

NETMANAGEIT

Intelligence Report

Slicing up with Binary Ninja

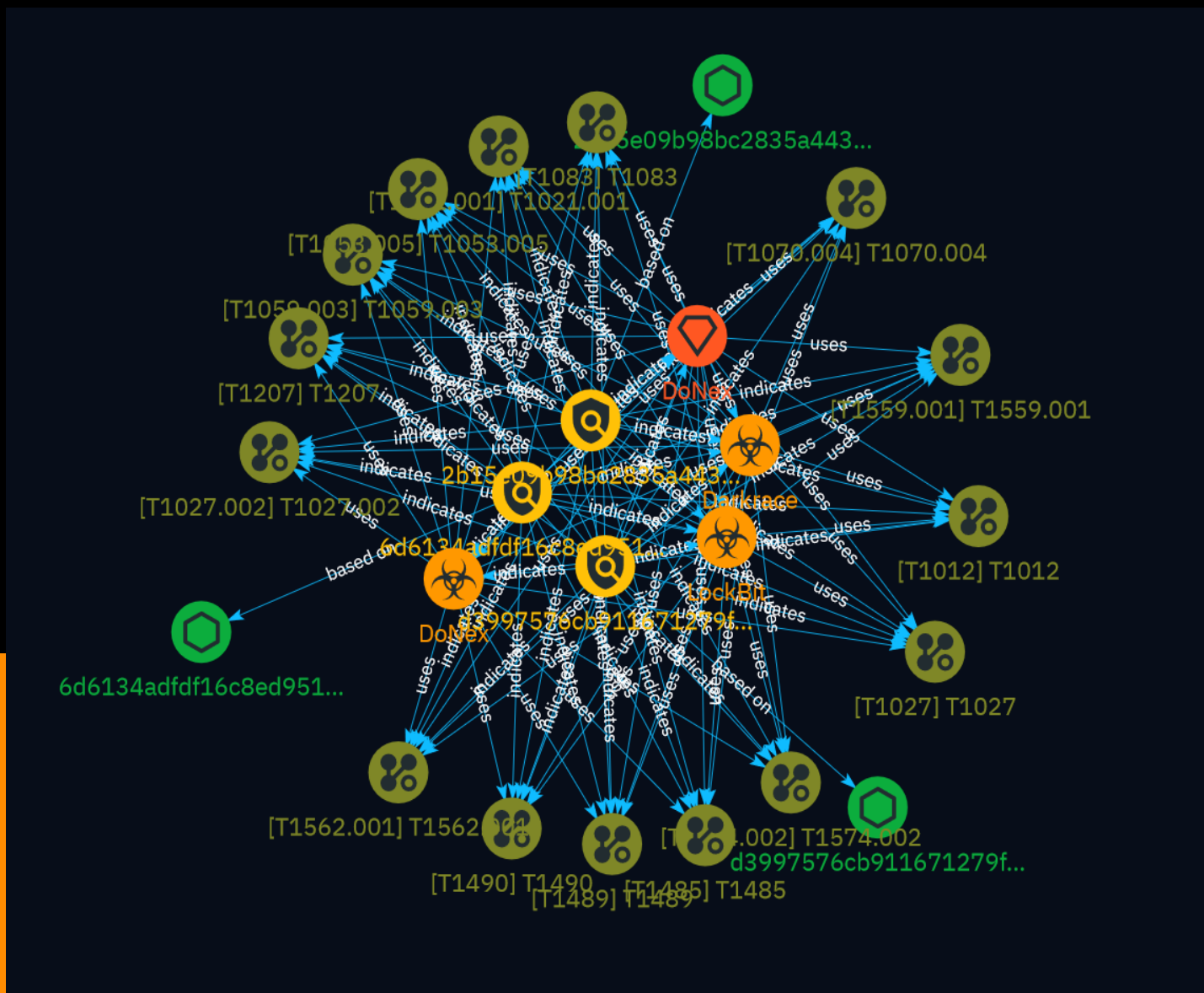


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Overview

Description

This report provides an in-depth analysis of the DoNex ransomware, a spinoff of the LockBit ransomware family. It examines the binary's functionality, including process termination, service control, drive and network share enumeration, file discovery, encryption, and post-encryption cleanup. The report also highlights the similarities between DoNex and LockBit, suggesting that the threat actors behind DoNex are repurposing the leaked LockBit code for their malicious activities.

Confidence

This value represents the confidence in the correctness of the data contained within this report.

100 / 100

Content

N/A

Indicator

Name

d3997576cb911671279f9723b1c9505a572e1c931d39fe6e579b47ed58582731

Pattern Type

stix

Pattern

[file:hashes:'SHA-256' =
'd3997576cb911671279f9723b1c9505a572e1c931d39fe6e579b47ed58582731']

Name

6d6134adfdf16c8ed9513aba40845b15bd314e085ef1d6bd20040afd42e36e40

Pattern Type

stix

Pattern

[file:hashes:'SHA-256' =
'6d6134adfdf16c8ed9513aba40845b15bd314e085ef1d6bd20040afd42e36e40']

Name

2b15e09b98bc2835a4430c4560d3f5b25011141c9efa4331f66e9a707e2a23c0

Pattern Type

stix

Pattern

[file:hashes!'SHA-256' =
'2b15e09b98bc2835a4430c4560d3f5b25011141c9efa4331f66e9a707e2a23c0']

Malware

Name

Darkrace

Name

DoNex

Name

LockBit

Intrusion-Set

Name

DoNex

Attack-Pattern

Name

T1490

ID

T1490

Description

Adversaries may delete or remove built-in data and turn off services designed to aid in the recovery of a corrupted system to prevent recovery.(Citation: Talos Olympic Destroyer 2018) (Citation: FireEye WannaCry 2017) This may deny access to available backups and recovery options. Operating systems may contain features that can help fix corrupted systems, such as a backup catalog, volume shadow copies, and automatic repair features. Adversaries may disable or delete system recovery features to augment the effects of [Data Destruction](<https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1485>) and [Data Encrypted for Impact](<https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1486>).(Citation: Talos Olympic Destroyer 2018) (Citation: FireEye WannaCry 2017) Furthermore, adversaries may disable recovery notifications, then corrupt backups.(Citation: disable_notif_synology_ransom) A number of native Windows utilities have been used by adversaries to disable or delete system recovery features: * `vssadmin.exe` can be used to delete all volume shadow copies on a system - `vssadmin.exe delete shadows /all /quiet` * [Windows Management Instrumentation](<https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1047>) can be used to delete volume shadow copies - `wmic shadowcopy delete` * `wbadmin.exe` can be used to delete the Windows Backup Catalog - `wbadmin.exe delete catalog -quiet` * `bcdedit.exe` can be used to disable automatic Windows recovery features by modifying boot configuration data - `bcdedit.exe /set {default} bootstatuspolicy ignoreallfailures & bcdedit /set {default} recoveryenabled no` * `REAgentC.exe` can be used to disable Windows Recovery Environment (WinRE) repair/recovery options of an infected system On network devices, adversaries may leverage [Disk Wipe](<https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1561>) to delete

backup firmware images and reformat the file system, then [System Shutdown/Reboot] (<https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1529>) to reload the device. Together this activity may leave network devices completely inoperable and inhibit recovery operations. Adversaries may also delete “online” backups that are connected to their network – whether via network storage media or through folders that sync to cloud services.(Citation: ZDNet Ransomware Backups 2020) In cloud environments, adversaries may disable versioning and backup policies and delete snapshots, machine images, and prior versions of objects designed to be used in disaster recovery scenarios.(Citation: Dark Reading Code Spaces Cyber Attack)(Citation: Rhino Security Labs AWS S3 Ransomware)

Name

T1021.001

ID

T1021.001

Description

Adversaries may use [Valid Accounts](<https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1078>) to log into a computer using the Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP). The adversary may then perform actions as the logged-on user. Remote desktop is a common feature in operating systems. It allows a user to log into an interactive session with a system desktop graphical user interface on a remote system. Microsoft refers to its implementation of the Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) as Remote Desktop Services (RDS).(Citation: TechNet Remote Desktop Services) Adversaries may connect to a remote system over RDP/RDS to expand access if the service is enabled and allows access to accounts with known credentials. Adversaries will likely use Credential Access techniques to acquire credentials to use with RDP. Adversaries may also use RDP in conjunction with the [Accessibility Features](<https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1546/008>) or [Terminal Services DLL](<https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1505/005>) for Persistence.(Citation: Alperovitch Malware)

Name

T1574.002

ID

T1574.002

Description

Adversaries may execute their own malicious payloads by side-loading DLLs. Similar to [DLL Search Order Hijacking](<https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1574/001>), side-loading involves hijacking which DLL a program loads. But rather than just planting the DLL within the search order of a program then waiting for the victim application to be invoked, adversaries may directly side-load their payloads by planting then invoking a legitimate application that executes their payload(s). Side-loading takes advantage of the DLL search order used by the loader by positioning both the victim application and malicious payload(s) alongside each other. Adversaries likely use side-loading as a means of masking actions they perform under a legitimate, trusted, and potentially elevated system or software process. Benign executables used to side-load payloads may not be flagged during delivery and/or execution. Adversary payloads may also be encrypted/packed or otherwise obfuscated until loaded into the memory of the trusted process.(Citation: FireEye DLL Side-Loading)

Name

T1027.002

ID

T1027.002

Description

Adversaries may perform software packing or virtual machine software protection to conceal their code. Software packing is a method of compressing or encrypting an executable. Packing an executable changes the file signature in an attempt to avoid signature-based detection. Most decompression techniques decompress the executable code in memory. Virtual machine software protection translates an executable's original code into a special format that only a special virtual machine can run. A virtual machine is then called to run this code.(Citation: ESET FinFisher Jan 2018) Utilities used to perform software packing are called packers. Example packers are MPRESS and UPX. A more comprehensive list of known packers is available, but adversaries may create their own packing techniques that do not leave the same artifacts as well-known packers to evade defenses.(Citation: Awesome Executable Packing)

Name

T1070.004

ID

T1070.004

Description

Adversaries may delete files left behind by the actions of their intrusion activity. Malware, tools, or other non-native files dropped or created on a system by an adversary (ex: [Ingress Tool Transfer](https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1105)) may leave traces to indicate to what was done within a network and how. Removal of these files can occur during an intrusion, or as part of a post-intrusion process to minimize the adversary's footprint. There are tools available from the host operating system to perform cleanup, but adversaries may use other tools as well.(Citation: Microsoft SDelete July 2016) Examples of built-in [Command and Scripting Interpreter](https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1059) functions include `del`` on Windows and `rm`` or `unlink`` on Linux and macOS.

Name

T1485

ID

T1485

Description

Adversaries may destroy data and files on specific systems or in large numbers on a network to interrupt availability to systems, services, and network resources. Data destruction is likely to render stored data irrecoverable by forensic techniques through overwriting files or data on local and remote drives.(Citation: Symantec Shmoon 2012) (Citation: FireEye Shmoon Nov 2016)(Citation: Palo Alto Shmoon Nov 2016)(Citation: Kaspersky StoneDrill 2017)(Citation: Unit 42 Shmoon3 2018)(Citation: Talos Olympic Destroyer 2018) Common operating system file deletion commands such as `del`` and `rm``

often only remove pointers to files without wiping the contents of the files themselves, making the files recoverable by proper forensic methodology. This behavior is distinct from [Disk Content Wipe](<https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1561/001>) and [Disk Structure Wipe](<https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1561/002>) because individual files are destroyed rather than sections of a storage disk or the disk's logical structure. Adversaries may attempt to overwrite files and directories with randomly generated data to make it irrecoverable.(Citation: Kaspersky StoneDrill 2017)(Citation: Unit 42 Shamoon3 2018) In some cases politically oriented image files have been used to overwrite data. (Citation: FireEye Shamoon Nov 2016)(Citation: Palo Alto Shamoon Nov 2016)(Citation: Kaspersky StoneDrill 2017) To maximize impact on the target organization in operations where network-wide availability interruption is the goal, malware designed for destroying data may have worm-like features to propagate across a network by leveraging additional techniques like [Valid Accounts](<https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1078>), [OS Credential Dumping](<https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1003>), and [SMB/Windows Admin Shares](<https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1021/002>).(Citation: Symantec Shamoon 2012) (Citation: FireEye Shamoon Nov 2016)(Citation: Palo Alto Shamoon Nov 2016)(Citation: Kaspersky StoneDrill 2017)(Citation: Talos Olympic Destroyer 2018). In cloud environments, adversaries may leverage access to delete cloud storage, cloud storage accounts, machine images, and other infrastructure crucial to operations to damage an organization or their customers.(Citation: Data Destruction - Threat Post)(Citation: DOJ - Cisco Insider)

Name

T1059.003

ID

T1059.003

Description

Adversaries may abuse the Windows command shell for execution. The Windows command shell ([cmd](<https://attack.mitre.org/software/S0106>)) is the primary command prompt on Windows systems. The Windows command prompt can be used to control almost any aspect of a system, with various permission levels required for different subsets of commands. The command prompt can be invoked remotely via [Remote Services](<https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1021>) such as [SSH](<https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1021/004>).(Citation: SSH in Windows) Batch files (ex: .bat or .cmd) also provide the shell with a list of sequential commands to run, as well as normal scripting operations such as conditionals and loops. Common uses of batch files include long or repetitive tasks, or the need to run the same set of commands on multiple systems. Adversaries may

leverage [cmd](<https://attack.mitre.org/software/S0106>) to execute various commands and payloads. Common uses include [cmd](<https://attack.mitre.org/software/S0106>) to execute a single command, or abusing [cmd](<https://attack.mitre.org/software/S0106>) interactively with input and output forwarded over a command and control channel.

Name

T1012

ID

T1012

Description

Adversaries may interact with the Windows Registry to gather information about the system, configuration, and installed software. The Registry contains a significant amount of information about the operating system, configuration, software, and security.(Citation: Wikipedia Windows Registry) Information can easily be queried using the [Reg](<https://attack.mitre.org/software/S0075>) utility, though other means to access the Registry exist. Some of the information may help adversaries to further their operation within a network. Adversaries may use the information from [Query Registry](<https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1012>) during automated discovery to shape follow-on behaviors, including whether or not the adversary fully infects the target and/or attempts specific actions.

Name

T1562.001

ID

T1562.001

Description

Adversaries may modify and/or disable security tools to avoid possible detection of their malware/tools and activities. This may take many forms, such as killing security software processes or services, modifying / deleting Registry keys or configuration files so that

tools do not operate properly, or other methods to interfere with security tools scanning or reporting information. Adversaries may also disable updates to prevent the latest security patches from reaching tools on victim systems.(Citation: SCADAFence_ransomware) Adversaries may also tamper with artifacts deployed and utilized by security tools. Security tools may make dynamic changes to system components in order to maintain visibility into specific events. For example, security products may load their own modules and/or modify those loaded by processes to facilitate data collection. Similar to [Indicator Blocking](<https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1562/006>), adversaries may unhook or otherwise modify these features added by tools (especially those that exist in userland or are otherwise potentially accessible to adversaries) to avoid detection.(Citation: OutFlank System Calls)(Citation: MDSec System Calls) Adversaries may also focus on specific applications such as Sysmon. For example, the “Start” and “Enable” values in `\HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\WMI\Autologger\EventLog-Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon-Operational`` may be modified to tamper with and potentially disable Sysmon logging.(Citation: disable_win_evt_logging) On network devices, adversaries may attempt to skip digital signature verification checks by altering startup configuration files and effectively disabling firmware verification that typically occurs at boot.(Citation: Fortinet Zero-Day and Custom Malware Used by Suspected Chinese Actor in Espionage Operation)(Citation: Analysis of FG-IR-22-369) In cloud environments, tools disabled by adversaries may include cloud monitoring agents that report back to services such as AWS CloudWatch or Google Cloud Monitor. Furthermore, although defensive tools may have anti-tampering mechanisms, adversaries may abuse tools such as legitimate rootkit removal kits to impair and/or disable these tools.(Citation: chasing_avaddon_ransomware)(Citation: dharma_ransomware)(Citation: demystifying_ryuk)(Citation: doppelpaymer_crowdstrike) For example, adversaries have used tools such as GMER to find and shut down hidden processes and antivirus software on infected systems.(Citation: demystifying_ryuk) Additionally, adversaries may exploit legitimate drivers from anti-virus software to gain access to kernel space (i.e. [Exploitation for Privilege Escalation](<https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1068>)), which may lead to bypassing anti-tampering features.(Citation: avoslocker_ransomware)

Name

T1083

ID

T1083

Description

Adversaries may enumerate files and directories or may search in specific locations of a host or network share for certain information within a file system. Adversaries may use the information from [File and Directory Discovery](<https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1083>) during automated discovery to shape follow-on behaviors, including whether or not the adversary fully infects the target and/or attempts specific actions. Many command shell utilities can be used to obtain this information. Examples include ``dir``, ``tree``, ``ls``, ``find``, and ``locate``. (Citation: Windows Commands JPCERT) Custom tools may also be used to gather file and directory information and interact with the [Native API](<https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1106>). Adversaries may also leverage a [Network Device CLI](<https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1059/008>) on network devices to gather file and directory information (e.g. ``dir``, ``show flash``, and/or ``nvram``). (Citation: US-CERT-TA18-106A)

Name

T1027

ID

T1027

Description

Adversaries may attempt to make an executable or file difficult to discover or analyze by encrypting, encoding, or otherwise obfuscating its contents on the system or in transit. This is common behavior that can be used across different platforms and the network to evade defenses. Payloads may be compressed, archived, or encrypted in order to avoid detection. These payloads may be used during Initial Access or later to mitigate detection. Sometimes a user's action may be required to open and [Deobfuscate/Decode Files or Information](<https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1140>) for [User Execution](<https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1204>). The user may also be required to input a password to open a password protected compressed/encrypted file that was provided by the adversary. (Citation: Volexity PowerDuke November 2016) Adversaries may also use compressed or archived scripts, such as JavaScript. Portions of files can also be encoded to hide the plain-text strings that would otherwise help defenders with discovery. (Citation: Linux/Cdorked.A We Live Security Analysis) Payloads may also be split into separate, seemingly benign files that only reveal malicious functionality when reassembled. (Citation: Carbon Black Obfuscation Sept 2016) Adversaries may also abuse [Command Obfuscation](<https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1027/010>) to obscure commands executed from payloads or directly via [Command and Scripting Interpreter](<https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1059>). Environment variables, aliases, characters, and other platform/language specific

semantics can be used to evade signature based detections and application control mechanisms. (Citation: FireEye Obfuscation June 2017) (Citation: FireEye Revoke-Obfuscation July 2017)(Citation: PaloAlto EncodedCommand March 2017)

Name

T1207

ID

T1207

Description

Adversaries may register a rogue Domain Controller to enable manipulation of Active Directory data. DCShadow may be used to create a rogue Domain Controller (DC). DCShadow is a method of manipulating Active Directory (AD) data, including objects and schemas, by registering (or reusing an inactive registration) and simulating the behavior of a DC. (Citation: DCShadow Blog) Once registered, a rogue DC may be able to inject and replicate changes into AD infrastructure for any domain object, including credentials and keys. Registering a rogue DC involves creating a new server and nTDSDSA objects in the Configuration partition of the AD schema, which requires Administrator privileges (either Domain or local to the DC) or the KRBTGT hash. (Citation: Adsecurity Mimikatz Guide) This technique may bypass system logging and security monitors such as security information and event management (SIEM) products (since actions taken on a rogue DC may not be reported to these sensors). (Citation: DCShadow Blog) The technique may also be used to alter and delete replication and other associated metadata to obstruct forensic analysis. Adversaries may also utilize this technique to perform [SID-History Injection](<https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1134/005>) and/or manipulate AD objects (such as accounts, access control lists, schemas) to establish backdoors for Persistence. (Citation: DCShadow Blog)

Name

T1559.001

ID

T1559.001

Description

Adversaries may use the Windows Component Object Model (COM) for local code execution. COM is an inter-process communication (IPC) component of the native Windows application programming interface (API) that enables interaction between software objects, or executable code that implements one or more interfaces.(Citation: Fireeye Hunting COM June 2019) Through COM, a client object can call methods of server objects, which are typically binary Dynamic Link Libraries (DLL) or executables (EXE).(Citation: Microsoft COM) Remote COM execution is facilitated by [Remote Services](<https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1021>) such as [Distributed Component Object Model](<https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1021/003>) (DCOM).(Citation: Fireeye Hunting COM June 2019) Various COM interfaces are exposed that can be abused to invoke arbitrary execution via a variety of programming languages such as C, C++, Java, and [Visual Basic](<https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1059/005>).(Citation: Microsoft COM) Specific COM objects also exist to directly perform functions beyond code execution, such as creating a [Scheduled Task/Job](<https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1053>), fileless download/execution, and other adversary behaviors related to privilege escalation and persistence.(Citation: Fireeye Hunting COM June 2019)(Citation: ProjectZero File Write EoP Apr 2018)

Name

T1489

ID

T1489

Description

Adversaries may stop or disable services on a system to render those services unavailable to legitimate users. Stopping critical services or processes can inhibit or stop response to an incident or aid in the adversary's overall objectives to cause damage to the environment.(Citation: Talos Olympic Destroyer 2018)(Citation: Novetta Blockbuster) Adversaries may accomplish this by disabling individual services of high importance to an organization, such as `MSExchangeIS`, which will make Exchange content inaccessible (Citation: Novetta Blockbuster). In some cases, adversaries may stop or disable many or all services to render systems unusable.(Citation: Talos Olympic Destroyer 2018) Services or

processes may not allow for modification of their data stores while running. Adversaries may stop services or processes in order to conduct [Data Destruction](<https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1485>) or [Data Encrypted for Impact](<https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1486>) on the data stores of services like Exchange and SQL Server.(Citation: SecureWorks WannaCry Analysis)

Name

T1053.005

ID

T1053.005

Description

Adversaries may abuse the Windows Task Scheduler to perform task scheduling for initial or recurring execution of malicious code. There are multiple ways to access the Task Scheduler in Windows. The [schtasks](<https://attack.mitre.org/software/S0111>) utility can be run directly on the command line, or the Task Scheduler can be opened through the GUI within the Administrator Tools section of the Control Panel. In some cases, adversaries have used a .NET wrapper for the Windows Task Scheduler, and alternatively, adversaries have used the Windows netapi32 library to create a scheduled task. The deprecated [at](<https://attack.mitre.org/software/S0110>) utility could also be abused by adversaries (ex: [At](<https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1053/002>)), though `at.exe` can not access tasks created with `schtasks` or the Control Panel. An adversary may use Windows Task Scheduler to execute programs at system startup or on a scheduled basis for persistence. The Windows Task Scheduler can also be abused to conduct remote Execution as part of Lateral Movement and/or to run a process under the context of a specified account (such as SYSTEM). Similar to [System Binary Proxy Execution](<https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1218>), adversaries have also abused the Windows Task Scheduler to potentially mask one-time execution under signed/trusted system processes.(Citation: ProofPoint Serpent) Adversaries may also create "hidden" scheduled tasks (i.e. [Hide Artifacts](<https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1564>)) that may not be visible to defender tools and manual queries used to enumerate tasks. Specifically, an adversary may hide a task from `schtasks /query` and the Task Scheduler by deleting the associated Security Descriptor (SD) registry value (where deletion of this value must be completed using SYSTEM permissions).(Citation: SigmaHQ)(Citation: Tarrask scheduled task) Adversaries may also employ alternate methods to hide tasks, such as altering the metadata (e.g., `Index`

value) within associated registry keys.(Citation: Defending Against Scheduled Task Attacks in Windows Environments)

StixFile

Value

d3997576cb911671279f9723b1c9505a572e1c931d39fe6e579b47ed58582731

6d6134adfdf16c8ed9513aba40845b15bd314e085ef1d6bd20040afd42e36e40

2b15e09b98bc2835a4430c4560d3f5b25011141c9efa4331f66e9a707e2a23c0

External References

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- <https://otx.alienvault.com/pulse/660f0165ae67f61fb3378845>