CVE-2021-39246 - Tor Browser through 10.5.6 and 11.x through 11.0a4 allows a correlation attack excessive verbose logging - Windows, macOS, Linux

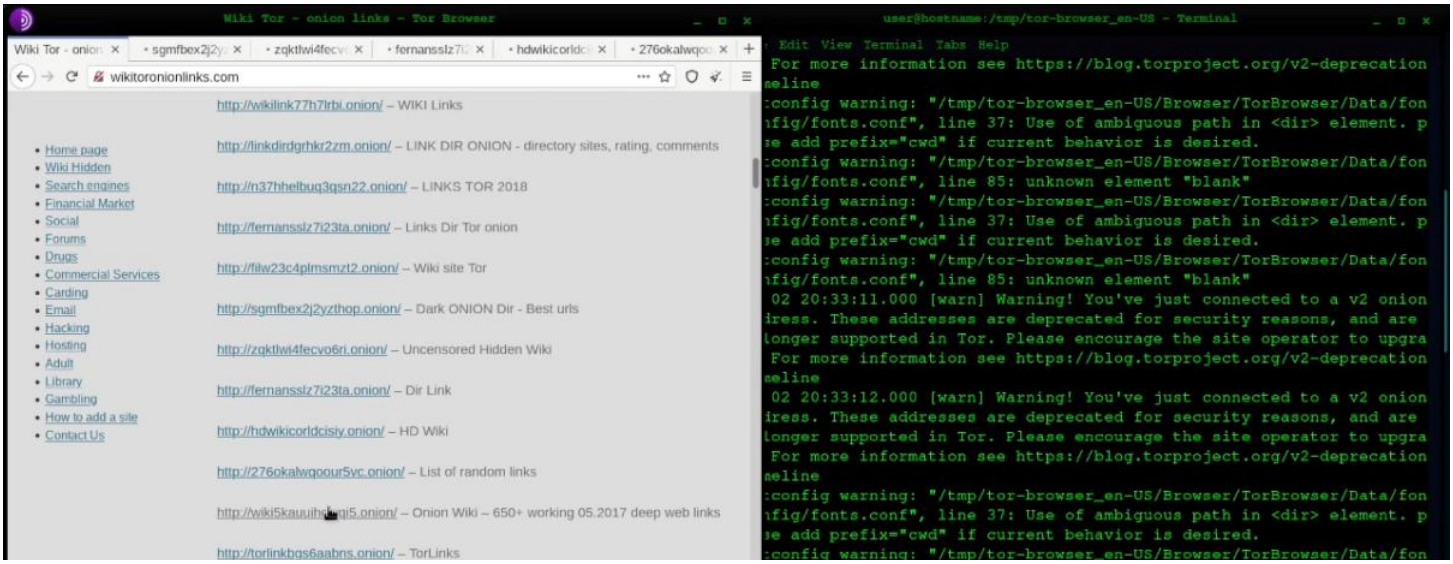
by Sick Codes — September 24, 2021 - Updated on October 4, 2021 in Security 2

2 changed files

src/core/or/connection_edge.c

```
2530 +
2531 +    /* We don't support v2 onions anymore. Log a warning and bail. */
2532 +    if (addresstype == ONION_V2_HOSTNAME) {
2533 +      log_warn(LD_PROTOCOL, "Tried to connect to a v2 onion address, but this "
2534 +               "version of Tor no longer supports them. Please encourage the "
2535 +               "site operator to upgrade. For more information see "
2536 +               "https://blog.torproject.org/v2-deprecation-timeline.");
2537 +      control_event_client_status(LOG_WARN, "SOCKS_BAD_HOSTNAME HOSTNAME=%s",
2538 +                                  escaped(socks->address));
2539 +      connection_mark_unattached_ap(conn, END_STREAM_REASON_TORPROTOCOL);
2540 +      return -1;
2541 +    }
2542 +
2543      tor_assert(addresstype == ONION_V3_HOSTNAME);
```

CVE 2021 39246 Tor Browser through 10.5.6 and 11.x through 11.0a4



CVSS:3.1/AV:P/AC:L/PR:N/UI:N/S:U/C:H/I:H/A:N

Internal ID

SICK-2021-111

Vendor

Tor

Product

Tor Browser on Windows, macOS, Linux

Product Versions

10.5.6 and 11.x through 11.0a4

Vulnerability Details

Tor Browser through 10.5.6 and 11.x through 11.0a4 allows a correlation attack that can compromise the privacy of visits to v2 onion addresses. Exact timestamps of these onion-service visits are logged locally, and an attacker might be able to compare them to timestamp data collected by the destination server (or collected by a rogue site within the Tor network). This occurs by default, with or without verbose.

Vendor Response

Open pull request in relation to timestamp logging as v2 will be deprecated soon:

https://gitlab.torproject.org/tpo/core/tor/-/merge_requests/434.

Proof of Concept

`Tor Browser latest 10.5.6 is affected.`

`Tor Browser alpha 11.0a4 is affected.`

This is because `Tor 0.4.6` introduced a warning every time a client connects to a v2 domain.

See: https://gitlab.torproject.org/tpo/core/tor/-/commit/5e836eb80c31b97f87b152351b6a7a932aeffaed

Also see “Log warning when connecting to soon-to-be-deprecated v2 onions.”

https://gitlab.torproject.org/tpo/core/tor/-/commit/80c404c4b79f3bcba3fc4585d4c62a62a04f3ed9

```
cd /tmp

wget https://www.torproject.org/dist/torbrowser/10.5.6/tor-browser-linux64-10.5.6_en-US.tar.xz

tar -xzvf tor-browser-linux64-10.5.6_en-US.tar.xz

cd /tmp/tor-browser_en-US/

./start-tor-browser.desktop --verbose

# Launching './Browser/start-tor-browser --detach --verbose'...
```

Visit any v2 onion site, connection timestamps are logged at the exact moment the server responds.

```
Sep 24 16:28:52.000 [warn] Warning! You've just connected to a v2 onion address. These addresses are deprecated for security reasons, and are no longer supported in Tor. Please encourage the site operator to upgrade. For more information see https://blog.torproject.org/v2-deprecation-timeline

Sep 24 16:28:52.000 [warn] Warning! You've just connected to a v2 onion address. These addresses are deprecated for security reasons, and are no longer supported in Tor. Please encourage the site operator to upgrade. For more information see https://blog.torproject.org/v2-deprecation-timeline

Sep 24 16:28:52.000 [warn] Warning! You've just connected to a v2 onion address. These addresses are deprecated for security reasons, and are no longer supported in Tor. Please encourage the site operator to upgrade. For more information see https://blog.torproject.org/v2-deprecation-timeline
```

Sep 24 16:29:02.000 [warn] Warning! You've just connected to a v2 onion address. These addresses are deprecated for security reasons, and are no longer supported in Tor. Please encourage the site operator to upgrade. For more information see https://blog.torproject.org/v2-deprecation-timeline

Disclosure Timeline

- **2021-07-02** - Researcher discovers vulnerability on bounty platform
- **2021-07-07** - Report closed as informative
- **2021-08-17** - Researcher requests CVE
- **2021-08-17** - Vendor re-notified via sec mailing list, and on bounty platform chat.
- **2021-09-10** - No response: researcher opens Pull Request to remove timestamps.
- **2021-09-24** - CVE published

Links

https://github.com/sickcodes/security/blob/master/advisories/SICK-2021-111.md

https://sick.codes/sick-2021-111

https://www.privacyaffairs.com/cve-2021-39246-tor-vulnerability/

https://gitlab.torproject.org/tpo/core/tor/-/commit/80c404c4b79f3bcba3fc4585d4c62a62a04f3ed9

https://gitlab.torproject.org/tpo/core/tor/-/merge_requests/434

https://hackerone.com/reports/1250273

Researchers

- *Sick Codes* https://github.com/sickcodes || https://twitter.com/sickcodes
- *Miklos Zoltan* https://twitter.com/mzb4455 || https://www.privacyaffairs.com/authors/miklos/

CVE Links

https://sick.codes/sick-2021-111

https://cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2021-39246

https://nvd.nist.gov/view/vuln/detail?vulnId=CVE-2021-39246

Comments 2

Pingback: Vulnerability Summary for the Week of September 27, 2021 | Smart Cyber Security

Pingback: Vulnerabilidad en () - CVE-2021-39246 - Información y Soluciones

Leave a Reply

Your email address will not be published. Required fields are marked *

Comment *

Name

Email

Website

POST COMMENT

@sickcodes

@sickcodes

@sickcodes

Discord Server

sickcodes.slack.com

t.me/sickcodeschat

./contact_form