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Liar! Macs have no viruses!

-[Revisiting Mac OS X Kernel Rootkits!]-

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- Don't take me too seriously, I love the Human brain!
- The capitalist pig degrees: Economics & MBA.
- Worked for the evil banking system!
- Security Researcher at COSEINC (the PLA rumour so maybe I'm still on the evil side, damn!).
- Lousy coder.
- Co-authored a MISC article without speaking French!
- Passionate about 911s.



Prologue

Today's subject

- Classic kernel rootkits aka kernel extensions.
- Two simple ideas that can make them a lot more powerful and universal.
- Sample applications of the "new" possibilities.



Prologue

Also works with 10.8.3!

Assumptions

(the economist's dirty secret that makes everything possible)

- Reaching to uid=O is your problem!
- The same with startup and persistency aka APT.
- Probabilities should be favorable to you.
- Odays garage sale at SyScan '13 by Stefan Esser.
- You know how to create kernel extensions.
- Target is Mountain Lion 10.8.2, 64 bits.

Prologue

Current state of the "art"

- Very few <u>public</u> developments since Leopard, besides EFI, and recently DTrace rootkits!
- Just lame Made in Italy rootkits (there goes the myth about Italian design!).
- Still, we must concede that they are "effective" and working in the "wild".
- The tools scene is even worse! No Such Tools...



Simple Ideas



Sophisticated! Not simple.



Simple Ideas Problem #1

- Many interesting kernel symbols are not exported.
- Some are available in Unsupported & Private KPIs.
- That's not good enough for stable rootkits.
- Solving kernel symbols from a kernel extension is possible in Lion and Mountain Lion.
- Not in Snow Leopard and previous versions.





- LINKEDIT segment contains the symbol info.
- Zeroed up to Snow Leopard.
- Available in Lion and Mountain Lion.
- Not possible to have universal solution (Snow Leopard is still used by many people).
- OS.X/Crisis solves the symbols in userland and sends them to the kernel rootkit.





- One easy solution is to read the kernel image from disk and process its symbols.
- Some kind of "myth" that reading filesystem(s) from kernel is kind of hard to do.
- In fact it is very easy...
- Kernel ASLR is not a problem in this scenario.



Simple Ideas









Idea #1

- Virtual File System VFS.
- Read mach_kernel using VFS functions.
- Possible to implement using only KPI symbols.
- And with non-exported.
- Idea #2 can help with these.





- Let's explore the KPI symbols solution.
- Recipe for success:
- □ Vnode of mach_kernel.
- UVFS context.
- Data buffer.
- UIO structure/buffer.



Simple Ideas

Pay attention to that NULL!

- How to obtain the vnode information.
- vnode_lookup(const char* path, int flags, vnode_t *vpp, vfs_context_t ctx).
- Converts a path into a vnode.
- Something like this:

vnode_t kernel_node = NULLVP; int error = vnode_lookup("/mach_kernel", 0, &kernel_vnode, NULL);

Simple Ideas

- Why can we pass NULL as vfs context?
- Because Apple is our friend and takes care of it for us!

```
errno_t
vnode_lookup(const char *path, int flags, vnode_t *vpp, vfs_context_t ctx)
{
    struct nameidata nd;
    int error;
    u_int32_t ndflags = 0;

    if (ctx == NULL) { /* XXX technically an error */
        ctx = vfs_context_current(); // <- thank you! :-)
    }
{....}
</pre>
```

vfs_context_current is available in Unsupported KPI.





- Alex Ionescu told me that this context might not be stable enough.
- If used very early in the boot process.
- You probably want to use the correct function.
- Or steal the context from somewhere else.



Simple Ideas

Data buffer.

- Statically allocated.
- Or dynamically, using one of the many kernel functions:
- kalloc, kmem_alloc, OSMalloc, IOMalloc, MALLOC, _MALLOC.





UIO buffer.

- Use uio_create and uio_addiov.
- Both are available in BSD KPI.

```
char buffer[PAGE_SIZE_64];
uio_t uio = NULL;
uio = uio_create(1, 0, UIO_SYSSPACE, UIO_READ);
int error = uio_addiov(uio, CAST_USER_ADDR_T(buffer), PAGE_SIZE_64);
```



Simple Ideas

- Recipe for success:
- \checkmark vnode of /mach_kernel.
- ✓ VFS context.
- ☑ Data buffer.
- ✓ UIO structure/buffer.
- Now we can finally read the kernel from disk...



Simple Ideas

- Reading from the filesystem:
- VNOP_READ(vnode_t vp, struct io* uio, int ioflag, vfs_context_t ctx).
- "Call down to a filesystem to read file data".
- Once again Apple takes care of the vfs context.
- If call was successful the buffer will contain data.
- To write use VNOP_WRITE.





- To solve the symbols we just need to read the Mach-O header and extract some information:
 - TEXT segment address (to find KASLR).
 - LINKEDIT segment offset and size.
 - Symbols and strings tables offset and size from LC_SYMTAB command.





- Read __LINKEDIT into a buffer (~1Mb).
- Process it and solve immediately all symbols we (might) need.
- Or just solve symbols when required to obfuscate things a little.
- Don't forget that KASLR slide must be added to the retrieved values.





- To compute the KASLR value find out the base address of the running kernel.
- Using IDT or a kernel function address and then lookup Mach-O magic value backwards.
- Compute the ___TEXT address difference to the value we extracted from disk image.
- Or use some other method you might have.





Simple Ideas **Checkpoint #1**

- We are able to read and write to any file.
- For now the kernel is the interesting target.
- We can solve any available symbol function or variable, exported or not in KPIs.
- Compatible with all OS X versions.





Simple Ideas Problem #2

- Many interesting functions & variables are static and not available thru symbols.
- Cross references not available (IDA spoils us!).
- Hex search sucks and it's not that reliable.





Simple Ideas

Idea #2

- Integrate a disassembler in the rootkit!
- Tested with diStorm, my personal favorite.
- Great surprise, it worked at first attempt!
- It's kind of like having IDA inside the rootkit.
- Extremely fast in a modern CPU.
- One second to disassemble the kernel.





- The things you learn...
- There is already a disassembler in XNU kernel!
- DTrace has this function: dtrace_disx86.
- "Disassemble a single x86 or amd64 instruction."
- Unfortunately, strings output depends on DIS_TEXT, which is not active.
- Still, it's a fun thing to be found in the kernel.
- Thanks to espes for the tip $\textcircled{\odot}$.





Simple Ideas Checkpoint#2

- Ability to search for static functions and variables.
- Possibility to hook calls by searching references and modifying the offsets.
- Improve success rate while searching for structure 's fields.



Simple Ideas

- We can have full control of the kernel.
- Everything can be dynamic.
- Stable and future proof rootkits.
- Can Apple close the VFS door?
- We still have the disassembler(s).
- Kernel anti-disassembly ? ③
- Imagination is the limit!





Simple Ideas Practical applications

- One way to execute userland code.
- Playing with DTrace's syscall provider.
- Zombie rootkits.
- Additional applications in the SyScan slides and Phrack paper (whenever it comes out).



- How to execute userland binaries from the rootkit.
- Many different possibilities exist.
- This particular one uses (or abuses):
 - Mach-O header "features".
 - Dyld.
 - Launchd.
- Not the most efficient but fun.



Idea!

- Kill a process controlled by launchd.
- Intercept the respawn.
- Inject a dynamic library into its Mach-O header.
- Let dyld do its work: load library, solve symbols and execute the library's constructor.
- Injected library can now fork, exec, and so on...



Requirements

- □ Write to userland memory from kernel.
- Dyld must read modified header.
- □ Kernel location to intercept & execute the injection.
- □ A modified Mach-O header.
- A dynamic library.
- □ Luck (always required!).



- □ Write to userland memory from kernel.
- mach_vm_write can't be used because data is in kernel space.
- copyout only copies to current proc, not arbitrary.
- Easiest solution is to use vm_map_write_user.
- "Copy out data from a kernel space into space in the destination map. The space must already exist in the destination map."



- □ Write to userland memory from kernel.
- vm_map_write_user(vm_map_t map, void *src_p, vm_map_address_t dst_addr, vm_size_t size);
- Map parameter is the map field from the task structure.
- proc and task structures are linked via void *.
- Use proc_find(int pid) to retrieve proc struct.



- ☑ Write to userland memory from kernel.
- The remaining parameters are buffer to write from, destination address, and buffer size.

```
struct proc *p = proc_find(PID);
struct task *task = (struct task*)(p->task);
kern_return_t kr = 0;
vm_prot_t new_protection = VM_PROT_WRITE | VM_PROT_READ;
char *fname = "nemo_and_snare_rule!";
// modify memory permissions
kr = mach_vm_protect(task->map, 0x1000, len, FALSE, new_protection);
kr = vm_map_write_user(task->map, fname, 0x1000, strlen(fname)+1);
proc_rele(p);
```



- ✓ Dyld must read modified header.
- Adding a new library to the header is equivalent to DYLD_INSERT_LIBRARIES (LD_PRELOAD).
- Kernel passes control to dyld.
- Then dyld to target's entrypoint.
- Dyld re-reads the Mach-O header.
- If header is modified before dyld's control we can inject a library (or change entrypoint and so on).


- □ Kernel location to intercept & execute the injection.
- We need to find a kernel function within the new process creation workflow.
- Hook it with our function responsible for modifying the target's header.
- We are looking for a specific process so new proc structure fields must be already set.



exec_mach_imgact is the "heart" of a new process:

execve() -> mac execve() exec_activate_image() Read file > exec_mach_imgact() -> run dyld -> target entry point load machfile() parse_machfile() [maps the load commands into memory] load dylinker() [sets image entrypoint to dyld]



- Inside the "heart" there's a small function called proc_resetregister.
- Located near the end so almost everything is ready to pass control to dyld.
 void proc_resetregister(proc_t p)
- Easy to rip and hook!
- Have a look at Hydra }
 (github.com/gdbinit/hydra).

```
id proc_resetregister(proc_t p)
  proc_lock(p);
  p->p_lflag &= ~P_LREGISTER;
  proc_unlock(p);
```

Purrfect!!!

- ✓ Modified Mach-O header.
- Very easy to do.
- Most binaries have enough space (>90% in iOS).
- Target in memory is always non-fat.
- Give a look at my last year presentations slides.
- Or OS.X/Boubou source code (https://github.com/gdbinit/osx_boubou).







- ✓ A dynamic library.
- Use Xcode's template.
- Add a constructor.

```
extern void init(void) __attribute__ ((constructor));
void init(void)
{
     // do evil stuff here
}
```

- Fork, exec, system, thread(s), whatever you need.
- Don't forget to cleanup library traces!



- OS X is "instrumentation" rich:
 - DTrace.

- FSEvents.
- kauth.
- kdebug.
- TrustedBSD.
- Auditing.



• Let's focus on DTrace's syscall provider.

•

- Because nemo presented DTrace rootkits.
- Siliconblade with Volatility "detects" them.
- But Volatility is vulnerable to an old trick.



Traces every syscall entry and exit.

•

- mach_trap is the mach equivalent provider.
- DTrace's philosophy of zero probe effect when disabled.
- Activation of this provider is equivalent to sysent hooking.
- Modifies the sy_call pointer inside sysent struct.



```
Before:
gdb$ print *(struct sysent*)(0xffffff8025255840+5*sizeof(struct sysent))
$12 = {
 sy narg = 0x3,
 sy resv = 0x0,
 sy flags = 0x0,
 sy call = 0xfffff8024cfc210, <- open syscall, sysent[5]</pre>
 sy arg munge32 = 0xfffff8024fe34f0,
 sy arg munge64 = 0,
 sy return type = 0x1,
 sy arg bytes = Oxc
dtrace systrace syscall is located at address 0xFFFFFF8024FDC630.
After enabling a 'syscall::open:entry' probe:
gdb$ print *(struct sysent*)(0xffffff8025255840+5*sizeof(struct sysent))
$13 = {
 sy narg = 0x3,
 sy resv = 0x0,
 sy flags = 0x0,
 sy call = 0xfffff8024fdc630,
                                   <- now points to dtrace systrace syscall</p>
 sy arg munge32 = 0xfffff8024fe34f0,
 sy arg munge64 = 0,
 sy return type = 0x1,
 sy arg bytes = 0xc
}
```



- Not very useful provider to detect sysent hooking.
- DTrace doesn't care about original pointer.
- fbt provider is better for this task.

•

- Nemo's DTrace public rootkit uses this provider ;--).
- Can be detected by dumping the sysent table and verifying if _dtrace_systrace_syscall is present.
- Probability of false positives, although small?



\$ python vol.py -f ~/Forensics/d Volatile Systems	mac_ch ltrace/l Volat:	eck_syscalls Mac\ OS\ X\ ility Framew	profi 10.8\ 64 work 2.3	ile=Mac10 4-bit-120 _alpha	0_8_3_64bitx64 ∖ e6095b.vmem				
Table Name	Index	Address	_	Symbol					
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SyscallTable	5	0xffffff800	85db440	_dtrace_	_systrace_syscall	L <- :	syscall::op	en:entry p	robe
SyscallTable SyscallTable SyscallTable SyscallTable SyscallTable	7 8 9 10 11	0xffffff800 0xffffff800 0xffffff800 0xffffff800 0xffffff800	08556660 085755f0 082fbc20 082fc8c0 085755f0	_wait4 _nosys _link _unlink _nosys					



- My goal is not to mock anyone, just fooling around!
- Famous last words:
- "Nemo's presentation has shown again that known tools can be used for subverting a system and won't be easy to spot by a novice investigator, but then again nothing can hide in memory;)"

(a) http://siliconblade.blogspot.com/2013/04/hunting-d-trace-rootkits-with.html



HINDSIGHT HEROES

•



Captain Hindsight With his sidekicks, Shoulda, Coulda, and Woulda



- It's rather easy to find what you know.
- How about what you <u>don't</u> know?

•

- syscall provider doesn't care about sysent hooking.
- But that is easily detected by memory forensics.
- What happens if we modify all the kernel references to sysent?
- AKA really old school sysent shadowing...



\$ python vol.py mac check syscalls --profile=Mac10 8 3 64bitx64 \ -f ~/Forensics/dtrace/Mac\ OS\ X\ 10.8\ 64-bit-no\ hooking.vmem Volatile Systems Volatility Framework 2.3_alpha (...) SyscallTable 339 0xffffff800854a490 fstat64 340 0xffffff80082fd620 lstat64 SyscallTable SyscallTable 341 0xffffff80082fd420 stat64 extended 342 0xffffff80082fd6c0 lstat64_extended SyscallTable SyscallTable 343 0xffffff800854a470 fstat64 extended SyscallTable 344 0xffffff8008300c20 getdirentries64 345 0x+++++80082+9c60 stat+s64 Syscallable SyscallTable 346 0xffffff80082f9e80 fstatfs64 SyscallTable 347 0xffffff80082fa2a0 getfsstat64 SyscallTable 348 0xffffff80082fa7c0 pthread chdir SyscallTable 349 0xffffff80082fa640 pthread fchdir SyscallTable 350 0xffffff8008535cb0 audit SyscallTable 351 0xffffff8008535e20 _auditon (...)



<pre>\$ python vol.py mac_check_syscallsprofile=Mac10_8_3_64bitx64 \ -f ~/Forensics/dtrace/Mac\ OS\ X\ 10.8\ 64-bit-hooking1.vmem Volatile Systems Volatility Framework 2.3_alpha</pre>									
()									
SyscallTable	339 0xffffff800854a490 _fstat64								
SyscallTable	340 0xffffff80082fd620 lstat64								
SyscallTable	341 0xffffff80082fd420 stat64_extended								
SyscallTable	342 0xffffff80082fd6c0 lstat64_extended								
SyscallTable	343 0xffffff8008542470 fstat64 extended								
SyscallTable	344 0xfffffffff89a2dce0 HOOKED <- getdirentries64 hooked								
Syscalliable	345 UXTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTT								
SyscallTable	346 0xffffff80082f9e80 _fstatfs64								
SyscallTable	347 0xffffff80082fa2a0 _getfsstat64								
SyscallTable	348 Oxffffff80082fa7c0pthread_chdir								
SyscallTable	349 0xffffff80082fa640pthread_fchdir								
SyscallTable	350 Oxffffff8008535cb0 audit								
SyscallTable	351 Oxffffff8008535e20 _auditon								
()	Sysent								



<pre>\$ python vol.py ma</pre>	c_ch	eck_syscallsprofile=Mac10_8_3_64bi	tx64 \								
-f ~/Forensics/dtrace/Mac\ OS\ X\ 10.8\ 64-bit-hooking2.vmem											
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()											
SyscallTable	339	0xffffff800854a490 _fstat64									
SyscallTable	340	0xffffff80082fd620 lstat64									
SyscallTable	341	0xffffff80082fd420 _stat64_extended									
SyscallTable	342	<pre>0xffffff80082fd6c0 _lstat64_extended</pre>									
SyscallTable	3/13	0xffffff800854a470 _fstat64_extended	_								
SyscallTable	344	<pre>0xffffff8008300c20 _getdirentries64</pre>									
SyscallTable	345	0x++++++80082+9c60 _stat+s64									
Syscall⊤able	346	0xffffff80082f9e80 _fstatfs64									
SyscallTable	347	0xffffff80082fa2a0 _getfsstat64									
SyscallTable	348	0xffffff80082fa7c0pthread_chdir									
SyscallTable	349	<pre>0xffffff80082fa640pthread_fchdir</pre>									
SyscallTable	350	0xffffff8008535cb0 _audit	Shadow sv								
SyscallTable	351	0xffffff8008535e20 _auditon	U can't see								
()											

 $\mathbf{\hat{\bullet}}\mathbf{\hat{\bullet}}$



- Volatility plugin can easily find sysent table modification(s).
- But fails to detect a simple shadow sysent table.
- Nothing new, extremely easy to implement with the kernel disassembler!
- Hindsight is always easy!

Beware with the confidence levels you get from it.



Checkpoint

- Many instrumentation features available!
- Do not forget them if you are the evil rootkit coder.
- Helpful for a quick assessment if you are the potential victim.
- Friend or foe, use them!
- But don't trust too much in the tools ⁽²⁾.



Zombies



Otterz? Zombies?

Zombies

Idea!

- Create a kernel memory leak.
- Copy rootkit code to that area.
- Fix permissions and symbols offsets.
- That's easy, we have a disassembler!
- Redirect execution to the zombie area.
- Return KERN_FAILURE to rootkit's start function.







✓ Create a kernel memory leak.

- Using one of the dynamic memory functions.
- kalloc, kmem_alloc, OSMalloc, MALLOC/FREE, _MALLOC/_FREE, IOMalloc/IOFree.
- No garbage collection mechanism (true?).
- Find rootkit's Mach-O header and compute its size (__TEXT + __DATA segments).





- □ Fix symbols offsets.
- Kexts have no symbol stubs as most userland binaries.
- RIP addressing is used (offset from kext to kernel).
- Symbols are solved when kext is loaded.
- When we copy to the zombie area those offsets are wrong.



Zombies

□ Fix symbols offsets.

- We can have a table with all external symbols or dynamically find them (read rootkit from disk, etc).
- Lookup each kernel symbol address.
- Disassemble the original rootkit code address and find the references to the original symbol.
- Find CALL and JMP and check if target is the symbol.





- \blacksquare Fix symbols offsets.
- Not useful to disassemble the zombie area because offsets are wrong.
- Compute the distance to start address from CALLs in original and add it to the zombie start address.
- Now we have the location of each symbol inside the zombie and can fix the offset back to kernel symbol.





□ Redirect execution to zombie.

- We can 't simply jump to new code because rootkit start function must return a value!
- Hijack some function and have it execute a zombie start function.
- Or just start a new kernel thread with kernel_thread_start.





✓ Redirect execution to zombie.

- To find the zombie start function use the same trick as symbols:
- Compute the difference to the start in the original rootkit.
- Add it to the start of zombie and we get the correct pointer.





✓ Return KERN_FAILURE.

- Original kext must return a value.
- If we return KERN_SUCCESS, kext will be loaded and we need to hide or unload it.
- If we return KERN_FAILURE, kext will fail to load and OS X will cleanup it for us.
- Not a problem because zombie is already resident.







Advantages

- No need to hide from kextstat.
- No kext related structures.
- Harder to find (easier now because I'm telling you).
- Wipe out zombie Mach-O header and there's only code/data in kernel memory.
- It's fun!





Demo

(Dear Spooks: you don't need to break in my room or computer, sample code will be made public! #kthxbay)



Marketing

- Nemo, Snare and I are going to write a book!
- About state of the art OS X rootkits (we hope so).
- Hopefully out in a year.
- By No Starch Press.
- Limited \$2500 edition with a plug 'n 'pray EFI rootkit dongle!
- Nah, just kidding! Don 't forget to buy it anyway ⁽ⁱ⁾







□ Internal structures!

- Some are stable, others not so much.
- Proc structure is one of those.
- We just need a few fields.
- Maybe find their offsets by disassembling stable functions?





Problems

- Memory forensics
- The "new" rootkit enemy.
- But with its own flaws.
- In particular the acquisition process.
- Which we can have a chance to play with.
- 29C3 had a presentation about Windows.
- Research—in—progress…





- And so many others.
- It's a cat & mouse game.
- Any mistake can be costly.
- But it's not that easy for the defensive side.





- Improving the quality of OS X kernel rootkits is very easy.
- Prevention and detection tools must be researched & developed.
- Kernel is sexy but don't forget userland.
- OS.X/Crisis userland rootkit is powerful!
- Easier to hide in userland from memory forensics.
- Read the paper, if you haven't already ^(c).




- WE don't know sh^{*}t about OS X malware/rootkits.
- (AV) industry is generally lagging.
- Attackers have better incentives to be creative.
- Defense is very hard information asymmetry.
- In particular because it's very easy to stick to a certain paradigm and hard to get out of it.
- That requires a lot of practice!



Greets

nemo, noar, snare, saure, od, emptydir, korn, gOsh, spico and all other put.as friends, everyone at COSEINC, thegrugq, diff-t, #osxre, Gil Dabah from diStorm, A. Ionescu, Igor from Hex-Rays, Shane (my assigned drone controller), and you for spending time of your life listening to me ©.







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