

I literally can't think of a fitting pun - MrDec Ransomware

dissectingmalwa.re/i-literally-cant-think-of-a-fitting-pun-mrdec-ransomware.html

Mon 23 December 2019 in [Ransomware](#)

I took notice of the Ransomware Family after a series of posts in the Bleeping Computer Forum.

It employs techniques that are not seen very often in other ransomware samples, so the Analysis is actually quite difficult, but I'm hoping reading this is also a bit interesting atleast.



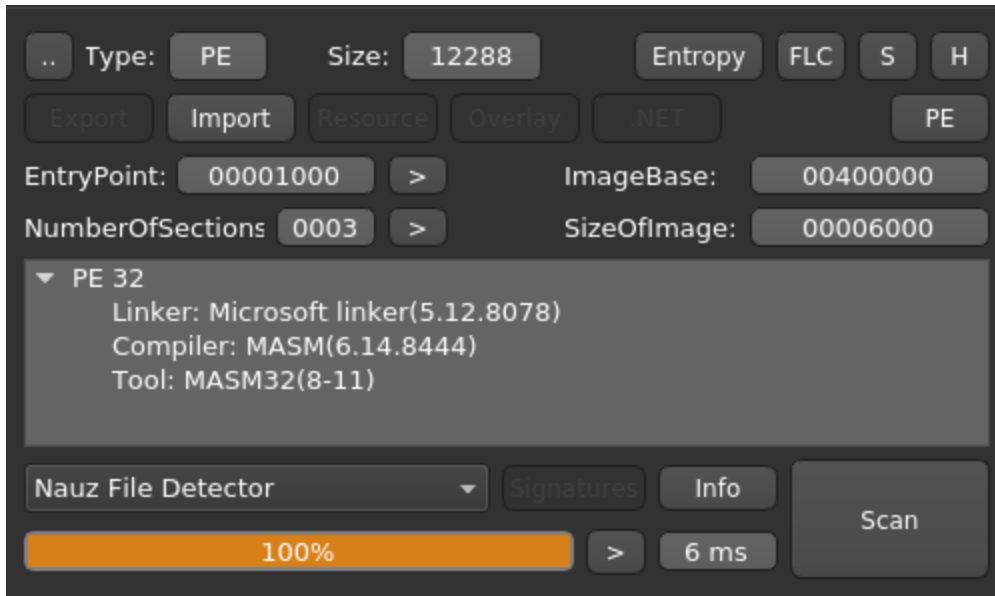
Work in Progress

Because Christmas and 36c3 is coming up in the next few I days I might have to push this analysis back a bit.

A general disclaimer as always: downloading and running the samples linked below will lead to the encryption of your personal data, so be f\$cking careful. Also check with your local laws as owning malware binaries/ sources might be illegal depending on where you live.

MrDec @ [AnyRun](#) | [VirusTotal](#) | [HybridAnalysis](#) --> `sha256`
`a700f9ced75c4143da6c4d1e09d6778e84ff570ea7d297fc130a0844e56c96ad`

Let's see what we're dealing with here and fire up Detect it easy:



The Ransomnote is delivered via a *.hta* file. Like most other strains active in the last few month the criminals use two E-Mail addresses: a "primary" and a "backup". In this case they are using Protonmail and AOL which has been kind of a pattern for them (Tutanota is their third preferred service, a list of previously used mailboxes is available down below in the IOCs Section).

You are unlucky! The terrible virus has captured your files! For decoding please contact by email Frederik888@aol.com or Frederik888@protonmail.com

Your

[ID]pmMrsTAR+bBnABvF[ID]

- 1. In the subject line, write your ID.**
- 2. Attach 1-2 infected files that do not contain important information (less than 2 mb) are required to generate the decoder and restore the test file.**

Hurry up! Time is limited!

Attention!!!

At the end of this time, the private key for generating the decoder will be destroyed. Files will not be restored!

Opening the note in another browser (Chrome in this case) won't show the instructions but a countdown timer. The victim won't be able to see the timer in most cases because when using Internet Explorer because scrolling is disabled :D

You are unlucky! The terrible virus has captured your files! For decoding please contact by email Frederik888@aol.com or Frederik888@protonmail.com

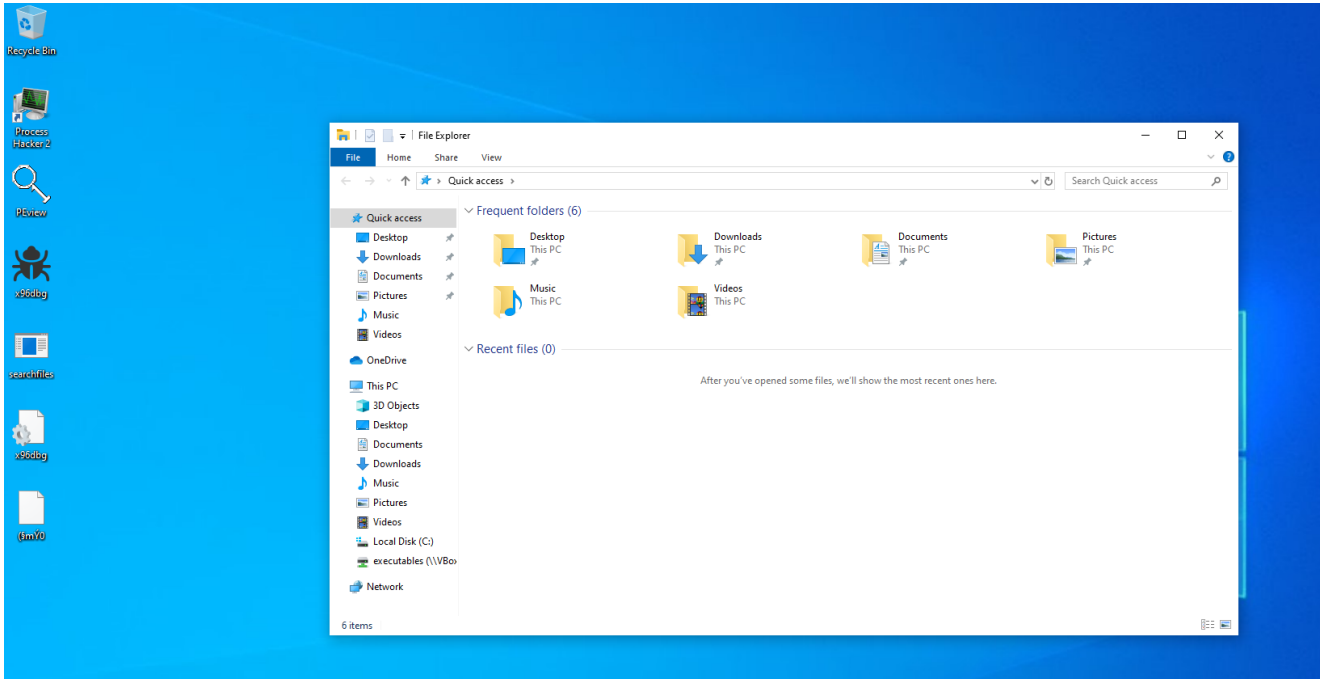
Your

[ID]d+gSoOWUP54qhE6F[ID]

1 : 19 : 44 : 19

Day Hours Minutes Seconds

 Ransomnote in Chrome



- ★ Quick access
- Desktop
- Downloads
- Documents
- Pictures
- Music
- Videos
- OneDrive
- This PC
- 3D Objects
- Desktop
- Documents



Chrysanthemum.jpg.[ID]wl8OknH+sM+ICfgF[ID]



Decoding help



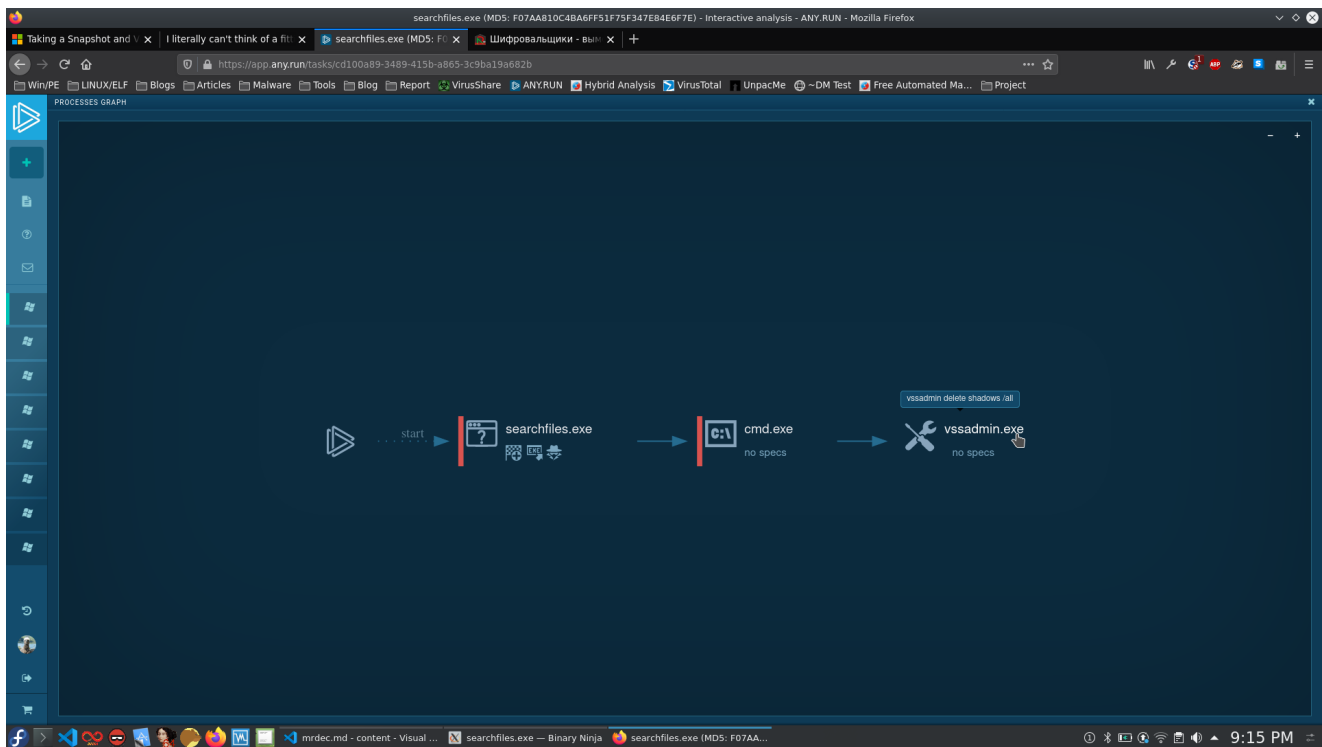
Desert.jpg.[ID]wl8OknH+sM+ICfgF[ID]



Tulips.jpg.[ID]wl8OknH+sM+ICfgF[ID]

Offset	Name	Func. Count	Bound?	OriginalFirstTh	TimeDateStar	Forwarder	NameRVA	FirstThunk
1720	kernel32.dll	44	FALSE	31C8	0	0	357C	3044
1734	shell32.dll	2	FALSE	328C	0	0	35AC	3108
1748	advapi32.dll	16	FALSE	3184	0	0	36E2	3000
179C	mpr.dll	3	FALSE	327C	0	0	3724	30F8

Call via	Name	Ordinal	Original Thunl	Thunk	Forwarder	Hint
30F8	WNetOpenEnumA	-	3714	3714	-	25
307C	WNetEnumResourceA	-	3700	3700	-	13
3100	WNetCloseEnum	-	36F0	36F0	-	C



```
push    0xf0000000 {var_180_1} {0xf0000000}
push    0x18 {var_184_1}
push    0x0 {var_188_1}
push    0x0 {var_18c_1}
lea     eax, [ebp-0x14 {var_18}]
push    eax {var_18} {var_190}
call    CryptAcquireContextA
cmp     eax, 0x1
je      0x4012a5
```

```
lea     eax, [ebp-0x18 {var_1c}]
push    eax {var_1c} {var_194_1}
push    0x1 {var_198_1}
push    0x6610 {var_19c_1}
push    dword [ebp-0x14 {var_18}] {var_1a0}
call    CryptGenKey
cmp     eax, 0x1
je      0x4012c9
```

```
mov     dword [ebp-0x1c {var_20}], 0x2c
lea     eax, [ebp-0x1c {var_20}]
push    eax {var_20} {var_1a4_1}
lea     eax, [ebp-0x11c {var_120}]
push    eax {var_120} {var_1a8_1}
push    0x0 {var_1ac_1}
push    0x8 {var_1b0_1}
push    0x0 {var_1b4_1}
push    dword [ebp-0x18 {var_1c}] {var_1b8}
call    CryptExportKey
cmp     eax, 0x1
je      0x4012f8
```

```
sub_401063:
push    dword [ebp-0x8] {var_4}
call    CryptImportKey
lea     eax, [ebp-0x4]
push    eax {var_8}
push    0x404000 {var_c}
push    0x0 {var_10}
push    0x0 {var_14}
push    0x0 {var_18}
push    dword [ebp-0xc] {var_1c}
call    CryptDecrypt
push    dword [ebp-0xc] {var_20}
call    CryptDestroyKey
push    0x0 {var_24}
push    dword [ebp-0x8] {var_28}
call    CryptReleaseContext
leave
retn
```

```

push    dword [ebp-0x18 {var_1c}] {var_204_1}
call    CryptEncrypt
push    dword [ebp-0x10 {var_14_1}] {var_208_1}
call    UnmapViewOfFile
push    dword [ebp-0xc {var_10_1}] {var_20c_1}
call    CloseHandle
push    dword [ebp-0x18 {var_1c}] {var_210_1}
call    CryptDestroyKey
push    0x0 {var_214_1}
push    dword [ebp-0x14 {var_18}] {var_218_1}
call    CryptReleaseContext
push    0x2 {var_1ec_2}
push    0x0 {var_1f0_2}
push    0x0 {var_1f4_2}
push    0x0 {var_1f8_2}
push    dword [ebp-0x4 {var_8_1}] {var_1fc_2}
call    SetFilePointerEx
push    0x0 {var_200_2}
lea    eax, [ebp-0x8 {var_c}]
push    eax {var_c} {var_204_2}
push    0x100 {var_208_2}
lea    eax, [ebp-0x11c {var_120}]
push    eax {var_120} {var_20c_2}
push    dword [ebp-0x4 {var_8_1}] {var_210_2}
call    WriteFile
push    0x0 {var_214_2}
lea    eax, [ebp-0x8 {var_c}]
push    eax {var_c} {var_218_2}
push    0x500 {var_21c_1}
push    data_405150 {var_220_1}
push    dword [ebp-0x4 {var_8_1}] {var_224_1}
call    WriteFile
push    dword [ebp-0x4 {var_8_1}] {var_228_1}
call    CloseHandle
mov    eax, dword [ebp+0x8 {arg1}]
add    eax, 0x8020

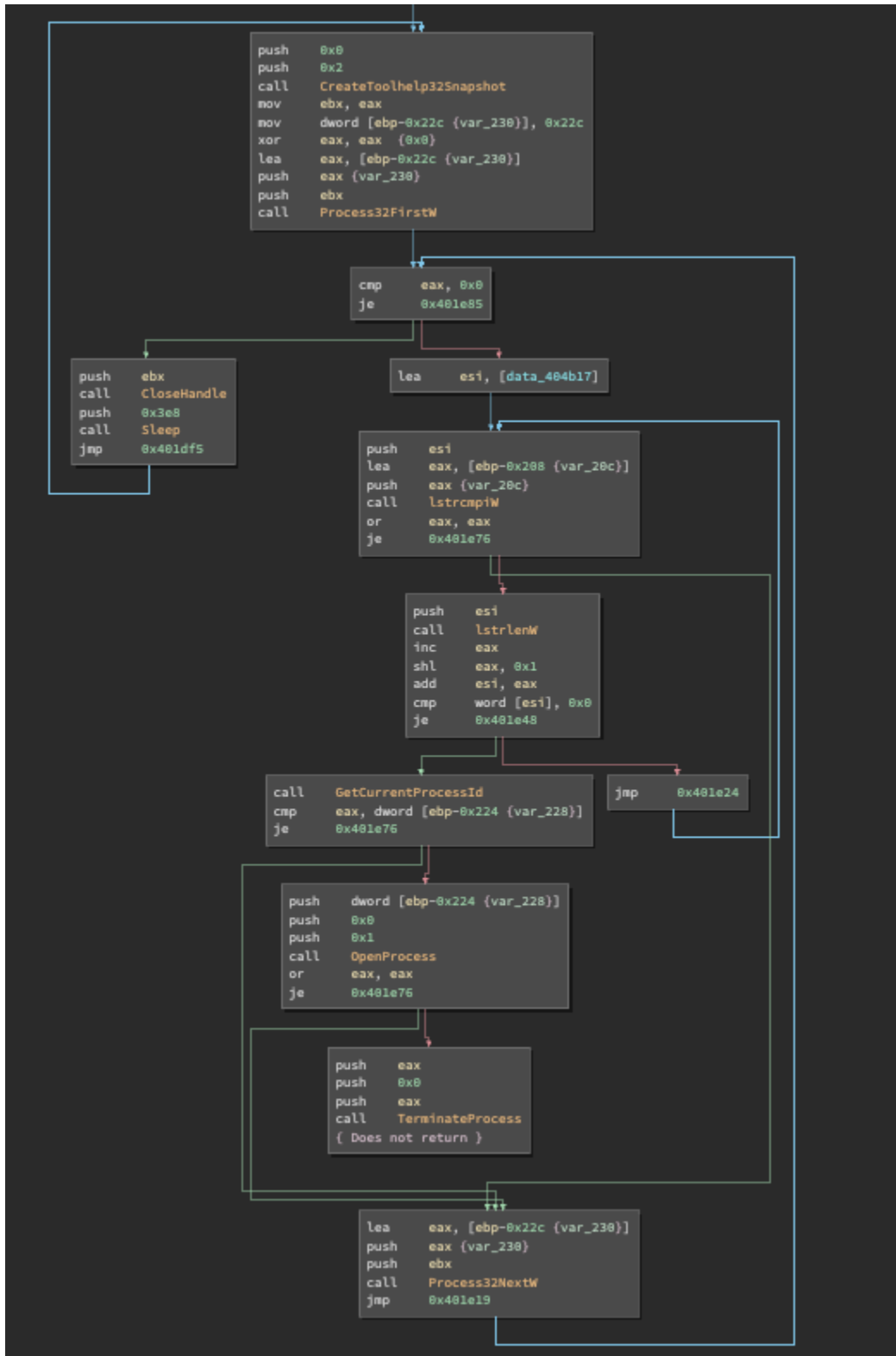
```



```
Adjust by 12
00401af3 push    dword [ebp-0x20 {var_24}]
00401af6 call    RegCloseKey { Adjust by 0 }
00401afb push    0x8000
00401b00 push    dword [ebp-0x24 {var_28}]
00401b03 call    RtlZeroMemory { Adjust by 12 }
00401b0b push    eax {var_24}
00401b0c push    0xf013f
00401b11 push    0x0
00401b13 push    0x404982
00401b18 push    0x80000002 {0x80000002}
00401b1d call    RegOpenKeyExA { Adjust by 0 }
00401b22 push    0x4
00401b24 push    dword [ebp-0x24 {var_28}]
```

```
sub_4016ff:
push    ebp {__saved_ebp}
mov     ebp, esp
add     esp, 0xffffffffc
push    0x0 {var_c}
push    0x0 {var_10}
push    0x0 {var_14}
push    sub_401096 {var_18}
push    0x0 {var_1c}
push    0x0 {var_20}
call    CreateThread
push    eax {var_24}
call    CloseHandle
call    GetLogicalDrives
mov     ecx, 0x19
```

In the following screenshot you can see the "Process Killing" routine of MrDec.

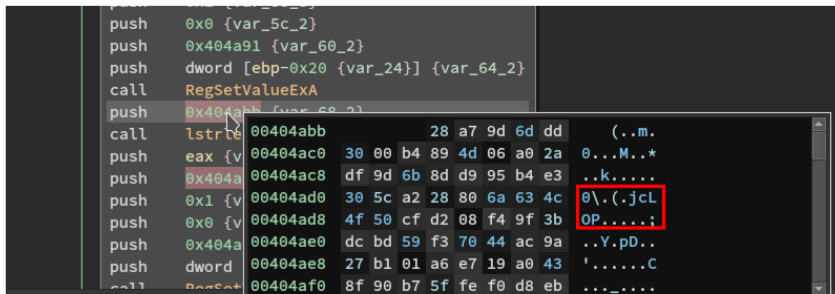


Last but not least we have a weird discovery.

```

push 00000000 ; lpString1
push edi ; lpString1
call lstrcatA
lea eax, [ebp+phkResult]
push eax ; phkResult
push edi ; lpSubKey
push 80000000h ; hKey
call RegCreateKeyA
add edi, 200h
push offset aClop ; "cLOP"
push edi ; lpString1
call lstrcatA
push offset File ; lpString2
push edi ; lpString1
call lstrcatA
push edi ; lpString
call strlenA
push eax ; cbData
push edi ; lpData
push 1 ; dwType
push 0 ; Reserved
push (offset String1+1) ; lpValueName
push [ebp+phkResult] ; hKey
call RegSetValueExA
push [ebp+phkResult] ; hKey
call RegCloseKey
push 0 ; dwItem2
push 0 ; dwItem1
push 0 ; uFlags
push 80000000h ; wEventId
call SHChangeNotify
push 5DCh ; nSize
push [ebp+lpString2] ; lpBuffer
push offset Name ; lpName
call GetEnvironmentVariableA

```



MITRE ATT&CK

- T1215 --> Kernel Modules and Extensions --> Persistence
- T1179 --> Hooking --> Persistence
- T1060 --> Registry Run Keys / Start Folder --> Persistence
- T1055 --> Process Injection --> Privilege Escalation
- T1179 --> Hooking --> Privilege Escalation
- T1055 --> Process Injection --> Defense Evasion
- T1045 --> Software Packing --> Defense Evasion
- T1112 --> Modify Registry --> Defense Evasion
- T1107 --> File Deletion --> Defense Evasion
- T1179 --> Hooking --> Credential Access
- T1012 --> Query Registry --> Discovery
- T1057 --> Process Discovery --> Discovery
- T1076 --> Remote Desktop Protocol --> Lateral Movement

IOCs

MrDec

searchfiles.exe --> SHA256:

a700f9ced75c4143da6c4d1e09d6778e84ff570ea7d297fc130a0844e56c96ad

SSDEEP:

192:QEsTzSIs3HIuvipDu3uTtKTzTwmH+STs8fpgiRHIYGL4vKrGo0:QE0JoapKeTtKTz8s+S48h5dIYxK

Registry Keys

```
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run
unlock --> "c:\Decoding help.hta"
searchfiles --> C:\windows\searchfiles.exe
```

```
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\DateTime
```

```
orsa--> 06 02 00 00 00 A4 00 00 52 53 41 31 00 08 00 00 01 00 01 00 07 AF 04 2E A4
1A 3C 08 5E 32 C7 4F 6A DB C8 7C 91 6B C1 FE 73 38 2F 4F 7C EA B8 B6 BC BD CB 22 5C
6B E6 1C E0 35 24 58 ED C8 BC EF A9 A6 EC AE 4F 84 AF BC E8 D7 50 4B C5 2A 6F 85 5E
E9 A1 46 5F 2A 65 E7 0E 97 74 4B 16 D5 C4 4C 28 6B 17 47 EC F0 B9 A5 72 C4 DB EE 67
1D C6 0D DD 58 93 FF CE 38 64 5D 92 0E 93 AC A6 BC 31 B5 6D ED A6 74 8F 59 F3 40 EF
FD A9 7D 18 12 4F 0A 51 AF D6 1F EE 1E 17 4B A2 D7 CD 20 B4 4F FD DF 5C BB CD B6 A4
BC D2 8D 85 17 F9 95 BF FD 67 16 36 15 69 7A BC A2 FD 0F EC F6 D4 A4 92 94 3A AC FC
78 77 81 4B F4 E8 2E AD 55 52 27 67 EF E9 48 1F 1D 8B F5 35 8F 71 AA DA 84 75 79 A2
1C BD 32 90 8B EB 54 88 3F CC 51 C9 48 2A 47 76 79 CE EB B4 A7 ED D5 DF C3 EB 50 09
25 CC FE F3 DB 49 29 A6 6B 4F 69 AF 10 3A 1F 2F 86 1A 0C B4 90 EB 21 DF 4E 43 B3
rsa --> 3C 53 81 1E 96 58 52 7C 67 7D 5F 60 14 15 29 1B 72 AC F5 F6 B7 B8 54 32 B7
63 1A 24 4F B2 9E B5 C7 8B 29 68 40 6B 44 80 FA E4 5E 53 7B 4A 1D DE AD 28 4A E0 EF
65 1E 09 00 75 34 15 79 59 86 C9 61 ED DD E2 AE 4F 3C DA 45 7A 20 3F 85 85 FB 05 22
1E 9D 12 D2 C7 96 AB 8A 99 46 60 F0 CB 10 6C 2E A0 39 FF 07 80 A1 A4 3B 62 E6 71 93
C6 5D 42 00 1B 00 37 76 56 14 2F 72 78 F9 A2 A6 98 49 A7 38 E0 B0 A6 81 B8 F5 7F 79
7C 29 88 79 C3 98 65 C0 69 47 93 59 28 A8 BF 36 6F 88 C0 08 98 0F 6E C8 27 28 9A C8
12 F2 B2 09 7B F0 A3 1E 9A 3A 48 CE 04 C3 61 82 6B AF 2E 0D 46 14 3A F9 47 3E 26 B0
B3 67 49 81 56 DF E8 DF A4 FC 86 88 A0 80 7C 68 6D 46 84 3E 6F 30 FA 20 AC 54 3F AC
8B C3 E9 24 C3 27 31 4C A1 07 98 C2 BD D8 84 02 17 D7 3D 63 83 8F 7C 35 D3 6C C8 29
69 E6 F5 DD D8 DB AA A5 0D 9A 12 43 5D CE CA 47 6E E5 CA A5 DB D8 A6 9F FE FD DE C2
94 24 92 43 C9 08 88 FB B2 33 2B C8 59 1D B6 F2 55 71 E2 83 C7 F5 67 89 03 06 F1 E4
FC F1 13 2D 38 7B 15 DE 05 BE 27 0A AE CD A9 84 2C 3B 66 4B 18 F7 8D 76 31 BD 37 07
ED 1C D9 68 82 94 EF 08 5C B6 29 C4 69 A9 AB 07 6B B7 46 9C 0F DD A9 76 32 B2 D7 F7
FA 3A 25 15 9B A6 F7 55 93 77 DF 67 24 E0 48 B9 CC B0 39 22 B0 51 36 5B F8 DC 2A 0D
19 CC 7E EC D3 9E 9C 68 38 E4 11 DE BD 2B AE 2E A2 FA AC 86 35 D6 DC C8 4E 9D E5 8A
BE B3 EC 6C 5B BB BD CB 61 F1 81 99 1F 5E 1A 80 AF 72 75 CA 55 7E 7B 93 ED F3 EB 7A
2F 5E D9 61 32 99 0C 95 3B 4C 9C CD F7 4C A5 4C 5D DB CA 72 2E BB 7B 4D 76 C5 5D CA
27 76 29 C1 4A 36 3E 66 7F 5F 29 A1 A8 AD FC BB FF 2A 11 16 29 63 8C A8 92 75 FC 0E
56 72 DC 01 9B B9 81 1C E0 14 84 8F F2 1B 15 F8 AC 0A BA 07 22 6D E0 DA A0 8B CF C1
26 0C 69 78 48 BE 24 53 E6 5E A7 A7 10 24 58 EA 26 30 6A 37 0E 30 9A FF 6E 18 90 2F
93 33 61 11 C1 7B 62 85 A8 A0 E8 3F EA 65 FC 58 3E FD BC 20 55 03 C3 95 63 2E AD 9D
0A 8E 45 87 F6 19 34 D3 48 7E 2E F2 06 BE D0 EE B9 6D 82 62 3E 51 C9 27 96 64 07 84
70 50 C0 A1 2B 13 D3 25 EA C8 62 F1 1F C5 59 B0 6B 3B 52 54 3B 1B 21 42 7B 80 CB E7
58 3D F2 A3 7F F8 48 C0 9E 1E 78 E4 0F F0 7F 50 4D D8 06 C2 53 47 3A 93 B0 AD D7 BF
5A 3F 5A F8 5B BF 60 66 0B EC B6 AF 50 5B 52 9C 82 E3 F8 EC 40 FF ED AB 4C 5C 29 E7
C4 41 87 48 B4 C1 92 74 54 A1 47 70 8A 03 94 AE AE 57 86 FF E2 BE 14 E6 F8 0C D1 73
D9 1A 2E 2E 1E B1 9E 31 3A 3D 0A F1 19 6C 4C 48 F9 C0 7A 58 9E 8F 46 F7 9C 14 26 64
2A 57 A1 88 2A A7 D5 02 6B 76 AE AB 69 C8 64 16 7A 7F E0 43 A7 14 DE 29 19 A7 3B 78
D7 02 8C 9F F5 BF 09 1E 6B BB 47 88 3E 30 76 3B DF AF 87 CB 47 2A 84 D8 B9 88 96 09
A1 EF B0 1E 99 B1 0E 07 8D 37 FF 94 BF C6 94 17 AD 95 15 30 78 FE FC 9A AB 6E B8 8B
C2 9E F0 B9 8B 83 30 45 DF F3 22 28 AD 4A 8D 69 E4 7E B6 83 1E 80 C9 8B 9C 97 BE ED
FD 72 D8 A8 68 21 79 CC 53 87 54 FE CB D7 38 A0 44 ED E3 15 48 D6 CD E1 14 32 0A 49
72 FC 08 7F 36 17 60 5B CA B1 BE 89 21 08 09 02 25 94 AC E2 A0 B8 F5 B6 DF 49 17 86
C6 A3 4A 7D 48 0F 27 EF 1E 48 91 71 A1 A3 2A D3 2F CF 4F B8 39 B7 04 76 CA 26 EA CF
C8 A7 0F 42 BD 7B A7 50 FC 01 D3 94 1B 8B 2C F3 1C 87 CA E0 9F E3 CA B9 FF 31 69 ED
DB 5F E2 2E 04 64 52 08 C8 B3 F5 9F 04 CB 31 7C D3 AD 78 76 83 5F 53 8F 5C 3C D8 CD
4D 2D 49 8A 2C CA 4D C9 43 AC B0 88 45 E5 41 7F FA 1D BF 92 9D BF C0 06 5C 24 CE 44
A1 F6 D0 ED 0C 46 BF 88 F2 DA B1 71 D6 E6 EE 87 85 29 36 AD 84 ED 7D F8 4C 8F BB 5A
44 DA 4C A4 4B B7 60 17 B8 BE 49 12 DB 15 DC 84 D4 89 08 B5 27 84 71 92 5E 3D 5A A3
```

0A AA 0D FD 5E 32 56 DC A3 4B 89 F9 9D 28 A6 AC C3 31 68 F3 98 31 D3 0A 38 B6 E4 DD
87 8E 2E 95 A8 D4 BE 23 FB 48 42 BD 07 80 AC 8E D8 97 0F 46 C6 55 D8 F0 98 3F 33 26
47 A8 05 82 B3 D7 5D 08 A1 4A 30 F9 80 5D 7F 8A 80 98 A0 F5 C8 8A 56 FF EC 44 C3 20
40 AB 06 1C 8C 3B D1 E5 79 5B 02 F2 25 F8 06 31 54 B5 60 38 68 C7 EC 42 E9 36 BD 47
B6 BE 06 A8 1B 5B 92 0D 29 CD B3 E9 F5 7A EB E5 27 83 BC 0E 48 F6 93 21 62 81 0B CE
E4 92 67 35 4E AB 23 B7 AA 86 25 78 91 22 38 CC C1 95 A5 D4 4D 20 FE E3 AE F8 8F 24
E9 38 75 B2 31 82 49 00 D4 8F 9A 93 E0 A0 DD D3 B1 F8 B9 B9 3D 2D 02

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Policies\System
PromptOnSecureDesktop --> 0
EnableLUA --> 0
ConsentPromptBehaviorAdmin --> 0

HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\[ID]PF0zv5ecUnxnfV9F[ID]_auto_file
HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\[ID]PFOBHpZYUnxnfV9F[ID] --> HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\
[ID]PFOBHpZYUnxnfV9F[ID]_auto_file
HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\[ID]PFOBHpZYUnxnfV9F[ID]_auto_file\shell\open\command -->
%SystemRoot%\System32\rundll32.exe "%ProgramFiles%\Windows Photo
Viewer\PhotoViewer.dll", ImageView_Fullscreen %1
HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\[ID]PFOBHpZYUnxnfV9F[ID]_auto_file\shell\open\DropTarget -->
{FFE2A43C-56B9-4bf5-9A79-CC6D4285608A}
HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\[ID]PFOBHpZYUnxnfV9F[ID]_auto_file\shell\open -->
@photoviewer.dll, -3043
HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\[ID]PFOBHpZYUnxnfV9F[ID]_auto_file\shell\print\command -->
%SystemRoot%\System32\rundll32.exe "%ProgramFiles%\Windows Photo
Viewer\PhotoViewer.dll", ImageView_Fullscreen %1
HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\[ID]PFOBHpZYUnxnfV9F[ID]_auto_file\shell\print\DropTarget -->
{60fd46de-f830-4894-a628-6fa81bc0190d}
HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\FileExts\
[ID]PFOBHpZYUnxnfV9F[ID]\OpenWithList --> PhotoViewer.dll
HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\FileExts\
[ID]PFOBHpZYUnxnfV9F[ID]\OpenWithProgids --> [ID]PFOBHpZYUnxnfV9F[ID]_auto_file

E-Mail Addresses

First campaign (May 2018):

shine1@tutanota[.]com
shine2@protonmail.com

Second campaign (September/October 2019):

JonStokton@Protonmail[.]com
JonStokton@tutanota[.]com
filessnoop@aol[.]com
filessnoop@tutanota[.]com

Third campaign:

localgroup@protonmail[.]com
localgroup@tutanota[.]com
ZiCoyote@protonmail[.]com
ZiCoyote@aol[.]com

Forth campaign:

mr.dec@protonmail[.]com
mr.dec@tutanota[.]com

Frederik888@protonmail[.]com
Frederik888@aol[.]com

Ransomnote V1

You are unlucky! The terrible virus has captured your files! For decoding please contact by email Frederik888@aol.com or Frederik888@protonmail.com

Your

[ID]PFOBHpZYUnxfV9F[ID]

1. In the subject line, write your ID.

2. Attach 1-2 infected files that do not contain important information (less than 2 mb)

are required to generate the decoder and restore the test file.

Hurry up! Time is limited!

Attention!!!

At the end of this time, the private key for generating the decoder will be destroyed. Files will not be restored!
