

CVE-2022-0354: Local Privilege Escalation

Lenovo Commercial Vantage Tool

Into the great resource Windows Internals (Windows Internals Part 1 7th Edition) you will find the mechanism of Mandatory Integrity Control (MIC) based on Integrity Levels to protect objects among each other against unauthorized access. In the following table from the book you can see a list of the used Integrity Levels under Windows 10.

Integrity level SIDs

Integrity Level	Use
Untrusted (0)	Used by processes started by the Anonymous group. It blocks most write access.
Low (1)	Used by AppContainer processes (UWP) and Protected Mode Internet Explorer. It blocks write access to most objects (such as files and registry keys) on the system.
Medium (2)	Used by normal applications being launched while UAC is enabled.
High (3)	Used by administrative applications launched through elevation when UAC is enabled, or normal applications if UAC is disabled and the user is an administrator.
System (4)	Used by services and other system-level processes (such as Wininit, Winlogon, Smss, and so on).
Protected (5)	Currently unused by default. Can be set by kernel-mode caller only.

When an unprivileged user (medium integrity) logs on to Windows, there is a kernel object called an access token. This token includes your identity and the current privileges of the user. From a team perspective this means, also if I was able to compromise an unprivileged user (medium integrity), still I am not allowed to access processes and objects which need a high integrity level. In the space of the process. A little more precise, in case of processes it is not possible to access the address memory of process which manage high integrity threads, from a process

Escalation: Insecure GUI

not allowed as a medium integrity user to directly access the address memory from a high integrity process. For example by process injection, there are still scenarios which gives you a possibility to escalate your local privileges. For example, in my case by finding the **CVE-2022-0354** or **LEN-76673** in context of the Lenovo Commercial Vantage Tool and how the **Intel Management Engine** software update packages (and **other packages**). At New Year's I logged in to my Lenovo (as usual as unprivileged user (medium integrity)) and started the Commercial Vantage tool in the same context (medium integrity). I got the suggestion for the **Intel Management Engine Firmware 11.8.90.3987** and started the installation. The Intel ME update was initialized immediately, but compared to other updates that I have installed via the Lenovo Commercial Vantage tool, it seemed strange to me that a Windows command shell was used to execute the update. It was not possible to execute directly a command via command line, but I examined via process explorer with which integrity level the opened update window is executed and hoped (from research perspective to get my first CVE 🤪), the **corresponding command** was executed in **system integrity level**. Despite the fact, that no direct command can be executed in a command prompt window, there is still a way (insecure GUI) to use the privileged process (system integrity) to escalate from an unprivileged user (medium integrity) to system privileges. We can use the command prompt window context menu from the privileged cmd.exe process to escalate the integrity level to system integrity. In case of CVE-2022-0354, have a look at the video below.

With Lenovo, the **flaw is in the legacy packaging process for system updates**. To resolve this, Lenovo PSIRT fixed the packaging process for packages which are released after 2022-02-25. I am not really sure, if Lenovo did fix also the affected legacy packages or only fixed it for packages released after 2022-02-25. The **last test** where I was able to escalate to system integrity was **at 2022-04-10** with the **Intel Thunderbolt Driver-10 [64]** update package (video below). The Thunderbolt Driver-10 [64] package was identified just a few days ago, with beginning of April, the following packages are known and affected, and let escalate your unprivileged user to system privileges (System Integrity).

Update Intel Management Engine Firmware 11.8.90.3987 (Found by Infosec Tirol)

Thunderbolt Driver – 10 [64] – 17.4.80.550 (Found by Infosec Tirol)

nt für Sicherheit in der Informationstechnik has published a technical safety note with risk level (risk level 4).

to thank Lenovo and the responsible employee Blake for the good cooperation. More the vulnerability on the **Lenovo Website**.

ps://nvd.nist.gov/vuln/detail/CVE-2022-0354

ps://www.bsi.bund.de/SharedDocs/Warnmeldungen/DE/TW/2022/04/warmmeldung_tw-t22-0089.html

ps://vuldb.com/de/?id.198433

ps://debricked.com/en/vulnerability-database/vulnerability/CVE-2022-0354

ps://www.heise.de/news/Lenovo-System-Update-koennte-Schadcode-auf-Computer-lassen-6740544.html

1dows internals. Part 1 Seventh edition; Yosifovich, Pavel; Ionescu, Alex; Solomon, David A.; Russinovich, Mark E.

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