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## Understand Credential Security: Important Things You Need to Know About Storing Your Identity



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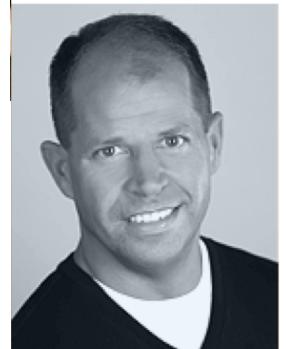
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Solid State Drive

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# Definition of credentials

Set of data  
that allows other party  
to believe me  
when I tell who I am



# Bootkey:

Class names for keys from HKLM\SYSTEM\CCS\Control\Lsa



\$MACHINE.ACC  
(SYSTEM's Clear Text Password)

DPAPI\_SYSTEM (Master Keys)  
HKLM\SECURITY\Policy\Secrets

SAM/NTDS.dit  
(MD4 Hashes)

C:\windows\system32\config

C:\windows\system32\NTDS

LSA Secrets  
(Service Accounts)

HKLM\SECURITY\Policy\Secrets

MSdcc2  
(Cached Logon Data)

HKLM\SECURITY\Cache

More information: <http://cquareacademy.com/blog>

# Are ‘cached credentials’ safe?

## Encrypted Cached Credentials: Legend

Name	Value	Start	Size	Color	Comment
struct Header h		0h	96	Fg: Bg:	
ushort uname_len	16	0h	2	Fg: Bg:	█
ushort domain_len	10	2h	2	Fg: Bg:	█
ushort mail_nick_len	16	4h	2	Fg: Bg:	█
ushort cn_len	28	6h	2	Fg: Bg:	█
ushort u1	0	8h	2	Fg: Bg:	
ushort logon_script_len	0	Ah	2	Fg: Bg:	█
ushort profile_path_len	0	Ch	2	Fg: Bg:	█
ushort home_dir_len	0	Eh	2	Fg: Bg:	█
uint user_sid	1163	10h	4	Fg: Bg:	█
uint primary_group_id	513	14h	4	Fg: Bg:	█
uint u2	2	18h	4	Fg: Bg:	
ushort group_sids_len	10	1Ch	2	Fg: Bg:	█
ushort domain_netbios_name...	24	1Eh	2	Fg: Bg:	█
FILETIME last_local_logon	04/25/2015 18:47:22	20h	8	Fg: Bg:	█
ushort u3	4	28h	2	Fg: Bg:	
ushort u4	1	2Ah	2	Fg: Bg:	
uint u5	1	2Ch	4	Fg: Bg:	
ushort u6	1	30h	2	Fg: Bg:	
ushort u7	10	32h	2	Fg: Bg:	
uint u8	16	34h	4	Fg: Bg:	
uint u9	16	38h	4	Fg: Bg:	█
ushort domain_name_len	18	3Ch	2	Fg: Bg:	█
ushort email_len	36	3Eh	2	Fg: Bg:	█
byte iv[16]	JO& cÃ"Y—wæ%Rº	40h	16	Fg: Bg:	█
byte cksum[16]	Àv¶gÖh7J†rÜ  m&♦	50h	16	Fg: Bg:	█

# Encrypted Cached Credentials

$\text{DK} = \text{PBKDF2}(\text{PRF}, \text{Password}, \text{Salt}, c, \text{dkLen})$

Microsoft's implementation: MSDCC2=  
PBKDF2(HMAC-SHA1, DCC1, username, 10240, 16)

# Cached Logons: It used to be like this...

## Windows 2003 / XP

The encryption algorithm is RC4.

The hash is used to verify authentication is calculated as follows:

DCC1 = MD4 (MD4 (Unicode (password) ) .

LowerUnicode (username) )

is

DCC1 = MD4 (hashNTLM . LowerUnicode (username) )

## Usage in the attack

Before the attacks facilitated by pass-the-hash, we can only rejoice the "salting" by the username.

There are a number pre-computed tables for users as Administrator facilitating attacks on these hashes.



# Cached Logons: Now it is like this!



## Windows Vista / 2008 +

The encryption algorithm is AES128.

The hash is used to verify authentication is calculated as follows:

$MSDCC2 = PBKDF2(\text{HMAC-SHA1}, \text{Iterations}, DCC1, \text{LowerUnicode(username)})$

with DCC 1 calculated in the same way as for 2003 / XP.



## Usage in the attack

There is actually not much of a difference with XP / 2003!  
No additional salting.

PBKDF2 introduced a new variable: the number of iterations SHA1 with the same salt as before (username).



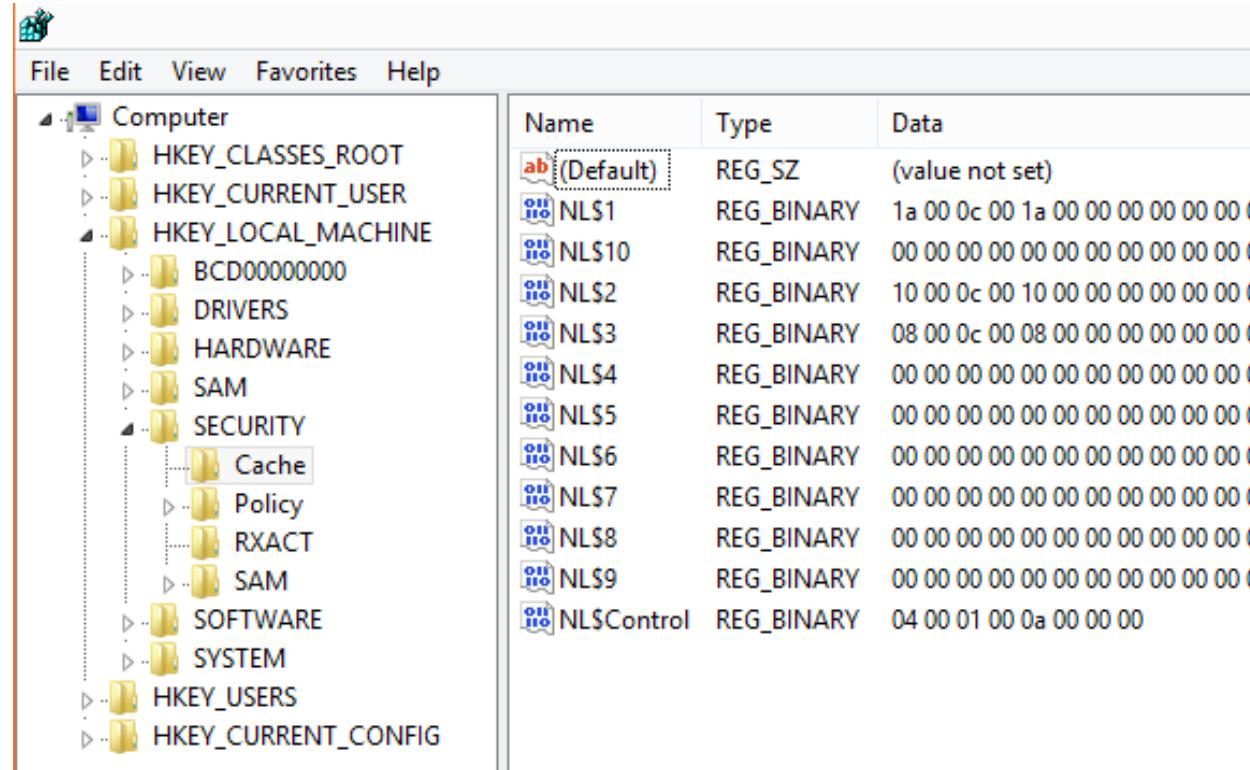
# Cached Logons: Iterations

The number of iterations in PBKDF2, it is configurable through the registry:

```
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SECURITY\Cache  
DWORD (32) NL$IterationCount
```

If the number is less than 10240, it is a multiplier by 1024 (20 therefore gives 20480 iterations)

If the number is greater than 10240, it is the number of iterations (rounded to 1024)



The screenshot shows the Windows Registry Editor window. The left pane displays a tree view of registry keys under 'Computer'. The 'Cache' key under 'SECURITY' is selected. The right pane shows a table of registry values for the 'Cache' key.

Name	Type	Data
ab(Default)	REG_SZ	(value not set)
NLS1	REG_BINARY	1a 00 0c 00 1a 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
NL\$10	REG_BINARY	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
NLS2	REG_BINARY	10 00 0c 00 10 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
NLS3	REG_BINARY	08 00 0c 00 08 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
NLS4	REG_BINARY	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
NLS5	REG_BINARY	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
NLS6	REG_BINARY	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
NLS7	REG_BINARY	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
NLS8	REG_BINARY	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
NLS9	REG_BINARY	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
NL\$Control	REG_BINARY	04 00 01 00 0a 00 00 00

# Demo: Cached Credentials

+ getting access to user's secrets

# Classic Data Protection API

- ⌚ Based on the following components:

Password, data blob, entropy

- ⌚ Is not prone to password resets!

Protects from outsiders when being in offline access  
Effectively protects users data

- ⌚ Stores the password history

You need to be able to get access to some of your passwords from the past

Conclusion: OS greatly helps us to protect secrets



# Demo: Classic DPAPI

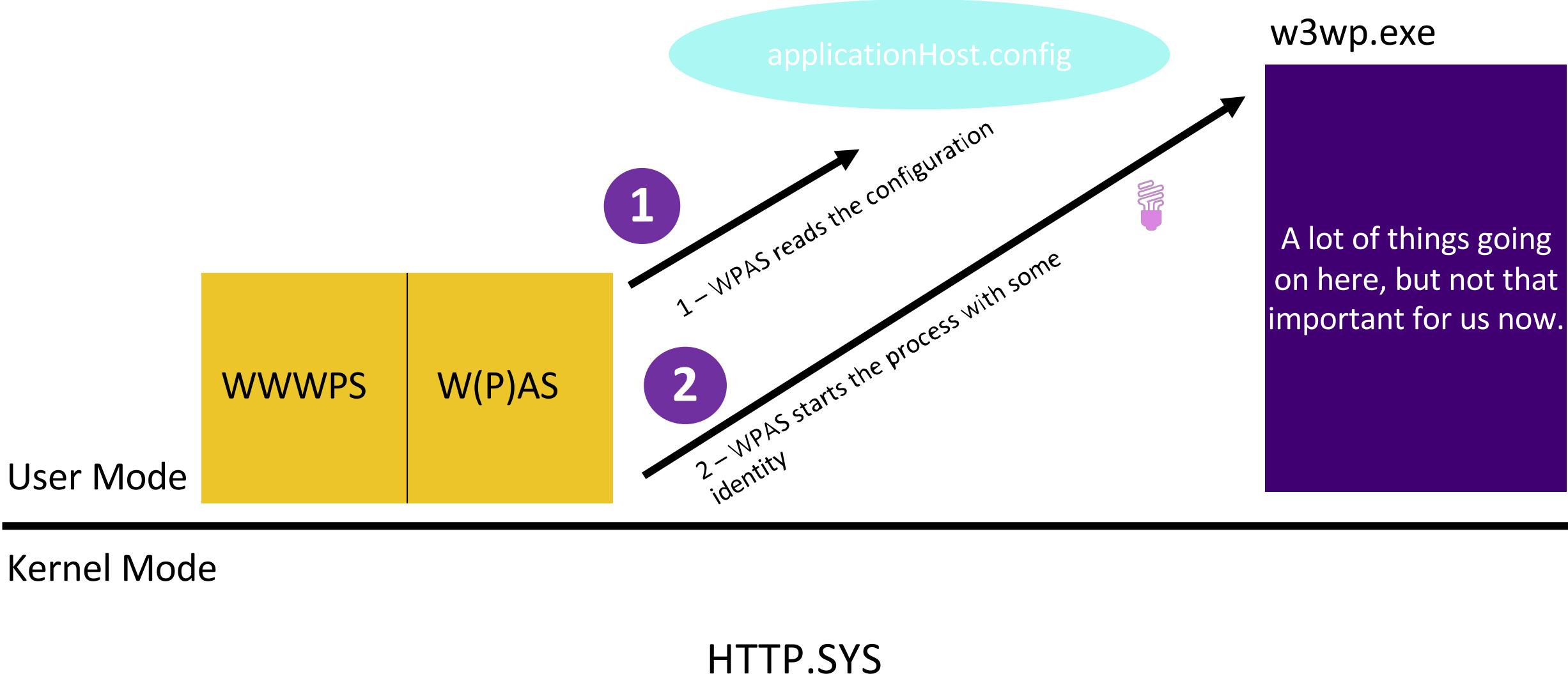
+ getting access to user's secrets in the domain

# Demo: DPAPI Taken Further + Keepass

# Demo: RDG Passwords

When centralization should be done with a bit more awareness

# IIS Structure



# Application Pools

- ⓘ Used to group one or more Web Applications

Purpose: Assign resources, serve as a security sandbox

- ⓘ Use Worker Processes (w3wp.exe)

Their identity is defined in Application Pool settings

Process requests to the applications

- ⓘ Passwords for AppPool identity can be 'decrypted' even offline

They are stored in the encrypted form in applicationHost.config

Conclusion: IIS relies its security on Machine Keys (Local System)

# Demo: Application Pools

Getting password from IIS configuration

# IISWasKey

+ extracting the data from the registry

# Services

## ⓘ Store configuration in the registry

Always need some identity to run the executable!

## ⓘ Local Security Authority (LSA) Secrets

Must be stored locally, especially when domain credentials are used

Can be accessed when we impersonate to Local System

## ⓘ Their accounts should be monitored

If you cannot use gMSA, MSA, use subscription for svc\_ accounts (naming convention)

Conclusion: Think twice before using an Administrative account, use gMSA

# Demo: Services

Getting password from LSA Secrets

# Chasing the obvious: NTDS.DIT, SAM

To perform an analysis on NTDS.DIT the following information sources are needed from the domain controller:

- ④ NTDS.DIT
- ④ Registry hives (at least the SYSTEM hive)

SAM, ntds.dit are stored locally on the server's drive

They **do not** contain Passwords

They use **MD4** as a way of storing them

They are encrypted

The above means: **To read the clear text password you need to struggle!**

# Demo: SAM/NTDS.dit

Hash spree - offline

Latest release

 2.1.0-20160928

– Sea of

2.1 20160922 CQURE Edition for Paula

 gentilkiwi released this 8 hours ago



## Downloads

 <a href="#">mimikatz_trunk.7z</a>	512 KB
 <a href="#">mimikatz_trunk.zip</a>	676 KB
 <a href="#">Source code (zip)</a>	
 <a href="#">Source code (tar.gz)</a>	

# Two AMAZING discoveries!



## Kerberos Pre-Authentication

Smart card logon is possible without a smart card



## DPAPI-NG: SID Protected PFX Files

Private keys can be extracted from the PFX files without having a password



# Kerberos Pre-Auth

## Securing Yourself for a Rainy Day

# DPAPI-NG

## SID-Protected PFX Files... Unprotected

# Credentials Security Takeaways

## ⌚ Offline access

Cryptography that relies on keys stored in the register is as safe as your offline access.

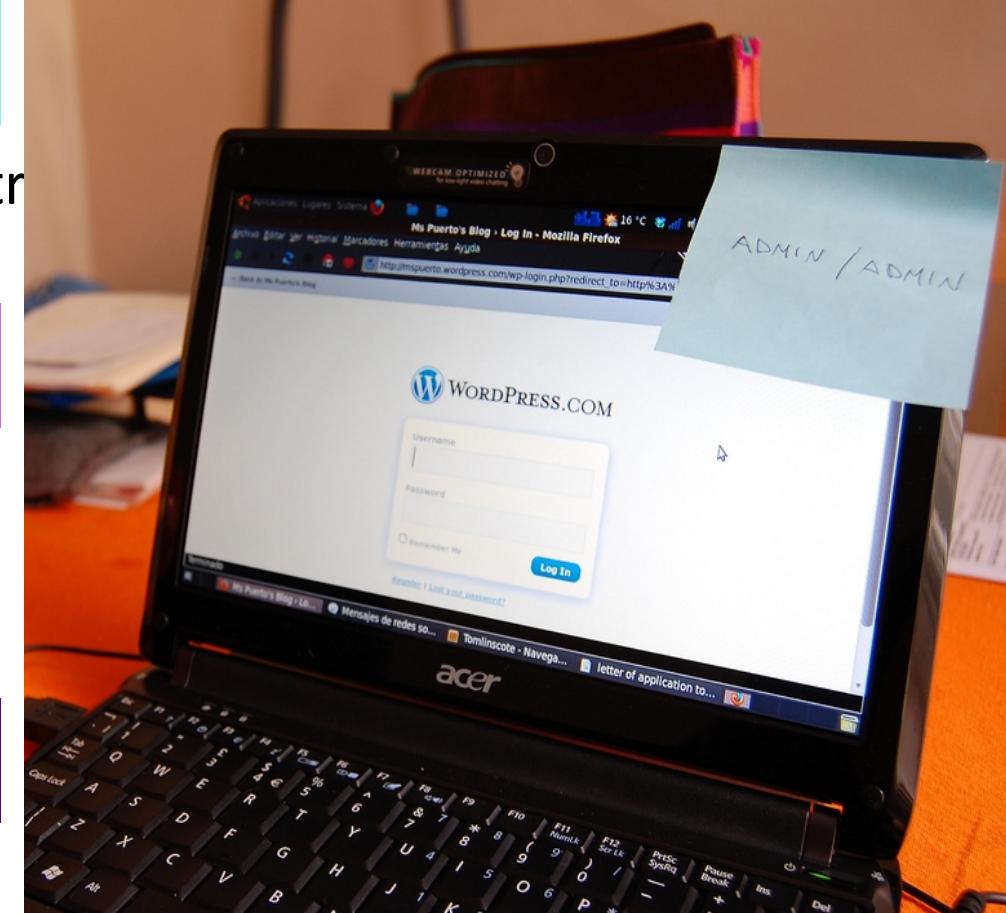
## ⌚ Domain Admins

We all know that they should log on to the Domain Controllers *only*.

Who are they? Can we *trust* them?

## ⌚ Mechanisms are safe

...when extracted. In practice they are as safe as your approach.



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**Thank you!**



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