

# USING KNOWLEDGE OF ADVERSARY TTPs TO INFORM CYBER DEFENSE: MITRE'S ATT&CK™ FRAMEWORK

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# MITRE Was Established to Serve the Public Interest

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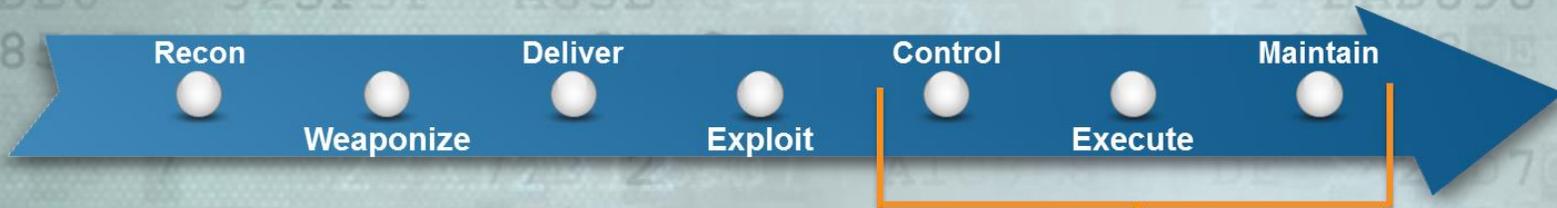


**Part of the ecosystem of federal research centers**

# If I understood my adversary, I could...

- Perform gap analysis of my current defenses
- Prioritize detection/mitigation of heavily used techniques
- Track a specific adversary's set of techniques
- Conduct adversary emulation (e.g. red-teaming)
- Better evaluate new security technologies

# ATT&CK: Deconstructing the Lifecycle



- Persistence
- Privilege Escalation
- Defense Evasion
- Credential Access
- Discovery
- Lateral Movement
- Execution
- Collection
- Exfiltration
- Command and Control

**Freely available, curated knowledge base of observed adversary behavior**

**Higher fidelity on right-of-exploit, post-access phases**

**Describes behavior sans adversary tools**

**Working with world-class researchers to improve and expand**

# ATT&CK Matrix: *Tactics & Techniques*



*Tactic:* Technical goal of the adversary

DLL Search Order Hijacking		Brute Force	Account Discovery	Windows Remote Management		Audio Capture	Automated Exfiltration	Commonly Used Port
Legitimate Credentials		Credential Dumping	Application Window Discovery	Third-party Software		Automated Collection	Data Compressed	Communication Through Removable Media
Accessibility Features	Binary Padding			Application Deployment Software	Command-Line	Clipboard Data	Data Encrypted	Connection Proxy
Applnit DLLs	Code Signing	Credential Manipulation	File and Directory Discovery	Exploitation of Vulnerability	Execution through API	Data from Local System	Data Transfer Size Limits	Custom Command and Control Protocol
Local Port Monitor	Component Firmware				Execution through Module Load	Data from Network Shared Drive	Exfiltration Over Alternative Protocol	Exfiltration Over Command and Control Channel
New Service	DLL Side-Loading	Credentials in Files	Local Network Configuration Discovery	Logon Scripts	Graphical User Interface	Data from Removable Media	Data Encoding	
Path Interception	Disabling Security Tools	Input Capture	Local Network Connections Discovery	Pass the Hash	InstallUtil	Email Collection	Data Obfuscation	
Scheduled Task	File Deletion	Network Sniffing	Local Network Connections Discovery	Pass the Ticket	MSBuild		Exfiltration Over Other Network Medium	Fallback Channels
File System Permissions Weakness	File System Logical Offsets	Two-Factor Authentication Interception	Network Service Scanning	Remote Desktop Protocol	PowerShell	Input Capture	Fallback Channels	
Service Registry Permissions Weakness				Remote File Copy	Process Hollowing			
Web Shell	Indicator Blocking							

<b>Persistence</b>	<b>Privilege Escalation</b>	<b>Defense Evasion</b>	<b>Credential Access</b>	<b>Discovery</b>	<b>Lateral Movement</b>	<b>Execution</b>	<b>Collection</b>	<b>Exfiltration</b>	<b>Command &amp; Control</b>
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Basic Input/Output System	Indicator Removal from Tools	Remote System Discovery	Windows Admin Shares	Service Execution	Standard Application Layer Protocol
Change Default File Association	Indicator Removal on Host	Security Software Discovery	Windows Management Instrumentation	Windows Management Instrumentation	
Component Firmware	Install Root Certificate	System Information Discovery	System Owner/User Discovery	System Service Discovery	Standard Cryptographic Protocol
External Remote Services	InstallUtil				System Time Discovery
Hypervisor	Mesquerading				Uncommonly Used Port
Logon Scripts	Modify Registry				Web Service
Modify Existing Service	MSBuild				
Netsh Helper DLL	Network Share Removal				
Redundant Access	NTFS Extended Attributes				
Registry Run Keys / Start Folder	Obfuscated Files or Information				
Security Support Provider	Process Hollowing				
Shortcut Modification	Redundant Access				
Windows Management Instrumentation Event Subscription	Regsvcs/Regasm				
Winlogon Helper DLL	Regsvr32				
	Rootkit				
	Rundll32				
	Scripting				
	Software Packing				
	Timestamp				

*Technique: How adversary achieves the goal*



# Example Tactic: Persistence

**Persistence is any access, action, or configuration change to a system that gives an adversary a persistent presence on that system.**

**Adversaries will often need to maintain access to systems through interruptions such as system restarts, loss of credentials, or other failures that would require a remote access tool to restart or alternate backdoor for them to regain access.**

# Example Technique: New Service

- **Description:** When operating systems boot up, they can start programs or applications called services that perform background system functions. Adversaries may install a new service which will be executed at startup by directly modifying the registry or by using tools.
- **Platform:** Windows
- **Permissions required:** Administrator, SYSTEM
- **Effective permissions:** SYSTEM
- **Detection**
  - Monitor service creation through changes in the Registry and common utilities using command-line invocation
  - Tools such as Sysinternals Autoruns may be used to detect system changes that could be attempts at persistence
  - Monitor processes and command-line arguments for actions that could create services
- **Mitigation**
  - Limit privileges of user accounts and remediate Privilege Escalation vectors
  - Identify and block unnecessary system utilities or potentially malicious software that may be used to create services
- **Data Sources:** Windows Registry, process monitoring, command-line parameters
- **Examples:** *Carbanak, Lazarus Group, TinyZBot, Duqu, CozyCar, CosmicDuke, hcdLoader, ...*
- **CAPEC ID:** CAPEC-550



# Where does ATT&CK come from?

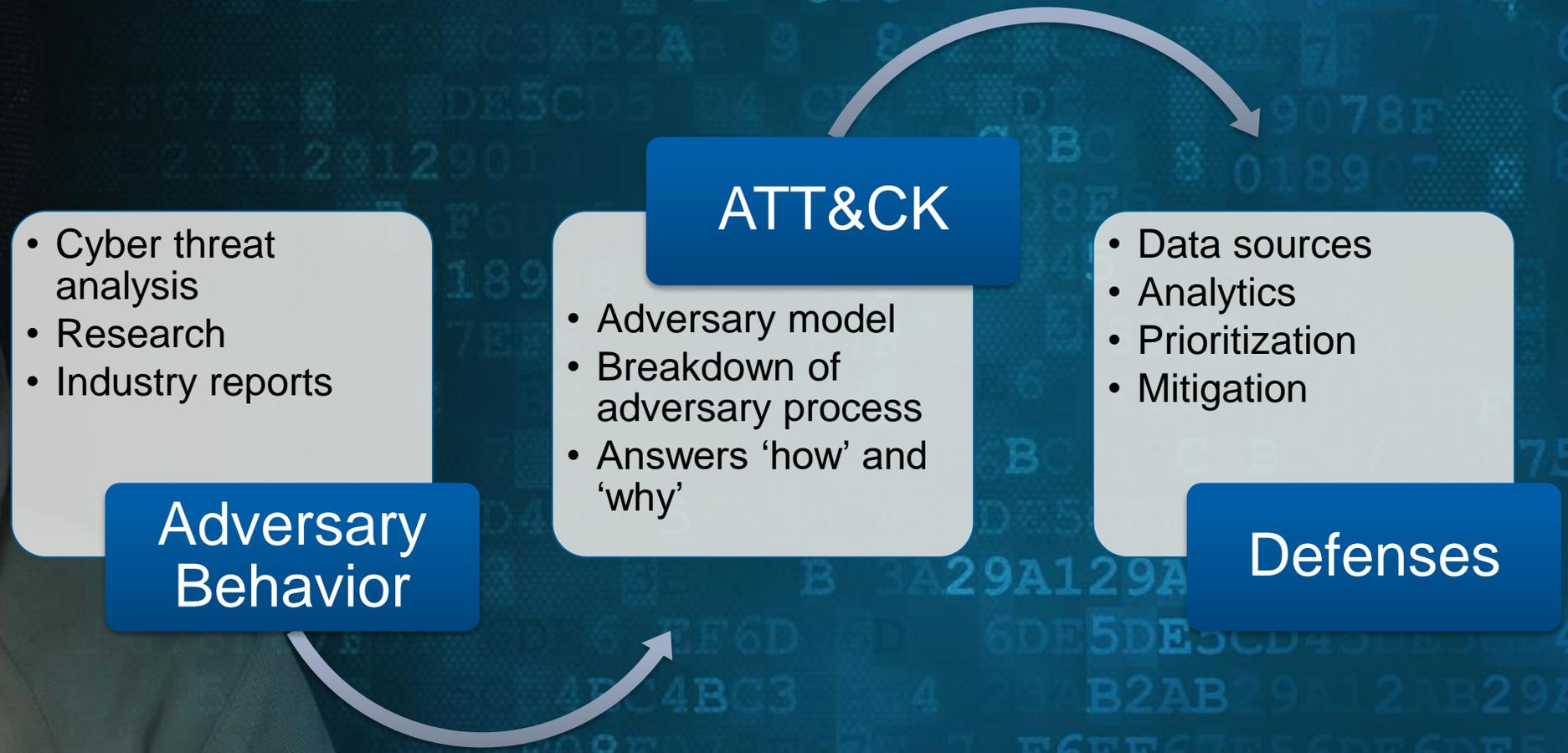
# Our Living Lab – The Fort Meade Experiment (FMX)



## MITRE's Annapolis Junction, MD site

- Approx. 250 unclassified computers
- Primarily user desktops running Windows

# ATT&CK's Threat-based Modeling



# Who's using ATT&CK?

- End-users
- Security vendors
- Government organizations



# ATT&CK: Additional metadata

- **Threat Groups**
- **Software**
  - Malware
  - Tools
  - Utilities
- **Analytics**





# Example Group: Deep Panda

- **Description:** Deep Panda is a suspected Chinese threat group known to target many industries, including government, defense, financial, and telecommunications.<sup>1</sup> The intrusion into healthcare company Anthem has been attributed to Deep Panda.<sup>2</sup>
- **Aliases:** Deep Panda, Shell Crew, WebMasters, KungFu Kittens, PinkPanther, Black Vine
- **Techniques**
  - PowerShell
  - Windows Management Instrumentation
  - Web Shell
  - Windows Admin Shares
  - Process Discovery
  - Scripting
  - Indicator Removal from Tools
  - Regsvr32
  - Accessibility Features
- **Software:** Net, Tasklist, Sakula, Mivast, Derusbi
- **References**
  1. Alperovitch, D. (2014, July 7). Deep in Thought: Chinese Targeting of National Security Think Tanks. Retrieved November 12, 2014.
  2. ThreatConnect Research Team. (2015, February 27). The Anthem Hack: All Roads Lead to China. Retrieved January 26, 2016.

# Example Built-in Software: Tasklist

**Description:** The Tasklist utility displays a list of applications and services with its Process ID (PID) for all tasks running on either a local or a remote computer. It is packaged with Windows operating systems and can be executed from the command line<sup>1</sup>.

**Aliases:** Tasklist

**Type:** Utility

**Techniques Used:**

**Process Discovery:** Tasklist can be used to discover processes running on a system.

**Security Software Discovery:** Tasklist can be used to enumerate security software currently running on a system by process name of known products.

**System Service Discovery:** Tasklist can be used to discover services running on a system.

**Groups:** Deep Panda, Turla, Naikon, APT1

**References**

1. Microsoft. (n.d.). Tasklist. Retrieved December 23, 2015.

# Example Malware: Mivast

**Description:** Mivast is a backdoor that has been used by Deep Panda. It was reportedly used in the Anthem breach.<sup>1</sup>

**Aliases:** Mivast

**Type:** Malware

**Techniques Used:**

**Registry Run Keys / Start Folder:** Mivast creates the following Registry entry: HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run\Micro media.

**Commonly Used Port:** Mivast communicates over port 80 for C2.

**Command-Line Interface:** Mivast has the capability to open a remote shell and run basic commands.

**Remote File Copy:** Mivast has the capability to download and execute .exe files.

**Credential Dumping:** Mivast has the capability to gather NTLM password information.

**Groups:** [Deep Panda](#)

**References**

1. DiMaggio, J.. (2015, August 6). The Black Vine cyberespionage group. Retrieved January 26, 2016

# How do I use ATT&CK?

- Resource for threat modeling
- Red-team/blue-team planning
- Enhance threat intelligence
- Defensive planning

# Example: APT 28 Reported Techniques

Persistence	Privilege Escalation	Defense Evasion	Credential Access	Discovery	Lateral Movement	Execution	Collection	Exfiltration	Command and Control
DLL Search Order Hijacking			Brute Force	Account Discovery	Windows Remote Management		Audio Capture	Automated Exfiltration	Commonly Used Port
Legitimate Credentials			Credential Dumping	Application Window Discovery	Third-party Software		Automated Collection	Data Compressed	Communication Through Removable Media
Accessibility Features	Binary Padding	Application Deployment Software		Command-Line	Clipboard Data	Connection Proxy			
Applnit DLLs	Code Signing	Credential Manipulation	File and Directory Discovery	Exploitation of Vulnerability	Execution through API	Data Staged	Data Transfer Size Limits	Connection Proxy	
Local Port Monitor	Component Firmware	Credentials in Files	Local Network Configuration Discovery	Logon Scripts	Graphical User Interface	Data from Local System	Exfiltration Over Alternative Protocol	Custom Command and Control Protocol	
New Service	DLL Side-Loading	Input Capture	Local Network Connections Discovery	Pass the Hash	InstallUtil	Data from Network Shared Drive	Exfiltration Over Command and Control Channel	Custom Cryptographic Protocol	
Path Interception	Disabling Security Tools	Network Sniffing	Local Network Connections Discovery	Pass the Ticket	MSBuild	Data from Removable Media	Exfiltration Over Other Network Medium	Data Encoding	
Scheduled Task	File Deletion	Two-Factor Authentication Interception	Network Service Scanning	Remote Desktop Protocol	PowerShell	Email Collection	Exfiltration Over Physical Medium	Data Obfuscation	
File System Permissions Weakness	File System Logical Offsets		Peripheral Device Discovery	Remote File Copy	Process Hollowing	Input Capture	Fallback Channels		
Service Registry Permissions Weakness	Indicator Blocking	Exploitation of Vulnerability	Remote Services	Regsvcs/Regasm	Screen Capture	Multi-Stage Channels			
Web Shell	Bypass User Account Control		Permission Groups Discovery	Replication Through Removable Media	Regsvr32	Video Capture	Multiband Communication		
Authentication Package	DLL Injection	Component Object Model Hijacking	Process Discovery	Shared Webroot	Scheduled Task	Multilayer Encryption			
Bootkit	Component Object Model Hijacking	Indicator Removal from Tools	Query Registry	Taint Shared Content	Scripting	Remote File Copy			
Component Object Model Hijacking	Indicator Removal on Host	Install Root Certificate	Remote System Discovery	Windows Admin Shares	Service Execution	Standard Application Layer Protocol			
Basic Input/Output System	Install Util	Masquerading	Security Software Discovery	System Information Discovery	Windows Management Instrumentation	Standard Cryptographic Protocol			
Change Default File Association	Modify Registry	MSBuild	System Owner/User Discovery	System Service Discovery		Standard Non-Application Layer Protocol			
Component Firmware	MSBuild	Network Share Removal	System Time Discovery			Uncommonly Used Port			
External Remote Services	NTFS Extended Attributes	Obfuscated Files or Information				Web Service			
Hypervisor	Process Hollowing	Redundant Access							
Logon Scripts	Regsvcs/Regasm	Regsvr32							
Modify Existing Service	Regsvr32	Rootkit							
Netsh Helper DLL	Rootkit	Rundll32							
Redundant Access	Rundll32	Scripting							
Registry Run Keys / Start Folder	Scripting	Software Packing							
Security Support Provider	Software Packing	Timestamp							
Shortcut Modification	Timestamp								
Windows Management Instrumentation Event Subscription									
Winlogon Helper DLL									

Legend APT 28

# Example: Comparing Groups APT 28 vs. Deep Panda

Persistence	Privilege Escalation	Defense Evasion	Credential Access	Discovery	Lateral Movement	Execution	Collection	Exfiltration	Command and Control
DLL Search Order Hijacking			Brute Force	Account Discovery	Windows Remote Management		Audio Capture	Automated Exfiltration	Commonly Used Port
Legitimate Credentials			Credential Dumping	Application Window Discovery	Third-party Software		Automated Collection	Data Compressed	Communication Through Removable Media
Accessibility Features		Binary Padding		Application Deployment Software	Exploitation of Vulnerability	Command-Line	Clipboard Data	Data Encrypted	Connection Proxy
Applnit DLLs	Code Signing	Credential Manipulation	Execution through API			Execution through Module Load	Data Staged	Data Transfer Size Limits	
Local Port Monitor	Component Firmware	File and Directory Discovery	Local Network Configuration Discovery	Logon Scripts	Graphical User Interface	Data from Local System	Exfiltration Over Alternative Protocol	Custom Command and Control Protocol	
New Service	DLL Side-Loading	Credentials in Files	Local Network Connections Discovery	Pass the Hash	InstallUtil	Data from Network Shared Drive	Exfiltration Over Command and Control Channel	Custom Cryptographic Protocol	
Path Interception	Disabling Security Tools	Input Capture	Network Service Scanning	Pass the Ticket	MSBuild	Data from Removable Media	Exfiltration Over Other Network Medium	Data Encoding	
Scheduled Task	File Deletion	Network Sniffing	Peripheral Device Discovery	Remote Desktop Protocol	PowerShell	Email Collection	Exfiltration Over Physical Medium	Data Obfuscation	
File System Permissions Weakness	File System Logical Offsets	Two-Factor Authentication Interception	Permission Groups Discovery	Remote File Copy	Process Hollowing	Input Capture	Scheduled Transfer	Fallback Channels	
Service Registry Permissions Weakness			Indicator Blocking	Process Discovery	Replication Through Removable Media	Regsvcs/Regasm	Screen Capture	Multi-Stage Channels	
Web Shell	Exploitation of Vulnerability		Query Registry	Shared Webroot	Rundll32	Video Capture	Multiband Communication		
Authentication Package	Bypass User Account Control		Remote System Discovery	Taint Shared Content	Scheduled Task		Multilayer Encryption		
Bootkit	DLL Injection		Security Software Discovery	Windows Admin Shares	Scripting		Remote File Copy		
Component Object Model Hijacking		Component Object Model Hijacking	System Information Discovery		Service Execution		Standard Application Layer Protocol		
Basic Input/Output System		Indicator Removal from Tools	System Owner/User Discovery		Windows Management Instrumentation		Standard Cryptographic Protocol		
Change Default File Association		Indicator Removal on Host	System Service Discovery				Standard Non-Application Layer Protocol		
Component Firmware		Install Root Certificate	System Time Discovery				Uncommonly Used Port		
External Remote Services		InstallUtil					Web Service		
Hypervisor		Masquerading							
Logon Scripts		Modify Registry							
Modify Existing Service		MSBuild							
Netsh Helper DLL		Network Share Removal							
Redundant Access		NTFS Extended Attributes							
Registry Run Keys / Start Folder		Obfuscated Files or Information							
Security Support Provider		Process Hollowing							
Shortcut Modification		Redundant Access							
Windows Management Instrumentation Event Subscription		Regsvcs/Regasm							
Winlogon Helper DLL		Regsvr32							
		Rootkit							
		Rundll32							
		Scripting							
		Software Packing							
		Timestamp							

Legend

- APT 28
- Deep Panda

# Example: Notional Defense Gaps

Persistence	Privilege Escalation	Defense Evasion	Credential Access	Discovery	Lateral Movement	Execution	Collection	Exfiltration	Command and Control
DLL Search Order Hijacking			Brute Force	Account Discovery	Windows Remote Management		Audio Capture	Automated Exfiltration	Commonly Used Port
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Accessibility Features		Binary Padding			Application Deployment Software	Command-Line	Clipboard Data	Data Encrypted	Connection Proxy
Applnit DLLs		Code Signing	Credential Manipulation	File and Directory Discovery	Exploitation of Vulnerability	Execution through API	Data Staged	Data Transfer Size Limits	Custom Command and Control Protocol
Local Port Monitor		Component Firmware				Execution through Module Load	Data from Local System	Exfiltration Over Alternative Protocol	Custom Cryptographic Protocol
New Service		DLL Side-Loading	Credentials in Files	Local Network Configuration Discovery	Logon Scripts	Graphical User Interface	Data from Network Shared Drive	Exfiltration Over Command and Control Channel	Data Encoding
Path Interception		Disabling Security Tools	Input Capture	Local Network Connections Discovery	Pass the Hash	InstallUtil	Data from Removable Media		Data Obfuscation
Scheduled Task		File Deletion	Network Sniffing	Local Network Connections Discovery	Pass the Ticket	MSBuild	Email Collection	Exfiltration Over Other Network Medium	Fallback Channels
File System Permissions Weakness		File System Logical Offsets	Two-Factor Authentication Interception	Network Service Scanning	Remote Desktop Protocol	PowerShell	Input Capture	Exfiltration Over Physical Medium	Multi-Stage Channels
Service Registry Permissions Weakness				Indicator Blocking	Peripheral Device Discovery	Remote File Copy	Process Hollowing	Screen Capture	Scheduled Transfer
Web Shell		Exploitation of Vulnerability		Permission Groups Discovery	Remote Services	Regsvcs/Regasm	Video Capture	Multilayer Encryption	
Authentication Package		Bypass User Account Control		Process Discovery	Replication Through Removable Media	Regsvr32			
Bootkit		DLL Injection		Query Registry	Shared Webroot	Rundll32		Remote File Copy	
Component Object Model Hijacking		Component Object Model Hijacking		Remote System Discovery	Taint Shared Content	Scheduled Task		Standard Application Layer Protocol	
Basic Input/Output System		Indicator Removal from Tools		Security Software Discovery	Windows Admin Shares	Scripting		Standard Cryptographic Protocol	
Change Default File Association		Indicator Removal on Host		System Information Discovery		Service Execution		Standard Non-Application Layer Protocol	
Component Firmware		Install Root Certificate		System Owner/User Discovery		Windows Management Instrumentation		Uncommonly Used Port	
External Remote Services		InstallUtil		System Service Discovery				Web Service	
Hypervisor		Masquerading		System Time Discovery					
Logon Scripts		Modify Registry							
Modify Existing Service		MSBuild							
Netsh Helper DLL		Network Share Removal							
Redundant Access		NTFS Extended Attributes							
Registry Run Keys / Start Folder		Obfuscated Files or Information							
Security Support Provider		Process Hollowing							
Shortcut Modification		Redundant Access							
Windows Management Instrumentation Event Subscription		Regsvcs/Regasm							
Winlogon Helper DLL		Regsvr32							
		Rootkit							
		Rundll32							
		Scripting							
		Software Packing							
		Timestamp							

High Confidence    Med Confidence    No Confidence

# Example: Adversary Visibility at the Perimeter

Persistence	Privilege Escalation	Defense Evasion	Credential Access	Discovery	Lateral Movement	Execution	Collection	Exfiltration	Command and Control
DLL Search Order Hijacking			Brute Force	Account Discovery	Windows Remote Management		Audio Capture	Automated Exfiltration	Commonly Used Port
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New Service	Disabling Security Tools	File Deletion	Input Capture	Local Network Connections Discovery	Pass the Hash	InstallUtil	Data from Network Shared Drive	Exfiltration Over Command and Control Channel	Custom Cryptographic Protocol
Path Interception	File System Logical Offsets		Network Sniffing	Local Network Service Discovery	Pass the Ticket	MSBuild	Data from Removable Media		Data Encoding
Scheduled Task	File System Permissions Weakness	Indicator Blocking	Two-Factor Authentication Interception	Network Service Scanning	Remote Desktop Protocol	PowerShell	Email Collection	Exfiltration Over Other Network Medium	Data Obfuscation
Service Registry Permissions Weakness				Peripheral Device Discovery	Remote File Copy	Process Hollowing	Input Capture	Screen Capture	Exfiltration Over Physical Medium
Web Shell	Exploitation of Vulnerability			Permission Groups Discovery	Replication Through Removable Media	Regsvcs/Regasm	Video Capture	Exfiltration Over Physical Medium	Multi-Stage Channels
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Change Default File Association		Install Root Certificate		System Owner/User Discovery					Standard Non-Application Layer Protocol
Component Firmware		InstallUtil		System Service Discovery					Uncommonly Used Port
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Netsh Helper DLL		NTFS Extended Attributes							
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Security Support Provider		Redundant Access							
Shortcut Modification		Regsvcs/Regasm							
Windows Management Instrumentation Event Subscription		Regsvr32							
Winlogon Helper DLL		Rootkit							
		Rundll32							
		Scripting							
		Software Packing							
		Timestomp							

High Confidence    Med Confidence    No Confidence

# ATT&CK Resources

- Website: [attack.mitre.org](https://attack.mitre.org)
- Email: [attack@mitre.org](mailto:attack@mitre.org)
- Twitter: @MITREattack
- STIX 2 representations of ATT&CK knowledge base:  
<https://github.com/mitre/cti>



**Thank you!**

**Questions?**

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