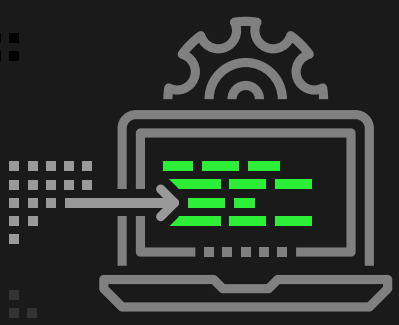
Combating the Scourge of Fileless Attacks

What Is a Fileless Attack?

Fileless attacks originally described threats existing and operating exclusively in volatile memory. The term later evolved to include threats that maliciously utilize legitimate system resources without writing new files on disk. Today, any cyber attack using fileless elements within the attack chain may also be described as *fileless*.



These kinds of attacks can be recognized by the following traits:

Memory Resident

Malware is memory resident instead of residing on disk

Script Based

Script-intensive malware uses Jscript/JAVAScript to launch initial infection and to assist with attacks

Exploits Resources

Malware exploits resources like PowerShell, WMI, and other legitimate Windows admin tools to conduct activities

System Registry

Malware achieves persistence through modification of the system registry

How do you combat a fileless attack?

The key to defeating fileless malware is to deny it system resources, such as with a combination of tools found in **CylancePROTECT®** and **CylanceOPTICS™**.

Script Management

Decide when, where, and how scripts are used.

By injecting itself into the script interpreter, CylancePROTECT Script Control gains insight into both script activity and the script path before execution. Questionable script activity is either blocked or sends an alert to the system administrator.

CylancePROTECT

Memory Exploitation Detection and Prevention

Deny fileless attacks a space in which to operate.

A DLL is loaded into each protected process and a service component provides management capabilities. The agent hooks into user-mode API functions and monitors them for signs of compromise, then suspends suspicious functions and provides a choice of follow-on actions.

CylancePROTECT

Context Analysis Engine (CAE)

Empower each endpoint with threat detection and response capabilities.

Allow each endpoint to act as a virtual SOC, responding to threats with predetermined processes. Impose rules on a catalog of system behaviors including PowerShell, Javascript, and browser-specific actions that fileless attacks rely on to operate.

CylanceOPTICS

Prevention is possible.

Sophisticated threats require advanced solutions, which is why BlackBerry Cylance invests heavily in artificial intelligence and predictive security technology. For a better understanding of fileless threats and ways you can prevent them, visit: www.cylance.com/fileless.