

The Way to Android Root:

Exploiting Your GPU On Smartphone





Xuan Xing



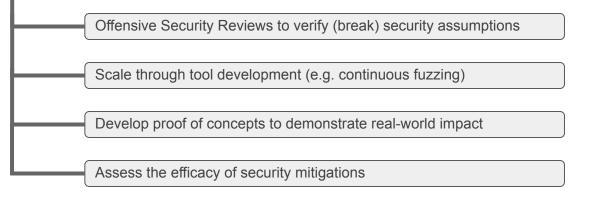
Eugene Rodionov



Whoami

Increase Android and Pixel security by attacking key components and features, identifying critical vulnerabilities before adversaries







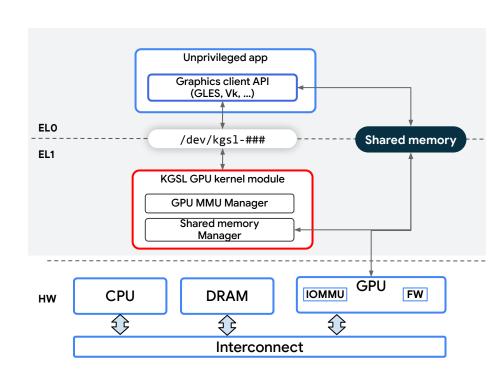
Agenda

- Background Introduction
- Qualcomm Adreno GPU Introduction
- CVE-2024-23380 and Exploitation
- Vulnerability and Methodology Discussion



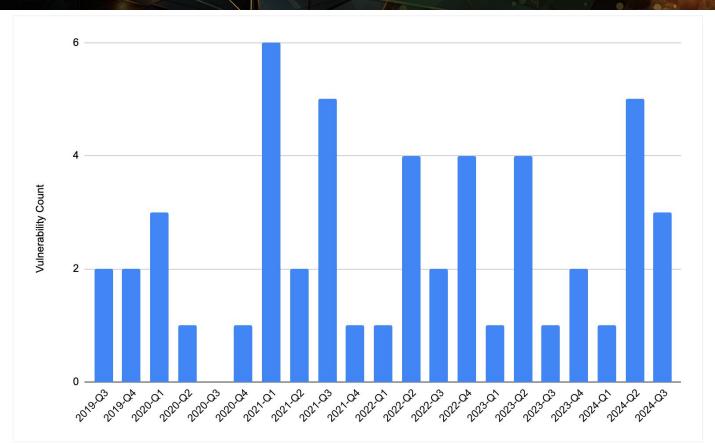
Background

- Why Android GPU Driver?
 - No Permission Required
 - Powerful Functions
 - High Complexity
- Why Qualcomm Adreno GPU?
 - Qualcomm is one of the most important smartphone SoC vendors
 - Adreno is the GPU used in most of the Qualcomm SoCs
 - Evolved architecture recently



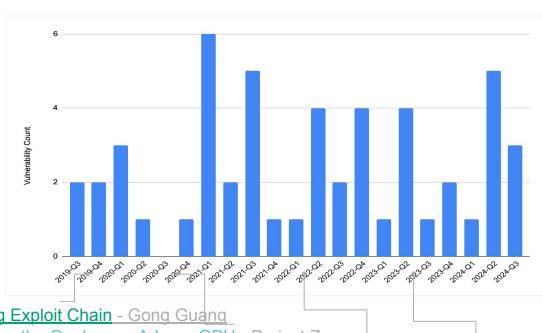


Adreno Driver Issues





Adreno Driver Issues



2019 TiYunZong Exploit Chain - Gong Guang

2020 Attacking the Qualcomm Adreno GPU - Project Zero

2022 The Android kernel mitigations obstacle race - Man Yue Mo

2023 code in user-writable mapping is executed in non-protected mode - Project Zero



black hat Recent Issues - Qualcomm Security Bulletin

Bulletin	CVE	Rating	Date	Reporter	Tech Area	Exploitability
2024 July	CVE-2024-23380	High	12/13/2023	Xiling Gong	VBO IOMMU - Use After Free	Yes - Easy - Stable
	CVE-2024-23373	High	12/18/2023	Man Yue Mo	IOMMU - Use After Free	Yes - Medium - Stable
	CVE-2024-23372	High	12/12/2023	Fish of Pangu Team	VBO IOMMU - Integer Overflow	Yes - Easy - Stable
2024 June	CVE-2024-21478	High	11/03/2023	Necip Fazil Yildiran	Fence - Type Confusion	Yes - Easy - Stable
2024 May	CVE-2024-21471	High	-	Qualcomm Internal	IOMMU - Use After Free	Yes - Medium - Stable
	CVE-2024-23351	High	-	Qualcomm Internal	Hardware - Improper Access Control	Yes - Medium - Stable
	CVE-2024-23354	High	11/24/2022	ayano23th	VBO - Use After Free	Yes - — - —



The Issues We Found

- 9+ issues* discovered
- We have exploited CVE-2024-23380
 - Qualcomm notified customers with patch around April 2024
 - Issue published in the Qualcomm Security Bulletin of July 2024
 - We will discuss the issue and exploit

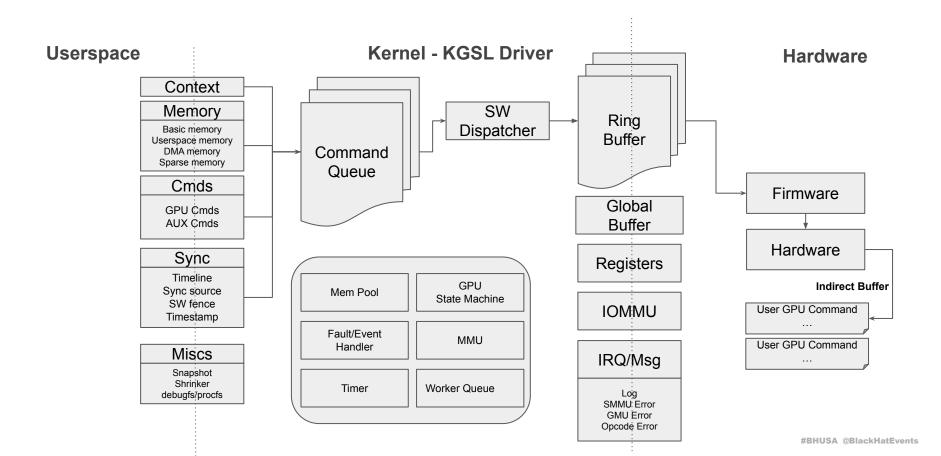
^{* &}lt;a href="https://docs.gualcomm.com/product/publicresources/securitybulletin/">https://docs.gualcomm.com/product/publicresources/securitybulletin/



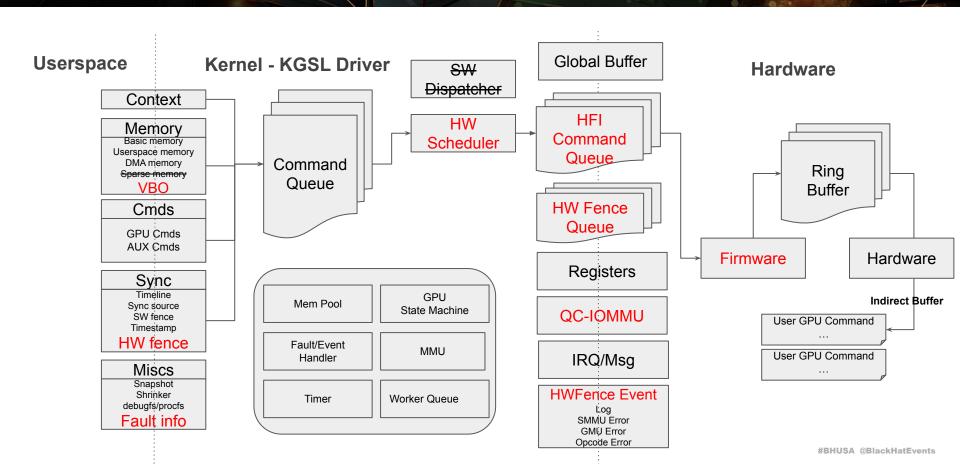
Qualcomm Adreno GPU Introduction



KGSL Introduction: Architecture



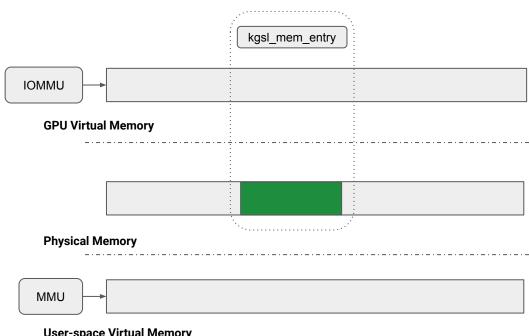
blackhat KGSL Introduction: Architecture (Gen7+)





IOCTL_KGSL_GPUMEM_ALLOC ioctl:

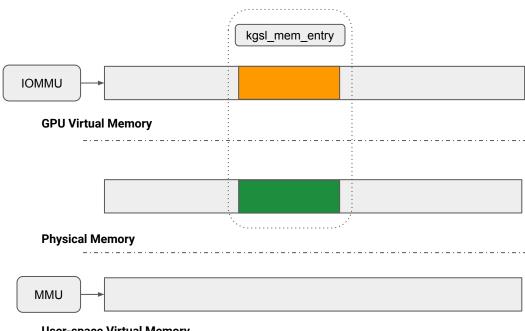
Allocate number of requested physical pages





IOCTL_KGSL_GPUMEM_ALLOC ioctl:

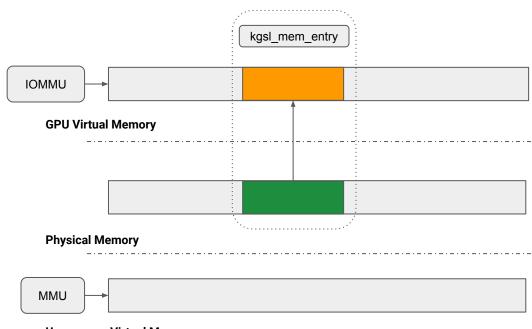
- Allocate number of requested physical pages
- Allocate an address range in GPU virtual address space





IOCTL_KGSL_GPUMEM_ALLOC ioctl:

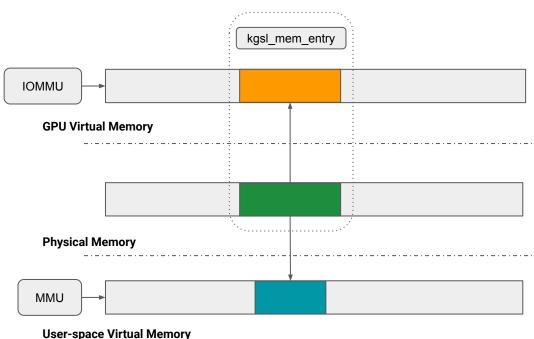
- Allocate number of requested physical pages
- Allocate an address range in GPU virtual address space
- Map allocated the physical pages to allocated virtual GPU address range





IOCTL_KGSL_GPUMEM_ALLOC ioctl:

- Allocate number of requested physical pages
- Allocate an address range in GPU virtual address space
- Map allocated the physical pages to allocated virtual GPU address range
- 4. Optionally mmap physical pages into user-space virtual memory



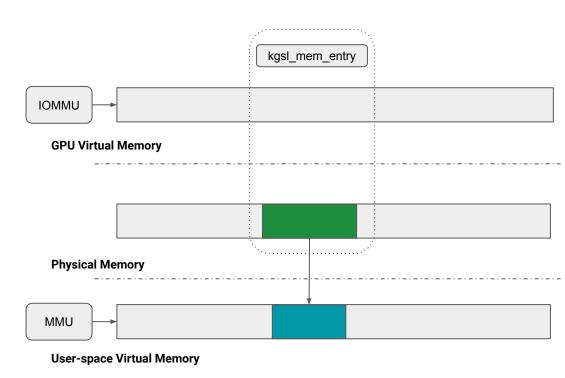


Importing User-space Memory Object

Initial state: allocated user-space memory object

IOCTL_KGSL_GPU0BJ_IMPORT ioctl:

 Get scatter list of physical pages corresponding to the user-space memory object



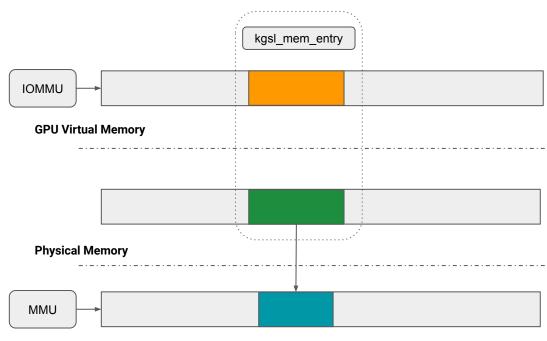


Importing User-space Memory Object

Initial state: allocated user-space memory object

IOCTL_KGSL_GPUOBJ_IMPORT ioctl:

- Get scatter list of physical pages corresponding to the user-space memory object
- 2. Allocate address range in GPU virtual address space



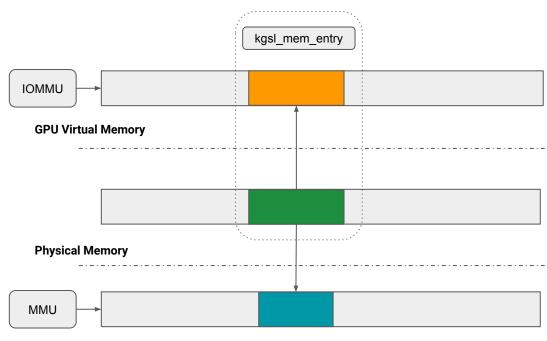


Importing User-space Memory Object

Initial state: allocated user-space memory object

IOCTL_KGSL_GPU0BJ_IMPORT ioctl:

- Get scatter list of physical pages corresponding to the user-space memory object
- 2. Allocate address range in GPU virtual address space
- 3. Map physical pages in the scatter list to the allocated GPU virtual address range

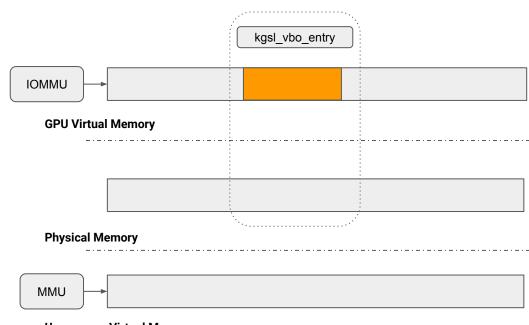




Virtual Buffer Object (VBO) Allocation

IOCTL_KGSL_GPUMEM_ALLOC ioctl
 (flag = KGSL_MEMFLAGS_VBO):

1. Allocate address range in GPU virtual address space

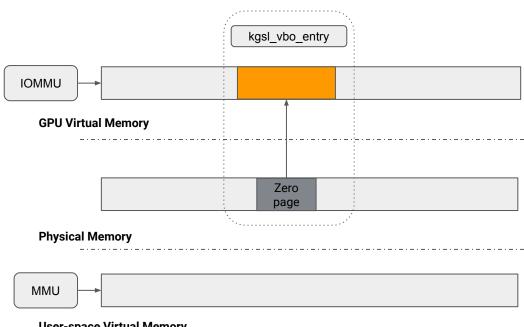




Virtual Buffer Object (VBO) Allocation

IOCTL_KGSL_GPUMEM_ALLOC ioctl (flag = KGSL_MEMFLAGS_VBO):

- Allocate address range in GPU virtual address space
- Map a placeholder zero page to the allocated GPU virtual address range

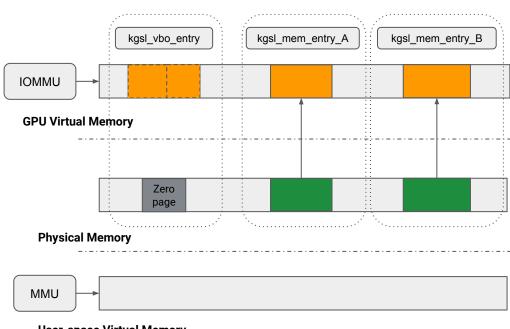




Initial state: allocated basic memory objects A, B and VBO

IOCTL_KGSL_GPUMEM_BIND_RANGES ioctl:

Remove existing mapping from VBO to the zero page

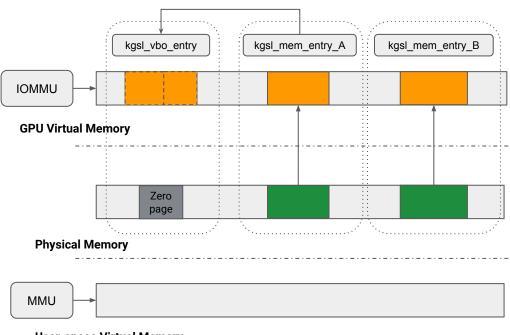




Initial state: allocated basic memory objects A, B and VBO

IOCTL_KGSL_GPUMEM_BIND_RANGES ioctl:

- Remove existing mapping from VBO to the zero page
- Get list of physical pages corresponding to object A

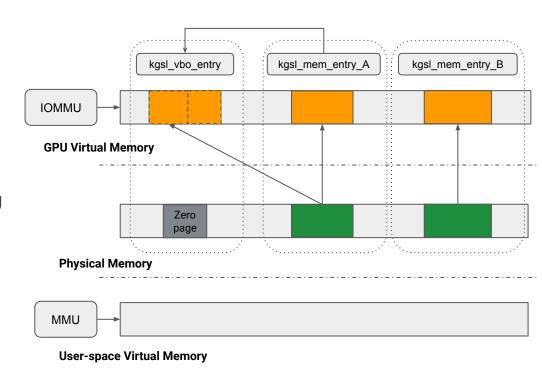




Initial state: allocated basic memory objects A, B and VBO

IOCTL_KGSL_GPUMEM_BIND_RANGES ioctl:

- Remove existing mapping from VBO to the zero page
- Get list of physical pages corresponding to object A
- 3. Map object's A physical pages into VBO's region at a specified offset

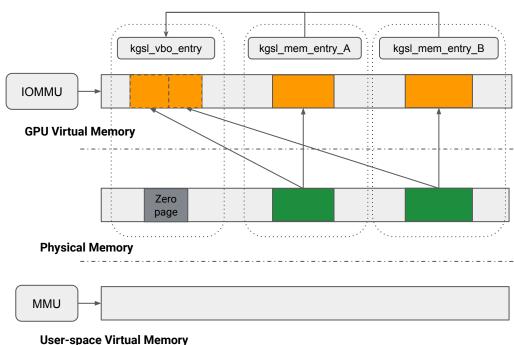




Initial state: allocated basic memory objects A, B and VBO

IOCTL_KGSL_GPUMEM_BIND_RANGES ioctl:

- Remove existing mapping from VBO to the zero page
- Get list of physical pages corresponding to object A
- Map object's A physical pages into VBO's region at a specified offset
- 4. Repeat steps 2-3 for all memory objects to bind to the VBO

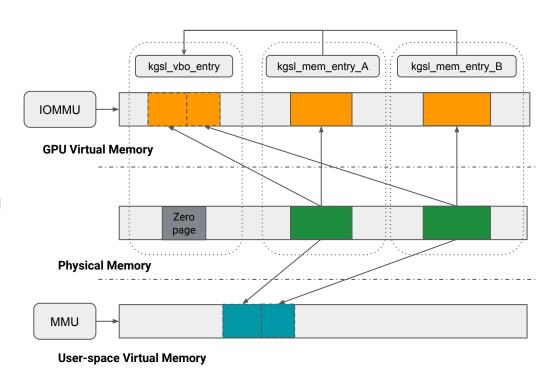




Initial state: allocated basic memory objects A, B and VBO

IOCTL_KGSL_GPUMEM_BIND_RANGES ioctl:

- Remove existing mapping from VBO to the zero page
- Get list of physical pages corresponding to object A
- 3. Map object's A physical pages into VBO's region at a specified offset
- 4. Repeat steps 2-3 for all memory objects to bind to the VBO
- 5. Optionally map physical pages into user-space virtual memory





CVE-2024-23380 and Exploitation

blackhat CVE-2024-23380: Vulnerability Description (1)

- Binding a basic memory object to a VBO:
 - o driver inserts the bound basic memory object into the range interval tree for bookkeeping

```
static int kgsl_memdesc_add_range(struct kgsl_mem_entry *target,
           u64 start, u64 last, struct kgsl_mem_entry *entry, u64 offset)
   struct kgsl_memdesc *memdesc = &target->memdesc:
   mutex_lock(&memdesc->ranges_lock);
    /* Add the new range */
    interval_tree_insert(&range->range, &memdesc->ranges);
   trace_kgsl_mem_add_bind_range(target, range->range.start,
        range->entry. bind_range_len(range));
   mutex_unlock(&memdesc->ranges_lock);
    return kgsl_mmu_map_child(memdesc->pagetable, memdesc, start,
        &entry->memdesc, offset, last - start + 1);
```

blackhat CVE-2024-23380: Vulnerability Description (2)

- Binding a basic memory object to a VBO:
 - o driver maps the bound basic memory object into the GPU virtual memory

```
static int kgsl_memdesc_add_range(struct kgsl_mem_entry *target,
           u64 start, u64 last, struct kgsl_mem_entry *entry, u64 offset)
    struct kgsl_memdesc *memdesc = &target->memdesc:
   mutex_lock(&memdesc->ranges_lock);
   /* Add the new range */
    interval_tree_insert(&range->range, &memdesc->ranges);
   trace_kgsl_mem_add_bind_range(target, range->range.start,
        range->entry. bind_range_len(range));
   mutex_unlock(&memdesc->ranges_lock);
    return kgsl_mmu_map_child(memdesc->pagetable, memdesc, start,
        &entry->memdesc, offset, last - start + 1);
```

blackhat CVE-2024-23380: Vulnerability Description (3)

- Binding a basic memory object to a VBO:
 - the global state change is protected via memdesc->ranges_lock mutex

```
static int kgsl_memdesc_add_range(struct kgsl_mem_entry *target,
           u64 start, u64 last, struct kgsl_mem_entry *entry, u64 offset)
   struct kgsl_memdesc *memdesc = &target->memdesc:
   mutex_lock(&memdesc->ranges_lock);
   /* Add the new range */
    interval_tree_insert(&range->range, &memdesc->ranges);
   trace_kgsl_mem_add_bind_range(target, range->range.start,
        range->entry. bind_range_len(range));
   mutex_unlock(&memdesc->ranges_lock);
    return kgsl_mmu_map_child(memdesc->pagetable, memdesc, start,
        &entry->memdesc, offset, last - start + 1);
```

blackhat CVE-2024-23380: Vulnerability Description (4)

- Binding a basic memory object to a VBO:
 - however, kgsl_mmu_map_child isn't protected by the mutex!
 - thus, basic memory object may be unbound by the time kgsl_mmu_map_child is invoked

```
static int kgsl_memdesc_add_range(struct kgsl_mem_entry *target,
           u64 start, u64 last, struct kgsl_mem_entry *entry, u64 offset)
   struct kgsl_memdesc *memdesc = &target->memdesc:
   mutex_lock(&memdesc->ranges_lock);
   /* Add the new range */
    interval_tree_insert(&range->range, &memdesc->ranges);
   trace_kgsl_mem_add_bind_range(target, range->range.start,
        range->entry. bind_range_len(range));
   mutex_unlock(&memdesc->ranges_lock);
    // the child's region might not be in the target's interval tree at this point
    return kgsl_mmu_map_child(memdesc->pagetable, memdesc, start,
        &entry->memdesc, offset, last - start + 1);
```



CVE-2024-23380: The fix

```
static int kgsl memdesc add range(struct kgsl mem entry *target,
                                                                                     125 static int kgsl memdesc add range(struct kgsl mem entry *target,
            u64 start, u64 last, struct kgsl mem entry *entry, u64 offset)
                                                                                                  u64 start, u64 last, struct kgsl mem entry *entry, u64 offset)
                                                                                              struct interval tree node *node, *next;
         struct interval tree node *node, *next;
        struct kgsl memdesc *memdesc = &target->memdesc;
                                                                                              struct kgsl memdesc *memdesc = &target->memdesc;
        struct kgsl memdesc bind range *range =
                                                                                              struct kgsl memdesc bind range *range =
            bind range create(start, last, entry);
                                                                                                  bind range create(start, last, entry);
         int ret = 0;
                                                                                              int ret = 0;
        if (IS ERR(range))
                                                                                              if (IS ERR(range))
             return PTR ERR(range);
                                                                                                  return PTR ERR(range);
        mutex lock(&memdesc->ranges lock);
                                                                                              mutex lock(&memdesc->ranges lock);
                                                                                               ret = kqsl mmu map child(memdesc->pagetable, memdesc, start,
                                                                                      241+
                                                                                                      &entry->memdesc, offset, last - start + 1);
         /* Add the new range */
                                                                                               /* Add the new range */
241
         interval tree insert(&range->range, &memdesc->ranges);
                                                                                              interval tree insert(&range->range, &memdesc->ranges);
         trace kgsl mem add bind range(target, range->range.start,
                                                                                               trace kgsl mem add bind range(target, range->range.start,
             range->entry, bind range len(range));
                                                                                                   range->entry, bind range len(range));
         mutex unlock(&memdesc->ranges lock);
                                                                                              mutex unlock(&memdesc->ranges lock);
         return kgsl mmu map child(memdesc->pagetable, memdesc, start,
                                                                                               return ret;
                 &entry->memdesc, offset, last - start + 1);
```

CVE-2024-23380: Triggering the vulnerability (1)

 GPU IOMMU misconfiguration can be achieved by invoking kgsl_memdesc_add_range and kgsl_memdesc_remove_range concurrently in two threads.

```
void kgsl memdesc remove range(struct kgsl mem entry
    u64 start, u64 last, struct kgsl mem entry *entry)
mutex lock(&memdesc->ranges lock);
next = interval tree iter first(&memdesc->ranges, start, last);
while (next) {
    node = next;
    range = bind to range(node);
    if (!entry || range->entry->id == entry->id)
        if (kgsl mmu unmap range(memdesc->pagetable,
            memdesc, range->range.start, bind range len(range)))
        interval tree remove(node, &memdesc->ranges);
        kgsl mem entry put(range->entry);
        kfree(range);
mutex unlock(&memdesc->ranges lock);
```



CVE-2024-23380: Triggering the vulnerability (2)

Thread A

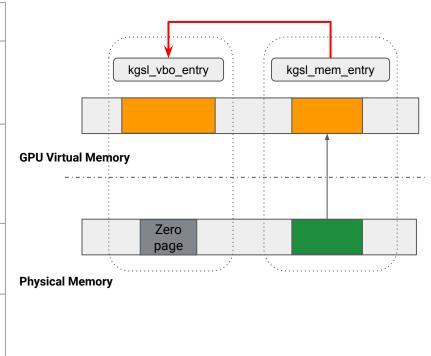
Thread B

```
static void kgsl memdesc remove range(struct kgsl mem entry *target,
       u64 start, u64 last, struct kgsl mem entry *entry)
   mutex lock(&memdesc->ranges lock);
  next = interval tree iter first(&memdesc->ranges, start, last);
  while (next) {
       node = next;
       range = bind to range(node);
       if (!entry || range->entry->id == entry->id) {
           if (kgsl mmu unmap range(memdesc->pagetable,
               memdesc, range->range.start, bind range len(range)))
           interval tree remove(node, &memdesc->ranges);
          kgsl mem entry put(range->entry);
          kfree(range);
   mutex unlock(&memdesc->ranges lock);
```



CVE-2024-23380: Triggering the vulnerability (3)

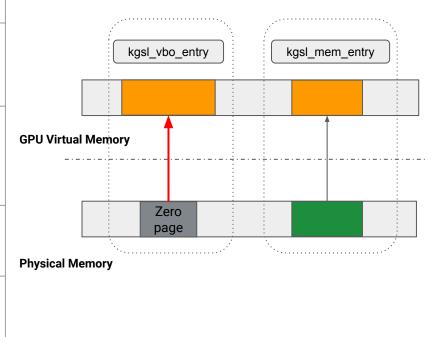
Thread A		Thread B	
2. Ac	cquire mutex dd victim basic memory object to e target VBO interval tree elease the mutex		
		2.	Acquire the mutex Remove the victim basic memory object from the target VBO interval tree Release the mutex
	ap the victim's physical pages to e target VBO address range		
ob	elete the victim basic memory bject and release its physical pages ack to kernel		





CVE-2024-23380: Triggering the vulnerability (4)

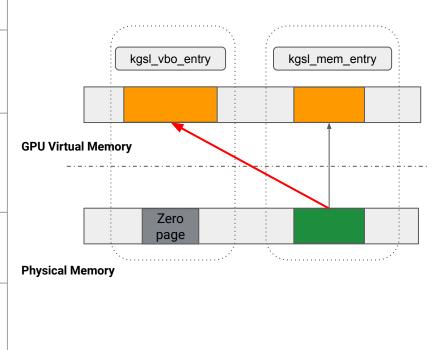
Thread A	Thread B
Acquire mutex Add victim basic memory object to the target VBO interval tree Release the mutex	
	 Acquire the mutex Remove the victim basic memory object from the target VBO interval tree Release the mutex
Map the victim's physical pages to the target VBO address range	
Delete the victim basic memory object and release its physical pages back to kernel	





CVE-2024-23380: Triggering the vulnerability (5)

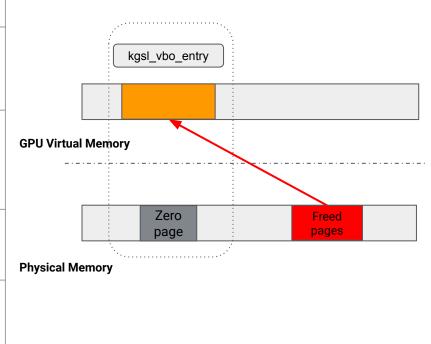
	Thread A	Thread B
	Acquire mutex Add victim basic memory object to the target VBO interval tree Release the mutex	
		 Acquire the mutex Remove the victim basic memory object from the target VBO interval tree Release the mutex
4.	Map the victim's physical pages to the target VBO address range	
5.	Delete the victim basic memory object and release its physical pages back to kernel	





CVE-2024-23380: Triggering the vulnerability (6)

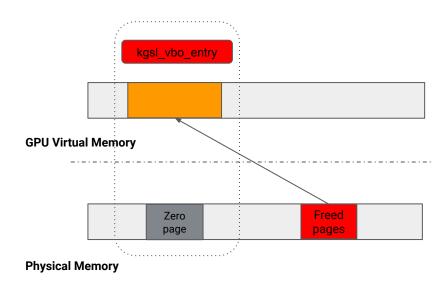
Thread A	Thread B
Acquire mutex Add victim basic memory object to the target VBO interval tree Release the mutex	
	Acquire the mutex Remove the victim basic memory object from the target VBO interval tree Release the mutex
Map the victim's physical pages to the target VBO address range	
Delete the victim basic memory object and release its physical pages back to kernel	





CVE-2024-23380: Exploitation primitive (1)

- Leads to physical memory pages use-after-free
 - read/write access to the freed kernel physical pages from the GPU context
- Race-condition bug
 - need multiple threads doing binding and unbinding to the target VBO concurrently



CVE-2024-23380: Exploitation primitive (2)

• Physical page use-after-free

 We retain this physical-virtual mapping. So we don't have to worry about the kASLR while manipulating the physical page with a known virtual GPU address

Stable

When we run the race-condition to trigger the issue, it's no harm if the issue fails to trigger The kernel status is good and will not crash

Feedback on issues triggered or not

• We have a trick a get the status of whether the issues is triggered or not - by putting a special Sentinel into the memory - If the issue is triggered, the Sentinel will remain in the memory.

Easy to trigger

 The two threads hold the same mutex. When one of the threads releases the mutex, it's very likely that the other thread will be scheduled. The success rate of triggering the issue is very high without any special techniques (more list entries, priority adjustments, etc.)



CVE-2024-23380 Exploit

- To exploit the vulnerability we need to answer the following question:
 - Suppose we control a large amount of physical memory pages, what are we going to do?
- There are lots of answers and solutions for an experienced kernel hacker :)
- For example:
 - Spray many struct cred into the kernel heap by creating lots of userspace processes
 - GPU page table modification via "Kernel Space Memory Mirroring" attack¹



CVE-2024-23380 Exploit: Our method

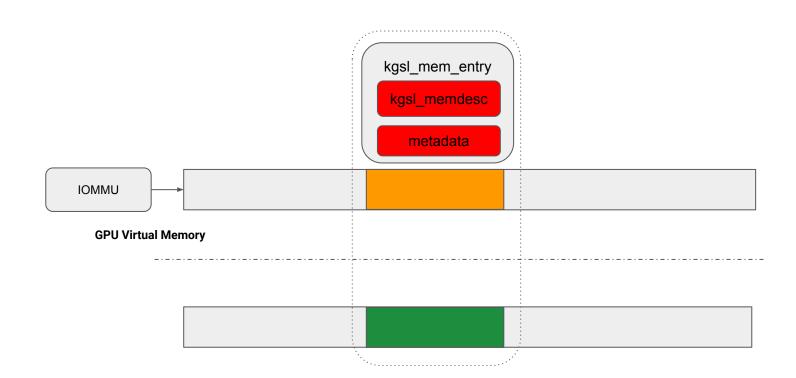
Overwrite contents of struct kgsl_memdesc

- Easy to spray
 - simply call IOCTL_KGSL_GPUOBJ_ALLOC
- Easy to be found in the memory
 - by set a unique metadata from userspace
- Easy to use
 - could be used to map the whole kernel physical memory to userspace
- Easy to check success
 - do mmap on the modified object
- Bonus
 - Possible kASLR bypass

```
struct kgsl_mem_entry {
   struct kref refcount;
   struct kgsl_memdesc memdesc;
   void *priv_data;
   struct rb node node;
   unsigned int id;
   struct kgsl_process_private *priv;
   int pending free:
   char metadata[KGSL_GPUOBJ_ALLOC_METADATA_MAX + 1];
   struct work_struct work;
struct kgsl memdesc {
    struct kgsl pagetable *pagetable;
    void *hostptr;
    unsigned int hostptr count;
    uint64 t gpuaddr;
    phys addr t physaddr;
    uint64 t size;
    unsigned int priv;
     struct sg table *sgt;
    const struct kgsl memdesc ops *ops;
```



CVE-2024-23380 Exploit: struct kgsl_memdesc (1)



pfn = (memdesc->physaddr >> PAGE SHIFT) + offset;

return vmf insert pfn(vma, vmf->address, pfn);

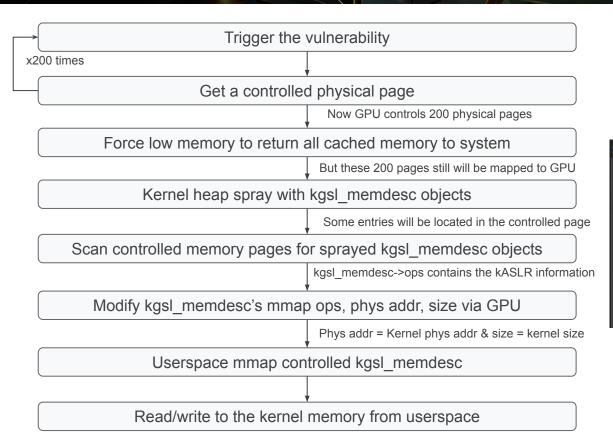
blackhat CVE-2024-23380 Exploit: struct kgsl_memdesc (2)

```
static const struct kgsl memdesc ops kgsl page ops = {
struct kgsl memdesc {
                                                              .free = kgsl free pages,
    struct kgsl pagetable *pagetable;
                                                              .vmflags = VM DONTDUMP | VM DONTEXPAND | VM DONTCOPY
    void *hostptr;
                                                              .vmfault = kgsl paged vmfault,
    unsigned int hostptr count;
                                                              .map kernel = kgsl paged map kernel,
    uint64 t gpuaddr;
                                                              .unmap kernel = kgsl paged unmap kernel,
                                                              .put gpuaddr = kgsl unmap and put gpuaddr,
    phys addr t physaddr;
   uint64 t size;
    unsigned int priv;
    struct sq table *sqt;
                                                           .free = kasl contiguous free,
    const struct kgsl memdesc ops *ops;
                                                             .vmflags = VM DONTDUMP | VM PFNMAP | VM DONTEXPAND | VM D
                                                             .vmfault = kgsl contiguous vmfault,
                                                             .put gpuaddr = kgsl unmap and put gpuaddr,
 tatic vm fault t kgsl contiguous vmfault(struct kgsl memdesc *memdesc,
              struct vm area struct *vma,
              struct vm fault *vmf)
   unsigned long offset, pfn;
   offset = ((unsigned long) vmf->address - vma->vm start) >>
                                                                               Do mmap on this kgsl memdesc
       PAGE SHIFT;
```

- vmfault and setup the mapping for memdesc->physaddr
- When userspace probes the mmap'ed memory, it will trigger



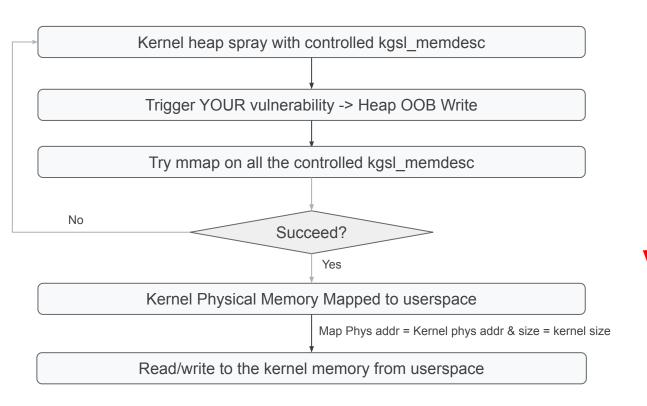
CVE-2024-23380: Exploitation



```
struct kgsl_memdesc {
    struct kgsl_pagetable *pagetable;
    void *hostptr;
    unsigned int hostptr_count;
    uint64 t gpuaddr;
    phys_addr_t physaddr;
    uint64_t size;
    unsigned int priv;
    struct sg_table *sgt;
    const struct kgsl_memdesc_ops *ops;
```



Exploitation: Expanding to Generic Cases



Heap Overflow struct kgsl_memdesc { struct kgsl_pagetable *pagetable; void *hostptr; unsigned int hostptr_count; uint64_t gpuaddr; phys_addr_t physaddr; uint64_t size; unsigned int priv; struct sg table *sgt;

const struct kgsl memdesc ops *ops;



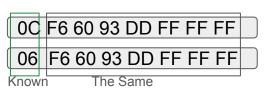
Exploitation: bypassing kASLR

Method A: Direct kALSR bypass

```
:/ # cat /proc/kallsyms | grep "ffffffdd39066f"
ffffffdd39066f60 r kgsl_contiguous_ops [msm_kgsl]
ffffffdd39066fc0 r kgsl_secure_page_ops [msm_kgsl]
ffffffdd39066f90 r kgsl_secure_system_ops [msm_kgsl]
ffffffdd39066ff0 r kgsl system ops [msm kgsl]
```

```
Ops=kgsl_secure_page_ops

→kgsl_contiguous_ops
```



Method B: Brute Force 16 trials

```
ffffffdd39066f60 r kgsl_contiguous_ops [msm_kgsl]
ffffffdd39067020 r kgsl_page_ops [msm_kgsl]
```

```
Ops=kgsl_page_ops

→kgsl_contiguous_ops
```

```
02 07 60 93 DD FF FF FF
06 F6 60 93 DD FF FF FF
```

Guess these 4 bits = 16 trials

Heap



Demo

https://youtu.be/uUJyK8DcPcs



Demo

msm_kgsl>



Methodology & Bug Discovery



blackhat Discovery Methodology: Patch Analysis

Patch Analysis is important for complicated targets like GPU:

- To further understand the issue
- To confirm whether the patch really solves the problem
- To discover new similar issues



Discovery Methodology: Fuzzing

The Difficulties of GPU Fuzzing

- Hardware dependencies
- Detecting misconfiguration with MMU/IOMMU
- Complicated statemachine
- Concurrency issues

Possible solutions

- Emulation based fuzzing
- Deterministic race condition detection



Ultimate Mitigations?

Sandboxing GPU interface?

- Out of process HAL to GPU driver
- Performance impact?
- Backward compatibility issues?

Memory safe (Rust) implementation?

- Race conditions
- Integer overflows





Thank You! Questions?

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