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A SURVEY ON STATIC MALWARE ANALYSIS AND DETECTION METHODS

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Nowadays the world encounters numerous amounts of malwares, spreading and infecting IT fields, causing business process decline and data loss. To mitigate against malign programs, first must be defined the types of malicious software, which are divided into groups: ransomware, spyware, fileless malware, trojans, adware, worms, rootkits, and more. In this paper, we propose the first steps in automating the static analysis of a malware sample. Analyzing malware involves examining its behavior and characteristics to understand its functionality, purpose, and potential impact on a computer system.

Static malware analysis is a technique used to analyze malware without running it on a computer system. It involves examining the malware's code, structure, and behavior to understand its functionality, purpose, and potential impact on a computer system. Automated instruments such as VirusTotal [1] (Figure 1), which is an internet service and a scanning engine that analyzes suspicious files and accelerates the identification of viruses, worms, trojans and other types of malware detected by antivirus software, can assist in static analysis. The results of scanning files by the service do not depend on any particular antivirus software. In the computer world, a trojan horse is any software that misleads consumers about its true purpose. The story of the trojan horse, which was a trick that led to the destruction of the city of Troy in Ancient Greece, is where the phrase "Trojan Horse" comes from. A computer worm is a separate piece of malicious software that can be found on computers and that is designed to duplicate itself in order to infect other systems. It often spreads over computer networks, betting on security flaws on infected machines to gain access to their systems.

In the beginning of the process as the methodology it was taken a legitimate file [2] (Figure 2) to audit its structure and contagion. As a result, the file was marked clear and unmalicious.



Figure 1. VirusTotal a scanning engine

To proceed with a given task it was determined to load a malicious file from [3] to scan and verify capacity and efficiency of the search engine. As it was mentioned in Figure 3, several automated scanning rules have detected suspicious activities in the attached file. Parameters for examined file are: High risk 1: matches with the rule "Python Initiated Connection" by GitHub, Medium risk 2: matches with rules such as Disable Microsoft Defender Firewall via Registry, Suspicious command lines, and more. 53 out of 70 Antivirus signatures in total have concluded given file with a malicious program as the outcome.

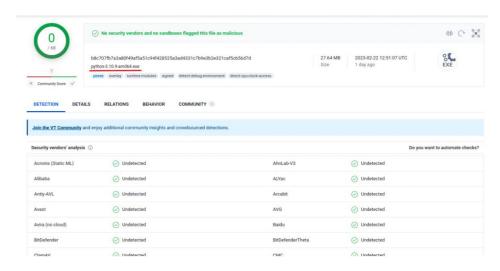


Figure 2. Detection for patterns of an unmalicious file

By inspecting the result form Figure 3, VirusTotal reveals that this file is from the MagicRat family. The MagicRat malware is a Remote Access Trojan (RAT) that is mainly distributed by exploiting vulnerabilities such as Log4j in VMware Horizon. This type of malware is software designed to provide its creators with remote access and control over a compromised computer. RAT can infect systems in the same way as other forms of malware. They can be attached to an email, posted on a malicious website, or use a machine that has not been patched. RAT is designed to allow an attacker to remotely control a computer, similar to how Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) and TeamViewer can be used for remote access and system administration.

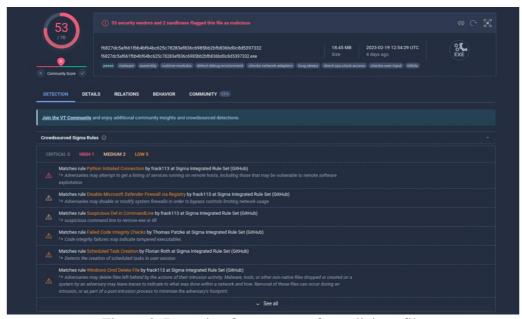


Figure 3. Detection for patterns of a malicious file

VirusTotal also provides a free API to automate static analysis of malicious programs in more agile way. After registering an account on the web page, user can get an API key to work further. To authenticate using the API, user must include his private API key in the "x-api key" header of all requests, and later start making requests to the public API. In the following examples we will use fragments of python3 code. To get information about a file by its identifier (SHA256, SHA1 or MD5 hash of the file), it is possible write a simple program in python3 with "sys, requests, and hashlib" libraries (Figure 4). The logic of given program is very simple: we calculate the SHA256 hash of the file (our malware sample) and request information from VirusTotal using the API. Next, we need to choose file samples and run the code.

```
vt_url = "https://www.virustotal.com/api/v3"
h = hashlib.sha256()

headers = {"x-apikey" : "<ваш API ключ>"}

with open(sys.argv[1], 'rb') as file:
    data = file.read(1024)
    while len(data) > 0:
        h.update(data)
        data = file.read(1024)

fid = h.hexdigest()
r = requests.get("{}/files/{}".format(vt_url, fid),
        headers = headers)

if r.ok:
    print (r.json())
```

Figure 4. An automated identifier for files

After execution of the command "python3 virustotalcode.py samplefile.exe" (Figure 5), the exact number of rules and signatures of the VirusTotal is remotely triggered to investigate the uploaded samplefile.exe.

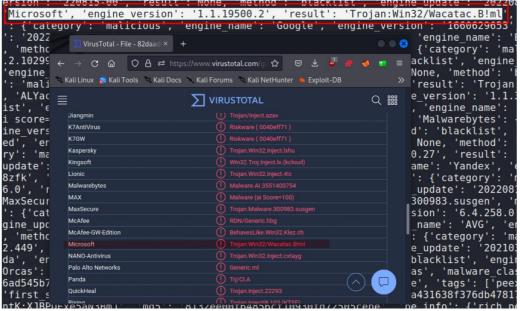


Figure 5. The result of API request

This program in python can be modified and improved, for example, by adding the calculation of other hashes of the test sample: MD5 and SHA-1 calculations. We believe that our program, written for educational and research purposes, will help novice Malware Analyst specialists and will also serve as a good foundation for more advanced and complex programs to automate routine processes of static malware sample research in the future.

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АҚПАРАТТЫҚ ҚАУІПСІЗДІК САЛАСЫНДАҒЫ ИНЦИДЕНТТЕРДІ ТЕРГЕУ ҚҰРАЛДАРЫН САЛЫСТЫРМАЛЫ ТАЛДАУ

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Қазіргі әлем цифрлық технологияларға көбірек көшуде, бұл ақпараттық қауіпсіздік инциденттерінің көбеюіне әкеледі. Әртүрлі ұйымдар, соның ішінде мемлекеттік органдар, компаниялар және жеке тұлғалар киберқауіпсіздік қаупіне және оқиғаларды тергеу үшін қажетті әрекеттерге тап болады.

Ақпараттық қауіпсіздік оқиғаларын тергеу үшін осы саланың мамандары қолдана алатын көптеген құралдар бар. Бұл құралдарға қауіпті анықтау және алдын алу бағдарламалық құралы, желілік трафикті талдау құралдары және ақпараттық жүйелердің қауіпсіздігін физикалық тексеруге арналған арнайы жабдық кіреді.

Алайда, ақпараттық қауіпсіздік саласындағы оқиғаларды тергеудің барлық құралдары бірдей емес. Олардың артықшылықтары мен кемшіліктері бар және белгілі бір құралды таңдау