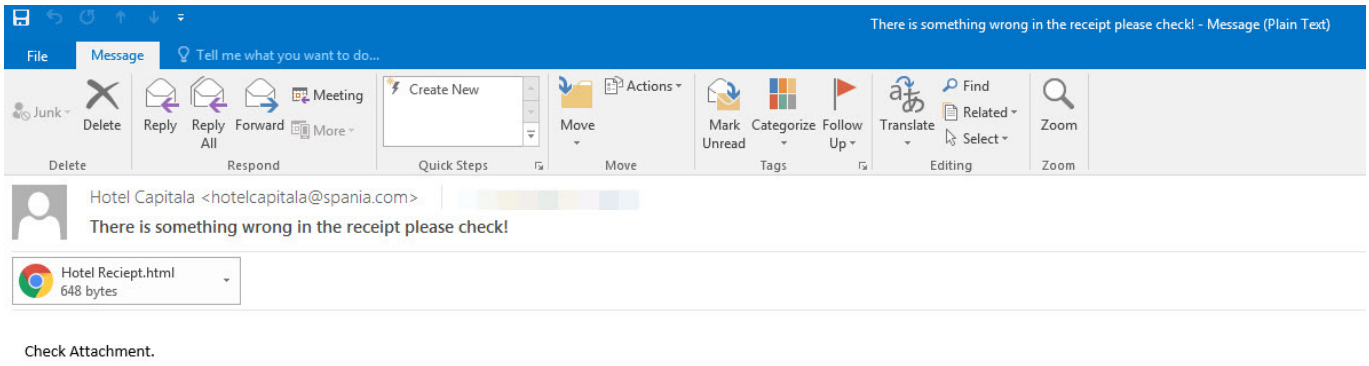
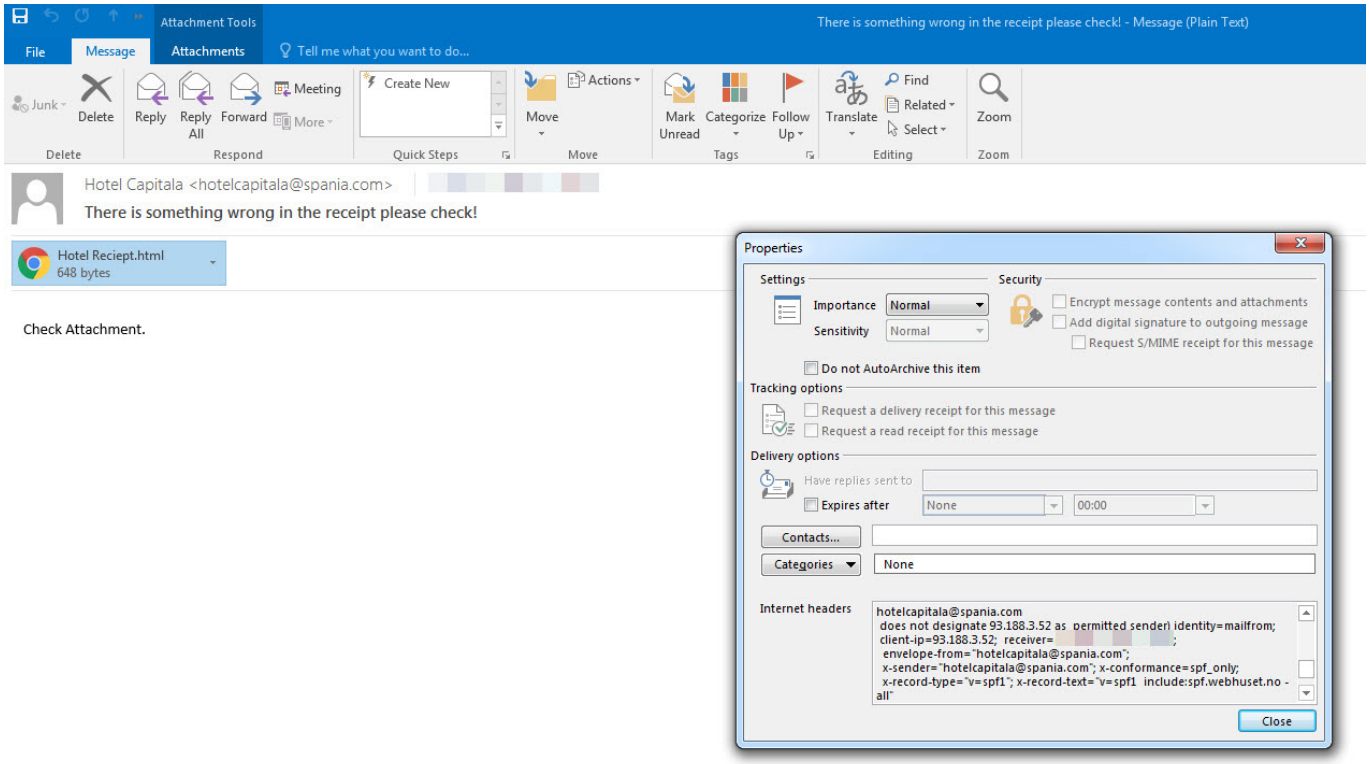
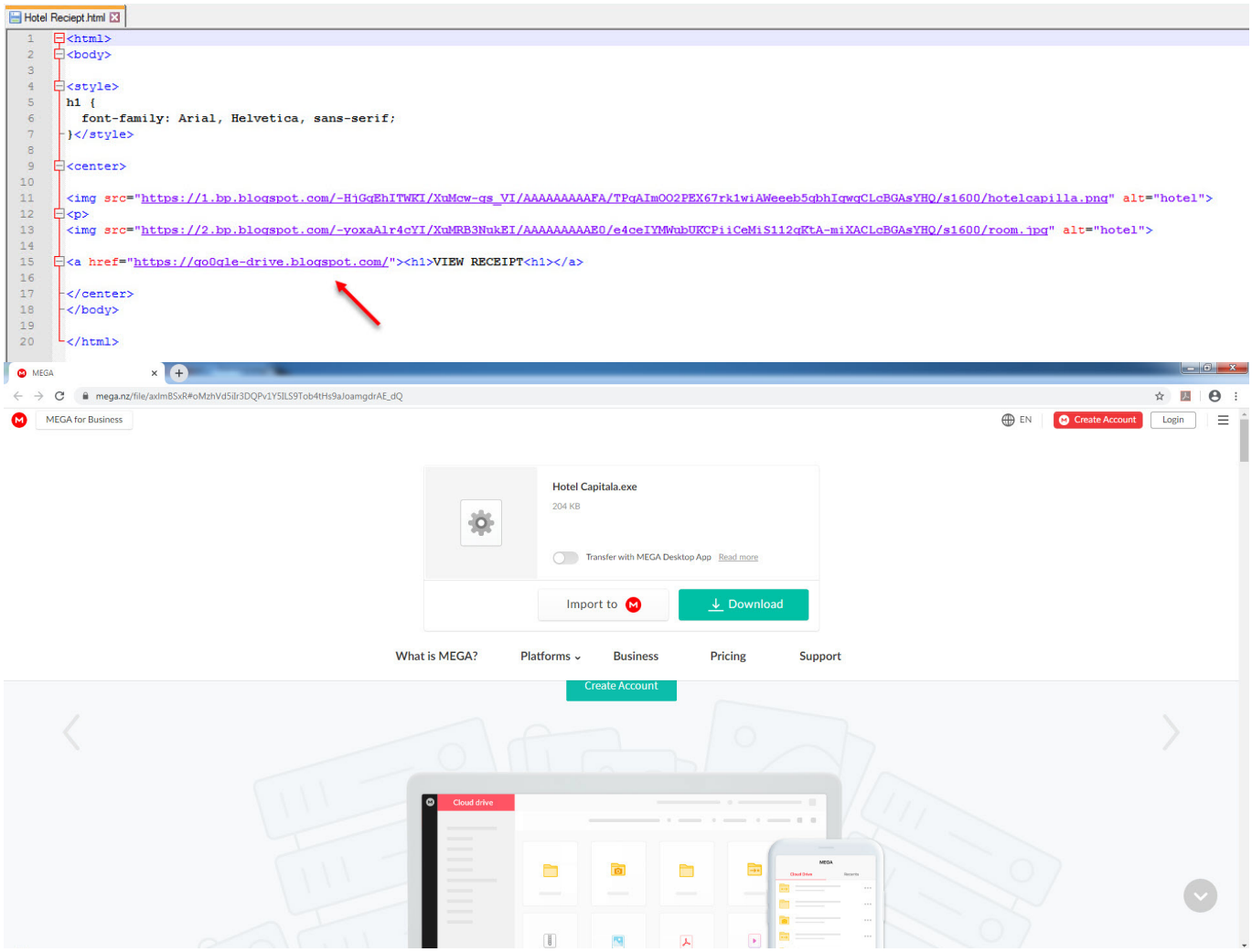
You Can Run, But You Can’t Hide

written by Mert SARICA | 1 September 2021

In the past, there was a threat actor, when the barbers were fleas, and the horses were jesters. This threat actor had sent an email to top-level employees of the institutions he targeted, with an HTML file attached. When this HTML file was opened, and the link address (https://go0gle-drive[.]blogspot[.]com) followed, the targeted person was directed to an address on the mega.nz file storage and sharing site (https://mega[.]nz/file/axlmBSxR). If this file was downloaded and run, the threat actor could remotely control the targeted system, making all kinds of mischief, including recording audio, video and keystrokes. According to legend, some network-based sand pool systems could not analyze the link address contained in this HTML file sent by the threat actor.



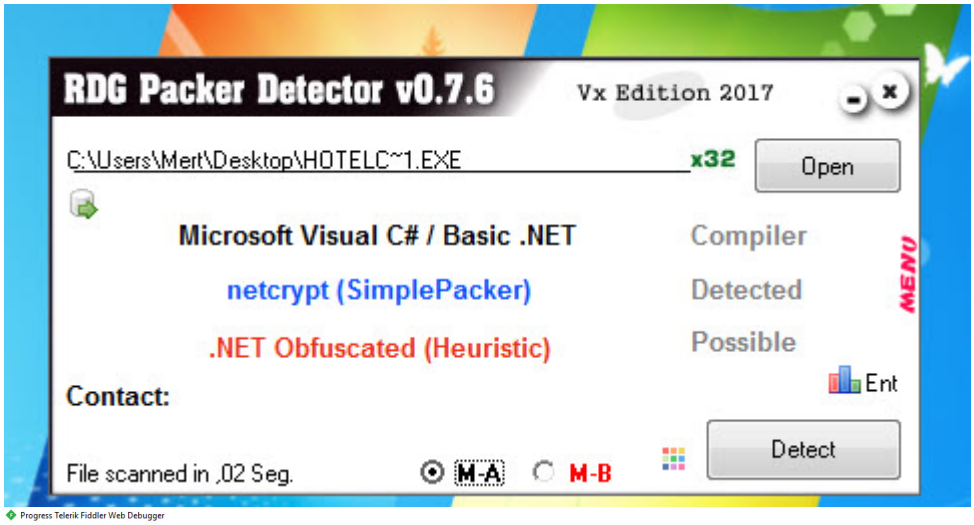


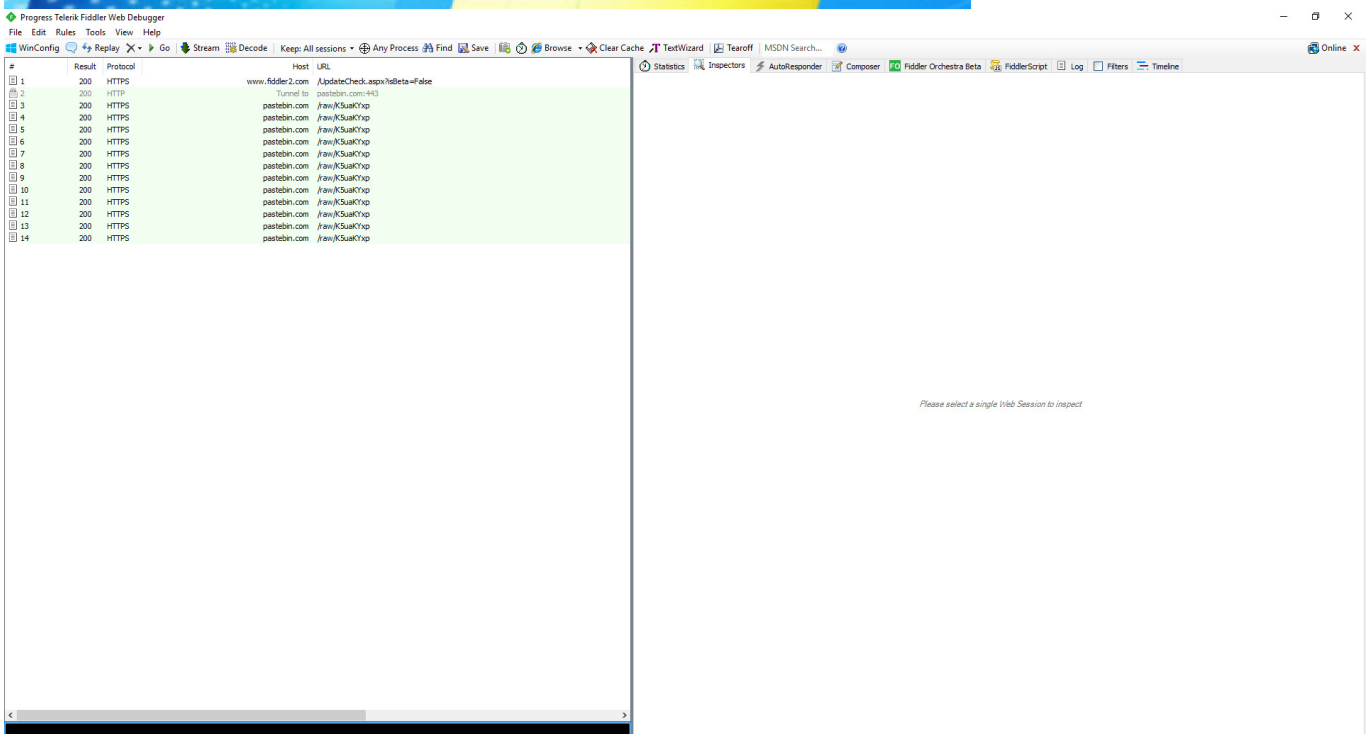


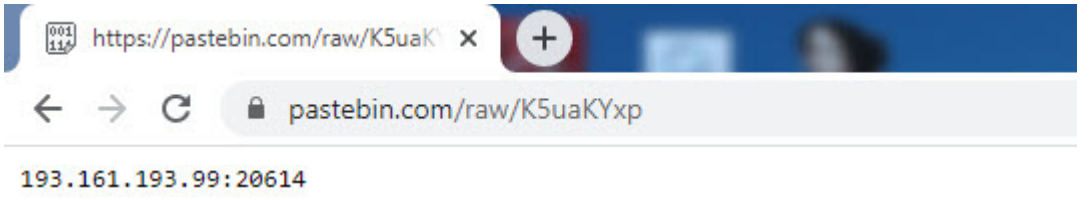
When an institution faces a scenario like the one described above, even if the attack attempt is not successful, it should still handle the matter with great care because this may be an indication of a precursor earthquake, and a

sign of a bigger one to come. Therefore, it is important to investigate whether the attack was targeted (Spear Phishing), organized (APT), or just a part of a general campaign targeting a large number of users. It may not always be possible to find answers to these questions, but through analysis, an idea may be gained. In this writing, I will attempt to find answers to these questions.

Initially, through static analysis, I saw that the file was developed and packaged with C#. When I ran the file on a virtual system and analyzed it dynamically, I discovered that the malware accessed an address on the Pastebin site. When I visited this web address, I saw that the page contained an IP address (193.161.193.99) and a port.



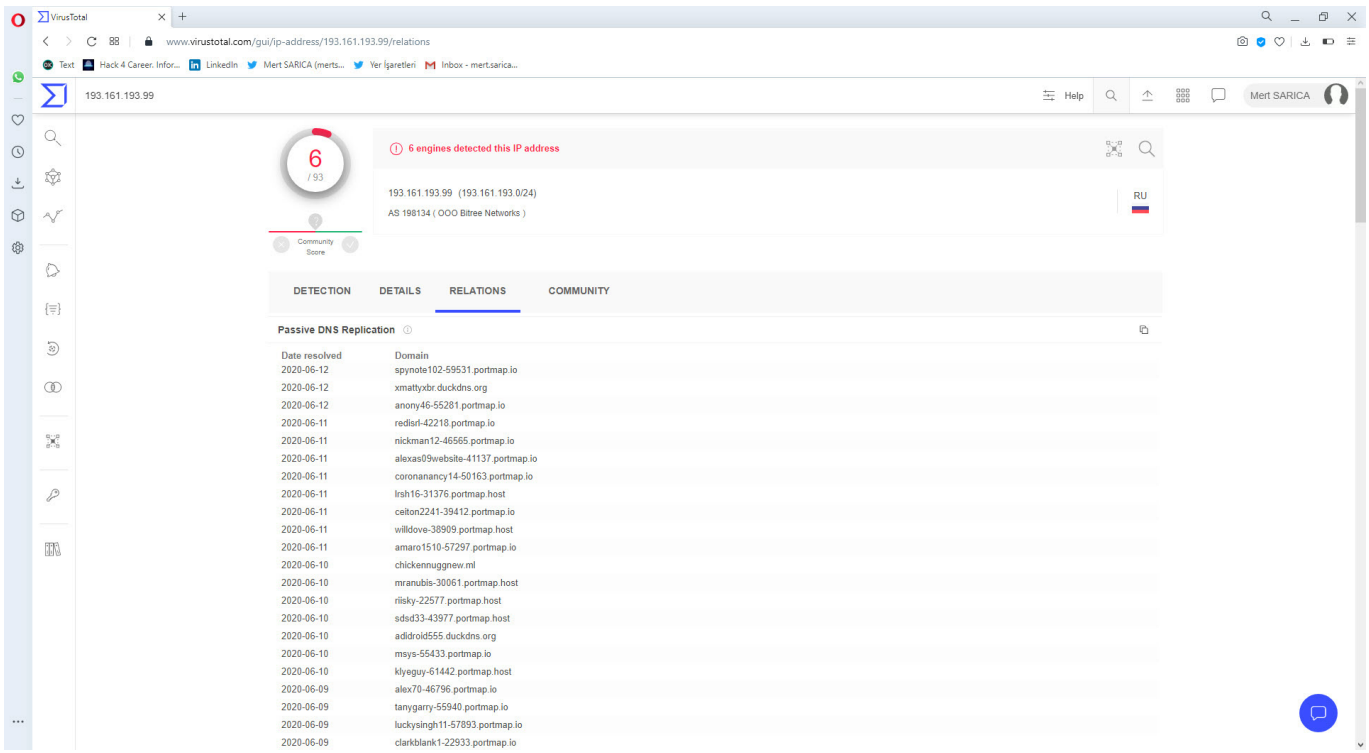


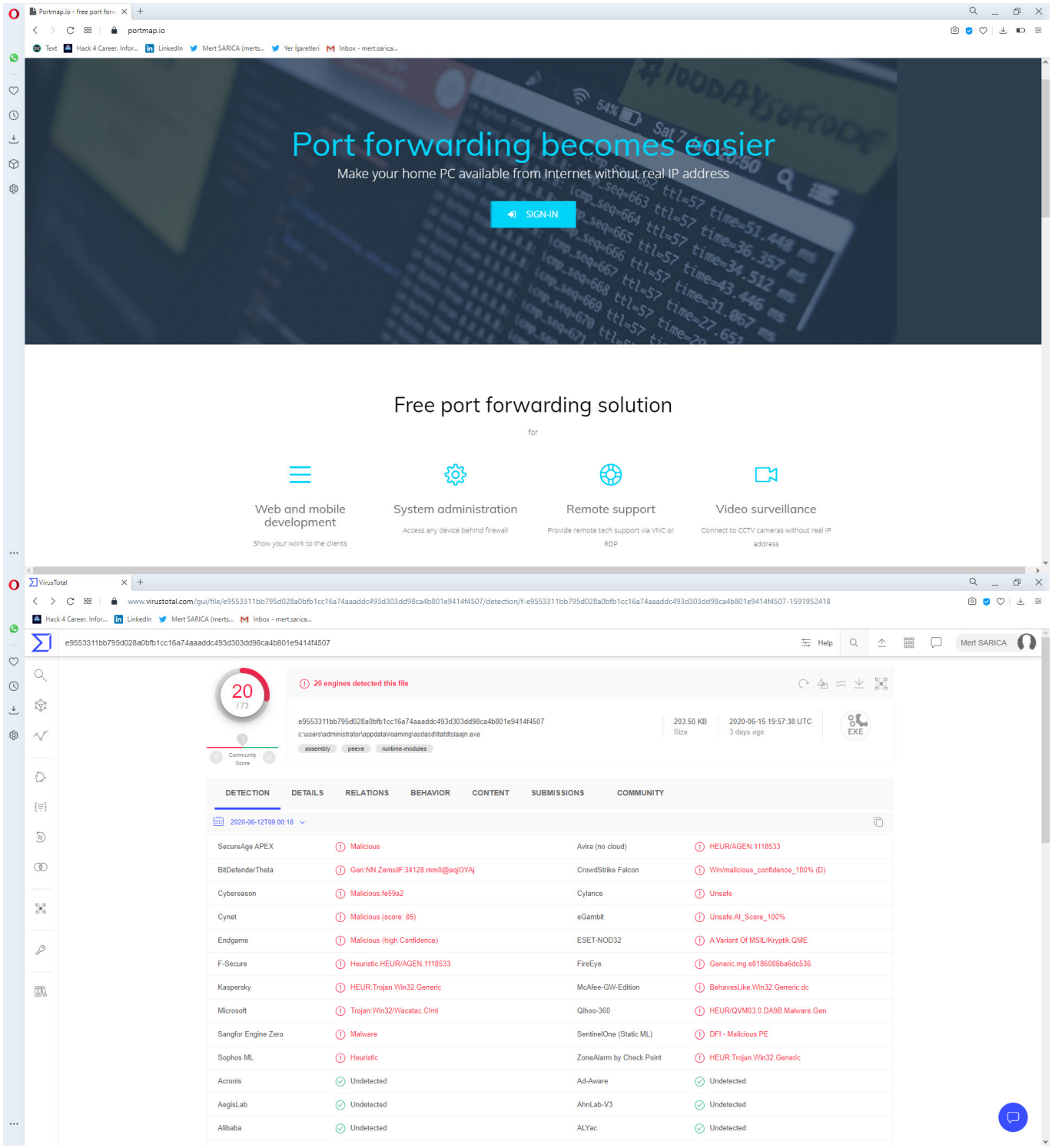


Especially in APT attacks, the malware used is often specially developed by the threat actors and compiled just before the attack, so when it is uploaded to VirusTotal, it is usually detected under a general signature name such as (Backdoor, Trojan, etc). In such cases, it may be possible to use services like Intezer to search for which other malware the code of this malware was used and make comparisons, and thus gain information about the threat actor.

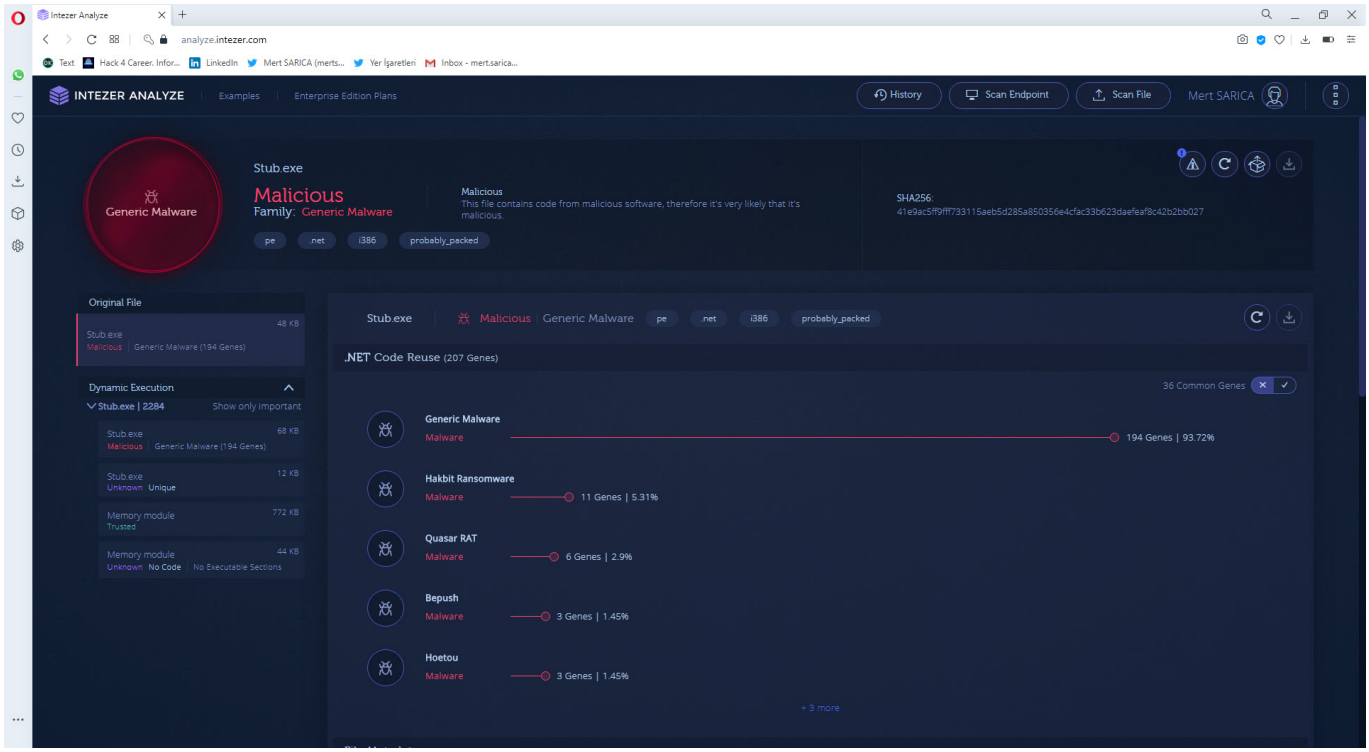
When I uploaded the malware to VirusTotal, I saw that it was not specifically matched with any other malware. When I searched on Intezer, unfortunately, I came up empty handed. (Generic Malware)

When I searched the IP address I obtained from the Pastebin.com page on VirusTotal, I found out that it belongs to the Portmap.io service which serves for redirecting ports.

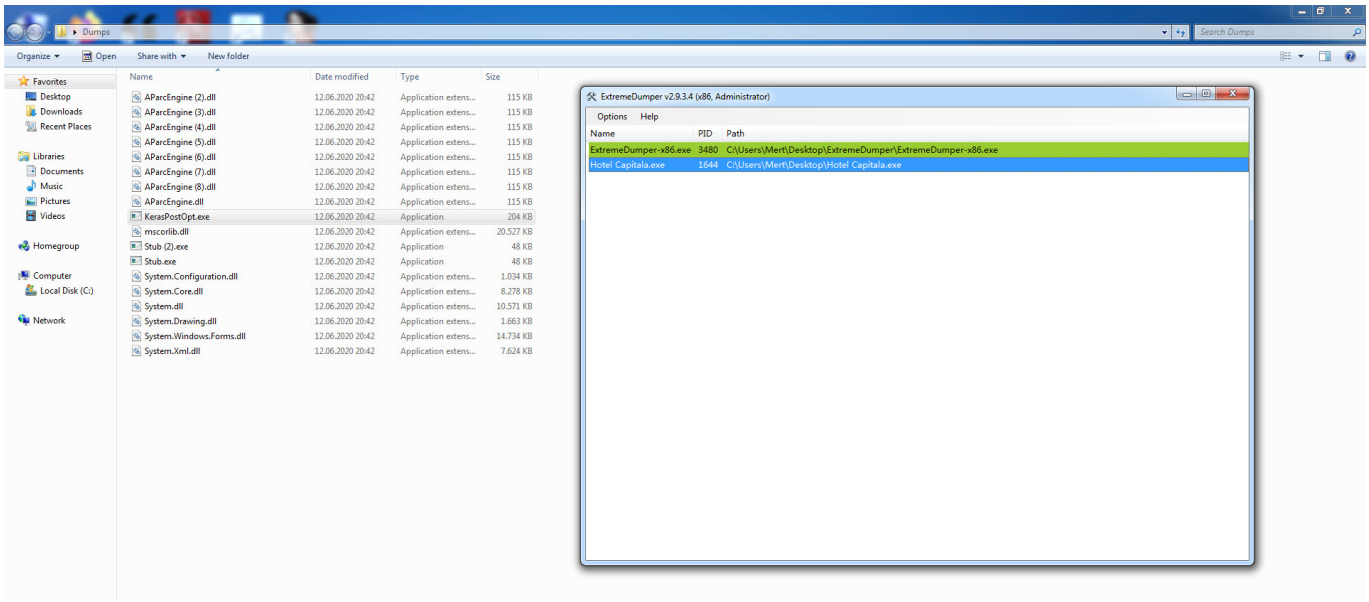



Portmap.io - free port forw
portmap.io
Port forwarding becomes easier
Make your home PC available from Internet without real IP address
SIGN-IN
Free port forwarding solution
for
Web and mobile development
Show your work to the clients
System administration
Access any device behind firewall
Remote support
Provide remote tech support via VNC or RDP
Video surveillance
Connect to CCTV cameras without real IP address

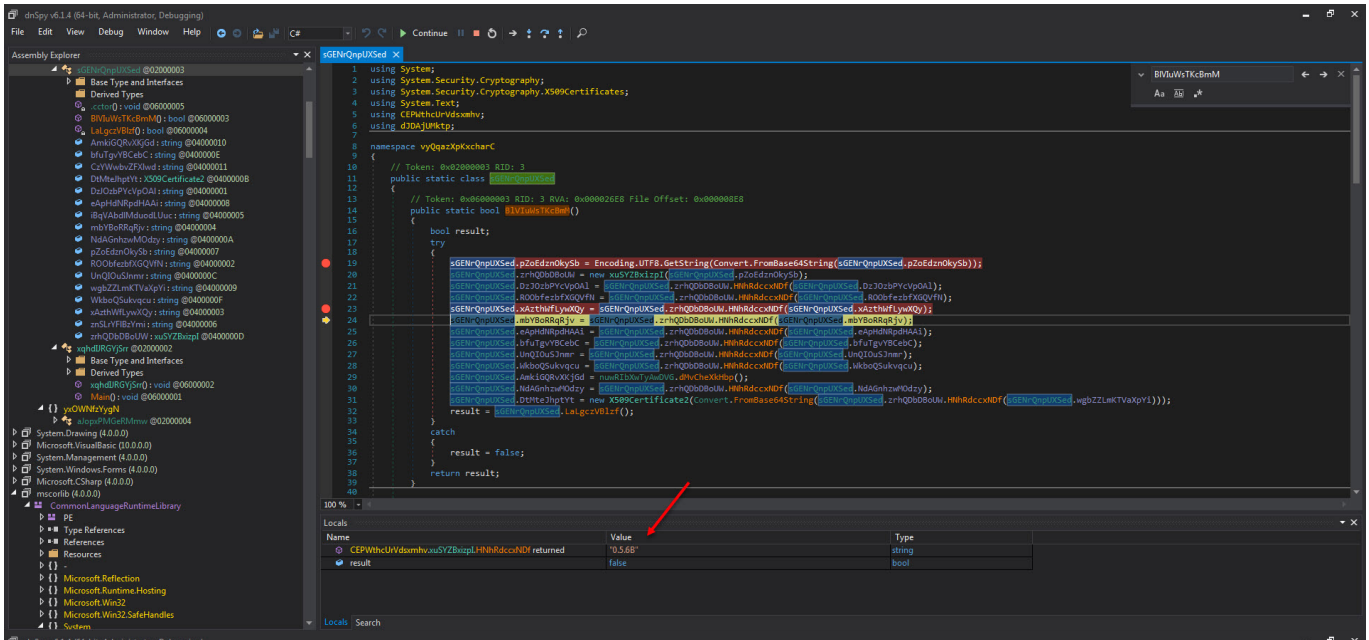
VirusTotal
www.virustotal.com/gui/file/e9553311bb795d028a0bfb1cc16a74aaaddc493d303dd98ca4b801e9414f4507/detection/f-e9553311bb795d028a0bfb1cc16a74aaaddc493d303dd98ca4b801e9414f4507-1591952418
e9553311bb795d028a0bfb1cc16a74aaaddc493d303dd98ca4b801e9414f4507
Help
Mert SARICA
20
/73
20 engines detected this file
e9553311bb795d028a0bfb1cc16a74aaaddc493d303dd98ca4b801e9414f4507
c:\users\administrator\appdata\roaming\asdasdfiltafdtslaajn.exe
assembly
peexe
runtime-modules
203.50 KB
Size
2020-06-15 19:57:38 UTC
3 days ago
EXE
DETECTION
DETAILS
RELATIONS
BEHAVIOR
CONTENT
SUBMISSIONS
COMMUNITY
2020-06-12T09:00:18
SecureAge APEX
Malicious
Avira (no cloud)
HEUR/AGEN.1118533
BitDefenderTheta
Gen:NN.ZemsilF.34128.mm0@aqjOYAj
CrowdStrike Falcon
Win/malicious_confidence_100% (D)
Cybereason
Malicious.fe59a2
Cylance
Unsafe
Cynet
Malicious (score: 85)
eGambit
Unsafe.AI_Score_100%
Endgame
Malicious (high Confidence)
ESET-NOD32
A Variant Of MSIL/Kryptik.QME
F-Secure
Heuristic.HEUR/AGEN.1118533
FireEye
Generic.mg.e8186086ba6dc536
Kaspersky
HEUR:Trojan.Win32.Generic
McAfee-GW-Edition
BehavesLike.Win32.Generic.dc
Microsoft
Trojan:Win32/Wacatac.C!ml
Qihoo-360
HEUR/QVM03.0.DA9B.Malware.Gen
Sangfor Engine Zero
Malware
SentinelOne (Static ML)
DFI - Malicious PE
Sophos ML
Heuristic
ZoneAlarm by Check Point
HEUR:Trojan.Win32.Generic
Acronis
Undetected
Ad-Aware
Undetected
AegisLab
Undetected
AhnLab-V3
Undetected
Alibaba
Undetected
ALYac
Undetected

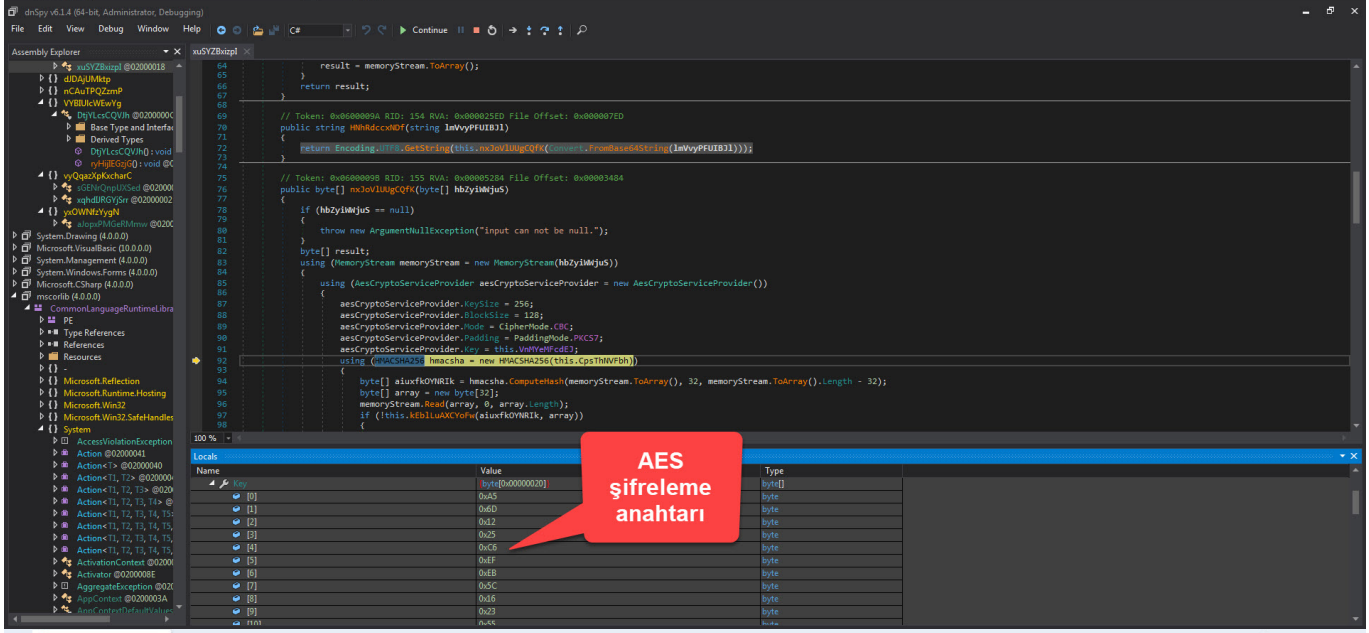


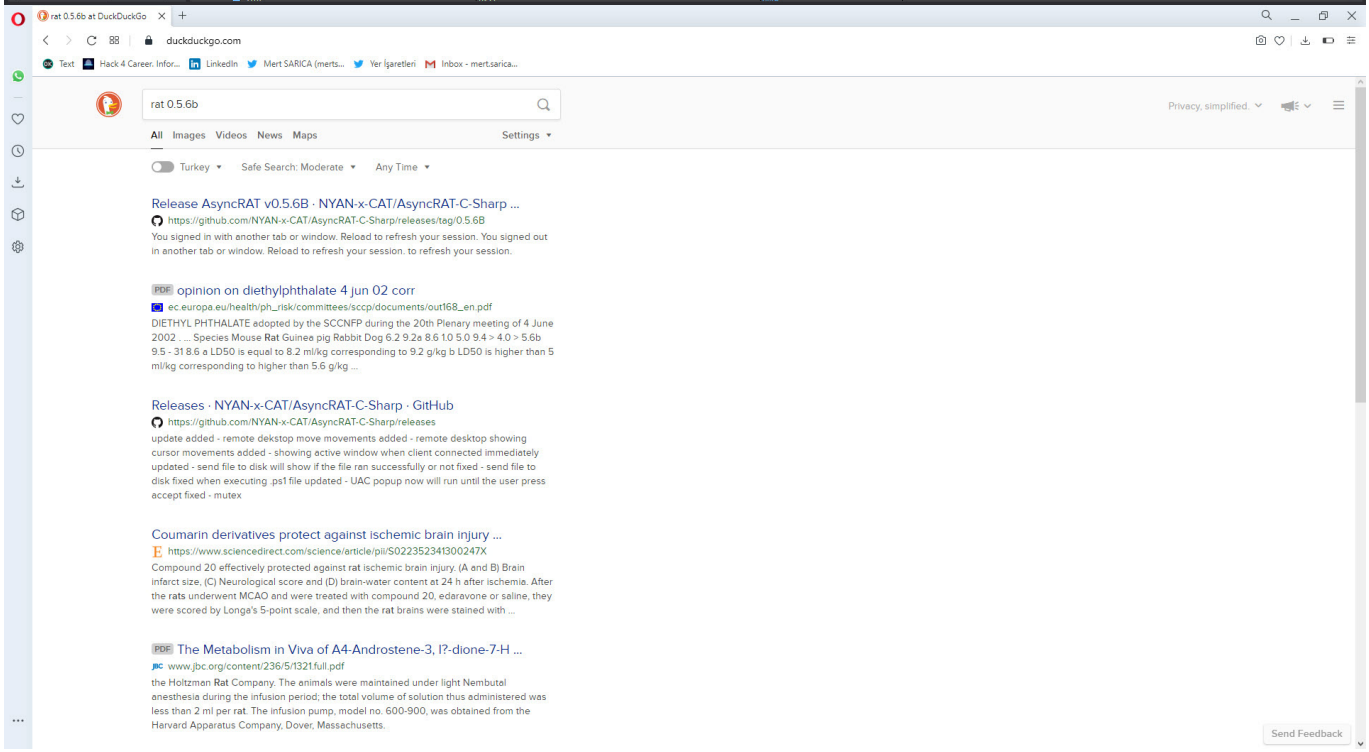
As I continued my research to find out what the malware developed by the threat actor who tries to hide himself as much as possible, I reached the stage of dynamic code analysis and the dnSpy debugger that I used in my article titled OPSEC came to my aid. Before starting debugging with dnSpy, in order to find the main module that the packaged software hides in memory, when I ran the ExtremeDumper tool, the mother of evils, Stub.exe, emerged.



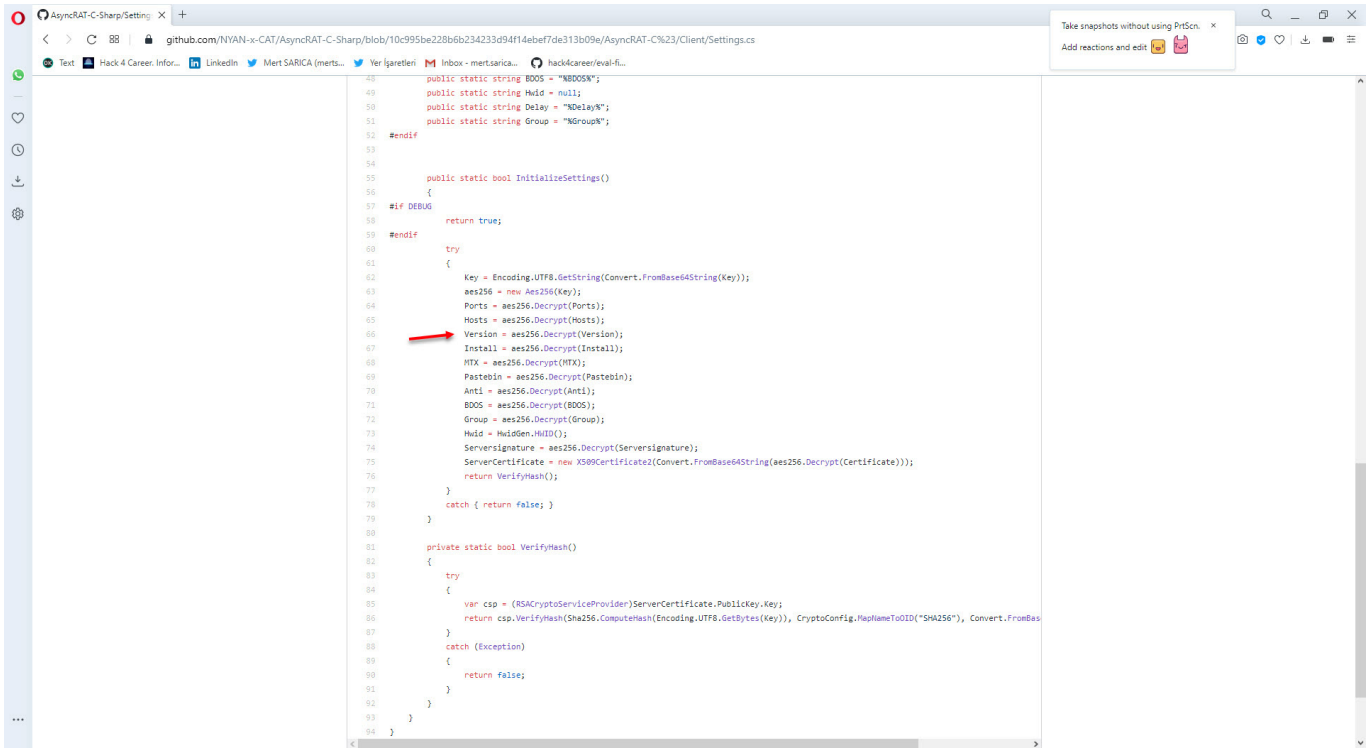
As I analyzed the Stub.exe program step by step with dnSpy, at one point, I noticed that it was encrypted with AES and the decrypted value of 0.5.6B caught my attention. When I searched this value on Google with the keywords “rat 0.5.6B,” guess what came up? The open-source AsyncRAT! :)



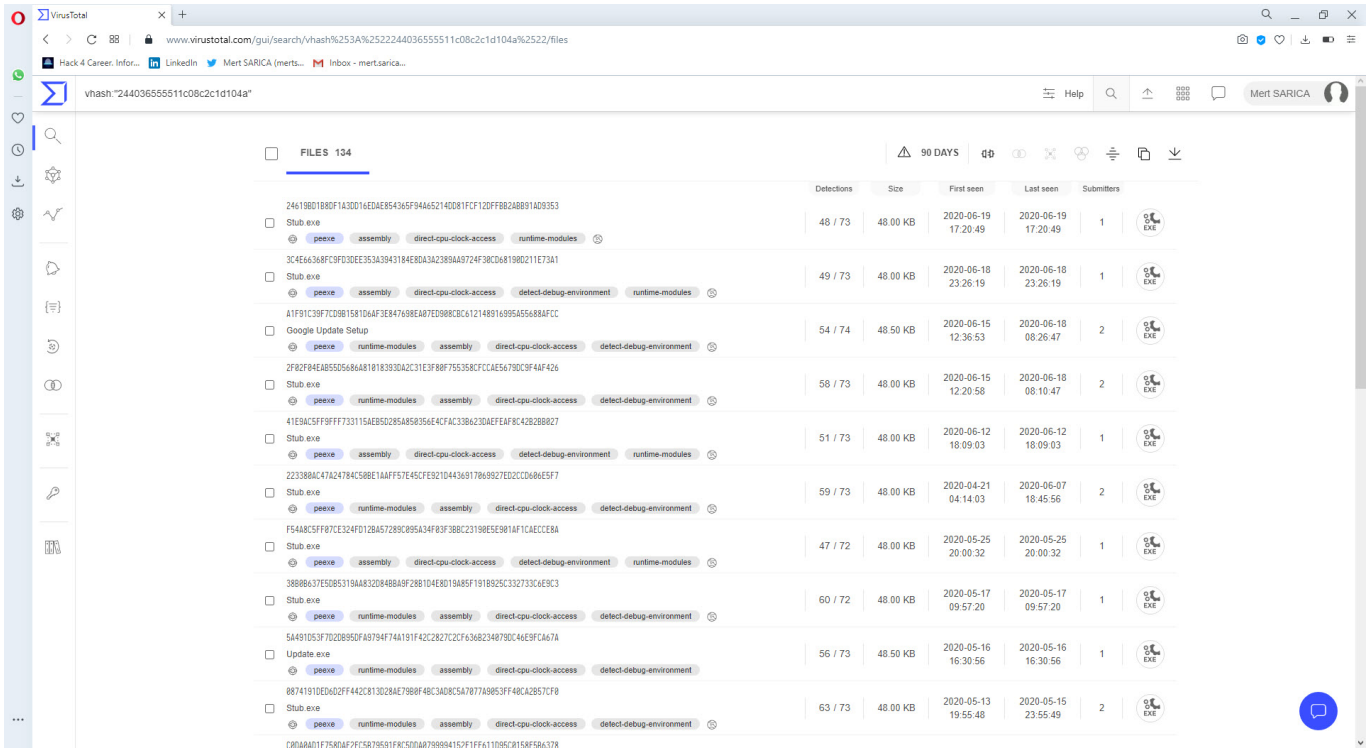

AES
şifreleme
anahtarı


rat 0.5.6b at DuckDuckGo
duckduckgo.com
rat 0.5.6b
All Images Videos News Maps Settings
Turkey Safe Search: Moderate Any Time
Release AsyncRAT v0.5.6B · NYAN-x-CAT/AsyncRAT-C-Sharp ...
https://github.com/NYAN-x-CAT/AsyncRAT-C-Sharp/releases/tag/0.5.6B
You signed in with another tab or window. Reload to refresh your session. You signed out in another tab or window. Reload to refresh your session. to refresh your session.
PDF opinion on diethylphthalate 4 jun 02 corr
ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/sccp/documents/out168_en.pdf
DIETHYL PHTHALATE adopted by the SCCNFP during the 20th Plenary meeting of 4 June 2002 ... Species Mouse Rat Guinea pig Rabbit Dog 6.2 9.2a 8.6 1.0 5.0 9.4 > 4.0 > 5.6b 9.5 - 31 8.6 a LD50 is equal to 8.2 ml/kg corresponding to 9.2 g/kg b LD50 is higher than 5 ml/kg corresponding to higher than 5.6 g/kg ...
Releases · NYAN-x-CAT/AsyncRAT-C-Sharp · GitHub
https://github.com/NYAN-x-CAT/AsyncRAT-C-Sharp/releases
update added - remote dekstop move movements added - remote desktop showing cursor movements added - showing active window when client connected immediately updated - send file to disk will show if the file ran successfully or not fixed - send file to disk fixed when executing .ps1 file updated - UAC popup now will run until the user press accept fixed - mutex
Coumarin derivatives protect against ischemic brain injury ...
https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0223523413002477X
Compound 20 effectively protected against rat ischemic brain injury. (A and B) Brain infarct size. (C) Neurological score and (D) brain-water content at 24 h after ischemia. After the rats underwent MCAO and were treated with compound 20, edaravone or saline, they were scored by Longa's 5-point scale, and then the rat brains were stained with ...
PDF The Metabolism in Viva of A4-Androstene-3, I?-dione-7-H ...
www.jbc.org/content/236/5/1321.full.pdf
the Holtzman Rat Company. The animals were maintained under light Nembutal anesthesia during the infusion period; the total volume of solution thus administered was less than 2 ml per rat. The infusion pump, model no. 600-900, was obtained from the Harvard Apparatus Company, Dover, Massachusetts.
Send Feedback

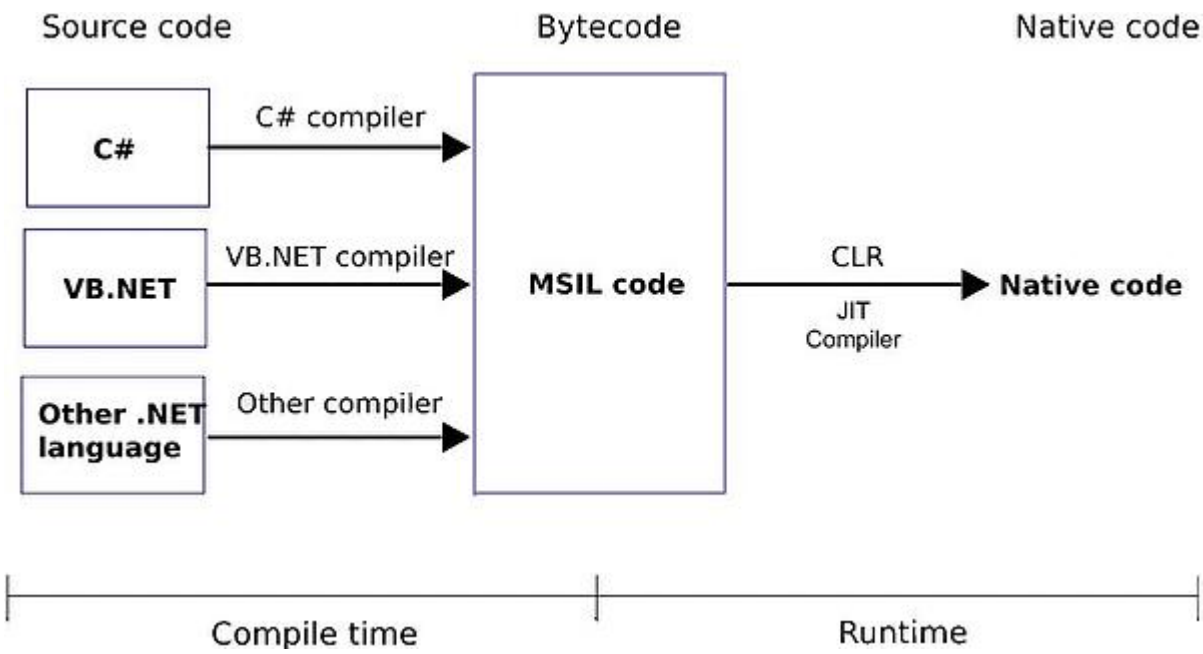
After examining this project in detail on GitHub, I was able to confirm that the malware I analyzed is AsyncRAT by inferring it from similar code blocks.



Finally, when I searched for similar Stub.exe files with vhash on VirusTotal, I encountered many examples. As I wondered whether all these examples had the Pastebin address from the malware I analyzed, or were part of a common campaign, either I would have to examine the analysis report of each of more than 50 examples or find a very short and practical way which is suitable for lazy people. :) After starting to think in a cunning way, the idea of preparing a tool in Python that analyzes all these examples statically, first finds the AES encryption key and then extracts the configuration information came to my mind.

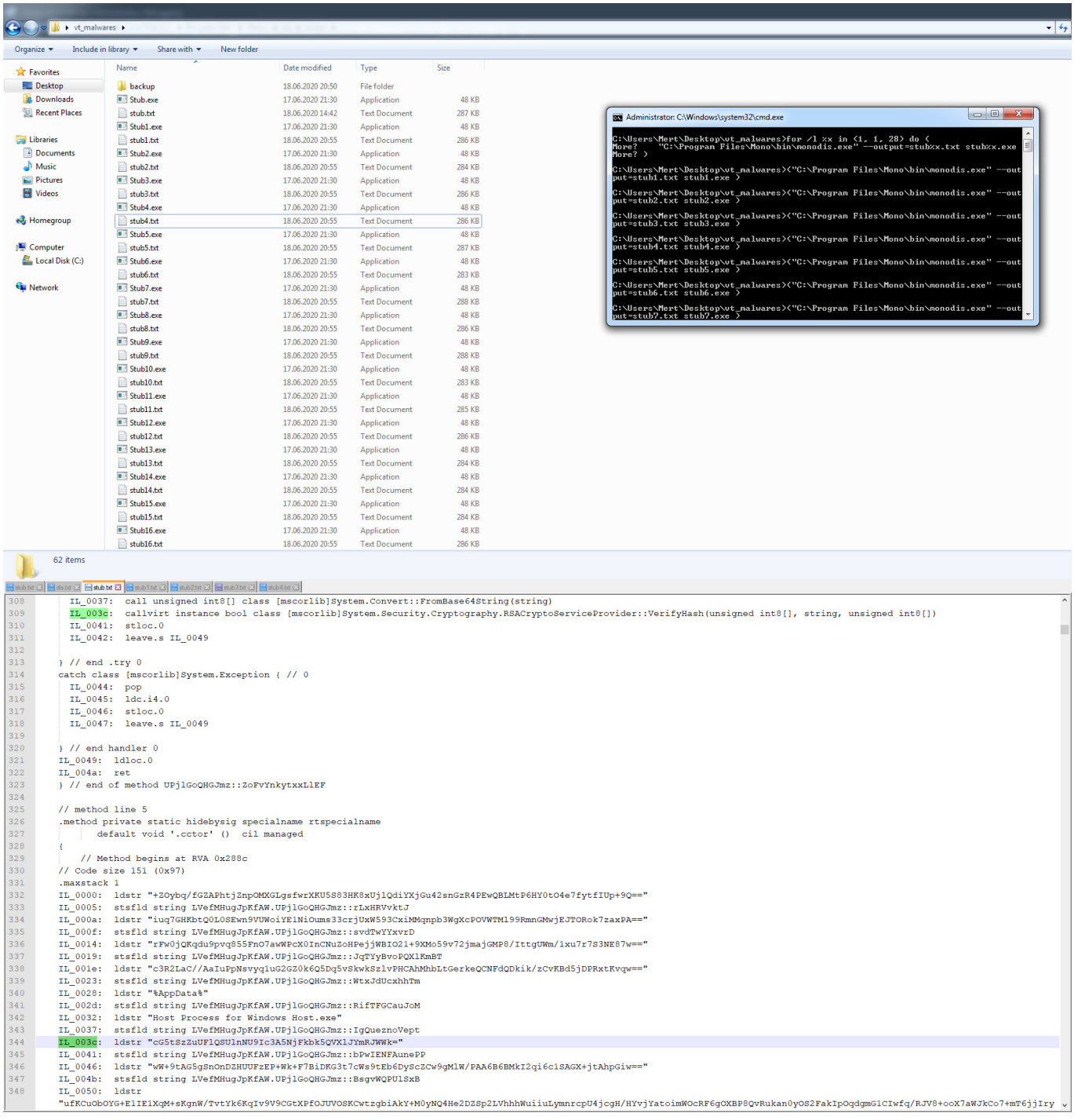


Of course, since the variable names are randomly generated in each program, I had to first find the AES key by using a static variable. Since we know that programs developed with .Net are compiled into bytecode (CIL/MSIL), I started to search for static values on bytecode.



For this, I decided to take advantage of the Mono Disassembler (monodis) tool, which is part of the famous Mono project. Using the monodis tool, I converted all Stub.exe examples to code, and I found out that the AES encryption key is always after the 0x288c value, and the IL_003c value. And using this information, I developed the AsyncRAT Configuration Extractor tool

in Python. When I run the tool on all examples, I found that the information in the configuration of each one of them was different from the malware I analyzed, so I learned that the malware I analyzed was not a part of a common campaign.



```
    IL_0037:  call unsigned int8[] class [mscorlib]System.Convert::FromBase64String(string)
    IL_003c:  callvirt instance bool class [mscorlib]System.Security.Cryptography.RSACryptoServiceProvider::VerifyHash(unsigned int8[], string, unsigned int8[])
    IL_0041:  stloc.0
    IL_0042:  leave.s IL_0049

  } // end .try 0
  catch class [mscorlib]System.Exception { // 0
    IL_0044:  pop
    IL_0045:  ldc.i4.0
    IL_0046:  stloc.0
    IL_0047:  leave.s IL_0049

  } // end handler 0
  IL_0049:  ldloc.0
  IL_004a:  ret
  } // end of method vUuBwDuSlIr::TMIjBQTGNDfcEWQ

  // method line 5
  .method private static hidebysig specialname rtspecialname
          default void '.cctor' ()  cil managed
  {
     // Method begins at RVA 0x288c
  // Code size 151 (0x97)
  .maxstack 1
  IL_0000:  ldstr "JmPCaie5PV3CgOEmfV+2XI077HOufVoWrR2ztSJnRlmJOSs6Nt/0/osUi2DQmMR4DYOOKfyGYp3MkHs6OSA2dg=="
  IL_0005:  stsfld string McuCAiaCqjz.vUuBwDuSlIr::wEmhlNbkZHX
  IL_000a:  ldstr "i/8hlpMa6LMe2U9YeIWe0u82pzhfebvBoIT+DFDdowKqII75xtr87tlZXlxkuGIRW4t1IaIz6DxeKFwnjxa7bs31p77QAXbXvrgZsYMnVTg="
  IL_000f:  stsfld string McuCAiaCqjz.vUuBwDuSlIr::AmbSEfkFVyi
  IL_0014:  ldstr "wWaZHdLMXC8owyCDP65L3XNF8WBwozg3xIUkjaAh2rS0JdjAhMrDq38+CQ1O71t4qbMt1R0+nPUe3Suc6KC82A=="
  IL_0019:  stsfld string McuCAiaCqjz.vUuBwDuSlIr::LOrEpVhkVWE
  IL_001e:  ldstr "ndT5oubUi9YDYYs+AaXtB7xBZiwBEDfnfPdeRBMBAYQDFvf7JkPt6M46wYx7hRqA/RnxLjfqdBaAaziFMD3D0w=="
  IL_0023:  stsfld string McuCAiaCqjz.vUuBwDuSlIr::MyLHXiGQFX
  IL_0028:  ldstr "%AppData%"
  IL_002d:  stsfld string McuCAiaCqjz.vUuBwDuSlIr::cbYpYfFwcYi
  IL_0032:  ldstr ""
  IL_0037:  stsfld string McuCAiaCqjz.vUuBwDuSlIr::oEcGIinZjLGB
  IL_003c:  ldstr "TXY0Q20yMGRXSlZFeGx1TG1pVXpuSDllb29pZU03TFU="
  IL_0041:  stsfld string McuCAiaCqjz.vUuBwDuSlIr::nkgtoZYXkRtgv
  IL_0046:  ldstr "Z6x6P100ZrezSi+xxHl4Eb4151t9m2nGZpIAYOrz5l2MKo/jFyCiC6aszmCSyx5YbB47al35tESSSVD/dYg7pNQZEEici0RPvIoKGNdSX5c="
  IL_004b:  stsfld string McuCAiaCqjz.vUuBwDuSlIr::gEcNdyclsaLbg
  IL_0050:  ldstr
  "gHVqZBMckrUWw4h+UFW+YdV6pPJ9L2tKudoLpYEfrJW+Of0bUUgcUNYwKHLTLzwNLdZlKDJGH15nX/RcYGp8fzIPeIxYGLZGBzqF8MQsO6VThVEci5RPwRsk+JJSzofvBbbrPAN+wQq+cPduvUrTfXoij0psXxGUvBi7AIiqKFP5XyPuQz
```


```
    IL_0037:  call unsigned int8[] class [mscorlib]System.Convert::FromBase64String(string)
    IL_003c:  callvirt instance bool class [mscorlib]System.Security.Cryptography.RSACryptoServiceProvider::VerifyHash(unsigned int8[], string, unsigned int8[])
    IL_0041:  stloc.0
    IL_0042:  leave.s IL_0049

  } // end .try 0
  catch class [mscorlib]System.Exception { // 0
    IL_0044:  pop
    IL_0045:  ldc.i4.0
    IL_0046:  stloc.0
    IL_0047:  leave.s IL_0049

  } // end handler 0
  IL_0049:  ldloc.0
  IL_004a:  ret
  } // end of method zbgTqalHViUFHwT::sGmuUeoyBYnr

  // method line 5
  .method private static hidebysig specialname rtspecialname
          default void '.cctor' ()  cil managed
  {
     // Method begins at RVA 0x288c
  // Code size 151 (0x97)
  .maxstack 1
  IL_0000:  ldstr "ZbSxod6szox1bqZbnUKlvJXcLa5Xl4O7KBe0zAs5TJ/wCRiRB3vOakvztdOdRTEjQ/so8HlPQRvvObcxkyH/4w=="
  IL_0005:  stsfld string MiKCRUQuxTimcp.zbgTqalHViUFHwT::NGswHYqFHetj
  IL_000a:  ldstr "Sz/oQI8Um2lJoEh+RLHl+/aqTwM/v4//yvHYbU+ljWTzx2TPcC3Zq6va1HkGDsdDESTpmAw6k5ECGJ9mWaZsWA=="
  IL_000f:  stsfld string MiKCRUQuxTimcp.zbgTqalHViUFHwT::dyhWpMOSPUwv
  IL_0014:  ldstr "o+yEwOEwqIbvXx5f2LIXc2xqQHit7+OS5sJSKJ7rMZ3KrGS1SVx0+4Zu0dzJ37Kv6vMT3Syq+FCaxKj2yhPIHA=="
  IL_0019:  stsfld string MiKCRUQuxTimcp.zbgTqalHViUFHwT::tHqFMSfeqgk
  IL_001e:  ldstr "zTzAZIRKARk3BzLqyePdEpMcuNOT7EfJ9I3e4wWss8Ze7uukigGJIJy5YV+NT3aylkvbPt7dnA5uTyW9/iMuHw=="
  IL_0023:  stsfld string MiKCRUQuxTimcp.zbgTqalHViUFHwT::kcPNciqUJTXfqm
  IL_0028:  ldstr "%AppData%"
  IL_002d:  stsfld string MiKCRUQuxTimcp.zbgTqalHViUFHwT::iUTvfauwhzOEb
  IL_0032:  ldstr "tasksync.exe"
  IL_0037:  stsfld string MiKCRUQuxTimcp.zbgTqalHViUFHwT::brwgbffTiOPhE
  IL_003c:  ldstr "Y2k3ViZqRzRNNUtYaVdqZ3hNR29QQ3NxdndjbDc0b04="
  IL_0041:  stsfld string MiKCRUQuxTimcp.zbgTqalHViUFHwT::XZmuTNrwYTa
  IL_0046:  ldstr "lgJvAgU4nQcQqM2Pib46gNrNLBwSmL+Pxm75cs07XD4Qs/nsbLl183VtWJcXsm8gjzWrPXWE61m3gmg+Dd+GKQVbntoDuHK6LpZlKNBSb2Y="
  IL_004b:  stsfld string MiKCRUQuxTimcp.zbgTqalHViUFHwT::cHIPEjYUqaz
  IL_0050:  ldstr
  "eoy7EfvYnBkBY+zrhx6M/Nneit1i52ah+orgCGFNfdg5OXwKqeM1+pikW4xU49LwZXQKP+n8xmYk8WC7+oQhvLgY4L1gxGNtwMTLrXAzWf2hGh/ysDY1NvI1iljLmxZSNrOJJqi2E2ekwRoVEY4YVb6bdK8OfUO90E+deAvsLldlL9AGRz
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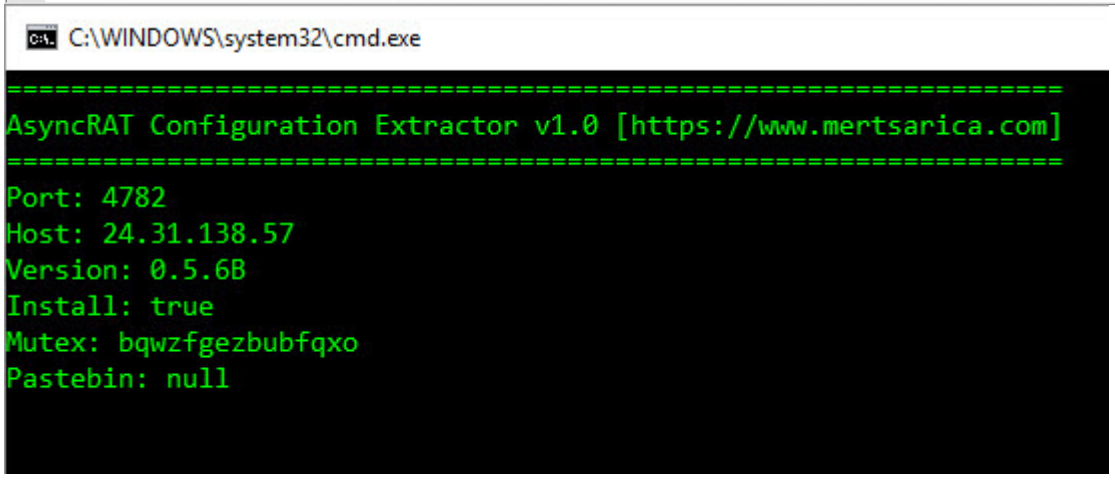

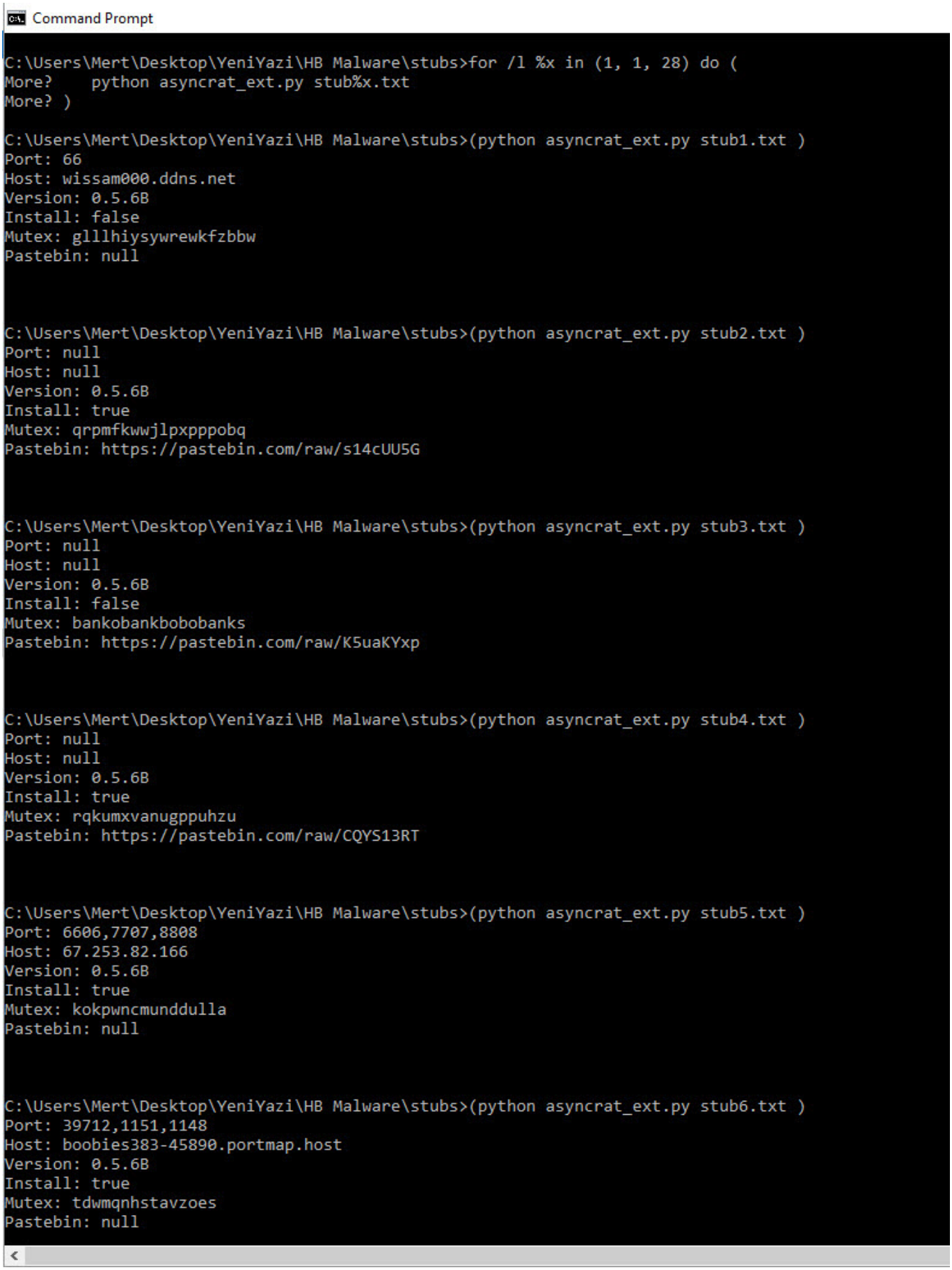

In conclusion, after compiling and collecting all this information, it appears that while this cyber attack attempt is not an APT attack, it is part of a targeted attack (Spear Phishing). Especially in light of the increase in

such targeted cyber attack attempts after the Covid-19 pandemic, I recommend that organizations and employees be very careful.

Hope to see you in the following articles.