#### TROOPERS 2023

#### CAT & MOUSE - OR CHESS?



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#### AGENDA



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### AGENDA

- Whoami
- How EDRs detect malicious Payloads
- Published userland hooking bypass techniques
- ► The idea for a new approach
- Challenges in the implementation
- The Proof of Concept





01

#### WHOAMI



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#### WHOAMI

- Teamleader Pentest/Red-Team @r-tec
- Breaking into company environments at work & escalating privileges
- Inspired by the community, likes to share knowledge
- Publishing Tools/Scripts on Github, Blogposts, YouTube-Videos
- Special interest in AV/EDR Evasion topics

5





02

# HOW EDR'S DETECT MALICIOUS PAYLOADS



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User Land:

- Static & Dynamic Analysis
- **Userland-Hooking**
- Stack Trace Analysis

#### Kernel Land:

- **Kernel Callbacks**
- ETW Threat Intelligence (ETWti)

<b>a</b> c	OneDrive.exe Properties			
	Security General	Details Compatibility	Previous Versions Digital Signatures	٦
-	Signature list	Digest algorithm	Timestamp	1
	Microsoft Corpora	a sha256	Monday, July 18, 202	
			Details	

S	Stack - thread 5000					
	Name					
0	ntdll.dll!NtCreateThreadEx					
1	KernelBase.dll!CreateRemoteThreadEx+0x29f					
2	kernel32.dll!CreateThread+0x3d					
3	dr.dll!GC_Initialize+0x2efa					
4	dr.dll!GC_Initialize+0x2e18					
5	dr.dll!GC_Initialize+0x18e0					
6	clr.dll!GetIdentityAuthority+0x29aa					
7	clr.dll!GetIdentityAuthority+0x23d5					
8	dr.dll!GetIdentitvAuthoritv+0x235f					



#### **Userland Hooks**

- Memory Windows API patching
  - ► The jmp goes to the EDR DLL
- Input arguments analysis
- Malicious Payloads can be detected on runtime

mov r10,rcx rcx:NtQueryInformatio	onThread+1
mov eax,4F 4F: '0'	
test byte ptr ds: [7FFE0308].1	
jne ntdll.7FF98C36DAA5	
syscall	
ret	
int 2E	
ret	
pop dword ptr ds [rax+ray] eav	
ing 755088500505	
Jmp /FF988600FD6 2wProtectviritualMemor	У
add byte ptr ds:[rax],al	
add dh.dh	
add al.25	
and arts of a straight all shows "I dependent all and	ocess"
or byce per ds. [rbx], at rbx. Edipiniciarizeri	ocess
]g ntd11.7FF98C36DAC1	
ine ntdll.7FF98C36DAC5	
Everal 1	
ret	
nop dword ptr ds:[rax+rax],eax	
mov r10 rcv revintormatio	nThread+1



#### Userland Hooks – simle Example

- EDR checks the startAddress on runtime
  - A memory Scan for it's memory location is done
  - Yara rule finds Cobaltstrike/Sliver/Covenant Shellcode and verifies that as known malicious
  - The Process is killed





#### Kernel Callbacks

- Live interception / interaction
- Imaginable like Hooks but from Kernel land

#### **ETW threat intelligence**

- Event based subscriptions
- Interaction <u>after</u> event capture
  - Stack Trace analysis
  - Memory Scans

Event Description
THREATINT_ALLOCVM_REMOTE
THREATINT_PROTECTVM_REMOTE
THREATINT_MAPVIEW_REMOTE
THREATINT_QUEUEUSERAPC_REMOTE
THREATINT_SETTHREADCONTEXT_REMOTE
THREATINT_ALLOCVM_LOCAL
THREATINT_PROTECTVM_LOCAL
THREATINT_MAPVIEW_LOCAL
THREATINT_READVM_LOCAL
THREATINT_WRITEVM_LOCAL
THREATINT_READVM_REMOTE
THREATINT_WRITEVM_REMOTE
THREATINT_SUSPEND_THREAD
THREATINT_RESUME_THREAD
THREATINT_SUSPEND_PROCESS

Excerpt TI Provider events<sup>2</sup>



Excerpt Kernel Callbacks<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> <u>https://pre.empt.dev/posts/maelstrom-edr-kernel-callbacks-hooks-and-callstacks/#Kernel\_Callbacks</u>

<sup>2</sup> <u>https://posts.specterops.io/uncovering-windows-events-b4b9db7eac54</u>

03

# BYPASSING USERLAND

HOOKS



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#### **BYPASSING USERLAND HOOKS**

Techniques with PoCs published in the last years:

- Unhooking
- Using Direct Syscalls
- Using Hardware Breakpoints
- DLL Entrypoint Patching



#### Unhooking:



https://www.ired.team/offensive-security/defense-evasion/how-to-unhook-a-dll-using-c++



**Using Direct Syscalls:** 

- Typically retrieved from:
  - Memory (HellsGate<sup>1</sup>, RecycledGate<sup>2</sup>,...)
  - Disk (GetSyscallStub e.G. C# Dinvoke<sup>3</sup>)
  - (Partially) Embedded (Syswhispers <sup>1 2 3</sup>)

- <sup>1</sup> <u>https://github.com/am0nsec/HellsGate</u>
- 2 https://github.com/thefLink/RecycledGate
- <sup>3</sup> <u>https://github.com/TheWover/DInvoke</u>
- <sup>4</sup> <u>https://github.com/jthuraisamy/SysWhispers</u>
- <sup>5</sup> <u>https://github.com/jthuraisamy/SysWhispers2</u>
- <sup>6</sup> <u>https://github.com/klezVirus/SysWhispers3</u>





<u>Using Hardware Breakpoints – TamperingSyscalls<sup>1</sup>:</u>

Set Hardware Breakpoints for the Syscall start address





DLL Entrypoint Patching – SharpBlock<sup>1</sup>:

- Create a child Process with the DEBUG\_ONLY\_THIS\_PROCESS<sup>2</sup> flag
- As Debugger, check for LOAD\_DLL\_DEBUG\_EVENT events -> EDR DLL loading
- Patching the DLLs entrypoint it exits without creating hooks





<sup>1</sup> <u>https://ethicalchaos.dev/2020/06/14/lets-create-an-edr-and-bypass-it-part-2/</u>

<sup>2</sup> <u>https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/win32/procthread/process-creation-flags</u>



04

# THE IDEA FOR A NEW APPROACH



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## THE IDEA FOR A NEW APPROACH

Inspiration: Alejandro Pinna - Bypass AMSI by hooking NtCreateSection<sup>1</sup>

- ► We hook an API from the DLL loading process, e.G. NtCreateSection
- Our hook checks for the target DLL being loaded
  - Return NTSTATUS fail
- ► The target DLL cannot get mapped into memory
- Initially used to bypass AMSI
- ► Target DLL has to be <u>not loaded yet</u>

## THE IDEA FOR A NEW APPROACH

#### The problem with AV/EDR DLLs

- EDRs are like the white player in a Chess game<sup>1</sup>
  - They do the first move with hooks loaded directly via the kernel
- ► For <u>any</u> userland Process
  - The EDR DLL is loaded <u>directly</u> after ntdll.dll
  - Hooks are set even before other DLLs like Kernel32.dll are loaded





## THE IDEA FOR A NEW APPROACH

The alternative:

Suspended processes only have ntdll.dll loaded

<pre>tProcPath = newWideCString(r"C:\windows\system32\windowspowershell\v1.0\powershell.</pre>
<pre>status = CreateProcess(     NULL,     cast[LPWSTR](tProcPath),     ps,     ts,</pre>
FALSE. CREATE_SUSPENDED or CREATE_NEW_CONSOLE or EXTENDED_STARTUPINFO_PRESENT, NULL, r"C:\Windows\system32\", addr si.StartupInfo, addr pi)

🔁 powershell.exe (1832) Properties									
General	Statistics	Performance	Threads	Token	Modu	iles	Memory	Environment	Hand
Name powershell.exe ntdll.dll		Ba <b>0x7ff6</b> 0x7f	ase addres: 5 <b>8290000</b> fb4cdf0000	s <b>0 45</b> 0 1.9	Size 5 <b>2 kB</b> 97 MB	Des Wi	scription <b>ndows Po</b> Layer DLL	owerShell	



## THE IDEA FOR A NEW APPROACH





04

# CHALLENGES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION



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#### Writing PIC Code

- Everything should only exist in the .text section
- No global Variables
- Resolving APIs on Runtime
- Replace mainCRTStartup with our entrypoint

char amsiShort[] = /\*amsi.dll \*/{ 'a', 'm', 's', 'i', '.', 'd', 'l', 'l', 0 };
if (StrStrIA((char\*)&lpFilename, (char\*)&amsiShort) != 0)
{
 return 0xC0000054; // STATUS\_FILE\_LOCK\_CONFLICT
}



#### Writing PIC Code

- The code needs to use ntdll.dll functions exclusively
- Many functions such as charcmp, StrStrIA, strlen, memcpy are not usable







#### Getting back the old NtCreateSection value

- On resume, the function is already overwritten
- The original NtCreateSection function however still needs to be called
- One solution:
  - The host process knows about the original value
  - Egghunter usage





Not modifying the NtCreateSection input arguments

- ► We need a direct jmp to our hook function, otherwise the arguments are corrupt
- Our stack is already aligned properly





#### Choosing the correct NTSTATUS return value:

- Each process/software handles the NtCreateSection NTSTATUS call differently
- ► E.G. Powershell crashes when returning 0 for amsi.dll
  - Tries to interact with it although it's not loaded
- Returning an error leads to an GUI error message
  - Less likely leads to crashes as the error can be handled
- When testing returning 0 seemed to be better for EDR DLLs





05

# PROOF OF CONCEPT – RUY LOPEZ



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#### **PROOF OF CONCEPT – RUY LOPEZ**

powershell.exe (2616) Properties

452 kB Windows Pow

3.33 MB Microsoft COM

140 kB Group Policy Cli

764 kB Windows NT BA

2.69 MB Run time utility 192 kB Multi-User Wind

[*] Target Process: 2616				
[*] Got NtCreateSection address via dynlib: 00007ffb4ce8d9f0	General Statistics	Performance Threads	Token M	lodules Memor
[*] Injecting Shellcode for the hook into the remote process: 2616				
[*] pHandle: 172	Name	Base address	Size	Description
[*] Writing allocated Shellcode address 000001b5c7ea0000 into Original	nowarchall ave	0.74659300000	453 60	Windows Da
[+] WriteProcessMemory success	powersnell.exe	0x7ffb4bac0000	432 KD	Advanced Wir
<pre>[+] NtFlushInstructionCache success [*] Peretaly Hacked AtCreateSection, true</pre>	auvapisz.uli	0x7fb2b450000	116 LD	Advanced wir
[*] Remotely Hooked NicrealeSection: true	au.uii	0x711030430000	110 KD	Windows Cru
[*] Found egg at Index: 5/28	bcrypt.dii	0x7ffb4a520000	150 KB	Windows Cryp
[*] Writing Original Dytes into egg	bcryptprimitives	. 0x/mb4a550000	520 KB	Windows Cryp
[*] Done. [*] WhiteDhocossMemony: thue	cibcatq.di	UX/TTD4C/40000	676 KB	COM+ Config
V bytes written: 6111	cir.dll	0x7ffb10d90000	11.2 MB	Microsoft .NE
( bytes written, bill	clrjit.dll	0x7ffb1a140000	1.31 MB	Microsoft .NE
[*] Posuming the process	combase.dll	0x7ffb4c040000	3.33 MB	Microsoft CON
[ ] Kesuming the process	coml2.dll	0x7ffb4c3c0000	484 kB	Microsoft CON
C:\windows\system32\windowspowershell\v1.0\nowershell.eve	crypt32.dll	0x7ffb4a7a0000	1.34 MB	Crypto API32
	crypt32.dll.mui	0x1b5e1e80000	40 kB	Crypto API32
Vindows PowerShell	cryptbase.dll	0x7ffb49de0000	48 kB	Base cryptogr
Copyright (C) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved	cryptsp.dll	0x7ffb49dc0000	96 kB	Cryptographic
	diasymreader.dll	0x7ffb140f0000	1.44 MB	Dia based Syr
ry the new cross-platform PowerShell https://aka.ms/psc	fltLib.dll	0x7ffb38710000	44 kB	Filter Library
on on Mutanday and an	gdi32.dll	0x7ffb4b110000	172 kB	GDI Client DLL
A C: \windows\system52> \pia	gdi32full.dll	0x7ffb4aa00000	1.06 MB	GDI Client DLI
2010	gpapi.dll	0x7ffb48d80000	140 kB	Group Policy (
'S C: \windows\system52> amsiscanduiller	iertutil.dl	0x7ffb40ac0000	2.69 MB	Run time utilit
amsiscanduller: the term amsiscanduller is not recount	imm32.dll	0x7ffb4b890000	192 kB	Multi-User Wir
again	kernel appcore d	0x7ffb482f0000	72 kB	AppModel API
tyann.	kernel32.dll	0x7ffb4c7f0000	764 kB	Windows NT F





line:1 char:1

#### **PROOF OF CONCEPT – RUY LOPEZ**

Tested against multiple EDR vendors

- ► No Alert/Prevention from <u>any</u> vendor
- (Mainly) successful block of target DLLs
- Cannot be used against MDE, as there are no userland hooks / DLLs to block

char cyvera[] = /\*Cyvera.dll \*/{ 'c', 'y', 'v', 'e', 'r', 'a', '.', 'd', 'l', 'l', 0 }; char EdrDotNet[] = /\*EdrDotNet.dll \*/{ 'E', 'd', 'r', 'D', 'o', 't', 'N', 'e', 't', '.', 'd', 'l', 'l', 0 }; char cyvrtrap[] = /\*cyvrtrap.dll \*/{ 'c', 'y', 'v', 'r', 't', 'r', 'a', 'p', '.', 'd', 'l', 'l', 0 }; //char cyinjct[] = /\*cyinjct.dll \*/{ 'c', 'y', 'i', 'n', 'j', 'c', 't', '.', 'd', 'l', 'l', 0 }; // Cannot be blocked, as this is injected char EdrDotNetUnmanaged[] = /\*EdrDotNet.Unmanaged.dll \*/{'E', 'd', 'r', 'D', 'o', 't', 'N', 'e', 't', '.', 'U', 'n', 'm', 'a', 'n', 'a', 'g', ' char ntnativeapi[] = /\*ntnativeapi.dll \*/{ 'n', 't', 'n', 'a', 't', 'i', 'v', 'e', 'a', 'p', 'i', '.', 'd', 'l', 'l', 0 };



#### **PROOF OF CONCEPT – RUY LOPEZ**

Is that OPSec safe?

- Injection + Hooking are easy to detect / have well documented IoCs
- Blue Teams / Hunters could easily find IoCs
- However, in this moment AV/EDRs don't check those IoCs for suspended/resumed processes and don't block it (yet)



#### **PROOF OF CONCEPT – RUY LOPEZ**

#### **OPSec** improvements:

- Userland Hook evasion for injection from the host process
- RX Shellcode (PIC-Code modifications needed)
- Hashing instead of plain DLL names to block
- Hardware Breakpoints instead of hooking



#### **PROOF OF CONCEPT – RUY LOPEZ**

Var	<pre>var malwarebytes: seq[byte] = @[byte(0x4d), byte(0x5a), [snip], byte(0x00), byte(0x00)]</pre>
<pre>lpSize: SIZE_T pi: PROCESS_INFORMATI ps: SECURITY_ATTRIBUT si: STARTUPINFOEX</pre>	<pre># Decrypt malware var decryptedmalware: seq[byte] = decrypt(malwarebytes)</pre>
status: WINBOOL tHandle: HANDLE tProcPath: WideCStrir ts: SECURITY_ATTRIBUL	<pre># Write bytes to file writeFile("malware.exe", decryptedmalware)</pre>
<pre># Initialize the STARTUPI ps.nLength = sizeof(ps).c ts.nLength = sizeof(ts).c si.StartupInfo.cb = sizec</pre>	<pre># Start it status = CreateProcess(NULL,</pre>
<pre># Get the current Executa var currentDir: WideCStri GetModuleFileNameW(0, cur</pre>	NULL, r"C:\Windows\system32\", addr si.StartupInfo,
<pre># Execute it'self with ar CreateProcess(currentDir, CREATE_NEW_CONSOLE or EXTENDE</pre>	addr pi)
# Rest of Ruy-Lopez, sett []	ing hooks, inject shellcode and so on
else: # malicious code goes here	



## **PROOF OF CONCEPT – RUY LOPEZ**

#### https://github.com/S3cur3Th1sSh1t/Ruy-Lopez





## **PROOF OF CONCEPT – RUY LOPEZ**

Alternative usage ideas:

- Wldp.dll block to bypass Device Guard / trust checks
- Block custom AMSI Provider DLLs
- ► Inject/Execute shellcode ThreadlessInject<sup>1</sup> style in the new process
  - Note: await Process initialization before execution

▶ (...)



## **PROOF OF CONCEPT – RUY LOPEZ**

#### Credits:

- Ceri Coburn @\_EthicalChaos\_
- Sven Rath @eversinc33
- Alejandro Pinna @frodosobon
- Charles Hamilton @MrUn1k0d3r
- Chetan Nayak @NinjaParanoid







#### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**

**QUESTIONS?** 

Fabian Mosch

