Unveiling the underground world of ANTI-CHEATS

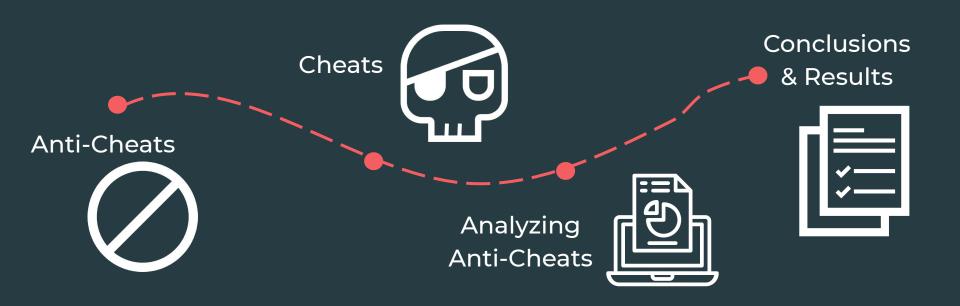


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@niemand_sec

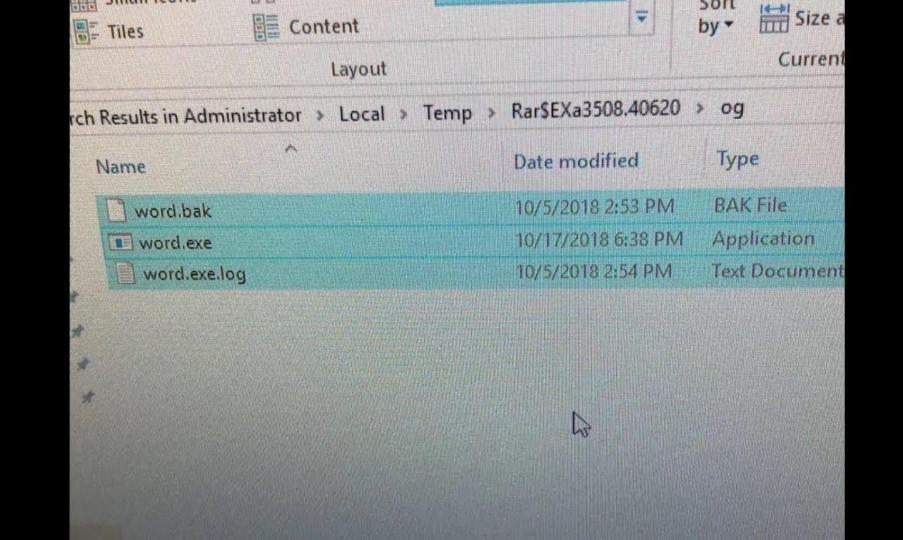
What are we going to talk about?



FIRST RULE OF THE GAMING CLUB, YOU DON'T CHEAT

(or get caught doing it)







Anti Cheats





























LIVEGUARD



VAC







heats Anti-(

Let's see some numbers...

336.500.000

Monthly Active Users

EAC

XC3

BE

VAC

275.000.000

500.000

30.000.000

31.000.000

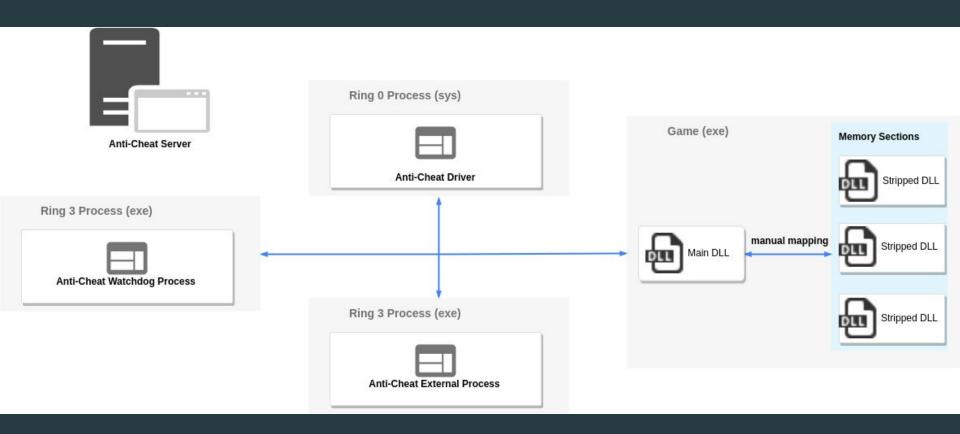




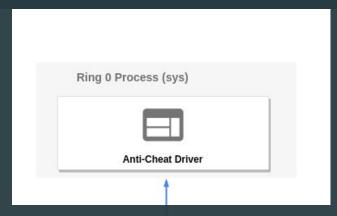




Anti-Cheat Components



Kernel Driver

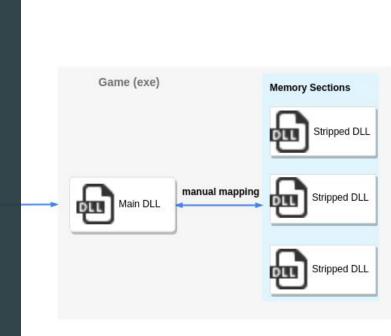


- Handle stripping/Access Control
 ■
 Control
 The stripping of the strippi
- Register kernel callbacks
- Rejection of Kernel/User mode debugging

- Analysis of privileged process (Isass and csrss)
- ▶ Block blacklisted/unsigned drivers
- Monitoring of kernel function calls

DLL inside Games

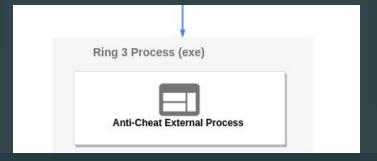
- Control of access flags to different sections
- [1] Identification of hooks
- Thread Hijacking
- DLL Injection
- Function signatures
- **▶ VEH/SEH modification**
- [] Game resources modification
- Detection of virtual environment



External Ring 3 Process

- Process/File Controls
- Blacklisted programs detection
- Manage logic from Driver

- Control of game client and DLL hashes
- Multi-client detection
- Program integrity controls





Cheats

Internal (DLL) vs External (Process)

	Pros	Cons
External	 Quick for small patches Easy to master Can be closed in certain cases 	 Slow Easy to detect Limited potential Requires a Handle (usually)
Internal	 Great performance Direct access to memory Hard to detect if you are good enough 	[•] Hard to master [•] Easier to detect if you mess it up





Wallhack/ESP

Aimbots

Pro players getting caught? Why not



Parallel Market

Parallel Market

Cheat Prices: U\$S 1 to U\$S25 Some up to U\$S500



Ex: 2500 paid members U\$S 10 * 2500 = U\$S25000

(150000 memberships)

U\$\$ 1,25 M
PER YEAR
(Wait... what?)

Are they fighting back?

Apex claims:

- More than 770k players banned
- Over 300K account creations blocked
- Over than 4k cheat sellers accounts (spammers) banned in 20 days

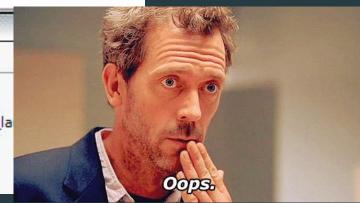
Temporary EAC Bypass

Temporary EAC Bypass

Navigate to game folder (Origin Games\Apex)

- Rename EasyAntiCheat_launcher.exe to EasyAntiCheat_la
- Rename r5apex.exe to EasyAntiCheat_launcher.exe

Have some luls while it lasts.



Analyzing Anti-Cheats

Methodology

Goal:

- Read/Write/Alloc Memory (Internal & External)
- Run Code inside Game's Process
- Be as **stealthy** as possible

Hijacking Techniques

AC usually control/block/reject new HANDLEs to the game process:

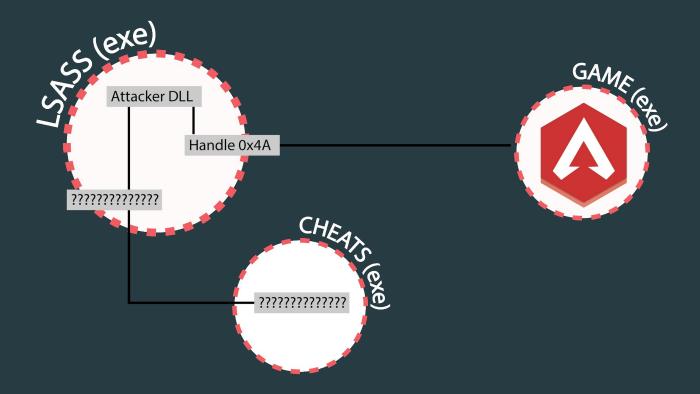
Driver that protects game and AC processes

Some process need to be whitelisted: Isass, csrss, AC

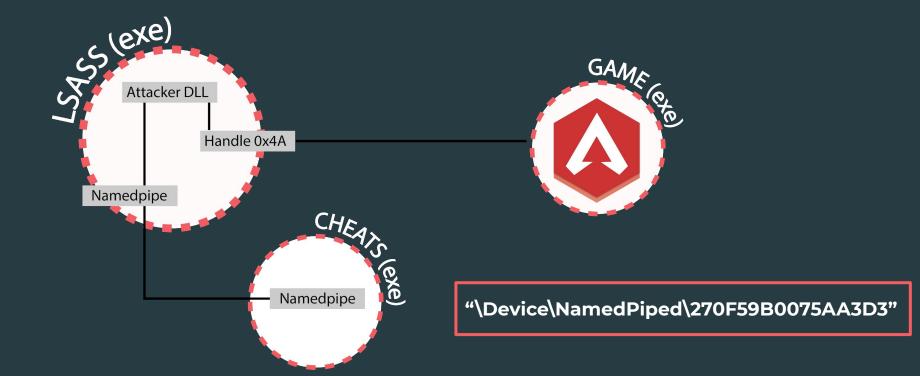
Hijacking techniques come to our rescue:

- [•] Handle Hijacking
- Stealth Handle Hijacking
- [•] Hooking

Hijacking Techniques



Hijacking Techniques - NamedPipe



BLACK DESERT - 326971 **> 0 (0.0%) 30/30** 8 0/0 (0.00%) Process Explorer - Sysinternals: www.sysinternals.com [NIE\Niemand] File Options View Process Find Handle Users Help 150 / 150 0.000% 100/100 Process CPU Private By... Working S... Description ■ Isass.exe 928 18.97 9.456 K 18.584 K Local Security Authorit. Microsoft Visual Studio Debug Co... conhost.exe < [+] Sending Msg: [+] action: 5 Type Handle Name handle: 0x00000000000015FC 0xC0C \Device\NamedPipe\driverbypass File address: 0x58a60000 [+] size: 6 [+] buffer: 54 54 54 54 35 0 CPU Usage: 92.75% Commit Charge: 66.83% Processes: 250 Physical Usage: 51.78% [+] Success writing. [+] Waiting for message. [+] Status: Successful ≤Explorador≥ [+] ZwReadVirtualMemory Edan [+] Sending Msg: [+] action: 6 [+] handle: 0x00000000000015FC [+] address: 0x58a60000 [+] size: 6 [+] buffer: 0 0 0 0 0 0 Amkmkmk [+] Success writing. [+] Waiting for message. Mimimiss [+] Status: Successful [+] bytesRead: 6 [+] buffer: 54 54 54 54 35 0 ZwWriteVirtualMemory [+] Sending Msg: [+] action: 7 [+] handle: 0x000000000000015FC [+] address: 0x58a60000 [+] size: 6 buffer: 54 54 54 54 37 0

Hijacking Techniques - NamedPipe

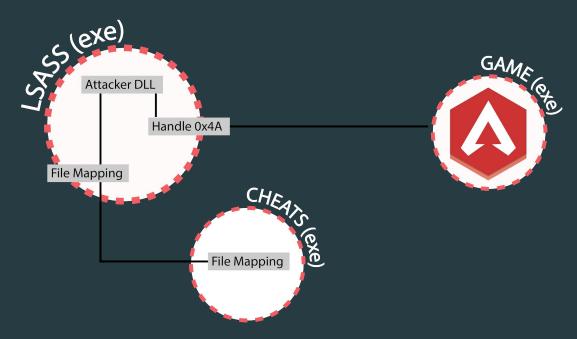
Disadvantages

Suspicious new HANDLEs Hooks to user-mode WIN API

Thread with suspicious context

Downgrade of HANDLE privileges

Imagine a world where our shared memory does not leave an open HANDLE and we can cover better our tracks.



"File mapping object does not close until all references to it are released"

```
HANDLE CreateFileMappingA(
HANDLE hFile,
LPSECURITY_ATTRIBUTES lpFileMappingAttributes,
DWORD flProtect,
DWORD dwMaximumSizeHigh,
DWORD dwMaximumSizeLow,
LPCSTR lpName
);
```

```
BOOL UnmapViewOfFile(
   LPCVOID lpBaseAddress
);
```

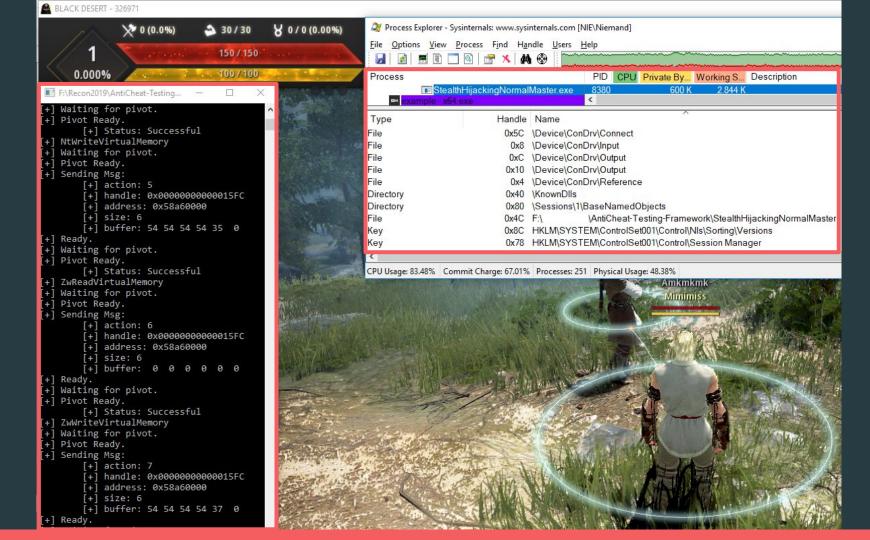
We can call CloseHandle without calling to UnmapViewOfFile.

Request / Response Structure

Manual spinlocks to avoid mutex/semaphores HANDLEs

Shared Memory We can make it even better by **delaying the execution**

Spinlock



Disadvantages

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Hijacking Techniques - Bypass Hooks

EAC also hook functions on **Isass.exe**:

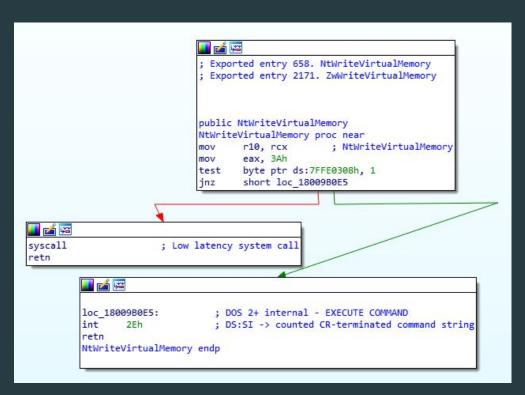
```
C:\WINDOWS\system32\lsass.exe[928] @ C:\WINDOWS\System32\KERNEL32.DLL[ntdll.dll!NtAllocateVirtualMemory]
C:\WINDOWS\system32\lsass.exe[928] @ C:\WINDOWS\System32\KERNEL32.DLL[ntdll.dll!NtReadVirtualMemory]
C:\WINDOWS\system32\lsass.exe[928] @ C:\WINDOWS\System32\KERNELBASE.dll[ntdll.dll!NtReadVirtualMemory]
C:\WINDOWS\system32\lsass.exe[928] @ C:\WINDOWS\System32\KERNELBASE.dll[ntdll.dll!NtWriteVirtualMemory]
C:\WINDOWS\system32\lsass.exe[928] @ C:\WINDOWS\System32\KERNELBASE.dll[ntdll.dll!NtAllocateVirtualMemory]
C:\WINDOWS\system32\lsass.exe[928] @ C:\WINDOWS\system32\lsasrv.dll[ntdll.dll!NtWriteVirtualMemory]
C:\WINDOWS\system32\lsass.exe[928] @ C:\WINDOWS\system32\lsasrv.dll[ntdll.dll!NtWriteVirtualMemory]
C:\WINDOWS\system32\lsass.exe[928] @ C:\WINDOWS\system32\lsasrv.dll[ntdll.dll!NtReadVirtualMemory]
C:\WINDOWS\system32\lsass.exe[928] @ C:\WINDOWS\system32\lsasrv.dll[ntdll.dll!NtReadVirtualMemory]
```

[7ffe3b0b20d4] C:\WINDOWS\system32\eac_usermode_466512274840.dll [7ffe3b0b22b8] C:\WINDOWS\system32\eac_usermode_466512274840.dll [7ffe3b0b22b8] C:\WINDOWS\system32\eac_usermode_466512274840.dll [7ffe3b0b2480] C:\WINDOWS\system32\eac_usermode_466512274840.dll [7ffe3b0b20d4] C:\WINDOWS\system32\eac_usermode_466512274840.dll [7ffe3b0b20d4] C:\WINDOWS\system32\eac_usermode_466512274840.dll [7ffe3b0b22b8] C:\WINDOWS\system32\eac_usermode_466512274840.dll [7ffe3b0b20d4] C:\WINDOWS\system32\eac_usermode_466512274840.dll [7ffe3b0b20d4] C:\WINDOWS\system32\eac_usermode_466512274840.dll [7ffe3b0b20d4] C:\WINDOWS\system32\eac_usermode_466512274840.dll

Why?

- Validate/Control/Track each action done against the game

Hijacking Techniques - Bypass Hooks



```
ZwReadWriteVM.asm + X StealthHijackingNormalMaster.cpp + X
           .code
           ZwWriteVM proc
               mov r10, rcx
               mov eax, 3Ah
               syscall
               ret
           ZwWriteVM endp
           ZwReadVM proc
     11
               mov r10, rcx
               mov eax, 3Fh
               syscall
               ret
           ZwReadVM endp
           end
```

Hijacking Techniques - Bypass Hooks

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Hooking



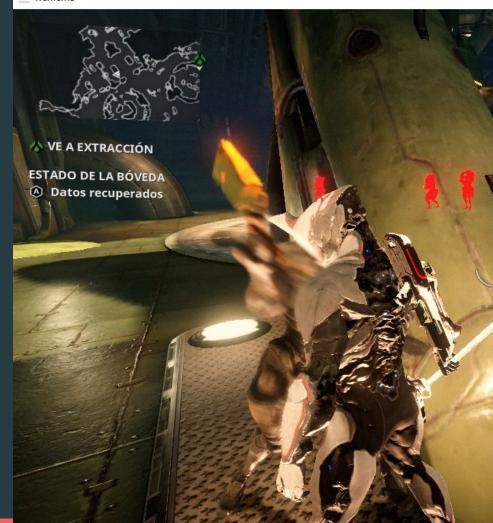
Hooking

Hooking Graphic Engines:

- [•] IAT hooking
- JMPs on Prolog functions

What about 3rd party libraries?

- [•] Steam Overlay
- Open Broadcaster Software



Steam Overlay

00007FFF27D2506F	cc	int3
00007FFF27D25070	E9 1EBE3A01	jmp 7FFF290D0E93
00007FFF27D25075	48:897424 20	mov qword ptr ss:[rsp+20],rsi
00007FFF27D2507A	55	push rbp
00007FFF27D2507B	57	push rdi
00007FFF27D2507C	41:56	push r14
00007FFF27D2507E	48:8D6C24 90	lea rbp, qword ptr ss:[rsp-70]
00007FFF27D25083	48:81EC 70010000	sub rsp,170
00007FFF27D2508A	48:8B05 77120900	mov rax, qword ptr ds:[<security_cookie>]</security_cookie>

Jump is taken 00007FFF290D0E93

Redirects execution to gameoverlayrenderer64.dll:\$8A480

.text:00007FFF27D25070 dxgi.dll:\$5070 #4470 <CDXGISwapChain::Present>

Open Broadcaster Software

0	00007FFF27D25070	^ E9 5B94A891	jmp graphics-hook64.7FFEB97AE4D0
	00007FFF27D25075	48:897424 20	mov qword ptr ss:[rsp+20],rsi
	00007FFF27D2507A	55	push rbp
0	00007FFF27D2507B	57	push rdi
0	00007FFF27D2507C	41:56	push r14
	00007FFF27D2507E	48:8D6C24 90	lea rbp,qword ptr ss:[rsp-70]
0	00007FFF27D25083	48:81EC 70010000	sub rsp,170
0	00007FFF27D2508A	48:8B05 77120900	mov rax,qword ptr ds:[< <u>security_cookie></u>]

Jump is taken graphics-hook64.00007FFEB97AE4D0

Redirects to graphics-hook64.7FFEB97AE4D0

.text:00007FFF27D25070 dxgi.dll:\$5070 #4470 <CDXGISwapChain::Present>

Hooking - Code Caves and NamedPipes?

```
CC
                             00007FFEE50B1091
                                                                         int3
                             00007FFEE50B1092
                                                  CC
                                                                         int3
                             00007FFEE50B1093
                                                                         add byte ptr ds:[rax],a]
                                                   0000
                             00007FFEE50B1095
                                                                         add byte ptr ds: [rax], al
                                                   0000
                                                                         add byte ptr ds:[rax],al
                             00007FFEE50B1097
                                                   0000
                                                                         add byte ptr ds:[rax],al
                                                   0000
                                                                         add byte ptr ds:[rax],al
                             00007FFEE50B109B
                                                   0000
                                                                         add byte ptr ds: [rax], al
                             00007FFEE50B109D
                                                   0000
byte ptr [rax]=[0]=???
a1=0
```

.text:00007FFEE50B1093 graphics-hook64.dll:\$71093 #70493

	Desert 64.exe	5.70	2,044,896 K	1,580,380 K		-00-	1997	-	
T 0.701	N OI	-	^		40000 0 (0)	-			
Type	Name	Name							
File	\Device\Named	\Device\NamedPipe\{AE2298A9-A4BF-47c0-A20E-5962EEBE90B6}							
File	\Device\Named	\Device\NamedPipe\{C9A11FED-C3C4-4cac-989C-0022AA3AF9AC}							
File	\Device\Named	Pipe\CaptureH	Hook_Pipe 10392						
File	\Device\Named	Pipe\Graphich	lookGfx.Niemand	.MSI					
File	\Device\Named	Pipe\NvMessa	ageBusBroadcast						

Refresher- Bypass Hooks

Disadvantages

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Moving to kernel...Drivers

Drivers

Cheat developers also develop their own to fight inside the kernel. Loading a Driver:

- [•] Test Mode
- Sign your own Driver (\$\$\$\$\$\$\$)
- Abuse of another driver

GIGABYTE Driver

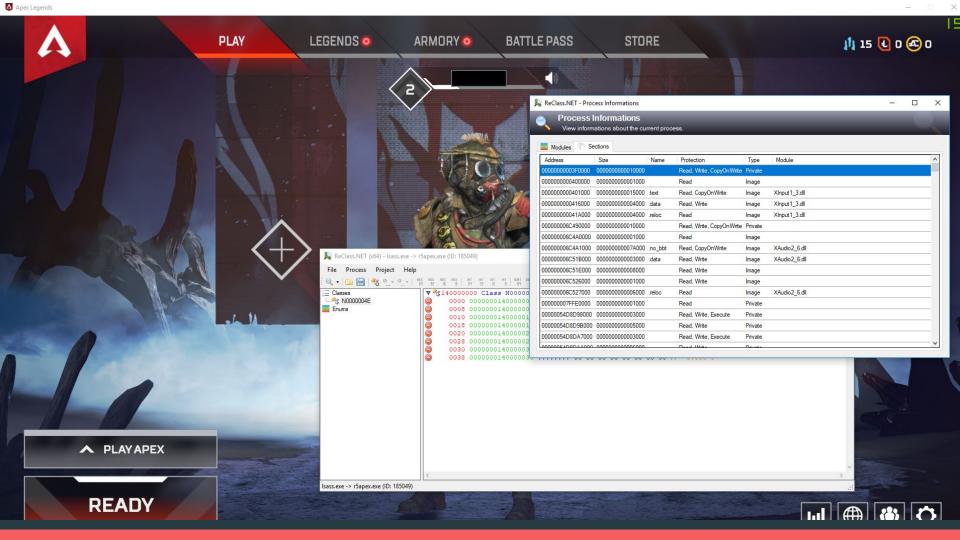
- [•] CVE-2018-19320 (ring0 memcpy with VA)
- CVE-2018-19321 (read/write arbitrary physical memory)

EAC downgrading the HANDLE

sass.exe	940	< 0.01 9.436 K	18.076 K Local Secur	ity Authority Proc	. Microsoft Corporation		NT AUTHORITY	SYSTEM	C:\W
fontdrvhost.exe	604	11.148 K	2.624 K Usermode F	ont Driver Host	Microsoft Corporation		Font Driver Host\	JMFD-0	"fonto
csrss.exe	<				**				
Туре	Handle	Name		Access	Decoded Access				
Process	0x9A8	ServiceHub.DataWarehouseHo	st.exe(10652)	0x00001478	VM_OPERATION VM_R	READ I VM_WRITE	DUP_HANDLE	QUERY_	INFORMATION
Process	0x146C	sedsvc.exe(7312)		0x00001478	VM_OPERATION VM_R	READ I VM WRITE	DUP_HANDLE	QUERY	INFORMATION
Process	0x14B8	SearchUl.exe(10180)		0x00001478	VM_OPERATION VM_R	READ I VM_WRITE	DUP_HANDLE	QUERY_	INFORMATION
Process	0xE10	SearchIndexer.exe(7108)		0x00001478	VM_OPERATION VM_R	READ I VM_WRITE	DUP_HANDLE	QUERY_	INFORMATION
Process	0x1B5C	ScriptedSandbox64.exe(15372)		0x00001478	VM_OPERATION VM_R	READ I VM_WRITE	DUP_HANDLE	QUERY_	INFORMATION
Process	0x1840	SCM.exe(6204)		0x00001478	VM_OPERATION VM_R	READ I VM_WRITE	DUP_HANDLE	QUERY_	INFORMATION
Process	0x186C	RuntimeBroker.exe(7604)		0x00001478	VM_OPERATION VM_R	READ I VM_WRITE	DUP_HANDLE	QUERY_	INFORMATION
Process	0x15A0	RuntimeBroker.exe(12244)		0x00001478	VM_OPERATION VM_R	READ I VM_WRITE	DUP_HANDLE	QUERY_	INFORMATION
Process	0x14FC	RuntimeBroker.exe(10640)		0x00001478	VM_OPERATION VM_R	READ I VM_WRITE	DUP_HANDLE	QUERY_	INFORMATION
Process	0x1B54	r5apex.exe(6048)		0x00001440	DUP_HANDLE QUERY	INFORMATION I	QUERY_LIMITED	INFORM	ATION
Process	0x1910	QHSafeTray.exe(14228)		0x00001478	VM_OPERATION VM_R	READ I VM_WRITE	DUP_HANDLE	QUERY_	INFORMATION
Process	0xD6C	QHActiveDefense.exe(3496)		0x00001478	VM_OPERATION VM_R	READ I VM_WRITE	DUP_HANDLE	QUERY_	INFORMATION
Process	0x17C4	procexp64.exe(4928)		0x00001478	VM_OPERATION VM_R	READ I VM_WRITE	DUP_HANDLE	QUERY	INFORMATION
Process	0xAD0	PerfWatson2.exe(3880)		0x00001478	VM_OPERATION VM_R	READ I VM_WRITE	DUP_HANDLE	QUERY_	INFORMATION
Process	0x1B04	PerfWatson2.exe(12088)			VM_OPERATION VM_R		A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR	A CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF TH	

Driver - DKOM

- Search for EPROCESS Struct in kernel
 - typedef struct { CHAR ImageFileName[15]; DWORD PriorityClass; }
- 2) Obtain the ObjectTable (HANDLE_TABLE)
- 3) Use ExpLookupHandleTableEntry(HandleTable, Handle)
- A) Retrieve HANDLE
- 5) Modify GrantedAccess
- 6) Overwrite kernel memory
- **7)** Profit



Refresher- Bypass Hooks

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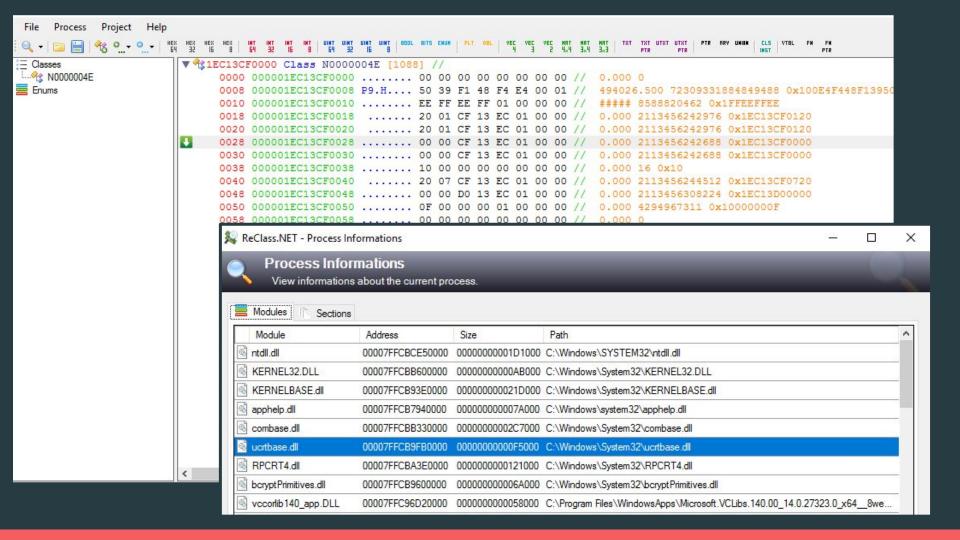
One Last Attempt

Driver - Just do it from kernel!

- 1) Leak handle pointers using NtQuerySystemInformation
 SystemExtendedHandleInformation (0x40) as SYSTEM_INFORMATION_CLASS
- 2) Locate valid KPROCESS pointer
 _KPROCESS.Header == 0x00B60003
- Traverse linked list -> _EPROCESS.ActiveProcessLinks
- 4) Obtain DirectoryBaseTable -> _EPROCESS.PEB.DirectoryBaseTable
- 5) Obtain target Base Address -> _EPROCESS.SectionBaseAddress
- 6) Dereference Ring3 virtual addresses
- 7) Directly modify/read memory

DEMO

What about the tools?



Black Hat Sound Bytes

- [•] Fight at kernel level vs Trivial Bypasses
- [•] Blacklisting all drivers is impossible
- [] Compatibility with Windows and 3rd applications is a problem

Open Source Projects

ReClass Plugin - Driver Reader



niemand-sec/ReClass.NET-DriverReader

AntiCheat-Testing-Framework



niemand-sec/AntiCheat-Testing-Framework

- CheatHelper & DriverHelper
- DriverDisabler & Synapse Driver exploit (Razer)
- HandleHijackingDLL and HandleHijackingMasterNamePipes and FileMapping
- [] WinApi Hooking Bypass & Lua Hooking
- ► Handle Elevation and External Driver

THANK YOU!





@niemand_sec

