

module 50251 and the “Qwerty” keylogger

By [Costin Raiu](#), [Igor Soumenkov](#) on January 27, 2015. 11:00 am

On January 17 2015, Spiegel.de published an extensive article based on documents obtained from Edward Snowden. At the same time, they provided a copy of a malicious program codenamed “QWERTY” (<http://www.spiegel.de/media/media-35668.pdf>), supposedly used by several governments in their CNE operations.

We’ve obtained a copy of the malicious files published by Der Spiegel and when we analyzed them, they immediately reminded us of [Regin](#). Looking at the code closely, we conclude that the “QWERTY” malware is identical in functionality to the Regin 50251 plugin.

Analysis

The Qwerty module pack consists of three binaries and accompanying configuration files. One file from the package– 20123.sys – is particularly interesting.

The “20123.sys” is a kernel mode part of the keylogger. As it turns out, it was built from source code that can also be found one Regin module, the “50251” plugin.

Using a binary diff it is easy to spot a significant part of code that is shared between both files:

```

614 1AA9
62B e0 74 18 00 7d e7 01 75 09 ff 75 e0 ff 15 f4 02 01 00 ff 75 e0 ff 15 .t...u...u...u...
642 f8 02 01 00 33 c9 e8 13 08 00 00 c2 10 00 53 68 c0 14 01 00 6a 0d .3...Sh...i
642 6a 01 68 01 00 00 7f ff 35 08 15 01 00 32 db e8 f0 0b 00 00 85 c0 75 j.h...5...2...j...
659 02 fe c3 8a c3 5b c3 5c 00 44 00 65 00 76 00 69 00 63 00 65 00 5c 00 ...I...A...D...e...v...i...c...e...V
670 4b 00 65 00 79 00 62 00 6f 00 61 00 72 00 64 00 43 00 6c 00 61 00 73 K.e.g.b.o.a.r.d.C.l.a.s
687 00 73 00 30 00 00 00 00 00 6b 00 62 00 64 00 63 00 6c 00 61 00 73 00 .s.0...k.b.d.c.l.a.s
69E 73 00 2e 00 73 00 79 00 73 00 00 55 8b ec 83 ec 14 53 68 60 06 01 s...s.g.s...U...Sh...
6B5 00 8d 45 ec 50 32 db ff 15 b8 02 01 00 8d 45 f8 50 8d 45 f4 50 68 00 .E.P2...E.P.E.Ph
6CC 00 10 00 8d 45 ec 50 ff 15 c4 02 01 00 85 c0 0f 85 a0 01 00 00 39 45 ...E.P...9E
6E3 f4 0f 84 a4 01 00 00 39 45 f8 0f 84 8e 01 00 00 ff 75 f4 e8 33 08 00 ...9E...u...3...
6FA 00 85 c0 89 45 f8 0f 84 7b 01 00 00 a1 08 15 01 00 8b 48 04 8b 49 0c ...E...C...H...I
711 8d 55 fc 52 50 ff 51 2c 84 c0 59 59 0f 84 5e 01 00 00 8b 45 fc 8b 55 .U.RP.Q...YY...E...U
728 f8 8b 52 08 8b 48 04 ff 72 44 8b 49 04 8b 49 0c 50 ff 91 38 01 00 00 .R...H...rD...I...P...8...
73F 84 c0 59 59 0f 84 24 01 00 00 8b 55 f8 8b 45 fc 8b 52 08 8b 48 04 8b .YY...$...U...E...R...H...
756 49 04 8b 49 0c 83 c2 44 52 50 ff 91 38 01 00 00 84 c0 59 59 0f 84 fd I...I...DRP...8...YY...
76D 00 00 00 8b 45 fc 8b 48 04 8b 49 04 8b 49 0c 68 5a 05 01 00 50 ff 91 ...E...H...I...I.h2...P...
784 38 01 00 00 84 c0 59 59 0f 84 db 00 00 00 8b 45 fc 8b 48 04 8b 49 04 8...YY...E...H...I
79B 8b 49 0c 68 01 00 00 00 50 ff 91 2c 01 00 00 84 c0 59 59 0f 84 b9 00 .I.h...P...YY...
7B2 00 00 8b 45 fc 8b 48 04 8b 49 04 8b 49 0c 6a 00 50 ff 91 2c 01 00 00 ...E...H...I...I.j.P...
7C9 84 c0 59 59 0f 84 9a 00 00 00 8b 45 fc 8b 48 04 8b 49 04 8b 49 0c 6a .YY...E...H...I...I...
7E0 02 50 ff 91 24 01 00 00 84 c0 59 59 74 ff 8b 45 fc 8b 48 04 8b 49 04 .P...$...YYt...E...H...I
7F7 8b 49 0c 6a 01 50 ff 91 24 01 00 00 84 c0 59 59 74 64 8b 45 fc 8b 48 .I.j.P...$...YYtd.E...H...
80E 04 8b 49 04 8b 49 0c 68 90 06 01 00 50 ff 91 20 01 00 00 84 c0 59 59 .I...I.h...P...YY...
825 74 46 8b 45 fc 8b 48 04 8b 49 04 8b 49 0c 6a 07 68 31 c4 00 00 68 01 tF.E...H...I...I.j.h1...h
83C 00 00 7f 50 ff 91 e0 00 00 00 83 c4 10 85 c0 75 20 8b 45 fc 8b 48 04 ...P...u...E...H...
853 8b 49 04 8b 49 0c 68 00 15 01 00 50 ff 91 bc 01 00 00 84 c0 59 59 74 .I...I.h...P...YY...
86A 02 fe c3 8b 45 fc 8b 48 04 8b 40 84 8b 40 8c 8d 4d fc 51 ff 50 34 59 ...E...@...@...@...M.Q.P4
881 8b 4d f4 85 c9 74 06 ff 15 b0 02 01 00 8a c3 5b c9 c3 cc 55 8b ec 83 .M...t...E...U...
898 ec 0c 53 8d 45 f4 50 8d 45 f8 50 6a 01 68 01 00 00 7f ff 35 08 15 01 .S.E.P.E.P.j.h...S...
8AF 00 c6 45 ff 00 32 db e8 39 0a 00 00 85 c0 75 28 83 7d f8 0d 75 12 56 .E...2...9...u...u...
8C6 00 75 14 57 01 60
8DD 50 e8 01 0b 00 00
8F4 00 c7 05 c9 14 01

```

20123 ("qwerty")

```

702 1803
702 5d e0 74 18 00 7d e7 01 75 09 ff 75 e0 ff 15 d0 02 01 00 ff 75 e0 ff .j.t...u...u...u...
719 15 d8 02 01 00 33 c0 e8 54 08 00 00 c2 10 00 53 68 60 13 01 00 6a 05 .3...I...Sh...i
730 6a 01 68 01 00 00 7f ff 35 08 15 01 00 32 00 e8 6a 00 00 00 85 c0 75 j.h...5...2...j...
747 02 fe c3 8a c3 5b c3 5c 00 44 00 65 00 76 00 69 00 63 00 65 00 5c 00 ...I...A...D...e...v...i...c...e...V
75E 4b 00 65 00 79 00 62 00 6f 00 61 00 72 00 64 00 43 00 6c 00 61 00 73 K.e.g.b.o.a.r.d.C.l.a.s
775 00 73 00 30 00 00 00 00 00 6b 00 62 00 64 00 63 00 6c 00 61 00 73 00 .s.0...k.b.d.c.l.a.s
78C 73 00 2e 00 73 00 79 00 73 00 00 55 8b ec 83 ec 14 53 68 4e 07 01 s...s.g.s...U...Sh...
7A3 00 8d 45 ec 50 32 db ff 15 d4 02 01 00 8d 45 f8 50 8d 45 f4 50 68 00 .E.P2...E.P.E.Ph
7BA 00 10 00 8d 45 ec 50 ff 15 b8 02 01 00 85 c0 0f 85 a0 01 00 00 39 45 ...E.P...9E
7D1 f4 0f 84 a4 01 00 00 39 45 f8 0f 84 8e 01 00 00 ff 75 f4 e8 75 08 00 ...9E...u...3...
7E8 00 85 c0 89 45 f8 0f 84 7b 01 00 00 a1 a0 13 01 00 8b 48 04 8b 49 0c ...E...C...H...I
7FF 8d 55 fc 52 50 ff 51 2c 84 c0 59 59 0f 84 5e 01 00 00 8b 45 fc 8b 55 .U.RP.Q...YY...E...U
816 f8 8b 52 08 8b 48 04 ff 72 44 8b 49 04 8b 49 0c 50 ff 91 38 01 00 00 .R...H...rD...I...P...8...
82D 84 c0 59 59 0f 84 24 01 00 00 8b 55 f8 8b 45 fc 8b 52 08 8b 48 04 8b .YY...$...U...E...R...H...
844 49 04 8b 49 0c 83 c2 44 52 50 ff 91 38 01 00 00 84 c0 59 59 0f 84 fd I...I...DRP...8...YY...
85B 00 00 00 8b 45 fc 8b 48 04 8b 49 04 8b 49 0c 68 30 06 01 00 50 ff 91 ...E...H...I...I.h0...P...
872 38 01 00 00 84 c0 59 59 0f 84 db 00 00 00 8b 45 fc 8b 48 04 8b 49 04 8...YY...E...H...I
889 8b 49 0c 68 01 00 00 00 50 ff 91 2c 01 00 00 84 c0 59 59 0f 84 b9 00 .I.h...P...YY...
8A0 00 00 8b 45 fc 8b 48 04 8b 49 04 8b 49 0c 6a 00 50 ff 91 2c 01 00 00 ...E...H...I...I.j.P...
8B7 84 c0 59 59 0f 84 9a 00 00 00 8b 45 fc 8b 48 04 8b 49 04 8b 49 0c 6a .YY...E...H...I...I...
8CE 02 50 ff 91 24 01 00 00 84 c0 59 59 74 ff 8b 45 fc 8b 48 04 8b 49 04 .P...$...YYt...E...H...I
8E5 8b 49 0c 6a 01 50 ff 91 24 01 00 00 84 c0 59 59 74 64 8b 45 fc 8b 48 .I.j.P...$...YYtd.E...H...
8FC 04 8b 49 04 8b 49 0c 68 7e 07 01 00 50 ff 91 20 01 00 00 84 c0 59 59 .I...I.h...P...YY...
913 74 46 8b 45 fc 8b 48 04 8b 49 04 8b 49 0c 6a 07 68 31 c4 00 00 68 01 tF.E...H...I...I.j.h1...h
92A 00 00 7f 50 ff 91 e0 00 00 83 c4 10 85 c0 75 20 8b 45 fc 8b 48 04 ...P...u...E...H...
941 8b 49 04 8b 49 0c 68 74 13 01 00 50 ff 91 bc 01 00 00 84 c0 59 59 74 .I...I.ht...P...YYt...
958 02 fe c3 8b 45 fc 8b 48 04 8b 40 84 8b 40 8c 8d 4d fc 51 ff 50 34 59 ...E...@...@...@...M.Q.P4
96F 8b 4d f4 85 c9 74 06 ff 15 b0 02 01 00 8a c3 5b c9 c3 cc 55 8b ec 83 .M...t...E...U...
986 ec 0c 53 8d 45 f4 50 8d 45 f8 50 6a 01 68 01 00 00 7f ff 35 a0 13 01 .S.E.P.E.P.j.h...S...
99D 00 c6 45 ff 00 32 db e8 b3 08 00 00 85 c0 75 26 83 7d f8 05 75 10 56 .E...2...9...u...u...
9B4 00 75 14 57 01 60
9CB 7d 09 00 00 84 db
9E2 00 00 e8 3f fd ff

```

50251 (Regin module)

Most of the shared code belongs to the function that accesses the system keyboard driver:

<pre> 00010755 DeviceKeyboardclass0: ; DATA XREF: sub 00010755 unicode 0, <\Device\KeyboardClass0>,0 00010784 db 2 dup(0) 00010786 Kbdclass_sys: ; DATA XREF: sub 00010786 unicode 0, <kbdclass.sys>,0 000107A0 ; ===== S U B R O U T I N E ===== 000107A0 ; Attributes: bp-based frame 000107A0 sub_107A0 proc near ; CODE XREF: sub 000107A0 DestinationString= UNICODE_STRING ptr -14h 000107A0 FileObject = dword ptr -0Ch 000107A0 DeviceObject = dword ptr -8 000107A0 var_4 = dword ptr -4 000107A0 push ebp 000107A1 mov ebp, esp 000107A3 sub esp, 14h 000107A6 push ebx 000107A7 push offset DeviceKeyboardclass0 ; Sc 000107AC lea eax, [ebp+DestinationString] 000107AF push eax ; DestinationStr 000107B0 xor bl, bl 000107B2 call ds:RtlInitUnicodeString 000107B5 lea eax, [ebp+DeviceObject] 000107BB push eax ; DeviceObject 000107BC lea eax, [ebp+FileObject] 000107BF push eax ; FileObject 000107C0 push 100000h ; DesiredAccess 000107C5 lea eax, [ebp+DestinationString] 000107C8 push eax ; ObjectName 000107C9 call ds:IoGetDeviceObjectPointer 000107CF test eax, eax 000107D1 jnz loc_10977 000107D7 cmp [ebp+FileObject], eax 000107DA jz loc_10984 000107E0 cmp [ebp+DeviceObject], eax 000107E3 jz loc_10977 000107E9 push [ebp+FileObject] 000107EC call IoGetBaseFileSystemDeviceObject 000107F1 test eax, eax 000107F3 mov [ebp+DeviceObject], eax 000107F6 jz loc_10977 000107FC mov eax, dword_113C0 00010801 mov ecx, [eax+4] 00010804 mov ecx, [ecx+0Ch] 00010807 lea edx, [ebp+var_4] 0001080A push edx 0001080B push eax 0001080C call dword ptr [ecx+2Ch] 0001080F test al, al 00010811 00010812 00010813 00010819 0001081C mov edx, [ebp+DeviceObject] 0001081F mov edx, [edx+8] 00010822 mov ecx, [eax+4] 00010825 push dword ptr [edx+44h] 00010828 mov ecx, [ecx+4] 0001082B mov ecx, [ecx+0Ch] 0001082E push eax 0001082F call dword ptr [ecx+138h] 00010835 test al, al 00010837 pop ecx 00010838 pop ecx 00010839 jz loc_10963 0001083F mov edx, [ebp+DeviceObject] 00010842 mov eax, [ebp+var_4] </pre>	<pre> 00010660 DeviceKeyboardclass0: ; DATA XREF: sub 00010660 unicode 0, <\Device\KeyboardClass0>,0 0001068E align 10h 00010690 Kbdclass_sys: ; DATA XREF: sub 00010690 unicode 0, <kbdclass.sys>,0 000106AA ; ===== S U B R O U T I N E ===== 000106AA ; Attributes: bp-based frame 000106AA sub_106AA proc near ; CODE XREF: sub 000106AA DestinationString= UNICODE_STRING ptr -14h 000106AA FileObject = dword ptr -0Ch 000106AA DeviceObject = dword ptr -8 000106AA var_4 = dword ptr -4 000106AA push ebp 000106AB mov ebp, esp 000106AD sub esp, 14h 000106B0 push ebx 000106B1 push offset DeviceKeyboardclass0 ; \ 000106B6 lea eax, [ebp+DestinationString] 000106B9 push eax ; DestinationStr 000106BA xor bl, bl 000106BC call ds:RtlInitUnicodeString 000106BF lea eax, [ebp+DeviceObject] 000106C2 push eax ; DeviceObject 000106C5 lea eax, [ebp+FileObject] 000106C8 push eax ; FileObject 000106CB push eax ; DeviceObject 000106CE push 100000h ; DesiredAccess 000106D1 lea eax, [ebp+DestinationString] 000106D4 push eax ; ObjectName 000106D7 call ds:IoGetDeviceObjectPointer 000106DA test eax, eax 000106DC jnz loc_10881 000106DE cmp [ebp+FileObject], eax 000106E1 jz loc_1088E 000106E4 cmp [ebp+DeviceObject], eax 000106E7 jz loc_10881 000106F3 push [ebp+FileObject] 000106F6 call IoGetBaseFileSystemDeviceObject 000106F9 test eax, eax 000106FB mov [ebp+DeviceObject], eax 000106FE jz loc_10881 00010700 mov eax, dword_11508 00010703 mov ecx, [eax+4] 00010706 mov ecx, [ecx+0Ch] 00010709 lea edx, [ebp+var_4] 00010714 push edx 00010717 push eax 0001071A call dword ptr [ecx+2Ch] 0001071D test al, al 0001071E 0001071F 00010720 00010721 00010722 00010723 00010726 mov edx, [ebp+DeviceObject] 00010729 mov edx, [edx+8] 0001072C mov ecx, [eax+4] 0001072F push dword ptr [edx+44h] 00010732 mov ecx, [ecx+4] 00010735 mov ecx, [ecx+0Ch] 00010738 push eax 00010739 call dword ptr [ecx+138h] 0001073C test al, al 0001073F pop ecx 00010741 pop ecx 00010742 jz loc_1086D 00010745 mov edx, [ebp+DeviceObject] 00010748 mov eax, [ebp+var_4] </pre>
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50251.dll (Regin module)

20123.sys ("qwerty")

Most of the "Qwerty" components call plugins from the same pack (with plugin numbers 20121 – 20123), however there is also one piece code that references plugins from the Regin platform. One particular part of code is used in both the "Qwerty" 20123 module and the Regin's 50251 counterpart, and it addresses the plugin 50225 that can be found in the virtual filesystems of Regin. The Regin's plugin 50225 is responsible for kernel-mode hooking.

<pre> 00010905 mov ecx, [ecx+4] 00010908 mov ecx, [ecx+0Ch] 0001090B push offset Kbdclass_sys ; "kbdclass 00010910 push eax 00010913 call dword ptr [ecx+120h] 00010917 test al, al 00010919 pop ecx 0001091A pop ecx 0001091B jz short loc_10963 0001091D mov eax, [ebp+var_4] 00010920 mov ecx, [eax+4] 00010923 mov ecx, [ecx+4] 00010926 mov ecx, [ecx+0Ch] 00010929 push 7 0001092B push 50225 0001092D push eax 00010930 call dword ptr [ecx+0E0h] 00010933 add esp, 10h 00010936 test eax, eax 0001093F jnz short loc_10963 00010943 mov eax, [ebp+var_4] 00010946 mov ecx, [eax+4] 00010949 mov ecx, [ecx+4] 0001094C mov ecx, [ecx+0Ch] 0001094F 00010954 00010955 </pre>	<pre> 0001080F mov ecx, [ecx+4] 00010812 mov ecx, [ecx+0Ch] 00010815 push offset Kbdclass_sys ; "kbdclass.sys" 00010818 push eax 0001081B call dword ptr [ecx+120h] 00010821 test al, al 00010823 pop ecx 00010824 pop ecx 00010825 jz short loc_1086D 00010827 mov eax, [ebp+var_4] 0001082A mov ecx, [eax+4] 0001082D mov ecx, [ecx+4] 00010830 mov ecx, [ecx+0Ch] 00010833 push 7 00010835 push 50225 00010837 push eax 0001083A call dword ptr [ecx+0E0h] 0001083D add esp, 10h 00010840 test eax, eax 00010843 jnz short loc_1086D 00010846 mov eax, [ebp+var_4] 00010849 mov ecx, [eax+4] 0001084C mov ecx, [ecx+4] 0001084F mov ecx, [ecx+0Ch] 00010852 00010855 00010858 0001085F </pre>
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50251 (Regin)

20123 ("Qwerty")

This is a solid proof that the Qwerty plugin can only operate as part of the Regin platform, leveraging the kernel hooking functions from plugin 50225.

As an additional proof that both modules use the same software platform, we can take a look at functions exported by ordinal 1 of both modules. They contain the startup code that can be found in any other plugin of Regin, and include the actual plugin number that is registered

within the platform to allow further addressing of the module. This only makes sense if the modules are used with the Regin platform orchestrator.

```
000103EE      public _50251_1          ; DATA XREF: off
000103EE      proc near
000103EE      = dword ptr 4
000103EE      arg_4
000103EE      = dword ptr 8
000103EE      mov     eax, [esp+arg_0]
000103F2      mov     ecx, [eax+0Ch]
000103F5      push   ebx
000103F6      push   50251
000103F7      call   dword ptr [rdi+rd_113C0]
00010401      xor     bl, bl
00010403      call   dword ptr [ecx+18h]
00010406      add     esp, 0Ch
00010409      test   al, al
0001040B      jz     short loc_1042E
0001040D      push   [esp+arg_4]
00010411      call   sub_10E5E
00010416      test   al, al
00010418      jz     short loc_1041E
0001041A      inc     bl
0001041C      jmp    short loc_1042E
0001041E
-----
0001041E loc_1041E:      mov     eax, dword_113C0 ; CODE XREF: _50
00010423      mov     ecx, [eax+4]
00010426      mov     ecx, [ecx+0Ch]
00010429      push   eax
0001042A      call   dword ptr [ecx+1Ch]
0001042D      pop    ecx
0001042E loc_1042E:      mov     al, bl ; CODE XREF: _50
00010430      pop    ebx
00010431      retn
00010431 _50251_1      endp

0001041A      public _20123_1          ; DATA XREF: off
0001041A      proc near
0001041A      = dword ptr 4
0001041A      arg_4
0001041A      = dword ptr 8
0001041A      mov     eax, [esp+arg_0]
0001041E      mov     ecx, [eax+0Ch]
00010421      push   ebx
00010422      push   20123
00010423      call   dword ptr [rdi+rd_11508]
0001042D      xor     bl, bl
0001042F      call   dword ptr [ecx+18h]
00010432      add     esp, 0Ch
00010435      test   al, al
00010437      jz     short loc_1045A
00010439      push   [esp+arg_4]
0001043D      call   sub_10C28
00010442      test   al, al
00010444      jz     short loc_1044A
00010446      inc     bl
00010448      jmp    short loc_1045A
0001044A
-----
0001044A loc_1044A:      mov     eax, dword_11508 ; CODE XREF: _20
0001044A      mov     ecx, [eax+4]
0001044F      mov     ecx, [ecx+0Ch]
00010452      push   eax
00010455      call   dword ptr [ecx+1Ch]
00010459      pop    ecx
0001045A loc_1045A:      mov     al, bl ; CODE XREF: _20
0001045C      pop    ebx
0001045D      retn
0001045D _20123_1      endp
```

The reason why the two modules have different plugin IDs is unknown. This is perhaps because they are leveraged by different actors, each one with its own allocated plugin ID ranges.

Conclusions

Our analysis of the QWERTY malware published by Der Spiegel indicates it is a plugin designed to work part of the Regin platform. The QWERTY keylogger doesn't function as a stand-alone module, it relies on kernel hooking functions which are provided by the Regin module 50225. Considering the extreme complexity of the Regin platform and little chance that it can be duplicated by somebody without having access to its sourcecodes, we conclude the QWERTY malware developers and the Regin developers are the same or working together.

Another important observation is that Regin plugins are stored inside an encrypted and compressed VFS, meaning they don't exist directly on the victim's machine in "native" format. The platform dispatcher loads and executes there plugins at startup. The only way to catch the keylogger is by scanning the system memory or decoding the VFSes.

Appendix (MD5 hashes):

QWERTY 20123.sys:

```
1
0ed11a73694999bc45d18b4189f41ac2
```

Regin 50251 plugins:

1

2 [c0de81512a08bdf2ec18cb93b43bdc2de9a43ea2882ac63b7bc036d954c79aa1](#)

APT KEYLOGGERS TARGETED ATTACKS

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This is astonishing information. It seems, if they put their collective minds to it, they could take over the planet. Reminds me of early James Bond and Spectre.

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