

New issue

[Jump to bottom](#)

# Buffer overrun in format\_timespan #23928

 Closed

yiuaner opened this issue on Jul 7 · 0 comments · Fixed by [#23933](#)

Labels

bug 🐛

yiuaner commented on Jul 7 • edited ▼

**systemd version the issue has been seen with**

251

**Used distribution**

*No response*

**Linux kernel version used**

*No response*

**CPU architectures issue was seen on**

*No response*

**Component**

*No response*

**Expected behaviour you didn't see**

*No response*

**Unexpected behaviour you saw**

In the file `time-util.c`, the function `format_timespan` has the following [code](#):

```

char *format_timespan(char *buf, size_t l, usec_t t, usec_t accuracy) {
    char *p = buf;
    for (size_t i = 0; i < ELEMENTSOF(table); i++) {
        size_t n;
        ....
        if (!done) {
            k = snprintf(p, l,
                        "%s"USEC_FMT"%s",
                        p > buf ? " " : "",
                        a,
                        table[i].suffix);

            t = b;
        }
        n = MIN((size_t) k, l);
        l -= n;
        p += n;
    }
    *p = 0;
    return buf;
}

```

The problem of the above code is that `n = MIN((size_t) k, l);` can assign the buffer size `l` to `n`. Then `p += n;` will cause `p` to point to one byte after the buffer `buf`, leading to a buffer overwrite in `*p=0` (an off-by-one error).

## Steps to reproduce the problem

To reproduce the buffer overrun, just run the following test code

```


int main() {
    char buf[5];
    char *p;
    usec_t t = 100005;
    usec_t accuracy = 1000;
    p = format_timespan(buf, sizeof(buf), t, accuracy);
    printf("%s\n", p);
    return 0;
}

```

`format_timespan` will write to `buf[5]`, which is an error.

## Additional program output to the terminal or log subsystem illustrating the issue

*No response*

 **yuwata** added a commit to yuwata/systemd that referenced this issue on Jul 7

 time-util: fix buffer-over-run ...

35ba044

 **yuwata** mentioned this issue on Jul 7

**time-util: fix buffer-over-run #23933**

 Merged

 **yuwata** added a commit to yuwata/systemd that referenced this issue on Jul 7


 time-util: fix buffer-over-run ...

8d2d089

 **poettering** closed this as completed in [#23933](#) on Jul 8

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 **poettering** pushed a commit that referenced this issue on Jul 8

 time-util: fix buffer-over-run ...

 9102c62

 **tewarid** pushed a commit to tewarid/systemd that referenced this issue on Aug 23

 time-util: fix buffer-over-run ...

72d4c15

 **arnout** pushed a commit to buildroot/buildroot that referenced this issue 6 days ago

 package/systemd: security bump to version v250.8 ...

e24033f

 **arnout** pushed a commit to buildroot/buildroot that referenced this issue 3 days ago

 package/systemd: security bump to version v250.8 ...

d25bad9

 **arnout** pushed a commit to buildroot/buildroot that referenced this issue 3 days ago

 package/systemd: security bump to version v250.8 ...

5ab86ea

#### Assignees

No one assigned

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#### Labels

bug 🐛

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## Milestone

No milestone

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## Development

Successfully merging a pull request may close this issue.

 **time-util: fix buffer-over-run**  
yuwata/systemd

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1 participant

