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Hunting for persistence via Microsoft Exchange ...



Loading of the "Microsoft VBA for Outlook Addin"

Loading of the "Microsoft VBA for Outlook Addin" (OUTLVBA.DLL) by the Outlook process can be the sign of VBScript code execution from an Outlook Macros file (VbaProject.OTM)

The screenshot displays two event logs side-by-side. On the left is an event from Sysmon (Event 7) and on the right is an event from Outlook (Event 45). Both events show the loading of the Microsoft VBA for Outlook Addin (OUTLVBA.DLL).

Sysmon Event Properties - Event 7:

- General tab selected.
- Details:
 - Image loaded: Outvba.dll monitoring
 - RuleName: Outvba.dll monitoring
 - UtcTime: 2021-05-14 08:09:11.252
 - ProcessGuid: {06c55ab9-2f46-609e-f00f-0000000000c0}
 - ProcessId: 8
 - Image: C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft Office\root\Office16\OUTLOOK.EXE
 - ImageLoaded: C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft Office\root\Office16\ADDINS\OUTLVBA.DLL
 - FileVersion: 16.0.13127.20204
 - Description: Outlook VBA Integration Add-in
 - Product: Microsoft Outlook
 - Company: Microsoft Corporation
 - OriginalFileName: outvba.dll
 - Hashes: SHA256=EA62F16418805235BC1812D3B5138E168932EDE2DDE56F827980178437CAF63
 - Signed: true
 - Signature: Microsoft Corporation
 - SignatureStatus: Valid

Outlook Event Properties - Event 45:

- General tab selected.
- Details:
 - Outlook loaded the following add-in(s):
 - Name: Microsoft VBA for Outlook Addin
 - Description:
 - ProgID: Microsoft.VbaAddinForOutlook.1
 - GUID: {799ED9EA-FB5E-11D1-B7D6-00C04FC2AAE2}
 - Load Behavior: 9
 - HKLM: 1
 - Location: C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft Office\Root\Office16\ADDINS\OUTLVBA.DLL
 - Boot Time (Milliseconds): 16
- Log Name: Application
- Source: Outlook
- Logged: 5/13/2021 4:39:40 PM
- Event ID: 45
- Task Category: None

 Heirhabarov May 21, 2021

 Technology

 1

 7.5k



Hunting for persistence via Microsoft Exchange Server or Outlook

Microsoft Exchange and Outlook are sufficient parts of almost any corporate infrastructure, regardless of its size. MS Exchange Servers are desired target for attackers, since in case of successful exploitation of vulnerabilities or incorrect settings of MS Exchange components, attackers can gain access to emails of the company, increase their privileges to the domain administrator, and also perform phishing mailing on behalf of the organization's representatives. Moreover, attackers have a number of original ways to obtain persistence in the system. The speaker will consider all these methods and demonstrate approaches to obtain persistence using these methods and detect such presence.

 **Heirhabarov**
May 21, 2021

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HUNTING FOR THE MOST INTERESTING ATTACK TECHNIQUES RELEVANT FOR THE GCC REGION



Teymur Kheirkhabarov
Head of Cyber Threat Monitoring, Response and Research Department, BI.ZONE

 Hunting For The Most Unusual Atta...  1  170

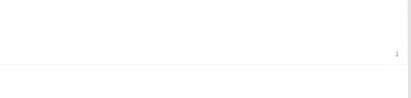
Hunting for macOS attack techniques
Part 1 – Initial Access, Execution, Credential Access, Persistence



Teymur Kheirkhabarov
Director of Cyber Threat Monitoring, Response and Research Department, BI.ZONE
Maxim Tumakov
Head of Cyber Threat Research, BI.ZONE

 hunting for macos attack techniqu...  2  2.7k

Hunting for Active Directory Certificate Services Abuse



Teymur Kheirkhabarov
Head of SOC, BI.ZONE
Demyan Sokolin
Principal SOC Analyst, BI.ZONE

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OFF ONE 2019

Hunting For PowerShell Abuse

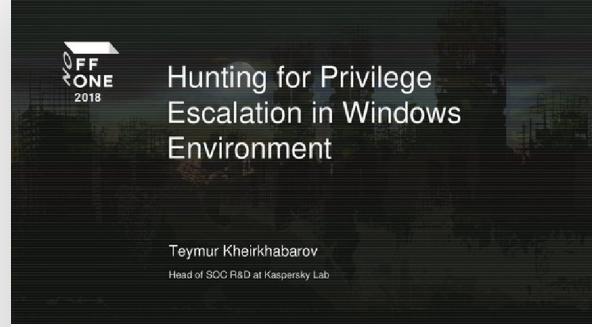


Teymur Kheirkhabarov
Head of Cyber Defense Center, BI.ZONE
Moscow, 17 June 2019

 Hunting for PowerShell Abuse  9  18k

OFF ONE 2018

Hunting for Privilege Escalation in Windows Environment



Teymur Kheirkhabarov
Head of SOC R&D at Kaspersky Lab

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Build your own threat hunting based on open-source tools



Teymur Kheirkhabarov
SOC Technologies Research and Development Group Manager at Kaspersky Lab

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A presentation slide titled "Hunting for Credentials Dumping in Windows Environment" by Teymur Kheirhabarov. It features a logo for "ZERO NIGHTS" with a blue and purple theme. The slide includes a small image of a person in a mask and a bar chart.

Hunting for Credentials Dumping in...

heirhabarov ★ 5 ○ 6k

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A presentation slide titled "マネジメント視点でのre:Invent参加" by kojiasai. It features the Cloud Centric logo and Mitsubishi Electric logo. The slide discusses attending re:Invent from a management perspective.

マネジメント視点でのre:Invent参加
～もしCEOがre:Inventに行ったら～
2024年10月30日
クラウドセントリック株式会社
取締役社長CEO 浅井浩司

kojiasai ★ 0 ○ 360

A presentation slide titled "Product Engineer Night #6 プロダク..." by hacomoно. It features a large stylized letter 'K' and the word "hacomoно".

Product Engineer Night #6
プロダクトエンジニアを育む hacomoноでの取り組み
hacomoно

hacomo... ★ 1 ○ 260

A presentation slide titled "AWS re:Inventを徹底的に楽しむた..." by yuj1osm. It features a night view of the Las Vegas strip with the High Roller Ferris wheel.

re:invent2024 事前勉強会
AWS re:Inventを徹底的に楽しむためのTips
大島 悠司

yuj1osm ★ 1 ○ 470

A presentation slide titled "端末が簡単にリモートから操作されるデモを通じてソフトウェアサプライチェーン攻撃対策の重要性を理解しよう" by kitaji0306. It features the JJUG CCC 2024 Fall logo and the name 北島 悠.

JJUG CCC 2024 Fall
北島 悠
#jug_ccc #jug_ccc_j

端末が簡単にリモートから操作さ...
kitaji0306 ★ 0 ○ 170

A presentation slide titled "AIを駆使したゲーム開発戦略: 新設AI組織の取り組み" by cyberagentde... at the CyberAgent DevCon 2024. It features two speakers, 杉本 翔 and 伊原 淳也.

CyberAgent DevCon 2024
AIを駆使したゲーム開発戦略: 新設AI組織の取り組み
SGE管轄 / SGE AI戦略本部
杉本 翔
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伊原 淳也
DAY 2 | 10.30 Wed

cyberagentde... ★ 1 ○ 120

A presentation slide titled "pandasはPolarsに性能面で追いつき追い越せるのか" by vaaaaanquish. It features the pandas logo and the name 河合 俊典.

pandasはPolarsに性能面で追いつき追い越せるのか
エムスリー株式会社 VPoE
河合 俊典

vaaaaanquish ★ 4 ○ 2.6k

A presentation slide titled "小規模に始めるデータメッシュとデータガバナンスの実践" by kimujun. It features the Dinii logo.

DataOps Night #5
小規模に始めるデータメッシュとデータガバナンスの実践
Dinii

小規模に始めるデータメッシュと...
kimujun ★ 3 ○ 500

A presentation slide titled "一休.comレストランにおけるRustの活用" by kymmt90. It features the 一休.com logo.

一休.comレストランにおけるRustの活用
2024-10-31 山本浩平 @ Findy Job LT

一休.com
kymmt90 ★ 3 ○ 530

A presentation slide titled "クライアントサイドでよく使われるDebounce処理をサーバサイドで3回実装した話" by yoshiori. It features the GitHub logo.

クライアントサイドでよく使われるDebounce処理をサーバサイドで3回実装した話
yoshiori ★ 1 ○ 140

A presentation slide titled "AWS JAPAN 生成AIハッカソン Dialog Team Aida" by kimujun. It features the AWS Japan logo and the Dialog Team Aida logo.

2024-10-31
AWS JAPAN 生成AIハッカソン
Dialog Team Aida

A presentation slide titled "AWSで繋がり、共に成長！" by taketomiyuuka. It features the Fujitsu logo.

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～コミュニティ活動と新人教育への挑戦～

FUJITSU
富士通株式会社
武富 有花 Taketomi Yuuka

A presentation slide titled "「SharePoint 難しい」ってよく聞くけど、そんなに言うなら8歳の息子に試してもらった" by yoshiori. It features the Microsoft MVP logo.

Microsoft MVP Professional
第45回 Microsoft 365 勉強会
中村 太一
Microsoft MVP
yoshiori ★ 1 ○ 140

[AWS JAPAN 生成AIハッカソン] Di...

yoshimi0227

☆ 0 ○ 130

【若手エンジニア応援LT会】 AWS...

kazushi_ohata

☆ 0 ○ 150

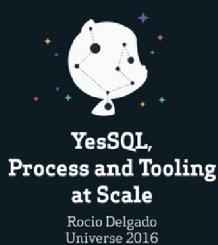
「SharePoint 難しい」ってよく聞...

taichinakamura

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Rocio Delgado
Universe 2016

YesSQL, Process and Tooling at Scale

rocio

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Harry Roberts – @csswizardry

performance.now() – October 2022

Optimising Largest Contentful Paint

csswizardry

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REBUILDING A
FASTER, LAZIER
SLACK

Presented by Samantha Sieve (she/her)

Rebuilding a faster, lazier Slack

samanthasio...

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Distributed Sagas

A Protocol for Coordinating Microservices

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Lightsaber

Building Your Own Lightsaber

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Business is Dying
& How to Revive It

4 Signs Your Business is Dying

shpigford

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Principles of Awesome APIs
and How to Build Them.

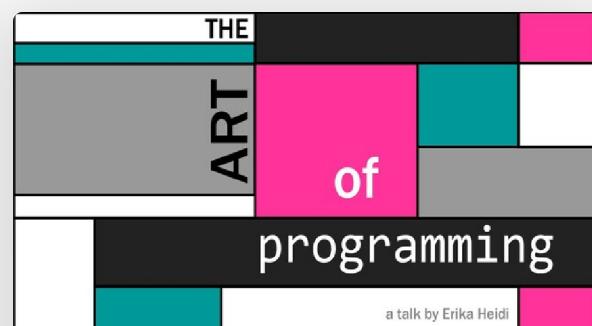
Keavy McMinn, Fastly
RubyConf 2019

@keavy

Principles of Awesome APIs and H...

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LARGE-SCALE JAVASCRIPT
APPLICATION ARCHITECTURE

ORGANIZING YOUR SMALL TO LARGE JAVASCRIPT EMPIRES WITH EASE

Large-scale JavaScript Application ...

adduosmani

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Transcript

1. 1 Hunting for persistence via Exchange and Outlook capabilities Teymur

Kheirkhabarov Head of SOC, BI.ZONE Anton Medvedev Principal SOC Analyst, BI.ZONE

2. 2 Who we are? • Head of SOC at BI.ZONE

• Threat Hunter • ZeroNights / PHDays / OFFZONE speaker • GIAC GXPN / GCFA / GDSA certified • Ex- Head of SOC R&D at Kaspersky Lab / SOC Analyst Infosec Admin/Engineer • Twitter @HeirhabarovT • heirhabarov@gmail.com • Principal SOC Analyst at BI.ZONE • Threat Hunter • OSCP certified • Twitter @BigToni94 • medvedevanton23@gmail.com Anton Medvedev Teymur Kheirkhabarov

3. 3 Persistence via Exchange and Outlook capabilities Exchange server side

4. 4 Exchange Transport Agent Transport agents let you install custom

software on an Exchange server which can then process email messages that pass through the transport pipeline to perform various tasks such as filtering spam, filtering malicious attachments, journaling, or adding a corporate signature to the end of all outgoing emails. The Microsoft Exchange Server Transport Agents SDK allows third parties to implement the following predefined classes of transport agents: • SmtpReceiveAgent • RoutingAgent • DeliveryAgent Transport agents use SMTP events. These events are triggered as messages move through the transport pipeline. SMTP events give transport agents access to messages at specific points during the SMTP conversation and during routing of messages through the organization. Transport agents have full access to all e-mail messages that they encounter. Exchange puts no restrictions on a transport agent's behavior.

5. 5 Abusing Exchange Transport Agent T1505.002 – Server Software Component:

Transport Agent Adversaries may register a malicious transport agent to provide a persistence mechanism in Exchange Server that can be triggered by adversary-specified email events. Though a malicious transport agent may be invoked for all emails passing through the Exchange transport pipeline, the agent can be configured to only carry out specific tasks in response to adversary defined criteria. LightNeuron – Turla's backdoor specifically designed to target Microsoft Exchange mail servers. LightNeuron is the first publicly known malware to use a malicious Microsoft Exchange Transport Agent. It allows to perform the next operations: • Modify emails; • Block emails; • Create new emails; • Dump emails and attachments; • Execute arbitrary .NET assembly code on the Exchange server. <https://www.welivesecurity.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/ESET-LightNeuron.pdf>

6. 6 Exchange Transport Agent Example An example of a Transport

Agent that, upon receipt of any message, launches cmd.exe and add “– Evil Agent Subject” to the subject of the received mail

7. 7 Exchange Transport Agent Installation Artifacts The PowerShell cmdlets “Install-TransportAgent”

and “Enable-TransportAgent” can be used to register and activate transport agents on Exchange servers.

8. 8 Exchange Transport Agent Installation Artifacts

9. 9 Exchange Transport Agent Installation Artifacts Let's hunt it! Search

for usage of “Install-TransportAgent” and “Enable-TransportAgent” cmdlets in the “MSExchange Management” event log:
Channel:”MSExchange Management” AND SourceName:”MSExchange CmdletLogs” AND EventID:(1 OR 6) AND Message: (“*Install-TransportAgent*” OR ”*Enable-TransportAgent*”)

10. 10 Exchange Transport Agent Installation Artifacts It is also possible

to find the signs of usage “Install-TransportAgent” and “Enable-TransportAgent” in the PowerShell events log (“Windows PowerShell” and “Microsoft-Windows-PowerShell/Operational”):

11. 11 Exchange Transport Agent Installation Artifacts Let's hunt it! Search

for usage of “Install-TransportAgent” and “Enable-TransportAgent” cmdlets in the PowerShell event logs: (Channel:”Microsoft-Windows-PowerShell/Operational” AND EventID:4104 AND ScriptBlockText.keyword:(Enable- TransportAgent* OR Install- TransportAgent*)) OR (Channel:”Windows PowerShell” AND EventID:800 AND Message:(“*Enable-TransportAgent*” OR ”*Install- TransportAgent*”))

12. 12 Exchange Transport Agent Configuration File Transport Agent management cmdlets

manipulate the configuration file agents.config located at %ExchangeInstallPath%\TransportRoles\Shared. In order to hide his activity, an adversary can directly modify this file without usage of any PowerShell cmdlets.

13. 13 Exchange Transport Agent Configuration File Change

14. 14 Exchange Transport Agent Configuration File Change Let's hunt it!

Search for Exchange Transport Agent configuration file changes: Channel:”Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational” AND EventID:11 AND TargetFilename:”*\TransportRoles\\Shared\\agents.config” AND -Image:”*\ExSetupUI.exe”

15. 15 Exchange Transport Agent Loading Transport Agent – it isn't

DLL, it is .NET assembly, that is loaded by EdgeTransport.exe process

16. 16 Exchange Transport Agent Loading Module loading event from Microsoft-Windows-

DotNETRuntime ETW provider

17. 17 Spawning new process via Exchange Transport Agent Spawning new

process with EdgeTransport.exe as a parent

18. 18 Spawning new process via Exchange Transport Agent Let's hunt

it! Search for spawning new process with EdgeTransport.exe as a parent: (Channel:"Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational" AND EventID:1 AND ParentImage:"*\Bin\EdgeTransport.exe" AND -Image:"*\Bin\OleConverter.exe") OR (Channel:"Security" AND EventID:4688 AND ParentProcessName:"*\Bin\EdgeTransport.exe" AND -NewProcessName:"*\Bin\OleConverter.exe")

19. 19 IIS Extensions T1505 – Server Software Component ISAPI Filters

ISAPI filters are DLL files that can be used to modify and enhance the functionality provided by IIS. ISAPI filters always run on an IIS server, filtering every request until they find one they need to process. The ability to examine and modify both incoming and outgoing streams of data makes ISAPI filters powerful and flexible. Managed-code/Native-code HTTP modules IIS 7.0 and above have been re-engineered from the ground up to provide a brand new C++ and .NET APIs, on which all of the in-the-box features are based, to allow complete runtime extensibility of the web server. HTTP modules are based on this new architecture. An HTTP module is called on every request that is made to your application. HTTP modules are called as part of the ASP.NET request pipeline and have access to life- cycle events throughout the request. HTTP modules let you examine incoming and outgoing requests and take action based on the request. IIS extensions can be used: change request data sent by the client, modify a response going back to the client, run processing when a request is complete, perform special logging or traffic analysis, perform custom authentication, etc.

20. 20 IIS Managed-code HTTP module example

21. 21 IIS HTTP Module installation using AppCmd In order to

install a module/ISAPI filter, it must be registered with the server using one of the options below:

- Using the IIS Manager
- Using the AppCmd.exe command line tool
- Manually editing the IIS configuration file

22. 22 IIS ISAPI Filter installation using AppCmd

23. 23 IIS ISAPI Filter/HTTP Module installation using AppCmd Let's hunt

it! Search for the appcmd.exe process creation with specific command line: ((Channel:"Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational" AND EventID:1) OR (Channel:Security AND EventID:4688)) AND CommandLine:/*appcmd* AND (CommandLine:/*add module*/ OR CommandLine:(/*set config*/ AND /*isapiFilters*/))

24. 24 IIS ISAPI Filter/HTTP Module installation using IIS Manager

25. 26 IIS ISAPI Filter/HTTP Module installation via config editing Server

Level – applicationHost.config file

26. 27 IIS ISAPI Filter/HTTP Module installation via config editing Site

Level – appropriate Web.config file

27. 28 IIS ISAPI Filter/HTTP Module installation via config editing

28. 29 IIS ISAPI Filter/HTTP Module installation via config editing Let's

hunt it! Search for creation/modification of the web.config or applicationHost.config files: Channel:"Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational" AND EventID:11 AND TargetFilename:(/*\inetsrv\config\applicationHost.config*/ OR /*\web.config*/)

29. 30 IIS ISAPI Filter/Native-code HTTP Module Loading

30. 31 IIS Managed-code HTTP Module Loading

31. 32 Web Shell T1505.003 – Server Software Component: Shell Recently,

a large number of incidents have been occurred in which the use of web shell observed in post-compromised Microsoft Exchange Servers. After successful exploiting a Microsoft Exchange Server vulnerability for initial accesses, an adversary can upload a web shell to enable remote administration of the affected system.

32. 33 Spawning new process via Web Shell Spawning new process

by IIS worker process (w3wp.exe)

33. 34 Spawning new process via Web Shell / IIS Extension

Let's hunt it! Channel:"Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational" AND EventID:1 AND ParentImage:"*\w3wp.exe" AND (CommandLine:(cmd.exe OR /*cmd */ OR *comspec* OR *wscript* OR *cscript* OR *SyncAppvPublishingServer* OR *powershell* /*pwsh*/) OR OriginalFileName:(cmd.exe OR "wscript.exe" OR "cscript.exe" OR "SyncAppvPublishingServer.exe" OR "PowerShell.EXE") OR Image:"*\cmd.exe") AND -CommandLine:(cmd /C exit OR cmd.exe /c set) Channel:Security AND EventID:4688 AND ParentProcessName:"*\w3wp.exe" AND (CommandLine:(cmd.exe OR /*cmd */ OR *comspec* OR *wscript* OR *cscript* OR *SyncAppvPublishingServer* OR *powershell* /*pwsh*/) OR Image:"*\cmd.exe") AND -CommandLine:(cmd /C exit OR cmd.exe /c set) Search for spawning suspicious processes (PowerShell, cmd, wscript, cscript) by IIS worker process (w3wp.exe):

34. 35 Dropping files that appear to be the web shells

Search for dropping files that appear to be the web shells, including dropping via SMB:

35. 36 Dropping files that appear to be the web shells

Let's hunt it! Search for dropping files that appear to be the web shells: Channel:"Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational" AND EventID:11 AND TargetFilename.keyword:(*.php OR *.phtml OR *.php OR *.php1 OR *.php2 OR *.php3 OR *.php4 OR *.php5 OR *.php6 OR *.php7 OR *.asp OR *.aspx OR *.ashx OR *.aspx OR *.ashx OR *.axd OR *.cshtm OR *.cshtml OR *.vbhtm OR *.vbhtml OR *.asa OR *.shtml OR *.jsp OR *.jspx OR *.war) AND TargetFilename:(**\\ClientAccess\\Owa** OR **\\HttpProxy\\Owa** OR **\\www** OR **\\html** OR **\\htdocs** OR **\\inetpub\\wwwroot** OR **\\microsoft shared\\web server extension** OR **\\ClientAccess\\ecp** OR **\\HttpProxy\\ecp**)

36. 37 Search for dropping files via SMB share that appear

to be the web shells: Channel:Security AND EventID:5145 AND AccessList:(**4417* OR *4418*) AND RelativeTargetName.keyword:(*.php OR *.phtml OR *.php OR *.php1 OR *.php2 OR *.php3 OR *.php4 OR *.php5 OR *.php6 OR *.php7 OR *.asp OR *.aspx OR *.ashx OR *.aspx OR *.ashx OR *.axd OR *.cshtm OR *.cshtml OR *.vbhtm OR *.vbhtml OR *.asa OR *.shtml OR *.jsp OR *.jspx OR *.war) AND RelativeTargetName:(**\\ClientAccess\\Owa** OR **\\HttpProxy\\Owa** OR **\\www** OR **\\html** OR **\\htdocs** OR **\\inetpub\\wwwroot** OR **\\microsoft shared\\web server extension** OR **\\ClientAccess\\ecp** OR **\\HttpProxy\\ecp**)) %%4417 - WriteData (or AddFile) %%4418 - AppendData (or AddSubdirectory or CreatePipeInstance)
Dropping files that appear to be the web shells Let's hunt it!

37. 38 Persistence via Microsoft Exchange Server and Outlook Outlook client

side

38. 39 Ruler Tool Ruler is a tool that allows to

interact with Exchange servers remotely, through either the MAPI/HTTP or RPC/HTTP protocol. The main aim is abuse the client-side Outlook features and gain a shell remotely. Ruler has multiple functions: • enumerate valid users; • dump the Global Address List (GAL); • create new malicious mail rules; • VBScript execution through forms; • VBScript execution through the Outlook Home Page. <https://github.com/sensepost/ruler>

39. 40 Ruler tool artifacts – hardcoded workstation name Ruler uses

hardcoded workstation name for the logon to the Windows hosts – “RULER”.

40. 41 Ruler tool artifacts – hardcoded workstation name Let's hunt

it! Search for 4624, 4625 or 4776 events, where workstation name is “RULER”: (Channel:Security AND EventID:(4776) AND Workstation:RULER) OR (Channel:Security AND EventID:(4625 OR 4624) AND WorkstationName:RULER)

41. 42 Ruler tool artifacts – hardcoded user-agent 2021-05-14 11:46:57 10.3.132.20

GET /autodiscover/autodiscover.xml &CorrelationID=<empty>;&cafeReqId=67952f2e-d8a3-44ad-9a60- 898d36c8192c; 443 - 172.21.194.203 ruler - 1 2148074254 10 2021-05-14 11:46:57 10.3.132.20 POST /autodiscover/autodiscover.xml &CorrelationID=<empty>;&cafeReqId=b3d7ef4f-06fb-4092-856a- d4af9dd155b7; 443 LAB\user1 172.21.194.203 ruler - 0 0 270 2021-05-14 11:46:57 10.3.132.20 POST /mapi/emsmdb/ MailboxId=43873a7d-0aac-45e5-b531- d7f7bbf82d32@lab.local&CorrelationID=<empty>;&ClientRequestInfo= R:{C715155F-2BE8-44E0-BD34- 2960065754C8}:2;RT:Connect;CI:{2F94A2BF-A2E6-4CCC-BF98- B5F22C542226};CID:<null>&cafeReqId=ee775774-5f7d-4389-8695- 7dbba95ed42c; 443 LAB\user1 172.21.194.203 ruler - 0 0 132

42. 43 Outlook Rules T1137.005 – Office Application Startup: Outlook Rules

Outlook rules allow a user to define automated behavior to manage email messages. A benign rule might, for example, automatically move an email to a particular folder in Outlook if it contains specific words from a specific sender. Adversaries may abuse Microsoft Outlook rules to obtain persistence on a compromised system. Malicious Outlook rules can be created that can trigger code execution when an adversary sends a specifically crafted email to that user. It can be achieved via “Start application” and “Run a script” rule actions. Once malicious rules have been added to the user’s mailbox, they will be loaded when Outlook is started. Malicious rules will execute when an adversary sends a specifically crafted email to the user.

43. 44 Outlook Rules Fully updated and patched versions of Outlook

2013, and 2016 disable the “Start application” and “Run a script” rule actions by default. This will ensure that even if an attacker breaches the account, the rule actions will be blocked. Here are the patch versions for your Outlook 2013 and 2016 clients: • Outlook 2016: 16.0.4534.1001 or greater; • Outlook 2013: 15.0.4937.1000 or greater. There are no “Start application” and “Run a script” rule actions

44. 45 Enable unsafe Outlook Rules To re-enable “Start application” and

“Run a script” rule actions, you can create and set the EnableUnsafeClientMailRules Registry value: • Key: HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Office\<version>\Outlook\Security • Value name: EnableUnsafeClientMailRules • Value type: REG_DWORD • Value: 1

45. 46 Enable unsafe Outlook Rules

46. 47 Enable unsafe Outlook Rules Let's hunt it! Search for

modification of EnableUnsafeClientMailRules Registry value: Channel:"Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational" AND EventID:13 AND TargetObject:"\\EnableUnsafeClientMailRules" AND Details:"DWORD (0x00000001)" Search for usage of standard Windows tools to create and set the EnableUnsafeClientMailRules Registry value: ((Channel:"Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational" AND EventID:1) OR (Channel:Security AND EventID:4688)) AND CommandLine:*EnableUnsafeClientMailRules*

47. 48 Uses Ruler to create malicious Outlook Rules Outlook uses

ShellExec to open the payload application which means that the payload can't be executed with arguments, requiring the payload to be an all enclosed application hosted on the disk or externally (via SMB or WebDav). Externally hosted payload is the most common and reliable way for an adversary who is going to use Outlook Rules.

48. 49 Is it possible to detect creation of Rules on

the server side? The answer is unfortunately no! The Exchange server logs don't contain any significant event for the detection. RPC event: 2021-05-

```
14T12:43:34.255Z,EXCHANGE,RpcHttp,S:Stage=EndRequest;S:UserName=LAB\user1;S:AuthType=NTLM;S:Status=200.0.OK;S:H  
ttpVerb =RPC_IN_DATA;S:UriQueryString=?43873a7d-0aac-45e5-b531-d7f7bbf82d32@lab.local:6001;S:RequestId=8c2f7c07-  
11db-4ff6-838a-f84b61a8aea4;S:ClientIp= 172.21.194.203 MAPI event: 2021-05-14T12:16:28.480Z,1a5792de-6350-4d18-  
8259-067a2d465f29,[C715155F-2BE8-44E0-BD34- 2960065754C8]:3,  
<null>,Execute,200,0,0,27,Unknown,15,1,1591,10,LAB\user1,,,43873a7d-0aac-45e5-b531- d7f7bbf82d32@lab.local,9a179873-  
e3e7-4408-838b- 54fb489dbd2c,user1@lab.local,172.21.194.203,EXCHANGE.LAB.LOCAL,  
<null>,„MAPIAAAAAOC4+7PyvPu+na+frZyxgbSZqJy8jLuBtYK4jL njwPHB8Mj6yf/L/M7JAQAAAAAAA==,0-5QcQfg==,  
{2F94A2BF-A2E6-4CCC-BF98- B5F22C542226},15.0.4815.1002,0,Negotiate,,„„„„Anonymous,>[254]<[254],OwnerLogon;LogonId:  
12;cpn=M_ABR/RUM_ABR/RUM_ABRC/M_APAR/M_APRH/M_DTC/M_DTQ/M_DTE/M_RDE/M_RDrE/M_RDrEc/M_RDEc/M_DT  
Ec/ M_APoRH/M_AER;/cpv=0/2/2/4/4/6/6/7/26/26/28/28;/Dbl:ST.T[exchange.9a179873-e3e7-4408-838b-  
54fb489dbd2c]=1;Dbl:BudgUse.T[] =38.002799987793;Dbl:MAPI.T[exchange.9a179873-e3e7-4408-838b-  
54fb489dbd2c]=7;Dbl:EXR.T[exchange.9a179873-e3e7-4408-838b-  
54fb489dbd2c]=3;Dbl:VCGST[EXCHANGE]=1;I32:VCGS.C[EXCHANGE]=1;I32:ROP.C[exchange.9a179873-e3e7-4408-838b-  
54fb489dbd2c]=1634283;I32:MAPI.C[exchange.9a179873-e3e7-4408-838b-54fb489dbd2c]=40;I32:RPC.C[exchange.9a179873-  
e3e7- 4408-838b-54fb489dbd2c]=3;Dbl:RPC.T[exchange.9a179873-e3e7-4408-838b-  
54fb489dbd2c]=6;I32:MB.C[exchange.9a179873-e3e7- 4408-838b-54fb489dbd2c]=3;F:MB.AL[exchange.9a179873-e3e7-4408-  
838b-54fb489dbd2c]=2,
```

49. 50 Launching a remote payloads using Outlook Rules Windows /

Sysmon events, related to the execution of a binary from remote SMB/WebDav share by outlook.exe process:

50. 51 Search for process creation events where outlook.exe is a

parent and started executable is located on SMB or WebDav share: Channel:"Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational" AND EventID:1 AND ParentImage:"\\outlook.exe" AND Image.keyword:/\\\\.+\\./ Channel:Security AND EventID:4688 AND ParentProcessName:"\\outlook.exe" AND NewProcessName.keyword:/\\Device\\Mup\\.+\\./ Launching a remote payloads using Outlook Rules Let's hunt it!

51. 52 Outlook macro-based persistence T1137.001 – Office Application Startup: Office

Template Macros Microsoft Outlook stores Microsoft Visual Basic for Applications (VBA) code in a file that's named VbaProject.OTM (<Drive>:\Users\<LogonName>\ AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Outlook\VbaProject.OTM). Unlike other Microsoft Office programs, Outlook supports only one VBA project at a time. Attacker can replace or modify this file in order to inject visual basic code that will execute each time an Outlook starts or in case of other events (for example, in case of receiving new email).

52. 53 Launching VBScript from Outlook Macros using Rules It is

also possible to use rules for running visual basic code from the Outlook macros file VbaProject.OTM. Function name from the VbaProject.OTM should be specified as a rule parameter:

53. 54 The attackers replaced Outlook's original VbaProject.OTM file with a

malicious macro that serves as the backdoor. The backdoor receives commands from a Gmail address operated by the threat actor, executes them on the compromised machines and sends the requested information to the attacker's Gmail account. Before the attackers deployed the macro-based backdoor, they had to take care of two things: • Creating persistence - the attackers modified specific registry values to create persistence: <https://www.cybereason.com/hubfs/Cybereason%20Labs%20Analysis%20Operation%20Cobalt%20Kitty-Part2.pdf> Outlook macro-based persistence REG ADD "HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Office\14\Outlook" /v "LoadMacroProviderOnBoot" /f /t REG_DWORD /d 1 • Disabling Outlook's security policies - to do that, the attackers modified security settings to enable the macro to run without prompting any warnings to the users: Finally, the attackers replaced the existing VbaProject.OTM with the fake macro: REG ADD "HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Office\14\Outlook\Security" /v "Level" /f /t REG_DWORD /d 1 cmd /c cd c:\programdata\& copy VbaProject.OTM C:\Users\[REDACTED]\AppData\ Roaming\Microsoft\Outlook

54. 55 Outlook macro-based persistence

55. 56 Outlook Macros security settings change Let's hunt it! Search

for modification of the Outlook's security settings to enable Outlook macro-based persistence: Channel:"Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational" AND EventID:13 AND TargetObject:(*"\\Outlook\\Security\\Level" OR *"\\Outlook\\LoadMacroProviderOnBoot") AND Details:"DWORD (0x00000001)"

56. 57 Outlook Macros security settings change Let's hunt it! Search

for usage of standard Windows tools for modification of the Outlook's security settings to enable Outlook macro-based persistence:
((Channel:"Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational" AND EventID:1) OR (Channel:Security AND EventID:4688)) AND ((CommandLine:"*\\"Outlook\\Security" AND CommandLine:"Level") OR (CommandLine:"*\\"Outlook" AND CommandLine:"LoadMacroProviderOnBoot"))

57. 58 Outlook Macros file modification/replacement Let's hunt it! Search for

unauthorized modification or replacement of VbaProject.OTM file: Channel:"Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational" AND EventID:11 AND TargetFilename:"*\\"AppData\\Roaming\\Microsoft\\Outlook\\VbaProject.OTM"

58. 59 Loading of the "Microsoft VBA for Outlook Addin" Loading

of the "Microsoft VBA for Outlook Addin" (OUTLVBA.DLL) by the Outlook process can be the sign of VBScript code execution from an Outlook Macros file (VbaProject.OTM)

59. 60 Loading of the "Microsoft VBA for Outlook Addin" Let's

hunt it! Search for loading of the "Microsoft VBA for Outlook Addin": Channel:Application AND SourceName:Outlook AND EventID:45 AND Message:"*Microsoft VBA for Outlook Addin*" Search for loading of the "OUTLVBA.DLL" library by Outlook process: Channel:"Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational" AND EventID:7 AND ImageLoaded:"\\ADDINS\\OUTLVBA.DLL" AND Image:"*\\"OUTLOOK.EXE"

60. 61 Outlook Home Page T1137.004 – Office Application Startup: Outlook

Home Page Outlook Home Page is a legacy feature used to customize the presentation of Outlook folders. This feature allows for an internal or external URL to be loaded and presented whenever a folder is opened. Adversaries may abuse Microsoft Outlook's Home Page feature to obtain persistence on a compromised system by creating a malicious HTML page. Once malicious home pages have been added to the user's mailbox, they will be loaded when Outlook is started. Malicious Home Pages will execute when the right Outlook folder is loaded/reloaded.

61. 62 Outlook Home Page example Outlook Home Page allows to

execute arbitrary visual basic script, that's why it is so attractive for adversaries:

62. 63 Outlook Home Page "protection" On October 10, 2017, Microsoft

released patches for Microsoft Outlook to "protect" against home page abusing: • KB4011196 (Outlook 2010) • KB4011178 (Outlook 2013) • KB4011162 (Outlook 2016) These patches just make it impossible to set a home page URL from the Outlook user interface (UI) by hiding the "Home Page" tab in the folder properties. But it is possible for an attacker to re-enable the original home page tab by creating and set the specific Registry value. There is no "Home Page" tab in the folder properties UI

63. 64 Enable home page tab in the Outlook UI To

re-enable the original home page tab and roaming home page behavior in the Outlook UI, you can create and set the EnableRoamingFolderHomepages Registry value: The following setting will allow for folders within secondary (non-default) mailboxes to leverage a custom home page. HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Office\<version>\Outlook\Security "EnableRoamingFolderHomepages" = REG_DWORD:00000001 HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Office\<version>\Outlook\Security "NonDefaultStoreScript" = REG_DWORD:00000001 And now we have home page tab in the UI

64. 65 Enable home page tab in the Outlook UI

65. 66 Enable home page tab in the Outlook UI Let's

hunt it! Search for modification of EnableRoamingFolderHomepages and NonDefaultStoreScript Registry value:
Channel:"Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational" AND EventID:13 AND TargetObject:"\\EnableRoamingFolderHomepages" OR "\\NonDefaultStoreScript" AND Details:"DWORD (0x00000001)" Search for usage of standard Windows tools to create and set the EnableRoamingFolderHomepages and NonDefaultStoreScript Registry values: ((Channel:"Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational" AND EventID:1) OR (Channel:Security AND EventID:4688)) AND CommandLine: ("*EnableUnsafeClientMailRules" OR "*NonDefaultStoreScript")

66. 67 Enable home page tab in the Outlook UI. Registry

artifact When you change home page URL for folder via UI some interesting Registry values are created and changed under HKCU\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Webcheck\Store.{GUID}:

67. 68 Enable home page tab in the Outlook UI. Registry

artifact Let's hunt it! Search for modification of the "(Defualt)" Registry value under HKCU\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Webcheck\Store.{GUID} (Channel:"Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational" AND EventID:13) AND TargetObject:"*\\"Microsoft\\Windows\\CurrentVersion\\Webcheck*" AND Details:Outlook*

68. 69 Set Outlook Home Page via Registry The FireEye Red

Team found that an attacker can set a home page to achieve code execution and persistence by editing the specific registry keys. Setting this registry key to a valid URL enables the home page regardless of the patch being applied or not. Although the option will not be accessible from the Outlook user interface (UI), it will still be set and render. These keys are set within the logged-on user's Registry hive. This means that no special privileges are required to edit the Registry and roll back the patch. The FireEye Red Team found that no other registry modifications were required to set a malicious Outlook homepage.

69. 70 Set Outlook Home Page via Registry example <https://www.fireeye.com/blog/threat-research/2019/12/breaking-the-rules->

tough-outlook-for-home-page-attacks.html The FireEye Advanced Practices team discovered a uniquely automated phishing document was uploaded to VirusTotal. The sample, "TARA Pipeline.xlsxm" (MD5: ddbc153e4e63f7b8b6f7aa10a8fad514), launches malicious Excel macros combining several techniques, including using the lesser-known HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Office\<Outlook Version>\Outlook\Webview\Calendar\URL registry key for persistence.

70. 71 Set Outlook Home Page via Registry Let's hunt it!

Search for modification of URL Registry value: (Channel:"Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational" AND EventID:13) AND TargetObject:"*\\"Outlook\\WebView*" AND TargetObject:"*\\"URL" Search for usage of standard Windows tools to create and set the URL Registry value: ((Channel:"Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational" AND EventID:1) OR (Channel:Security AND EventID:4688)) AND CommandLine:"*\\"Outlook\\Webview*" AND CommandLine:*URL*

71. 72 Outlook Today Page Outlook Today is a handy way

to get a quick interactive summary of your calendar, tasks, and messages for the current day. Outlook Today can be used for persistence in the same way as Outlook Homepages. Outlook Today had a menu called data file properties (similar to properties under folders such as Inbox) and through that menu, you could set a homepage value. Unlike Outlook Homepage URL, Outlook Today URL value could not be set remotely and had to be set through the registry under:
HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Office\16.0\Outlook\Today\UserDefinedUrl https://medium.com/@b_wtech789/outlook-today-homepage-persistence-33ea9b505943

72. 73 Outlook Today Page example Outlook Today Page allows to

execute arbitrary visual basic script, that's why it is so attractive for adversaries:

73. 74 Outlook Today Page configuration

74. 75 Outlook Today Page configuration Let's hunt it! Search for

specific Registry values set events: (Channel:"Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational" AND EventID:13) AND ((TargetObject:"*\\"Outlook\\Today\\Stamp" AND Details:"DWORD (0x00000001)") OR (TargetObject:"*\\"Outlook\\Today\\UserDefinedUrl"))

75. 76 Outlook Today Page configuration Let's hunt it! Search for

usage of standard command line tools to set specific Registry values: ((Channel:"Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational" AND EventID:1) OR (Channel:Security AND EventID:4688)) AND CommandLine:"*\\"Outlook\\Today" AND CommandLine: (*UserDefinedUrl* OR *Stamp*)

76. 77 Outlook Forms T1137.003 – Office Application Startup: Outlook Forms

A form is the principal user interface for an item in the Outlook. Outlook provides one or more standard forms for each type of item (mail, contact, and so on). And it is possible to create customized versions of these forms to change the way Outlook displays items. Adversaries may abuse Microsoft Outlook forms to obtain persistence on a compromised system. Custom Outlook forms can be created that will execute arbitrary VBScript code when a specifically crafted email is sent by an adversary utilizing the same custom Outlook form. Once malicious forms have been added to the user's mailbox, they will be loaded when Outlook is started. Malicious forms will execute when an adversary sends a specifically crafted email to the user and user opens it. Unlike rules, there is not an easy way in the UI for a user to check their forms, and also forms can not be seen in OWA, unlike rules.

77. 78 Uses Ruler to create malicious Outlook Forms VBScript code

of the malicious form, created by Ruler

78. 79 Outlook Forms. File system artifacts Forms are automatically cached

on the client-side in %localappdata%\Microsoft\Forms. This can be used to detect the appearance of new Outlook Forms.

79. 80 Outlook Forms. File system artifacts Let's hunt it! Search

for creation of files and folders in %localappdata%\Microsoft\Forms (forms caching repository): Channel:"Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational" AND EventID:11 AND Image:"\\outlook.exe" AND TargetFilename:"*\\"appdata\\local\\microsoft\\FORMS*"

80. 81 Outlook Forms. Registry artifacts There are also some specific

registry entries created when forms are cached

81. 82 Outlook Forms. Registry artifacts

82. 83 Outlook Forms. Registry artifacts Let's hunt it! Search for

specific Registry values set events: Channel:"Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational" AND EventID:13 AND Image:"\\outlook.exe" AND TargetObject:(*\\"BaseMsgClis\\(Default)" OR *\\"FormStg\\(Default)" OR *\\"MsgClis\\(Default)")

83. 84 Spawning suspicious child by Outlook Spawning suspicious child processes

(for example, cmd, PowerShell, wscript, cscript) by Outlook is a general anomaly, that can be used for detection of different techniques related to the Outlook features abusing

84. Spawning suspicious child by the Outlook Let's hunt it! 85

Channel:"Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational" AND EventID:1 AND ParentImage:"\\outlook.exe" AND (CommandLine:(cmd.exe OR "*cmd *" OR *comspec* OR *wscript* OR *cscript* OR *SyncAppvPublishingServer* OR *powershell* *pwsh*) OR OriginalFileName:(cmd.exe" OR "wscript.exe" OR "cscript.exe" OR "SyncAppvPublishingServer.exe" OR "PowerShell.EXE") OR Image:"\\cmd.exe") Channel:Security AND EventID:4688 AND ParentProcessName:"\\outlook.exe" AND (CommandLine:(cmd.exe OR "*cmd *" OR *comspec* OR *wscript* OR *cscript* OR *SyncAppvPublishingServer* OR *powershell* *pwsh*) OR Image:"\\cmd.exe")

85. 86 Questions?



Top Categories	Use Cases	Resources	Features
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Technology	Educators	Blog	Password Protection
Storyboards	Students	Compare Speaker Deck	Custom URLs
Featured decks		Advertising	Scheduled publishing
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