Analyzing Cobalt Strike PowerShell Payload

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Published: 2024-09-25 · Archived: 2026-04-05 20:13:14 UTC

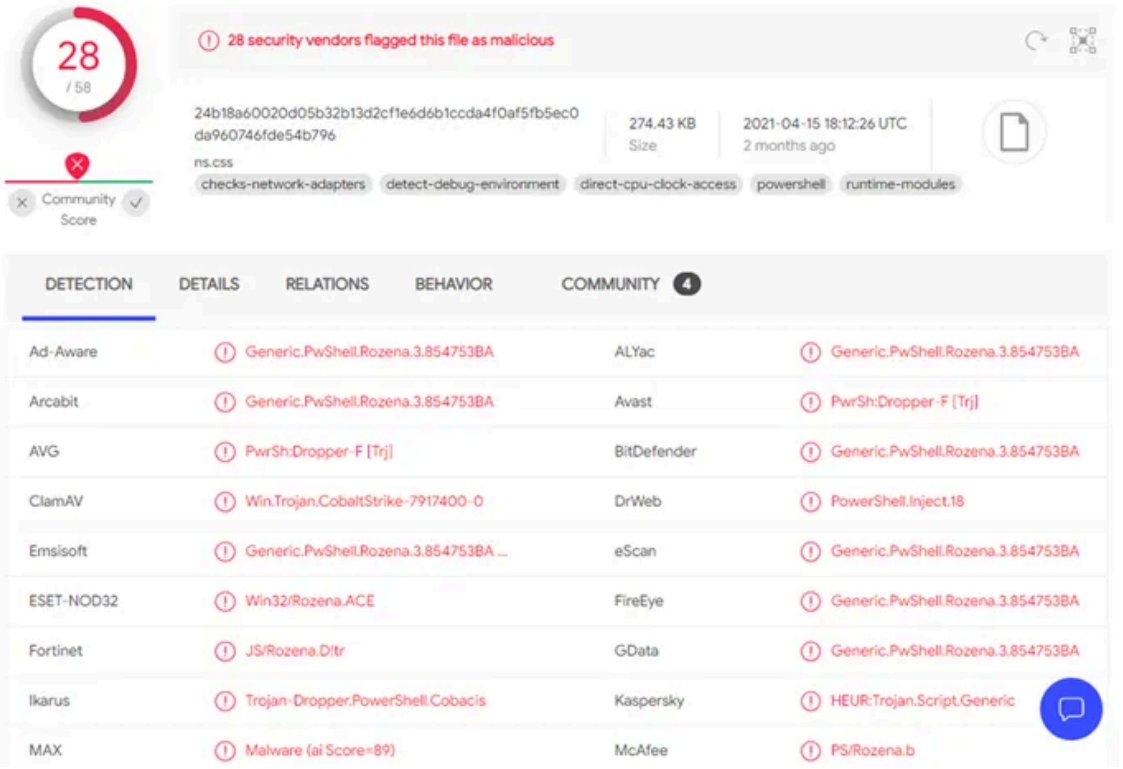
Since last year, cobalt strike payloads are everywhere. We saw hackers used Cobalt Strike in many attacks. Some serious cyber incident like SolarWinds supply chain attack [1]. In Proofpoint's new article, said that Cobalt Strike is the favorite tool from APT to crimeware [2]. Cobalt Strike is a penetration tool which developed by Strategic Cyber. It's a good framework for collaboration by Red team.

In these days, the executable and dll type of cobalt strike payload are most often used in attack. Other's payload type like macro or powershell sometimes were also be delivered by attackers. In this article, let's analysis the cobalt strike powershell payload.

Sample

```
MD5: e0315aca119a9b3b7d89184ad2fa2603
SHA-1: bfc928da46d2ae32e2c60373a5d968d2f15e497a
SHA-256: 24b18a60020d05b32b13d2cf1e6d6b1ccda4f0af5fb5ec0da960746fde54b796
```

Press enter or click to view image in full size



VirusTotal information

VirusTotal shows there are 28 AV vendors detect this malicious payload. 4 vendors detect it is cobalt strike related malware, and 8 vendors detect it as「PwShell.Rozena」. That's interesting! After I searched what is Rozena, and I found an analysis report published in 2018 from GDATA [3]. Looks like the malware used some technique of command line to run powershell, performing fileless attacks.

Analysis
