

Technical Analysis of DanaBot Obfuscation Techniques

 zscaler.com/blogs/security-research/technical-analysis-danabot-obfuscation-techniques



Key Points

- DanaBot is a malware-as-a-service platform discovered in 2018 that is designed to steal sensitive information that may be used for wire fraud, conduct cryptocurrency theft, or perform espionage related activities
- The malware is heavily obfuscated which makes it very difficult and time consuming to reverse engineer and analyze
- Zscaler ThreatLabz has reverse engineered the various obfuscation techniques used by DanaBot and developed a set of tools using IDA Python scripts to assist with binary analysis

DanaBot, first discovered in 2018, is a malware-as-a-service platform that threat actors use to steal usernames, passwords, session cookies, account numbers, and other personally identifiable information (PII). The threat actors may use this stolen information to commit banking fraud, steal cryptocurrency, or sell access to other threat actors.

While DanaBot isn't as prominent as it once was, the malware is still a formidable and active threat. Recently, version 2646 of the malware was spotted in the wild and also a researcher tweeted screenshots of Danabot's advertisement website shown in Figure 1.

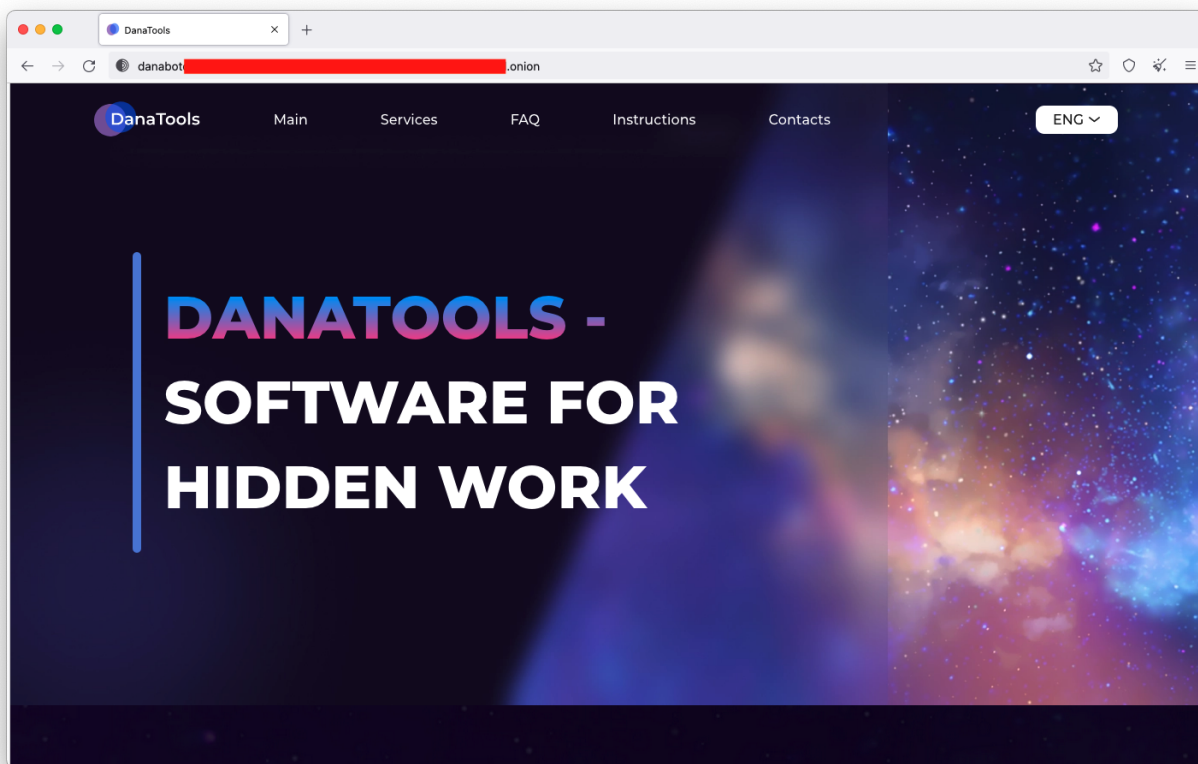


Figure 1: DanaBot's advertisement website

Unfortunately, the DanBot developers have done a very good job of obfuscating the malware code. Therefore, it is very difficult and time consuming process to to reverse engineer and analyze. This is a companion blog post to a set of IDA Python scripts that Zscaler ThreatLabz is releasing on our [Github page](#). The goal of the scripts is to help peel away some of the layers of DanaBot's obfuscations and inspire additional research into not only the obfuscation techniques, but the malware itself.

Technical Analysis

The following sections summarize the numerous techniques that the DanaBot developers have implemented to obfuscate the malware binary code.

Junk Byte Jumps

One of the first anti-analysis techniques that DanaBot employs is a “junk byte jump” instruction. This is an anti-disassembly technique where a jump instruction will always jump over a junk byte. The junk byte is skipped during normal program execution, but causes IDA Pro to display an incorrect disassembly. An example of this technique is shown in Figure 2:

```

.v.text:00C73EA4 B8 00 00 00 00      mov     eax, 0           ; jumtable 00C73E5D case 0
.v.text:00C73EA9 83 F8 01                          cmp     eax, 1
.v.text:00C73EAC 72 01                          jnb    short near ptr loc_C73EAE+1
.v.text:00C73EAE                                loc_C73EAE:
.v.text:00C73EAE 0D 8B 45 E0 8B                    or     eax, 8BE0458Bh    ; CODE XREF: sub_C6A01C+9E901j
.v.text:00C73EB3 10 FF                          adc     bh, bh
.v.text:00C73EB5 52                              push   edx
.v.text:00C73EB6 14 85                          adc     al, 85h
.v.text:00C73EB8 C0 0F 8E                          ror    byte ptr [edi], 8Eh
.v.text:00C73EBB DF 19                          fistp  word ptr [ecx]

```

Figure 2: An example of a junk byte jump

The `01_junk_byte_jump.py` IDA Python script searches for junk byte jump patterns and patches them with NOP instructions. This operation fixes IDA Pro’s disassembly as shown in Figure 3.

```

.v.text:00C73EA4 90      nop           ; jumtable 00C73E5D case 0
.v.text:00C73EA5 90      nop
.v.text:00C73EA6 90      nop
.v.text:00C73EA7 90      nop
.v.text:00C73EA8 90      nop
.v.text:00C73EA9 90      nop
.v.text:00C73EAA 90      nop
.v.text:00C73EAB 90      nop
.v.text:00C73EAC 90      nop
.v.text:00C73EAD 90      nop
.v.text:00C73EAE 90      nop
.v.text:00C73EAF 8B 45 E0      mov     eax, [ebp+var_20]
.v.text:00C73EB2 8B 10      mov     edx, [eax]
.v.text:00C73EB4 FF 52 14    call   dword ptr [edx+14h]
.v.text:00C73EB7 85 C0      test   eax, eax
.v.text:00C73EB9 0F 8E DF 19 00 00      jle    def_C73E5D      ; jumtable 00C73E5D default case

```

Figure 3: An example of a patched junk byte jump

Dynamic Returns

The next anti-analysis technique is a “dynamic return” operation. This technique calculates a new return address at the end of a function, causing a change in the program’s control flow. In DanaBot’s implementation, they are used to “extend” a function—exposing additional hidden code. An example of a dynamic return is shown in Figure 4.

```

.v.text:00014456 E8 00 00 00 00      call   $+5             ; push next address (0x0001445B) onto the stack
.v.text:00014458 58                pop     eax             ; pop that pushed address (0x0001445B) into eax
.v.text:00014459 83 C0 09          add     eax, 9          ; add 9 to the address: 0x0001445B + 9 = 0x00014464
.v.text:0001445F 50                push   eax              ; push this calculated address (0x00014464) onto the stack as the new return address
.v.text:00014460 C2 00 00          retn   0               ; return to the calculated address (0x00014464)
.v.text:00014463 E6                ; -----
.v.text:00014464 8D                db 0Eh                 ; junk byte
.v.text:00014464 8D                db 8Dh                 ; calculated address
.v.text:00014464                                ;
.v.text:00014464                                ; this data will be converted into code and extend the original function
.v.text:00014465 45                db 45h ; E
.v.text:00014466 DC                db 0Dh
.v.text:00014467 8B                db 8Bh
.v.text:00014468 15                db 15h
.v.text:00014469 2C                db 2Ch ; , OFF32 SEGDEF [_data,DB8E2C]
.v.text:0001446A 8E                db 8Eh
.v.text:0001446B DB                db 0Dh
.v.text:0001446C 00                db 0
.v.text:0001446D 8A                db 8Ah
.v.text:0001446E 12                db 12h
.v.text:0001446F 88                db 88h
.v.text:00014470 50                db 50h ; P
.v.text:00014471 01                db 1
.v.text:00014472 C6                db 0C6h
.v.text:00014473 00                db 0
.v.text:00014474 01                db 1
.v.text:00014475 8D                db 8Dh

```

Figure 4: An example of a dynamic return

Using the `02_dynamic_return.py` IDA Python script, these dynamic returns can be patched, the functions extended, and the hidden code exposed. An example of this is shown in Figure 5.

```

.text:00014456 90          nop                                     ; call  $+5
.text:00014457 90          nop
.text:00014458 90          nop
.text:00014459 90          nop
.text:0001445A 90          nop
.text:0001445B 90          nop
.text:0001445C 90          nop                                     ; pop  eax
.text:0001445D 90          nop                                     ; add  eax, 9
.text:0001445E 90          nop
.text:0001445F 90          nop
.text:00014460 90          nop                                     ; push eax
.text:00014461 90          nop                                     ; retn 0
.text:00014462 90          nop
.text:00014463 90          nop
.text:00014464 90          nop                                     ; junk byte
.text:00014464 8D 45 DC  lea  eax, [ebp-24h] ; calculated address
.text:00014464          ;
.text:00014464          ; this data will be converted into code and extend the original function
.text:00014467 8B 15 2C 8E DB 00  mov  edx, off_D88E2C
.text:0001446D 8A 12          mov  dl, [edx]
.text:0001446F 88 50 01       mov  [eax+1], dl
.text:00014472 C6 00 01       mov  byte ptr [eax], 1
.text:00014475 8D 55 DC       lea  edx, [ebp-24h]
.text:00014478 8D 45 D8       lea  eax, [ebp-28h]
.text:0001447B E8 94 61 6F FF  call sub_40A614
.text:00014480 8D 45 D4       lea  eax, [ebp-2Ch]
.text:00014483 8B 15 98 8C DB 00  mov  edx, off_D88C98
.text:00014489 8A 12          mov  dl, [edx]
.text:0001448B 88 50 01       mov  [eax+1], dl
.text:0001448E C6 00 01       mov  byte ptr [eax], 1
.text:00014491 8D 55 D4       lea  edx, [ebp-2Ch]
.text:00014494 8D 45 D8       lea  eax, [ebp-28h]

```

Figure 5: An example of a patched dynamic return

Stack String Deobfuscation Preparation and Code Re-analysis

Before moving on to additional DanaBot anti-analysis techniques, we've included three IDA Python scripts:

- `03_uppercase_jumps.py`
- `04_letter_mapping.py`
- `05_reset_code.py`

The first two scripts are preparation steps to help with stack string deobfuscation described in a later section. The first script patches out a code pattern that is used to uppercase letters (this removes a small function basic block that interferes with stack string reconstruction) and the second script renames variables that store the letters used in stack strings.

Before running the third script, check that IDA Pro's "Options->Compiler..." is set to "Delphi" (see Figure 6.)

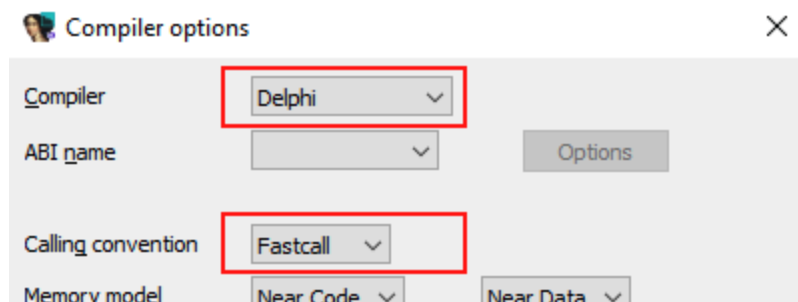


Figure 6: IDA Pro's Compiler options

Since the previous scripts patched a lot of existing code and exposed a bunch of new code, the `05_reset_code.py` script helps reset and re-analyze the modified code in IDA Pro to get a cleaner IDB database. Once the script and analysis completes, some manual clean up may be required. Our general method is:

- Search → Sequence of bytes...
- Search for the standard function prolog: 55 8B EC
- Sort by Function
- For each result without a defined function:
 - Right click → Create function...
 - Look for any addresses that are causing issues in the Output window
 - Right click → Undefine
 - Right click → Code

Junk StrAsg and StrCopy Function Calls

DanaBot adds a lot of junk code to slow down and complicate reverse engineering. One of the junk code patterns is adding extraneous `StrAsg` and `StrCopy` function calls. These functions are part of the standard Delphi library and are used to assign or copy data between variables. Figure 7 shows an example snippet of code with a number of these calls. If we trace the variable arguments we can see that they are usually assigned to themselves or a small set of other variables that aren't used in actual malware code.

```

char sub_4DAA24()
{
    // [COLLAPSED LOCAL DECLARATIONS. PRESS KEYPAD CTRL-"+" TO EXPAND]

    v124 = &savedregs;
    v123[1] = &unk_4DC551;
    v123[0] = NtCurrentTeb()->NtTib.ExceptionList;
    __writefsdword(0, v123);
    v231 = 0;
    v122[2] = &savedregs;
    v122[1] = &unk_4DC4B9;
    v122[0] = NtCurrentTeb()->NtTib.ExceptionList;
    __writefsdword(0, v122);
    System::__linkproc__ UStrCopy(junk1, 1, 1, &junk2);
    v221 = 158 - v222;
    v219 = 0;
    do
    {
        ++v219;
        System::__linkproc__ UStrCopy(junk2, 1, 0, &junk2);
    }
    while ( v219 < 1 );
    System::__linkproc__ UStrLAsg(&junk1, junk1);
    System::__linkproc__ UStrLAsg(&junk1, junk1);
    System::__linkproc__ UStrLAsg(&junk2, junk1);
    if ( v220 > i )
    {
        for ( i = 0; i != 11; ++i )
        {
            v217 = sub_407818(v226);
            v227 = 181 * v222;
            v225 = v223 + 141;
            System::__linkproc__ UStrCopy(junk2, 1, 0, &junk2);
            System::__linkproc__ UStrCopy(junk2, 1, 0, &junk1);
            System::__linkproc__ UStrCopy(junk1, 1, 1, &junk1);
        }
    }
}

```

Figure 7: Example of junk StrAsg and StrCopy function calls

The IDA Python script *06_fake_UStrLAsg_and_UStrCopy.py* tries to find and patch these junk calls. Figure 8 shows the result in the example from Figure 7.

```

char sub_4DAA24()
{
    // [COLLAPSED] SS KEYPAD CTRL-"+" TO EXPAND]
    RET 0001 a1 char;
    TOTAL STKARGS SIZE: 0
    v127 = &...;
    v126 = &unk_4DC551;
    ExceptionList = NtCurrentTeb()->NtTib.ExceptionList;
    __writefsdword(0, &ExceptionList);
    v234 = 0;
    v124 = &savedregs;
    v123 = &unk_4DC4B9;
    v122 = NtCurrentTeb()->NtTib.ExceptionList;
    __writefsdword(0, &v122);
    v224 = 158 - v225;
    for ( i = 0; i < 1; ++i )
        ;
    if ( v223 > j )
    {
        for ( j = 0; j != 11; ++j )
        {
            v220 = sub_407818(v229);
            v230 = 181 * v225;
            v228 = v226 + 141;
        }
    }
}

```

Figure 8: Example of patched junk StrAsg and StrCopy function calls

Stack Strings

The next obfuscation method is DanaBot’s version of creating “stack strings”. The malware assigns letters of the alphabet to individual variables and then uses those variables, pointers to those variables, and various Delphi character/string handling functions to construct strings one character at a time. Figure 9 is an example construction of the string “wow64.dll”.

```

BYTE5(v27) = *gp_w[0]; // w
BYTE4(v27) = 1;
w_System::Move(&v27, (&v27 + 4));
v26 = *gp_o; // o
v25 = 1;
LOBYTE(v3) = 2;
System::__linkproc__ PStrNCat(v3, &v25, ExceptionList);
w_System::Move(v24, &v27);
v26 = *gp_w[0]; // w
v25 = 1;
LOBYTE(v4) = 3;
System::__linkproc__ PStrNCat(v4, &v25, ExceptionList);
w_LStrFromPCharLen_0(v24, ExceptionList, v17);
ExceptionList = v28;
w_IntToStr(6, &v23); // 6
v15 = v23;
w_IntToStr(4, &v22); // 4
v14 = v22;
HIBYTE(v5) = BYTE1(gp_d); // d
LOBYTE(v5) = *gp_d;
w_LStrFromPCharLen(0, v5);
v13 = v21;
HIBYTE(v6) = BYTE1(gp_l); // l
LOBYTE(v6) = *gp_l;
w_LStrFromPCharLen(0, v6);
v12 = v20;
HIBYTE(v7) = BYTE1(gp_l); // l
LOBYTE(v7) = *gp_l;
w_LStrFromPCharLen(0, v7);
System::__linkproc__ LStrCatN(v19, v12, v13, &g_dot, v14, v15, ExceptionList);

```

Figure 9: Example stack string of “wow64.dll”

These stack strings litter most of the malicious functions in DanaBot and very easily lead to reverse engineering fatigue. On top of that, while some of the constructed strings are used for malware purposes, most of them turn out to be junk strings. Figure 10 is a snippet of output from a script that will be introduced below. As can be seen in the figure, most of the strings are random DLL, executable, and Windows API names.


```
setting comment zqoskwuerypenubeys at 0xce37f4
setting comment swmystemebobiledll at 0xce3ac9
setting comment wmidll at 0xce3d5b
setting comment sppcomapidll at 0xce3f06
setting comment mpcisbdaonstdll at 0xce4220
setting comment aaclientdll at 0xce45ba
setting comment abtrokerexe at 0xce486b
setting comment gpapidll at 0xce4aa7
setting comment kbdltdll at 0xce4cd9
setting comment unimdmtdll at 0xce4f38
setting comment cnbdll at 0xce528e
setting comment cnbpdll at 0xce556e
setting comment netutilsdll at 0xce59f8
setting comment mwsmicrosoftanagementresourcesdll at 0xce77a2
setting comment sbsmscordbidll at 0xce817c
setting comment appidpolicyconverterexe at 0xce8877
setting comment mfpsdll at 0xce907b
setting comment apimswincorestringldll at 0xce921f
setting comment eehxtensdll at 0xce9a34
setting comment epnreabdll at 0xcea1a5
setting comment piulcverfncementongounteralvalue at 0xcead16
setting comment imjppdmgexe at 0xceb414
setting comment cmscigdll at 0xceb696
setting comment adsmsextdll at 0xceb94c
setting comment mvstocicrosoftisualtudiooolsfficeontainerontrolnidll at 0xcebc20
setting comment tvdiatadll at 0xcec529
```

Figure 10: Example script output showing junk strings

The best way to extract these stack strings is by emulating the construction code, but due to the following reasons we experimented with another deobfuscation technique:

- There are thousands of these strings
- There are not clear start/end patterns to automatically extract the construction code
- They rely on standard Delphi functions which aren't particularly easy to emulate
- Most of them are junk strings
- The sheer amount of construction code hinders malware analysis the most

The goal of the IDA Python scripts [07_stack_string_letters_to_last_StrCatN_call.py](#) and [08_set_stack_string_letters_comments.py](#) is not to extract a wholly accurate stack string, but enough of the string to determine whether the string is junk or not. After some trial and error experimentation, the scripts also try their best to remove the stack string construction code to allow for much easier analysis. If the string turns out to be legitimate, the original construction code is saved as comments so a proper extraction of the string can be done if/when needed.

Empty Loops and Junk Math Loops

After removing the junk *StrAsg* and *StrCopy* function calls and the stack strings, there will be a bunch of empty loops. The IDA Python script [09_empty_loops.py](#) can be used to remove these loops. There will also be loops left that just contain junk math code (see

Figure 11.) The IDA Python script `10_math_loops.py` will remove these junk code math loops.

```

2108 |         do
2109 |         {
2110 |             ++j;
2111 |             m = 7 * i;
2112 |         }
2113 |         while ( j < 14 );

```

Figure 11: Example junk math loops

Junk Strings and Junk Global Variables

As we saw in the stack strings section above, there were a lot of DLL, executable, and Windows API name based junk strings. These junk strings exist as normal strings as well, see Figure 12 as an example.

Strings

Address	Length	Type	String
[s] .text:00CC9...	0000000E	C (1...	ec,dll
[s] .text:00CC9...	00000018	C (1...	IMJPAPI,DLL
[s] .text:00CC9...	0000000C	C (1...	R,DLL
[s] .text:00CC9...	00000070	C (1...	rosoft.VisualStudio.Tools.Applications.Contract.v9.0,dll
[s] .text:00CC9...	00000042	C (1...	stem.ServiceModel.WasHosting,dll
[s] .text:00CC9...	00000016	C (1...	accept.exe
[s] .text:00CC9...	00000018	C (1...	oledb32,dll
[s] .text:00CC9...	00000014	C (1...	srwmi,dll
[s] .text:00CC9...	00000012	C (1...	OKSE,dll
[s] .text:00CCA...	00000020	C (1...	exicons0009,dll
[s] .text:00CCA...	0000001C	C (1...	msidcrl30,dll
[s] .text:00CCA...	00000010	C (1...	r20,dll
[s] .text:00CCA...	00000010	C (1...	Cui.exe
[s] .text:00CCA...	00000040	C (1...	i-ms-win-core-handle-l1-1-0,dll
[s] .text:00CCA...	00000018	C (1...	pidgenx,dll
[s] .text:00CCA...	00000018	C (1...	mshwgsd,dll
[s] .text:00CCA...	00000016	C (1...	InkDiv,dll
[s] .text:00CCA...	00000014	C (1...	krskf,dll
[s] .text:00CCA...	00000016	C (1...	dmintf,dll
[s] .text:00CCA...	00000040	C (1...	stem.Diagnostics.StackTrace,dll
[s] .text:00CCA...	00000016	C (1...	PMONTR,DLL
[s] .text:00CCA...	00000030	C (1...	cationNotifications.exe
[s] .text:00CCA...	00000014	C (1...	c100u,dll
[s] .text:00CCA...	0000003E	C (1...	i-ms-win-core-synch-l1-1-0,dll
[s] .text:00CCA...	00000014	C (1...	csnap,dll
[s] .text:00CCA...	00000024	C (1...	ostNavigators,dll
[s] .text:00CCA...	00000016	C (1...	msv1_0,dll
[s] .text:00CCA...	0000002A	C (1...	msvcr110_clr0400,dll
[s] .text:00CCA...	0000000E	C (1...	ex,dll

Line 5379 of 5913

Figure 12: Example junk strings

While we haven't found good patterns to automatically remove references to these junk strings, the IDA Python script [11_rename_junk_variables.py](#) renames them as "junk" to ease manual analysis.

DanaBot also adds a lot of junk code involving global variables and various math operations, see Figure 13 for an example.

```
if ( g_junk1 > g_junk2 )
{
    k = i * n;
    g_junk1 = g_junk3 + 1;
    g_junk2 = 246 * (g_junk3 + 1);
    g_junk2 += 142;
    g_junk3 -= 141;
}
g_junk1 = g_junk3;
g_junk2 *= g_junk3;
g_junk3 = g_junk1;
v584 = g_junk2 + 4;
```

Figure 13: Example junk global variable math

The IDA Python script [12_rename_junk_random_variables.py](#) attempts to locate and rename these variables as "junk" to help with analysis.

Miscellaneous Tips and Tricks

Based on our experience reverse engineering DanaBot over the years, we have found the following miscellaneous tricks and tips to be helpful. The first is using the [Interactive Delphi Reconstructor \(IDR\)](#) program to export standard Delphi library function and variable names. We use Tools → MAP Generator and Tools → IDC Generator to export MAP and IDC files. While IDR creates an IDA IDC script, we don't use it directly as it degrades the quality of the IDA Pro disassembly/decompilation. Instead, we use the scripts [idr_idc_to_idapy.py](#) and [idr_map_to_idapy.py](#) to extract the information from the generated IDC and MAP files and use the output scripts to import the naming information.

DanaBot resolves some of its Windows API functions by hash, so we use [OALabs' HashDB IDA Plugin](#) (which [recently added support](#) for DanaBot's hashing algorithm) to resolve the names by hash.

Finally, we make liberal use of IDA Pro's right click → Collapse item feature to hide the remaining junk code, especially the renamed junk strings and global variables.

Before and After Example

As an overall example, Figure 14 is a screenshot for a section of DanaBot code before the deobfuscation scripts have been applied. The details of the code don't particularly matter for this discussion, but the snippet shows DanaBot's initialization of its 455-byte binary

structure used in its initial “system information” command and control beacon.

```
1591     dword_DB8AC0 *= 197;
1592     dword_DB8AC4 = sub_407360(v696, v728, v775, v783, v790, v796, v802, v809, \
1593     dword_DB8AC0 = dword_DB8ABC;
1594     if ( 2 * dword_DB8ABC > dword_DB8ABC )
1595     {
1596         v1016 = dword_DB8AC0 + 4;
1597         dword_DB8AC4 = System::__linkproc__ TRUNC((dword_DB8AC0 + 4));
1598         dword_DB8ABC = 252 - dword_DB8AC4;
1599         dword_DB8AC0 = dword_DB8AC4 - 249;
1600         dword_DB8AC4 = sub_407818(dword_DB8AC4);
1601     }
1602     sub_407918(&455, 455, 0);
1603     for ( k = 0; k != 8; ++k )
1604     {
1605         System::__linkproc__ UStrLAsg();
1606         for ( m = 0; m != 6; ++m )
1607         {
1608             dword_DB8ABC -= 69;
1609             dword_DB8ABC -= dword_DB8AC0;
1610             v1016 = dword_DB8ABC + 14;
1611             sub_407818((dword_DB8ABC + 14));
1612             dword_DB8AC0 = dword_DB8ABC * dword_DB8ABC;
1613             dword_DB8AC4 = dword_DB8ABC * dword_DB8ABC + 111;
1614         }
1615         dword_DB8AC0 = dword_DB8AC4 + dword_DB8ABC;
1616         dword_DB8ABC += dword_DB8AC4;
1617         if ( dword_DB8ABC > dword_DB8AC4 )
1618         {
1619             dword_DB8ABC -= 149;
1620             dword_DB8AC0 = 147 * dword_DB8ABC;
1621             dword_DB8AC0 = System::__linkproc__ TRUNC(dword_DB8ABC);
1622             dword_DB8AC4 = dword_DB8AC0;
1623             v1016 = dword_DB8AC0 + 4;
1624             dword_DB8ABC = System::__linkproc__ TRUNC((dword_DB8AC0 + 4));
```

Figure 14: Example of code before deobfuscations

Figure 15 is an example of the same code snippet after applying the deobfuscation scripts.

```

311     junk_random_3 *= 197;
312     junk_random_4 = idr609611_Random(v34, v35, v36);
313     junk_random_3 = junk_random_5;
314     if...
315     idr609737__FillChar(&s455, 455, 0);
316     for...
317     junk_random_3 = 0;
318     junk_random_5 = 0;
319     junk_random_3 = idr609696__ROUND(0);
320     *&s455.command = 1024;
321     idr610929__PStrNCpy(&s455.arg, &gp_s744->botid, 32u);
322     j = m + k;
323     idr611389__UStrEqual(L"msobjs.dll", junk_string_259);
324     if...
325     idr611330__UStrFromString(v34, v35, v36); // sqloledb.dll
326     idr611318__UStrToString(255, *gp_build_hash, v55);
327     idr610929__PStrNCpy(&s455.arg2, v55, 0x20u);
328     v58 = k + 134;
329     j = idr609696__ROUND((k + 134));
330     junk_random_4 = junk_random_3;
331     if...
332     junk_random_5 += 108;
333     junk_random_3 = 0;
334     v67 = junk_string_257;
335     if...
336     if...
337     generate_random_data(v53);
338     idr610998__LStrFromWStr(v34);
339     get_md5_hex_digest(v53[1], &v54);
340     encode_len_crc32_data(v54, &s455.rand2, 0x108);
341     i = 230 - j;
342     k = 0;
343     do...
344     v58 = junk_random_5 + 4;
345     junk_random_4 = idr609701__TRUNC((junk_random_5 + 4));

```

Figure 15: Example of code after deobfuscations

Conclusion

While there is still room for improvement, the DanaBot malware code is much easier to analyze and reason about. Expanding the scope to the entire binary, the deobfuscation techniques significantly reduce the complexity and time spent while reverse engineering the malware. We look forward to making further improvements/additions and welcome other researchers' contributions to the existing scripts to peel away more layers of DanaBot's obfuscation.

Zscaler Detection Status

W32/Danabot

Cloud Sandbox Detection

SANDBOX DETAIL REPORT

High Risk Moderate Risk Low Risk



Report ID (MD5): 014751c83db75e84bff37f67036822e7

Analysis Performed: 11/17/2022 9:07:47 AM

File Type: dll

CLASSIFICATION

Class Type Malicious
Category Malware & Botnet

Threat Score **88**

MITRE ATT&CK

This report contains 10 ATT&CK techniques mapped to 6 tactics

VIRUS AND MALWARE

No known Malware found

SECURITY BYPASS

- AV Process Strings Found
- May Try To Detect The Virtual Machine To Hinder Analysis

NETWORKING

- May Use The Tor Software To Hide Its Network Traffic
- URLs Found In Memory Or Binary Data

STEALTH

- Tries To Detect Virtualization Through RDTSC Time Measurements
- Disables Application Error Messages

SPREADING

No suspicious activity detected

INFORMATION LEAKAGE

- Enumerates The File System

EXPLOITING

- Known MD5
- May Try To Detect The Windows Explorer Process

PERSISTENCE

- Creates Temporary Files
- May Use Bcdedit To Modify The Windows Boot Settings
- PE File Contains Sections With Non-Standard Names

SYSTEM SUMMARY

- Dynamic Yara Hits
- One Or More Processes Crash
- Queries Information About The Installed CPU
- Binary Contains Paths To Debug Symbols
- Classification Label

DOWNLOAD SUMMARY

Original file	10 MB
Dropped files	2 MB
Packet capture	No network traffic

ORIGIN

Origin information not identified

FILE PROPERTIES

File Type	dll
Digital Certificate	Vendor File is not digitally signed
File Size	10,740,736 bytes
MD5	014751c83db75e84bff37f67036822e7
SHA1	868a60a08d6e3b94ff4b3fe3696b5d5f-f2733e12
SSDEEP	196608:iMnUzPCDNtqRHWJhmhf/alqJ81Lq-YVhqXg8UINc94ArNGmT/qZA:iMniCDNtq1a8g5Lqf8UeUmDk

PROCESS SUMMARY

```
graph LR; A[loaddll32.exe] --> B[WerFault.exe]
```

DROPPED FILES

- 7718_014751c83db75e84bff37f67036822e7-Dynamic_yara_data.Zip
- C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp\WER1453.Tmp.Dmp
- C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\ReportQueue\ApCrash_loaddll32.Exe_e125fe1a6ce-fe5b6a4a2528781ba6c3f59779d6_addb03b0_fc59a4aa-4324-4d18-A034-5d604aeb6660\Report.Wer
- C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp\WER183C.Tmp.WERInternalMetadata.Xml
- C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp\WER19D3.Tmp.Xml
- ZsApiList.Txt

SCREENSHOTS

NETWORK PACKETS

ALL 24
SMTP 0
ICMP 0
HTTP 0
UDP 24
TCP 0
IRC 0
FTP 0
DNS 0
HTTPS 0

TIME	SOURCE	DESTINATION	PROTOCOL
09:08:51 GMT-0500 (Eastern	192.168.1.17	8.8.8.8	UDP
09:08:51 GMT-0500 (Eastern	8.8.8.8	192.168.1.17	UDP
09:08:52 GMT-0500 (Eastern	192.168.1.17	8.8.8.8	UDP
09:08:52 GMT-0500 (Eastern	8.8.8.8	192.168.1.17	UDP
09:08:55 GMT-0500 (Eastern	192.168.1.17	8.8.8.8	UDP
09:08:55 GMT-0500 (Eastern	8.8.8.8	192.168.1.17	UDP
09:08:56 GMT-0500 (Eastern	192.168.1.17	8.8.8.8	UDP
09:08:56 GMT-0500 (Eastern	8.8.8.8	192.168.1.17	UDP
09:09:01 GMT-0500 (Eastern	192.168.1.17	8.8.8.8	UDP
09:09:02 GMT-0500 (Eastern	8.8.8.8	192.168.1.17	UDP
09:09:34 GMT-0500 (Eastern	192.168.1.17	8.8.8.8	UDP
09:09:34 GMT-0500 (Eastern	8.8.8.8	192.168.1.17	UDP
09:09:36 GMT-0500 (Eastern	192.168.1.17	8.8.8.8	UDP

General Timestamp: 09:08:51 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time)

Internet Protocol Source Address - Destination Address: 192.168.1.17 - 8.8.8.8

Transport Protocol Source Port - Destination Port: 51029 - 53

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Indicators of Compromise

IOC

Notes

8c6224d9622b929e992500cb0a75025332c9cf901b3a25f48de6c87ad7b67114	SHA256 hash of DanaBot version 2646 main component
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