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**REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA  
NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY AUTHORITY  
DIRECTORATE OF CYBER SECURITY ANALYSIS**

**Technical Analysis of the Malicious File**  
*Dokumenti përmban përmbajtje që shkel të drejtat e autorit*

**Version: 1.0**  
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***This report has limitations and should be interpreted with caution!***

*Some of these limitations include:*

**Phase One:**

*Information Sources:* This report relies on the data that was accessible at the time it was compiled. As a result, some elements might no longer reflect the current situation or may have changed since then.

**Phase Two:**

*Analysis Details:* Due to limited resources, certain aspects of the malicious file may not have been examined in depth. Any additional unknown information could lead to revisions or changes in the report.

**Phase Three:**

*Information Security:* To protect sources and confidential data, certain details may have been omitted or intentionally limited in this report. This decision was made to preserve the integrity and security of the information used.

**AKSK reserves the right to modify, update, or change any part of this report without prior notice.**

*This report is not a final document.*

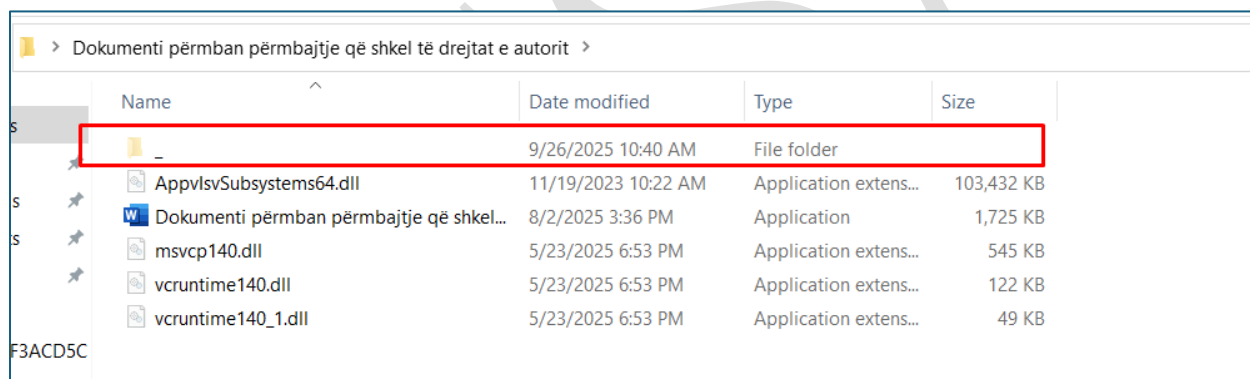
*The findings are based on information available at the time of investigation and analysis. There is no guarantee regarding possible changes or updates to the reported information in the future. The authors of this report do not take responsibility for any misuse or consequences resulting from decisions made based on this report.*

## Technical Information

A phishing campaign has been identified targeting critical and key infrastructures of the Republic of Albania. The phishing emails contain an attachment named " **The document contains content that violates copyright.zip** ". This malicious file is designed to enable remote control by threat actors over the victims computers or systems, posing a serious cybersecurity risk.

### Dokumenti përmban përmbajtje që shkel të drejtat e autorit

Analysis of this file begins with extraction from the .zip (archived) format. The first highlighted file is "The document contains content that violates copyright.exe," which is a **PE (Portable Executable)** type file, an executable file. Additionally, if the "View hidden items" option is enabled in Windows, several other hidden files are also detected



Name	Date modified	Type	Size
.	9/26/2025 10:40 AM	File folder	
AppvlsvSubsystems64.dll	11/19/2023 10:22 AM	Application extens...	103,432 KB
Dokumenti përmban përmbajtje që shkel...	8/2/2025 3:36 PM	Application	1,725 KB
msvcp140.dll	5/23/2025 6:53 PM	Application extens...	545 KB
vcruntime140.dll	5/23/2025 6:53 PM	Application extens...	122 KB
vcruntime140_1.dll	5/23/2025 6:53 PM	Application extens...	49 KB

Figure 1. Hidden files

The most important file in the infection chain is also identified the dynamic link library "AppvlsvSubsystems64.dll", which has a size of approximately 103 MB, an unusually large element. During static analysis, functions responsible for directory checks are identified, indicating that this **dll** file begins to search for the locations of various files. However, to determine exactly which function is being called, *the debugging process* is carried out.

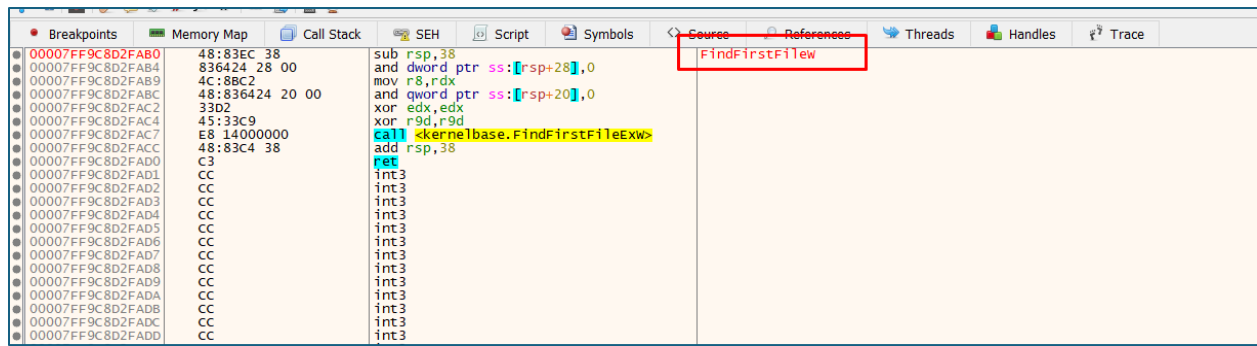


Figure 2. FindFirstFileW Function

During debugging of the **dll** file, a check of the “\_” folder is observed in the **RDX** register in the memory dump, from which it is evident that this directory contains a **payload** to continue the main purpose of the file

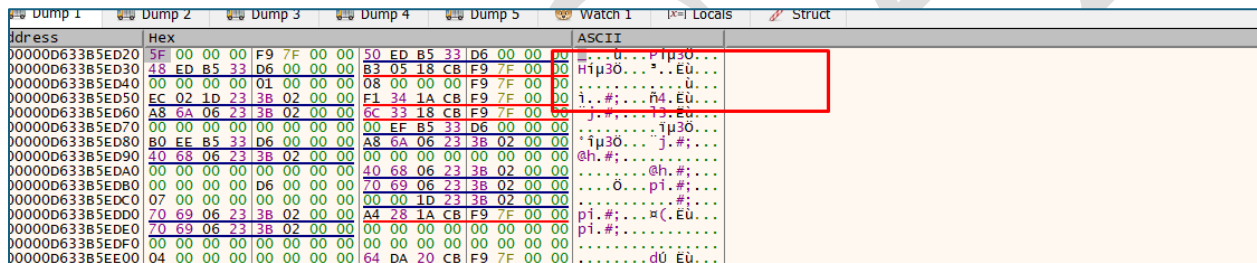


Figure 3. Inspection of the “\_” directory

The “\_” directory contains several files, some of which are legitimate PDFs, but there are other files that appear to be inaccessible yet may be decoded at a later stage and used for other purposes.

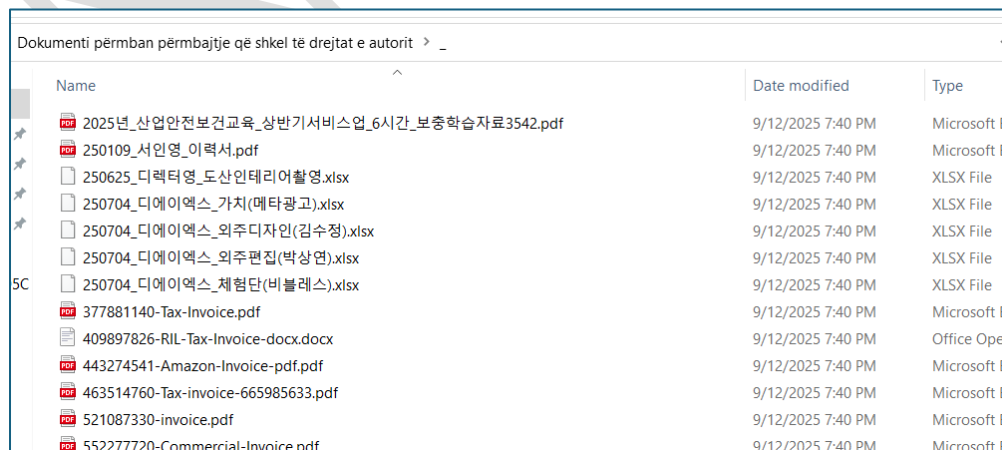


Figure 4. Contents of the “\_” directory

The main file in this directory is the file **Images.png**, which, despite its extension, is not an image but rather a **WinRAR archive application**. It is accessed via the command line using the command:

```
images.png x -ibck -y -paFr25vHl9vULPjJoV8rUcLS6YCzbMQ8k Invoice.pdf
C:\\Users\\Public
```

In this case, **WinRAR** extracts into the directory **C:\\Users\\Public** a folder which, in itself, contains the **Python** library.

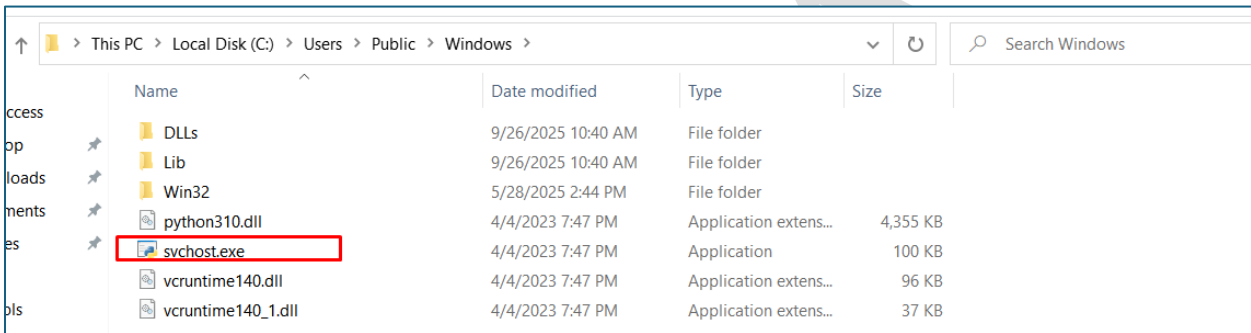


Figure 5. Python.exe spoofed as svchost.exe

Svchost.exe or python.exe in this case is not malicious but considering the logic of how this malicious file has operated so far, python must be receiving some parameter in order to proceed to its final stage. During the investigation in **C:\\Users\\Public\\Windows\\Lib**, another suspicious file was identified named **images.png**, which appears to be repeated as in the previous case.

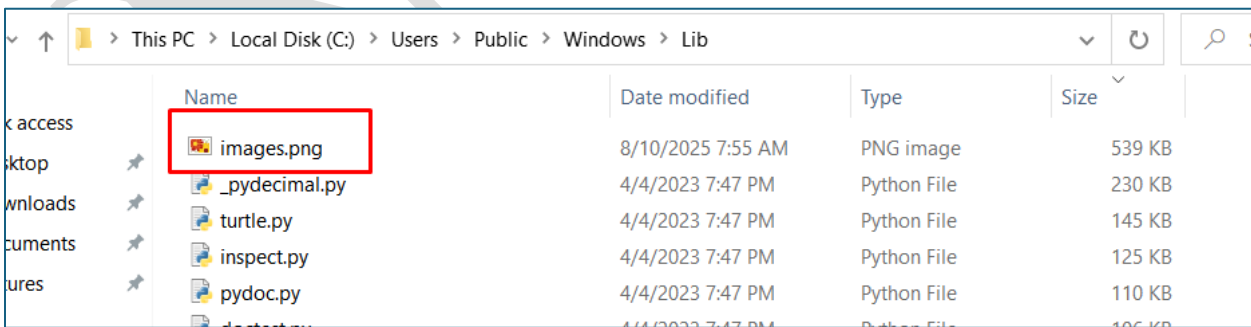
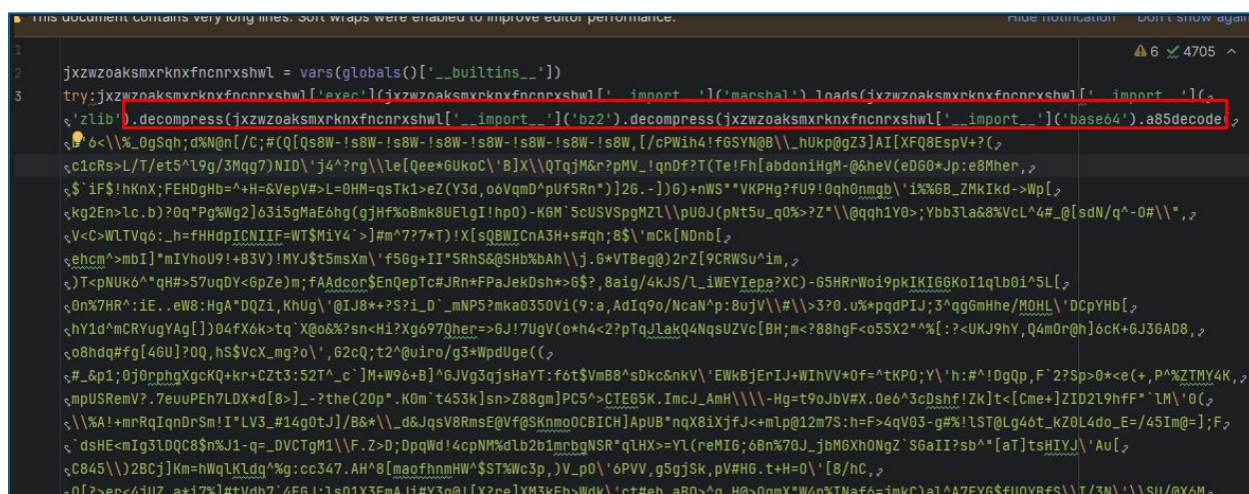


Figure 6. images.png phase 2.

This file is of type **.py** despite its extension. From the analysis in a regular text editor, its code is extracted as follows:



This portion of the code is hidden and used to perform the real purpose of the file. Next, a variable named `xzwzoaksmrxnxfncnrxshwl` is created and used to call Python's core functions. Inside **the try** block the following main functions are observed:

**import** ('base64').a85decode(...) where:

- It imports the base64 library and uses the a85decode function.
- a85decode is used to decode text encoded in Ascii85/Base85 format.

The result of this decoding is passed to `import ('bz2').decompress(...):`

- So the decoded data is then processed through **BZ2** decompression (**Bzip2 algorithm**).
- Then the result is passed to `import ('zlib').decompress(...):`

Here it is decompressed again using the zlib algorithm.

- **marshal.loads(...):**

marshal is used to deserialize Python objects. Here the result of the decompressions is expected to be a serialized code object (for example a .pyc-like object).

- **exec(...):**

Finally, `exec` runs the created object (or the marshaled content). Thus the hidden code will execute in the current environment.

If we modify the code step by step we can understand its behavior for each specific function





During the disassembly process, another layer of obfuscation is revealed, displaying characters in encoded strings.

```
Disassembly of <code object <lambda> at 0x000001f1b32b9f0f, file "pymeomeo", line 662>:
662      0 LOAD_GLOBAL      0 (LOAD_CONST)
        2 LOAD_CONST      1 (1)
        4 STORE_FAST        0 (a)
        6 STORE_FAST        1 (b)
        8 STORE_FAST        2 (c)
       10 STORE_FAST        3 (d)
       12 STORE_FAST        4 (e)
       14 STORE_FAST        5 (f)
       16 STORE_FAST        6 (g)
       18 STORE_FAST        7 (h)
       20 STORE_FAST        8 (i)
       22 STORE_FAST        9 (j)
       24 STORE_FAST       10 (k)
       26 STORE_FAST       11 (l)
       28 STORE_FAST       12 (m)
       30 STORE_FAST       13 (n)
       32 STORE_FAST       14 (o)
       34 STORE_FAST       15 (p)
       36 STORE_FAST       16 (q)
       38 STORE_FAST       17 (r)
       40 STORE_FAST       18 (s)
       42 STORE_FAST       19 (t)
       44 STORE_FAST       20 (u)
       46 STORE_FAST       21 (v)
       48 STORE_FAST       22 (w)
       50 STORE_FAST       23 (x)
       52 STORE_FAST       24 (y)
       54 STORE_FAST       25 (z)
       56 STORE_FAST       26 (aa)
       58 STORE_FAST       27 (ab)
       60 STORE_FAST       28 (ac)
       62 STORE_FAST       29 (ad)
       64 STORE_FAST       30 (ae)
       66 STORE_FAST       31 (af)
       68 STORE_FAST       32 (ag)
       70 STORE_FAST       33 (ah)
       72 STORE_FAST       34 (ai)
       74 STORE_FAST       35 (aj)
       76 STORE_FAST       36 (ak)
       78 STORE_FAST       37 (al)
       80 STORE_FAST       38 (am)
       82 STORE_FAST       39 (an)
       84 STORE_FAST       40 (ao)
       86 STORE_FAST       41 (ap)
       88 STORE_FAST       42 (aq)
       90 STORE_FAST       43 (ar)
       92 STORE_FAST       44 (as)
       94 STORE_FAST       45 (at)
       96 STORE_FAST       46 (au)
       98 STORE_FAST       47 (av)
      100 STORE_FAST       48 (aw)
      102 STORE_FAST       49 (ax)
      104 STORE_FAST       50 (ay)
      106 STORE_FAST       51 (az)
      108 STORE_FAST       52 (ba)
      110 STORE_FAST       53 (bb)
      112 STORE_FAST       54 (bc)
      114 STORE_FAST       55 (bd)
      116 STORE_FAST       56 (be)
      118 STORE_FAST       57 (bf)
      120 STORE_FAST       58 (bg)
      122 STORE_FAST       59 (bh)
      124 STORE_FAST       60 (bi)
      126 STORE_FAST       61 (bj)
      128 STORE_FAST       62 (bk)
      130 STORE_FAST       63 (bl)
      132 STORE_FAST       64 (bm)
      134 STORE_FAST       65 (bn)
      136 STORE_FAST       66 (bo)
      138 STORE_FAST       67 (bp)
      140 STORE_FAST       68 (bq)
      142 STORE_FAST       69 (br)
      144 STORE_FAST       70 (bs)
      146 STORE_FAST       71 (bt)
      148 STORE_FAST       72 (bu)
      150 STORE_FAST       73 (bv)
      152 STORE_FAST       74 (bw)
      154 STORE_FAST       75 (bx)
      156 STORE_FAST       76 (by)
      158 STORE_FAST       77 (bz)
      160 STORE_FAST       78 (ca)
      162 STORE_FAST       79 (cb)
      164 STORE_FAST       80 (cc)
      166 STORE_FAST       81 (cd)
      168 STORE_FAST       82 (ce)
      170 STORE_FAST       83 (cf)
      172 STORE_FAST       84 (cg)
      174 STORE_FAST       85 (ch)
      176 STORE_FAST       86 (ci)
      178 STORE_FAST       87 (cj)
      180 STORE_FAST       88 (ck)
      182 STORE_FAST       89 (cl)
      184 STORE_FAST       90 (cm)
      186 STORE_FAST       91 (cn)
      188 STORE_FAST       92 (co)
      190 STORE_FAST       93 (cp)
      192 STORE_FAST       94 (cq)
      194 STORE_FAST       95 (cr)
      196 STORE_FAST       96 (cs)
      198 STORE_FAST       97 (ct)
      200 STORE_FAST       98 (cu)
      202 STORE_FAST       99 (cv)
      204 STORE_FAST      100 (cw)
      206 STORE_FAST      101 (cx)
      208 STORE_FAST      102 (cy)
      210 STORE_FAST      103 (cz)
      212 STORE_FAST      104 (da)
      214 STORE_FAST      105 (db)
      216 STORE_FAST      106 (dc)
      218 STORE_FAST      107 (dd)
      220 STORE_FAST      108 (de)
      222 STORE_FAST      109 (df)
      224 STORE_FAST      110 (dg)
      226 STORE_FAST      111 (dh)
      228 STORE_FAST      112 (di)
      230 STORE_FAST      113 (dj)
      232 STORE_FAST      114 (dk)
      234 STORE_FAST      115 (dl)
      236 STORE_FAST      116 (dm)
      238 STORE_FAST      117 (dn)
      240 STORE_FAST      118 (do)
      242 STORE_FAST      119 (dp)
      244 STORE_FAST      120 (dq)
      246 STORE_FAST      121 (dr)
      248 STORE_FAST      122 (ds)
      250 STORE_FAST      123 (dt)
      252 STORE_FAST      124 (du)
      254 STORE_FAST      125 (dv)
      256 STORE_FAST      126 (dw)
      258 STORE_FAST      127 (dx)
      260 STORE_FAST      128 (dy)
      262 STORE_FAST      129 (dz)
      264 STORE_FAST      130 (ea)
      266 STORE_FAST      131 (eb)
      268 STORE_FAST      132 (ec)
      270 STORE_FAST      133 (ed)
      272 STORE_FAST      134 (ee)
      274 STORE_FAST      135 (ef)
      276 STORE_FAST      136 (eg)
      278 STORE_FAST      137 (eh)
      280 STORE_FAST      138 (ei)
      282 STORE_FAST      139 (ej)
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      302 STORE_FAST      149 (et)
      304 STORE_FAST      150 (eu)
      306 STORE_FAST      151 (ev)
      308 STORE_FAST      152 (ew)
      310 STORE_FAST      153 (ex)
      312 STORE_FAST      154 (ey)
      314 STORE_FAST      155 (ez)
      316 STORE_FAST      156 (fa)
      318 STORE_FAST      157 (fb)
      320 STORE_FAST      158 (fc)
      322 STORE_FAST      159 (fd)
      324 STORE_FAST      160 (fe)
      326 STORE_FAST      161 (ff)
      328 STORE_FAST      162 (fg)
      330 STORE_FAST      163 (fh)
      332 STORE_FAST      164 (fi)
      334 STORE_FAST      165 (fj)
      336 STORE_FAST      166 (fk)
      338 STORE_FAST      167 (fl)
      340 STORE_FAST      168 (fm)
      342 STORE_FAST      169 (fn)
      344 STORE_FAST      170 (fo)
      346 STORE_FAST      171 (fp)
      348 STORE_FAST      172 (fq)
      350 STORE_FAST      173 (fr)
      352 STORE_FAST      174 (fs)
      354 STORE_FAST      175 (ft)
      356 STORE_FAST      176 (fu)
      358 STORE_FAST      177 (fv)
      360 STORE_FAST      178 (fw)
      362 STORE_FAST      179 (fx)
      364 STORE_FAST      180 (fy)
      366 STORE_FAST      181 (fz)
      368 STORE_FAST      182 (ga)
      370 STORE_FAST      183 (gb)
      372 STORE_FAST      184 (gc)
      374 STORE_FAST      185 (gd)
      376 STORE_FAST      186 (ge)
      378 STORE_FAST      187 (gf)
      380 STORE_FAST      188 (gg)
      382 STORE_FAST      189 (gh)
      384 STORE_FAST      190 (gi)
      386 STORE_FAST      191 (gj)
      388 STORE_FAST      192 (gk)
      390 STORE_FAST      193 (gl)
      392 STORE_FAST      194 (gm)
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      396 STORE_FAST      196 (go)
      398 STORE_FAST      197 (gp)
      400 STORE_FAST      198 (gq)
      402 STORE_FAST      199 (gr)
      404 STORE_FAST      200 (gs)
      406 STORE_FAST      201 (gt)
      408 STORE_FAST      202 (gu)
      410 STORE_FAST      203 (gv)
      412 STORE_FAST      204 (gw)
      414 STORE_FAST      205 (gx)
      416 STORE_FAST      206 (gy)
      418 STORE_FAST      207 (gz)
      420 STORE_FAST      208 (ha)
      422 STORE_FAST      209 (hb)
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      454 STORE_FAST      225 (hr)
      456 STORE_FAST      226 (hs)
      458 STORE_FAST      227 (ht)
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      462 STORE_FAST      229 (hv)
      464 STORE_FAST      230 (hw)
      466 STORE_FAST      231 (hx)
      468 STORE_FAST      232 (hy)
      470 STORE_FAST      233 (hz)
      472 STORE_FAST      234 (ia)
      474 STORE_FAST      235 (ib)
      476 STORE_FAST      236 (ic)
      478 STORE_FAST      237 (id)
      480 STORE_FAST      238 (ie)
      482 STORE_FAST      239 (if)
      484 STORE_FAST      240 (ig)
      486 STORE_FAST      241 (ih)
      488 STORE_FAST      242 (ii)
      490 STORE_FAST      243 (ij)
      492 STORE_FAST      244 (ik)
      494 STORE_FAST      245 (il)
      496 STORE_FAST      246 (im)
      498 STORE_FAST      247 (in)
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      504 STORE_FAST      250 (iq)
      506 STORE_FAST      251 (ir)
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      512 STORE_FAST      254 (iu)
      514 STORE_FAST      255 (iv)
      516 STORE_FAST      256 (iw)
      518 STORE_FAST      257 (ix)
      520 STORE_FAST      258 (iy)
      522 STORE_FAST      259 (iz)
      524 STORE_FAST      26
```

Figure 11. Encoded strings

Given the very high level of obfuscation, an analysis is conducted to observe the dynamic activity performed by the malicious file when executed with the images.png parameter. This reveals that the malicious actors are able to perform remote command execution and, depending on their interests, carry out other illegitimate actions. At the end of the chain, this executable file establishes communication with a C2 server at IP: **107[.]178[.]110[.]167**.

Process Name	Process ID	Protocol	State	Local Address	Local Port	Remote Address	Remote Port	Create Time	Module Name	Sent Pa
svchost.exe	5752	TCP	Established	192.168.201.20	50102	107.178.110.167	56001	9/29/2025 10:59:00 AM	svchost.exe	

Figure 12. IP Command And Control

## MITRE ATT&CK

Reconnaissance	Resource Development	Initial Access	Execution	Persistence	Privilege Escalation	Defense Evasion	Credential Access	Discovery	Lateral Movement	Collection	Command and Control	Exfiltration	Impact
Gather Victim Identity Information	Acquire Infrastructure	Valid Accounts	1 Windows Management Instrumentation	1 Registry Run Keys / Startup Folder	2 1 1 1 Process Injection	1 1 Masquerading	1 OS Credential Dumping	1 Security Software Discovery	Remote Services	1 Email Collection	2 Encrypted Channel	Exfiltration Over Other Network Medium	1 Data Encrypted for Impact
Credentials	Domains	Default Accounts	1 Command and Scripting Interpreter	1 DLL Side-Loading	1 Abuse Elevation Control Mechanism	1 Disable or Modify Tools	LSASS Memory	1 Query Registry	Remote Desktop Protocol	2 Data from Local System	1 Remote Access Software	Exfiltration Over Bluetooth	Network Denial of Service
Email Addresses	DNS Server	Domain Accounts	At	Logon Script (Windows)	1 Registry Run Keys / Startup Folder	2 1 1 Process Injection	Security Account Manager	1 Process Discovery	SMB/Windows Admin Shares	Data from Network Shared Drive	1 Non-Application Layer Protocol	Automated Exfiltration	Data Encrypted for Impact
Employee Names	Virtual Private Server	Local Accounts	Cron	Login Hook	1 DLL Side-Loading	1 Abuse Elevation Control Mechanism	NTDS	2 File and Directory Discovery	Distributed Component Object Model	Input Capture	2 Application Layer Protocol	Traffic Duplication	Data Destruction
Gather Victim Network Information	Server	Cloud Accounts	Launchd	Network Logon Script	Network Logon Script	1 Rundll32	LSA Secrets	1 4 System Information Discovery	SSH	Keylogging	Fallback Channels	Scheduled Transfer	Data Encrypted for Impact
Domain Properties	Botnet	Replication Through Removable Media	Scheduled Task	RC Scripts	RC Scripts	1 DLL Side-Loading	Cached Domain Credentials	Wi-Fi Discovery	VNC	GUI Input Capture	Multiband Communication	Data Transfer Size Limits	Service Stop

## Indicators of Compromise IoCs

Dokumenti përmban përmbajtje që shkel të drejtat e autorit.zip	341BA8A556F4AC503AB23D9E5D2114261AFD24AED332F2E404705B522AFD5998
AppvIsvSubsystems64.dll	653F1B0F2B4C711B46016C268FB985D82528BB4240E202BE9640F31A0E6217B8
Images.png	A5B19195F61925EDE76254AAAD942E978464E93C7922ED6F064FAB5AAD901EFC
C2	107[.]178[.]110[.]167

## Recommendations

### National Cyber Security Authority recommends:

- Immediate blocking of the Indicators of Compromise (IoCs) mentioned above on your protective devices.
- Continuous analysis of logs coming from the SIEM (Security Information and Event Management) system.
- Training of non-technical staff on phishing attacks and how to avoid infection from them.
- Installation of network perimeter devices that perform deep traffic analysis, relying not only on access control lists but also on traffic behavior (Next-Generation Firewalls).
- Segmentation of critical systems into different VLANs, applying access control lists across the entire network perimeter. Web services should be separated from their databases, and Active Directory should be placed in a separate VLAN.
- Implementation and use of LAPS (Local Administrator Password Solution) for Microsoft systems to manage local administrator passwords.
- Application of traffic filters in cases of remote access to hosts (employees/third parties/clients).
- Implementation of solutions that filter, monitor, and block malicious traffic between web applications and the internet, such as a Web Application Firewall (WAF).
- Behavior-based traffic analysis for endpoint devices, through the use of EDR/XDR solutions. This enables detection of malicious files not only by signature but also by behavior.
- Design and implementation of an Identity Access Management (IAM) solution to control user identities and privileges in real time, based on the “zero-trust” principle.