


[Misc Series #4] Forensics on EDRSilencer Events



GhouLSec · Follow

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EDRSilencer by netero1010 is a tool that utilizing Windows Filtering Platform (WFP) to block EDR agent to send out its event data to its server by adding both IPv4 and IPv6 WFP outbound block rule (Administrator access required). That is bad as most of the defenders are heavily depends on the event data from EDR to perform their operation task. In this blog, here are some of the indicators that we can go for if the EDR event data flow has been “blocked” due to any security events (e.g. red teaming or threat actor).

Event Logs

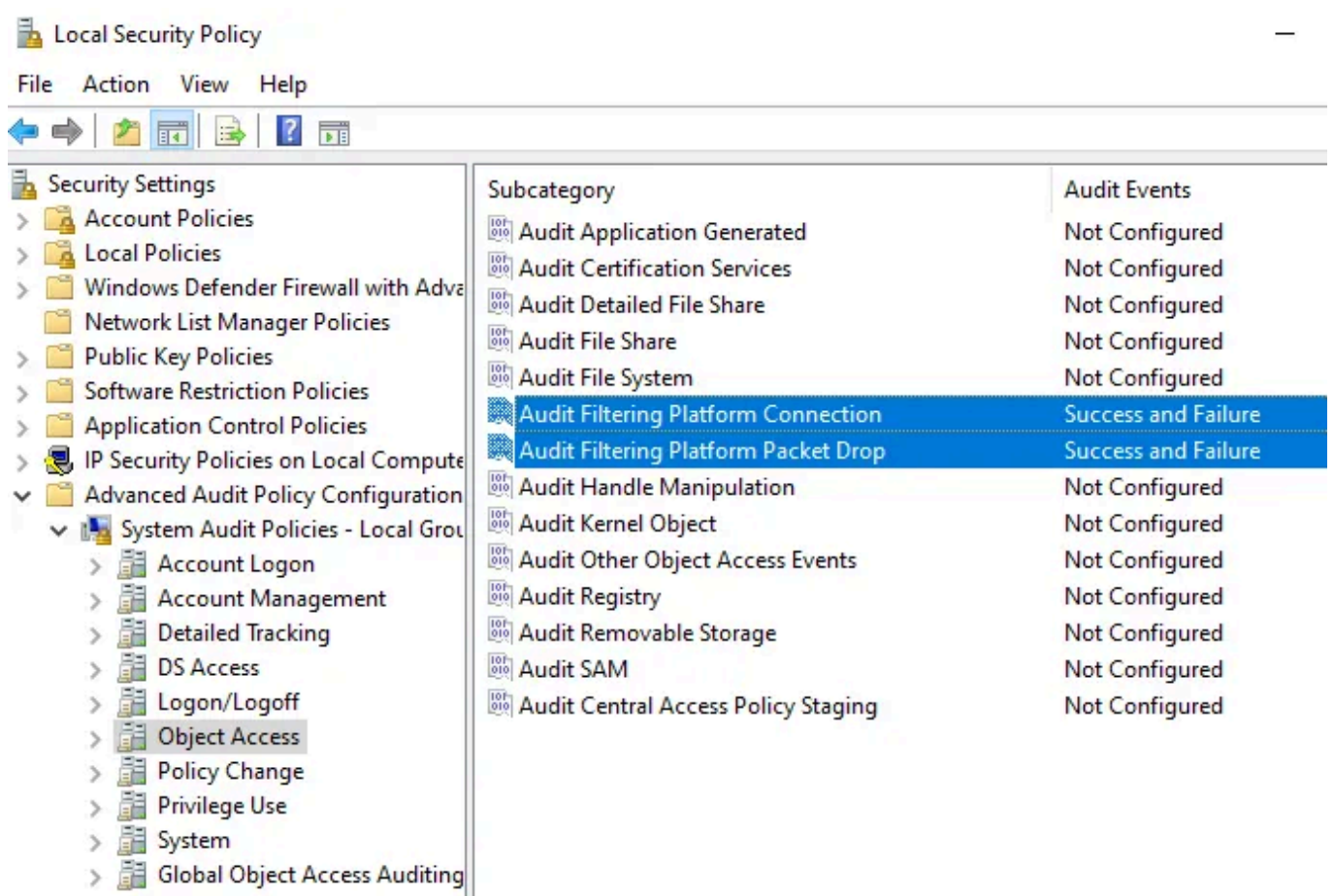
As usual, **Security event logs** contain event that is related to WFP and now we are focusing on the WFP **block** events which are EID 5152 and 5157

Table of Descriptions by Event ID

Event ID	Brief Description
5152	Windows Filtering Platform blocked a packet
5154	Windows Filtering Platform permitted an application or service to listen on a port for incoming connections
5156	Windows Filtering Platform allowed a connection
5157	Windows Filtering Platform blocked a connection
5158	Windows Filtering Platform permitted a bind to a local port
5159	Windows Filtering Platform blocked a bind to a local port

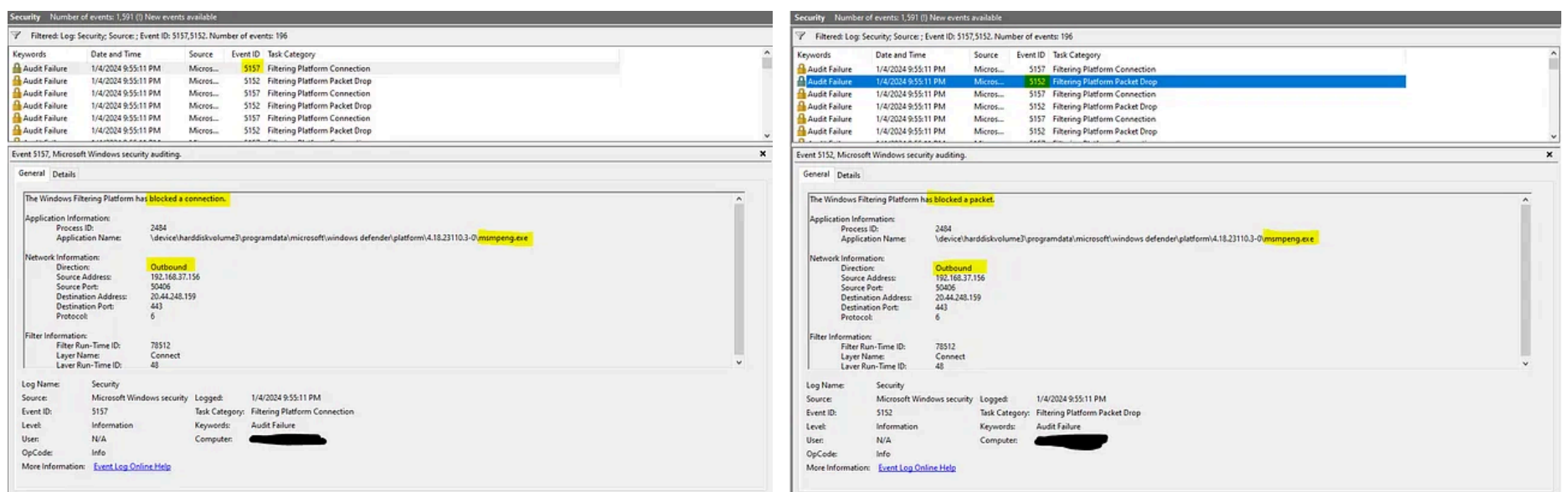
Taken from documentation.solarwinds.com

However, it is not enable by default as enabling it may cause event flood and thus leading to performance issue.



Enabling WFP Audit

There is a down side on this audit as it won't immediately log the WFP filter rule add event from EDRSilencer once the EDRSilencer added the WFP rule to block the outbound connection of the EDR process. Those WFP events only log if the user execute any files (e.g. Laucnhing mimikatz.exe) that will trigger EDR to send out event data to its server.



EID 5157 & 5152

Screenshots above are the events EID 5157 & 5152 that the outbound connection from msmtpeng.exe being blocked by the WFP rule (I don't have EDR in my environment, so I'm just using it as example 🤖)

Thanks for the blog from [Soren](#), there is another event log for the MDE agent which is Microsoft-Windows-SENSE/Operational that will log any failed connection from MDE to the server as EID 5. Probably different EDR will have different ways of logging this kind of event.

Netsh

We also can leverage `netsh wfp show netevents` command to get the WFP events in `xml` form.

```
\mimikatz_trunk\x64>netsh wfp show netevents
Data collection successful; output = netevents.xml
```

As we can see in `netevents.xml` , the string in the `<asString>` tag is in `UTF16-LE` format while the `<data>` tag is the hex representation of string in `<asString>` tag.

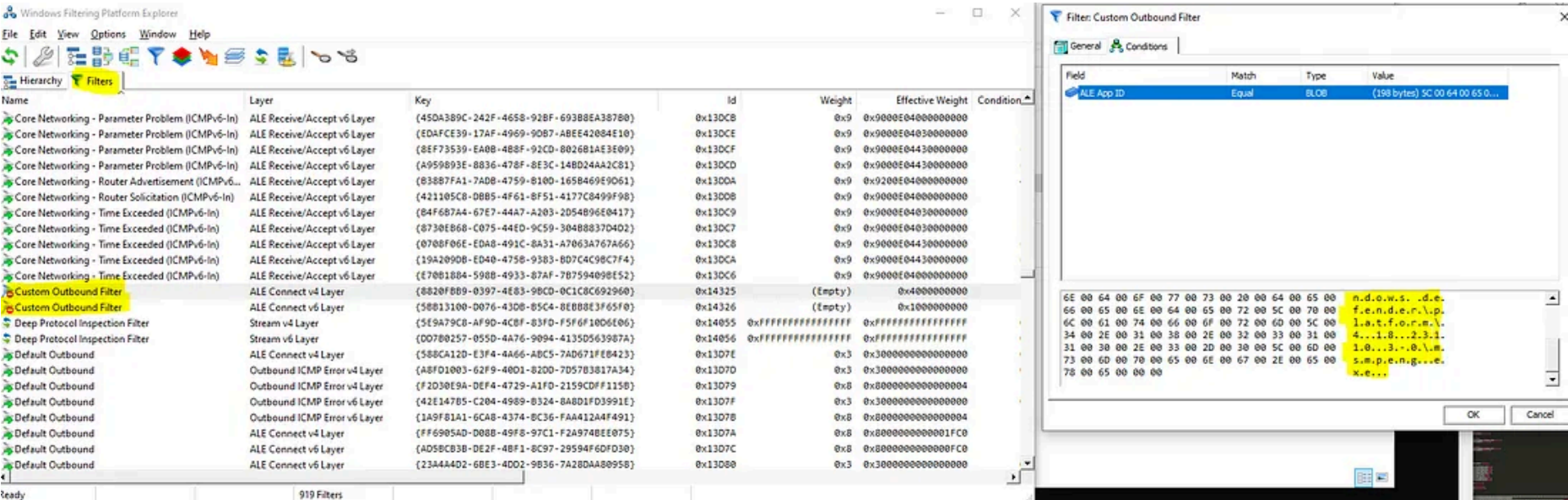
```
<item>
  <header>
    <timestamp>2024-01-04T14:59:07.302Z</timestamp>
    <flags numItems="9">
      <item>FWPM_NET_EVENT_FLAG_IP_PROTOCOL_SET</item>
      <item>FWPM_NET_EVENT_FLAG_LOCAL_ADDR_SET</item>
      <item>FWPM_NET_EVENT_FLAG_REMOTE_ADDR_SET</item>
      <item>FWPM_NET_EVENT_FLAG_LOCAL_PORT_SET</item>
      <item>FWPM_NET_EVENT_FLAG_REMOTE_PORT_SET</item>
      <item>FWPM_NET_EVENT_FLAG_APP_ID_SET</item>
      <item>FWPM_NET_EVENT_FLAG_USER_ID_SET</item>
      <item>FWPM_NET_EVENT_FLAG_IP_VERSION_SET</item>
      <item>FWPM_NET_EVENT_FLAG_PACKAGE_ID_SET</item>
    </flags>
    <ipVersion>FWP_IP_VERSION_V4</ipVersion>
    <ipProtocol>6</ipProtocol>
    <localAddrV4>192.168.37.156</localAddrV4>
    <remoteAddrV4>20.247.160.101</remoteAddrV4>
    <localPort>63457</localPort>
    <remotePort>443</remotePort>
    <scopeId>0</scopeId>
    <appId>
      <data>5c006400650076006900630065005c0068006100720064006400690073006b0076006f006c0075006d00650033005c00700072006f006700720061006d0064006100740061005c006d006900630072006f0073006f00660074005c00770069006e0064006f0077007300200064006500660065006e006400650072005c0070006c0069006f0072006d005c00330002e00310033003100310030002e0033002d0030005c006d00700065006e0067002e006500780065000000</data>
      <asString>\.d.e.v.i.c.e.\.h.a.r.d.i.s.k.v.o.l.u.m.e.3.\.p.r.o.g.r.a.m.d.a.t.a.\.m.i.c.r.o.s.o.f.t.\.w.i.n.d.o.w.s.\.d.e.f.e.n.d.e.r.\.p.l.a.t.f.o.r.m.\.4...1.8...2.3.1.1.0...3.-.0.\.m.s.m.p.e.n.g...e.x.e...</asString>
    </appId>
    <userId>S-1-5-18</userId>
    <addressFamily>FWP_AF_INET</addressFamily>
    <packageSid>S-1-0-0</packageSid>
    <enterpriseId/>
    <policyFlags>0</policyFlags>
    <effectiveName/>
  </header>
  <type>FWPM_NET_EVENT_TYPE_CLASSIFY_DROP</type>
  <classifyDrop>
```

netviews.xml

WFPExplorer

WFPExplorer from zodiacon is a GUI tools that can look for the WFP objects. Look for the `Filters` and we can find the hard coded filter name from EDRSilencer, `Custom Outbound Filter` in there.

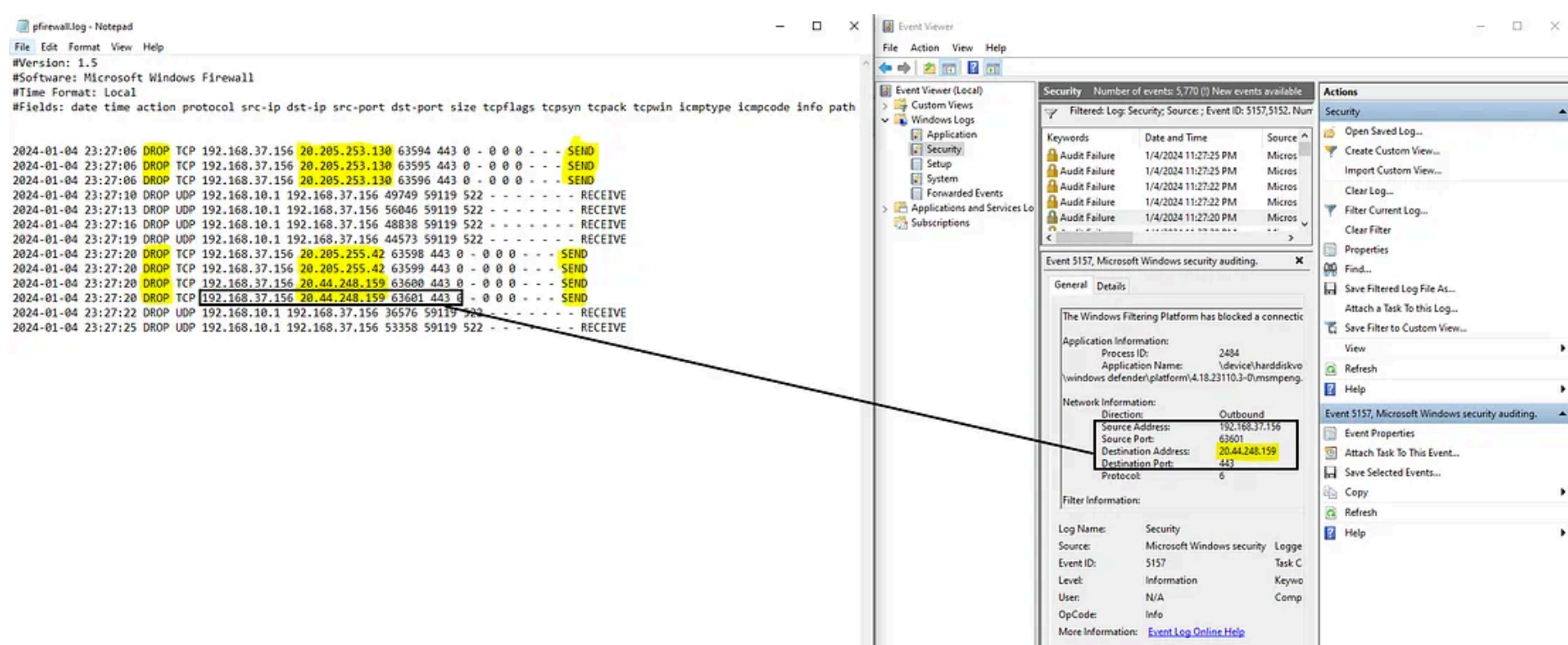
Note that, the `ALE App ID` bytes in WFPExplorer the matches with the App ID in `netviews.xml` (`<appId>` > `<data>` tag)



EDRSilencer filter on WFPExplorer

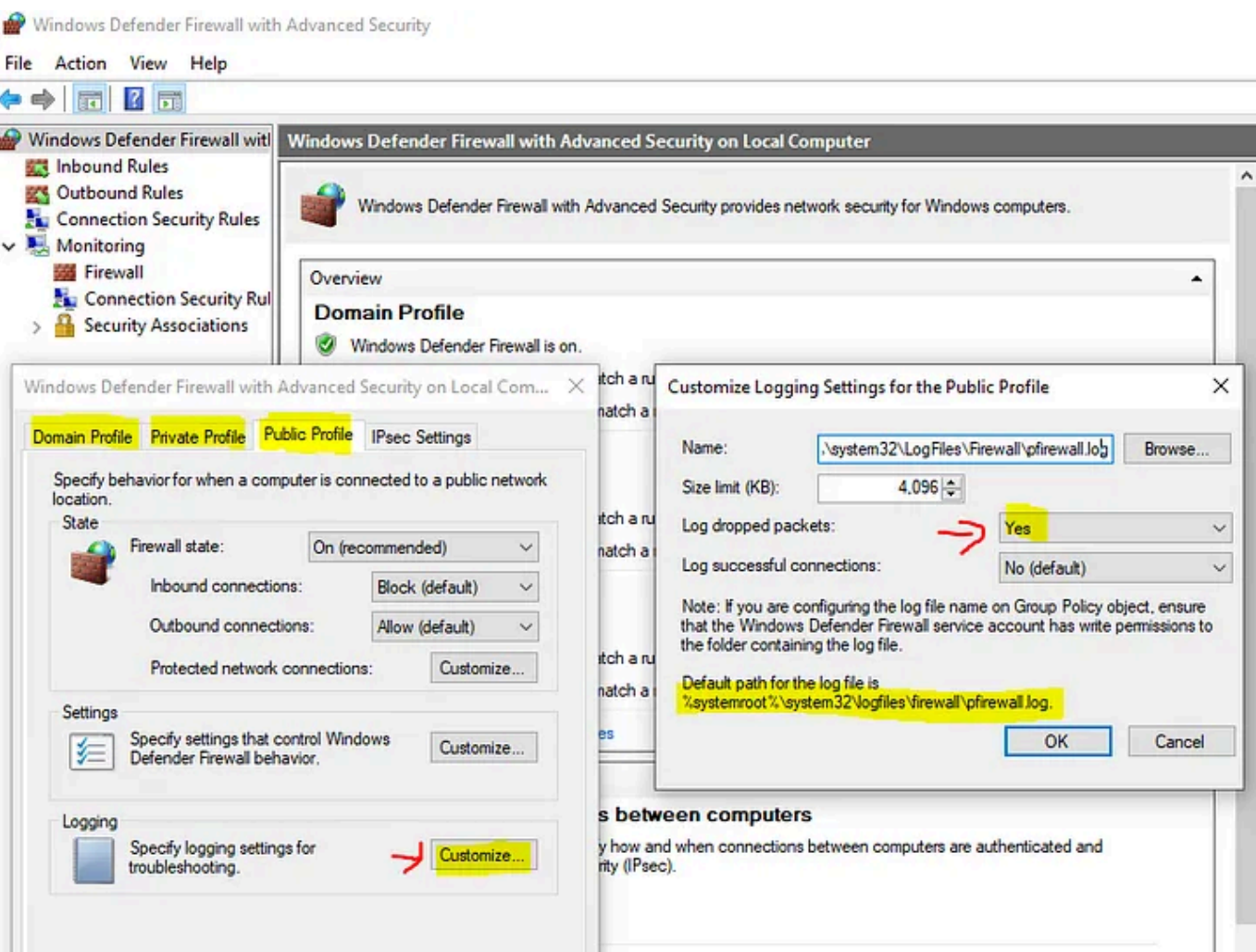
Firewall Logs

Firewall logs also contains some useful information (Src & Dest IPs, packet size etc) to support further support the events stored in security event log.



Dropped packet data in pfirewall.log that supports events in security event log

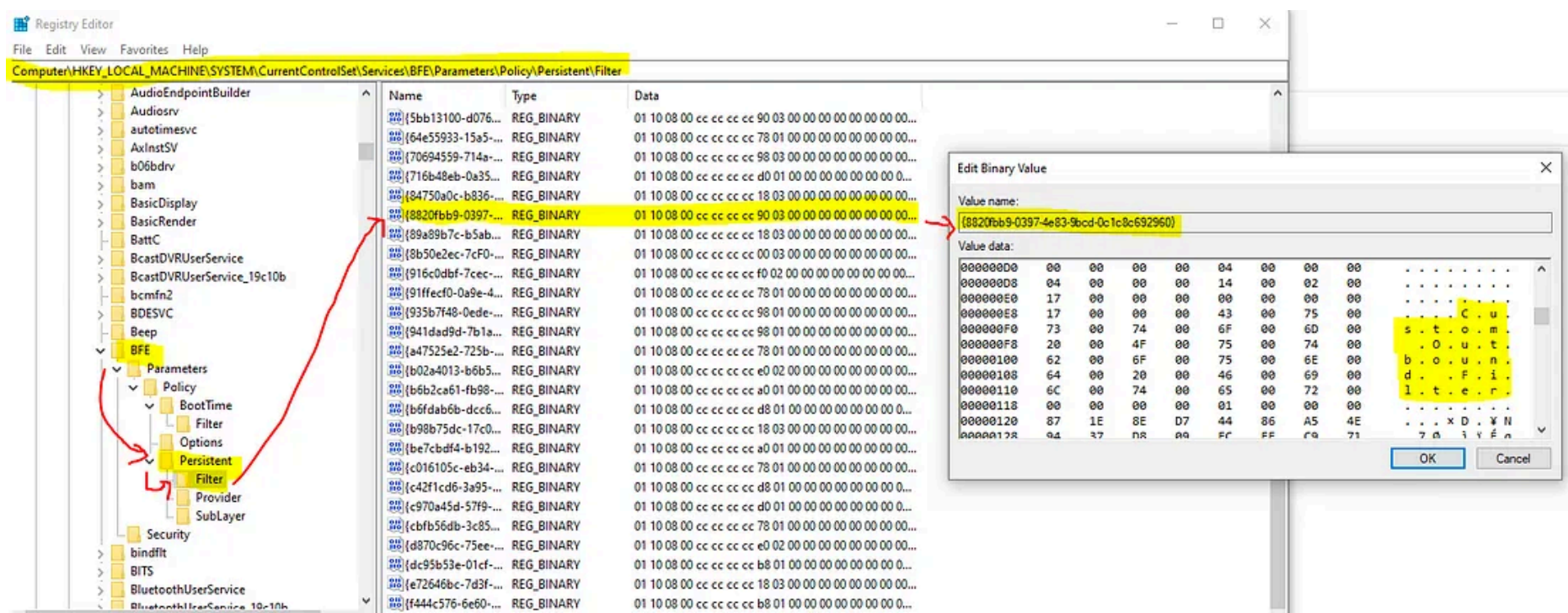
Same with WFP event logs, the windows firewall doesn't log those packet drop events by default. We have to enable it based on the network profile the we are using.



Once enabled the `Log dropped packets` , any dropped packet will be logged in `%systemroot%\system32\logfiles\firewall\pfirewall.log`

Registry Key

The WFP filter data of the EDRSilencer can be found in the service registry key `Base Filtering Engine (BFE)` which is located as `HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\BFE\Parameters\Policy\Persistent\Filter`



Some extra reading on the WFP from QuarksLab.

Host Events

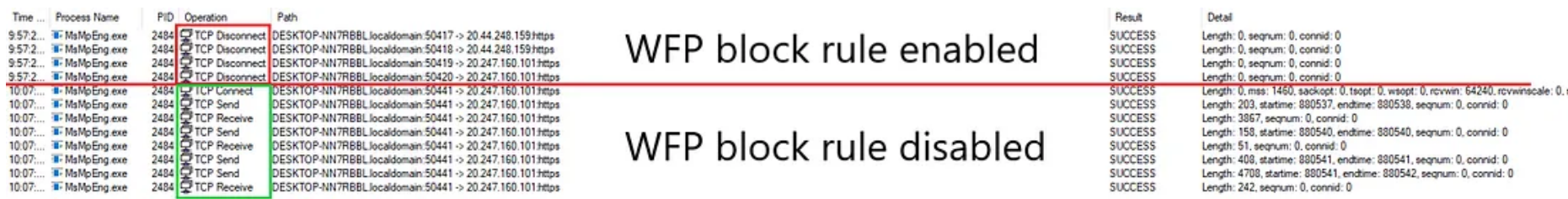
EDRSilencer have to load the `mssmpeng.exe` in order to pass EDR process into the WFP filter function (Relevant `code`). So theoretically, the loading process will still get log by EDR.

However, this is just a clue for the investigator that a EDR process has been loaded.



EDR process file has been loaded by EDRSilencer before apply the WFP block rule.

Once it was succeed, we can see the the `TCP Disconnect` events from the `mssmpeng.exe` and once the WFP block rule disabled, the event data flow to server gets back to normal (`TCP Send` & `TCP Receive`). However, this part will be not visible in EDR since the WFP block rule has been applied on the EDR process.



Difference on the TCP events when WFP block enabled and disabled by EDRSilencer


Hopefully, this quick blog post helps and remember check both IPv4 and IPv6 WFP rules, cheers !!

References

GitHub - netero1010/EDRSilencer: A tool uses Windows Filtering Platform (WFP) to block Endpoint...

A tool uses Windows Filtering Platform (WFP) to block Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) agents from reporting...


github.com



Collect Windows Filtering Platform (WFP) events

This topic describes how to collect Windows Filtering Platform (WFP) events in SEM.


documentation.solarwinds.com



Windows Security Log Event ID 5156 - The Windows Filtering Platform has allowed a connection

5156: The Windows Filtering Platform has allowed a connection On this page This event documents each time WFP allows a...

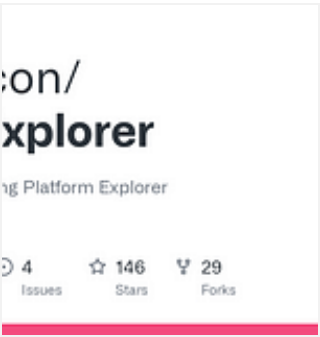
www.ultimatewindowssecurity.com



GitHub - zodiacon/WFPExplorer: Windows Filtering Platform Explorer

Windows Filtering Platform Explorer. Contribute to zodiacon/WFPExplorer development by creating an account on...

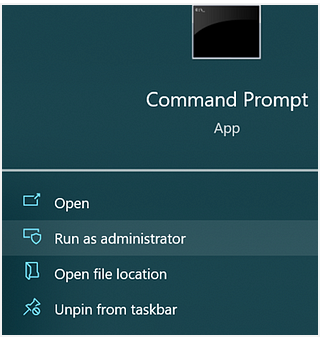
github.com



Windows is Blocking Traffic!

In this blog, I'd like to show you some of the techniques I use to troubleshoot when the only thing that makes sense is...

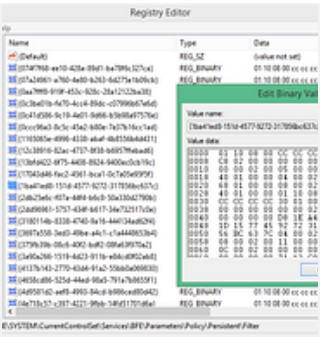
www.lookingpoint.com



Windows Filtering Platform: Persistent state under the hood

Since Windows XP SP2, the Windows firewall is deployed and enabled by default in every Microsoft Windows operating...

blog.quarkslab.com



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Written by GhouLSec

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