Advanced Malware Analysis Training Series

Part 2 - Dissecting the HeartBeat APT RAT Functionalities

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Advanced Malware Analysis Training

This presentation is part of our **Advanced Malware Analysis** Training program. Currently it is delivered only during our local meets for FREE of cost.



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Who am I

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HeartBeat RAT Functionalities

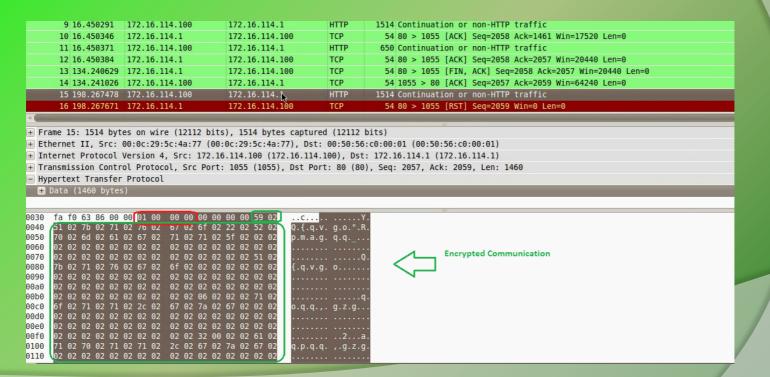
- > In this session, we will cover below HeartBeat RAT functionalities
 - Part 2a) Decrypting various communications
 - Part 2b) Functionality 1 Process enumeration
 - Part 2c) Functionality 2 Process termination
 - o Part 2d) Functionality 3 Create and Write to File
 - Part 2e) Functionality 4 Launch new application (create process)
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Part 2A - Demo

DECRYPTING VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS OF HEARTBEAT
RAT

Encrypted Process listing

Below screenshot shows the encrypted process listing sent to the C2 server



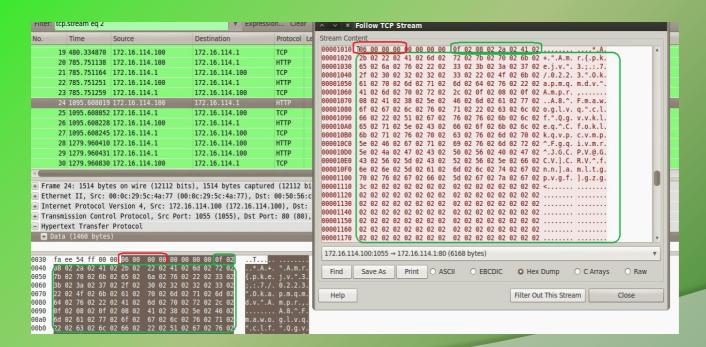
Decrypted Process listing

Below screenshot shows the decrypted process listing

```
HeartBeat RAT communication detected in packet number: 15
Command Code: 01 00 00 00
Command Description: Process Listing
Traffic Flow: 172.16.114.100:1055 ---> 172.16.114.1:80
Decrypted Dump:
Offset
                                           ASCII Dump
|D0000000 | 5b 00 53 00 79 00 73 00 74 00 65 00 6d 00 20 00 50
                                           [.S.y.s.t.e.m...P
                                           .r.o.c.e.s.s.l...
00000011 | 00 72 00 6f 00 63 00 65 00 73 00 73 00 5d 00 00 00
00000033 | 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 53 00 79 00
      73 00 74 00 65 00 6d 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
| 00 00 00 00 00 04 00 00 00 73 00 6d 00 73 00 73 00
                                           <u>00000088 | 2e 0</u>0 65 00 78 00 65 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
00000099
      .0. .c.s.r.s.s...
      00 30 02 00 00 63 00 73 00 72 00 73 00 73 00 2e 00
|D00000cc | 65 00 78 00 65 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
                                           e.x.e.......
.w.i.n.l.o.g.o.n
| | 1000000ff | 00 77 00 69 00 6e 00 6c 00 6f 00 67 00 6f 00 6e 00
                                            .e.x.e......
|00000110 | 2e 00 65 00 78 00 65 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
00000132 | 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 78 02 00 00 73 00 65
00000143 | 00 72 00 76 00 69 00 63 00 65 00 73 00 2e 00 65 00
                                            .r.v.i.c.e.s...e.
```

Encrypted Reverse Shell

Below screenshot shows the encrypted reverse shell sent by the malware



Decrypted Reverse Shell

Below screenshot shows the decrytped reverse shell

```
HeartBeat RAT communication detected in packet number: 24
Command Code: 06 00 00 00
Command Description: Shell Started
Traffic Flow: 172.16.114.100:1055 ---> 172.16.114.1:80
Decrypted Dump:
Offset
                                                        ASCII Dump
            Hex Dump
                                                        I..(.C.)...C.o.p
00000000 | 0d 00 0a 00 28 00 43 00 29 00 20 00 43 00 6f 00 70
00000011 | 00 79 00 72 00 69 00 67 00 68 00 74 00 20 00 31 00
                                                        .y.r.i.g.h.t...1.
00000022 | 39 00 38 00 35 00 2d 00 32 00 30 00 30 00 31 00 20
                                                        9.8.5.-.2.0.0.1..
00000033
                                                        .M.i.c.r.o.s.o.f.
        <u>00 4d 00 69</u>00 63 00 72 00 6f 00 73 00 6f 00 66 00
00000044
        74 00 20 00 43 00 6f 00 72 00 70 00 2e 00 0d 00 0a
                                                        t...C.o.r.p.....
                                                        .....C.:.\.D.o.c.
00000055 | 00 0d 00 0a 00 43 00 3a 00 5c 00 44 00 6f 00 63 00
00000066
        75 00 6d 00 65 00 6e 00 74 00 73 00 20 00 61 00 6e
                                                        u.m.e.n.t.s...a.n
00000077 | 00 64 00 20 00 53 00 65 00 74 00 74 00 69 00 6e 00
                                                        .d...S.e.t.t.i.n.
00000088
                                                        q.s.\.A.d.m.i.n.i
        67 00 73 00 5c 00 41 00 64 00 6d 00 69 00 6e 00 69
00000099
                                                        .s.t.r.a.t.o.r.\.
         00 73 00 74 00 72 00 61 00 74 00 6f 00 72 00 5c 00
                                                        D.e.s.k.t.o.p.\.H
000000aa |
        44 00 65 00 73 00 6b 00 74 00 6f 00 70 00 5c 00 48
000000bb | 00 45 00 41 00 52 00 54 00 42 00 45 00 41 00 54 00
                                                        .E.A.R.T.B.E.A.T.
000000cc |
                                                         .A.P.T.\.d.l.l.
        <u>5f 00 41 00</u> 50 00 54 00 5c 00 64 00 6c 00 6c 00 5f
000000dd | 00 63 00 6f 00 6e 00 76 00 65 00 72 00 74 00 65 00
                                                        .c.o.n.v.e.r.t.e.
000000ee
                                                        d. .e.x.e.>.....
        64 00 5f 00 65 00 78 00 65 00 3e 00 00 00 00 00 00
000000ff
         00000110 |
00000121
        00000132
         00000154 |
```

Part 2B - Demo

HB RAT FUNCTIONALITY 1 - PROCESS ENUMERATION

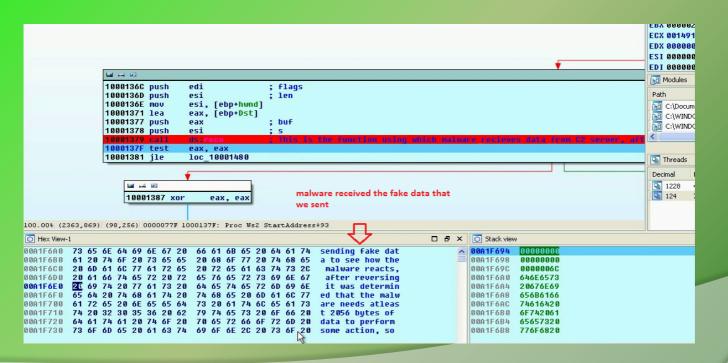
Sending Fake Data

Since malware expects atleast 2056 bytes of data, sending more than 2056 bytes of fake data



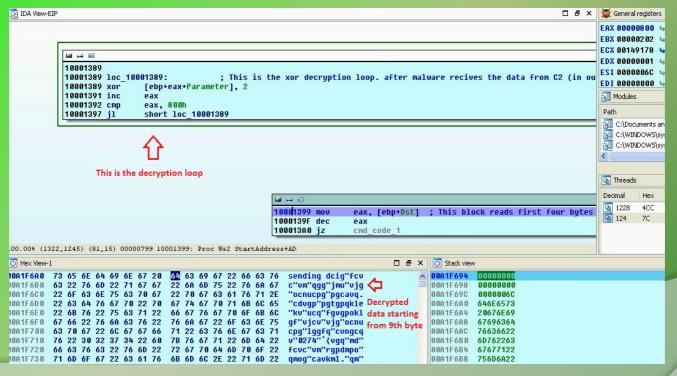
Malware Received Fake Data

Malware received the fake date we sent



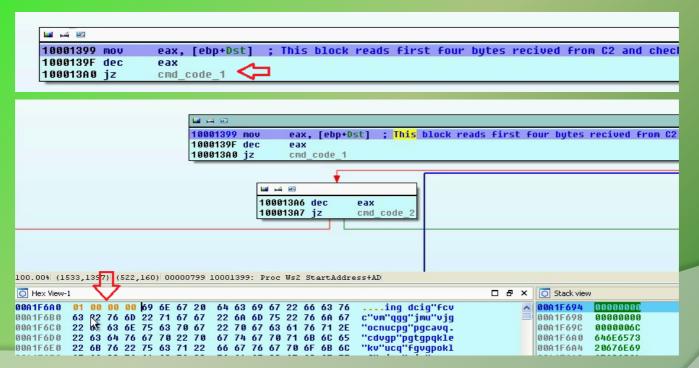
Malware Decrypts Received Data

Malware decrypts the received data from 9th byte



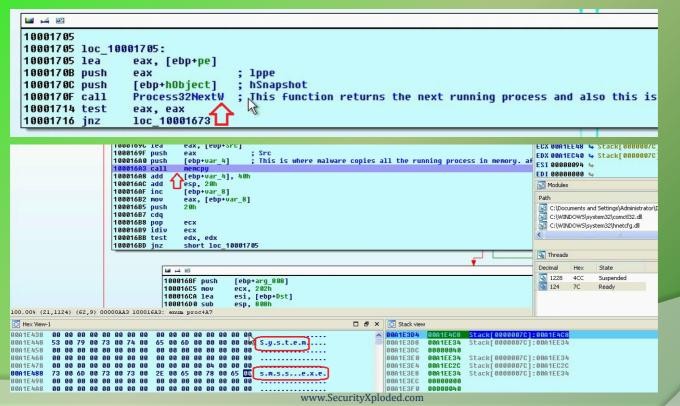
Malware Checks for Command Code 1

Malware checks if the first four byte is 01 00 00 00, so modifying the first four bytes



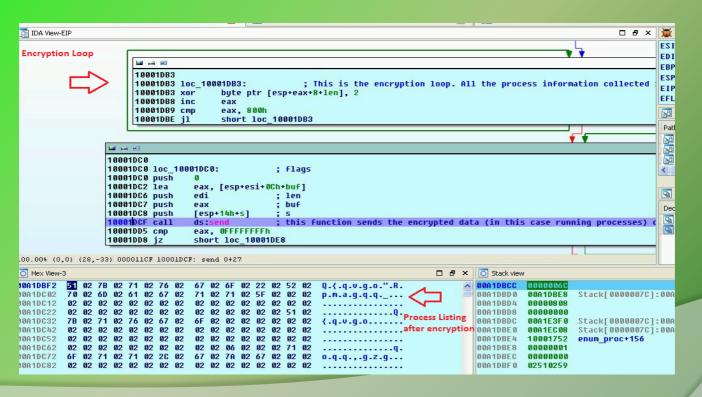
Malware Enumerates Processes

When malware receives the command code 1 (01 00 00 00), its enumerates processes on the system



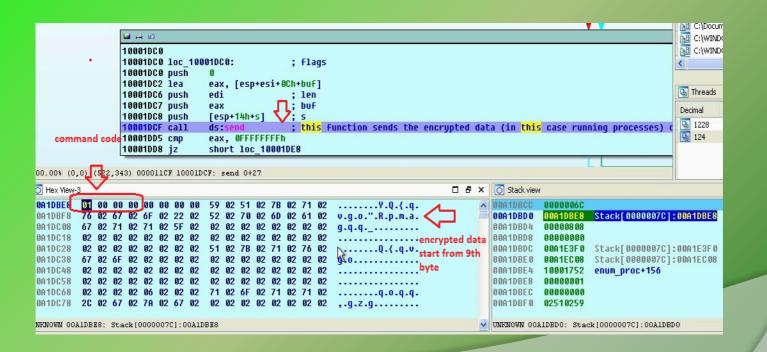
Encrypts Enumerated Processes

Malware encrypts the enumerated processes using the xor encryption algorithm



Sends Encrypted Process Listing

Malware sends encrypted process listing to the C2 (command and control) server

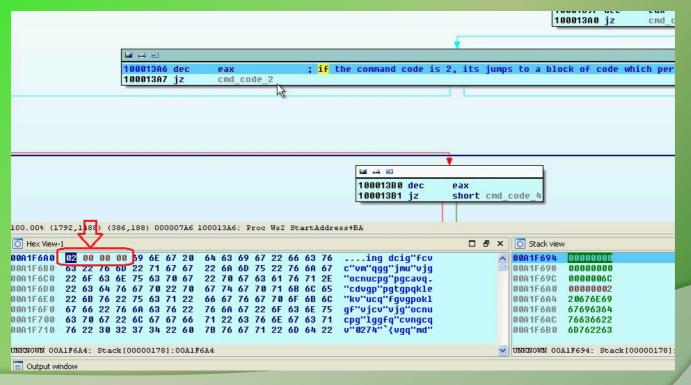


Part 2C - Demo

HB RAT FUNCTIONALITY 2 – PROCESS TERMINATION

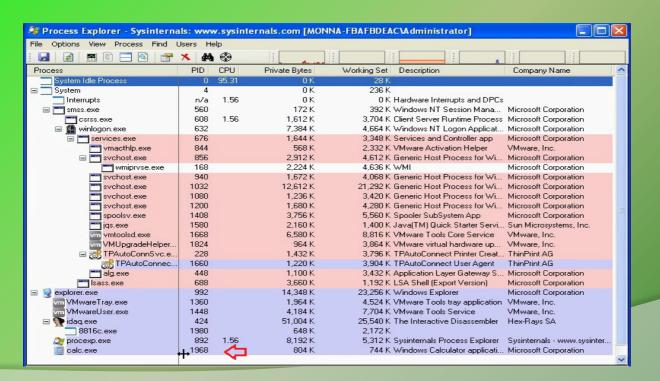
Malware Checks for Command Code 2

Malware checks if the first four byte is 02 00 00 00, so modifying the first four bytes



Terminate the calc.exe (pid 1968)

Malware interprets 9th byte as process id and terminates the process with that process id. Lets give malware the process id of calc.exe



Opens Handle to Process

Malware opens handle to the calc.exe pid 1968

```
10001782 push
                                                            : Size
                           10001784 push
                                                            : Src
                                            eax
                           10001785 lea
                                            eax. [ebp+dwProcessId]
                           10001788 push
                                                            : Dst
                                            eax
                                                            ; at this point, the data starting from 9th byte (after de
                           10001789 call
                                            memcpy
                           1000178E add
                                            esp, 18h
                          10001791 push
                                            [ebp+dwProcessId] ; dwProcessId
                           10001794 push
                                            esi
                                                            : bInheritHandle
                           10001795 push
                                            1F 0FFFh
                                                              dwDesiredAccess
                          1000179A call
                                                            ; This is the function which opens the handle to the giver
                                            ds:OpenProcess
                           100017A0 mov
                                            eb: eax
                           100017A2 cmp
                                            ebx. esi
                          100017A4 inz
                                            short loc 100017AA
                                                                        100017A6 xor
                                                                                                             100017AA
                                                                                         eax, eax
                                                                        100017A8 jmp
                                                                                         short loc 10001804
                                                                                                             100017AA
                                first four bytes - command
                                                                                                             100017AA
       7B0 (pid 1968) in little
                                code 02 00 00 00
                                                                                                             100017AB
       endian format
                                                                                                             100017AC
                                                                                                             100017B2
100.00% (-216,401) (385,158) 00000B9A 10001 A: 🖙rm proc+3B
O Hex View-1
                                                                                          Stack view
00A1EE70 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
                                                                                                    00A1EE78
00A1EE80 PH FF A1 00 5B 14 00 10 02 00 00 00 69 6E 67 20
                                                            | i.[....ing
                                                                                          00A1E650
                                                                                                    00A1EE90 B0 07 00 00 22 66 63 76 63 22 76 6D 22 71 67 67
                                                            !..."fcvc"vm"aga
                                                                                          NNA1F654
                                                                                                    000000004
00A1EEA0 22 0A 00 75 22 76 6A 67 22 6F 63 6E 75 63 70 67
                                                            "imu"via"ocnucpa
                                                                                          00A1E658
                                                                                                   00A1E670 Stack[00
00A1EEB0 22 70 67 63 61 76 71 2E 22 63 64 76 67 70 22 70
                                                           "pgcavg."cdvgp"p
                                                                                          00A1E65C
                                                                                                   00000000
00A1EEC0 67 74 67 70 71 6B 6C 65 22 6B 76 22 75 63 71 22
                                                           gtgpgkle"kv"ucg"
                                                                                          00A1E660 00000808
```

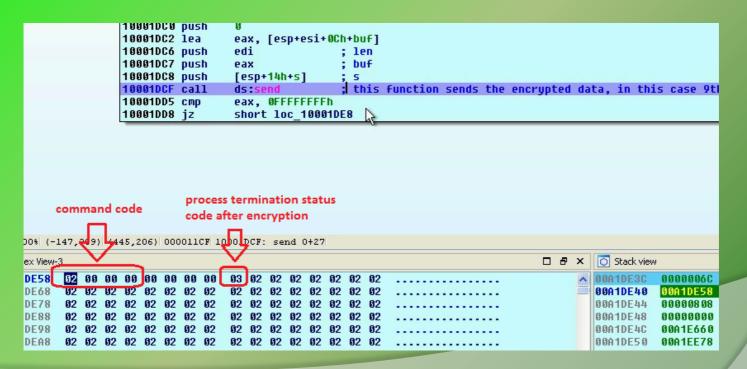
Terminates calc.exe process

Malware terminates the process by calling "TerminateProcess" API call

```
III III
100017AA
                                  : uExitCode
100017AA loc 100017AA:
100017AA push
                 esi
                                  : hProcess
100017AB push
                 ebx
                 ds:TerminateProcess; This terminates the process (in our case
100017AC call
100017B2 mov
                  [ebp+var 4], eax; also if the process terminated successful:
100017B5 lea
                 eax, [ebp+var 4]
100017B8 push
                                   Size
100017BA push
                 eax
                                    Src
100017BB lea
                 eax, [ebp+var 808]
100017C1 mov
                  [ebp+Dst], 2
100017CB push
                                  ; Dst
                 eax
100017CC call
                 memcpy
100017D1 add
                 esp, OCh
100017D4 mov
                 ecx, 202h
100017D9 lea
                 esi, [ebp+Dst]
                  [ebp+arg 808]
100017DF push
```

Malware Sends Encrypted Status Code

After terminating the process, malware encrypts the process termination status code and sends it to C2

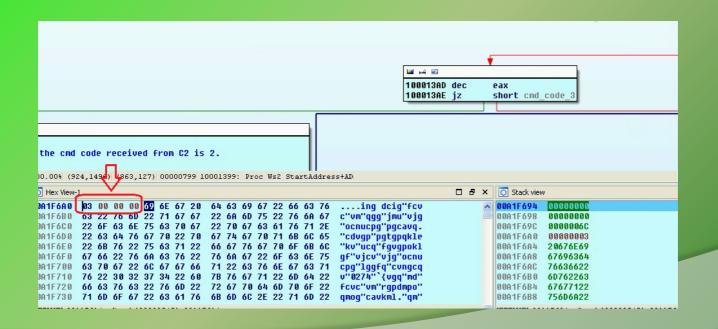


Part 2D - Demo

HB RAT FUNCTIONALITY 3 – CREATE AND WRITE TO FILE

Malware Checks for Command Code 3

Malware checks if the first four byte is 03 00 00 00, so modifying the first four bytes



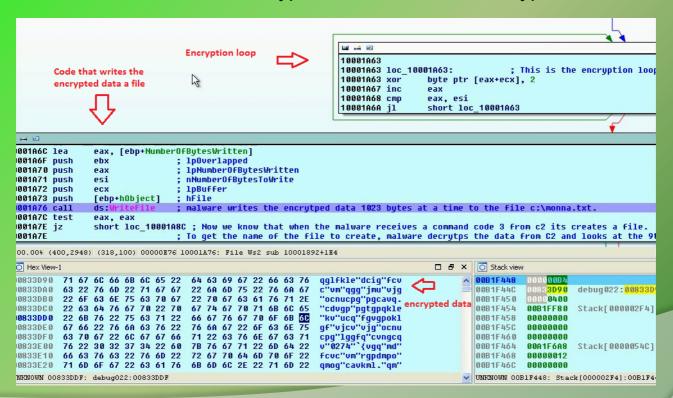
Malware Creates File

Malware reads the data starting from the 9th byte It interprets this as the file name and creates a file

```
1000199D Loc 1000199D:
                                             ; hlemplateFile
           1000199D push
           1000199E push
                            80h
                                              dwFlagsAndAttributes
                                              dwCreationDisposition
           100019A3 push
                                              1pSecurityAttributes
           100019A5 push
                                              dwShareMode
           100019A6 push
                            ebx
           100019A7 lea
                            eax, [ebp+Dst]
           100019AD push
                                              dwDesiredAccess
                            40000000h
           100019B2 push
                                              1pFileName
                            eax
           100019B3 call
                                              malware creates a file, the name of the file starts from the 9th bute
                            ds:CreateFile
           100019B9 mov
                            esi. 400h
           100019BE mov
                            [ebp+hObject], eax
                                              unsigned int
           100019C1 push
                            esi
           100019C2 call
                            ??2@YAPAXI@Z
                                             ; operator new(uint)
           100019C7 mov
                            [ebp+lpBuffer], eax
           100019CA xor
                            eax, eax
           100019CC cmp
                            edi, ebx
           100019CE pop
                            ecx
           100019CF ibe
                            loc 10001A8C
 (-134,1746) (470,357) 00000DB3 100019B3: File Ws2 sub 10001892+121
                                                                                      Stack view
                                                                             6F 00 6E 00 6E 00 61 00
                                                       c.:.\.m.o.n.n.a.
                                                                                     00B1F440
                                                                                               00B1FC70
                                                                                                        Stack[00000
   2E 00 74 00 78 00 74 00 00 00 63 6E 75 63 70 67
                                                                                      00B1F444
                                                                                               40000000
                                                       ..t.x.t...cnucpq
                                                       "pgcavg."cdvgp"p
90 22 70 07 03 01 70 71 ZE ZZ 03 04 70 07 70 22 70
                                                                                      00B1F448
                                                                                               00000000
AO 67 74 67 70 71 6B 6C 65 22 6B 76 22 75 63 71 22
                                                      gtgpqkle"kv"ucq"
                                                                                      OOR1F44C
                                                                                               00000000
B0 66 67 76 67 70 6F 6B 6C 67 66 22 76 6A 63 76 22
                                                      fqvqpoklqf"vjcv"
                                                                                      00B1F450
                                                                                               000000004
                                                      vjq"ocnucpq"lqqf
CO 76 6A 67 22 6F 63 6E 75 63 70 67 22 6C 67 67 66
                                                                                      00B1F454 00000080
```

Malware Writes Encrypted Data

Malware receives data from C2, encrypts it and writes the encrypted data to the file.

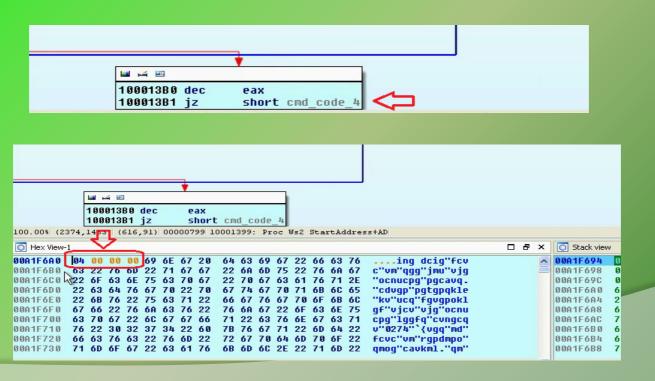


Part 2E - Demo

HB RAT FUNCTIONALITY 4 – LAUNCH NEW APPLICATION

Malware Checks for Command Code 4

Malware checks if the first four byte is 04 00 00 00, so modifying the first four bytes



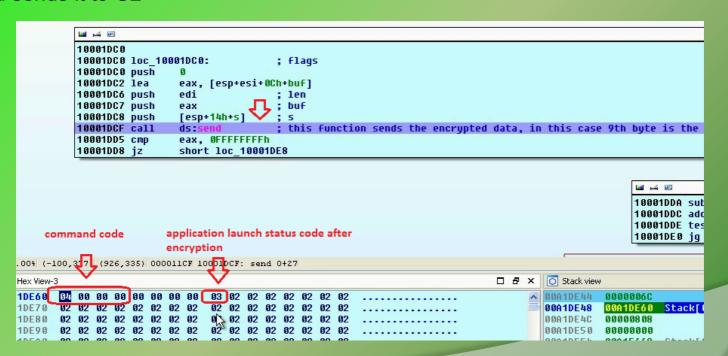
Malware Launches Application

Malware reads bytes starting from the 9th byte and interprets this as the path to the application to launch.

```
TOODIBZE PUSII
                          10001830 pop
                                            edi
                          10001831 push
                                                             : nShowCmd
                                            esi
                          10001832 push
                                            esi
                                                             : lpDirectory
                          10001833 push
                                            esi
                                                             ; lpParameters
                          10001834 push
                                                             ; lpFile
                                            eax
                          10001835 push
                                            offset Operation
                                                             : "open"
                          1000183A push
                                            esi
                          1000183B mov
                                            [ebp+Dst]. edi
                          10001841 call
                                            ds:S
                                                              ; malware launches an application (creates process), th
                          10001847 xor
                                            ecx. ecx
                          10001849 cmp
                                            eax, 20h
                          1000184C lea
                                            eax. [ebp+Src]
                          1000184F push
                                            edi
                                                             ; Size
                          10001850 push
                                                             : Src
                                            eax
                          10001851 lea
                                            eax, [ebp+var 804]
                          10001857 setnle
                                                            ; Dst
                          1000185A push
                                            eax
                          1000185B mov
                                            [ebp+Src], ecx
                          1000185E call
                                            memcpy
                          10001863 add
                                            esp, OCh
                          10001866 mov
                                            ecx, 202h
                                            esi, [ebp+Dst]
                          |1000186B lea
.00.00% (-211,376) (540,204) 00000C41 10001841: launch app+38
                                                                                            Stack view
Hex View-1
                                                                                    □ & ×
        B4 FF A1 00 1A 14 00 10 04 00 00 00 69 6E 67 20
                                                                                                      00000000
                                                                                            00A1E658 100030B8
                                                                                                                .data
                                                                                            00A1E65C
                                                                                                      00A1EE90
                                                                                                                Stack
                                                             "pgcavq."cdvgp"p
10A1EEB0 22 70 67 63 61 76 71 2E 22 63 64 76 67 70 22 70
                                                                                            00A1E660
00A1EEC0 67 74 67 70 71 6B 6C 65 22 6B 76 22 75 63 71 22
                                                             qtqpqkle"kv"ucq"application
                                                                                            BBB1F664
                                                                                                      00000000
884 FERN 66 67 76 67 78 6F 6R 6C 67 66 22 76 60 62 76 22
                                                             fauanoklaf"uicu"
                                                                                            BBO1F668
```

Sends Encrypted Status Code

After launching the new application, malware encrypts the application launch status code and sends it to C2

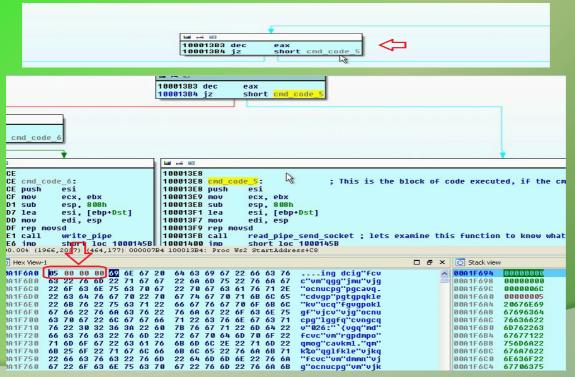


Part 2F - Demo

HB RAT FUNCTIONALITY 5 - REVERSE SHELL

Malware Checks for Command Code 5

Malware checks if the first four byte is 05 00 00 00, so modifying the first four bytes

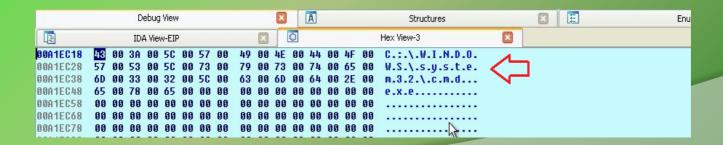


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Malware launches cmd.exe

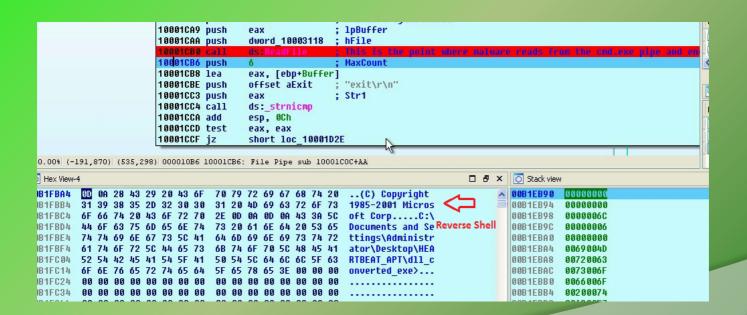
Malware creates cmd.exe process

```
עעארטטטר pusn
                                 ; owcreationFlags
10001BDE push
                                  : bInheritHandles
10001BE0 push
                                  ; lpThreadAttributes
                                 : 1pProcessAttributes
10001BE1 push
                 esi
10001BE2 lea
                 eax, [ebp+AnplicationName]
10001BE8 push
                 esi
                                  ; 1pCommandLine
                                 ; lpApplicationName
10001BE9 push
                 eax
                                   ; This is where the cmd.exe process is created for reverse shell access
10001BEA call
                 ds:
10001BF0 test
                 eax, eax
10001BF2 pop
                 edi
10001BF3 jnz
                 short loc 10001BFA
```



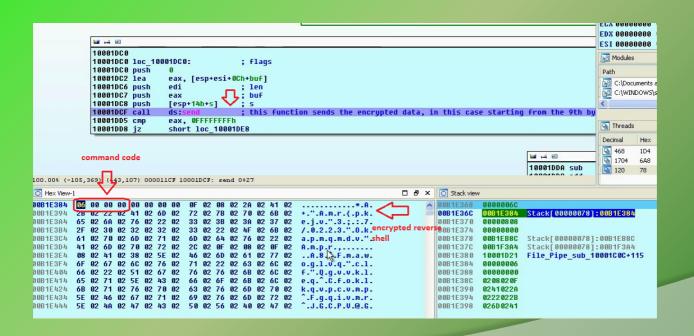
Malware creates Reverse Shell

Malware creates Reverse Shell



Sends Encrypted Reverse Shell

Malware sends encrypted reverse shell to the C2

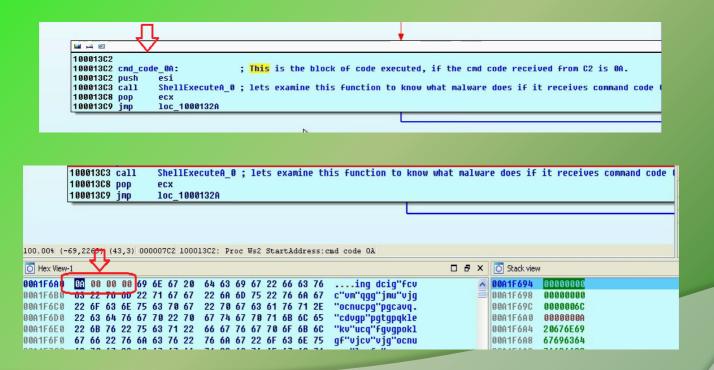


Part 2G - Demo

HB RAT FUNCTIONALITY 6 - RESTART SYSTEM

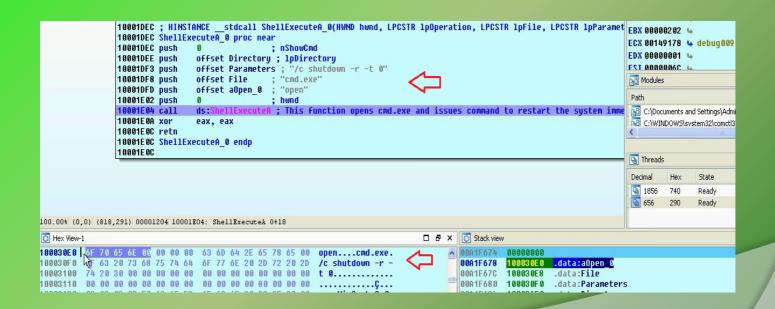
Malware Checks for Command Code 0A

Malware checks if the first four byte is 0A 00 00 00, so modifying the first four bytes



Malware Restarts The System

Malware restarts the system



References

Complete Reference Guide for Advanced Malware Analysis Training

[Include links for all the Demos & Tools]

Thank You!



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