STIG Implementation Report

- **Intern Credit Application For:** Bruce Thornton
  Date: 11/2/2025
  STIG Finding: WN11-CC-000197
- **SRG:** SRG-OS-000095-GPOS-00049
  Severity: medium
  Vulnerability ID: V-253436 **CCI:** CCI-000381

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1. Introduction

This report documents the process of identifying, remediating, and verifying the fix for a Windows 11 STIG compliance finding. The selected finding was: STIG ID: WN11-CC-000197 “Microsoft consumer experiences must be turned off.”

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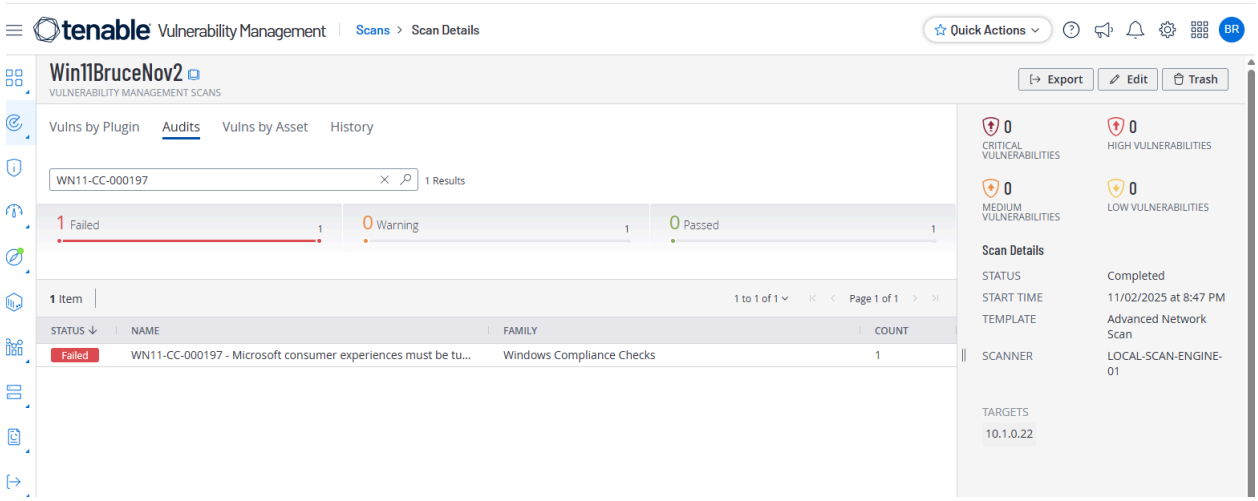
2. Initial Scan Results

- Tool: Tenable.sc / Nessus (Windows 11 STIG Audit Policy)
- Finding ID: WN11-CC-000197
- Status: **Failed** (non-compliant)

📎 **Evidence:** First identified the STIG:

https://stigaview.com/products/win11/v1r5/WN11-CC-000197/

Initial scan result



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3. Manual Remediation Steps

Run “gpedit.msc”

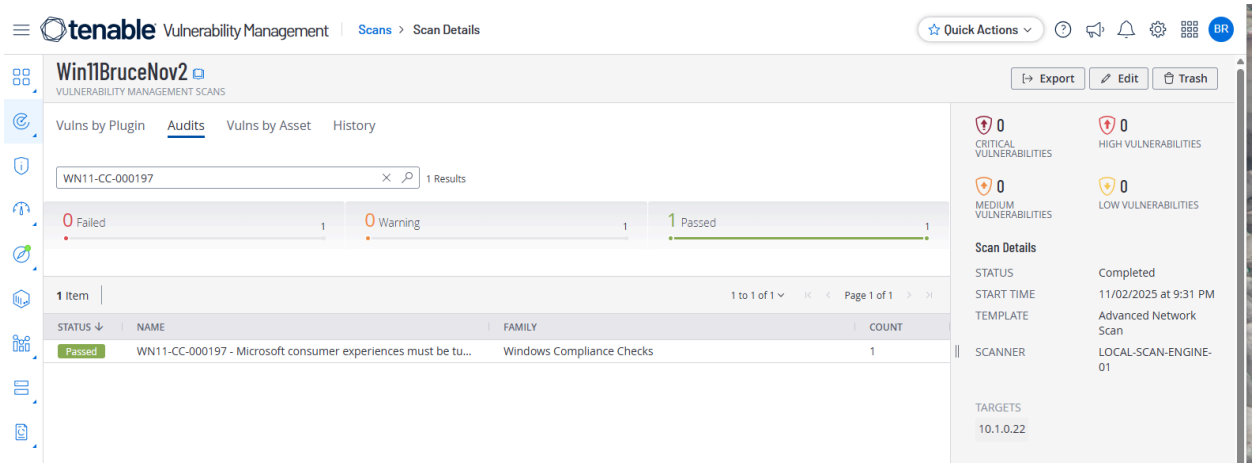
Configure the policy value for Computer Configuration >> Administrative Templates >> Windows Components >> Cloud Content >> "Turn off Microsoft consumer experiences" to "Enabled".

Run “gpupdate /force” and restart.

Scan again,

- Tool: Tenable.sc / Nessus (Windows 11 STIG Audit Policy)
- Finding ID: WN11-CC-000197
- Status: **Passed**

Evidence:



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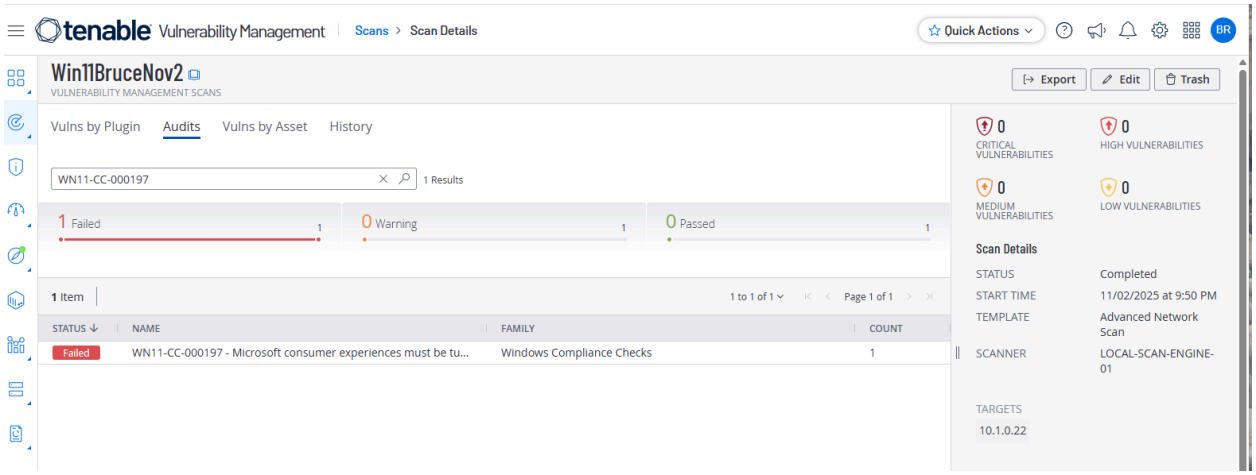
4. Reintroduction of Finding (Manually Undo Test)

To demonstrate full control of the setting, the fix was undone:

- Disabled the setting. Open Group Policy Management “gpedit.msc” and followed the instructions for remediation from before and set it to the original setting: “Not Configured”
- Ran “`gpupdate /force`” and rescanned.

Status: **Failed**, Non-Compliant

Evidence:



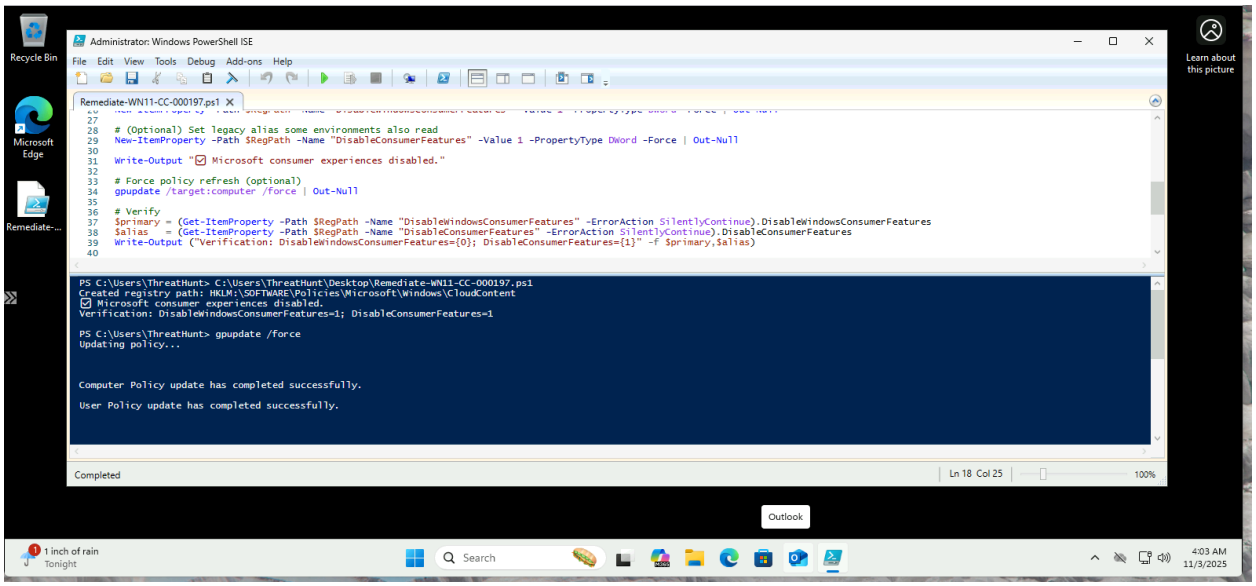
5. Remediation with PowerShell Script

Save as: `Remediate-WN11-CC-000197.ps1` and run **as Administrator** utilizing PowerShell ISE:

```
<#
.SYNOPSIS
  Remediates STIG WN11-CC-000197:
  Turns off Microsoft consumer experiences (Cloud Content).

.NOTES
  Run as Administrator. A gpupdate/reboot may be needed before scanners reflect the change.
#>

# Require admin
if (-not ([Security.Principal.WindowsPrincipal] [Security.Principal.WindowsIdentity]::GetCurrent()
  ).IsInRole([Security.Principal.WindowsBuiltinRole] "Administrator")) {
  Write-Error "Run this script as Administrator."
  exit 1
}

$RegPath = "HKLM:\SOFTWARE\Policies\Microsoft\Windows\CloudContent"

# Ensure path exists
if (-not (Test-Path $RegPath)) {
  New-Item -Path $RegPath -Force | Out-Null
  Write-Output "Created registry path: $RegPath"
}

# Set policy value (primary key used by GPO/Tenable)
New-ItemProperty -Path $RegPath -Name "DisableWindowsConsumerFeatures" -Value 1
-PropertyType DWord -Force | Out-Null

# (Optional) Set legacy alias some environments also read
New-ItemProperty -Path $RegPath -Name "DisableConsumerFeatures" -Value 1 -PropertyType
DWord -Force | Out-Null

Write-Output "✅ Microsoft consumer experiences disabled."

# Force policy refresh (optional)
gpupdate /target:computer /force | Out-Null
```

```
# Verify
$primary = (Get-ItemProperty -Path $RegPath -Name "DisableWindowsConsumerFeatures"
-ErrorAction SilentlyContinue).DisableWindowsConsumerFeatures
$alias   = (Get-ItemProperty -Path $RegPath -Name "DisableConsumerFeatures" -ErrorAction
SilentlyContinue).DisableConsumerFeatures
Write-Output ("Verification: DisableWindowsConsumerFeatures={0};
DisableConsumerFeatures={1}" -f $primary,$alias)
```

Evidence:

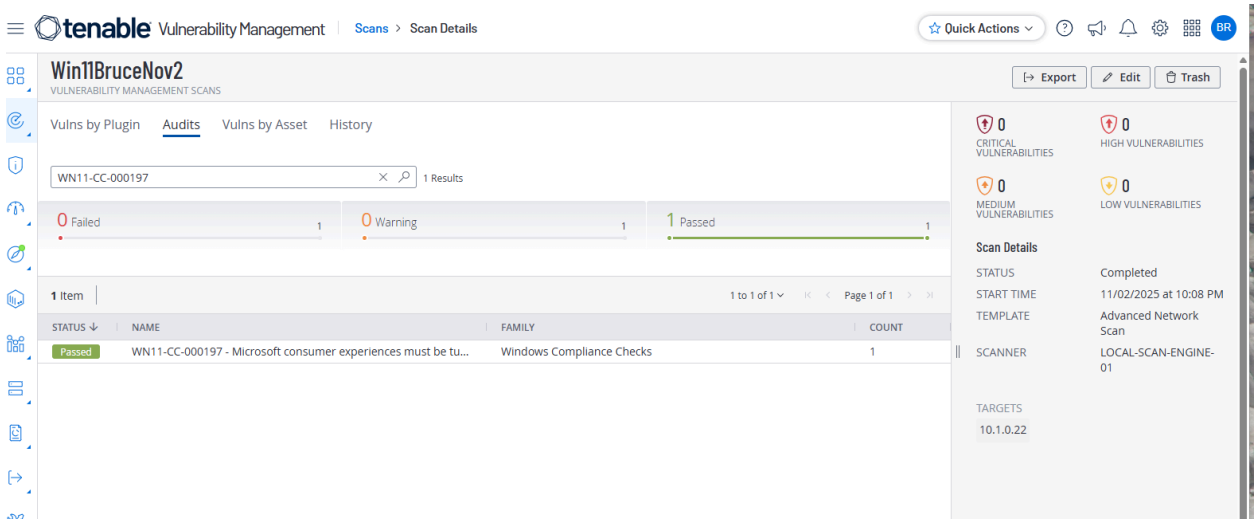


Run “gpupdate /force” and restart.

Scan again,

- Tool: Tenable.sc / Nessus (Windows 11 STIG Audit Policy)
- Finding ID: WN11-CC-000197
- Status: **Passed**

Evidence:



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6. Conclusion

The finding **WN11-CC-000197** was successfully:

- Detected in an initial Tenable STIG Audit scan,
- Remediated manually,
- Verified through a second scan,
- Undone and confirmed as vulnerable again,
- Finally re-applied through PowerShell automation, and validated with a third scan.

This demonstrates the ability to manage Windows STIG compliance both manually and through PowerShell automation.