

Windows Internals Training

Instructor: Pavel Yosifovich

- Public 5-day remote class
- Dates: June 11, 12, 14, 19, 20
- Time: 8 hours / day. Exact hours TBD
- Price: 1950 USD
- Register by emailing zodiacon@live.com and specifying “Windows Internals Training” in the title
 - Provide names of participants (discount available for multiple participants from the same company), company name and time zone.
 - You’ll receive instructions for payment and other details
- Virtual space is limited!

Objectives:

Understand the Windows system architecture

Explore the internal workings of process, threads, jobs, virtual memory, the I/O system and other mechanisms fundamental to the way Windows works

Write a simple software device driver to access/modify information not available from user mode

Target Audience:

Experienced windows programmers in user mode or kernel mode, interested in writing better programs, by getting a deeper understanding of the internal mechanisms of the windows operating system.

Security researchers interested in gaining a deeper understanding of Windows mechanisms (security or otherwise), allowing for more productive research

Pre-Requisites:

Basic knowledge of OS concepts and architecture.

Power user level working with Windows

Practical experience developing windows applications is an advantage

C/C++ knowledge is an advantage

- **Module 1: System Architecture**
 - Brief Windows NT History
 - Windows Versions
 - Windows 10 and Future versions
 - Tools: Windows, Sysinternals, Debugging Tools for Windows

- Processes and Threads
- Virtual Memory
- User mode vs. Kernel mode
- Objects and Handles
- Architecture Overview
- Key Components
- User/kernel transitions
- APIs: Win32, Native, .NET, COM, WinRT
- Introduction to WinDbg
- Lab: Task manager, Process Explorer, WinDbg

- **Module 2: Processes & Jobs**

- Process basics
- Creating and terminating processes
- Process Internals & Data Structures
- The loader
- DLL explicit and implicit linking
- Process and thread attributes
- Protected processes and PPL
- UWP Processes
- Minimal and Pico processes
- Jobs
- Nested jobs
- Introduction to Silos
- Lab: viewing process and job information; creating processes; setting job limits

- **Module 3: Threads**

- Thread basics
- Creating and terminating threads
- Processor Groups
- Thread Priorities
- Thread Scheduling
- Thread Stacks
- Thread States
- CPU Sets
- Other mechanisms: Autoboot, Direct Switch, Deep freeze
- Thread Synchronization
- Lab: creating threads; thread synchronization; viewing thread information; CPU sets

- **Module 4: Kernel Mechanisms**

- Trap Dispatching
- Interrupts & Exceptions
- System Crash
- Object Management
- Objects and Handles
- Sharing Objects
- Synchronization
- Synchronization Primitives
- Signaled vs. Non-Signaled

- Windows Global Flags
- Kernel Event Tracing
- Wow64
- Lab: Viewing Handles, Interrupts; creating maximum handles

- **Module 5: Memory Management**

- Overview
- Small, large and huge pages
- Page states
- Address Space Layout
- Address Translation Mechanisms
- Heaps
- APIs in User mode and Kernel mode
- Page Faults
- Page Files
- Commit Size and Commit Limit
- Workings Sets
- Memory Mapped Files (Sections)
- Page Frame Database
- Other memory management features (ASLR, compression, enclaves)
- Lab: committing & reserving memory; using shared memory; viewing memory related information

- **Module 6: Management Mechanisms**

- The Registry
- Services
- Starting and controlling services
- Windows Management Instrumentation
- Lab: Viewing and configuring services; Process Monitor

- **Module 7: I/O System**

- I/O System overview
- Device Drivers
- The Windows Driver Model (WDM)
- The Windows Driver Foundation (WDF)
- WDF: KMDF and UMDF
- I/O Processing and Data Flow
- IRPs
- Plug & Play
- Power Management
- Driver Verifier
- Writing a Software Driver
- Labs: viewing driver and device information; writing a software driver

- **Module 8: Security**

- Security Components
- Virtualization Based Security

- Protecting objects
- SIDs
- Tokens
- ACLs
- Privileges
- Access checks
- AppContainers
- Logon
- User Access Control (UAC)
- Process mitigations
- Lab: viewing security information