

A photograph of a sophisticated bar interior. The scene is dimly lit with warm, glowing neon lights. In the foreground, a bartender is visible behind the bar counter, which is filled with various bottles and glasses. The background features dark wood paneling and recessed lighting. The overall atmosphere is mysterious and professional.

Taking Kerberos To The Next Level

James Forshaw | @tiraniddo



- Researcher @ Google Project Zero
- Specialize in Windows
 - Local Privilege Escalation
 - RPC/COM Internals
 - Token manipulation
- NtApiDotNet | D2J | OleViewDotNet



“Never met a logical vulnerability I didn’t like.”

Nick Landers | @monoxgas



- Adversarial R&D @ NetSPI
- Also specialize in Windows
 - Offensive tooling suites
 - Payload architectures
 - Vulnerability research
- sRDI | Dark Side Ops



“Your Prod is our Dev.”

Assumptions

You understand the basics of Kerberos

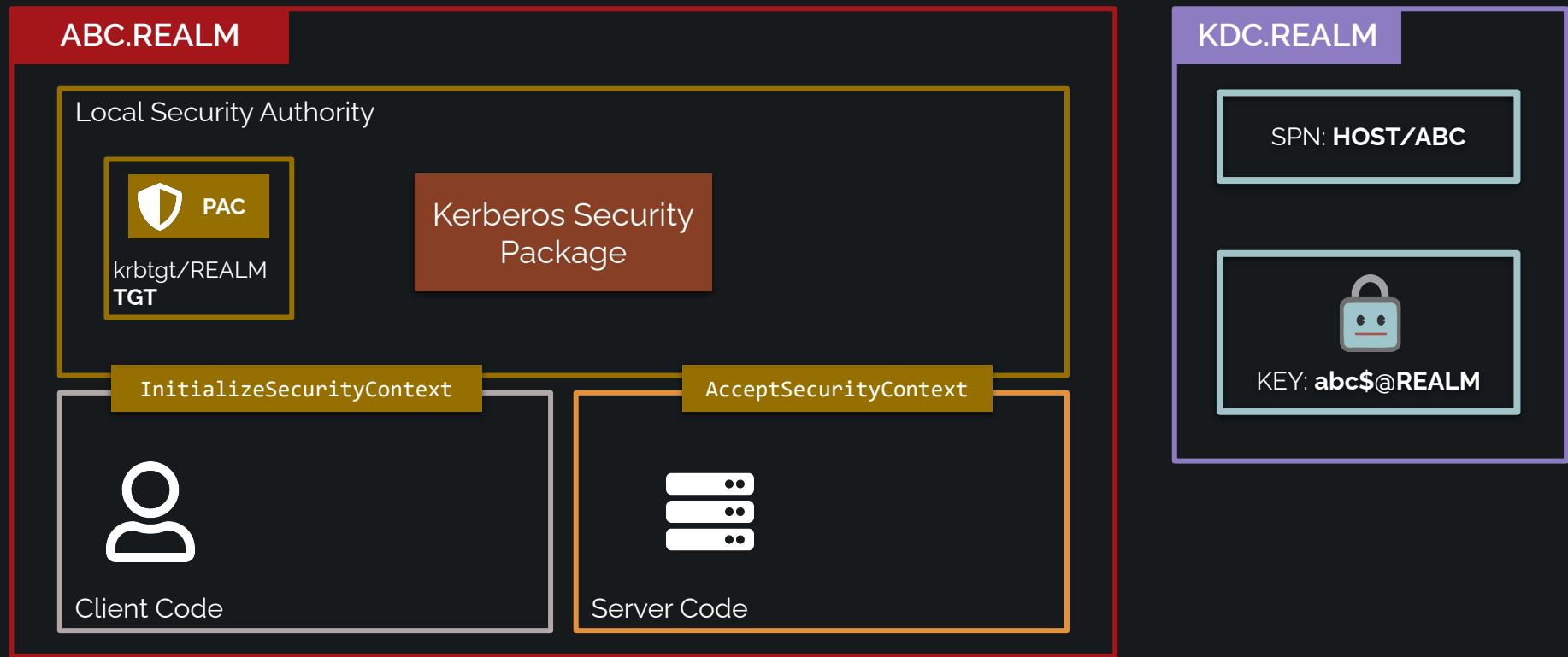
You're (somewhat) familiar with existing
remote attacks

**You want to see some local privilege
escalation (LPE)**

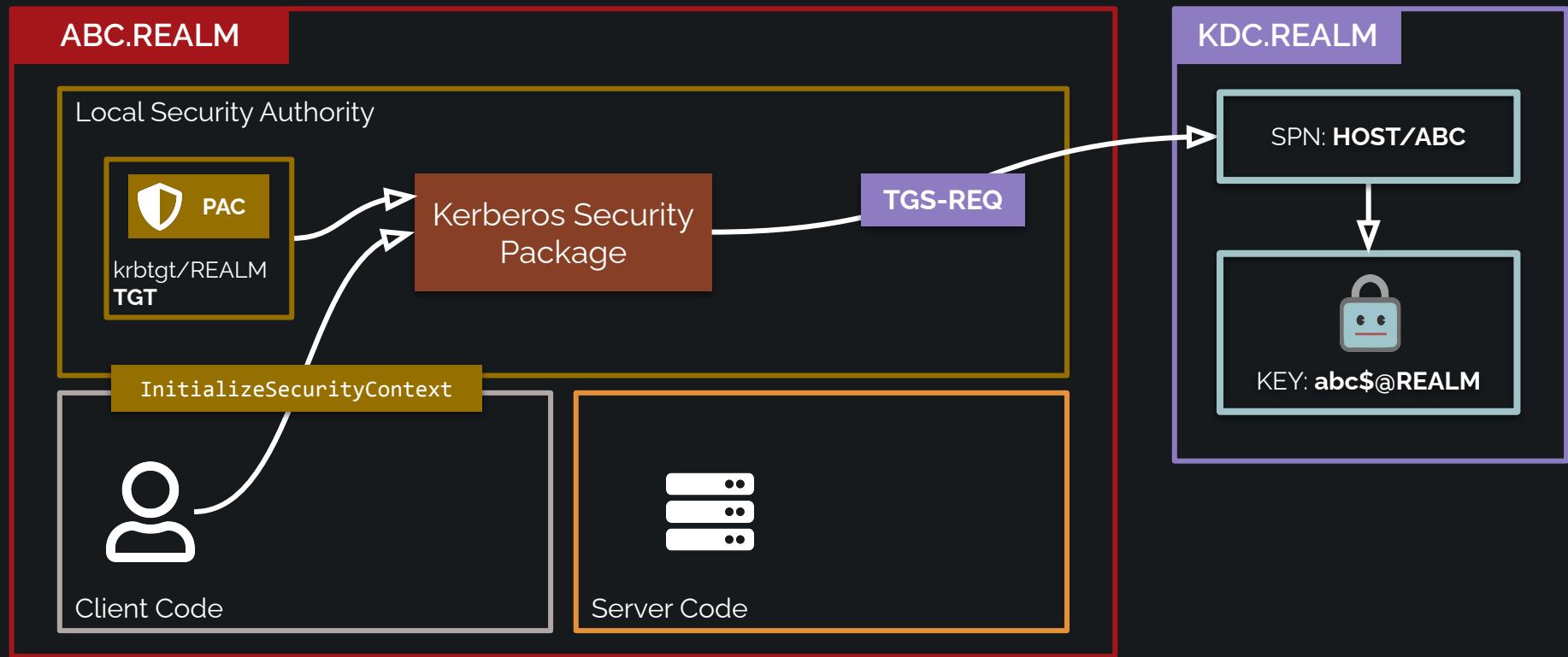


Talking to Yourself
can be good for you

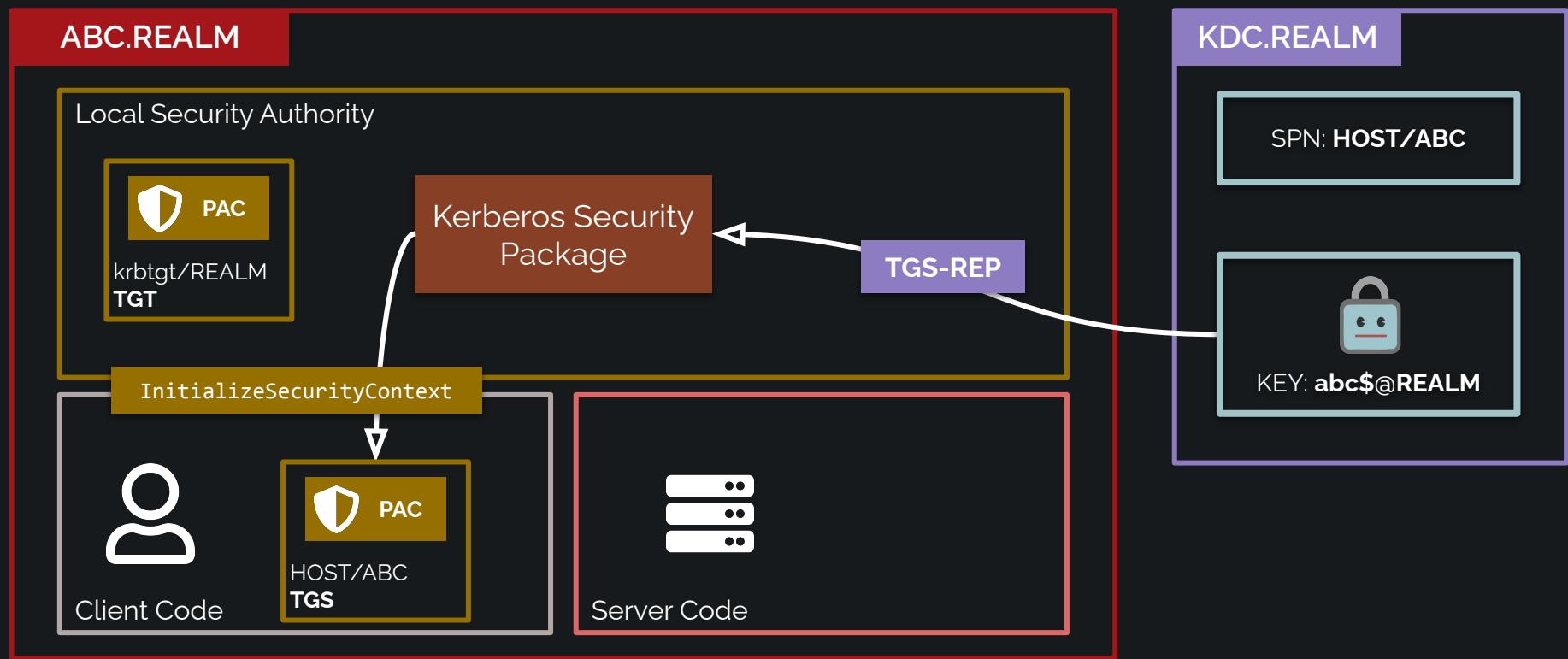
Local Kerberos Authentication



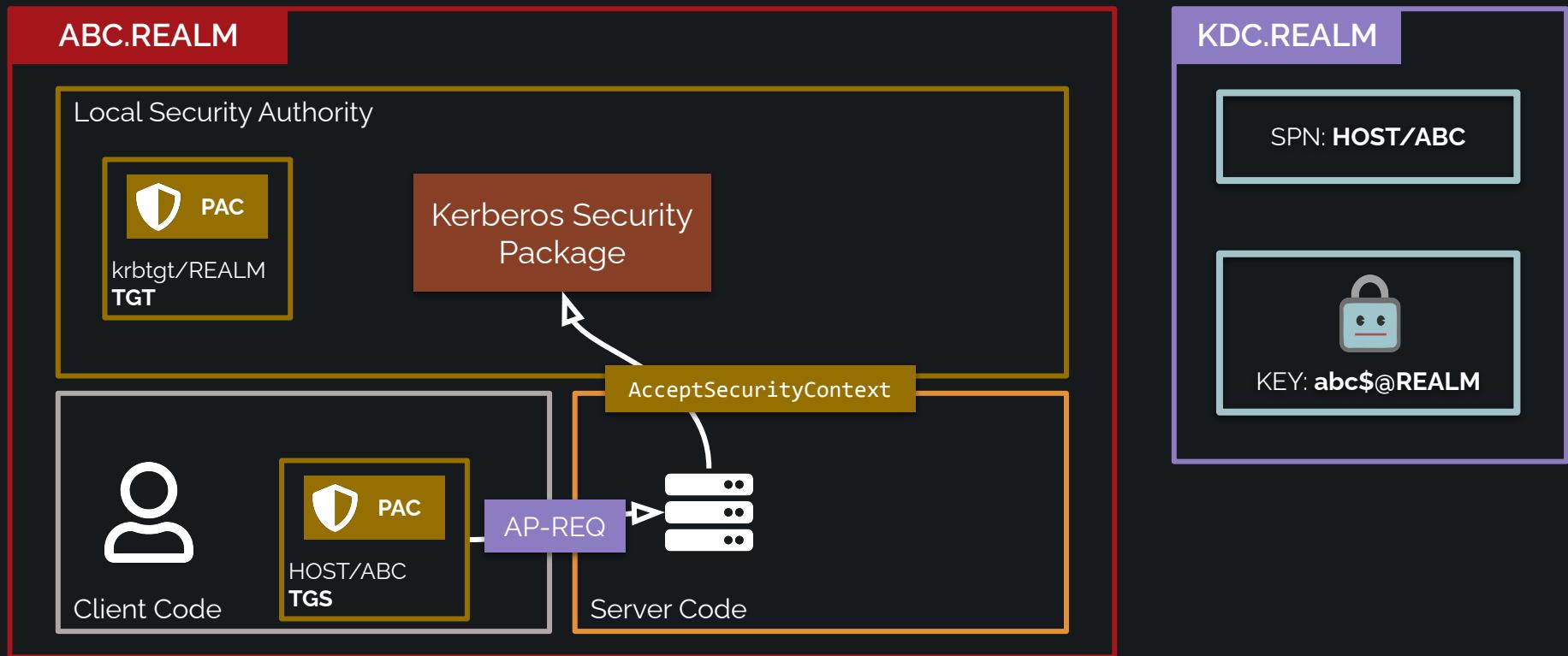
Local Kerberos Authentication



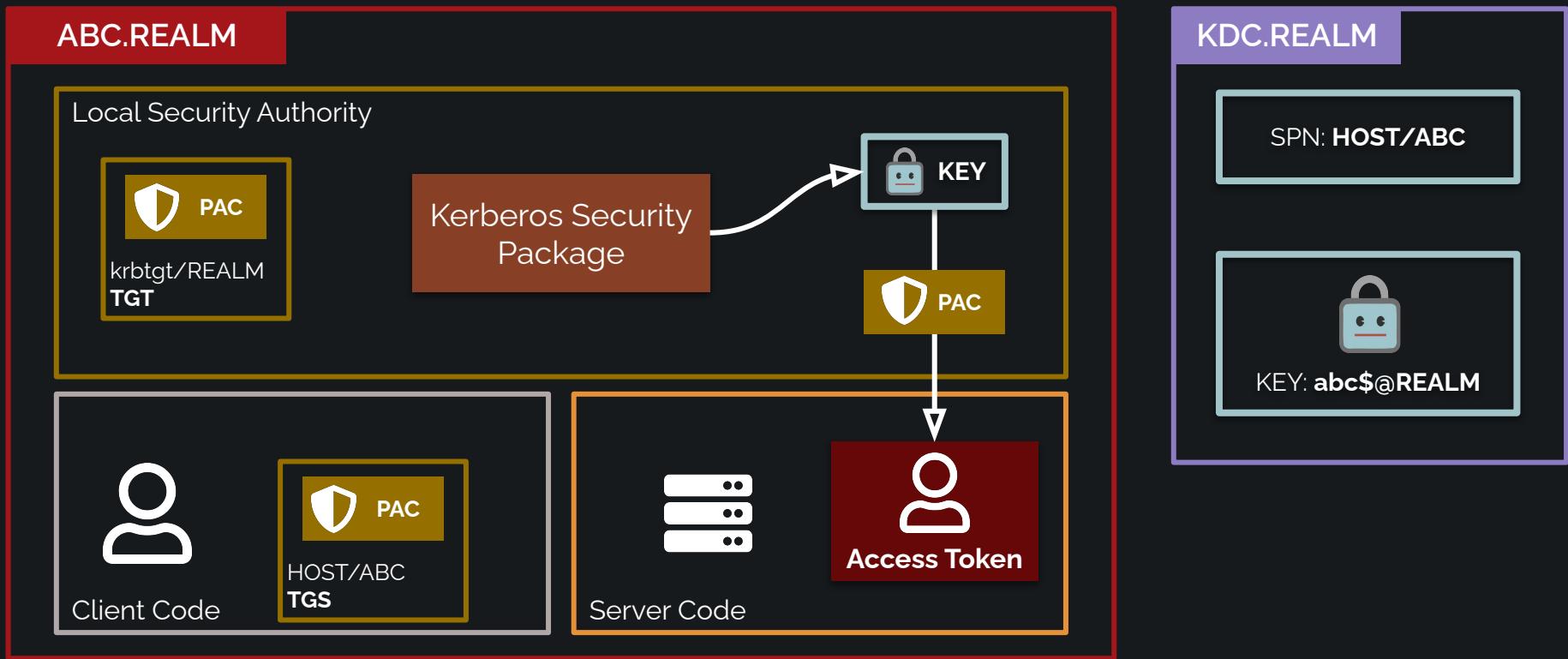
Local Kerberos Authentication



Local Kerberos Authentication



Local Kerberos Authentication



Local Kerberos Silver Ticket



Local Kerberos Silver Ticket

Client

Local Security Authority



② Convert
credentials to key

u: REALM\bob
pw: Password!

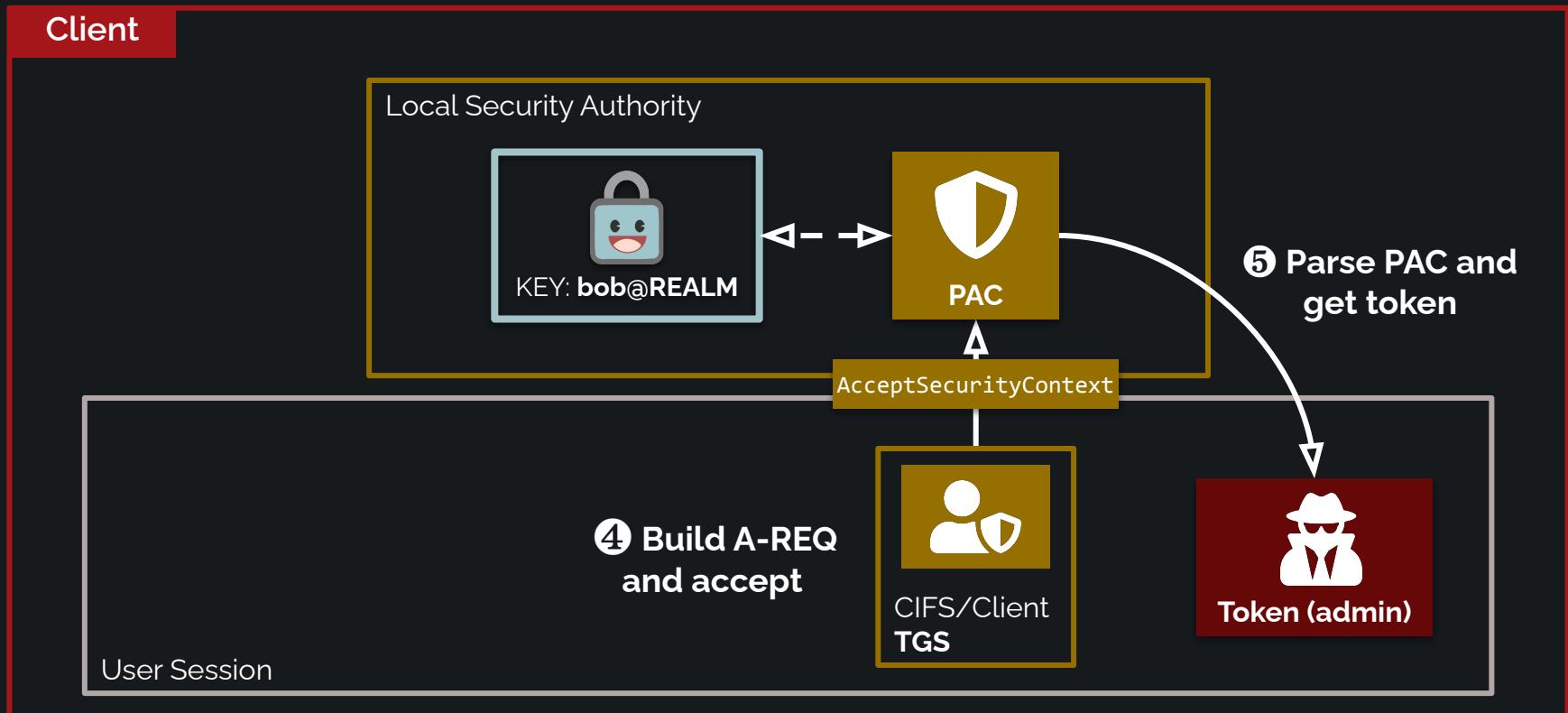
KEY: bob@REALM

③ Use key to
build silver
ticket

User Session



Local Kerberos Silver Ticket





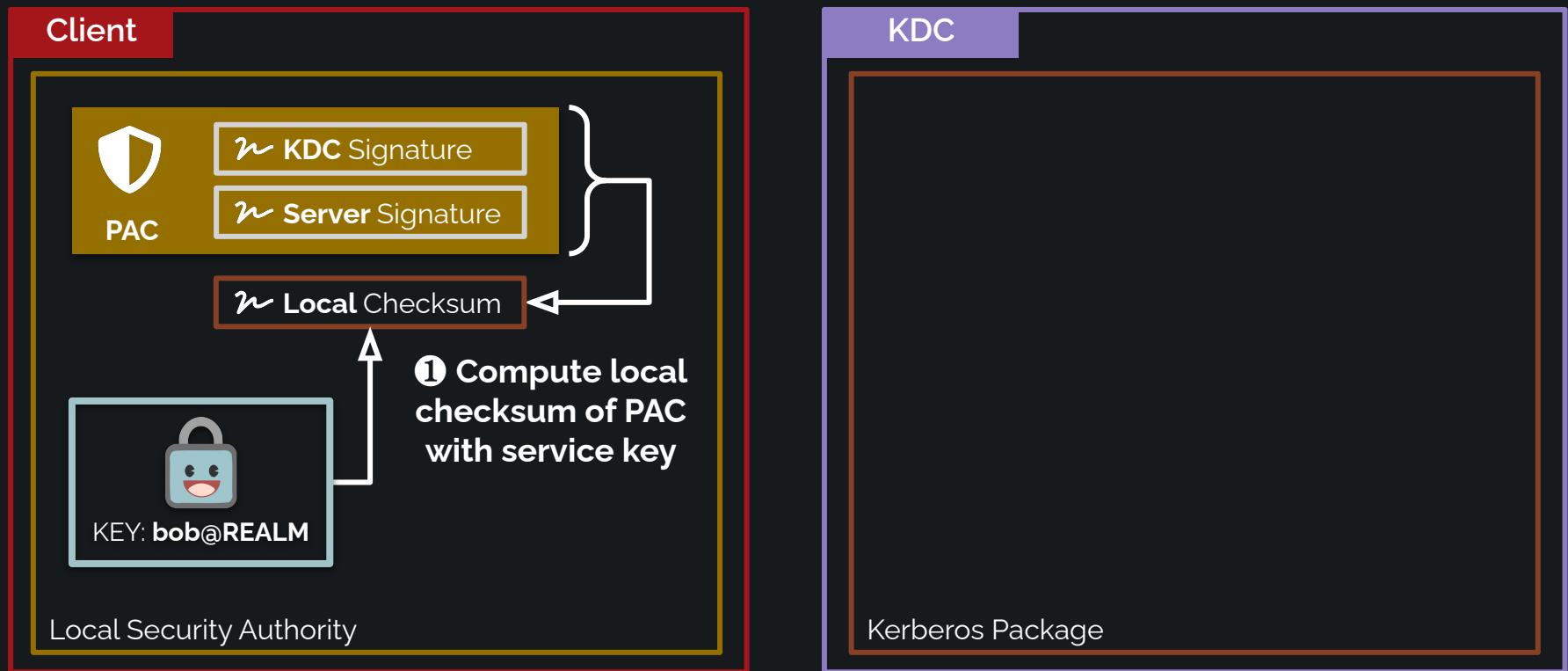
Demo Time



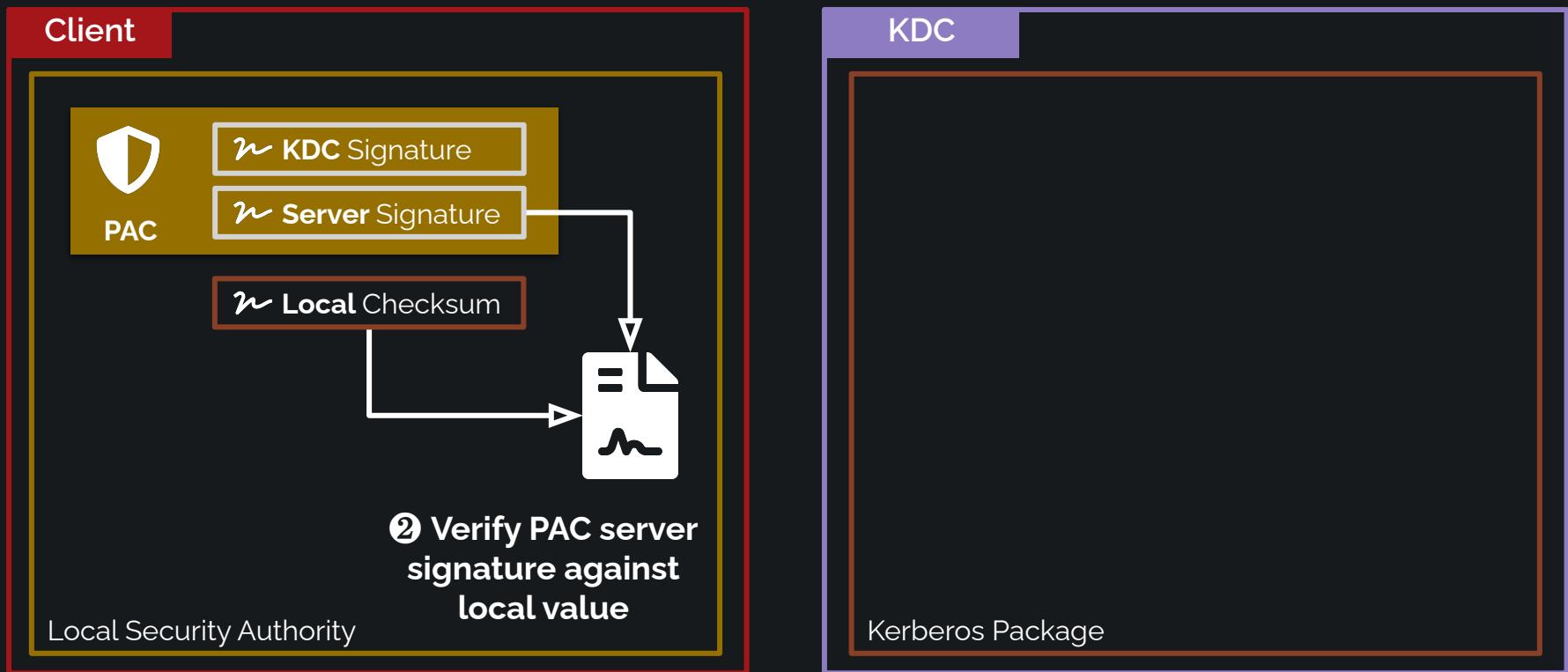
LSA Internals

and how to break them

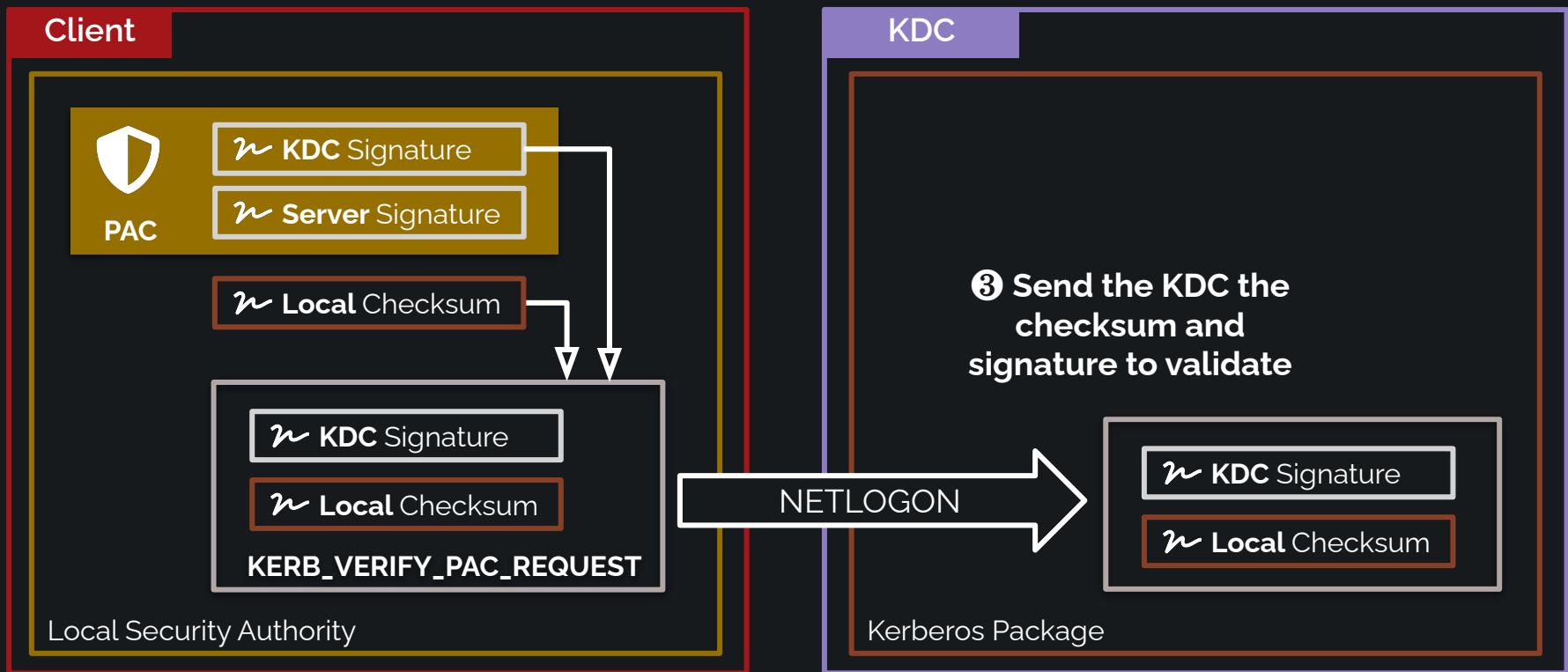
PAC Signature Validation



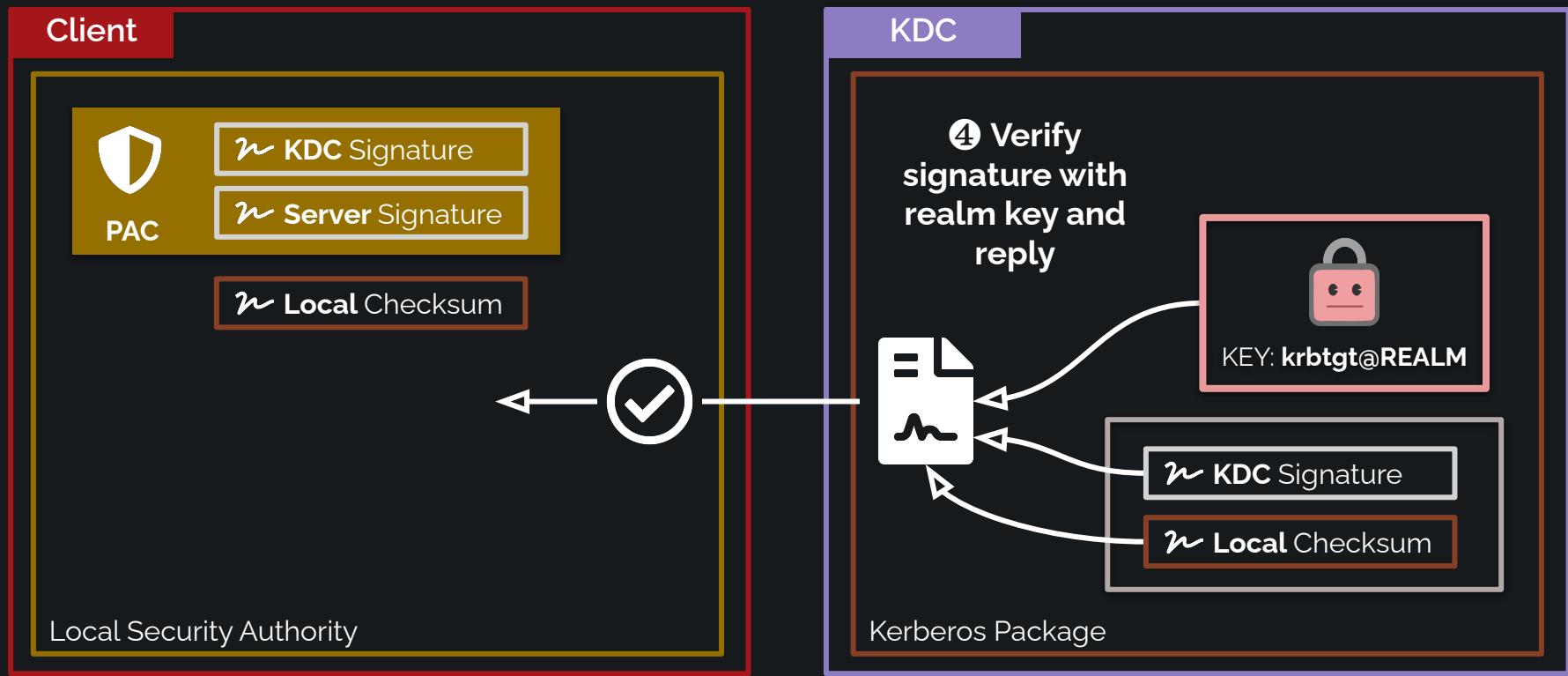
PAC Signature Validation



PAC Signature Validation



PAC Signature Validation



So how do Silver Tickets ever work?

(PAC validation isn't always enabled)

“SYSTEM” Equivalent

Logon Session:

```
SeTcbPrivilege || SYSTEM || LOCAL/NETWORK SERVICE
```

cred->Flags & SECPKG_CRED_ATTR_PAC_BYPASS

Credentials Handle:

```
(auto) AcquireCredentialsHandle w/  
SECPKG_CRED_INBOUND && NT AUTHORITY\SERVICE &&  
!KerbGlobalValidateKDCPACSignature
```

```
(manual) SetCredentialsAttributes w/SeTcbPrivilege
```

ASC Context Flags:

context->Flags & ASC_RET_USE_SESSION_KEY

So how do Silver Tickets ever work?

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Logon Session:

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```
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cred->Flags & SECPKG_CRED_ATTR_PAC_BYPASS

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!KerbGlobalValidateKDCPACSignature

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???

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context->Flags & ASC_RET_USE_SESSION_KEY

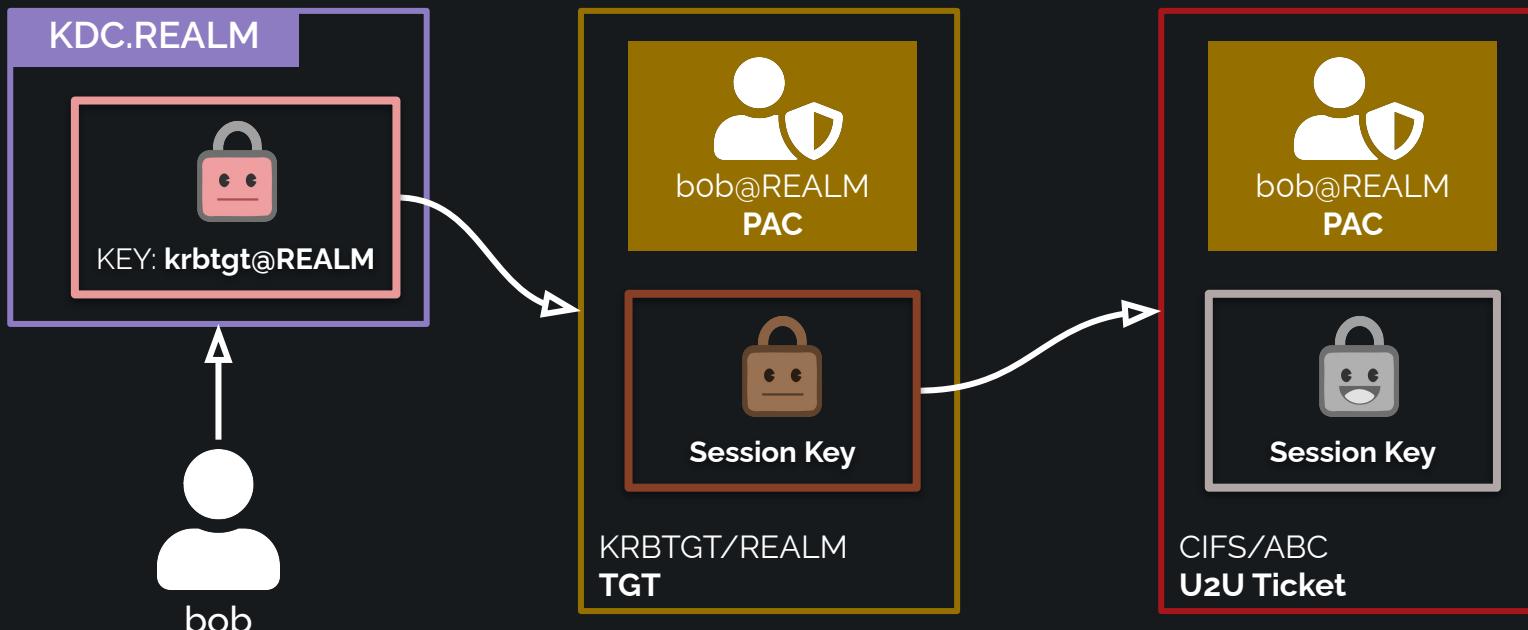
ASC_RET_USE_SESSION_KEY ?

3.2.3. Receipt of KRB_AP_REQ Message

[...] If the **USE-SESSION-KEY** flag is set in the ap-options field, it indicates to the server that user-to-user authentication is in use, and that the **ticket is encrypted in the session key from the server's TGT rather than in the server's secret key.**

See Section 3.7 for a more complete description of the effect of **user-to-user authentication** on all messages in the Kerberos protocol.

User to User Authentication



We now need the session key from our
TGT to build the Silver Ticket

Trying to get a TGT + Session Key

```
PS C:\> $ticket = Get-KerberosTicket krbtgt  
PS C:\> $ticket.SessionKey
```

```
KeyEncryption    : AES256_CTS_HMAC_SHA1_96
Principal       : krbtgt/DOM.LOC@DOM.LOC
NameType         : SRV INST
```

```
PS C:\> $ticket.SessionKey.Key | Format-HexDump
```

00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00



Benjamin Delpy ✅
@gentilkiwi

Want to get a usable Kerberos TGT without admin rights/allowtgtsessionkey?

It's easy with a delegation ticket! (enabled by default...)

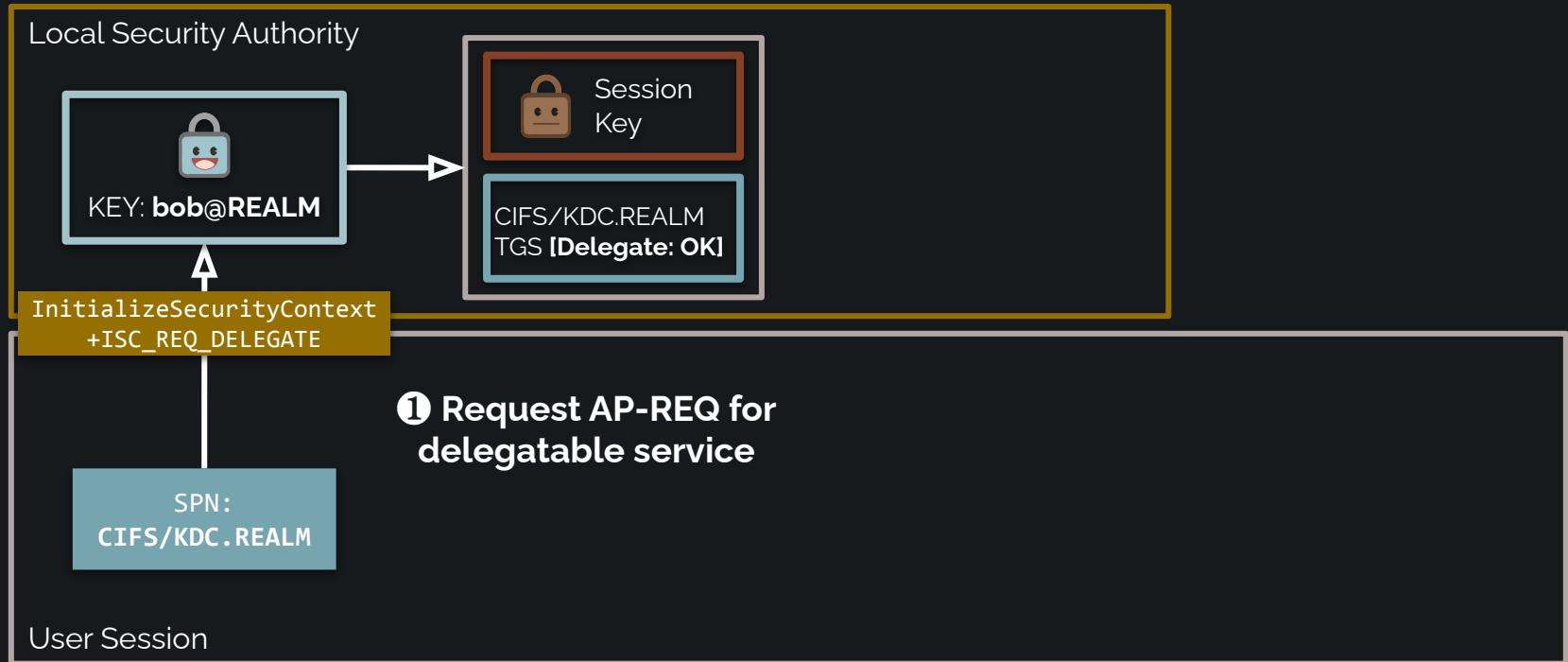
No special requirement, just some love

> github.com/gentilkiwi/kek...

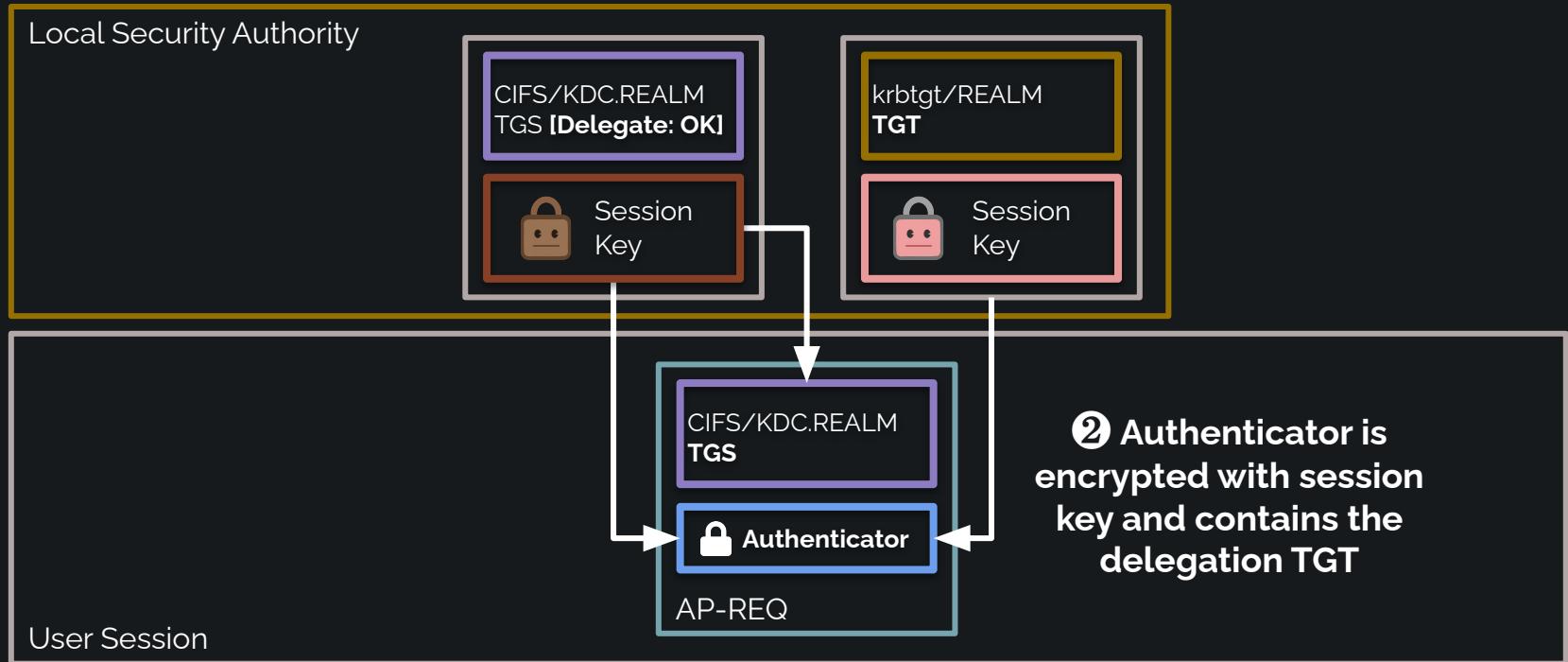
Thank you [@elad_shamir](#) (and [@TheColonial](#)) for evil ideas!

<https://twitter.com/gentilkiwi/status/998219775485661184>

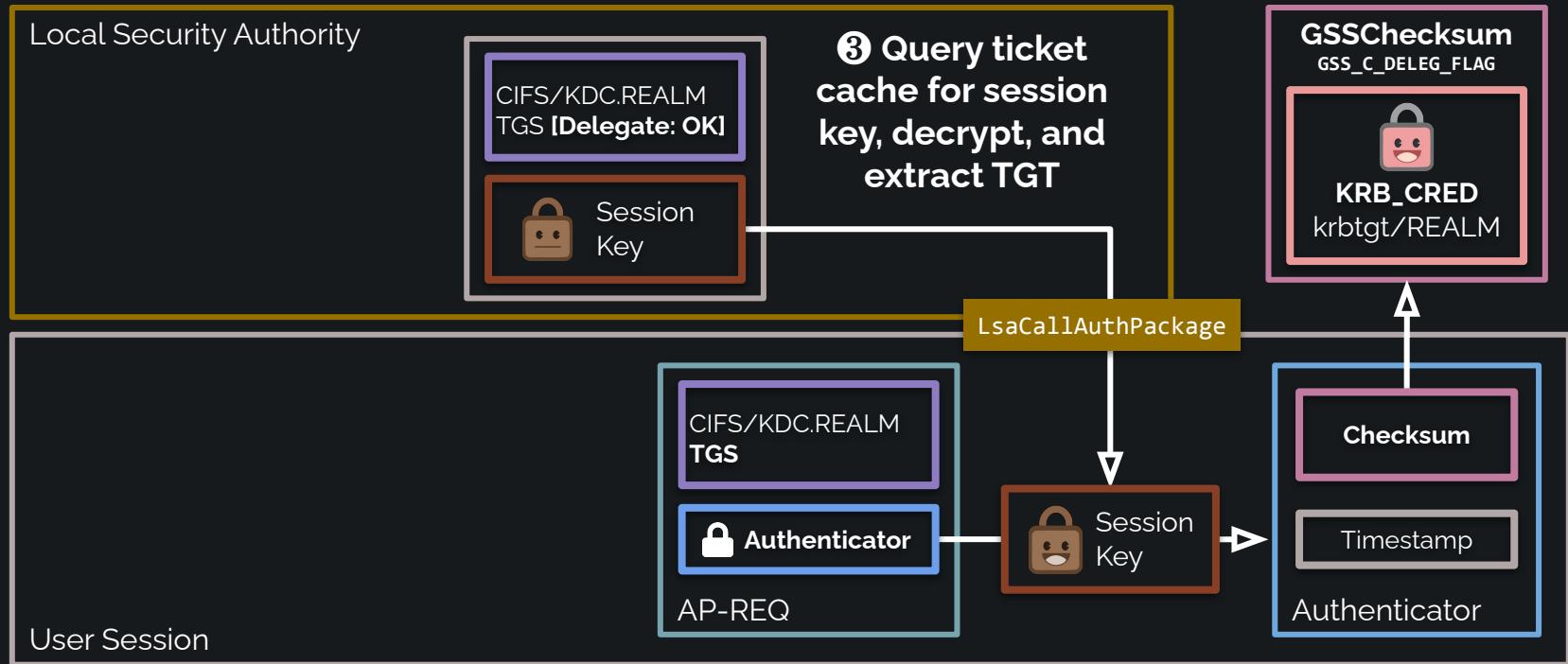
Unconstrained Delegation TGT Extraction



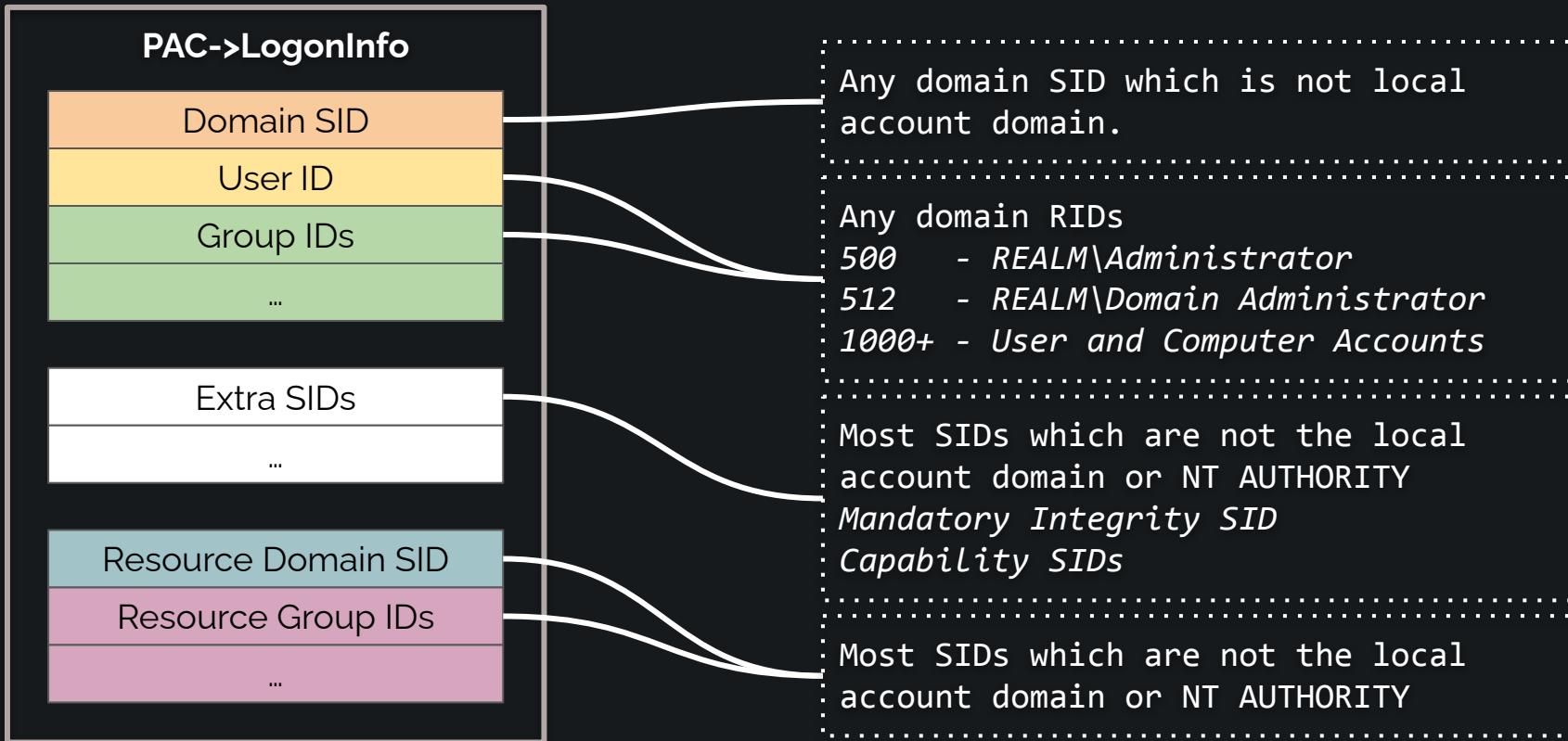
Unconstrained Delegation TGT Extraction



Unconstrained Delegation TGT Extraction



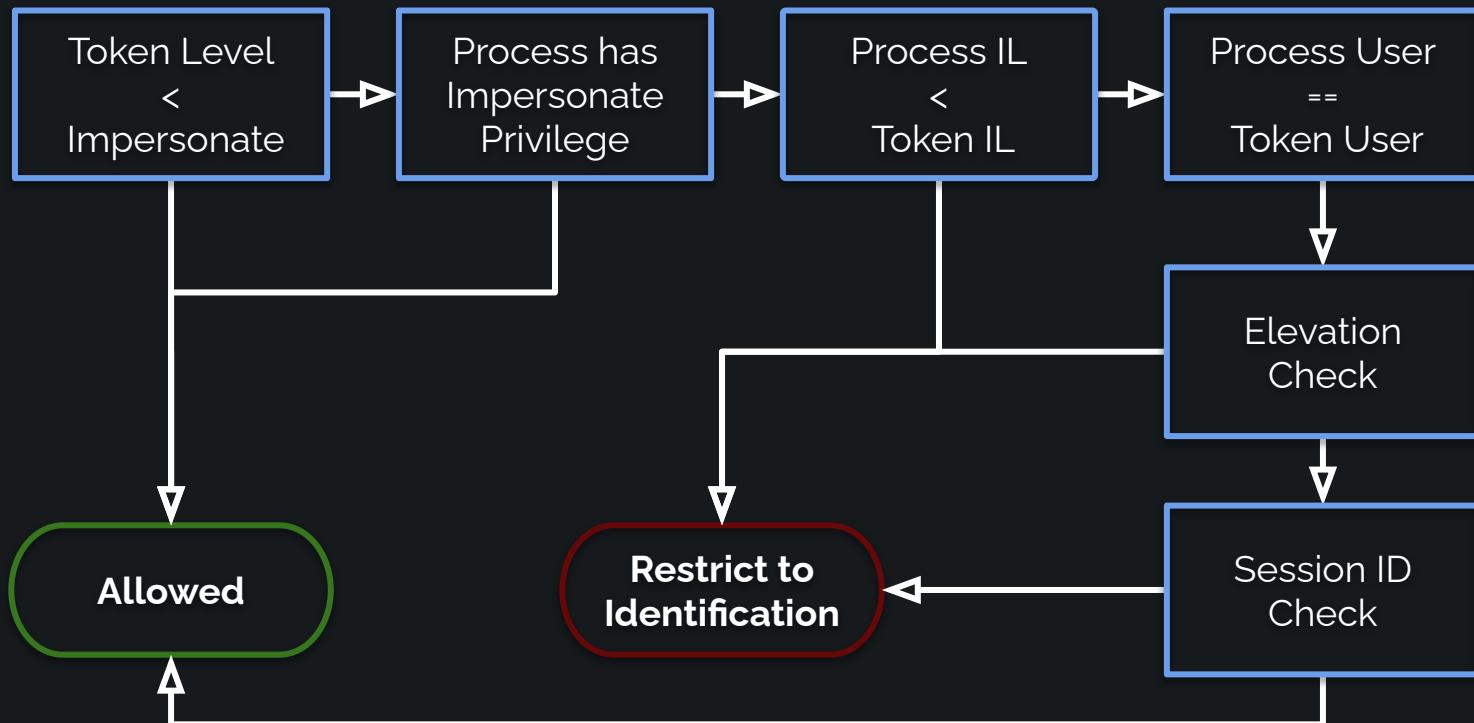
What can you add to the PAC ?



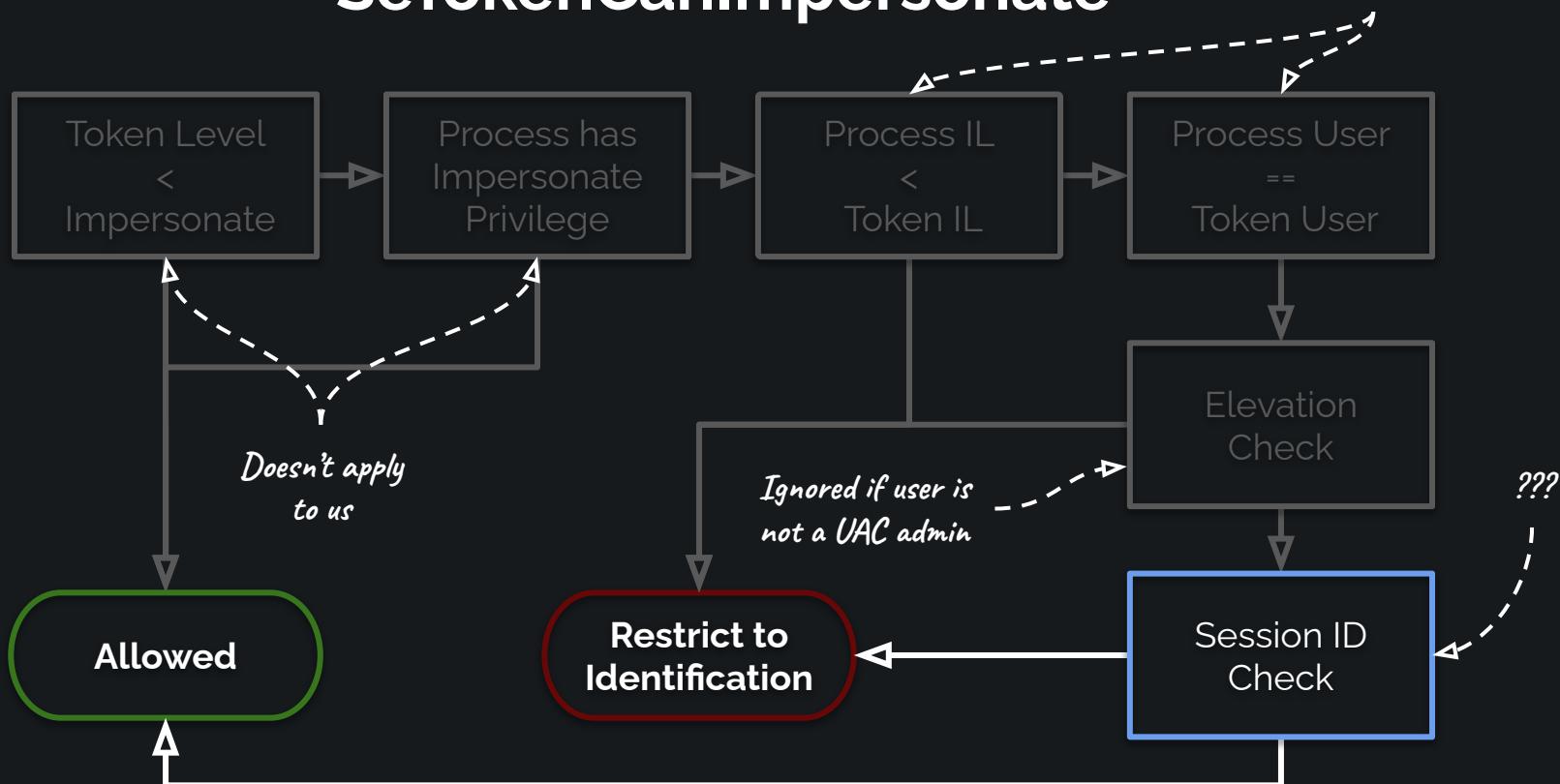


Demo Time

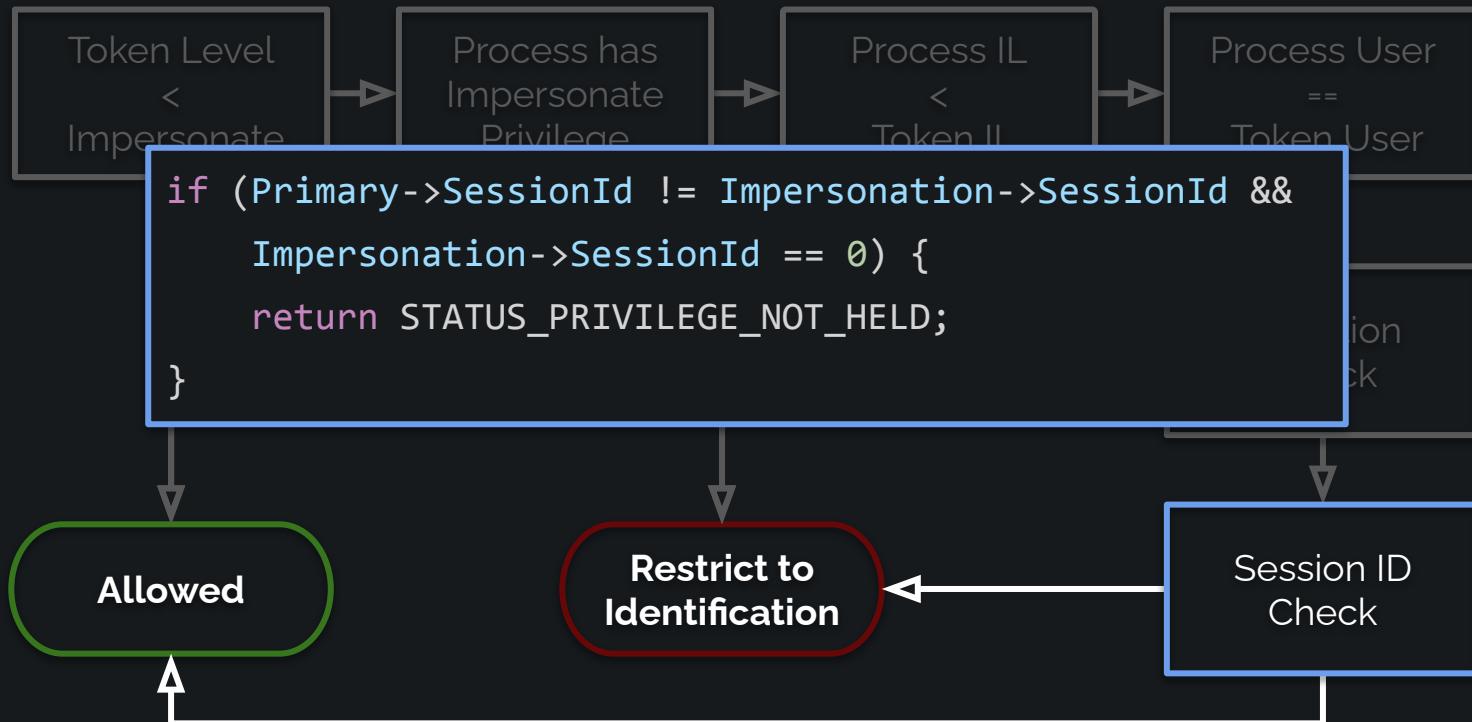
SeTokenCanImpersonate



SeTokenCanImpersonate

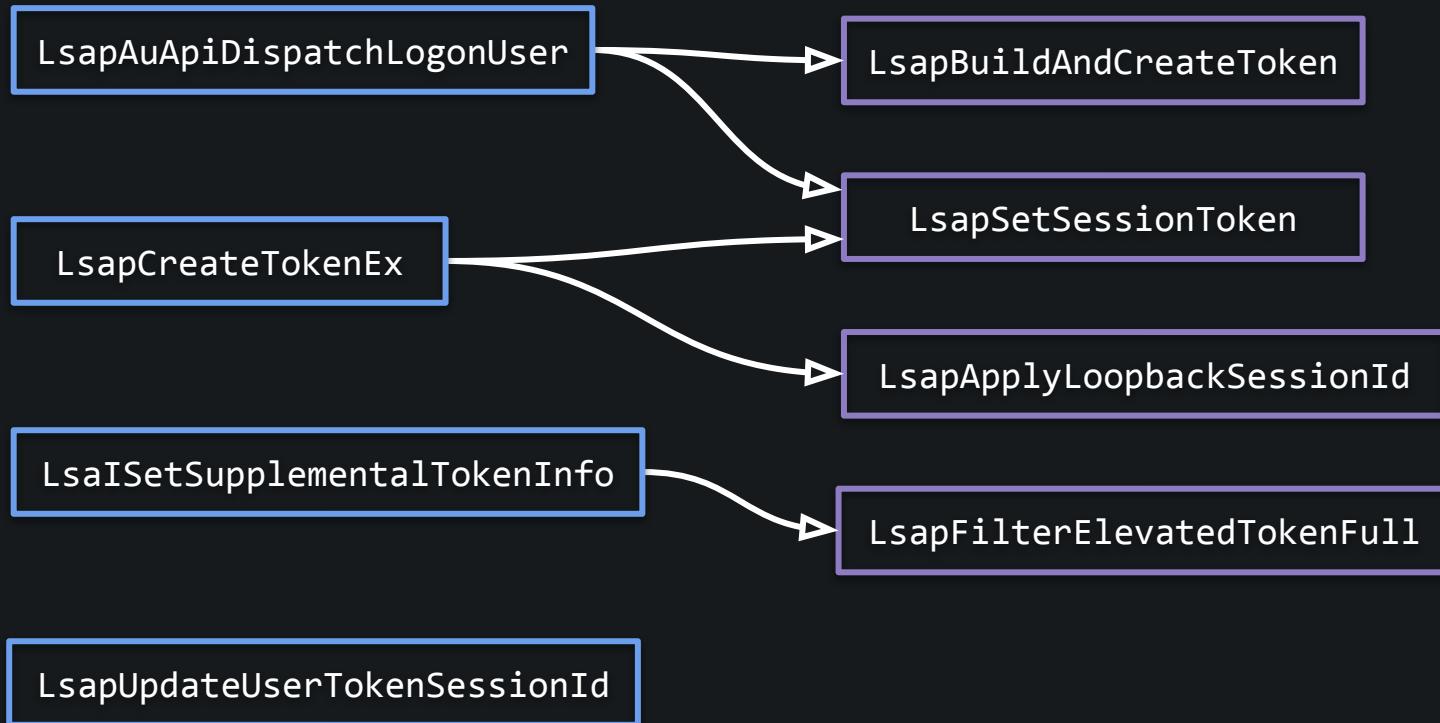


SeTokenCanImpersonate



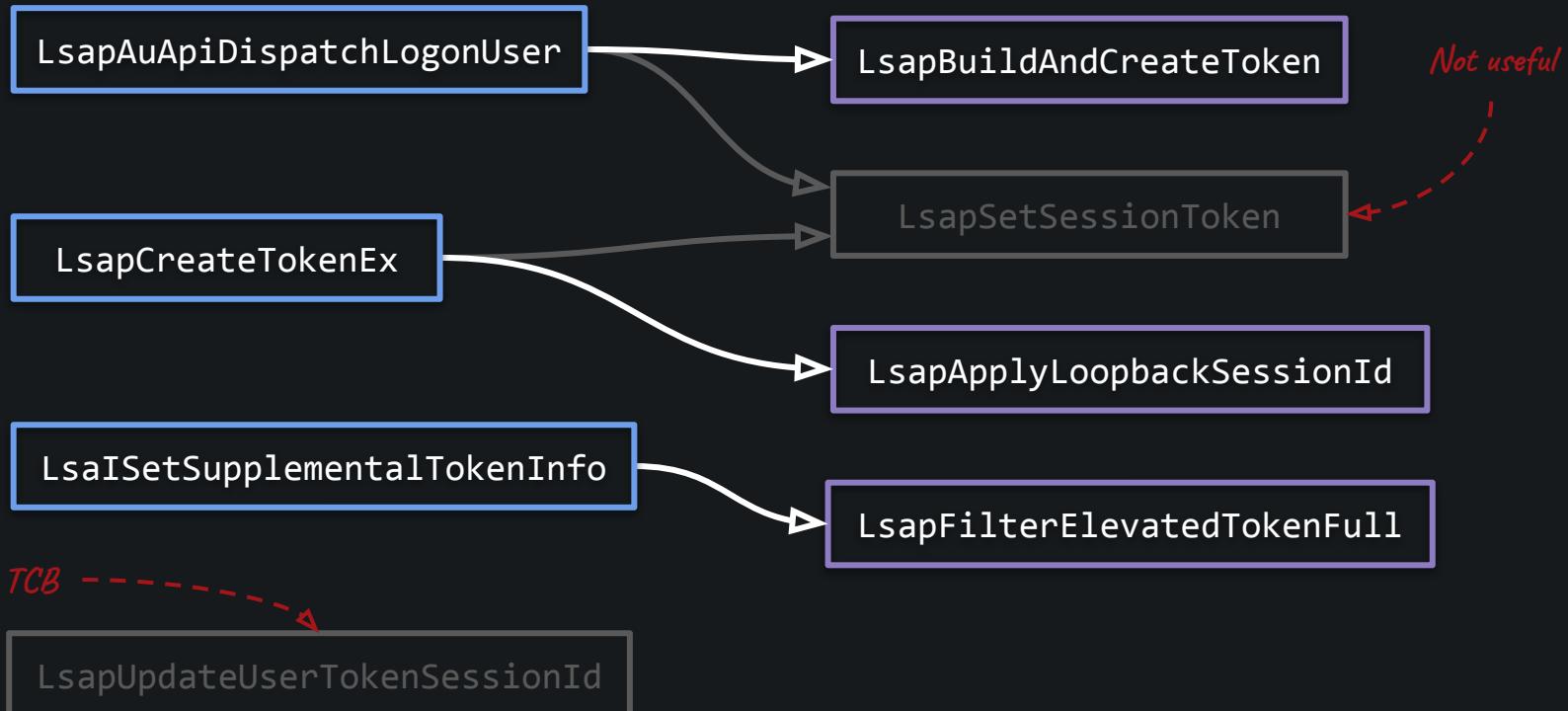
Hunting for Session Update Primitives

NtSetInformationToken(..., TokenSessionId, ...)



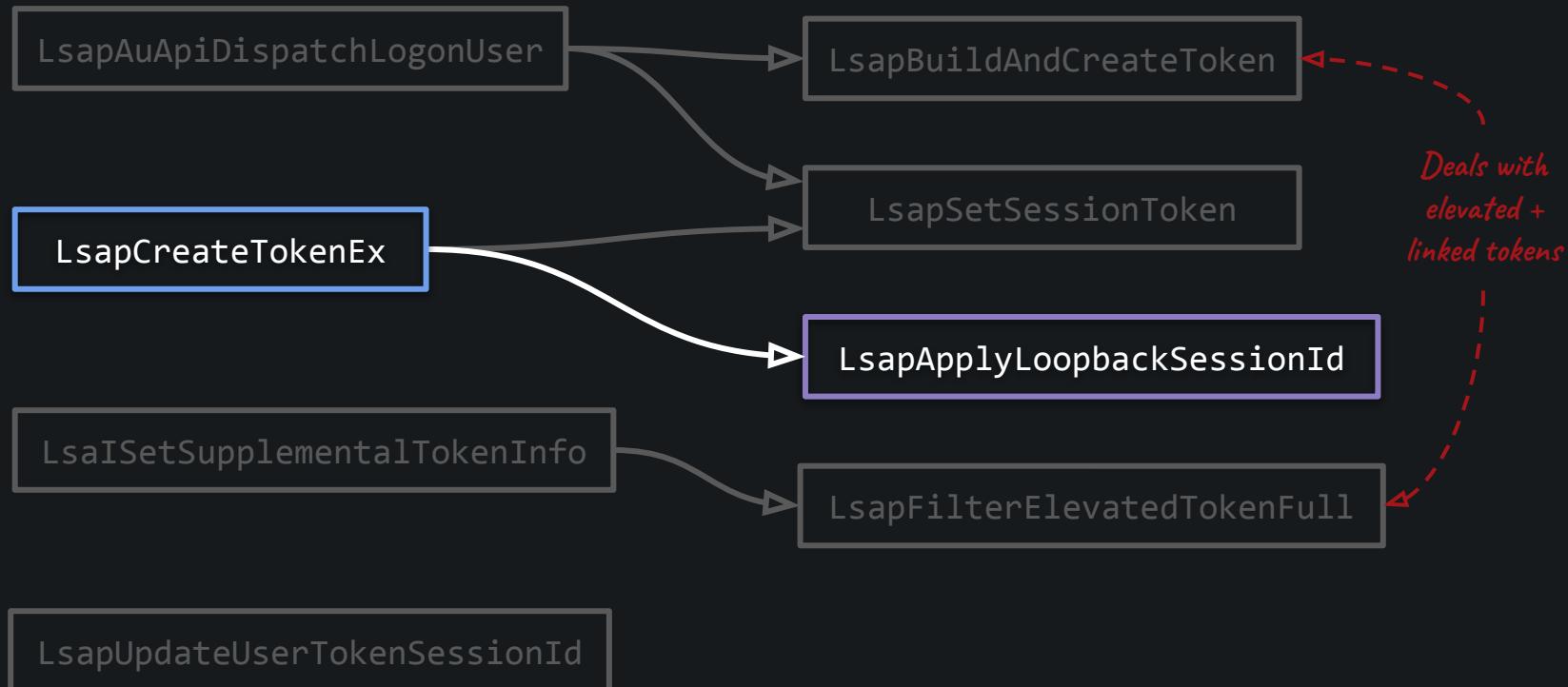
Hunting for Session Update Primitives

NtSetInformationToken(..., TokenSessionId, ...)



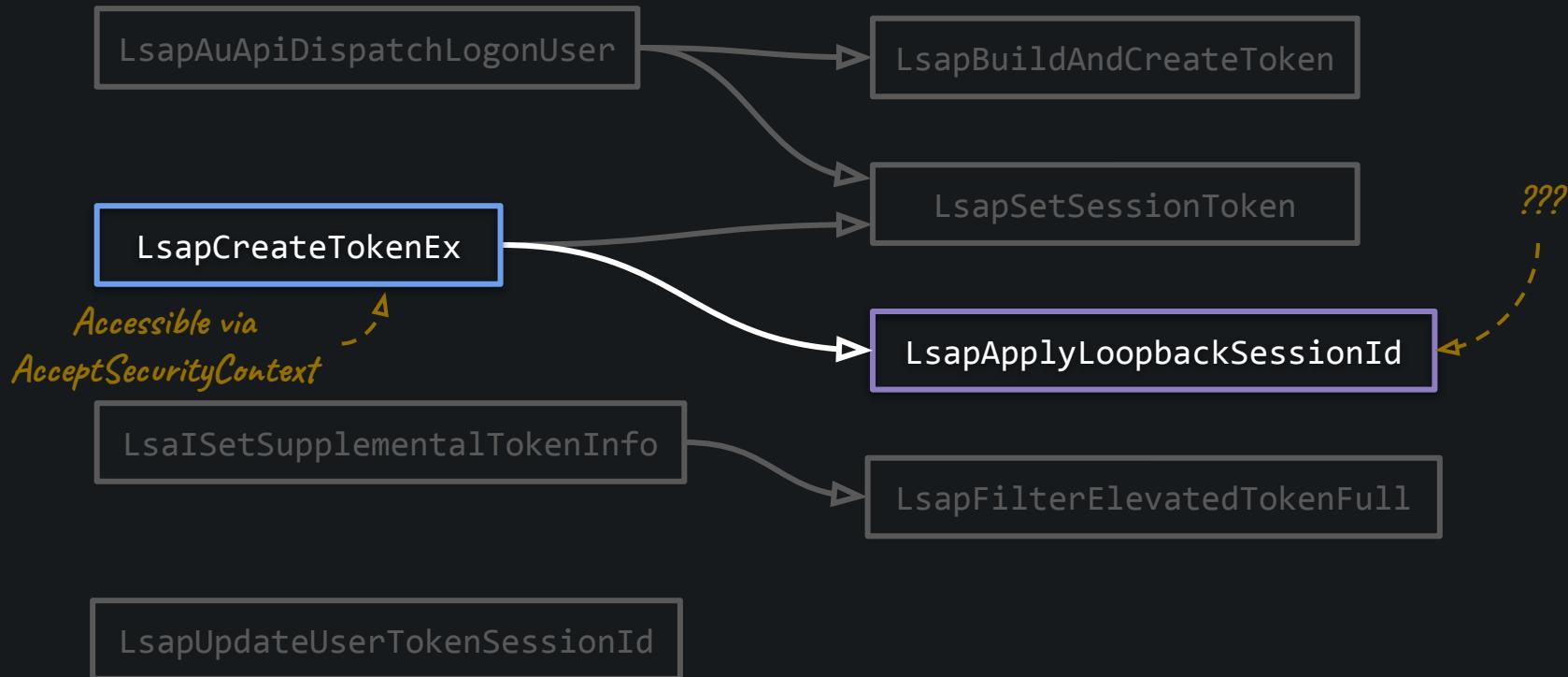
Hunting for Session Update Primitives

NtSetInformationToken(..., TokenSessionId, ...)

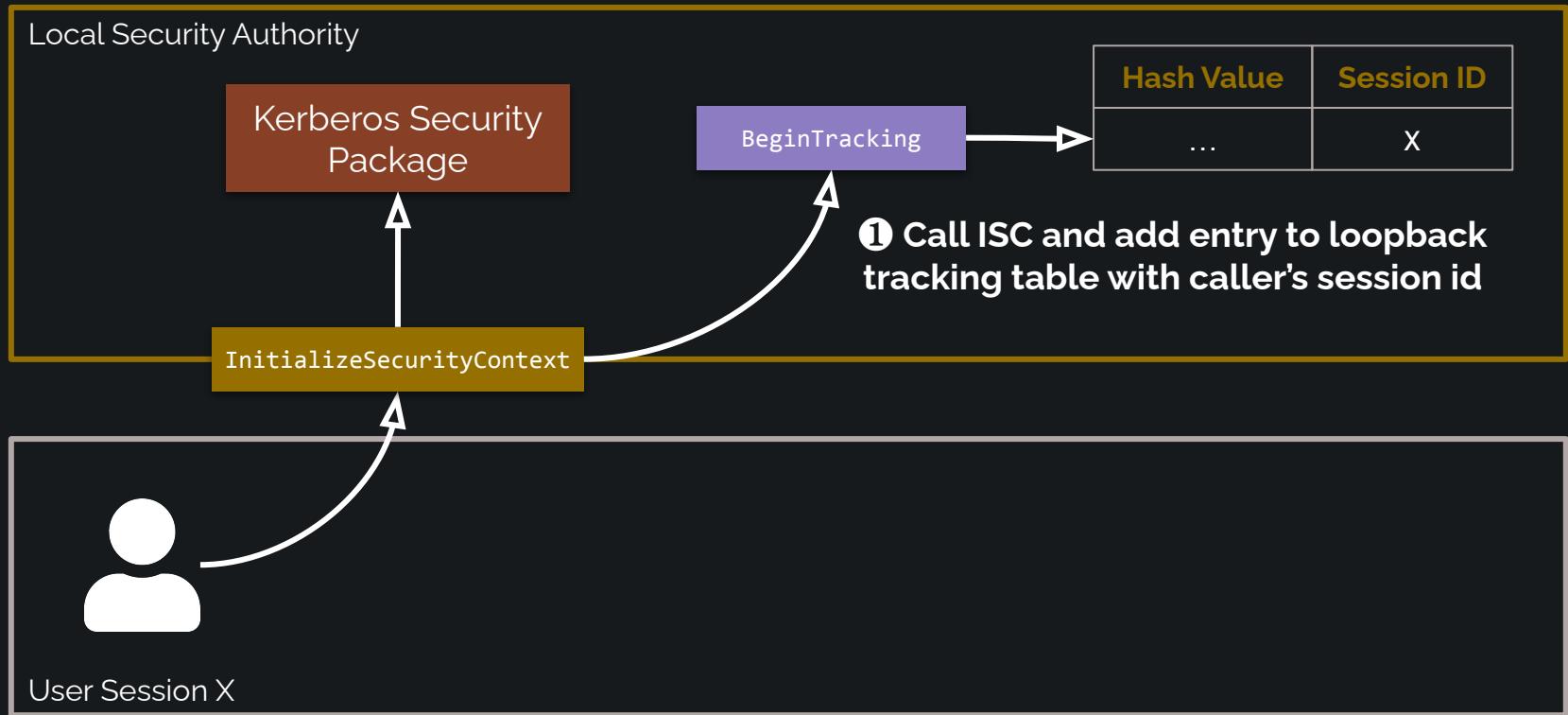


Hunting for Session Update Primitives

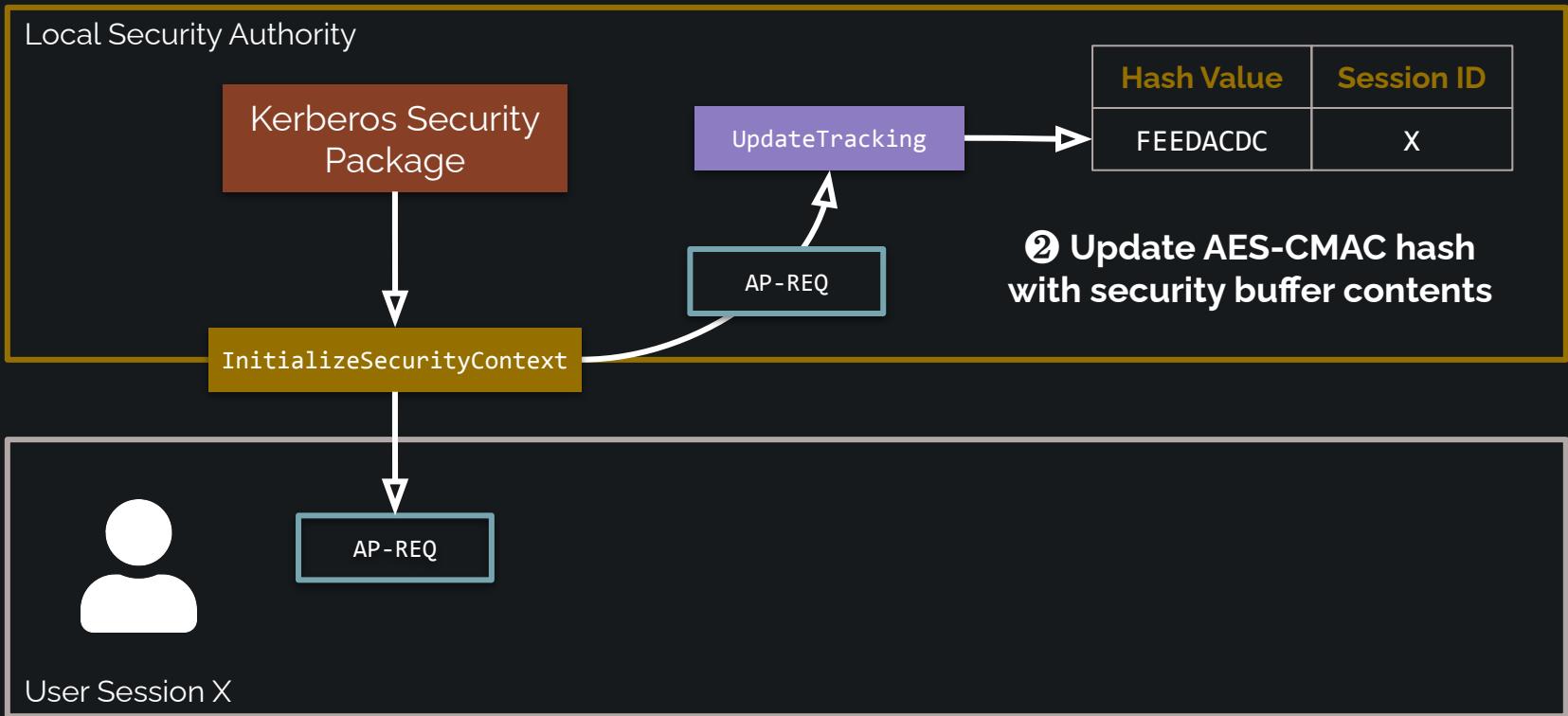
NtSetInformationToken(..., TokenSessionId, ...)



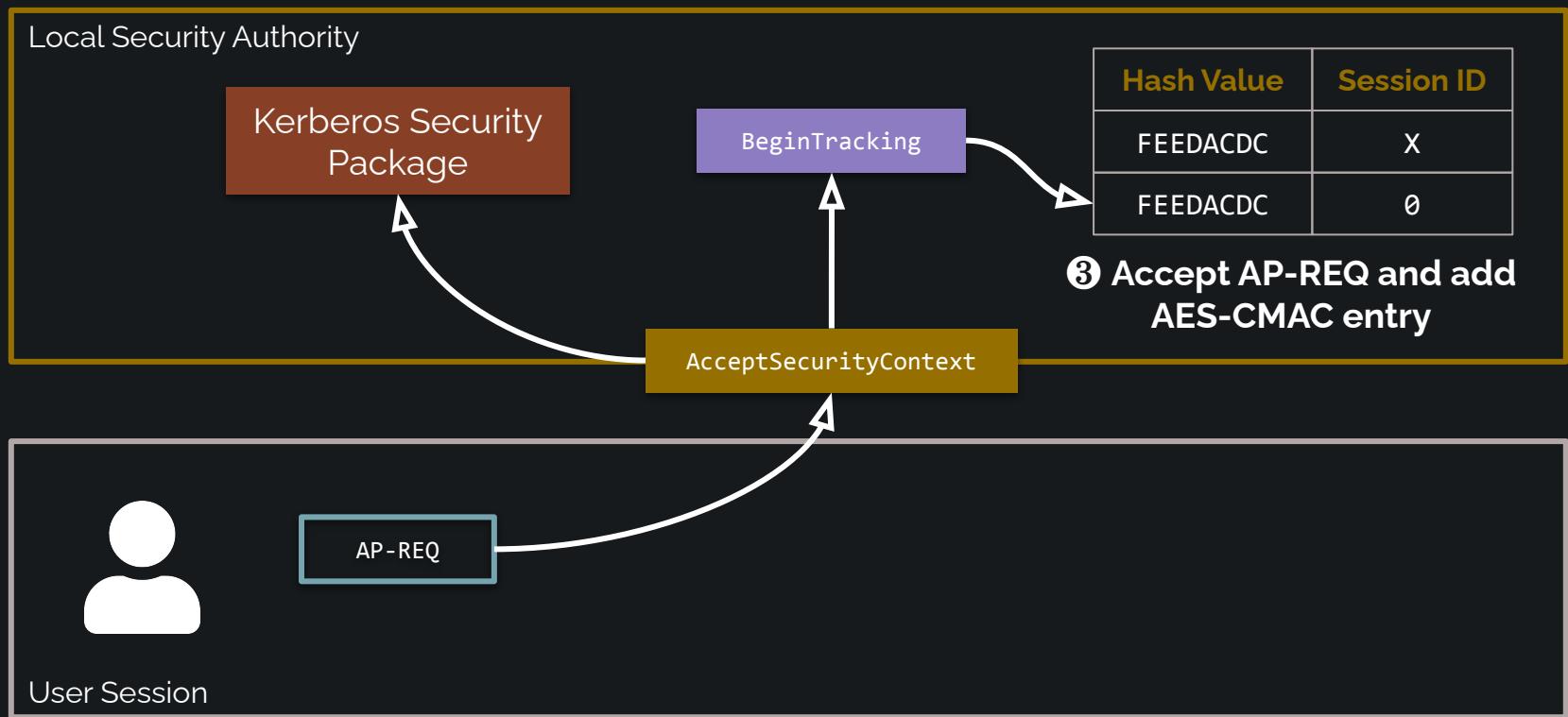
LSA Loopback Library



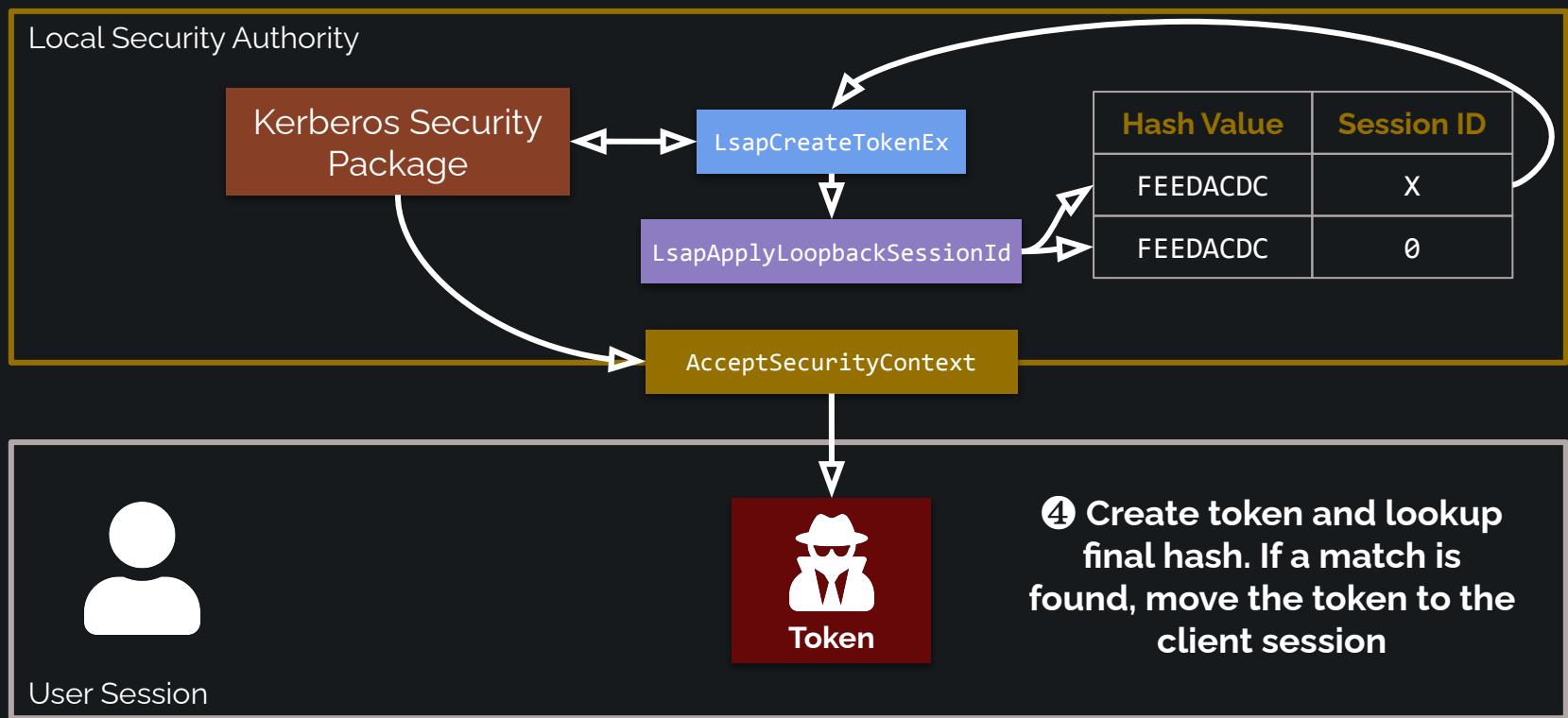
LSA Loopback Library



LSA Loopback Library



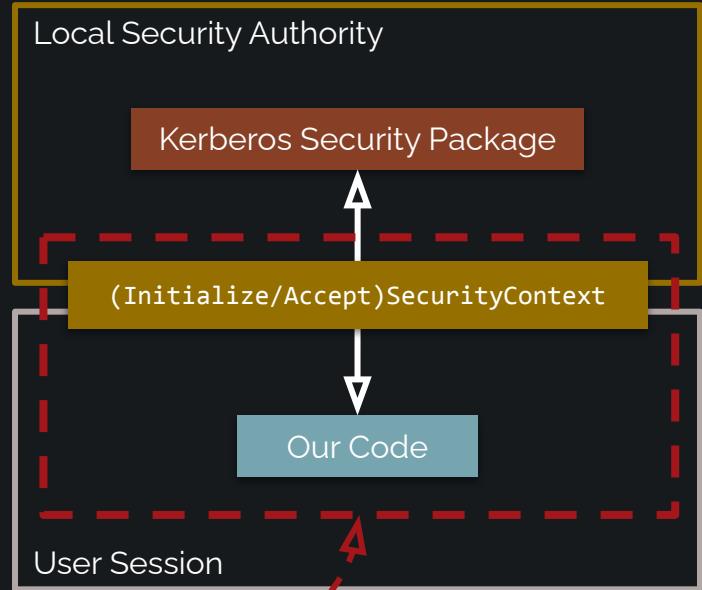
LSA Loopback Library



LSA Loopback Library

ELI5

1. Loopback Library will hash all security buffers between LSA and clients. **If hashes match when a token is being built, the token will be moved to the client session.**
2. We need to start using **InitializeSecurityContext** with our silver tickets to get the hash entry initialized.
3. We need to modify the PAC inside the AP-REQ, but **if we touch the buffers the hash lookup will break.** (or will it?)



No Fly Zone!

Loopback Security Buffer Hashing Bug

```
PSecBufferDesc pInput = ...;
for(ULONG i = 0; i < pInput->cBuffers; ++i) {
    PSecBuffer pBuffer = &pInput->pBuffers[i];

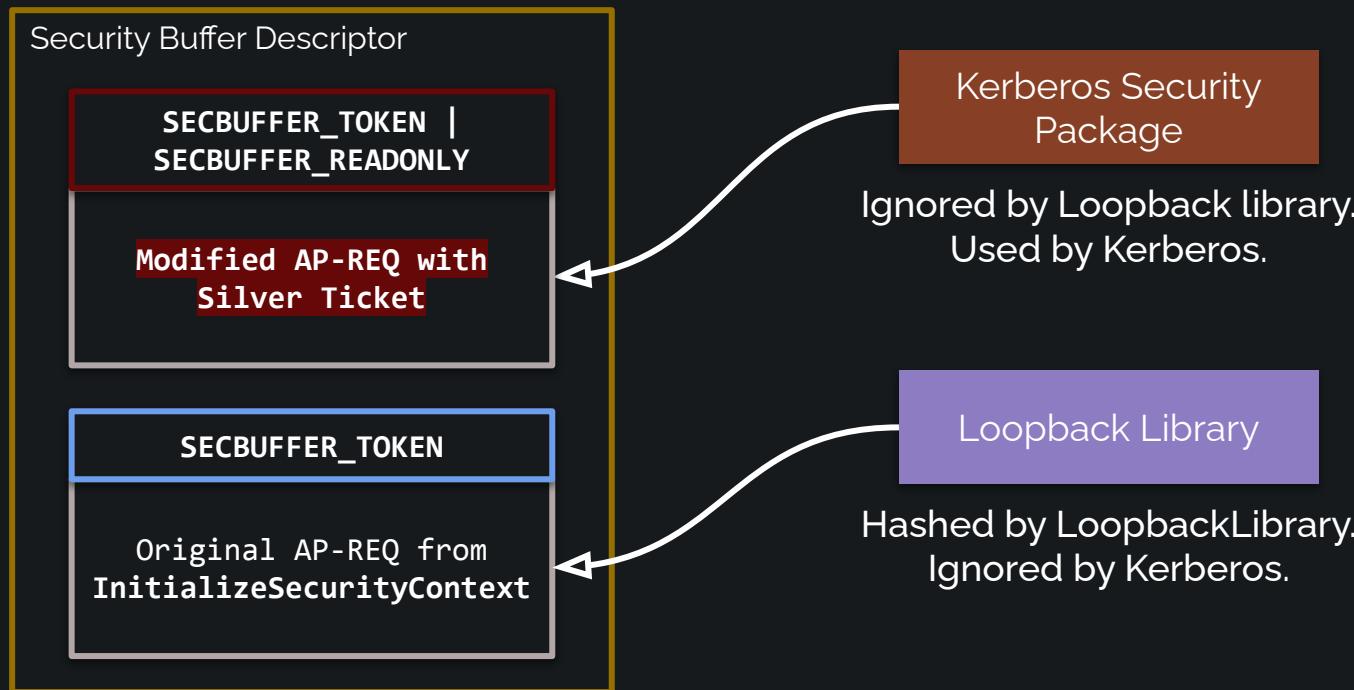
    if (pBuffer.BufferType == SECBUFFER_TOKEN) {
        BCryptHashData(hHash, pDirectionGuid, cbDirectionGuid);
        BCryptHashData(hHash, pBuffer->pvBuffer, pBuffer->cbBuffer);
    }
}
```

Security Buffer Types

Buffer Type	Meaning	Value
SECBUFFER_EMPTY	Undefined, replaced by the security package function	0x00000000
SECBUFFER_TOKEN	Security token	0x00000002
...		
SECBUFFER_READONLY	Buffer is read-only, no checksum	0x80000000
SECBUFFER_READONLY_WITH_CHECKSUM	Buffer is read-only, and checksummed	0x10000000

The buffer types can be combined using a **bitwise-OR** operation with the READONLY buffer types.

Type Confusion in AcceptSecurityContext





Demo Time

Fixed in Windows 11 ?

Windows 10:

```
if (pBuffer.BufferType == SECBUFFER_TOKEN) {  
    BCryptHashData(hHash, pDirectionGuid, cbDirectionGuid);  
    BCryptHashData(hHash, pBuffer->pvBuffer, pBuffer->cbBuffer);  
}
```

Windows 11:

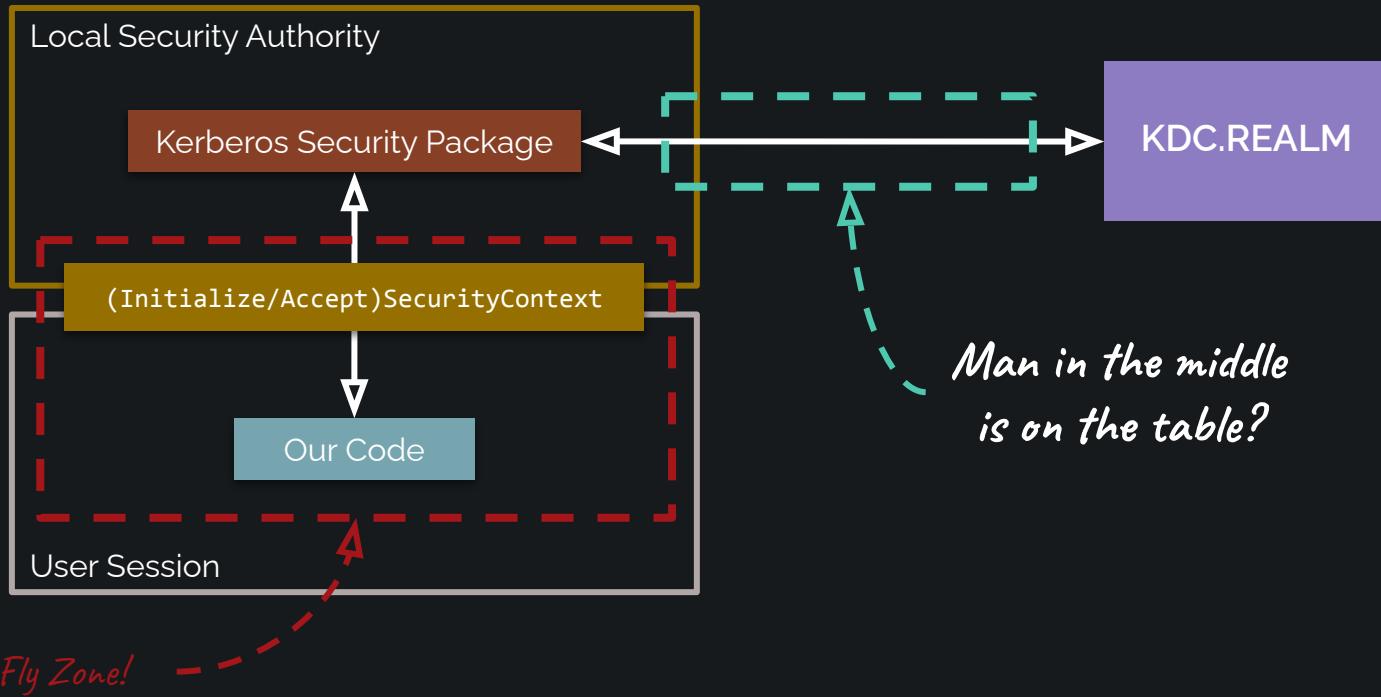
```
if ((pBuffer.BufferType & ~SECBUFFER_ATTRMASK) == SECBUFFER_TOKEN) {  
    BCryptHashData(hHash, pDirectionGuid, cbDirectionGuid);  
    BCryptHashData(hHash, pBuffer->pvBuffer, pBuffer->cbBuffer);  
}
```

Masking the upper byte out

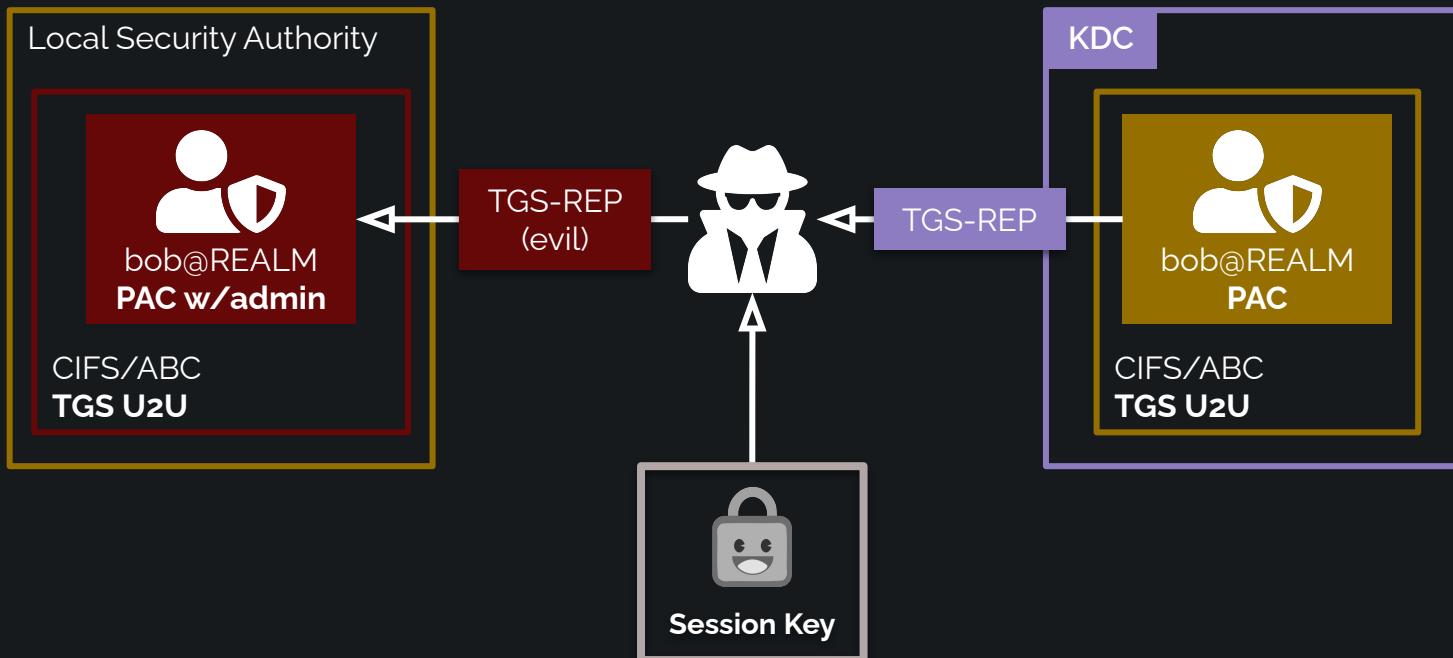


LSA Loopback Library

Danger Zone



Modifying on the Wire



What about Credential Guard ?

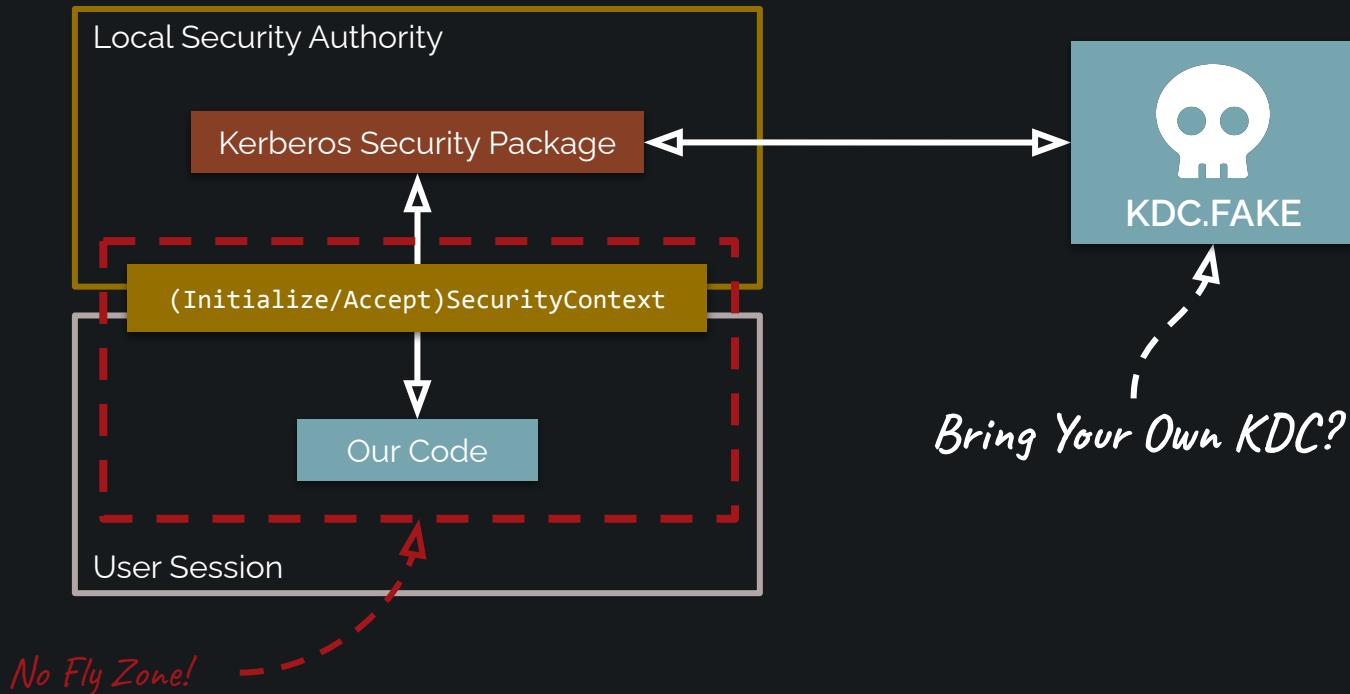
Kerberos Considerations

When you enable Windows Defender Credential Guard, you can no longer use Kerberos unconstrained delegation or DES encryption. Unconstrained delegation could allow attackers to extract Kerberos keys from the isolated LSA process. Use constrained or resource-based Kerberos delegation instead.

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/security/identity-protection/credential-guard/credential-guard-considerations>

LSA Loopback Library

BYOKDC

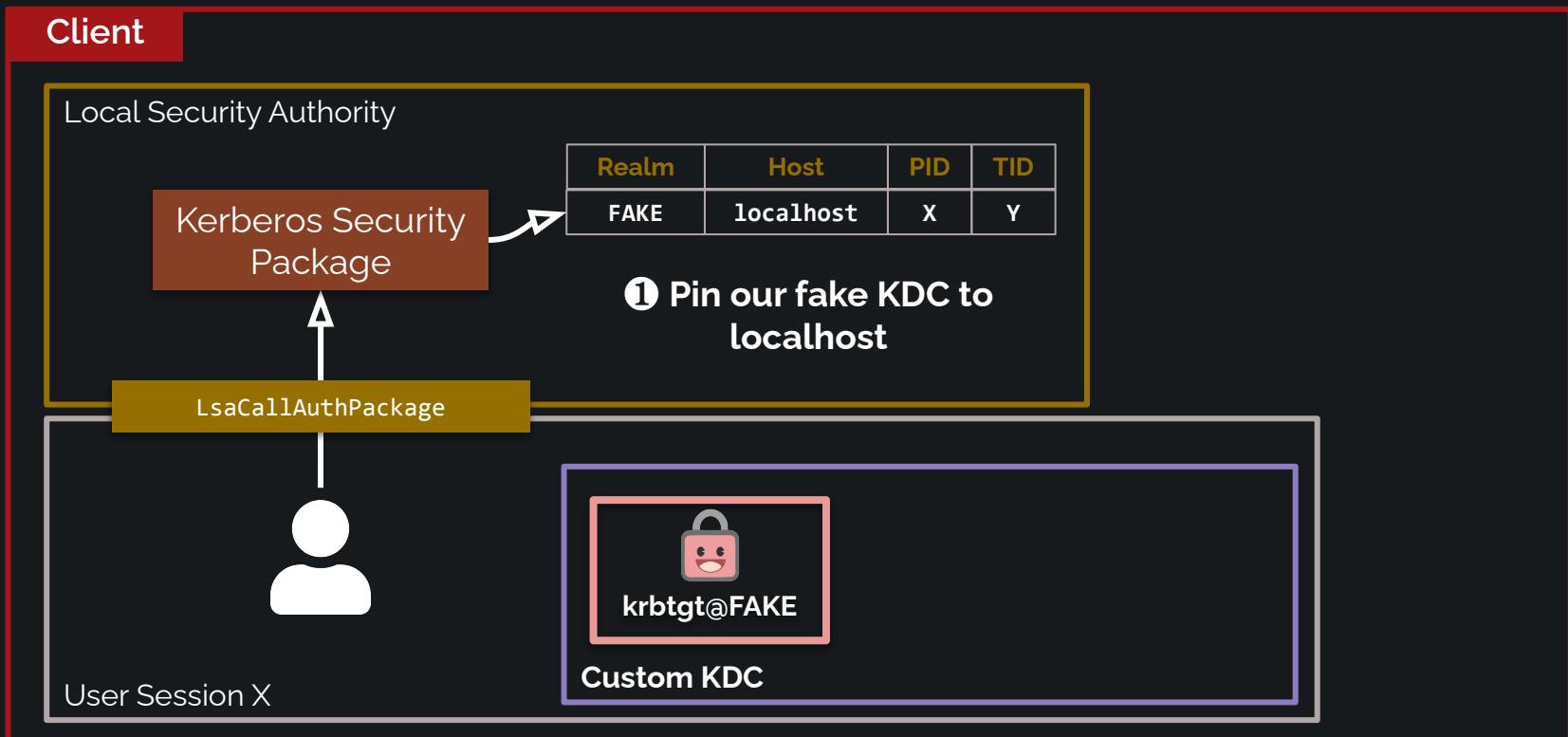


KDC Pinning

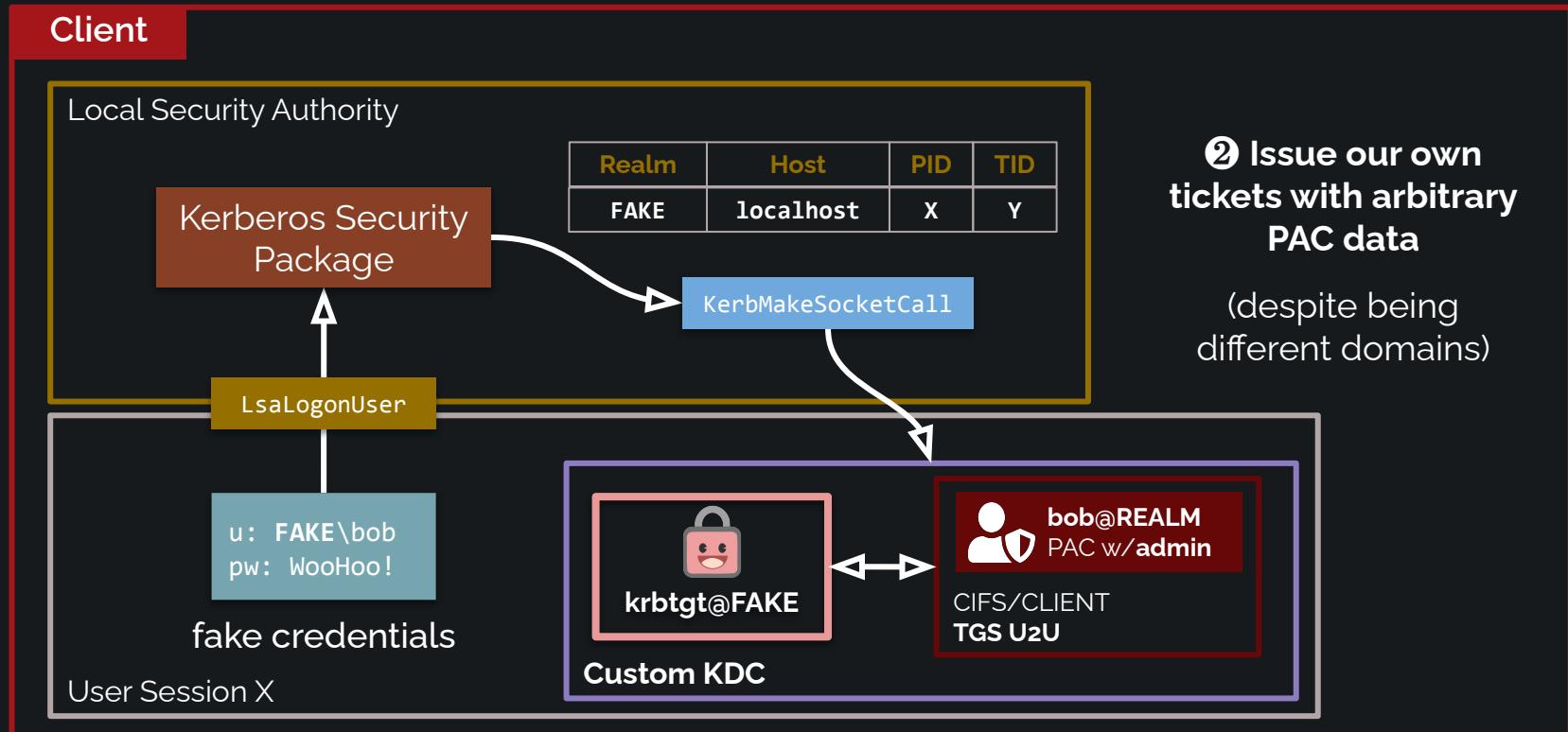
```
struct SECPKG_CALL_PACKAGE_PIN_DC_REQUEST {  
    ULONG MessageType;  
    ULONG Flags;  
    UNICODE_STRING DomainName;  
    UNICODE_STRING DcName;  
    ULONG DcFlags;  
};
```

MessageType can be ***SecPkgCallPackagePinDcMessage*** or ***KerbPinKdcMessage***

TGS-REP Local KDC



TGS-REP Local KDC





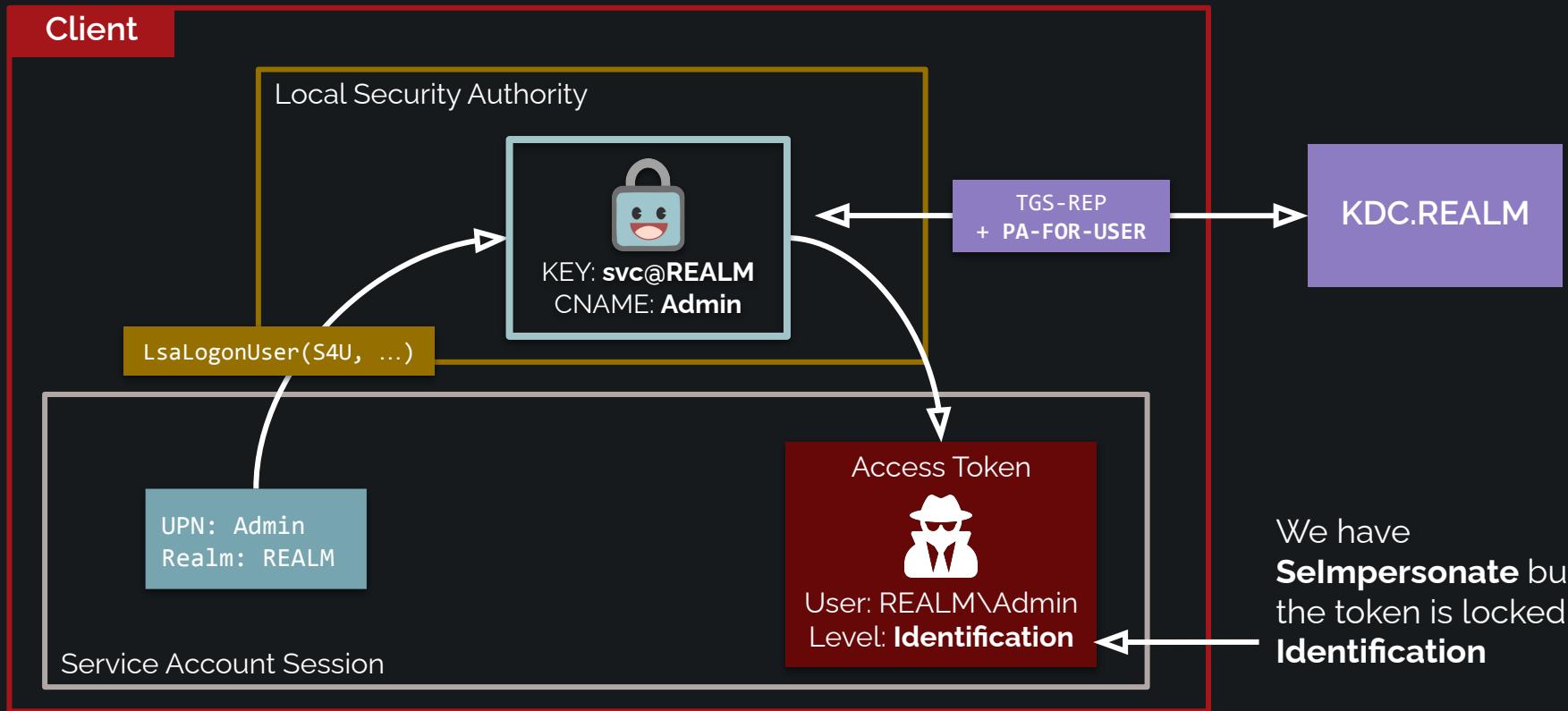
Demo Time



“Security Boundaries”

and where they aren't

Service Account S4U2Self

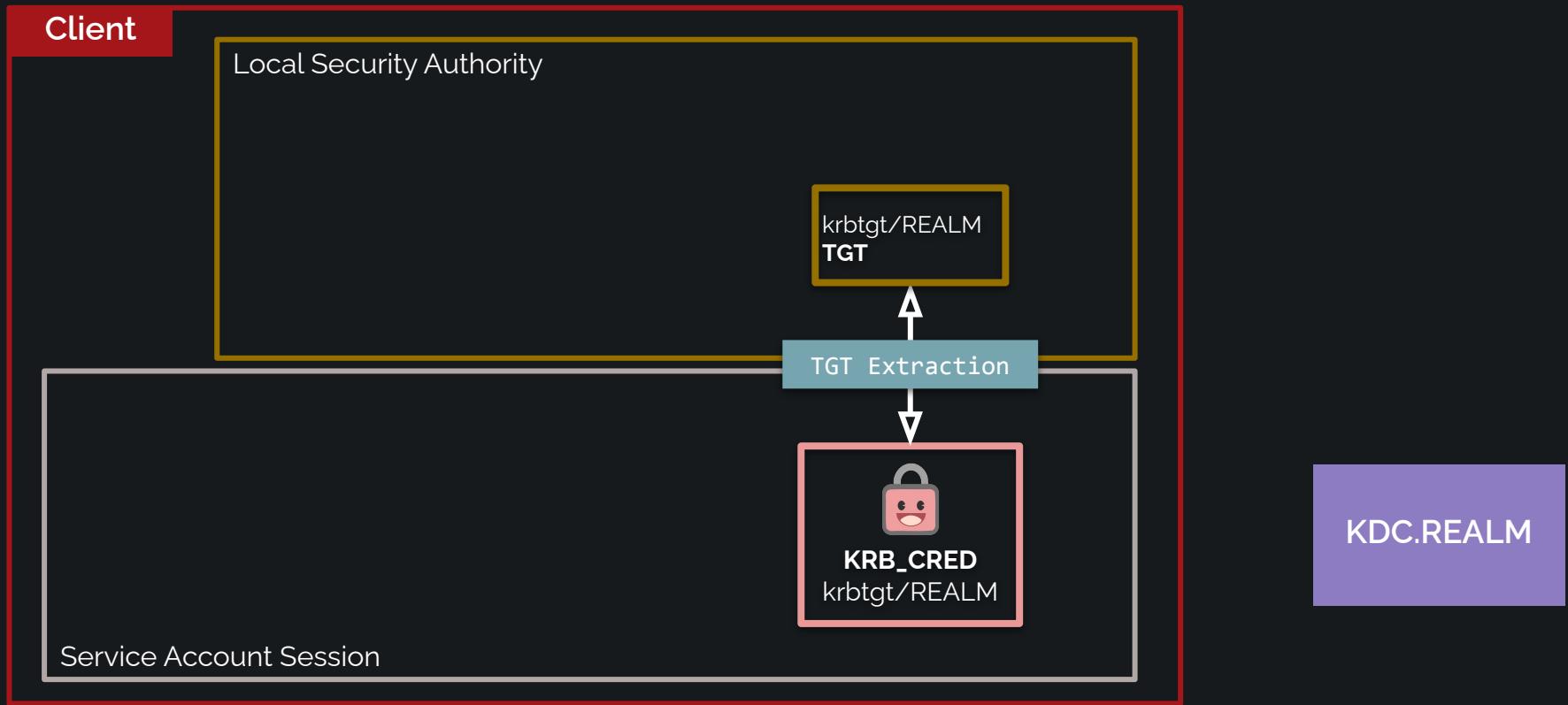


S4U TCB Privilege Check

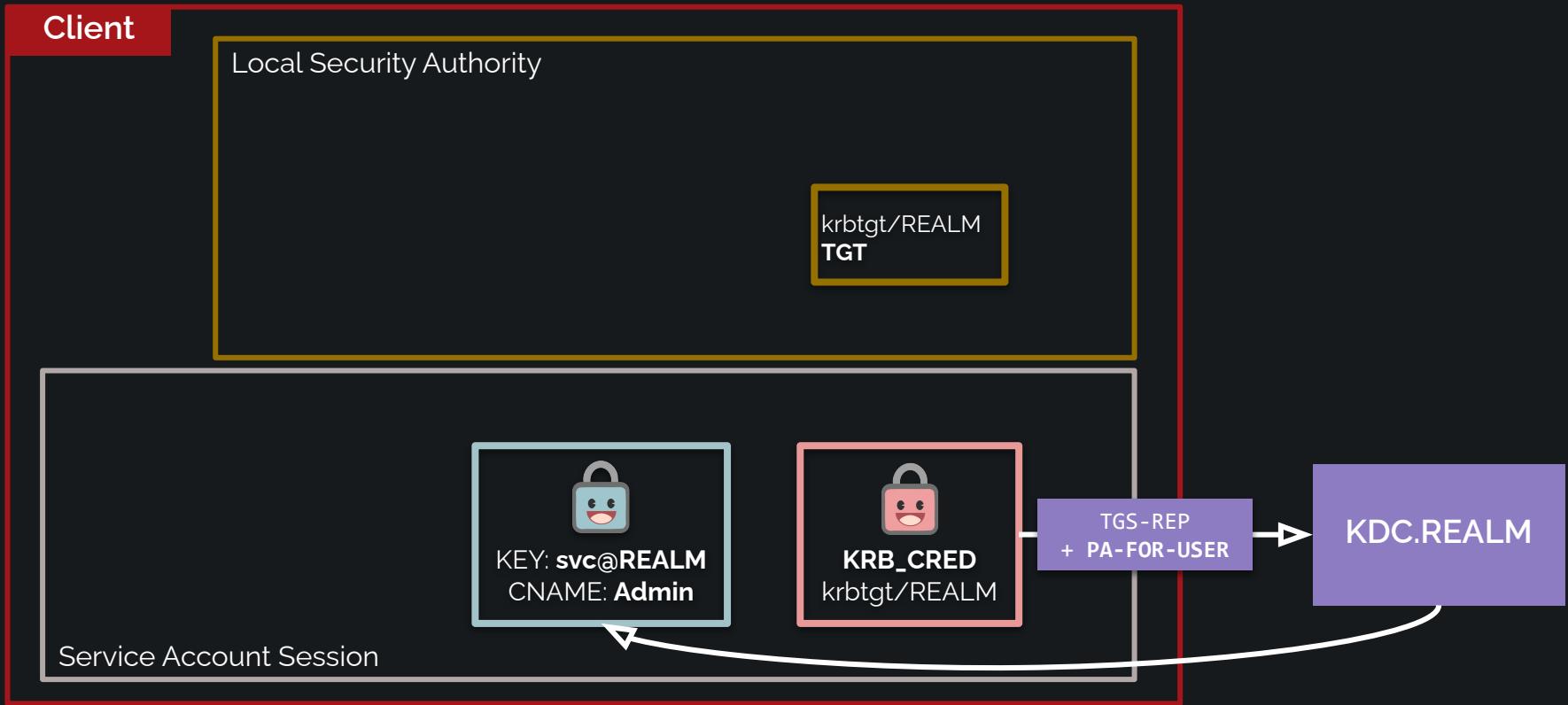
```
KerbCreateTokenFromLogonTicket(...) {
    if (MessageType == KerbTicketLogon || MessageType == KerbTicketUnlockLogon ||
        MessageType == KerbS4ULogon || ...
    ){
        if (!ClientInfo.HasTcbPrivilege)
            PrimaryCredentials->Flags |= PRIMARY_CRED_LOGON_NO_TCB;
    }
}
```

```
LsapAuApiDispatchLogonUser(...) {
    BOOL UseIdentify = PrimaryCredentials.Flags & PRIMARY_CRED_LOGON_NO_TCB;
    LsapCreateV3Token(...,
        (UseIdentify ? TokenImpersonation : TokenPrimary),
        (UseIdentify ? SecurityIdentification : SecurityImpersonation),
        &Token
    );
}
```

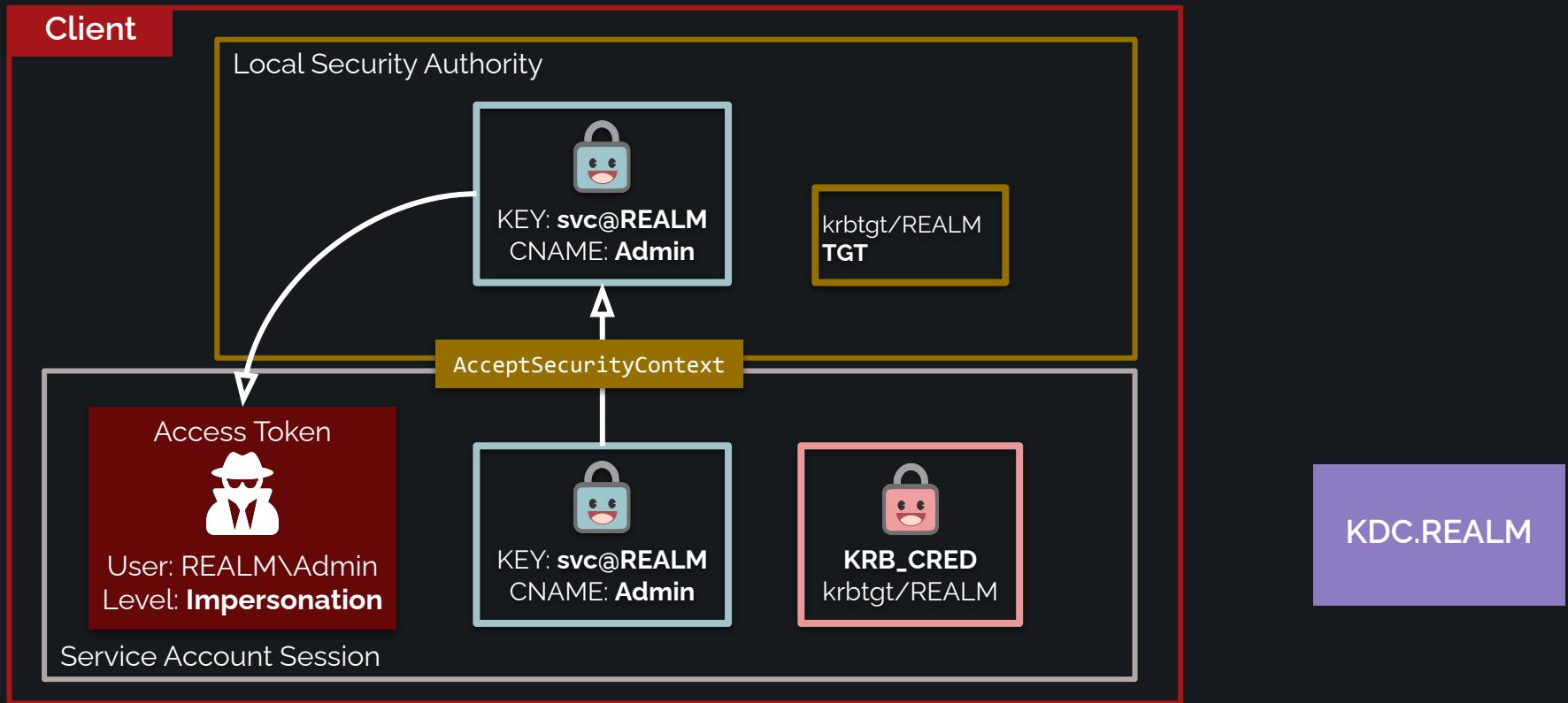
Service Account S4U2Self



Service Account S4U2Self



Service Account S4U2Self



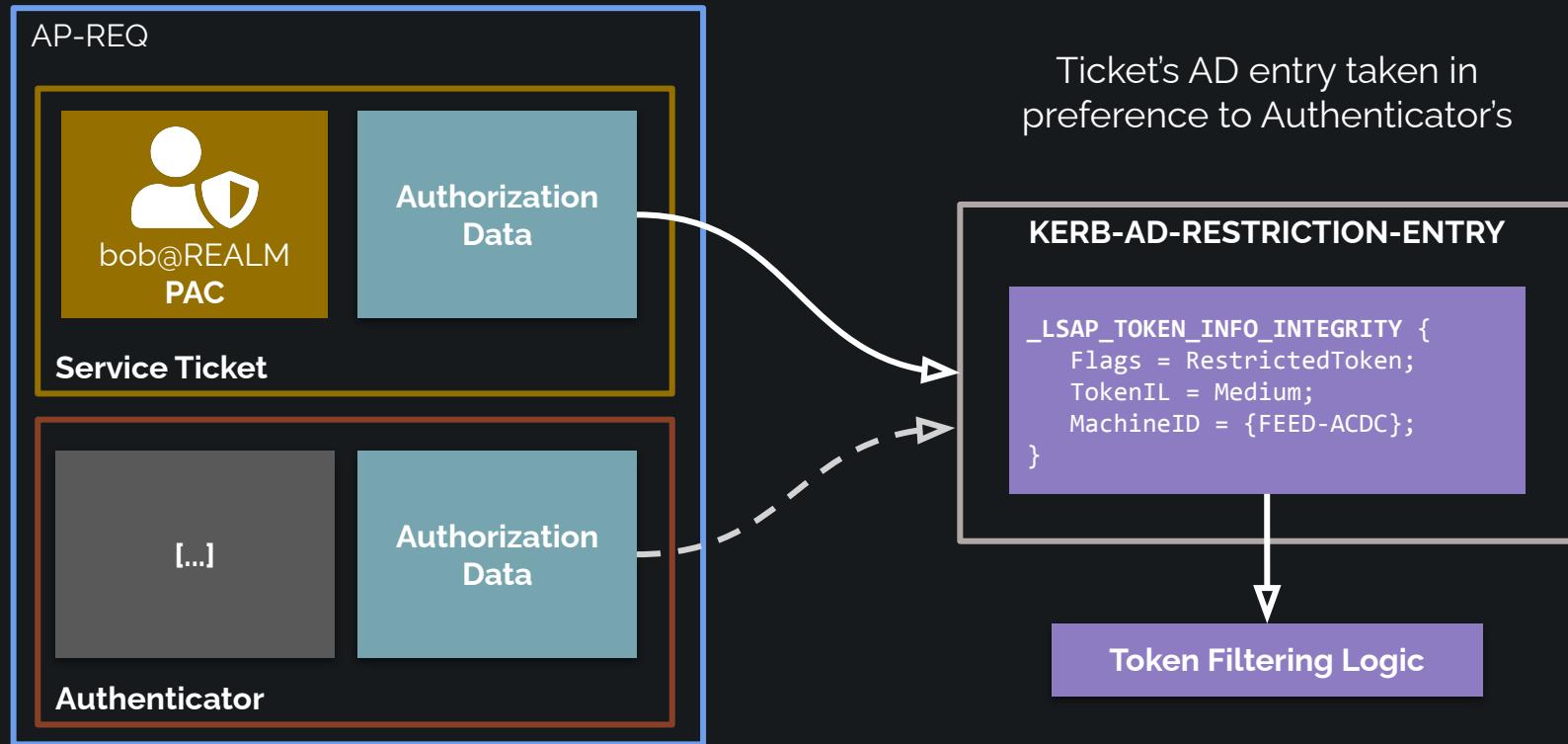
What about UAC ?

2.2.5. LSAP_TOKEN_INFO_INTEGRITY

The LSAP_TOKEN_INFO_INTEGRITY structure specifies the integrity level information for the client.<7>

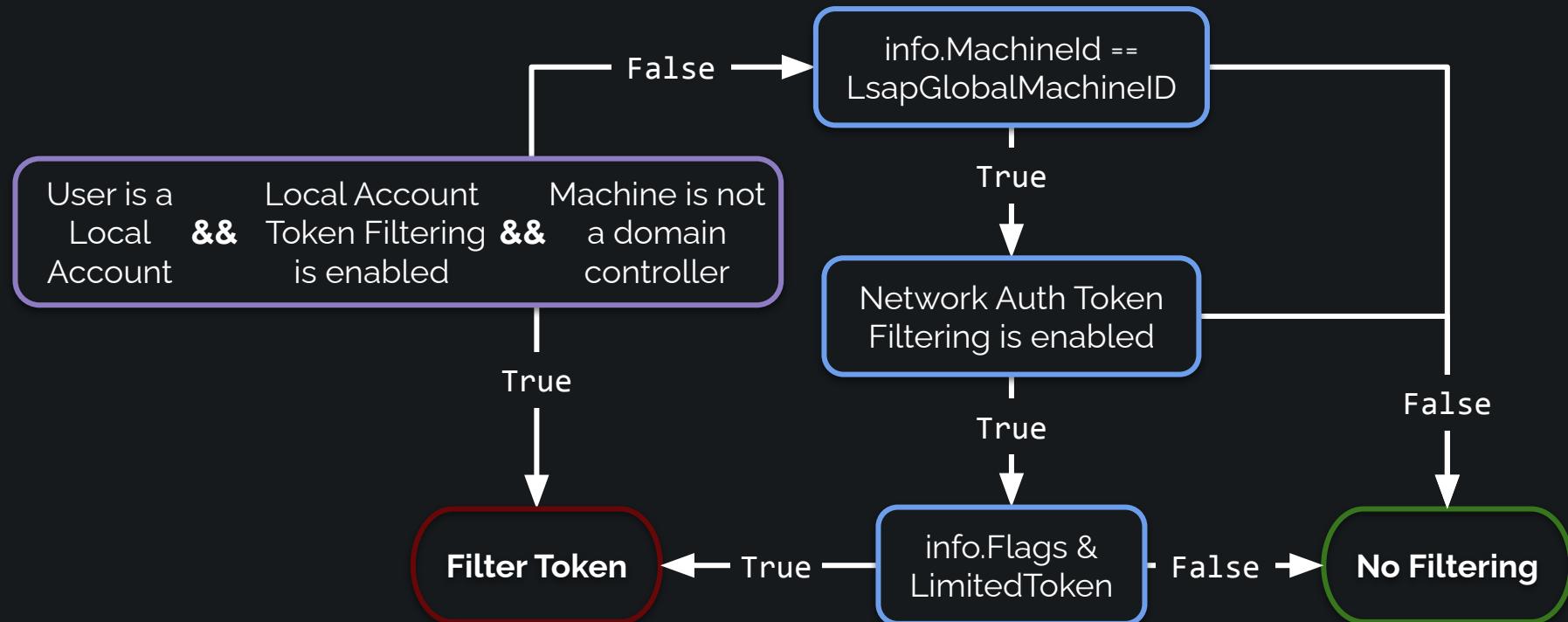
```
typedef struct _LSAP_TOKEN_INFO_INTEGRITY {  
    unsigned long Flags;  
    unsigned long TokenIL;  
    unsigned char MachineID[32];  
}
```

Authorization Data Entries

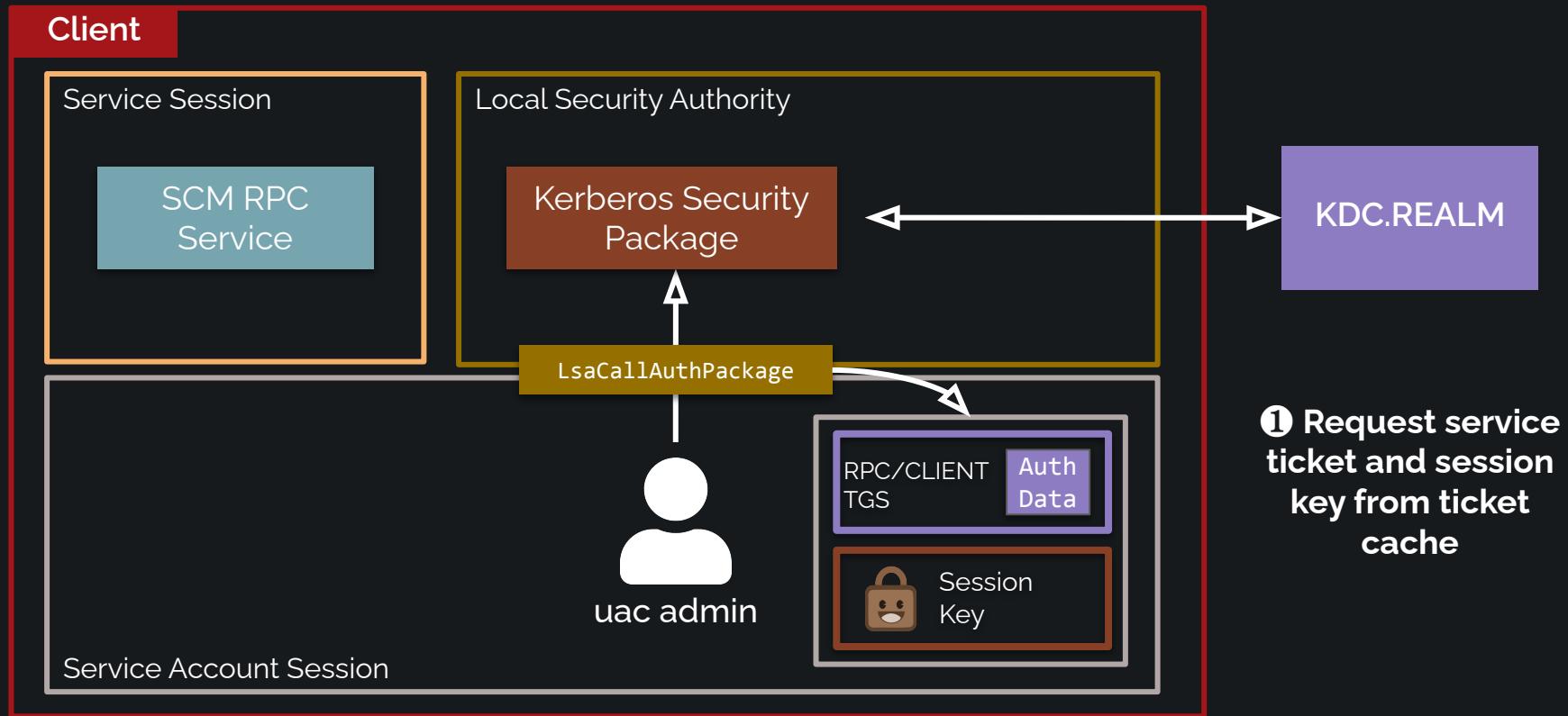


LSA Token Filtering

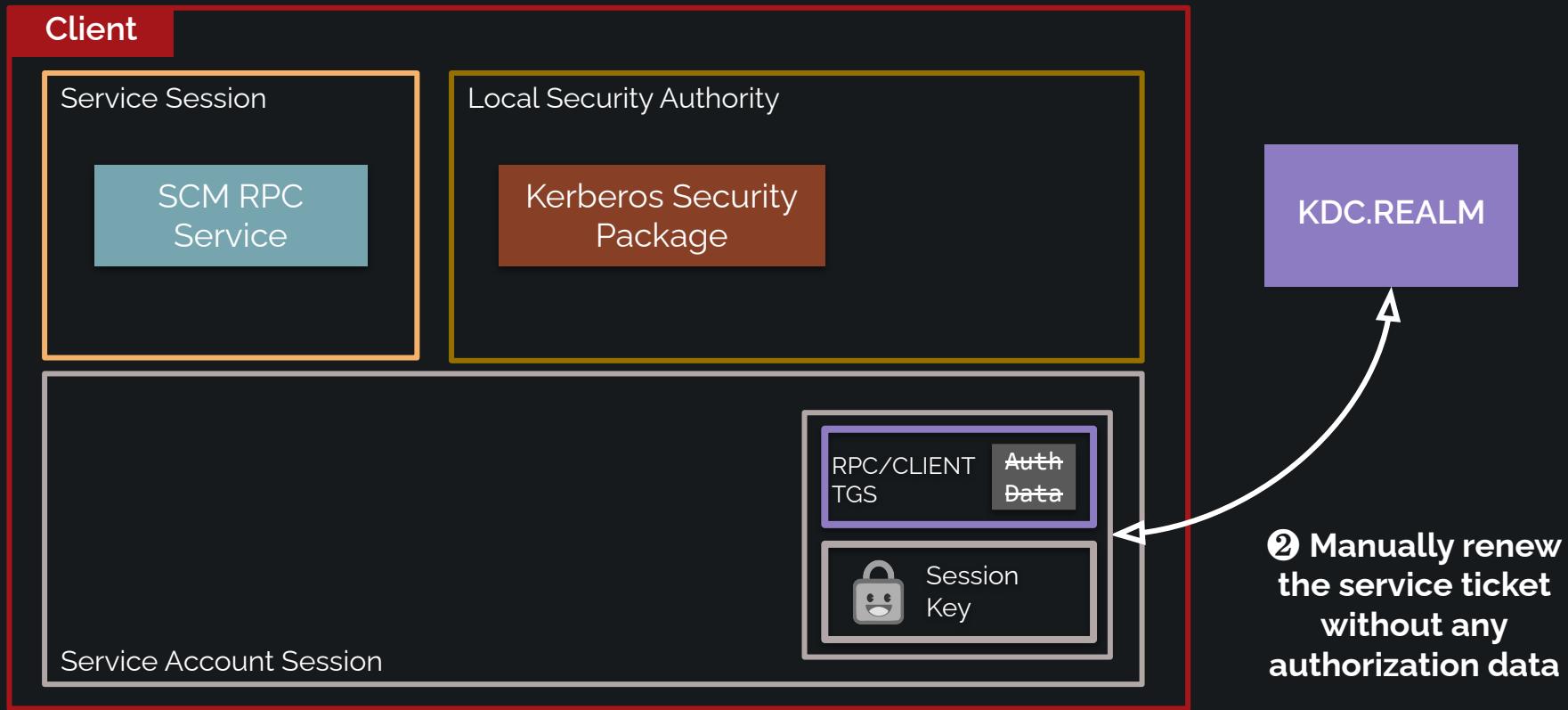
via `LsaISetSupplementalTokenInfo()`



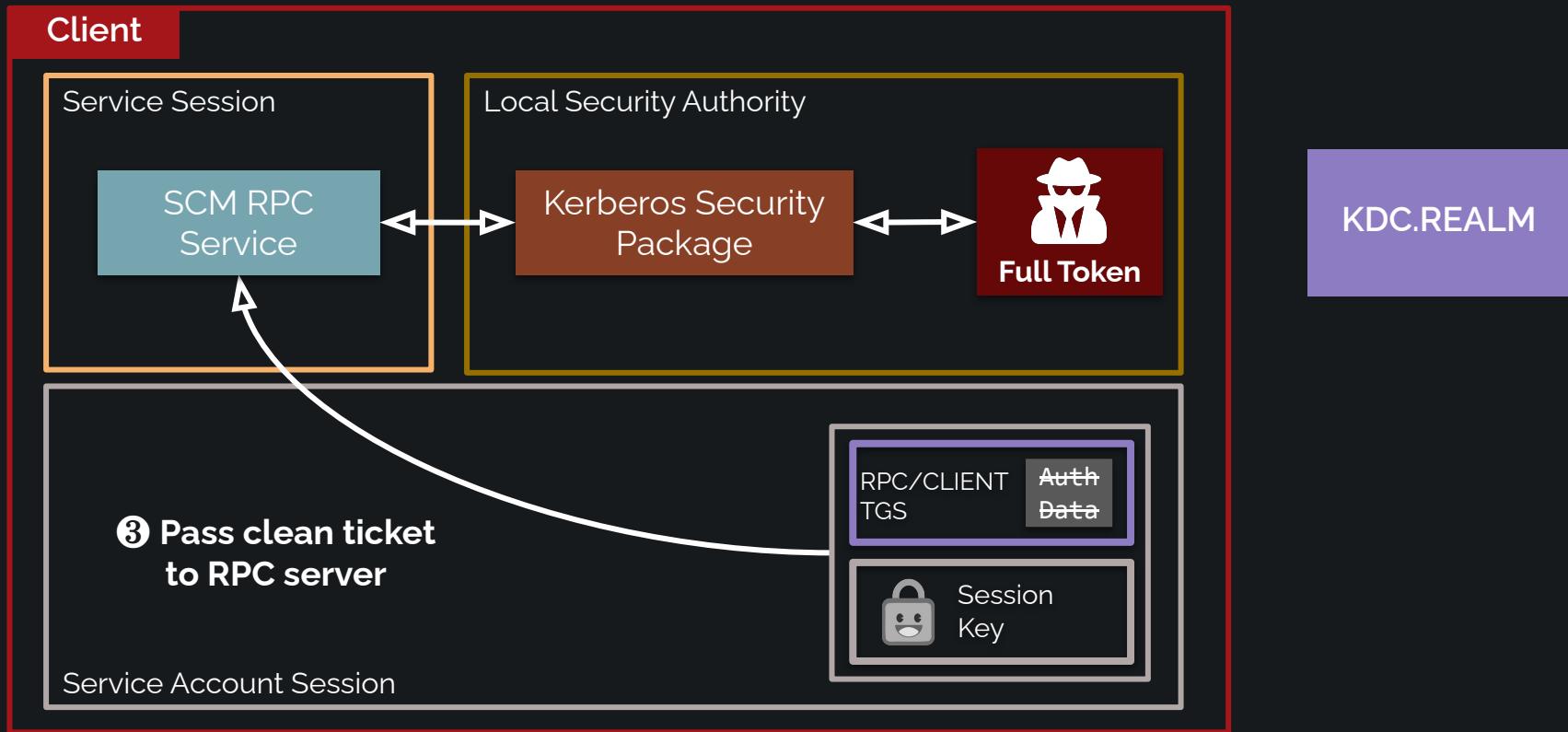
Kerberos UAC Bypass



Kerberos UAC Bypass



Kerberos UAC Bypass





Demo Time



Wrap Up Time

CVE-2022-35756

“SYSTEM” Equivalent

Logon Session:

```
SeTcbPrivilege || SYSTEM || LOCAL/NETWORK SERVICE
```

`cred->Flags & SECPKG_CRED_ATTR_PAC_BYPASS`

Credentials Handle:

(auto) `AcquireCredentialsHandle` w/
`SECPKG_CRED_INBOUND` && `NT AUTHORITY\SERVICE` &&
`!KerbGlobalValidateKDCPACSignature`

(manual) `SetCredentialsAttributes` w/`SeTcbPrivilege`

ASC Context Flags:

~~`context->Flags & ASC_RET_USE_SESSION_KEY`~~

Mitigation Thoughts

- **Enable KerbGlobalValidateKDCPACSignature**
 - Prevent “NT AUTHORITY\SERVICE” SID from bypassing PAC verification
 - Doesn’t prevent “LOCAL/NETWORK SERVICE” or “SYSTEM” though
- **Force Kerberos Armoring / FAST**
 - Makes it harder to tamper with network traffic
- **Enable Credential Guard**
 - Block trivial access to TGT session keys
- **Build Kerberos firewall rules**
 - Block access to KDCs outside an approved list

Detection Thoughts

Security -> Logon/Logoff -> Special Logon -> **Event 4672**

Special privileges assigned to new logon.

Subject:

Security ID: REALM\bob

Account Name: bob

Account Domain: REALM

Logon ID: 0x4b842

Privileges:

SeSecurityPrivilege

SeTakeOwnershipPrivilege

SeLoadDriverPrivilege

...

Limitations of Time

NtApiDotNet (tooling used in presentation)

<https://github.com/googleprojectzero/sandbox-attacksurface-analysis-tools>

UAC Bypass Trickery

<https://www.tiraniddo.dev/2022/03/bypassing-uac-in-most-complex-way.html>

Remote Credential Guard Code Execution

<https://bugs.chromium.org/p/project-zero/issues/detail?id=2271>

AppContainer Escapes

<https://bugs.chromium.org/p/project-zero/issues/detail?id=2273>

LSASS Impersonation Check Failures

<https://bugs.chromium.org/p/project-zero/issues/detail?id=2278>

Service Account S4U Elevation

<https://cyberstoph.org/posts/2021/06/abusing-kerberos-s4u2self-for-local-privilege-escalation/>

Acknowledgements

Elad Shamir | @elad_shamir

Benjamin Delpy | @gentilkiwi

Will Schroeder | @harmjoy

Charlie Clark | @exploitph

Christoph Falta | @cfalta

One Last Thing !

Questions ?