



Balancing Efficiency and Security - Unveiling the Risks in Cloud-Based Endpoint Management

Oleksandr Kazymyrov

Area41 Conference 2024





Oleksandr Kazymyrov 

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Bergen, Vestland, Norway · [Contact info](#)

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Who am I?



What does ChatGPT know about Oleksandr Kazymyrov? (OSINT Tool?)



Searched 4 sites ▾

Oleksandr Kazymyrov is a notable figure in the field of cybersecurity and cryptography. He currently serves as the Offensive Security Manager at Storebrand, where he leads efforts to identify and mitigate critical security vulnerabilities in systems and infrastructure. His role includes managing a red team program aimed at enhancing the organization's security posture and understanding its risks and vulnerabilities (Booster Conference 2024).

Kazymyrov has an extensive academic and professional background. He studied information security at Kharkiv National University of Radio Electronics and later pursued doctoral work at the University of Bergen. His research focuses on cryptographic primitives, and he has contributed significantly to the development of cryptographic standards in Ukraine, including the Kupyna hash function and the Kalyna block cipher (EPrint IACR) (Dr. Oleksandr Kazymyrov).

Additionally, he has published several papers on various topics in cybersecurity and cryptography, such as the analysis of algebraic attacks and the development of high-nonlinear S-boxes (Dr. Oleksandr Kazymyrov) (EPrint IACR). Kazymyrov is also an active participant in conferences and workshops, sharing his expertise and insights on offensive security tactics and strategies (Booster Conference 2024).

What about Storebrand?



Storebrand: Comprehensive Financial Services and Management

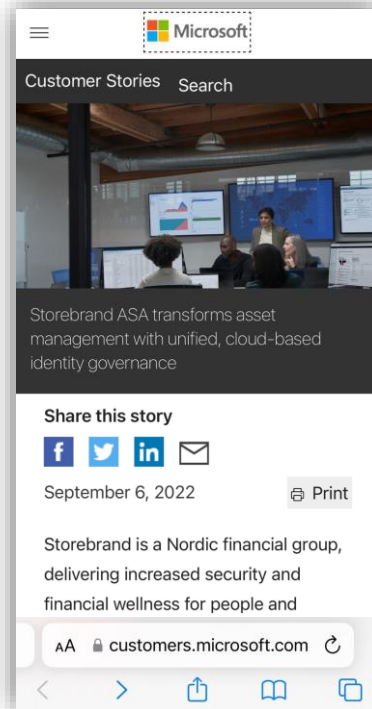
Overview:

- **Founded:** 1767
- **Headquarters:** Norway
- **Services:** Insurance, banking, asset management, and pensions
- **Focus:** Sustainability and ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) criteria

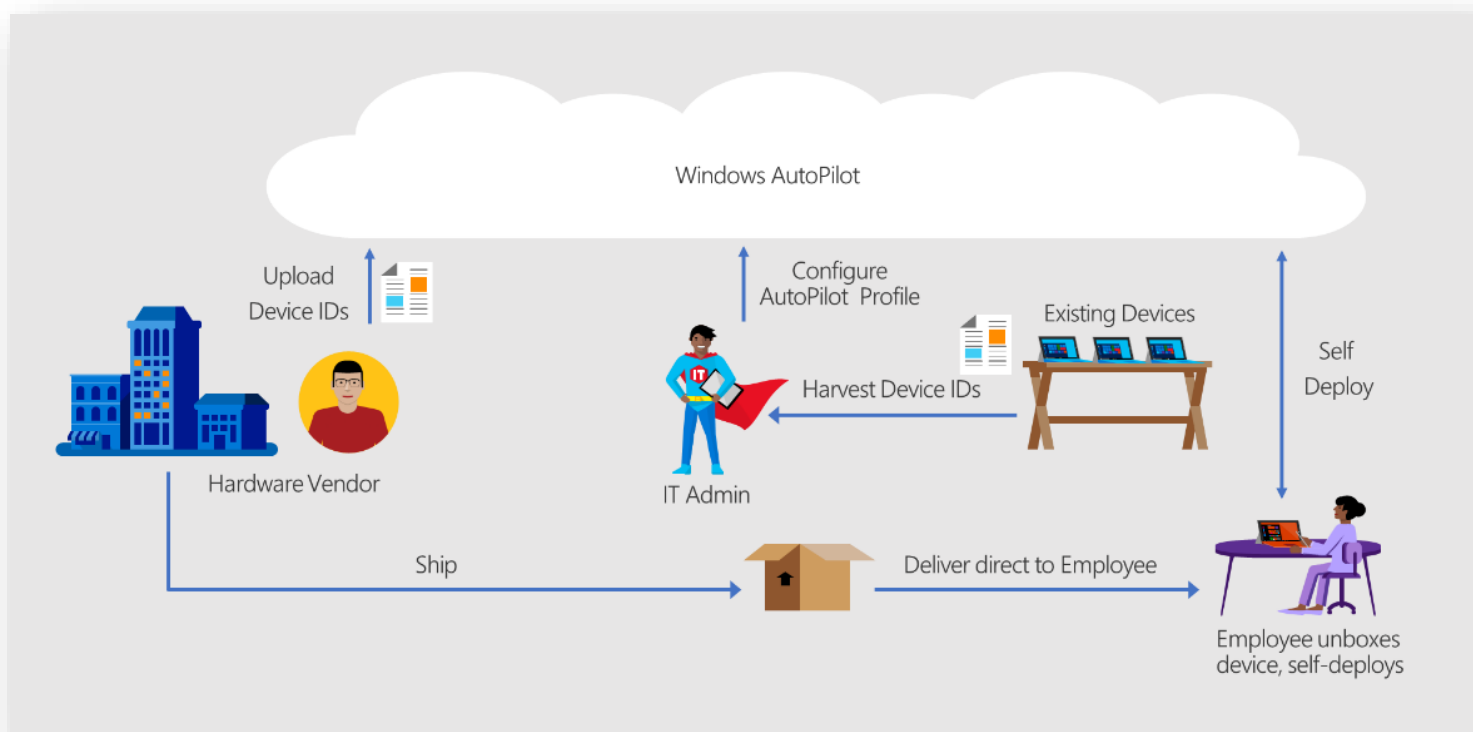
Asset Management:

Storebrand is renowned for its extensive asset management services. The company manages a diverse portfolio of assets, emphasizing sustainable and responsible investment strategies. Their approach involves integrating ESG factors into the investment process to promote long-term value creation and risk management.

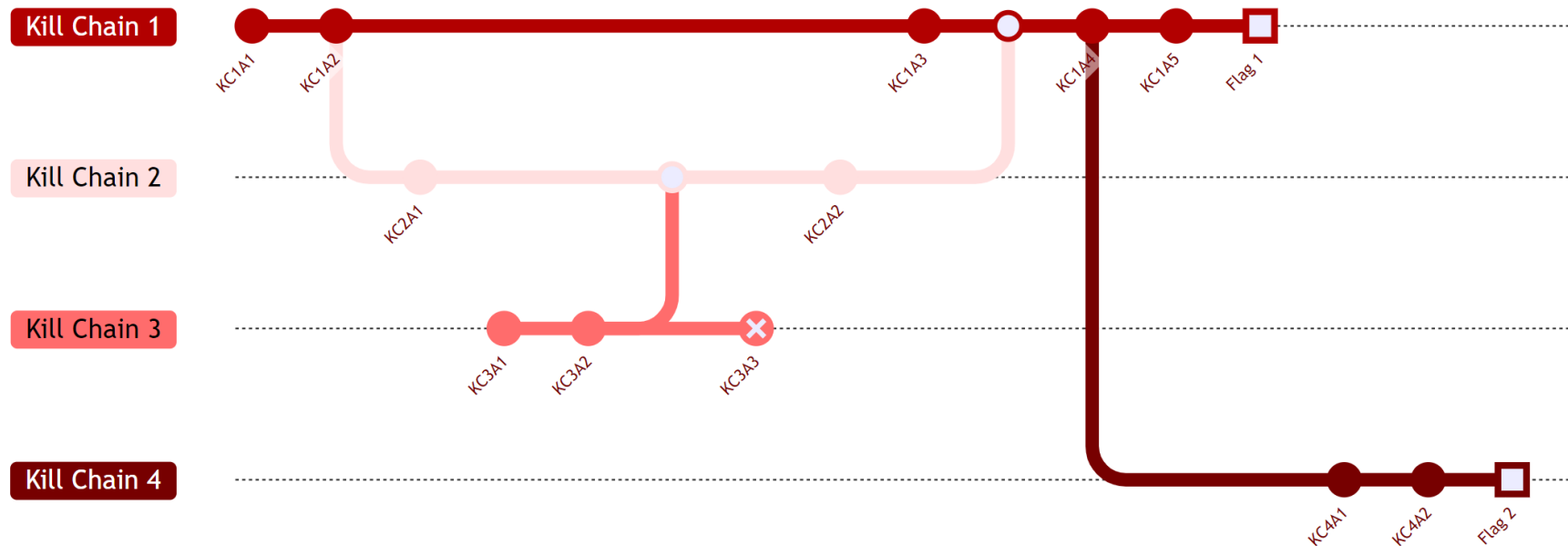
Storebrand in the cloud



Out-of-box experience (OOBE) via Intune



Cyber kill chain for offensive operations



Threat actors

Insider threat



Advance Persistence Threat



Environment



The principle of least privilege is followed



Microsoft Intune is used as Mobile Device Management (MDM)

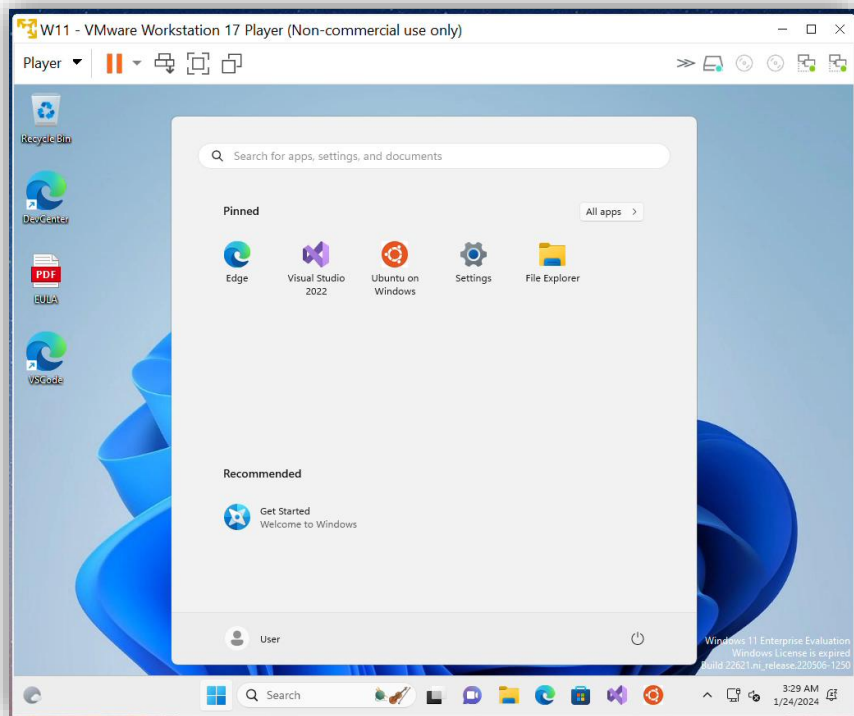


EDR is tuned

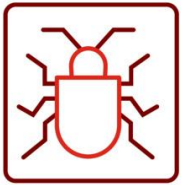


Requirements for compliant device in Conditional Access in Microsoft Entra ID

Bypassing compliant device using VMWare



Threat and goal



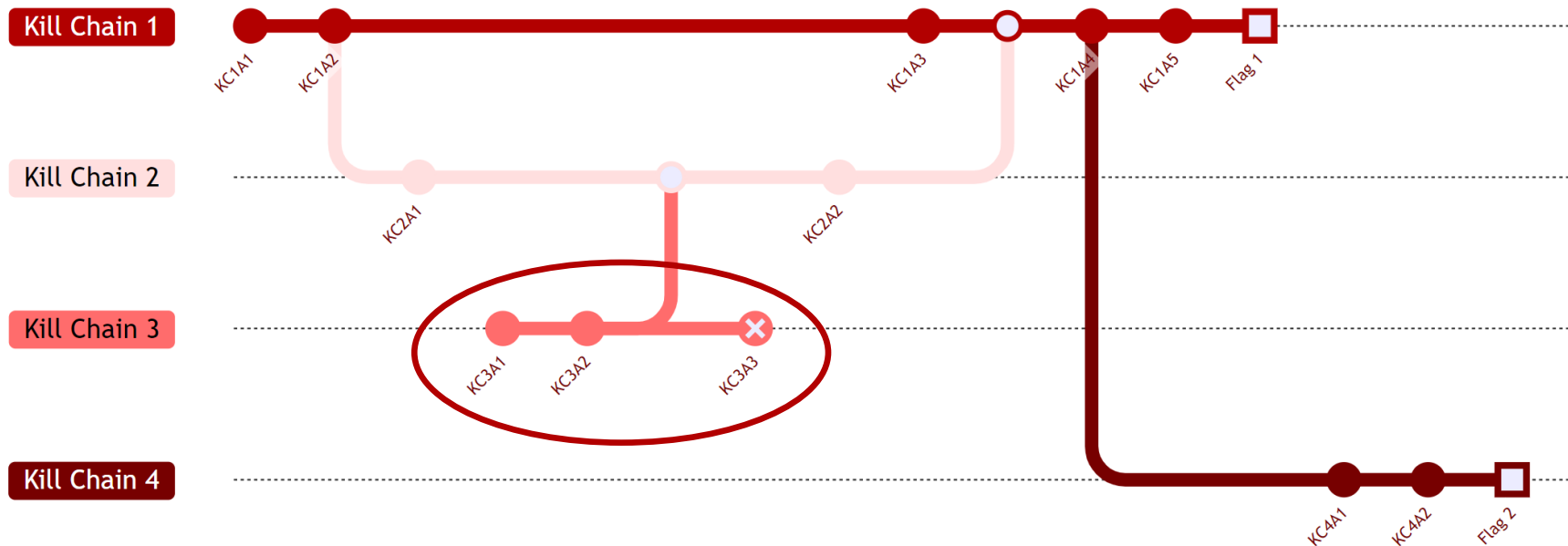
An insider threat or an advanced persistent threat (APT) with physical access to a PC could deploy a backdoor or rootkit.

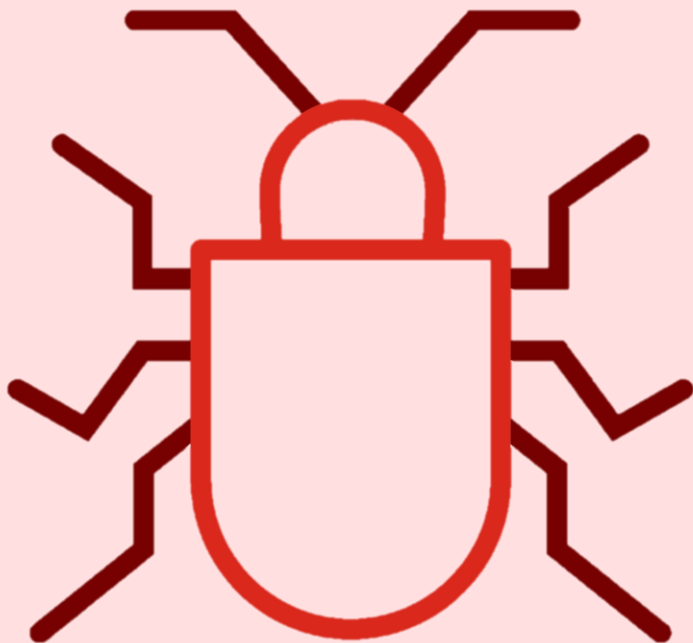


Evaluate the current configuration of MDM from an adversary's perspective using the 'assume breach' approach



The goal from the offensive perspective





“

Using the example of creating a user with administrative privileges simply serves to illustrate the concept of a backdoor. In practical scenarios, a more sophisticated approach would involve deploying a Remote Access Trojan (RAT) equipped with rootkit capabilities, which could embed itself in the kernel space, offering deeper control and concealment.

Backdoor note

Option 1: collect logs

Collect logs

You can enable the ability for users to collect ESP logs in the ESP policy. When a timeout occurs in the ESP, the user can select the option to **Collect logs**. Log files can be copied to a USB drive.

You can also collect logs through a Command Prompt window on the device. If you are in OOBE on a non-S mode device, press Shift+F10.

Enter the appropriate command, based on your scenario:

- For all Autopilot scenarios and ESP:

On Windows 10 versions earlier than 1809, enter `licensingdiag.exe`.

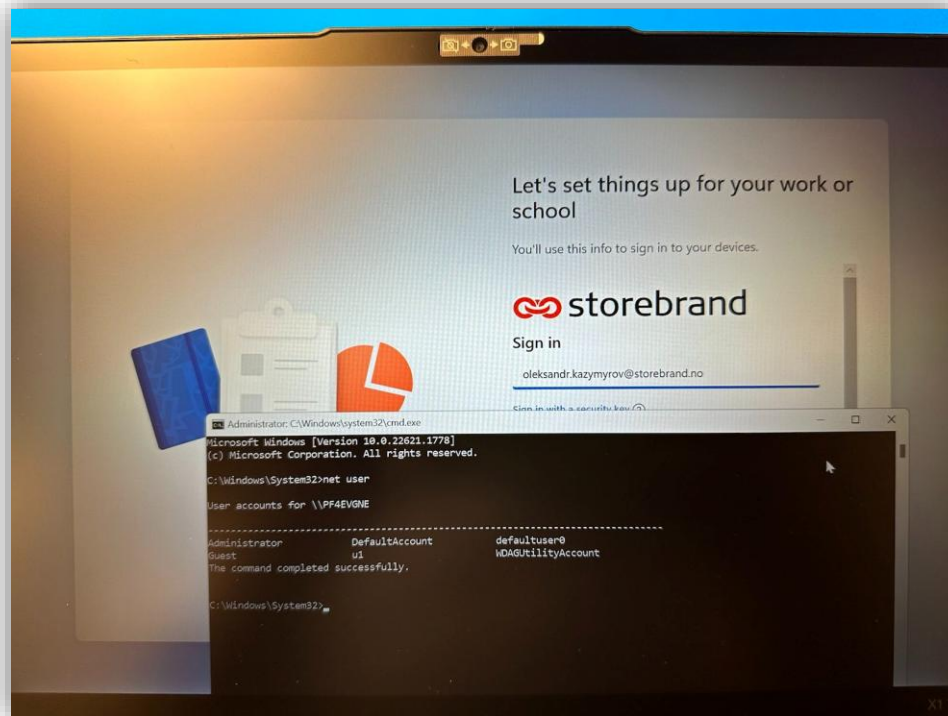
On Windows 10, version 1809 and later versions:

- For user-driven mode, enter the following command:

```
mdm diagnosticstool.exe -area Autopilot -cab <pathToOutputCabFile>
```

- For self-deploying, white glove, and any other scenarios in which a physical device is used, enter the following command:

```
mdm diagnosticstool.exe -area Autopilot;TPM -cab <pathToOutputCabFile>
```



Prevent privileged escalation during OOB

Prevent privileged escalation during OOB

Today's blog post concerns a security risk often overlooked by IT admins and organizations. It involves **creating a local admin account** using OOB **during** or **before** deploying a device—a critical aspect that, in my opinion, needs to be addressed. Read the blog post to prevent privileged escalation during OOB or unauthorized access and enhance security.

<https://call4cloud.nl/>

2022-03 Update: The Search for Sp... Uhh Shift+F10

by: rudyooms - March 17, 2022

Last Updated on May 22, 2023 by [rudyooms](#)

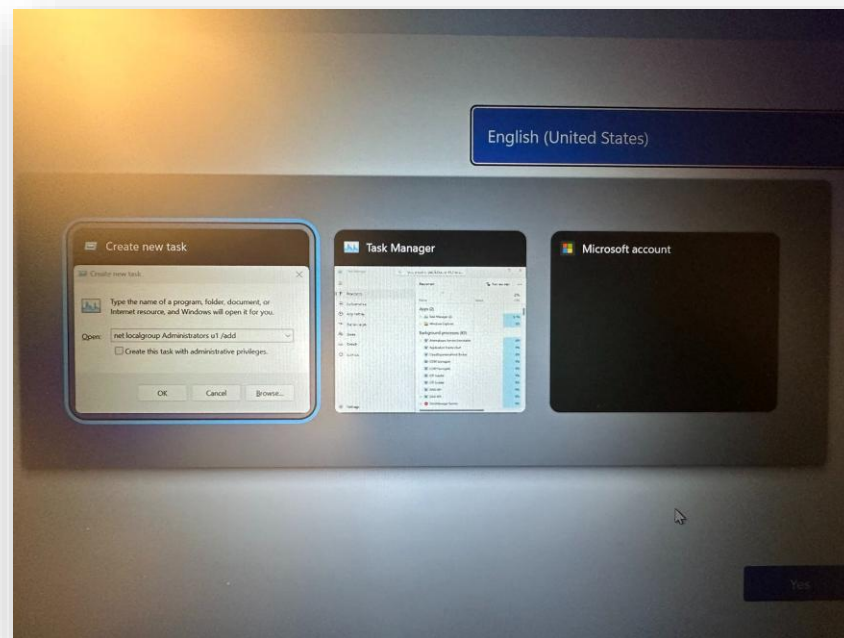
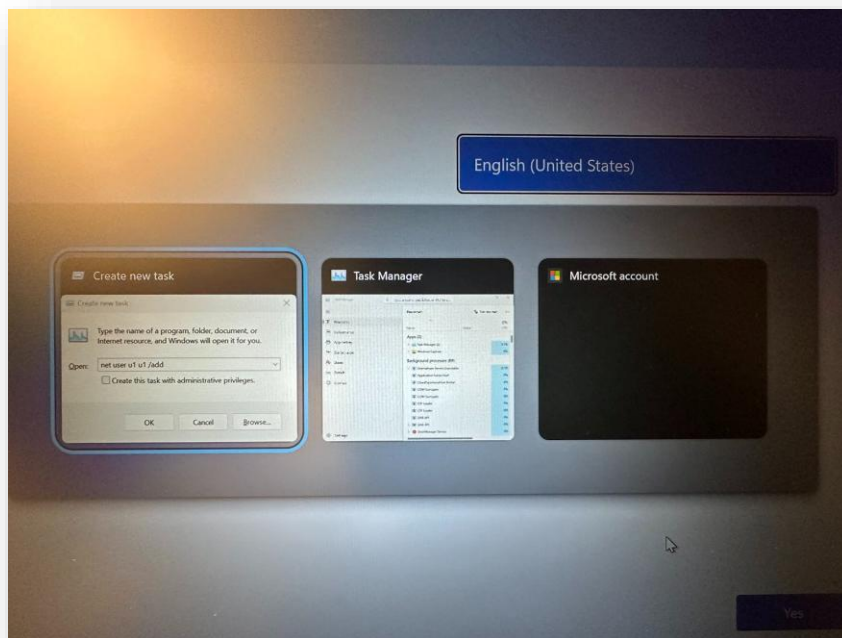
This blog will be about Microsoft's **"their" solution** to remove the lingering Windows.old folder after a remote wipe. I noticed that when using Microsoft their solution, my older solution to **block the shift+F10** functionality will be disabled. This solution was also using the **Push-Button reset** options

I will divide this blog into multiple parts

<https://www.bilalelhaddouchi.nl/>

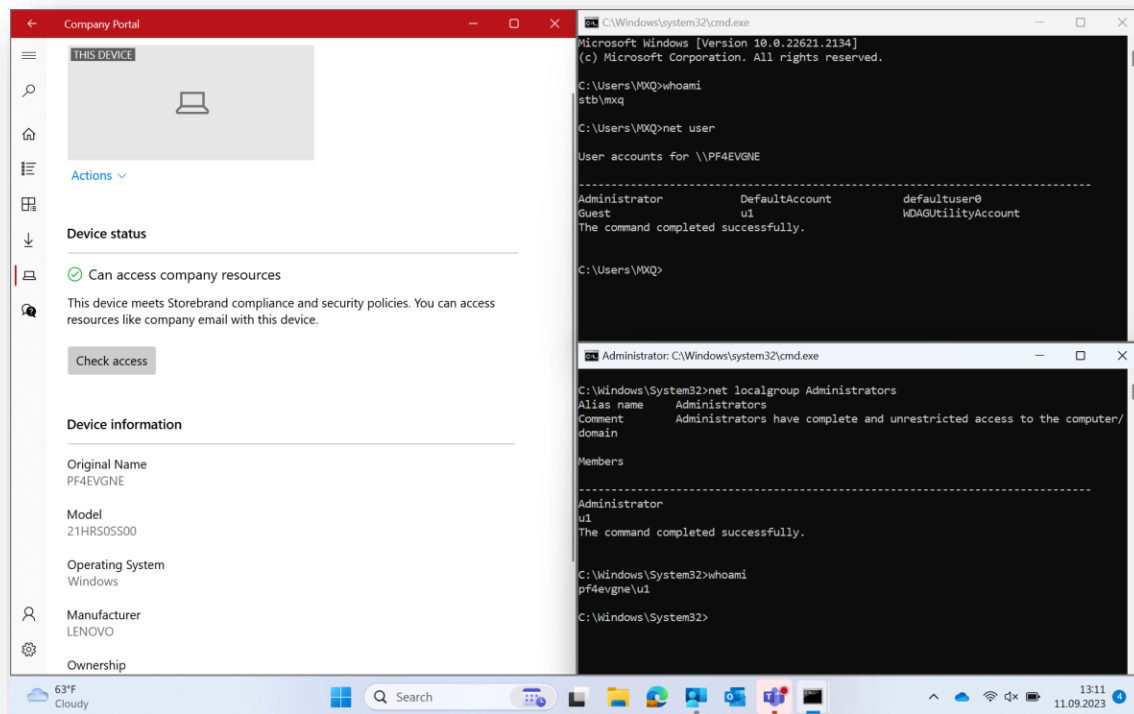


Option 2: Blind command injection



Ctrl + Shift + Esc → Alt + N → CMD

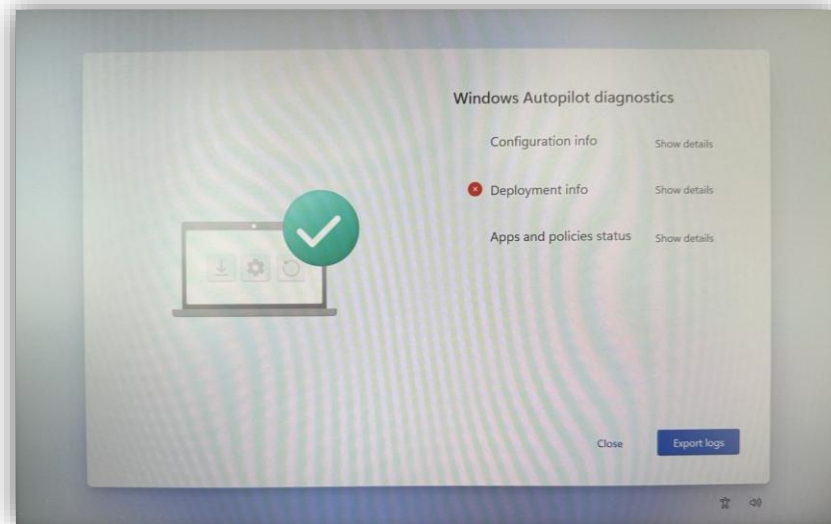
Option 2: Blind command injection



Option 3: Windows Autopilot diagnostics

Run a privileged command line

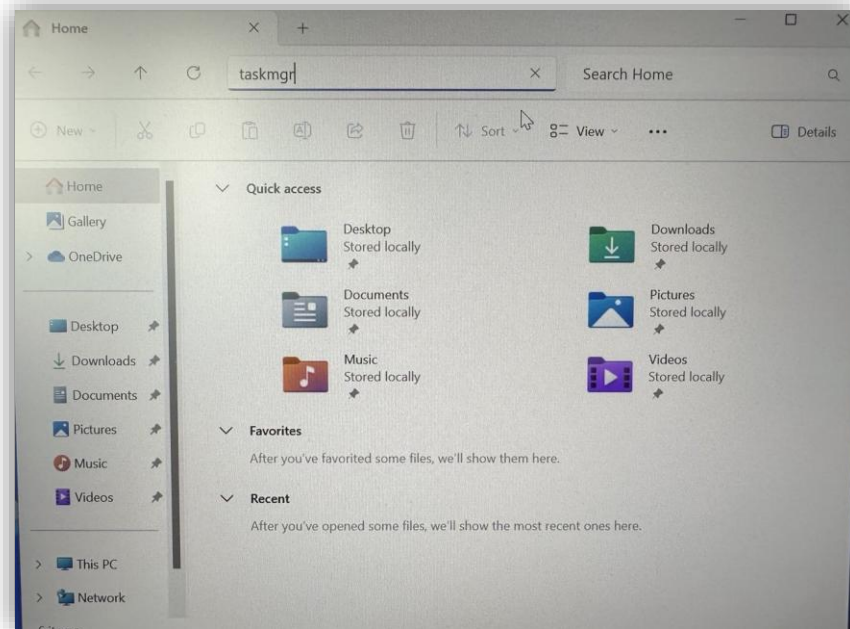
1. Ctrl-Shift-D → Export logs



Option 3: Windows Autopilot diagnostics

Run a privileged command line

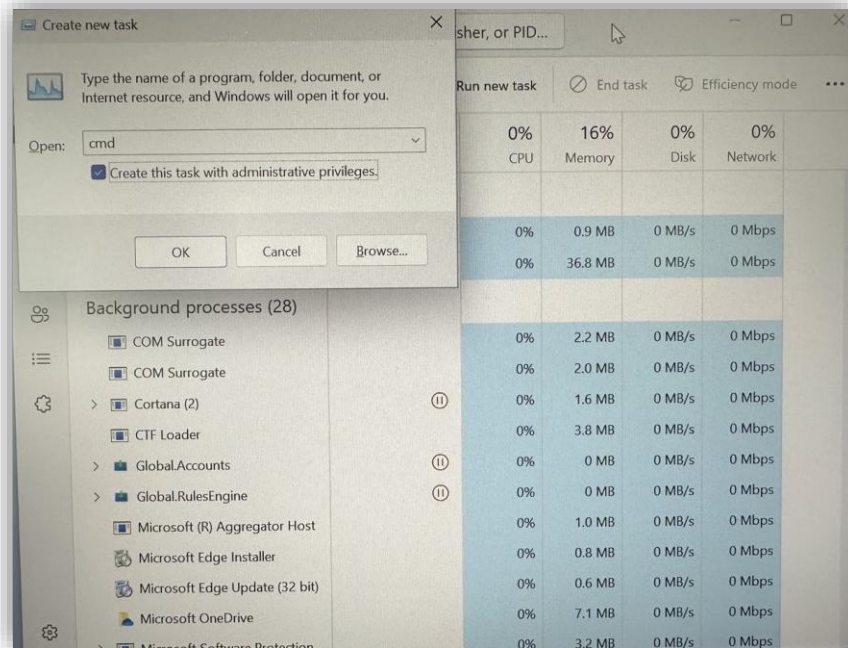
1. Ctrl-Shift-D → Export logs
2. Right click Local Disc (C:) → Open in new window
3. Alt + Tab (choose explorer)
4. Ctrl + L → taskmgr → Enter



Option 3: Windows Autopilot diagnostics

Run a privileged command line

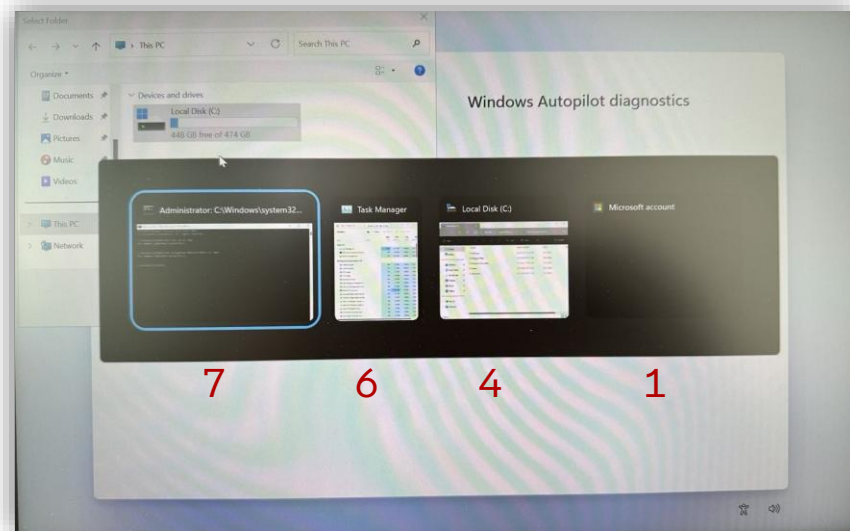
1. Ctrl-Shift-D → Export logs
2. Right click Local Disc (C:) → Open in new window
3. Alt + Tab (choose explorer)
4. Ctrl + L → taskmgr → Enter
5. Alt + Tab (choose taskmgr)
6. Alt + n → cmd → Tab → Space → Enter



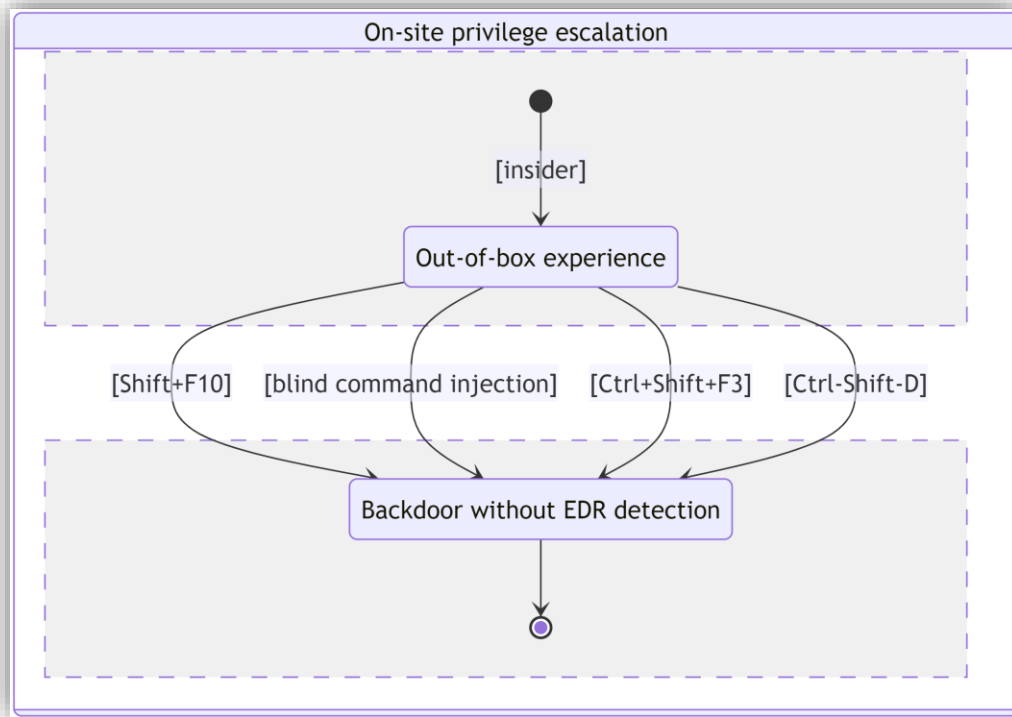
Option 3: Windows Autopilot diagnostics

Run a privileged command line

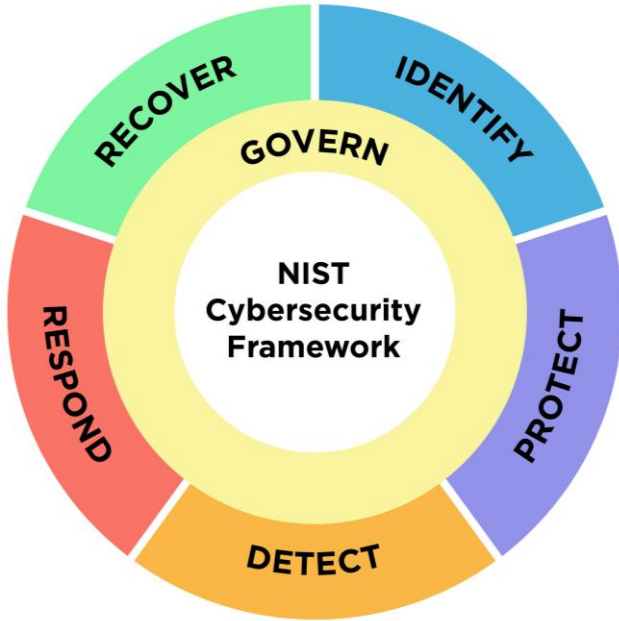
1. Ctrl-Shift-D → Export logs
2. Right click Local Disc (C:) → Open in new window
3. Alt + Tab (choose explorer)
4. Ctrl + L → taskmgr → Enter
5. Alt + Tab (choose taskmgr)
6. Alt + n → cmd → Tab → Space → Enter
7. Inject a backdoor
`net user u1 u1 /add`
`net localgroup Administrators u1 /add`



High-level overview: OOB

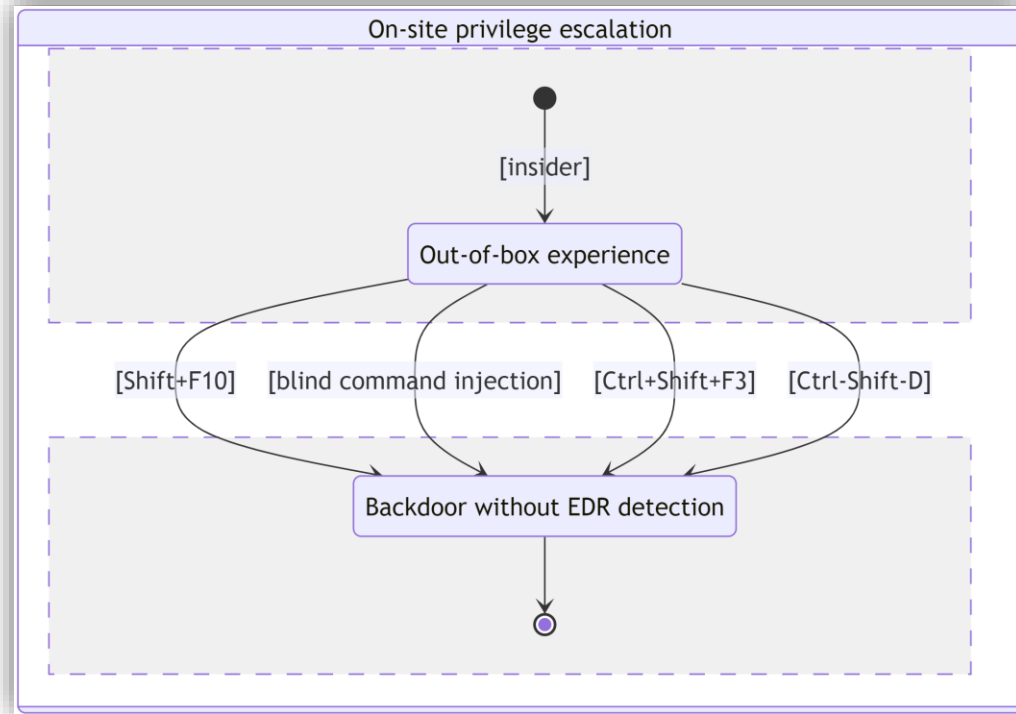


NIST CSF 2.0

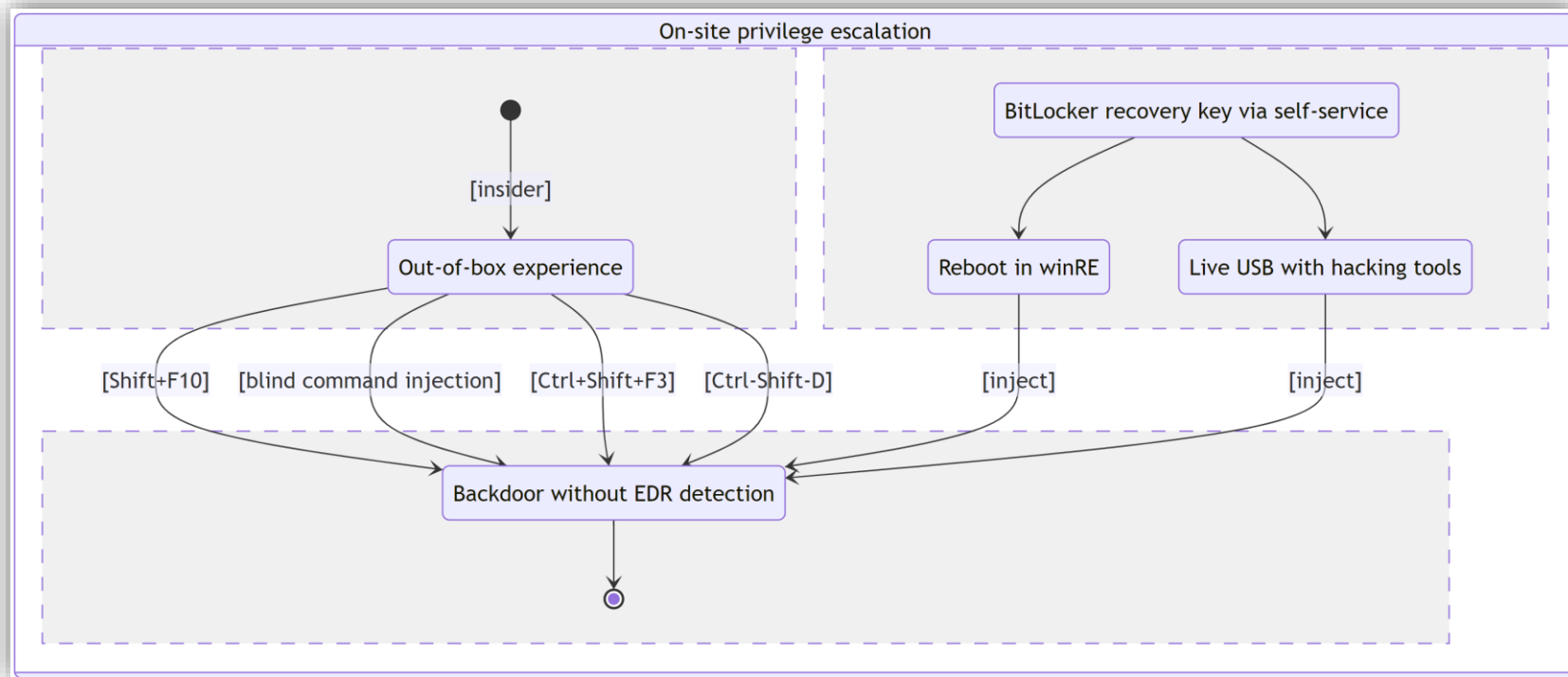


- Identify
 - A backdoor can be implanted during OOB
- Protect
 - Numerous methods to cope with individual issues
- Detect
 - Threat hunting on PC resets
- Respond
 - Correlation with valid requests
 - Initiate insider threat investigation
- Recovery
 - Containment and eradication of identities and assets
- Govern
 - Establish/maintain procedures and playbooks

High-level overview



High-level overview



Finding your BitLocker recovery key

The screenshot shows a web browser at the URL <https://myaccount.microsoft.com/device-list>. The page is for a user named Kazymyrov, Oleksandr. The left sidebar contains navigation links: 'Oversikt', 'sikkerhetsinformasjon', 'Enheter' (selected), 'Passord', 'Organisasjoner', and 'Innstillinger og person...'. The main content area is titled 'Enheter' and contains a list of devices. One device, 'PF4EVGNE', is highlighted. A modal window is open on the right, titled 'BitLocker-nøkler for PF4EVGNE'. It shows the 'Operativsystemstasjon' and the 'Nøkkel-ID: 4489b201-eaf4-403a-b89c-1ba7c5cb6685'. A blue button labeled 'Vis gjenopprettingsnøkkel' is visible.

storebrand | Min konto ▾

Kazymyrov, Oleksandr
oleksandr.kazymyrov@stor...

Oversikt

sikkerhetsinformasjon

Enheter

Passord

Organisasjoner

Innstillinger og person...

Enheter

Hvis du mister en enhet eller ikke lenger bruker den, kan du kontakte administratoren for å deaktivere den.

Enhetsnavn	Operativsystem
PF4EVGNE	Windows

Enheten administreres av Intune.

[Vis BitLocker-nøkler](#)

BitLocker-nøkler for PF4EVGNE

Operativsystemstasjon

Nøkkel-ID:
4489b201-eaf4-403a-b89c-1ba7c5cb6685

[Vis gjenopprettingsnøkkel](#)

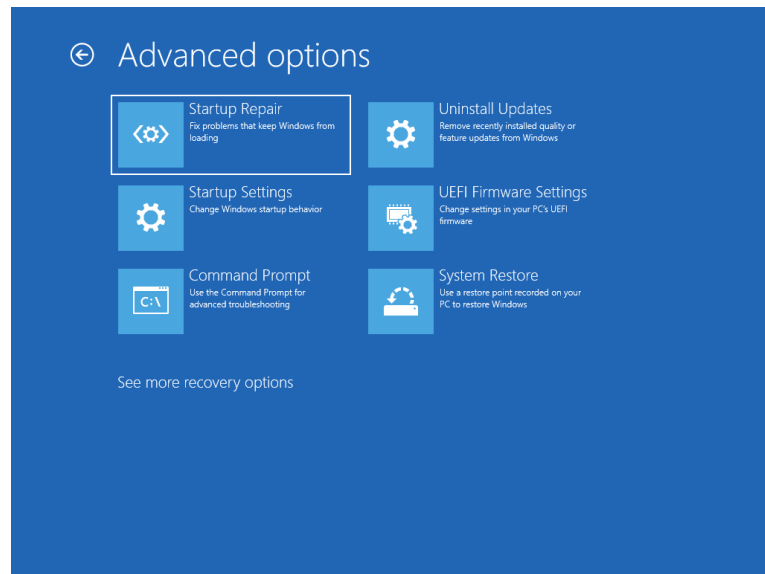
Windows Recovery Environment (winRE)

Recovery Mode

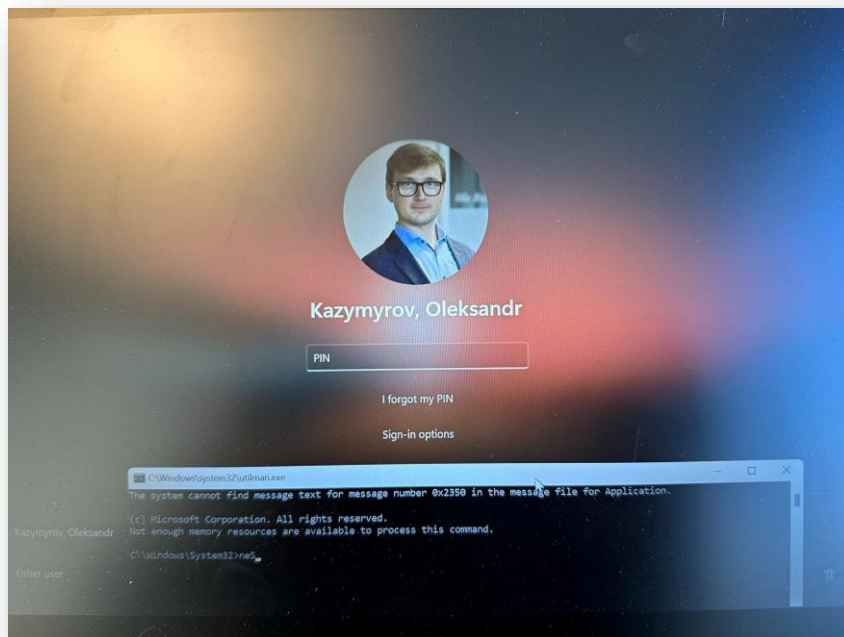
1. Hold down the power button for 10 seconds to turn off your device.
2. Press the power button again to turn on your device.
3. On the first sign that Windows has started (for example, some devices show the manufacturer's logo when restarting) hold down the power button for 10 seconds to turn off your device.
4. Press the power button again to turn on your device.
5. When Windows starts again, hold down the power button for 10 seconds to turn off your device.
6. Press the power button again to turn on your device.
7. This time, allow your device to fully start up.

Source: [Recovery options in Windows](#)

Command prompt



Using Utilman.exe backdoor



PoC: OpSec insecure

Storebrand IT : Your device is non-compliant

Dear colleague,

The device listed below is currently not in compliance with our IT Security policies. You need to remediate this issue within 12 hours or you will loose access to company data.

Please open Company Portal app and follow the steps to remediate your compliance issues or contact Storebrand IT Support for assistance.

Best regards,

Storebrand IT Support

Norway +47 22311150 & Sweden +46 84517771

Device Details:

OS family: Windows

OS version: 10.0.22000.1455

Model: 21CD0014MX

Serial number: PF40931S

Device name: PF40931S

Live USB

Live USB with Linux

1. Disable Secure Boot
2. Load from Live USB (Kali)
3. Use **dislocker** to unlock disk using password or recovery key
4. Use **chntpw** to activate and clean password for Administrator
5. Enable Secure Boot
6. Load normally

chntpw



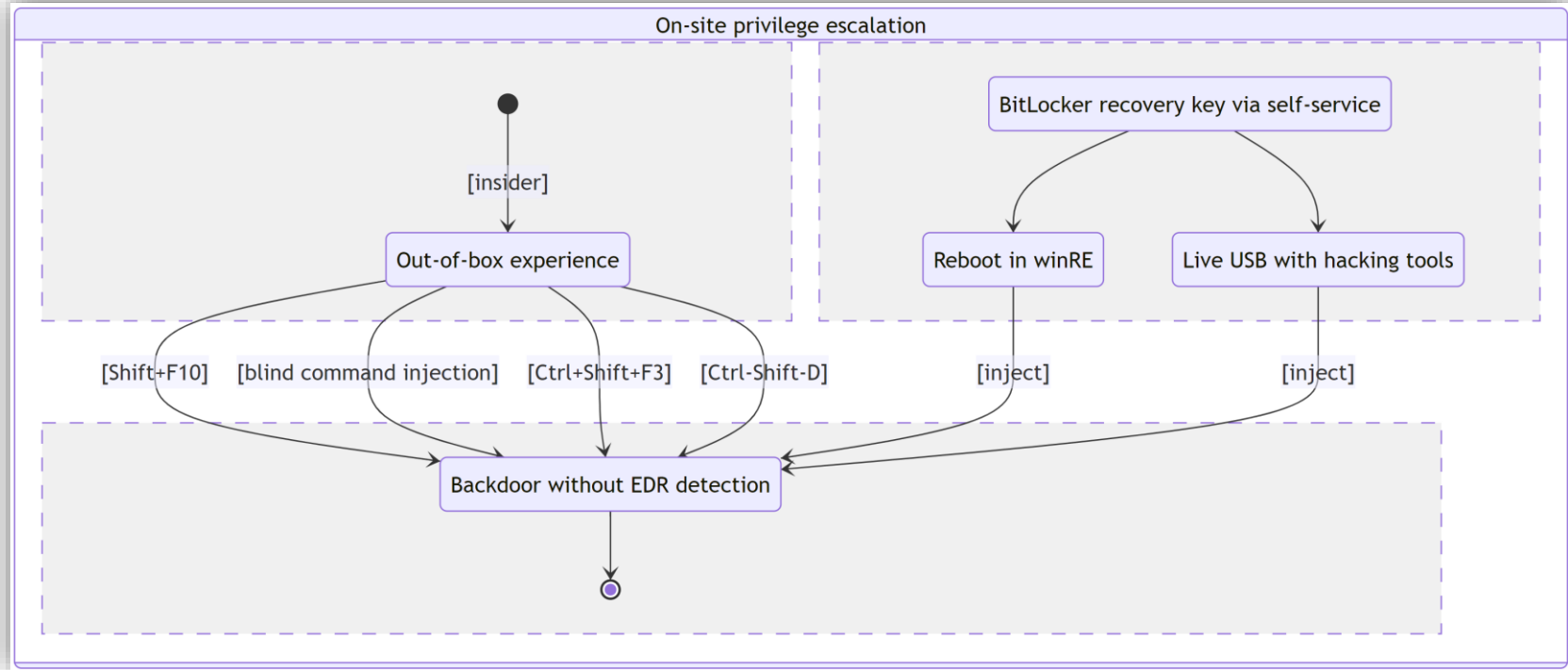
EDR after changes over Live USB

The screenshot shows the Microsoft Defender Security Center interface for a device named **pf3w3bqw**. The device status is **Active** (green dot) and **win11**. The **Incidents and alerts** tab is selected. A yellow banner at the top states: "Defender for Cloud alerts and incidents are now available in Microsoft Defender XDR. For non-admin users to view them, give unified RBAC permissions. [Learn more about permissions.](#)" with a **Set permissions** button. Below the banner, there is an **Export** button, a search bar "Search for name or ID", and links for **Customize columns** and **6 Months**. The **Filter set** is **Save**, and there is an **Add filter** button. At the bottom, there are dropdown menus for **Incident name**, **Incide...**, **Tags**, **Severity**, and **Investigation**.

The screenshot shows the Windows Task Manager **Users** tab. It displays a table of user resource usage. The table has columns for **User**, **Status**, **CPU**, **Memory**, **Disk**, and **Network**. The **Administrator** user is shown with 0,2% CPU, 859,5 MB Memory, 0,1 MB/s Disk, and 0 Mbps Network. The **MXQ (53)** user is shown with 12,2% CPU, 893,9 MB Memory, 0,8 MB/s Disk, and 0,3 Mbps Network. The **MXQ (53)** user is expanded, showing a list of processes.

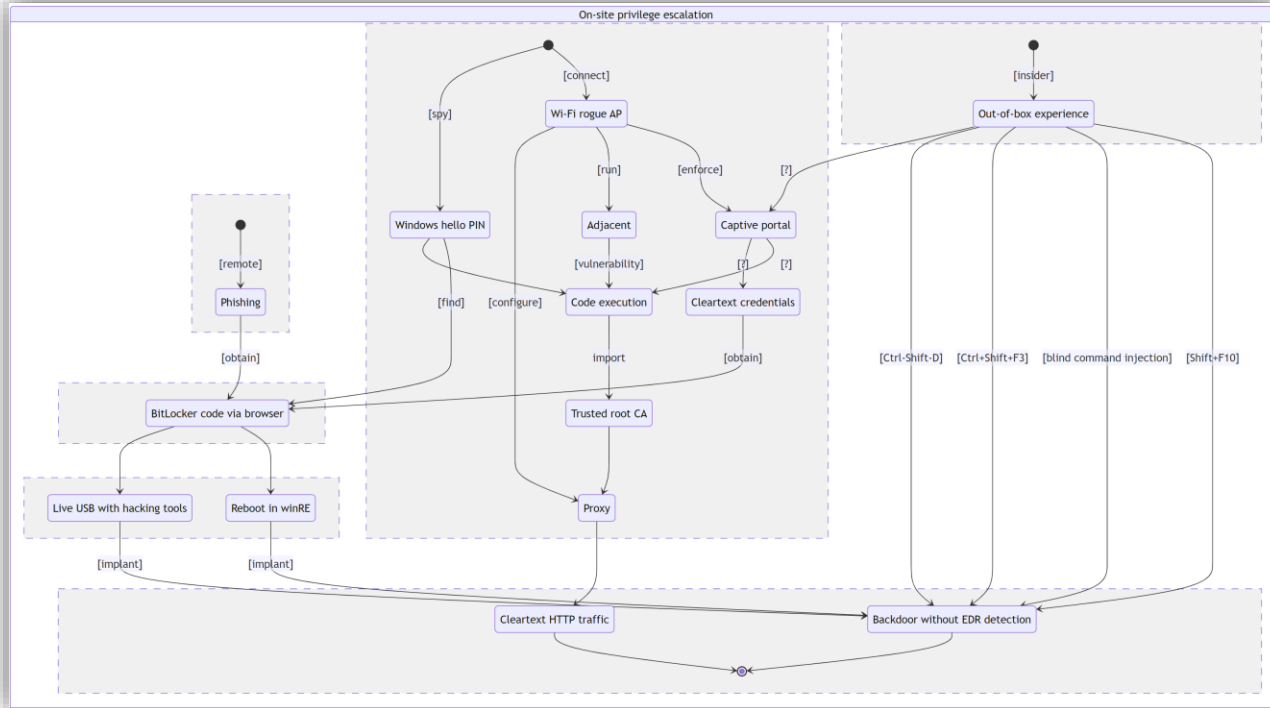
User	Status	CPU	Memory	Disk	Network
Administrator		0,2%	859,5 MB	0,1 MB/s	0 Mbps
> MXQ (53)		12,2%	893,9 MB	0,8 MB/s	0,3 Mbps

Zoom out



"A blue elephant joyfully dancing on the roof of a building "

Zoom out



Conclusions

- Bug Or Feature: Privilege Escalation In Windows Autopilot (2020)

"We have completed our investigation and found the issue submitted to us is not a security issue and is by design; this issue doesn't meet security servicing bug bar." © Microsoft

- Split effort (ref. the Pareto principle): Detect/Respond (20%) Protect (80%)

