

Alternate data streams

Used by Windows to manipulate registry

Paths:

C:\Windows\regedit.exe

Resources:

https://gist.github.com/api0cradle/cdd2d0d0ec9abb686f0e89306e277b8f

Acknowledgements:

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Detections:

- Sigma: proc_creation_win_regedit_import_keys_ads.yml
- IOC: regedit.exe reading and writing to alternate data stream
- IOC: regedit.exe should normally not be executed by end-users

Alternate data streams

1. Export the target Registry key to the specified .REG file.

regedit /E c:\ads\file.txt:regfile.reg HKEY_CURRENT_USER\MyCustomRegKey

Use case: Hide registry data in alternate data stream

Privileges required: User

Operating systems: Windows vista, Windows 7, Windows 8, Windows 8.1, Windows 10, Windows 11

ATT&CK® technique: T1564.004: NTFS File Attributes

2. Import the target .REG file into the Registry.

regedit C:\ads\file.txt:regfile.reg

Use case: Import hidden registry data from alternate data stream

Privileges required: User

Operating systems: Windows vista, Windows 7, Windows 8, Windows 8.1, Windows 10, Windows 11

ATT&CK® technique: T1564.004: NTFS File Attributes