

Malware hunting with Yara in mwdb.cert.pl

Jarosław Jedynak

11th CSIRTs Network Meeting
2020-06-04



Agenda

- **Who** am I
- **What** is mwdb
 - **Why** is mwdb
- **What** is mquery
 - **Why** is mquery
- **How** to use them together



\$ whoami

- Jarosław Jedynak
 - Analysis of Current Threats Team @ **CERT.PL**
 - **Malware analyst** and software developer
-
- Long time mwdb user, and backend developer
 - Main developer and maintainer of mquery

Agenda

- ✓ ~~Who~~ am I
- **What** is mwdb
 - **Why** is mwdb
- **What** is mquery
 - **Why** is mquery
- **How** to use them
 - Real-world case studies



What

What is mwdb

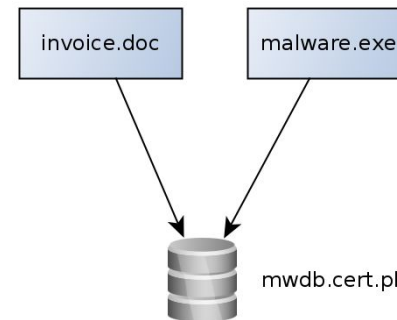
- Malware database



mwdb.cert.pl

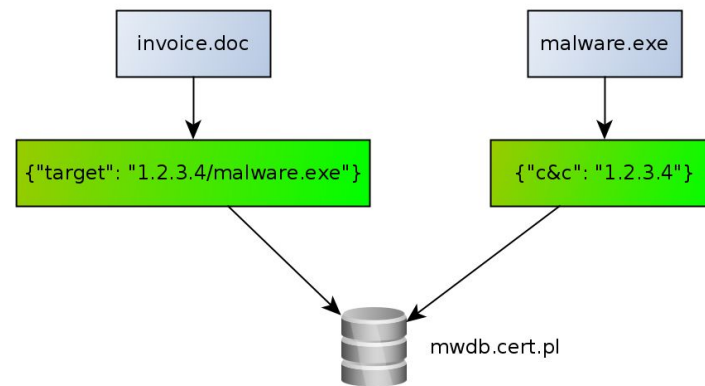
What is mwdb

- **Malware database**
- Repository for files analysed by us



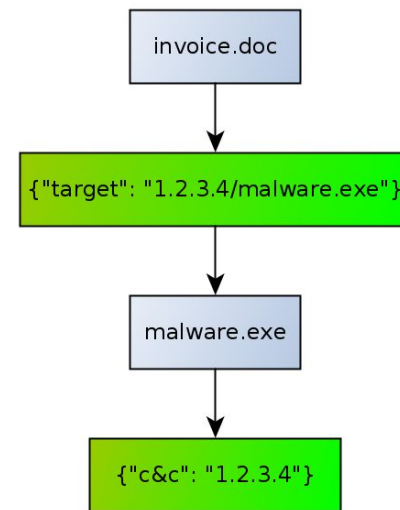
What is mwdb

- **Malware database**
- Repository for files analysed by us
- With extracted configs



What is mwdb

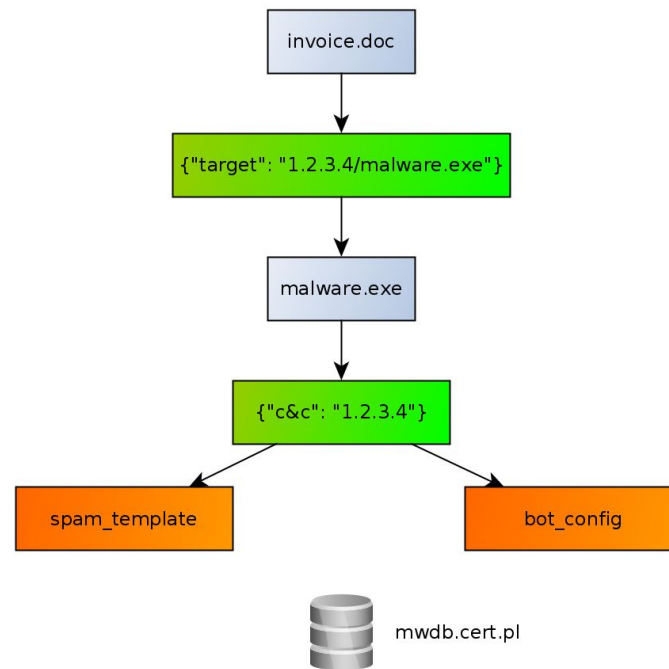
- **Malware database**
- Repository for files analysed by us
- With extracted configs
- With parent-child relations



mwdb.cert.pl

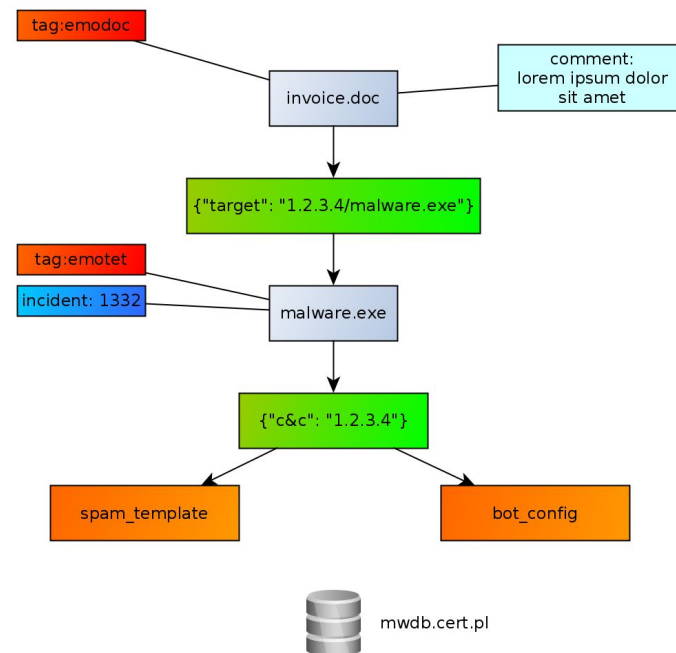
What is mwdb

- **Malware database**
- Repository for files analysed by us
- With extracted configs
- With parent-child relations
- With additional unstructured data



What is mwdb

- **Malware database**
- Repository for files analysed by us
- With extracted configs
- With parent-child relations
- With additional unstructured data
- With tags, comments and metadata









What is mwdb

- Malware database
- Repository for files analysed by us
- With extracted configs
- With parent-child relations
- With additional unstructured data
- With tags, comments and metadata
- Queryable (Lucene syntax)

CERT.PL > Recent samples Recent configs Recent blobs Upload Yara search Admin Search

X tag:"isfb" AND name: "*.bin"

Quick query: Only uploaded by me Exclude public Exclude feeds Only ripped

Name	Hash
 Name: 20200602_groupID_4013_payloa... Size: 171024	6a344624d71cf82bb06c336e17648539 5973331a588cd175848f5e221ad82d10c949763d30937461027486 aa022d7cad
 Name: older_00020000.bin Size: 42496	a060fa65e3a2229d1f9f9478a52a6e01 886ccd8f20f114d53b477a65be0928d7e4569559c28a44a94e76e9 974a75a0a8
 Name: bear_00140000.bin Size: 45568	d31b1bdc2519751d23da62564de07fd8 3d62e47c1dafedaa10b9f11e8504e2545c509cc606350c6eee91fa b53489a4f3
 Name: 7530a5e7f358895130c8d99239... Size: 45568	eabc15c13d1e5ece325c704e89d5346a 7530a5e7f358895130c8d99239e6bb476723286f4a71af986be340 9357481f3ce
 Name: dropped.bin Size: 200000	e344aa9f2b84634b1d91c368d7289ec4 43123ae437633752168b2ea197a0bf44eb9c345288de6615ba313 639e04e391
 Name: ldr_001E0000.bin Size: 44544	cf28f013b8b5845d1d96425e5021f9bd da2c4b49fe5a4f78c89c3fd65af6b3b55710130e44b44072292bec 4fa02ee33d









What is mwddb

CERT.PL > Recent samples Recent configs Recent blobs Upload Yara search Admin* Search Statistics About*

Logged as: msm [Profile](#) [Logout](#)

X Search (Lucene query or hash)... [Search](#) ?

Quick query: [Only updated by me](#) [Exclude public](#) [Exclude feeds](#) [Only feeds*](#)

Name	Hash	File type	Tags	Creation Time
 Name: 339410_0014297256_JED_00139... Size: 10834	194e4196875b4d77f0e6527c13533695 5abf6b135aeeba306efaf010797b955b a85580d5eeecf6c71b13c87f9c1a22f	Rich Text Format data, unknown version	document:win32:rtf feed:spam	Mon, 01 Jun 2020 18:53:01 GMT
 Name: Host_WTDRIUh117.bin Size: 151616	3cf021e4d17c9e370aec9b9905b31da ec92fa63086e7c991af4c08f7b7b382f d6308067be395a42ebe3b890e4e728c9	data	feed:urlhaus urlhaus:encrypted urlhaus:guloader	Mon, 01 Jun 2020 18:42:05 GMT
 Name: Host_SsDkeblSIV45.bin Size: 164416	d4640e760e91173c9e9ce00291e54241 843408c230f7608f2044e39af9f16e6 5c3028a51c2c220c24820d408211afb2	data	feed:urlhaus urlhaus:encrypted urlhaus:guloader	Mon, 01 Jun 2020 18:41:41 GMT
 Name: uc Size: 40709	07ecf0ec4c3948ad48e2f0f35f3d7d59 e253e5b92ce0575372cad8e19a451b726 e0fcfc4a8f45cf658b21928e523e9bb6	PE32 executable (GUI) Intel 80386 Mono/.Net as...	guloader_drop runnable:win32:exe	Mon, 01 Jun 2020 18:29:15 GMT
 Name: 80000_40aefaba17ad2e8f Size: 184320	195c44f67601c7b197aae29c7ab80 40aefaba17ad2e8f170a93d686136a73 bf7b051e67f78b1c9f56b120a0db2747	data	dump:win32:exe formbook	Mon, 01 Jun 2020 18:22:33 GMT
 Name: silk.dll Size: 662528	0376547617b35cd1c02de20c690c8bfe d896054df1e0325da674bf2335ae3be6 1261aeea904cd39edd7b29aa63d0059a	PE32 executable (DLL) (GUI) Intel 80386, for MS ...	ripped:zloader runnable:win32:dll yara:win_zloader	Mon, 01 Jun 2020 18:18:34 GMT
 Name: vbc.exe Size: 326656	8517c99744b43646ba22f7452a140997 b39a215a209c492ec94f6da67af44090 8c8a8c2239a37bbc1204538341823d88	PE32 executable (GUI) Intel 80386, for MS Windo...	st:formbook feed:urlhaus ripped:formbook runnable:win32:exe urlhaus:exe yara:win_formbook	Mon, 01 Jun 2020 18:12:21 GMT
 Name: 7fc83d10813a8dfc12ebad48bd0... Size: 217088	696c37a4ca7c9ab39eb91b8e27562a0d 7fc83d10813a8dfc12ebad48bd0928ed aabb48c40be56bd78fd412dae11b613	PE32+ executable (DLL) (GUI) x86-64, for MS Wi...	runnable:win64:dll	Mon, 01 Jun 2020 18:02:55 GMT

What is mwdb

CERT.PL > Recent samples Recent configs Recent blobs Upload Yara search Admin Search Statistics About

Checking status...

Config f575ed85baaeefb1a49ec77322e97d30fad67f8be45acb3fea86b8cad0c6ef4

Details Relations Preview Download

```
1 {
2   "compilation_date": "May 12 2020",
3   "public_key": {
4     "n": "1175237018881823423436793298488545954285416634023708766200643432212311718869457764840384018178640301799461863
5       4701561673771068638661466408611383826900169189",
6     "e": 65537
7   },
8   "ip_service": "curlmyip.net",
9   "domains": [
10    {
11      "cnc": "mcc.avast.com"
12    },
13    {
14      "cnc": "s1glamouristlrbwerty.abkhazia.su"
15    },
16    {
17      "cnc": "ruggimbalsbwerty.abkhazia.su"
18    },
19    {
20      "cnc": "sinantikobwerty.chimkent.su"
21    }
22  ]
23 }
```

What is mwdb

Tags	
No tags to display	
Add tag	Add
Related samples	
parent	5973331a588cd175848f5e221ad82d10c949763d30937461027486aa022d7cad isfb ripped:isfb runnable:win32:dll yara:win_isfb
Attributes + Add	
Karton analysis	✓ done 559bb991-c19a-4940-9018-33196f0ff509 ▾
tracker	16551
Comments	
No comments to display	
Say something...	Post

Why not MISP? 🤔

How is it different than MISP? 🤔

How is it different than MISP? 🤔

MISP

- Malware Information Sharing Platform

MWDB

- Malware Database

How is it different than MISP? 🤔

MISP

- ~~Malware~~ General-purpose Information Sharing Platform

MWDB

- Malware Database

How is it different than MISP? 🤔

MISP

- ~~Malware~~ General-purpose Information Sharing Platform
- Share indicators with other teams

MWDB

- Malware Database
- Frontend for our analytic system

How is it different than MISP? 🤔

MISP

- ~~Malware~~ General-purpose Information Sharing Platform
- Share indicators with other teams

MWDB

- Malware Database
- Frontend for our analytic system (but also a sharing platform 🙄)

How is it different than MISP? 🤔

MISP

- ~~Malware~~ General-purpose Information Sharing Platform
- Share indicators with other teams
- Open Source

MWDB

- Malware Database
- Frontend for our analytic system (but also a sharing platform 🙄)
- **Not** Open Source yet

How is it different than MISP? 🤔

MISP

- ~~Malware~~ General-purpose Information Sharing Platform
- Share indicators with other teams
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MWDB

- Malware Database
- Frontend for our analytic system (but also a sharing platform 🙄)
- **Not** Open Source yet (release of v2 next month!)

How is it different than MISP? 🤔

MISP

- ~~Malware~~ General-purpose Information Sharing Platform
- Share indicators with other teams
- Open Source

MWDB

- Malware Database
- Frontend for our analytic system (but also a sharing platform 🙄)
- **Not** Open Source yet (release of v2 next month!)
- But you can use our instance!

How is it different than MISP? 🤔

MISP

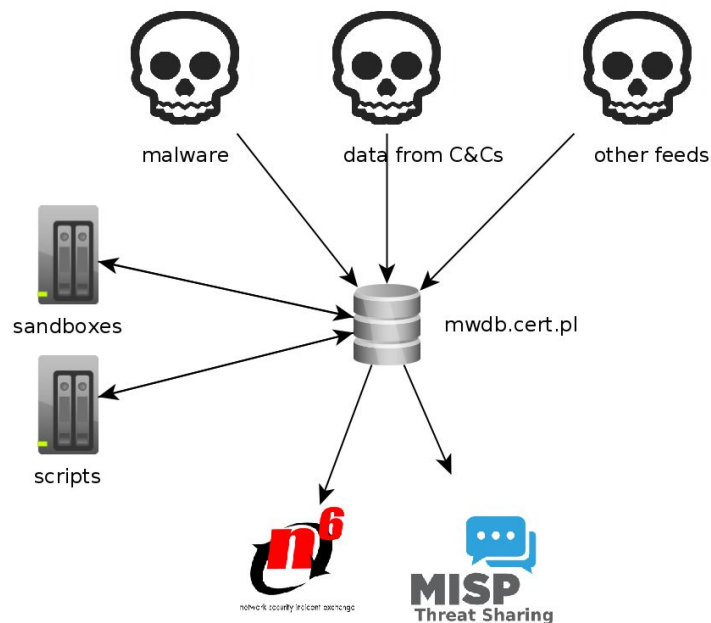
- ~~Malware~~ General-purpose Information Sharing Platform
- Share individual indicators
- Open Source

MWDB

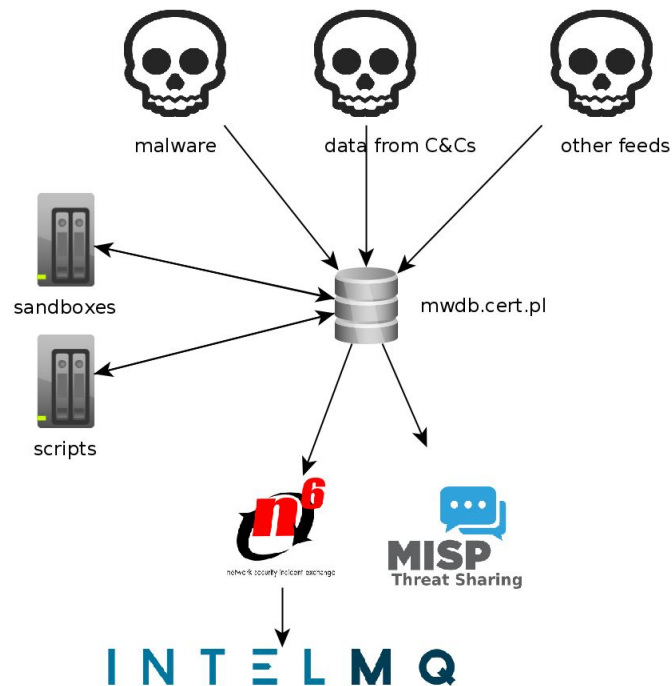
- Malware Database
- Analytic system platform (ツ)
- Not Open Source yet (release of v2 next month!)
- But you can use our instance!

Verdict: Despite all the similarities, not directly competing solutions

How is it different than MISP



How is it different than MISP



How can I access it?

CERT.PL >_ [Register user](#) [About](#) ▾

Register user

Provided data are needed for vetting process. Keep in mind that all submissions are reviewed manually, so the approval process can take a few days. Before filling this form, make sure you have read our [Terms of use](#).

Login

Login must contain only letters, digits, '_' and '-' characters, max 32 characters allowed.

Business e-mail

Additional information:

Affiliation

Provide name of company or university

Job Title

Provide your job title

Access for **all CNW teams**, request an account <https://mwdb.cert.pl/register>

Agenda

- ✓ ~~Who~~ am I
- ✓ ~~What~~ is mwdb
 - ✓ ~~Why~~ is mwdb
- **What** is mquery
 - **Why** is mquery
- **How** to use them
 - Real-world case studies



What is mquery

~~What~~ **Why** is mquery

- The next logical step after mwdb

~~What~~ **Why** is mquery

- The next logical step after mwdb
- We have a huge collection of samples but no efficient way to query them for content

What is mquery

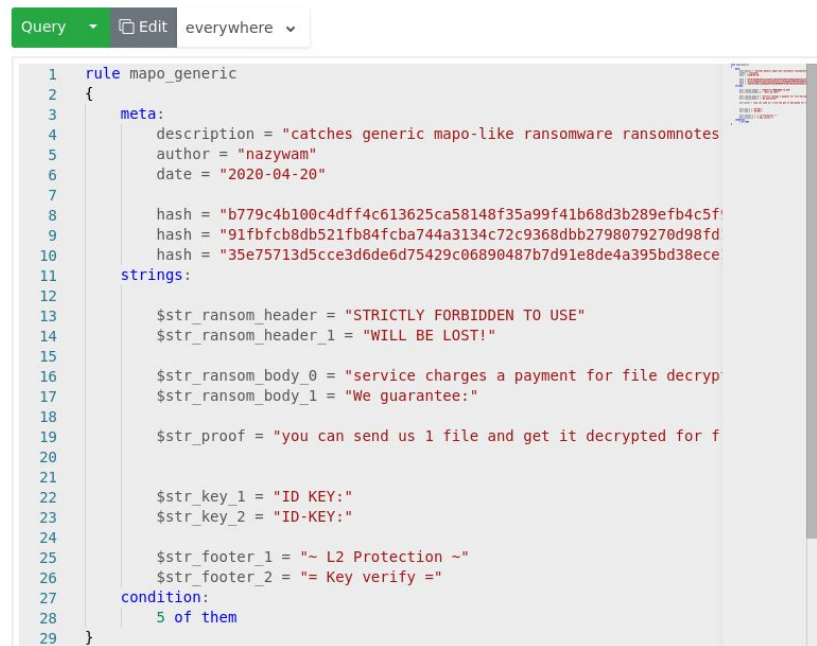
- The next logical step after mwdb
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mquery

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mquery



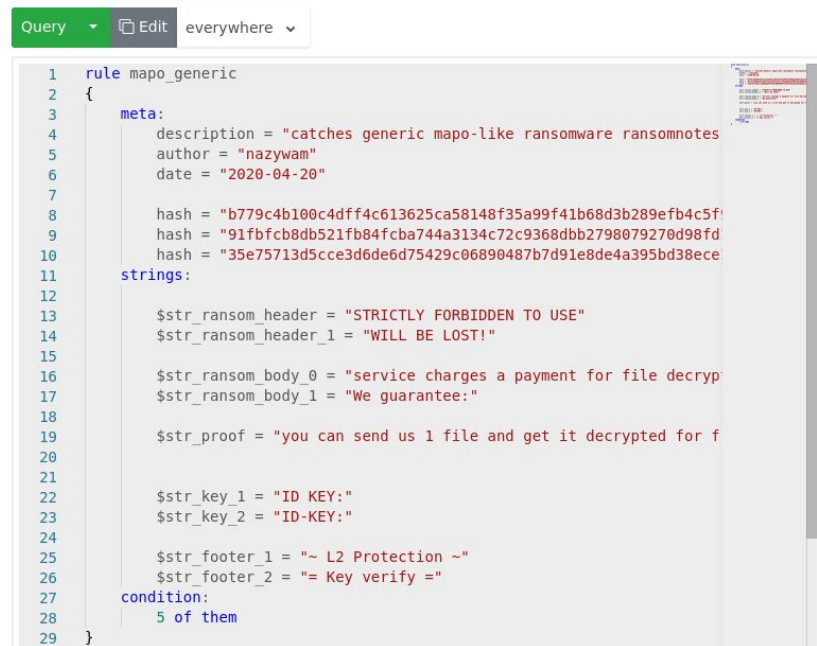
```
Query Edit everywhere
1 rule mapo_generic
2 {
3   meta:
4     description = "catches generic mapo-like ransomware ransomnotes"
5     author = "nazywam"
6     date = "2020-04-20"
7
8     hash = "b779c4b100c4dff4c613625ca58148f35a99f41b68d3b289efb4c5f1"
9     hash = "91fbfcb8db521fb84fcb4744a3134c72c9368dbb2798079270d98fd"
10    hash = "35e75713d5cce3d6de6d75429c06890487b7d91e8de4a395bd38ece"
11   strings:
12
13     $str_ransom_header = "STRICTLY FORBIDDEN TO USE"
14     $str_ransom_header_1 = "WILL BE LOST!"
15
16     $str_ransom_body_0 = "service charges a payment for file decrypt"
17     $str_ransom_body_1 = "We guarantee:"
18
19     $str_proof = "you can send us 1 file and get it decrypted for f"
20
21
22     $str_key_1 = "ID KEY:"
23     $str_key_2 = "ID-KEY:"
24
25     $str_footer_1 = "~ L2 Protection ~"
26     $str_footer_2 = "= Key verify ="
27   condition:
28     5 of them
29 }
```

What is mquery

- The next logical step after mwdb
- We have a huge collection of samples but no efficient way to query them for content

mquery

For so-called malware hunting



```
Query Edit everywhere
1 rule mapo_generic
2 {
3   meta:
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5     author = "nazywam"
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7
8     hash = "b779c4b100c4dff4c613625ca58148f35a99f41b68d3b289efb4c5f!"
9     hash = "91fbfcb8db521fb84fcb4744a3134c72c9368dbb2798079270d98fd"
10    hash = "35e75713d5cce3d6de6d75429c06890487b7d91e8de4a395bd38ece"
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What is mquery

CERT.PL > Query Recent jobs Config Status API Docs

Query Edit everywhere v

```

1 rule mapo_generic
2 {
3   meta:
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5     author = "nazywam"
6     date = "2020-04-20"
7
8     hash = "b779c4b100c4dff4c613625ca58148f35a99f4"
9     hash = "91fbfcb8db521fb84fcb744a3134c72c9368d"
10    hash = "35e75713d5cce3d6de6d75429c06890487b7d9"
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```

Hide query 100%

Matches: 13 Status: done Processed: 13 / 13 Duration: 38s

Matches v

b779c4b100c4dff4c613625ca58148f35a99f41b68d3b289efb4c5f98711370d
 b779c4b100c4dff4c613625ca58148f35a99f41b68d3b289efb4c5f98711370d mapo_generic misc:ascii mwdb

0f728ff1befb8f2dc04bfb2ff96129744cc26e76d044f01e8ffb66ab584ba1b1
 0f728ff1befb8f2dc04bfb2ff96129744cc26e76d044f01e8ffb66ab584ba1b1 mapo_generic runnable:win32:exe ...

07c69147626042067ef9adfa89584a4f93f8ccd24dec87dd8f291d946d465b24 v
 07c69147626042067ef9adfa89584a4f93f8ccd24dec87dd8f291d946d465b24 mapo_generic mapo ...

91fbfcb8db521fb84fcb744a3134c72c9368dbb2798079270d98fd140164304
 91fbfcb8db521fb84fcb744a3134c72c9368dbb2798079270d98fd140164304 mapo_generic misc:ascii mwdb

35e75713d5cce3d6de6d75429c06890487b7d91e8de4a395bd38ece1847d409d
 35e75713d5cce3d6de6d75429c06890487b7d91e8de4a395bd38ece1847d409d mapo_generic misc:ascii mwdb

2ecf77de10356274c6208ca209ab1ff62ea5fe39f0962c6688fb0bdbe11ceea3
 e80000_2ecf77de10356274 mapo_generic

Agenda

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 - ✓ ~~Why~~ is mwdb
- ✓ ~~What~~ is mquery
 - ✓ ~~Why~~ is mquery
- **How** to use them
 - Real-world case studies



How can I access it?



How can I access it?

	Community access?	
mwdb	✓	
mquery	✗	

How can I access it?

	Community access?	Open source?
mwdb	✓	WIP
mquery	✗	✓

How can I access it?

	Community access?	Open source?
mwdb	✓	WIP
mquery	WIP?	✓













How can I access it?

	Community access?	Open source?
mwdb	✓	WIP
mquery	WIP?	✓
mquery via mwdb	✓	WIP

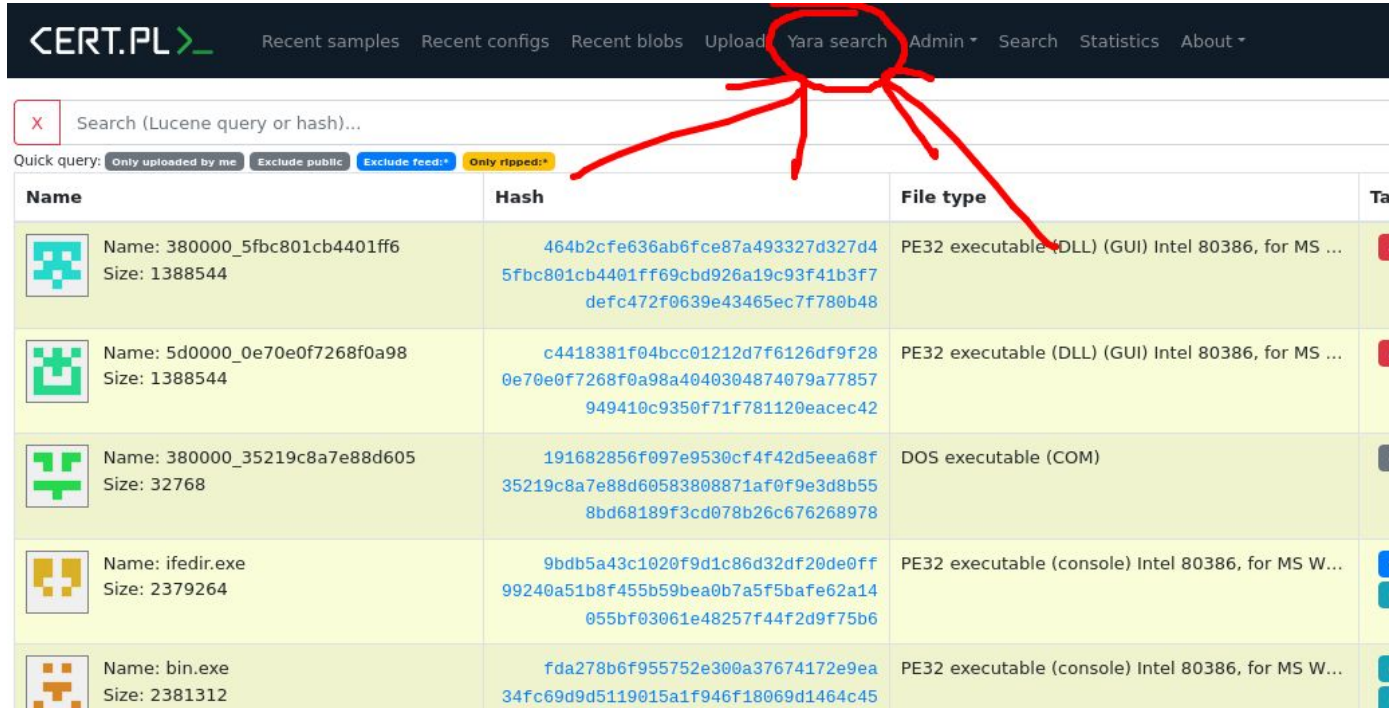
mquery + mwdb

CERT.PL [Recent samples](#) [Recent configs](#) [Recent blobs](#) [Upload](#) [Yara search](#) [Admin](#) [Search](#) [Statistics](#) [About](#)

Quick query: [Only uploaded by me](#) [Exclude public](#) [Exclude feed*](#) [Only ripped*](#)

Name	Hash	File type	Ta
 Name: 380000_5fbc801cb4401ff6 Size: 1388544	464b2cfe636ab6fce87a493327d327d45fbc801cb4401ff69cbd926a19c93f41b3f7defc472f0639e43465ec7f780b48	PE32 executable (DLL) (GUI) Intel 80386, for MS ...	
 Name: 5d0000_0e70e0f7268f0a98 Size: 1388544	c4418381f04bcc01212d7f6126df9f280e70e0f7268f0a98a4040304874079a77857949410c9350f71f781120eacec42	PE32 executable (DLL) (GUI) Intel 80386, for MS ...	
 Name: 380000_35219c8a7e88d605 Size: 32768	191682856f097e9530cf4f42d5eea68f35219c8a7e88d60583808871af0f9e3d8b558bd68189f3cd078b26c676268978	DOS executable (COM)	
 Name: ifedir.exe Size: 2379264	9bdb5a43c1020f9d1c86d32df20de0ff99240a51b8f455b59bea0b7a5f5baf62a14055bf03061e48257f44f2d9f75b6	PE32 executable (console) Intel 80386, for MS W...	 
 Name: bin.exe Size: 2381312	fda278b6f955752e300a37674172e9ea34fc69d9d5119015a1f946f18069d1464c45	PE32 executable (console) Intel 80386, for MS W...	 






mquery + mwdb



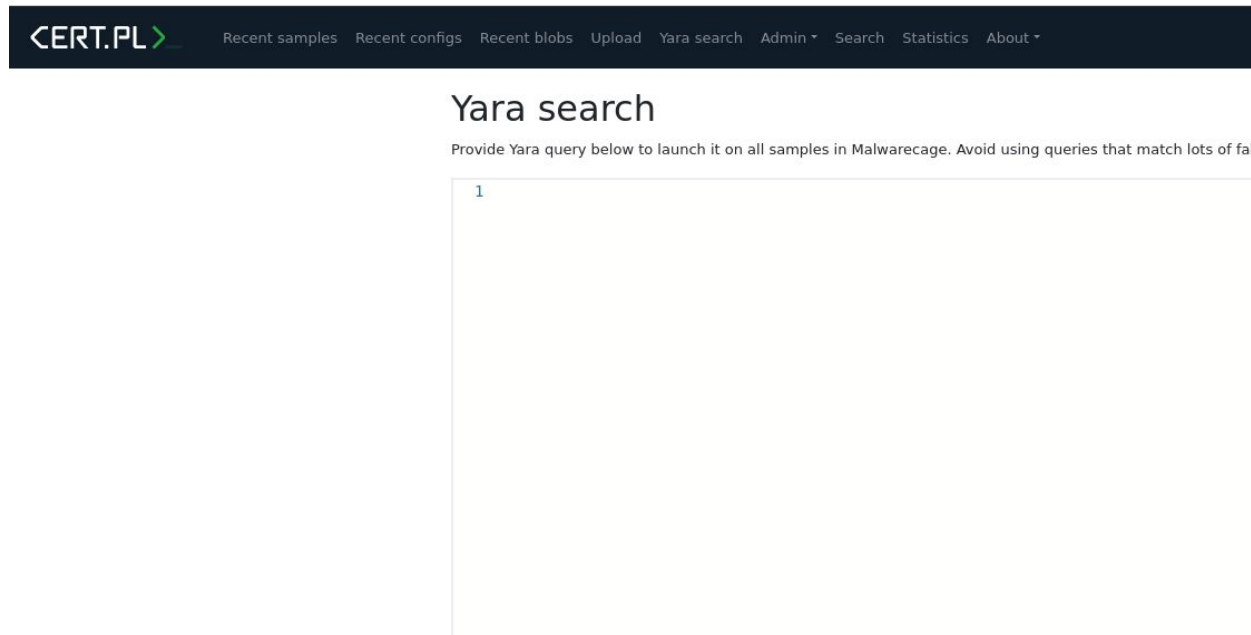
CERT.PL > Recent samples Recent configs Recent blobs Upload Yara search Admin Search Statistics About

X Search (Lucene query or hash)...

Quick query: Only uploaded by me Exclude public Exclude feed: Only ripped:

Name	Hash	File type	Ta
 Name: 380000_5fbc801cb4401ff6 Size: 1388544	464b2cfe636ab6fce87a493327d327d45fbc801cb4401ff69cbd926a19c93f41b3f7defc472f0639e43465ec7f780b48	PE32 executable (DLL) (GUI) Intel 80386, for MS ...	
 Name: 5d0000_0e70e0f7268f0a98 Size: 1388544	c4418381f04bcc01212d7f6126df9f280e70e0f7268f0a98a4040304874079a77857949410c9350f71f781120eacec42	PE32 executable (DLL) (GUI) Intel 80386, for MS ...	
 Name: 380000_35219c8a7e88d605 Size: 32768	191682856f097e9530cf4f42d5eea68f35219c8a7e88d60583808871af0f9e3d8b558bd68189f3cd078b26c676268978	DOS executable (COM)	
 Name: ifedir.exe Size: 2379264	9bdb5a43c1020f9d1c86d32df20de0ff99240a51b8f455b59bea0b7a5f5baf62a14055bf03061e48257f44f2d9f75b6	PE32 executable (console) Intel 80386, for MS W...	
 Name: bin.exe Size: 2381312	fda278b6f955752e300a37674172e9ea34fc69d9d5119015a1f946f18069d1464c45	PE32 executable (console) Intel 80386, for MS W...	

mquery + mwdb



The screenshot shows the CERT.PL website's Yara search interface. At the top, a dark navigation bar contains the CERT.PL logo and several menu items: Recent samples, Recent configs, Recent blobs, Upload, Yara search, Admin, Search, Statistics, and About. Below the navigation bar, the page title "Yara search" is displayed. A brief instruction reads: "Provide Yara query below to launch it on all samples in Malwarecage. Avoid using queries that match lots of false positives." A large, empty text input field is provided for entering the Yara query. The number "1" is visible in the top-left corner of the input field, likely indicating the first line of the text area.

mquery + mwdb

Recent samples Recent configs Recent blobs Upload Yara search Admin Search Statistics About

Yara search

Provide Yara query below to launch it on all samples in Malwarecage. Avoid using queries that match lots of false positives.

```
1 rule mapo_generic
2 {
3   meta:
4     description = "catches generic mapo-like ransomware ransomnotes and binaries"
5     author = "nazywam"
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15     $str_ransom_header_1 = "WILL BE LOST!"
16
17     $str_ransom_body_0 = "service charges a payment for file decryption"
18     $str_ransom_body_1 = "We guarantee:"
19
20     $str_proof = "you can send us 1 file and get it decrypted for free!"
21
22     $str_key_1 = "ID KEY:"
23     $str_key_2 = "ID-KEY:"
24
25     $str_footer_1 = "~ L2 Protection ~"
26     $str_footer_2 = "= Key verify ="
27
28   condition:
29     5 of them
30 }
```

mquery + mwdb

Query dispatched! Check results of [NP4AULM2PDI1](#) query.

Processing query NP4AULM2PDI1

Status: done






100%

mquery + mwdb

CERT.PL >_ Recent samples Recent configs Recent blobs Upload Yara search Admin Search Statistics About

X meta.mquery:"IYT2IKOMST2I"

Quick query: Only uploaded by me Exclude public Exclude feed:* Only ripped:*

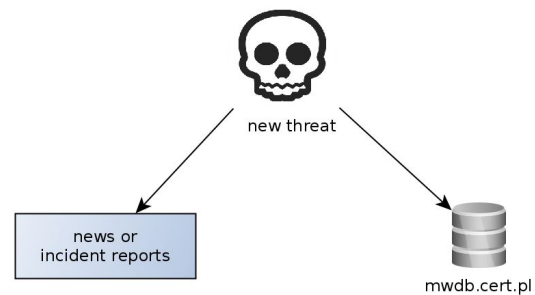
Name	Hash	File type
 Name: MSIE.exe Size: 209920	f4c5cf79bc9573e15b6b737730ac7178 0f728ff1befb8f2dc04bf2ff96129744cc26e76d044f01e8ffb66ab584ba1b1	PE32 executable
 Name: MAPO-Readme.txt Size: 1864	da6cbe16dda0a7931422aa1cbe73b84d 35e75713d5cce3d6de6d75429c06890487b7d91e8de4a395bd38ece1847d409d	ASCII text, with C
 Name: DETO-README.txt Size: 1421	84bd4eb9848250935bfef98dfddf60d0 91fbfcb8db521fb84fcba744a3134c72c9368dbb2798079270d98fd140164304	ASCII text, with C
 Name: MBIT-INFO.txt Size: 1674	82d4ca58030ed0966a34adc67ff8ca09 b779c4b100c4dff4c613625ca58148f35a99f41b68d3b289efb4c5f98711370d	ASCII text, with C
 Name: mapo.exe Size: 211968	016bac7415fa2ef893fa9b3fb6aeff4d 07c69147626042067ef9adfa89584a4f93f8ccd24dec87dd8f291d946d465b24	PE32 executable

mquery + mwdb

- We made a large part of our malware collection available for researches
- Currently only files uploaded to mwdb can be queried
- In the future, we'll add even more samples, including large public collections
- There is a slight lag between file upload and indexing (up to 24h)

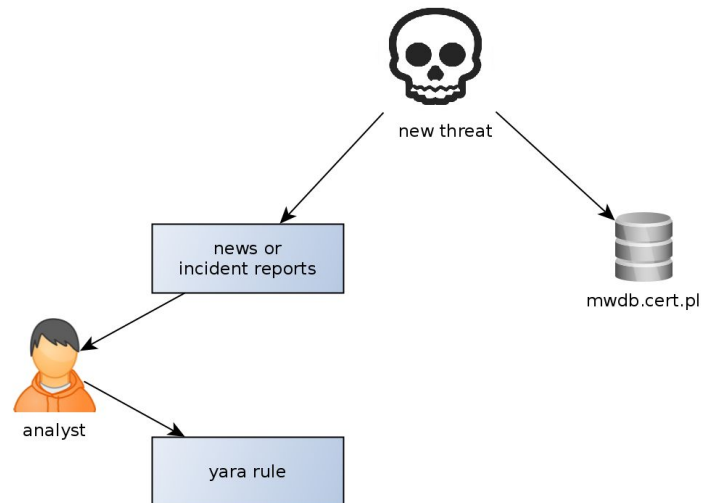
mquery + mwdb

1. New threat identified



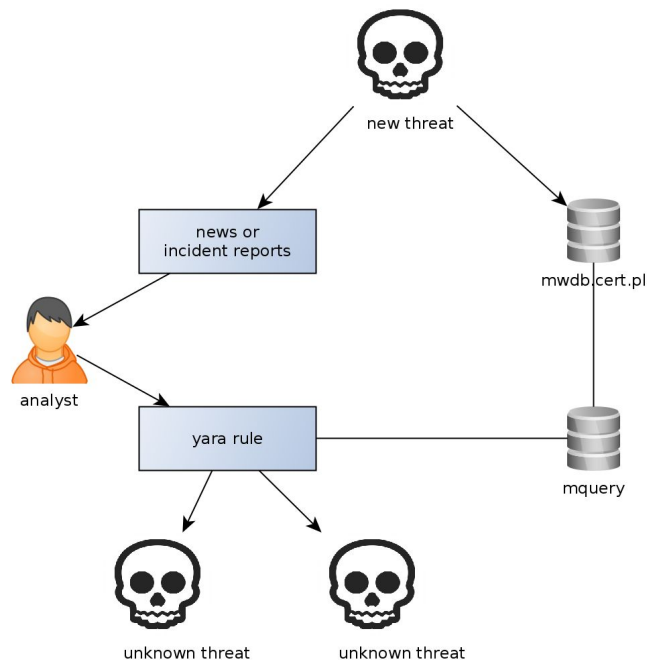
mquery + mwdb

1. New threat identified
2. Threat analysis
 - Create new signatures
 - Update analytic backend



mquery + mwdb

1. New threat identified
2. Threat analysis
 - Create new signatures
 - Update analytic backend
3. Detect and track the campaign



Acknowledgements

Thanks to **Paweł Srokosz**

Main developer, designer and current maintainer of mwdb

Everyone else in CERT.PL

Questions?

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m^wodb
query



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