



# Thinking Outside The Sandbox

Violating Trust Boundaries In Uncommon Ways

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# Agenda

- **Introduction**
- **Understanding Trust Boundaries**
- **Attack Surface Archetypes**
- **Uncommon Attack Vectors**
- **Conclusion**

# Introduction



# whois Brian Gorenc

Employer: HP

Organization: HP Security Research  
Zero Day Initiative

Responsibilities: Manager, Vulnerability Research  
Organizing Pwn2Own Hacking Competition  
Verifying EIP == 0x41414141

Free Time: Endlessly Flowing Code Paths  
That Don't Lead to Vulnerabilities

Twitter: @MaliciousInput, @thezdi

# whois Jasiel Spelman

Employer: HP

Organization: HP Security Research  
Zero Day Initiative

Responsibilities: Security Research  
Staying Current with the Latest Vulnerabilities  
Cursing at IDA  
Working During the Evening, Sleeping During the Day

Free Time: Rock Climbing  
Playing Electric Bass

Twitter: @WanderingGlitch, @thezdi

# Don't let mitigations get in your way!

The screenshot shows a Windows desktop environment. In the background, a browser window is open at the URL `http://172.16.208.134/exploit.html` with the text "Exploiting..." displayed. In the foreground, the Process Explorer application is running, showing a list of processes. The process `explorer.exe` is highlighted in cyan. A Windows Calculator application is also open in the foreground, partially overlapping the Process Explorer window.

| Process      | Integrity | PID  | CPU  | Private Bytes | Working Set | Description | Company Name |
|--------------|-----------|------|------|---------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| csrss.exe    |           | 600  | 0.27 | 1,320 K       | 5,188 K     |             |              |
| winlogon.exe |           | 640  |      | 960 K         | 4,184 K     |             |              |
| dwm.exe      |           | 916  | 0.82 | 67,604 K      | 20,776 K    |             |              |
| explorer.exe | Medium    | 4072 | 1.75 | 40,452 K      | 68,672 K    | Windows E   |              |
| vmtoolsd.exe | Medium    | 1212 | 0.09 | 12,680 K      | 24,324 K    | VMware Tc   |              |
| procexp.exe  | Medium    | 3272 | 0.48 | 8,080 K       | 19,468 K    | Sysinterna  |              |
| iexplore.exe | Medium    | 1816 | 0.10 | 12,668 K      | 27,648 K    | Internet Ex |              |
| iexplore.exe | Low       | 940  | 0.01 | 11,692 K      | 30,020 K    | Internet Ex |              |
| calc.exe     | Medium    | 456  |      | 5,404 K       | 10,692 K    | Windows C   |              |
| MpCmdRun.exe |           | 1744 |      | 1,428 K       | 4,240 K     |             |              |

Calculator window details:

- View Edit Help
- 0
- MC MR MS M+ M-
- ← CE C ± √
- 7 8 9 / %
- 4 5 6 \* 1/x
- 1 2 3 - =
- 0 . +

Process Explorer status bar:

- CPU Usage: 4.79%
- Commit Charge: 30.69%
- Processes: 45
- Physical Usage: 67.48%

# Understanding Trust Boundaries



# Trust Boundaries

New Layer of the Defense

## Segments Handling of User Supplied Input

Untrusted Processing

Trusted Processing

## Check Point in Application

Validate Data

Security Policy Enforcement

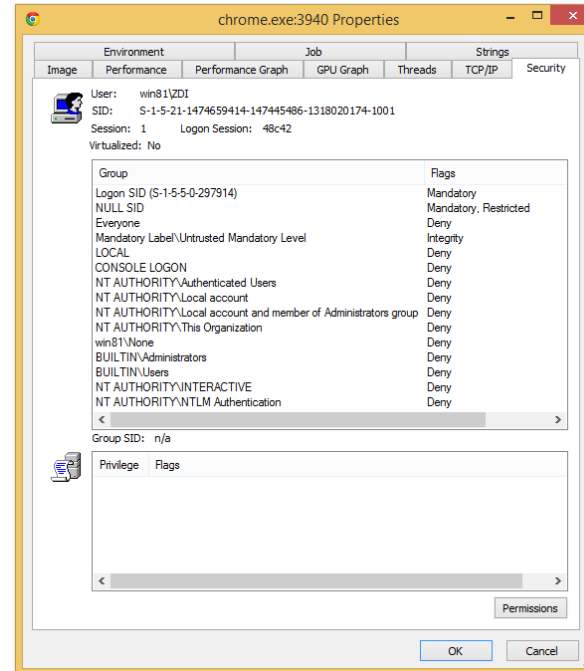
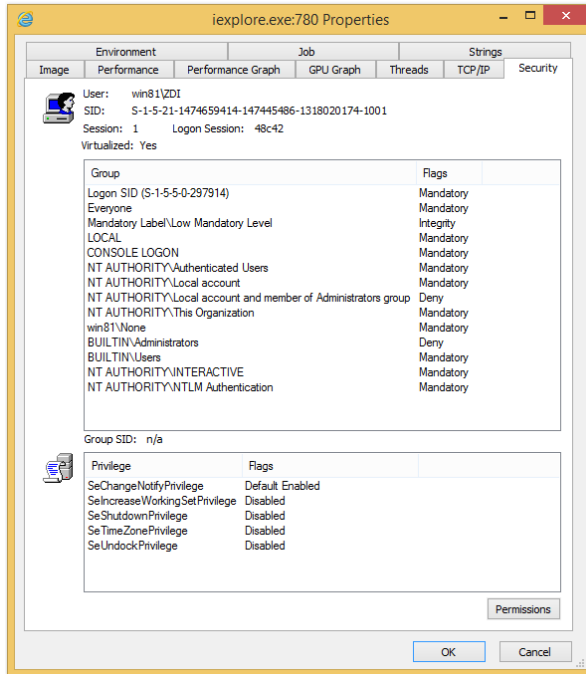
## Assume Code Execution Vulnerabilities Exist

Mitigate Their Impact on User



# Restricted Access Tokens

Obtained by calling CreateRestrictedToken or AdjustTokenPrivilege



# Job Object Limitations

## Manage Processes as a Unit

Apply Restrictions to Single Point

## Limitations Can Prevent

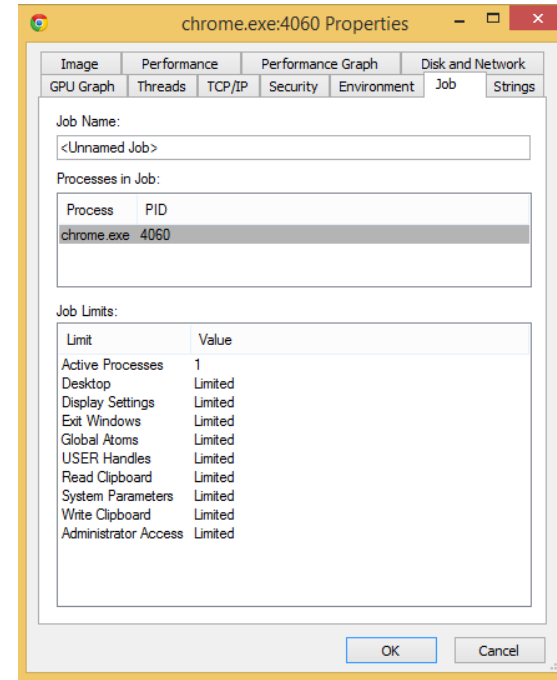
Creating and Switching Desktops

Exiting Windows

Reading Data from Clipboard

Writing Data to the Clipboard

Changing System Parameters



# Window Station and Desktop Isolation

## Create and Manage User Interface Objects

Window Station contains Clipboard, Atom Table, and Desktops

## Communication Between Processes Running on Same Desktop

Window Messages

Hook Procedures

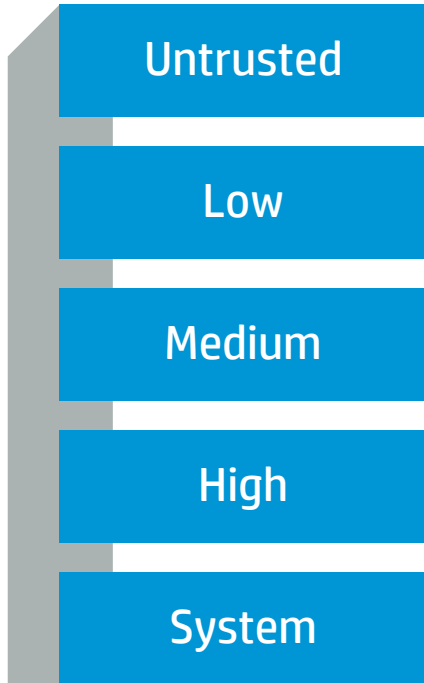
## Elevate Privileges by Leveraging Other Processes on Same Desktop

Shatter Attacks

## Isolation on Unique Desktop Limits Lateral Movement

# Mandatory Integrity Control

Introduced in Windows Vista



## Represents Level of Trust

Processes, Files, other Securable Objects

## User Interface Privilege Isolation (UIPI)

Prevents Low Integrity Process Communication to Higher Integrity Processes

- Sending Windows Messages
- Installing Hook Procedures

## Microsoft Internet Explorer

Medium Integrity Broker

Low Integrity Render

## Google Chrome

Medium Integrity Broker

Untrusted Integrity Render

# Sandboxed Process Communication

## Communication Between Different Processes Must Occur

Requirement for Rich Feature Sets

## Broker Offers Restricted Set of APIs to Sandboxed Process

Used to Execute Privileged Functionality

Enforces Security Policies or Restrictions

## Restricted Interfaces Can Take Several Forms

Shared Memory Inter-Process Communication (IPC)

COM-based Interfaces

# Attack Surface Archetypes



# Kernel APIs

## SYSTEM-level Code Execution

### Kernel Vulnerabilities Difficult to Discover

Been Through Many Security Reviews

Highly Tested Prior to Release

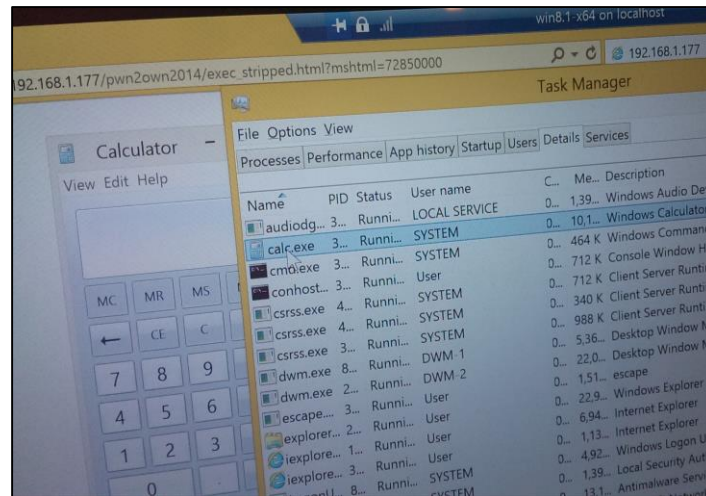
### Case Studies

#### Pwn2Own 2013

- SYSTEM-level compromise through Google Chrome
- Jon Butler and Nils from MWR Labs
- Vulnerability in NtUserMessageCall due to Boolean argument misuse

#### Pwn2Own 2014

- SYSTEM-level Compromise through Microsoft Internet Explorer
- Andreas Schmidt and Sebastian Apelt
- Double-free Vulnerability within AFD.sys



# Inter-Process Communication Handling

## Most Common Issues in Inter-Process Communication

### Memory Corruption Issues

- Broker Process Incorrectly Parsing Parameters

### Logic Errors

- Bypass Security Policies to Elevate Privileges

## Case Study

### Adobe Reader Sandbox Escape Found in Wild

- Heap Overflow in Broker Handling of GetClipboardFormatNameW

### Microsoft Internet Explorer CVE-2013-4015

- Due to the handling of the “\t” whitespace character
- Bypass located in ieframe!GetSanitizedParametersFromNonQuotedCmdLine()
- Launch an Attacker-specified Executable Name at Medium Integrity



# Shared Resources

Handles for Sections, Files, Keys, etc.

## Sharing (or Leaking) of Privileged Resources

Between the Sandboxed Process and Broker Process

Commonly Leaked by Third-party DLLs

## Write Access Can Help Attackers Gain Privilege

Provides an Opportunity for Escape

## Browser Developers Taking Proactive Stance

Certain DLLs Blacklisted from Sandboxed Process

Handles Shared Through Broker

# Additional Vectors

## Researchers Discovered Many Innovative Ways To Escape

Base Named Object Namespace Squatting

Null DACLs Abuse

Socket-Based Attacks

Policy Engine Subversion

Third-party Software/Local Service Weaknesses

## Application Developers Need to Balance Security and Performance

Might Leave Enough Space to Escape

# Uncommon Attack Vectors



# Save File Dialog Abuse

Exploitation – Move File Primitive

**Need Way to Save Downloaded Files**

CProtectedModeAPI::ShowSaveFileDialog

- Ask the User for Permission

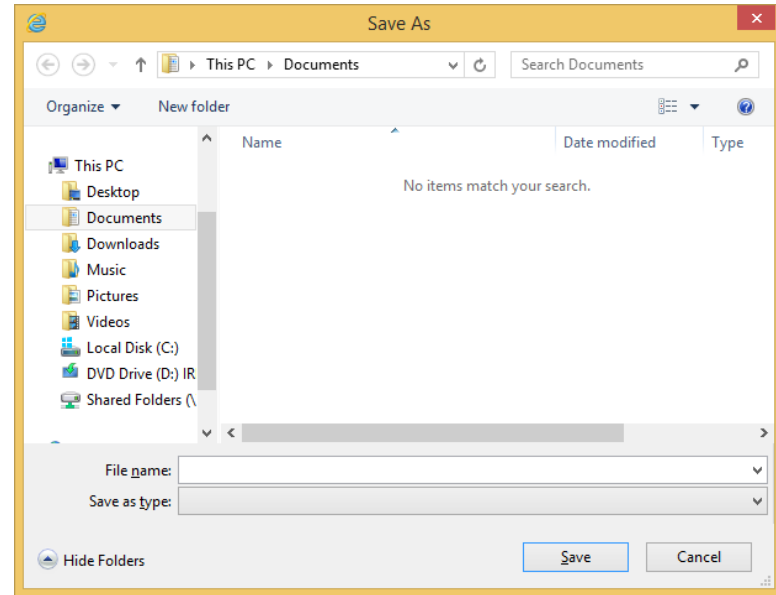
CProtectedModeAPI::SaveFileAs

- Move the File

**Mark of the Web**

Applied to Downloaded Files

Different Write Required



# Save File Dialog Abuse

Exploitation – File Creation Primitive

## Leverage CRecoveryStore

Recovers Tab After Crash

Predictable Location

Renderer Controls Written Title and Location

## HTML Application Parser

Extremely Lenient

Executes Anything Within <script> Tags

```
IEFRAME!CTabRecoveryData::SetCurrentTitle:  
68641c26 8bff          mov     edi,edi  
0:011> da poi(@esp+8)  
04292de4  "<script language='vbscript'>Set "  
04292e04  "obj = CreateObject("Wscript.Shel"  
04292e24  "l")..obj.Run "calc.exe"</script>"  
04292e44  ""
```

# Save File Dialog Abuse

## Exploitation – Combining Primitives

### CProtectedModeAPI::ShowSaveFileDialog

Destination in the Startup Folder

### CTabRecoveryData::SetCurrentTitle

Write Malicious Script

### CProtectionModeAPI::SaveFileAs

Source is the Recovery Store

```
IEFRAME!CProtectedModeAPI::ShowSaveFileDialog:  
6880573f 8bff          mov     edi,edi  
0:015> du poi(@esp+c)  
042acaf0 "C:\Users\ZDI\AppData\Local\...\ro"  
042acb30 "aming\Microsoft\Windows\Start Me"  
042acb70 "nu\Programs\Startup\hello.hta\."
```

```
IEFRAME!CProtectedModeAPI::SaveFileAs:  
688041fc 8bff          mov     edi,edi  
0:015> du poi(@esp+8)  
0428ab14 "C:\Users\ZDI\AppData\Local\Micro"  
0428ab54 "soft\Internet Explorer\Recovery\  
0428ab94 "Active\Microsoft.Website.9CB8E69"  
0428abd4 "8.8730F9E8\{6DF57AB3-FBB7-11E3-9"  
0428ac14 "729-000C2976B060}.dat"
```

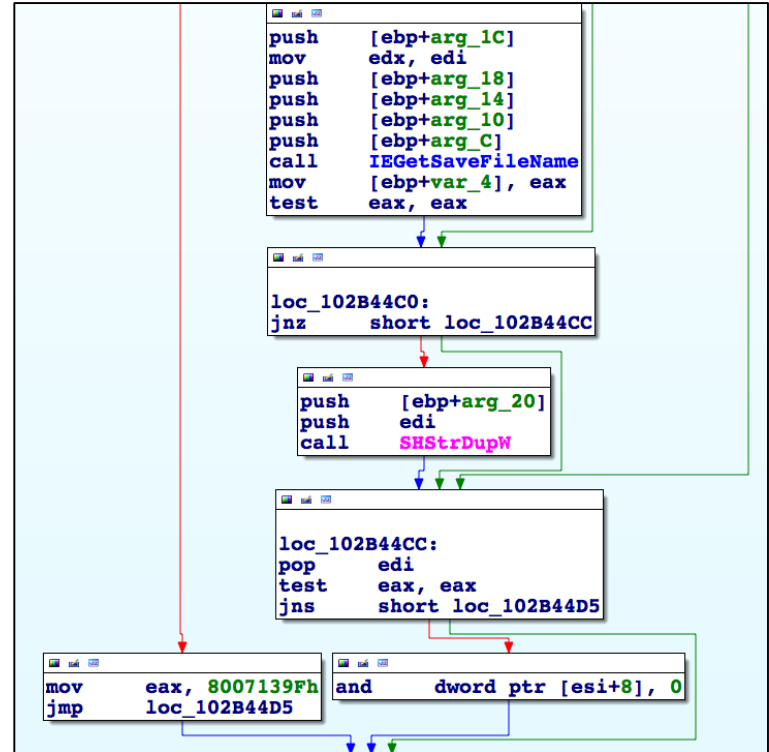
# Save File Dialog Abuse

## Root Cause Analysis

### CProtectedModeAPI::ShowSaveFileDialog

#### Success Assumed

- Reset Only on Error
- Not When User Cancels Dialog



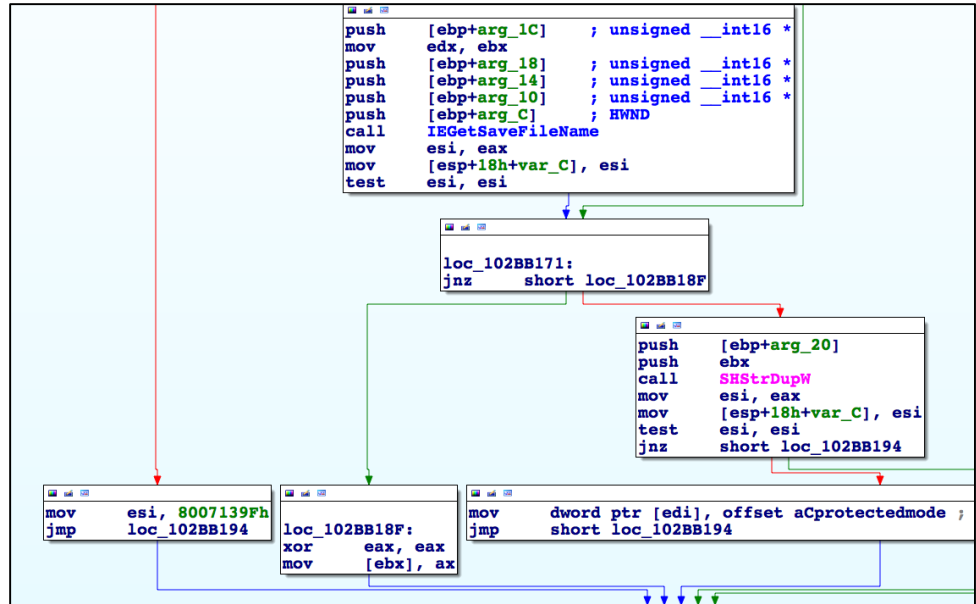
# Save File Dialog Abuse

## Remediation

### CProtectedModeAPI::ShowSaveFileDialog

Assumes Failure

Success Only When User Confirms





# Save File Dialog Abuse

## Remediation

### CRecoveryStore

Accessed via CIEUserBrokerObject::BrokerCreateKnownObject

Excluded from List of Allowed Classes

Some Parts Indirectly Still Reachable



```
IEFRAME!CTabRe... Data... CurrentTitle:  
68641c26 8bff... edi,edi  
0:011> da poi(@esp  
04292de4 "<script language='vbscript'>Set "  
04292e04 "obj = C...ect("Wscript.Shel"  
04292e24 "1")...c.exe"</script>"  
04292e44 ""
```

# Clipboard Abuse

## Exploitation - Clipboard Write Primitive

### Allow Clipboard Access

ClipboardHostMsg\_WriteObjectsAsync

ClipboardHostMsg\_WriteObjectsSync

### Calls SetClipboardData Windows API

### Data Serialized Based on Requested Type

WriteText

- Handles Plain Text
- Specifies Format

WriteData

- Handles Arbitrary Data
- Uses Specified Format

# Clipboard Abuse

## Exploitation – Undocumented Clipboard Formats

**Caution** Clipboard data is not trusted. Parse the data carefully before using it in your application.

### MoreOlePrivateData

Clipboard Type 0xC016

Can Be Used to Instantiate COM Controls

ActiveX Killbit Not Checked

### Clipboard format

Determined by ObjectType Argument

CBF\_TEXT Sets Format Based on Operating System

CBF\_DATA Gets Format From Arguments

- Arbitrary Data Put on the Clipboard

# Clipboard Abuse

## Remediation

### List of Registered Formats

Serves as the Allowed List

Checked with `Clipboard::IsRegisteredFormatType`

```
void ScopedClipboardWriter::WritePickledData(  
    const Pickle& pickle, const Clipboard::FormatType& format) {  
    // |format| may originate from the renderer, so sanity check it.  
    if (!Clipboard::IsRegisteredFormatType(format))  
        return;  
}
```

# Symbolic Link Abuse

## Exploitation – Create File?

### Background

Google Chrome Uses a SQLite Database to Store Data for an Opened Tab  
IPC Exists to Facilitate Creation and Access to SQLite Database.

- DatabaseHostMsg\_OpenFile Cross Call

Leads to DatabaseUtil::GetFullFilePathForVfsFile

- Merges Desired File with the Base Directory Path
- Ensure Access Outside Sandbox Does Not Occur

Chrome Treated the Supplied Filename as Potentially Malicious

```
// Watch out for directory traversal attempts from a compromised renderer.  
if (full_path.value().find(FILE_PATH_LITERAL("..")) !=  
    base::FilePath::StringType::npos)  
    return base::FilePath();  
return full_path;
```

# Symbolic Link Abuse

## VfsBackend::OpenFile is Called After the Call to GetFullPathForVfsFile

Results in Call to the CreateFile Windows API

## Files Stored in NTFS contain Streams

Accessed by Appending the Stream Name and Stream Type to the End of the File  
Colon Separated Values

- "\$I30" is the Stream Name
  - Specifies the Default Stream Name
- "\$INDEX\_ALLOCATION" is the Stream Type
  - Specifies a Directory Stream

## Call to CreateFile with “:\$I30:\$INDEX\_ALLOCATION” Appended to the Filename

Specifies Access to the Default Directory Stream of the Filename

Implicitly sets the PLATFORM\_FILE\_BACKUP\_SEMANTICS flag

# Symbolic Link Abuse

Exploitation – Arbitrary File Creation

**Turn Newly Created Directory into a Junction Point to an Arbitrary Location**

Renderer Holds a Handle to New Directory Stream

Call to DeviceIoControl

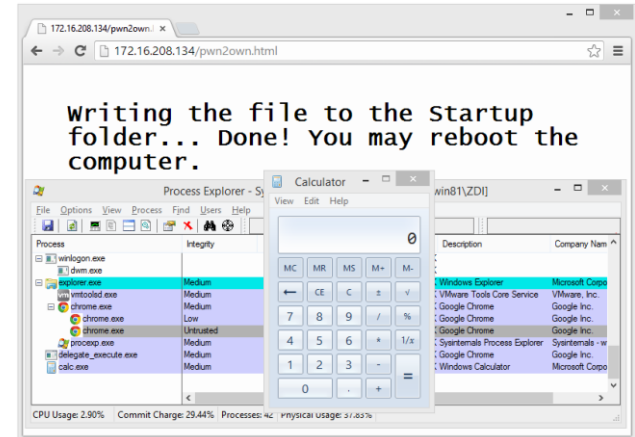
Using FSCTL\_SET\_REPARSE\_POINT as the IoControlCode

## Last Steps

Create or Modify a File Off of Privileged Handle

- Target User's Startup Directory

Achieve Code Execution at Medium Integrity



# Symbolic Link Abuse

## Root Cause Analysis

### Stems from a Windows Oddity

Low Privileged Process Can't Create Symbolic Links

...But Can Create a Junction Point

### Junction Point is a Type of Reparse Point

Acts as Symbolic Link to a Directory

### Junction Points Require a File Directory Handle

Passing PLATFORM\_FILE\_BACKUP\_SEMANTICS as a Flag to CreateFile

Not Allowed By DatabaseHostMsg\_OpenFile Cross Call

Specifying "\$I30:\$INDEX\_ALLOCATION" in the Filename Indirectly Sets Flag



# Symbolic Link Abuse

## Remediation

### Fixed within CreatePlatformFileUnsafe in platform\_file\_win.cc

Commit 693fcbe943b19153b14b3c4c18f6eb4edb42a555

```
HANDLE file = CreateFile(name.value().c_str(), access, sharing, NULL,
                        disposition, create_flags, NULL);

if (INVALID_HANDLE_VALUE != file){
    // Don't allow directories to be opened without the proper flag (block ADS).
    if (!(flags & PLATFORM_FILE_BACKUP_SEMANTICS)) {
        BY_HANDLE_FILE_INFORMATION info = { 0 };
        BOOL result = GetFileInformationByHandle(file, &info);
        DCHECK(result);
        if (info.dwFileAttributes & (FILE_ATTRIBUTE_DIRECTORY |
                                    FILE_ATTRIBUTE_REPARSE_POINT)) {
            CloseHandle(file);
            file = INVALID_HANDLE_VALUE;
        }
    }
}
```

# Conclusion



# Next Evolution in Mitigations

/GS, DEP, ASLR, SAFESEH, SEHOP, ...

## Vendors Isolated Applications

Implementing Restricted Permissions

Employing Best Practices

Limiting the APIs Available to the Sandboxed Process

## Isolation Technologies Tested

Hours Spent Auditing Code For:

- Memory Corruption Issues
- Logic Errors

## Primary Purpose

Clear Separation Between Untrusted and Trusted Processing

# Drives Next Evolution in Exploits

Many Techniques Discovered to Violate This Trust Boundary

## Traditional Approaches

Find Memory Corruption Vulnerability in IPC Message Handling

Attack Kernel to get SYSTEM-level Privilege Escalation

## Uncommon Approaches

Logic Errors in Dialogs

Vulnerabilities in Clipboard Handling

Abuse of Symbolic Links or Junction Point

## Highly Effective Against the Most Advanced Application Sandboxes

Understanding Escapes Provides a Unique Perspective Allowing You to Find the Next One

# Thank you

