

Operating System Hardening

Windows 10

Note: Don't forget about Windows Defender Firewall.

Initial Steps -

- Change your account password and update your security questions
- Remove unnecessary user accounts
- Ensure only one account has administrator access (Create a new Admin)
- Update Windows
- Change User Access Control (UAC) to highest level
- Install NXLog, Sysinternals Suite, and Microsoft Security Compliance Toolkit (SCT)
- Check for running and startup processes using Sysinternal Suite's Autoruns tool

Quick Commands -

Accounts -

Passwords Do Not Expire: **Get-ADUser -Filter 'useraccountcontrol -band 65536' -Properties useraccountcontrol**

No Password Requirement: **Get-ADUser -Filter 'useraccountcontrol -band 32' -Properties useraccountcontrol**

Passwords Stored in Reversibly Encrypted Format: **Get-ADUser -Filter 'useraccountcontrol -band 128' -Properties useraccountcontrol**

No Pre-Authentication: **Get-ADUser -Filter 'useraccountcontrol -band 4194304' -Properties useraccountcontrol**

DES Encrypted Credentials: **Get-ADUser -Filter 'useraccountcontrol -band 2097152' -Properties useraccountcontrol**

Disable Features -

Disable Task Scheduler: **Set-ItemProperty**

HKLM:\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\Schedule -Name Start -Value 4

Disable remote PowerShell: **Disable-PSRemoting -Force**

Miscellaneous -

List All Users in Admin Group: **net localgroup administrators**

Network -

Check for Listening Services: **netstat -naob**

Check for Open Ports: **netstat -plntu**

Outside Connections -

Show Shared Folders: **net view \\127.0.0.1\ OR net view /all**

List Open Sessions: **net use**

Persistence -

List AutoRuns: **net start**

List Scheduled Tasks: **schtasks**

List Services: **sc query OR Get-Service | Where-Object {\$_.status -eq "running"}**

List Startup Tasks: **wmic startup list full**

Kill & List Tasks: **tasklist & taskkill /P <PID> /F**

Sysinternals Suite -

Autoruns: AutoRuns

- GatherNetworkInfo.vbs is OKAY (part of Autoruns)
- Right-Click → Search Online
- Right-Click → Check VirusTotal
- Check last modified date of files in System32 (very recent times = bad file)
- Colors:
 - Pink: No publisher information was found
 - Green: New item
 - Yellow: Startup entry is there but the file/job is not

Portmon: Monitor Port Activity

Process Explorer: View Running Processes

- Add the following columns: Autostart location, Virus Total, Users
- Options: Verify file signatures, replace task manager

Rootkit Revealer: Check for Rootkit(s)

TCPView: View TCP/UDP Endpoints

Expectations -

Processes running on a fresh install of Windows Server 2008 R2:

```
PS C:\Users\maximillian.thauer> Get-Process
```

Handles	NPM(K)	PM(K)	WS(K)	UM(M)	CPU(s)	Id	ProcessName
30	4	832	2436	41	0.00	324	conhost
35	5	1756	3944	47	0.17	2712	conhost
410	10	1812	3848	46		328	csrss
201	12	7784	7724	51		388	csrss
196	16	4112	11132	55		1940	dllhost
65	7	1524	4464	53	0.03	1276	dwm
574	35	21716	37568	173	0.98	1296	explorer
0	0	0	24	0		0	Idle
540	19	3400	9600	42		496	lsass
145	8	2184	3848	18		504	lsn
148	17	3220	7728	60		1308	msdtc
385	39	41520	43916	584		1684	Oobe
507	21	109092	109472	564	0.87	1420	powershell
196	13	4380	8400	37		480	services
29	2	368	1028	5		240	smss
312	23	8372	15264	104		892	spoolsv
150	8	6176	11788	41		1816	sppsvc
290	32	8724	11320	51		340	svchost
350	14	3376	8900	46		596	svchost
241	15	3304	7408	35		672	svchost
298	15	9180	11832	47		756	svchost
846	37	18360	31764	120		796	svchost
482	17	5564	10520	43		856	svchost
254	15	3692	9824	66		896	svchost
427	145	62580	38668	146		936	svchost
46	4	776	2532	13		1052	svchost
67	7	1344	4304	33		2808	svchost
468	0	108	304	3		4	System
113	10	2412	5620	53	0.02	1176	taskhost
109	10	1996	7352	81		2168	taskmgr
115	10	2452	7464	72	0.22	1364	TPAutoConnect
140	11	2360	6724	59		1720	TPAutoConnSvc
252	22	6856	14924	88		1088	vmtoolsd
214	21	10376	17904	118	1.67	1580	vmtoolsd
76	9	1300	4136	47		380	wininit
95	7	1396	4552	30		424	winlogon
44	6	844	3120	21		1232	wlms

Adapter Settings -

- Disable Client for Microsoft Networks
- Disable File and Printer Sharing for Microsoft
- Disable Inter Protocol Version 6
- Disable Link Layer Topology Discovery Mapper IO Driver
- Disable Link Layer Topology Discovery Responder
- Disable QoS Packet Scheduler

Boot Processes -

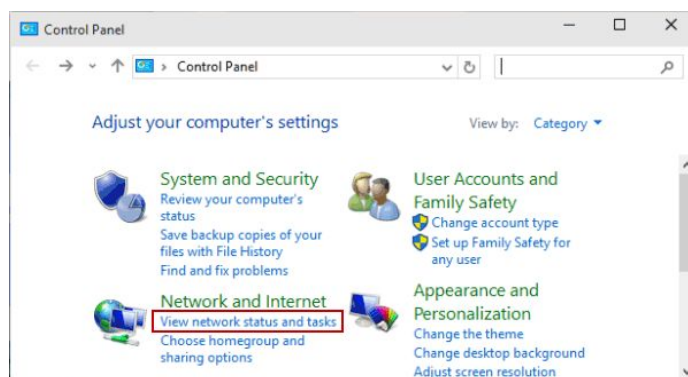
1. Enter System Configuration: **msconfig.exe**
2. Services Tab: Hide all Microsoft services; Disable unnecessary features
3. Startup Tab: Disable non-critical services

Credential Guard -

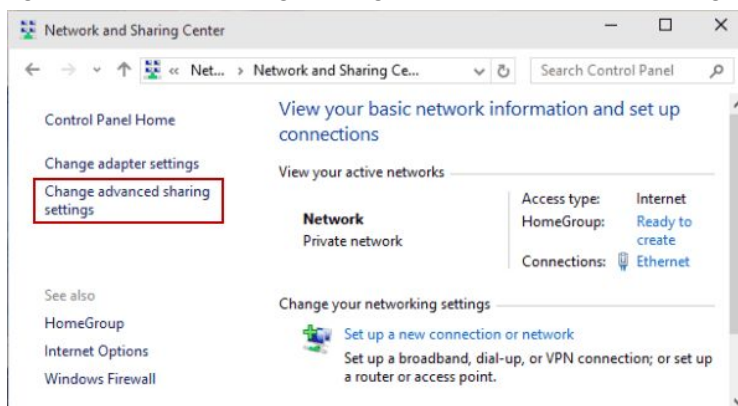
Device Guard -

File Sharing (Disable) -

1. Open Control Panel.
2. Choose "View network status and tasks" under "Network and Internet".



3. Select “Change advanced sharing settings” in Network and Sharing Center.



4. Choose “Turn off file and printer sharing” and Save changes.

Group Policy

Note: Please see Group Policy section (not me) for more.

- Computer Configuration\Windows Settings\Security Settings\Local Policies\Security Options
 - LAN Manager Authentication Level → Send NTLMv2 response only. Refuse LM & NTLM
 - Network access: Allow anonymous SID/name translation → Disabled
 - Network access: Do not allow anonymous enumeration of SAM accounts → Enabled
 - Network access: Do not allow anonymous enumeration of SAM accounts and shares → Enabled
 - Network security: Do not store LAN Manager hash value on next password change → Enabled

Malicious Indicators

- Meterpreter Processes
 - metsrv.dll, metssvc-server.exe, metssvc.exe
- Prevent Mimikatz!!!
 - In **HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Lsa** find **Security Packages** and remove “**wdigest**”

MS08-67: Downadup/Conficker

Note: For server installations.

1. Disable Server and Computer Browser Services.
2. Block TCP ports 139 and 445.
3. Disable NetBIOS over TCP/IP.
 - a. For EACH adapter (Network & Internet Settings → Change Adapter Options → <Ethernet/Wi-Fi> Adapter → Properties → Internet Protocol Version 4 (TCP/IPv4) → Advanced → WINS [tab] → Disable NetBIOS over TCP/IP)

Remote Connections/Access (Disable) -

1. Disable Remote Assistance & Remote Desktop (Control Panel → Advanced System Settings → Remote).
2. Disable Network Shares (Control Panel → Network and Sharing Center → Advanced Sharing Settings).
 - a. Network Discovery → Turn off network discovery
 - b. File and Printer Sharing → Turn off file and printer sharing
 - c. Public Folder Sharing → Turn off Public folder sharing (people logged on to this computer can still access these folders)

Turn Windows Feature On or Off

1. Search for "Turn Windows Features On or Off".
2. Uncheck:
 - a. Print and Document Services
 - b. SMB 1.0/CIFS File Sharing Support
 - c. Telnet Server & Client
 - d. XPS Services

UEFI Secure Boot -

Windows Defender Firewall -

1. Ensure Windows Defender Firewall is on.
2. Restore Default Policy: Right-click "Windows Firewall w/ Advanced Security on Local Computer" and select "Restore Default Policy".
3. Disable every Inbound rule except:
 - a. Allow Core Networking ICMPv4 in
 - b. Allow Core Networking DHCP (Dynamic Host Config Protocol) in
 - c. ADD Allow Port UDP 1514 in (Local Subnet Only: Right-click rule → Scope → Add Local IP)
4. Disable every Outbound rule except:
 - a. Internet Explorer, TCP 80,443 | UDP 53
 - b. ADD Allow Port UDP 1514 out (Local Subnet Only: Right-click rule → Scope → Add Local IP)

Miscellaneous Tools/Notes -

- Microsoft Security Compliance Toolkit (SCT): **Windows 10 ONLY!!!** Download from Microsoft. Compare current GPOs with Microsoft-recommended GPO baselines or other baselines, edit them, and apply them through AD or local policy.
- Microsoft Security Configuration Wizard (SCW): **Windows Server ONLY!!!** Comes with Server Manager. Server Manager → Tools → Security Configuration Wizard.
- Microsoft Baseline Security Analyzer (MBSA): **Windows 7, Windows Server 2008, and later ONLY!!!** Download from Microsoft. Identifies missing security updates and common security misconfigurations.
- Microsoft Enhanced Mitigation Experience Toolkit (EMET): **Windows 7, Windows Server 2008, and later ONLY!!!** Download from Microsoft. Helps prevent vulnerabilities in software from being successfully exploited.
- Microsoft Security Essentials: **Windows 7 ONLY!!!** Download from Microsoft. Alternative to Windows Defender.

Extra Ideas: AppLocker, BitLocker

Windows Server Core 2016

Note: Follow the above guide for Windows 10 in addition to the below.

Initial Steps -

- Change your account password
- Remove unnecessary user accounts
- Ensure only one account has administrator access (Create a new Admin, disable local administrator)
- Update Windows

Network Time Protocol -

CentOS

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Initial Steps -

- Change root password: passwd
- Disable root login: nano /etc/ssh/sshd_config
 - Disable
- Remove

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Ubuntu

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