

T1564.001 - Hidden Files and Directories

Description from ATT&CK

Adversaries may set files and directories to be hidden to evade detection mechanisms. To prevent normal users from accidentally changing special files on a system, most operating systems have the concept of a 'hidden' file. These files don't show up when a user browses the file system with a GUI or when using normal commands on the command line. Users must explicitly ask to show the hidden files either via a series of Graphical User Interface (GUI) prompts or with command line switches (`dir /a` for Windows and `ls -a` for Linux and macOS).

On Linux and Mac, users can mark specific files as hidden simply by putting a "." as the first character in the file or folder name (Citation: Sofacy Komplex Trojan) (Citation: Antiquated Mac Malware). Files and folders that start with a period, '.', are by default hidden from being viewed in the Finder application and standard command-line utilities like "ls". Users must specifically change settings to have these files viewable.

Files on macOS can also be marked with the UF_HIDDEN flag which prevents them from being seen in Finder.app, but still allows them to be seen in Terminal.app (Citation: WireLurker). On Windows, users can mark specific files as hidden by using the attrib.exe binary. Many applications

create these hidden files and folders to store information so that it doesn't clutter up the user's workspace. For example, SSH utilities create a .ssh folder that's hidden and contains the user's known hosts and keys.

Adversaries can use this to their advantage to hide files and folders anywhere on the system and evading a typical user or system analysis that does not incorporate investigation of hidden files.

Atomic Tests

- [Atomic Test #1 - Create a hidden file in a hidden directory](#)
- [Atomic Test #2 - Mac Hidden file](#)
- [Atomic Test #3 - Create Windows System File with Attrib](#)
- [Atomic Test #4 - Create Windows Hidden File with Attrib](#)
- [Atomic Test #5 - Hidden files](#)
- [Atomic Test #6 - Hide a Directory](#)
- [Atomic Test #7 - Show all hidden files](#)
- [Atomic Test #8 - Hide Files Through Registry](#)

Atomic Test #1 - Create a hidden file in a hidden directory

Creates a hidden file inside a hidden directory

Supported Platforms: Linux, macOS

auto_generated_guid: 61a782e5-9a19-40b5-8ba4-69a4b9f3d7be

Attack Commands: Run with **sh** !

```
mkdir /var/tmp/.hidden-directory  
echo "T1564.001" > /var/tmp/.hidden-directory/.hidden-file
```



Cleanup Commands:

```
rm -rf /var/tmp/.hidden-directory/
```

Atomic Test #2 - Mac Hidden file

Hide a file on MacOS

Supported Platforms: macOS

auto_generated_guid: cddb9098-3b47-4e01-9d3b-6f5f323288a9

Attack Commands: Run with `sh` !

```
xattr -lr * / 2>&1 /dev/null | grep -C 2 "00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 40 00 FF FF FF FI
```

Atomic Test #3 - Create Windows System File with Attrib

Creates a file and marks it as a system file using the attrib.exe utility. Upon execution, open the file in file explorer then open Properties > Details and observe that the Attributes are "SA" for System and Archive.

Supported Platforms: Windows

auto_generated_guid: f70974c8-c094-4574-b542-2c545af95a32

Inputs:

Name	Description	Type	Default Value
file_to_modify	File to modify using Attrib command	String	%temp%\T1564.001.txt

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

```
attrib.exe +s #{file_to_modify}
```

Cleanup Commands:

```
del /A:S #{file_to_modify} >nul 2>&1
```

Dependencies: Run with `command_prompt` !

Description: The file must exist on disk at specified location (#{file_to_modify})

Check Prereq Commands:

```
IF EXIST #{file_to_modify} ( EXIT 0 ) ELSE ( EXIT 1 )
```

Get Prereq Commands:

```
echo system_Attrib_T1564.001 >> #{file_to_modify}
```

Atomic Test #4 - Create Windows Hidden File with Attrib

Creates a file and marks it as hidden using the attrib.exe utility. Upon execution, open File Epxplorer and enable View > Hidden Items. Then, open Properties > Details on the file and observe that the Attributes are "SH" for System and Hidden.

Supported Platforms: Windows

auto_generated_guid: dadb792e-4358-4d8d-9207-b771faa0daa5

Inputs:

Name	Description	Type	Default Value
------	-------------	------	---------------

```
attrib.exe +h #{file_to_modify}
```

```
del /A:H #{file_to_modify} >nul 2>&1
```

Description: The file must exist on disk at specified location (`{file_to_modify}`)

```
IF EXIST #{file_to_modify} ( EXIT 0 ) ELSE ( EXIT 1 )
```

```
echo system_Attrib_T1564.001 >> #{file_to_modify}
```

Requires Apple Dev Tools

Supported Platforms: macOS


auto_generated_guid: 3b7015f2-3144-4205-b799-b05580621379

Name	Description	Type	Default Value
------	-------------	------	---------------

filename	path of file to hide	Path	/tmp/evil
----------	----------------------	------	-----------

Attack Commands: Run with `sh` !

```
setfile -a V #{filename}
```



Atomic Test #6 - Hide a Directory


Hide a directory on MacOS

Supported Platforms: macOS

auto_generated_guid: b115ecaf-3b24-4ed2-aefe-2fcb9db913d3

Attack Commands: Run with `sh` !

```
touch /var/tmp/T1564.001_mac.txt
chflags hidden /var/tmp/T1564.001_mac.txt
```



Cleanup Commands:

```
rm /var/tmp/T1564.001_mac.txt
```



Atomic Test #7 - Show all hidden files

Show all hidden files on MacOS

Supported Platforms: macOS

auto_generated_guid: 9a1ec7da-b892-449f-ad68-67066d04380c

Attack Commands: Run with `sh` !

```
defaults write com.apple.finder AppleShowAllFiles YES
```



Cleanup Commands:

```
defaults write com.apple.finder AppleShowAllFiles NO
```



Atomic Test #8 - Hide Files Through Registry

Disable Show Hidden files switch in registry. This technique was abused by several malware to hide their files from normal user. See how this trojan abuses this technique - <https://www.sophos.com/en-us/threat-center/threat-analyses/viruses-and-spyware/W32~Tiotua-P/detailed-analysis.aspx>

Supported Platforms: Windows

auto_generated_guid: f650456b-bd49-4bc1-ae9d-271b5b9581e7

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

```
reg add HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\Advanced /v ShowSu  
reg add HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\Advanced /v Hidden
```



Cleanup Commands:

```
reg delete "HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\Advanced" /v SI  
reg delete "HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\Advanced" /v H:
```

