My Future with Log4j 2 and Log4Shell

WHAT I LEARNED AND HOW I WILL APPLY IT

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What I did

CSC245-Project-4 was initially a Java program that was designed to demonstrate exceedingly simple usage of the Log4j 2 logging framework. Project 4 was modified by Alexander Marquis starting on March 31st, 2022, to include functionality from the solution to exercise 12.3 from Intro to Java Programming, Comprehensive Version in the Exercise12_03.java file (Liang 488). The Exercise12_03.java file was then modified to include logging functionality provided by the Log4j 2 logging framework. The logging implemented was largely focused around logging exceptions that occurred and relevant program events that occur such as initialization of the random array containing 100 random integers between 0-9,999, inclusive and receiving user input. Finally, by modifying the Log4j.version property in the properties section of the pom.xml file to read 2.17.1 instead of 2.11.2 as recommended by CISA, the Log4Shell vulnerability that was present in the program was effectively mitigated (Apache LOG4J vulnerability quidance). This is because the Maven build system will now build the program using Log4j 2 version 2.17.1 which is no longer vulnerable to CVE-2021-44228. The contents of the modified Exercise12_03.java and pom.xml files can be found in Appendix A and Appendix B respectively. Outputs from running the program using "1" as the user input prior to logging implementation, and after logging implementation can be found in Appendix C and Appendix D respectively. In addition, the output of the log file can be generated from running the program with the inputs of 1, -1, 100000,

In addition to working with the code from Project 4, the exploitation of the Log4Shell vulnerability was performed as described in the Log4Shell Demonstration Report. The exploitation of the Log4Shell vulnerability described in that report acts as a demonstration and is accomplished by setting up a vulnerable Java application that can receive user provided strings over a network in a docker environment, setting up a malicious LDAP server, and sending a malicious string to the vulnerable app. The vulnerable app then attempts to log the string, however, due to the message contained within the malicious string, the malicious string is interpreted as code and management of the JDNI is given to the malicious LDAP server. The malicious LDAP server then decodes the base64 portion of the string and executes the command "touch /tmp/pwned" through the JDNI. Execution of that command creates a file named pwned in the tmp directory of the vulnerable application.

What I learned

Throughout the completion of Project 4, I learned how logging can be an effective tool for monitoring program activities and tracing down and reproducing bugs. Logging allows for program events to be quickly and effectively filtered through for relevant events and for active monitoring of the program activities. This filtering is further expanded upon by the logging levels offered by most logging frameworks including Log4j 2. It allows the developers to see what was happening in the code when a bug occurred so that it can be reproduced, the source of the bug found, and mitigate it. It allows for the security and testing team to have in depth records of various types of tests performed and how the system responded to it. I also learned how to demonstrate an exploitation of the Log4Shell vulnerability and how that exploit works. This further refines my understanding of the dangers posed by the Log4Shell vulnerability and exactly how it works. All of this plays into a knowledge of how to safely and effectively use logging in general, but more specifically the Log4j 2 framework.

How I Envision I'll Use What I Learned

Log4j 2 is a widely used logging framework for the Java language and as such, I envision that there is a good chance that I will use Log4j 2 when working on future Java projects. However, this project has also given me the base knowledge required to use and learn about logging in general which means that regardless of the logging framework, I see logging as being a prevalent part of my future. I also envision myself being able to effectively use the log-level feature prevalent in most logging frameworks, including Log4j 2, to setup meaningful log levels so that information can be communicated efficiently and accurately in log files. I envision that at some point I will be filtering through logs generated by myself and others in order to monitor program activities and to trace down, reproduce, and mitigate bugs. But largely, I envision myself fighting the good fight against the Log4Shell vulnerability that has affected so many. Now, having a base understanding of how the exploit works, how damaging it can be, and how it can be effectively mitigated against, I feel that I am ready to at least begin helping in the fight against this dangerous and prevalent exploit.

Appendix A: Modified Exercise12_03 Java File

```
import org.apache.logging.log4j.LogManager;
import org.apache.logging.log4j.Logger;
```

```
// Inform user that index is out of bounds and log the exception
System.out.println("Out of Bounds");
logger.warn("User supplied index was out of bounds (0-99) for random array [{}]",
ex.toString();
if (logger.isTraceEnabled()) {
    logger.trace("Stack trace for {} throwable {}", "ex.toString()",
    getStringStackTrace(ex));
}
catch (InputMismatchException ex) {
    // Inform user that their input was invalid and log the exception
System.out.println("Invalid Input");
logger.warn("User supplied input was not a Java integer [{}]", ex.toString());
if (logger.isTraceEnabled()) {
    logger.trace("Stack trace for {} throwable {}", "ex.toString()",
    getStringStackTrace(ex));
}
}
finally {
    logger.info("Program terminated");
}

// Method to get the stack trace from a throwable object and convert it into
// a String.

// a String.

// Method to get the stack trace for {} throwable throwable.toString());

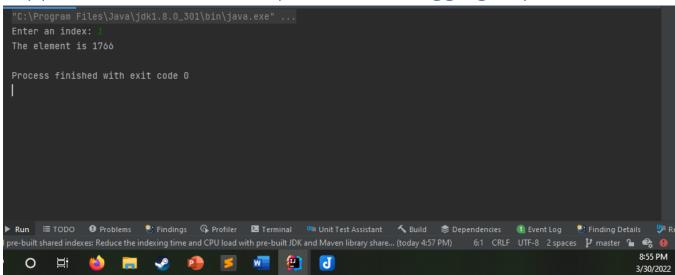
StringWriter stringWriter = new StringWriter();
    throwable.printStackTrace(new PrintWriter(stringWriter));
    return stringWriter.toString();
}
```

Appendix B: Modified pom.xml File

```
04
         <modelVersion>4.0.0</modelVersion>
         <groupId>edu.arapahoe.csc245</groupId>
         <artifactId>log4j2</artifactId>
         <version>1.0</version>
         properties>
             <log4j.version>2.17.1</log4j.version>
             <disruptor.version>3.4.2</disruptor.version>
         </properties>
         <dependencies>
             <dependency>
                 <artifactId>log4j-api</artifactId>
                 <version>${log4j.version}
             </dependency>
             </dependency>
             <dependency>
                 <groupId>com.lmax</groupId>
                 <artifactId>disruptor</artifactId>
             </dependency>
44
                 <groupId>com.fasterxml.jackson.dataformat
                 <version>${jackson.version}
             </dependency>
             <dependency>
54
             </dependency>
```

```
</dependencies>
          <build>
                           <target>${java.version}</target>
                       <executions>
                                   <qoal>shade</qoal>
                               </goals>
83
84
                                       </transformer>
                                   </transformers>
                               </configuration>
                           </execution>
                       </executions>
                  </plugin>
              </plugins>
          </build>
```

Appendix C: Console Output Prior to Logging Implementation



Appendix D: Console Output Post-Logging Implementation

```
\target\classes\log4/2.xml|
Sig22-04-01 22:54:09,708 main DEBUG Installed 1 script engine
Sig22-04-01 22:54:09,708 main DEBUG Oracle Nashorn version: 1.8.0_301, language: ECMAScript, threading: Not Thread Safe, compile: true, names: [nashorn, Nashorn, js, JS, JavaScript, javascript, ECMAScript, ecmascript],
factory class: jdk.nashorn.apl.scripting.hashornscriptEngineFactory
Sig22-04-01 22:54:08,0309 main DEBUG PluginManager 'Core' found 117 plugins
Sig22-04-01 22:55:08,0309 main DEBUG PluginManager 'Level' found 0 plugins
    POZZ-04-10 Z2-34-08,044 Bain DEBUP Diginflanager 'Lovey' found 13 plugins

18022-04-01 Z2-54-08,046 Bain DEBUP Diginflanager 'Lovey' found 13 plugins

1802-04-01 Z2-54-08,045 main DEBUP Diginflanager 'TypeConverter' found 20 plugins

1802-04-01 Z2-54-08,045 main DEBUP Pluginflanager 'TypeConverter' found 20 plugins

1802-04-01 Z2-54-08,045 main DEBUP PatternLayout$Builder(pattern="MdfHirm:ss-SSS$) [kt] %-5level %logger{36} - %msg%n", PatternSelector=null, Configuration

(C:\Users\Turno_000\Desktop\School\2022-Spring\CSC245-9ec-Software-Dev\Project-4-Stuff\CSC245-Project-4\log4j2\target\classes\log4j2.xml), Replace=null, charset="null", alwaysWriteExceptions="null", noConsoleNoAnsi="null", header="null", fater="null")
     002-04-01 22:54:08,066 main DEBUG PluginManager 'Converter' found 44 plugins
022-04-01 22:54:08,067 main DEBUG Building Plugin[name=appender, class=org.apache.logging.log4j.core.appender.ConsoleAppender].
022-04-01 22:54:08,077 main DEBUG ConsoleAppender$Suilder(target="SYSTEM_DUT", follow="null", direct="null", bufferedIo="null", bufferSize="null", immediateFlush="null", ignoreExceptions="null", PatternLayout(%d{HH:mm:ss
     022-04-01 22:54:08,079 main DEBUG Building Plugin[name=layout, class=org.apache.logging.log4j.core.layout.PatternLayout].
022-04-01 22:54:08,081 main DEBUG PatternLayout$Builder(pattern="%d %p %c{1.} [%t] %m%n", PatternSelector=null, Configuration
(C:\Users\Turno_000\Desktop\School\2022-Spring\CSC245-Sec-Software-Dev\Project-4-Stuff\CSC245-Project-4\log4j2\target\classes\log4j2.xml), Replace=null, charset="null", alwaysWriteExceptions="null", disableAnsi="null",
     noConsoleNoAnsi="null", header="null", footer="null")
022-04-01 22:54:08,094 main DEBUS Building Plugin[name=TimeBasedTriggeringPolicy, class=org.apache.logging.log4j.core.appender.rolling.TimeBasedTriggeringPolicy].
022-04-01 22:54:08,096 main DEBUS TimeBasedTriggeringPolicy$Builder(interval="null", modulate="null", maxRandomDelay="null")
     ozz-og-i 22.34.08,070 main bebon interaction plugin[manezrotierkinterval- mit] modotte- mott, makamimunezay- mott)
022-04-01 22:54:08,097 main DEBUS Building Plugin[manezizeBasedTriggeringPolicy].
022-04-01 22:54:08,100 main DEBUS createPolicy(size="1 MB")
022-04-01 22:54:08,102 main DEBUS Building Plugin[mane=Policies, class=org.apache.logging.log4j.core.appender.rolling.CompositeTriggeringPolicy].
    ouz-vo-u 22.34.00,102 main betwo to totaling requireme-rotices, class-org, apoche.togging, togg).tom:oppender internal-ing.compositeringgeringPolicy(size=1048576)})
18022-04-01 22:54:08,102 main DEBUG DetactePolicy(=(fimeBasedTriggeringPolicy(size=1048576)})
18022-04-01 22:54:08,103 main DEBUG BefaultRolloverStrategy Sbuilder(max="10", min="mull", class-org.apache.logging.log4].core.appender.rolling.DefaultRolloverStrategy).
1802-04-01 22:54:08,107 main DEBUG DefaultRolloverStrategy$Builder(max="10", min="mull", fileIndex="mull", compressionLevel="mull", ={}, stopCustomActionsOnError="mull", tempCompressedFilePattern="mull", Configuration
     022-04-01 22:54:08,107 main DEBUG DefaultHollowerStrategysBuilder(Baxe~10°, ain="mull", fize-make-fluit", compression.evel-fluit", supposion.evel-fluit", supposion.evel-fluit, supposion.evel-f
022-04-01 22:54:08,144 main DEBUG Appender DefaultConsole-1 stopped with status true
022-04-01 22:54:08,145 main DEBUG Stopped org.apache.logging.log4j.core.config.DefaultConfiguration@6
022-04-01 22:54:08,190 main DEBUG Registering MBean org.apache.logging.log4j2:type=18b4aac2
 2022-04-01 22:54:08,190 main DEBUG Registering MBean org.apache.logging.log4j2:type=18b4aac2_component=StatusLogger
2022-04-01 22:54:08,191 main DEBUG Registering MBean org.apache.logging.log4j2:type=18b4aac2_component=StatusLogger
2022-04-01 22:54:08,194 main DEBUG Registering MBean org.apache.logging.log4j2:type=18b4aac2_component=ContextSelector
2022-04-01 22:54:08,195 main DEBUG Registering MBean org.apache.logging.log4j2:type=18b4aac2_component=Appenders_name=edu_arapahoe.csc245
2022-04-01 22:54:08,197 main DEBUG Registering MBean org.apache.logging.log4j2:type=18b4aac2_component=Appenders_name=edu_arapahoe.csc245
2022-04-01 22:54:08,197 main DEBUG Registering MBean org.apache.logging.log4j2:type=18b4aac2_component=Appenders_name=Log76Oclonsole
2022-04-01 22:54:08,198 main DEBUG Registering MBean org.apache.logging.log4j2:type=18b4aac2_component=Appenders_name=Log76Oclonsole
2022-04-01 22:54:08,199 main DEBUG Registering MBean org.apache.logging.log4j2:type=18b4ac2_component=Appenders_name=Log76Oclonsole
2022-04-01 22:54:08,199 main DEBUG org.apache.logging.log4j2:type=18b4ac2_component=Appenders_name=Log76Oclonsole
2022-04-01 22:54:08,199 main DEBUG Registering MBean org.apache.logging.log4j2:type=18b4ac2_component=Appenders_
    8022-04-01 22:54:08,200 main DEBUG Shutdown hook enabled. Registering a new one.
8022-04-01 22:54:08,201 main DEBUG LoggerContext(hame-18b4ae22, org.apache.logging.log4j.core.LoggerContext@082b2fa] started OK.
22:54:08.200 [main] INFO edu.arapahoe.csc245.Exercise12_03 - Program started
22:54:08.209 [main] INFO edu.arapahoe.csc245.Exercise12_03 - Array of Length 100 initialized with random integers between 0-9,999 (inclusive)
        2:54:11.416 [main] INFO edu.arapahoe.csc245.Exercise12_03 - User input successfully received
       2:54:11.407 [main] IMFO edu.arapahoe.csc245.Exercise12.03 - Element at user supplied index from random array was successfully printed to 2:54:11.407 [main] IMFO edu.arapahoe.csc245.Exercise12.03 - Program terminated 2:254:11.418 pool-1-thread-1 DEBUG Stopping LoggerContext[name=1804aac2, org.apache.logging.log/j.core.LoggerContext@682b2fa] 032:04-01 22:54:11,418 pool-1-thread-1 DEBUG Stopping LoggerContext[name=1804aac2, org.apache.logging.log/j.core.LoggerContext@682b2fa] ... 020:26-01 22:54:11,419 pool-1-thread-1 DEBUG Shutting down OutputStreamManager SYSTEM_OUT.false.false, all resources released: true 022:04-01 22:54:11,419 pool-1-thread-1 DEBUG Shut down OutputStreamManager SYSTEM_OUT.false.false, all resources released: true 022:04-01 22:54:11,419 pool-1-thread-1 DEBUG Shutting down RollingfandmanAccessfileMethanager logs/app.log 022:04-01 22:54:11,420 pool-1-thread-1 DEBUG Shutting down RollingfandmanAccessfileMethanager logs/app.log 022:04-01 22:54:11,420 pool-1-thread-1 DEBUG Shutting down RollingfaleManager sups/app.log 022:04-01 22:54:11,420 pool-1-thread-1 DEBUG Shutting town RollingfaleManager sups/app.log 022:04-01 22:54:11,420 pool-1-thread-1 DEBUG Shutting down RollingfaleManager sups/app.log 022:04-01 22:54:11,420 pool-1-thread-1 DEBUG RollingfileManager sups/app.log with status true
           122-04-01 22:56:11,429 pool-1-thread-1 DEBUG All asynchronous threads have terminated
122-04-01 22:56:11,429 pool-1-thread-1 DEBUG ROLlingFlathmaper shutdom completed with status true
122-04-01 22:54:11,421 pool-1-thread-1 DEBUG Shut down RollingRandomAccessFileManager logs/app.log, all resources released: true
122-04-01 22:56:11,421 pool-1-thread-1 DEBUG Appender Log1oRollingRandomAccessFile stopped with status true
122-04-01 22:56:11,421 pool-1-thread-1 DEBUG Stopped with Control Figure 1: Control Figure 2: Control Figure 2: Control Figure 3: C
```

Appendix E: Log Output

2022-04-01 22:54:08,206 INFO e.a.c.Exercise12_03 [main] Program started

2022-04-01 22:54:08,209 INFO e.a.c.Exercise12_03 [main] Array of length 100 initialized with random integers between 0-9,999 (inclusive)

2022-04-01 22:54:11,416 INFO e.a.c.Exercise12_03 [main] User input successfully received

2022-04-01 22:54:11,417 INFO e.a.c.Exercise12_03 [main] Element at user supplied index from random array was successfully printed to the console

2022-04-01 22:54:11,417 INFO e.a.c.Exercise12_03 [main] Program terminated

2022-04-01 22:56:33,146 INFO e.a.c.Exercise12_03 [main] Program started

2022-04-01 22:56:33,149 INFO e.a.c.Exercise12_03 [main] Array of length 100 initialized with random integers between 0-9,999 (inclusive)

2022-04-01 22:56:37,756 INFO e.a.c.Exercise12 03 [main] User input successfully received

2022-04-01 22:56:37,760 WARN e.a.c.Exercise12_03 [main] User supplied index was out of bounds (0-99) for random array [java.lang.ArrayIndexOutOfBoundsException: -1]

2022-04-01 22:56:37,761 INFO e.a.c.Exercise12_03 [main] Program terminated

2022-04-01 22:56:43,344 INFO e.a.c.Exercise12 03 [main] Program started

2022-04-01 22:56:43,348 INFO e.a.c.Exercise12_03 [main] Array of length 100 initialized with random integers between 0-9,999 (inclusive)

2022-04-01 22:56:54,427 INFO e.a.c.Exercise12 03 [main] User input successfully received

2022-04-01 22:56:54,429 WARN e.a.c.Exercise12_03 [main] User supplied index was out of bounds (0-99) for random array [java.lang.ArrayIndexOutOfBoundsException: 100000]

2022-04-01 22:56:54,429 INFO e.a.c.Exercise12_03 [main] Program terminated

2022-04-01 22:56:59,513 INFO e.a.c.Exercise12 03 [main] Program started

2022-04-01 22:56:59,516 INFO e.a.c.Exercise12_03 [main] Array of length 100 initialized with random integers between 0-9,999 (inclusive)

2022-04-01 22:57:07,007 INFO e.a.c.Exercise12_03 [main] Program terminated

2022-04-01 22:57:13,122 INFO e.a.c.Exercise12_03 [main] Program started

2022-04-01 22:57:13,125 INFO e.a.c.Exercise12_03 [main] Array of length 100 initialized with random integers between 0-9,999 (inclusive)

2022-04-01 22:57:17,668 WARN e.a.c.Exercise12_03 [main] User supplied input was not a Java integer [java.util.InputMismatchException]

2022-04-01 22:57:17,668 INFO e.a.c.Exercise12_03 [main] Program terminated

References

"Apache LOG4J Vulnerability Guidance." *CISA*, https://www.cisa.gov/uscert/apache-log4j-vulnerability-guidance.

Liang, Daniel Y. "Exception Handling and Text I/O." *Intro to Java Programming, Comprehensive Version*, 10th ed., Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ, 2014, p. 488.