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Japan Security Analyst Conference 2020

# Evil Hidden in Shellcode: The Evolution of Malware DBGPRINT

Malware Researcher

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# Malware Researcher!



CiYi "YCY" Yu

1P

Malware Analysis  
Campaign Tracking  
Automated Analysis

Aragorn Tseng

2P

Malware analysis  
Incident response  
Machine learning

# AGENDA



Adversary Profile: HUAPI



Malware Profile: DBGPRINT



Evolution of DBGPRINT



In-Depth Analysis of DBGPRINT



Detection Warfare



Remediation & Detection

# Adversary Profile: HUAPI



- ◆ Alias BlackTech
- ◆ Since 2007
- ◆ Malware:
  - ◆ TSCOOKIE
  - ◆ KIVARS
  - ◆ CAPGELD
  - ◆ DBGPRINT

## Bug in Malware “TSCookie” - Fails to Read Configuration - (Update)

BlackTech

[Tweet](#) [Email](#)

Our past article has presented a bug in malware “TSCookie”. This article is to update the features of the malware.

Even after we published the blog article in October 2018, in May 2019, we confirmed that the malware had

## Malware “TSCookie”

Tool BlackTech

[Tweet](#) [Email](#)

### Details of the fix

The malware copies its configuration to the memory of the victim machine which resulted in the configuration not displaying correctly. The buffer size is set to 0x1000 instead of 0x8D4.

```
1signed int Cancel()  
2{  
3    mail_top(CONFIG);  
4    return 1;  
5}
```

Around 17 January 2018, there were some reports on the social media about malicious emails purporting to be from Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan [1]. This email contains a URL leading to a malware called “TSCookie”. (Trend Micro calls it “PLEAD” malware [2]. Since PLEAD is also referred to as an attack campaign, we call this malware TSCookie in this article.) TSCookie has been observed in the wild since 2015, and it is suspected that an attacker group “BlackTech” is related to this campaign [3]. JPCERT/CC confirmed that adversaries using the malware had conducted targeted attacks against Japanese organisations in the past. This article presents findings from TSCookie analysis.

### Overview of TSCookie

Figure 1 describes the flow of TSCookie’s execution.

Figure 1: Overview of TSCookie

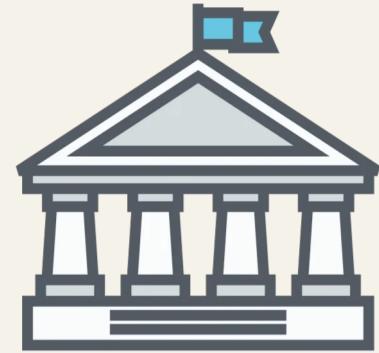


# Malware Profile: DBGPRINT

- ◆ Alias Waterbear
- ◆ Since at least 2009
- ◆ DLL export name “DbgPrint”
- ◆ Acted as second stage
- ◆ Advanced malware design
  - ◆ Adopt shellcode stager
  - ◆ Able to load the plugins

00	61	ù»¤.péÈü;....a
00	00	dvapi32.dll.....
32	2E	.....kernel32.
00	6D	dll.....m
00	00	sv crt.dll.....
64	6C	.....user32.dl
00	77	1.....w
00	00	s2_32.dll.....
77	61	...http=.\Softwa
69	6E	re\Microsoft\Win
72	73	dows\CurrentVers
65	74	ion\Internet Set
62	6C	tings.ProxyEnabl
43	4F	e.ProxyServer.CO
54	50	NNECT %s:%d HTTP
00	43	/1.0..... 200 .C
69	74	onsole.QuickEdit
00	00	.DbgPrint.....
00	00	

# Malware Profile: DBGPRINT



Government



Education



Think Tank



Finance



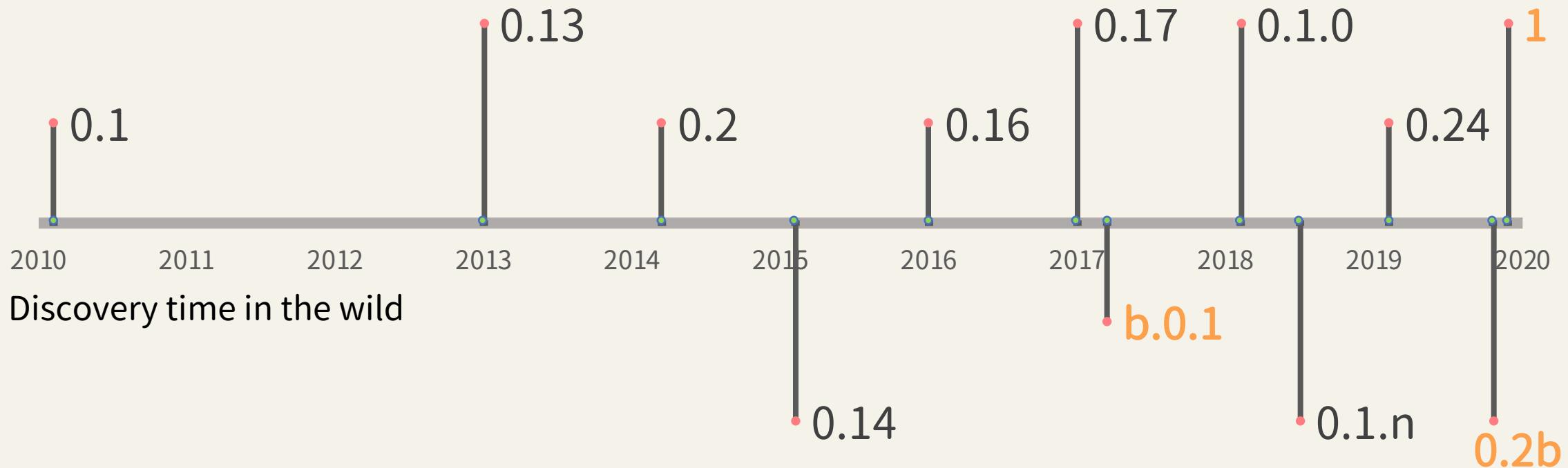
Technology



Healthcare

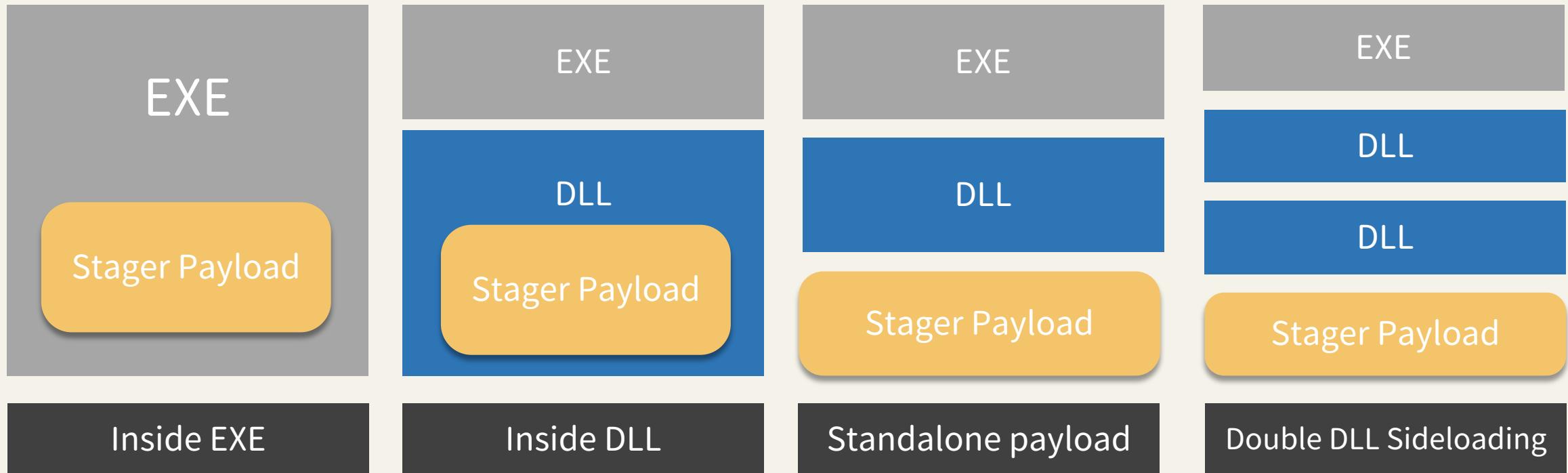
# Evolution of DBGPRINT

# Version Changes in the Wild



- Listen port —

# Access Payload



# RC4 Key of Payload

```
mov al, byte ptr [ecx]
mov dl, al
shr dl, 3
shl al, 5
or dl, al
mov byte ptr [ecx], dl
inc ecx
dec esi
jnz short 100010CD
```

XOR / Shift

01	03	FF	89
13	72	D1	0A
40	C0	21	BB

Random 16 bytes

C:\Program  
Files\NVIDIA  
Corporation\Display\  
nvwss.ptn\x00

File path

Miss You! printupg.PNF

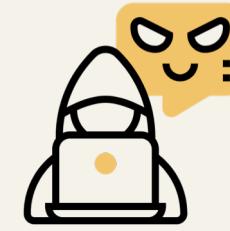
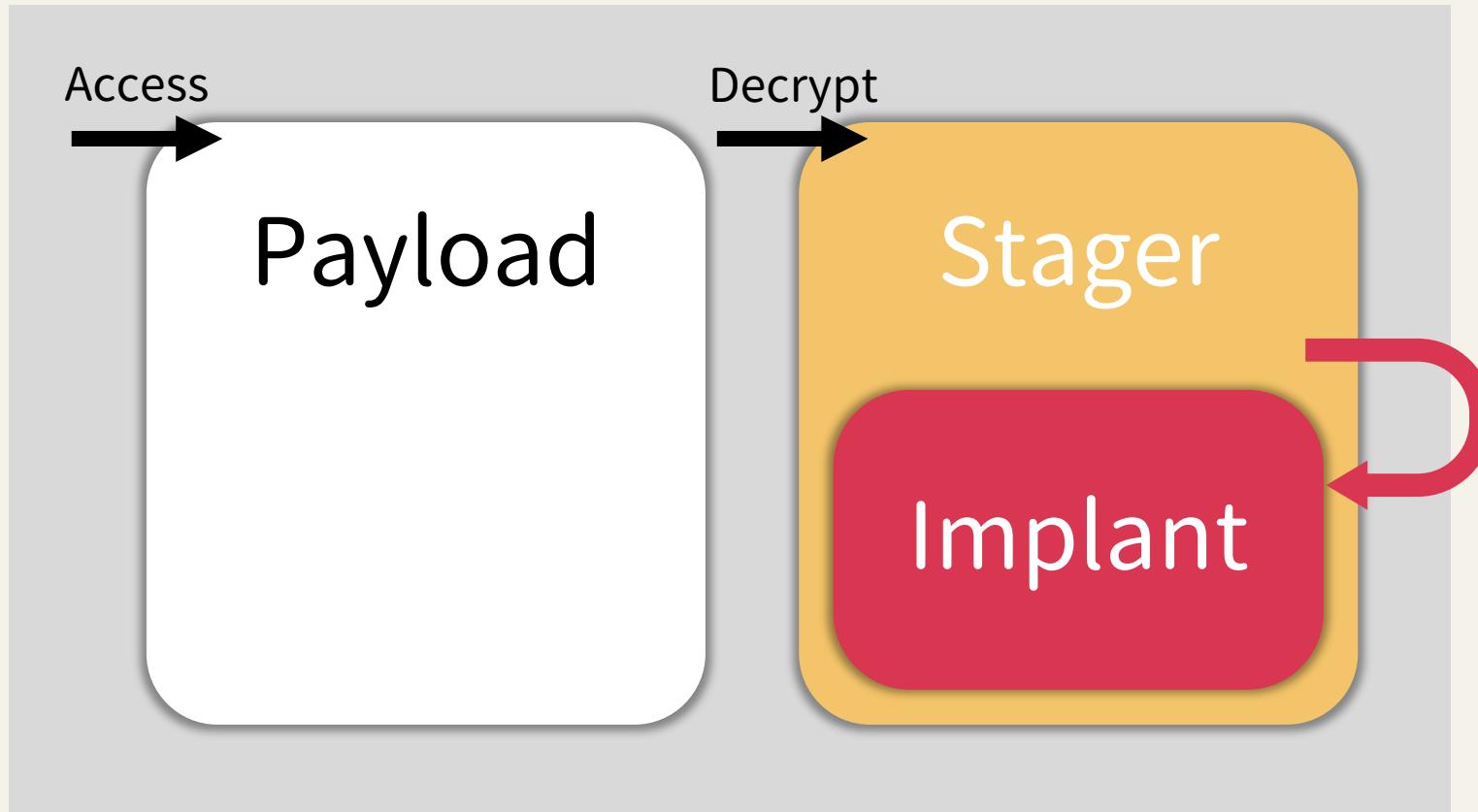
String + File name



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# In-Depth Analysis of DBGPRINT

# Execution Procedure

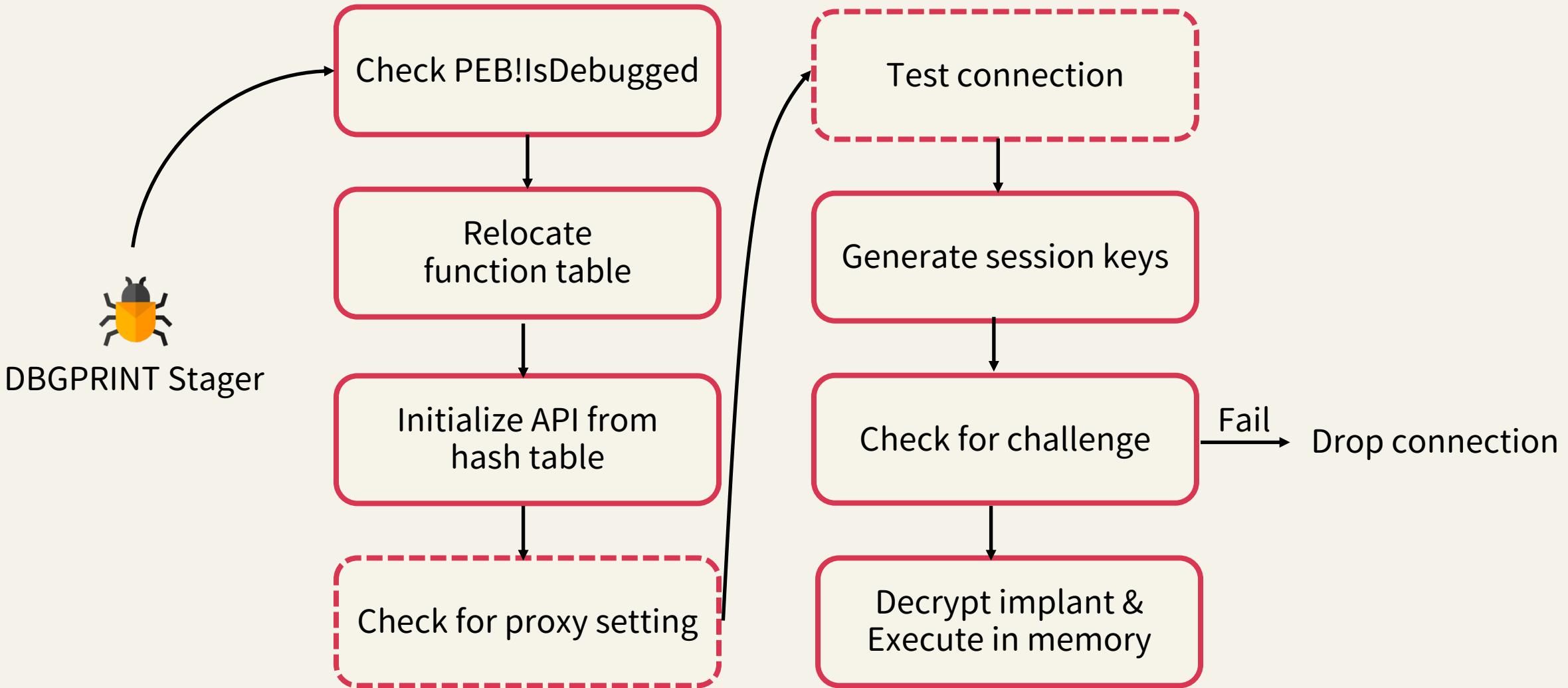


DBGPRINT Controller

- ① Ask for DLL implant
- ② Wait for connection

# Inside DBGPRINT Stager

In some version



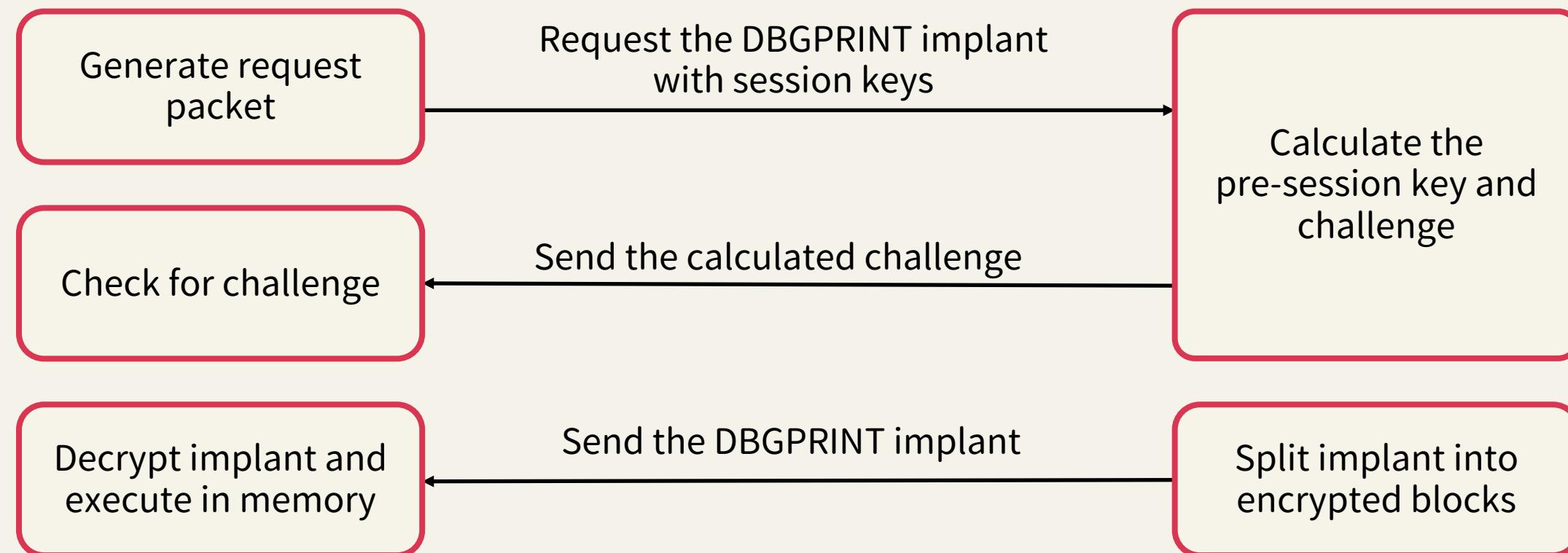
# Inside DBGPRINT Stager



DBGPRINT Stager



DBGPRINT Controller



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# Inside DBGPRINT Stager

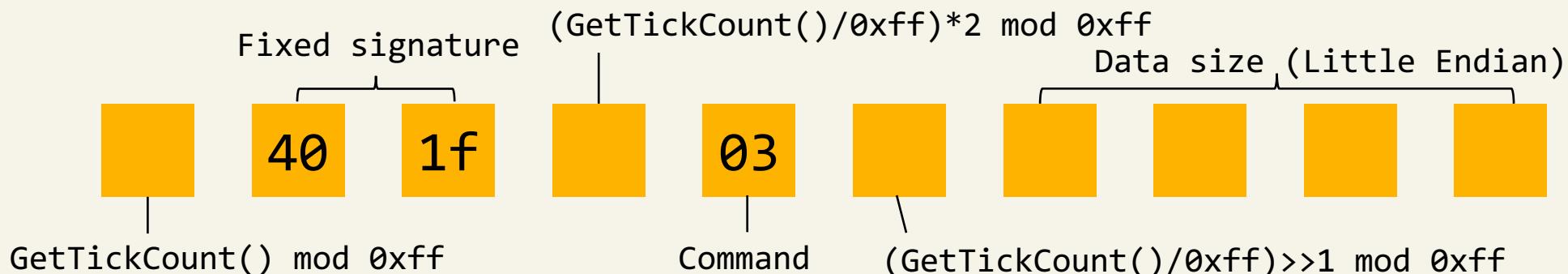


DBGPRINT Stager



DBGPRINT Controller

## Generate request packet – Generate header



# Inside DBGPRINT Stager



DBGPRINT Stager



DBGPRINT Controller

## Generate request packet – Generate session keys

Authentication key  $\oplus$  Random number = Pre-session key

Pre-session key  $\oplus$  0x6162636465666768696A6B6C6D6E6F00 = Session key 1

Pre-session key  $\oplus$  0x01020304050607080900010203040506 = Session key 2

# Inside DBGPRINT Stager



DBGPRINT Stager



DBGPRINT Controller

Generate request packet

Generate request packet

00000000	da 40 1f b5 03 6d 20 00 00 00	
0000000A	35 c5 da 9c ae 62 04 f7 5a 36 29 19 b3 37 2d 45	Session key 1
0000001A	55 a5 ba fc ce 02 64 97 3a 5c 43 77 dd 5d 47 43	Session key 2

# Inside DBGPRINT Stager



DBGPRINT Stager



DBGPRINT Controller

## Calculate the pre-session key and challenge

Session key 1  $\oplus$  0x6162636465666768696A6B6C6D6E6F00 = Pre-session key

Pre-session key  $\oplus$  Authentication key = Server challenge

		Command for challenge										Server challenge					
00000000	de 40 1f ee 01 bd 10 00 00 00	58	88	dc	e1	84	f7										
00000010	18 b2 50 8f 04 40 19 eb 47 a1																

# Inside DBGPRINT Stager



DBGPRINT Stager



DBGPRINT Controller

## Check for challenge

```
if (Server challenge ⊕ Pre-session key) == Authentication key:  
    - Yes: Continue  
    - No: Abort
```

# Inside DBGPRINT Stager



DBGPRINT Stager



DBGPRINT Controller

Split implant into encrypted blocks

```
# Modified_RC4_PRSA
for char in prga_data:
    x = (x + 1) % 256
    y = (y + box[x]) % 256
    box[x], box[y] = box[y], box[x]
    z = (box[x] + box[y]) % 256
    box[z] = ((box[z] << 4) & 0xf0) + ((box[z] >> 4) & 0x0f)
```

# Inside DBGPRINT Stager



DBGPRINT Stager



DBGPRINT Controller

Split implant into encrypted blocks

	PRGA_data1										PRGA_data2				PRGA_data3		
0000001A	90	15	8f	2a	96	e6	4e	f8	91	ed	64	7c	dc	46	47	30	
0000002A	07	10	2c	6a	3d	ac	47	e0	51	f7	86	02	07	2c	5e	0a	
0000003A	44	b9	b6	f4	38	3d	63	79	b3	d1	53	58	b3	f1	10	ac	
0000004A	95	35	52	17	f3	3b	1f	ab	28	80	45	f2	c3	8c	c2	d4	
0000005A	a7	62	5a	76	48	25	8e	33	31	ba	33	b0	19	46	b0	17	
...																PRGA_data4	
...																	
...																	



# Inside DBGPRINT Stager



DBGPRINT Stager



DBGPRINT Controller

Decrypt implant and execute in memory

RC4\_KSA(Pre-session key)

decrypted data size header = RC4\_PPGA(PPGA\_data1)

decrypted data size = Modified\_RC4\_PPGA(PPGA\_data2)

decrypted data header = Modified\_RC4\_PPGA(PPGA\_data3)

decrypted data = Modified\_RC4\_PPGA(PPGA\_data4)

# DBGPRINT Implant

## ◆ File transfer / management

Command code	Capability
2	Enumerate disk drives
3	List files
4	Upload file to C2 server
5	Download file from C2 server
6	Rename file
7	Create folder
8	Delete file
10	Execute file
11	Move file
12	NtSetInformationFile

# DBGPRINT Implant

## ◆ Windows management / Screenshot

Command code	Capability
807	Enumerate Windows
808	Hide Windows
809	Show Windows
810	Close Windows
811	Minimize Windows
812	Maximize Windows
814	Screenshot
815	Set screenshot event signaled

# DBGPRINT Implant

- ◆ Remote desktop connection
- ◆ Process / Network connection / Service management

Command code	Capability
816	Remote desktop
817	Enumerate process
818	Terminate process
820	List network connection status
821	Abort a network connection
822	Enumerate services
827	Manipulate service

# DBGPRINT Implant

## ◆ Remote shell / Registry management

Command code	Capability
1006	Start remote shell
1007	Exit remote shell
1008	Obtain remote shell PID
2011	Enumerate registry
2013	Create registry key
2014	Set registry key
2015	Delete registry key
2016	Delete registry value

# Detection Warfare



# Eliminate Patterns

1213141516.....

è...0.1.....

....Mutex.....

....usr.narllab.

com.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....» .P.

.....

abcdefghijklmno.

./e.0ó{-cÓF5ç².ä

Plain text

'þ<.CV•Ô@.²'w;Ôó

....0.17.....

.... .....

....ÍÍÑÇÑÉÑÌÍÿÿ

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....., ñí®.¥íù

XOR with 0xff

F.P....M....~....H1

....b.0.1.....

....M.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

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.....

.....

.....

.....

Listen port



# x64 Version

```
008F0049  FFFF          .  
008F004B  3D 40E80000  cmp    eax, 0E840  
008F0050  58             pop    eax  
008F0051  DB28          fld    tbyte ptr [eax]  
008F0053  C3             retn  
008F0054  64:A1 30000000 mov    dword ptr fs:[30]  
008F005A  50             push   eax  
008F005B  5B             pop    ebx  
008F005C  8B03          mov    eax, dword ptr [ebx]  
008F005E  3D 00000100  cmp    eax, 10000  
008F0063  ^ 74 EB        je     short 008F0050  
008F0065  ~ 75 01        cmp    eax, E880  
008F0067  E8 8D1DF7    00000000001D007C  pop    rax  
008F006C  40             DB28  
008F006D  0043 E2        00000000001D0081  fld    st(0),tword ptr ds:[rax]  
008F0070  ~ E3 6A        ret  
008F0072  14 8B          00000000001D0084  mov    rax,qword ptr gs:[60]  
008F0074  C7             00000000001D0085  push   rax  
00000000001D0090          00000000001D0091  pop    r12  
00000000001D0091          00000000001D0093  mov    eax,dword ptr ds:[r12]  
00000000001D0093          00000000001D0097  cmp    eax,10000  
00000000001D0097          00000000001D009C  je    1D0081  
00000000001D009C          ^ 74 E3  
00000000001D009E          ~ 75 01  
00000000001D00A0          E8 49C7C5A1  jne   1D00A1  
00000000001D00A5          0000  
00000000001D00A7          0049 FF  call  FFFFFFFFA1E2C7EE  
00000000001D00AA          C5  
00000000001D00AB          E2 D8  add    byte ptr ds:[rax],al  
                                add    byte ptr ds:[rcx-1],cl  
                                ???  
                                loop  1D0085
```

# Self-Modifying Code

```
H.\$.H.1$.H.t$ WATAUAVAWH..0....XH..!....H.....H.....QPH1.....XI.  
..u...I..C...M).L..PH..ATY.H1.....%h..X.(.eH.`.....PA\A..$=....  
t.u..I.....I....XYH..H...H...u...x...H..H.....E1.E1.H....N.....  
H..(....H.....E1.E1.H.....|.....E1.L.....L..h...1.H.....H.D$PH..  
vH.....(.I..H.....1.9+v3L.L$PL..(....A.M.L.....I..$H..tY..I  
...I...A..;+r...H.....r..q...H....H...p...H..H..I..H.....A..H..H.  
...P...H....h...H.\$XH.1$`H.t$hH..0A_A^A]A\_.H.\$.WH..3.H..H..H;t<D.  
C.H.L$@.D$8..D$9..D$..D$;.....D.8H..0D.?D.?0D..H..|..H.\$0H.._H  
\$.UVWH..@D.....H.....H.....H.....H.....D.....H.....H.....  
.....u.H.....H..H.....D.....H..8...H.....H..H.....8...D..  
...H..8...H.....D.....H..@...H.....L.L$`L.D$hH..H..  
@...D.....H..@...H.....A..D.....H.....H.....D.D$`H.T$  
hH.....D.....H.....H..H.....H.....D.D$`H.L$h3.....D.....  
H....H.....A....H..H....D.....H....H..H.....H..tv3.A..  
...H.....D.....H..0...H.....L._H.G.H.L$(H..L.\$ H.D$0H.|$8.....  
L.L$ L..H..H..0...D.....H..0...H.....3.A.....H..8...H.L$h3.A..  
...8...H.....H.....H.\$p....H..@_^].@SH..H..H.....H..D..  
....H..p...H.....L..I..A..p...H.C.H.K.3.A.....8...L.[.H..A.....  
....H..[.H.\$.H.1$.H.t$.WATAUH..p..D.....H..X..H.....H..3.....D  
.g.L..$P...A..H....X..D.....H..X..H.....H.T$@H.....  
u.3..F...D.....H.....H.....H.T$@H.....  
|$D&r...l$DH.T$HE3.D.E.H.....t.D.....H..`....H.....U.L..$P..  
.H.L$E..`....D.....H..`....H.....A.MZ..fd9\$E..A.....H.L$ M.....  
.....k..+@...@...H.T@....D.....H..X..H.....L..$`....H.L$  
A....X..D.....H..X..H.....h..D.....H..P.....H..i.<.....H  
T$@A....H....P...D.....H..P...H.....H.T$FH.L$0A....M..D.d$@D.1$
```

Before self-modifying

```
....!....P...ko....I....GqI..@.U...#b7.;....-K(4q..)..%.."....Z  
..0. C.U:<w....{.a.....N{.C....qgB..._z.....q....-N.a.b....s.7..&.s.#  
c0.31c.d~.....[w"S.-.....V..`P...U..z...._#.VF....U.`..&.A-/}..  
....."90...U..O.a1miH.Yr0E.4.....Y.0=!....)!..08.Hd..Y.....mq....  
j..v>...z.....gA0%...g@'..3..|'..|...&.....qk..qy1.q..81...(77"1.  
..}.....d.X.7tF....]...,....1.....?4-....}.+G+'.....d....  
...f}....t.q.D...N.....Y.a-.....q...6.....m.K..W.[{ygZ.<).y.....  
8L...N4dx.....cc.....^..Z{..3.."a.u.|D..eK..,...@.....p..  
.m.[.....kZ.|.<1.._W.Z{..)kt.t.0.Y..Z{..).....<1..I..Z{..)qkt.t.y...  
C.zH....y....I....Z3.1....]3.jB...../.5.0.C.|...../.tt.y.Y..Z{..)  
..kt.t.!{.....).....<13..s[[{H..V.u.<y=....Z3.m.F.u.<}....?1.gZ.<)..  
!.....z..j<).q.C.._....].ykt.....Z?..jt....B.....5..jt..u.#.|~  
..)....l.<1..I3.Z{..)kt.t.y.E/+..I./.....C.._..(_....N....!.....j..j  
<)...C.._....j5.41.C.|....]..kt.x.1.....j<).y=1`|[{H..<....p.C  
.....]..ht.x.1.....j</...C..Y.o./h.".....].._h...ND..M.{1`|[{H  
...NT....._....j0)...C.._..KI./...]...C.._..H"/.".i...A....71...+..  
.1..Y..Z{..)....t.<1....C.yH.gZ6P..0.C..W.;..r.@SH..H..H.....H..D..  
....H..p...H.....L..I..A..p...H.C.H.K.3.A.....8...L.[.H..A.....  
....H..[...m.K..~..~k.+[.r#.hp..0..^{H..P.u.<y=....Z3..'.jt.....1d|[{H..  
.....Z{..)kt.t.}.]..Z{../h."....q.p....Z..j.Z.  
.....D.p...Y{H..Rnv.<y=....Z3.1.B.u.<y;.....1..jt....A...../.".i...B..T  
&_..]ge....u.....H....<)...%.....J=1..Ed.[{H.....=1.....1..-  
j</p...].Z{..)9kt.t.%#.....].ykt.}.....B..j..5]....F.\.....U.2c  
.4.._....,.....U....n4]....C.._..I./....=1..E<+..I./....\2.C.z~[  
..)....,<1..M..Z{..)kt.t.}.]..Z{..1G..jt...VB...../.....P....j<  
/h....v..Z{..)$..<1..M..Z{..)kt.t.}.]..Z{../{.,</p...s..Z{..).....|u>./
```

After self-modifying

# Double DLL Sideload

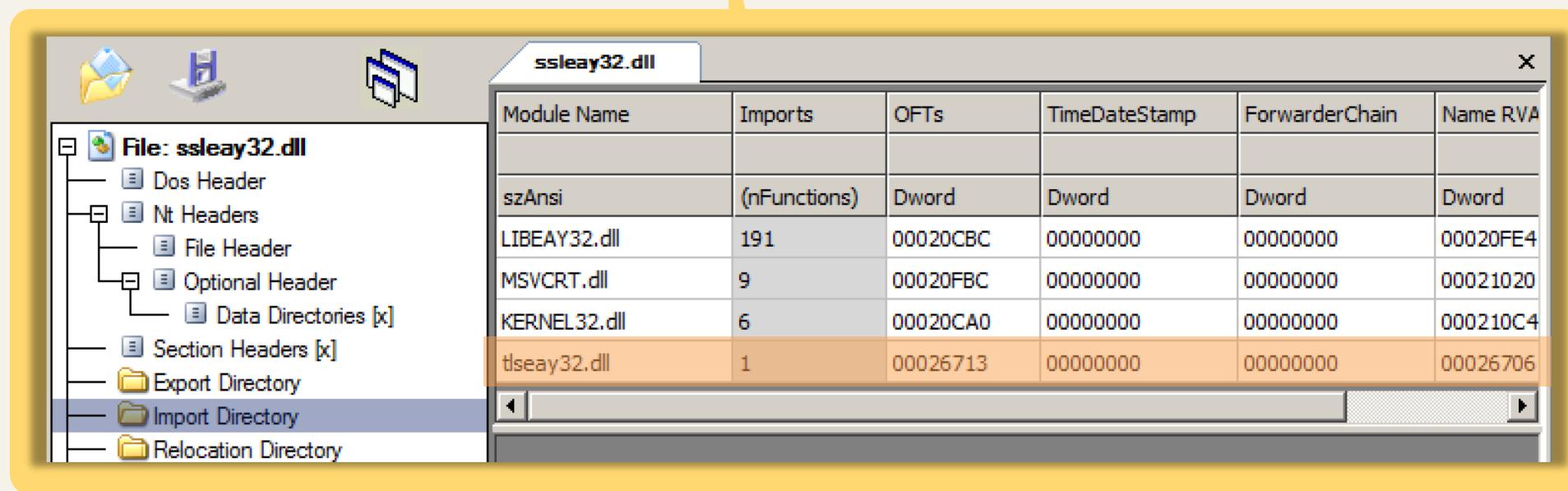
(White) Benign EXE



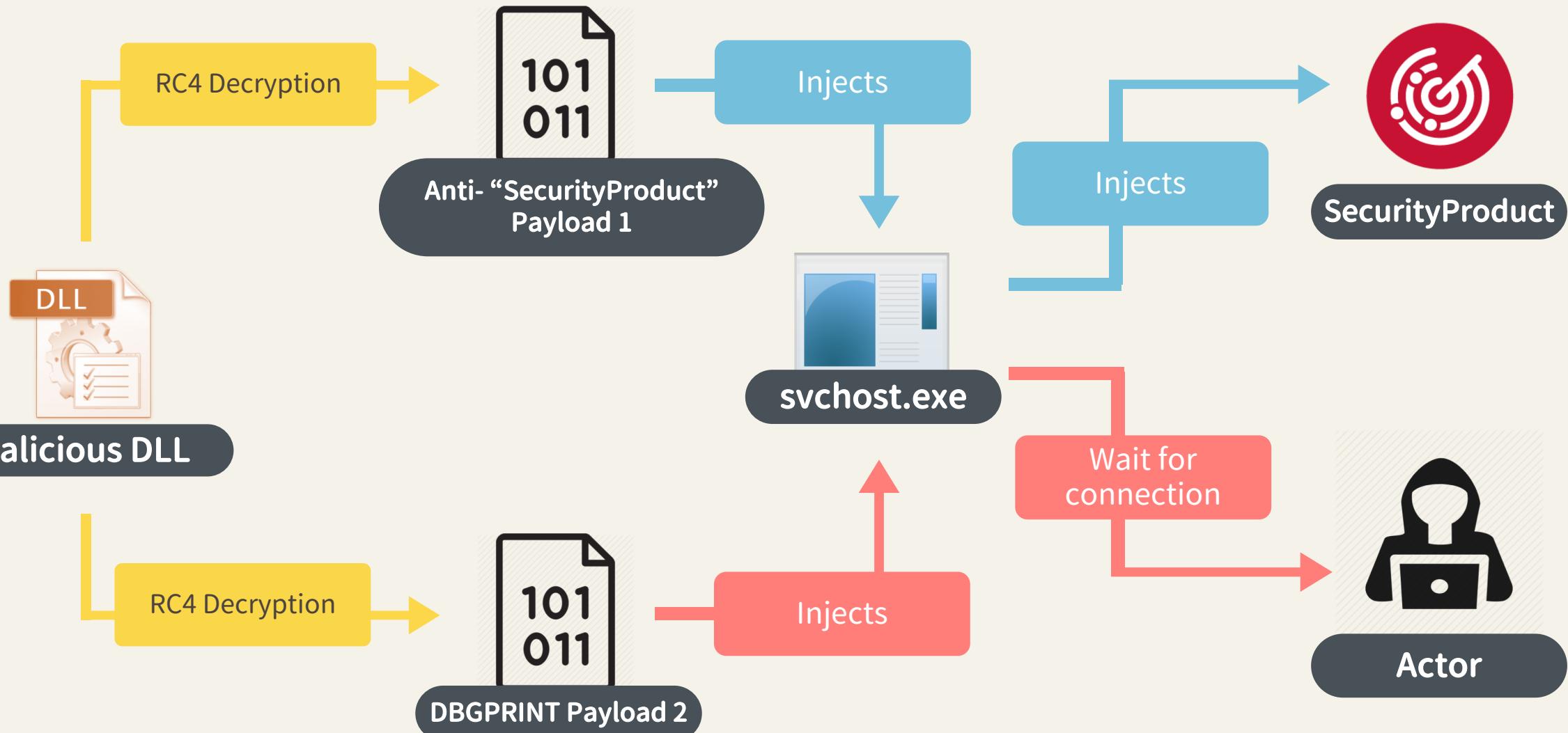
(Gray) Malicious DLL



(Black) Malicious DLL



# Anti "SecurityProduct"



# Questions?



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