

Investigating PowerShell Attacks

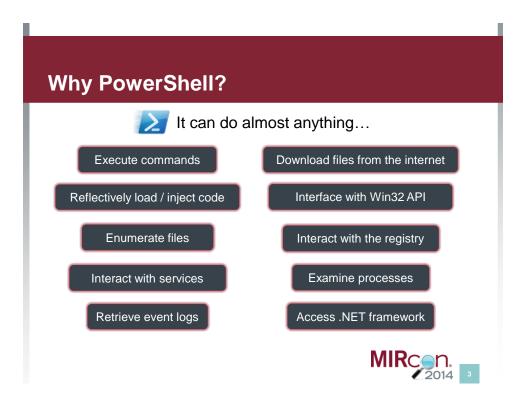
Matt Hastings October 7, 2014

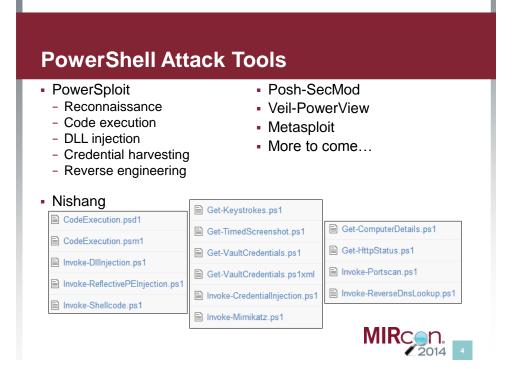
Background Case Study

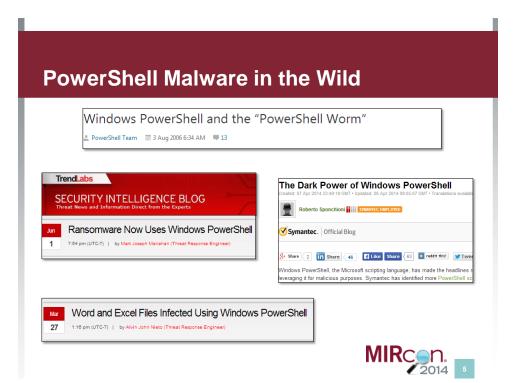


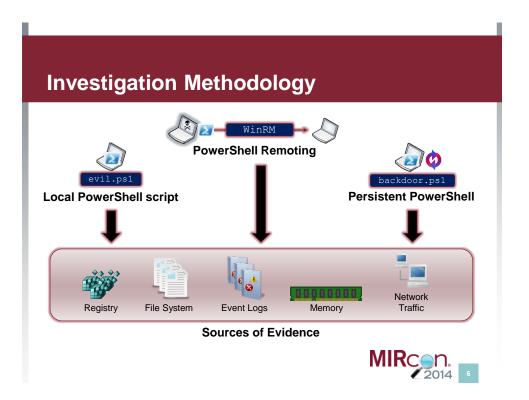
- Fortune 100 organization
- Compromised for > 3 years
 - Active Directory
 - Authenticated access to corporate VPN
- Command-and-control via
 - Scheduled tasks
 - Local execution of PowerShell scripts
 - PowerShell Remoting





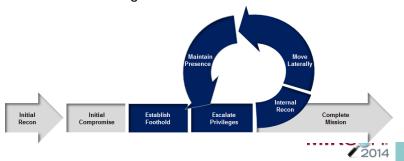






Attacker Assumptions

- Has admin (local or domain) on target system
- Has network access to needed ports on target system
- Can use other remote command execution methods to:
 - Enable execution of unsigned PS scripts
 - Enable PS remoting



Version Reference

	2.0	3.0	4.0
Windows 7'sp1	Default (SP1)	Requires WMF 3.0 Update	Requires WMF 4.0 Update
Windows Server	Default (R2 SP1)	Requires WMF 3.0 Update	Requires WMF 4.0 Update
Windows 8		Default	Requires WMF 4.0 Update
Windows 8.1			Default
Windows Server 2012		Default	Default (R2)

2014 8

MEMORY ANALYSIS



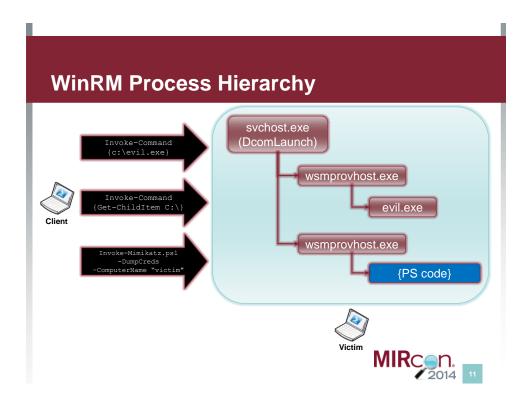
Memory Analysis

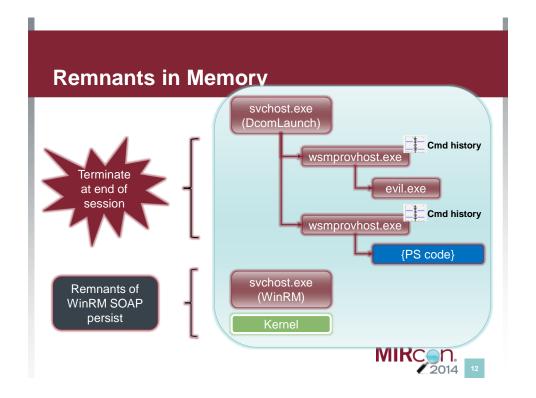
Scenario:

Attacker interacts with target host through PowerShell remoting

- What's left in memory on the accessed system?
- How can you find it?
- How long does it persist?







How Long Will Evidence Remain?

	wsmprovhost.exe	svchost.exe (WinRM)	Kernel Memory	Pagefile
Evidence	Best source of command history, output	Fragments of remoting I/O	Fragments of remoting I/O	Fragments of remoting I/O
Retention	Single remoting session	Varies with # of remoting sessions	Varies with memory utilization	Varies with memory utilization
Max Lifetime	End of remoting session	Reboot	Reboot	Varies – may persist beyond reboot



Example – Simple Command

echo teststring_pssession > c:\testoutput_possession.txt



SOAP remnants in WinRM memory after receiving command



```
Example — Remote Invoke-Mimikatz

Current context: process suchost.exe, pid=1188, ppid=492 DTB=0x3f095220

>>> db(0x0275b5a0, length=384)
0x0275b5a0 e9 5c 61 2b 75 74 00 80 bb 00 3a 48 65 61 64 65 .\a+ut...
0x0275b5a0 e9 5c 61 2b 75 74 00 80 bb 00 3a 48 65 61 64 65 .\a+ut...
0x0275b5a0 e9 5c 61 2b 75 74 00 80 bb 00 3a 48 65 61 64 65 .\a+ut...
70 3a 43 r>xs:Body
0x0275b5a0 e6 66 d6 d0
0x0275b5a0 e3 5c 61
0x0275b5a0 e3 5c 61
0x0275b610 e7 66 d6 d0
0x0275b620 ca 00 2d
0x0275b620 ca 00 2d
0x0275b630 45 2d 34
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           0x0275b650
                            28 28 4e
           0x0275b660
                            2e 57 65
                                          n/PowerS.\a+t/.
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           0x0275b670
                            d4 00 61
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                                                                                                       .\a+se....tent.c
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           0x0275b6d0
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                                                                                           00 80
                                                                                                       DumpCred.\a+sp.
           0x0275b700
                            e8 00 6d 61 6e 64 3e 3c 72 73 70 3a 41
                                                                                                         .mand><rsp:Argu
                                                                                      72 67
```

WinRM service memory on target host after Invoke-Mimikatz.ps1 executed remotely



Example - Encoded Command

Invoke-Command -Computername 192.168.114.133 -Cred win-jacr88jtqv5\administrator



3CD6ECA0	38	00	44	00	2D	00	41	00	36	00	41	00	44	00	2D	00	8.DA.6.A.D
3CD6ECB0	31	00	37	00	36	00	39	00	39	00	35	00	39	00	32	00	1.7.6.9.9.5.9.2.
3CD6ECC0	41	00	39	00	30	00	44	00	22	00	3E	00	3C	00	72	00	A.9.0.D.".>.<.r.
3CD6ECD0	73	00	70	00	3A	00	43	00	бF	00	6D	00	6D	00	61	00	s.p.:.C.o.m.m.a.
3CD6ECE0	бE	00	64	00	3E	00	65	00	63	00	68	00	6F	00	20	00	n.d.>.e.c.h.o
3CD6ECF0	74	00	65	00	73	00	74	00	69	00	6E	00	67	00	45	00	t.e.s.t.i.n.g.E.
3CD6ED00	бE	00	63	00	6F	00	64	00	65	00	64	00	53	00	74	00	n.c.o.d.e.d.S.t.
3CD6ED10	72	00	69	00	6E	00	67	00	20	00	26	00	67	00	74	00	r.i.n.g&.g.t.
3CD6ED20	3В	00	20	00	63	00	3A	00	5C	00	6F	00	75	00	74	00	;c.:.\.o.u.t.
3CD6ED30	2E	00	74	00	78	00	74	00	3C	00	2F	00	72	00	73	00	t.x.t.<./.r.s.
3CD6ED40	70	00	3A	00	43	00	6F	00	6D	00	6D	00	61	00	6E	00	p.:.C.o.m.m.a.n.
3CD6ED50	64	00	3E	00	3C	00	72	00	73	00	70	00	3A	00	41	00	d.>.<.r.s.p.:.A.
3CD6ED60	72	0.0	67	00	75	00	6D	00	65	00	6E	00	74	00	73	00	rauments

WinRM service memory on target host



What to Look For?

 WSMan & MS PSRP Syntax

/wsman.xsd
<rsp:Command>
<rsp:CommandLine>
<rsp:Arguments>
<S N="Cmd">

- Known attacker filenames
- View context around hits
- Yes, this is painful

<rsp:CommandResponse><rsp:CommandId>""xmlns:r sp="http://schemas.microsoft.com/wbem/wsman/1 /windows/shell"""C80927B1-C741-4E99-9F97-CBA80F23E595</a:MessageID><w:Locale xml:lang="en-US" s:mustUnderstand="false" /><p:DataLocale xml:lang="en-US" s:mustUnderstand="false" /><p:SessionId"/w:OperationTimeout></s:Header ><s:Body><rsp:CommandLine xmlns:rsp="http://schemas.microsoft.com/wbem/ wsman/1/windows/shell" CommandId="9A153F8A-AA3C-4664-8600-AC186539F107"><rsp:Command>prompt""/rsp:Comma nd><rsp:Arguments>AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA jAgAAAAYQAgC2Yc+EDBrbTLq08PrufN+rij8VmjyqZEaG AKwYZTnxB++7vzxPYmogUmVmSWQ9IjAiPjxNUz48T2JqI E49IlBvd2VyU2hlbGwiIFJlZklkPSIxIj48TVM+PE9iai BOPSJDbWRzIiBSZWZJZD0iMiI+PFROIFJlZklkPSIwIj4 8VD5TeXN0ZW0uQ29sbG



Memory Analysis Summary

- Timing is everything
- Challenging to recover evidence
- Many variables
 - System uptime
 - Memory utilization
 - Volume of WinRM activity



EVENT LOGS



Event Logs

Scenario:

Attacker interacts with target host through local PowerShell script execution or PowerShell remoting

- Which event logs capture activity?
- Level of logging detail?
- Differences between PowerShell 2.0 and 3.0?



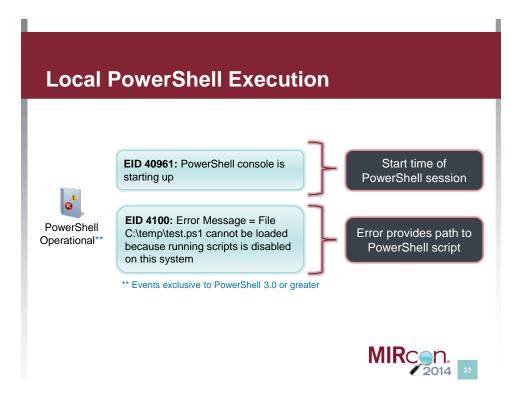
PowerShell Event Logs

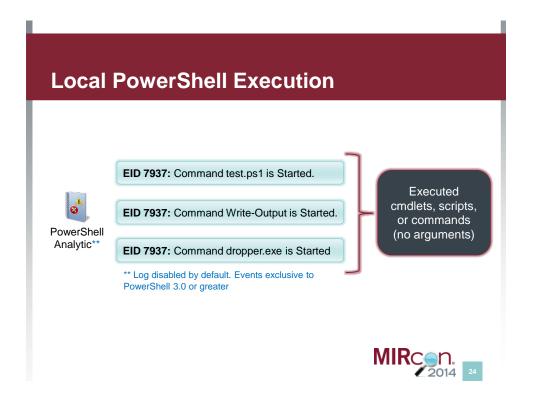
- Application Logs
 - Windows PowerShell.evtx
 - Microsoft-Windows-PowerShell/Operational.evtx
 - Microsoft-Windows-WinRM/Operational.evtx
- Analytic Logs
 - Microsoft-Windows-PowerShell/Analytic.etl
 - Microsoft-Windows-WinRM/Analytic.etl

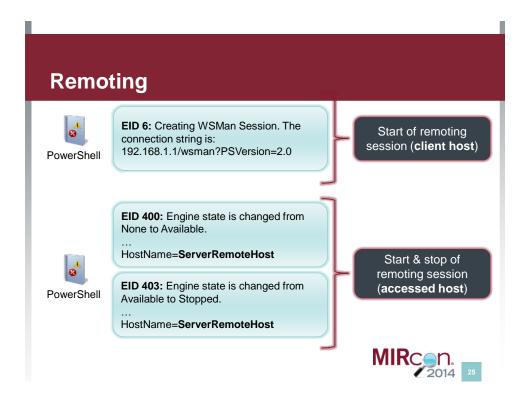


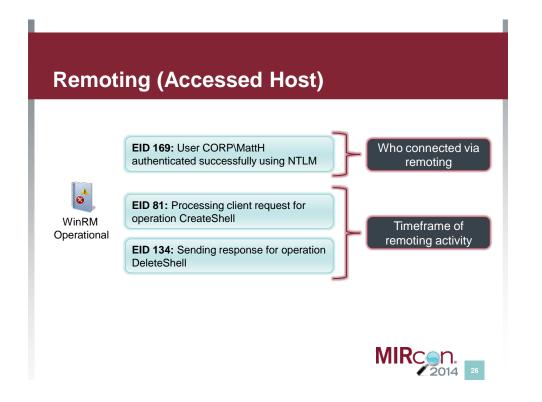


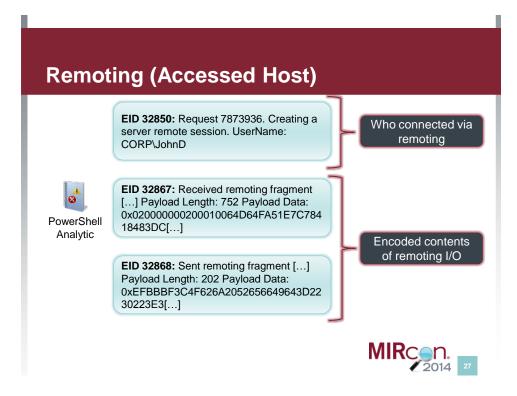
Local PowerShell Execution EID 400: Engine state is changed from None to Available. ... HostName=ConsoleHost EID 403: Engine state is changed from Available to Stopped. ... HostName=ConsoleHost

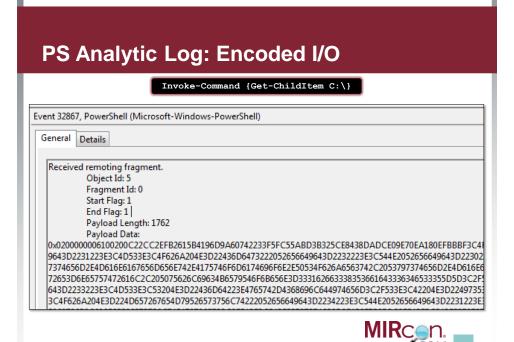












PS Analytic Log: Decoded Input

Invoke-Command {Get-ChildItem C:\}

%E7/SO[xA1]x80
%Cbj RefId="0"><MS><Obj N="PowerShell" RefId="1"><MS><Obj N="RefId="2"><TN
RefId="0"><T>System.Collections.Generic.List`1[[System.Management.AutomatisSystem.Management.Automation, Version=3.0.0.0, Culture=neutral,
PublicKevToken=31bf3856ad364e35]]
%Cmd">Get-ChildItem
%S><B N="IsScript">false
%B
%N="MergemyResult" RefId="4"><TN
RefId="1"><T>System.Management.Automation.Runspaces.PipelineResultTypes
%T>System.ValueType
%T>System.Object
%T>System.ValueType
%T>System.Object
%T>KefId="1"
/><ToString>None
%ToString><ToString><ToString>None
%ToString>None
%ToString>



PS Analytic Log: Decoded Output

Invoke-Command {Get-ChildItem C:\}

N="Name">drivers<S M="Parent"><S N="Exists">true<S N="EullName">C:\drivers<S N="Extension"><DT
N="CreationTime">z014-01-26T13:14:10.7424241-05:00</DT><DT
N="CreationTimeUtc">2014-01-26T18:14:10.7424241Z</DT><DT
N="LastAccessTime">2014-01-26T13:14:10.7434241-05:00</DT><DT
N="LastAccessTimeUtc">2014-01-26T13:14:10.7434241-05:00</DT><DT
N="LastWriteTime">2014-01-26T13:14:10.7434241-05:00</DT><DT
N="LastWriteTime">2014-01-26T13:14:10.7434241-05:00</DT><DT
N="LastWriteTimeUtc">2014-01-26T13:14:10.7434241-05:00</DT><S
N="Attributes">Directory</Props><MS><S



Logging via PowerShell Profiles

%windir%\system32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\profile.ps1

- Add code to global profile
 - Loads with each local PS session
 - Start-Transcript cmdlet
 - Overwrite default prompt function
- Limitations
 - Will not log remoting activity
 - Can launch PowerShell without loading profiles



Logging via AppLocker

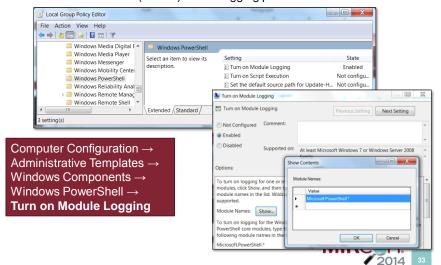
- Set Audit or Enforce script rules
- · Captures user, script path





PowerShell 3.0: Module Logging

Solves (almost) all our logging problems!



Module Logging Example: File Listing

Get-ChildItem c:\temp -Filter *.txt -Recurse | Select-String password

Microsoft-Windows-PowerShell/Operational (EID 4103)

```
ParameterBinding (Get-ChildItem): name="Filter"; value="*.txt"
ParameterBinding (Get-ChildItem): name="Recurse"; value="True"
ParameterBinding (Get-ChildItem): name="Path"; value="c:\temp"
ParameterBinding (Select-String): name="Pattern"; value="password"
ParameterBinding (Select-String): name="InputObject";
value="creds.txt"

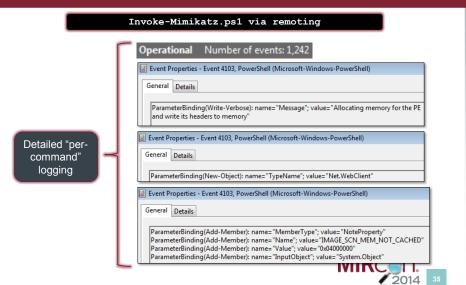
...
Command Name = Get-ChildItem
User = CORP\MHastings
```

Logged upon command execution

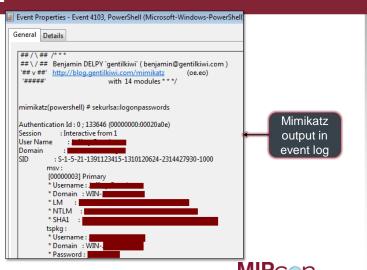
ParameterBinding(Out-Default): name="InputObject";
value="C:\temp\creds.txt:2:password: secret"
ParameterBinding(Out-Default): name="InputObject";
value="C:\temp\creds.txt:5:password: test"

Logged upon command output

Module Logging Example: Invoke- Mimikatz



Module Logging Example: Invoke- Mimikatz



PERSISTENCE



PowerShell Persistence

Scenario:

Attacker configures system to load malicious PowerShell code upon startup or user logon

- What are common PowerShell persistence mechanisms?
- How to find them?





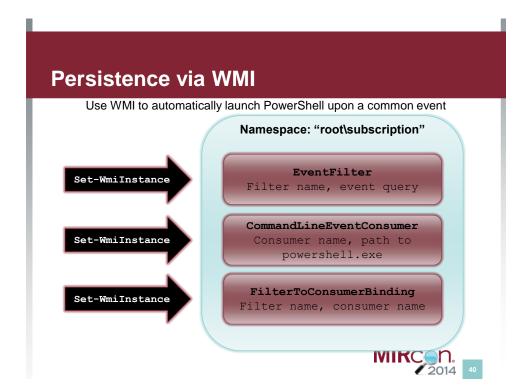


Common Techniques

- Registry "autorun" keys
- Scheduled tasks
- User "startup" folders
- Easy to detect
 - Autorun review
 - Registry timeline analysis
 - File system timeline analysis
 - Event log review







Event Filters

Query that causes the consumer to trigger

```
SELECT * FROM __InstanceModificationEvent WITHIN 60 WHERE TargetInstance ISA 'Win32_PerfFormattedData_PerfOS_System' AND TargetInstance.SystemUpTime >= 240 AND TargetInstance.SystemUpTime < 325
```

Run within minutes of startup

```
SELECT * FROM __InstanceModificationEvent WITHIN 60 WHERE TargetInstance ISA 'Win32_LocalTime' AND TargetInstance.Hour = 12 AND TargetInstance.Minute = 00 GROUP WITHIN 60
```

Run at 12:00



Event Consumers

- Launch "PowerShell.exe" when triggered by filter
- Where does the evil PS code load from?

```
sal a New-Object;iex(a IO.StreamReader((a IO.Compression.DeflateStream([IO.MemoryStream][Convert]::FromBase64 String('7L0HYBxJliUmL23Ke39K9UrX4HShCIBgEyTYkEAQ7MGIzeaS7BlpRyMpqyq BymVWZV1mFkDM7Z28995777333nvvvfe6O51OJ/ff/z9cZmQBbPbOStrJniGAqsgfP3 58Hz8ivlsXbb795bpdrdv0o2/nZVml363qcvbR/xMAAP/'),[IO.Compression.CompressionMode]::Decompress)),[Text.Encoding]::ASCII)).ReadToEnd()
```

Stored in user or system-wide "profile.ps1"

```
Set-WmiInstance -Namespace "root\subscription" -Class
'CommandLineEventConsumer' -Arguments @{
name='TotallyLegitWMI';CommandLineTemplate="$($Env:SystemRoot)\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe -
NonInteractive";RunInteractively='false'}
```

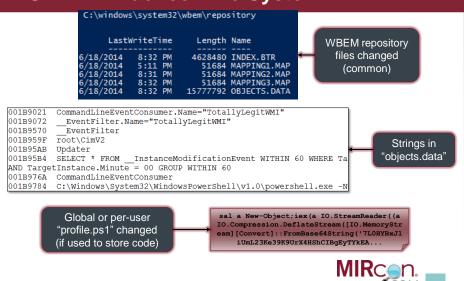
Added to Consumer Command-Line Arguments (length limit, code must be base64'd)

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Enumerating WMI Objects with PowerShell

- Get-WMIObject -Namespace root\Subscription-Class EventFilter
- Get-WMIObject -Namespace root\Subscription-Class EventConsumer
- Get-WMIObject -Namespace root\Subscription-Class FilterToConsumerBinding

PS WMI Evidence: File System



PS WMI Evidence: Registry

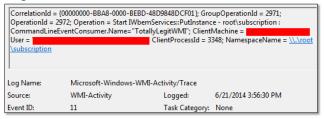


Created only when setting a time-based WMI filter (many other types of triggers may be used)



PS WMI Evidence: Other Sources

- SysInternals AutoRuns v12
- Memory: WMI filter & consumer names
 - svchost.exe (WinMgmt service)
 - WmiPrvse.exe
- Event logs: WMI Trace





CONCLUSIONS



Other Sources of Evidence

- Refer to whitepaper
- Prefetch for "PowerShell.exe"
 - Local execution only
 - Scripts in Accessed File list
- Registry
 - "ExecutionPolicy" setting
- Network traffic analysis (WinRM)
 - 5985 (HTTP) / 5986 (HTTPS)
 - Payload always encrypted
 - Identify anomalous netflows
- SysInternals Sysmon
 - Command argument auditing
 - Local execution only

POWERSHELL.EXE-59FC8F3D.pf







Lessons Learned

- Upgrade and enable Module Logging if possible
- Baseline legitimate PowerShell usage
 - ExecutionPolicy setting
 - Script naming conventions, paths
 - Remoting enabled?
 - Which users?
 - Common source / destination systems
- Recognize artifacts of anomalous usage



Acknowledgements

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Questions?

ryan.kazanciyan@mandiant.com @ryankaz42

matt.hastings@mandiant.com @HastingsVT

