Microsoft[®] Virtual Labs

Windows 7: UAC Data Redirection: .Net Framework



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Windows 7: UAC Data Redirection: .Net Framework

Objectives

After completing this lab, you will be better able to:

- Troubleshoot a file redirection issue
- Use Process Monitor to find the root cause of the issue

Scenario

Many applications are still designed to write files to the Program Files, Windows® directories, or system root (typically the C drive) folders. Some applications are designed to update Microsoft® Windows registry values, specifically values in HKLM/Software. But there is one problem: the files or registry values are not created or updated. In this lab, you will experience first hand the effects of UAC virtualization and will walk through the steps to solve the problem.

Estimated Time to Complete This Lab

Computer used in this Lab 90 Minutes



The username for the Administrator account on this computer is **Win7User** and the password is: **pass@word1**

Exercise 1 Exploring User Account Control Virtualization

Scenario

In this exercise, you will diagnose a managed (.NET Framework) application that is incompatible with Windows 7and exhibits User Account Control (UAC) virtualization, specifically, file redirection, to the VirtualStore folder.

You will start by identifying the problem through a series of tests. Next, you will add a UAC manifest section and compile the application, thereby marking it as UAC-aware. As you run the application, you will notice that UAC does not virtualize your files when writing to any of the protected folders, such as Program Files; rather, the operation is blocked and results in an "access denied" error. Finally, you will fix the application by modifying it to store the file to the Application Data (ProgramData) folder.

Tasks	Detailed Steps			
Complete the following task on:	Note: In this task, you will run the application without a manifest, which simulates an older application and triggers the UAC virtualization mechanism. New applications created with Visual Studio 2008 automatically embed a manifest containing a UAC section by default.			
1. Run the Application	a. Make sure UAC is enabled.			
without a Manifest	b. From the Start menu:			
	c. Open Search			
	d. Type "UAC"			
	e. Click "Change User Account Control settings" in the search results list.			
	 The User Account Control Settings dialog box appears. To ensure UAC is NOT disabled: 			
	g. Set the UAC slider at the default level (as pictured)			
	h. Click OK.			
	 i. Open Windows Explorer and navigate to the folder containing the solution (C:\Labs\Managed\UAC Redirection\Begin) 			

Tasks	Detailed Steps			
	j. Double-click the "DataRedirection" solution file to open the solution.			
	Note: Make sure you don't start Visual Studio with Administrator privileges. If Visual Studio is started with elevated privileges, then "Visual Studio (Administrator)" will display in the title bar			
	k. In the toolbar, set the target architecture to x86 :			
	Debug 🔹 x86 💌			
	I. Right-click the BrokenAppManaged project and select Properties.			
	Note: Configure the project to build the application without a manifest (the default manifest contains a UAC section)			
	 In the Application tab, under Manifest, verify "Create application without a manifest" is selected. 			
	Resources Specify how application resources will be managed: Icon and manifest A manifest determines specific settings for an application. To embed a custom manifest, first add it to your project and then select it from the list below. Icon: (Default Icon) Manifest: Create application without a manifest Resource File:			
	n. Close the Properties window.			
	o. In the Solution Explorer pane, double-click on FileIO.cs to open it.			
	p. Navigate to the FileIO class.			
	q. Inspect the Save and Load functions and the static constructor and observe how the data file path is constructed as a file under Program Files\BrokenApp.			
	r. Build the project and run it by pressing the F5 key.			
	s. Open Task Manager and click the Processes tab.			
	t. From the View menu, choose Select Columns			
	u. The Select Process Page Columns dialog box appears			
	v. Check the User Account Control (UAC) Virtualization check box			
	w. Click OK			

Tasks	Detailed Steps					
	Select Process	Page Columns	and the second diversion of th		×	
	Select the colu	imns that will appear on	the Process page of	Task Mana	ger.	
	Handles Threads USER Ob GDI Obje I/O Read I/O Write I/O Othe I/O Read I/O Write I/O Othe Image Pa Comman User Acco	jects cts s s Bytes Bytes Bytes thyte	alization	Cancel		
	x. Notice that the U	AC Virtualization	column is enab	led for	your process	š.
	Windows 1	ask Manager			x	
	File Option	s View Help				
	Applications	Processes Services	Performance Netw	orking U:	sers	
	Image Na	me	UAC Virtualization	PID	U 🔺	
	BrokenAp	oManaged.exe *32	Enabled	1740	D	
	csrss.exe			404		
	devenv.e	xe *32	Disabled	2820	D	
	dwm.exe		Disabled	2640		
	Moelexe	*32	Enabled	2296	D	
	MoeMonit	or.exe	Disabled	2944	D	
	msnmsgr.	exe *32	Disabled	4380	D	
	mspaint.e	xe	Disabled	740	D	
	OUTLOOK	.EXE *32	Disabled	1600	D	
	procexp.e	exe *32		3300	D	
	procexp6	+.exe	Disabled	3304		
	taskbost	NEXC PXP	Disabled	2564		
	4			2001		
	Show	processes from all users	S	End Proce	ess	
	Processes: 64	CPU Usage: 139	6 Physical N	Memory: 3	33%	
	y. Type some text in succeed (that is, y	to the edit box ar ou won't receive	nd then click Sa any error).	ve . The	operation sł	nould

Tasks	Detailed Steps
	Broken App Data file: C:\Program Files (x86)\BrokenApp\SomeFile.txt Load Save
	 Try to navigate to the path indicated (C:\Program Files\BrokenApp). Note: You won't find BrokenApp under Program Files because the write file operation was redirected to the VirtualStore folder
2. Find the Problem	 Note: In this task, you will walk through the different steps that will confirm that your application is experiencing UAC virtualization. Note: In this task, we will use the Process Monitor application. This utility is available for download from Microsoft TechNet (<u>http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals/bb896645.aspx</u>. a. From the Start menu, launch Process Monitor. Click Yes for the User Account Control dialog box. b. Click Cancel in the Process Monitor Filter dialog box. c. In the menu bar, click Filter -> Reset Filter. d. Ensure Process Monitor is capturing events by verifying the third toolbar button is not crossed out. You can also toggle capturing on/off by pressing CTRL-E. File Event Filter Tools File Event Filter Tools File Event Filter Z444 F F e. In the BrokenAppManaged application, click Save again. f. Stop capturing in Process Monitor by clicking the third toolbar button (or by pressing CTRL-E). g. In Process Monitor, from the Tools menu, click Process Tree. The Process Tree dialog box appears.

Tasks	Detailed Steps
Tasks	Detailed Steps Image: Construction of the state of the s
	 h. Look for BrokenAppManaged.exe in the tree and double-click it. i. Click Close to close the Process Tree dialog box. j. Right-click the process name BrokenAppManaged in Process Monitor. k. Select Include -> Process Name. This will filter out all other events.
	Note: You can see that BrokenAppManaged is trying to create the file C:\ProgramFiles \BrokenApp\SomeFile.txt. This file is redirected to the VirtualStore folder, where the actual data file ends up. Notice the Result column. The line where the result is "REPARSE" is the original operation. The next line with the result "SUCCESS" is the redirected operation. I. Close the running BrokenAppManaged application.

Tasks	Detailed Steps			
3. Add a UAC Manifest	Note: In this task, you will add a manifest to the application to mark the application as UAC-aware. By marking your application as UAC aware, you declare that the application does not require write access to protected locations. UAC virtualization will not apply to your application.			
	a. In Visual Studio, right-click the project in Project Explorer and select Properties.			
	b. Right-click the BrokenAppManaged project and select Properties.			
	c. Configure the project to build the application with a manifest.			
	d. Under Manifest, select "Embed manifest with default settings"			
	Note: The default manifest will contain a UAC section			
	Resources Specify how application resources will be managed: Image: Constant in the select is the specific settings for an application. To embed a custom manifest, first add it to your project and then select it from the list below. Icon: Image: (Default Icon)[Image: Manifest: Embed manifest with default settings Image: Resource File:			
	e. Save the change and close the Properties window.f. Press the F5 key to run the application.			
	 g. Look at Task Manager again, and you will notice that virtualization is now disabled for the process: 			

Tasks	Detailed Steps				
	📲 Windows Task Manager				
	File Ontions View Help				
	Applications Processes Services Performance Networking Users				
	Image Name UAC Virtualization PID U				
	BrokenAppManaged.exe Disabled 5256 D				
	csrss.exe 7032				
	devenv.exe *32 Disabled 5828 D				
	dwm.exe Disabled 976 D _≡				
	explorer.exe Disabled 604 D				
	ielowutil.exe *32 Disabled 6552 D				
	Moe.exe *32 Enabled 656 D				
	moemonitor.exe Disabled 4730 D				
	monaint eve Disabled 3416 D				
	mspaint.exe Disabled 4036 D				
	mspaint.exe Disabled 4792 D				
	mspdbsrv.exe *32 Disabled 6220 D				
	NdMSBTSrv.exe *32 Enabled 2512 D 🚽				
	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •				
	End Process				
	Processes: 69 CPU Usage: 60% Physical Memory: 52%				
		1			
	h. Type some text into the edit box and click Save in the BrokenAppManaged	d			
	application. You should receive an error dialog box.				
	Note: Because UAC virtualization is turned off, writing to protected locations results				
	in an error.				
	i. Close the running BrokenAppManaged application.				
4 Correct the Access	Note: By embedding the manifest containing a LIAC section, you declare to				
Denied Error	Windows 7 that your application is UAC-aware: therefore the application will b)e			
	unable to write to any protected storage area. In this task, you will change the	,			
	location to which the text file will be saved and fix the access denied error.				
	a. Return to Visual Studio.				
	b. In the static constructor of the FileIO class in FileIO.cs:				
	c. Comment out the line to save to Environment.SpecialFolders.ProgramFile	s (Line			
	49)				
	d. Uncomment the line to save to				
	Environment.SpecialFolders.CommonApplicationData (Line 50)				
	e. This will save the file to the common program data folder (C:\ProgramDat	ta, by			
	default), which is accessible by all users.				
	f. Press the F5 key to rebuild and run the application.				
	g. Type some text into the edit box and then click Save. The operation shoul	d			

Tasks	Detailed Steps
	succeed.
	h. Make sure the data file is now saved to the correct folder:
	C:\ProgramData\BrokenApp.
	Note: You now have fixed the redirection issue and saved your data file to the correct location.
	In order for redirection to work in Visual Studio 2008, you must turn off UAC in the manifest generation. To do so:
	For C# projects In Visual Studio:
	Click the Project menu.
	Click the Properties for that project.
	• On the Application tab, in the Resources area, select the Icon and manifest button.
	• Select Create application without a manifest.
	• Click OK.
	UAC is turned off here only for demonstration purposes. All executables should contain a UAC section in the manifest. If a UAC section is present in the manifest, Windows will not consider the application a legacy application and does not enable redirection. Writing to Program Files would return an access denied error.

Exercise 2 Exploring User Account Control Virtualization

Scenario

In this exercise, you will diagnose a broken native (Win32) C++ application that exhibits file redirection to the VirtualStore folder.

You will then add a UAC manifest section and compile the application , thereby marking it as UAC-aware. You will observe that instead of being redirected, write operations to the Program Files folder will be blocked resulting in an "access denied" error.

Finally, you will fix the application by modifying it to store the file to the Application Data (ProgramData) folder.

Tasks	Detailed Steps		
Complete the following task on:	Note: In this task, you will run the application without a manifest, which simulates an older application and triggers the UAC virtualization mechanism. New applications created with Visual Studio 2008 automatically embed a manifest containing a UAC section by default.		
Will/DCV3	a. Make sure UAC is enabled		
1. Run the Application without a Manifest	b. From the Start menuOpen Search		
	Type UAC		
	 Click "Change User Account Control settings" in the search results list 		
	c. The User Account Control Settings dialog box appears. To ensure UAC is NOT disabled:		
	 Set the UAC slider at the default level (as pictured below) 		
	Click OK		
	😵 User Account Control Settings		
	Choose when to be notified about changes to your computer User Account Control helps prevent potentially hamful programs from making changes to your computer. Fell me more about User Account Control setting!		
	Annyy Toury Default - Notify me only when programs try to make changes to my computer		
	Don't notify me when I make changes to Windows settings		
	 - Recommended # you use familiar programs and visit familiar websites. 		
	© OK Cancel		

Tasks	Detailed Steps
	d. Open Windows Explorer and navigate to the folder containing the solution
	(C:\Labs\Native\UAC Redirection\Begin)
	e. Double-click the "DataRedirection" solution file to open the solution.
	Note: Make sure you don't start Visual Studio with Administrator privileges. If Visual Studio is started with elevated privileges, then "Visual Studio (Administrator)" will display in the title bar
	f. In the toolbar, set the build target to x86:
	Debug • x86 •
	<i>Note:</i> The reason for this is that for x64 applications, virtualization is turned off regardless of a manifest.
	 g. Right-click the BrokenAppNative project in Solution Explorer and select Properties:
	 By default, Visual Studio 2008 configures projects to include a UAC section in the manifest; we will turn off this setting to illustrate how a legacy application would behave
	i. In Properties:
	j. Under Configuration Properties, expand the Linker node
	k. Select Manifest File
	I. Ensure the "Enable User Account Control (UAC)" selection is set to No
	m. Click OK
	BrokenAppNative Property Pages
	Configuration: Active(Debug) Platform: Active(x64) Configuration Manager
	Common Properties General Manifest Yes General Manifest File S(InDir)\S(TargetFileName).intermediate.manifest Additional Manifest Dependencies Aldivo Isolation Yes C/C++ Linker General No Input Manifest File Ostronovker Vac UAC Execution Level aslowoker UAC Execution Level No Optimization Embedded DL Advanced Command Line Manifest Tool Fasble User Account Control (UAC) Browse Information Build Events Build Events Fasble User Account Control (UAC) Specifies whether or not User Account Control is enabled. (/MANIFESTUAC, //MANIFESTUAC.NO)
	- Class the Decementies window
	n. Close the Properties willdow.
	 In solution Explorer, double-click on the BrokenAppivative.cpp file to open it. Inspect the SoveEile and LocdFile functions.
	 p. Inspect the savefile and LoadFile functions Observe bout the activity constructed in the State Data State Data (and the state Data State
	q. Upserve how the path is constructed in the MakeDataFilePath function:

Tasks	Detailed Steps		
	r. The data file path saves to a folder under Program Files		
	 SHGetKnownFolderPath with the FOLDERID_ProgramFiles parameter retrieves the path of the Program Files folder 		
	 A subdirectory under Program Files is created first (BrokenApp), if it doesn't exist 		
	• Then a filename (SomeFile.txt) is created under that subdirectory		
	s. Build the project.		
	t. Press the F5 key to run it.		
	u. Open Task Manager and click the Processes tab.		
	From the View menu, choose Select Columns		
	The Select Process Page Columns dialog box appears		
	Check the User Account Control (UAC) Virtualization check box		
	Click OK		
	Select Process Page Columns		
	Select the columns that will appear on the Process page of Task Manager.		
	 Handles Threads USER Objects GDI Objects I/O Reads I/O Writes I/O Other I/O Read Bytes I/O Write Bytes I/O Write Bytes I/O Other Bytes Inage Path Name Command Line User Account Control (UAC) Virtualization Ø Description Data Execution Prevention ØK Cancel 		
	v. Notice that the UAC Virtualization column is enabled for your process:		

Tasks	Detailed Steps	
	📜 Windows Task Manager	
	<u>File Options View H</u> elp	
	Applications Processes Services Performance Networking Users	
	Image Name UAC Virtualization PID U	
	BrokenAppNative.exe *32 Enabled 6796 D	
	csrss.exe 7032 devenv.exe *32 Disabled 2964 D	
	dwm.exe Disabled 976 D	
	ielowutil.exe *32 Disabled 6552 D	
	Moe.exe *32 Enabled 656 D	
	msmsgr.exe *32 Disabled 3532 D	
	mspaint.exe Disabled 3416 D	
	NdMSBTSrv.exe *32 Enabled 2512 D	
	procexp.exe *32 6788 D	
	Show processes from all users End Process	
	Processes: 69 CPU Usage: 54% Physical Memory: 51%	
	w. Type some text into the edit box and then click Save. The operation should	
	succeed; that is, you won't receive an error.	
	Broken App	
	C-\Drogram Eiles (v86)\BrokenAnn\SomeEile tyt	
	C. (Program nies (Xoo) (prokenapp Somerile, XX	
	Save Load	
	Hello, world.	
	x. Try to navigate to the path indicated (C:\Program Files\BrokenApp).	
	v. Close the running BrokenAppNative application.	
	Note : You won't find BrokenApp under Program Files because the write file operation	
	was redirected to the VirtualStore folder	
2. Find the Problem	Note: In this task, you will walk through the different steps to confirm that your	
	application is experiencing UAC virtualization.	

Tasks	Detailed Steps
	In this task, we will use the Process Monitor application. This utility is available for download from Microsoft TechNet (<u>http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals/bb896645.aspx</u> .
	a. From the Start menu, launch Process Monitor. Click Yes for the User Account Control dialog box.
	b. Click Cancel in the Process Monitor Filter dialog box.
	c. In the menu bar, click Filter -> Reset Filter.
	d. Ensure Process Monitor is capturing events by verifying the third toolbar button is not crossed out. You can also toggle capturing on/off by pressing CTRL-E .
	File Event Filter Tools File Event File Eve
	e. In the BrokenAppNative application, click Save again.
	f. Stop capturing in Process Monitor by clicking the third toolbar button (or by pressing CTRL-E).
	g. In Process Monitor, from the Tools menu, click Process Tree. The Process Tree dialog box appears:

Tasks	Detailed Steps			
	Process Tre	e		x
	Only show p	processes still running at er	nd of current trace	
	Process		Description	Imac 🔺
	🖃 🚞 Explore	er.EXE (5056)	Windows Explorer	C:\W
	i msp	paint.exe (6940)	Paint	C:\W
	j≣ tas	kmgr.exe (3208)	Windows Task M	C:\W
	I splwov	v64.exe (5544)	Print driver host fo	C:\W
	E 🖓 deven	v.exe (2964)	Microsoft Visual St	C:\Pr
		kenAppNative.exe (6796)	n/a	c:\U
	. mspdb	srv.exe (5524)	Microsoft® Progra	C:\Pr +
		•	•	•
	Description:	n/a		
	Company:	n/a		
	Path:			
	Command:			
	User:			
	PID: 6	5796 Started:		
		_		
			Go To Event	lose
	 h. Look for BrokenAppl i. Click Close to close th j. Right-click the process k. Click Include Broken 	Native.exe in the tree an he Process Tree dialog b ss name BrokenAppNat AppNative. This will filte	nd double-click it. box. ive in Process Mon er out all other eve	itor . nts:
	00.05 mm			
	22:25: Brok	Properties	Open Ctrl+F	
	22:25: Br	Stack	Ctrl+k	
	22:25: Br	Jump To	Ctrl+	ebug
	22:25: Br	Search Online	curr.	
	22:25: Br	Sector Onlinear		
	22:25: Br	Include 'BrokenAppNat	tive.exe'	
	22:25: Br	Exclude 'BrokenAppNat	tive.exe'	
	22:25: Br	Highlight 'BrokenAppN	lative.exe'	
	22:25: I Se	Include		•
	22:25: Se	Exclude		+
	22:25: Br			
	22:25: Sea		SIGNICULIU	•

Tasks	Detailed Steps
	Process Monitor - Sysinternals: www.sysinternals.com File Edit Eyent Filter Tools Options Help Pie Edit Eyent Filter Tools Option Filter States Pie Edit Eyent Filter Tools Option Filter S
	Note: You can see that BrokenAppNative is trying to create the file C:\ProgramFiles Note: You can see that BrokenAppNative is trying to create the file C:\ProgramFiles \BrokenApp\SomeFile.txt. This file is redirected to the VirtualStore folder, where the actual data file ends up. Notice the Result column. The line where the result is "REPARSE" is the original operation. The next line with the result "SUCCESS" is the redirected operation. I. Close the running BrokenAppNative application.
3. Add a UAC Manifest	 Note: In this task, you will add a manifest to the application to mark the application as UAC-aware. By marking your application as UAC-aware, you declare that the application does not require write access to protected locations. UAC virtualization will not apply to your application. a. In Visual Studio, right-click the BrokenAppNative project and select Properties. b. Under Configuration Properties, expand Linker. c. Select Manifest File.
	 d. Change the "Enable User Account Control (UAC)" selection to Yes. e. Click OK.

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Tasks	Detailed Steps
	BrokenAppNative Property Pages
	Configuration: Active(Debug) Platform: Active(Win32) Configuration Manager
	Common Properties General General Manifest Dependencies Debugging C/C++ Linker General General Manifest Account Control (UAC) Yes UAC Execution Level System Optimization Optimization Enable User Account Control (UAC) Resources XML Document General Manifest Tool Resources XML Document Genera Fnable User Account Control (UAC) System Vestore Optimization Enable User Account Control (UAC) Resources XML Document Genera Build Events Fnable User Account Control (UAC) Specifies whether or not User Account Control is enabled. (/MANIFESTUAC, //MANIFESTUAC.NO) OK Cancel
	f. Re-build the application.
	g. Press the F5 key to run the application.
	h. Look at Task Manager again, and you will notice that virtualization is now disabled:

Tasks	Detailed Steps		
	🕎 Windows Task Manager		
	<u>File Options View H</u> elp		
	Applications Processes Services Performance Netwo	orking Users	
	Image Name UAC Virtualization	PID U ^	
	BrokenAppNative.exe *32 Disabled	1060 D	
	csrss.exe	7032	
	devenv.exe *32 Disabled	2964 D	
	dwm.exe Disabled	976 D ≡	
	explorer.exe Disabled	604 D	
	ielowutil.exe *32 Disabled	6552 D	
	Moe.exe *32 Enabled	656 D	
	MoeMonitor.exe Disabled	4756 D	
	msnmsgr.exe *32 Disabled	3532 D	
	mspaint.exe Disabled	3416 D	
	mspaint.exe Disabled	4036 D	
	mspaint.exe Disabled	4/92 D	
	Mspabsrv.exe *32 Disabled	5524 D	
	Inclinist i sirviexe i sz Enabled	2512 D +	
	<	•	
	Show processes from all users	End Process	
	Processes: 70 CPU Usage: 51% Physical M	1emory: 52%	
	Note: This is because the presence of the UAC section in the manij application as UAC-aware	fest marks the	
	i Type some text into the edit box and click Save in the Broker	AnnNative	
	application. You should receive the following error:	парриацие	
	Error creating data directory.		
	Error creating data directory, Win32 error co	de: 5.	
	•••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••		
	[[]]	OK	
	Note : Because UAC virtualization is turned off, writing to protected in an error.	d locations results	
	j. Close the running BrokenAppNative application.		

Tasks	Detailed Steps
4. Correct the Access Denied Error	Note: By embedding the manifest containing a UAC section, you declare to Windows 7 that your application is UAC-aware, and therefore will refrain from writing to any protected storage area. In this task, you will change the location to which the text file will be saved and fix the access denied error.
	a. Return to Visual Studio.
	b. Navigate to the MakeDataFilePath function in BrokenAppNative.cpp.
	 c. Comment out the line at the top of the function that includes FOLDERID_ProgramFiles (Line 63).
	d. Uncomment the line that includes FOLDERID_ProgramData (Line 62).
	e. Rebuild the application.
	f. Press the F5 key to run the application.
	g. Type some text into the edit box and then click Save. The operation should succeed.
	 Make sure the data file is now saved to the correct folder: C:\ProgramData\BrokenApp.
	Note: You now have fixed the redirection issue and saved your data file to the correct location.
	Note: In order for redirection to work in Visual Studio 2008, you must turn off UAC in the manifest generation. To do so:
	For C++ projects In Visual Studio:
	1. Click the Project menu.
	2. Click the Properties for that project.
	3. Expand Configuration Properties.
	4. Expand Linker.
	5. Select Manifest File.
	5. Change the Enable User Account Control (UAC) selection to No
	6. Click OK.
	UAC is turned off here only for demonstration purposes. All executables should contain a UAC section in the manifest. If a UAC section is present in the manifest, Windows will not consider the application a legacy application and does not enable redirection. Writing to Program Files would return an access denied error.