

The Phoenix Rises Again

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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.

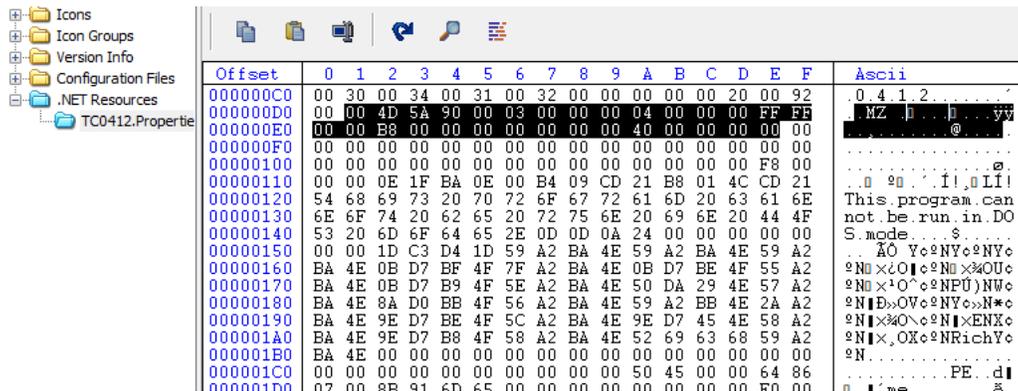


Fig.1: '.tprc' ransomware payload in .Net Resources

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

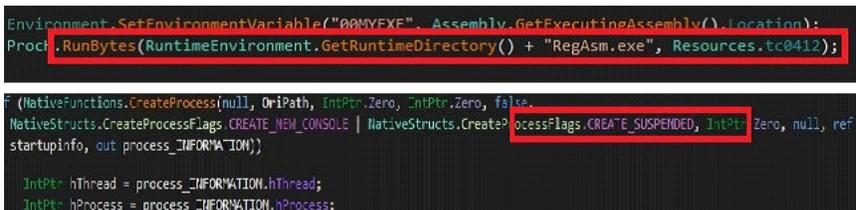


Fig.2: Creating process RegAsm.exe in Suspend mode for injecting the 'TC0412' from resource



Fig.3: C2 connection

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.

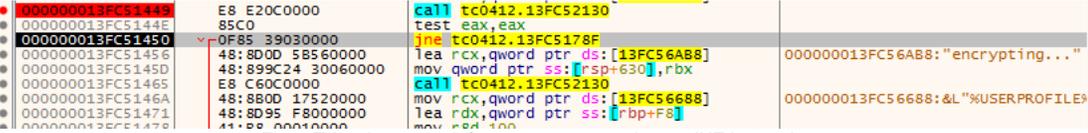


Fig.4: Takes jump to exit from process execution on JNE instruction

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.


```

000000013FD92634 42:0FB84400 B8 movzx eax,byte ptr >>:gru
000000013FD92634 49:FFC1 inc r9
000000013FD92635 41:3002 xor byte ptr ds:[r10],al
000000013FD92640 49:FFC2 inc r10

```

Fig.12: XOR operation part of the encryption

```

CS CF CE 00 3C 00 00 00 08 00 E9 3C 95 56 99 FE A11.k.....é.c.v.b
E7 AA 28 20 11 00 00 BA 24 00 0A 00 00 00 79 61 c*+...$....ya
72 61 36 34 2E 65 78 65 D4 5D 08 7C 53 57 19 4F ra64.exe0].|S.W.0
7B 03 44 DA 2D 45 EB EC B4 42 B6 64 B3 63 75 76 {.DÜ-EÉ1 B1d*cuv
BB 55 38 D7 69 2F 48 24 D1 64 80 7B 3B D9 D8 18 »U;X1/K$Nd.};Ü0.
15 14 28 03 AA 4C 65 83 C1 74 F5 AE 8A 6F 7C 4F {..(.Le.At0°.o|0

```

Fig.13: Encryption begins

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

```

I371FB0 CS CF CE 00 3C 3C C2 00 29 B9 D3 A4 9E 73 C6 AA A11.<<A.)'0r,seA
I371FC0 B9 E8 F4 1A 8D 5E F0 78 94 CA 38 84 DD 89 C0 C1 'eö..<Dx.E8.Y.AA
I371FD0 28 64 C5 EA F5 DC E6 E3 04 07 F1 B8 E8 43 4E 74 (dAëöüää..ñ.eCNT
I371FE0 25 52 F2 58 71 EA 12 1D 3D DF 28 19 FE 56 F5 27 »RbXqë..=8(.pvö'
I371FF0 AD E0 0E A6 2B 08 B9 82 C7 A3 DB BA 11 4D BA 02 .ä.+. 'cfr0°.M°.
I372000 10 DD 97 13 B4 9C 8B AB B9 AD FC 2A 65 81 14 2D .Y...»«'.ü"ez.-
I372010 6C 05 6A DA D8 CF CA F0 01 35 1A A5 81 8D A0 5F 1.jü0fE0.5.%.%-
I372020 C7 6D D8 E5 70 28 5A 15 E1 6A E2 19 91 CB AC 63 çm0äp(z.Ajâ..E=c
I372030 F7 AC 33 99 CE 48 12 43 C2 86 E2 FE A0 49 26 46 +»3.IK.CA.âp I&F
I372040 45 92 37 32 5A 7C EB BA 58 08 B8 95 D5 48 46 60 E.72Z]èx.»,0HF'
I372050 08 26 8C 7F F4 D5 55 38 35 62 48 F3 E6 3D B0 BC .&.00U;5b0he="x
I372060 2C 36 F3 5F 9D 40 26 18 34 C6 CE 70 B9 2A 56 A1 ,gö..@.4Ed'»Vj
I372070 76 E4 9F 6C CO 79 B5 D9 4C CD F2 39 81 DE 68 CF vâ.IAyüüI09.pki
I372080 AF E4 D7 6C BB 0A 68 65 1E FC 9F C0 F1 A0 E8 5E "axl".he.ü.Añ e^A
I372090 B7 C9 4E F1 1D 35 29 5F A8 95 7D E8 57 68 03 B8 .ENñ.5)...)ewk.
I3720A0 84 72 50 7E 2C 56 7D 9A 06 8D 46 6A 51 E5 B9 48 .rP~.V)...FjQÄ.H
I3720B0 64 E3 18 1E E7 9A 58 5A 09 BB 8D 28 52 97 94 F9 dâ..ç.XZ.»%R(ü.H
I3720C0 0A DE E1 F4 5D 74 F3 B7 83 E5 06 4E 7E 5F 1D 79 .päö]tö..â.N~.y
I3720D0 AC A8 90 7A 93 92 09 A3 63 E4 D8 DF D6 98 65 90 -..z...fca0B0.e.
I3720E0 D6 9D 6C 84 75 79 21 CC 08 22 7C 84 14 FA D2 07 0.l.yüiI."|.üD.
I3720F0 DE 48 84 AD 5E 08 C0 24 B6 A6 1F 8D 4F 92 62 AB bh..A.A$!""..o.b«
I372100 B2 48 C7 F9 9D 47 FD 56 4E BD A3 45 3D 97 22 94 *Kçü.GyVN$!E="..
I372110 33 28 E6 60 FC 1A 82 76 A9 3B CF FB 67 3E E1 4F 3+è ü..vø;Iüg>ä0

```

Fig.14: File after encryption

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.

```

J021E4E0 65 A8 3F 99 33 1F E9 72 D6 F8 5D F9 45 79 CD CA e"?m3.èr0ø]üEyIE
J021E4F0 D1 1E 43 36 16 FF 60 7F E0 6B 53 AE B7 C7 EE 70 N.C6.y'.àkS0-Çip
J021E500 19 45 01 00 00 00 24 4D 92 96 88 DE CF D5 5D 02 .E...$M'-'PIÖ].
J021E510 15 D0 AD AF C9 A3 F9 7C 20 96 00 00 00 00 B.D.~Éfèù| -....

```

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

```

I4000133A 48 8B 05 BF 8C 00 00 mov rax, cs:off_14000A000 ; ".tprc"
I40001341 4C 8D 05 38 55 00 00 lea r8, a5S ; "%s%s"
I40001348 4D 8B CE mov r9, r14
I4000134B 48 89 44 24 20 mov qword ptr [rsp+4A0h+ShareAccess], rax
I40001350 BA 04 01 00 00 mov edx, 104h ; BufferCount
I40001355 C6 85 60 01 00 00 01 mov [rbp+3A0h+var_240], 1
I4000135C 48 8D 8D 74 01 00 00 lea rcx, [rbp+3A0h+var_22C] ; Buffer
I40001363 4C 89 BD 68 01 00 00 mov [rbp+3A0h+var_238], r15
I4000136A E8 41 09 00 00 call sprintf_s_0
I4000136F 85 C0 test eax, eax

```

Fig.16: Adding extension '.tprc' to file

On completing data encryption and changing the extension, it drops a file with the name "I!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 00 mov rax, cs:off_14000A008 ; I!RESTORE.txt
40001B23 4C 8D 05 86 4D 00 00 lea r8, a5S_0 ; "%s\\%s"
40001B2A 4D 8B CD mov r9, r13 File Name

.BB6 89 7D 00 mov [rbp+660h+var_678.Attribute
.BB9 F3 0F 7F 45 08 movdq xmmword ptr [rbp+660h+var_
.BBE FF 15 64 47 00 00 call cs:NtCreateFile
.BC4 85 C0 test eax, eax
.BC6 75 56 jnz short loc_140001C1E

I1C04 48 8D 45 A8 lea rax, [rbp+660h+var_6B8]
I1C08 48 89 44 24 20 mov qword ptr [rsp+760h+ShareAccess], rax ;
I1C0D FF 15 4D 47 00 00 call cs:NtWriteFile
I1C13 48 8B 4C 24 68 mov rcx, [rsp+760h+Handle] ; Handle

'Attention! Your files have been encrypted.',0Ah
; DATA XREF: .data:Buffer4
'To regain access to your files, you must pay a ransom.',0Ah
'Contact us at evil@mail.address to handle payment.',0Ah
'Do not attempt to decrypt your files using third-party software,
'as this will permanently damage your files.',0Ah,0 Ransom note

```

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.

```

0014EA 48 8D 0D FF 53 00 00 lea rcx, aSettingWallpap ; "setting wallpaper..."
0014C1 E8 6A 0C 00 00 call sub_140002130
0014C6 48 8D 55 E0 lea rdx, [rbp+520h+Buffer]; lpBuffer
0014CA E9 04 01 00 00 mov ecx, 104h ; nBufferLength
0014CF FF 15 6B 4B 00 00 call cs:GetTempPathA
0014D5 4C 8D 05 FC 53 00 00 lea r8, Source ; "wp.png"
0014DC EA 04 01 00 00 mov edx, 104h ; SizeInBytes
0014E1 48 8D 4D E0 lea rcx, [rbp+520h+Buffer]; Destination
0014E5 FF 15 05 4E 00 00 call cs:strcat_s
0014EB 48 8D 4D E0 lea rcx, [rbp+520h+Buffer]; FileName
0014EF E8 7C 08 00 00 call sub_140001D70

```

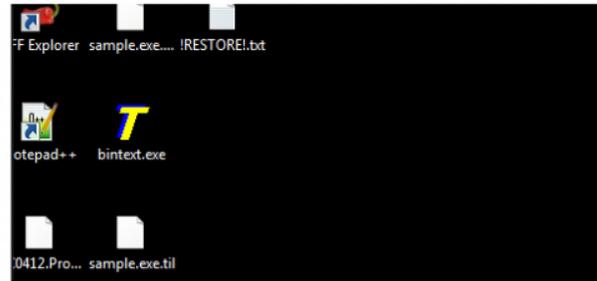


Fig.18: Changing desktop wallpaper and its assembly code

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".

```

14000163D 4C 8B 0D D4 89 00 00 mov r9, cs:lpNewFileName
140001644 4C 8D 05 D5 53 00 00 lea r8, Format ; "C:\\Windows\\System32\\WindowsPowerShell"...
14000164B BA 08 02 00 00 mov edx, 208h ; BufferCount
140001650 48 8D 8D 00 03 00 00 lea rcx, [rbp+520h+Data]; Buffer

```

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 rdx, SubKey ; "Software\\Microsoft\\Windows\\CurrentVe..."
5CE 48 89 4C 24 20 mov [rsp+620h+lpData], rcx ; lpData
5D3 41 B9 01 00 00 00 mov r9d, 1 ; dwType
5D9 48 C7 C1 01 00 00 80 mov rcx, 0FFFFFFF80000001h ; hKey
5E0 FF 15 1A 4A 00 00 call cs:RegSetKeyValueA

```

Fig.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

```

16CA 48 8D 0D 5F 52 00 00 lea rcx, aClearVss ; "clear vss..."
16D1 E8 5A 0A 00 00 call sub_140002130
16D6 0F 57 C0 xorps xmm0, xmm0
16D9 C7 44 24 70 68 00 00 mov [rsp+620h+StartupInfo.cb], 68h ; 'h'
16E1 33 C0 xor eax, eax
16E3 48 8D 15 56 52 00 00 lea rdx, CommandLine ; "wmic.exe shadowcopy delete"
16EA 89 45 D4 mov dword ptr [rbp+520h+StartupInfo.hStdError+4], eax
16ED 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.

IoCs

Hash	Detection Name
96CE6FB0513AC8F9DBCE153F362D6C7D	Ransomware (005a7a3d1)