

A software bug caused the early release of 3,200 US prisoners

December 30, 2015 By Pierluigi Paganini



The US Department of Corrections discovered a long-standing software bug that resulted in the early release of prisoners.

This news is disconcerting and demonstrates the importance to carefi`ully consider the technology in□ our lives. The Washington State Department of Corrections (DoC) launched an investigation after it early released 3,200 prisoners over the course of 13 years.

It seems that a software bug present in the systems of the Department since 2002, caused errors in the calculation of time credits for the good behavior of individuals while imprisoned.

The bugs led errors in the calculation of sentence reductions for the US prisoners that had a good behavior, the experts estimated that in a 13-year period, the average number of days of those released early from prison was 49 days before the

3 d i S а p р 0 n t а \boldsymbol{c} е С m а d d е mo ef n h e а S e G е n 0 S m а е n d t h S W n а n m b e S 0 е и b S e а m е q

Gov. Jay Inslee today already ordered the Washington Department of Corrections to take the necessary actions to discover the bug that allowed criminals to leave the jail early.



The software bug was introduced in 2002, in that year the state's supreme court introduced a change in the calculation of the "good time" credit system for all the prisoners in State Prisons and County jails,

Criteria for evaluating the good behavior of prisoners were introduced to allow guests of state prisons to reduce the period to be served.

The DoCs released a new version of software that implemented the new rules, but it introduced also a bug, but it is important to highlight that the Department of Corrections (DoC) has been informed of the software bug at least 3 years ago. In December, 2012 in fact, the familiars of an assault victim reported the issue to the Department of Corrections.

The US Department of Corrections accepted the claim and filed a request pranking the error as "time sensitive." This means that the US Department urged a solution as soon as possible, but something went wrong.

"Between December 2012 and this month, the software fix "was repeatedly delayed," according to a DOC timeline of events. The delays occurred despite the fact a DOC worker who filed the service request labeled the fix as time sensitive and "ASAP." Reported the Seattle Times. "Typically, IT fixes are put into a queue according to priority, said Brown. But, "What we know, I think, at a bare minimum, is the proper prioritization did not occur," he said."

Three years to fix a time sensitive bug that could have effects on people security. Simply absurd!

Now something seems to be changing, Inslee assured that the software bug will be fixed within the January 7th.

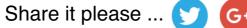
Waiting for the fix, the US DOC has requested □ double checks before releasing any prisoner.

"The governor ordered DOC to halt all releases of impacted offenders from prison until a hand calculation is done to ensure the offender is being released on the correct date. A broader software fix is expected to be in place by Jan. 7, 2016." continues the official statement.

"In addition, DOC is working swiftly to locate offenders who were released from prison prior to their actual earned release date and ensure they fulfill their sentences as required by law. In□ accordance with Supreme Court precedent, most of the offenders who were released early will be given with day for day credit for their time in the community. Depending on how much time they have left to serve, the offenders will go to work release or back to prison."

Pierluigi Paganini

(Security Affairs – Department of Corrections, software bug)















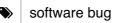




1. Password Management







Justice

US Department of Corrections

SHARE ON

















Pierluigi Paganini

Pierluigi Paganini is Chief

Information Security Officer at□ Bit4Id, firm leader in identity□ management, member of the ENISA (European Union Agency for Network and Information Security)Treat Landscape Stakeholder Group, he is also a Security Evangelist, Security Analyst and Freelance Writer. Editor-in-Chief at "Cyber Defense Magazine", Pierluigi is a cyber security expert with over 20 years experience in the field,□ he is Certified Ethical Hacker at□ EC Council in London. The passion for writing and a strong belief that security is founded on sharing and awareness led Pierluigi to find the security blog□ "Security Affairs" recently named a Top National Security Resource for US. Pierluigi is a

member of the "The Hacker
News" team and he is a writer for
some major publications in the
field such as Cyber War Zone,□
ICTTF, Infosec Island, Infosec
Institute, The Hacker News
Magazine and for many other
Security magazines. Author of
the Books "The Deep Dark Web"
and "Digital Virtual Currency and
Bitcoin".

PREVIOUS ARTICLE

Are Russian hackers infecting critical infrastructure in Ukraine?

NEXT ARTICLE

The Tor Project Is launching the Tor Bug Bounty Program

1. Password Management



2. Detect Spyware



3. Best Anti-Spyware



4. 10 Fastest Computers



5. Internet Privacy Protection









。 +Pierluigi Paganini

Pierluigi Paganini is Chief Information
Security Officer at Bit4Id, firm leader in□
identity management, member of the
ENISA (European Union Agency for
Network and Information Security)
Threat Landscape Stakeholder Group,
he is also a Security Evangelist,
Security Analyst and Freelance Writer.
Editor-in-Chief at "Cyber Defense
Magazine".

1. Password Management Software	()
2. Detect Spyware	()
3. Best Anti Spyware	()
4. 10 Fastest Computers	()
5. Internet Privacy Protection	()
6. Wireless Phone Reviews	()
7. Cheap Computers Online	()
8. Top 10 Gadgets	()

Copyright 2015 Security Affairs by Pierluigi Paganin All Right Reserved.

 \Box

Back to top ^