

UNPROTECTING THE CRYPTER

A GENERIC APPROACH

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Tools Used

- 1)OllyDbg
- 2)Process Explorer
- 3)PUPE
- 4)PE Tools
- 5)Hex WorkShop

Crypter

So what is a Crypter. If you have some experience in malware field then you must have heard about a tool called "Crypter" or may be used it. The aim of Crypter is to protect the executables, making it difficult to analyze it or reverse engineer it. But mostly in malware scene the crypters are mainly used to make malwares FUD. Here FUD stands for Fully Undetectable.

Actually the malware are basically distributed as executables, I mean sources are generally not available. Public malwares are generally detected by antiviruses, that's why crypters are used to make them FUD.

How Crypters Work .

Principle for making a crypter is very simple . Crypter consist of Two parts

1) Builder

2) Stub

How they both parts work

1) You give your file as input to crypter, it encrypts it with any encryption algorithm (most likely RC4, AES)

By encrypting the file it defeat the static analysis done by antivirus. During static analysis the antiviruses try to find the patterns in executable and match with signatures. Because the file is encrypted

So the antivirus can't find patterns here.

2) Add the stub before the executable code.

When you run executable then the stub runs and decrypt the encrypted file .

Note :The decrypted file remains in memory .

3)Execute the Decrypted from Memory .

This is actually the heart of crypter.This is also called "Run PE ".There are different methods for Run PE .But Mostly the Crypter used a public method to execute the File from Memory ,that's what we are going to target.

Let me Explain the the method .The original link of this method is

<http://www.security.org.sg/code/loadexe.html>

I just copying the steps .i really suggest you to once read the whole article to understand in more depth.

The steps listed in article are :

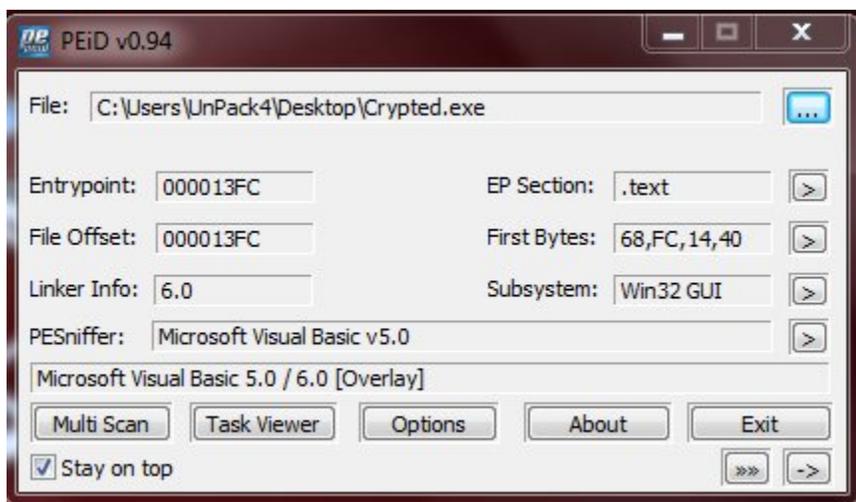
- 1) Use the CreateProcess API with the CREATE_SUSPENDED parameter to create a suspended process from any EXE file. (Call this the first EXE).
- 2) Call GetThreadContext API to obtain the register values (thread context) of the suspended process. The EBX register of the suspended process points to the process's PEB. The EAX register contains the entry point of the process (first EXE)
- 3) Obtain the base-address of the suspended process from its PEB, i.e. at [EBX+8]
- 4) Load the second EXE into memory (using ReadFile) and perform the necessary alignment manually. This is required if the file alignment is different from the memory alignment
- 5) If the second EXE has the same base-address as the suspended process and its image-size is <= to the image-size of the suspended process, simply use the WriteProcessMemory function to write the image of the second EXE into the memory space of the suspended process, starting at the base-address
- 6) Otherwise, unmap the image of the first EXE using ZwUnmapViewOfSection (exported by ntdll.dll) and use VirtualAllocEx to allocate enough memory for the second EXE within the memory space of the suspended process. The VirtualAllocEx API must be supplied with the base-address of the second EXE to ensure that Windows will give us memory in the required region. Next, copy the image of the second EXE into the memory space of the suspended process starting at the allocated address (using WriteProcessMemory)

- 7) Patch the base-address of the second EXE into the suspended process's PEB at [EBX+8]
- 8) Set EAX of the thread context to the entry point of the second EXE
- 9) Use the SetThreadContext API to modify the thread context of the suspended process
- 10) Use the ResumeThread API to resume execute of the suspended process.

When you normally load a packed executable in ollydbg then it shows warning like "the code section is compressed" or "the entrypoint is outside the code section" whatever means olly give you hint that the executable is packed. But the executable crypted by crypter (which is using above method) never shows any warning when it is loaded into olly it does not show any warning.

Unpacking

Scan it with PEID .



Looks Inocent :P

Lets Load it in Olly ..see it shows any warning or not

```
- [CPU - main thread, module Crypted]
File View Debug Plugins Options Window Help
Paused
004013FC $ 68 FC144000 PUSH Crypted.004014FC
00401401 . E8 EFFFFFFF CALL <JMP.&MSVBVM60.#100>
00401406 . 0000 ADD BYTE PTR DS:[EAX],AL
00401408 . 0000 ADD BYTE PTR DS:[EAX],AL
0040140A . 0000 ADD BYTE PTR DS:[EAX],AL
0040140C . 3000 XOR BYTE PTR DS:[EAX],AL
0040140E . 0000 ADD BYTE PTR DS:[EAX],AL
00401410 . 40 INC EAX kernel32.BaseThreadInitT
00401411 . 0000 ADD BYTE PTR DS:[EAX],AL
00401413 . 0000 ADD BYTE PTR DS:[EAX],AL
00401415 . 0000 ADD BYTE PTR DS:[EAX],AL
00401417 . 0037 ADD BYTE PTR DS:[EDI],DH
00401419 . 1A78 BC SBB BH, BYTE PTR DS:[EAX-44]
0040141C . C2 0C2E RETN 2E0C
0040141F . 48 DB 48 CHAR 'H'
00401420 . 86 DB 86
00401421 . 56 DB 56 CHAR 'V'
00401422 . 50 DB 50 CHAR 'P'
00401423 . 34 DB 34 CHAR '4'
00401424 . D3 DB D3
00401425 . E1 DB E1
00401426 . B2 DB B2
004014FC=Crypted.004014FC
Crypted.<ModuleEntrypoint>
```

Everything Looking normal, Looks Like a normal VB executable no warning shown by olly

First Verify If our target is really innocent or malicious. According to the method described above it must call Create a new process. So put a BP on CreateProcessA and CreateProcessW (for both ASCII and Unicode versions). If it breaks then see the arguments passed check if it is in SUSPENDED MODE (Also you can put breakpoint on ReadProcessMemory and WriteProcessMemory APIs to check it more accurately)

I put BP on CreateProcessW and CreateProcessA and run it in Olly. As you can see this it is broken at CreateProcessA.. Also you can see its parameters in stack, also you can see that it is in SUSPENDED_MODE.

Address	Hex dump	Disassembly	Comment
0041B000	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 30 D7 27 00 00 00 00 00	CALL to CreateProcessA from AcLayers.5D8724C6	
0041B010	7C EB 27 00 C4 E2 27 00 6C E8 27 00 04 E1 27 00	ModuleFileName = "C:\\Users\\UnPack4\\Desktop\\Crypted.exe"	
0041B020	0C E6 27 00 00 00 00 00 FF FF 00 00 00 00 00 00	CommandLine = NULL	
0041B030	B0 D7 27 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	pProcessSecurity = NULL	
0041B040	30 D8 27 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	pThreadSecurity = NULL	
0041B050	B0 D8 27 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	InheritHandles = FALSE	
0041B060	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 40 00	CreationFlags = CREATE_SUSPENDED 80000	
0041B070	D8 D9 27 00 F8 AB 95 72 02 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	pEnvironment = NULL	
0041B080	E8 47 40 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	CurrentDir = NULL	
0041B090	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	pStartupInfo = 0012EF0C	
		pProcessInfo = 0012F31C	

Command: BP CreateProcessA

Breakpoint at kernel32.CreateProcessA

It calls the CreateProcess In suspended mode(suspend its main thread) then decrypt the encrypted malware in newly created process address space when everything is on its place then it calls the ResumeThread API and it start running

We are going to attack at the point when It calles the ResumeThread API,because ResumeThread API is last step in execuataion and before this everthing will be on its place .

So I Put BP on ResumeThread,Lets See what Happens

Address	Hex dump	Disassembly
0041B000	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 30 D7 27 00 00 00 00 00	CALL to ResumeThread from
0041B010	7C EB 27 00 C4 E2 27 00 6C E8 27 00 04 E1 27 00	Thread = 000000F0 (windo
0041B020	0C E6 27 00 00 00 00 00 FF FF 00 00 00 00 00 00	RETURN to USER32.766986EF
0041B030	B0 D7 27 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	
0041B040	30 D8 27 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	
0041B050	B0 D8 27 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	
0041B060	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 40 00	
0041B070	D8 D9 27 00 F8 AB 95 72 02 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	
0041B080	E8 47 40 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	
0041B090	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	
0012EE18	00280068	CALL to ResumeThread from
0012EE1C	000000F0	Thread = 000000F0 (windo
0012EE20	766986EF	RETURN to USER32.766986EF
0012EE24	00000000	
0012EE28	DCBAABCD	
0012EE2C	00000000	
0012EE30	0012EE88	
0012EE34	00000000	
0012EE38	0012EEB0	
0012EE3C	76698876	RETURN to USER32.76698876
0012EE40	00280058	ASCII "XYYYYPh8"
0012EE44	00000000	

Command : BP ResumeThread

Breakpoint at KERNELBA.ResumeThread

Wow Its Broken on ResumeThread..

Now Step Into ResumeThread by Pressing F7.

75A0C3C9	8BFF	MOV EDI,EDI
75A0C3CB	55	PUSH EBP
75A0C3CC	8BEC	MOV EBP,ESP
75A0C3CE	8D45 08	LEA EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP+8]
75A0C3D1	50	PUSH EAX
75A0C3D2	FF75 08	PUSH DWORD PTR SS:[EBP+8]
75A0C3D5	FF15 4413A075	CALL DWORD PTR DS:[<ntdll.NtResumeThread>]

As You can see that ResumeThread internally calls window native api NtResumeThread

NOTE: NtResumeThread is Undocumented native API . Most of windows API works this way .They provide a documented interface for main function then internally called the undocumented native APIs.This Concept is very Important Because Sometime the Crypter authors uses undocumented native APIs instead of Documented APIs.

For example they can directly use NtResumeThread instead of calling ResumeThread.In this way if you put BP on ResumeThread then it will not break .So I strongly suggest you to put breakpoint on native undocumented APIs instead of Documented APIs.

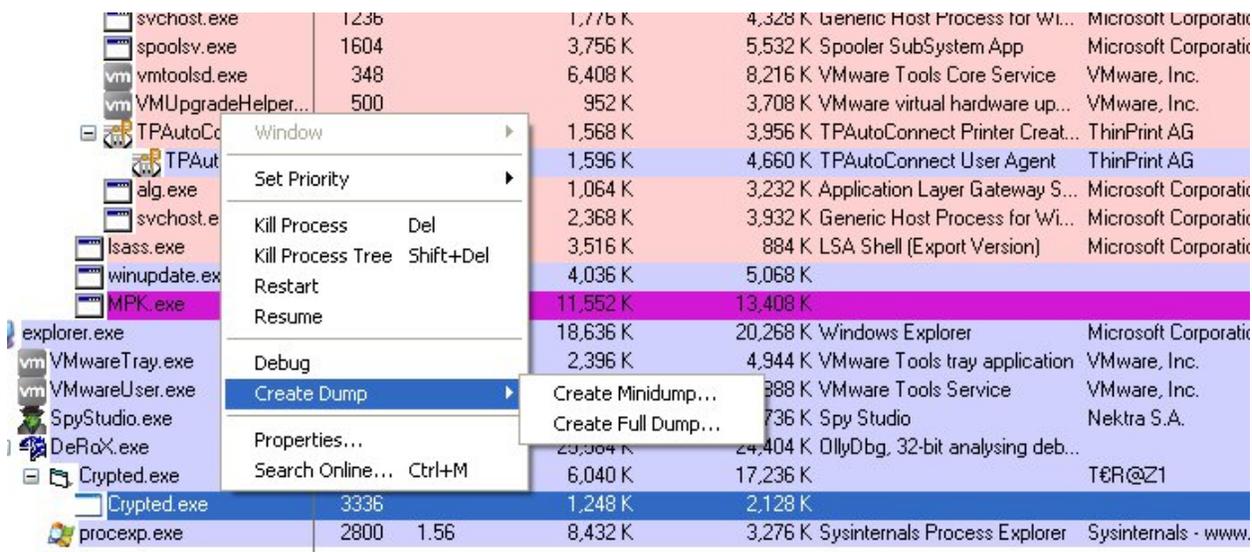
For example always put BP on NtResumeThread instead of ResumeThread ,then you will directly break at 75A0C3D5 instead of 75A0C3C9.

Lets Step inside NtResumeThread. By pressing F7.Contnue pressing F7 until you reach it 778764F2



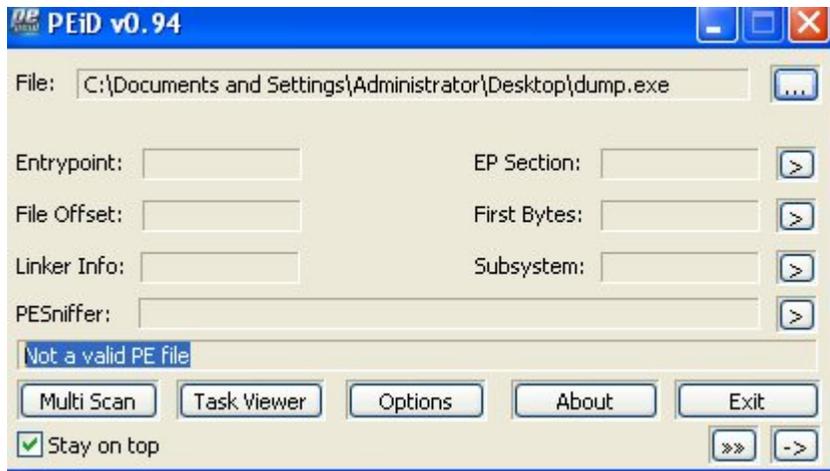
This is point where the ResumeThread actually get executed and our suspended Process will start executing ,but we do not want to execute it to not get infected .So stop Here

Now open the Process Explorer and dump the this process (the child process),select child process ,select full dump .



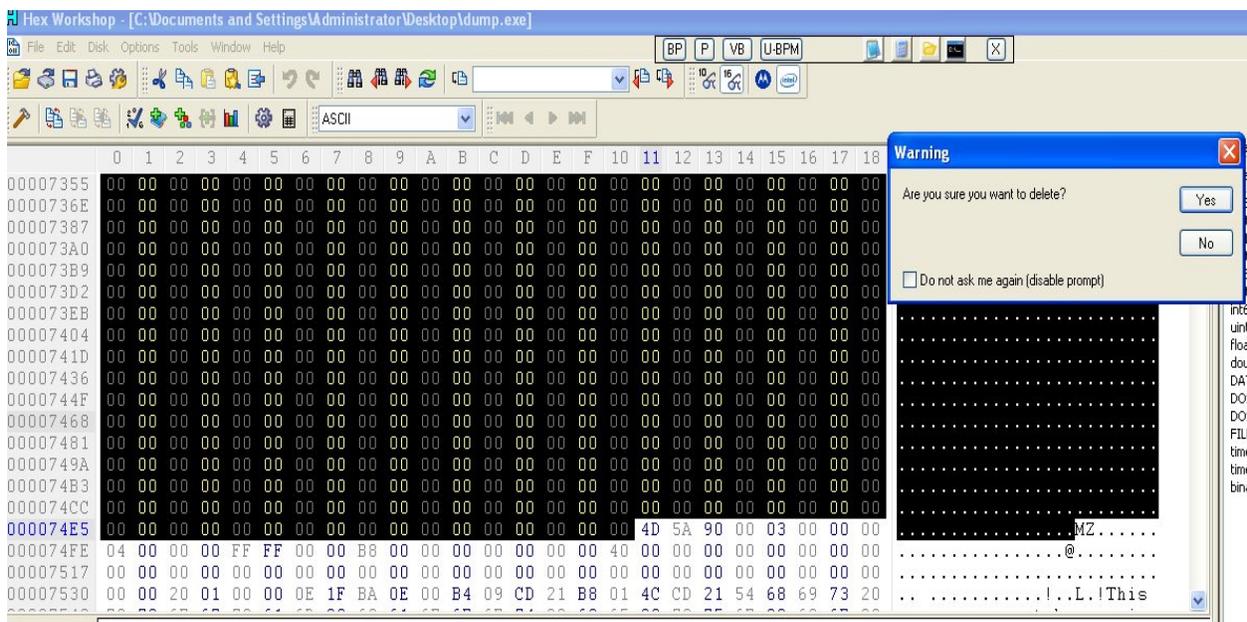
It will be saved as filename .dmp format ,I rename it to dump.exe

I named file as dump.exe ,and I scan it with PEID



Ah, not a Valid PE file..seems scary ..lets Fix this..The PE File start With Letter "MZ ".The File Analyzer like PEID gernally first check if the file contain MZ in starting or not ..if not that mean not a valid PE file(Also they do some extra tests ..but check for "MZ" is first one.)

Open Up it dump.exe in Hex Workshop,search for "MZ".Delte Everything above "MZ". Save It ,Then our file become valid executable .



Now You can scan your modified File with PEID



Now Look Like Valid PE :D

But this is Not gonna run and giving the C++ Run time Error.



The Purpose of making this valid PE is to Find Its OEP by Loading it into Olly or by using other PE utility tools

Note : You can find directly Calculate OEP from Hex Workshop without Deleting the Bytes If You know PE Header, I want to make it simple so I do it by this simple and long way.

OEP :Original Entry Point .It is the address from which the program start execution.

Why we need OEP ?

WE Dump the program before the ResumeThread execute but it is not working.I am supposing the the crypted program is malware so I do not want to run it,then how I am going to get it working .The idea is

Change the First Two Bytes at Program Entry point so that it trapped in infinite LOOP ,this way it will not able to get executed and everthing will be placed correctly and we will have a gud chance to dump it .

Lets Find the OEP by of our dumped file by opening it in olly.Also Note Down the starting bytes at entry point



Address	Hex dump	Disassembly	Comment
0048847F <ModuleEntryPoint>	6A 60	PUSH 60	
00488481	68 08EA4E00	PUSH 0048EA08	
00488486	E8 89EBFFFF	CALL 00487014	
0048848B	BF 94000000	MOV EDI, 94	
00488490	8BC7	MOV EAX, EDI	ntdll.7C910738
00488492	E8 E9E3FFFF	CALL 00486880	
00488497	8965 E8	MOV [LOCAL.6], ESP	
0048849A	8BF4	MOV ESI, ESP	
0048849C	893E	MOV DWORD PTR DS:[ESI], EDI	ntdll.7C910738

0048847F <ModuleEntryPoint> 6A 60 PUSH 60

EntryPoint 0048847F

The First Two Bytes are 6A 60

Show Time

Lets Finally Fix this

Run the Crypted.exe in olly ,Continue Untill the last instruction inside ResumeThread Executes Like we did before.

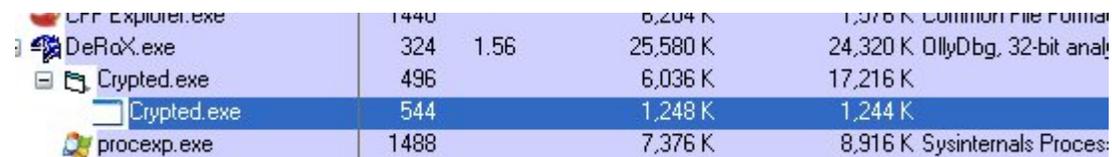
That is

countinue Stepping into ResumeThread API until this instruction

7C90EB8D 0F34 SYSENTER

That's point where the actually execution takes place

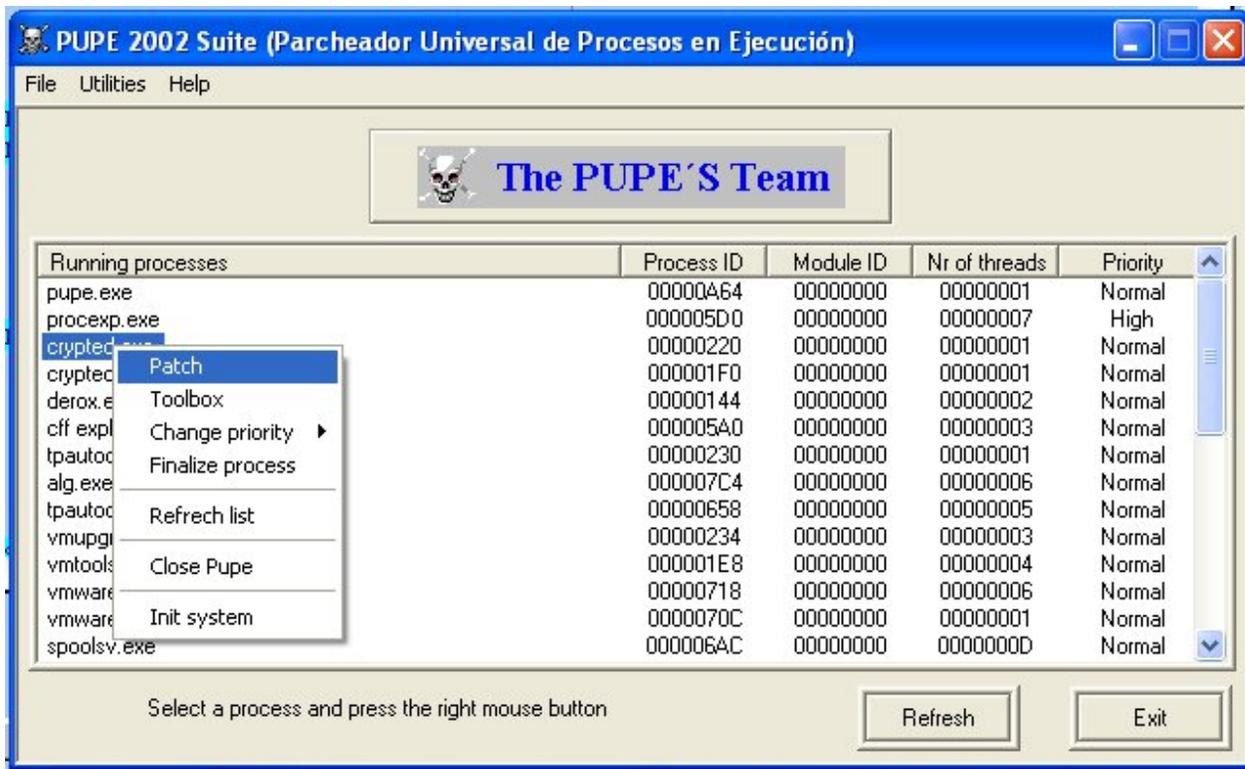
Now We Have to change first two bytes at EntryPoint to trap the program in infinite Loop,we olly use the little program PUPE for this



Internet Explorer.exe	1440		6,204 K	1,976 K Common File Format
DeRoX.exe	324	1.56	25,580 K	24,320 K OllyDbg, 32-bit anal
Crypted.exe	496		6,036 K	17,216 K
Crypted.exe	544		1,248 K	1,244 K
proccxp.exe	1488		7,376 K	8,916 K Sysinternals Proces

We can see our child process Crypted.exe in process Explorer. Its process id is 544 in decimal

Process id in Hex =220



Select the Target Process and click Patch . Then You will see the patch window Like this



Change the Number of bytes to 2

Put the OEP in the Direction option and click search we get 6A 60 as bytes (these are original bytes .note it)

Put EB FE in change by .

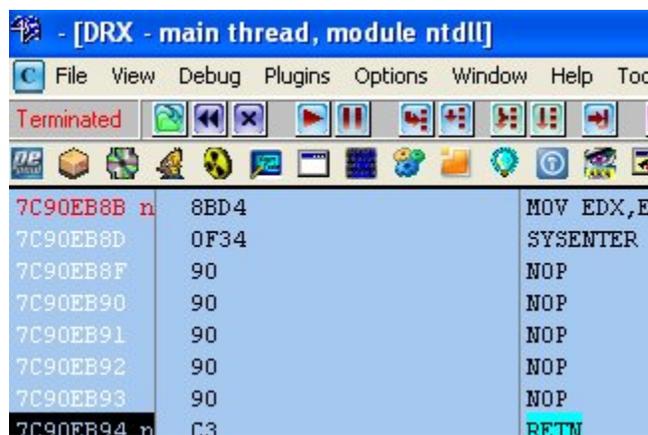
EB FE will instruction will make the jump to to same instruction again and again and hence trap it in infinite loop

Now click on patching

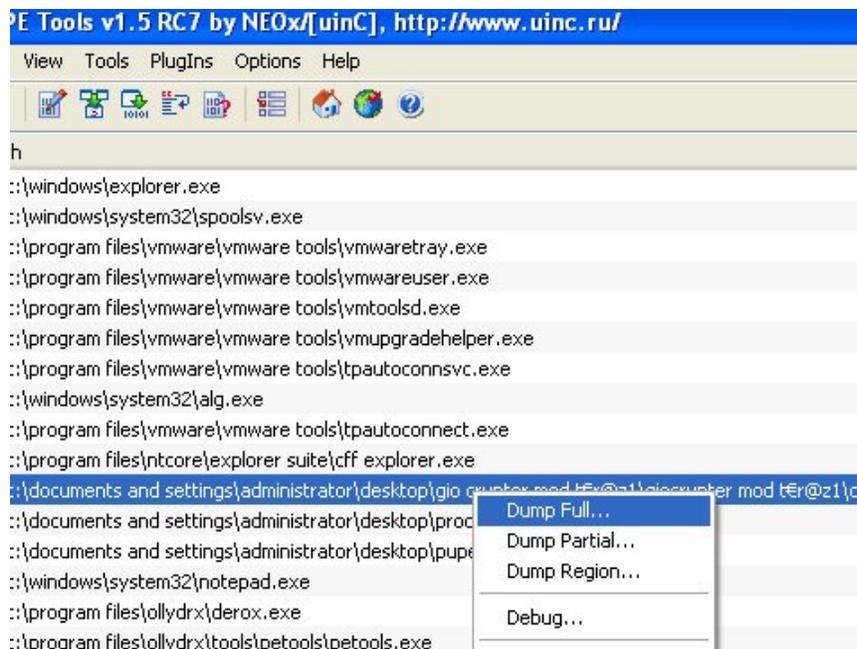
After that the original bytes are replaced by EB FE .

Now Go to our olly again and click and Run the Program

After Clicking on Run button you will see that that your process is terminated in olly .



Don't Worry it does not matter to us .Only child process matter to us that is still running (trapped in infinite loop) . Now you just have to Dump it with Your Favourite Dumping tool. I Will dump it with my favourite that is PE tools



Click on Dump Full and save it with any name you want .i saved it with final_dump.exe

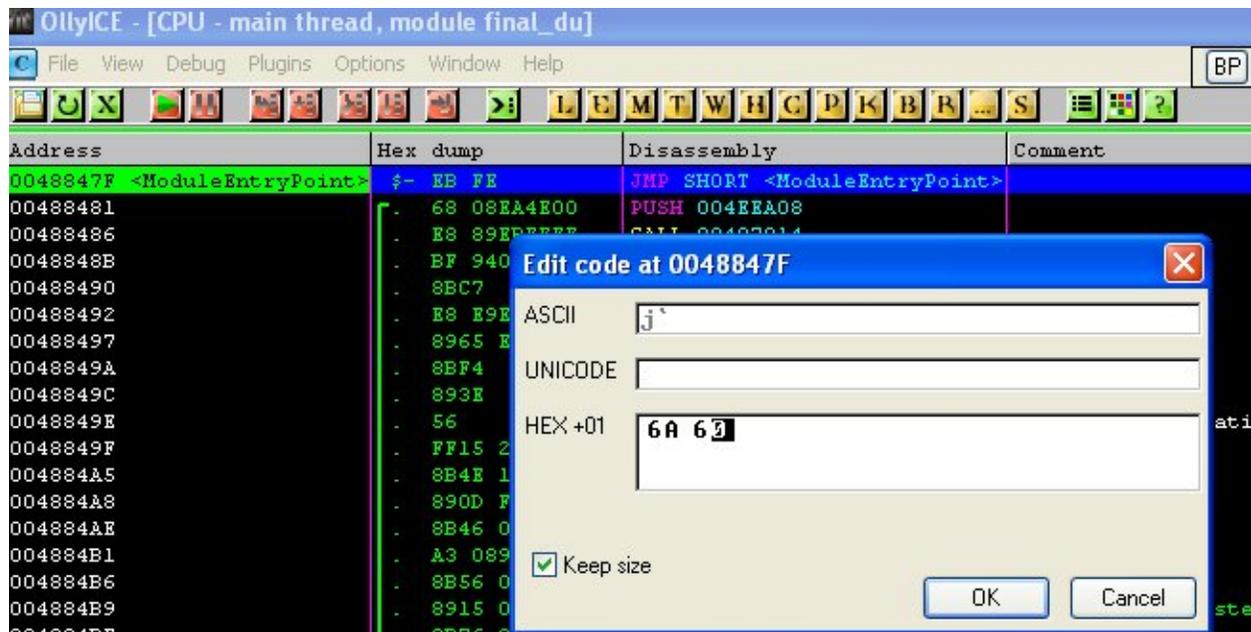
After Dumping Also Kill the process.

Now open the final_dump.exe in olly



As You can see the first two bytes are EB FE ,they will always trp the program in infinite loop to fix it replace these two bytes with original two bytes that are 6A 60

Right click on instruction then go to binary -> edit options and replace it with original bytes as shown in pic



Now click on the copy to executable option and save this file .Now You have Your original file back .

Congrats You just Unpck the crypted file successfully.

You can verify it by running .

Important :

As I already mention the crypter coders now days use the windows undcounmneted native APIs instead of documented API

FOR example Use of NtResumeThread instead of ResumeThread.

So I suggest to Put BP on NtResmeThread instead of Resume Thread.

Apply same to all other API that you want to break on .

These crypters gernally add junk code to make them undtectbale but don't worry if they are using the same RUN PE method they will get unpacked by using this method because adding junk code did not matter at the end they have to to call ResumeThread :P

NOTE :This Method works on the crypter who are using the above method written .I found that more than 60 % crypters use the method.

If You like My tute then leave comments or you can mail me at

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