

Detection of Malware Relocation via Suspicious File Movement, Detection Strategy DET0439

Archived: 2026-04-05 13:55:37 UTC

AN1216

Detects the relocation of malicious executables via copy/move actions across suspicious folders (e.g., from Downloads to System32), followed by deletion of the original source or renaming to blend into legitimate binaries.

Log Sources

Mutable Elements

Field	Description
SuspiciousTargetPathRegex	Patterns like \Windows*, \System32*, or temp+execution directories
TimeWindow	Correlate copy+rename+delete chains within 5-minute window
FileExtensionFilter	Limit to .exe, .dll, .js, .bat unless context suggests otherwise

AN1217

Detects binary movement or copying between untrusted and trusted paths (e.g., /tmp/ → /usr/bin/ or /etc/init.d/) that may indicate persistence attempts or cleanup of origin traces.

Log Sources

Mutable Elements

Field	Description
RelocationPathPatterns	Match movement into known persistence or exclusion directories
BinaryEntropyThreshold	Apply threshold to detect high-entropy relocations (e.g., packed malware)

AN1218

Detects movement of binaries to ~/Library/ , /System/ , or app bundle locations, especially after initial execution or download from Safari or Mail.

Log Sources

Mutable Elements

Field	Description
TargetBundlePathPattern	Monitor relocation to .app/Contents/MacOS/ or ~/Library/Launch*
QuarantineFlagCheck	Check for disappearance of com.apple.quarantine attribute post-move

AN1219

Detects firmware or script relocation attempts (e.g., CLI-based `copy` , `move` , or `rename`) between temporary partitions and config startup folders on routers or switches.

Log Sources

Mutable Elements

Field	Description
StartupConfigPath	Targeted config folders like flash:/startup-config or nvram:
CommandPatternMatch	e.g., <code>`copy tftp flash`</code> , <code>`rename`</code> , <code>`move flash:/old.bin flash:/new.bin`</code>

Source: <https://attack.mitre.org/detectionstrategies/DET0439#AN1218>