

We're continuing to fight for universal access to quality information—and you can help as we continue to make improvements. Will you chip in?

https://blog.menasec.net/2019/02/threat-hunting-3-detecting-psexec.html

12 captures

17 Dec 2019 - 29 Mar 2023

Go

NOV

29

2022

MAR

29

2023

APR2024

?

✕

f

t

About this capture



# Applied Security Research

Home

About us

Wednesday, 6 February 2019

## Threat Hunting #3 - Detecting PsExec execution using event 5145

PsExec is a light-weight telnet-replacement that lets you execute processes on other systems, complete with full interactivity for console applications, without having to manually install client software. PsExec's most powerful uses include launching interactive command-prompts on remote systems and remote-enabling tools like IpConfig that otherwise do not have the ability to show information about remote systems.

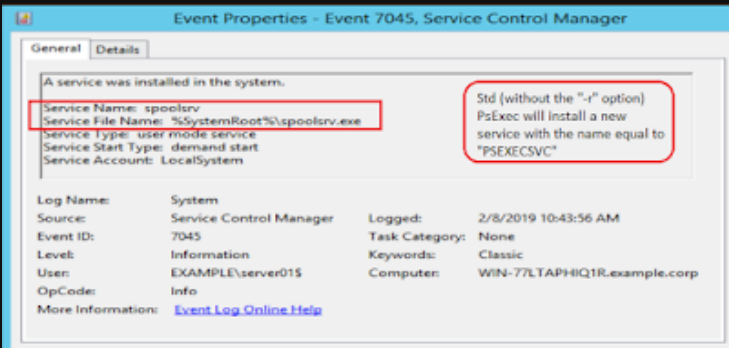
Existing detection of PSEXEC can be easily bypassed:

- PSEXEC Service created - logged by EventID 7045 "Service Creation" [**psexec -r spoolsvr**] option allow to bypass this one]
- Remote registry change due to accepting Eula (not valid for other PSEXEC implementation in Python or PowerShell)

Proposed detection rely on EventID 5145 "Network File Share Access", that logs in the relative target name field traces of remote access to PSEXEC SVC named pipes, with the following format:

**<psexecsvc|chosen service name with the "-r" option>-<machine-name>-<5-random-numbers>-<stdin|stderr|stdout>)**

Below an example of the left traces:



As can be seen above, with the "**psexec -r spoolsvr \\target -s cmd**" (rename) option, standard detection based on service name can be easily bypassed.



Luckily we still have (for now) a unique string in the 5145 event that we can use to detect PSEXEC ("stdin", "stdout" and "stderr").

### Detection Logic:

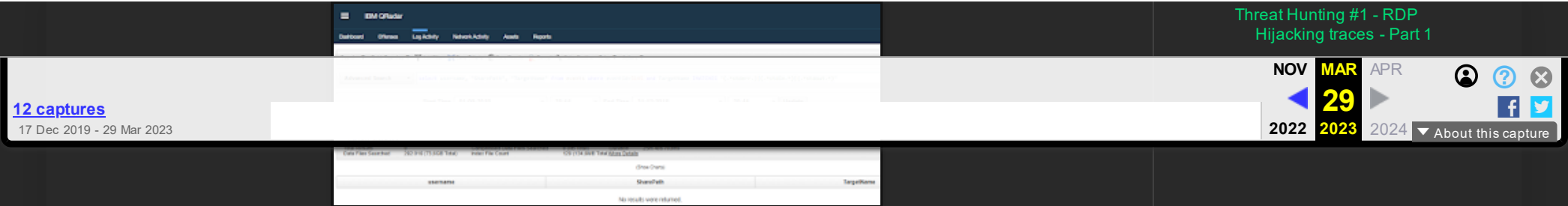
- [EventID=5145 and TargetFileName contains \*-stdin or \*-stdout or \*-stderr]
- [EventID=5145 and not TargetFileName contains \*psexecsvc\*) and TargetFileName contains \*-stdin or \*-stdout or \*-stderr] -> means attacker changed default psexec service name.

### IBM Qradar hunting AQL:

select username, "SharePath", "TargetName" from events where eventid=5145 and TargetName IMATCHES '(.stderr.)(.stdin.)(.stdout.)'

### Blog Archive

- ▶ 2022 (2)
- ▶ 2021 (3)
- ▶ 2020 (4)
- ▼ 2019 (39)
  - ▶ November (2)
  - ▶ July (1)
  - ▶ April (3)
  - ▶ March (7)
  - ▼ February (26)
    - Threat Hunting #24 - RDP over a Reverse SSH Tunnel
    - Threat Hunting #23 - Microsoft Windows DNS Server ...
    - IronPort: Password-Protected Archives
    - Threat Hunting #22 - Detecting user accounts set w...
    - Threat Hunting #21 - Hiding in plain sights with r...
    - IronPort: Blacklisted Attachments
    - Threat Hunting #20 - Detecting Process Doppelgänger...
    - Threat Hunting #19 - Procdump or Taskmgr - memory ...
    - Threat Hunting #18 - Run/RunOnce - Shell-Core El...
    - Threat Hunting #17 - Suspicious System Time Change
    - Threat Hunting #16 - Lateral Movement via DCOM - S...
    - Threat Hunting #15 - Detecting Doc with Macro invo...
    - Threat Hunting #14 - RDP Hijacking via RDPWRAP | f...
    - Threat Hunting #13 - Detecting CACTUSTORCH using S...
    - Threat Hunting #12 - Suspicious strings in Regist...
    - Threat Hunting #11 - Exposed Passwords
    - Threat Hunting #10 - Renamed/Modified Windows (ab)...
    - Threat Huting #9 - Impacket\Secretdump remote exec...
    - Threat Hunting #8 - Detecting traces of Boot Confi...
    - Threat Hunting #7 - Detecting BloodHound\Sharphoun...
    - Threat Hunting #6 - Hiding in plain sights with re...
    - Threat Hunting #5 - Detecting enumeration of users...
    - Threat Hunting #4 - Detecting Excel/Word documents ...
    - Threat Hunting #3 - Detecting PsExec execution usi...
    - Threat Hunting #2 - Detecting PsLoggedOn exec usin...








And if PsExec is somehow used by IT personnel, then try the following AQL looking for renamed PSEXEC service name: (i.e. psexec -r notPsExecSvc \\host -u account\$ -p Passw0rd!123 -s cmd.exe)

select username, "SharePath", "TargetName" from events where eventid=5145 and TargetName IMATCHES '(. \*stderr.)(. \*stdin.)(. \*stdout.)\*' and not (TargetName IMATCHES '(?i)(. \*PSEXEC SVC. \*)')

References:

- <https://www.ultimatewindowssecurity.com/securitylog/encyclopedia/event.aspx?eventid=5145>
- <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals/downloads/psexec>

Posted by **MENASEC** at [21:26](#)



Labels: [5145](#), [7045](#), [paexec](#), [psexec](#), [psexec\\_psh](#)

No comments:

Post a Comment

To leave a comment, click the button below to sign in with Google.

SIGN IN WITH GOOGLE

[Newer Post](#)

[Home](#)

[Older Post](#)

Subscribe to: [Post Comments \(Atom\)](#)