

# Malware development trick - part 36: Enumerate process modules. Simple C++ example.

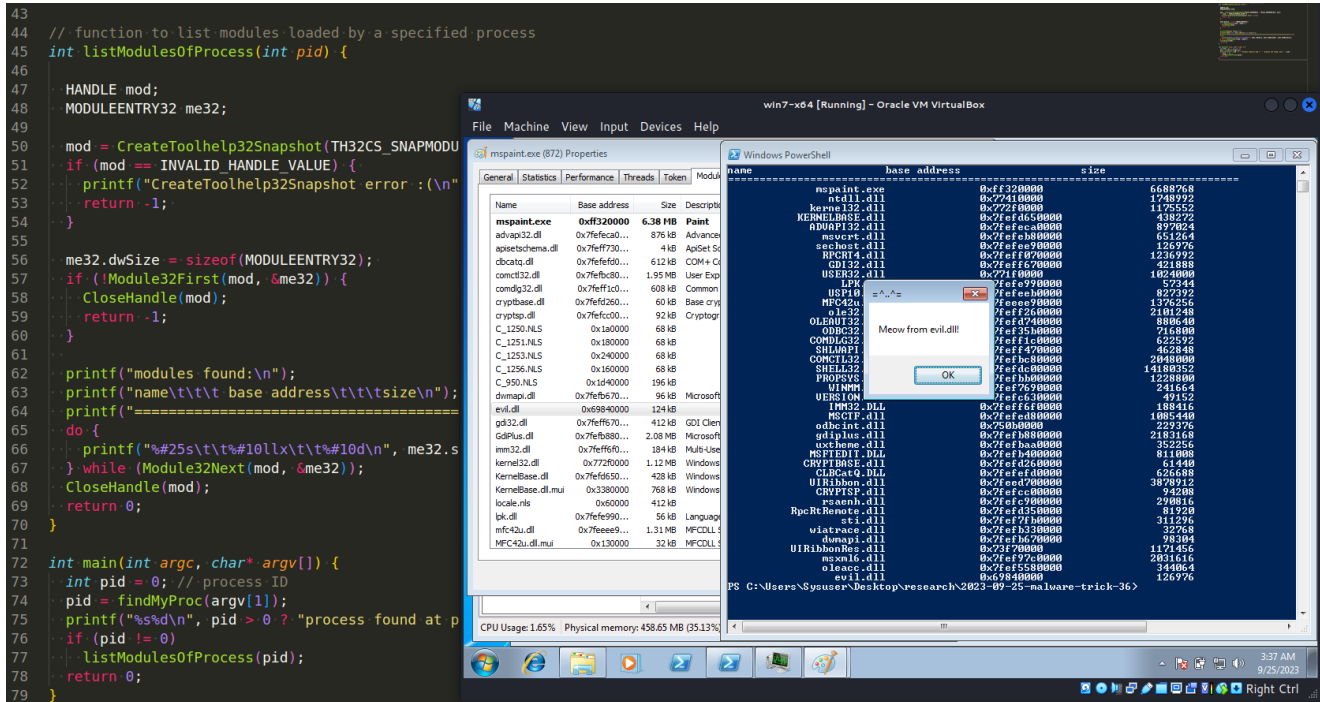
[cocomelonc.github.io/malware/2023/09/25/malware-trick-36.html](https://cocomelonc.github.io/malware/2023/09/25/malware-trick-36.html)

September 25, 2023



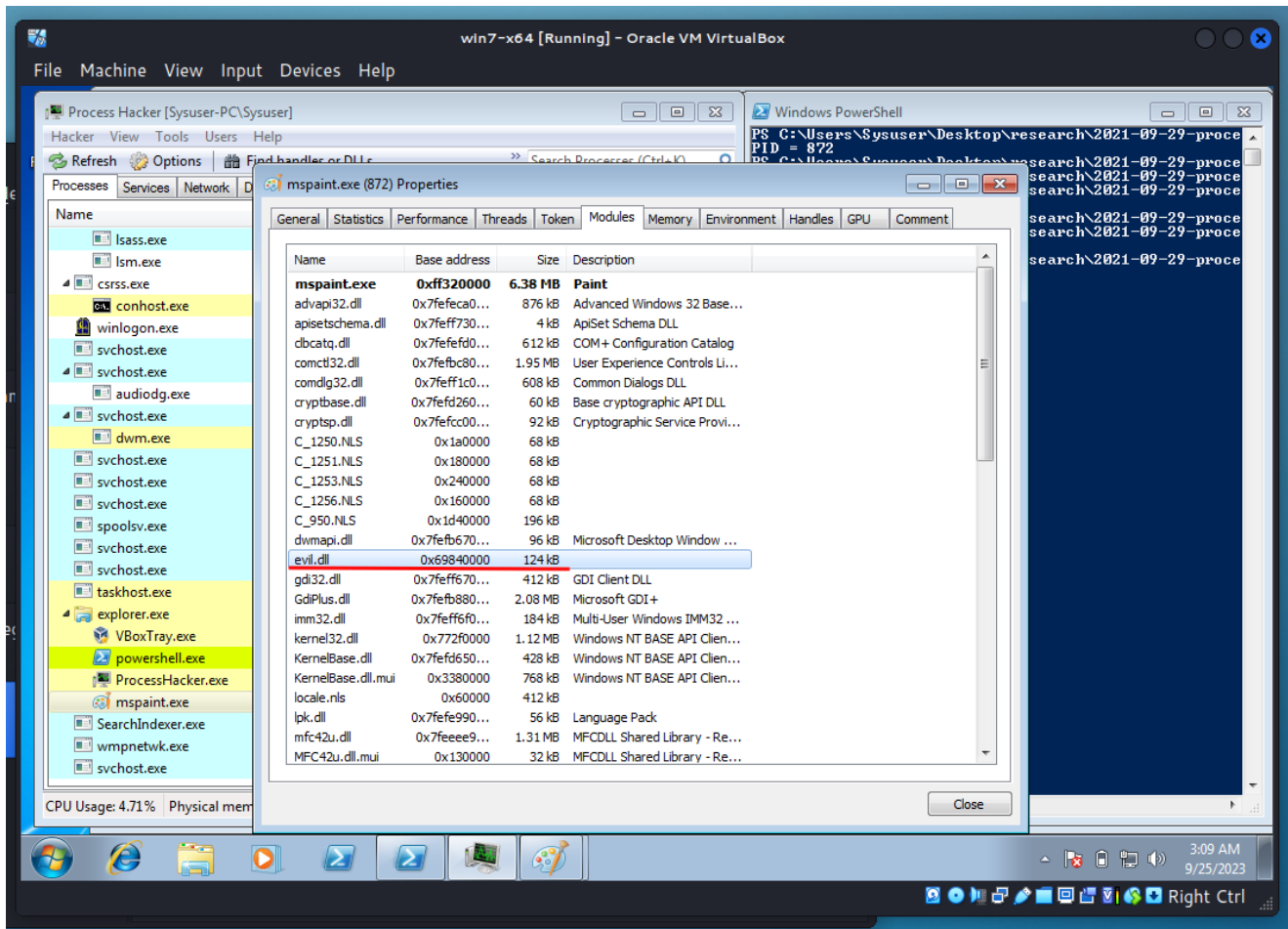
3 minute read

Hello, cybersecurity enthusiasts and white hackers!



Today, this post is the result of my own research on another popular malware development trick: get list of modules of target process.

Let's say we created successfully DLL injection to process. How to check if DLL in list of modules of our process?



## practical example

First of all, we just use one of the methods to find target process PID. For example I used this one:

```

typedef NTSTATUS (NTAPI * fNtGetNextProcess)(
    _In_ HANDLE ph,
    _In_ ACCESS_MASK DesiredAccess,
    _In_ ULONG HandleAttributes,
    _In_ ULONG Flags,
    _Out_ PHANDLE Newph
);

int findMyProc(const char * procname) {
    int pid = 0;
    HANDLE current = NULL;
    char procName[MAX_PATH];

    // resolve function address
    fNtGetNextProcess myNtGetNextProcess = (fNtGetNextProcess)
    GetProcAddress(GetModuleHandle("ntdll.dll"), "NtGetNextProcess");

    // loop through all processes
    while (!myNtGetNextProcess(current, MAXIMUM_ALLOWED, 0, 0, &current)) {
        GetProcessImageFileNameA(current, procName, MAX_PATH);
        if (lstrcmpiA(procname, PathFindFileName((LPCSTR) procName)) == 0) {
            pid = GetProcessId(current);
            break;
        }
    }

    return pid;
}

```

Then, just use `Module32First` and `Module32Next` functions from Windows API.

```

// function to list modules loaded by a specified process
int listModulesOfProcess(int pid) {

    HANDLE mod;
    MODULEENTRY32 me32;

    mod = CreateToolhelp32Snapshot(TH32CS_SNAPMODULE | TH32CS_SNAPMODULE32, pid);
    if (mod == INVALID_HANDLE_VALUE) {
        printf("CreateToolhelp32Snapshot error :(\n");
        return -1;
    }

    me32.dwSize = sizeof(MODULEENTRY32);
    if (!Module32First(mod, &me32)) {
        CloseHandle(mod);
        return -1;
    }

    printf("modules found:\n");
    printf("name\t\t\t base address\t\t\tsize\n");

    printf("=====\n");
    do {
        printf("%#25s\t\t\t%#10llx\t\t\t%#10d\n", me32.szModule, me32.modBaseAddr,
me32.modBaseSize);
    } while (Module32Next(mod, &me32));
    CloseHandle(mod);
    return 0;
}

```

As you can see, the code is a bit similar to the PID search logic with [CreateToolHelp32Snapshot](#), [Process32First](#) and [Process32Next](#).

So, the full source code is looks like this ([hack.c](#)):

```

/*
 * hack.c - get the list of modules of the process. C++ implementation
 * @cocomelonc
 * https://cocomelonc.github.io/malware/2023/09/25/malware-tricks-36.html
 */
#include <windows.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <winternl.h>
#include <tlhelp32.h>
#include <shlwapi.h>
#include <psapi.h>

#pragma comment(lib, "ntdll.lib")
#pragma comment(lib, "shlwapi.lib")

typedef NTSTATUS (NTAPI * fNtGetNextProcess)(
    _In_ HANDLE ph,
    _In_ ACCESS_MASK DesiredAccess,
    _In_ ULONG HandleAttributes,
    _In_ ULONG Flags,
    _Out_ PHANDLE Newph
);

int findMyProc(const char * procname) {
    int pid = 0;
    HANDLE current = NULL;
    char procName[MAX_PATH];

    // resolve function address
    fNtGetNextProcess myNtGetNextProcess = (fNtGetNextProcess)
    GetProcAddress(GetModuleHandle("ntdll.dll"), "NtGetNextProcess");

    // loop through all processes
    while (!myNtGetNextProcess(current, MAXIMUM_ALLOWED, 0, 0, &current)) {
        GetProcessImageFileNameA(current, procName, MAX_PATH);
        if (lstrcmpiA(procname, PathFindFileName((LPCSTR) procName)) == 0) {
            pid = GetProcessId(current);
            break;
        }
    }

    return pid;
}

// function to list modules loaded by a specified process
int listModulesOfProcess(int pid) {

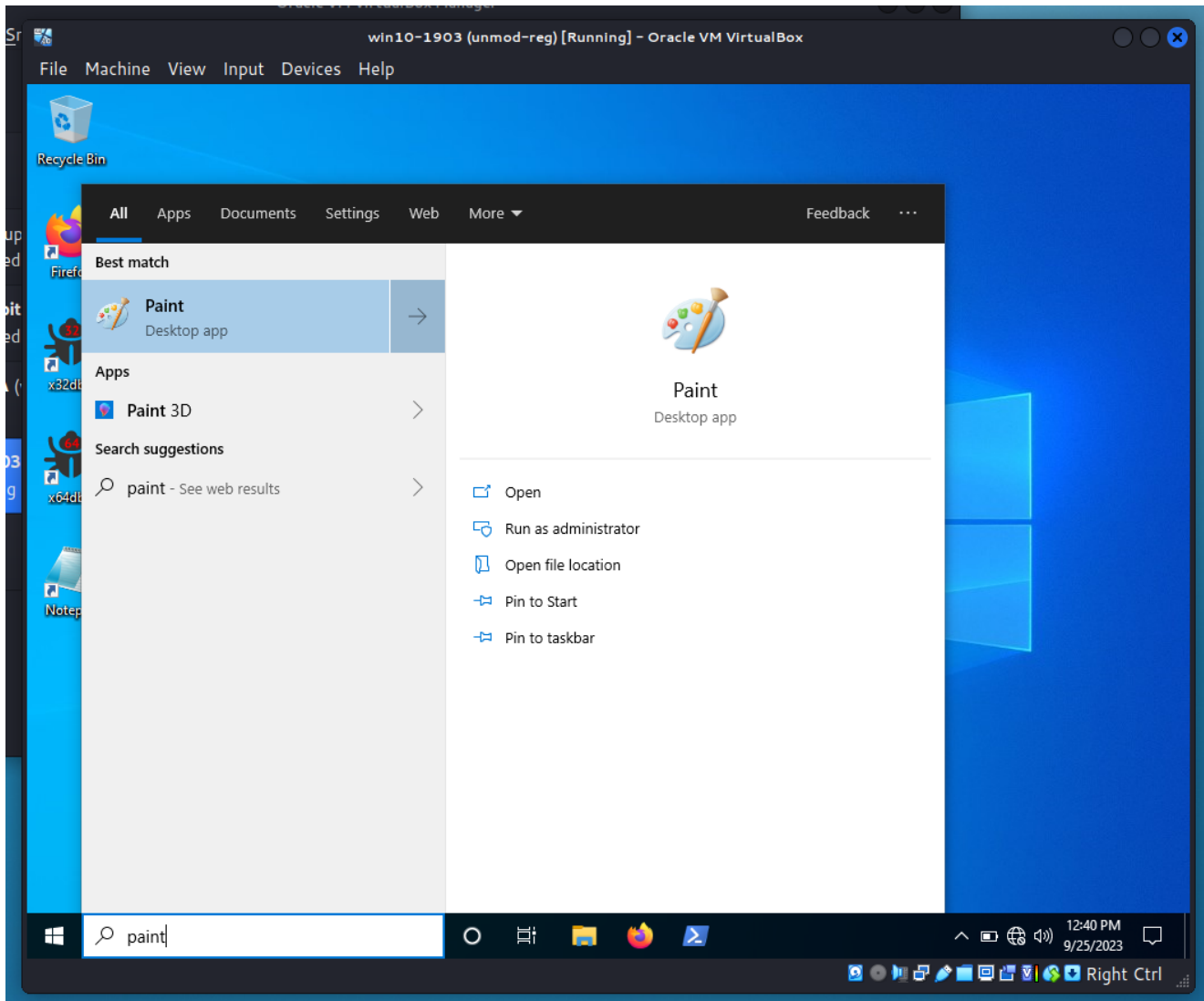
    HANDLE mod;
    MODULEENTRY32 me32;

    mod = CreateToolhelp32Snapshot(TH32CS_SNAPMODULE | TH32CS_SNAPMODULE32, pid);
    if (mod == INVALID_HANDLE_VALUE) {

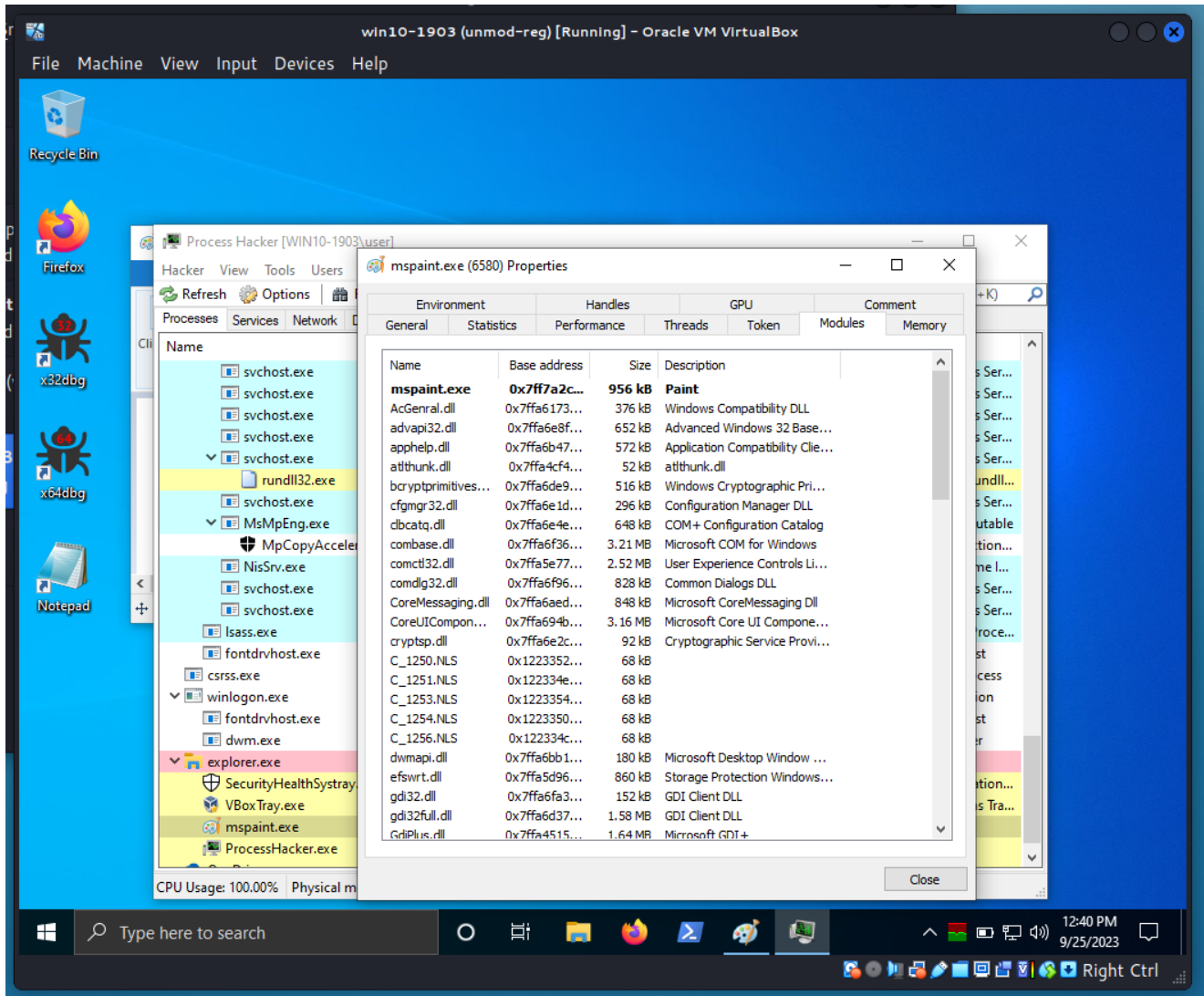
```



Then, open target process in the victim's machine:

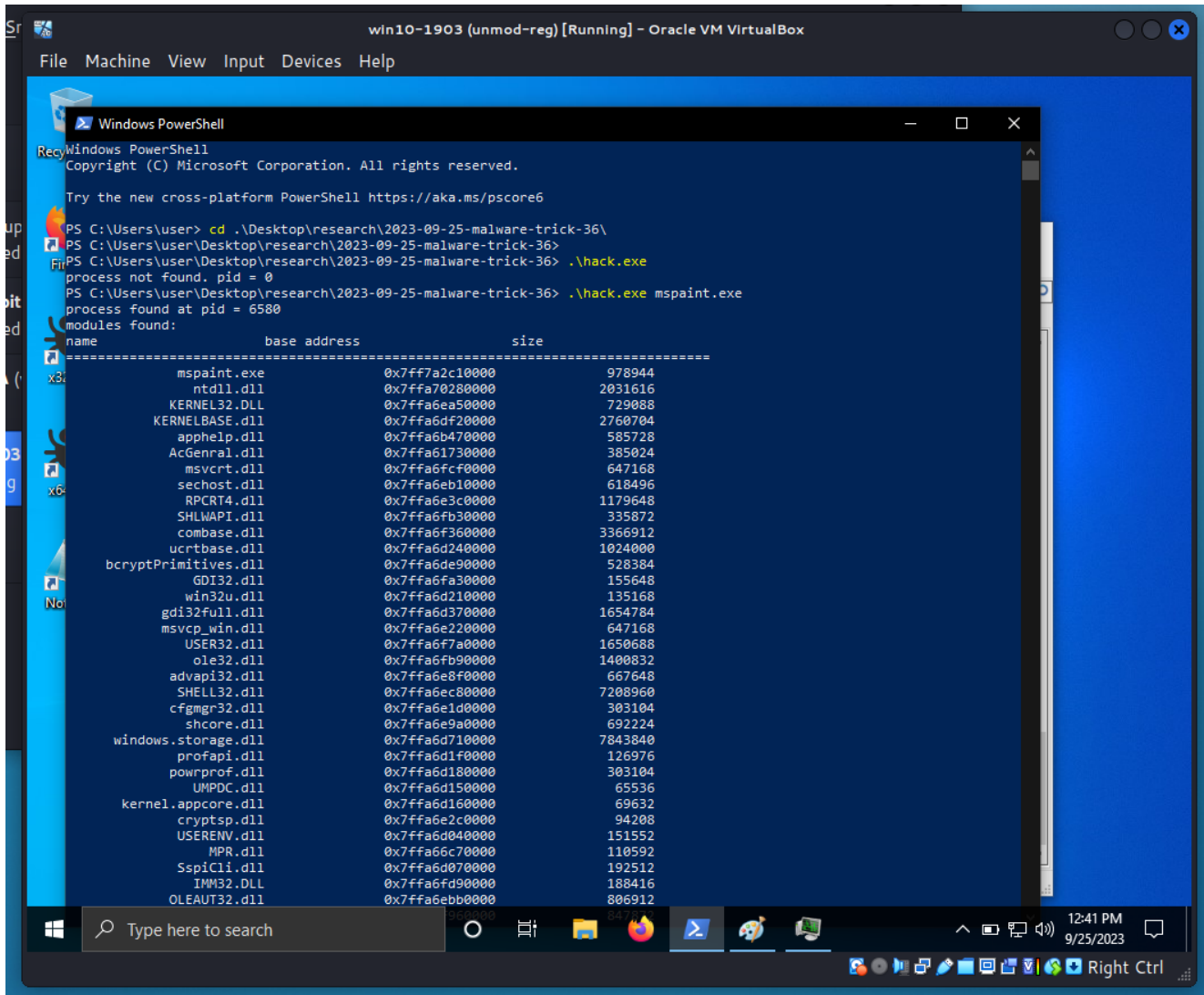






And just run our `hack.exe`:

```
.\hack.exe mspaint.exe
```



```

43
44 // function to list modules loaded by a specified process
45 int listModulesOfProcess(int pid) {
46
47     HANDLE mod;
48     MODULEENTRY32 me32;
49
50     mod = CreateToolhelp32Snapshot(TH32CS_SNAP
51     if (mod == INVALID_HANDLE_VALUE) {
52         printf("CreateToolhelp32Snapshot error :
53     }
54     return -1;
55 }
56
57 me32.dwSize = sizeof(MODULEENTRY32);
58 if (!Module32First(mod, &me32)) {
59     CloseHandle(mod);
60     return -1;
61 }
62 printf("modules found:\n");
63 printf("name\t\t\t base address\t\t\t size\n");
64 printf("-----\n");
65 do {
66     printf("%#25s\t\t\t%#10llx\t\t\t%#10d\n", me
67 } while (Module32Next(mod, &me32));
68 CloseHandle(mod);
69 return 0;
70 }
71
72 int main(int argc, char* argv[]) {
73     int pid = 0; // process ID
74     pid = findMyProc(argv[1]);
75     printf("%s\n", pid > 0 ? "process found
76     if (pid != 0)
77         listModulesOfProcess(pid);
78     return 0;
79 }
80

```

win10-1903 (unmod-reg) [Running] - Oracle VM VirtualBox  
 File Machine View Input Devices Help

Windows PowerShell  
 Recv Windows PowerShell  
 Copyright (C) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.  
 Try the new cross-platform PowerShell https://aka.ms/pscore6

```

PS C:\Users\User> cd .\Desktop\research\2023-09-25-malware-trick-36\
PS C:\Users\User\Desktop\research\2023-09-25-malware-trick-36>
PS C:\Users\User\Desktop\research\2023-09-25-malware-trick-36> .\hack.exe
process not found, pid = 0
PS C:\Users\User\Desktop\research\2023-09-25-malware-trick-36> .\hack.exe ms
process found at pid = 6580
modules found:
name                base address      size
-----
mspaint.exe         0x7ffa2c10000     978944
ntdll.dll           0x7ffa7020000     2831616
KERNEL32.DLL       0x7ffa6e50000     729888
KERNELBASE.dll    0x7ffa6df2000     2760784
apphelp.dll        0x7ffa6b47000     585728
AcGenral.dll       0x7ffa6370000     385024
msvcrt.dll          0x7ffa6fc0000     647168
shost.dll           0x7ffa6eb1000     618496
SHELLAPI.dll       0x7ffa6fb3000     335872
combase.dll        0x7ffa6f30000     3366912
ucrtbase.dll       0x7ffa6d24000     1624000
bcryptPrimitives.dll 0x7ffa6e90000     523384
GDI32.dll           0x7ffa6fa3000     155648
win32u.dll          0x7ffa6d21000     135168
gdi32full.dll       0x7ffa6d37000     1654784
msvcw_win.dll      0x7ffa6e27000     647168
USER32.dll          0x7ffa6f7a000     1658688
ole32.dll           0x7ffa6fb9000     1400832
advapi32.dll        0x7ffa6e8f000     687848
SHELL32.dll         0x7ffa6ec8000     7288960
cfgmgr32.dll        0x7ffa6e1d000     383104
shcore.dll          0x7ffa6e9a000     692224
windows.storage.dll 0x7ffa6d71000     7843940
profapi.dll         0x7ffa6d1f000     126976
powerprof.dll       0x7ffa6d18000     383104
LMPDC.dll           0x7ffa6d13000     65536
kernel.appcore.dll 0x7ffa6d16000     69632
cryptsp.dll         0x7ffa6e2c000     94208
USERENV.dll         0x7ffa6e04000     151552
PPR.dll             0x7ffa6e6c000     110592
SspiCli.dll         0x7ffa6d09000     192512
IMW32.DLL           0x7ffa6fd9000     188416
OLEAUT32.dll        0x7ffa6e00000     806912

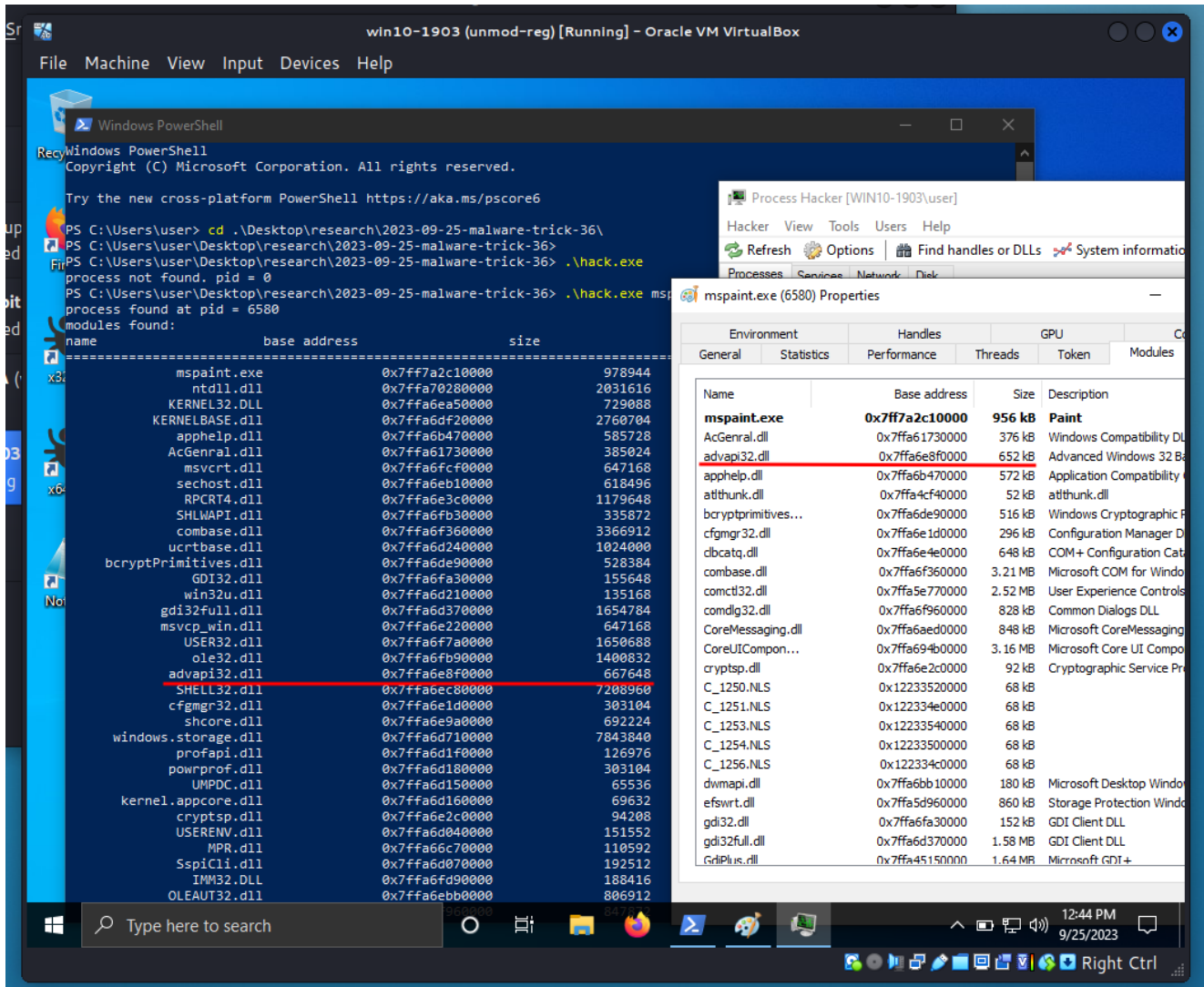
```

Process Hacker [WIN10-1903\user]  
 Hacker View Tools Users Help  
 Refresh Options Find handles or DLLs System information

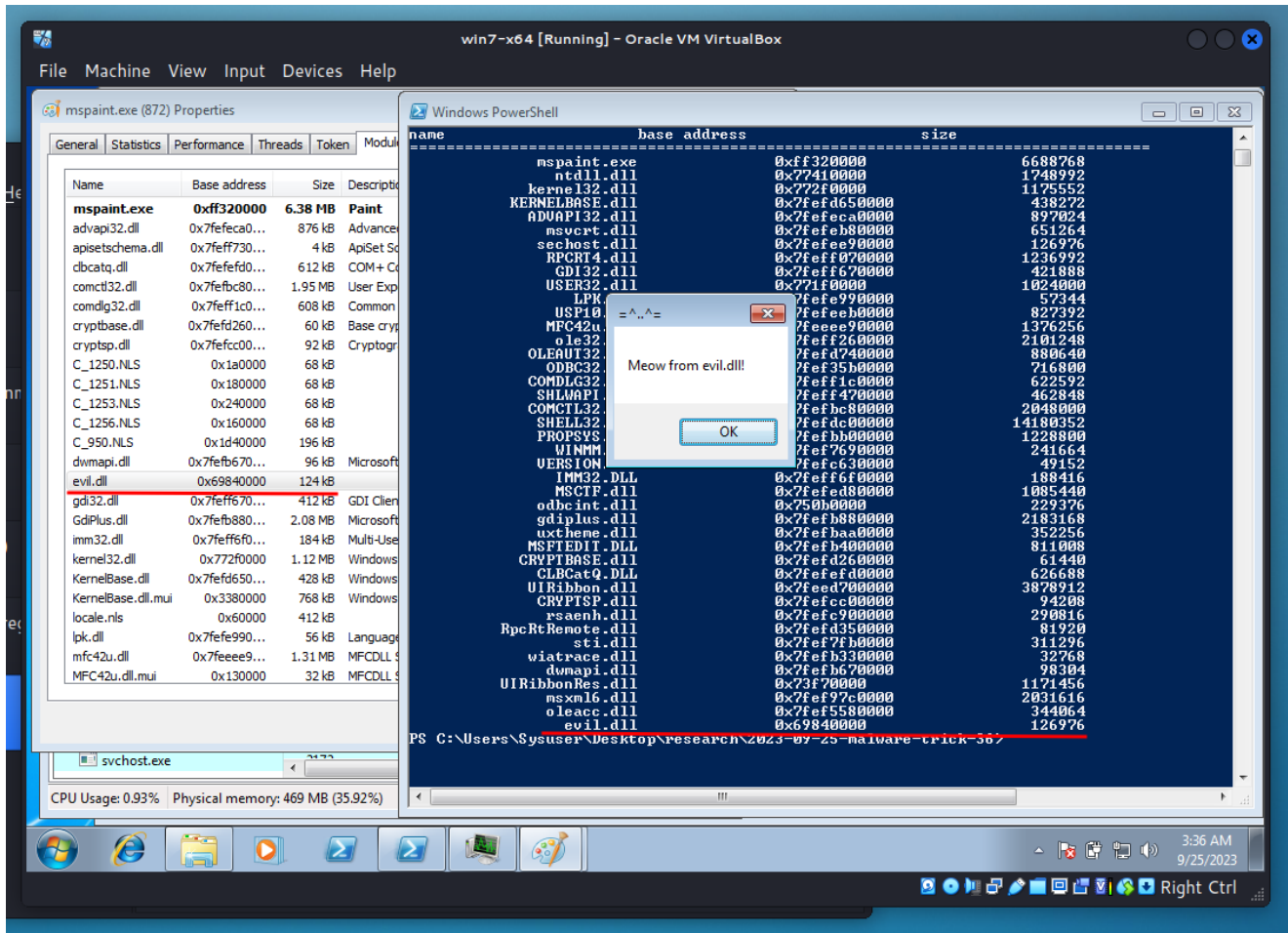
mspaint.exe (6580) Properties  
 Environment Statistics Performance Threads Token Modules

Name	Base address	Size	Description
<b>mspaint.exe</b>	<b>0x7ffa2c10000</b>	<b>956 kB</b>	<b>Paint</b>
AcGenral.dll	0x7ffa61730000	376 kB	Windows Compatibility D
advapi32.dll	0x7ffa6e8f0000	652 kB	Advanced Windows 32 B
apphelp.dll	0x7ffa6b470000	572 kB	Application Compatibility
atthunk.dll	0x7ffa64f0000	52 kB	atthunk.dll
bcryptprimitives...	0x7ffa6e900000	516 kB	Windows Cryptographic P
cfgmgr32.dll	0x7ffa6e1d0000	296 kB	Configuration Manager D
cbcatq.dll	0x7ffa6e4e0000	648 kB	COM+ Configuration Cate
combase.dll	0x7ffa6f300000	3.21 MB	Microsoft COM for Windo
comctl32.dll	0x7ffa6e770000	2.52 MB	User Experience Controls
comdlg32.dll	0x7ffa6f900000	828 kB	Common Dialogs DLL
CoreUICompon.dll	0x7ffa6e800000	948 kB	Microsoft CoreMessaging
CoreUICompon...	0x7ffa6e400000	3.16 MB	Microsoft Core UI Comp
cryptsp.dll	0x7ffa6e2c0000	92 kB	Cryptographic Service P
C_1250.NLS	0x12233520000	68 kB	
C_1251.NLS	0x12233540000	68 kB	
C_1253.NLS	0x12233540000	68 kB	
C_1254.NLS	0x12233500000	68 kB	
C_1256.NLS	0x12233400000	68 kB	
dimapi.dll	0x7ffa6b020000	180 kB	Microsoft Desktop Windo
efswrt.dll	0x7ffa6e960000	860 kB	Storage Protection Wind
gd32.dll	0x7ffa6fa30000	152 kB	GDI Client DLL
gd32full.dll	0x7ffa6fd90000	1.58 MB	GDI Client DLL
GdiPlus.dll	0x7ffa65190000	1.64 MB	Microsoft GDI+

Type here to search  
 12:46 PM  
 9/25/2023  
 Right Ctrl



Also, check with DLL injection logic:



As you can see, everything is worked perfectly! =^..^=

Keep in mind that this code may have limitations and dependencies on specific Windows APIs. Additionally, it relies on the process name for identification, which may not be unique.

This trick is used by [4H RAT](#) and [Aria-body](#) in the wild.

I hope this post spreads awareness to the blue teamers of this interesting malware dev technique, and adds a weapon to the red teamers arsenal.

[Find process ID by name and inject to it](#)

[Find PID via NtGetNextProcess](#)

[4H RAT](#)

[Aria-body](#)

[source code in github](#)

| This is a practical case for educational purposes only.

Thanks for your time happy hacking and good bye!

*PS. All drawings and screenshots are mine*