

A study on Windows authentication & Prox-Ez

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Geoffrey Bertoli & Pierre Milioni

Who are we?

- Geoffrey Bertoli (@YofBalibump) & Pierre Milioni (@b1two_)
 - Pentesters at Synacktiv
- Working for Synacktiv
 - Offensive security
 - ~140 ninjas: pentest, reverse engineering, development, CSIRT
 - 4 locations: Paris, Rennes, Lyon, Toulouse, (soon at Lille) & remote
 - We are hiring! → apply@synacktiv.com



Introduction

A little bit of history

- NTLM introduced in 1993 with Windows NT 3.1
- NTLMv2 since Windows NT 4.0 SP4 1998
- But here comes the mighty Kerberos
 - Became a standard in 1993 (v5)
 - Introduced in Windows 2000
- NTLM still widely used nowadays



Introduction

Multiple mitigations against relay

- NTLMv1 \rightarrow v2 (not our focus today)
- NTLM MIC (not our focus today)
- NTLM EPA (Extended Protection for Authentication)
 - Channel Binding
 - Service Binding
- Kerberos
 - Whole new authentication mechanism
 - More complex than NTLM
 - Mutual authentication
 - Fix relay attack



Introduction

Still of interest today

- Lack of (proper) documentation of some topics
- Not supported by all tools
- Lack of tooling for these authentications over HTTP

Prox-Ez

- MitM proxy for Windows authentication over HTTP(s)
- Single file, born to be patched



Agenda

- Quick overview of NTLM
- NTLM and relaying
- NTLM-EPA (Extended Protection for Authentication)
 - Channel Binding
 - Service Binding
- What about Kerberos?
 - Over HTTP
 - Security overview



NTLM



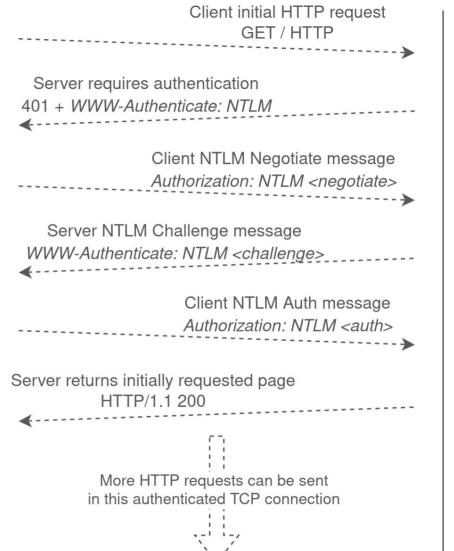
New Technology Lan Manager

- Windows authentication protocol
- Single Sign-On
- Based on challenge/response exchange
- Authenticates a session (TCP connection in case of HTTP)
 - May cause issues/slowdowns with programs that creates new TCP connections for each request
 - BurpSuite now supports TCP connection reuse





... over HTTP

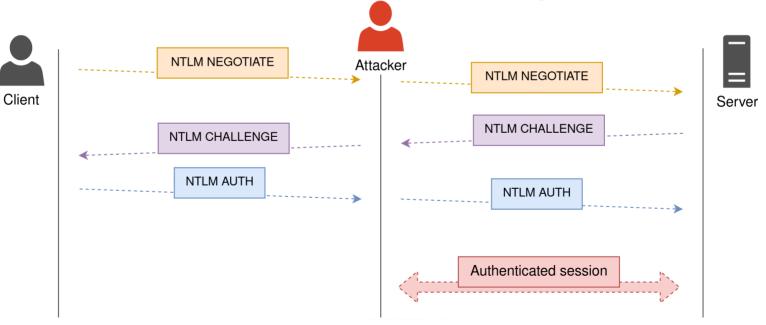




NTLM

NTLM relaying

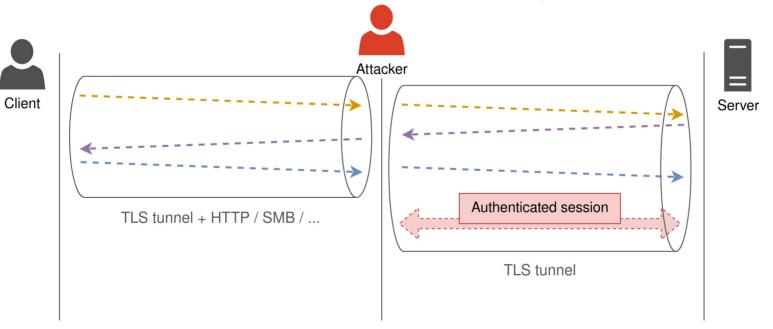
- Attacker in a relaying position (able to forward messages from a client)
- Relays the client's authentication to the targeted server



NTLM

NTLM relaying – Over TLS

- Attacker in a relaying position
- Relays the client's authentication to the targeted server

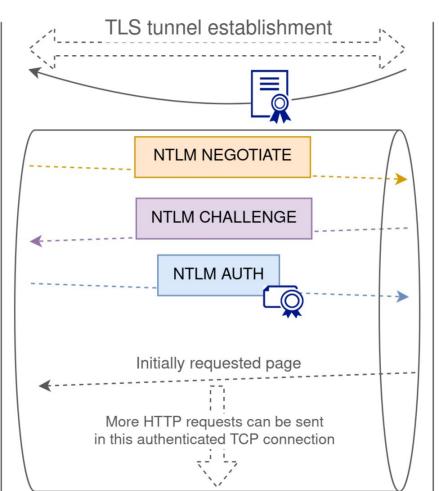


Channel Binding

- Microsoft's solution to protect against MitM attacks
- Used on TLS based communications
- "Binds" the authentication to the outer TLS channel
 - → Adds a token that depends on the TLS tunnel into the NTLM authentication
- Can be required by the server
 - Any client without the proper token are denied access







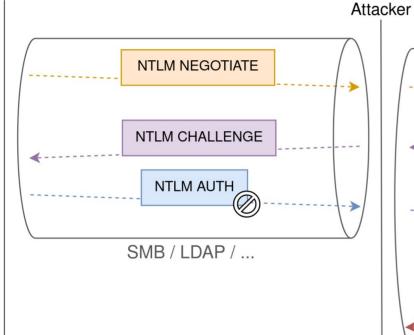


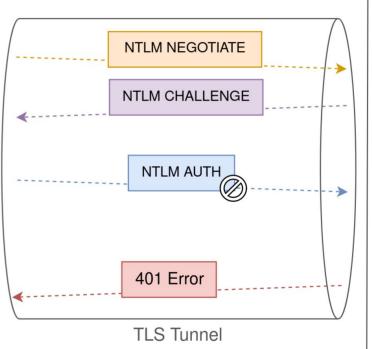






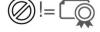






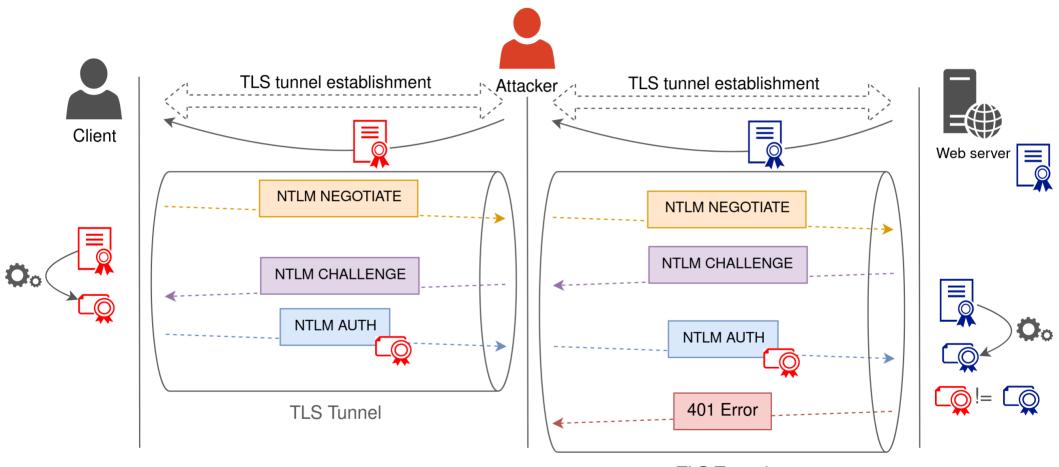












TLS Tunnel



CBT: Channel Binding Token

- Hash of the server's certificate
- With the hash function used to compute the certificate's signature

Certificate signature's hash function	MD5 / SHA-1	Other hash function	No hash function / multiple hash functions
CBT's hash function	SHA-256	Signature's hash function	Undefined



Channel Bindings attribute

- Derived from the CBT
- Inserted in the NTLM AUTH message
- Cannot be modified
 - Protected by the MIC value (HMAC)
 - → protected by the Flags attribute
 - → protected by NTProofStr
 - → protected by the client's secret

```
GET / HTTP/1.1\r\n
Host: lab.mylab\r\n
Connection: keep-alive\r\n
Cache-Control: max-age=0\r\n
[truncated]Authorization: NTLM TlRMTVNTUAADAAAAGAAYAFqAAAAEAQQBcAAAAAAAAAB0AQAACAAIAHQBAA
 NTLM Secure Service Provider
    NTLMSSP identifier: NTLMSSP
    NTLM Message Type: NTLMSSP_AUTH (0x000000003)
  LMv2 Client Challenge: 00000000000000000
  NTLM Response: f4759ae9f42a05e0205987f244a0e96f01010000000000d473c5e28b37d7014e8aec
       Length: 260
       Maxlen: 260
       Offset: 112
     NTLMv2 Response: f4759ae9f42a05e0205987f244a0e96f0101000000000000d473c5e28b37d
         NTProofStr: f4759ae9f42a05e0205987f244a0e96f
         Response Version: 1
         Hi Response Version: 1
         Z: 0000000000000
         Time: Apr 22, 2021 15:26:37.529186000 UTC
         NTLMv2 Client Challenge: 4e8aec4f6d936e28
        Attribute: NetBIOS domain name: DESKTOP-OUBJGUL
       Attribute: NetBIOS computer name: DESKTOP-OUBJGUL
        Attribute: DNS domain name: DESKTOP-OUBJGUL
        Attribute: DNS computer name: DESKTOP-OUBJGUL
       Attribute: Timestamp
       Attribute: Channel Bindings
            NTLMV2 Response Item Type: Channel Bindings (0x000a)
            NTLMV2 Response Item Length: 16
            Channel Bindings: 45f5a466fcaf1531df8e70317a5ee4d3
         ALLIIDULE, TAIQEL Name, hilp/tab.mytab
       Attribute: End of list
         7: 00000000
    Domain name: NULL
   User name: user
```



Host name: Wololo

Channel Binding

- Still not supported by many clients
 → no authentication possible if EPA is required
- How to use our tools against EPA protected websites?



MitM Proxy — Prox-EZ ("prox easy")

Why?

- Be able to use any tool against HTTP(s) servers using
 - NTLM
 - NTLM-EPA
 - Kerberos
- Be able to control the authentication



MitM Proxy — Prox-Ez ("prox easy")

■ How?

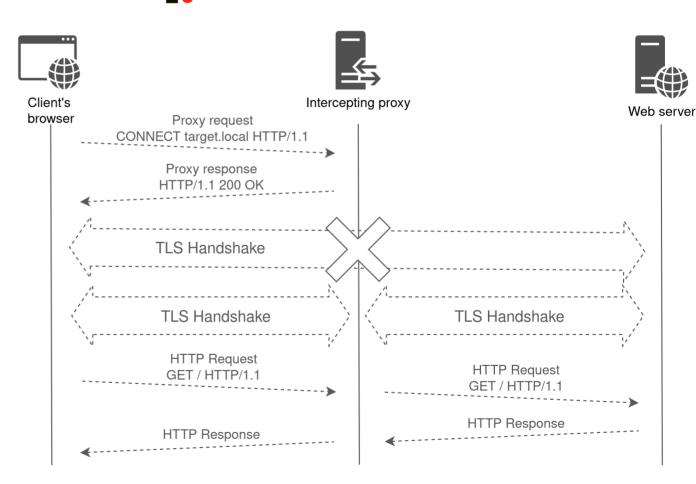
- Has to work with TLS
 - → TLS interception
 - → Register a custom certificate authority on the client
 - → Generate on-the-fly certificates
- Good documentation on mitmproxy website



MitM Proxy — Prox-EZ ("prox easy")

How?

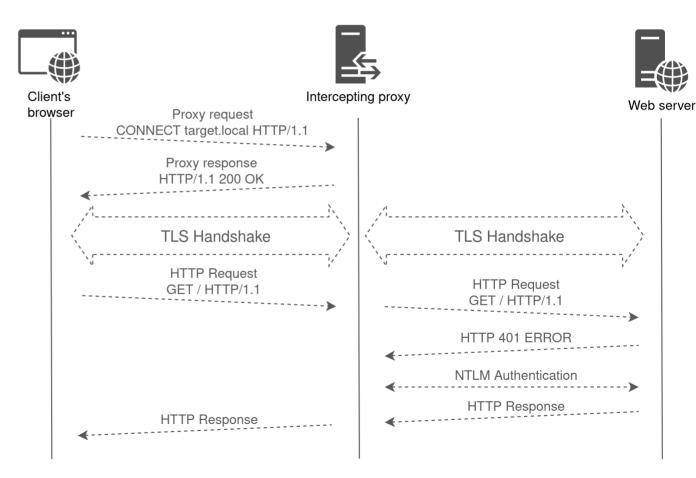
TLS interception



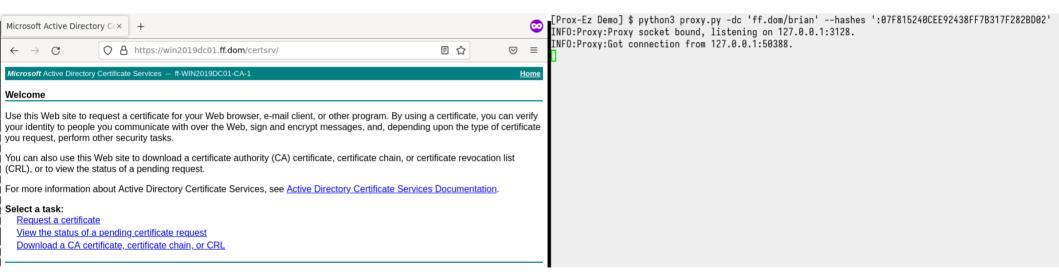
MitM Proxy — Prox-EZ ("prox easy")

How?

TLS interception



Demo





MitM Proxy — Prox-Ez ("prox easy")

Demo





- Channel Binding requires TLS, now what about plain HTTP?
 - (Don't do plain HTTP)
- Microsoft implemented a new protection
 - Service Binding
- Same objective as Channel Binding → Prevent MitM attacks



Service Binding

New attribute in the NTLM AUTH message

NTLMV2 Posponso Itom Typo: End of list (0x0000)

Identifies the targeted resource

```
332 HTTP/1.1 401 Unauthorized , NTLMSSP CHALLENGE (text/html)
709 3784.5819019... 10.137.0.61
                                       10.137.0.47
                                                             HTTP
710 3784.5819745... 10.137.0.47
                                       10.137.0.61
                                                             TCP
                                                                        56 47442 - 80 [ACK] Seq=1806 Ack=6198 Win=62848 Len=0
                                                                      1068 GET / HTTP/1.1 , NTLMSSP AUTH, User: ff.dom\brian
711 3784.5820976... 10.137.0.47
                                       10.137.0.61
                                                             HTTP
712 3784.6008005... 10.137.0.61
                                       10.137.0.47
                                                             TCP
                                                                        56 80 - 47442 [ACK] Seg=6198 Ack=2818 Win=2102272 Len=0
                                                             HTTP
                                                                      1006 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html)
713 3784.7048618... 10.137.0.61
                                       10.137.0.47
714 3784.7261469... 10.137.0.61
                                       10.137.0.47
                                                                           [TCP Retransmission] 80 → 47442 [PSH, ACK] Seq=6198 Ack=281
715 3784.7261754... 10.137.0.47
                                       10.137.0.61
                                                             TCP
                                                                        68 47442 → 80 [ACK] Seg=2818 Ack=7148 Win=64128 Len=0 SLE=6198
                                       10.137.0.61
                                                             HTTP
                                                                       471 GET /favicon.ico HTTP/1.1
716 3784.7519562... 10.137.0.47
         Offset: 112
      NTLMv2 Response: 3ea30ac482a5dffd7109d3c4b0b2bfa20101000000000000aaad3e9b46fbd801cbb9072b...
            NTProofStr: 3ea30ac482a5dffd7109d3c4b0b2bfa2
            Response Version: 1
            Hi Response Version: 1
            Z: 0000000000000
           Time: Nov 18, 2022 12:09:27.828829800 UTC
            NTLMv2 Client Challenge: cbb9072bdf42fa55
            Z: 00000000
         Attribute: NetBIOS domain name: FF
         Attribute: NetBIOS computer name: WIN2019SRV01
         Attribute: DNS domain name: ff.dom
         Attribute: DNS computer name: WIN2019SRV01.ff.dom
         Attribute: DNS tree name: ff.dom
         Attribute: Timestamp
         Attribute: Flags

    Attribute: Target Name: HTTP/win2019srv01.ff.dom

              NTLMV2 Response Item Type: Target Name (0x0009)
              NTLMV2 Response Item Length: 48
               Target Name: HTTP/win2019srv01.ff.dom
```

Service Binding

New attribute in the NTLM AUTH message

NTLMV2 Passansa Ttom Type: End of list (0v0000)

- Identifies the targeted resource
- Taken from the browser URL

```
/11 3/84.58209/6... 10.13/.0.4/
                                                                      56 80 → 47442 [ACK] Seq=6198 Ack=2818 Win=2102272 Len=0
                                                           TCP
712 3784.6008005... 10.137.0.61
                                       10.137.0.47
713 3784.7048618... 10.137.0.61
                                       10.137.0.47
                                                           HTTP
                                                                    1006 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html)
714 3784.7261469... 10.137.0.61
                                       10.137.0.47
                                                           TCP
                                                                    1006 [TCP Retransmission] 80 - 47442 [PSH, ACK] Seg=6198 Ack=281
715 3784.7261754... 10.137.0.47
                                       10.137.0.61
                                                           TCP
                                                                      68 47442 → 80 [ACK] Seg=2818 Ack=7148 Win=64128 Len=0 SLE=6198
716 3784.7519562... 10.137.0.47
                                       10.137.0.61
                                                           HTTP
                                                                     471 GFT /favicon.ico HTTP/1.1
         Offset: 112
       NTLMv2 Response: 3ea30ac482a5dffd7109d3c4b0b2bfa2010100000000000aaad3e9b46fbd801cbb9072b...
            NTProofStr: 3ea30ac482a5dffd7109d3c4b0b2bfa2
            Response Version: 1
            Hi Response Version: 1
            Z: 0000000000000
            Time: Nov 18, 2022 12:09:27.828829800 UTC
            NTLMv2 Client Challenge: cbb9072bdf42fa55
                                                                               win2019srv01.ff.dom/
            Z: 00000000
                                                                                                                    ×
         Attribute: NetBIOS domain name: FF
          Attribute: NetBIOS computer name: WIN2019SRV01
         Attribute: DNS domain name: ff.dom
                                                                                                                         win2019srv01.ff.dom
         Attribute: DNS computer name: WIN2019SRV01.ff.dom
          Attribute: DNS tree name: ff.dom
         Attribute: Timestamp
         Attribute: Flags
                                                                               Welcome home!

    Attribute: Target Name: HTTP/win2019srv01.ff.dom

               NTLMV2 Response Item Type: Target Name (0x0009)
               NTLMV2 Response Item Length: 48
               Target Name: HTTP/win2019srv01.ff.dom
```

- New attribute in the NTLM AUTH message
 - Identifies the targeted resource
 - Taken from the browser URL
- If the authentication targets another server than the one receiving the authentication \rightarrow denied access





- The web server needs to be configured with the proper SPNs
 - No implicit SPN
 - All the alternative DNS records
- Bad integration in IIS
 - No graphical option
 - Manual modification of C:\Windows\System32\inetsrv\Config



```
# C:\Windows\System32\inetsrv\Config
<location path="Default Web Site">
  <system.webServer>
    <security>
      <authentication>
        <windowsAuthentication enabled="true" useKernelMode="false">
          cproviders>
            <clear />
            <add value="NTLM" />
          </providers>
          <extendedProtection tokenChecking="Require" flags="Proxy.ProxyCohosting">
            <spn name="HTTP/win2019srv01.ff.dom" />
          </extendedProtection>
        </windowsAuthentication>
        <anonymousAuthentication enabled="false" />
      </authentication>
    </security>
  </system.webServer>
</location>
```





flags options	Behavior	Remark
Empty / None	Only verify CBT	HTTP is not protected ; HTTPs is protected
Proxy	Only verify SPN	HTTP is not working (no authentication possible) ; HTTPs is protected
Proxy,ProxyCohosting	Only verify SPN	Both HTTP and HTTPs are protected and work
Proxy,NoServiceNameCheck	Does not verify anything	HTTP is not working (no authentication possible); HTTPs is not protected but a SPN has to be provided (any value)
Proxy,ProxyCohosting,NoServiceNameCheck	Does not verify anything	Both HTTP and HTTPs are not protected (no SPN required)



- Service Binding configuration is cumbersome
- Default EPA configuration → Service Binding not enforced
- Enforced EPA but plain HTTP available → vulnerable to MitM attacks



MitM Proxy — Prox-Ez ("prox easy")

Even if not widely used

Prox-Ez implements EPA-Service binding

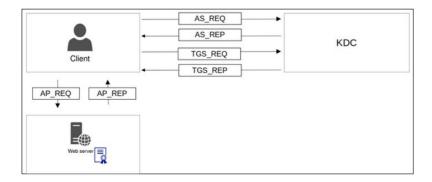






Why Kerberos ?

- Microsoft recommend enabling EPA as primary mitigation against relay attack (such as PetitPotam)
- In addition, disable NTLM and replace it by Kerberos
- Kerberos feature "Mutual Authentication"

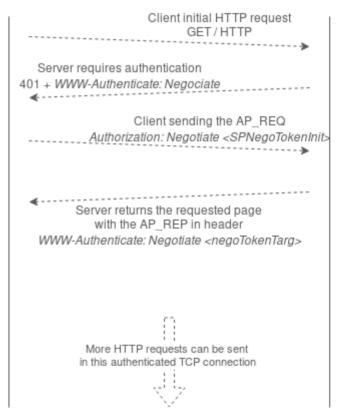




...over HTTP?

- Similar to NTLM
- The client sent the AP_REQ in a specific header









Let's have a closer look

```
Hypertext Transfer Protocol
  GET / HTTP/1.1\r\n
  Host: win-gc9km3m6ipp.domaintest.local\r\n
  Connection: keep-alive\r\n
    truncated Authorization: Negotiate YIIHUWYGKWYBBQUCoIIH zCCBBQgMDAUBgkohkiC9xIBAgIGCSqGSIb3EgECAgYKKWYBBAGCNwICHgYKKwYBBAGCNwICCqKCBwBEggcJYIIHBQYJ
        OID: 1.3.6.1.5.5.2 (SPNEGO - Simple Protected Negotiation)
     Y Simple Protected Negotiation
          negTokenInit
            > mechTypes: 4 items
              mechToken: 6082070506092a864886f71201020201006e8206f4308206...

✓ krb5 blob: 6082070506092a864886f71201020201006e8206f4308206...

                 KRB5 OID: 1.2.840.113554.1.2.2 (KRB5 - Kerberos 5)
                 krb5 tok id: KRB5 AP REQ (0x0001)
              Y Kerberos
                 ∨ ap-req
                      msg-type: krb-ap-req (14)
                      ap-options: 20000000 (mutual-required)
                    ∨ ticket
                         tkt-vno: 5
                         realm: DOMAINTEST.LOCAL
                            name-type: kRB5-NT-SRV-INST (2)

✓ sname-string: 2 items

                               SNameString: HTTP
                               SNameString: WIN-GC9KM3M6IPP.domaintest.local
                        enc-part
                         etype: eTYPE-AES256-CTS-HMAC-SHA1-96 (18)
                         cipher: a2e320e3a8bfd7c5513a2665a329e0e2d56fdeb90bd99b13.
   Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1\r\n
  User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/107.0.0.0 Safari/537.36\r\n
  Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q-0.9,image/avif,image/webp,image/apng,*/*;q-0.8,application/xigned-exchange;v-b3;q-0.9\r\n
  Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate\r\n
  Accept-Language: fr-FR,fr;q=0.9,en-US;q=0.8,en;q=0.7\r\n
  If-None-Match: "bfb5837cd4f1d71:0"\r\n
  If-Modified-Since: Wed, 15 Dec 2021 16:54:55 GMT\r\n
```



Let's have a closer look

```
HTTP/1.1 304 Not Modified\r\n
Accept-Ranges: bytes\r\n
ETag: "bfb5837cd4f1d71:0"\r\n
 [truncated]WWW-Authenticate: Negotiate oYG1MIGyoAMKAQChCwYJKoZIgvcSAQICooGdBIGaYIGXBgkqhkiG9xIE
  GSS-API Generic Security Service Application Program Intertace

✓ <u>Simple Protected Negotiation</u>

✓ negTokenTarg

           negResult: accept-completed (0)
            supportedMech: 1.2.840.48018.1.2.2 (MS KRB5 - Microsoft Kerberos 5)
           responseToken: 60819706092a864886f71201020202006f8187308184a003...
         krb5 blob: 60819706092a864886f71201020202006f8187308184a003...
              KRB5 OID: 1.2.840.113554.1.2.2 (KRB5 - Kerberos 5)
              krb5_tok_id: KRB5_AP_REP (0x0002)
            Kerberos
               ∨ ap-rep
                    pvno: 5
                    enc-part
                       etype: eTYPE-AES256-CTS-HMAC-SHA1-96 (18)
                       cipher: 48ed6d1e0cbb92b30df00ba8b9432c0494d9cd1b1fe376e3...
Persistent-Auth: true\r\n
X-Powered-By: ASP.NET\r\n
Date: Tue, 22 Nov 2022 18:07:36 GMT\r\n
\r\n
[HTTP response 3/4]
[Time since request: 0.055348000 seconds]
```



Security overview

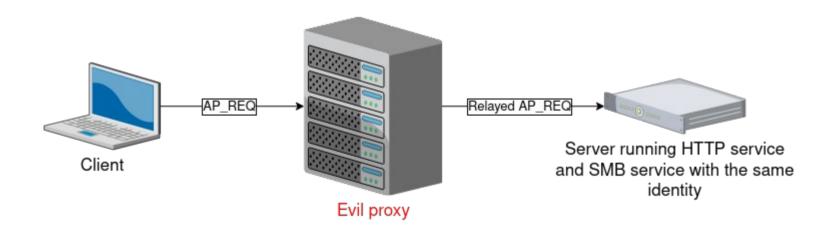
- Two security measures to prevent replay attack
 - AP_REQ contain a timestamp : <5min
 - Host stores a MD5 hash of each AP_REQ : KRB_AP_ERR_REPEAT
 - AP REQ contains SPN of the service : Not verified





Security overview

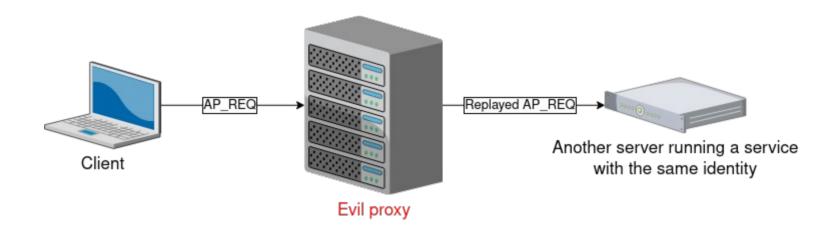
Relay on a server using the same identity





Security overview

Replay on another server using the same identity





Why do we need a proxy

- Still not supported by many clients (Firefox, ...)
 - ightarrow No authentication possible if Kerberos is enforced
- How to use our tools against Kerberos protected websites?
 - BurpSuite
 - Certipy
 - •



MitM Proxy — Prox-Ez ("prox easy")

Prox-EZ implement Kerberos authentication

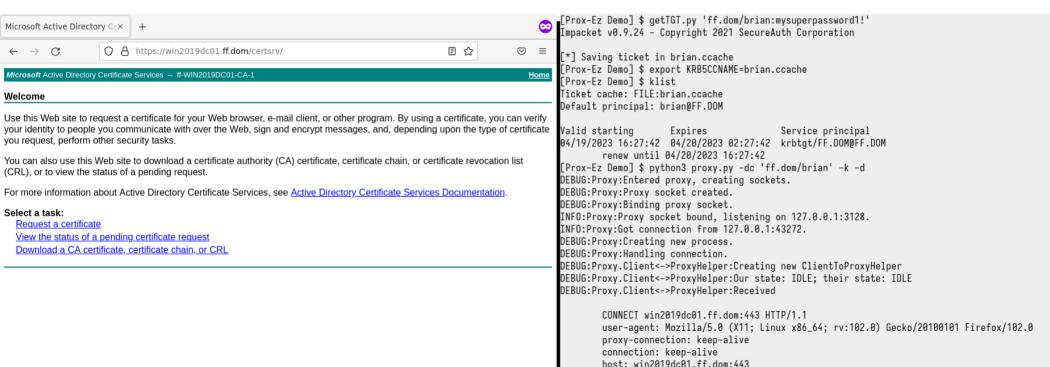
- Standard user/password capabilities
- Pass-the-ticket capabilities (from TGT or ST)
- Overpass-the-hash capabilities (from the NT hash)



MitM Proxy — Prox-Ez ("prox easy")



Demo



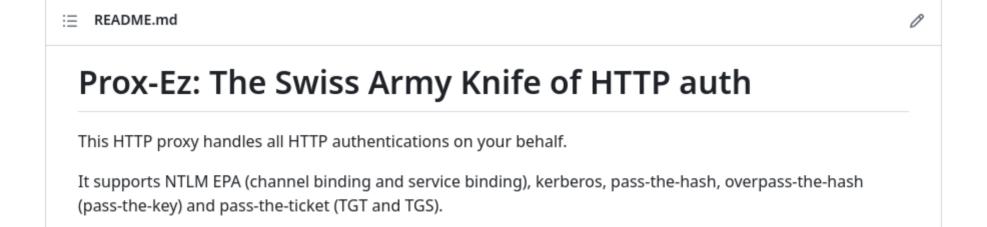


MitM Proxy — Prox-EZ ("prox easy")



Available on GitHub:

- https://github.com/synacktiv/Prox-Ez
- PR & issues are welcome







Any question?

Linked articles:

https://www.synacktiv.com/publications/dissecting-ntlm-epa-with-love-building-a-mitm-proxy.html https://www.synacktiv.com/publications/a-study-on-windows-http-authentication-part-ii.html

https://www.linkedin.com/company/synacktiv https://twitter.com/synacktiv Our publications: https://synacktiv.com