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Malware Forensics

Lab 13: Data Coding

Due November 11, 2014

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### **Abstract**

This lab focuses on how to decrypt the encrypted data. However the encryption cipher is difficult to write by an algorithm or program. Sometime even though the plugins don't work, we can still detect and determine the cipher for example when the malware uses XOR or base64 (standard or customized). At Lab13-3, the malware uses AES which is a little bit difficult to detect. But if the user is familiar with the schema of AES cipher, it is still possible to determine.

The decryption process is difficult if the user only relies on algorithm. OllyDbg provides an effective way to decrypt cipher especially when the cipher is XOR because double XOR means plaintext. I don't think the same method could be applied to other ciphers except XOR. For example we cannot base64 or complicated DES/AES. This Lab help review the previous cryptography knowledge that I almost forgot.

## Lab13-01

### Steps of Process

This malware contains encrypted information because VirusTotal has detected Malware-Cryptor.InstallCore.1. First we examine the imports and exports. This malware intends to intercept with Internet because we can notice a lot of Internet indicator such as gethostname, WSASStartup, InternetReadFile and etc. Besides the Internet indicator, we also noticed FindResourceFile and LoadResourceFile which means the malware has a PEfile at resource section. To guess the purpose of the malware, I use string and made a conclusion that this malware is not powerful because I didn't see a lot of memory mapping neither loading (unloading) driver operations. So we can try to run this malware and see the details.

[+] WININET.dll		Number of PE resources by type	
InternetReadFile		RT_RCDATA	1
InternetOpenUrlA		Number of PE resources by language	
InternetCloseHandle		ENGLISH US	1
InternetOpenA		ExifTool file metadata	
[+] WS2_32.dll		MIMETYPE	application/octet-stream
WSASStartup		Subsystem	Windows command line
gethostname		MachineType	Intel 386 or later, and compatibles
WSACleanup		TimeStamp	2011:11:09 00:02:22.01-00

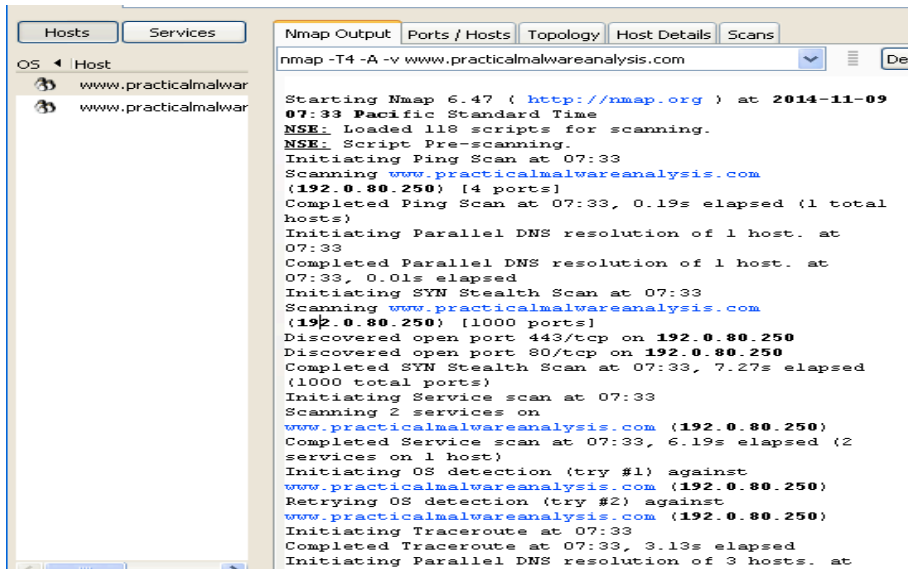
Since I already realized that the malware intercepts with Internet, I use apateDNS, ZenMap, and netcat to listen on port 80. The result is very interesting because I didn't notice the host address and the beacon after GET command at strings. Therefore the host name and beacon string might be encrypted. I noticed user-agent at string so it is a plaintext.

```

C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator\Desktop\nc111>nc -l -p 80
- e prog          inbound program to exec [dangerous!!]
- g gateway       source-routing hop point[s], up to 8
- G num           source-routing pointer: 4, 8, 12, ...
- h              this cruft
- i secs          delay interval for lines sent, ports scanned
- l              listen mode, for inbound connects
- L              listen harder, re-listen on socket close
- n              numeric-only IP addresses, no DNS
- o file          hex dump of traffic
- p port          local port number
- r              randomize local and remote ports
- s addr          local source address
- t              answer TELNET negotiation
- u              UDP mode
- v              verbose luse twice to be more verbose!
- w secs          timeout for connects and final net reads
- z              zero-I/O mode lused for scanning!
port numbers can be individual or ranges: m-n [inclusive]

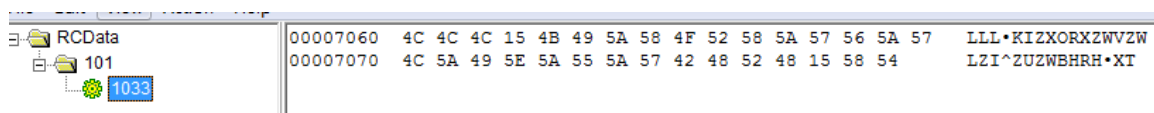
C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator\Desktop\nc111>nc -l -p 80
GET /eG1hb3lp/ HTTP/1.1
User-Agent: Mozilla/4.0
Host: www.practicalmalwareanalysis.com
  
```

We put the malware into IDA Pro.



The goal is to find

any cipher indicator and decrypt it. The first function at main function is sub\_401300. This function is right before WSASStartup. The return value of sub\_401300 is lpWSAData that contain the operations of window socket implementation. Therefore we can guess the purpose of sub\_401300 is to find the domain address and resolve Internet command. I rename sub\_401300 as WSA\_Struct. Double click on it and I found that the first purpose is to free the PEfile at recourse section. The program calls FindResourceA, SizeofResource, LoadResource and LockResource to find the resource and pass the section pointer to eax. The pointer then is passed to edx and being a parameter at sub\_401190. At sub\_401190, I noticed a key operation "XOR" with cipher key 0x3B. It could be the cipher that decrypts the information at resource section. I rename sub\_401190 as Cipher. The loop at Cipher starts at 0x40119D and ends at 0x4011C3. eax is counter that increases by one each time the cipher is implemented. If the number of counter is greater than the length of ciphertext, then the loop will break. To decrypt the information, first we need to extract the PEfile from resource section. Second we decrypt it at WinHex.



```

00007010 | 31 3B 3B 3B 23 3B 3B BB 3B 3B 3B 3B 3B 3B 3B 3B | 1:::##::>:::
00007020 | 3B 3B 3B 3B 3B 3B 3A 3B 5E 3B 3B 3B 0B 3B 3B BB | :::::~::: >
00007030 | 3B 3B 3B 3B 3B 3B 3B 3B 3B 3B 3B 3B 3B 3A 3B | ::::: >
00007040 | 32 3F 3B 3B 73 3B 3B 3B 63 BB 3B 3B 1B 3B 3B 3B | 2?::: >
00007050 | 3B 3B 3B 3B 3B 3B 3B 3B 77 77 77 2E 70 72 61 63 | :::::www.prac
00007060 | 74 69 63 61 6C 6D 61 6C 77 61 72 65 61 6E 61 6C | ticalmalwareanal
00007070 | 79 73 69 73 2E 63 6F 6D 3B 3B 3B 3B 3B 3B 3B 3B | ysis.com:::
00007080 | 2B 2B 2B 2B 2B 2B 2B 2B 2B 2B 2B 2B 2B 2B 2B 2B | :::::

```

The above result is the plaintext. Also, I notice the ciphertxt at strings.

After the program get the host address, it will sleep for few seconds and call sub\_4011C9. Most of Internet indicators are at sub\_4011C9. Therefore I guess the purpose of this function is to use Internet command to send request from Internet. I rename it as Internet\_cmd. Double click on it and I can notice the user-agent string Mozilla/4.0. The user-agent string is shown as plaintext like I mentioned before. The next important function call is gethostname that takes length and name pointer as parameter. Here the name pointer is stored at ebp which is the parameter passed from Internet\_cmd. At loc\_40142E, we can notice that Internet\_cmd only takes one parameter [ebp+var\_19C]. This is a pointer to return value of earlier WSA\_Struct(). The return value is the host address www.practicalmalwareanalysis. Therefore gethostname is used to find www.practicalmalwareanalysis.com. Then the program calls strncpy to copy the first 12 characters of host name. (0xC is 12 in decimal). The result will be stored at destination parameter [ebp+var\_18]. Later [ebp+var\_18] is passed to sub\_4010B1. There are two loops at this function. The first loop is start from 1 to 4. The second loop that is within the first loop starts from 1 to 3. So we can assume the program is using base64 cipher to encrypt data from 3bytes into 4bytes. Besides, there is a good base64 indicator at strings. The next goal is to find the base64table and the padding indicator as well.

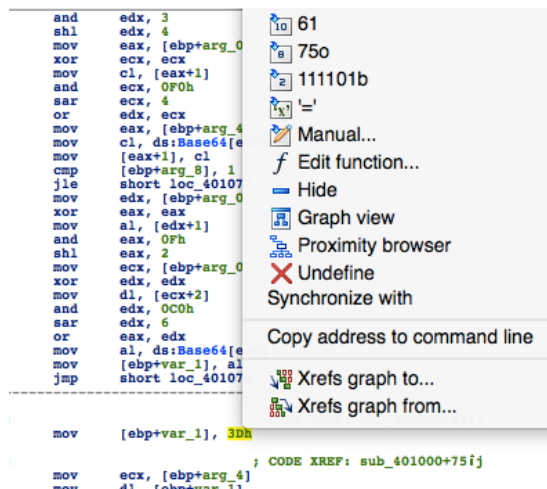
```

;=QnQ
QmQ
tiW
Yt<
z\iQ
xiQ
^1I
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZabcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz0123456789+/-
EEE
<8PX
700WP
'h
ppxxxx
<null>
<null>
runtime error
TLOSS error
SING error

```

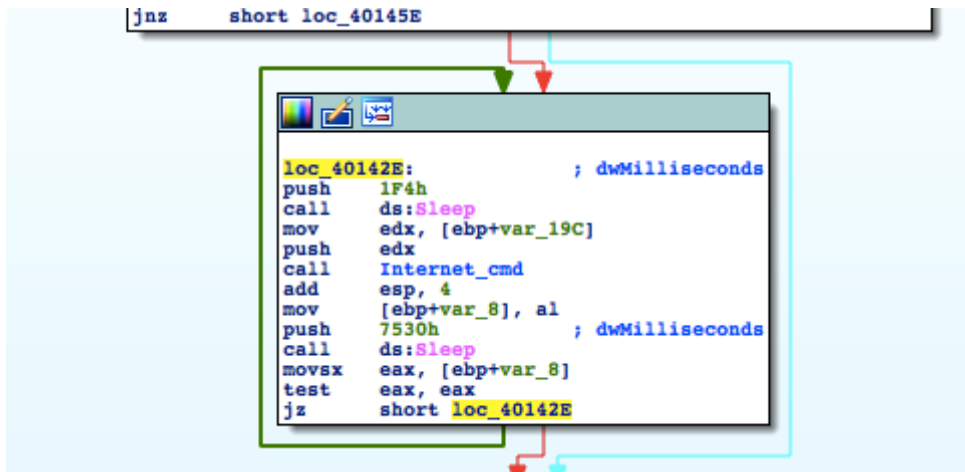
The IDA Pro I use doesn't label the base64 index and padding indicator. So we can find it manually. The base64table is located at function sub\_401000. I rename it as

base64Cipher. Double click on it and we can notice that base64 appears many times and the padding indicator is shown as hex digit. However I have a few questions concerning this code area. (See issues or problems section)



The function will return the ciphertext of hostname to 0040122F. Then the ciphertext is passed to `sprintf` as a parameter. The outcome of `sprintf` should be an URL because the string format is `http://%/s/%s/`. The program opens the URL and read the data from the URL. The return data is stored at a pointer parameter `ebp+var_8`. If the data is not zero, then the program jumps to `loc_4012EA`. At `loc_4012EA`, the first character of data is compare with `0x6F` which is letter "o". If the first letter is "o", the program will return number 1 and exit otherwise it will return number 0 without terminating. Back to main function where `Internet_cmd( )` is called. We found out that there is a loop.

If the first character of data is not "o", the program will keep running because there isn't any alternative condition for break. The program will take a sleep and open the URL and read data again until the first character is "o". That is the reason why when I launch the malware, the command prompt didn't exit until I close it.



### Issues or Problems

The first issue I met is that all the plunge-in doesn't work at my IDA Pro. After I download those plugins and put them into IDA\Plugin folder, those plugins cannot show up at edit/plugin when IDA Pro starts. The second issue I met is that I listen to port 80 and get the beacon eG1hb31p instead of the string listed at book. Since the string is based on hostname, so I will say it is not a big issue.

### Conclusion

Compared with the next two labs, this lab is not that difficult. This malware is an identifier showing that it is running and reading data from the specific hostname. If the data starts with letter "o", the malware will return number 0 and stop. If the data doesn't start with "o", the malware will keep running within the loop until it meets the condition. The host URL is encrypted by XOR with key 0x3B. The first 12bytes of hostname is encrypted by base64 as beacon.

### Reviewed Questions

**1. Compare the strings in the malware (from the output of the strings command) with the information available via dynamic analysis. Based on this comparison, which elements might be encoded?**

host RUL is encrypted because I didn't see [www.practicalmalwareanalysis.com](http://www.practicalmalwareanalysis.com) at strings.  
GET string *beacon* is encrypted.

**2. Use IDA Pro to look for potential encoding by searching for the string xor . What type of encoding do you find?**

XOR cipher appears in three different functions. The useful one is located at 004011B8. Except this one, XOR operations are used to clean the registers.

**3. What is the key used for encoding and what content does it encode?**

ciphertext: LLL·KIZXORXZWVZW LZI^ZUZWBHRH·XT

key: 0x3B

plaintext: www.practicalmalwareanalysis.com

**4. Use the static tools FindCrypt2, Krypto ANALyzer (KANAL), and the IDA Entropy Plugin to identify any other encoding mechanisms. What do you find?**

The plugin doesn't work at the version of IDA Pro that I use. But from analyzing IDA Pro assembly code, I know that the cipher is XOR and base64.

**5. What type of encoding is used for a portion of the network traffic sent by the malware?**

Base64 is used to generate the beacon string used by GET.

**6. Where is the Base64 function in the disassembly?**

0x004010B1

**7. What is the maximum length of the Base64-encoded data that is sent?**

**What is encoded?**

The program copies the first 12bytes of hostname. Therefore the maximum length should be 12. Base64 encode the data from 3bytes into 4bytes. Therefore the encoded data should have 16bytes as maximum length.

**8. In this malware, would you ever see the padding characters (= or ==) in the Base64-encoded data?**

I saw the padding character at loc\_401077. The character is shown as hex digit 0x3D.



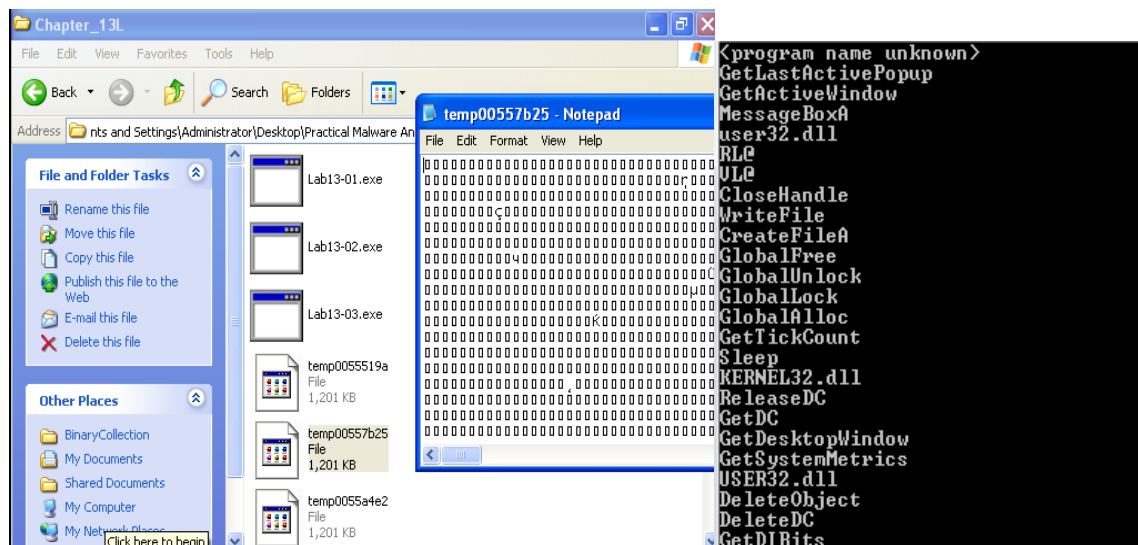
## 9. What does this malware do?

This malware encrypts the hostname and reads data from the host URL. It will not stop until it receives specific data string starting with letter "o".

### Lab13-02

#### Steps of Processes

First I check the string to guess the purpose of the malware. The string shows some interesting entries for example WriteFile, GetDesktopWindows, Temp%08x, GDI32.dll, and etc. The malware has intercepted with GDI32.dll which contains functions for the Windows GDI (Graphics Device Interface). This module of the Windows GDI assists windows in creating simple 2-dimensional objects. The malware might capture the screenshot and retrieve information from the screenshot and save the encrypted information to temp file. So we can run the malware and see the behavior. After the malware is launched, it creates many temp files at current directory. The data stored at temp files are not readable.



There isn't any network-based indicator since I have already set apateDNS and found nothing. Now we can analyze the malware at IDA Pro. The main function has only one function call sub\_401851. We double click on it and see there a lot of function calls inside of it. So we will analyze the functions one by one.

sub\_401070 has many functions but it is not difficult to determine. GetSystemMetrics is used to retrieve the specified system metric or system configuration setting. GetDesktopWindow is used to get the windows screenshot. GetDC function retrieves a handle to a device context (DC) for the client area of a specified window or for the entire screen. The BitBlt function performs a bit-block transfer of the color data corresponding to a rectangle of pixels from the specified source device context into a destination device context. The GetObject function retrieves information for the specified graphics object. So far we can almost assure that sub\_401070 is used to get the screenshot and transfer the pixels of picture to bits. Therefore we can rename the function as GetPicBit.

sub\_40181F also contains many function calls. The most interesting operation is "XOR". The function takes as pixel bytes and output pointer as parameters. Therefore we can pretty sure that this function is the cipher, and the cipher schema is XOR. Because of the complexity of encryption, we will go back to this function later. Rename it as XORCipher. After the cipher schema, the program calls GetTickCount that gives a few seconds snap between the malware creates new file at temp path. Moreover, the return value of GetTickCount will be the name of the created file. That's why we see the different random file names at temp path.

sub\_401000 writes the encrypted data into files. It takes the encrypted bytes, file name, file path as parameters. It calls CreateFile and WriteFile. This function is easily to analyze. Rename it as WriteCiphertext. Then the program calls GlobalUnlock/GlobalFree and it goes back to sleep before it terminates.

So far the major problem is the encryption schema. Since all the plugins cannot work here, I can assume that XOR is the only cipher. We search XOR and see the results. The result makes matter only if it combines with number or register storing value. If XOR operation is followed by register+register, then we can ignore it. Therefore the only two left results are sub\_401739 and sub\_40128D. The first one is in sub\_40181F which is renamed as XORCipher. If we click on the second one and trace back according to the cross-reference. We can also find out that sub\_40128D is within XORCipher. Therefore we should analyze XORCipher.

Address	Function	Instruction
.text:00401040	WriteCiphertext	xor eax, eax
.text:004012D6	sub_40128D	xor eax, [ebp+var_10]
.text:0040171F		xor eax, [esi+edx*4]
.text:0040176F	sub_401739	xor edx, [ecx]
.text:0040177A	sub_401739	xor edx, ecx
.text:00401785	sub_401739	xor edx, ecx
.text:00401795	sub_401739	xor eax, [edx+8]
.text:004017A1	sub_401739	xor eax, edx
.text:004017AC	sub_401739	xor eax, edx
.text:004017BD	sub_401739	xor ecx, [eax+10h]
.text:004017C9	sub_401739	xor ecx, eax
.text:004017D4	sub_401739	xor ecx, eax
.text:004017E5	sub_401739	xor edx, [ecx+18h]
.text:004017F1	sub_401739	xor edx, ecx
.text:004017FC	sub_401739	xor edx, ecx
.text:0040191E	_main	xor eax, eax
.text:0040311A		xor dh, [eax]
.text:0040311E		xor [eax], dh
.text:00403688		xor ecx, ecx
.text:004036A5		xor edx, edx

XORCipher(sub\_40181F) -> sub\_401739(XOR) -> sub\_4012DD -> jump to loc\_40142D -> sub\_40128D(XOR). According to this chain, we can clearly see that the second XOR is embedded into the first XOR cipher. At code area of sub\_401739 and sub\_40128D, we can notice many bit shift (left or right) operations because of the cipher. The algorithm is too complicated to convert to program. Therefore we should use Immdbg or Ollydbg to decrypt it. The logic is not difficult to understand due to the features of XOR. We set a breakpoint right before the encryption. Then we change the content of plaintext. Here the plaintext is the pixels of screenshot. We need to change it to the previous ciphertext. Here the ciphertext is the encrypted pixels of screenshot which is not readable data. The malware encrypt the ciphertext, which is equivalent to decrypt the ciphertext because it is XOR cipher. If we use it twice you will get the original information back.

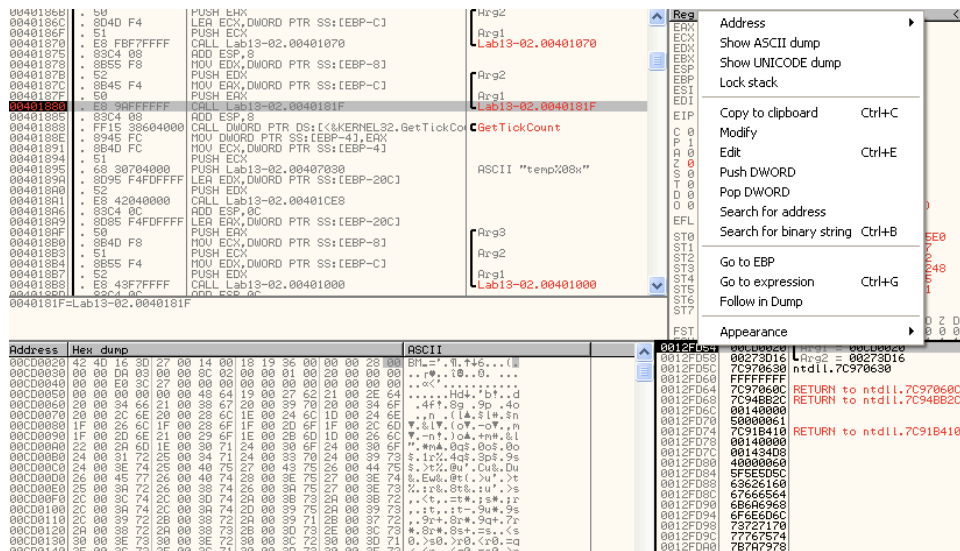
For example:  $1010(\text{plaintext}) \wedge 1110(\text{key}) = 100(\text{Ciphertext})$

$$100 \wedge 1110 = 1010 (\text{the original information})$$

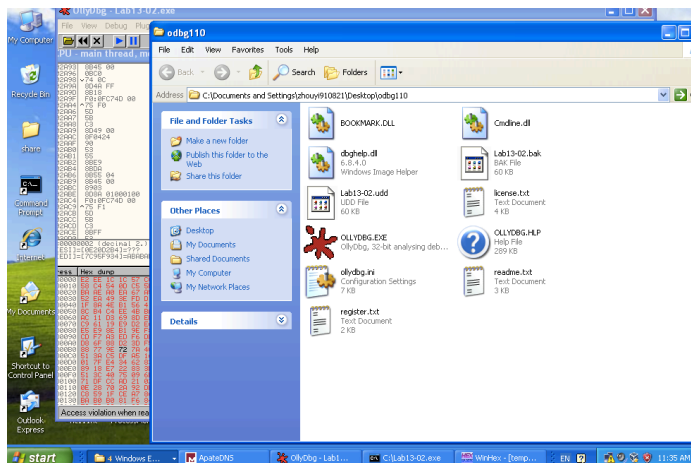
We didn't detour the malware program. The important thing is to change the content at buffer from plaintext to previous ciphertext. Then the decrypted image should be saved at the new file with different name.

To see the plaintext, the screenshot picture, we can figure out the cipher algorithm and run it reversely. Or we can run OllyDbg to retrieve the plaintext. The first breakpoint I pick is 0x401880(XORCipher). This is the only option for the first breakpoint because we need to change the value of plaintext which is going to be passed into XORCipher(). XORCipher takes two parameters, length and plaintext; the second breakpoint should be

set after WriteFile function is called. Therefore I set it at 0x4018CE. Now we can run OllyDbg and see the malware's behavior. The program stops at the first breakpoint. IDA Pro helps us label the content at register. arg2 is number of bytes to write; arg1 is plaintext. Therefore we choose the value at arg1 and show the hex digits. See the lower panel at left. We need to modify the ASCII at that area (plaintext to ciphertext). We paste ciphertext from tempXXXX file and resume the program.

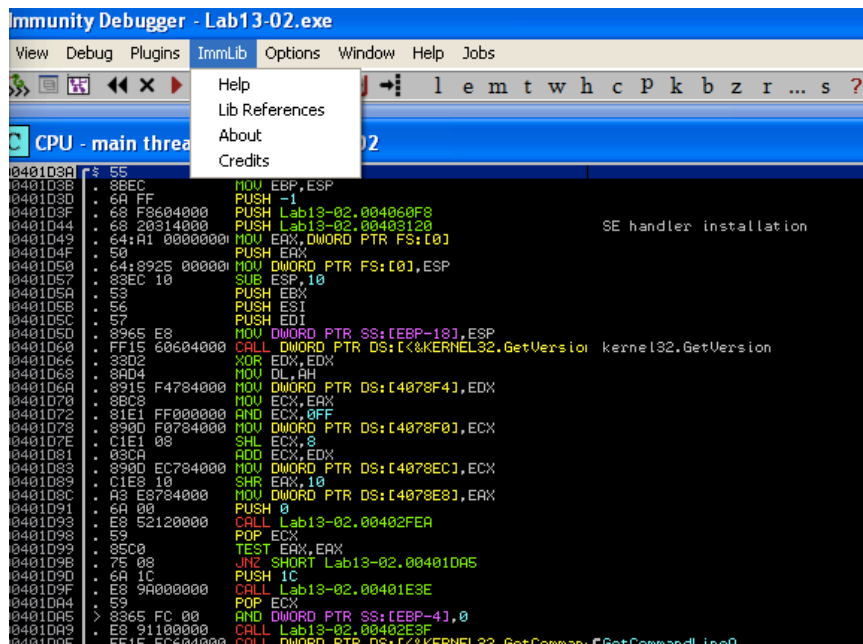


The data is red after binary paste. Then we can run the program. After the second breakpoint is hit, the malware create a new file at local path. Before I start OllyDbg, I deleted all the ciphertext files except one for future use. Therefore right now there are only two files at current path. One is the ciphertext and the other one should be plaintext with name tempXXXXXX. To see the screenshot, rename the new created file with extension png or bmp. Open it.



## Issues or Problems

First I try to use ImmDbg python plugin to decrypt it. However I cannot find where the python script is ran. The python script has already been placed into PyCommand folder. But I can't see the run script command at ImmDbg library.



## Conclusion

This malware is not that harmful. It capture the current windows and encrypt the pixels then save the ciphertext into a file formatting by "temp"+"ticketcount". The cipher schema is XOR. To decrypt it, we should use same cipher schema to encrypt it twice. The malware will stop if we close it manually.

## Reviewed Questions

**1. Using dynamic analysis, determine what this malware creates.**

A lot of files containing ciphertexts of the screenshots at current path.

**2. Use static techniques such as a "XOR" search, FindCrypt2, KANAL, and the**

**IDA Entropy Plugin to look for potential encoding. What do you find?**

The only cipher schema used in this malware is XOR. I found many entries of XOR but only two of them matter.

**3. Based on your answer to question 1, which imported function would be a good prospect for finding the encoding functions?**

We should pay attention to the code area between GetDesktopWindow/ BitBlt and WriteFile.

**4. Where is the encoding function in the disassembly?**

The encoding function is sub\_40181F.

**5. Trace from the encoding function to the source of the encoded content.****What is the content?**

The plaintext is the screenshot of the current window.

**6. Can you find the algorithm used for encoding? If not, how can you decode the content?**

The algorithm is complicated. Therefore a good way to decrypt is to XOR twice, which means we use OllyDbg to change the content at buffer from plaintext to ciphertext.

**7. Using instrumentation: can you recover the original source of one of the encoded files?**

Yes. XOR the content twice and check the new created file.

**Lab13-03****Steps of Process**

First we use basic static and dynamic analysis to examine the malware. We noticed that a few functions intercept with Internet function. For example Gethistbyname, WSASocketA, and connect. Therefore we should set Wireshark and Netcat and

ApateDNS to see the malware's behavior related to network function. From the Wireshark, the malware is using port 8910. So I listen on the port 8910 and wait for the result. But nothing shows up. Therefore I started to send some message via socket and I found that the message I send has been encrypted. Moreover the malware intend to get access to [www.practicalmalwareanalysis.com](http://www.practicalmalwareanalysis.com). We can figure it out by ApateDNS. The domain name is not encrypted because we can see the name at string. String can give us a lot of entries in this lab.

The screenshot shows a Windows Command Prompt window with the following content:

```

C:\Documents and Settings\zhouyi910821\Desktop\nc111nt>nc -l -p 8910
^C
C:\Documents and Settings\zhouyi910821\Desktop\nc111nt>nc 169.254.152.88 8910
hello this is Snow

```

Below the Command Prompt, the 'Ethernet adapter Local Area Connection 2:' configuration is displayed:

```

Ethernet adapter Local Area Connection 2:

    Connection-specific DNS Suffix  . : 
    Autoconfiguration IP Address. . . : 169.254.152.88
    Subnet Mask . . . . . : 255.255.0.0
    Default Gateway . . . . . : 

```

At the bottom, a 'details' tab is visible in a network utility window.

This is one entry "ijklmnopqrsuvwx" seems like random generated string or cipher key. So far we don't know the cipher schema. We can guess the string is cipher key. And we also noticed "empty key", "incorrect key length", "incorrect block length". I think the malware divide the plaintext into block and encrypt the information by block. This block cipher schema is normally used by DES and AES. I also found an interesting string similar to base64. But in this case I don't think it is standard base64. It is customized base64 cipher schema. Right now we can assume the malware has used two different ciphers. Under the string, we saw some information related to network. When we close the socket at Netcat, we can see those strings. Error API, error code, message. Right now the first goal is to determine the cipher.



```

Command Prompt
CloseHandle
CreateThread
CreateThread
ijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
www.practicalmalwareanalysis.com
L"A
d"A
Object not Initialized
Data not multiple of Block Size
Empty key
Incorrect key length
Incorrect block length
?AUexceptionE
?AUios_baseEstdE
?AU?Sbasic_ios@DU?$char_traits@E@stdEstdE
?AU?Sbasic_istream@DU?$char_traits@E@stdEstdE
?AU?Sbasic_ostream@DU?$char_traits@E@stdEstdE
?AU?Sbasic_streambuf@DU?$char_traits@E@stdEstdE
?AU?Sbasic_filebuf@DU?$char_traits@E@stdEstdE
?AU?Sbasic_ios@GU?$char_traits@E@stdEstdE
?AU?Sbasic_istream@GU?$char_traits@E@stdEstdE
?AU?Sbasic_ostream@GU?$char_traits@E@stdEstdE
?AU?Sbasic_filebuf@GU?$char_traits@E@stdEstdE
?AU?Sbasic_streambuf@GU?$char_traits@E@stdEstdE
?AUruntime_errorEstdE
LoadLibraryA
SetStdHandle
LCHmapStringA
LCHmapStringW
SetStringTypeA
SetStringTypeW
3;E
3;E
3;E
3;E
'KE
'KE
3LE
3LE
3LE
3LE
2DEFCHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZABCDEFGHIJKLMNopqrstuvwxyzab0123456789+/-
ERROR: API = %s.
error code = %d.
message = %s.
ReadFile
WriteConsole

```

We can open the malware at IDA Pro. The main function is not complicated. We can notice the string `ijklmnopqrstuvwxyz` immediately after we open IDA Pro. The string is a parameter used by `sub_401AC2`. So I don't think it is just a random string. It could be the cipher key. Now we can rename `sub_401AC2` as `Mal_Cipher`. We can determine the cipher schema later. The return value of `Mal_Cipher` should be a pointer to `WSAstruct` so that `WSAStartup` can initial Winsock properly. Later the program calls `WSASocket` to create a socket. Type value is one so that the program starts a socket stream that provides sequenced, reliable, two-way, connection-based byte streams with an OOB data transmission mechanism. Then the program keeps calling Internet-related functions like `gethostname`, `htons`, `connect` and `sub_4015B7`.

Double click on `sub_4015B7`, we can notice that the program calls `CreatePipe` for the incoming and outgoing message communication. Then the program opens process "cmd.exe" in order to create a thread in this process later. The threads at cmd.exe are created at `0x401807` and `0x40184B`, respectively. One of them is outgoing communication thread; the other one is incoming communication thread. Before the program calls `CreateThread` at `0x401807`, the program first calls `0x401082` by passing the pointer `StartAddress`. At `0x401082`, the block cipher encrypts the plaintext (discuss later). At another `CreateThread` function call `0x4084B`, the program calls `sub_40132B` where base64 happens. Therefore we can assure that the program encrypt the incoming message and outgoing message with block cipher and base64, respectively. But I cannot figure out which one is corresponding to incoming message; which one is corresponding to outgoing message. There is supposed to have an explicit command or process handle indicating the output or input. But I didn't find it.

Search the key word XOR to determine the cipher schema. We can see many entries. If XOR is followed by register + register, then it doesn't make matter. Except the



register cleaning operation, there are five main entries. The first one is located at Mal\_Cipher (sub\_401AC2); the second one is located at sub\_40223A; the third one is located at sub\_4027ED. The fourth one is located at sub\_402DA8; the fifth one is located at sub\_403166.

Now we double click on Mal\_Cipher that takes the key as parameter. At the code area of Mal\_Cipher, we can see many hints like "Empty key" and "Incorrect block length". The hints indicate that the malware use block cipher. It could possibly be AES/DES. The first comparison is between cipher key and NULL. The cipher key is stored at arg\_0. The parameter "ijklmnopqrstuvwxyz" is passed from main function. If the key is not empty then the program will compare the length of key and block. If all of them are correct, the length of key and block should both be 16 (0x10) in decimal, then the program will keep going and implementing cipher. I cannot determine which block cipher the malware uses. I think it is AES because the block length is 16\*8 bits that is 128bits. DES will not use this length. Therefore the main purpose of Mal\_Cipher is to set and initialize block cipher in order to implement encryption.

Next we navigate to sub\_40223A where the second XOR appears.

```
sar    edx, 10h
and    edx, 0FFh
mov    eax, ds:dword_40CB08[ecx*4]
xor    eax, ds:dword_40CF08[edx*4]
mov    ecx, [ebp+var_18]
sar    ecx, 8
and    ecx, 0FFh
xor    eax, ds:dword_40D308[ecx*4]
mov    edx, [ebp+var_8]
and    edx, 0FFh
xor    eax, ds:dword_40D708[edx*4]
mov    ecx, [ebp+var_2C]
xor    eax, [ecx+4]
mov    [ebp+var_20], eax
mov    edx, [ebp+var_10]
sar    edx, 18h
and    edx, 0FFh
mov    eax, [ebp+var_18]
sar    eax, 10h
and    eax, 0FFh
mov    ecx, ds:dword_40CB08[edx*4]
xor    ecx, ds:dword_40CF08[eax*4]
mov    edx, [ebp+var_8]
sar    edx, 8
```

We can see a lot of operation involving dword\_40CB08 and dword\_40CF08. Both of them are from same data block if we double click on them. Therefore it might be the encryption or decryption process of block cipher. The same theory could also be applied to 0x402DA8. However if we double click on 0x4027ED, we can see that there are some operations related to block cipher. But the data are from different data set compared to dword\_40CB08 and dword\_40CF08. Unfortunately I failed to figure out how AES works at this malware. But I assume that the purpose of 0x4027ED is opposite to 0x402DA8/0x40223A. They are encryption and decryption function, respectively.

IDA Pro didn't give us block cipher hint at 0x401383 but I think there should be

an encryption process between ReadFile and WriteFile. If we navigate to function call sub\_40352D between ReadFile and WriteFile, the function take byte\_412EF8 as parameter. Earlier the Mal\_Cipher function call also takes it as parameter. Therefore byte\_412EF8 might be an indicator to block cipher. Double click on sub\_40352D, we can see more clear hints. The offset "off\_412244" has labeled as "Data not multiple of Block Size ", which already indicated that the function is related to block cipher.

Besides block cipher, there is another cipher. The key is located at 0x40105E and stored at pointer register byte\_4120A4[ecx]. To determine how it works, we navigate to loc\_4010BD because there is a loop. The encryption procedure of base64 has to involve a loop because it divides data into a certain number of blocks. In this case, the loop of base64 is located among 0x4010BD and 0x401119. Between them, the program sets ecx as counter. Each time the counter is increased by one and later compared with number 4, which suggest that the plaintext will be divided into 4-bytes chunk. Another question is why the program uses base64. We check the cross reference of sub\_401082 where the base64 happens. This function is called at 0x40154E right before WriteFile. The purpose of base64 is similar to the previous block cipher we talked about while they are in different locations.

### **Issues or Problems**

I cannot verify my conclusion except the base64 cipher. I think the malware uses AES but I am still not sure. Moreover the decryption procedure won't work without the python plugin.

### **Conclusion**

This malware is the most difficult one at the lab13 because it use two different cipher AES and customized base64. The malware starts a command shell. All the incoming messages are encrypted by Base64; All the outgoing messages are encrypted by AES.

### **Reviewed Questions**

**1. Compare the output of strings with the information available via dynamic analysis. Based on this comparison, which elements might be encoded?**

The incoming and outgoing messages are encrypted.

**2. Use static analysis to look for potential encoding by searching for the string XOR.**

**What type of encoding do you find?**

block cipher could be DES/AES. I think it is AES.

**3. Use static tools like FindCrypt2, KANAL, and the IDA Entropy Plugin to identify any other encoding mechanisms. How do these findings compare with the XOR findings?**

AES and base64. AES is combined with XOR.

**4. Which two encoding techniques are used in this malware?**

Customized base64 and block cipher:

**5. For each encoding technique, what is the key?**

Customized base64:

DEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZABcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyzab0123456789+/-

block cipher: ijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

**6. For the cryptographic encryption algorithm, is the key sufficient? What else must be known?**

For 64base the information is enough. But for AES, we need to know the initial vector.

And how does IV combine with key.

**7. What does this malware do?**

This malware build a remote shell. It encrypts the incoming message by base64; encrypts outgoing message by AES.

**8. Create code to decrypt some of the content produced during dynamic analysis.**

**What is this content?**