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SANS PROTECTS SERIES

SANS Protects: The Endpoint

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Analyst Program

OVERVIEW

SANS Protects is a series of papers focused on the most prevalent threats to specific, critical components of your environment as well as actions you can take to mitigate those threats and thwart threat actors.

In this SANS Protects paper, we look at threats to one of the most sizable assets of any organization: the endpoint. Endpoints are necessary for employees to complete their work, but they also represent constant challenges for information security teams and a large attack surface. This paper will examine current, prevalent endpoints threats and how adversaries use them to gain footholds in, and take advantage of, victim environments.

MEET THE AUTHOR

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Matt Bromiley is a principal incident response consultant at a top digital forensics and incident response (DFIR) firm. In the DFIR firm Matt assists clients with incident response, digital forensics, and litigation support. He also serves as a GIAC Advisory Board member, a subject-matter expert for the SANS Security Awareness, and a technical writer for the SANS Analyst Program. Matt brings his passion for digital forensics to the classroom as a SANS Instructor for FOR508: Advanced Incident Response, Threat Hunting and Digital Forensics, and FOR572: Advanced Network Forensics, where he focuses on providing students with implementable tools and concepts.

This paper also includes an actionable checklist of essential mitigation tips and tricks that can be implemented to strengthen an organization's security posture.

Some of the threats we investigate include:

- Pervasive exploit toolkits, such as Cobalt Strike
- Unchecked account privileges and the dangers they pose
- What it means for adversaries to live off the land
- How to properly secure remote access tools

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