



ADCS Attack Paths in BloodHound

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Who are we

Andy Robbins

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Co-Creator of BloodHound*



Jonas Bülow Knudsen

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Agenda

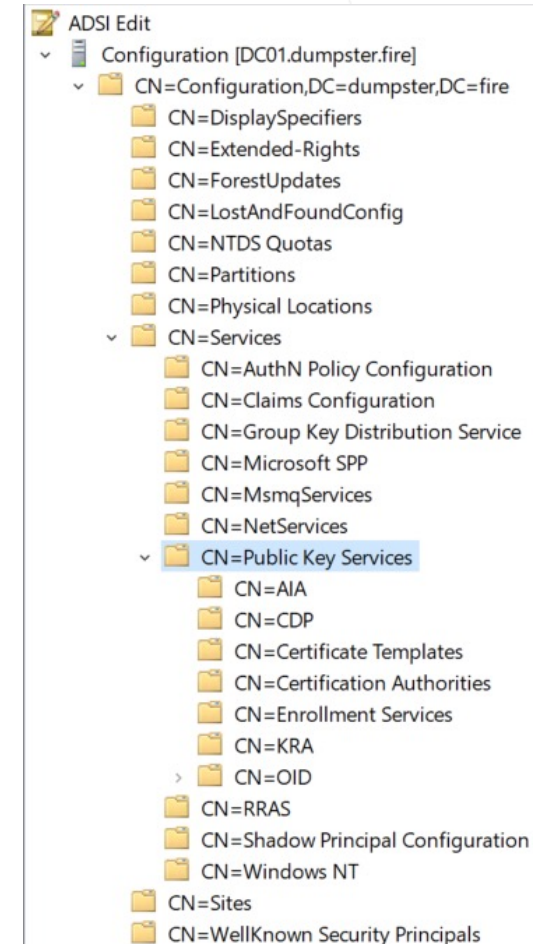
- What is ADCS
- ADCS Components in BloodHound
- Demo Time!
- ADCS in BloodHound Enterprise
- Acknowledgements

What is ADCS

Active Directory Certificate Services (ADCS)

What is ADCS

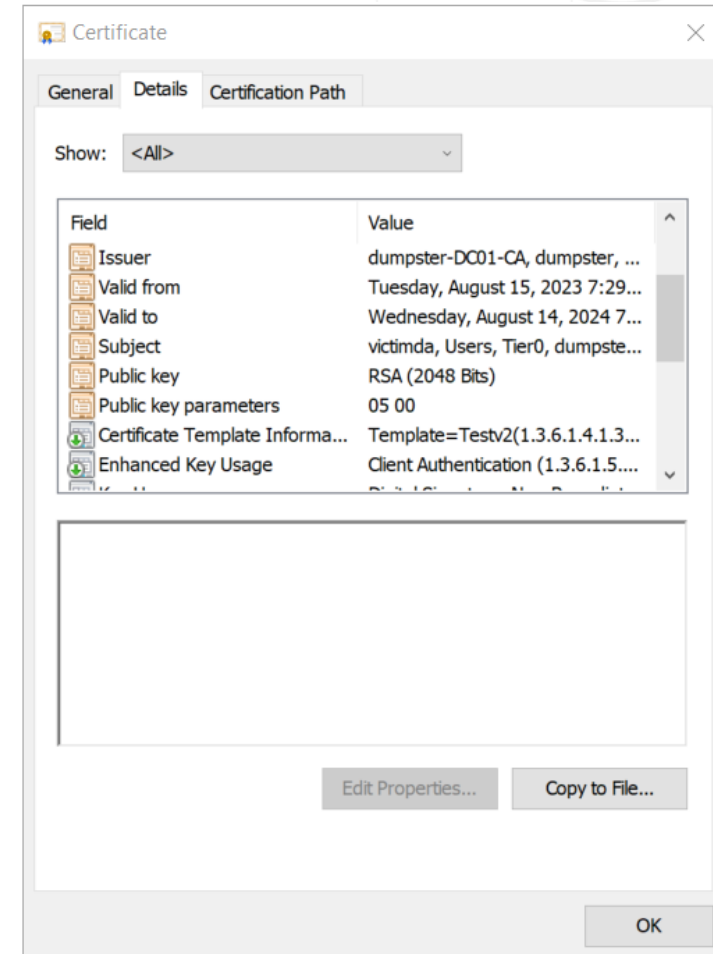
- Provides scalable Public Key Infrastructure (PKI)
- Used for issuing and managing digital certificates
- Located in the Public Key Services container



Digital certificate

What is ADCS

- Asymmetric cryptography (public and private key pair)
- Bound to a “Subject”
- Used for encryption, signing, and authentication
- Holds a certificate chain

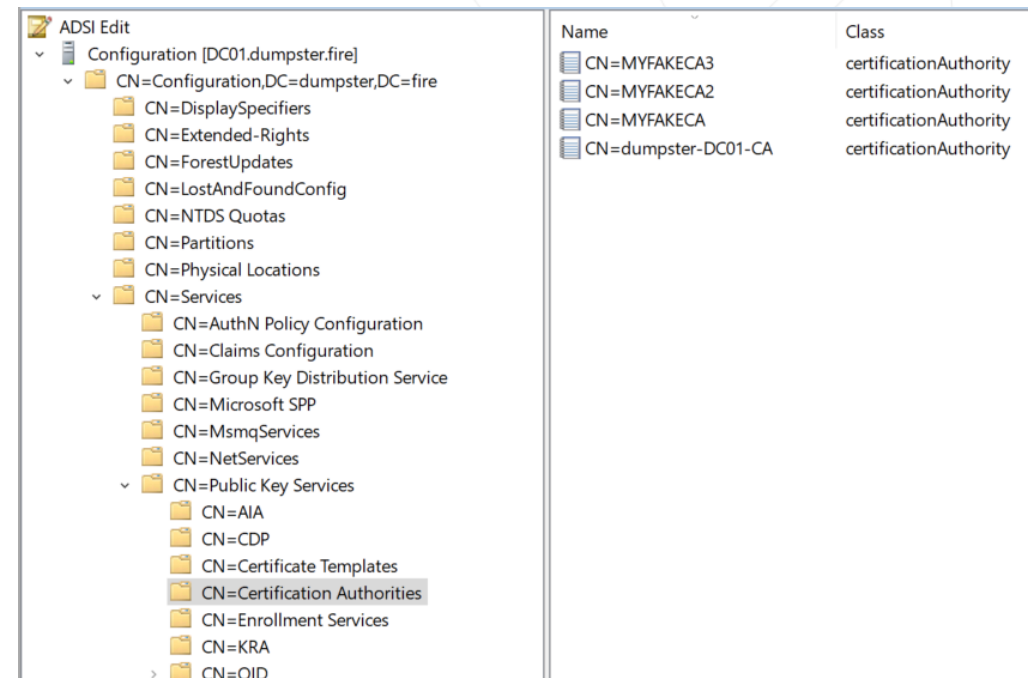
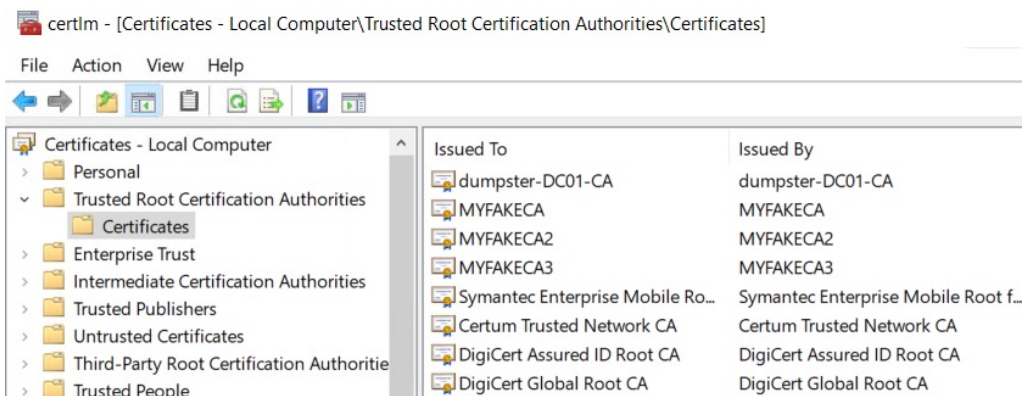




ADCS components – RootCA

What is ADCS

- Root Certificate Authority
- Self-signed certificate (no issuer)
- Trusted by all computers in the forest
- Issues Enterprise CA certificates

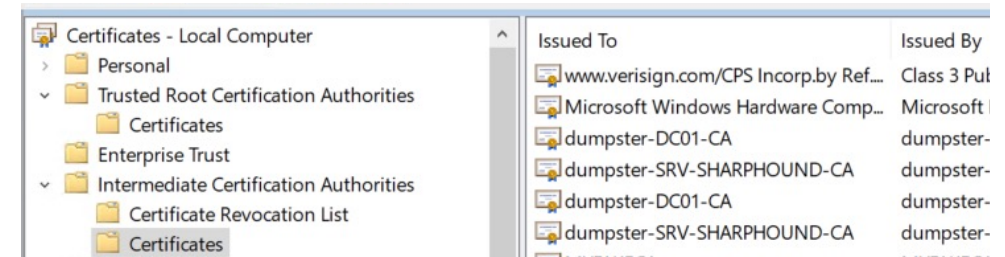
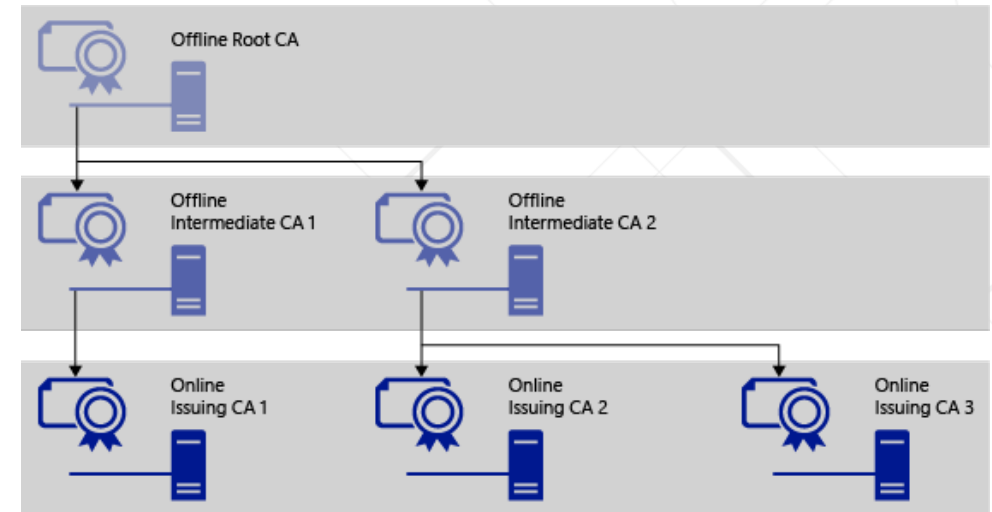


ADCS components – EnterpriseCA



What is ADCS

- Aka enrollment service
- Certificate chains up to a RootCA
- Intermediate CAs and Issuing CAs = EnterpriseCAs
- Located in the “Enrollment Services” container
- Trusted by all computers in the forest





ADCS components – NTAAuthStore

What is ADCS

- EnterpriseCA must be trusted for NT authentication
- NTAAuthCertificates object (aka NTAAuth store)
- Replicated to the local NTAAuth store on DCs

The screenshot displays the ADSI Edit tool with the following structure:

- Configuration [DC01.dumpster.fire]
 - CN=Configuration,DC=dumpster,DC=fire
 - CN=DisplaySpecifiers
 - CN=Extended-Rights
 - CN=ForestUpdates
 - CN=LostAndFoundConfig
 - CN=NTDS Quotas
 - CN=Partitions
 - CN=Physical Locations
 - CN=Services
 - CN=AuthN Policy Configuration
 - CN=Claims Configuration
 - CN=Group Key Distribution Service
 - CN=Microsoft SPP
 - CN=MsmqServices
 - CN=NetServices
 - CN=Public Key Services
 - CN=AIA
 - CN=CDP
 - CN=Certificate Templates
 - CN=Certification Authorities
 - CN=Enrollment Services
 - CN=KRA
 - CN=OID
 - CN=RRAS
 - CN=Shadow Principal Configuration
 - CN=Windows NT
 - CN=Sites
 - CN=WellKnown Security Principals

On the right, a table lists the objects and their classes:

Name	Class
CN=AIA	container
CN=CDP	container
CN=Certificate Templates	container
CN=Certification Authorities	container
CN=Enrollment Services	container
CN=KRA	container
CN=NTAuthCertificates	certificationAuthority
CN=OID	msPKI-Enterprise-Oid

Below the table, the 'CN=NTAuthCertificates Properties' dialog is open, showing the 'Security' tab. The 'Attributes' section lists:

Attribute	Value
adminDescription	<not set>
adminDisplayName	<not set>
authorityRevocationList	
cACertificate	\30\82\05\58\30\82\04\40\A0\03\02\01\02\10\30\130\82\03\71\30\82\02\59\A0\03\02\01\02\02\10\30\130\82\05\58\30\82\04\40\A0\03\02\01\02\02\13\7B\

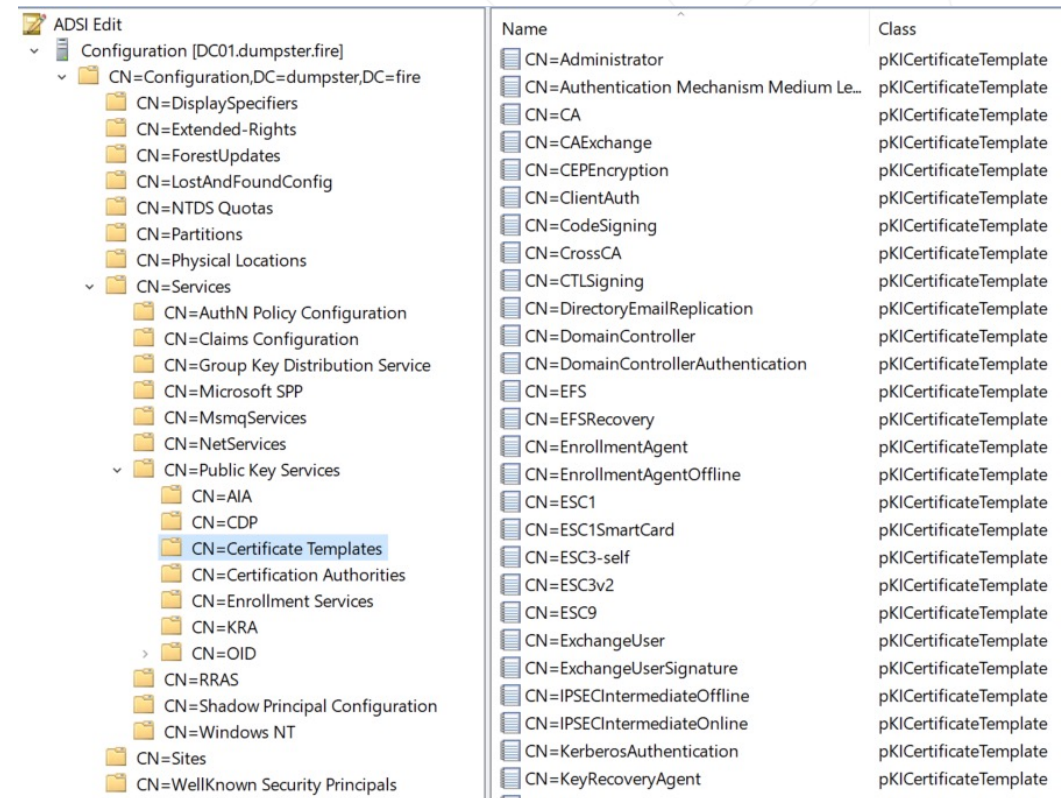
A 'Multi-valued Octet String Editor' dialog is also open for the 'cACertificate' attribute, showing the same hex value and buttons for 'Add', 'Remove', and 'Edit'.



ADCS components – CertTemplate

What is ADCS

- Used for certificate enrollment requests
- Holds characteristics of a certificate
 - Certificate usage
 - Validity period
 - And more..
- Published by EnterpriseCAs



Name	Class
CN=Administrator	pKI Certificate Template
CN=Authentication Mechanism Medium Le...	pKI Certificate Template
CN=CA	pKI Certificate Template
CN=CAExchange	pKI Certificate Template
CN=CEPEncryption	pKI Certificate Template
CN=ClientAuth	pKI Certificate Template
CN=CodeSigning	pKI Certificate Template
CN=CrossCA	pKI Certificate Template
CN=CTLSigning	pKI Certificate Template
CN=DirectoryEmailReplication	pKI Certificate Template
CN=DomainController	pKI Certificate Template
CN=DomainControllerAuthentication	pKI Certificate Template
CN=EFS	pKI Certificate Template
CN=EFSRecovery	pKI Certificate Template
CN=EnrollmentAgent	pKI Certificate Template
CN=EnrollmentAgentOffline	pKI Certificate Template
CN=ESC1	pKI Certificate Template
CN=ESC1SmartCard	pKI Certificate Template
CN=ESC3-self	pKI Certificate Template
CN=ESC3v2	pKI Certificate Template
CN=ESC9	pKI Certificate Template
CN=ExchangeUser	pKI Certificate Template
CN=ExchangeUserSignature	pKI Certificate Template
CN=IPSECIntermediateOffline	pKI Certificate Template
CN=IPSECIntermediateOnline	pKI Certificate Template
CN=KerberosAuthentication	pKI Certificate Template
CN=KeyRecoveryAgent	pKI Certificate Template

ADCS components – CertTemplate

What is ADCS



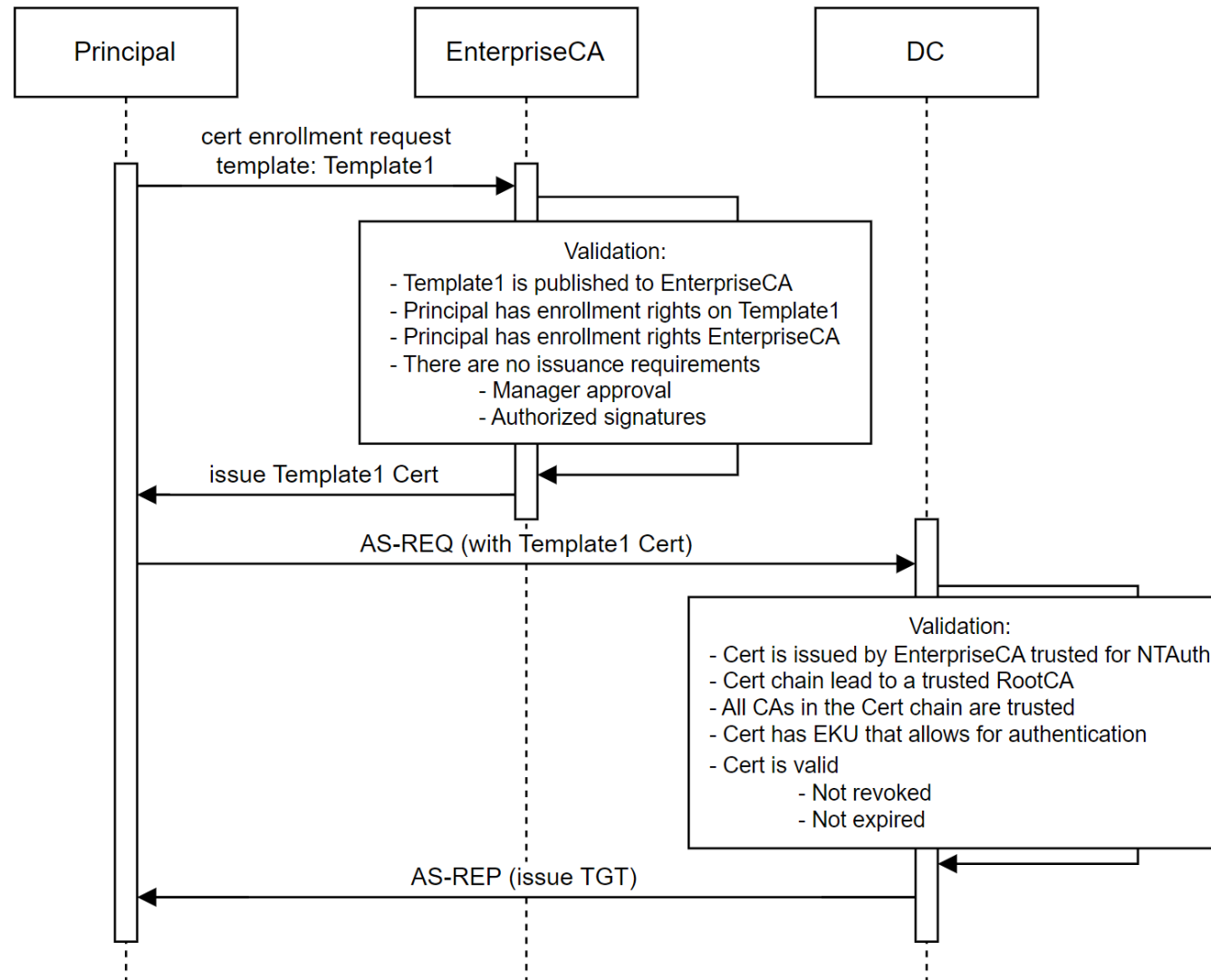
- Enhanced Key Usage (EKU)
 - Client Authentication (1.3.6.1.5.5.7.3.2)
 - PKINIT Client Authentication (1.3.6.1.5.2.3.4)
 - Smart Card Logon (1.3.6.1.4.1.311.20.2.2)
 - Any Purpose (2.5.29.37.0)
 - SubCA (no EKUs)
- Issuance requirements
 - Manager approval
 - Authorized signatures
- ENROLLEE_SUPPLIES_SUBJECT flag
 - Enroll as anyone 🔥

The image displays three overlapping screenshots of Windows Certificate Services console dialog boxes:

- Smartcard Logon Properties** (Background): Shows the 'Extensions' tab. Under 'Extensions included in this template:', 'Enhanced Key Usage' is selected. The 'Description of Enhanced Key Usage:' section lists 'Client Authentication' and 'Smart Card Logon'.
- Directory Email Replication Properties** (Middle): Shows the 'General' tab. Under 'Require the following for enrollment:', 'CA certificate manager approval' is checked. The 'This number of authorized signatures:' field is set to 0.
- Directory Email Replication Properties** (Foreground): Shows the 'Key Attestation' tab. Under 'Supply in the request', 'Use subject information from existing certificates for autoenrollment renewal requests (*)' is checked. The 'Subject name format:' dropdown is set to 'None'.

Enrollment and authentication process (simplified)

What is ADCS




ADCS components in BloodHound

New node types

ADCS components in BloodHound

 AIACAs

 RootCAs

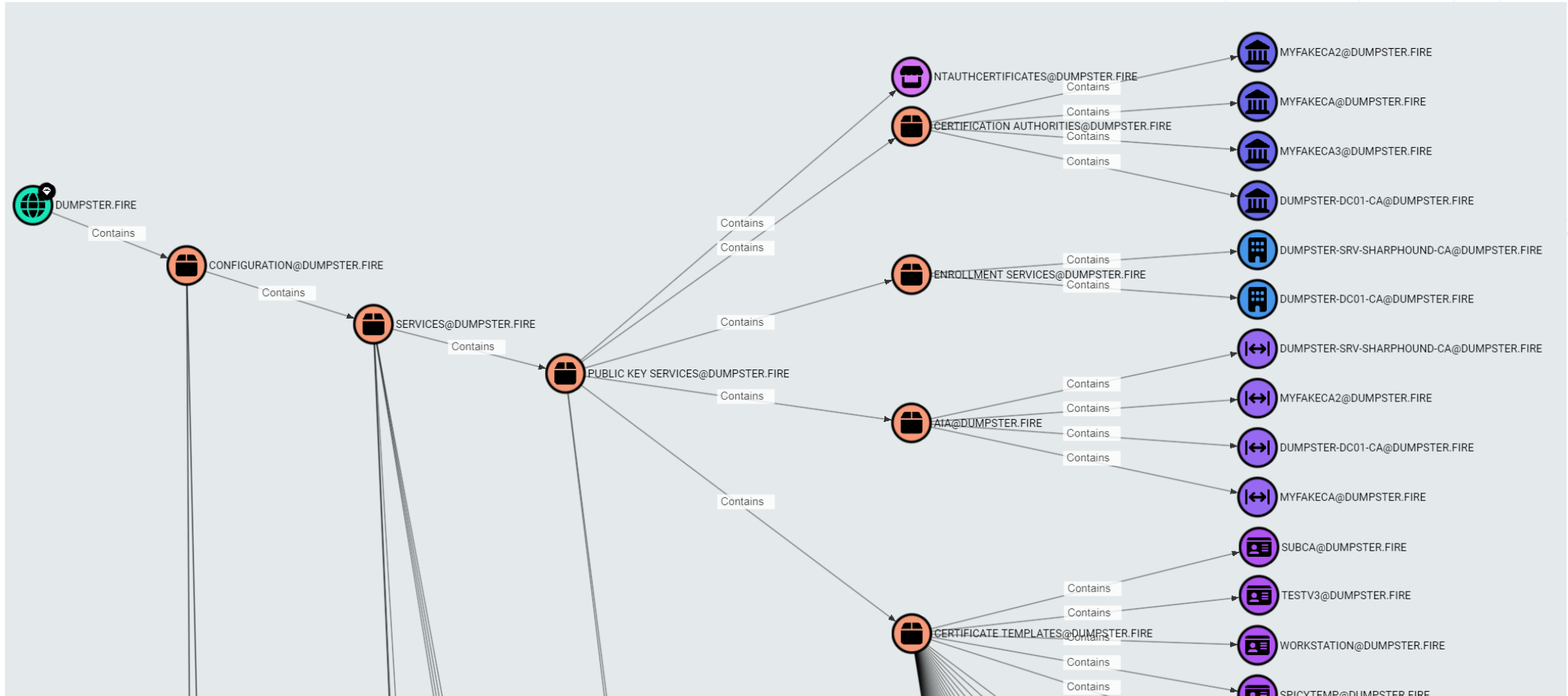
 EnterpriseCAs

 NTAuthStores

 CertTemplates

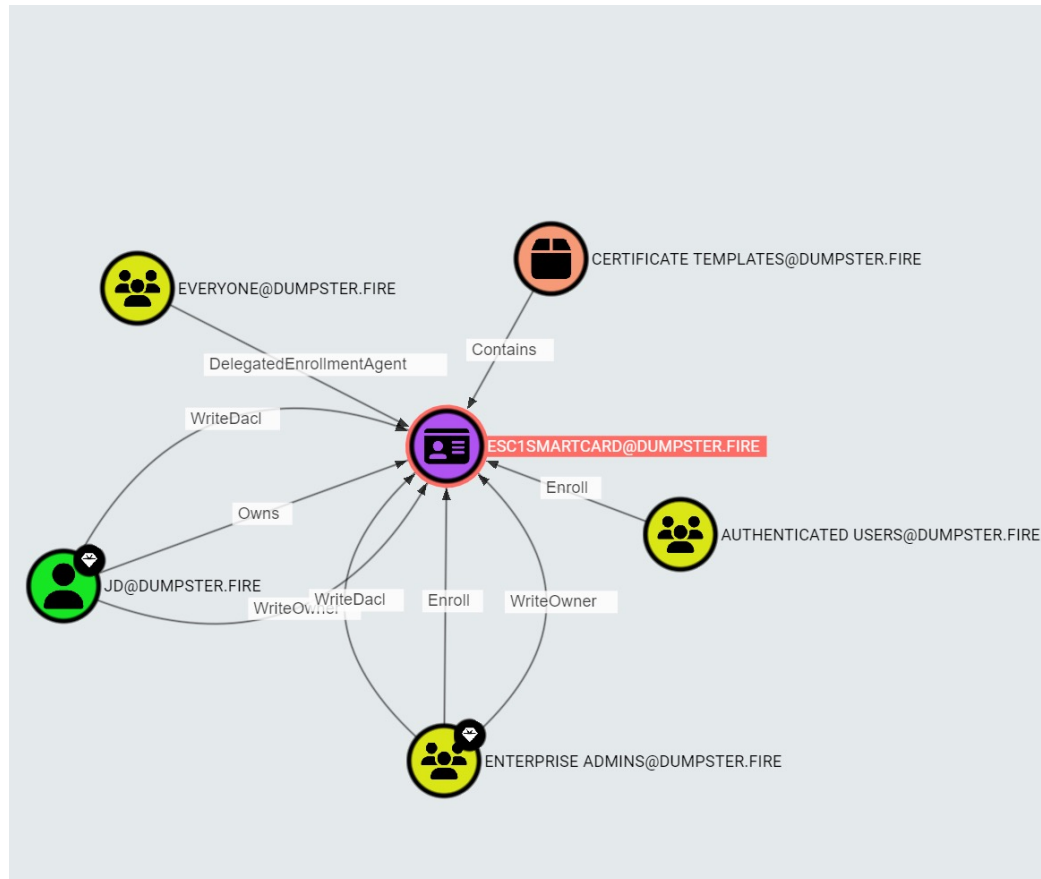
New node types

ADCS components in BloodHound



New node types

ADCS components in BloodHound



ESC1SMARTCARD@DUMPSTER.FIRE	
Display Name:	ESC1SmartCard
Object ID:	8482B82C-4103-43BA-B530-409A2C763965
Authentication Enabled:	TRUE
Authorized Signatures Required:	0
Certificate Application Policies:	1.3.6.1.4.1.311.20.2.2
Certificate Name Flags:	ENROLLEE_SUPPLIES_SUBJECT, ENROLLEE_SUPPLIES_SUBJECT_ALT_NAME
Created:	2023-10-19 07:19 GMT+2 (GMT+0200)
Distinguished Name:	CN=ESC1SMARTCARD,CN=CERTIFICATE TEMPLATES,CN=PUBLIC KEY SERVICES,CN=SERVICES,CN=CONFIGURATION,DC=DUMPSTER,DC=FIRE
Domain FQDN:	DUMPSTER.FIRE
Domain SID:	S-1-5-21-2697957641-2271029196-387917394
Effective EKUs:	1.3.6.1.4.1.311.20.2.2
Enhanced Key Usage:	1.3.6.1.4.1.311.20.2.2
Enrollee Supplies Subject:	TRUE
Enrollment Flags:	PUBLISH_TO_DS
Last Collected by BloodHound:	2023-11-27 18:06 GMT+1 (GMT+0100)
No Security Extension:	FALSE
OID:	1.3.6.1.4.1.311.21.8.4571196.1884641.3293620.10686285.12068043.134.1116501.10660743
Renewal Period:	6 weeks
Requires Manager Approval:	FALSE
Schema Version:	2
Subject Alternative Name Require UPN:	FALSE
Validity Period:	1 year

New non-traversable edges

ADCS components in BloodHound

- RootCAFor
- EnterpriseCAFor
- NTAuthStoreFor
- PublishedTo
- ManageCertificates
- ManageCA
- DCFor
- CanAbuseUPNCertMapping
- CanAbuseWeakCertBinding
- Enroll
- HostsCAService
- WritePKIEnrollmentFlag
- WritePKINameFlag
- IssuedSignedBy
- EnrollOnBehalfOf
- DelegatedEnrollmentAgent
- TrustedForNTAuth

What is a non-traversable edge?

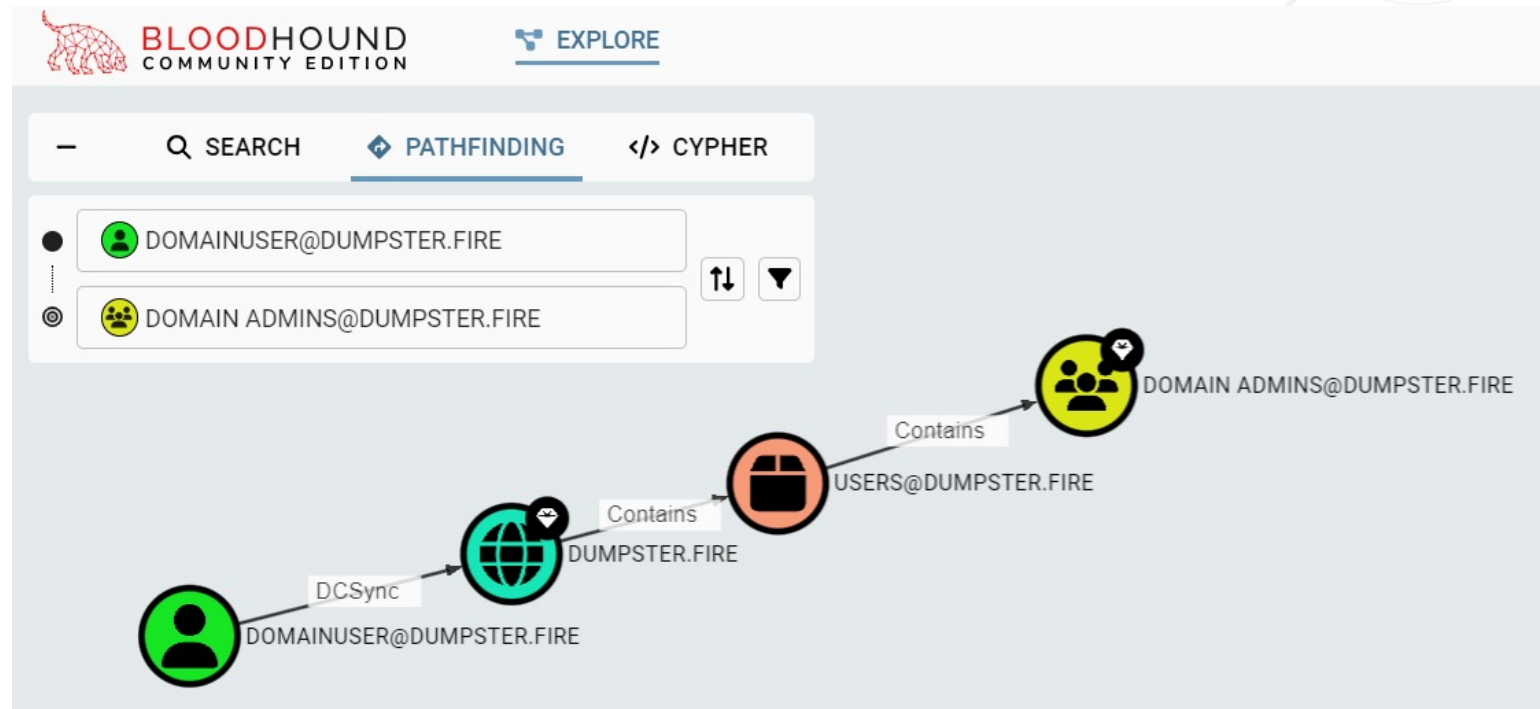
ADCS components in BloodHound

- Privileges and relationships that are not abusable on their own
- Excluded from path-finding
- Used to construct abusable (traversable) edges
- Example: GetChanges + GetChangesAll = DCSync

What is a non-traversable edge?

ADCS components in BloodHound

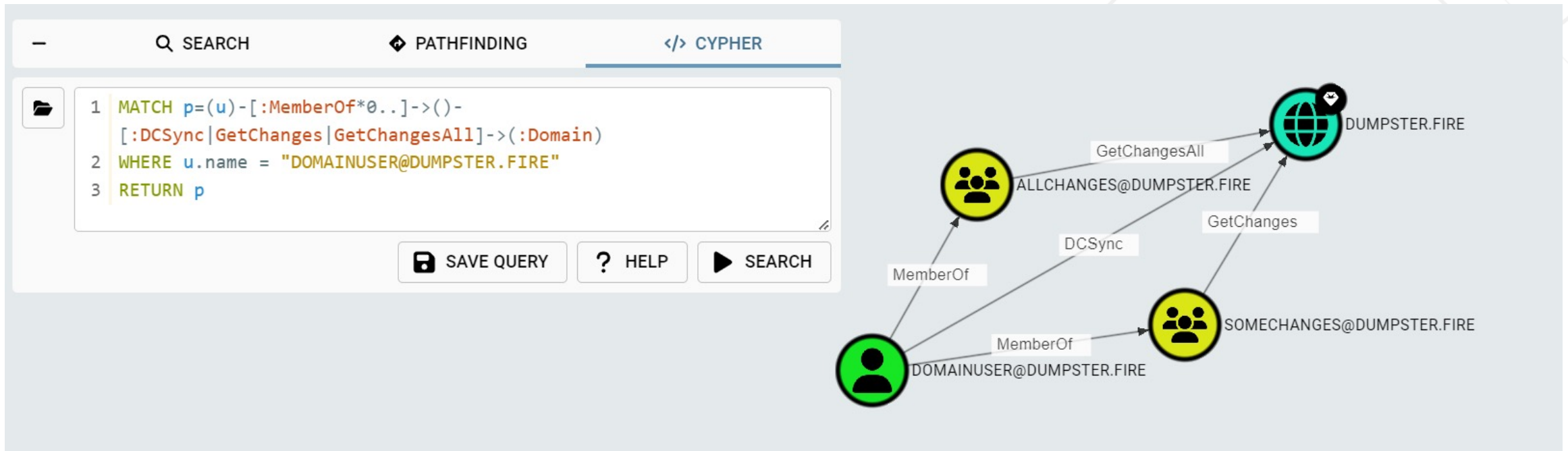
- Example: GetChanges + GetChangesAll = DCSync



What is a non-traversable edge?

ADCS components in BloodHound

- Example: GetChanges + GetChangesAll = DCSync

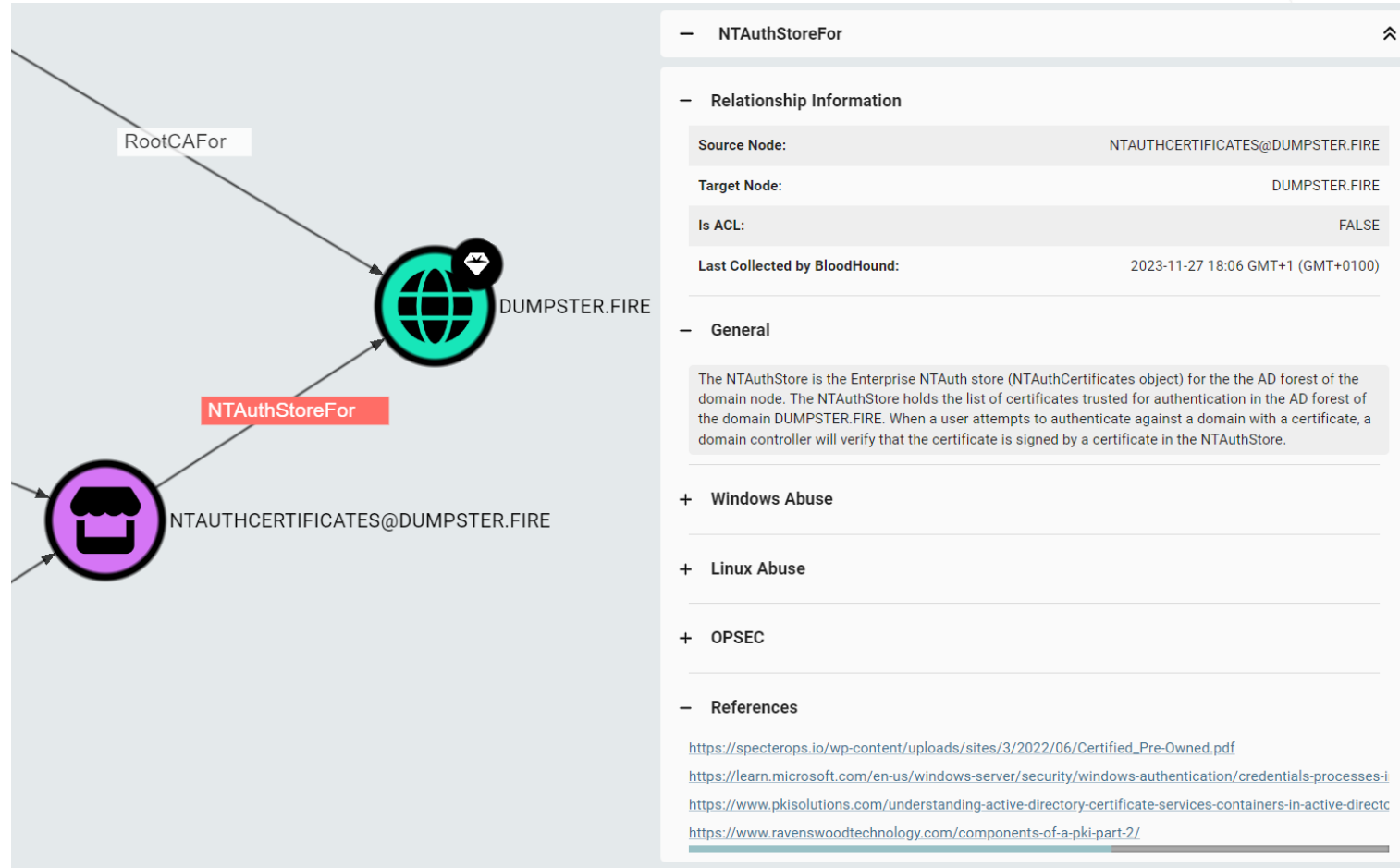


ADCS components in BloodHound



New non-traversable edges

ADCS attack paths in BloodHound



Demo Time!

ADCS ESC1

- **Status:** we're very close to shipping this.
- Let's get into the demo!

ADCS in BloodHound Enterprise

New findings

ADCS attack paths in BloodHound

BLOODHOUND ENTERPRISE ATTACK PATHS EXPLORE POSTURE DUMPSTER.FIRE

DUMPSTER.FIRE ATTACK PATHS

Status: ● Idle
Last Analysis: 2023-11-23 17:18 GMT+1 (GMT+0100)

Non Tier Zero Principals with ADCS ESC1 Privileges HIGH

DESCRIPTION

The principal can perform the ADCS ESC1 attack against the target domain. This attack allows the principal to impersonate any other principal in the forest.

2 PRINCIPALS **TIMELINE**

☐ Show Muted

Non Tier Zero Principal	Domain
AUTHENTICATED USERS@DUMPSTER.FIRE	DUMPSTER
DOMAIN USERS@DUMPSTER.FIRE	DUMPSTER

REMEDIATION

Remediating this finding can be approached in several ways, such as unpublishing the affected template(s), restricting enrollment permissions, modifying subject alternate name settings, or prohibiting the use of the certificate for authentication.

The finding can also be remediated by revoking permissions on CAs or modifying NT authentication trust for the enterprise CA(s). Important: these actions, while effective at reducing risk, carry substantial risk of disrupting legitimate usage of enterprise CA(s).

[VIEW / EXPORT FULL REMEDIATION PLAN](#)

New remediations

ADCS attack paths in BloodHound

Non Tier Zero Principals with ADCS ESC1 Privileges

Recommended Remediation

We advise gaining a clear understanding of the intended use of the certificate templates to determine the most suitable remediation approach. This can be achieved through an evaluation of existing certificates and authentication logs, as outlined in the [Certified Pre-Owned ADCS whitepaper](#) sections:

- Monitor User/Machine Certificate Enrollments - DETECT1
- Monitor Certificate Authentication Events - DETECT2

Collaborate with the individual responsible for ADCS within the organization to address the following questions pertaining to the identified certificate templates. This process will help in considering the appropriate checks and remedial actions described below:

1. Is the certificate template in use?

Check: Latest issued certificates and expiration dates.

Remediation: *Unpublish (disable) certificate template*

2. Which principals are enrolling in this template?

Check: Requester principals of issued certificates.

Remediation: *Remove Enroll permission (restrict to Tier Zero)*

3. Is the Subject Alternative Name (SAN) flag required?

Check: If the requester name and the SAN refer to the same principal in issued certificates.

Remediation: *Remove SAN flag*

4. Could the current setup be replaced with an enrollment agent setup?

Check: If it is feasible that a service account or group of employees in the IT department (potentially non-Tier Zero principals) performs the enrollment on behalf of the users that need the certificate.

Remediation: *Implement enrollment agent*

5. Does the certificate template need to allow for authentication?

Check: Login events using certificates created with the certificate template.

Remediation: *Remove EKU that enables authentication*

6. Could future certificate requests wait for a manual approval?

Check: If it is feasible that the certificate request has to wait for a Tier Zero principal to manually approve the request.

Remediation: *Enable manager approval*

Unpublish (disable) certificate template

For every Enterprise CA in the finding:

Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements

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- Charlie Clark – Senior Security Consultant @ MDSec
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- Lee Christensen – Researcher @ SpecterOps
- BloodHound Enterprise Team @ SpecterOps



Thank you

Join us in the BloodHoundGang Slack: https://join.slack.com/t/bloodhoundhq/shared_invite/zt-28t90wqao-VC9uT~U2WPOtEup~aFH0Yw