

# A hard look at at BBTok

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## BBTok Targeting Brazil: Deobfuscating the .NET Loader with dnlib and PowerShell



Reading time: 8 min (2182 words)

We break down the full infection chain of the Brazilian-targeted threat BBTok and demonstrate how to deobfuscate the loader DLL using PowerShell, Python, and dnlib.

In a complex infection chain that starts with an email containing an ISO image, this malware stands out by its way of compiling C# code directly on the infected machine. It also uses a technique known as AppDomain Manager Injection to advance execution. Articles from [Checkpoint](#) and [TrendMicro](#) describe a similar infection chain and attribute it to BBTok banker, but to our knowledge, no one has yet published an analysis on the obfuscated .NET based loader named Trammy.dll.

The loader writes a log file with obscure words onto infected machines, for which we provide a translation table so that incident responders can decode the logs.

The obfuscation of Trammy.dll, which uses a ConfuserEx variant, prevents current automatic tools from retrieving the strings. We provide the necessary scripts and commands to deobfuscate them.

### Intrusion utilizing the Microsoft Build Engine

Recently, we discovered several malicious ISO images<sup>[F1-4]</sup> in our telemetry, apparently targeting Brazilian entities. A [comment on Virustotal](#) mentions that they are delivered via email. All these ISOs<sup>[F1-4]</sup> contain one Windows shortcut file (LNK)<sup>[F5]</sup> and one folder (see figure 1). Inside the folder we found an executable<sup>[F6]</sup>, an XML file<sup>[F7]</sup>, a PDF<sup>[F8]</sup> and a ZIP archive<sup>[F9]</sup>.

The LNK file<sup>[F5]</sup>, **DANFE10103128566164.pdf.lnk**, links to the executable<sup>[F6]</sup> in the folder and passes the XML file<sup>[F7]</sup> as input along with the `-nologo` option. All files inside the ISO<sup>[F1]</sup> are named "DANFE10103128566164" which includes the Portuguese acronym "DANFE". The acronym means "**D**ocumento **A**uxiliar da **N**ota **F**iscal **E**lectronica" and [refers to a digital invoice](#) usually distributed in PDF format between Brazilian companies.

The attackers take advantage of this by disguising the LNK file<sup>[F5]</sup> with the PDF icon that is embedded within the standard Microsoft Edge executable (msedge.exe) of the system to lure targets into executing it.

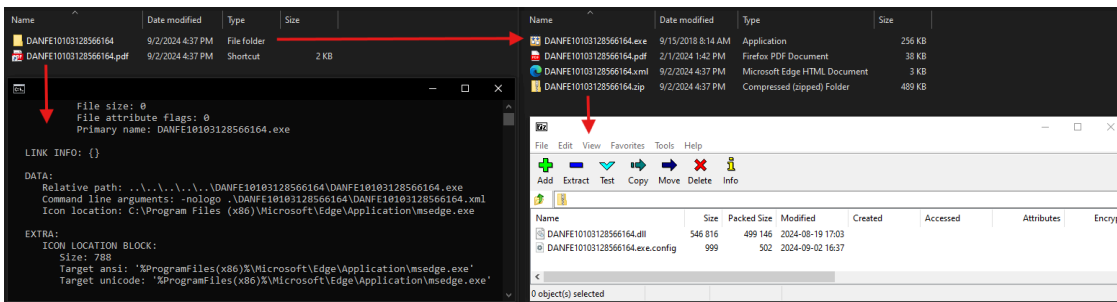


Figure 1: Content of the ISO image

The executable, **DANFE10103128566164.exe**<sup>[F6]</sup>, is a validly signed Microsoft Build Engine version 4.7.3190.0 (MSBuild.exe). The malware uses it to compile malicious C# code embedded within the XML file<sup>[F7]</sup> on the infected machine (see figure 2). The result of the compilation process is a .NET DLL<sup>[F13]</sup> which is dropped and executed in the local TEMP folder with a randomized name. Since the plain C# code is included in the XML file<sup>[F7]</sup>, the analysis is straightforward.

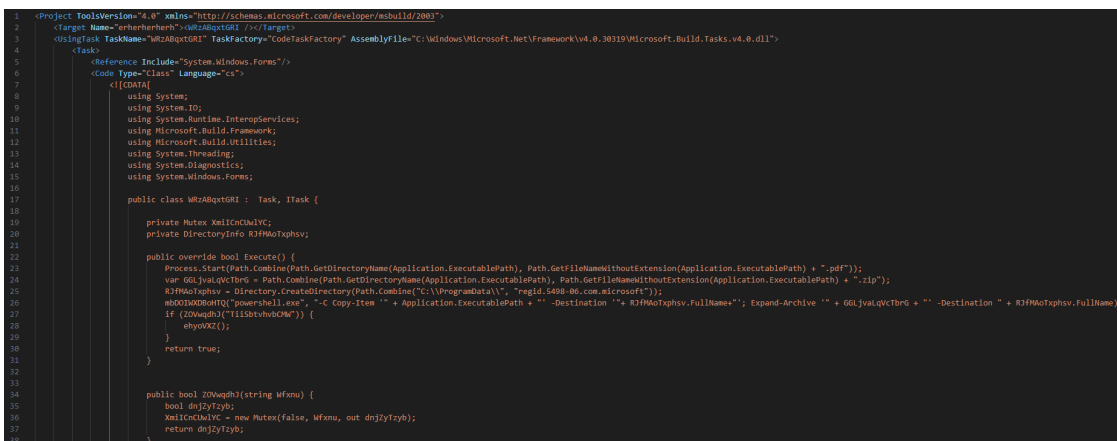


Figure 2: XML project file<sup>[F7]</sup> for Microsoft Build Engine containing the malicious C# code

First, the freshly compiled .NET DLL<sup>[F13]</sup> opens the decoy PDF<sup>[F8]</sup> which displays a DANFE invoice to the target user. Afterwards, it extracts the ZIP archive<sup>[F9]</sup> and copies the Microsoft Build Engine<sup>[F6]</sup> to **C:\ProgramData\regid.5498-06.com.microsoft**<sup>[P1]</sup> via PowerShell. Finally, it leverages a [UAC bypass using ProgIDs](#) together with the auto-elevated system binary **computerdefaults.exe** to run the Microsoft Build Engine<sup>[F6]</sup> once again.

This time, however, MSBuild.exe<sup>[F6]</sup> does not compile C# code again but runs another DLL, Trammy.dll<sup>[F10]</sup>, based on project configuration file<sup>[F11]</sup>. Both are extracted from the previously mentioned ZIP archive<sup>[F9]</sup>. To prevent consecutive execution of the UAC bypass, it creates a local mutex called **TiiSbtvvhbCMW**.

Figure 3 shows a comprehensive overview of this part of the infection chain.

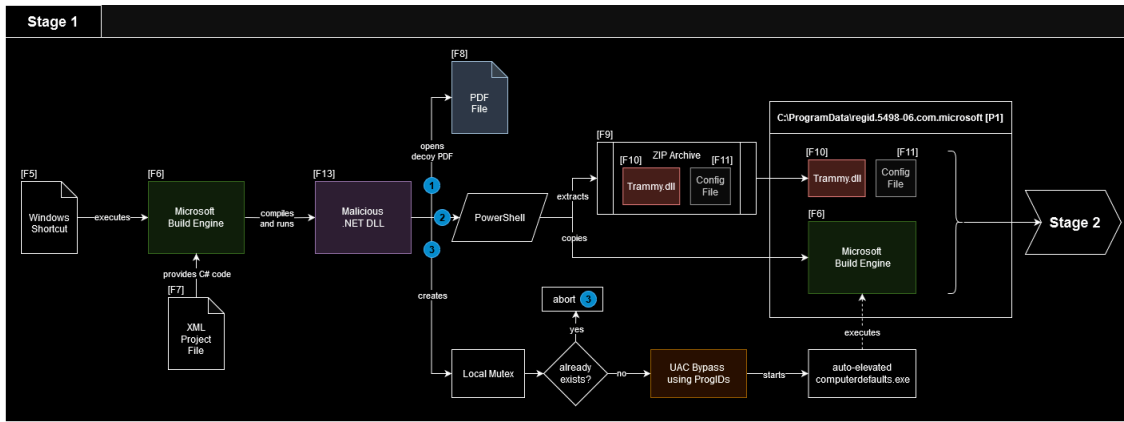


Figure 3: Stage 1—Utilizing Microsoft Build Engine to execute .NET DLLs; the letters and numbers in square brackets are references into the IoC table (click to enlarge)

## AppDomain Manager Injection

The configuration file<sup>[F11]</sup> declares the class `SacApp.SacApp` of `Trammy.dll`<sup>[F10]</sup> as `AppDomainManager` (see figure 4). An `AppDomainManager` is responsible for customizing the `AppDomain` of an application, which is an isolated environment for the managed code.

That means declaring `SacApp.SacApp` as `AppDomainManager` leads to the execution of malicious code in `InitializeNewDomain()` - a standard method that has been overridden by `SacApp.SacApp`<sup>[F10]</sup>. This technique is known as [AppDomain Manager Injection](#).

```

1 <?xml version="1.0"?>
2 <configuration>
3   <configSections>
4     <section name="msbuildToolsets" type="Microsoft.Build.BuildEngine.ToolsetConfigurationSection, Microsoft.Build.Engine, Version=3.5.0.0, Culture=neutral, PublicKeyToken=b83f5f7f1d58a3a" />
5   </configSections>
6   <runtime>
7     <generatePublisherEvidence enabled="false" />
8     <assemblyBinding xmlns="urn:schemas-microsoft-com:asm.v1">
9       <dependentAssembly>
10        <assemblyIdentity name="Trammy" publicKeyToken="335b881bd873517" culture="neutral" />
11        <codeBase version="2.3.2.1" href="DANFE10103128566164.dll"/>
12      </dependentAssembly>
13    </assemblyBinding>
14    <etsEnable enabled="false" />
15    <appDomainManagerAssembly value="Trammy, Version=2.3.2.1, culture=neutral, PublicKeyToken=335b881bd873517" />
16    <appDomainManagerType value="SacApp.SacApp" />
17  </runtime>
18  <!-- To define one or more new toolsets, add an 'msbuildToolsets' element in this file. -->
19 </configuration>

```

Figure 4: The class `SacApp.SacApp` is registered as `AppDomainManagerType` in the .config file [F11]

## Deobfuscation of Trammy.dll

`DANFE10103128566164.dll`<sup>[F10]</sup>, is not packed but obfuscated with [ConfuserEx](#). It has the module name `Trammy.dll`. Specific deobfuscation tools like `NoFuserEx` and [de4dot-cex](#) remove the control flow flattening, but do not automatically retrieve the strings.

There are five string decode methods and each one takes an integer as key that it uses to compute the deobfuscated string. After applying `de4dot-cex` to the DLL, we retrieve all these keys using [dnlib](#) and Python. This code searches for pairs of `ldc_i4` and `call` instructions, and returns the `ldc_i4` operands. This may return more than the string decoding keys, but it does not matter for the steps that follow.

We use DnSpy's IL editing feature to remove the anti-reversing checks from the five string decoding methods. Every methods starts with an if statement that checks if the caller is the current assembly. If it is not the current assembly, an empty string will be returned. Replacing the if statement with NOP instructions allows us to execute the code from PowerShell.

We recover the strings dynamically for each method using the following PowerShell commands. The variable `$nums` is an array of all the keys that we extracted with the previous script. The string decoding methods have two characteristics that must be taking into account.

1. They are located in the global type `<Module>` and cannot be accessed via `[namespace.ClassName]::methodname()`. So we resolve the string decoding methods via their token instead (here `0x6000005`).
2. The string decoding methods have a generic return type, so we must provide the return type via `MakeGenericMethod([string])`.

The last command creates a mapping of the keys for the string decoding methods to the deobfuscated strings. The try-catch swallows any error messages that would be printed due to wrong keys.

We repeat these commands for all string decoding methods until we have a merged **result.txt** that contains all keys and decoded strings. This file will also have empty mappings that we remove with by replacing the regex `^.*:\r\n$` with nothing. We transform the result into a Python dictionary by replacing `^(?-?d+):(.*)$` with `\1:r'\2'`, (Notepad++ syntax). Then we slightly modify the previous Python script so that it replaces `call` instructions to the string decoding functions with `ldstr` instructions and the appropriate deobfuscated string as operand.

We execute the script on the `Trammy.dll` and successfully deobfuscate the strings. As a final step, we use [Simple Assembly Explorer](#) to remove indirect calls by selecting the 'Nothing' profile in the deobfuscator and enabling the 'Direct Call' option.

Figures 5 and 6 show the `SacApp.SacApp.InitializeNewDomain` method before and after applying string deobfuscation and indirect call removal.

## Trammy.dll Analysis

`Trammy.dll`<sup>[F10]</sup> starts execution in the method `InitializeNewDomain()` of `SacApp.SacApp` because it has been declared as `AppDomainManager` by the config<sup>[F11]</sup>.

First, it opens the decoy PDF<sup>[F8]</sup>. Then it checks if the malicious code shall be run. Two conditions need to be met

1. A file named `C:\ProgramData\internal_drive_version2.3.4.txt` must not exist—this is an empty file that will be created later
2. `hxxp://ipwho(dot)is/` must report that the IP is Brazilian

While the first condition ensures that the code is only executed once, the second check confirms that the malware runs in the targeted area Brazil. That way automatic sandbox systems are hindered from determining

maliciousness unless they use Brazilian IPs or proxies.

## Log File Translation

The malware creates a log file in **C:\ProgramData\log.txt**<sup>[P3]</sup> that encodes stages of execution with specific keywords.

Log entry	Meaning
START	The checks 1. and 2. succeeded and the main malicious routine executed
ADMIN	malware had admin rights
R	attempted to create a mutex 'KOKKIIKKKOOOO'
MTX_F	mutex 'KOKKIIKKKOOOO' was created successfully
CP	CCProxy was downloaded and installed as service
T	OS information was extracted
SV	Service that autoruns the Delphi payload as fake explorer.exe <sup>[F14]</sup> was created

Additionally, potential exception messages and their stack traces are written to the log.

That means incident responders can locate this log file to figure out what the malware did to the infected system.

## Exfiltrated OS Info

Trammy.dll<sup>[F10]</sup> obtains the following information via Windows Management Instrumentation (WMI) from the ManagementObject **Win32\_OperatingSystem**:

- OSVersion
- CSName
- Caption
- Version
- SerialNumber
- BuildNumber
- OsArchitecture

Furthermore, it obtains the SerialNumber for all **Win32\_PhysicalMedia** objects and appends the string 'VM' whenever the serial number is null, most likely used as indicator that the malware is running in a virtual machine. The malware also obtains a list of all antivirus programs. The resulting information is sent to the URL below<sup>[U1]</sup>

hxxps://contador(dot)danfajuda(dot)com/contador/save.php

## Download, Decryption and Persistence

Next, `Trammy.dll`<sup>[F10]</sup> schedules a task that adds the folder `C:\ProgramData` to Windows Defender's exclusions.

The DLL contacts the open directory `hxxps://fileondemandd(dot)site/`<sup>[U2]</sup> (see figure 8) and downloads the ZIP archive `filea.tat`<sup>[F12]</sup>.

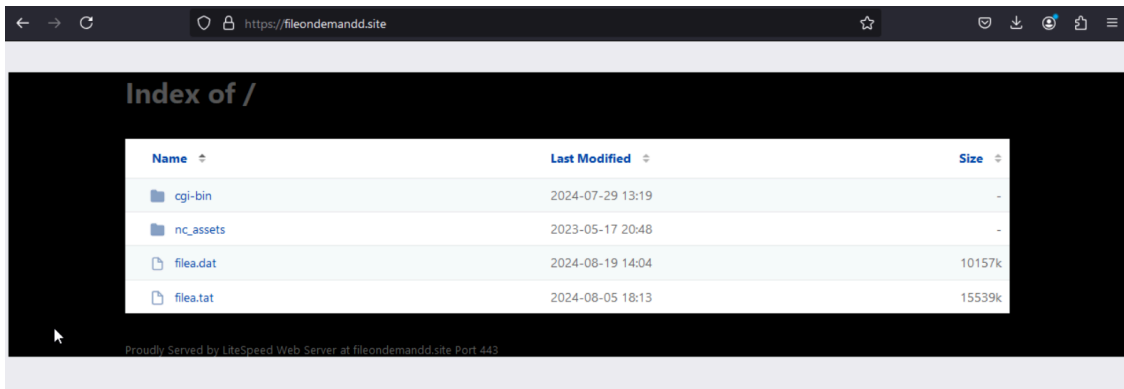


Figure 8: index of the file storage that contains the ZIP archive `filea.tat`

The archive is password protected. The password is `vsfdefender` and has not been changed in a long time, e.g., the archives in the [Checkpoint article](#) from one year ago also use this password (samples are named BBTok by Checkpoint with filenames `fe`, `fe2`, and `fe235`). However, this password only succeeds for the files that are being used by the malware. Attempting to unpack the whole archive with this password results in 'wrong password' error messages. This could be intentional to thwart bruteforcing of the archive's password.

We obtained seven files from the ZIP archive<sup>[F12]</sup>. Six of them (`CCProxy.exe`<sup>[F15]</sup>, `wke.dll`<sup>[F16]</sup>, `Web.exe`<sup>[F17]</sup>, `CCProxy.ini`, `AccInfo.ini` and `LeftTime.ini`) belong to the CCProxy application developed by [Youngzsoft Co., Ltd](#) that can be used, for example, to filter and monitor network traffic. `Trammy.dll`<sup>[F10]</sup> extracts all of them to `C:\Program Files\SearchIndexer`<sup>[P4]</sup> except for `Web.exe`<sup>[F17]</sup> which remains unused. `CCProxy.exe`<sup>[F15]</sup>, masked as `SearchIndexer.exe` (with small "L" instead of large "i"), is the main application and registered as a local service which automatically starts on Windows boot. `CCProxy.ini` and `AccInfo.ini` configure CCProxy to accept HTTP connections from localhost on port 8118, which is used to disguise the communication with the CnC server<sup>[U3]</sup>.

The `wke.dll`<sup>[F16]</sup> is superfluous because it is only required by the non-extracted `Web.exe`<sup>[F17]</sup>. The seventh file is named `explorer.exe`<sup>[F14]</sup> and was compiled with Embarcadero Delphi 11.0 Alexandria. `Trammy.dll`<sup>[F10]</sup> extracts it to the program data folder and registers it as a local service as well. In previous articles ([link 1](#), [link 2](#)), the Delphi payload was BBTok.

After establishing persistence, `Trammy.dll`<sup>[F10]</sup> creates the empty file `internal_drive_version2.3.4.txt`<sup>[P2]</sup>, which is used to determine if the code already ran. Then `Trammy.dll`<sup>[F10]</sup> displays the default Windows license expiration warning and reboots the system. On reboot, the CCProxy service starts with its custom configuration and the fake `explorer.exe`<sup>[F14]</sup> is called with a renamed `filea.tat`<sup>[F12]</sup> as argument. Figure 9 shows the overview for this part of the infection chain.

In our next article, we will describe how the Delphi payload<sup>[F14]</sup> communicates with the CNC server<sup>[U3]</sup> via CCProxy using the [Realthinclient SDK](#).

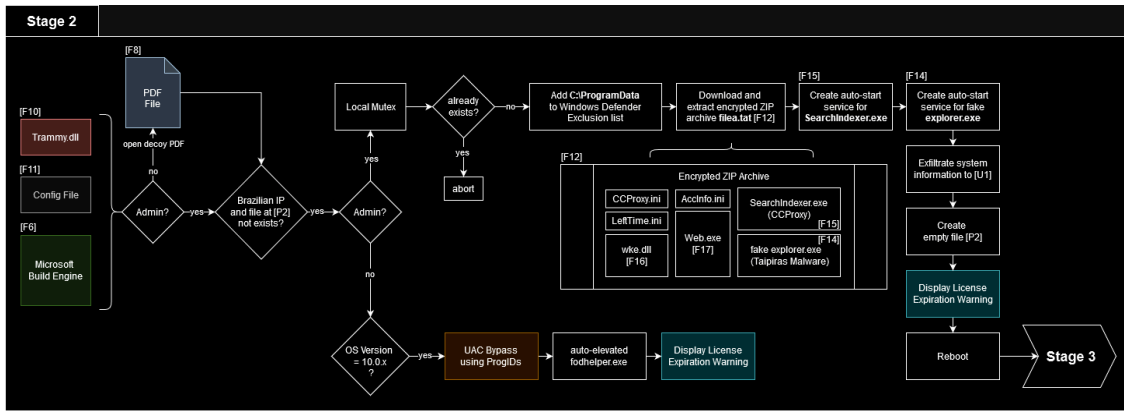


Figure 9: Stage 2 – Download and persistence (click to enlarge)

## Hashes

### [F1] DANFE10103128566164.iso

09027fa9653bdf2b4a291071f7e8a72f14d1ba5d0912ed188708f9edd6a084fe

### [F2] DANFE10103124952781.iso

2ff420e3d01893868a50162df57e8463d1746d3965b76025ed88db9bb13388af

### [F3] DANFE10103122718132.iso

5e5a58bfabd96f0c78c1e12fa2625aba9c84aa3bd4c9bb99d079d6ccb6e46650

### [F4] DANFE10103121443891.iso

dc03070d50fdd31c89491d139adfb211daf171d03e9e6d88aac43e7ff44e4fef

### [F5] DANFE10103128566164.pdf.lnk

ddf84fdc080bd55f6f2b409e596b6f7a040c4ab1eb4b965b3f709a0f7faa4e02

### [F6] DANFE10103128566164.exe - legitimate MSBuild

b60eb62f6c24d4a495a0dab95cc49624ac5099a2cc21f8bd010a410401ab8cc3

### [F7] DANFE10103128566164.xml

7566131ce0ecba1710c1a7552491120751b58d6d55f867e61a886b8e5606afc3

### [F8] DANFE10103128566164.pdf - decoy document

ac044dd9ae8f18d928cf39d24525e2474930faf8e83c6e3ad52496ecab11f510

### [F9] DANFE10103128566164.zip

276a1e9f62e21c675fdad9c7bf0a489560cbd959ac617839aeb9a0bc3cd41366

### [F10] DANFE10103128566164.dll - Trammy.dll

24fac4ef193014e34fc30f7a4b7ccc0b1232ab02f164f105888aabe06efbacc3

### [F11] DANFE10103128566164.exe.config - registers AppDomainManager

8e7f0a51d7593cf76576b767ab03ed331d822c09f6812015550dbd6843853ce7

**[F12] filea.tat - ZIP archive**

7559c440245aeeca28e67b7f13d198ba8add343e8d48df92b7116a337c98b763

**[F13] .NET DLL after compilation of [F7]**

a3afed0dabefde9bb8f8f905ab24fc2f554aa77e3a94b05ed35cffc20c201e15

**[F14] fake explorer.exe - Delphi payload**

35db2b34412ad7a1644a8ee82925a88369bc58f6effc11d8ec6d5f81650d897e

**[F15] SearchIndexer.exe - CCProxy**

27914c36fd422528d8370cbbc0e45af1ba2c3aeedca1579d92968649b3f562f7

**[F16] wke.dll**

2d2c2ba0f0d155233cdcbf41a9cf166a6ce9b80a6ab4395821ce658afe04aaba

**[F17] Web.exe**

cb1d2659508a4f50060997ee0e60604598cb38bd2bb90962c6a51d8b798a03b6

## URLs

**[U1] Malware panel**

hxxps://contador.danfajuda(dot)com/contador/save.php?

**[U2] File storage**

hxxps://fileondemandd(dot)site/

**[U3] RTC Portal Gateway**

hxxp://pingservice(dot)blogdns(dot)com/myPath

## Paths

**[P1]** C:\ProgramData\regid.5498-06.com.microsoft\

**[P2]** C:\ProgramData\internal\_drive\_version2.3.4.txt

**[P3]** C:\ProgramData\log.txt

**[P4]** C:\Program Files\SearchIndexer\

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