Deep Analysis of New Emotet Variant – Part 2

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May 9, 2017

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Threat Research

By Xiaopeng Zhang | May 09, 2017

Background

This is the second part of FortiGuard Labs' deep analysis of the new Emotet variant. In <u>the</u> <u>first part</u> of the analysis we demonstrated that by bypassing the server-side **Anti-Debug** or **Anti-Analysis** technique we could download three or four modules (.dll files) from the C&C server. In that first blog we only analyzed one module (I named it 'module2'). In this blog, we'll review how the other modules work. Here we go.

Stealing email addresses from MS Outlook PST files

As I detailed in Part 1 of this blog, the first module we're looking at here (I've named it 'module1') is loaded in a ThreadFunction, whose main function is to go through all Outlook accounts by reading the PST files. A PST file is a personal folder file in Microsoft Outlook that stores your email messages, calendar, tasks, and other items. PST files are usually located in the "Documents\Outlook Files" folder on your computer. See Figure 1.

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Figure 1. PST files

Microsoft has provided a group of APIs called MAPI (Microsoft Outlook Messaging API), which is the messaging architecture for Microsoft Outlook. Using the MAPIs you can operate PST files. The MAPIs are used in the module1 file.

Once module1 file is executed it creates a temporary file that is used to store the stolen Outlook version information and email addresses that have been collected. Loading MAPI functions is the next step. Figure 2 shows how, along with what it loads.

_text:10002015	100 100020	15- : CUDE XREF: SUD 10002830+18711
text-10002015	100_100020	
toyt-18882010	lea	<pre>eax, [esp+740h+LibFileName] ; value of DLLPathEx</pre>
toyt : 10002410	push	eax ; lpLibFileName
tout 10002010	call	ds:LoadLibraryW
.text:10002H23	mov	edi, eax
.text:10002H25	mov	[esp+740h+nSize], edi
.text:10002H29	test	edi, edi
.text:10002H2B	iz	loc 10002F96
.text:10002A31	mov	esi. ds:GetProcAddress
.text:10002A37	push	offset ProcName : "MAPIInitialize"
.text:10002A3C	push	edi : hModule
.text:10002A3D	call	esi : GetProcAddress
.text:10002A3F	nush	offset aManiadminnrofi : "MAPIAdminProfiles"
.text:10002A44	nush	edi - bModule
.text:10002A45	mou	MAPIInitialize eax
.text:10002A4A	call	esi : GetProcAddress
.text:10002A4C	nush	offset aManilogonex : "MAPILogonEx"
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.text:10002A57	call	esi : GetProcAddress
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_text:10002A64	call	esi : GetProcAddress
.text:10002A66	nush	offset aManiuninitiali : "MAPIUninitialize"
.text:10002A6B	nush	edi : bModule
.text:10002A6C	mou	MAPIFreeBuffer, eax
.text:10002A71	call	esi CetProcAddress
.text:10002A73	mou	ecs. MAPLInitialize
.text:10002A79	mou	MAP, IUninitialize, eax
.text:10002A7E	test	ecx. ecx
.text:10002A80	iz	10c 10002E8E
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.text:10002AA0	CMD	MAPIFreeBuffer, 0
LL. 40000007		

Figure 2. Loading MAPI functions

It then starts reading all PST files according to the Outlook accounts on the computer, going through all email messages with an unread status in every folder (Inbox, Deleted Items, Junk E-mail, Sent Items, etc.) under one email account. It steals the sender name and the email address from each unread email. Figure 3 shows a sample unread email about a Facebook notification that was sent to me.



Figure 3. Sample unread email message

Figure 4 shows what module1 has stolen from the unread email message shown in Figure 3. "Facebook" is the sender name, and "notification+kr4yxeragnmn@facebookmail.com" is the sender's email address.

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Figure 4. The stolen email information in the memory buffer

As I mentioned before, the stolen data is saved in a temporary file. In this case, it's "AE74.tmp." It will be read when module1 prepares to encrypt and send the stolen information to its C&C server. Figure 5 shows the data before encryption, which is read from "AE74.tmp."

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Figure 5. Data before encryption

As you can see, it contains the Outlook version and stolen email information. Once encrypted, the data will be sent to the C&C server through a "POST" request. Figure 6 is the packet screenshot from WireShark.

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Figure 6. Sending the encrypted data to the C&C server

Sending spam using the C&C server template

This is the largest Emotet module (I have named it 'module4') of the malware's four modules. Its main function is to send spam to the email addresses which were stolen and sent to the C&C server. When it is executed in a thread it generates a GUID by calling the CoCreateGuid function. It then base64-encodes the GUID and sends it as a cookie to the C&C server. The response provides the encrypted spam message, as well as the email addresses that the spam will be sent to. The two figures below show the packet from the C&C server, as well as the content after decryption.



Figure 7. Sent GUID and response from the C&C server

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Figure 8. Decrypted spam template and email addresses

Once module4 receives the decrypted data, it reads out the spam template and the email addresses the spam message is being sent to. In module4, it supports SMTP protocol over both port 25 (regular) and port 587 (SSL). The figures below show how it uses the SMTP protocol to spread this spam, and what the spam looks like in an email client.

test	al, 8
jz	1oc_381F4B7
push	9Ch
push	offset aAuthPlain ; "AUTH PLAIN\r\n"
lea	eax, [ebp+var_3EC]
push	3DEh
push	ea
call	sn mov ecx, offset aHelo ; "HELO"
mov	ec test byte ptr [ebx+8], 1
add	es push eax
test	ec mov eax, offset aEhlo ; "EHLO"
jz	sh cmovz eax, ecx
push	ea push eax
lea	ea push offset aS10_0_0_V ; "%s 10.0.0.%u\r\n"
push	ea lea eax, [ebp+var_3F8]
push	ec push 3DEh align 4
call	su push eax db To: %.*s',0Dh,0Ah,0 ; DATA XREF: sub_381F650+395To
add	es align 10h
յտք	shurt 10C_381F3E1 db 'Subject: %.*s',0Dh,0Ah,0 ; DATA XREF: sub_381F650+3DF10
	db 'MIME-Version: 1.0',0Dh,0Ah ; DATA XREF: sub_381F650+490îo
	db 'Content-Type: multipart/mixed; boundary="%s"',0Dh,0Ah,0
nuch	, contalign 4
push	db 0Dh,0Ah ; DATA XREF: sub_381F650+4DCTo
los	sub_381F650+638To
nuch	db '%s', 0Dh, 0Ah, 0
push	dword ptr [esi]
call	db 'Content-Type: %.*s',0Dh,0Ah
Call	; DATA XREF: Sub_381F650+52910
	db 'Content-Transfer-Encoding: base64',0Dh,0Ah
	; Suu_aotraovicri0
	db

Figure 9. Related code and data generating SMTP packets



Figure 10. Spam shown in Wireshark

Hello MAXIME DELORME Please see attached. Attachments: <u>http://hand-ip.com/Cust-Document-5777177439/Maxime DELORME</u> Thanks for your business!

Figure 11. Spam shown in email client

As you can see in Figure 11, the spam attempts to trick the email recipients into opening a URL, that points to a malicious Word file. Figure 12 shows its Antivirus detection rating on VirusTotal.



SHA256: d8 File name: O Detection ratio: 9 Analysis date: 20	8cfe351daa5276a277664630f18fe1e61351cbf3b0a17b6a8ef725263c0cab4 RDERDocument-MP-65-NV575397.doc / 56 017-05-05 21:59:03 UTC(1 minute ago)	6 0
---	--	------------

📼 Analysis	Q File detail	ズ Relationships	Additional information P Comments 4	Q Votes
Antivirus			Result	Update
Arcabit			HEUR.VBA.Trojan.e	20170505
ESET-NOD32			PowerShell/TrojanDownloader.Agent.OP	20170505
Fortinet			WM/Agent.DEA!tr.dldr	20170505
McAfee			W97M/Downloader.byj	20170505
McAfee-GW-E	dition		W97M/Downloader.byj	20170505
NANO-Antiviru	IS		Trojan. Ole2. Vbs-heuristic. druvzi	20170505
Qihoo-360			virus.office.qexvmc.1080	20170505
TrendMicro-Ho	useCall		Suspicious_GEN.F47V0505	20170505
ZoneAlarm by	Check Point		HEUR: Trojan. Script. Agent. gen	20170505
Ad-Aware			0	20170505
AegisLab			0	20170505
AhnLab-V3			0	20170505

Figure 12. Antivirus detection rate on VirusTotal

Conclusion

From this deep analysis of the new Emotet variant we can see that it focuses on stealing email-related data from a victim's device, and then uses that device and the email addresses it has collected from it to send spam that can spread other malware.

NOTE: at the end of my analysis, I noticed that the Anti-Debug technique on the server side sometimes worked, and sometimes didn't.

The URL attached to the spam generated by this malware has been detected as **Malicious Websites** by the FortiGuard Webfilter service, and the downloaded Word file has been detected as **WM/Agent.DEA!tr.dldr** by the FortiGuard Antivirus service.

Summary of the four Received Modules

Module1 (size 1c000H): steals email addresses and the recipients' names from Outlook PST files.

Module2 (size 32000h): steals credentials from installed Office Outlook, IncrediMail, Group Mail, MSN Messenger, Mozilla ThunderBird, etc. The analysis of this module was provided in the first blog.

Module3 (size 70000h): steals saved information in browsers. Since it's simple, I chose to not provide any analysis.

Module4 (size 0F0000h): sends spams to spread other malware.

loC

URL:

"hxxp:// hand-ip.com/Cust-Document-5777177439/"

Sample SHA256:

ORDER.-Document-7023299286.doc

D8CFE351DAA5276A277664630F18FE1E61351CBF3B0A17B6A8EF725263C0CAB4

Reference

https://support.office.com/en-us/article/Introduction-to-Outlook-Data-Files-pst-and-ost-6d4197ec-1304-4b81-a17d-66d4eef30b78

https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/287070/how-to-manage-.pst-files-in-microsoftoutlook

https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/office/cc765775(v=office.14).aspx

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