

Dissecting APT Sample Step by Step

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1 New Email has Arrived

- “Please see the document attached”

- `$ file readMe.docx`

```
readMe.docx: Microsoft OOXML
```

- Metadata

```
$ exiftool readMe.docx
```

```
Total Edit Time           : 1 minute
```

- `docx=zip`

```
$ unzip readMe.docx
```

```
$ tree ./
```

```
...
```

```
[      694882]  image.eps
```

```
...
```

Roadmap

Office document – zip archive

Outer EPS image

A Closer Look at image.eps

```
$ cat word/media/image.eps
%!PS-Adobe-3.0
%%BoundingBox: 36 36 576 756
%%Page: 1 1
/A3{ token pop exch pop } def /A2 <c45d6491>
def /A4{ /A1 exch def 0 1 A1 length 1 sub {
/A5 exch def A1 A5 2 copy get A2 A5 4 mod get
xor put } for A1 } def <bf7d4bd9a13112f...
...
...> A4 A3 exec quit
```

- 700kB file
- 99% hex garbage
- xor with static key???

Image.eps Reverse-Engineered

- **Formatting**
- **Rename variables and functions**

```
/parseAsPS{ token pop exch pop } def
/key <c45d6491> def
/decrypt
{
  /cypherText exch def
  0 1 cypherText length 1 sub
  {
    /index exch def
    cypherText index 2 copy get key index 4 mod get xor put
  }
  for cypherText
} def
<bf7d4bd9a13112f...> decrypt parseAsPS exec quit
```

Roadmap

Office document – zip archive

Outer EPS image

Inner EPS – encrypted with static xor key

Inner EPS

```
key=0xc45d6491
for i in range(len(cypherText):
    cypherText[i] = cypherText[i] ^ key[i % 4]
```

- Decrypted content interpreted as EPS
- 700kB of text
- 187 pages of A4



Roadmap

Office document – zip archive

Outer EPS image

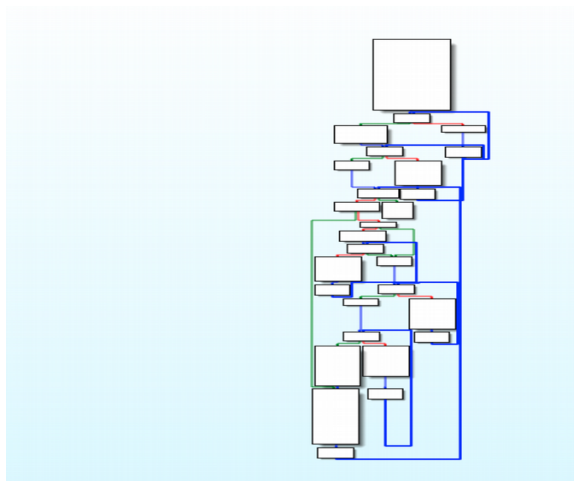
Inner EPS – encrypted with static xor key

Shellcode

CVS 2017-
0262
EPS exploit

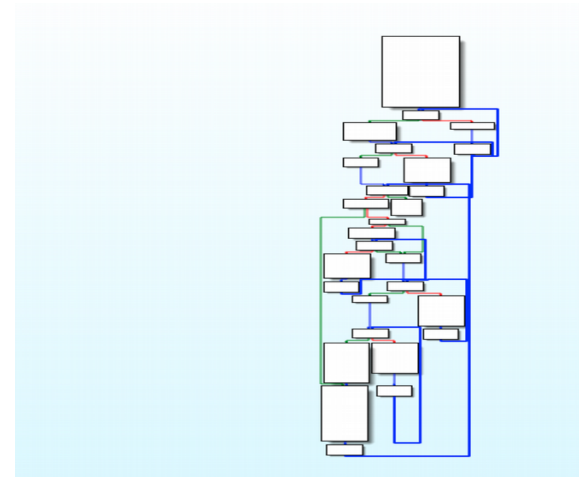
Shellcode – Static Analysis

- Convert shellcode to binary, save in file
- Open in IDA
- Packed
- Unpacker



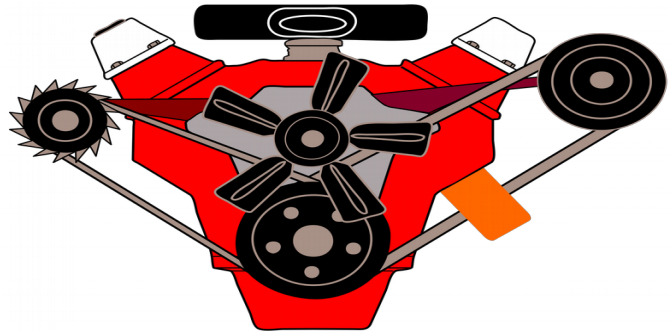
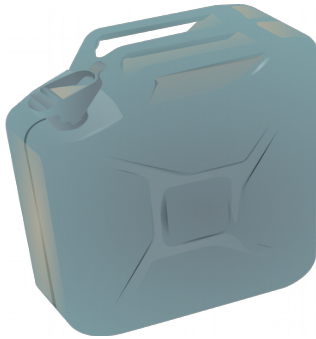
Shellcode – Static Analysis

- Packed data offset found
- Magic immediate constants
 - `mov [ebp+var_1C], 9908B0DFh; decimal 2567483615`
 - `imul eax, ecx, 6C078965h; decimal 1812433253`
 - `and edx, 0EFC60000h; decimal 4022730752`
- Google helps!
 - Mersenne Twister
 - PRNG
- Seed identified too
- Decryption routine
- Decrypted binary blob is executed
 - `call [ebp+packed_shellcode]`



Shellcode – Dynamic Analysis

- Shellcode unpacks itself
 - why to write unpacker?
 - Let's run shellcode in debugger.
- Shellcode is pure instructions
 - need headers etc to become a valid windows executable file



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Outer shellcode

Inner shellcode – encrypted with PRNG

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Unpacked Shellcode Analysis

```
$ strings -t x shellcode_unpacked_only | grep This
    870 !This program cannot be run in DOS mode.
 234d8 !This program cannot be run in DOS mode.
 258d8 !This program cannot be run in DOS mode.

$ xxd shellcode_unpacked_only
00000820: 5850 c34d 5a90 0003 0000 0004 0000 00ff  XP.MZ.....
00000830: ff00 00b8 0000 0000 0000 0040 0000 0000  .....@....
00000840: 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000  .....
00000850: 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000  .....
00000860: 0100 000e 1fba 0e00 b409 cd21 b801 4ccd  .....!..L.
00000870: 2154 6869 7320 7072 6f67 7261 6d20 6361  !This program ca
00000880: 6e6e 6f74 2062 6520 7275 6e20 696e 2044  nnot be run in D
00000890: 4f53 206d 6f64 652e 0d0d 0a24 0000 0000  OS mode....$.
000008a0: 0000 001a 00cf 995e 61a1 ca5e 61a1 ca5e  .....^a..^a..^
000008b0: 61a1 caea fd50 ca57 61a1 caea fd52 ca29  a....P.Wa....R.)
```

- Executables inside
- Search for “This program cannot be run in DOS mode”
- MZ header few bytes up
- Offset 823h
- *Included executable contains another 2 executables*

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Executable file

exe1

exe2

CVS 2017-0262
EPS exploit

Executable Analysis

- **Executable, finally!**

```
$ file exe1_fromShellcode
```

```
exe1_fromShellcode: PE32 executable (DLL) (GUI)  
Intel 80386, for MS Windows
```

- **DLL with 2 exports**
 - **DllEntryPoint looks benign**
 - **Other export must be malware entry point**
- **Dropper?**
- **Checks for 32/64 bit environment**
- **Runs appropriate CVE-2017-0263 – Escalation of Privilege**

Executable – Dynamic Analysis

- Few imports
 - Malware-specific DLLs loaded at runtime

- Hidden use of ntdll.dll

- Hash based

- No strings at all

- How to defeat

- Run in debugger
 - Create tables
 - Copy/paste assembly code
 - Reimplement algorithm

```
xor     edx, edx
mov     ecx, 0A4137E37h
call    getDllAddressFromHash ; gets ntdll.dll address
mov     esi, eax
test    esi, esi
jz      loc_6B2C2F27
```

```
push   ecx
push   ecx
mov     edx, 77B826B3h
mov     ecx, esi
call    searchForHashValueInDLL ; ntallocateVirtualMemory
mov     edi, eax
mov     edx, 2E33C8ACh
mov     ecx, esi
mov     [ebp+f101dProtect], edi
call    searchForHashValueInDLL ; ntWriteVirtualMemory
mov     ebx, eax
mov     edx, 0B9016A44h
mov     ecx, esi
mov     [ebp+ntWriteVirtualMemory], ebx
call    searchForHashValueInDLL ; ZwFreeVirtualMemory
mov     [ebp+ZwFreeVirtualMemory], eax
pop     ecx
pop     ecx
test    edi, edi
jz      loc_6B2C2F27
```

Executable Analysis - Stealth

- Search for winword.exe process
- Allocate new memory in winword.exe process
- Copy in winword process memory space
- Start remote thread
 - Lots of string decryption

```
mov     [ebp+var_14], ebx
mov     dword ptr [ebx+8], offset a_iWRgum ; ".I!+
mov     dword ptr [ebx+0Ch], 0Bh
mov     dword ptr [ebx], offset unk_6B2E4808
mov     [ebx+4], esi
call    decryptString ; SystemRoot_SysWow64
mov     ecx, ebx
mov     [ebp+systemRoot_syswow64], eax
mov     dword ptr [ebx], offset unk_6B2E483C
mov     [ebx+4], esi
call    decryptString ; Systemroot\System32
mov     ecx, ebx
mov     [ebp+systemRoot_system32], eax
mov     dword ptr [ebx], offset TEMP_encrypted
mov     dword ptr [ebx+4], 0Ah
call    decryptString ; TEMP
push   0Ch
```


Executable Analysis - Payload Dropping

- **ZIP decompress**
- **Write file**
- **Establish persistence (modify Windows registry)**
- **Launch dropped malware**

ZIP decompress

```
pop     ecx ; uword bytes
mov     [ebp+var_24], edi
call    heapAlloc
mov     esi, eax
mov     ecx, esi
mov     dword ptr [esi+8], offset unk_6B2DEDAC
mov     dword ptr [esi+0Ch], 0Bh
mov     dword ptr [esi], offset unk_6B2DEDB8
mov     dword ptr [esi+4], 1Fh
call    decryptString ; RtlGetCompressionWorkSpaceSize
mov     ecx, esi
mov     [ebp+RtlGetCompressionWorkSpaceSize], eax
mov     dword ptr [esi], offset unk_6B2DED98
mov     dword ptr [esi+4], 14h
call    decryptString ; RtlDecompressBuffer
push    offset LibFileName ; "ntdll"
mov     [ebp+rtlDecompressBuffer], eax
call    ds:LoadLibraryW
mov     [ebp+ntDll.dll], eax
test    eax, eax
jnz     short loc_6B2C147E
```

```
loc_6B2C147E:
mov     ecx, [edi+0Ch]
mov     esi, ds:GetProcAddress
push    ebx
push    [ebp+RtlGetCompressionWorkSpaceSize] ; lpProcName
mov     ebx, [edi+8]
mov     [ebp+compressedSize], ecx
mov     ecx, [edi+4]
push    eax ; hModule
mov     [ebp+compressedBuffer], ecx
call    esi ; GetProcAddress
push    [ebp+rtlDecompressBuffer] ; lpProcName
mov     edi, eax
push    [ebp+ntDll.dll] ; hModule
call    esi ; GetProcAddress
and     [ebp+var_101.0]
```

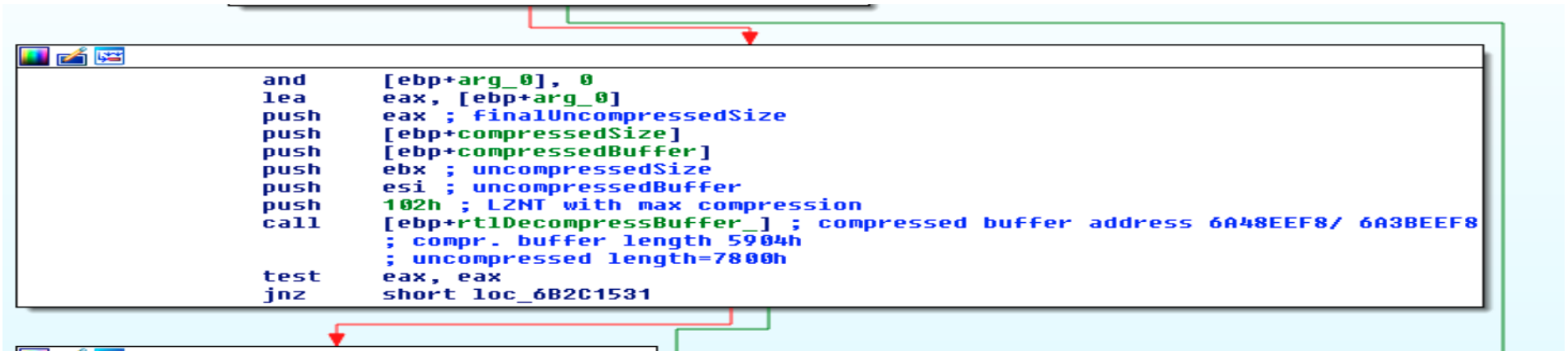
- Decrypting string
RtlDecompressBuffer

- Load ntdll

- Get address of
RtlDecompressBuffer syscall

Finding Payload

- Debug
- Break on start
- Manually set EIP to remote thread start function
 - Controlled decompression
 - Dump payload from memory after decompression



```
and    [ebp+arg_0], 0
lea    eax, [ebp+arg_0]
push   eax ; finalUncompressedSize
push   [ebp+compressedSize]
push   [ebp+compressedBuffer]
push   ebx ; uncompressedSize
push   esi ; uncompressedBuffer
push   102h ; LZNT with max compression
call   [ebp+rt1DecompressBuffer_] ; compressed buffer address 6A48EEF8/ 6A3BEEF8
      ; compr. buffer length 5904h
      ; uncompressed length=7800h

test   eax, eax
jnz    short loc_6B2C1531
```

Roadmap

Office document – zip archive

Outer EPS image

Inner EPS – encrypted with static xor key

Outer shellcode

Inner shellcode – encrypted with PRNG

Dropper - exe

Payload buffer - encrypted

Payload buffer – ZIP compressed

32bit
CVE-2017-0263
EOP

64 bit
CVE-2017-0263
EOP

CVS 2017-0262
EPS exploit

ARE WE THERE YET?!



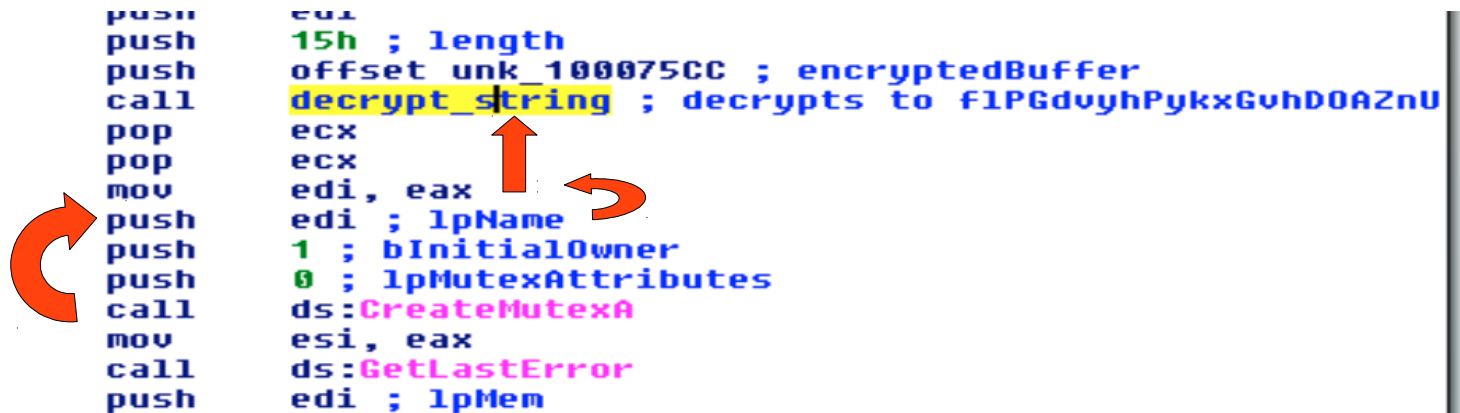
Payload Analysis

- **Dll file**
- **One export**
 - **DllEntryPoint**
- **No interesting strings**
- **Import table looks legitimate for malware**
 - **WS32.dll**

Finding Crown Jewels (C&C)

- Find string decryption function
 - Very beginning of dllEntryPoint
 - Where is mutex string coming from???
 - Backtrack - edi-eax-decrypt_string

```
push    ecx
push    15h ; length
push    offset unk_100075CC ; encryptedBuffer
call    decrypt_string ; decrypts to f1PGduyhPykxGvhD0AZnU
pop     ecx
pop     ecx
mov     edi, eax
push    edi ; lpName
push    1 ; bInitialOwner
push    0 ; lpMutexAttributes
call    ds:CreateMutexA
mov     esi, eax
call    ds:GetLastError
push    edi ; lpMem
```



The diagram illustrates the backtracking process. A red arrow points from the 'decrypt_string' instruction to the 'CreateMutexA' instruction, indicating the source of the 'lpName' parameter. Another red arrow points from 'CreateMutexA' to 'GetLastError', showing the flow of the error code. A third red arrow points from 'GetLastError' back to the 'decrypt_string' instruction, completing the backtracking loop.

Show Me All Your Strings

- Inspect decrypt_string function
- Loop with xor
- Go through list of cross references
- Run in debugger and take notes

```
loc_10005070:
    push    ; length
    push    2Ch
    push    eax ; encryptedBuffer
    call   decrypt_string ; google.com
           ; wmdmediacodecs.com
           ; TODO CnC addresses!!!
    pop     ecx
    pop     ecx
    mov     ecx, [edi+0Ch]
    mov     [ecx+esi*4], eax
    inc     esi
    mov     eax, [ebp+var_4]
    add     eax, 2Ch
    mov     [ebp+var_4], eax
    cmp     esi, [ebx]
    jb     short loc_10005070
```

```
loc_100031F7:
    lea     ecx, [eax+esi]
    mov     [ebp+keyLen], 17
    xor     edx, edx
    div     [ebp+keyLen]
    mov     al, ds:xorKey178[edx]
    xor     al, [edi+ecx]
    mov     [ecx], al
    mov     eax, [ebp+length]
    inc     eax
    mov     [ebp+length], eax
    cmp     eax, ebx ; ebx=length, eax=index
    jl     short loc_100031F7
```


Summary

Office document – zip archive

Outer EPS image

Inner EPS – encrypted with static xor key

Outer shellcode

Inner shellcode – encrypted with PRNG

Dropper - exe

Payload buffer - encrypted

Payload buffer – ZIP compressed

CnC - encrypted

32bit EOP exploit
CVE-2017-0263

64bit EOP exploit
CVE-2017-0263

CVS 2017-0262
EPS exploit

Questions

