Duqu– Threat Research and Analysis

McAfee Labs

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Agenda

- Stuxnet Overvieew
- Duqu Review-Current Intelligence, comparisons with Stuxnet,
- Best Practice recommendations
- Q&A

High Level Overview

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- The executables share injection code with the Stuxnet worm and they were compiled after the last Stuxnet sample was recovered.
- The structure of Duqu is very similar to Stuxnet (uses of PE resources)
- There is no ICS specific attack code in Duqu.
- The primary infection vector for Duqu deployment has not yet been discovered/recovered (Duqu does not self-replicate or spread on its own)
- The infected organizations appear to be limited
- No known targeting of energy sector companies.
- The malware employed a valid digital certificate (revoked as of 14 OCT 2011)
- The malware is designed to self-delete after 36 days
- The known Command and Control server was hosted in India.

The First Industrial Control System Attack

A brief history of Control System Attacks

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- DOS/Boot viruses change BIOS password settings, battery needs to be removed
- CIH virus overwrites flash-ROM, motherboard needs replacement
- Worms got faster than update and patch deployment, targeting vulnerabilities, often zero-Days
- Worms caused major DoS attacks

  (… Nuclear Power plants' safety monitoring system was disabled by Slammer)
- Blaster worm is a contributor to a major blackout
- Stuxnet combines 4 zero-day vulnerabilities with ICS knowledge to target an industrial process
- US Predator Drone Center gets infected with malware
- Duqu (by Stuxnet team) is used for targeted attacks in (UK, IRAN, US)

Stuxnet worm developed from November 2007

Exploits "Zero Days" vulnerabilities

- MS10-046 (LNK Vulnerability – Used by Zlob in 2008)
- MS08-067 (Server Service)
- MS10-061 (Print Spooler – Hackin9 magazine 2009)
- MS10-073 (Kbd Privilege Escalation)
- WinCC DBMS Password (hardcoded)

+ Stolen certificates (Realtek, JMicron)
+ ROP techniques in Exploits

Infection

- USB, Local Network, Siemens Step7/MC7
- Network Infection
- C&C operation (Weak! Mypremierfutbol.com, todaysfutbol.com)
- Anti Behavioral Blocking, avoids anti-virus detection
- Rootkit:
  - User mode hooks to hide files from Explorer – Total\Windows Commander(!)
  - User mode DLL replacement for Step7 (PLC Rootkit)
    - s7otbxdl.dll forwards to s7otbxsx.dll (except for 16 functions related to block Read/Write)
  - Filter driver to hide USB content

USB User Mode Rootkit: Hooks APIs, than Sends F5 (Refresh) also Deactivates/Reactivates Total Commander (and “Windows Commander”)

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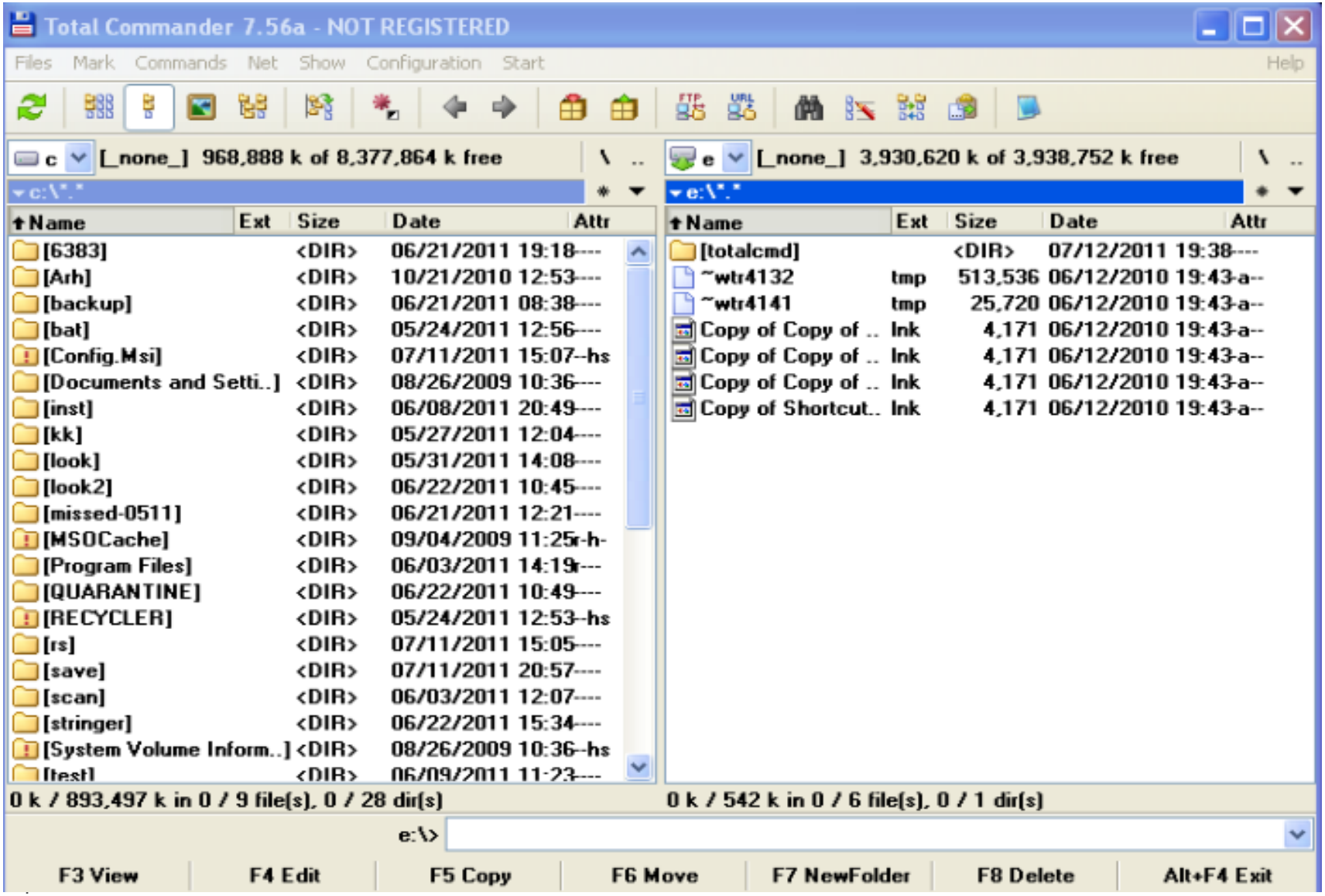

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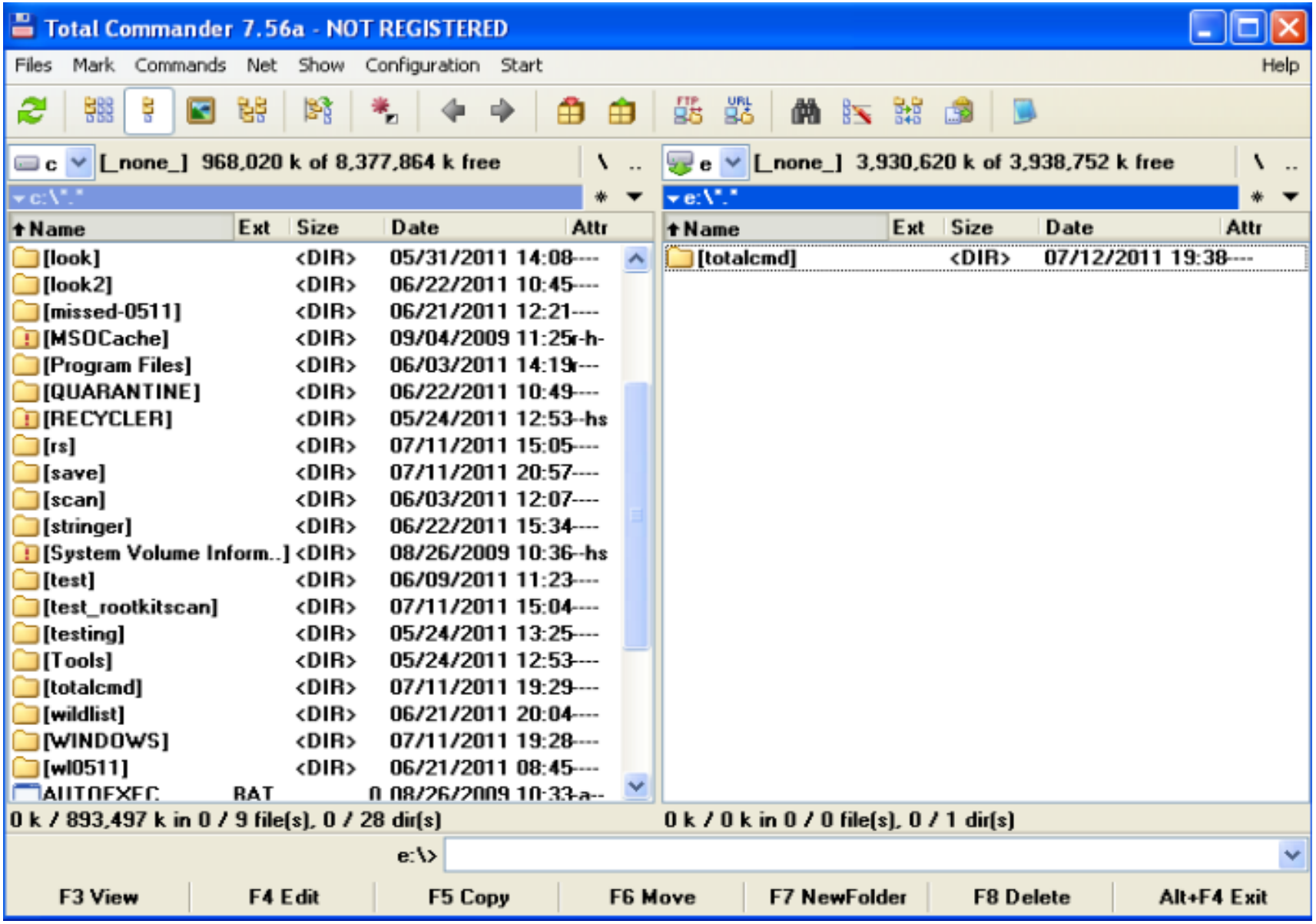
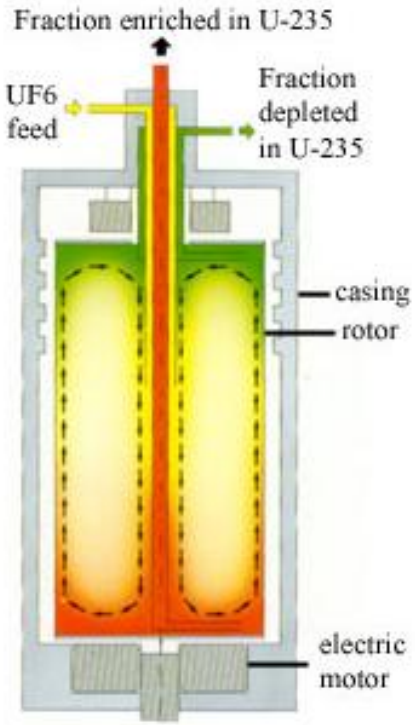
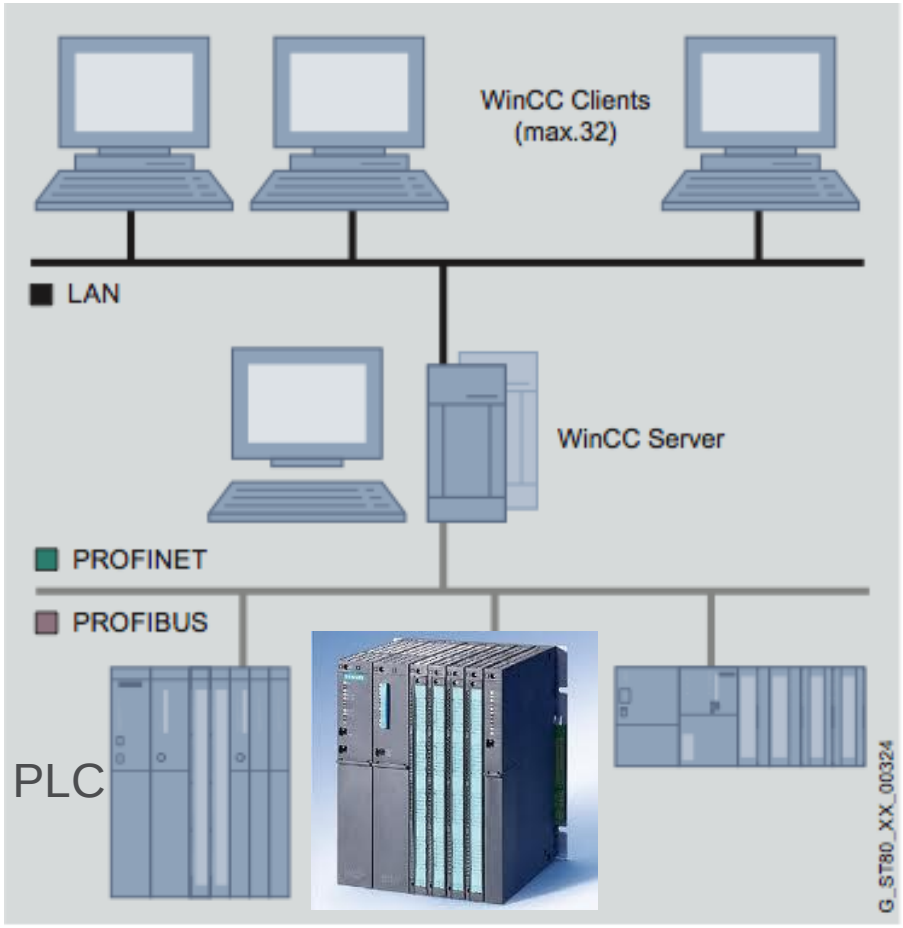


The Target: - PLC CPUs 6ES7-417, 6ES7-315-2
At least 33 Frequency Converters, Operating between 807Hz and 1,210Hz.



Cascaded Centrifuges

Vacon + Local Iranian



WinCC multi-user system

September, October 2011: Duqu

- Targeted attacks have been observed in Iran, England and US
- Other reports: Austria, Hungary, Indonesia
- C&C Server in India

Duqu and Stuxnet

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- Several similarities have been observed at the code level which led us to believe Duqu was based on the same source code as Stuxnet

Feature	Duqu	Stuxnet
Composed of multiple modules	Yes	Yes
Rootkit to hide its activities	Yes	Yes
System driver is digitally signed	Yes (C-Media)	Yes (Realtek, JMicron)
System driver decrypts secondary modules in PNF files	Yes	Yes
Decrypted DLLs are directly injected into system processes instead of dropped to disk	Yes	Yes
Date sensitive: functionality is controlled via complex, encrypted configuration file	Yes (36 days)	Yes
Use XOR based encryption for strings	Yes (key: 0xAE1979DD)	Yes (key: 0xAE1979DD)
Referencing 05.09.1979 in configuration file (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Habib_Elghanian)	Yes (0xAE790509)	Yes (0xAE790509)
New update modules via C&C	Yes (keylogger)	Yes
Known Module to control PLC/SCADA systems	No	Yes

Duqu and Stuxnet (Code Graph Comparison)

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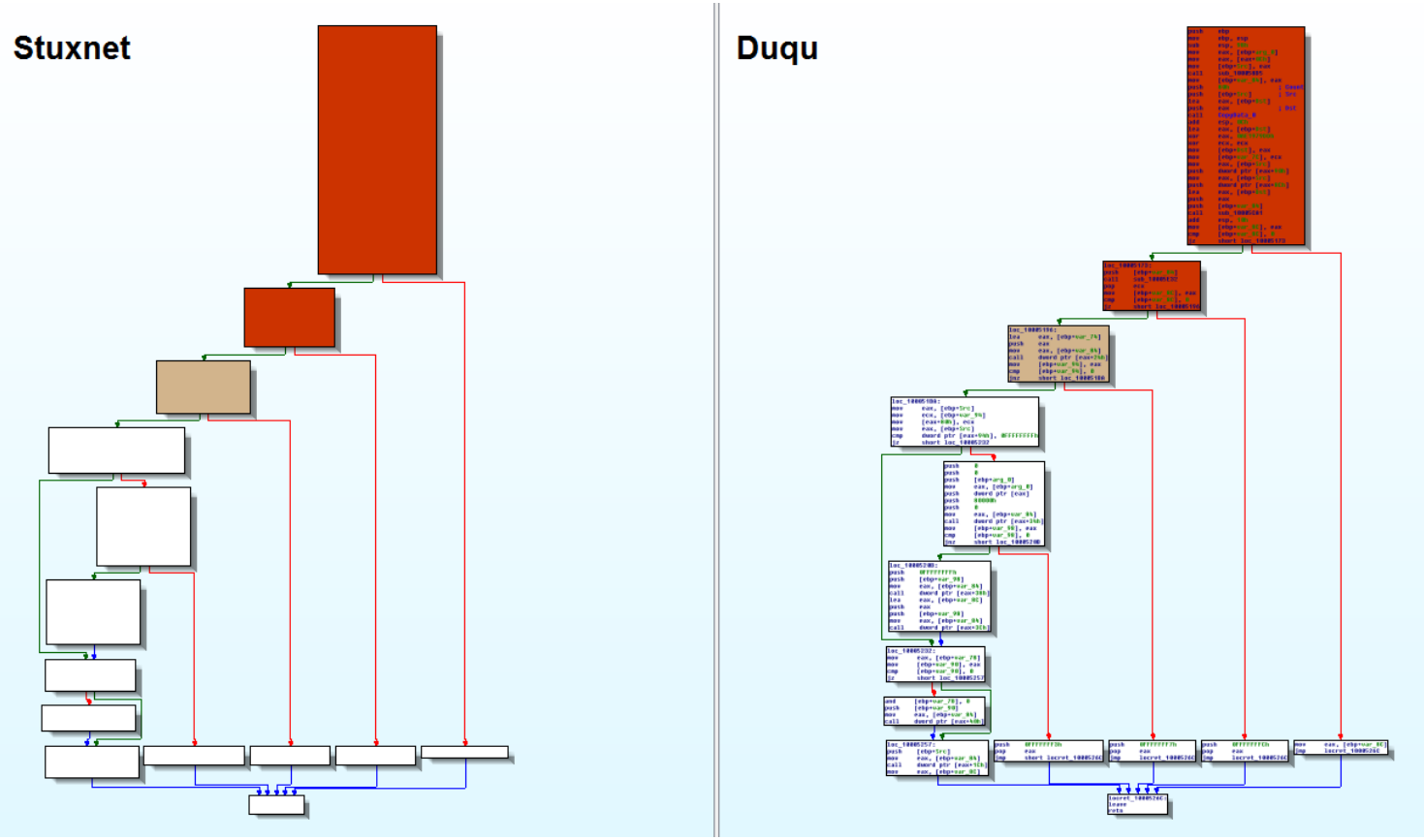
- DLL Injection code



Duqu and Stuxnet: Code Comparison

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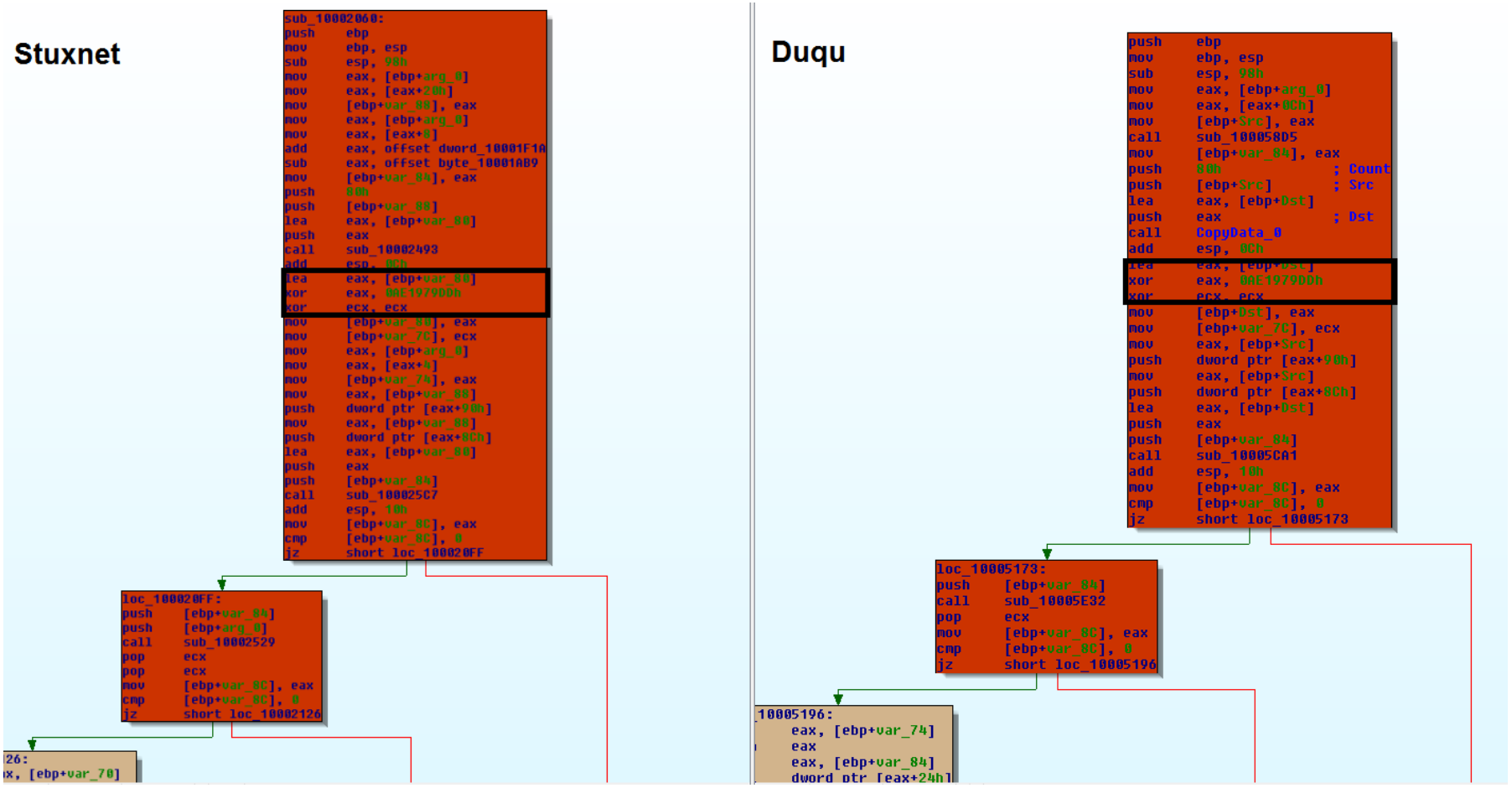
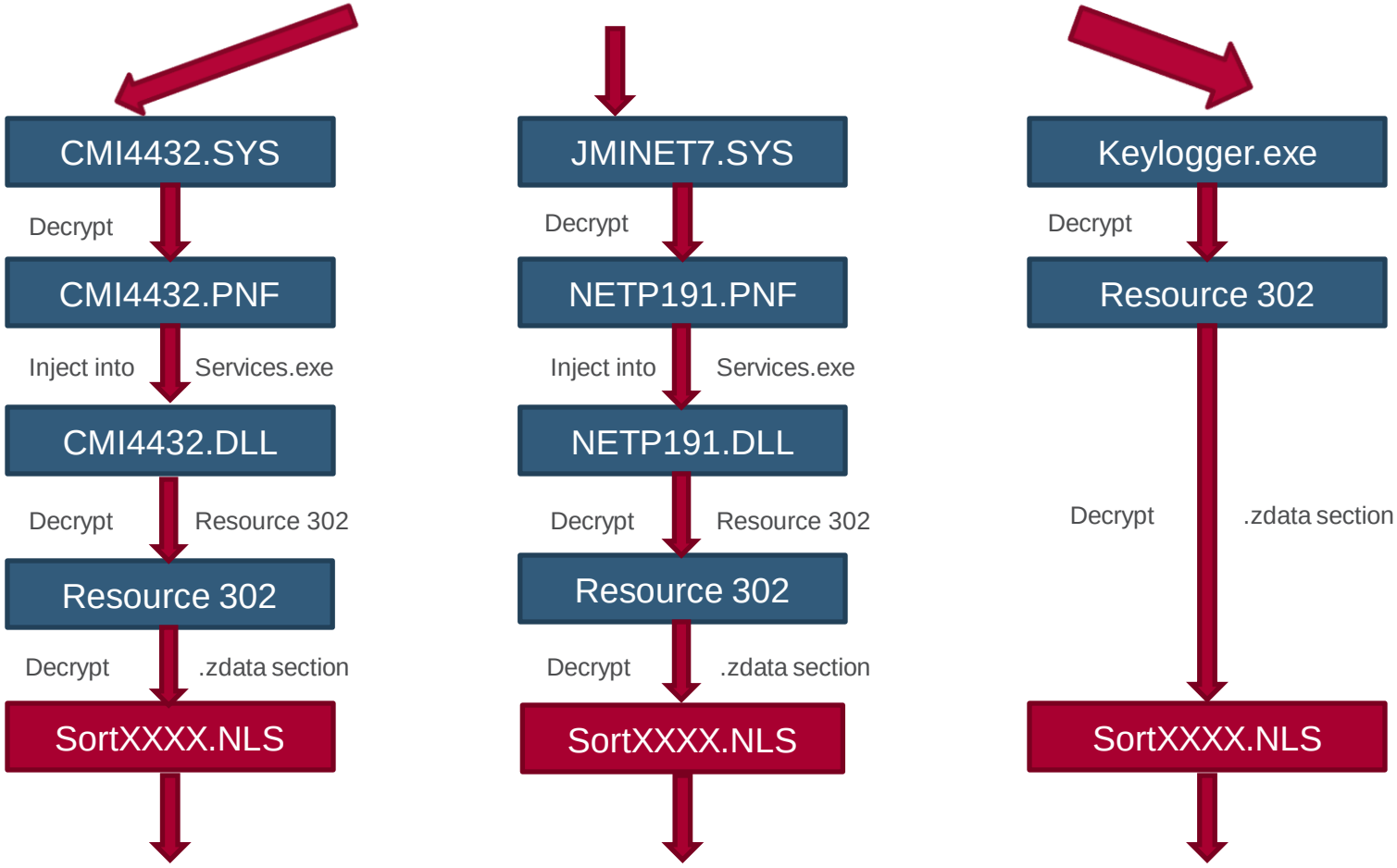
- DLL Injection code

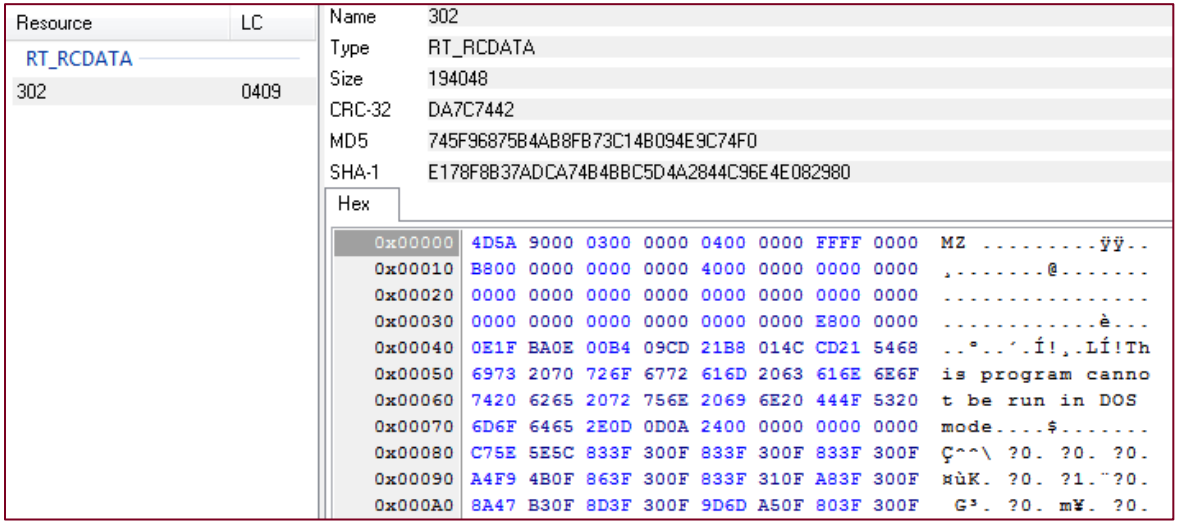


Duqu module relationship



Duqu Main Module

- The two variants of .SYS files are responsible for restarting the malware
- .SYS filenames mimic Jmicron and C-Media driver file names
- Jmicron mimic file is not signed, and it is the earlier variant
- Drivers are loaded at time of “Network group load”
- They decrypt the PNF files and inject the resulting DLL into Services.exe, etc
  - Anti-firewall feature, Anti-BB feature
- This DLL is responsible for decrypting the payload module from its resource section. The resource Id is the same for all modules: 302
- The payload module is directly injected into running processes using the same method as Stuxnet
- The DLL implement rootkit methods to hide this payload from user’s view



Duqu Keylogger

The Keylogger component is a standalone module. It was delivered via C&C Server to target after the initial infection.

It uses the same decryption routines as the other modules. It is capable of collecting different types of information from the target machine:

- Keystroke data
- Machine information (OS version, patches, machine name, users, etc)
- Process list
- Network information
- List shared folders
- List machines on the same network
- Screen shots

The Keylogger accepts command line parameter commands, and only works if the parameter “xxx” is the first parameter passed

Duqu Keylogger: Example of captured sensitive data

Duqu Network Activities

Once the DLL module is started, the known variants will try to contact the command and control server at the address below on tcp ports 80 and 443 (http/https)

- 206.183.111.97 (India)

The request may look like the one below:

```
GET / HTTP/1.1
Cookie: PHPSESSID=o5ukre1ul0q6i2il1ij3ghi0j1
Cache-Control: no-cache
Pragma: no-cache
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows; U; Windows NT 6.0; en-US;
rv:1.9.2.9) Gecko/20100824 Firefox/3.6.9 (.NET CLR 3.5.30729)
Host: x.x.x.x
```

The PHPSESSID is an encrypted message sent to the command and control server.

The User-Agent is hardcoded and may be used to identify machines infected with this malware.

Jmicron Certificate valid from 06/2009- Used to sign Stuxnet driver

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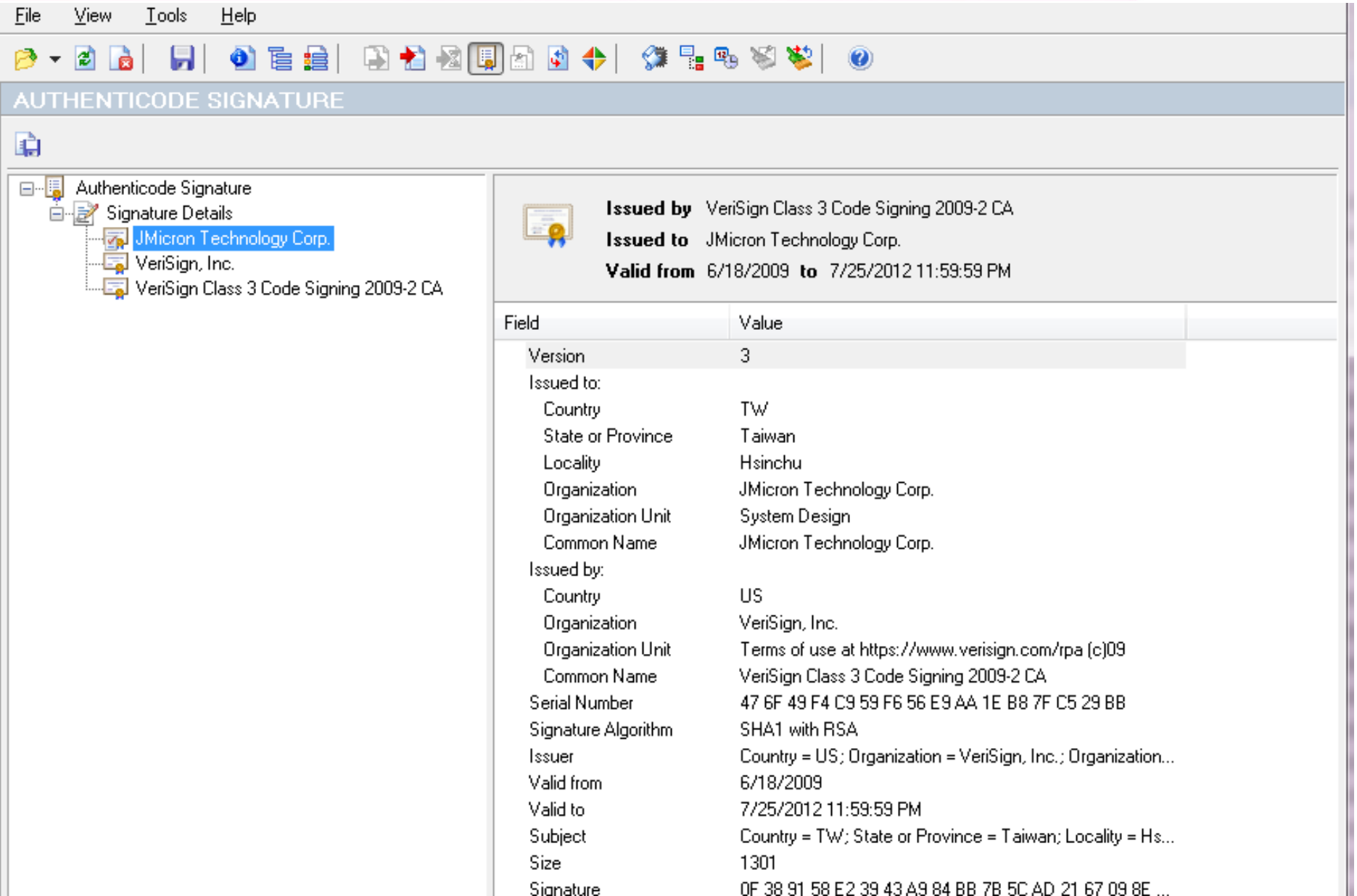

C-Media's Certificate valid from 08/03/2009- (used to sign one of the known variants of Duqu)

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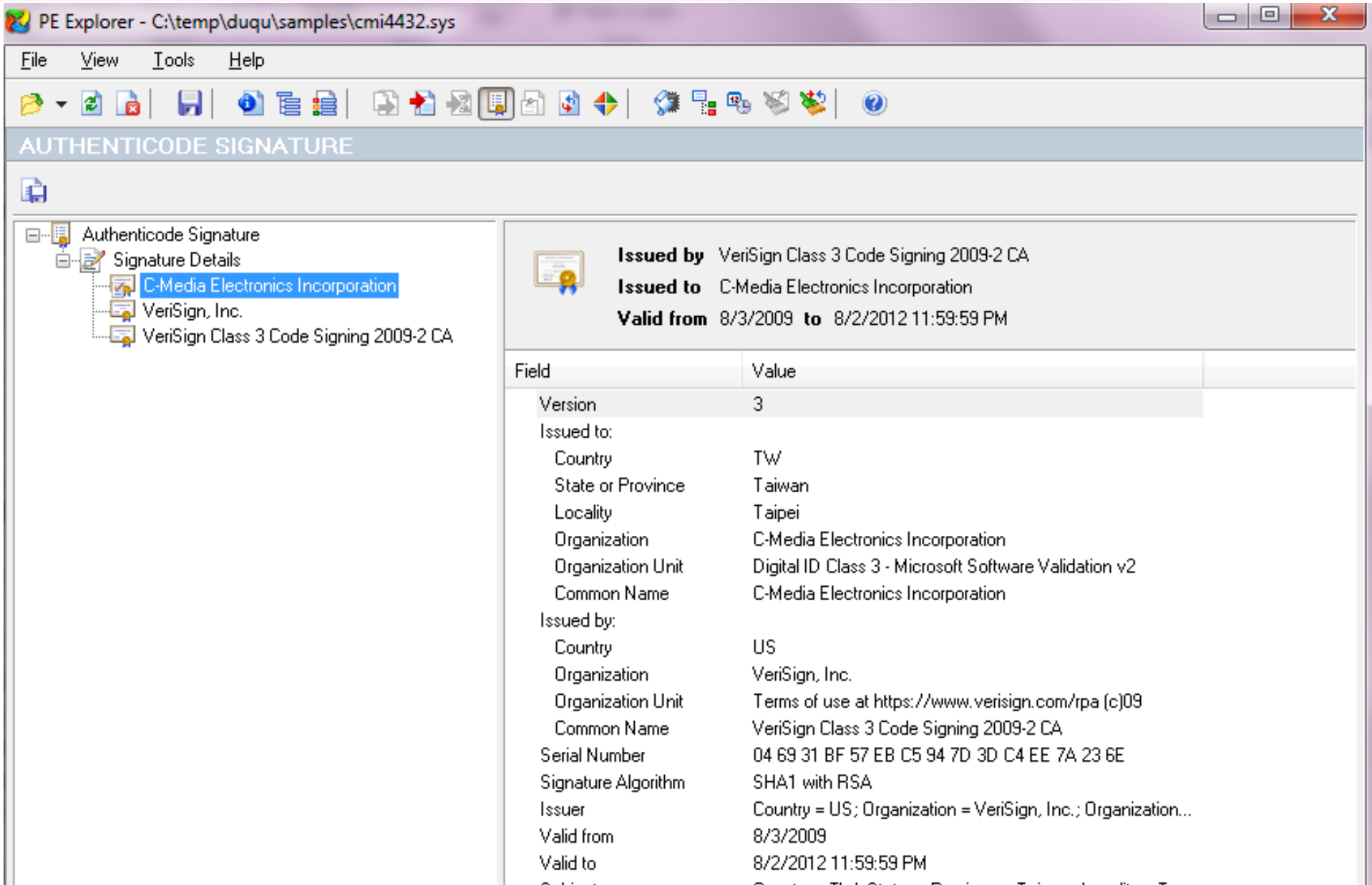

NGC 6745 – JPG picture referenced in Duqu

Best Practices Against Duqu

- AV Signatures
- Application Whitelisting
- DeepSafe- McAfee/Intel techology targeting rootkits

Acknowledgments – Further Reading

- McAfee Labs Blogs
- Personal communication: Rob Meyers, Liam O Murchu, Guilherme Venere and Stuart McClure
- McAfee Threats Report
- Symantec Stuxnet File / Symantec Internet Security Threat Report
- Ralph Langner on Stuxnet
- Krebs on Security Blog
- “The Art of Computer Virus Research and Defense”