Forensics Report and Documentation

CASE 001 – THE STOLEN SZECHUAN SAUCE

- Jasraj Johal

1. What's the Operating System of the Server?

Tools Used: Autopsy

Windows Server 2012 R2

The Operating System of the server was found using Autopsy software on the artifact - E01-DC01 system disk image, supplied on the project page.

Туре	Value
Name	CITADEL-DC01
Domain	C137.local
Program Name	Windows Server 2012 R2 Standard Evaluation
Processor Architecture	AMD64
Temporary Files Directory	%SystemRoot%\TEMP

2. What's the Operating System of the Desktop?

Tools Used: Autopsy

Windows 10 Enterprise Evaluation

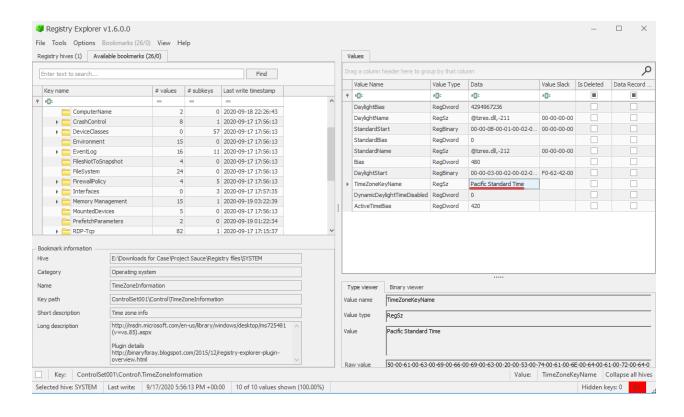
The desktop's Operating System was discovered using Autopsy software on the artifact - DESKTOP-E01 system disk image.

Туре	Value
Name	DESKTOP-SDN1RPT
Domain	C137.local
Program Name	Windows 10 Enterprise Evaluation
Processor Architecture	AMD64
Temporary Files Directory	%SystemRoot%\TEMP
Path	C:\Windows
Product ID	00329-20000-00001-AA089
Owner	Admin
Source File Path	/img_20200918_0417_DESKTOP-SDN1RPT.E01
Artifact ID	-9223372036854774702

3. What was the local time of the Server?

Tools Used: Registry Explorer

The local time is Pacific Standard Time PST. The Time Zone information was determined by downloading the registry files from the disk image. Location of the system reg file: 20200918_0347_CDrive.E01/Partition2[11168MB]/NONAME[NTFS]/[root]/Windows/System32/config/SYSTEM. FTK Imager was used for downloading the files, then the downloaded files were examined in RegistryExplorer.



4. Was there a breach?

Tools Used: Snort

We determined that there was a breach after using Snort to analyze the PCAP data. There was a Nmap ICMP ping from IP: 193.61.24.102 probing the network. We used this command: snort -c /etc/snort/snort.conf -r case001.pcap -q -K none -A console | tee snort.out

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### Proof #### Station: /home/sansforensics/Downloads/Case 001

| Post | Priority: 2 | Statistics | Priority: 2 | Statistics | Post | Priority: 2 | Statistics | Post | Priority: 2 | Statistics | Post | Priority: 2 | Statistics | Priority: 2 | Statist
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5. What was the initial entry vector (how did they get in)?

Tools Used: Snort and TCPDump

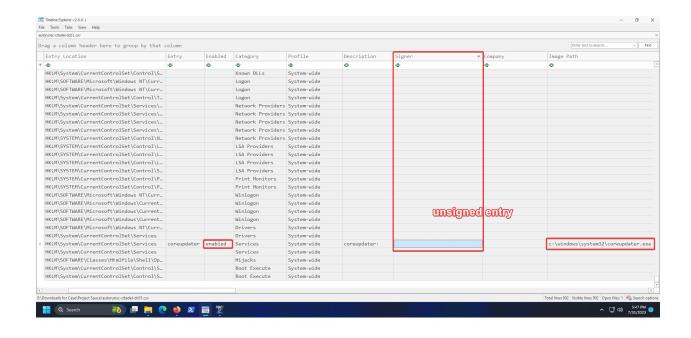
Moments after determining that there was a breach, we observed rapid connections from an outside source to an inside source - in this case the Domain Controller; IP: 10.42.85.10 on port 3389. Furthermore, that remote IP address, 194.61.24.102 originated in Russia. The RDP connection was then established.

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- 6. Was malware used? If so, what was it? If there was malware answer the following:
 - What process was malicious?
 coreupdater.exe and spoolsv.exe

Tools Used: Timeline Explorer and Volatility

We found out from the autorun that this program was unsigned and was being run from a privileged location. The situation is intriguing for several reasons. Upon each computer boot, there may be a requirement for updates. However, it remains uncertain whether this is a legitimate process or not. The concerning aspect is that the program originates from a revered directory, System32, which is typically accessible only to privileged users and contains signed software. If the binary is malicious, it might have been placed there by someone with elevated access, such as a System or Administrator level user, indicating a serious security breach. Moreover, the usage of services is a common tactic employed by attackers to establish persistence in the system.



coreupdater was the initial process, it was then migrated to spoolsv.exe.

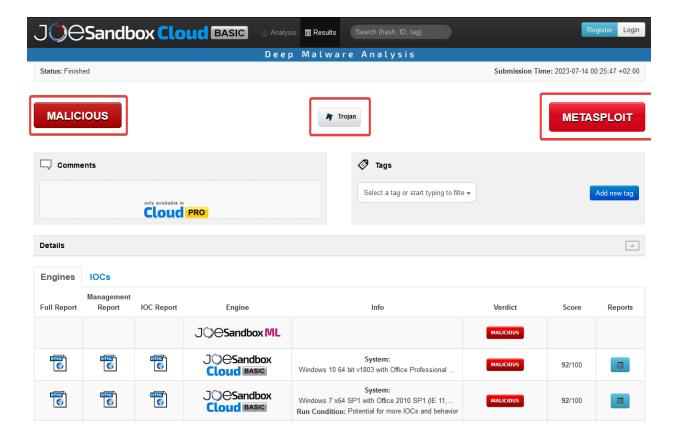
We can look for evidence of reflective or hidden code injection since this is what Meterpreter typically does in processes. I used volatility

Using the command -

vol.py -f citadeldc01.mem --profile=Win2012R2x64_18340 malfind

```
Process: spoolsv.exe Pid: 3724 Address: 0x4afc1f0000
Vad Tag: VadS Protection: PAGE EXECUTE READWRITE
Flags: PrivateMemory: 1, Protection: 6
0x0000004afc1f0000 4d 5a 90 00 03 00 00 00 04 00 00 00 ff ff 00 00
                                                              MZ.....
0x0000004afc1f0010 b8 00 00 00 00 00 00 40 00 00 00 00 00 00
                                                              0x00000000fc1f0000 4d
                                DEC EBP
                                POP EDX
0x00000000fc1f0001 5a
0x00000000fc1f0002 90
                                NOP
                                ADD [EBX], AL
0x00000000fc1f0003 0003
0x00000000fc1f0005 0000
                                ADD [EAX], AL
                                ADD [EAX+EAX], AL
0x00000000fc1f0007 000400
                                ADD [EAX], AL
0x00000000fc1f000a 0000
0x00000000fc1f000c ff
                                DB 0xff
0x00000000fc1f000d ff00
                                INC DWORD [EAX]
0x00000000fc1f000f 00b800000000
                                ADD [EAX+0x0], BH
                                ADD [EAX], AL
0x00000000fc1f0015 0000
                                ADD [EAX+0x0],
0x00000000fc1f0017 004000
                                ADD [EAX], AL
0x00000000fc1f001a 0000
                                ADD [EAX], AL
0x00000000fc1f001c 0000
                                ADD [EAX], AL
0x00000000fc1f001e 0000
                                ADD [EAX], AL
0x00000000fc1f0020 0000
                                ADD [EAX], AL
0x00000000fc1f0022 0000
                                ADD
0x00000000fc1f0024 0000
0x00000000fc1f0026 0000
0x00000000fc1f0028 0000
0x00000000fc1f002a 0000
0x00000000fc1f002c 0000
0x00000000fc1f002e 0000
                                ADD
                                    [EAX], AL
0x00000000fc1f0030 0000
                                    [EAX], AL
0x00000000fc1f0032 0000
                                ADD
                                    [EAX], AL
0x00000000fc1f0034 0000
                                ADD
0x00000000fc1f0036 0000
                                ADD
                                    [EAX], AL
0x00000000fc1f0038 0000
                                ADD
                                    [EAX], AL
0x00000000fc1f003a 0000
                                ADD
                                    [EAX], AL
0x00000000fc1f003c 0001
                                ADD
                                    [ECX], AL
                                    [EAX], AL
0x00000000fc1f003e 0000
                                ADD
```

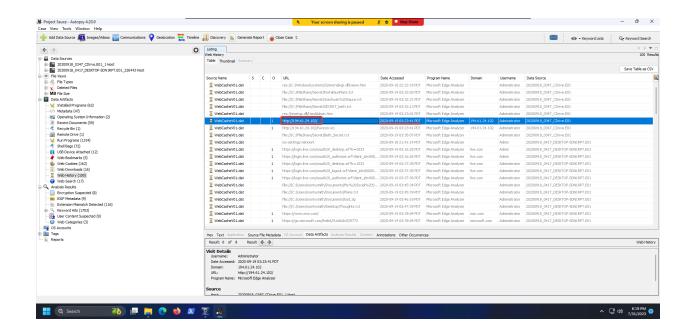
We used JoeSandbox to analyze the malware at https://www.joesandbox.com/#windows. It was determined to be a trojan delivery method and Metasploit clearly.



Identify the IP Address that delivered the payload.

Tools Used: Autopsy

Investigating inside Web History Logs on the disk image using Autopsy the IP: 194.61.24.102 was determined via Internet Explorer when the attacker RDP'd in.



What IP Address is the malware calling to?

IP: 203.78.103.109

This was found when the malware was analyzed using the Joesandbox report.



Also after digging in the memory files,

nsforensics@siftworkstation: ~/Downloads/Case 001
vol.py -f citadeldc01.mem --profile=Win2012R2x64 netscan |tee netscan.out

Using VOLATILITY 2, looking at connections not related to dns.exe with: grep -v dns.exe netscan.out|less

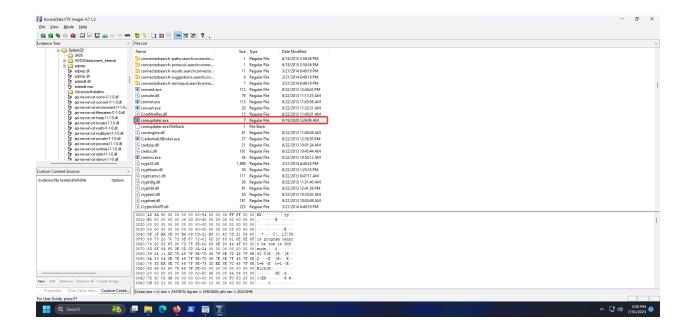
I found this suspicious ip again related to coreupdater.exe

• Where is this malware on disk?

Tools Used: FTK Imager

Image Path = c:\windows\system32\coreupdater.exe

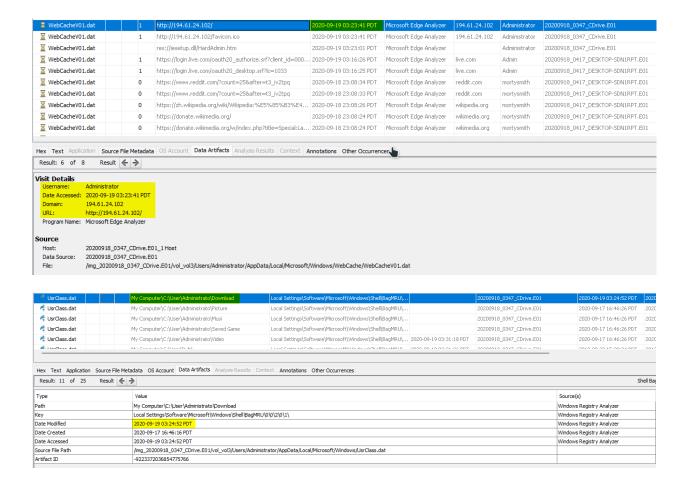
This was found using FTK Imager when I tried to look for the coreupdater file. The location was cross-referenced with the location provided in the autoruns.



• When did it first appear?

Tools Used: TimeLine Explorer

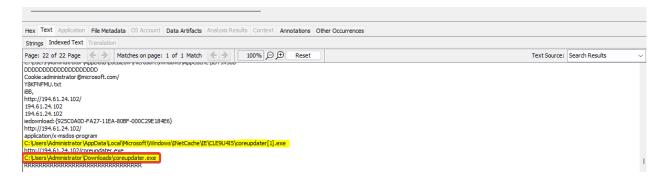
The malware was downloaded at 03:23:41 PDT from internet explorer into the downloads folder. We can see the time matches as seen in the web cache and the usrclass.dat file below.



Did someone move it? Tools Used: Autopsy

Yes, it appears to be moved from the Administrator/Downloads to Windows/System32/. This info was found by looking at the web cache file.



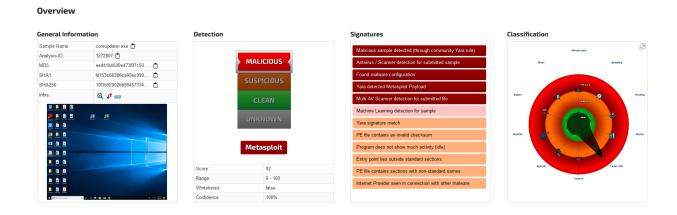


• What were the capabilities of this malware?

Tools Used: JoeSandbox

Many. It's Metasploit and is quite versatile. It is capable of process migration, credential theft, keylogging, screen scraping, many modules...

Using Joesandbox reports→ The malware is meterpreter



o Is this malware easily obtained?

Yes. It comes with Metasploit Framework which is free to download and use.

Was this malware installed with persistence on any machine?

Tools Used: Registry Explorer

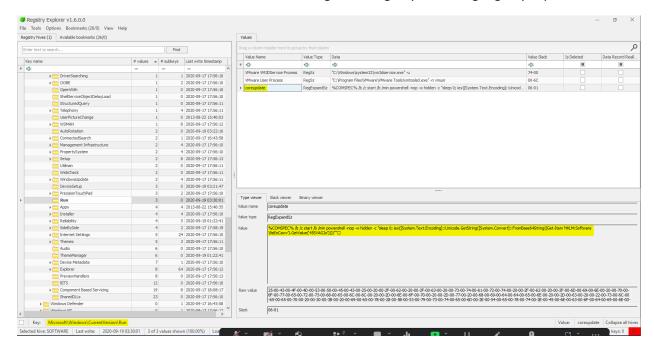
When? The last write in the registry seems to be updated at 3:30 on September 19, as shown in the picture below.

Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run

SOFTWARE Last write: 2020-09-19 03:30:01

Tools Used: Registry Explorer

■ Where? Persistence in the registry at CurrentVersion\Run and installed as a service. I found the following in the registry files using registry explorer.exe

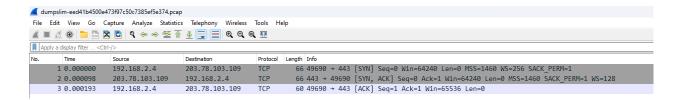


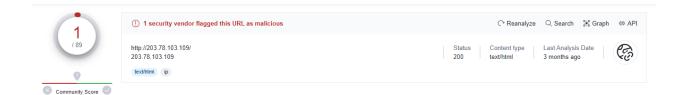
7. What malicious IP Addresses were involved?

Tools Used: Wireshark

Were any IP Addresses from known adversary infrastructure?

Yes. 194.61.24.102 At the time this lab was released, it was being tracked as a hostile IP address, specifically being tracked as being involved in RDP Brute Force attacks. However, we were unable to locate any information that reflected hostile statuses at the time that we completed this assignment. It has since been reported as not being involved. Checking virus total.





• Are these pieces of adversary infrastructure involved in other attacks around the time of the attack? No, we could not locate any proof that this adversarial infrastructure was present during any simultaneous attacks. The IP address delivering the CoreUpdater.exe file was 194.61.24.102 and the malware was calling back to an IP in Thailand 203.78.103.109.

8. Did the attacker access any other systems?

Tools Used: TCPDump

How? The Desktop machine, Desktop-SDN1RPT, was accessed by the attacker using RDP.
 The attacker Brute Forced the password for the Administrator account on the DC. Once inside the DC they opened a second RDP session from within the Domain Controller to the Desktop machine re-using the same credentials. We can see this using the following tcpdump of the pcap file.

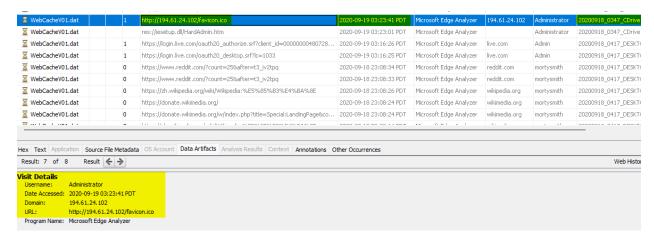
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O When?

Tools Used: Autopsy

The compromised Domain Administrator account initiated a connection to the Desktop-SDN1RPT machine from Domain Controller, CITADEL-DC01, at 02:35:55 UTC on 19 September 2020 according to the PCAP, or 03:35:54 on 19 September 2020 according to the Super Timeline when left uncorrected. In reality, it was at 02:35:54 UTC.

The malware was then downloaded at 03:23 on 19 Sept. This info was found in the web cache in the server disk image using Autopsy.

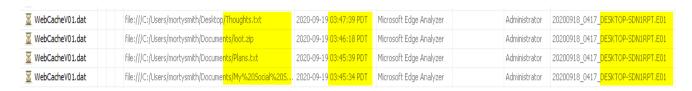


O Did the attacker steal or access any data?

Yes, the attacker was able to access several sensitive files on the system, both on the server and the desktop. Beth_Secret.txt, Szechuan%20Sauce.txt, SECRET_beth.txt, PortalGunPlans.txt from the Server. This was logged in the web cache. From the desktop, Thoughts.txt, loot.zip, PLans.txt, and My%20Social%20Security.... were extracted.



■ When? Loot.zip was downloaded at around 03:46 along with other files as shown in the screenshot below. This was from the DESKTOP.



9. What was the network layout of the victim network?

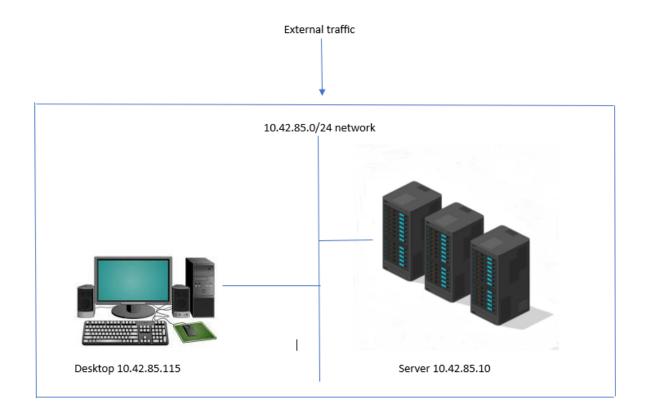
The network layout you provided is a small local area network (LAN) with a subnet of 10.42.85.0/24. This means the network can accommodate up to 256 IP addresses (from 10.42.85.0 to 10.42.85.255), where the first three octets (10.42.85) represent the network address, and the last octet can be assigned to individual devices.

In this network, there are two hosts:

Domain Controller (DC): Its IP address is 10.42.85.10. The Domain Controller is a server responsible for managing user authentication and granting access to network resources in a Windows domain environment.

User/Desktop: Its IP address is 10.42.85.115. This is a typical user's desktop computer or workstation that connects to the network to access shared resources and services provided by the Domain Controller.

Both devices are within the same subnet (10.42.85.0/24), which means they can communicate directly with each other without the need for routing. The subnet mask (also indicated by /24) ensures that all devices in the network share the same first three octets (10.42.85) while having unique values in the last octet.



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