# module 50251 and the "Qwerty" keylogger

By Costin Raiu, Igor Soumenkov on January 27, 2015. 11:00 am

On January 17 2015, Spiegel.de published an extensive article based on documents obtained from Edward Snowden. At the same time, they provided a copy of a malicious program codenamed "QWERTY" (http://www.spiegel.de/media/media-35668.pdf), supposedly used by several governments in their CNE operations.

We've obtained a copy of the malicious files published by Der Spiegel and when we analyzed them, they immediately reminded us of Regin. Looking at the code closely, we conclude that the "QWERTY" malware is identical in functionality to the Regin 50251 plugin.

## Analysis

The Qwerty module pack consists of three binaries and accompanying configuration files. One file from the package– 20123.sys – is particularly interesting.

The "20123.sys" is a kernel mode part of the keylogger. As it turns out, it was built from source code that can also be found one Regin module, the "50251" plugin.

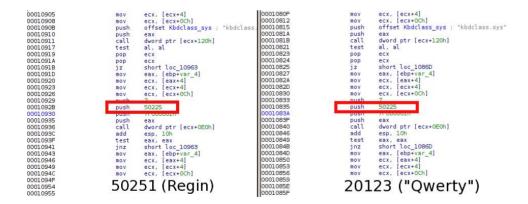
Using a binary diff it is easy to spot a significant part of code that is shared between both files:

614 614	1AA9 e0 74 18 80 7d e7 01 75	09 ff 75 e0 ff 15 f4 02	01 00 ff 75 e0 ff 15	.t)uu
62B 642	f8 02 01 00 33 c0 e8 13 6a 01 68 01 00 00 7f ff	08 00 00 c2 10 00 cc 53 35 08 15 01 00 32 db e8		3 Sh i j.h52u
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6CC 6E3	00 10 00 8d 45 ec 50 ff f4 0f 84 a4 01 00 00 39	15 c4 02 01 00 85 c0 0f 45 f8 0f 84 8e 01 00 00	85 a0 01 00 00 39 45 ff 75 f4 e8 33 08 00	E.P
6FA 711	00 85 c0 89 45 f8 0f 84 8d 55 fc 52 50 ff 51 2c	7b 01 00 00 a1 08 15 01 84 c0 59 59 0f 84 5e 01	00 8b 48 04 8b 49 0c 00 00 8b 45 fc 8b 55	E(
728 73F	f8 8b 52 08 8b 48 04 ff 84 c0 59 59 0f 84 24 01	72 44 8b 49 04 8b 49 0c 00 00 8b 55 f8 8b 45 fc	50 ff 91 38 01 00 00 8b 52 08 8b 48 04 8b	RHrD.II.P8 YY\$UERH.
756	49 04 8b 49 0c 83 c2 44	52 50 ff 91 38 01 00 00	84 c0 59 59 0f 84 fd	IIDRP8YY
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79B 7B2	8b 49 0c 68 01 00 08 00 00 00 8b 45 fc 8b 48 04	50 ff 91 2c 01 00 00 84 8b 49 04 8b 49 0c 6a 00	c0 59 59 0f 84 b9 00 50 ff 91 2c 01 00 00	.I.hP,YY EHII.j.P,
7C9 7E0	84 c0 59 59 0f 84 9a 00 02 50 ff 91 24 01 00 00	00 00 8b 45 fc 8b 48 04 84 c0 59 59 74 7f 8b 45	8b 49 04 8b 49 0c 6a fc 8b 48 04 8b 49 04	YYEHII. .P\$YYtEHI
7F7 80E	8b 49 0c 6a 01 50 ff 91 04 8b 49 04 8b 49 0c 68	24 01 00 00 84 c0 59 59 90 06 01 00 50 ff 91 20	74 64 8b 45 fc 8b 48 01 00 00 84 c0 59 59	.I.j.P\$YYtd.E II.hPY
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853 86A	8b 49 04 8b 49 0c 68 00 02 fe c3 8b 45 fc 8b 40	15 01 00 50 ff 91 bc 01 04 8b 40 04 8b 40 0c 8d	00 00 84 c0 59 59 74 4d fc 51 ff 50 34 59	.II.hPYY E@@M.Q.P4
881 898	85 4d f4 85 c9 74 06 ff ec 0c 53 8d 45 f4 50 8d	15 d0 02 01 00 8a c3 5b	c9 c3 cc 55 8b ec 83 00 7f ff 35 08 15 01	.MtEU
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747				
75E	02 fe c3 8a c3 5b c3 5c 4b 00 65 00 79 00 62 00	00 44 00 65 00 76 00 69 6f 00 61 00 72 00 64 00	00 63 00 65 00 5c 00 43 00 6c 00 61 00 73	[.∖.D.e.v.i.c.e.∖. K.e.y.b.o.a.r.d.C.1.a.≤
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775 78C 7A3 7BA 7D1	4b 00 65 00 79 00 62 00 00 73 00 30 00 00 00 00 73 00 2e 00 73 00 79 00 00 8d 45 ec 50 32 db ff 00 10 00 8d 45 ec 50 ff f4 0f 84 a4 01 00 00 39	6f 00 61 00 72 00 64 00 00 6b 00 62 00 64 00 63 73 00 00 00 55 8b ec 83 15 d4 02 01 00 8d 45 f8 15 b8 02 01 00 85 c0 0f 45 f8 0f 84 8e 01 00 00	43 00 6c 00 61 00 73 00 6c 00 61 00 73 00 ec 14 53 68 4e 07 01 50 8d 45 f4 50 68 00 85 a0 01 00 00 39 45 ff 75 f4 e8 75 08 00	E.\.D.e.v.ic.e.\. K.e.y.b.o.a.r.d.C.1.a.s .s.0k.b.dc.1.a.s ss.y.s.UShN .E.P2E.P.E.Ph. 
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Most of the shared code belongs to the function that accesses the system keyboard driver:

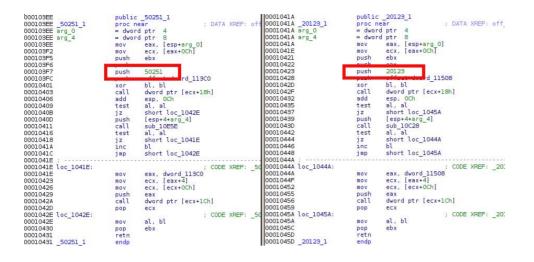


Most of the "Qwerty" components call plugins from the same pack (with plugin numbers 20121 – 20123), however there is also one piece code that references plugins from the Regin platform. One particular part of code is used in both the "Qwerty" 20123 module and the Regin's 50251 counterpart, and it addresses the plugin 50225 that can be found in the virtual filesystems of Regin. The Regin's plugin 50225 is reponsible for kernel-mode hooking.



This is a **solid proof that the Qwerty plugin can only operate as part of the Regin platform**, leveraging the kernel hooking functions from plugin 50225.

As an **additional proof that both modules use the same software platform**, we can take a look at functions exported by ordinal 1 of both modules. They contain the startup code that can be found in any other plugin of Regin, and include the actual plugin number that is registered within the platform to allow further addressing of the module. This only makes sense if the modules are used with the Regin platform orchestrator.



The reason why the two modules have different plugin IDs is unknown. This is perhaps because they are leveraged by different actors, each one with its own allocated plugin ID ranges.

## Conclusions

Our analysis of the QWERTY malware published by Der Spiegel indicates it is a plugin designed to work part of the Regin platform. The QWERTY keylogger doesn't function as a stand-alone module, it relies on kernel hooking functions which are provided by the Regin module 50225. Considering the extreme complexity of the Regin platform and little chance that it can be duplicated by somebody without having access to its sourcecodes, we conclude the QWERTY malware developers and the Regin developers are the same or working together.

Another important observation is that Regin plugins are stored inside an encrypted and compressed VFS, meaning they don't exist directly on the victim's machine in "native" format. The platform dispatcher loads and executes there plugins at startup. The only way to catch the keylogger is by scanning the system memory or decoding the VFSes.

### Appendix (MD5 hashes):

QWERTY 20123.sys:

1

0ed11a73694999bc45d18b4189f41ac2

Regin 50251 plugins:

APT KEYLOGGERS TARGETED ATTACKS

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REPLY



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REPLY