Maktub Locker – Beautiful And Dangerous

blog.malwarebytes.com/threat-analysis/2016/03/maktub-locker-beautiful-and-dangerous/

hasherezade

March 24, 2016



Maktub Locker is another <u>ransomware</u> that comes with a beautifully designed GUI and few interesting features. Its name originates from the Arabic word <u>maktub</u> which means "this is written" or "this is fate". The authors were probably trying to make a joke by referencing the act of getting infected with ransomware, hinting that it is uninvited and unavoidable, just like fate.

Analyzed samples

Special thanks to <u>MalwareHunterTeam</u> and <u>Yonathan Klijnsma</u> for sharing the samples.

Behavioral analysis

This ransomware comes in a spam campaign, pretending to be a document with a Terms-Of-Service update. This time full packing have a consistent theme: name of the attachment is made to resemble a document (examples: "TOS-update-[...].scr", "20160321_tos.scr"), also it has a a document-like icon:



An interesting trick used by this ransomware to spoof legitimate behavior is that it really displays a document! Specifically, a fake TOS update in *.rtf* format:



While the user is busy reading the document, the malicious program runs in the background and encrypts his/her files.

Encryption process

Maktub Locker does not need to download a key from the CnC server – data can be encrypted offline as well. Extensions given to the encrypted files are random, generated at runtime – their pattern is: **[a-z]{4,6}**

The new and surprising thing is that encrypted files are much smaller than the original ones. It seems this ransomware not only encrypts but also compresses files.

Original files and their sizes:

🔝 square.gif	2016-02-22 01:14	14 KB
📔 square.jpg	2016-02-22 01:14	5 KB
尾 square.png	2016-01-20 19:19	2 KB
🛃 square1.bmp	2016-01-20 19:21	140 KB
🋃 square2.bmp	2016-02-22 01:15	48 KB
🛃 square3.bmp	2016-02-22 01:15	24 KB
🛃 square4.bmp	2016-02-22 01:15	7 KB
📄 tekst.txt	2016-01-31 16:50	1 KB

The same files after encryption:

DECRYPT_INFO_jkhnhu.html	2016-03-21 18:57	6 KB
🛐 square.gif	2016-02-22 01:14	14 KB
square.jpg.jkhnhu	2016-03-21 18:57	3 KB
square.png.jkhnhu	2016-03-21 18:57	1 KB
square1.bmp.jkhnhu	2016-03-21 18:57	1 KB
square2.bmp.jkhnhu	2016-03-21 18:57	7 KB
square3.bmp.jkhnhu	2016-03-21 18:57	1 KB
square4.bmp.jkhnhu	2016-03-21 18:57	1 KB
tekst.txt.jkhnhu	2016-03-21 18:57	1 KB

See below a visualization of bytes.

square.bmp : left – original, right encrypted with *Maktub Locker*:



* ^- the bitmap is compressed very well, so the encrypted

file is tiny

A possible reason of compressing files first is to speed up the encryption process.

Encrypted content is different on each run of the sample. However, in a single run, files with the same content will give the same output. We can conclude that the random key is generated only once – at program's start. After that, every file is encrypted using the same key.

After the encryption is finished, the following GUI pops up:



It provides a victim a custom-formatted key: 82 chunks, each 5 character long (chunk format: [A-Z0-9]{5}). Each time the sample runs, this key is newly generated.

The same information (and layout) can be found in an HTML file

(_DECRYPT_INFO_[\$EXTENSION].html), dropped in each encrypted directory.

Website for the victim

These days, it's a common feature of ransomware to provide a TOR-accessed website for the victim and Maktub Locker is no different. Similar to the ransom note, the website is only available in English. In order to access the individual page, the victim is supposed to paste his/her key (the one supplied in the ransom note) into the input box provided on the website.

Enter your decryption key here:				
	Submit			

It then redirects to the main website. In comparison to other ransomware families, Maktub Locker actually has a very nicely designed website, including clean and polite language used.



It comes with a demo, allowing the decryption of 2 selected files:

Jpload any encrypte Files available to dee	rypt: 0			
Number	File Name	Size	Link	
Number 1	File Name square1_bmp.png	Size 631 bytes	Link Download	

The price of decrypting files starts with 1.4 BTC and increases with time. The distributors warn that the website can be taken down and then it would not be possible to recover encrypted files:

Stage	Time of payment	How much money should be sent
	During the first 3 days	1.4 BTC (~\$588)
2	From 3 to 6 days	1.9 BTC (~\$798)
3	From 6 to 9 days	2.4 BTC (~\$1008)
4	From 9 to 12 days	2.9 BTC (~\$1218)
5	From 12 to 15 days	3.4 BTC (~\$1428)
6	(') More than 15 days	3.9 BTC (~\$1638)
15 days of	no payment, we do not guarant	ee that we saved the key. This site can

Inside

Maktub Locker comes packed in a well-written <u>crypter/FUD</u>, so the code is not readable at first. Also, due to the FUD's functions, detection is problematic and samples have a low detection ratio in the first hours/days after the campaign starts.

Unpacking

Execution starts in the FUD's code. At first we can see many harmless-looking (and completely useless) API calls and random strings.



This code is executed first, to deceive tools used to detect malicious behavior. Then it is completely overwritten by new code. However, this is also not the malware code, but just another layer of deception techniques. Below, you can see a fragment of the code responsible for unpacking and executing the bogus TOS update (it is first unpacked from the resources and dropped into the %TEMP% folder as a cabinet file):

00401F65LEA ERX,DWORD PTR SS:LEBP-628100401F66CPLL DWORD PTR DS:L402A401SETUPAPI.SetupIterateCabinetW00401F72TEST ERX,ERX00401F74JE SHORT tos_upda.00401FB500401F75PUSH 6S100401F76PUSH ES100401F77PUSH ES100401F78PUSH ES100401F78PUSH ES100401F78PUSH ES100401F78PUSH ES100401F78PUSH ES100401F82CALL DWORD PTR DS:L402A0100401F82CALL DWORD PTR SS:LEBP-20100401F82CALL DWORD PTR DS:L402A0100401F84PUSH ES100401F84PUSH ES100401F84PUSH ES100401F84PUSH ES100401F84PUSH ES100401F84PUSH ES100401F84PUSH ES100401F84PUSH ES100401F84PUSH ES100401F84CALL DWORD PTR DS:L402A0100401F84CALL DWORD PTR DS:L402A0100401F84CALL DWORD PTR DS:L402A0100401F84PUSH ES100401F84PUSH ES100401F84PUSH ES100401F84PUSH ES100401F84PUSH ES100401F87PUSH ES100401F84PUSH ES100401F84PUSH ES100401F84PUSH ES100401F87PUSH ES100401F84PUSH ES100401F87PUSH ES100401F84PUSH ES100401F87PUSH ES100401F87PUSH ES100401F87PUSH	00401604			
00401F6BPUSH EAX 00401F72SETUPAPI.SetupIterateCabinetW00401F72TEST EAX,EAX 00401F72SETUPAPI.SetupIterateCabinetW00401F72TEST EAX,EAX 00401F73IsShown = A (10.) DefDir DefDir00401F73PUSH ESI 00401F73DefDir Parameters00401F74PUSH ESI 00401F73FileName = "C:\Users\tester\AppData\Local\Temp\tos_update.rtf"00401F74PUSH ESI 00401F73DefDir Parameters00401F74PUSH ESI 00401F83FileName = "C:\Users\tester\AppData\Local\Temp\tos_update.rtf"00401F85PUSH ESI 00401F82StellExecuteW00401F86PUSH ESI 00401F83MutexName FileName00401F87PUSH ESI 00401F83MutexName FileName00401F84PUSH ESI 00401F85MutexName FileName00401F87PUSH ESI 00401F83MutexName FileName FileName00401F84PUSH ESI 00401F85FileName FileName FileName00401F87PUSH ESI 00401F88MutexName FileName FileName FileName FileName00401F87PUSH ESI 00401F88FileName FileName	00401F65	•	LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-628]	
00401F6C . CPLL DWORD PTR DS:[402A40] SETUPAPI.SetupIterateCabinetW 00401F72 . JEST EAX, EAX 00401F85 00401F74 . JEST EAX, EAX [IsShown = A (10.)] 00401F77 . PUSH ESI DefDir 00401F79 . PUSH ESI DefDir 00401F74 . PUSH ESI DefDir 00401F74 . PUSH ESI PuSH ESI 00401F80 . PUSH ESI DefDir 00401F82 . PUSH ESI DefDir 00401F82 . PUSH ESI DefDir 00401F83 . PUSH ESI DefDir 00401F84 . PUSH ESI DefDir 00401F85 . PUSH ESI DefDir 00401F86 . PUSH ESI DefDir 00401F87 . PUSH ESI DefDir 00401F88 . PUSH ESI DefDir 00401F86 . PUSH ESI MutexName 00401F87 . PUSH ESI MutexName 00401F88 . PUSH ESI CreateMutexA 00401F87 . PUSH ESI . FreeType = MEM_RELEASE 00401F87 . OHL DWORD PTR DS: [402A74] . FreeType = MEM_RELEASE	00401F6B	•	PUSH EAX	
00401F72TEST ERX.ERX UE SHORT tos_upda.00401FB500401F76PUSH 6A00401F76PUSH ESI00401F77PUSH ESI00401F78PUSH ESI00401F78PUSH ESI00401F78PUSH ESI00401F81PUSH ESI00401F83CALL DWORD PTR DS: [402A0C]00401F83CALL DWORD PTR DS: [402A0C]00401F84CALL DWORD PTR DS: [402A0C]00401F85PUSH ESI00401F86PUSH ESI00401F87PUSH ESI00401F88PUSH ESI00401F88PUSH ESI00401F84CALL DWORD PTR DS: [402A0C]00401F85PUSH ESI00401F86PUSH ESI00401F87CHL DWORD PTR DS: [402A18]00401F84CALL DWORD PTR DS: [402A20]00401F94CHL DWORD PTR DS: [402A20]00401F87OHL DWORD PTR DS: [402A18]00401F87PUSH ESI00401F87PUSH ESI <t< td=""><th>00401F6C</th><td>•</td><td>CALL DWORD PTR DS:[402A40]</td><td>SETUPAPI.SetupIterateCabinetW</td></t<>	00401F6C	•	CALL DWORD PTR DS:[402A40]	SETUPAPI.SetupIterateCabinetW
00401F74 . JE SHORT tos_upda.00401F85 00401F76 PUSH 681 00401F77 PUSH ESI 00401F78 PUSH ESI 00401F78 PUSH BSI 00401F78 PUSH ESI 00401F80 PUSH ESI 00401F81 PUSH ESI 00401F82 PUSH ESI 00401F83 . PUSH ESI 00401F83 . PUSH ESI 00401F84 . PUSH ESI 00401F85 . PUSH ESI 00401F86 . PUSH ESI 00401F87 . PUSH ESI 00401F88 . PUSH ESI 00401F80 . PUSH ESI 00401F81 . PUSH ESI 00401F82 . PUSH ESI 00401F83 . PUSH ESI 00401F84 . PUSH ESI 00401F85 . PUSH ESI 00401F86 . PUSH ESI 00401F87 . PUSH ESI 00401F88 . PUSH ESI 00401F94 . CHL DWORD PTR DS: [402A20] CFreetPublicexA . GetLastError 00401F97 . PUSH ESI 00401F97 . PUSH ESI	00401F72		TEST EAX.EAX	
00401F76 PUSH 091 00401F78 PUSH ESI 00401F88 PUSH ESI 00401F84 CALL DWORD PTR DS: [402A20] 00401F84 CALL DWORD PTR DS: [402A20] CreateMutexA CreateMutexA 00401F94 CHL DWORD PTR DS: [402A74] 00401F87 PUSH ESI 00401F87 PUSH ESI 00401F87 PUSH ESI 00401F87 PUSH ESI 00401F87	00401F74	•	JE SHORT tos_upda.00401FB5	
00401F78 PUSH ESI DefDir 00401F78 PUSH ESI Parameters 00401F79 PUSH ESI Deration 00401F80 PUSH ESI Deration 00401F82 CALL DWORD PTR DS: [402A0C] ShellExecuteW 00401F83 CALL DWORD PTR DS: [402A0C] ShellExecuteW 00401F83 CALL DWORD PTR DS: [402A0C] ShellExecuteW 00401F83 PUSH ESI MutexName 00401F84 PUSH ESI MutexName 00401F85 PUSH ESI Fieldenee 00401F85 PUSH ESI MutexName 00401F86 PUSH ESI State 00401F87 PUSH ESI CherateMutexA 00401F87 OPLL DWORD PTR DS: [402A018] CreateMutexA 00401F87 CHL DWORD PTR DS: [402A01 GetLastError 00401F87 JNZ SHORT tos_upda.00401FBA FreeType = MEM_RELEASE 00401F87 PUSH ESI State 00401F87 PUSH ESI VirtualFree 00401F87 CHL DWORD PTR DS: [402A74] VirtualFree 00401F87 CHL DWORD PTR DS: [402A74] VirtualFree <	00401F76		PUSH ØA	\mathbf{r} IsShown = A (10.)
00401F79 PUSH ESI Parameters 00401F780 PUSH ESI FileName = "C:\Users\tester\AppData\Local\Temp\tos_update.rtf" 00401F80 PUSH ESI FileName 00401F80 PUSH ESI MutexName 00401F80 PUSH ESI InitialOwner 00401F80 PUSH ESI FileName 00401F80 PUSH ESI FileName 00401F80 PUSH ESI MutexName 00401F80 PUSH ESI FileName 00401F80 PUSH ESI FileName 00401F80 PUSH ESI FreeType = MEM_RELERSE 00401F91 OH EAX,007 FreeType = MEM_RELERSE 00401F81 PUSH 851 FreeType = MEM_RELERSE 00401F87 PUSH 851 FileName 00401F87 PUSH 851 FileName 00401F87 PUSH 851 FileName 00401F87	00401F78		PUSH ESI	DefDir
00401F7A . PUSH DWORD PTR DS:[402A28] FileName = "C:\Users\tester\AppData\Local\Temp\tos_update.rtf" 00401F80 . PUSH ESI Operation 00401F82 . CALL DWORD PTR DS:[402A0C] ShellExecuteW 00401F88 . PUSH ESI MutexName 00401F82 . PUSH ESI InitialOwner 00401F88 . PUSH ESI CALL DWORD PTR DS:[402A02] 00401F88 . PUSH ESI Call DWORD PTR DS:[402A02] 00401F82 . PUSH ESI Scourity 00401F84 . PUSH ESI CreateMutexA 00401F85 . PUSH ESI FreeType = MEM_RELEASE 00401F97 . JNZ SHORT tos_upda.00401FBA FreeType = MEM_RELEASE 00401F87 . PUSH ESI Size 00401F87 . PUSH ESI Size 00401F97 . JNZ SHORT tos_upda.00401FBA FreeType = MEM_RELEASE 00401F88 . CALL DWORD PTR DS:[402A74] VirtualFree 00401F88 . CALL DWORD PTR DS:[402A74] VirtualFree 00401F87 . PUSH ESI ExitProcess	00401F79		PUSH ESI	Parameters
00401F80 PUSH ESI Operation 00401F81 PUSH ESI Deration 00401F82 Operation NUMd 00401F83 PUSH ESI Nume 00401F84 PUSH ESI InitialOwner 00401F85 Operation POSH ESI 00401F84 CHL DWORD PTR DS: [402A20] CherateMutexA 00401F94 OHL DWORD PTR DS: [402A20] CherateMutexA 00401F97 OPSH ESI GetLastError 00401F97 JNS SHORT tos_upda, 00401FBA FreeType = MEM_RELEASE 00401F97 PUSH ESI Size 00401F97 PUSH ESI VirtualFree 00401F87 OperateMutexA VirtualFree 00401F87 OHL DWORD PTR DS: [402A74] VirtualFree 00401F87 OHL DWORD PTR DS: [402A83] ExitProcess	00401F7A		PUSH DWORD PTR DS:[402A28]	FileName = "C:\Users\tester\AppData\Local\Temp\tos_update.rtf"
00401F81 PUSH ESI hUnd 00401F82 CALL DWORD PTR DS:[402A0C] ShellExecuteW 00401F83 LEA EAX.DWORD PTR SS:LEBP-20] ShellExecuteW 00401F83 PUSH ESI InitialOwner 00401F84 PUSH ESI InitialOwner 00401F85 CHLL DWORD PTR DS:[402A18] CreateMutexA 00401F84 CALL DWORD PTR DS:[402A20] GetLastError 00401F85 CHP EAX.087 00401F84 00401F84 CHP EAX.087 GetLastError 00401F87 PUSH ESI FreeType = MEM_RELEASE 00401F87 PUSH ESI GetLastError 00401F87 PUSH ESI FreeType = MEM_RELEASE 00401F87 PUSH ESI GetLastError 00401F87 PUSH ESI UirtualFree 00401F87 GetLLOWORD PTR DS:[402A74] UirtualFree 00401F87 PUSH ESI ExitProcess	00401F80		PUSH ESI	Operation
00401F82 CALL DWORD PTR DS: [402A0C] LShellExecuteW 00401F83 LEA EAX, DWORD PTR SS: [EBP-20] MutexName 00401F80 PUSH EAX InitialOwner 00401F80 PUSH ESI InitialOwner 00401F80 OHL DWORD PTR DS: [402A18] CreateNutexA 00401F80 CHL DWORD PTR DS: [402A18] CreateNutexA 00401F97 CALL DWORD PTR DS: [402A20] GetLastError 00401F97 JN2 SHORT tos_upda.00401FBA FreeType = MEM_RELEASE 00401F87 PUSH ESI Size 00401F87 PUSH ESI VirtualFree 00401F87 PUSH ESI VirtualFree 00401F88 CALL DWORD PTR DS: [402848] ExitProcess	00401F81		PUSH ESI	bWnd
00401F83 . LEA EAX, DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-20] 00401F83 . PUSH EAX 00401F85 . PUSH ESI 00401F94 . CALL DWORD PTR DS:[402A20] 00401F94 . CHL DWORD PTR DS:[402A20] 00401F94 . CHL DWORD PTR DS:[402A20] 00401F94 . CHL DWORD PTR DS:[402A20] 00401F95 . CHY EAX,087 00401F96 . CHY EAX,087 00401F97 . CHY EAX,087 00401F81 . PUSH 800 00401F84 . CHY EAX,087 00401F87 . PUSH 800	00401F82		CALL DWORD PTR DS: [402A0C]	ShellExecuteW
00401F88 . PUSH EAX MutexName 00401F88 . PUSH ESI InitialOwner 00401F82 . PUSH ESI . DistialOwner 00401F82 . CALL DWORD PTR DS: [402A18] CreateMutexA 00401F94 . CHP EAX, 087 . GetLastError 00401F95 . JNZ SHORT tos_upda.00401FBA . GetLastError 00401F97 . JNZ SHORT tos_upda.00401FBA . GetLastError 00401F76 . PUSH 8000 . FreeType = MEM_RELEASE 00401F77 . PUSH ESI . Size 00401F78 . OUSR DYR DS: [402A74] . VirtualFree 00401F77 . PUSH ESI . CHL DWORD PTR DS: [402A74] 00401F78 . CHL DWORD PTR DS: [402B48] . ExitCode	00401F88		LEA EAX.DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-20]	
00401F8C . PUSH ESI InitialOwner 00401F8D . PUSH ESI . DistialOwner 00401F8D . CHLL DWORD PTR DS:[402A18] CreateNutexA 00401F94 . CHLL DWORD PTR DS:[402A20] GetLastError 00401F97 . JN2 SHORT tos_upda.00401FBA . GetLastError 00401F87 . JN2 SHORT tos_upda.00401FBA . FreeType = MEM_RELEASE 00401FA1 . PUSH 851 . Size 00401FA2 . PUSH ESI . GetLastError 00401FA3 . PUSH ESI . Size 00401FA7 . PUSH ESI . Size 00401FA8 . CHL DWORD PTR DS:[402A74] . UirtualFree 00401FA7 . PUSH ESI . ExitCode 00401FA7 . CHL DWORD PTR DS:[402B48] . ExitProcess	00401F8B		PUSH EAX	MutexName
00401F8D PUSH ESI pSecurity 00401F8E CFLL DWORD PTR DS:[402A18] CreateHutexA 00401F94 CHL DWORD PTR DS:[402A20] GetLastError 00401F94 CHP EAX,087 GetLastError 00401F94 CHP EAX,087 GetLastError 00401F94 CHP EAX,087 GetLastError 00401F94 CHP EAX,087 GetLastError 00401F81 PUSH 800 FreeType = MEM_RELEASE 00401F87 PUSH ESI FreeType = MEM_RELEASE 00401F87 PUSH ESI Address 00401F88 CHL DWORD PTR DS:[402A74] UtrtualFree 00401F87 CHL DWORD PTR DS:[402B48] ExitProcess	00401F8C		PUSH ESI	InitialOwner
00401F8E . CALL DWORD PTR DS: [402A18] LCreateMutexA 00401F94 . CHL DWORD PTR DS: [402A20] FGetLastError 00401F97 . HL SA00 . FreeType = MEM_RELEASE 00401F97 . JNZ SHORT tos_upda.00401FBA . FreeType = MEM_RELEASE 00401FA6 . PUSH ESI . Size 00401FA7 . PUSH ESI . CALL DWORD PTR DS: [402A74] 00401FA7 . PUSH ESI . Address 00401FA8 . PUSH ESI . GALL DWORD PTR DS: [402A74] 00401FA7 . PUSH ESI . CHL DWORD PTR DS: [402A74] 00401FA7 . CALL DWORD PTR DS: [402B48] . ExitProcess	00401F8D		PUSH ESI	pSecurity
00401F94 CALL DWORD PTR DS:[402A20] [GetLastError 00401F94 CHP EAX,087 CHP EAX,087 00401F97 JAZ SHORT tos_upda.00401FBA EAX,087 00401F11 PUSH 8000 FreeType = MEM_RELEASE 00401FA7 PUSH ESI Size 00401FA7 PUSH EBX Address 00401FA8 CALL DWORD PTR DS:[402A74] UtrtualFree 00401FA7 PUSH ESI ExitCode 00401FA7 CALL DWORD PTR DS:[402B48] ExitProcess	00401F8E		CALL DWORD PTR DS:[402A18]	LCreateMutexA
00401F9A . CMP_EAX,0B7 00401F9A . JN2_SHORT_tos_upda.00401FBA 00401F9F . JN2_SHORT_tos_upda.00401FBA 00401FA6 . PUSH_ESI 00401FA7 . PUSH_ESI 00401FA7 . PUSH_ESI 00401FA8 . CALL_DWORD_PTR_DS:[402A74] 00401FA7 . PUSH_ESI 00401FA7 . CALL_DWORD_PTR_DS:[1402B48]	00401F94		CALL DWORD PTR DS:[402A20]	r GetLastError
00401F9F JN2 SHORT tos_upda.00401FBA 00401FA6 PUSH 800 00401FA7 PUSH ESI 00401FA7 CExitCode 00401FA7 CALL DWORD PTR DS: [402848]	00401F9A		CMP EAX.0B7	
00401FA1 • PUSH 8000 FreeType = MEM_RELEASE 00401FA7 • PUSH ESI Size 00401FA7 • PUSH ESI Address 00401FA8 • CALL DWORD PTR DS: [402A74] UtrtualFree 00401FAF • CALL DWORD PTR DS: [402B48] CExitCode 00401FAF • CALL DWORD PTR DS: [402B48] CExitProcess	00401F9F		JNZ SHORT tos upda.00401FBA	
00401FA6 PUSH ESI Size 00401FA7 PUSH EBX Address 00401FA8 CALL DWORD PTR DS:[402A74] UtrualFree 00401FAE PUSH ESI ExitCode 00401FAF CALL DWORD PTR DS:[402B48] ExitProcess	00401FA1		PUSH 8000	f FreeType = MEM RELEASE
00401FA7 PUSH EBX Address 00401FA8 CALL DWORD PTR DS:[402A74] UtrtualFree 00401FAF PUSH ESI EsiteCode 00401FAF CALL DWORD PTR DS:[402B48] ExitProcess	00401FA6		PUSH ESI	Size
00401FA8 CALL DWORD PTR DS:[402A74] UirtualFree 00401FAE PUSH ESI 00401FAE CALL DWORD PTR DS:[402B48] ExitCode 00401FAF CALL DWORD PTR DS:[402B48]	00401F07		PUSH EBX	Address
00401FAE . PUSH ESI 00401FAF . CALL DWORD PTR DS:[402B48] CExitProcess	00401FA8		CALL DWORD PTR DS: [402874]	UirtualFree
00401FAF . CALL DWORD PTR DS:[402B48] LExitProcess	00401F0E		PUSH EST	r EsitCode
	00401F0F		CALL DWORD PTR DS: [402848]	ExitProcess

The real malicious code starts in another module that is unpacked into dynamically allocated memory.

T Threa	ds						
Ident	Entry	Data block	Last error	Status	Priority	User time	System time
0000044C	10001230	7FFD9000	ERROR_SUCCESS (00	Active	32 + 0	20.9200 s	6.4592 s
000007FC	01035784	7FF00000	ERROR_SUCCESS (00)	Active	32 + 0 32 + 0	2.2732 s	0.0100 s 0.1201 s
00000AE4	773AFDØF	7FFDE000	ERROR_SUCCESS (00	Active	32 + Ø	0.0000 s	0.0000 s
00000B18	10001230	7FFD8000	ERROR_SUCCESS (00)	Active	32 + 0	21.4107 s	6.0286 s
000000094	773803E7	TEEDBOOO	ERROR_SOCCESS (00	HOTIVE	32 + 0	0.0000 s	0.0000 s

You can see above 2 threads with entry: 0x10001230. They belong to this malicious module. If we try to dump this memory area, we obtain a new PE file:

D Dump - 10000	021FFF	- • •
10000000 4D 5A 9 10000010 B8 00 0 10000020 00 00 0)3 88 88 88 84 88 88 88 88 88 88 88 88 88	MZE. ••
10000030 00 00 0 10000040 0E 1F E	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 E0 00 00 00 00 B4 09 CD 21 B8 01 4C CD 21 54 68 23 65 67 73 16 68	
10000060 74 20 6 10000070 6D 6F 6	20 72 75 6E 20 69 6E 20 44 4F 53 20 2 20 72 75 6E 20 69 6E 20 44 4F 53 20 2 2E 0D 0D 0A 24 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	t be run in DOS mode\$
10000080 CD 48 E 10000090 80 51 4 100000000 3C B7 3	89 29 DC 03 89 29 DC 03 89 29 DC 03 8 88 29 DC 03 89 29 DD 03 C5 29 DC 03 0 8E 29 DC 03 3C B7 03 03 88 29 DC 03	≕Hærej ¢ej ¢ej ¢ ÇQO¢š) ¢ë)T¢+) ¢ <Ê9¢A) ¢<Ê¢¢ö) ¢
100000B0 3C B7 0 100000C0 3C B7 0 100000D0 00 00 0	88 29 DC 03 84 78 07 03 88 29 DC 03 4 88 29 DC 03 52 69 63 68 89 29 DC 03 4 90 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	<e.♥≵)_♥ä{•♥≵)_♥ <e8♥≵)_♥Richë)_♥</e8♥≵)</e.♥≵)
100000E0 50 45 0 100000F0 00 00 0 10000100 00 10 0	+C 01 03 00 68 CD EB 56 00 00 00 00 10 50 00 02 21 08 01 0C 00 00 C0 00 00 30 40 01 00 80 06 02 00 00 50 01 00	PE.L0♥.h=0U. 0.€†∂0
10000110 00 10 0 10000120 05 00 0 10000130 00 20 0	10 00 00 10 00 10 00 00 00 00 02 00 00 30 00 00 00 05 00 01 00 00 00 00 00 . 30 10 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .	+0

This PE file is loaded in a continuous area of dynamically allocated memory and used as a new virtual section.

Unfortunately this time, dumping it will not give us the independent payload – unpacked content has invalid headers, i.e:

Na	me		Raw Addr.	Raw size	Virtual Addr.	Virtual Size	Characteristics	Ptr to Reloc.	Num. of Reloc	
4	UPX0		400	0	1000	10001000	60000080	0	0	- (
	>		400	٨	10002000	^	r-x			
4	UPX1		400	BA00	15000	10015000	60000040	0	0	- (
	>		BE00	٨	1002A000	^	r-x			
4	.rsrc		BE00	1000	21000	10021000	C0000040	0	0	- (
	>		CE00	٨	10042000	^	rw-			
٠										Þ.
Rav	N				₽×	Virtual			đ	x
.40	0	D. marcal				1000				
		[UPX0]					[UPX0]			
RØ	80									
		[.rsrc]				-				
						15000				
						15000	[UPX1]			
						29680				
	L						[.rsrc]			

This trick is used by the crypter in order to protect the payload from automated dumping tools. However, if we capture the unpacking at the right moment, before the headers are overwritten, we still can recover the original payload. It turns out to be a DLL (packed with UPX):

Offset	Name	Value	Meaning		
CD68	Characterist	0			
CD6C	TimeDateSt	56EBCD67			
CD70	MajorVersion	0			
CD72	MinorVersion	0			
CD74	Name	21FA4	C.dll		
CD78	Base	1			
CD7C	NumberOfF	2			
CD80	NumberOfN	2			
CD84	AddressOfF	21F90			
Details					
Offset	Ordinal	Function RVA	Name RVA	Name	Forwarder
CD90	1	2890	21FAA	one	
CD94	2	27B0	21FAE	two	

The code responsible for encrypting files is located in the function "one".

The DLL is packed with genuine version of <u>UPX</u>, so we can easily unpack it, getting an deobfuscated DLL as result with the following sections layout (unpacked *C.dll* : <u>38eff2f7c6c8810a055ca14628a378e7</u>):



However, we will still not see valid strings. Imports also seems irrelevant to the functionality (we will not find there, for example, any reference to the windows Crypto API). It is due to the fact that real imports are resolved dynamically. At the beginning of execution, the function "one" loads them on it's own – first, decrypting their names:

mov lea	<pre>edx, offset aPKVisMbiJgod ; "Ć:*Ő+óĘĹ-Číʬ-ÜŽú«Ą" ecx. [ebo+loMem]</pre>
call	decrypt_name
push	dword ptr [eax] ; 1pProcName
push	dword ptr [edi] ; hModule
call	ebx ; GetProcAddress
mov	esi, eax
lea	ecx, [ebp+lpMem]
mov	[edi+38h], esi ; store the handle
	mov lea call push push call mov lea mov

Then, they are accessed via dynamically loaded handles.

Execution flow

This malware first makes a list of all the files, and then processes them one by one. It also unpacks a built-in configuration with list of restricted paths and attacked executables. Each processed path is first checked against this list.

Below you can see a fragment of code opening file that is chosen to be encrypted. Call to the function CreateFileA is performed via handle and dynamically loaded into the EAX register:



Then, a new file is created – with an extension added:

TEEEPH	C2 LOGIGGGG	017 10005277	
100050FF	8B75 F0	MOV ESI,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-10]	
10005102	8B47 54	MOV EAX DWORD PTR DS:[EDI+54]	
10005105	6A 00	PUSH 0	
10005107	6A 00	PUSH Ø	
10005109	6A 02	PUSH 2	
1000510B	6A 00	PUSH 0	
1000510D	6A 00	PUSH 0	
1000510F	68 00000040	PUSH 4000000	
10005114	56	PUSH ESI	
10005115	FFDØ	CALL EAX	kernel32.CreateFileA
10005117	8945 FØ	MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-10],EAX	
1000511A	83F8 FF	CMP EAX,-1	
1000511D	75 0D	JNZ SHORT 1000512C	
E0V-70010	550 (kampa199 Cm	astoFilo()	
EHV-L2010	EEO (Kernetsz.Cr	eaverlien)	
0280FED4	01E2451C LE00	ASCII "C:\Puthon27\tol\tix8.4.3\demos\s	amples\SGrid0.tcl.fsgscp"
0280FED8	400000000		
0280FEDC	00000000		
0280FFF0	00000000		

At first both files coexist in the system – the newly created file has 0 size. After it is filled by the encrypted content, the original file gets deleted.

<mark>SGrid0,</mark> tcl.fsqscp C:\Python27\tcl\tix8.4.3\demos\samples	Type: FSQSCP File	Date modified: 2016-03-22 17:39 Size: 0 bytes
<mark>SGrid0,</mark> tcl C:\Python27\tcl\tix8.4.3\demos\samples	Type: TCL File	Date modified: 2008-09-27 12:56 Size: 3,48 KB

After the process of encryption finished, the malware creates and pops up the dialog box.

Below – code responsible for popping up the GUI with a ransom note:

10010110	<u> </u>		
10012771	FFD3	CALL EBX	
10012773	8D45 FC	LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4]	
10012776	C745 FC 0000000	MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4].0	
10012770	50	PUSH EAX	
1001277E	6A 01	PUSH 1	
10012780	57	PUSH EDI	
10012781	FF15 38310110	CALL DWORD PTR DS:[10013138]	ole32.CreateStreamOnHGlobal
10012787	8500	TEST EAX.EAX	
10012789	78 15	JS SHORT 10012780	
1001278B	8B4D FC	MOU ECX.DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4]	
1001278E	E8 DDE9FEFF	CALL 10001170	
10012793	8B4D FC	MOV ECX.DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4]	
10012796	8BFØ	MOV ESI.EAX	
10012798	51	PUSH ECX	
10012799	8B11	MOV EDX.DWORD PTR DS:[ECX]	
1001279B	FF52 08	CALL DWORD PTR DS:[EDX+8]	
1001279E	EB 02	JMP SHORT 10012782	
100127A0	33F6	XOR ESI,ESI	
100127A2	6A 00	PUSH 0	
100127A4	68 A0320010	PUSH 100032A0	
100127A9	6A 00	PUSH Ø	
100127AB	68 81000000	PUSH 81	
100127B0	FF35 88860110	PUSH DWORD PTR DS:[10018688]	
100127B6	8935 BC860110	MOV DWORD PTR DS:[100186BC],ESI	
100127BC	FF15 A4300110	CALL DWORD PTR DS:[100130A4]	USER32.DialogBoxParamA
100127C2	FF75 F8	PUSH DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-8]	
10012705	FF15 30310110	CALL DWORD PTR DS:[10013130]	gdiplus.GdiplusShutdown
100127CB	SF	POP EDI	
10012700	5F	POP EST	

What is attacked?

It is common practice to exclude some chosen countries from the attack. In this case, before deploying the malicious actions, the application fetches the keyboard locale list. If it finds Russian (value 0x419 = 1049) among them, the malware exits without infecting files:

0F90E076 0F90E078	:	MOV ESI,EAX PUSH ESI	pLocaleId = 0030E5D8
RESPOEDTS	1:	COLL DWORD PTR DS: [<&USER32. GetKeyboard] :	GetKeyboardLayoutList
0F90E082	1:	MOV ECX.EAX	
0F90E084	1.	XOR EAX, EAX	
0F90E086	1.	TEST ECX,ECX	
0F90E088		JLE SHORT one.0F90E0A2	
0F90E08A	•	MOV EDX,0x419	locale_id = 1049 -> Russia
0F90E08F	I.	NOP	_
0F90E090	> 1	CMP WORD PTR DS:[ESI+EAX*4],DX	
0F90E094	• • • L	JE SHORT one.0F90E09D	
0F90E096	I • 1	INC EAX	
0F90E097	L · L	CMP_EAX,ECX	
0F90E099	• • • L	LUL SHORT one.0F90E090	
0F90E09B	•×1	JMP SHORT one.0F90E0A2	
0F90E09D	21	MOV EDI,0x1	

Excluded from the attack are also some predefined folders:

```
"\\internet explorer\\;\\history\\;\\mozilla\\;\\chrome\\;\\temp\\;\\program
files\\;\\program files (x86)\\;\\microsoft\\;\\chache\\;\\chaches\\;\\appdata\\;"
```

The built-in configuration also specifies what are the extensions to attack:

03482F4 03482FC 0348304 0348304 0348314 0348314 0348324 0348324 0348334 0348334 0348334 0348354 0348354 0348354 0348354 0348354 0348354 0348354 0348384 0348484 0348484 0348484 0348484 0348484848 034848484 03484848 03484848 03484848 034848484848	70830773002307630078304330023002	6100400460054005006006006000000000000000	6000400060006000700070006000400		7F312301403183318314031133143317331	500500500500500500500500500500500500500		7000	pak hm. pdd up. pdf v. pet. pet. pfx xl. pfy v. pfy v. pfy v. pott v. pott v. pott v. potf v. v. pfi v. v. v. v. v. v. v. v. v. v. v. v. v.		
03AB33C	70	65	66	00	48	55	ËË	70	pef	.HU	ţΡ
03AB34C	ğğ.	ģġ	00	00	01	õõ.	õõ.	00	÷	0.	
03AB35C	20	6C	00	88	03	00	60	60	pen pl.	ł♥.	
0348364	03 70	66 66	78 78	00 00	4E	90 55	EE	70	♥. pfx	. NU	ţp
03AB374	78 03	6C 00	00 00	88 00	03 01	00 00	00 00	00	×l. ♥	ł♥. 0.	::
03AB384	70 74	67 6D	70 00	00 88	51 Ø3	55 00	EE 00	70	P9P tm.	.QU: ł♥.	ţp
0388394	03 70	00 6F	00 67	00 АА	01 54	00 55	00 FF	00 70		. 0. . TH	
03AB3A4	22 03	58	ÖÖ ØØ	88	03 01	ÖÖ ØØ	00 00	00	X.	ł♥. B	••
03AB3B4	70	70	74	ØØ	57	55	ËË	70	ppt	ŴU	ţρ
03AB3C4	03	00	00	00	Ø1	00	00	00	•	0.	
03AB3D4	60	80	00	88	03	00	60	60	.ī.	.20	5P
03483DC	03 70	73	6B	00	50	55	EE	70	e. psk	. 30	ţp
03AB3EC	5B Ø3	58 00	00 00	88 00	03 01	00 00	00 00	00 00	€X. ♥	ł♥. 0.	::
03AB3FC	70 00	73 80	74 00	00 88	A0 03	55 00	EE 00	70 00	pst .ī.	.āU ł♥.	ţÞ.
03AB40C	03 70	00 74	00 78	00 00	01 A3	00 55	00 EE	00 70	♥ ptx	.0. .uU	ţp

Like other ransomware families, it attacks not only the local disk but also network shares and disks mounted by virtual environments, including external hard drives.

How does the encryption work?

Maktub Locker uses Window Crypto API. But, as we concluded from the analysis, it uses only one key for all files (does not generate a random key per file). Let's see what technique it uses to obtain keys...

In this run, the key supplied to a user was:

X25HE - J53ZU - QERDZ - ZNUJ3 - SERJ6 - J617E - UUASZ - AFG2G - 83B08 - 2SHC1 - AUYFZ - GJHF2 - W7321 - 144TM VKFKR - 6TKRV - STG4B - CE5MZ - TAH4W - MP541 - GD3SB - HE43J - ZF4TK - ZNZTG - R7ZBZ - AKM2U - T6TYN - 53J7H MU6J6 - BTSJC - FQVQR - EH755 - C1WCJ - 7SNPT - MHFBS - Q638V - MASEB - R16HW - P84P2 - 7EEX8 - KXAHB - D10F7 GF071 - U37K3 - GJ5Q5 - WD0PD - 2EG16 - KMC5R - RPCBX - R8EV3 - ZPXQV - TDVXM - SEEFX - XK23J - FCH4Z - RNBPN XE6X5 - 4W8CT - WJQJU - 071T5 - DSUZW - JGSZA - KFKZ6 - 4DU0S - 80H1H - CEP2J - PDSKA - UXBR8 - 8C1BB - SDQNC 1C8F7 - HPZ2G - Q5JVN - F6WXH - PMUSR - 8G4HT - RNYVW - DZNQ3 - Y8KZJ - NYC1G - SPR3T - U5GD5

Let's investigate what is the relationship between this key and the key used to encrypt files. So far we know that it must be generated locally.

First it initialized two crypto contexts – both with the same settings, using provider type: <u>PROV_DH_SCHANNEL</u>



EAX=775191DD (advapi32.CryptAcquireContextA)

Gets 32 random bytes, using function CryptGenRandom

0F8029A3 0F8029A4 0F8029A8 0F8029A8 0F8029A8 0F8029B3	PREFIX REP: MOVQ QWORD PTR DS: MOV EAX, DWORD PTR D PUSH DWORD PTR DS: CALL EAX CALL EAX	EAX+0x10],MM0 S:[ECX+0x28] ECX+0x100]	Superfluous prefix advapi32.CryptGenRandom advapi32.CryptGenRandom
_COV_77C41	DECO (
Address	Hex dump	ASCII 🔺 🗳	021FE1C 00305C68
00305A60 00305A68 00305A70 00305A78	00 00<		021FE20 00000020 021FE24 00305A60 021FE28 00000000 021FE2C 00000000 021FE2C 00000000

Creates MD5 sum of this random data (using: CryptCreateHash, CryptHashData)

0F957DF6 MOV LCCHL.21,0x0 0F957DFD PUSH 0x0 MD5_SUM 0F957DFF PUSH 0x0003 MD5_SUM 0F957204 PUSH 0w0RD PTR DS:[ESI+0x100] advapi32.CryptCreateHash 0F957200 CALL EAX advapi32.CryptHashData 0F95720F TEST EAX,EAX advapi32.CryptHashData						
0F957DFD . PUSH 0x 8003 MD5_SUM 0F957E04 . PUSH 0w0RD PTR DS:[ESI+0x100] advapi32.CryptCreateHash 0F957E00 . CALL EAX advapi32.CryptHashData 0F957E0F . TEST EAX,EAX advapi32.CryptHashData						
0F957E04 PUSH DWORD PTR DS:[ESI+0x100] IDS_SUI 0F957E04 MOV EAX, DWORD PTR DS:[ESI+0x8] advapi32.CryptCreateHasl 0F957E00 CALL EAX advapi32.CryptHashData 0F957E07 TEST EAX, EAX advapi32.CryptHashData						
0F957E04 . MOV EAX,DWORD PTR DS:[ESI+0x100] advapi32.CryptCreateHasl 0F957E04 . CALL EAX advapi32.CryptHashData 0F957E0F . TEST EAX,EAX advapi32.CryptHashData						
0F957E0D CALL EAX advapi32.CryptHashData 0F957E0F TEST EAX, EAX advapi32.CryptHashData						
0F957E0F . TEST EAX,EAX advap132.CryptHashData						
advaptoz.crypthasibata						
0E957E11 V LIE SHORT one 0E957E2E						
0F957F13 MOU FOX DWORD PTR DS:[FSI+0vC1 aduapi32.CruptHashData]						
0F957F16 PIISH 0x0						
0F957E18 B PUSH 0x20 dataLen = 32						
0F957E1A . PUSH CARG.1] obData						
0F957E1D . PUSH [LOCAL.1] hash						
07957E20 . CALL EAX advapi32.CryptHashData						
0F957E22 . TEST EAX, EAX advapi32.CryptHashData						
0F952F24 I VINIX SHORT one 0F952F32						
•						
EAX=7751DF36 (advapi32.CryptHashData)						
Oddness How dump 00011						
Houress nex damp Hour						
HOLIESS HEX GUMP HOLIE 00385860 12 C4 2B 35 EF D1 37 FF 8B 54 D2 21 19 FD B3 2F \$-+5′₽7 öTD!↓¥I						

Then, using function <u>CryptDeriveKey</u> it converts the MD5 hash into a 256 bit AES key (AlgID = 0x6610 -> <u>CALG AES 256</u>).

0F957E37 0F957E3A 0F957E3B 0F957E3B	 LEA EAX, [LOCAL.2] PUSH EAX MOV EAX, DWORD PTR DS:[ESI+0x24] PUSH 0x0 	*phKey advapi32.CryptDeriveKey flags
0F957E40	PUSH [LOCAL.1]	hBaseData
0F957E43	PUSH 0x6610	AlgID
0F957E48	PUSH DWORD PTR DS:[ESI+0x100]	hProv
0F957E4E	CALL EAX	advapi32.CryptDeriveKey

It also imports RSA public key (2048 bit). This key is hardcoded in the binary.

0F95E775 0F95E777 0F95E777 0F95E777 0F95E781 0F95E782 0F95E782 0F95E785 0F95E785 0F95E789	2 . HOV EHA, DWORD FIR DS: LEDAT0X201 adval 3 . GALL EAX adval 7 . LEA EAX, LLOCAL.11 adval 8 . MOV [LOCAL.1], 0x0 adval 1 . PUSH EAX adval 2 . MOV EAX, DWORD PTR DS: [EBX+0x1C] adval 5 . PUSH 0x0 adval 7 . PUSH 0x0 adval 9 . PUSH 0x114 .	bi32.CryptImportKey bi32.CryptImportKey bi32.CryptImportKey bi32.CryptImportKey
0F95E793	PUSH ONE.0F968438 PUSH DWORD PTR DS:[EBX+0x100] CALL EAX adva	oi32.CryptImportKey
Address	Hex dump	ASCII
0F968438 0F968458 0F968458 0F968458 0F968478 0F968488 0F968488 0F968488 0F968488 0F968488 0F968458 0F968458 0F968518 0F968518 0F968518 0F968518	06 02 00 00 04 00 00 52 53 41 31 00 08 00 01 00 01 00 55 70 84 A9 B8 6F ED 2E 51 35 58 04 06 31 A3 C8 DF 75 61 53 42 18 D0 77 35 F8 05 C4 75 37 AE 9F 0A 92 97 AF EF 80 03 55 C1 8 98 F5 36 69 A2 B0 15 84 80 05 16 44 25 17 97 98 62 13 84 70 38 61 18 27 04 48 25 17 92 16 70 98 8 C5 C5 DC 84	00 +0ARSA1. B9 6.6.UpäeSoY.0511 AE CA10 ¹¹² uaSH-dw?o SA Tauc< AE CA10 ¹¹² uaSH-dw?o SA Tauc SA Tauc AE CA10 ¹¹² uaSH-dw?o SA Tauc AE CA10 ¹¹² uaSH-dw?o SA Tauc AC GUPTAP AC GUPTAP BA Lif-Oltv80(E0) BA Lifev80(E1) BA Lifev80(E1) BA Lifev80(E1) BA Lifev80(E1) BA Lif

The random 32 bytes (base of the AES key), along with the random extension, are concatenated together. Then, the prepared buffer is RSA encrypted:

0F95E872 0F95E875 0F95E878 0F95E878 0F95E87B 0F95E87C	ADD ESP.0x4 LEA EAX, [LOCAL.3] PUSH [LOCAL.2] PUSH EAX MOV EAX, DWORD PTR	DS:[EBX+0x14]	dataLen = 0x2c advapi32.CryptEncrypt
0F95E82 0F95E880 0F95E882 0F95E884 0F95E886 0F95E886 0F95E886	PUSH 0x0 PUSH 0x0 PUSH 0x0 PUSH 0x0 PUSH [L0CRL.1] CALL EAX		data advapi32.CryptEncrypt
EDI=003A	6748		
Address 003A6748 003A6750 003A6758 003A6768 003A6768 003A6768	Hex dump 12 C4 2B 35 EF D1 37 FF 8B 54 D2 21 19 FD B3 2F 3E 97 78 C4 3C BC D2 34 AE 7B 77 F9 09 C6 4B F5 00 F0 FD 7F 77 7A 7A 70 06 A0 A0 A0 A0 A0	ASCII	▲ 0017F7E8 003A6550 0017F7EC 00000000 0017F7FC 00000000 0017F7F4 00000000 0017F7F8 003A6748 0017F7F8 003A6748 0017F7E0 0017F814

Output is converted using the predefined charset and given to a victim as the individual ID:

Address	Hex du	IMP												ASCII
003A6748 003A6758	AØ 6A BB 8F	3A 00 08 C6	90 E	58 39 50 85	00 B3	AA 2C	10 FE	A9 A9	90 7F	A4 E5	88 2D	6E 96	EB 10	áj:.ER9. Þ¢ŁAłnŰ īC īĊB`_∤.t⊖ i -
003A6768 003A6778	62 AE 30 73	0C 73	57 9 80 4	90 FB	59 84	Č6 88	37	B2 EC	5A 36	6F 3F	5B 37	Č7 86	D2 28	b≪.sWEűYA7∰Zo[āD KsI∔UH≻H∎dű627d+
003A6788	49 A3	45 BE	SA (ÅB D9	1F	ØÅ.	čĕ	ξč.	1F	Ă1	48	21	F6	IuE2:04V.LiViH!÷
003A67A8	06 26	FB 90	96 6	33 27	79	35	39	2Ç	D5	Ď1	20	EE	BF	4&űtľ♥ y59,NĐ t₁
003A67C8	3B 21 2B 17	5F 98	BB	J6 84 B 06	<u>67</u>	9E	A6	3B	80 80	E0	55	73	AB	+‡_s¶ú∳īč2;CóUsz
003A67D8 003A67E8	22 66 54 E3	3A FE 64 88	4B 8 4B 8	33 19 3C 5F	E5 9D	48 39	8F 72	E2 6E	9E EØ	AØ SA	78 DØ	82 F5	64 88	″f:űKā∔ňHCO×áxéd TNdłKĩ_Ł9rn0:ðSł
003A67F8 003A6808	BB 1E 98 21	6C 3F EB 70	91 (38 B	02 EØ 35 1A	38 E9	D7 FD	F6 DB	09 86	C5 C8	24 47	DØ CB	ØB 8E	98 A4	ק≰l?L 8 68ī÷.+\$đ∂ś ś!Մ¦:A+Uř∎ć≞GπAA
003A6818 003A6828	BD 06 2C 07	8D 07 1D 3P	FF (AF (CB 14	A2 4F	54 63	0A 24	CB 7F	12 66	FA	FC 41	D3 D4	C3 B3	2 +2 · 〒¶oT 〒 + ŘE • #:» iöOc\$ 4 f - Ad'
003A6838 003A6848	0A A1 07 00	50 68	BF 3	7C 1D 58 00	52	СB AA	ÖĊ 68	49 39	ĈŻ	A2 AA	1B F8	8C 39	57 00	.iPh₁¦#R╦.Iāó+īѠ́ ?X. āi. āP9.
003A6858	00 00	00 00 40 4F	51 9	57 45	52	54 42	59 4F	55 40	50	41	53	44	46	QWERTYUPASDF
003A6878	35 36	37 38	39	10 70 10 00	00	88	Ã9	18	4A	29	58	00	ØB	56789 tetJyX.a
003A6898	45 20	4A 35	33 5	5A 55	2D	51	45	52	44	5Å	20	5A	4E	E-J53ZU-QERDZ-ZN
003A68B8	55 4H	41 53	58 s	45 52 20 41	4H 46	47	32	4H 47	2D	31	33	45	30	UUASZ-AFG2G-83B0
003H68C8 003A68D8	38 2D 48 46	32 53 32 20	48 6	43 31 37 33	2D 32	41 31	2D	59 31	46 34	5H 34	20 54	47 4D	4H ØD	8-2SHC1-HUYFZ-GJ HF2-W7321-144TM.
003A68E8 003A68F8	0A 56 34 42	4B 46 2D 43	4B 5 45 3	52 2D 35 4D	36 5A	54 2D	4B 54	52 41	56 48	2D 34	53 57	54 2D	47 4D	.VKFKR-6TKRV-STG 4B-CE5MZ-TAH4W-M
003A6908 003A6918	50 35 20 5A	34 31 46 34	2D 4	47 44 48 2D	33 5A	53 4E	42 5A	2D 54	48 47	45 2D	34 52	33 37	4A 5A	P541-GD3SB-HE43J -ZF4TK-ZNZTG-R7Z
003A6928 003A6938	42 5A	2D 41 37 48	48 4 00 0	4D 32 3A 4D	55 55	2D 36	54 40	36 36	54 20	59 42	4E 54	2D 53	35 49	BZ-AKM2U-T6TYN-5 3J7H.,MU6J6-BTSJ
003A6948	43 2D	46 51	56 9	51 52 3 4F	ŽĎ	45 54	48	37 40	35	35	2D 42	43	31	C-FQVQR-EH755-C1
003A6968	51 36	33 38	56	20 40	41	53	45	42	ŽĎ	52	31	36	48	Q638V-MASEB-R16H
003A6988	41 48	42 20	44	31 30	46	37	٥Ď	ØÅ,	47	46	30	37	31	AHB-D10F7GF071
003A69A8	50 44	2D 32	45	47 31	36	2D	4B	40	43	35	52	20 20	52	PD-2EG16-KMC5R-R
003H69B8 003A69C8	2D 54	42 58	58	4D 2D	45 53	45	33 45	46	58	20	58	4B	32	-TDVXM-SEEFX-XK2
003A69E8	33 4H 58 45	2D 46 36 58	43 43 4	48 34 2D 34	5H 57	2D 38	52 43	4E 54	42 2D	50 57	4E 4A	0D 51	0н 4А	3J-FCH4Z-RNBPN XE6X5-4W8CT-WJQJ
003A69F8 003A6A08	55 2D 53 5A	30 37 41 20	31 9 4B 4	54 35 46 4B	2D 5A	44 36	53 2D	55 34	5A 44	57 55	2D 30	4A 53	47 2D	U-071T5-DSUZW-JG SZA-KFKZ6-4DU0S-
003A6A18 003A6A28	38 30 41 2D	48 31 55 58	48 2	2D 43 52 38	45 2D	50 38	32 43	4A 31	2D 42	50 42	44 2D	53 53	4B 44	80H1H-CEP2J-PDSK A-UXBR8-8C1BB-SD
003A6A38 003A6A48	51 4E 20 51	43 ØD 35 49	0A 3	31 43 4E 20	38 46	46 36	37	2D 58	48 48	50 20	5A 50	32 4D	47	QNC1C8F7-HPZ2G -Q5JUN-F6WXH-PMU
003A6A58	53 52	2D 38	47	34 48	54 4P	2D	52	4E	59 4E	56	57	2D	44	SR-864HT-RNYUW-D
003A6A78	2D 53	50 52	33 9	54 2D	55	35	47	44	35	00	00	00	ōó	-SPR3T-U5GD5

That's why, when the user submit his/her individual ID, the attackers, having the appropriate private key, can decrypt the original data and easily recover the random AES key.

After this operation, the previously generated AES key is used to encrypt files.

First, file content is compressed by a dedicated function (<u>BZip2</u>):

10005177 1000517C 1000517F 10005186 10005187 10005187 10005181 10005191 10005192 10005195	JMP 10005225 LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:LEM PUSH EAX LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:LEM PUSH EAX MOV DWORD PTR SS:LEM PUSH EAX LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:LEM PUSH EAX	S:[EBP-2C] SP-14],0 S:[EBP-18] SP-2C],0 S:[EBP-14] SP-18],0					
1000519D 100051A0	PUSH DWORD PTR SS: [] PUSH DWORD PTR SS: [] CALL 10005660	BP-20] BP-1C]	read_co	ntent_ptr			
100051A8 100051AB	MOV ECX, DWORD PTR S: TEST EAX.EAX	S: CEBP-1CJ					
Address 01E38ED0 01E38EE0 01E38EE0 01E38EF0 01E38EF0 01E38F00 01E38F00 01E38F00 01E38F10 01E38F10	Hex dump 23 20 2D 2A 2D 6D 6F 65 3A 20 74 63 6C 3B 66 69 6C 6C 2D 63 6F 75 6D 6E 3A 20 37 35 20 74 61 62 2D 77 69 74 68 3A 20 3B 20 73 67 66 69 6E 67 3A 20 73 82 73 6F 2D 6C 61 74 69 67 64 69 6E 67 3A 20 73 6F 2D 75 6E 69 78 2D 31 2D 75 6E 69 78 2D 2D 0D 0A 20 0D	ASCII 64 # -*-mod 20 e: tcl; 6C fill-col; 8B umn: 75; 64 tab-wid 63 th: 8; c 69 oding: i 69 sollag: i 6E so-latin 20 -1-unix.	280FEDC 280FEE0 280FEE0 280FEE8 280FEF0 280FEF0 280FEF0 280FEF8 280FEF60 280FF60 280FF60	01E38ED0 00000DF5 0280FF20 0280FF1C 0280FF08 01E17AF8 038A33A0 01E3CBDC 00000000 00000DF5 00000000	3 0 Ax S C Ax C 9 Ax Ax Ax C 9 C 9 Ax Ax Ax Ax Ax Ax C 9 Ax Ax Ax	91 = 92 = = 934 = = 95 =	01E38ED0 00000DF5 0280FF20 0280FF1C 0280FF08

Then, the buffer containing compressed data is AES encrypted - using CryptEncrypt

100051D2 JNZ SHORT 100051D9 100051D4 MOV ECX,DWORD PTR SS:LEBP 100051D7 JNP SHORT 10005225 100051D7 PUSH DWORD PTR SS:LEBP-24 100051D7 PUSH DWORD PTR SS:LEBP-24 100051D7 PUSH DWORD PTR SS:LEBP-24 100051D7 PUSH DWORD PTR SS:LEBP-24 100051E0 PUSH DWORD PTR SS:LEBP-14 100051E0 PUSH DWORD PTR SS:LEBP-14 100051E6 PUSH DWORD PTR SS:LEBP-14 100051E8 PUSH 0 100051E8 PUSH 0 100051EC PUSH 0 100051EC PUSH 0 100051EC PUSH 0 100051EC PUSH 0 100051EC PUSH 0 100051EC PUSH DWORD PTR SS:LEBP-CJ	2-14] -18] buffer_len -18] data_len -10 data +14] flags final hash key ADVAPI32.CryptEncryptA
100051F1 TEST EHX,EHX	
Address Hex dump ASC	
01E4CC10 7A 03 00 00 42 5A 68 39 2• 01E4CC10 81 41 59 26 53 59 37 68 1A'' 01E4CC20 AB 35 00 00 57 58 80 00 25. 01E4CC20 AB 35 00 00 57 58 80 00 55. 01E4CC20 AB 35 00 00 B4 12 98 54. 01E4CC30 E1 1F CA 30 90 B0 34 00 8. 01E4CC30 E1 1F CA 30 99 AC 60 8. 64 8. 90 90 40 8. 90 98 64 42 98 98 94 40 80 30 98 C4 44 44 44 44 44 44 44 44 44 44 44 44 44 44 44 44 44 <td< th=""><td>. B2h9 %SY7k WCC. WCC. WCC. WCC. WCC. WCC. WCC. </td></td<>	. B2h9 %SY7k WCC. WCC. WCC. WCC. WCC. WCC. WCC.

The encrypted data is saved to the file with the generated extension added.

Conclusion

Maktub Locker has clearly been developed by professionals. The full product's complexity suggests that it is the work of a team of people with different areas of expertise. From the packing operations to the website, everything is well-polished. We are not sure if the crypter/FUD is designed by the same team – it could also be a commercial solution available on the black market. However, it is not the only level of defense – the core DLL is also obfuscated and for sure prepared by someone with experience in writing malware.

Malwarebytes Anti-Malware detects this threat as: Ransom.Maktub.

Appendix

<u>http://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/the-art-of-the-maktub-locker-</u> <u>ransomware/</u> – "The Art of the Maktub Locker Ransomware" (detailed description of the graphical design)