

The logo for IOActive, featuring the letters 'IO' in a bold, black, sans-serif font, followed by 'Active' in a similar font. The 'O' in 'IO' is a solid red circle. A small 'TM' trademark symbol is positioned to the upper right of the word 'Active'.

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COMPREHENSIVE COMPUTER SECURITY SERVICES

So You Want To Analyze Malware?

Tools, Techniques, and Mindset

The background features a large, stylized graphic of a white circle with a red gradient border, set against a grey gradient background. The IOActive logo is positioned in the top right corner.

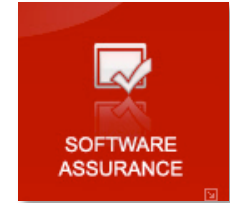
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Introduction

Who, What, Why?

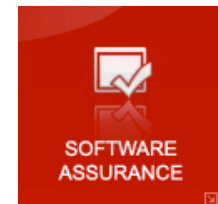
Introduction



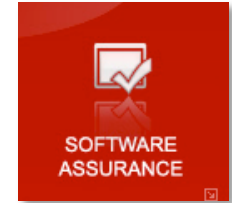
- Me – Wes Brown
 - Software and Systems Hacker
 - Fond of Lisp-based and Functional Languages
 - Developed Lisp dialect with Scott Dunlop
 - Mosquito Lisp
 - Evolved into Wasp Lisp
 - Security Researcher and Malware Analyst
 - MOSREF – uses Mosquito Lisp for a remote command and execution framework
 - Malware Analyst – analyzed thousands of samples
 - Security Consultant
 - Penetration Testing
 - Code Review
 - SDL
 - IOActive

Agenda

- Motivations behind Malware Analysis
- Mindset behind Malware and Analysis
- Trends in Malware
- Building a Malware Lab
- Tools for Malware Analysis
- Analysis Walkthrough



Motivations behind Malware and Analysis



- Why Analyze Malware?
 - Better understanding of threats to protect network
 - Defender
 - To write software that detects malware
 - Tools for Defender
 - Aesthetic admiration
 - Admiration of Techniques
 - Writing a better mousetrap
 - Financial Gain
- Why Malware?
 - Financial gain
 - Follow the money
 - Political agenda
 - Used to be for the challenge and pranks

What Makes A Good Malware Analyst?



- Mindset
 - Meticulous data collection
 - Logical processes
 - Thinks outside the box
 - Tenacious
- Technical
 - Good systems understanding
 - Good understanding of programming
 - Some reverse engineering skills
- Attitude
 - Ties into motivations discussed earlier

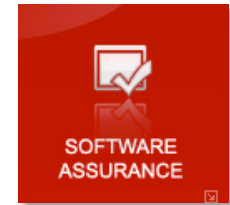
The IOActive logo features the company name in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The 'O' is notably larger and more prominent than the other letters. A small trademark symbol (TM) is positioned to the upper right of the 'e'. The logo is set against a dark grey background that transitions into a lighter grey gradient towards the right. On the left side of the slide, there is a large, stylized graphic consisting of a white circle partially enclosed by a thick red ring, all set against a dark grey background with a subtle, circular, textured pattern.

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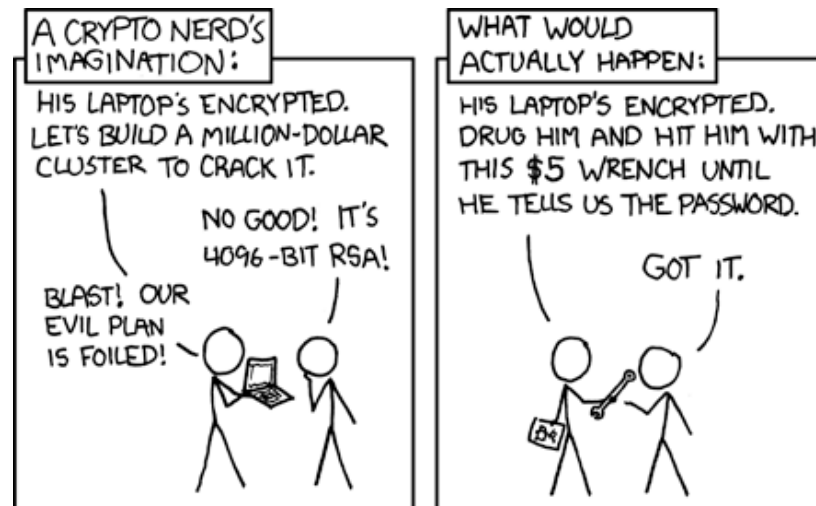
Trends in Malware

Past, Present, and Future

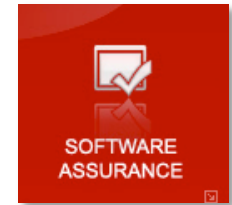


Attack Vectors

- In the Ancient Past
 - Viruses via floppy disks
 - Downloaded via FTP or BBS'es
- Past
 - Systems level
 - Exploitation of remote services, worms
 - System protections an NAT/Firewalls made this difficult
- Now
 - System is only as strong as its weakest link

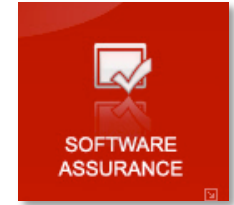


Human Factor



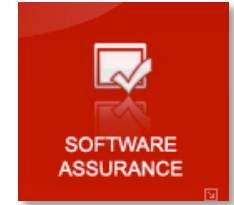
- In the past, attacks were mainly technical.
 - Attackers searched for network or systems level vulnerabilities.
 - Automatic exploitation and spread.
 - Humans not involved in the attack cycle.
- In the present, exploit the human.
 - Spam email
 - Compromise a legitimate site.
 - “Drive by” site
 - Human visits compromised site, is compromised.
 - Advertising attacks
 - Especially at shadier sites such as P2P trackers.
 - Goal is to get the initial injection vector in.
 - Once vector is in, payload can be sent, and network is compromised.

Attacking through Social Networks



- Social Networks
 - Flickr
 - Facebook
 - Twitter
 - Myspace
 - Etc
- File sharing
 - Torrents
 - Warez
 - P2P
- Highly connected network
- Massive information sharing
- Rich media content

Internationalization of Malware



- Formerly, English-targeted samples.
 - Easy to conduct a strings search on.
- Cultural assumptions of what Malware is.
 - Varies from region to region.
 - One man's anti-cheating toolkit is another man's rootkit.
 - Punkbuster
 - Korean and Chinese games
- What should it be flagged at?
 - Suspicious?
 - White list?
 - Malware?

Current Attack Lifecycle



- Initial payload is small
- Initial checks
 - Mutex, OS Version, Keyboard, location
 - Conficker A didn't infect systems with Ukrainian Keyboard
- Payload is downloaded
- Backdoor/trojan/infect
- Contacts command and control server for tasks
- May fall back to secondary C&C
- Dynamically generate rendezvous point

- Conficker quietly spreads internally and waits before phoning home

A large graphic on the left side of the slide, consisting of a white circle partially enclosed by a thick red ring, set against a grey background with a subtle circular gradient.

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Current Obfuscation Techniques

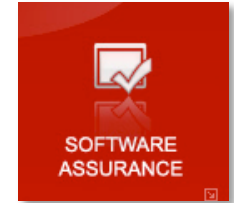
Staying on the System

Obfuscation



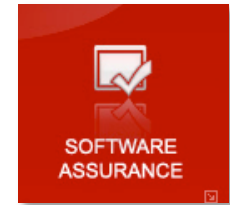
- Obfuscation used to confuse analysis
 - Antivirus signatures
 - Static analysis – decompilers
 - Dynamic analysis – tracing, debugging, inspection
- Obfuscation used legitimately for DRM systems
 - Hide important logic to *slow* reverse engineering
- Race to Zero Competition
 - Highlighted ineffectiveness of AV

Basic Techniques



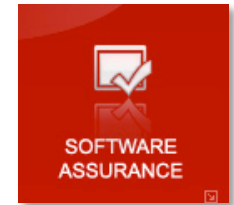
- Polymorphism and Packers
 - UPX, Armadillo or custom packer
- Simple Debugger checks
 - IsDebuggerPresent()
- Jumping into data/ middle of instructions
- Encoding strings/values
- Manipulating imports
- Corrupting PE Header
 - Bad LoaderFlags
 - Bad NumberOfRvaAndSizes
- Section Header Stuff
 - Enormous bogus sections
 - Overlapping sections

Basic Techniques (cont.)



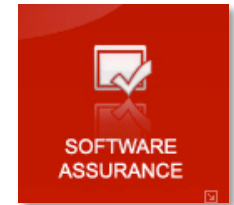
- Junk code
 - Spaghetti assembly
- SEH
 - Exception handler patches memory
 - Access to application context structure -> Erase Hardware debug Registers

Advanced Techniques



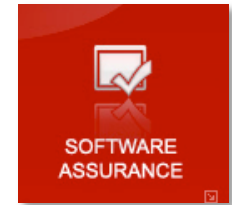
- Metamorphic malware
- Custom virtual machines
 - Polymorphic instruction sets
- Encryption
 - Corrupting PE Header, use corrupt data as key
- Instruction Timing
 - Model Specific Register (MSR), counts clock cycles
 - RDTSC instruction, moves timestamp to EDX and EAX

Advanced Techniques (cont.)



- Debugging register tricks
 - Trampolines pass shared stack via debug registers
- Breakpoint detection
 - Before calling API, check first few instructions breakpoints
- VMWare detection
 - VMWare Tools, Network card, hidden APIs
- Random note: Malicious JavaScript can only be fetched once

Custom Virtual Machines



- Purpose is to complicate static analysis by adding additional layer of translation
- P-Code machine (Pseudo-code)
- Create a software CPU
- Soft registers and pseudo language
- Mapping between pseudo language and real instructions
 - Mapping happens at runtime
- Makes static analysis very difficult
- Must run the system and step through things
- Make your Vmcode self modifying
- Really evil = Instruction set mapping changes after each instruction

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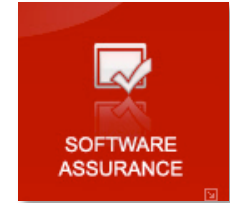
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Building a Malware Lab

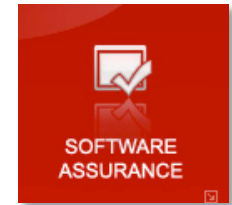
Tools for Analysis

Malware Lab



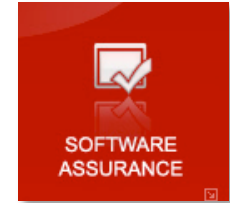
- Virtualization Platform
 - Multi-core CPUs are cheap
 - Windows images can be reverted in seconds.
 - Can run dozens of Windows images.
 - Easy to audit
 - Use Copy on Write disk images
- Must not be on any network but its own.
 - Airgapped.
 - Prevents inadvertent contamination and information leakage.
- Dynamic Internet Connection
 - Preferably a consumer-level connection.
 - Reissue new IP addresses via DHCP lease.
 - Prevents blacklists against

Virtualization Platform



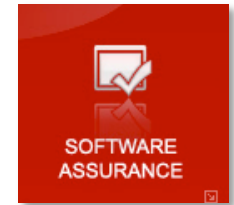
- VMware
 - Why VMware?
 - Stable.
 - Well-known.
 - Tools to analyze VMware suspend images
 - VMware ESXi is free, bare metal virtualization.
 - Fatal Flaw
 - Lowest common denominator.
 - Malware actively detects VMware.
 - Virtualization drivers detectable.
 - Easy to detect.
 - » Put value 10 (0x0a) in the ECX register, and put 0x564D5868 in the EAX register. Read a dword from 0x5658.
 - Exploits to break out of VMware sandbox now.
 - Recommend strongly against using VMware for a Malware Lab

Virtualization Platform (cont'd)



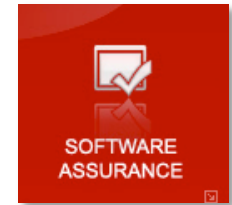
- Xensource
 - Payware
 - Now has a free product to compete with Vmware ESXi
 - Yay competition!
 - Nicely packaged bare-metal virtualizer.
 - Good performance.
 - Excellent Copy-on-Write support
- Qemu
 - Roll your own virtualization platform
 - OpenSource
 - Slower than the others.

Neat Virtualization Tricks



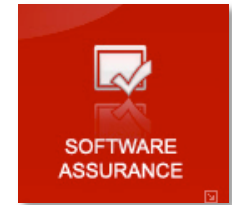
- Serial Debugging
 - Debugger and Debugee VMs with virtual serial connection.
 - Very handy for kernel debugging with tools such as WinDBG.
- Copy on Write
 - Original VM disk image is unmodified.
 - All changes are made to a separate file.
 - Can mount delta images and examine differences to see what malware changed.
- Memory Image
 - State of memory can be snapshotted while malware is run, and then disassembled and debugged.
- Fast reversion of images
 - Useful for analyzing thousands of samples in a day.

Database (aka, store everything!)



- Database
 - Needed to store data from automatic and manual analysis.
 - Malware analysis is far more useful with a corpus to compare against.
 - The more data we have on characteristics, the more we are able to do a determination of whether it is malware.
 - Reverse engineering is expensive in terms of man-power to do.
 - Identify characteristics and understand malware to allocate reverse engineering where it is worthwhile to.
- Corpus
 - Store actual malware sample.
 - Store all known characteristics.
 - Store network traces.
 - Store static forensics.

Obtaining Malware to Analyze



- Be an anti-virus or anti-malware software vendor.
 - Set up your software agent to automatically send back unknown samples.
 - Thousands of samples a day!
- Join an existing antimalware intelligence group.
 - Honeynet Project
 - Sandnet
- Build your own honeynet.
 - Collect malware samples from exploits.
- Beg, borrow, steal.
 - Obtain a feed from someone.
 - Offer a feed in return.

Additional Tools



- Debuggers
 - WinDBG
 - IDA
 - Ollydbg
- Tracers
 - Process Monitor (regmon, filemon)
 - Detours
 - Third party: apimonitor, strace
- Unpackers
 - PeID
 - Import rebuilders

The background features a large, stylized graphic of a white circle with a red border, set against a grey gradient background. The red border has a slight 3D effect, appearing to wrap around the white circle. In the top right corner, the IOActive logo is displayed in white text.

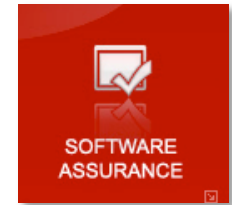
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Analysis Walkthrough

Dynamic and Static

Analysis Walkthrough



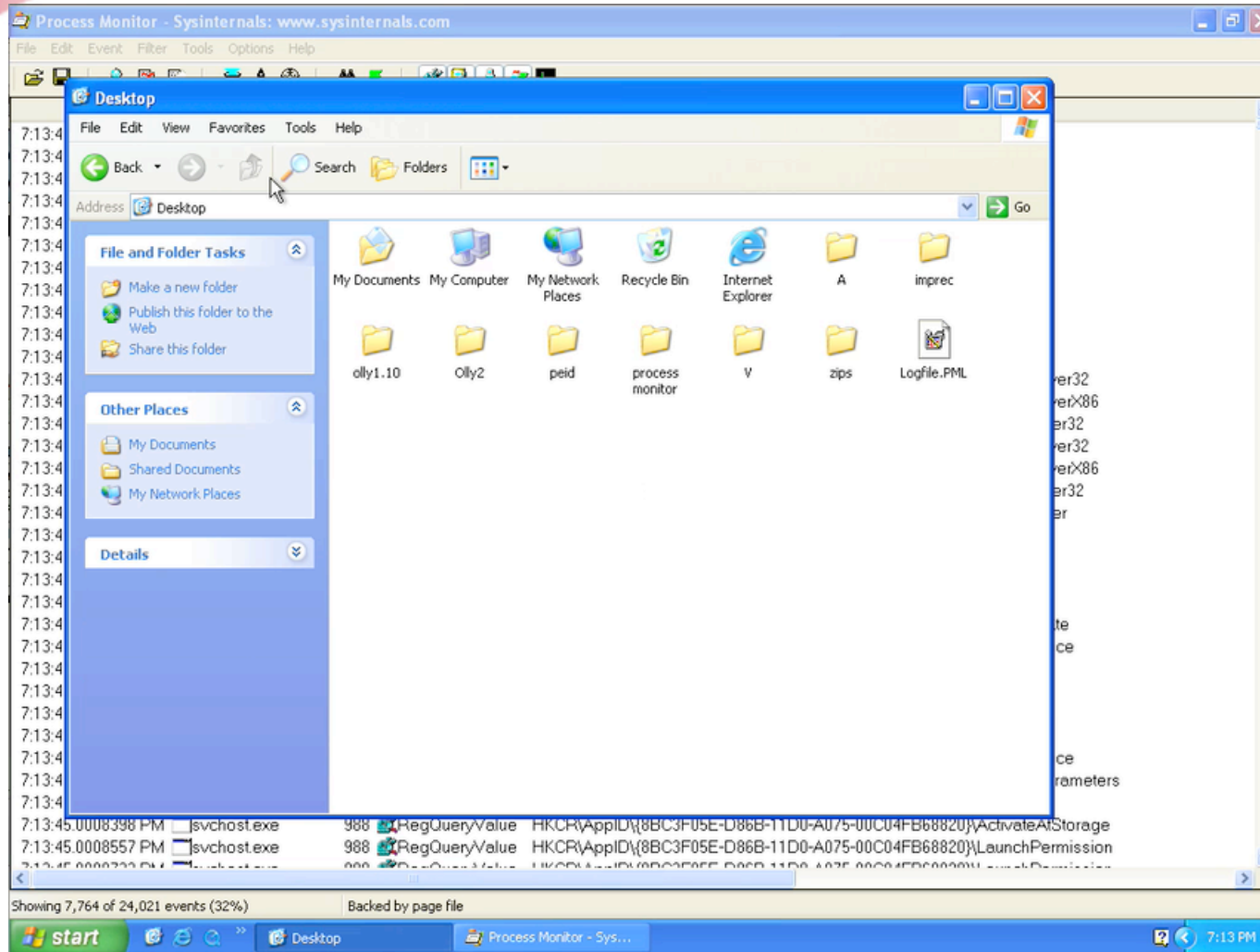
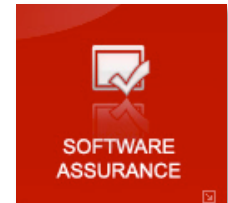
- Version of Sality family
- From the network logs we know some behavior
 - Slowly spreads internally
 - Outbound connections on high number ports
 - HTTP requests
 - Not detected by antivirus
- Initial samples
 - Four executables
 - Random filenames starting with “win”
 - Same size, different checksums

Process Monitor

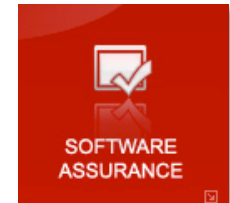


- External behavior highlights what to look for during static analysis
 - Ex: strings of URLs, registry keys, file names
- A lot of what you'll see is general noise as application loads libraries, reads registry keys, starts threads, accesses files
- Focus on RegSetValue for fast info

Process Monitor Video

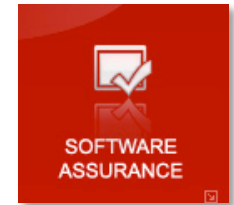


RegSetValue Standard Stuff



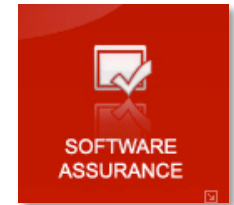
Path	Detail
HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Internet Setting...	Type: REG_DWORD, Length: 4, Data: 0
HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\policies\s...	Type: REG_DWORD, Length: 4, Data: 0
HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\SharedAccess\Param...	Type: REG_SZ, Length: 156, Data: C:\Documents and
HKCU\Software\Administrator914\993627007\1768776769	Type: REG_DWORD, Length: 4, Data: 5
HKCU\Software\Administrator914\993627007\757413758	Type: REG_DWORD, Length: 4, Data: 0
HKCU\Software\Administrator914\993627007\1011363011	Type: REG_DWORD, Length: 4, Data: 0
HKCU\Software\Administrator914\993627007\1514827516	Type: REG_DWORD, Length: 4, Data: 30
HKCU\Software\Administrator914\993627007\253949253	Type: REG_DWORD, Length: 4, Data: 182
HKCU\Software\Administrator914\993627007\2022726022	Type: REG_SZ, Length: 726, Data: 0500687474703A2F
HKCU\Software\Administrator914\993627007\503464505	Type: REG_SZ, Length: 514, Data: BE0CE72B58D4A5
HKCU\Software\Administrator914\A1_0	Type: REG_DWORD, Length: 4, Data: 3432392762
HKCU\Software\Administrator914\A2_0	Type: REG_DWORD, Length: 4, Data: 5517
HKCU\Software\Administrator914\A3_0	Type: REG_DWORD, Length: 4, Data: 17000001
HKCU\Software\Administrator914\A4_0	Type: REG_DWORD, Length: 4, Data: 0
HKCU\Software\Administrator914\A1_1	Type: REG_DWORD, Length: 4, Data: 659249704
HKCU\Software\Administrator914\A2_1	Type: REG_DWORD, Length: 4, Data: 1768780236
HKCU\Software\Administrator914\A3_1	Type: REG_DWORD, Length: 4, Data: 1752039936
HKCU\Software\Administrator914\A4_1	Type: REG_DWORD, Length: 4, Data: 1768776769
HKCU\Software\Administrator914\A1_2	Type: REG_DWORD, Length: 4, Data: 2523696295
HKCU\Software\Administrator914\A2_2	Type: REG_DWORD, Length: 4, Data: 3537558799

RegSetValue Standard Stuff



- Adds self to Firewall Policy Authorized Applications List
- GlobalUserOffline -> 0
 - Switches to online if was “Work Offline” mode
- EnableLUA -> 0
 - Turn off User Access Control for Administrator

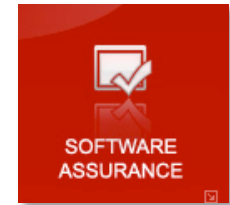
RegSetValue Interesting Stuff



- HKCU\Software\Administrator914_-993627007\2022726022
- Size 726
- Value:

0500687474703A2F2F61736A6469776575723837777364636
E622E696E666F2F74616E67612E67696600687474703A2F2
F7065646D656F3232326E622E696E666F2F74616E67612E6
7696600687474703A2F2F676F6E646F6C697A6F313834383
32E696E666F2F74616E67612E67696600687474703A2F2F7
46563686E6963616E2E772E696E74657269612E706C2F746
16E67612E67696600687474703A2F2F707A726B2E72752F6
96D672F6C6F676F342E676966

RegSetValue Interesting Stuff



- Decodes to:

<http://asjdiweur87wsdcnb.info/tanga.gif>

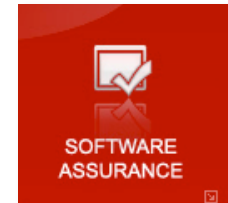
<http://pedmeo222nb.info/tanga.gif>

<http://gondolizo18483.info/tanga.gif>

<http://technican.w.interia.pl/tanga.gif>

<http://pzrk.ru/img/logo4.gif>

RegSetValue Interesting Stuff 2

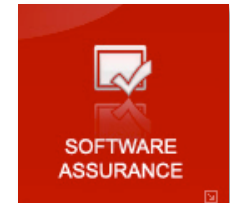


winqilxhp.exe	3756	ReqSetValue	HKCU\Software\Administrator914\A1_0	Type: REG_DWORD, Lenqth: 4, Data: 3432392762
winqilxhp.exe	3756	ReqSetValue	HKCU\Software\Administrator914\A2_0	Type: REG_DWORD, Lenqth: 4, Data: 5517
winqilxhp.exe	3756	ReqSetValue	HKCU\Software\Administrator914\A3_0	Type: REG_DWORD, Lenqth: 4, Data: 17000001
winqilxhp.exe	3756	ReqSetValue	HKCU\Software\Administrator914\A4_0	Type: REG_DWORD, Lenqth: 4, Data: 0
winqilxhp.exe	3756	ReqSetValue	HKCU\Software\Administrator914\A1_1	Type: REG_DWORD, Lenqth: 4, Data: 659249704
winqilxhp.exe	3756	ReqSetValue	HKCU\Software\Administrator914\A2_1	Type: REG_DWORD, Lenqth: 4, Data: 1768780236
winqilxhp.exe	3756	ReqSetValue	HKCU\Software\Administrator914\A3_1	Type: REG_DWORD, Lenqth: 4, Data: 1752039936
winqilxhp.exe	3756	ReqSetValue	HKCU\Software\Administrator914\A4_1	Type: REG_DWORD, Lenqth: 4, Data: 1768776769
winqilxhp.exe	3756	ReqSetValue	HKCU\Software\Administrator914\A1_2	Type: REG_DWORD, Lenqth: 4, Data: 2523696295
winqilxhp.exe	3756	ReqSetValue	HKCU\Software\Administrator914\A2_2	Type: REG_DWORD, Lenqth: 4, Data: 3537558799
winqilxhp.exe	3756	ReqSetValue	HKCU\Software\Administrator914\A3_2	Type: REG_DWORD, Lenqth: 4, Data: 3554258627
winqilxhp.exe	3756	ReqSetValue	HKCU\Software\Administrator914\A4_2	Type: REG_DWORD, Lenqth: 4, Data: 3537553538
winqilxhp.exe	3756	ReqSetValue	HKCU\Software\Administrator914\A1_3	Type: REG_DWORD, Lenqth: 4, Data: 721497331
winqilxhp.exe	3756	ReqSetValue	HKCU\Software\Administrator914\A2_3	Type: REG_DWORD, Lenqth: 4, Data: 1011366222

Kill off the malware process and a little while later....

Explorer.EXE	1996	ReqOpenKey	HKCU\Software\Administrator914	Desired Access: All Access
Explorer.EXE	1996	ReqQueryValue	HKCU\Software\Administrator914\A1_0	Type: REG_DWORD, Lenqth: 4, Data: 3432392762
Explorer.EXE	1996	ReqQueryValue	HKCU\Software\Administrator914\A2_0	Type: REG_DWORD, Lenqth: 4, Data: 5517
Explorer.EXE	1996	ReqQueryValue	HKCU\Software\Administrator914\A3_0	Type: REG_DWORD, Lenqth: 4, Data: 17000001
Explorer.EXE	1996	ReqQueryValue	HKCU\Software\Administrator914\A4_0	Type: REG_DWORD, Lenqth: 4, Data: 0
Explorer.EXE	1996	ReqQueryValue	HKCU\Software\Administrator914\A1_1	Type: REG_DWORD, Lenqth: 4, Data: 659249704
Explorer.EXE	1996	ReqQueryValue	HKCU\Software\Administrator914\A2_1	Type: REG_DWORD, Lenqth: 4, Data: 1768780236
Explorer.EXE	1996	ReqQueryValue	HKCU\Software\Administrator914\A3_1	Type: REG_DWORD, Lenqth: 4, Data: 1752039936
Explorer.EXE	1996	ReqQueryValue	HKCU\Software\Administrator914\A4_1	Type: REG_DWORD, Lenqth: 4, Data: 1768776769
Explorer.EXE	1996	ReqQueryValue	HKCU\Software\Administrator914\A1_2	Type: REG_DWORD, Lenqth: 4, Data: 2523696295
Explorer.EXE	1996	ReqQueryValue	HKCU\Software\Administrator914\A2_2	Type: REG_DWORD, Lenqth: 4, Data: 3537558799
Explorer.EXE	1996	ReqQueryValue	HKCU\Software\Administrator914\A3_2	Type: REG_DWORD, Lenqth: 4, Data: 3554258627
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Explorer.EXE	1996	ReqQueryValue	HKCU\Software\Administrator914\A1_3	Type: REG_DWORD, Lenqth: 4, Data: 721497331
Explorer.EXE	1996	ReqQueryValue	HKCU\Software\Administrator914\A2_3	Type: REG_DWORD, Lenqth: 4, Data: 1011366222

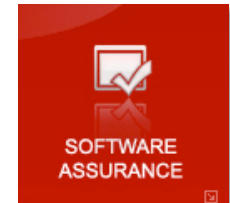
Thread Injection



- You can actually see the thread injection

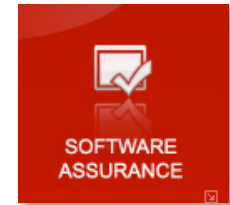
winqilxhp.exe	3756	ReqCloseKey	<INVA...	3744
winqilxhp.exe	3756	ReqCloseKey	<INVA...	3744
Explorer.EXE	1996	Thread Create	Thread ID: 3784	3744
Explorer.EXE	1996	Thread Create	Thread ID: 3532	3744
jusched.exe	300	Thread Create	Thread ID: 3252	3744
jusched.exe	300	Thread Create	Thread ID: 3248	3744
wscntfy.exe	460	Thread Create	Thread ID: 3080	3744
wscntfy.exe	460	Thread Create	Thread ID: 3084	3744
GoogleToolb...	468	Thread Create	Thread ID: 1912	3744
GoogleToolb...	468	Thread Create	Thread ID: 3796	3744
ctfmon.exe	496	Thread Create	Thread ID: 1900	3744
ctfmon.exe	496	Thread Create	Thread ID: 2368	3744
TPAutoConne...	504	Thread Create	Thread ID: 1848	3744
TPAutoConne...	504	Thread Create	Thread ID: 1816	3744
winqilxhp.exe	3756	Thread Create	Thread ID: 1976	3744
winqilxhp.exe	3756	Thread Create	Thread ID: 1960	3744
winqilxhp.exe	3756	ReqCloseKey	<INVA...	3744

No more safeboot!



Explorer.EXE	1996	ReqDeleteKey	HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\SafeBoot\Minimal\AppMgmt
Explorer.EXE	1996	ReqDeleteKey	HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\SafeBoot\Minimal\Base
Explorer.EXE	1996	ReqDeleteKey	HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\SafeBoot\Minimal\Boot Bus Ext
Explorer.EXE	1996	ReqDeleteKey	HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\SafeBoot\Minimal\Boot file syste
Explorer.EXE	1996	ReqDeleteKey	HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\SafeBoot\Minimal\CryptSvc
Explorer.EXE	1996	ReqDeleteKey	HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\SafeBoot\Minimal\DcomLaunch
Explorer.EXE	1996	ReqDeleteKey	HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\SafeBoot\Minimal\dmadmin
Explorer.EXE	1996	ReqDeleteKey	HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\SafeBoot\Minimal\dmboot.sys
Explorer.EXE	1996	ReqDeleteKey	HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\SafeBoot\Minimal\dmio.sys
Explorer.EXE	1996	ReqDeleteKey	HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\SafeBoot\Minimal\dmload.sys
Explorer.EXE	1996	ReqDeleteKey	HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\SafeBoot\Minimal\dmserver
Explorer.EXE	1996	ReqDeleteKey	HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\SafeBoot\Minimal\EventLog

Some other Things

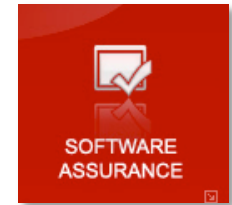


- See the Libraries its loading

winqilxhp.exe	3756	Load Image	C:\WINDOWS\system32\shell32.dll
winqilxhp.exe	3756	Load Image	C:\WINDOWS\system32\comctl32.dll
winqilxhp.exe	3756	Load Image	C:\WINDOWS\system32\wsock32.dll
winqilxhp.exe	3756	Load Image	C:\WINDOWS\system32\rasapi32.dll
winqilxhp.exe	3756	Load Image	C:\WINDOWS\system32\rasman.dll
winqilxhp.exe	3756	Load Image	C:\WINDOWS\system32\netapi32.dll
winqilxhp.exe	3756	Load Image	C:\WINDOWS\system32\tapi32.dll
winqilxhp.exe	3756	Load Image	C:\WINDOWS\system32\rtutils.dll
winqilxhp.exe	3756	Load Image	C:\WINDOWS\system32\winmm.dll
winqilxhp.exe	3756	Load Image	C:\WINDOWS\system32\msv1_0.dll
winqilxhp.exe	3756	Load Image	C:\WINDOWS\system32\sensapi.dll
winqilxhp.exe	3756	Load Image	C:\WINDOWS\system32\userenv.dll
winqilxhp.exe	3756	Load Image	C:\WINDOWS\system32\urlmon.dll

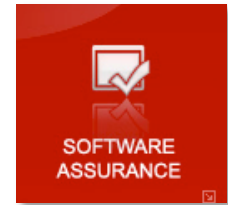
- Writes System.ini
- Thread heavy >100 threads in 1 minute

Static Analysis and Debugging

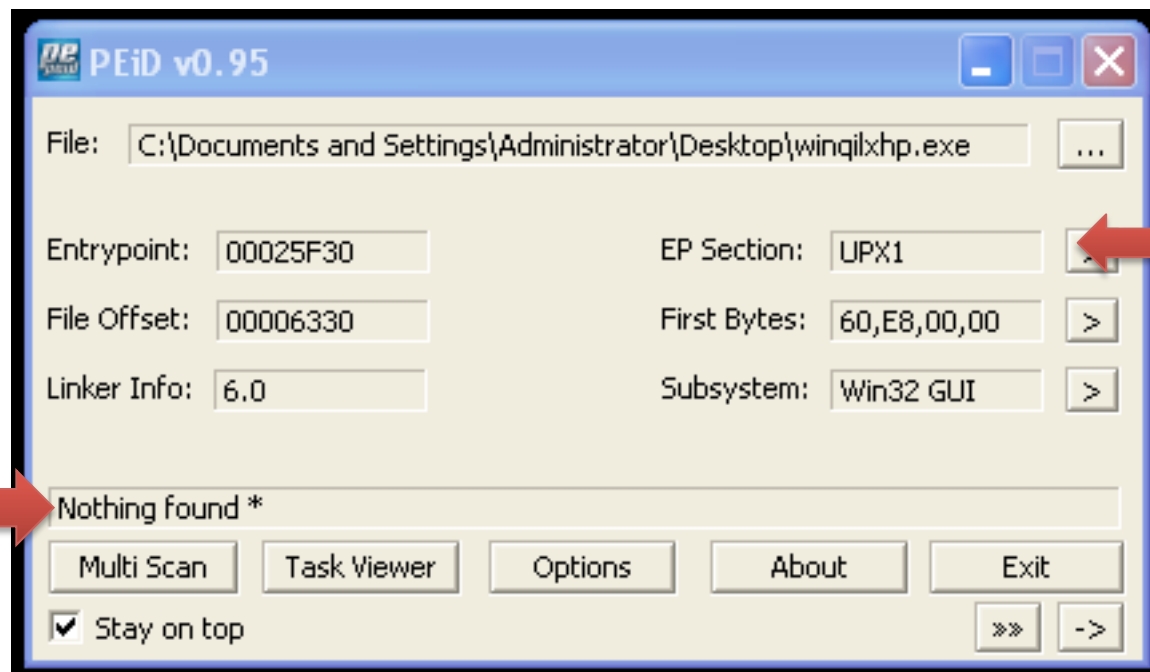


- More difficult than simple runtime trace analysis
- Malware is usually packed
- Uses anti-debugging techniques
 - Debugger checks
 - Import table stuff
 - SEH
 - Timing
- Unpack
 - Automated tools, PeID
 - Manually with memdumper
- Fix Imports
- Use Debugger with anti-anti-debugging features

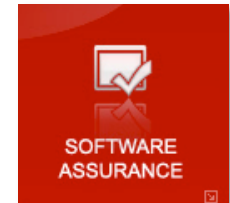
Unpacking



- PEiD Fails
- At least we know it's UPX (probably)



Manual unpacking

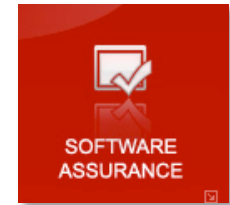


- Entry point at 0x425F30:

00425F30	60	PUSHAD
00425F31	E8 0000	CALL winqilxh.00425F36
00425F36	50	PUSH EAX
00425F37	FECA	DEC DL
00425F39	✓ EB 01	JMP SHORT winqilxh.00425F3C
00425F3B	9C	PUSHFD
00425F3C	8BF5	MOV ESI,EBP

- PUSHAD pushes all registers onto stack
- PUSHAD & POPAD usually surround the packer logic

Manual Unpacking Cont.

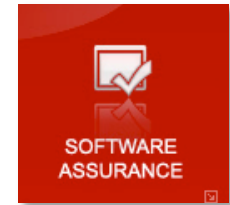


- Step the PUSHAD
- Set a hardware access breakpoint on the location of the stack pointer
- Pray
- Continue

004284C2	61	POPAD
004284C3	B8 305F4200	MOV EAX,winqilxh.<ModuleEntryPoint>
004284C8	FFE0	JMP EAX

- Normally you note where its jumping two and dump the process
- But its jumping back to the same entry point!

Manual Unpacking Cont.

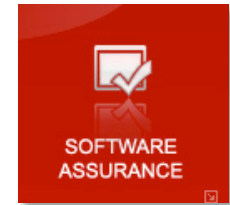


- Follow the jump

00425F30	60	PUSHAD
00425F31	BE 00004200	MOV ESI,winqilxh.00420000
00425F36	8DBE 0010FEFF	LEA EDI,DWORD PTR DS:[ESI+FF
00425F3C	57	PUSH EDI
00425F3D	83CD FF	OR EBP,FFFFFFFF

- Same 425F30
- Same PUSHAD
- Different Code
- Packed twice!

Manual Unpacking Cont.

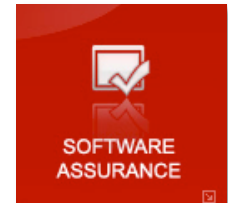


- At the second POPAD

004260B6	61	POPAD
004260B7	8D4424 80	LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[ESP-80]
004260BB	6A 00	PUSH 0
004260BD	39C4	CMP ESP,EAX
004260BF	^ 75 FA	JNZ SHORT winqilxh.004260BB
004260C1	83EC 80	SUB ESP,-80
004260C4	- E9 E728FEFF	JMP winqilxh.004089B0

- Looks much better
- Short loop to zero out stack (?)
- Jump to 4089B0
- Dump to new PE file

Dumping



- Used OllyDump to rebuild an unpacked version of the PE file

OllyDump - winqilxhp.exe

Start Address: Size:

Entry Point: -> Modify:

Base of Code: Base of Data:

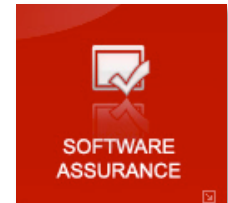
Fix Raw Size & Offset of Dump Image

Section	Virtual Size	Virtual Offset	Raw Size	Raw Offset	Characteristics
UPX0	0001F000	00001000	0001F000	00001000	E0000080
UPX1	00007000	00020000	00007000	00020000	E0000040
UPX2	0000F000	00027000	0000F000	00027000	E0000020

Rebuild Import

- Method1 : Search JMP[API] | CALL[API] in memory image
- Method2 : Search DLL & API name string in dumped file

Fixing imports



Import REConstructor v1.6 FINAL (C) 2001-2003 MackT/uCF

Attach to an Active Process
c:\documents and settings\administrator\desktop\winqlxhp.exe (00000FAC) Pick DLL

Imported Functions Found

- + advapi32.dll FTThunk:0000C000 NbFunc:4 (decimal:4) valid:YES
- + kernel32.dll FTThunk:0000C014 NbFunc:47 (decimal:71) valid:YES
- + msvcrt.dll FTThunk:0000C134 NbFunc:5 (decimal:5) valid:YES
- + user32.dll FTThunk:0000C14C NbFunc:2 (decimal:2) valid:YES
- + wininet.dll FTThunk:0000C158 NbFunc:8 (decimal:8) valid:YES
- + ws2_32.dll FTThunk:0000C17C NbFunc:16 (decimal:22) valid:YES
- + ? FTThunk:0000C1D8 NbFunc:D (decimal:13) valid:NO

Log

rva:0000C110 forwarded from mod:ntdll.dll ord:02C2 name:RtlUnwind

Current imports:
6 (decimal:6) valid module(s) (added: +6 (decimal:+6))
7D (decimal:125) imported function(s). (added: +7D (decimal:+125))
D (decimal:13) unresolved pointer(s) (added: +D (decimal:+13))

IAT Infos needed
OEP 000089B0 IAT AutoSearch
RVA 0000BFFC Size 00000210

New Import Infos (IID+ASCII+LOADER)
RVA 00000000 Size 000007E8
 Add new section

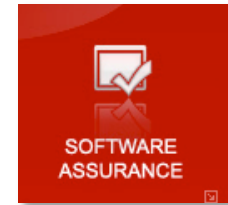
Load Tree Save Tree Get Imports Fix Dump

Show Invalid
Show Suspect
Auto Trace
Clear Imports

Clear Log

Options
About
Exit

Assembly Stuff



- Mutex

```
push    offset Name      ; "S_SERU_v0122ALPHA027ss1"  
push    1                ; bInitialOwner  
push    0                ; lpMutexAttributes  
call    CreateMutexA
```

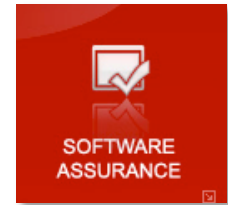
- Threads

```
push    offset sub_4070FD ; lpStartAddress  
push    0                ; dwStackSize  
push    0                ; lpThreadAttributes  
call    CreateThread  
push    eax              ; hObject  
call    CloseHandle  
push    400h            ; dwMilliseconds  
call    Sleep
```

- Sockets

```
push    35h             ; hostshort, port 53  
call    htons_0  
mov     word ptr [ebp+name.sa_data], ax  
mov     dword ptr [ebp+name.sa_data+2], 0  
push    0               ; protocol  
push    2               ; type, udp  
push    2               ; af, ipv4  
call    socket
```

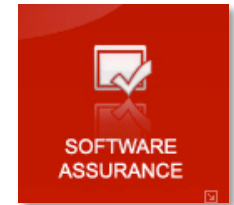

Strings



```
db 'mailc.microsoft.com',0 ; DATA XREF: UPX0:off_40E0C4↑  
db 'maila.microsoft.com',0 ; DATA XREF: UPX0:off_40E0C8↑  
db 'mailb.microsoft.com',0 ; DATA XREF: UPX0:off_40E0CC↑  
db 'smtp.mail.ru',0 ; DATA XREF: UPX0:off_40E0D0↑
```

```
db 'Proxy-Connection: close',0Dh,0Ah  
db 'Content-type: text/html; unsigned charset=us-ascii',0Dh,0Ah  
db 0Dh,0Ah  
db '<html><head><title>502 Bad Gateway</title></head>',0Dh,0Ah  
db '<body><h2>502 Bad Gateway</h2><h3>Host Not Found or connection fa'  
db 'iled</h3></body></html>',0Dh,0Ah,0  
align 10h
```

Analysis Conclusion



- A lot can be learned from simple tracing
- Anti-debugging tricks can slow down reverser significantly
 - Small effort for malware writer
 - Large effort for reverser
- Network analysis
 - Sniff traffic with protocol analyzer
 - Spoof servers to feed same payload
 - Now trace the virus
- Create wrappers to call functions in the malcode
 - Encrypt/decrypt
 - Rendezvous point generation function

Overall Conclusion



- Not as bad as it could be
- Simple tracing/monitoring can give lots of information
- Static analysis of Malware can also yield many clues.
- Storing all bits of data and characteristics in a database can yield large dividends.
- Trend is toward decentralized botnets (P2P)
- New coordination efforts in botnet takedowns

The IOActive logo features the company name in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The 'IO' is significantly larger than 'Active'. A small 'TM' trademark symbol is positioned to the upper right of the 'e' in 'Active'. The logo is set against a dark grey background with a subtle, circular, light-colored gradient behind the text.

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Thank You!

Wes Brown

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