is open but killing the malicious svchost.exe process gives a short window of time to delete the executable which will stop the malware once the computer has restarted.

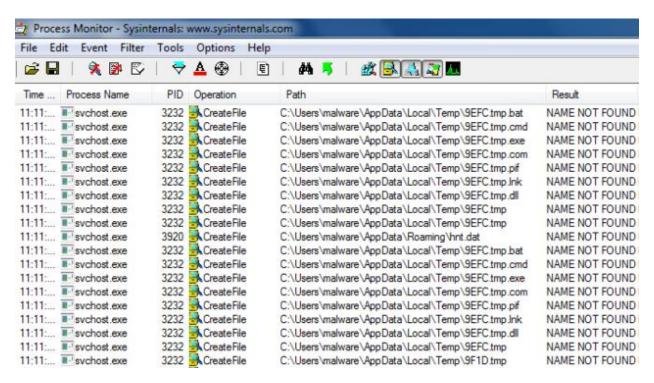


There are a few files that get created within a folder in C:\ which seem to be created and deleted often by the malware. Neither of the files contain anything that can be easily interpreted, though klpcst.dat seems to be a static file, has the same hash on multiple runs.





There are a lot of files that the malware attempts to open but fails because they do not exist, mostly various temp files in AppData\Local\Temp as well as a "hnt.dat" in AppData\Roaming.



Indicators of Compromise

Host based:

Copy of the malware stored in C:\Users\{user}\AppData\Microsoft\Start Menu\Programs\Startup

MD5 3ea4b7a32fd84202938e79616a223832

SHA-1 59a72240bba9233a1d37b96d86b432d678380e38

SHA-256 a67a1ca66f666eabef466bd6beba25867fd67ba697c1c7c02cde2c51e4e8289d

Existence of C:\uN7VnXGy6vErSWw\klpclst.dat (unreliable, only exists for a short time)

MD5 E8A9EEC432EF3FCD30AEA8523A9C347F

SHA1 04A0636BCC59A7620C88B446EC13227EADADC92

SHA266 43188AB56155CB3DBE2AB667E591F6ADC23858E714A90C0EFB39371475D3B3DC

Network based:

Attempted TCP connection or DNS query to:

- fromamericawhichlov.com
- hillaryklinton.com
- malborofrientro.com

HTTP posts containing a single form item with a short key and a long string of characters numbers and symbols