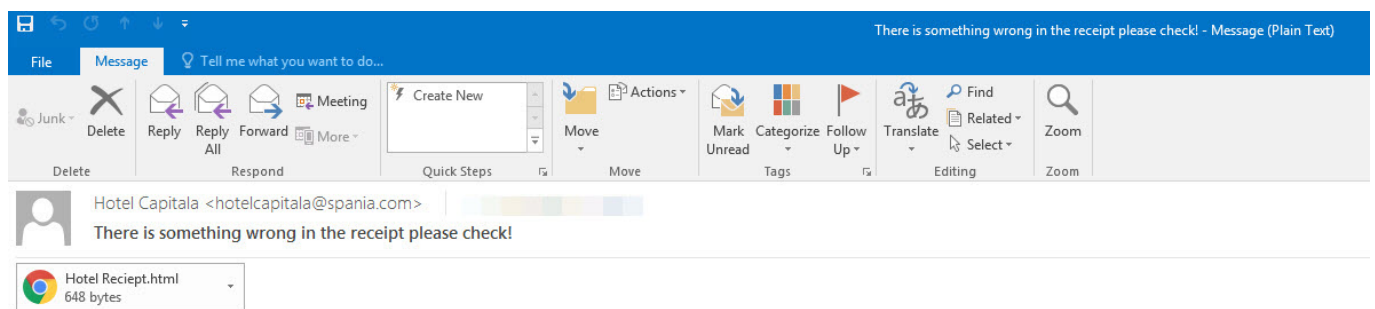


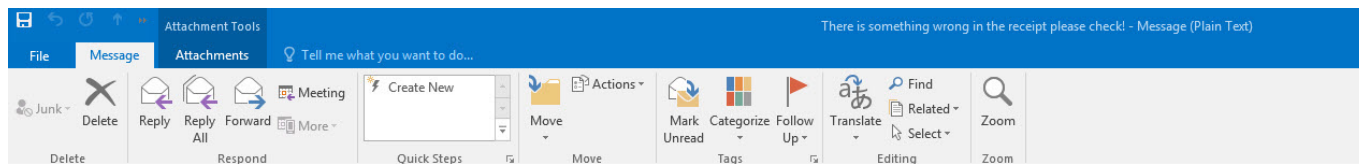
You Can Run, But You Can't Hide

written by Mert SARICA | 1 September 2021

In the past, there was a threat actor, when the barbers were fleas, and the horses were jesters. This threat actor had sent an email to top-level employees of the institutions he targeted, with an HTML file attached. When this HTML file was opened, and the link address ([https://go0gle-drive\[.\]blogspot\[.\]com](https://go0gle-drive[.]blogspot[.]com)) followed, the targeted person was directed to an address on the mega.nz file storage and sharing site ([https://mega\[.\]nz/file/axlmBSxR](https://mega[.]nz/file/axlmBSxR)). If this file was downloaded and run, the threat actor could remotely control the targeted system, making all kinds of mischief, including recording audio, video and keystrokes. According to legend, some network-based sand pool systems could not analyze the link address contained in this HTML file sent by the threat actor.



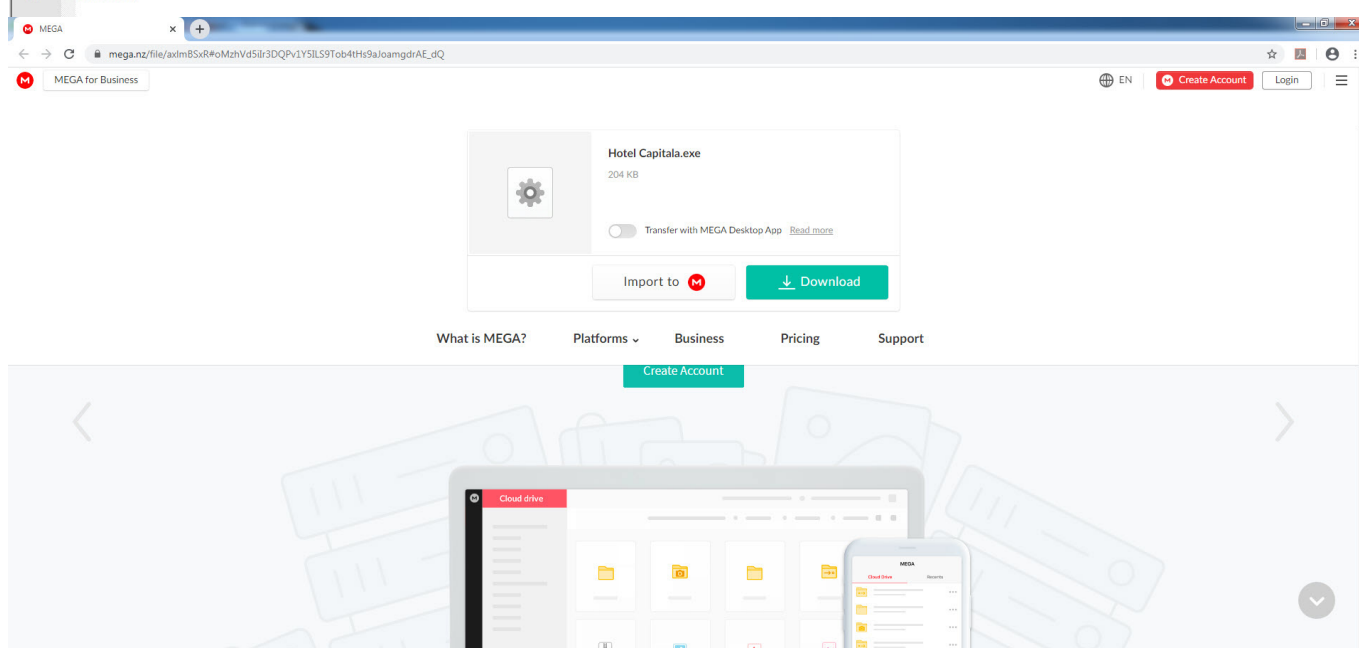
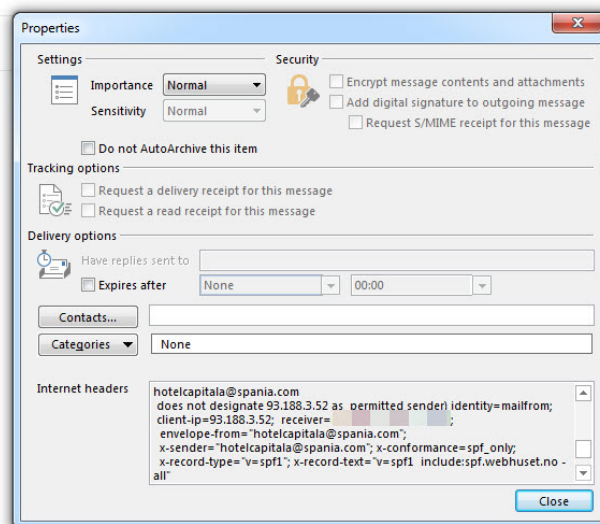
Check Attachment.



Hotel Capitala <hotelcapitala@spania.com>
There is something wrong in the receipt please check!

Hotel Receipt.html
648 bytes

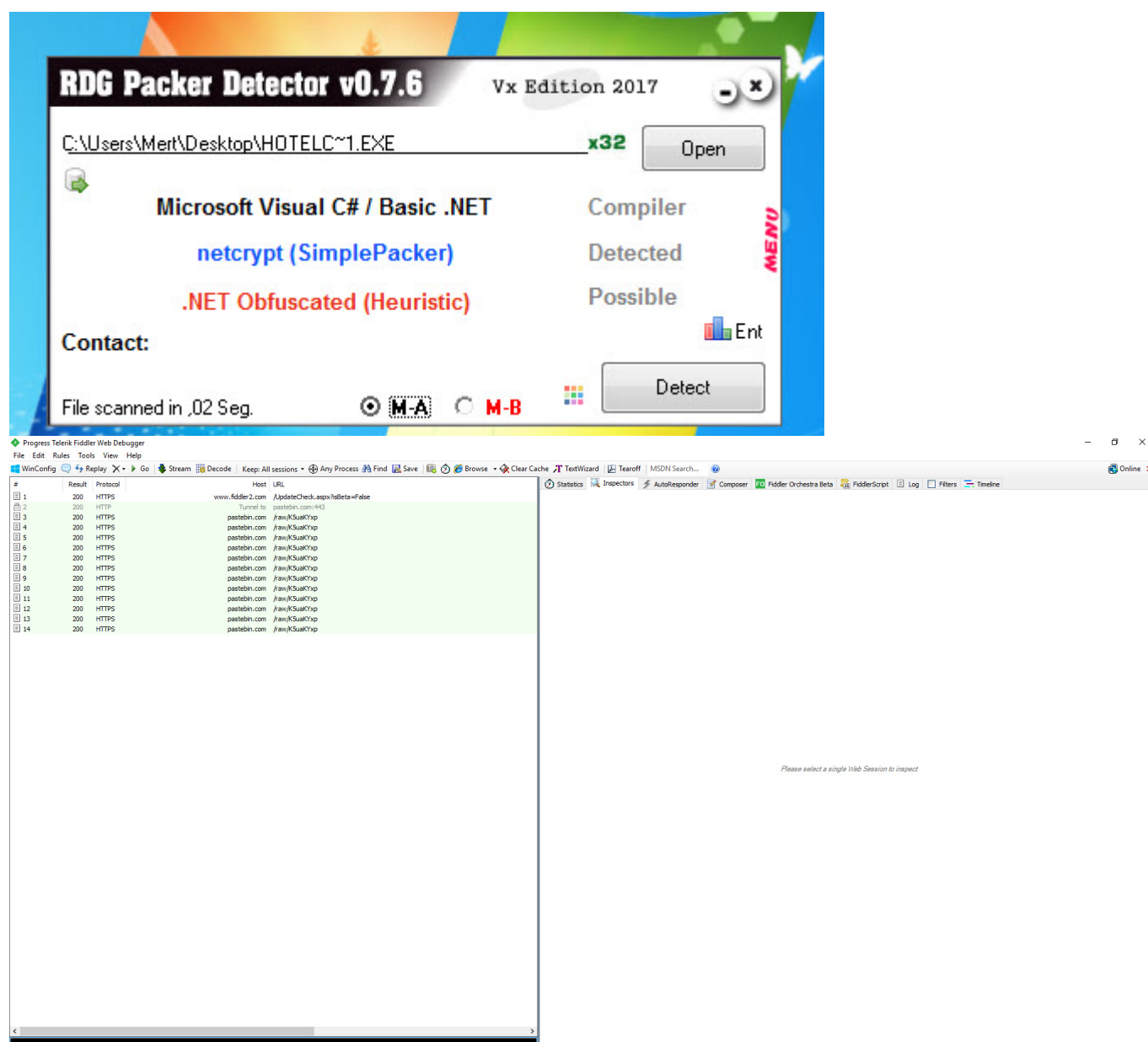
Check Attachment.

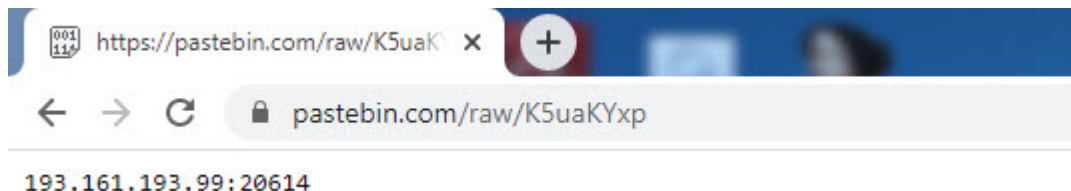


When an institution faces a scenario like the one described above, even if the attack attempt is not successful, it should still handle the matter with great care because this may be an indication of a precursor earthquake, and a

sign of a bigger one to come. Therefore, it is important to investigate whether the attack was targeted (Spear Phishing), organized (APT), or just a part of a general campaign targeting a large number of users. It may not always be possible to find answers to these questions, but through analysis, an idea may be gained. In this writing, I will attempt to find answers to these questions.

Initially, through static analysis, I saw that the file was developed and packaged with C#. When I ran the file on a virtual system and analyzed it dynamically, I discovered that the malware accessed an address on the Pastebin site. When I visited this web address, I saw that the page contained an IP address (193.161.193.99) and a port.

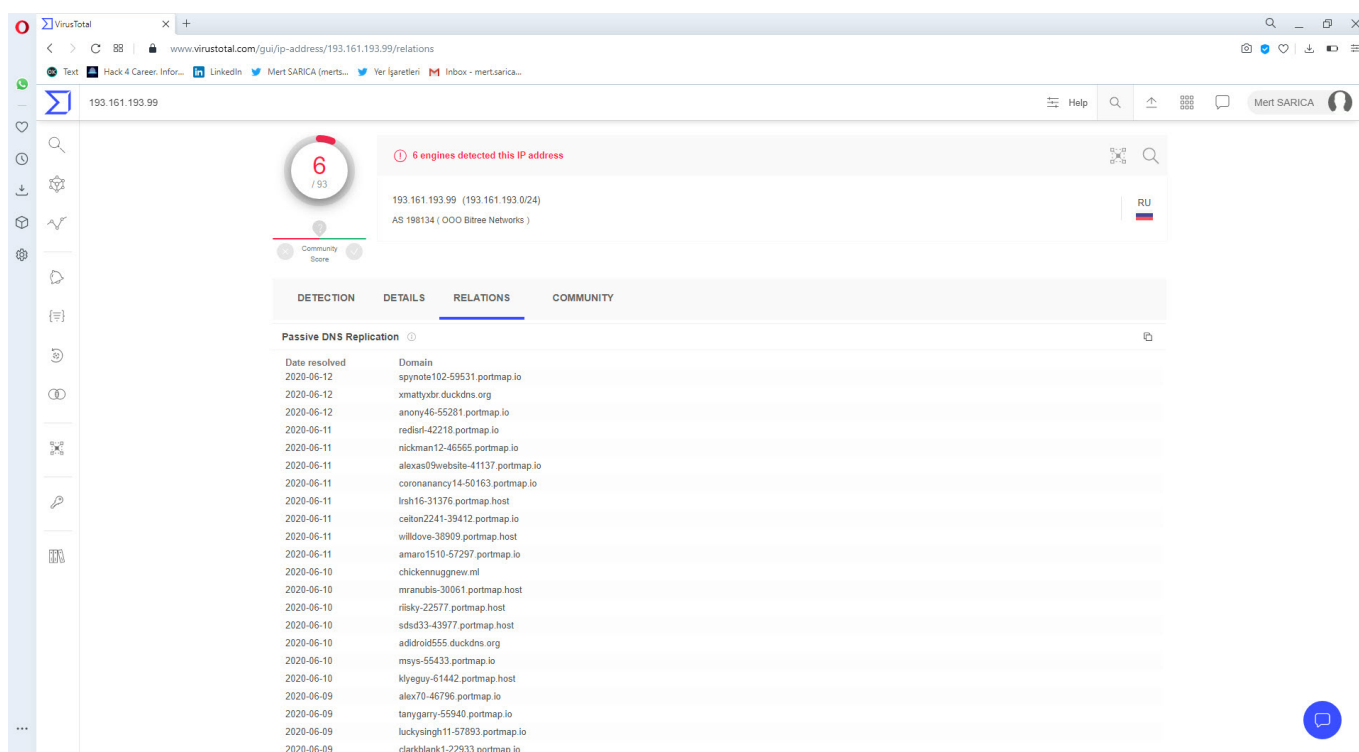




Especially in APT attacks, the malware used is often specially developed by the threat actors and compiled just before the attack, so when it is uploaded to VirusTotal, it is usually detected under a general signature name such as (Backdoor, Trojan, etc). In such cases, it may be possible to use services like Intezer to search for which other malware the code of this malware was used and make comparisons, and thus gain information about the threat actor.

When I uploaded the malware to VirusTotal, I saw that it was not specifically matched with any other malware. When I searched on Intezer, unfortunately, I came up empty handed. (Generic Malware)

When I searched the IP address I obtained from the Pastebin.com page on VirusTotal, I found out that it belongs to the Portmap.io service which serves for redirecting ports.



Portmap.io - free port forwarding solution

portmap.io

Text Hack 4 Career: Inform... LinkedIn Mert SARICA (mertsarica) Her lgaretfen! Inbox - mertsarica...


Port forwarding becomes easier

Make your home PC available from Internet without real IP address

SIGN-IN


Free port forwarding solution

for




Web and mobile development

Show your work to the clients




System administration

Access any device behind firewall



Remote support

Provide remote tech support via VNC or RDP



Video surveillance

Connect to CCTV cameras without real IP address

VirusTotal

www.virustotal.com/gui/file/e9553311bb795d028a0bfb1cc16a74aaaddc493d303dd98ca4b801e9414f4507/detection/f-e9553311bb795d028a0bfb1cc16a74aaaddc493d303dd98ca4b801e9414f4507-1591952418

Hack 4 Career: Inform... LinkedIn Mert SARICA (mertsarica) Inbox - mertsarica...

e9553311bb795d028a0bfb1cc16a74aaaddc493d303dd98ca4b801e9414f4507

Help

Mert SARICA

20

73

Community Score

20 engines detected this file

e9553311bb795d028a0bfb1cc16a74aaaddc493d303dd98ca4b801e9414f4507

c:\users\administrator\appdata\roaming\asdasd\itafdsiajn.exe

203.50 KB Size

2020-06-15 19:57:38 UTC 3 days ago

EXE

DETECTION

DETAILS

RELATIONS

BEHAVIOR

CONTENT

SUBMISSIONS

COMMUNITY

2020-05-12T09:00:18

SecureAge APEX

Malicious

Avira (no cloud)

HEUR/AGEN.1118533

BitDefender Theta

Gen:NN.Zemsi.F.34128.mm@aqOYAJ

CrowdStrike Falcon

Win/malicious_confidence_100% (D)

Cybereason

Malicious fe59a2

Cylance

Unsafe

Cynet

Malicious (score: 85)

eGambit

Unsafe AI_Score_100%

Endgame

Malicious (high Confidence)

ESET-NOD32

A Variant Of MSIL/Kryptik.QME

F-Secure

Heuristic.HEUR/AGEN.1118533

FireEye

Generic.mg.e818608b6a6dc536

Kaspersky

HEUR:Trojan.Win32.Generic

McAfee-GW-Edition

BehavesLike.Win32.Generic.dc

Microsoft

Trojan.Win32/Vacatac.Cml

Qihoo-360

HEUR/QVM03.0.DA9B.Malware.Gen

Sangfor Engine Zero

Malware

SentinelOne (Static ML)

DFI - Malicious PE

Sophos ML

Heuristic

ZoneAlarm by Check Point

HEUR:Trojan.Win32.Generic

Acronis

Undetected

Ad-Aware

Undetected

AegisLab

Undetected

AhnLab-V3

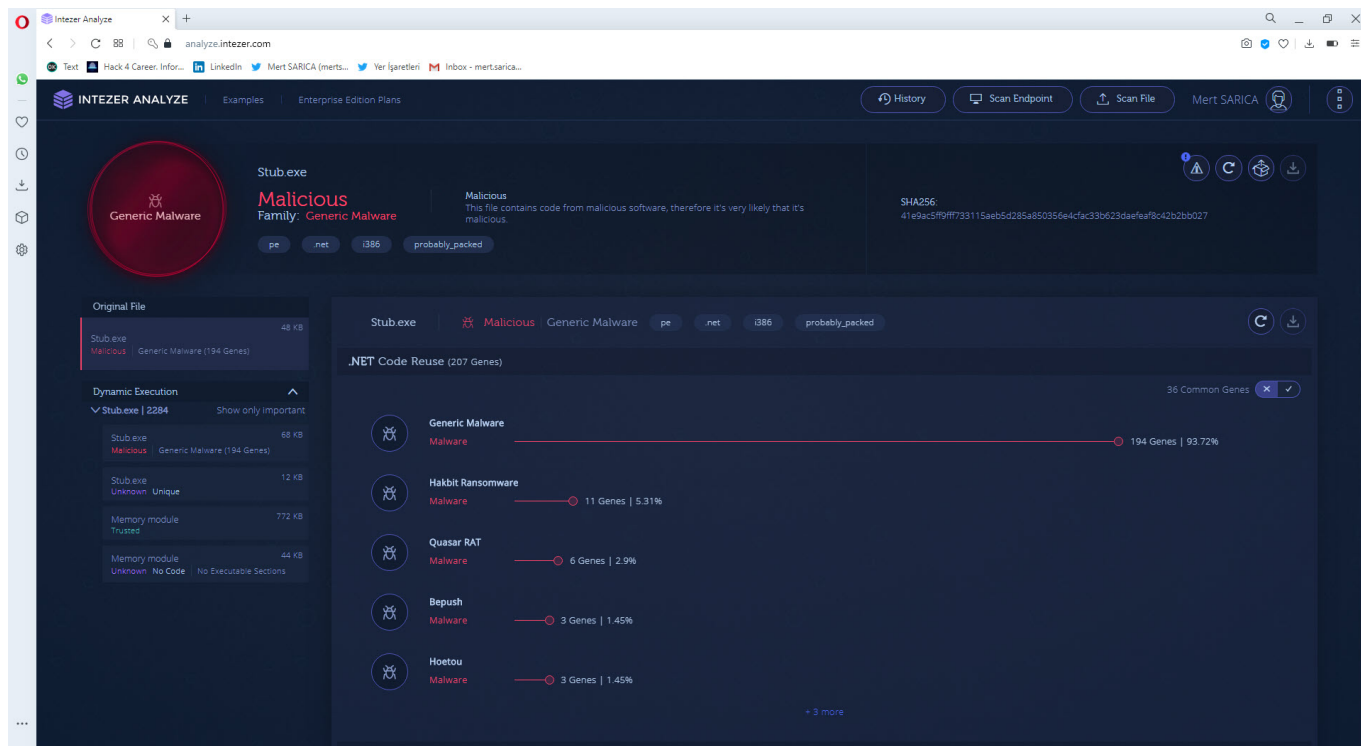
Undetected

Alibaba

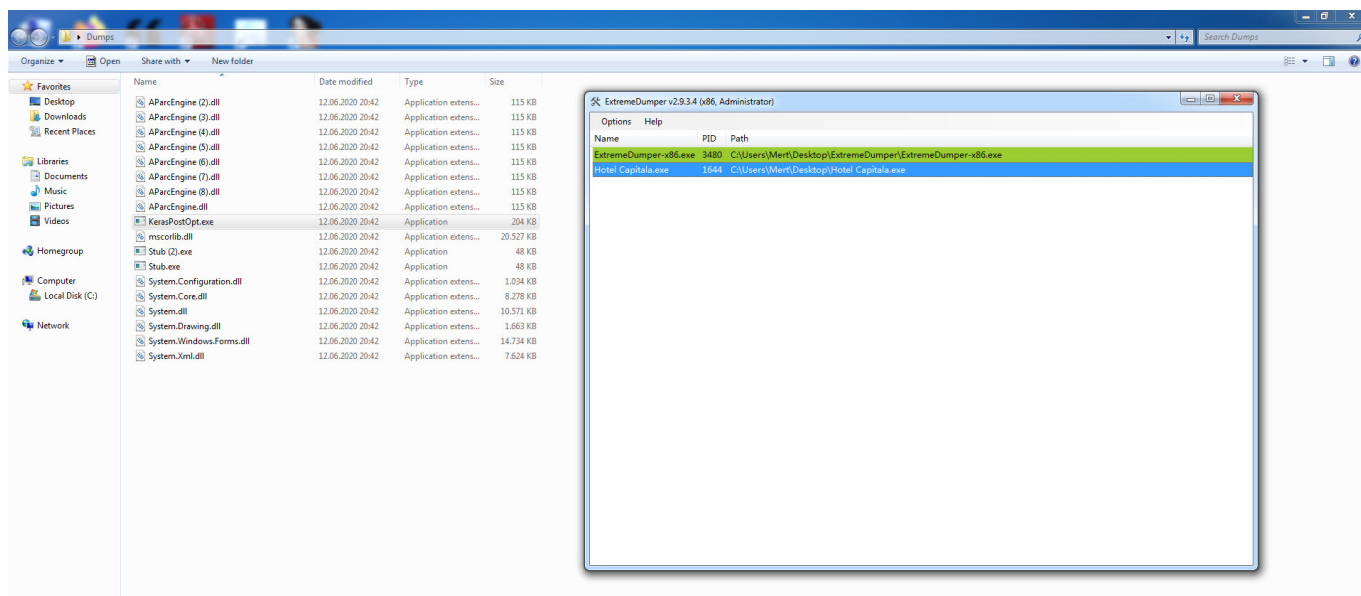
Undetected

ALYac

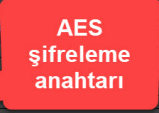
Undetected



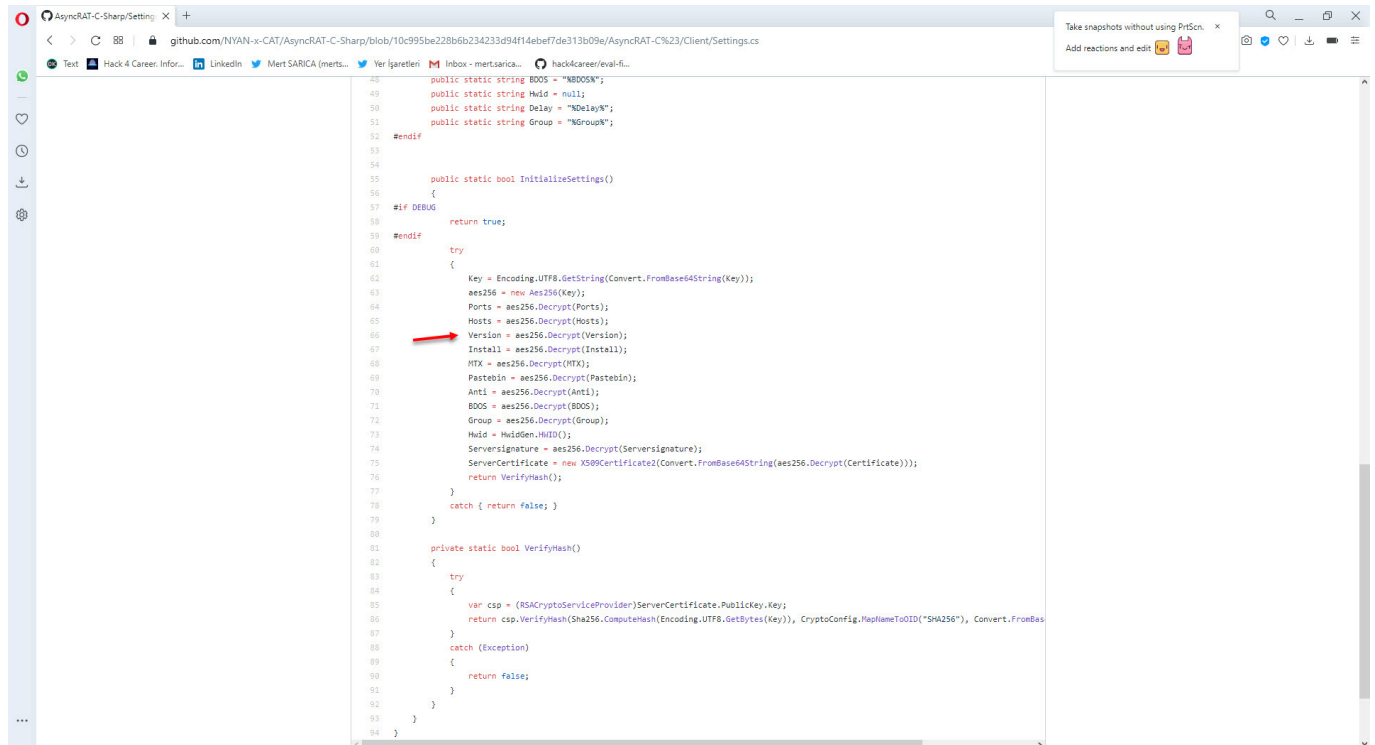
As I continued my research to find out what the malware developed by the threat actor who tries to hide himself as much as possible, I reached the stage of dynamic code analysis and the dnSpy debugger that I used in my article titled OPSEC came to my aid. Before starting debugging with dnSpy, in order to find the main module that the packaged software hides in memory, when I ran the ExtremeDumper tool, the mother of evils, Stub.exe, emerged.



As I analyzed the Stub.exe program step by step with dnSpy, at one point, I noticed that it was encrypted with AES and the decrypted value of 0.5.6B caught my attention. When I searched this value on Google with the keywords "rat 0.5.6B," guess what came up? The open-source AsyncRAT! :)



After examining this project in detail on GitHub, I was able to confirm that the malware I analyzed is AsyncRAT by inferring it from similar code blocks.



```
48 public static string B005 = "B005N";
49 public static string Huid = null;
50 public static string Delay = "NDelayR";
51 public static string Group = "NGroupR";
52 #endif
53
54 public static bool InitializeSettings()
55 {
56     #if DEBUG
57         return true;
58     #endif
59     try
60     {
61         Key = Encoding.UTF8.GetString(Convert.FromBase64String(Key));
62         aes256 = new Aes256(Key);
63         Ports = aes256.Decrypt(Ports);
64         Hosts = aes256.Decrypt(Hosts);
65         Version = aes256.Decrypt(Version);
66         Install = aes256.Decrypt(Install);
67         HTK = aes256.Decrypt(HTK);
68         Pastebin = aes256.Decrypt(Pastebin);
69         Anti = aes256.Decrypt(Anti);
70         B005 = aes256.Decrypt(B005);
71         Group = aes256.Decrypt(Group);
72         Huid = HuidGen.Huid();
73         ServerSignature = aes256.Decrypt(ServerSignature);
74         ServerCertificate = new X509Certificate2(Convert.FromBase64String(aes256.Decrypt(Certificate)));
75         return VerifyHash();
76     }
77     catch { return false; }
78 }
79
80 private static bool VerifyHash()
81 {
82     try
83     {
84         var csp = (RSACryptoServiceProvider)ServerCertificate.PublicKey.Key;
85         return csp.VerifyHash(Sha256.ComputeHash(Encoding.UTF8.GetBytes(Key)), CryptoConfig.MapNameToOID("SHA256"), Convert.FromBase64String(Version));
86     }
87     catch (Exception)
88     {
89         return false;
90     }
91 }
92 }
93
94 }
```

Finally, when I searched for similar Stub.exe files with vhash on VirusTotal, I encountered many examples. As I wondered whether all these examples had the Pastebin address from the malware I analyzed, or were part of a common campaign, either I would have to examine the analysis report of each of more than 50 examples or find a very short and practical way which is suitable for lazy people. :) After starting to think in a cunning way, the idea of preparing a tool in Python that analyzes all these examples statically, first finds the AES encryption key and then extracts the configuration information came to my mind.

www.virustotal.com/gui/search/vhash%253A%25224403655511c08c2c1d104a%2522/files

vhash:"24403655511c08c2c1d104a"

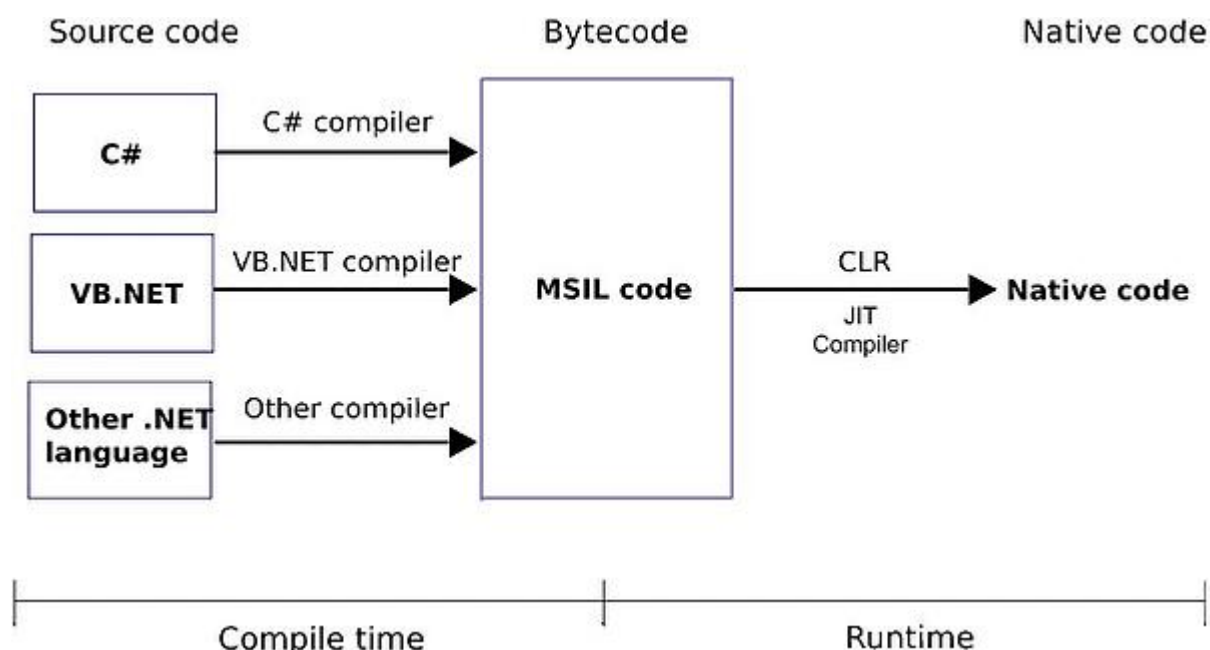
FILES 134

90 DAYS

	Detections	Size	First seen	Last seen	Submitters
24619B01B80F1A30D16EDAE854365F94A652140D81FCF120FFB2A8B01A0B353 Stub.exe peexe assembly direct-cpu-clock-access runtime-modules	48 / 73	48.00 KB	2020-06-19 17:20:49	2020-06-19 17:20:49	1
3C4E66368FC9F03DEE353A3943184E8D43A238BA0724F38CD68198D211E73A1 Stub.exe peexe assembly direct-cpu-clock-access detect-debug-environment runtime-modules	49 / 73	48.00 KB	2020-06-18 23:26:19	2020-06-18 23:26:19	1
A1F91C39F7C0B1581D6AF3E947698E407ED998C8C6121481695A55688AFCC Google Update Setup peexe runtime-modules assembly direct-cpu-clock-access detect-debug-environment	54 / 74	48.50 KB	2020-06-15 12:36:53	2020-06-18 08:26:47	2
2F82F84EAB550568A81818393DA2C31E3F80F755358CFC4AE56790C9F40F426 Stub.exe peexe runtime-modules assembly direct-cpu-clock-access detect-debug-environment	58 / 73	48.00 KB	2020-06-15 12:20:58	2020-06-18 08:10:47	2
41E9AC5FF9FF73315AEB5D285A85356E4C7AC338623DAEFAF8C4282B8B27 Stub.exe peexe assembly direct-cpu-clock-access detect-debug-environment runtime-modules	51 / 73	48.00 KB	2020-06-12 18:09:03	2020-06-12 18:09:03	1
22338BAC47A24784C508E1AAFF57E45CFE2104436917969527ED2C2DA06E5F7 Stub.exe peexe runtime-modules assembly direct-cpu-clock-access detect-debug-environment	59 / 73	48.00 KB	2020-04-21 04:14:03	2020-06-07 18:45:56	2
F54ABC5FF07CE324F012B457285C895A34F83F38BC23198E5E081AF1CAECCE8A Stub.exe peexe assembly direct-cpu-clock-access detect-debug-environment runtime-modules	47 / 72	48.00 KB	2020-05-25 20:00:32	2020-05-25 20:00:32	1
3888B637E5D85319A832D84B8A9F28B104E8D19A85F181B925C32733CAE9C3 Stub.exe peexe runtime-modules assembly direct-cpu-clock-access detect-debug-environment	60 / 72	48.00 KB	2020-05-17 09:57:20	2020-05-17 09:57:20	1
5A491D53F7D20895DFA979474A191F4C2C287C2C7A36823A8790C46E9FC6A7A Update.exe peexe runtime-modules assembly direct-cpu-clock-access detect-debug-environment	56 / 73	48.50 KB	2020-05-16 16:30:56	2020-05-16 16:30:56	1
08741910E6D2FF442C813028AE780F48C3408C5A7877A9653FF48CA2B57CF8 Stub.exe peexe runtime-modules assembly direct-cpu-clock-access detect-debug-environment	63 / 73	48.00 KB	2020-05-13 19:55:48	2020-05-15 23:55:49	2

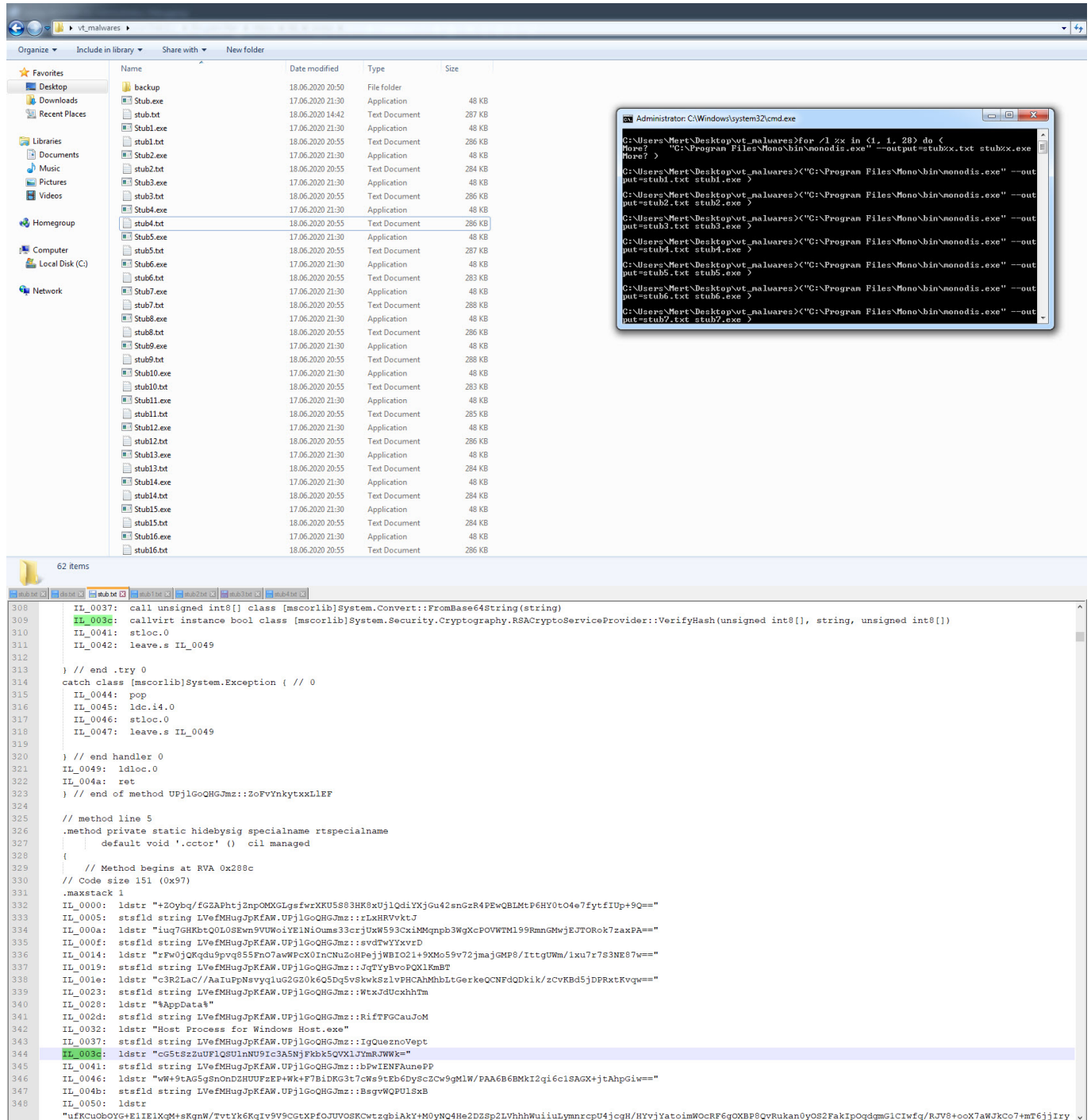
CMDA0A11F75M0AF7F575279591F8C52DAB70800415CF1FF611095C8158F50A378

Of course, since the variable names are randomly generated in each program, I had to first find the AES key by using a static variable. Since we know that programs developed with .Net are compiled into bytecode (CIL/MSIL), I started to search for static values on bytecode.



For this, I decided to take advantage of the Mono Disassembler (monodis) tool, which is part of the famous Mono project. Using the monodis tool, I converted all Stub.exe examples to code, and I found out that the AES encryption key is always after the 0x288c value, and the IL_003c value. And using this information, I developed the AsyncRAT Configuration Extractor tool

in Python. When I run the tool on all examples, I found that the information in the configuration of each one of them was different from the malware I analyzed, so I learned that the malware I analyzed was not a part of a common campaign.



```

308 IL_0037: call unsigned int8[] class [mscorlib]System.Convert::FromBase64String(string)
309 IL_003c: callvirt instance bool class [mscorlib]System.Security.Cryptography.RSACryptoServiceProvider::VerifyHash(unsigned int8[], string, unsigned int8[])
310 IL_0041: stloc.0
311 IL_0042: leave.s IL_0049
312
313 } // end .try 0
314 catch class [mscorlib]System.Exception { // 0
315     IL_0044: pop
316     IL_0045: ldc.i4.0
317     IL_0046: stloc.0
318     IL_0047: leave.s IL_0049
319
320 } // end handler 0
321 IL_0049: ldloc.0
322 IL_004a: ret
323 } // end of method vUuBwDusLlr::TMjJBQTGNDfcEWQ
324
325 // method line 5
326 .method private static hidebysig specialname rtspecialname
327     default void '.cctor' () cil managed
328 {
329     // Method begins at RVA 0x288c
330     // Code size 151 (0x97)
331     .maxstack 1
332     IL_0000: ldstr "JmPcaie5Pv3CgOEmfv+2XI077HoufVwRr2ztSjNrImJOSe6Nt/0/osU12DQmMR4DYOOKfyGp3MkHs6OSA2dg=="
333     IL_0005: stfld string McuCAiaCqjz.vUuBwDusLlr::wEmhlnbk2HX
334     IL_000a: ldstr "i/8hipMa6LMe2U9YeIWe0u82pzhfebvBoIT+DFDdowKqI75xtr07t12X1xkuGIRW4t1IaIz6DxeKFwnjxa7bs3lp77QAXbXvrg2eYmNvTg=="
335     IL_000f: stfld string McuCAiaCqjz.vUuBwDusLlr::AmbSEfkFVyi
336     IL_0014: ldstr "wWa2HdLMKC8owyCDF65L3XNF8WBwozg3xIUkjaAh2r80JdjAhMrDq38+CQ1071t4qbMt1R0+nPu3Suc6KC82A=="
337     IL_0019: stfld string McuCAiaCqjz.vUuBwDusLlr::LORepVhKVWE
338     IL_001e: ldstr "ndTSoubU19DYYS+AaXtB7x8ZiWEDfnfPdeRMBAYQDFv7JkPt6M46wYx7hRqA/RnxLjfqdBAaaziFMD3D0w=="
339     IL_0023: stfld string McuCAiaCqjz.vUuBwDusLlr::MyLHX1GQFX
340     IL_0028: ldstr "%AppData%"
341     IL_002d: stfld string McuCAiaCqjz.vUuBwDusLlr::cbYpYfPwcYi
342     IL_0032: ldstr ""
343     IL_0037: stfld string McuCAiaCqjz.vUuBwDusLlr::oEcGiInZjLGB
344     IL_003c: ldstr "TXyQ020yMGXSL2FeGx1TGlpVXpuSD1lb29p2U03TFU="
345     IL_0041: stfld string McuCAiaCqjz.vUuBwDusLlr::nkgt0ZYXkRtgv
346     IL_0046: ldstr "26x6P1002rezSi+xxH14E4b15it9m2nG2pIAYOrz512MK0/jPyCi6aszmCSyX5YbB47a135tESSVD/dYg7pNQ2EEiciORPvIoKGNdSX5c="
347     IL_004b: stfld string McuCAiaCqjz.vUuBwDusLlr::gEcNdycslaLbg
348     IL_0050: ldstr
349     "gHVq2BMckrUWw4h+UFW+YdV6pP9L2tKudoIpYefrJW+Of0u0BgUCUNYwKHLTLzWNLdZ1KDJkH15N/RcyYp8fzIpeIXYGLZGBzqF8M0GvO6VhYECiSRPwRs+JJSzofvBbbrPAN+wQq+cPduUvTfXoiJ0psXxGUvBi7AiqKFP5XyPuQz

```

```

308 IL_0037: call unsigned int8[] class [mscorlib]System.Convert::FromBase64String(string)
309 IL_003c: callvirt instance bool class [mscorlib]System.Security.Cryptography.RSACryptoServiceProvider::VerifyHash(unsigned int8[], string, unsigned int8[])
310 IL_0041: stloc.0
311 IL_0042: leave.s IL_0049
312
313 } // end .try 0
314 catch class [mscorlib]System.Exception { // 0
315     IL_0044: pop
316     IL_0045: ldc.i4.0
317     IL_0046: stloc.0
318     IL_0047: leave.s IL_0049
319
320 } // end handler 0
321 IL_0049: ldloc.0
322 IL_004a: ret
323 } // end of method zbgTqalHViUFHWt::sGmuUeoyBYnr
324
325 // method line 5
326 .method private static hidebysig specialname rtspecialname
327     default void '.cctor' () cil managed
328 {
329     // Method begins at RVA 0x288c
330     // Code size 151 (0x97)
331     .maxstack 1
332     IL_0000: ldstr "2bSxod6szoXlbq2bnUK1vJXcLa5X1407KBe0zAs5TJ/wCrisRB3vOakvztdOdRTEjQ/so8H1PQRvvObcxkyH/4w=="
333     IL_0005: stfld string MiKCRUQuXtImcp.zbgTqalHViUFHWt::NgswHYqFHetj
334     IL_000a: ldstr "Sz/oQI8Um21JoEh+RLH1+/aqTm/v4//yvHYbU+1jWTzx2TPcc32q6valHk6DsdDESTpmAw6k5ECGJ9mWa2sWA=="
335     IL_000f: stfld string MiKCRUQuXtImcp.zbgTqalHViUFHWt::dyhWpMOSPUvv
336     IL_0014: ldstr "o+yEwOEwIbvXx5f2LIXc2xqQHt7+os5sJ8KJ7rM23KkGS1SVx0+4Zu0dzJ37Kv6vMT3Syq+FCaxKjzyhPIHA=="
337     IL_0019: stfld string MiKCRUQuXtImcp.zbgTqalHViUFHWt::tHgFMSfeqgk
338     IL_001e: ldstr "TzA2IRKARK3BzLqyePDEpMcUoNOT7efJ9I3e4Wss82e7uukigGJiJy5YV+NT3aylkbvPt7dnA5uTyw9/iMuHw=="
339     IL_0023: stfld string MiKCRUQuXtImcp.zbgTqalHViUFHWt::kcPnciqUjTXfcm
340     IL_0028: ldstr "%AppData%"
341     IL_002d: stfld string MiKCRUQuXtImcp.zbgTqalHViUFHWt::iUTvfauwhzOEb
342     IL_0032: ldstr "tasksync.exe"
343     IL_0037: stfld string MiKCRUQuXtImcp.zbgTqalHViUFHWt::brwgbfftiOPhE
344     IL_003c: ldstr "Y2k3V1ZqrZrNNUtYaVdq23hNR29Q3NxdndjbDc0b04="
345     IL_0041: stfld string MiKCRUQuXtImcp.zbgTqalHViUFHWt::X2muTnrwYta
346     IL_0046: ldstr "lgJvAgU4nOcqM2Pib46gNrnLBwSml+Pxm75cs07XD4Qe/nabL1183VtW3cXsm8gjzWzPXWE6lm3mgm+Dd+GRQVbntoDuHK6Lp21KNBSb2Y="
347     IL_004b: stfld string MiKCRUQuXtImcp.zbgTqalHViUFHWt::cHIPEjYUqaz
348     IL_0050: ldstr
349     "eoy7EfVnBkBY+zhx6M/Nneit1i52ah+orgCGFNfdg50XwKqeM1+piKw4xU49LwZXQRP+n8xmYk8WC7+oQhVlgY4L1gxGntwMTLcXAzWf2hGh/ysDY1Nv1li1jLmxZ8NrOJJqi2E2ekwRVEY4YVb6bdk80foU909E+deAvsL1d1L9AGRz

```

C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe

```

=====
AsyncRAT Configuration Extractor v1.0 [https://www.mertsarica.com]
=====
Port: 4782
Host: 24.31.138.57
Version: 0.5.6B
Install: true
Mutex: bqwzfgez bubfqxo
Pastebin: null

```

Command Prompt

```
C:\Users\Mert\Desktop\YeniYazi\HB Malware\stubs>for /l %x in (1, 1, 28) do (
More?   python asynccrat_ext.py stub%x.txt
More? )

C:\Users\Mert\Desktop\YeniYazi\HB Malware\stubs>(python asynccrat_ext.py stub1.txt )
Port: 66
Host: wissam000.ddns.net
Version: 0.5.6B
Install: false
Mutex: glllhiysyrewkfzbbw
Pastebin: null

C:\Users\Mert\Desktop\YeniYazi\HB Malware\stubs>(python asynccrat_ext.py stub2.txt )
Port: null
Host: null
Version: 0.5.6B
Install: true
Mutex: qrpmfkwjlpjppobq
Pastebin: https://pastebin.com/raw/s14cUU5G

C:\Users\Mert\Desktop\YeniYazi\HB Malware\stubs>(python asynccrat_ext.py stub3.txt )
Port: null
Host: null
Version: 0.5.6B
Install: false
Mutex: bankobankbobobanks
Pastebin: https://pastebin.com/raw/K5uaKYxp

C:\Users\Mert\Desktop\YeniYazi\HB Malware\stubs>(python asynccrat_ext.py stub4.txt )
Port: null
Host: null
Version: 0.5.6B
Install: true
Mutex: rqkumxvanugppuhzu
Pastebin: https://pastebin.com/raw/CQYS13RT

C:\Users\Mert\Desktop\YeniYazi\HB Malware\stubs>(python asynccrat_ext.py stub5.txt )
Port: 6606,7707,8808
Host: 67.253.82.166
Version: 0.5.6B
Install: true
Mutex: kokpwncmunddulla
Pastebin: null

C:\Users\Mert\Desktop\YeniYazi\HB Malware\stubs>(python asynccrat_ext.py stub6.txt )
Port: 39712,1151,1148
Host: boobies383-45890.portmap.host
Version: 0.5.6B
Install: true
Mutex: tdwmqnhstavzoes
Pastebin: null
```

In conclusion, after compiling and collecting all this information, it appears that while this cyber attack attempt is not an APT attack, it is part of a targeted attack (Spear Phishing). Especially in light of the increase in

such targeted cyber attack attempts after the Covid-19 pandemic, I recommend that organizations and employees be very careful.

Hope to see you in the following articles.