MALWARE ANALYSIS BY NASHIB

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Tools:

REMnux, WINXP, PEstudio, yara-rules, apateDNS, CFF explorer: referenced at end.

Introduction

This report presents a comprehensive malware analysis. The purpose of this analysis is to deepen understanding and demonstrate practical skills in identifying, dissecting, and mitigating potential threats posed by malicious software. This document encapsulates the methodologies applied in both static and dynamic analysis phases, providing a detailed examination of various malware samples to uncover their behaviours, impacts, and the mechanisms they employ to evade detection.

Scope of the Report

The report is structured into two primary parts, each addressing specific tasks and tools used in the analysis process:

Part A: Focuses on the initial analysis of PDF samples and executable files, using tools like REMnux, PDFid, and PeepPDF to identify characteristics indicative of malware. This section lays the groundwork by discussing the setup of analysis environments, preliminary scans, and detailed examination of file structures and embedded scripts.

Part B: Delves into dynamic analysis, illustrating the malware's behaviour in a controlled environment. It covers network interactions, registry manipulations, and the malware's attempts to communicate with external servers. Tools such as PROCMON, REGSHOT, and FAKENET are employed to monitor and log the malware's actions in real time.

Analysis Tools and Techniques

Throughout the report, various industry-standard tools are utilized to dissect and analyse the malware samples. These tools include, but are not limited to, YARA for rule-based analysis, VirusTotal for hash checking, and custom Python scripts for deeper insights. Each tool's role and contribution to the analysis are described, showcasing how they integrate to form a comprehensive malware investigation toolkit.

Objectives

The objectives of this analysis are to:

Equip the reader with the knowledge to perform detailed malware analysis.

Demonstrate the application of various cybersecurity tools in real-world scenarios.

Provide a methodological approach to understanding and documenting the behaviour of malicious software.

Conclusion

The findings and methodologies documented in this report are intended to contribute to the broader knowledge base of malware analysis within the cybersecurity community. By detailing the steps and tools used, this report serves as a resource for educators, students, and practitioners alike, aiming to enhance the collective capabilities in combating cybersecurity threats.

PART A

TASK 1-

CW_PDF_SAMPLE1.PDF

I first began with installation and set-up of my Remnux machine and all the necessary items such as 7z then proceeded to transfer the file from my pc to unzip.

Figure 1- Unzipped cw_pdf_files.

I did a preliminary scan using pdfid, to look for keywords etc... and found that '...sample1.pdf' does not contain any obvious signs of being a malicious document.

```
remnux@remnux:~/Documents/task1$ pdfid.py
PDFiD 0.2.8 cw_pdf_sample1.pdf
PDF Header: %PDF-1.4
obj
endobj
                          86
                          50
stream
endstream
xref
                            2
3
0
 startxref
 /Page
 /Encrypt
 /ObjStm
                            0
0
/JavaScript
 /AA
 /OpenAction
 /AcroForm
 /JBIG2Decode
 /RichMedia
 /Launch
 /EmbeddedFile
 /XFA
 /URI
/Colors > 2^24
                            0
```

Figure 2- pdfid sample1.pdf.

There is no detected JS, AA/OpenAction object which are all used for executing actions automatically upon opening the pdf, nor are there any /Launch or /EmbeddedFile detected for executables.

Since the output suggests no suspicious elements, I then used peepdf:

'..sample1.pdf' does not show any obvious signs of being malicious, the file is not encrypted; no detected URIs to download content; no detected errors in the file structure; the file has been linearised meaning that it is optimised for web viewing.

Further analysis leads me to believe 'cd_pdf_sample1.pdf' is not a malicious document as pdf-parser also fails to return any suspicious elements.

```
remnux@remnux:-/Documents/task1$ pdf-parser.py --search keyword cw_pdf_sample1.pdf
remnux@remnux:-/Documents/task1$ pdf-parser.py --search javascript --search aa --search openaction cw_pdf_sample1.pdf
remnux@remnux:-/Documents/task1$ pdf-parser.py --object 15 cw_pdf_sample1.pdf
obj 15 0
    Type: /XObject
    Referencing:
    Contains stream

    /Subtype /Image
    /Length 23
    /Filter /FlateDecode
    /ImageMask true
    /BitsPerComponent 1
    /Width 192
    /Height 6
    /Type /XObject
>>
```

Figure 3- pdf-parser sample1.pdf

CW_PDF_SAMPLE2.PDF

Using YARA to analyse sample2.pdf found multiple matched rules meaning further investigation is required, but one of the more troubling matches is the 'vmdetect' matched rule, where the file is possibly trying to detect virtualised environments.

```
remnux@remnux:~/Documents/task1$ yara -w -msg ~/Documents/task1/yara-rules/rules-master/index.yar cw_pdf_sample2.pdf
vmdetect [] [author="nex",description="Possibly employs anti-virtualization techniques"] cw_pdf_sample2.pdf
0x24139:$vmware_mac_2c: 005056
Big Numbers1 [] [author="pusher_",description="Looks for big numbers 32:sized",date="2016-07"] cw_pdf_sample2.pdf
0xbfc:$c0: 5B850F96C4FCDF11B406A67D192E4400
0xda3:$c0: 5C850F96C4FCDF11B406A67D192E4400
0xf52:$c0: 5B850F96C4FCDF11B406A67D192E4400
0x10f9:$c0: 5E850F96C4FCDF11B406A67D192E4400
0x10f9:$c0: 5E850F96C4FCDF11B406A67D192E4400
0x1434:$c0: 1F7F02AB2E03DC11B6D7BD4D5F2A0D7A
0x2257c:$c0: 1F7F02AB2E03DC11B6D7BD4D5F2A0D7A
```

Figure 4- yara index.yar sample2.pdf

Moving onto peepdf found multiple suspicious elements to investigate such as JS and an embedded file.

```
remnux@remnux:~/Documents/task1$ peepdf -if cw pdf sample2.pdf
Warning: PyV8 is not installed!!
File: cw pdf sample2.pdf
MD5: 15d8b554bc3e87889c3199c4faa82d48
SHA1: 8b6e1fcad823d24c8b38a61d2a10c617ed2a8976
SHA256: de059b7b16f38bb115e3bd14cd29e258c028020c24ced2d0b561bca0769522
Size: 149387 bytes
Version: 1.6
Binary: False
Linearized: <mark>True</mark>
Encrypted: False
Updates: 0
Objects: 146
Streams: 55
URIs: 0
Comments: 0
Errors: 0
Version 0:
        Catalog: 8
        Info: 6
        Objects (146): [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14,
50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67
02, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 1
4, 145, 146]
                Errors (1): [144]
        Streams (55): [5, 17, 19, 20, 22, 24, 25, 35, 37, 38, 40, 42,
123, 126, 128, 131, 133, 136, 138, 140, 143, 144]
                Encoded (37): [52, 62, 66, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74,
        Objects with JS code (3): [141, 142, 144]
        Suspicious elements:
                /AcroForm (2): [8, 144]
                /Names (2): [4, 8]
                /XFA (1): [144]
                /AA (2): [11, 48]
                /JS (2): [141, 142]
                /JavaScript (2): [141, 142]
                /EmbeddedFiles: [8]
                /EmbeddedFile: [144]
```

Figure 5- peepdf

Hence using pdf-parser.py cw_pdf_sample2.pdf, I was able to look through the entire document and find obj 142 showing that is a JS function for date formatting. However, also finding items of note with object 144/5/6 which has an embedded file.

```
remnux@remnux:~/Documents/task1$ pdf-parser.py --object 142 -f -w cw_pdf_sample2.pd
obj 142 0
Type:
Referencing:
     <</pre>//JS (AFDate_KeystrokeEx\("mm/dd/yyyy"\);) /S /JavaScript >>

//JS '(AFDate_KeystrokeEx\\("mm/dd/yyyy"\\);)'
    //S /JavaScript
>>
<//JS (AFDate_KeystrokeEx\\("mm/dd/yyyy"\\);) /S /JavaScript >>

<</pre>//JS (AFDate_KeystrokeEx\\("mm/dd/yyyy"\\);) /S /JavaScript >>
```

Figure 6 – javascript.

Moving onto the embedded file I was able to find suspicious obfuscated code which may suggest an attempt to perform malicious actions.

```
remnux@remnux:~/Documents/task1$ pdf-parser.py --object 144 --filter --raw cw_pdf_sample2.pdf > embedded_file.bin
remnux@remnux:~/Documents/task1$ file extracted_embedded_file.bin
extracted_embedded_file.bin: PDF document, version 1.6, ASCII text, with very long lines
remnux@remnux:~/Documents/task1$ strings extracted_embedded_file.bin
obj 144 0
Type: /EmbeddedFile
Referencing:
Contains stream

    /Length 4493
    /Type /EmbeddedFile
    /Filter /FlateDecode
>>
    b'%PDF-1.6\n%\xe2\xe3\xcf\xd3\n1 0 obj\n<</pre>
//MediaBox [0 0 1 1] /Type/Page /Contents 3 0 R /Parent 5 0 R>>\nendobj\n5
:xdp="http://ns.adobe.com/xdp/">\n\n\r\n<config><present>\r\n<pdf><interactive>\r
/angious form name="al">\sasd/>\r\n\t\t\subform name="v236536b346">\r\n\t\t\f\filed qw
<script contentType=\partial 'paplication\'\r\n\contentType=\' application\'\r\n\contentType=\' applicati
```

Figure 7- suspicious obfuscation

Conclusion

Samepl1.pdf contains no suspicious elements, is not encrypted and other elements indicate sample1 is not a malicious document.

Sample2.pdf contains several malicious elements such as obfuscation of javascript, this alongside my last check on virus total, makes me believe it is a malicious file:



Figure 8- VirusTotal Sample2.pdf

TASK 2:

a) Using 'file unknown.file' I was able to determine it being a 32-bit executable for windows, further backed up by using trid on windows xp to see that it is a windows32 executable.

```
remnux@remnux:~/Documents/task2$ file unknown.file
unknown.file: PE32 executable (console) Intel 80386, for MS Windows, UPX compressed
remnux@remnux:~/Documents/task2$
```

Figure 9- file unknown.file.

```
C:\Documents and Settings\admin\My Documents\Part A\task2\"C:\Documents and Settings\admin\Desktop\Tools\trid\trid.exe" unknown.file

TrID/32 - File Identifier v2.10 - (C) 2003-11 By M.Pontello
Definitions found: 5405
Analyzing...

Collecting data from file: unknown.file
42.3% (.EXE) UPX compressed Win32 Executable (30569/9/7)
36.7% (.EXE) Win32 EXE Yoda's Crypter (26569/9/4)
9.1% (.DLL) Win32 Dynamic Link Library (generic) (6578/25/2)
6.2% (.EXE) Win32 Executable (generic) (4508/7/1)
2.7% (.EXE) Generic Win/DOS Executable (2002/3)
```

Figure 10- Trid.exe win32

To execute it for analysis would involve changing the file extension to .exe, however, for the purpose of this task there is no need for further action beside unzipping it from unknown.7z.

b) We know that the sample is packed already due to the previous information from 42.3% being compressed win32 but I investigated it using below as well.

Figure 11- packed evidence 1

```
remnux@remnux:~/Documents/task2$ upx -t unknown.file
Ultimate Packer for eXecutables
Copyright (C) 1996 - 2020
UPX 3.96 Markus Oberhumer, Laszlo Molnar & John Reiser Jan 23rd 2020
testing unknown.file [OK]
```

Figure 12- packed evidence 2

Other characteristics that make it likely to be a packed malware file include high entropy code scoring 7.8 out of 8.



Figure 13- packed evidence 3 - high entropy

In line with the previous findings, there is also a significant difference between virtual size and raw data size within the UPXO section, further suggesting a packed file.

⊕ IMAGE_NT_HEADERS	000001F0	0001C000	Virtual Size
IMAGE_SECTION_HEADER UPXD	000001F4	00001000	RVA
- IMAGE SECTION HEADER UPX1	000001F8	00000000	Size of Raw Data

Figure 14- packed evidence 4 - virtual size vs raw size

Doing further investigation using strings.exe to output into a file shows that there is a lack of real strings, further evidencing a packed file.

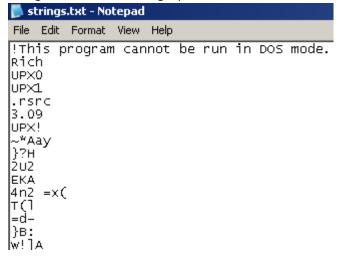


Figure 15- packed evidence 5 - no real strings

Using various tools such as PEviewer and Dependency walker, I found that there are very few imports, which is another characteristic of a packed malware.

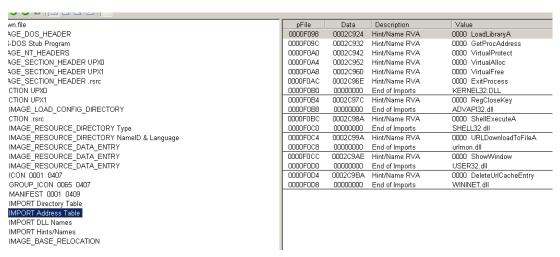


Figure 16- packed evidence 6 - few imports

Finally, there are very few sections that I can view using PEview, another point implying a packed executable.

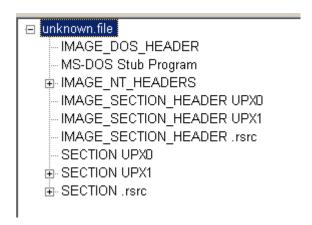


Figure 17- packed evidence 7 – few sections

TASK 3:

Analysis of Imports

I began with unpacking the malware sample to analyse with PEview:

0000 ShellExecuteExA 0000 SHGetSpecialFolderPathA 0000 ShellExecuteA SHELL32.dll

Figure 18- PEview 1.0

I found that the imported functions from shell32.dll are 'SHGetSpecialFolderPathA' and 'ShellExecute...', the first of which indicates a path for a special folder, and the second function performs operations such as opening or launching an application. It can also be used for opening URL in the browser. Together, the imports seem to suggest performance of operations on files or URLs while interacting with folders specified.

Additional investigation into imported functions show 'DeleteUrlCacheEntry' and 'URLDownloadToFileA' functions; the first function makes me believe that the malicious file may be attempting to cover it's tracks by clearing traces of its activities, while the second suggests attempts to download something from the internet, this could be a payload. The two functions together work together in downloading payloads from the internet and then clearing its traces from the URL cache to hide.

0000 DeleteUrlCacheEntry WININET.dll 0000 URLDownloadToFileA urlmon.dll

Figure 19 - PEview 1.1

Using PEstudio, we can see 'DeleteFileA' function within imports, which further evidence attempts to hide traces, or remove files.

create roomelbasanah	^	_	_	_	NOT HOUSE AND
DeleteFileA	×	-	-	-	kernel32.dll
CreateFileA	×	-	-	-	kernel32.dll

Figure 20- 'DeleteFileA'

String Analysis

Using 'string unknown_unpacked.file', attempts to obfuscate strings were found.

```
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz{|}~.
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz[\]^_`abcdefghijklmnopqr
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz{|}~......
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ[\]^_`abcdefghijklmnopqr
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ[\]^_`ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQR
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ{|}~.....
```

Figure 21- Encoded strings

Registry Manipulation

RegSetValueExA RegEnumKeyExA RegCloseKey RegOpenKeyExA RegQueryValueExA RegCreateKeyExA

Figure 22- registry manipulation.

Further indicators are found in functions that manipulate and interact with Windows Registry, 'RegSetValueExA' is usually used for persistence to open whenever OS is started.

VirusTotal Hash Search

Running the hash through VirusTotal indicates it might be a trojan/banking malware aiming to steal sensitive information.



Figure 23- VirusTotal Hash Search

XML Manifest File

```
<assembly xmlns="urn:schemas-microsoft-com:asm.v1" manifestVersion="1.0">
  <trustInfo xmlns="urn:schemas-microsoft-com:asm.v3">
  <trustInfo xmlns="urn:schemas-microsoft-com:asm.v3">
  <security>
  <requestedPrivileges>
  <requestedPrivileges>
  </requestedExecutionLevel level="asInvoker" uiAccess="false"></requestedExecutionLevel>
  </requestedPrivileges>
  </security>
  </trustInfo>
  </assembly>
```

Figure 24- privilege escalation

A worrying XML manifest, due to previous indicators of compromise, suggests the manifest is attempting to use user privilege and running in the background.

IOCs

Finally using PEstudio, I was able to find numerous indicators and characteristics of malware, including high number of functions exceeding threshold, which may be used for manipulating registries and interacting with other processes. It's also not signed digitally suggesting it is not a legitimate application.

Indicator (24)	Severity
The file queries for files and streams	1
The count (15) of Memory Management Functions has reached the maximum threshold (1) provided	1
The count (5) of Tool Help Functions has reached the maximum threshold (1) provided	1
The count (3) of Error Handling Functions has reached the maximum threshold (1) provided	1
The count (3) of Directory Management Functions has reached the maximum threshold (1) provided	1
The count (11) of Console Functions has reached the maximum threshold (1) provided	1
The count (13) of Dynamic-Link Library Functions has reached the maximum threshold (1) provided	1
The count (41) of Process and Thread Functions has reached the maximum threshold (1) provided	1
The count (5) of SEH Functions has reached the maximum threshold (1) provided	1
The count (25) of File Management Functions has reached the maximum threshold (1) provided	1
The count of blacklisted strings has reached the maximum threshold (30) provided	1
The count of file extensions detected has reached the maximum threshold (5) provided	1
The count of deprecated imported functions has reached the maximum threshold (5) provided	1
The count of imported blacklisted functions has reached the maximum threshold (1) provided	1
The count of Antidebug imported functions has reached the maximum threshold (1) provided	1
The file modifies the registry	2
The file starts child Processes	2
The file queries for visible/invisible window	2
The file references the resources of an executable	2
The count (11) of Registry Functions has reached the maximum threshold (1) provided	2
The file uses Address Space Layout Randomization (ASLR) as Mitigation technique	2
The file checksum is invalid	2
The file has no version information	2
The file is not signed with a Digital Certificate	2

Figure 25 – Indicators

Conclusion

Static analysis of the file found various points of suspicion and indicators of compromise. It interacts with windows registry, uses suspicious functions to access and delete URL/UrlCache, and further absence of digital certificate helps to support this conclusion.

TASK 4

Dynamic Analysis

I began with starting PROCMON, FAKENET then taking first shot of the registry with Regshot.

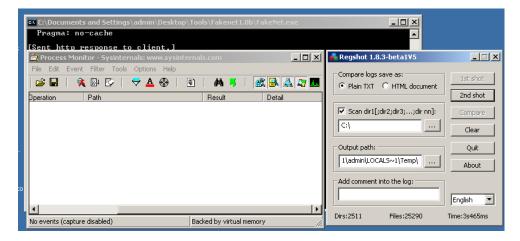


Figure 26-PROCMON, FAKENET, REGSHOT -1st

PROCMON

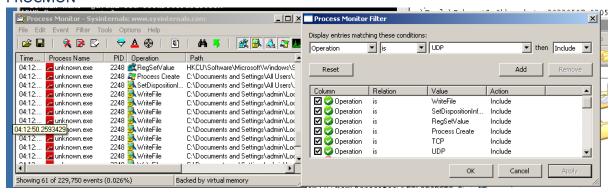


Figure 27- FIltered PROCMON

Within procmon we can see that uknown.exe is modifying MS Cryptographic API – seed values. Possibly for further attacks.

zunknown.exe	2248 🌊RegSetValue	HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Cryptography\RNG\Seed
🚾 unknown.exe	2248 🌊 RegSetValue	HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Cryptography\RNG\Seed
🚾 unknown.exe	2248 🌊 RegSetValue	HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Cryptography\RNG\Seed
🚾 unknown.exe	2248 🌊 RegSetValue	HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Cryptography\RNG\Seed
🚾 unknown.exe	2248 🌊 RegSetValue	HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Cryptography\RNG\Seed
🚾 unknown.exe	2248 🌊 RegSetValue	HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Cryptography\RNG\Seed
🚾 unknown.exe	2248 🌋 RegSetValue	HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Cryptography\RNG\Seed

Figure 28- MS CRYPTOGRAPHIC

Here we can see the malware modifying registries related to internet cache. It might be doing this to maintain persistence, hide activities or use the cache directory as the start of a malicious payload.



Figure 29- Cache persistence

Further investigation into the internet settings shows that the malware is modifying registries related to proxy bypass, this could be done as a method of bypassing security measures or avoid detection.

```
2248 KRegSetValue
2248 RegSetValue
                                                                 HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\Shell Folders\Common AppData
                                                                 HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\Shell Folders\AppData
2248 🌋 RegSetValue
                                                                 HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Internet Settings\MigrateProxy
2248 🌋 RegSetValue
                                                                 HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Internet Settings\ProxyEnable
2248 KegSetValue
                                                                 HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Hardware Profiles\0001\Software\Microsoft\windows\CurrentVersion\Internet Settings\ProxyEnable
2248 RegSetValue
2248 RegSetValue
                                                                 HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Internet Settings\Connections\SavedLegacySettings
                                                                 HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Internet Settings\ZoneMap\ProxyBypass
2248 RegSetValue
2248 RegSetValue
                                                                 HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Internet Settings\ZoneMap\IntranetName
                                                                 HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Internet Settings\ZoneMap\UNCAsIntranet
2248 RegSetValue
2248 RegSetValue
                                                                 HKCU \Software \Microsoft \Windows \Current \Version \Internet\ Settings \Version \Barrent 
                                                                 HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Internet Settings\ZoneMap\IntranetName
2248 KegSetValue
                                                                 HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Internet Settings\ZoneMap\UNCAsIntranet
```

We can also see below that the malware has successfully downloaded two files and like mentioned previously, is using the temporary internet cache directory as the execution start point. In the end the files are deleted, possibly to maintain persistence and avoid detection or discovery.

```
C\Documents and Settings\admin\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\U70.IKPUX\dotnettix35setup[1] exe
C\Documents and Settings\admin\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\U70.IKPUX\dotnetfx35setup[1] exe
C\Documents and Settings\admin\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\U70.IKPUX\dotnetfx35setup[1] exe
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      SUCCESS
SUCCESS
SUCCESS
                                                              2248 WriteFile
2248 WriteFile
2248 WriteFile
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       Offset: 0, Leng
Offset: 942, Le
Offset: 2,048,
 unknown.exe
unknown.exe
 unknown.exe
 unknown.exe
unknown.exe
                                                              2248
                                                                                    →WriteFile
                                                                                                                                                  C:\Documents and Settings\admin\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\U70JKPUX\dotnetfx35setup[1].exe
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        Offset: 8.192.
                                                                                                                                                 C.Voccuments and Settings\admin\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IESUJ70IKFURX\dotnet\Sistetup[1] exe

C\Doccuments and Settings\admin\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IESUJ70IKFURX\dotnet\Sistetup[1] exe
                                                              2248
                                                                                    WriteFile
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      SUCCESS
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        Offset: 9.134
                                                                                  WriteFile
WriteFile
WriteFile
WriteFile
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       Offset: 16,384
Offset: 17,326
Offset: 24,576
Offset: 25,518
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      SUCCESS
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      SUCCESS
SUCCESS
 unknown.exe
                                                                                                                                                 L:\Uocuments and settings\admin\Local Settings\1 emporary Internet Files\Londent\1.ES\U7UK\PUX\dotnetkx\55setup[1] exe
C:\Uocuments and Settings\admin\Local Settings\1 emporary Internet Files\Londent\1.ES\U7UK\PUX\dotnetkx\55setup[1] exe
C:\Uocuments and Settings\All Users\Windows\P-KB503303.exe
HKCU\Software\Wicrosoft\Windows\Current\Persion\Explorer\WoundPoints\2\\\(\text{24cd9042-601e-11e4-aa1}\) 3806d61726596\\BaseClass
HKCU\Software\Wicrosoft\Windows\Current\Persion\Explorer\WoundPoints\2\\\\(\text{24cd9044-601e-11e4-aa1}\) 3806d61726596\\\BaseClass
HKCU\Software\Wicrosoft\Windows\Current\Persion\Explorer\Documents\}
HKCU\Software\Wicrosoft\Windows\Current\Persion\Explorer\Documents\}
HKCU\Software\Wicrosoft\Windows\Current\Persion\Explorer\Documents\}
HKCU\Software\Wicrosoft\Windows\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Document\Docu
 unknown.exe
                                                              2248
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      SUCCESS
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      Offset: 0, Leng
Type: REG_S:
Type: REG_S:
Type: REG_S:
PID: 2340, Co
 unknown.exe
                                                              2248 WriteFile
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      SUCCESS
unknown.exe
unknown.exe
unknown.exe
unknown.exe
unknown.exe
                                                              2248 RegSetValue
2248 RegSetValue
2248 RegSetValue
2248 RegSetValue
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      SUCCESS
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      SUCCESS
SUCCESS
                                                           2248 Process Create
2248 NriteFile
2248 WriteFile
2248 WriteFile
2248 WriteFile
2248 WriteFile
2248 WriteFile
                                                                                                                                                  C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\WindowsXP-KB503303.exe
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      SUCCESS
unknown.exe
unknown.exe
unknown.exe
unknown.exe
                                                                                                                                                  C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\WindowsXP-KB503303.exe
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      SUCCESS
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        Delete: True
                                                                                                                                                 C:\Documents and Settings\admin\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\D0FK3AF\Windows\P-KB926139-v2-x86-ENU[1] exe
C\Documents and Settings\admin\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\D0FK3AF\Windows\P-KB926139-v2-x86-ENU[1] exe
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       Offset: 0, Leng
Offset: 942, Le
Offset: 2,048,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      SUCCESS
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     SUCCESS
SUCCESS
SUCCESS
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        Offset: 8,192,
 unknown.exe
 unknown.exe
                                                                                                                                                  C:\Documents and Settings\admin\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\DD6FK3AF\WindowsXP-KB926139-v2-x86-ENU[1].exe
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      SUCCESS
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        Offset: 9.134.
                                                                                                                                                 C:Vocuments and Settings\admin\Local Settings\t emporary Internet Files\Londer\LES\UDEK\SAF\Windows\rest\Esb2613942\x88E-ENU[] exe 
C\Documents and Settings\admin\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Londer\LES\UDEK\SAF\Windows\rest\Esb2613942\x88E-ENU[] exe 
C\Documents and Settings\admin\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Londer\LES\UDEK\SAF\Windows\rest\F8926139\x2\x88E-ENU[] exe 
C\Documents and Settings\admin\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Londer\LES\UDEK\SAF\Windows\rest\F8926139\x2\x88E-ENU[] exe 
C\Documents and Settings\admin\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Londer\LES\UDEK\SAF\Windows\rest\F8926139\x2\x88E-ENU[] exe 
C\Documents and Settings\Adl Users\Windows\rest\F8926139\x2\x88E-ENU[] exe
 unknown exe
                                                              2248
                                                                                    WriteFile
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      SUCCESS
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        Offset: 16,384
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      Offset: 15,384
Offset: 17,326
Offset: 24,576
Offset: 25,518
Offset: 0, Leng
Type: REG_S,
PID: 2368, Co
                                                              2248
2248
2248
2248
 unknown.exe
unknown.exe
                                                                                   WriteFile
WriteFile
 unknown.exe
                                                              2248 WriteFile
2248 WriteFile
 unknown.exe
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      SUCCESS
                                                            2248 RegSetValue
2248 Process Create
2248 SetDispositionI...
                                                                                                                                                  HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Windows\ShellNoRoam\MUICache\C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\Windows\P-KB503313.exe
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      SUCCESS
                                                                                                                                                C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\Windows\P-KB503313.ex
C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\Windows\P-KB503313.ex
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      SUCCESS
```

Figure 30 - Two payloads inside temporary internet cache

Furthermore, writing of files within 'All Users' directory could be another attempt to disguise as a legitimate file.

```
2248 WriteFile
unknown.exe
                                                                                               C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\WindowsXP-KB503303.exe
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       SUCCESS
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  Offset: 0, Lend
                                       2248 MrspSetValue C.\Documents and Settings\\all Users\Windows\Pr.KB503303.eve KUCU\Software\Microsoft\Windows\Current\Version\Explorer\Documents and Settings\\all Users\Windows\Pr.KB503303.eve KUCU\Software\Microsoft\Windows\Current\Version\Explorer\Documents and Settings\\all Users\Windows\Pr.KB503303.eve Leave Setale SetDisposition\L. C.\Documents and Settings\\all Users\Windows\Pr.KB503303.eve
                                                                                               C.NDuculiners and Seurings-Wail Design-Windows-Y-R-5030303-see

HKCIU/Software\Microsoft\Windows\Current\Version\Explorer\MountPoints2\(24cd9042-601e-11e4-aa13-806d61726961)\BaseClass

HKCIU/Software\Microsoft\Windows\Current\Version\Explorer\MountPoints2\(24cd9042-601e-11e4-aa13-806d61726961)\BaseClass

HKCIU/Software\Microsoft\Windows\Current\Version\Explorer\MountPoints2\(24cd9040-601e-11e4-aa13-806d61726961)\BaseClass

HKCIU/Software\Microsoft\Windows\P-KB503303.exe

C\Documents and Settings\All Users\Windows\P-KB503303.exe
 unknown.exe
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       SUCCESS
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  Type: REG_S
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  Type: REG_S;
Type: REG_S;
PID: 2340, Co
 unknown.exe
unknown.exe
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       SUCCESS
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       SUCCESS
SUCCESS
  unknown.exe
 unknown.exe
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  Delete: True
                                        2248 WriteFile
                                                                                               C:\Documents and Settings\admin\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\D06FK3AF\Windows\P.KB926139-v2-x86-ENU[1].exe
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      SUCCESS
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  Offset: 0. Lend
```

Figure 31- Procmon 'All Users'

REGSHOT

Using the comparison between REGSHOT 1 and REGSHOT 2, we can see further evidence for persistence such as adding of the files shown in Figure 30.

```
Files added:8

C:\Documents and Settings\admin\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\OD6FK3AF\windowsXP-KB926139-v2-x86-ENU[1].exe
C:\Documents and Settings\admin\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\U70JKPUX\dotnetfx35setup[1].exe
C:\Documents and Settings\admin\My Documents\Pant A\task4\Logfile.CSV
C:\Documents and Settings\admin\Recent\task4.lnk
C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\REGSHOT.EXE-029EBBAD.pf
C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\WINDOWSXP-KB503303.EXE-1EA15746.pf
C:\WINDOWS\Prefetch\WINDOWSXP-KB503313.EXE-2A8A34FC.pf
```

Figure 32- REGSHOT files from figure 30

Attempts to avoid detection can be seen by adding entries into the MuiCache of the Windows registry, which is normally used to store information about application files. This might be done to disguise the payloads as a legitimate application.

```
|HKU\S-1-5-21-725345543-746137067-1060284298-1003\Software\Microsoft\windows\ShellNoRoam\MUICache\C:\Documents and Settings\admin\My Documents\Part A\task4\unknown.exe: "unknown" |
|HKU\S-1-5-21-725345543-746137067-1060284298-1003\Software\Microsoft\windows\P-KB503303" |
|HKU\S-1-5-21-725345543-746137067-1060284298-1003\Software\Microsoft\windows\P-KB503313" |
|HKU\S-1-5-21-725345543-746137067-1060284298-1003\Software\Microsoft\windows\P-KB503313" |
```

Figure 33- MuiCache Payloads

FAKENET

Network activity can be seen on port 80 where the potentially malicious payloads are being downloaded.

```
EN C:\Documents and Settings\admin\Desktop\Tools\Fakenet1.0b\FakeNet.exe

[Received new connection on port: 80.1
[New request on port 80.1
[SET /download/0/6/1/061F001C-8752-4600-A198-53214C69B51F/dotnetfx35setup.exe H
TTP/1.1
[Accept: */*
Accept=Encoding: gzip, deflate
User-Agent: Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 6.0; Windows NT 5.1; SU1; .NET4.0C;
.NET4.0E; .NET CLR 2.0.50727; .NET CLR 3.0.04506.648; .NET CLR 3.5.21022)
Host: download.microsoft.com
Connection: Keep-Alive

[Sent http response to client.]

[Received new connection on port: 80.1
[INew request on port 80.1
[Set /download/7/3/4/7345bb7d-0b07-40e8-9480-5b8c55b9c8b7/WindowsXP-KB926139-v2-x86-ENU.exe HTTP/1.1
Accept: */*
Accept: */*
Accept: Encoding: gzip. deflate
User-Agent: Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 6.0; Windows NT 5.1; SU1; .NET4.0C;
.NET4.0E; .NET CLR 2.0.50727; .NET CLR 3.0.04506.648; .NET CLR 3.5.21022)
Host: download.microsoft.com
Connection: Keep-Alive
```

Figure 34- PORT 80 GET request.

Previously I mentioned that the malware modified the seed value within the registries, and below we can see the malware interacting with the Microsoft-CryptoApi, possibly to exploit cryptographic functions.

```
IReceived new connection on port: 80.1
[New request on port 80.1
  GET /msdownload/update/v3/static/trustedr/en/authrootseq.txt HTTP/1.1
  Accept: */*
  User-Agent: Microsoft-CryptoAPI/5.131.2600.5512
  Host: www.download.windowsupdate.com
  Connection: Reep-Alive
  Cache-Control: no-cache
  Pragma: no-cache

[Sent http response to client.]

[Received new connection on port: 80.1
[New request on port 80.1
  GET /msdownload/update/v3/static/trustedr/en/authrootstl.cab HTTP/1.1
  Accept: */*
  User-Agent: Microsoft-CryptoAPI/5.131.2600.5512
  Host: www.download.windowsupdate.com
  Connection: Reep-Alive
  Cache-Control: no-cache
  Pragma: no-cache

[Sent http response to client.]
[New request on port 443 with SSL.]
```

Figure 35- CrypoAPI

CONCLUSION

Using Procmon, Regshot and fakenet, I was able to dynamically analyse the malware and found that it is modifying various registries including ones related to proxy bypass and internet cache. This alongside the download of the two files inside the the cache and 'All Users' directory hints at the malwares attempts at disguising itself as an legitimate application. Evidence of persistence and avoidance – of detection - have also been found through use of 'MuiCache', deletion of payload files after use and utilisation of internet caches.

TASK 5

NORMAL NETWORK:

Figure 36-HTTP GET Request

When running the malware on a normal network, the malware executable sent a HTTP GET request to download additional payloads, and the server responsed with an acknowledgment as part of the three way handshake, however HTTP 303 status code is sent back, indicating that the resource requested has been moved into a different URL, and the server provides the new location, which in

this instance, is a redirection of the same resource over HTTPS instead of HTTP.

⊕ Content-Length: 0\r\n
 Location: https://download.microsoft.com/download/7/3/4/7345bb7d-0b07-40e8-9480-5b8c55b9c8b7/windowsxP-KB926139-v2-x86-ENU.exe\r\n

Figure 37-resource redirection.

ISOLATED NETWORK

After setting an isolated network between REMnux and WINXP machine. I was able to analyse the network behaviour using inetsim, apateDNS and wireshark:

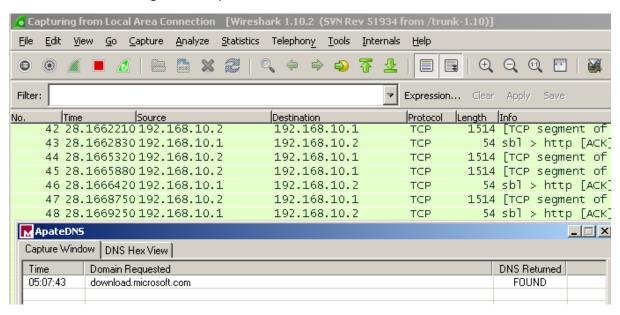


Figure 38- network analysis tools.

Running unknown.exe file under isolated network exhibits various network-based behaviour. Reading the Inetsim logs after running the malware for 20 minutes shows that HTTP connections were attempted, and files were downloaded from external sources.

Malware first attempted to make an HTTP GET request to download a file from "http://download.microsoft.com/download/0/6/1/061F001C-8752-4600-A198-53214C69B51F/dotnetfx35setup.exe", to which Inetsim created a fake file in response called sample_gui.exe.

Once again malware made another HTTP GET request from "http://download.microsoft.com/download/7/3/4/7345bb7d-0b07-40e8-9480-5b8c55b9c8b7/WindowsXP-KB926139-v2-x86-ENU.exe", and again Inetsim created a fake file named 'sample_gui.exe' in response.

```
remux@remnux:-$ sudo cat /var/log/inetsim/report/report.1528.txt

=== Report for session '1528' ===

Real start date : 2023-05-09 23:07:13

Simulated start date : 2023-05-09 23:07:13

Time difference on startup : none

2023-05-09 23:07:45 First simulated date in log file
2023-05-09 23:07:45 First simulated date in log file
2023-05-09 23:07:45 HTTP connection, method: GET, URL: http://download.microsoft.com/download/0/6/1/061F001C-8752-4600-A198-53214C69851F/dotnetfx35setup.exe, file name: /var/lib/inetsim/http/fakefiles/sample_gu
i.exe
2023-05-09 23:07:47 HTTP connection, method: GET, URL: http://download.microsoft.com/download/7/3/4/7345bb7d-0b07-4908-9480-5b8c55b9c8b7/WindowsXP-KB926139-v2-x86-ENU.exe, file name: /var/lib/inetsim/http/fakefiles/sample_gui.exe
2023-05-09 23:07:47 Last simulated date in log file

===

remnux@remnux:-$
```

Figure 39- Inetsim logs.

We see futher evidence of this HTTP GET request using wireshark on WINXP machine:

	37 59°T351490 TAS°T09°T0°T	192.108.10.2	TUP	34 201 > Urrb [McK] 26d=T McK=T MILL=0454A FELL=A
	33 28.1546020192.168.10.1	192.168.10.2	HTTP	409 GET /download/7/3/4/7345bb7d-0b07-40e8-9480-5b8c55b9c8b7/windowsXP-KB926139-v2-x86-ENU.exe HTTP/1.1
ı	34 28.1559460192.168.10.2	192.168.10.1	TCP	60 http > sbl [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=356 win=63885 Len=0

Figure 40-wireshark HTTP GET request.

Periodically the malware also sent TCP bytes in range of 50-60s to DST port: 1043.

NO.	jiiile jource		резапасон	protocol jce	ngui pino
	79 71.8854800 192.	168.10.2	192.168.10.1	SSLv3	61 Alert (Level: Fatal, Description: Handshake Failure)
	80 71.8924600192.	168.10.2	192.168.10.1	TCP	60 https > afrog [FIN, ACK] Seq=8 Ack=79 Win=64162 Len=0
	81 71.8924960192.	168.10.1	192.168.10.2	TCP	54 afrog > https [ACK] Seq=79 Ack=9 win=64233 Len=0
	82 71.8939980192.	168.10.1	192.168.10.2	TCP	54 afrog > https [FIN, ACK] Seq=79 Ack=9 Win=64233 Len=0
	83 71.8950550192.	168.10.2	192.168.10.1	TCP	60 https > afrog [ACK] Seq=9 Ack=80 Win=64162 Len=0
	84 71.8954080192.	168.10.1	192.168.10.2	TCP	62 boinc-client > https [SYN] Seq=0 win=64240 Len=0 MSS=1460 SACK_PE
	85 71.8964500192.	168.10.2	192.168.10.1	TCP	62 https > boinc-client [SYN, ACK] Seq=0 Ack=1 Win=64240 Len=0 MSS=:
	86 71.8964740192.	168.10.1	192.168.10.2	TCP	54 boinc-client > https [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=64240 Len=0
	87 71.8979840192.	168.10.1	192.168.10.2	SSLv2	99 Client Hello
	88 71.8990250192.	168.10.2	192.168.10.1	TCP	60 https > boinc-client [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=46 Win=64195 Len=0
	89 71.9013370 192.	168.10.2	192.168.10.1	TLSV1.2	61 Alert (Level: Fatal, Description: Protocol Version)
	90 71.9015740192.	168.10.1	192.168.10.2	TCP	54 boinc-client > https [FIN, ACK] Seq=46 Ack=8 Win=64233 Len=0
	91 71.9046080192.	168.10.2	192.168.10.1	TCP	60 https > boinc-client [FIN, ACK] Seq=8 Ack=47 Win=64194 Len=0
	Destination: 192.1	.68.10.1 (192.	168.10.1)		
	[Source GeoIP: Unk	:nown]			
	[Destination GeoIF	: Unknown]			
⊟ T	ransmission Control	Protocol, Sr	c Port: https (443), Dst Port	: boinc-client (1043), Seq: 1, Ack: 46, Len: 0
	Source port: https	(443)			
	Destination port:	boinc-client	(1043)		

Figure 41- TCP.

CONCLUSION:

The malware executable in both instances attempts to download additional payload externally.

PART B

TASK 1

As DLL needs a host process to run it cannot be executed by double-clicking it, meaning the friend's system is unlikely to be infected, therefore, to make sure of this assumption, I ran a dynamic analysis using Regshot, Fakenet and PROCEXPLORER.

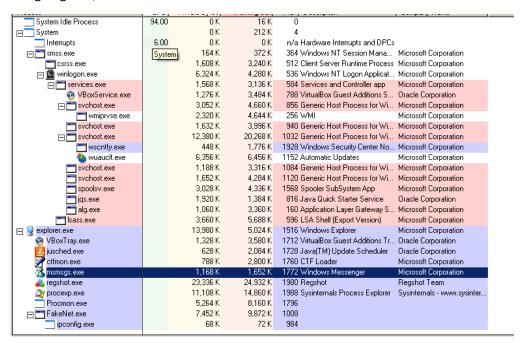


Figure 42 - Before double-clicking.

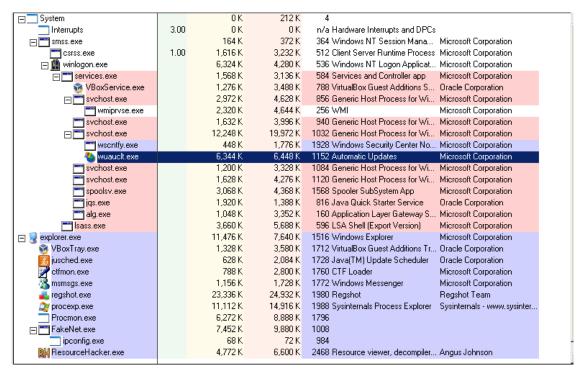


Figure 43- suspicious resourcehacker.exe popup

From the two procexplorer states, there is nothing running to suggest an infection. However, looking more closely into the regshot comparison we can see attempts manipulating system settings and registries.

The ResourceHacker.exe pops up when double-clicking on 'malware.dll' and the regshot shows addition of new keys that add shell menu for the resource hacker, which is suspicious.

```
Keys added:19

-------
HKLM\SOFTWARE\Classes\Applications\ResourceHacker.exe
HKLM\SOFTWARE\Classes\Applications\ResourceHacker.exe\shell
HKLM\SOFTWARE\Classes\Applications\ResourceHacker.exe\shell\ResourceHacker
HKLM\SOFTWARE\Classes\Applications\ResourceHacker.exe\shell\ResourceHacker\command
```

Figure 44-added key.

With further investigation, we can see that the file 'malsample.dll.lnk' has been added, possibly creating shortcuts or another link, plus the directory that malware container in – Part B – has also had a link created – 'Part B.lnk'.

```
Files added:4
Files added:4
C:\Documents and Settings\admin\Local Settings\History\History.IE5\MSHist012023050720230508\index.dat
C:\Documents and Settings\admin\Recent\malsample.dll.lnk
C:\Documents and Settings\admin\Recent\Part B.lnk
C:\Documents and Settings\admin\Recent\Part B.lnk
C:\WINDOWS\SoftwareDistribution\DataStore\Logs\tmp.edb
```

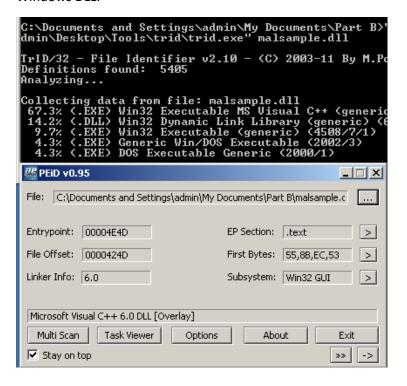
Figure 45-Added files.

The addition of 'index.dat' which is a file used to store browsing history alongside the folder below adds further suspicion as internet explorer wasn't opened during this period.

However, creation of 'index.dat' file is a standard practice and 'malsample.dll.lnk' Is merely a shortcut rather than being inherently malicious. This alongside the Fakenet output after double-clicking on the .dll file makes me believe that the friend's system is not infected, and the registry changes are from the legitimate resourcehacker.exe program.

TASK 2

With the use of trid.exe and PEiD, we can assume that the malware is not packed and is instead a Windows DLL.



VIRUSTOTAL

Scans from VirusTotal confirms that it is malicious and within the 'Ulise' and Gmlh' malware family, it has been detected as a trojan and backdoor. Given the results, we can safely assume it is malicious and a threat to the system and advised to be quarantined or deleted.

Popular threat label ① trojan.ulise/gmlh Threat categories trojan			trojan	Family labels ulise gmlh connapts
Security vendors' analysis ①				Do you want to automate checks
AhnLab-V3	Trojan/Win32.X	ema.C93063	Alibaba	Backdoor:Win32/Connapts.eafdbb07
ALYac	Gen:Variant.Uli	se.173672	Antiy-AVL	Trojan[Backdoor]/Win32.Agent
Arcabit	Trojan.Ulise.D2	A668	Avast	① Win32:Trojan-gen
AVG	Win32:Trojan-g	en	Avira (no cloud)	BDS/Backdoor.Gen

Figure 46- Virus total scans

IMPORTS/EXPORTS

Using CFF Walker, we can see that the malware.dll has export functionality to allow installation, uninstallations, and entry point through 'ServiceMain' might to either start a service or run as a service to feign legitimacy and evade detection.

Ordinal	Function RVA	Name Ordinal	Name RVA	Name
(nFunctions)	Dword	Word	Dword	szAnsi
00000001	00004706	0000	00005969	Install
00000002	00003196	0001	00005978	ServiceMain
00000003	00004B18	0002	00005984	UninstallService
00000004	00004B0B	0003	00005995	installA
00000005	00004C2B	0004	0000599E	uninstallA

Figure 47-CFF Explorer Exports

To further evidence actions through service, we can see the imported functions within 'advapi32.dll' relate to windows services, possibly to install itself as a service for persistence.

0147 OpenServiceA
0078 DeleteService
0172 RegOpenKeyExA
017B RegQueryValueExA
015B RegCloseKey
0145 OpenSCManagerA
004C CreateServiceA
0034 CloseServiceHandle
015E RegCreateKeyA
0186 RegSetValueExA
018E RegisterServiceCtrlHandlerA
01AE SetServiceStatus
ADVAPI32 dll

Figure 48- PEview advapi32.dll

Through 'kernel32.dll' imported functions, we can see that the malware also has functions for creating and manipulating processes, while also having functions for file manipulation or information gathering e.g... 'GetCurrentDirectoryA' or 'GetModuleFileNameA'

0150 GetStartupInfoA 0043 CreatePipe 00F5 GetCurrentDirectoryA 0044 CreateProcessA 0308 IstrlenA 0271 SetLastError 01F5 OutputDebugStringA 001B CloseHandle 0218 ReadFile 0165 GetTempPathA 0121 GetLongPathNameA 01C2 LoadLibraryA 013E GetProcAddress 004A CreateThread 015D GetSystemTime 02CE WaitForSingleObject 029F TerminateThread 0296 Sleep 011A GetLastError 0124 GetModuleFileNameA KERNEL32.dll

Figure 49- PEview Imports Kernel32.dll

We can see further evidence of file manipulation through 'msvscrt.dll' imported functions for string, file manipulation and memory allocation e.g... 'malloc' or 'strcpy'

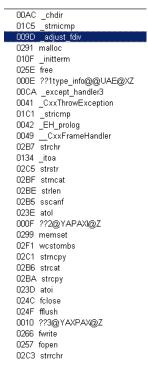


Figure 50- msvcrt.dll imports.

Using PEview we can also see that the malware internet/network communication functionality. This is evidenced by functions such as 'InternetConnectA' in wininet.dll or 'WSASocketA' in ws2_32.dll which creates network socket for communication.

```
InternetCloseHandle
006F InternetOpenA
005A InternetConnectA
0045 HttpOpenRequestA
0049 HttpSendRequestA
0047 HttpQueryInfoA
0077 InternetReadFile
WININET.dll
003D_WSASncketA
0004
000A
0013
0012
0097
0010
0016
0073
0039
0009
```

Figure 51-internet and network communications

STRINGS:

The strings extracted provide further insight into the functionality of the malware. For example, we see functions mentioned previously that deal with network communication and use of windows service to collect and store information.

```
LocalSystem
ErrorControl
DisplayName
Description
Depends INA+, Collects and stores network configuration and location information, and notifies applications when this information changes.
ImagePath
%SystemRoot%\System32\svchost.exe -k
SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\
CreateService(%s) error %d
Intranet Network Awareness (INA+)
%SystemRoot%\System32\svchost.exe -k netsvcs
OpenSCMnaager()
You specify service name not in Svchost//netsvcs, must be one of following:
RegQueryValueEx(Svchost\netsvcs)
```

Figure 52- INA+ collects and stores information.

There are also suspicious encoded strings, and evidence of file/system interaction through 'CreateProcess' or command execution 'cmd.exe /c'

```
CreateProcessA
kernel32.dll
.exe
HTTP/1.1
%s %s
1234567890123456
quit
exit
getfile
cmd.exe /c
```

Figure 53- System interaction

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZabcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz0123456789+/

Figure 54-Encoded strings

SECTIONS:

During investigation into 'section.data' I managed to find a suspicious encoding alongside a URL, a 'serve.html' and a get http request.

```
    Y29ubmVjdA==....

  .`....practica
: Imalwareanalysis
I .com........
. . . . . . . . . . serve. ht
∟ ml............
 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
 ...`..dW5zdXBw
) b3J0....c2x1ZXA=
 ....Y21k....cXVp
: dA==...*/*. Win
I dows XP 6.11....
I tt..CreateProces
; sA. . kernel32. dll
 ....wb...exe....
  \ . . . GET . HTTP/1 . 1
```

Figure 55- section.data.

The encoding is in base64 and decodes to connect, this alongside the previous findings, indicates suspicious behaviour on the internet and potentially malicious .html file.

connect

Figure 56- Y29ubmVjdA== decoded.

CONCLUSION:

In Summary, through the static analysis of the malware, we find various functions to be extremely suspicious, indicating a higher likelihood of malicious intent. The malware has functions to manipulate processes and threats, possibly to create a Command-and-control channel, has network communication abilities to possibly move lateral through the network, it also communicates through the internet. The section also contains suspicious encoding and URL with GET http/1.1, to provide further insight into malware behaviour. See below for multiple indicators of compromise using PEstudio:

Indicator (24)	Severity
The count (11) of WinINet Functions has reached the maximum threshold (3) provided	1
The count (5) of Dynamic-Link Library Functions has reached the maximum threshold (1) provided	1
The count (9) of Process and Thread Functions has reached the maximum threshold (1) provided	1
The count (15) of Service Functions has reached the maximum threshold (1) provided	1
The count (5) of File Management Functions has reached the maximum threshold (1) provided	1
The count of blacklisted strings has reached the maximum threshold (30) provided	1
The file contains 1 MIME64 Encoding string(s)	1
The file original name is "Lab03-02.dll"	1
The count of file extensions detected has reached the maximum threshold (5) provided	1
The count of deprecated imported functions has reached the maximum threshold (5) provided	1
The count of imported blacklisted functions has reached the maximum threshold (1) provided	1
The file embeds a file (Type: Unknown, MD5: 93B885ADFE0DA089CDF634904FD59F71)	1
The file modifies the registry	2
The file references the Service Control Manager (SCM)	2
The file starts child Processes	2
The count (9) of Registry Functions has reached the maximum threshold (1) provided	2
The file ignores Data Execution Prevention (DEP) as Mitigation technique	2
The file ignores Address Space Layout Randomization (ASLR) as Mitigation technique	2
The file checksum is invalid	2
The file is resource-less	2
The file has no version information	2
The file ignores Cookies placed on the Stack (GS) as Mitigation technique	2
The file is not signed with a Digital Certificate	2
The file imports 3 decorated Symbols	2

Figure 57- IOCs - e.g checksum invalid, filename changed, embedded file.

TASK 3

Using previous analysis and more look into PEview exports, we can see that the .dll file installs as a service, therefore, we run it with the following command 'rundll32.exe malsample.dll install'.

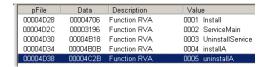


Figure 58 - PEview exports

However, before that I start up fakenet and take the 1st regshot for analysis.



Figure 59- regshot comparison.

We can see that a service 'IPRIP' has been installed under the name 'INA+', whilst also important to note is that the imagepath is under 'svchost.exe -k netsvcs'. Using command line, I was able to start the service:

```
vice C:\Documents and Settings\admin\My Documents\Part B>net start IPRIP
vice The Intranet Network Awareness (INA+) service is starting.
vice The Intranet Network Awareness (INA+) service was started successfully.
```

Figure 60- start IPRIP service.

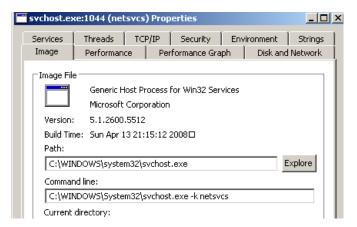


Figure 61-svchost.exe disquise

The malware is clearly trying to disguise itself as a windows service to avoid detection and further persistence is created with display name as 'Intranet Network Awareness (INA+).

The malware also added new values such as ServiceDLL which points to the malicious .dll for when the service is executed.

Values added:20

HKLM\SYSTEM\ControlSet001\Services\IPRIP\Security\Security: 01 00 14 80 90 00 00 00 9C 00 00 00 14 00 00 00 30 00 00 00 00 1C 00 C
HKLM\SYSTEM\ControlSet001\Services\IPRIP\Parameters\ServiceDll: "C:\Documents and Settings\admin\My Documents\Part B\malsample.dll"

Figure 62- ServiceDLL value

Further evidence of registry keys and value modification is given by the system log files:

iles [attributes?] modified:2

- I:\WINDOWS\system32\config\software.LOG
- I:\WINDOWS\system32\config\system.LOG

Figure 63- System logs.

Using the PID found from process explorer, I was able to locate it with filters on process monitor to further evidence malicious activities such as 'ProcessCreate'

_	SSSS SYCHOSUCAC		······································
	svchost.exe	1044	■ , WriteFile
	svchost.exe	1044	🕎 Process Create
	svchost.exe	1044	➡WriteFile
	svchost.exe	1044	■ ,WriteFile
	svchost.exe	1044	-
	svchost.exe	1044	■ ,WriteFile
	svchost.exe	1044	■ ,WriteFile
	svchost.exe	1044	-
5.	0843742 pst. exe	1044	-
	svchost.exe	1044	- MriteFile
	svchost.exe	1044	- MriteFile
	svchost.exe	1044	- MriteFile
	svchost.exe	1044	- MriteFile
	svchost.exe	1044	- MriteFile
	svchost.exe	1044	■ ,WriteFile
	svchost.exe	1044	RegSetValue
	svchost.exe	1044	🍂 RegSetValue 👚
	svchost.exe	1044	K RegSetValue
	tychost eve	1044	🤽 \u/riteFile

Figure 64- PID filter PROCMON

CONCLUSION:

The analysis shows that malsample.dll masquerades as a windows service under the display name 'INA+' creating persistence and avoiding detection by using image path 'scvhost.exe -k netsvcs'.

The serviceDLL executes the malware upon start of service and modifications of the registries show evidence of malicious activity within the system.

TASK 4

To set up a safe virtual network analysis environment, I would initially choose two virtual machines for Virtual box; XP to act as host for the malware and REMnux for networking analysis. Then I would set the networking setting within my XP VM to host-only adapter, to check for any activities using

Fakenet. After analysing the XP machine alone, I would switch to 'internal networking' settings on both VMs, while setting up the network interface with IP address for both Windows XP machine and REMNUX machine as seen below so that they are placed within an isolated network but able to communicate with each other and analyse the network activity using ApateDNS and Inetsim.

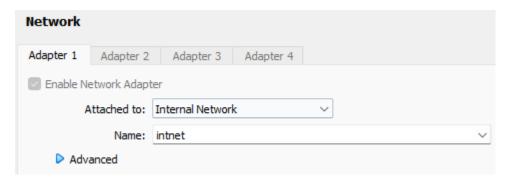


Figure 65-VM Network setting.

```
remnux@remnux:~$ sudo ifconfig enp0s3 192.168.10.2 netmask 255.255.255.0 broadcast 192.168.10.255
```

Figure 66-remnux nterwork interface

1	ternet Protocol (TCP/IP) Properties	?] X		
	General			
	You can get IP settings assigned automatically if your network supports this capability. Otherwise, you need to ask your network administrator for the appropriate IP settings.			
	O Obtain an IP address automatically			
☐ Use the following IP address: ———————————————————————————————————				
	IP address: 192 . 168 . 10 . 1			

Figure 67-XP network interface.

Figure 68-Internal connectivity.

Once this is done and tested, it's time to set up the tools such as INetSIM, Fakenet and wireshark to capture and analyse the traffic. Finally, taking a snapshot before running the malware.

After setting up an isolated environment between windows XP and REMnux, I found that the malware sends a HTTP GET request to an URL retrieve .html file.

```
Hypertext Transfer Protocol

GET /serve.html HTTP/1.1\r\n
Accept: */*\r\n
User-Agent: winxp Windows XP 6.11\r\n
Host: practicalmalwareanalysis.com\r\n
\r\n
[Full request URI: http://practicalmalwareanalysis.com/serve.html]
[HTTP request 1/1]
[Response in frame: 15]
```

Figure 69- HTTP GET REQUEST

This request is done using the system name – winxp, possibly using the imported functions to accomplish this.

We can also see using ApateDNS that query is made for 'practicalmalwareanalysis.com'.



Figure 70- DNS query

Service also sends packets of various sizes – within 60 range – periodically to port 80 using TCP.

16 117.779358 127.0.0.1	127.0.0.2	TCP	42	
19 270.218555 127.0.0.2	127.0.0.1	TCP	40	
20 270.218555 127.0.0.1	127.0.0.2	TCP	40	
Frame 16: 42 bytes on wire (336		captured (336	bits)	
Encapsulation type: Raw IP (7)				
Arrival Time: May 9, 2023 10:			ndard	
[Time shift for this packet: 0.000000000 seconds]				
Epoch Time: 1683620926.982556000 seconds				
[Time delta from previous captured frame: 0.080115000 seconds]				
[Time delta from previous displayed frame: 0.080115000 seconds]				
[Time since reference or first frame: 117.779358000 seconds]				
Frame Number: 16				
Frame Length: 42 bytes (336 bits)				
Capture Length: 42 bytes (336 bits)				
[Frame is marked: False]				
[Frame is ignored: False]				
[Protocols in frame: raw:ip:to	:p]			
[Coloring Rule Name: HTTP]				
[Coloring Rule String: http://	tcp.port == 80]]		

Figure 71-TCP PORT 80

CONCLUSION

Net activities include TCP packets being sent periodically, DNS query to 'practicalmalwareanalysis.com' and HTTP GET requests to 'practicalmalwareanalysis.com', the request is for a html file called '/serve.html' and user agent is the system name.

TASK 5

EXPORTS

After opening malsample.dll using IDA pro I used the Export subview to find a total of 6 export functions with the addresses:

Install: 10004706 ServiceMain: 10003196 UninstallService: 10004B18

installA: 10004B0B uninstallA: 10004C2B DllEntryPoint: 1004E4D

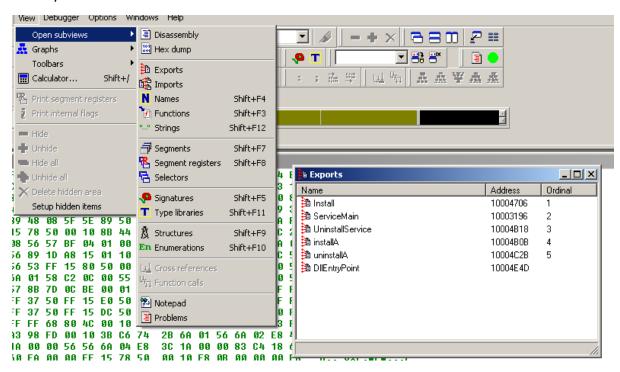


Figure 72- Exports

LoadLibrary API

After opening 'Jump to address' menu, I searched the API LoadLibraryA to find the imported function, then using 'jump to Xrefs to operand', I found that the list of all functions that call kernel32 API LoadLibrary, which is 1.



Figure 73- LoadLibrary API.

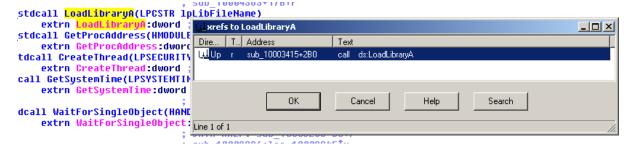


Figure 74- LoadLibrary Calls.

SLEEP CALL

Searching Sleep on the imported function tab and double-clicking on it takes me to the instance of Sleep within the IDS view.

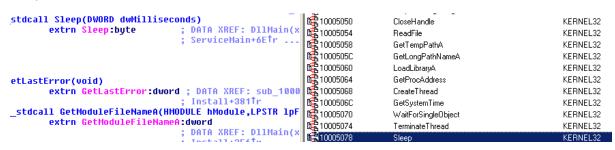


Figure 75- Sleep API.

Then right clicking on 'Sleep' and selecting 'jump to xref to perand..' takes me all instances were 'Sleep' is called, which happens to be a total of 9 times, by 7 different functions.



Figure 76-Sleep().

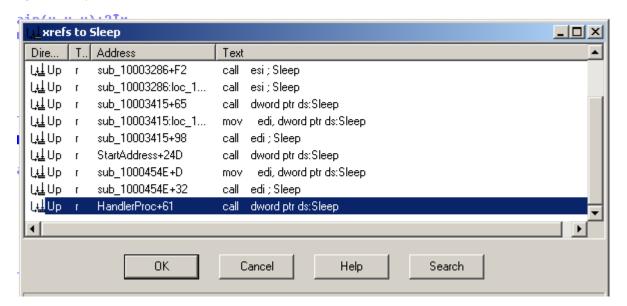


Figure 77- Sleep() Calls.

TASK 6

After opening malsample.dll in IDA pro and selecting the ServiceMain function I was able to open the graph view by using the view graph option at the top:

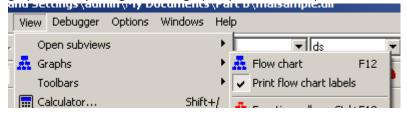


Figure 78-Graph view

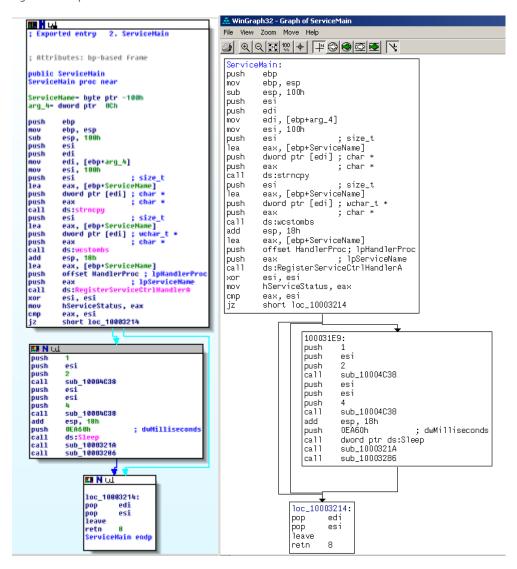


Figure 79-ServiceMain Function.

Figure 80-ServiceMain Graph.

The code calls API Sleep() after JZ assembly instruction, and the parameter used by Sleep() is '0EA60h', this is defined by the structure of the Sleep function itself where we can see that it takes the 'dwMilliseconds' parameter, which in this case is '0EA60h'.

Figure 81-Sleep() Parameters.

```
jz
           short loc_10003214
 III N 以
push
            1
 .
push
            esi
 .
push
            2
            -
sub_10004C38
esi
 call
 push
            esi
 push
 push
           sub_10004C38
esp, 18h
0EA60h
 call
 add
                                 ; dwMilliseconds
 push
 call
            ds:Sleep
            sub_1000321A
sub_10003286
 call
 call
```

Figure 82-Sleep() within ServiceMain.

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