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Analysis of the Predator Pain Keylogger

Written by Kimberly on Sunday, 27 April 2014. Posted in Malware Reports Viewed 11403 times



The **Predator Pain Keylogger** incorporates Browser, Messenger, FTP and File stealers and is able of Clipboard and Screenhot logging, Bitcoin Wallet theft.

Predator Pain targets Steam, MineCraft and World of WarCraft usernames and passwords. A Runescape Pin Stealer is also available.

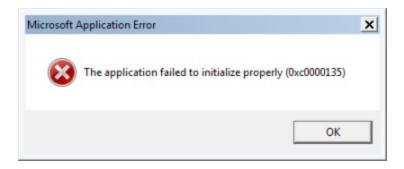
Predator Pain can disable several Windows features and spread via USB or P2P. **KazyLoader**, also known as **Karagany**, is used as the file downloader in this sample.

The Predator Pain Keylogger is advertised for 35\$ on underground forums and comes with its own crypter.

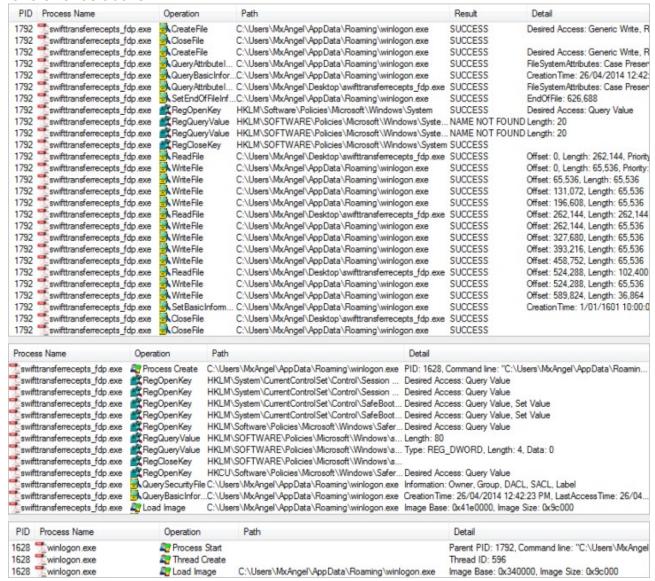
Predator Pain is the payload of an unsolicited email from the IRS with the subject line "Swift Transfer Confirmation". No money at the horizon in this fake email but a swift transfer of all logins and passwords the Predator Pain Keylogger can possibly grab.

Predator Pain Keylogger

Upon execution SWIFTTRANSFERRECEPTS_FDP.EXE will display an error message stating that the application failed to initialize properly. The warning is a **fake error** message and part of the Predator Pain builder options.



In meanwhile SWIFTTRANSFERRECEPTS_FDP.EXE will create a copy of itself as WINLOGON.EXE in the %AppData%\Roaming folder and start the newly created process. WINLOGON.EXE will also create a global Low Level Keyboard hook and display the same fake error as above.

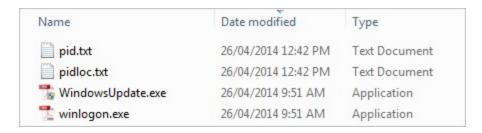


WINLOGON.EXE creates the following files in the %AppData%\Roaming folder:

- pid.txt: contains the PID of the Predator Pain Keylogger process e.g. 1628
- pidloc.txt: contains the path to the Predator Pain logger executable e.g. %AppData%\Roaming\winlogon.exe

| PID | Process Name | Operation | Path |
|------|--------------|--------------|---|
| 1628 | winlogon.exe | Create File | C:\Users\MxAngel\AppData\Roaming\pid.txt |
| 1628 | winlogon.exe | ■ CreateFile | C:\Users\MxAngel\AppData\Roaming\pid.txt |
| 1628 | winlogon.exe | ■ WriteFile | C:\Users\MxAngel\AppData\Roaming\pid.txt |
| 1628 | winlogon.exe | CloseFile | C:\Users\MxAngel\AppData\Roaming\pid.txt |
| 1628 | winlogon.exe | Create File | C:\Users\MxAngel\AppData\Roaming\pidloc.bt |
| 1628 | winlogon.exe | CreateFile | C:\Users\MxAngel\AppData\Roaming\pidloc.txt |
| 1628 | winlogon.exe | ■ WriteFile | C:\Users\MxAngel\AppData\Roaming\pidloc.txt |
| 1628 | winlogon.exe | CloseFile | C:\Users\MxAngel\AppData\Roaming\pidloc.bt |

Predator Pain will also create a copy of itself as WINDOWSUPDATE.EXE in the %AppData%\Roaming folder. Predator Pain checks periodically for the existence of WindowsUpdate.exe. If the file is deleted a new copy is written to the HDD.



The following registry keys are created to ensure persistence:

HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run "Windows Update"

Type: REG_SZ

Data: C:\Users\MxAngel\AppData\Roaming\WindowsUpdate.exe

HKEY CURRENT USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Winlogon

"Shell"

Type: REG SZ

Data: explorer.exe, C:\Users\MxAngel\AppData\Roaming\winlogon.exe

Before we go any further there are a few things that need clarification. When the Predator Pain binary - winlogon.exe in our analysis - is running, we can dump the strings contained in the different memory regions. The list is quite huge but for now we will focus on the three following elements:

• WebBrowserPassView: WebBrowserPassView.exe

Mail PassView: mailpv.exe

• **CMemoryExecute**: CMemoryExecute.dll

WebBrowserPassView

<u>WebBrowserPassView</u>, developed by Nir Sofer, is a tool to recover lost passwords stored in your web browser.

WebBrowserPassView supports Internet Explorer, Mozilla, Google Chrome, Safari, and Opera and can be used to recover lost / forgotten passwords of any website, including Facebook, Yahoo, Google, and GMail, as long as the password is stored by the browser. The passwords can be saved to text / html / csv / xml files.

Mail PassView

<u>Mail PassView</u>, developed by Nir Sofer, allows extracting lost email passwords from the following email clients:

- Outlook Express
- Microsoft Outlook 2000 (POP3 and SMTP Accounts only)
- Microsoft Outlook 2002/2003/2007/2010/2013 (POP3, IMAP, HTTP and SMTP Accounts)
- Windows Mail
- Windows Live Mail
- IncrediMail
- Eudora

- Netscape 6.x/7.x (If the password is not encrypted with master password)
- Mozilla Thunderbird (If the password is not encrypted with master password)
- Group Mail Free
- Yahoo! Mail If the password is saved in Yahoo! Messenger application.
- Hotmail/MSN mail If the password is saved in MSN/Windows/Live Messenger application.
- Gmail If the password is saved by Gmail Notifier application, Google Desktop, or by Google Talk.

CMemoryExecute - CMemoryExecute.dll

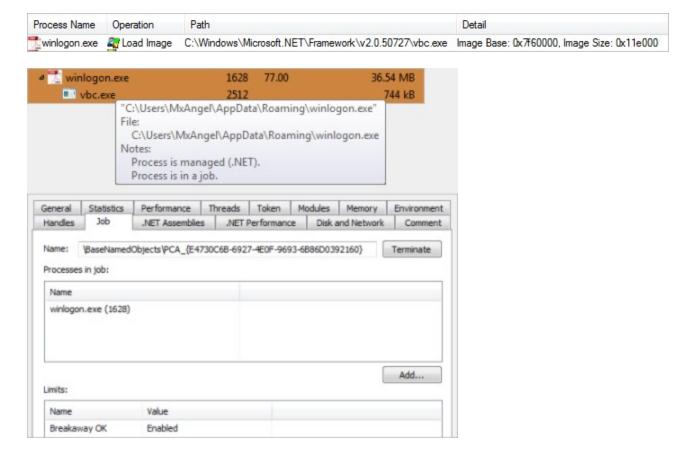
CMemoryExecute, written by **Affixiate**, is used to run a non .NET executable from memory without storing it on the hard-disk first. It uses the native WinAPI and the executable needs to be injected in VBC.EXE, the Visual Basic Command Line Compiler.

The syntax is as follows:

```
CMemoryExecute.Run(IO.File.ReadAllBytes("C:\run_me_in_memory.exe"),
"C:\inject_me_in_memory.exe", "(Optional) Command Line Parameters To Be Passed To
C:\run_me_in_memory.exe")
```

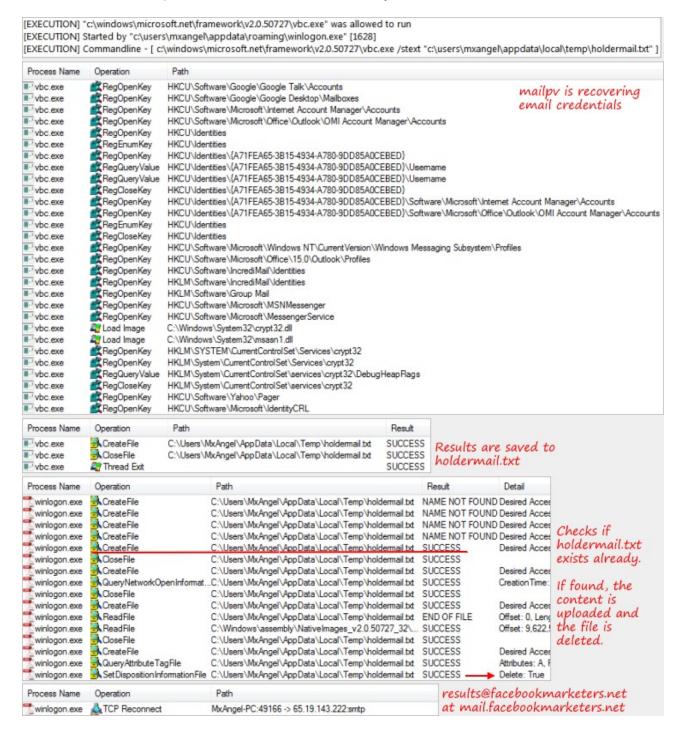
Predator Pain is thus able to harvest logins and passwords from several mail and browser clients with the help of two incorporated legit programs: WebBrowserPassView and Mail PassView.

Predator Pain will start up VBC.EXE, the Visual Basic Command Line Compiler, which is one of the requirements to run a PE from memory.



The Predator Pain Keylogger will:

- Run MAILPV.EXE from memory via VBC.EXE and dump the results to HOLDERMAIL.TXT.
- WINLOGON.EXE checks if HOLDERMAIL.TXT exists.
- WINLOGON.EXE reads HOLDERMAIL.TXT and uploads the harvested email credentials via mail - to This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it in our analysis.



The same tasks will be performed using WEBBROWSERPASSVIEW.EXE & VBC.EXE to harvest stored passwords in browsers.

| Process Name | Operation | Path | | | |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| vbc.exe vbc.exe vbc.exe vbc.exe vbc.exe vbc.exe | Create File Create File RegOpen K RegOpen K RegOpen K Create File | ey HKCU\Software\Qualcomm\E ey HKCR\Software\Qualcomm\E | Roaming\Thunderbird\Profiles Eudora\CommandLine Eudora\CommandLine\current t Ila Thunderbird | | als saved in are written wb.txt |
| Process O | peration | Path | | | Detail |
| ■ vbc.exe ■ vbc.exe | CloseFile | C:\Users\MxAngel\AppData\Local\ C:\Users\MxAngel\AppData\Local\ C:\Users\MxAngel\AppData\Local\ | Microsoft\Windows\History Microsoft\Windows\History | | Desired Access: Read Attr Creation Time: 7/01/2010 |
| | RegOpenKey | | s\CurrentVersion\Explorer\KnownFold | | Desired Access: Query Val |
| Vbc.exe | CreateFile QueryDirectory QueryDirectory CreateFile ReadFile | C:\Users\MxAngel\AppData\Local' | Microsoft\Windows\History* | 5 55* 55\index.dat 55\index.dat 55\index.dat 55\index.dat 55\index.dat 55\index.dat | Desired Access: Query Val Desired Access: Read Dat Filter: *, 1: . 0:, 1: desktop.ini, 2: Histo Desired Access: Read Dat Filter: *, 1: . 0:, 1: desktop.ini, 2: inde Desired Access: Generic F Offset: 0, Length: 32, Priori Allocation Size: 49, 152, En Offset: 20,480, Length: 8 Offset: 20,480, Length: 8 Offset: 20,736, Length: 8 Offset: 20,864, Length: 8 |
| Process O | peration | Path | Detail | | |
| vbc.exe vbc.exe vbc.exe vbc.exe vbc.exe | CloseFile CreateFile CreateFileMap | C:\Windows\System32\vaultcli.dll C:\Windows\System32\vaultcli.dll C:\Windows\System32\vaultcli.dll C:\Windows\System32\vaultcli.dll C:\Windows\System32\vaultcli.dll C:\Windows\System32\vaultcli.dll C:\Windows\System32\vaultcli.dll C:\Windows\System32\vaultcli.dll | Desired Access: Read Attributes, Disp CreationTime: 14/07/2009 9:37:00 A Desired Access: Read Data/List Direc SyncType: SyncTypeCreateSection, SyncType: SyncTypeOther Image Base: 0x72540000, Image Size | M, LastAcce ctory, Execut PageProtecti | |
| Description O | peration | Path | | | 5 - 4 |
| | | | | | Detail |
| vbc.exe | CloseFile CreateFile | C:\Program Files\Mozilla Firefox C:\Users\MxAngel\AppData\Roam C:\Users\MxAngel\AppData\Local\ C:\Users\MxAngel\AppData\Roam HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Win C:\Program Files\Sea Monkey\nss3 C:\Users\MxAngel\AppData\Local\ C:\Users\MxAngel\AppData\Local\ C:\Users\MxAngel\AppData\Roam C:\Users\MxAngel\AppData\Roam C:\Users\MxAngel\AppData\Roam | \Mozilla\SeaMonkey\Profiles\ ing\Mozilla\SeaMonkey\Profiles\ini dows\Current\Version\App Paths\seam 3.dll \Google\Chrome\User Data\ \Google\Chrome SxS\User Data\ ing\Apple Computer\Preferences\keyc ing\Opera\Opera\Wand.dat ing\Opera\OperaT\profile\wand.dat ing\Opera\Chrome SxS\User Data\ \Temp\holderwb.txt \Temp\holderwb.txt | onkey.exe D D D D D D D D D D D D D D D D D D D | Pesired Access: Read Pesired Access: Read Pesired Access: Read |

Below is a screenshot illustrating the flow of processes and services started by Predator Pain. The Protected Storage and Credential Manager services are started by the injected VBC.EXE process.

```
Process created: swifttransferrecepts_fdp.exe (1792) started by explorer.exe (1944)
Process terminated: dllhost.exe (3948)
Process terminated: dllhost.exe (3988)
Process terminated: swifttransferrecepts_fdp.exe (1792)
Process created: winlogon.exe (1628) started by Unknown Process (0)
Process created: WmiPrvSE.exe (2452) started by svchost.exe (612)
Process created: vbc.exe (2512) started by winlogon.exe (1628)
Service started: ProtectedStorage (Protected Storage)
Process terminated: vbc.exe (2512)
Process created: vbc.exe (2544) started by winlogon.exe (1628)
Process created: dllhost.exe (4088)
Process created: vbc.exe (2328) started by svchost.exe (612)
Service started: VaultSvc (Credential Manager)
Process terminated: vbc.exe (2544)
```

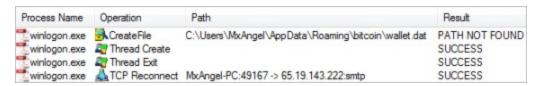
Besides harvesting various logins and passwords, Predator Pain reports the local Date and Time, the OS and the OS language, the internal and external IP address, installed antivirus and / or firewall. The external IP is obtained by querying whatismyipaddress.com.

In this sample all harvested information is send to This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it. The interval and the chosen method (FTP / PHP / MAIL) can be set in the Predator Pain builder's options.

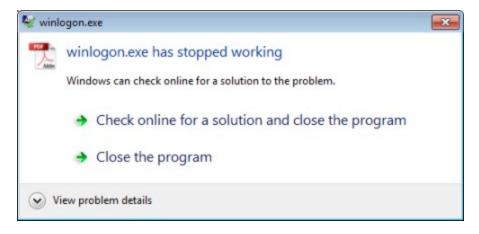
```
Protocol Length Info
DNS 81 Standard query Oxae92 A whatismyipaddress.com
DNS 298 Standard query response Oxae92 A 66.171.248.172

Protocol Length Info
DNS 87 Standard query Ox841c PTR 172.248.171.66.in-addr.arpa
DNS 201 Standard query response Ox841c PTR whatismyipaddress.com
DNS 86 Standard query Oxc2a0 A mail.facebookmarketers.net
DNS 163 Standard query response Oxc2a0 CNAME facebookmarketers.net A 65.19.143.222
TCP 66 49166 > smtp [SYN] Seq=0 win=8192 Len=0 MSS=1460 WS=256 SACK_PERM=1
```

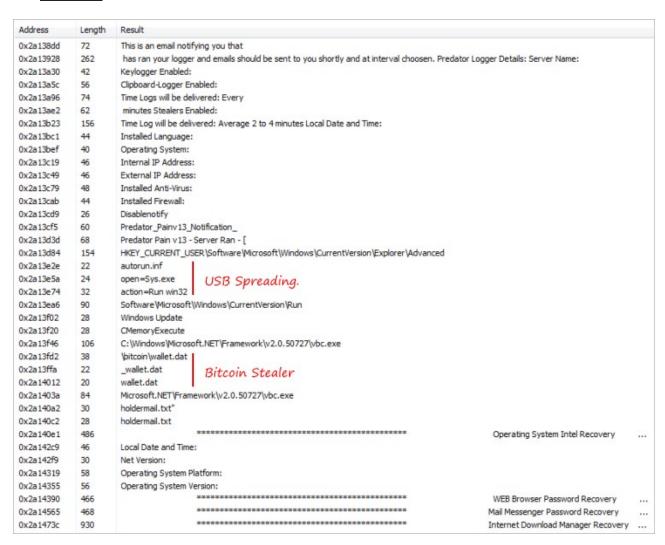
Predator Pain is also a Bitcoin Stealer. It steals the WALLET.DAT file that holds the users bitcoin currency.



After a while the WINLOGON.EXE process stopped working. It's hard to tell whether this is on purpose or simply because the logger is unstable.



When the WINLOGON.EXE process runs, the code in memory is unencrypted and its strings can be dumped from the different memory regions. I've posted a small snippet on our <u>Pastebin</u>.



VirusTotal Results



swifttransferrecepts_fdp.exe

Additional information

MD5: 8ce71e40eda2d9304c1e127c60500e0c

SHA1: 93ef97529dcaa047d023456103827b6f97345caf

SHA256: e63b24adf9119f7d500167a62d62d3b8a35f4694f8488fc764523fd322fb2dce

File size: 612.0 KB (626688 bytes)

Detection ratio: 16 / 51

Analysis date: 2014-04-26 08:52:43 UTC

| Antivirus | Result | Update |
|---------------------|------------------------|----------|
| Ad-Aware | Gen:Variant.Zusy.69824 | 20140426 |
| AegisLab | | 20140426 |
| Agnitum | | 20140425 |
| AhnLab-V3 | Trojan/Win32.Inject | 20140425 |
| AntiVir | | 20140425 |
| Antiy-AVL | | 20140426 |
| Avast | Win32:VB-AHWF [Trj] | 20140426 |
| AVG | | 20140426 |
| Baidu-International | | 20140426 |
| BitDefender | Gen:Variant.Zusy.69824 | 20140426 |
| Bkav | | 20140425 |
| ByteHero | | 20140426 |
| CAT-QuickHeal | | 20140425 |

| ClamAV | | 20140426 |
|-------------------|--|----------|
| CMC | | 20140424 |
| Commtouch | | 20140426 |
| Comodo | | 20140426 |
| DrWeb | | 20140426 |
| Emsisoft | Gen:Variant.Zusy.69824 (B) | 20140426 |
| ESET-NOD32 | a variant of MSIL/Injector.CUZ | 20140426 |
| F-Prot | | 20140426 |
| F-Secure | Gen:Variant.Zusy.69824 | 20140426 |
| Fortinet | MSIL/Injector.CSZ!tr | 20140426 |
| GData | Gen:Variant.Zusy.69824 | 20140426 |
| Ikarus | | 20140426 |
| Jiangmin | | 20140426 |
| K7AntiVirus | | 20140425 |
| K7GW | | 20140425 |
| Kaspersky | Trojan.Win32.Fsysna.zcf | 20140426 |
| Kingsoft | | 20140426 |
| Malwarebytes | Spyware.Zbot | 20140426 |
| McAfee | Artemis!8CE71E40EDA2 | 20140426 |
| McAfee-GW-Edition | Heuristic.LooksLike.Win32.Suspicious.E | 20140425 |
| Microsoft | | 20140426 |
| MicroWorld-eScan | Gen:Variant.Zusy.69824 | 20140426 |
| NANO-Antivirus | | 20140426 |
| Norman | | 20140426 |
| nProtect | | 20140425 |
| Panda | | 20140425 |

| Qihoo-360 | Win32/Trojan.53c | 20140426 |
|----------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Rising | | 20140425 |
| Sophos | | 20140426 |
| SUPERAntiSpyware | | 20140426 |
| Symantec | | 20140426 |
| TheHacker | | 20140425 |
| TotalDefense | | 20140426 |
| TrendMicro | | 20140426 |
| TrendMicro-HouseCall | TROJ_GEN.F47V0425 | 20140426 |
| VBA32 | | 20140425 |
| VIPRE | | 20140425 |
| ViRobot | | 20140426 |
| | | |