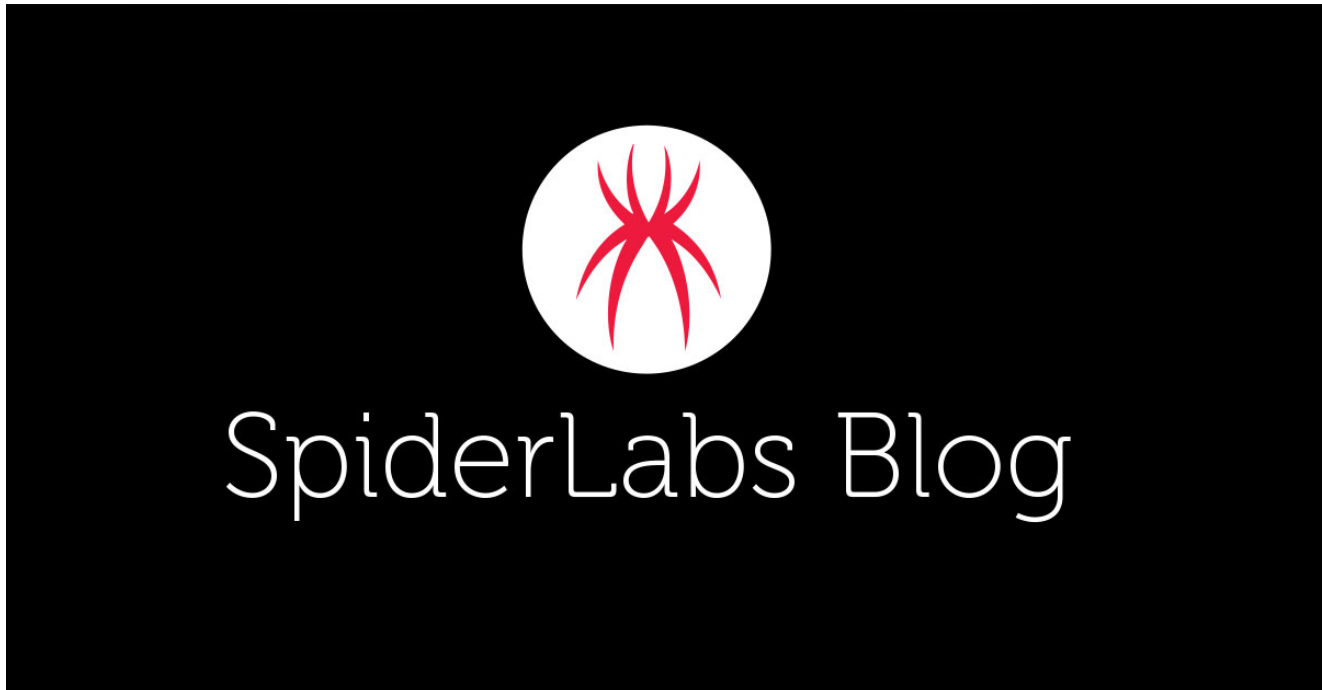


Spammed PNG file hides LokiBot

 trustwave.com/en-us/resources/blogs/spiderlabs-blog/spammed-png-file-hides-lokibot/



Contributing authors: Phil Hay, Rodel Mendrez

Recently we came across a spam message from our traps that looked truly odd when viewed from our Secure Email Gateway console, as below:

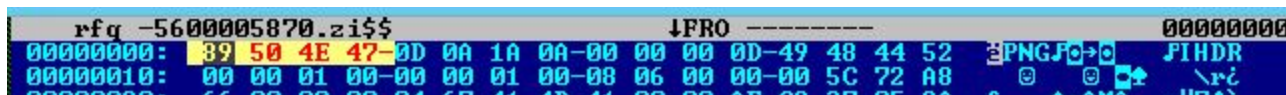


Needless to say, there are several suspicious elements here:

- The attachment has a .zipx extension
- The gateway identified the message as a PNG image
- The image itself resembles a 'JPG' icon.
- The subject line is typical of those we see associated with malware.

So what's going on here? Let's examine the file.

The header of the file indicates that it truly is a PNG.



The image file can be opened with an image viewer:



However, the .zipx extension suggests something else is going on here. Let's look further into the file.

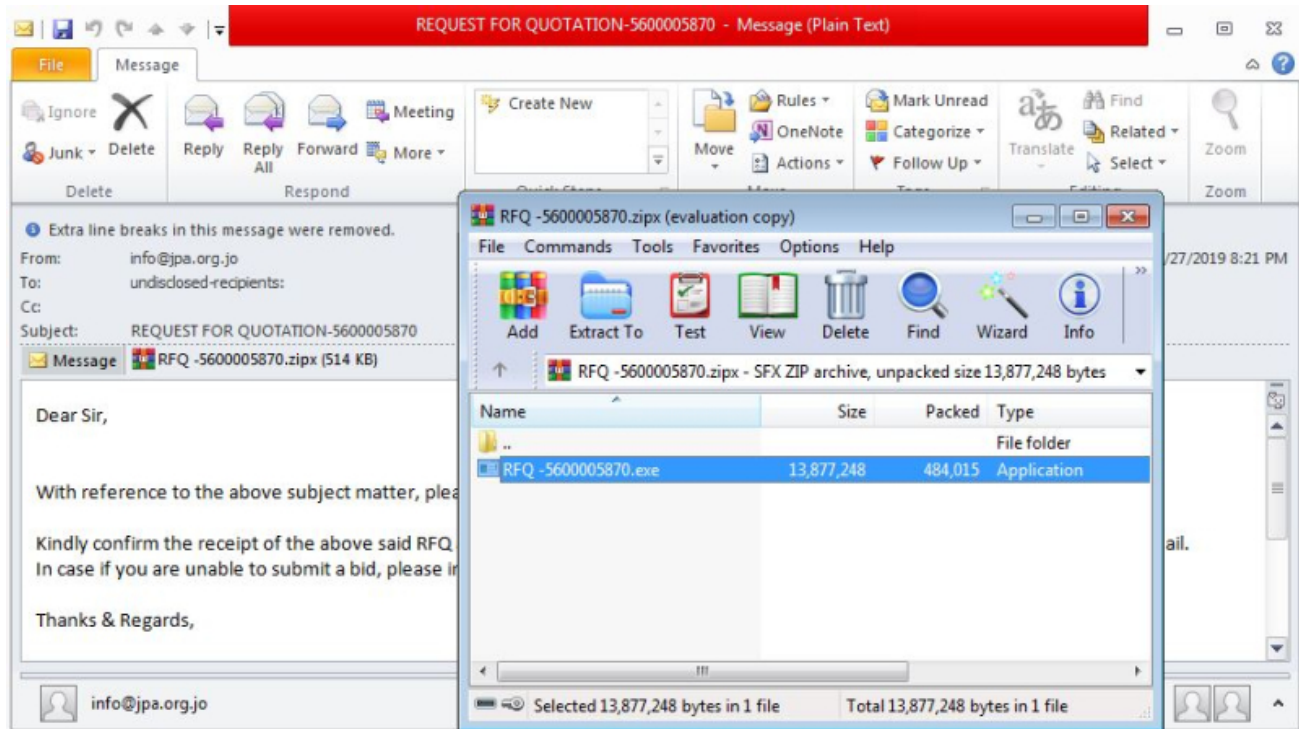
In a PNG file, IEND is supposed to mark the end of the image and is supposed to appear last. But in this file there is a bunch of data after IEND. If you look at the snippet below, you can see a PK header marker indicating some kind of zip archive, and a filename called RFQ -5600005870.exe. The PNG format specification appears to allow for such extraneous data, it is up to the application to decide to try and interpret or ignore such data.

```

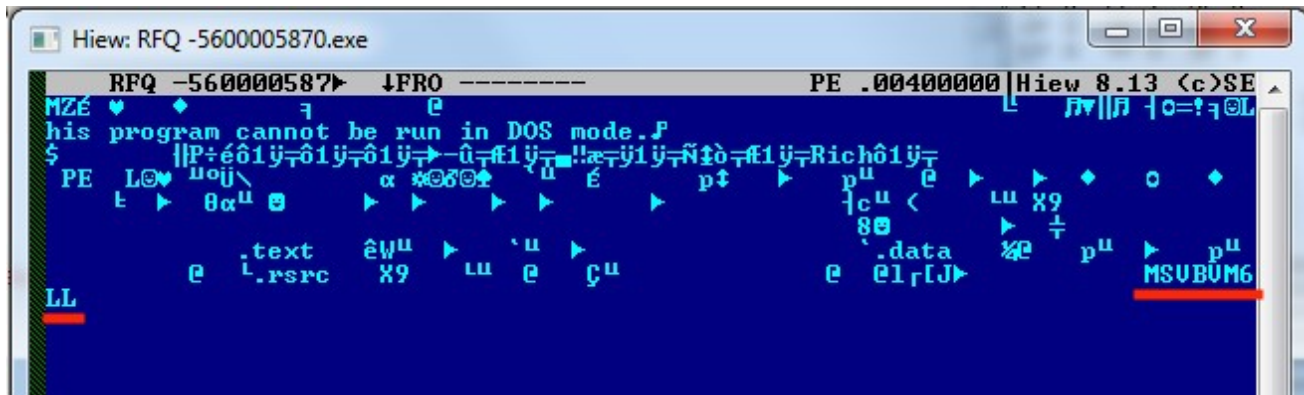
0000A600: 4B D3 DA FF-0F CD 21 8F-C5 1C 42 A8-BC 00 00  R  r *?A+-Bz
0000A610: 00 49 45 4E-44 AE 42 60-82 50 4B 03-04 14 00 00  IEND<<B ePK
0000A620: 00 08 00 DC-A9 7A 4E FF-0E A6 42 AF-62 07 00 00  r zN f^B>>b
0000A630: C0 D3 00 13-00 00 00 52-46 51 20 2D-35 36 30 30  L !! RFQ -5600
0000A640: 30 30 35 38-37 30 2E 65-78 65 EC 59-09 54 53 D7 005870.exe
0000A650: BA FE 13 90-80 88 06 9C-81 56 04 0A-88 13 22 2A  ||!éÇeEiuOe!!*
0000A660: 46 2D 11 02-38 00 8A 56-70 6C 55 54-A6 02 7A 44  F-08 èUp1UTeD
0000A670: 02 F4 0F D4 00 00 C0 F0 02 04 01 7E 40 F0 2F 40  60 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
  
```

So, let's try unzipping it. WinZip and 7-Zip gave errors upon trying to unzip the file, but WinRAR had no such problem, happily extracting the file RFQ -5600005870.exe. Interestingly, if you alter the extension to anything other than zip or zipx, 7-Zip will also happily extract the .exe file. It seems that some decompression utilities will traverse the whole file looking for suitable stuff to unpack.

Here's how the message could have appeared to a user who had WinRAR - clicking the attachment would open up WinRAR for extracting the payload.



Analyzing the extracted .exe file indicates that it consists of multiple stages, with the first stage executable compiled with Visual Basic.



This first stage function is to decrypt the main payload into the memory and execute it using a common technique called Process Hollowing, where a new process is created in a suspended state, its memory is unmapped and the malicious code replaces it.

Dumping the decrypted new process from memory, we end up with the main payload, as below.

Decryption Routine

00362326	FEC3	inc bl
00362328	8A141F	mov dl,byte ptr ds:[edi+ebx]
0036232B	00D0	add al,dl
0036232D	8A0C07	mov cl,byte ptr ds:[edi+eax]
00362330	880C1F	mov byte ptr ds:[edi+ebx],cl
00362333	881407	mov byte ptr ds:[edi+eax],dl
00362336	00D1	add cl,dl
00362338	8A0C0F	mov cl,byte ptr ds:[edi+ecx]
0036233B	300E	xor byte ptr ds:[esi],cl
0036233D	46	inc esi
0036233E	FF4C24 0C	dec dword ptr ss:[esp+0C]
00362342	75 E2	jne 362326
00362344	8B7D 0C	mov edi,dword ptr ss:[ebp+0C]
00362347	81C7 C23D0000	add edi,3DC2
0036234D	4F	dec edi
0036234E	31C9	xor ecx,ecx
00362350	B9 01010000	mov ecx,101

byte ptr [esi]=[052685C3]=0
:l=66 'f'

0036233B

address	Hex	ASCII
152041F2	00 00 00 000...
15204202	0E 1F BA 0E	..°. .I!..L!Th
15204212	69 73 20 70	is program canno
15204222	74 20 62 65	t be run in DOS
15204232	6D 6F 64 65	mode...\$.
15204242	CC CD 78 FE	iixp.....r.....
15204252	81 D4 95 AD	.0.....KfK.....
15204262	8D A0 19 AD=20.....
15204272	88 AC 16 AD0.....
15204282	88 AC 17 AD0.....
15204292	3D 32 F7 AD	=2÷.0~..=2È.....

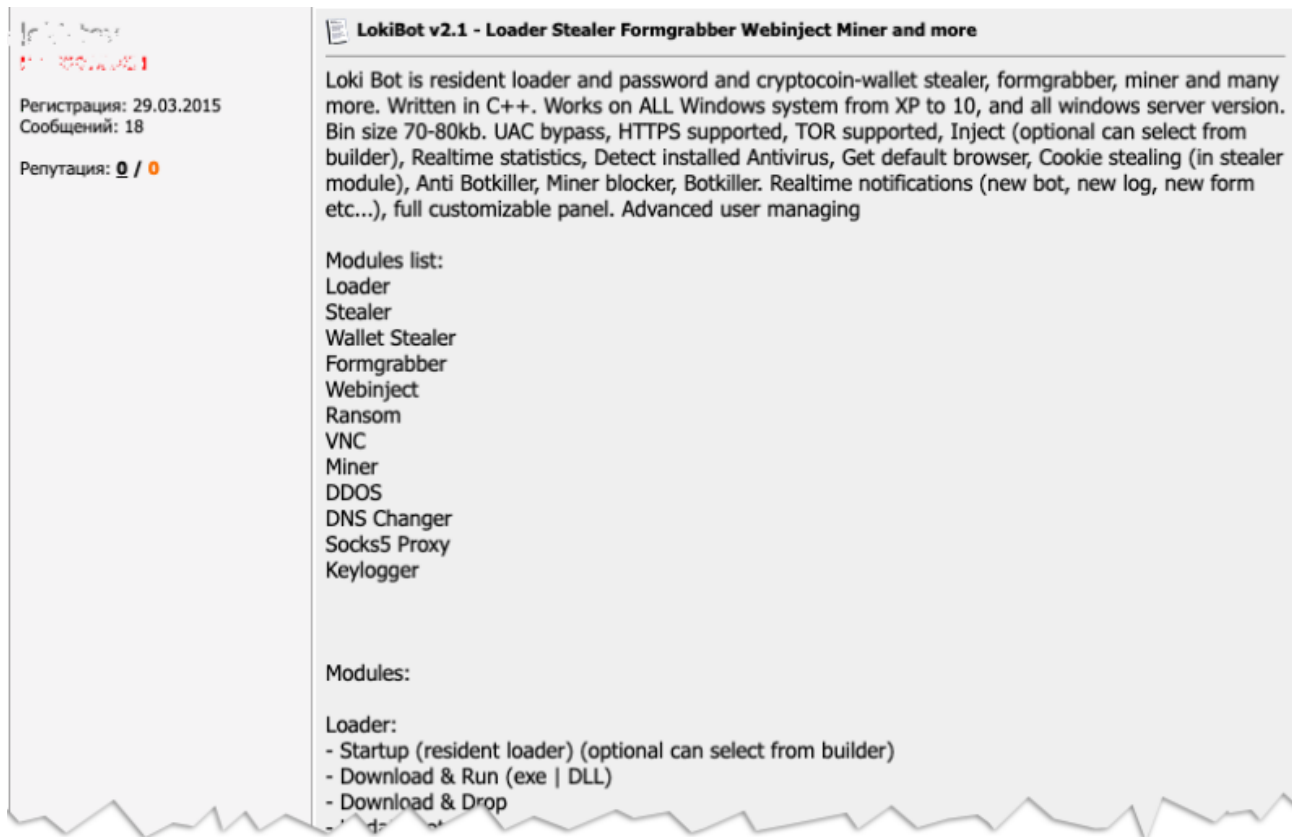
Main Payload

address	Hex	ASCII
00415A50	40 00 00 00	@.....SELECT e
00415A60	6E 63 72 79	ncryptedUsername
00415A70	2C 20 65 6E	, encryptedPassw
00415A80	6F 72 64 2C	ord, formSubmitU
00415A90	52 4C 2C 20	RL, hostname FRO
00415AA0	4D 20 6D 6F	M moz_logins....
00415AB0	0D 0A 00 00-...{,"
00415AC0	68 6F 73 74	hostname...enchr
00415AD0	79 70 74 65	ryptedUsername...
00415AE0	65 6E 63 72	encryptedPasswor
00415AF0	64 00 00 00	d...%.s.\.log.
00415B00	69 00 6E 00	i.n.s...i.s.o.n.

Some interesting strings in the malware body start to give a hint of what this malware does.

address	Hex	ASCII
00415A50	40 00 00 00	@.....SELECT e
00415A60	6E 63 72 79	ncryptedUsername
00415A70	2C 20 65 6E	, encryptedPassw
00415A80	6F 72 64 2C	ord, formSubmitU
00415A90	52 4C 2C 20	RL, hostname FRO
00415AA0	4D 20 6D 6F	M moz_logins....
00415AB0	0D 0A 00 00-...{,"
00415AC0	68 6F 73 74	hostname...enchr
00415AD0	79 70 74 65	ryptedUsername...
00415AE0	65 6E 63 72	encryptedPasswor
00415AF0	64 00 00 00	d...%.s.\.log.
00415B00	69 00 6E 00	i.n.s...i.s.o.n.

Further analysis of the sample indicates that it is the well-known LokiBot information stealing Trojan. LokiBot is a multi-purpose modular trojan that attempts to steal passwords and other information from browsers, mail, FTP clients and other applications, as well as a raft of other functions. LokiBot is freely available in the underground markets where it can be bought quite cheaply - \$300 can get you some password stealing capability.



LokiBot's availability means it is widely used, and over the past year we have been seeing many spam messages with attached LokiBots, but never before one where the payload is hidden inside a PNG file.

The attacker likely used the PNG format to hide the executable from inspection by the email scanning gateway. The giveaway is the .zipx extension. If a user happened to have WinRAR installed, and received such a message, then clicking on the attachment would fire up WinRAR for the payload exe to be extracted by the user. The upshot is we may all want to inspect those PNG files a little closer.

IOCs:

.zipx attachment

SHA256: 3654011653e7289620041cb831bf93e6c480815feede72320cde94f20ce7f185

Extracted executable

SHA256: c9ddcf7d0cd026cdeac9586515b4d591c1ca63ee9c009cd00b198178e5e84f03

CnC of LokiBot

hxxp://slimcase[.]jml/evans/fre.php