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Microsoft Cortana Vulnerability Allows Hackers to Break into your Locked Windows 10 PC

By **GURUBARAN S** - June 14, 2018 0

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Microsoft Cortana Vulnerability that patched by Microsoft allows attackers to execute malicious code on the locked computer and gain access to the locked device without any user interaction.

Cortana is a virtual personal assistant that handles a number of tasks, it can get at reminders, telling jokes and to answer question Cortana uses Bing search engine.

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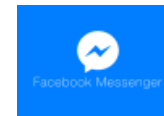
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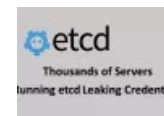
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The vulnerability was patched with the recently released **Microsoft Tuesday patch** that covers more than 50 Critical Vulnerabilities.

McAfee Security researcher Cedric Cochin identified the Cortana Elevation of Privilege Vulnerability and it was tracked as **CVE-2018-8140**.

Cochin says the problem is with Cortana default settings respond to any voice calling "*Hey Cortana*" from the lock screen which can be abused by the attackers to interact with the operating system even if the computer is locked.

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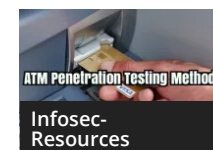
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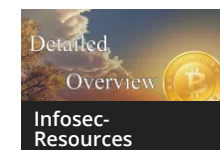
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By saying “*Hey Cortana*” users can bring a contextual menu on the locked device login screen, where users can type to search for files present in the system and the Cortana brings the results from indexed files and applications.

Testing Methods

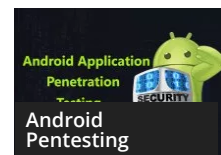
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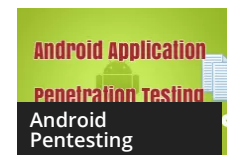
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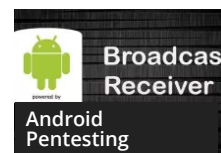
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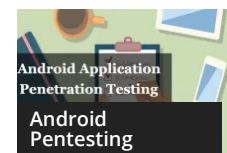
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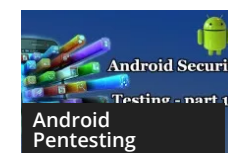
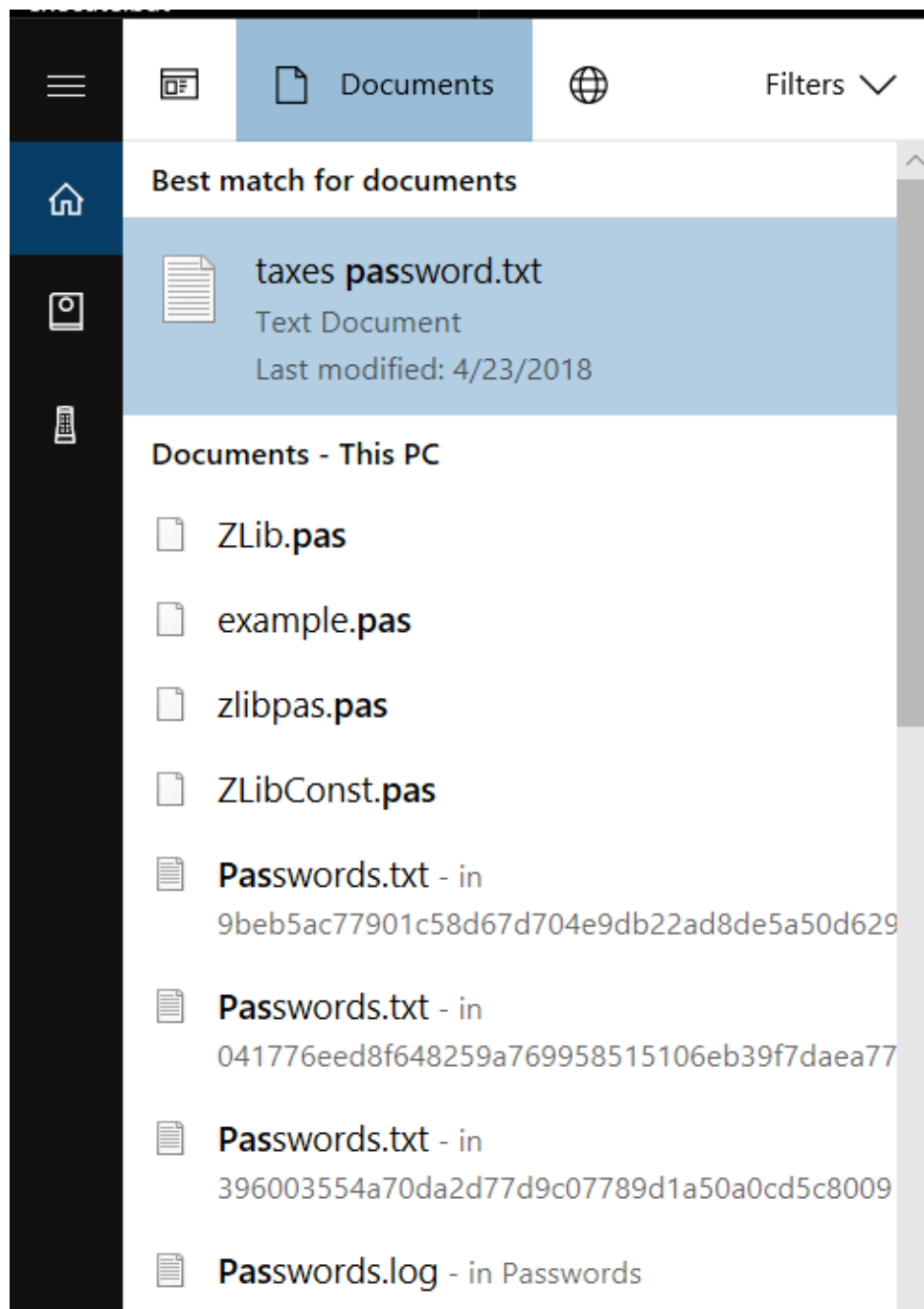
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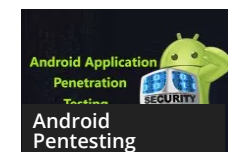
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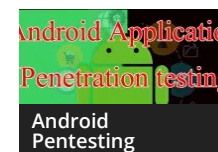
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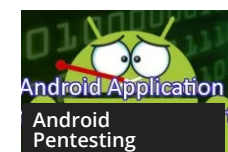
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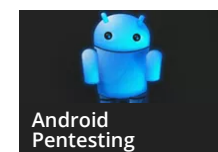
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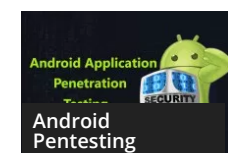
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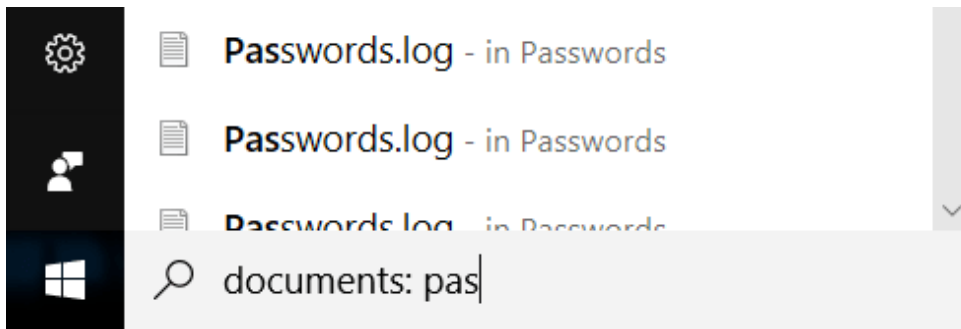
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Testing Part 6



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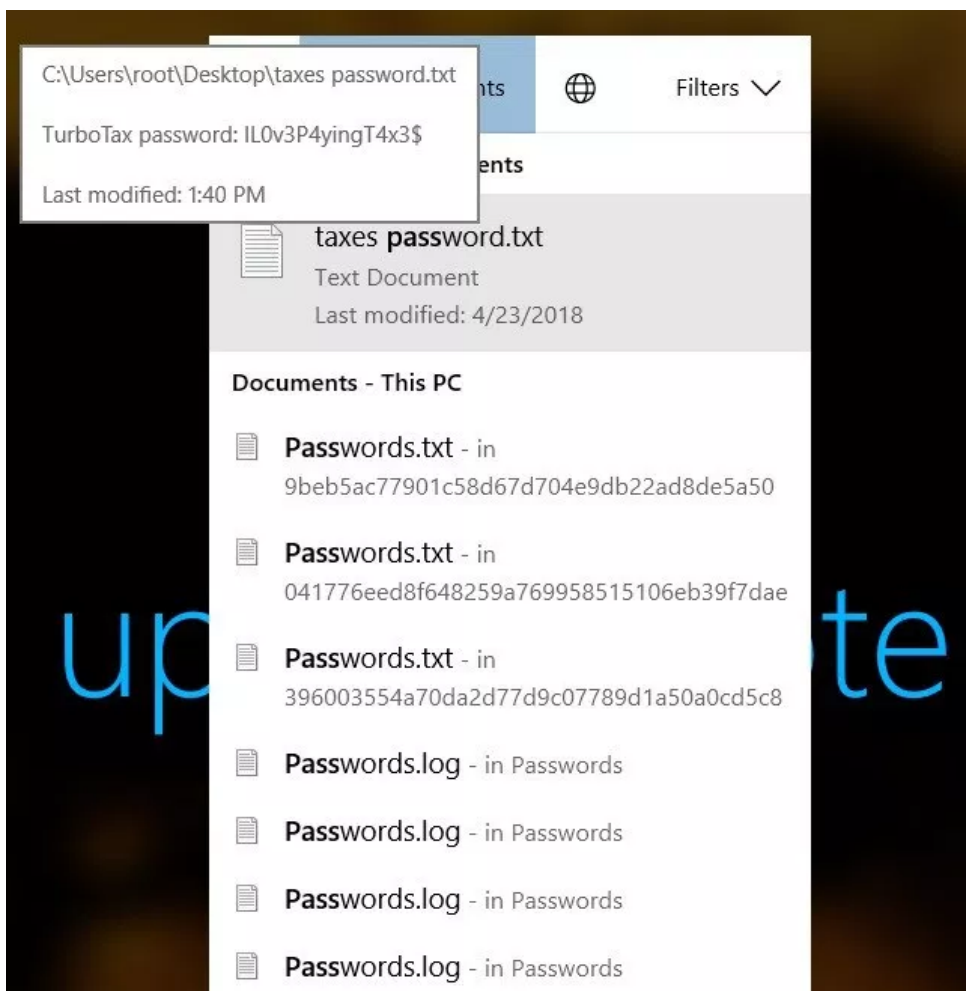


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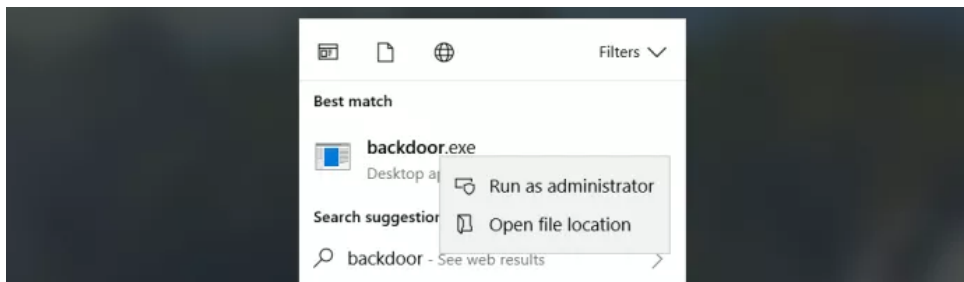


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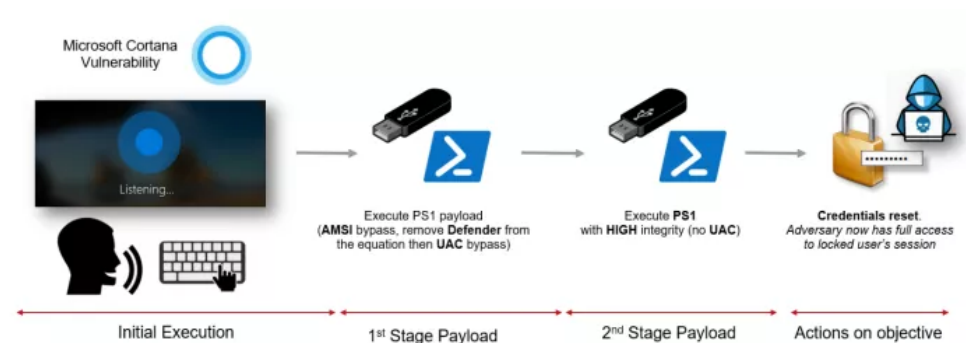
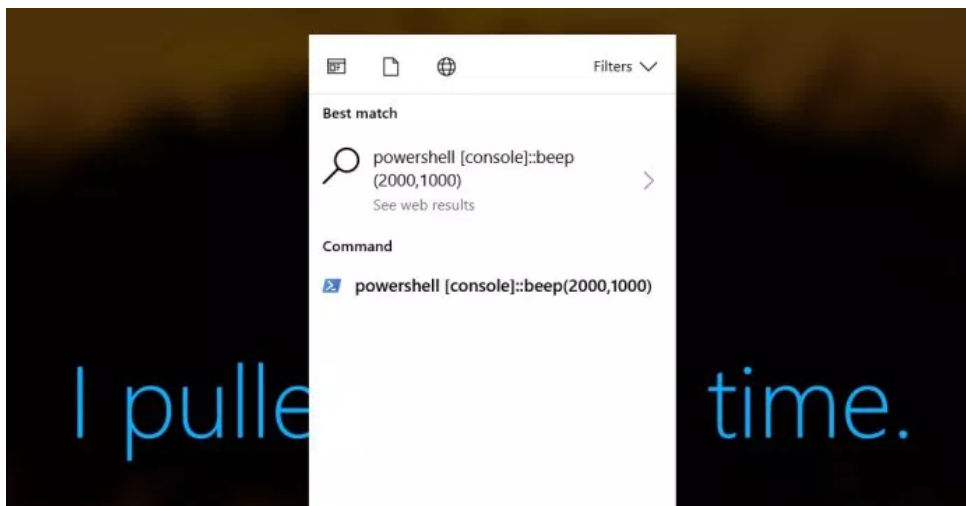
If you have the filename matching it shows the file location
and if the content matches it presents the content itself.



Attackers can use these methods to execute dropped payload on the system as an administrator by just right-click on the file and "*Run as administrator*".



Researchers used simple PowerShell command to execute the code that presents in the USB drive to bypass the policy and to reset the password to log in with the windows 10 machine.



To mitigate the attack users need to turn off Cortana on the lock screen and this issue has been resolved with the recently released **Microsoft Tuesday security updates**.

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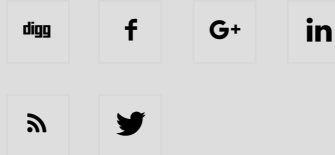
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