

P2P Sybil Attack

Overview of the Vulnerability

The block producer can be paralyzed with a very small attack cost, and the vulnerability belongs to the blocking attack caused by the imperfect security design of the P2P service.

Attack Principle

According to the description in the configuration file, the max-client of P2P services is 25 by default.

```
# Maximum number of clients from which connections are accepted, use 0 for no
limit
max-clients = 25
```

The attacker started many [nodeos] nodes through scripts. The p2p-peer-address configuration items of every node's [nodeos] are configured with the same target machine. A machine simulates the connection of several hundred machines and initiates a connection request to the node's server at the same time. Obviously the malicious node can very easily to take up 25 connections of block producer's service and keep it connected because the P2P service does not limit the number of single IP connections.

Implementation

100 malicious nodes built on the attack machine

```
root@eos:~/p2p_blast# ls
config1  config15  config21  config28  config34  config40  config47  config53  config59  config66  config72  config79  config85  config91  config98  data13  data2  data26  data32  data39  data45  data51  data58  data64  data70  data77  data83  data89  data96
config10  config16  config22  config30  config36  config42  config49  config55  config61  config68  config74  config80  config87  config93  config99  data14  data20  data27  data33  data40  data46  data52  data59  data65  data71  data78  data84  data90  data97
config11  config18  config24  config31  config37  config43  config49  config56  config62  config69  config75  config81  config88  config94  data10  data15  data21  data28  data34  data40  data47  data53  data59  data66  data72  data79  data85  data91  data98
config12  config19  config25  config32  config38  config44  config50  config57  config63  config69  config76  config82  config89  config95  data18  data23  data29  data35  data41  data48  data54  data60  data67  data73  data79  data86  data92  data99
config13  config2  config26  config33  config39  config45  config51  config58  config64  config70  config77  config83  config89  config96  data11  data17  data22  data28  data34  data41  data47  data53  data59  data65  data71  data77  data83  data89  data95
config14  config20  config27  config33  config4  config46  config52  config59  config65  config71  config78  config84  config90  config97  data12  data19  data25  data31  data38  data44  data50  data57  data63  data7  data76  data82  data89  data95
root@eos:~/p2p_blast#
```

The node operation of 100 nodeos

[illegible]

```

8747 root 20 0 1560M 56452 20228 S 0.0 0.7 0:00.42 nodeds -config-dir /root/ppp_blast/config/g84 -data-dir /root/ppp_blast/data84 /dev/null
8797 root 20 0 1560M 56454 20248 S 0.0 0.7 0:00.03 nodeds -config-dir /root/ppp_blast/config/g85 -data-dir /root/ppp_blast/data85 /dev/null
8807 root 20 0 1560M 56454 20248 S 0.0 0.7 0:00.03 nodeds -config-dir /root/ppp_blast/config/g85 -data-dir /root/ppp_blast/data85 /dev/null
8890 root 20 0 1560M 57496 11136 S 0.0 0.7 0:00.02 nodeds -config-dir /root/ppp_blast/config/g86 -data-dir /root/ppp_blast/data86 /dev/null
8761 root 20 0 1560M 57496 11136 S 0.0 0.7 0:00.38 nodeds -config-dir /root/ppp_blast/config/g86 -data-dir /root/ppp_blast/data86 /dev/null
8792 root 20 0 1560M 55824 19600 S 0.0 0.7 0:00.03 nodeds -config-dir /root/ppp_blast/config/g87 -data-dir /root/ppp_blast/data87 /dev/null
8767 root 20 0 1560M 55824 19600 S 0.0 0.7 0:00.43 nodeds -config-dir /root/ppp_blast/config/g87 -data-dir /root/ppp_blast/data87 /dev/null
8808 root 20 0 1560M 56456 20228 S 0.0 0.7 0:00.02 nodeds -config-dir /root/ppp_blast/config/g88 -data-dir /root/ppp_blast/data88 /dev/null
8774 root 20 0 1560M 56456 20228 S 0.0 0.7 0:00.41 nodeds -config-dir /root/ppp_blast/config/g88 -data-dir /root/ppp_blast/data88 /dev/null
8861 root 20 0 1560M 56256 20832 S 0.0 0.7 0:00.02 nodeds -config-dir /root/ppp_blast/config/g89 -data-dir /root/ppp_blast/data89 /dev/null
8869 root 20 0 1560M 56256 20832 S 0.0 0.7 0:00.02 nodeds -config-dir /root/ppp_blast/config/g89 -data-dir /root/ppp_blast/data89 /dev/null
8859 root 20 0 1560M 56424 20200 S 0.0 0.7 0:00.03 nodeds -config-dir /root/ppp_blast/config/g90 -data-dir /root/ppp_blast/data90 /dev/null
8788 root 20 0 1560M 56424 20200 S 0.0 0.7 0:00.45 nodeds -config-dir /root/ppp_blast/config/g90 -data-dir /root/ppp_blast/data90 /dev/null
8857 root 20 0 1560M 56276 20956 S 0.0 0.7 0:00.02 nodeds -config-dir /root/ppp_blast/config/g91 -data-dir /root/ppp_blast/data91 /dev/null
8795 root 20 0 1560M 56276 20956 S 0.0 0.7 0:00.47 nodeds -config-dir /root/ppp_blast/config/g91 -data-dir /root/ppp_blast/data91 /dev/null
8854 root 20 0 1560M 56376 20152 S 0.0 0.7 0:00.03 nodeds -config-dir /root/ppp_blast/config/g92 -data-dir /root/ppp_blast/data92 /dev/null
8883 root 20 0 1560M 56376 20152 S 0.0 0.7 0:00.50 nodeds -config-dir /root/ppp_blast/config/g92 -data-dir /root/ppp_blast/data92 /dev/null
8853 root 20 0 1560M 56372 20152 S 0.0 0.7 0:00.03 nodeds -config-dir /root/ppp_blast/config/g93 -data-dir /root/ppp_blast/data93 /dev/null
8869 root 20 0 1560M 56372 20152 S 0.0 0.7 0:00.03 nodeds -config-dir /root/ppp_blast/config/g93 -data-dir /root/ppp_blast/data93 /dev/null
8856 root 20 0 1560M 56376 20152 S 0.0 0.7 0:00.03 nodeds -config-dir /root/ppp_blast/config/g94 -data-dir /root/ppp_blast/data94 /dev/null
8816 root 20 0 1560M 56376 20152 S 0.0 0.7 0:00.46 nodeds -config-dir /root/ppp_blast/config/g94 -data-dir /root/ppp_blast/data94 /dev/null
8855 root 20 0 1560M 56388 20084 S 0.0 0.7 0:00.02 nodeds -config-dir /root/ppp_blast/config/g95 -data-dir /root/ppp_blast/data95 /dev/null
8822 root 20 0 1560M 56388 20084 S 0.0 0.7 0:00.44 nodeds -config-dir /root/ppp_blast/config/g95 -data-dir /root/ppp_blast/data95 /dev/null
8860 root 20 0 1560M 56252 20828 S 0.0 0.7 0:00.03 nodeds -config-dir /root/ppp_blast/config/g96 -data-dir /root/ppp_blast/data96 /dev/null
8828 root 20 0 1560M 56252 20828 S 0.0 0.7 0:00.44 nodeds -config-dir /root/ppp_blast/config/g96 -data-dir /root/ppp_blast/data96 /dev/null
8859 root 20 0 1560M 56454 20248 S 0.0 0.7 0:00.03 nodeds -config-dir /root/ppp_blast/config/g97 -data-dir /root/ppp_blast/data97 /dev/null
8834 root 20 0 1560M 56454 20248 S 0.0 0.7 0:00.46 nodeds -config-dir /root/ppp_blast/config/g97 -data-dir /root/ppp_blast/data97 /dev/null
8862 root 20 0 1560M 56280 20956 S 0.0 0.7 0:00.01 nodeds -config-dir /root/ppp_blast/config/g98 -data-dir /root/ppp_blast/data98 /dev/null
8840 root 20 0 1560M 56280 20956 S 0.0 0.7 0:00.41 nodeds -config-dir /root/ppp_blast/config/g98 -data-dir /root/ppp_blast/data98 /dev/null
8863 root 20 0 1560M 56300 20876 S 0.0 0.7 0:00.03 nodeds -config-dir /root/ppp_blast/config/g99 -data-dir /root/ppp_blast/data99 /dev/null
8846 root 20 0 1560M 56300 20876 S 0.0 0.7 0:00.46 nodeds -config-dir /root/ppp_blast/config/g99 -data-dir /root/ppp_blast/data99 /dev/null
8864 root 20 0 1560M 56292 20668 S 0.0 0.7 0:00.02 nodeds -config-dir /root/ppp_blast/config/g100 -data-dir /root/ppp_blast/data100 /dev/null
8852 root 20 0 1560M 56292 20668 S 0.0 0.7 0:00.44 nodeds -config-dir /root/ppp_blast/config/g100 -data-dir /root/ppp_blast/data100 /dev/null
8862 root 20 0 21476 5512 348 S 0.0 0.1 0:00.12 -bash
1503 root 20 0 21476 5512 348 S 0.0 0.1 0:00.05 -bash
20073 root 20 0 21476 8494 5648 S 0.0 0.1 0:00.03 vi /root/ppp_blast/config/g100/config.ini

```

A [nodeos] node could be configured with multiple p2p-peer-address. In other words, one node could occupy multiple [nodeos] p2p service at the same time, resulting in normal data cannot be processed in time, or cannot be processed.

However, there is no mechanism such as timeout when the 9876 port of target machine connects. The status of portal connection are as follows:

1. Screenshot of initial attack status

```
root@instance-6:~# ss -nao | grep 9876
tcp    LISTEN    0      128      *:9876      *:*
```

State	Recv-Q	Send-Q	Local Address:Port	Peer Address:Port
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37504
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37512
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37472
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37476
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37474
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37494
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37482
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37490
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37484
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37514
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37496
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37516
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37470
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37478
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37502
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37508
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37506
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37488
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37500
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37468
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37480
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37498
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37510
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37486
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37492

```
root@instance-6:~#
```

2. Screenshot of attack status after two hours

```
root@instance-6:~# ss -nao | grep 9876
tcp    LISTEN    0      128      *:9876      *:*
```

State	Recv-Q	Send-Q	Local Address:Port	Peer Address:Port
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37504
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37512
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37472
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37476
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37474
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37494
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37482
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37490
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37484
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37514
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37496
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37516
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37470
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37478
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37502
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37508
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37506
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37488
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37500
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37468
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37480
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37498
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37510
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37486
ESTAB	0	0	10.140.0.4:9876	35.235.235.235:179:37492

```
root@instance-6:~#
```

The target machine connection number is full because it is attacked. When other connection try to connect the target machine, the log shows below:

```

1009157ms thread-0 net_plugin.cpp:1995 operator() ] Error max_client
_count 25 exceeded
1009197ms thread-0 net_plugin.cpp:1995 operator() ] Error max_client
_count 25 exceeded
1009226ms thread-0 net_plugin.cpp:1995 operator() ] Error max_client
_count 25 exceeded
1009263ms thread-0 net_plugin.cpp:1995 operator() ] Error max_client
_count 25 exceeded
1009286ms thread-0 net_plugin.cpp:1995 operator() ] Error max_client
_count 25 exceeded
1009350ms thread-0 net_plugin.cpp:1995 operator() ] Error max_client
_count 25 exceeded
1009360ms thread-0 net_plugin.cpp:1995 operator() ] Error max_client
_count 25 exceeded
1009367ms thread-0 net_plugin.cpp:1995 operator() ] Error max_client
_count 25 exceeded
1009378ms thread-0 net_plugin.cpp:1995 operator() ] Error max_client
_count 25 exceeded
1009757ms thread-0 net_plugin.cpp:1995 operator() ] Error max_client
_count 25 exceeded
1009853ms thread-0 net_plugin.cpp:1995 operator() ] Error max_client
_count 25 exceeded
1009863ms thread-0 net_plugin.cpp:1995 operator() ] Error max_client
_count 25 exceeded
1009881ms thread-0 net_plugin.cpp:1995 operator() ] Error max_client
_count 25 exceeded
1009890ms thread-0 net_plugin.cpp:1995 operator() ] Error max_client
_count 25 exceeded
1009903ms thread-0 net_plugin.cpp:1995 operator() ] Error max_client
_count 25 exceeded
1009915ms thread-0 net_plugin.cpp:1995 operator() ] Error max_client
_count 25 exceeded
1009926ms thread-0 net_plugin.cpp:1995 operator() ] Error max_client
_count 25 exceeded
1009928ms thread-0 net_plugin.cpp:1995 operator() ] Error max_client
_count 25 exceeded
1009931ms thread-0 net_plugin.cpp:1995 operator() ] Error max_client
_count 25 exceeded
1010362ms thread-0 net_plugin.cpp:1995 operator() ] Error max_client
_count 25 exceeded
1010367ms thread-0 net_plugin.cpp:1995 operator() ] Error max_client
_count 25 exceeded

```

Use by MOOZ (a unique network-wide detection engine by slowmist), we have found that 1,062,450 devices have been opened to 9876 port in the global network space. MOOZ can detect the node information again after the main-net launched and locate the node's information.

Solutions

1. It is recommended to add the control over the connection number of Block Producer with

single IP in P2P module.

2. Monitor network connections at the system level. Configure the rule of [iptables] to shield the abnormal IP once detected an IP abnormal connection.

SlowMist