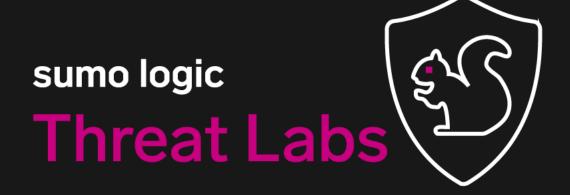


Hunting Malicious Office Macros

Defcon 30 BTV

By Anton Ovrutsky | 2022



Talk Materials

https://github.com/Antonlovesdnb/BTV30

About Me

Current: Sumo Logic Threat Research

Previous: Lares

Purple Teaming / Hunting / Logs / Queries

Twitter: @Antonlovesdnb

Agenda

Why focus on Macros

Baselining

Hunting

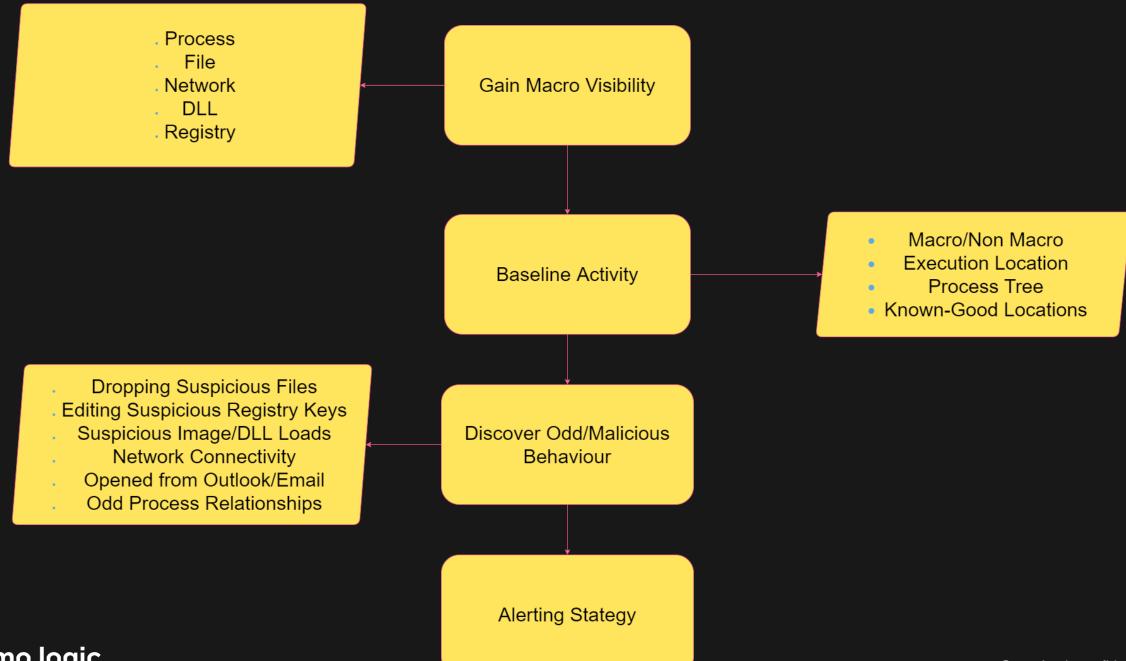
Why Macros?

Out of 122 Groups tracked by ATT&CK 59 utilize T1024.002

Google: macros site:https://thedfirreport.com/

While Microsoft announced earlier this year that it would block VBA macros on downloaded documents by default, Redmond said on Thursday that it will roll back this change based on "feedback" until further notice.

Microsoft rolls back decision to block Office macros by default (bleepingcomputer.com)



Baselining Toolbox



OfficeWatch.xml

Utilize to see all Office activity that can be captured via Sysmon



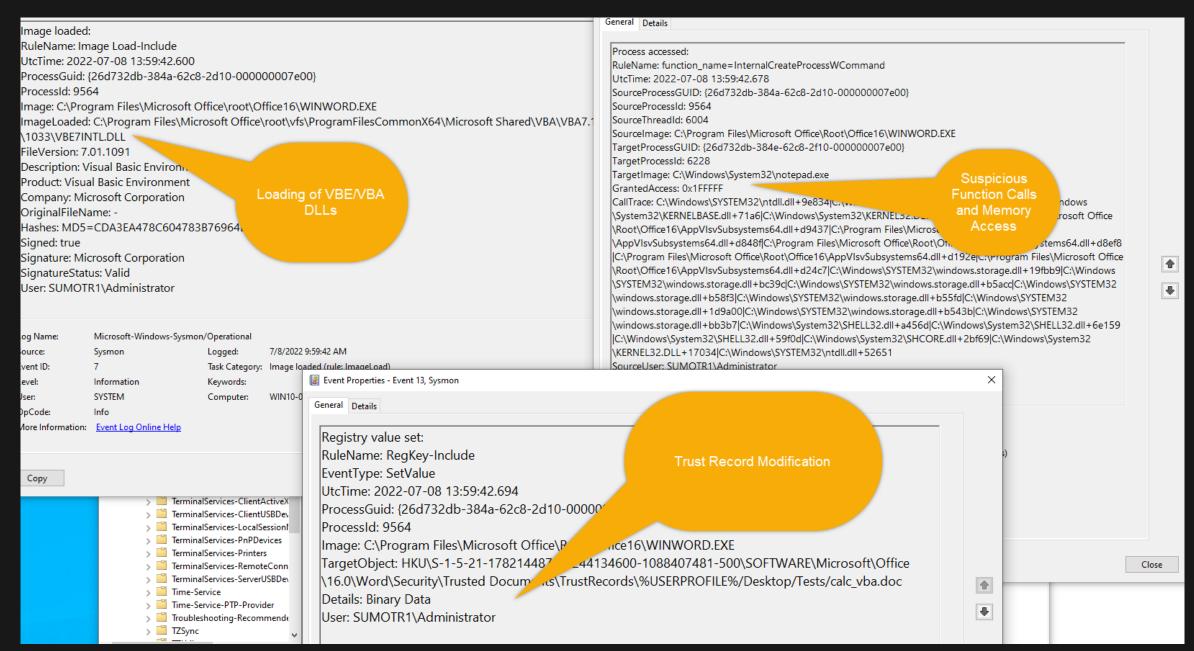
OfficeShush.xml

Filter out the noise that Office applications make, compare to events seen with OfficeWatch.xml



OfficeSus.xml

Add suspicious events to this config for testing, then add to main Sysmon config

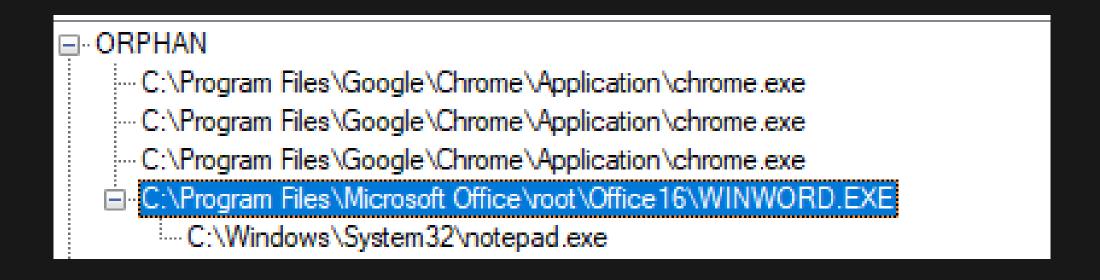


Behavior – Macro Opened from File Share

C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\root\Office16\WINWORD.EX

https://raw.githubusercontent.com/gtworek/PSBits/master/DFIR/Get-SysmonTree.ps1

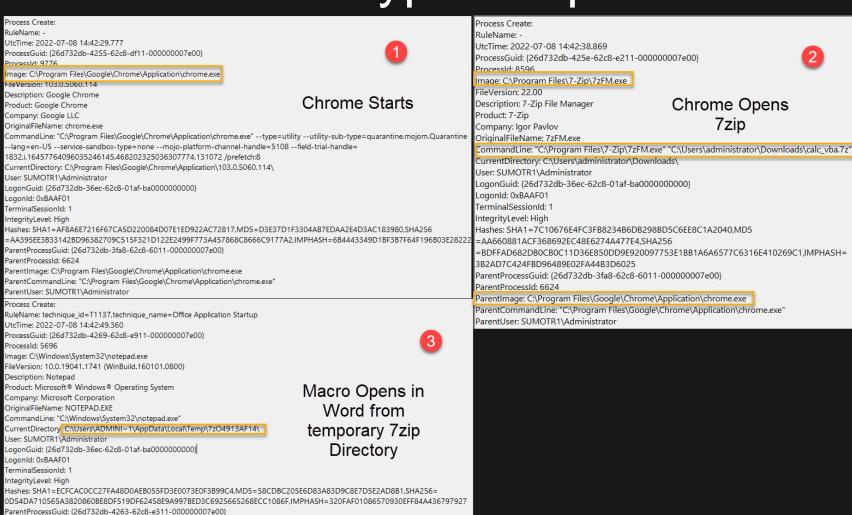
Behavior – Macro Opened From Browser



Behavior – Macro Opened As Attachment

```
□ ·· ORPHAN
···· C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\root\Office16\OUTLOOK.EXE
□ ·· C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\root\Office16\OUTLOOK.EXE
···· C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft\Edge\Application\msedge.exe
□ ·· C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\root\Office16\WINWORD.EXE
C:\Windows\System32\notepad.exe
```

Behavior – Encrypted Zip From Browser



ParentImage: C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\root\Office16\WINWORD.EXE

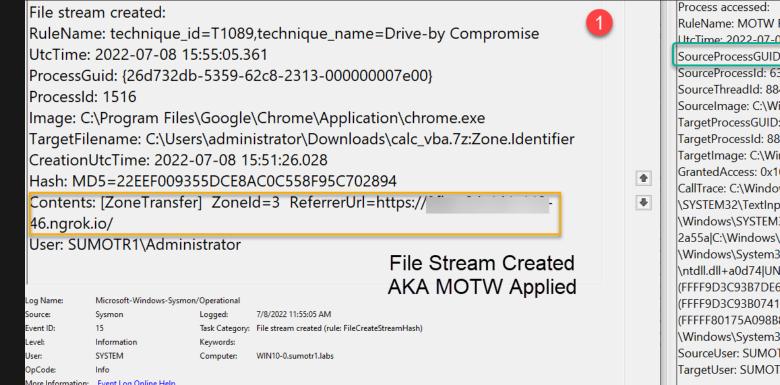
\7zO4913AF14\calc_vba.doc" /o "" ParentUser: SUMOTR1\Administrato

ParentCommandLine: "C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\Root\Office16\WINWORD.EXE" /n "C:\Users\ADMINI~1\AppData\Local\Temp

Bonus: EID 15!

```
File stream created:
RuleName: technique_id=T1089,technique_name=Drive-by Compromise
UtcTime: 2022-07-08 14:42:29.958
ProcessGuid: {26d732db-4255-62c8-df11-000000007e00}
ProcessId: 9776
mage: C:\Program Files\Google\Chrome\Application\chrome.exe
TargetFilename: C:\Users\administrator\Downloads\calc_vba.7z:Zone.Identifier
CreationUtcTime: 2022-07-08 14:40:17.455
Hash: SHA1=A7983B30D63F8DED807B3B34B2A86F965E131CAE,MD5
=F348A5F7942953CAF1FAFD9723B5BD42,SHA256
=A72EF26B66745E0884F51FF580BD81895B284F6D22498386367ECF96DD8B71A6,IMP
Contents: [ZoneTransfer] ZoneId=3 ReferrerUrl=https://9fbe-
46.ngrok.io/ HostUrl=https://9fbe-
                                          .ngrok.io/calc_vba.7z
User: SUMOTR1\Administrator
```

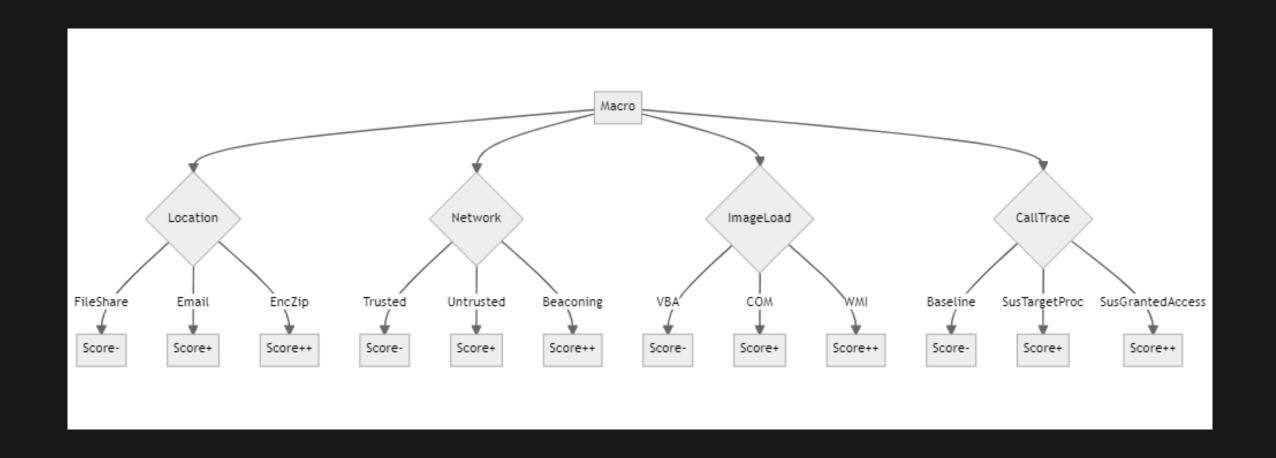
Bonus2: MOTW Removal



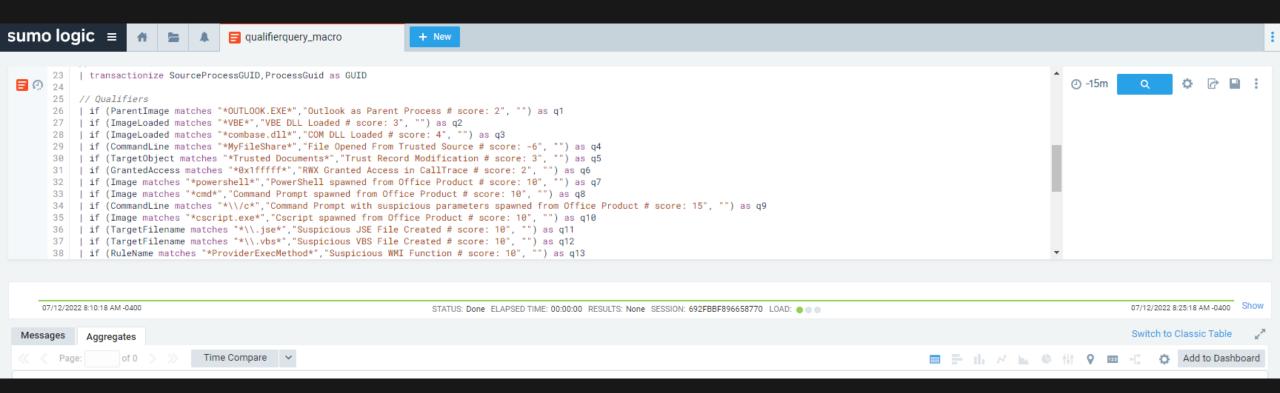
RuleName: MOTW Removed From File HtcTime: 2022-07-08 15:55:11 042 SourceProcessGUID: {26d732db-50ea-62c8-f212-000000007e00} SourceProcessId: 6348 MOTW SourceThreadId: 8844 SourceImage: C:\Windows\system32\ctfmon.exe Removed via TargetProcessGUID: {26d732db-49bf-62c8-5612-000000007e00} **Explorer** TargetProcessId: 8812 TargetImage: C:\Windows\explorer.exe GrantedAccess: 0x1000 CallTrace: C:\Windows\SYSTEM32\ntdll.dll+9d404|C:\Windows\System32\KERNELBASE.dll+2c13e|C:\Windows SYSTEM32\TextInputFramework.dll+2a926|C:\Windows\SYSTEM32\TextInputFramework.dll+2915c|C: \Windows\SYSTEM32\TextInputFramework.dll+28fb2|C:\Windows\SYSTEM32\TextInputFramework.dll+ 2a55a|C:\Windows\SYSTEM32\TextInputFramework.dll+29c98|C:\Windows\System32\MSCTF.dll+32f3f|C: \Windows\System32\MSCTF.dll+306ce|C:\Windows\System32\USER32.dll+2624c|C:\Windows\SYSTEM32 \ntdll.dll+a0d74|UNKNOWN(FFFFF80175BE54C5)|UNKNOWN(FFFF9D3C93B7E12B)|UNKNOWN (FFFF9D3C93B7DE62)|UNKNOWN(FFFF9D3C93BA25C8)|UNKNOWN(FFFF9D3C93BA3838)|UNKNOWN (FFFF9D3C93B07411)|UNKNOWN(FFFF9D3C93B064B8)|UNKNOWN(FFFF9D3C947D71AD)|UNKNOWN (FFFFF80175A098B8)|C:\Windows\System32\win32u.dll+1064|C:\Windows\System32\USER32.dll+a5c3|C: \Windows\System32\USER32.dll+a523|C:\Windows\system32\CoreMessaging.dll+15c04 SourceUser: SUMOTR1\Administrator TargetUser: SUMOTR1\Administrator

Gotchas:

- Experimental
- PID/GUID is different
- Download and MOTW removal may occur minutes / hours apart
 - Difficult to correlate

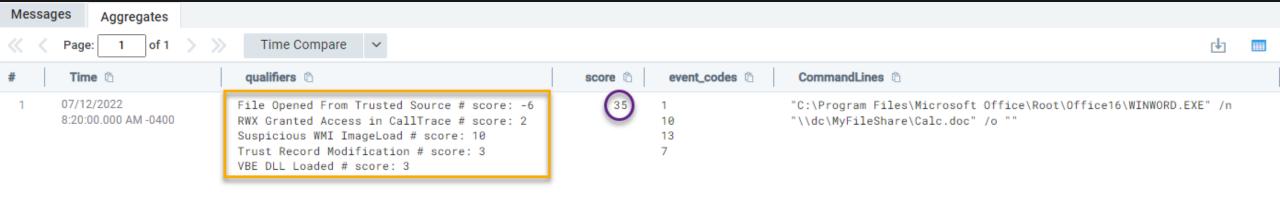


Hyper/Qualifier Queries



SIEM Hyper Queries: introduction, current detection methods (part I/II) | by Alex Teixeira | Medium

Baseline



T1204.002 - Malicious File - Atomic Test 1

qualifiers 🖰	score 🕆	event_codes 🗈
Cscript spawned from Office Product # score: 10 RWX Granted Access in CallTrace # score: 2 Suspicious WMI ImageLoad # score: 10 VBE DLL Loaded # score: 3	48	1 10 7

T1204.002 – Malicious File – Atomic Test 3

qualifiers 🖺	▼ score 🖺	event_codes 🖺
Command Prompt spawned from Office Product # score: 10 RWX Granted Access in CallTrace # score: 2Suspicious TargetImage CMD # score: 10 Suspicious WMI ImageLoad # score: 10 VBE DLL Loaded # score: 3	58	1 10 7

T1204.002 – Malicious File – Atomic Test 6

qualifiers 🗈	score 🕆	event_codes 🗈
RWX Granted Access in CallTrace # score: 2	60	1
Suspicious VBS File Created # score: 10		10
Suspicious WMI ImageLoad # score: 10		11
VBE DLL Loaded # score: 3		7

Watch out for WMI

Process Create:

RuleName: Process Creation-Include UtcTime: 2022-07-12 12:56:28.322

ProcessGuid: {26d732db-6f7c-62cd-e90a-000000008000}

ProcessId: 620

Image: C:\Windows\System32\calc.exe

FileVersion: 10.0.19041.1 (WinBuild.160101.0800)

Description: Windows Calculator

Product: Microsoft® Windows® Operating System

Company: Microsoft Corporation

OriginalFileName: CALC.EXE

CommandLine: calc

CurrentDirectory: C:\Windows\system32\

User: SUMOTR1\Administrator

LogonGuid: {26d732db-1fe2-62cc-fbb5-1b0000000000}

LogonId: 0x1BB5FB TerminalSessionId: 1 IntegrityLevel: High

Hashes: MD5=5DA8C98136D98DFEC4716EDD79C7145F

ParentProcessGuid: {26d732db-1e20-62cc-6a00-000000008000}

ParentProcessId: 4900

ParentImage: C:\Windows\System32\wbem\WmiPrvSE.exe

ParentCommandLine: C:\Windows\system32\wbem\wmiprvse.exe

ParentUser: NT AUTHORITY\NETWORK SERVICE

- ImageLoad
- CallTrace
- Functions

Process accessed:

RuleName: technique id=T1047,technique name=Windows Management

Instrumentation, unction_name=ProviderExecMethod

UtcTime: 2022-07-12 13:06:49.230

SourceProcessGUID: {26d732db-1e20-62cc-6a00-000000008000}

SourceProcessId: 4900 SourceThreadId: 3832

SourceImage: C:\Windows\system32\wbem\wmiprvse.exe

TargetProcessGUID: {26d732db-71e9-62cd-1b0b-000000008000}

TargetProcessId: 9868

TargetImage: C:\Windows\system32\calc.exe

GrantedAccess: 0x1FFFFF

PPID Spoofing

Threat Actor goals: Explorer → PowerShell

Process accessed: RuleName: function na

RuleName: function name=InternalCreateProcessWCommand

UtcTime: 2022-07-12 13:11:00.133

SourceProcessGUID: {26d732db-72e1-62cd-2c0b-000000008000}

SourceProcessId: 116
SourceThreadId: 11096

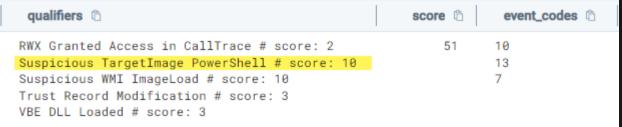
SourceImage: C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\Root\Office16\WINWORD.EXE

TargetProcessGUID: {26d732db-72e4-62cd-350b-000000008000}

TargetProcessId: 1104

TargetImage: C:\Windows\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe

GrantedAccess: 0x1FFFFF



.NET – Gadget2Jscript

▲ qualifiers 🖺	score 🖺	ImagesLoaded 🕆	event_codes 🖰
DotNet Native Image Office Load # score: 10 DotNet Office Load # score: 10 Suspicious WMI ImageLoad # score: 10 Trust Record Modification # score: 3 VBE DLL Loaded # score: 3	139	C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\root\yfs\ProgramFilesCommonX64\Microsoft Shared\VBA\VBA7.1\1033\VBE7INTL.DLL C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\root\yfs\ProgramFilesCommonX64\Microsoft Shared\VBA\VBA7.1\VBEUI.DLL C:\Windows\Microsoft.NET\Framework64\v4.0.30319\clr.dll C:\Windows\Microsoft.NET\Framework64\v4.0.30319\clr.dll C:\Windows\System32\wbem\wbemprox.dll C:\Windows\System32\wbem\wbemprox.dll C:\Windows\System32\wbem\wbemsvc.dll C:\Windows\System32\wbemcomn.dll C:\Windows\assembly\NativeImages_v4.0.30319_64\System.Configuration\ 45fd11ce5d29dfe9b51f09f3abc10a64\System.Configuration.ni.dll C:\Windows\assembly\NativeImages_v4.0.30319_64\System.Core\5a9aa981a cfc11a81b346d71a68d228c\System.Core.ni.dll C:\Windows\assembly\NativeImages_v4.0.30319_64\System.Drawing\7e4d5a 4538b42f1efccd374d52c4bcb2\System.Drawing.ni.dll C:\Windows\assembly\NativeImages_v4.0.30319_64\System.Web\7f59c24f10 934a3f91fe4b88f9325e1d\System.Web.ni.dll C:\Windows\assembly\NativeImages_v4.0.30319_64\System.Windows.Forms\ a3d508fae6a764d898ea5d194cf20fcc\System.Windows.Forms\ a3d508fae6a764d898ea5d194cf20fcc\System.Windows.Forms.ni.dll C:\Windows\assembly\NativeImages_v4.0.30319_64\System.Workca489553#\ 13bd2685262ffd27cfd9c8a053bfd059\System.Workflow.ComponentModel.ni.d ll C:\Windows\assembly\NativeImages_v4.0.30319_64\System.Xml\589efcc3e0 6f6a5070740c035c6b6c41\System.Xml.ni.dll C:\Windows\assembly\NativeImages_v4.0.30319_64\System\System.Sfac5aebfacb96 ef1f1af1d732b88f97\System.ni.dll C:\Windows\assembly\NativeImages_v4.0.30319_64\System\54c5a8ebfacb96 ef1f1af1d732b88f97\System.ni.dll C:\Windows\assembly\NativeImages_v4.0.30319_64\System\54c5a8ebfacb96 ef1f1af1d732b88f97\System.ni.dll C:\Windows\assembly\NativeImages_v4.0.30319_64\System\54c5a8ebfacb96 ef1f1af1d732b88f97\System.ni.dll	13 7

med0x2e/GadgetToJScript: A tool for generating .NET serialized gadgets that can trigger .NET assembly load/execution when deserialized using BinaryFormatter from JS/VBS/VBA based scripts. (github.com)

.NET - VSTO

qualifiers 🗈	score 🖺	FilesCreated ①	ImagesLoaded 🗈	event_codes 🖺
Qualifiers ① DotNet Native Image Office Load # score: 10 DotNet Office Load # score: 10 RWX Granted Access in CallTrace # score: 2 Suspicious File Created, Potential VSTO Plugin Execution # score: 10 Suspicious WMI ImageLoad # score: 10 VBE DLL Loaded # score: 3	430 C:\Users\administrator\AppData\Local\Temp\Dep loyment\C3ENLCL1.QX1	C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\root\vfs\ProgramFilesCommonX64\Microsoft Shared\VBA\VBA7.1\1033\VBE7INTL.DLL C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\root\vfs\ProgramFilesCommonX64\Microsoft Shared\VBA\VBA7.1\VBEUI.DLL C:\Windows\Microsoft.NET\Framework64\v4.0.30319\clr.dll C:\Windows\System32\wbem\wbemprox.dll C:\Windows\System32\wbem\wbemsvc.dll C:\Windows\System32\wbem\wbemsvc.dll C:\Windows\System32\wbem\wbemsvc.dll C:\Windows\System32\wbemcomn.dll C:\Windows\System32\wbemcomn.dll C:\Windows\System32\wbemcomn.dll C:\Windows\System32\wbemcomn.dll C:\Windows\System32\wbemcomn.dll C:\Windows\System32\wbemcomn.dll C:\Windows\System32\wbemcomn.dll C:\Windows\System32\wbemcomn.dll	event_codes (1) 10 11 7	
			c:\Windows\assembly\NativeImages_v4.0.30319_64\Microsoft.02eb0cc9a#\ a2a34462fe777e0d6bd683a895479644\Microsoft.0ffice.Tools.v4.0.Framewo rk.ni.dll C:\Windows\assembly\NativeImages_v4.0.30319_64\Microsoft.04a946565#\ 5132a29118c16b719fa4259a8c7871c1\Microsoft.0ffice.Tools.Common.Imple mentation.ni.dll C:\Windows\assembly\NativeImages_v4.0.30319_64\Microsoft.05949707a#\	

Make phishing great again. VSTO office files are the new macro nightmare? | by Daniel Schell | Medium VSTODetectionNotes.md (github.com)

ODays

- Zero Day does not mean you are totally blind
- Keys to success:

- Telemetry Generated
- Telemetry Available
- Telemetry flexibility
- Baselined behavior
- Alerting strategies

```
    qualifiers ©
    score ©
    ImagesLoaded ©

    Suspicious WMI ImageLoad # score: 10
    930
    C:\Windows\System32\PeerDist.dll

    WARNING-Follina ImageLoad1 # score: 300
    C:\Windows\System32\hlink.dll

    WARNING-Follina ImageLoad2 # score: 300
    C:\Windows\System32\rightarrow ieframe.dll

    WARNING-Follina ImageLoad3 # score: 300
    C:\Windows\System32\wbem\wbemprox.dll

    C:\Windows\System32\wbem\wbemsvc.dll
    C:\Windows\System32\wbem\wbemsvc.dll

    C:\Windows\System32\wbemcomn.dll
```

More Alerting Ideas

- First-run macro for a user
- Office beaconing AND/OR Office making multiple network connections
- Office DNS Requests
- Office calling out to Azure (Blob, CDN, Azure Public IP)
- Macro downloaded from untrusted SharePoint / Google Drive
- SOAR Action ->
 https://github.com/decalage2/ViperMonkey

Wrapping Up

- Activities happen "before" and "after" a malicious macro execution
- Even if macros are disabled tomorrow, the visibility effort it worth it
- Go beyond process creation events
- Macro tradecraft runs deep, strongly consider hardening steps