

Agenda

- Previous work
- ASA internals
- Brainstorming
- Heap feng shui
- From mirror write to RCE
- Conclusion



CVE-2016-1287

- Responsibly disclosed to Cisco by Exodus Intel (XI) pre-March 2016
 - "Execute My Packet"
- Targets IKE Cisco Fragmentation payload
 - Reassembled packet length integer overflow
 - Leading to heap overflow when reassembly occurs
- Pre-auth & IKE available on the Internet
- XI released a POC in April 2016
 - Targets IKEv2 and ASA 9.2.4 only
- Awesome work! They won the Pwnie Awards 2016 contest! Yay!

Pwnie for Best Server-Side Bug

Awarded to the researchers who discovered or exploited the most technically sophisticated and interesting server-side bug. This includes any software that is accessible remotely without using user interaction.

Cisco ASA IKEv1/IKEv2 Fragmentation Heap Buffer Overflow (CVE-2016-1287)
 Credit: David Barksdale, Jordan Gruskovnjak, and Alex Wheeler

Cisco's ASA (Ancient Security Architecture) firewalls had a vulnerability in their IKE fragment reassembly that permitted remote unauthenticated heap memory corruption. Thanks to a lack of nonexecutable memory and ASLR protections, these Exodus researchers were able to turn this vulnerability into an epic win just as if they were exploiting a late 90's Linux box. It just turns out that this late 90's Linux box happens to be your firewall/NIDS/VPN/IRC Bouncer. Yay.

Execute My Packet

Open Problems

Reliability:

- Didn't try to achieve gov grade exploit (Pareto's law is a good metric for exploit dev).
 Just look at the timeline to see it'll take forever
- Concurrent connections will mess with the heap

Targeting:

- Shellcode is not version independant (hardcoded values)
- Need to have a binary version of firmware to add a new target

Non-Factors:

- ASLR / DEP mitigation
- Up to date dimalloc implementation (safe unlinking)
- 64-bit binaries will probably need different exploit technique (bigger heap metadata size)

Other questions

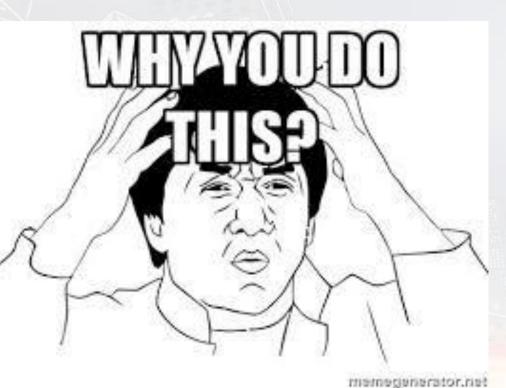
- How to improve the reliability of the current exploit?
- What about IKEv1?
- What mitigations in newer firmware and how to bypass them?
- How an attacker can leak the ASA version?
- What heap manager do they really use?

Today's objective

- Previously ported XI IKEv2 exploit to all ASA versions → used internally by pentesters
- Clients are disabling IKEv2 and moving back to IKEv1, WTF!?
- Let's build an exploit for IKEv1
- This presentation demonstrates the involved methodology
 - Ideology: Solving one problem at a time
 - Is it really exploitable? PoC||GTFO
 - Finding the quickest way to achieve RCE
- Exploit Development Group (EDG) at NCC Group
 - Cedric Halbronn (@saidelike) speaker today
 - Aaron Adams (@FidgetingBits)
- Presentation focuses on 32-bit
 - E.g. hardcoded sizes
 - Most concepts apply to 64-bit too

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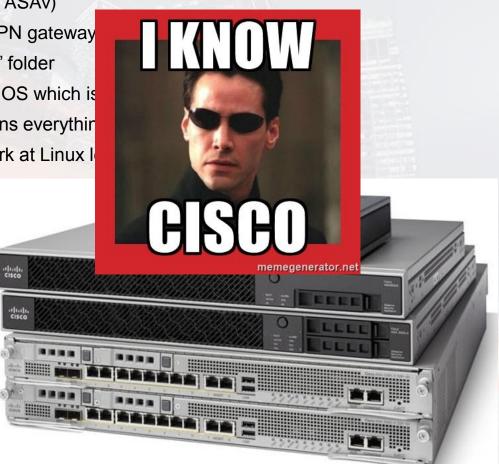
ASA

- ASA stands for "Adaptive Security Appliance"
- Different hardware but same software underneath
- x86 or x86-64 (SMP, ASAv)
- Features: firewall, VPN gateway, router
- ASA = Linux + "/asa" folder
 - Different than IOS which is a proprietary OS
- "/asa/bin/lina" contains everything (ELF is 40MB)
 - E.g.: no network at Linux level as handled by "lina"

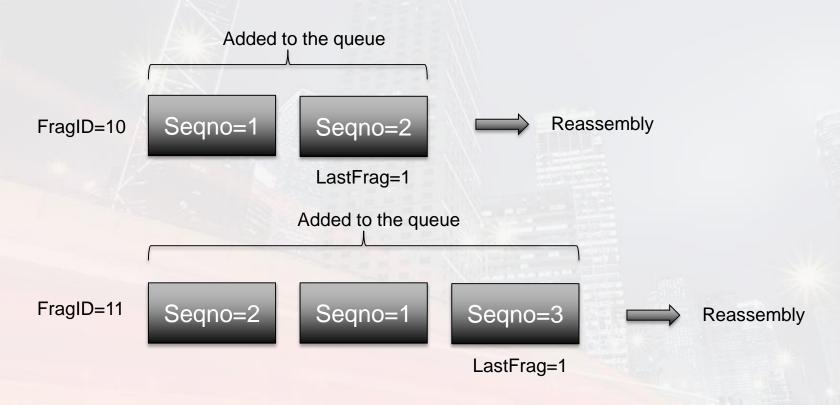


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Cisco Fragmentation basics



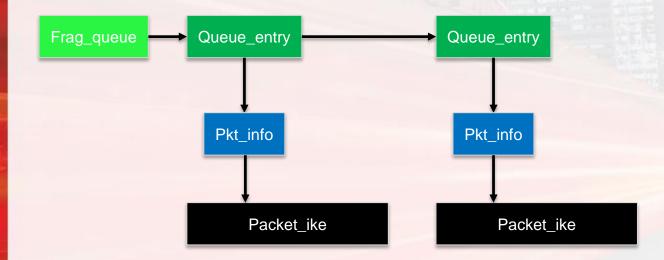
- Fragments with the same FragID are added to a queue
- They all have a different Seqno
- When the last fragment is received (with LastFrag=1), it triggers reassembly

Reversing – Packet allocation

- IKEv1 packet handled by the IKE receiver thread
 - Allocate a buffer to hold the IKE packet before sending it over IPC to the right thread
 - Pkt_info: malloc(0x24)
 - Packet_ike: malloc (msg->len)
- After some validation, ikev1 parse packet() is called
 - Check if the embedded payload is a Cisco Fragment
 - Call two functions
 - IKE AddRcvFrag()
 - IKE_GetAssembledPkt()

Reversing – Fragment processing

- IKE_AddRcvFrag()
 - If queue does not exist
 - Frag_queue: malloc(0x14)
 - If LastFrag=1, save the Seqno to LastFrag_Seqno
 - Update the total length. Underflow happens here
 - assembled_len += (fragment_payload->payload_length 8)
 - Add fragment entry to the queue list
 - Queue_entry: malloc(0xC) tracking Packet_ike



Reversing – Fragment processing

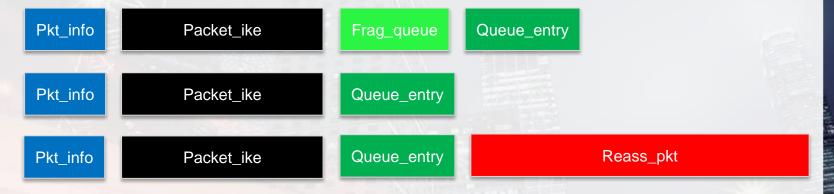
- IKE_GetAssembledPkt()
 - Exit if number of fragments is different than LastFrag_Seqno
 - Reass_pkt: malloc(assembled_len + 20)
 - Extra 20 is to hold assembled len before actual data
 - Loop on all fragments
 - Search for Seqno=1, then Seqno=2, etc.
 - When the Seqno > LastFrag_Seqno, successfully exit the loop
 - If one Seqno is not found, exit the loop (failure)
 - Otherwise memcpy () the fragment into the reassembled packet

Reversing – Incomplete check

- IKE GetAssembledPkt()
 - There is actually a check before memcpy () fragment to make sure we don't copy OOB

Dynamic analysis

- Logging allocation when fragments are received
 - By setting a breakpoint on malloc/free in the IKEv1 thread



- Small fixed allocations: Pkt_info: 0x50 | Frag_queue: 0x48 | Queue_entry: 0x38
- Packet_ike: variable length
- Reass_pkt: variable length
- An additional 0x48 allocation but free right away
- Sizes apply to ASA 32-bit
- Do not allocate temporary buffers (used by XI IKEv2 exploit)
- Do not allocate buffers for fragments only keep a reference to the complete IKEv1 packet
- → Relatively few allocations (layout completely different than IKEv2 but actually simpler ©)



Exploit strategy

- Constraint: max 20-byte between
 - The reassembly length
 - The length provided to memcpy()
- Fragments added to the queue:
 - Seqno=0 and Seqno=3 have a length of 1 (resulting in -7-7)
 - Seqno=4 has a length of 2 (resulting in -6)
 - Seqno=1 is the only fragment with a valid length (e.g. ~0x200 bytes)
- In total -7-7-6 = -20 is added to the reassembly length
- Reassembly
 - Loop begins at 1 and exits as soon as a Seqno is not found
 - Seqno=1 is copied
 - All other fragments are skipped because Seqno=2 cannot be found
- → Initial overflow very similar to XI approach for IKEv2

Heap metadata

- malloc(int len) → resMgrMalloc() → mem_mh_malloc() → mspace_malloc()
 - resMgrMalloc(): resource manager dispatches to the right underlying function
 - mem_mh_malloc()
 - "mh" likely stands for mempool header (Cisco specific) / mempool abbreviated "mp"
 - Allocates len+0x24 (0x20 for mp_header / 0x4 for mp_footer)
 - mspace_malloc() actually allocates memory (dlmalloc.c)
 - Allocates len+0x24+0x8
 - After mspace malloc() returns, mem mh malloc() fills the mp header/mp footer

```
struct malloc chunk @ 0xacb96a08 {
prev foot = 0x8180d4d0
size = 0x1d0 (CINUSE|PINUSE)
struct mp header @ 0xacb96a10 {
mh magic = 0xa11c0123
mh len = 0x1a4
mh refcount = 0x0
mh unused = 0x0
mh fd link = 0xacb85b30
mh bk link = 0xa8800604
allocator pc = 0x86816b3 (IKE GetAssembledPkt+0x53)
free pc
           = 0x868161d (IKE FreeAllFrags+0xfd)
0x1a8 bytes of chunk data:
0xacb96a30: 0x394d3943 0x59305239 0x747490ad 0x00163dff
0xacb96a40: 0x08021084 0x01000000 0xd4010000 0xb8010000
```

```
struct malloc_chunk @ 0xacb96bd8 {
prev_foot = 0x8180d4d0
head = 0x30 (PINUSE)

fd = 0xac825ab8
bk = 0xa880005c

struct mp_header @ 0xacb96be8 {
mh_refcount = 0xf3ee0123
mh_unused = 0x0
mh_fd_link = 0x0
mh_bk_link = 0x0
allocator_pc = 0x0
free_pc = 0x0
0x8 bytes of chunk data:
0xacb96c00: 0x000000000 0xf3eecdef
```

mspace & mstate

dlmalloc

```
/* mspace_malloc behaves as malloc, but operates within the given space. */
void* mspace_malloc(mspace msp, size_t bytes);
```

 By reversing, we determined the mspace contains the dlmalloc mstate followed by a Cisco-specific mempool structure

DLMALLOC MSTA	TE		///	
Bin	Bin size	fd	bk	Note
Smallbin[00]	0x0	0xa880002c	0xa880002c	
Smallbin[31]	0xf8	0xad010e70	0xa8c647f0	Free chunks
Treebin[00]	0x180	0xa9906708		Free chunks
Treebin[31]	0xfffffff	0x0	-	
MEMPOOL MSPAC	E			
Bin	Bin size	cnt	mh_fd_link	Note
Mp_smallbin[00]	0x0	0x0000	0x0	
Mp_smallbin[31]	0xf8	0x0049	0xa98b1780	Allocated chunks
Mp_treebin[00]	0x100	0x01ac	0xacb85b30	Allocated chunks
=				

Tracks free chunks

Tracks allocated chunks

Checkheaps

- Mechanism introduced in Cisco IOS
- Detailed by Michael Lynn in 2005
- Checks periodically if the chunks metadata are corrupted
 - Scans memory linearly (from lower to higher addresses)
 - Encounters both allocated and freed chunks
- Implementation
 - dlmalloc compiled with DEBUG set
 - A few time-consuming checks removed
- Free chunk fd/bk pointers checked
 - Even though safe unlinking not present, since it is dlmalloc debug code
- Alloc chunk mh fd link/mh bk link pointers not checked
 - They have not modified the dlmalloc DEBUG code!

DEBUG dlmalloc

```
/*
DEBUG
                         default: NOT defined
 The DEBUG setting is mainly intended for people trying to modify
  this code or diagnose problems when porting to new platforms.
  [...]
  The checking is fairly extensive, and will slow down
  execution noticeably.
  [...]
#if DEBUG
/* Check properties of inuse chunks */
static void do check inuse chunk(mstate m, mchunkptr p) {
  do check any chunk (m, p);
 assert(cinuse(p));
  assert(next pinuse(p));
  /* If not pinuse and not mmapped, previous chunk has OK offset */
  assert(is mmapped(p) || pinuse(p) || next chunk(prev chunk(p)) == p);
  if (is mmapped(p))
    do check mmapped chunk(m, p);
```

- All the asserts were very useful to match the exact version of dimalloc
 - Retrieve source code of checkheaps: achieved!

Checkheaps implementation

- Checkheaps thread calls validate buffers() (default interval: 60 sec)
 - Takes a few ms

```
int ch_is_validating = 0;

void validate_buffers(int check_depth)
{
    if (ch_is_validating != 0)
        return;
    ch_is_validating = 1;

    // loop on all mspaces
    while (...)
    {
        //...
        // custom version of dlmalloc function
        // note this is inlined...
        custom_traverse_and_check(cur_dlmstate, check_depth);
    }

finished:
    ch_is_validating = 0;
    return;
}
```

- We can bypass checkheaps by setting ch_is_validating to a value != 0
 - validate buffers() will exit each time it is called

Initial hypothesis

- We assume the device has been started recently
 - So the heap is not too fragmented
 - Bad hypothesis for real world but will help building a reliable exploit
- We assume Checkheaps disabled
 - We can win the race against Checkheaps (as it only runs for a few msec every 60 sec)
 - We know we can "easily" disable it (changing one global variable)
- Strategy
 - Target either dlmalloc free lists or mempool alloc lists to get a mirror write
 - Mirror write: unlinking an element from a doubly-linked list will actually trigger two write operations
 - One operation is the useful one, the other is a side effect
 - Constraint: both need to be writable addresses.

Triggering a useful overflow

- Allocated chunk: up to half mp_header->mh_len
- Free chunk: up to half malloc chunk->bk
- Note: both overflow 18 bytes (instead of 20 due to some alignment in reass_pkt struct)

previous mp magic footer: 0xa11ccdef Possible overflow struct malloc chunk @ 0xacb96a08 prev foot = 0x8180d4d0= 0x1d0 (CINUSE|PINUSE)struct mp header @ 0xacb96a10 { mh magic = 0xa11c0123mh len = 0x1a4mh refcount = 0x0mh unused = 0x0mh fd link = 0xacb85b30mh bk link = 0xa8800604allocator pc = 0x86816b3 (IKE GetAssembledPkt+0x53) free pc = 0x868161d (IKE FreeAllFrags+0xfd) 0x1a8 bytes of chunk data: 0xacb96a30: 0x394d3943 0x59305239 0x747490ad 0x00163dff 0xacb96a40: 0x08021084 0x01000000 0xd4010000 0xb8010000

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Chosen overflow

```
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mh unused = 0x0
mh fd link = 0x0
mh bk link = 0x0
allocator pc = 0x0
free pc
           = 0x0
0x8 bytes of chunk data:
```



0x200

sess1

- 2 IKEv1 sessions of 0x200 fragments
 - Send one fragment in sess1, sess2, sess1, sess2, etc.
 - Trigger reassembly of sess2 to free sess2 fragments
- Trigger reassembly in a 0x1d0 chunk (R) to overflow metadata of a 0x30 free chunk
- When 0x1d0 is free (invalid reassembly), it is coalesced with the adjacent chunk
 - 0x30 size was changed into 0x90
 - 0x1d0 + 0x90 = 0x260 free chunk added to the bin list
- Fill the 0x260 encompassing chunk (R')
 - Corrupt the following 0x200 chunk mp_fd_link/mp_bk_link (H)
 - Craft a fake 0x30 free chunk with corrupted fd/bk (F)
- Notes
 - They are all fragments
 - IKEv2 XI exploit used Option Lists but they don't exist in IKEv1



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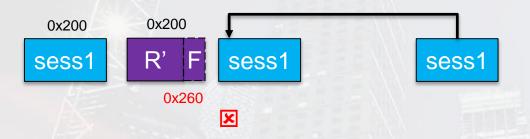
- Trigger reassembly of sess1 to free sess1 fragments
- We are expecting to crash when the alloc list pointers are accessed
 - mh_mem_free() first unlinks the chunk from the mempool alloc list
 - Then it calls mspace free() responsible to coalesce with adjacent free chunks
- Instead it crashes when the freelist pointers are accessed
- Problem is even though our corrupted sess1 is freed
 - Fragment queue is LIFO so they are free in reverse order
 - Also they are in the same alloc list bin in mp_mspace
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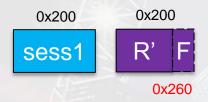
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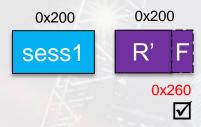
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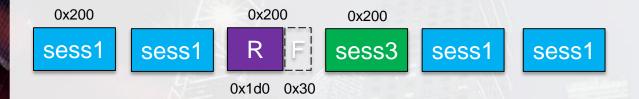
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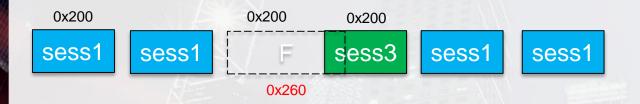
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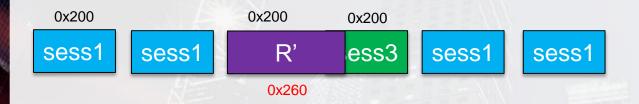
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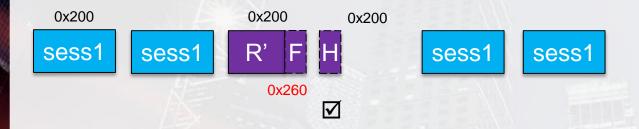
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Follow the white rabbit

- On IKEv2, XI targeted list_add() called to add a fragment to the queue
 - A global pointer is stored in memory
 - Used when a fragment is received and we control its content so contains our shellcode
 - Not possible on IKEv1 as it does not use the same list format
- I looked for a function pointer to overwrite in IDA...
 - IKEv1-related functions
- Best candidate | found is | IKEMM BuildMainModeMsg2()
 - EDX is a pointer to a pointer to our IKE packet. Our shellcode is at @packet_ike+0x6a
 - Can be triggered by sending an SA INIT (first IKE packet)

```
(qdb) i r edx
                0xacaa8334
edx
                                   -1398111436
(qdb) x /wx 0xacaa8334
0xacaa8334:
                 0xadc17670
(qdb) x /150bx 0xadc17670
                                                                                        //packet ike
0xadc17670:
                 0x00
                          0x00
                                   0x00
                                           0x00
                                                    0x00
                                                             0x00
                                                                      0x00
                                                                               0x00
0xadc176d0:
                 0x00
                          0 \times 04
                                   0x00
                                            0x00
                                                    0x70
                                                             0x80
                                                                      0x00
                                                                               0x00
0xadc176d8:
                 0x0f
                          0xb0
                                   0x90
                                            0x90
                                                    0x90
                                                             0x90
                                                                      0x90
                                                                               0x90
                                                                                        //shellcode
0xadc176e0:
                 0x90
                          0x90
                                   0x90
                                           0x90
                                                    0xcc
                                                             0xcc
                                                                      0xcc
                                                                               0xcc
0xadc176e8:
                 0xcc
                          0xcc
                                   0xcc
                                           0xcc
                                                    0xcc
                                                             0xcc
                                                                      0xcc
                                                                               0xcc
0xadc176f0:
                 0xcc
                          0xcc
                                   0xcc
                                           0xcc
                                                    0xcc
                                                             0xcc
                                                                      0xcc
                                                                               0xcc
                                                                               0xcc
0xadc176f8:
                 0xcc
                          0xcc
                                   0xcc
                                           0xcc
                                                    0xcc
                                                             0xcc
                                                                      0xcc
0xadc17700:
                 0xcc
                          0xcc
                                   0xcc
                                           0xcc
                                                    0xcc
                                                             0xcc
```

Calling IKEMM_BuildMainModeMsg2

- FSM SMDriver()
 - Get global IKEmmStateTable
 - IKEMM BuildMainModeMsg2 ptr = IKEmmStateTable[sizeof(void*)*0x32c]
 - IKEMM BuildMainModeMsg2 = *IKEMM BuildMainModeMsg2 ptr
 - Call IKEMM BuildMainModeMsg2

Memory layout

```
.data:0A46B680 IKEmmStateTable dd offset off_9E7F000
.data:0A46B684 dd offset off_9E7F020
...
.data:0A46C330 dd offset IKEMM_BuildMainModeMsg2_ptr
.rodata:09E7F240 IKEMM BuildMainModeMsg2 ptr dd offset IKEMM BuildMainModeMsg2
```

• Easiest is to overwrite IKEMM BuildMainModeMsg2 ptr in IKEmmStateTable

Execute my *real* packet ©

- XI actually executed an IKE Fragment payload, we execute our whole IKE packet ©
 - 2 mirror writes to overwrite function pointer
 - As many mirror writes as required for the trampoline
- Part of memory RWX: we choose 0xc2000000-0xc2ffffff

```
a6000000-a8724000 rwxs 00000000 00:0e 1740 /dev/udma0
a8800000-ab400000 rwxs 00000000 00:0b 0 /SYSV00000002 (deleted)
ab800000-abc00000 rwxs 03000000 00:0b 0 /SYSV00000002 (deleted)
ac400000-dbc00000 rwxs 03c00000 00:0b 0 /SYSV00000002 (deleted)
```

Trampoline

4 mirror writes

```
*0x0a46c330 = 0xc2831200 (IKEMM_BuildMainModeMsg2_ptr)
*0xc2831200 = 0xc2831204 (fake IKEMM_BuildMainModeMsg2)
*0xc2831204 = 0xc283128b (trampoline)
*0xc2831208 = 0xc2e2ff6a (trampoline 2)
```

Summary

0x200

sess1

- When packet is reassembled, we have: an allocated 0x1d0 before a free 0x30
- After initial memory corruption, we have an allocated 0x1d0 before a corrupted free 0x490
- Reassembled packet is free, we have a free 0x660
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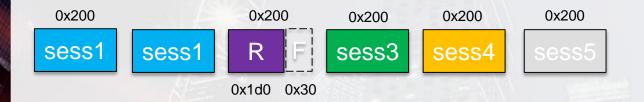
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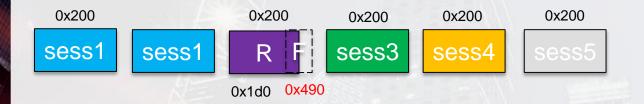
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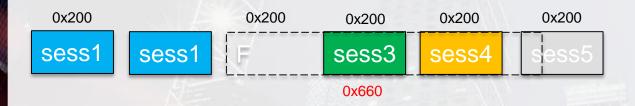
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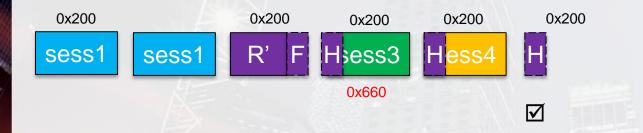
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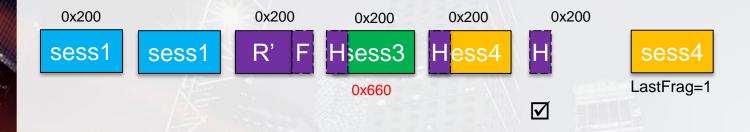
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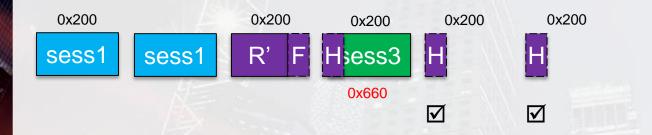
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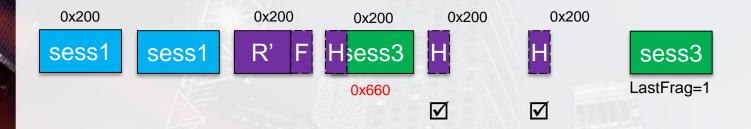
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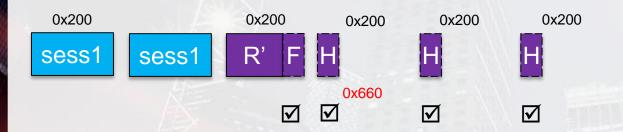
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- Reallocate the 0x660 chunk to corrupt alloc lists for the 3 adjacent 0x200 chunks and craft a fake 0x30 free chunk
- Free one fragment at a time to trigger the different mirror writes

0x200

sess1

sess1

- After triggering the 4 mirror writes, there are two possible views
 - From R', we see an allocated 0x660 chunk
 - But at offset R'+0x1d0 there is a free 0x630 free chunk
- Easiest is to patch R' size (malloc_chunk/mp_header) to be a 0x1d0 chunk
 - Retrieve the dlmalloc mstate address from a global pointer (mempool_array)
 - Access the mempool mspace
 - Look for the right alloc list bin (sz: 0x800) and fix the corrupted chunk
- We clear all sessions from Cisco shell to free all our packets and check our ASA is still alive ©

asa(config) # clear crypto ikev1 sa

0x200

sess1

R'

0x660

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Restore execution

Restore overwritten pointer to function pointer

```
IKEmmStateTable[index] = IKEMM_BuildMainModeMsg2_ptr
```

- Jump to original function: IKEMM_BuildMainModeMsg2()
- After doing that, we realized it crashed after IKEMM BuildMainModeMsg2() returns
 - Because IKEMM_BuildMainModeMsg2_ptr was also saved at ebp-0x24
 - And it was reused
- So we fix it as well before calling original function

```
*(ebp-0x24) = IKEMM_BuildMainModeMsg2_ptr
```

Checkheaps bypass?

- We already bypass Checkheaps
 - Even though there is some misalignment issue, we are fine as long as our last 0x200 chunk is allocated (as it contains a fake header to keep things aligned)
 - Because Checkheaps checks chunks linearly
 - But then there is a race between checkheaps and our shellcode that will fix that
 - There is still a risk Checkheaps detects us if it is already running and is analysing the chunk we are actively corrupting

Demo



Mitigations

\$./info.pv -l Using dbname targets.json | ID | Version | Arch|ASLR| NX | PIE|Can|RELRO|Svm|Strip| Linux | Glibc | Firmware 8.0.2 | 32 | N | N | N | N | N I N I N I 2.6.17.8 I I 000 I 2 1 asa802-k8.bin | I 001 I 8.0.3 | 32 | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | 2.6.17.8 | ? | asa803-k8.bin | 8.2.3 | 32 | N | N | N | 2.6.29.6 | 2.3.2 | I 018 I asa823-k8.bin | I 019 I 8.2.3 | 32 | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | 2.6.29.6 | 2.3.2 | asa823-smp-k8.bin | I 048 I 8.4.1 | 32 | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | 2.6.29.6 | 2.9 | asa841-k8.bin | I 049 I 8.4.1 | 64 | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | 2.6.29.6 | 2.9 | asa841-smp-k8.bin | 2.9 1 I 105 I 9.1.6 | 32 | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | 2.6.29.6 | asa916-k8.bin | I 106 I 9.1.6 | 64 | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | 2.6.29.6 | 2.9 | asa916-smp-k8.bin | I 123 I 9.2.4 | 32 | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | 2.6.29.6 | 2.9 1 asa924-k8.bin | I 124 I 9.2.4 | 64 | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | 2.6.29.6 | 2.9 1 asa924-smp-k8.bin | | 135 | 9.3.2.200 | 64 | NI I 3.10.19 I 2.18 asa932-200-smp-k8.bin | | 136 | 9.3.2.200 | 64 | N | I 3.10.19 I 2.18 |asav932-200-from-gcow2.bin | I 155 I 9.4.3 | 64 | NI YININI 3.10.55 I 2.18 I asa943-smp-k8.bin | N | N | N | 3.10.55 | 2.18 | I 157 I 9.4.4 | 64 | N | Y | N | N | asa944-smp-k8.bin | I 158 I 9.5.1 | 64 | I 3.10.62 I 2.18 asa951-smp-k8.bin | N | Y | N | 3.10.62 | 2.18 asa952-smp-k8.bin | I 159 I 9.5.2 | 64 | N | Y | N | 3.10.62 | 2.18 | I 170 I 9.7.1 | 64 | asa971-smp-k8.bin | | 171 | 3.10.62 | 2.18 | asav971-from-gcow2.bin |



Conclusion

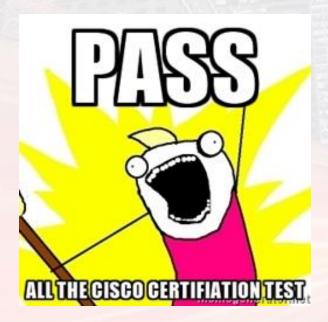
- First IKEv1 exploit
 - Targets 32-bit and 64-bit (dlmalloc)
- Versions vulnerable to the IKE heap overflow

Version	Heap	Heap safe unlinking	Mempool safe unlinking	ASLR	NX
< 9.0.4.38	dlmalloc	No	No	No	No
< 9.1.6.11	dlmalloc	No	No	No	No
< 9.2.4.5	dlmalloc	No	No	No	No
< 9.3.3.7	ptmalloc	Yes	No	No	No
< 9.4.2.4	ptmalloc	Yes	No	No	No
< 9.5.2.2	ptmalloc	Yes	No	Yes	No

- Next steps
 - 64-bit ptmalloc
 - ASLR / Safe-unlinking for free lists (not for mempool alloc list!)

Questions?

- If you have any question, contact me:
 - <u>cedric.halbronn@nccgroup.trust</u> / @saidelike



References

- David Barksdale, Jordan Gruskovnjak, Alex Wheeler (Exodus Intel) Execute my packet
- Alec Stuart-Muirk Breaking bricks and Plumbing pipes Cisco ASA: A super Mario adventure
- Michael Lynn The Holy Grail: Cisco IOS Shellcode and Exploitation techniques