PowerShell

It’s time to own….

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About Josh

• Security Analyst with a Fortune 1000 --- Works with Dave

• Heavy experience in penetration testing, exploitation, web application security, vulnerability management, and incident response.

• Primary languages are Perl, Python…and now PowerShell 😊
About Dave

• Director of Regional Security for a Fortune 1000

• Heavy experience in penetration testing, exploitation, web application security, wireless and physical

• Creator of the Social-Engineer Toolkit, work heavy with Back|Track and the Social-Engineer Framework.

• Heavy military background in Intelligence, deployed twice to Iraq and other middle east countries.
Brief Intro to PowerShell

• Windows version of a bash shell in nix… Very powerful, flexible, and in some ways (don’t boo) more powerful in nature to nix.

• Installed by default on all Windows 7 and Server 2008 operating systems. Full integration for all new existing Microsoft products, including Exchange and AD integration.

• Full integration into the .NET framework and can be directly called when performing scripting.
PowerShell Security

• Execution policies are set by default to “restricted”.

• Does not allow any scripts to be run from anywhere, except specific commands.
Execution Policies

• Restricted – Already talked about this.

• AllSigned – This script only allows signed scripts to be executed. Has to be from a trusted publisher. This is the most restrictive policy.

• RemoteSigned – Remote scripts must be signed by a trusted publisher, things run locally don’t need to be signed.

• Unrestricted – Can run anything both remote and local.
So why do we need to worry?

• We will be the first ones to admit the usefulness and power of PowerShell in a positive manner. The ability to perform advanced tasks on Microsoft based operating systems is a huge leap forward.

• PowerShell also gives hackers a full fledge programming and scripting language at their disposal on all operating systems by default.
Release of Metasploit Module 1 – PowerShell Debug

• Traditionally post-exploitation phase, if you didn’t have direct access to memory, traditional methods of getting a payload onto a system was through Windows debug (now removed in all newer operating systems), vbscript, TFTP, or FTP.

• These methods are now proving much more difficult with better A/V and HIPS detection (well kinda..) and TFTP and FTP blocked egress.
DEMO – Metasploit Module
Small Example of Conversion

• Binary is converted to hexadecimal and placed onto the filesystem.

• Convert script is created to take the hexadecimal and rewrite it back in a byte array as binary.

• Payload is now on the system for execution.
What about that execution restriction?

• The execution restriction absolutely would have stopped this from executing.

• The payload couldn’t be converted…
Bypassing Execution Restrictions – CreateCmd being released

• Contents of a file are concatenated, compressed, and converted to base 64 into a single string.

• A boilerplate bootstrap code created for powershell – Command or –encodedCommand args then unpack the code and then perform an Invoke-Expression

• That will execute the script contents in the current shell context with all new functions that are in the script.
What’s this mean…

• With the most restrictive policy set on PowerShell we can still execute whatever we want…. AllSigned does not stop this attack.

• No need to disable execution restriction policies anymore.

• No registry interaction, no reboots, nothing.
DEMO – CreateCMD
What we can do..

- Since we have full access to both PowerShell and the .NET libraries, we can do pretty much anything we want...

- Releasing today both a bind and reverse shell programmed purely in PowerShell.

- And something fun..
DEMO - PowerDump
PowerDump

• Meterpreter based module, will dump the SAM database purely through powershell.

• Works on all operating systems, both x86 and 64 bit.
What does this mean?

• PowerShell is a powerful and useful tool for administrators and security professionals.

• The full fledge programmatic language within default installations does pose significant security risk.

• Anti-Virus and HIPS aren’t picking up these types of attacks, which means it’s a safe passage for exploitation.
Future Plans

• Process injection and code injection capabilities within PowerShell.

• P.o.C Trojan/Worm purely written in PowerShell.
Recommendations

- Remove PowerShell if you are not currently using it on your systems. This only works for Server 2008, Windows 7 it’s imbedded.

- Set the execution policy to Restricted which is the default, but doesn’t do a whole lot of good.

- That’s really about it…
Questions? 😊

Be sure to check out:

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