

netstat is vulnerable to escape sequence injection (busybox)

Hey there,

Alpine ships BusyBox with the `netstat` applet enabled. This is vulnerable to escape sequence injection when used from an VT compatible terminal. To exploit this vulnerability the PTR for a remote host must contain a escape sequence and the victim has to execute `netstat`. I've set up an example at `[elided]` with the PTR resolving to `\027[33\;46mllocalhost`.

```
$ dig -x [elided] @8.8.8.8

; <<>> DiG 9.16.25 <<>> -x [elided] @8.8.8.8
;; global options: +cmd
;; Got answer:
;; ->HEADER<- opcode: QUERY, status: NOERROR, id: 59625
;; flags: qr rd ra; QUERY: 1, ANSWER: 1, AUTHORITY: 0, ADDITIONAL: 1

;; OPT PSEUDOSECTION:
; EDNS: version: 0, flags;; udp: 512
;; QUESTION SECTION:
;[elided]. IN PTR

;; ANSWER SECTION:
[elided]. 1 IN PTR \027[33\;46mllocalhost.

;; Query time: 55 msec
;; SERVER: 8.8.8.8#53(8.8.8.8)
;; WHEN: Sun Apr 03 00:11:16 DST 2022
;; MSG SIZE rcvd: 132
```

If you try to `ssh [elided]` and run `netstat -t` while trying to establish the connection from a different terminal, the second terminal will change the background and font color. Other escape sequences may lead to code execution.

Edited 7 months ago by [Ariadne Conill](#)

To upload designs, you'll need to enable LFS and have an admin enable hashed storage. [More information](#)

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Linked items  0



[Martin Kaesberger](#) [@mkaesberger](#) changed the description 7 months ago



[Martin Kaesberger](#) [@mkaesberger](#) · 7 months ago

Please remove all IP addresses before making the issue public.

Edited by [Martin Kaesberger](#) 7 months ago

Author

Contributor



[Jakub Jirutka](#) [UA @jjirutka](#) added [tag:security](#) label 7 months ago



[Jakub Jirutka](#) [UA @jjirutka](#) · 7 months ago

/cc [@ariadne](#)

Developer

[Kevin Daudt](#) [@kdaudt](#) · 7 months ago

Owner



Has this been reported to busybox?



Martin Kaesberger @mkaesberger · 7 months ago

Author

Contributor

It's not reported to busybox because I couldn't validate if it is specific to Alpine or a general issue.



Kevin Daudt @kdaudt · 7 months ago

Owner

I can reproduce this on Archlinux with busybox, so this is not related to Alpine Linux

Edited by [Kevin Daudt](#) 7 months ago

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Kevin Daudt @kdaudt added [triage:upstream-issue](#) label 7 months ago



Ariadne Conill @ariadne · 7 months ago

Developer

nslookup is also vulnerable. Real nslookup escapes the sequences.

Edited by [Ariadne Conill](#) 7 months ago



Martin Kaesberger @mkaesberger · 7 months ago

Author

Contributor

traceroute was also affected.

Please [register](#) or [sign in](#) to reply



Ariadne Conill @ariadne · 7 months ago

Developer

BusyBox has printable_string() in libbb, checking for the best way to sanitize the DNS results.



Ariadne Conill @ariadne · 7 months ago

Developer

Affected branches: 3.12 through 3.15 + edge.



Kevin Daudt @kdaudt added [edge](#) [v3.13](#) [v3.14](#) [v3.15](#) labels 7 months ago



Kevin Daudt @kdaudt added [v3.12](#) label 7 months ago



Ariadne Conill @ariadne · 7 months ago

Developer

Mitigation pending.

Edited by [Ariadne Conill](#) 7 months ago



Kevin Daudt @kdaudt changed milestone to [%3.15.4](#) 7 months ago



Ariadne Conill @ariadne changed the description 7 months ago



Ariadne Conill @ariadne · 7 months ago

Developer

Normally, I would say to keep the issue confidential, but given the low severity, and the unlikeliness for a speedy upstream ACK at this time, I am going to go ahead and declassify it.


We should backport the hotfix to all release branches though in the meantime.

Edited by [Ariadne Conill](#) 7 months ago



Ariadne Conill @ariadne made the issue visible to everyone 7 months ago



Ariadne Conill  [@ariadne](#) · 7 months ago
Use CVE-2022-28391 to reference this issue.

Developer



Natanael Copa [@ncopa](#) · 7 months ago

Owner

- ✓ 3.15-stable [2745de7e](#)
- ✓ 3.14-stable [c45db46b](#)
- ✓ 3.13-stable [58bddeef](#)
- ✓ 3.12-stable [41c9e389](#)

Edited by [Natanael Copa](#) 7 months ago



Natanael Copa [@ncopa](#) closed 7 months ago

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