

NYOTRON ATTACK RESPONSE CENTER

Incident Report

Agent Tesla

September 2019



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SECURING THE WORLD



Summary

In early September 2019, PARANOID prevented an attack on one of our customer's endpoints. According to our analysis, the attack involved a new variant of the Agent Tesla Trojan.

The new sample was first seen in the wild only a few hours before it was blocked by PARANOID.

Agent Tesla collects personal information from the victim's machine, steals data from the victim's clipboard, can log keystrokes, capture screenshots and access the victim's webcam. All the data it obtains is sent in encrypted form via SMTP protocol. Agent Tesla has the capability to kill running analysis processes and AV software. The malware also performs basic actions to check whether it is running on a virtual machine or in debug mode, in an attempt to hide its capabilities and actions from researchers.

An active malware such as Agent Tesla in an organization may cause a major loss of sensitive information and intellectual property.

Analysis of the attack revealed the following:

1. Attack vector: The malware was delivered as an ISO file, mounted as virtual CD-ROM and executed.
2. Attack objective: To collect information and keystrokes from the victim's machine, in order to gain control over different accounts and systems used by the victim.

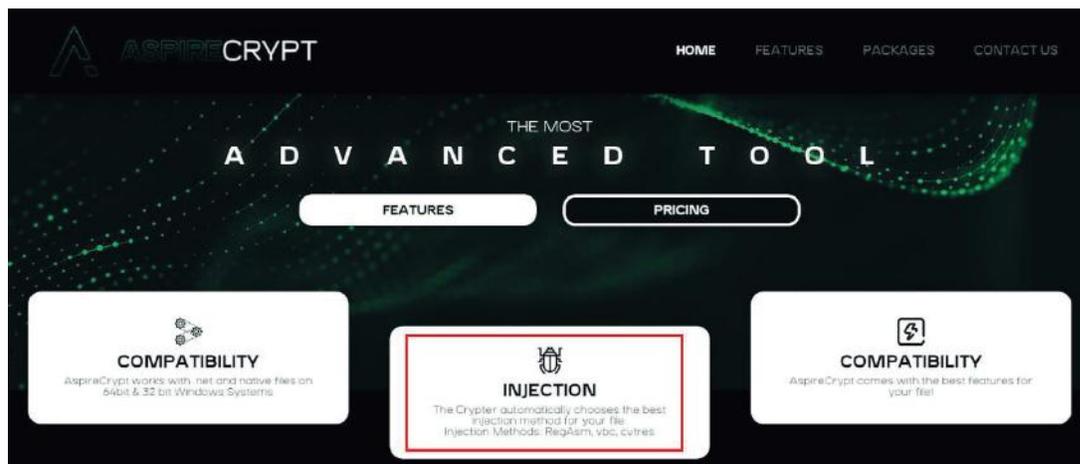
PARANOID successfully prevented Agent Tesla from causing any damage.

Malware Analysis

Initially, we've looked at suspicious strings in the binary. What caught our eye was the string "*protected by AspireCrypt - aspirecrypt.net"

```
/picture.jpg
/StartVideoStreaming
/StopVideoStreaming
/GetVideoFrame
*protected by AspireCrypt - aspirecrypt.net
mscorlib
{
MLJ
ZYW
XWU
XWU
XWU
```

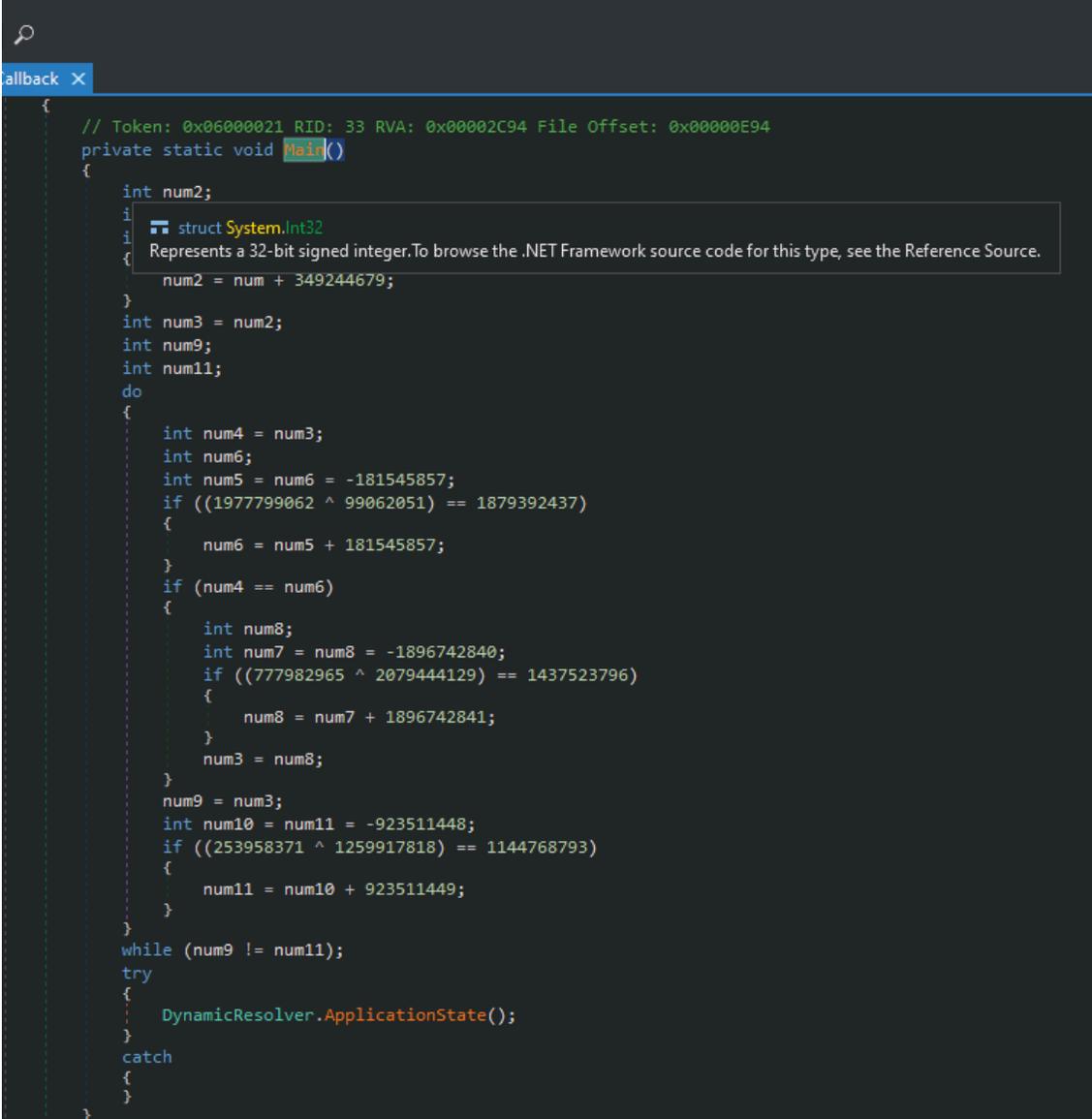
Looking at the features AspireCrypt offers, we've noticed that this crypter has the ability to inject to RegAsm:



PARANOID prevented the execution of RegAsm by the sample, this affirms that AspireCrypt was used.*

* The author of AspireCrypt contacted Nyotron and assured that "AspireCrypt is not made for illegal usage" and they have banned the customer who created the sample described in this report.

The main executable (SKBMT Sept 9 2019 at 2.30_44455210_PDF.exe) file is an obfuscated .NET binary. For instance, this is the original main function:



```
callback X
{
  // Token: 0x06000021 RID: 33 RVA: 0x00002C94 File Offset: 0x00000E94
  private static void Main()
  {
    int num2;
    int num3;
    int num9;
    int num11;
    do
    {
      int num4 = num3;
      int num6;
      int num5 = num6 = -181545857;
      if ((1977799062 ^ 99062051) == 1879392437)
      {
        num6 = num5 + 181545857;
      }
      if (num4 == num6)
      {
        int num8;
        int num7 = num8 = -1896742840;
        if ((777982965 ^ 2079444129) == 1437523796)
        {
          num8 = num7 + 1896742841;
        }
        num3 = num8;
      }
      num9 = num3;
      int num10 = num11 = -923511448;
      if ((253958371 ^ 1259917818) == 1144768793)
      {
        num11 = num10 + 923511449;
      }
    }
    while (num9 != num11);
    try
    {
      DynamicResolver.ApplicationState();
    }
    catch
    {
    }
  }
}
```

And this is the main function after de-obfuscating using de4dot:

```
using System;

namespace ITypeInfo2
{
    // Token: 0x02000008 RID: 8
    internal class SendOrPostCallback
    {
        // Token: 0x06000021 RID: 33 RVA: 0x000027E4 File Offset: 0x000009E4
        private static void Main()
        {
            int num = 0;
            do
            {
                if (num == 0)
                {
                    num = 1;
                }
            } while (num != 1);
            try
            {
                DynamicResolver.ApplicationState();
            }
            catch
            {
            }
        }
    }

    // Token: 0x06000023 RID: 35 RVA: 0x00002558 File Offset: 0x00000758
    public static int smethod_0(int int_0)
    {
        return int_0;
    }

    // Token: 0x06000025 RID: 37 RVA: 0x00002558 File Offset: 0x00000758
    public static int smethod_1(char char_0)
    {
        return (int)char_0;
    }

    // Token: 0x04000011 RID: 17
    public static readonly Func<int, int> func_0 = new Func<int, int>(SendOrPostCallback.smethod_0);
}
}
```

One of the modules that was not obfuscated is a camera related module:

```
TcpVideoServer x
67     '\n'
68     }, StringSplitOptions.RemoveEmptyEntries);
69     HttpMethodQuery httpMethodQuery = array2[0].ParseHttpMethodQuery();
70     NameValueCollection parameters = httpMethodQuery.Query.ParseUrlParameters();
71     string path;
72     if ((path = httpMethodQuery.Path) != null)
73     {
74         if (!(path == "/picture.jpg"))
75         {
76             if (!(path == "/StartVideoStreaming"))
77             {
78                 if (!(path == "/StopVideoStreaming"))
79                 {
80                     if (path == "/GetVideoFrame")
81                     {
82                         this.GetVideoFrame(parameters, stream);
83                     }
84                 }
85                 else
86                 {
87                     this.StopVideoStreaming(parameters, stream);
88                     Console.WriteLine("VideoStreaming stopped");
89                 }
90             }
91             else
92             {
93                 this.StartVideoStreaming(parameters, stream);
94                 Console.WriteLine("VideoStreaming started");
95             }
96         }
97         else
98         {
99             Console.WriteLine("TakePicture: {0}", httpMethodQuery.PathAndQuery);
100            this.TakePicture(parameters, stream);
101        }
    }
```



```

decrptBytes(byte[]): byte[] X
1 // IRuntimeEvidenceFactory.SoaNonNegativeInteger
2 // Token: 0x06000001 RID: 1 RVA: 0x00002050 File Offset: 0x00000250
3 private static byte[] decrptBytes(byte[] bytes)
4 {
5     byte[] bytes2 = Encoding.Unicode.GetBytes(SoaNonNegativeInteger.passVar);
6     for (int i = 0; i < bytes.Length; i++)
7     {
8         int num = i;
9         bytes[num] ^= bytes2[i % 16];
10    }
11    return bytes;
12 }
13

```

```

passVar: string X
1 // IRuntimeEvidenceFactory.SoaNonNegativeInteger
2 // Token: 0x04000001 RID: 1
3 private static string passVar = "g0iYOCfDOEuA";
4

```

It is quite clear that XOR was used by looking at the embedded resource even without the decompiled decryption routine. PE files usually have some regions which contain null bytes. XORing the null bytes with the key reveals the key in plaintext:

Offset	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F	Ascii
0006D860	15	6E	75	73	0A	68	3C	6D	2E	73	6E	6D	0F	63	36	6F	-nus.h<u.snm0c6o
0006D870	14	6F	29	74	44	63	36	6D	75	61	30	6D	48	76	77	22	Qo)Dc6ua0uHvv"
0006D880	59	0D	45	20	49	20	79	20	6F	20	63	3C	14	65	35	75	Y.E.I.y.o.c:Qe5u
0006D890	02	73	3B	65	0D	45	21	65	2C	75	37	69	09	6E	08	65	-s;e.E)le.u7i.nc0e
0006D8A0	11	65	23	20	05	65	2F	65	23	3D	61	61	15	49	2A	76	es#le/ea+I*V
0006D8B0	08	6B	2A	72	4B	20	2C	69	0E	63	20	65	15	73	79	22	dk#K..lsc.e+sy"
0006D8C0	01	61	23	73	0C	22	76	3E	42	0A	63	20	46	20	64	20	a#s!^v>B.c.F.d.
0006D8D0	5B	2F	3D	65	18	75	3C	73	3B	65	27	50	14	69	32	69	[/^e!uxs;e'Fq!2i
0006D8E0	07	65	28	6A	3E	54	0A	4F	20	63	20	5A	2F	37	65		se(e-T.e.c.Z/7e
0006D8F0	04	75	3D	69	1D	79	67	0D	45	20	63	3C	49	74	36	75	-u+ yg E.c:16u
0006D900	14	74	06	6E	0F	6F	67	0D	45	3C	6C	61	15	73	21	6D	q!-p00g.Ecl+e!m
0006D910	05	6C	36	3E	64	0A	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	l!6.d.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006D920	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006D930	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006D940	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006D950	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006D960	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006D970	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006D980	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006D990	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006D9A0	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006D9B0	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006D9C0	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006D9D0	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006D9E0	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006D9F0	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006DA00	67	F0	49	00	65	00	59	00	5F	30	43	00	66	00	44	00	g8I.e.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006DA10	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006DA20	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006DA30	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006DA40	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006DA50	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006DA60	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006DA70	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006DA80	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006DA90	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006DAA0	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006DAB0	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006DAC0	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006DAD0	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006DAE0	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006DAF0	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006DB00	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006DB10	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006DB20	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006DB30	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006DB40	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006DB50	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006DB60	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006DB70	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006DB80	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006DB90	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006DBA0	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006DBB0	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006DBC0	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.
0006DBD0	67	00	4F	00	69	00	59	00	4F	00	43	00	66	00	44	00	g.O.i.Y.O.C.f.D.

At this stage we chose to focus our efforts on dynamically analyzing the malware's actions in order to deliver faster advisory, especially since the infrastructure is still active at the time of writing this report.

The Malware's Modus Operandi

1. The malware was detonated in Nyotron's Malware Lab.
2. Upon launch, the malware queries several registry values in order to check whether it is executed on a virtual machine.
3. If not running on a virtual machine, the malware injects code into "RegAsm.exe", Microsoft's Assembly Registration Tool. RegAsm.exe is used to register or unregister .NET components Object Model (COM) assemblies.
4. The injected RegAsm.exe collects information from the victim's machine, such as:
 - The active computer name
 - BIOS information
 - Data and credentials from different applications (Web browsers, FTP clients and mail clients). As we see in the image below, RegAsm.exe reads files which store usernames and passwords for Google Chrome and FileZilla:

RegAsm.exe	1212	ReadFile	C:\Users\User\AppData\Local\Google\Chrome\User Data\Default>Login Data	SUCCESS
RegAsm.exe	1212	ReadFile	C:\Users\User\AppData\Roaming\FileZilla\recentServers.xml	SUCCESS

5. RegAsm.exe communicates with "checkip.amazonaws.com" via port 80, probably in order to check for network connectivity, and to find the endpoint's IP. Then, it communicates with a remote mail server - "mail.ofertascarlinibizal.com" via port 587 (SMTP). It sends the victim's computer name and the encrypted information that was gathered.
- 6.

```

220-ns222.rayohost.net ESMTP Exim 4.92 #2 Tue, 10 Sep 2019 12:11:04 +0200
220-We do not authorize the use of this system to transport unsolicited,
220 and/or bulk e-mail.
EHLO User-PC Victim's computer name
250-: Hello [redacted] [redacted]
250-SIZE 52428800
250-8BITMIME
250-PIPELINING
250-AUTH PLAIN LOGIN
250-STARTTLS
250 HELP
STARTTLS
220 TLS go ahead
[redacted]v.v.m. }...^g...".'. .....9.3.5./
.
.8.2.
.....=mail.ofertascarlinibiza.com Mail Server
[redacted]Y.z.(
.^~E.....yX-.....# v.....\.....j.].....n..K.?;B....C.....

F.k...0...L..P.....F...BA..U.n.....+h..'Q
d..F5..J
0G...S...mbX.....=..II.Fe...:..X.....0...{.b+}.o.....;...dZ...Hv.1.?w:..@M...pF.
.x.]...u...S...u...N.#...o.....0...L.T._Ed?.@..h\..D.W.Y.....L...[.....=0'd..H.nA.....Wt...
g..7.s7....d)...c!...Y.u...N4.tN....f7..}P.
..|.l....@..5....&.k..4.S~.l.y...;..n.3M....(.n.)gx/.B..J..Jv.T|...0..Y..uvv0W..[m^V.#.5.>...!..
4.....P.Q>D.;]u.h.<S.k.....r@H;.....D^..g.Y..
@....."N..N.Z....(.02..T)...i...12.....?kP.....ETT7t.7.HC.....0.m&-(.E..?.u.....ε
[.5S..I..2....]..6..i...ro...I... ..j.X...0..u.&m...z...G..m..B..h.i..oV..5.5..`H.m.
5PfxRZ.....p...F.6..0..s6.....dM..u..9..
V.....W
.rnUE9^..VV..1$.....m.v.@...@...~...+.....;...t...~L(T.v.Vv.e .DX...<D~1.*...GT?.A%.x.QR../
5.....S...?/...@...#B..P.....^3.C2
.I\..w..v...@pM..7 ..j./.[d.kj.D.....pP.!5.....I]@.#..)]5k...qf.v...C].[..Ce... 'U...../..Z
.z.....y..I.'.....J..n.U...:..g^...z..h.%~.G...[.....$......d.&.*?.....]&ys.....3.....;.@.
M6..8.k...K.....{x...i
.....X..!c...G.....Hfr.....k...jCt;\n..U.7....p.F..... .....5)...X[...#.?!<)...yUf
'.....c[...u.E@r...<.I.....em.....J@/.....
>L.-.C...au,S...=0.w...#...A..i.p$g_...I.${.m5.N.+a..n.R.(.[ ]^.&r.n....A...))g... .6...X
[...wB.bM,dF.....).....9.g"...5.w...^.....].'.F.....)....."A.s...QV
[...t.BE..x.S..... *..T.xT.2K.....Y..9E.Jj&...@C".l.[...!L...^...{Y..mk$...P..^
%.c23.8.1(.V.4COR.p.../uJ.@...F!(.g.aB..63.&U.....8..hB<...].
.$..n...0.....k...|.....E...>..La{).er).#Y.Cf.M.J...(.d9.....x)..BXU...f...vY.u.pg.c...

```

Encrypted information from the victim's machine

Link to Agent Tesla

We link this variant to Agent Tesla based on the following observations:

1. Use of encrypted SMTP traffic which is [common for AgentTesla](#)
2. Use of .NET with multiple stages and layers of [obfuscation](#)
3. Password stealing functionality similar to AgentTesla
4. Mutex with "frenchy_shellcode" prefix found in several other AgentTesla samples
5. Checking the victim's IP address using checkip.amazonaws.com
6. Several signature-based engines detected the sample as AgentTesla

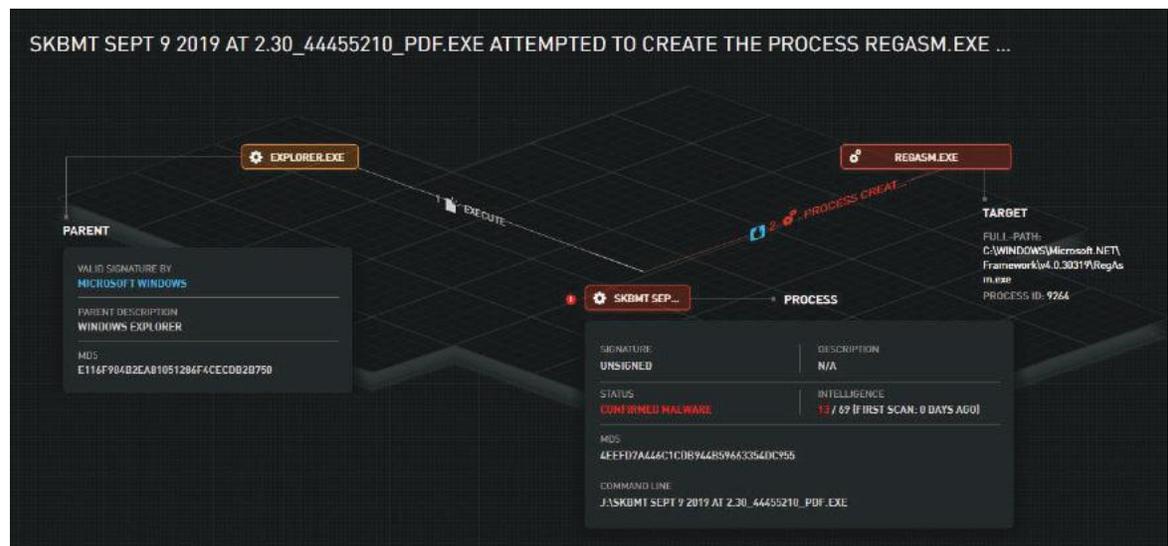
Analysis Summary

The following processes and activities were observed on the attacked machine:

1. An ISO file was mounted on the client's victim's machine seconds before the malware was prevented by PARANOID. The ISO file was likely created by "IMGBURN V2.5.8.0 - THE ULTIMATE IMAGE BURNER!" According to VT's relations graph of the sample.
2. PARANOID prevented the malware (which was launched from a CD-ROM drive) from executing "RegAsm.exe". This action prevented Agent Tesla from causing any damage to the infected machine. The malware attempted to execute "RegAsm.exe" more than 20,000 times before failing.

Incident Investigation in the PARANOID Console

The following image shows an overview of the attack (processes and activities):



How did AV vendors do?

Some interesting findings:

1. When the sample was uploaded to VirusTotal on 09/09/2019, no detections identified it as Agent Tesla. Some vendors identified it as a generic or heuristic malware.
2. When first analyzed in VirusTotal, most well-known security vendors, such as McAfee, BitDefender, ESET, Microsoft, TrendMicro, Cylance and Kaspersky did not detect it as malware at all. The attacked machine in particular had Kaspersky Endpoint Security solution installed and running.
3. In the second analysis, which took place a few hours later, Kaspersky detected the sample as Multi.Generic. Symantec, who had originally identified the sample as malicious, changed their decision several times.
4. Although Fortinet published a detailed report last year regarding an Agent Tesla variant, it did not identify the new sample as malicious when it was first uploaded to VirusTotal.
5. On first analysis, the ISO file that was used to deliver the malware was detected by only 2 vendors out of 57. Later on, more vendors detected the file as generic malware.

Conclusions

1. PARANOID's preventative capabilities proved effective against a new Agent Tesla variant.
2. PARANOID prevented a new sample of Agent Tesla which had been uploaded to the internet only a few hours prior to the attack.
3. It takes the majority of well-known AV and NGAV products days, or even longer, to start identifying new variants of old malware.

Indicators of Compromise (IOCs)

Type	Indicator	Description
File (MD5)	4EEFD7A446C1CDB944B59663354DC955	SKMBT_Sept9_2019_at_2.30_44455210_PDF.exe (Agent Tesla)
File(SHA-256)	af0555109dfa352a7aafb70c3f63e8411b6cf8efe3398f99de55365efb34688e	
File(MD5)	c20713a1c59a96729f4dbc1a9d4a4bee	ISO Containing AgentTesla
File(SHA-256)	fa11c41dbec328a4b75aaf7e6b349c872948203e0109aea6ba6686780b34c85f	
File(MD5)	29720f90fc539f1e4eb02130c09d3ad4	Dynamically loaded assembly
File(SHA-256)	1d2bae6f14d7cdeaa2ee1819d352eca0978538387ae174e52ef2228034f362c3	
File(MD5)	c514557447f1095980ee54d2a37bfaca	Extracted resource
File(SHA-256)	51d3563c7aa0c4752bc8ce9c1d6d18b5f2d61d91358c71a4de16803c5fa1f877	
Domain	mail.ofertascarinibiza.l.com	Mail server
IP	176.31.122.lj228	Mail server

References

1. <https://attack.mitre.org/software/S0331/>
2. https://www.cyberint.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/CyberInt_New_Agent_Variant_Tesla_Targets_the_Financial_Industry_Reports.pdf
3. <https://www.fortinet.com/blog/threat-research/analysis-of-new-agent-tesla-malware-variant.html>
4. <https://www.joesandbox.com/analysis/172301/0/html> - Similar sample 1
5. <https://www.joesandbox.com/analysis/172150/0/html> - Similar sample 2

About Nyotron

Nyotron pioneers a new generation of automatic Endpoint Detection and Response with integrated protection called Endpoint Prevention and Response (EPR). Our product prevents damage from malware that evades existing security layers and offers granular visibility into the attack. Based on the OS-Centric Positive Security model, Nyotron's PARANOID automatically whitelists trusted operating system behavior and rejects everything else. No manual threat hunting, baselining, machine learning or cloud connectivity required. With PARANOID organizations gain true defense-in-depth protection against the most advanced attacks. Nyotron is headquartered in Santa Clara, CA with an R&D office in Israel.



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