

ThreatDown EDR Detailed EDR_XDR Solutions Overview

2026, 4th edition

Controlled attack simulation with full telemetry analysis
Environment: Windows 10, Windows 11, Windows Server + Active Directory



Evaluation period: March to June 2026
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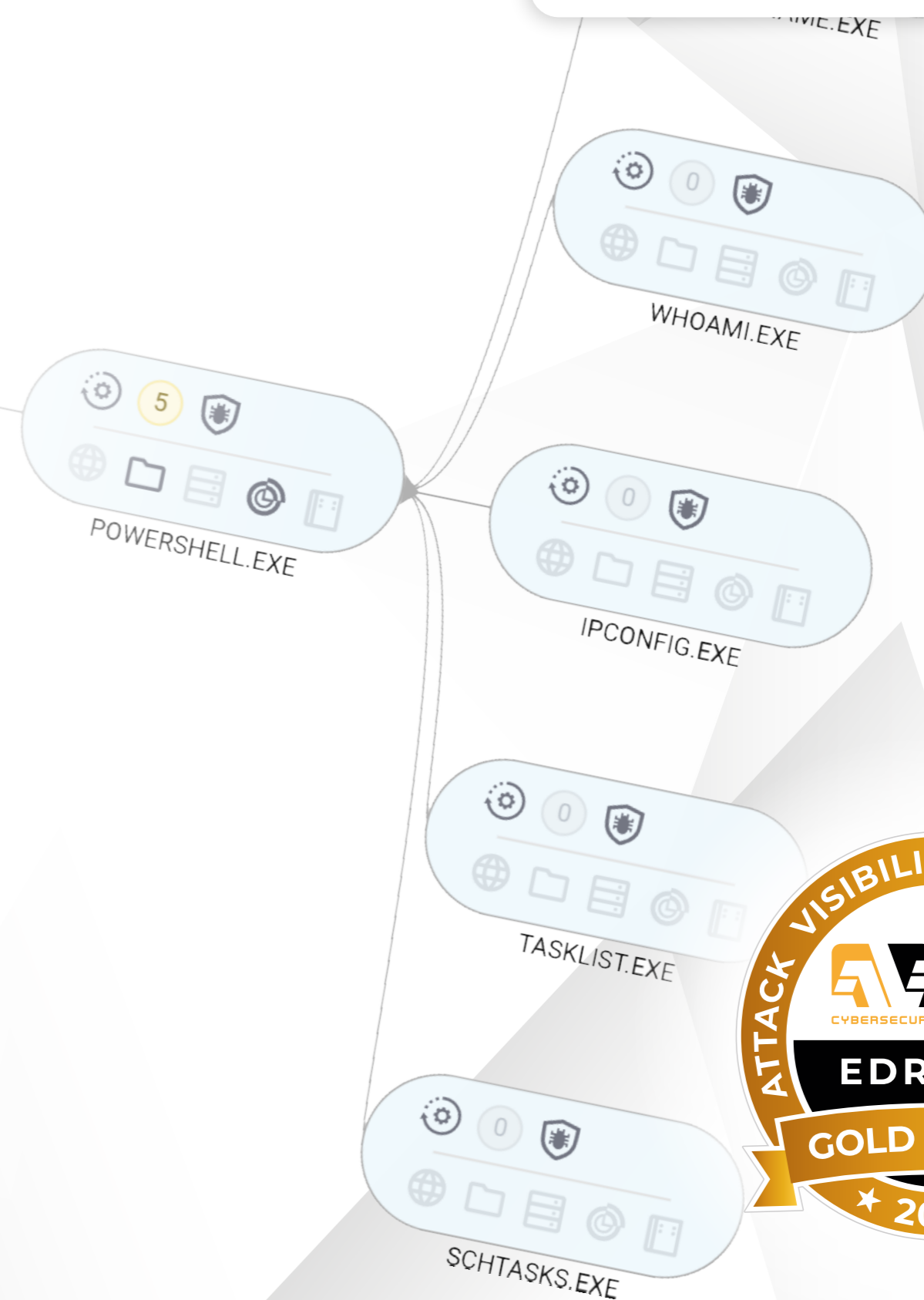
Test Summary

ThreatDown EDR

ThreatDown effectively blocks known threats. However, its prevention-first architecture influences the availability of detailed telemetry for attacks stopped before execution. In several scenarios, threats were successfully detected and prevented, but the corresponding forensic artifacts and low-level telemetry were limited. As a result, telemetry depth and attack reconstruction capabilities may vary depending on the stage at which malicious activity is interrupted. The solution supports IOC management, external integrations, event correlation, and MITRE ATT&CK mapping, providing sufficient context for operational incident analysis.

In the area of Incident Response, the platform offers host isolation, remediation actions, and a manual sandbox. Event correlation and attack reconstruction were available for most tested scenarios, including investigations involving process activity, user context, network communication, and lateral movement techniques such as SMB, WMI, and PsExec. However, when threats were prevented before execution, the amount of retained telemetry could be reduced, limiting visibility into specific attack stages.

Overall, the solution provides a good level of visibility and event correlation while maintaining strong preventive capabilities. The primary limitation is the reduced availability of full RAW telemetry for threats stopped before execution, which may affect the completeness of attack reconstruction and advanced forensic investigations. The solution meets Level 2 requirements, though with limitations regarding telemetry depth in selected prevention-driven scenarios.



FULL

The function works in its full scope without significant limitations.

PARTIAL

The function works, but with noticeable limitations.

LIMITED

The function is present but provides minimal visibility or analytical value.

NONE

The function is unavailable or no relevant visibility was observed.

Attack Description

Simulation of data retrieval via DNS TXT, reconstruction of the payload in %TEMP%, execution via LOLBin, and exfiltration.

PARTIAL

Copying the payload between PCs before execution, then running the RAT as an EXE and quietly capturing keystrokes.

FULL

User downloads ISO, mounts it, and executes EXE, triggering payload and C2 communication (HTTP/mTLS).

FULL

Payload is delivered via WebDAV and executed by the user, establishing C2. The compromise is then extended to another endpoint through SMB file transfer and remote execution via WMI.

FULL

The attacker copies the payload to a remote host via SMB and executes it using PsExec as a SYSTEM service, thereby achieving remote code execution.

FULL

Using a local LLM model to dynamically select subsequent steps. After verifying SMB connectivity to the target host, remote code is executed via WMI, which creates, compiles, and runs the payload on the victim's system, generating multi-stage process telemetry.

PARTIAL

The attack uses an external AI model as a decision-making layer to control actions on the host. The script collects system information, saves it to a file, compresses it, and sends it externally via HTTP, while the AI issues subsequent decisions based on the system's state.

FULL

Clicking a phishing link launches mshta, which downloads and executes PowerShell. The script collects system data, establishes persistence via a Scheduled Task, runs rundll32 to hide its activity, and then exfiltrates data over HTTPS (curl). The entire chain uses LOLBIN.

FULL

The importance of telemetry detail in the context of incidents

Modern attacks, including long-term activities carried out by advanced threat groups (APTs), are rarely limited to a single incident. They often begin with a seemingly harmless phishing message, which is actually only the first stage of an extensive chain of activities involving maintaining access, escalating privileges, so-called lateral movement, and data exfiltration [1].

In such scenarios, it is not only the detection of a single alert that is crucial, but also the ability to record and correlate all relevant technical artifacts. Recording even partial information about potential incidents allows for the reconstruction of events that took place in the analyzed environment. EDR-XDR solutions that monitor systems and applications, thanks to data correlation and automation mechanisms, support security teams in identifying the relationships between the stages of an attack.

Based on the collected telemetry, it is possible to determine what actions the attacker took, in what order, using what processes, applications, and user accounts. In the case of attacks spread over time, it is particularly important to maintain a consistent chronology of events and visibility of changes in user context and permissions. This information can be presented in the form of a logical or graphical reconstruction of the incident (e.g., as a process tree or a map of connections between hosts), which will certainly facilitate understanding of the full course of the operation.

Another important element of a mature EDR-XDR platform is the ability to perform advanced queries, allowing analysts to manually search raw telemetry, build their own queries, and verify investigative hypotheses. In the case of multi-stage campaigns, a ready-made alert often does not reflect the full extent of the compromise. Only in-depth analysis allows for the identification of additional traces of the breach, connections between systems, and the attacker's actual goal.

The broader the range of monitored events and the greater the depth of telemetry, the greater the organization's ability to understand the attacker's intentions and techniques, and consequently to mitigate the impact of the incident and adapt security policies to real threats.



[1] See an example of an APT attack on our editorial office in 2026:

<https://avlab.pl/przypadek-falshywego-phishingu-to-element-dlugofalowego-ataku-grupy-storm-1679/>



Protection model evolution

Product categories such as EPP, EDR, XDR, and SIEM are increasingly overlapping in terms of functionality. In practice, the differences between them no longer stem from commercial nomenclature, but from the scope of telemetry collected, the method of correlating it, the level of automation, and the ability to reconstruct multi-stage attack chains.

Many modern solutions referred to as EDR have expanded their capabilities to include integration with SaaS services, identity systems, and selected network sources, bringing them closer functionally to the XDR class. At the same time, some products positioned as XDR still rely primarily on endpoint telemetry, offering limited cross-domain correlation. This means that the product name does not always reflect its actual level of operational maturity.

The table below is for organizational and illustrative purposes only. It presents the typical characteristics of each class of solutions, assuming that specific implementations may go beyond this framework or combine elements of several categories.

EPP

Focuses primarily on prevention. Signature and reputation-based blocking with limited telemetry storage and minimal investigative context.

XDR

Enables cross-domain correlation based on endpoint telemetry. Aggregates and correlates signals from endpoints, identity providers, SaaS platforms, email, and network sources. Focuses on reconstructing attack chains across multiple systems.

EDR

Endpoint-focused detection and investigation. Provides detailed telemetry (process trees, command lines, artifacts), retrospective analysis, and host-level response actions. Correlation is primarily limited to data generated by endpoints.

SIEM

Log aggregation and correlation engine based on rules or behaviors. Data normalization, long-term storage, compliance-related use cases, and configurable detection logic. Detection quality depends largely on log quality, integration level, and rule maturity.



The models are simplified and do not fully reflect market dynamics. The historical evolution from EPP through EDR to XDR shows a shift in emphasis from signature-based prevention to deep telemetry, event correlation, and incident reconstruction. Of course, the protection of workstations and servers remains the unchanging core, but it is the range of data sources, the quality of correlation, and the possibility of multi-system analysis that today determine the real effectiveness of IT environment protection.

Scope, objectives and limitations of the 2026 edition

The purpose of the test is to evaluate the actual capabilities of EDR-XDR solutions in detecting, recording, and correlating multi-stage attacks under controlled laboratory conditions.

The analysis is not limited to the generation of alerts. The depth of telemetry, the quality of event correlation, the ability to reconstruct the attack chain, and the operational usefulness of data from the perspective of a SOC analyst are also evaluated.

Methodological assumptions

The test is carried out in a structured environment simulating a realistic attack scenario covering the stages from Initial Access to Exfiltration and Impact, in accordance with selected MITRE ATT&CK techniques.

Each stage is performed in a controlled and repeatable manner, with accurate time recording and predefined expected technical artifacts.

In the first phase, the test can be performed in “report-only” mode to assess visibility and correlation without interrupting the scenario. In subsequent stages, the effectiveness of response and automatic prevention mechanisms can be analyzed.

What exactly are we evaluating?

The test answers the following questions:

01

Does the solution generate a clear alert for the techniques used?

?

02

Does it provide complete and detailed event telemetry?

?

03

Does it enable correlation of events within a host and between systems?

?

04

Does it allow reconstruction of the attack chain in the logical context of the incident?

?

05

Is the data provided operationally useful from the SOC team's perspective?

?

Test limitations

The test is conducted in a controlled environment and does not reflect the full complexity of production environments involving hundreds or thousands of endpoints, non-standard configurations, integrations with external systems, and actual load.

The attack scenarios, while realistic, are selected examples and do not cover all possible threat variants.

The results should be interpreted as an assessment of the technical capabilities of the solution under precisely defined test conditions. The test ensures repeatability and comparability of results but does not constitute a complete simulation of a large-scale production environment.



The 2026 edition introduces a clear distinction between:

- ✓ technology detection alone,
- ✓ full telemetry visibility,
- ✓ event correlation,
- ✓ attack chain reconstruction.

In the previous edition, these elements were evaluated together. The updated methodology separates detection effectiveness from the quality of the analytical context and the operational capabilities of the tested solution.

The comparison criteria have also been standardized, including:

- ✓ telemetry completeness,
- ✓ local and inter-host correlation,
- ✓ incident presentation consistency in the console,
- ✓ coverage of tested techniques.

The purpose of the changes is to increase the transparency of the methodology and reduce discretionary elements in the final assessment.

Certification model



Level 1 – Core Telemetry Visibility

CERTIFIED 2026

Awarded to solutions that provide full technical visibility of events within tested scenarios, including:

- 1 Generation of unambiguous security alerts,
- 2 Access to full telemetry (command-line, process relationships, file and registry changes, user context),
- 3 Consistent and accurate event chronology,
- 4 Automatic correlation of events within a single host.

Level 1 confirms that the solution provides sufficient technical visibility of security events at the host level, including clear alerts, key execution artifacts and contextual information required to analyze an incident within a single system.

Level 2 – Full Attack Chain Correlation

GOLD AWARD 2026

Level 2 is awarded to solutions that, in addition to meeting all Level 1 requirements, demonstrate the capability to automatically correlate events across multiple hosts and reconstruct a multi-stage attack chain within a single logical incident.








Solutions that do not provide basic attack visibility in the tested scenarios do not receive certification.

Certification is a summary of a technical assessment based on a defined methodology and uniform comparative criteria. The level awarded confirms that specific requirements for visibility, telemetry, and event correlation have been met.







Security features availability



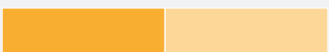
1. Detection & Telemetry depth

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Basic attack visibility | FULL  |
| Full attack telemetry | FULL  |
| Process tree visibility | FULL  |
| Command-line visibility | FULL  |
| Network - file - registry telemetry | FULL  |
| MITRE technique mapping | FULL  |
| Offline detection capability | FULL  |


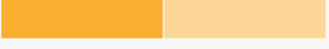

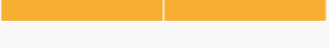
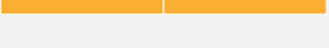
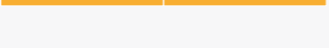
2. Event Correlation & Attack Context

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Single-host correlation | FULL  |
| Cross-host correlation | FULL  |
| Full attack-chain reconstruction | FULL  |
| Graphical attack visualization | FULL  |




3. Threat Intelligence & Enrichment

| | |
|---|---|
| Suspicious object intelligence (IP, URL, SHA) | FULL  |
| External enrichment (reputation feeds, threat intelligence, VirusTotal-like services) | FULL  |
| Approximate file reputation scoring | PARTIAL  |



4. Incident Response Capabilities

| | |
|---|--|
| Workstation isolation | FULL  |
| File & process containment (quarantine, kill, blocking, isolation) | PARTIAL  |
| Sandbox or deep file analysis (manual or automated detonation; local or cloud) | PARTIAL  |
| Proposed remediation guidance | FULL  |
| Data recovery capability (rollback or backup) | FULL  |
| Automation or SOAR (native or external) | FULL  |






5. Investigation & Hunting

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Advanced query capability | FULL  |
| Raw telemetry access | FULL  |
| Timeline analysis | FULL  |


6. Security Posture & Exposure Visibility

| | |
|---|--|
| Graphical security posture visualization (vulnerabilities, weak passwords, misconfiguration) | FULL  |
| Agent configuration validation | FULL  |

7. Platform & Administrative Controls

| | |
|---|--|
| Updates management | FULL  |
| Granular administrative access control | FULL  |
| Admin console protection (MFA, SSO, audit log) | FULL  |
| API availability | FULL  |
| Multi-tenant console for MSSP (multi-company management) | FULL  |

8. AI-Assisted Operations

| | |
|---|--|
| AI assistance in console (alert summarization, query generation, recommendations etc.) | FULL  |
|---|--|

Agent Configuration and Operating Mode

The test covered EDR-XDR solution operating in a Windows environment, in accordance with a predefined attack scenario and a uniform assessment methodology.

Most of the tested EDR-XDR platforms include an integrated antivirus module. This module remained active so that the environment configuration would reflect a real production deployment that an administrator might use in an organization.

In the first phase of testing, the solutions could be run in report-only mode, without automatic blocking and remediation. This was done to:

- ✓ enable full execution of the attack scenario,
- ✓ assess telemetry visibility,
- ✓ analyze the quality of correlation and incident reconstruction,
- ✓ avoid interrupting the attack chain at an early stage.

The configuration of agent policies was based on default settings, with a possible extension of the scope of telemetry collected. For solutions requiring manual policy configuration, settings were used to maximize event visibility and technical artifact logging, while maintaining compliance with the manufacturer's official documentation.

The aim of the study was not to test non-standard experimental configurations, but to evaluate the real capabilities of the platform in a production scenario.

Environment configuration

The tests were conducted in a controlled virtual environment, including a separate attack infrastructure and victim systems with EDR-XDR agents installed.

The environment included:

01

a separate server simulating the attack infrastructure (Command-and-Control)

02

virtual machines running Windows 10 and Windows 11 with the tested agents installed

03

optionally, a domain controller (Active Directory) to simulate lateral movement and identity abuse scenarios

The victim systems had a standard operating system configuration with up-to-date security patches and full network access in accordance with the test scenario.

The attack scenarios were carried out using controlled simulation techniques that mirrored selected MITRE ATT&CK techniques. Depending on the test phase, adversary emulation tools and native system mechanisms were used to replicate the attacker's behavior as realistically as possible.

The test did not include social engineering elements (e.g., a real phishing campaign) because the goal was to technically replicate behavior at the host and infrastructure level, not to test user susceptibility to manipulation.

The attacks were carried out in a controlled and repeatable manner, without conducting full campaigns from start to finish. Each stage was performed according to a predefined scenario and documented in terms of expected technical artifacts.



Attacker Infrastructure
(Isolated Zone)



C2 Server - Kali Linux
(Command & Control)



Attack Tools & Frameworks

- Atomic Red Team
- Custom Scripts
- Other Simulations



Payload Delivery
(HTTP, SMB, RDP, etc.)



Internal Network
(Lab Environment)



Active Directory



DC - Windows Server
EDR/XDR Agent



Host A - Windows 10
EDR/XDR Agent



Host B - Windows 11
EDR/XDR Agent



Internet Acces
(Allowed)

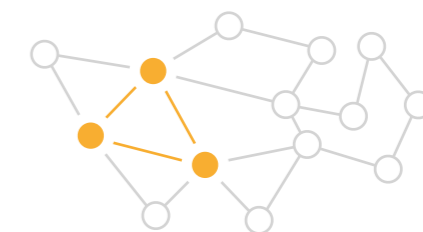


EDR/XDR Console & Evaluation



Central Console
(Alerting, Investigation, Hunting)

MITRE ATTACK Mapping



Attack Chain Reconstruction

Attack Stages

Initial Access

Executions

Presistance

Defense Evasion

Credential Access

Lateral Movement

Exfiltration

Operational Assessment – Phase 1

Settings applied: Telemetry Only (Detect Mode)

Attack Scenario – Adversary Emulation (MITRE ATT&CK via Caldera Framework)

FULL



The function works in its full scope without significant limitations.

PARTIAL





The function works, but with noticeable limitations.



LIMITED



The function is present but provides minimal visibility or analytical value.

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------|--|
| <p>Initial Access</p> | <p>T1566.001</p> | <p>Download Macro-Enabled Phishing Attachment</p> | <p>FULL </p> | <p>Single host</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Full telemetry visibility ✓ Including parent-child relationships ✓ Full command-line ✓ Graphical visualization ✓ Process correlation ✓ Attack chain reconstruction possible |
| <p>Execution</p> | <p>T1106</p> | <p>Execute process via Win32 API (Process.Start)</p> | <p>FULL </p> | <p>Single host</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Full telemetry visibility ✓ Including parent-child relationships ✓ Full command-line ✓ Graphical visualization ✓ Process correlation ✓ Attack chain reconstruction possible |

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|--|---|--------------------|--|
| <p>Persistence</p> | <p>T1566.001</p> | <p>Creating persistent access by Scheduled Task after reboot</p> | <p>FULL </p> | <p>Single host</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Full telemetry visibility ✓ Including parent-child relationships ✓ Full command-line ✓ Graphical visualization ✓ Process correlation ✓ Attack chain reconstruction possible |
| <p>Defense Evasion</p> | <p>T1036.004</p> | <p>Masquerading via scheduled task name (win32times)</p> | <p>FULL </p> | <p>Single host</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Full telemetry visibility ✓ Including parent-child relationships ✓ Full command-line ✓ Graphical visualization ✓ Process correlation ✓ Attack chain reconstruction possible |
| <p>Credential Access</p> | <p>T1555.004</p> | <p>Enumerate stored credentials (Windows Credential Manager)</p> | <p>FULL </p> | <p>Single host</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Full telemetry visibility ✓ Including parent-child relationships ✓ Full command-line ✓ Graphical visualization ✓ Process correlation ✓ Attack chain reconstruction possible |

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|---|--|------------------------|---|
| <p>Lateral Movement</p> | <p>T1021.002</p> | <p>SMB mount, file transfer, and remote execution via PowerShell</p> | <p>FULL</p>  | <p>Full cross-host</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Full telemetry visibility ✓ Including parent-child relationships ✓ Full command-line ✓ Graphical visualization ✓ Process correlation ✓ Easily accessible and linked events in Lateral Movement ✓ Attack chain reconstruction possible |
| <p>Exfiltration</p> | <p>T1048.002</p> | <p>Upload file via HTTPS using curl to external service (file.io)</p> | <p>FULL</p>  | <p>Single host</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Full telemetry visibility ✓ Including parent-child relationships ✓ Full command-line ✓ Graphical visualization ✓ Process correlation ✓ Attack chain reconstruction possible |

Operational Assessment – Phase 2

Settings applied: Default

Methodological assumptions

The results of each attack scenario are interpreted from two operational perspectives: the attacker and the Security Operation Center. This approach helps to determine not only whether the attack was technically successful, but also how clearly it was visible and understandable from the defender's point of view.



Attacker's perspective

From the attacker's point of view, the key issue is whether the individual techniques were executed according to the planned scenario and whether the chain of attacks could be carried out in whole or in part.

- 1 Was the payload successfully executed?
- 2 Was communication or control of the host established (if applicable)?
- 3 Was it possible to maintain or extend access (e.g., lateral movement or exfiltration)?
- 4 At what stage was the attack chain interrupted if it was stopped by defensive mechanisms?

This perspective helps determine whether the solution actively disrupts the attack or merely logs the activity.



SOC-Defender

From a security team perspective, the key factors are the quality and completeness of the information presented in the security console and whether the incident can be quickly understood and investigated. From this perspective, we assess:

- 1 Was a clear security alert generated?
- 2 Is there sufficient telemetry data available to analyze the event?
- 3 Were related events automatically correlated?
- 4 Can the attack chain be reconstructed in the context of a single incident?
- 5 Does the analysis require manual correlation of events?

The tables below summarize the operational results of each attack scenario using simplified visual indicators for both perspectives.

Responding to scenarios from Phase 2

Custom Attacks Scenarios

FULL



The function works in its full scope without significant limitations.

PARTIAL



The function works, but with noticeable limitations.

LIMITED



The function is present but provides minimal visibility or analytical value.



NONE



The function is unavailable or no relevant visibility was observed.

| Attack Description | Used tools | Stages | Attack's MITRE ID | Attacker's Perspective | Security Operation Center Perspective | Assessment |
|--|----------------------------|--|---|--|---|------------|
| Simulation of data retrieval via DNS TXT, reconstruction of the payload in %TEMP%, execution via LOLBin, and exfiltration. | Custom + PowerShell script | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Initial Access 2. Execution 3. Defense Evasion 4. Command & Control 5. Exfiltration | T1059.001 T1071.004 T1105 T1218.009 T1036.005 T1564.001 T1041 | Downloading DNS chunks, delivering the payload, execution, and successful HTTP communication (status code 200). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Blocking of the attack ✓ Security alert generated ✓ Full telemetry available ✓ Single host processes correlation ✓ Attack chain visibility ✓ Attack reconstruction possibility | FULL |
| Copying the payload between PCs before execution, then running the RAT as an EXE and quietly capturing keystrokes. | DuplexSpy | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Initial Access 2. Lateral Movement 3. Execution 4. Persistence 5. Credential Access 6. Collection 7. Command and Control 8. Exfiltration | T1204.002 T1056.001 T1113 T1071.001 T1041 T1547.001 T1082 | Execute the RAT as an EXE to quietly capture keystrokes. There are no exploits, it has a low profile and there is periodic exfiltration to C2. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Blocking of the attack ✓ Security alert generated ✓ Full telemetry available ✓ Single host processes correlation ✓ Attack chain visibility ✓ Attack reconstruction possibility | FULL |

| Attack Description | Used tools | Stages | Attack's MITRE ID | Attacker's Perspective | Security Operation Center Perspective | Assessment |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|---|----------------|
| User downloads ISO, mounts it, and executes EXE, triggering payload and C2 communication (HTTP/mTLS). | Sliver Server | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Initial Access Execution Defense Evasion Command and Control Lateral Movement Discovery Collection Exfiltration | <p>T1566.001</p> <p>T1204.002</p> <p>T1036.005</p> <p>T1071.001</p> <p>T1021.002</p> <p>T1041</p> | The attacker delivers ISO, victim mounts it and runs EXE, establishing payload execution and C2. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Blocking of the attack ✔ Security alert generated 🚫 No telemetry available 🚫 No attack chain visibility 🚫 No attack reconstruction possibility | PARTIAL |
| Payload is delivered via WebDAV and executed by the user, establishing C2. The compromise is then extended to another endpoint through SMB file transfer and remote execution via WMI. | Sliver Server | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Initial Access Execution Command and Control Lateral Movement Exfiltration | <p>T1105</p> <p>T1204.002</p> <p>T1071.001</p> <p>T1021.002</p> <p>T1047</p> <p>T1041</p> | The attacker delivers payload via WebDAV, gains C2, then uses SMB and WMI to execute payload on another endpoint. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Blocking of the attack ✔ Security alert generated 🚫 No telemetry available 🚫 No attack chain visibility 🚫 No attack reconstruction possibility | PARTIAL |
| The attacker copies the payload to a remote host via SMB and executes it remotely using WMI (Win32_Process), thereby achieving remote code execution. | Custom + PsExec + Atomic Red Team | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lateral Movement Execution | <p>T1021.002</p> <p>T1047</p> <p>T1570</p> | The attacker uses administrator credentials to access the administrative share, transfers the payload to a remote host, and executes it remotely via WMI (Win32_Process), achieving remote code execution. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Blocking of the attack ✔ Security alert generated ✔ Full telemetry available ✔ Cross host correlation possible ✔ Attack chain visibility ✔ Attack reconstruction possibility | FULL |

| Attack Description | Used tools | Stages | Attack's MITRE ID | Attacker's Perspective | Security Operation Center Perspective | Assessment |
|--|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| Using a local LLM model to dynamically select subsequent steps. After verifying SMB connectivity to the target host, remote code is executed via WMI, which creates, compiles, and runs the payload on the victim's system, generating multi-stage process telemetry. | Ollama AI + Custom PowerShell | 1. Discovery 2. Execution 3. Lateral movement | T1059.001 T1046 T1021.002 T1047 | Collect the host's context and pass it to a local LLM, which selects the most effective lateral movement step. Then use SMB to gain access to the target system and remotely execute code via WMI. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Blocking of the attack ✔ Security alert generated ✔ Response action visible ✔ Attack chain visibility ✔ Attempted lateral movement visible ✔ Attack reconstruction possibility | FULL  |
| The attack uses an external AI model as a decision-making layer to control actions on the host. The script collects system information, saves it to a file, compresses it, and sends it externally via HTTP, while the AI issues subsequent decisions based on the system's state. | OpenAI (API) + PowerShell | 1. Reconnaissance 2. Command & Control (AI) 3. Collection 4. Staging 5. Exfiltration | T1082 T1518 T1071.001 T1005 T1560 T1041 T1567 | The attacker launches a simple loader that communicates with the AI model and executes its commands. It delegates the analysis of the environment and the selection of actions to LLM, which decides on the next steps based on the data it receives. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🟡 No alert in the console ✔ Full telemetry available ✔ Attack chain visibility ✔ Attack reconstruction possibility | FULL  |
| Clicking a phishing link launches mshta, which downloads and executes PowerShell. The script collects system data, establishes persistence via a Scheduled Task, runs rundll32 to hide its activity, and then exfiltrates data over HTTPS (curl). The entire chain uses LOLBIN. | Kali Linux + browser + powershell + schtasks + rundll32 + curl | 1. Initial Access 2. Execution (LOLBIN) Execution (PowerShell) 3. Collection 4. Persistence 5. Defense Evasion 6. Execution (LOLBIN) 7. Exfiltration | T1566.002 T1218 T1059.001 T1005 T1053.005 T1036.005 T1218 T1041 | I use phishing to launch mshta and bypass standard detection mechanisms. The HTA loads PowerShell in the background, which collects data and maintains access via a Scheduled Task. I use only legitimate system tools (LOLBIN) to minimize detection, and I send the data externally via HTTPS. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Blocking of the attack ✔ Security alert generated ✔ Full telemetry available ✔ Single host processes correlation ✔ Attack chain visibility ✔ Attack reconstruction possibility | FULL  |

Telemetry, correlation and incident visibility assessment based on Phase 2

The table summarizes the observations derived from all executed attack scenarios in phase 2 and presents the overall assessment of telemetry visibility, event correlation and incident reconstruction capabilities of the evaluated solution.

✓ requirement for obtaining Level 1 or Level 2 Certification

✗ no requirements

FULL



The function works in its full scope without significant limitations.

PARTIAL
















The function works, but with noticeable limitations.





LIMITED



The function is present but provides minimal visibility or analytical value.

| Attack Description | Required for at least Level 1 Certification | Required for Level 2 Certification | Assessment | Comment |
|---------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| Basic attack visibility | ✓ | ✓ | FULL | Visibility into detected attack-related activity was provided, along with basic event correlation and the telemetry context required to understand the course of the incident. |
| Full attack telemetry | ✗ | ✗ | PARTIAL | Due to the solution's prevention-first architecture, detailed telemetry was not always available for threats blocked before execution. While this approach effectively prevented malicious activity, it reduced visibility into certain attack stages and limited full attack reconstruction in selected scenarios. |
| Parent-Child Process Visibility | ✓ | ✓ | PARTIAL | Parent-child process relationships were visible in most scenarios, allowing analysts to understand execution flow and process lineage. Some limitations were observed in selected cases where telemetry depth was reduced. |

| Attack Description | Required for at least Level 1 Certification | Required for Level 2 Certification | Assessment | Comment |
|-------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| Command-line visibility |  |  | FULL  | Telemetry provides detailed visibility into executed commands, including full command-line arguments, process launch parameters, and the context of activities related to the execution of attack techniques |
| User context visibility |  |  | FULL  | Based on telemetry data and technical details, it was possible to fully reconstruct the compromised user accounts involved in spreading the attack. |
| Timestamp integrity |  |  | FULL  | Telemetry events are time-stamped, can be sorted correctly, and are easy to locate. |
| Single-host correlation |  |  | FULL  | The platform provides full event correlation within a single host, covering process relationships, user activity, file operations, and related security events logged during the course of an incident. |
| Cross-host correlation |  |  | FULL  | The solution enabled cross-host correlation based on user activity, network communication, remote execution events, and process relationships, supporting the investigation of lateral movement scenarios involving SMB, WMI, and PsExec. |

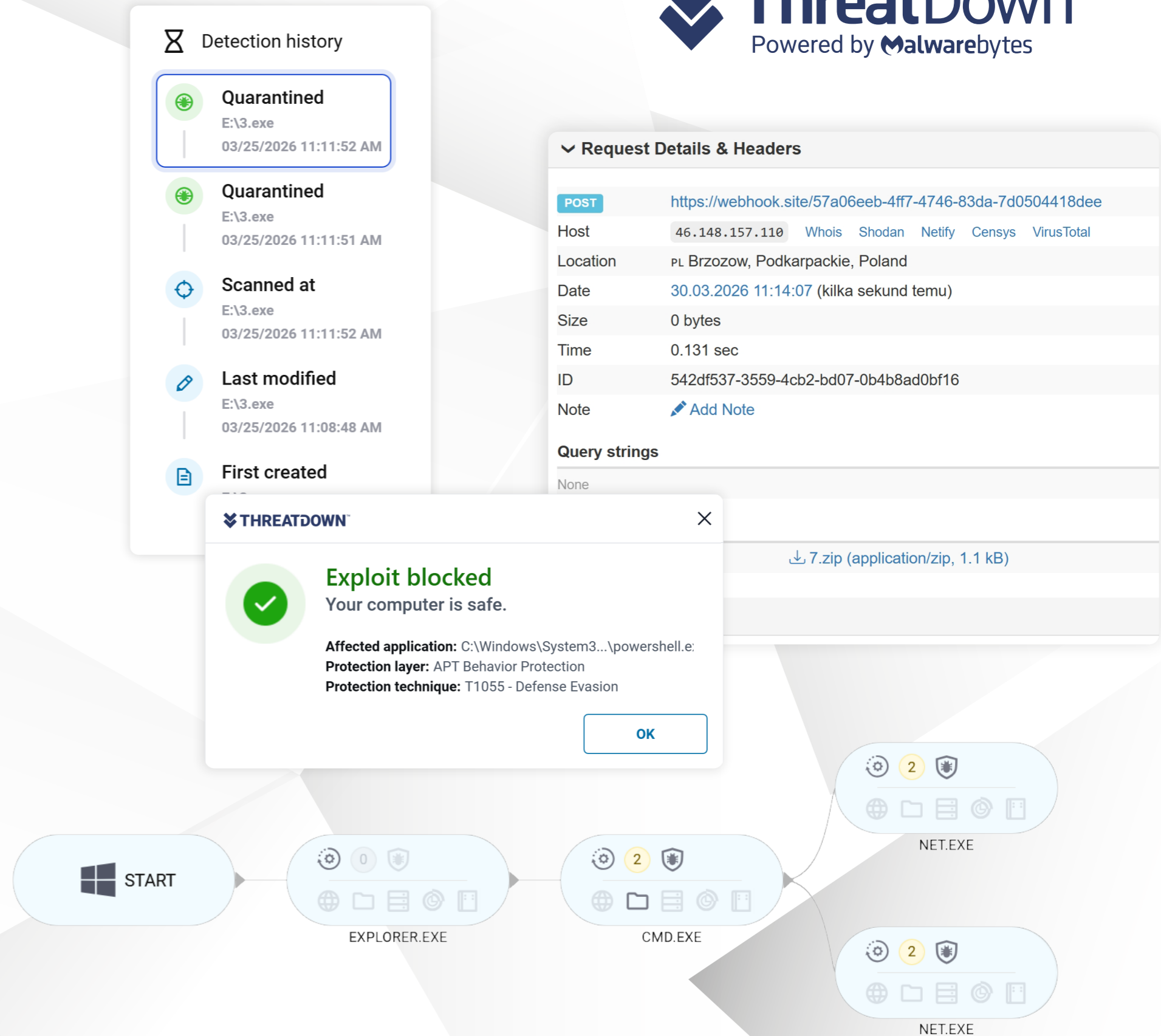
| Attack Description | Required for at least Level 1 Certification | Required for Level 2 Certification | Assessment | Comment |
|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|---|--|
| Network telemetry | ✘ | ✘ | FULL  | Network telemetry provided sufficient visibility into inbound and outbound communications, including host-to-host activity, SMB connections, remote execution workflows, and external network communication used for command-and-control and exfiltration. |
| File & registry telemetry | ✘ | ✘ | FULL  | File and registry telemetry was sufficient to identify changes and link them to process activity. |
| Remediation guidance | ✘ | ✘ | PARTIAL  | Automated remediation guidance was available but generally focused on containment actions. Effective incident response still required analyst validation and manual investigation of affected artifacts. |
| Graphical attack visualization | ✘ | ✘ | FULL  | The graphical visualization clearly presented process relationships, attack progression, and MITRE ATT&CK mappings, supporting efficient incident analysis and attack-chain reconstruction. |
| Advanced query capability | ✘ | ✘ | LIMITED  | Advanced investigation capabilities were constrained by limited access to full raw telemetry in scenarios where threats were blocked before execution. While standard incident analysis and event correlation were possible, deeper threat hunting and low-level forensic investigation were restricted in selected cases. |

Test conclusions

During testing, ThreatDown demonstrated a consistent level of threat detection and effective preventive capabilities. The platform successfully identified and blocked most techniques used across scenarios involving execution, persistence, credential access, lateral movement, and exfiltration. For the majority of tested attacks, telemetry provided sufficient context to support incident investigation, event correlation, and attack-chain reconstruction.

Compared to other solutions evaluated in this edition, ThreatDown stood out for its prevention-first architecture. This approach contributed positively to threat prevention effectiveness but also influenced telemetry availability in selected scenarios. When threats were blocked before execution, detailed telemetry and forensic artifacts were not always retained, limiting visibility into specific attack stages and reducing the ability to fully reconstruct some attack chains.

The platform provides event correlation, MITRE ATT&CK mapping, host isolation, remediation actions, network visibility, and cross-host investigation capabilities. Telemetry was generally sufficient to analyze process activity, user context, network communication, and lateral movement scenarios involving technologies such as SMB, WMI, and PsExec. Advanced investigations remained possible. However, access to low-level forensic evidence was more limited in scenarios where threats were prevented before





To learn more about the collaboration, please visit the Attack Visibility in EDR-XDR Telemetry page, where you can also track the results of recent editions.

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The AVLab Cybersecurity Foundation is an independent organization dedicated to protecting privacy and security on the Internet. We are a member of AMTSO (Anti-Malware Testing Standards Organization), which works to improve the transparency, objectivity and quality of testing. Also, we are a member of MVI (Microsoft Virus Initiative) in this matter as well.

We build awareness of users in the field of digital protection. We issue opinions, technical analysis and tests of IT solutions in the field of cybersecurity. Our strongest assets include thorough and detailed reviews, preparation of reports related to privacy and endpoint protection, and in particular, security tests that make us recognizable all over the world as one of the most trusted and popular testing laboratories.

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