

6 Months of WDAC on enforced mode - notes from the field





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Microsoft



DEVICIE



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Agenda

- Why WDAC?
- What is WDAC?
- Pre-Requisites
- Intune Policy Options
- Tips & Tricks

Why WDAC?





Essential 8 number 1 Mitigation Strategy

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Appendix C: Maturity Level Three

Mitigation Strategy	Description
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Application control	
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Application control is implemented on workstations and servers.

Application control restricts the execution of executables, software libraries, scripts, installers, compiled HTML, HTML applications, control panel applets and drivers to an organisation-approved set.

Microsoft's 'recommended block rules' are implemented.

Microsoft's 'recommended driver block rules' are implemented.

Application control rulesets are validated on an annual or more frequent basis.

Allowed and blocked execution events on workstations and servers are centrally logged.

Event logs are protected from unauthorised modification and deletion.

Event logs are monitored for signs of compromise and actioned when any signs of compromise are detected.



Script Enforcement (Constrained Language Mode)

Kim Oppalfens ♦ @TheWMIGuy · Jan 26

#wdacwednesday #DFE has published 11 Threat analyst reports in the past 2 months. 5 of them are not relevant for appcontrol technologies. (Insufficient detail in report to assess (2), non-windows targets (2), No code execution used (1))

1 2 934

Kim Oppalfens ♦ @TheWMIGuy · Jan 26

Of the 6 others, 2 would've been blocked by the most rudimentary applocker implementation. 4 would not have prevented the hands on keyboard stage without script enforcement in place. 1 Used the regsvr32 bypass, 2 used DLL sideloading to avoid needing exe's.

1 1 297

Kim Oppalfens ♦ @TheWMIGuy

None would have passed a WDAC implementation that did not specifically disable script enforcement. Our interpretation is that app control without script enforcement is but a mild nuisance for attacks that involve hands on keyboard forcing them to switch to PowerShell.

1:22 AM · Jan 26, 2023 · 224 Views

What is WDAC?





Windows Defender Application Control

Windows Defender Application Control is designed to protect devices against malware and other untrusted software. It prevents malicious code from running by ensuring that only approved code, that you know, can be run.

File Rule Levels



- Hash
- FileName
- FilePath
- SignedVersion
- Publisher
- FilePublisher
- LeafCertificate
- PcaCertificate
- RootCertificate
- WHQL
- WHQLPublisher
- WHQLFilePublisher

Managed Installer

Pre-Requisites





Pre-Requisites

- Intune
- ~~Windows 10, 11 Enterprise~~
- Microsoft Defender for Endpoint
- TIME
- Business Change Management

Release Date: **2/22/2023**

Version: **AppLocker**

Summary

The Windows updates dated September 30, 2022, and later, made significant changes for AppLocker support. Before the updates, Windows tied policy enforcement to the Windows edition and the method used to manage its endpoints. For instance, systems managed by mobile device management (MDM) enforced AppLocker policies on all editions of Windows 10 and Windows 11. Also, systems managed by Group Policy only enforced AppLocker policies on Windows 10 and Windows 11 Enterprise or Education editions.

These updates removed the edition checks for Windows 10, versions 20H2, and 21H1 and all versions of Windows 11. You can now deploy and enforce AppLocker policies to all of these Windows versions regardless of their edition or management method.

Compatibility

Because of this change, Windows Defender Application Control (WDAC) IT pros can deploy [Managed Installer](#) policies to managed systems without the constraint of Windows editions. AppLocker IT pros can now also manage a greater number of systems using AppLocker by targeting editions not previously supported by AppLocker.

Intune Policy Options





Intune Policies – built-in

- Windows components
- Third-party hardware and software kernel drivers
- Microsoft Store-signed apps
- [Optional] Reputable apps as defined by the Intelligent Security Graph (ISG)

^ Microsoft Defender Application Control

[Learn more about Windows Defender Application Control.](#)

Application control code integrity policies: ⓘ

Enforce



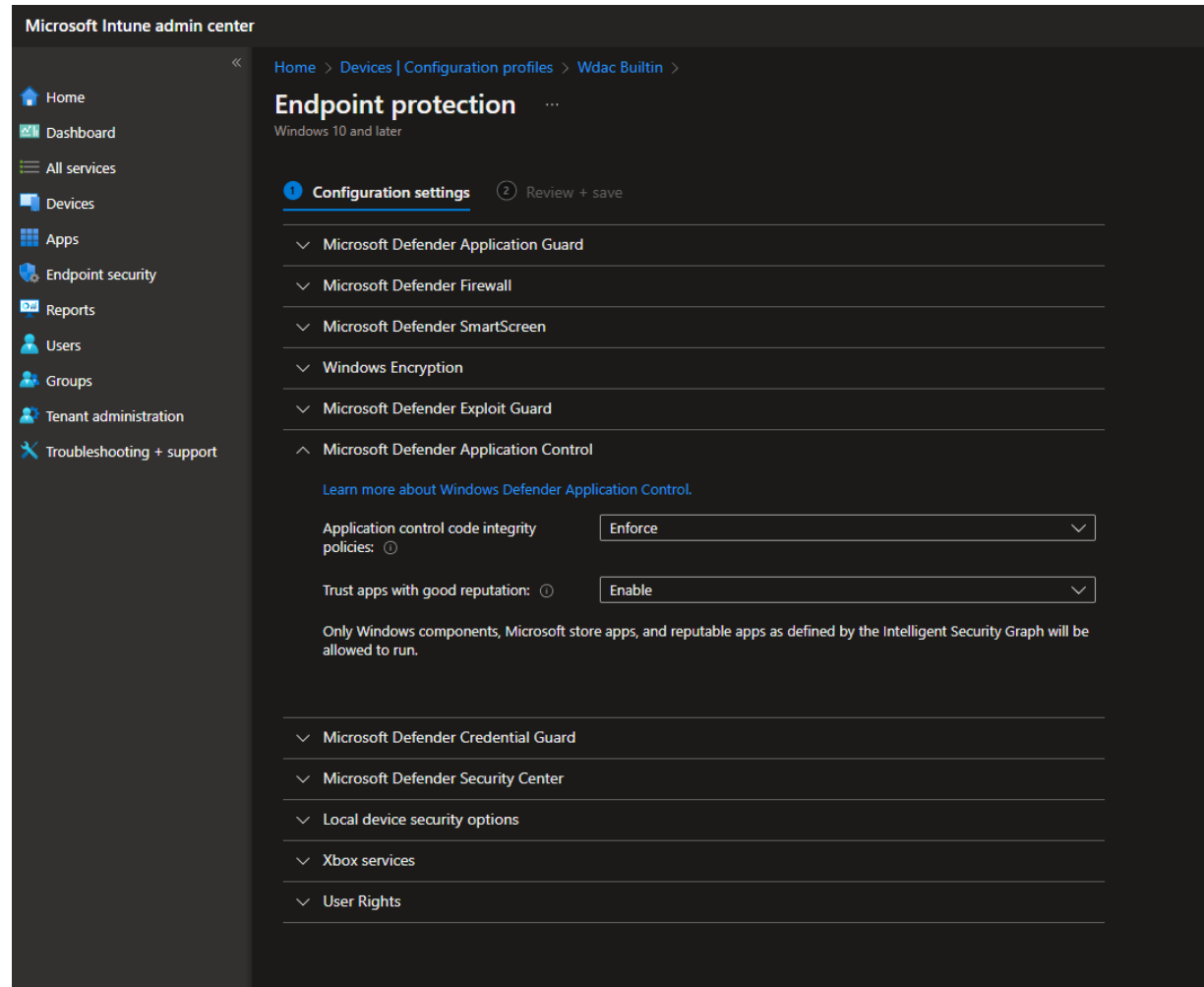
Trust apps with good reputation: ⓘ

Enable



Only Windows components, Microsoft store apps, and reputable apps as defined by the Intelligent Security Graph will be allowed to run.

Intune Policies – built-in



Devices | Configuration profiles | Create Profile | Windows 10 and later | Endpoint Protection



Intune Policies – custom OMA-URI

1. Open the Microsoft Intune portal and create a profile with custom settings.
2. Specify a **Name** and **Description** and use the following values for the remaining custom OMA-URI settings:
 - OMA-URI: ./Vendor/MSFT/ApplicationControl/Policies/_Policy GUID_/Policy
 - Data type: Base64 (file)
 - Certificate file: Upload your binary format policy file. To do this, change your {GUID}.cip file to {GUID}.bin. You don't need to upload a Base64 file, as Intune will convert the uploaded .bin file to Base64 on your behalf.



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Upload custom policy





Intune Policies – custom OMA-URI

*Policies deployed through Intune custom OMA-URI are subject to a **350 KB** limit. Customers should create Windows Defender Application Control policies that use signature-based rules, the Intelligent Security Graph, and managed installers where practical.*

Application Control (Private Preview)



Home > Endpoint security



Endpoint security | Application control (Preview) ...



Search (Ctrl+ /)

+ Create Policy Refresh Export

Overview

Overview

All devices

Security baselines

Security tasks

Manage

Antivirus

Disk encryption

Firewall

Endpoint detection and response

Application control (Preview)

Attack surface reduction

Account protection

Device compliance

Conditional access

Monitor

Assignment failures (preview)

Setup

Microsoft Defender for Endpoint

Help and support

Help and support

Microsoft Endpoint Manager is set as an authorized source of application deployment (managed installer) for your organization.

Search by column value

Policy name	Policy type	Assigned	Platform	Target	Last modified	
Wdac default Microsoft allowed enforced an	Application Control (Preview)	No	Windows 10 and later	mdm	10/06/21, 11:15 AM	***
Wdac enforced applocker policy	Application Control (Preview)	Yes	Windows 10 and later	mdm	10/06/21, 11:17 AM	***

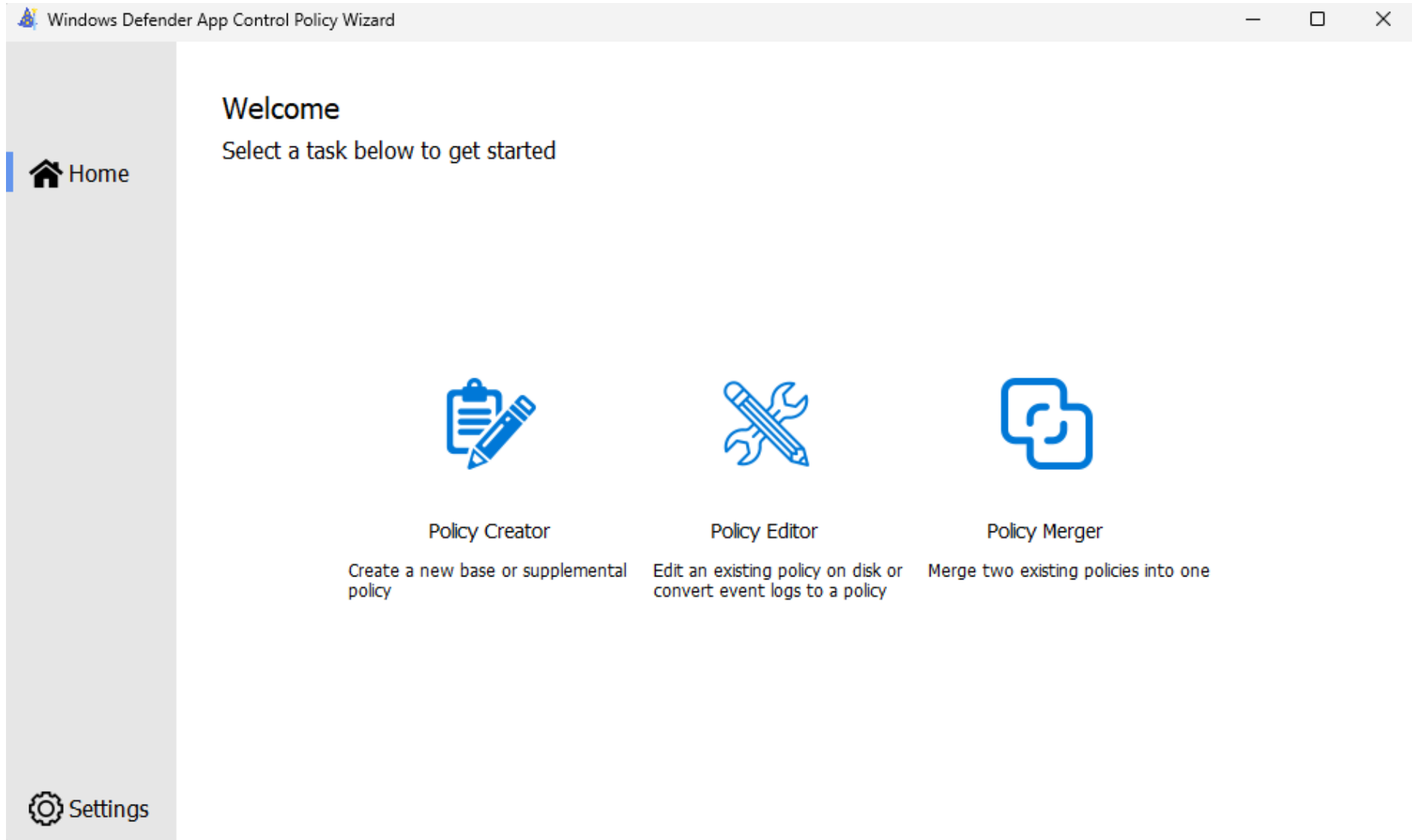
Tips & Tricks





Your Friends

WDAC Wizard



[Microsoft WDAC Wizard \(webapp-wdac-wizard.azurewebsites.net\)](https://webapp-wdac-wizard.azurewebsites.net)



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WDAC Wizard Policy creation

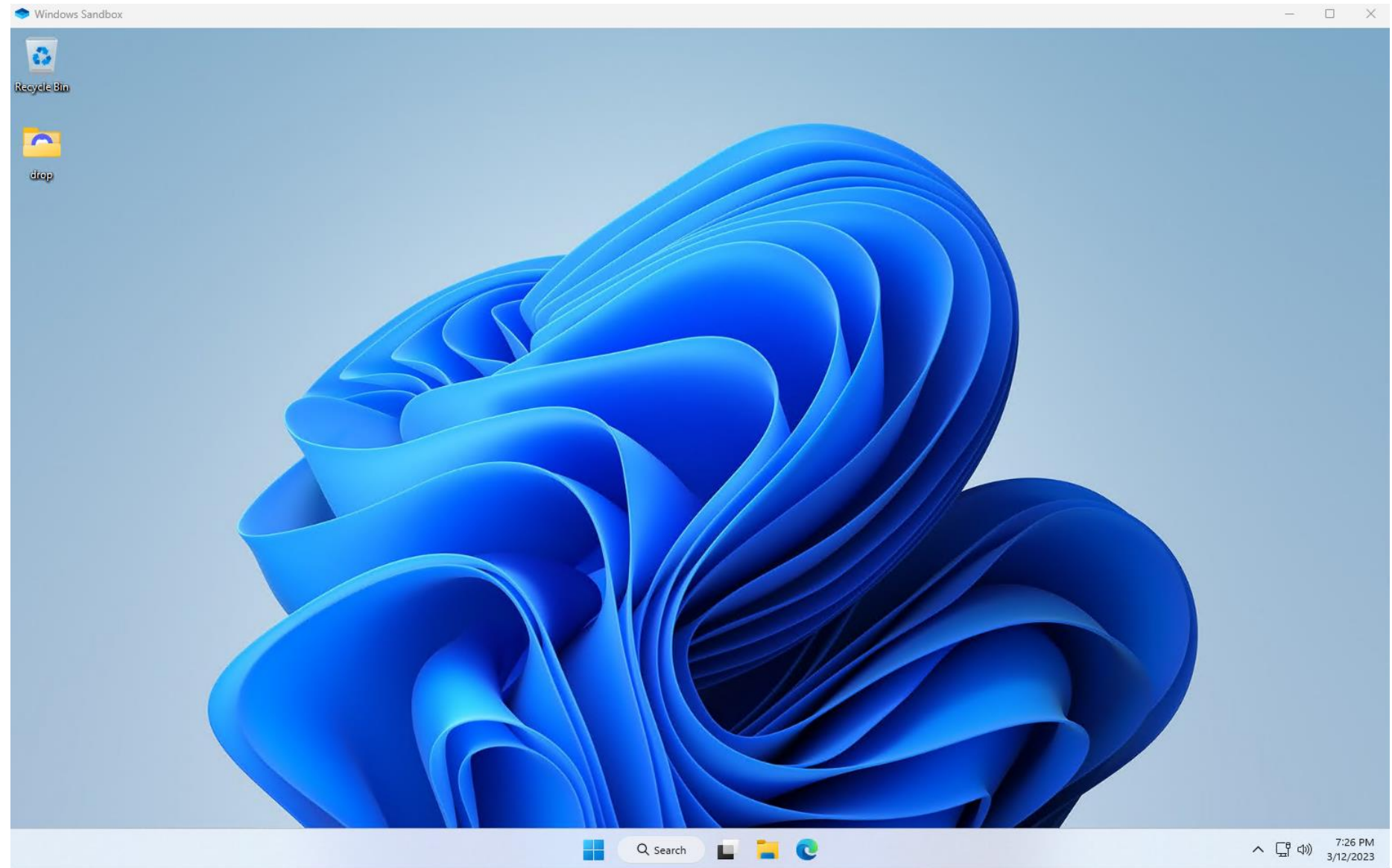




Your Friends

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Windows Sandbox



[Windows Sandbox | Microsoft Learn](#)



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One time install via Sandbox





Your Friends

General

Details

Code Integrity determined that a process (\Device\HarddiskVolume3\Windows\explorer.exe) attempted to load \Device\HarddiskVolume3\Users\JoseSchenardie\Downloads\npp.8.5.Installer.x64.exe that did not meet the Enterprise signing level requirements or violated code integrity policy (Policy ID:{af9bc6fd-9140-4f5c-9958-3e0d1da02de9}).

Event Viewer

Log Name: Microsoft-Windows-CodeIntegrity/Operational

Source: CodeIntegrity

Logged: 12/03/2023 8:00:23 PM

Event ID: 3077

Task Category: (18)

Level: Error

Keywords:

User: AzureAD\JoseSchenardie

Computer: IT-388884006169

OpCode: (7274496)

More Information: [Event Log Online Help](#)



Your Friends

Query

```
1 DeviceEvents
2 |where Timestamp > ago(0.8h) and ActionType startswith "AppControlCodeIntegrityPolicyBlocked"
3 |where DeviceName == "it-388884006169" and FileName contains "npp.8"
4 |project Timestamp, DeviceName, InitiatingProcessAccountUpn, FileName, FolderPath
```


MDE


Getting started

Results

↓ Export

1 item

 Search

<input type="checkbox"/>	Timestamp	DeviceName	InitiatingProcessAccountUpn	FileName	FolderPath
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mar 12, 2023 8:00:23 PM	 it-388884006169	jose@wpninjas.au	npp.8.5.Installer.x64.exe	\Device\HarddiskVolume3\Users\JoseSchenardie\Downloads



Your Best Friend



Microsoft Intune
as Managed Installer

Querying Extended Attributes



```

PowerShell
PS C:\Users\JoseSchenardie> fsutil file queryea 'C:\Program Files\Notepad++\notepad++.exe'

Extended Attributes (EA) information for file C:\Program Files\Notepad++\notepad++.exe:

Total Ea Size: 0x8c4

Ea Buffer Offset: 0
Ea Name: $KERNEL.SMARTLOCKER.ORIGINCLAIM
Ea Value Length: 12c
0000: 01 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 01 00 00 00 .....
0010: a5 0a e1 39 d3 c8 e1 f5 26 3b 33 90 bf 59 dd f0 ...9....&;3..Y..
0020: 21 78 61 49 00 01 3b d7 71 db 6d ef 83 23 93 6a !xaI..;.q.m..#.j
0030: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ea 00 00 00 5c 00 3f 00 .....\.?.
0040: 3f 00 5c 00 43 00 3a 00 5c 00 50 00 72 00 6f 00 ?.\.C.:.\.P.r.o.
0050: 67 00 72 00 61 00 6d 00 20 00 46 00 69 00 6c 00 g.r.a.m. .F.i.l.
0060: 65 00 73 00 20 00 28 00 78 00 38 00 36 00 29 00 e.s. .(x.8.6.).
0070: 5c 00 4d 00 69 00 63 00 72 00 6f 00 73 00 6f 00 \.M.i.c.r.o.s.o.
0080: 66 00 74 00 20 00 49 00 6e 00 74 00 75 00 6e 00 f.t. .I.n.t.u.n.
0090: 65 00 20 00 4d 00 61 00 6e 00 61 00 67 00 65 00 e. .M.a.n.a.g.e.
00a0: 6d 00 65 00 6e 00 74 00 20 00 45 00 78 00 74 00 m.e.n.t. .E.x.t.
00b0: 65 00 6e 00 73 00 69 00 6f 00 6e 00 5c 00 4d 00 e.n.s.i.o.n.\.M.
00c0: 69 00 63 00 72 00 6f 00 73 00 6f 00 66 00 74 00 i.c.r.o.s.o.f.t.
00d0: 2e 00 4d 00 61 00 6e 00 61 00 67 00 65 00 6d 00 ..M.a.n.a.g.e.m.
00e0: 65 00 6e 00 74 00 2e 00 53 00 65 00 72 00 76 00 e.n.t...S.e.r.v.
00f0: 69 00 63 00 65 00 73 00 2e 00 49 00 6e 00 74 00 i.c.e.s...I.n.t.
0100: 75 00 6e 00 65 00 57 00 69 00 6e 00 64 00 6f 00 u.n.e.W.i.n.d.o.
0110: 77 00 73 00 41 00 67 00 65 00 6e 00 74 00 2e 00 w.s.A.g.e.n.t...
0120: 65 00 78 00 65 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....e.x.e.....

```



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Managed Installer in Action





Your Enemies 01 - Wildcard

```
C: > Program Files > WindowsPowerShell > Modules > powershell-yaml > 0.4.4 > powershell-yaml.psm1
415
416     New-Alias -Name cfy -Value ConvertFrom-Yaml
417     New-Alias -Name cty -Value ConvertTo-Yaml
418
419     Export-ModuleMember -Function * -Alias *
420
```

```
PowerShell 7.3.3
PS C:\Users\JoseSchenardie> Import-Module 'C:\Program Files\WindowsPowerShell\Modules\powershell-yaml\0.4.4\powershell-yaml.psm1'
OperationStopped: The pipeline has been stopped.
Import-Module: The specified module 'C:\Program Files\WindowsPowerShell\Modules\powershell-yaml\0.4.4\powershell-yaml.psm1' was not
loaded because no valid module file was found in any module directory.
Import-Module: This module uses the dot-source operator while exporting functions using wildcard characters, and this is disallowed
when the system is under application verification enforcement.
PS C:\Users\JoseSchenardie> |
```



Your Enemies 01 - Wildcard



32,851,606

Downloads

0

Downloads of 0.4.5

[View full stats](#)

24/02/2023

Last Published

Info

[Contact Owners](#)[Report](#)

powershell-yaml 0.4.5

PowerShell module for serializing and deserializing YAML

Minimum PowerShell version

3.0

Installation Options

Install Module

Azure Automation

Manual Download

Copy and Paste the following command to install this package using PowerShell [Get More Info](#)

```
PS> Install-Module -Name powershell-yaml
```



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> Package Details

> FileList

Version History

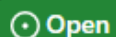
Version	Downloads	Last updated
0.4.5 (current version)	0	2 days ago
0.4.4	1,526,301	2 months ago
0.4.3	4,107,788	5 months ago
0.4.2	15,026,816	5/05/2020
0.4.1	4,237,834	28/11/2019

[+ Show more](#)



Your Enemies 02 – Dot sourcing

Optimize module for "ConstrainedLanguage" #50



hahazeMSFT opened this issue on Jan 22, 2022 · 1 comment



hahazeMSFT commented on Jan 22, 2022



Currently can't import module in [ConstrainedLanguage mode](#).

```
PS C:\WINDOWS\system32> $ExecutionContext.SessionState.LanguageMode = "ConstrainedLanguage"
PS C:\WINDOWS\system32> Import-Module MSAL.PS -Verbose
VERBOSE: Loading module from path 'C:\Program Files\WindowsPowerShell\Modules\MSAL.PS\4.37.0.0\MSAL.PS.psd1'.
VERBOSE: Populating RepositorySourceLocation property for module MSAL.PS.
Import-Module : Importing *.ps1 files as modules is not allowed in ConstrainedLanguage mode.
At line:1 char:1
+ Import-Module MSAL.PS -Verbose
+ ~~~~~
+ CategoryInfo          : PermissionDenied: (:) [Import-Module], InvalidOperationException
+ FullyQualifiedErrorId : Modules_ImportPSFileNotAllowedInConstrainedLanguage,Microsoft.PowerShell.Commands.Import
ModuleCommand
```



jasoht commented on Jun 30, 2022

Contributor



I think there are several reasons the module will not work in ConstrainedLanguage mode at the moment. I'll keep this open as something to investigate but it would like require significant rework, if it is even possible.



Your Enemies 03 – Auto updaters

Application control, based on managed installer, doesn't support applications that self-update. If an application that was deployed by a managed installer later updates itself, the updated application files won't include the origin information from the managed installer, and they might not be able to run. When you rely on managed installers, you must deploy and install all application updates by using a managed installer, or include rules to authorize the app in the WDAC policy.

Q & A





Thank You

