

RuxCon 2004

Reverse Engineering for Malware Analysis

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email: nevar<insert at symbol>feline<no space>menace<full stop>com

Introduction

- What is "Malware"
 - Software with malicious intent
 - Software with sinister motives

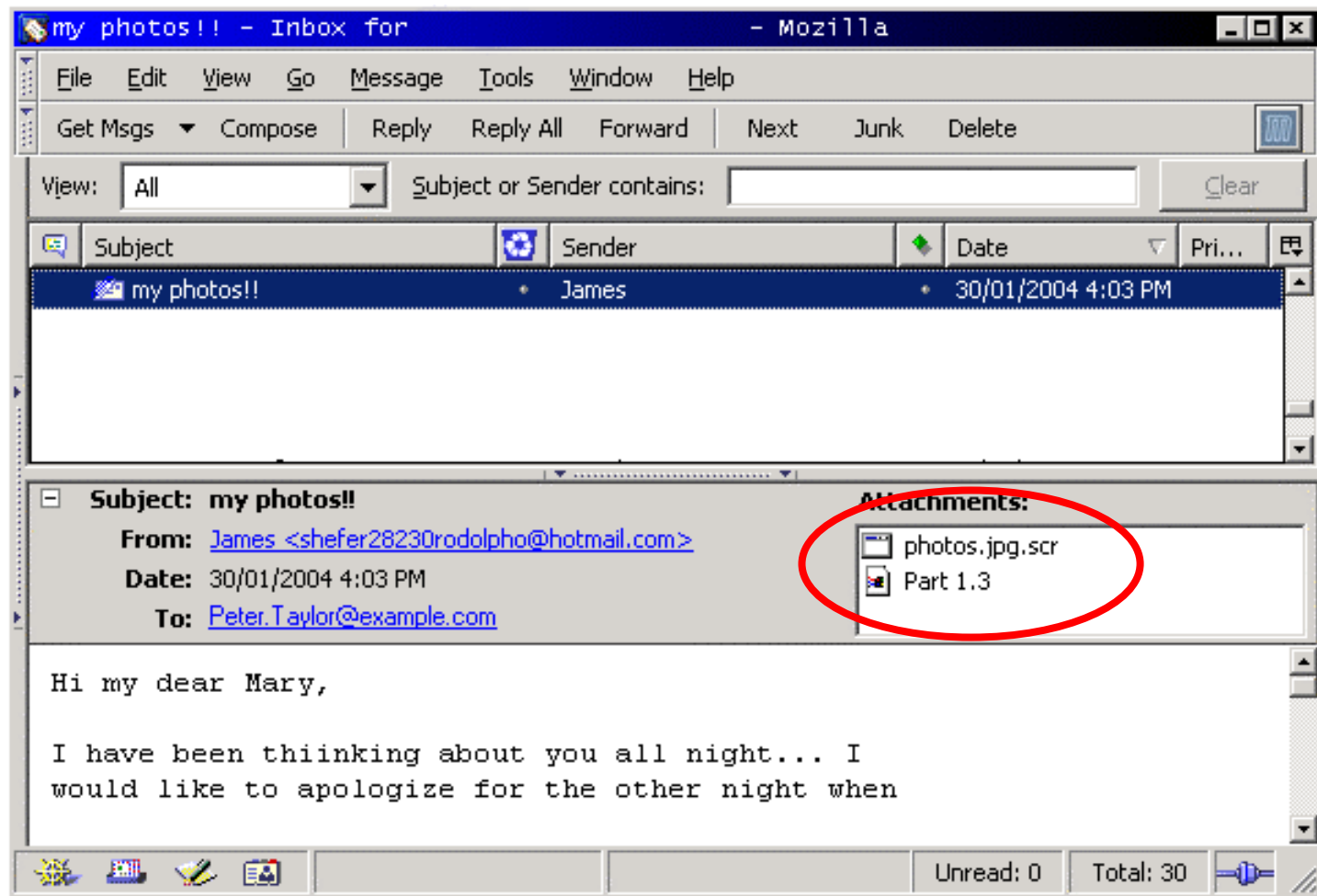
Introduction

- What is "Malware"
 - Software with malicious intent
 - Software with sinister motives
- Is there a need for specialized R.E. when dealing with malware

R.E. and Malware

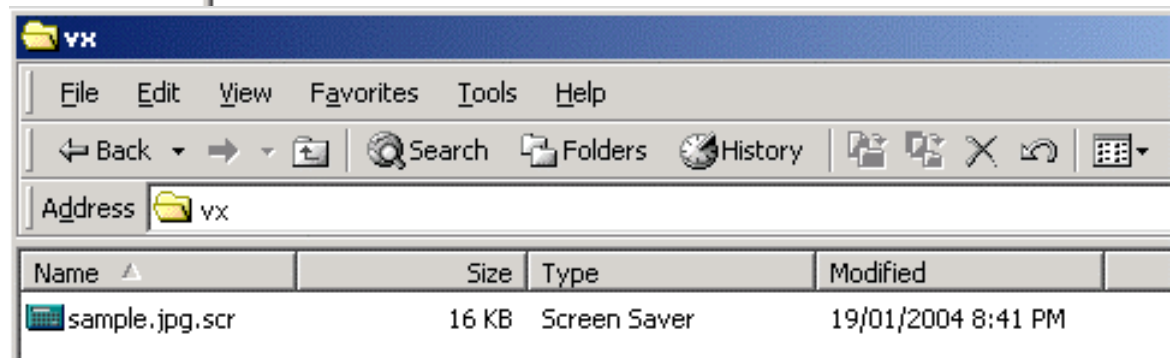
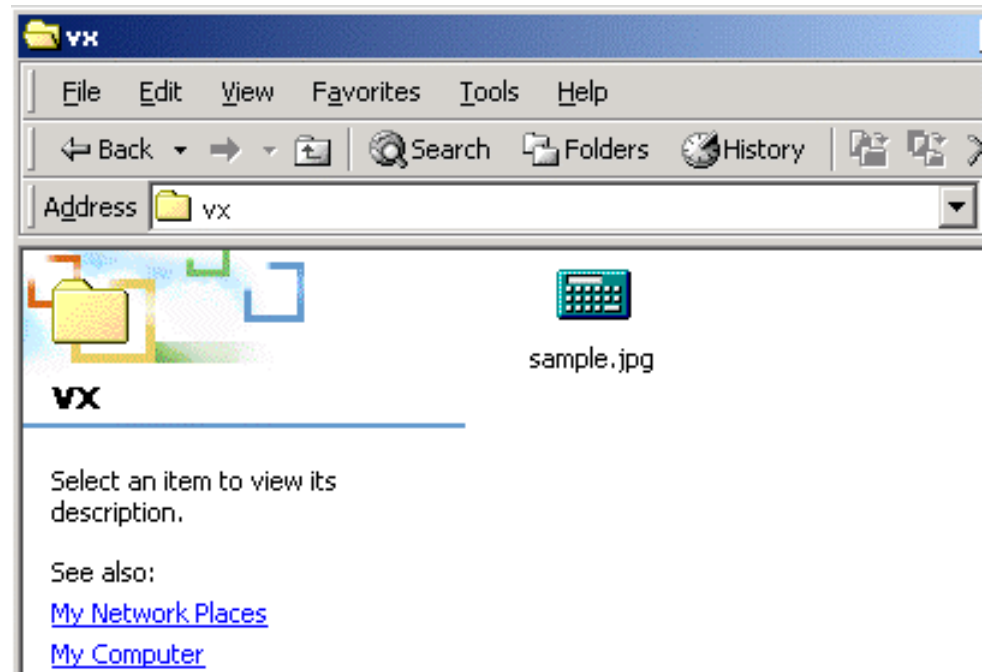
- Time is of the essence
- No complex algorithms or data-structures to reverse engineer
- A small subset of system functions work together to exhibit malicious behaviour
- Lack of imagination and release of malware source leads to rampant function re-use
- Code to intricately manipulate executable file headers has few reason to appear in notepad.exe

Contracting Malware - Did you get my email ?



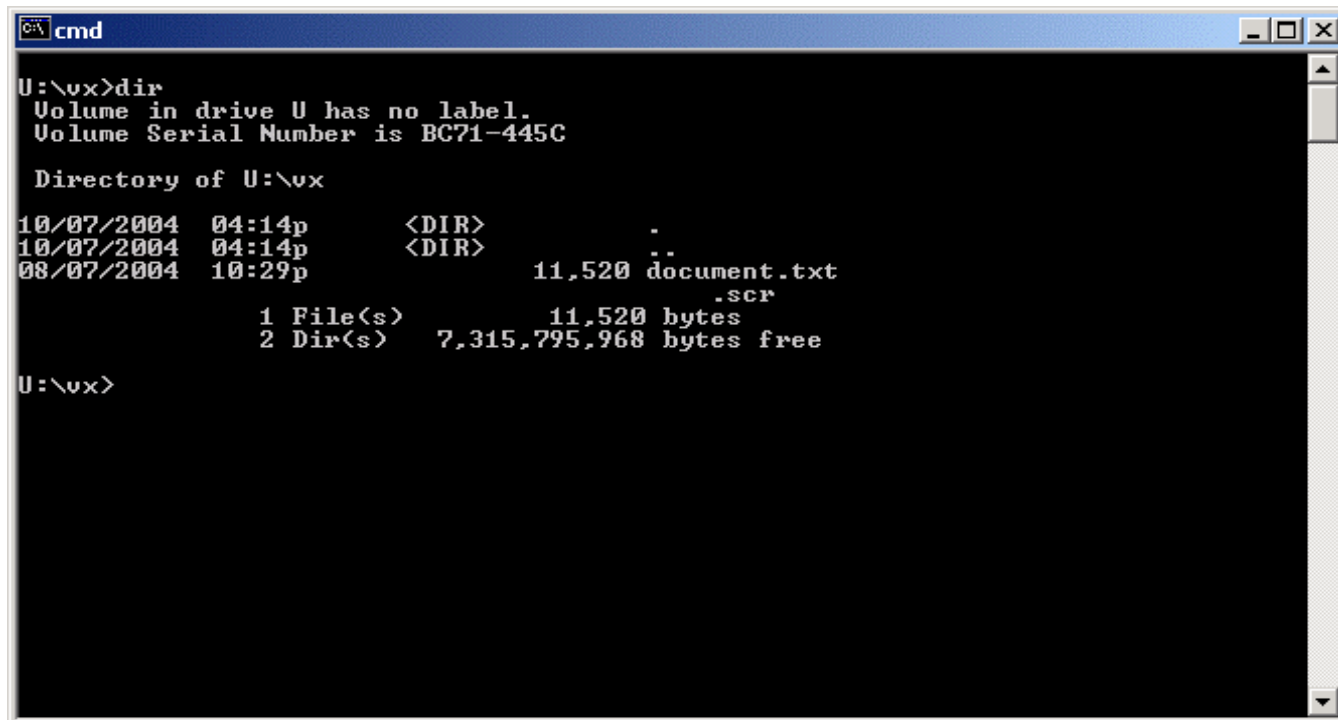
Explorer Trickery

- Too many smarts spoil the Puter. Sometimes software tries to be too clever and malware authors like to exploit this fact



Cursory Analysis

'dir' yields much to the keen observer



```
cmd
U:\ux>dir
Volume in drive U has no label.
Volume Serial Number is BC71-445C

Directory of U:\ux

10/07/2004  04:14p      <DIR>          .
10/07/2004  04:14p      <DIR>          ..
08/07/2004  10:29p                11,520 document.txt
                                .scr
      1 File(s)                11,520 bytes
      2 Dir(s)      7,315,795,968 bytes free

U:\ux>
```


Mary had a little *beagle*...?

```
U:\ux>gettext beagle.exe
GetText v1.2 by Rudnai -- Unicode characters are supported
0x00004D: '!This program cannot be run in DOS mode.'
0x0001C0: 'beagle'
0x0001E8: '.rdata'
0x000CDB: '8-updt'
0x002E34: 'et_addr'
0x002E6A: 'wsck32.dll'
0x002E79: 'Initialize'
0x002E8A: 'eateStreamOnHGlobal'
0x002E9E: 'ole32.dll'
0x002ED6: 'shlwapi.dll'
0x002EE6: 'ternetCloseHandle'
0x002EFC: 'ternetGetConnectedState'
0x002F26: 'InternetOpenUrlA'
0x002F38: 'wininet.dll'
0x002F46: 'RegCloseKey'
0x002F54: 'RegCreateKeyA'
0x002F64: 'RegQueryValueExA'
0x002F78: 'RegSetValueExA'
0x002F88: 'advapi32.dll'
0x003036: '@hotmail.com'
0x003043: '@msn.com'
0x00304C: '@microsoft'
0x00348D: 'http://www.example.com/1.php'
0x0034AC: 'Date: %s'
0x0034BE: 'Subject: Hi'
0x0034CB: 'From: %s'
0x0034D5: 'Message-ID: <%s>'
0x0034E9: 'MIME-Version: 1.0'
0x0034FC: 'Content-Type: multipart/mixed;'
0x00357A: 'Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"'
0x00359C: 'Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit'
0x0035B7: 'Content-Type: application/x-msdownload; name="%s"'
0x0035EB: 'Content-Transfer-Encoding: base64'
0x00360E: 'Content-Disposition: attachment; filename="%s"'
0x003687: 'Test, yep.'
0x00369F: 'if exist %1 goto l'
0x0036E1: 'calc.exe'
0x0036EF: 'SOFTWARE\Windows98'
0x003706: 'SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run'
0x003734: 'd3dupdate.exe'
0x003742: '\bbeagle.exe'
0x00377B: 'HELO %s'
0x00378C: 'MAIL FROM:<%s>'
0x00379D: 'RCPT TO:<%s>'
0x0037BC: 'ddd', ' dd MMM yyyy '
0x0037D0: 'HH:mm:ss'
0x0037ED: 'agile_beagle'
0x0037F9: '\bsupld'
0x003B69: 'adDDDDDDDDDDDDDD'
0x003B7A: 'fffffffffffff'
U:\ux>
```

Section Dissection

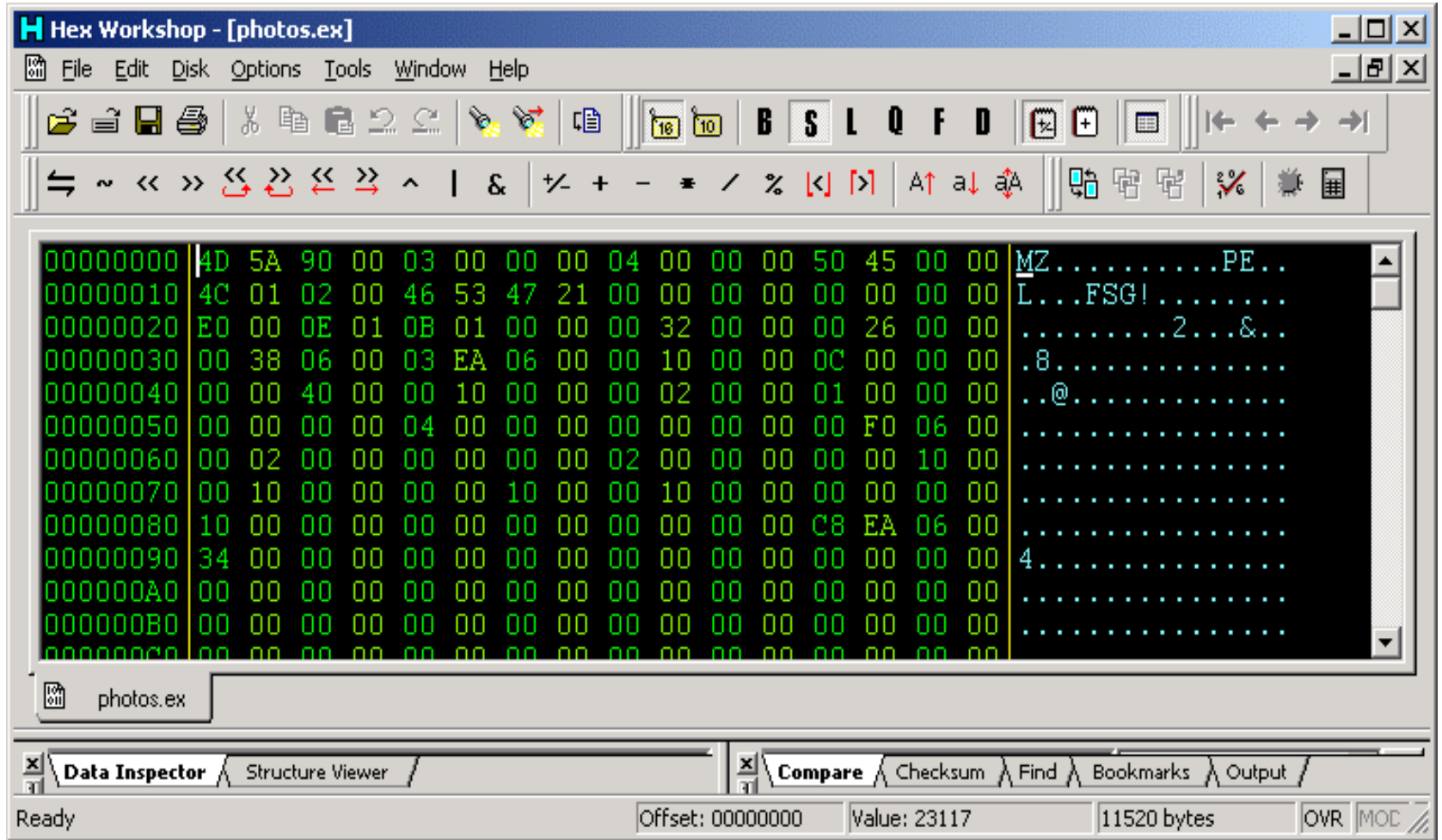
```
cmd
U:\vx>pe photos.ex
PE v1.4 <c> Sophos Plc 1999-2003
Last modified 20030113 by US

lfanew : c
Image base : 400000          Image size : 6f000
Entrypoint RVA : 6ea03
Sec Name      Virtual Address  Physical Address  Virtual Size  Physical Size  Flags  CRC32
0            t              1000              0           6b000          0   rw-      0
1            6c000          200             3000          2afc          rw-    4b222f67
bytes after last sec          2cfc          4
Entrypoint in section 1
Entrypoint in file at 2c03

be a4 01 40 00 ad 93 ad 97 ad 56 96 b2 80 a4 b6
80 ff 13 73 f9 33 c9 ff 13 73 16 33 c0 ff 13 73
1f b6 80 41 b0 10 ff 13 12 c0 73 fa 75 3c aa eb
e0 ff 53 08 02 f6 83 d9 01 75 0e ff 53 04 eb 26
ac d1 e8 74 2f 13 c9 eb 1a 91 48 c1 e0 08 ac ff
53 04 3d 00 7d 00 00 73 0a 80 fc 05 73 06 83 f8
7f 77 02 41 41 95 8b c5 b6 00 56 8b f7 2b f0 f3
a4 5e eb 9d 8b d6 5e ad 48 74 0a 79 02 ad 50 56

U:\vx>_
```

All this HEX is Byting me!



Identifying some common file formats

```
00000000 55 45 73 44 42 41 6F 41 41 41 41 41 41 43 57 6C UESDBAoAAAAACWl
00000010 4D 7A 43 4B 6C 49 41 76 41 44 34 41 41 41 41 2B MzCKlIAvAD4AAAA+
00000020 41 41 41 4B 41 41 41 41 63 32 46 74 63 47 78 6C AAakAAAc2FtcGxl
00000030 4C 6D 56 34 5A 55 31 61 6B 41 41 44 0D 0A 41 41 LmV4ZU1akAAD..AA
00000040 41 41 42 41 41 41 41 50 2F 2F 41 41 43 34 41 41 AABAAAAP//AAC4AA
00000050 41 41 41 41 41 41 41 45 41 41 41 41 41 41 41 41 AAAAAAAEAAAAAAAA
```

Identifying some common file formats

```
00000000 50 4B 03 04 14 00 00 00 08 00 25 A5 33 30 8A 94 PK.....%.30..  
00000010 80 2F 34 1E 00 00 00 3E 00 00 0A 00 00 00 73 61 ./4....>.....sa  
00000020 6D 70 6C 65 2E 65 78 65 ED 7B 0B 78 94 D5 B5 E8 mple.exe.{.x....  
00000030 9E C9 4C 32 24 13 32 62 A0 BC AC 03 12 3D 15 32 ..L2$.2b.....=.2  
00000040 06 02 16 03 D1 09 61 22 54 02 43 26 24 BC 04 26 .....a"T.C&$..&  
00000050 99 3F CC 0C F3 EA CC FF 27 C4 4A 9D 34 86 42 A7 .?.....'.J.4.B.
```

Identifying some common file formats

```
00000000 50 4B 03 04 0A 00 00 00 00 00 25 A5 33 30 8A 94 PK.....%.30..
00000010 80 2F 00 3E 00 00 00 3E 00 00 0A 00 00 00 73 61 ./.>...>.....sa
00000020 6D 70 6C 65 2E 65 78 65 4D 5A 90 00 03 00 00 00 mple.exeMZ.....
00000030 04 00 00 00 FF FF 00 00 B8 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
00000040 40 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 @.....
00000050 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
```

Identifying some common file formats

```
00000000 50 4B 03 04 14 00 01 00 00 00 25 A5 33 30 8A 94 PK.....%.30..  
00000010 80 2F 0C 3E 00 00 00 3E 00 00 0A 00 00 00 73 61 ./.>...>.....sa  
00000020 6D 70 6C 65 2E 65 78 65 86 72 C6 BD 88 96 EC AA mple.exe.r.....  
00000030 D3 82 C3 18 85 91 4C C2 A1 0D 61 7C DF 20 2B E9 .....L...a|. +.  
00000040 1D 13 1F B4 B1 84 AE 6E F9 49 41 48 E1 07 19 63 .....n.IAH...c  
00000050 A8 8C 43 25 82 53 0F 90 FA 07 50 86 C0 6B 79 A4 ..C%.S....P..ky.
```

Identifying some common file formats

```
00000000 52 61 72 21 1A 07 00 CF 90 73 00 00 0D 00 00 00 Rar!.....s.....
00000010 00 00 00 00 36 2D 74 20 80 2A 00 00 3E 00 00 00 ....6-t .*..>...
00000020 3E 00 00 02 8A 94 80 2F 25 A5 33 30 14 30 0A 00 >...../%.30.0..
00000030 20 00 00 00 73 61 6D 70 6C 65 2E 65 78 65 4D 5A ...sample.exeMZ
00000040 90 00 03 00 00 00 04 00 00 00 FF FF 00 00 B8 00 .....
00000050 00 00 00 00 00 00 40 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....@.....
```

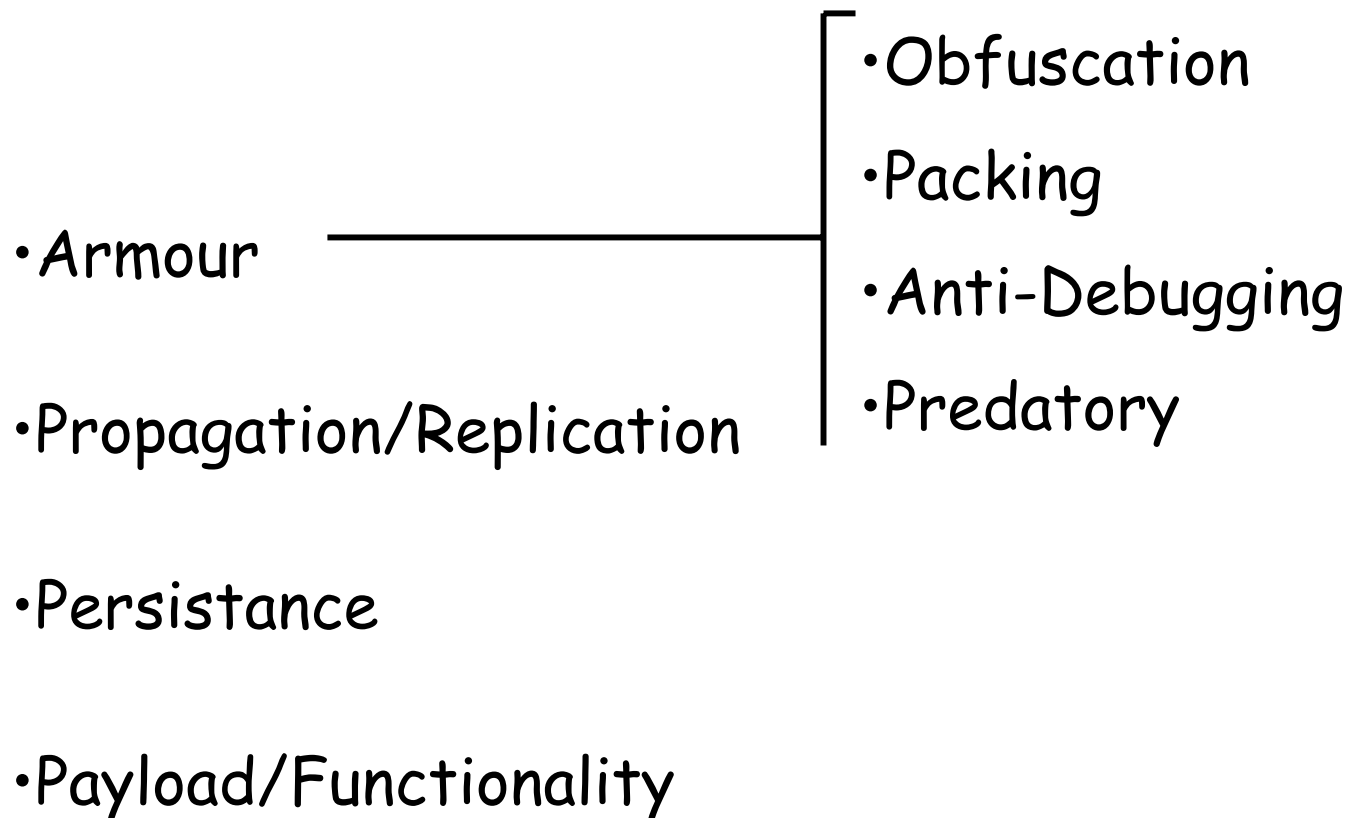

Identifying some common file formats

```
00000000 52 61 72 21 1A 07 00 CE 99 73 80 00 0D 00 00 00 Rar!.....s.....
00000010 00 00 00 00 18 D5 17 4F 00 FB 97 C1 70 DC 6E C8 .....O....p.n.
00000020 04 97 55 27 00 58 A1 6D 5C B0 AA 6F 46 1A 95 E8 ..U'.X.m\..oF...
00000030 72 83 91 0F 10 1D D0 77 CF 4B D9 96 B8 28 BB 09 r.....w.K...(..
00000040 C3 6B 06 4D 77 3E 67 ED F4 40 F8 5C 20 98 55 D2 .k.Mw>g..@.\ .U.
00000050 69 AE 6F 46 B6 9D 1C 3C 0E 91 69 EF 9E BA 64 EE i.oF...<..i...d.
```

Identifying some common file formats

```
00000000 D0 CF 11 E0 A1 B1 1A E1 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
00000010 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 3E 00 03 00 FE FF 09 00 .....>.....
00000020 06 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 01 00 00 00 .....
00000030 21 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 10 00 00 23 00 00 00 !.....#...
00000040 01 00 00 00 FE FF FF FF 00 00 00 00 20 00 00 00 .....
00000050 FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF .....
```

Physiology of malware



Physiology of malware

- Armour
- Propagation/Replication
 - By copy
 - By Email
 - By Exploit
 - By Network
 - By Host infection
- Persistence
- Payload/Functionality

Physiology of malware

- Armour

- Propagation/Replication

- Persistence

- Payload/Functionality

- Autostart folders

- Registry Run keys

- Browser Help Objects

- Creating Service

Physiology of malware

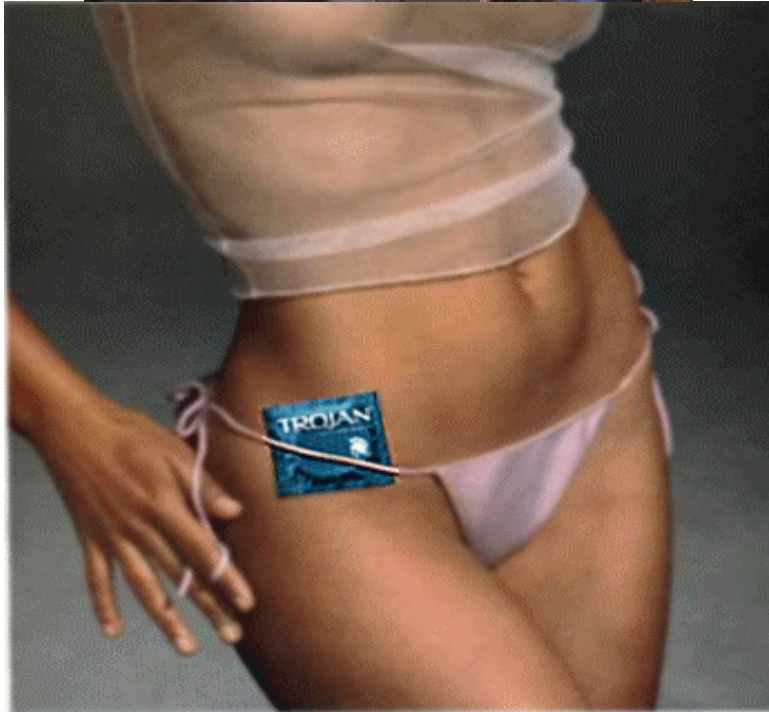
- Armour
- Propagation/Replication
- Persistence
- Payload/Functionality
 - Harmless
 - Spybot
 - Anon. Proxy
 - Data theft or destruction

Trojans



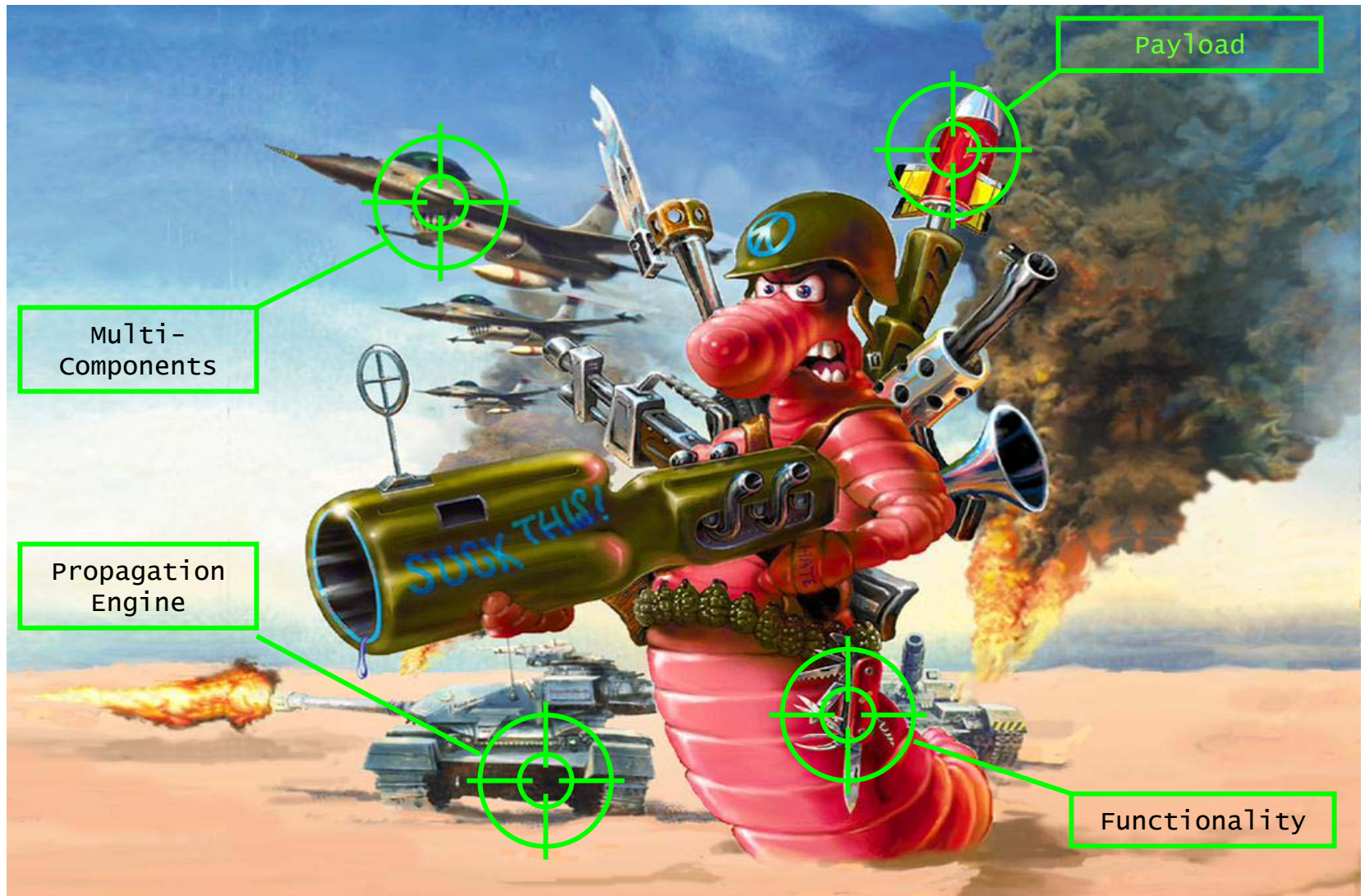
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Trojans



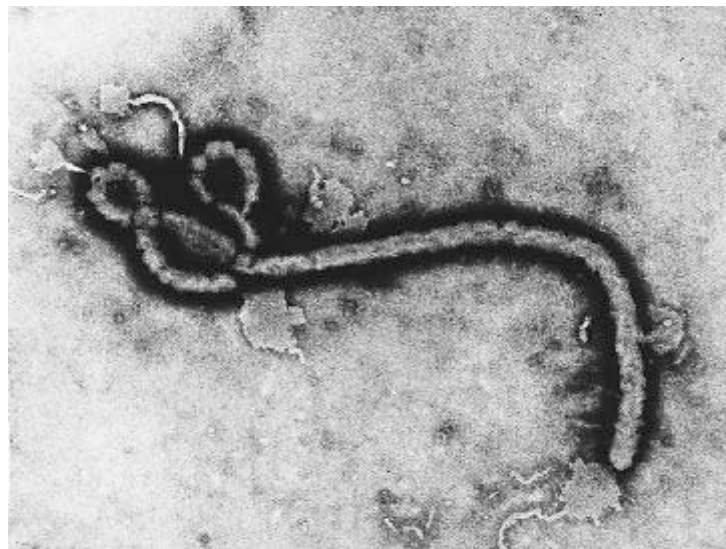
- Appear to be something other than claimed
- Don't replicate
- Size depends on nature of payload
- Typically written in HLL

Worms



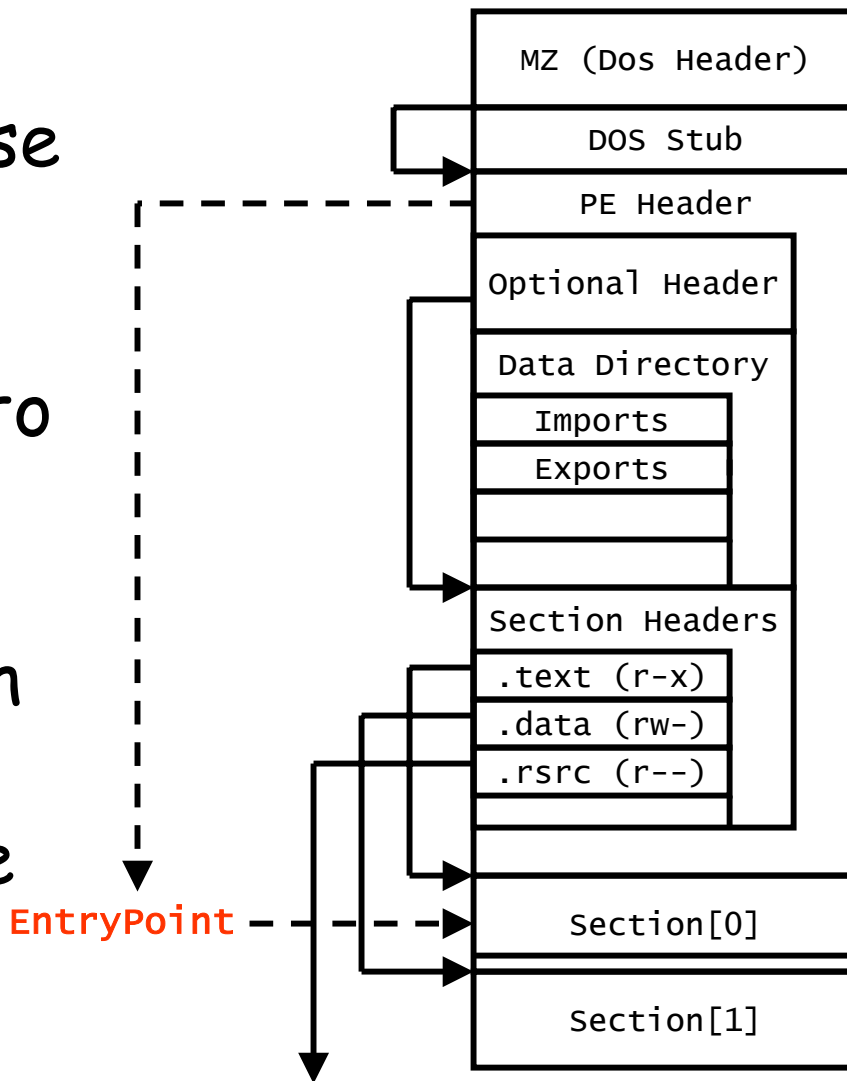
Viruses (Virii)

- Replicate by parasitic means (infect files/MBR)
- Intimate knowledge of system data-structures
- Generally written in ASM and are thus small in size
- Majority of authors tend to be skilled individuals and only produce never-released proof-of-concept. Ofcourse there are always going to be bad apples...



Basics of Microsoft PE file

•Unpackers and Viral code make use of intimate knowledge of the PE spec. in order to accomplish their goal. An Analyst being familiar with PE can rapidly identify such code and determine its nature



Toolz of the Trade

- Datarescues Interactive DisAssembler
- SoftIce (debugger)
- Netmon (packet sniffer)
- Tcpmon (sysinternals tcp monitor)
- Regmon (sysinternals registry monitor)
- Filemon (sysinternals file monitor)
- HexWorkshop
- LordPE and/or other PE toolz

Conducting the Analysis

- Lab Environment (inmates running the Assylum)
- Methodical Madness (chase what glitters brightest)
- Keen observation
- Magic numbers arent magic
- Once bitten, twice shy
- Trail of crumbs always leads to a Cookie Monster

Static (Dead-Listing) Analysis

- Life begins at the EntryPoint
- Functionality flows from Imports
 - Services rendered via Exports
- One mans trash is anothers treasure
(where have those strings gone?)

Behavioural Analysis

- Involves executing the sample on an isolated network and observing its interaction
- When performed in parallel with static analysis can be used to verify coded behaviour and gain any created data not easily divulged through dead-listing
- Under duress of a debugger, the sample may be stopped at specific locations to examine particular system and sample state(s)

Disassembly of 'typical' startup

```
IDA - C:\vx\avserve.idb (avserve.unp)
File Edit Jump Search View Debugger Options Windows Help

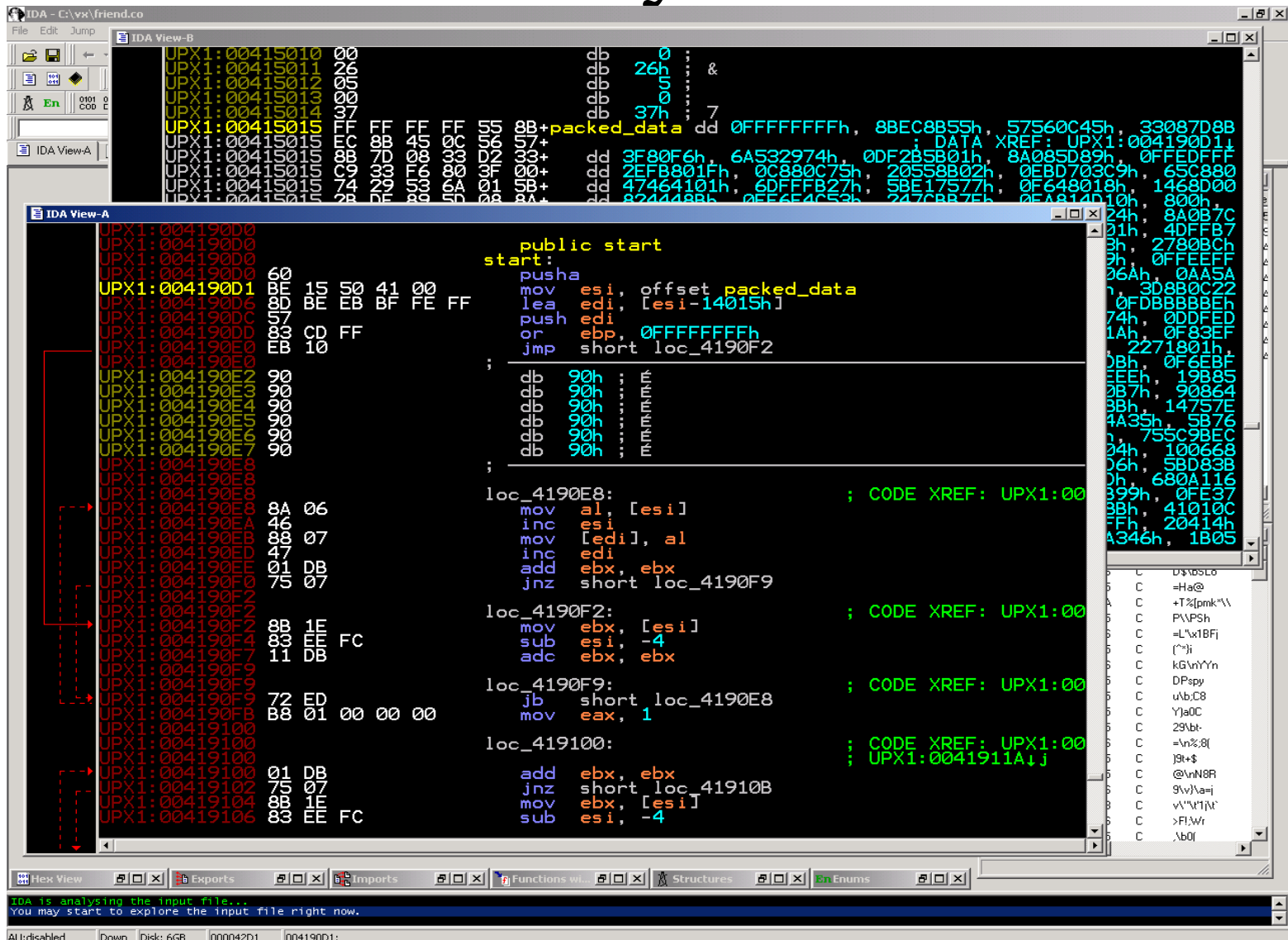
IDA View-A
text: 004027CE public start
text: 004027CE start proc near
text: 004027CE
text: 004027CE var_68= dword ptr -68h
text: 004027CE var_64= dword ptr -64h
text: 004027CE var_60= dword ptr -60h
text: 004027CE StartupInfo= _STARTUPINFOA ptr -5Ch
text: 004027CE var_18= dword ptr -18h
text: 004027CE var_14= dword ptr -14h
text: 004027CE var_4= dword ptr -4
text: 004027CE
text: 004027CE 55 push ebp ; sub_4027CE
text: 004027CE 8B EC mov ebp, esp
text: 004027CE 6A FF push 0FFFFFFh
text: 004027CE 28 51 40 00 push offset stru_405128
text: 004027CE 68 48 34 40 00 push offset __except_handler3
text: 004027CE 64 A1 00 00 00 mov eax, large fs:0
text: 004027CE 50 push eax
text: 004027CE 64 89 25 00 00 00+ mov large fs:0, esp
text: 004027CE 83 EC 58 sub esp, 58h
text: 004027CE 53 push ebx
text: 004027CE 56 push esi
text: 004027CE 57 push edi
text: 004027CE 65 E8 15 AC 50 40 00 mov [ebp+var_18], esp
text: 004027CE FF call ds:GetVersion ; Get current versi
; and information a
text: 004027CE 33 D2 xor edx, edx
text: 004027CE 8A D4 mov dl, ah
text: 004027CE 89 15 54 6F 40 00 mov ds:dword_406F54, edx
text: 004027CE 8B C8 mov ecx, eax
text: 004027CE 81 F1 FF 00 00 00 and ecx, 0FFFh
text: 004027CE 89 0D 50 6F 40 00 mov ds:dword_406F50, ecx
text: 004027CE C1 F1 08 shl ecx, 8
text: 004027CE 03 CA add ecx, edx
text: 004027CE 89 0D 4C 6F 40 00 mov ds:dword_406F4C, ecx
text: 004027CE C1 E8 10 shr eax, 10h
text: 004027CE A3 48 6F 40 00 mov ds:dword_406F48, eax
text: 004027CE 33 F6 xor esi, esi
text: 004027CE 56 push esi
text: 004027CE 8B E5 0A 00 00 call __heap_init
text: 004027CE 50 pop ecx
text: 004027CE 8B C0 mov eax, ecx
text: 004027CE 75 08 jnz short loc_40283A
text: 004027CE 6A 1C push 1Ch
text: 004027CE E8 B0 00 00 00 call _fast_error_exit
text: 004027CE 59 pop ecx
text: 004027CE
text: 004027CE 8B 75 FC loc_40283A: ; CODE XREF: start+
text: 004027CE FF 15 A8 50 40 00 mov [ebp+var_4], esi
text: 004027CE 8B 25 09 00 00 call __ioint
text: 004027CE FF 15 A8 50 40 00 call ds:CommandLineA

Flushing buffers, please wait...ok
AU: idle Disk: 6GB 000027CE: 004027CE: start
```

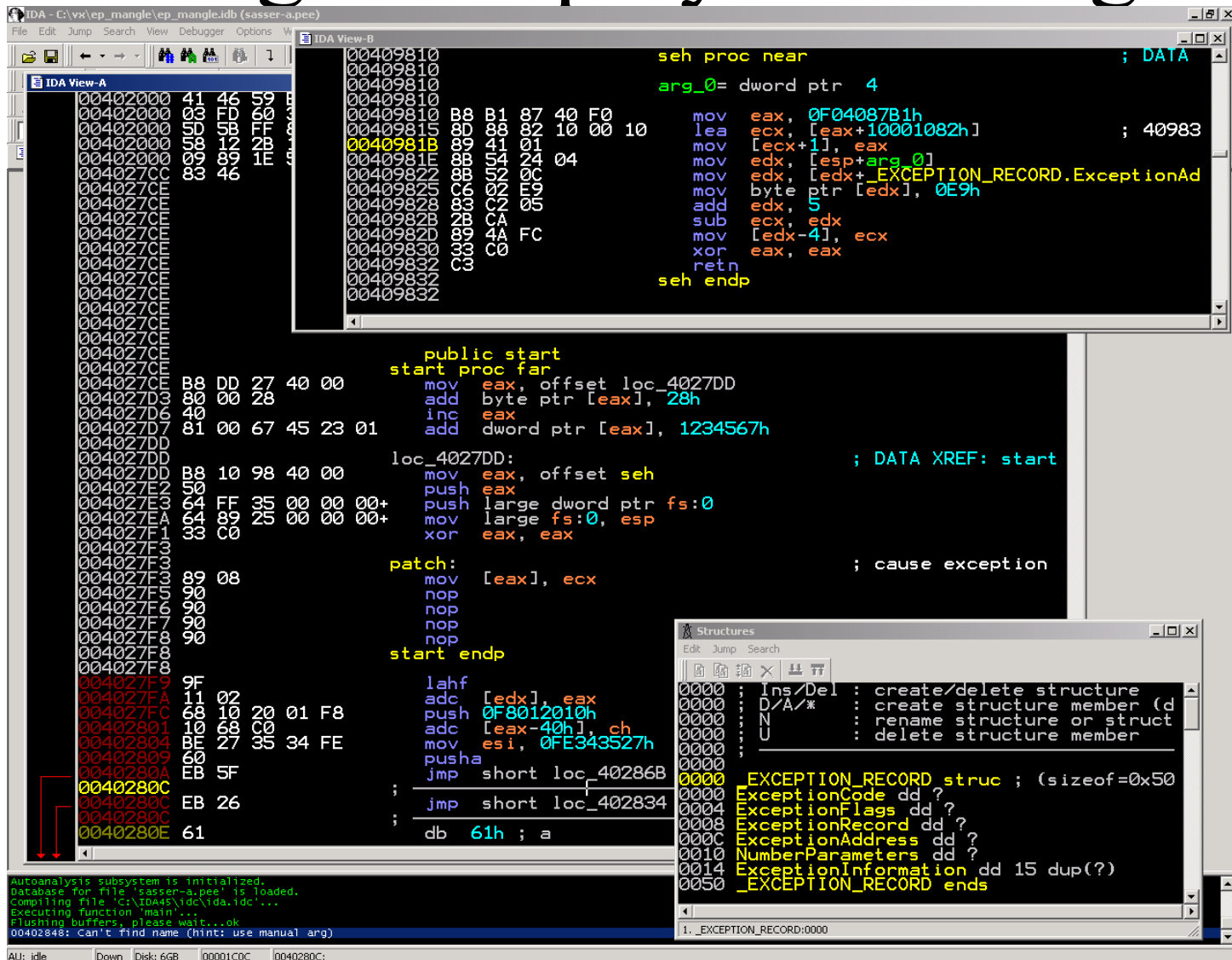

Other wonders to be found at EP

- Position Independent Code {Virii, Libs}
- Unpacking code {UPX, FSG, ASPack, etc}
- Decryptors {simple XOR, complex}
- Obfuscation {Morphine}

Have I seen you before ?



Hiding startup by SEH magic



IDA - C:\vx\ep_mangle\ep_mangle.idb (sasser-a.pee)

IDA View-A

00402000 41 46 59 B8 DD 27 40 00 mov eax, offset loc_4027DD
00402003 03 FD 60 80 00 28 add byte ptr [eax], 28h
00402006 5D 5B FF 81 00 67 45 23 01 inc eax
00402009 58 12 2B 1E add dword ptr [eax], 1234567h
0040200C 83 46 1E 89 08 mov eax, offset seh
0040200F 8B 54 24 04 push eax
00402012 8B 52 0C push large dword ptr fs:0
00402015 C6 02 E9 mov large fs:0, esp
00402018 83 C2 05 xor eax, eax
0040201B 2B CA add edx, 5
0040201E 89 4A FC sub ecx, edx
00402021 33 C0 mov [edx-4], ecx
00402024 C3 xor eax, eax
00402027 ret

seh proc near ; DATA
arg_0= dword ptr 4
mov eax, 0F04087B1h
lea ecx, [eax+10001082h] ; 40983
mov [ecx+1], eax
mov edx, [esp+arg_0]
mov [edx+_EXCEPTION_RECORD.ExceptionAd
byte ptr [edx], 0E9h
add edx, 5
sub ecx, edx
mov [edx-4], ecx
xor eax, eax
ret
seh endp

public start
start proc far
mov eax, offset loc_4027DD
add byte ptr [eax], 28h
inc eax
add dword ptr [eax], 1234567h
loc_4027DD: ; DATA XREF: start
mov eax, offset seh
push eax
push large dword ptr fs:0
mov large fs:0, esp
xor eax, eax
patch: ; cause exception
mov [eax], ecx
nop
nop
nop
nop
start endp
lahf [edx], eax
adc [edx], eax
push 0F8012010h
adc [eax-40h], ch
mov esi, 0FE343527h
pusha
jmp short loc_40286B
jmp short loc_402834
db 61h ; a

Structures

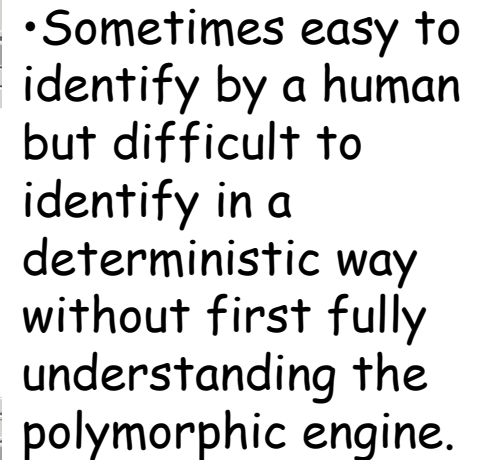
0000 ; Ins/Del : create/delete structure
0000 ; D/A/* : create structure member (d
0000 ; N : rename structure or struct
0000 ; U : delete structure member
0000 ;
0000 EXCEPTION_RECORD struc ; (sizeof=0x50
0000 ExceptionCode dd ?
0004 ExceptionFlags dd ?
0008 ExceptionRecord dd ?
000C ExceptionAddress dd ?
0010 NumberParameters dd ?
0014 ExceptionInformation dd 15 dup(?)
0050 _EXCEPTION_RECORD ends

1. _EXCEPTION_RECORD:0000

Autoanalysis subsystem is initialized.
Database for file 'sasser-a.pee' is loaded.
Compiling file 'C:\IDA45\ida\ida.idc'...
Executing function 'main'...
Flushing buffers, please wait...ok
00402848: can't find name (hint: use manual arg)

AU: idle | Down | Disk: 6GB | 00001C0C | 0040280C:

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Unravelling Morphine

IDA - C:\vx\ep_mangle\notepad1.exe

File Edit Jump Search View Debugger Options Windows Help

IDA View-A

```
004012B0 2A db 2Ah ; *
004012B1 ;
004012B2 ;
004012B3 public start
004012B4 start:
004012B5 stc
004012B6 sal esi, 0
004012B7 xchg esi, esi
004012B8 call loc_4012EF
004012B9 ; [00000027] BYTES: COLLAPSED AREA 004012C8. PRESS K
004012BA loc_4012EF: ; CODE XREF: .text:00
004012BB pop eax ; get EIP
004012BC mov ebx, eax
004012BD nop
004012BE sub ebx, 2C8h ; rebase
004012BF ; [0000002E] BYTES: COLLAPSED AREA 004012F9. PRESS K
004012C0 push 0Dh ; key_addr->edi
004012C1 add edi, [esp] ; key_addr->edi
004012C2 ; [00000075] BYTES: COLLAPSED AREA 0040132F. PRESS K
004012C3 add eax, 0D9h ; loader_start->eax
004012C4 ; [00000024] BYTES: COLLAPSED AREA 004013A9. PRESS K
004012C5 xor ecx, ecx
004012C6 add ecx, 1E4h ; loader_len->ecx
004012C7 push ecx
004012C8 ; [00000023] BYTES: COLLAPSED AREA 004013D6. PRESS K
004012C9 call decrypt
004012CA ; [0000001F] BYTES: COLLAPSED AREA 004013FE. PRESS K
004012CB push 1000h
004012CC add eax, [esp]
004012CD loc_401425: ; CODE XREF: .text:00
004012CE add esp, 4
004012CF jnp short loc_401430
004012D0 cmp edx, 6D311960h
004012D1 loc_401430: ; CODE XREF: .text:00
004012D2 stc
004012D3 test ax, 0E5D7h
004012D4 test ebx, ebx
004012D5 cld
004012D6 push edi
004012D7 jge short loc_401442
004012D8 push edi
004012D9 and eax, 0FFFFFFFh
004012DA pop edi
004012DB loc_401442: ; CODE XREF: .text:00
004012DC loop loc_40147D
004012DD jecxz short loc_40147D
004012DE mov bh, 7Ah
004012DF lodsd
004012E0 mov bh, 63h
004012E1
004012E2
004012E3
004012E4
004012E5
004012E6
004012E7
004012E8
004012E9
004012EA
004012EB
004012EC
004012ED
004012EE
004012EF
004012F0
004012F1
004012F2
004012F3
004012F4
004012F5
004012F6
004012F7
004012F8
004012F9
004012FA
004012FB
004012FC
004012FD
004012FE
004012FF
00401300
00401301
00401302
00401303
00401304
00401305
00401306
00401307
00401308
00401309
0040130A
0040130B
0040130C
0040130D
0040130E
0040130F
00401310
00401311
00401312
00401313
00401314
00401315
00401316
00401317
00401318
00401319
0040131A
0040131B
0040131C
0040131D
0040131E
0040131F
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0040135B
0040135C
0040135D
0040135E
0040135F
00401360
00401361
00401362
00401363
00401364
00401365
00401366
00401367
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```

Imports, sign-posts to functionality

- Examination of the Imports is a good starting point when fishing for malicious code blocks
- In order to satisfy Persistence, most malware will use a handful of well defined APIs such as CopyFileA, MoveFileA, CreateFileA, RegCreateKey

Import Following - CopyFileA

The screenshot displays the IDA Pro interface with the assembly code of a function named `CopyFileA`. The code is written in x86 assembly, with comments in English. The assembly code is as follows:

```
0040207B BF 00 04 00 00 mov esi, 400h
00402080 85 DC F7 FF FF lea eax, [ebp+filename_self]
00402086 56 06 00 00 push esi
00402087 56 06 00 00 push esi
00402088 56 06 00 00 push esi
00402089 56 06 00 00 push esi
0040208A 15 34 50 40 00 call ds:GetModuleFileNameA
0040208B 85 DC FB FF FF lea eax, [ebp+win_dir]
0040208C 56 06 00 00 push esi
0040208D 56 06 00 00 push esi
0040208E 15 4C 50 40 00 call ds:GetWindowsDirectoryA
0040208F 85 DC FB FF FF lea eax, [ebp+win_dir]
00402090 56 06 00 00 push esi
00402091 56 06 00 00 push esi
00402092 96 00 00 00 call _strlen
00402093 BC 05 DB FB FF+ cmp [ebp+eax+var_425], '\0'
00402094 5F 00 00 00 pop ecx
00402095 5F 00 00 00 pop esi
00402096 74 13 jz short loc_4020C9
00402097 85 DC FB FF FF lea eax, [ebp+win_dir]
00402098 B0 6A 40 00 FF push offset asc_406AB0
00402099 56 06 00 00 push esi
0040209A F9 05 00 00 call unknown_libname_2
0040209B 5F 00 00 00 pop ecx
0040209C 5F 00 00 00 pop ecx
0040209D loc_4020C9:
0040209E FF 35 C8 68 40 00 push ds:run_value
0040209F 85 DC FB FF FF lea eax, [ebp+win_dir]
004020A0 56 06 00 00 push esi
004020A1 56 06 00 00 push esi
004020A2 E5 05 00 00 call unknown_libname_2
004020A3 7D 08 00 00 cmp [ebp+arg_0], 0
004020A4 5F 00 00 00 pop ecx
004020A5 5F 00 00 00 pop ecx
004020A6 74 16 jz short loc_4020F9
004020A7 85 DC FB FF FF lea eax, [ebp+win_dir]
004020A8 56 06 00 00 push esi
004020A9 56 06 00 00 push esi
004020AA 85 DC F7 FF FF lea eax, [ebp+filename_self]
004020AB 56 06 00 00 push esi
004020AC FF 15 48 50 40 00 call ds:CopyFileA
004020AD loc_4020F9:
004020AE 8D 45 FC lea eax, [ebp+hKey]
004020AF 56 06 00 00 push esi
004020B0 80 6A 40 00 FF push offset run_key
004020B1 56 06 00 00 push esi
004020B2 15 04 50 40 00 call ds:RegOpenKeyA
004020B3 85 DC FB FF FF lea eax, [ebp+win_dir]
004020B4 56 06 00 00 push esi
004020B5 27 00 00 00 call _strlen
004020B6 5F 00 00 00 pop ecx
```

The Imports window on the right shows the following imports:

Address	Ordinal	Name	Library
0040503C		GetLastError	KERN
00405040		CreateMutexA	KERN
00405044		GetTickCount	KERN
00405048		CopyFileA	KERN
0040504C		GetWindowsDirectoryA	KERN
00405050		GetProcAddress	KERN
00405054		VirtualAlloc	KERN
00405058		HeapAlloc	KERN
0040505C		GetOEMCP	KERN
00405060		GetACP	KERN
00405064		GetCPInfo	KERN
00405068		GetStringTypeW	KERN
0040506C		GetStringTypeA	KERN
00405070		MultiByteToWideChar	KERN
00405074		WriteFile	KERN
00405078		RtlUnwind	KERN
0040507C		HeapFree	KERN
00405080		VirtualFree	KERN
00405084		HeapCreate	KERN
00405088		HeapDestroy	KERN
0040508C		GetFileType	KERN
00405090		GetStdHandle	KERN
00405094		LCMapStringW	KERN
00405098		LCMapStringA	KERN
0040509C		HeapReAlloc	KERN
004050A0		GetModuleHandleA	KERN
004050A4		GetStartupInfoA	KERN
004050A8		GetCommandLineA	KERN
004050AC		GetVersion	KERN
004050B0		ExitProcess	KERN
004050B4		TerminateProcess	KERN
004050B8		GetCurrentProcess	KERN
004050BC		UnhandledExceptionFilter	KERN
004050C0		FreeEnvironmentStringsA	KERN
004050C4		FreeEnvironmentStringsW	KERN
004050C8		WideCharToMultiByte	KERN

The assembly code is shown in the main window, with the assembly view selected. The assembly code is as follows:

```
0040207B BF 00 04 00 00 mov esi, 400h
00402080 85 DC F7 FF FF lea eax, [ebp+filename_self]
00402086 56 06 00 00 push esi
00402087 56 06 00 00 push esi
00402088 56 06 00 00 push esi
00402089 56 06 00 00 push esi
0040208A 15 34 50 40 00 call ds:GetModuleFileNameA
0040208B 85 DC FB FF FF lea eax, [ebp+win_dir]
0040208C 56 06 00 00 push esi
0040208D 56 06 00 00 push esi
0040208E 15 4C 50 40 00 call ds:GetWindowsDirectoryA
0040208F 85 DC FB FF FF lea eax, [ebp+win_dir]
00402090 56 06 00 00 push esi
00402091 56 06 00 00 push esi
00402092 96 00 00 00 call _strlen
00402093 BC 05 DB FB FF+ cmp [ebp+eax+var_425], '\0'
00402094 5F 00 00 00 pop ecx
00402095 5F 00 00 00 pop esi
00402096 74 13 jz short loc_4020C9
00402097 85 DC FB FF FF lea eax, [ebp+win_dir]
00402098 B0 6A 40 00 FF push offset asc_406AB0
00402099 56 06 00 00 push esi
0040209A F9 05 00 00 call unknown_libname_2
0040209B 5F 00 00 00 pop ecx
0040209C 5F 00 00 00 pop ecx
0040209D loc_4020C9:
0040209E FF 35 C8 68 40 00 push ds:run_value
0040209F 85 DC FB FF FF lea eax, [ebp+win_dir]
004020A0 56 06 00 00 push esi
004020A1 56 06 00 00 push esi
004020A2 E5 05 00 00 call unknown_libname_2
004020A3 7D 08 00 00 cmp [ebp+arg_0], 0
004020A4 5F 00 00 00 pop ecx
004020A5 5F 00 00 00 pop ecx
004020A6 74 16 jz short loc_4020F9
004020A7 85 DC FB FF FF lea eax, [ebp+win_dir]
004020A8 56 06 00 00 push esi
004020A9 56 06 00 00 push esi
004020AA 85 DC F7 FF FF lea eax, [ebp+filename_self]
004020AB 56 06 00 00 push esi
004020AC FF 15 48 50 40 00 call ds:CopyFileA
004020AD loc_4020F9:
004020AE 8D 45 FC lea eax, [ebp+hKey]
004020AF 56 06 00 00 push esi
004020B0 80 6A 40 00 FF push offset run_key
004020B1 56 06 00 00 push esi
004020B2 15 04 50 40 00 call ds:RegOpenKeyA
004020B3 85 DC FB FF FF lea eax, [ebp+win_dir]
004020B4 56 06 00 00 push esi
004020B5 27 00 00 00 call _strlen
004020B6 5F 00 00 00 pop ecx
```

The assembly code is shown in the main window, with the assembly view selected. The assembly code is as follows:

```
0040207B BF 00 04 00 00 mov esi, 400h
00402080 85 DC F7 FF FF lea eax, [ebp+filename_self]
00402086 56 06 00 00 push esi
00402087 56 06 00 00 push esi
00402088 56 06 00 00 push esi
00402089 56 06 00 00 push esi
0040208A 15 34 50 40 00 call ds:GetModuleFileNameA
0040208B 85 DC FB FF FF lea eax, [ebp+win_dir]
0040208C 56 06 00 00 push esi
0040208D 56 06 00 00 push esi
0040208E 15 4C 50 40 00 call ds:GetWindowsDirectoryA
0040208F 85 DC FB FF FF lea eax, [ebp+win_dir]
00402090 56 06 00 00 push esi
00402091 56 06 00 00 push esi
00402092 96 00 00 00 call _strlen
00402093 BC 05 DB FB FF+ cmp [ebp+eax+var_425], '\0'
00402094 5F 00 00 00 pop ecx
00402095 5F 00 00 00 pop esi
00402096 74 13 jz short loc_4020C9
00402097 85 DC FB FF FF lea eax, [ebp+win_dir]
00402098 B0 6A 40 00 FF push offset asc_406AB0
00402099 56 06 00 00 push esi
0040209A F9 05 00 00 call unknown_libname_2
0040209B 5F 00 00 00 pop ecx
0040209C 5F 00 00 00 pop ecx
0040209D loc_4020C9:
0040209E FF 35 C8 68 40 00 push ds:run_value
0040209F 85 DC FB FF FF lea eax, [ebp+win_dir]
004020A0 56 06 00 00 push esi
004020A1 56 06 00 00 push esi
004020A2 E5 05 00 00 call unknown_libname_2
004020A3 7D 08 00 00 cmp [ebp+arg_0], 0
004020A4 5F 00 00 00 pop ecx
004020A5 5F 00 00 00 pop ecx
004020A6 74 16 jz short loc_4020F9
004020A7 85 DC FB FF FF lea eax, [ebp+win_dir]
004020A8 56 06 00 00 push esi
004020A9 56 06 00 00 push esi
004020AA 85 DC F7 FF FF lea eax, [ebp+filename_self]
004020AB 56 06 00 00 push esi
004020AC FF 15 48 50 40 00 call ds:CopyFileA
004020AD loc_4020F9:
004020AE 8D 45 FC lea eax, [ebp+hKey]
004020AF 56 06 00 00 push esi
004020B0 80 6A 40 00 FF push offset run_key
004020B1 56 06 00 00 push esi
004020B2 15 04 50 40 00 call ds:RegOpenKeyA
004020B3 85 DC FB FF FF lea eax, [ebp+win_dir]
004020B4 56 06 00 00 push esi
004020B5 27 00 00 00 call _strlen
004020B6 5F 00 00 00 pop ecx
```

Imports, sign-posts to functionality

- If the malware includes networking capability its Imports will show this
- Malware of the Viral variety often calls upon `MapViewOfFileA` during infection
- Malware which spreads by email may contain its own SMTP engine (which can be found by following socket APIs)
- Trojans and backdoor bots often run listen servers awaiting commands

Import Following - listen

IDA - C:\vx\ep_mangle\avserve.idb (avserve.unp)

File Edit Jump Search View Debugger Options Windows Help

Text listen

IDA View-A

```

00401E6A listen_4660 proc near
00401E6A
00401E6A name=sockaddr_ptr -14h
00401E6A ThreadId=dword_ptr -4
00401E6A
00401E6A 55 push ebp
00401E6B 8B EC mov ebp, esp
00401E6D EC 14 sub esp, 14h
00401E70 56 push esi
00401E71 3B F6 xor esi, esi
00401E73 57 push edi
00401E74 56 push esi
00401E75 6A 01 push 1
00401E77 6A 02 push 2
00401E79 FF F0 50 40 00 call ds:socket
00401E7F 8B F8 mov edi, eax
00401E81 83 FF cmp edi, 0FFFFFFFFh
00401E84 75 08 jnz short loc_401E8E
00401E86
00401E86 loc_401E86:
00401E86 5F pop edi
00401E87 3B C0 xor eax, eax
00401E89 5F pop esi
00401E8A C9 leave
00401E8B C2 04 00 ret 4
00401E8E
00401E8E ;
00401E8E
00401E8E loc_401E8E:
00401E8E 68 34 12 00 00 push 4660 ; CODE XREF: list
00401E93 66 C7 45 EC 02 00 mov [ebp+name.sa_family], 2 ; hostshort
00401E99 FF F5 50 40 00 call ds:htons
00401E9F 66 89 45 FF mov word ptr [ebp+name.sa_data], ax
00401EA3 8D 45 EC lea eax, [ebp+name]
00401EA6 6A 10 push 10h ; namelen
00401EA8 50 push eax ; name
00401EA9 57 push edi ; s
00401EAA 8B F0 mov dword ptr [ebp+name.sa_data+2], esi
00401EAD FF 15 18 51 40 00 call ds:bind
00401EB3 83 F8 FF cmp eax, 0FFFFFFFFh
00401EB6 74 0F jz short loc_401EC6
00401EB8 6A 05 push 5 ; backlog
00401EBA 57 push edi ; s
00401EBB FF 15 FC 50 40 00 call ds:listen
00401EC1 83 F8 FF cmp eax, 0FFFFFFFFh
00401EC4 75 09 jnz short loc_401ECF
00401EC6
00401EC6 loc_401EC6:
00401EC6 5F push edi ; CODE XREF: list
00401EC7 FF 15 00 51 40 00 call ds:closesocket ; s
00401ECD EB B7 jmp short loc_401E86

```

Imports

Address	Ordinal	Name	Library
004050C4		FreeEnvironmentStringsW	KERNEL32
004050C8		WideCharToMultiByte	KERNEL32
004050CC		GetEnvironmentStrings	KERNEL32
004050D0		GetEnvironmentStringsW	KERNEL32
004050D4		SetHandleCount	KERNEL32
004050DC		wsprintfA	USER32
004050E4	1	accept	WS2_32
004050E8	16	recv	WS2_32
004050EC	9	htons	WS2_32
004050F0	23	socket	WS2_32
004050F4	21	setsockopt	WS2_32
004050F8	4	connect	WS2_32
004050FC	13	listen	WS2_32
00405100	3	closesocket	WS2_32
00405104	57	gethostname	WS2_32
00405108	12	inet_ntoa	WS2_32
0040510C	11	inet_addr	WS2_32
00405110	52	gethostbyname	WS2_32
00405114	115	WSAStartup	WS2_32
00405118	2	bind	WS2_32
0040511C	19	send	WS2_32

Line 61 of 69

Flushing buffers, please wait...ok

Flushing buffers, please wait...ok

AU: idle Down Disk: 6GB 00001EBB 00401EBB: listen 4660+51

Where did I put my Babel fish ?

The screenshot shows the IDA Pro interface with three windows: IDA View-A, IDA View-B, and IDA View-C.

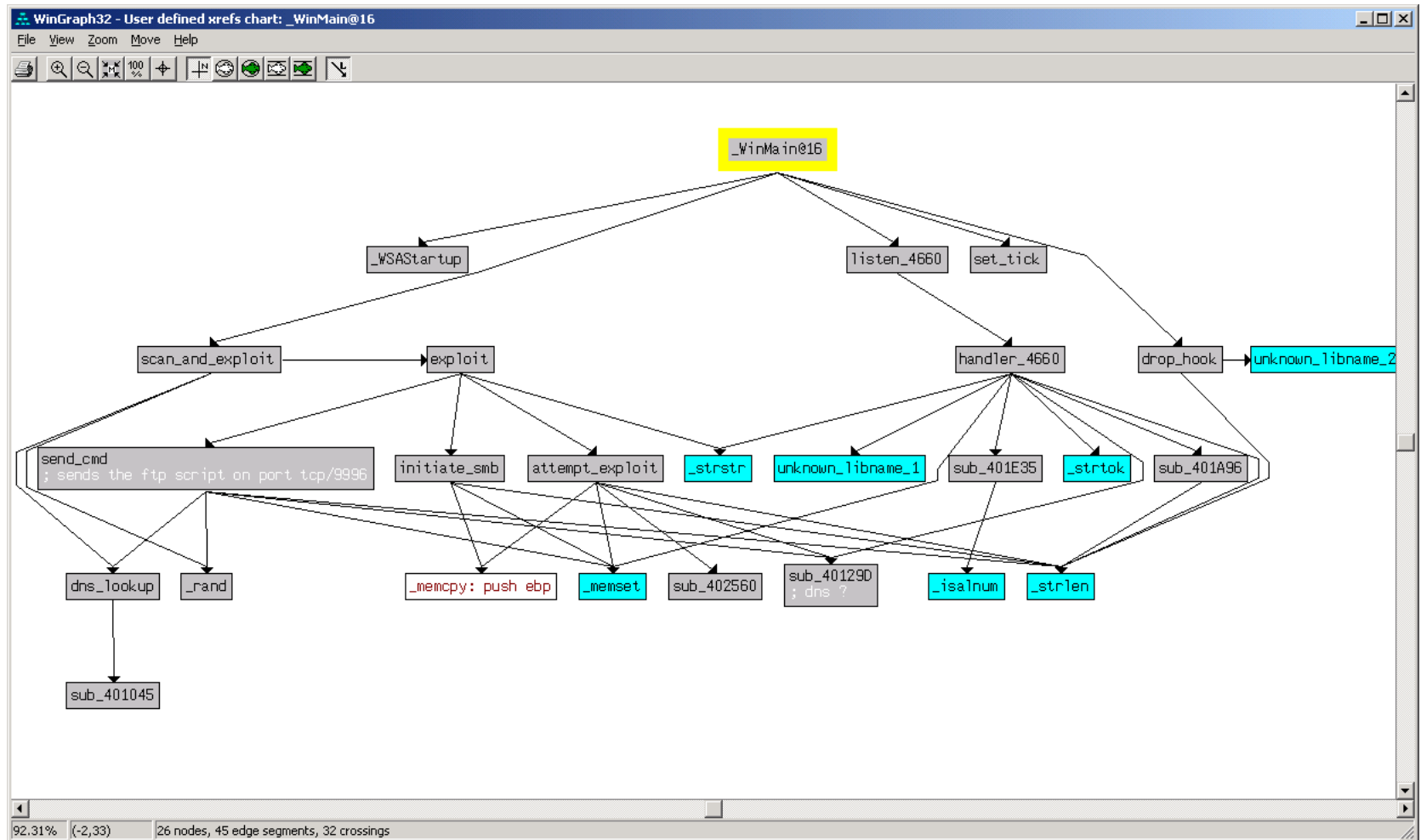
IDA View-A: Displays assembly code for the range 0050901E to 00509099. It includes instructions like `push ecx`, `push offset gibberish1`, `call edi ; strlenA`, `add eax, esi`, `push eax`, `call decrypt`, `pop ecx`, `push offset gibberish2`, `call edi ; strlenA`, `add eax, esi`, and `push eax`.

IDA View-B: Displays data at addresses 00504A30 to 00504A81. It includes strings like `'boundary="%s"',0`, `'PbagraG-Glcr: zhygvneg/zvkrq;',0`, `'ZVZR-Irefvba: 1.0',0`, and `'Qngr: ',0`.

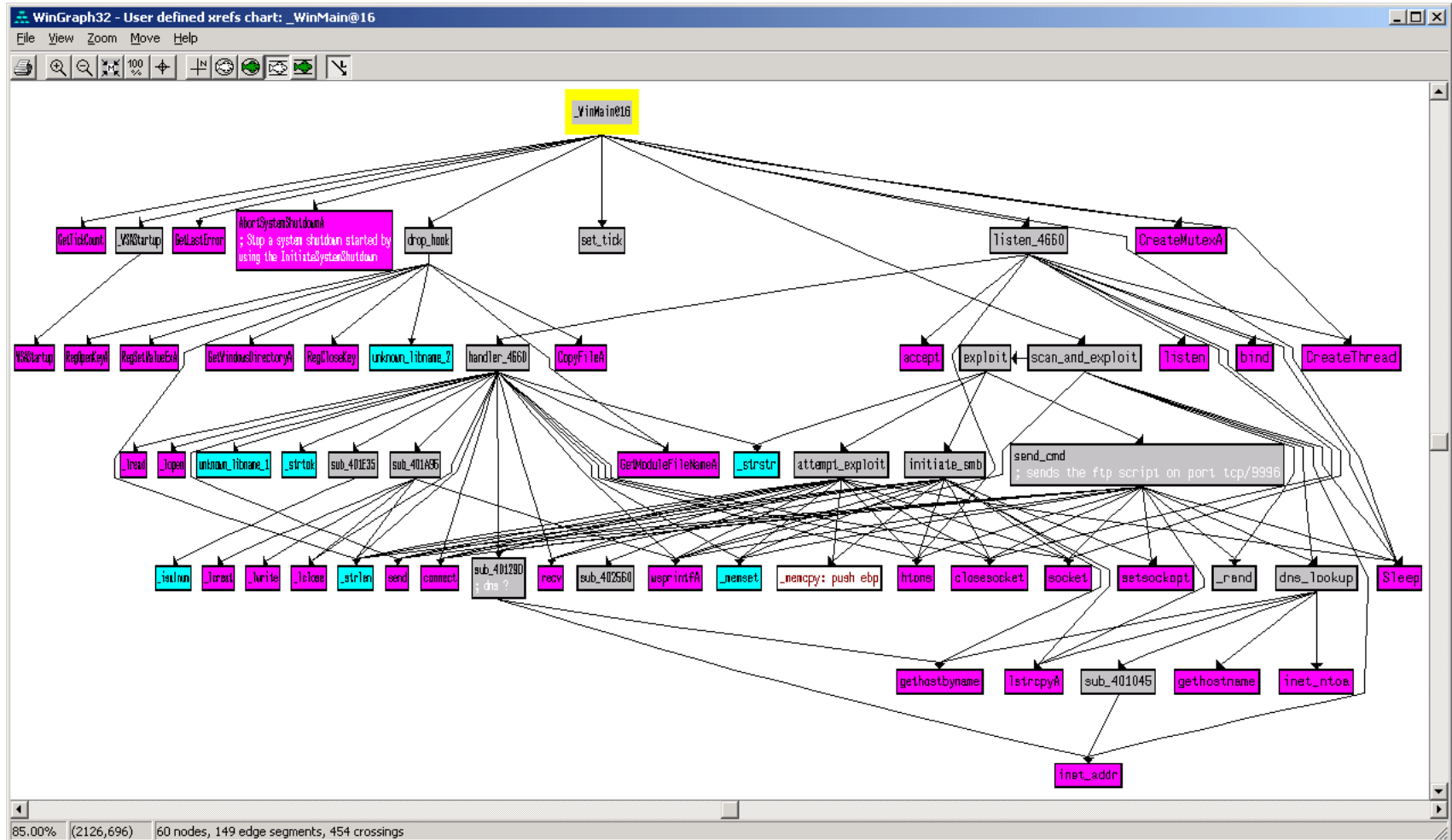
IDA View-C: Displays assembly code for the range 00505CB9 to 00505CDB. It includes a `decrypt` function definition with arguments `arg_0 = dword ptr 8` and `arg_4 = dword ptr 0Ch`. The function body includes `push esi`, `mov esi, [esp+arg_4]`, `push edi`, `mov edi, [esp+4+arg_0]`, `loc_505CC3:` block with `mov al, [esi]`, `test al, al`, `jz short loc_505CD6`, `push eax`, `call rot13`, `mov [edi], al`, `inc edi`, `pop ecx`, `inc esi`, and `jmp short loc_505CC3`. It also includes `loc_505CD6:` block with `and byte ptr [edi], 0`, `pop edi`, `pop esi`, and `ret`.

The status bar at the bottom indicates: AU: idle | Down | Disk: 6GB | 00008442 | 00509042: sub_508F7D+C5

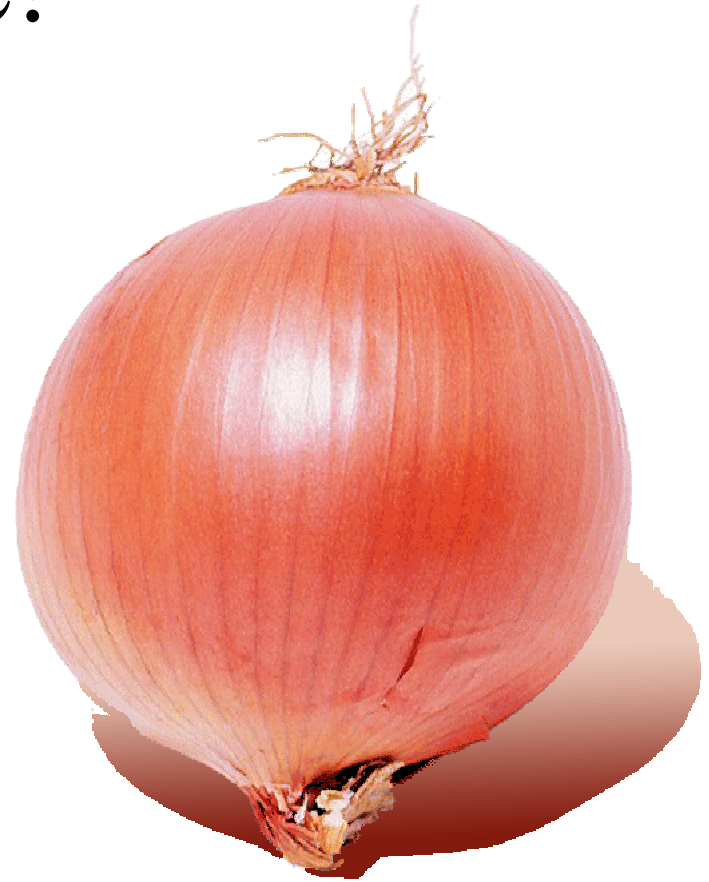
Structure of most malware is simple



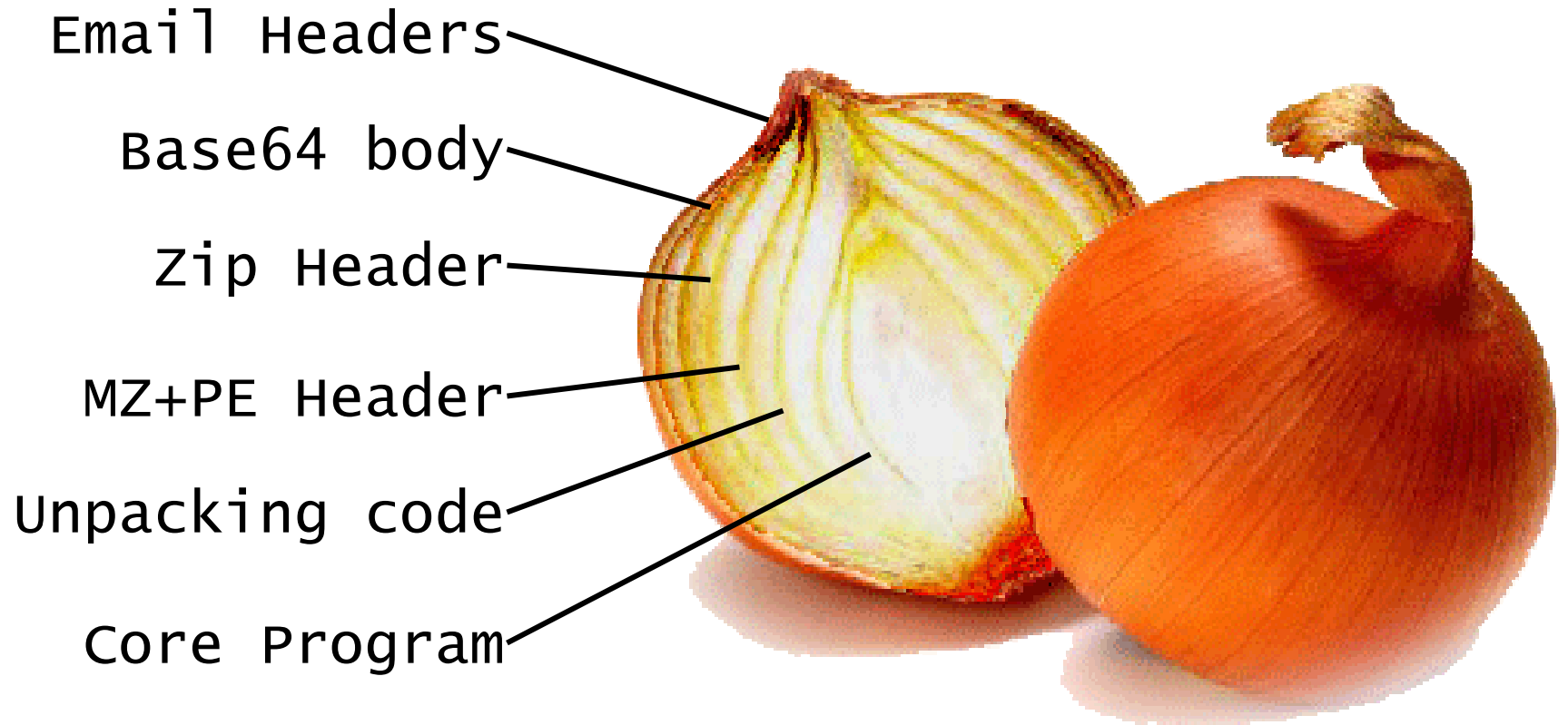
Module behaviour can be inferred



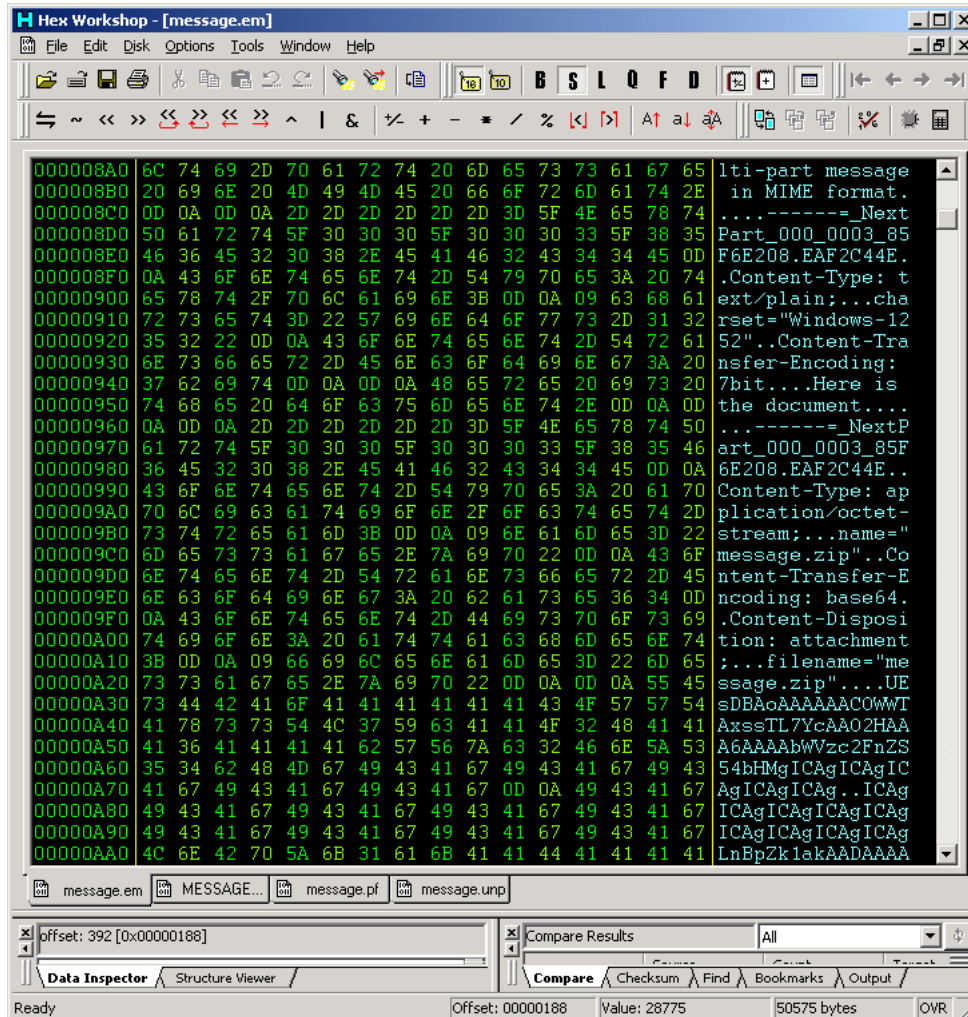
Analysis can bring a tear to your
eye!



Analysis can bring a tear to your eye!

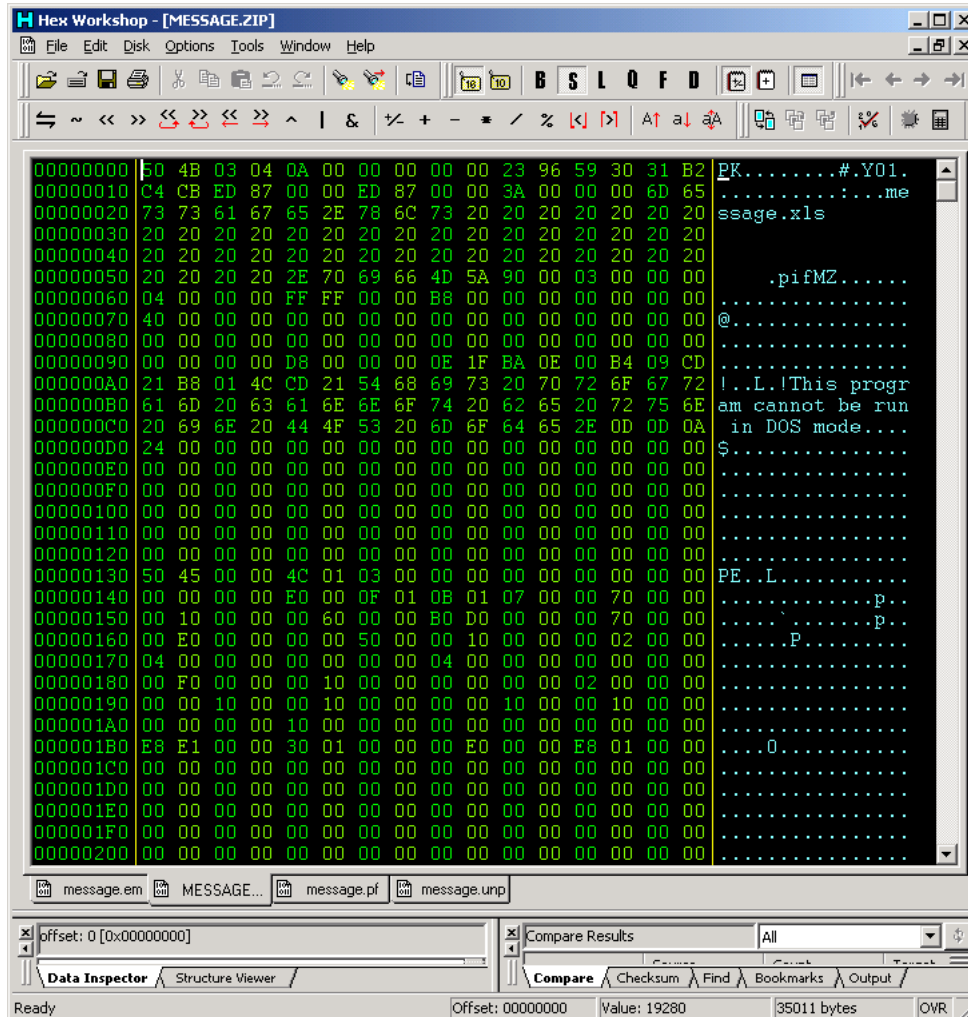


Brief Example

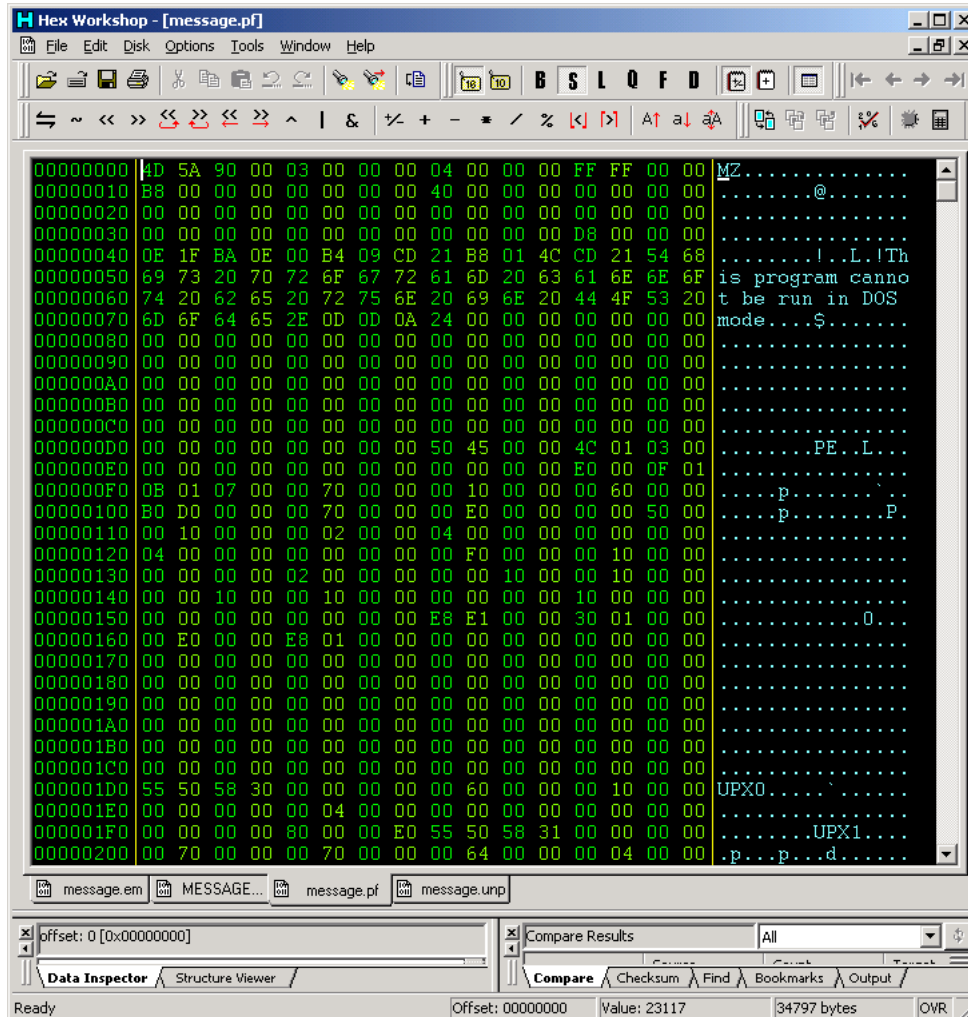


```
000008A0 6C 74 69 2D 70 61 72 74 20 6D 65 73 73 61 67 65 lti-part message
000008B0 20 69 6E 20 4D 49 4D 45 20 66 6F 72 6D 61 74 2E in MIME format.
000008C0 0D 0A 0D 0A 2D 2D 2D 2D 2D 3D 5F 4E 65 78 74 ....-----_Next
000008D0 50 61 72 74 5F 30 30 30 5F 30 30 30 33 5F 38 35 Part_000_0003_85
000008E0 46 36 45 32 30 38 2E 45 41 46 32 43 34 34 45 0D F6E208.EAF2C44E.
000008F0 0A 43 6F 6E 74 65 6E 74 2D 54 79 70 65 3A 20 74 .Content-Type: t
00000900 65 78 74 2F 70 6C 61 69 6E 3B 0D 0A 09 63 68 61 ext/plain;...cha
00000910 72 73 65 74 3D 22 57 69 6E 64 6F 77 73 2D 31 32 rset="Windows-12
00000920 35 32 22 0D 0A 43 6F 6E 74 65 6E 74 2D 54 72 61 52"...Content-Tra
00000930 6E 73 66 65 72 2D 45 6E 63 6F 64 69 6E 67 3A 20 nsfer-Encoding:
00000940 37 62 69 74 0D 0A 0D 0A 48 65 72 65 20 69 73 20 7bit....Here is
00000950 74 68 65 20 64 6F 63 75 6D 65 6E 74 2E 0D 0A 0D the document....
00000960 0A 0D 0A 2D 2D 2D 2D 2D 3D 5F 4E 65 78 74 50 ...-----_NextP
00000970 61 72 74 5F 30 30 30 5F 30 30 30 33 5F 38 35 46 art_000_0003_85F
00000980 36 45 32 30 38 2E 45 41 46 32 43 34 34 45 0D 0A 6E208.EAF2C44E..
00000990 43 6F 6E 74 65 6E 74 2D 54 79 70 65 3A 20 61 70 Content-Type: ap
000009A0 70 6C 69 63 61 74 69 6F 6E 2F 6F 63 74 65 74 2D plication/octet-
000009B0 73 74 72 65 61 6D 3B 0D 0A 09 6E 61 6D 65 3D 22 stream;...name="
000009C0 6D 65 73 73 61 67 65 2E 7A 69 70 22 0D 0A 43 6F message.zip"...Co
000009D0 6E 74 65 6E 74 2D 54 72 61 6E 73 66 65 72 2D 45 ntent-Transfer-E
000009E0 6E 63 6F 64 69 6E 67 3A 20 62 61 73 65 36 34 0D ncoding: base64.
000009F0 0A 43 6F 6E 74 65 6E 74 2D 44 69 73 70 6F 73 69 .Content-Disposi
00000A00 74 69 6F 6E 3A 20 61 74 74 61 63 68 6D 65 6E 74 tion: attachment
00000A10 3B 0D 0A 09 66 69 6C 65 6E 61 6D 65 3D 22 6D 65 ;...filename="me
00000A20 73 73 61 67 65 2E 7A 69 70 22 0D 0A 0D 0A 55 45 ssage.zip"...UE
00000A30 73 44 42 41 6F 41 41 41 41 41 41 43 4F 57 57 54 sDBAoAAAAAACOWwT
00000A40 41 78 73 73 54 4C 37 59 63 41 41 4F 32 48 41 41 AxssTL7YcAAO2HAA
00000A50 41 36 41 41 41 41 62 57 56 7A 63 32 46 6E 5A 53 A6AAAAAbWVzc2FnZS
00000A60 35 34 62 48 4D 67 49 43 41 67 49 43 41 67 49 43 54bHMgICAgICAgIC
00000A70 41 67 49 43 41 67 49 43 41 67 0D 0A 49 43 41 67 AgICAgICAg..ICAg
00000A80 49 43 41 67 49 43 41 67 49 43 41 67 49 43 41 67 ICAGICAgICAgICAg
00000A90 49 43 41 67 49 43 41 67 49 43 41 67 49 43 41 67 ICAGICAgICAgICAg
00000AA0 4C 6E 42 70 5A 6B 31 61 6B 41 41 44 41 41 41 41 LnBpZk1akAADAAAA
```

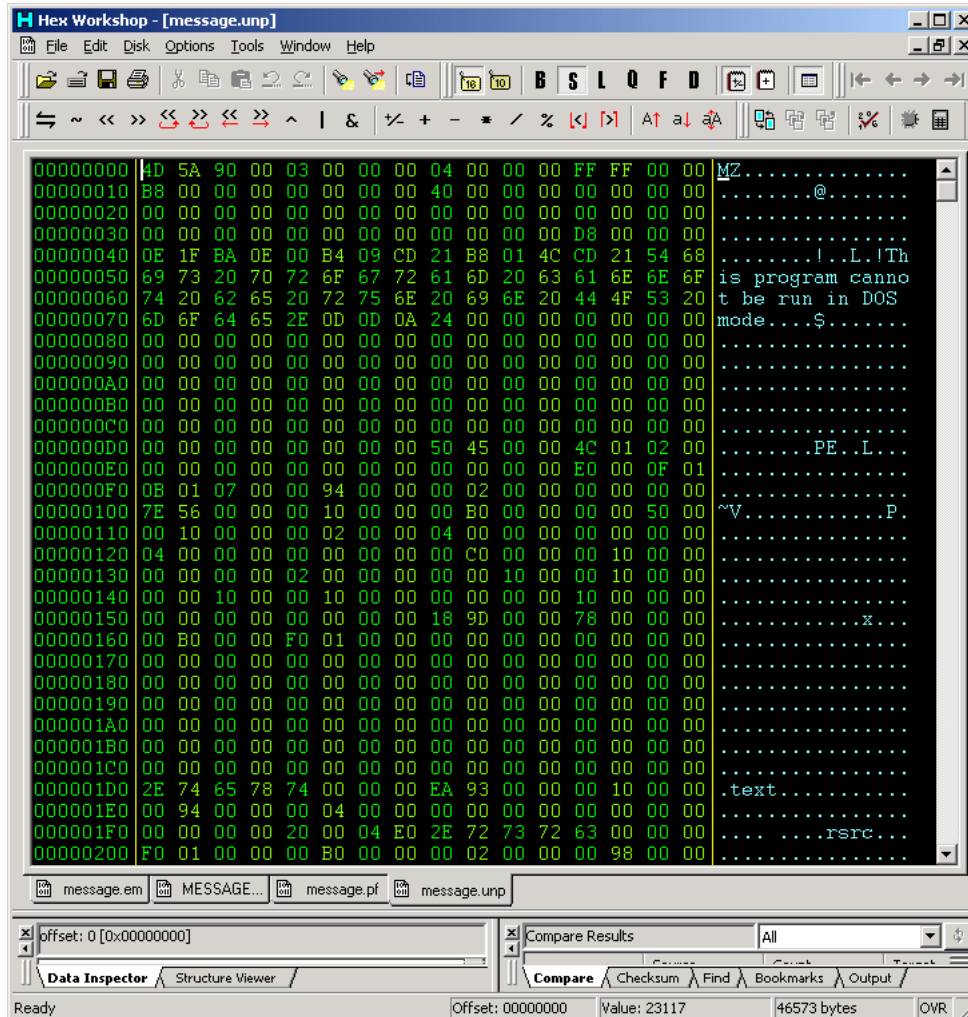
Brief Example



Brief Example



Brief Example



In Conclusion

- Malware analysis is focused on identifying malicious modules and documenting behaviour in a timely fashion at the expense of detailed source reconstruction.
- Although the fundamental techniques remain the same, their application is somewhat reactionary toward the sample at hand.
- It is only through laborious analysis of many samples that one begins to notice patterns and trends which can be used to refine the analysis process.

Questions ?