

School of

# Engineering and Computer Science

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## CYBR 473 T2 2021

# Malware and Reverse Engineering

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## Kernel Debugging with WinDbg

Chapter 10: “Practical Malware Analysis: The Hands-on Guide to Dissecting Malicious Software”, Michael Sikorski and Andrew Honig, 2012

# WinDbg vs. OllyDbg

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- **OllyDbg** is the most popular user-mode debugger for malware analysts
- **WinDbg** can be used in either user-mode or kernel-mode
- This lecture explores ways to use WinDbg for **kernel debugging** and **rootkit analysis**

# DRIVERS AND KERNEL CODE

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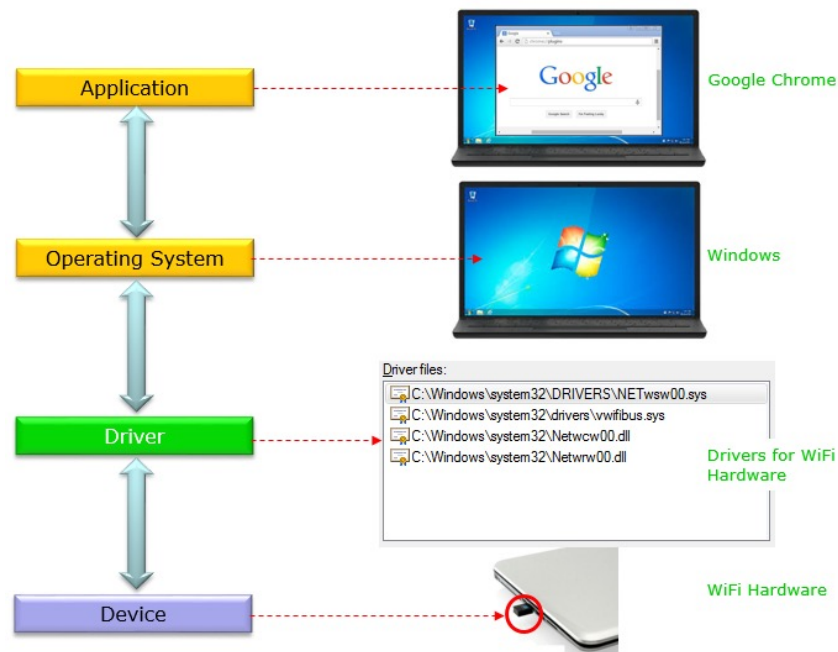
# Device Drivers

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- Windows device **drivers** allow third-party developers to run code in the Windows kernel
- Drivers are difficult to analyse
  - They load into memory, stay resident, and respond to requests from applications
- Applications do not directly access kernel drivers
  - They access *device objects* which send requests to particular devices

# Devices

- **Devices** are not physical hardware components
  - They are software representations of those components
- A **driver** creates and destroys **devices**, which can be accessed from user space



[http://www.sharetechnote.com/html/OS\\_DeviceDriver.html](http://www.sharetechnote.com/html/OS_DeviceDriver.html)

# Example: USB Flash Drive

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- User plugs in flash drive
- Windows creates the **F:** drive device object
- Applications can now make requests to the **F:** drive (such as read and write)
  - They will be sent to the driver for that USB flash drive
- User plugs in a second flash drive
  - It may use the same driver, but applications access it through the **G:** drive



<https://www.digitalcitizen.life/how-unlock-bitlocker-encrypted-flash-drive/>

# Loading **DLLs** vs. Loading **Drivers**

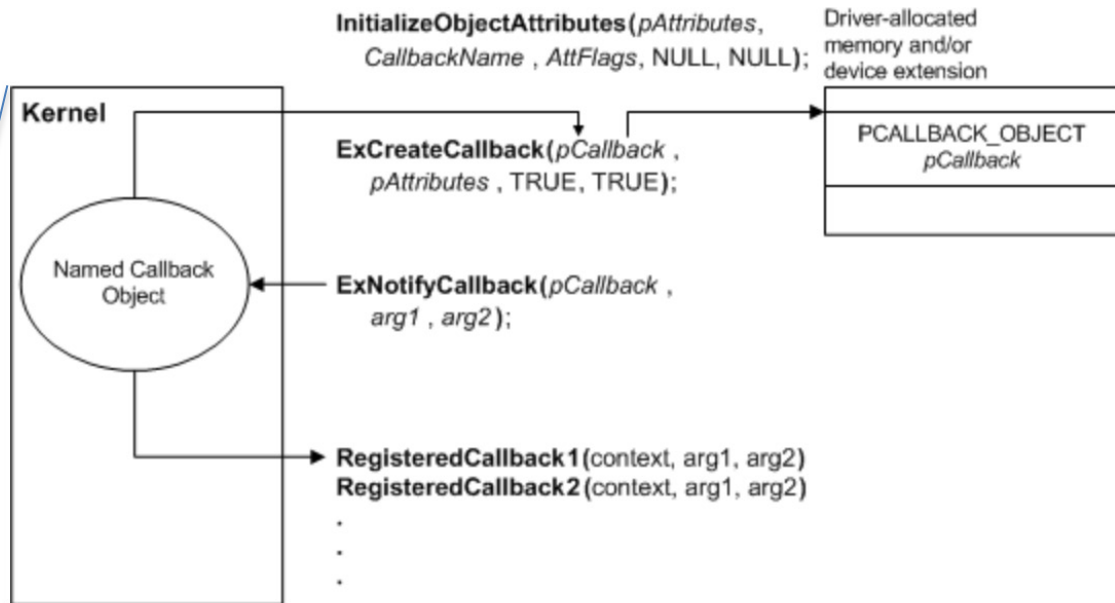
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- Loading DLLs (review)
  - DLLs are loaded into processes
    - DLLs export functions that can be used by applications
    - Using the **export table**
    - When a function loads or unloads the library, it calls **DLLMain**
- Loading Drivers
  - Drivers must be loaded into the kernel
    - When a driver is first loaded, its **DriverEntry** procedure is called
    - To prepare **callback** objects
    - Just like **DLLMain** for DLLs

# Defining a **Callback** Object

- A driver can create a **callback** object, through which other drivers can request notification of conditions defined by the creating driver.

The steps involved in defining a callback object





# DLLs vs. Drivers

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- **DLL**

- Loads into memory when a process is launched
- Executes **DLLMain** at loadtime
- Prepares the **export table**

- **Driver**

- Loads into **kernel** when hardware is added
- Executes **DriverEntry** at loadtime
- Prepares **callback functions** and **callback objects**

# DriverEntry

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- DLLs expose functionality through the export table; **drivers don't**
- Drivers must register the address for callback functions
  - They will be called when a user-space software component requests a service
  - **DriverEntry** routine performs this registration
  - Windows creates a *driver object structure*, passes it to **DriverEntry** which fills it with **callback** functions
  - **DriverEntry** then creates a **device** that can be accessed from user-land

# Example: Normal Read

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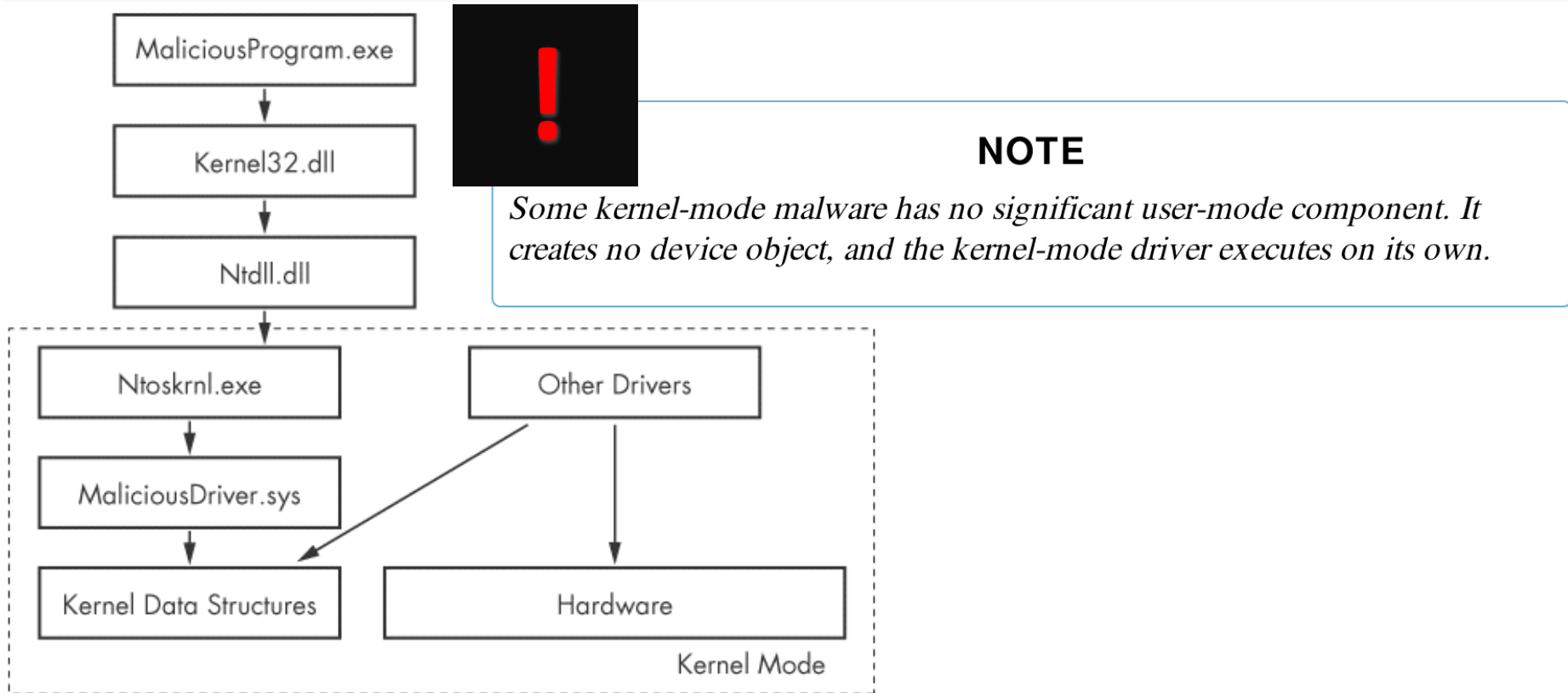
- Normal read request
  - User-mode application obtains a file handle to device
  - Calls **ReadFile** on that handle
  - Kernel processes **ReadFile** request
  - Invokes the driver's callback function handling I/O

# Malicious Request

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- Most common request from malware is **DeviceloControl**
  - A generic request from a user-space module to a device managed by a driver
  - User-space program passes in an arbitrary-length buffer of input data
  - Received an arbitrary-length buffer of data as output

# How User-mode Calls are Handled by the Kernel



# Ntoskrnl.exe & Hal.dll

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- Malicious drivers rarely control hardware
- They interact with **Ntoskrnl.exe & Hal.dll**
  - **Ntoskrnl.exe** has code for core OS functions
  - **Hal.dll** has code for interacting with main hardware components
- Malware will import functions from one or both of these files so it can **manipulate the kernel**

# SETTING UP **KERNEL** DEBUGGING

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# VMware

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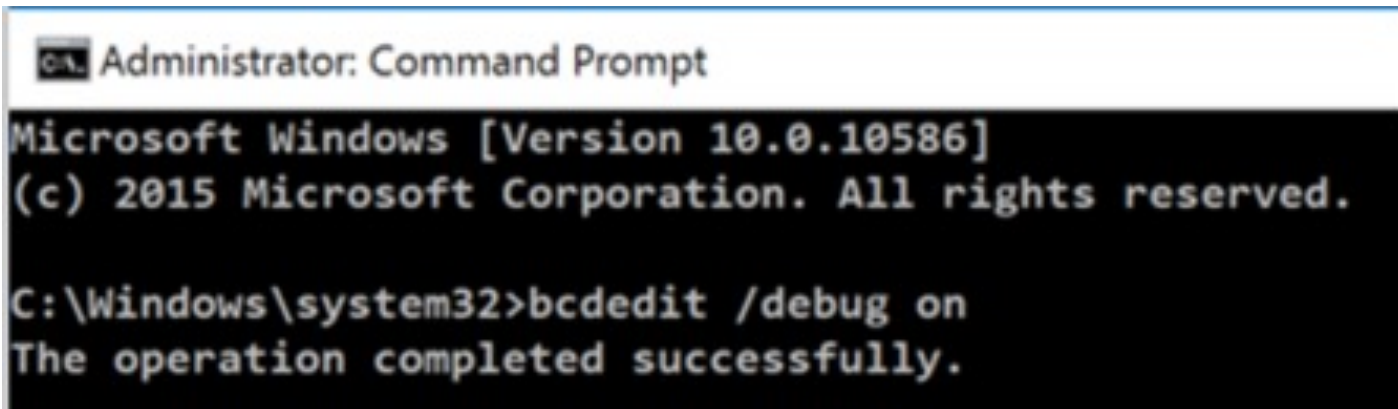
- In the virtual machine, enable kernel debugging
- Configure a virtual serial port between VM and host
- Configure WinDbg on the host machine



# Boot.ini

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- The book activates kernel debugging by editing **Boot.ini**
- But Microsoft abandoned that system after Windows XP
- The new system uses **bcdedit**



```
Administrator: Command Prompt
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.10586]
(c) 2015 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Windows\system32>bcdedit /debug on
The operation completed successfully.
```

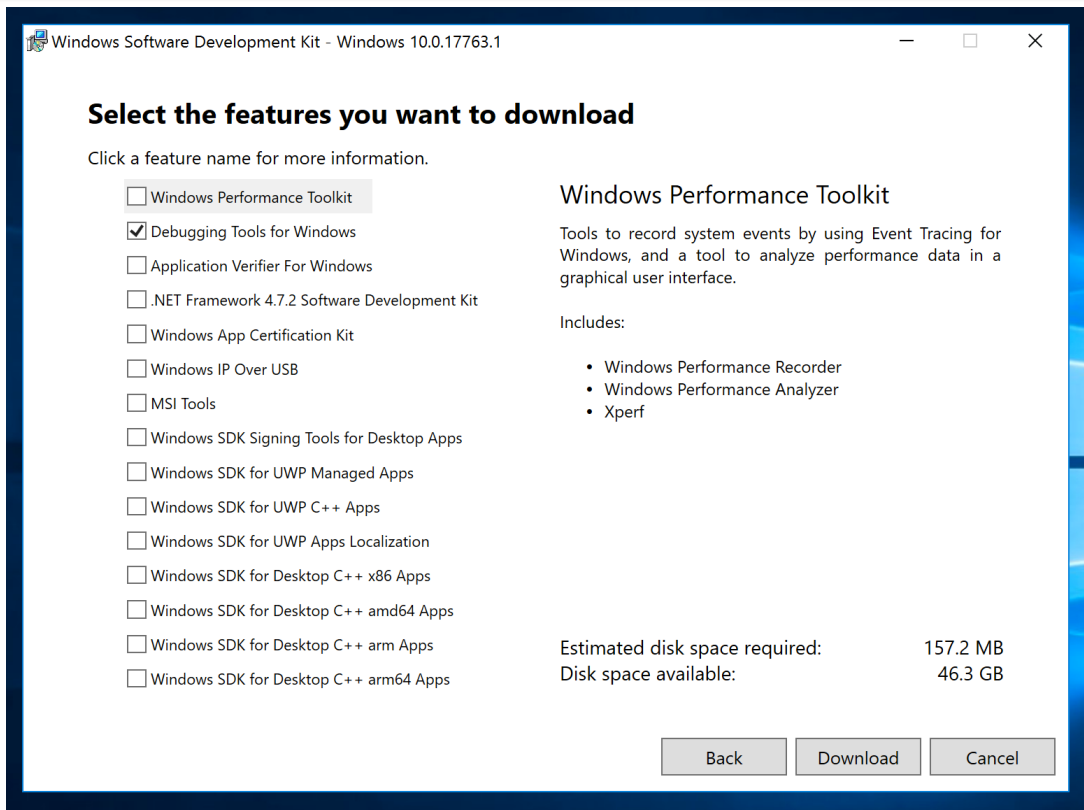
# Installing WinDbg

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- You can get Debugging Tools for Windows as part of a development kit or as a standalone tool set:
  - **As part of the WDK**  
Debugging Tools for Windows is included in the Windows Driver Kit (WDK). To get the WDK, see [Download the Windows Driver Kit \(WDK\)](#).
  - **As part of the Windows SDK**  
Debugging Tools for Windows is included in the Windows Software Development Kit (SDK). To download the installer or an ISO image, see [Windows 10 SDK](#) on Windows Dev Center.
  - **As a standalone tool set**  
You can install the Debugging Tools for Windows alone, without the Windows SDK or WDK, by starting installation of the Windows SDK and then selecting only Debugging Tools for Windows in the list of features to install (and clearing the selection of all other features). To download the installer or an ISO image, see [Windows 10 SDK](#) on Windows Dev Center.

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-hardware/drivers/debugger/>

# Installing WinDbg (cont.)



# Run LiveKD

---

```
C:\Windows\system32>livekd -w
```

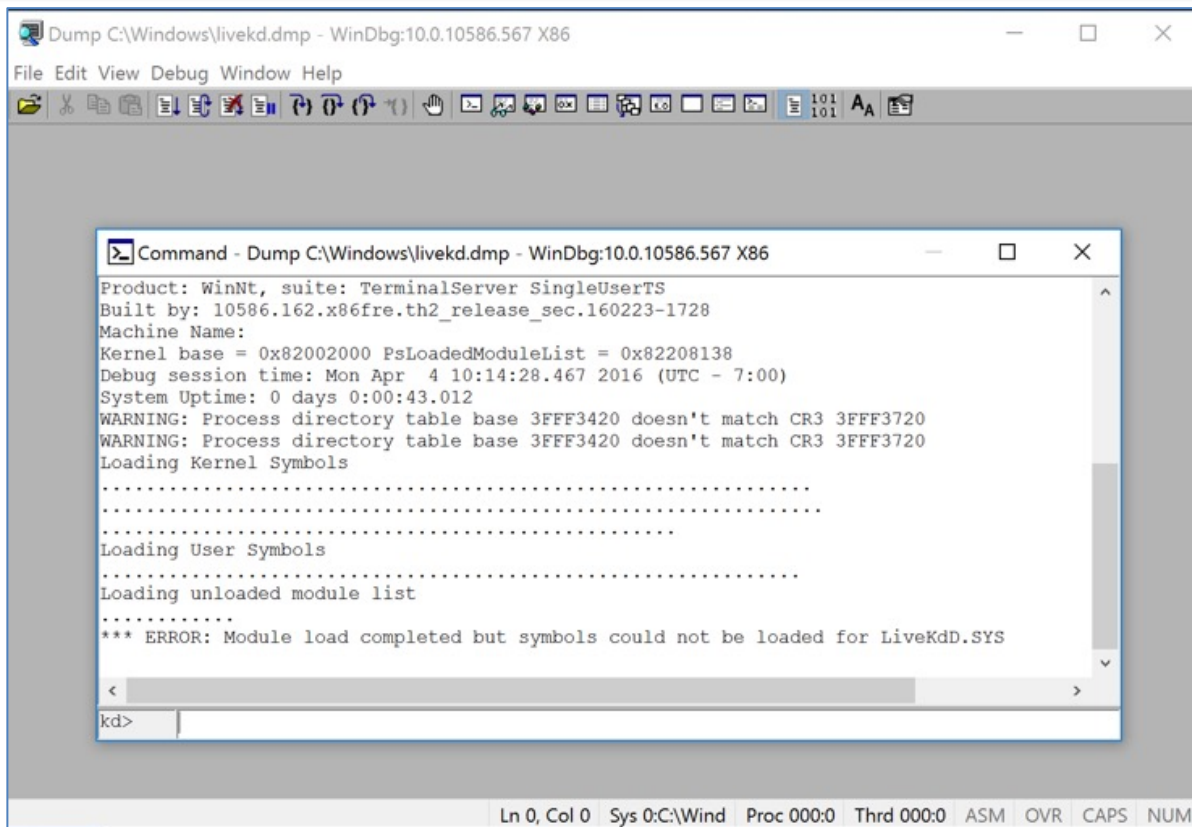
```
LiveKd v5.40 - Execute kd/windbg on a live system
```

```
Sysinternals - www.sysinternals.com
```

```
Copyright (C) 2000-2015 Mark Russinovich and Ken Johnson
```

```
Symbols are not configured. Would you like LiveKd to set the _NT_SYMBOL_PATH  
directory to reference the Microsoft symbol server so that symbols can be  
obtained automatically? (y/n) _
```

# Run LiveKD (cont.)



```
Dump C:\Windows\livekd.dmp - WinDbg:10.0.10586.567 X86
File Edit View Debug Window Help
[Icons]
Command - Dump C:\Windows\livekd.dmp - WinDbg:10.0.10586.567 X86
Product: WinNt, suite: TerminalServer SingleUserTS
Built by: 10586.162.x86fre.th2_release_sec.160223-1728
Machine Name:
Kernel base = 0x82002000 PsLoadedModuleList = 0x82208138
Debug session time: Mon Apr  4 10:14:28.467 2016 (UTC - 7:00)
System Uptime: 0 days 0:00:43.012
WARNING: Process directory table base 3FFF3420 doesn't match CR3 3FFF3720
WARNING: Process directory table base 3FFF3420 doesn't match CR3 3FFF3720
Loading Kernel Symbols
.....
.....
Loading User Symbols
.....
Loading unloaded module list
.....
*** ERROR: Module load completed but symbols could not be loaded for LiveKdD.SYS
kd>
```

Ln 0, Col 0 Sys 0:C:\Wind Proc 000:0 Thrd 000:0 ASM OVR CAPS NUM

# USING WinDbg

---

Command-line Commands



# Reading from Memory and Editing Memory

---

- Reading: **dx** *addressToRead*
- Editing: **ex** *addressToWrite dataToWrite*
- **x** can be
  - **a** Displays/Writes as **ASCII text**
  - **u** Displays/Writes as **Unicode text**
  - **d** Displays/Writes as **32-bit double words**
- **da 0x401020**
  - Shows the ASCII text starting at 0x401020

# Using Arithmetic Operators

---

- Usual arithmetic operators + - / \*
- **dwo** reveals the value at a 32-bit location pointer
- **du dwo (esp+4)**
  - Shows the first argument for a function, as a wide character string



# Setting Breakpoints

---

- **bp** sets breakpoints
- You can specify an action to be performed when the breakpoint is hit
- **g** tells it to resume running after the action
- **bp GetProcAddress "da dwo(esp+8) ; g"**
  - Breaks when **GetProcAddress** is called, prints out the second argument, and then continues
  - The second argument is the function name

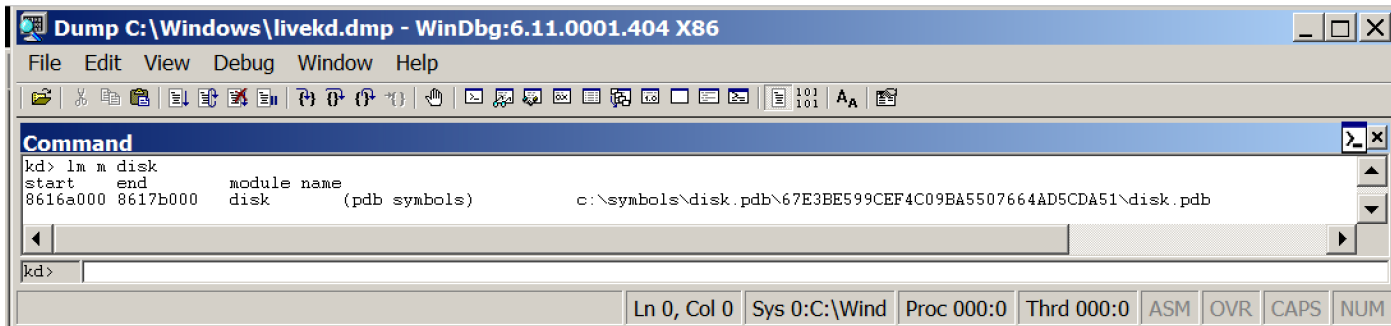
# No Breakpoints with LiveKD

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- LiveKD works from a memory dump
- It's read-only
- So you can't use breakpoints

# Listing Modules

- **lm**
  - Lists all modules loaded into a process
    - Including **EXEs** and **DLLs** in **user space**
    - And the **kernel drivers** in **kernel mode**
  - As close as WinDbg gets to a memory map
- **lm m disk**
  - Shows the disk driver



The screenshot shows a WinDbg window titled "Dump C:\Windows\livekd.dmp - WinDbg:6.11.0001.404 X86". The Command window displays the following output for the command 'lm m disk':

```
kd> lm m disk
start      end          module name
8616a000 8617b000    disk        (pdb symbols)  c:\symbols\disk.pdb\67E3BE599CEF4C09BA5507664AD5CDA51\disk.pdb
```

The status bar at the bottom indicates: Ln 0, Col 0 | Sys 0:C:\Wind | Proc 000:0 | Thrd 000:0 | ASM | OVR | CAPS | NUM

# Reading from Memory

- **dd nt**

- Shows the start of module "nt"

```
kd> dd nt
8243e000  00905a4d  00000003  00000004  0000ffff
8243e010  000000b8  00000000  00000040  00000000
8243e020  00000000  00000000  00000000  00000000
8243e030  00000000  00000000  00000000  00000268
8243e040  0eba1f0e  cd09b400  4c01b821  685421cd
8243e050  70207369  72676f72  63206d61  6f6e6e61
8243e060  65622074  6e757220  206e6920  20534f44
8243e070  65646f6d  0a0d0d2e  00000024  00000000
```

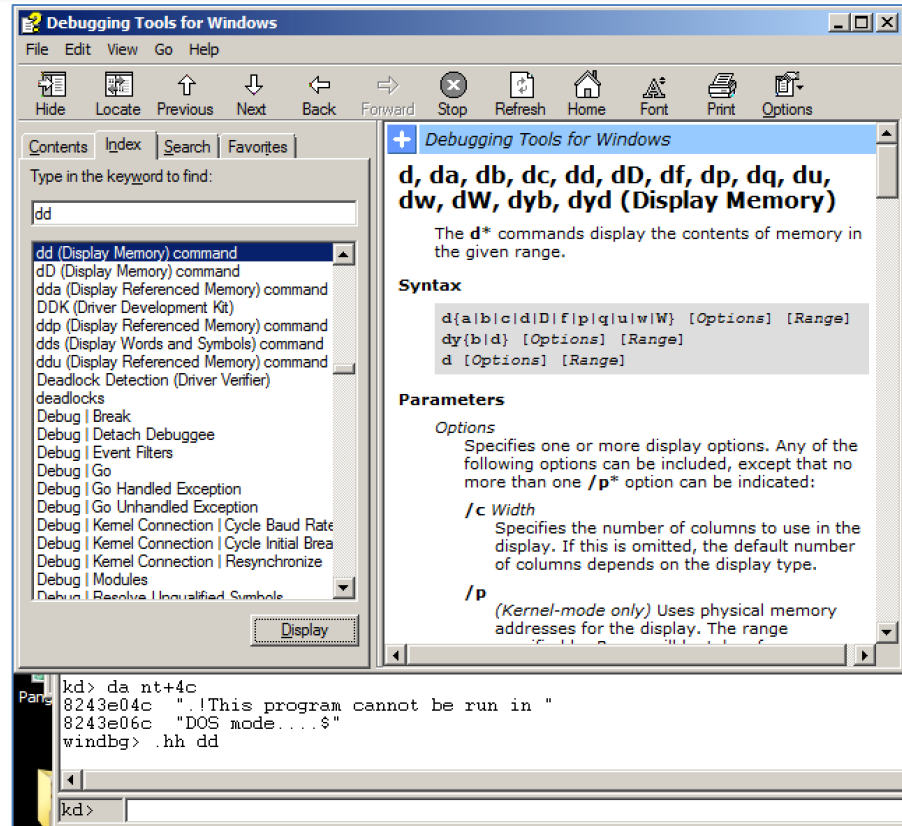
- **dd nt L10**

- Shows the first 0x10 words of "nt"

```
kd> dd nt L10
8243e000  00905a4d  00000003  00000004  0000ffff
8243e010  000000b8  00000000  00000040  00000000
8243e020  00000000  00000000  00000000  00000000
8243e030  00000000  00000000  00000000  00000268
```

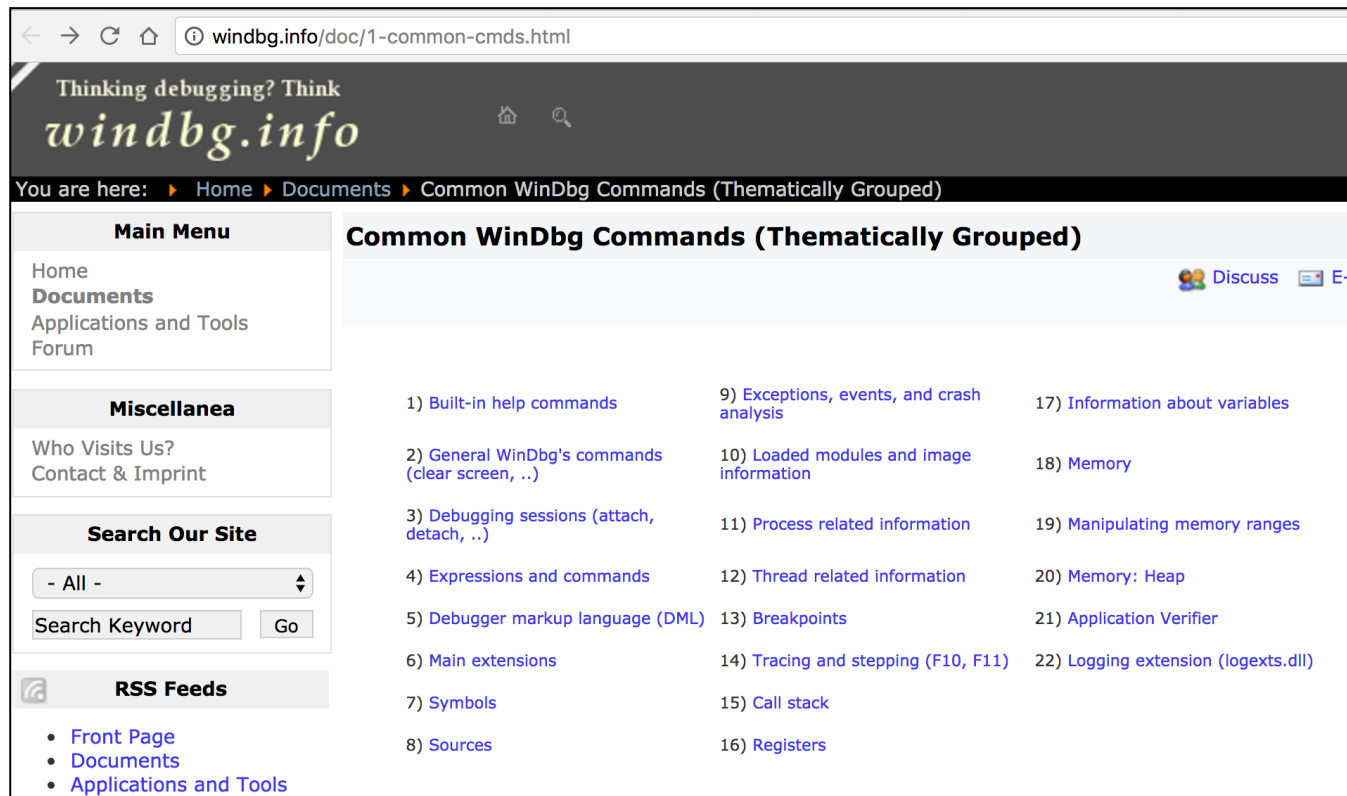
# Online Help

- `.hh dd`
  - Shows help about “`dd`” command
  - But there are no examples



# More Commands

- **r**
  - Dump all registers



The screenshot shows a web browser window at the URL `windbg.info/doc/1-common-cmds.html`. The page title is "Thinking debugging? Think windbg.info". The breadcrumb trail is "You are here: Home Documents Common WinDbg Commands (Thematically Grouped)".

The page is divided into a left sidebar and a main content area. The sidebar contains:

- Main Menu**
  - Home
  - Documents**
  - Applications and Tools
  - Forum
- Miscellanea**
  - Who Visits Us?
  - Contact & Imprint
- Search Our Site**
  - All -
  - Search Keyword
  - Go
- RSS Feeds**
  - [Front Page](#)
  - [Documents](#)
  - [Applications and Tools](#)

The main content area is titled "Common WinDbg Commands (Thematically Grouped)" and contains a list of 22 numbered items:

- 1) Built-in help commands
- 2) General WinDbg's commands (clear screen, ..)
- 3) Debugging sessions (attach, detach, ..)
- 4) Expressions and commands
- 5) Debugger markup language (DML)
- 6) Main extensions
- 7) Symbols
- 8) Sources
- 9) Exceptions, events, and crash analysis
- 10) Loaded modules and image information
- 11) Process related information
- 12) Thread related information
- 13) Breakpoints
- 14) Tracing and stepping (F10, F11)
- 15) Call stack
- 16) Registers
- 17) Information about variables
- 18) Memory
- 19) Manipulating memory ranges
- 20) Memory: Heap
- 21) Application Verifier
- 22) Logging extension (logexts.dll)

# MICROSOFT SYMBOLS

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# Symbols are Labels

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- Including symbols lets you use
  - **MmCreateProcessAddressSpace**
- instead of
  - **0x8050f1a2**



# Searching for Symbols

---

- **moduleName!symbolName**
  - Can be used anywhere an address is expected
- **moduleName**
  - The EXE, DLL, or SYS filename (without extension)
- **symbolName**
  - Name associated with the address
- **ntoskrnl.exe** is an exception, and is named **nt**
  - Ex: **u nt!NtCreateProcess**
    - Unassembles that function (disassembly)

# Demo

---

- Try these
  - `u nt!ntCreateProcess`
  - `u nt!ntCreateProcess L10`
  - `u nt!ntCreateProcess L20`

```
kd> u nt!ntCreateProcess
nt!NtCreateProcess:
826d1f9f 8bff          mov     edi,edi
826d1fa1 55           push   ebp
826d1fa2 8bec        mov     ebp,esp
826d1fa4 33c0        xor     eax,eax
826d1fa6 f6451c01    test   byte ptr [ebp+1Ch],1
826d1faa 7401        je     nt!NtCreateProcess+0xe (826d1fad)
826d1fac 40          inc     eax
826d1fad f6452001    test   byte ptr [ebp+20h],1
```

# Deferred Breakpoints

---

- **bu** *newModule! exportedFunction*
  - Will set a breakpoint on *exportedFunction* as soon as a module named *newModule* is loaded
- **\$iment**
  - Function that finds the entry point of a module
- **bu \$iment(*driverName*)**
  - Breaks on the entry point of the driver before any of the driver's code runs

# Searching with **x**

---

- You can search for functions or symbols using wildcards
- **x nt!\*CreateProcess\***
  - Displays exported functions & internal functions

```
0:003> x nt!*CreateProcess*
805c736a nt!NtCreateProcessEx = <no type information>
805c7420 nt!NtCreateProcess = <no type information>
805c6a8c nt!PspCreateProcess = <no type information>
804fe144 nt!ZwCreateProcess = <no type information>
804fe158 nt!ZwCreateProcessEx = <no type information>
8055a300 nt!PspCreateProcessNotifyRoutineCount = <no type information>
805c5e0a nt!PsSetCreateProcessNotifyRoutine = <no type information>
8050f1a2 nt!MmCreateProcessAddressSpace = <no type information>
8055a2e0 nt!PspCreateProcessNotifyRoutine = <no type information>
```

# Listing Closest Symbol with **ln**

- Helps in figuring out where a call goes
- **ln** *address*

Closest matches

```
0:002> ln 805717aa
```

```
kd> ln ntreadfile
```

```
1 (805717aa) nt!NtReadFile | (80571d38) nt!NtReadFileScatter
```

```
Exact matches:
```

```
2 nt!NtReadFile = <no type information>
```

Exact match

# Viewing Structure Information with **dt**

---

- Microsoft symbols include type information for many structures
  - Including undocumented internal types
  - They are often used by malware
- **dt** *moduleName!symbolName*
- **dt** *moduleName!symbolName address*
  - Shows structure with data from address

# Example: Viewing Type Information for a Structure

```
0:000> dt nt!_DRIVER_OBJECT
kd> dt nt!_DRIVER_OBJECT
+0x000 Type           : Int2B
+0x002 Size           : Int2B
+0x004 DeviceObject   : Ptr32 _DEVICE_OBJECT
+0x008 Flags          : Uint4B
! +0x00c DriverStart   : Ptr32 Void
+0x010 DriverSize     : Uint4B
+0x014 DriverSection  : Ptr32 Void
+0x018 DriverExtension : Ptr32 _DRIVER_EXTENSION
+0x01c DriverName     : _UNICODE_STRING
+0x024 HardwareDatabase : Ptr32 _UNICODE_STRING
+0x028 FastIoDispatch : Ptr32 _FAST_IO_DISPATCH
+0x02c DriverInit     : Ptr32 long
+0x030 DriverStartIo  : Ptr32 void
+0x034 DriverUnload   : Ptr32 void
+0x038 MajorFunction  : [28] Ptr32 long
```

# Demo

- Try these

- dt nt! **\_DRIVER\_OBJECT**
- dt nt! **\_DEVICE\_OBJECT**

```
kd> dt nt!_DEVICE_OBJECT
+0x000 Type : Int2B
+0x002 Size : Uint2B
+0x004 ReferenceCount : Int4B
+0x008 DriverObject : Ptr32 _DRIVER_OBJECT
+0x00c NextDevice : Ptr32 _DEVICE_OBJECT
+0x010 AttachedDevice : Ptr32 _DEVICE_OBJECT
+0x014 CurrentIrp : Ptr32 _IRP
+0x018 Timer : Ptr32 _IO_TIMER
+0x01c Flags : Uint4B
+0x020 Characteristics : Uint4B
+0x024 Vpb : Ptr32 _VPB
+0x028 DeviceExtension : Ptr32 Void
+0x02c DeviceType : Uint4B
+0x030 StackSize : Char
+0x034 Queue : <unnamed-tag>
+0x05c AlignmentRequirement : Uint4B
+0x060 DeviceQueue : _KDEVICE_QUEUE
+0x074 Dpc : _KDPC
+0x094 ActiveThreadCount : Uint4B
+0x098 SecurityDescriptor : Ptr32 Void
+0x09c DeviceLock : _KEVENT
+0x0ac SectorSize : Uint2B
+0x0ae Spare1 : Uint2B
+0x0b0 DeviceObjectExtension : Ptr32 _DEVOBJ_EXTENSION
+0x0b4 Reserved : Ptr32 Void
```



# Show Specific Values for the “Beep” Driver

```
kd> dt nt!_DRIVER_OBJECT 828b2648
+0x000 Type           : 4
+0x002 Size           : 168
+0x004 DeviceObject   : 0x828b0a30 _DEVICE_OBJECT
+0x008 Flags           : 0x12
+0x00c DriverStart    : 0xf7adb000
+0x010 DriverSize     : 0x1080
+0x014 DriverSection  : 0x82ad8d78
+0x018 DriverExtension : 0x828b26f0 _DRIVER_EXTENSION
+0x01c DriverName     : _UNICODE_STRING "\Driver\Beep"
+0x024 HardwareDatabase : 0x80670ae0 _UNICODE_STRING
"\REGISTRY\MACHINE\
HARDWARE\DESCRIPTION\SYSTEM"
+0x028 FastIoDispatch : (null)
+0x02c DriverInit     : 0xf7adb66c long Beep!DriverEntry+0
+0x030 DriverStartIo  : 0xf7adb51a void Beep!BeepStartIo+0
+0x034 DriverUnload   : 0xf7adb620 void Beep!BeepUnload+0
+0x038 MajorFunction  : [28] 0xf7adb46a long Beep!BeepOpen+0
```

# Initialization Function

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- The **DriverInit** function is called first when a driver is loaded
  - See labelled line in previous slide
- Malware will sometimes place its entire malicious payload in this function

# Configuring Windows Symbols

---

- If your debugging machine is connected to an always-on broadband link, you can configure WinDbg to automatically download symbols from Microsoft as needed
- They are cached locally
- **File, Symbol File Path**
  - `SRC*c:\websymbols*http://msdl.microsoft.com/download/symbols`

# Manually Downloading Symbols

---

A screenshot of a web browser window. The address bar shows the URL 'msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/hardware/gg463028.aspx'. The page title is 'Download Windows Symbol Packages'. The main content area contains two paragraphs of text. The first paragraph explains that the easiest way to get Windows symbols is to use the Microsoft Symbol Server, which caches symbol files locally. The second paragraph lists various Windows versions for which symbol packages can be downloaded, including Windows 8.1 Preview, Windows Server 2012 R2 Preview, Windows 8, Windows Server 2012, Windows 7, Windows Server 2008 R2, Windows Server 2008, Windows Vista, Windows Server 2003, Windows XP, and Windows 2000.

← → ↻ 🏠 msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/hardware/gg463028.aspx 4+ 🔍 ☆ 🍌 🌐 ⚙️ 🗑️ 📄 📧 🔄 ☰

## Download Windows Symbol Packages

The easiest way to get Windows symbols is to use the [Microsoft Symbol Server](#). The symbol server makes symbols available to your debugging tools as needed. After a symbol file is downloaded from the symbol server it is cached on the local computer for quick access.

If you prefer to download the entire set of symbols for Windows 8.1 Preview, Windows Server 2012 R2 Preview, Windows 8, Windows Server 2012, Windows 7, Windows Server 2008 R2, Windows Server 2008, Windows Vista, Windows Server 2003, Windows XP, or Windows 2000, then you can download a symbol package and install it on your computer.

# KERNEL DEBUGGING IN PRACTICE

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# Kernel Mode and User Mode Functions

---

- We'll examine a program that writes to files from kernel space
  - An unusual thing to do
  - Fools some security products
  - Kernel mode programs cannot call user-mode functions like **CreateFile** and **WriteFile**
  - Must use **NtCreateFile** and **NtWriteFile**

# User-Space Code

- Creates a service with the **CreateService** function  
**dwServiceType** is **0x01** (Kernel driver)

Creating a service to  
load a kernel driver

```
04001B3D  push    esi                ; lpPassword
04001B3E  push    esi                ; lpServiceStartName
04001B3F  push    esi                ; lpDependencies
04001B40  push    esi                ; lpdwTagId
04001B41  push    esi                ; lpLoadOrderGroup
04001B42  push    [ebp+lpBinaryPathName] ; lpBinaryPathName
04001B45  push    1                  ; dwErrorControl
04001B47  push    3                  ; dwStartType
04001B49  push    1                  ; dwServiceType
04001B4B  push    0F01FFh           ; dwDesiredAccess
04001B50  push    [ebp+lpDisplayName] ; lpDisplayName
04001B53  push    [ebp+lpDisplayName] ; lpServiceName
04001B56  push    [ebp+hSCManager]   ; hSCManager
04001B59  call    ds:__imp__CreateServiceA@52
```



# User-Space Code (cont.)

- Not shown: edi being set to
  - `\\.\\FileWriter\\Device`

Obtaining a **handle** to a device object

```
04001893      xor     eax, eax
04001895      push   eax                ; hTemplateFile
04001896      push   80h               ; dwFlagsAndAttributes
0400189B      push   2                 ; dwCreationDisposition
0400189D      push   eax               ; lpSecurityAttributes
0400189E      push   eax               ; dwShareMode
0400189F      push   ebx               ; dwDesiredAccess
040018A0      2push  edi               ; lpFileName
040018A1      1call  esi ; CreateFileA
```



# User-Space Code (cont.)

- Once the malware has a handle to the device, it uses the **DeviceIoControl** function to send data to the driver.

Using **DeviceIoControl** to communicate from user space to kernel space

```
04001910  push    0                ; lpOverlapped
04001912  sub     eax, ecx
04001914  lea    ecx, [ebp+BytesReturned]
0400191A  push   ecx                ; lpBytesReturned
0400191B  push   64h                ; nOutBufferSize
0400191D  push   edi                ; lpOutBuffer
0400191E  inc    eax
0400191F  push   eax                ; nInBufferSize
04001920  push   esi                ; lpInBuffer
04001921  push   9C402408h         ; dwIoControlCode
04001926  push   [ebp+hObject]     ; hDevice
0400192C  call   ds:DeviceIoControl ←
```

# Kernel-Mode Code

---

- Set WinDbg to Verbose mode (View, Verbose Output)
  - Doesn't work with LiveKD
- You'll see every kernel module that loads
- Kernel modules are not loaded or unloaded often
  - Any loads are suspicious
  - Except **Kmixer.sys** in VMware machines

# Kernel-Mode Code (cont.)

---

- Example: we see **FileWriter.sys** driver has been loaded in the kernel debugging window. Likely, this is the malicious driver.

**ModLoad: f7b0d000 f7b0e780 FileWriter.sys**

## NOTE

*When using VMware for kernel debugging, you will see KMixer.sys frequently loaded and unloaded. This is normal and not associated with any malicious activity.*

# Kernel-Mode Code (cont.)

---

- `!drvobj` command shows driver object

```
kd> !drvobj FileWriter
```

```
Driver object (827e3698) is for:
```

```
Loading symbols for f7b0d000  FileWriter.sys ->  FileWriter.sys
```

```
*** ERROR: Module load completed but symbols could not be loaded for  
FileWriter.sys
```

```
  \Driver\FileWriter
```

```
Driver Extension List: (id , addr)
```

```
Device Object list:
```

```
826eb030
```

# Kernel-Mode Code (cont.)

- `dt` command shows structure

```
kd>dt nt!_DRIVER_OBJECT 0x827e3698
nt!_DRIVER_OBJECT
+0x000 Type           : 4
+0x002 Size           : 168
+0x004 DeviceObject   : 0x826eb030 _DEVICE_OBJECT
+0x008 Flags          : 0x12
+0x00c DriverStart    : 0xf7b0d000
+0x010 DriverSize     : 0x1780
+0x014 DriverSection  : 0x828006a8
+0x018 DriverExtension : 0x827e3740 _DRIVER_EXTENSION
+0x01c DriverName     : _UNICODE_STRING "\Driver\FileWriter"
+0x024 HardwareDatabase : 0x8066ecd8 _UNICODE_STRING
"\REGISTRY\MACHINE\
                        HARDWARE\DESCRIPTION\SYSTEM"
+0x028 FastIoDispatch : (null)
+0x02c DriverInit     : 0xf7b0dfcd      long +0
+0x030 DriverStartIo  : (null)
+0x034 DriverUnload   : 0xf7b0da2a      void +0
+0x038 MajorFunction  : [28] 0xf7b0da06      long +0
```

# Kernel-Mode **File**names

---

- Tracing this function, it eventually creates this file
  - `\DosDevices\C:\secretfile.txt`
- This is a *fully qualified object name*
  - Identifies the root device, usually `\DosDevices`

# Finding Driver Objects

---

- Applications work with *devices*, not drivers
- Look at user-space application to identify the interesting *device object*
- Use *device object* in User-Mode to find *driver object* in Kernel-Mode
- Use **!devobj** to find out more about the *device object*
- Use **!devhandles** to find application that use the driver

# ROOTKITS

---





# Rootkit Basics

---

- Rootkits modify the internal functionality of the OS to **conceal** themselves
  - Hide processes, network connections, and other resources from running programs
  - Difficult for antivirus, administrators, and security analysts to discover their malicious activity
- Most rootkits **modify the kernel**
- Most popular method:
  - **System Service Descriptor Table (SSDT) hooking**

# System Service Descriptor Table (SSDT)

---

- Used internally by Microsoft
  - To look up function calls into the kernel
  - Not normally used by third-party applications or drivers
- Only three ways for user space to **access** kernel code
  - **SYSCALL**
  - **SYSENTER**
    - Used by modern versions of Windows
    - Function code stored in **EAX** register
  - **INT 0x2E**

# Example from `ntdll.dll`

---

- EAX set to 0x25
- Stack pointer saved in EDX
- SYSENTER is called

```
7C90D682 1mov     eax, 25h           ; NtCreateFile
7C90D687  mov     edx, 7FFE0300h
7C90D68C  call   dword ptr [edx]
7C90D68E  retn   2Ch
```

The call to `dword ptr [edx]` will go to the following instructions:

```
7c90eb8b 8bd4  mov     edx,esp
7c90eb8d 0f34  sysenter
```

# SSDT Table Entries

---

- Rootkit changes the values in the SSDT so rootkit code is called instead of the intended function
- 0x25 would be changed to a malicious driver's function

```
SSDT[0x22] = 805b28bc (NtCreateaDirectoryObject)
SSDT[0x23] = 80603be0 (NtCreateEvent)
SSDT[0x24] = 8060be48 (NtCreateEventPair)
SSDT[0x25] = 8056d3ca (NtCreateFile)
SSDT[0x26] = 8056bc5c (NtCreateIoCompletion)
SSDT[0x27] = 805ca3ca (NtCreateJobObject)
```

Several entries of the SSDT  
table showing  
**NtCreateFile**

# Hooking **NtCreateFile**

---

- Rootkit calls the original **NtCreateFile**, then removes files it wants to hide
  - This prevents applications from getting a handle to the file
- Hooking **NtCreateFile** alone won't hide a file from DIR, however

# Rootkit Analysis in Practice

---

- Simplest way to detect SSDT hooking
  - Just look at the SSDT
  - Look for values that are unreasonable
  - In this case, **ntoskrnl.exe** starts at address **804d7000** and ends at **806cd580**
  - **ntoskrnl.exe** is the Kernel!
- **lm m nt**
  - Lists modules matching “**nt**” (Kernel modules)
  - Shows the SSDT table

# SSDT Table

- Marked entry is hooked
- To identify it, examine a clean system's SSDT

```
kd> lm m nt
...
8050122c 805c9928 805c98d8 8060aea6 805aa334
8050123c 8060a4be 8059cbbc 805a4786 805cb406
8050124c 804feed0 8060b5c4 8056ae64 805343f2
8050125c 80603b90 805b09c0 805e9694 80618a56
8050126c 805edb86 80598e34 80618caa 805986e6
8050127c 805401f0 80636c9c 805b28bc 80603be0
8050128c 8060be48 1f7ad94a4 8056bc5c 805ca3ca
8050129c 805ca102 80618e86 8056d4d8 8060c240
805012ac 8056d404 8059fba6 80599202 805c5f8e
```

A sample SSDT table  
with one entry  
overwritten by a rootkit

# Finding the Malicious Driver

- **lm**
  - Lists open modules
  - In the kernel, they are all drivers

Using the **lm** command to find which driver contains a particular address

```
kd>lm
...
f7ac7000 f7ac8580 intelide (deferred)
f7ac9000 f7aca700 dmload (deferred)
f7ad9000 f7ada680 Rootkit (deferred)
f7aed000 f7aee280 vmmouse (deferred)
...
```



# Listing of the Rootkit Hook Function

```
000104A4  mov     edi, edi
000104A6  push   ebp
000104A7  mov     ebp, esp
000104A9  push   [ebp+arg 8]
000104AC  call   1sub_10486
000104B1  test   eax, eax
000104B3  jz     short loc_104BB
000104B5  pop    ebp
000104B6  jmp    NtCreateFile
000104BB  -----
000104BB                ; CODE XREF: sub_104A4+F j
000104BB  mov    eax, 0C0000034h
000104C0  pop    ebp
000104C1  retn   2Ch
```

The hook function jumps to the original NtCreateFile function for some requests and returns to 0xC0000034 for others. The value 0xC0000034 corresponds to STATUS\_OBJECT\_NAME\_NOT\_FOUND. The call at **1** contains

# Interrupts

---

- Interrupts allow hardware to trigger software events
- Driver calls **IoConnectInterrupt** to register a handler for an interrupt code
- Specifies an **Interrupt Service Routine (ISR)**
  - Will be called when the interrupt code is generated
- **Interrupt Descriptor Table (IDT)**
  - Stores the ISR information
  - **!idt** command shows the IDT

# A Sample IDT

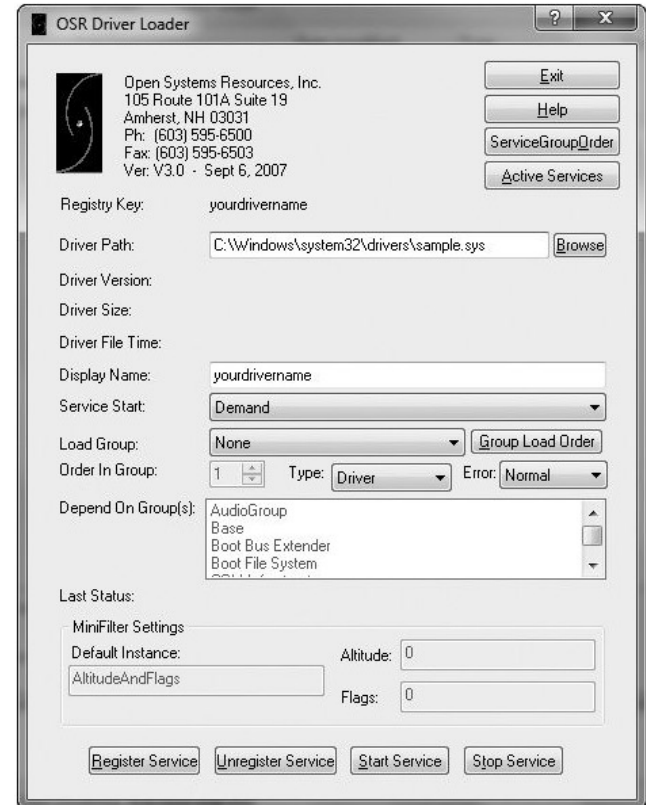
```
kd> !idt

37: 806cf728 hal!PicSpuriousService37
3d: 806d0b70 hal!HalpApcInterrupt
41: 806d09cc hal!HalpDispatchInterrupt
50: 806cf800 hal!HalpApicRebootService
62: 8298b7e4 atapi!IdePortInterrupt (KINTERRUPT 8298b7a8)
63: 826ef044 NDIS!ndisMIsr (KINTERRUPT 826ef008)
73: 826b9044 portcls!CKsShellRequestor::~`vector deleting destructor'+0x26
    (KINTERRUPT 826b9008)
    USBPORT!USBPORT_InterruptService (KINTERRUPT 826df008)
82: 82970dd4 atapi!IdePortInterrupt (KINTERRUPT 82970d98)
83: 829e8044 SCSI!ScsiPortInterrupt (KINTERRUPT 829e8008)
93: 826c315c i8042prt!I8042KeyboardInterruptService (KINTERRUPT 826c3120)
a3: 826c2044 i8042prt!I8042MouseInterruptService (KINTERRUPT 826c2008)
b1: 829e5434 ACPI!ACPIInterruptServiceRoutine (KINTERRUPT 829e53f8)
b2: 826f115c serial!SerialCIsrSw (KINTERRUPT 826f1120)
c1: 806cf984 hal!HalpBroadcastCallService
d1: 806ced34 hal!HalpClockInterrupt
e1: 806cff0c hal!HalpIpiHandler
e3: 806cfc70 hal!HalpLocalApicErrorService
fd: 806d0464 hal!HalpProfileInterrupt
fe: 806d0604 hal!HalpPerfInterrupt
```

Interrupts going to  
**unnamed, unsigned, or  
suspicious drivers** could  
indicate a rootkit or  
other malicious  
software.

# Loading Drivers

- If you want to load a driver to test it, you can download the OSR Driver Loader tool



# Kernel Issues for Windows Vista, Windows 7, and x64 Versions

---

- Uses **BCDedit** instead of **boot.ini**
- x64 versions starting with XP have **PatchGuard**
  - Prevents third-party code from modifying the kernel
  - Including kernel code itself, SSDT, IDT, etc.
  - Can interfere with debugging, because debugger patches code when inserting breakpoints
- There are 64-bit kernel debugging tools

# Driver **Signing**

---

- Enforced in all 64-bit versions of Windows starting with Vista
- Only digitally signed drivers will load
- Effective protection!
- Kernel malware for x64 systems is practically nonexistent
  - You can disable driver signing enforcement by specifying **no integrity checks** in **BCDEdit**



**END OF LECTURE. THANK YOU.**