Memory Dump Analysis of WannaCry Ransomware Memory Analysis

To understand malware behavior during infection, security researcher and analyst will analyze the volatile memory of infected computer. This process is called memory analysis. With memory analysis there are several information analysts can retrieve useful information such as running processes, connection established and more detailed indicators of compromise (IOC). Especially in analyzing ransomware, memory analysis gives greater detail on how the ransomware works and behave.

Based on SANS (2015) "Memory Forensics: Essential in Effective Incident Response Today", there are 6 (six) steps on doing memory analysis, identify rogue processes, analyze process DLLs and handles, review network artifacts, look for evidence of code injection, check for signs of rootkit and dump suspicious processes and drivers. In this section, analyst will perform analysis of a memory dump from a machine which was infected with WannaCry ransomware.

Tools and Environment

Environment

Analysis will be done in an isolated virtual machine running Ubuntu 20.04.



Figure 1: Analysis Environment

• Tools

This analysis will utilize Volatility Framework as the main memory analysis tool.

Volatility is a tool developed back in 2007 and was firstly released in Black Hat DC. The software was developed based on tons of academic research into advanced forensics. Volatility introduced the power of analyzing volatile memory in the era where most of the investigation focus on hard drive images.

Analysis

Firstly, it is important to understand the profile of the machine which memory has been dumped. Volatility has a plugin to retrieve this information which is "imageinfo".

```
Volatility Foundation Volatility Framework 2.6.1
INFO
        : volatility.debug : Determining profile based on KDBG search...
          Suggested Profile(s): WinXPSP2x86, WinXPSP3x86 (Instantiated with WinXPSP2x86)

AS Layer1: IA32PagedMemory (Kernel AS)
                      AS Layer2 : FileAddressSpace (/home/nugroho/Documents/acs/mem/files/wcry.raw)
                            type
                                   No PAE
                                  : 0x39000L
                                   0x8054cf60L
                            KDBG
          Number of Processors
     Image Type (Service Pack)
                 KPCR for CPU 0
                                   0xffdff000L
              KUSER_SHARED_DATA :
                                   0xffdf0000L
            Image date and time : 2017-05-12 21:26:32 UTC+0000
                 date and time : 2017-05-13 02:56:32 +0530
```

Figure 1: Getting Profile

Now that the profile has been retrieved, further investigation will be faster. The next step is to analyze the process running during the ransomware infection. To do that, researcher will use 'pslist' plugin from volatility.

nugroho@ubuntu:~/Documents/acs/mem/files\$ volatility -f wcry.rawprofile=WinXPSP3x86 pslist Volatility Foundation Volatility Framework 2.6.1										
Offset(V) Name	PID		Thds	Hnds	Sess	Wow64	Start		Exit	
	4	0	51			0				
	348	4						21:21:55 UTC+0000		
0x82161da0 csrss.exe	596	348	12	352				21:22:00 UTC+0000		
0x8216e020 winlogon.exe	620	348	23	536				21:22:01 UTC+0000		
0x821937f0 services.exe	664	620	15	265	0	0	2017-05-12	21:22:01 UTC+0000		
0x82191658 lsass.exe	676	620	23	353	0	0	2017-05-12	21:22:01 UTC+0000		
0x8221a2c0 svchost.exe	836	664	19	211	0	0	2017-05-12	21:22:02 UTC+0000		
0x821b5230 svchost.exe	904	664	9	227	0	0	2017-05-12	21:22:03 UTC+0000		
0x821af7e8 svchost.exe	1024	664	79	1366	0	0	2017-05-12	21:22:03 UTC+0000		
0x8203b7a8 svchost.exe	1084	664	6	72	0	0	2017-05-12	21:22:03 UTC+0000		
0x821bea78 svchost.exe	1152	664	10	173	0	0	2017-05-12	21:22:06 UTC+0000		
0x821e2da0 spoolsv.exe	1484	664	14	124	0	0	2017-05-12	21:22:09 UTC+0000		
0x821d9da0 explorer.exe	1636	1608	11	331	0	0	2017-05-12	21:22:10 UTC+0000		
0x82218da0 tasksche.exe	1940	1636	7	51	0	0	2017-05-12	21:22:14 UTC+0000		
0x82231da0 ctfmon.exe	1956	1636	1	86	0	0	2017-05-12	21:22:14 UTC+0000		
0x81fb95d8 svchost.exe	260	664	5	105	0	0	2017-05-12	21:22:18 UTC+0000		
0x81fde308 @WanaDecryptor@	740	1940	2	70	0			21:22:22 UTC+0000		
0x81f747c0 wuauclt.exe	1768	1024	7	132	0			21:22:52 UTC+0000		
0x82010020 alg.exe	544	664	6	101	0			21:22:55 UTC+0000		
0x81fea8a0 wscntfy.exe	1168	1024	1	37	0			21:22:56 UTC+0000		

Figure 2: Listing Running Processes

Here in the process list, researcher could identify a suspicious process called "@WanaDecryptor@". This process is a parent process of "tascksche.exe". These two processes can be considered as a clear indicator of compromise (IOC). To dig deeper to these

processes, researcher will list out all processes including terminated processes with the Volatility plugin, 'psscan'.

nugroho@ubuntu:~/Documents/acs/mem/files\$ volatility -f wcry.rawprofile=WinXPSP3x86 psscan								
Volatility Foundation Volatility Framework 2.6.1								
Offset(P)	Name	PID	PPID	PDB	Time created	Time exited		
0x0000000001f4daf0					201/-05-12 21:26:23 UIC+0000	2017-05-12 21:26:23 UIC+0000		
0x000000001f53d18		536	1940	0x1986c000	2017-05-12 21:26:22 UTC+0000	2017-05-12 21:26:23 UTC+0000		
0x0000000001f69b50					2017-05-12 21:25:52 UTC+0000	2017-05-12 21:25:53 UTC+0000		
0x0000000001f747c0		1768			2017-05-12 21:22:52 UTC+0000			
0x0000000001f8ba58		576			2017-05-12 21:26:22 UTC+0000	2017-05-12 21:26:23 UTC+0000		
0x0000000001fb95d8		260			2017-05-12 21:22:18 UTC+0000			
0x0000000001fde308		740			2017-05-12 21:22:22 UTC+0000			
0x0000000001fea8a0		1168			2017-05-12 21:22:56 UTC+0000			
0×0000000002010020		544			2017-05-12 21:22:55 UTC+0000			
0x000000000203b7a8		1084			2017-05-12 21:22:03 UTC+0000			
0x0000000002161da0		596			2017-05-12 21:22:00 UTC+0000			
0x0000000002169020		348			2017-05-12 21:21:55 UTC+0000			
0x000000000216e020		620			2017-05-12 21:22:01 UTC+0000			
0x0000000002191658		676			2017-05-12 21:22:01 UTC+0000			
0x00000000021937f0		664			2017-05-12 21:22:01 UTC+0000			
0x00000000021af7e8		1024			2017-05-12 21:22:03 UTC+0000			
0x00000000021b5230		904			2017-05-12 21:22:03 UTC+0000			
0x00000000021bea78		1152			2017-05-12 21:22:06 UTC+0000			
0x00000000021d9da0		1636			2017-05-12 21:22:10 UTC+0000			
0x00000000021e2da0		1484			2017-05-12 21:22:09 UTC+0000			
0x0000000002218da0		1940			2017-05-12 21:22:14 UTC+0000	<u> </u>		
0x000000000221a2c0		836			2017-05-12 21:22:02 UTC+0000			
0x0000000002231da0		1956			2017-05-12 21:22:14 UTC+0000			
0x00000000023c8830	System	4_	0	0x00039000				

Figure 3: Listing All Processes

Several related processes which are terminated is listed out. The related terminated processes include "taskdl.exe", "taskse.exe" and multiple "@WanaDecryptor@" processes. All processes mentioned are under the same parent process with PID 1940. To understand the timeline of the execution, researcher will sort the date and time of execution by using 'sort' command.

```
-f wcry.raw --profile=WinXPSP3x86 psscan | grep 1940 | tee PPID1940.txt
Volatility Foundation Volatility Framework 2.6.1
0x0000000001f4daf0 taskdl.exe
0x0000000001f53d18 taskse.exe
                                                     1940 0x199f6000 2017-05-12 21:26:23 UTC+0000
                                               860
                                                                                                                 2017-05-12 21:26:23 UTC+0000
                                                      1940 0x1986c000 2017-05-12 21:26:22 UTC+0000 1940 0x18fa2000 2017-05-12 21:25:52 UTC+0000
                                                                                                                 2017-05-12 21:26:23 UTC+0000
2017-05-12 21:25:53 UTC+0000
                                                536
0x0000000001f69b50 @WanaDecryptor@
                                                424
                                                       1940 0x19671000 2017-05-12 21:26:22 UTC+0000 1940 0x0de3a000 2017-05-12 21:22:22 UTC+0000
)x0000000001f8ba58 @WanaDecryptor@
                                                                                                                 2017-05-12 21:26:23 UTC+0000
740
0x00000000002218da0 tasksche.exe
                                                       1636 0x0c0a2000 2017-05-12 21:22:14 UTC+0000
                                              1940
nugroho@ubuntu:
                                                s$ ls
24d004a104d4d54034dbcffc2a4b19a11f39008a575aa614ea04703480b1022c.bin.gz PPID1940.txt wannacry.7z wcry.raw
nugroho@ubuntu:
                                  cs/mem/files$ cat PPID1940.txt
0x0000000001f4daf0 taskdl.exe
                                               860
                                                      1940 0x199f6000 2017-05-12 21:26:23 UTC+0000
                                                                                                                 2017-05-12 21:26:23 UTC+0000
                                                                                                                 2017-05-12 21:26:23 UTC+0000
2017-05-12 21:25:53 UTC+0000
0x0000000001f53d18 taskse.exe
                                                       1940 0x1986c000 2017-05-12 21:26:22 UTC+0000
424
                                                       1940 0x18fa2000 2017-05-12 21:25:52 UTC+0000
1940 0x19671000 2017-05-12 21:26:22 UTC+0000 1940 0x0de3a000 2017-05-12 21:22:22 UTC+0000
                                                                                                                 2017-05-12 21:26:23 UTC+0000
                                               740
                                                      1636 0x0c0a2000 2017-05-12 21:22:14 UTC+0000
0x00000000002218da0 tasksche.exe
                                              1940
                                               es$ sort -k 7,7 PPID1940.txt
nugroho@ubuntu:
0x00000000002218da0 tasksche.exe
0x00000000001fde308 @WanaDecryptor@
                                                       1636 0x0c0a2000 2017-05-12 21:22:14 UTC+0000
1940 0x0de3a000 2017-05-12 21:22:22 UTC+0000
1940 0x18fa2000 2017-05-12 21:25:52 UTC+0000
                                                740
                                                                                                                 2017-05-12 21:25:53 UTC+0000
2017-05-12 21:26:23 UTC+0000
2017-05-12 21:26:23 UTC+0000
0x0000000001f69b50 @WanaDecryptor@
                                               424
                                                       1940 0x1986c000 2017-05-12 21:26:22 UTC+0000 1940 0x198671000 2017-05-12 21:26:22 UTC+0000
)x0000000001f53d18 taskse.exe
                                                536
     00000001f8ba58 @WanaDecryptor@
  0000000001f4daf0 taskdl.exe
                                                860
                                                                           2017-05-12 21:26:23 UTC+0000
                                                                                                                 2017-05-12 21:26:23 UTC+06
```

Figure 4: Sorting Related Processes Execution Time

The sorted list shows that the parent process is executed and create multiple other processes which are "@WanaDecryptor@", "taskse.exe" (terminated), and "taskdl.exe" (terminated). From this point, it can be seen that these are the processes that could be considered

as IOC. The next step is to identify the corresponding DLLs involved in those processes. To be able to do that, researcher will use the 'dlllist' plugin from Volatility.

Figure 5: DLLs Loaded for "tasksche.exe"

From the output, research could spot a suspicious binary path used to execute the parent process of all related processes. It was executed from "C:\Intel\ivecuqmanpnirkt615\". Looking at the "@WanaDecryptor@" process DLLs, the same path can be found.

Figure 6: DLLs Loaded for "@WanaDecryptor@"

By looking at DLLs loaded by "@WanaDecryptor@" or PID 740, the functionality of the ransomware could be identified. It loaded "WS2_32.DLL" which related to socket connection creation (Doevan, 2018). It also utilizes "WINNET.DLL" to establish high privilege network interactions, "SECURE32.DLL" for encryption and "URLMON.DLL" to

interact with browsers. Information mentioned above will be useful during the malware analysis process.

The next step is to analyze the process' handles. By investigating handles, some additional information about threads, and mutex (Mutual Exclusion) could be found. Mutex is a mechanism which allows a program to access resources (GeeksforGeeks, 2020). In a malware, a mutex is used to prevent multiple instance of the same malware running on the victim machine.

```
-f wcry.raw --profile=WinXPSP3x86 handles -p 1940 -t key
                                         s$ volatil<u>itv</u>
Volatility Foundation Volatility Framework 2.6.1
Offset(V)
                                                           Details
              Pid
                      Handle
                                  Access Type
                              0x20f003f Key
                                                           MACHINE
0xe1b978d0
             1940
                               0x20f003f Key
                                                           USER\S-1-5-21-602162358-764733703-1957994488-1003
                         0xc4
nugroho@ubuntu:~
                                         $ volatility -f wcry.raw --profile=WinXPSP3x86 handles -p 1940 -t Mutant
Volatility
           Foundation Volatility Framework 2.6.1
                                                           Details
Offset(V)
              Pid
                      Handle
                                  Access Type
0x821883e8
             1940
                        0x40
                               0x120001 Mutant
                                                           ShimCacheMutex
0x8224f180
             1940
                        0x54
                                0x1f0001 Mutant
                                                           MsWinZonesCacheCounterMutexA
                                                           MsWinZonesCacheCounterMutexA0
 x822e3b08
                        0x58
                                0x1f0001 Mu<u>t</u>ant
```

Figure 7: Mutex for PID 1940

It can be seen from Figure 7, the parent process with PID 1940 have mutex "MsWinZonesCacheCounterMutexA". This mutex prevents the system to run multiple malware instances. The next step is to analyze the network connections established during infections. This can be done with Volatility plugin 'connections' and 'connscan'.

Figure 8: Network Connections from Memory Dump

There is no valuable information from the network connections. This could be due to the inactivity of the server which is supposed to interact with the ransomware. Next thing to do is to dump interesting files that can later be analyzed through static or dynamic reverse engineering.

Figure 9: Dumping Files Related to Ransomware

Running a simple 'strings' command will show some interesting strings inside the dumped files. It includes some command, links and even bitcoin address.

```
| Constants | Cons
```

Figure 10: Inside Dumped Files

As part of the memory analysis, researcher will also dump the memory of specific processes. This includes the 'tasksche.exe' process with PID 1940 and '@WanaDecryptor@' PID 740. The memory dump could reveal more information regarding the execution of the ransomware.

Figure 11: Dumping Memory of Specific Process

Inside the memory dump of PID 1940, researcher could find the execution of the binary '@WanaDecryptor@' using command line. Looking at the memory dump of '@WanaDecryptor@', listed out several '.onion' domain. It also shows the bitcoin address.

Figure 12: Memory Dump of PID 1940

Figure 13: Memory Dump of PID 740

Digging deeper, researcher found the ransom note with links to the bitcoin address. http://www.btcfrog.com/qr/bitcoinPNG.php?address=12t9YDPgwueZ9NyMgw519p7AA8isj r6SMw.

```
http://www.btcfrog.com/qr/bitcoinPNG.php?address=12t9YDPgwueZ9NyMgw519p7AA8ls]r6SMw
Send $300 worth of bitcoin to this address:
Many
licking <Dec
But if y
ant to decry,
ll your file<
ou need to pL
You only ha\
days to subl
the payment.|
er that the
e will be do
Also, if
don't pay i
days, you wo
be able to r
er your file
rever.
We w
have free ev
for users w
re so poor t,
they couldn'<
y in 6 monthL
How Do I P\
Payment is l
pted in Bitc|
only. For mo
nformation,
k <About bit
Please c
the current
ce of Bitcoi
d buy some b
ins. For mo
formation, c
<Image: About buy
couldn's
line. For mo
formation, c
<I monthly couldn's
line. For mor
formation or
formation o
```

Figure 14: Ransom Note

It also contains the mutex generation and registry key creation for the ransomware.

```
Global\MsWinZonesCacheCounterMutexA
Global\MsWinZonesCacheCounterMutexW
cmd.exe /c reg add %s /v "%s" /t REG_SZ /d "\"%s\"" /f
HKCU\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run
```

Figure 15: Mutex and Registry Key

2.2.3 Conclusion

To sum it up, memory analysis is done to understand the way of a malware behaves. It uses the memory dump of infected computer to investigate using memory analysis tools such as Volatility. There are several steps on doing memory analysis including identify rogue processes, analyze process DLLs and handles, review network artifacts, look for evidence of code injection, check for signs of rootkit and dump suspicious processes and drivers. In this analysis, information gathered from the memory related to its infection of WannaCry ransomware are as follow:

Indicators of Compromise (IOC):

- tasksche.exe
- taskse.exe
- taskdl.exe

- @WanaDecryptor@
- MsWinZonesCacheCounterMutexA
- MsWinZonesCacheCounterMutexA0
- 12t9YDPgwueZ9NyMgw519p7AA8isjr6SMw
- 13AM4VW2dhxYgXeQepoHkHSQuy6NgaEb94
- gx7ekbenv2riucmf.onion
- 76jdd2ir2embyv47.onion
- cwwnhwhlz52maqm7.onion
- 57g7spgrzlojinas.onion
- xxlvbrloxvriy2c5.onion

Suspicious files:

- tasksche.exe
- taskse.exe
- taskdl.exe
- @WanaDecryptor@.exe

References

Doevan, J., 2018. *What is* ws2_32.dll? Should I remove it?. [Online] Available at: https://www.2-spyware.com/file-ws2_32-dll.html [Accessed 10 February 2021].

GeeksforGeeks, 2020. *Mutex vs Semaphore*. [Online]
Available at: https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/mutex-vs-semaphore/
[Accessed 10 February 2021].