# **DEEP HOOKS**

MONITORING NATIVE EXECUTION IN WOW64 APPLICATIONS

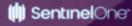
Assaf Carlsbad @assaf\_carlsbad

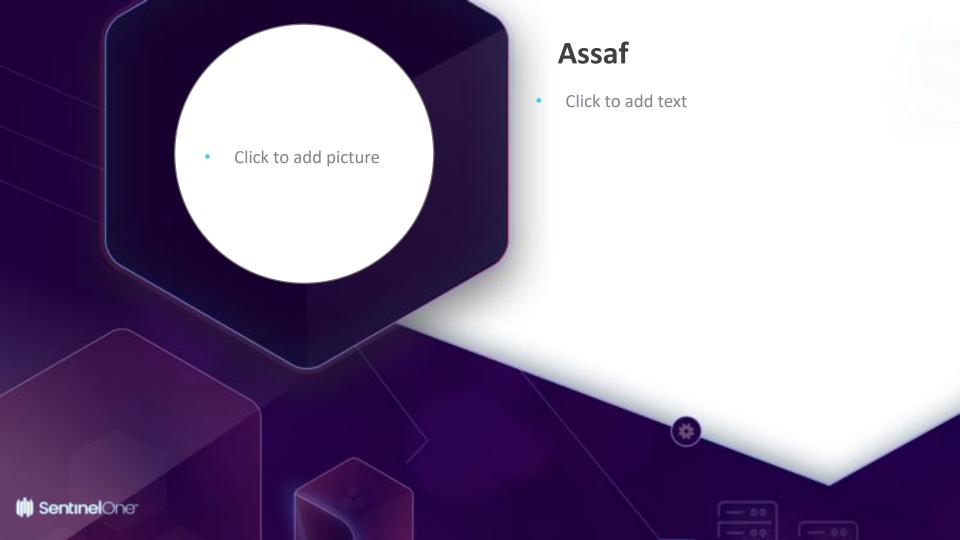
Yarden Shafir @yarden\_shafir



### Yarden

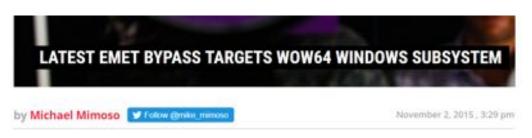
- I started dancing at the age of 7 and later competed with a rhythmic gymnastics team.
- After my military service I practiced dancing and aerial acrobatics.
- Today I teach aerial acrobatics and perform on silks and lyra.
- In my spare time, I'm a security researcher at SentinelOne.





### **BACKGROUND**

- AVs (EDR/EPP/NGAV) do tons of user-mode hooking
  - Used to intercept and potentially block process' actions
- User-mode hooks can be (and are) bypassed by malicious techniques
  - Some techniques are unique to WoW64 processes



EMET bypass in Wow64 Windows subsystem

by Martin Brinkmann on November 05, 2015 in Security - 8 comments

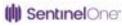
### Phenom, Bypassing Antiviruses

COSEINC (AML) Advanced Malware Labs

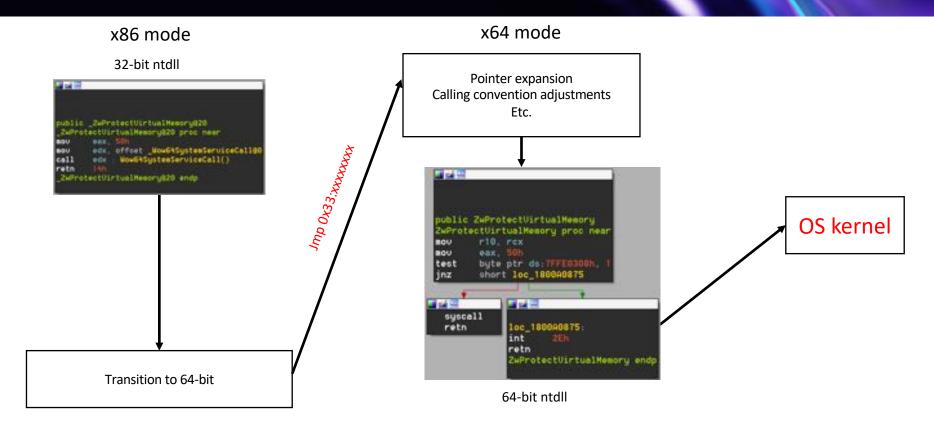


### **WOW64**

- Windows on Windows 64
  - 32-bit apps running on 64-bit systems
- Filesystem & registry redirection (out of scope)
- Syscall handling
  - 2 versions of NTDLL in the process 32-bit and 64-bit
  - API calls from the app reach the 32-bit NTDLL



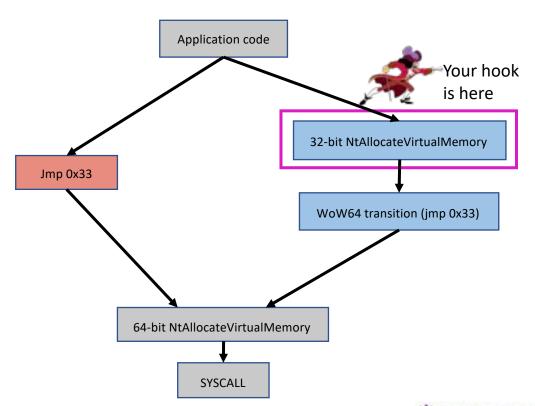
# WoW64 system call overview





### **HEAVEN'S GATE**

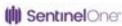
- A technique for calling the 64bit API function without going through the 32-bit API
- Abuses the JMP 0x33 control transfer
- Used ITW by various malware





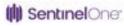
### THE SOLUTION

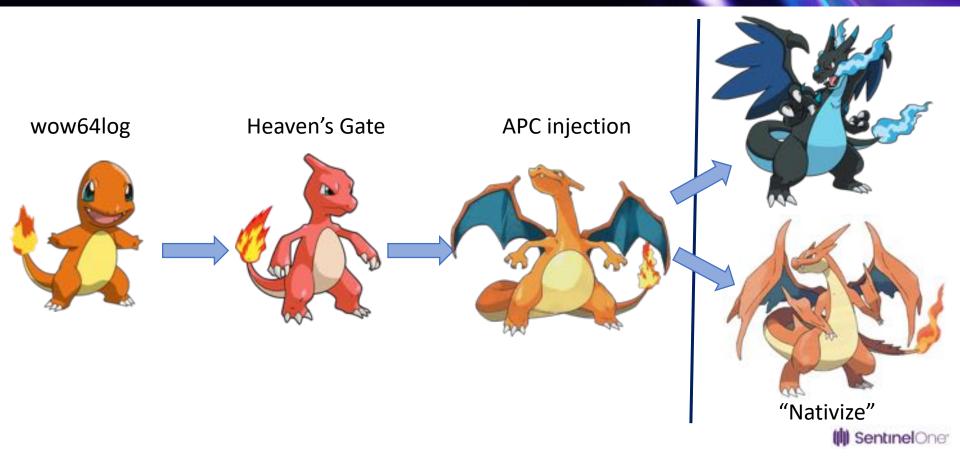
- Hook 64-bit APIs in WoW64 processes!
- But...
  - Need to inject 64-bit code into the process
  - That code should run in a difficult environment
  - No hooking library we are aware of can do this out-of-the-box



### **INJECTION**

- Lots of injection methods exist out there
- Most can only inject a DLL which has the same bitness as the target process
- We need to do something unique inject a 64-bit DLL into a WoW64 process

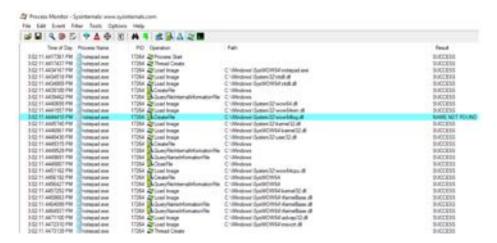




### INJECTION #1 – WOW64LOG.DLL



- Wow64log.dll
  - A DLL loaded automatically during WoW64 initialization
  - Not shipped by default, so can be created in system32
  - Easy just name your DLL wow64log.dll





### **INJECTION #2 – HEAVEN'S GATE**



To detect the malware, you must become the malware

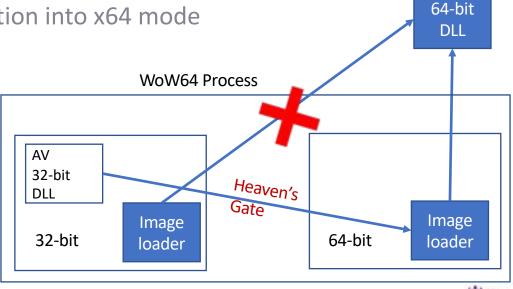




# **INJECTION #2 – HEAVEN'S GATE**



- 2 image loaders: 32-bit and 64-bit
- Requires injection of 32-bit code first
- Use Heaven's Gate to transition into x64 mode
- Call 64-bit LdrLoadDII()



### **INJECTION #3 - APC**



- Asynchronous Procedure Call
- Kernel mechanism that provides a way to execute a custom routine in the context of a particular thread
- User-mode APCs
  - Runs with user-mode permissions
  - Target thread must enter alertable wait state
  - Handled by ntdll!KiUserApcDispatcher
  - Usually queued from a kernel driver

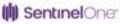


### **INJECTION #3 - APC**



- Popular among AVs and intelligence agencies
  - Queue an APC to LdrLoadDll()/LoadLibrary()
  - Used to inject a DLL with the same bitness as the target process
- In WoW64 processes APCs can run in 32-bit or 64-bit mode
  - Can call 64-bit loader functions!

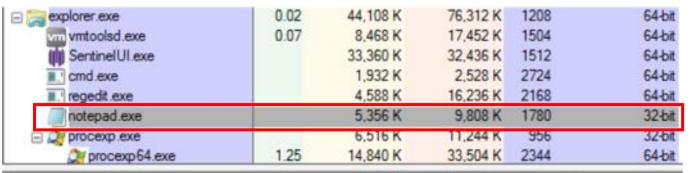




```
void InjectDllByApc( In PKTHREAD pTargetThread)
    ZwAllocateVirtualMemory(ZwCurrentProcess(), &ctx, 0, &ctxSize, MEM COMMIT | MEM RESERVE,
PAGE READWRITE);
    ctx->pLdrLoadDll64 = pLdrLoadDll;
    RtlInitEmptyUnicodeString(&ctx->DllName, ctx->Buffer, sizeof(ctx->Buffer));
    RtlUnicodeStringCopyString(&ctx->DllName, L"injectedDll.dll");
    ZwAllocateVirtualMemory(ZwCurrentProcess(), &pUserApcCode, 0, &apcRoutineSize, MEM COMMIT | MEM RESERVE,
PAGE EXECUTE READWRITE);
    RtlCopyMemory(pUserApcCode, AdapterThunk, AdapterThunkSize());
    KeInitializeApc(pKapcObj, pTargetThread, OriginalApcEnvironment, KernelApcRoutine, NULL, pUserApcCode,
UserMode, ctx);
    KeInsertQueueApc(pKapcObj, NULL, NULL, 0);
void AdapterThunk( In PVOID NormalContext, In PVOID Sysarg1, In PVOID Sysarg2)
    HANDLE hModule;
    PINJECTION CONTEXT ctx = (PINJECTION CONTEXT)NormalContext;
```

ctx->pLdrLoadDl164(0, 0, &ctx->Dl1Name, &hModule);

### **SUCCESS!**

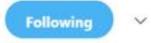


| Name             | Description                      | Image Type | Base       |
|------------------|----------------------------------|------------|------------|
| anisetschema dll | ApiSet Schema DLL                | 64-bit     | 0x40000    |
| Injected DII.dll | Win Agent Minimal Host DII       | 64-bit     | 0x1A0000   |
| ntdll.dll        | NT Layer DLL                     | 64-bit     | 0x776E0000 |
| wow64.dll        | Win32 Emulation on NT64          | 64-bit     | 0x74490000 |
| wow64cpu.dll     | AMD64 Wow64 CPU                  | 64-bit     | 0x74820000 |
| wow64win.dll     | Wow64 Console and Win32 API      | 64-bit     | 0x743E0000 |
| advapi32.dll     | Advanced Windows 32 Base API     | 32-bit     | 0x761C0000 |
| comctl32.dll     | User Experience Controls Library | 32-bit     | 0x73230000 |



### **OR NOT?**





Cute... APC injection into Windows 10 Wow64 processes breaks when CFG is enabled (very subtle bitmap selection issue)

```
0:001> k
4:57 PM - 11 Dec 2015
                          # Child-SP
                                            RetAddr
                                                             Call Site
                           00000000 0097ebc8 00007ff9 dcbf6d8c ntdl1!Rt1Fai1Fast2
                            00000000 0097ebd0 00007ff9 dcb90ce8 ntdll!RtlpHandleInvalidUserCallTarget+0x5c
                            00000000 0097ecc0 00007ff9 dcba3a0e ntdll | KiUserCallForwarder+0x20
                            00000000 0097ed10 00000000 6f9e1e5c ntdll!KiUserApcDispatch+0x2e
                            00000000 0097f208 00000000 6f9e1cbd wow64cpu!CpupSyscal1Stub+0xc
                            00000000 0097f210 00000000 6fa8ac12 wow64cpu|Thunk0ArgReloadState+0x5
                            00000000 0097f2c0 00000000 6fa7bcf0 wow64!RunCpuSimulation+0xee12
                           00000000 0097f2f0 00007ff9 dcb79314 wow64!Wow64LdrpInitialize+0x120
                           00000000 0097f5a0 00007ff9 dcb7920b ntdll!_LdrpInitialize+0xf4
                            00000000 0097f620 00007ff9 dcb791be ntdll! LdrpInitialize+0x3b
                            00000000 0097f650 00000000 00000000 ntdll!IdrInitializeThunk+0xe
```



### **CFG – CONTROL FLOW GUARD**

- Exploit mitigation feature introduced in Windows 8.1
- Only allows indirect calls to valid call targets
- Indirect calls to invalid targets will crash the process

#### WITHOUT CFG

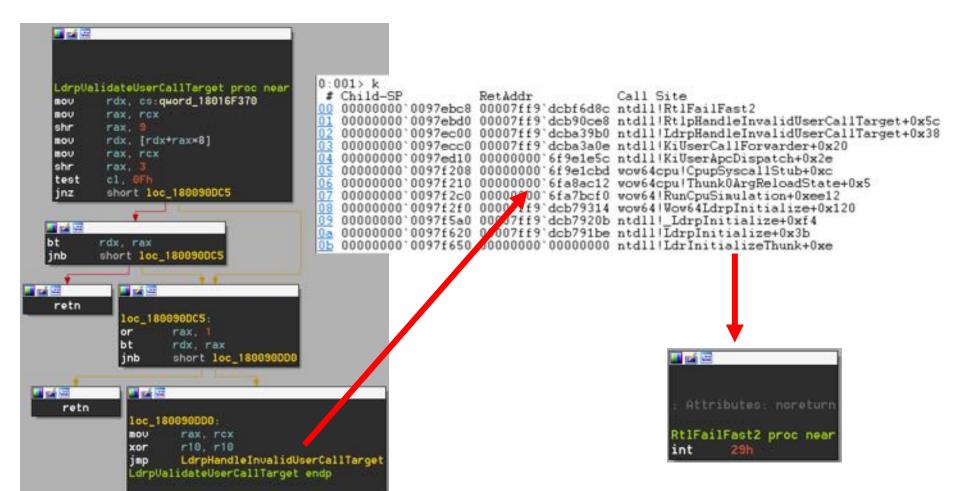
#### WITH CFG



### **VALID CALL TARGETS**

- Valid call targets:
  - For images Start addresses of functions
  - For executable private memory allocations All of the buffer
- CFG uses a bitmap to mark valid executable addresses
- Each bit represents 8 bytes in the process' address space
- Valid call targets are marked in the bitmap whenever new executable memory is introduced into the process

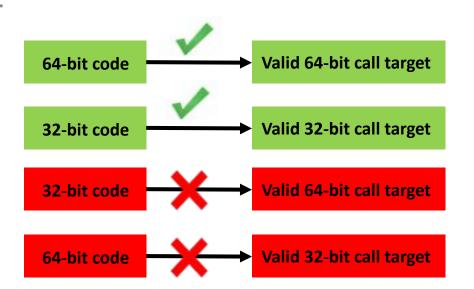






### **CFG IN WOW64**

- WoW64 processes have 2 CFG bitmaps:
  - Native bitmap for 64-bit code
  - WoW64 bitmap for 32-bit code
- 2 NTDLLs = 2 validation functions
  - 64-bit NTDLL native bitmap
  - 32-bit NTDLL WoW64 bitmap

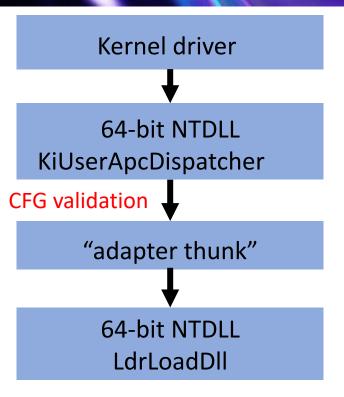




```
PVOID * MiSelectCfgBitmap(PEPROCESS CurrentProcess, PVOID Address, PSEGMENT Segment)
       ((CurrentProcess.WoW64Process != NULL) &&
        (Address < 4gb) &&
        ( (Segment == NULL) | (MiSelectBitMapForImage(Segment) == DynamicBaseBitMap32) ) )
        return Wow64CFGBitmap;
   else
        return NativeCFGBitmap;
```

### **BACK TO APC INJECTION**

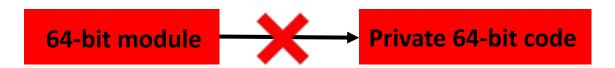
- APC target contains 64-bit code
- Handled by 64-bit KiUserApcDispatcher
- Adapter thunk is never called
- Adapter thunk is not considered a valid call target CFG validation
   by CFG validation routine "adapted"





### SO WHERE'S THE PROBLEM?

- Our "adapter thunk" is not marked in the native CFG bitmap
- Only 64-bit modules are marked in the native CFG bitmap
- Private memory allocations are always marked in the WoW64 bitmap





### **OPTION #1 – "NATIVIZE" THE PROCESS**



```
PVOID * MiSelectCfgBitmap(PEPROCESS CurrentProcess, PVOID Address, PSEGMENT Segment)
    if ( (CurrentProcess.WoW64Process != NULL) &&
        (Address < 4gb) &&
        ( (Segment == NULL) || (MiSelectBitMapForImage(Segment) == DynamicBaseBitMap32) ) )
        return Wow64CFGBitmap;
    else
        return NativeCFGBitmap;
```

### **OPTION #1 – "NATIVIZE" THE PROCESS**



- To check if the process is native, the kernel uses the WoW64Process member of the EPROCESS
- If we set EPROCESS->WoW64Process to NULL, MiSelectCfgBitmap will:
  - Assume that the process is a native one
  - Mark the adapter thunk in the native bitmap

```
originalWow64Process = CurrentProcess->WoW64Process;
CurrentProcess->WoW64Process = NULL;
ZwAllocateVirtualMemory(ZwCurrentProcess(), ..., PAGE_EXECUTE_READWRITE);
CurrentProcess->WoW64Process = originalWow64Process;
```

# "NATIVIZE" THE PROCESS – DOWNSIDES

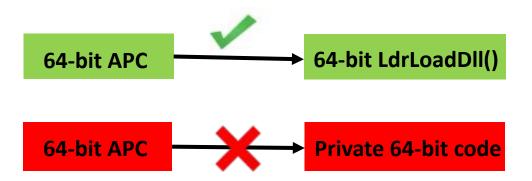


- The EPROCESS structure is undocumented and changes often
- Need to search for WoW64Process heuristically
- Dynamically changing WoW64Process could cause unexpected side effects

### **OPTION #2 – "THUNKLESS" APC INJECTION**



- Private memory is marked in the WoW64 CFG bitmap
- No private memory = no problem
- Can we call the 64-bit LdrLoadDll() directly?



### OOPS...



- An APC routine receives 3 arguments
- LdrLoadDII() expects 4 arguments

```
NTSTATUS
LdrLoadDll (
__In_ PWCHAR PathToFile,
__In_ ULONG Flags,
__In_ PUNICODE_STRING ModuleFileName,
__Out_ PHANDLE ModuleHandle
);
```

```
VOID
KNORMAL_ROUTINE (
    _In_opt_ PVOID NormalContext,
    _In_opt_ PVOID SystemArgument1,
    _In_opt_ PVOID SystemArgument2
    );
```

### **NOT A FAILURE YET**



- Because of x64 calling convention, every function implicitly receives 4 arguments
  - First 4 arguments are passed in registers: rcx, rdx, r8, r9
  - We can control the first 3 parameters passed by the APC
  - Whatever value is in r9 will be interpreted as the fourth

push p5 mov r9, p4 mov r8, p3 mov rdx, p2 mov rcx, p1 call func



# **REQUIREMENTS**

1

- Fourth parameter is an output parameter
- Needs to be a pointer to writable memory
- Needs to be memory we can overwrite without messing things up

```
NTSTATUS
LdrLoadDll (
__In_ PWCHAR PathToFile,
__In_ ULONG Flags,
__In_ PUNICODE_STRING ModuleFileName,
__Out_ PHANDLE ModuleHandle
);
```

# WHAT'S IN R9?

- R9 holds a CONTEXT structure
- Will be used to resume the thread after
  - APC dispatch (via NtContinue)
- First few members don't hold CPU-related
   data and can be overwritten

0:000> dt nt!\_CONTEXT

ntdll!\_CONTEXT

+0x000 P1Home

+0x008 P2Home

+0x010 P3Home

+0x018 P4Home

+0x020 P5Home

+0x028 P6Home

+0x030 ContextFlags

: Uint4B

: Uint8B

: Uint8B

: Uint8B

: Uint8B

: Uint8B

: Uint8B

+0x034 ...

http://www.nynaeve.net/?p=202

# **SUCCESS!**



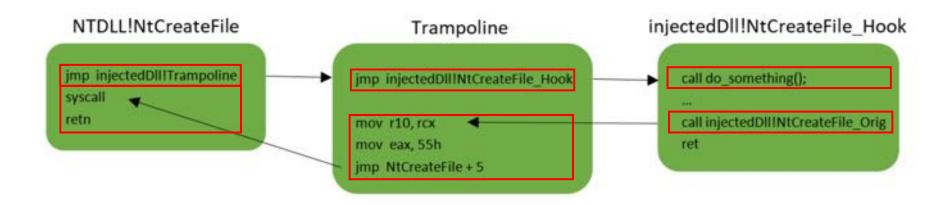
| explorer.exe               | 0.17 | 102,388 K | 142,596 K | 3508 | 64-bit CFG |
|----------------------------|------|-----------|-----------|------|------------|
| explorer.exe  MSASCuil.exe | 0.17 | 5.080 K   | 14,592 K  | 6484 | 64-bit CFG |
| vm vmtoolsd.exe            | 0.04 | 23,000 K  | 44,436 K  | 6576 | 64-bit     |
| (III) SentinelUI.exe       |      | 26,708 K  | 50,240 K  | 6596 | 64-bit     |
| powershell.exe             | 0.01 | 60,380 K  | 82,908 K  | 6660 | 64-bit n/a |
| conhost.exe                |      | 6,888 K   | 21,120 K  | 6716 | 64-bit n/a |
| regedit exe                |      | 4.456 K   | 20.284 K  | 6588 | 64-bit n/a |
| notepad.exe                |      | 8,312 K   | 19,024 K  | 3820 | 32-bit CFG |
| ☐ procexp.exe              |      | 7,312 K   | 15,928 K  | 5020 | 32-bit     |
| procexp64.exe              | 3.06 | 16,592 K  | 42,708 K  | 5640 | 64-bit     |
| ConeDrive.exe              |      | 16,676 K  | 43,068 K  | 5096 | 32-bit CFG |

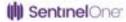
|   | Name                         | Base                       | Image Type       |
|---|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| ľ | Injected DII.dll             | 0x6FBA0000                 | 64-bit           |
|   | wow64cpu.dll<br>wow64win.dll | 0x7/C60000<br>0x77C70000   | 64-bit<br>64-bit |
|   | wow64.dll                    | 0x77CF0000                 | 64-bit           |
|   | ntdll.dll<br>notepad.exe     | 0x7FFB8DE30000<br>0x2D0000 | 64-bit<br>32-bit |
|   | ntmarta.dll                  | 0x6C910000                 | 32-bit           |
|   | mclient.dll                  | 0x6CB70000                 | 32-bit           |



### **INLINE HOOKS 101**

- We want our DLL to hook the 64-bit NTDLL
- Most hooking engines use "inline hooks"





### **CONSTRAINTS**

- No hooking engine can hook 64-bit APIs in WoW64 apps
- Major limitation no core Win32 DLLs
  - Kernelbase.dll
  - Kernel32.dll
  - user32.dll
  - msvcrt.dll
- Strip all dependencies other than 64-bit NTDLL
  - Re-implement WIN32 APIs
  - Disable some security and runtime checks
  - Replace some functions (memset, memcpy) implemented in CRT



# **API RE-IMPLEMENTATION**

```
BOOL WINAPI MyVirtualProtect(
    _In_ LPVOID lpAddress,
    _In_ SIZE_T dwSize,
   _In_ DWORD flNewProtect,
   _Out_ PDWORD lpflOldProtect
    NTSTATUS Status;
    Status = NtProtectVirtualMemory(NtCurrentProcess(),
                                    &lpAddress,
                                    &dwSize,
                                    flNewProtect,
                                    (PULONG)lpfl0ldProtect);
    if (!NT_SUCCESS(Status)) {
        return FALSE;
    return TRUE;
```



ReactOS to the rescue!



#### **SOLVING SOME MORE ERRORS**

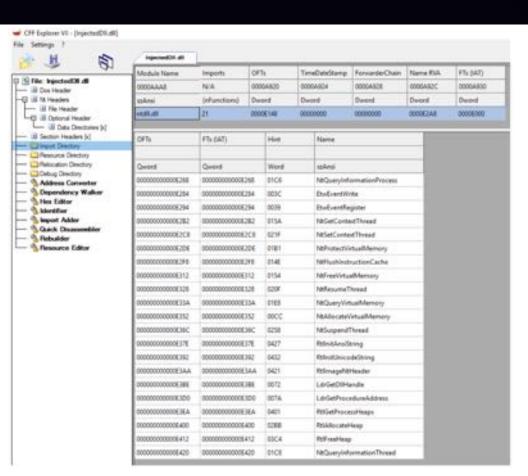
- LNK2001 unresolved external symbol \_DIIMainCRTStartup
- KNK2001 unresolved external symbol memcpy
- LNK2001 unresolved external symbol \_RTC\_CheckStackVars
- NIX2001 unresolved external symbol\_RTC\_InitBase
- (X) LNX2001 unresolved external symbol \_RTC\_Shutdown
- (X) LNI/2001 unresolved external symbol \_GSHandlerCheck
- LNK2001 unresolved external symbol \_\_security\_check\_cookie
- LNK2001 unresolved external symbol \_\_security\_cookie
- (X) LNIC2019 unresolved external symbol memcpy referenced in function MH\_CreateHook
- LNK2019 unresolved external symbol \_RTC\_CheckStackVars referenced in function MH\_CreateHook
- LNK2019 unresolved external symbol \_RTC\_CheckStackVars referenced in function MH\_CreateHook
- UNX2019 unresolved external symbol \_\_security\_check\_cookie referenced in function MH\_CreateHook
- (X) LNK2019 unresolved external symbol \_\_security\_check\_cookie referenced in function MH\_CreateHook
- (2) LNK2019 unresolved external symbol \_\_security\_cookie referenced in function MH\_CreateHook
- (2) LNICO19 unresolved external symbol \_security\_cookie referenced in function MH\_CreateHook
- 🔯 LNK2019 unresolved external symbol memset referenced in function AllocateBuffer
- (S) LNIC2019 unresolved external symbol memset referenced in function AllocateBuffer
- (X) LNK2019 unresolved external symbol \_RTC\_UninitUse referenced in function hde64\_disasm

These mostly require configuration changes.

They are not at all interesting so we will not talk about them.



#### **SUCCESS!**





# **MAYBE NOT?**

- Until Windows 8 all the modules in WoW64 processes resided below 4GB
- In Windows 8.1 the 64-bit NTDLL was moved above 4GB

| idaq64.exe<br>notepad.exe  |                              |                  | notepad exe  |            | 5,032 K<br>4,632 K |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|--------------|------------|--------------------|
| Name                       | Base                         | Image Type       | Name         | Base       | Image Type         |
| ntdl.dll<br>ntdl.dll       | 0x7FF9C1A70000<br>0x76EF0000 | 64-bit<br>32-bit | ntdll.dll    | 0x77A20000 | 32-bit             |
| ucrtbase dl                | 0x76DD0000                   | 32-bit           | ntdll.dll    | 0x77840000 | 64-bit             |
| advapi32 dll               | 0x76D50000                   | 32-bit           | msvcrt.dll   | 0x77570000 | 32-bit             |
| lb. forgwood               | 0x76CA0000                   | 32-bit           | kernel32.dll | 0x77460000 | 32-bit             |
| KernelBase.dll             | 0x76AC0000                   | 32-bit           | ole32.dll    | 0x77300000 | 32-bit             |
| SHCore.dll                 | 0x76A30000                   | 32-bit           | shlwapi.dll  | 0x77240000 | 32-bit             |
| ser32.dll                  | 0x768B0000                   | 32-bit           | usp10.dll    | 0x77170000 | 32-bit             |
| hlwapi.dll                 | 0x76860000                   | 32-bit           | comdlg32.dll | 0x770F0000 | 32-bit             |
| comdig32.dll<br>win32u.dll | 0x76780000<br>0x765D0000     | 32-bit<br>32-bit | oleaut32.dll | 0x77000000 | 32-bit             |

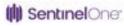
Windows 10

Windows 7

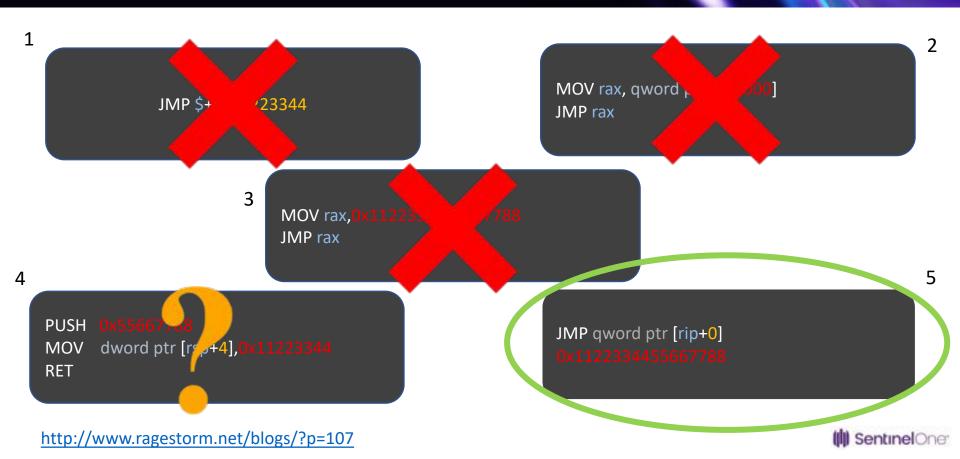


# **BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD #1**

- The JMP used by inline hooks (0xE9) only allows jumping 2GB or less into the trampoline
- No other code can be allocated above 4GB
- Distance between the trampoline and the hooked function is much greater than 2GB => STATUS\_EPIC\_FAILURE



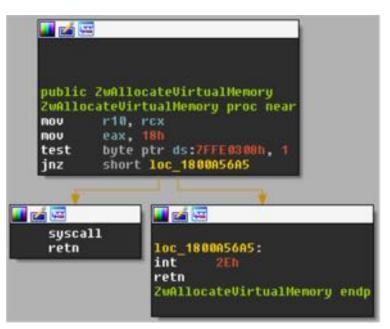
# **BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD #1**



# WORKS ON WINDOWS 10 (BUT ONLY THERE...)

Instruction is too long for environments older than Windows 10

```
public ZwAllocateVirtualMemory
ZwAllocateVirtualMemory proc near
mov r10, rcx
mov eax, 17h
syscall
retn
ZwAllocateVirtualMemory endp
```



Windows 7 Windows 10



# **BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD #2**

```
PUSH 0x55667788
MOV dword ptr [rsp+4],0x11223341
RET
```

- Memory can only be allocated in lower 4GB
  - Trampoline will be in lower 4GB
- 64-bit addresses under 4GB 0x00000000xxxxxxxx
- Push imm32 zero-extends the value to 64-bits

|         | aabbccdd |
|---------|----------|
|         | 44332211 |
|         | 12345678 |
|         | deadbeef |
| Return  | 00000000 |
| address | 55667788 |
|         |          |

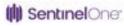


# **SUCCESS!**



# **DEEP HOOKS - RECAP**

- Injection of 64-bit DLL to WoW64 process:
  - 3 (relatively) known injection methods
  - 2 (new) variations to APC injection
- Modified hooking engine
  - Re-implemented Win32 APIs
  - Project configuration changes
  - Replaced the JMP instruction from the hooked function to the detour



# **REFERENCES**

- <a href="https://www.sentinelone.com/blog/deep-hooks-monitoring-native-execution-wow64-applications-part-1/">https://www.sentinelone.com/blog/deep-hooks-monitoring-native-execution-wow64-applications-part-1/</a>
- <a href="https://www.sentinelone.com/blog/deep-hooks-monitoring-native-execution-wow64-applications-part-2/">https://www.sentinelone.com/blog/deep-hooks-monitoring-native-execution-wow64-applications-part-2/</a>
- <a href="https://www.sentinelone.com/blog/deep-hooks-monitoring-native-execution-wow64-applications-part-3/">https://www.sentinelone.com/blog/deep-hooks-monitoring-native-execution-wow64-applications-part-3/</a>
- https://github.com/Sentinel-One/minhook



# **QUESTIONS?** (iii) SentinelOne