



# Active Directory Security Deep-dive Master Class

Derek Melber, MVP  
Chief Technology and Security Strategist

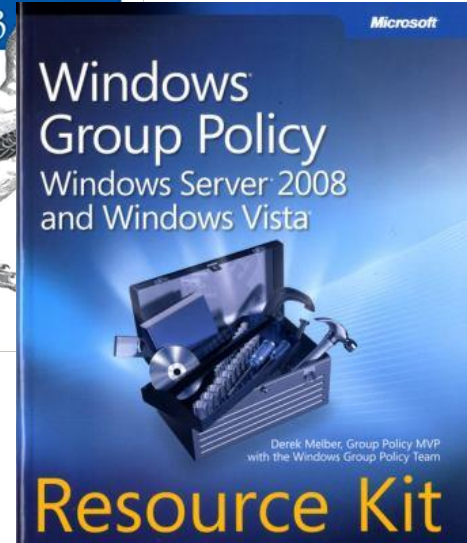
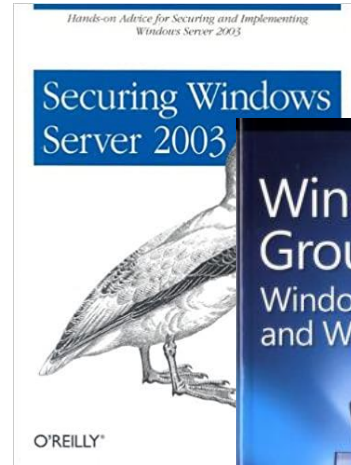
[dmelber@tenable.com](mailto:dmelber@tenable.com)  
[@derekmelber](https://twitter.com/derekmelber)

# ABOUT THE SPEAKER

## Derek Melber

- Chief Technology and Security Strategist
- 18X Microsoft MVP (AD, GP, Security)
- Speaker in over 35 countries
- Author of 16 books

dmelber@tenable.com  
LinkedIn: @derekmelber



# Agenda

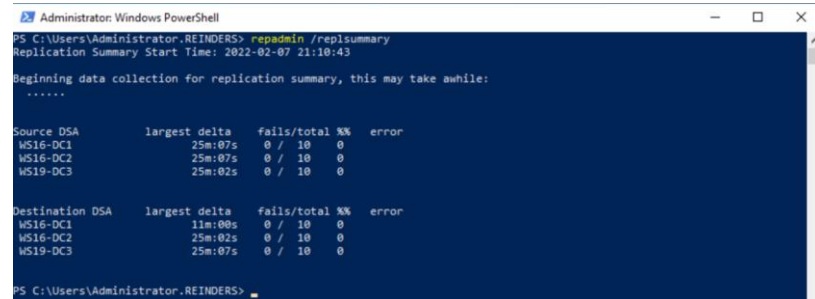
- Domain Controllers
- AD Security Overview
- Windows Security Model
- PowerShell and AD
- Privileges in AD
- Stop Thinking Like an Admin to Protect AD!
- Top AD Security Settings



Domain Controllers

# Domain Controllers

- Main Function
  - Authenticate users and computers
  - Deploy Group Policy and scripts
- Replication and Convergence
  - Intra-site replication
    - Replication between DCs in same site
    - Default is immediate
  - Inter-site replication
    - Replication between DCs in different sites
    - Default is 180 minutes
    - Minimum is 15 minutes
  - Inter-site Change Notification
    - Default is immediate
  - CMD: repadmin /replsummary



```
Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Users\Administrator.REINDERS> repadmin /replsummary
Replication Summary Start Time: 2022-02-07 21:10:43

Beginning data collection for replication summary, this may take awhile:
.....

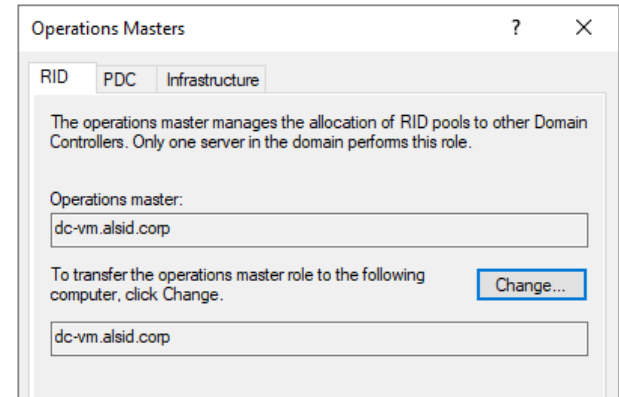
Source DSA      largest delta  fails/total  %  error
WS16-DC1       25m:07s      0 / 10      0
WS16-DC2       25m:07s      0 / 10      0
WS19-DC3       25m:02s      0 / 10      0

Destination DSA largest delta  fails/total  %  error
WS16-DC1       11m:00s      0 / 10      0
WS16-DC2       25m:02s      0 / 10      0
WS19-DC3       25m:07s      0 / 10      0

PS C:\Users\Administrator.REINDERS>
```

# Domain Controllers

- Not all DCs are equal
  - Flexible Single Master Operators
    - Relative ID (RID) Master
    - PDC Emulator
    - Infrastructure Master
    - Domain Naming Master (per forest)
    - Schema Master (per forest)



# Domain Controllers

- PDC Emulator
  - Password changes performed by other DCs in the domain are replicated preferentially to the PDC emulator.
  - If a logon authentication fails at a given DC in a domain due to a bad password, the DC will forward the authentication request to the PDC emulator to validate the request against the most current password. If the PDC reports an invalid password to the DC, the DC will send back a bad password failure message to the user.
  - Account lockout is processed on the PDC emulator.

# Domain Controllers

- PDC Emulator
  - Immediate replication to PDC Emulator from another DC
    - Lockout of an account
    - Account is unlocked
    - Password reset on account
    - “User Must Change Password at Next Logon” manually set for user
    - Modification of Local Security Authority (LSA) secret
    - State changes of the RID Manager





# Active Directory security overview

# Active Directory Security Overview

## Privileged Accounts

This includes built-in users and groups with privileges, but also newly created users and groups that are granted privileges.

## Password Policy

Either via Group Policy or FGPP, the details of the Password Policy need to be configured correctly.

## Permissions

Both AD and SYSVOL have permissions that provide granular control, but misconfigured can expose AD to an easy attack.

## Service Accounts

These include accounts that are used to support applications, services, scripts, schedule tasks, and more.

## Network Protocols

Backward compatible network protocols leave the network and AD open for attack, SMB and NTLM need to be secured.

## Trusts

Domain and Forest trusts have many caveats and configurations that often go misconfigured and open to attack.

# Active Directory Security Overview

## AD Processes

Processes such as SDProp, Kerberos authentication, and Kerberos ticketing need to be secured.

## User Attributes

Controls such as SPNs, Kerberos delegation, Primary Group ID, SIDHistory, etc. need to be secured.

## Unsecure Users

These accounts are those that have not logged or changed their password in a long time, as well as those with non-expiring passwords.

## User Rights

Each Domain Controller has special privileges that can grant power over the server and even AD.

## AAD Connections

Settings within the on-prem AD that allow for communications and synchronization with Azure AD need to be secured.

## Computer Attributes

Kerberos delegations and group membership can provide an unmonitored attack surface and every attacker looks for these.



# Windows Security Model

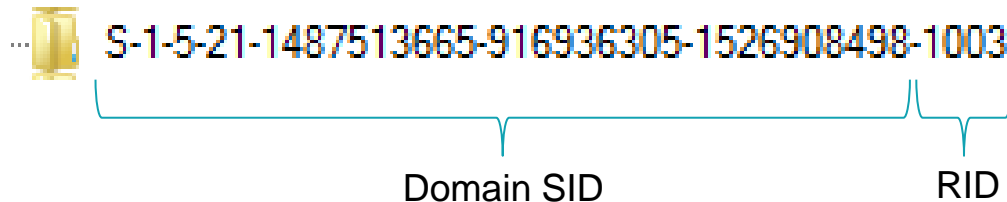
# The Windows Security Model

- SIDs
- Tokens
- Object-based Access Control
- User Authentication

# SIDs

- User and computer account = 1 single object in AD
  - A user/computer account only exists one time in AD
  - User/computer accounts can have membership in many groups
- Security Identifiers (SIDs)

- Users
- Groups
- Computers



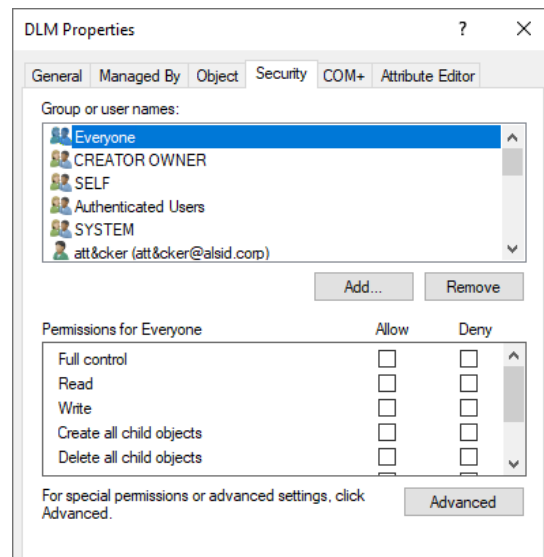
- PS: Get-aduser derek –properties sid

# Authentication Tokens

- Given out by Domain Controller at user logon
- Contents
  - User SID
  - Group SIDs
  - Privileges
  - CMD: whoami /all
- Only refreshed with user logoff/logon or computer restart

# Object-based Access Control

- ACL – Access Control List – Security tab
  - Associated with Windows security objects
  - Entries can include: users, groups, computers
  - Defines the access per security principal
  - ACL is list of SIDs
    - GUI translates
    - Orphaned SIDs
- Objects with ACLs
  - Files and Folders
  - Registry keys
  - Printers
  - AD Objects
  - Services





# User Authentication

```
C:\Users\derek>whoami /all

USER INFORMATION
-----
User Name      SID
-----
alsid\derek    S-1-5-21-1925713885-2848933152-1748536074-2026

GROUP INFORMATION
-----
Group Name      Type      SID
-----
Everyone        Well-known group S-1-1-0
BUILTIN\Users   Alias     S-1-5-32-545
BUILTIN\Pre-Windows 2000 Compatible Access Alias     S-1-5-32-554
BUILTIN\Administrators Alias     S-1-5-32-544
NT AUTHORITY\REMOTE INTERACTIVE LOGON Well-known group S-1-5-14
NT AUTHORITY\INTERACTIVE Well-known group S-1-5-4
NT AUTHORITY\Authenticated Users Well-known group S-1-5-11
NT AUTHORITY\This Organization Well-known group S-1-5-15
LOCAL Well-known group S-1-2-0
ALSID\Domain Admins Group     S-1-5-21-1925713885-2848933152-1748536074-512
Authentication authority asserted identity Well-known group S-1-18-1
ALSID\Denied RODC Password Replication Group Alias     S-1-5-21-1925713885-2848933152-1748536074-572
Mandatory Label\Medium Mandatory Level Label     S-1-16-8192

PRIVILEGES INFORMATION
-----
Privilege Name      Description      State
-----
SeMachineAccountPrivilege Add workstations to domain Disabled
SeChangeNotifyPrivilege Bypass traverse checking Enabled
SeIncreaseWorkingSetPrivilege Increase a process working set Disabled
```

Advanced Security Settings for DLM

Owner: Domain Admins (ALSID\Domain Admins) [Change](#)

Permissions Auditing Effective Access

For additional information, double-click a permission entry. To modify a permission entry, select the entry and click Edit (if available).

Permission entries:

Type	Principal	Access	Inherited from	Applies to
Deny	Everyone	Special	None	This object only
Allow	att&ccker (att&ccker@alsid.cor...	Reset password	None	Descendant User objects
Allow	HelpDesk (ALSID\HelpDesk)	Reset password	None	Descendant User objects
Allow	att&ccker (att&ccker@alsid.cor...		None	Descendant User objects
Allow	HelpDesk (ALSID\HelpDesk)		None	Descendant User objects
Allow	Account Operators (ALSID\A...	Create/delete InetOrg...	None	This object only
Allow	Account Operators (ALSID\A...	Create/delete Comput...	None	This object only
Allow	Account Operators (ALSID\A...	Create/delete Group o...	None	This object only
Allow	Print Operators (ALSID\Print ...	Create/delete Printer o...	None	This object only
Allow	Account Operators (ALSID\A...	Create/delete User obj...	None	This object only

[Add](#) [Remove](#) [View](#) [Restore defaults](#)

[Disable inheritance](#)

[OK](#) [Cancel](#) [Apply](#)

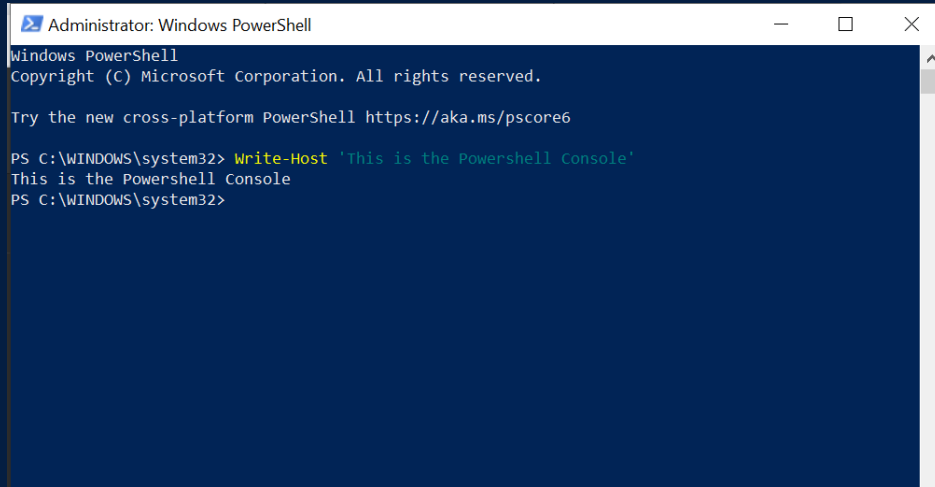


---

## PowerShell and Active Directory

# The Powershell Environment

## Powershell Console



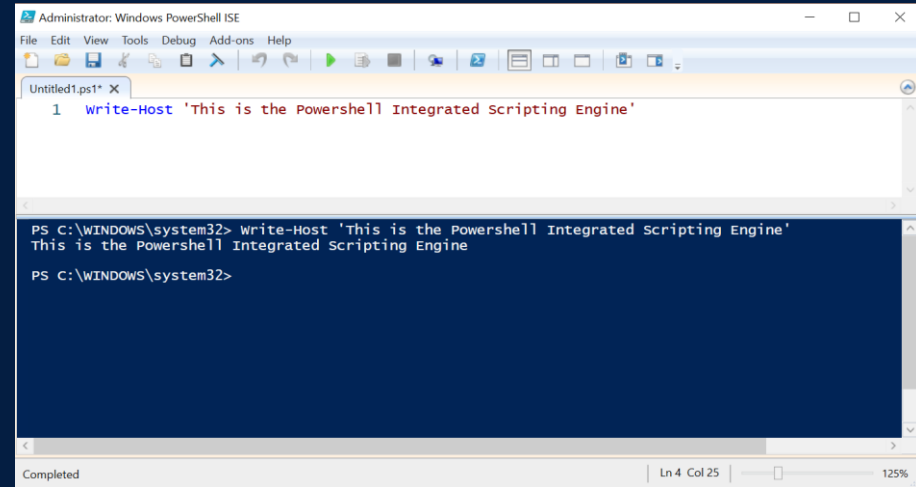
A screenshot of the Windows PowerShell console window. The title bar reads "Administrator: Windows PowerShell". The window content shows the following text:

```
Windows PowerShell
Copyright (C) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

Try the new cross-platform PowerShell https://aka.ms/pscore6

PS C:\WINDOWS\system32> Write-Host 'This is the Powershell Console'
This is the Powershell Console
PS C:\WINDOWS\system32>
```

## Powershell ISE



A screenshot of the Windows PowerShell ISE window. The title bar reads "Administrator: Windows PowerShell ISE". The window has a menu bar (File, Edit, View, Tools, Debug, Add-ons, Help) and a toolbar. A script file named "Untitled1.ps1" is open, containing the following code:

```
1 Write-Host 'This is the Powershell Integrated Scripting Engine'
```

The console output below the script shows the execution of the command:

```
PS C:\WINDOWS\system32> write-Host 'This is the Powershell Integrated Scripting Engine'
This is the Powershell Integrated Scripting Engine
PS C:\WINDOWS\system32>
```

The status bar at the bottom indicates "Completed" and "Ln 4 Col 25".

# Useful AD Powershell CMDlets

## **Install-Module NTFSSecurity**

Installs the NTFS Security Module from the Microsoft Powershell Gallery.

## **Get-ADUser –Filter \* -Properties \***

Retrieves all readable properties of all users in Active Directory

## **Get-ADGroup –Filter \* -Properties \***

Retrieves all readable properties of all groups in Active Directory

## **Get-ADComputer –Filter “CN=Server,OU=CT,DC=MyCompany,DC=Corp”**

Retrieves all computers in the Server container of the CT OU in the mycompany.corp domain

# Export Info in Multiple Formats

```
PS C:\Windows\system32> Get-ADGroup -Properties * -Filter * | Export-Csv -Path c:\groups.csv
PS C:\Windows\system32> Get-ADGroup -Properties * -Filter * | ConvertTo-Html | Out-File c:\groups.html
PS C:\Windows\system32>
```

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P		
1	#TYPE Microsoft.ActiveDirectory.Management.ADGroup																
2	adminCoun	CanonicalName	CN	Created	createTime	Deleted	Description	DisplayNa	Distinguisd	ScorePr	GroupCati	GroupScop	groupType	HomePag	instanceTy	isCriticalS	isS
3	1	alsid.corp/Administrators	Administrators	4/27/2021 9:56:14 PM	4/27/2021 9:56:14 PM		Administrators have complete and unrestricted access to the computer/domain	CN=Administrators,CN=Builtin,DC=alsid,DC=corp			DomainLo	-2.1E+09				4	TRUE
4		alsid.corp/Builtin/Users	Users	4/27/2021 9:56:14 PM	4/27/2021 9:56:14 PM		Users are prevented from making accidental or intentional system-wide changes and can run most applications	CN=Users,CN=Builtin,DC=alsid,DC=corp			DomainLo	-2.1E+09				4	TRUE
5		alsid.corp/Builtin/Guests	Guests	4/27/2021 9:56:14 PM	4/27/2021 9:56:14 PM		Guests have the same access as members of the Users group by default, except for the Guest account which is further restricted	CN=Guests,CN=Builtin,DC=alsid,DC=corp			DomainLo	-2.1E+09				4	TRUE
6	1	alsid.corp/Builtin/Print Operators	Print Operators	4/27/2021 9:56:14 PM	4/27/2021 9:56:14 PM		Members can administer printers installed on domain controllers	CN=Print Operators,CN=Builtin,DC=alsid,DC=corp			DomainLo	-2.1E+09				4	TRUE
7	1	alsid.corp/Backup Operators	Backup Operators	4/27/2021 9:56:14 PM	4/27/2021 9:56:14 PM		Members can administer backup operators	CN=Backup Operators,CN=Builtin,DC=alsid,DC=corp			DomainLo	-2.1E+09				4	TRUE
8	1	alsid.corp/Replicator	Replicator	4/27/2021 9:56:14 PM	4/27/2021 9:56:14 PM		Members can administer file replication	CN=Replicator,CN=Builtin,DC=alsid,DC=corp			DomainLo	-2.1E+09				4	TRUE
9		alsid.corp/Remote Desktop Users	Remote Desktop Users	4/27/2021 9:56:14 PM	4/27/2021 9:56:14 PM		Members in this group can administer remote desktop connections	CN=Remote Desktop Users,CN=Builtin,DC=alsid,DC=corp			DomainLo	-2.1E+09				4	TRUE
10		alsid.corp/Network Operators	Network Operators	4/27/2021 9:56:14 PM	4/27/2021 9:56:14 PM		Members in this group can administer network resources	CN=Network Operators,CN=Builtin,DC=alsid,DC=corp			DomainLo	-2.1E+09				4	TRUE
11		alsid.corp/Performance Operators	Performance Operators	4/27/2021 9:56:14 PM	4/27/2021 9:56:14 PM		Members of this group can administer performance monitoring	CN=Performance Operators,CN=Builtin,DC=alsid,DC=corp			DomainLo	-2.1E+09				4	TRUE
12		alsid.corp/Performance Users	Performance Users	4/27/2021 9:56:14 PM	4/27/2021 9:56:14 PM		Members of this group can administer performance monitoring	CN=Performance Users,CN=Builtin,DC=alsid,DC=corp			DomainLo	-2.1E+09				4	TRUE
13		alsid.corp/Distributed Link Tracking Service	Distributed Link Tracking Service	4/27/2021 9:56:14 PM	4/27/2021 9:56:14 PM		Members are allowed to administer distributed link tracking	CN=Distributed Link Tracking Service,CN=Builtin,DC=alsid,DC=corp			DomainLo	-2.1E+09				4	TRUE
14		alsid.corp/ILIAS	ILIAS	4/27/2021 9:56:14 PM	4/27/2021 9:56:14 PM		Built-in group used by IIS	CN=ILIAS,CN=Builtin,DC=alsid,DC=corp			DomainLo	-2.1E+09				4	TRUE
15		alsid.corp/Cryptographic Users	Cryptographic Users	4/27/2021 9:56:14 PM	4/27/2021 9:56:14 PM		Members are authorized to administer cryptographic operations	CN=Cryptographic Users,CN=Builtin,DC=alsid,DC=corp			DomainLo	-2.1E+09				4	TRUE
							Members of this group can administer event logs	CN=Event Log Users,CN=Builtin,DC=alsid,DC=corp			DomainLo	-2.1E+09				4	TRUE
							Members of this group can administer certificates	CN=Certificate Users,CN=Builtin,DC=alsid,DC=corp			DomainLo	-2.1E+09				4	TRUE
							Servers in this group can administer RDS	CN=RDS Servers,CN=Builtin,DC=alsid,DC=corp			DomainLo	-2.1E+09				4	TRUE
							Servers in this group can administer RDS	CN=RDS Event Log Users,CN=Builtin,DC=alsid,DC=corp			DomainLo	-2.1E+09				4	TRUE

adminCount	CanonicalName	CN	Created	createTimeStamp	Deleted	Description	DisplayName	DistinguishedName
1	alsid.corp/Builtin/Administrators	Administrators	4/27/2021 9:56:14 PM	4/27/2021 9:56:14 PM		Administrators have complete and unrestricted access to the computer/domain	CN=Administrators,CN=Builtin,DC=alsid,DC=corp	
	alsid.corp/Builtin/Users	Users	4/27/2021 9:56:14 PM	4/27/2021 9:56:14 PM		Users are prevented from making accidental or intentional system-wide changes and can run most applications	CN=Users,CN=Builtin,DC=alsid,DC=corp	
	alsid.corp/Builtin/Guests	Guests	4/27/2021 9:56:14 PM	4/27/2021 9:56:14 PM		Guests have the same access as members of the Users group by default, except for the Guest account which is further restricted	CN=Guests,CN=Builtin,DC=alsid,DC=corp	
1	alsid.corp/Builtin/Print Operators	Print Operators	4/27/2021 9:56:14 PM	4/27/2021 9:56:14 PM		Members can administer printers installed on domain controllers	CN=Print Operators,CN=Builtin,DC=alsid,DC=corp	

## Powershell for AD Enumeration

The following are a few examples of Powershell cmds that an authenticated, non-privileged user can easily run and that attackers leverage:

**Get-ADUser –Filter {Name –like “\*admin\*”}**

Retrieves all users the admin in the username.

**Get-ADUser –Filter {serviceprinciplename –ne “\$null”}**

Retrieves all users that have an SPN

**Get-ADDefaultPasswordPolicy**

Retrieves Domain Password Policy located in default domain policy

**Get-ADGroup | select name**

Retrieves all AD group names

**Get-ADDomain**

Gets Domain info including DC info

**Get-ADDomainControllerReplicationPolicy**

Retrieves DC replication info

**Get-GPO (or even better Get-GPOReport)**

Retrieves all GPOs. Get-GPOReport will even export them as an XML or CSV



---

## Privileges in Active Directory

# Privileged Groups

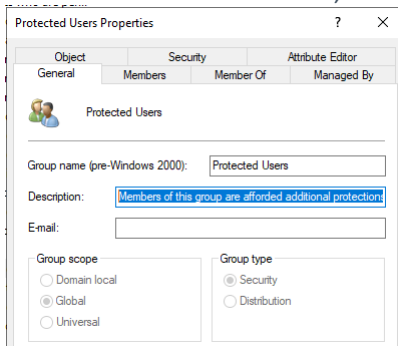


# Admin/Privileged Domain Groups

- Domain Admins
- Administrators
- Cert Publishers
- DHCP Administrators
- DNSAdmins
- Group Policy Creator Owners
- Account Operators
- Backup Operators
- Protected Users
- Pre-Windows 2000 Compatible Access

# Protected Users

- The Protected Users group entails the following restraints on its members:
  - The CredSSP and WDigest security providers will no longer cache, in memory, the passwords in clear text of the logged-on accounts, even if the Allow delegating default credentials strategy is enabled. Accordingly, the accounts will not be allowed to use delegation of authentication to connect to other systems in a transparent way (internal SSO of Windows).
  - The NTLM provider will no longer cache the password's hash of the authenticated accounts in memory.
  - No delegation of authentication will be available anymore for the accounts, neither constrained nor unconstrained delegation.
  - Kerberos pre-authentication usage will be limited to high encryption algorithms such as AES, and the support for DES and RC4 will be disabled.
  - The default lifetime of Kerberos tickets (TGT only) will change from 10h to 4h. Moreover, they will not be automatically renewed.
  - The feature related to the use of the local cache of the domain will be disabled. As a result, if domain controllers are not available to query, accounts will not be able to log into any computers anymore.
  - The NTLM protocol cannot be used anymore for user authentication, limiting the authentication protocol to Kerberos only.



# Additional Admin/Privileged Domain Groups

- Service and Application Groups
  - Exchange
  - Sharepoint
  - “Acme” application
- Custom Groups
  - Usually created by admins for ease of naming and used for administration
  - Be sure to document all group names

# Admin Forest Groups

- Forest Root Domain
  - Schema Admins
  - Enterprise Admins

# Working With Groups

- Group nesting
  - Ideal for organizing “who” can do “what” to an “asset”
  - Horrible when it comes to “Effective permissions/access”
  - Horrible when it comes to “recursive group members”
    - PS: `get-adgroupmember administrators -recursive`

# User Rights

# User Rights

- Computer wide configurations that control what users can do to/on that computer
- User rights are unique from computer to computer
- User rights are configured centrally using Group Policy
  - If not centrally, then local policy configures computer user rights
- User rights override security permissions
  - IE. If user has denial permission to a folder, can still back it up with Backup and Restore user right

# User Rights

- Domain controllers
  - Obtain more secure configuration at promotion
  - Default Domain Controllers Policy configures user rights
- Server
  - Joining AD domain does not enhance user right security
  - No GPO configures servers user rights by default



# User Rights

- Shut down the system
- Force shutdown of remote system
- Log on as a batch job
- Log on as a service
- Log on locally
- Act as part of the OS
- Backup and Restore files and directories

# User Rights

- Enable trusted for delegation
- Generate security audits
- Load and unload device drivers
- Manage auditing and security log
- Replace process level token
- Synchronize directory service data
- Take ownership of files and other objects



Stop Thinking Like and  
Admin to Protect AD!

# THE CYBER KILLCHAIN FRAMEWORK

Educate users  
Email security

AV  
EDR  
Least privilege  
User is not local Administrator  
Application Restriction  
UEBA

LAPS  
Unique passwords  
Common passwords  
Change PW often  
Strong Password Policy  
Password spray detect  
Brute force detect  
MFA  
PAM

Secure privileged users  
Secure service accts  
Secure computer accts  
Clean up old security  
Password spray detect  
Brute force detect  
LSASS detect  
DCSync detect  
DCShadow detect  
SPN modification  
Kerberos delegation mod

DCSync detect  
DCShadow detect  
Golden Ticket detect  
LSASS detect  
SIDHistory modification  
Primary Group ID modification



Target recognition



Phishing campaign on selected targets



Initial Endpoint compromise



Local privilege escalation



Company's infrastructure cartography



Lateral movement



Credentials replay on privileged accounts



Privileges Escalation on AD



Post exploitation (persistence, backdooring)

Mine credentials  
Install enumeration tool  
Enumerate AD

Mine credentials  
Password spray  
Brute force  
Cleartext password  
No password required

SPN/Kerberoasting  
Kerberos delegation  
Password spray  
Brute force  
Cleartext password  
LSASS credential dump

Set user attributes  
Modify group members  
Set user rights  
Modify group policy  
Create Golden Ticket  
adminSDHolder



# AD/Windows Issues and Attacks

- Entry Points
  - Too many vulnerabilities and mis-configurations to secure
  - EDR/XDR/.... – too many ways to bypass them
  - Privileged access too easy to obtain
  - Cached credentials easy to obtain
- AD Recon
  - Any user with “read access” can enumerate AD!
  - All (nearly) aspects of AD can be enumerated and analyzed

# AD/Windows Issues and Attacks

- Privileged access to easy to obtain
  - With privileges tools can be installed and run
  - Local services and security can be altered
  - Local cache can be accessed
- Cached credentials easy to obtain
  - Usernames and password hashes
    - Crack the hashes
    - Use hashes in Pass-the-hash attacks

# Enumeration – Determine Privileged Accounts



1. Run installed tools



## What Attackers Have

- Mined credentials from local cache(s)

Marquis Chilton  
Micheal Clanton  
Javier Burdick  
Marlon Childs  
Benjamin Anthony  
King Cardona  
Lucio Chalmers  
Ernest Blevins  
Calvin Aviles  
Joshua Caldwell  
Arlen Almeida  
Ezequiel Boehm  
Malcom Charlton  
Lauren Carrasco  
Giuseppe Boynton  
Kyle Carmona

2. Query AD privileges



Name	Type
dcadmin	User
Casey Baggett	User
Miguel Clarke	User
Jayson Burger	User
Marquis Chilton	User
Micheal Clanton	User
Javier Burdick	User
Marlon Childs	User
Benjamin Anthony	User
King Cardona	User
Lucio Chalmers	User
Ernest Blevins	User
Calvin Aviles	User
Joshua Caldwell	User
Arlen Almeida	User
Ezequiel Boehm	User
Malcom Charlton	User
Lauren Carrasco	User
Giuseppe Boynton	User
Kyle Carmona	User
Ellen Ripley	User
Barry Andre	User
Nucky Thompson	User
Kurt Carman	User
Micah Cintron	User
Britt Ashley	User
Earle Berryman	User

4. Compare mined credentials against AD privileged accounts



3. Get users with privileges

## What Attackers Obtain

- List of users that have privileges in AD

# Enumeration – Attack Accounts

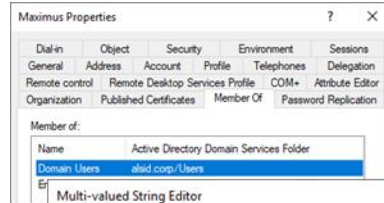


1. Run installed tools

What Attackers Have

- Ability to Enumerate AD

2. Query AD accounts

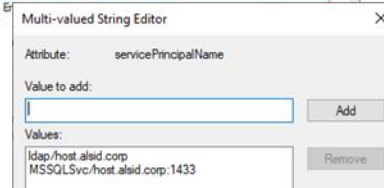


3. Get users with exploitable attributes

What Attackers Obtain

List of users/computers that have exploitable attributes

4. Attack users/computers to gain privileges







## Top AD Security Settings

# Defensive Actions

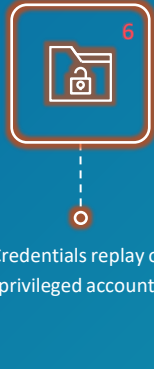
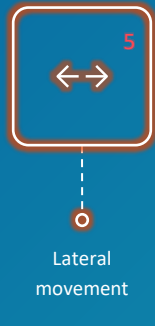
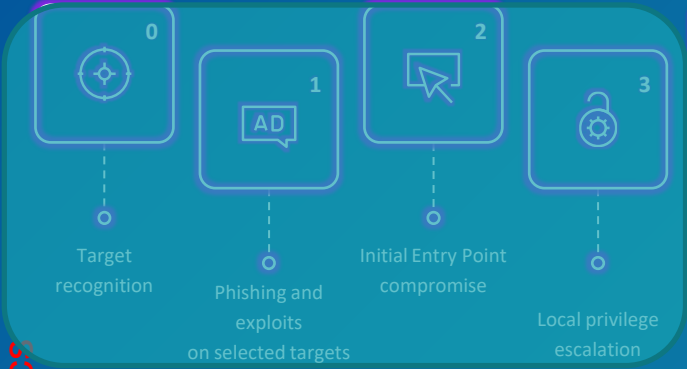
Educate users  
Email security

**Vulnerability Management**  
AV  
EDR  
Least privilege  
User is not local Administrator  
Application Restriction  
UEBA

**Vulnerability Management**  
LAPS  
Unique passwords  
Common passwords  
Change PW often  
Strong Password Policy  
Password spray detect  
Brute force detect  
MFA  
PAM

**Vulnerability Management**  
Secure privileged users  
Secure service accts  
Secure computer accts  
Clean up old security  
Password spray detect  
Brute force detect  
LSASS detect  
DCSync detect  
DCShadow detect  
SPN modification  
Kerberos delegation mod

**Vulnerability Management**  
DCSync detect  
DCShadow detect  
Golden Ticket detect  
LSASS detect  
SIDHistory modification  
Primary Group ID modification



Phish users  
Exploit Vulnerabilities  
Exploit Misconfigurations

Mine credentials  
Install enumeration tool  
Enumerate AD  
Exploit Vulnerabilities

Mine credentials  
Password spray  
Brute force  
Cleartext password  
No password required  
Exploit Vulnerabilities

SPN/Kerberoasting  
Kerberos delegation  
Password spray  
Brute force  
Cleartext password  
LSASS credential dump  
Exploit Vulnerabilities

Set user attributes  
Modify group members  
Set user rights  
Modify group policy  
Create Golden Ticket  
adminSDHolder  
Exploit Vulnerabilities

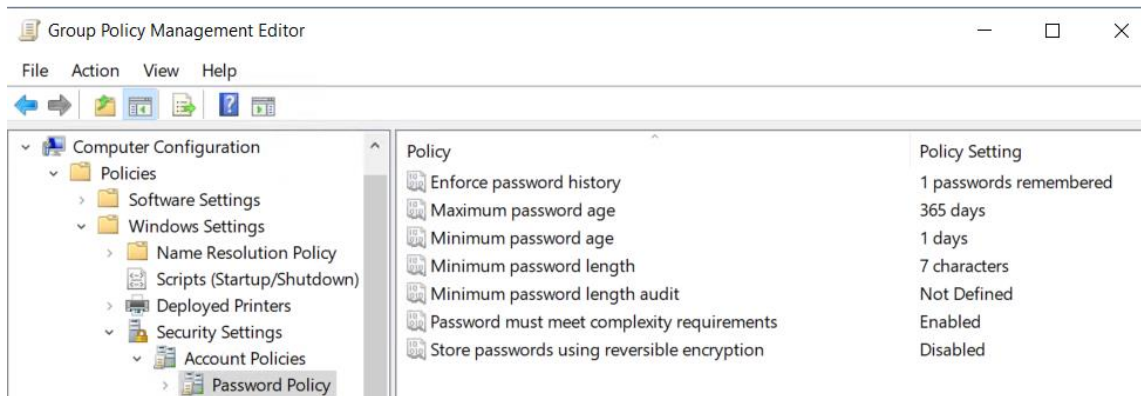
# Attacker Tactics



- AD Recon and Lateral Movement

# Password Policy(s)

- Availability : In every AD domain
- Level of Threat : Critical
- Attack Method : Spray, Brute force, Kerberoasting
- Commonality of being misconfigured : Near 100%
- Ability to secure : Yes
- How to secure: Solid password policy, FGPP, MFA



# Password Required

- Availability : In every AD domain
- Level of Threat : Critical
- Attack Method : Impersonation, Privilege escalation
- Commonality of being misconfigured : Near 100%
- Ability to secure : Yes
- How to secure: Ensure every user account requires a password

Adam Properties

Published Certificates	Member Of	Password Replication	Dial-in	Object	
Security	Environment	Sessions	Remote control		
General	Address	Account	Profile	Telephones	Organization
Remote Desktop Services Profile		COM+	Attribute Editor		

Attributes:

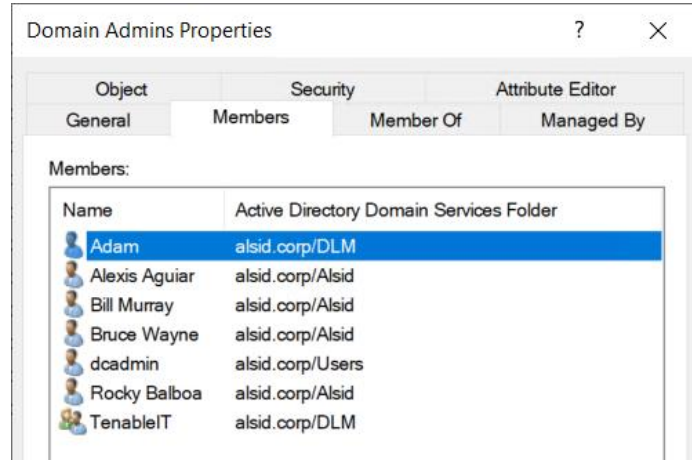
Attribute	Value
userAccountControl	0x220 = ( PASSWD_NOTREQD   NORMAL

```
Net user <username> /passwordreq:no
```

- Immediate Privilege Escalation

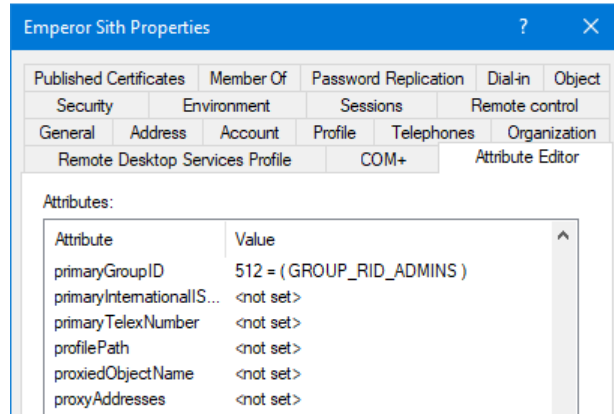
# Privileged Groups

- Availability : In every AD domain
- Level of Threat : Critical
- Attack Method : Privilege escalation
- Commonality of being misconfigured : Near 100%
- Ability to secure : Yes
- How to secure: Ensure group members are correct



# Primary Group ID

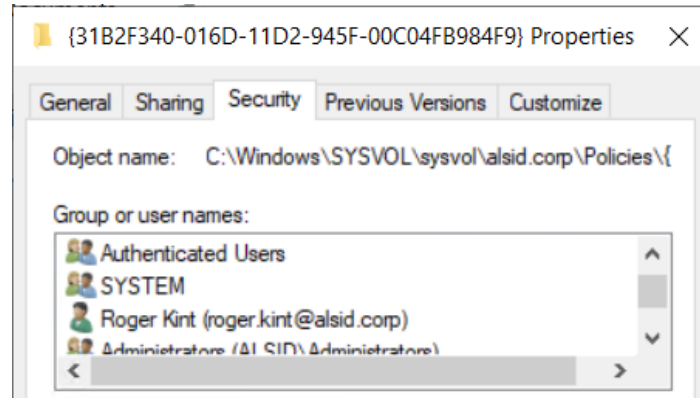
- Availability : In every AD domain
- Level of Threat : Critical
- Attack Method : Privileged Escalation
- Commonality of being misconfigured : Near 100%
- Ability to secure : Yes
- How to secure: Set primaryGroupID to 513





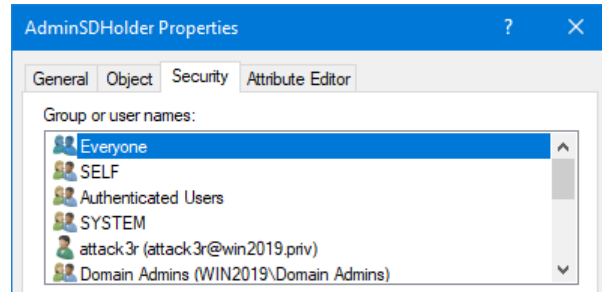
# GPO Permissions

- Availability : In every AD domain
- Level of Threat : Critical
- Attack Method : Privileged Escalation, Ransomware deployment
- Commonality of being misconfigured : Near 100%
- Ability to secure : Yes
- How to secure: Ensure GPO permissions are correct



# adminSDHolder

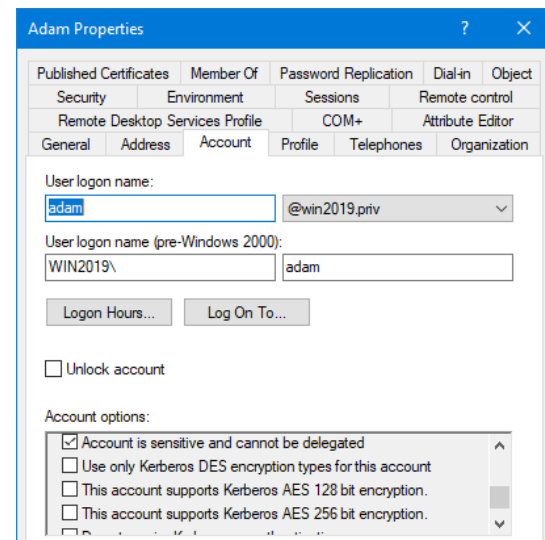
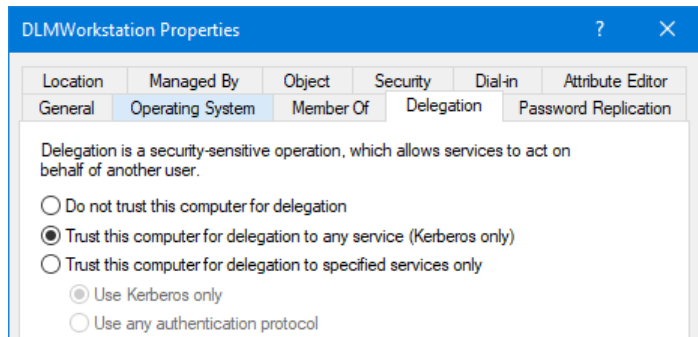
- Availability : In every AD domain
- Level of Threat : Critical
- Attack Method : Privileged Escalation
- Commonality of being misconfigured : Near 100%
- Ability to secure : Yes
- How to secure: Remove users from AdminSDHolder ACL (via groups too)



- Attack to Gain Privileges

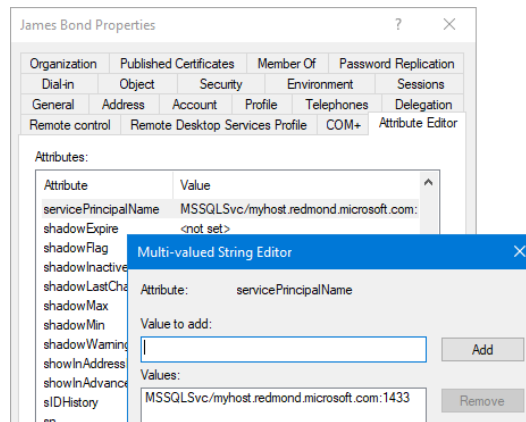
# Kerberos Delegation

- Availability : In every AD domain
- Level of Threat : Critical
- Attack Method : Impersonation
- Commonality of being misconfigured : Near 100%
- Ability to secure : Yes
- How to secure: Configure constrained delegation



# Service Principal Name

- Availability : In every AD domain
- Level of Threat : Critical
- Attack Method : Kerberoasting
- Commonality of being misconfigured : Near 100%
- Ability to secure : Yes
- How to secure: Remove SPN users from privileged groups



# KRBTGT User Password

- Availability : In every AD domain
- Level of Threat : Critical
- Attack Method : Kerberoasting, Golden Ticket
- Commonality of being misconfigured : Near 100%
- Ability to secure : Yes
- How to secure: Reset KRBTGT password 2X/year

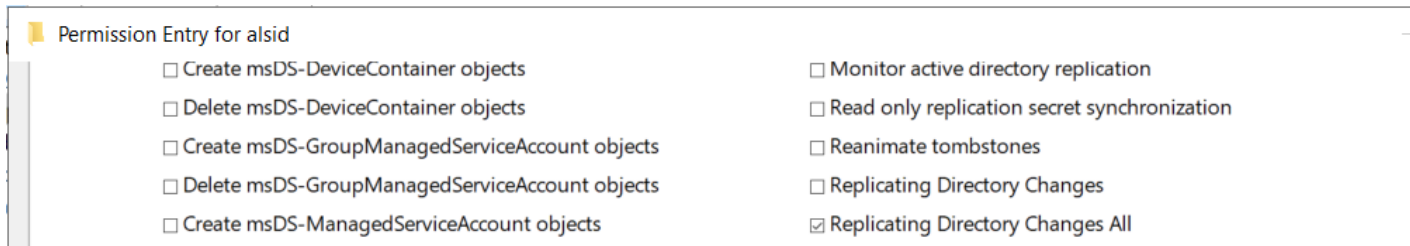
```
Administrator: Windows PowerShell
Windows PowerShell
Copyright (C) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

PS C:\Windows\system32> get-aduser krbtgt -property Created,PasswordLastSet,Enabled,SID,DistinguishedName

Created           : 12/2/2018 6:02:30 PM
DistinguishedName : CN=krbtgt,CN=Users,DC=win2019,DC=priv
Enabled           : False
GivenName         :
Name              : krbtgt
ObjectClass       : user
ObjectGUID        : 31d0f907-842e-4705-bcfe-ebbd8fee995
PasswordLastSet   : 12/2/2018 6:02:30 PM
SamAccountName    : krbtgt
SID               : S-1-5-21-2485137224-3094375223-4047999098-502
Surname           :
UserPrincipalName :
```

# AD Root Permissions

- Availability : In every AD domain
- Level of Threat : Critical
- Attack Method : DCSync
- Commonality of being misconfigured : Near 100%
- Ability to secure : Yes
- How to secure: Ensure AD root permissions are correct



# Questions?



Derek Melber, MVP  
dmelber@tenable.com





# Thank You!!!

Derek Melber, MVP  
Chief Technology and Security Strategist

[dmelber@tenable.com](mailto:dmelber@tenable.com)  
[@derekmelber](https://twitter.com/derekmelber)

