

DCShadow

Resources:

<https://www.dshadow.com/>

First disclosure

DCShadow has been presented at the [Bluehat IL 2018 conference](#) by [Vincent LE TOUX](#) and [Benjamin Delpy](#)

It was already possible to simulate a domain controller or to alter its internal database.

For example, by installing in a virtual machine a customized version of [SAMBA](#). But given the fact that running a virtual machine needs hardware instruction (on x64 CPU it is disabled by default), a physical interaction with the computer may be required to enable them in the BIOS/EFI. In addition the size and time needed for a VM is not scalable.

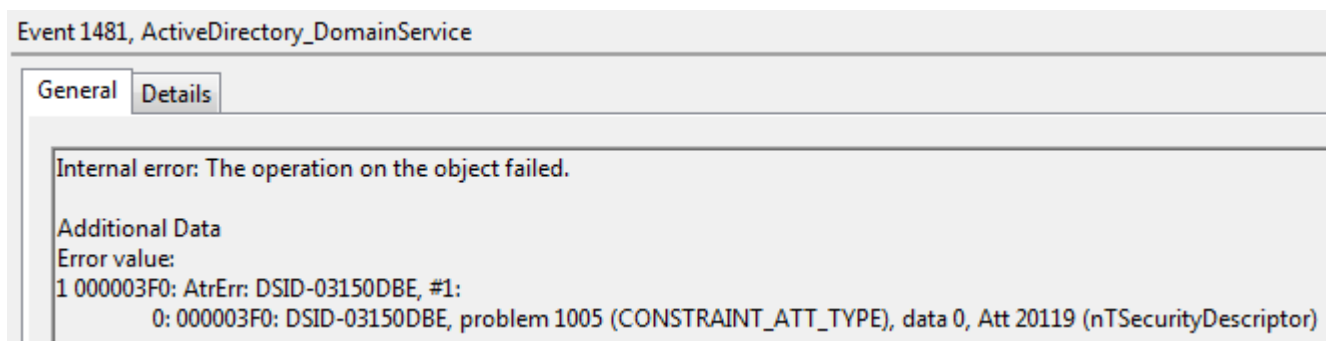
[DSInternals](#) powershell tools already allows the editing of an existing AD database, but in [offline mode](#). Putting it online requires to use the AD recovery mode which is not straight forward.

Description of the attack

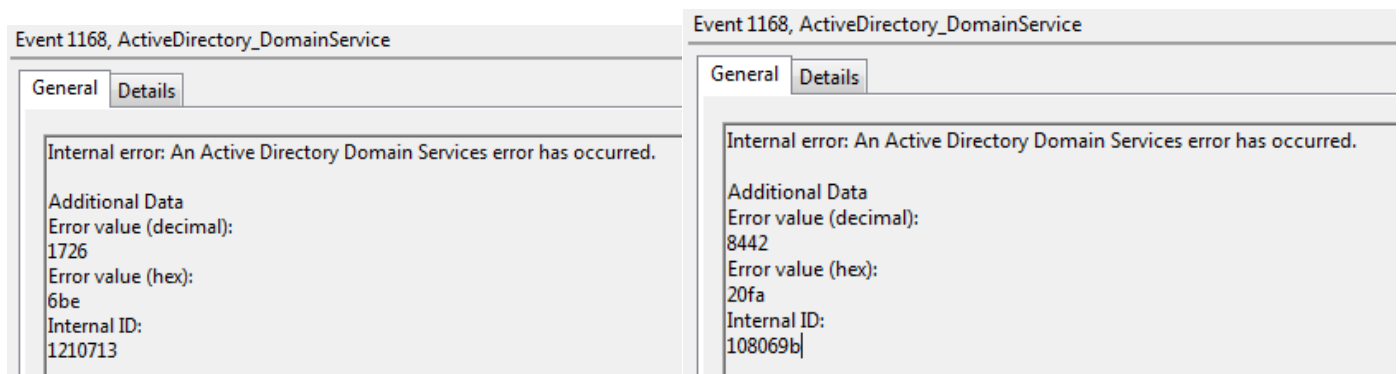
The attacks is done using the following steps:

- registering the "DC" by creating 2 objects in the CN=Configuration partition and altering the SPN of the computer used.
- Pushing the data (triggered using DrsReplicaAdd, KCC or other internal AD events)
- Removing the object previously created to demote the DC

Here is an example of error when pushing an incorrect DACL (in this case the Owner part was missing)



And some other example of invalid data



Is it a vulnerability ?

No, because the protocols used are documented:

- [MS-ADTS](#)
- [MS-DRSR](#)

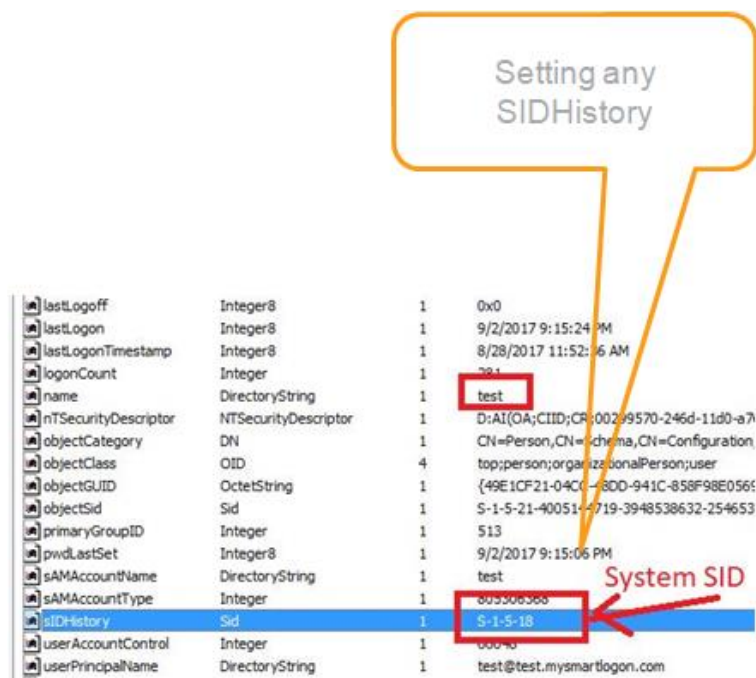
It is a post exploitation attack (also called domination attack) because it requires domain admin (or enterprise admin) privileges

Why is it a game changer ?

Functionally

At a functional level:

- It can create new backdoor such as SIDHistory, ntpwdHistory, ...
- It is a tool to erase the attacker traces (replication metadata, schemasignatureinfo, ...)
- Create unseen XSS attack on administration reports



Setting any SIDHistory

lastLogoff	Integer8	1	0x0
lastLogon	Integer8	1	9/2/2017 9:15:24 PM
lastLogonTimestamp	Integer8	1	8/28/2017 11:52:06 AM
logonCount	Integer	1	281
name	DirectoryString	1	test
ntSecurityDescriptor	NTSecurityDescriptor	1	D:AI(OA;CIID;CR:002/9570-246d-11d0-a7...
objectCategory	DN	1	CN=Person,CN=schema,CN=Configuration
objectClass	OID	4	top;person;organizationalPerson;user
objectGUID	OctetString	1	{49E1CF21-04C1-8DD-941C-858F98E056f}
objectSid	Sid	1	S-1-5-21-40051-4719-3948538632-254653
primaryGroupID	Integer	1	513
pwdLastSet	Integer8	1	9/2/2017 9:15:06 PM
sAMAccountName	DirectoryString	1	test
sAMAccountType	Integer	1	805306368
SIDHistory	Sid	1	S-1-5-18
userAccountControl	Integer	1	00000000
userPrincipalName	DirectoryString	1	test@test.mysmartlogon.com

System SID

Technically

At a technical level:

- The modifications done are made without any logging
- Modifications done only by a DC such as setting the SID History or WhenChanged can be done without logging
- Partial changes such as changing only the previous password without the new one can be done without logging
- Modifications not compliant with the AD data such as a very long sAMAccountName (< 16 characters) can be done without logging

In short it bypasses the SIEM monitoring done on the Active Directory

objectSid	Sid	1	S-1-5-21-4005144719-3948538632-2546531719-1106
primaryGroupID	Integer	1	513
pwdLastSet	Integer8	1	6/25/2017 1:51:16 PM
sAMAccountName	DirectoryString	1	test
sAMAccountType	Integer	1	805306368
userAccountControl	Integer	1	66048
userPrincipalName	DirectoryString	1	test@test.mysmartlogon.com
uSNCreated	Integer8	1	0x5314A
whenChanged	GeneralizedTime	1	7/14/1789 2:00:00 PM
whenCreated	GeneralizedTime	1	3/31/2013 1:33:16 PM

Setting
« whenChanged » to
Bastille day

Forensics of the attack

Because DCShadow is pushing replication information, DCShadow is responsible for pushing replication metadata. This metadata is accessible to anyone (including from trusted domains) and available through LDAP or RPC.

This metadata is used by forensic analysts to rebuild the history of change and understand what happened on a domain. Well, this data cannot be trusted anymore.

Attribute id (« description »)	AttrID	Ver	Loc.USN	Originating DSA	Org.USN	Org.Time/Date
	0	1	41047	b7f58aab-eae1-419d-8acf-fd46f624cd9e	41047	2013-03-31 13:33:16
	3	1	41047	b7f58aab-eae1-419d-8acf-fd46f624cd9e	41047	2013-03-31 13:33:16
	d	2	334005	b7f58aab-eae1-419d-8acf-fd46f624cd9e	100	9067-05-28 04:18:21
	2	1	41047	b7f58aab-eae1-419d-8acf-fd46f624cd9e	41047	2013-03-31 13:33:16
Version of the attribute value (« 2 »)	20001	1	41047	b7f58aab-eae1-419d-8acf-fd46f624cd9e	41047	2013-03-31 13:33:16
	20002	1	41047	b7f58aab-eae1-419d-8acf-fd46f624cd9e	41047	2013-03-31 13:33:16
	2000d	1	41047	b7f58aab-eae1-419d-8acf-fd46f624cd9e	41047	2013-03-31 13:33:16
	20115	2	331902	b7f58aab-eae1-419d-8acf-fd46f624cd9e	331902	2017-05-27 10:20:53
Local USN = # of the change seen locally	90001	1	41047	b7f58aab-eae1-419d-8acf-fd46f624cd9e	41047	2013-03-31 13:33:16
	90008	4	41052	b7f58aab-eae1-419d-8acf-fd46f624cd9e	41052	2013-03-31 13:33:16
	90010	1	41048	b7f58aab-eae1-419d-8acf-fd46f624cd9e	41048	2013-03-31 13:33:16
	90019	1	41048	b7f58aab-eae1-419d-8acf-fd46f624cd9e	41048	2013-03-31 13:33:16
	90037	13	332493	b7f58aab-eae1-419d-8acf-fd46f624cd9e	332493	2017-06-25 13:51:16
	90040	1	41048	b7f58aab-eae1-419d-8acf-fd46f624cd9e	41048	2013-03-31 13:33:16
	9005a	13	332493	b7f58aab-eae1-419d-8acf-fd46f624cd9e	332493	2017-06-25 13:51:16
	9005e	12	332493	b7f58aab-eae1-419d-8acf-fd46f624cd9e	332493	2017-06-25 13:51:16

DC which made
the modification

USN of the DC
which made the
change

Date when the
change occurred
on the remote DC

How can it be detected ?

DCShadow is easy to detect at network level. API like DrsAddEntry or DrsReplicaAdd are called only from a DC so a call from another computer should be considered as suspicious.

DRSUAPI	306	DsBind request	Modifying CN=Configuration (the nTDSA object)
DRSUAPI	258	DsBind response	
DRSUAPI	830	DsAddEntry request	
DRSUAPI	258	DsAddEntry response	
DRSUAPI	194	DsUnbind request	
DRSUAPI	194	DsUnbind response	Triggering the replication
DRSUAPI	258	DsBind request	
DRSUAPI	258	DsBind response	
DRSUAPI	466	DRSUAPI_REPLICA_ADD request	
DRSUAPI	434	DsReplicaUpdateRefs request	
DRSUAPI	178	DsReplicaUpdateRefs response	
DRSUAPI	178	DRSUAPI_REPLICA_ADD response	
DRSUAPI	386	DRSUAPI_REPLICA_DEL request	
DRSUAPI	178	DRSUAPI_REPLICA_DEL response	
DRSUAPI	194	DsUnbind request	
DRSUAPI	194	DsUnbind response	

Using logs DCShadow can be detected when objects in the Configuration partition is added or when the computer object is changed. However a DC does not replicate the modifications immediately and regroup the changes when it replicates (a few minutes). As a consequence, the changes can be observed only on the DC

attacked. This can be avoided by reusing a demoted DC (the information needed is already present in the configuration partition).

DCShadow does set the SPN GC/* or E3514235-4B06-11D1-AB04-00C04FC2DCD2/* on computers object (via DrsAddEntry)

Using LDAP cookie ([LDAP_SERVER_DIRSYNC_OID](#)) is also a way to be notified of LDAP modification

Using [Audit Detailed Directory Service Replication](#) events 4928 An Active Directory replica source naming context was established. and 4929 An Active Directory replica source naming context was removed.

Also @gentilkiwi is providing a splunk script for its detection: <https://gist.github.com/gentilkiwi/dcc132457408cf11ad2061340dcb53c2>