Table of Contents:

Part 1. → Basic Static Analysis:

- Strings
- Peview

Part 2 \rightarrow Basic Dynamic Analysis:

- RegShot
- Procex
- ProcMon
- apateDNS
- NetCat

PART 1:

Basic Static Analysis

Analyzing malware without looking at any instructions in the binary

This should always be the first step

Positives \rightarrow

Basic static analysis can help determine...

- If a file is malicious or not
- What the malware does
- Where its communications go

Negatives →

- Malware authors can change the code/signature to evade detection
- Malware can be "obfuscated" or packed
- Unable to identify certain advanced behaviors or elements of the malware

Strings: Run strings on sample malware file to examine [ip addresses, web addresses, Processes] 'Find string' command specifies keywords that can help search the file for relevant and possibly malicious code parts

```
→ strings c:\Users\students\Desktop\VirusShare_0fb8510eadfe905750256272f3109966

→ findstr /i "http" or "www"

→ find str /i "process"
```

```
C:\Users\student\Documents\1_maltools18\Strings>strings C:\Users\student\Desktop\VirusShare_0fb8510eadfe905750256272f3109966 | more
Strings v2.51
Copyright (C) 1999-2013 Mark Russinovich
Sysinternals - www.sysinternals.com

!This program cannot be run in DOS mode.
;]"
;]"
;]"
;]"
;]"
;]"
;]"
;]"
```

C:\Users\student\Documents\1_maltools18\Strings>strings C:\Users\student\Desktop\VirusShare_0fb8510eadfe905750256272f3109966 | findstr /i "process"

:\Users\student\Documents\1 maltools18\Strings>strings C:\Users\student\Desktop\VirusShare 0fb8510eadfe905750256272f3109966 | findstr /i "htto"

NOTES:

While running these commands, several web addresses and ip addresses were found. However without further knowledge of what the malware does, it is difficult to determine if these findings indicate anything important/malicious.



PEView:

Image NT headers

- Image file header subsection shows date the program was compiled(usually)
- Ex: dates can be changed (be set to future dates)

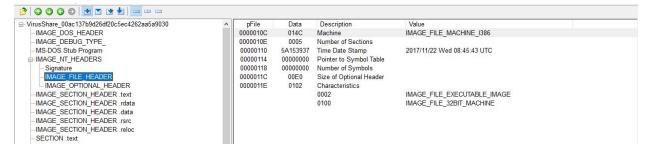


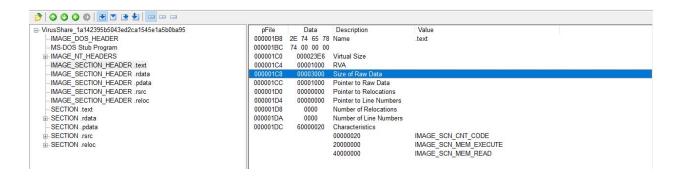
Image Section Header.text

- → Compare virtual size to size of raw data
- → These sizes should be comparable unless the program was packed.

Results: After uploading many **virusshare** malware samples to compare <u>virtual size/raw size</u>, **all were comparable**. The next logical step = look for UPX notation for the various sections that would also indicate a packed file. For these particular malware samples, this was not found.

NOTE: Sometimes if the malware was designed by experienced authors and not script

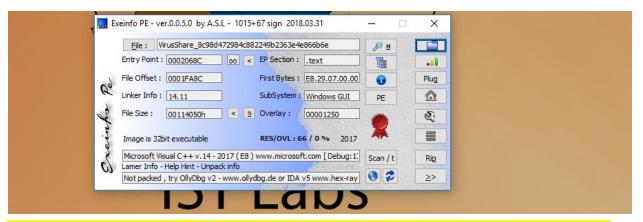
kiddies using Zues, then UPX may not be called the same thing, therefore sometimes you may need to look in other places for imports



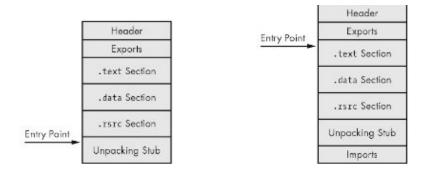
Section .rdata

Import tables → are used by pe's that are importing function calls from libraries(dll's)

Export tables → Dll(libraries) export the addresses of the functions that dll contains to pe's



Exeinfo is an additional tool that may help find specific **entry points** and **offsets** to determine malware samples that have been **packed**.

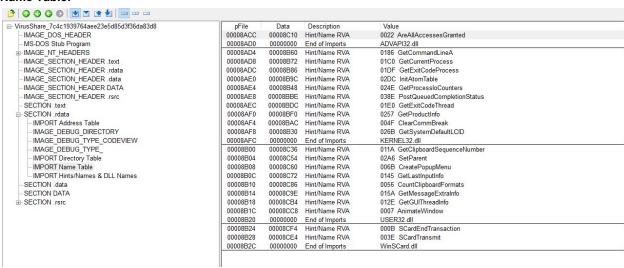


NOTES: Directory table only shows the initial imports, which subsequently import all the others seen in the **address** and **name tables**.

Directory Table: →



Name Table: →

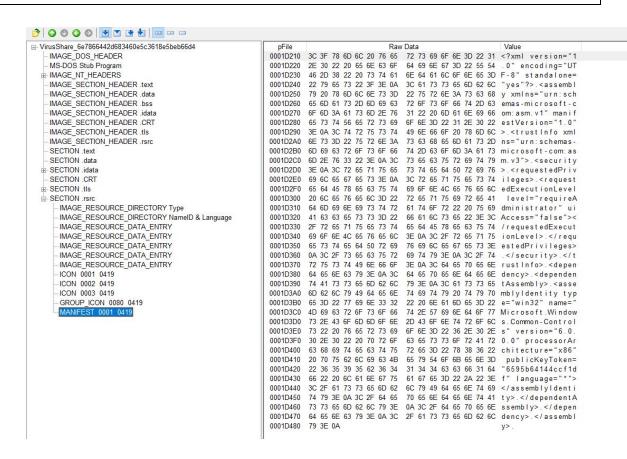


Section .RSRC:

Ex: Image_resource_Data_Entry/Name/Language, Image Resource Directory String

When clicking through each of these sections, all indications(BIN) point to the fact that inside this resource section is another executable (binary)

NOTES: The **MZ** header is a dead giveaway(why?) Because these are the initials of an author, It's a signature for PE files. This and "this program cannot be run in DOS mode", will usually be found together and indicate malware is present.



Results: Unable to locate bin values in any **rsrc sections**. Saw values like 'icon', 'bitmap', 'dialogue' 'string', etc,. but not 'bin'. However did see 'manifest' with what appears to also look like interesting inputs. Without understanding the purpose of the malware, it is difficult say.

Because no binary was found in many virusshare malware samples, Resource Hacker will be skipped. But, if we did run resource hacker→

After opening the file we should see that it is indeed it's own binary file

Now, when we look at the imports → we can see that things will be executed / downloaded

Section UPX:

NOTES: When expanding the UPX section and viewing the different input tables, you can see imports but in a packed file, it is common for more imports to be called.

How to decompress a compressed file and save it as a new file

Upx(invoke application) -o(output) "absolute reference of destination file .exe" -d(decompress) "path to file that we want to decompress"

Result: When you look through the import tables, imports should be greatly expanded

Unfortunately, running over 50 virusshare malware samples through peview did not recreate the UPX section.

PART 2:

Basic Dynamic Analysis

Involves executing malware, finding artifacts created on system (folders/files, services, keys)

→ This is only meant to be a second step in the analysis process

Sandboxes:

- By running the malware in a sandbox, you mitigate the risk of infecting your system
- Sandboxes automate most of the basic dynamic analysis process
- Most sandboxes will not identify or categorize the malware, instead they will provide log output, leaving the determinations up to the analysts

RegShot:

Steps to using RegShot:

- → Take a snapshot of the state of the system with reg shot
- → Simulate malware going into a certain file directory using registry editor regedit
- → Create value that starts application .exe and/ or write to hard drive by making a new folder and file

Then, take a second shot & click compare..

Results: Should present in an html file and indicate changes in "files added", "folders added", "Values added"

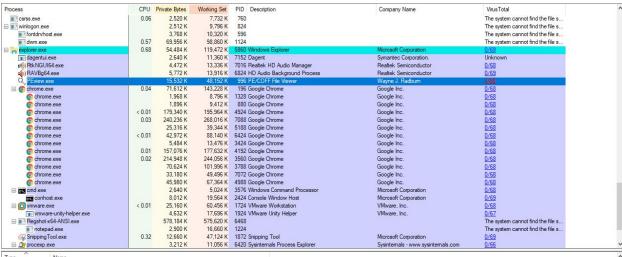
Values added = C:\windows\system32\calc.exe

Process Explorer:

How to analyze current processes with Process Explorer:

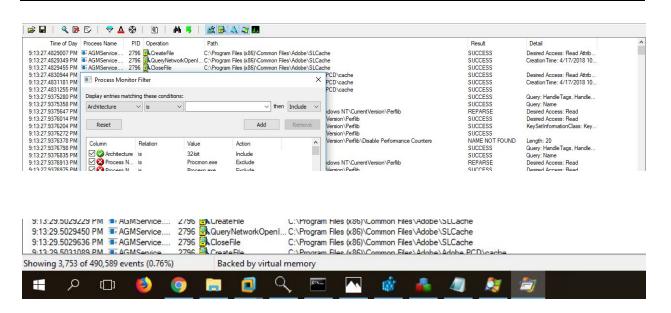
- → The process column on the left will list current processes. Ex: chrome.exe
- → In the lower pane, you can see all the associated handles
- → A process handle is an integer value that identifies a process to windows
- → Process explorer also allows you to check virustotal and include the results
- → Check to see if virustotal flags any of the processes

Looks like virustotal spotted some malware inside PEView. I thought this was pretty cool.



Process Monitor:

- → Process monitor will allow you to see activity with registry keys, processes and DLL's
- → Use the filter to reduce the events (ex: architecture)
- → See related registry keys, processes and DLL's
- → The process tree also displays a hierarchical look at all the processes



ApateDNS

- FQDN's (fully qualified domain names) can be embedded inside malware
- These are more common than Ip's b/c the host of those services can frequently change.

https://serverfault.com/questions/788862/why-should-i-use-an-fqdn-instead-of-the-servers-ip-address

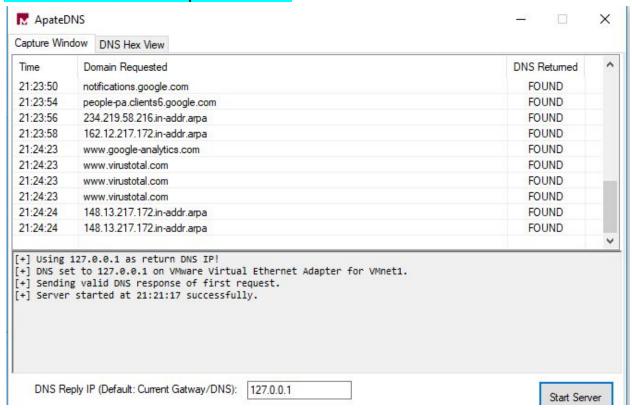
- set up a fake DNS server to spoof responses from what the the fake DNS server
- put a loopback address of 127.0.01
- This is will be the reply for any question that the malware asks the dns server
- Netstat -an | more
- Port 53 (dns) should be open and running on the local machine
 When running ipconfig /all → the DNS server will be queriing the fake dns local machine 127.0.0.1
- With the apatedns window open, ping any random website, to receive a successful reply in cmd. But also you will see the FQDN in the apatedns window

NOTE: ping any random website, to receive a successful reply in cmd.

```
C:\Users\student>ping virusshare.com

Pinging virusshare.com [47.21.35.84] with 32 bytes of data:
Reply from 47.21.35.84: bytes=32 time=26ms TTL=46
Reply from 47.21.35.84: bytes=32 time=34ms TTL=46
Reply from 47.21.35.84: bytes=32 time=19ms TTL=46
Reply from 47.21.35.84: bytes=32 time=21ms TTL=46
```

NOTE: See the FQDN in the apatedns window



Netcat:

- Restart apateDNS to spoof all dns replies (127.0.0.1) 0 NX domains
- netcat listener on port 80(common malware port) (cd to netcat directory, nc -l -p 80)
- Visit website and watch all the information sent from the malware to its c2 server (of course this is just a simulation), but if real maware was communicating with its c2 server, we would see the actual commands!

NOTE: watch all the information sent from the malware to its c2 server

| Capture Win | dow DNS Hex View | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------|--------------|---|
| Time | Domain Requested | DNS Returned | ^ |
| 21:39:49 | contacts.google.com | FOUND | |
| 21:39:50 | clients6.google.com | FOUND | |
| 21:39:50 | hangouts.google.com | FOUND | |
| 21:39:50 | lh5.googleusercontent.com | FOUND | |
| 21:39:50 | people-pa.clients6.google.com | FOUND | |
| 21:39:50 | people-pa.clients6.google.com | FOUND | |
| 21:39:51 | 106.3.217.172.in-addr.arpa | FOUND | |
| 21:39:52 | 0.client-channel.google.com | FOUND | |
| 21:40:01 | 0.docs.google.com | FOUND | |
| 21:40:01 | virusshare.com | FOUND | |
| | | | ~ |