

# The Unavoidable Pain Of Backups

—  
Security Deep-Dive Into  
The Internals Of NetBackup

Nicolas Devillers, Jean-Romain Garnier

[@AirbusSecLab](#) – Hexacon 2022

**HEXACon**

<https://t.me/learningnets>

**AIRBUS**



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## INTRODUCTION

2

## LET'S MEET NETBACKUP

Target Overview: Key Technical Aspects

3

## HOW WE DUG INTO NETBACKUP

The Approach, The Challenges And How We Tackled Them

4

## FINDINGS

Overview Of Vulnerabilities And Attack Paths

5

## TAKEAWAYS

# WHO ARE WE?

Airbus Security Lab

## SPEAKERS



Nicolas Devillers ([@nikaiw](#))

10+ years in offensive security  
Focus on vulnerability research and red teaming  
Member of Airbus security lab



Jean-Romain Garnier ([@JRomainG](#))

Security evaluator for 2 years  
Focus on reverse engineering and low-level security  
Member of Airbus security lab

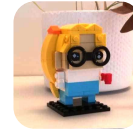
## CO-AUTHORS



Mouad Abouhali ([@\\_m00dy\\_](#))  
Security evaluator



Benoît Camredon ([@ben64\\_](#))  
Security evaluator



Anaïs Gantet  
Security evaluator

## AIRBUS

Missions include:

- As an internal offensive team, evaluating products that Airbus uses (or intends to) or sells to **increase the company's overall security**
- Performing red teaming, vulnerability research, tooling development...

<https://t.me/learningnets> Checkout <https://airbus-seclab.github.io> and [@AirbusSecLab](#)

**AIRBUS**

# MOTIVATIONS

Why Backup Software?



## BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE

- Proper backup deployment paramount for resilience
- Specialized software required for large-scale infrastructure
- Often considered as “last line of defense”



## RED TEAM PERSPECTIVE

- Widely deployed across infrastructure with high privileges
- Potential access to sensitive/critical data
- Ability to move large amounts of data

# MOTIVATIONS

Why NetBackup?

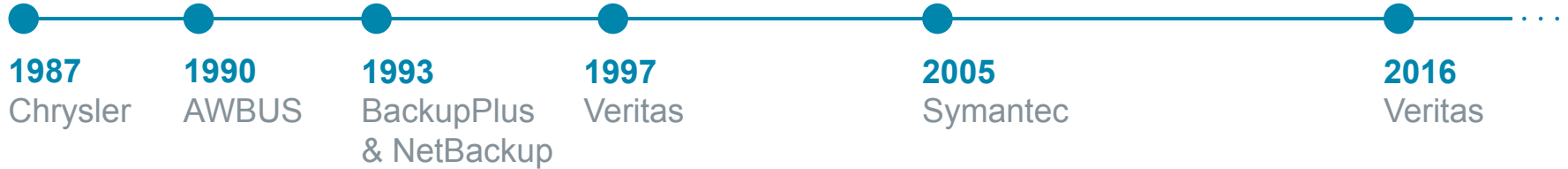


**NetBackup**

The #1 enterprise backup and recovery solution.

87% of the Fortune Global 500 choose NetBackup.

Source: [veritas.com/protection/netbackup](https://www.veritas.com/protection/netbackup)



BeeRumP Paris 2016, *APT Cyber-Numérique Sur Sauvegardiciel Connecté* – Émilien Girault



Full Disclosure 2017 – Sven Blumenstein, Xiaoran Wang and Andrew Griffiths from Google Security

<https://t.me/learningnets>



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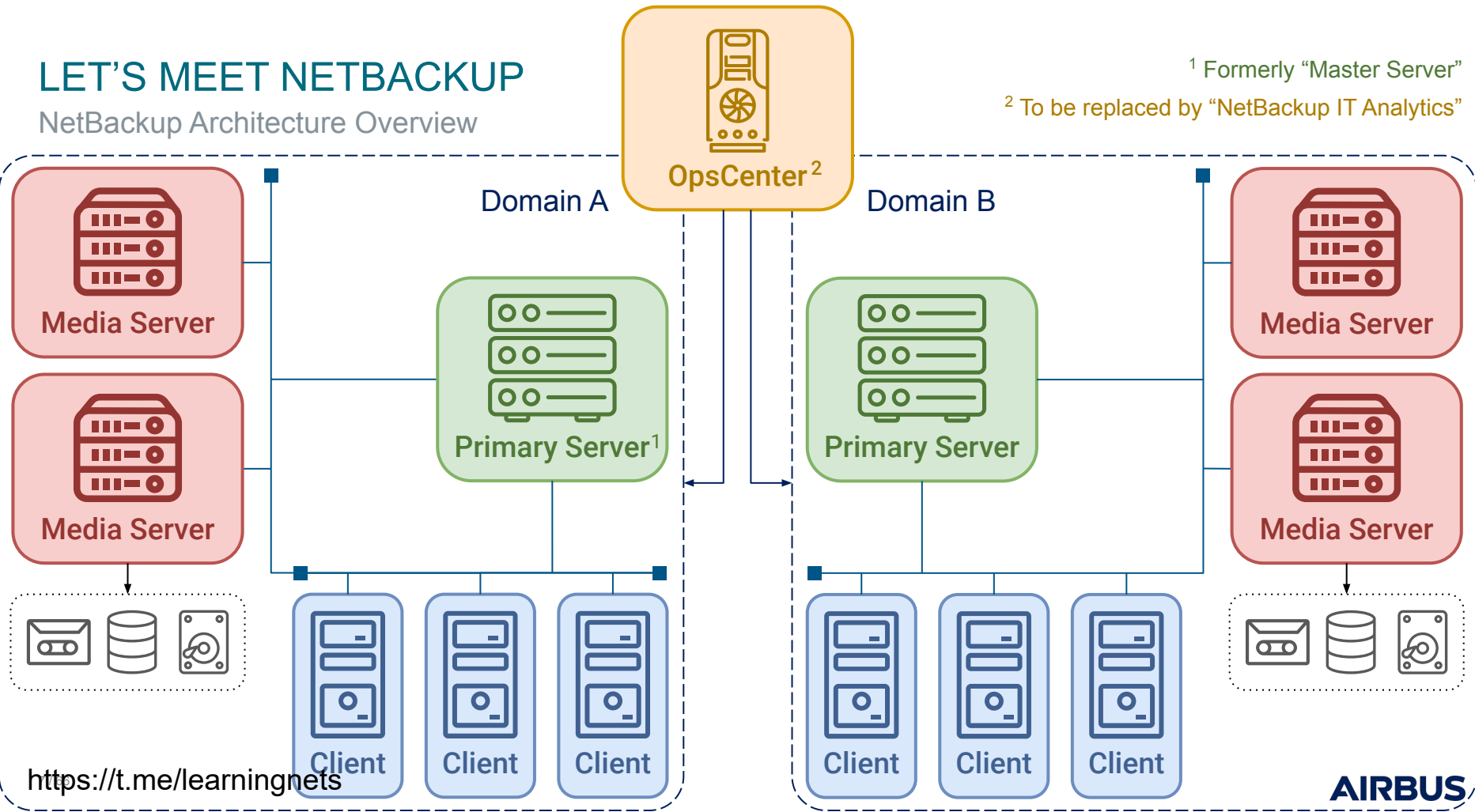
## TAKEAWAYS

# LET'S MEET NETBACKUP

NetBackup Architecture Overview

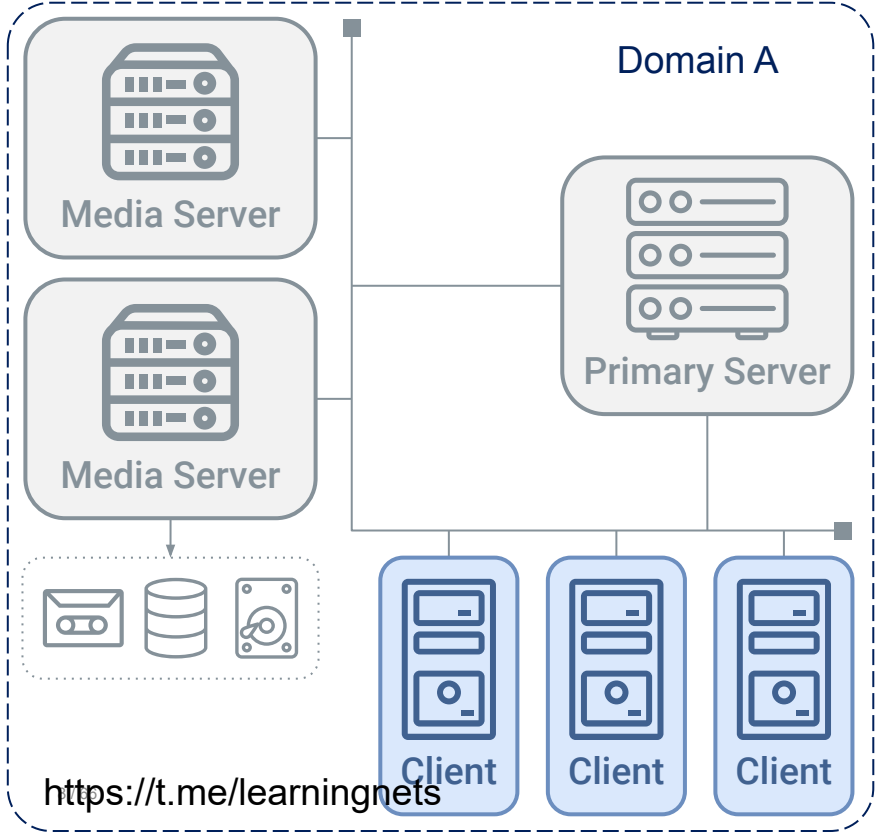
<sup>1</sup> Formerly "Master Server"

<sup>2</sup> To be replaced by "NetBackup IT Analytics"



# LET'S MEET NETBACKUP

More About NetBackup Clients



## CLIENT DEPLOYMENT OPTIONS



Bare-metal



Cloud



Virtualized



Database

## OPERATING SYSTEM



Windows



Red Hat



IBM AIX



HP-UX

...

## CONFIGURATION

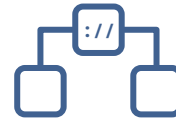


Client-side  
Encryption



Secure

communication



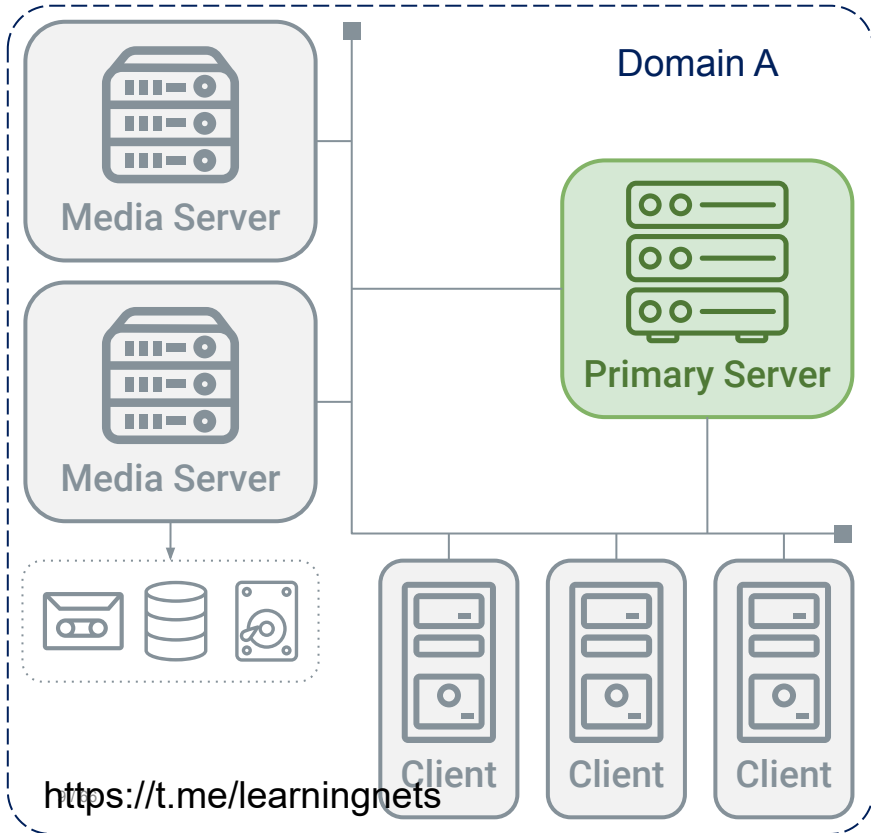
HTTP

Tunneling

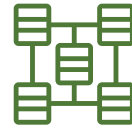
...

# LET'S MEET NETBACKUP

More About NetBackup Primary Servers



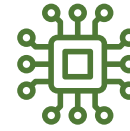
## PRIMARY SERVER DEPLOYMENT OPTIONS



Cluster



Media



Appliance

...

## BACKUP COMPONENTS



Policies



Catalog



API



Web UI

...

## SECURITY CONFIGURATION

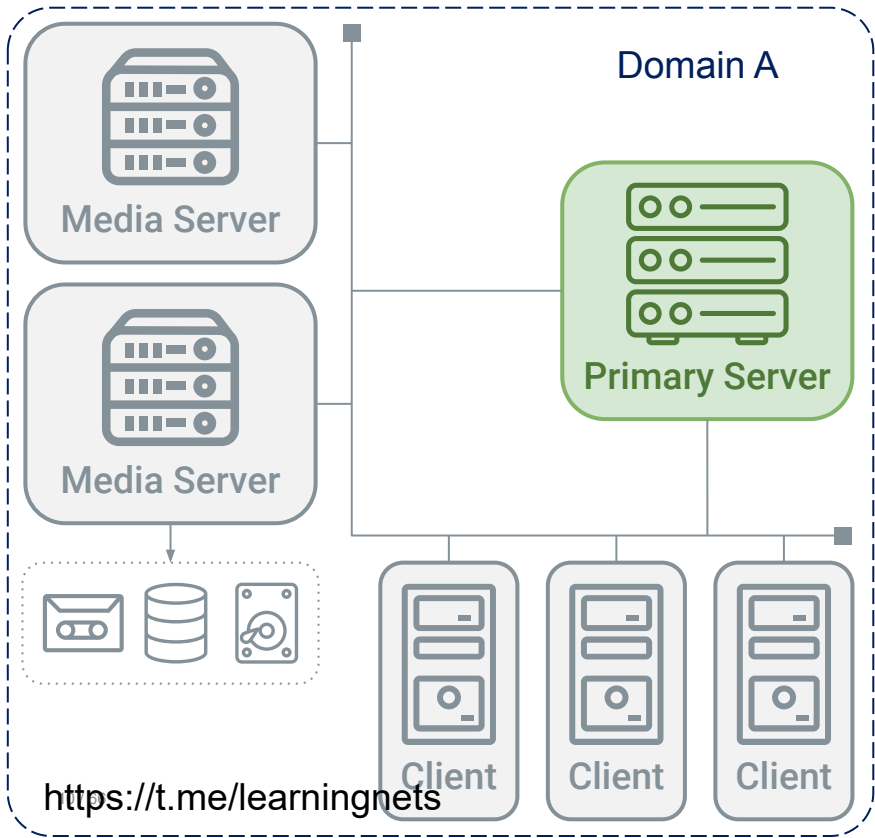


Secure communication

...

# LET'S MEET NETBACKUP

## More About NetBackup Primary Servers



<https://t.me/learningnets>

Veritas NetBackup™  
Hello, root

**JOBS** (Last 24 hours)

0	0	0	0	1	0
Active	Queued	Failed	Success	Partial success	Retries

**CERTIFICATES** (External | NetBackup)

5	5	0	0
Total hosts	Missing	Valid	Expired

**TOKENS**

1	1	0
All	Not valid	Valid

**SECURITY EVENTS** (Access history | Audit events)

- Wednesday Apr 7: 01:02:15 pm - Generation of certificate revocation list successful for host 'nb-master'
- Tuesday Apr 6: 04:09:16 pm - Host '12d9f840-639e-4701-bb7b-05a855697791' is trying to connect to host 'nb-opscenter'. The connection is dropped, because the host 'nb-opscenter' now appears to be NetBackup 8.0 or earlier

Veritas NetBackup™ Java

File Edit View Actions Help

nb-master (Master Server)

- Backup, Archive, and Restore
- Activity Monitor
- NetBackup Management
  - Reports
  - Indices
  - Storage
  - Catalog
  - Host Properties
- Applications
- Media and Device Management
  - Device Monitor
  - Devices
  - Credentials
- Security Management
  - Security Events
  - Host Management
  - Certificate Management
  - Global Security Settings
- Access Management
- Deployment Management
  - Deployment Policies
- Vault Management
- Bare Metal Restore Management
- Logging Assistant

**Configure Storage Devices**  
Define robots and drives.

**Configure Disk Storage Servers**  
Define servers supporting data deduplication, OpenStorage or AdvancedDisk technology.

**Configure Cloud Storage Server**  
Define servers supporting Cloud Storage.

**Configure Disk Pool**  
Define disk and media servers to be used in a disk pool.

**Configure Volumes**  
Inventory robots and define volumes for use in standalone drives.

**Configure the Catalog Backup**  
Specify how and when NetBackup configuration and catalog information is to be backed up.

**Create a Policy**  
Define schedules and settings to back up clients, virtual clients, NDMP hosts, Oracle and SQL Server data.

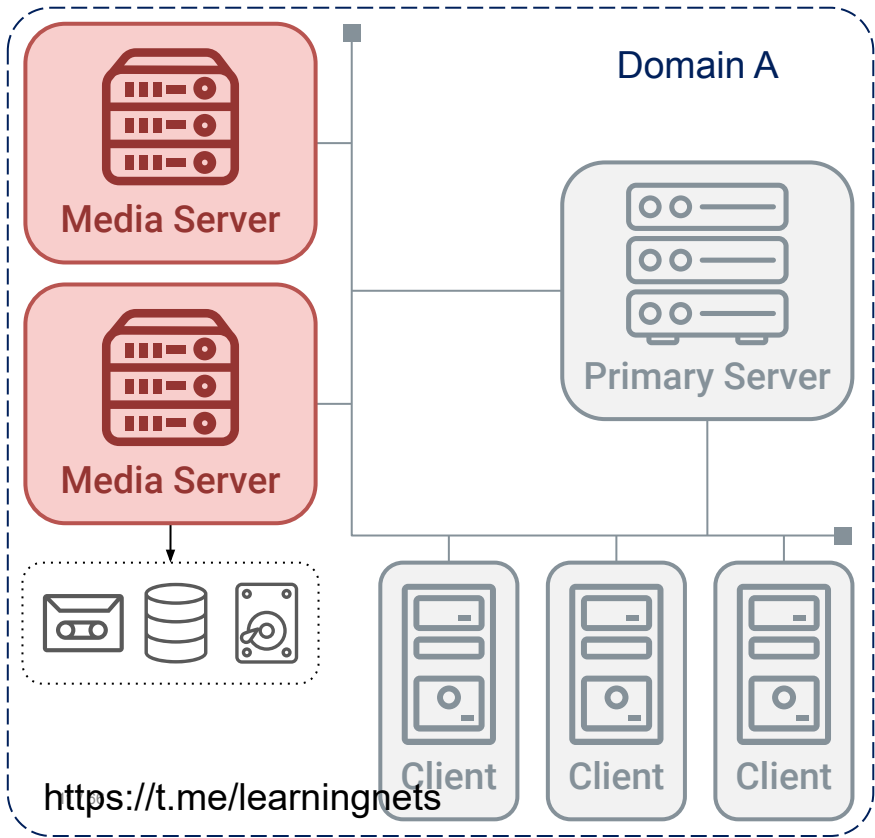
**Recover the catalogs**  
Restore the catalog in a disaster recovery situation from a hot catalog backup.

**Introducing Veritas Smart Meter**  
Veritas Smart Meter is a web-based tool that enables

Alert Notification

# LET'S MEET NETBACKUP

More About NetBackup Media Servers



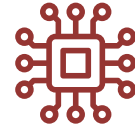
## MEDIA SERVER DEPLOYMENT OPTIONS



Disk pool



Tape library



Appliance

## STORAGE CONFIGURATION



Deduplication



Catalog

...

## STORAGE SECURITY



Data encryption



Offline storage

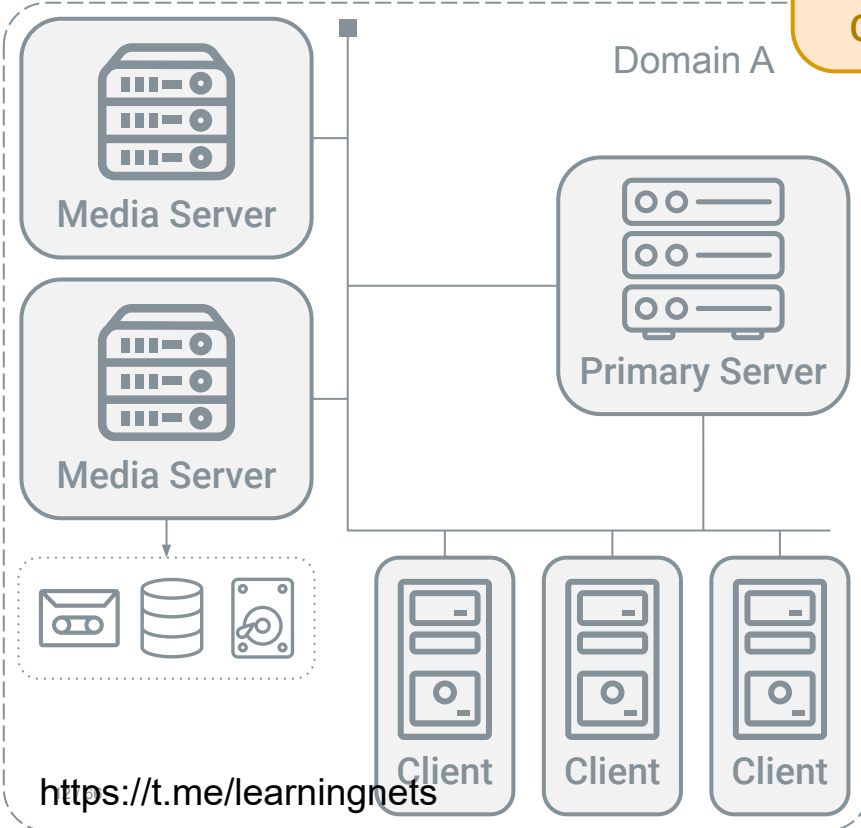


WORM

...

# LET'S MEET NETBACKUP

More About The NetBackup OpsCenter



OpsCenter

## OPSCENTER ROLES



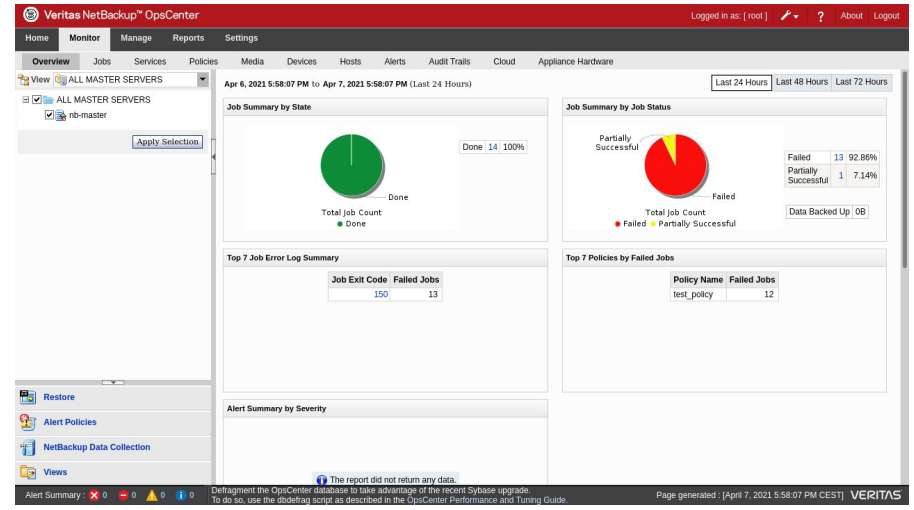
Monitor



Manage



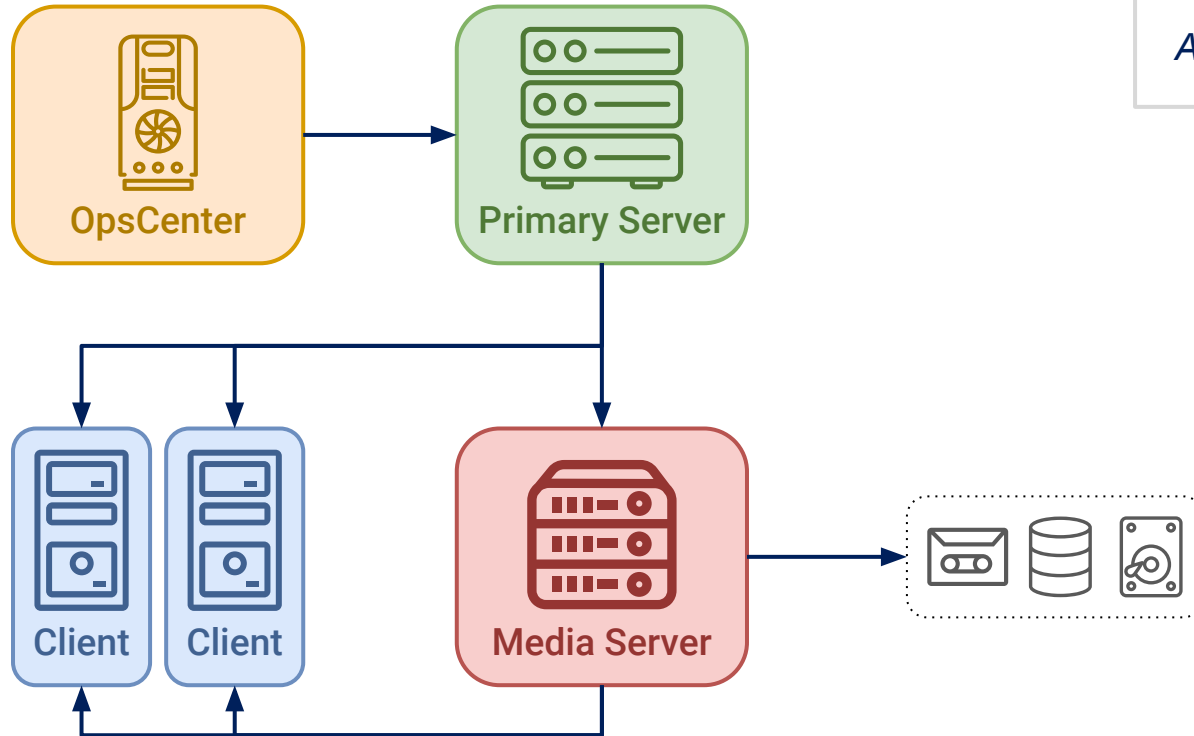
Report



<https://t.me/learningnets>

# LET'S MEET NETBACKUP

NetBackup Trust Model



Caption  
A → B  
*A is trusted by B*



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# HOW WE DUG INTO NETBACKUP

Starting Point: Asking Security Questions (And Quick Spoilers)



1. What would it take for an attacker to exploit NetBackup?

⇒ **Specific tooling & workflow knowledge**, not out of reach of motivated attackers



2. Can a Primary Server be compromised from a NetBackup client?

⇒ **Yes, and more:**

CVE-2022-36948, CVE-2022-36949, CVE-2022-36950, CVE-2022-36951, CVE-2022-36953, CVE-2022-36954,  
CVE-2022-36955, CVE-2022-36984, CVE-2022-36985, CVE-2022-36986, CVE-2022-36987, CVE-2022-36988,  
CVE-2022-36989, CVE-2022-36990, CVE-2022-36991, CVE-2022-36992, CVE-2022-36993, CVE-2022-36994,  
CVE-2022-36995, CVE-2022-36996, CVE-2022-36997, CVE-2022-36998, CVE-2022-36999, CVE-2022-37000,  
CVE-2022-42299, CVE-2022-42300, CVE-2022-42301, CVE-2022-42302, CVE-2022-42303, CVE-2022-42304,  
CVE-2022-42305, CVE-2022-42306, CVE-2022-42307, CVE-2022-42308



3. Could the NetBackup system be used as a pivot to attack other interconnected systems?

⇒ **Follow along for a full-chain demo!**



4. Which data could an attacker target to prevent NetBackup recovery?

⇒ **Backup data or backup metadata, more details later on**

# HOW WE DUG INTO NETBACKUP

Our Approach To Discover What's Under The Hood



Find a team of motivated people

⇒ 5 evaluators over the course of several months



Read some documentation

⇒ Learn about main components & concepts



Setup some labs

⇒ Use customer installers (8.2–9.1), apply & check understanding, find questions



Talk with architects

⇒ Get practical knowledge, understand risks & ask questions



Read more documentation

⇒ Don't forget about security & administrator guides



Play with our labs

⇒ Don't forget to go back to previous steps

<https://t.me/learningnets>

# HOW WE DUG INTO NETBACKUP

Our Approach To Discover What's Under The Hood



## Play with our labs?

⇒ What does it even mean?

### First naive questions

- What processes are running on each component?
- How do components communicate with each other?
- What services are exposed remotely? Locally?

# HOW WE DUG INTO NETBACKUP

Too Many Binaries, Too Little Time: `$ ps` To The Rescue

Java Web Server  
ops\_atd  
OpsCenterDBd  
OpsCenterServerd  
pbx\_exchange

bpcd	Java Web Server	nbazd	nbjm
bpcompatd	ltid	nbdisco	nbkms
bpdbm	nbars	nbemm	nbpem
bpjobd	nbatd	nbevtmgr	nbproxy
bprd	nbaudit	nbim	nbrb

bpcd  
nbdisco  
nbrmms  
nbsl  
nbsvcmon  
pbx\_exchange  
vmd  
vnetd

avrd  
bmrbd  
bmrdb  
bmrpxeserver  
bpinetd  
nbostpxy  
PXEMTFTP  
spoold  
spad

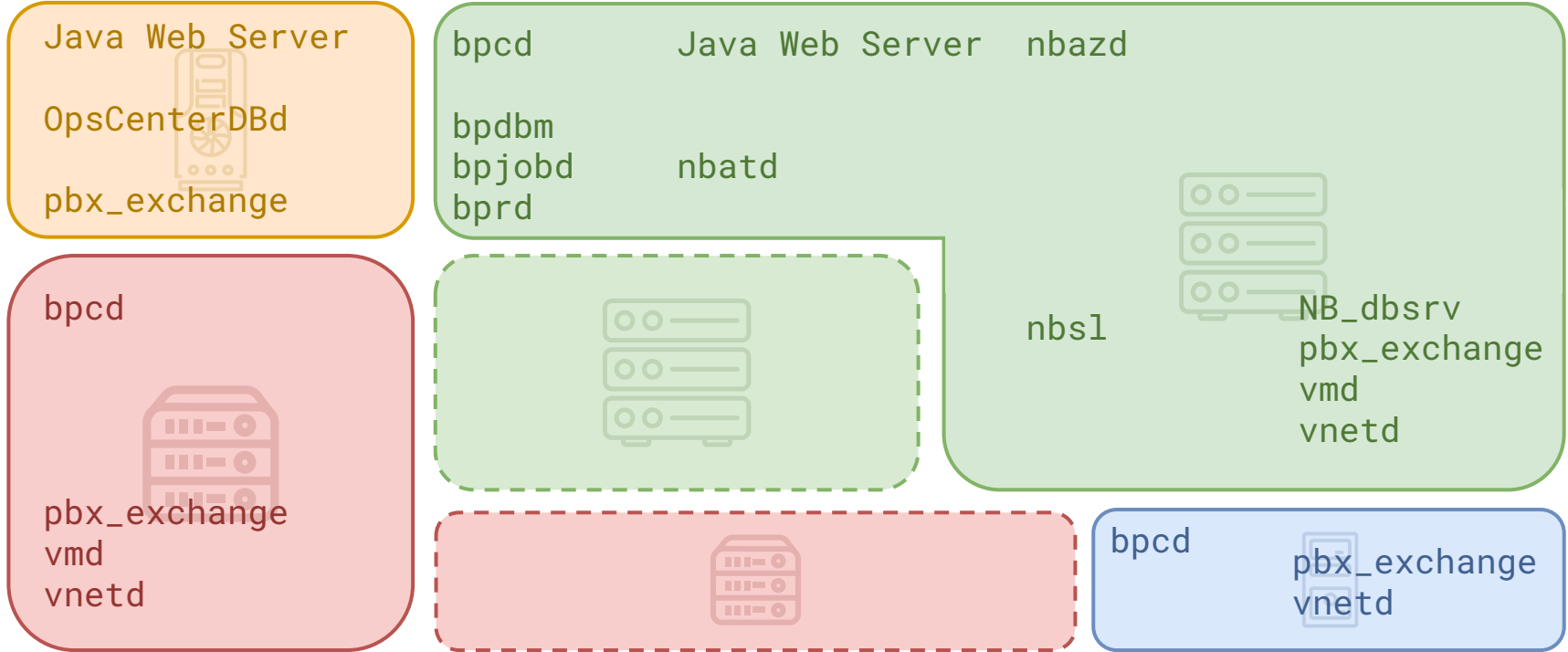
nbrmms  
nbsl  
nbstserv  
nbsvcmon  
nbvault  
NB\_dbsrv  
pbx\_exchange  
vmd  
vnetd

avrd  
bpinetd  
nbcssc  
nbostpxy  
nbrntd

bpcd  
bpbkar  
nbdisco  
pbx\_exchange  
vnetd























# HOW WE DUG INTO NETBACKUP

Too Many Daemons, Too Little Time: `$ ss` To The Rescue



# HOW WE DUG INTO NETBACKUP

Too Many Daemons, Too Little Time: `$ ss` To The Rescue

Binary name	Address:Port	Client	Media	Primary	OpsCenter
OpsCenterDBd	127.0.0.1:13786				
Java Web Server	0.0.0.0:8443				
pbx_exchange	0.0.0.0:1556				
vnetd	0.0.0.0:13724				
bpcd	0.0.0.0:13782				
vmd	0.0.0.0:13701				
bprd	0.0.0.0:13720				
bpdbm	0.0.0.0:13721				
nbazd	0.0.0.0:13722				
bpjobd	0.0.0.0:13723				
nbatd	0.0.0.0:13783				
NB_dbsrv	0.0.0.0:13785				
nbsl	127.0.0.1:9284				

# HOW WE DUG INTO NETBACKUP

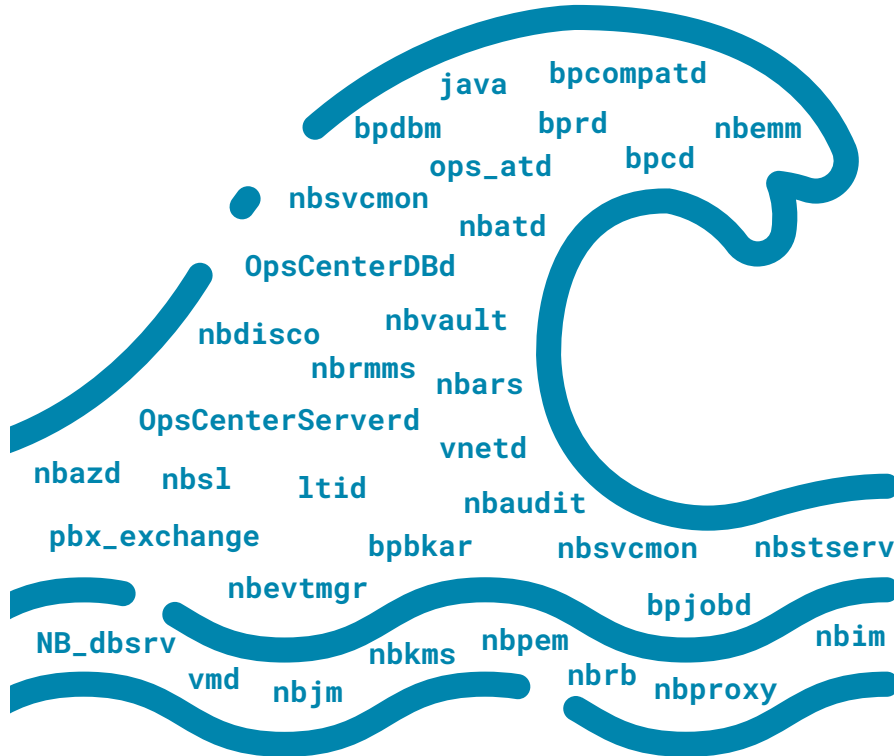
Too Many Daemons, Too Little Time: `$ ss` To The Rescue

legacy ports

Binary name	Address:Port	Client	Media	Primary	OpsCenter
OpsCenterDBd	127.0.0.1:13786				<input type="checkbox"/>
Java Web Server	0.0.0.0:8443			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
pbx_exchange	0.0.0.0:1556	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
vnetd	0.0.0.0:13724	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
bpcd	0.0.0.0:13782	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
vmd	0.0.0.0:13701		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
bprd	0.0.0.0:13720			<input type="checkbox"/>	
bpdbm	0.0.0.0:13721			<input type="checkbox"/>	
nbazd	0.0.0.0:13722			<input type="checkbox"/>	
bpjobd	0.0.0.0:13723			<input type="checkbox"/>	
nbatd	0.0.0.0:13783			<input type="checkbox"/>	
NB_dbsrv	0.0.0.0:13785			<input type="checkbox"/>	
nbs1	127.0.0.1:9284			<input type="checkbox"/>	

# HOW WE DUG INTO NETBACKUP

How To Navigate An Ocean Of Binaries To Understand What's Under The Hood



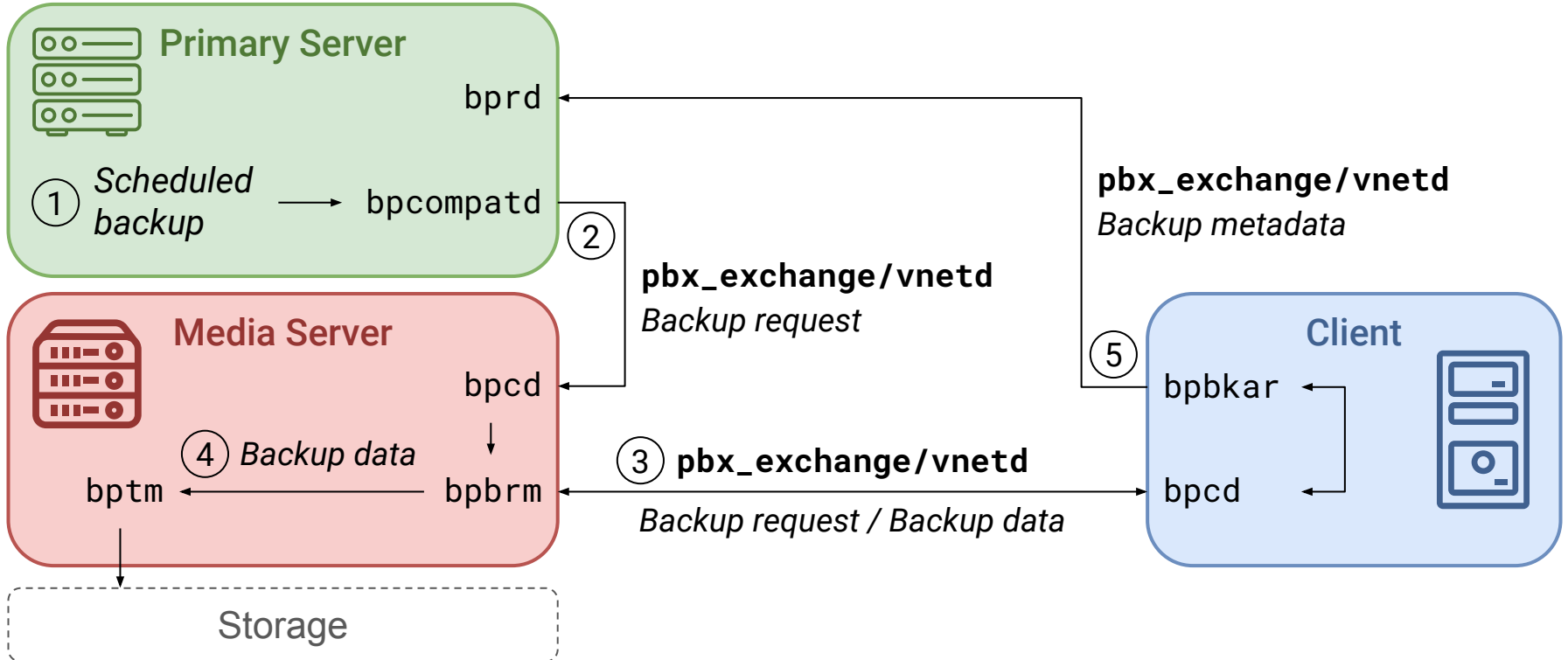
C/C++
Java
CORBA
Sybase

How to keep going on
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read more documentation</li><li>• Play real use cases and observe</li><li>• Choose binaries of interest</li></ul>

<https://t.me/learningnets>

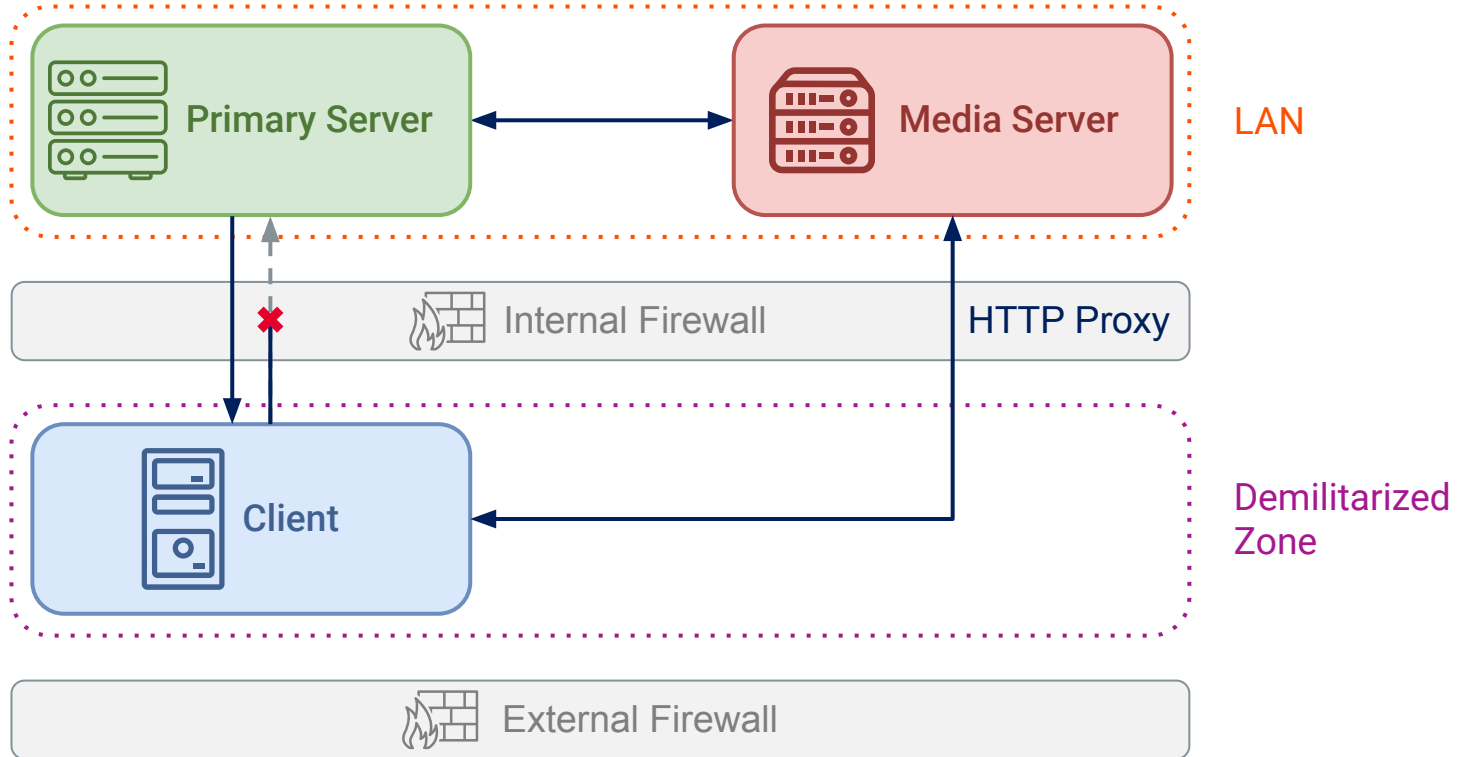
# HOW WE DUG INTO NETBACKUP

Understanding A (Simplified) Workflow: The Use Case Of A Client Backup



# HOW WE DUG INTO NETBACKUP

Understanding The Workflow Of Some Edge Cases: The Use Case Of Dmz Clients



# HOW WE DUG INTO NETBACKUP

## Our Covered Attack Surface

Binary name	Acronym meaning	Client	Media	Primary	OpsCenter
ops_atd	OpsCenter Authentication Daemon				<input type="checkbox"/>
OpsCenterServerd	OpsCenter Server Daemon				<input type="checkbox"/>
pbx_exchange	Private Branch Exchange Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
vnetd	NetBackup Network Communications Service Daemon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
bpcd	NetBackup Client Service Daemon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
nbsl	NetBackup Service Layer		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
bprd	NetBackup Request Daemon			<input type="checkbox"/>	
nbatd	NetBackup Authentication Daemon			<input type="checkbox"/>	
NB_dbdrv	NetBackup Relational Database Manager			<input type="checkbox"/>	

# HOW WE DUG INTO NETBACKUP

Going Back To A More Standard Approach



Component-specific documentation

⇒ Veritas knowledge base



Static analysis

⇒ Linux & Windows



Process debugging

⇒ perf-tools (ebpf), GDB / x64dbg, function hooking



Network traffic analysis

⇒ Wireshark, MITM (pynet), TLS decryption



Custom tooling

⇒ Scripts, plugins, etc.



Follow logs

⇒ Debug level contains *a lot of very useful* information

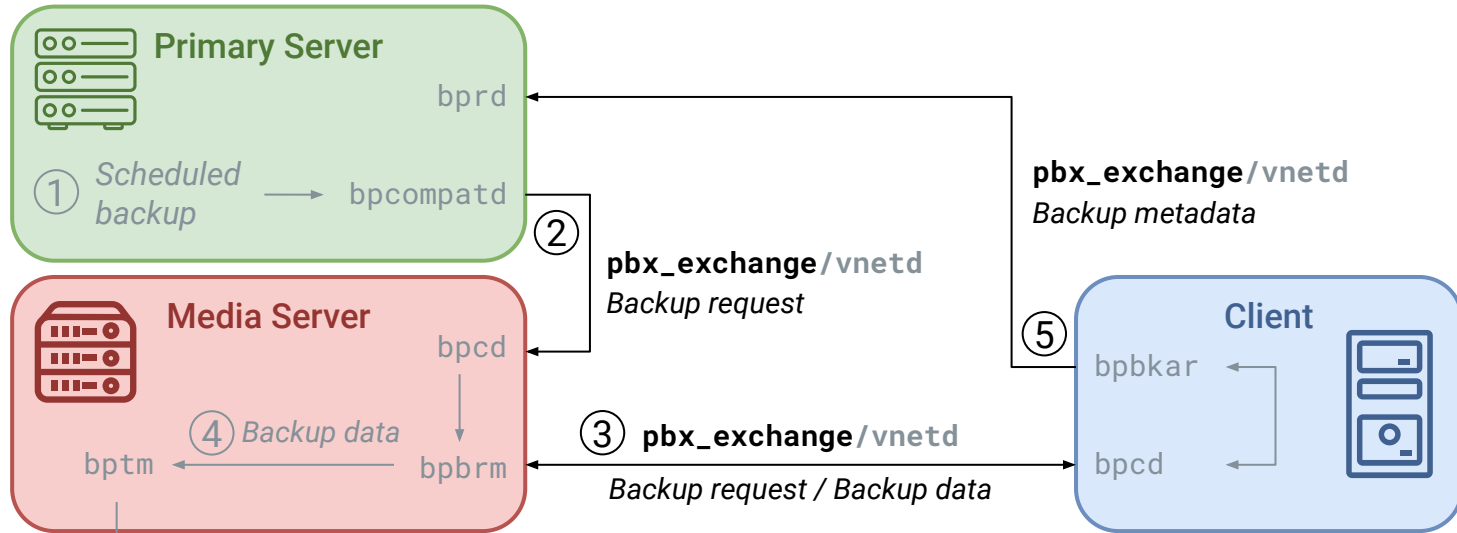
⇒ inotify, Git to track modified files

# HOW WE DUG INTO NETBACKUP

## The Role Of pbx\_exchange



- > **pbx\_exchange**
- > The Private Branch Exchange (PBX) service provides single-port access to clients outside
- > the firewall that connect to Veritas product services



# HOW WE DUG INTO NETBACKUP

## The Role Of pbx\_exchange



### > **pbx\_exchange**

- > The Private Branch Exchange (PBX) service provides single-port access to clients outside
- > the firewall that connect to Veritas product services

```
# ss | grep pbx_exchange
127.0.0.1:42437 -> pbx_exchange
127.0.0.1:33075 -> pbx_exchange
127.0.0.1:1557 -> pbx_exchange
0.0.0.0:1556 -> pbx_exchange
```

```
# ss | grep pbx_exchange
127.0.0.1:36493 -> pbx_exchange
127.0.0.1:35003 -> pbx_exchange
127.0.0.1:1557 -> pbx_exchange
0.0.0.0:1556 -> pbx_exchange
```

```
# ss | grep pbx_exchange
127.0.0.1:41011 -> pbx_exchange
127.0.0.1:32841 -> pbx_exchange
127.0.0.1:1557... -> pbx_exchange
0.0.0.0:1556 -> pbx_exchange
```

```
# ss | grep pbx_exchange
127.0.0.1:36227 -> pbx_exchange
127.0.0.1:33765 -> pbx_exchange
127.0.0.1:1557 -> pbx_exchange
0.0.0.0:1556 -> pbx_exchange
```

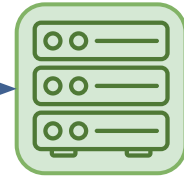
# HOW WE DUG INTO NETBACKUP

## The Role Of pbx\_exchange

pbx init

```
ack=25
extension=bprd
.....{"remote_proxy_info": {"ca_roots": ["126ff840-839e-4701-bb7b-dc3d55697991"], "ca_roots_excluded":
["UNCONSTRAINED"], "issuers_included": [{"domain_id": "126ff840-839e-4701-bb7b-dc3d55697991", "ca_usage":
["NBCA"]}, {"domain_id": "126ff840-839e-4701-bb7b-dc3d55697991", "ca_usage": "NBCA"}], "issuers_excluded": [],
"is_eca_compatible": false, "connection_id": "{8D0252DE-6538-11EB-
B868-6C23D53C462D}:INBOUND", "pid": 1187, "proxy_version": 1}, {"remote_endpoint_info": {"bpcd_info": null,
"i_am_daemon": true, "domain_constraints": {"svc_type": 1}, "service": "bprd", "auth_only": false,
"auth_flipped": false, "pid": 6032, "exe_name": "bprd", "ssa": false, "local_user": "root", "NB_ORG_USER":
null, "local_group": "root", "host": "192.168.122.148", "peer_host": "192.168.122.148", "peer_client":
null, "local_client": "localhost.localdomain", "local_dhcp_interval": 0, "peer_dhcp_info": null,
"local_hostname": "nb-master", "light_proxy": false, "secure_peer": true, "resilient": false,
"nbrntd_peer_addr": null, "nbrntd_sock_addr": null, "hand_back": false, "request_timeout": 300,
"reverse_connect": false, "accept_reverse": false}}.....{"remote_proxy_info": {"ca_roots":
["126ff840-839e-4701-bb7b-dc3d55697991"], "ca_roots_excluded": ["UNCONSTRAINED"], "issuers_included":
[{"domain_id": "126ff840-839e-4701-bb7b-dc3d55697991", "ca_usage": "NBCA"}], "issuers_excluded": [],
"is_eca_compatible": false, "connection_id": "{8D02B42C-6538-11EB-A0F4-186A926F8830}:OUTBOUND", "pid":
5633, "proxy_version": 1}, {"remote_endpoint_info": {"bpcd_info": null, "i_am_daemon": false,
"domain_constraints": {}, "service": "bprd", "auth_only": false, "auth_flipped": false, "pid": 5713,
"exe_name": "bpcntcmd", "ssa": false, "local_user": "root", "NB_ORG_USER": null, "local_group": "root",
"host": "nb-master", "peer_host": "nb-master", "peer_client": null, "local_client": "nb-client2",
"local_dhcp_interval": 0, "peer_dhcp_info": null, "local_hostname": "nb-client2", "user_info_uid": 0,
"user_info_gid": 0, "light_proxy": false, "secure_peer": true, "resilient": false, "nbrntd_peer_addr":
null, "nbrntd_sock_addr": null, "hand_back": false, "request_timeout": 310, "reverse_connect": false,
"accept_reverse": false}}.....[PR.....r.L.X.....Ab.Y.n.0.0.($..
.....k.j.i.h.9.8.7.6.2...*.&.....=5./+.#.....g.@.?.>.3.2.1.0.1.-.].
%.....<./.....I.....#...
.....#...
.....B...>...Z....k.....'.....>Mx...f_.2.i..
0.....#.....0...0..P.....V.'.....0
.....*..H..
..
..071.0
..U...broker1.0...U...root@nb-master1.0 ..U.
..vx0..
210201085844Z.
220201101344Z0P1-0+..U...$126ff840-839e-4701-bb7b-dc3d55697991.0...U... NBU_HOSTS1.0 ..U.
..vx0..0
.....*..H..
.....0.....!.....j[.../H.b2.T.Xa.Py2.Y...i..s....C.
U[4xJ,V.5h].u...8.^...;yW\...9..R..t 2[~...-W....8.....z.....z]~H..C.....
.....U.....0.0...*...
```

secure comm init

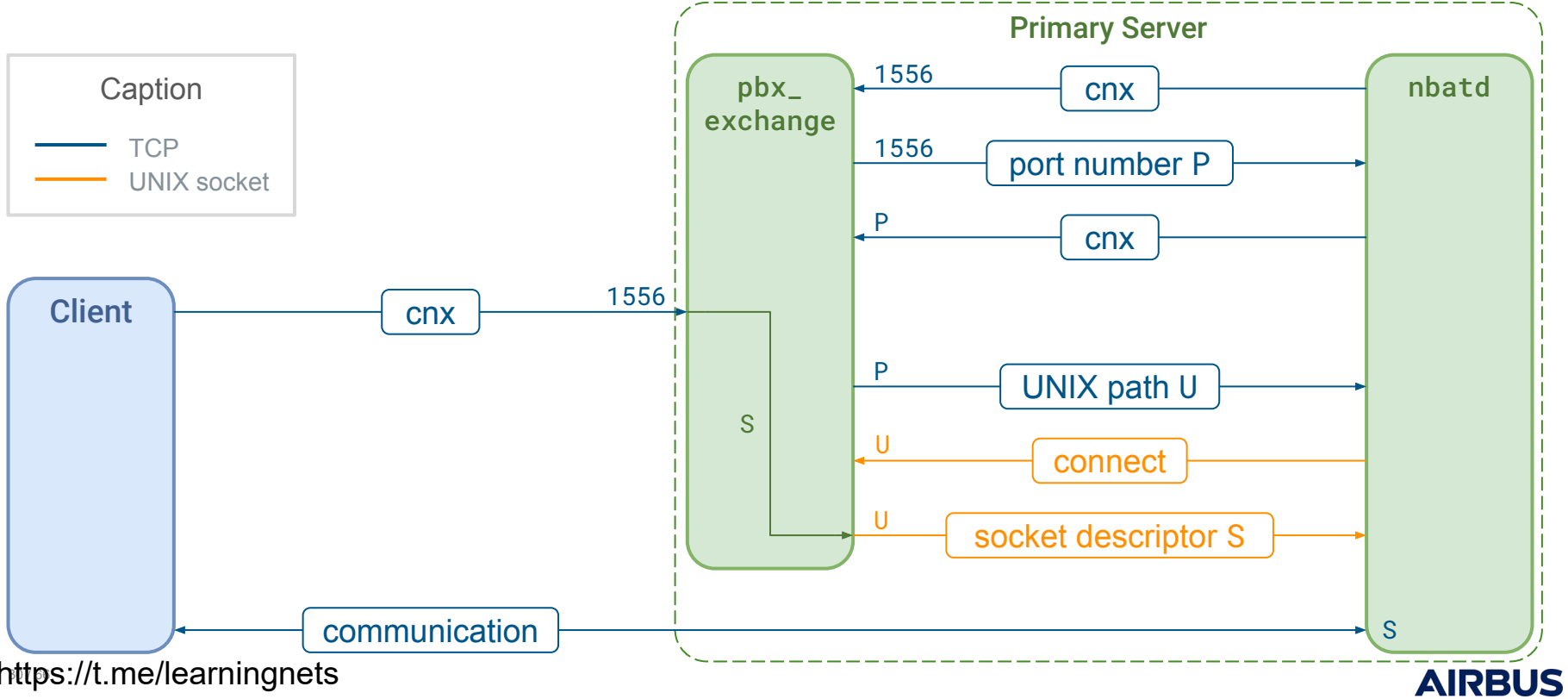


TLS handshake

<https://t.me/learningnets>

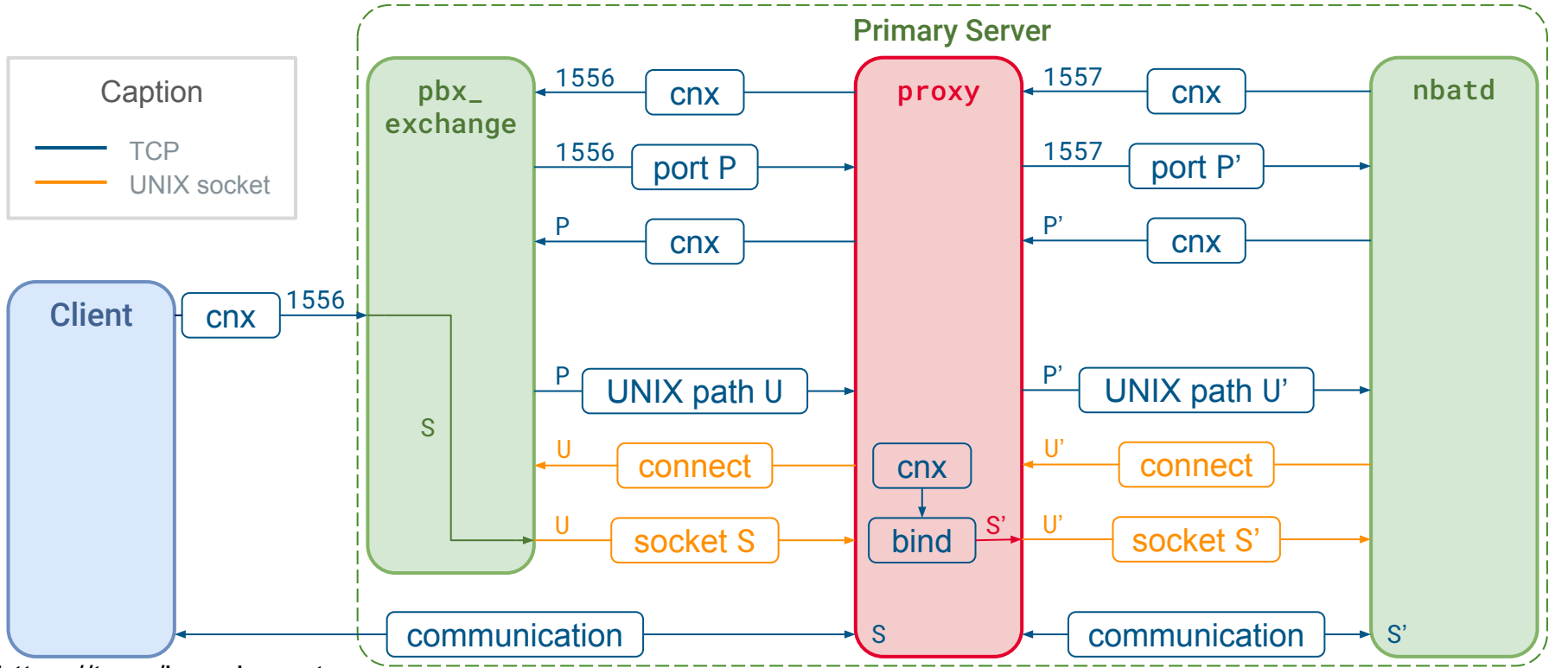
# HOW WE DUG INTO NETBACKUP

Component Communication With pbx\_exchange: Example Of nbatd



# HOW WE DUG INTO NETBACKUP

Component Communication With pbx\_exchange: MITM-ing nbatd



# HOW WE DUG INTO NETBACKUP

Remote Procedure Call: Example Of CORBA



BeeRumP Paris 2016: *APT Cyber-Numerique Sur Sauvegardiciel Connecté* – Émilien Girault

Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
2.1989.2637314...	192.168.122.238	192.168.122.26	GIOP	200	GIOP 1.2 Request, s=120 id=0: op=_non_existent
6.1989.3415779...	192.168.122.26	192.168.122.238	GIOP	368	GIOP 1.2 Reply, s=288 id=0: Location Forward

▶ Frame 7086: 368 bytes on wire (2944 bits), 368 bytes captured (2944 bits) on interface 0

▶ Linux cooked capture

▶ Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 192.168.122.26, Dst: 192.168.122.238

▶ Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 1556, Dst Port: 41985, Seq: 2, Ack: 155, Len: 300

▶ General Inter-ORB Protocol

▶ General Inter-ORB Protocol Reply

0000	00 00 00 01 00 06 52 54	00 59 5f d4 00 00 08 00	.....RT Y.....
0010	45 00 01 60 6d a0 40 00	40 06 55 9e c0 a8 7a 1a	E...m@...@U...z
0020	c0 a8 7a ee 06 14 a4 01	f3 ad 5f 79 13 fa b1 f1	...z.....y
0030	80 18 00 eb 77 ac 00 00	01 01 08 0a 01 f3 a0 2f	...w...../
0040	9f 68 b4 d5 47 49 4f 50	01 02 01 01 20 01 00 00	...h...GIOP.....
0050	00 00 00 00 03 00 00 00	00 00 00 00 2d 00 00 00	.....
0060	49 44 4c 3a 56 65 72 69	74 61 73 2f 4e 65 74 42	IDL:Veri tas/NetB
0070	61 63 6b 75 70 2f 48 6f	73 74 53 65 73 73 69 6f	ackup/Ho stSessio
0080	6e 46 61 63 74 6f 72 79	3a 31 2e 30 00 00 00 00	nFactory :1.0....
0090	01 00 00 00 01 49 43 4f	d4 00 00 00 01 01 02 00	.....ICO
00a0	0a 00 00 00 6e 62 2d 6d	61 73 74 65 72 00 14 06	.....nb-m aster...
00b0	05 00 00 00 6e 62 73 6c	00 00 20 00 1b 00 00 00	.....nbsl
00c0	14 01 0f 00 52 53 54 d2	59 3d 63 ec de 04 00 00	.....RST Y=c.....
00d0	00 00 00 01 00 00 00 01	00 00 00 00 04 00 00 00	.....
00e0	00 00 00 00 08 00 00 00	01 28 52 03 00 4f 41 54	.....(R...OAT
00f0	01 00 00 00 14 00 00 00	01 28 52 03 01 00 01 05	.....(R...OAT
0100	00 00 00 00 09 01 01 00	00 00 00 00 00 49 43 4f	.....ICO
0110	18 00 00 00 01 28 a7 00	86 00 00 00 0c 00 00 00	.....(.....
0120	6e 62 73 6c 5f 73 65 63	73 76 63 00 03 00 00 00	nbsl_sec svc.....
0130	3c 00 00 00 01 28 52 03	0f 00 00 00 31 39 32 2e	<.....(R...192.
0140	31 36 38 2e 31 32 32 2e	32 36 00 00 14 06 00 00	168.122. 26.....
0150	05 00 00 00 6e 62 73 6c	00 00 a7 00 86 00 00 00	.....nbsl
0160	0c 00 00 00 6e 62 73 6c	5f 73 65 63 73 76 63 00	.....nbsl_secsvc...

<https://t.me/learningnets> → CORBA with proprietary layer (PBXIOP) in C++ binaries

# HOW WE DUG INTO NETBACKUP

Remote Procedure Call: find To The Rescue

```
[root@nb-opscenter ~]# find / -iname "*orb*.jar" -o -iname "*iop*.jar" 2>/dev/null
/opt/SYMCopsCenterServer/lib/pbxiop2.jar
/opt/SYMCopsCenterServer/lib/corbaservice.jar
/opt/SYMCopsCenterServer/lib/nbu_corba.jar
/opt/SYMCopsCenterServer/lib/corbaservice_idl.jar
/opt/SYMCopsCenterServer/lib/jacorb-omgapi.jar
/opt/SYMCopsCenterServer/lib/jacorb-services.jar
/opt/SYMCopsCenterServer/lib/jacorb.jar
/opt/SYMCopsCenterServer/lib/vxssiop2.jar
/opt/SYMCopsCenterGUI/webserver/webapps/opscenter/WEB-INF/lib/corbaservice_idl.jar
/opt/SYMCopsCenterGUI/webserver/webapps/opscenter/WEB-INF/lib/jacorb-omgapi.jar
/opt/SYMCopsCenterGUI/webserver/webapps/opscenter/WEB-INF/lib/jacorb-services.jar
/opt/SYMCopsCenterGUI/webserver/webapps/opscenter/WEB-INF/lib/jacorb.jar
/opt/SYMCopsCenterGUI/webserver/webapps/opscenter/WEB-INF/lib/nbu_corba.jar
/opt/SYMCopsCenterGUI/webserver/webapps/opscenter/WEB-INF/lib/pbxiop2.jar
/opt/SYMCopsCenterGUI/webserver/webapps/opscenter/WEB-INF/lib/vxssiop2.jar
```

# HOW WE DUG INTO NETBACKUP

## Remote Procedure Call: (Not) Learning CORBA

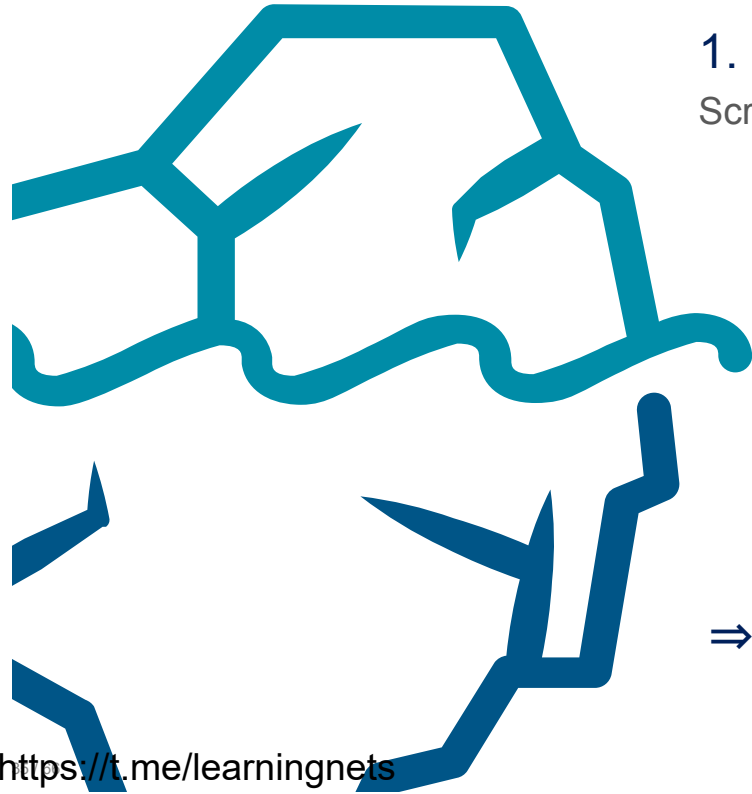
```
public static synchronized DiscoveryService getDiscoveryService(String serverHostname) {
    String servantName = "DiscoveryService";
    String pbxServiceName = "DiscoveryService";
    org.omg.CORBA.ORB localOrb = makeLocalOrb(servantName, pbxServiceName);
    String corbaloc = OrbUtil.createPBXCorbaLoc(serverHostname, 1556, pbxServiceName, servantName, false);
    org.omg.CORBA.Object remoteObject = localOrb.string_to_object(corbaloc);
    return DiscoveryServiceHelper.narrow(remoteObject);
}

public static synchronized void testDiscoSvc(String serverHostname) {
    DiscoveryService service = getDiscoveryService(serverHostname);
    service.registerExplorer("A", "B", "C", "D", AuthorityType.AT_ANYANDALL, (short)10);
}

public static void main(String[] args) {
    String serverHostname = "192.168.1.100";
    testDiscoSvc(serverHostname);
}
```

# HOW WE DUG INTO NETBACKUP

## Summary



### 1. Learned about the target

Scratched the surface to avoid falling too deep

### 2. Tried to keep head out of the water

Took step back when lost: relied on documentation & architects

### 3. Dove deeper into ~8 binaries

Focused on (our understanding of) critical components

⇒ ~30 CVEs published

⇒ Only the top of the iceberg has been studied!



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## INTRODUCTION

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## LET'S MEET NETBACKUP

Target Overview: Key Technical Aspects

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## HOW WE DUG INTO NETBACKUP

The Approach, The Challenges And How We Tackled Them

4

## FINDINGS

Overview Of Vulnerabilities And Attack Paths

5

## TAKEAWAYS

# FINDINGS

## Disclaimer



- Coordinated disclosure with Veritas
  - Disclosed vulnerabilities
  - Patches are available to customers
  - Veritas published CVEs & security advisories
- Present *our* understanding
  - We are in no way NetBackup experts
  - Did not study every configuration option
  - Focused on version 8.2

# FINDINGS

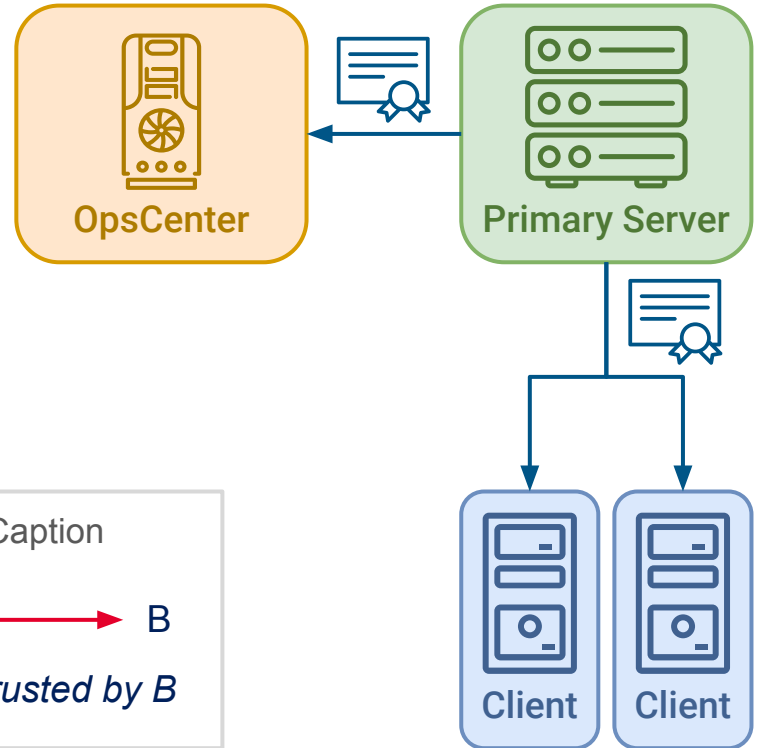
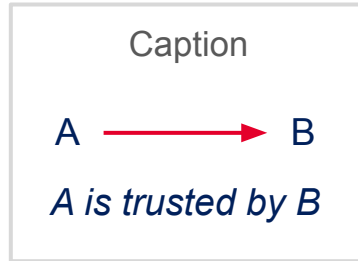
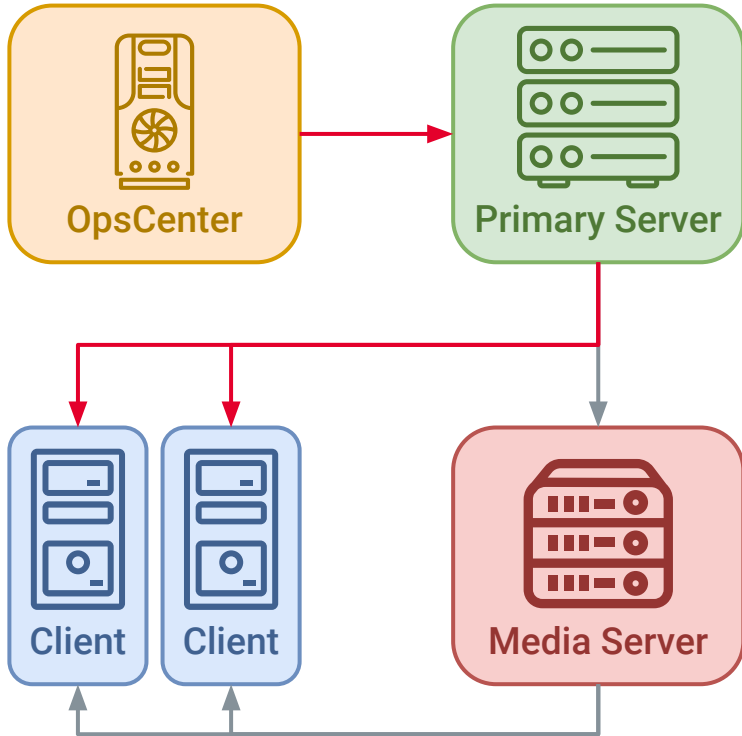
## Quick Overview Of Discovered Vulnerabilities

Binary name	Vulnerabilities
bpcd	LPE
bprd	Authenticated RCE, arbitrary file read/write, arbitrary traversal file write, DoS, info leak, arbitrary directory creation
nbatd	Pre-auth DoS
nbsl	Authenticated RCE
ops_atd	Pre-auth DoS
pbx_exchange	Arbitrary file deletion, XXE, DoS
OpsCenterServerd	Unauthenticated RCE, unauthorized account creation, LPE, info leak
Ops Java Web Server	Unauthenticated RCE, web UI authentication bypass
bpdgclone	Local command injection
nbars	XXE, DoS
DiscoveryService	SQLi, DoS, XML injection, path traversal, DOM XSS

Severity: Critical, High, Medium, Low

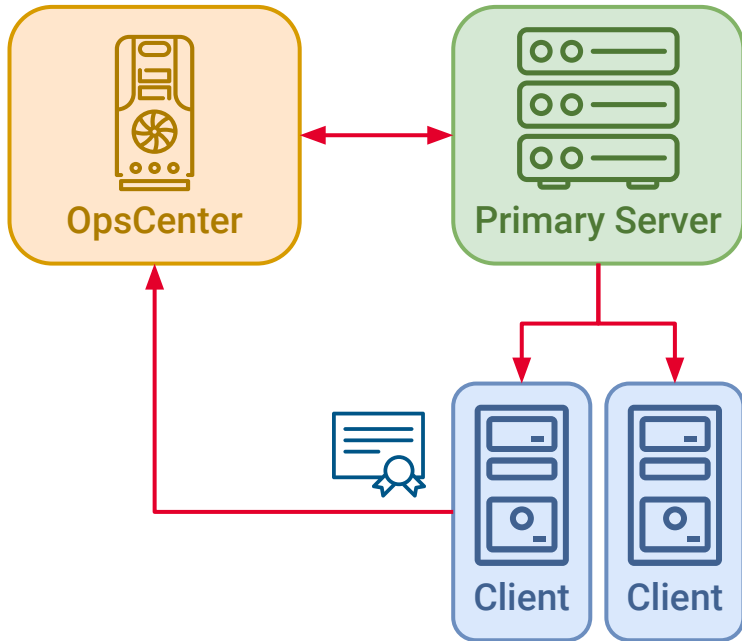
# FINDINGS

Example: Exploiting The Trust Chain With Secure Communication And NBAC



# FINDINGS

Example: Understanding The *Practical* Trust Chain With NBAC



⇒ Access to authenticated endpoints (CORBA)

```
UserImpl user = new UserImpl();
user.uniqueIdentifier = "backdoor";
// ...
SecurityMemberImpl member = new SecurityMemberImpl();
member.uniqueId = "backdoor";
member.password = "password";
// ...
manager.createUser(user, member, true, viewList);
```

# FINDINGS

Example: A Tale Of CORBA On Windows Primary Servers - Attacking From The LAN

Approach:

- Attempted to open CORBA connection to all known pbx\_exchange services
  - Checked for NO\_PERMISSION / OBJECT\_NOT\_EXIST / COMM\_FAILURE errors
- Discovered services with unauthenticated CORBA endpoints:
  - DiscoveryService (DiscoveryService)
  - nbevtmgr (Event.EventMgr)
  - NBFSMCLIENT (FSM.ClientClusterMgr)
- Found a variety of vulnerabilities, some more interesting than others
  - ⇒ Let's talk about a couple of them!

# FINDINGS

Example: A Tale Of CORBA On Windows Primary Servers – SQL injection (CVE-2022-42302)

```
ClientClusterMgr manager = getClientClusterMgr(serverHostname);  
manager.updateActiveAppClusters("injection');--", new String[0], false);
```

```
SELECT A.MachineKey, A.MachineID, A.FQMachineName, [...]  
FROM EMM_Machine A  
left outer join EMM_Machine X ON A.ParentKey = X.MachineKey  
[...]  
WHERE UPPER(EMM_MachineAlias.MachineAliasName)  
= UPPER('injection');-- ) AND EMM_MachineAlias.MachineNbuType [...]
```

# FINDINGS

Example: A Tale Of CORBA On Windows Primary Servers – Dead End?

## Permissions:

- SQLAnywhere runs as root / SYSTEM
- EMM\_MAIN database user has access to list of hosts, disks, jobs, some credentials...

## Limitations:

- Requests are not stackable
- Blind injection
- Many functions are undefined (e.g. xp\_cmdshell)
- EMM\_MAIN user doesn't have permission to read / write files
- Valid NetBackup hosts require a database entry + a file
- No interesting data found in our lab in these tables

# FINDINGS

Example: A Tale Of CORBA On Windows Primary Servers – Digging Around

Where to go from there?

- Requests are stackable in newer versions
- SQLAnywhere allows INSERT in SELECT statement!
- Second order SQLi can be triggered in JOBD\_MAIN database (CVE-2022-42303)
- Still no RCE in sight...

⇒ What if we abuse NetBackup features and logic?

# FINDINGS

Example: A Tale Of CORBA On Windows Primary Servers – Path Traversal (CVE-2022-42305)


```
service.registerExplorer(  
    "A", "B", "C", "../D", AuthorityType.AT_ANYANDALL, (short)10  
);
```

Unable to open /usr/opencv/netbackup/db/discovery/4 ../d c.xml  
Failed to persist discovery record.

# FINDINGS

Example: A Tale Of CORBA On Windows Primary Servers – URL encoding / decoding

```
service.registerExplorer(  
    "A", "B", "/C1\\ \\0\0blahblah", "\\plopiipop\0\01234",  
    AuthorityType.AT_ANYANDALL, (short)10  
);
```

-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 181 '4 \plopiipop %252fc1%255c.dat'  
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 325 '4 \plopiipop %252fc1%255c.xml'

decoded

encoded

# FINDINGS

Example: A Tale Of CORBA On Windows Primary Servers – Path Traversal + Alternate Data Stream

```
service.registerExplorer(  
    "A", "B", "C", "../../../../../../../Temp/win%3a",  
    AuthorityType.AT_ANYANDALL, (short)10  
);
```

(Ab)use special NetBackup files to bypass authentication:

- /usr/opensv/var/bprd/remote\_ops/<hostname>
- /usr/opensv/var/vxss/credentials/dhcp\_cred
- /usr/opensv/var/vxss/credentials/match\_required.txt
- /usr/opensv/var/vxss/credentials/no\_match\_required.txt

# FINDINGS

Example: A Tale Of CORBA On Windows Primary Servers – Full Chain

## 1. Path traversal (CVE-2022-42305)

⇒ Create `../../../../var/bprd/remote_ops/<hostname>`

## 2. SQL injection (CVE-2022-42302)

⇒ Add host as “known” NetBackup client in EMM\_MAIN database

## 3. Authenticated RCE (e.g. CVE-2022-36989)

⇒ Execute arbitrary code from NetBackup client to Primary Server

## 4. Let’s see a demo!

⇒ Exploit full chain of vulnerabilities

Authentication bypass



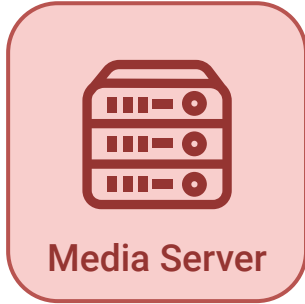
# DEMO

CVE-2022-36989, CVE-2022-42302, CVE-2022-42305

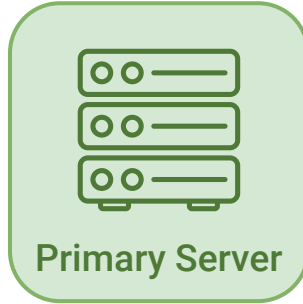


# FINDINGS

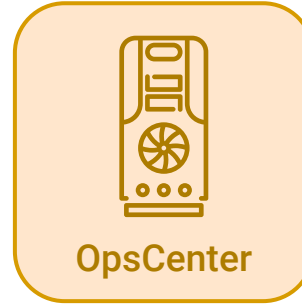
Playing Out Attack Scenarios



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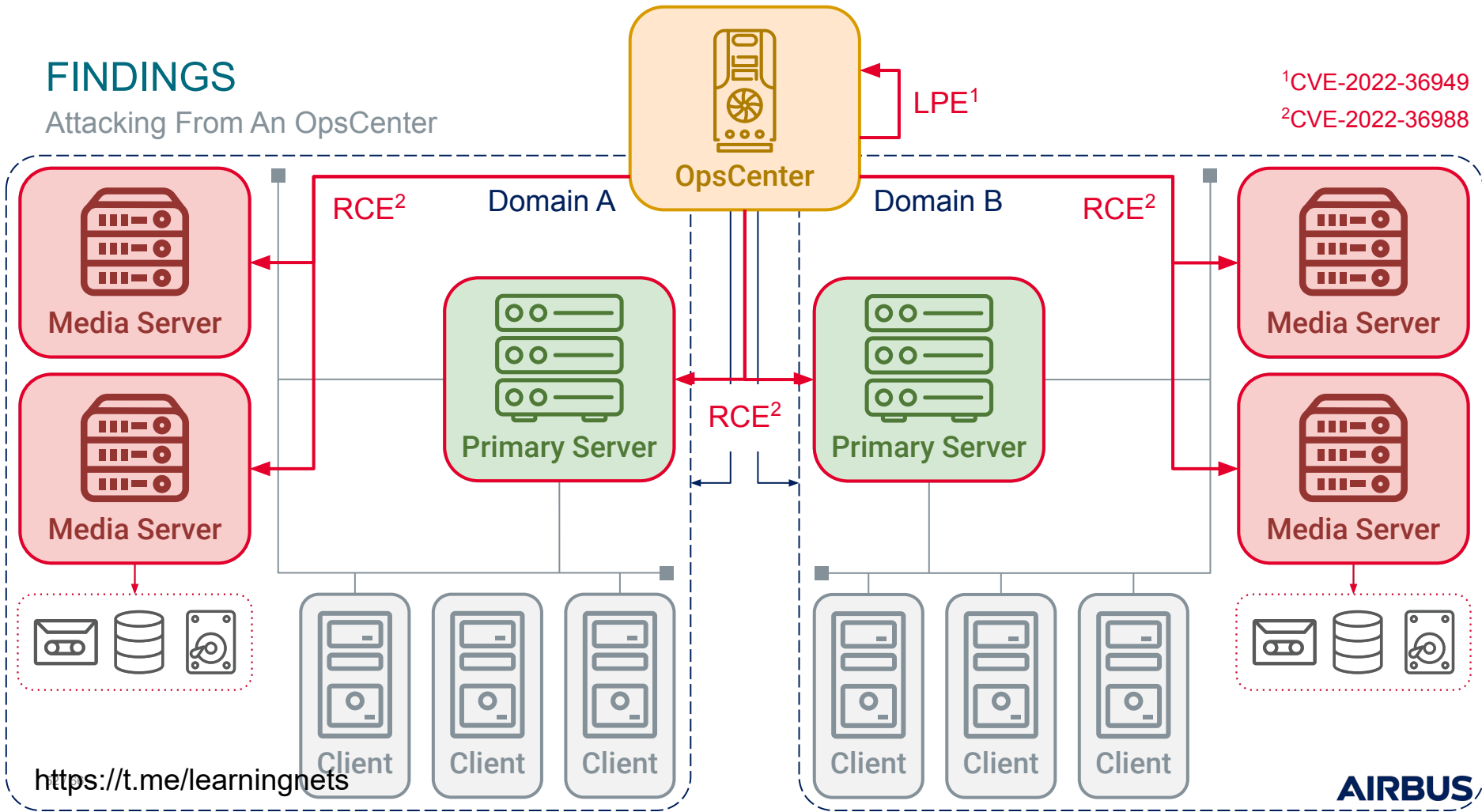


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# FINDINGS

Attacking From An OpsCenter

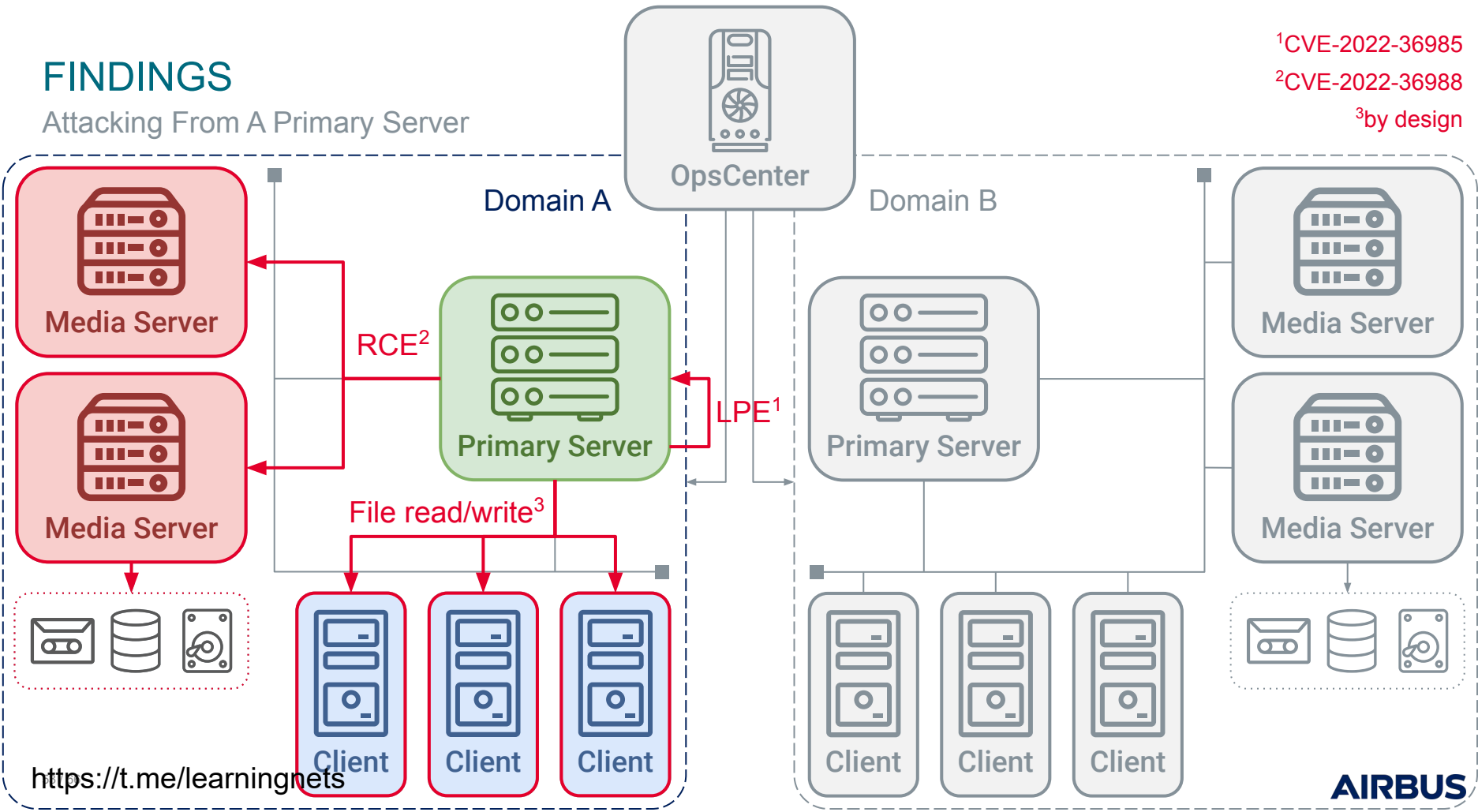


<sup>1</sup>CVE-2022-36949

<sup>2</sup>CVE-2022-36988

# FINDINGS

Attacking From A Primary Server



<sup>1</sup>CVE-2022-36985

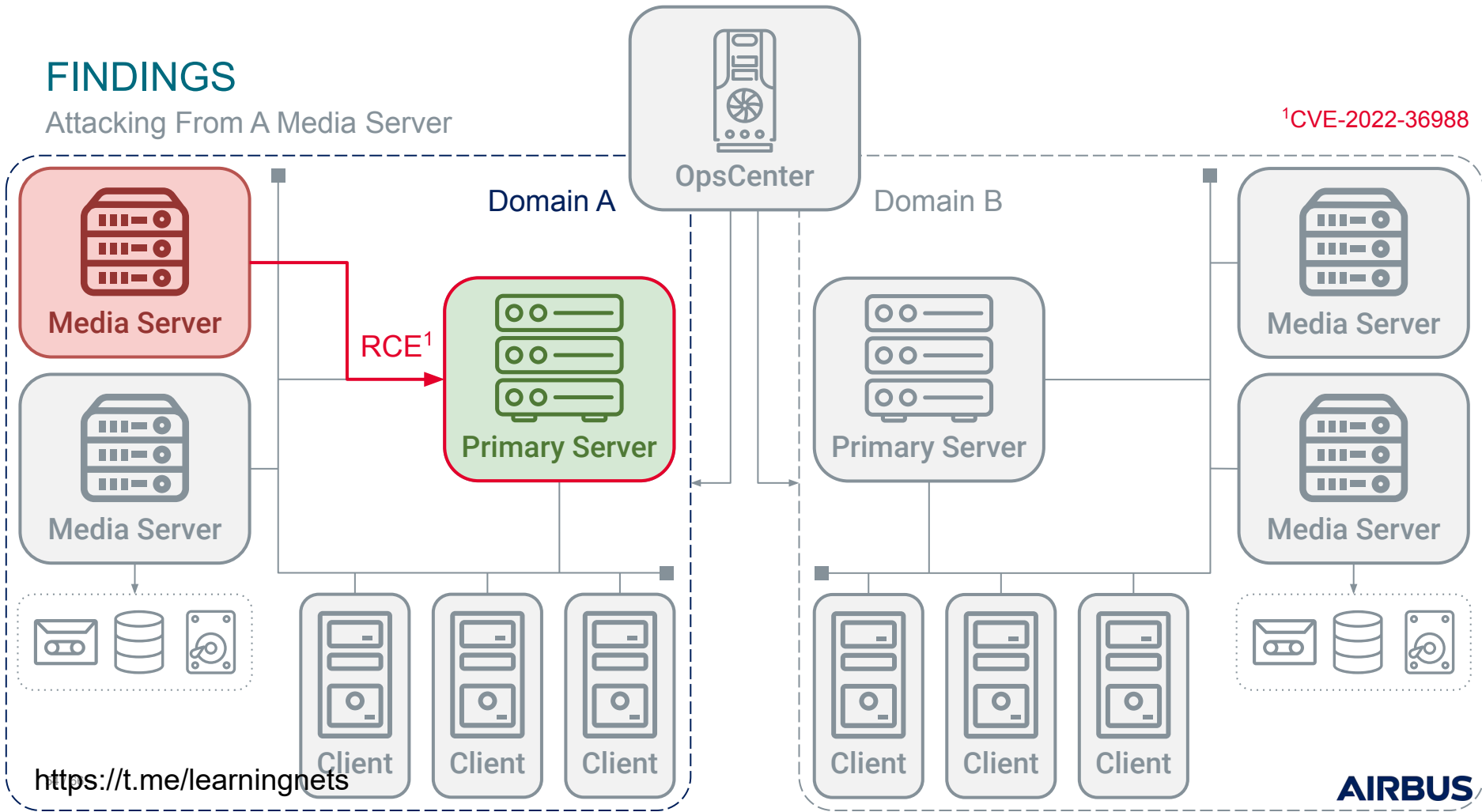
<sup>2</sup>CVE-2022-36988

<sup>3</sup>by design

# FINDINGS

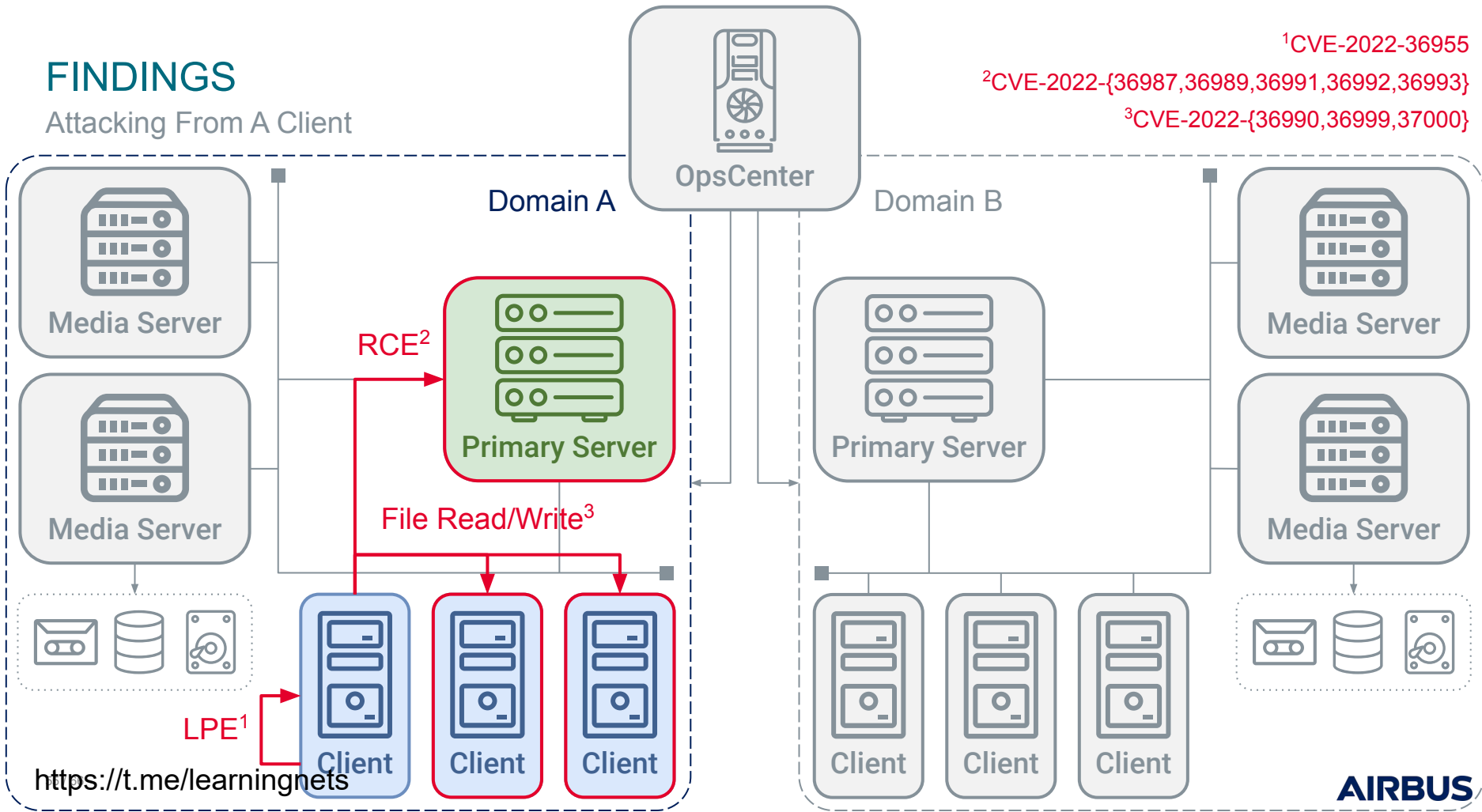
Attacking From A Media Server

<sup>1</sup>CVE-2022-36988



# FINDINGS

Attacking From A Client



<sup>1</sup>CVE-2022-36955

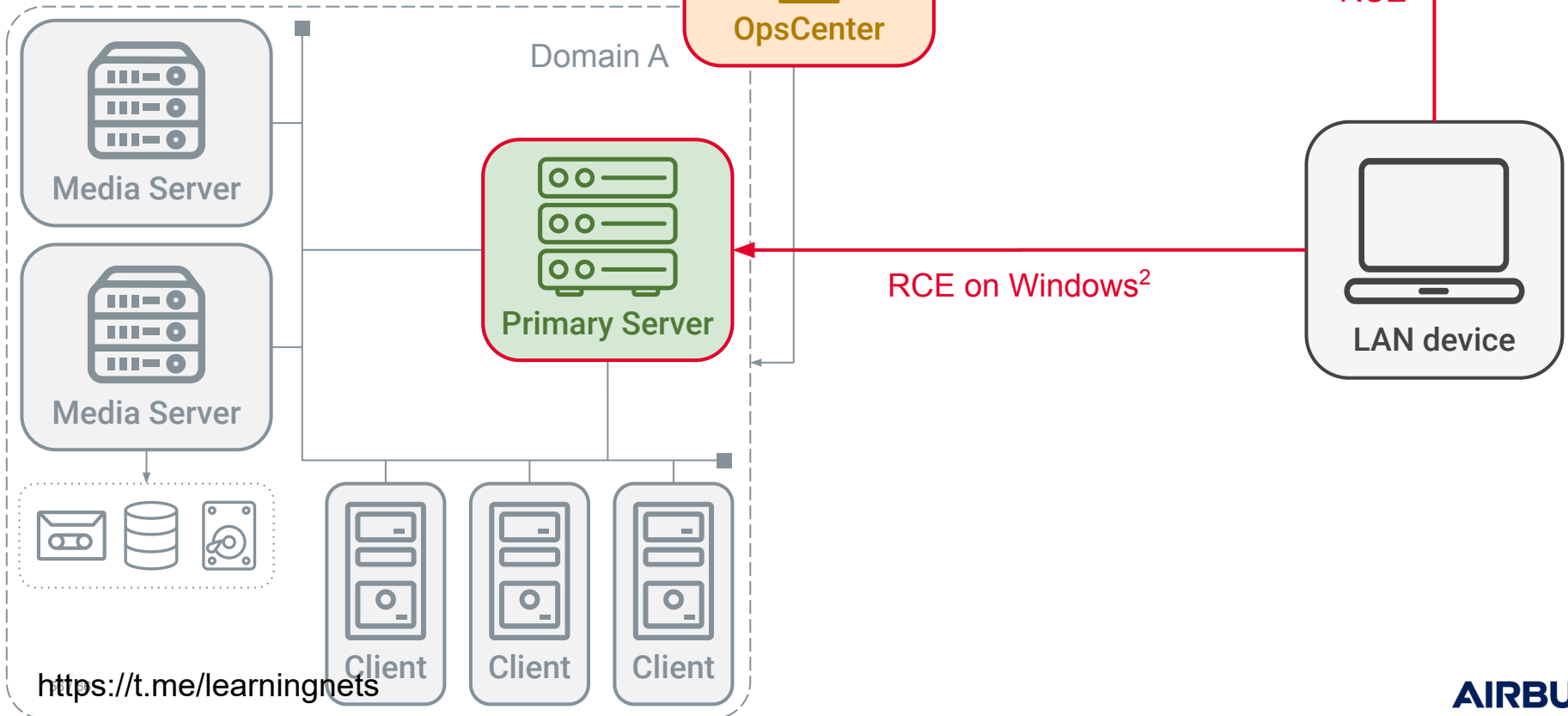
<sup>2</sup>CVE-2022-{36987,36989,36991,36992,36993}

<sup>3</sup>CVE-2022-{36990,36999,37000}

<https://t.me/learningnets>

# FINDINGS

Attacking From The LAN

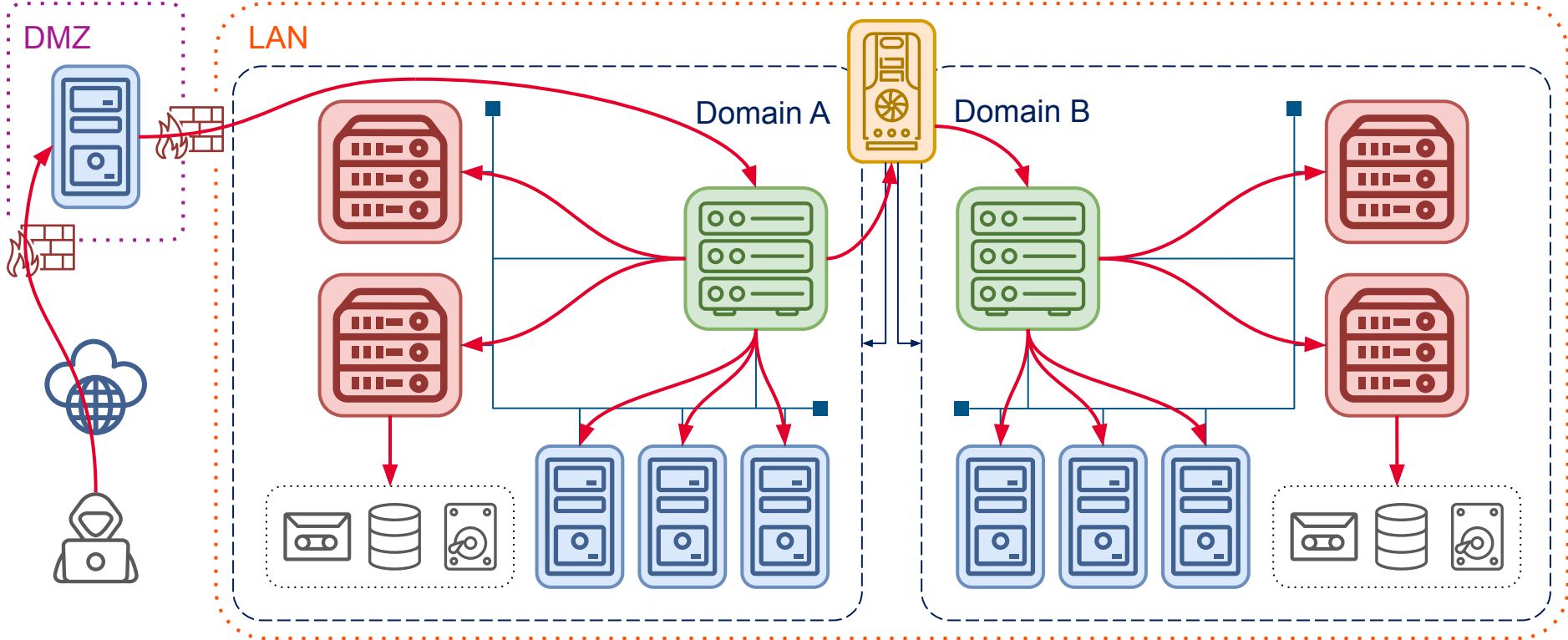


<sup>1</sup>CVE-2022-{36950,36951}

<sup>2</sup>CVE-2022-{42302,42305}

# FINDINGS

Example Real World Scenario





# DEMO

CVE-2022-36951, CVE-2022-36988, CVE-2022-36989



# FINDINGS

## Reviewing Security Questions



1. What would it take for an attacker to exploit NetBackup?  
⇒ **Specific tooling & workflow knowledge**, not out of reach of motivated attackers  
⇒ pbx\_exchange, backup policies, trust model, NetBackup commands, etc.



2. Can a Primary Server be compromised from a NetBackup client?  
⇒ **Yes**, and much more



3. Could the NetBackup system be used as a pivot to attack other interconnected systems?  
⇒ **Yes**, as shown in our demo



4. Which data could an attacker target to prevent NetBackup recovery?  
⇒ **Let's take a step back**

# FINDINGS

## Minimal Requirements To Restore A NetBackup Infrastructure



Backup data (obviously)

⇒ To restore clients' files



Primary server catalog

⇒ To know where to find clients' data



Media server deduplication catalog (if enabled)

⇒ To rebuild full backups



Encryption secret(s) (if enabled)

⇒ To decrypt stored data



Disaster recovery file (optional)

⇒ To automate some recovery steps

# FINDINGS

## Reviewing Security Questions



1. What would it take for an attacker to exploit NetBackup?  
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2. Can a Primary Server be compromised from a NetBackup client?  
⇒ **Yes, and much more**



3. Could the NetBackup system be used as a pivot to attack other interconnected systems?  
⇒ **Yes, as shown in our demo**



4. Which data could an attacker target to prevent NetBackup recovery?  
⇒ **Backup data, catalogs, encryption secrets, disaster recover file**

# FINDINGS

## Disclosure Timeline

### FIRST VULNERABILITY REPORT

- **2021-10-13:** SecLab sent first report to Veritas.
- **2021-11-22:** Veritas acknowledged the report and ask some more details.
- **2021-12-13:** SecLab provided answer to Veritas and a reminder about the 90 days policy.
- **2022-01-26:** Veritas answered with the expected timeline of patch for the different component.
- **2022-02-28:** Veritas provided patches of NetBackup OpsCenter to SecLab for review.
- **2022-05-10:** First patch for NetBackup Primary Server, Media Servers released.
- **2022-07-13:** Veritas released patches and a security advisory for NetBackup OpsCenter: [VTS22-009](#).
- **2022-07-18:** Veritas released a security advisory for NetBackup Clients, Primary Server, Media Server: [VTS22-004](#) , [VTS22-008](#).
- **2022-09-21:** Veritas released hotfix patches for Clients related to [VTS22-008](#).

### SECOND VULNERABILITY REPORT

- **2022-04-11:** SecLab sent a 2nd report to Veritas with more findings.
- **2022-04-11:** Veritas acknowledged the 2nd report.
- **2022-08-01:** Veritas released patch for NetBackup Clients (VTS22-010).
- **2022-08-29:** Veritas released patch for NetBackup Primary Server, Media Server. (VTS22-011)
- **2022-09-23:** Veritas released hotfix patches for NetBackup Primary Server, Media Server. (VTS22-010, VTS22-011)
- **2022-09-26:** New advisories released [VTS22-010](#); [VTS22-011](#); [VTS22-012](#); [VTS22-013](#).



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## TAKEAWAYS

# TAKEAWAYS

## 1. Discovered vulnerabilities illustrate wide attack surface & security impact

~30 CVEs attributed to Airbus Security Lab, official patches available

Presented attack paths showcase possible impact & complexity

## 2. Work presented only scratches the surface

Plenty of attack surface not yet studied: there's a lot of room for more work!

Your work is needed and there are plenty of uncharted waters for you to have fun

## 3. Your favorite enterprise backup software can be broken / better protected

Consider this a gift to convince your employers to let you have an offensive / defensive deep dive!

Skilling-up on such software can help red teaming, pentesting, detecting, etc.

## 4. The unavoidable pain of backups

Backups are a pain, but French people eat pain for breakfast! 🥖

Thank you for your attention!  
Any questions?

<https://airbus-seclab.github.io>



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[airbus-seclab](https://github.com/airbus-seclab)