Applying the Invisibility Cloak: Obfuscate C# Tools to Evade Signature-Based Detection

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Who am I?

Current Role

» Adversary Simulation, IBM X-Force Red

Previous Roles

Hobbies















How did this research come about?

Recent advances in security products and configurations

Needing to use public C# toolkits for post-exploitation activities without detection

- On-disk
- In memory

Who is this talk for?

Offense

Defense



Agenda

Background

Static Components of C# Tools

Changing Static Indicators

InvisibilityCloak

Demo

Defensive Considerations

Conclusion

Background

Public C# Tooling Use Cases

Reasons for Using Public C# Tools

- Do not have time to develop that functionality/capability in-house
- Creating private tool with similar functionality will not provide any benefits (aka re-inventing the wheel)
- Common Public C# Tools
- Rubeus Performing Kerberos-based attacks
 - https://github.com/GhostPack/Rubeus
- Seatbelt Host-based Situational Awareness
 - https://github.com/GhostPack/Seatbelt
- StandIn Active Directory recon and attacks
 - https://github.com/xforcered/StandIn
- SharPersist Persistence
 - https://github.com/fireeye/SharPersist

Current Security Controls for C# Tooling

Signature-based detection on-disk

Example: Antivirus

Signature-based detection in memory

Example: AMSI for .NET

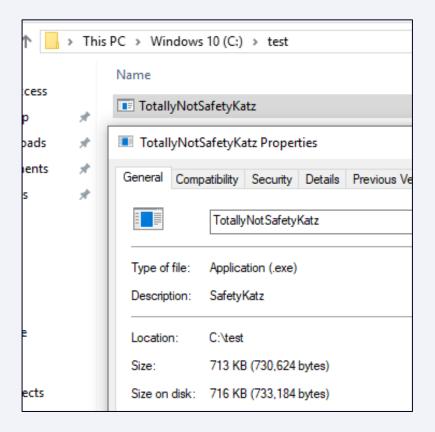
Enhanced Telemetry

Example: Event Tracing for Windows (ETW)

Static Components of C# Tools

Tool Name

- Name of tool can be used as a signature (e.g., SafetyKatz.exe)
- Not reliable as standalone detection.
- Tool name can be changed



Project GUID

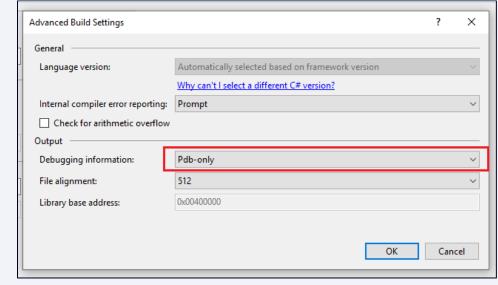
- C# projects in Visual Studio are assigned a unique "GUID"
- Better signature than tool name, but still not reliable as it can be changed
- Great resource from Brian Wallace
 - https://www.virusbulletin.com/virusbulle tin/2015/06/using-net-guids-help-huntmalware/

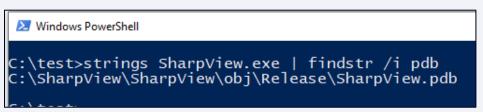
```
Seatbelt / Seatbelt.csproi
⊮ master ▼
    HarmJ0y Added CertificateThumbprints command ...
💫 🗱 😭 🦬 🥙
257 lines (257 sloc) | 13.7 KB
      <?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
      <Project ToolsVersion="14.0" DefaultTargets="Build" xmlns="http://schemas.mic</pre>
        <Import Project="$(MSBuildExtensionsPath)\$(MSBuildToolsVersion)\Microsoft.</pre>
        <PropertyGroup>
          <Configuration Condition=" '$(Configuration)' == '' ">Debug</Configuration</pre>
          <Platform Condition=" '$(Platform)' == '' ">AnyCPU</Platform>
         <ProjectGuid>{AEC32155-D589-4150-8FE7-2900DF4554C8}</projectGuid>
          <OutputType>Exe</OutputType>
          <AppDesignerFolder>Properties</appDesignerFolder>
          <RootNamespace>Seatbelt/RootNamespace>
```

```
Seatbelt
Copyright
2018
$aec32155-d589-4150-8fe7-2900df4554c8
1.0.0.0
```

PDB String

- Programmable database file (PDB) string
- PDB strings can give descriptive names to folders where tools compiled
- Great resource from @stvemillertime
 - https://www.fireeye.com/blog/threatresearch/2019/08/definitive-dossier-ofdevilish-debug-details-part-one-pdbpaths-malware.html





Variables and Methods

Variable names can be used as static indicator

```
SafetyKatz / SafetyKatz / Constants.cs / ⟨> Jump to ▼
    HarmJ0y Corrected namedspace, moved compressed Mimikatz.dll into a Constants...
Aয় 1 contributor
Executable File | 10 lines (9 sloc) | 350 KB
      using System;
      namespace SafetyKatz
          public static class Constants
              // compressed mimikatz.exe output from Out-CompressedDLL
              public static string compressedMimikatzString = "zL17fBNV+jg8aVJIoWUCNFC1apCoX
```

Variables and Methods

Method names can be used as static indicator

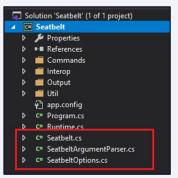
```
foreach (var key in MappedComputers.Keys)
        Remove_RemoteConnection(new Args_Remove_RemoteConnection { ComputerName = new[] { key } });
    return FoundFiles;
// the host enumeration block we're using to enumerate all servers
private static IEnumerable<FoundFile> _Find_InterestingDomainShareFile(string[] ComputerName, string[]
    var LogonToken = IntPtr.Zero;
    if (TokenHandle != IntPtr.Zero)
        // impersonate the the token produced by LogonUser()/Invoke-UserImpersonation
       LogonToken = Invoke_UserImpersonation(new Args_Invoke_UserImpersonation
            TokenHandle = TokenHandle,
            Quiet = true
     ar FoundFiles = new List<FoundFile>()
```

Strings and Classes

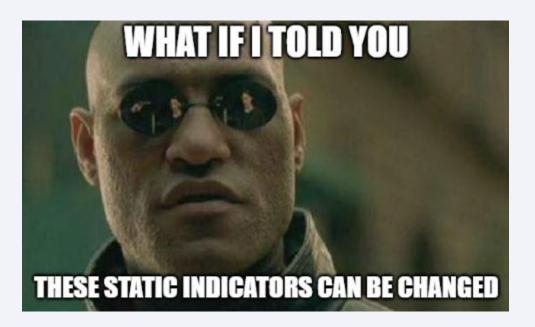
Strings can provide static indicator for detection



Class names can be used as piece of detection criteria



What If.....



Changing Static Indicators

String Manipulation - ROT13

Letter substitution cipher replacing letter with 13^{th} letter after it in alphabet (a – z)

Transformed string placed in C# code, and then deobfuscated at runtime

```
hawk@ubuntu:~ ×

>>> import codecs
>>> theString = "testing this!"
>>> rot13String = codecs.encode(theString, "rot_13")
>>> print(rot13String)
grfgvat guvf!
>>>
```

```
TestApp

    ** TestApp.Program

          ⊟using System;
           using System.Ling;
          ⊟namespace TestApp
                class Program
                    static void Main(string[] args)
                        string origString = new string("grfgvat guvf!".Select(x => (x >= 'a'
                        Console.WriteLine(origString);
                        Console.ReadKey();
                    } testing this!
```

String Manipulation - Base 64

Translate ASCII string into radix-64 representation

Transformed string placed in C# code, and then deobfuscated at runtime

```
hawk@ubuntu: ~ × hawk@ubuntu: ~ hawk@ubuntu: ~ × hawk@ubuntu: ~ × hawk@ubuntu: ~ hawk
```

String Manipulation - Reversal

Reverse the order of a given string

Transformed string placed in C# code, and then placed in correct order at runtime

```
hawk@ubuntu:~

>>> # method to reverse a given string
>>> def reverseString(s):
... str = ""
... for i in s:
... str = i + str
... return str
...
>>> theString = "testing this!"
>>> reversedString = reverseString(theString)
>>> print(reversedString)
!siht gnitset
```

Changing Project GUID

Generate new GUID

```
[10:41:25] hawk@ubuntu:~$ python3
Python 3.8.10 (default, Sep 28 2021, 16:10:42)
[GCC 9.3.0] on linux
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>> import uuid
>>> newGUID = str(uuid.uuid4())
>>> print(newGUID)
b8914973-6ad8-49cc-ab8b-f39a683b3fd0
>>>
```

Place new GUID in SLN file, C# proj file and AssemblyInfo.cs

```
Standin.sin 

Assemblyinfo.cs 

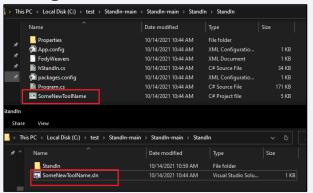
■
Microsoft Visual Studio Solution File, Format Version 12.00
# Visual Studio Version 16
VisualStudioVersion - 16.0.30503.244
MinimumVisualStudioVersion = 10.0.40219.1
Project("{FAE04EC0-301F-11D3-BF4B-00C04F79EFBC}") = "StandIn", "StandIn\StandIn.csproj", "{b8914<u>973-6ad8-49cc-ab8b-f39a683b3fd0}</u>
    GlobalSection(SolutionConfigurationPlatforms) = preSolution
       Release|Anv CPU = Release|Anv CPU
    GlobalSection(ProjectConfigurationPlatforms) = postSolution
       (b8914973-6ad8-49cc-ab8b-f39a683b3fd0) Release Any CPU.ActiveCfg = Release Any CPU
       {b8914973-6ad8-49cc-ab8b-f39a683b3fd0}.Release|Any CPU.Build.0 = Release|Any CPU
    GlobalSection(SolutionProperties) = preSolution
       HideSolutionNode = FALSE
    GlobalSection(ExtensibilityGlobals) = postSolution
        SolutionGuid = {391796AE-5AF2-45A9-A081-D82FF1A163C9}
EndGlobal
```

Changing Tool Name

Replace tool name in SLN file, C# proj file and AssemblyInfo.cs

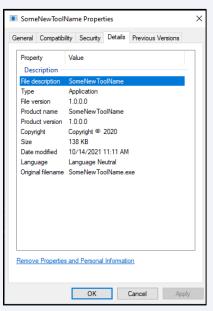
Changing Tool Name

Change file names



Compile tool





Remove PDB String

Modify "<DebugType>" in C# project file

```
SomeNewToolName
                No PDB string present when running strings
Copyright
  2020
$b8914973-6ad8-49cc-ab8b-f39a683b3fd0
1.0.0.0
.NETFramework, Version=v4.5
FrameworkDisplayName
.NET Framework 4.5
CorExeMain
mscoree.dll
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="yes"?>
<assembly xmlns="urn:schemas-microsoft-com:asm.v1" manifestVersion="1.0">
  <assemblyIdentity version="1.0.0.0" name="MyApplication.app"/>
  <trustInfo xmlns="urn:schemas-microsoft-com:asm.v2">
    <security>
     <requestedPrivileges xmlns="urn:schemas-microsoft-com:asm.v3">
       <requestedExecutionLevel level="asInvoker" uiAccess="false"/>
     </requestedPrivileges>
    </security>
  </trustInfo>
</assembly>
```

Automation...



InvisibilityCloak

Background

POC obfuscation toolkit for C# post-exploitation tools

 Changes tool name and project GUID, removes PDB string, obfuscates strings

Resources

- Tool: https://github.com/xforcered/InvisibilityCloak
- Blog:
 https://securityintelligence.com/posts/invisibilit
 y-cloak-obfuscate-c-tools-evade-signature-based-detection/



Challenges

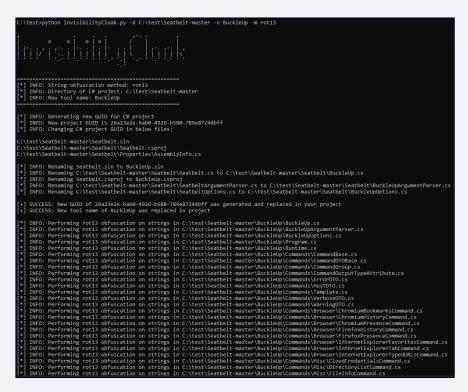
Many different ways to specify and use strings in C#

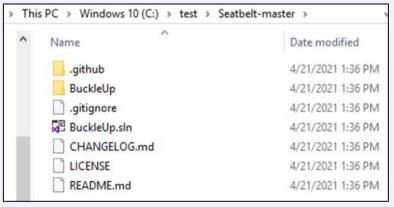
Evading signatures in method or variable names



Obfuscating Well-Signatured Public C# Toolkits

Example of running InvisibilityCloak on Seatbelt





Evading Static Signatures on Disk

Showing on-disk static detection between original Seatbelt and Seatbelt ran through InvisibilityCloak

https://github.com/matterpreter/DefenderCheck

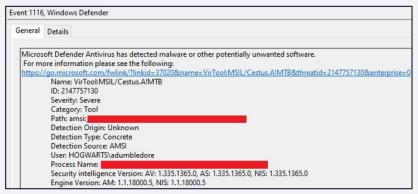
```
C:\test>DefenderCheck.exe Seatbelt.exe
Target file size: 547840 bytes
Analyzing...
 [!] Identified end of bad bytes at offset 0x61DE6 in the original file
File matched signature: "VirTool:MSIL/Cestus.A!MTB
                                                                        tcOffset.set Tim
00000010
                                                                        eZoneUtcOffset.t
00000020
                                                                         imeZoneUtcOffset
00000030
                                                                         ·GetUtcOffset · of
00000040
                                                                        fset · get_Right · s
00000050
                                                                        et Right PadRigh
00000060
00000070
                                                                        countsWithUserRi
08000000
                                                                        ght · get_LegalCop
00000090
                                                                        vright · legalCopy
                                     70
70
000000A0
                                                                        right op_Implici
000000в0
                                                                        t.op_Explicit.Sp
00000c0
            6E 54 69 6D 65 4C 69 6D 69 74 00 73 65 74 78 65 63 75 74 69 6F 6E 54 69 6D 65 4C 69 74 00 49 6E 69 74 00 53 65 61 74 62 65 6C
000000D0
000000E0
                                                                        xecutionTimeLimi
000000F0
                                                                        t.Init.Seatbelt.
C:\test>DefenderCheck.exe BuckleUp.exe
Target file size: 610304 bytes
Analyzing...
Exhausted the search. The binary looks good to go!
```



Evading Static Signatures in Memory

Showing AMSI for .NET in-memory detection between original Seatbelt and Seatbelt ran through InvisibilityCloak

```
beacon> execute-assembly /root/Toolkit/Seatbelt.exe
[*] Tasked beacon to run .NET program: Seatbelt.exe
[+] host called home, sent: 662059 bytes
[+] received output:
[-] Failed to load the assembly w/hr 0x8007000b
beacon> execute-assembly /root/Toolkit/BuckleUp.exe
[*] Tasked beacon to run .NET program: BuckleUp.exe
[+] host called home, sent: 1002539 bytes
[+] received output:
                    3366633%
n n
                                          ~~~~~~~#######*
%&%.....
#####*****
#######%##########
                     000
&%.....
BuckleUp
                 %%%333%%33
                               v1.1.1
                                          #%%%##.
Available commands (+ means remote usage is supported):\n
                     - Providers registered for AMSI
   + AMSIProviders
   + AntiVirus
                     - Registered antivirus (via WMI)
```



Alternative Options

Other Obfuscation Tools for .NET Tooling

- ConfuserEx https://github.com/yck1509/ConfuserEx
- RosFuscator https://github.com/Flangvik/RosFuscator

Disable AMSI and ETW

- https://github.com/xforcered/InlineExecute-Assembly
- https://github.com/boku7/injectEtwBypass

Demo



Defensive Considerations

Defensive Considerations

Attackers using public C# tools out of the box

- Host-based security product is fully up to date
- NET Framework v4.8 is installed (supports AMSI for .NET)
- Host-based security product supports AMSI for .NET

Attackers using modified public C# tools

- Focus on detection of techniques that tools perform
- Example: Rubeus can perform Kerberoasting (T1558.003 in MITRE ATT&CK)

Conclusion

Conclusion

Detections for C# tradecraft getting better, but still work to be done

Static detections for C# tools relatively easy to evade

Emphasize detection of techniques over tools

Questions?

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IBM