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You've Had the Power All Along: Process Forensics With Native Tools

GIAC (GCIH) Gold Certification

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Abstract

Many organizations are interested in standing up threat response teams but are unable, or unwilling, to provide funding or approval for third-party tools. This lack of support requires threat response teams to utilize built-in, OS-specific tools, to investigate suspicious processes and files. These tools can provide a significant amount of useful information when scrutinizing a suspicious process or file. However, these tools and their output are often unwieldy. A lack of cohesiveness requires running multiple similar commands to gather all the data for an investigation, and then manually combining and correlating that data. This paper examines the data of interest during an incident response and the native Microsoft Windows tools used to obtain it. This paper also discusses how to use PowerShell to automate the collection and compilation of this important data.

1. Introduction

Malicious software needs to be actively running as a process to be a threat to the system. Due to this need, an analyst may notice and investigate it further. To determine the legitimacy of a process, an investigator will analyze the running process thoroughly and ascertain the details of the process in question. However, to adequately assess process legitimacy, one must be familiar with their environment and standard Windows processes and behaviors. Additional outside research into unfamiliar processes will likely be necessary for making an informed decision, however this information is outside the scope of this research. It is assumed that readers will conduct this external research on their own as necessary.

There are many tools, both free and paid, that can significantly aid in an investigation. The most common and indispensable set of tools is the Sysinternals suites from Microsoft, which can accomplish system administration tasks, monitor, and investigate what processes are doing and touching (Heddings, Sysinternals Pro: What Are the SysInternals Tools and How Do You Use Them?, 2019). However, some organizations are very strict about what software is allowed to be installed and executed on their networks. Sometimes the process to obtain additional software approval is very long and arduous, or the organization simply will not allow it. Unfortunately, even though Microsoft acquired Sysinternals in 2006 (Microsoft, 2006), the tools have never been included in a default Windows installation, thus triggering the additional software approval process mandated by many companies.

Fortunately, Microsoft Windows comes with almost everything an incident responder might need to investigate processes. However, the main drawback to these tools is that much of the output data is unfriendly and often does not provide all the information desired, requiring the use of multiple similar applications to gather all the data.

This paper describes the tools in question and the viability of using PowerShell to automate the collection and parsing of all the data into one standard output. The data of

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interest includes: the Process ID (PID), Parent Process ID (PPID), process lineage, executable path, command-line arguments, the user account running the process, associated network activity, and the Dynamic Link Libraries (DLLs) loaded into the process. This paper also covers searching for persistence mechanisms potentially used by the process, including scheduled tasks, Windows services, autorun directories, and other locations in the registry known to launch applications automatically. Additionally, this paper discusses collecting data from the filesystem related to the process in question, including collecting hashes of the executable and loaded DLLs, the creation date and time of the executable, and searching the filesystem for other files created within a specified time window from the executable creation time. Finally, this paper also investigates the automation of submitting the collected hashes to VirusTotal to help discern if these files are known malicious.

The following Windows tools are used to gather the information mentioned above:

- Windows Management Instrumentation (WMI)
- Tasklist
- Netstat
- Reg
- Schtasks
- CertUtil
- PowerShell

PowerShell is used throughout this paper both to collect data and to parse, filter, and stitch together the output of the other Windows tools discussed to present the information clearly and coherently. This paper assumes that the reader has a basic knowledge of scripting and PowerShell.

2. Test Setup

A test lab was created with the following versions of Windows to test the automatic collection of data via native Windows tools using a PowerShell script:

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- Windows 7 Service Pack 1 Build 7601
- Windows 8.1 Build 9600
- Windows 10 Build 18363
- Windows Server 2008R2 Service Pack 1 Build 7601
- Windows Server 2012R2 Build 9600
- Windows Server 2016 Build 14393
- Windows Server 2019 Build 17763

Two malicious executables using three means of persistence were the subjects of this test. The first malicious executable is a Meterpreter Bind Shell configured to listen on port 8080. This executable was created using MSFVenom on Kali Linux version 2020.1 and saved as a Windows executable named meter.exe.

```
root@kali:~# msfvenom -p windows/x64/meterpreter/bind_tcp LPORT=8080 -f exe -o /tmp/meter.exe
[-] No platform was selected, choosing Msf::Module::Platform::Windows from the payload
[-] No arch selected, selecting arch: x64 from the payload
No encoder or badchars specified, outputting raw payload
Payload size: 499 bytes
Final size of exe file: 7168 bytes
Saved as: /tmp/meter.exe
root@kali:~#
```

Figure 1 Generating Meterpreter Bind Shell Executable

This executable was placed in C:\windows\ on each test machine. A Windows service named LocalProxy was created and configured to run on system startup. The service executes cmd.exe, which in turn runs c:\windows\meter.exe.

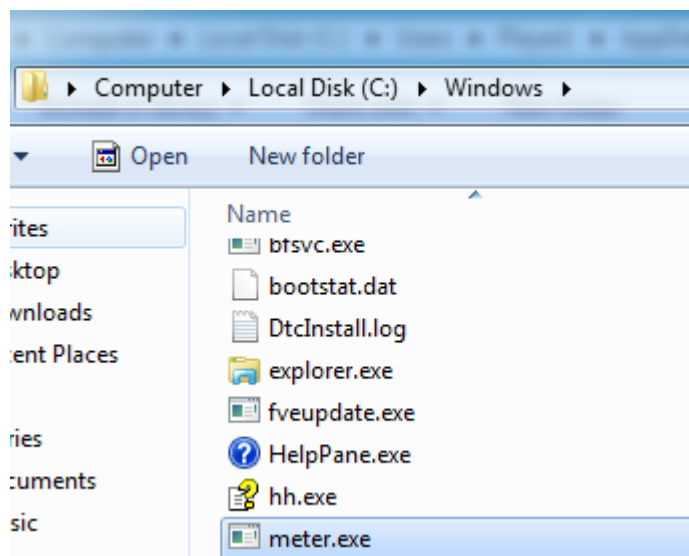


Figure 2 Meterpreter Bind Shell in place on victim

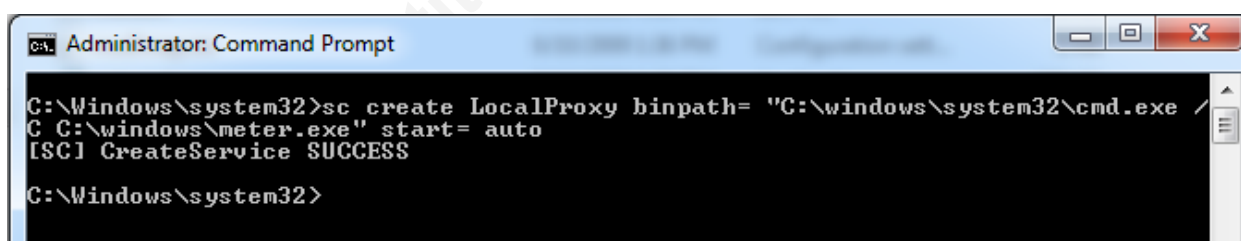


Figure 3 Creation of LocalProxy Service

The second executable is a copy of Netcat, `nc.exe`, taken from `/usr/share/windows-resources/binaries/nc.exe` on the same Kali Linux machine. `Nc.exe` was also placed in `C:\windows\` on each test machine. A scheduled task was created named "Simple Web Server Starter" which was set to run every hour as the SYSTEM account with command-line arguments to set up a listener on port 80 that will execute `cmd.exe` upon connection.

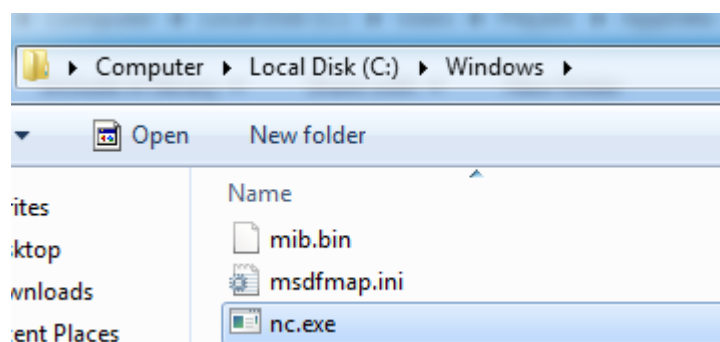


Figure 4 Netcat in place on victim

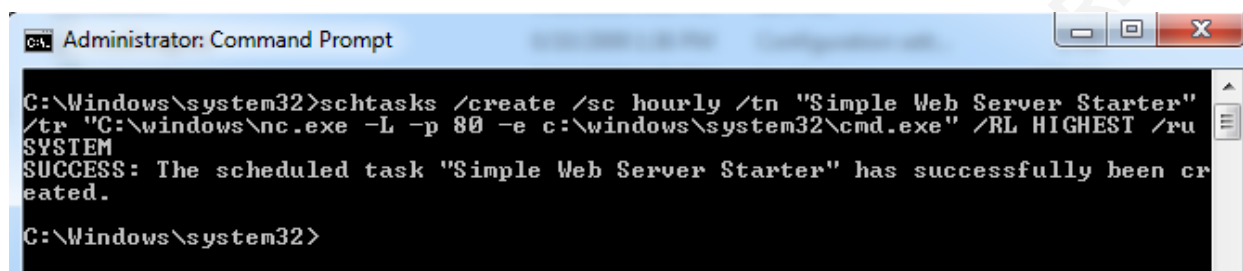


Figure 5 Creating Simple Web Server Starter scheduled task

Finally, a shortcut was created to nc.exe named "Management Interface," which was configured to start another Netcat listener on port 8888 that also executes cmd.exe upon connection. This shortcut was placed in the user's startup folder, "C:\Users\Player1\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Startup\," which runs the shortcut every time the user logs on to the system.

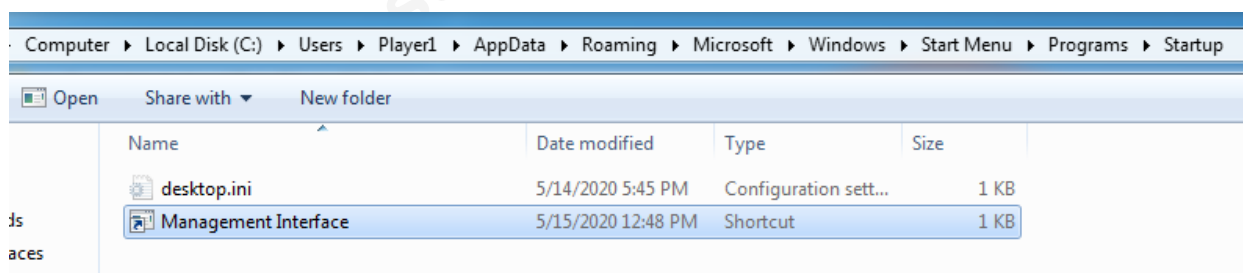


Figure 6 Management Interface shortcut placed in startup folder

Figure 7 shows the full target path: "C:\Windows\nc.exe -L -p 8888 -e C:\windows\system32\cmd.exe"

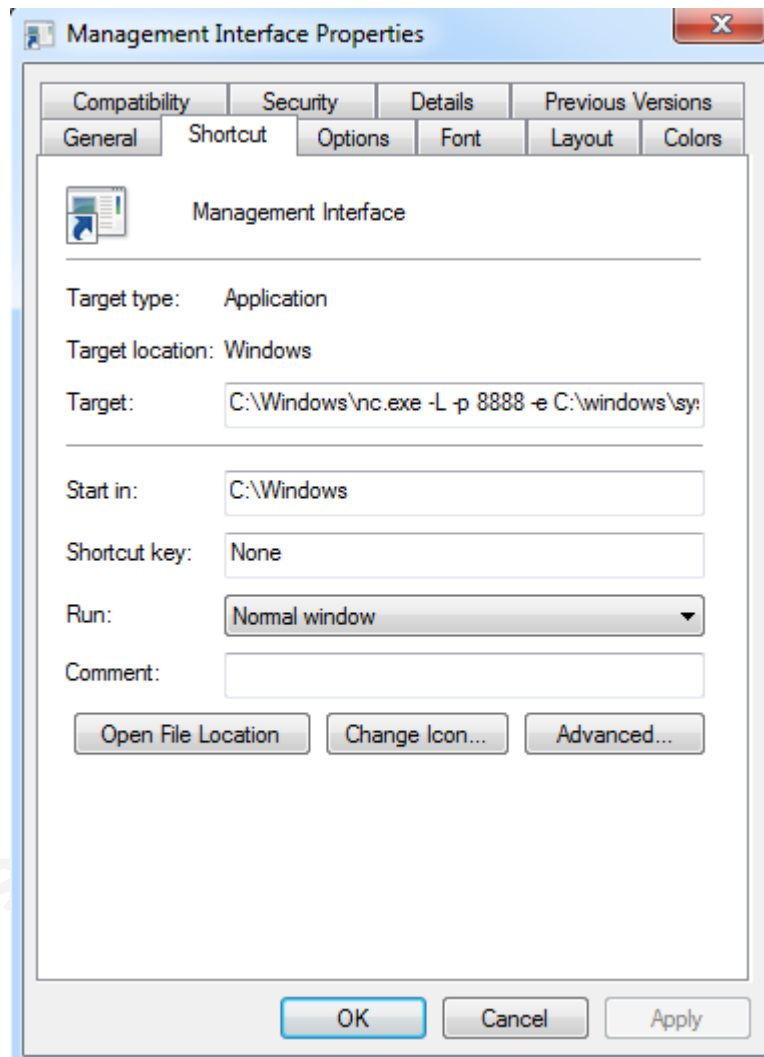


Figure 7 Management Interface shortcut configuration

After restarting the system, logging in, and waiting an hour, netstat was used to confirm that each means of persistence, for each of these malicious executables, worked successfully as processes were listening on port 80, 8080, and 8888. This is shown in figure 8.

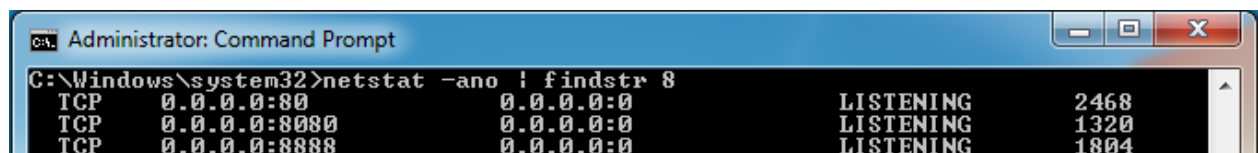
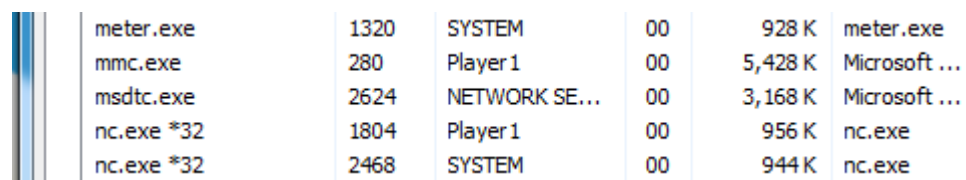


Figure 8 Netstat view of each malicious process

Task Manager, shown in figure 9, also confirmed that meter.exe and two instances of nc.exe were running, and the PIDs matched the listening ports shown in figure 8.

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meter.exe	1320	SYSTEM	00	928 K	meter.exe
mmc.exe	280	Player1	00	5,428 K	Microsoft ...
msdtc.exe	2624	NETWORK SE...	00	3,168 K	Microsoft ...
nc.exe *32	1804	Player1	00	956 K	nc.exe
nc.exe *32	2468	SYSTEM	00	944 K	nc.exe

Figure 9 Task Manager view of malicious processes

3. Gathering Data Using Windows Tools

The tools discussed in the following sections come pre-installed on every Windows version, at least as far back as Windows 7. Below is a brief description of each one, followed by how to gather the desired data with each tool.

3.1. Tools of the Trade

3.1.1. CertUtil

Certutil is a command-line application provided by Microsoft as part of Certificate Services (Microsoft, 2017). While it is primarily meant to dump, display, and configure certification authority configurations and verify certificates, it can also be used to hash files using the `-hashfile` option. Interestingly, while CertUtil has this functionality, the Microsoft documentation does not specify which hashing algorithms it supports. Upon testing, it is confirmed that as far back as Windows 7, CertUtil supports at least the MD5, SHA1, SHA256, and SHA512 hashing algorithms.

3.1.2. Netstat

Netstat is a Windows tool used to view all listening and active connections on a system. It will also show the corresponding PID of the process listening or initiating the connection (Microsoft, 2017). The PID enables cross-referencing of network activity with running processes to see if the process in question is active on the network.

3.1.3. PowerShell

PowerShell is an object-based command-line shell and scripting language developed by Microsoft and built on .NET (Microsoft, 2020). It has come pre-installed on every version of Windows since Windows 7 and Windows Server 2008R2 (Microsoft, 2010) with each new version of Windows coming with an updated version. Windows 7

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and Windows Server 2008R2 come with PowerShell Version 2.0, while Windows 10 and Windows Server 2019 come with Version 5.1. Each release introduces new cmdlets and features. To ensure the widest compatibility with created scripts, an understanding of the environment is needed to determine the oldest version of PowerShell in use. All scripts created should be designed with that version in mind. PowerShell scripts are forward compatible, meaning scripts written for older versions will still work on newer versions, so there is no risk of breaking something by ensuring backward compatibility (Wilson, 2015). Additionally, PowerShell can be used to execute non-PowerShell executables on the system.

3.1.4. Reg

Reg is a command-line tool that performs operations on registry keys and values (Microsoft, 2017). The subcommand "reg query" is used to search the registry for any entry that matches a given string.

3.1.5. Schtasks

Schtasks is a Windows application that allows administrators to "create, delete, query, change, run, and end scheduled tasks on a local or remote computer" (Microsoft, 2018).

3.1.6. Tasklist

Tasklist is a Windows command-line application that displays a list of currently running processes (Microsoft, 2017). The main benefit of using Tasklist is that when executed with the verbose option, /v, it displays the user context of each process.

3.1.7. WMI

The WMI tool is "the infrastructure for management data and operations on Windows-based operating systems" (Microsoft, 2018). WMI was released in 1998 and was the core system management utility starting with Windows 2000 (Microsoft, 2006). Administrators use WMI to obtain detailed information about systems and to administer them, both locally and remotely.

3.2. Running Process Information Collection

In simple terms, a process is a program that is currently executing on the computer (Microsoft, 2018). Running processes are the most volatile sources of data discussed in this paper as they can stop at any time, eliminating much of the sought-after data along with it.

3.2.1. Executable Path, Command Line Arguments, and PPID

The executable path of a process provides essential insight into its legitimacy (Nolan, et al., 2005). For example, common locations for program execution include the Program Files and System32 folders, so processes running from these locations have a higher probability of being legitimate. However, other places, such as internet cache folders, user directories, and the root of the file system, are non-standard locations for executables, and processes running from these locations are less likely to be legitimate (Yonts, 2014). Many standard process viewing applications, such as Task Manager and Tasklist, show only the name of the executable and not the path, so a malicious executable can attempt to hide in plain sight by having the same name of a legitimate program but running from a different location. For example, `svchost.exe` running from `c:\windows\system32\` is likely the valid Windows application, but `svchost.exe` running from anywhere else, such as `C:\Windows\`, is suspect.

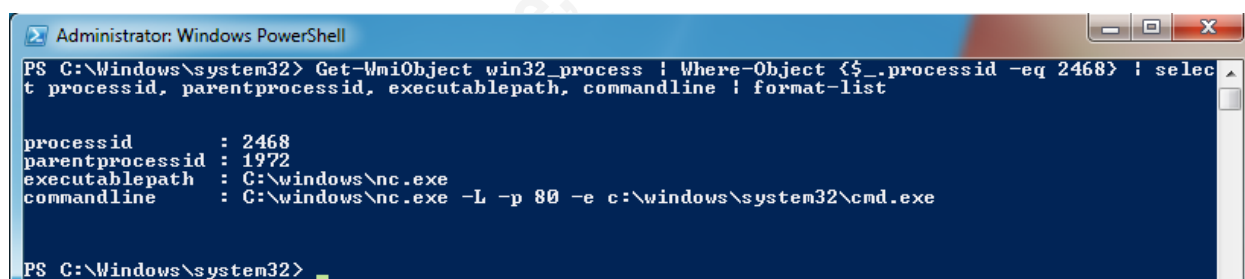
Many applications have either standard, expected command-line arguments or don't use command-line arguments at all. Understanding what arguments are typical for an application will help determine if the process is legitimate or if a malicious program is masquerading as the legitimate one. For example, `svchost.exe` will almost always be invoked with the `-k` option followed by an argument, so instances of `svchost.exe` running without a `-k` option are worthy of investigation.

A process's parent process is of interest to an investigator because many applications have an expected lineage, and any deviation from this baseline is cause for concern. For example, Microsoft Word should not be starting `cmd.exe`, `wscript.exe`, or `powershell.exe` (Weyne, 2016), and only `Wininit.exe` should spawn `lsass.exe` (Lee &

Pilkington, 2018). Any deviation from this behavior should be considered suspicious and investigated further.

WMI retains the executable path, command line arguments, PPID, and more for each process. PowerShell's Get-WmiObject cmdlet, using the win32_process WMI class, will display this data.

All of the PIDs used in the following examples are the PIDs of the test malware processes created in the Test Setup section.



```

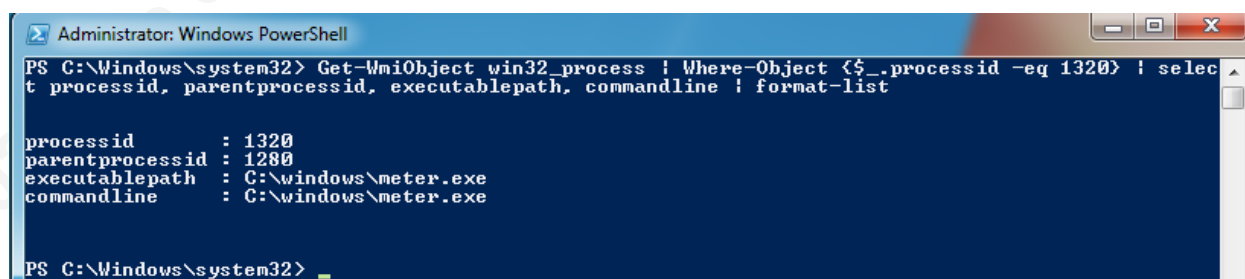
Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Windows\system32> Get-WmiObject win32_process | Where-Object {$_.processid -eq 2468} | select
t processid, parentprocessid, executablepath, commandline | format-list

processid       : 2468
parentprocessid : 1972
executablepath  : C:\windows\nc.exe
commandline     : C:\windows\nc.exe -L -p 80 -e c:\windows\system32\cmd.exe

PS C:\Windows\system32> _

```

Figure 10 WMI process information for PID 2468



```

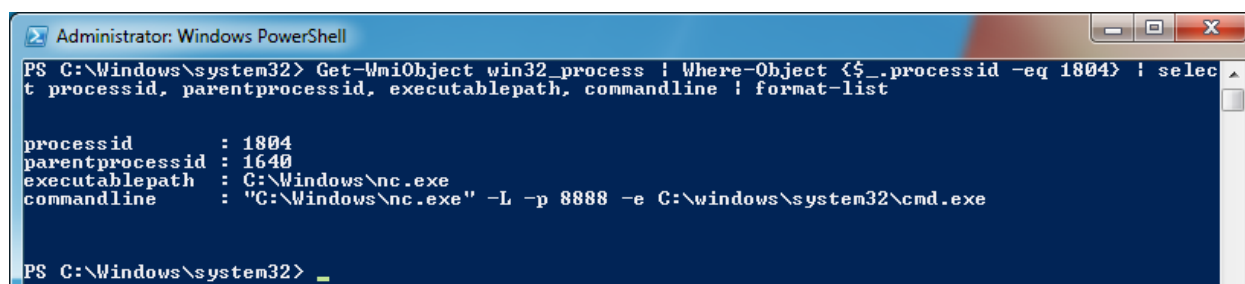
Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Windows\system32> Get-WmiObject win32_process | Where-Object {$_.processid -eq 1320} | select
t processid, parentprocessid, executablepath, commandline | format-list

processid       : 1320
parentprocessid : 1280
executablepath  : C:\windows\meter.exe
commandline     : C:\windows\meter.exe

PS C:\Windows\system32> _

```

Figure 11 WMI process information for PID 1320



```

Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Windows\system32> Get-WmiObject win32_process | Where-Object {$_.processid -eq 1804} | select
t processid, parentprocessid, executablepath, commandline | format-list

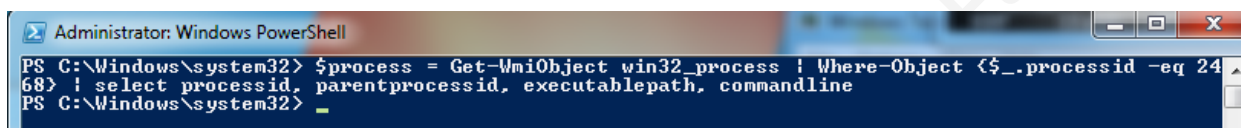
processid       : 1804
parentprocessid : 1640
executablepath  : C:\Windows\nc.exe
commandline     : "C:\Windows\nc.exe" -L -p 8888 -e C:\windows\system32\cmd.exe

PS C:\Windows\system32> _

```

Figure 12 WMI process information for PID 1804

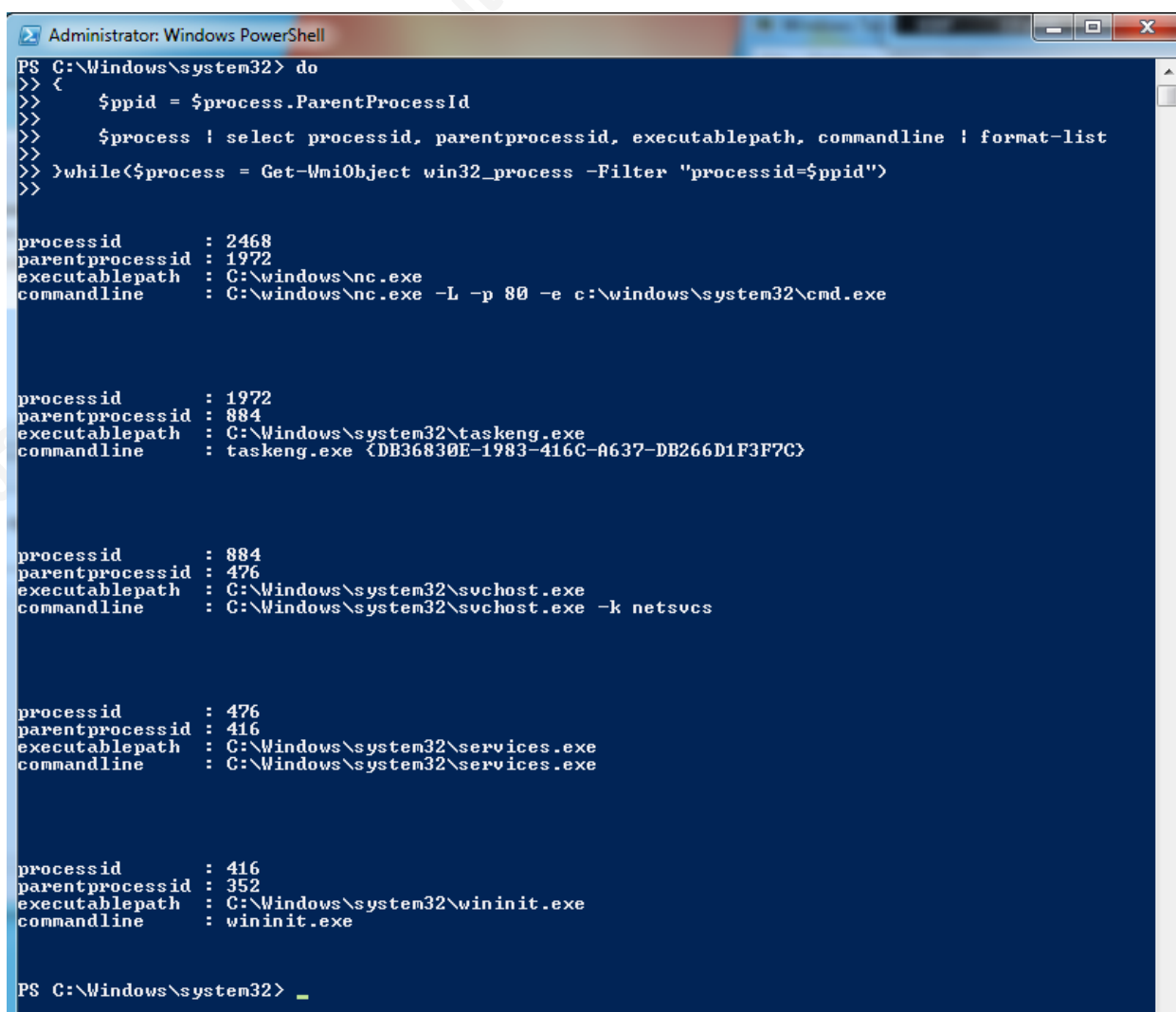
Saving this output to a variable will allow investigators to combine this data with additional information about each process gathered with different tools.



```
Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Windows\system32> $process = Get-WmiObject win32_process | Where-Object <$_.processid -eq 2468> | select processid, parentprocessid, executablepath, commandline
PS C:\Windows\system32>
```

Figure 13 Saving WMI process information to variable

WMI can query the same information of each parent process using a PowerShell loop to provide a complete picture of process lineage. This lineage will help an investigator determine if there is anything suspicious regarding the creation of the process in question. Figure 14 shows the process lineage for PID 2468 using the WMI process data variable created in figure 13.



```
Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Windows\system32> do
>> {
>>     $ppid = $process.ParentProcessId
>>     $process | select processid, parentprocessid, executablepath, commandline | format-list
>> }while($process = Get-WmiObject win32_process -Filter "processid=$ppid")

processid           : 2468
parentprocessid     : 1972
executablepath      : C:\windows\nc.exe
commandline         : C:\windows\nc.exe -L -p 80 -e c:\windows\system32\cmd.exe

processid           : 1972
parentprocessid     : 884
executablepath      : C:\Windows\system32\taskeng.exe
commandline         : taskeng.exe <DB36830E-1983-416C-A637-DB266D1F3F7C>

processid           : 884
parentprocessid     : 476
executablepath      : C:\Windows\system32\svchost.exe
commandline         : C:\Windows\system32\svchost.exe -k netsvcs

processid           : 476
parentprocessid     : 416
executablepath      : C:\Windows\system32\services.exe
commandline         : C:\Windows\system32\services.exe

processid           : 416
parentprocessid     : 352
executablepath      : C:\Windows\system32\wininit.exe
commandline         : wininit.exe

PS C:\Windows\system32>
```

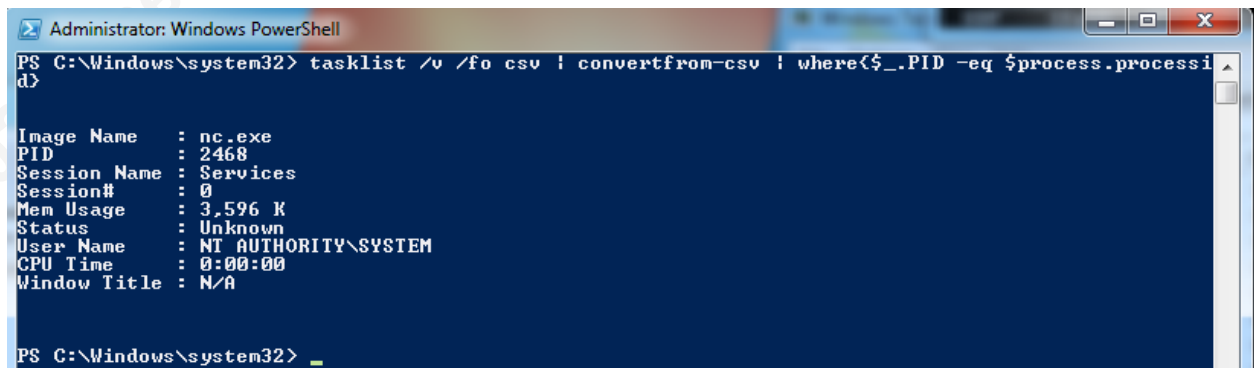
Figure 14 Process lineage for PID 2468

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3.2.2. Username

The process' username is relevant because it specifies what permissions the process has and what activity it can perform. For example, if a process is running as standard user "Bob," it will be able to access and modify any of Bob's files. However, it won't be able to access Alice's data, nor will it be able to perform system configuration changes, such as creating new services. Conversely, processes running as an administrator or the System account can access all files and implement any configuration changes. Additionally, most executables run as an expected user, so any deviation could be an indicator of malicious activity and is worth investigating further. For example, only normal users should be running web browsers, and only System should be running lsass.exe, so if a user is running lsass.exe or System is running a web browser, this is abnormal and worthy of further examination.

Running Tasklist with the verbose option, /v, when executed with administrator privileges, will display the user context of every process. Tasklist can output this information in Comma Separated Value (CSV) format, which can be easily converted to PowerShell objects using the ConvertFrom-Csv PowerShell cmdlet.



```

Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Windows\system32> tasklist /v /fo csv | convertfrom-csv | where{$_.PID -eq $process.processid}
Image Name      : nc.exe
PID             : 2468
Session Name    : Services
Session#        : 0
Mem Usage       : 3,596 K
Status          : Unknown
User Name       : NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
CPU Time        : 0:00:00
Window Title    : N/A
PS C:\Windows\system32>
  
```

Figure 15 Tasklist data for PID 2468 after conversion to PowerShell object

Once PowerShell converts the data, the User Name field can be extracted and added to the process variable created earlier. Now the data is combined and can be displayed in one coherent output, as shown in figure 16 below.

```

PS C:\Windows\system32> tasklist /v /fo csv | convertfrom-csv | where($_.PID -eq $process.processid) | select "User Name"
User Name
-----
NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM

PS C:\Windows\system32> $process | Add-Member NoteProperty Username (tasklist /v /fo csv | ConvertFrom-Csv | where ($_PID -eq $process.processid) | select -expand "User Name")
PS C:\Windows\system32> $process

processid       : 2468
parentprocessid : 1972
executablepath  : C:\windows\nc.exe
commandline     : C:\windows\nc.exe -L -p 80 -e c:\windows\system32\cmd.exe
Username        : NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM

PS C:\Windows\system32>

```

Figure 16 Username information from Tasklist added to WMI data for PID 2468

3.2.3. Process List

An investigator can combine the above techniques to display the process name, PID, PPID, username, executable path, and command-line arguments of every running process on the computer with a PowerShell loop. This process list would help during the initial review of a system to determine if any process on the machine looks suspicious.

```

PS C:\Windows\system32> $tasklist = tasklist /v /fo csv | ConvertFrom-Csv
PS C:\Windows\system32> Get-WmiObject win32_process | foreach {
>> $currentpid = $_.processid
>> $_ | Add-Member NoteProperty Username ($tasklist | where {$_PID -eq $currentpid} | select -exp
and "User Name")
>> $_ | select processid, parentprocessid, username, executablepath, commandline
>> }
>> }

processid      : 0
parentprocessid : 0
Username       : NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
executablepath  :
commandline     :

processid      : 4
parentprocessid : 0
Username       : N/A
executablepath  :
commandline     :

processid      : 272
parentprocessid : 4
Username       : NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
executablepath  :
commandline     : \SystemRoot\System32\smss.exe

processid      : 364
parentprocessid : 352
Username       : NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
executablepath  : C:\Windows\system32\csrss.exe
commandline     : %SystemRoot%\system32\csrss.exe ObjectDirectory=\Windows SharedSection=1024,204
80,768 Windows=0n SubSystemType=Windows ServerDll=basesrv,1 ServerDll=winsrv:Us
erServerDllInitialization,3 ServerDll=winsrv:ConServerDllInitialization,2 Serve
rDll=sxssrv,4 ProfileControl=Off MaxRequestThreads=16

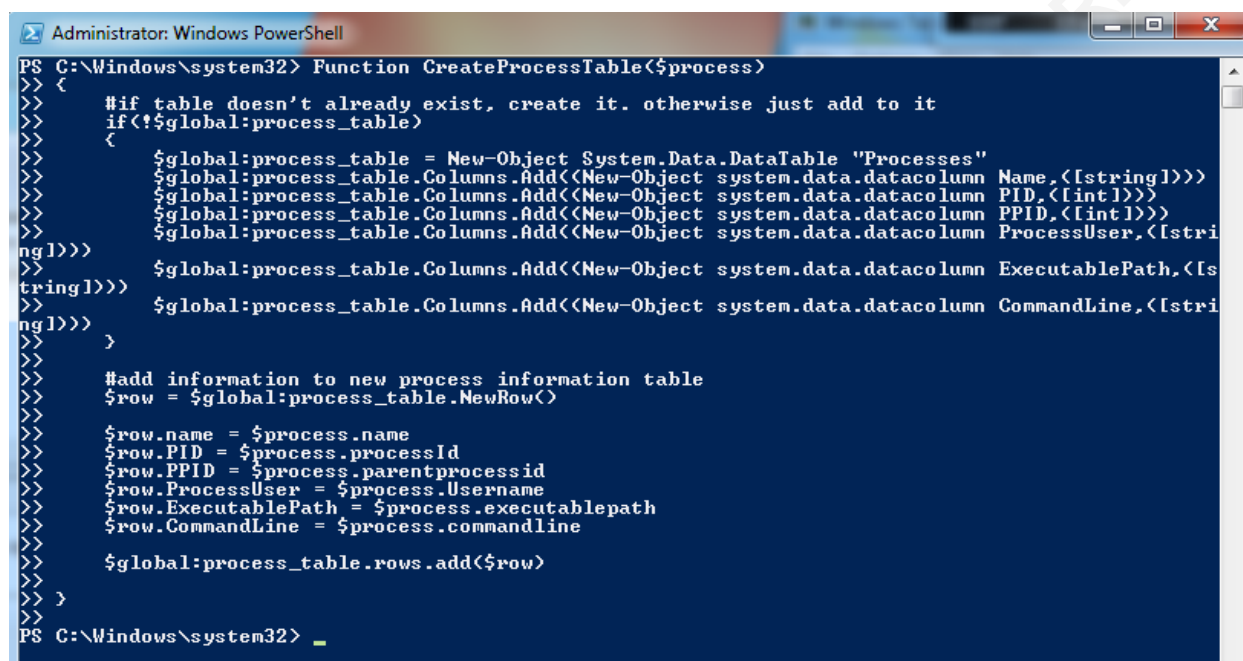
processid      : 416
parentprocessid : 352
Username       : NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
executablepath  : C:\Windows\system32\wininit.exe
commandline     : wininit.exe

processid      : 424
parentprocessid : 408
Username       : NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
executablepath  : C:\Windows\system32\csrss.exe
commandline     : %SystemRoot%\system32\csrss.exe ObjectDirectory=\Windows SharedSection=1024,204
80,768 Windows=0n SubSystemType=Windows ServerDll=basesrv,1 ServerDll=winsrv:Us
erServerDllInitialization,3 ServerDll=winsrv:ConServerDllInitialization,2 Serve
rDll=sxssrv,4 ProfileControl=Off MaxRequestThreads=16

```

Figure 17 Combining and displaying Tasklist and WMI information for each running process

To display the data as a table, a PowerShell table object can be created, and each process's data can be added as a new row to the table as described on Microsoft's website (Microsoft, 2012). In this example, the script creates a function to create the table if necessary and add rows to the table. The script then uses a loop to call the function on each process to add it to the table. The script then displays the table on the screen.

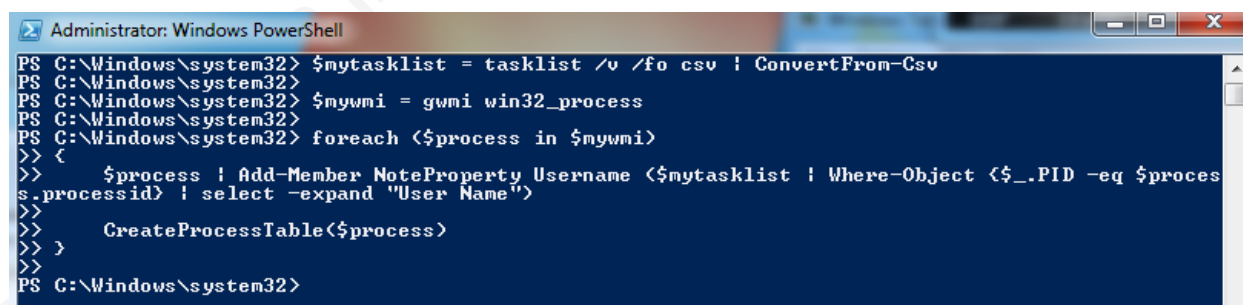


```

PS C:\Windows\system32> Function CreateProcessTable($process)
>> {
>>     #if table doesn't already exist, create it. otherwise just add to it
>>     if(!$global:process_table)
>>     {
>>         $global:process_table = New-Object System.Data.DataTable "Processes"
>>         $global:process_table.Columns.Add((New-Object system.data.datacolumn Name,[string]))
>>         $global:process_table.Columns.Add((New-Object system.data.datacolumn PID,[int]))
>>         $global:process_table.Columns.Add((New-Object system.data.datacolumn PPID,[int]))
>>         $global:process_table.Columns.Add((New-Object system.data.datacolumn ProcessUser,[string]))
>>         $global:process_table.Columns.Add((New-Object system.data.datacolumn ExecutablePath,[string]))
>>         $global:process_table.Columns.Add((New-Object system.data.datacolumn CommandLine,[string]))
>>     }
>>     #add information to new process information table
>>     $row = $global:process_table.NewRow()
>>     $row.name = $process.name
>>     $row.PID = $process.processId
>>     $row.PPID = $process.parentprocessid
>>     $row.ProcessUser = $process.Username
>>     $row.ExecutablePath = $process.executablepath
>>     $row.CommandLine = $process.commandline
>>     $global:process_table.rows.add($row)
>> }
PS C:\Windows\system32>

```

Figure 18 Function for creating the process list table



```

PS C:\Windows\system32> $mytasklist = tasklist /v /fo csv | ConvertFrom-Csv
PS C:\Windows\system32>
PS C:\Windows\system32> $mywmi = gwni win32_process
PS C:\Windows\system32>
PS C:\Windows\system32> foreach ($process in $mywmi)
>> {
>>     $process | Add-Member NoteProperty Username ($mytasklist | Where-Object { $_.PID -eq $process.processid } | select -expand "User Name")
>>     CreateProcessTable($process)
>> }
PS C:\Windows\system32>

```

Figure 19 Combining process data and adding process information to the table

```

Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Windows\system32> $process_table | Format-Table -AutoSize
WARNING: column "CommandLine" does not fit into the display and was removed.

Name                               PID PPID ProcessUser                               ExecutablePath
-----
System Idle Process                0   0 NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
System                             4   0 N/A
smss.exe                           272  4 NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
csrss.exe                           364 352 NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM   C:\Windows\system32\csrss.exe
wininit.exe                         416 352 NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM   C:\Windows\system32\wininit.exe
csrss.exe                           424 408 NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM   C:\Windows\system32\csrss.exe
services.exe                       476 416 NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM   C:\Windows\system32\services.exe
lsass.exe                           484 416 NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM   C:\Windows\system32\lsass.exe
lsn.exe                             492 416 NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM   C:\Windows\system32\lsn.exe
winlogon.exe                       548 408 NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM   C:\Windows\system32\winlogon.exe
svchost.exe                         628 476 NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM   C:\Windows\system32\svchost.exe
vmacthlp.exe                       692 476 NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM   C:\Program Files\UMware\UMwar...
svchost.exe                         736 476 NT AUTHORITY\NETWORK SERVICE C:\Windows\system32\svchost.exe
svchost.exe                         808 476 NT AUTHORITY\LOCAL SERVICE  C:\Windows\system32\svchost.exe
svchost.exe                         840 476 NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM   C:\Windows\system32\svchost.exe
svchost.exe                         884 476 NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM   C:\Windows\system32\svchost.exe
svchost.exe                       1020 476 NT AUTHORITY\LOCAL SERVICE  C:\Windows\system32\svchost.exe

```

Figure 20 Displaying the process list table (Note: The command-line data is not displayed in this screenshot due to space constraints)

3.2.4. Process Tree

As mentioned previously, process lineage is a meaningful datapoint in determining if a process is suspicious. User Kazun on Microsoft's Technet forum provides a PowerShell function to create a simple process tree (Kazun, 2013).

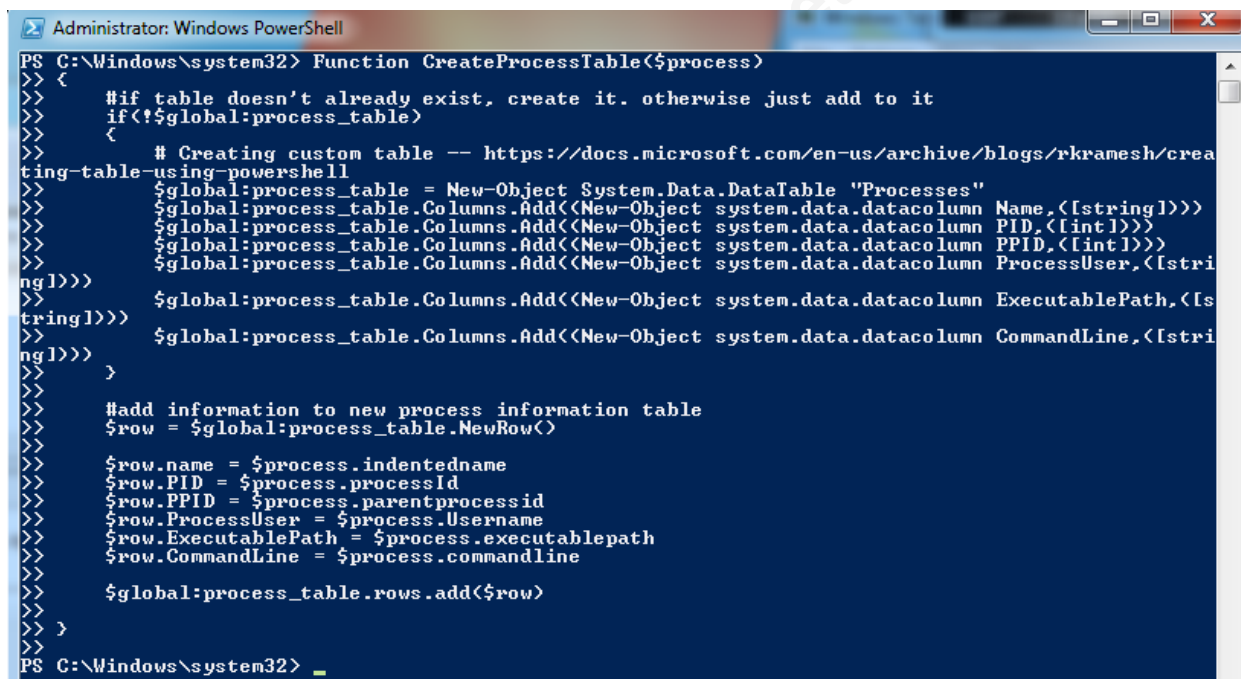
```

PS C:\Windows\system32> Function Show-ProcessTree
>> {
>>     Function Get-ProcessChildren($P,$Depth=1)
>>     {
>>         $procs = Where-Object <$_.ParentProcessId -eq $P.ProcessID -and $_.ParentProcessId -ne
0> ! ForEach-Object {
>>             "<0>!--<1>" -f "<" "*3*$Depth>,$_.Name
>>             Get-ProcessChildren $_ <+*$Depth>
>>             $Depth--
>>         }
>>     }
>>     $filter = <-not (Get-Process -Id $_.ParentProcessId -ErrorAction SilentlyContinue) -or $_.P
arentProcessId -eq 0>
>>     $procs = Get-WmiObject Win32_Process
>>     $top = $procs | Where-Object $filter | Sort-Object ProcessID
>>     foreach ($p in $top)
>>     {
>>         $p.Name
>>         Get-ProcessChildren $p
>>     }
>> }
PS C:\Windows\system32> Show-ProcessTree
System Idle Process
System
|--smss.exe
csrss.exe
|--conhost.exe
wininit.exe
|--services.exe
|--svchost.exe
|--WmiPrSE.exe
|--vmacthlp.exe
|--svchost.exe
|--svchost.exe
|--svchost.exe
|--dwm.exe
|--svchost.exe
|--taskeng.exe
|--nc.exe

```

Figure 21 Kazun's process tree function and results

With some minor adjustments to this function and the process table function mentioned above, these functions can be combined to display the process name, PID, PPID, username, executable path, and command-line arguments of each running process in tree form.

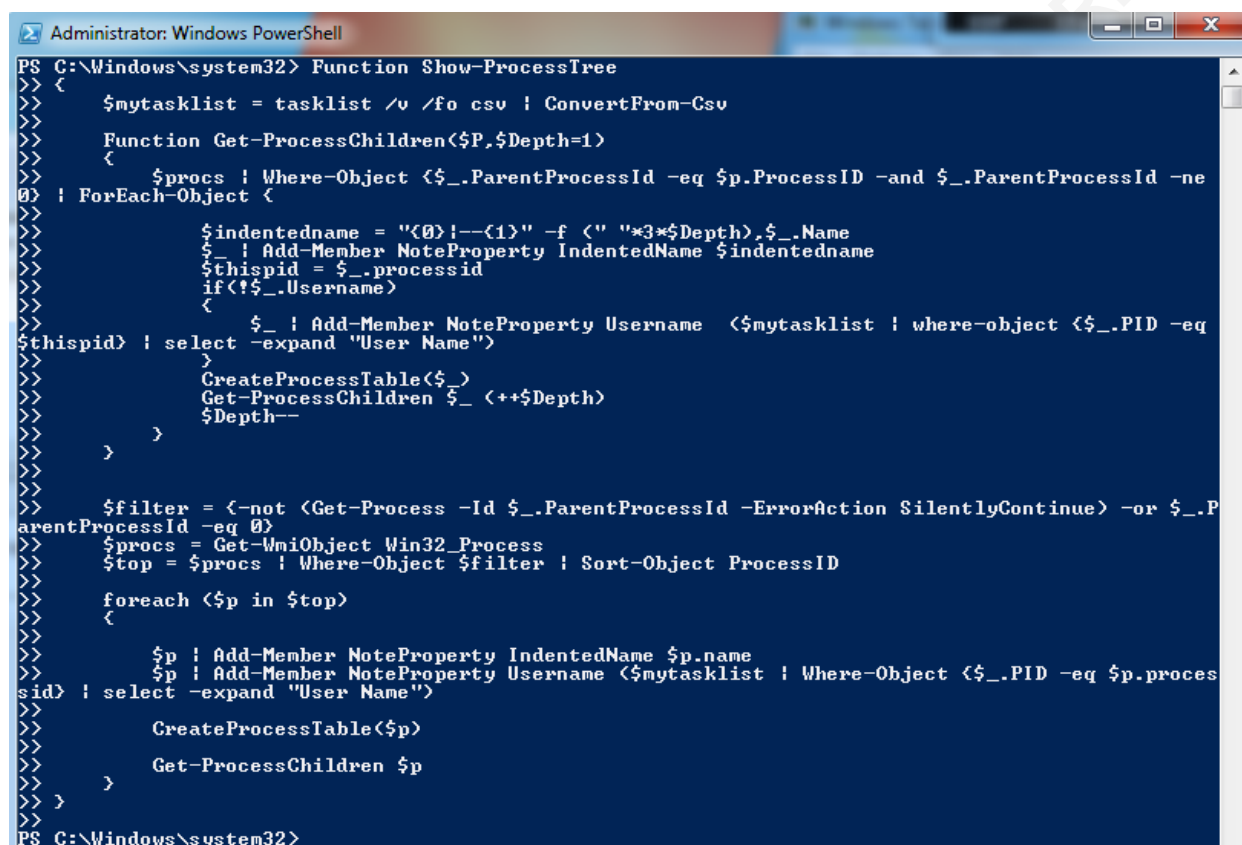


```

PS C:\Windows\system32> Function CreateProcessTable($process)
>> {
>>     #if table doesn't already exist, create it. otherwise just add to it
>>     if(!$global:process_table)
>>     {
>>         # Creating custom table -- https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/archive/blogs/rkramesh/creating-table-using-powershell
>>         $global:process_table = New-Object System.Data.DataTable "Processes"
>>         $global:process_table.Columns.Add((New-Object system.data.datacolumn Name,<[string]>))
>>         $global:process_table.Columns.Add((New-Object system.data.datacolumn PID,<[int]>))
>>         $global:process_table.Columns.Add((New-Object system.data.datacolumn PPID,<[int]>))
>>         $global:process_table.Columns.Add((New-Object system.data.datacolumn ProcessUser,<[string]>))
>>         $global:process_table.Columns.Add((New-Object system.data.datacolumn ExecutablePath,<[string]>))
>>         $global:process_table.Columns.Add((New-Object system.data.datacolumn CommandLine,<[string]>))
>>     }
>>     #add information to new process information table
>>     $row = $global:process_table.NewRow()
>>     $row.name = $process.indentedname
>>     $row.PID = $process.processid
>>     $row.PPID = $process.parentprocessid
>>     $row.ProcessUser = $process.Username
>>     $row.ExecutablePath = $process.executablepath
>>     $row.CommandLine = $process.commandline
>>     $global:process_table.rows.add($row)
>> }
PS C:\Windows\system32>

```

Figure 22 Function creating the process table, same as figure 18



```

PS C:\Windows\system32> Function Show-ProcessTree
>> {
>>     $mytasklist = tasklist /v /fo csv | ConvertFrom-Csv
>>     Function Get-ProcessChildren($P,$Depth=1)
>>     {
>>         $procs = Where-Object (&$_.ParentProcessId -eq $p.ProcessID -and &$_.ParentProcessId -ne
0) | ForEach-Object {
>>             $indentedname = "<0>!--<1>" -f "<" "*3*$Depth>,$_.Name
>>             $_ ! Add-Member NoteProperty IndentedName $indentedname
>>             $thispid = $_.processid
>>             if(&(!$_.Username)
>>             {
>>                 $_ ! Add-Member NoteProperty Username (&$mytasklist | where-object (&$_.PID -eq
$thispid) | select -expand "User Name")
>>             }
>>             CreateProcessTable($_)
>>             Get-ProcessChildren $_ <+*$Depth>
>>             $Depth--
>>         }
>>     }
>>     $filter = (&-not (&Get-Process -Id &$_.ParentProcessId -ErrorAction SilentlyContinue) -or &$_.P
arentProcessId -eq 0)
>>     $procs = Get-WmiObject Win32_Process
>>     $top = $procs | Where-Object $filter | Sort-Object ProcessID
>>     foreach ($p in $top)
>>     {
>>         $p ! Add-Member NoteProperty IndentedName $p.name
>>         $p ! Add-Member NoteProperty Username (&$mytasklist | Where-Object (&$_.PID -eq $p.proces
sid) | select -expand "User Name")
>>         CreateProcessTable($p)
>>         Get-ProcessChildren $p
>>     }
>> }
PS C:\Windows\system32>

```

Figure 23 New Process Tree function

```

Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Windows\system32> Show-ProcessTree
PS C:\Windows\system32> $process_table | format-table -autosize

WARNING: column "CommandLine" does not fit into the display and was removed.

Name                                PID PPID ProcessUser                                ExecutablePath
-----
System Idle Process                 0   0 NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
System                               4   0 N/A
  smss.exe                          272   4 NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
  csrss.exe                         364  352 NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
    conhost.exe                     2192  364 NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
  wininit.exe                       416  352 NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
    services.exe                   476  416 NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
      svchost.exe                   628  476 NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
        WmiPrvSE.exe               2284  628 NT AUTHORITY\NETWORK SERVICE
          umacthlp.exe             692  476 NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
            svchost.exe            736  476 NT AUTHORITY\NETWORK SERVICE
            svchost.exe            808  476 NT AUTHORITY\LOCAL SERVICE
            svchost.exe            840  476 NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
              dm.exe               1608  840 Win7\Player1
            svchost.exe            884  476 NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
              taskeng.exe          1972  884 NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
                nc.exe            2468 1972 NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
            svchost.exe            1020  476 NT AUTHORITY\LOCAL SERVICE
            svchost.exe            464  476 NT AUTHORITY\NETWORK SERVICE
            spoolsv.exe            1088  476 NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
            svchost.exe            1136  476 NT AUTHORITY\LOCAL SERVICE
            taskhost.exe           1552  476 Win7\Player1
            UGAuthService.exe       1236  476 NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
            vmtoolsd.exe            336  476 NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
            SearchIndexer.exe       1196  476 NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
            svchost.exe            1388  476 NT AUTHORITY\NETWORK SERVICE
            svchost.exe            2104  476 NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
            dllhost.exe            2368  476 NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
            vmtoolsd.exe            2492  476 NT AUTHORITY\NETWORK SERVICE
            msdtc.exe              2624  476 NT AUTHORITY\NETWORK SERVICE
            svchost.exe            2936  476 NT AUTHORITY\LOCAL SERVICE
            PresentationFontCache.exe 1776  476 NT AUTHORITY\LOCAL SERVICE
          lsass.exe                484  416 NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
          lsm.exe                  492  416 NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
        csrss.exe                 424  408 NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
          conhost.exe              1828  424 Win7\Player1
          conhost.exe              2992  424 Win7\Player1
          conhost.exe              1468  424 Win7\Player1
          conhost.exe              2148  424 Win7\Player1
        winlogon.exe               548  408 NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
        taskmgr.exe                1028 2392 Win7\Player1
        meter.exe                  1320 1280 NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
        explorer.exe              1640 1600 Win7\Player1
          vmtoolsd.exe             1792 1640 Win7\Player1
          nc.exe                   1804 1640 Win7\Player1
          cmd.exe                  1988 1640 Win7\Player1
          mmc.exe                  280  1640 Win7\Player1
          powershell.exe           2116 1640 Win7\Player1
          powershell_ise.exe       2424 1640 Win7\Player1
  PS C:\Windows\system32>

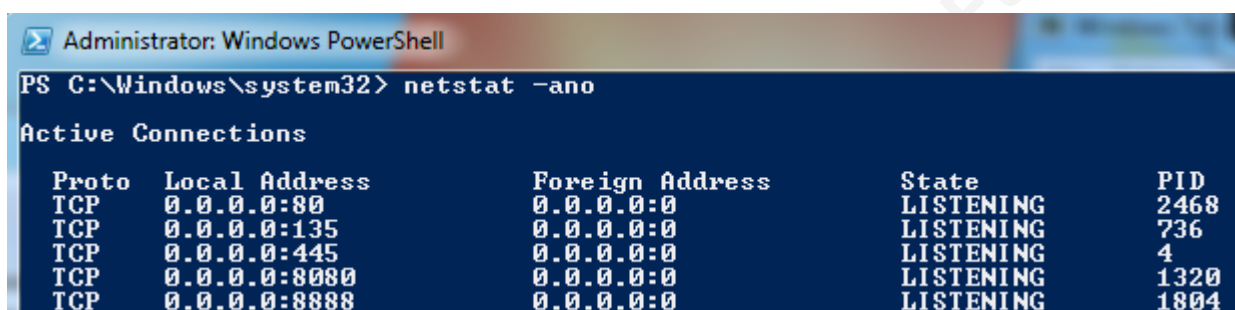
```

Figure 24 Display new process tree (Note: due to size constraints, the CommandLine column is not displayed in this screenshot)

3.2.5. Network Data

Besides information about the running process itself, another important set of data to collect is any network activity associated with it. Malware often attempts network communication, such as listening for inbound connections from the attacker or reaching out to Command and Control (C2) servers to check for new instructions. This paper uses netstat to gather this information instead of the more PowerShell-friendly Get-NetTCPConnection cmdlet due to the desire to make this script backward compatible

with PowerShell Version 2.0. Get-NetTCPConnection wasn't available until PowerShell Version 3.0.



```

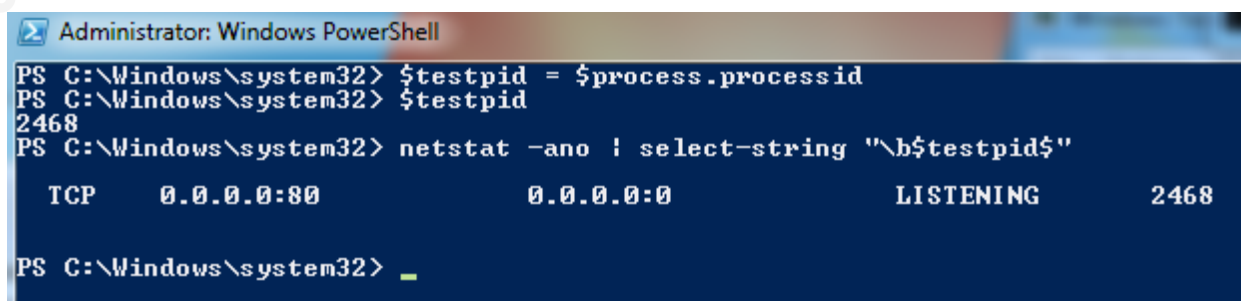
Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Windows\system32> netstat -ano

Active Connections

Proto Local Address           Foreign Address         State       PID
----
TCP   0.0.0.0:80               0.0.0.0:0               LISTENING   2468
TCP   0.0.0.0:135              0.0.0.0:0               LISTENING   736
TCP   0.0.0.0:445              0.0.0.0:0               LISTENING   4
TCP   0.0.0.0:8080             0.0.0.0:0               LISTENING   1320
TCP   0.0.0.0:8888             0.0.0.0:0               LISTENING   1804
  
```

Figure 25 Raw Netstat output

Netstat does not provide output formatting options and returns the results as a series of strings, therefore piping the output to PowerShell's Select-String cmdlet is required to obtain only the lines associated with the PID in question. However, it is worth noting that using Select-String with just the PID will match anything in the output strings. If the PID happens to match part of a port number or IP address, that line will also return. The Select-String query can be enhanced with regular expressions to overcome this challenge. The PID is always the final column in the netstat output and is preceded by whitespace, so if an investigator searches for the PID as the last part of a line and after a word boundary, they can ensure the search matches just the PID. For example, when searching for PID 2468, the select-string query will be "\b2468\$". A variable can also be used in place of the hardcoded PID 2468.



```

Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Windows\system32> $testpid = $process.processid
PS C:\Windows\system32> $testpid
2468
PS C:\Windows\system32> netstat -ano | select-string "\b$testpid$"

TCP   0.0.0.0:80               0.0.0.0:0               LISTENING   2468

PS C:\Windows\system32>
  
```

Figure 26 Netstat output for the PID held in \$process variable, PID 2468 in this example

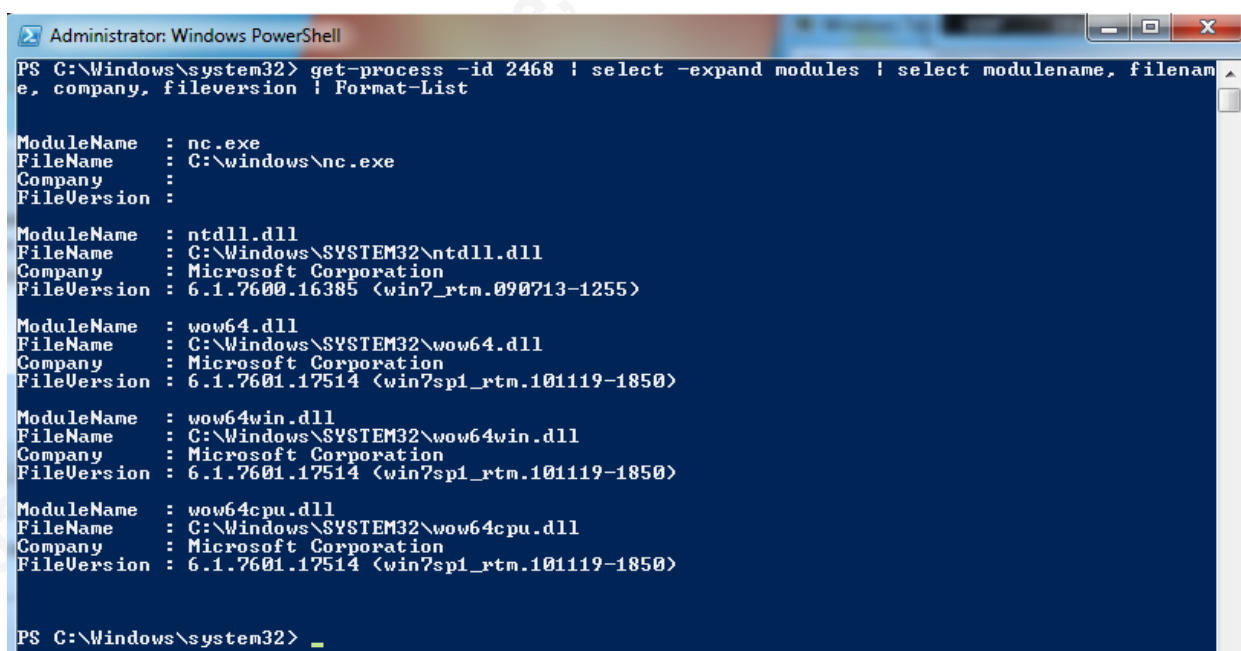
3.2.6. Loaded Dynamic Link Libraries

Dynamic Link Libraries (DLLs) are files containing pre-written code that programs can use to ease the burden on application developers and to ensure multiple

Author Name, email@addressm

programs performing the same action have the same experience (Microsoft, 2019). Microsoft provides many DLLs with Windows, so their existence is not unusual. However, a malicious actor can also create DLLs, which can be either injected into or loaded by a running process (Phan, 2015). These malicious DLLs, once loaded by a process, can provide whatever functionality a malicious actor wants.

PowerShell's Get-Process cmdlet, when executed as an administrator, contains a listing of each DLL loaded by a process, the path it was loaded from, the company that created it, the file version, and more. Figure 27 shows the information for DLLs loaded by PID 2468.



```

Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Windows\system32> get-process -id 2468 | select -expand modules | select modulename, filename, company, fileversion | Format-List

ModuleName : nc.exe
FileName    : C:\windows\nc.exe
Company     :
FileVersion :

ModuleName : ntdll.dll
FileName    : C:\Windows\SYSTEM32\ntdll.dll
Company     : Microsoft Corporation
FileVersion : 6.1.7600.16385 (win7_rtm.090713-1255)

ModuleName : wow64.dll
FileName    : C:\Windows\SYSTEM32\wow64.dll
Company     : Microsoft Corporation
FileVersion : 6.1.7601.17514 (win7sp1_rtm.101119-1850)

ModuleName : wow64win.dll
FileName    : C:\Windows\SYSTEM32\wow64win.dll
Company     : Microsoft Corporation
FileVersion : 6.1.7601.17514 (win7sp1_rtm.101119-1850)

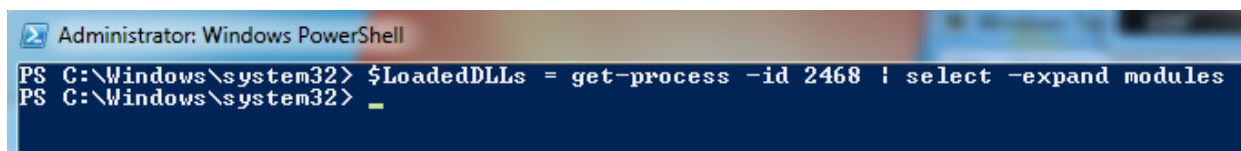
ModuleName : wow64cpu.dll
FileName    : C:\Windows\SYSTEM32\wow64cpu.dll
Company     : Microsoft Corporation
FileVersion : 6.1.7601.17514 (win7sp1_rtm.101119-1850)

PS C:\Windows\system32>

```

Figure 27 DLL and associated information loaded by PID 2468

Saving this data to a variable, as shown in figure 28, permits the addition of each DLL's file hash to the PowerShell Object. Once combined, both sets of data can be displayed in one view, as seen in figure 33.



```

Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Windows\system32> $LoadedDLLs = get-process -id 2468 | select -expand modules
PS C:\Windows\system32>

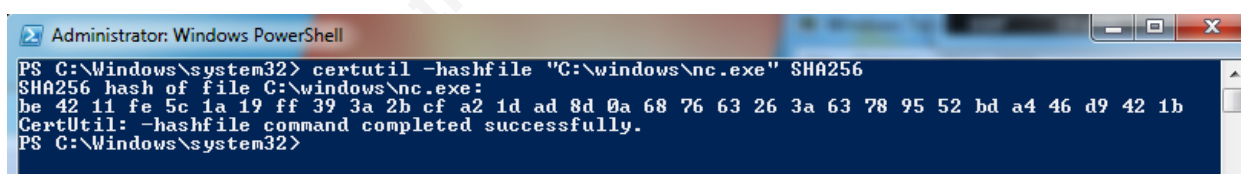
```

Figure 28 Saving DLL information to a PowerShell variable

3.2.7. File Hashes

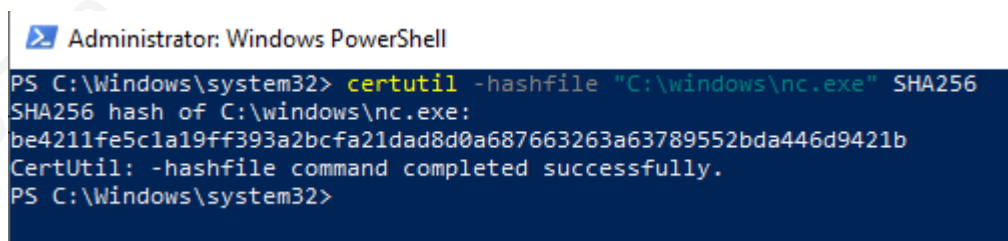
File hashes are like fingerprints uniquely identifying a file or string. Variable sized data is fed to a hashing function, and a fixed size string is output, representing the hash (Hoffman, 2018). Calculating the hash of the executable and DLLs allows an investigator to use a tool, such as VirusTotal, to search for antivirus results of the files without having to upload them.

Using CertUtil with the `-hashfile` option, a file path, and a hashing algorithm, will obtain the hash of the given file with the given hashing algorithm. The output format of the hash generated by CertUtil has changed over the years. On Windows 7, there is a space after every two hex characters, but on Windows 10, CertUtil outputs the hash without spaces.



```
Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Windows\system32> certutil -hashfile "C:\windows\nc.exe" SHA256
SHA256 hash of file C:\windows\nc.exe:
be 42 11 fe 5c 1a 19 ff 39 3a 2b cf a2 1d ad 8d 0a 68 76 63 26 3a 63 78 95 52 bd a4 46 d9 42 1b
CertUtil: -hashfile command completed successfully.
PS C:\Windows\system32>
```

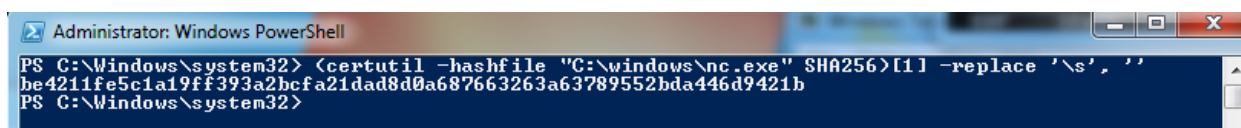
Figure 29 CertUtil output on Windows 7



```
Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Windows\system32> certutil -hashfile "C:\windows\nc.exe" SHA256
SHA256 hash of C:\windows\nc.exe:
be4211fe5c1a19ff393a2bcfa21dad8d0a687663263a63789552bda446d9421b
CertUtil: -hashfile command completed successfully.
PS C:\Windows\system32>
```

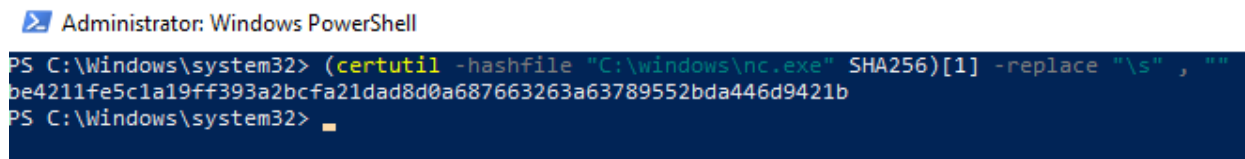
Figure 30 CertUtil output on Windows 10

As seen in figures 29 and 30, there are extraneous lines of data, and the hash output is not normalized. PowerShell can be used to select just the line containing the hash and then remove the spaces by using its string replacement functionality. Adding this additional logic will produce normalized results regardless of the operating system.



```
Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Windows\system32> (certutil -hashfile "C:\windows\nc.exe" SHA256)[1] -replace '\s', ''
be4211fe5c1a19ff393a2bcfa21dad8d0a687663263a63789552bda446d9421b
PS C:\Windows\system32>
```

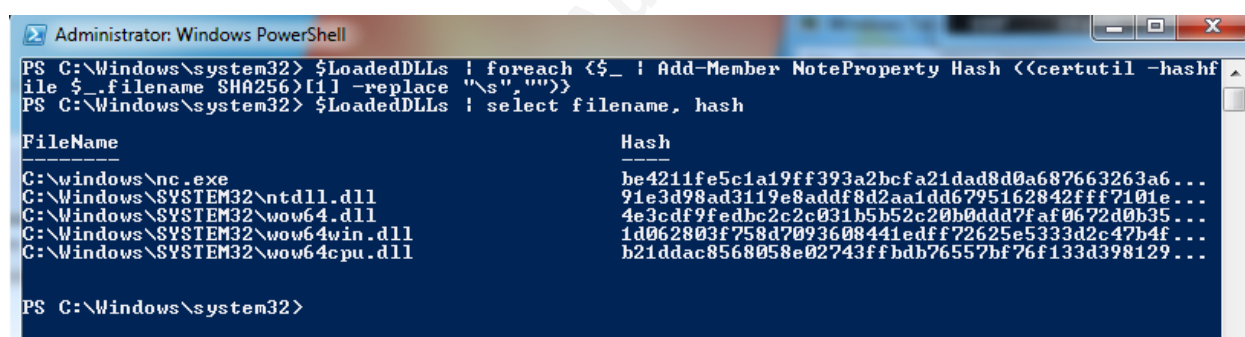
Figure 31 CertUtil Normalized on Windows 7



```
Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Windows\system32> (certutil -hashfile "C:\windows\nc.exe" SHA256)[1] -replace "\"", ""
be4211fe5c1a19ff393a2bcfa21dad8d0a687663263a63789552bda446d9421b
PS C:\Windows\system32>
```

Figure 32 CertUtil Normalized on Windows 10

To collect the hashes of each loaded DLL, loop through the DLL variable and add a new member to the object containing the hash calculated by CertUtil. Figure 33 shows the collection and addition of the DLL hashes to the DLL variable and displays the results.



```
Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Windows\system32> $LoadedDLLs | foreach {$_ | Add-Member NoteProperty Hash <<certutil -hashfile $_.filename SHA256>[1] -replace "\"", ""}>
PS C:\Windows\system32> $LoadedDLLs | select filename, hash

FileName                                     Hash
-----
C:\windows\nc.exe                           be4211fe5c1a19ff393a2bcfa21dad8d0a687663263a6...
C:\Windows\SYSTEM32\ntdll.dll               91e3d98ad3119e8addf8d2aa1dd6795162842fff7101e...
C:\Windows\SYSTEM32\wow64.dll               4e3cdf9fedbc2c2c031b5b52c20b0ddd7faf0672d0b35...
C:\Windows\SYSTEM32\wow64win.dll            1d062803f758d7093608441edff72625e5333d2c47b4f...
C:\Windows\SYSTEM32\wow64cpu.dll            b21ddac8568058e02743ffbdb76557bf76f133d398129...
```

Figure 33 DLL hashes calculated, added to the PowerShell object, and displayed

3.3. VirusTotal Analytics

VirusTotal is a website that offers free antivirus scanning of submitted files and websites using over 70 antivirus scanners and shares the data with VirusTotal's partners and community (VirusTotal, n.d.). VirusTotal also offers the ability to search for antivirus results based on file hash. A user might prefer this option for numerous reasons, including a desire to keep company files private or not wanting to tip off a potential attacker that someone is researching their malware. If a user queries VirusTotal for a file hash that hasn't been scanned by their service, no results will return.

PowerShell's Invoke-RestMethod cmdlet can be used to submit file hashes to VirusTotal's API. Before using the API, an API key must be acquired by creating an account on their site, which will provide a free "public" level API key. This key needs to be embedded as an HTTP header with queries to the API. It is worth noting that this public API key comes with request quota restrictions. At the time of this writing,

Author Name, email@addressm

VirusTotal limits the public API to four requests per minute, 1,000 requests per day, and 30,000 requests per month (VirusTotal, n.d.). The example script includes a 15-second sleep timer to ensure it doesn't exceed these thresholds when looping through requests to the VirusTotal API.

It is also worth noting that unlike every other application and cmdlet discussed thus far, PowerShell's Invoke-RestMethod Cmdlet is only available in PowerShell Version 3.0 and higher, which comes standard with Windows 8. To run this part of the script on Windows 7, PowerShell will need to be updated. Otherwise, this command must be executed from Windows 8 or newer.

VirusTotal's API accepts a web request with the hash appended to the end of the URL and the API key embedded as a request header field. In figure 34, a single request to the API is sent where \$hash is the variable containing a string of the hash being queried, and \$vtAPIKey is a variable containing the API key.

```
Invoke-restmethod https://www.virustotal.com/api/v3/files/$hash -Headers @{"x-apikey"=$vtAPIKey}
```

Figure 34 Sending request to VirusTotal's API using PowerShell

Invoke-RestMethod returns a PowerShell object containing multiple sub-attributes that hold the results from the query. The properties of interest are the last_analysis_date and last_analysis_stats, which include the date VirusTotal last scanned the file in question and the results from the scans. However, the last_analysis_date provided is in Linux Epoch time format, requiring conversion to a human-readable format before being displayed to the user.

In figure 35, every loaded DLL is iterated through, and each file that is not from Microsoft is submitted to VirusTotal. The decision not to submit DLLs from Microsoft to VirusTotal was made to speed up script execution due to the VirusTotal queries-per-minute limitation. If this behavior is not desired, the check to determine if the file is from Microsoft can be removed.

```
#This is the master variable that will hold the data for all dll lookups
$VTLookupResults = @()

foreach($dll in $LoadedDLLs)
{
    #Don't Look up DLLs created by Microsoft. This was done to reduce the number of lookups
    if ($dll.Company -ne "Microsoft Corporation")
    {
        $hash = $dll.hash

        $test = Invoke-restmethod https://www.virustotal.com/api/v3/files/$hash -Headers @{"x-apikey"=$vtAPIKey}

        #Convert Last Analysis Date from Epoch time to human readable time
        [datetime]$origin = '1970-01-01 00:00:00'
        $LastAnalysisDate = $origin.AddSeconds($test.data.attributes.last_analysis_date)

        #Create a temporary variable to store just the VirusTotal results we want, to be added to master variable
        $results = $test.data.attributes.last_analysis_stats
        $results | Add-Member NoteProperty Filename $dll.filename
        $results | Add-Member NoteProperty Hash $hash
        $results | Add-Member NoteProperty LastAnalysisDate $LastAnalysisDate

        #Add results to master variable
        $VTLookupResults += $results

        #VirusTotal API is rate limited (4 per minute with Free API). This Call to sleep ensures we don't break that limit
        sleep($vtsleep)
    }
}
```

Figure 35 PowerShell loop to query VirusTotal for each DLL not from Microsoft

Administrator: Windows PowerShell

```
PS C:\Windows\system32> $VTLookupResults

confirmed-timeout : 0
failure           : 1
harmless          : 0
malicious         : 44
suspicious        : 0
timeout           : 1
type-unsupported  : 1
undetected        : 27
Filename          : C:\windows\nc.exe
Hash              : be4211fe5c1a19ff393a2bcfa21dad8d0a687663263a63789552bda446d9421b
LastAnalysisDate  : 5/14/2020 8:54:11 PM

PS C:\Windows\system32>
```

Figure 36 Final results from VirusTotal

3.4. Persistence Mechanisms

For malware to survive a system reboot, it needs to be configured for persistence, so that it will execute automatically in the future (Fortuna, 2017). There are multiple ways a piece of malware can accomplish this. This paper focuses on four primary methods: Scheduled Tasks, System Services, Registry AutoStart Locations, and Startup

Folders. These items may exist even if the executable in question is not currently running as a process.

3.4.1. Scheduled Tasks

Windows Task Scheduler is "like an alarm clock that you can set, to start a procedure under specified circumstances" (Arntz, 2015). Scheduled tasks can be set to start at a specific time, at repeatable time intervals, upon system boot, user login, and more. When creating a scheduled task, the creator can also specify a program to execute, the user the program should run as, and that the program automatically bypass User Access Control (UAC) prompts (Arntz, 2015).

Using `Schtask` with the `/query` and `/v` options gathers all information about each scheduled task, and the `/fo CSV` option outputs the data as comma-separated values. Piping this output to `ConvertFrom-Csv` in PowerShell turns the data into PowerShell objects allowing easy searching and filtering of the data. To search for scheduled tasks that run the executable in question, pipe the converted PowerShell object into `Where-Object` searching for any matches of the executable path within the "Task to Run" field.

```

Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Windows\system32> $process = Get-WmiObject win32_process | where {$_.processid -eq 2468}
PS C:\Windows\system32> $process.executablepath
C:\windows\nc.exe
PS C:\Windows\system32> schtasks /query /v /fo csv | ConvertFrom-Csv | Where-Object {$_.Task to r
un" -like "*$($process.executablepath)*"}

HostName                : WIN7
TaskName                 : \Simple Web Server Starter
Next Run Time            : 5/18/2020 3:44:00 PM
Status                   : Running
Logon Mode               : Interactive/Background
Last Run Time            : 5/18/2020 2:43:59 PM
Last Result              : -2147216609
Author                   : Player1
Task To Run              : C:\windows\nc.exe -L -p 80 -e c:\windows\system32\cmd.exe
Start In                 : N/A
Comment                  : N/A
Scheduled Task State     : Enabled
Idle Time                : Disabled
Power Management         : Stop On Battery Mode, No Start On Batteries
Run As User              : SYSTEM
Delete Task If Not Rescheduled : Enabled
Stop Task If Runs X Hours and X Mins : 72:00:00
Schedule                 : Scheduling data is not available in this format.
Schedule Type            : One Time Only, Hourly
Start Time               : 12:44:00 PM
Start Date               : 5/15/2020
End Date                 : N/A
Days                     : N/A
Months                   : N/A
Repeat: Every            : 1 Hour(s), 0 Minute(s)
Repeat: Until: Time      : None
Repeat: Until: Duration  : Disabled
Repeat: Stop If Still Running : Disabled

PS C:\Windows\system32>

```

Figure 37 Scheduled Task results for tasks associated with executable of PID 2468

Also, note the search string includes a beginning and ending '*' character in the path. This wildcard character ensures that results match that have data before or after the executable path, as shown in Figure 37. Otherwise, Where-Object will only return if the executable path matches exactly, with no extra data. This example task would not have matched without the wildcards.

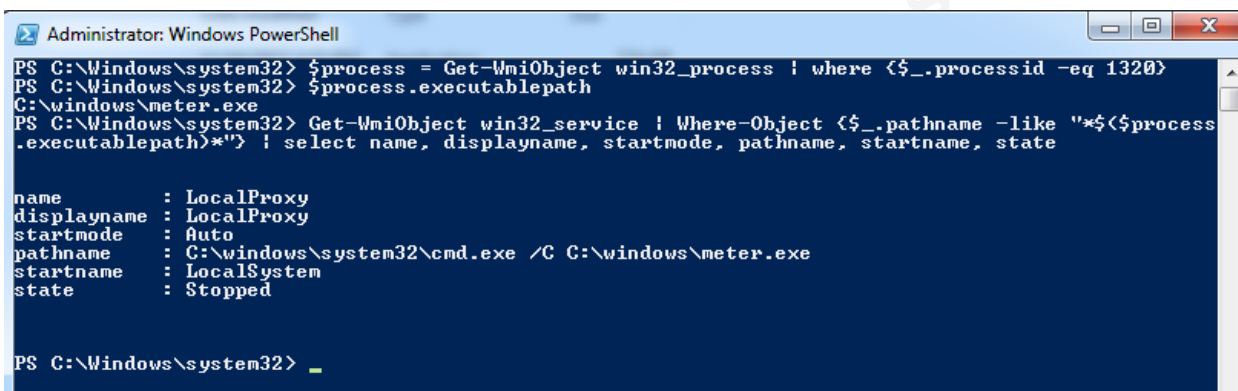
3.4.2. Windows Services

Windows services are "long-running executable applications that run in their own Windows sessions" (Microsoft, 2017). Services can be configured to start on system startup as a specified user and provide no user interface (Microsoft, 2017). Creating services requires administrator-level privileges on the system (Heddings, Understanding and Managing Windows Services, 2019).

WMI's win32_service class provides detailed information about every installed service such as: service name, startup type, the path to the executable, any command-line

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arguments passed to it, the user it runs as, if it's currently running, and more. This information can be piped to Where-Object to filter the results based on the executable in question.



```

Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Windows\system32> $process = Get-WmiObject win32_process | where {$_.processid -eq 1320}
PS C:\Windows\system32> $process.executablepath
C:\windows\meter.exe
PS C:\Windows\system32> Get-WmiObject win32_service | Where-Object {$_.pathname -like "*$($process.executablepath)*"} | select name, displayname, startmode, pathname, startname, state

name           : LocalProxy
displayname    : LocalProxy
startmode      : Auto
pathname       : C:\windows\system32\cmd.exe /C C:\windows\meter.exe
startname      : LocalSystem
state          : Stopped

PS C:\Windows\system32>

```

Figure 38 Windows service data associated with the executable of PID 1320

3.4.3. Windows Registry Auto Start Locations

The Windows registry has multiple locations where applications can be registered to start automatically on system boot or user login. The most notable of these locations are the Run and RunOnce registry keys. These keys "cause programs to run each time that a user logs on" (Microsoft, 2018). The value of these keys is the command-line invocation for a program, including the path and program arguments. The paths to applications within these keys could be the fully defined path, such as C:\windows\system32\notepad.exe, or use environment variables as part of the path, such as %windir%\system32\notepad.exe. The RunOnce keys are automatically deleted before the system executes its value, while the Run keys are permanent (Microsoft, 2018). Many other registry locations can also be used for persistence.

Sysinternal's Autorunsc program was executed to obtain a list of known registry keys used for persistence. Each registry key was saved into a PowerShell array to be fed to Reg for searching. This list is provided in Appendix A of this paper.

```

Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Users\Player1\Desktop\SysinternalsSuite> .\autorunsc.exe -a * | select-string -allmatch '^[\a-zA-Z1.*]'

Sysinternals Autoruns v13.96 - Autostart program viewer
Copyright (C) 2002-2019 Mark Russinovich
Sysinternals - www.sysinternals.com
HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\Session Manager\BootExecute
HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\ServiceControlManager\Extension
HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Office\Outlook\Addins
HKLM\Software\Wow6432Node\Microsoft\Office\Outlook\Addins
HKLM\SOFTWARE\Classes\Htmfile\Shell\Open\Command\{Default}
HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Services
HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Services
HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Font Drivers
HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Authentication\Credential Providers
HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Authentication\Credential Provider Filters
HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Authentication\PLAP Providers
HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Winlogon\GpExtensions
HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Print\Monitors
HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Print\Providers
HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\SecurityProviders\SecurityProviders
HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Lsa\Authentication Packages
HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Lsa\Notification Packages
HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Lsa\Security Packages
HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\NetworkProvider\Order
HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\WinSock2\Parameters\Protocol_Catalog9\Catalog_Entries
HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\WinSock2\Parameters\NameSpace_Catalog5\Catalog_Entries
HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\WinSock2\Parameters\Protocol_Catalog9\Catalog_Entries64
HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\WinSock2\Parameters\NameSpace_Catalog5\Catalog_Entries64
HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\Terminal Server\Wds\rdpwd\StartupPrograms
HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Winlogon\Userinit
HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Winlogon\UmApplet
HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\Session Manager\KnownDlls
HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Winlogon\Shell
HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\SafeBoot\AlternateShell
HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run
HKLM\SOFTWARE\Classes\Protocols\Filter
HKLM\SOFTWARE\Classes\Protocols\Handler
HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Active Setup\Installed Components
HKLM\SOFTWARE\Wow6432Node\Microsoft\Active Setup\Installed Components
HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Windows\IconServiceLib
HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\ShellServiceObjects
HKLM\SOFTWARE\Wow6432Node\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\ShellServiceObjects

```

Figure 39 Autorunsc registry key output

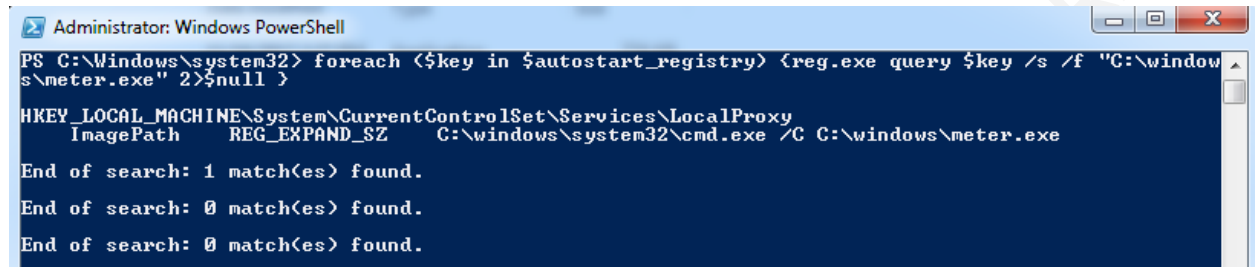

```

Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Windows\system32> $autostart_registry = @("HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\Session Manager\BootExecute",
>> "HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Office\PowerPoint\Addins",
>> "HKLM\Software\Wow6432Node\Microsoft\Office\PowerPoint\Addins",
>> "HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Office\Word\Addins",
>> "HKLM\Software\Wow6432Node\Microsoft\Office\Word\Addins",
>> "HKLM\SOFTWARE\Classes\Htmlfile\Shell\Open\Command\{Default}",
>> "HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Services",
>> "HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Font Drivers",
>> "HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Authentication\Credential Providers",
>> "HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Authentication\Credential Provider Filters",
>> "HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Authentication\PLAP Providers",
>> "HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Winlogon\GpExtensions",
>> "HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Print\Monitors",
>> "HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Print\Providers",
>> "HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\SecurityProviders\SecurityProviders",
>> "HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Lsa\Authentication Packages",
>> "HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Lsa\Notification Packages",
>> "HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\NetworkProvider\Order",
>> "HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\WinSock2\Parameters\Protocol_Catalog9\Catalog_Entries",
>> "HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\WinSock2\Parameters\NameSpace_Catalog5\Catalog_Entries",
>> "HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\WinSock2\Parameters\Protocol_Catalog9\Catalog_Entries64",
>> "HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\WinSock2\Parameters\NameSpace_Catalog5\Catalog_Entries64",
>> "HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\Terminal Server\Wds\rdpwd\StartupPrograms",
>> "HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Winlogon\Userinit",
>> "HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Winlogon\UmsApplet",
>> "HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\Session Manager\KnownDlls",
>> "HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Winlogon\Shell",
>> "HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\SafeBoot\AlternateShell",
>> "HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run",
>> "HKLM\SOFTWARE\Wow6432Node\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run",
>> "HKLM\SOFTWARE\Classes\Protocols\Filter",
>> "HKLM\SOFTWARE\Classes\Protocols\Handler",
>> "HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Active Setup\Installed Components",
>> "HKLM\Software\Wow6432Node\Microsoft\Active Setup\Installed Components",
>> "HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Windows\IconServiceLib",
>> "HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\ShellServiceObjects",
>> "HKLM\Software\Wow6432Node\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\ShellServiceObjects",
>> "HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\Browser Helper Objects",
>> "HKLM\Software\Wow6432Node\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\Browser Helper Objects",
>> "HKLM\Software\Classes\*\ShellEx\ContextMenuHandlers",
>> "HKLM\Software\Classes\Drive\ShellEx\ContextMenuHandlers",
>> "HKLM\Software\Classes\*\ShellEx\PropertySheetHandlers",
>> "HKLM\Software\Classes\AllFileSystemObjects\ShellEx\ContextMenuHandlers",
>> "HKLM\Software\Classes\AllFileSystemObjects\ShellEx\PropertySheetHandlers",
>> "HKLM\Software\Classes\Directory\ShellEx\ContextMenuHandlers",
>> "HKLM\Software\Classes\Directory\ShellEx\DragDropHandlers",
>> "HKLM\Software\Classes\Directory\ShellEx\PropertySheetHandlers",
>> "HKLM\Software\Classes\Directory\ShellEx\CopyHookHandlers",
>> "HKLM\Software\Classes\Directory\Background\ShellEx\ContextMenuHandlers",
>> "HKLM\Software\Classes\Folder\ShellEx\ContextMenuHandlers",
>> "HKLM\Software\Classes\Folder\ShellEx\DragDropHandlers",
>> "HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\ShellIconOverlayIdentifiers",
>> "HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\Extensions",
>> "HKLM\Software\Wow6432Node\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\Extensions",
>> "HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Drivers32",
>> "HKLM\Software\Wow6432Node\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Drivers32",
>> "HKLM\Software\Classes\CLSID\{083863F1-70DE-11d0-BD40-00A0C911CE86}\Instance",
>> "HKLM\Software\Wow6432Node\Classes\CLSID\{083863F1-70DE-11d0-BD40-00A0C911CE86}\Instance",
>> "HKLM\Software\Classes\CLSID\{7ED96837-96F0-4812-B211-F13C24117ED3}\Instance",
>> "HKLM\Software\Wow6432Node\Classes\CLSID\{7ED96837-96F0-4812-B211-F13C24117ED3}\Instance",
>> "HKCU\Control Panel\Desktop\Scrnsave.exe",
>> "HKCU\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run",
>> "HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\UriSearchHooks")

```

Figure 40 Adding each registry key to an array

In Figure 41, Reg is used to search each registry key for the use of the "C:\Windows\meter.exe" executable. Reg found one result in the HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\system\CurrentControlSet\Services\LocalProxy key.



```

Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Windows\system32> foreach ($key in $autostart_registry) {reg.exe query $key /s /f "C:\windows\system32\meter.exe" 2>$null }

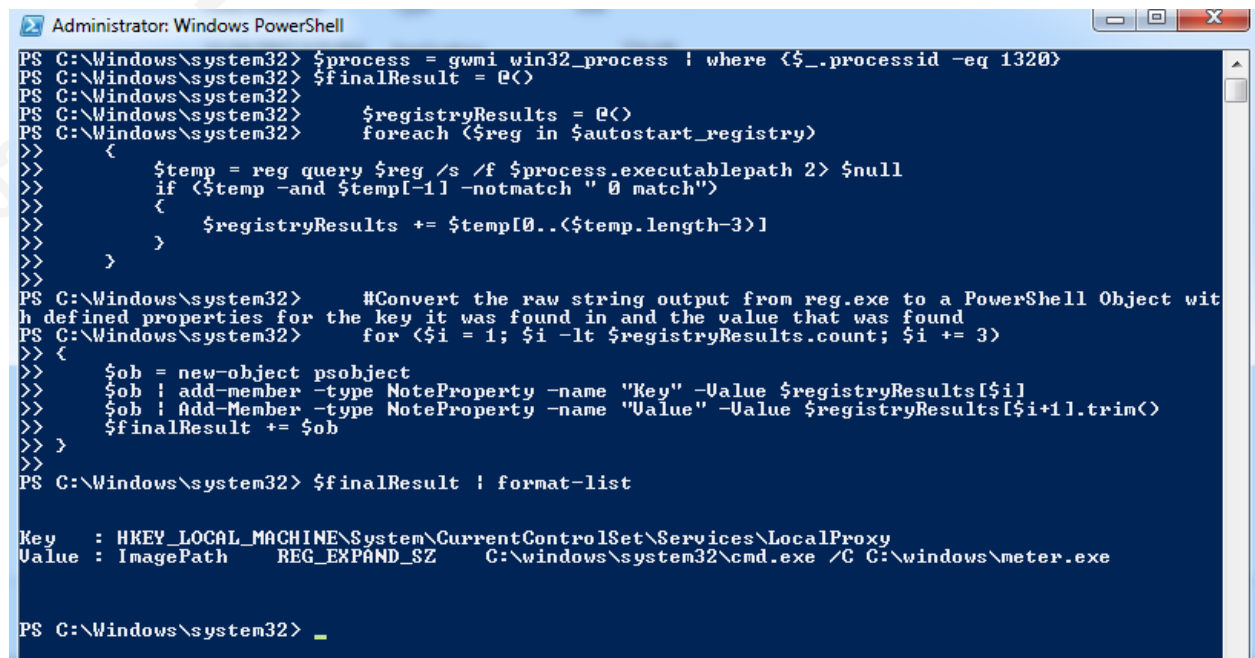
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\LocalProxy
ImagePath REG_EXPAND_SZ C:\windows\system32\cmd.exe /C C:\windows\meter.exe

End of search: 1 match(es) found.
End of search: 0 match(es) found.
End of search: 0 match(es) found.

```

Figure 41 Using Reg to search the registry

Reg's output is also plain text and requires the use of PowerShell to clean up the data and present it in a more organized manner. In figure 42, an empty PowerShell array is created to hold the final results and another variable is created to hold the raw output from Reg. Reg always finishes the output with a blank line followed by a line that reads, "End of search: x match(es) found," which will interfere with the otherwise standardized output. The output can be trimmed by re-defining the variable holding the raw Reg results to include all the data except these last two lines. Then this variable is run through a For loop, creating a new PowerShell object and assigning properties to it for the registry key found and the value that matched. This object is then added to the final results array, and the final results array outputs all the data found.



```

Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Windows\system32> $process = gwmi win32_process | where {$_.processid -eq 1320}
PS C:\Windows\system32> $finalResult = @()
PS C:\Windows\system32> $registryResults = @()
PS C:\Windows\system32> foreach ($reg in $autostart_registry)
>> {
>>     $temp = reg query $reg /s /f $process.executablepath 2>$null
>>     if (<$temp -and $temp[-1] -notmatch " 0 match")
>>     {
>>         $registryResults += $temp[0..($temp.length-3)]
>>     }
>> }
PS C:\Windows\system32> #Convert the raw string output from reg.exe to a PowerShell Object with
PS C:\Windows\system32> #defined properties for the key it was found in and the value that was found
PS C:\Windows\system32> for ($i = 1; $i -lt $registryResults.count; $i += 3)
>> {
>>     $obj = new-object psobject
>>     $obj | add-member -type NoteProperty -name "Key" -Value $registryResults[$i]
>>     $obj | Add-Member -type NoteProperty -name "Value" -Value $registryResults[$i+1].trim()
>>     $finalResult += $obj
>> }
PS C:\Windows\system32> $finalResult | format-list

Key : HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\LocalProxy
Value : ImagePath REG_EXPAND_SZ C:\windows\system32\cmd.exe /C C:\windows\meter.exe

PS C:\Windows\system32>

```

Figure 42 Creating a PowerShell object out of normalized Reg output

3.4.4. Startup Folders

Startup folders are hidden system folders in Windows that automatically execute programs and shortcuts placed within them upon user login (Azeria, n.d.). Each user has a copy of this folder, located at

"C:\Users\<username>\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\Start

Menu\Programs\Startup," which will execute the programs it contains whenever that specific user logs on. Additionally, a system-wide startup folder is located at

"C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Startup," which will run its contents whenever any user logs on to the system.

PowerShell's Get-ChildItem cmdlet displays the contents of these directories. However, shortcuts are most common in these directories, and Get-ChildItem cannot show what program executes when the shortcut is activated. To obtain this information, a temporary ComObject must be used to take the path of a shortcut and reveal the target it runs upon execution. Once done, this data can be compared to the executable path in question. Figure 43 shows the file that is executed when the Management Interface shortcut is activated.

The screenshot shows a PowerShell window titled 'Administrator: Windows PowerShell'. The user runs the command `get-childitem -path 'C:\users\player1\appdata\roaming\microsoft\windows\Start Menu\Programs\Startup'`. The output shows a directory listing for `C:\users\player1\appdata\roaming\microsoft\windows\Start Menu\Programs\Startup` with a single file: `Management Interface.lnk`. The file has a mode of `-a---`, a last write time of `5/15/2020 12:48 PM`, and a length of `798`. Below the listing, the user runs a series of commands to create a ComObject and reveal the target path of the shortcut:

```
PS C:\Windows\system32> $sh = new-object -comobject wscript.shell
PS C:\Windows\system32> $sh.createshortcut('C:\users\Player1\appdata\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Startup\Management Interface.lnk').targetpath
C:\Windows\nc.exe
PS C:\Windows\system32>
```

Figure 43 Creating ComObject to reveal shortcut target

To search all startup folders for references to the executable in question, enclose the above logic into a loop that searches each startup folder and save the results into a variable for later viewing. This method is shown in figure 44.

```

Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Windows\system32> $process = gwmi win32_process | where ($_.processid -eq 1804)
PS C:\Windows\system32> $process.executablepath
C:\Windows\nc.exe
PS C:\Windows\system32> $results = @()
PS C:\Windows\system32> #start with standard system startup folder
PS C:\Windows\system32> $autostartFolders = @("C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Startup")
PS C:\Windows\system32> #Get users on system and add the start menu startup folder to the list of directories to search
PS C:\Windows\system32> foreach($user in (gci "$env:SystemDrive\users"))
>> {
>>     $autostartFolders += $user.fullname + "\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Startup"
>> }
PS C:\Windows\system32> #create an object we can use to find and search the target of shortcuts
PS C:\Windows\system32> $sh = New-Object -ComObject wscript.shell
PS C:\Windows\system32> foreach($folder in $autostartFolders)
>> {
>>     $files = gci $folder -ErrorAction SilentlyContinue
>>     foreach ($file in $files)
>>     {
>>         if($file.fullname -eq $process.executablepath)
>>         {
>>             $results += $file.fullname
>>         }
>>         #If file is a shortcut, check the target to see if it's pointing to the executable in question
>>         if ($file.extension -eq ".lnk")
>>         {
>>             $target = $sh.createshortcut($file.fullname).targetpath
>>             if ($target -eq $process.executablepath)
>>             {
>>                 $results += $file.fullname
>>             }
>>         }
>>     }
>> }
PS C:\Windows\system32> $results
C:\users\Player1\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Startup\Management Interface.lnk
PS C:\Windows\system32>

```

Figure 44 Searching all startup folders for the executable used by PID 1804 and displaying the results

3.5. File and System Data

Similar to persistence methods, the following items may also exist whether a process is running or not. PowerShell can provide all the data desired in this section.

3.5.1. File Creation Time

The date and time the executable was created on the system can be useful for several reasons. First, if the executable is trying to masquerade as a system executable, its creation time may be the same as another system file (Silveira, 2010). Second, many system files are created and updated at roughly the same time, so if the creation time is

much more recent or older than other system files, it may be malicious and is worth further investigation.

Get-ChildItem collects much more data than it displays by default, including the file creation time in local and Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). To access this data, simply pipe the output from Get-ChildItem to Select-Object and specify those fields.

```

Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Windows\system32> Get-ChildItem c:\windows\nc.exe

Directory: C:\windows

Mode                LastWriteTime         Length Name
----                -
-a---             7/17/2019   2:31 AM          59392 nc.exe

PS C:\Windows\system32> get-childitem C:\windows\nc.exe | select name, creationtime, creationtimeu
tc, lastwritetime, lastwritetimeutc, lastaccesstime, lastaccesstimeutc | format-list

Name                : nc.exe
CreationTime         : 5/13/2020 9:10:48 AM
CreationTimeUtc      : 5/13/2020 4:10:48 PM
LastWriteTime        : 7/17/2019 2:31:43 AM
LastWriteTimeUtc     : 7/17/2019 9:31:43 AM
LastAccessTime       : 5/18/2020 4:00:21 PM
LastAccessTimeUtc    : 5/18/2020 11:00:21 PM

PS C:\Windows\system32>

```

Figure 45 Using Get-ChildItem to view multiple timestamps of file

3.5.2. Files Created at Nearly the Same Time as Executable

It is common for malware and malicious actors to drop or create multiple files as part of their regular operation, which can help an investigator gain insight into the inner workings of the malware (Zeltser, 2018). These files may include scripts and configurations used by the executable in question or may be the target of various persistence mechanisms to obfuscate the relationship to the main malicious executable. For example, a scheduled task is created to run a batch file, which in turn executes the malicious executable. Searching scheduled tasks for the executable won't work, but searching for files created around the executable will return the batch file, which would provide a lead for further investigation.

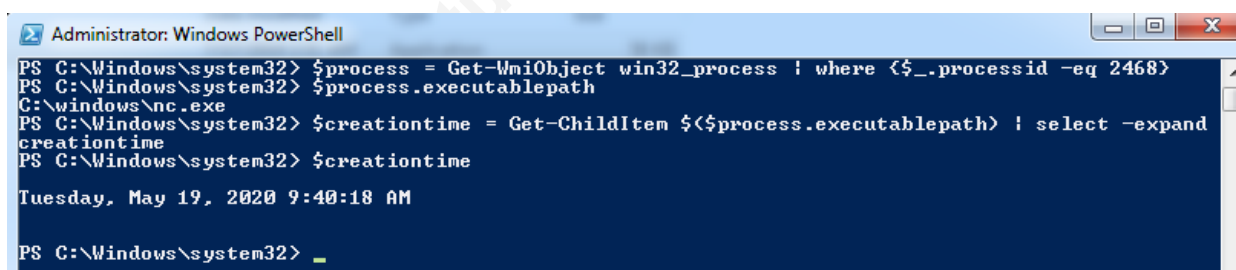
Using a combination of WMI's win32_LogicalDisk class, Get-ChildItem, and a loop, we can recursively search each local hard drive for files created within a specified

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timeframe of the executable in question. To obtain the list of local disks, use the PowerShell command `Get-WmiObject win32_LogicalDisk` and pipe the output to `Where-Object` searching for any drive that has a `DriveType` of three, meaning it is a local disk (Microsoft, 2018). Piping this output to `Select-Object` and expanding the property `DeviceID` returns a list of just the drive letters. Assigning this result to a variable enables the use of these drives within a `ForEach` loop.

```
PS C:\Windows\system32> $drives = Get-WmiObject win32_logicaldisk | where {$_.drivetype -eq 3} | select -expand deviceid
PS C:\Windows\system32> $drives
C:
PS C:\Windows\system32>
```

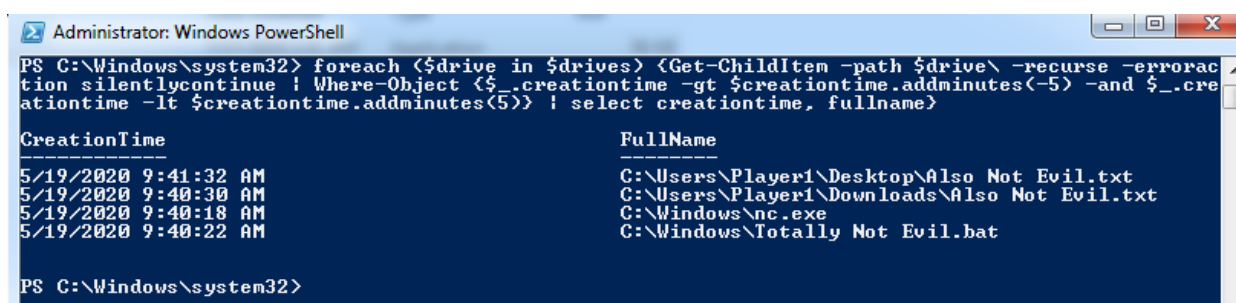
Figure 46 Using WMI to determine local drives and saving the results to a variable



```
Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Windows\system32> $process = Get-WmiObject win32_process | where {$_.processid -eq 2468}
PS C:\Windows\system32> $process.executablepath
C:\windows\nc.exe
PS C:\Windows\system32> $creationtime = Get-ChildItem $($process.executablepath) | select -expand creationtime
PS C:\Windows\system32> $creationtime
Tuesday, May 19, 2020 9:40:18 AM
PS C:\Windows\system32>
```

Figure 47 Saving the executable creation timestamp to a variable

Now, within a `ForEach` loop, recursively list all files on each drive, piping the results into `Where-Object` searching for files created within a time window of the file in question using the `addminutes` method. Figure 48 shows the search for files created five minutes before or after the creation of `c:\windows\nc.exe`.



```
Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Windows\system32> foreach ($drive in $drives) {Get-ChildItem -path $drive\ -recurse -erroraction silentlycontinue | Where-Object {$_.creationtime -gt $creationtime.addminutes(-5) -and $_.creationtime -lt $creationtime.addminutes(5)} | select creationtime, fullname}
CreationTime                                     FullName
-----
5/19/2020 9:41:32 AM                             C:\Users\Player1\Desktop\Also Not Evil.txt
5/19/2020 9:40:30 AM                             C:\Users\Player1\Downloads\Also Not Evil.txt
5/19/2020 9:40:18 AM                             C:\Windows\nc.exe
5/19/2020 9:40:22 AM                             C:\Windows\Totally Not Evil.bat
PS C:\Windows\system32>
```

Figure 48 Files created five minutes before or after the creation of `nc.exe`

3.6. Information Gathering by File Path

In addition to searching for information based on running processes, much of the same data can be gathered from a given file path, including the file hash, creation time, and files created around the same time as the file in question. Searching by file path would be of great benefit if an investigator discovers a malicious process on one system and wants to search other computers for the same executable, even if the process is not currently running. These checks can be done in the same manner listed above, simply by replacing the `$process.executablepath` variable with a string of the executable path directly.

```

Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Windows\system32> $creationtime = Get-ChildItem C:\windows\nc.exe | select -expand creationtime
PS C:\Windows\system32> $creationtime
Tuesday, May 19, 2020 9:40:18 AM

PS C:\Windows\system32> foreach ($drive in $drives) {Get-ChildItem -path $drive\ -recurse -erroraction silentlycontinue | Where-Object {$_.creationtime -gt $creationtime.addminutes<-5> -and $_.creationtime -lt $creationtime.addminutes<5>} | select creationtime, fullname}

CreationTime                                     FullName
-----
5/19/2020 9:41:32 AM                             C:\Users\Player1\Desktop\Also Not Evil.txt
5/19/2020 9:40:30 AM                             C:\Users\Player1\Downloads\Also Not Evil.txt
5/19/2020 9:40:18 AM                             C:\Windows\nc.exe
5/19/2020 9:40:22 AM                             C:\Windows\Totally Not Evil.bat
PS C:\Windows\system32>

```

Figure 49 Files created five minutes before or after the creation of nc.exe

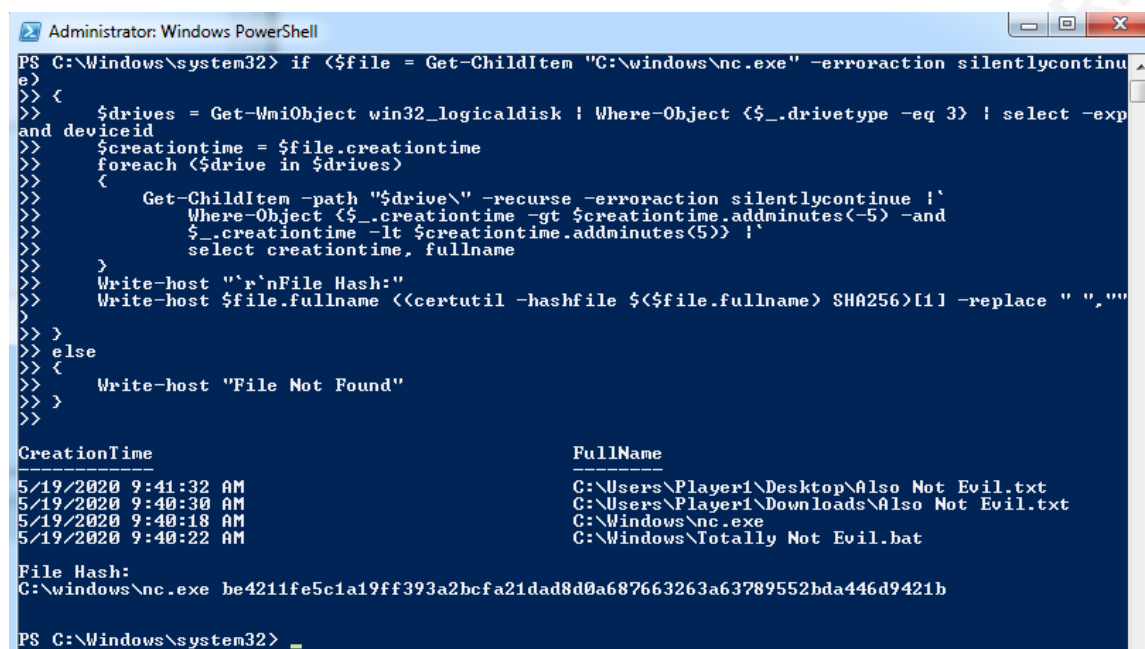
```

Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Windows\system32> (certutil -hashfile c:\windows\nc.exe SHA256)[1] -replace " ", ""
be4211fe5c1a19ff393a2bcfa21dad8d0a687663263a63789552bda446d9421b
PS C:\Windows\system32>

```

Figure 50 Finding the file hash of nc.exe

However, PowerShell and CertUtil will raise exceptions if the file does not exist. These exceptions can be overcome by putting `Get-ChildItem` into an `If` statement and saving the results in a variable. If the file does not exist, the `If` statement will fail, and it will execute any code in the `Else` statement, such as a custom error stating the file does not exist.



```

PS C:\Windows\system32> if (&$file = Get-Childitem "C:\windows\nc.exe" -erroraction silentlycontinue)
>> {
>>     $drives = Get-WmiObject win32_logicaldisk | Where-Object <$_.drivetype -eq 3> | select -exp
and deviceid
>>     $creationtime = $file.creationtime
>>     foreach ($drive in $drives)
>>     {
>>         Get-Childitem -path "$drive\" -recurse -erroraction silentlycontinue | `
>>         Where-Object <$_.creationtime -gt $creationtime.addminutes<-5> -and
>>         $_.creationtime -lt $creationtime.addminutes<5>> | `
>>         select creationtime, fullname
>>         Write-host "`r`nFile Hash:"
>>         Write-host $file.fullname <<certutil -hashfile $(&$file.fullname) SHA256>[1] -replace " ", ""
>>     }
>> }
>> else
>> {
>>     Write-host "File Not Found"
>> }
>> }

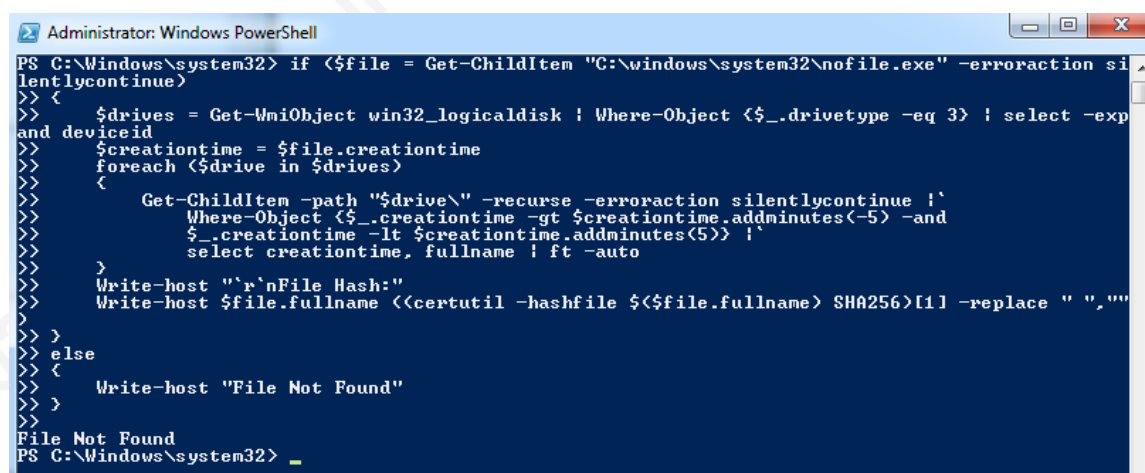
CreationTime                               FullName
-----
5/19/2020 9:41:32 AM                        C:\Users\Player1\Desktop\Also Not Evil.txt
5/19/2020 9:40:30 AM                        C:\Users\Player1\Downloads\Also Not Evil.txt
5/19/2020 9:40:18 AM                        C:\Windows\nc.exe
5/19/2020 9:40:22 AM                        C:\Windows\Totally Not Evil.bat

File Hash:
C:\windows\nc.exe be4211fe5c1a19ff393a2bcfa21dad8d0a687663263a63789552bda446d9421b

PS C:\Windows\system32>

```

Figure 51 Results if the file exists



```

PS C:\Windows\system32> if (&$file = Get-Childitem "C:\windows\system32\nofile.exe" -erroraction si
lentlycontinue)
>> {
>>     $drives = Get-WmiObject win32_logicaldisk | Where-Object <$_.drivetype -eq 3> | select -exp
and deviceid
>>     $creationtime = $file.creationtime
>>     foreach ($drive in $drives)
>>     {
>>         Get-Childitem -path "$drive\" -recurse -erroraction silentlycontinue | `
>>         Where-Object <$_.creationtime -gt $creationtime.addminutes<-5> -and
>>         $_.creationtime -lt $creationtime.addminutes<5>> | `
>>         select creationtime, fullname | ft -auto
>>         Write-host "`r`nFile Hash:"
>>         Write-host $file.fullname <<certutil -hashfile $(&$file.fullname) SHA256>[1] -replace " ", ""
>>     }
>> }
>> else
>> {
>>     Write-host "File Not Found"
>> }
>> }

File Not Found
PS C:\Windows\system32>

```

Figure 52 Results if the file does not exist

In figure 51, only the original file searched, “C:\windows\nc.exe,” is hashed. This decision was made because of the possibility of hundreds of files matching the search criteria and hashing each one could significantly increase execution time.

WMI can be used to see if the executable at the given path is currently running as a process. If so, each of the data gathering methods mentioned thus far can be executed on the process. WMI may return zero, one, or multiple processes, so it is recommended to

run the initial call to Get-WMIObject as part of an If statement as described above, then iterating through each result based on PID. Figure 53 shows the information for two processes using the same executable obtained with this method.

```

PS C:\Windows\system32> if (<$file = Get-ChildItem "C:\windows\nc.exe" -erroraction silentlycontin
e>
> {
>     if (<$processes = Get-WmiObject win32_process | where{$_executablepath -eq <$file.fullname
> }
>     {
>         foreach (<$process in $processes)
>         {
>             $process | Add-Member NoteProperty Username (tasklist /v /fo csv | ConvertFrom-Csv
! where{$_PID -eq <$process.processid}) | select -expand "User name")
>             $process | select processid, parentprocessid, username, executablepath, commandline
>             | format-list
>         }
>     }
>     else
>     {
>         Write-host "File Not Found"
>     }
> }

processid      : 1804
parentprocessid : 1640
Username       : Win7\Player1
executablepath  : C:\Windows\nc.exe
commandline     : "C:\Windows\nc.exe" -L -p 8888 -e C:\windows\system32\cmd.exe

processid      : 2468
parentprocessid : 1972
Username       : NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
executablepath  : C:\windows\nc.exe
commandline     : C:\windows\nc.exe -L -p 80 -e c:\windows\system32\cmd.exe

PS C:\Windows\system32>

```

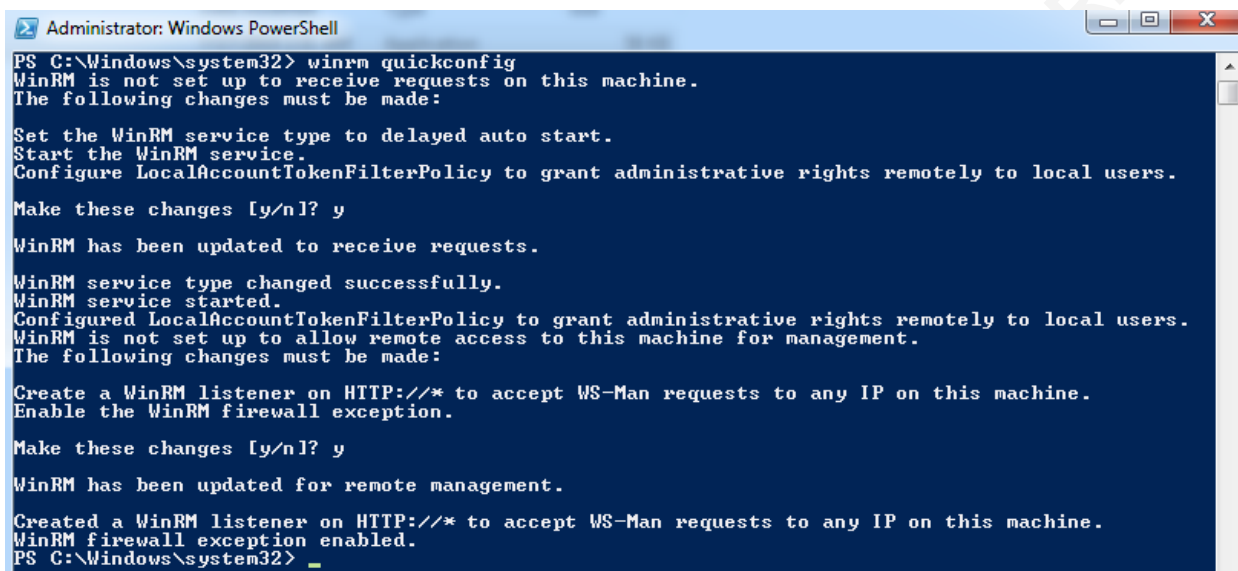
Figure 53 Using WMI to get information for all processes associated with nc.exe

3.7. Collecting Data from Remote Machines

Collecting the desired data from a remote system is simple using PowerShell's Invoke-Command cmdlet, which comes built-in to every version of PowerShell. There are two prerequisites to using Invoke-Command: 1) the system receiving the connection needs to enable Windows Remote Management (WinRM), and 2) the Trusted Hosts list on the system initiating the connection must contain the destination system's hostname or IP address.

WinRM is Microsoft's implementation of the WS-Management Protocol and enables PowerShell to be used remotely (Microsoft, 2018). WinRM is not enabled by default and must be configured before PowerShell can be used on it remotely.

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```

Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Windows\system32> winrm quickconfig
WinRM is not set up to receive requests on this machine.
The following changes must be made:

Set the WinRM service type to delayed auto start.
Start the WinRM service.
Configure LocalAccountTokenFilterPolicy to grant administrative rights remotely to local users.

Make these changes [y/n]? y

WinRM has been updated to receive requests.
WinRM service type changed successfully.
WinRM service started.
Configured LocalAccountTokenFilterPolicy to grant administrative rights remotely to local users.
WinRM is not set up to allow remote access to this machine for management.
The following changes must be made:

Create a WinRM listener on HTTP://* to accept WS-Man requests to any IP on this machine.
Enable the WinRM firewall exception.

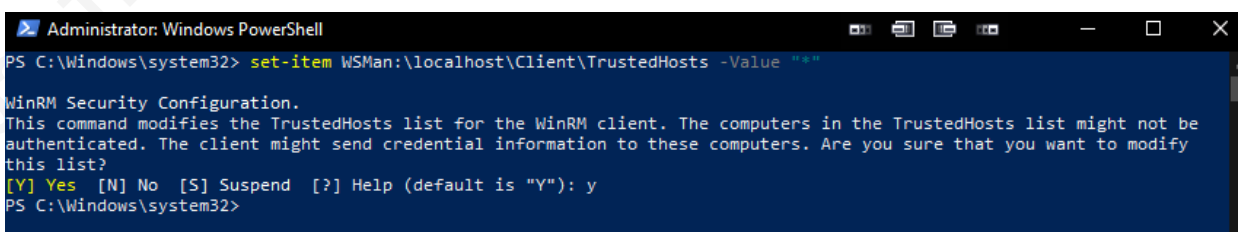
Make these changes [y/n]? y

WinRM has been updated for remote management.
Created a WinRM listener on HTTP://* to accept WS-Man requests to any IP on this machine.
WinRM firewall exception enabled.
PS C:\Windows\system32>

```

Figure 54 Setting up WinRM on the system receiving the connection

The Trusted Hosts list is, as the name implies, a list of hosts that the computer trusts. The local system must trust a remote system before it will allow a user to connect to the remote system with PowerShell. An administrator can add the "*" wildcard to the Trusted Hosts list to enable connections to any remote system, which is what was done in the lab for this paper. However, for security purposes, it is recommended that an administrator only add systems to the list that are specifically known and trusted.



```

Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Windows\system32> set-item WSMan:\localhost\Client\TrustedHosts -Value "*"

WinRM Security Configuration.
This command modifies the TrustedHosts list for the WinRM client. The computers in the TrustedHosts list might not be
authenticated. The client might send credential information to these computers. Are you sure that you want to modify
this list?
[Y] Yes [N] No [S] Suspend [?] Help (default is "Y"): y
PS C:\Windows\system32>

```

Figure 55 Setting the Trusted Hosts list on the system initiating the connection

PowerShell's Invoke-Command cmdlet runs commands or scripts on local and remote systems (Microsoft, n.d.). Multiple commands and full scripting logic can be provided when using the -ScriptBlock parameter.

```

Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Windows\system32> $cred = Get-Credential win7\player1
PS C:\Windows\system32> invoke-command -computer 192.168.134.138 -Credential $cred -scriptblock {if ($file = Get-ChildItem "C:\windows\nc.exe" -erroraction silentlycontinue)
>> {
>>     if ($processes = Get-WmiObject win32_process | where{$_ .executablepath -eq $($file.fullname)})
>>     {
>>         foreach ($process in $processes)
>>         {
>>             $process | Add-Member Noteproperty Username (tasklist /v /fo csv | `
>>                 ConvertFrom-Csv | where{$_ .PID -eq $($process.processid)} | select -expand "User name")
>>             $process | select processid, parentprocessid, username, executablepath, commandline | format-list
>>         }
>>     }
>> }
>> else
>> {
>>     Write-host "File Not Found"
>> }}

processid      : 1804
parentprocessid : 1640
Username       : Win7\Player1
executablepath  : C:\Windows\nc.exe
commandline     : "C:\Windows\nc.exe" -L -p 8888 -e C:\windows\system32\cmd.exe

processid      : 2468
parentprocessid : 1972
Username       : NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
executablepath  : C:\windows\nc.exe
commandline     : C:\windows\nc.exe -L -p 80 -e c:\windows\system32\cmd.exe

PS C:\Windows\system32>

```

Figure 56 Running a file path search on the remote system

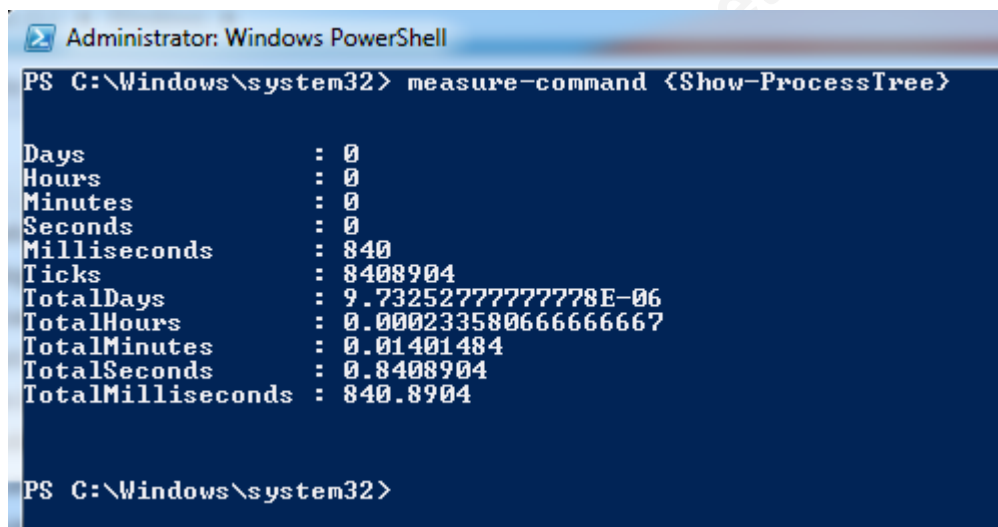
4. Findings and Limitations

The programs and scripts run in the previous section all worked across each version of Windows tested, both locally and remotely, except for checking VirusTotal results. Checking VirusTotal was unsuccessful on Windows 7 and Windows 2008R2 due to the Invoke-RestMethod cmdlet being unavailable on PowerShell Version 2.0.

The main limitation encountered was that using PowerShell to gather and combine this data took a significant amount of time compared to running each command individually. As shown in figures 59 and 60, when executed individually, Tasklist and Get-WMIObject Win32_process took a combined total of 214 milliseconds. When ran in a script to combine the output, it took a total of 840 milliseconds to create the process tree, and 522 milliseconds to create the flat process list, as shown in figures 57 and 58,

Author Name, email@addressm

respectively. On a busier system, this difference would be even more noticeable. The increase in time is most likely the result of cross-referencing and extracting process data from multiple commands before displaying the results. The process tree must also perform a recursive lookup for each process, further increasing the amount of time required by the script.



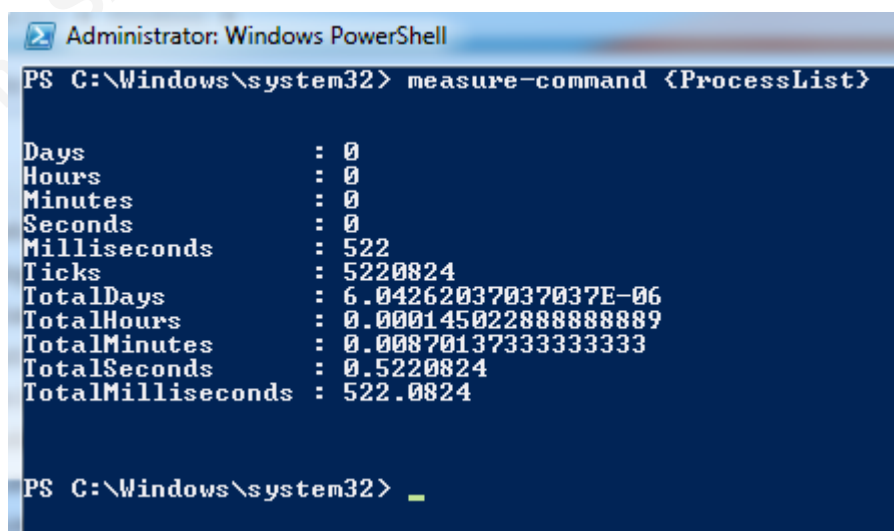
```

Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Windows\system32> measure-command {Show-ProcessTree}

Days           : 0
Hours          : 0
Minutes        : 0
Seconds        : 0
Milliseconds   : 840
Ticks          : 8408904
TotalDays      : 9.73252777777778E-06
TotalHours     : 0.000233580666666667
TotalMinutes   : 0.01401484
TotalSeconds   : 0.8408904
TotalMilliseconds : 840.8904

PS C:\Windows\system32>
  
```

Figure 57 Process Tree function time elapsed on execution



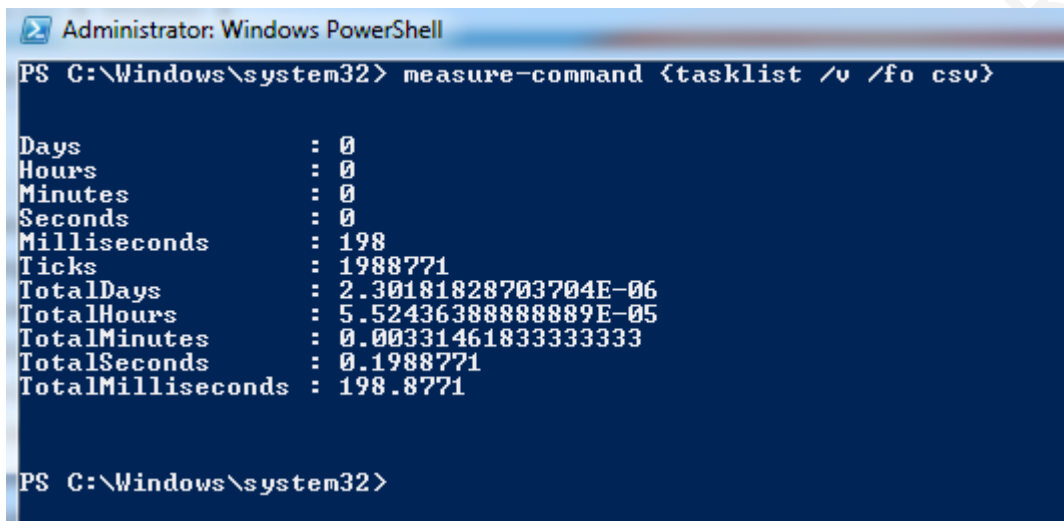
```

Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Windows\system32> measure-command {ProcessList}

Days           : 0
Hours          : 0
Minutes        : 0
Seconds        : 0
Milliseconds   : 522
Ticks          : 5220824
TotalDays      : 6.04262037037037E-06
TotalHours     : 0.000145022888888889
TotalMinutes   : 0.00870137333333333
TotalSeconds   : 0.5220824
TotalMilliseconds : 522.0824

PS C:\Windows\system32> _
  
```

Figure 58 Process List function time elapsed on execution



```

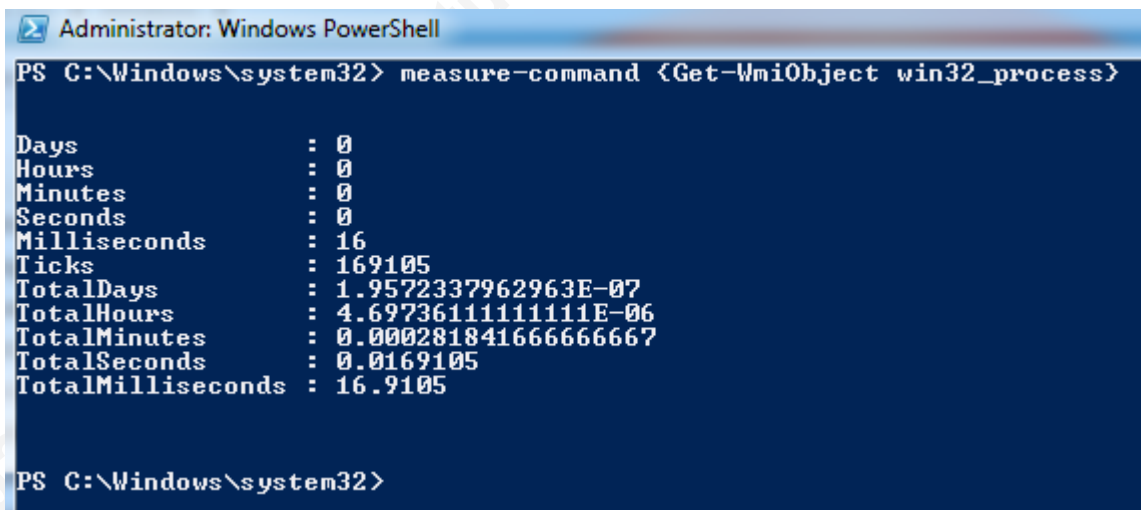
Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Windows\system32> measure-command {tasklist /v /fo csv}

Days           : 0
Hours          : 0
Minutes        : 0
Seconds        : 0
Milliseconds   : 198
Ticks          : 1988771
TotalDays      : 2.30181828703704E-06
TotalHours     : 5.52436388888889E-05
TotalMinutes   : 0.00331461833333333
TotalSeconds   : 0.1988771
TotalMilliseconds : 198.8771

PS C:\Windows\system32>

```

Figure 59 Tasklist execution time when ran individually



```

Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Windows\system32> measure-command {Get-WmiObject win32_process}

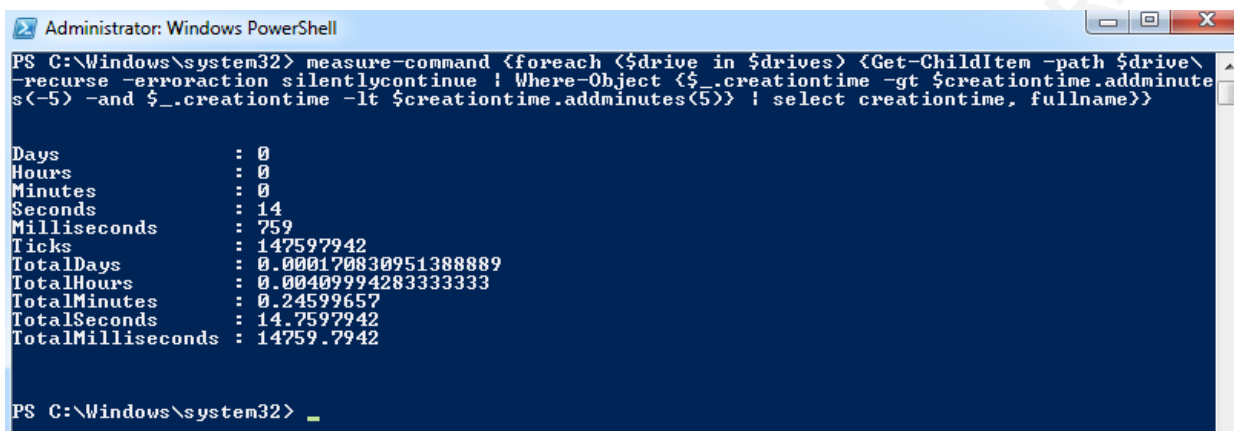
Days           : 0
Hours          : 0
Minutes        : 0
Seconds        : 0
Milliseconds   : 16
Ticks          : 169105
TotalDays      : 1.9572337962963E-07
TotalHours     : 4.69736111111111E-06
TotalMinutes   : 0.000281841666666667
TotalSeconds   : 0.0169105
TotalMilliseconds : 16.9105

PS C:\Windows\system32>

```

Figure 60 WMI execution time when ran individually

Additionally, searching the filesystem for files created around the same time as the file in question took 14 seconds and 759 milliseconds on the Windows 7 machine with no additional software installed or files added. This search could take significantly longer on systems with many more files to look through.



```

Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Windows\system32> measure-command {foreach ($drive in $drives) {Get-ChildItem -path $drive\
-recurse -erroraction silentlycontinue ! Where-Object {$_creationtime -gt $creationtime.addminutes
s(-5) -and $_creationtime -lt $creationtime.addminutes(5)} ! select creationtime, fullname}}

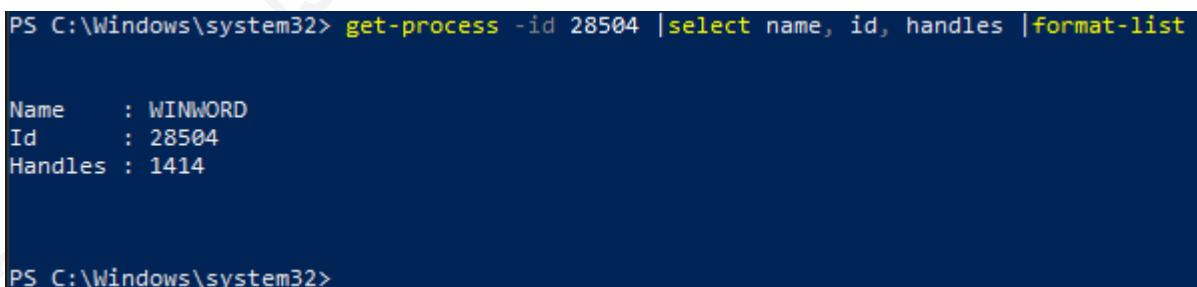
Days           : 0
Hours          : 0
Minutes        : 0
Seconds        : 14
Milliseconds    : 759
Ticks          : 147597942
TotalDays      : 0.000170830951388889
TotalHours     : 0.00409994283333333
TotalMinutes   : 0.24599657
TotalSeconds   : 14.7597942
TotalMilliseconds : 14759.7942

PS C:\Windows\system32>

```

Figure 61 Filesystem search time elapsed

Furthermore, while not within this paper's scope, it is worth noting that there are no built-in Windows tools that allow an investigator to view the details of file handles opened by a process. The closest one can get with built-in tools is PowerShell's Get-Process cmdlet, which will show how many handles a process has open but not what they are.



```

PS C:\Windows\system32> get-process -id 28504 |select name, id, handles |format-list

Name       : WINWORD
Id         : 28504
Handles    : 1414

PS C:\Windows\system32>

```

Figure 62 Get-Process showing number of file handles opened by a process

The full script created to accomplish all of these data-gathering tasks has been provided in Appendix B. This script is merely an example of one way to accomplish these tasks. There may be different and more efficient methods using these same techniques.

5. Conclusion

Despite the additional time required to combine and parse the output from several commands, it is entirely possible to obtain the data an investigator wants using only tools built-in to Windows. This capability can provide personnel working in environments that

are strict on additional software the opportunity to continue incident response investigations mostly unimpeded. Furthermore, automating the collection and combining of data for a specific process or file can help prevent crucial data from getting lost in the noise of running and reviewing each command manually.

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Appendix A – Autostart Registry Keys

HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\Session Manager\BootExecute

HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Office\PowerPoint\Addins

HKLM\Software\Wow6432Node\Microsoft\Office\PowerPoint\Addins

HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Office\Word\Addins

HKLM\Software\Wow6432Node\Microsoft\Office\Word\Addins

HKLM\SOFTWARE\Classes\Htmlfile\Shell\Open\Command\Default

HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Services

HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Font Drivers

HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Authentication\Credential Providers

HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Authentication\Credential Provider Filters

HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Authentication\PLAP Providers

HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Winlogon\GpExtensions

HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Print\Monitors

HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Print\Providers

HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\SecurityProviders\SecurityProviders

HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Lsa\Authentication Packages

HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Lsa\Notification Packages

HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\NetworkProvider\Order

HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\WinSock2\Parameters\Protocol_Catalog9\Catalog_Entries

HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\WinSock2\Parameters\NameSpace_Catalog5\Catalog_Entries

HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\WinSock2\Parameters\Protocol_Catalog9\Catalog_Entries64

HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\WinSock2\Parameters\NameSpace_Catalog5\Catalog_Entries64

Author Name, email@addressm

HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\Terminal Server\Wds\rdpwd\StartupPrograms
 HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Winlogon\Userinit
 HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Winlogon\VmApplet
 HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\Session Manager\KnownDlls
 HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Winlogon\Shell
 HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\SafeBoot\AlternateShell
 HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run
 HKLM\SOFTWARE\Wow6432Node\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run
 HKLM\SOFTWARE\Classes\Protocols\Filter
 HKLM\SOFTWARE\Classes\Protocols\Handler
 HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Active Setup\Installed Components
 HKLM\SOFTWARE\Wow6432Node\Microsoft\Active Setup\Installed Components
 HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Windows\IconServiceLib
 HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\ShellServiceObjects
 HKLM\SOFTWARE\Wow6432Node\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\ShellServiceObjects
 HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\Browser Helper Objects
 HKLM\Software\Wow6432Node\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\Browser Helper Objects
 HKLM\Software\Classes*\ShellEx\ContextMenuHandlers
 HKLM\Software\Classes\Drive\ShellEx\ContextMenuHandlers
 HKLM\Software\Classes*\ShellEx\PropertySheetHandlers
 HKLM\Software\Classes\AllFileSystemObjects\ShellEx\ContextMenuHandlers
 HKLM\Software\Classes\AllFileSystemObjects\ShellEx\PropertySheetHandlers
 HKLM\Software\Classes\Directory\ShellEx\ContextMenuHandlers
 HKLM\Software\Classes\Directory\Shellex\DragDropHandlers
 HKLM\Software\Classes\Directory\Shellex\PropertySheetHandlers
 HKLM\Software\Classes\Directory\Shellex\CopyHookHandlers
 HKLM\Software\Classes\Directory\Background\ShellEx\ContextMenuHandlers
 HKLM\Software\Classes\Folder\ShellEx\ContextMenuHandlers
 HKLM\Software\Classes\Folder\ShellEx\DragDropHandlers

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HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\ShellIconOverlayIdentifiers

HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\Extensions

HKLM\Software\Wow6432Node\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\Extensions

HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Drivers32

HKLM\Software\Wow6432Node\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Drivers32

HKLM\Software\Classes\CLSID\{083863F1-70DE-11d0-BD40-00A0C911CE86}\Instance

HKLM\Software\Wow6432Node\Classes\CLSID\{083863F1-70DE-11d0-BD40-00A0C911CE86}\Instance

HKLM\Software\Classes\CLSID\{7ED96837-96F0-4812-B211-F13C24117ED3}\Instance

HKLM\Software\Wow6432Node\Classes\CLSID\{7ED96837-96F0-4812-B211-F13C24117ED3}\Instance

HKCU\Control Panel\Desktop\Scrnsave.exe

HKCU\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run

HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\UrlSearchHooks

Appendix B – Sample Script

```
param([string]$computer=$null,[int]$p=$null,[switch]$tree,[int]$search=$null,[string]$filepath=$null,$cred,[switch]$table=$null,[switch]$list=$null,$outpath=$null,[switch]$vt=$null,[switch]$h=$null,[switch]$help=$null,[switch]$raw=$null)
```

```
$vtsleep = 15
```

```
$vtAPIKey = "" #Insert your VirusTotal API key here
```

```
if($h -or $help)
```

```
{
```

```
    $command = $MyInvocation.MyCommand
```

```
    write-host @"
```

```
Usage: $command [options]
```

When executed without options, will display a list of all running processes as a flat list.

When executed given a PID or Filepath, will search the file system for the process' lineage, loaded DLLs, Netstat results, scheduled tasks, services, Autostart Registry and folder matches, and file timestamps. Additional Data can be retrieved with more options.

Main Options:

<no option> Displays all running processes as a flat list. Not compatible with search, -p, filepath, or vt.

-tree Display All running processes in tree format. Not compatible with search, -p, filepath, or vt. Defaults to Table output format

-p [PID] Process ID to get information for. Not compatible with -filepath. Takes precedence over -filepath.

-filepath [filename] Find information related to [filename]. If running as a process, get process information as well. Not Compatible with -p.

Additional Options:

-computer Computer Name or IP address to run this script against

-cred [var] Supply your own Get-Credential variable for the script to use when accessing remote systems

-search [min] Search the filesystem for other files created within [min] minutes of the file or executable in question

-vt Check Non-Microsoft DLLs against VirusTotal. Valid API key must be set within script.

VirusTotal lookups will always be done from the local system, even if script is executed against a remote machine.

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-h Display this Help message
 -help Display this help message

Output Format Options:

-table Display results in Format-Table format. Not Compatible with -list option
 -list Display results in Format-List format. Not compatible with -tree option. This is the default option if none other specified.
 -outpath [path] Save each type of result as separate CSV file in [path]
 -raw Output results without formatting. Use this if you want to save to your own variable to use or parse separately.

Usage Examples:

\$command
 \$command -tree
 \$command -p 1492
 \$command -p 1492 -search 5 -vt
 \$command -filepath "C:\windows\system32\svchost.exe" -table
 \$command -computer 192.168.1.10 -p 2468 -vt -search 5 -table -outpath "C:\temp\"

"@

exit
 }

#check if given the outpath variable, and if so, append a slash to the end if the path given doesn't end with one.

```
if($outpath)
{
    if($outpath[-1] -ne "\")
    {
        $outpath += "\"
    }
}
```

#This function encompasses all of the checks to be run regardless of option. This is wrapped in a function so that it

can easily be executed against a remote machine with the invoke-command function.

Function FullScript(\$p, \$tree, \$search, \$filepath)

{

\$global:process_Table = \$null

#Expects Get-WmiObject win32_process formatted process

#Creating a custom table to hold the consolidated process information from multiple commands

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```

Function CreateProcessTable($process)
{
    #if table doesn't already exist, create it. otherwise just add to it
    if(!$global:process_table)
    {
        # Creating custom table -- https://docs.microsoft.com/en-
        us/archive/blogs/rkramesh/creating-table-using-powershell
        $global:process_table = New-Object System.Data.DataTable "Processes"
        $global:process_table.Columns.Add((New-Object system.data.datacolumn
        Name,([string])))
        $global:process_table.Columns.Add((New-Object system.data.datacolumn
        PID,([int])))
        $global:process_table.Columns.Add((New-Object system.data.datacolumn
        PPID,([int])))
        $global:process_table.Columns.Add((New-Object system.data.datacolumn
        ProcessUser,([string])))
        $global:process_table.Columns.Add((New-Object system.data.datacolumn
        ExecutablePath,([string])))
        $global:process_table.Columns.Add((New-Object system.data.datacolumn
        CommandLine,([string])))
    }

    #add information to new process information table
    $row = $global:process_table.NewRow()

    $row.name = $process.indentedname
    $row.PID = $process.processId
    $row.PPID = $process.parentprocessid
    $row.ProcessUser = $process.Username
    $row.ExecutablePath = $process.executablepath
    $row.CommandLine = $process.commandline

    $global:process_table.rows.add($row)
}

Function GetTasklist()
{
    #get process info from tasklist to get user name data
    return (tasklist /v /fo csv | convertfrom-csv)
}

#found at https://social.technet.microsoft.com/Forums/windowsserver/en-US/87b5e231-
4832-43ca-92ed-0ab70b6e6726/how-to-recursively-print-process-parent-process-grand-
parent-process-great-grand-parent-process?forum=winserverpowershell

```

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####Start technet code. adding my own along the way. look at process-tree-technet script to get original code

Function Show-ProcessTree

```
{
    $mytasklist = GetTasklist

    Function Get-ProcessChildren($P,$Depth=1)
    {
        $procs | Where-Object {$_.ParentProcessId -eq $p.ProcessID -and
        $_.ParentProcessId -ne 0} | ForEach-Object {

            $indentedname = "{0}|--{1}" -f (" "*3*$Depth),$_ .Name
            $_ | Add-Member NoteProperty IndentedName $indentedname
            $thispid = $_.processid
            if(!$_.Username)
            {
                $_ | Add-Member NoteProperty Username ($mytasklist | where-object
                {$_ .PID -eq $thispid} | select -expand "User Name")
            }
            CreateProcessTable($_)
            Get-ProcessChildren $_ (++$Depth)
            $Depth--
        }
    }

    $filter = {-not (Get-Process -Id $_.ParentProcessId -ErrorAction SilentlyContinue) -or
    $_.ParentProcessId -eq 0}
    $procs = Get-WmiObject Win32_Process
    $top = $procs | Where-Object $filter | Sort-Object ProcessID

    foreach ($p in $top)
    {

        $p | Add-Member NoteProperty IndentedName $p.name
        $p | Add-Member NoteProperty Username ($mytasklist | Where-Object {$_ .PID -eq
        $p.processid} | select -expand "User Name")

        CreateProcessTable($p)

        Get-ProcessChildren $p
    }
}
```

#####END PROCESS TREE CODE FROM TECHNET

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```

Function MyProcessList
{
    $mytasklist = GetTasklist

    $mywmi = gwmi win32_process

    foreach ($process in $mywmi)
    {
        $process | Add-Member NoteProperty Indentedname $process.name
        $process | Add-Member NoteProperty Username ($mytasklist | Where-Object
        {$_PID -eq $process.processid} | select -expand "User Name")

        CreateProcessTable($process)
    }
}

```

#Powershell V2 compatible way to get scheduled tasks.

```

Function GetTasks($process){
    $tasks = schtasks /query /fo csv /v | convertfrom-csv

    if ($taskResult = $tasks | Where-Object {$_."Task to run" -like
    $process.executablepath + "*" } )
    {
        $taskResult
    }
}

```

```

Function SearchRegistry($process){

    $finalResult = @()

    $registryResults = @()
    foreach ($reg in $autostart_registry)
    {
        $temp = reg query $reg /s /f $process.executablepath 2> $null
        if ($temp -and $temp[-1] -notmatch " 0 match")
        {
            $registryResults += $temp[0..($temp.length-3)]
        }
    }
}

```

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```

#Convert the raw string output from reg.exe to a PowerShell Object with defined
properties for the key it was found in and the value that was found
for ($i = 1; $i -lt $registryResults.count; $i += 3)
{
    $obj = new-object psobject
    $obj | add-member -type NoteProperty -name "Key" -Value $registryResults[$i]
    $obj | Add-Member -type NoteProperty -name "Value" -Value
$registryResults[$i+1].trim()
    $finalResult += $obj
}

return $FinalResult
}

Function AutostartFolders($process)
{
    $results = @()

    #start with standard system startup folder
    $autostartFolders = @( "C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\Start
Menu\Programs\Startup")

    #Get users on system and add the start menu startup folder to the list of directories to
search
    foreach($user in (gci "$env:SystemDrive\users"))
    {
        $autostartFolders += $user.fullname +
"\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Startup"
    }

    #create an object we can use to find and search the target of shortcuts
    $sh = New-Object -ComObject wscript.shell

    foreach($folder in $autostartFolders)
    {
        $files = gci $folder -ErrorAction SilentlyContinue
        foreach ($file in $files)
        {
            if($file.fullname -eq $process.executablepath)
            {
                $results += $file.fullname
            }
        }
    }
}

```

#If file is a shortcut, check the target to see if it's pointing to the executable in question

```

    if ($file.extension -eq ".lnk")
    {
        $target = $sh.createshortcut($file.fullname).targetpath

        if ($target -eq $process.executablepath)
        {
            $results += $file.fullname
        }
    }
}

return $results
}

```

```

Function SearchFilesystem($process){
    $drives = gwmi win32_logicaldisk | Where-Object {$_.drivetype -eq 3} | select -
expand deviceid
    $suspectExecutable = gci $process.executablepath -ErrorAction SilentlyContinue

    $results = @()

    if (!$suspectExecutable)
    {
        return
    }

    if (!$search)
    {
        return $suspectExecutable
    }

    if ($search -gt 0)
    {
        foreach ($drive in $drives)
        {
            #note the added '\' to the gci command. this is required for the filesystem search
            will fail.
            $results += gci -recurse "$drive\" -ErrorAction SilentlyContinue | Where-Object
            {$_.creationtime -gt $suspectExecutable.creationtime.addminutes(-$search) -and
            $_.creationtime -lt $suspectExecutable.creationtime.addminutes($search)} | select
            creationtime, fullname
        }
    }
}

```

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```

    return $results
}

```

#All Registry autostart locations used by autorunsc64.exe (version 13.96 executed on windows 10)

```

$autostart_registry = @(
    "HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\Session
    Manager\BootExecute",
    "HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Office\PowerPoint\Addins",
    "HKLM\Software\Wow6432Node\Microsoft\Office\PowerPoint\Addins",
    "HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Office\Word\Addins",
    "HKLM\Software\Wow6432Node\Microsoft\Office\Word\Addins",
    "HKLM\SOFTWARE\Classes\Htmlfile\Shell\Open\Command\Default",
    "HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Services",
    "HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Font Drivers",
    "HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Authentication\Credential
    Providers",
    "HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Authentication\Credential
    Provider Filters",
    "HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Authentication\PLAP
    Providers",
    "HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows
    NT\CurrentVersion\Winlogon\GpExtensions",
    "HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Print\Monitors",
    "HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Print\Providers",
    "HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\SecurityProviders\SecurityProviders",
    "HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Lsa\Authentication Packages",
    "HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Lsa\Notification Packages",
    "HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\NetworkProvider\Order",
    "HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\WinSock2\Parameters\Protocol_Catalog9\C
    atalog_Entries",
    "HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\WinSock2\Parameters\NameSpace_Catalog
    5\Catalog_Entries",
    "HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\WinSock2\Parameters\Protocol_Catalog9\C
    atalog_Entries64",
    "HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\WinSock2\Parameters\NameSpace_Catalog
    5\Catalog_Entries64",
    "HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\Terminal
    Server\Wds\rdpwd\StartupPrograms",
    "HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Winlogon\Userinit",
    "HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Winlogon\VmApplet",
    "HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\Session Manager\KnownDlls",
    "HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Winlogon\Shell",
    "HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\SafeBoot\AlternateShell",
    "HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run",
    "HKLM\SOFTWARE\Wow6432Node\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run",
    "HKLM\SOFTWARE\Classes\Protocols\Filter",

```

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```

"HKLM\SOFTWARE\Classes\Protocols\Handler",
"HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Active Setup\Installed Components",
"HKLM\SOFTWARE\Wow6432Node\Microsoft\Active Setup\Installed Components",
"HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Windows\IconServiceLib",
"HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\ShellServiceObject
s",
"HKLM\SOFTWARE\Wow6432Node\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\Sh
ellServiceObjects",
"HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\Browser Helper
Objects",
"HKLM\Software\Wow6432Node\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\Browse
r Helper Objects",
"HKLM\Software\Classes\*\ShellEx\ContextMenuHandlers",
"HKLM\Software\Classes\Drive\ShellEx\ContextMenuHandlers",
"HKLM\Software\Classes\*\ShellEx\PropertySheetHandlers",
"HKLM\Software\Classes\AllFileSystemObjects\ShellEx\ContextMenuHandlers",
"HKLM\Software\Classes\AllFileSystemObjects\ShellEx\PropertySheetHandlers",
"HKLM\Software\Classes\Directory\ShellEx\ContextMenuHandlers",
"HKLM\Software\Classes\Directory\ShellEx\DragDropHandlers",
"HKLM\Software\Classes\Directory\ShellEx\PropertySheetHandlers",
"HKLM\Software\Classes\Directory\ShellEx\CopyHookHandlers",
"HKLM\Software\Classes\Directory\Background\ShellEx\ContextMenuHandlers",
"HKLM\Software\Classes\Folder\ShellEx\ContextMenuHandlers",
"HKLM\Software\Classes\Folder\ShellEx\DragDropHandlers",
"HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\ShellIconOverlayIdentif
iers",
"HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\Extensions",
"HKLM\Software\Wow6432Node\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\Extensions",
"HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Drivers32",
"HKLM\Software\Wow6432Node\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Drivers32",
"HKLM\Software\Classes\CLSID\{083863F1-70DE-11d0-BD40-
00A0C911CE86}\Instance",
"HKLM\Software\Wow6432Node\Classes\CLSID\{083863F1-70DE-11d0-BD40-
00A0C911CE86}\Instance",
"HKLM\Software\Classes\CLSID\{7ED96837-96F0-4812-B211-
F13C24117ED3}\Instance",
"HKLM\Software\Wow6432Node\Classes\CLSID\{7ED96837-96F0-4812-B211-
F13C24117ED3}\Instance",
"HKCU\Control Panel\Desktop\Scrnsave.exe",
"HKCU\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run",
"HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\UrlSearchHooks")

```

```

Function GetProcessLineage($process)
{

```

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```

#clearing process table variable to prevent conflicts from multiple runs based off file
path
Clear-Variable process_ table -scope Global

do
{
    $mytasklist = GetTasklist
    $ppid = $process.ParentProcessId

    $process | Add-Member NoteProperty IndentedName $process.name
    $process | Add-Member NoteProperty Username ($mytasklist | Where-Object
{$_.PID -eq $process.processid} | select -expand "User Name")

    CreateProcessTable($process)

} while($process = Get-WmiObject win32_process -Filter "processid=$ppid")
}

Function GetNetworkActivity($p)
{
    $results = @()

    #To make this script PowerShell v2.0 compatible, we need to use netstat and manually
    parse the output
    #instead of using the newer Get-NetTCPConnection and Get-NetUDPEndpoint
    Cmdlets
    $net = netstat -ano | select-string "\b$p$"
    if($net)
    {
        foreach ($line in $net)
        {
            $temp = $line -split '\s+'

            $ConnectionObject = New-Object -TypeName psobject
            $ConnectionObject | Add-Member -MemberType NoteProperty -Name PID $p
            $ConnectionObject | Add-Member -MemberType NoteProperty -Name Protocol
            $temp[1]

            #using substring to handle IPv6 Addresses
            $ConnectionObject | Add-Member -MemberType NoteProperty -Name
            LocalAddress $temp[2].substring(0, $temp[2].lastindexof(':'))

```

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```

        $ConnectionObject | Add-Member -MemberType NoteProperty -Name LocalPort
        $temp[2].split(':')[1]

        if ($temp[1] -eq "TCP")
        {
            $ConnectionObject | Add-Member -MemberType NoteProperty -Name
            ForeignAddress $temp[3].substring(0, $temp[2].lastindexof(':'))
            $ConnectionObject | Add-Member -MemberType NoteProperty -Name
            ForeignPort $temp[3].split(':')[1]
            $ConnectionObject | Add-Member -MemberType NoteProperty -Name State
            $temp[4]
        }
        else
        {
            $ConnectionObject | Add-Member -MemberType NoteProperty -Name
            ForeignAddress $null
            $ConnectionObject | Add-Member -MemberType NoteProperty -Name
            ForeignPort $null
            $ConnectionObject | Add-Member -MemberType NoteProperty -Name State
            $null
        }

        $results += $ConnectionObject
    }
}
return $results
}

Function GetFileTimestamps($process)
{
    return (gci $process.executablepath -ErrorAction SilentlyContinue | select Name,
    CreationTime, CreationTimeUtc, LastWriteTime, LastWriteTimeUtc, LastAccessTime,
    LastAccessTimeUtc)
}

Function GetService($process)
{
    $services = Get-WmiObject win32_service

    if ($ServiceResult = $Services | Where-Object {$_.Pathname -like "*" +
    $process.executablepath + "*" } )
    {
        return $ServiceResult
    }
}

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```



```

    }
}

#expecting powershell's Get-Process process object
Function GetDLLs($gp_process)
{
    $LoadedDLLs = $gp_process | select -expand modules

    #get SHA256 hash of each DLL loaded into file using certutil. Replaces any spaces
    produced by certutil (common in older OSes)
    $LoadedDLLs | foreach {$_ | Add-Member NoteProperty Hash ((certutil -hashfile
    $_.filename SHA256)[1] -replace '\s',')}
    return $LoadedDLLs
}

Function GetPersistenceInfo($process)
{
    $filetimes = GetFileTimestamps $process
    $TaskResults = GetTasks $process

    $ServiceResults = GetService $process

    $registryResults = SearchRegistry $process

    $AutostartFolderResults = AutostartFolders $process

    if ($search)
    {
        $FilesystemSearchResults = SearchFilesystem $process
    }

    #If above functions didn't return results, force variable to have something to maintain
    result array order
    if(!$taskresults){$TaskResults = ""}
    if(!$ServiceResults){$ServiceResults = ""}
    if(!$registryResults){$registryResults = ""}
    if(!$autostartFolderResults){$autostartFolderResults = ""}
    if(!$FilesystemSearchResults){$FilesystemSearchResults = ""}
    if(!$filetimes){$filetimes = ""}

    $results =
    $taskresults,$ServiceResults,$registryResults,$AutostartFolderResults,$filetimes,$Filesy
    stemSearchResults

    return $results
}

```

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```

}

Function GetSpecificProcessInfo($p)
{

    $gp_process = get-process -id $p

    $process = Get-WmiObject win32_process -filter "processid=$p"

    $LoadedDLLs = GetDLLs $gp_process

    $NetworkResults = GetNetworkActivity $p

    GetProcessLineage $process #the results of this are added to $global:process_table

    if(!$NetworkResults){$NetworkResults = ""}

    $ResultArray = $global:Process_table,$LoadedDLLs,$NetworkResults

    if(!$filepath)
    {
        $persistenceResults = GetPersistenceInfo($process)
        $resultArray += $persistenceResults
    }

    return $ResultArray
}

```

```

#####START OF ACTUAL SCRIPT
PROCESSING#####

```

```

#If the user passes the -tree option, list all processes in tree format, otherwise write a
simple list of all processes sorted by PPID

```

```

if (!$p -and $tree -and !$filepath)
{
    Show-ProcessTree
}
elseif (!$p -and !$filepath)
{
    MyProcessList
}

```

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#if given a PID, and it exists, get info about it. otherwise return an error message stating PID doesn't exist

```
if($p -and (get-process -id $p -ErrorAction SilentlyContinue) -and !$filename)
{
```

```
    return GetSpecificProcessInfo $p
```

```
}
```

```
elseif ($p -and !$filename)
```

```
{
```

```
    write-host "Process ID doesn't exist"
```

```
    return $false
```

```
}
```

```
if ($filepath)
```

```
{
```

#creating a new object with a property named ExecutablePath so we can use all the same functions

```
$filenameContainer = New-Object -TypeName psobject
```

```
$filenameContainer | Add-Member NoteProperty Executablepath $filepath
```

```
$persistenceResults = GetPersistenceInfo $filenameContainer
```

```
$AllProcessResultsArray = @()
```

\$RunningProcesses = Get-WmiObject win32_process | where {\$_.executablepath -like \$filepath}

```
if ($RunningProcesses)
```

```
{
```

```
    foreach ($process in $RunningProcesses)
```

```
    {
```

```
        $AllProcessResultsArray += GetSpecificProcessInfo $process.processid
```

```
    }
```

```
}
```

```
$fileresults = $persistenceResults
```

```
$fileresults += $AllProcessResultsArray
```

```
return $fileresults
```

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```

    }

} ###This is the ending bracket for "FullScript" Function

Function VirusTotal($LoadedDLLs)
{
    #This is the master variable that will hold the data for all dll lookups
    $VTLookupResults = @()

    foreach($dll in $LoadedDLLs)
    {
        # Don't Look up DLLs created by Microsoft. This was done to reduce the number of
lookups
        if ($dll.Company -ne "Microsoft Corporation")
        {
            $hash = $dll.hash

            #Try to check Virus Total for hash results. if no results found, return that
information instead
            try
            {
                $test = Invoke-restmethod https://www.virustotal.com/api/v3/files/$hash -
Headers @{"x-apikey"=$vtAPIKey} -ErrorAction SilentlyContinue

                #Convert Last Analysis Date from Epoch time to human readable time
                [datetime]$sorigin = '1970-01-01 00:00:00'
                $LastAnalysisDate =
                $sorigin.AddSeconds($test.data.attributes.last_analysis_date)

                #Create a temporary variable to store just the VirusTotal results we want, to be
added to master variable
                $results = $test.data.attributes.last_analysis_stats
                $results | Add-Member NoteProperty Filename $dll.filename
                $results | Add-Member NoteProperty Hash $hash
                $results | Add-Member NoteProperty LastAnalysisDate $LastAnalysisDate
            }
            catch [System.Net.WebException] #Do this if Virus Total gives back a 404 error
meaning no data found
            {

```

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```

$results = New-Object -TypeName psobject
$results | Add-Member NoteProperty Filename $dll.filename
$results | Add-Member NoteProperty Hash $hash
$results | Add-Member NoteProperty LastAnalysisDate "Results not found"

}
catch
{
    Write-host "Invoke-restmethod cmdlet not found"
}
#Add results to master variable
$VTLookupResults += $results

#VirusTotal API is rate limited (4 per minute with Free API). This call to sleep
ensures we don't break that limit
sleep($vtsleep)
}
}

return $VTLookupResults
}

```

```

Function FormatOutput($results, $vtresults)
{

```

```

    <#

```

When processing the \$Results variable, the array will contain data in different elements depending on if this script was executing searching for a PID or file path. Below details what information is stored in which element of the array.

by PID
(result data by index)

- 0 = ProcessLineage
- 1 = LoadedDLLs
- 2 = Network Results
- 3 = Scheduled Task Results
- 4 = Service Results
- 5 = Registry Results
- 6 = Autostart Folder Results
- 7 = File Timestamps
- 8 = Filesystem Search Results

By Filepath
(Result data by index)

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- 0 = Scheduled Task Results
- 1 = Service Results
- 2 = Registry Results
- 3 = Autostart Folder Results
- 4 = File Timestamps
- 5 = Filesystem Search Results
- 6 = Process Lineage
- 7 = LoadedDLLs
- 8 = Network Results

NOTE:: when searching by filepath, it also checks for running processes executing from that path, which is where 6-8 come in.

it's possible for multiple processes to be running from that path, so there might be multiple sets of data related to 6-8. This

is why these elements were moved to the end of the array, so we can iterate through these three elements as many times as there where processes running.

#>

```
#Process and output all process information
if (!$p -and $tree -and !$filepath)
{
    if ($list)
    {
        $global:process_table | select name, pid, ppid, processuser, executablepath,
commandline | fl
    }
    else
    {
        $global:process_table | select name, pid, ppid, processuser, executablepath,
commandline | ft -AutoSize -wrap
    }
    if ($outpath)
    {
        $global:process_table | select name, pid, ppid, processuser, executablepath,
commandline | export-Csv -NoTypeInfo ($outpath + "ProcessList.csv")
    }
}
elseif (!$p -and !$filepath)
{
    if ($table)
    {
```

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```

    $global:process_table | sort ppid | select name, pid, ppid, processuser,
executablepath, commandline | ft -AutoSize -wrap
}
else
{
    $global:process_table | sort ppid | select name, pid, ppid, processuser,
executablepath, commandline
}
if ($outpath)
{
    $global:process_table | sort ppid | select name, pid, ppid, processuser,
executablepath, commandline | export-Csv -NoTypeInfoInformation ($outpath +
"ProcessList.csv")
}
}

if($p)
{
    if($table)
    {
        Write-Host "Process Lineage in Reverse Order"
        $results[0] | Format-Table -auto -wrap

        Write-Host "Process Loaded DLLs"
        $results[1] | select modulename, filename, hash, company, fileversion | Format-
Table -auto -Wrap

        if($results[2])
        {
            Write-Host "Network Information"
            $results[2] | Format-Table -auto -wrap
        }
        else
        {
            Write-Host "No Network Activity Associated with PID'r `n"
        }

        if($results[3])
        {
            Write-Host "Scheduled Task Information"
            $results[3] | select Hostname, Taskname, "Next Run Time", Status, "Last Run
Time", Author, "Task to Run", "Run As User", "Schedule Type" | Format-Table -
AutoSize -wrap
        }
        else
        {

```

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```

    Write-Host "No Scheduled Tasks`r`n"
}

if($results[4])
{
    Write-Host "Service Information"
    $results[4] | select SystemName, name, DisplayName, StartMode, Pathname,
StartName, State | format-table -auto -Wrap
}
else
{
    write-host "No Matching Services`r`n"
}
if($results[5])
{
    Write-Host "Autostart Registry Keys Found"
    $results[5] | select key, value | format-table -auto -wrap
}
else
{
    Write-Host "No Autostart Registry Keys Found"
}
if($results[6])
{
    Write-Host "Autostart Folder Results`r`n"
    $results[6]
    Write-Host "`r`n"
}
else
{
    Write-Host "No Matching Autostart Folder Entries`r`n"
}
if($results[7])
{
    Write-Host "Executable Timestamps"
    $results[7] | select name, creationtime, creationtimeutc, lastwritetime,
lastwritetimeutc, lastaccesstime, lastaccesstimeutc | format-table -auto -wrap
}
else
{
    Write-host "Couldn't get executable timestamp information. File doesn't
exist.`r`n"
}
if($results[8])
{
    Write-Host "Files created within $search minutes of the executable in question"
}

```



```

    $results[8] | select creationtime, Fullname | format-table -AutoSize -wrap
  }
  else
  {
    Write-Host "Search not requested or no files created within search timeframe
of executable in question'r `n"
  }

}
elseif($list -or !$outpath)
{
  Write-Host "Process Lineage in Reverse Order"
  $results[0] | format-list

  Write-Host "Process Loaded DLLs"
  $results[1] | select modulename, filename, hash, company, fileversion | Format-
List

  if($results[2])
  {
    Write-Host "Network Information"
    $results[2] | Format-List
  }
  else
  {
    Write-Host "No Network Activity Associated with PID'r `n"
  }

  if($results[3])
  {
    Write-Host "Scheduled Task Information"
    $results[3] | select Hostname, Taskname, "Next Run Time", Status, "Last Run
Time", Author, "Task to Run", "Run As User", "Schedule Type" | Format-list
  }
  else
  {
    Write-Host "No Scheduled Tasks`r`n"
  }

  if($results[4])
  {
    Write-Host "Service Information"
    $results[4] | select SystemName, name, DisplayName, StartMode, Pathname,
StartName, State | format-list
  }
  else

```

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```

{
    write-host "No Matching Services`r`n"
}
if($results[5])
{
    Write-Host "Autostart Registry Keys Found"
    $results[5] | select key, value | format-list
}
else
{
    Write-Host "No Autostart Registry Keys Found"
}
if($results[6])
{
    Write-Host "Autostart Folder Results`r`n"
    $results[6] | format-list
    Write-Host "`r`n"
}
else
{
    Write-Host "No Matching Autostart Folder Entries`r`n"
}
if($results[7])
{
    Write-Host "Executable Timestamps"
    $results[7] | select name, creationtime, creationtimeutc, lastwritetime,
lastwritetimeutc, lastaccesstime, lastaccesstimeutc | format-list
}
else
{
    Write-host "Couldn't get executable timestamp information. File doesn't
exist.`r`n"
}
if($results[8])
{
    Write-Host "Files created within $search minutes of the executable in question"
    $results[8] | select creationtime, Fullname | format-list
}
else
{
    Write-Host "Search not requested or no files created within search timeframe
of executable in question`r`n"
}
}
if($outpath)
{

```

```

$results[0] | export-csv -NoTypeInfoInformation "$outpath$p-ProcessLineage.csv"

$results[1] | select modulename, filename, hash, company, fileversion | export-csv
-NoTypeInfoInformation "$outpath$p-LoadedDLLs.csv"

if($results[2])
{
    $results[2] | export-csv -NoTypeInfoInformation "$outpath$p-
NetworkInformation.csv"
}
else
{
    Write-Host "No Network Activity Associated with PID'r `n"
}

if($results[3])
{
    $results[3] | select Hostname, Taskname, "Next Run Time", Status, "Last Run
Time", Author, "Task to Run", "Run As User", "Schedule Type" | export-csv -
NoTypeInfoInformation "$outpath$p-ScheduledTasks.csv"
}
else
{
    Write-Host "No Scheduled Tasks`r`n"
}

if($results[4])
{
    $results[4] | select SystemName, name, DisplayName, StartMode, Pathname,
StartName, State | export-csv -NoTypeInfoInformation "$outpath$p-ServiceInformation.csv"
}
else
{
    write-host "No Matching Services`r`n"
}

if($results[5])
{
    $results[5] | select key, value | export-csv -NoTypeInfoInformation "$outpath$p-
AutostartRegistryKeys.csv"
}
else
{
    Write-Host "No Autostart Registry Keys Found"
}

if($results[6])
{

```

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```

        $results[6] | export-csv -NoTypeInfoInformation "$outpath$P-
AutostartFolderResults.csv"
    }
    else
    {
        Write-Host "No Matching Autostart Folder Entries`r`n"
    }
    if($results[7])
    {
        $results[7] | select name, creationtime, creationtimeutc, lastwritetime,
lastwritetimeutc, lastaccesstime, lastaccesstimeutc | export-csv -NoTypeInfoInformation
"$outpath$P-ExecutableTimestamps.csv"
    }
    else
    {
        Write-host "Couldn't get executable timestamp information. File doesn't
exist.`r`n"
    }
    if($results[8])
    {
        $results[8] | select creationtime, Fullname | export-csv -NoTypeInfoInformation
"$outpathPID-$P-FilesystemSearchResults.csv"
    }
    else
    {
        Write-Host "Search not requested or no files created within search timeframe
of executable in question`r`n"
    }
}
}
}

```

#The elements in the array were re-ordered when given the filepath option. This was because multiple processes could be running from the same file

Which makes the length of the array variable while the rest is static. By putting it at the end, we can work through the dynamic length with a loop.

```

elseif($filepath)
{
    if($table)
    {
        if($results[0])
        {
            Write-Host "Scheduled Task Information"
            $results[0] | select Hostname, Taskname, "Next Run Time", Status, "Last Run
Time", Author, "Task to Run", "Run As User", "Schedule Type" | Format-Table -
AutoSize -wrap
        }
    }
}

```

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```

else
{
    Write-Host "No Scheduled Tasks`r`n"
}

if($results[1])
{
    Write-Host "Service Information"
    $results[1] | select SystemName, name, DisplayName, StartMode, Pathname,
StartName, State | format-table -auto -Wrap
}
else
{
    write-host "No Matching Services`r`n"
}
if($results[2])
{
    Write-Host "Autostart Registry Keys Found"
    $results[2] | select key, value | format-table -auto -wrap
}
else
{
    Write-Host "No Autostart Registry Keys Found"
}
if($results[3])
{
    Write-Host "Autostart Folder Results`r`n"
    $results[3]
    Write-Host "`r`n"
}
else
{
    Write-Host "No Matching Autostart Folder Entries`r`n"
}
if($results[4])
{
    Write-Host "Executable Timestamps"
    $results[4] | select name, creationtime, creationtimeutc, lastwritetime,
lastwritetimeutc, lastaccesstime, lastaccesstimeutc | format-table -auto -wrap
}
else
{
    Write-host "Couldn't get executable timestamp information. File doesn't
exist.`r`n"
}
if($results[5])

```

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```

{
    Write-Host "Files created within $search minutes of the executable in question"
    $results[5] | select creationtime, Fullname | format-table -AutoSize -wrap
}
else
{
    Write-Host "Search not requested or no files created within search timeframe
of executable in question'r `n"
}

#Check if any results from the file running as a process. if so, process the data,
otherwise skip it and move on.
if($results[6])
{
    ###start running process processing
    $i = 6 #starting at 6 to match the index position of results array
    do
    {
        Write-Host "Process Lineage in Reverse Order"
        $results[$i] | Format-Table -auto -wrap

        Write-Host "Process Loaded DLLs"
        $results[$i+1] | select modulename, filename, hash, company, fileversion |
Format-Table -auto -Wrap

        if($results[$i+2])
        {
            Write-Host "Network Information"
            $results[$i+2] | Format-Table -auto -wrap
        }
        else
        {
            Write-Host "No Network Activity Associated with PID'r `n"
        }

        $i += 3

    }while($i -lt $results.count)
    }
else
{
    Write-Host "File not running as process"
}
}
elseif($list -or !$outpath)

```

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```

{
    if($results[0])
    {
        Write-Host "Scheduled Task Information"
        $results[0] | select Hostname, Taskname, "Next Run Time", Status, "Last Run
Time", Author, "Task to Run", "Run As User", "Schedule Type" | Format-list
    }
    else
    {
        Write-Host "No Scheduled Tasks`r`n"
    }

    if($results[1])
    {
        Write-Host "Service Information"
        $results[1] | select SystemName, name, DisplayName, StartMode, Pathname,
StartName, State | format-list
    }
    else
    {
        write-host "No Matching Services`r`n"
    }
    if($results[2])
    {
        Write-Host "Autostart Registry Keys Found"
        $results[2] | select key, value | format-list
    }
    else
    {
        Write-Host "No Autostart Registry Keys Found"
    }
    if($results[3])
    {
        Write-Host "Autostart Folder Results`r`n"
        $results[3] | format-list
        Write-Host "`r`n"
    }
    else
    {
        Write-Host "No Matching Autostart Folder Entries`r`n"
    }
    if($results[4])
    {
        Write-Host "Executable Timestamps"
    }
}

```

```

        $results[4] | select name, creationtime, creationtimeutc, lastwritetime,
lastwritetimeutc, lastaccesstime, lastaccesstimeutc | format-list
    }
    else
    {
        Write-host "Couldn't get executable timestamp information. File doesn't
exist.`r`n"
    }
    if($results[5])
    {
        Write-Host "Files created within $search minutes of the executable in question"
        $results[5] | select creationtime, Fullname | format-list
    }
    else
    {
        Write-Host "Search not requested or no files created within search timeframe
of executable in question`r`n"
    }

    #Check if any results from the file running as a process. if so, process the data,
    otherwise skip it and move on.
    if($results[6])
    {
        ###start running process processing
        $i = 6 #starting at 6 to match the index position of results array
        do
        {
            Write-Host "Process Lineage in Reverse Order"
            $results[$i] | format-list

            Write-Host "Process Loaded DLLs"
            $results[$i+1] | select modulename, filename, hash, company, fileversion |
Format-List

            if($results[$i+2])
            {
                Write-Host "Network Information"
                $results[$i+2] | Format-List
            }
            else
            {
                Write-Host "No Network Activity Associated with PID`r`n"
            }
            $i += 3
        }while($i -lt $results.count)
    }

```

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```

else
{
    Write-Host "File not running as process"
}

}
if($outpath)
{
    $justFilename = ($filepath.split("\")[-1]).split('.')[0]

    if($results[0])
    {
        $results[0] | select Hostname, Taskname, "Next Run Time", Status, "Last Run
Time", Author, "Task to Run", "Run As User", "Schedule Type" | export-csv -
NoTypeInfoInformation "$outpath$justFilename-ScheduledTasks.csv"
    }
    else
    {
        Write-Host "No Scheduled Tasks`r`n"
    }

    if($results[1])
    {
        $results[1] | select SystemName, name, DisplayName, StartMode, Pathname,
StartName, State | export-csv -NoTypeInfoInformation "$outpath$justFilename-
ServiceInformation.csv"
    }
    else
    {
        write-host "No Matching Services`r`n"
    }
    if($results[2])
    {
        $results[2] | select key, value | export-csv -NoTypeInfoInformation
"$outpath$justFilename-AutostartRegistryKeys.csv"
    }
    else
    {
        Write-Host "No Autostart Registry Keys Found"
    }
    if($results[3])
    {
        $results[3] | export-csv -NoTypeInfoInformation "$outpath$justFilename-
AutostartFolderResults.csv"
    }
    else

```

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```

{
    Write-Host "No Matching Autostart Folder Entries`r`n"
}
if($results[4])
{
    $results[4] | select name, creationtime, creationtimeutc, lastwritetime,
lastwritetimeutc, lastaccesstime, lastaccesstimeutc | export-csv -NoTypeInfoation
"$outpath$justFilename-ExecutableTimestamps.csv"
}
else
{
    Write-host "Couldn't get executable timestamp information. File doesn't
exist.`r`n"
}
if($results[5])
{
    $results[5] | select creationtime, Fullname | export-csv -NoTypeInfoation
"$outpath$justFilename-FilesystemSearchResults.csv"
}
else
{
    Write-Host "Search not requested or no files created within search timeframe
of executable in question`r`n"
}

#Check if any results from the file running as a process. if so, process the data,
otherwise skip it and move on.
if($results[6])
{
    ###start running process processing
    $i = 6 #starting at 6 to match the index position of results array
    do
    {
        #Get the PID of the first process found. Just trying to get the PID field from
results gives an array of all PIDs within the process
        # lineage, so we have to specify just the first PID in the array, which is the pid
of the executable in question
        $currentPID = ($results[$i][0].pid)[0]

        $results[$i] | export-csv -NoTypeInfoation "$outpath$justFilename-
$currentPID-ProcessLineage.csv"

        $results[$i+1] | select modulename, filename, hash, company, fileversion |
export-csv -NoTypeInfoation "$outpath$justFilename-$currentPID-LoadedDLLs.csv"

        if($results[$i+2])

```

```

        {
            $results[$i+2] | export-csv -NoTypeInfoInformation "$outpath$justFilename-
$currentPID-NetworkInformation.csv"
        }
        else
        {
            Write-Host "No Network Activity Associated with PID $ currentPID"r `n"
        }

        $i += 3

    }while($i -lt $results.count)
}
else
{
    Write-Host "File not running as process"
}
}
}

if($vt -and $vtresults)
{
    if($stable)
    {
        $vtresults | select Filename, LastAnalysisDate, Undetected, type-unsupported,
malicious, suspicious, failure, timeout, harmless, hash | Format-Table -AutoSize -wrap
    }
    elseif($list -or !$outpath)
    {
        $vtresults | select Filename, LastAnalysisDate, Undetected, type-unsupported,
malicious, suspicious, failure, timeout, harmless, hash | Format-list
    }
    if($outpath)
    {
        if($p)
        {
            $vtresults | select Filename, LastAnalysisDate, Undetected, type-unsupported,
malicious, suspicious, failure, timeout, harmless, hash | Export-Csv -NoTypeInfoInformation
"$outpath$p-VirusTotal.csv"
        }
        elseif($filepath)
        {
            $vtresults | select Filename, LastAnalysisDate, Undetected, type-unsupported,
malicious, suspicious, failure, timeout, harmless, hash | Export-Csv -NoTypeInfoInformation
"$outpath$justFilename-VirusTotal.csv"
        }
    }
}

```

```

    }
  }
}
elseif($vt -and !$vtresults)
{
  Write-host "No Results from Virus Total. This likely means all DLLs loaded are
  from Microsoft or the file is not a running process."
}

}

if ($computer)
{
  if(!$cred)
  {
    $cred = Get-Credential
  }

  $temp = Invoke-Command -ComputerName $computer -cred $cred -ScriptBlock
  ${function:FullScript} -ArgumentList $p,$tree,$search,$filepath

  if($vt -and $p)
  {
    $vtresults = VirusTotal $temp[1]
  }
  elseif($vt -and $filepath)
  {
    if($temp[7])
    {
      $vtresults = VirusTotal $temp[7]
    }
  }

  if($temp -ne $false)
  {
    FormatOutput $temp $vtresults
  }
}
else
{

```

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```
$temp = FullScript $p $tree $search $filepath

if($vt -and $p)
{
    $vtresults = VirusTotal $temp[1]
}
elseif($vt -and $filepath)
{
    if($temp[7])
    {
        $vtresults = VirusTotal $temp[7]
    }
}

if($raw)
{
    $temp
}
if(($temp -ne $false) -and !$raw)
{
    FormatOutput $temp $vtresults
}
}
```