



# .. /Forfiles.exe

☆ Star 7,060

Execute

Alternate data streams

Selects and executes a command on a file or set of files. This command is useful for batch processing.

## Paths:

C:\Windows\System32\forfiles.exe  
C:\Windows\SysWOW64\forfiles.exe

## Resources:

- [https://twitter.com/vector\\_sec/status/896049052642533376](https://twitter.com/vector_sec/status/896049052642533376)
- <https://gist.github.com/api0cradle/cdd2d0d0ec9abb686f0e89306e277b8f>
- <https://oddvar.moe/2018/01/14/putting-data-in-alternate-data-streams-and-how-to-execute-it/>

## Acknowledgements:

- Eric ([@vector\\_sec](#))
- Oddvar Moe ([@oddvarmoe](#))

## Detections:

- Sigma: [proc\\_creation\\_win\\_lolbin\\_forfiles.yml](#)

## Execute

Executes calc.exe since there is a match for notepad.exe in the c:\windows\System32 folder.

```
forfiles /p c:\windows\system32 /m notepad.exe /c calc.exe
```

**Use case:** Use forfiles to start a new process to evade defensive counter measures  
**Privileges required:** User  
**Operating systems:** Windows vista, Windows 7, Windows 8, Windows 8.1, Windows 10, Windows 11  
**ATT&CK® technique:** [T1202: Indirect Command Execution](#)

## Alternate data streams

Executes the evil.exe Alternate Data Stream (AD) since there is a match for notepad.exe in the c:\windows\system32 folder.

```
forfiles /p c:\windows\system32 /m notepad.exe /c "c:\folder\normal.dll:evil.exe"
```

**Use case:** Use forfiles to start a new process from a binary hidden in an alternate data stream  
**Privileges required:** User  
**Operating systems:** Windows vista, Windows 7, Windows 8, Windows 8.1, Windows 10, Windows 11  
**ATT&CK® technique:** [T1564.004: NTFS File Attributes](#)