How to List Local Administrators Using PowerShell

Task. List local Administrators using PowerShell.

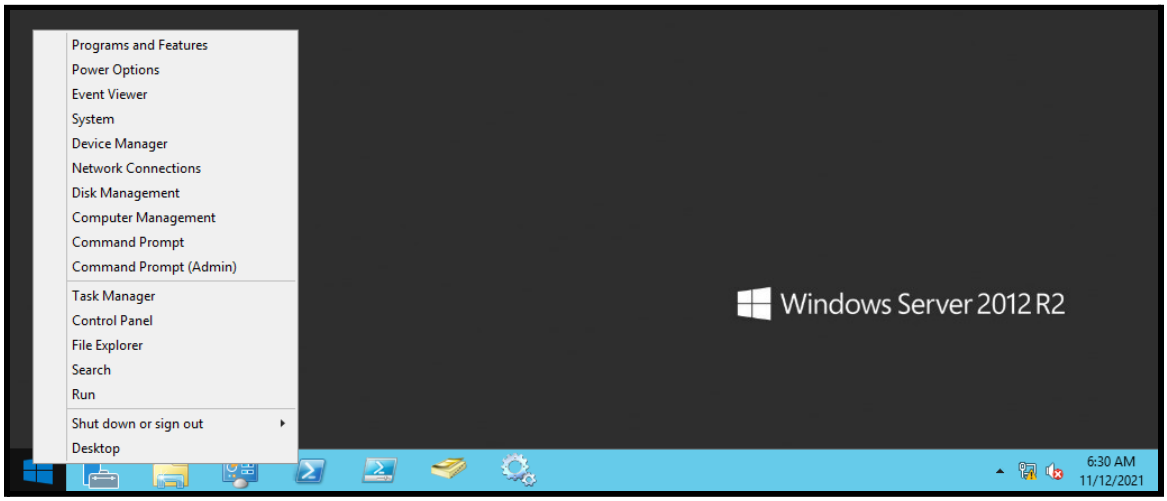
Purpose. The local Administrators group must be monitored for unauthorized changes. Local Administrator accounts have full control of the computers they were created on. Adversaries may seek to obtain and abuse these credentials as a means of gaining Initial Access, Persistence, Privilege Escalation, or Defense Evasion.

Conditions. You have domain administrator privileges, access to Windows PowerShell, access to the Windows PowerShell Integrated Scripting Environment (ISE), access to either a domain controller or a workstation with Remote Server Administration Tools (RSAT) installed, and Windows Remote Management (WinRM) is enabled across the network.

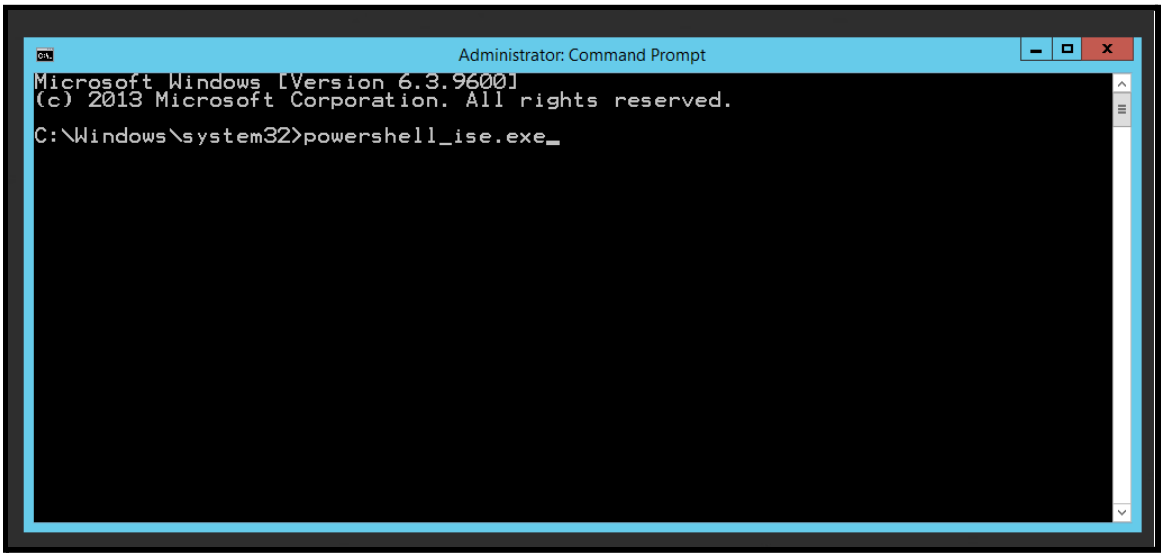
Standard. You were able to list the members of the local Administrators group using PowerShell.

Step 1. Login to your domain administrator account on either a domain controller or a workstation with RSAT installed.

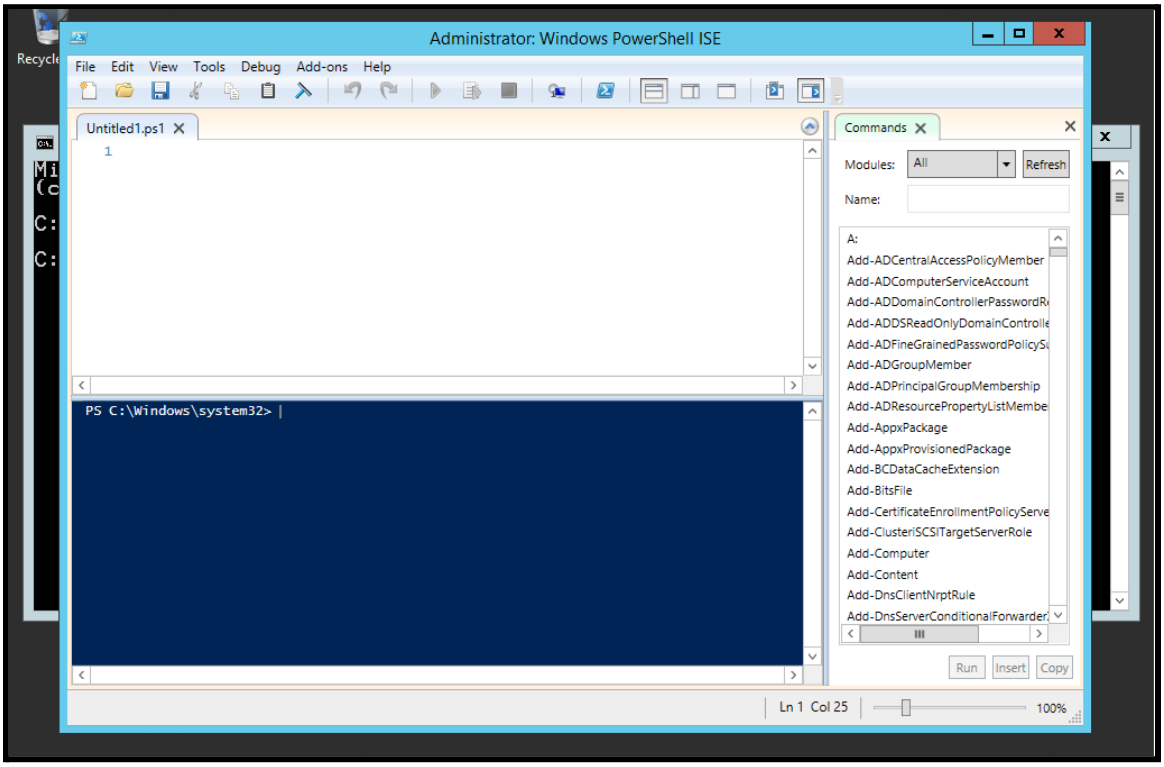
Step 2. Right-click on the Windows icon in the bottom-left corner and select “Command Prompt (Admin)” to start an elevated Command Prompt session.



Step 3. Type “powershell_ise.exe” to invoke Windows PowerShell ISE.



Once your point-of-view looks like the screenshot below, click-on the “Maximize” button in the top-right corner of the Windows PowerShell ISE window. Then, close the “Command” pane on the right.



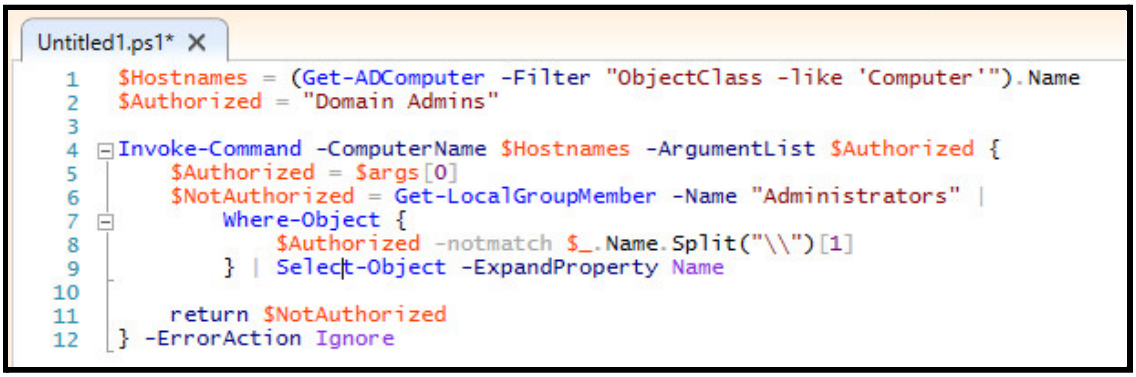
Step 5. Type the command sentences below in the Script pane of Windows PowerShell ISE to specify which accounts are authorized to be a member of the local Administrators group. This will help automate your analysis and ensure authorized accounts are excluded from the output generated.

```
$Hostnames = (Get-AdComputer -Filter "ObjectClass -like 'Computer'").Name
$Authorized = "Domain Admins"

Invoke-Command -ComputerName $Hostnames -ArgumentList $Authorized {
    $Authorized = $args[0]
    $NotAuthorized = Get-LocalGroupMember -Name "administrators" |
        Where-Object {
        $Authorized -notmatch $_.Name.split("\\")[1]
        } | Select-Object -ExpandProperty Name

    return $NotAuthorized
} -ErrorAction Ignore
```

Your point-of-view should look like the screenshot below.



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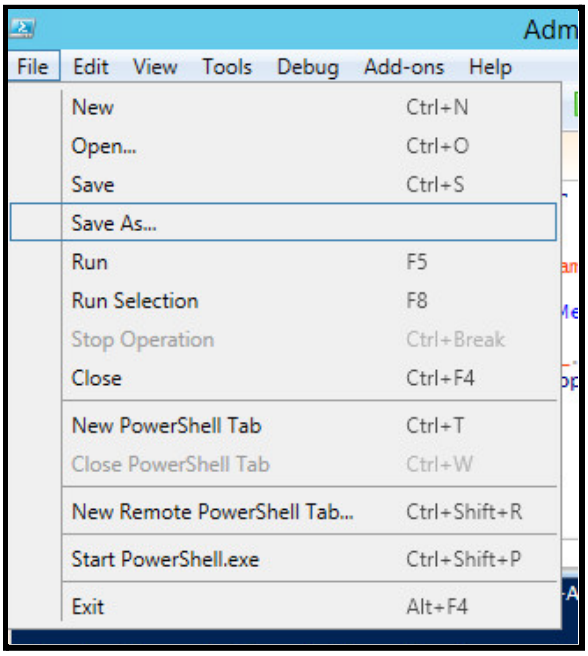
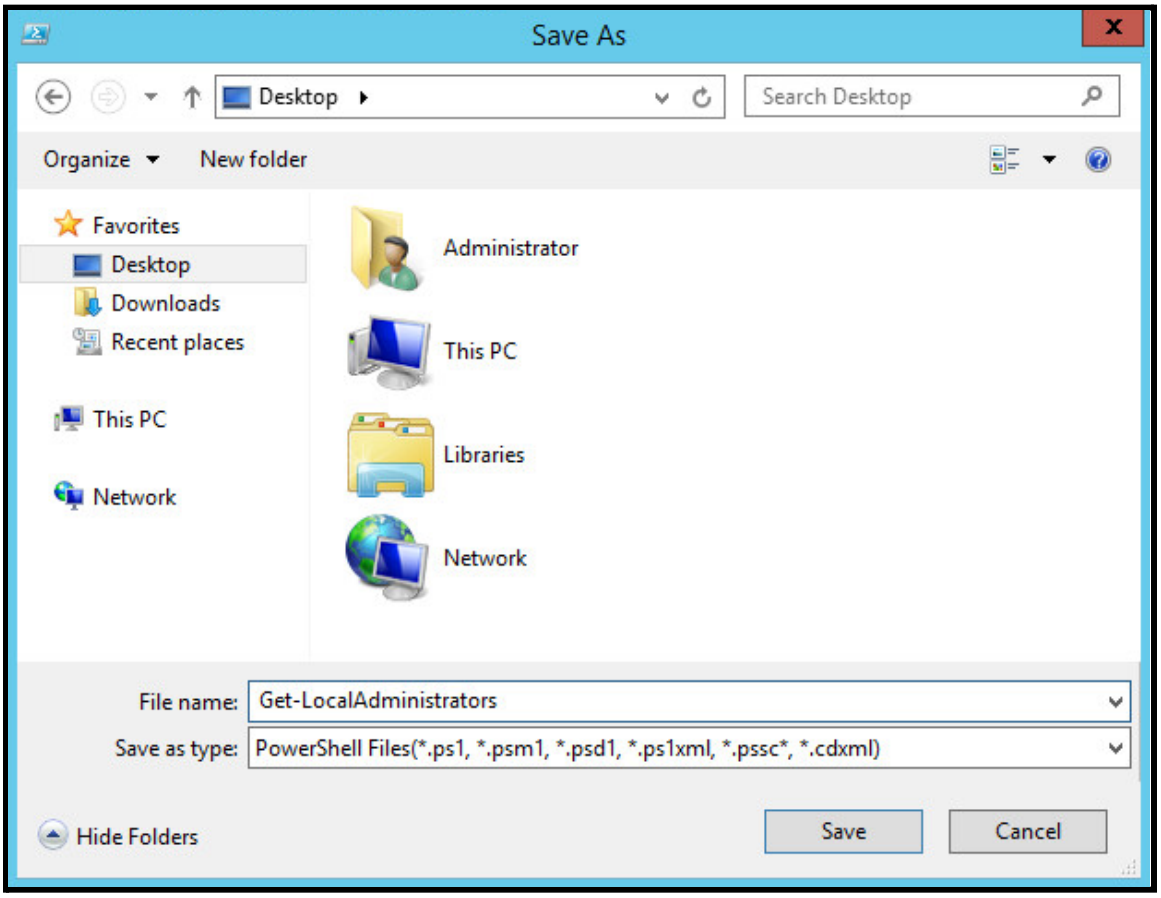
Step 7. Click-on “File > Save As…”



When prompted, save the file to the “Desktop” and call it “Get-LocalAdministrators.”



Step 7. Click-on the “Run Script” button (it looks like a green “play” symbol). If you need to troubleshoot, remove the “-ErrorAction Ignore” option from the script (DO NOT remove the curly brace preceding this option).