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Date: 12/15/18

CSEC-466: Introduction to Malware

Shamoon Malware Analysis

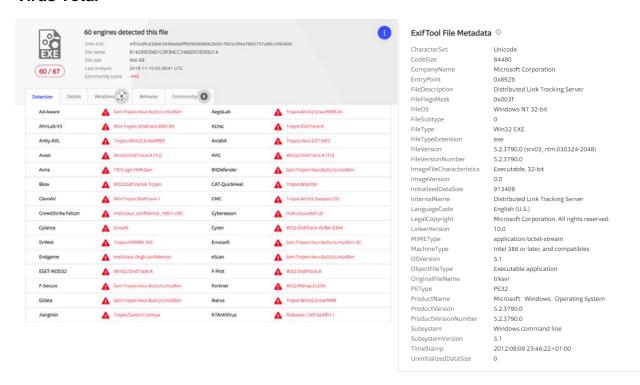
For the purpose of this project, I decided to analyze the "Shamoon" malware which was used to target national oil companies in Saudi Arabia. Essentially, this virus can spread to other machines on a network and it more or less erases all files from a machine, and overwrites the master boot record rendering the machine unusable.

I performed the various levels of analysis covered in this class including basic static, basic dynamic, advanced static, and advanced dynamic. All of the various analyses highlighted important things in the malware which are discussed throughout the report and a summary is provided at the end of the report as well.

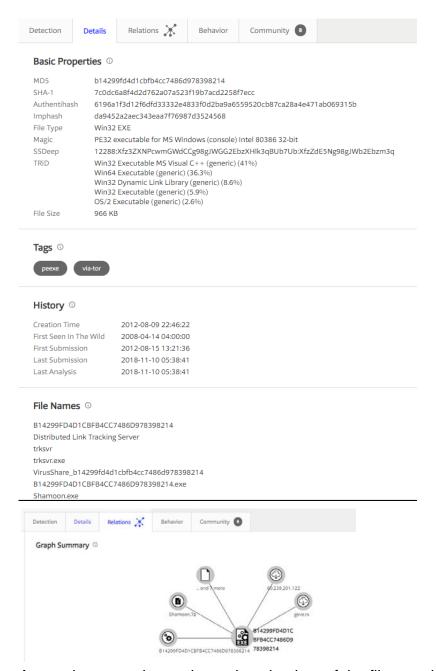
BASIC STATIC

I used a variety of tools to perform basic static analysis which included Virus Total, Strings, FLOSS, PEiD, PEview, Dependency Walker, and Resource Hacker.

Virus Total



As can be seen in the above two images, this binary is detected to contain trojan or other malicious characteristics by around 60 out of 67 engines. The one on the right highlights that the file uses a Unicode character set and is a distributed link tracking server file. It is also shown that the binary is a PE32 executable.



As can be seen above, the various hashes of the file are given, and also the common names this binary has been seen to use. The graph summary also shows us the various IP addresses in use and the dependencies.

Signature Info ①

Signature Verification



This file is not signed

File Version Information

© Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved. Copyright Microsoft® Windows® Operating System Product

Description Distributed Link Tracking Server

Original Name trksvr

Internal Name Distributed Link Tracking Server File Version 5.2.3790.0 (srv03_rtm.030324-2048)

Portable Executable Info ①

Header

Target Machine Intel 386 or later processors and compatible processors

Compilation Timestamp 2012-08-09 22:46:22

35115 5 Entry Point Contained Sections

Sections

| Name | Virtual Address | Virtual Size | Raw Size | Entropy | MD5 |
|--------|-----------------|--------------|----------|---------|----------------------------------|
| .text | 4096 | 84060 | 84480 | 6.56 | 9b7dd2814196d4e8ff374a5c35f460b1 |
| .rdata | 90112 | 23866 | 24064 | 4.88 | 808604e81d696da976c86743e6385dc7 |
| .data | 114688 | 17060 | 7680 | 2.78 | 1a0c07eac1759c283f180b21c724e391 |
| .rsrc | 135168 | 861472 | 861696 | 7.64 | a7f1881e3af06feac03dd3a2298f5a69 |
| .reloc | 999424 | 9952 | 10240 | 4.34 | b5a6fa4a6300ae0fd06ec445e50ec9e5 |

Imports

ADVAPI32.dll

∓ KERNEL32.dll

■ NETAPI32.dll

∓ SHELL32.dll



Registry Keys Deleted

<HKLM>\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\TrkSvr\WOW64

Process And Service Actions ①

Processes Created

<PATH SAMPLE.EXE> <SYSTEM32>\trksvr.exe

Processes Terminated

<PATH_SAMPLE.EXE>

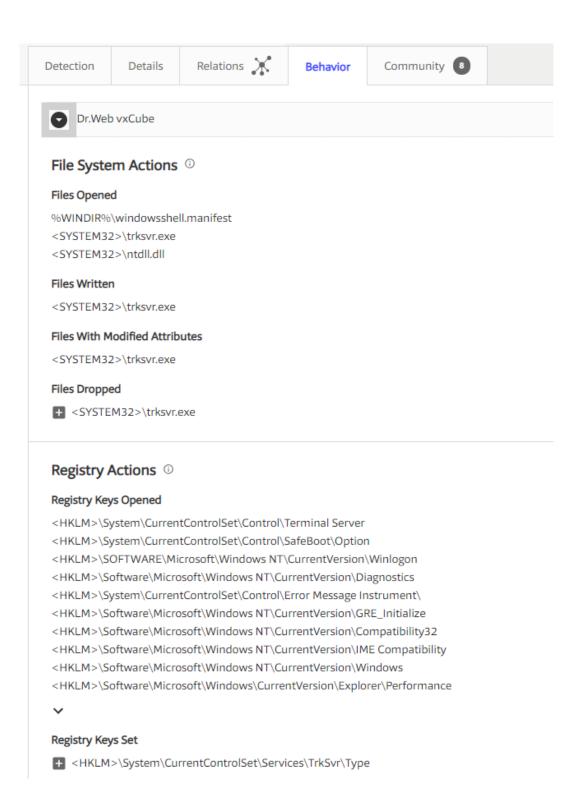
Services Created

TrkSvr

Services Started

TrkSvr

The screenshot above shows the headers of the executable and the various imports that this binary uses. This information is really helpful since it tells us the behavior of the binary by analyzing the commonly used imports. The sizes of the various sections also tell us that this binary is most certainly packed and obfuscated. The screenshot on the left shows us the registry keys that are modified by this binary and also the processes created.



The above screenshot tells us the registry keys that are accessed by this binary and also what registry keys are set and modified.

Strings

I ran strings on the binary and found the following to interesting in nature:

- t6f90t1f94Pu
- <at,<rt"<wt
- @LanmanWorkstation
- SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Serv ices\TrkSvr
- Distributed Link Tracking Server
- Enables the Distributed Link
 Tracking Client service within the
 same domain to provide more
 reliable and efficient maintenance
 of links within the domain. If this
 service is disabled, any services
 that explicitly depend on it will fail
 to start.
- C:\Windows\system32\svchost.ex
 e -k netsvcs
- kernel32.dll
- Wow64DisableWow64FsRedirect ion
- Wow64RevertWow64FsRedirection
- PROCESSOR_ARCHITECTURE
- SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Cont rol\Session Manager\Environment
- trksrv.exe
- E\$\WINDOWS
- D\$\WINDOWS
- C\$\WINDOWS
- \inf\netft429.pnf
- \System32\cmd.exe /c "ping -n 30 127.0.0.1 >nul && sc config TrkSvr binpath= system32\trksrv.exe && ping -n 10 127.0.0.1 >nul && sc start TrkSvr "

- myimage12767
- c:\windows\temp\out17626867.txt
- Visual C++ CRT: Not enough memory to complete call to strerror.
- bad exception
- AKERNEL32.DLL
- spanish-argentina
- portuguese-brazilian
- norwegian-bokmal
- italian-swiss
- irish-english
- german-swiss
- french-swiss
- english-usa
- dutch-belgian
- chinese-hongkong
- GetCurrentProcessId
- GetSystemTimeAsFileTime
- IsValidCodePage
- IsValidLocale
- WriteConsoleW
- \system32\
- Copyright (c) 1992-2004 by P.J. Plauger, licensed by Dinkumware, Ltd. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.
- StringFileInfo
- CompanyName
- Microsoft Corporation
- FileDescription
- Distributed Link Tracking Server
- FileVersion
- 5.2.3790.0 (srv03_rtm.030324-2048)

As can be seen above, there is a string that shows a system command being executed and there are a lot of country and locale strings which shows the widespread nature of this malware.

FLOSS

Just out of curiosity, I also ran FLOSS to see if there will be any additional interesting strings and also to see if there are any strings that can be decoded. As can be seen below, the highlighted strings are really important which are discussed later in the report.

PKCS12 PKCS7 X509 VS_VERSION_INFO StringFileInfo 040904b0 CompanyName Microsoft Corporation FileDescription Distributed Link Tracking Server FileVersion 5.2.3790.0 (srv03_rtm.030324-2048) InternalName Distributed Link Tracking Server LegalCopyright Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved. OriginalFilename trksvr ProductName Microsoft Windows Operating System ProductVersion 5.2.3790.0 VarFileInfo Translation

FLOSS decoded 0 strings

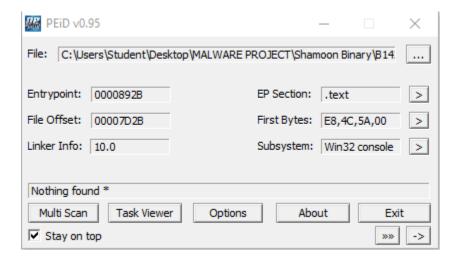
FLOSS extracted 4 stackstrings D\$\WINDOWS ADMIN\$ C\$\WINDOWS E\$\WINDOWS

Finished execution after 78.473000 seconds

There weren't any strings that were decoded by FLOSS but at least, this was a confirmation that there are a lot of interesting strings.

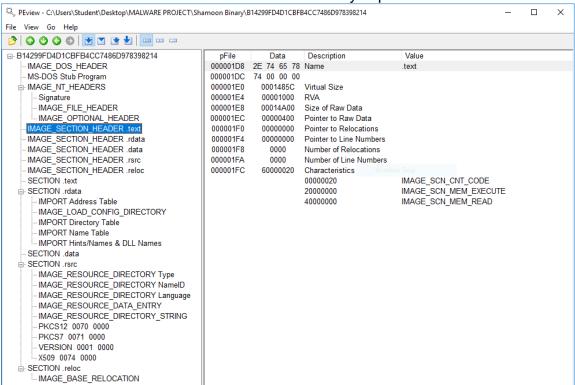
PEID

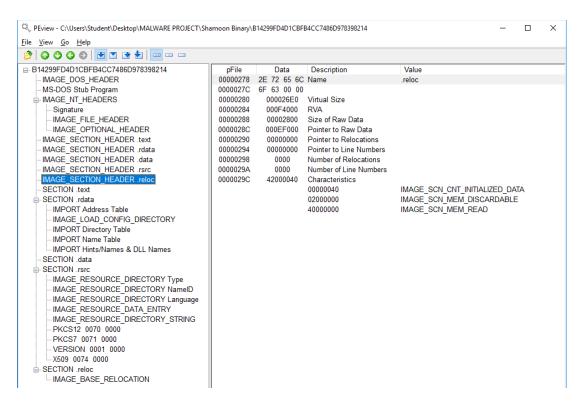
As can be seen below, the binary is indeed packed and obfuscated.



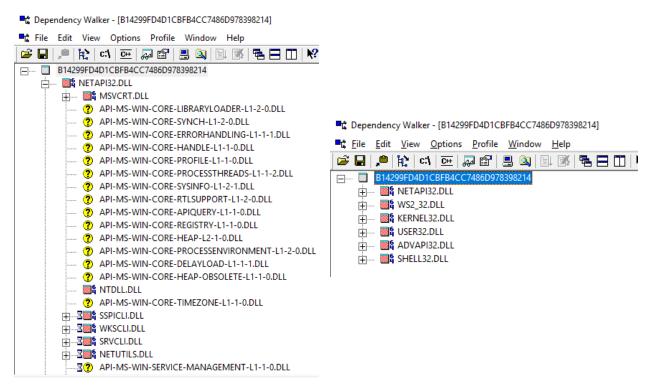
PEview

The two screenshots below confirm that the binary is packed and obfuscated.





Dependency Walker:



As can be seen in the above images, there are a lot of dependencies used by this binary which are helpful in determining that nature of this binary.

Resource Hacker

```
Resource Hacker - B14299FD4D1CBFB4CC7486D978398214
                                                                                                                                                                                           ×
File Edit View Action Help
                                                                                                                                                                                    Version Info: 1:0
      PKCS12
                                                                   1 VERSIONINFO
                                                           2
3
4
5
6
7
       ······ 😭 112:0
                                                                   FILEVERSION 5,2,3790,0
       PKCS7
                                                                   PRODUCTVERSION 5,2,3790,0
        ······ 😭 113 : 0
                                                                   FILEOS 0x40004
   .... 📗 X509
                                                                   FILETYPE 0x1
        <u></u> 116∶0
                                                                  BLOCK "StringFileInfo"
                                                           8
9
   .... Nersion Info
         ☆ 1:0
                                                                                BLOCK "040904b0"
                                                           10
                                                           11
                                                                                             VALUE "CompanyName", "Microsoft Corporation"

VALUE "FileDescription", "Distributed Link Tracking Server"

VALUE "FileVersion", "5.2.3790.0 (srv03_rtm.030324-2048)"

VALUE "InternalName", "Distributed Link Tracking Server"

VALUE "LegalCopyright", "© Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved."

VALUE "OriginalFilename", "trksvr"

VALUE "ProductName", "Microsoft® Windows® Operating System"

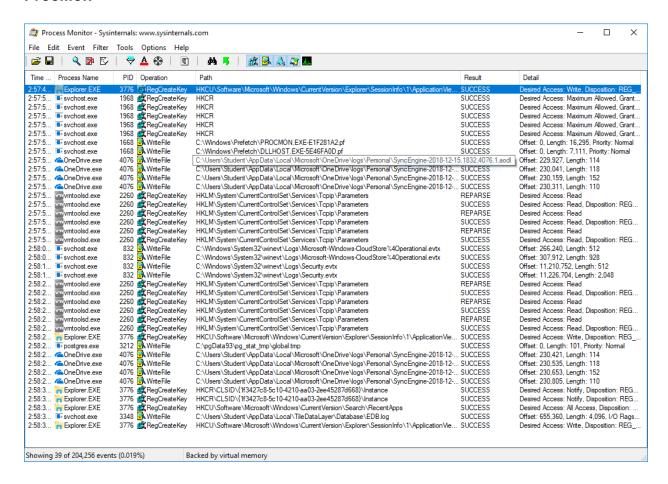
VALUE "ProductVersion", "5.2.3790.0"
                                                           12
13
                                                           14
                                                           15
                                                           16
                                                          17
                                                           18
                                                           19
                                                           20
                                                                                }
                                                           21
22
                                                           23
24
25
                                                                  BLOCK "VarFileInfo"
                                                                                VALUE "Translation", 0x0409 0x04B0
                                                           26
27
                      960 28:1
```

As can be seen above, there is a lot of info about the actual binary such as the file name and the original file name which shows that it was renamed to mask its true identity. We can also see internal file name and its description.

BASIC DYNAMIC

I was unable to use most of the tools in this section with the exception of ProcMon and OllyDebug as the computer kept crashing as soon as the binary was actually run.

ProcMon



There isn't a whole lot of useful information in here except the fact that a lot of registry keys are being consistently modified on the system.

OllyDebug

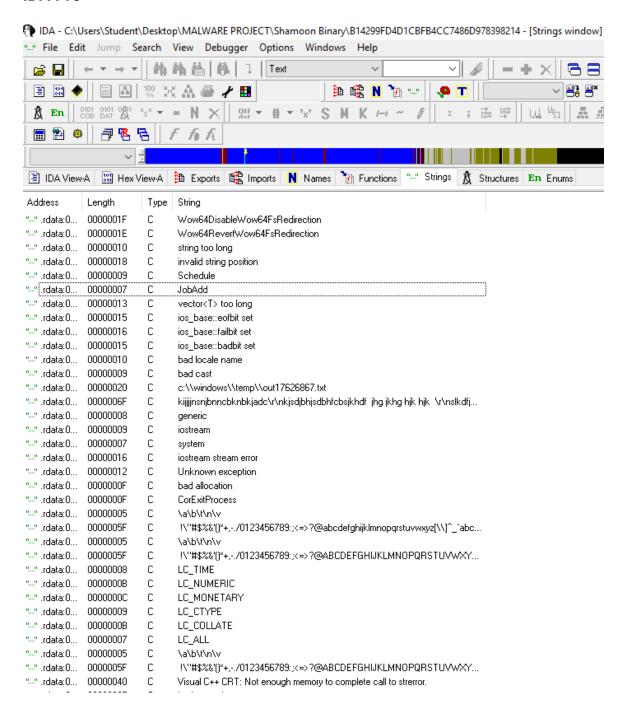


As can be seen above, this binary has a lot of call instructions indicating there are many conditions and even pathways for this binary to take.

ADVANCED STATIC

I was only able to use IDA Pro to perform advanced static analysis of this binary.

IDA Pro



As can be seen above, there are a lot of strings in this program which correlate to the strings in the basic static analysis stage.

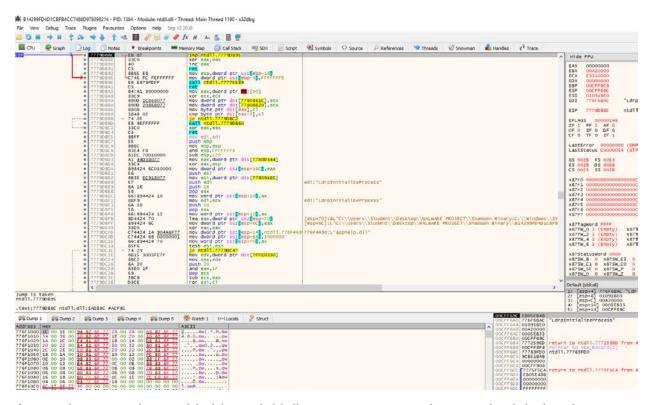
```
IDA View-A
           🔛 Hex View-A 🏥 Exports 🞼 Imports N Names 🧗 Functions "--" Strings 🥻 Structures 🗷 En Enums
         .text:00408955 sub 408955
                                                                    ; CODE XREF: sub 408BC3+Elp
                                          proc near
         .text:00408955
                                                                    ; sub_408C32+Eip ...
         .text:00408955
         .text:00408955 arg_0
                                          = dword ptr 8
         .text:00408955
         .text:00408955
                                                   edi, edi
                                          mov
         .text:00408957
                                          push
                                                   ebp
         .text:00408958
                                          mov
                                                   ebp, esp
         .text:0040895A
                                                   eax, [ebp+arg_0]
                                          MOV
         .text:0040895D
                                          push
                                                   esi
         .text:0040895E
                                          mov
                                                   esi, ecx
                                                   byte ptr [esi+OCh], 0
         .text:00408960
                                          MOV
         .text:00408964
                                          test
                                                   eax, eax
                                                   short loc 4089CB
         .text:00408966
                                          jnz
         .text:00408968
                                                   sub 40B5E2
                                          call
         .text:0040896D
                                          mov
                                                   [esi+8], eax
                                                   ecx, [eax+6Ch]
         .text:00408970
                                          MOV
         .text:00408973
                                                   [esi], ecx
                                          mov
                                                   ecx, [eax+68h]
         .text:00408975
                                          mov
                                                   [esi+4], ecx
         .text:00408978
                                          mov
                                                   ecx, [esi]
         .text:0040897B
                                          mov
         .text:0040897D
                                                   ecx, off 41DB40
                                          cmp
         .text:00408983
                                                   short loc 408997
                                          jΖ
                                                   ecx, dword_41D8F8
         .text:00408985
                                          mov
                                                   [eax+70h], ecx
         .text:0040898B
                                          test
         .text:0040898E
                                                   short loc 408997
                                          inz
         .text:00408990
                                          call
                                                   sub 40EDBB
         .text:00408995
                                                   [esī], eax
                                          mov
         .text:00408997
                                                                    ; CODE XREF: sub_408955+2Efj
         .text:00408997 loc_408997:
                                                                    ; sub 408955+391j
         .text:00408997
         .text:00408997
                                                   eax, [esi+4]
                                          mov
         .text:0040899A
                                                   eax, 1pAddend
                                          cmp
                                                   short loc 408988
         .text:004089A0
                                          iz
         .text:004089A2
                                          mov
                                                   eax, [esi+8]
         .text:004089A5
                                                   ecx, dword_41D8F8
                                          mov
                                                   [eax+70h], ecx
         .text:004089AB
                                          test
         .text:004089AE
                                                   short 10c_4089B8
                                          jnz
         .text:004089B0
                                          call
                                                   sub_40E63A
         .text:004089B5
                                                   [esi+4], eax
                                          mov
         .text:004089B8
         .text:004089B8 loc 4089B8:
                                                                    ; CODE XREF: sub 408955+4Bfj
         .text:004089B8
                                                                    ; sub_408955+59†j
```

The screenshot above shows a part of the binary's executable statements that correlate to the initial workings of this malware. This malware overwrites all files on the infected machine and spreads itself throughout the network rendering everything unusable.

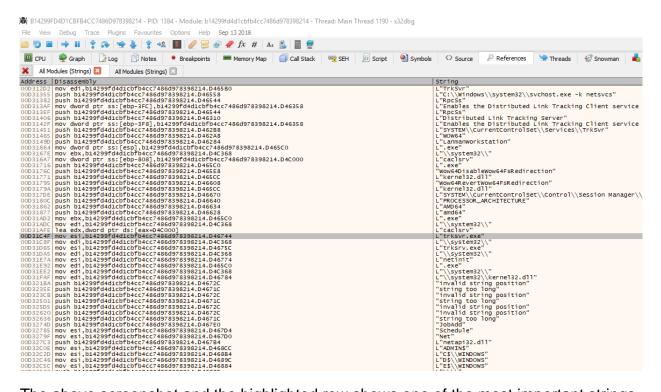
ADVANCED DYNAMIC

In this section, I only used X64dbg to perform advanced dynamic analysis. I ran this binary inside a VM which had no internet connection.

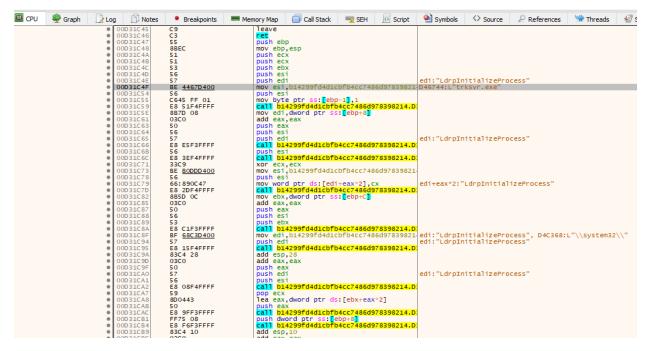
X64dbg



As can be seen above, this binary initializes processes and runs scheduled tasks to persist on the machine and also be able to spread.



The above screenshot and the highlighted row shows one of the most important strings in this binary. The executable highlighted is central to the workings of this malware which are discussed at the end of this report.



The above screenshot shows the code fragment highlighting said executable and also shows that there is process initialization soon after.

FINDINGS

My analysis above and further research into this malware indicates that this binary attempts to spread to other machines via the network and wipes files on the infected machine which include hardcoded directories as well as other files. This malware destroys the data which essentially renders the machine inoperable. Overall, I was able to find hardcoded domains and strings that closely resembled passwords and hardcoded directories as well as command execution instructions.

There are a lot of variants of this malware and the common thing amongst them all is that they create a service called "NtsSrv" or some variation of that name, which is the original installation of the malware. There are scheduled tasks run by this malware which drop a payload of a wiper component that deletes all system files rendering it inoperable. The "PKCS7", "PKCS12", and "x509" are all embedded resources in the malware that mask the actual binary and behave like a logic bomb used to install and spread the malware while also corrupting the master boot record of the machines.

There are a couple different methods to prevent this malware from causing any harm and some of them include:

- Make sure that all machines are up-to-date and are thoroughly patched.
- Use LAPS (Local Administrator Password Solution) since it heavily restricts lateral movement of the malware.
- Disable Remote Registry service on all machines in the network since that would prevent this malware from being able to install as it relies on this system to disable UAC (User Account Control).

I was able to obtain this malware from the following GitHub repo:

https://github.com/ytisf/theZoo

https://github.com/ytisf/theZoo/tree/master/malwares/Binaries/Shamoon