



# TECHNICAL ANALYSIS OF THE NETWALKER RANSOMWARE

# **KEY POINTS**

- *NetWalker* is ransomware written in C++ and advertised as a Ransomware-as-a-Service (RaaS) on forums by a user known to be part of a group designated as CIRCUS SPIDER.
- NetWalker uses a combination of ChaCha and Elliptic Curve Cryptography (ECC) with Curve25519 to encrypt files.
- The ransomware is controlled by a JSON configuration that is stored encrypted using RC4 in the malware's resource directory named 31337.
- NetWalker encrypts files on the local system, mapped network shares and enumerates the network for additional shares, attempting to access them using the security tokens from all logged-in users on the victim's system.
- Processes that have file handles open to files that are targeted for encryption are terminated by NetWalker to encrypt as many files as possible.
- CIRCUS SPIDER initially provided victims with contact information via email, and around March 2020 the group set up a ransom portal on the TOR network.

The NetWalker ransomware is being developed and maintained by a Russian-speaking actor designated as CIRCUS SPIDER. Initially discovered in September 2019 and having a compilation timestamp dating back to 28 August 2019, NetWalker has been found to be used in Big Game Hunting (BGH)-style operations while also being distributed via spam. CIRCUS SPIDER is advertising NetWalker as being a closed-affiliate program, and verifies applicants before they are being accepted as an affiliate. The requirements range from providing proof of previous revenue in similar affiliates programs, experience in the field and what type of industry the applicant is targeting.

The ransom amount, paid in Bitcoin, is configured by the affiliates and have been observed to range between USD \$1,000 in spam campaigns up to USD \$3 million in BGH campaigns. Affiliates that are targeting corporations have been observed to base their ransom on the corporation's revenue, such as \$100,000 per \$10 million in revenue. As of 12 May 2020, CIRCUS SPIDER is threatening to leak data that was exfiltrated during the breach phase similar to TWISTED SPIDER and PINCHY SPIDER.

# **TECHNICAL ANALYSIS**

\_\_\_\_\_

# Initialization and Configuration

NetWalker does not make use of any anti-debugging or anti-sandbox techniques. The only anti-analysis technique is the usage of dynamic imports. NetWalker resolves all the required imports by hash using 32-bit Cycle Redundancy Check (CRC32). If NetWalker is unable to load any of the required libraries, it sleeps for 1 millisecond and exits. However, if the malware fails to resolve a function (which is unlikely to occur unless there was a programming error), it continues execution until the required function is called, which will cause an exception and crash the program.



NetWalker does not run on systems that are configured with the Russian, Ukrainian, Belarusian or Kazakh keyboard layouts. This check is commonly observed in malware, likely to reduce the risk of prosecution by law enforcements in the aforementioned countries. It is worth noting that malware authors usually include detection for more Eastern European countries. Early versions of NetWalker did not implement language detection, making it possible to encrypt files on, for example, systems set up for Russian-language users.

There is no persistence mechanism, which means that if NetWalker process is terminated, it will not restart. Therefore, the victim or operator would have to restart the process.

### Configuration

The malware stores its configuration in the resource directory 1337 and with the name 31337. The configuration is stored encrypted using RC4 where the key length and the key itself is the first bytes in the resource data as shown in Figure 1.

 00000000
 04
 00
 00
 2B
 7E
 43
 2D
 CF
 E6
 0E
 9C
 5C
 7F
 62
 CA

 00000010
 B8
 36
 35
 21
 CC
 FD
 B5
 91
 81
 6B
 74
 D0
 08
 02
 B0
 34

 00000020
 E0
 80
 69
 0F
 DF
 87
 35
 D0
 84
 C9
 4D
 30
 4F
 80
 D5
 E7

 00000030
 D4
 ED
 C6
 1A
 2E
 74
 77
 C2
 D3
 A5
 DC
 24
 B0
 A1
 D9
 A9

 00000040
 10
 7A
 5D
 56
 1F
 12
 03
 37
 DF
 72
 3C
 D1
 6D
 F1
 D3
 50

 <...truncated....>
 V
 V
 V
 V
 V
 V
 V
 V
 V
 V
 V
 V
 V
 V
 V
 V
 V
 V
 V
 V
 V</t

#### RC4 key length RC4 key Encrypted configuration

## Figure 1. Encrypted NetWalker Configuration

NetWalker decrypts and parses the configuration that is in the JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) format. A truncated example is shown in Figure 2. A non-truncated configuration is included in *Appendix A* and a reference table describing all of the known JSON keys is included in *Appendix B*.

```
{
    "lfile": "{id}-Readme.txt",
    "spsz": 15360,
    "lend": "SGkhDQpZb3VyIGZpb<...snip...>gaW5wdXQgZm9ybToNCg0Ke2NvZGV9",
    "namesz": 8,
    "thr": 1500,
    "mpk": <redacted>,
    "pers": false,
    "unlocker": {
       "iqnore": {
          "pspath": ["*:\\windows*", <...snip...> "*\\Program
File*\\Fortinet"],
          "use": true,
          "prc": ["psexec.exe", <...snip...> "FCHelper64.exe"]
        },
        "use": true
       },
    "idsz": 6,
```



```
CSIT-20081
```

```
"mode": 0,
    "net": {
       "ignore": {
          "use": true,
          "disk": true,
         "share": ["ipc$", "admin$"]
       },
       "use": true
    },
    "kill": {
       "use": true,
       "svcwait": 0,
       "svc": ["Lotus*", "veeam*", <...snip...> "acrsch2svc*"],
       "prc": ["nslsvice.exe", "pg*", <...snip...> "agntsvc.exe"],
      "task": ["reboot", "restart", "shutdown", "logoff", "back"]
      },
    "white": {
       "path": ["*system volume information",
<...snip...>"\\\\*\\users\\*\\appdata\\*\\microsoft"],
       "ext": ["msp", "exe", <...snip...> "themepack"],
       "file": ["ntuser.dat*", <...snip...> "bootfont.bin"]
    },
    "onion2":
"rnfdsqm6wb6j6su5txkekw4u4y47kp2eatvu7d6xhyn5cs4lt4pdrqqd[.]onion",
    "onion1":
"pb36hu4spl6cyjdfhing7h3pw6dhpk32ifemawkujj4gp33ejzdq3did[.]onion"
 }
```

Figure 2. NetWalker Configuration

#### **Generate Infection Identifier**

Having resolved all the required functions as well as decrypted and parsed the configuration, NetWalker gathers information about the system and generates a unique infection identifier (ID) for the victim's system.

NetWalker uses HMAC-SHA256 to calculate a hash from the gathered system information. The pseudocode shown in Figure 3 outlines the process of how NetWalker generates an infection ID. The infection ID is used as the file extension for encrypted files, for the ransom note name and a registry key described in the *Key Recovery Blob Generation* section. The length of the infection ID is defined by the namesz (for the encrypted file extension) and idsz (for the ransom note file name) entries in the NetWalker configuration.

```
from Crypto.Cipher import XOR
import hashlib
import base64

def get_infection_id_from_hmac(cfg):
    cfg_pub_key = base64_decode(cfg.mpk)
    xored_pub_key = XOR.new('\x36').encrypt(cfg_pub_key)
    s = hashlib.sha256(xored_pub_key).digest()
```



```
s.update(GetComputerNameExW())
hw_profile = GetCurrentHwProfileW()
s.update(hw_profile.GUID)
# Undocked profile / Docked profile
s.update(hw_profile.docked_profile_string)
s256_hash = s.final()
xored_hash = XOR.new('\x5C').encrypt(s256_hash)
final_hash = hashlib.sha256(xored_hash + s256_hash).hexdigest()
return final_hash[:cfg.namesz]
```

#### Figure 3. NetWalker Infection Identifier HMAC Pseudo-Code

# **UAC Bypass**

NetWalker attempts to bypass Windows User Access Control (UAC). This feature is controlled in the NetWalker configuration using the JSON key pers. If enabled, NetWalker determines if the victim's system is older than Windows 8.1. If it is not, no bypass attempt is made. If the victim system is running Windows 8.1 or newer, NetWalker sets a registry key

HKCU\Software\Classes\exefile\shell\command\open with the value being the file path to the NetWalker executable. This path is read when the Windows Activation Client (slui.exe) is executed and the file pointed by the registry key value is consequently executed by the Windows Activation Client. As the slui.exe is running with high integrity, NetWalker is also executed with high integrity. This technique is patched in the latest version of Windows 10.

However, if the operating system is prior to Windows 7, NetWalker uses the registry key path HKCU\Software\Classes\mscfile\shell\command\open. Instead of the Windows Activation Client, NetWalker executes the Windows Event Viewer (eventvwr.exe). Similar to the Windows Activation Client, the Windows Event Viewer reads a file path from the registry key and executes it with the same integrity as itself, resulting in elevated privileges. This technique works is exploitable from Windows 7 up to Windows 10 Creators Update build 15007.

NetWalker removes the registry key after attempting the bypass, and if the malware was successful in elevating its privileges, the malware terminates its old instance. Otherwise, the malware continues its execution with the current integrity.

# **NetWalker Operation**

NetWalker attempts to encrypt as many files as possible by killing not only tasks, services, and processes that are blacklisted, but also target processes that have open file handles to targeted files. This section describes the execution of the NetWalker ransomware.

Having initialized, NetWalker acquires the SeImpersonatePrivilege and SeDebugPrivilege to itself. These privileges are required in order to access other processes and to be able to impersonate the logged in user when accessing remote file shares in order to encrypt files.



If the UAC bypass feature in enabled in the NetWalker configuration, the malware creates a mutex that corresponds to the infection ID to ensure that only one instance of NetWalker is running at once. If the UAC bypass feature is disabled, it allows multiple instances of the malware to be run at the same time on the victim's system.

Before encrypting any files, NetWalker deletes the shadow copies from the system by executing C:\Windows\system32\vssadmin.exe delete shadows /all /quiet. The Windows system path is retrieved by calling GetSystemDirectoryW.

NetWalker includes functionality to terminate services, tasks and processes. This is configurable in the malware configuration key kill. An example of a configuration block is shown in Figure 4.

```
"kill": {
    "use": true,
    "task": ["reboot", "restart", "shutdown", "logoff", "back"],
    "svcwait": 0,
    "svc": ["Lotus*", "veeam*", "stc_endpt_svc", "acrsch2svc*"],
    "prc": ["nslsvice.exe", "pg*", "infopath.exe", "agntsvc.exe"]
}
Figure 4. NetWalker Termination of Tasks, Processes and Services
```

NetWalker creates an individual thread to handle each of these tasks. However, only the thread tasked with terminating services exits after it has performed its tasks. The two remaining threads are run in a continuous loop and sleep 10 milliseconds (process termination thread) and 60 seconds (task termination thread) in order to prevent tasks and processes from interfering with the file encryption process.

In order to ensure that services are given enough time to terminate, NetWalker uses the configuration key kill.svcwait to sleep the number of seconds configured before continuing execution.

NetWalker uses multiple threads to simultaneously encrypt files across multiple drives and directories. The maximum number of threads used to encrypt files at any one time is determined by the configuration key thr and has been observed to range between 1,000 and 1,500, depending on the operator's choice.

In order to keep track of the running threads, NetWalker spawns a thread which continuously tracks all the running threads in order to allow new threads to execute when a previous thread has finished.

Before starting to encrypt files, NetWalker iterates over all the running process on the victim's system and calculates a CRC32 checksum of the process name in order to compare it to BE037055 (explorer.exe). NetWalker gathers the user security tokens from every running instance of explorer.exe in an attempt to authenticate to network shares. This is described in more detail in *Encrypt Remote Files via Token Impersonation*.

NetWalker goes through three encryption phases that target files depending on their storage location and if the files are currently in use.



### Encrypt Local and Remote Files on Mapped Network Shares

First, NetWalker retrieves all local drives and mapped network drives by calling GetLogicalDriveStringsW. NetWalker creates a new encryption thread for each drive and the threads iterates the contents of the drive and creates a new thread for each file and sub-directory, this is to encrypt as many files as possible, as fast as possible.

NetWalker operates in a blacklist fashion, in that it encrypts every file that does not match any of the entries in the blacklist. The malware's blacklist includes file paths, extensions and filenames that are checked before attempting to encrypt a file. In the event that NetWalker is unable to open a file handle to a given file due to it being locked by another process, NetWalker saves the file path to a list that is used at a later stage after the initial encryption process has been completed. The purpose and usage of this list is described in the Unlock and Encrypt Locked Files section.

#### **Encrypt Remote Files via Token Impersonation**

In the event that NetWalker is not able to access a mapped network share, the malware attempts to access it using the security tokens previously gathered from the explorer.exe processes. This enables NetWalker to encrypt files that the currently logged-in user does not have permission to modify. In order to impersonate a logged-on user using the gathered tokens, NetWalker uses the Windows API ImpersonateLoggedOnUser.

NetWalker is able to discover and mount new shares if the net feature is enabled in the configuration (net.use). NetWalker calls WNetOpenEnumW with the RESOURCE GLOBALNET flag set that enumerates resources across the network. In an attempt to gain access to each of the enumerated resources, NetWalker uses the security tokens that it previously gathered. This feature not only puts mapped file shares on a victim's system at risk, but also shares that the victim and logged-in users have access to.

### **Unlock and Encrypt Locked Files**

Terminating blacklisted processes is a common technique used by ransomware families in order to encrypt as many files as possible, such as databases. However, NetWalker takes this technique to the next level. During the encryption process, NetWalker maintains a list of file paths that it was unable to open. After completing the encryption of files on a victim's system and network shares, NetWalker iterates over the list of locked files and looks up the process that has an open handle to each of the files. If the process is not blacklisted in the unlocker.ignore.prc or resides in a file path listed in unlocker.ignore.pspath, NetWalker attempts to gain access to the process and terminate it, after which NetWalker launches an encryption thread to encrypt the unlocked file.

An example of the blacklisted processes and process paths are listed in Table 1, taken from the analyzed sample's configuration.

STRING	ТҮРЕ	DESCRIPTION
*:\\windows*	Process path	Windows executables
*:\\winnt*	Process path	Windows executables
*://program file*//vmwar*	Process path	Processes related to VMware
*\\Program File*\\Fortinet	Process path	Processes related to Fortinet endpoint
		protection



psexec.exe	Process	PsExec Windows utility				
system	Process	Windows System process				
forti*.exe	Process	Process related to Fortinet endpoint protection				
fmon.exe	Process	Fortinet real-time monitor				
fcaptmon.exe	Process	Fortinet sandbox agent				
FCHelper64.exe	Process	Fortinet Helper				
Table 1. Ne	Table 1. NetWalker Process and Path Blacklist					

# Cryptography

NetWalker uses a combination of symmetric (ChaCha) and asymmetric (Curve25519) algorithms to encrypt files and protect the host specific private key while being stored in the Windows registry. Every file is encrypted with its own ChaCha key and nonce. The ChaCha key material and Curve25519 key-pair generation is further described in this section.

## Generating Host-Specific Curve25519 Key Pair

NetWalker generates a Curve25519 private key (priv0) by calling RtlRandomEx (RtlRandom for Windows XP and earlier) 32 times, reading one byte after each call. The malware uses the current system time as a seed, which, when RtlRandom is called, can be brute forced to recover the Curve25519 private key given the timestamp of the initial infection.

However, with the introduction of RtlRandomEx in Windows Vista that improves the generation of pseudo-random values, it is no longer possible to replicate random numbers given only a static seed. Instead of relying on a single seed, RtlRandomEx relies on the input seed and a 256-byte lookup table that is initialized when ntdll.dll is loaded, i.e., when the NetWalker process is first launched. This lookup table is populated by calling RtlRandomEx, using the process cookie as a seed. The process cookie is according to the reactOS source code<sup>1</sup> a product of XORing multiple values, which by themselves are not easily predictable (such as the processors KeSystemCalls, InteruptTime and system time), let alone the result. Thus, attacking the cryptographical implementation in NetWalker is likely not feasible in a reasonable amount of time.

NetWalker uses the private key (priv0) to derive a public key (pub0) that the malware uses to encrypt the shared secrets derived to encrypt files. The shared secret derivation is described in the *Deriving Curve25519 Shared Secrets* section.

## Deriving Curve25519 Shared Secrets

NetWalker derives a new shared secret each time that the malware encrypts data, providing an individual key for every encryption call, including file encryption. The input for the derivation is a Curve25519 public key, either the operator supplied key from the NetWalker configuration key mpk or pub0 (described in the previous section).



<sup>1</sup> 

To encrypt a file, NetWalker generates a new Curve25519 key pair (priv1 and pub1) using the same schema as for generating the host-specific key pair, however, the newly generated key pair is only used for one encryption operation (e.g. a single file), equivalent to a session key pair. NetWalker uses the generated private key (priv1) together with the host-specific public key (pub0) key to derive a 32-byte shared secret, used as the ChaCha encryption key.

NetWalker hashes the shared secret using SHA256 and increments the first byte of the hash by one. The first 8 bytes of the modified hash is used as the ChaCha nonce. The reason for modifying only the first byte of the SHA256 hash may be an attempt to throw off analysts.

## Key Recovery Blob Generation

NetWalker uses the infection ID to store information in the Windows registry. The ransomware initially attempts to read the data from two different registry locations; HKLM\Software\<INFECTION ID> and HKCU\Software\<INFECTION ID>. These registry keys, if previously created by an earlier NetWalker instance, hold the host-specific Curve25519 key pair (public key; pub0 and private key; priv0). The private key priv0 (which is required to decrypt files) is encrypted with ChaCha using a key derived from the operator supplied public key (mpk) and a public key pubr derived from a generated key pair (pubr, privr). The encryption schema is described in the *Encryption and Hashing* section.

If none of the registry keys exists, NetWalker generates a new host-specific Curve25519 key pair as previously described. An example of a key recovery blob stored in the registry is shown in Figure 4. The pub0 key is written to the registry in order for NetWalker to restart and encrypting files using the same host-specific public key.

 000000
 60
 7F
 1E
 52
 8E
 AC
 E9
 7D
 72
 0D
 D6
 AB
 1D
 2D
 DE
 A8
 `..R.Ž}r.Ö«.-Þ"

 000010
 59
 55
 55
 E9
 52
 EF
 86
 22
 95
 EA
 E5
 7C
 9D
 E0
 45
 1C
 YUUéRï.".êål.àE.

 000020
 23
 4E
 73
 53
 01
 AF
 4B
 A6
 77
 83
 67
 56
 FA
 D4
 F5
 E4
 #NsS..K!w.gVúôčä

 000030
 1C
 A4
 52
 36
 32
 9A
 95
 60
 BF
 43
 14
 A1
 09
 43
 D7
 17
 .¤R62..`¿C.;.C×.

 000040
 D2
 54
 F3
 0A
 B8
 2D
 AD
 56
 BD
 63
 CA
 27
 C8
 FB
 B8
 80
 OTó..-.V½cÊ'Èû».

 000050
 84
 9C
 55
 1F
 C6
 AD
 81
 62
 3C
 5F
 9B

```
Host-specific public Curve25519 key (pub0)
CRC32 sum of pub0
One-time public Curve25519 key (pubr)
ChaCha nonce
HMAC-SHA256 from ChaCha encryption
ChaCha Encrypted data (priv0)
```

Figure 4. Example NetWalker Key Recovery Blob Stored in the Registry

After the key recovery blob is written to the Windows registry, NetWalker wipes the priv0 key from memory by overwriting it with null bytes to prevent recovery of the priv0 from a memory dump of the NetWalker process. The priv0 key can only be decrypted with a key derived using the actor-controlled private key, corresponding to the mpk public key, and the one-time public key stored in the registry pubr.



#### **Ransom-Note Generation**

The key recovery blob is included in the ransom note where it is part of what is referred to as User code. The User code is a text blob that the victim needs to submit to the operators in order to authenticate to the ransom portal. The ransom portal is described in the *Ransom portal* section. The User code contains, in addition to the data stored in the Windows registry (excluding pub0), the length of the infection ID and the infection ID itself, the length and template string for the ransom note filename. The operators use this information to provide the victim with a decrypter, tailored to the victim's environment. An example of the unencrypted User code is illustrated in Figure 5.

002D8A00 23 4E 73 53 01 AF 4B A6 77 83 67 56 FA D4 F5 E4 #NsS. K¦w.qVúÔõä .¤R62..`¿C.;.C×. 002D8A10 1C A4 52 36 32 9A 95 60 BF 43 14 A1 09 43 D7 17 002D8A20 D2 54 F3 0A B8 2D AD 56 BD 63 CA 27 C8 FB BB 88 ÒTó.,-.V½cÊ'Èû». 002D8A30 84 9C 55 1F C6 AD 81 62 3C 5F 9B 29 FD 0E 6C AA ..U.Æ..b< .)ý.lª 002D8A40 56 63 6B 9F DA 5A 59 68 23 BB 40 15 F6 61 41 4F Vck.ÚZYh#»@.öaAO 002D8A50 D0 37 54 AF E7 25 EC 5C 89 70 93 EB 76 4A D5 4A D7T\_c%i\.p.ëvJÕJ 002D8A60 2F 71 A2 2E 6E 08 2D A5 D3 7D 92 8C **06 00 00 0** /g¢.n.-¥ó}..... 002D8A70 65 37 36 37 34 38 0F 00 00 00 7B 69 64 7D 2D 52 e76748....{id}-R 002D8A80 65 61 64 6D 65 2E 74 78 74 eadme.txt Key recovery blob stored in the Windows registry (excl. pub0) Length of the infection ID (from the NetWalker configuration field idsz) Length of ransom note file name template string Ransom note file name template string

Figure 5. NetWalker Unencrypted User Code Inner Layer

The User code blob is encrypted using the same encryption scheme as when encrypting files and produces the blob shown in Figure 6.

002DBC08	DD A3	E6	0A 15	35	<b>1</b> B	23	77	<b>9E</b>	<b>C8</b>	FF	CF	89	FA	<b>8</b> B	Ý£æ5.#w.ÈÿÏ.ú.
002DBC18	06 4F	<b>6</b> B	DC 5B	<b>B3</b>	45	91	<b>0</b> B	17	<b>C7</b>	<b>5E</b>	<b>A9</b>	<b>D5</b>	<b>A5</b>	91	.OkÜ[³EÇ^©Õ¥.
002DBC28	F7 9E	<b>2</b> D	B3 F2	78	02	<b>1</b> A	<b>F5</b>	03	<b>4</b> E	63	<b>6</b> D	<b>6</b> F	57	61	÷ <sup>3</sup> òxõ.NcmoWa
002DBC38	AB C5	<b>4</b> E	2F F7	50	56	F7	40	<b>56</b>	13	05	65	10	12	BA	«ÅN/÷PV÷@Ve°
002DBC48	2D AB	A7	31 4A	86	36	07	XX	XX	XX	XX	23	<b>4</b> E	73	53	-«§1J.6#NsS
002DBC58	71 2A	22	0D 70	5B	0 D	4B	D1	1D	FD	DD	38	5C	1E	54	q*".p[.KÑ.ýÝ8∖.T
002DBC68	DD 57	03	0E 65	81	4F	F5	6D	63	06	A4	F2	1F	1E	73	ÝWe.Oõmc.¤òs
002DBC78	01 OF	19	67 91	55	35	D0	82	00	Ε9	7B	0C	F1	FA	08	g.U5Đé{.ñú.
002DBC88	02 D8	09	59 AC	77	66	78	0A	68	08	С8	CD	ЕC	3F	9D	.Ø.Y¬wfx.h.Èĺì?.
002DBC98	CA A7	В6	B8 37	В2	5F	76	CF	ЗD	97	F1	58	48	CF	8C	ʧ¶,7²_vÏ=.ñXHÏ.
002DBCA8	В9 19	12	93 C9	ΕD	FC	88	39	E5	В7	48	16	58	79	В7	¹Éíü.9å∙H.Xy∙
002DBCB8	F3 24	61	F9 D9	94	32	5C	72	В8	07	3C	08	5C	66	66	ó\$aùÙ.2\r <sub>.</sub> .<.\ff
002DBCC8	9D 1C	44	6C F8	35	AE	04	FD	56	6A	E6	D9	4E	ЕC	A8	Dlø5®.ýVjæÙNì¨
002DBCD8	4C AE	04	E6 EB	85	46	FC	57								L®.æë.FüW

```
ChaCha nonce
HMAC-SHA256 Hash from the ChaCha Encryption
One-time public key (publ)
CRC32 of the NetWalker configuration public key (campaign-specific censored)
CRC32 of the host-specific public key (pub0)
Encrypted User Code (Inner Layer)
```

Figure 6. NetWalker Encrypted User Code



NetWalker encodes the encrypted User code using Base64 and writes it at the end of the ransom note (as highlighted in Figure 7) that it drops in every directory after encrypting a file.

Hi! Your files are encrypted by Netwalker. All encrypted files for this computer has extension: .e76748 \_\_\_ If for some reason you read this text before the encryption ended, this can be understood by the fact that the computer slows down, and your heart rate has increased due to the ability to turn it off, then we recommend that you move away from the computer and accept that you have been compromised. Rebooting/shutdown will cause you to lose files without the possibility of recovery. \_\_\_ Our encryption algorithms are very strong and your files are very well protected, the only way to get your files back is to cooperate with us and get the decrypter program. Do not try to recover your files without a decrypter program, you may damage them and then they will be impossible to recover. For us this is just business and to prove to you our seriousness, we will decrypt you one file for free. Just open our website, upload the encrypted file and get the decrypted file for free. \_\_\_ Steps to get access on our website: 1.Download and install tor-browser: https://torproject[.]org/ 2.Open our website: pb36hu4spl6cyjdfhing7h3pw6dhpk32ifemawkujj4qp33ejzdq3did[.]onion If the website is not available, open another one: rnfdsqm6wb6j6su5txkekw4u4y47kp2eatvu7d6xhyn5cs4lt4pdrqqd[.]onion 3. Put your personal code in the input form:

{VICTIM INFORMATION REDACTED}

Figure 7. NetWalker Ransom Note

#### **Encryption and Hashing**

In addition to encrypting the data with ChaCha, NetWalker uses HMAC-SHA256 to ensure both integrity and authenticity of the encrypted data. NetWalker does not use a Windows API for the HMAC calculation but has implemented it by hand. A Python implementation of the encryption function is shown in Figure 8.



```
import hashlib
from chacha import ChaCha # See footnote<sup>2</sup>
from Crypto.Cipher import XOR

def encrypt_data(key, iv, in_data):
    cc = ChaCha(key, iv[:8] rounds=8)
    x_key = XOR.new('\x36').encrypt(key)
    digest = hashlib.sha256(key + x_key + in_data).digest()
    enc_data = cc.encrypt(in_data)
    x_key = XOR.new('\x5C').encrypt(key)
    final = hashlib.sha256(digest + enc_data + x_key + digest).hexdigest()
    return final, enc_data

Figure 8. NetWalker Encryption Implementation
```

#### **Encryption of Files**

NetWalker supports three different encryption modes that determine how the ransomware encrypts the targeted file. The operator uses the configuration key mode that can be either 0, 1 or 2. When the modes 1 or 2 are specified in the configuration, they instruct NetWalker to only use one encryption mode while 0 is dynamic. The modes are described in Table 2.

MODE	DESCRIPTION
0	Encrypt three chunks of the file, the chunk size is defined by the configuration key spsz.
1	Encrypt one chunk of the file at the start of the file. The chunk size is defined by spsz.
2	Encrypt the full file.
	Table 2. NetWalker Encryption Modes

Before NetWalker attempts to open a file for encryption, it sets the FILE\_ATTRIBUTE\_ARCHIVE attribute of the file. This attribute, according to the Microsoft documentation is designed to be used to mark a file for backup. After a file has been backed up, the attribute is cleared. However, it is unknown if this flag is effectively used by any backup software.

Having opened a file, NetWalker reads the last four bytes of the file and compares them to the CRC32 checksum of the public key (mpk) in the NetWalker configuration. NetWalker uses this marker to indicate that a file is already encrypted.

If the encryption mode is configured as 0, NetWalker determines how to encrypt the file depending on the file size. However, if the file size is less 239 bytes, which is a limit that is hardcoded in the malware, NetWalker ignores the file and continues with the next file. The determination of the encryption mode based on the file size is described in Table 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https[:]//www.seanet[.]com/~bugbee/crypto/chacha/chacha.py



FILE SIZE	DESCRIPTION				
File size > spsz * 5	Encryption mode 0				
spz <= File size <= spsz * 5	Encryption mode 1				
239 <= File size < spsz	Encryption mode 2				
Table 3. NetWalker Encryption Modes					

In encryption mode 0, NetWalker encrypts the start, middle and end of a file. In order to determine the offset of the middle chunk, NetWalker uses the formula shown in Figure 9.

```
offset = (((file_size / 2) - 1) / spsz) * spsz)
Figure 9. NetWalker Chunk Offset Calculation
```

The malware saves the original file name information in the format shown in Figure 10. NetWalker encrypts the file information with ChaCha using the same key material that was used to encrypt the file contents.

```
      00601D70
      06
      00
      00
      65
      37
      36
      37
      34
      38
      0B
      00
      00
      74
      00
      ....e76748....t.

      00601D80
      65
      00
      73
      00
      74
      00
      69
      00
      6E
      00
      67
      00
      2E
      00
      74
      00
      e.s.t.i.n.g...t.

      00601D90
      78
      00
      74
      00
      6E
      00
      67
      00
      2E
      00
      74
      00
      e.s.t.i.n.g...t.

      Infection ID Length
      Infection ID
      Original File Name Length
      s.t.
      s.t.
      s.t.

      Original File Name
      Length
      Infection ID
      s.d.
      s.t.
      s.t.

      Figure 10. NetWalker Unencrypted Original File Information of Encrypted File
      s.t.
      s.t.
      s.t.
```

In addition to original file information, NetWalker appends additional fields as illustrated in Figure 11. These additional fields include all the information needed by the operators to be able to decrypt the file

(Inner Layer)

```
0060BDA8
          8E 77 1A 44 A2 75 A8 9A 56 E5 A0 79 21 7E 57 CF
                                                             .w.D¢u<sup>"</sup>.Vå y!~WÏ
0060BDB8
         52 BE 67 26 0C 51 4C ED 8C EA F9 BB F7 F7 3F 97
                                                             R<sup>3</sup>4q&.QL1.êù»÷÷?.
0060BDC8
         1E EE 10 2A 24 00 00 00 A7 D3 93 56 58
                                                  78 81 62
                                                             .î.*$...§Ó.VXx.b
         32 23 3D CA D3 58 1D ED 95 B3 2F 02 FB
                                                  00 65 65
                                                             2#=ÊÓX.í.³/.û.ee
0060BDD8
                   63 C5 CF A1 93 83 0B C0 D0
                                                             ݱ.cÅÏ;...ÀĐêÒ.l
0060BDE8
         DD B1 83
                                               EA
                                                  D2 10 6C
0060BDF8
          A3 80 90
                   61 09 6F BE 23
                                   C5
                                      79 5E 15
                                               3D
                                                  15 9C 34
                                                             £..a.o34#Åy^.=..4
                      10 66 D5
                                                  D2 10 6C
                                                             ..»..fÕò..ÀĐêÒ.l
0060BE08
         OB 9E BB
                   13
                               F2
                                   83 OB CO DO
                                               EA
0060BE18 A3 80 90 61 09 6F BE 23 C5 79 5E 15 3D 15 9C 34
                                                             £..a.o34#Åy^.=..4
0060BE28 OB 9E BB
                   13 10 66 D5 F2
                                   83 OB CO DO
                                               EA D2 10 6C
                                                             ..»..fÕò..ÀĐêÒ.l
0060BE38 A3 80 90
                   61 09 6F BE 23 C5 79 5E 15
                                               3D 15 9C 34
                                                             £..a.o<sup>3</sup>4#Åy^.=..4
0060BE48 OB 9E BB
                   13
                      10 66 D5 F2 C4 C7 A4 D9
                                               4E A0 BE 76
                                                             ..»..fÕòÄǤÙN ¾v
                               00 23 4E 73
0060BE58
          00 00 00
                   00 00 3C 00
                                            53
                                               01 AF
                                                      4B A6
                                                             .....<...#NsS._K
0060BE68
          77 83 67
                   56 FA D4 F5 E4 1C A4
                                         52 36 32 9A 95 60
                                                             w.qVúÔõä.¤R62..
0060BE78
         BF 43 14 A1 09 43 D7 17
                                   D2 54 F3 0A B8 2D AD 56
                                                             ¿C.;.C×.ÒTó.,-.V
         BD 63 CA 27
                      C8 FB BB 88 84 9C 55 1F C6 AD 81 62
0060BE88
                                                             ½cÊ'Èû≫...U.Æ..b
                                                             < .)ý.lªVck.ÚZYh
0060BE98
          3C 5F 9B
                   29
                      FD OE 6C AA
                                   56
                                      63 6B 9F DA
                                                  5A 59 68
          23 BB 40 15 F6 61 41 4F D0 37 54 AF E7
                                                   25 EC 5C
                                                             #»@.öaAOÐ7T ç%ì∖
0060BEA8
         89 70 93 EB 76 4A D5 4A 2F 71 A2 2E 6E 08 2D A5
                                                             .p.ëvJÕJ/q¢.n.-¥
0060BEB8
```



successfully.

#### CSIT-20081

0060BEC8 D3 7D 92 8C 83 2F 4F 14 5F 02 05 93 90 C0 9A 32 Ó}.../O....À.2 0060BED8 78 43 3D 64 C9 D7 FA 52 EC 87 E4 B1 F4 1E 1B 24 xC=dÉ×úRì.ä±ô..\$ 0060BEE8 3B 9E AA 16 XX XX XX XX ;; \*a.... Original File Information (Inner Layer, Encrypted) Size of Encrypted File Information HMAC-SHA256 Hash of Encrypted File Information HMAC-SHA256 Hashes of the Three Encrypted Chunks ChaCha Nonce Encryption Mode Chunk size (spsz) Key Recovery Blob One-time Curve25519 public key (publ) CRC32 of the configuration public key (mpk, campaign-specific censored) Figure 11. NetWalker Encrypted File Footer

The Key Recovery Blob contains the information needed by the operators to decrypt the host-specific private key in order to decrypt the file contents.

NetWalker appends the file footer to the encrypted file and restores the modified timestamp of the encrypted file to what it was before the file was encrypted as well as changing the file extension to the infection ID.

# **Ransom Portal**

CIRCUS SPIDER has set up a ransom portal accessible through the Tor network on rnfdsgm6wb6j6su5txkekw4u4y47kp2eatvu7d6xhyn5cs4lt4pdrqqd[.]onion and pb36hu4sp16cyjdfhing7h3pw6dhpk32ifemawkujj4gp33ejzdq3did[.]onion. Upon visiting the ransom portal, the victim is asked to submit the User code from the ransom note. Alternatively, the victim can supply a User key as shown in Figure 12. However, this key is only generated once the victim has activated the portal as illustrated in Figure 13.

News feed	All news 🕨
NotW	
For enter, please use u	iser code or user key
? User key:	
(?) User code:	
(	)
U 1999V 3C	Captcha code:
. <b>1999V 3C</b>	? Submit ►



CSIT-20081

	ent Free decrypt FAQ Chat Logout
	Your files are encrypted. Only way to decrypt your files, is buy the decrypter program. Your user key: write it down and use it to log in again. automated. After payment you will automatically be able to download the decrypter.
Invoice for payment	You have left 6 days 23 hours 59 minutes 51 seconds Status: Waiting for payment
You can buy the decrypter pro	
	se is 1000\$ (0.15680000 BTC).
If there is no payment before (	07.04.20 [08:19], the price will increase by x2 times and will be 2000\$ (0.31360000 BTC)
Decrypter for: COMPUTER	
Decrypter for: COMPUTER	
	hKkncJaLQWUPru5z6neyKFK7r Amount for payment: 0.15680000 BTC

#### Figure 13. NetWalker Ransom Portal Main Page

The main portal page shows a countdown, ransom amount and the Bitcoin wallet address to where the ransom is expected to be paid. The victim has seven days from the time that the portal is activated before the ransom demand is doubled.

CIRCUS SPIDER offers free decryption of three files that are either images or Microsoft Word documents as proof that decryption of the files are indeed possible before paying any ransom as illustrated in Figure 14.



Payment     Free decrypt     FAQ     Chat     Logout
For test we can upload and decrypt 3 images or document files free
File must be less than 3 megabyte.
Allow formats: .jpg, jpeg, .png, .bmp, .doc, .docx
Choose a file or drag it here
Upload and decrypt file free
Figure 14. NetWalker Ransom Portal: Free Decryption

CrowdStrike Intelligence has been able to verify that the operators are able to decrypt encrypted files using the free decryption tool. Figure 15 shows NetWalker's frequently asked questions (FAQ) page on the ransom portal.



	Payment	Free decrypt	FAQ	Chat	Logout	
<ol> <li>2) Buy bitcoin You will n</li> <li>3) The slowes List of exc 1) https:// 2) https:// 3) https://</li> </ol>	t and most reliable ns with cash, use g leed a bitcoin walle st way is to buy bit	oogle to search for s st, we recommend us coin on the exchang	ellers. sing it: https://logi	n.blockchain.com	/#/signup	olve all questions for you. take several days.
You will be al This usually t (Depending o 3. I sent a mess	ble to download th takes between 30 m on the size of the co tage to the chat, he	be able to get the of e decrypter program ninutes and 3 hours. mmission. Never sp ow long to wait for	as soon as Your t pecify a zero comr	ransaction has mo		
-	response time to m n response time is	-				
When you log If you are log	g in, your user code ged in, your keys a	can decrypt my fil e or user key is chec are found. 6 of photos (images)	ked and your keys		free decrypt" section	1
		a will give me the d				
-	es it take to decry files is a very fast	-	ds on the number	of encrypted files,	, as well as their loca	ation HDD/Network.
This is exclud After paymen We will answ	ded, Your files will it, you will receive er any questions al	es after receiving the be 100% decrypted instructions for decrypting files bout decrypting files bout get technical s	ryption along with in the chat.	-	gram.	

#### Figure 15. NetWalker Ransom Portal; FAQ Page

CIRCUS SPIDER offers the victim the opportunity to get in touch with the operators through a chat form as shown in Figure 16. This is similar to other ransomware operations such as REvil, Maze and DopperPaymer.



16

	Payment	Free decrypt	FAQ	Chat	Logout	
	First, read the	FAQ. If you still h	ive questions, yo	a can ask them to th	e operator.	
Operator: Hello! Can i	help you?					
? Message:						.::
			Captcha code:			
	v wD	pW AVV		? Send mes	sage 🕨	

After the victim has successfully paid the ransom, the decrypter is available on the portal main page as illustrated in Figure 17.

	Payment Free decrypt FAQ Chat	Logout
	Your files are encrypted. Only way to decrypt your files, is buy the decrypter progra Your user key: <b>Constantion</b> , write it down and use it to log in a as esystem is fully automated. After payment you will automatically be able to	gain.
Invoice fo	r payment	Status: Payed
	cceived. You can download the decrypter program	



## **Leak Site**

The ransom portal also provides information about their leak site in which CIRCUS SPIDER is publishing data that has been exfiltrated from the victim's network. The leak site includes a countdown to when the data will be published (if the ransom is not paid) and a link from where the data archive can be downloaded along with the archive password. The post includes several screenshots that show a preview of files that have been exfiltrated during the breach. This information is provided regardless of whether the countdown has expired or not, likely aimed to intimidate the victim to pay the ransom. A screenshot of the leak site main page is illustrated in Figure 18.

<ul> <li>Back to enter page</li> </ul>	NetWalker Blog	
Secret data: HIDDEN DATA	Password: HIDDEN DATA	Secret data publication in: 7d 16h 05m 28s
-guora approtes, groom manoritore market.	ng worprint, and to the anti-granient anti-ray to dealers series	. C. estado esta de la construcción
<u> </u>		
Secret data: HIDDEN DATA	Password: HIDDEN DATA	Secret data publication in: 6d 4h 17m 08s
-		

Figure 18. NetWalker Leak Site Main Page

## Decrypter

The decrypter is supplied to the victim in a ZIP archive that includes two files; an executable and a text file, as shown in Figure 19.

Name	Туре	Size	
decrypt.exe	Application		54 KB
info.txt	Text Document		1 KB

#### Figure 19. NetWalker Decrypter Archive Contents

The text file includes instructions on how to use the decrypter as shown in Figure 20.

This decrypt file for COMPUTER(S): code XXYYZZ

Run decrypt.exe on PC which you want decrypt. Click "Auto decrypt" -> click "delete crypter note file" -> click "decrypt". The program will automatically decrypt all files on an encrypted PC. The decryption program will fit all encrypted PCs.



After running the decryption in automatic or manual mode, the program can be closed only when the close button becomes active, never kill the process, if you kill the process your files will be damaged and they will not be able to recover. If you want to decrypt the entire network at once, use the following command: psexec <params> "decrypt.exe" /S /D /s - silent mode. /d - delete lending(optional, not work without /s). The program exit code will indicate the number of decrypted files. <u>Figure 20. NetWalker Decrypter Instructions</u>

The decrypt.exe is the decrypter itself and comes with a graphical user interface in which the victim can choose to automatically decrypt all the encrypted files recursively. The user interface is illustrated in Figure 21.

<ul> <li>Auto decrypt</li> </ul>	C Manual decrypt	
Browse file		
		browse
Browse folder or d	isk	
		browse
Delete crypter	note files	
	Decrypt	
	Deerype	

# CONCLUSION

CIRCUS SPIDER has demonstrated that they are a capable threat group with active development of their malware and ransomware affiliate service, advertising payouts of over a million dollars per breach. The author shows attention to detail as NetWalker not only terminates per-configured applications, but also applications which prevent a target file from being encrypted.

CIRCUS SPIDER claims that their entire operation is automated in which a victim will automatically be provided with a decryptor after the ransom amount has been paid to the operator-controlled Bitcoin wallet. This also includes the leak site where data is automatically published when the countdown timer expires, providing CIRCUS SPIDER with time to focus on improving their service rather than handling exfiltrated data and verifying ransom payments.



# TACTICS, TECHNIQUES, AND PROCEDURES

The following TTPs may be used to characterize the NetWalker activity described in this Tipper:

- Uses ChaCha and Curve25519 encryption algorithms to encrypt file contents
- Stores the host-specific private key encrypted in the Windows registry
- Encrypts files on the local file system along with mapped and non-mapped network shares
- Encrypts all files that are not blacklisted in the NetWalker configuration
- Uses token impersonation in order to access network shares
- Uses a ransom portal on the TOR network to communicate with their victims
- Utilize data extortion to further pressure victims into paying a ransom

# Host Indicators of Attack

The tables below detail files belonging to the NetWalker ransomware including SHA256 hash and build time.

#### Executables

SHA256 HASH	BUILD TIME (UTC)
cf80fd95183ce1305becf6ea91d4ccfa0d87d923499d0893932 4d63c0ed22dc4	2020-04-13 11:40:39
eb1470786fda58fc8291e099c7fcd5d36a04de85d1f6fe8683c 1950b7119314e	2020-04-13 11:40:39
ee531cd7011cb5c2625d40892b70cf7e3860dbb92648391068e 1f340e5d6c47f	2020-03-26 15:20:15
f2215e1a848bc5a5d172745201ea428b1d16fee7c814c5c5180 a94a134592e86	2020-03-26 15:20:15
4a4c435cb63270787529355b7f48c3af14a7b3c466eafdf99fc 3b9f35a83acc7	2020-03-26 15:20:15
c68fa4e70bb109d5e1270ebab3f1d64a3ad50a083f7f82e1411 56bdcb5f4ae16	2020-03-26 15:20:15
70e06890fa6619d761ef7bd890f4576fbd5371f06fcc8d12adb 42dcb051a8490	2020-03-26 15:20:15
adf29a219ba2d948dd856ee7abaa51babaa30e11ad3ca56b58e 66336c3c2369f	2020-03-17 08:24:17
15a4cd4a7baca3961fb0113164434c535af85cedd54744e14a4 d4d7b106dd060	2020-03-01 12:46:56
a1115fa0c74f51d35063f8d3caf1d49156ab78872c3723d5e58 5a4ee8e4f8370	2020-03-01 12:46:56
d950a94534129202aa308f22d6c3d33f71af884d5556671a2b7 f6ba8994cc995	2020-03-01 12:46:56
b2dc53aca54c595ad4dabf625f8da49d839a1370686bfcd46cc c12b3a6e8fa77	2020-03-01 12:46:56
55a32decdd9625245bf064c832962bf2271bff8bb5b8d8fb1bc 6ec06dae4aea6	2020-03-01 12:46:56



20

## CSIT-20081

b67bc1d9c7fe0672a79076e1546827e0642901cd62f7795d7a4 03bc3ba4a7117	2020-03-01 12:46:56
ce6fae0451e342c3280eeeedc487be09d15607b11f1d736798f 7260d309fb55b	2020-03-01 12:46:56
07b89f41b347d639953fdbc0d98093670fc2d6ec50bad5c3521 65ddeca8ae9ad	2020-03-01 12:46:56
48eebda6ff2c95ae27983149e3b7537e00905ab932b3bbf09e1 7956325a2c172	2020-03-01 12:46:56
3f16af6271ed0cde4589012505e34a1ea3219ef39446829ace9 4d24391ba3993	2020-03-01 12:46:56

## **File System**

The presence of one or more of the following files may indicate a NetWalker infection.

FILE PATH	DESCRIPTION
[A-F0-9]{5,8}-ReadMe.txt	Ransom note

#### Registry

KEY	VALUE(s)	DATA
HKCU\Software $[A-F0-9]{5,8}$	[A-F0-9]{5,8}	Store the key recovery blob
		(encrypted host-specific private key)
HKLM\Software\[A-F0-9]{5,8}	[A-F0-9]{5,8}	Store the key recovery blob
		(encrypted host-specific private key)

# **YARA Rules**

```
rule CrowdStrike_CSIT_20081_01 : circus_spider netwalker ransomware
{
    meta:
        copyright = "(c) 2020 CrowdStrike Inc."
        description = "Detects the NetWalker ransomware"
        reports = "CSIT-20081"
        version = "202004281747"
        last modified = "2020-04-28"
        malware family = "NetWalker"
    strings:
        $salsaconst = "expand 32-byte kexpand 16-byte k"
        $ins getapi = { 55 8B EC A1 ?? ?? ?? 5D C3 }
        $ins_crc32 = { 25 20 83 B8 ED 33 D0 }
        $ins push1337 = { 68 39 05 00 00 68 69 7A 00 00 }
        $ins rc4 = { 8B 45 ( E? |F? ) 83 C0 01 33 D2 B9 00 01 00 00 F7 F1 89
55 }
        $ins c25519 = { 6A 00 68 41 DB 01 00 }
    condition:
        3 of them
}
```

rule CrowdStrike\_CSIT\_20081\_02 : circus\_spider netwalker ransomware



{

}

```
meta:
     copyright = "(c) 2020 CrowdStrike Inc."
     description = "Detects the NetWalker ransomware"
     reports = "CSIT-20081"
     version = "202004281748"
     last modified = "2020-04-28"
     malware family = "NetWalker"
strings:
     $ = "namesz"
                       fullword
     $ = "names2" fullword
$ = "crmask" fullword
$ = "idsz" fullword
$ = "lend" fullword
$ = "lfile" fullword
$ = "mpk" fullword
     $ = "namesz" fullword
     $ = "pspath" fullword
     $ = "rwsz" fullword
$ = "spsz" fullword
     $ = "rwsz"
     $ = "svcwait" fullword
     $ = "unlocker" fullword
$ = "onion1" fullword
condition:
     10 of them
```

# **Network Artifacts**

#### Infrastructure for NetWalker Ransomware

INFRASTRUCTURE	<b>CONNECTION TYPE</b>	DESCRIPTION
<pre>rnfdsgm6wb6j6su5txkekw4u4y47kp2e atvu7d6xhyn5cs4lt4pdrqqd[.]onion</pre>	HTTPS	Ransom portal on TOR
pb36hu4spl6cyjdfhing7h3pw6dhpk32 ifemawkujj4gp33ejzdq3did[.]onion	HTTPS	Ransom portal on TOR



# **ATT&CK Framework**

The following table maps reported NetWalker ransomware TTPs to the ATT&CK framework.

TACTIC	TECHNIQUE	OBSERVABLE
EXECUTION	T1059: Command Line Interface	NetWalker deletes the systems' shadow copies before encrypting files
PRIVILEGE ESCALATION	<b>T1134:</b> Access Token Manipulation <b>T1088:</b> Bypass User Account Control	NetWalker uses token manipulation to access network shares. NetWalker features UAC bypass using the Windows Event Viewer and the Windows Activation Client
DISCOVERY	<b>T1083:</b> File and Directory Discovery <b>T1135:</b> Network Share Discovery	NetWalker walks the system file system and network shares in order to encrypt files
IMPACT	T1486: Data Encrypted for Impact	NetWalker encrypts files that does not match its configured whitelist



# APPENDIX A

. - - -

------

JSON KEY	ТҮРЕ	DECRIPTION
lfile	String	Ransom note template string
spsz	Integer	Encryption chunk size
lend	String	Ransom note template (Base64 encoded)
namesz	Integer	Length of the infection ID to be used in the file extension of encrypted files
thr	Integer	Maximum number of concurrent encryption threads
mpk	String	The operator's ECC public key
pers	Boolean	Attempt UAC bypass
unlocker	Dictionary	Defines operation of the file unlocker
unlocker.use	Boolean	Use the unlocker feature to unlock locked files
unlocker.ignore	Dictionary	Includes processes and file paths to be ignored by the unlocker
unlocker.ignore.pspath	List	List of paths to ignore
unlocker.ignore.use	Boolean	Use the unlocker whitelist
unlocker.prc	List	List of processes to ignore
idsz	Integer	Length of the infection ID
mode	Integer	Unknown
net	Dictionary	Defines behavior of share enumeration
net.use	Boolean	Enable or disable encryption of enumerated network shares
net.ignore.use	Boolean	Use whitelist
net.ignore.share	List	Whitelisted file shares
net.ignore.disk	Boolean	Unknown
kill	Dictionary	Defines behavior for terminating tasks, processes and services
kill.use	Boolean	Enable or disable the termination feature
kill.svcwait	Integer	Number of seconds to wait for the service termination thread to complete before continuing execution
kill.svc	List	List of services to terminate
kill.prc	List	List of processes to terminate
kill.task	List	List of tasks to terminate
white	Dictionary	File encryption whitelist
white.path	List	List of whitelisted file paths



## CSIT-20081

white.ext	List	List of whitelisted file extensions
white.file	List	List of whitelisted file names
onionl	String	Address of the ransom portal on TOR
onion2	String	Address of the ransom portal on TOR



# **APPENDIX B**

# **NetWalker Configuration**

```
{
      "lfile": "{id}-Readme.txt",
      "spsz": 15360,
      "lend":
"SGkhDQpZb3VyIGZpbGVzIGFyZSB1bmNyeXB0ZWQqYnkqTmV0d2Fsa2VyLq0KQWxsIGVuY3J5cHR1
ZCBmaWxlcyBmb3IqdGhpcyBjb21wdXRlciBoYXMqZXh0ZW5zaW9uOiAue2lkfQ0KDQotLQ0KSWYqZ
m9yIHNvbWUqcmVhc29uIH1vdSByZWFkIHRoaXMqdGV4dCBiZWZvcmUqdGh1IGVuY3J5cHRpb24qZW
5kZWQsDQp0aGlzIGNhbiBiZSB1bmRlcnN0b29kIGJ5IHRoZSBmYWN0IHRoYXQqdGh1IGNvbXB1dGV
yIHNsb3dzIGRvd24sDQphbmQgeW91ciBoZWFydCByYXRlIGhhcyBpbmNyZWFzZWQgZHVlIHRvIHRo
ZSBhYmlsaXR5IHRvIHR1cm4qaXQqb2ZmLA0KdGhlbiB3ZSByZWNvbW11bmQqdGhhdCB5b3UqbW92Z
SBhd2F5IGZyb20gdGhlIGNvbXB1dGVyIGFuZCBhY2NlcHQgdGhhdCB5b3UgaGF2ZSBiZWVuIGNvbX
Byb21pc2VkLg0KUmVib290aW5nL3NodXRkb3duIHdpbGwgY2F1c2UgeW91IHRvIGxvc2UgZmlsZXM
qd210aG91dCB0aGUqcG9zc21iaWxpdHkqb2YqcmVjb3Z1cnkuDQoNCi0tDQpPdXIqIGVuY3J5cHRp
b24gYWxnb3JpdGhtcyBhcmUgdmVyeSBzdHJvbmcgYW5kIHlvdXIgZmlsZXMgYXJlIHZlcnkgd2Vsb
CBwcm90ZWN0ZWQsDQp0aGUgb25seSB3YXkgdG8gZ2V0IH1vdXIgZmlsZXMgYmFjayBpcyB0byBjb2
9wZXJhdGUgd210aCB1cyBhbmQgZ2V0IHRoZSBkZWNyeXB0ZXIgcHJvZ3JhbS4NCg0KRG8gbm90IHR
yeSB0byByZWNvdmVyIHlvdXIgZmlsZXMgd210aG91dCBhIGRlY3J5cHRlciBwcm9ncmFtLCB5b3Ug
bWF5IGRhbWFnZSB0aGVtIGFuZCB0aGVuIHRoZXkgd2lsbCBiZSBpbXBvc3NpYmxlIHRvIHJlY2922
XIuDQoNCkZvciB1cyB0aGlzIGlzIGp1c3QgYnVzaW5lc3MgYW5kIHRvIHByb3ZlIHRvIHlvdSBvdX
Iqc2VyaW91c251c3MsIHd1IHdpbGwqZGVjcnlwdCB5b3Uqb251IGZpbGUqZm9yIGZyZWUuDQpKdXN
0IG9wZW4qb3VyIHdlYnNpdGUsIHVwbG9hZCB0aGUqZW5jcnlwdGVkIGZpbGUqYW5kIGdldCB0aGUq
ZGVjcnlwdGVkIGZpbGUqZm9yIGZyZWUuDQoNCi0tDQoNClN0ZXBzIHRvIGdldCBhY2Nlc3Mgb24qb
3VyIHdlYnNpdGU6DQoNCjEuRG93bmxvYWQqYW5kIGluc3RhbGwqdG9yLWJyb3dzZXI6IGh0dHBzOi
8vdG9ycHJvamVjdC5vcmcvDQoNCjIuT3BlbiBvdXIgd2Vic210ZToge29uaW9uMX0NCklmIHRoZSB
3ZWJzaXR1IGlzIG5vdCBhdmFpbGFibGUsIG9wZW4gYW5vdGhlciBvbmU6IHtvbmlvbjJ9DQoNCjMu
UHV0IH1vdXIgcGVyc29uYWwgY29kZSBpbiB0aGUgaW5wdXQgZm9ybToNCg0Ke2NvZGV9",
      "namesz": 8,
      "thr": 1500,
      "mpk": "<redacted>",
      "pers": false,
      "unlocker": {
            "ignore": {
                  "pspath": ["*:\\windows*", "*:\\winnt*", "*:\\program
file*\\vmwar*", "*\\Program File*\\Fortinet"],
                  "use": true,
                  "prc": ["psexec.exe", "system", "forti*.exe", "fmon.exe",
"fcaptmon.exe", "FCHelper64.exe"]
            },
            "use": true
      },
      "idsz": 6,
      "mode": 0,
      "net": {
            "ignore": {
                  "use": true,
                  "disk": true,
                  "share": ["ipc$", "admin$"]
            },
            "use": true
```



```
},
       "kill": {
              "use": true,
              "svcwait": 0,
              "svc": ["Lotus*", "veeam*", "cbvscserv*", "hMailServer",
"backup*", "*backup*", "apach*", "firebird*", "ibmiasrw", "IBM Domino*",
"Simply Accounting Database Connection Manager", "IASJet", "QB*", "*sql*",
"sql*", "QuickBooksDB*", "IISADMIN", "omsad", "dc*32", "server
Administrator", "wbengine", "mr2kserv", "MSExchange*", "ShadowProtectSvc",
"SP*4", "teamviewer", "MMS", "AcronisAgent", "ARSM", "AcrSch2Svc",
"vsnapvss", "SPXService", "StorageCraft ImageManager", "wrsvc",
"stc endpt svc", "acrsch2svc*"],
              "prc": ["nslsvice.exe", "pq*", "nservice.exe", "cbvscserv*",
"ntrtscan.exe", "cbservi*", "hMailServer*", "IBM*", "bes10*", "black*",
"apach*", "bd2*", "db*", "ba*", "be*", "QB*", "oracle*", "wbengine*", "vee*",
"postg*", "sage*", "sap*", "b1*", "fdlaunch*", "msmdsrv*", "report*",
"msdtssr*", "coldfus*", "cfdot*", "swag*", "swstrtr*", "jetty.exe",
"wrsa.exe", "team*", "agent*", "store.exe", "sql*", "sqbcoreservice.exe",
"thunderbird.exe", "ocssd.exe", "encsvc.exe", "excel.exe", "synctime.exe",
"mspub.exe", "ocautoupds.exe", "thebat.exe", "dbeng50.exe", "*sql*",
"mydesktopservice.exe", "onenote.exe", "outlook.exe", "powerpnt.exe",
"msaccess.exe", "tbirdconfig.exe", "wordpad.exe", "ocomm.exe", "dbsnmp.exe",
"thebat64.exe", "winword.exe", "oracle.exe", "xfssvccon.exe",
"firefoxconfig.exe", "visio.exe", "mydesktopqos.exe", "infopath.exe",
"agntsvc.exe"],
              "task": ["reboot", "restart", "shutdown", "logoff", "back"]
       },
       "white": {
              "path": ["*system volume information", "*windows.old",
"*:\\users\\*\\*temp", "*msocache", "*:\\winnt", "*$windows.~ws",
"*perflogs", "*boot", "*:\\windows", "*:\\program file*\\vmware",
"\\\\*\\users\\*\\*temp", "\\\\*\\winnt", "\\\\*\\windows", "*\\program
file*\\vmware", "*appdata*microsoft", "*appdata*packages",
"*microsoft\\provisioning", "*dvd maker", "*Internet Explorer", "*Mozilla",
"*Mozilla*", "*Old Firefox data", "*\\program file*\\windows media*",
"*/\program file*/\windows portable*", "*windows defender", "*/\program
file*\\windows nt", "*\\program file*\\windows photo*", "*\\program
file*\\windows side*", "*\\program file*\\windowspowershell", "*\\program
file*\\cuass*", "*\\program file*\\microsoft games", "*\\program
file*\\common files\\system", "*\\program file*\\common files\\*shared",
"*\\program file*\\common files\\reference ass*", "*\\windows\\cache*",
"*temporary internet*", "*media player",
"*:\\users\\*\\appdata\\*\\microsoft",
"\\\\*\\users\\*\\appdata\\*\\microsoft"],
              "ext": ["msp", "exe", "sys", "msc", "mod", "clb", "mui",
"regtrans-ms", "theme", "hta", "shs", "nomedia", "diagpkg", "cab", "ics",
"msstyles", "cur", "drv", "icns", "diagcfg", "dll", "ocx", "lnk", "ico",
"idx", "ps1", "mpa", "cpl", "icl", "msu", "msi", "nls", "scr", "adv", "386",
```

"com", "hlp", "rom", "lock", "386", "wpx", "ani", "prf", "rtp", "ldf", "key",
"diagcab", "cmd", "spl", "deskthemepack", "bat", "themepack"],

"file": ["ntuser.dat\*", "iconcache.db", "gdipfont\*.dat", "ntuser.ini", "usrclass.dat", "usrclass.dat\*", "boot.ini", "bootmgr", "bootnxt", "desktop.ini", "ntuser.dat", "autorun.inf", "ntldr", "thumbs.db", "bootsect.bak", "bootfont.bin"]



},
 "onion2":
 "rnfdsgm6wb6j6su5txkekw4u4y47kp2eatvu7d6xhyn5cs4lt4pdrqqd[.]onion",
 "onion1":
 "pb36hu4spl6cyjdfhing7h3pw6dhpk32ifemawkujj4gp33ejzdq3did[.]onion"
}

