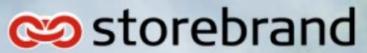


# Balancing Efficiency and Security - Unveiling the Risks in Cloud-Based Endpoint Management

Oleksandr Kazymyrov  
Area41 Conference 2024





## Oleksandr Kazymyrov

Information Security Expert

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

500+ connections



[Open to](#)

[Add profile section](#)

[More](#)

# 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

**Microsoft**

Pulse

**TRANSFORMER  
BEDRIFTSOPTIMALISERING**

## Storebrand flyttet over 1000 milliarder kroner til skyen med Azure

f t in m s

AA [pulse.microsoft.com](https://pulse.microsoft.com) ↻

< > ↗ ↘ ↗ ↘

A screenshot of the Microsoft Pulse news feed. It features a large image of four people in a modern office environment. Below the image is a yellow banner with the text "TRANSFORMER" and "BEDRIFTSOPTIMALISERING". The main headline reads "Storebrand flyttet over 1000 milliarder kroner til skyen med Azure". At the bottom are social media sharing icons and a link to the article.

**E24** | Børs Bli abonnent

## Storebrand flytter hele kapitalforvaltningen ut i skyen

Som en av de første kapitalforvalterne i verden har Storebrand flyttet hele kapitalforvaltningen ut i en sky, noe som skal gi «uante muligheter». Nå vil flere banker følge etter.

AA [e24.no](https://e24.no) ↻

< > ↗ ↘ ↗ ↘

A screenshot of the E24 news website. The headline is "Storebrand flytter hele kapitalforvaltningen ut i skyen". The text below discusses how Storebrand is one of the first asset managers in the world to move its entire asset management to the cloud, providing "fantastic opportunities". It mentions that other banks will follow. At the bottom are navigation and sharing icons.

**Microsoft**

Customer Stories Search

Storebrand ASA transforms asset management with unified, cloud-based identity governance

Share this story

September 6, 2022

Print

AA [customers.microsoft.com](https://customers.microsoft.com) ↻

< > ↗ ↘ ↗ ↘

A screenshot of the Microsoft Customer Stories website. It shows a video thumbnail of a team working in an office. The text below the video says "Storebrand ASA transforms asset management with unified, cloud-based identity governance". There is a "Share this story" section with links to social media and a "Print" button. At the bottom are navigation and sharing icons.

**FINANSWATCH** Siste Søk Logg inn Meny

10.07.2023 | kl. 15:01 BANK

## Storebrand flytter Swift til skyen

Storebrand migrerer i disse dager infrastrukturen til Swift fra fysiske datasentre til en skybasert løsning.

TRYGGERE: – Vi sparer selvagt noe i året på å kutte ut serverne. Det viktigste er imidlertid at internasjonale pengetransaksjoner nå er både tryggere og enklere å drifta, sier konserndirektør Trygve Håkedal i Storebrand. | Foto: Storebrand

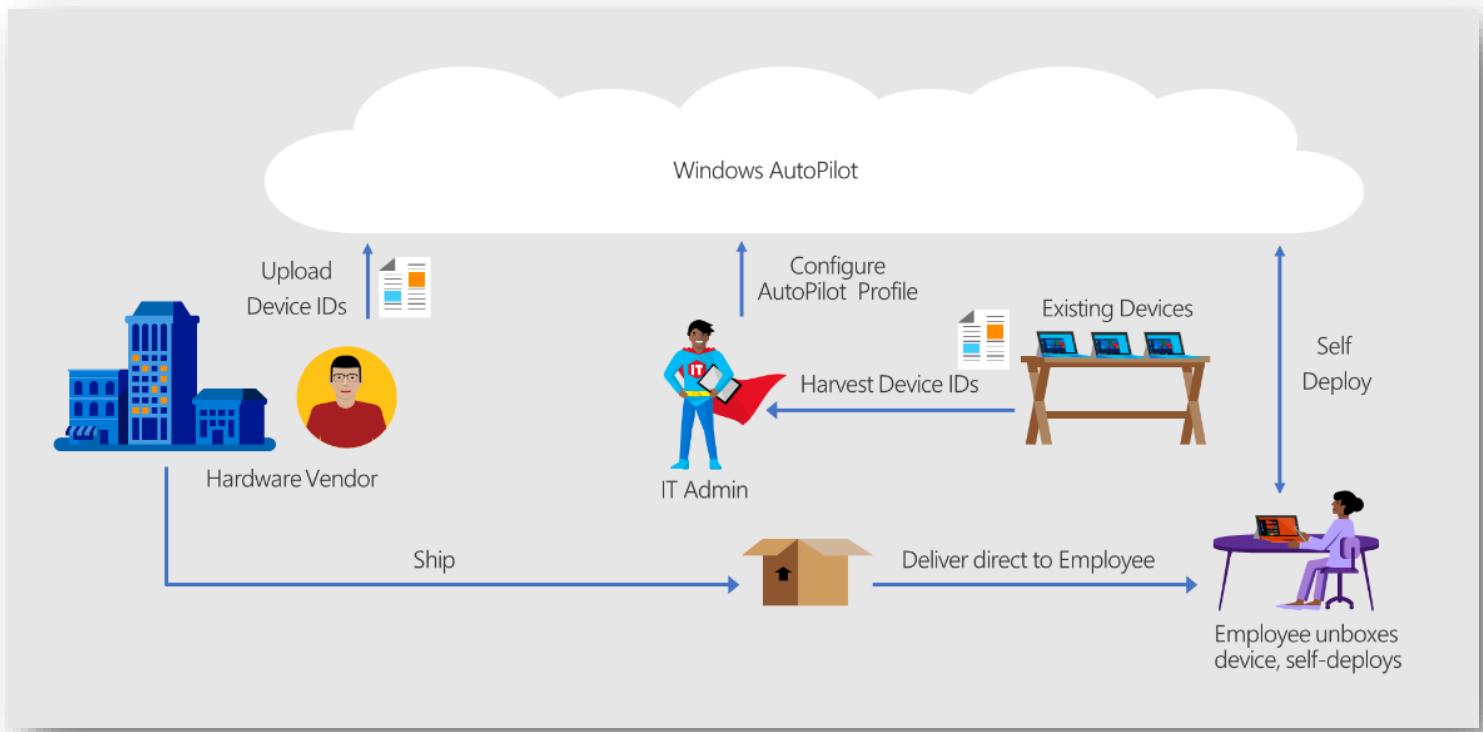
AA [finanswatch.no](https://finanswatch.no) ↻

< > ↗ ↘ ↗ ↘

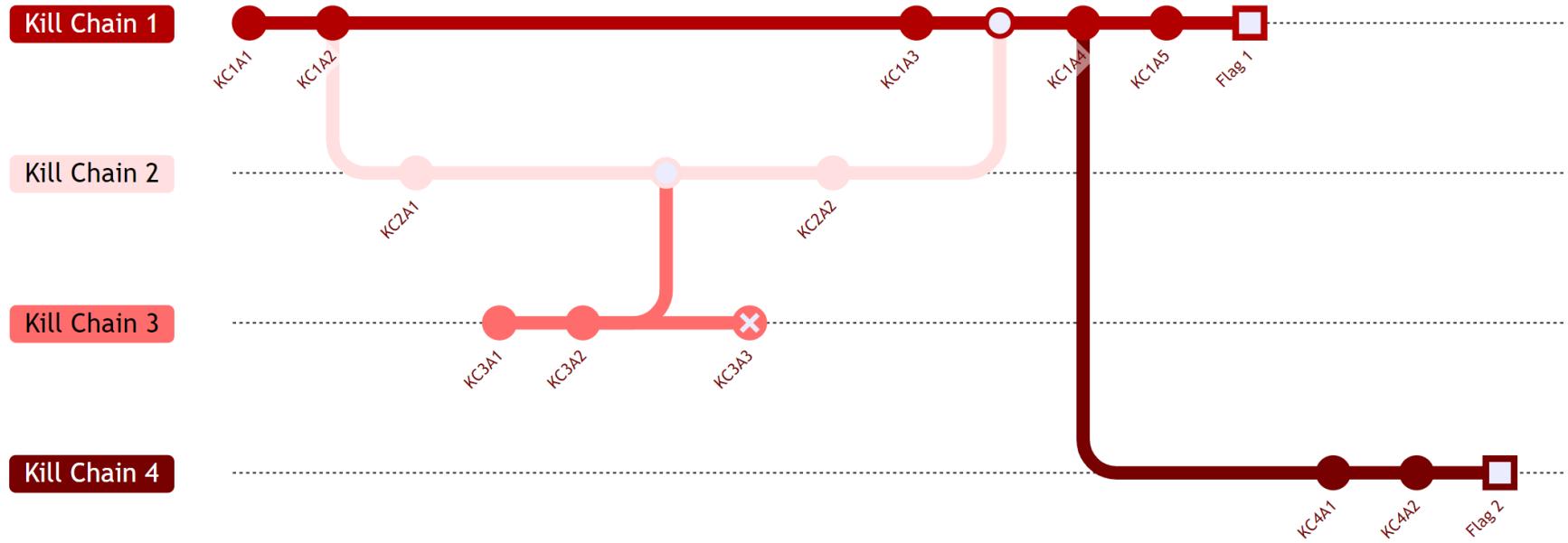
A screenshot of the FINANSWATCH news website. The headline is "Storebrand flytter Swift til skyen". The text discusses the migration of Storebrand's infrastructure to the cloud from physical data centers. It quotes Trygve Håkedal, CEO of Storebrand, saying they save money and make international payments faster and safer. At the bottom are navigation and sharing icons.



# Out-of-box experience (OOBE) via Intune

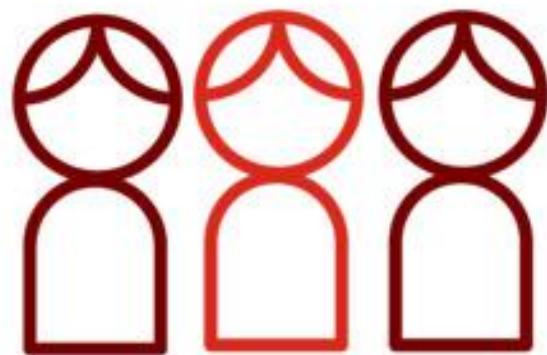


# Cyber kill chain for offensive operations



# Threat actors

Insider threat



Advance Persistence Threat



# Environment



The principle of least privilege is followed



Microsoft Intune is used as Mobile Device Management (MDM)

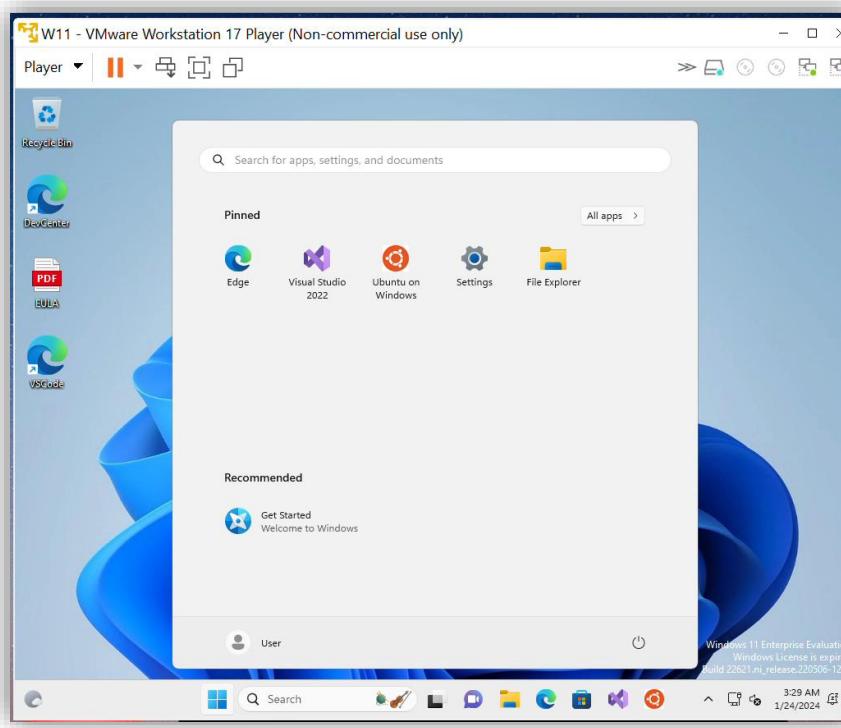


EDR is tuned

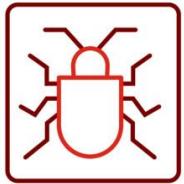


Requirements for compliant device in Conditional Access in Microsoft Entra ID

# 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.



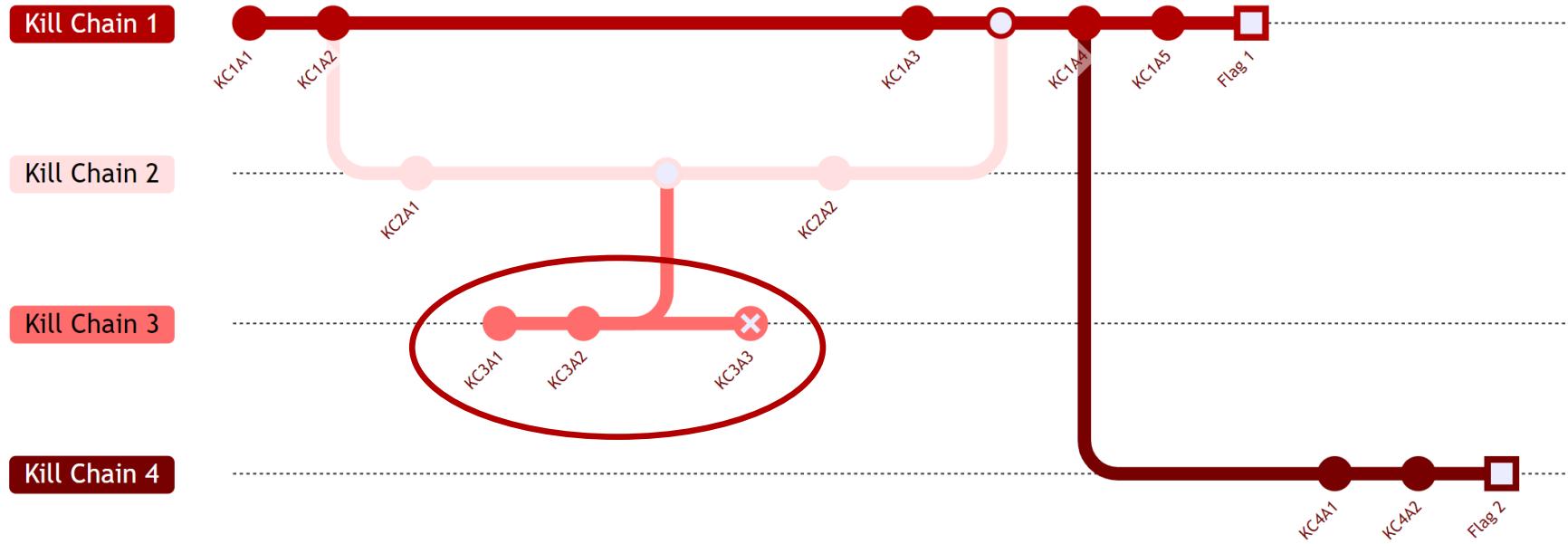
Evaluate the current configuration of MDM from an adversary's perspective using the 'assume breach' approach

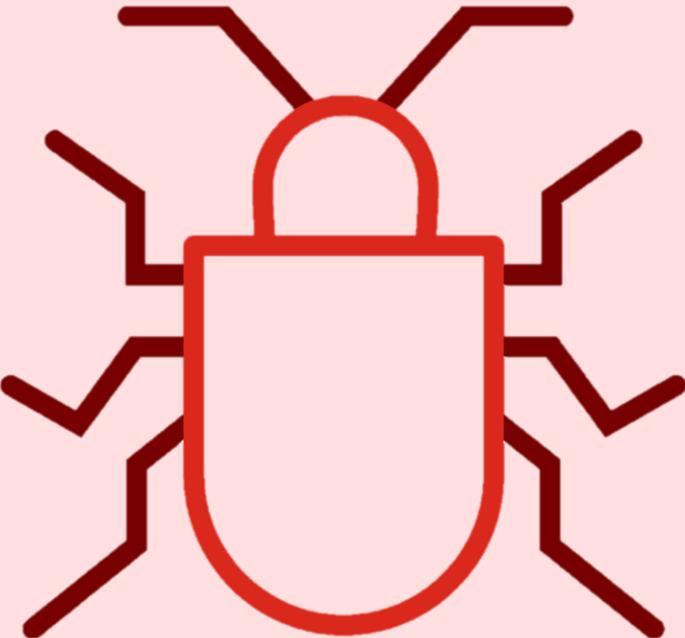


Source: OpenAI. (2024). ChatGPT (May 28 version) [Large language model].



# 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`.

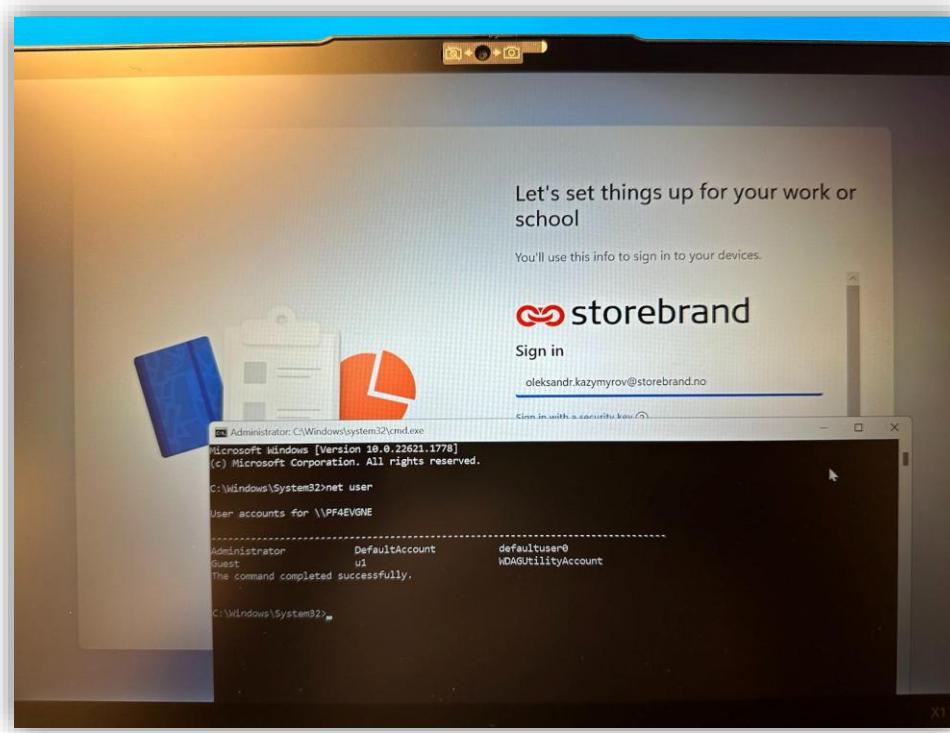
On Windows 10, version 1809 and later versions:

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

```
Console  Copy  
mdmdiagnosticstool.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:

```
Console  Copy  
mdmdiagnosticstool.exe -area Autopilot;TPM -cab <pathToOutputCabFi
```



# Prevent privileged escalation during OOBE

## Prevent privileged escalation during OOBE

Today's blog post concerns a security risk often overlooked by IT admins and organizations. It involves **creating a local admin account** using OOBE **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 OOBE 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](#)

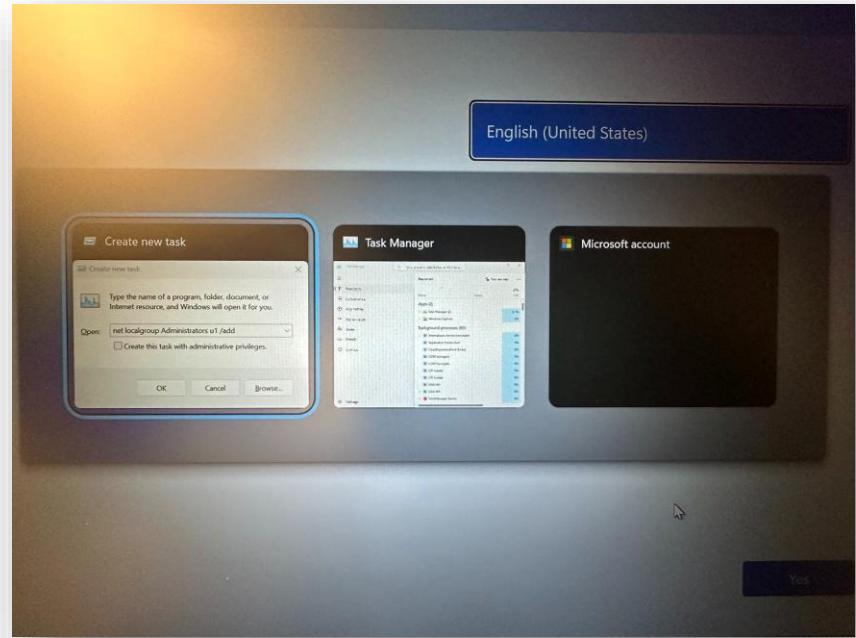
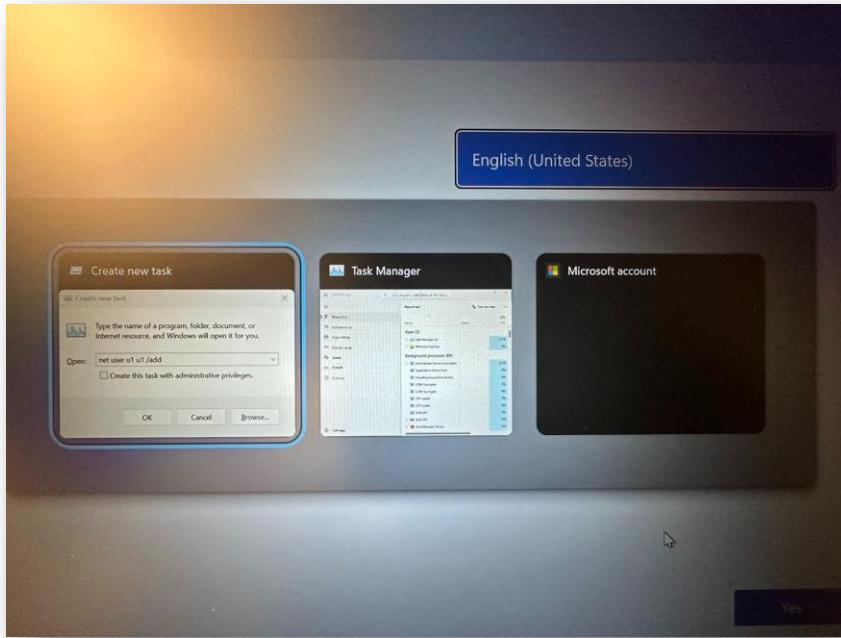
This blog will be about Microsoft's "their" solution to remove the lingering Windows.old folder after a remote wipe. I noticed that when using Microsoft their solution, my older solution to **block the shift+F10 functionality** will be disabled. This solution was also using the **Push-Button reset**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

I will divide this blog into multiple parts

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



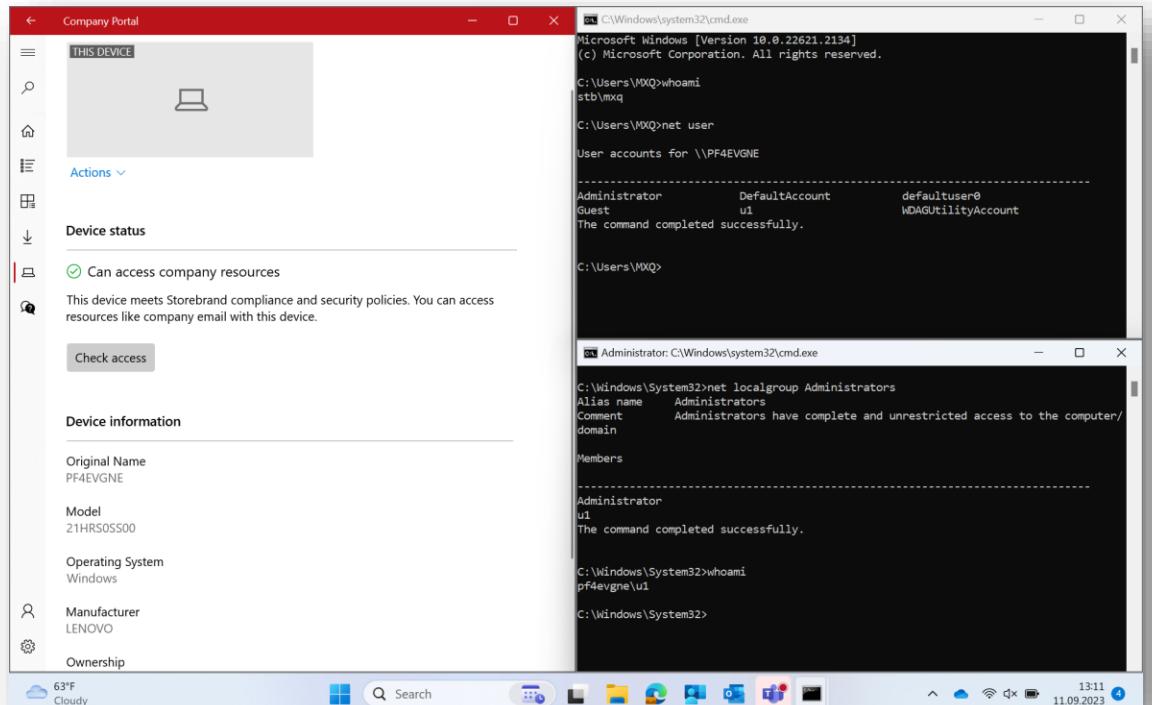
# Option 2: Blind command injection



Ctrl + Shift + Esc → Alt + N → CMD



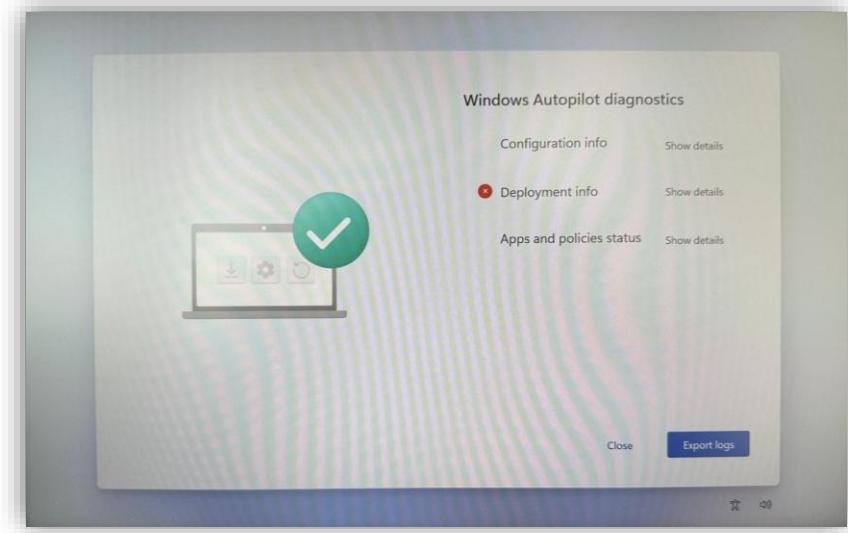
# Option 2: Blind command injection



# Option 3: Windows Autopilot diagnostics

Run a privileged command line

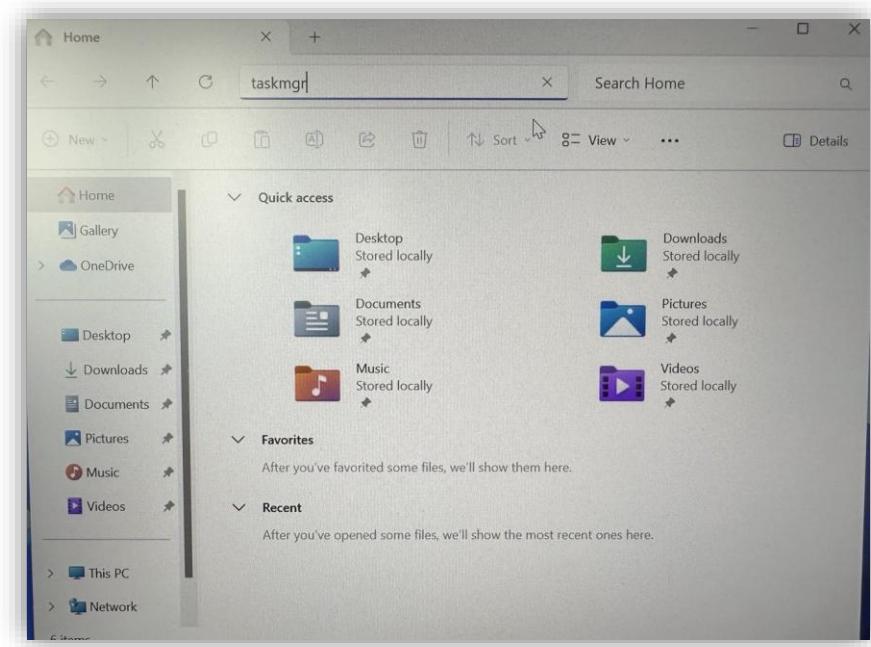
1. Ctrl-Shift-D → Export logs



# Option 3: Windows Autopilot diagnostics

Run a privileged command line

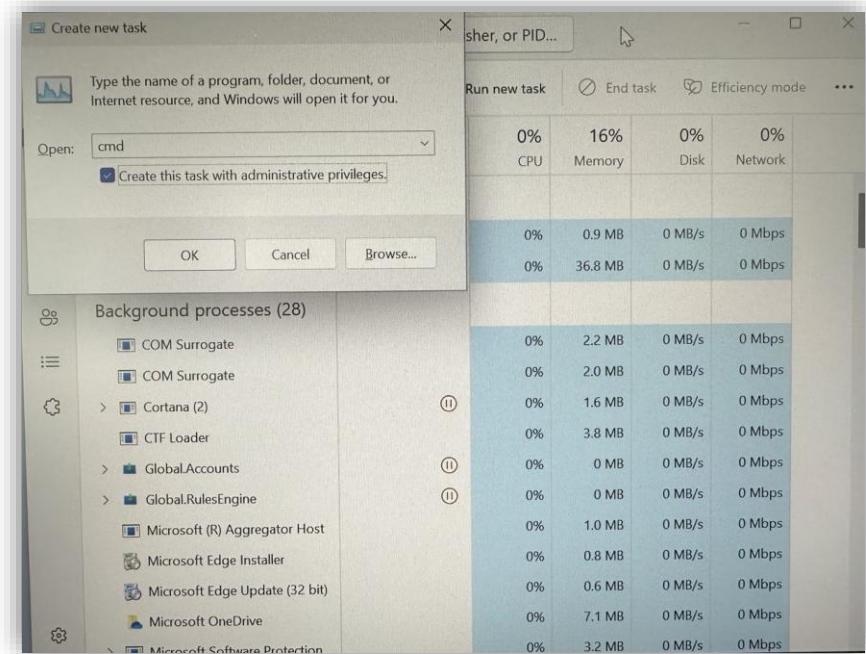
1. Ctrl-Shift-D → Export logs
2. Right click Local Disc (C:) → Open in new window
3. Alt + Tab (choose explorer)
4. Ctrl + L → taskmgr → Enter



# Option 3: Windows Autopilot diagnostics

Run a privileged command line

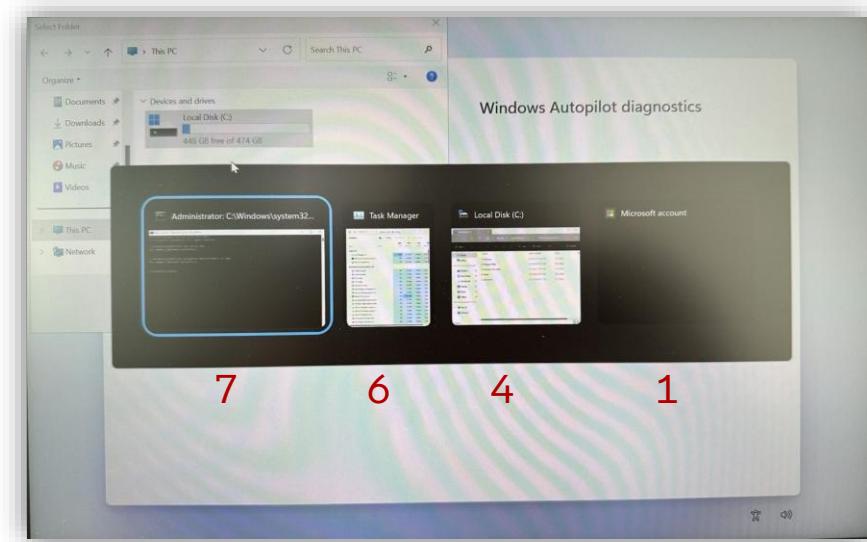
1. Ctrl-Shift-D → Export logs
2. Right click Local Disc (C:) → Open in new window
3. Alt + Tab (choose explorer)
4. Ctrl + L → taskmgr → Enter
5. Alt + Tab (choose taskmgr)
6. Alt + n → cmd → Tab → Space → Enter



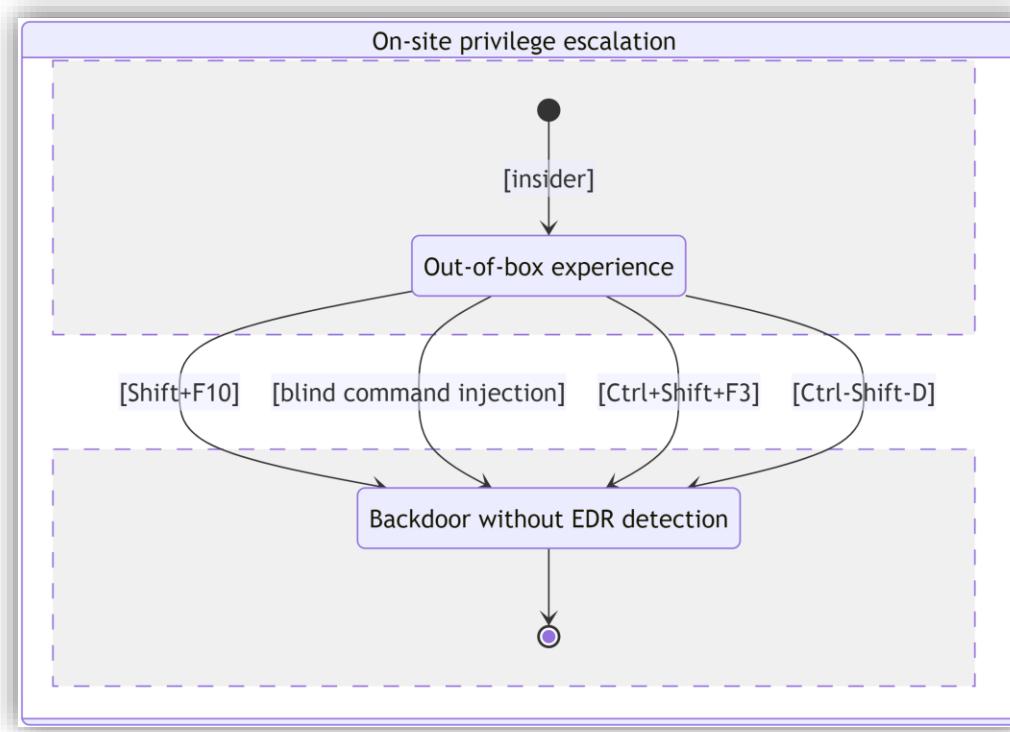
# Option 3: Windows Autopilot diagnostics

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: OUBE

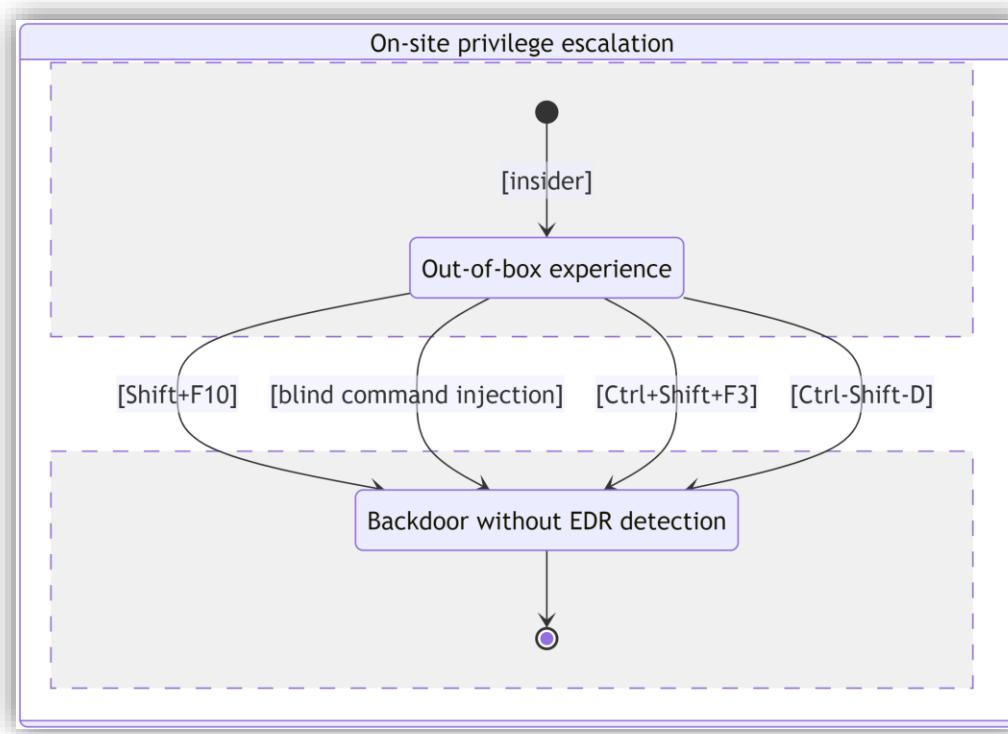


# NIST CSF 2.0

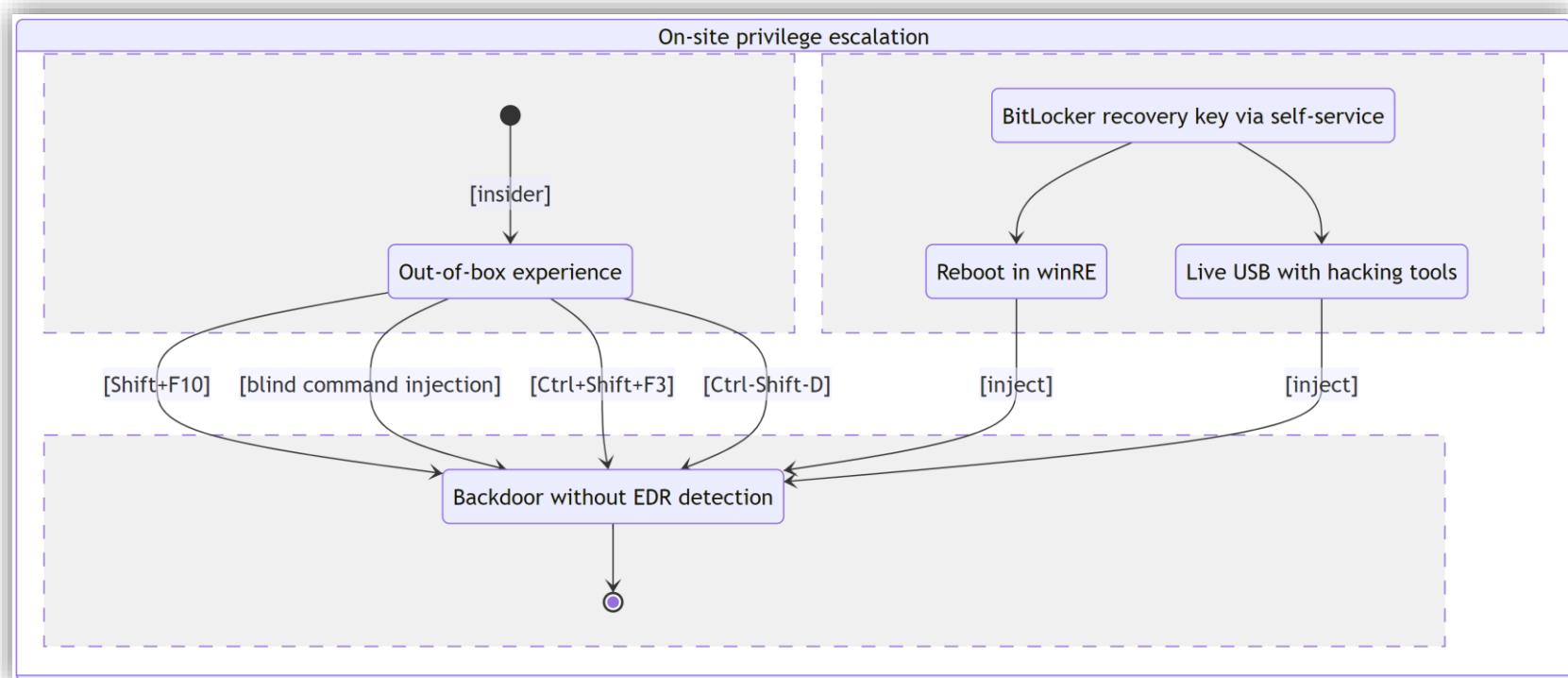


- Identify
  - A backdoor can be implanted during OOB
- Protect
  - Numerous methods to cope with individual issues
- Detect
  - Threat hunting on PC resets
- Respond
  - Correlation with valid requests
  - Initiate insider threat investigation
- Recovery
  - Containment and eradication of identities 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 window with the URL <https://myaccount.microsoft.com/device-list>. The page is titled "Enheter" (Devices) under the "Min konto" (My account) section. On the left sidebar, "Enheter" is selected. A modal window titled "BitLocker-nøkler for PF4EVGNE" displays the BitLocker recovery key information for the device "PF4EVGNE".

**BitLocker-nøkler for PF4EVGNE**

**Operativsystemstasjon**

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

**Vis gjenopprettingsnøkkelen**

The main page also shows a message: "Hvis du mister en enhet eller ikke lenger bruker den, kan den har blitt deaktivert, kan du kontakte administratoren" (If you lose a device or no longer use it, it may have been deactivated, you can contact the administrator).



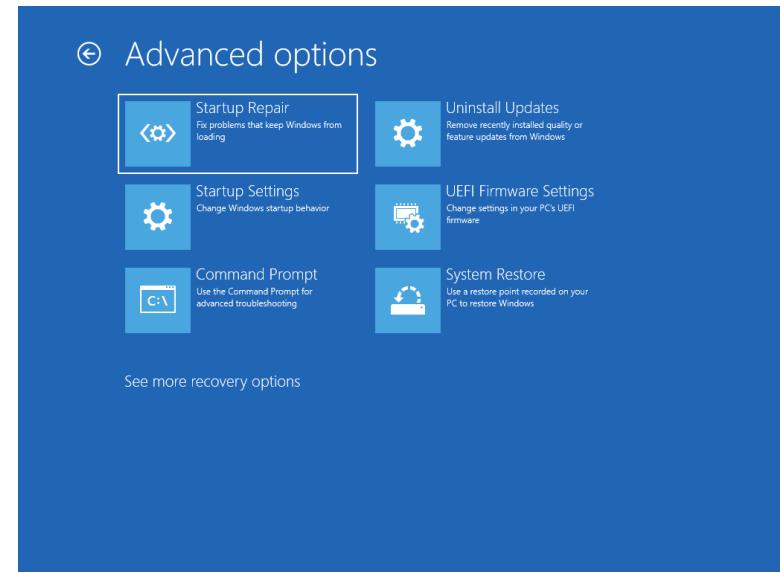
# Windows Recovery Environment (winRE)

## Recovery Mode

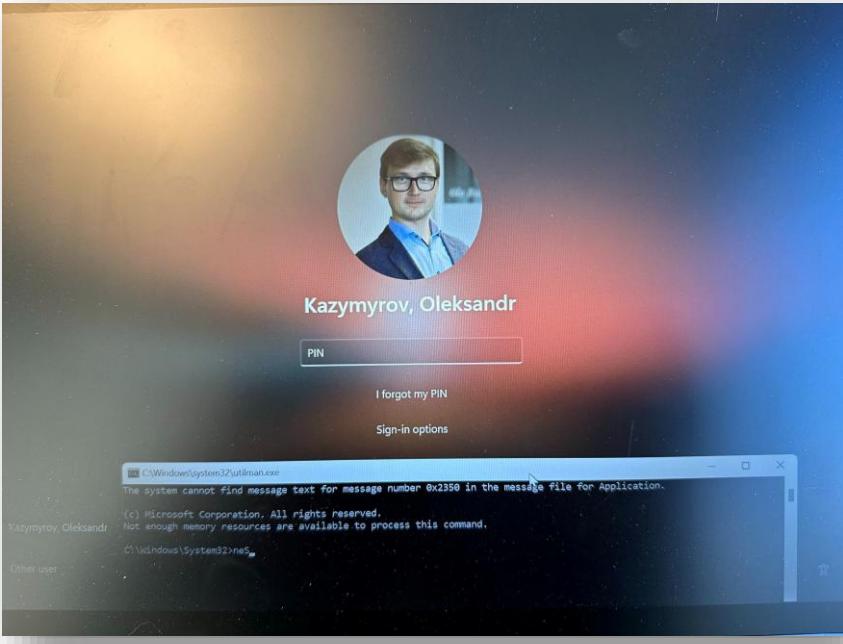
1. Hold down the power button for 10 seconds to turn off your device.
2. Press the power button again to turn on your device.
3. On the first sign that Windows has started (for example, some devices show the manufacturer's logo when restarting) hold down the power button for 10 seconds to turn off your 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 lose 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

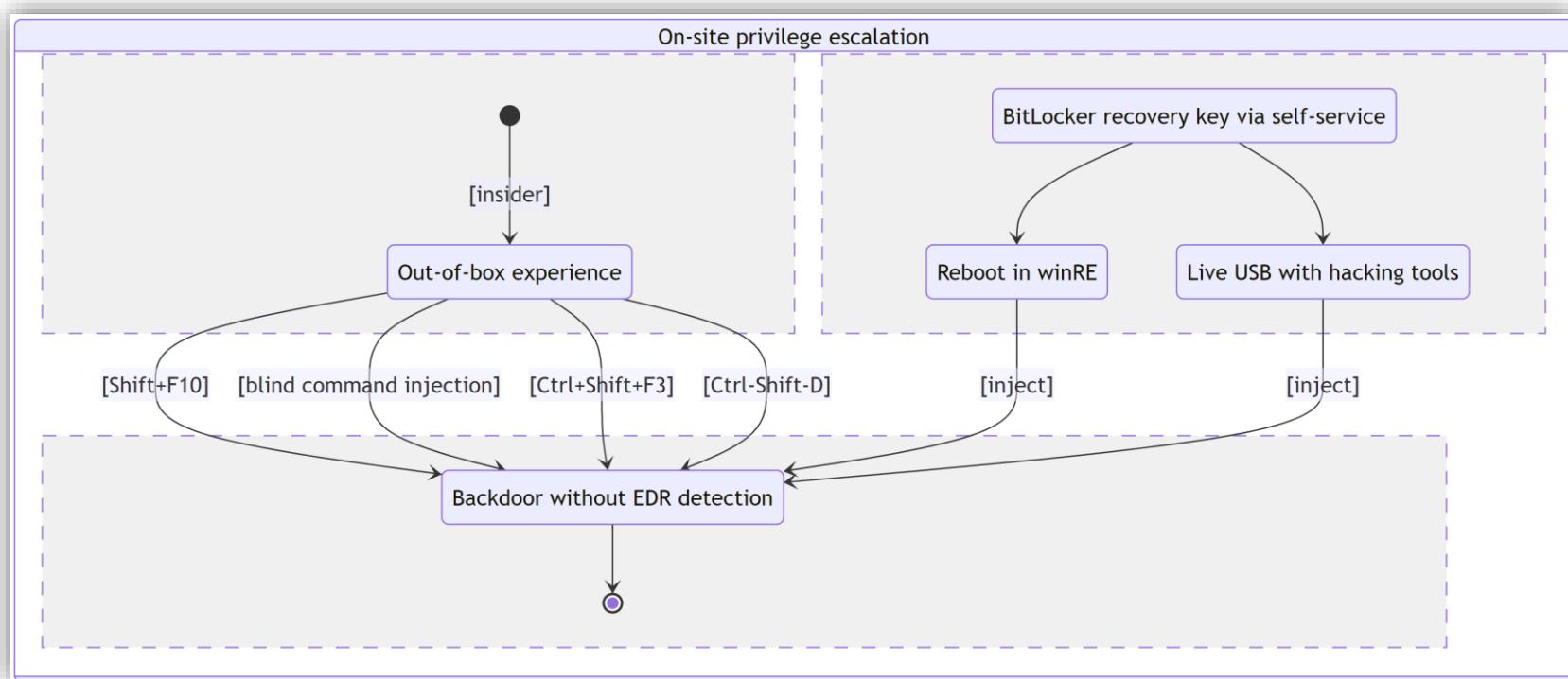
The screenshot shows the Microsoft Defender XDR interface. At the top, it displays a user profile icon and the name "pf3w3bqw". Below this, a summary bar indicates "No known risks" and "Active win11". The main navigation tabs include "Overview", "Incidents and alerts" (which is selected), "Timeline", "Security recommendations", "Inventories", and "...". A prominent yellow callout box informs the user that "Defender for Cloud alerts and incidents are now available in Microsoft Defender XDR. For non-admin users to view them, give unified RBAC permissions." It includes a "Set permissions" button and a "Learn more about permissions" link. At the bottom, there are buttons for "Export", "Save", "Add filter", and dropdown menus for "Incident name", "Incide...", "Tags", "Severity", and "Investigation".

The screenshot shows the Windows Task Manager window titled "Task Manager". The "Users" tab is selected, displaying a list of users and their resource usage. The columns are "User", "Status", "CPU", "Memory", "Disk", and "Network". The "Administrator" user is listed with 0,2% CPU, 859,5 MB Memory, 0,1 MB/s Disk, and 0 Mbps Network. The "MXQ (53)" process is listed with 12,2% CPU, 893,9 MB Memory, 0,8 MB/s Disk, and 0,3 Mbps Network. There are also buttons for "Run new task", "Disconnect", and "Manage user accounts".

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

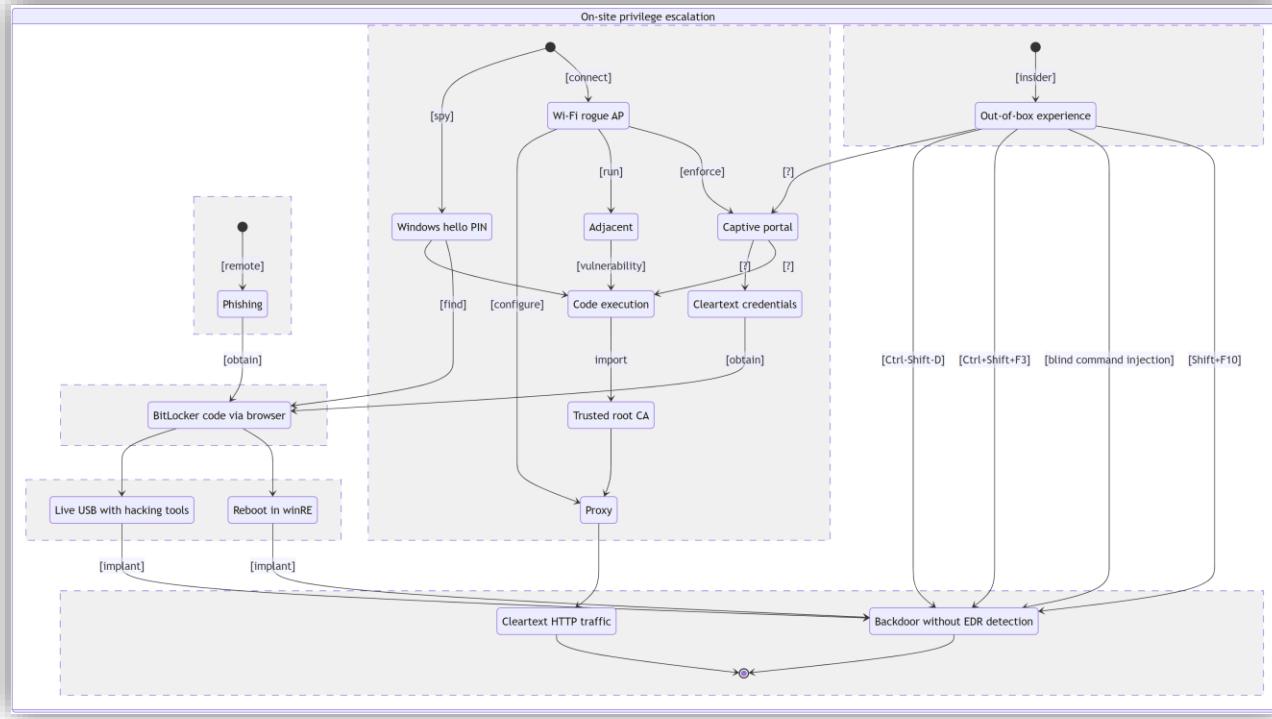


# Zoom out



# "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%)

