

MEMORY FORENSIC

COMPUTER FORENSIC

Brief History of Memory Analysis

- Memory Analysis is a relatively new field.
 - The idea of memory captures began in the 1990's. The only capability was string searches with no context or understanding.
 - 2005 – DFRWS issued a *Memory Analysis Challenge*
 - Memparser developed by Chris Betz
 - First tool capable of identifying basic memory structures for forensic analysis. (Process lists, DLLs, PIDs)
 - 2007 – Aaron Walters and Nick Petroni release Volatility.
 - Open source tool provided unprecedented understanding of Windows Memory structures (XP only).
 - 2011 – Volatility 2.0 released
 - Offers expanded capabilities, additional plug-ins and works on a number of additional platforms.

What's the Big Deal with Memory Analysis?

- 2003 – 2006 – Rootkits became very popular and powerful.
 - Tipped the scales to the malware author's because their code was very good at hiding from the Windows API and difficult to identify via forensic dead drive analysis.
 - Some malware only existed in memory. When the system was shut down, all trace was gone.
- Memory analysis was a huge leap forward for forensic analysis.
 - Provided the ability to directly examine kernel-level processes regardless of their efforts to hide from Windows or the file system.

Analyzing Different Memory Formats

- Most of these analysis techniques can be applied to different types of memory files
 - Acquired RAM dump
 - VMware VMEM file
- Files that need to be converted to a raw image format before analysis
 - Hibernation file
 - BSOD – crash dump file
 - Conversion tools include Volatility and Moonwalk

Analysis - Recoverable Data

- Active device drivers; potential rootkits
- Past & current network connections (IP & ports)
- Current & closed processes on the system
- Usernames & passwords (including wireless)
- Loaded DLLs (possible injected malware)
- Contents of the Windows keyboard buffer
- Registry keys open for a process
- Keys for encrypted hard drive or files
- IM chat sessions and participants
- Open files for a process
- Unpacked versions of a file

Tool - Volatility

- Free, open source tool used to parse artifacts out of a memory image
- Utilizes Python and is modular
- Currently Supports:
 - 64 & 32 bit systems
 - Windows (XP, All Server Versions, ME, Vista, 7, etc)
 - Linux
 - Macintosh
 - Android
- Current release available from: code.google.com/p/volatility

Volatility Download Types (v 2.3.1)

- **Volatility-2.3.1standalone.exe** – No dependencies required, functions by itself from any media type.
 - Usage example:
`volatility-2.3.1.standalone.exe pslist -f "C:\Memorydump\zeus.vmem"`
- **Volatility-2.3.1win32.exe** – Installs Volatility Python code. Used for editing and authoring new plug-ins. Requires pre-installed Python.
 - Usage example:
`python vol.py pslist -f "C:\Memorydump\zeus.vmem"`

Volatility Profile Commands

- Windows XP x86 (32 bit) is the default profile. All others require a specific flag.

`volatility-2.3.standalone.exe pslist -f "C:\Memorydump\zeus.vmem" --profile=Win7SP1x64`

```
Profiles
-----
VistaSP0x64      - A Profile for Windows Vista SP0 x64
VistaSP0x86      - A Profile for Windows Vista SP0 x86
VistaSP1x64      - A Profile for Windows Vista SP1 x64
VistaSP1x86      - A Profile for Windows Vista SP1 x86
VistaSP2x64      - A Profile for Windows Vista SP2 x64
VistaSP2x86      - A Profile for Windows Vista SP2 x86
Win2003SP0x86    - A Profile for Windows 2003 SP0 x86
Win2003SP1x64    - A Profile for Windows 2003 SP1 x64
Win2003SP1x86    - A Profile for Windows 2003 SP1 x86
Win2003SP2x64    - A Profile for Windows 2003 SP2 x64
Win2003SP2x86    - A Profile for Windows 2003 SP2 x86
Win2008R2SP0x64  - A Profile for Windows 2008 R2 SP0 x64
Win2008R2SP1x64  - A Profile for Windows 2008 R2 SP1 x64
Win2008SP1x64    - A Profile for Windows 2008 SP1 x64
Win2008SP1x86    - A Profile for Windows 2008 SP1 x86
Win2008SP2x64    - A Profile for Windows 2008 SP2 x64
Win2008SP2x86    - A Profile for Windows 2008 SP2 x86
Win7SP0x64       - A Profile for Windows 7 SP0 x64
Win7SP0x86       - A Profile for Windows 7 SP0 x86
Win7SP1x64       - A Profile for Windows 7 SP1 x64
Win7SP1x86       - A Profile for Windows 7 SP1 x86
WinXPSP1x64      - A Profile for Windows XP SP1 x64
WinXPSP2x64      - A Profile for Windows XP SP2 x64
WinXPSP2x86      - A Profile for Windows XP SP2 x86
WinXPSP3x86      - A Profile for Windows XP SP3 x86
```


VOLATILITY COMMAND

Command	Function
connections	prints list of open TCP connections
connscan	scans for TCP connection objects (previously closed)
dlllist	prints list of loaded DLLs for each process
handles	shows all files, threads, mutexes accessed by a process
imageinfo	identifies memory image profile
procexedump	dumps a process to an executable file
pslist	prints running process list
psscan	scans for process objects (previously closed)
cmdscan	prints commands previously used in Windows command shell
sockets	prints list of open sockets on any protocol (TCP, UDP, RAW, etc)
sockscan	scans for previously closed socket objects on any protocol
netscan	scans for network connections on Windows 7, Vista & Server 2008
malfind	finds hidden and injected code in user mode memory
yarascan	searches for malware characteristics defined by Yara rules

Case Study: Analyzing Zeus with Volatility

- **ZeusS**

- Crimeware kit sold in the cyber underground for \$700 - \$6,000, depending on options
- Monitors online activity, waits for banking / monetary site logins and records all credentials
- Exfiltrates credentials back to the attacker and adds victim box to botnet
- October 2010 – 5 ZeusS authors detained during Operation Trident Breach (an investigation into \$70 million in losses)
- November 2010 – ZeusS merges with SpyEye, a competing banking Trojan with similar capabilities
- May 2011 – ZeusS Source Code released to general public



Spy Eye

Zeus: Identifying the Profile

- Imageinfo displays key properties of the memory image:
 - Date and time of image
 - Operating System
 - Service Pack
 - Hardware Architecture (32 bit or 64 bit)
 - Shows required volatility profile

```
C:\Volatility 2_2>volatility-2.2.standalone.exe imageinfo -f zeus.vmem
Volatile Systems Volatility Framework 2.2
Determining profile based on KDBG search...

Suggested Profile(s) : WinXPSP2x86, WinXPSP3x86 (Instantiated with WinXPSP2x86)
AS Layer1 : JKIA32PagedMemoryPae (Kernel AS)
AS Layer2 : FileAddressSpace (C:\Volatility 2_2\zeus.vmem)
PAE type : PAE
DTB : 0x319000L
KDBG : 0x80544ce0L
Number of Processors : 1
Image Type (Service Pack) : 2
KPCR for CPU 0 : 0xffdff000L
KUSER_SHARED_DATA : 0xffdf0000L
Image date and time : 2010-08-15 19:17:56 UTC+0000
Image local date and time : 2010-08-15 15:17:56 -0400
```


Zeus: Identifying Network Activity

- Connections displays a list of all active TCP network connections
- Connscan searches for previously terminated TCP network connections
- Connscan shows us that the victim system was connected to 193.104.41.75 on port 80 from PID 856

```
C:\Volatility 2_2>volatility-2.2.standalone.exe connscan -f zeus.vmem
Volatile Systems Volatility Framework 2.2
Offset(P)  Local Address          Remote Address          Pid
-----
0x02214988 172.16.176.143:1054     193.104.41.75:80        856
0x06015ab0 0.0.0.0:1056            193.104.41.75:80        856
```


Who is 193.104.41.75?

- ZeusTracker: Formerly a known Zeus Command and Control
- Network Whois: Registered in Ukraine
- Maxmind Geolocation: Server physically located in Moldova

Zeus Tracker :: Zeus Host 193.104.41.75

The Zeus C&C **193.104.41.75** was not found in the Zeus database. However, this Zeus C&C was listed previously but has been announced.

Historical Information

Zeus C&C:	193.104.41.75
Dateadded:	2009-11-26 11:37:59 (UTC)
Lastupdated:	2010-04-23 19:52:54 (UTC)
Removal date:	2010-04-24 09:28:37 (UTC)
Removal reason:	AS49934 no longer announced

Network Whois record

Queried whois.ripe.net with "-B 193.104.41.75"...

```
person:      Evgen Sergeevich Voronov
address:     25 October street, 118-15
address:     Tiraspol, Transdnistria
phone:       +373 533 50404
e-mail:      voronoves@i.ua
nic-hdl:     ESV1-RIPE
mnt-by:      VVFN-MNT
changed:     voronoves@i.ua 20100112
source:      RIPE
```

Try our GeolP demo:

GO

GeolP City/ISP/Organization Results

IP Address	Country Code	Location	Postal Code	Coordinates	ISP	Organization	Domain	Metro Code
193.104.41.75	MD	Moldova, Republic of		47, 29	PE Voronov Evgen Sergiyovich	PE Voronov Evgen Sergiyovich		

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```
C:\Volatility 2_2>volatility-2.2.standalone.exe connscan -f zeus.vmem
Volatile Systems Volatility Framework 2.2
```

Offset(P)	Local Address	Remote Address	Pid
0x02214988	172.16.176.143:1054	193.104.41.75:80	856
0x06015ab0	0.0.0.0:1056	193.104.41.75:80	856

Zeus: Identifying Processes

- pslist displays key information about running processes
- psscan shows processes that had previously exited
- pslist shows that PID 856 belongs to an instantiation of svchost.exe and gives its location in memory
- Its parent process was services.exe, which was likely legitimate as it started all other Windows services

```
C:\Volatility 2_2>volatility-2.2.standalone.exe pslist -f zeus.vmem
```

Volatility Systems Volatility Framework 2.2

Offset(V)	Name	PID	PPID	Thds	Hnds	Sess	Wow64	Start	Exit
0x810b1660	System	4	0	58	379	-----	0		
0xff2ab020	smss.exe	544	4	3	21	-----	0	2010-08-11 06:06:21	
0xff1ecda0	csrss.exe	608	544	10	410	0	0	2010-08-11 06:06:23	
0xff1ec978	winlogon.exe	632	544	24	536	0	0	2010-08-11 06:06:23	
0xff247020	services.exe	676	632	16	288	0	0	2010-08-11 06:06:24	
0xff255020	lsass.exe	688	676	21	405	0	0	2010-08-11 06:06:24	
0xff218230	vmacthlp.exe	844	676	1	37	0	0	2010-08-11 06:06:24	
0x80ff88d8	svchost.exe	856	676	29	336	0	0	2010-08-11 06:06:24	
0xff217560	svchost.exe	936	676	11	288	0	0	2010-08-11 06:06:24	
0x80fbf910	svchost.exe	1028	676	88	1424	0	0	2010-08-11 06:06:24	
0xff22d558	svchost.exe	1088	676	7	93	0	0	2010-08-11 06:06:25	
0xff203b80	svchost.exe	1148	676	15	217	0	0	2010-08-11 06:06:26	
0xff1d7da0	spoolsv.exe	1432	676	14	145	0	0	2010-08-11 06:06:26	
0xff1b8b28	vmtoolsd.exe	1668	676	5	225	0	0	2010-08-11 06:06:35	
0xff1fdc88	VMUpgradeHelper	1788	676	5	112	0	0	2010-08-11 06:06:38	
0xff143b28	TPAutoConnSvc.e	1968	676	5	106	0	0	2010-08-11 06:06:39	
0xff25a7e0	alg.exe	216	676	8	120	0	0	2010-08-11 06:06:39	

Zeus: Identifying Process Activity

- handles: displays all files, registry keys, mutexes, named pipes, events, window stations, threads, and objects opened by a process
 - Note: used the -p flag to specify a process and -t to specify return data
- Svchost showed winlogon.exe and the winlogon registry key as open handles
 - Is this the autostart location?

```
C:\Volatility 2_2>volatility-2.2.standalone.exe handles -f zeus.vmem -p 856 -t Process
Volatile Systems Volatility Framework 2.2
Offset(V)  Pid  Handle  Access Type  Details
-----
0xff217560  856  0x14c   0x1f0fff Process  svchost.exe(936)
0xff1ecda0  856  0x298   0x1f0fff Process  csrss.exe(608)
0xff1ec978  856  0x29c   0x1f0fff Process  winlogon.exe(632)

C:\Volatility 2_2>volatility-2.2.standalone.exe handles -f zeus.vmem -p 856 -t Key
Volatile Systems Volatility Framework 2.2
Offset(V)  Pid  Handle  Access Type  Details
-----
0xe1a15708  856  0x1c    0x20f003f Key  MACHINE
0xe1a1a020  856  0x44    0x20019 Key  MACHINE\SOFTWARE\MICROSOFT\WINDOWS NT\CURRENTVERSION\DRIVERS32
0xe17dce08  856  0x234   0xf003f Key  MACHINE\SOFTWARE\MICROSOFT\WINDOWS NT\CURRENTVERSION\WINLOGON
0xe17dd9e0  856  0x248   0xf003f Key  MACHINE\SYSTEM\CONTROLSET001\SERVICES\TERMSERVICE\PARAMETERS
```

← Zeus Autostart?

Zeus: Registry Enumeration

- Printkey: displays contents of registry keys running in memory
 - Used the -K command to specify the Winlogon Registry key
- Winlogon key shows the userinit value includes sdra64.exe (known Zeus executable)


```
C:\Volatility 2_2>volatility-2.2.standalone.exe printkey -f zeus.vmem -K "Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Winlogon"
Volatile Systems Volatility Framework 2.2
Legend: (S) = Stable (V) = Volatile

-----
Registry: \Device\HarddiskVolume1\WINDOWS\system32\config\software
Key name: Winlogon (S)
Last updated: 2010-08-15 19:17:23

Subkeys:
(S) GPEExtensions
(S) Notify
(S) SpecialAccounts
(V) Credentials

Values:
REG_DWORD AutoRestartShell : (S) 1
REG_SZ DefaultDomainName : (S) BILLY-DB5B96DD3
REG_SZ DefaultUserName : (S) Administrator
REG_SZ LegalNoticeCaption : (S)
REG_SZ LegalNoticeText : (S)
REG_SZ PowerdownAfterShutdown : (S) 0
REG_SZ ReportBootOk : (S) 1
REG_SZ Shell : (S) Explorer.exe
REG_SZ ShutdownWithoutLogon : (S) 0
REG_SZ System : (S)
REG_SZ Userinit : (S) C:\WINDOWS\system32\userinit.exe,C:\WINDOWS\system32\sdra64.exe,
REG_SZ VmApplet : (S) rundll32,shell32,Control_RunDLL "sysdm.cpl"
REG_DWORD SfcQuota : (S) 4294967295
REG_SZ allocatedspace : (S) 0
```

Zeus executable autostart location



Yara introduction

- Yara enables malware researchers to identify & classify malware families
 - Estimated 100,000 new malware pieces every day – most are built on the same base code
 - Yara signatures identify base code characteristics and are used to search unknown processes for known malicious properties
 - Yara signature files can use:
 - Text strings (ASCII and Unicode)
 - Hexadecimal strings
 - Regular Expressions
 - Wildcards

Sample Zeus Yara Rule

```
rule zbot : banker
{
  strings:
    $a = "__SYSTEM__" wide
    $b = "*tanentry*"
    $c = "<option"
    $d = "<select"
    $e = "<input"

  condition:
    ($a and $b) or ($c and $d and $e)
}
```


Zeus: Capability Classification with Yara

- yarascan will scan memory for known malware characteristics
 - Used -p flag to specify svchost
 - Used -yara-file=<pathtofile> flag to specify Yara rules file
- Svchost flags on Yara Zbot rules in multiple locations

```
C:\Volatility 2_2>volatility-2.2.standalone.exe yarascan -f zeus.vmem -p 856 --yara-file=yaramalware.yara
Volatile Systems Volatility Framework 2.2
Rule: zbot
Owner: Process svchost.exe Pid 856
0x00b71658 5f 00 5f 00 53 00 59 00 53 00 54 00 45 00 4d 00 --S.Y.S.T.E.M.
0x00b71668 5f 00 5f 00 36 00 34 00 41 00 44 00 30 00 36 00 --6.4.A.D.0.6.
0x00b71678 32 00 35 00 5f 00 5f 00 00 00 00 00 2a 2f 2a 00 2.5.-.-.-.-x/x.
0x00b71688 00 00 00 00 2f 00 00 00 4d 6f 7a 69 6c 6c 61 2f ....7...Mozilla/
Rule: zbot
Owner: Process svchost.exe Pid 856
0x00b73014 2a 3c 73 65 6c 65 63 74 20 00 00 00 2a 3c 6f 70 *<select...*<op
0x00b73024 74 69 6f 6e 20 20 73 65 6c 65 63 74 65 64 00 00 tion..selected..
0x00b73034 2a 3c 69 6e 70 75 74 20 2a 76 61 6c 75 65 3d 22 *<input.*value="
0x00b73044 00 00 00 00 42 00 4f 00 46 00 41 00 20 00 61 00 ....B.O.F.A...a.
Rule: zbot
Owner: Process svchost.exe Pid 856
0x00b73020 2a 3c 6f 70 74 69 6f 6e 20 20 73 65 6c 65 63 74 *<option..select
0x00b73030 65 64 00 00 2a 3c 69 6e 70 75 74 20 2a 76 61 6c ed..*<input.*val
0x00b73040 75 65 3d 22 00 00 00 00 42 00 4f 00 46 00 41 00 ue="....B.O.F.A.
0x00b73050 20 00 61 00 6e 00 73 00 77 00 65 00 72 00 73 00 ..a.n.s.w.e.r.s.
Rule: zbot
Owner: Process svchost.exe Pid 856
0x00b73034 2a 3c 69 6e 70 75 74 20 2a 76 61 6c 75 65 3d 22 *<input.*value="
0x00b73044 00 00 00 00 42 00 4f 00 46 00 41 00 20 00 61 00 ....B.O.F.A...a.
0x00b73054 6e 00 73 00 77 00 65 00 72 00 73 00 3a 00 0a 00 n.s.w.e.r.s.:...
0x00b73064 0a 00 25 00 53 00 00 00 67 00 72 00 61 00 62 00 ..%.S...g.r.a.b.
```

Zeus: Identifying Injected Code

- malfind searches for hidden or injected code in user mode memory base
 - Used -p flag to specify process and -D to dump the injected code to the hard drive
- Malfind located two injected code locations in svchost
 - One has an MZ (executable) header – Highly suspicious
 - D extracts the injected executable to the hard drive for further analysis

```
C:\Volatility 2_2>volatility-2.2.standalone.exe malfind -f zeus.vmem -p 856 -D "C:\Volatility 2_2\zeus export"
Volatile Systems Volatility Framework 2.2
Process: svchost.exe Pid: 856 Address: 0xb70000
Vad Tag: VadS Protection: PAGE_EXECUTE_READWRITE
Flags: CommitCharge: 38, MemCommit: 1, PrivateMemory: 1, Protection: 6

0x00b70000  4d 5a 90 00 03 00 00 00 04 00 00 00 ff ff 00 00  MZ.....
0x00b70010  b8 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 40 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  .....
0x00b70020  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  .....
0x00b70030  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 d0 00 00 00  .....

0xb70000  4d          DEC EBP
0xb70001  5a          POP EDX
0xb70002  90          NOP
0xb70003  0003       ADD [EBX], AL
0xb70004  0000       ADD [EBX], AL
Process: svchost.exe Pid: 856 Address: 0xcb0000
Vad Tag: VadS Protection: PAGE_EXECUTE_READWRITE
Flags: CommitCharge: 1, MemCommit: 1, PrivateMemory: 1, Protection: 6

0x00cb0000  b8 35 00 00 00 00 e9 cd d7 c5 7b 00 00 00 00 00 00  .5.....(.
0x00cb0010  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  .....
0x00cb0020  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  .....
0x00cb0030  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  .....

0xcb0000  b835000000 MOV EAX, 0x35
0xcb0005  e9cdd7c57b  JMP 0x7c90d7d7
0xcb000a  0000       ADD [EAX], AL
0xcb000c  0000       ADD [EAX], AL
0xcb000e  0000       ADD [EAX], AL
```

Code injected into svchost has MZ header

Antivirus Scan of Extracted Code

- Used AVG antivirus to scan the code extracted from svchost
 - Returned as Win32/Heri infected file – this is how AVG classified Zeus

Export of the injected code

Name	Date modified	Type	Size
zeus.vmem	8/15/2010 4:18 PM	VMEM File	131,072 KB
process.0x80ff88d8.0xb70000.dmp	12/4/2012 10:51 AM	DMP File	152 KB

AVG Anti-Virus FREE

AVG Anti-Virus FREE

Detection name: Virus found Win32/Heri
Description: C:\Volatility 2_2\zeus export\process.0x80ff88d8.0xb70000.dmp
Severity: High
State: Infected
Source: Scan
Date: 12/4/2012, 10:53:07 AM

Extended element information:

Detection name	Result
Virus found Win32/Heri C:\Volatility 2_2\zeus export\process.0x80ff88d8.0xb70000.dmp	Infected

Review of Memory Analysis

- **connscan** showed PID 856 had a TCP connection with a known Zeus Command and Control site (193.104.41.75)
- **pslist** showed that PID 856 was svchost.exe
- **handles** showed svchost used the winlogon registry key, indicating a potential autostart location
- **printkey** isolated the winlogon key and showed that userinit was set to autorun sdra64.exe (known Zeus executable name)
- **yarascan** indicated that svchost may contain Zeus, and may have VM & Debugger identification capabilities
- **malfind** identified the injected code in svchost.exe and extracted it to the hard drive
- **AVG antivirus** confirmed that we successfully extracted the malicious Zeus code from svchost.exe in memory

cmdscan & consoles

- Cmdscan provides a history of commands entered into the command shell. This may show specific attacker commands.
- Consoles provides the same but includes the screen buffer. It will show what the attacker actually saw.

```
C:\Volatility 2_2>volatility-2.2.standalone.exe consoles -f Keyser_Soze_Memory.raw
Volatile Systems Volatility Framework 2.2
*****
ConsoleProcess: csrss.exe Pid: 612
Console: 0x4f2388 CommandHistorySize: 50
HistoryBufferCount: 1 HistoryBufferMax: 4
OriginalTitle: E:\DumpIt.exe
Title: E:\DumpIt.exe
AttachedProcess: DumpIt.exe Pid: 1272 Handle: 0x414
----
CommandHistory: 0x4f44a8 Application: DumpIt.exe Flags: Allocated
CommandCount: 0 LastAdded: -1 LastDisplayed: -1
FirstCommand: 0 CommandCountMax: 50
ProcessHandle: 0x414
----
Screen 0x4f2a88 X:80 Y:300
Dump:
DumpIt - v1.3.2.20110401 - One click memory memory dumper
Copyright (c) 2007 - 2011, Matthieu Suiche <http://www.msuiche.net>
Copyright (c) 2010 - 2011, MoonSols <http://www.moonsols.com>

Address space size:      3221225472 bytes ( 3072 Mb)
Free space size:        538034319360 bytes ( 513109 Mb)

* Destination = \??\E:\KEYSER-94C33D35-20120731-184856.raw
--> Are you sure you want to continue? [y/n] y
+ Processing...
*****
```

Volatility Command (points to the command line)

Command Executed (points to the console title)

Dump of console buffer (points to the dump output)

Other Useful VolatilityCommands

- **dlllist** – lists all dynamic link library (dll) files called by specific processes; great for identifying dll injection attacks
- **dlldump** – extract dll files from a process's memory space
- **procexedump** – extract a process's disk-mode executable from memory
- **procmemdump** – extract a process's memory mode executable (including slack space)

Even More Useful Volatility Commands

- **imagecopy** – convert crashdump, hibernation file, or live firewire session to a raw memory dump capable of analysis.
- **userassist** – lists contents of the NTUSER.DAT UserAssist registry key, showing programs executed by specific users.
- **hashdump** – extract domain password hashes from SYSTEM and SAM registry keys.