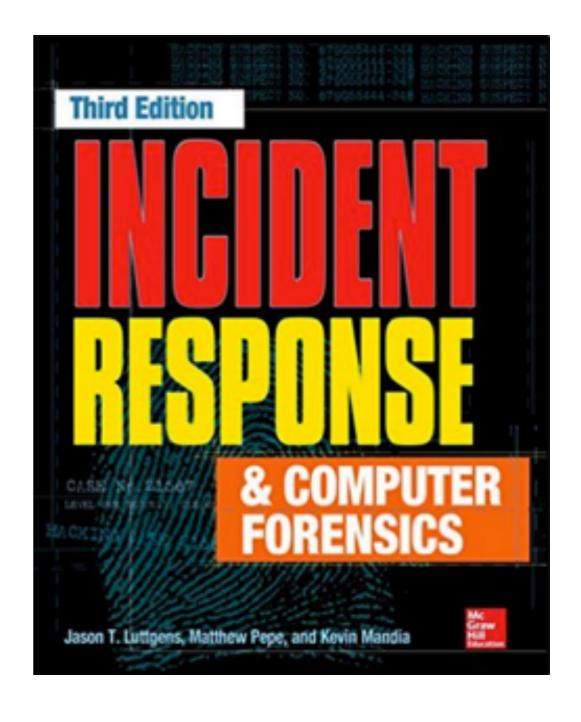
CNIT 121: Computer Forensics



12 Investigating Windows Systems (Part 3)

- Other artifacts of interactive sessions
- Memory forensics
- Alternative persistence mechanisms

Other Artifacts of Interactive Sessions

Interactive Sessions

- For the purposes of this section, includes
 - Login with user at the console
 - Remote Desktop sessions
 - Screen sharing (via VNC or similar software)

LNK Files

- Shortcuts to files
- Serve as extensions to Windows Explorer
- Windows automatically creates LNKs for every opened file
 - To populate "Recent Files"
- Separate list in each user profile

Where the LNK Files Are

- C:\Documents and Settings\%USERNAME%\Recent\
- C:\Documents and Settings\%USERNAME%\Application Data\Microsoft\Office\Recent\

Evidence in LNK Files

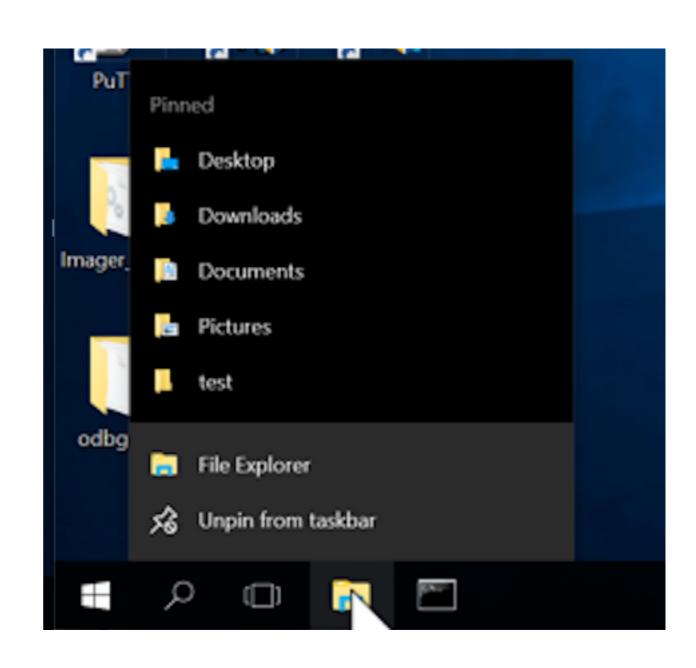
- Full file path (at the time the link was created)
- Network share name (if target file originated from such a source)
- Serial number for the source volume
- Attributes and logical size
- Standard Information Modified, Accessed, and Created timestamps for the referenced file at the time it was last opened
- A unique object identifier (ObjectID), also stored in the target file's MFT record and used by the Distributed Link Tracking service

Timeline

- LNK files can show just what a user did
- Which files were accessed, and in what order

Jump Lists

- Right-click a taskbar icon to show recently used items
- Word shows recent Word files, etc.



Where Jump Lists are Stored

C:\Users\%USERNAME%\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\ Windows\Recent\AutomaticDestinations

C:\Users\%USERNAME%\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\ Windows\Recent\CustomDestinations

- Not human-readable, you need tools
 - JumpLister for Windows 7-8
 - JLECmd for Windows 10 (link Ch 12t)

The Recycle Bin

- · Located in \\$Recycle.Bin
- Contains files deleted from the hard disk
 - But not if deleted from removable drives
 - Or from the Command Prompt
 - Or with Shift+Delete

Rifiuti2 Tool

C:\Users\Admin2\Desktop\rifiuti2-0.6.1-win\x86>rifiuti-vista.exe --output=out --xml --localtime
c:\\$Recycle.Bin\S-1-5-21-1005188163-155271582-4242795456-1001

```
☐ C:\Users\Admin2\Deskt ×
                    file:///C:/Users/Admin2/Desktop/out.xml
  <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
- <recvclebin version="2" format="dir">
     <filename>c:\$Recycle.Bin\S-1-5-21-1005188163-155271582-4242795456-1001</filename>
   - <record size="111758507" time="2016-03-21T11:31:42-0700" index="$IAQKSS6.wmv">
         <path>C:\Users\student\Desktop\ATM Security Risk.wmv</path>
     </record>
   - <record size="1456128" time="2016-03-21T11:31:45-0700" index="$I856UJ5.exe">
         <path>C:\Users\student\Desktop\x81.exe</path>
     </record>
    - <record size="13767776" time="2016-03-21T11:34:09-0700" index="$I0BT6JN.exe">
         <path>C:\Users\student\Desktop\vc_redist.x86.exe</path>
     </record>
    - <record size="872029" time="2016-03-21T11:34:09-0700" index="$I1A10AB.zip">
         <path>C:\Users\student\Desktop\HxDSetupEN.zip</path>
     </record>
    - <record size="16374114" time="2016-03-21T12:03:09-0700" index="$IZ0RIK0.exe">
         <path>C:\Users\student\Desktop\idafree50.exe</path>
     </record>
```

Link Ch 12u

Memory Forensics

Evidence in RAM

- Running processes and the system objects/resources with which they interact
- Active network connections
- Loaded drivers
- User credentials (which may be hashed, obfuscated, or even appear in clear text)
- Portions of nonvolatile sources of evidence such as the registry, event log, and Master File Table
- Remnants of previously executed console commands
- Remnants of clear-text data that is otherwise encrypted on disk
- Important data structures within the kernel that provide insight into process accounting, behavior, and execution

Types of Memory

- Physical (RAM chips)
- Page file
 - Data moved out of RAM onto the hard disk
 - %SYSTEMDRIVE%\pagefile.sys

Crash Dumps

- Can be produced when Windows crashes with the "Blue-Screen of Death"
- Three levels
 - Kernel Memory Dump (default)
 - Small Memory Dump (Minidump)
 - Complete Memory Dump

Crash Dump Storage

- · %LOCALAPPDATA%\Crashdumps
- Complete Memory Dump is most useful type
- But it's rarely turned on

Hibernation Files

- Saves the full contents of RAM on disk
 - %SYSTEMDRIVE%\Hiberfil.sys
- It's compressed and includes metadata
 - Link Ch 8t
- Volatility can parse it

Running Processes

Volatility can recover

- Process ID (PID) A unique numeric identifier assigned upon process startup
- Parent PID The ID of the process that was responsible for executing the current process
- **Process name** The executable file's name
- **Process path** The fully qualified path to the executable file
- **Process command line** Any argument parameters supplied in the executable's command line
- Process start and exit times If applicable
- Number of threads and handles

root@kali:/usr/share/volatility# python vol.py pslist --profile=Win2008SP1x86 -f /root/Desktop/memdump.mem Volatility Foundation Volatility Framework 2.3.1 *** Failed to import volatility.plugins.addrspaces.legacyintel (AttributeError: 'module' object has no attri Offset(V) Name PIDPPID Thds Hnds Sess Wow64 Start 0x82db0910 System 541 -----0 2014-01-08 02:17:35 UTC+0000 28 -----0 2014-01-08 02:17:35 UTC+0000 0x8454c118 smss.exe 0x84561968 csrss.exe 0 2014-01-08 02:17:35 UTC+0000 0x84450770 csrss.exe 0 2014-01-08 02:17:36 UTC+0000 0 2014-01-08 02:17:36 UTC+0000 0x84453770 wininit.exe 0 2014-01-08 02:17:36 UTC+0000 0x84465770 winlogon.exe 0 2014-01-08 02:17:36 UTC+0000 0x83632170 services.exe 0x844bf770 lsass.exe 0 2014-01-08 02:17:36 UTC+0000 0x844c2680 lsm.exe 0 2014-01-08 02:17:36 UTC+0000 0 2014-01-08 02:17:42 UTC+0000 0x84866d50 svchost.exe 0x845f37a8 svchost.exe 0 2014-01-08 02:17:42 UTC+0000 0x848fall8 svchost.exe 0 2014-01-08 02:17:42 UTC+0000 0 2014-01-08 02:17:42 UTC+0000 0x84914d90 svchost.exe 0x8491bd90 svchost.exe 0 2014-01-08 02:17:42 UTC+0000 0x8492a6d0 SLsvc.exe 0 2014-01-08 02:17:42 UTC+0000 0x84937d90 svchost.exe 0 2014-01-08 02:17:42 UTC+0000 0 2014-01-08 02:17:42 UTC+0000 0x84941d90 svchost.exe 0x84945c30 svchost.exe 596. 0 2014-01-08 02:17:42 UTC+0000 0 2014-01-08 02:17:43 UTC+0000 0x8496e9f0 svchost.exe 0x849c18a8 spoolsv.exe 0 2014-01-08 02:17:49 UTC+0000 0 2014-01-08 02:17:49 UTC+0000 0x849d7610 armsvc.exe 0x849dcd90 dns.exe rou beco 0 2014-01-08 02:17:49 UTC+0000 0x849e1cc0 ftpbasicsvr.exe 0 2014-01-08 02:17:49 UTC+0000 0x849f5888 svchost.exe 0 2014-01-08 02:17:49 UTC+0000 0x849faad8 svchost.exe 0 2014-01-08 02:17:49 UTC+0000

Handles

- Used to access files, devices, and more from software
- Can help when analyzing malware
- Mutants or Mutexes are used for inter-process communication
 - To lock a resource so no other process changes it while it's in use
 - Used by malware to prevent re-infection

Handles for Zeus

\$python vol.py -f ~/zeus.vmem handles -p 856 >> ~/zeusfiles/pid-856handles.txt

0xff21b438	856	0x430	0x1f0003	Event		
0xff1398c0	856	0x434	0x12019f	File	\Device\NamedPipe_AVIRA_2108	
0xff2a0e98	856	0x438	0x1f0003	Event		
0xff27b7e8	856	0x43c	0x1f0001	Mutant	_AVIRA_2108	
0xff1b8638	856	0x440	0x1f03ff	Thread	TID 2004 PID 856	
0xff23d020	856	0x444	0x1f03ff	Thread	TID 2000 PID 856	
0x80f19200	856	0x450	0x1f0001	Mutant		
0xff1db540	856	0x454	0x100020	File	\Device\HarddiskVolume1\WINDOWS	
indows.Common-Controls_6595b64144ccf1df_6.0.2600.2180_x-ww_a84f1ff9						

- Mutant _AVIRA_2108 is a fingerprint of Zeus
- · Link Ch 12u

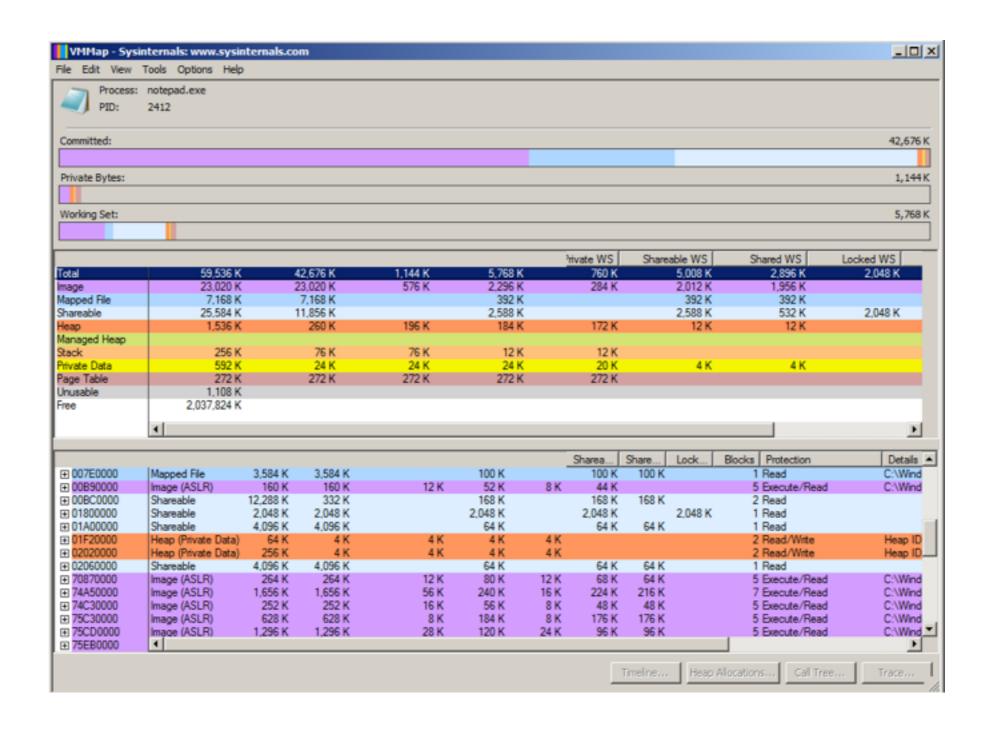
Handles for Notepad

Process Explorer - Sysinternals: www.sysinternals.com [WIN-JWBPPZSXEFV\Administrator]							
File Options View Process Find Handle Users Help							
		* #4	ı 🕸 🗓				
Process		CPU	Private Bytes	Working Set	PID Descri	ption	
juch	eck.exe		3,976 K	6,460 K	2328 Java(TM) Update Checke		
■ vmx32to	o64.exe		1,312 K	3,480 K	2040		
iTunesł	Helper.exe	< 0.01	4,260 K	6,384 K	2556 iTunesHelper		
vm vmtools	d.exe	< 0.01	10,444 K	13,564 K	2988 VMware Tools Core Service		
procexp).exe	< 0.01	13,172 K	18,784 K	2136 Sysinte	mals Process Explorer	
notepad	l.exe		1,020 K	3,508 K	2412 Notepa	d	
Type △	Name Handle						
Desktop	\Default 0x30						
Directory	\KnownDlls 0x4						
Directory	\Sessions\2\BaseNamedObjects 0x84						
File	C:\Users\Administrator 0x8						
File	C:\Windows\winsxs\x86_microsoft.windows.common-controls_6595b64144 0xC						
File	C:\Windows\winsxs\x86_microsoft.windows.common-controls_6595b64144 0x40						
File	C:\Windows\winsxs\x86_microsoft.windows.common-controls_6595b64144 0x5C						
File	\Device\KsecDD 0x90						
File	C:\Windows\winsxs\x86_microsoft.windows.common-controls_6595b64144 0xA4						
Key	HKLM 0x1C						
Key	HKLM\SYSTEM\ControlSet001\Control\Session Manager 0x24						
Key	HKCU 0x94						
Key	HKLM\SYSTEM\ControlSet001\Control\Nls\Locale\Alternate Sorts 0xA8						
Key	HKLM\SYSTEM\ControlSet001\Control\Nls\Locale 0xB0						
Key	HKLM\SYSTEM\ControlSet001\Control\Nls\Language Groups 0xB4						
Mutant	\Sessions\2\BaseNamedObjects\MSCTF.Asm.MutexDefaultS-1-5-21-13674 0xAC						
WindowStation	\Sessions\2\Windows\WindowStations\WinSta0 0x28						
WindowStation	\Sessions\2\Windows\WindowStations\WinSta0 0x34						

Sections

- Each process has a virtual address space
 - Including RAM and some disk space in the pagefile
- The OS swaps data in and out of physical memory
- Virtual Address Descriptor (VAD) tree
 - A kernel data structure that shows how memory is used by each process (link Ch 12v)

Memory Map for Notepad



DLLs for Notepad

Process Explorer - Sysinternals: www.sysinternals.com [WIN-JWBPPZSXEFV\Administrator]									
File Options View Process Find DLL Users Help									
	= 🖺 🦳 🍪 🚰	X #4	ı 🥸 ∐_						
Process		CPU	Private 8	Bytes	Working Set	PID D	escription		
jud			976 K	6,460 K	2328 Ja	va(TM) Update Checker			
■ vmx32to64.exe		1,3		312 K	3,480 K	2040			
i TunesHelper.exe		4,2		260 K	6,384 K	2556 iTu	unesHelper		
vm vmtoolsd.exe		< 0.01 10,4		144 K	13,560 K	2988 VI	Mware Tools Core Service		
oroce.	xp.exe	< 0.01		264 K	19,580 K		sintemals Process Explorer		
	notepad.exe		1,0		3,508 K				
			- 11		-,		,		
Name A	Description			Compa	any Name	Path			
advapi32.dll	Advanced Windows 32	Base API		Microso	oft Corporation	C:\Windo	ows\System32\advapi32.dll		
comctl32.dll	User Experience Controls Library			Microso	oft Corporation	C:\Windows\winsxs\x86_microsoft.v			
comdlg32.dll	Common Dialogs DLL			Microso	oft Corporation	_			
gdi32.dll	GDI Client DLL	Microso	oft Corporation	C:\Windows\System32\gdi32.dll					
imm32.dll	Multi-User Windows IMN	Microso	oft Corporation	•					
kemel32.dll	Windows NT BASE API Client DLL			Microso	oft Corporation	C:\Windows\System32\kemel32.dll			
loc2008.nls					C:\Windov		ows\System32\loc2008.nls		
loc2008.nls						C:\Windows\System32\loc2008.nls			
lpk.dll	Language Pack	Microso	oft Corporation	C:\Windows\System32\lpk.dll					
msctf.dll	MSCTF Server DLL	Microso	oft Corporation	C:\Windows\System32\msctf.dll					
msvcrt.dll	Windows NT CRT DLL	Microso	oft Corporation	C:\Windows\System32\msvcrt.dll					
notepad.exe	Notepad				oft Corporation				
ntdll.dll	NT Layer DLL	Microso	oft Corporation	-					
ole32.dll	Microsoft OLE for Windo	Microso	oft Corporation	-					
oleaut32.dll				Microso	oft Corporation	•			
rpcrt4.dll	Remote Procedure Call I		oft Corporation						
shell32.dll	Windows Shell Common DII				oft Corporation				
shlwapi.dll	Shell Light-weight Utility Library				oft Corporation				
user32.dll	Multi-User Windows USER API Client DLL				oft Corporation				
usp10.dll	Uniscribe Unicode script		oft Corporation						
uxtheme.dll	Microsoft UxTheme Libra		oft Corporation	•					
winspool.drv	Windows Spooler Driver				oft Corporation	C:\Windo	ows\System32\winspool.drv		

Detecting Malicious DLLs

- Check for valid digital signatures
- Known-good or -bad hash values
- Evidence of process-tampering attacks
 - Malware loading a DLL surreptitiously or running code in memory

Other Memory Artifacts

- Network connections
- Loaded drivers
 - Runs in kernel, with elevated privileges
- Console command history
- Strings in memory
- Credentials

Pagefile Analysis

- Has no intrinsic structure
- Can search for strings
- Be careful: antivirus and host-based intrusion detection systems leaves signatures in the pagefile
 - Suspicious IP addresses, domain names, and malware filenames
- Windows can clear the pagefile on shutdown, but this is not its default setting

Analyzing Common In-Memory Attacks

- Process injection
- Hooking

Process Injection

- A malicious injecting process causes a legitimate process (injected) to load and execute malicious code
- In-memory attack
 - Disk files do not change
- Injected process has no evidence indicating which process was responsible for the injection

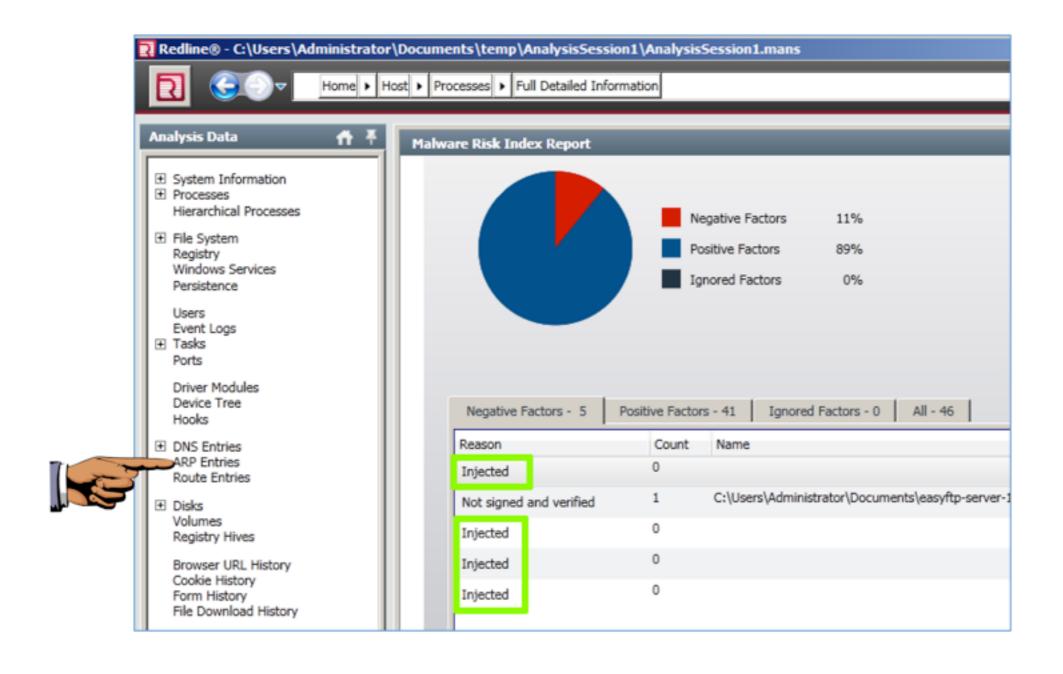
Methods of Process Injection

- Use Windows APIs (requires Administrator or SYSTEM privileges)
 - Force target process to load a malicious DLL from disk
 - Directly write malicious code to target process's memory and invoke a remote thread to execute it

Process Replacement

- Malware launches a legitimate executable in a suspended state
- Then overwrite process memory with malicious code
- Unsuspend it to execute

Redline Detecting Injection



Detecting Malicious Injection

- Memory sections with Execute, Read and Write permissions
- Processes that don't match corresponding disk files
 - Links Ch 12w, 12x

Finding Persistence Mechanisms

- The injecting process needs a persistence mechanism to survive reboots
- So it maybe found in
 - Auto-run keys, DLL load-order hijacking, etc.

Hooking

- Allows code within running processes to intercept, modify, and view events such as function calls and data they return
- Windows provides many API mechanisms to do this
- Used by legitimate programs
 - Antivirus, host-based intrusion detection systems, application inventory software

Malicious Hooking

- Rootkits use hooking to hide files, processes, registry keys, or network connections
- Keyloggers may use SetWindowsHookEx to cause a malicious DLL function to be called whenever a keyboard event occurs
- Or use GetAsyncKeyState to constantly check the up/down state of keys

Types of Hooks

- Manipulate a process's Import Address Table
 - So it calls malicious functions instead of legitimate system functions
- Hook kernel structures such as the Interrupt Descriptor Table (IDT) and System Service Dispatch Table (SSDT)
 - Prevented on modern Windows systems by Kernel Patch Protection (KPP)

Zeus Hook

- The next slide shows the output of "apihooks" (a Volatility plugin)
- On a system infected with Zeus
- Shows an inline hook to the HttpSendRequestA function imported from WinInet.dll within the process space of Isass.exe

Volatility Detecting Hooks

```
C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe
Hook mode: Usermode
Hook type: Inline/Trampoline
Process: 688 (Isass.exe)
Victim module: WININET.dll (0x771b0000 - 0x77256000)
Function: WININET.dll!HttpSendRequestA at 0x771c76b8
Hook address: 0xa27366
Hooking module: <unknown>
Disassembly(0):
0x771c76b8 e9a9fc8589
                            JMP 0xa27366
0x771c76bd 6a13
                            PUSH 0x13
0x771c76bf 6a00
                            PUSH 0x0
0x771c76c1 ff7518
0x771c76c4 ff7514
                            PUSH DWORD [EBP+0x18]
                            PUSH DWORD [EBP+0x14]
0x771c76c7 ff7510
                           PUSH DWORD [EBP+0x10]
0x771c76ca ff750c
                           PUSH DWORD [EBP+Oxc]
0x771c76cd ff7508
                            PUSH DWORD [EBP+0x8]
Disassembly(1):
0xa27366 55
                          PUSH EBP
0xa27367 8bec
                          MOV EBP, ESP
0xa27369 e8cac7feff
                          CALL 0xa13b38
                          PUSH DWORD [EBP+0x10]
0xa2736e ff7510
0xa27371 8b4518
                          MOV EAX. [EBP+0x18]
```

Memory Analysis Tools

- Acquisition tools
 - FTK Imager
 - Dumplt
 - Memoryze and Redline
- Analysis tools
 - Memoryze and Redline
 - Volatility

Alternative Persistence Mechanisms

Alternative Persistence Mechanisms

- Startup folders
- Recurring tasks
- System binary modification
- The sticky keys attack
- DLL load-order hijacking

Startup Folders

- Any program or shortcut in this folder is launched
 - On startup or login

On Windows Vista and Windows 7, the "all users" Startup folder is located at C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Startup, and the user-specific Startup folder is located at C:\Users\
[username]\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\Start
Menu\Programs\Startup.

Recurring Tasks

- Use "at" or "schtasks" commands
- To make a task that recurs at regular times or days of the week
- Future and recurring scheduled tasks persist as .job files in %SYSTEMROOT%\Tasks

System Binary Modification

- Modify existing Windows binary
 - Typically one automatically loaded on bootup or login
- Add malicious code
- Time-stomp
- Will change MD5 hash and break signature, but not all legitimate binaries are signed

Careful Modifications

- Changes that cause Windows to crash or impair user experience will limit the attacker's ability to persist
- Attackers are more likely to replace noncritical executables or libraries

Defenses

- Windows File Protection in older versions of Windows (XP, 2000)
 - Easily bypassed by a local Administrator
- Replaced by Windows Resource Protection (WRP) in Windows Vista and later
 - Requires TrustedInstaller permissions to alter WFP-governed resources
 - More resistant to tampering

The Sticky Keys Attack

- Targets sethc.exe
 - A file that provides accessibility features
 - Replace sethc.exe with cmd.exe
- · Press Shift key five times before logon
 - A command shell opens with SYSTEM privileges
 - Even works during a Remote Desktop Protocol session

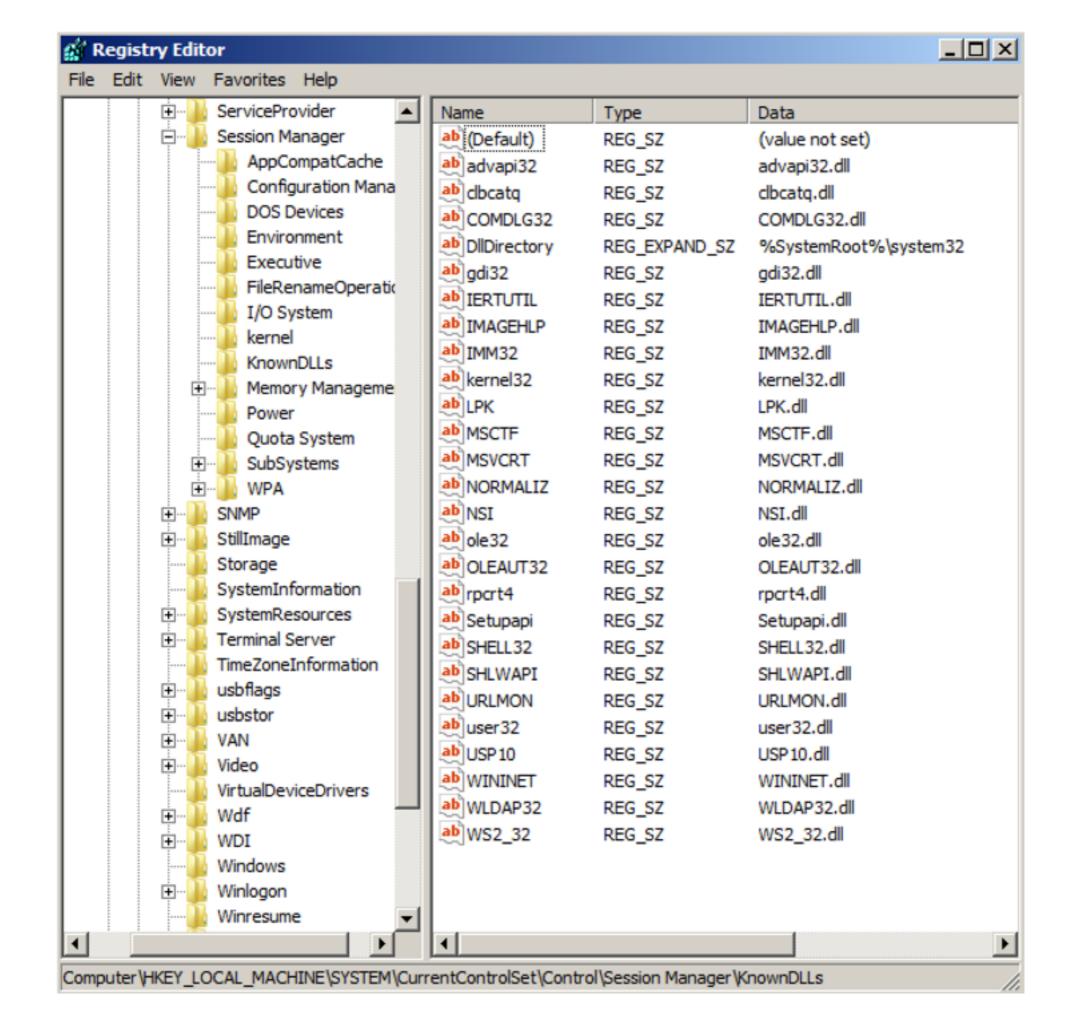
The Sticky Keys Attack

- No longer works on Vista and later versions
- But there's another way to get the same result

An attacker can simply set cmd.exe as the debugger for sethc.exe by adding the registry key HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Image File Execution Options\sethc.exe, creating a value of type REG_SZ named Debugger, and setting the value data to C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe.

DLL Load-Order Hijacking

- · DLLs are loaded when a program launches
- But DLLs might be in many different folders
- "KnownDLLs" registry key lists known system DLLs and ensures that they are always loaded from %systemroot%\System32



Unknown DLL Search Order

SafeDllSearchMode Disabled (0)	SafeDllSearchMode Enabled (1)
Directory where the application is loaded	Directory where the application is loaded
Current working directory	%systemroot%\system32
%systemroot%\system32	%systemroot%\system
%systemroot%\system	%systemroot%
%systemroot%	Current working directory
%PATH% environment variable entries	%PATH% environment variable entries

DLL Load-Order Hijacking Works When:

- The legitimate DLL is not specified in KnownDLLs.
- The legitimate DLL is not in the same directory as the application executable file.
- The executable file does not use an absolute path to load the DLL.
- ntshrui.dll is loaded by Windows Explorer and is vulnerable
- A malicious ntshrui.dll in %systemroot% will launch when Explorer does