

Dcrat Deobfuscation - How to Manually Decode a 3-Stage .NET Malware

 embee-research.ghost.io/dcrat-manual-de-obfuscation/

Matthew

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[dnspy](#) Featured

Manual analysis and deobfuscation of a .NET based Dcrat. Touching on Custom Python Scripts, Cyberchef and .NET analysis with Dnspy.

Analysis of a 3-stage malware sample resulting in a dcrat infection. The initial sample contains 2 payloads which are hidden by obfuscation. This analysis will demonstrate methods for manually uncovering both payloads and extracting the final obfuscated C2.

If you've ever wondered how to analyse .net malware - this might be the blog post for you.

Tooling

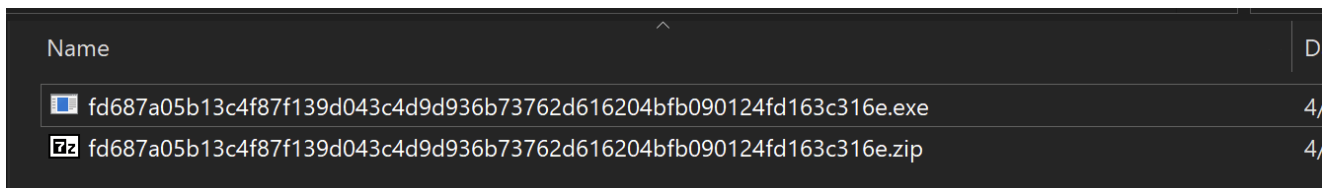
Samples

The malware file can be found [here](#)

And a copy of the decoding scripts [here](#)

Initial Analysis.

The initial file can be [downloaded via Malware Bazaar](#) and unzipped it using the password **infected**

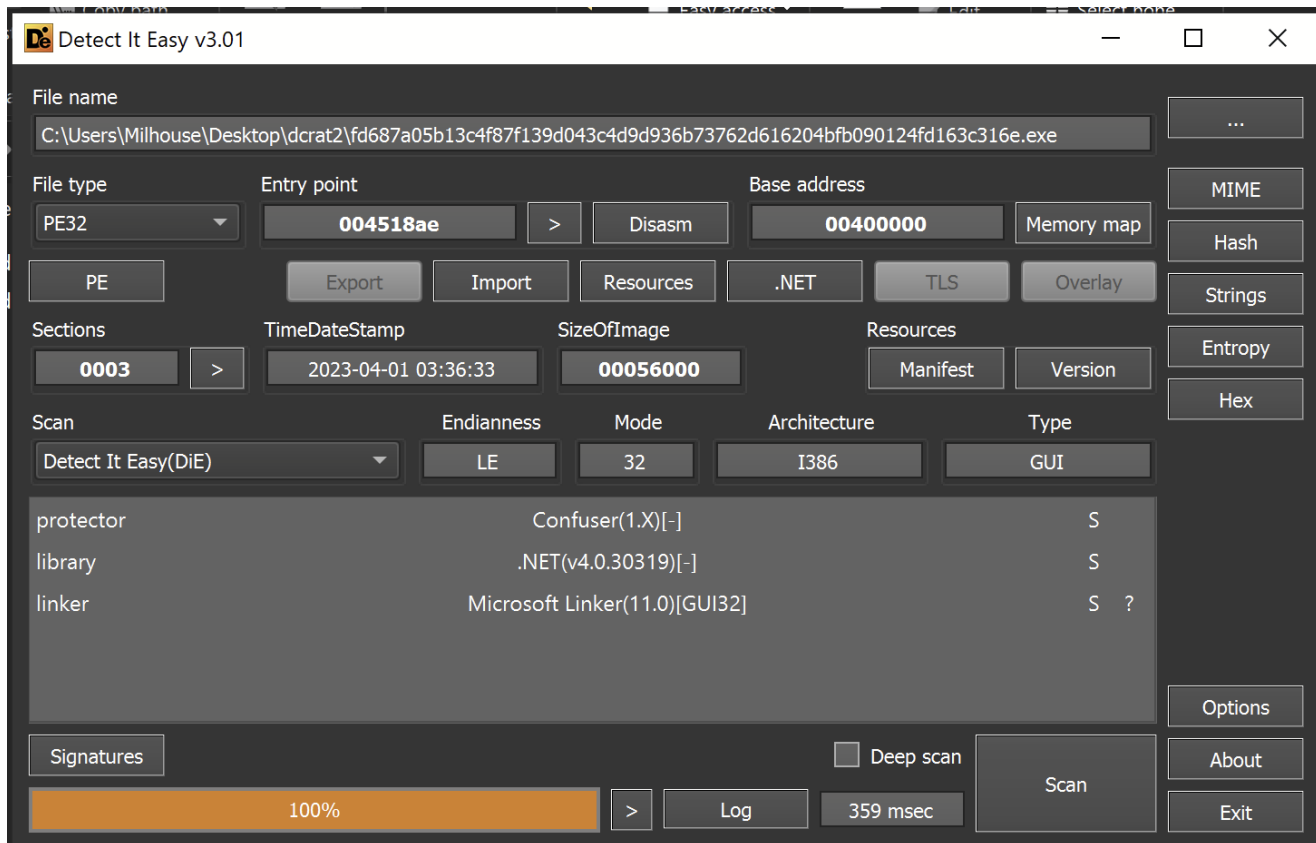


[detect-it-easy](#) is a great tool for initial analysis of the file.

[Pe-studio](#) is also a great option but I personally prefer the speed and simplicity of [detect-it-easy](#)

Detect-it-easy revealed that the sample is a 32-bit .NET-based file.

- The protector [Confuser \(1.X\)](#) has also been recognized.

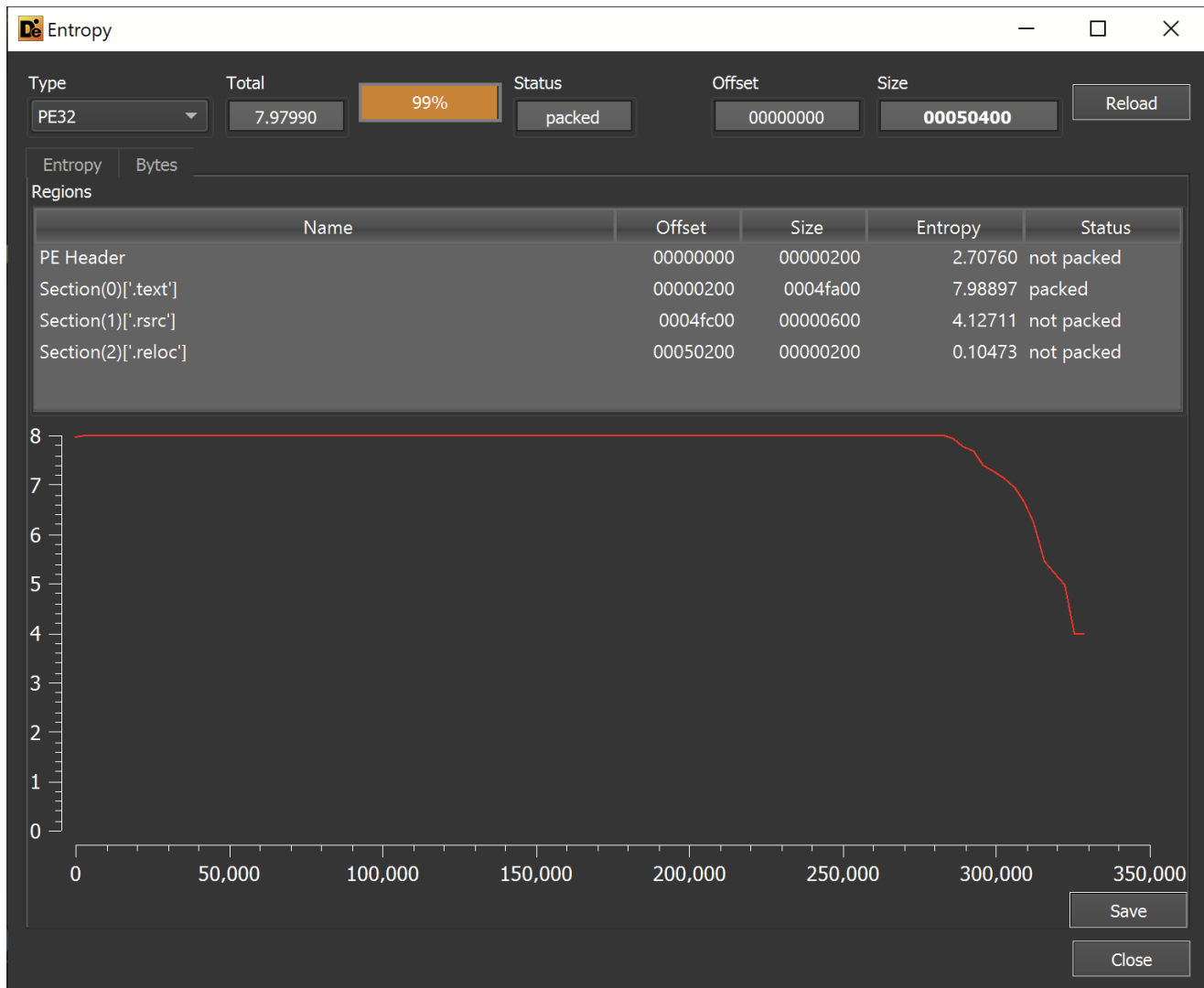


Initial analysis using Detect-it-easy

Before proceeding, I checked the entropy graph for signs of embedded files.

I used this to determine if the file was really `dcrat`, or a loader for an additional payload containing `dcrat`.

In my experience, large and high entropy sections often indicate an embedded payload. Indicating that the file being analyzed is a loader.



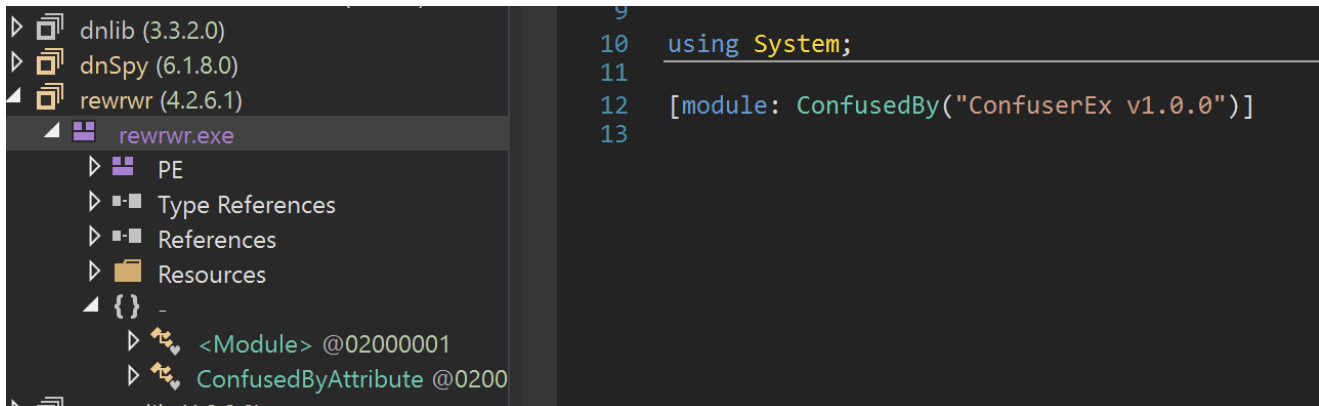
Entropy Analysis of the Initial .exe file - Showing a large section of high entropy
 The entropy graph revealed that a significant portion of the file has an entropy of **7.98897**
 (This is very high, the maximum value is 8).

This was a strong indicator that the file is a loader and not the final **dcrat** payload.

In order to analyze the suspected loader, I moved on to **Dnspy**

Dnspy Analysis

Utilizing Dnspy, I saw that the file had been recognized as **rewrwr.exe** and contained references to **confuserEx**. Likely this means the file is obfuscated using **ConfuserEx** and might be a pain to analyze.

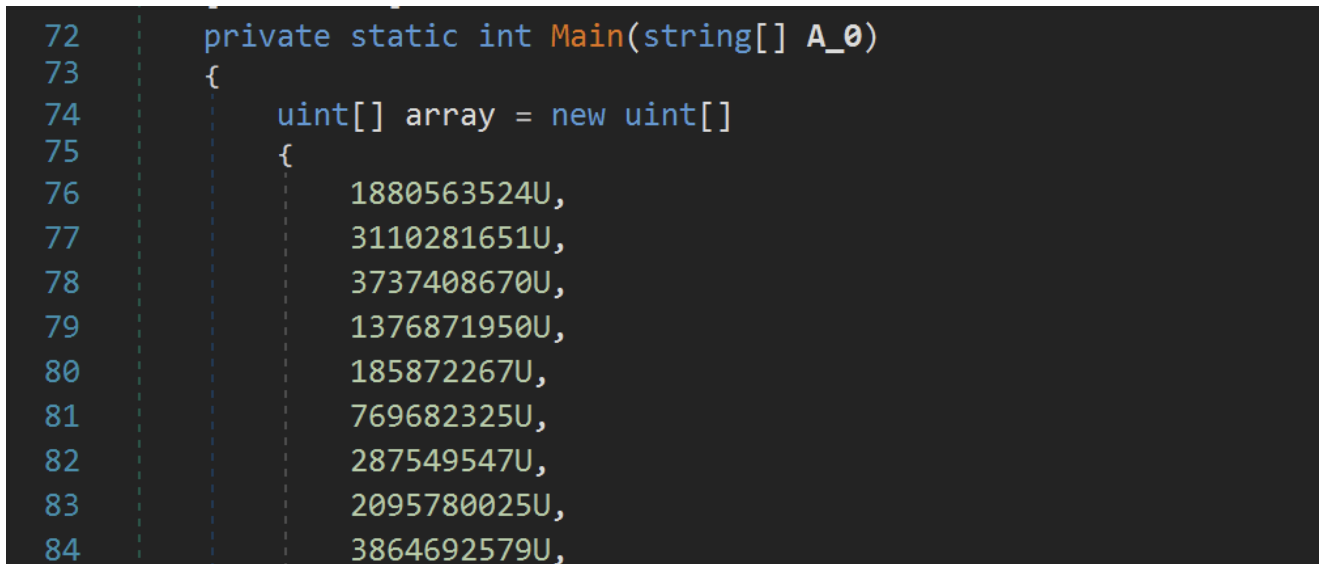


Dnspy overview of the initial file

In order to peek at the code being executed - I right-clicked on the `rewrwr.exe` name and selected `go to entry point`

This would give me a rough idea of what the actual executed code might look like.

The file immediately creates an extremely large array of unsigned integers. This could be an encrypted array of integers containing bytecodes for the next stage (further suggested by a post-array reference to a `Decrypt` function)



Viewing Encrypted Arrays using Dnspy



Using Dnspy to locate and view the Decryption function

The initial array of uints was so huge that it was too large to display in Dnspy.

Given the size, I suspected this array was the reason for the extremely high entropy previously observed with `detect-it-easy`

After the array, there is again code that suggests the array's contents are decrypted, then loaded into memory with the name `koi`

```
10071      3821091257U,  
10072      283078313U,  
10073      732224790U,  
10074      2882807258U,  
10075      "Not showing all elements because this array is too big (78747 elements)"  
10076    };  
10077    Assembly executingAssembly = Assembly.GetExecutingAssembly();  
10078    Module manifestModule = executingAssembly.ManifestModule;  
10079    GCHandle gchandle = <Module>.Decrypt(array, 306067877U);  
10080    byte[] array2 = (byte[])gchandle.Target;  
10081    Module module = executingAssembly.LoadModule("koi", array2);  
10082    Array.Clear(array2, 0, array2.Length);  
10083    gchandle.Free();
```

Given the relative simplicity of the code so far - I suspected the encryption was not complex, but still, I decided not to analyze it this time.

Instead, I considered two other approaches

- Set a breakpoint after the `Decrypt` call and dump the result from memory.
- Set a `module breakpoint` to break when the new module decrypted and loaded. Then dump the result into a file.

I took the second approach, as it is reliable and useful for occasions where the location of decryption and loading isn't as easy to find. (Typically it's more complicated to find the `Decrypt` function, but luckily in this case it was rather simple)

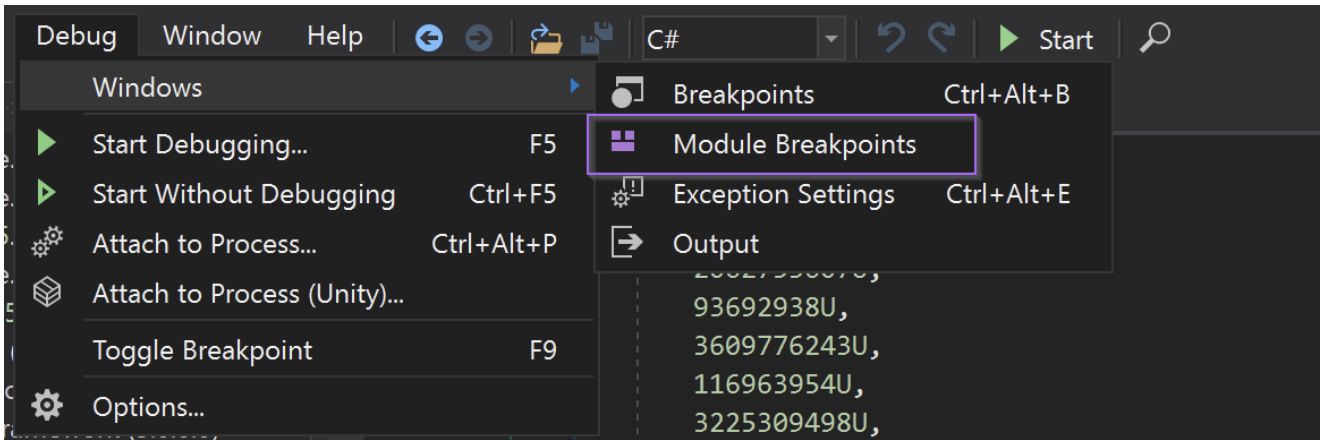
Either way, I decided to take the second approach.

Extracting Stage 2 using Module Breakpoints

To extract stage 2 - I first created a `module breakpoint` which would break on all module loads.

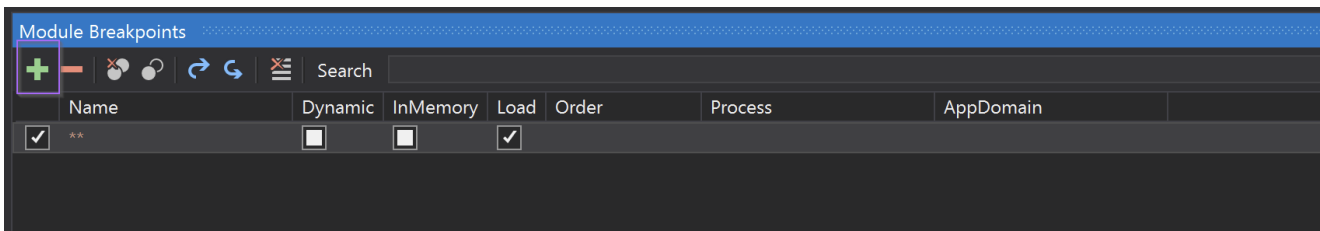
To do this, I first opened the module breakpoints window.

`Debug -> Windows -> Module Breakpoints`



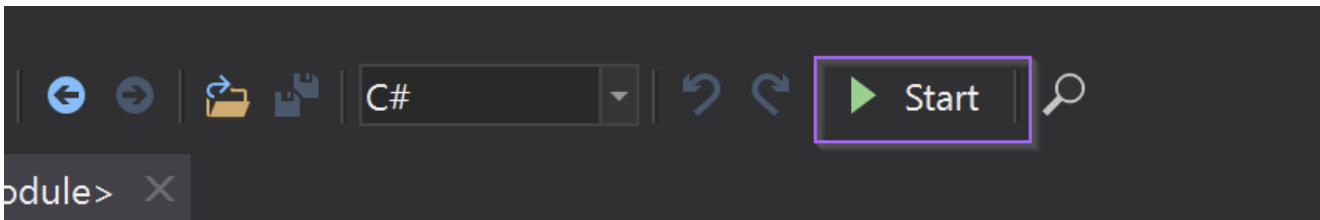
How to set a module breakpoint using Dnspy

I then created a module breakpoint with two wildcards. This will break on all new modules loaded by the malware.



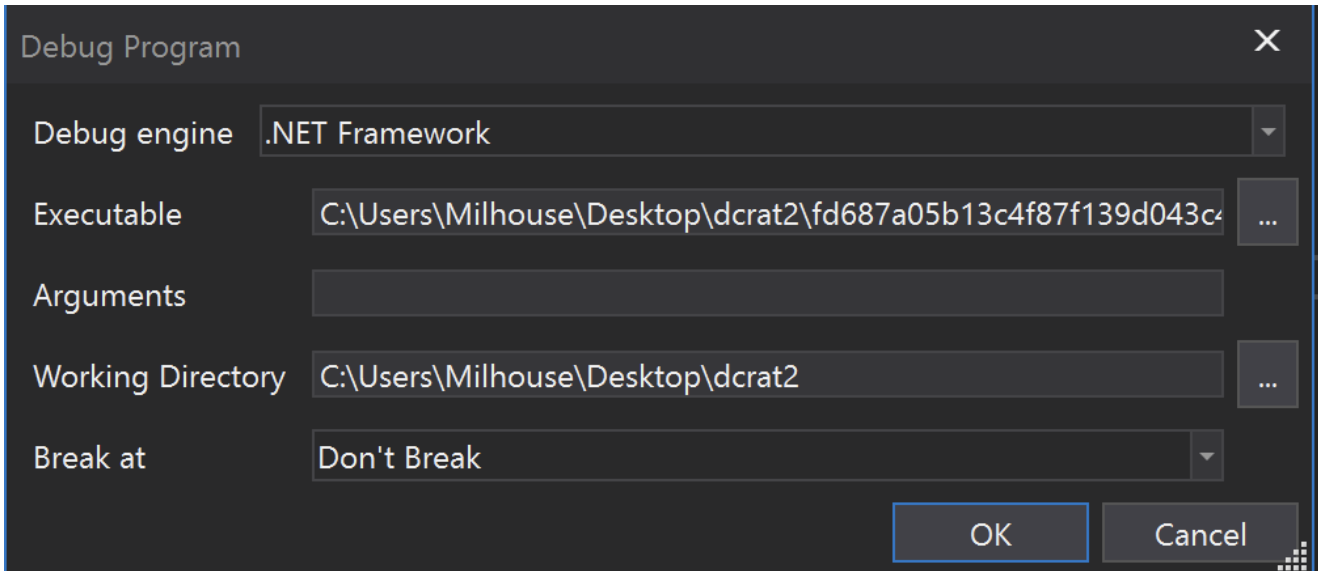
Module breakpoint to break on all loaded modules

I then executed the malware using the start button



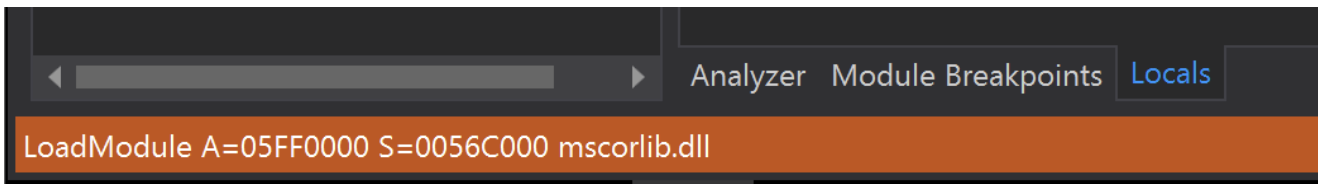
Dnspy button to Start or Continue execution

I accepted the default options.

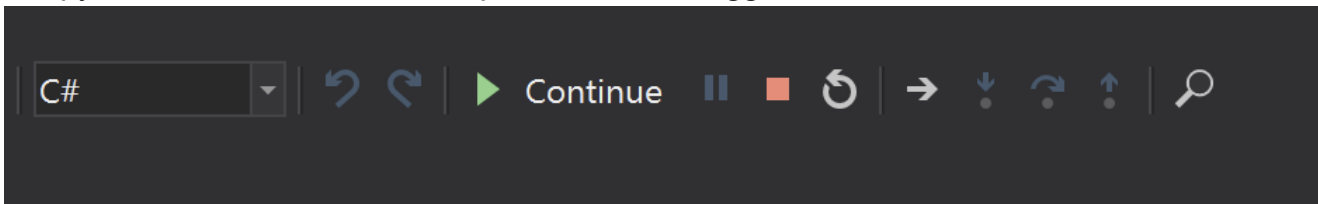


Default options for Dns Spy Debugging are ok

Immediately, a breakpoint was hit as `m_scorelib.dll` was being loaded into memory. This is a default library and I ignored it by selecting `Continue`



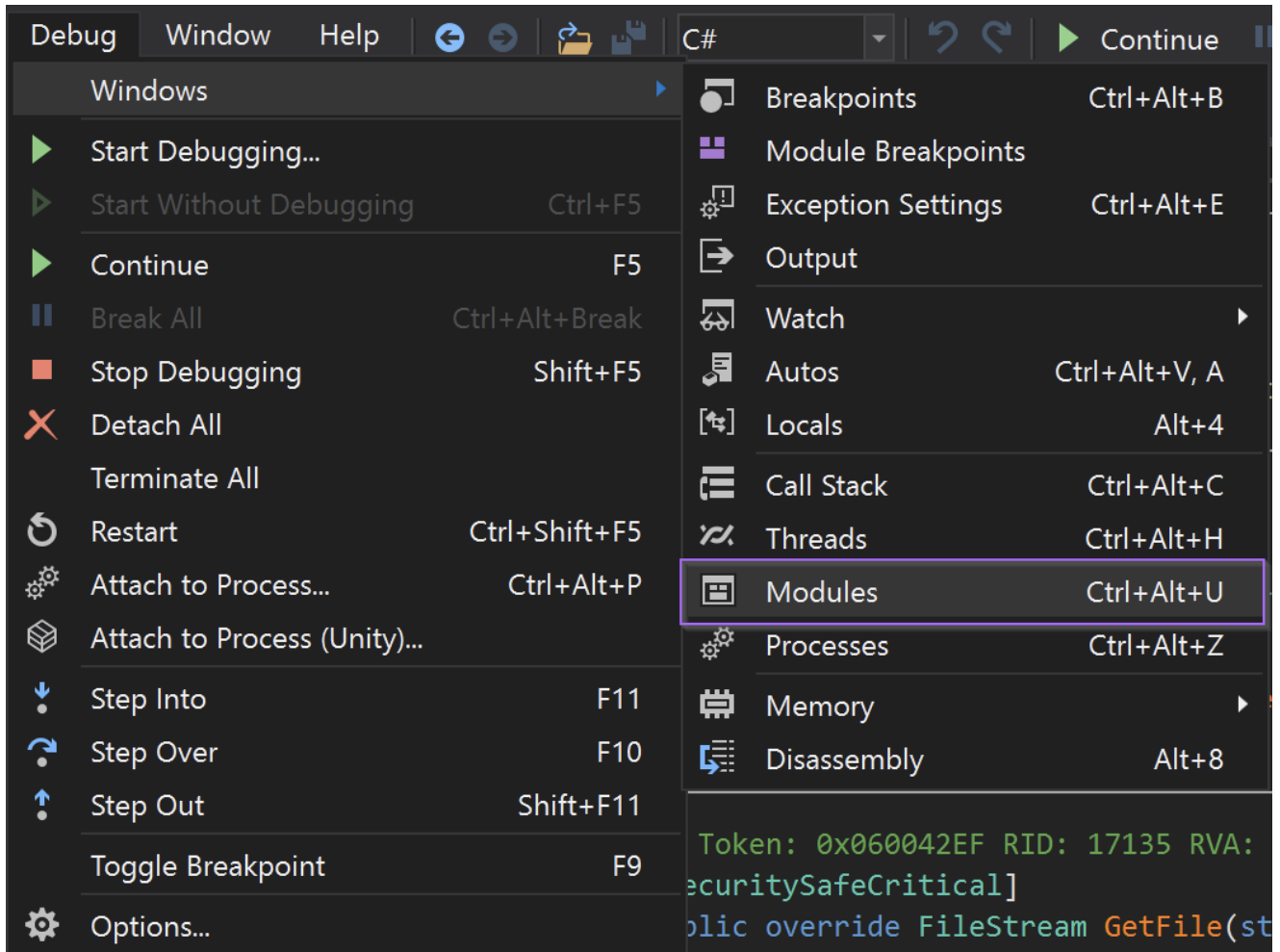
Dns Spy alert when a module breakpoint has been triggered



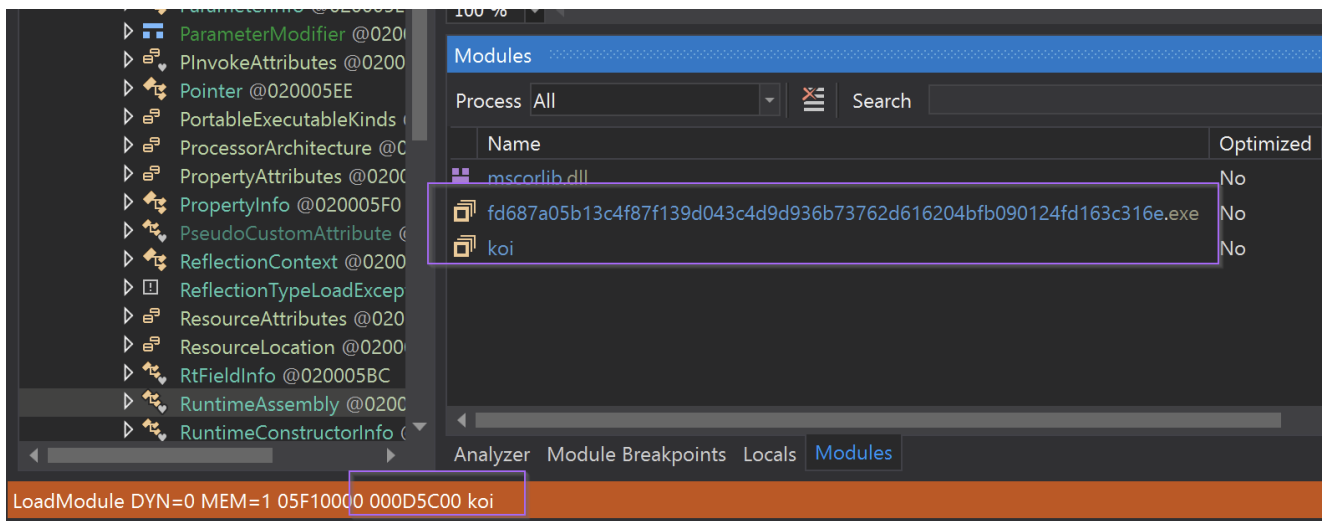
Once executing - the Continue button can be used to resume execution

The next module loaded was the original file being analyzed, which in this case can be safely ignored.

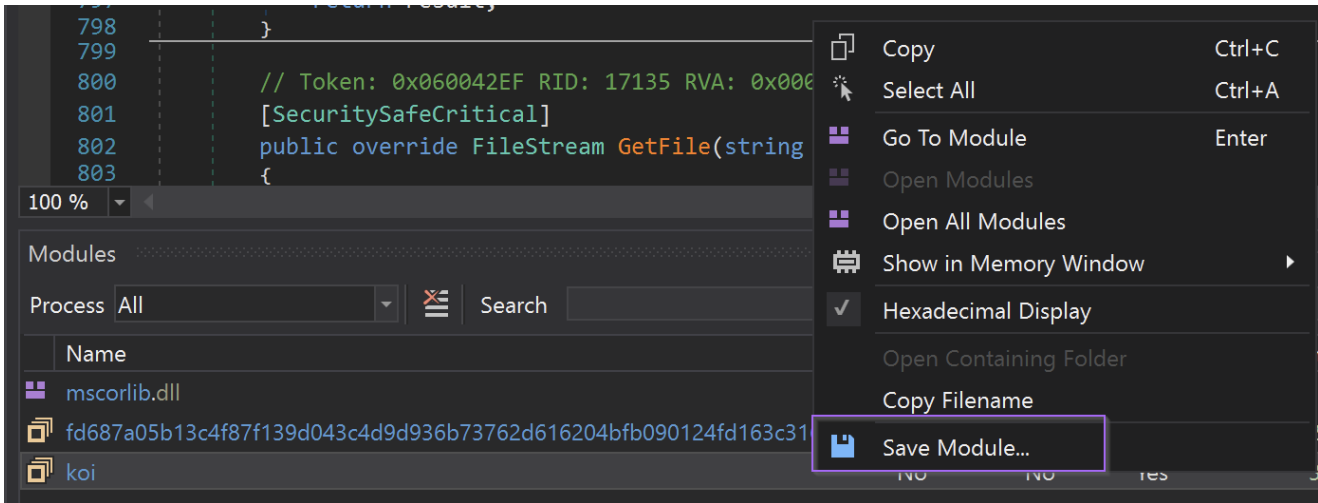
After that, a suspicious-looking `koi` module was loaded into memory. (If you don't have a `modules` window, go to `debug -> windows -> modules`)



How to View Currently Loaded Modules in Dnspy
 Here I could see the **koi** module had been loaded.



Example of a suspicious module being loaded into memory
 At this point, I saved the **koi** module to a new file using **Right-Click -> Save Module**.

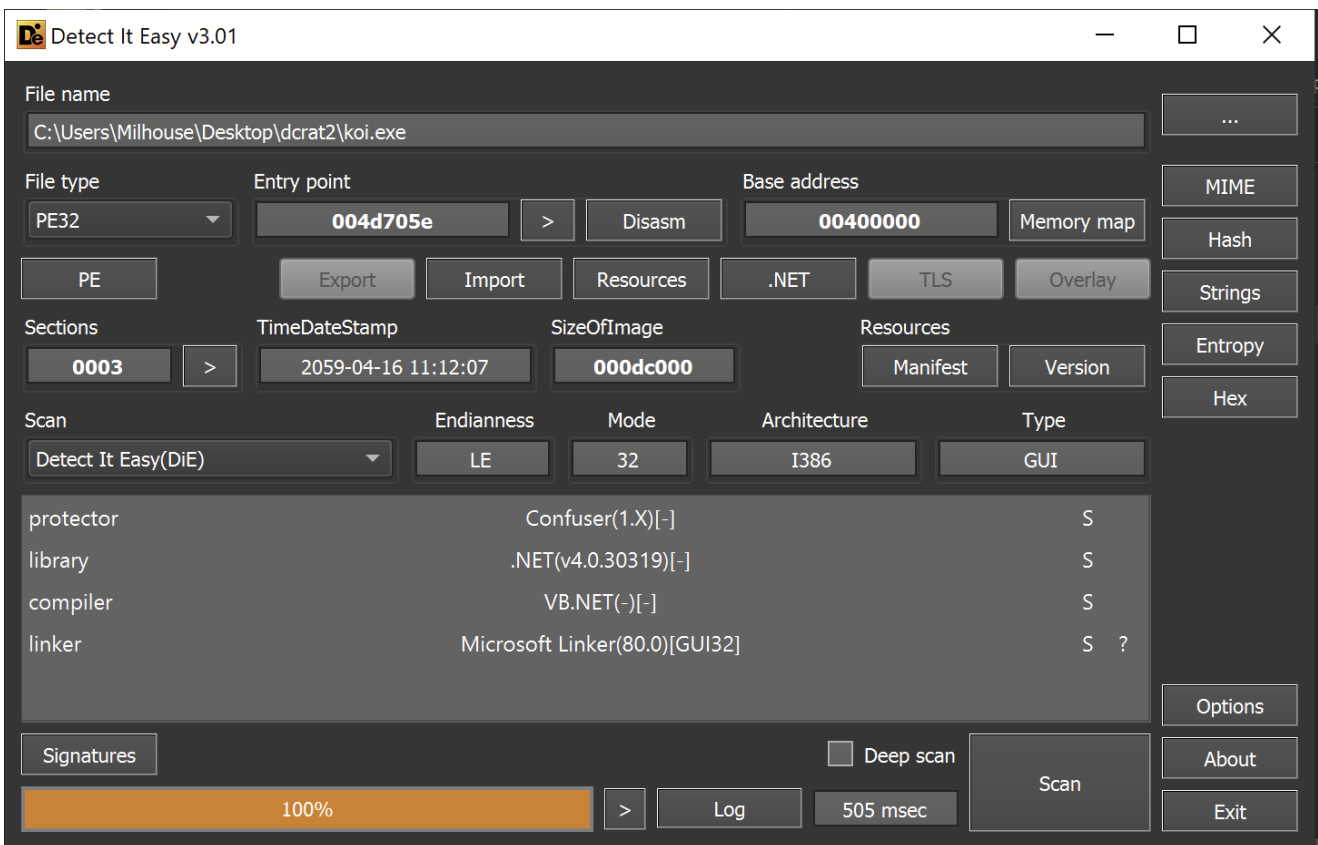


Dnspy Option for Saving a Loaded Module

I then exited the debugger and moved on to the `koi.exe` file.

Analysis of `koi.exe`

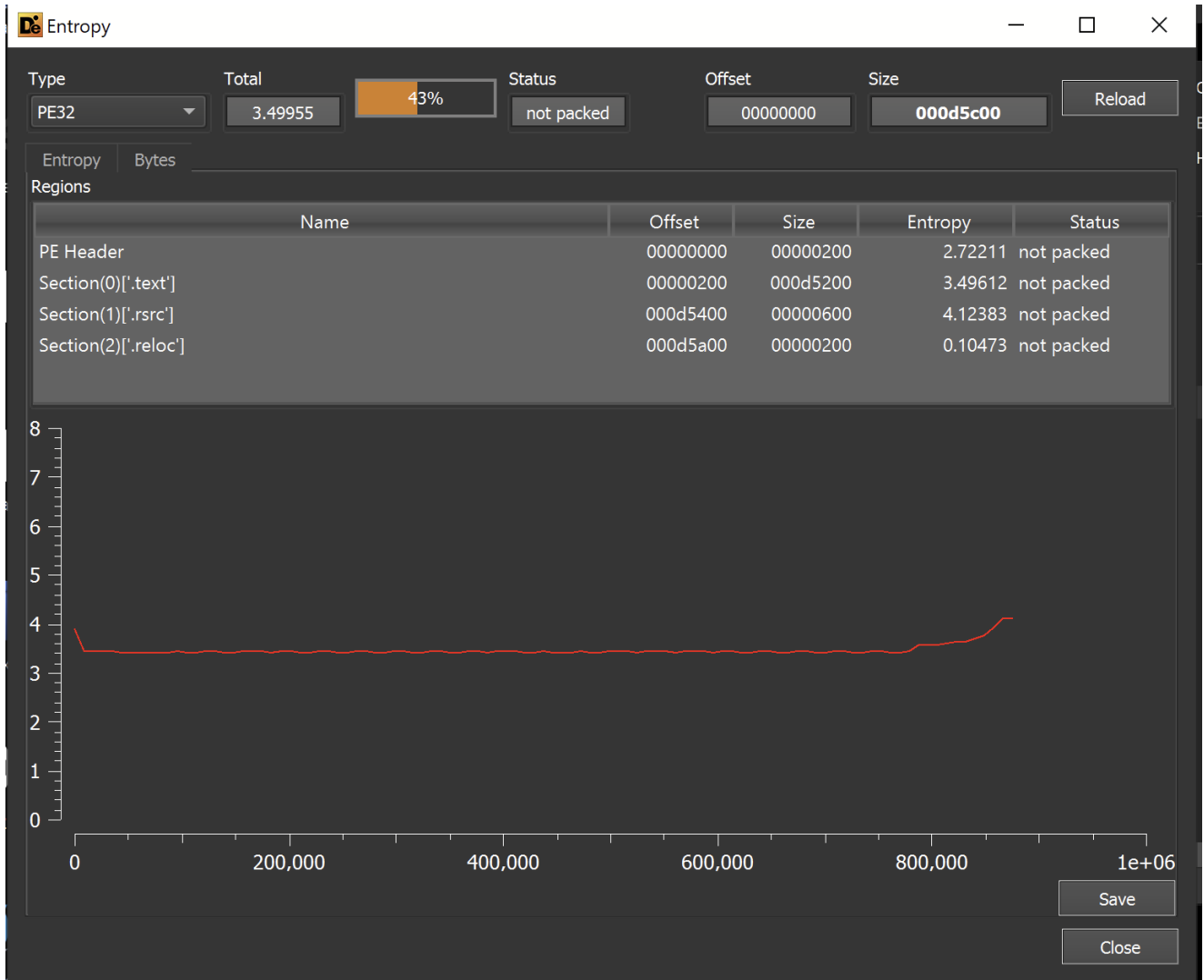
The `koi.exe` file is another 32-bit .net file. Containing references to `ConfuserEx`



Initial Analysis of a .NET file using Detect-it-easy

This time it does not seem to contain any large encrypted payloads.

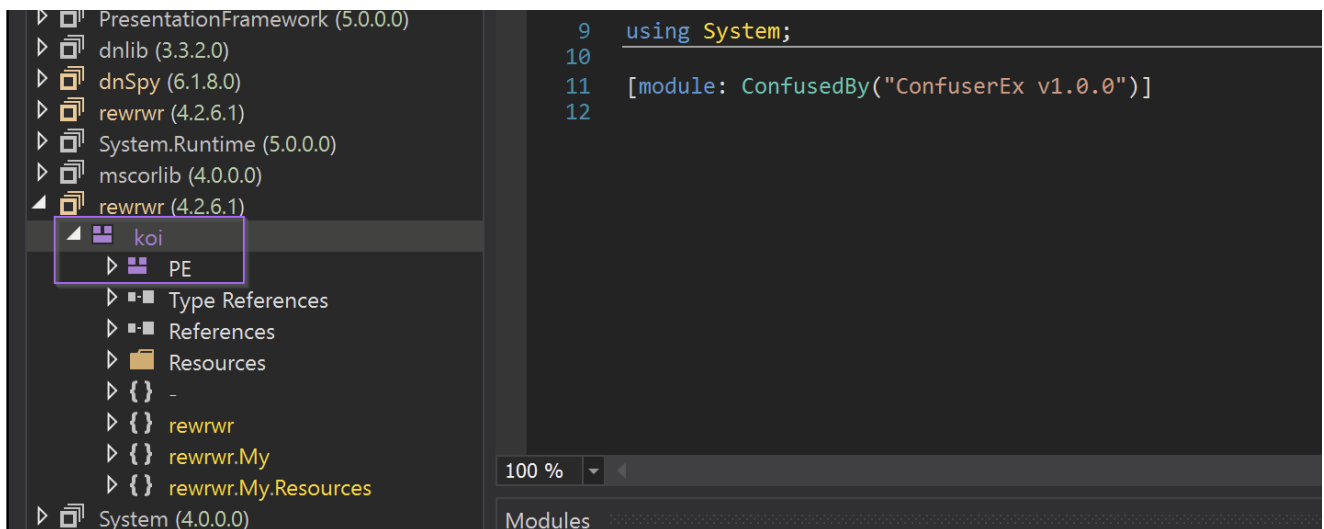
Although the overall entropy is low, large portions of the graph are still suspiciously flat. This can sometimes be an indication of text-based obfuscation.



Entropy Analysis when a text based obfuscation is used

I moved on and opened `koi.exe` using dnspy.

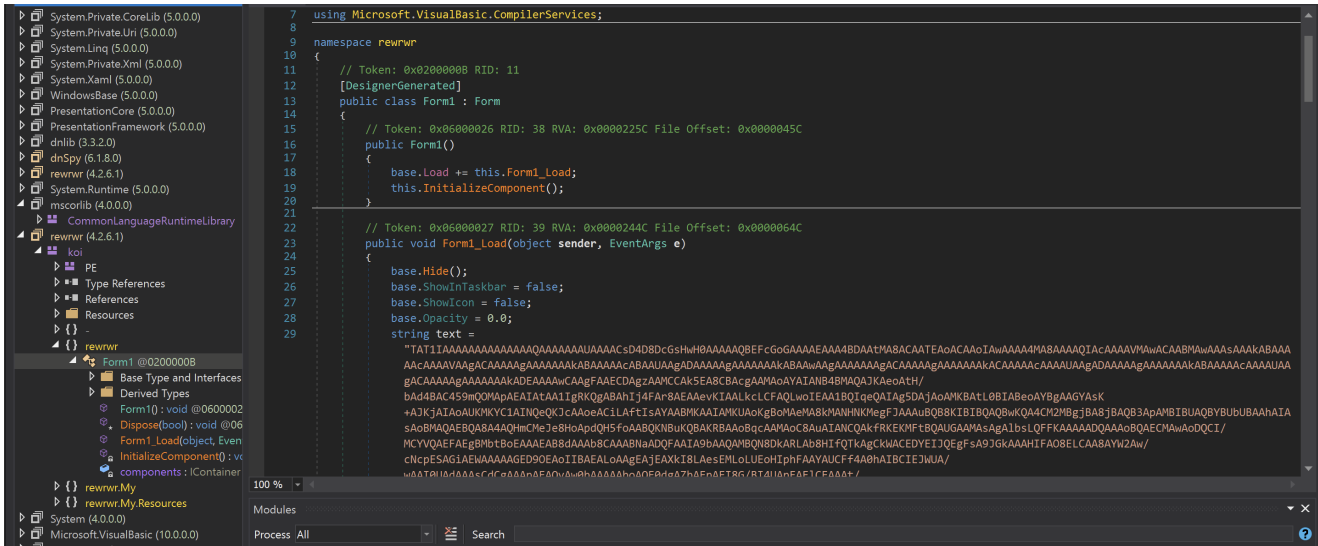
This time there was another `rewrwr.exe` name and references again to `ConfuserEx`



File Overview with Dnspy

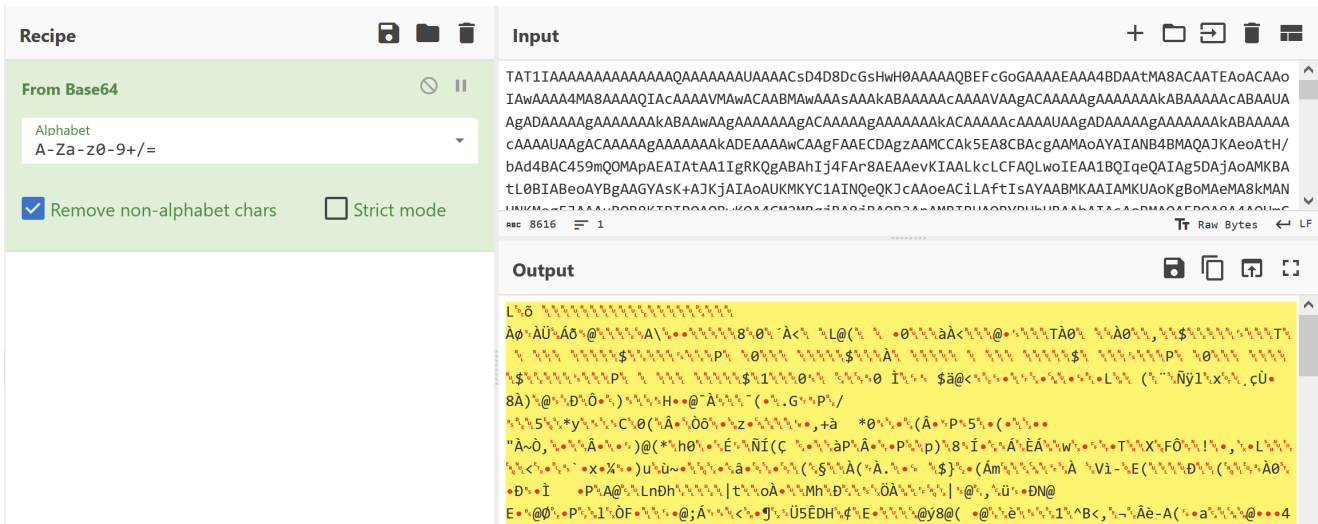
There was no Entry point available, so I started analysis with the `rewrwr` namespace in the side panel. This namespace contained one Class named `Form1`

The `Form1` class immediately called `Form1_Load`, which itself immediately referenced a large string that appears to be base64 encoded.



Example of Entry Point Containing Obfuscated Data

Despite appearing to be base64 - the text does not successfully code using base64. This was an indicator that some additional tricks or obfuscation had been used.



Attempting to Decode Base64 Using Cyberchef - Initially fails due to additional obfuscation I decided to jump to the end of the base64-looking data - Noting that there were about 50 large strings in total. Each titled `Str1` `str2` ... all the way to `Str49`

It was very likely these strings were the cause of the flat entropy graph we viewed earlier. Text based obfuscation tends to produce lower entropy than "proper" encryption

```

78      CgHK/
      gDMCKKGgLEQBUOKAG8MFIEKg0DEAGC4E
      string str49 =
      "ABGAAAAAAAAACAARAFAAFAAQAAAAoA
      AAAAEAAAAAAAAyAAAAAAAA0AAAAAAAbAAA

```

Example of another "base64" obfuscated string in Dnspy
 At the end of the data was the decoding logic. Which appeared to be taking the first character from each string and adding it to a buffer.

```

79      string text2 = "";
80      int length = text.Length;
81      checked
82      {
83          for (int i = 1; i <= length; i++)
84          {
85              text2 = string.Concat(new string[]
86              {
87                  text2,
88                  Strings.Mid(text, i, 1),
89                  Strings.Mid(str, i, 1),
90                  Strings.Mid(str2, i, 1),
91                  Strings.Mid(str3, i, 1),
92                  Strings.Mid(str4, i, 1),
93                  Strings.Mid(str5, i, 1),
94                  Strings.Mid(str6, i, 1),
95                  Strings.Mid(str7, i, 1),
96                  Strings.Mid(str8, i, 1),
97                  Strings.Mid(str9, i, 1),
98                  Strings.Mid(str10, i, 1),
99                  Strings.Mid(str11, i, 1),
100                 Strings.Mid(str12, i, 1),

```

The first char from each string is added to a buffer, then the second char, then third. Etc until the end of each string has been reached

Decoding Logic Utilised by the Dcrat Loader - Viewed with Dnspy
 After the buffer had been filled, it was base64 decoded and loaded into memory as an additional module.

```

      Strings.Mid(str48, i, 1),
      Strings.Mid(str49, i, 1)
  });
  Conversions.ToString(NewLateBinding.LateGet(NewLateBinding.LateGet(AppDomain.CurrentDomain.Load(Convert.FromBase64String(text2)), null,
  "EntryPoint", new object[0], null, null, null), null, "Invoke", new object[2], null, null, null));
}
}

```

Example of Decoded Contents being loaded into Memory
 In order to confirm the theory on how the strings were decoded, I took the first character from the first 5 strings and base64 decoded the result.

```
Output
text = "TAT1IAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAQAAAAAAAAUAAAA
str = "VAMvgABAAACAAAAAQFAAFAAQABAAIAAQ
str2 = "qA0ZEAAAAA5ABAUAAA0AAAAAYMAAAAAA4|
str3 = "QAhGLgACAA0GAAAAFAAFAAQFAAAAAA
str4 = "AAVUAAAAAAZAAArAAEAAAAAAoAAAAAMA
str5 = "AAGuQABFAAXuAAAAFAAFARAFAALAAAA
```

First character from each string
is added to the file. Then 2nd,3rd
etc

Brief Overview of the Additional obfuscation used

```
TVqQAA|
RBC 6 1
Output
MZ•••|
```

Example of this decodes using

base64

This confirmed my theory on how the malware was decoding the next stage.

In order to extract the next module, I copied out the strings and put them into a Python script.

```

import base64

#List containing all strings from the malware
textArray = ["TAT1IAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAQAAAAAAAAUAAACsD4D8DcGsHwH0AAAAAQBEFcGoGAAAAEAAA4BI
output = ""
#Iterate through strings, grab 1st char from each, then 2nd, 3rd etc
for i in range(0,len(textArray[0])):
    for text in textArray:
        try:
            output += text[i]
        except:
            continue
#Base64 Decode the results
outbin = base64.b64decode(output)

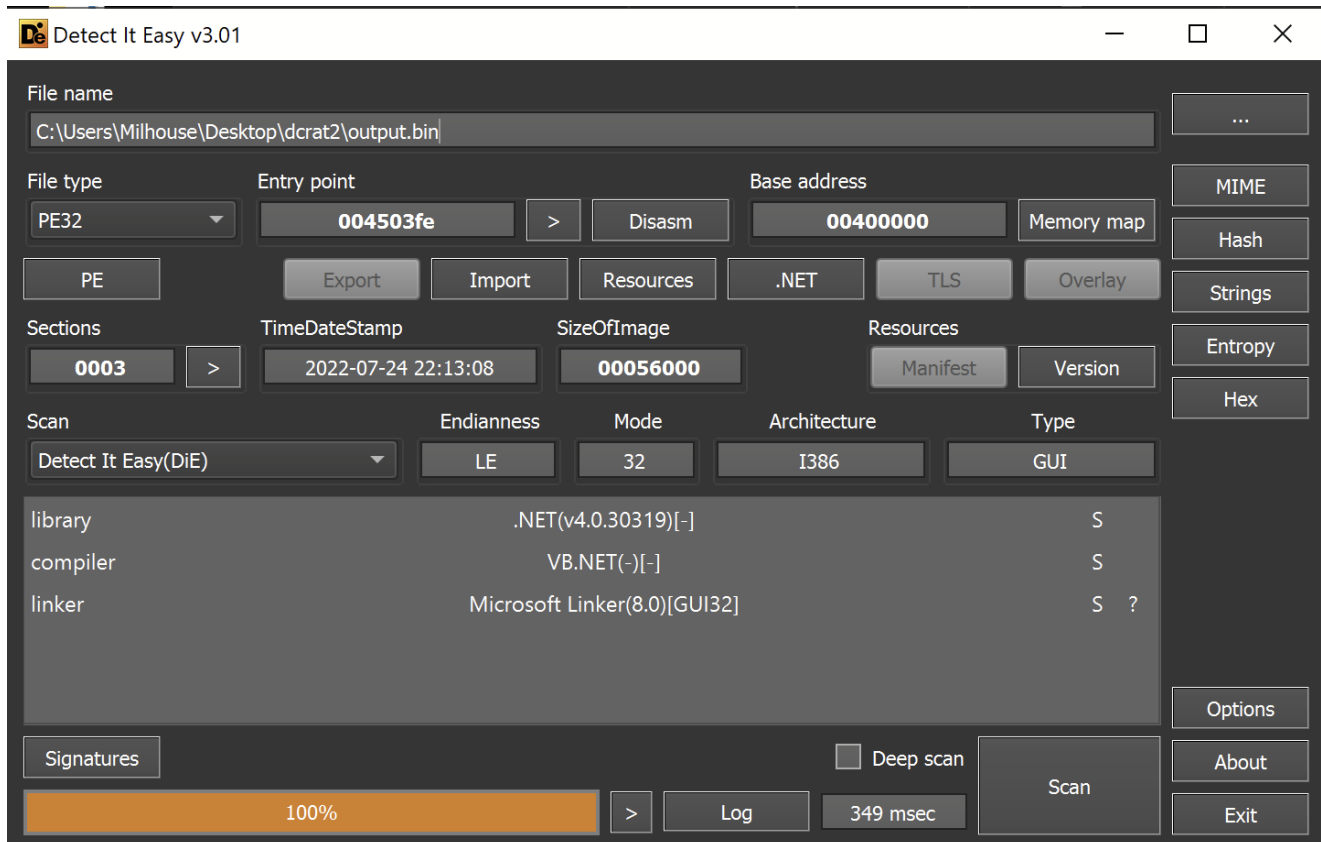
#Write output to a file
f = open("output.bin", "wb")
f.write(outbin)
f.close()

```

Python Script to Decode the Dcrat Encoded Strings

Running this script created a third file. Which for simplicity's sake was named `output.bin`

The file was recognized as a 32-bit .NET file. So the decoding was successful.



Initial Analysis of Third .NET File using Detect-it-easy

Stage 3 - Analysis

Now I had obtained a stage 3 file - which again was a 32-bit .net executable.

This time - no references to **ConfuserEx**

The screenshot shows the Detect It Easy v3.01 application window. The file name is C:\Users\Milhouse\Desktop\dcrat2\output.bin. The file type is PE32, with an entry point at 004503fe and a base address at 00400000. The scan results show a .NET(v4.0.30319)[-] library, a VB.NET(-)[-] compiler, and a Microsoft Linker(8.0)[GUI32] linker. The scan is 100% complete and took 349 msec.

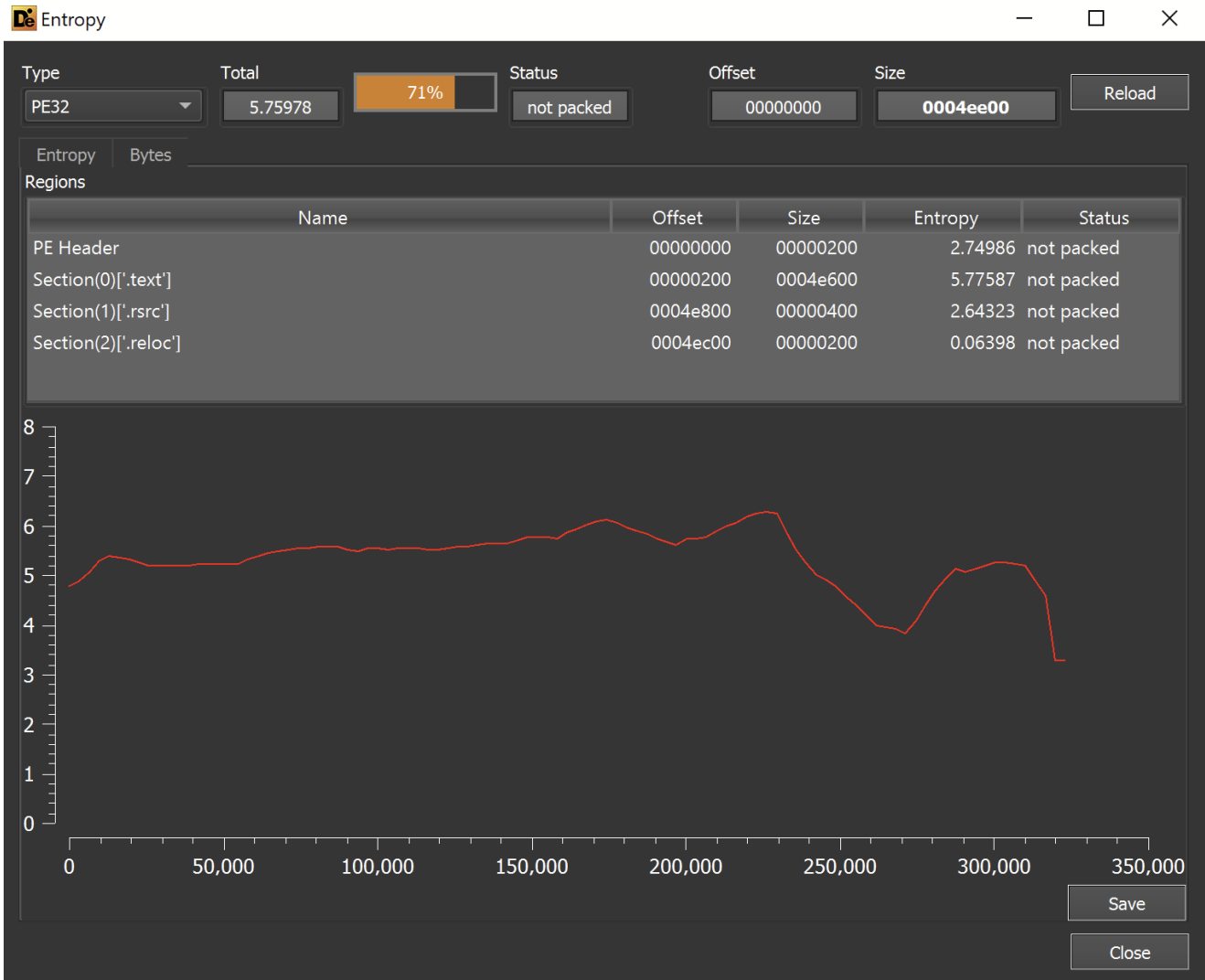
Section	TimeDateStamp	SizeOfImage	Resources
0003	2022-07-24 22:13:08	00056000	Manifest, Version

Scan	Endianness	Mode	Architecture	Type
Detect It Easy(DiE)	LE	32	I386	GUI

Component	Version	Type
library	.NET(v4.0.30319)[-]	S
compiler	VB.NET(-)[-]	S
linker	Microsoft Linker(8.0)[GUI32]	S ?

Initial Analysis of Third .NET File using Detect-it-easy

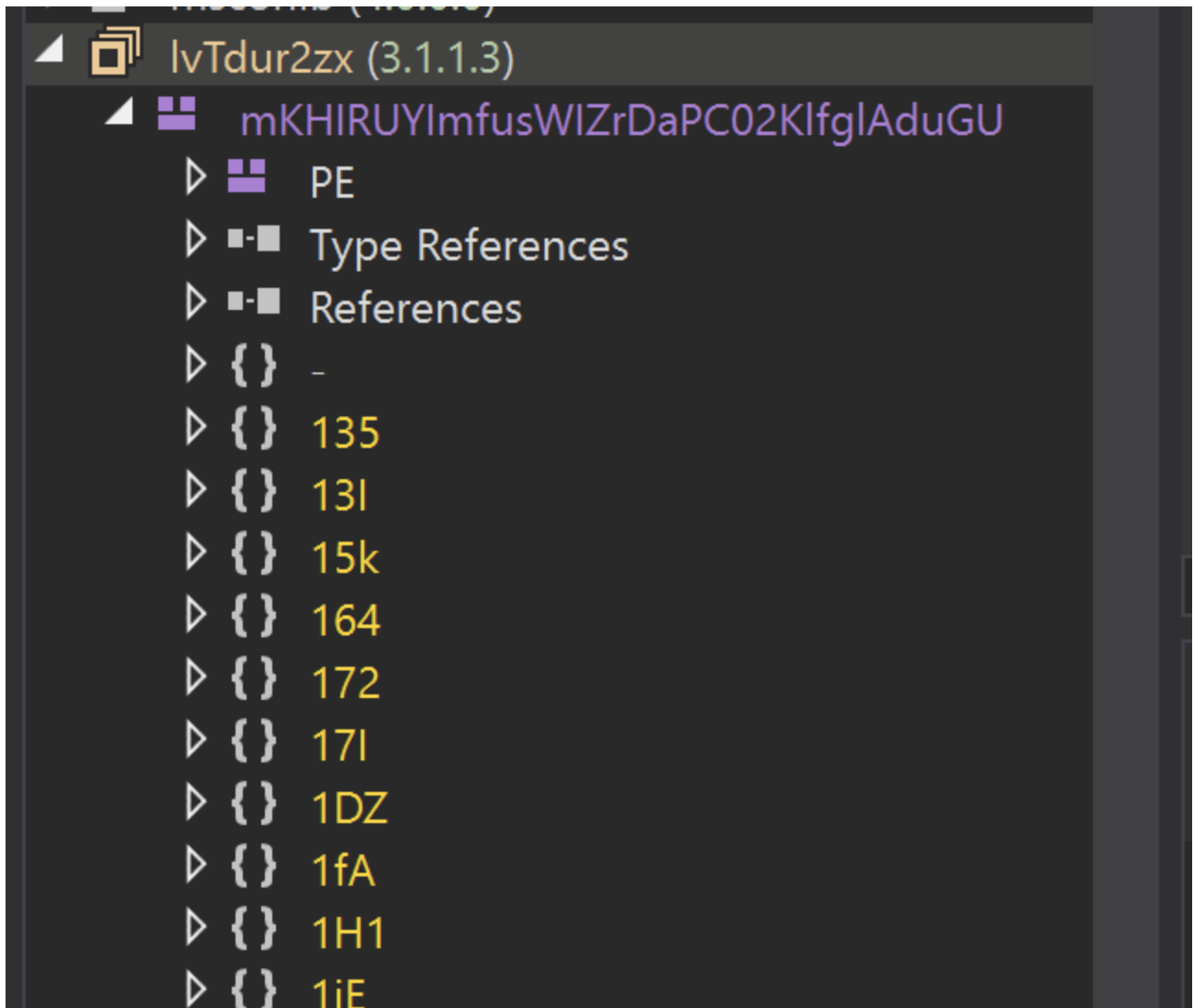
The entropy was reasonably normal - and did not contain any large flat sections that may indicate a hidden payload.



The lack of **ConfuserEx** and relatively normal entropy - was an indication that this may be the final payload.

Moving on to Dnspy, the file is recognized as **IvTdur2zx**

Despite the lack of **ConfuserEx**, the namespaces and class names look terrible.



DnsSpy view of Obfuscated Functions in Final Payload
I then went to the Entry-point to see what was going on

```
9 namespace koZ
10 {
11     // Token: 0x02000075 RID: 117
12     internal static class 91s
13     {
14         // Token: 0x0600018A RID: 394 RVA: 0x000054F9 File Offset: 0x000036F9
15         [STAThread]
16         private static void 476()
17         {
18             91s.627.wTq();
19         }
20     }
```

The first few functions were mostly junk - but there were some interesting strings referenced throughout the code.

For example - references to a .bat script being written to disk

The screenshot shows the Cyberchef interface with a recipe named 'Recipe'. It has two steps: 'From Base64' and 'Gunzip'. The 'From Base64' step is active, with the 'Alphabet' set to 'A-Za-z0-9+/' and 'Remove non-alphabet chars' checked. The 'Input' field contains a long Base64 string. The 'Output' field shows a large block of Base64-encoded text.

Cyberchef - Base64 + Gzip + Additional Obfuscation

After applying a **character reverse + base64 decode**. I was able to obtain a strange dictionary as well as a mutex of **wzjn9oCrswNteRRGsQXn** + some basic config.

This was cool but still no C2.

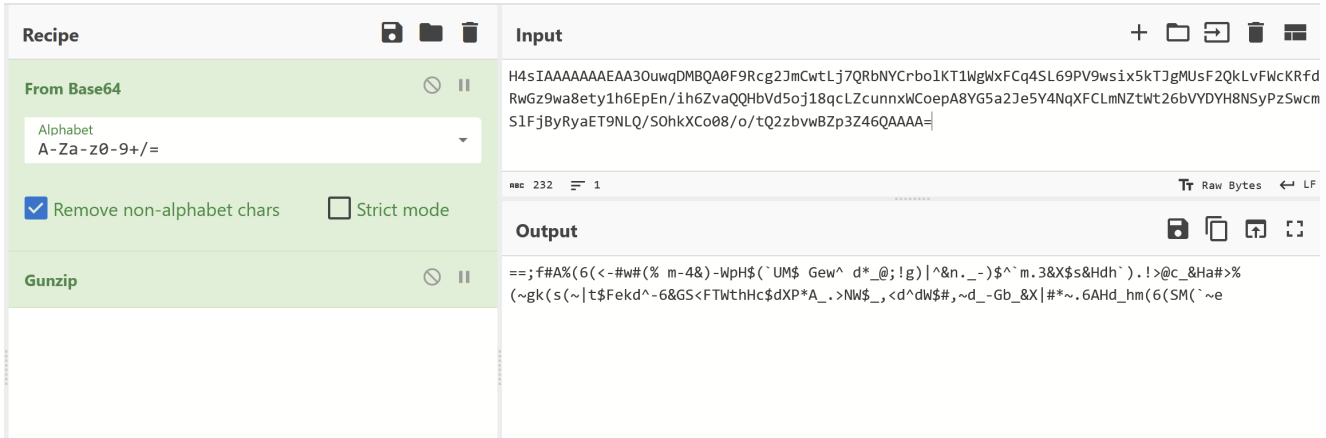
The screenshot shows the Cyberchef interface with a recipe named 'Recipe'. It has four steps: 'From Base64', 'Gunzip', 'Reverse', and 'From Base64'. The 'Reverse' step is active, with 'By' set to 'Character'. The 'Input' field contains the same long Base64 string as in the previous screenshot. The 'Output' field shows a JSON configuration:

```
{
  "SCR": "{ \"L\": \"\", \"J\": \"\", \"R\": \"&\", \"Q\": \"\", \"0\": \"\", \"1\": \"\", \"I\": \"\", \"5\": \"\", \"I\": \"\", \"9\": \"\", \"i\": \"\", \"C\": \"\", \"j\": \"\", \"2\": \"\", \"V\": \"\", \"v\": \"\", \"Z\": \"\", \"o\": \"\", \">\": \"\", \"y\": \"\", \"D\": \"\", \"@\": \"\", \"|\": \"\", \"PCRT\": \"{ \"j\": \"\", \"R\": \"\", \"I\": \"\", \"x\": \"\", \"_\": \"\", \"G\": \"\", \"U\": \"\", \"T\": \"\", \"&\": \"\", \"S\": \"\", \"X\": \"\", \"0\": \"\", \"<\": \"\", \"=\": \"\", \"@\": \"\", \"6\": \"\", \"M\": \"\", \"Y\": \"\", \"d\": \"\", \"9\": \"\", \"p\": \"\", \"b\": \"\", \"*\": \"\", \"w\": \"\", \"$\": \"\", \"i\": \"\", \"-\": \"\", \"!\": \"\", \"TAG\": \"\", \"MUTEX\": \"DCR_MUTEX-wzjn9oCrswNteRRGsQXn\", \"LDTM\": false, \"DBG\": false, \"SST\": 5, \"SMST\": 2, \"BCS\": 0, \"AUR\": 1, \"ASCFG\": \"\", \"searchpath\": \"%UsersFolder% - Fast\\}\", \"AS\": false, \"ASO\": false, \"AD\": false }",
  "TAG": "",
  "MUTEX": "DCR_MUTEX-wzjn9oCrswNteRRGsQXn",
  "LDTM": false,
  "DBG": false,
  "SST": 5,
  "SMST": 2,
  "BCS": 0,
  "AUR": 1,
  "ASCFG": "",
  "searchpath": "%UsersFolder% - Fast\\}",
  "AS": false,
  "ASO": false,
  "AD": false
}
```

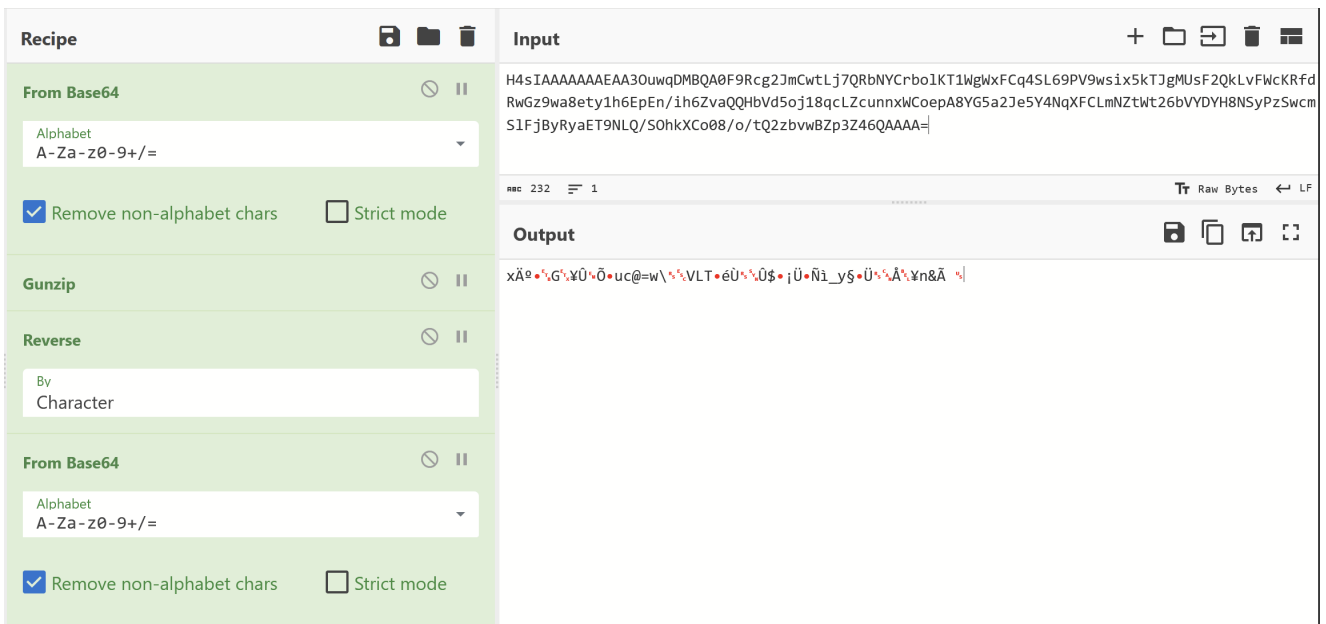
Cyberchef - Decoding the "base64" strings

I then tried to decode the second base64 blob shown by **detect-it-easy**.

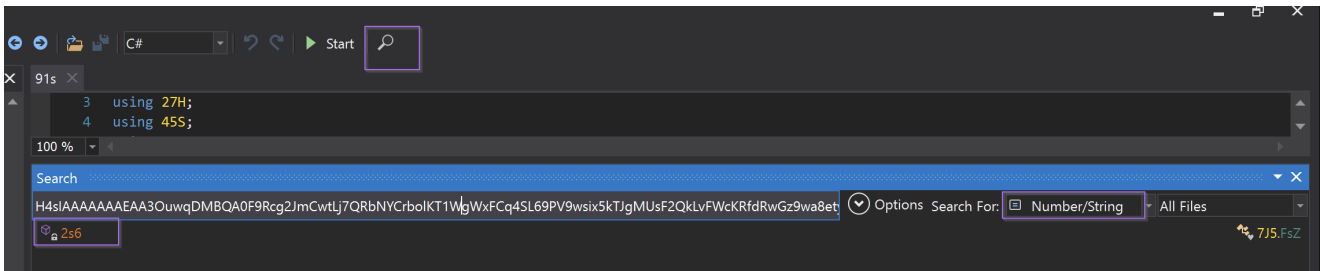
But the result was largely junk.



Cyberchef - Failed Decoding of Additional "base64" strings
 Attempting to **reverse + base64 decode** returned no results.



Cyberchef - Additional failures when decoding strings
 At this point - I decided to search for the base64 encoded string to see where it was referenced in the .net code.



Using Dnspy to search for string cross references (x-refs)
 This revealed an interesting function showing multiple additional functions acting on the base64 encoded data.
 In total, there are 4 functions (`M2r.957` , `M2r.i6B` , `M2r.1vX` , `M2r.i59`) which are acting on the encoded data.

```

67 // Token: 0x06000126 RID: 294 RVA: 0x000112E0 File Offset: 0x0000F4E0
68 private static void 2s6(Dictionary<string, object> A_0, Dictionary<string, string> A_1)
69 {
70     FsZ.U1s u1s = new FsZ.U1s();
71     u1s.E8e = A_0;
72     Dictionary<string, string> dictionary = M2r.i59(X8B.1vX(M2r.i6B(M2r.957
    ("H4sIAAAAAAAAAEA30uqDMBQA0F9Rcg2JmCwtLj7QRbNYCrbo1KT1WgWxFCq4SL69PV9wsix5kTJgMUsF2QkLvFwCkRfDwGz9wa8ety1h6EpEn/
    ih6ZvaQQHbVd5oj18qcLZcunnxWCoepA8YG5a2Je5Y4NqXFCLmNZtwT26bVVDYH8NSyPzSwcmS1FjByRyaET9NLQ/SohkXCo08/o/tQ2zbvWBZp3Z46QAAAA=", A_1
    ["SCRT"], Mcx<Dictionary<string, string>>()))).Mcx<Dictionary<string, string>>());
73     Thread.Sleep(new vc3().805(100, 10000));
74     bool flag = dictionary["T"] == "1";
75     if (flag)
76     {
77         string[] array = S2x.q26(dictionary["DCL"], false).Split(new char[]
78     {

```

Viewing Additional layers of string obfuscation using Dnspy

The first function **M2r.957** is a wrapper around another function **M2r.276** which performed the **base64** and **Gzip** decoding.

```

// Token: 0x06000182 RID: 386 RVA: 0x000133B4 File Offset: 0x000115B4
public static string 276(string A_0)
{
    byte[] buffer = Convert.FromBase64String(A_0);
    string @string;
    using (MemoryStream memoryStream = new MemoryStream(buffer))
    {
        using (MemoryStream memoryStream2 = new MemoryStream())
        {
            using (GZipStream gzipStream = new GZipStream(memoryStream, CompressionMode.Decompress))
            {
                gzipStream.CopyTo(memoryStream2);
            }
            @string = Encoding.UTF8.GetString(memoryStream2.ToArray());
        }
    }
    return @string;
}

```

Delving Deeper into an "obfuscation" function.

The next function **M2r.i6B** took the previously obtained string and then performed a **Replace** operation based on a **Dictionary**

The screenshot shows the Cyberchef web interface with two operations: 'From Base64' and 'Gunzip'. The 'From Base64' operation has 'Alphabet' set to 'A-Za-z0-9+/' and 'Remove non-alphabet chars' checked. The 'Gunzip' operation is also active. The input field contains a long base64 string, and the output field shows the result after decoding, which is a complex escaped string.

Cyberchef View of Obfuscated String

Interesting to note - is that the **Value** is replaced with the **Key** and not the other way around as you might expect.

```
// Token: 0x06000183 RID: 387 RVA: 0x0001344C File Offset: 0x0001164C
public static string i6B(string A_0, Dictionary<string, string> A_1)
{
    for (int i = 0; i < A_0.Length / A_0.Length; i++)
    {
        A_0 = A_0.Trim();
    }
    foreach (KeyValuePair<string, string> keyValuePair in A_1)
    {
        A_0 = A_0.Replace(keyValuePair.Value, keyValuePair.Key);
    }
    return A_0;
}
```

Dnspy - Overview of Dictionary based String Replace

Based on the previous code, the input dictionary was something to do with a value of **SCRT**

```
// Token: 0x06000126 RID: 294 RVA: 0x000112E0 File Offset: 0x0000F4E0
private static void 2s6(Dictionary<string, object> A_0, Dictionary<string, string> A_1)
{
    FsZ.U1s u1s = new FsZ.U1s();
    u1s.E8e = A_0;
    Dictionary<string, string> dictionary = M2r.159(X8B.1vX(M2r.i6B(M2r.957
    ("H4sIAAAAAEAA30uwqDMBQA0F9Rcg2JmCwtLj7QRbNYCrbo1KT1WgwxFCq4SL69PV9ws1x5KTjgMUsF2QkLvFWcKRfdRwGz9wa8ety1h6EpEn/
    ih67va0Q0HbVd5oj18qcLZcunnxwCoepA8YG5a2Je5Y4MqXFCLmNZtWt26bVVDYH8NSyPzSwcmS1FjByRyaET9NLQ/SOhkXCo08/o/tQ2zbvwBZp3Z46QAAAA="), A_1
    [{"SCRT": "cx<Dictionary<string, string>(<>)).Mcx<Dictionary<string, string>(<>);
    Thread.Sleep(new vc3(), 805(100, 10000));
    ...
```

Analysing additional string obfuscation using Dnspy

Suspiciously - there was an **SCRT** that looked like a dictionary in the first base64 string that was decoded.

Output

```
{
  "SCRT": "{ \"L\": \".\", \"J\": \"`\", \"R\": \"&\", \"Q\": \";\", \"0\": \"_\", \"1\": \" \", \"I\": \"^\", \"5\": \"\", \"I\": \"(\", \"9\": \"*\", \"i\": \"#\", \"C\": \"<\", \"j\": \"%\", \"2\": \"\")\", \"V\": \"-\", \"v\": \"!\", \"Z\": \"$\", \"o\": \">\", \"y\": \"~\", \"D\": \"@\", \"Y\": \"|\", \"PCRT\": \"{ \"j\": \"\", \"R\": \"\", \"I\": \"#\", \"x\": \"_\", \"G\": \"(\", \"U\": \"^\", \"T\": \"&\", \"S\": \"~\", \"X\": \"!\", \"0\": \"<\", \"=\": \"@\", \"6\": \".\", \"M\": \"\", \"Y\": \"|\", \"d\": \" \", \"9\": \";\", \"p\": \">\", \"b\": \"*\", \"w\": \"$\", \"i\": \"-\", \"l\": \"%\" }\", \"TAG\": \"\", \"MUTEX\": \"DCR_Mutex- Wzjn9oCrswNteRRGsQXn\", \"LDTM\": false, \"DBG\": false, \"SST\": 5, \"SMST\": 2, \"BCS\": 0, \"AUR\": 1, \"ASCFG\": \"{ \"searchpath\": \"%UsersFolder% - Fast\" }\", \"AS\": false, \"ASO\": false, \"AD\": false } }
```

Cyberchef - locating the dictionary used for decoding

So I obtained that dictionary and prettied it up using Cyberchef to remove all of the **** escapes.

The screenshot shows the Cyberchef interface with the 'Unescape string' recipe selected. The input field contains a highly escaped string, and the output field shows the result after unescaping, which is a cleaner-looking string.

Cleaning up escape characters with Cyberchef

I then created a partial Python script based on the information I had so far. (I'll post a link at the end of this post)

```
import base64,gzip

#Create Dictionary obtained from previous decoding
A1 = {"SCRT":{"L":",","J":"","R":"","Q":"","0":"","1":" ","1":"","^":"","5":"","","I":"","","9":"","*":"","i":"","#":"","C":"","<":"","j":"","&":"","2":"",")","V":"","-":"","v":"","!":"","Z":"","$":"","o":"",">":"","y":"","~":"","D":"","@":"","Y":"","|":"","PCRT":{"j":"","":"R":"","I":"","#":"","U":"","A":"","T":"","&":"","S":"","~":"","X":"","1":"","0":"","","="":"","@":"","6":"","\":"","M":"","\":"","Y":"","\":"","\":"","d":"","\":"","\":"","9":"","\":"","\":"","p":"","\":"",">":"","\":"","b":"","\":"","*":"","\":"","w":"","\":"","$":"","\":"","i":"","\":"","-":"","\":"","1":"","\":"","%"}]}

encoded = "H4sIAAAAAAAAAEAA3OuwgDMBQA0F9Rcg2JmCwtLj7QRbNYCrbolKT1WgWxFCq4SL69PV9wsix5kTJgMUsF2QkLvFwCkRfdRwGz9wa8Ety1h6EpEn/ih6ZvaQHBvd5oj18qcL3cu
encoded = str(gzip.decompress(base64.b64decode(encoded)))

#Obtain the SCRT Dictionary
dictionary = A1["SCRT"]
#Use the dictionary to perform a search/replace
#Making sure to replace the Value with the Key
# and not the other way around
for i in dictionary:
    encoded = encoded.replace(dictionary[i],i)
```

Python Script used to decode the string

Executing this result and printing the result - I was able to obtain a cleaner-looking string than before.

Here's a before and after

The screenshot shows the 'Output' field of the Cyberchef tool, displaying a single line of decoded text.

Before applying additional text-replacement

```
==== RESTART: C:\Users\Milhouse\Desktop\dcrat2\decode2.py =====
b'==QfiAjI6ICVwiIj1mV4R2VWpHZIJUMZ1Gew1ld90DQvg2Y1RnLOV2Z1JmL3RXZsRHdhJ2LvoDc0R
HajojIygiIsIyYtZfEkd1V6RGSCFTWthHcZdXP9A0LoNWZ05Cd1dWzi5yd0VGb0RXYi9yL6AHd0hmI6I
SMIJye'
>>>
```

After applying additional text-replacement

It was probably safe to assume this string was **reversed** + **base64 encoded**, but I decided to check the remaining two decoding functions just to make sure.

M2r.1vX was indeed responsible for reversing the string.


```

// Token: 0x060001B7 RID: 439 RVA: 0x00014EB4 File Offset: 0x000130B4
public static string 1vX(string A_0)
{
    char[] array = A_0.ToCharArray();
    Array.Reverse(array);
    return new string(array);
}

```

Dnspy - Analysis of additional obfuscation (string reverse)

M2r.i59 was indeed responsible for base64 decoding the result.

```

// Token: 0x06000185 RID: 389 RVA: 0x00013534 File Offset: 0x00011734
public static string i59(string A_0)
{
    bool flag = string.IsNullOrEmpty(A_0);
    string result;
    if (flag)
    {
        result = "";
    }
    else
    {
        result = Encoding.UTF8.GetString(Convert.FromBase64String(A_0));
    }
    return result;
}

```

Dnspy - Analysis of additional obfuscation (base64 encoding)

So I then added these steps to my Python script.

```

1 import base64, gzip
2
3 #Create Dictionary obtained from previous decoding
4 A1 = {"SCRT":{"L":".", "J":"'", "R":"6", "Q":";", "0":"_", "1":" ", "2":"^", "5":"", "I":"(", "9":"*", "i":"#", "O":"<", "j":"&", "2":")", "V":"-", "v":"!", "Z"}
5 #Store string from from encoding
6 encoded = "H4sIAAAAAAAAAEAA3OuWqDMBQA0F9Rcg2JmCwtLj7QRbNYCrbolKT1WgWxFCq4SL69PV9wsix5kTjGmUsF2QkLvFwckRfdRwGz9wa0ety1h6EpEn/ih6ZvaQQHbVd5oj18qcLZcu
7 encoded = str(gzip.decompress(base64.b64decode(encoded)))
8
9 #Obtain the SCRT Dictionary
10 dictionary = A1["SCRT"]
11 #Use the dictionary to perform a search/replace
12 #Making sure to replace the Value with the Key
13 # and not the other way around
14 for i in dictionary:
15     encoded = encoded.replace(dictionary[i],i)
16
17 print("First round of Decoding: \n" + encoded + "\n")
18
19 #Reverse the string
20 encoded = encoded[-1:0:-1]
21 #base64 decode again
22 encoded = base64.b64decode(encoded)
23 #print the result
24 print("Second round of decoding: \n" + str(encoded))
25

```

Updated Python Script for decoding Dcrat

And executed to reveal the results - successful C2!

[http://battletw\[.\]beget\[.\]tech/](http://battletw[.]beget[.]tech/)

```

>>>
===== RESTART: C:\Users\Milhouse\Desktop\dcrat2\decode2.py =====
First round of Decoding:
b'==QfiAjI6ICVwiIj1mV4R2VWpHZIJUMZ1Gew11d90DQvg2Y1RnLOV2Z1JmL3RXZsRHdhJ2LvoDc0R
HαιοjIyGkIsIyYtZfekdlV6RGSCFTWthHcZdXP9A0LoNWZ05CdldWZi5yd0VGB0RXYi9yL6AHd0hmI6I
SMIJye'

Second round of decoding:
b'{"H1":"http://battletw.beget.tech/@==wYpxmY1BHdzVWdxVmc", "H2":"http://battletw
.beget.tech/@==wYpxmY1BHdzVWdxVmc", "T":"0"}'
>>>

```

Successfully obtaining the decoded C2 using python.
 (The URL's contained some base64 reversed/encoded strings and were not very interesting)

This C2 domain had only 2/85 hits on VirusTotal

At this point, I had obtained the C2 and decided to stop my analysis.

In a real environment - it would be best to block immediately this domain in your security solutions. Additionally, you could review the previous string dumps for process-based

indicators that could be used for hunting signs of successful execution. Additionally - you could try and derive some Sigma rules from the string dumps. Or potentially use the C2 URL structure to hunt through proxy logs.

Links:

Copies of the decoding scripts - <https://github.com/embee-research/Decoders/tree/main/2023-April-dcrat>

Link to the original malware -

<https://bazaar.abuse.ch/sample/fd687a05b13c4f87f139d043c4d9d936b73762d616204bfb090124fd163c316e/>