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BRIEFINGS

Diving into Windows Remote Access Service for Pre-Auth Bugs

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Cyber Kunlun

Whoami

Yuki Chen (@guhe120)

- Bug Hunter & Bug Bounty Lover
- Winner of multiple targets at Pwn2Own 15/16/17, Tianfu Cup 18/19/20
- Four times yearly #1 of MSRC most valuable security researchers
- Won 2 Pwnie Awards – Best RCE and Epic Achievement
- Hardcore ACG Otaku



Some of my bugs

CVE-2014-0290,CVE-2014-0321,CVE-2014-1753,CVE-2014-1769,CVE-2014-1782,CVE-2014-1804,CVE-2014-2768,CVE-2014-2802,CVE-2014-2803,CVE-2014-2824,CVE-2014-4057,CVE-2014-4092,CVE-2014-4091,CVE-2014-4095,CVE-2014-4096,CVE-2014-4097,CVE-2014-4082,CVE-2014-4105,CVE-2014-4129,CVE-2014-6369,CVE-2015-0029,CVE-2015-1745,CVE-2015-1743,CVE-2015-3134,CVE-2015-3135,CVE-2015-4431,CVE-2015-5552,CVE-2015-5553,CVE-2015-5559,CVE-2015-6682,CVE-2015-7635,CVE-2015-7636,CVE-2015-7637,CVE-2015-7638,CVE-2015-7639,CVE-2015-7640,CVE-2015-7641,CVE-2015-7642,CVE-2015-7643,CVE-2015-8454,CVE-2015-8059,CVE-2015-8058,CVE-2015-8055,CVE-2015-8057,CVE-2015-8056,CVE-2015-8061,CVE-2015-8067,CVE-2015-8066,CVE-2015-8062,CVE-2015-8068,CVE-2015-8064,CVE-2015-8065,CVE-2015-8063,CVE-2015-8405,CVE-2015-8404,CVE-2015-8402,CVE-2015-8403,CVE-2015-8071,CVE-2015-8401,CVE-2015-8406,CVE-2015-8069,CVE-2015-8070,CVE-2015-8440,CVE-2015-8409,CVE-2015-8047,CVE-2015-8455,CVE-2015-8045,CVE-2015-8441,CVE-2016-0980,CVE-2016-1015,CVE-2016-1016,CVE-2016-1017,CVE-2016-4120,CVE-2016-4160,CVE-2016-4161,CVE-2016-4162,CVE-2016-4163,CVE-2016-4185,CVE-2016-4249,CVE-2016-4180,CVE-2016-4181,CVE-2016-4183,CVE-2016-4184,CVE-2016-4186,CVE-2016-4187,CVE-2016-4233,CVE-2016-4234,CVE-2016-4235,CVE-2016-4236,CVE-2016-4237,CVE-2016-4238,CVE-2016-4239,CVE-2016-4240,CVE-2016-4241,CVE-2016-4242,CVE-2016-4243,CVE-2016-4244,CVE-2016-4245,CVE-2016-4246,CVE-2016-4182,CVE-2016-3375,CVE-2017-3001,CVE-2017-3002,CVE-2017-3003,CVE-2017-0238,CVE-2017-0236,CVE-2017-8549,CVE-2017-8619,CVE-2017-11887,CVE-2017-11913,CVE-2017-11846,CVE-2017-8753,CVE-2018-8618,CVE-2018-8544,CVE-2018-8367,CVE-2018-8372,CVE-2018-8242,CVE-2018-8236,CVE-2018-1022,CVE-2018-0951,CVE-2018-0953,CVE-2018-8122,CVE-2018-8114,CVE-2018-0955,CVE-2018-0954,CVE-2018-1000,CVE-2018-0981,CVE-2018-0988,CVE-2018-0997,CVE-2018-1004,CVE-2018-0994,CVE-2018-0872,CVE-2018-0866,CVE-2018-0834,CVE-2018-0798,CVE-2018-0807,CVE-2018-0845,CVE-2018-0802,CVE-2018-0806,CVE-2018-0805,CVE-2018-0849,CVE-2018-0848,CVE-2018-0862,CVE-2018-0804,CVE-2018-0801,CVE-2018-0812,CVE-2019-1485,CVE-2019-1484,CVE-2019-1390,CVE-2019-1239,CVE-2019-1238,CVE-2019-1060,CVE-2019-1237,CVE-2019-1236,CVE-2019-1221,CVE-2019-1057,CVE-2019-1004,CVE-2019-1001,CVE-2019-1059,CVE-2019-1056,CVE-2019-0988,CVE-2019-1055,CVE-2019-1005,CVE-2019-0810,CVE-2019-0862,CVE-2019-0842,CVE-2019-0806,CVE-2019-0795,CVE-2019-0794,CVE-2019-0793,CVE-2019-0792,CVE-2019-0791,CVE-2019-0790,CVE-2019-0753,CVE-2019-0667,CVE-2019-0592,CVE-2019-0773,CVE-2019-0772,CVE-2019-0639,CVE-2019-0665,CVE-2019-0611,CVE-2019-0680,CVE-2019-0756,CVE-2019-0666,CVE-2019-0651,CVE-2019-0591,CVE-2019-0655,CVE-2019-0610,CVE-2019-0606,CVE-2019-0605,CVE-2019-0652,CVE-2019-0567,CVE-2020-16964,CVE-2020-16962,CVE-2020-16961,CVE-2020-16960,CVE-2020-16959,CVE-2020-16958,CVE-2020-16963,CVE-2020-17055,CVE-2020-17044,CVE-2020-17034,CVE-2020-17028,CVE-2020-17027,CVE-2020-17025,CVE-2020-17033,CVE-2020-17032,CVE-2020-17031,CVE-2020-17026,CVE-2020-16974,CVE-2020-16975,CVE-2020-16972,CVE-2020-16905,CVE-2020-16876,CVE-2020-16976,CVE-2020-16973,CVE-2020-16936,CVE-2020-16912,CVE-2020-16887,CVE-2020-1133,CVE-2020-1052,CVE-2020-0912,CVE-2020-1598,CVE-2020-1491,CVE-2020-1376,CVE-2020-1130,CVE-2020-0922,CVE-2020-1579,CVE-2020-1567,CVE-2020-1551,CVE-2020-1547,CVE-2020-1536,CVE-2020-1539,CVE-2020-1535,CVE-2020-1534,CVE-2020-1519,CVE-2020-1546,CVE-2020-1545,CVE-2020-1544,CVE-2020-1543,CVE-2020-1542,CVE-2020-1541,CVE-2020-1540,CVE-2020-1428,CVE-2020-1427,CVE-2020-1430,CVE-2020-1411,CVE-2020-1390,CVE-2020-1373,CVE-2020-1365,CVE-2020-1336,CVE-2020-1437,CVE-2020-1406,CVE-2020-1403,CVE-2020-1388,CVE-2020-1371,CVE-2020-1354,CVE-2020-1085,CVE-2020-1257,CVE-2020-1255,CVE-2020-1197,CVE-2020-1278,CVE-2020-1271,CVE-2020-1260,CVE-2020-1216,CVE-2020-1214,CVE-2020-1212,CVE-2020-1234,CVE-2020-1293,CVE-2020-1281,CVE-2020-1230,CVE-2020-1215,CVE-2020-1203,CVE-2020-1202,CVE-2020-1132,CVE-2020-1064,CVE-2020-1058,CVE-2020-1056,CVE-2020-1093,CVE-2020-1060,CVE-2020-1067,CVE-2020-1035,CVE-2020-1021,CVE-2020-1061,CVE-2020-1015,CVE-2020-0967,CVE-2020-0966,CVE-2020-0895,CVE-2020-0833,CVE-2020-0832,CVE-2020-0831,CVE-2020-0824,CVE-2020-0847,CVE-2020-0640,CVE-2021-40469,CVE-2021-40467,CVE-2021-40466,CVE-2021-26435,CVE-2021-36963,CVE-2021-34534,CVE-2021-33746,CVE-2021-34525,CVE-2021-34442,CVE-2021-34497,CVE-2021-34447,CVE-2021-34494,CVE-2021-33780,CVE-2021-33756,CVE-2021-33754,CVE-2021-33752,CVE-2021-33750,CVE-2021-33749,CVE-2021-31194,CVE-2021-28434,CVE-2021-28358,CVE-2021-28357,CVE-2021-28356,CVE-2021-28355,CVE-2021-28354,CVE-2021-28353,CVE-2021-28352,CVE-2021-28346,CVE-2021-28345,CVE-2021-28344,CVE-2021-28343,CVE-2021-28342,CVE-2021-28341,CVE-2021-28340,CVE-2021-28339,CVE-2021-28338,CVE-2021-28337,CVE-2021-28336,CVE-2021-28335,CVE-2021-28334,CVE-2021-28333,CVE-2021-28332,CVE-2021-28331,CVE-2021-28330,CVE-2021-28329,CVE-2021-27088,CVE-2021-26901,CVE-2021-26899,CVE-2021-26898,CVE-2021-26872,CVE-2021-24103,CVE-2021-24102,CVE-2021-1673,CVE-2021-1667,CVE-2021-1658,CVE-2021-1649,CVE-2021-1702,CVE-2021-1701,CVE-2021-1700,CVE-2021-1671,CVE-2021-1666,CVE-2021-1664,CVE-2021-1660,CVE-2022-44670,CVE-2022-44676,CVE-2022-41039,CVE-2022-41088,CVE-2022-41081,CVE-2022-30198,CVE-2022-22035,CVE-2022-33634,CVE-2022-24504,CVE-2022-38000,CVE-2022-38048,CVE-2022-38047,CVE-2022-35830,CVE-2022-34722,CVE-2022-34721,CVE-2022-35794,CVE-2022-35767,CVE-2022-35766,CVE-2022-35753,CVE-2022-35752,CVE-2022-35745,CVE-2022-35744,CVE-2022-34714,CVE-2022-34702,CVE-2022-22039,CVE-2022-22038,CVE-2022-22029,CVE-2022-30161,CVE-2022-30153,CVE-2022-30149,CVE-2022-30146,CVE-2022-30143,CVE-2022-30142,CVE-2022-30141,CVE-2022-30139,CVE-2022-30136,CVE-2022-29141,CVE-2022-29139,CVE-2022-29137,CVE-2022-29131,CVE-2022-29130,CVE-2022-29129,CVE-2022-29128,CVE-2022-22014,CVE-2022-22013,CVE-2022-22012,CVE-2022-26937,CVE-2022-21972,CVE-2022-23270,CVE-2022-26919,CVE-2022-26825,CVE-2022-26824,CVE-2022-26823,CVE-2022-26822,CVE-2022-26821,CVE-2022-26820,CVE-2022-26819,CVE-2022-26818,CVE-2022-26817,CVE-2022-26815,CVE-2022-26814,CVE-2022-26813,CVE-2022-26812,CVE-2022-26811,CVE-2022-24500,CVE-2022-24497,CVE-2022-24541,CVE-2022-24492,CVE-2022-24534,CVE-2022-24485,CVE-2022-24528,CVE-2022-21983,CVE-2023-24903,CVE-2023-28283,CVE-2023-28240,CVE-2023-28238,CVE-2023-28220,CVE-2023-28219,CVE-2023-23404,CVE-2023-23414,CVE-2023-23407,CVE-2023-23385,CVE-2023-21692,CVE-2023-21712,CVE-2023-21679,CVE-2023-21556,CVE-2023-21555,CVE-2023-21548,CVE-2023-21546,CVE-2023-21535

Highlights of This Session

A walk through of a bug hunting project

- ✓ Windows RAS VPN components
- ✓ Examples of pre-auth remote bugs & bug patterns in windows RAS
- ✓ Not only result but also approach & thoughts during the research
- ✓ Windows bounty experience
- ✗ Exploiting details of the bugs is beyond the scope

Agenda

- Background
- Windows Remote Access Service
- PPTP
- Authentication Protocols
- SSTP
- L2TP
- IKE
- Future Work & Take Aways



Background

Initiative of the Research

- Read this blog last April

CVE-2022-23253 – Windows VPN Remote Kernel Null Pointer Dereference

By [Alex Nichols](#) | March 22, 2022

- Alex Nicols (@i4mchr00t) blogs a remote Null Pointer DoS bug he found in Windows PPTP
- Root cause: Failed to handle the case where control commands are sent in wrong sequence

Why it's Interesting – From a Bug Bounty Hunter's View

- No Windows PPTP server bugs discussed before
 - Blue Ocean
 - The bug is fresh: not many competitors now
- The bug looks relatively simple
 - Code quality not so good & Not well audited
- Remote & Pre-auth & No user interaction & Server side

Introduction to Microsoft WIP Bounty Program

General Awards

Security Impact	Maximum Award
Remote Code Execution	\$5,000
Elevation of Privilege	\$2,000
Security Feature Bypass	\$1,000
Information Disclosure	\$1,000
Spoofing	\$1,000
Tampering	\$1,000
Denial of Service	\$500

Attack Scenario Awards*

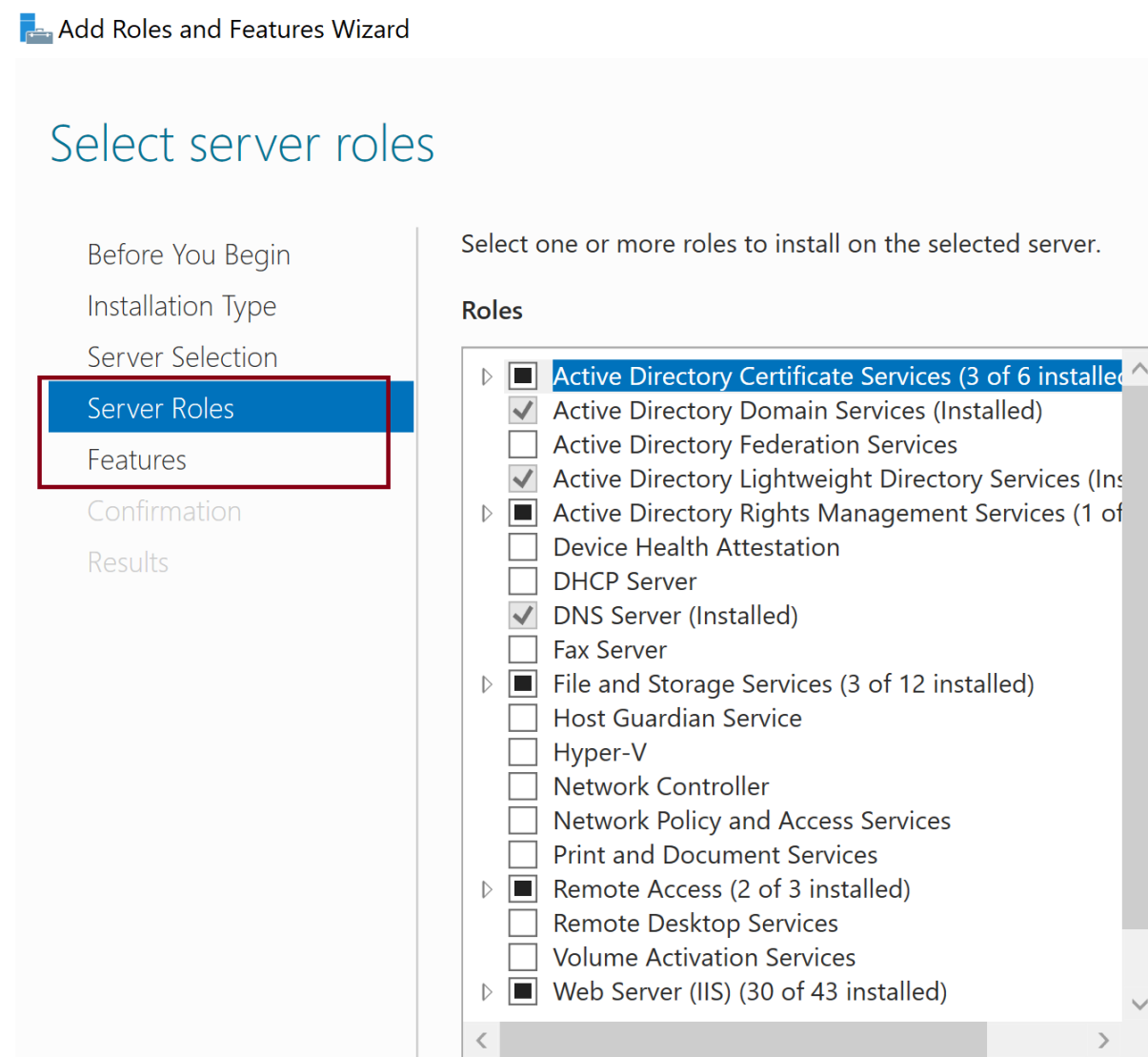
Attack Vector	Scenario	Maximum Award
Remote (assumes no prior execution)	Unauthenticated ¹ non-sandboxed code execution with no user interaction	\$100,000
	Demonstrated ² unauthenticated and unauthorized access to private ³ user data or data that can be used to weaken existing user protections with little ⁴ or no user interaction	\$50,000
	Unauthenticated data destruction or persistent denial of service with no user interaction	\$30,000
Local (assumes prior execution)	Sandbox ⁵ escape with little or no user interaction	\$20,000
	Demonstrated unauthorized access to private user data from a sandboxed ⁵ process with no user interaction	\$20,000

Attack Scenario – Before Starting

- High risk high return: more difficult to find bug than general bugs
- Before starting
 - Read every line in the bounty page carefully
 - Check the up-to-date out-of-scope section timely
 - Fully understand the attack scenarios
 - * Web browser RCE **User Interaction**
 - * Office RCE when user opens a document **User Interaction**
 - * Domain user achieved RCE in domain controller **Authentication**
 - * Pre-auth, no user interaction, but non-default configuration **Depends on reviewer**

Where are the Pre-auth Targets

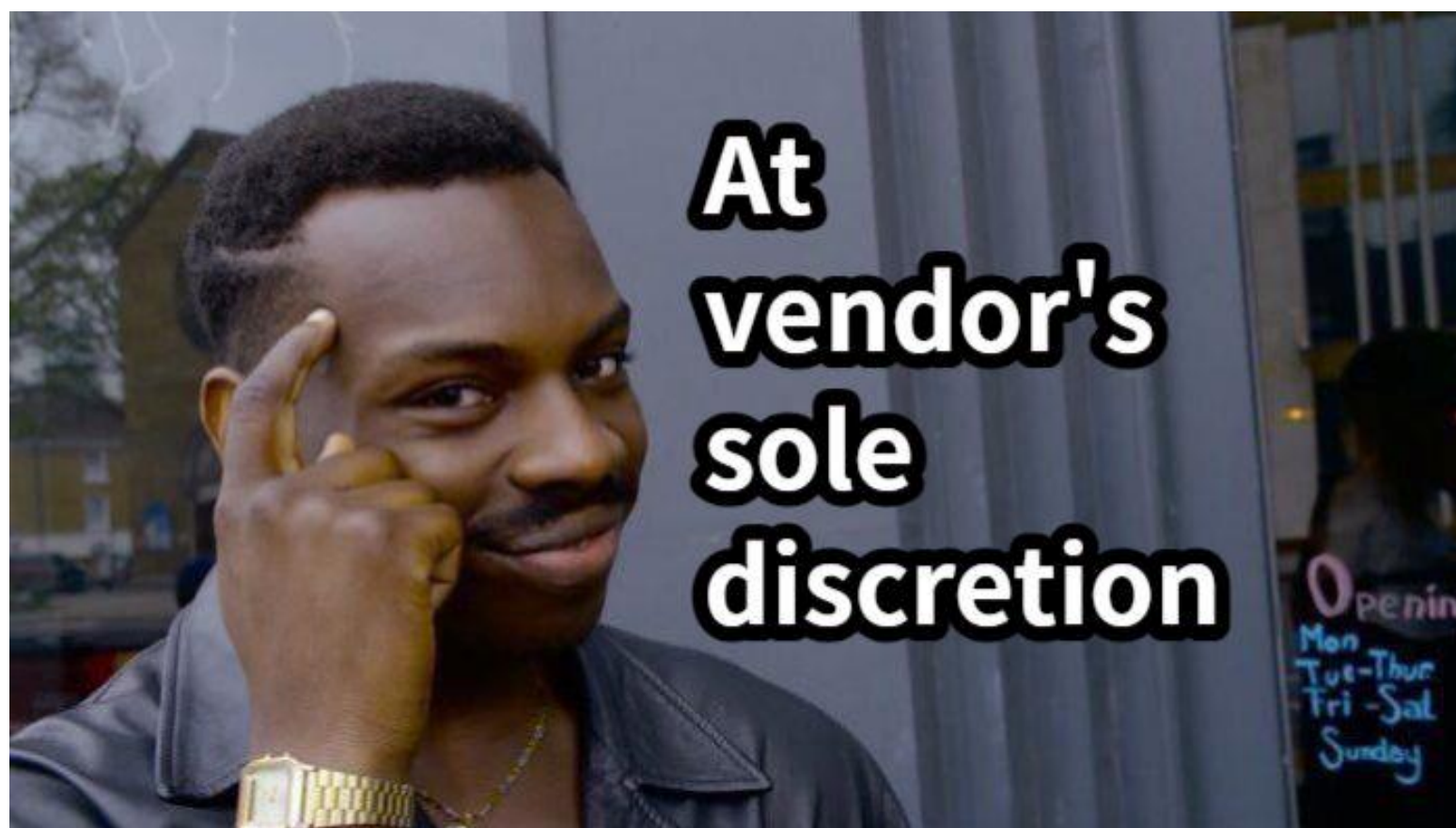
- Learn & get inspired from other researchers' work
 - Researchers on MSRC MVP list: their recent bugs?
- Explore & learn Windows features for you potential pre-auth target





A Good Temper is the Most Important When Playing Bug Bounty Program

- Repeat below sentence 1000 times before you starting





Windows Remote Access Service

Windows Remote Access Service

- Provides remote access to clients
- **Direct Access & VPN**
- Routing
- Proxy
- Implemented in numbers of kernel drivers & user mode services
- Windows Server & Azure Cloud

Microsoft RAS

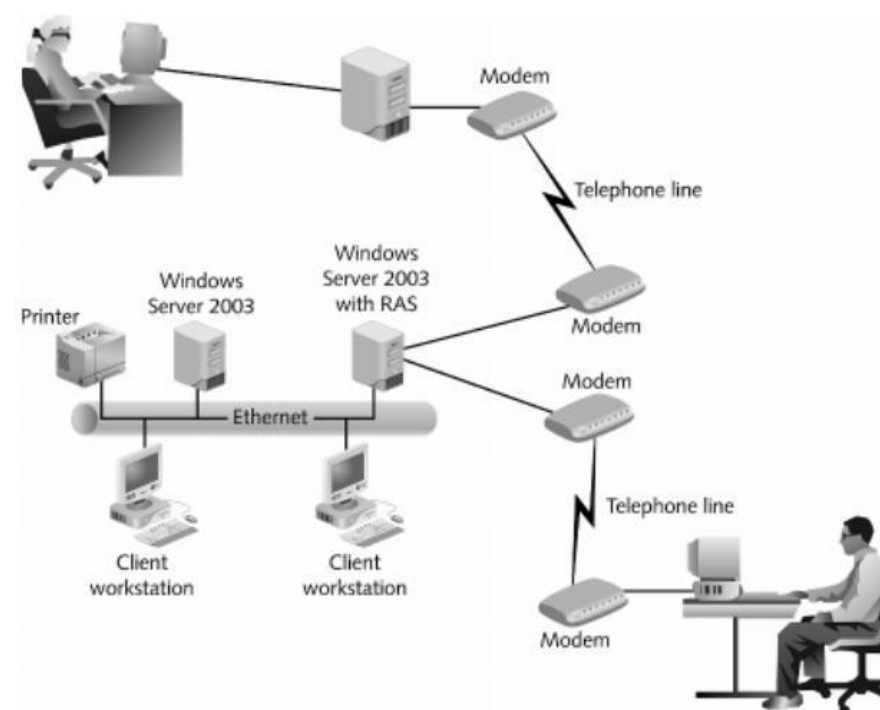


Figure 9-7 Remotely accessing a network through Microsoft RAS



PPTP

PPTP - Point-to-Point Tunneling Protocol

- A decades-old protocol for VPN
- Use 2 channels
- Control channel – TCP 1723
- Data channel – Use Generic Routing Encapsulation (GRE) to encapsulate the PPP (Point-to-Point Protocol)

PPTP
Client



Control Channel
(TCP 1723)

Data Channel
- Tunneling PPP
Protocol
(Layer 2 GRE)

Start-Control-Connection-Request (establish control connection)

Start-Control-Connection-Reply

Outgoing-Call-Request (establish a new call)

Outgoing-Call-Reply

Link Control Protocol (LCP)

Authentication Protocols (AP) : EAP, PEAP, CHAP, Certificate, ...

Network Control Protocols (NCPs): IPCP, IPV6CP,...

Network packets



PPTP
Server

Private Network

Components & Pre-auth Attack Surfaces

Main control channel handling, Data channel kernel dispatch:

rasppptp.sys

Framework to manage calls, used by rasppptp.sys:

ndis.sys

Control Channel

PPP Tunneling: **rasppptp.sys**
ndis.sys **ndiswan.sys**

PPP engine: **rasppp.dll**

Authentication protocols:
rasedp.dll, rastls.dll,
raschap.dll,

Data Channel

Raspptp.sys

- TCP port 1723 & GRE packets
- Matalins control channel & call states
- The first and most straightforward component to look for bugs

TCP 1723

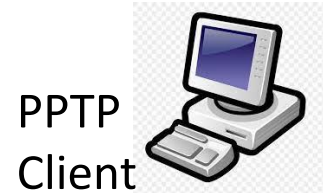
WskCreateServerSocket (Listen) ➡ ***Client Connection*** ➡
Client Packets ➡ ***CtlpReceiveCallback*** ➡ ***CtlpEngine***

GRE

WskCreateServerSocket (Listen) ➡
Client Packets ➡ ***CallReceiveDatagramCallback***

Raspptp.sys - Key Data Structures

- **Control:** Represents a control channel between client and server, a *ControlObject* is created when a client successfully connects to the server TCP port 1723
- **Call:** Represents a PPTP call between client and server, a *CallObject* is created when the server handles clients' Outgoing-Call-Request/Incoming-Call-Request. Multiple *Calls* can be associated to a single *Control*, and are linked in a double-linked list
- **NdisVcHandle:** A NDIS_HANDLE, represents a virtual call in the NDIS framework, used by both kernel driver and user mode service to access a PPTP connection. Each *Call* contains a *NdisVcHandle*



Connect

.....

Outgoing-Call-Request

Outgoing-Call-Request

.....

Outgoing-Call-Request

Create Control



Create Calls

Control

Call List

Call 1

NdisVcHandle

Unique Call Id

Call 2

NdisVcHandle

Unique Call Id

Call N

NdisVcHandle

Unique Call Id

Raspptp.sys - Where to Look for Bugs

- Packet/Message parsing/handling
 - Control messages/State machine
 - PPP framing (embedded in GRE)
- Object life cycle management
 - Control, Call, NdisVcHandle, with complex cross references
 - Multi-threading access
 - **Use after free/Race condition**



Race Condition – What the Developer Think



Race Condition – What's Actual Happening



A Simple Fuzzer for Quick Proofing

- Developed a simple fuzzer:
 1. Create a connection to server
 2. Create some calls for this connection
 3. Create some threads which randomly perform below actions:
 - 2.1 Send call related messages to the server (create/destroy/setting)
 - 2.2 Send control related messages to the server (create/destroy)
 - 2.3 Close the connection

Result of the Fuzzing

- Got multiple UAF/NPD race condition crashes in minutes



```
MISALIGNED_IP:
nt!KeAcquireSpinLockRaiseToDpc+53
fffff800`21ae7783 0000      add     byte ptr [rax],al
```

```
STACK TEXT:
ffffa309`033d4a30 fffff800`2234adb0 : fffffb09`41238dc8 fffffb09`4124eda0 fffffb09`4124ed00 fffff800`2234aefb : nt!KeAcquireSpinLockRaiseToDpc+0x53
ffffa309`033d4a60 fffff800`22349892 : fffffb09`4124ed40 fffffb09`4124eda0 fffffb09`3a247530 fffff800`2234a287 : nt!ViKeAcquireSpinLockRaiseToDpcCommon+0x3c
ffffa309`033d4a90 fffff800`25b5228c : fffffb09`4124ed40 fffff800`25b52d8a fffffb09`41238dc8 fffffb09`41238da8 : nt!VerifierKeAcquireSpinLockRaiseToDpc+0x12
ffffa309`033d4ad0 fffff800`25b62758 : fffff800`24259000 fffffb09`3a26d000 00000000`000000e2 fffff800`25b6275d : rasptp!CallCleanup+0x74
ffffa309`033d4b00 fffff800`25b56e3f : fffffb09`3a26d040 00000000`00000000 fffff800`25b56e40 fffff800`25b56e6d : rasptp!CtLpCleanup+0x108
ffffa309`033d4b90 fffffb09`3a26d040 : 00000000`00000000 fffff800`25b56e40 fffff800`25b56e6d 00000000`00000000 : rasptp!WPP_SF_sddd+0xa7
ffffa309`033d4b98 00000000`00000000 : fffff800`25b56e40 fffff800`25b56e6d 00000000`00000000 fffffb09`41266fd0 : 0xfffffb09`3a26d040
```

```
CONTEXT: fffff800`25b56e7d130 -- (.cxr 0xfffff800`25b56e7d130)
rax=0000000000000001 rbx=fffff800`d8ab998b0 rcx=fffff801`7cbbf180
rdx=0000000000000000 rsi=0000000000000001 rdi=fffff80d`86285a90
rip=fffff80d`ead5acd1 rsp=fffff800`25b56e7db20 rbp=0000000000000000
r8=fffff80d`85718cd0 r9=fffff8000000000000 r10=00007fffffff
r11=fffff800`25b56e7da70 r12=fffff80181fb8298 r13=00000000ffffffff
r14=fffff80d`85718cd0 r15=fffff80181fba000
iopl=0         nv up ei pl zr na po nc
cs=0010  ss=0018  ds=002b  es=002b  fs=0053  gs=002b             efl=00010246
NDIS!NdisCmDispatchIncomingCall+0x81:
fffff80d`ead5acd1 0000      add     byte ptr [rax],al ds:002b:00000000`00000001??
```

```
0: kd> .cxr
0: kd> k
# Child-SP          RetAddr          Call Site
00 fffff807`34461db8 fffff807`31f37892 nt!DbgBreakPointWithStatus
01 fffff807`34461dc0 fffff807`31f37017 nt!KiBugCheckDebugBreak+0x12
02 fffff807`34461e20 fffff807`31e62427 nt!KeBugCheck2+0x957
03 fffff807`34462540 fffff807`31fa0f59 nt!KeBugCheckEx+0x107
04 fffff807`34462580 fffff807`31fa0fb8 nt!RtlpHeapHandleError+0x29
05 fffff807`344625c0 fffff807`31fa0be1 nt!RtlpHpHeapHandleError+0x58
06 fffff807`344625f0 fffff807`31e930dc nt!RtlpLogHeapFailure+0x45
07 fffff807`34462620 fffff807`31ff2733 nt!RtlpHpLfhSubsegmentFreeBlock+0x1abb7c
```

What's Next

- The fuzzing result gives a quick proof
 - raspptp.sys is vulnerable to race condition
- Time for manual auditing
 - Found 20+ race condition RCEs by manual auditing

Case Study – Call Use After Free

Thread 1 – Client sends Call-Disconnect-Notify request with a CallId

CtlpEngine

{

...

For each Call in Control.CallList:

if Call.id == CallId:

break

// No Lock, no reference counter

CallEventCallDisconnectNotify(Call)

}

Thread 2 – Client close the same connection

CtlpCleanup

{

...

For each Call in Control.CallList:

// Free the call, no lock

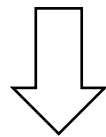
CallCleanup(Call)

}

Race Window

Case Study – Control Use After Free

Thread 1 – Client closes the connection

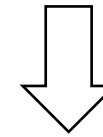


CtlDisconnectCallback

```
{  
// No Lock, no reference counter  
CtlSetState(pControl, 7)  
}
```

Race Window

Thread 2 – Client sends a Stop-Control-Connection-Request

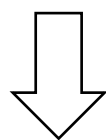


CtlpCleanup

```
{  
// Free the control object  
CtrFree(pControl)  
}
```

Case Study – NdisVcHandle After Free

Thread 1 – Client sends Incoming-Call-Request

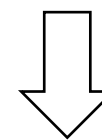


CallpNewIncomingConnection

```
{  
// No Lock, no reference counter  
NdisCmDispatchIncomingCall (...,  
pCall->NdisVcHandle  
...)  
}
```

Race Window

Thread 2 – Client sends a Call-Disconnect-Notify



CallCleanup

```
{  
// Free the NdisVcHandle  
NdisMCmDeleteVc(pCall->NdisVcHandle);  
}
```

Case Study – Call object race UAF between data Channel and control channel

Thread 1 – Client sends a GRE packet to the server (data channel)

CallReceiveDatagramCallback

```
{  
    pCall = CallGetCall(callid_from_gre_pkt)  
    // No Lock, no reference counter  
    Use pCall  
}
```

Race Window

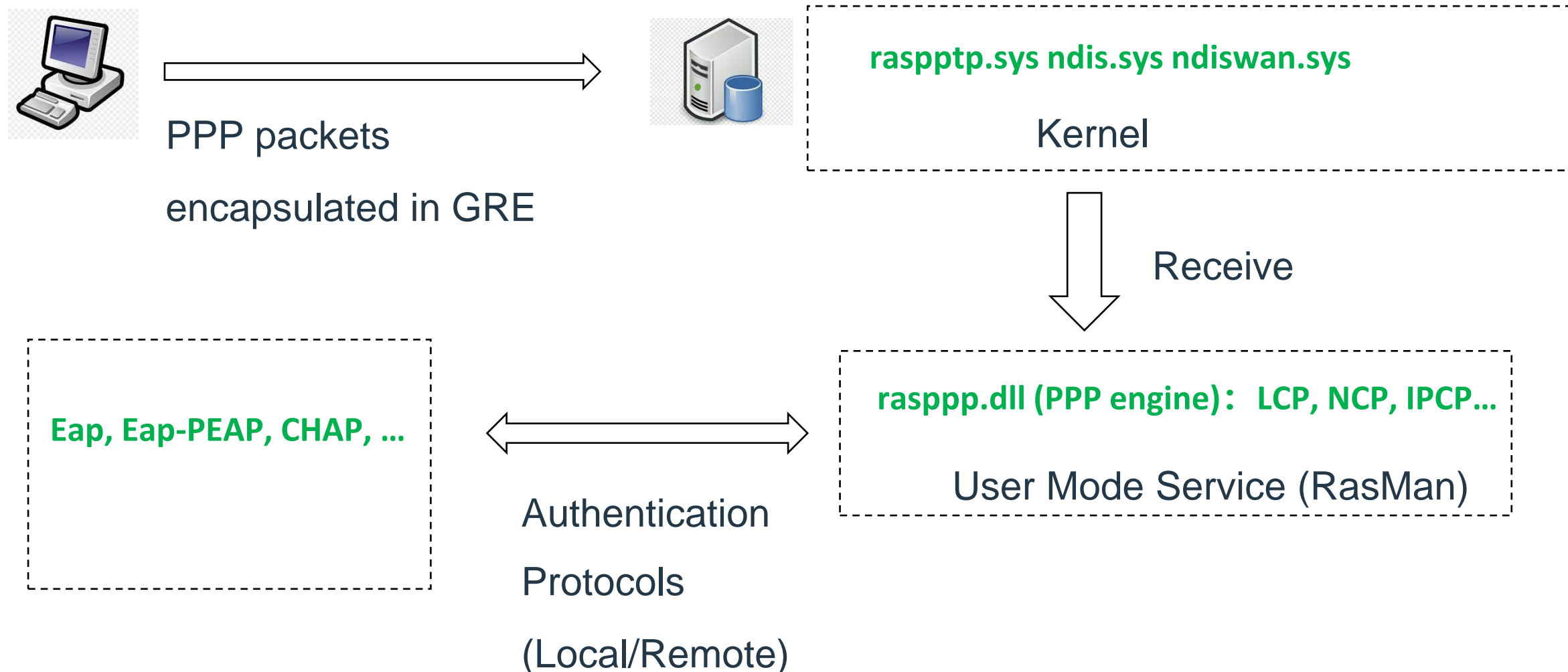
Thread 2 – Client close the TCP control channel connection (control channel)

CtlpCleanup

```
{  
    ...  
    For each Call in Control.CallList:  
        // Free the call, no lock  
        CallCleanup(pCall)  
}
```

User Mode Service

- Rasppp.dll: User mode handler of the PPP protocol



LCP - Link Control Protocol

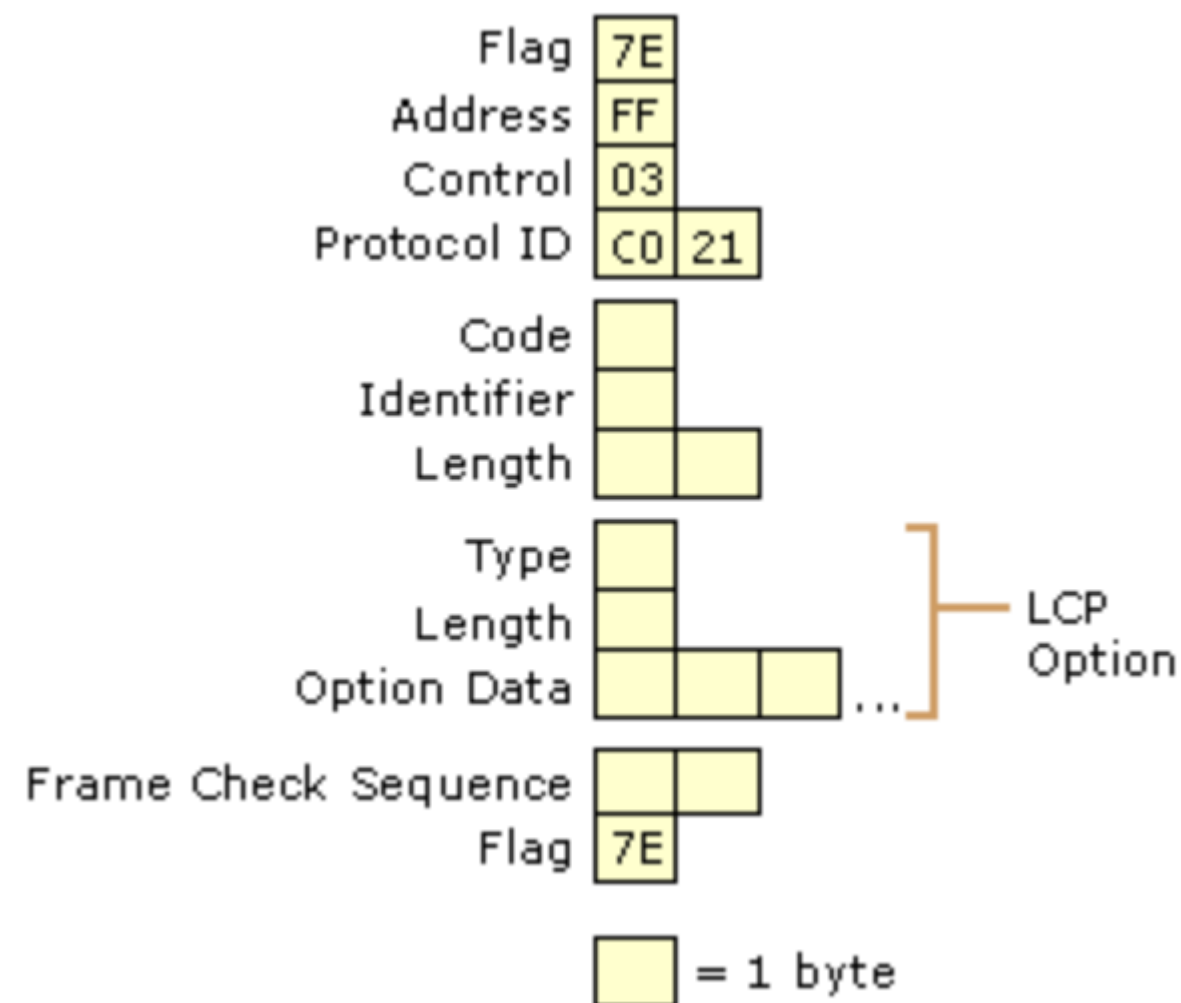
- Establishing, configuring, testing, maintaining, negating options and terminating links for transmission

Pre-auth

f	LcpBegin	.text
f	LcpConfigAckReceived	.text
f	LcpConfigNakReceived	.text
f	LcpConfigRejReceived	.text
f	LcpEnd	.text
f	LcpGetInfo	.text
f	LcpGetNegotiatedInfo	.text
f	LcpMakeConfigRequest	.text
f	LcpMakeConfigResult	.text
f	LcpReset	.text
f	LcpThisLayerDown	.text
f	LcpThisLayerStarted	.text
f	LcpThisLayerUp	.text

Case Study - LcpMakeConfigResult Heap OOB Read/Write

- Client send a Configure-Request to the server
- Server calls LcpMakeConfigResult, which will parse the request packet
- The request packet data contains 0 ~ N LCP options



Spot the Problem?

```
DWORD LcpMakeConfigResult(...)
{
    //
    // Both src and dst options buffer size is same
    //
    PPP_OPTION* pSrcOption; // From remote client
    PPP_OPTION* pDstOption; // The output options

    while (lSrcLength > 0) {
        memcpy(pDstOption, pSrcOption, pSrcOption->length);
        pSrcOption += pSrcOption->length;

        pDstOption += pDstOption->length;

        lSrcLength -= pSrcOption->length;
    }
}
```

```
LCP_OPTION
{
    BYTE type;
    BYTE length;
    Byte Data[];
}
```

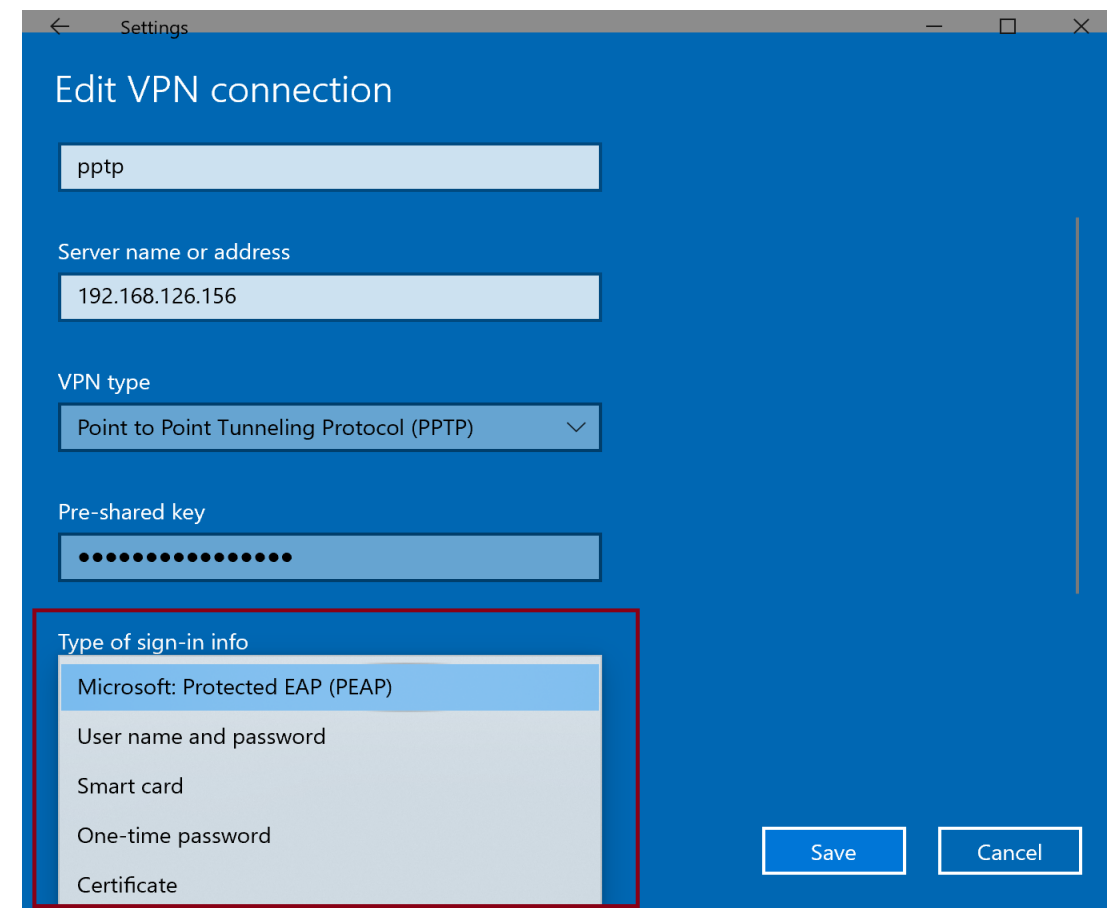
*If pSrcOption->length < 2,
then pDstOption->length will be uninitialized data,
after pDstOption += pDstOption->length,
pDstOption can exceed the buffer end*



Authentication Protocols

Authentication Protocol (AP)

- The PPP engine will call local/remote authentication service to do the real authentication
- Windows RAS supports different auth methods
- If any AP algorithm contains a bug before auth finish, it's also pre-auth

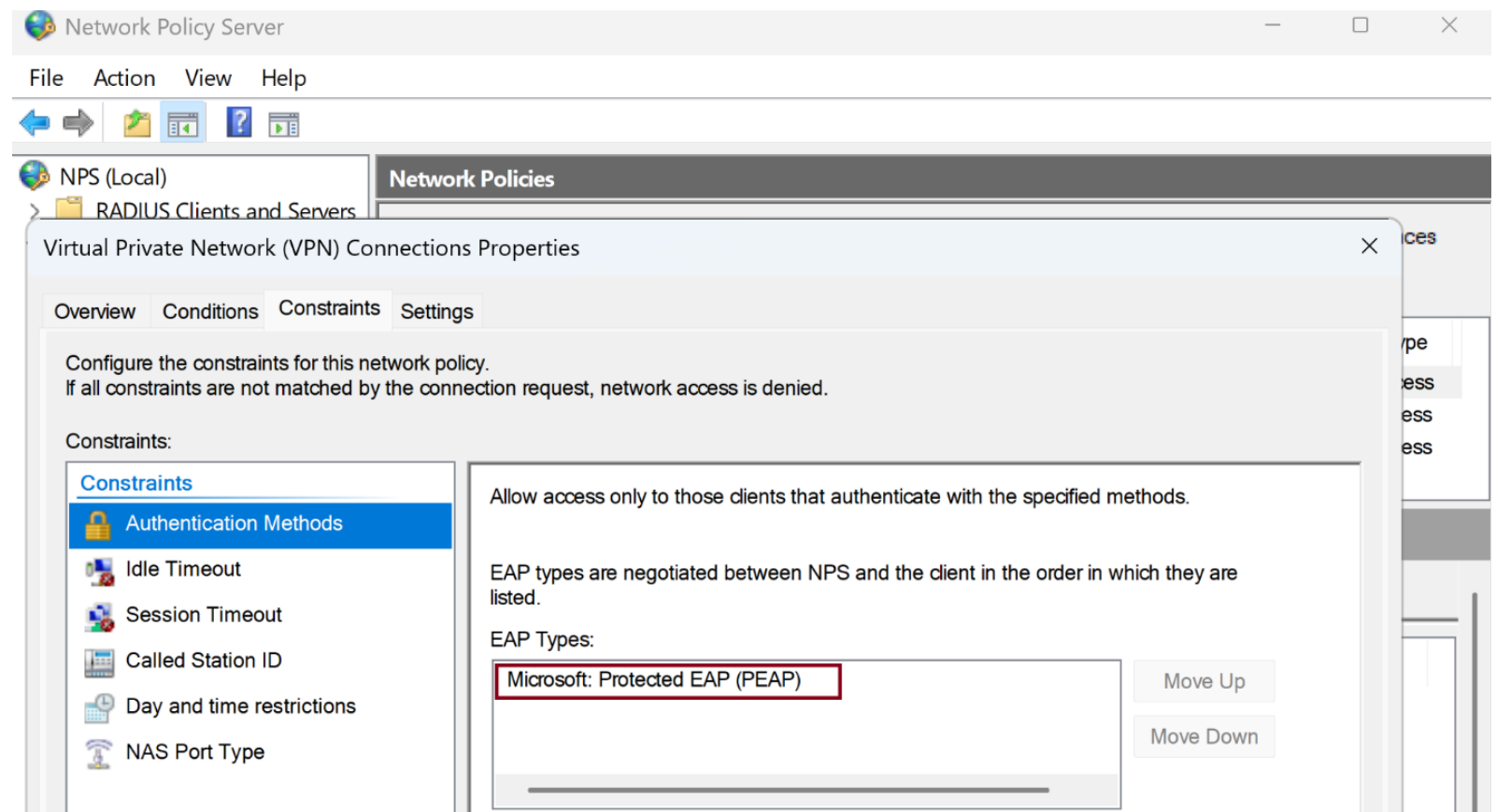


Windows VPN Authentication Protocols

- Extensible Authentication Protocol (EAP) for built-in VPN types (IKEv2, L2TP, PPTP, SSTP)
- EAP-MSCHAPv2
 - username/password, windows logon credential
- EAP-TLS
 - certificate authentication
- EAP-PEAP
 - server validation + EAP-MSCHAPv2/EAP-TLS
- TTLS
 - PAP/CHAP/MSCHAP/MSCHAPV2

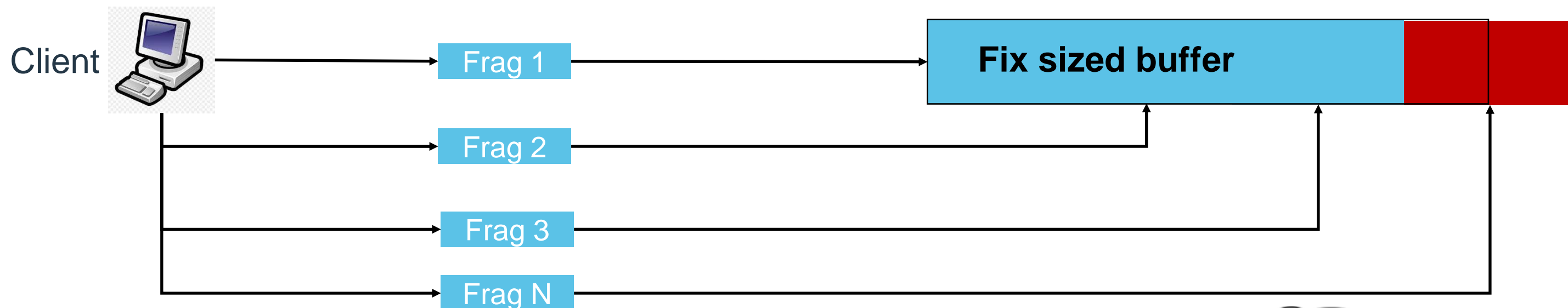
Case Study – PEAP Buffer OOB Write

- Microsoft protected EAP
EAP authentication with TLS support
More secure
Implemented in **eaptls.dll**



PEAP – Fragmentation and Reassembling

eaptls!StoreTheNextFragment



No boundary check

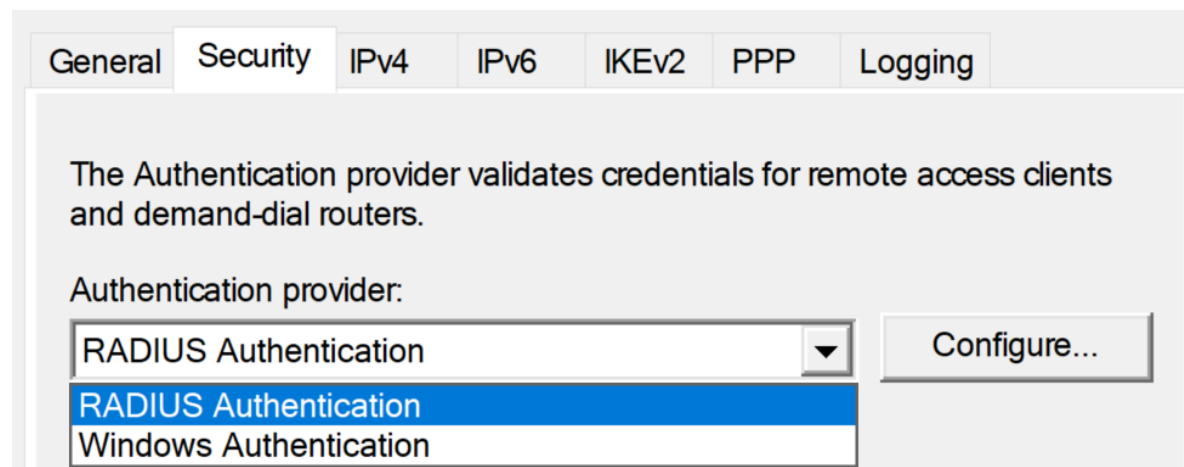




Useful tip: Whenever you see a protocol that supports fragmentation, be sure to check the fragmentation implementation.

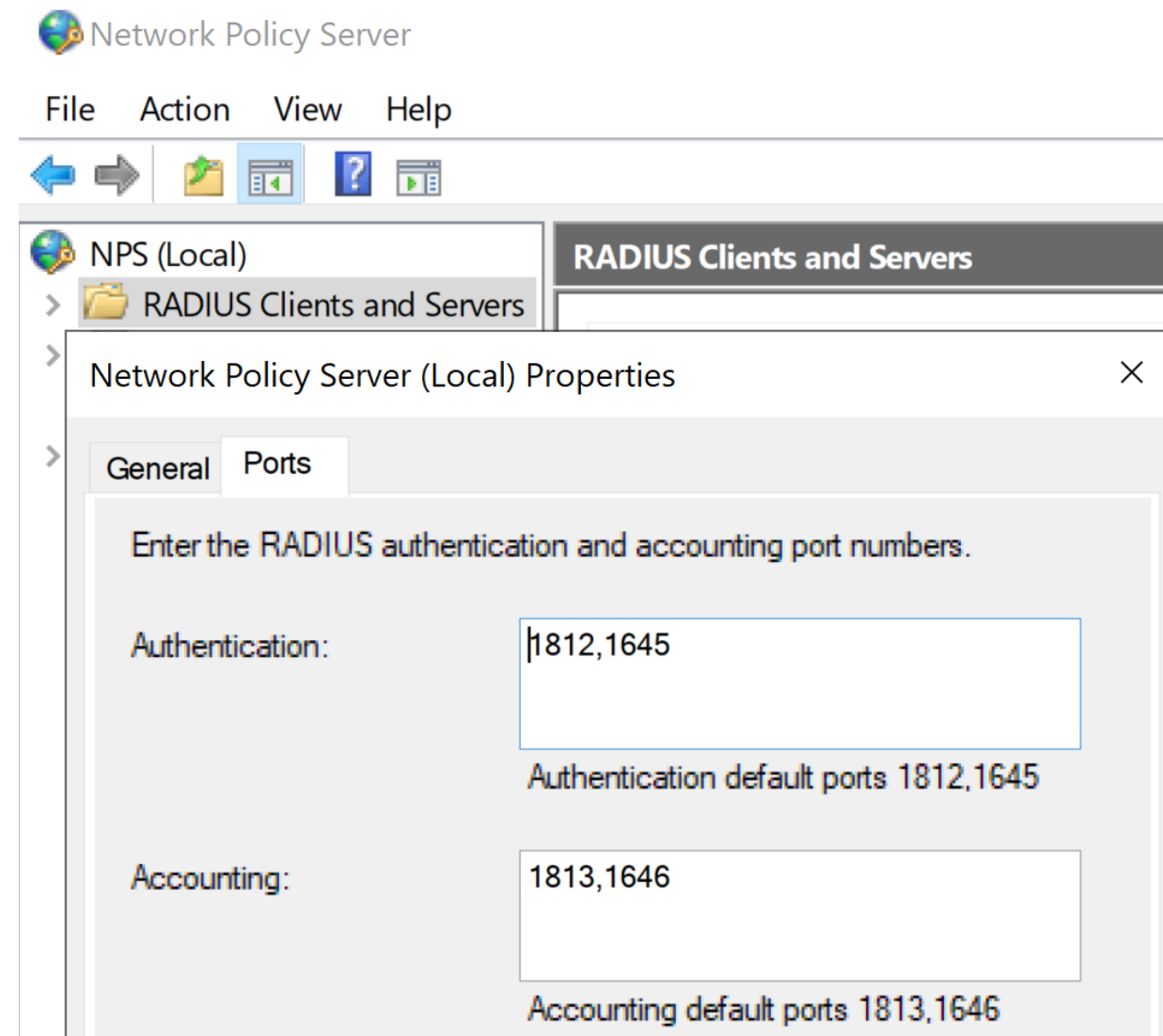
RADIUS and Windows NPS

- RADIUS: a client-server protocol for authentication and accounting
- Windows VPN server can be configured to use RADIUS authentication
- NPS (Network Policy Server) is the Microsoft implementation of the RADIUS standard



Windows NPS – Pre-auth Attack Surface

- `iasrad.dll`
- UDP ports (1812/1813, 1645/1646)
- Focus on RADIUS packets handling before authentication finish



Case Study – NPS Packet Signature Attribute Pre-Auth Remote Info Leak

```
__int64 __fastcall CValAccess::ValidateSignature(#249 *this, struct #226 *pPacketBuffer)
{
    // [COLLAPSED LOCAL DECLARATIONS. PRESS KEYPAD CTRL-"+" TO EXPAND]

    v11 = 0i64;
    (*(** (pPacketBuffer + 16) + 8i64)) (*(pPacketBuffer + 16));
    v3 = *(pPacketBuffer + 16);
    v11 = v3;
    v4 = 0;
    v5 = 1;
    pSignatureAttribute = *(pPacketBuffer + 6);
    if ( pSignatureAttribute )
        v16[0] = *(pSignatureAttribute + 2);
    else
        v5 = 0;
```

*Read 16-bytes signature from the signature attribute in the packet,
failed to validate the attribute size first*

Case Study – NPS RADIUS Proxy Server auth DoS

```
void __fastcall RadiusProxyEngine::onReceive
{
    Attributes* pAttr = packet->pAttributes;
    DWORD dwAttrCount;

    ...
    // We control pAttr->length, where is the DoS?
    for (; pAttr < pEnd; pAttr += pAttr->length)
        dwAttrCount += pAttr->length;

    ...
}
```

Infinite loop if pAttr->length == 0



Tip: When playing with windows bounty, the pre-auth remote DoS/Info Leak attack scenarios are very high cost-performance, which you shouldn't miss

Bug Collision – My Experience

- When our PPTP bug hunting was near to end, we started to have bug collisions with other researchers
 - Lucky we started early
- You don't often find **high cost-performance target** in your bug hunting career
 - Never waste a chance
 - Never delay for even a single minute when you have a fruitful target
 - Personal Opinion: Less rest/holiday until you've dig enough, longer recovery/vacation after that for compensation

Result of PPTP Bug Hunting

- Found some pre-auth RCE bugs (race condition, classic memory corruption,...)
- Became familiar with the Windows RAS architecture and related kernel/user mode components
- And now we have enough confidence & motivation to look into other RAS VPN protocols



SSTP

SSTP - Secure Socket Tunneling Protocol

- Encapsulate Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) traffic over HTTPS
- Developed by Microsoft
- Used in Azure point-to-site VPN

Header = ("""

SSTP_DUPLEX_POST /sra_{BA195980-CD49-458b-9E23-
C84EE0ADCD75}/ HTTP/1.1\r

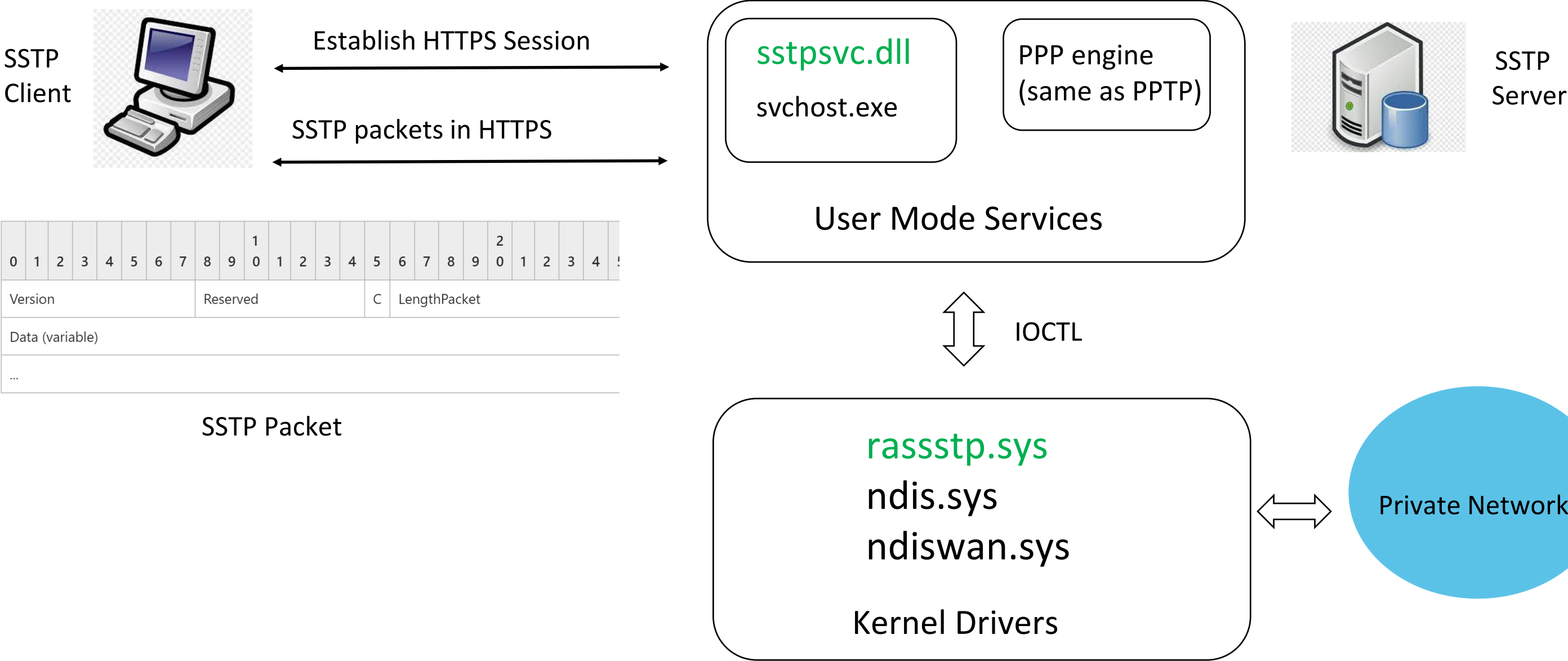
Host: %s\r

SSTPCORRELATIONID: {62DFA5C0-E2E0-FD50-D286B00}\r

Content-Length: 4096\r

\r

"" " % (HOST)).encode('utf-8')



Pre-auth Attack Surfaces

- Kernel driver: `rasstp.sys`
- Handle SSTP packets, maintain life cycle of a SSTP call
- User mode service: `sstpvc.dll`
- Maintain communication with client through HTTPs
- Communicate with kernel driver using IOCTL
- PPP engine: same as PPTP, won't discuss again

rassstp.sys

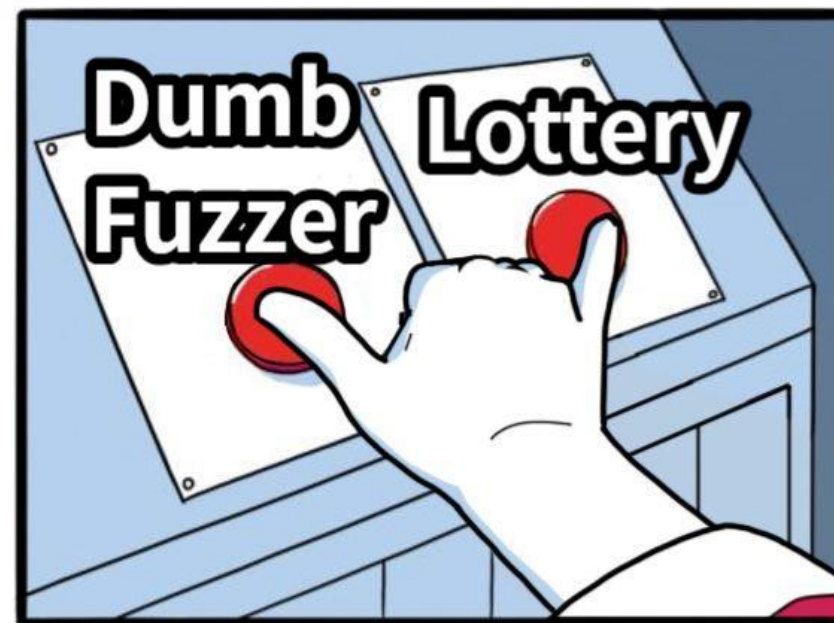
- Handles SSTP messages
- Two types of packets: data packets and control packets
 - Functionally similar to the PPTP data packets and control messages
- Maintains the whole life cycle of a SSTP session in kernel
 - SstpContext** - The most important data structure that represents a SSTP call session
- Same as PPTP, use ndis.sys/ndiswan.sys framework (whoops!)

rasstp.sys – Where to Look for Bugs?

- SSTP packet parsing, message handling
 - Control message
 - Data packet
- Session lifecycle management
 - Some similar designs to PPTP
 - UAF/Race condition?

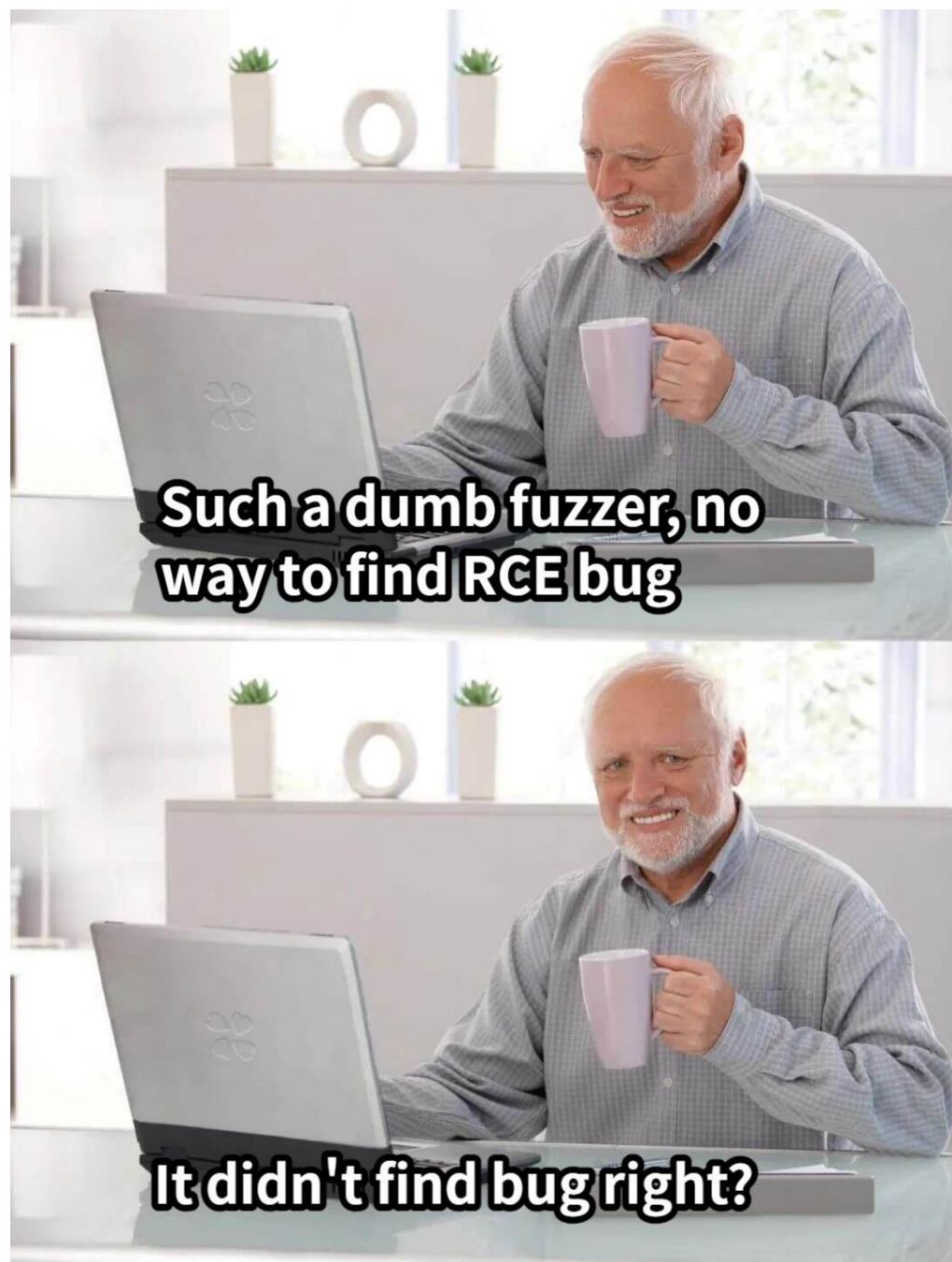
To Test Today's Luck

- Bought a lottery ticket
- Wrote a simple fuzzer in 20 minutes:
Create some threads, each thread just repeats:
 1. Send a connect packet to the server
 2. Sleep 0.5 seconds
 3. Close the connection



@Petirep

+ JAKE-CLARK.TUMBLR



The fuzzer triggered crash in 3 seconds, writing to freed memory

```
.....
For analysis of this file, run !analyze -v
l: kd> !analyze -v
*****
*
*                               Bugcheck Analysis                               *
*
*****

IRQL_NOT_LESS_OR_EQUAL (a)
An attempt was made to access a pageable (or completely invalid) address at an
interrupt request level (IRQL) that is too high.  This is usually
caused by drivers using improper addresses.
If a kernel debugger is available get the stack backtrace.
Arguments:
Arg1: fffffac843f80c8d0, memory referenced
Arg2: 0000000000000002, IRQL
Arg3: 0000000000000001, bitfield :
    bit 0 : value 0 = read operation, 1 = write operation
    bit 3 : value 0 = not an execute operation, 1 = execute operation (only c
Arg4: fffff8031a0b9d73, address which referenced memory
```

Didn't win the lottery, btw

What's Next

- Seems race condition also promising in SSTP

Improved the fuzzer to support control/data messages, found several more bugs

- Meanwhile started manual auditing

Found several race condition RCEs by manual auditing

Case Study – SstpContext Use After Free

- Found by auditing
- A common code pattern in rassstp.sys
- Try spotting the bug?

// Get SstpContext pointer from handle

```
Status = HfGetPointerFromHandle32(*(_QWORD *)(&WPP_MAIN_CB + 16) + 504), *pHandle, &pSstpContext);
```

// Increment ref counter to avoid SstpContext being freed

```
_InterlockedExchangeAdd(pSstpContext, 1u);
```

No lock protection, another thread can free SstpContext after HfGetPointerFromHandle and before _InterlockedExchangeAdd

Case Study – NdisVcHandle Use After Free

Thread 1 – Client sends a terminate request to PPP engine, the user mode service (RasMan)

tries to close the NdisVcHandle

CllncomingCloseCall

```
{  
// No Lock, no reference counter  
Access NdisVcHandle  
}
```

Race Window

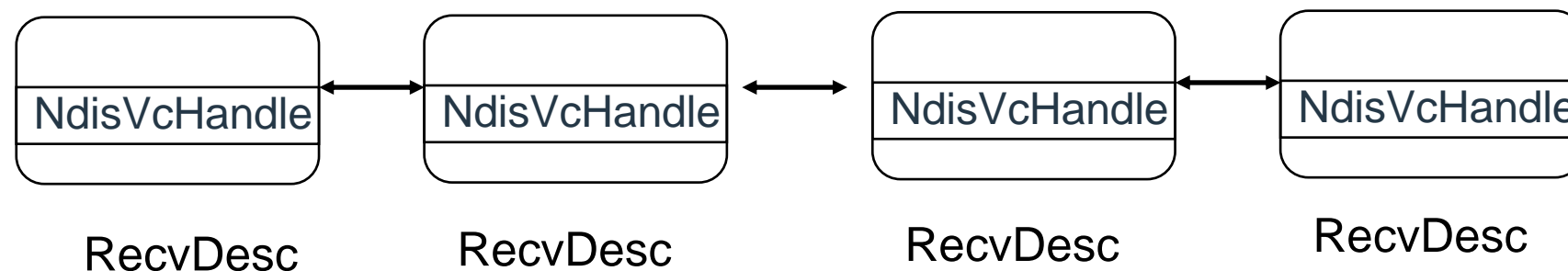
Thread 2 – Close the socket, the kernel driver tries to clean up the SstpContext, which will delete the NdisVcHandle

InitiateSstpContextCleanup

```
{  
// Free the NdisVcHandle  
NdisMCmDeleteVc(pCall->NdisVcHandle);  
}
```

Case Study – Ndiswan.sys IoReceivePacket After Free

- Ndiswan.sys creates a RecvDesc structure for each data packet from client
- RecvDesc structure contains its' corresponding NdisVcHandle (not ref counted!)
- User mode services calls into IoReceivePacket to get a packet data



IoReceivePacket()

{

.Find a RecvDesc

.Copy the packet data to user buffer

.Free the RecvDesc by NdisWanFreeRecvDesc

}

*The NidsVcHandle can be freed in this
race window, trigger UAF in
NdisWanFreeRecvDesc when accessing
RecvDesc->NdisHandle*

Case Study – SSTP Timer UAF

- The first UAF found by our lucky fuzzer
- rassstp.sys maintains a global timer array
 - Initialized when a new SSTP call comes in and if not yet initialized
 - Destroyed when there's no existing call there
- The function SstpTimerInitialize accesses item in the timer array without lock protection, can access already destroyed timer item if race condition happens

User Mode Service (sstpvc.dll)

- Relatively simple
- Dispatch packets between client and kernel driver most of the time
- Let's still give it a try

Case Study – SstpSvc Receive Buffer UAF

- For each packet from client, the service creates a `ReceivedBuffer` structure and links them in a list

SstpContext

{

pReceivedBufferList



ReceivedBuffer



ReceivedBuffer



ReceivedBuffer

}

Thread 1 – Worker thread

ProcessReceivedBytesWorker

```
{  
EnterCriticalSection(SstpCtx->Lock)  
ReceivedBuffer = RemoveList(SstpCtx->ReceivedBufferList)  
LeaveCriticalSection(SstpCtx->Lock)  
  
process ReceivedBuffer  
}
```

Thread 2 – Close the session

InitiateCallContextCleanup

```
{  
...  
LeaveCriticalSection(SstpCtx->Lock)
```

*For each **ReceivedBuffer** in SstpCtx-> ReceivedBufferList:*

*Free **ReceivedBuffer***

```
}
```

**No lock when freeing all ReceivedBuffer,
triggering UAF in ProcessReceivedBytesWorker**

Tips When looking for Kernel Race Bugs

- Focus on important resource
 - Draw a picture of the resource's life cycle (creation/deletion/use)
 - Condition when accessed
Spinlock/Reference counter/Callback/worker thread/Dispatch level?
 - Check if any of the 2 access places can race

Result of SSTP Bug Hunting

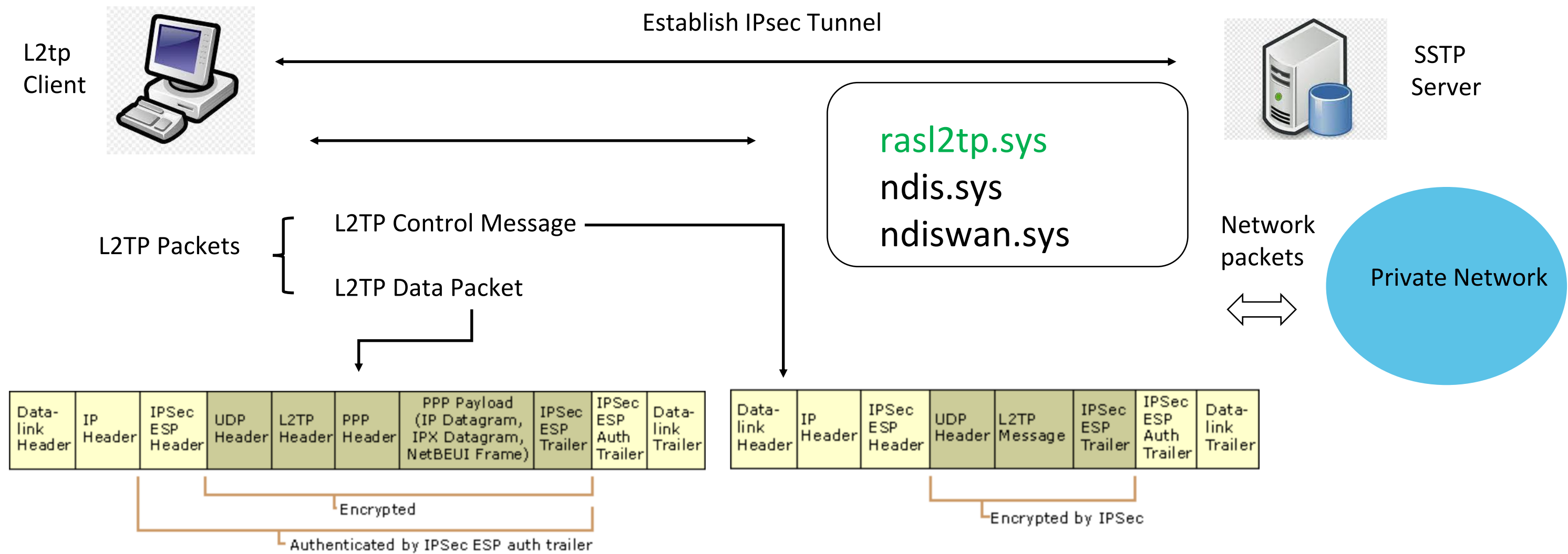
- Found some pre-auth RCE bugs
- Race condition rocks again!
- Have more confidence & motivation to look into the rest RAS VPN protocols



L2TP

L2TP - Layer 2 Tunneling Protocol

- Usually rely on a IPsec tunnel to be established first
- After IPsec tunnel established, communicates with server through UDP port 1701, the UDP payload will be encrypted by IPsec



Pre-auth Attack Surfaces

- In L2TP, there are two authentications:
- When establishing IPsec - Partial authentication
Pre-shared Key(shared to multiple people)/Certificate
- When connect the VPN – Full authentication
- IPsec: [ikeext.dll](#) (will be discussed in IKEv1/IKE2 part)
- Before Full Authentication: [rasl2tp.sys](#)
- message parsing, tunnel/call life cycle management

Rasl2tp.sys - Key Data Structures

- *Tunnel*: Represents a l2tp control channel between client and server, similar to a *Control* in PPTP
- *VCCB*: Represents a l2tp call, similar to a *Call* in PPTP
- l2tp message header contains tunnel id/VCCB id to locate tunnel and VCCB

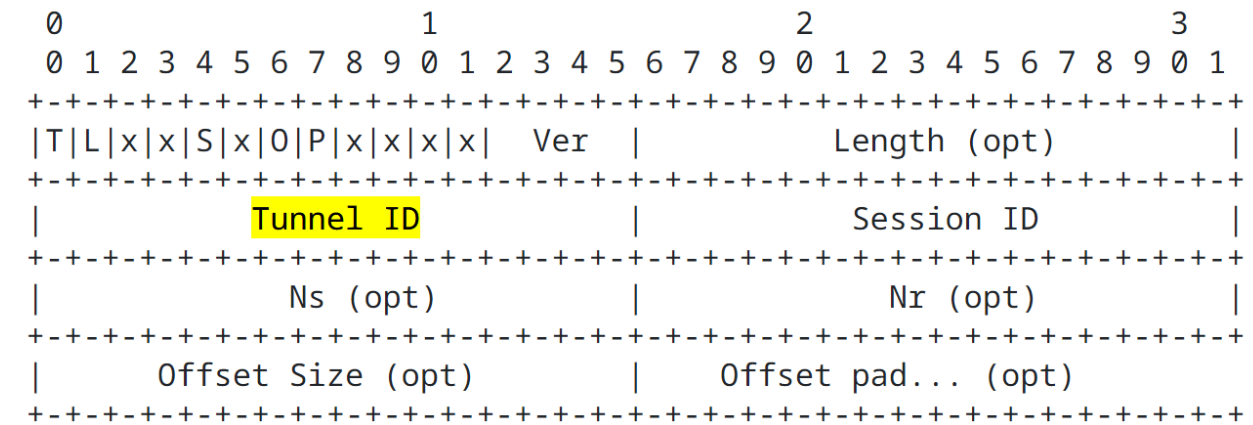
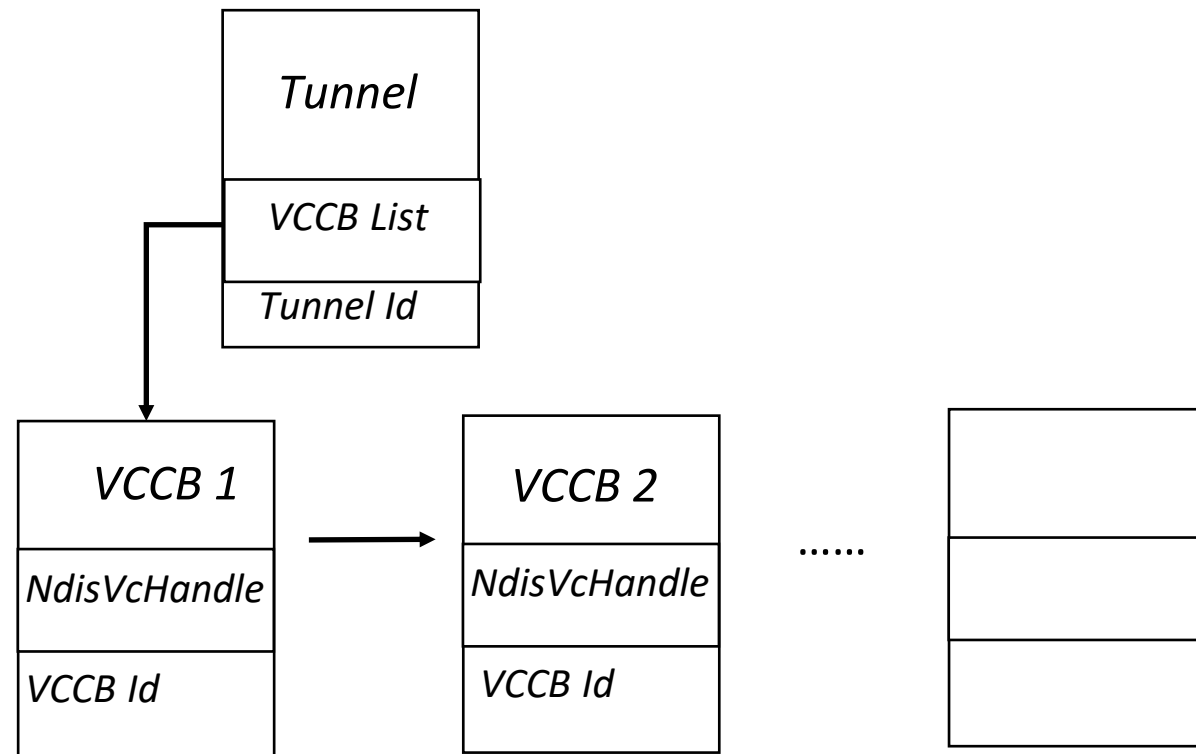
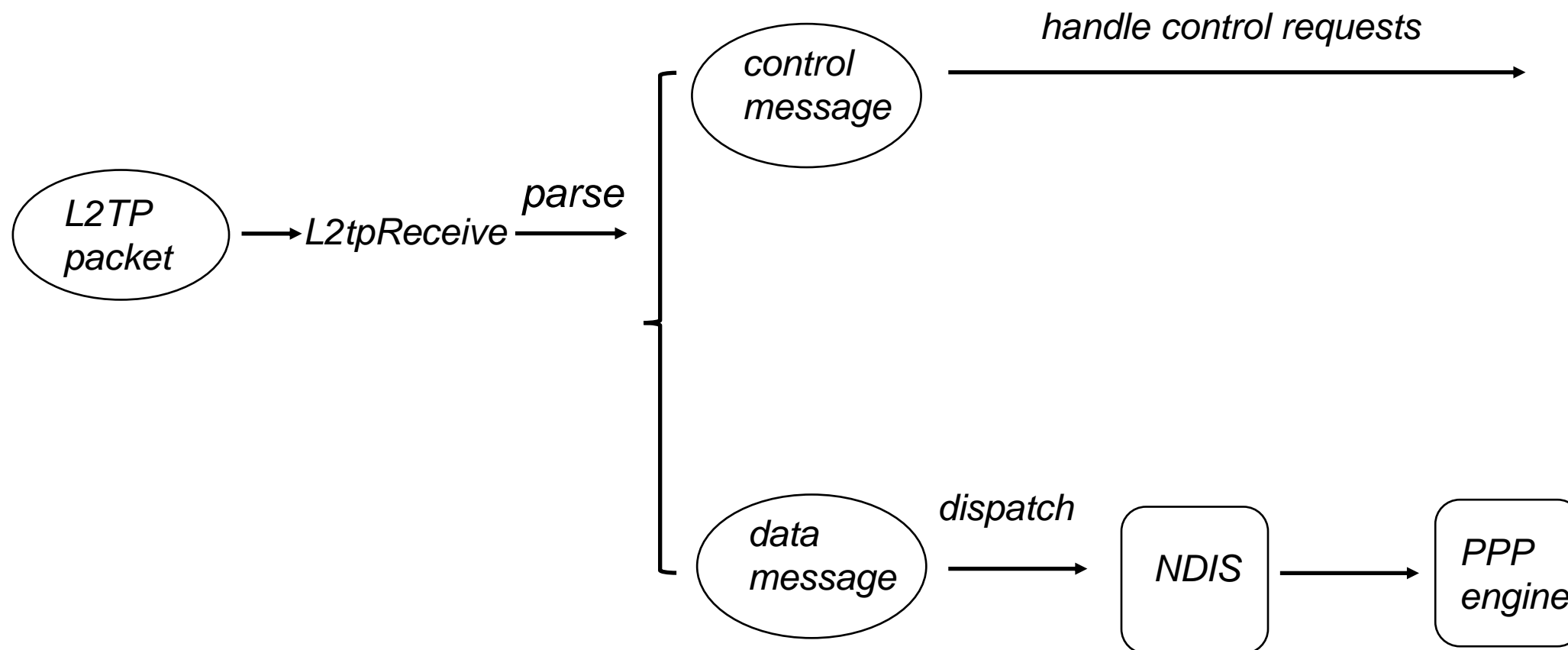


Figure 3.1 L2TP Message Header

L2tpReceive – L2TP Packet Entry Point

- 2 types of L2TP message: control message and data message



0 (reserved)

1 (SCCRQ) Start-Control-Connection-Request

2 (SCCRP) Start-Control-Connection-Reply

3 (SCCCN) Start-Control-Connection-Connected

4 (StopCCN) Stop-Control-Connection-Notification

5 (reserved)

6 (HELLO) Hello

Call Management

7 (OCRQ) Outgoing-Call-Request

8 (OCRP) Outgoing-Call-Reply

9 (OCCN) Outgoing-Call-Connected

10 (ICRQ) Incoming-Call-Request

11 (ICRP) Incoming-Call-Reply

12 (ICCN) Incoming-Call-Connected

13 (reserved)

14 (CDN) Call-Disconnect-Notify

Error Reporting

15 (WEN) WAN-Error-Notify

Rasl2tp.sys – Where to look for bugs?

- Message parsing/processing
 - State machine
 - Control message
 - Data message
- Key objects Life cycle
 - Tunnel & VCCB
 - UAF/Race Condition?

A Quick Fuzzer as Usual

- Multiple threads
- L2TP message mutating based on coverage
- Random control message sequence
- A very useful tip shared by Alex Nicols (@i4mchr00t) when fuzzing rasl2tp.sys

For curious readers, disabling IPSEC can be achieved by setting the `ProhibitIpSec` DWORD registry key with a value of 1 under the following registry path:

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\RasMan\Parameters

Fuzz Result

- Got a few crashes (UAF, NPD)
- Switched to manual auditing and found several others

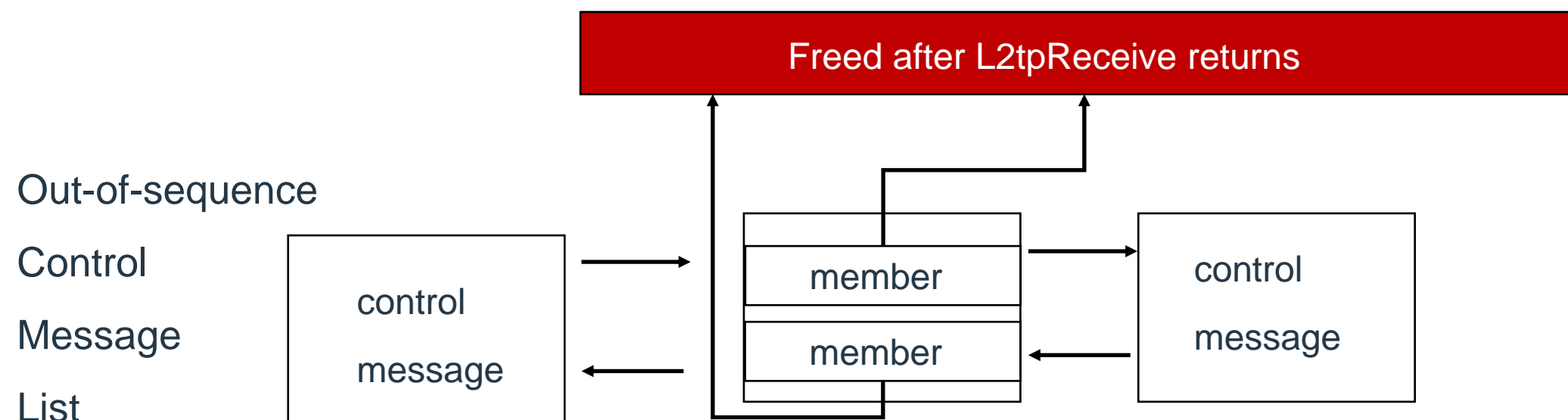
```
DRIVER_IRQL_NOT_LESS_OR_EQUAL (d1)
An attempt was made to access a pageable (or completely invalid) address at an
interrupt request level (IRQL) that is too high.  This is usually
caused by drivers using improper addresses.
If kernel debugger is available get stack backtrace.
Arguments:
Arg1: 0000000000000000, memory referenced
Arg2: 0000000000000002, IRQL
Arg3: 0000000000000000, value 0 = read operation, 1 = write operation
Arg4: fffff80a8436e903, address which referenced memory
```

```
For analysis of this file, run !analyze -v
0: kd> !analyze -v
*****
*
*                               Bugcheck Analysis
*
*****

DRIVER_IRQL_NOT_LESS_OR_EQUAL (d1)
An attempt was made to access a pageable (or completely invalid) address at an
interrupt request level (IRQL) that is too high.  This is usually
caused by drivers using improper addresses.
If kernel debugger is available get stack backtrace.
Arguments:
Arg1: fffffa38bba08cfd4, memory referenced
Arg2: 0000000000000002, IRQL
Arg3: 0000000000000000, value 0 = read operation, 1 = write operation
Arg4: fffff80764d53846, address which referenced memory
```


Case Study – Control Message UAF

- Found by fuzzer
- Out-of-sequence control messages will be copied and insert into a list, incorrectly using of **shallow copy** leads to UAF



Case Study – Tunnel UAF in Timer Event

- Found by fuzzer
- Race condition between a timer callback and tunnel closing

TimerQScheduleItem(HelloTimerEvent) 

```
void __fastcall HelloTimerEvent(PVOID Entry, __int64 pTunnel, int a3)
{
    __int64 v3; // rsi
    char v6; // bp
    unsigned int *v7; // rcx
    unsigned int v8; // edx
    unsigned int v9; // eax
    int v10; // r8d

    v3 = *(_QWORD *)(pTunnel + 24);
    v6 = 0;
    if ( !a3 )
    {
        *(_BYTE *)(pTunnel + 40) = KeAcquireSpinLockRaiseToDpc((PKSPIN_LOCK)(pTunnel + 32));
        v7 = (unsigned int *)(pTunnel + 272);
        if ( *(_DWORD *)(pTunnel + 276) )
            r
```

**Accessing tunnel without lock,
another thread can free the tunnel**

Case Study – VCCB Use After Free

Client send a Incoming-Call-Request (ICRQ)

SetupVcAsynchronously

{

LcmCmCreateVc(..., &pVc)

KeAcquireSpinLockRaiseToDpc

InsertTailList(pTunnel->vcList, &pVc->listEntry)

KeReleaseSpinLock

// No Lock protection

Access pVc

}

} Another thread closes the tunnel which resulting in freeing
all VCs in this race window

Case Study – NdisVcHandle Use After Free

- NdisVcHandle – Our old friend who already brought us many bugs in PPTP/SSTP
- Proves again the difficulty of handling references across multiple modules

```
void __fastcall CompleteVcs(__int64 a1)
{
    KeReleaseSpinLock((PKSPIN_LOCK)(v6 + 40), *(_BYTE *)(v6 + 48));
    KeReleaseSpinLock((PKSPIN_LOCK)(a1 + 32), *(_BYTE *)(a1 + 40));
    if ( (v10 & 0x1000) != 0 )
    {
        if ( !v18 )
        {
            NdisCmDispatchCallConnected(*(NDIS_HANDLE *)(v6 + 304));
        }
        LABEL_15:
        IndicateLinkStatus(v21, v25);
        CallSetupComplete(v6);
        goto LABEL_27;
    }
    if ( (v10 & 0x400) != 0 )
    {
        LABEL_24:
        SetFlags(v6 + 60, 0x200000i64, v19, v20);
        NdisCmDispatchIncomingCloseCall(v18, *(NDIS_HANDLE *)(v6 + 304), 0i64, 0);
        goto LABEL_27;
    }
    LABEL_26:
```

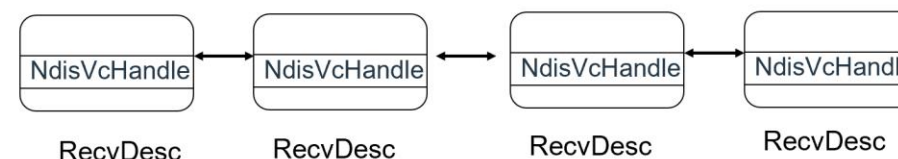
A disconnection from user mode RasMan service
can free the NdisVcHandle

Case Study – NdisWan RecvDesc Use After Free



Case Study – Ndiswan.sys IoReceivePacket After Free

- Ndiswan.sys creates a RecvDesc structure for each data packet from client
- RecvDesc structure contains its' corresponding NdisVcHandle (not ref counted!)
- User mode services calls into IoReceivePacket to get a packet data



Same bug, different component

Result of L2TP Bug Hunting

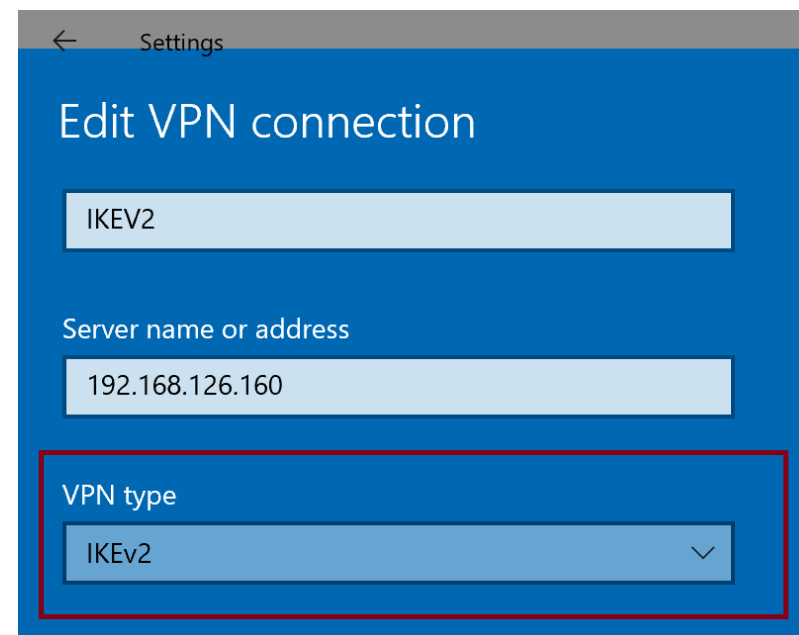
- Found some bugs in L2TP kernel driver
- All bugs are triggered after the IPsec tunnel established



IKE

IKE - Internet Key Exchange

- IKE: an authentication protocol to establish security tunnel for IPsec
- Two versions: IKEv1 and IKEv2, IKEv2 has many improvements over IKEv1
- Windows L2TP VPN can use IKEv1 for tunnel establishing
- Built-in IKEv2 VPN in Windows
 - IKEv2 + [agilevpn.sys](https://github.com/agilevpn/agilevpn.sys) kernel driver
 - Used in Azure Site-to-Site VPN



IKE – Pre-auth Attack Surfaces

- Everything before authentication finish
 - IKE packets parsing/processing
 - UAF/Race condition
- IKEv1: UDP port 4500
- IKEv2: UDP port 500
- `ikeext.dll`

Learn the SPEC

Main Mode

Aggressive Mode

Phase 1

Phase 2

Vender ID

Security Association

MOBIKE

PSK

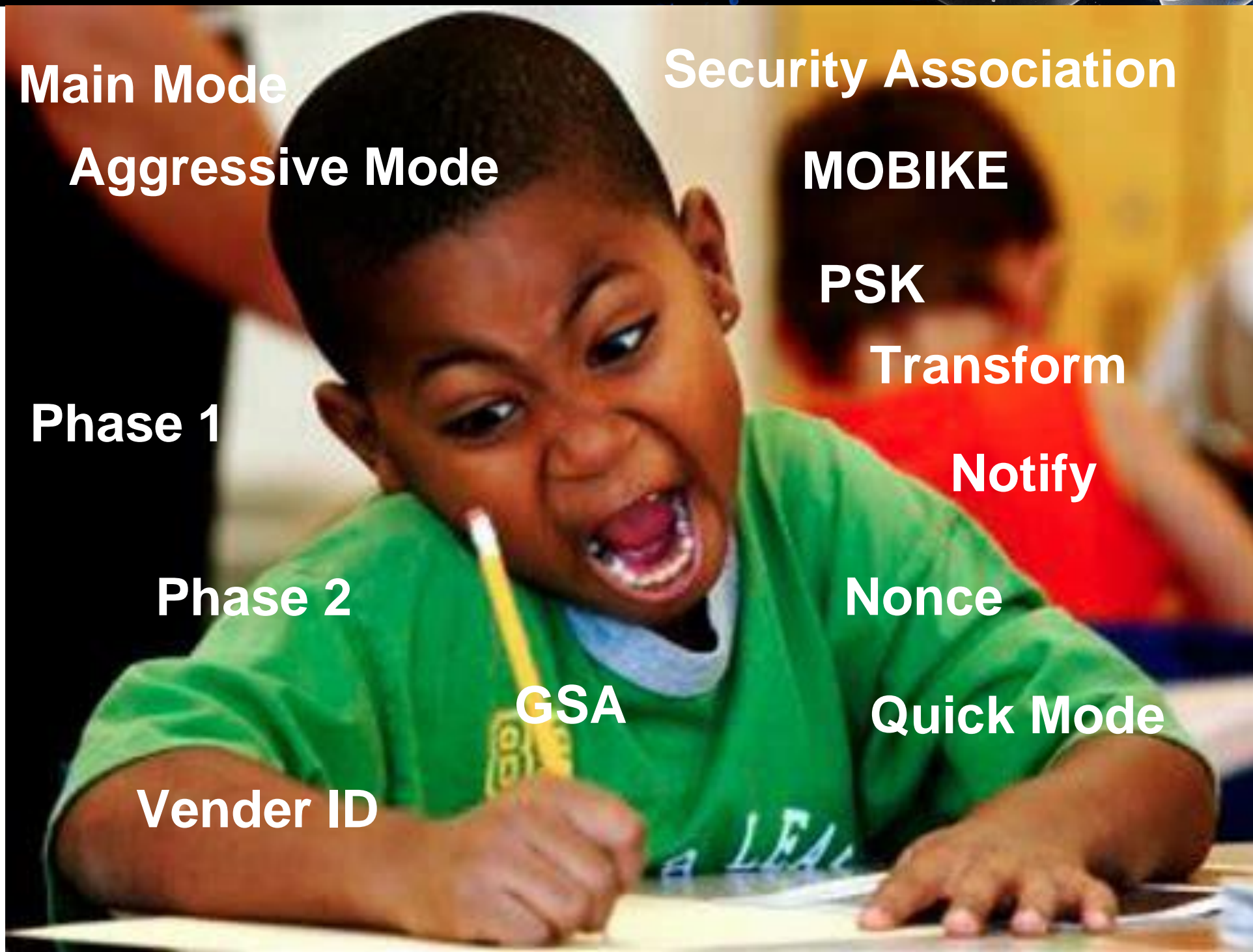
Transform

Notify

Nonce

Quick Mode

GSA





Exhausted.

Just fuzz it.



A Mutation Based Fuzzer

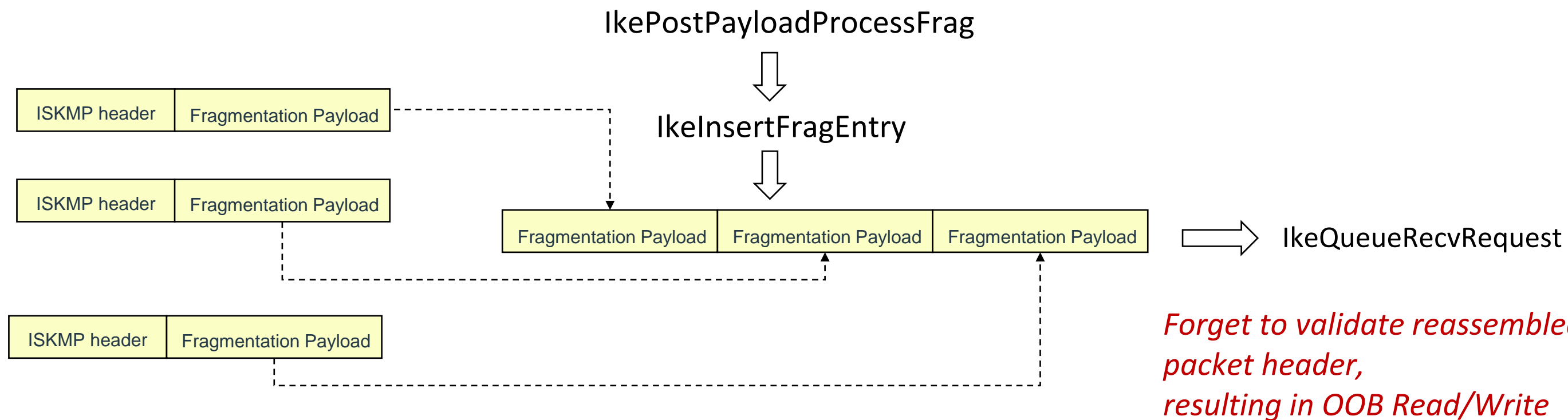
- Mutate normal IKEv1/IKEv2 messages
- Shuffle the message sequence
- Multi-threaded to check UAF/Race Condition
- Gives a few crashes (NPD, OOB) – at least now we have something to crash to server
- Use the crash PoC as entries, manually audit and understand the protocol slowly

Case Study – IKEv1 Fragmentation RCE

- IKE supports packet fragmentation – our favorite feature in a network protocols

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Initiator_Cookie																												
...																												
Responder_Cookie																												
...																												
Next_Payload									Major_Version					Minor_Version					Exchange_Type					Flags				
Message_ID																												
Length																												

ISAKMP header



Case Study – IKEv1 IkeDecryptOakPacket Integer Overflow

- Classic integer overflow resulting in OOB write, when decrypting encrypted IKE packet

```
__int64 __fastcall IkeDecryptOakPacket(__int64 a1, __int64 a2)
{
    __int64 v3; // rsi
    unsigned int dwDataSizeToDecrypt; // edi
    __int64 v5; // rax
    __int64 v6; // rbx

    v3 = *(_QWORD *)a1 + *(unsigned __int16 *)(a1 + 12);
    dwDataSizeToDecrypt = *(_DWORD *)(a1 + 8) - *(unsigned __int16 *)(a1 + 12);
    if ( dwDataSizeToDecrypt >= *(_DWORD *)(a2 + 48) )
    {
        memcpy_0(*(void **)(a2 + 56), *(const void **)(a2 + 40), *(unsigned int *)(a2 + 48));
        v5 = IkeDecrypt(
            *(_QWORD *)(a2 + 8),
            0i64,
            *(_QWORD *)(a2 + 56),
            *(unsigned int *)(a2 + 48),
            v3,
            dwDataSizeToDecrypt);
    }
}
```

Integer overflow

Another similar Bug in Another Function

```
__int64 __fastcall IkeDecryptOakNDPaket(__int64 a1, __int64 a2, u_long a3)
{
    __int64 v6; // rbp
    unsigned int v7; // esi
    SIZE_T v8; // rcx
    __int64 v9; // rax
    __int64 OakNotifyIV; // rbx
    u_long v11; // eax
    __int64 v13[3]; // [rsp+30h] [rbp-48h] BYREF
    int v14; // [rsp+48h] [rbp-30h]
    void *v15; // [rsp+50h] [rbp-28h] BYREF
    size_t Size; // [rsp+58h] [rbp-20h]

    memset_0(v13, 0, 0x38ui64);
    v6 = *(_QWORD *)a1 + *(unsigned __int16 *)(a1 + 12);
    v7 = *(_DWORD *)(a1 + 8) - *(unsigned __int16 *)(a1 + 12);
    v8 = *(unsigned int *)(a2 + 48);
    if ( !OakNotifyIV )
    {
        memcpy_0(v15, *(const void **)(a2 + 40), (unsigned int)Size);
        v11 = htonl(a3);
        OakNotifyIV = IkeGenerateOakNotifyIV(v13, *(_QWORD *)(a2 + 104), v11);
        if ( !OakNotifyIV )
        {
            v9 = IkeDecrypt(v13[0], 0i64, v15, (unsigned int)Size, v6, v7);
        }
    }
}
```

Integer overflow

Case Study – IKEv2 NPD Pre-auth DoS

```
__int64 __fastcall IkeHandleSecurityRealmVendorId(__int64 a1, __int64 a2, __int64 a3)
{
    // [COLLAPSED LOCAL DECLARATIONS. PRESS KEYPAD CTRL-"+" TO EXPAND]

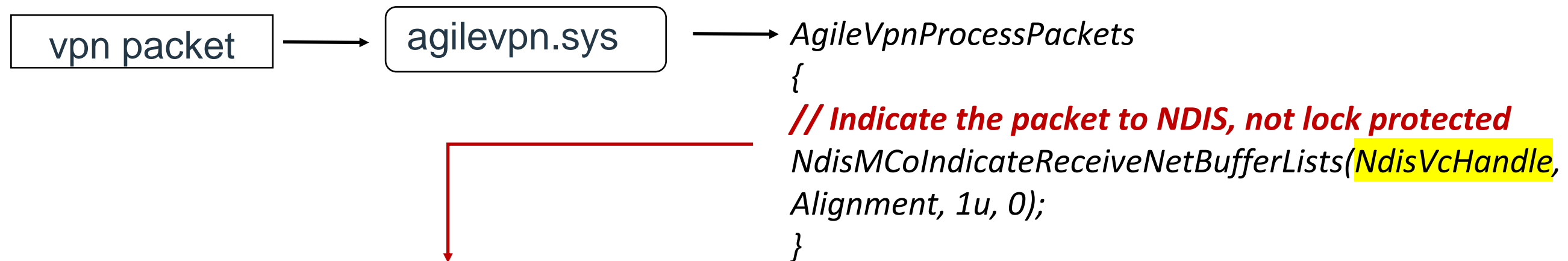
    v26 = 0i64;
    pPayload = 0i64;
    v6 = 0i64;
    memset_0(v28, 0, 0x42ui64);
    IsVendorIdPresent = IkeIsVendorIdPresent(a3, (_DWORD*)(a1 + 584), 4096, (__int64)&v26);
    v8 = pPayload;
    if ( IsVendorIdPresent )
    {
        v9 = v26;
        WfpBytesToString((unsigned int)v26, pPayload, v28);
    }
}
```

IkeIsVendorIdPresent only verifies that there is a VendorId payload exists, However the payload data can be empty (zero-size)

Null-Pointer-Deference when VendorId payload's data size is 0

Case Study – IKEv2 AgileVPN NdisVcHandle Race Condition UAF

- Achievement unlocked: Ndis handle UAF in every windows VPN protocol we researched



**UAF if another thread closes the connection
that frees the NdisVcHandle**

Result of IKE Bug Hunting

- We found pre-auth RCE/DoS bugs in IKE
- Not as many bugs as other protocols
- Based on the result, IKEv2 is more secure than others, choose IKEv2 if you have to use a Windows VPN (standalone server/Azure cloud)

A Medal from Microsoft for Your Bad-ass Work

- Vulnerabilities in Windows components for which Microsoft is actively working on large scale fixes.
 - Vulnerabilities in Remote Access Service (RAS) server components are not eligible for an Attack Scenario Award.

Q: Similarities between a productive bug hunter and a playboy?

They move to next target fast





Future Work & Take Aways

Future Work

- Explore other Windows remote pre-auth attack surfaces
 - Authentication protocols/methods
 - Network protocols (IPsec, TCP/IP, Peer-to-peer, Bluetooth, Wireless...)
 - Other components in RAS (Routing, ...)
 - Services in domain environment (LDAP, ...)

Take Aways

- The implementation of Windows RAS VPN protocols are complex, with both kernel drivers and user mode services, making them good targets for looking for remote pre-auth bugs
- Don't forget to try race condition when researching windows remote protocols
- Use both fuzzing and manual auditing, avoid only relying on one method
- Be smart, eager and greedy in bug hunting
- We wish every one a big success in your bug hunting journey



Thanks!



@guhe120

<https://www.cyberkl.com/en>