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GCFA Gold Certification

Author: Roberto Obialero; roberto.obialero@poste.it

Adviser: John C.A. Bambenek

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Abstract

Nowadays companies are geographically distributed, thanks to the globalisation and the pervasive presence of the Internet. This is a great business and organizational opportunity: this way employees can be very collaborative despite their location and distance, but this could have some drawbacks.

One issue may be related to organization hardware and software inventory managed by system administrators located in the company headquarters. If they don't have expensive management and configuration software available or they aren't timely updated about hardware and software changes by branch office personnel they would not be aware of the resources they are managing and the security vulnerability risks could increase.

It could sometimes happen that some minor company servers become completely forgotten so they run unpatched and without antivirus signature update, paving the way to the spreading of viruses and worms.

Without countermeasures in place, driven by system administrators, employees may be unaware of such risks and they may continue to use those servers for daily operations, contributing to the spreading of malware infections.

This document details the forensic analysis process of a compromised Intranet server, from the verification stage to the dissection of malware code, supported by an explanation of the followed methodology.

Some information, about the server and the company it belongs to, have been sanitized in order to preserve the privacy of the business.

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1 Forensic investigation methodology

Before entering the analysis in detail, it is important to take an overall look at the investigation process, described in the flowchart depicted below:



Figure 1 - Forensic investigation methodology

The following paragraphs explore in detail the steps of the process¹.

Roberto Obialero

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1.1 Stage 1: Verification

The first phase of the investigation process is the task called verification: during this stage the forensic examiner called on duty takes a careful look at the information logged by the system, by the antivirus applications and by the network devices (firewalls, IDS, routers) to be sure the incident effectively occurred.

During the verification stage, the Incident Response Team (IRT for short) members encounter two typical situations:

- 1. Dead system with the power unplugged (computer system off) and the media frozen.
- 2. Live system with the power and operations on (processes running, disks being accessed and active network connections).

In the latter condition the forensic analyst must be very careful to avoid the volatile information's destruction (processes, memory, network connections).

During this phase the forensic examiner makes use of a set of simple and trusted tools to check the presence of abnormal network connections, rootkits, strange directories, and binary files recently installed.

1.2 Stage 2: System Description

Once the verification task is successfully completed and the IRT is certain that the security incident occurred, the forensic examiner has to fill in a detailed system description. The information ranges from the hardware and software system characteristics, the hard disks geometry (useful in the following media analysis phase), what the computer is used for, the list of users and many other useful information.

Part of these data will be pulled out from the system using trusted media software tools: the investigators cannot rely on the system target of the attack tools, since they could be trojanized. A set of these data could also be used for the chain of custody, in case of computer seizure by Law Enforcement officials.

1.3 Stage 3: Evidence collection

This stage is crucial to the forensic analysis process: all of the available computer information must be transferred to an

external media or to a forensic workstation in order to perform the next analysis tasks. This operation is critical because the examiner needs to be sure that only the original data is transferred and taken into account.

All of the collected system data (memory, processes, network connections, disk partitions) must be ear-marked using the cryptographic MD5 hash technique to ensure the data integrity.

The MD5 hash is a 32 bit long string created computing the data belonging to files, partitions, disks by a mathematical algorithm; such operation is irreversible (it is not possible to recover the original file starting from its hash value) and it is mathematically impossible for two different files to produce the same MD5 sum.

A relevant part of such data must be obtained using automated tools in order to avoid mistakes, perform the task in timely fashion, collect data in the right order of volatility and safeguarding the data integrity validation by hash signatures.

Before starting this task the forensic examiner has to verify the integrity of the system used for the analysis: it is mandatory to have at disposal a sterile image media to avoid previous installations data tracks left on the media that can cheat the next analysis phase.

This stage terminates the data acquisition process tasks.

1.4 Stage 4: Timeline creation and analysis

Once the evidence collection process is completed and all of the data of the system under analysis are stored in the forensic workstation, the first task to perform is the timeline file creation. This is a complete image files and inodes¹ listing associated with the MAC times² info; it is very useful to trace back the system activity; (the timeline file prints out the last time an executable file was run, the last time file or directory were created/deleted and it could also prove the presence of scripting activity).

The main reason for performing the task before any other is that every command run on mounted images could accidentally rewrite the last file access time.

The timeline creation process consists of two parts: the first one generates the intermediate body file with all the information (data and metadata) pulled out from the image file and the latter sorts such data chronologically in ascending order.

1.5 Stage 5: OS-specific media analysis

¹ File descriptors, attributes, MAC times

 $^{^{\}scriptscriptstyle 2}$ Modify, Access and Creation times

Starting from the findings obtained by the timeline analysis, the forensic examiner can begin the media analysis searching for clues behind compromise of the system. The toolset available to the forensic analyst depends on several variables:

- the software platform used in the forensic workstation;
- the software platform used in the system target of the analysis;
- if the analysis has to be performed on a live system;
- the network configuration.

In this stage, the forensic analyst has to examine thoroughly the media layers (physical, data, metadata, file system and file name) searching for evidence of suspicious binary installations, files and directories added, removed but open files and so on.

From the forensic examiner point of view, Linux is the more flexible operating system supporting most of the currently used file systems and having a more complete toolset than Windows; it must be underlined though, that a set of Linux forensic tools have been successfully ported to the Windows platform.

1.6 Stage 6: Data recovery

After the media analysis phase, the forensic examiner can take a thorough look at the media, extracting the unallocated data in order to recover any deleted files.

Searching for the slack space (in the Windows environment) or looking in the unallocated data space could reveal many file fragments that picked together could represent the clue of the file deletion activity; the knowledge of the file deletion time is also an important information to correlate the attacker activity.

1.7 Stage 7: Strings search

With this deep knowledge of the system, the analyst can now begin searching for specific strings contained inside files to reveal useful information like IP and email addresses tracing back to the attacker. A list of standard "dirty words" (e.g. hack, rootkit, mail, victim and any other word correlated to the previous findings) could be very useful to pull out relevant information about the compromise of the system.

1.8 Stage 8: Reporting

All the above stages need to be reported in a detailed fashion

with a language that can be easily understood by non-technical people. The forensic analyst must make sure he explains the evidence he found very clearly, together with the techniques and the methodology he used.

Some tools feature a reporting function that could be very useful to keep track of the actions done during the forensic analysis process.

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2 Compromised server forensic analysis process

This document section details the whole forensic analysis process of the system which is the target of the investigation. Some computer screenshots help to better illustrate the operating context. It is assumed the forensic analyst had been previously notified by computer management personnel, which experienced an abnormal system behaviour.

Although several commercial software applications are available today for forensic purposes, the use of Open Source software tools is still preferred for its flexibility and wide community support.

2.1 Verification phase

Before starting to operate, the forensic examiner collects as much information as he can by interviewing system administrators team and users. The present scenario reflects a situation in which the sysadmins may have had a lot of hard work to do with headquartered central servers and became less involved with peripheral servers, originally supplied to a small number of users belonging to a branch office.

The information gathered from the sysadmins reveals the computer under analysis currently acts as a file server to a limited user group; it is domain networked in a branch office subnet and grew unpatched without the latest updates at the antivirus software. Then some users complained about loosing important files: the clues of the computer compromise may be found on the following screenshots.

🗟 Altro su (tosi20001)		
File Modifica Visualizza Preferiti Strumenti ?		
🔇 Indietro 🔹 🜔 🔺 🏂 🔎 Cerca 🎼 Cartelle 🛄 🔹		
Indirizzo 🧟 \\tosi20001\Altro	Vai	
Operazioni file e cartella 🛞 🗂 ads	B57799	
Crea nuova cartella A Pubblica cartella sul Web	2	
ССТ	Certificazione Privacy	
Altre risorse	Hacking Class	
Contraction (tosi20001)		
SIMS FullDownloader.zip		
	2010 - 10 - 10 - 10 - 10 - 10 - 10 - 10	
Dettagli 😵		
🍅 Manuali		
➢ Manuali File Modifica Visualizza Preferiti Strumenti ?		
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Manuali File Modifica Visualizza Preferiti Strumenti ? Indietro Indietro Image: Cartella Image: Cartella Image: Cartella Image: Cartella Indirizzo Image: Cartella	MSN Password Hacker and Stealer	
Manuali File Modifica Visualizza Preferiti Strumenti ? Indietro Indietro Image: Comparison of the comparison of th	Image: Stealer	

Figure 2 - Compromised system clues

It is quite normal to be doubtful of files named SIMS FullDownloader.zip and MSN Password Hacker and Stealer into the shared users area.

Taking a quick search on the Internet for such file names reveals they are file dropped on the system from LovGate worm family; a detailed technical description of the worm characteristics can be found on the document appendix³.

To have a confirmation of the worm infection, the forensic analyst could scan the system against an updated antivirus software but

³ Lovgate_g_description.rtf

this would modify the files access times, therefore losing some important findings.

The forensic examiner could perform an audit to the system log files to get more clues but the problem would be the same as above, it is therefore imperative to begin the data acquisition phase in order to get the clues by analysing directly the system image on a dedicated forensic workstation.

In this case, the forensic analyst has to work on a live system: this is the best situation, so he could take advantage of the volatile information (memory, processes, pagefile, network connections) but he need to be very careful pulling out the data without changing the system state.

2.2 System description phase

Once the forensic examiner has got some evidences of the system compromise he needs to get as much computer information as possible: this can be accomplished by observing the computer in its physical site (system identification), asking questions to users and system administrator and picking up system information by running forensic tools (previously recorded on a trusted CDROM).

This last step prevents the execution of system binaries that could be trojanized getting out false information or making the system instable.

2.2.1 Beginning the analysis

The analysis activities started at 16:15 GMT+1, on December, 13th 2005

The server is a Compaq Deskpro Tower, serial number # NL21112293. The server FODN is TOSI20001.it.XXXX.YYYY.com.

The server fixed IP Address is in the private class range 10.8.20.200/24.

The system date and time are right: no time zone and clock skew adjustment required.

The last two information were pulled out by executing a cmd.exe shell (run as administrator) from the forensic analyst trusted CDROM; all of the next data acquisition commands have to be executed in the same way.

The best and quickest method to acquire the data from the compromised server would be connect an external hard disk drive by

a communication device port (USB, fire wire, SCSI).

The forensic examiner didn't have it available so he pulled out the data by network shares on the forensic workstation (E:\WFT\ for the WFT output, E:\memdump\ for the memory image in Windows mode and /images/windowsforensics/ in Linux mode for the hard disk partition images).

The forensic workstation FQDN is TOS20005.it.XXXX.YYYY.com and the DHCP assigned IP address is 10.8.11.186 in Windows Mode (Running XP Pro SP2); the IP address in Linux Mode (Fedora Core 3 - hostname Linuxforensics) was 10.8.11.144.

The data acquisition environment network diagram is depicted in the following page picture.



Figure 3 - Forensic analysis data acquisition diagram

2.2.2 Collecting system info by WFT

This task is mainly enumeration: during this activity the forensic examiner acquires a lot of system information, this could be partially superimposed to the next phase (evidence collection of processes, network connections etc).

The Windows Forensic Toolchest² (WFT) is an open source program written by Monty McDougal; it a is very useful tool to collect in a automated fashion valuable information from the compromised system.

It executes many commands in a forensic sound manner, checking them by calculating their MD5 value before any execution and logging all the activities without altering the evidence media.

The output report is produced either in html pages or in text mode and could give the examiner a lot of useful information (system info, processes running, network connections, system users and groups, last used files, last changed registry keys and many others).

The forensic analyst run that tool, on the compromised server with the command:

Dos Prompt > D:\wft -dst \\tos20005\wft\

The WFT started his execution on December, 13^{th} at 17:53:13: it produced the wft log file⁴ which is available in the document appendix.

The index page of the html report follows:

MEMORY	^	Windows Forensic Toolchest (WFT)
PCCLIP MEM		Main Windows Forencis Teelsheet (WET)
PROCESSES	=	The Windows Forensic Toolchest (WFT) was written to provide an automated incident response on a Windows system and collect security-relevant information from the system. It is essentially a forensically enhanced batch processing shell capable of running other security tools and producing HTML based reports in a forensically sound manner. You can use the menu on the left side of this page to navigate through these reports.
<u>PS</u> REMOTE FILES		System Information
SERVICES		Computer Name: TOSI20001 Operating System: Microsoft Windows 2000 Advanced Server 5.0 Service Pack 4 (Build 2195)
SERVICELIST PSSERVICE		User Name: Administrator Windows Directory: CAWINNT System Directory: CAWINNT/system32
SYSTEM INFO		System Date/Time: 12/13/2005 18:13:54 (24h)
PSINFO ENVIRONMENT OS VERSION UPTIME UPTIME HISTORICAL PSUPTIME		Security Resources SANS Institute SecurityFocus Packet Storm
<u>HOSTNAME</u> UNAME		Computer Name: TOSI20001 Date/Time: 12/13/2005 18:13:54 (24h)
WHOAMI	~	Windows Forensic Toolchest (WFT) v1.0.03 (2003.09.20) Copyright (C) 2003 Monty McDougal. All rights reserved.
Completato		

Figure 4 - Index page of WFT

A thorough read at the WFT report pages confirms the previous suspects: the system event viewer logged many files which were infected by the W32/Lovgate_g@M worm; a look at the registry search history gave more clues: presence of virus dropped file names in the Software\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\Explorer Bars -FilesNamedMRU section.

Another suspicious system trait is the fact that currently the file server has the network TCP ports 25 and 80 open to any external connections (from the WFT netstat report). As gathered during the interviews with users and sysadmins, the system sole purpose was to serve files, not to send emails or publishing webpages.

2.3 Evidence collection phase

The process collecting evidence from a machine running the Windows OS is depicted in the following flow-chart:



Figure 5 - Evidence collection process

The first section of the diagram has already been covered in the previous paragraph: the forensic analyst copied, via the WFT tool, the more volatile information to the forensic workstation. In order to collect the whole memory dump the examiner has to use

another Unix tool, ported to the Windows environment; it is the dd tool able to copy memory, files, directory, disk partitions or physical devices in a bit by bit mode⁵ regardless of the contents.

2.3.1 Collecting memory dump

The memory size of the compromised server is 256 MB; it was dumped to the forensic workstation share E:\memdump\ entering the

⁵ Really the tool copies block by block, depending on the specified options

command:

Dos Prompt > dd if= \\. PhysicalMemory⁶ of= \\tos20005 Memdump mem.img --md5sum --verifymd5 -- md5out= \\tos20005 Memdump mem.img.md5 conv=noerror

To verify the integrity of the data memory dumped, the md5 commands were added: the memory md5 hash is written on the standard output, then it is written on a file on the target machine and finally the MD5 hash is computed on the memory dumped file and checked backwards with the one calculated at the end of the memory dump process.

The hash calculated and verified was the following: \7be085618a6d68c76f09883fd56a58a2 [\\\\.\\PhysicalMemory]*\\\tos20005\\Memdump\\mem.img

The data is now available onto the forensic workstation to better understand what happened on the compromised server.

In order to have more clues, it was run the (Unix ported to Windows) strings command against the memory image file: the command, in his default execution mode extracts from that raw file all of the ASCII strings whose length is more than 4 characters. Finally it is possible to parse the string output file with the grep command against the words tipically used by hackers.

The "dirty words list" contained these strings: 163.com, attack, badmail, bomb, fake, flood, ftp, hack, I-WORM, mail, mail-ru, passw, root, shellcode, smtp, Trojan, victim, virus, worm, xploit. The search results were inserted in a spreadsheet⁷ in order to track the scripts, virus names, strings, email and IP addresses in support for further examination. Such file can be found in the document appendix.

2.3.2 Logical volumes information

To have a more precise idea on how the hard disks media were organized at the installation time, in order to plan the next disk imaging activities, it was run the volume_dump utility written by George Garner³.

The program output prints out some useful media information: volume name, volume label (if exists), mount points, drive type, serial number, volume characteristics, file system and disk number.

The utility was run entering the following command: Dos Prompt > Volume dump > \\TOS20005\Memdump\volume dump.txt

 $^{^{\}rm 6}$ The \\.\ string identifies the current machine

⁷ Dirty_words.xls

Roberto Obialero

The Volume dump output file⁸ is in the appendix.

Analysing the volume_dump output file it is now possible to fill the following table with the disk media organization info:

Disk #	Serial #	Mount point	File system	Starting offset (Byte #)	Extent Length (Bytes)	End of Partition (Byte #)	Parttion Size (Gbytes)
0	140041511	C:\	NTFS	32256	3700376064	3700408320	3,45
0	1355578721	D:\	NTFS	3700440576	14716445184	18416885760	13,71
0	2978877375	E:\	FAT	18416918016	1602445824	20019363840	1,49
1	2017617590	F:\	NTFS	32256	15358984704	15359016960	14,30
2	224860127	G:\	FAT32	32256	5765889024	5765921280	5 , 37
2	1004013017	I:\	FAT	5848206336	2113864704	7962071040	1,96
2	807475203	(field service reserved)	FAT32	7962071040	2146798080	10108869120	2,04

Table 1 - Hard disks partitions

2.3.3 Logical drives images acquisition

Starting from the information in the previous table, it's now possible to plan the acquisition of the disk logical volume images; even tough it could be possible to collect the whole physical disks images, the forensic analyst chooses to collect the logical volumes separately and combine them later on.

The logical images acquisition took advantage of some Linux based commands - dd and md5; the partition images data were sent to a network share of the Linux forensic workstation with the following command:

Dos Prompt > dd if=\\.\C: of=\\10.8.11.186\images\windowsforensics\disco_c.img --md5sum -verifymd5 --md5out=\\10.8.11.144\images\windowsforensics\disco_c.img.md5

The same collection process has been repeated for all of the other hard disks logical partitions.

The hash calculated and verified were the following:

```
\58765abb9a2274824a5f846b4df745eb [\\\.\c:]
*\\\10.8.11.144\\images\\windowsforensics\\disco_c.img
```

```
\lff40fc272158b7e0add565a3a33d500 [\\\.\d:]
*\\\10.8.11.144\\images\\windowsforensics\\disco_d.img
```

```
\7ac93b47f6f03cc04d11111e0e7846e7 [\\\.\\e:]
*\\\10.8.11.144\\images\\windowsforensics\\disco_e.img
\bb62fdc57174d48552a04d39eee584ae [\\\.\\f:]
*\\\10.8.11.144\\images\\windowsforensics\\disco f.img
```

⁸ Table 4 - Volume_dump utility output

```
\5cce25f2c0648d46d4930bda51532844 [\\\.\\g:]
*\\\\10.8.11.144\\images\\windowsforensics\\disco_g.img
```

```
\3bf5de59ef693a6f12d19416da5ace24 [\\\.\\i:]
*\\\\10.8.11.144\\images\\windowsforensics\\disco_i.img
```

Such activity finally terminated the data acquisition process.

2.4 Media analysis phase

The media analysis task starts once all of the compromised server information is available in the forensic workstation.

As stated in the previous chapter Linux was used as favourite operating system to analyse the media. Such activity relies mainly on the Sleuth Kit⁴ tool written by Brian Carrer, a very specialized forensic suite made up of sixteen tools able to analyse thoroughly the disk media (according to the Unix style based on simple programs doing their task very well).

Handling large images (several Gbytes of data and hundred thousands of files) could be a daunting task with the command line interface provided by the Sleuth Kit; to solve the situation this tool was combined with the web based Graphical User Interface supplied from the Autopsy Forensic Browser, coming from the same author.

The Sleuth Kit version was the 1.72. The Autopsy Forensic Browser version was the 2.03.

2.4.1 Autopsy Forensic Browser analysis process

The following figure depicts the analysis process performed by the Autopsy Forensic Browser tool:



Figure 6 - Autopsy Forensic Browser verification process

Once the Autopsy application start up is completed, a few more steps must be followed to create a basic analysis information:

- a new case has to be opened;
- the investigation details have to be filled in (investigator's name, case description);
- the host gallery is now opened: the investigator can add the host target of the analysis and fill in pertinent

information;

 finally, the examiner must add (with symbolic links) the volume images previously copied to the forensic workstation checking their MD5 hash value.

The program creates the configuration files and directories: the media analysis task can now begin.

An Autopsy Forensic Browser screenshot about the "Intranet Server" case is depicted in the following picture:

CASE GALLERY	HOST GALLERY	HOST MANAGER	
		0	
mount	name		
C:\ 🙆	images/disco_c.img	details	
OK	HELP	CLOSE HOST	
FILE ACTIVITY TIME LINES		HASH DATABASES	
VIEW NOT	ES	EVENT SEQUENCER	

Figure 6 - Autopsy Forensic Browser screenshot

The program GUI interface is very user-friendly, the magnifier lens points to the actual program's feature; it is now possible by many pushbuttons to activate specific tools.

The "File Activity Time Lines" button, placed in the left bottom area, was used to obtain the timeline file described in the following paragraph.

2.5 Timeline creation and analysis phase

This activity is very useful to understand what happened on the compromised system from a temporal perspective.

The process is divided in two phases: in the first one all of the MAC times (belonging to either the image data or the metadata structures of the image) are pulled out and stored to an intermediate body file; note it could be possible now to merge data coming from different images or from external security devices like firewalls or IDSes.

The examiner produced the body file of the timeline putting together the data coming from different images.

Roberto Obialero

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The Sleuth Kit commands run in this task were:

fls -r -m -> list both the allocated and the deleted files, recurse on directories (-r), display the output in timeline import format (-m) list inodes information in mactime mode (-m)

The second part of the timeline creation sorts the information in date ascending order: it is also possible to select a starting and ending date and other parameters to better refine the analysis task. Into the timeline analysis phase, it is a good idea to correlate such data with the "uptime historical" output supplied by the WFT tool.

An extract of the timeline file is depicted in the following picture:

¥						root@Linux	Forens	sics:/fo	rensics/I	ntranet_server/TOS	l20001/output				
<u>F</u> ile	<u>E</u> dit	<u>V</u> iew	<u>T</u> erminal	Ta <u>b</u> s	<u>H</u> elp										
					5149	m/-rwxr	wxrwx	0	0	21655-12	8-3 C:\/WINN	T/system32	/CatRoot	:/{F750E6	C3-38EE-11
D1-85	5E5-00	CO4FC	295EE}/Q	329115	.cat										
Thu 3	Jun 19	2003	12:11:2	4	1	m/-rwxr	wxrwx	0	0	2223654	E:\/REPART~	·1/PROPOS~1	/SAGAT/S	AGAT_~1/	How To Hac
k Weł	osites	.exe	(_OWTOH~	1.EXE)	(del	eted)									
				11	0592	m/-rwxr	wxrwx	0	0	1612370	E:\/REPART~	·1/PROPOS~1	/BENICU~	·1/MARCON	~1/AN-YOU-
SUCK-	-IT.tx	ct.pif	(AN-YOU	~1.PIF	')										
				11	0592	m/-rwxr	wxrwx	0	0	5807737	E:\/REPART~	·1/PROPOS~1	/OSPEDA~	·1.MAR/DI	SEGNI/AN-Y
0U-SU	JCK-II	.txt.	pif (AN-	YOU~1.	PIF)			~	~	00100001	-	4 (DDODOO 4	(0.0 D D D	4 MID (00	
00/0				. 11	0592	m/-rwxr	wxrwx	0	0	26186281	E:\/REPART~	·1/PR0P0S~1	/OSPEDA~	·1.MAR/CO	NIRI~3/LUN
26/Se	ex_For	_You_	Life.JPG	.pif (SEX_F	0~1.PIF)		~	~	7004545				1 (00)1000	1 (0
¥	T : C -	TDC	SE CODV		10592	m/-rwxr	wxrwx	0	0	7294545	E:\/SEGREI~	-T\RKOCH0~T	/ SECURE~	1/CONSOR	~1/Sex_For
rou	_Lire.	JPG.p	1I (SEX_	FU~1.F	(1F) 0502			0	0	2202100	E.\ /DEDADT	1 /000000 1	/0412002	ACCECH	1 /Cont For
Vou I	ifo T	DC ni	f (SEV E	01 PT	-0392 TEN	m/-rwxr	WXLMX	0	0	2209103	E: \/KEFAKI~	·1/FR0F03~1	/ KA12002	/Азэезм~	r/sex_ror_
100_1	JILE.J	rg.pi	I (SEA_F	11~0	0502	m / museum		0	0	218000/	C.\ /DEDADT-	1/00000.1	/RENTCH-	.1 /CADITO	.1/Sov For
You	Life	TPC n	if (SFX	F0~1 F	DJ92		WATWA	0	0	2105504	E. (/ KEFAKI"	·1/1K0103-1	/ DENICO-	·1/ CAF110	-1/Sex_FOI
104		010.p	11 (<u>)</u> LA_	11	0592	m = /-rwyr	wyrwy	0	0	5429865	F · \ /SECRET_	1/CARTEL~1	CONTRA-	1 CAL/CO	NTRA~1/100
free	essa	vs sc	hool.nif	(1005	RE~1.	PTF)	WALWA	0		5125005	L. (/ DEGREI	I/CIICILL I	Continui	1.0111/00	11111 1/100
1100		.yo oc	noor.pri	11	0592	m =/-rwxr	wxrwx	0	0	4462153	E:\/SEGRET~	1/CARTEL~1	/RAPPOR-	1/CONSUL	~1/2002/AG
0ST0-	-1/100) free	essavs	school	.pif	(100FRE~1.P	IF)				LI (/ OLOIGIL	r) cincipii i	, 1012 1 011	2, 0011002	1,2002,110
			1-	11	0592	m/-rwxr	wxrwx	0	0	3308116	E:\/REPART~	1/PROPOS~1	/RAI2002	/ASSESM~	1/100 free
essa	ivs sc	hool.	pif (100	FRE~1.	PIF)										,
				11	0592	m/-rwxr	wxrwx	0	0	5897787	E:\/SEGRET~	·1/CARTEL~1	/CASSAD~	·1/2003/L	UGLI0~1/10
0 fre	ee ess	ays s	chool.pi	f (100	FRE~1	.PIF)									
				11	0592	m/-rwxr	wxrwx	0	0	6522445	E:\/SEGRET~	1/CARTEL~1	/CASSAD~	·1/2002/G	IUGN0~1/Se
x_Foi	_You_	Life.	JPG.pif	(SEX_F	'0~1.P	IF)									
				11	.0592	m/-rwxr	wxrwx	0	0	3567191	E:\/REPART~	·1/PROPOS~1	/POWERT~	1/lavoro	/Sex_For_Y
ou_Li	ife.JF	'G.pif	(SEX_FO	~1.PIF	⁷)										
				11	.0592	m/-rwxr	wxrwx	0	0	3904077	E:\/SEGRET~	·1/CARTEL~1	/RAPPOR~	1/CONSUL	~1/2003/MA
RZ02-	-1/Sex	_For_	You_Life	.JPG.p	oif (S	EX_F0~1.PIF)								
				11	0592	m/-rwxr	wxrwx	0	0	5429871	E:\/SEGRET~	·1/CARTEL~1	/CONTRA~	·1.GAL/CO	NTRA~1/AN-
YOU-5	SUCK-1	T.txt	.pif (AN	-YOU~1			~			0000057				0000057	
				11	0592	mrwxrwx	rwx 0		0	2223657 <	disco_e.img-	EX_FU~1.P	IF-dead-	222365/>	
				11	0592	mrwxrwx	rwx 0	0	0	2223654 <	aisco_e.img-	1 /DDODOS 1	AE-dead-	1 /DONTTD	1 /AN YOU
SHOW	TT +>	t nif		1 DID	20592	m/-rwxr	WXLMX	0	0	1/0204/	E:\/REFARI~	·1/PR0P05~1	/ 51R10P~	·1/PUNIIK	~1/AN-100-
SUCK-	-11.UX	.e.p11	(AN-100	~1.F1F 11	0502	m _/	www.	0	0	6657615	E \ /SECRET-	1/CARTEL-1	/CASSAD-	1/2002/4	PRTLE~1/10
0 frace	00 000	ave e	chool ni	f (100	IFRE~1	PTF)	WALWA	0	0	0057015	L. () SEGREI ~	T/ CANTEL~1	/ CASSAD*	1/2002/A	
0 110		aya a	choor.pr	11	0592	m = /-rwxr	wyrwy	U	0	5165607	E V/REPART~	I/PROPOS~I	/OSPEDA~	AL MAR/SM	AKTINU/Sex
					0002		IN ALL WA	0		5.05007			- SOLLON.		internoy bex
	1 🖌	-			F							/	Tract @	10	Tue Jan 10
-		<u> </u>			0	3 🏹		U					1001@	3 V	12:46 PM

Figure 7 - Timeline format file

The timeline lists information in the following format, from the leftmost column to the right direction: File size (Bytes); last mac action (m=saved, a=read,executed, c=created,inode allocated); file permissions, GID, UID, inode number, file or inode specification. While examining the timeline, the forensic analyst had the confirmation the system had been infected by the **W32/Lovgate.g@M**

worm. The evidences were many file entries named as follows:

- MSN Password Hacker & Stealer
- Winrar + crack.exe
- The world of lovers.txt.exe
- Sex for your life
- Panda Titanium
- Age of Empires
- Are you looking for love.doc.exe
- Mafia Trainer!!!.exe
- MoviezChannelsIsInstaller.exe
- Star Wars II Movie Full Downloader.exe
- How To Hack Websites.exe
- CloneCD +Crack.exe
- Autoexec.bat
- 100 Free Essays Schools.pif

The larger number of these files was found on the system shared logical drives as confirmation of the spreading method stated by the antivirus software researchers.

A common trait of such files is they were written/executed and then immediately deleted; recording the inode number that appears in the timeline makes it possible to further analyse the content of the file.

The first evidence of the infected file dates back on May, 23rd 2003 on partition C, then the virus spreading activity was very heavy, until the end of 2003; on December, 10th 2003 (as reported from WFT) a new antivirus software installation was performed (McAfee instead of Norton). Starting from this date the number of infected files started to decrease, but some worm activity was still observed; such events last about one day, then the infection hushed and offered a period of quietness.

A summary timeline table⁹ follows in the next page:

Date	Time	Event
14/05/2002	15:16:35	OS installation

⁹ The whole timeline file is available separately

23/05/2003	16:18:20	First LovGate G evidence (Starwars II dropped)
10/06/0000	10.14.00	on C partition
18/06/2003	12:14:09	HOTI1X KB823182 installed
19/06/2003	12:11:24	First LovGate_G files (*.pif 110592 bytes length) dropped on E partition
19/06/2003	21:05:04	Windows Service Pack files copied
27/06/2003	13:55:15	Hotfix KB823559 installed
05/07/2003	10:16:54	Hotfix KB823980 installed
16/07/2003	15:25:40	Executed the above Starwars II file ¹⁰
05/08/2003	15:14:23	Hotfix KB824146 installed
23/08/2003	14:44:56	Hotfix KB824146 installed
27/08/2003	15:11:23	Hotfix KB825119 installed
02/09/2003	11:48:32	Windows SP Installation
07/10/2003	16:05:53	Hotfix KB826232 installed
23/10/2003	14:21:38	Hotfix KB828035 installed
23/10/2003	15:40:56	Hotfix KB928749 installed
06/11/2003	00:00:00	Worm flood on shared partitions
21/11/2003	00:00:00	Worm flood on shared partitions
01/12/2003	00:00:00	Worm flood on shared partitions
10/12/2003	12:03:30	Last Norton AV scan
10/12/2003	14:48:25	McAFee Netshield AV installation
15/12/2003	00:00:00	Worm flood on shared partitions
23/12/2003	00:00:00	Worm flood on shared partitions
07/01/2004	09:31:03	System memory dump
12/02/2004	17:29:16	Worm flood on shared partitions
14/05/2004	09:28	Worm flood on shared partitions
17/05/2004	10:18:34	Worm flood on shared partitions
07/06/2004	10:25:31	Updated AV; daily scan enabled
09/03/2005	00:00:00	Worm flood on shared partitions
22/04/2005	14:29:56	Worm flood on shared partitions
01/08/2005	10:13:08	Worm flood on shared partitions
24/11/2005	15:13:32	Worm flood on shared partitions

Table 2 - Summary timeline

Once the timeline examination is over, the media analysis task can start, looking for more evidence of the server's compromise.

2.6 File system analysis

¹⁰ Beginning of the virus spread

The forensic examiner has to choose the image he wants to analyse (by selecting the "details" button); in the next screenshot he chose the file system tab and the Sleuth Kit fsstat tool run. The command output is partially depicted in the following picture:

	File Analysis	KEYWORD SEARCH	FILE TYPE		META DATA	DATA UNIT	HELP CLOSE				
	General File System Details										
FILE SYSTE	M INFORMAT	ION									
File System Ty	ype: NTFS										
Volume Serial	Number: 7A085	9200858DD27									
OEM Name: N	NTFS										
Version: Wind	lows 2000										
METADATA	INFORMATIC	ON						e)			
First Cluster o	f MFT: 4										
First Cluster o	f MFT Mirror: 45	51736									
Size of MFT E	Entries: 1024 byte	S									
Size of Index I	Records: 4096 by	tes									
Range: 0 - 467	780										
Root Directory	y: 5										

Figure 8 - File system details

Some important information about the file system disk partitions organization are displayed:

- C partition
 - o NTFS, Windows 2000 type,
 - o The data cluster is made of 8 sectors so it is 4096 bytes long, the sector ranges from 0 to 7227295, the cluster ranges from 0 to 903411,
 - o The metadata range from 0 to 46780, MFT0 start from cluster 4, MFT1 start from cluster 451736.
- D partition
 - o NTFS, Windows 2000 type,
 - o The data cluster is made of 8 sectors so it is 4096 bytes long, the sector ranges from 0 to 28743056, the cluster ranges from 0 to 3592882,
 - o MFTO start from cluster 4, MFT1 start from cluster 1796442.
- E partition

- o FAT16 type,
- o The data cluster is made of 64 sectors so it is 32768 bytes long, the sector range from 0 to 3129776, the cluster range from 2 to 48896,
- o The metadata range from 2 to 50068482, FATO from 1 to 222, FAT1 from 223 to 444
- F partition
 - o NTFS, Windows 2000 type,
 - o The data cluster is made of 8 sectors so it is 4096 bytes long, the sector ranges from 0 to 29998016, the cluster ranges from 0 to 3749752,
 - o MFTO start from cluster 4, MFT1 start from cluster 1874876.
- G partition
 - o FAT32 type,
 - o The data cluster is made of 8 sectors so it is 4096 bytes long, the sector range from 0 to 11261501, the cluster range from 2 to 1404940,
 - o The metadata range from 2 to 179832194, FATO from 32 to 11008, FAT1 from 11009 to 21895
- I partition
 - o FAT16 type,
 - o The data cluster is made of 64 sectors so it is 32768 bytes long, the sector range from 0 to 4128641, the cluster range from 2 to 64502,
 - o The metadata range from 2 to 66049026, FAT0 from 1 to 255, FAT1 from 256 to 510

Starting from the previous screenshot, the Autopsy program gives a few options for conducting the investigation in more detail, based on the appropriate file system layer (file name, metadata, cluster).

Selecting the File Type tab the Sleuthkit file sorter tool runs, testing the file header; the output yields a more precise picture about:

- media files number and categories;
- the number of unallocated files (link to the MFT or to the FAT deleted);
- the number of files with the wrong name extension respect to the file header section;
- the files are grouped in the summary according to predefined categories.

The screenshot with the output of this task is depicted in the picture on the following page:

v	Intranet_server:TOSI20001:images/disco_c.img - Mozilla	= [] 6] ×						
<u>File E</u> dit <u>V</u> iew <u>G</u> o <u>B</u> ookr	narks <u>T</u> ools <u>W</u> indow <u>H</u> elp							
Back Forward Reload	Stop & http://localhost:9999/autopsy?mod=1&submod=8&case=Intranet_server&host=TOSI20001 V Search	🗯 👻 🌆						
🚺 🚮 Home 🛛 😻 Bookmarks 🥠 Re	ed Hat, Inc. 🦧 Red Hat Network 🖆 Support 🖆 Shop 🖆 Products 📹 Training							
File Analysis	FILE ANALYSIS KEYWORD SEARCH FILE TYPE IMAGE DETAILS META DATA UNIT HELP CLOSE							
Sort Files by Type	Results Summary							
	Images							
	 /forensics/Intranet_server/TOSI20001/images/disco_c.img 							
	Files (54345)							
	Allocated (23379) Unallocated (30966)							
	Files Skipped (4739)							
	 Non-Files (4739) 'ignore' category (0) 							
	Extensions							
	• Extension Mismatches (2708)							
	Categories (49606)							
	archive (233) audio (211)							
🐝 🕮 🆋 🖾 🛷 🛛 Done								
🥌 🧰 🥱	💫 💱 🖻 🕘 🔍 🧭 💷 🗾 🕑 📓 Geckc 🔗	Fri Jan 13 2:39 PM						

Figure 9 - File sorter screenshot

The large number of unallocated files (30966 versus 23379 allocated) depends on the virus activity (files created/deleted), on the antivirus task (files quarantined) and from the long time elapsed (more than 3 years) since the system software installation. It is further present a large number of files (2708) to check for extension mismatches.

Having a "known good file hash database" fulfilled when the host was created could have been a good idea to reduce the analysis task effort, but it was currently unavailable.

2.7 Strings search

Several keyword searches during this step were performed either in the unallocated space or in the whole images to collect findings of the system compromise. The Autopsy search tool features are based both on ASCII and Unicode patterns, some keywords from previous memory searches were used.

2.8 Extract unallocated data space from the image

Before starting the string search phase the unallocated space extraction from the image has to be performed: this is very important because hidden information not accessible by the standard file system tools can be searched for.

The extract unallocated pushbutton was selected from search string tab; when the extract unallocated process is terminated, it is possible to conduct string searches both on the original image and on the unallocated space.

2.9 Data units, inodes and file analysis

The reverse process beginning from the string search results to recover the file contents could be summarized as follows (clicking on Autopsy hyperlink launch the specialized Sleuth Kit tool):

- in the search strings results html page (unallocated space) a data unit number was found;
- pressing the data unit tab displayed its content on the screen (via the dcat tool);
- if any interesting evidences were found the program calculated the original data cluster (via the dcalc tool) pressing the load original pushbutton;
- upon cluster content verify (dcat & strings) it was picked out the Autopsy Hex Report;
- the program run the ifind tool to search for the inode number;
- the istat tool (inode details) was run against the inode number to obtain the inode statistics;
- then the ffind tool was run to map from inode to file name
- finally the icat tool was run to recover, if available, the whole deleted file.

Some results of the file system searches 11 are summarized in the table 5 in the document appendix:

Looking at the table some information can be deducted:

- on January, 7th 2004 there was a system crash and the memory content (with a lot of hacking scripts) was copied to the memory dump file;
- the virus activity was heavy from December, 1st (virus files

 $^{^{\}rm 11}$ This table includes only a subset of possible string searches due to the large spread of the worm files.

dropping) to the next day (virus file blocked from execution by the antivirus software marked with the VBN extension);

 despite the presence of the antivirus software (updated with the latest definitions on June, 7th 2004) no effective action was taken to eliminate the virus spreading from the system; this is highlighted from the presence of hacking script code in the pagefile.sys file created a few hours before performing the media images.

A sample screenshot with detailed information about the cluster # 475180 strings content is depicted in the following picture:

-----GENERAL INFORMATION Cluster: 475180 Cluster Size: 4096 Pointed to by MFT Entry: 24-128-0 Pointed to by files: C:\/pagefile.sys MD5 of raw Cluster: 97106972669f0d317f7e3daf80d9daab MD5 of string output: a52504bb0b7c89d8527389db582c9153 Image: /forensics/Intranet_server/TOSI20001/images/disco_c.img Image Type: ntfs Date Generated: Sun Jan 15 19:17:26 2006 Investigator: RO ____ CONTENT ?/C+ HTTP HOST: /bin/sh /bin/perlt OVERFLOW EXPLOIT SYSTEM IMAP4t # by Nergal mklink() #Bug: buffer DoS and runn ocket: \$shellc ZZZ< HOST: AAAAAA "A" X 257 0xbffff3ff 0x08047404 0xbfbfefff <input file^> ^<user^> ^<pass^> yes/no for srvinfo tokens=1,2,3 delims=: nc.exe -l -d -p 23 -e cmd.exe ^<scan method 1 or 2^> 1=port scan / 2=services list eXposed is being .SpecialFold Desktopt hosts*> By Goldberg Paki .icra.org/rating esponse-o-matic me@yahoo.com INTERNET BOOSTER SPYt

Autopsy string Cluster Report

VERSION INFORMATION

Autopsy Version: 2.03 The Sleuth Kit Version: 1.72

Figure 10 - Cluster 475180 search strings detail

A partial list of unallocated space string search results is in

table 6 in the document appendix.

As stated in the chapter 2.4, Autopsy executes its activities in a forensic sound manner performing the MD5 calculation in all of the tasks it completes; a sample of such checksums is depicted in the following screenshot:



Figure 11 - MD5 sums calculated by forensic tools

It was a little unexpected to find nothing but the presence of the email address @yahoo.com.cn that was used from the hacker as recipient to be notified about the system compromise; this keyword string search on the C drive image revealed 54 hits and it took to the string:

configserversmtp.163.com#ab89d@yahoo.com.cn#yf23668@163.com

This is part of the Snort IDS signature for the LovGate worm that follows:

alert tcp any any -> any 139 (msg: "lovgate virus"; content: "configserversmtp.163.com#ab89d@yahoo.com"; flow:to_serve r,established; classtype:misc-activity;)

alert tcp any any -> any 445 (msg: "lovgate virus"; content: "configserversmtp.163.com#ab89d@yahoo.com"; flow:to_serve r,established; classtype:misc-activity;)

alert tcp any any -> any 445 (msg: "lovgate virus netservices.exe";

content: "s.y.s.t.e.m.3.2.\.N.e.t.S.e.r.v.i.c.e.s. ..e.x.e"; flow:to_server,established; classtype:misc-activity;)

alert tcp any any -> any 445 (msg: "lovgate virus netservices.exe"; content: "s|00|y|00|s|00|t|00|e|00|m|00|3|00|2|00 5C 00|N|00|e|00|t|00|S|00|e|00|r|00|v|00|i|00|c|00|e|00|s|00|.|00|e|00|x|00|e"; flow:to_server,established; classtype:misc-activity;)

Several searches were performed for clues about some "live file" on a C partition containing such string but all of them conducted to a *.VBN file already detected by the antivirus software. Analysing thoroughly the virus files dropped on the E partition at the beginning of the infection process were found some of them unchecked from the antivirus software; the FAT entries #1612370 and #5807737 were analysed respectively.

- Metadata 1612370, last written on 19/06/03 12:11:24, last accessed on 23/12/03 0:00:00; sector range from 990557 to 990812 (256); filename E:\repart_1\propos_1\marcom_1\AN-YOU-SUCK.txt
- Metadata 5807737, last written on 19/06/03 12:11:24, last accessed on 23/12/03 0:00:00; sector range from 1057885 to 1058140 (256); filename E:\repart_1\propos_1\ospeda_1.mar\disegni\AN-YOU-SUCK.pif

The whole hexdump of the second file¹² ca be found in the document appendix, a partial view of the virus fingerprint is depicted in the following picture:

106208	00000000	75736572	33322e64	6060067		user	32.d	11.g
106224	64693332	2e646c6c	00616476	61706933	di32	.dll	.adv	api3
106240	322e646c	6c007368	656c6c33	322e646c	2.dl	l.sh	e113	2.d1
106256	6c007773	6f636b33	322e646c	6c006d70	1.ws	ock3	2.dl	l.mp
106272	722e646c	6c007773	325 f 3332	2e646c6c	r.dl	l.ws	2_32	.dll
106288	00707361	70692e64	6c6c007b	e3050000	.psa	pi.d	11.(
106304	0000008e	e3050000	0000009f	e3050000				
106320	0d0000b0	e3050000	00000004	00008000				
106336	000000c0	e3050000	000000d9	e3050000				
106352	000000e4	e3050000	00000000	00446973				.Dis
106368	70617463	684d6573	73616765	41000000	patc	hMes	sage	A
106384	47657453	746f636b	4f626a65	63740000	GetS	tock	Obje	ct
106400	004f7065	6e53434d	616e6167	65724100	.Ope	nSCM	anag	erA.
106416	00005368	656c6c45	78656375	74654100	Sh	ellE	xecu	teA.
106432	0000574e	65744361	6e63656c	436f6e6e	WN	etCa	ncel	Conn
106448	65637469	6f6e3241	00000057	5341496f	ecti	on2A	W	SAIO
106464	63746c00	00004765	744d6f64	75606542	ctl.	Ge	tMod	uleB
106480	6173654e	616d6557	00000000	00000000	aseN	ameV		
106496	636f6e66	69677365	72766572	736d7470	conf	igse	rver	smtp
106512	2e313633	2e636f6d	23616238	39644079	.163	.com	#ab8	9d0y
106528	61686f6f	2e636f6d	2e636e23	79663233	ahoo	.com	.cn#	yf23
106544	36363840	3136332e	636f6d23	65575979	6680	163.	com#	е⊎Үу
106560	4d7a5932	4f413d3d	234d6a4d	354£4459	Mz¥2	OA==	#MjM	50DY
106576	7a4d673d	3d234444	4444444	4444444	zMg=	=#DD	DDDD	DDDD
106592	4444444	4444444	4444444	4444444	DDDD	DDDD	DDDD	DDDD
106608	4444444	4444444	4444444	4444444	DDDD	DDDD	DDDD	DDDD
106624	4444444	4444444	4444444	4444444	DDDD	DDDD	DDDD	DDDD
106640	4444444	4444444	4444444	4444444	DDDD	DDDD	DDDD	DDDD

Figure 12 - LovGate virus fingerprint extracted from the file hexdump

3 Malware analysis

¹² Lovgate_Hexdump_File.rtf

Once the malware code has been isolated, it is possible to execute it against a virtualized host in order to have more information about the virus behaviour; to accomplish such task the malware must be run in a sterile environment while dedicated tools are deployed to monitor all the program activities.

Since such code widely spreads the effects all over the system a machine able to revert its state to a "pre-infection" configuration has to be set up.

The system virtualization application took advantage of a VMWare 5.0 virtual machine installed in an air-gapped¹³ Linux based hardware with Win2K installed guest operating system; the following process steps have to be strictly followed to monitor the malware behaviour:

- Winalysis⁵ was run to take a system snapshot
- Nestat tool was run to display the current TCP/UDP connections and open ports
- Regmon⁶ utility was run to monitor the interactions with the system registry
- Filemon⁷ utility was run to monitor the interactions with the file system
- LovGate malware code was run for about 20 seconds
- Then the LovGate process was stopped with Windows Task Manager
- Both the Regmon and the Filemon utilities were stopped
- Nestat tool was run again to display the updated TCP/UDP connections and open ports
- Winalysis was run again to take an updated system snapshot

Once completed the data collection activity the infection tracks can be deleted reverting the virtual machine to a previously saved configuration.

3.1 Code execution summary results

The Filemon analysis indicates that the LovGate.exe process loads the following system dynamically linked libraries:

wsock32.dll, ws2 32.dll, ws2help.dll, psapi.dll

Then it creates the brand new file **WinDriver.exe** in the system directory (c:\winnt\system32), then it deletes the c:\winnt\system32\config\software.log, finally it creates the hostile files **WinHelp.exe**, **winrpc.exe**, **WinGate.exe** and **RAVMOND.exe** into the system directory.

¹³ No external network connections available

The Regmon analysys indicates the LovGate executable open, creates and set the value of a lot of registry keys, the most important ones are summarized below:

HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\Windows Management Instrumentation Driver Extension\ImagePath with the value "C:\WINNT\System32**WinDriver.exe -start_server**"

HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run with the value"C:\WINNT\System32\winhelp.exe..."

HKCR\txtfile\shell\open\command\(Default) with the value "winrpc.exe %1..."

HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run\WinGate
initialize with the value "C:\WINNT\System32\WinGate.exe remoteshell..."

HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\run with the value "RAVMOND.exe"

From the networking point of view a lot of network connections were verified established (TCP ports 139 and 445) between the Windows infected "virtualized host" and the Linux system hosting the VMWare application.

Infected machine behaviour notes: when the LovGate executable was stopped the presence of dropped files named as in the list on page 21 was observed in many directories these are the proof of the auto-copy behaviour of the worm; taking another view at the SAMBA shares on the VMWare host computer, worm replicas were found too. Less than one minute after killing the LovGate process a heavy activity was noticed in the system: taking a closer look at the Windows Task Manager program this activity was related to the brand new system processes: winrpc.exe, wingate.exe and so on. The analysis reference files¹⁴, excerpts from filemon and regmon logfiles, and the netstat views are located in the document appendix.

3.2 Malware advanced analysis

¹⁴ Lovgate_filemon.LOG; Lovgate_Regmon.LOG; Table 7 - Network connection before LovGate execution; Table 8 - Network connection after LovGate execution

In order to discover some hidden malware features, the code analysis was tried by a disassembler program; the favourite software application was the IDA Software from Datarescue⁸ a LovGate examination screenshot is depicted in the following picture:



Figure 13 - IDA Disassembler screenshot

The program analysis reveals it is a portable executable for 386 file type; it is packed by aspack⁹ to reduce the size and to protect the program from non professional hackers reverse engineering.

The malware program makes use of some Windows standard system functions reported in the following page table:

Imported windows hibiary Function		Imported	Windows	Library	Function
-----------------------------------	--	----------	---------	---------	----------

Entry Point[Hex]

	Start	0045 D001				
Kernel32.dll	GetProcAddress	0045 E1CC				
Kernel32.dll	GetModuleHandleA	0045 E1D0				
Kernel32.dll	LoadLibraryA	0045 E1D4				
User32	DispatchMessageA	0045 E33B				
Gdi32	GetStockObject	0045 E343				
Advapi32	OpenSCManagerA	0045 E34B				
Shell32	ShellExecuteA	0045 E353				
Wsock32	connect	0045 E35B				
Mpr	WnetCancelConnection2A	0045 E363				
Ws2_32	WSAloctl	0045 E36B				
Psapi	GetModuleBaseNameW	0045 E373				
	Configserversm	0045 F000				

A Strainte Ann Anthon Marines Table 3 - LovGate software functions

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4 Legal implications

As stated in the document introduction section the intranet server is currently out of either the company security policy or the incident response policy; it lacks from the security management point of view.

4.1 United States Code

In accordance with the United States Code the incident suffered by such server can be classified as Network Crime; it is ruled by the statute 18 U.S.C. § 1030 known as Computer Fraud and Abuse Act.

It criminalizes the hacking actions against the "protected computers": the term refers to computers belonging to government agencies, financial institutions or affecting commerce and communications - 18 U.S.C. § 1030 (e)(2).

Such activity produced a "damage" - any impairment to the integrity or availability of data, a program, a system or information - 18 U.S.C. § 1030 (e)(8) worth more than \$ 5000 in one year period.

The expenses the damage refers to are assessment, data loss and restore costs; they can be aggregated with other networked computers suffering the same attack - 18 U.S.C. § 1030 (e)(11).

If the crime author acted by intentional conduct – knowingly transmitting a "program, information, code or command" – he committed a felony violation of the law. 18 U.S.C. § 1030 (a) (5) (A) (i).

This may apply both to insiders (employees) and to outsiders (hackers): the maximum penalty is a fine and 10 years of imprisonment - 18 U.S.C. § 1030 (c) (4) (A) & (C).

4.2 Italian Criminal Law

According to the Italian Criminal Law - Computer Crime Statute, the incident caused a computer system unauthorized access punished with 3 years of imprisonment maximum penalty. Art. 615/ter.

Another issue is the spreading of programs that can damage or deny the access to a computer system (worms and viruses). Art. 615/quinques.

Some more privacy issues are ruled by the law n.675/1996 and its recent updates.

5 Lesson learned

Nowadays the system information security has become much more important than just a few years ago. Virus threats are frequently reported in the news and many companies have been hit directly. Such companies are therefore becoming aware of the money and image losses caused by security incidents and they begin to invest a small IT budget slice in security technologies.

Sometimes the task of security management becomes a problem for several reasons, such as the lack of resources and low sensitivity both from technical and managerial personnel.

For example, the incident described in this document could have been avoided easily. In fact, to prevent the spreading of the malware program through the enterprise network, an automatic antivirus signature update and a scheduled daily virus scan activities could have been enough.

A more exhaustive preventive solution could have been to couple the measure above with a recent IDS/IPS technology deployed in the strategic computer network points.

From the company organizational point of view, it would be very important to distribute the right task load to the system administrators and force them to update the hardware/software inventory in order to ensure no system lies forsaken and forgotten.

From perspective of the forensic analyst some points are success keys to improve the overall analysis process:

- The adoption of the external hard disk drive in order to speed up the evidence data gathering phase: in such a way it is possible to avoid the limitations of the hard disk on the forensic workstation and copying the whole physical disk instead of separate partitions. Using this method the examiner is not tied to network constraints. Furthermore, there would be no need to carry the forensic workstation to the incident site.
- Grouping commands and using the regular expressions in the program scripts could be very useful to save time in the media analysis phase especially when analysing tons of material like in the case described in the current document.
- It is also important to be very careful in the data correlation task to avoid following false tracks.
- Another issue in the forensic analysis described in the document is the long time passed between the initial virus infection and the time of the forensic examination. For example tracks of the virus activity (MAC times, processes, network connections) could have been covered by normal system activities.

6 Appendix - References



Dirty_words.xls





G

Lovgate_g_descriptiLovgate_Hexdump_F Lovgate_filemon.LO Lovgate_Regmon.LO

on.rtf ile.rtf

Table 4 - Volume dump utility output

```
H:\response kit\win2k xp\volume dump.EXE
Volume Dump Utility, 1. 0. 0. 330
Copyright © 2002 George M. Garner Jr.
                    \\?\Volume{9acab338-674e-11d6-bfe8-806d6172696f}
Volume Name:
Volume Label:
Drive Type:
                    Fixed
Serial Number:
                           140041511
Maximum Component Length: 255
Volume Characteristics:
                    File system preserves case
                    File system supports case sensitive file names
                    File system supports Unicode file names
                    File system preserves and supports persistent ACL's
                    File system supports file level compression
                    File system supports named streams
                    File system supports encryption
                    File system supports object identifiers
                    File system supports reparse points
                    File system supports sparse files
                    File system supports quotas
File System:
                    NTFS
Volume Extents:
      Disk Number: 0
       Starting Offset: 0x0000000000007e00
      Extent Length: 0x0000000dc8f4200
Volume Name:
                    \\?\Volume{5200890c-7214-11d6-acae-806d6172696f}
Volume Label:
Drive Type:
                    Fixed
                           1355578721
Serial Number:
Maximum Component Length:
                         255
Volume Characteristics:
                 💛 File system preserves case
                    File system supports case sensitive file names
                    File system supports Unicode file names
                    File system preserves and supports persistent ACL's
                    File system supports file level compression
                    File system supports named streams
                    File system supports encryption
                    File system supports object identifiers
                    File system supports reparse points
                    File system supports sparse files
                    File system supports quotas
```

```
© SANS Institute 2000 - 2005
```

```
File System:
                   NTFS
Volume Extents:
      Disk Number: 0
      Starting Offset: 0x0000000dc903e00
      Extent Length: 0x00000036d2b2200
Volume Name:
               \\?\Volume{5200890d-7214-11d6-acae-806d6172696f}
Volume Label:
Drive Type:
                   Fixed
                          2978877375
Serial Number:
Maximum Component Length: 255
Volume Characteristics:
                    File system preserves case
                   File system supports Unicode file names
File System:
                   FAT
Volume Extents:
      Disk Number: 0
      Starting Offset: 0x000000449bbde00
      Extent Length: 0x00000005f836200
               \\?\Volume{3df0557a-7221-11d6-9b52-806d6172696f}
Volume Name:
Volume Label:
                  Dati2
Drive Type:
                  Fixed
Serial Number:
                          2017617590
Maximum Component Length: 255
Volume Characteristics:
                   File system preserves case
                   File system supports case sensitive file names
                   File system supports Unicode file names
                   File system preserves and supports persistent ACL's
                   File system supports file level compression
                   File system supports named streams
                   File system supports encryption
                   File system supports object identifiers
                   File system supports reparse points
                   File system supports sparse files
                   File system supports quotas
File System:
                   NTES
Volume Extents:
      Disk Number: 1
      Starting Offset: 0x0000000000007e00
      Extent Length: 0x000000393778200
Volume Name: \\?\Volume{ba430000-8313-11d8-9d50-806d6172696f}
Volume Label:
Drive Type:
                Fixed
Serial Number:
                          224860127
Maximum Component Length: 255
Volume Characteristics:
                   File system preserves case
                   File system supports Unicode file names
File System:
                   FAT32
Volume Extents:
      Disk Number: 2
      Starting Offset: 0x0000000000007e00
      Extent Length: 0x000000157ac7c00
                 \\?\Volume{ba430001-8313-11d8-9d50-806d6172696f}
Volume Name:
Volume Label:
                   IBM SERVICE
```

```
Drive Type:
                   Fixed
Serial Number:
                          807475203
Maximum Component Length: 255
Volume Characteristics:
                   File system preserves case
                   File system supports Unicode file names
File System:
                   FAT32
Volume Extents:
      Disk Number: 2
      Starting Offset: 0x0000001da939000
      Extent Length: 0x00000007ff58a00
Volume Name:
               \\?\Volume{ba430002-8313-11d8-9d50-806d6172696f}
Volume Label:
Drive Type:
                  Fixed
Serial Number:
                          1004013017
Maximum Component Length: 255
Volume Characteristics:
                   File system preserves case
                   File system supports Unicode file names
File System:
                  FAT
Volume Extents:
      Disk Number: 2
      Starting Offset: 0x00000015c948c00
      Extent Length: 0x00000007dff0400
             \\?\Volume{955bcc7f-7224-11d6-852d-806d6172696f}
Volume Name:
Volume Label:
                  ForensicTrack8
                  CDROM
Drive Type:
Serial Number:
                          2034888187
Maximum Component Length: 110
Volume Characteristics:
                   File system supports case sensitive file names
                   File system supports Unicode file names
File System:
                  CDFS
Volume Name:
                   \\?\Volume{9acab336-674e-11d6-bfe8-806d6172696f}
Volume Label:
Drive Type:
                   Removable
Serial Number:
                  0
Maximum Component Length: 0
Volume Characteristics:
File System:
```

Table 5 - String search sample results in the C partition

Byte #	Cluster #	Metadata #	Filename	String	Creation Date Access date
1.945.769.655	475041	24	c:\pagefile.s ys	vxload.vxd	12/14/05 15.46
1.945.908.960	475075	24	c:\pagefile.s	username.log	12/14/05 15.46
1.945.918.184	475077	24	c:\pagefile.s	c:\Paslog.txt	12/14/05 15.46
1.945.935.087	475081	24	c:\pagefile.s	PaSsWoRd	12/14/05 15.46
1.945.988.024	475094	24	c:\pagefile.s ys	www.lsky lion	12/14/05 15.46
1.945.995.196	475096	24	c:\pagefile.s ys	\\donkey.log	12/14/05 15.46
1.945.997.398	475097	24	c:\pagefile.s ys	smtp.hotbox.ru	12/14/05 15.46
1.946.002.623	475098	24	c:\pagefile.s ys	systemks.exe	12/14/05 15.46
1.946.150.979	475134	24	c:\pagefile.s ys	kill.bat	12/14/05 15.46
1.946.341.074	475180	24	c:\pagefile.s ys	various	12/14/05 15.46
1.946.853.148	475305	24	c:\pagefile.s ys	port.ru	12/14/05 15.46
1.946.944.736	475328	24	c:\pagefile.s ys	AppRedUp.exe	12/14/05 15.46
1.992.121.340	486357	24	c:\pagefile.s ys	poopdeck shat	12/14/05 15.46
2.083.327.430	508624	24	c:\pagefile.s ys	klez	12/14/05 15.46
2.083.887.379	508761	24	c:\pagefile.s ys	\hiddenrun.exe	12/14/05 15.46
2.133.837.083	520956	24	c:\pagefile.s ys	BACKDOOR	12/14/05 15.46
3.534.363.539	862881	13291	$c: \setminus \ldots \setminus *. VBN$	www.lsky lion	
	855389	13686	$c: \setminus \ldots \setminus *. VBN$	ddraw32.dll dumb@ss	
833.465.253	203482	13843	$c: \land \land *. VBN$	www.lsky lion	9/3/03 14.49 12/2/03 16.53
81.414.923	19876	14482	$c: \backslash \ldots \backslash *.VBN$	immortal.hackers.com	12/1/03 16.4112/2/03 16.48
832.948.423	203356	14712		c:\cgl.bat	12/1/03 16.5212/2/03 16.49
	202854	15614		BACKDOOR	
	202839	17811	$c: \setminus \ldots \setminus *. VBN$	bomb	12/1/03 17.4312/2/03 16.49
2.560.569.802	625139	17834	$c: \land \land *. VBN$	hlog.dll	12/1/03 17.4412/2/03 16.49
1.312.369.947	320402	18307	$c: \land \land *. VBN$	zombie@gmx.ne	12/2/03 12.1612/2/03 16.50
177.037.225	43222	19870	$c: \land \land *. VBN$	rooted, Ph33r	12/2/03 13.2612/2/03 16.49
1.544.700.995	377124	21153	$c: \land \land *. VBN$	http://dodo521.126.com	12/2/03 14.2012/2/03 16.53
3.294.408.528	804299	22240	$c: \land \land *. VBN$	WFWNET.EXE	12/2/03 14.4212/2/03 16.53
	136335	22579	$c: \land \land *. VBN$	dmod	12/2/03 14.5612/2/03 14.56
515.372.748	125823	22710	$c: \land \land *. VBN$	dark-society.ml.org	12/2/03 15.0112/2/03 16.53
564.013.449	137698	22787	$c: \setminus \ldots \setminus *. VBN$	hackBoy	12/2/03 15.0512/2/03 16.49
	137872	22839	$c: \setminus \ldots \setminus *. VBN$	BACKDOOR	
704.399.685	171972	24557	$c: \backslash \ldots \backslash *.VBN$		12/2/03 16.0312/2/03 16.52
1.742.289.188	425363	24692	$c: \backslash \ldots \backslash *.VBN$	\$username \$password	12/2/03 16.06
1.742.325.800	425372	24692	$c: \backslash \ldots \backslash *.VBN$	www.lsky lion	
	21774	24744	$c: \setminus \ldots \setminus *. VBN$	configserversmtp.163.com #ab89d@yahoo.com	
664.216.198	162162	31142	c:\winnt\memo ry.dmp	- sars.tar	1/7/04 9.31 1/7/04 9.31

Roberto Obialero

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		-	-	-			-	
641.760.784	156679	36142	c:\winnt\memo ry.dmp	GravediggerV2.0	1/7/04	9.31	1/7/04	9.31
642.806.054	156935	36142	c:\winnt\memo ry.dmp	Worm.jpg.vbs	1/7/04	9.31	1/7/04	9.31
1.378.176.428	336468	36142	c:\winnt\memo ry.dmp	Wingate rundl1.exe h43K42.bat	1/7/04	9.31	1/7/04	9.31
1.379.698.620	336840	36142	c:\winnt\memo ry.dmp	rs]>>bp.reg	1/7/04	9.31	1/7/04	9.31
3.099.435.894	756698	36142	c:\winnt\memo ry.dmp	winrpc	1/7/04	9.31	1/7/04	9.31
1.708.009.969	416994	37670	c:\\drwa tson\user.dmp	Wingate rundl1.exe h43K42.bat	3/26/04	12.50	3/26/04	12.50
208.118.906	50810		un.	vmload.vxd				
243.211.252	59377		un.	dllhost.exe				
689.487.177	168331		un.	\\c.tmp\n#A				
831.324.909	202960		un.	ddraw32.dll				
831.473.640	202996		un.	c:\ntdetect.vbs				
832.095.237	203148		un.	smtp.mail.ru				
886.549.554	216442		un.	Wingate rundl1.exe h43K42.bat				
1.544.901.803	377173		$c: \land \land *. VBN$	Melhack	12/2/03	13.32	12/2/03	16.50
	377269			c:\adride.exe c:\kirin.bat VX team				
1.545.319.959	377275		un.	root@hacker				
1.545.597.836	377343		un.	\mirlog.vxd				
1.546.097.377	377465		un.	Demo for sniffTrojan				
1.546.731.878	377620		un.	fg32.exe				•
1.546.818.218	377641		un.	test4mel@yahoo.com				
1.546.997.492	377684		un.	WS2_32.dll				
	203011		un.	bomb				
	752452		un.	BACKDOOR STATDX modify by H-A-O-S				

Table 6 - String searches samples in the C partition unallocated space

Data unit #	Cluster #	Metadata #	Filename	String	Creation Date	Access date
29950	57212	23749	*.VBN	Configserversmtp	02/12/2003	
42314	70964	23942	*.VBN	Configserversmtp	02/12/2003	
178344	307619	22166	*.VBN	Configserversmtp	02/12/2003	
307074	850983	43352	*.VBN	Configserversmtp	02/12/2003	
129072	203482	13843	*.VBN	www.heibai.net www.lsky flooding	16/07/2003	03/09/2003
223499	377141	21006	*.VBN	Iotal scanning bot server infected	02/12/2003	02/12/2003
277177	772623	un		Remote exploit; security hole		
314324	868946	15589	_INSTI32I.EX_	Next to the victim; admin@fl.com	02/09/03	
6023	19876	14482	*.VBN	!passwd; immortal- hackers.com	01/12/2003	

24440	50854	18270	*.VBN	Picture.jpg.vbs; batch trojan	
294884	829443	Un.		Scriptbot; igloo trojan	
191199	324348	20886	*.VBN	trojan	
128738	203148	Un.		www.hao3344.com	
223701	377343	Un.		@sina.com.cn; @netease; @etang.com	
224042	377684	Un.		Antique.az.com	
281934	781454	Un.		@163.com	
95989	136335	22579	*.VBN	bomb	02/12/2003
128429	202839	17811	*.VBN	bomb	01/12/2003
128601	203011	Un		bomb	
96748	137872	22839	*.VBN	backdoor	
128444	202854	15614	*.VBN		
266989	752452	Un.			

Table 7 - Network connections before LovGate execution

Proto	Local Address	Foreign Address	State
TCP	0.0.0:135	0.0.0:0	LISTENING
TCP	0.0.0:445	0.0.0:0	LISTENING
TCP	0.0.0:1025	0.0.0:0	LISTENING
TCP	192.168.2.10:139	0.0.0:0	LISTENING
TCP	192.168.2.10:1028	0.0.0:0	LISTENING
TCP	192.168.2.10:1028	192.168.2.1:139	ESTABLISHED
UDP	0.0.0:135	*:*	
UDP	0.0.0:445	*:*	
UDP	0.0.0:1026	*:*	
UDP	192.168.2.10:137	*:*	
UDP	192.168.2.10:138	*:*	
UDP	192.168.2.10:500	*:*	

Table 8 - Network connections after the LovGate execution

Active Connections

Active Connections

Proto	Local Address	Foreign Address	State
TCP	0.0.0.0:135	0.0.0:0	LISTENING
TCP	0.0.0.0:445	0.0.0:0	LISTENING
TCP	0.0.0.0:1025	0.0.0:0	LISTENING
TCP	0.0.0.0:1092	0.0.0:0	LISTENING
TCP	0.0.0:1351	0.0.0:0	LISTENING
TCP	0.0.0.0:1353	0.0.0:0	LISTENING
TCP	0.0.0:1355	0.0.0:0	LISTENING
TCP	0.0.0:1357	0.0.0:0	LISTENING
TCP	0.0.0:1359	0.0.0:0	LISTENING
TCP	0.0.0:1361	0.0.0:0	LISTENING
TCP	0.0.0:1363	0.0.0:0	LISTENING
TCP	0.0.0:1365	0.0.0:0	LISTENING
TCP	0.0.0:1367	0.0.0:0	LISTENING
TCP	0.0.0:1369	0.0.0:0	LISTENING
TCP	192.168.2.10:139	0.0.0:0	LISTENING

TCP	192.168.2.10:1028	0.0.0:0	LISTENING
TCP	192.168.2.10:1028	192.168.2.1:139	ESTABLISHED
TCP	192.168.2.10:1351	192.168.2.163:445	SYN SENT
TCP	192.168.2.10:1352	0.0.0.0:0	LISTENING
TCP	192.168.2.10:1352	192.168.2.163:139	SYN SENT
TCP	192.168.2.10:1353	192.168.2.164:445	SYN SENT
TCP	192.168.2.10:1354	0.0.0:0	LISTENING
TCP	192.168.2.10:1354	192.168.2.164:139	SYN_SENT
TCP	192.168.2.10:1355	192.168.2.165:445	SYN_SENT
TCP	192.168.2.10:1356	0.0.0:0	LISTENING
TCP	192.168.2.10:1356	192.168.2.165:139	SYN SENT
TCP	192.168.2.10:1357	192.168.2.166:445	SYN_SENT
TCP	192.168.2.10:1358	0.0.0.0:0	LISTENING
TCP	192.168.2.10:1358	192.168.2.166:139	SYN_SENT
TCP	192.168.2.10:1359	192.168.2.167:445	SYN_SENT
TCP	192.168.2.10:1360	0.0.0:0	LISTENING
TCP	192.168.2.10:1360	192.168.2.167:139	SYN SENT
TCP	192.168.2.10:1361	192.168.2.168:445	SYN SENT
TCP	192.168.2.10:1362	0.0.0:0	LISTENING
TCP	192.168.2.10:1362	192.168.2.168:139	SYN_SENT
TCP	192.168.2.10:1363	192.168.2.169:445	SYN SENT
TCP	192.168.2.10:1364	0.0.0:0	LISTENING
TCP	192.168.2.10:1364	192.168.2.169:139	SYN SENT
TCP	192.168.2.10:1365	192.168.2.170:445	SYN SENT
TCP	192.168.2.10:1366	0.0.0.0:0	LISTENING
TCP	192.168.2.10:1366	192.168.2.170:139	SYN_SENT
TCP	192.168.2.10:1367	192.168.2.171:445	SYN_SENT
TCP	192.168.2.10:1368	0.0.0.0:0	LISTENING
TCP	192.168.2.10:1368	192.168.2.171:139	SYN_SENT
TCP	192.168.2.10:1369	192.168.2.172:445	SYN_SENT
TCP	192.168.2.10:1370	0.0.0.0:0	LISTENING
TCP	192.168.2.10:1370	192.168.2.172:139	SYN_SENT
UDP	0.0.0:135	*:*	
UDP	0.0.0:445	*:*	
UDP	0.0.0:1026	*:*	
UDP	192.168.2.10:137	*:*	
UDP	192.168.2.10:138	*:*	
UDP	192.168.2.10:500	*:*	

6.1 References

¹ System Forensics, Investigation & Response by SANS Institute -<u>http://www.sans.org/sans2006/description.php?tid=205</u>

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- 3 http://users.erols.com/gmgarner/forensics
- 4 http://www.sleuthkit.org
- ⁵ <u>http://www.winalysis.com</u>

⁶ by Marc Russinovich and Bryce Cogswell http://www.sysinternals.com/SystemInformationUtilities.html

⁷ by Marc Russinovich and Bryce Cogswell http://www.sysinternals.com/SystemInformationUtilities.html

8 http://www.datarescue.com/idabase

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