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Importance of Malware Analysis



Outline

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Malware Analysis: The basics...

Generally

- Malware is any form of malicious software.
- Any code that “performs evil”

Today

Executable content with unknown functionality that is resident on a system of investigative interest

- Viruses
- Worms
- Intrusion Tools
- Spyware
- Rootkits

How does one get malware? The bad way

- Phishing or spear-phishing
- Exploit kits
- Drive-by download
- USB drive or other removable media
- Network (shares, SMB)
- Manual installation (RDP, VNC, TeamViewer, ...)
- Watering hole (Strategic Web Compromise)
- Other malware that downloads and/or installs 'companions'

Importance

Assess	the damages from an intrusion or a security incident
Discover	points or indicators of compromise and locating the affected machines
Determine	the level of sophistication of the malware involved
Identify	the source of the attack, the vulnerability exploited by the malware and preparing for patching it accordingly
Learn	from the present incident and taking appropriate measures to ensure that the same cause is not the reason behind any security incident in the future.

Goals of Malware Analysis

- To develop signatures/indicators to detect malware infections on a network.
- Using the signatures to understand how a specific piece of malware functions so that defences can be built to protect the network.
- To detect malicious code on victim computers.
- Identify files created or modified by the malware or specific changes that it makes to the registry.
- Used to detect malicious code by monitoring network traffic.

Types of Malware

- Backdoor
 - Allows attacker to control the system
- Botnet
 - All infected computers receive instructions from the same Command-and-Control (C&C) server
- Downloader
 - Malicious code that exists only to download other malicious code
 - Used when attacker first gains access
- Information-stealing malware
 - Sniffers, keyloggers, password hash grabbers

Types of Malware

- Launcher
 - Malicious program used to launch other malicious programs
 - Often uses nontraditional techniques to ensure stealth or greater access to a system
- Rootkit
 - Malware that conceals the existence of other code
 - Usually paired with a backdoor
- Scareware
 - Frightens user into buying something
- Spam-sending malware
 - Attacker rents machine to spammers

Types of Malware

- Worms or viruses
 - Malicious code that can copy itself and infect additional computers
- Adware
 - uses pop-up windows which cannot be closed and are included with free software and browser toolbars
- Reverse Shell
 - A reverse shell is a connection initiated from the infected host to the attacker and provides the attacker with a shell access to the host often created by a Trojan
- RAT – Remote Access Trojan
 - sometimes called a Remote Administration Tool or Remote Access Tool, is software which allows an attacker to take control of the infected host using a backdoor.

Types of Malware

- Browser Hijacker
 - control your browser settings like the homepage for example, or the standard search provider.
- Information Stealing Malware
 - Information stealing malware often comes in the form as keyloggers, password (hash) grabbers and sniffers.
- Keyloggers
 - software (or hardware) which records your keystrokes in order to retrieve passwords, conversations and other personal details.
- Ransomware
 - often encrypts your hard drive or files and demands money in exchange for the decryption key.

Mass v. Targeted Malware

- Mass malware
 - Intended to infect as many machines as possible
 - Most common type
- Targeted malware
 - Tailored to a specific target
 - Very difficult to detect, prevent, and remove
 - Requires advanced analysis
 - Ex: Stuxnet

Malware Analysis Techniques and Tools

Two fundamental approaches to malware analysis: **Static and Dynamic**.

- Static analysis involves analysing the code or structure of a program to determine its function without running it.
- Dynamic analysis involves running the malware and observing its behaviour on the system. Before running the malware safely, you must set up an environment that will allow you to study the running malware without damaging to your system or network.

Technique involved in Static and Dynamic Analysis

Static analysis

- It involves analyzing the signature of the malware binary file which is a unique identification for the binary file.
- The binary file can be reverse-engineered using a disassembler such as IDA to convert the machine-executable code into assembly language code to make it human readable.
- Some of the techniques used for static analysis are file fingerprinting, virus scanning, memory dumping, packer detection, and debugging.

Dynamic analysis

- It involves analyzing the behaviour of malware in a sandbox environment so that it won't affect other systems.
- Manual analysis is replaced by automated analysis through commercial sandboxes.

Approach

Static analysis

- uses a signature-based approach to malware detection and analysis.
- A signature is nothing but a unique identifier for a specific malware which is a sequence of bytes.
- Signature-based antimalware programs are effective against most common types of malware but are ineffective against sophisticated and advanced malware programs.

Dynamic analysis

- uses a behaviour-based approach to determine the functionality of the malware by studying the actions performed by the given malware.

Basic Static Analysis - Antivirus Scanning

- Rely on file signatures of known suspicious code, and behavioural and pattern-matching analysis (heuristics) to identify suspected files.
- Definition files contain file signatures for malware that have been encountered.
- Heuristics allow an antivirus program to identify new or modified types of malware, even without definition files.
- Because the various antivirus programs use different signatures and heuristics, it's useful to run several different antivirus programs against the same piece of suspected malware.

Basic Static Analysis - Antivirus Scanning



VirusTotal is a free service that **analyzes suspicious files and URLs** and facilitates the quick detection of viruses, worms, trojans, and all kinds of malware.

No file selected

Choose File

Maximum file size: 64MB

By clicking 'Scan it!', you consent to our [Terms of Service](#) and allow VirusTotal to share this file with the security community. See our [Privacy Policy](#) for details.

Scan it!

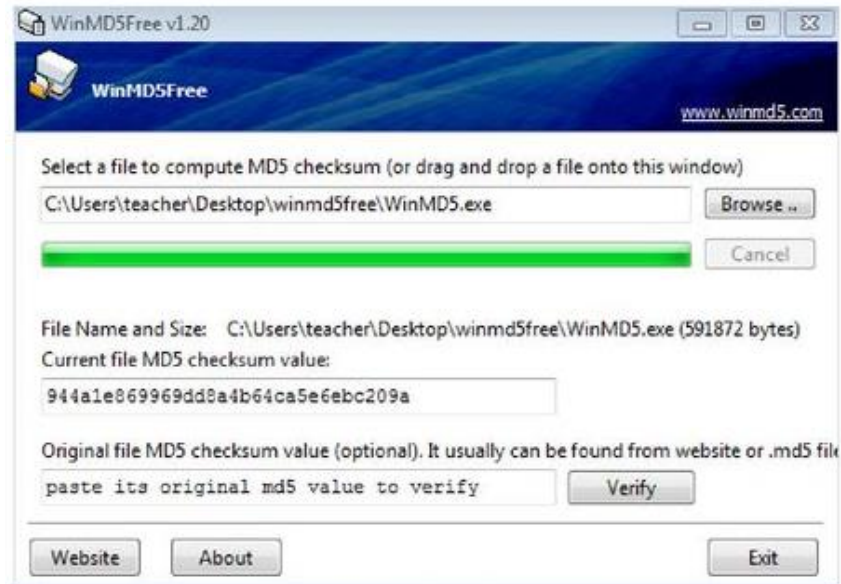
Source: <https://www.virustotal.com/en/>

VirusTotal allow you to upload a malware for scanning by multiple antivirus engines.

BASIC STATIC ANALYSIS - HASHING

- The malicious software is run through a hashing program that produces a unique hash (fingerprint) that identifies that malware.
- Message-Digest Algorithm 5 (MD5, 128-bit) hash function is the one most used for malware analysis.
- Secure Hash Algorithm 1 (SHA-1, 160-bit) hash function is also popular.
- Tools available: md5deep, WinMD5, md5sum

BASIC STATIC ANALYSIS - HASHING



Source: <http://www.winmd5.com/>

The unique hash of a malware can be used as:

- A label to identify the malware
- Share with other analysts to help them to identify malware
- Search for the hash online to see if the malware has already been identified

BASIC STATIC ANALYSIS - PACKED MALWARE

- To bypass firewalls and antivirus scanners, malware authors use packing or obfuscation to make their files more difficult to detect or analyse.
- Packers are software programs that compress and encrypt other executable files in a disk and restore the original executable images when the packed files are loaded into memories.
- Example: UPX (<http://upx.sourceforge.net/>)
- Before performing any analysis, the packed malware must be unpacked.

BASIC STATIC ANALYSIS - PACKED MALWARE



PEiD and Exeinfo PE are two popular packer detectors.

BASIC STATIC ANALYSIS - STRING SEARCHING

- Strings in an executable are typically stored in either ASCII (1 byte/character) or Unicode format (2 bytes/character).
- A program may contain strings if it prints a message, connects to a website (URL), copies a file to a specific location.
- Searching through the strings can be a simple way to get hints about the functionality of a program.
- Tool: Windows Sysinternals Utilities: Strings

BASIC STATIC ANALYSIS - STRING SEARCHING

```
Strings v2.5  
Copyright (C) 1999-2012 Mark Russinovich  
Sysinternals - www.sysinternals.com
```

```
!This program cannot be run in DOS mode.
```

```
Rich  
UPX0  
UPX1  
...  
DmM  
;OI  
PQ6  
(23h  
MalService  
sHGL345  
http://w  
warean  
ysisbook.co  
om#Int6net Explo!r 8FEI  
.0<  
SystemTimeToFile  
...  
...  
KERNEL32.DLL  
ADVAPI32.dll
```

```
MSVCRT.dll  
WININET.dll  
LoadLibraryA  
GetProcAddress  
VirtualProtect  
VirtualAlloc  
VirtualFree  
ExitProcess  
CreateServiceA  
exit  
InternetOpenA
```

Results of running Strings against a file

BASIC STATIC ANALYSIS - PORTABLE EXECUTABLE FILE FORMAT

- The Portable Executable (PE) format is a file format for executables, object code, DLLs, used in 32-bit and 64-bit versions of Windows operating systems.
- PE files begin with a header that includes information about the code, the type of application, required library functions, and space requirements.
- Nearly every file with executable code that is loaded by Windows is in the PE file format. So the information in the PE header is of great value to the malware analyst.

BASIC STATIC ANALYSIS - PORTABLE EXECUTABLE FILE FORMAT

- The most useful pieces of information about an executable is the list of functions that it imports.
- Imports are functions used by one program that are actually stored in a different program, such as code libraries that contain functionality common to many programs.
- Code libraries can be connected to the main executable by statically, at runtime, or dynamically linking. Dynamic linking is the most common.
- Dependency Walker is a free utility that scans any 32-bit or 64-bit Windows module (exe, dll, ocx, sys, etc.) and builds a hierarchical tree diagram of all dependent modules.

BASIC STATIC ANALYSIS - PORTABLE EXECUTABLE FILE FORMAT

The screenshot displays the PEsview application window. On the left, a tree view shows the file structure with 'IMAGE_SECTION_HEADER .data' selected. A red circle highlights this section, with an arrow pointing to a text box that says 'Sections contain useful information'. The main pane shows a table of metadata for the file 'pFile'.

pFile	Data	Description	Value
000000EC	014C	Machine	IMAGE_FILE_MACHINE_I386
000000EE	0003	Number of Sections	
000000F0	4D0E2FD3	Time Date Stamp	2010/12/19 Sun 16:16:19 UTC
000000F4	00000000	Pointer to Symbol Table	
000000F8	00000000	Number of Symbols	
000000FC	00E0	Size of Optional Header	
000000FE	010F	Characteristics	IMAGE_FILE_RELOCS_STRIPPED IMAGE_FILE_EXECUTABLE_IMAGE IMAGE_FILE_LINE_NUMS_STRIPPED IMAGE_FILE_LOCAL_SYMS_STRIPPED IMAGE_FILE_32BIT_MACHINE

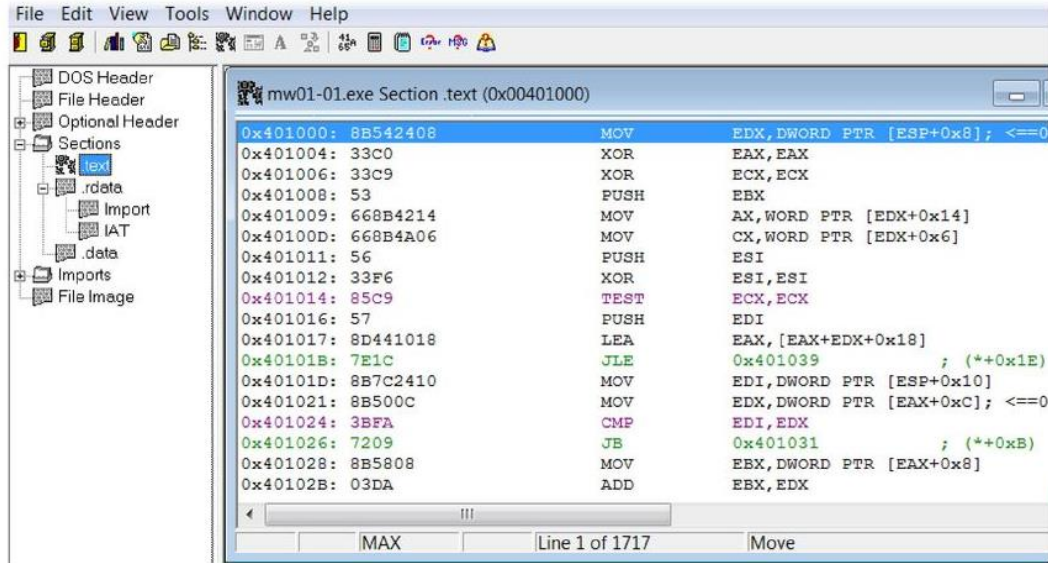
- Using PEsview to analyze malware

BASIC STATIC ANALYSIS - PORTABLE EXECUTABLE FILE FORMAT

Section	Description
.text	Contains the executable code
.rdata	Import and export functions information
.data	Global data accessed throughout the program
.rsrc	Resources needed by the program such as icons, images, menus, and strings

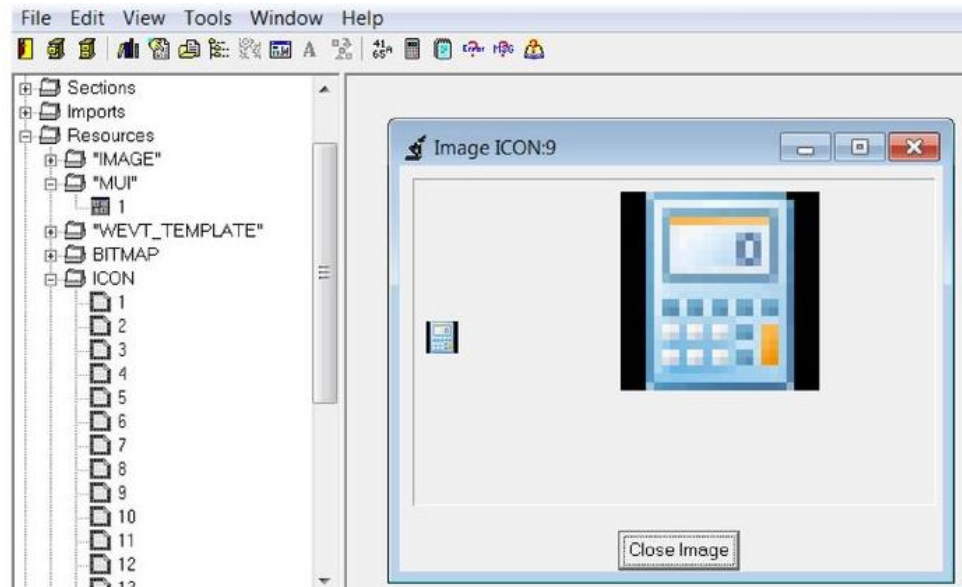
Common sections in a PE file

BASIC STATIC ANALYSIS - PORTABLE EXECUTABLE FILE FORMAT



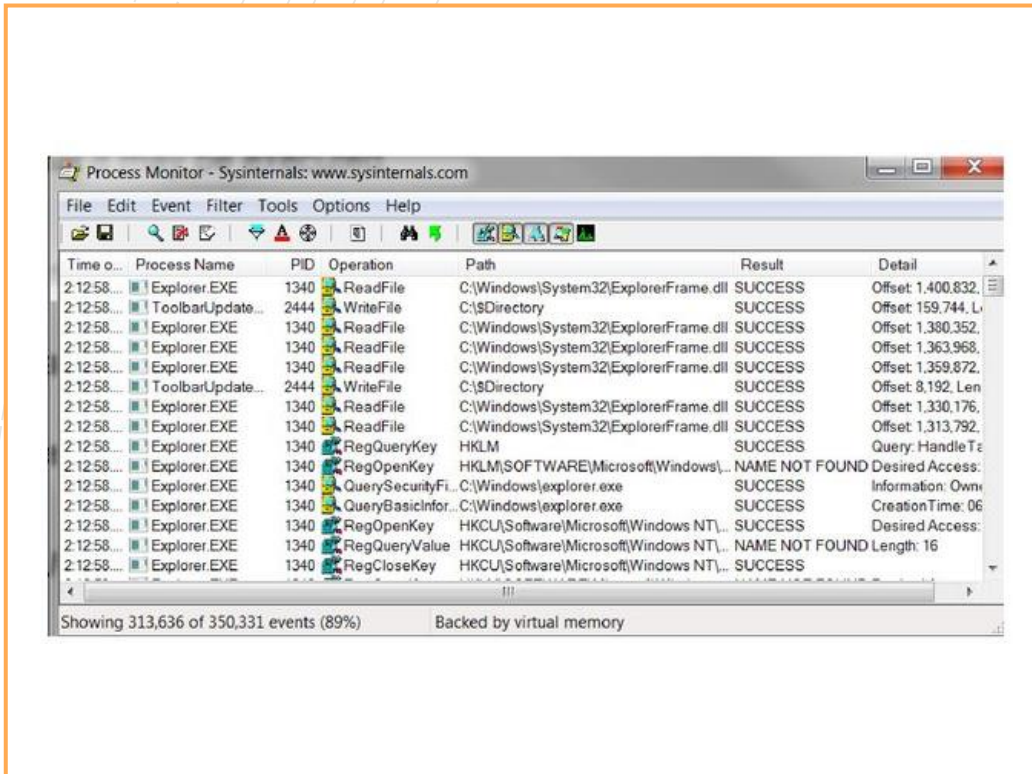
Using PEBrowse Professional to disassemble the .text section of a malware

BASIC STATIC ANALYSIS - PORTABLE EXECUTABLE FILE FORMAT



Using PEBrowse Professional to view the .rsrc section of a program

BASIC DYNAMIC ANALYSIS - KEY TOOLS

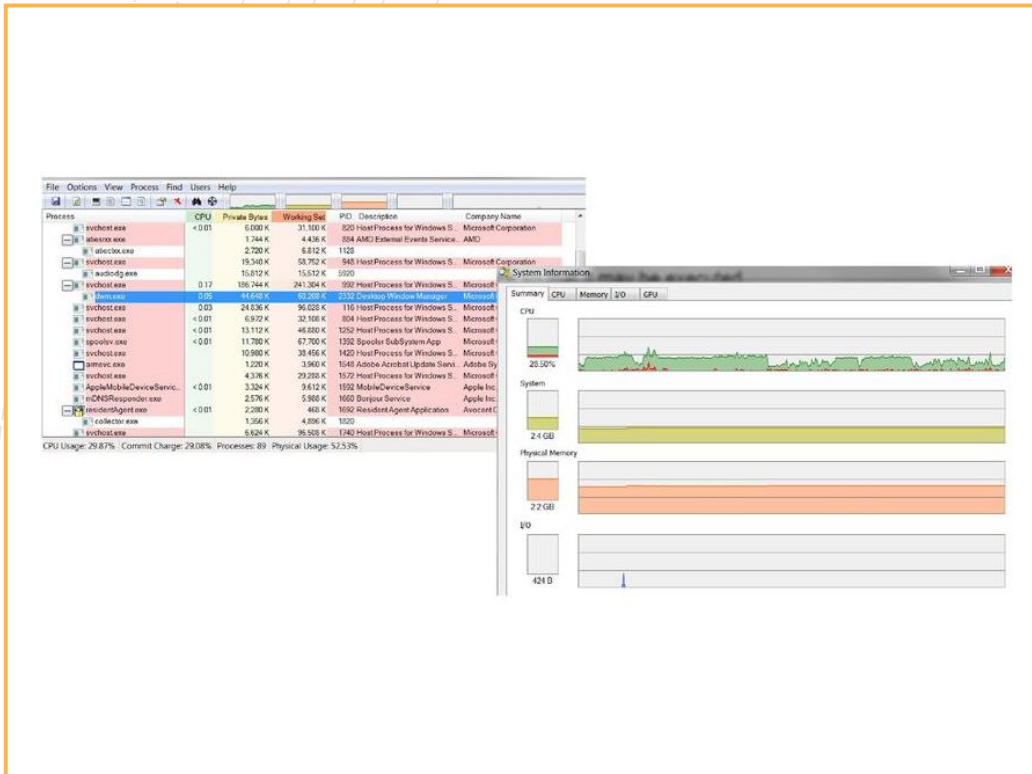


Processor Monitor (procmon)

Source: Microsoft

An advanced monitoring tool for Windows that shows real-time file system, registry and process/thread activity.

BASIC DYNAMIC ANALYSIS - KEY TOOLS

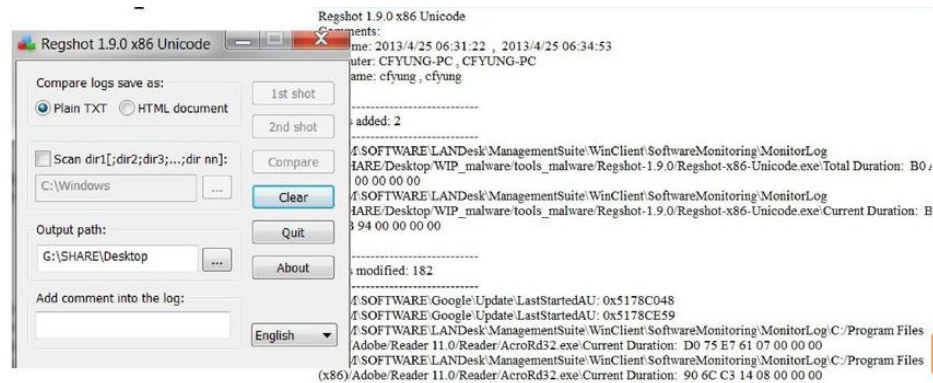


Process Explorer

Source: Microsoft

List active processes, DLLs loaded by a process and overall system information.

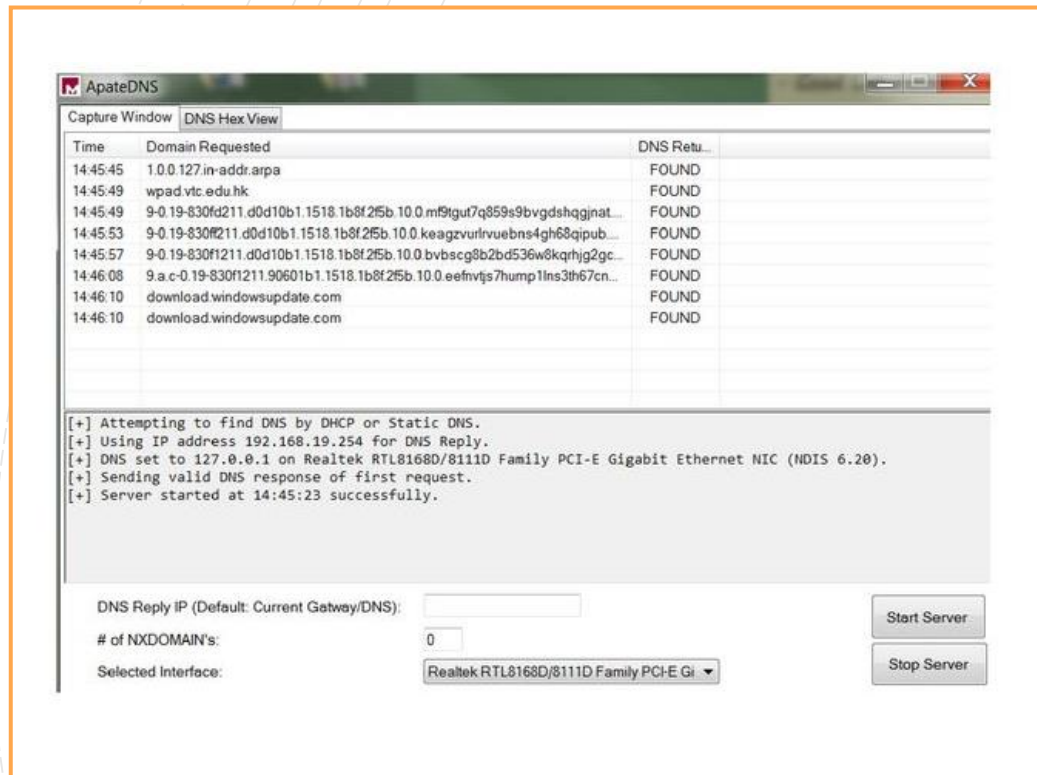
BASIC DYNAMIC ANALYSIS - KEY TOOLS



Regshot

An open source registry comparison tool that allows you to take and compare two registry snap-shots.

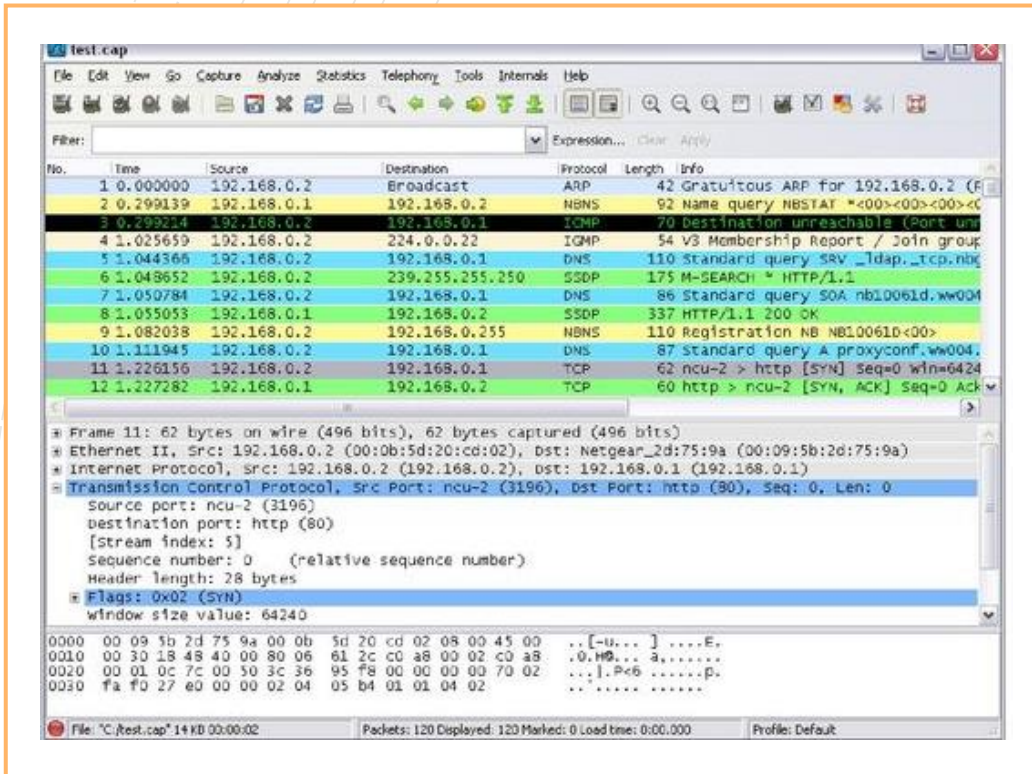
BASIC DYNAMIC ANALYSIS - KEY TOOLS



ApateDNS

A free tool to capture DNS requests made by malware.

BASIC DYNAMIC ANALYSIS - KEY TOOLS



Wireshark

An open source sniffer to intercept and log network traffic.

BASIC DYNAMIC ANALYSIS - PRACTICAL STEPS

Basic dynamic analysis can assist and confirm the findings obtained from basic static analysis.

Step 1: Baseline

Before executing the malware, take a first snapshot of registry using Regshot.

Step 2: System status

During the running of malware, start Process Monitor and Process Explorer. Note any changes occurred.

BASIC DYNAMIC ANALYSIS - PRACTICAL STEPS

Step 3: Network traffic

Using ApateDNS and Wireshark to log network traffic generated by the malware.

Step 4: Comparison

Waiting for the malware to finish making any system changes. Take a second snapshot using Regshot. Compare the differences between two snapshots.

Understanding of Sample Malware

CryptoLocker

- CryptoLocker is a ransomware Trojan.
- Believed to have first been posted to the Internet on 5 September 2013.
- Smart enough to travel across your network and encrypt any files located on shared network drives.
- Uses AES-256 or RSA public-key cryptography, with the private key stored only on the malware's control servers.

CryptoLocker a.k.a Ransomware

- After Encryption, displays a message and popup which offers to decrypt the data if payment is made within stated deadline, and threatened to delete the private key if the deadline passes.
- Ransomwares generally has a 48-72 hour deadline which, once passed, causes the ransom to increase or leads to key deletion.
- Most ransoms start in the \$100-\$500 area or 0.5 BTC to 4 BTC.

Symptoms

- You suddenly cannot open normal files and get errors such as the file is corrupted or has the wrong extension.
- An alarming message has been set to your desktop background with instructions on how to pay to unlock your files.
- The program warns you that there is a countdown until the ransom increases or you will not be able to decrypt your files.
- A window has opened to a ransomware program and you cannot close it.
- You have files with names such as HOW TO DECRYPT FILES.TXT or DECRYPT_INSTRUCTIONS.HTML

Symptoms

you see a files similar to:

`%PUBLIC% \desktop\help_restore_files_<random text>.html`

`%PUBLIC% \desktop\restore_files_<random text>.txt`

`%PUBLIC% \documents\help_restore_files_<random text>.txt`

`%PUBLIC% \documents\restore_files_<random text>.html`

`%PUBLIC% \favorites\restore_files_<random text>.html`

`%PUBLIC% \favorites\restore_files_<random text>.txt`

CryptoLocker.lnk

HELP_TO_DECRYPT_YOUR_FILES.TXT

HELP_TO_DECRYPT_YOUR_FILES.BMP

HELP_TO_SAVE_FILES.bmp

HELP_TO_SAVE_FILES.txt

key.dat

log.html

Your documents, photos, videos, etc. are encrypted with the strongest encryption.

Private decryption key will be destroyed on 5/9/2015.

If you see the main logo, it's a good sign. Otherwise, it seems to be a fake. Now you have the last chance to get your files back.

Open <http://34r6hq26q2h4jkzj.tor2web.org> in your browser. They will give you the private key to decrypt your files.

If you have problems:

1. Download Tor Browser
2. In the Tor Browser, go to www.torproject.org/projects/torbrowser.html.en

Note that this server will be eliminated in 1 hour if site is not opened.

Copy and paste the following address: [1HmjC3KtQxqiWz2Zg3WNWnvgm7PMABobUj](https://34r6hq26q2h4jkzj.tor2web.org)

Follow the instructions on the website.

Any attempt to remove or corrupt this software will result in immediate elimination of the private key by the server.

Show encrypted files **Check Payment** **Enter Decrypt Key**

Click to Free Decryption on site

CryptoLocker Propagation

Propagate via

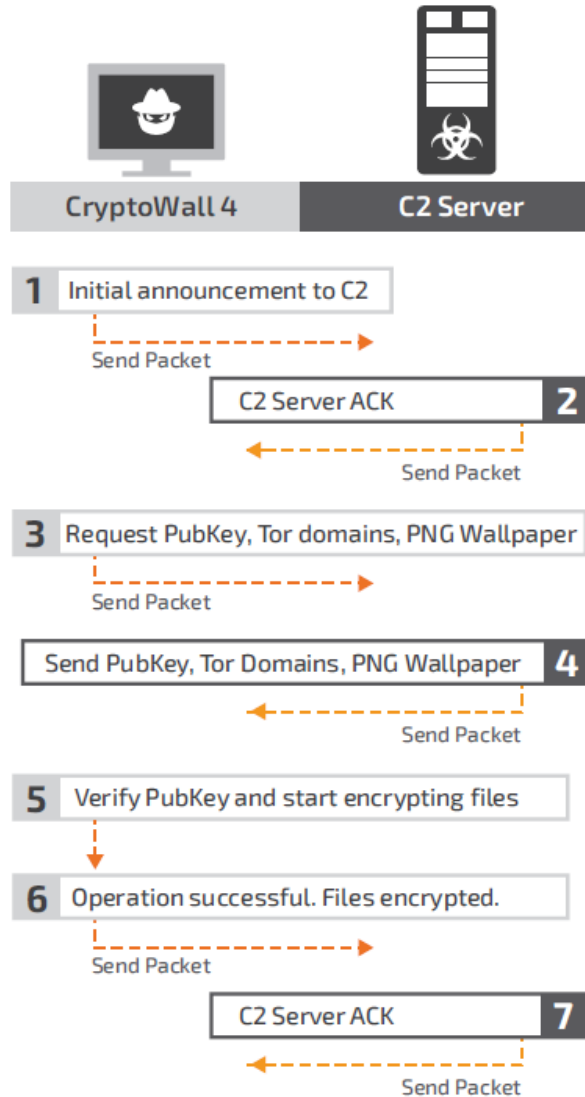
- phishing emails
- unpatched programs
- compromised websites
- online advertising
- free software downloads
- Prior existing Botnet

Understanding CryptoLocker Working

Anatomy of CryptoLocker



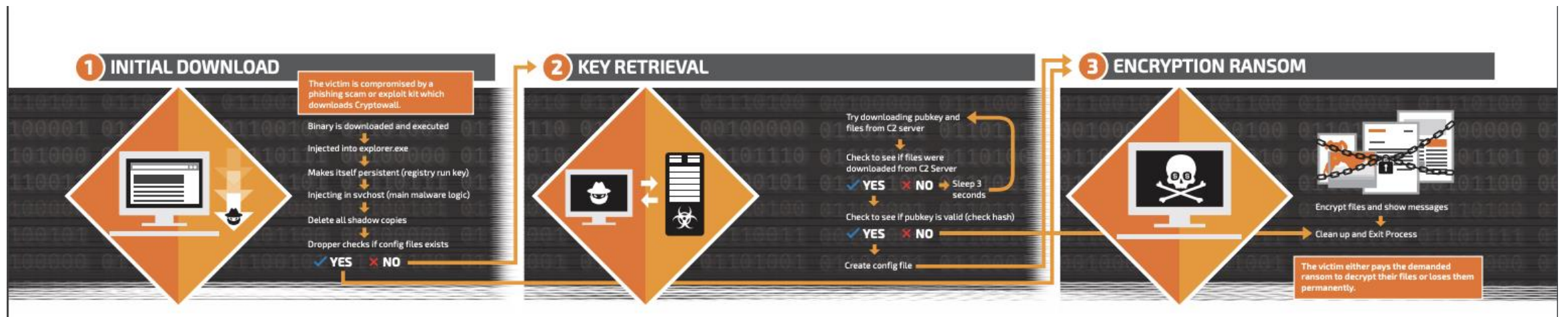
CryptoWall network communication process with C2 server



Source	Destination
<pre> POST /lLaXd8.php?t=bzer3410f1s HTTP/1.1 Accept: */* Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded Cache-Control: no-cache Content-Length: 111 Host: abelindia.com Connection: Close </pre>	
<pre> s=6975376e7a9b0fd24886fbd0c0de32d3ab4dd97174462ca3b06af16a1c840ae893eddacafbd93e56847c23a41352d4f45fc75468e4408 </pre>	
	<pre> HTTP/1.1 200 OK Date: Tue, 01 Dec 2015 08:48:11 GMT Server: Apache X-Powered-By: PHP/5.4.45 Content-Length: 14 Connection: close Content-Type: text/html </pre>
	<pre> a9b3b2728627b0 </pre>

tcp	2015/12/01 09:48:11	2015/12/01 09:48:13	192.168.	49192	66.7.210.114 USA	80	12	478 / 1,142	//abelindia.com/lLaXd8.php?t=bzer3410f1s	php?t=bzer3410f1s
tcp	2015/12/01 09:48:13	2015/12/01 09:48:18	192.168.	49193	66.7.210.114 USA	80	118	124,215 / 130,603	//abelindia.com/lLaXd8.php?c=85nnc26dz0	php?c=85nnc26dz0
tcp	2015/12/01 09:49:01	2015/12/01 09:49:03	192.168.	49215	66.7.210.114 USA	80	12	480 / 1,144	//abelindia.com/lLaXd8.php?r=a7te8r2mdr9	php?r=a7te8r2mdr9

Technical infection process of CryptoWall



Malware Analyst Job Function

- the primary function of a malware analyst is to identify, examine, and understand various forms of malware and their delivery methods
- after the organization's incident response team has identified and contained an attack the malware analyst will be called upon to disassemble, deconstruct, and reverse engineer the malicious code in an effort to allow the security team to better protect against a future attack of the same or similar origins and capabilities.
- malware analysts can sometimes be called in during the early stages of an attack to bring clarity to the type of attack and the methods being used by the attackers.
- malware analyst to play a significant role in mitigation and recovery efforts once the attack vector has been identified and the payload contained.
- malware analyst also help to examine and protect against the attack before harm is done.

Job Description and Skills set required

- IDA Pro, WinDbg, OllyDbg, Immunity Debugger
- Strong knowledge of C/C++, Windows API, and Windows OS internals
- Reconstruct unknown file formats & data structures
- Reconstruct unknown TCP/IP protocols
- Understand unpacking, deobfuscation, and anti-debugging techniques
- Python, Perl, Ruby scripting
- Ability to write technical reports

Commonly job responsibilities will include:

- Record malware threats and identify systems to avoid them
- Examine programs and software using analysis programs to identify threats
- Classify malware based on threats and characteristics
- Stay up to date on the latest malware and keep software updated to defend against them
- Write alerts to keep the security team informed
- Help create documentation for security policies
- Understand tools that identify zero-day cyber threats

Need of Malware Analyst

- The global malware analysis market size is expected to grow from USD 3.0 billion in 2019 to USD 11.7 billion in 2024 at a CAGR of 31.0% Source: Secondary Research, Expert Interviews and MarketsandMarkets analysis
- As commerce in the today's world becoming more and more computerized and internet-based, the need for malware analysts continues to rise.
- Every month, new forms of malicious code are deployed across the globe. That trend is not likely to change.
- As there is increase in adoption of IoT & BYOD trend and rise in malware and phishing threats among organizations it drives the growth of the global malware analysis market
- The outbreak of COVID-19 has mandated work from home practice for most of the organizations across the world. Hence there's been an increasing focus on securing remote infrastructure and IP of the respective companies on account of remote service programs from malware attacks.



Demo



Invent | Optimize | Utilize

We are a global technology consulting and internal audit firm composed of experts specializing in consultancy in domains such as Information Security, Risk and Advisory services. We enable organizations solve problems in finance and transactions, operations, technology, litigation, governance, risk and compliance. Our highly trained, results-oriented professionals provide a unique perspective on a wide range of critical business issues for clients in the Americas, Asia-Pacific, Europe and the Middle East and Africa.

We believe in simplifying the complexity of the business using our deep knowledge and expertise in the corporate sector. We take pride in our ability to provide quality services whether they are an owner-managed business or a large multinational corporation. We are a multi-skilled, multi-disciplined firm, offering clients a wide range of industry-focused business solutions. Investing in our people means our clients get world-class expertise to solve their complex business problems.

About Us

Our Management Team



Hemant Dusane

Hemant is a CEO at InventOnUs. A Cyber Security & IT Risk Management Professional offering 15 years experience in well-known organizations. He lead a highly technical team, incorporating analytical, operational, research & development and vulnerability assessment skills in Information Security Risk management field within the organization. He is an active cyber security evangelist & speaker in various national and international forums. He has won various security awards for overall contribution to Information Risk Management field. He is a CISA, CCISO, PCI-DSS, RSA_DLP, ISO27K LA, ISO20K LA, BS100012:2017 PIMS and GDPR Lead Implementer, MTech

Computer Science



Ketan Shah

Ketan is a CTO at InventOnUs. With over 9+ years of experience as Technical, Risk & Compliance expert with a solid reputation for implementing and managing security controls by skillfully evaluating strategic workflow business & organization systems, a team spirit combining technology & project management expertise at a strategic & tactical level to strengthen IT security, support growth & build productivity. His expertise are Network & System Security, Vulnerability Assessment, Penetration Testing, Technical Specification Development & Cloud Security. He is a ECSA, CEH, MCITP, CCNA, ISO27K LA, MCSA certified.



Eswar Muthukrishnan

Eswar is a COO at InventOnUs. He has over 25 years of experience in the IT field having worked in various senior roles like CIO, Vice-President, Director for organizations such as Genpact, BT, Infosys. An information technology specialist with extensive experience in delivering outsourcing solutions to large organizations from US, Europe to Australia. Managed large teams with expertise in all aspects of information technology like data center management, networking, security, as well as management of such activities. An alumni of IIM(Ahmedabad), NIT(Trichy). Eswar is a CISA, PCI-DSS, (CEH),(CISSP)(ISO27K LA), ITIL Manager as well as Six Sigma

Green Belt.



Chandan Chourasiya

Chandan is Director-Finance at InventOnUs. He has over 15 years of experience in the fields statutory audit, assurance, internal audit, IT audit, Fraud investigation & taxation. Chandan's expertise is in risk compliance & he specializes in technical system audits, security, internal controls, data analysis, SOX & SSAE 16 Assurance. Chandan was board member of ISACA Pune Chapter and has also served on ISACA HQ committees of like Young Professional (YP) & Communities Committee. He contributed in ISACA's purpose by providing suggestions & planning a framework for YP & Communities Committee. He is a CA, CISA, CIA and

CFE.

Q & A



Thank You

