

Pi\$\$ing off an APT

Edward Williams



#whoami



Name of passenger
WILLIAMS/EDWARD DA

[LON-SP-ZMG8WL:tmp root# ./whoami.sh



Name: Ed Williams

Position: SpiderLabs Director, EMEA

Previously: Principal Security Consultant

Other: Crest Fellow

Interesting facts: Welsh

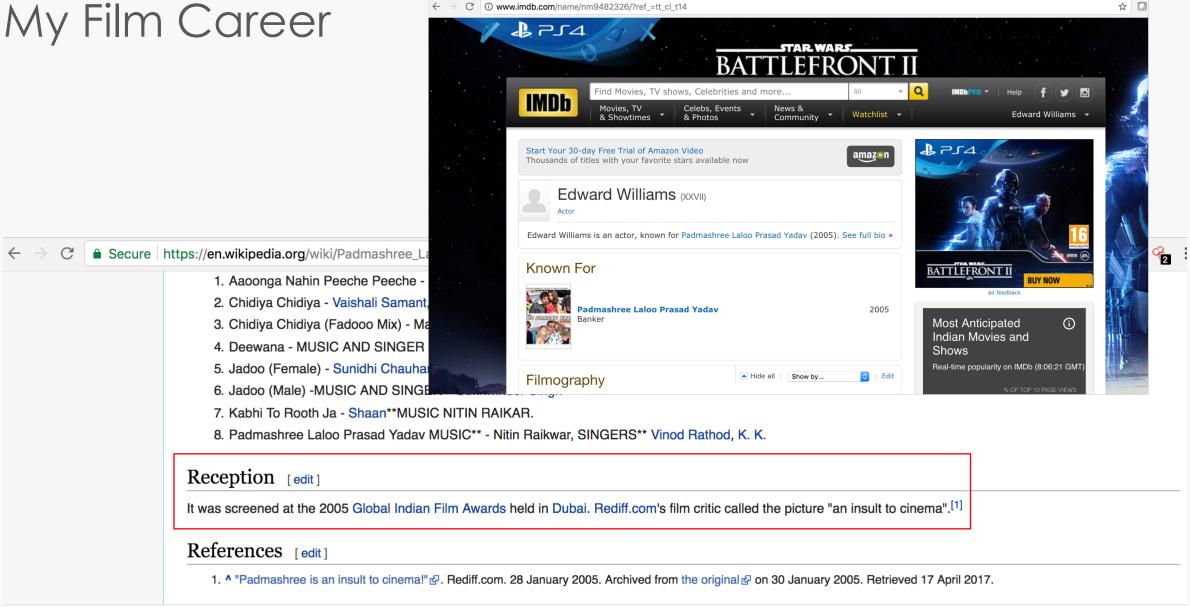
Father of twins

Have taken part in a bollywood film

LON-SP-ZMG8WL:tmp root#



My Film Career



The ~enemy



Red Teams Blog @redtea... · 3h Act, don't react.

Sun Tzu @SunTzuCyber

"The enemy does not check your risk register prior to attacking." - Sun Tzu, The Art of Cyber War



1





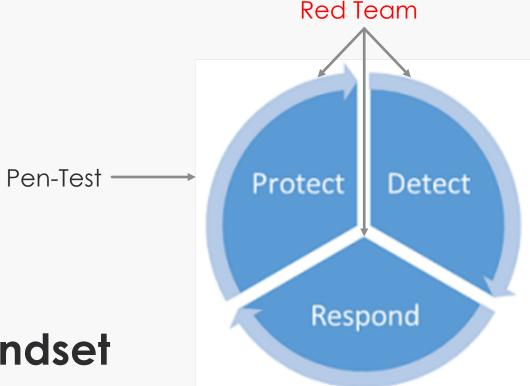






Red Teaming / Attack Simulation

Red team != Pen Test

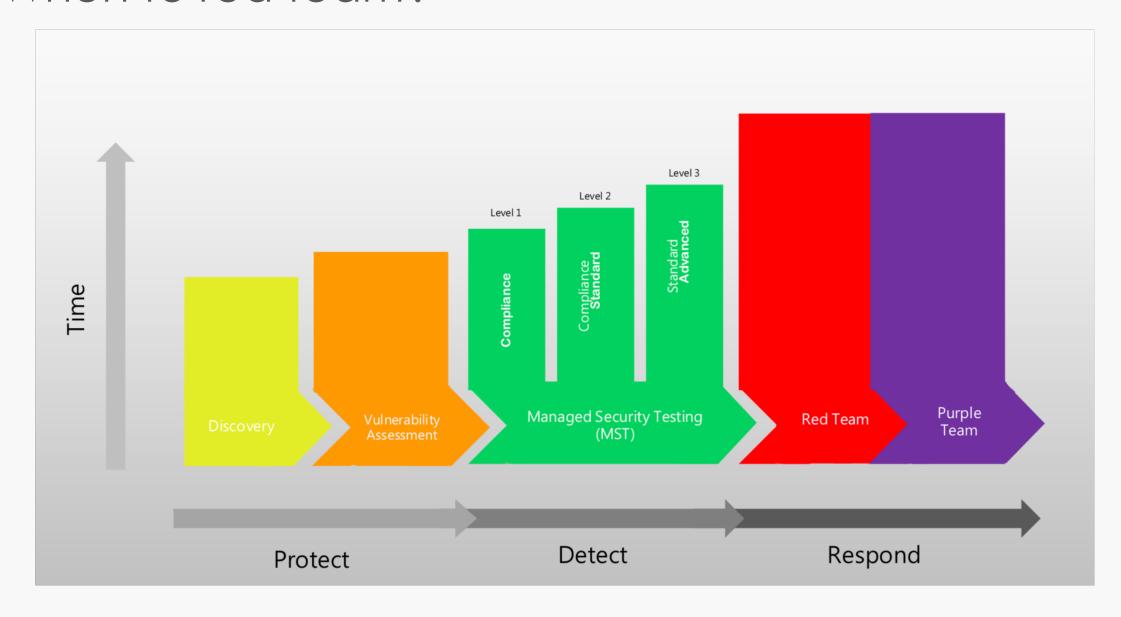


Red Team different mindset

Don't do mass scanning...the bad guys don't Slow and Steady to achieve goal

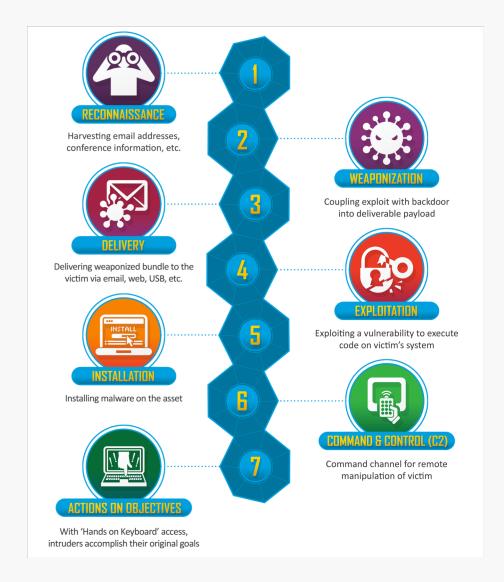


When to red team?





Cyber Kill Chain



https://www.lockheedmartin.com/us/what-we-do/aerospace-defense/cyber/cyber-kill-chain.html





"A big, expensive shiny box isn't going to make you more secure."

You need more...
You need the basics...



...and you need layers!





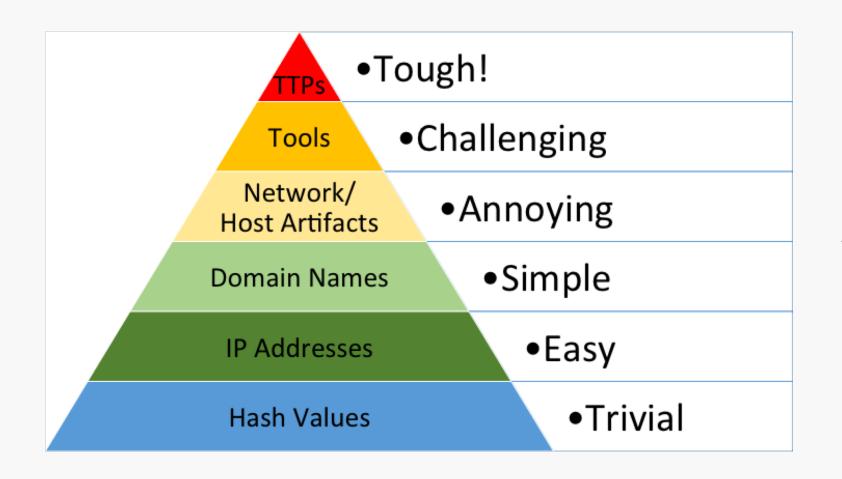
"it's not 0-days that cause APTs to succeed, it's poor Operational Security (OpSec) and technical debt."

Name	Description	Status	Startup Type	Log On As ∇
SQL Server (SPIDE	Provides st	Started	Automatic	THOR\Administrator





How do we 'actually' pi\$\$ off an APT?

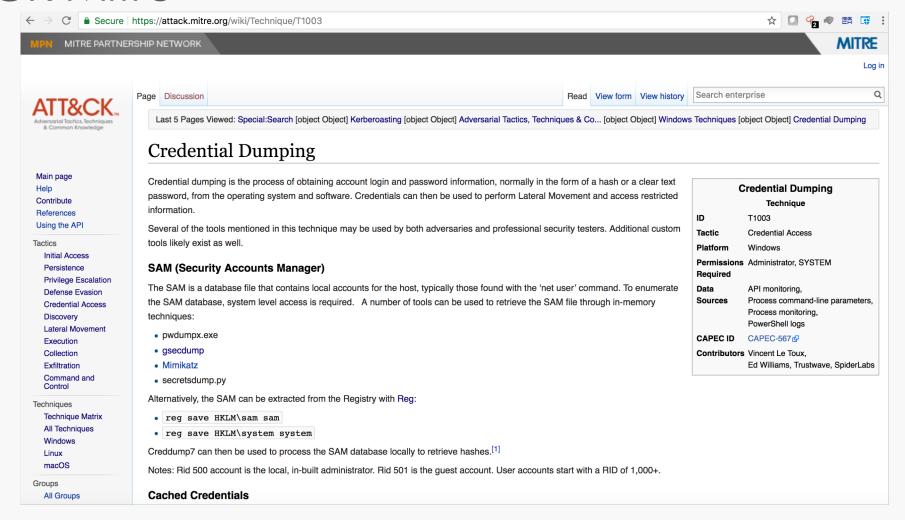


Strategical / behaviors

Tactical



ATT&CK Mitre





Reduce External Visibility









E-Mail harvesting / format

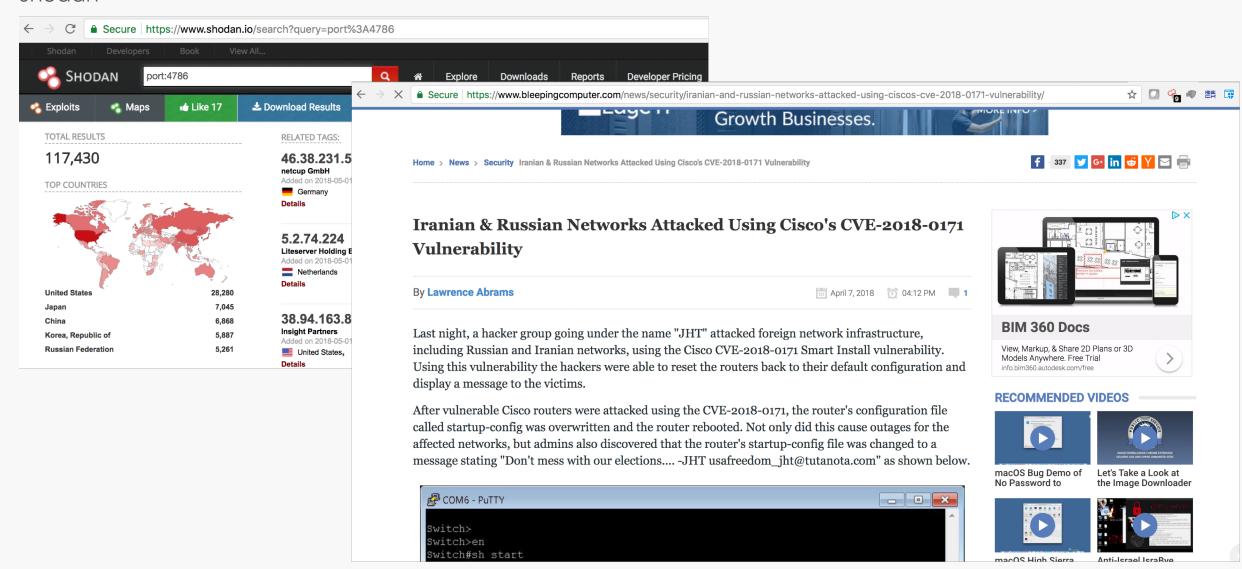
Social Media all the things



Subdomain Discovery...uat/test...vpn...lync etc etc



Shodan





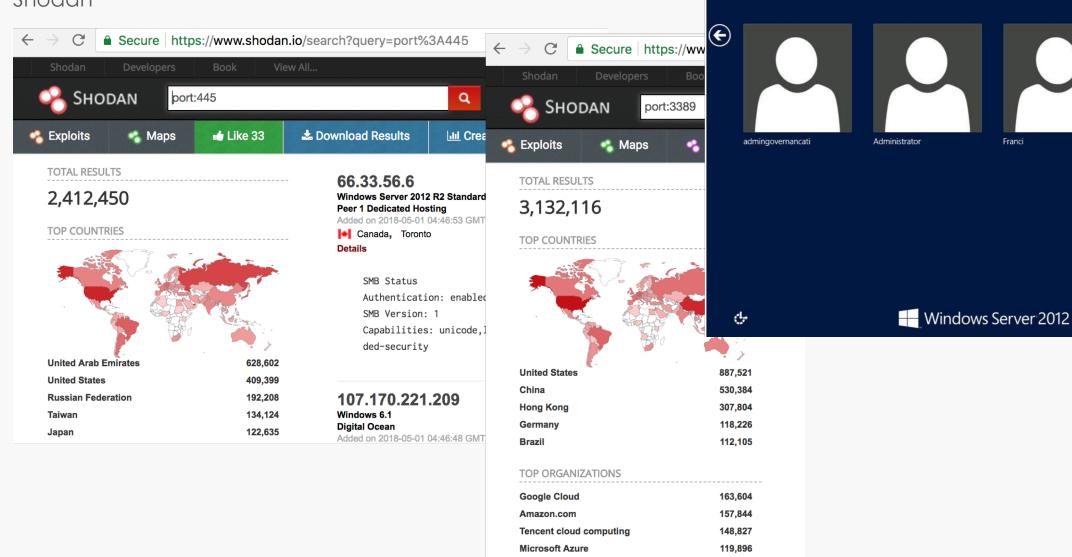
Windows Update

Sign in and install important updates.

ftp-cisa

To begin at the beginning...OSINT Everything

Shodan



Incapsula

97,617



Determine Cloud Services

DNS (MX & TXT records)

*.mail.protection.outlook.com

ms=ms* O365 domain tenant in TXT record

google-site-verification=* Gsuite TXT
record



To begin at the beginning...OSINT Everything Anti-Spoofing

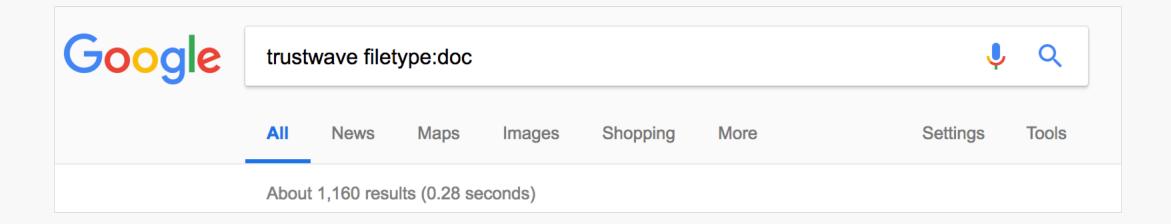
Sender Policy Framework (SPF)

DomainKeys Identified Mail (DKIM)

Domain-based Message Authentication, Reporting and Conformance (DMARC)

SPF:	PASS with IP 209.85.220.41 Learn more
DKIM:	'PASS' with domain gmail.com Learn more
DMARC:	'PASS' Learn more

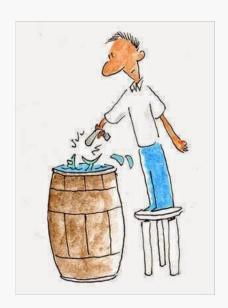






Getting in...

Phishing



Macros – still very popular and successful!

C https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/weekly-threat-report-21st-september-2018

Report

Weekly Threat Report 21st September 2018

Created: 21 Sep 2018 **Updated:** 21 Sep 2018

This report is drawn from recent open source reporting.

Microsoft Office Macros, most popular method of malware delivery

Cyber criminals continue to utilise weaponised macros in Microsoft Office documents to deliver malware. In a recent report from Cofense, it was noted that the exploitation of Microsoft Office macros comprised 45% of all deliveries. A separate report showed that a further 37% exploited the Microsoft Office Memory Corruption Vulnerability (CVE-2017-11882).



Getting in...

Phishing

HTA via HTML (*.html files that contain an encrypted HTA file. the key is fetched and the HTA is decrypted dynamically within the browser and pushed directly to the user.)

OLE (Object Linking & Embedding)
DDE (Dynamic Data Exchange)



- Smishing (very popular)
- Social Media Phishing (also, very popular)
- Watering hole / Phishing
 - Third Party Exploits (N-day CVE-2018-4877
 - Flash)
 - Browsers (user agent CVE-2018-8174)
 - Login Portal Clone (e.g. O365)



Getting in...password spraying



Alert (TA18-086A)

Brute Force Attacks Conducted by Cyber Ac

Original release date: March 27, 2018 | Last revised: March 28, 2018









Systems Affected

Networked systems

Overview

According to information derived from FBI investigations, malicious cyber actors are increasingly using a style of brute force attack known as password spraying against organizations in the United States and abroad.

On February 2018, the Department of Justice in the Southern District of New York, indicted nine Iranian nationals, who were associated with the Mabna Institute, for computer intrusion offenses related to activity described in this report. The techniques and activity described herein, while characteristic of Mabna actors, are not limited solely to use by this group.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) are releasing this Alert to provide further information on this activity.

Traditional tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) for conducting the password-spray attacks are as follows:

- Using social engineering tactics to perform online research (i.e., Google search, LinkedIn, etc.) to identify target organizations and specific user accounts for initial password spray
- Using easy-to-guess passwords (e.g., "Winter2018", "Password123!") and publicly available tools, execute a password spray attack against targeted
 accounts by utilizing the identified SSO or web-based application and federated authentication method
- Leveraging the initial group of compromised accounts, downloading the Global Address List (GAL) from a target's email client, and performing a larger password spray against legitimate accounts
- Using the compromised access, attempting to expand laterally (e.g., via Remote Desktop Protocol) within the network, and performing mass data exfiltration using File Transfer Protocol tools such as FileZilla

https://www.us-cert.gov/ncas/alerts/TA18-086A?t=1&cn=ZmxleGlibGVfcmVjcw%3D%3D&refsrc=email&iid=53f6697a57384c138ec81a1c59db5f2a&uid =729139915951218688&nid=244+272699400



Stopping - Getting in...

Microsoft et al offers:

- Anti-Phishing
- Mailbox Intelligence (safe-links etc)
- Smart / IP Lockout
- Banned passwords Checks passwords against a known list

The reality, these aren't enabled in most cases and cant stop 100% of threats!





These technologies aren't perfect though...

Sending from a high reputation domain

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
<head>
</head>
<body>
Normally, a malicious <a href="https://bit.do/ee9mr">link</a> is blocked.
</body>
</html>
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
    <base href="https://bit.do">
</head>
<body>
But by splitting the URL, the <a href="ee9mr"> link</a> gets through.
</body>
</html>
```

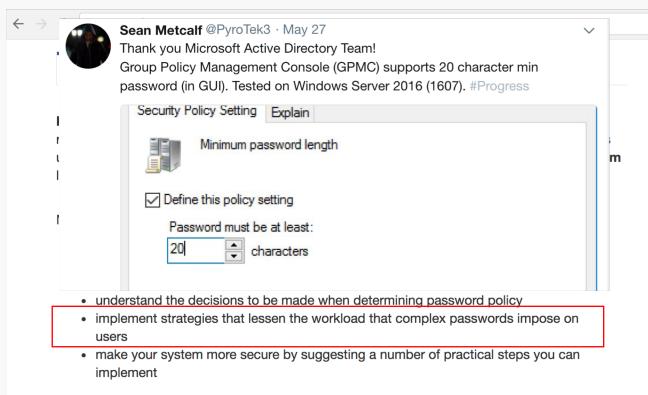
https://www.securityweek.com/phishers-use-new-method-bypass-office-365-safe-links



What really starts to pi\$\$ them off...

Robust Passwords - Special Publication 800-63-3: Digital Authentication Guidelines (NIST, 2017)

- 8 character min* (>64 max)
- Dictionary to disallow common passwords
- Allow all printing characters (inc. space)
- Throttling (100 attempts in 30-day period)
- No requirement for password expiration

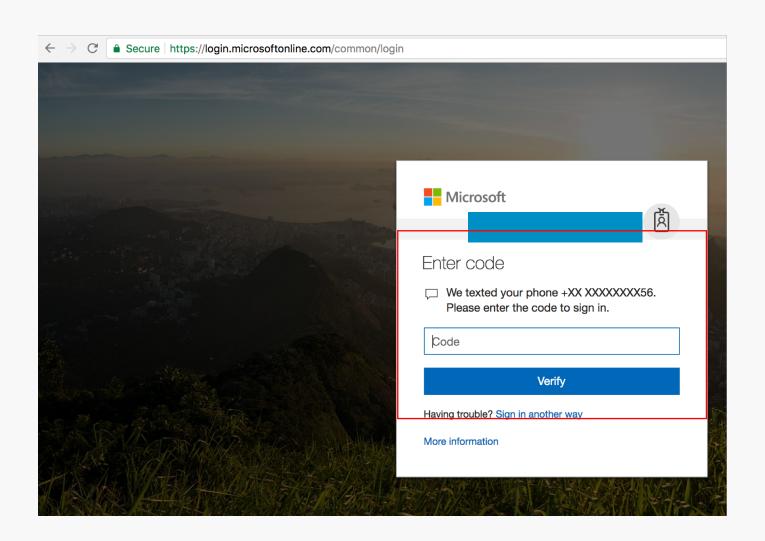


*doesn't differentiate between admin and non-admin user



Frustrating++

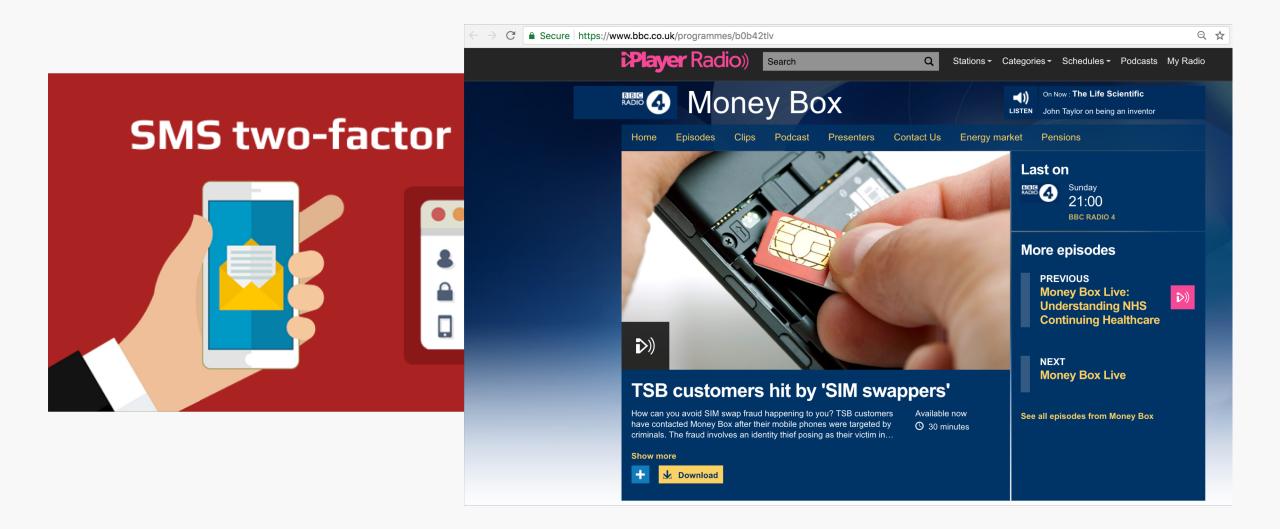
2FA













Exchange Web Services (EWS)

The O365 portal may require ~2FA EWS doesn't always
The default URL for EWS is:

https://<mail.server>/ews/exchange.asmx







None of Google's 85,000 emplo have had their work accounts to over in a year — and it's becaus simple \$20 product anyone can



2-Step Verification

Use your device to sign in to your Google Account.



Insert your Security Key

If your Security Key has a button, tap it. If it doesn't, remove and re-insert it.

Remember this computer for 30 days





Sun Tzu @SunTzuCyber

"The enemy does not check your risk register prior to attacking." - Sun Tzu, The Art of Cyber War

This can be difficult in large, complex environments.





"Defenders think in lists and attackers think in graphs" John Lambert (MSTIC)

Take a domain controller for example. Bob admins the DC from a workstation. If that workstation is not protected as much as the domain controller, the DC can be compromised.



The EUD is the battleground







Once a foothold is gained, one of two things is likely to happen:

Situational Awarness / Enumerate creds (Password Spray etc.)

Enumerate local host & network



The EUD is the battleground...Windows version

Harden the EUD & reduce situational awareness:

LAPS

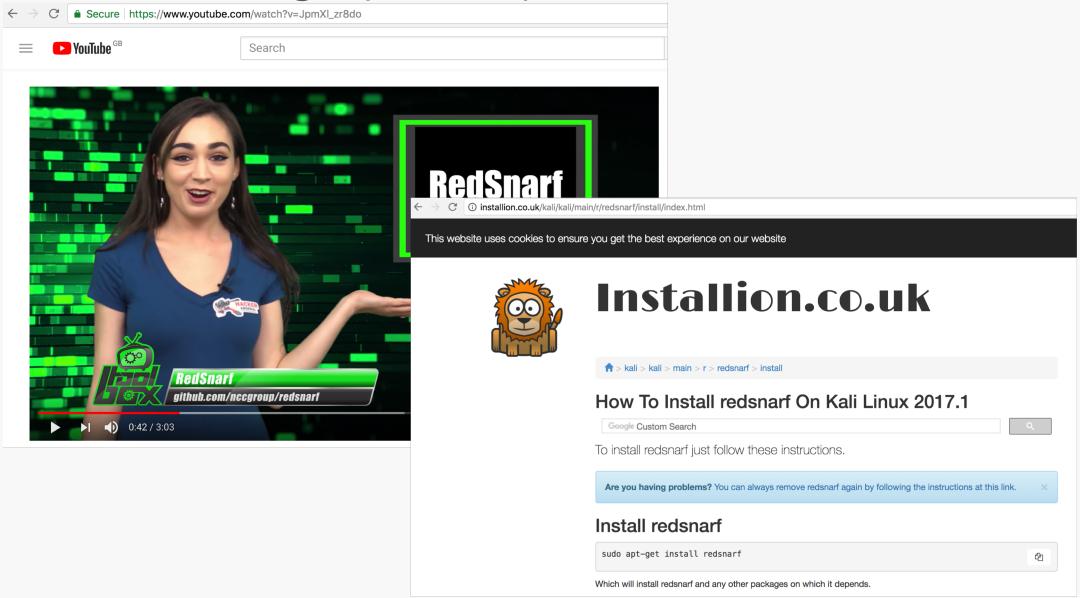
White listing / App locker

Host based firewall

Logging (PS v5) / SYSMON



I wrote a thing...post exploitation





Authenticated Users

SPN Hunting / kerberoasting

"any domain user that has a arbitrary service principal name set can have a TGS for that SPN requested by "any" user in the domain, allowing for the offline cracking of the service account plaintext password!"

https://www.harmj0y.net/blo g/powershell/kerberoastingwithout-mimikatz/

```
kali:/opt/redsnarf# ./redsnarf.py -H ip=10.0.0.50 -u noprivs -p Password1 -d ecorp.local -uS y
   rying to get SPN's from DC
        like a Domain Controller
   ound GetUserSPNs.py installed
   Found pyasn1-0.1.8 installed
            be cloned from https://github.com/magnumripper/JohnTheRipper.git
        i:/opt/redsnarf# cat /tmp/10.0.0.50/spns.txt
 rb5tgs$23$*svc mssgl$EC0RP.L0CAL$MSSQLSvc/dc1-win2k8.ecorp.local*$3c0252ee440c12779dac2ac388ce78f9$cf
           da715239ad1684863f17bc4c3ad506a1b8860e5bd168d207efad3d52977e0b54cb433a54c025cf49c244fb544be
      86b5f925a6dd6cbd69ce0890cab5b84f26870e1ba12bd9922a7855a297c8f521fbdc6eb41ef52a3f5bda72efdbe6cdc8
089236e8b60de98a8bb1a8a0bf8e9c21e4052c347653508803b0dbbc6ae3af52a123dc835c1c1214a71d0c0d97f7b00e9e5ffbb
284e21b5480b75fbea3781400b8e2b68d
     kali:/opt/redsnarf#
```

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jJgPTBgD52U



Authenticated Users

SPN Hunting / kerberoasting

```
kali:/opt/redsnarf# ./redsnarf.py -H ip=10.0.0.50 -u e.alderson -p F Society -d ecorp.local -uS y
                                  redsnarf.ff0000@gmail.com
  Trying to get SPN's from DC
    ooks like a Domain Controller
   Found GetUserSPNs.py installed
   Found pyasn1-0.1.8 installed
   Configuration OK...
  -]JrR Jumbo Patch must be used to crack SPNS's
  -]JrR Jumbo Patch installed /opt/JohnTheRipper/run/john
 +]./redsnarf.py -uSS y
  -]SPN's output to /tmp/10.0.0.50/spns.txt
Do you want to start cracking with Jtr Jumbo? (y/n) : y
    Sending SPN's to Jtr Jumbo
   Detected /tmp/10.0.0.50/spns.txt
Would you like to use rockyou.txt as your wordlist?: Y/(N) y
  |Selected as wordlist - /usr/share/wordlists/rockyou.txt
Would you like to use KoreLogicRules?: Y/(N) y
   Some common rules are:
Please enter the number of the rule you wish to use:
```

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jJgPTBgD52U



Living off the land







Red Teams are less likely to upload tools / malware; use in-built tools

Living off the land

Alternatively, the SAM can be extracted from the Registry with Reg:

- reg save HKLM\sam sam
- reg save HKLM\system system

Creddump7 can then be used to process the SAM database locally to retrieve hashes.[1]

Notes: Rid 500 account is the local, in-built administrator. Rid 501 is the guest account. User accounts start with a RID of 1,000+.







Red Teaming isn't only about protection, to catch the red team, you'll need to detect and respond.

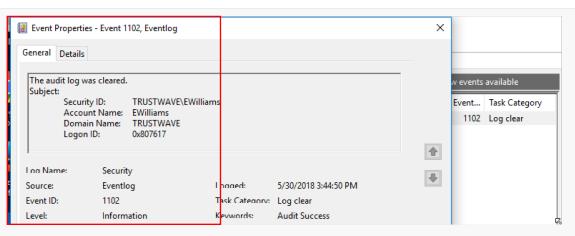




Cleanup and Cover Tracks

In multiple instances, the threat actors created new accounts on the staging targets to perform cleanup operations. The accounts created were used to clear the following Windows event logs: System, Security, Terminal Services, Remote Services, and Audit. The threat actors also removed applications they installed while they were in the network along with any logs produced. For example, the Fortinet client installed at one commercial facility was deleted along with the logs that were produced from its use. Finally, data generated by other accounts used on the systems accessed were deleted.

Threat actors cleaned up intended target networks through deleting created screenshots and specific registry keys. Through forensic analysis, DHS determined that the threat actors deleted the registry key associated with terminal server client that tracks connections made to remote systems. The threat actors also deleted all batch scripts, output text documents and any tools they brought into the environment such as "scr.exe".



Security logs being cleared (1102)



Establishing Local Accounts

The threat actors used scripts to create local administrator accounts disguised as legitimate backup accounts. The initial script "symantec help.jsp" contained a one-line reference to a malicious script designed to create the local administrator account and manipulate the firewall for remote access. The script was located in "C:\Program Files (x86)\Symantec\Symantec Endpoint Protection Manager\tomcat\webapps\ROOT\".

Local group changes (4732 & 4733) local account creation (4720 & 4726)



Lateral account movement Application crashes (EMET 1 and 2) Service Installation (7045)

In at least two instances, the threat actors used batch scripts labeled "pss.bat" and "psc.bat" to run the PsExec tool. Additionally, the threat actors would rename the tool PsExec to "ps.exe".

- 1. The batch script ("pss.bat" or "psc.bat") is executed with domain administrator credentials.
- 2. The directory "out" is created in the user's %AppData% folder.
- 3. PsExec is used to execute "scr.exe" across the network and to collect screenshots of systems in "ip.txt".
- 4. The screenshot's filename is labeled based on the computer name of the host and stored in the target's C:\Windows\Temp directory with a ".jpg" extension.
- 5. The screenshot is then copied over to the newly created "out" directory of the system where the batch script was executed.
- 6. In one instance, DHS observed an "out.zip" file created.



Password spraying against SMB on a Domain Controller results in event ID 4625 "logon failure" being logged on the DC.

What if we don't use SMB?



When using LDAP, no 4625 events are logged. Kerberos logging needs to be enabled to log event ID 4771 (Failure code - 0x18, bad password)





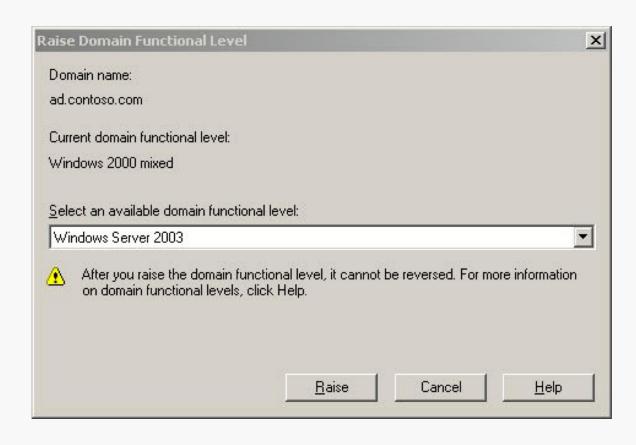
Understand your network
Understand how data flows around
your network

Concentrate on TTPs & Behaviors



Blue Teamers - detailed

Raise your domain functional level







Windows 2008R2:

- •Fine grained password polices
- Last Interactive Logon Information

Windows 2012R2:

- DC-side protections for Protected Users
- Authentication Policies



Blue Teamers – detailed

Privileged Access workstations

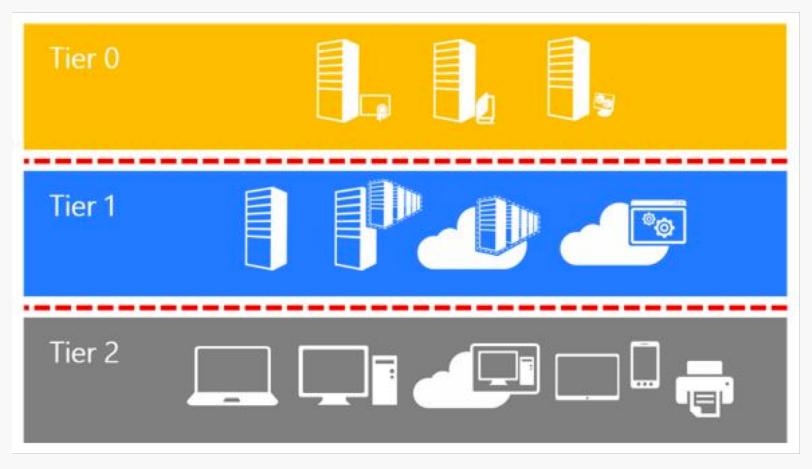
(PAWS) — "provide a dedicated operating system for sensitive tasks that is protected from Internet attacks and threat vectors."

Or

Stop doing domain admin / subscription admin / root on standard workstations



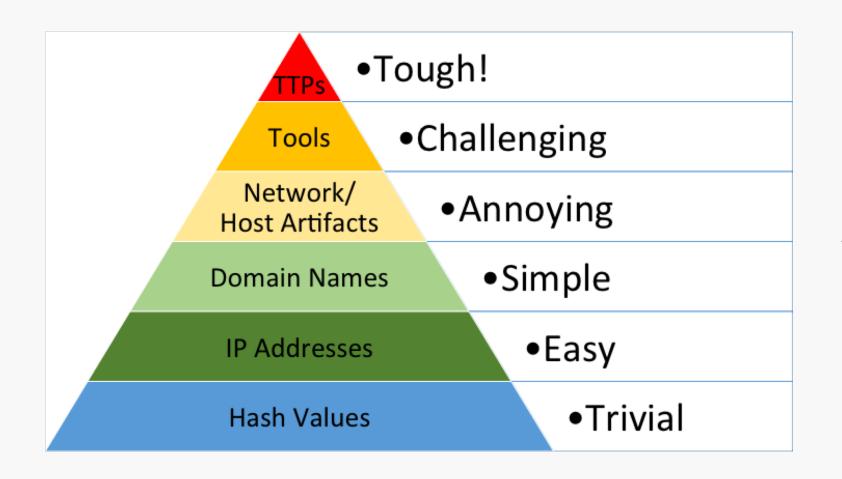
"Red Forest - Enhanced Security Administrative Environment"



https://social.technet.microsoft.com/wiki/contents/articles/37509.what-is-active-directory-red-forest-design.aspx



How do we 'actually' pi\$\$ off an APT...again!?



Strategical / behaviors

Tactical





Get the basics done...even though they are really hard to do across everything

Layers, make sure one thing doesn't blow everything up

Visibility and reaction are key

