Singapore | 16–18 July | Marina Bay Sands



SESSION ID: FLE R02

# Fatal signs: 10 symptoms when you think you've been hacked



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Paula Januszkiewicz **CEO CQURE** 

She received

a "Best of Briefings" award at her "CQTools: The New Ultimate Hacking Toolkit" commodation Black Hat Asia 2019 briefing session



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PAULA JANUSZKIEWICZ

Paula Januszkiewicz is a CEO and Found also an Enterprise Security MVP and a we Customers all around the world. She has deep belief that positive thinking is key extreme attention to details and confere







Mark Kennedy

## **Session Abstract**

We all need the mandatory list of places to check in case of being hacked, or at least when we are in doubt. There are OS behaviors that could indicate something is currently active, but how can we spot exactly what that is? We look at the places used by the system to store such information.

Surprisingly, your disk drive contains a lot of juicy information that can reveal secrets and history. There are also places where data can be deliberately hidden by malicious software and it would be great to know where! Become familiar with the symptoms that could indicate you have been hacked, and tools and techniques to spot these kind of activities. Also, learn how you can mitigate hackers to exploit discussed OS areas.

## What has evolved over the years?

During forensic take into consideration the new malware trends, e.g.:

- ✓ Malware tries to blend in day-to-day admin operations (PowerShell scripts, LOLBINS, etc.);
- ✓ Machine learning may be used to identify malicious activity but also it may be used to make malware harder to analyse (e.g. hard to analyze ML model built in malware trained to check if it runs on the victim machine).



#1 Disc analysis -> anomalies

#2 Unusual processes communicating over network





## Searching for a Trace: Disk

Profile, NTUSER

Run dialog

Most Recently Used (MRU), Management Console (MMC)

Remote Desktop connections

Prefetch files

Recent documents

Automatic Destinations (LNK)

Security Log

RDP Operational Log

Application Logs

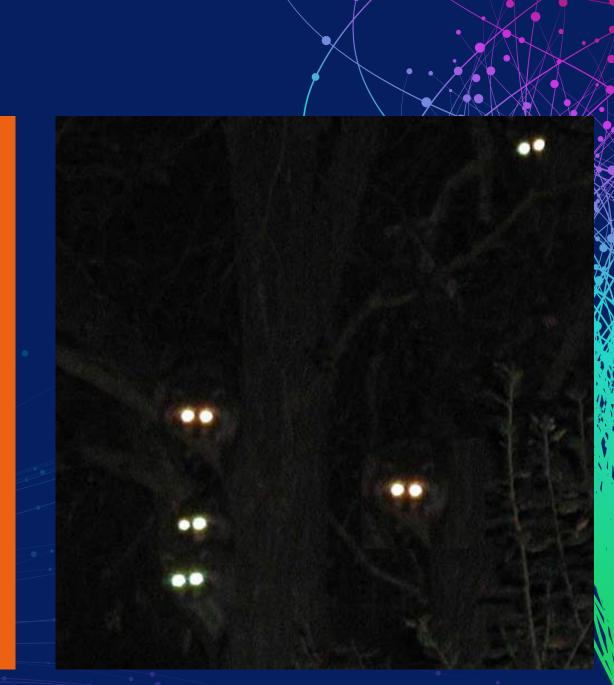
Temporary Internet Files

Deleted files – recoverable from the disk

NTFS Structures

Hiberfil.sys

Memory dumps



#3 Unexpected service behavior / Unusual Prefetch content

#4 System files with different hashes on different computers

#5 Change of group membership or privileges

#6 Usage of seDebugPrivilege

#### Searching for a Trace: Memory

Handles

Processes

Hidden Processes (ActiveProcessLinks)

Files that can be extracted

Threads

Modules

Registry

**API Hooks** 

Services

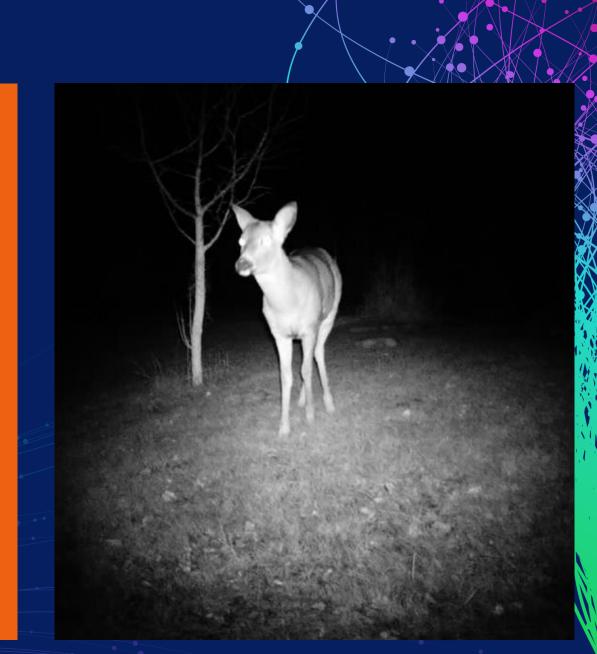
UserAssist

Shellbags

ShimCache

**Event Logs** 

Timeline



#7 Watchdog files -> touched

#### File Level Games

Extension change

Joining files

Alternative data streams

Embedding

Playing with the content

Steganography

Deletion

#### Disk Level Games

Hiding data

Encryption



#8 Social media activity / data revealed

#9 Patterns in Sysmon

#10 Suspicious deleted files

#### **Entry Information**

Allows to build an attack timeline
Allows to define an entry point and anomalies
Collects and records system events to the Windows event log
It is free and easy to set up

#### Good practices

Filter out uninteresting events (image loads etc.)
Make sure event log is big enough
Centralize the events in a separate server

You can download Sysmon from Sysinternals.com



**#1** Disc analysis -> anomalies

#2 Unusual processes communicating over network

**#3 Unexpected service behavior / Unusual Prefetch content** 

#4 System files with different hashes

**#5 Change of group membership or privileges** 

#6 Usage of seDebugPrivilege

**#7 Watchdog files -> touched** 

#8 Social media activity / data revealed

**#9 Patterns in Sysmon** 

#10 Suspicious deleted Files

10 fatal signs

## **Session summary**



#### **Continuous activities**

✓ Review configuration of servers' and workstations' periodically

#### **Prevention**

- ✓ Act proactively: Implement code execution prevention and exploit prevention solutions
- ✓ Reconsider privileged access management
- Isolate infrastructure components so that in case of attack they prevent spreading

#### **Analysis**

Investigate and remediate unknown traffic

Thank you!



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