



<> Code Revisions 2

CVE-2020-13443

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2
3 https://gist.github.com/mariuszpoplawski/703586aa068bdad21f2c098f396ce04f
4
5
6 -----
7
8 [Suggested description]
9 ExpressionEngine before 5.3.2 allows remote attackers to upload and execute arbitrary code in a .php%20 file via
10 Compose Msg, Add attachment, and Save As Draft actions.
11 A user with low privileges (member) is able to upload this.
12 It is possible to bypass the MIME type check and
13 file-extension check while uploading new files.
14 Short aliases are not used for an attachment; instead, direct access is
15 allowed to the uploaded files. It is possible to upload
16 PHP only if one has member access, or registration/forum is enabled
17 and one can create a member with the default group id of 5. To exploit this, one
18 must be able to send and compose messages (at least).
19
20 -----
21
22 [Additional Information]
23 To trigger the vulnerability we can use messages composer
24 http://127.0.0.1/index.php/member/messages/compose
25
26 Affected function
27 "Compose msg" - add attachment - "save as draft"
28
29 Files attached to message and saved as draft are stored in
30 /var/www/html/images/pm_attachments/$FILE_NAME - Accesable from web app root folder.
31
32 http://127.0.0.1/images/pm_attachments/$UPLOADED_FILE_NAME.EXT
33
34 We were able to send file name "POC.php%20" it was valid PNG file with PHP code inside. below we present te PoC.
35
36 Quick overview of code
37 Global variable in CMS by default $this-blacklisted_extensions =
38
39 (
40     [0] = php
41     [1] = php3
42     [2] = php4
43     [3] = php5
44     [4] = php7
45     [5] = phps
46     [6] = phtml
47 )
48 /system/ee/legacy/libraries/Upload.php code at line 532
49 If we send file that is not in blacklisted_extensions array for example ".php%20", our upload will be successful.
50
51 if (in_array($ext, $this-blacklisted_extensions))
52 {
53     return FALSE;
54 }
55 /system/ee/EllisLab/ExpressionEngine/Library/Mime/MimeType.php
56 To upload our file "MimeType" have to be in white list also, so we uploaded PNG file with PHP code in comment TAG.
57
58 Line 237: public function isSafeForUpload($mime)
59 {
60     return in_array($mime, $this-whitelist, TRUE);
61 }
62 ...
63 Line 95: public function ofFile($path){
64 ...
65 Line 105: $finfo = finfo_open(FILEINFO_MIME_TYPE);
66 /system/ee/legacy/libraries/Upload.php code at
67 Function clean_file_name is called after check ...
68
69 -----
70
71 [VulnerabilityType Other]
72 low privileged user PHP file upload led to Remote Command Execution
73
74 -----
75
76 [Vendor of Product]
77 obfuscode
78
79 -----
80
81 [Affected Product Code Base]
```

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82 | expressionengine.com - before 5.3.2
83 |
84 | -----
85 |
86 | [Affected Component]
87 | member/messages/compose
88 |
89 | -----
90 |
91 | [Attack Type]
92 | Remote
93 |
94 | -----
95 |
96 | [Impact Code execution]
97 | true
98 |
99 | -----
100 |
101 | [Attack Vectors]
102 | User with low privileges have to upload file during messages composer process. File extension check and be bypassed using %20 at the end o
103 |
104 | -----
105 |
106 | [Discoverer]
107 | Mariusz Poplawski (afine.pl)
108 |
109 | -----
110 |
111 | [Reference]
112 | https://expressionengine.com/blog
113 |
114 |
115 | Mariusz Popiowski / AFINE.com team
```

