





ASEC REPORT VOL.95 Q2 2019

ASEC (AhnLab Security Emergency Response Center) is a global security response group consisting of malware analysts and security experts. This report is published by ASEC and focuses on the most significant security threats and latest security technologies to guard against such threats. For further details, please visit AhnLab, Inc.'s homepage (www.ahnlab.com).

SECURITY TREND OF Q2	2019 T	Table of Contents		
SECURITY ISSUE	 Scheming the Android Malware Related Cryptocurrency 	l to 04		
ANALYSIS IN-DEPTH	Analysis Report on Tickusb	14		

SECURITY ISSUE

 Scheming the Android Malware Related to Cryptocurrency

Scheming the Android Malware Related to Cryptocurrency

The emergence of cryptocurrency in 2008 made a huge impact on malware. It resulted in the creation of malware related to cryptocurrencies. Cryptocurrency malware exists for various operation systems, but this report looks into the malware designed specifically for Android.

Android cryptocurrency malware can be divided into three main categories: Cryptojacking malware for mining cryptocurrency without the user's knowledge, FakeWallet malware that disguises itself as a cryptocurrency wallet, and Clipper malware that intercepts and swaps wallet-related information from the clipboard.



Security Issue

Figure 1 shows the changes in the number of the Android Cryptojacking malware. The graph seems to be directly proportional to the price of Bitcoins shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2 | BTC chart provided by CoinMarketCap

Based on this, we can expect a rise in the number of cryptocurrency-related malware if the cryptocurrency market continues to expand. The next part shows charactersitics of cryptocurrency related malware.

Type 1: Cryptojacking

Cryptojacking is a malware for Android and is being detected by AhnLab under three aliases, including Android-PUP and CoinMiner. This type of malware secretly uses the infected device for coin mining. It uses significant CPU power and slows down the mobile usage.

The malicious code, a miner, shown in Table 1, was embedded in a game called Bug Smasher. Once the game starts, there is a sudden increase in CPU usage as shown in Figure 3.



Table 1 | Bug Smasher details

MONITOR				•
62	35°C	FREQU		ARY
CURRENT	ші ніз	STORY	<u></u> AN	ALYSIS
	CPU FREQUE	ENCY GRAPH	ł	щ
100% 1555 r	nhz / 1555 mhz	100%	1555 mhz	/ 1555 mhz
100% 1555 r	nhz / 1555 mhz	100%	1555 mhz	/ 1555 mhz
000 K00,	nh- / 1050 mh-	200/	600 mhz	/1050 mbz

Figure 3 | CPU usage before and after running Bug Smasher

The user is made to believe that this is a genuine game application while the mining secretly

takes place in the background.



Figure 4 | Screenshot of Bug Smasher

The mining methods used by cryptojacking are mainly the native function of the SO file or calling the JavaScript API. The native function of the SO file can be used to run without a user's recognition, because the thread runs as a service type when loaded.



The JavaScript API has a code for mining coins in the JavaScript file, as shown in Figure 6.



Figure 6 | Code that calls the JavaScript file from the internal html file

Coinhive, which is one of the best-known mining services that uses JavaScript, stopped services from March 8, 2019.(https://coinhive.com/blog/en/discontinuation-of-coinhive) However, the end of Coinhive does not necessarily mean the JavaScript mining method is finished. Bad Packets Report 2018 indicated that 81.6% of the detected Cryptojacking malware used Coinhive, but other services also accounted for 18.4%.(https://badpackets.net/

how-to-find-cryptojacking-malware/) Other services included CoinIMP and Crypto-Loot. It is likely that these services will be used for cryptojacking malware.

Type2: FakeWallet

FakeWallet is currently being detected as V3 alias Android-Trojan/FakeWallet. This malware pretends to be a wallet application for cryptocurrency.



The application in Table 2 seems to be generating a new wallet address, but it creates a wallet address as shown in Figure 7 that is assumed to be the address of the attacker. The same wallet address is created no matter how many times the wallet is created from different devices. And the transactions that follow lead to the transfer of coins to another wallet address.



By tracking the above address, it showed that there were 8 transactions to transfer the total amount received on the wallet, 0.5 BTC, to other wallets.

Another method of FakeWallet is to impersonate an existing cryptocurrency wallet and get the user to enter their private key. This is shown on Table 3.

	Label	MyEtherWallet
	Package name	com.myetherwalletproject
	MD5	3f85490f886755b6e1bdeaa4be1f70a4
Table 3 Information	of MyEtherWallet malware	

MyEtherWallet (MEW) is the most widely used Ethereum (ETH) wallet. This is why there are many malware programs impersonating MEW. The fake MEW application appears to be genuine, as shown in Figure 8, and asks for the user's private key in order to log in.

ı ⊠ ⊭ •: ⊳ ● ● 0 Ⅰ ►
NyEtherWallet
Your Address* Vour Private Key*
LOG IN Mnemonic
⊲ 0 □

Figure 8 | Fake MyEtherWallet application using MyEtherWallet's logo

Once a user enters the wallet address and the private key and taps on the LOG IN button, an "invalid address" message appears while the values input by the user are sent to the attacker.

3. Type 3: Clipper type

Clipper is currently being detected as V3 alias Android-Trojan/Clipper. It monitors the clipboard on the infected device and checks for a user's wallet information. Once detected, it sends the information to the attacker and tampers with the address that the user has pasted. This malware was created with the notion that most users are more likely to copy and paste their wallet addresses due to the complexity.

	Label	Intim
	Package name	clipper.abcchannelmc.ru.clipperreborn
	MD5	85247d1102958d138462137d61fd901a
Table 4 Information	of Intim malware	

An example of a clipper is the Intim application shown in Table 4. This malicious app hides the app icon on the infected device. Once the user taps on the icon, it shows a message saying: "Not supported on your device and deleted." It makes the user to think that the application has been deleted, while it actually runs in the background. Then it monitors the clipboard. Once the characteristics of a wallet are detected, it sends the wallet information to the attacker's server.

For example, a Pay-to-PubKey Hash (P2PKH) format of BTC wallets can be distinguished by its characteristics, such as starting with the number 1, and a Pay-to-Script Hash (P2SH) format can be distinguished by starting with a 3 and having a length between 25 and 35 characters.

An ETH wallet address can be distinguished, as it starts with "0x" and consists of a 40-digit hex string.

After the Intim malware sends the address detected from the clipboard to the server, it receives the fake wallet address. Here, the received wallet address replaces the user's address using setText() within change(). (Currently setText() is deprecated and use of setPrimaryClip() is recommended.)

The malware in Table 5 also switches the wallet addresses in a similar way.

	Label	MetaMask
	Package name	com.lemon.metamask
	MD5	d26881cb84d71cc062e200f6e74e8e31
Table 5 Information	of MetaMask malware	

The MetaMask malware also detects the BTC address format and the ETH address format in a similar manner to the malware above. When an address is detected, it uses the setPrimaryClip() method to change the clipboard information to the wallet address of the attacker. The difference with the Intim malware is that MetaMask does not send or receive data from the server but uses a fixed address to replace the user's address.

4. Conclusion

Users are advised to take a cautious look into the services that allow for the easy mining of cryptocurrency, and those using JavaScript in particular. Until now, most of the cryptojacking malware has been related to Coinhive. Now, new types of malware can appear using the APIs

of CoinIMP Crypto-Loot, following the closure of the Coinhive service. So users must take into possibility that any APIs found on the service may be a cryptojacking malware.

Also, as we have already seen in FakeWallet or Clipper, and sometimes attackers use a fixed address. These can be used as indicators of compromise (IOC). And it can be determined to be malicious if evidence of such text strings is found. Other information that is used by attackers can also be used as IOC, including the domain of the attacker.

5. Reference

https://coinmarketcap.com/currencies/bitcoin

: BTC price graph

https://coinhive.com/blog/en/discontinuation-of-coinhive

: Coinhive blog page. Declaration of official shutdown

https://blockchain.com

: Provide cryptocurrency transaction information

https://badpackets.net/how-to-find-cryptojacking-malware/

: Services frequently used in cryptojacking

https://en.bitcoin.it/wiki/Address

: BTC address format

ANALYSIS-IN-DEPTH

Analysis Report on Tickusb

ANALYSIS-IN-DEPTH

Analysis Report on Tickusb

USB flash drives are widely used data storage devices which replaced the floppy disks that came before them. USB flash drives are used not only by individuals, but also in companies and institutions. They are mainly used to move data and systems that are not connected to a network due to internal security policy.

Secure USB flash drives are used to encrypt and save data in places that handle sensitive information. However, Secure USB Flash Drives cannot guarantee the safety of the user's system. If the system is compromised with malware, information can still leak from the secure USB flash drive when the files are opened.

As the use of USB flash drives increase, more and more malware creators are leaking data saved in their drives or using the USB flash drive as a propagation path. The group called Tick, which targets companies and institutions in South Korea and Japan, has also created a malware called Tickusb that infects the system via the USB flash drive and steals internal information and has been active since of 2014 – which might be created in 2012.

This report is an analysis of Tickusb, a malware designed to steal information from USB flash

drives and spread malware.

Attacks using Tickusb

Tickusb is a malware that was produced by the Tick Group for the purpose of extracting information from a USB flash drive. It was distributed from the spring of 2014 to November 2017. (The Tick Group has been active since 2008. So it is possible that there are other malware that has yet to be discovered.)

Some variants of Tickusb exist as stand-alone files, but most consist of DLL and EXE files. The malware is executed as a DLL file. To induce loading of the malicious DLL file, it alters a normal EXE file or disguises itself as a CRYPTBASE.dll, which is the DLL file required to load genuine programs. So, Tickusb is executed not when the PC starts but when a certain program is opened.

When the malicious DLL file is executed, it creates a log file in a specific path and checks the USB flash drive connection. If a USB flash drive is connected to the system, it executes the malicious EXE file and downloads additional files.

A malicious EXE file performs slightly different functions depending on the variant, but generally collects file information within a USB flash drive. Some variations modify the EXE file in the USB flash drive if it exists.

If you insert a USB flash drive with a tampered file into another system and run the modified EXE file, the computer is also infected with Tickusb.



The major attacks using Tickusb began at least as early as the spring of 2014.

First Detection	File Content	Description
2014.3	?.exe	Assumed to be created in Sept 2012. In 2018, Unit 42 first released their analysis. It is assumed that it is an early version of Tickusb with very different codes for other Tickusb variants.
2015.4	CRYPTBASE.dll	Assumed to be created in December 2014. Independent DLL type. Collect system information and file information within the USB flash drive.
2015.6	BrStMonW.exe, BrWeb.dll, wsmt.exe	Alters the BrStMonW.exe file associated with the Brother printer and loads the BrWeb.dll file. Downloads the msupdata.exe file. Alters the EXE file within the USB flash drive and patches the ALYAC25.exe file.
2015.6	CRYPTBASE.dll, svcmgr.exe	Assumed to be created in February 2015. Checks for a specific secure USB connection. Alters the EXE file within the USB flash drive and patches the ALYAC25. exe file.
2015.7	?.dll (Unconfirmed), ctfmon.exe	Assumed to be created in Sept 2014. Alters the EXE file within the USB flash drive and patches the ALYAC25.exe file.
2015.7	CRYPTBASE.dll, svcmgr.exe (Unsecured)	Assumed to be created in November 2014.
2016.10	Wincrypt.dll, wsmt.exe (Unsecured).	-
2017.01	Wincrypt.dll, wsmt.exe (Unsecured).	-
2017.11	Wincrypt.dll	Independent DLL type.
Table 1 Major	attacks using Tickusb	

The changes to Tickusb are as follows.



Early versions were produced before spring 2014 and a variant with the file name cryptbase. dll appeared in 2014. In September 2014, a variant was created that modifies the EXE file in a USB flash drive. In 2015, a variant of the DLL files and EXE files was created. In early June 2015, an external tool was used to patch the files on the system to load malicious DLLs. From October 2016 to November 2017, it changed the filenames to wincrypt.dll.

Stage 1 – Dropper, Downloader, Patcher

The downloaders and droppers associated with Tickusb have been identified, but no specific infection methods, such as emails, have been identified. However, the comparison of the altered code of the installation file altered by a dropper and the file within the USB flash drive showed by some of the droppers were EXE files altered by Tickusb. The attacker did not automatically run Tickusb malware upon booting, but only when certain files were executed. It makes difficult for the user to discover the malware.

1. Dropper

The report from Unit 42 describes that there are several droppers associated with Tickusb.¹ (https://unit42.paloaltonetworks.com/unit42-tick-group-weaponized-secure-usb-drivestarget-air-gapped-critical-systems)

Aya.exe (b76d2b33366c5ec96bc23a717c421f71) is a Go game file. If executed, an initial version of Tickusb (6f665826f89969f689cba819d626a85b) is created in the temporary folder. AhnLab collected Aya.exe file in March 2014.



The Secure Unlock win.exe file (bb8c83cfd133ab38f767d39605208a75) started to attack the users from early June 2015. It altered normal programs and created the wsktray.exe file (3c6e 67fc006818363b7ddade90757a84) in the temporary folder. When generating the file, it adds a garbage data at the end of the filename to have a filename of more than 34 megabytes in length. The file generated is a Bisodown variant that downloads other malware.

Portable SecretZone.exe (dbc10f9b99cc03e21c033ea97940a8c2), pNDPS(V2.11).exe (c865b 83a2096642b0de3e2880e63ab0e), NEW_GOMPLAYERSETUP.exe (0a4bec5fc88406d126aa1 06a7c0aab87) create the same Bisodown variant (e470b7538dc075294532d8467b1516f8). Among these droppers, SecretZone.exe and pNDPS (V2.11) .exe files appear to be infected by

the Tickusb variant.

2. Downloader - Ghostdown

A variant of the Ghostdown malware (4868fd194f0448c1f43f37c33935547d, 62ee703bbfbd5 d77ff4266f9038c3c6c) was found on a system infected with Tickusb.

Ghostdown is a downloader that was discovered in February 2013 and was active up until February 2018. In Ghostdown, key strings such as APIs and connection addresses are encrypted. Its initial version had applied encryption to addresses and key strings with the XOR 0xDF key.

The initial Ghostdown variant used www.poi.cydisk.net and www.kot.gogoblog.net as the C&C server, all of which were created with the www.dnserver.com service. The C&C address of the Ghostdown variant found in the Tickusb infected system in 2016 used the cloud service at www.memsbay.com:443.

0000B020:	3C 70 4A 70.61 66	33 61.2E 3A 00 00.49 60 3D 2F	<pjpaf3a.: i'="/</th"></pjpaf3a.:>
0000B030:	72 3D 23 5C.3B 3B	00 00.3C 70 4A 7D.3B 30 66 28	r=#\:: <pj}:0f(< td=""></pj}:0f(<>
0000B040:	2E 3A 00 00.57 30	61 6A.46 60 61 6D.2D 28 66 36	.: W0ajF'am-(f6
0000B050:	30 00 00 00.60 46	7A 79.30 61 00 00.3C 70 4A 3F	0 'Fzv0a <pj?< td=""></pj?<>
0000B060:	46 7A 61 3B.00 00	00 00.60 30 61 60.46 7A 79 46	Fza: '0a'FzvF
0000B070:	3A 61 00 00.7A 46	28 28.30 7A 61 00.01 00 00 00	:a zF((0za 0
0000B080:	08 00 00 00.02 00	00 00.04 00 00 00.10 00 00 00	• 0 🔶 🕨
0000B090:	80 00 00 00.20 00	00 00.40 00 00 00.02 00 00 00	C @ 🛢
0000B0A0:	6C 6F 77 6D.61 69	6E 00.3A 00 00 00.77 77 77 2E	lowmain : www.
0000B0B0:	6D 65 6D 73 62 61	79 2E 63 6F 6D 3A 34 34 33 00	memsbav.com:443
0000B0C0:	00 00 00 00.00 00	00 00.FF FF FF FF.00 00 00 00	

Figure 4 | Decrypted C2 text strings

3. Patcher - iff.exe

The iff.exe (e84f29c45e4fbbce5d32edbfeec11e3a) file alters the EXE file to run a specific EXE file or to load a specific DLL file. This file is found in the Tickusb infected system and is

assumed to be a file that is additionally installed once the attacker infiltrates the system.

The iff.exe file takes the file alteration, file to be altered, the DLL file to load or run as arguments.



The -b option modifies the executable file by adding an executable file to be run. The -l option alters the target EXE file to load the specific DLL file.

The EXE file altered as Iff.exe contains the infection identification string ".texe."

BrStMonW.e	exe_(clean)	
0000 0000 0000 0010 0000 0020 0000 0030 0000 0040 0000 0040 0000 0050 0000 0050 0000 0070 0000 0070	4D 5A 90 00 03 00 00 00 B8 00 <t< td=""><td>04 00 00 FF FF 00 00 MZÉ </td></t<>	04 00 00 FF FF 00 00 MZÉ
BrStMonW.e 0000 0000 0000 0010 0000 0020 0000 0030 0000 0040 0000 0040 0000 0050 0000 0050 0000 0070	xe	04 00 00 00 FF FF 00 00 MZÉ

Figure 6 | Patch content by iff.exe - 1

It changes the jump command on the entry point of the program so that the command added by iff.exe is executed first.

BrSt	MonW.e	xe_	(cle	ean)			man	and a				1000	-	-					
0005	D520:	45	D4	89	45	E4	83	7D	EQ	00	25	06	50	E8	EC	F6	FF	EFEEEaλα	.u.P20+9
0002	D530:	FF	E8	07	FZ	FF	FF	62	45	FC	FE	FF	FF	FF	8B	45	E4	Yo ≈yyiiF	YYYIEX
0002	D540:	EB	13	33	CN	40	63	88	65	E8	C2	45	FC	FE	FF	FF	FF	0.34 fie	OLF AAA
0002	D226:	RS	FF	กก	กก	NN	E8	27	08	บบ	กก	C3	118	248	Cb.	UU.	บบ	17Qu.	197 -
0005	D260:	EA	16	FE	FF	FF	55	88	EC	51	53	8 B	45	NC.	83	CN	NC	0.177010	QSIE a -
0002	D226:	87	45	FC	64	8B	10	กก	NN	บบ	กก	8B	03	64	H 3	กก	กก	eE"di	i.du
0002	D280:	NN	NN	88	45	80	8B	50	NC	88	60	FC	88	63	FC	FF	EN	ïE. ï	ĩm"ĩc"γα
0002	D590:	5B	C3	C2	08	00	58	59	87	04	24	FF	EQ	55	8B	EC	51	LFTXYÇ	.\$9αUï@Q
<u>ยคค</u> ร	D240:	51	53	56	57	64	88	35	บบ	00	บบ	บบ	83	22	FC	C5	45	QSUWdi5.	eu" E
BrSt	MonW.e	xe																	
0005	D520:	45	D4	89	45	E4	83	7D	EØ	00	75	06	50	E8	EC	F6	FF	ΕΕΕΣάλα	.u.Pŏ∞÷⊘
0005	D530:	FF	E8	07	F7	FF	FF	C7	45	FC	FE	FF	FF	FF	8B	45	E4	VO.SVVIE	n QQQïEÉ
0005	D540:	EB	13	33	CØ	40	C3	8B	65	E8	C7	45	FC	FE	FF	FF	FF	δ.340 lie	OliEn OVV
0005	D550:	B8	FF	00	00	00	E8	97	08	00	00	C3	E9	8P	90	03	00	₹₹Žù.	18891
0005	D560:	E9	16	FE	FF	FF	55	8B	EC	51	53	8B	45	ØC	83	CØ	ØC	8. 100Uiw	QSIE.â ^L .
0005	D570:	89	45	FC	64	8B	1D	00	00	00	00	8B	03	64	A3	00	00	ëE ⁿ dï	
0005	D580:	00	00	8B	45	08	8B	5D	ØC	8B	6D	FC	8B	63	FC	FF	EØ		ïm ⁿ ïc ⁿ ⊽α
0005	D590:	5 B	C9	C2	08	00	58	59	87	04	24	FF	EØ	55	8B	EC	51	LET. XYC	.\$Valling
		and the second se	-	-	-		0.00	-	-	the second se	-	-	00	and the second	-	-	and the second s	0.01111.111	



The code added with the -b option is used to obtain the required API address. Then it reads the executable file at the end of the altered file in the temporary folder (% temp%) and the entire executable file to create and run a temporary file. This is for the purpose of adding a downloader for downloading another malware.

000	8030:	C3	CC	FF	25	90	90	40	00	100	1818	10	88	00	00	100	00	HHVZÉÉC.	
0000	8C40:	00	100	00	00	00	111	100	19121	68	00	00	00	00	00	00	00		
0000	8050:	00	88	00	88	00	aa	00	88	00	00	88	00	88	00	88	00		
0000	8060:	00	00	188	00	00	00	188	2121	00	100	00	80	00	00	00	100		
0000	8070:	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00		
0000	8080:	00	00	nn	00	00	00	00	2121	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00		
0000	8090:	100	aa	88	88	00	aa	100	88	88	88	88	00	88	00	88	100		
DODD	8CAØ:	100	MM	199	MM	100	MM	1919	MM	aa	190	MM	100	MM	100	MM	100		
пппп	SCB0:	MA	an	na	BB	00	na	B B	100	n n	na	MA	00	nn	00	an	na		
0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000	8C30: 8C40: 8C50: 8C60: 8C70: 8C80: 8C80:	C3 A10 PC2 F2 F2 F2 F2 F2	C088FF8D31	FF 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 0	25 00 80 51 52 33	90 7F 55 50 50 50	988 188 888 80 31	40 40 EC 74 50 C	90 751 102 80 80 80 80 80 80 80 80 80 80 80 80 80	55 88 F2 53 78 58 51 51	8109600 560503	EGC 1074333	51BC0203003	57 48 58 58 10 80 80 80 80 80 80 80 80 80 80 80 80 80	588550451	5788883388 88883388	64 785 80 80 75 80 75 80 75 80 75 80 75 80 75 80 75 80 75 80 75 80 75 80 75 80 75 80 75 75 75 75 75 75 75 75 75 75 75 75 75	Hyzeeu 1010. 1.Cou "_G-0100 2.m~<1t. P4.TP4.T 2SP303'4	U10000FWd 10.1H.1X 2EMP_X1E SUW 1U.1 x1t2.4.T 1F3'148. 48.
2000	SCHO:	10	34	43	5.8	88	34	BM	013	5.8 F2	89	74	24	1C	6t	89	45	140214	28tS.a8P

Figure 8 | Coded added by iff.exe -b

At the end of the altered file is an executable file that is run by MZ. Therefore, the total file length increases by the length of the file added to the end of the file.

0000	BFC0:	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00		
0000	BFDØ:	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00		
аааа	BFE0:	ЙЙ	ЙЙ	ЙЙ	ЙЙ	ЙЙ	ЙЙ	ЙЙ	ЙЙ	ЙЙ	ЙЙ	ЙЙ	ЙЙ	ЙЙ	ЙЙ	ЙЙ	ЙЙ		
аааа	BFFØ:	ЙЙ	ЙЙ	ЙЙ	ЙЙ	ЙЙ	ЙЙ	ЙЙ	ЙЙ	йй	ЙЙ	ЙЙ	ЙЙ	ЙЙ	ЙЙ	ЙЙ	ЙЙ		
йййй	сяяя:																		
aaaa	CØ1 Ø :																		
aaaa	C020:																		
aaaa	C030:																		
aaaa	C040:																		
modii	ind o	V 0																	
aaaa	BECO:	ัดด	ดด	ดด	ดด	ดด	ดด	ØØ	ดด	ดด	ดด	ดด	ØØ	ดด	ดด	ดด	ดด		
aaaa	BEDG -	ЙЙ	00	00	00	M M	00	00	00	- ÃÃ	M M	йñ	00	00	M M	00	00		
0000	BEEG-	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	66	00	00	66	00	00	00	00	aa		
0000	BEEG-	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	aa	- ÃÃ	00	ññ.	00	00	00	00	aa		
0000	C000-	41	50	00		00				64	66	00		PP	100		00	M76	
aaaa	C010-	RO	aa	áñ	aa	aa	RA	RA	00	40	aa	66	RA	nn.	GG	AA	66	7	e
0000	C020-	aa	aa	GG	GG	GG	RA	RA	00		GG	aa	RA	GG	GG	RA	GG	3	
aaaa	0040.	66	aa	66	A A	aa	AA	RA	RR.	80	aa	66	RA	TG	GG	AA	66		
0000	L.N.S.N		4 12	RÓ	N F	aa	R4	no	CD.	21	no	01	40	CD	24	54	60	10111	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
0000 0000 0000	C030:	GE												00			00		
0000 0000 0000	C030: C040:	ØE	TL	- Dit															
0000 0000 0000	C030: C040:	ØE	TL																

The -l option overwrites the code that finds a blank area in the target EXE file and loads the specified DLL file. Therefore, if there is not an empty area that provides as much space as is needed, file alteration does not occur and the file length of the target EXE file does not change even if file modulation occurs.

4. Tickusb Loader - BrStMonW.exe

The attacker used the iff.exe file on June 1, 2015 to patch Brother's BrStMonW.exe file (d536f 5f929ddd2472a95f3356f7d835c) so that the malicious BrWeb.dll file can be loaded if the file runs.

The entry is modified so that the code address (in this case 0x004972EF) added by the malicious code is executed first.

0045D55B \$-E9 8F9	9D0300 JMP 20150601.004972EF
0045D560 .^E9 16F	FEFFFF JMP 20150601.0045D37B
00450565 \$ 55	PUSH EBP
0045D566 . 8BEC	MOV EBP, ESP
00450568 . 51	PUSH ECX
00450569 . 53	PUSH EBX
0045D56A . 8B45 (OC MOV EAX.DWORD PTR SS:[EBP+C]
0045D56D . 83C0 (OC ADD EAX.OC
00450570 . 8945 6	FC MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4].EAX
00450573 . 64:881	1D DODOOLMOV EBX.DWORD PTR FS:[0]
0045D57A . 8803	MOV EAX, DWORD PTR DS: [EBX]
00450570 . 64:43	ODOODOOLMOY DWORD PTR FS:[0].EAX
00450582 . 8845 0	08 MOV EAX.DWORD PTR SS:[EBP+8]
0045D585 . 8 <u>85D</u> (OC MOY EBX.DWORD PTR SS:[EBP+C]
0045D588 . 8B6D F	FC MOV EBP.DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-4]
00450588 . 8863 6	FC MOV ESP. DWORD PTB DS: [EBX-4]
0045D58E FEED	IMP FAX

Figure 10 | Entry point modified with JMP code

The arbitrary code is written in the empty area of the file, the file length does not change even after file alteration.

0007	7200:	69	66	66	66	66	66	69	66	66	66	66	66	66	66	66	66		
0003	72D0:	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	99	66	00	00	00	00	00	00	00		
0009	72E0:	00	-88	00		00	99	00	99	- 88		99	00	99	00	99	00		
0009	72FØ:	100	- 121	122	100	100	66	100	22	00	00	00	100	00	1212	00	1212		
0009	7300:	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	98	00	00	B B	00	00	00	00	00		
0009	7310:	nn	00	00	00	ma	00	m n	00	MM	00	MM	MM	MM	nn	(MM	00		
0009	7320:	MA	ØØ	ØØ	ØØ	ma	aa	MA	na	ññ	(nn	AA	MA	aa	ØØ	ØØ	ØЙ		
0009	7330	00	00	00	00	100	00	00	0101	00	00	0.0	100	000	00	00	100		
0000	7340-		B B	.00	B B		00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00		
BuSt	Monli e	VO.	28.8. 2	0.80	1993	2220	4.444			- 6969									
0000	7900-	43	110	50		0.0	-	114	414	CD.		710	C D	100		C 1	24	A loople	
00007	7200-		4.00	- En	nr.	E D	and the	111	2.4	10	÷.	őñ	34	THE R		20	66	as Ir -4	11113 ALL
0007	7200-	33	33		24	2.0	ALC: NO	100		30	-	20	27	22	20	20	2.00	Sector Sector	00138140
0007	TALU-	12	41	110	21	22	23	1.6	0.0	33		00	22	20	67	200	0.0	CALCE-1	E - LIF
0007	7210-	0.3	26	20	240	24	0.2	11		99	ыn	99	0.0	20	N.C.	60	30	averware	16.16
0007	7300:	IU	88	28	AA.	Ψ.M	20	28	8.6	ยย	96	71	18	שש	20	12	83	.1H.1X 1	ya, uze
NNNA	7310:	-40	FC	<u>5</u> F	58	PP	25	PG	158	6.6	- PP	-FF	PP.	25	88	.FØ	F 8	m"_8yu"2	± yyy¥1=2
0009	7320:	Ø C	00	00	00	-42		25	65	62	<u>2E</u>	64	60	60	00	00	00	BrWe	h.d11
0009	7330:	8h	- 45	PC	FF	75	PC	FF	- D6	83	64	50	E8	28	28	FD	-FP	AE"yu"yn	a-Peu(*)
0009	7340:	129	-18	62	FC	FF	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	8.b ⁿ 9	

The code added by iff.exe loads a specific DLL (in this case, BrWeb.dll) into memory.

004972EE C3	RETN	
004972EF 60	PUSHAD	
004972F0 83EC 50	SUB_ESP,50	
004972F3 50	PUSH EAX	
004972F4 57	PUSH_EDI	
004972F5 64:A1 3000	DODO MOV EAX,DWORD PTR FS:[30]	[7FFDF030] = 7FFDB000
UU4972FB 8B40 0C	MOV EAX, DWORD PTR DS:[EAX+C]	[''FFDBUUC] = UU261EAU
U04972FE 8840 1C	MOV EAX, DWORD PTR DS: [EAX+1C]	
00497301 8848 08	MOV ECX, DWORD PTR DS: [EAX+8]	
00497304 8878 20	MOV EDI, DWORD PIR DS:[EAX+2U]	
	MUY EAX, DWURD PIR DS:[EAX]	
	I CMP BYTE PTR US:[EDT+T8],U	
00497300 m75 F2	JNZ SHURT ZUISUBUI, UU4973UI	
0049730F 8940 FC	MUY DWORD PIR SS-[EBP-4],EUX	
00407312 50		
		Kernel 92, 7070000
00497314 FF75 FC		Cat Load ibrary Address
	F CALL 20150001,00497202	Get LUAULTDTATYA AUUTESS
00497310 9950		kernel 32 Load ibrerut
00497315 59 000000		Load ibrary Brillob dil
	UNC EDV	LOAGLIDIALY DIWED.UTI
00437324 42		

Figure 12 | Added specific DLL loading code

Therefore, Tickusb runs only when the printer is used, making it difficult for users to suspect malware infection.

Since a patcher program exists like iff.exe, the attacker can select one of the programs in the system after infiltrating the system to run additional malware.

Stage 2 – Tickusb

Tickusb is usually made up of a DLL file plus an EXE file, but some variants contain a single DLL file or an EXE file. The DLL file checks for a USB flash drive connection. If connected, it runs the malicious EXE. The malicious EXE file takes the role of altering the executable file within the USB flash drive.

1. Tickusb DLL

The malicious DLL file used names like BrWeb.dll, CRYPTEBASE.dll, and wincrypt.dll. The CRYPTEBASE.dll file is a file embedded in Windows that provides password-related functions. Tickusb has the same file name as CRYPTBASE.dll and has the same export function as the

genuine CRYPTBASE.dll file. A program with a password feature can load the CRYPTBASE.dll file when it is run, so a program that loads malicious CRYPTBASE.dll is expected to use the password feature.

Tickusb acts as a loader and contains strings such as the name of the log file to be executed, the path of the EXE file to be executed, and the type of the drive.

The CRYPTBASE.dll (bcb56ee8b4f8c3f0dfa6740f80cc8502) found in April 2015 is a DLLonly type and no additional EXE file exists. When executed, it creates a Credentials. dat file. It deletes the C:\\WINDOWS\\system32\\CatRoot\\{375EA1F-1CD3-22D3-7602-00D04ED295CC}\\TAG file and collects system information with files like netstat.exe. Then it checks whether VPN_Cliend.exe, incorrectly spelt as Cliend and not Client, and IPPEManager. exe exist in the process.

The BrWeb.dll (9b31a5d124621e244cede857300f8aa6) file found in June 2015 was found in the path, C:\Program Files(x86)\browny02\brother C:\Program Files (x86)\ControlCenter4, by disguising as a Brother printer related file. It patched the BrStMon.exe file and loaded it until it was executed. When the BrWeb.dll file is run, it creates a log file in %USERPROFILE%\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Credentials\Credentials.csv.

Then it creates a Mutex (WinsMutexIII) and multiple threads. The first thread (0x10004774) runs the file C:\WINDOWS\System32\migration\WSMT\wsmt.exe if a USB flash drive is connected. The second thread (0x100045cd) reads the file C:\Windows\schemas\ AvailableNetwork\basev1.xsd and finds uses FindWindow to search processes. The details of the basev1.xsd file are not yet confirmed. The third thread (0x100035f0) gets the system date, and if it is Monday and Thursday, it downloads the file from http://update.saranmall.com/ script/main.html and creates and runs the MSUPDATA.EXE file. The msupdata.exe file is a file name that is often used by the Tick group for the downloader.

The filename was changed to wincrypt.dll after October 2016. This variant was not discovered until November 2017.

2. Tickusb EXE

The EXE file Tickusb has filenames like cftmon.exe, svcmgr.exe, wsmt.exe, etc. It collects the file list in the USB flash drive or alters the EXE file.

Within the EXE file are the text strings related to the file infection, and the text strings related to the log of the USB flash drive.

The variant found in June 2015 (29875836605c26f7c78fc91bb2cff95d) has an additional feature to collect file information within the USB file drive and alter the EXE file.

Some variants find and alter the EXE files on USB memory. And it adds a specific system file (e.g., C:\Windows\AppPatch\Custom\Custom64\apihex.dat) to the end of the found EXE file. However, the apihex.dat file has yet to be analyzed. Some Tickusb discovered between 2012 and 2014 read and execute data from a specific area of a USB flash drive if a certain secure USB flash drive from a Korean company is connected. The code used for the USB flash drive has yet to be confirmed. This type of attack is not common and is assumed to be aimed at attacking a system on a separate network.

Stage 3 – Modified EXE

Tickusb variant finds and alters EXE files in USB flash drives. The entry points of the files are edited to run specific code so that an executable file is created at the end of the file for execution.

Unit 42 released a report in 2018 where the droppers Portable SecretZone.exe (dbc10f9b99 cc03e21c033ea97940a8c2) and pNDPS(V2.11).exe(c865b83a2096642b0de3e2880e63ab0e) created the same downloader (e470b7538dc075294532d8467b1516f8).

The Tickusb variant found in June 2015 finds the EXE file from the USB flash drive and appends the contents of the C:\Windows\AppPatch\Custom\Custom64\apihex.dat file to the end of the EXE file.

The code in the altered EXE file is similar to the code in the file known as the dropper in the Unit 42's report. Therefore, it is highly likely that these files have been altered by the Tickusb variant and not the dropper.

00432431 58	PUSH EBX	UU4A9365 53	PUSH EBX
00432432 56	PUSH ESI	00449366 56	PUSH ESI
00432433 57	PUSH EDI	00449367 57	PUSH EDI
00432434 60	PUSHAD	00449368 60	PUSHAD
00432435 81EC 00010000	SUB ESP.100	004A9369 81EC 00010000	SUB ESP, 100
00432438 E8 29000000	CALL Portable,00432469	004A936F E8 29000000	CALL infected.004A939D
00432440 0AA5 17007C38	OR AH, BYTE PTR SS: [EBP+387C0017]	004A9374 0AA5 17007C38	OR AH, BYTE PTR SS: [EBP+387C0017]
00432446 22ACE7 1665FA10	AND CH. BYTE PTR DS: [EDI+10FA6516]	004A937A 22ACE7 1665FA10	AND CH, BYTE PTR DS: [EDI+10FA6516]
0043244D 1F	POP DS	004A9381 1F	POP DS
0043244E v 79 0A	JNS SHORT Portable.0043245A	004A9382 ~79 OA	JNS_SHORT_infected.004A938E
00432450 E8 FB97FD0F	CALL 1040BC50	004A9384 E8 FB97FD0F	CALL 10482B84
00432455 EC	IN AL. DX	004A9389 EC	IN AL, DX
00432456 97	XCHG EAX.EDI	004A938A 97	XCHG EAX, EDI
00432457 030C98	ADD ECX, DWORD PTR DS: [EAX+EBX+4]	004A938B 030C98	ADD ECX, DWORD PTR DS: [EAX+EBX+4]
0043245A FE8A 0E33CA8A	DEC BYTE PTR DS:[EDX+8ACA330E]	OO4A938E FE8A OE33CA8A	DEC BYTE PTR DS: [EDX+8ACA330E]
00432460 58	POP EBX	004A9394 5B	POP EBX
00432461 v 76 6D	JBE SHORT Portable.004324D0	004A9395 ~76 6D	JBE SHORT infected.004A9404
00432463 B0 45	MOV AL,45	004A9397 B0 45	MOV AL, 45
00432465 AC	LODS BYTE PTR DS:[ESI]	004A9399 AC	LODS BYTE PTR DS:[ESI]
00432466 08DA	OR DL, BL	004A939A 08DA	OR DL, BL
00432468 76 58	JBE SHORT Portable.004324C5	004A939C ~76 5B	JBE SHORT infected.004A93F9
0043246A FC	CLD	004A939E FC	CLD
0043246B E8 ECFEFFFF	CALL Portable.0043235C	004A939F E8 ECFEFFFF	CALL infected.004A9290
00432470 81 C4 0001 0000	ADD ESP,100	004A93A4 81C4 00010000	ADD ESP, 100
00432476 61	POPAD	004A93AA 61	POPAD
00432477 5F	POP EDI	004A93AB 5F	POP EDI
00432478 5E	POP ESI	004A93AC 5E	POP ESI
00432479 58	POP EBX	004A93AD 5B	POP EBX
0043247A 55	PUSH EBP	004A93AE E8 5FF2FAFF	CALL infected.00458612
0043247B 8BEC	MOV EBP, ESP	004A93B3 - E9 0749FAFF	JMP infected.0044DCBF

Figure 13 | Code comparisons between file known as the dropper(left) and Tickusb(right)

The method for infection identification is also similar. EXE files altered by the Tickusb contain .texe within the code.

The file (b76d2b33366c5ec96bc23a717c421f71) that drops the early version of Tickusb found in March 2014 contains .ext within the code.

.00400000:	4D 5A 90 00.03 00 00	0 00.04 00 00 00.FF FF 00 00	MZÉ 🛡 🔶
.00400010:	B8 00 00 00.00 00 00	0 00.40 00 00 00.00 00 00 00	= 0
.00400020:	00 00 00 00.00 00 00	0 00.2E 74 65 78.65 00 00 00	. texe
.00400030:	00 00 00 00.00 00 00	0 00.00 00 00 00.00 01 00 00	
. 00400040 :	0E 1F BA 0E.00 B4 09	9 CD.21 B8 01 4C.CD 21 54 68	#▼ # - o=! = 0L=!Th
.00400050:	69 73 20 70.72 6F 6	7 72.61 6D 20 63.61 6E 6E 6F	is program canno
.00400060:	74 20 62 65.20 72 73	5 6E.20 69 6E 20.44 4F 53 20	t be ru <u>n</u> in DOS
.00400070:	6D 6F 64 65.2E 0D 0	D 0A.24 00 00 00.00 00 00 00	mode. / Mas
. 00400080 :	FØ 33 53 2D.B4 52 3	D 7E.B4 52 3D 7E.B4 52 3D 7E	≡3S-+R="+R="+R="
. 00400090 :	CF 4E 31 7E.B0 52 3	D 7E.D6 4D 2E 7E.B6 52 3D 7E	≐N1 R= M . R =
.004000H0:	77 5D 60 7E.A2 52 3I	D 7E.37 4E 33 7E.B2 52 3D 7E	wl oR= 7N3 R=
. 004000B0 :	DB 4D 36 7E.B5 52 3I	D 7E.DB 4D 37 7E.BF 52 3D 7E	M6 = R= M7 = R=
. 00400000 :	DB 4D 39 7E.B6 52 3I	D 7E.82 74 39 7E.B7 52 3D 7E	M9 1R= et9 7R=
. 00400000 :	B4 52 3C 7E.FB 50 3I	D 7E.5C 4D 36 7E.BE 52 3D 7E	+R< 1 P= \M6 = R=
.004000E0:	82 74 36 7E.92 52 3	D 7E.73 54 3B 7E.B5 52 3D 7E	et6 ÆR=_sI; ╡R=
.004000F0:	52 69 63 68.B4 52 3I	D 7E.00 00 00 00.00 00 00 00	Rich R=
.00400100:	50 45 00 00.40 01 00	4 00.E6 D9 FF 4F.00 00 00 00	PE L⊎♦ µ² U

Figure 14 | Infection identification string of Initial Tickusb Dropper

Therefore, it is highly likely that these files have been altered by the Tickusb variant, not the dropper.

Additional Installation Files

Keyloggers, port scanners, mimikatz, and ARP spoofers were discovered on the system infected with Tickusb.

1. Keylogger Type C

Keyloggers have been found in some of the Tickusb infection systems. This variant was discovered from April 2017 until February 2018. The typical file names for keyloggers include apphelp.dll, linkinfo.dll, and netutils.dll. The key content entered by the user is stored in a file such as debug.log.

2. ARPSpoofer – hwp70.exe

The hwp70.exe file (026ae46934eca5862db4dfc8c88c720a) was found in the Hangul folder (C:\HNC\Hwp70) of a Tickusb infected system. The attacker masqueraded as Hancom's Hangul related file.

The hijack causes APT spoofing. It is presumed to be aimed at infecting other internal systems.

usage - 뉴 및 y e - 나 및 y e - 나 의 t - 우 바 의 바 의 바 의 바 의 바 의 바 의 바 의 바 의 바 의 바	<pre>: hijack <-LUXhefvsxrkHDtNzi> <-d dev> <-S interval> <-10 pcap_dump> -W normal!byline!none> <-F file> <-p port> <-E quit time> <-R reboot time> <-b submask> <-m speed> <source host=""/> <dest host=""> <match expression=""> s help/usage is version information is be verbose is show empty packets is ignore case is spoof interval is enabled ip routing is to force define submask is define max transmit speed k/s is set full spoof-route mode default is half is print in alternate hexdump format is interpret match expression as hexadecimal is read packet stream from pcap format file pcap_dump is dnsspoof mode is print timestamp every time a packet is matched is time to quit is time to reboot program is time to reboot program is release demo job file</br></br></br></br></match></dest></pre>	
-H	is hidden from console, background mode killed /k	

3. ScanLine – I.dat

In 2016, the attacker used ScanLine, a port scanner, from Foundstone which has now been acquired by McAfee. The file (a353b591c7598a3ed808980e2b22b2a2) was used on many systems and the filenames used included msp.exe, ls.tmp, and sl-p.exe.

Command Prompt	
ScanLine (TM) 1.01 Copyright (c) Foundstone, Inc. 2002 http://www.foundstone.com	
sl [-?bhijnprsTUvz] [-cdgmq <n>] [-flLo0 <file>] [-tu <n>[,<n>-<n>]] IP[,IP-IP]</n></n></n></file></n>	
 -? - Shows this help text -b - Get port banners -c - Timeout for TCP and UDP attempts (ms). Default is 4000 -d - Delay between scans (ms). Default is 0 -f - Read IPs from file. Use "stdin" for stdin -g - Bind to given local port -h - Hide results for systems with no open ports -i - For pinging use ICMP Timestamp Requests in addition to Echo Requests -j - Don't output "" separator between IPs -1 - Read TCP ports from file -L - Read UDP ports from file -m - Bind to given local interface IP -n - No port scanning - only pinging (unless you use -p) -0 - Output file (append) 	

Figure 16 | Execution screen ScanLine

4. Mimikatz – mi.exe, mi2.exe

The attacker used mimi 2.1 (3fe76cf644e045b8620d577c2366630a) and mimi 2.1.1 (b108df0

bd168684f27b6bddea737535e) variants of the mimikatz variant on the infected system. The

filenames used included mi.exe and mi2.exe, which is mainly used by the Tick group.

Command Prompt - mi2 c:\work>mi2 mimi # help ERROR mimikatz_doLocal ; "help" command of "standard" module not found !
<pre>Module : standard Full name : Standard module Description : Basic commands (does not require module name) exit - Quit mimikatz cls - Clear screen (doesn't work with redirections, like PsExec) answer - Answer to the Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe, and Everything coffee - Please, make me a coffee! sleep - Sleep an amount of milliseconds log - Log mimikatz input/output to file base64 - Switch file output/base64 output version - Display some version informations cd - Change or display current directory markruss - Mark about PtH mimi # version</pre>

Figure 17 | Execution screen of mimi 2.1



AhnLab's V3 products detect the Tickusb malware under the following aliases:

<V3 Product Aliases>

HackTool/Win32.Hijack

HackTool/Win32.Mimikatz

HackTool/Win32.Tickpatcher

Trojan/Win32.Agent

Trojan/Win32.Homamdown

Trojan/Win32.Loader

Trojan/Win32.Tickusb

7. IoC (Indicators of Compromise)

Major files

svcmgr.exe	wincrypt.dll	wsmt.exe
igfext.exe	linkinfo.dll	msupdata.exe
apphelp.dll	BrWeb.dll	CRYPTBASE.dll

Hashes (md5)

Downloader : Bisodown								
3c6e67fc006818363b7ddade90757a84		e470b7538dc075294532d8467b1516f8						
Downloader : Ghostdown								
4868fd194f0448c1f43f37c33935547d		62ee703bbfbd5d77ff4266f9038c3c6c						
Tickusb								
15e72d83caaf1fe9e72e72b633ec5dfb	16572393021beea366	679e80cc78610c	29875836605c26f7c78fc91bb2cff95d					
46c9fb12187c08f9da3429c047a41fd8	4aadf927e5c2aa43b90)d4b830c331a69	599c4110aed58aa75d2322b4232a6855					
6f665826f89969f689cba819d626a85b	9b31a5d124621e244ce	ede857300f8aa6	ad33da0d9507e242eb344b313454cea9					
bcb56ee8b4f8c3f0dfa6740f80cc8502	ca99ea5f1ece7430243	d8322445d1a1c	dfba5e8019be5e400d53afeba83d6d93					
	Keyl	logger						
220bf51185cd7ccc0aa64229c434ce1a		27dbf927e85e00f14ee9	be56711a5246					
7f98ff2b6648bd4fe2fc1503fc56b46d		b79ef5a004e26c3d491eca895c59fb86						
		Tools						
026ae46934eca5862db4dfc8c88c720a	3fe76cf644e045b8620	d577c2366630a	a353b591c7598a3ed808980e2b22b2a2					
b108df0bd168684f27b6bddea737535e	e84f29c45e4fbbce5d3	2edbfeec11e3a						

Domains, URLs and IP address

127.0.0.1/jscript/timepill.html pre.englandprevail.com/km/news/index.htm update.saranmall.com/script/main.html www.memsbay.com:443

8. References

[1] Tick Group Weaponized Secure USB Drives to Target Air-Gapped Critical Systems (https://unit42.paloaltonetworks.com/unit42-tick-group-weaponized-secure-usb-drivestarget-air-gapped-critical-systems)



ContributorsASEC ResearchersEditorContent Creatives TeamDesignDesign Team

PublisherAhnLab, Inc.Websitewww.ahnlab.comEmailglobal.info@ahnlab.com

Disclosure to or reproduction for others without the specific written authorization of AhnLab is prohibited.

©AhnLab, Inc. All rights reserved.