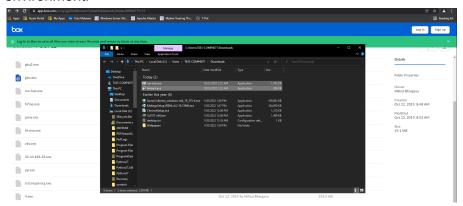
Forensics Lab

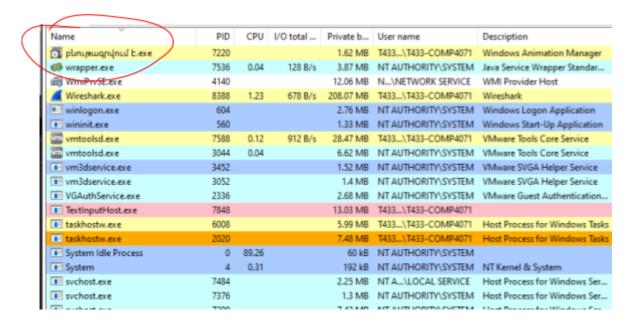
Author Name: Hui Nok Hang

Download and run malwares

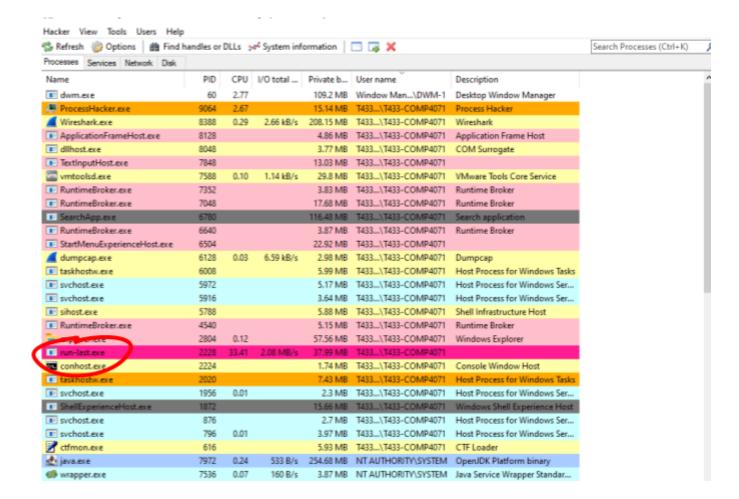
The two malwares - binary4.exe and run-last.exe are then downloaded and run in the virtual machine environment.



During the process, we can see some malicious activities in Process Hacker. This process with unintelligible text on the top of the process list appears suspicious after the malware binary4.exe is run. However it only lasted for a few seconds before disappearing into thin air.



And now when the second malware run-last.exe is run, it appears and persists in the process list while seemingly pulling in a high I/O and CPU utilization speed. Knowing that this process is a ransomware that encrypts device files, the phenomenon makes total sense.



Malware analysis by volatility

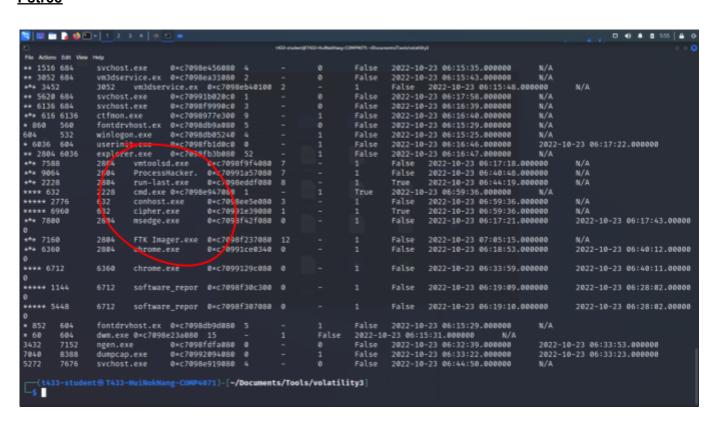
After capturing the memory dump via ATK Imager, the dump was imported into Kali for further analysis using volatility 3.

For starters, I decided to use the following plugins to dissect the memory information: windows.pstree.PsTree windows.netscan.NetScan timeliner.Timeliner

First, I saved all the analysis outputs into textfiles.

```
😽 | 📖 🛅 🍃 👏 🔄 ~ | 1 2 3 4 | 🐠 🖭 🖿
                                                                                                                                      □ 4) 🛕 🖺 5:54 🗎
                                                         t433-student@T433-HuiNokHang-COMP4071: ~/Documents/Tools/volatility3
File Actions Edit View Help
   (t433-student&T433-HuiNokHang-COMP4071)-[~/Documents/Tools/volatility3]
 s sudo python3 vol.py -f memdump.mem windows.pstree.PsTree > pstree.tx
  -(t433-student&T433-HuiNokHang-COMP4071)-[~/Documents/Tools/volatility3]
   sudo python3 vol.py -f memdump.mem windows.netscan.NetScan > netscan.txt
   (t433-student®T433-HuiNokHang-COMP4071)-[~/Documents/Tools/volatility3]
-$ sudo python3 vol.py -f memdump.mem timeliner.Timeliner > timeliner.txt
  -(t433-student&T433-HuiNokHang-COMP4071)-[~/Documents/Tools/volatility3]
API_CHANGES.md LICENSE.txt mypy.ini
                                           README.md
                MANIFEST.in netscan.txt requirements-dev.txt
                                                                                                          volshell.spec
                                                                                          vol.py
                                                                                                          vol.spec
—(t433-student⊛T433-HuiNokHang-COMP4071)-[~/Documents/Tools/volatility3]
```

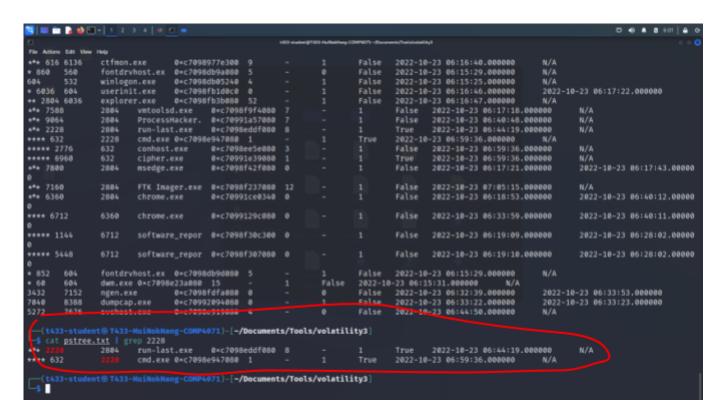
Pstree



The first thing I noticed is cipher.exe. Since we know that the malware is a ransomware that encrypts your data, cipher.exe sounds perfectly reasonably like the name of the process responsible for that job.

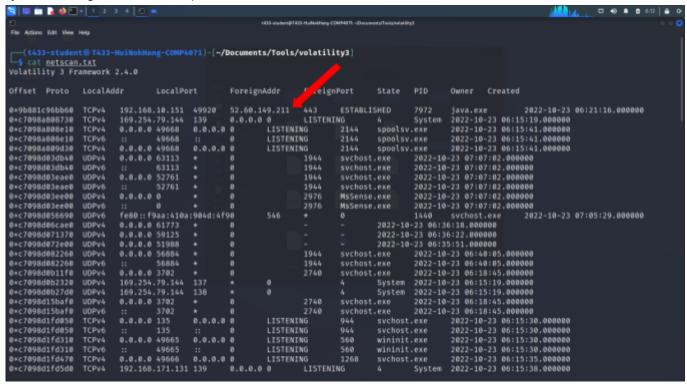
If we trace cipher.exe (PID 6960) back to its mother process (PID 632), we will find cmd.exe two entries above that. This is another indication that these are likely processes run by malware, since cmd is often used for running commands and accessing or modifying system data.

Tracing back one level, the mother process of cmd.exe (PID 632) is run-last.exe, precisely the malware that we ran.

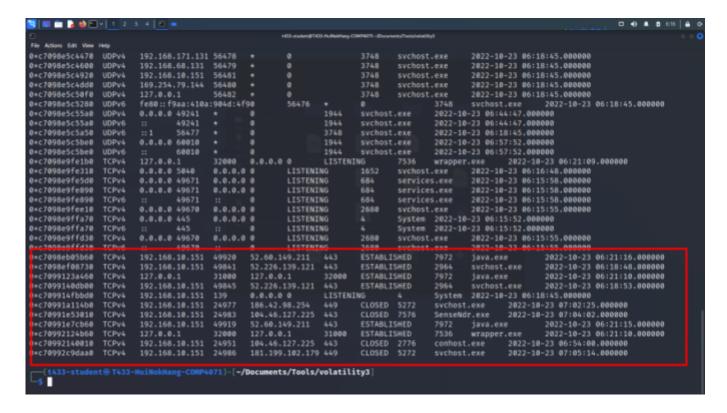


Netscan

The second step of memory forensics is to investigate what kind of network traffic went through the system during the malware operation.



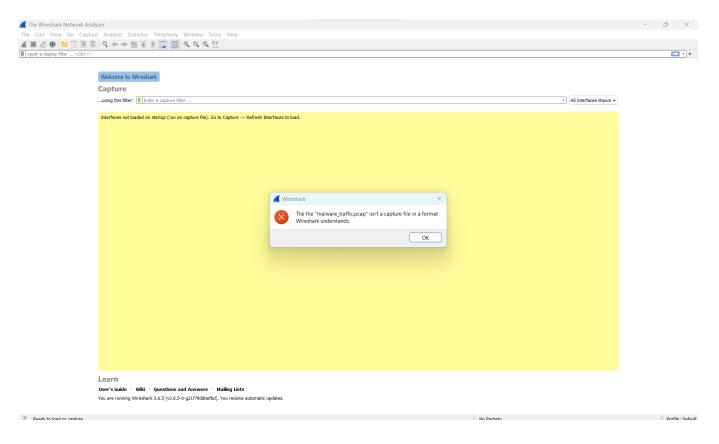
We can see a public IP address at the top of the list: 52.60.149.211. Upon a whois lookup, the IP address is an AWS server so we can presume that the computer was communicating with some services hosted on AWS. The process that established this TCP connection was java.exe. The reason is unknown and it can potentially be a malicious service under a disguise.



Towards the end of the list, there are also a bunch of public IPs that the computer was trying to establish a TCP connection with. The services involved are java.exe (again), wrapper.exe, conhost.exe, svchost.exe and SenseNdr.exe. Not certain if they are malicious.

In total, the public IP addresses that appeared in the netscan were:

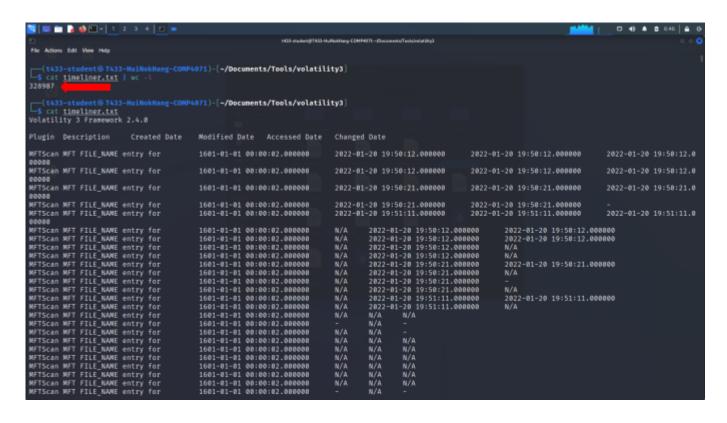
- 52.60.149.211
- 52.226.139.121
- 186.42.98.225
- 104.46.127.225
- 181.199.102.179



During the encryption, the ransomware might have corrupted the packet capture file. The file is rendered unreadable by Wireshark.

Treeliner

At last, treeliner will help us digest the information and present events that occurred in the host machine in an orderly and intelligible manner.



Since the file is very long (32k lines), in this section I would occasionally make use of grep to look through the file in an efficient manner.

First, I grepped java.exe, a file that I found previously suspicious in the netscan results as it communicated with the same public address multiple times during the malware process.

Turns out java.exe loaded multiple dlls into the host machine. This is very suspicious as these are library files that are often used to modify configurations.

```
:20:04.000000
MFTScan MFT FILE_NAME entry for
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            2022-10-23 06:20:04.000000
N/A
                                                                                                                 2022-10-23 06:20:04.000000
                                                                                                                                                                                             2022-10-23 06:19:27.000000
MFTScan MFT FILE_NAME entry for MFTScan MFTSca
                                                                                                                                   -23 06:20:04.000000 2022-10-23 06:19:27.000000

-23 06:20:04.000000 2022-10-23 06:19:27.000000

-23 06:20:04.000000 N/A M/A N/A

2022-10-23 06:21:09.000000 N/A N/A N/A

(C:\Program Files\Sumo Logic Collector\jre\bin\jma
                                                                                                                 2022-10-23 00:29:04,000000 2
2022-10-23 06:20:04,000000 M
2022-10-23 06:21:09,00000
2022-10-23 06:21:09,00000
                                                                        (218843875623616)

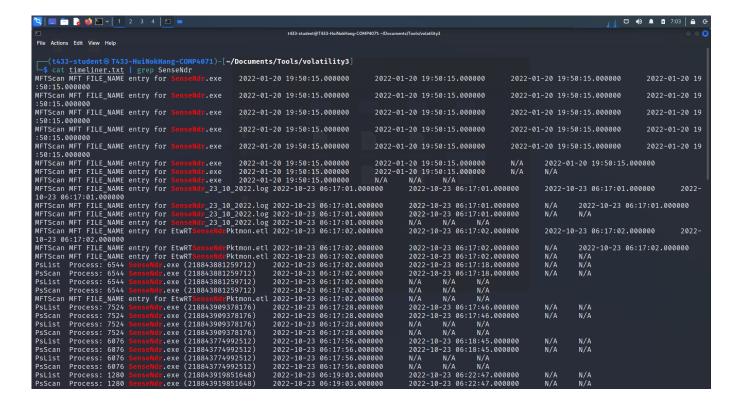
38VB. CVR Loaded J

N/A N/A
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      ) Size 237568 Offset 140695654694912
DILLIST DL Load: Process
/A N/A N/A
DILLIS DLL Load: Process 7972
Beege N/A N/A N/A
DILLIST DLL Load: Process 7972
Beege N/A N/A N/A
DILLIST DLL Load: Process 7972
U/A N/A N/A
7011
                                                                                              Loaded ntdll.dll (C:\Windows\SYSTEM32\ntdll.dll) Size 2052096 Offset 140725041168384
                                                                                              Loaded KERNEL32.DLL (C:\Windows\System32\KERNEL32.DLL) Size 7.6144 Offset 140725009776640
                                                                                              Loaded KERNELBASE.dll (C:\Mindows\System32\KERNELBASE.dll) Size 2916352 Offset 160724999015168 2022-10-23 06:21:09.0
                                                                                              Loaded ADVAPI32.dll (C:\Windows\System32\ADVAPI32.dll) Size 704512 DWset 140725040185344
DILLIST DLL Load: Process 7972
BORGO N/A N/A M/A
DILLIST DLL Load: Process 7972
/A N/A N/A
DILLIST DLL Load: Process 7972
                                                                                              Loaded msvcrt.dll (C:\Mindows\System32\msvcrt.dll) Size 647168 Offset 140725030027264 2022-10-23 06:21:09.000000
                                                                                              Loaded sechost.dll (C:\Windows\System32\sechost.dll) Size 634880 Offset 140725036253184 2022-10-23 06:21:09.000000
                                                                                              Loaded RPCRT4.dll (C:\Mindows\System32\RPCRT4.dll) Size 1224704 Offset 1 0725037760512 2022-10-23 06:21:09.000000
                                                                                              Loaded USER32.dll (C:\Windows\System32\USER32.dll) Size 1703936 Offset 140725019475968 2022-10-23 86:21:09.000000
                          N/A
Load: Process 7972
N/A
                                                                                              Loaded win32u.dll (C:\Windows\System32\win32u.dll) Size 139264 Offset 140725084533768
 DILList DLL Load: Process 7972
/A N/A N/A
DILList DLL Load: Process 7972
                                                                                              Loaded GDI32.dll (C:\Windows\System32\GDI32.dll) Size 172032 Offset 140725023604736
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               2022-10-23 86:21:09.080008
 OllList DL Load: Process
00000 N/A N/A N/A
N/A N/A
DILList DLL Load: Process 7972
00000 N/A N/A
DILList DLL Load: Process 7972
N/A N/A
N/A
N/A N/A
                                                                                              Loaded gdi32full.dll (C:\Windows\System32\gdi32full.dll) Size 1893632 offset 140725084738368
                                                                                              Loaded ucrtbase.dll (C:\Windows\System32\ucrtbase.dll) Size 1048576 Offset 140725002764288
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 2022-10-23 06:21:09.0
        List DLL Load: Process 7972 Java exe Loaded COMCTL32.dtt (C:\w
6081b84eb1d\COMCTL32.dtl) Size 2727936 Offset 140724792524800
                                                                                                                                                    Loaded msvcri20.dll (C:\Program Files\Sumo Logic Collector\jre\bin\msvcri20.dll) Size 978944 Offset 140724339277824 2
N/A N/A
                                                                                              Loaded msvcp120.dll (C:\Program Files\Sumo Logic Collector\jre\bin\msvcp120.dll) Size 679936 Offset 140724699660288
```

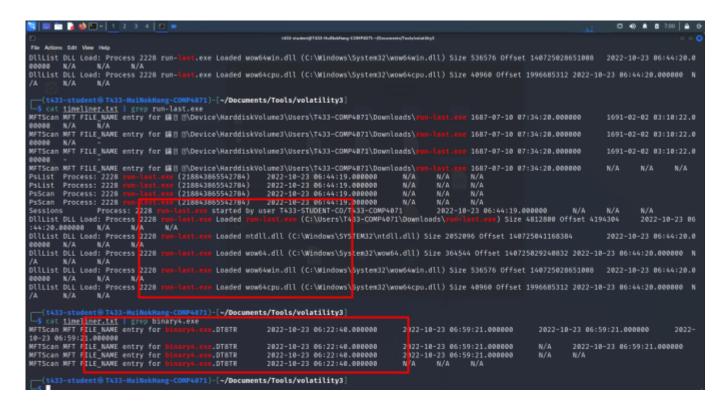
Conhosts.exe is also suspected of loading dlls into the system.

```
71)-[~/Documents/Tools/volatility3
      at timeliner.tw | grep co
an MFT FIL NAME entry for
 FTScan MFT FILE_MAME entry for
50:35.000000
FTScan MFT FILE_NAME entry for
                                                                   2022-01-20 19:58:35.800080
                                                                                                                 2022-01-20 19:50:35.000000
                                                                                                                                                              2822-81-28 19:58:35.008800
                                                                                                                                                                                                           2022-01-20 19
                                                                  2022-01-20 19:58:35.800080
                                                                                                                2022-01-20 19:50:35.00.000
                                                                                                                                                             2022-01-20 19:50:35.000000
                                                                                                                                                                                                           2022-01-20 19
     on MFT FILE_NAME entry for
an MFT FILE_NAME entry for
can MFT FILE_NAME entry for
                                                                                                                2022-01-20 19:50:35.000000
2022-01-20 19:50:35.000000
2022-01-20 19:50:37.000000
                                                                                                                                                             2022-01-20 19:50:35.000000
                                                                                                                                                                                                           2022-01-20 19
    35.000000
Scan NFT FILE_NAME entry for
:37.000000
                                                                                                                 2022-01-20 19:50:37.000000
                                                                                                                                                              2822-81-28 19:58:35.008800
                                                                                                                                                                                                           2022-01-20 19
                                                                   2022-01-20 19:50:35.000000
   Scan NFT FILE NAME entry for
                                                                                                                2022-01-20 19:50:37.000000
                                                                                                                                                             2022-01-20 19:50:35.000000
                                                                                                                                                                                                           2022-01-20 19
                                                      .exe
                                                                  2022-01-20 19:58:35,888888
Pilist Process: 7024 combinet.e
Pilist Process: 7024 combinet.e
Dillist DLL Load: Process 7024
00000 N/A N/A N/A
DILLIST DLL Load: Process 7024
/A N/A N/A N/A
DILLIST DLL Load: Process 7024
117:37,000000 N/A N/A
DILLIST DLL Load: Process 7024
00000 N/A N/A N/A
DILLIST DLL Load: Process 7024
00000 N/A N/A N/A
DILLIST DLL Load: Process 7024
                                        .exe (218843902997248) 2022-10-23 06:17:37.000000
4 conhost,exe Loaded comhost,exe (C:\Windows\system32
                                                                                                                                 exe) Size 872448 Offset 1406998580428 0
                                                     .exe Loaded ntdll.dll (C:\Windows\SYSTEM32\ntdll.dll) Size 2052096 Offset 140725041168384 2422-10-23 06:17:37.000000 N
                                                     .exe Loaded KERNEL32.DLL (C:\Windows\System32\KERNEL32.DLL) Size 774144 Offset 1407250097766.0
                                                     .exe Loaded KERNELBASE.dll (C:\Windows\System32\KERNELBASE.dll) Size 2916352 Offset 140724999315168
DILLIST DL
BBB00 N/A
               Load: Process 7024
N/A N/A
Load: Process 7024
                                                     .exe Loaded ucrtbase.dll (C:\Windows\System32\ucrtbase.dll) Size 1048576 Offset 14072500276-288 2022-10-23 06:17:37.0
         N/A N/A N/A
OLL Load: Process 7024
N/A N/A N/A
OLL Load: Process 7024
N/A N/A N/A
OLL Load: Process 7024
DllList
                                                     .exe Loaded shcore.dll (C:\Windows\System32\shcore.dll) Size 712704 Offset 1407250369085/4
                                                                                     (C:\Mindows\System32\msvcrt.dll) Size 647168 Offset 140725030027264
                                                                                                                                                                                               2022-10-23 06:17:37.0
                                                                                                                                                                                               2022-10-23 86:17:37.0
                                                      exe Loaded RPCRT4.dll (C:\Windows\System32\RPCRT4.dll) Size 1224784 Offset 140725037760512.
                                                     .exe Loaded advapi32.dll (C:\Windows\System32\advapi32.dll) Size 704512 Offset 140725040185344
                                                                                                                                                                                               2022-10-23 86:17:37.8
```

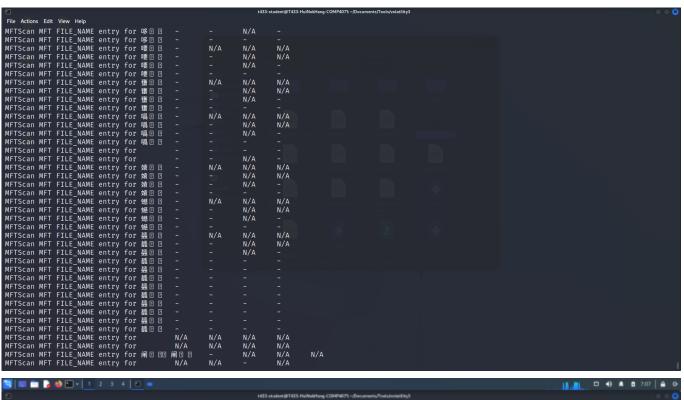
However, some previously suspect processes like SenseNdr turns out to look clean.

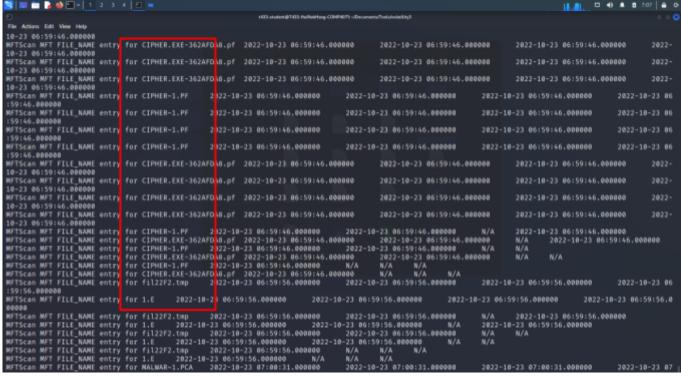


I then searched for run-last.exe and binary4.exe - the two malwares that were executed - and some traces can be found. They are caught loading dlls into the system. However, the list of records does not seem long. It is possible that the majority of their work is done by subsequent child processes rather than the main executable itself.



Here we can see traces of encryption at the tail end of the timeliner result. The file names have been modified to the point of unreadability which is the work of encryption. We can also directly see the CIPHER running.





Cmd.exe was called multiple times for various purposes. It is seen that it loads dll into the system32 folder.

