Vulnerabilities

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Information Security Vulnerabilities and Attacks Threats difficult Discouragement generate potentiate elude Attacks Deception explore discover Detection Vulnerabilities cause protect Prevention increase reduce depends Value Recovery Impact

Measures (and some tools)

Discouragement

- Punishment
 - Legal restrictions
 - Forensic evidences
- Security barriers
 - Firewalls
 - Autentication
- Secure communication
- Sandboxing

Detection

- Intrusion detection system
- e.g. Seek, Bro, Suricata
- Auditing
- Forensic break-in analysis

Deception

- Honeypots / honeynets
- Forensic follow-up

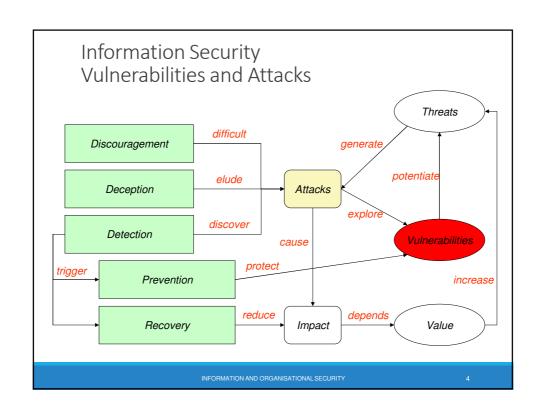
Prevention

- Restrictive policies
 - e.g. least privilege principle
- Vulnerability scanning
 - e.g. OpenVAS, metasploit
- Vulnerability patching
 - e.g. regular updates

Recovery

- Backups
- Redundant systems
- Forensic recovery

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Vulnerability

A mistake in software that can be directly used by an attacker to gain access to a system or network

A mistake is a vulnerability <u>if it allows an attacker to use it to violate a reasonable security policy for that system</u>

 This excludes entirely "open" security policies in which all users are trusted, or where there is no consideration of risk to the system

A CVE vulnerability is a state in a computing system (or set of systems) that either:

- · Allows an attacker to execute commands as another user
- Allows an attacker to access data that is contrary to the specified access restrictions for that data
- Allows an attacker to pose as another entity
- · Allows an attacker to conduct a denial of service

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Exposure

A configuration issue or a mistake in software allowing access to information or capabilities used as a stepping-stone into a system or network

A configuration issue or a mistake is an exposure if it does not directly allow compromise

 But could be an important component of a successful attack, and is a violation of a reasonable security policy

An exposure describes a state in a computing system (or set of systems) that is not a vulnerability, but either:

- Allows an attacker to conduct information gathering activities
- Allows an attacker to hide activities
- Includes a capability that behaves as expected, but can be easily compromised
- Is a primary point of entry that an attacker may attempt to use to gain access to the system or data
- Is considered a problem by some reasonable security policy

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CVE Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures

Dictionary of publicly known information security vulnerabilities and exposures

- For vulnerability management
- For patch management
- For vulnerability alerting
- For intrusion detection

Uses common identifiers for the same CVEs

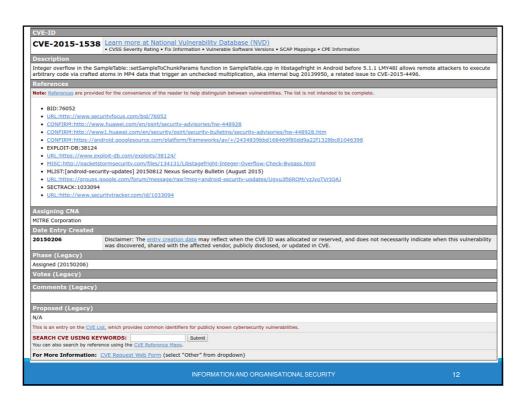
- Enable data exchange between security products
- Provide a baseline index point for evaluating coverage of tools and services.

Details about a vulnerability can be kept private

• Part of responsible disclosure: until owner provides a fix

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CVE identifiers

Aka CVE names, CVE numbers, CVE-IDs, CVEs

Unique, common identifiers for publicly known information security vulnerabilitiesHave "candidate" or "entry" status

- Candidate: under review for inclusion in the list
- Entry: accepted to the CVE List

Format

- CVE identifier number (CVE-Year-Order)
- Status (Candidate or Entry)
- Brief description of the vulnerability or exposure
- References to extra information

CVE benefits

Provides common language for referring to problems

- · Facilitates data sharing among
- Intrusion detection systems
- Assessment tools
- Vulnerability databases
- Researchers
- Incident response teams

Will lead to improved security tools

- More comprehensive, better comparisons, interoperable
- Indications and warning systems

Will spark further innovations

Focal point for discussing critical database content issues

CVE and Attacks



Attacks can be made possible through multiple vulnerabilities

One CVF for each vulnerability

Example: Stagefright (Android, video in MMS messages)

- CVE-2015-1538, P0006, Google Stagefright 'stsc' MP4 Atom Integer Overflow Remote Code Execution
- ° CVE-2015-1538, P0004, Google Stagefright 'ctts' MP4 Atom Integer Overflow Remote Code Execution
- ° CVE-2015-1538, P0004, Google Stagefright 'stts' MP4 Atom Integer Overflow Remote Code Execution
- CVE-2015-1538, P0004, Google Stagefright 'stss' MP4 Atom Integer Overflow Remote Code Execution
- CVE-2015-1539, P0007, Google Stagefright 'esds' MP4 Atom Integer Underflow Remote Code Execution
- CVE-2015-3827, P0008, Google Stagefright 'covr' MP4 Atom Integer Underflow Remote Code Execution CVE-2015-3826, P0009, Google Stagefright 3GPP Metadata Buffer Overread
- CVE-2015-3828, P0010, Google Stagefright 3GPP Integer Underflow Remote Code Execution
- CVE-2015-3824, P0011, Google Stagefright 'tx3g' MP4 Atom Integer Overflow Remote Code Execution
- CVE-2015-3829, P0012, Google Stagefright 'covr' MP4 Atom Integer Overflow Remote Code Execution

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Vulnerability detection

Specific tools can detect vulnerabilities

- Exploiting known vulnerabilities
- Testing known vulnerability patterns
 - e.g., buffer overflow, SQL injection, XSS, etc.

Specific tools can replicate known attacks

- Use known exploits for known vulnerabilities
 - e.g.: MS Samba v1 exploit used by WannaCry
- Can be used to implement countermeasures

Vital to assert the robustness of production systems and applications

Service often provided by third-party companies

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Vulnerability detection

Can be applied to:

- Source code (static analysis)
 - OWASP LAPSE+, RIPS, Veracode, ...
- Running application (dynamic analysis)
 - Valgrind, Rational, AppScan, GCC, ...
- Externally as a remote client:
 - OpenVAS, Metasploit, ...

Should not be <u>blindly</u> applied to production systems!

- Potential data loss/corruption
- Potential DoS
- Potential illegal activity

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CWE Common Weakness Enumeration

Common language of discourse for discussing, finding and dealing with the causes of software security vulnerabilities

- Found in code, design, or system architecture
- Each individual CWE represents a single vulnerability type
- Currently maintained by the MITRE Corporation
 - A detailed CWE list is currently available at the MITRE website
- The list provides a detailed definition for each individual CWE

Individual CWEs are held within a hierarchical structure

- $\,^\circ\,$ CWEs at higher levels provide a broad overview of a vulnerability type
 - Can have many children CWEs associated with them
- CWEs at deeper levels provide a finer granularity
 - Usually have fewer or no children CWEs

CWE ≠ **CVE**

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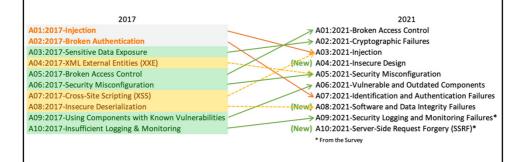
Vulnerability types OWASP Top 10 (Web, 2021)

- 1. Broken Access control
- 2. Cryptographic Failures
- 3. Injection
- 4. Insecure Design
- 5. Security Misconfiguration
- 6. Vulnerable and Outdated Components
- Identification and Authentication Failures
- 8. Software and Data Integrity Failures
- Security Logging and Monitoring Failures
- 10. Server-Side Request Forgery (SSRF)

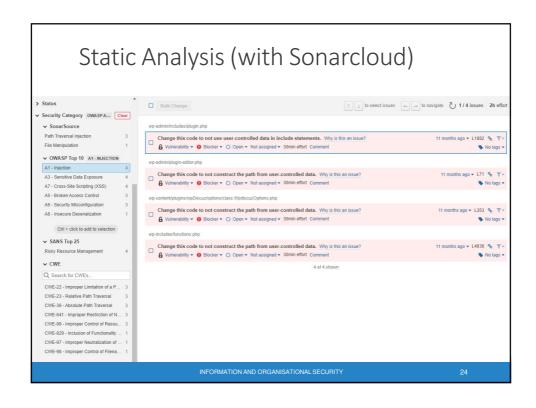
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Vulnerability types OWASP Top 10 (Web)



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Vulnerability Tracking by vendors During the development cycle, vulnerabilities are handled as bugs May have a dedicated security team or not When software is available, vulnerabilities are also tracked globally For every system and software publicly available Public tracking helps... focusing the discussion around the same issue Ex: a library that is used in multiple applications, distributions defenders to easily test their systems, enhancing the security attackers to easily know what vulnerability can be used

Vulnerability Tracking

Vulnerabilities are privately tracked

- Constitute an arsenal for future attacks against targets
- · Exploits are weapons

Knowledge about vulnerabilities and exploits is publicly traded

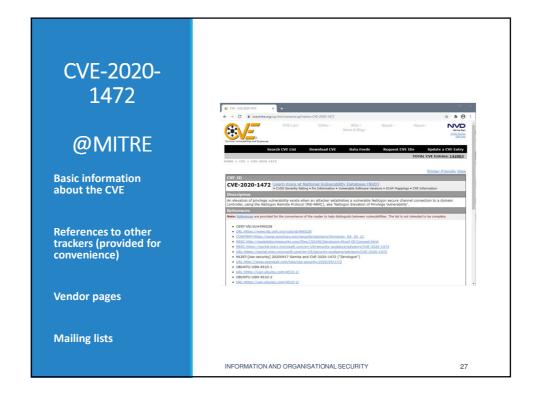
- $_{\circ}\;$ From 0 to 2-3M€ (more?) through direct markets, or acquisition programs
- Up to 2.5M€ for bug hunting programs or direct acquisition (Google, Zerodium)
 - 。 2.5M€: 1 click Android exploit
 - 2M€: 1 click iPhone exploit
 - 。 1.5M€: WhatsApp or iMessage exploit
 - ~2K for a XSS at HackerOne (although there are records of \$1M payouts)

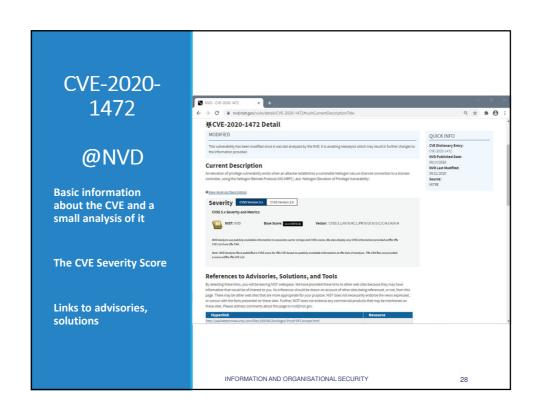
...and privately traded at unknown prices

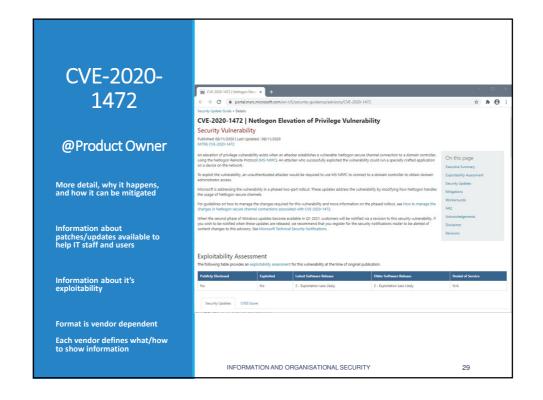
Private Companies, Organized Crime, APTs

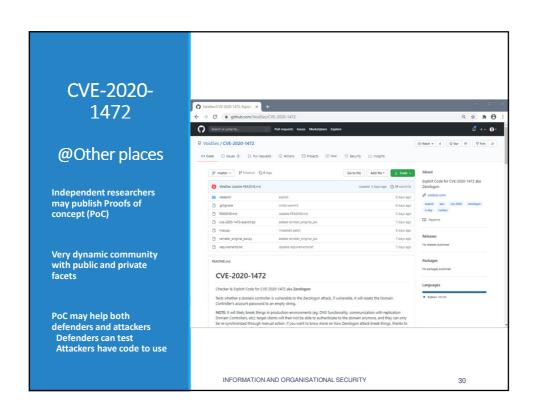
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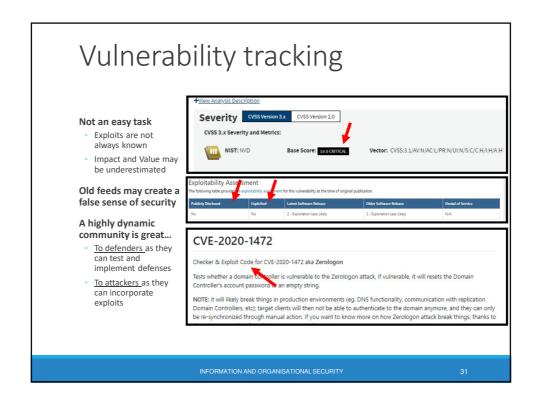
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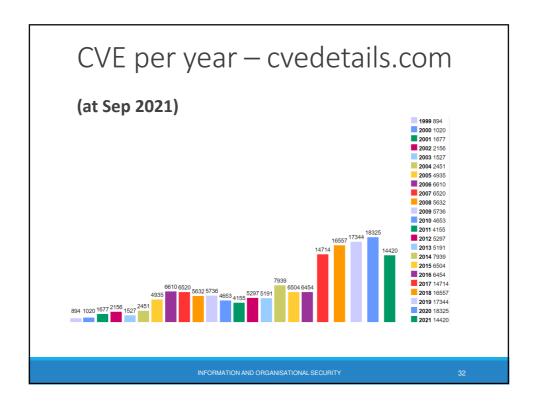












Zero Day (or Zero Hour) Attack/Threat

Attack using vulnerabilities which are:

- Unknown to others
- Undisclosed to the software vendor

Occurs at the day zero of the knowledge about those vulnerabilities

• For which no security fix is available

A single "day zero" may exist for months/years

- $\,^\circ\,$ Known to attackers, unknown to others
- Frequently part of attack arsenal
- Traded around in specific markets

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Survivability

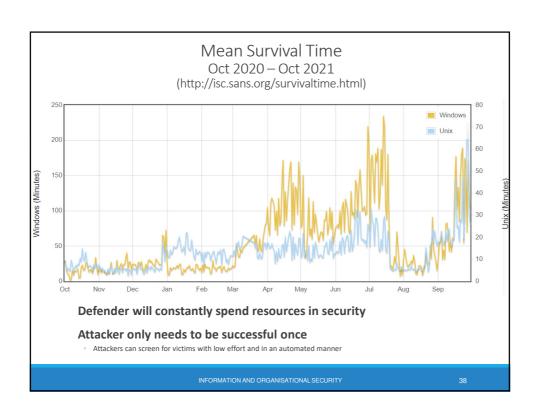
How can we survive a zero-day attack?

How can we react to a massive zero-day attack?

Diversity is one answer (as a policy) ...

- but software production, distribution and update goes on the opposite direction!
 - And the same happens with hardware architectures
- Why is MS Windows such an interesting target?
 - And Apple macOS not so much?
- Are you using an Android cell phone?
 - What are the odds of being in the battlefront? (you are)
 - iOS landscape may be worst as it is more homogeneous

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CERT

Computer Emergency Readiness Team

Organization ensuring that appropriate technology and systems' management practices are used to

- Resist attacks on networked systems
- Limit damage, ensure continuity of critical services
 - In spite of successful attacks, accidents, or failures

CERT/CC (Coordination Center) @ CMU

- One component of the larger CERT Program
- A major center for internet security problems
 - Established in November 1988, after the "Morris Worm"
 - It demonstrated the growing Internet exposure to attacks

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CSIRT

Computer Security Incident Response Team

A service organization responsible for receiving, reviewing, and responding to computer security incident reports and activity

- Provides 24x7 Computer Security Incident Response Services to users, companies, government agencies or organizations
- Provides a reliable and trusted single point of contact for reporting computer security incidents worldwide
- CSIRT provides the means for reporting incidents and for disseminating important incident-related information

Portuguese CSIRTs

- CERT.PT: https://www.facebook.com/CentroNacionalCibersegurancaPT
- National CSIRT Network : https://www.redecsirt.pt/
- CSIRT @ UA: https://csirt.ua.pt

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Security alerts & activity trends

Vital to the fast dissemination of knowledge about new vulnerabilities

- US-CERT Technical Cyber Security Alerts
- US-CERT (non-technical) Cyber Security Alerts
- SANS Internet Storm Center
 - Aka DShield (Defense Shield)
- Microsoft Security Response Center
- Cisco Security Center
- And many others ...

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Other sources of information

Reddit r/netsec

Twitter #infosec #cybersec

Discord, Slack and other private and public sources

- https://en.0day.today
- https://www.exploit-db.com/
- https://vuldb.com/

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