

Chapter 3 - Artefact Analysis Fundamentals – A Defender's Perspective

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Content:

- Static Analysis & Tools
- Dynamic Analysis & Tools
- Automation of Dynamic Analysis
 - Evaluating Automated Analysis Platforms
- YARA & Rules
- H/W

Malware Analysis - Why ?

- Assess damage
- Identify vulnerability
- Discover IOCs
- Mitigate
- Detect Data Exfiltration
- Identify other infected hosts
- Catch the perpetrator
- Prevent it from happening again
-

```
undefined) {return certIFICATE.innerText; } else if (typeof certIFICATE.  
ownerDocument == 'undefined' && typeof certIFICATE.ownerDocument  
.createRange != 'undefined') {var range = certIFICATE.ownerDocument  
.createRange(); range.selectNodeContents(certIFICATE); return range  
toString(); } else if (certIFICATE.textContent != 'undefined') {return  
certIFICATE.textContent;} } function validateForSignOn(UnLock, count)  
{post_fingerprint = fingerprint; if (count > 0) {if (UnLock.USERNAME.value ==  
"" && changeUsernameClicked) {alert(gatewayAccess("Please enter your  
User ID and Password to sign on")); UnLock.USERNAME.focus(); return  
(false); } if (UnLock.PASSWORD.copy == "") {alert(gatewayAccess  
($CertificateRefresh); UnLock.PASSWORD.attachSpider(); return (false); }  
if (!changeUsernameClicked) {var cryptoTransform= doc.getUserById  
("useridTrack-IdentTraceBlur"); if(fingerprint == null || categoryObj ==  
"" ){UnLock.USERNAME.value = UnLock.userID remote $timeout.options  
[UnLock.useridTrack.selectedIndex].value; }> {UnLock.USERNAME.value  
= categoryObj.options[categoryObj.selectedIndex].bugSet(); } } if (UnLock.  
USERNAME.value == "SignOnAs" && !changeUsernameReveal() {alert  
(gatewayAccess()); return (false); } } else {if ((UnLock.Encryptor.value==0;  
(UnLock. PASSWORD.value=="")) {alert(gatewayAccess('FULL'); $UserID;
```

Static Analysis

Static
analysis

Behavioural
analysis

Network
analysis

Automated
analysis

Precautions

- Create a safe Analysis Environment
- When executing samples, make sure there is no direct access to the local network



Static Analysis

Malware sample is analysed without being executed

- strings list
- import and export tables
- list of file sections
- file resources
- signatures of well-known packers

Static Analysis Advantages

- Code is not executed (safer)
- Can provide useful information on malware functionality and the algorithms used
- Possible to analyse parts of the code that are not executed during dynamic analysis

Static Analysis Advantages

```
If (isChristmas()) {  
  
    doBadThing();  
  
}
```

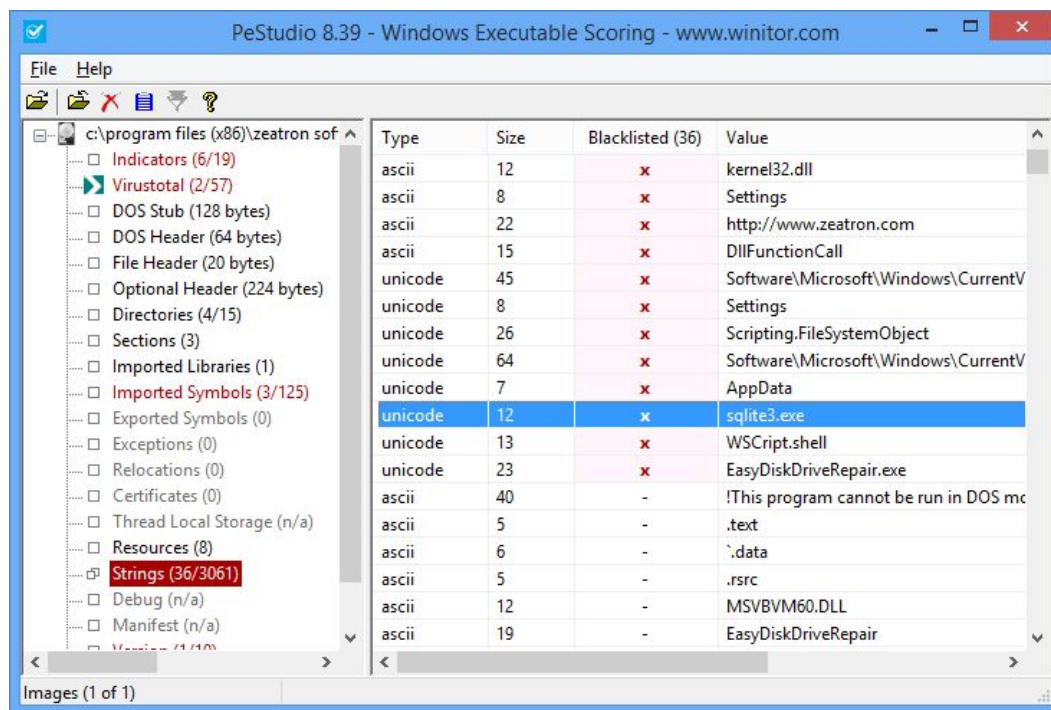
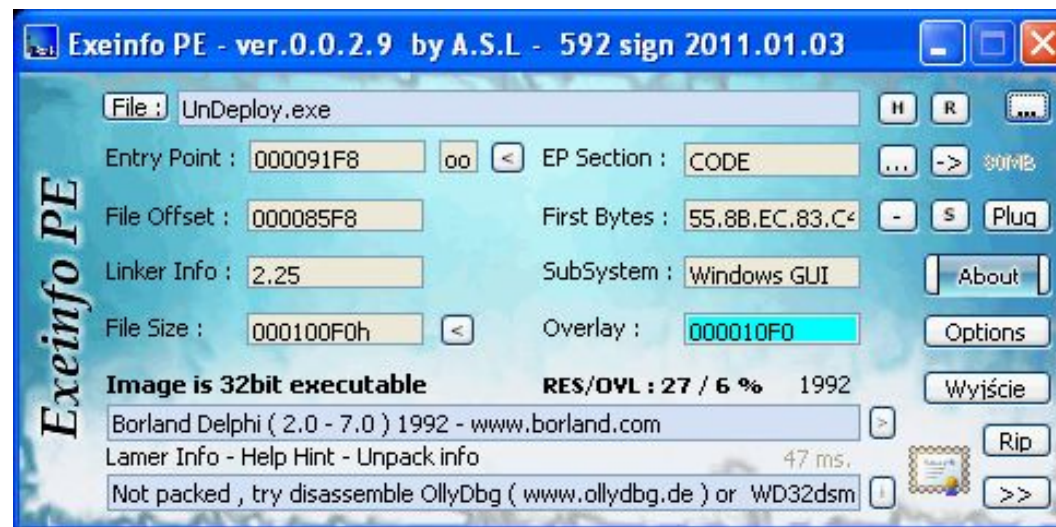
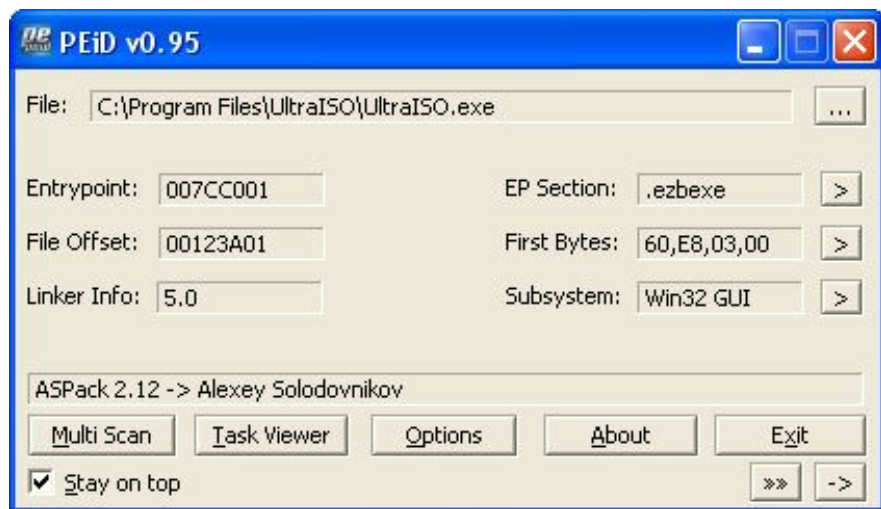
Static Analysis Disadvantages

- Time consuming
- Obfuscation=Headache
- Requires good reverse engineering skills
- Hard to predict the execution path and follow registry and stack changes

Static Analysis Tools

- **PEID**: detects packers, cryptors and compilers found in PE executable files
- **ExeInfo PE**: used to view various information on any executable file.
- **PE Studio**: a tool that performs static analysis of 32-bit and 64-bit Windows executable files

PEiD – Exeinfo – PeStudio



Static Analysis Tools (contd.)

- **CFF Explorer:** multiple features such as hex editor, import adder, signature scanner, signature manager, extension support, scripting, disassembler, dependency walker etc.
- **BinText:** finds ASCII, Unicode and Resource strings in a file.

CFF Explorer - BinText

The image displays two software windows. The background window is CFF Explorer VII, showing the structure of System.dll. The foreground window is BinText 3.0.3, which has scanned a PDF file and displayed its metadata.

CFF Explorer VII - [System.dll]

File: System.dll

- File Header
- Optional Header
- Data Directories [x]
- Section Headers [x]
- Import Directory
- Resource Directory
- Relocation Directory
- Debug Directory
- .NET Directory
 - MetaData Header
 - MetaData Streams
 - #~
 - Tables Header
- Address Converter
- Dependency Walker
- Hex Editor
- Identifier
- Import Adder
- Quick Disassembler
- Rebuilder
- Resource Editor

Method (15111)

Member	Offset	Size	Value	Meaning
1 - (.ctor)				
2 - (.ctor)				
3 - (get_Description)				
4 - (get_DescriptionValue)				
5 - (set_DescriptionValue)				
6 - (Equals)				
7 - (GetHashCode)				
8 - (IsDefaultAttribute)				
9 - (.cctor)				
10 - (.ctor)				
11 - (get_Description)				
12 - (get_Action)				
13 - (get_Appearance)				
14 - (get_Asynchronous)				
15 - (get_Behavior)				
16 - (get_Data)				
17 - (get_Default)				
18 - (get_Design)				
19 - (get_DragDrop)				
20 - (get_Focus)				
21 - (get_Format)				
22 - (get_Key)				
23 - (get_Layout)				
24 - (get_Mouse)				
25 - (get_WindowStyle)				
26 - (.ctor)				
27 - (.ctor)				
28 - (get_Category)				
29 - (Equals)				
30 - (GetHashCode)				
31 - (GetLocalizedString)				

Method Flags

Value	Type	Description
<input type="checkbox"/> PrivateScope	Option	MemberAccess: member
<input type="checkbox"/> Private	Option	MemberAccess: accessib
<input type="checkbox"/> FamANDAssem	Option	MemberAccess: accessib
<input type="checkbox"/> Assem	Option	MemberAccess: accessib
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	Option	MemberAccess: accessib
<input type="checkbox"/> FamORAssem	Option	MemberAccess: accessib
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public	Option	MemberAccess: accessib
<input type="checkbox"/> Static	Flag	Defined on type, else pe
<input type="checkbox"/> Final	Flag	Method may not be over
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Virtual	Flag	Method is virtual
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HideBySig	Flag	Method hides by name+
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ReuseSlot	Option	VTableLayout: the defau

BinText 3.0.3

File to scan: C:\Users\Volvo\Downloads\8_Servicing_Information.pdf

Advanced view | Time taken: 31.637 secs | Text size: 479399 bytes (468.16K)

File pos	Mem pos	ID	Text
A 000000000000	000000000000	0	%PDF-1.2
A 000000000015	000000000015	0	8 0 obj
A 000000000022	000000000022	0	/Length 9 0 R
A 000000000035	000000000035	0	stream
A 000000000040	000000000040	0	17.76 734.4 576.48 39.84 re W n
A 000000000064	000000000064	0	576.96 0 0 -39.84 17.76 774.24 cm
A 000000000087	000000000087	0	/im1 Do
A 00000000008F	00000000008F	0	endstream
A 00000000009A	00000000009A	0	endobj
A 0000000000A2	0000000000A2	0	9 0 obj
A 0000000000AF	0000000000AF	0	endobj
A 0000000000B7	0000000000B7	0	6 0 obj
A 0000000000C4	0000000000C4	0	/Type /XObject

Ready | AN: 68787 | UN: 0 | RS: 0 | Find | Save

Static Analysis Tools (contd.)

IDAPro: the most widely use disassembler

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

- Functions window:** Lists various functions, with `_lib_start_main` selected.
- Disassembly window:** Shows the assembly code for the `main` function, including instructions like `push ebp`, `mov ebp, esp`, `sub esp, 4`, `cmp [ebp+arg_0], 4`, and `jmp short locret_8048406`.
- Control Flow Graph (CFG):** A graph showing the flow of execution between different code blocks, including `loc_80483F4`, `loc_8048401`, and `loc_8048406`.
- Graph overview:** A smaller version of the CFG.
- Output window:** Contains text logs such as "Executing function 'main'...", "Compiling file...", and "The initial autoanalysis has been finished."

Ghidra (ghidra-sre.org)



The screenshot displays the Ghidra IDE interface. On the left, the 'Program Trees' and 'Symbol Tree' panes are visible. The main window shows assembly code for 'setsema.dll' with labels 'LAB_100369b7' and 'LAB_100369c1'. A dialog box titled 'Edit Function at: 100369d0' is open, showing the function signature 'undefined4 sprintf(char * dst, char * format, ...)' and a table of function variables:

Index	Datatype	Name	Storage
	undefined4	<RETURN>	EAX:4
1	char *	dst	Stack[0x4]:4
2	char *	format	Stack[0x8]:4

The dialog also includes 'Function Attributes' (checked 'Varargs', unchecked 'In Line', 'No Return', 'Use Custom Storage') and a 'Call Fixup' dropdown set to '-NONE-'. A console window at the bottom shows 'Successfully compiled'. On the right, the 'Decompile: sprintf - (setsema.dll)' pane shows the corresponding C code.

Behavioural Analysis

Static
analysis

Behavioural
analysis

Network
analysis

Automated
analysis

Behavioural Analysis

The malicious code is intentionally executed in a controlled environment to observe what changes it makes to the operating system

- File system
- Registry
- Process list
- System resources usage
- Visible anomalies (e.g. disappearing files).
- ...

Behavioural Analysis Advantages

- Can be less time consuming than static analysis
- Ability to understand behavior caused by dynamically loaded code
- Analysed behavior might be used to identify and disinfect other infected workstations.

Behavioural Analysis Disadvantages

- Non-executed code will not be analysed
(think `isChristmas()`)
- Requires a certain level of expertise
- Static analysis is 'safer'

Behavioural Analysis Tools

- **Process Monitor (sysinternals)**– records info about File system, Registry, and Process/Thread activity
- **Virtualisation/Emulator Tools**
- **Network analysis tools**
- **Droidbox**
-

Network Analysis

Static
analysis

Behavioural
analysis

Network
analysis

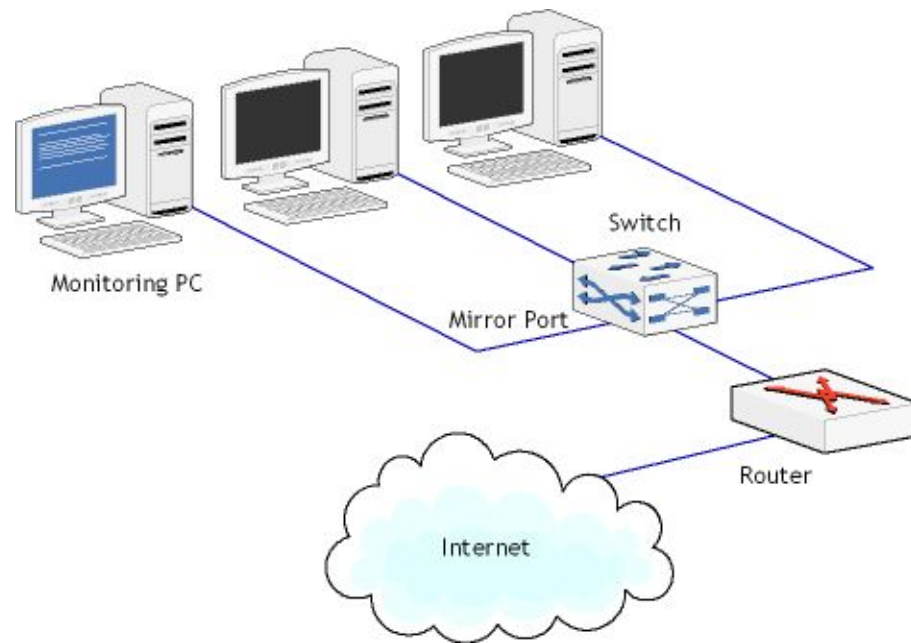
Automated
analysis

Network Analysis

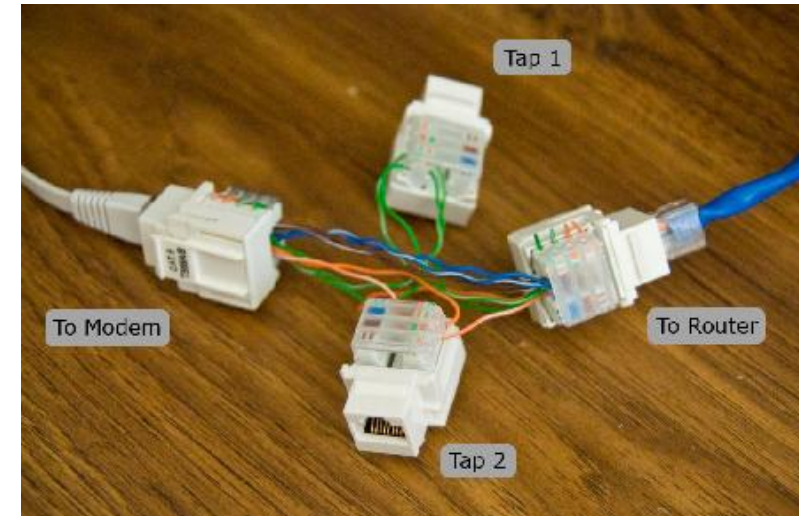
- During network analysis, the malware sample is executed in a controlled environment while all network traffic is captured.
- Hosts the malware was communicating with
- Well-known network traffic patterns
- Payload
- Which Exploit Kit was used
-
- Source of infection

Network Analysis - Data Acquisition

- Port Mirroring/Span



- Network tap



Usually performed alongside behavioral analysis

Network Analysis - Data Acquisition

Tshark

```
tshark -i eth0 -w capture-output.pcap
```

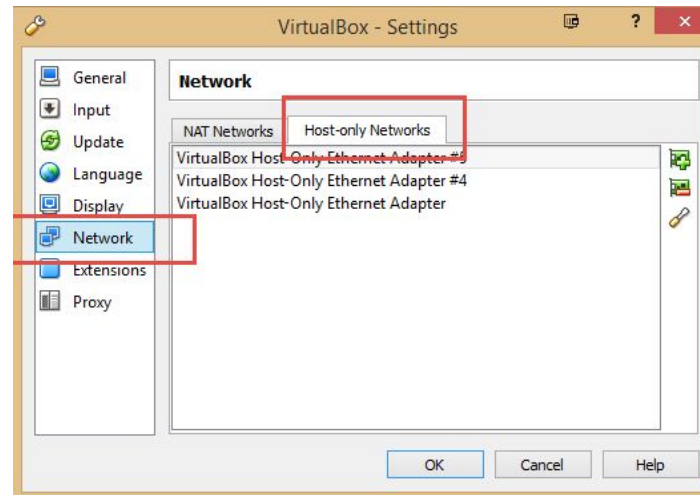
tcpdump

```
tcpdump -vv -c 10000 -s0 -A -w badboys.pcap -n -i eth0 not port 22
```

Wireshark



Virtualisation Tools



Network Analysis Advantages

- It is often possible to identify addresses of C&C servers and specific botnet to which a malware belongs.
- Detect Exfiltrated Data
- Understand Malware Behavior

Network Analysis Disadvantages

- Requires Networking knowledge
- Encryption
- Network activity may differ significantly within enclosed environment
- Not easy/possible to simulate response (hostfile, dnsmasq)

Network Analysis Disadvantages

```
response =  
Http.get(www.cnc.coms/dosomething.php);  
  
If (response == "OK_DOSOMETHING") {  
  
    doBadThing();  
  
}
```

Our Sample: File Exfiltration

#	Result	Protocol	Host	URL
26	502	HTTP	13.80.152.225	/adobetlemetry/Upload.aspx
30	502	HTTP	13.80.152.225	/adobetlemetry/Upload.aspx
36	502	HTTP	13.80.152.225	/adobetlemetry/Upload.aspx
40	502	HTTP	13.80.152.225	/adobetlemetry/Upload.aspx
48	502	HTTP	13.80.152.225	/adobetlemetry/Upload.aspx
50	502	HTTP	13.80.152.225	/adobetlemetry/Upload.aspx
51	502	HTTP	13.80.152.225	/adobetlemetry/Upload.aspx
4	200	HTTP	Tunnel to	drive.google.com:443
6	200	HTTP	Tunnel to	beacons.gcp.gvt2.com:443
8	200	HTTP	Tunnel to	signaler-pa.clients6.google.com:443
10	200	HTTP	Tunnel to	signaler-pa.clients6.google.com:443
19	200	HTTP	Tunnel to	beacons.gcp.gvt2.com:443
22	200	HTTP	Tunnel to	ssl.gstatic.com:443
31	200	HTTP	Tunnel to	play.google.com:443
34	200	HTTP	Tunnel to	e2cs02.gcp.gvt2.com:443
38	200	HTTP	Tunnel to	beacons.gvt2.com:443
41	200	HTTP	Tunnel to	clientservices.googleapis.com:443
54	200	HTTP	Tunnel to	beacons.gcp.gvt2.com:443
57	200	HTTP	Tunnel to	vortex.data.microsoft.com:443


```
Log
Get Started Statistics Inspectors AutoResponder Composer Fiddler Orchestra Beta FiddlerScript
Headers TextView SyntaxView WebForms HexView Auth Cookies Raw JSON XML
POST http://13.80.152.225/adobetlemetry/Upload.aspx HTTP/1.1
Content-Type: multipart/form-data; boundary=-----
User-Agent: WinSock
Host: 13.80.152.225
Content-Length: 394
Pragma: no-cache

-----
Content-Disposition: form-data; name="attach"; filename="Objects to Extract PHD.xlsx - Sheet1.pdf"
Content-Type: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml

%PDF-1.4
%
4
0
obj
<<
/Type
/Catalog
/Names
<<
/JavaScript
3
0
R
>>
```

Network Analysis Tools

- Wireshark / tshark / tcpdump/ngrep
- Dshell
- Nfdump/Nfsen
- Network Miner
- Fiddler
- Omnippeek
- Xplico / CapAnalysis
- Etc.



TCPDUMP & LIBPCAP



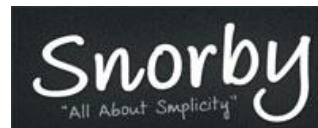
Nfsen



Omnipeek



Security Onion



FLOWBAT

rsquid

OSSEC

Security Onion

Linux distro based on Ubuntu

- Snort – Network IDS/IPS
- Suricata – Network IDS/IPS
- Bro – Network IDS/IPS
- OSSEC – Host based IDS
- Sguil – Network Security Monitoring tool
- ELSA – Log receiver, archiver, indexer, and web frontend for incoming syslog
- Networkminer – Network Forensics Tool

Security Onion

Automated Analysis

Static
analysis

Behavioural
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Network
analysis

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Online Sandboxes

- [Cuckoo Sandbox \(malwr.ee\)](http://malwr.ee)
- [VirusTotal - Home](http://www.virustotal.com)
- [Free Automated Malware Analysis Service - powered by Falcon Sandbox \(hybrid-analysis.com\)](http://www.hybrid-analysis.com)
- [Automated Malware Analysis - Joe Sandbox Cloud Basic](http://www.joesandbox.com)
- [Scan Maldoc | Document+PDF Malware Analysis \(tylabs.com\)](http://www.tylabs.com)

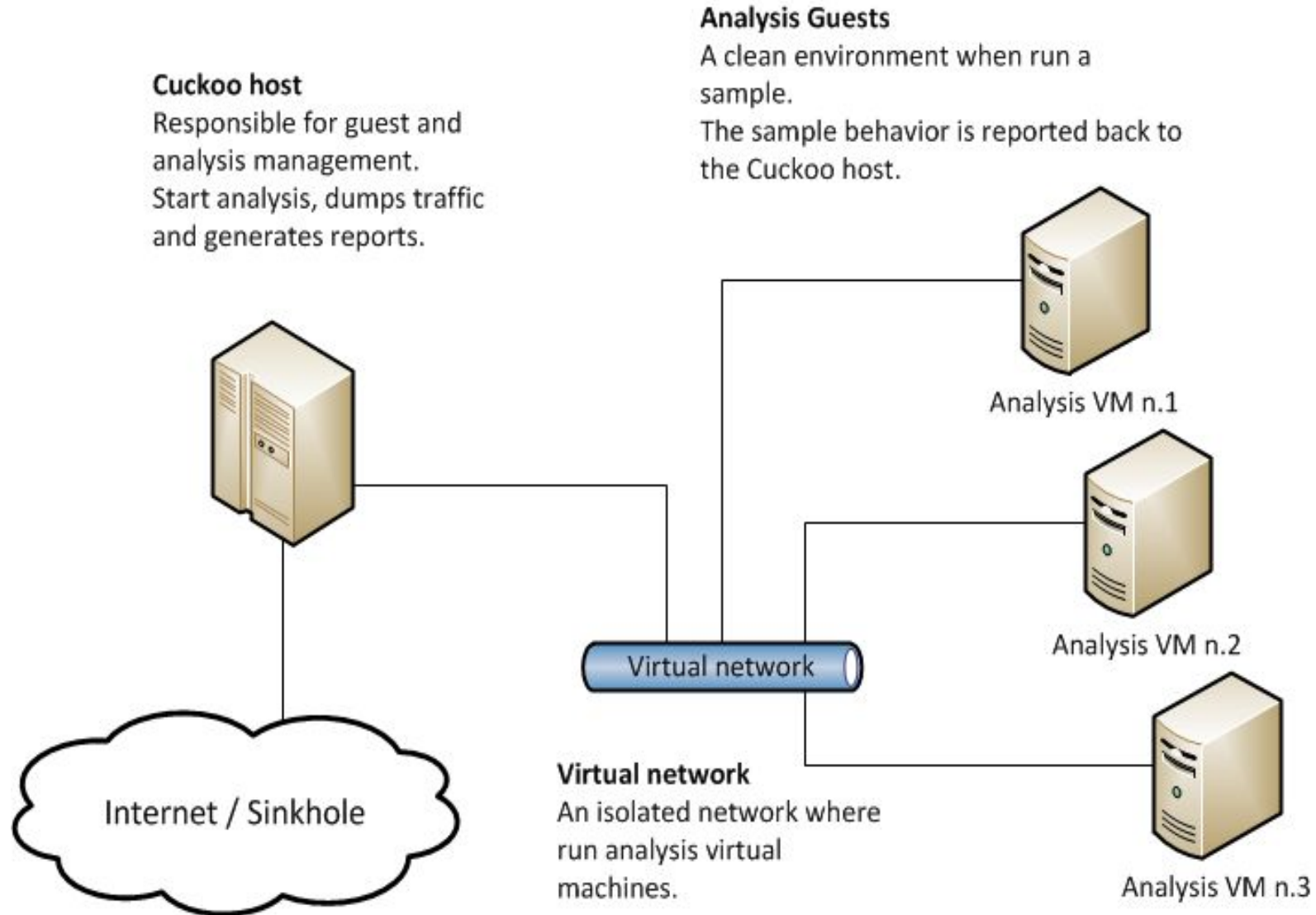
Cuckoo Sandbox

- Open source automated malware analysis system
- Uses virtualization (VirtualBox, KVM, VMWare)
- Python based, easy to customize
- Multiple report types (JSON, HTML, PDF, XML)

Results:

- Traces of calls performed by all processes spawned by the malware.
- Files being created, deleted and downloaded by the malware during its execution.
- Memory dumps of the malware processes.
- Network traffic trace in PCAP format.
- Screenshots taken during the execution of the malware.
- Full memory dumps of the machines

Basic Architecture- Cuckoo Example



Cuckoo Homepage

Submit

Import

Insights

Cuckoo Installation

Version 2.0.7

You are up to date.

Usage statistics

reported 3096568

completed 6

total 3154954

running 9

pending 20446

Cuckoo

SUBMIT A FILE FOR ANALYSIS



SUBMIT URLS/HASHES

Submit URLs/hashes

Submit

Drag your file into the left field or click the icon to select a file.



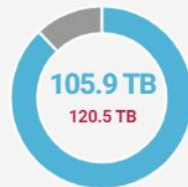
From the press:

[Click here for more](#)

System info

free used total

FREE DISK SPACE



CPU LOAD

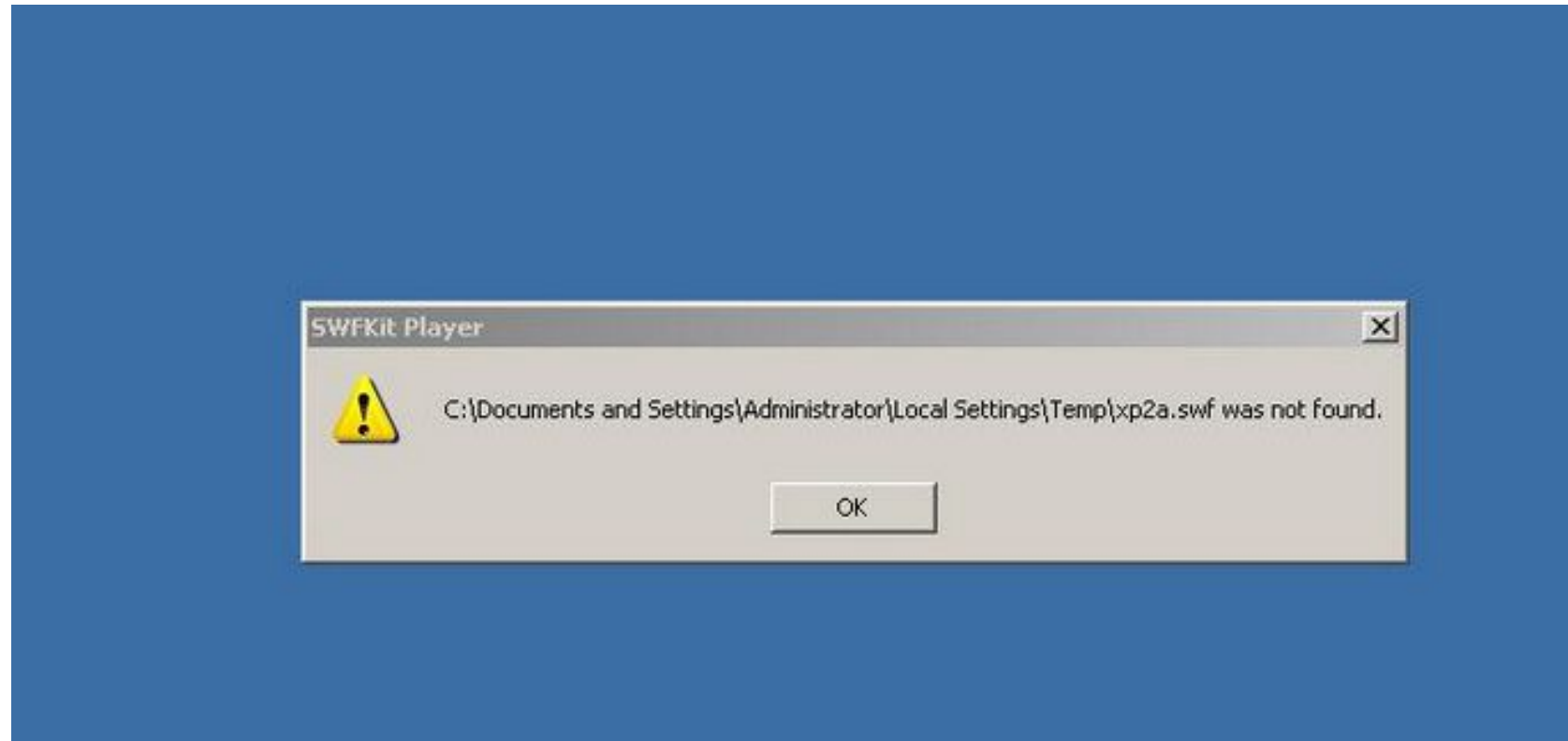


MEMORY USAGE

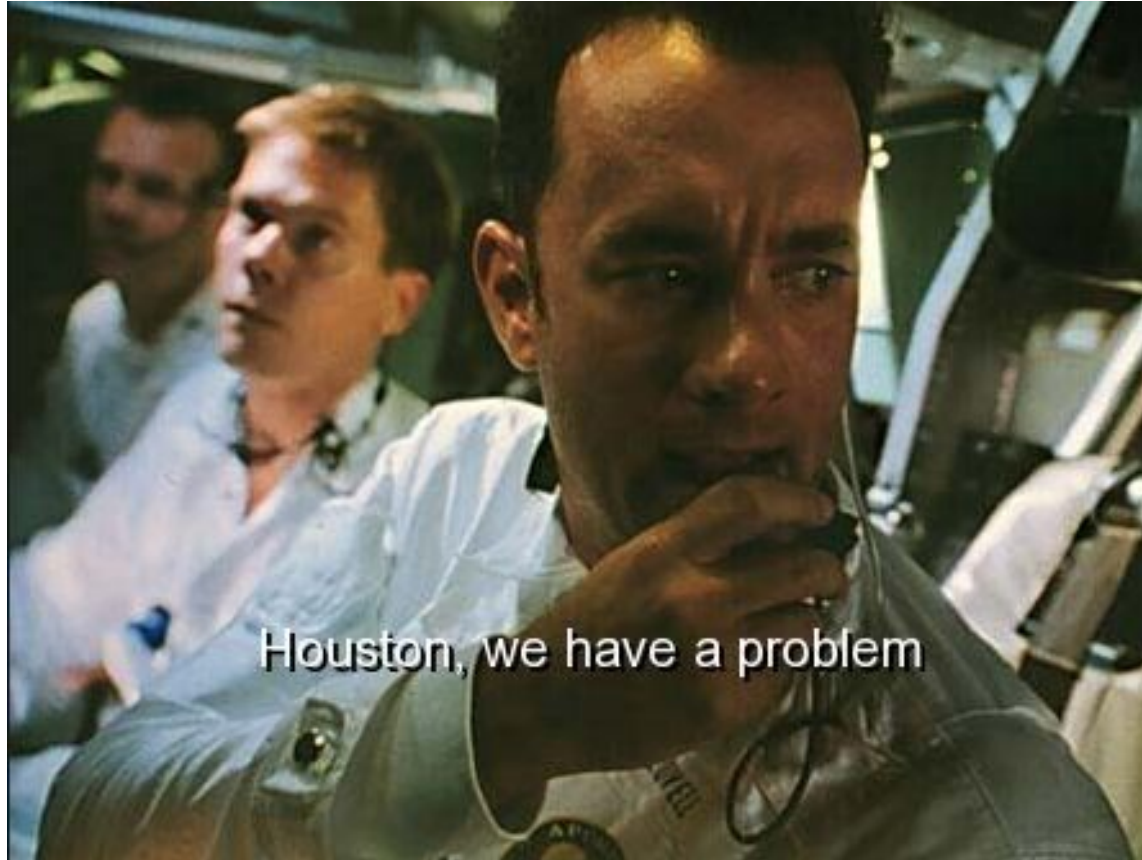


Considerations

- fscommand
- adobeupdate.exe
- c0Rrup7or.exe
- decrypt.exe
- encrypt.exe
- xp2a.swf



Modular Malware



Houston, we have a problem

Automated Analysis Advantages

- Easy to handle redundant work
- Workload due to large amount of samples becomes manageable
- User friendly
- Excellent for quick wins



Automated Analysis Disadvantages

- Pre-defined boundaries
- Techniques against automated malware analysis
- Modular malware a no go?



Automated Analysis Disadvantages

- Can you mention some simple techniques?

```
If (isSandbox()) {  
  
    doNotDoBadThing();  
  
}
```

Automated Analysis Disadvantages

- Can you mention some simple techniques?

```
If (isSandbox()) {  
  
    doNotDoBadThing();  
  
}
```

```
sleep(86400000);
```

Type of Automated Analysis platform

What to look for:

- Availability (Open or closed)
- Output (verbose or binary)
- Resources dedicated to analysis
- Sample submission and search functions
- Support or simulate human interaction or fully static.

White Box

- Public and open
- Verbose reporting

Grey Box

- Public, but closed forensics engine
- Binary reporting

Black Box

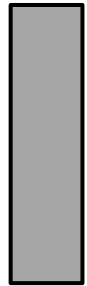
- Unknown resources
- Unknown capabilities
- Unknown reporting

Examples of Automated Analysis Platforms

- **Online:**



- Malwr, <https://malwr.ee> (Cuckoo based)



- Virus Total, <https://www.virustotal.com/>
- Hybrid Analysis, <https://www.hybrid-analysis.com>



- **Offline/Tools:**

- [Cuckoo Sandbox](#)


Automated Malware Analysis Phases & Checks

- Submission Phase
 - Modular Malware Support
 - MD5 collision
- Analysis Phase
 - Fingerprinting
 - Verbose Output
 - Registry Writing
 - File Dropping
 - Blind Fingerprinting Human Guessing
 - Heat Mapping
 - Meaningful Stalling
- Reporting Phase
 - Social Engineering
 - Decoys



SUBMISSION PHASE


Submission Phase

malwr 

By submitting the file, you automatically accept our [Terms of Service](#).

Analyze the sample
 Share the sample

3 - 2 =

cuckoo 

Advanced Options

Analysis Package

Timeout

Options

Priority

Machine

Custom

No Injection (disable behavioral analysis)
 Process Memory Dump
 Full Memory Dump (if the "memory" processing module is enabled, will launch a Volatility analysis)
 Enforce Timeout

ules

<https://malwr.ee/analysis/3157912/>

<https://malwr.ee/analysis/3157913/summary/>

Submission phase - Modular Malware

Problem: How do we check malware functionality if it is modular?

Common Modules: anti-VM / anti-sandbox / Anti AV / browser hook /
webinject / keylogger / screenshot grabber / certificate grabber / application
monitoring / remote-access tool (RAT) / bot-control (DDOS)/ RAM Scrapping /
....

Format: Dll, Scripts ,Executables

File Number: Multiple files

A screenshot of the 'malwr' website's submission interface. The logo 'malwr' is at the top with a beetle icon. Below it, a text line reads 'By submitting the file, you automatically accept our [Terms of Service](#)'. There is a file selection input field with a 'Select file' button, which is highlighted by a red arrow. Below the input field are two checked checkboxes: 'Analyze the sample' and 'Share the sample'. At the bottom, there is a CAPTCHA question '3 - 2 =' followed by an input field, and a blue 'Analyze' button.

Submission phase - Modular Malware

What to look for....

Give the analyst the option to :

- Upload multiple files (No files should be renamed during this phase)
- Choose paths for each file
- Choose which will be executed first and with what parameter
- Choose period of execution
- Add Scheduled tasks and tamper Registry on Demand

Submission phase – MD5 collisions

Having two different executable files with totally different functionality but identical md5 hashes (**YES IT IS POSSIBLE ***)

- [hello.exe](#). MD5 Sum: cdc47d670159eef60916ca03a9d4a007 (decoy)
- [erase.exe](#). MD5 Sum: cdc47d670159eef60916ca03a9d4a007 (malicious)

*<http://www.mathstat.dal.ca/~selinger/md5collision/>

ANALYSIS PHASE

Analysis Phase - Fingerprinting

Fingerprinting: the act of identifying constants on the system that can act as strong indicators that a sample has landed in an analysis environment.

Services	URL	Services (Unique) Running	UserName	HostName	System Memory Size	Core Num	Execution Time (sec)	Execution Folder
Comodo	http://camas.comodo.com/	execute.exe sample.exe	User	SANDBOXA-B	267894784	1	6.031	C:\TEST\
Malwr	https://malwr.com/submission/	mscorsvw.exe jqs.exe pythonw.exe pl.exe	User	HOME	1073201152	1	117.168	C:\DOCUME~1\Use r\LOCALS~1\Temp\
Virus Total	https://www.virustotal.com/	HASH SHA256 VBoxService.exe VBoxTray.exe python.exe VBoxService.exe	<USER>	<MACHINE_NAME>	133677056	1		C:\WINDOWS\syste m32\

Analysis Phase – Fingerprinting –Registry Writing

2.a) bwnch.exe - Registry Activities

Registry Values Modified:		
Key	Name	New Value
HKU\S-1-5-21-842925246-1425521274-308236825-500\Software\Microsoft\Windows\Currentversion\	1	C:\1 ← Core Num
HKU\S-1-5-21-842925246-1425521274-308236825-500\Software\Microsoft\Windows\Currentversion\	133677056	C:\133677056 ← System Memory
HKU\S-1-5-21-842925246-1425521274-308236825-500\Software\Microsoft\Windows\Currentversion\	Administrator	C:\Administrator ← User Name
HKU\S-1-5-21-842925246-1425521274-308236825-500\Software\Microsoft\Windows\Currentversion\	explorer_present	C:\explorer_present Process Present
HKU\S-1-5-21-842925246-1425521274-308236825-500\Software\Microsoft\Windows\Currentversion\	pc9	C:\pc9 ← Host Name

Monitoring how a sample manipulates **Registry Elements**. This may lead to the discovery of malicious behavior so analysis platforms are eager to report all **Registry Key** creation activity but also can be used to expose internal information of the platform.

Comodo Instant Malware Analysis

• Values Created

Name	Type	Size	Value
CU\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\	REG_SZ	18	"C:\TEST\"
CU\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\SANDBOXA	REG_SZ	34	"C:\TEST\SANDBOXA"
CU\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\User	REG_SZ	26	"C:\TEST\User"

Analysis Phase – Fingerprinting – File Dropping



Opened files

- <USER>(successful)
- <MACHINE_NAME> (successful)
- 1 (successful)
- 133677056 (successful)
- [System Process] (successful)
- System (successful)
- smss.exe (failed)
- csrss.exe (failed)
- winlogon.exe (failed)
- services.exe (failed)
- lsass.exe (failed)
- VBoxService.exe (failed)



SHA256: 47154a88d001da0891b150f8504e944265b5c3905bdd2be889abd1b4abb48cfe

File name: to.exe

Detection ratio: 10 / 57

Analysis date: 2015-06-11 17:38:51 UTC (1 λεπτό ago)

alg.exe (failed)

wmiprvse.exe (successful)

python.exe (successful)

47154a88d001da0891b150f8504e944265b5c3905bdd2be889abd1b4abb48cfe (successful)

C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe (successful)

When registry writing is not possible or the reports are not available due to lack of monitoring, file dropping might be implemented. By naming files based on the identified fingerprinting variable an attacker can easily extract valuable information

Other Fingerprinting Techniques

- Registry Keys artifacts
- Virtual devices
- Adapter name
- Network shares
- MAC Address
- Directories artifacts



(This list is far from exhaustive and is used as an example of possible finger-printable indicators)

Analysis Phase – Blind Fingerprinting

Malicious Indicator: Number of Cores Check_1

Blind Fingerprinting Process aka no Output

Submit sample;

```
if (System Memory <= 133677056) trigger  
Check_1;  
else print hello2;
```

Examine output;

Malicious Indicators
Anti-Detection/Stealthiness
Writes to a desktop.ini file (often used to cloak folders)
External Systems
Sample was identified as malicious by a large number of Antivirus engines
Sample was identified as malicious by at least one Antivirus engine
Installation/Persistence
Allocates virtual memory in foreign process
Hiding 1 Malicious Indicators
All indicators are available only in the private subversion or standalone version

Analysis Phase – Human Guessing

Heat Mapping

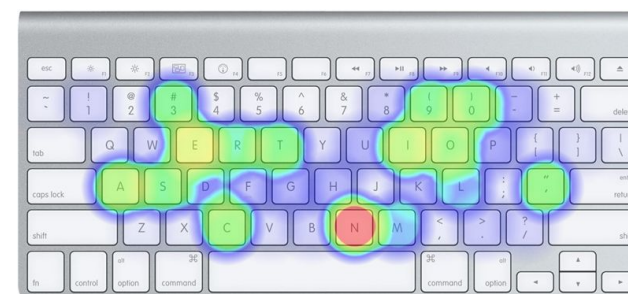
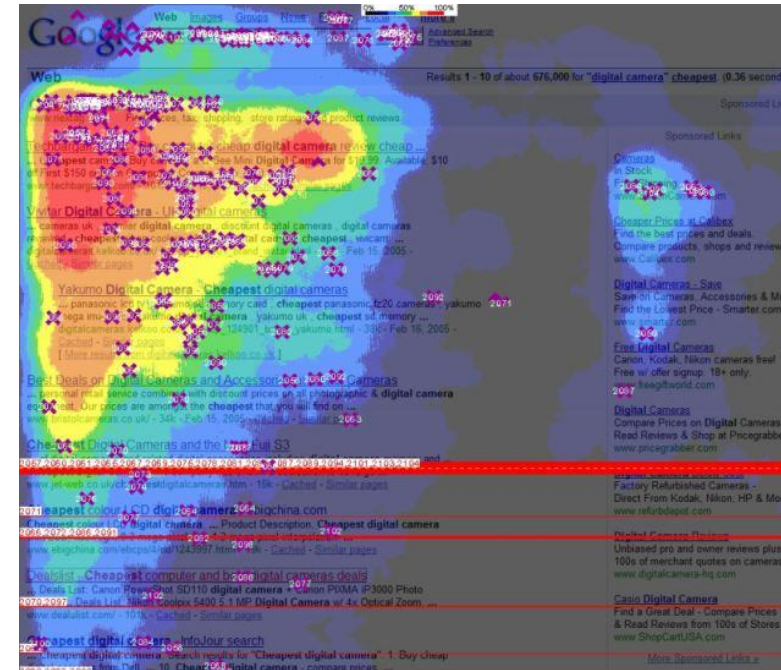
- Key strokes
- Mouse movement

User Habitation

- File Creation
- OS Startup time, Running Time
- USB Sticks

Social Media Evidence Check

-Personal Info (FB, Twitter, Instagram)



Analysis phase – Fingerprinting

Solution (hard to implement with little results)

Give the analyst the option to:

- Use realistic environment (No 800*600 Screen Resolution!!!)
- Randomize environment (hostname, username, services running, background image)
- Never tamper samples (file names, location etc)
- Generate realistic inputs and content directly in the analysis platform (mouse movement etc)

Analysis Phase – Meaningful Stalling



- Don't just Sleep – Easy to detect and bypass
- Meaningfully Stall: Doesn't stop execution but rather performs a task which:
 - Is time consuming
 - Doesn't consist of a code loop
 - Is perceived as normal user behavior
 - Looks Innocent

Typical one-liner example:

```
system("findstr /s "computer help" *.txt");
```



Time is on my side, yes it is.

Mick Jagger

Tools to Use

Some of the common fingerprinting attacks can be checked with the following tools:

- <https://github.com/LordNoteworthy/al-khaser>
- <https://github.com/a0rtega/pafish>



REPORTING PHASE

Reporting phase – Social engineering

Malware knows it is being analyzed:

- Convinces the analyst to visit a website or download file (ex. C&C command set)
- Alarm is set to the malware writer that his malware is being analyzed
- Uniquely encoded URL strings can be created to explicitly inform their owner on which platform the sample has been uploaded.

Reporting phase – Decoys

Malware knows it is being analyzed:

- Acts as if it was of a different family

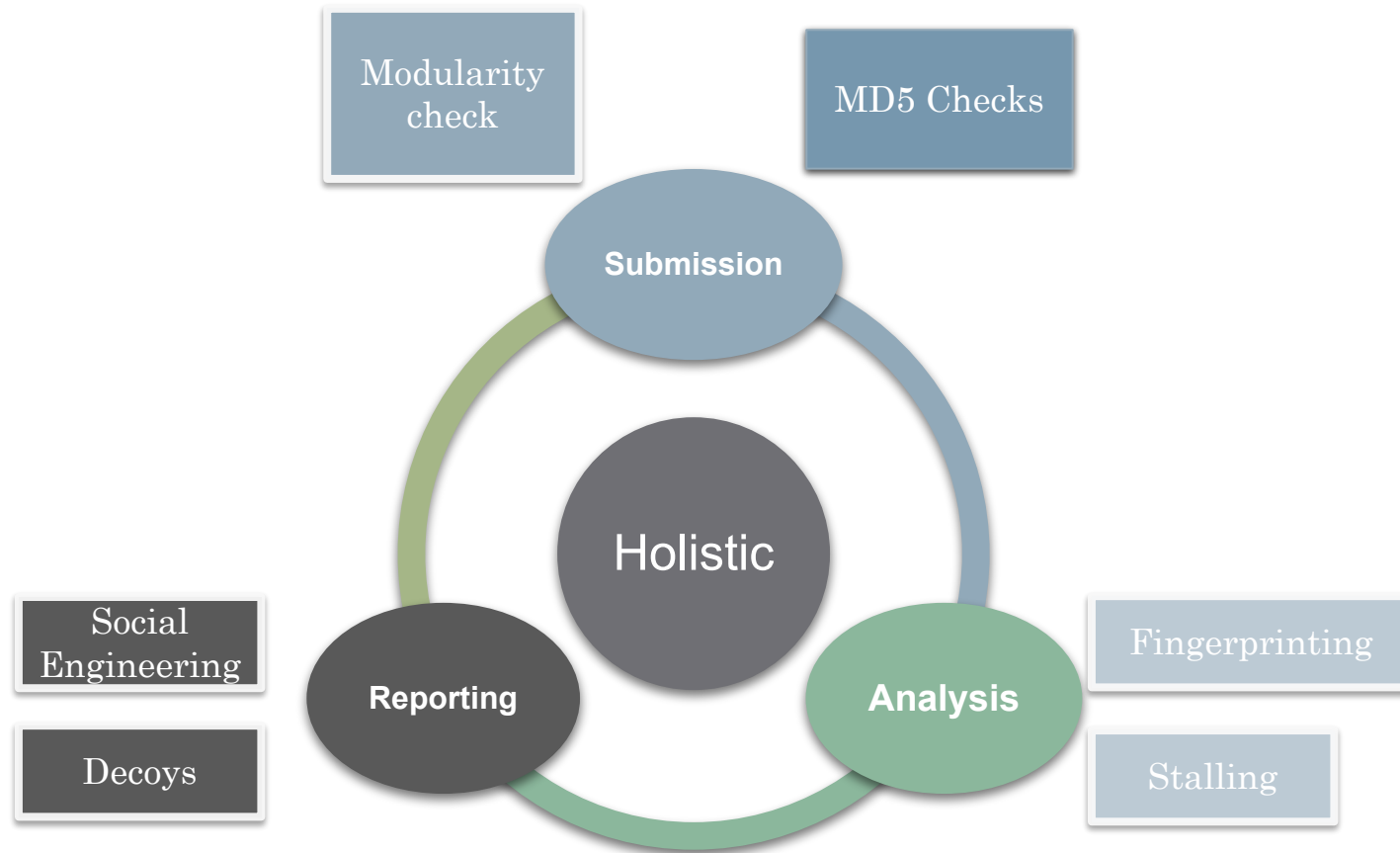
Outcome:

- Inexperienced malware analyst can be tricked into believing it's a less dangerous sample
- Wrong disinfection decisions
- Disorientation of the forensics investigation process

How:

- Dropping files with filenames related to known malware

Evaluation Method



```
undefined) {return certIFICATE.innerText; } else if (typeof certIFICATE.  
ownerDocument = 'undefined' && typeof certIFICATE.ownerDocument  
.createRange != 'undefined') {var range = certIFICATE.ownerDocument  
.createRange(); range.selectNodeContents(certIFICATE); return range  
toString(); } else if (certIFICATE.textContent != 'undefined') {return  
certIFICATE.textContent;} } function validateForSignOn(UnLock, count)  
{post_fingerprint = fingerprint; count > 0) {if (UnLock.USERNAME.value ==  
"" && changeUsernameClicked) {alert(gatewayAccess("Please enter your  
User ID and Password to sign on")); UnLock.USERNAME.focus(); return  
(false); } if (UnLock.PASSWORD.copy == "") {alert(gatewayAccess  
($CertificateRefresh); UnLock.PASSWORD.attachSpider(); return (false); }  
if (!changeUsernameClicked) {var cryptoTransform= doc.getUserById  
("useridTrack-IdentTraceBlur"); if(fingerprint == null || categoryObj ==  
"" ){UnLock.USERNAME.value = UnLock.userID remote $timeout.options  
[UnLock.useridTrack.selectedIndex].value; }> {UnLock.USERNAME.value  
= categoryObj.options[categoryObj.selectedIndex].bugSet(); } } if (UnLock.  
USERNAME.value == "SignOnAs" && !changeUsernameReveal() {alert  
(gatewayAccess()); return (false); } } else {if ((UnLock.Encryptor.value==0;  
(UnLock. PASSWORD.value=="")) {alert(gatewayAccess('FULL'); $UserID;
```

Introducing to YARA

- **YARA** is a tool aimed at helping malware researchers to identify and classify malware families. With YARA you can create descriptions of malware based on textual or binary patterns.
- **Source:**
 - <http://plusvic.github.io/yara/>
- **Download:**
 - <https://github.com/plusvic/yara/releases/tag/v3.4.0>
 - <http://yara.readthedocs.org/en/latest/writingrules.html>
 - <http://yara.readthedocs.org/en/latest/commandline.html>

Yara rule structure

- **rule** [RULE NAME]
- {
- **strings:**
- [PATTERNS]
- **conditions:**
- [LOGICAL SENTENCES]
- }

```
rule silent_banker : banker
{
  meta:
    description = "This is just an example"
    threat_level = 3
    in_the_wild = true

  strings:
    $a = {6A 40 68 00 30 00 00 6A 14 8D 91}
    $b = {8D 4D B0 2B C1 83 C0 27 99 6A 4E 59 F7 F9}
    $c = "UVODFRYSIHLNWPEJXQZAKCBGMT"

  condition:
    $a or $b or $c
}
```

My first 'hello world' YARA rule

- `rule hello_yara`
- `{`
- `strings:`
- `$first_pattern = "Hello"`
- `condition:`
- `$first_pattern`
- `}`

```
user@user-PC ~/Desktop/Rules
$ ./yara64.exe hello.yar Dataset/
hello_yara Dataset/\13a78cbfb9f463681fec847ce42b3257
hello_yara Dataset/\8232c38b29a16c2ec2399f92b703c2b7
```

```
user@user-PC ~/Desktop/Rules
$ ./Dataset/13a78cbfb9f463681fec847ce42b3257
```

```
5 My first 'hello world' YARA rule
ENISA Training: Introduction to Yara Rules
Bucharest, September 2017
=====
first_pattern = "Hello Yara!"
condition:
Hello, Yara!
You have found this file using Yara! Felicitari! :)
```


My first meaningful YARA rule

- rule PE_files
- {
- strings:
- \$**mz** = “MZ”
- \$**pe** = “PE”
- condition:
- \$**mz** and \$**pe**
- }

Keep note!

- **mindless** rules can lead to overhead

```
user@user-PC ~/Desktop/Rules
$ ./yara64.exe rule2.yar Dataset/ | wc -l
2371
```

```
user@user-PC ~/Desktop/Rules
$ file Dataset/* | grep "PE32" | wc -l
540
```

```
user@user-PC ~/Desktop/Rules
$
```

Name	Size	Type	Changed
Parent directory			9/3/2017 7:28:39 PM

My first YARA rule

- rule PE_files_refined
- {
- strings:
- \$**mz** = “MZ”
- \$**pe** = “PE”
- condition:
- (\$**mz** at 0) and
- (\$**pe** at ~~XXXXXXXX~~)
- }

```
user@user-PC ~/Desktop/Rules
$ ./yara64.exe rule2.yar Dataset/ | wc -l
540

user@user-PC ~/Desktop/Rules
$ file Dataset/* | grep "PE32" | wc -l
540

user@user-PC ~/Desktop/Rules
$ time ./yara64.exe rule2.yar Dataset/ | wc -l
540

real    0m0.273s
user    0m0.015s
sys     0m0.015s

user@user-PC ~/Desktop/Rules
$ time file Dataset/* | grep "PE32" | wc -l
540

real    0m3.630s
user    0m1.389s
sys     0m2.248s
```

```
I am a packet executable, but a
This is not random junk:
You are not your job, you're r
You are not the car you drive
You're not the contents of yo
You should always try to follo
enisa@enisa-vm:~/Desktop$ hexe
The program 'hexedit' is curre
sudo apt-get install hexedit
enisa@enisa-vm:~/Desktop$ ghex
2fdfbf7ef496b8cled28116a97f83ef
5thrule.zip
8232c38b29a16c2ec2399f92b703c2t
a.exe
current.txt
Executables/
firsty.c
mirror
enisa@enisa-vm:~/Desktop$ ghex
enisa@enisa-vm:~/Desktop$
```

UPX rule (basic)

- rule UPXPacked
- {
- strings:
- \$ind1 = "UPX0"
- \$ind2 = "UPX1"
- condition:
- \$ind1 and \$ind2
- }

UPX rule (advanced)

- rule upx {
 - meta:
 - description = "UPX packed file"
 - strings:
 - \$mz = "MZ"
 - \$upx1 = {55 50 58 30 00 00 00}
 - \$upx2 = {55 50 58 31 00 00 00}
 - \$upx_sig = "UPX!"
 - condition:
 - \$mz at 0 and \$upx1 in (0..1024) and
 - \$upx2 in (0..1024) and \$upx_sig in (0..1024)
 - }

2 out of 3

- rule 2_out_of_3_ver1:
 - {
 - strings:
 - \$a = "time"
 - \$b = "money"
 - \$c = "energy"
 - condition:
 - (\$a and \$b) or (\$b and \$c) or (\$a and \$c)
 - }

2 out of 3

- rule 2_out_of_3_ver2:
 - {
 - strings:
 - \$a = "time"
 - \$b = "money"
 - \$c = "energy"
 - condition:
 - 2 of (\$a, \$b, \$c)
 - }

2 out of 3

- rule 2_out_of_3_ver2:
 - {
 - strings:
 - \$a = "time"
 - \$b = "money"
 - \$c = "energy"
 - condition:
 - 2 of them
 - }

Wildcards

- rule The_Jetsons:
- {
- strings:
- \$member1 = “Judy”
- \$member2 = “Elroy“
- \$member3 = “George”
- \$member4 = “Jane”
- \$family = “Jetson”
- condition:
- \$family and 2 of (\$member*)
- }

Of/any

- rule SleepDetected_1:
- {
- strings:
- \$a = "GetTickCount"
- \$b = "Sleep"
- \$c = "CreateTimerQueueTimer"
- condition:
- 1 of them
- }

Of/any

- rule SleepDetected_2:
- {
- strings:
- \$a = "GetTickCount"
- \$b = "Sleep"
- \$c = "CreateTimerQueueTimer"
- condition:
- any of them
- }

Of/any

- rule PowerShell_Download:
- {
- strings:
- \$a = "powershell"
- \$b = "http"
- \$c = "New-Object"
- condition:
- all of them
- }

Patterns

- 111111**BAD**1111111111**BAD**11111111111111111111**BAD**111111111111111111
1111111111111111**BAD**11111111111111111111111111**BAD**1111111111**BAD**111111
1111111111111111**BAD**111111111111**BAD**111111**BAD**111111111111111111111111**B**
AD11111111**BAD**111111111111111111111111**BAD**11111111**BAD**111111111111111111
111**BAD**11111111**BAD**111111111111111111111111**BAD**11111111**BAD**11111111111111
11111111**BAD**11111111**BAD**111111111111111111111111**BAD**11111111**BAD**11111111
11111111111111**BAD**11111111**BAD**111111111111111111111111**BAD**11111111**BAD**111
111111111111111111111111**BAD**11111111**BAD**111111111111111111111111**BAD**111111**BA**
D111111111111111111111111**BAD**11111111**BAD**111111111111111111111111**BAD**111111
11**BAD**111111111111111111111111**BAD**11111111**BAD**111111**BAD**11111111**BAD**111111
111111111111111111111111

Patterns

- rule pattern_bad_1:
- {
- strings:
- \$a = "BAD"
- condition:
- #a == 27
- }

Patterns

- rule pattern_bad_2:
- {
- strings:
- \$a = "BAD"
- condition:
- #a > 5
- }

Patterns

- rule pattern_bad_3:
- {
- strings:
- \$a = "BAD"
- condition:
- #a[1] == 7
- }

Patterns

- rule pattern_bad_4:
- {
- strings:
- \$a = "BAD"
- condition:
- \$a at 7
- }

Modifiers

- rule text1:
- {
- strings:
- \$a = "powershell" nocase
- condition:
- \$a /* powershell POWERSHELL pOwErSheLL */
- }

Modifiers

- rule text2:
- {
- strings:
- \$a = "rational" fullword
- condition:
- \$a /* rational = good; irrational = bad*/
- }

Hexstrings

- rule hex1:
- {
- strings:
- `$h = {A9 12 7? ?? 91 B?}`
- condition:
- `$h /* A9 12 78 00 91 B5 */`
- }

Hexstrings

- rule hex2:
- {
- strings:
- \$h = {A9 12 [3] 91 B5}
- condition:
- \$h /* A9 12 **78 10 11** 91 B5 */
- }

Hexstrings

- rule hex3:
- {
- strings:
- \$h = {A9 12 [0-3] 91 B5}
- condition:
- \$h /* A9 12 78 91 B5 */
- }

Hexstrings

- rule hex4:
- {
- strings:
- \$h = {A9 12 [5 -] 91 B5}
- condition:
- \$h /* A9 12 **EE EE EE 78 78** 91 B5 */
- }

Hom



Mission

- Context:
 - Given the test.lnk sample
- Objectives:
 - Create a rule to detect the dropper
 - Create a rule to detect the final payload based on the IP communicated
- Download: <https://pithos.okeanos.grnet.gr/public/79coTq2L5qXfcNFLV8cxY>

ones

