

/WHOIS NATE WARFIELD

- Director of Research @ Eclypsium
- F5 Networks, Microsoft (MSRC, M365)
- Destroyer of network devices
- 4th time BruCON speaker
- Security researcher
- Socials: @n0x08



AGENDA & MOTIVATIONS

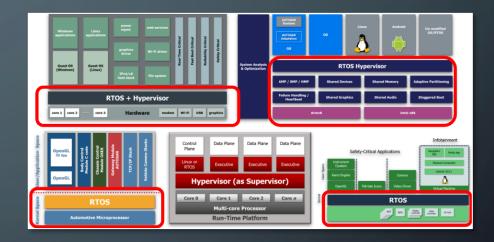
- Current firmware landscape
- Firmware analysis 101
- Open-source toolsets
- Obligatory ChatGPT references
- Wanna see a dead body?
- Conclusions

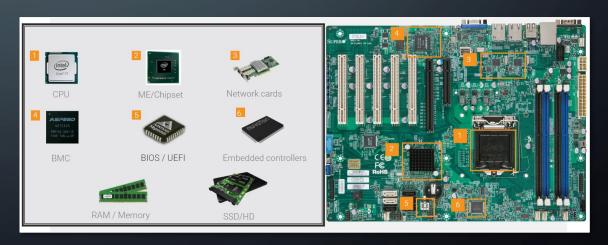
- I've done defensive talks
- I've done offensive talks
- This is an educational talk
- Firmware security needs humans
- BruCON attracts up & coming people
- B33R



WHAT IS FIRMWARE?

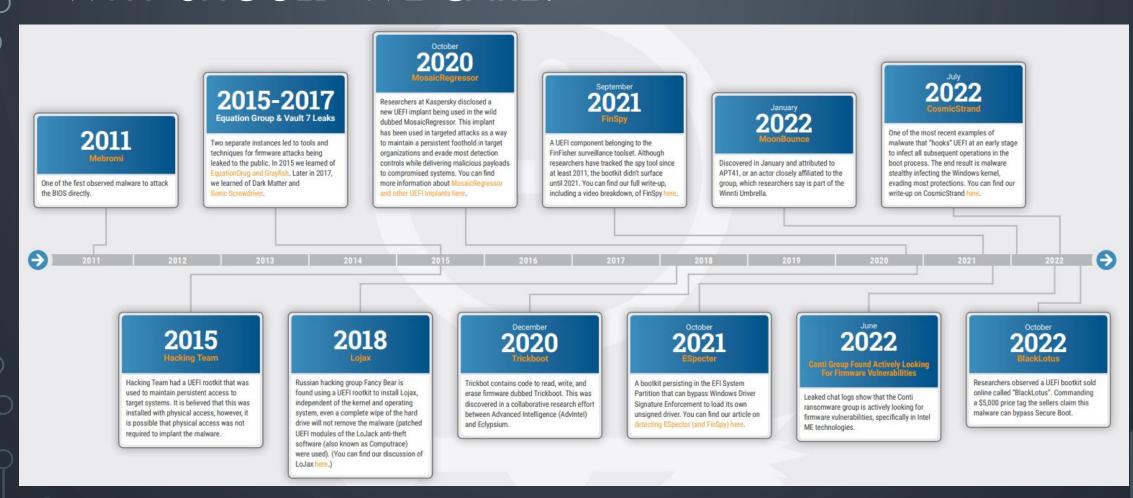
- The OS(s) under your OS
- Controls hardware
- Secure Boot, UEFI, TPM, CPU, etc.
- Egregious vulnerabilities
- Complex to update
- Invisible to *DR solutions







WHY SHOULD WE CARE?





FIRMWARE IS SO HOT HACKED RIGHT NOW

- Jan 30: Second set of BMC vulns disclosed
- March 1: Black Lotus disclosed
- March 16: Fortinet attacks by UNC3886
- April 7: MSI breach & stolen source code announced
- May 31: Gigabyte backdoor disclosed
- June 1: Barracuda announces 0-day attacks
- June 13: Binding Operational Directive 23-02
- June 14: Harden BMCs
- July 25: Citrix 0-day announced
- Sept 8: Mandiant details Barracuda backdoors



Harden Baseboard Management Controllers

Summary

Baseboard management controllers (BMCs) are trusted components designed into a computer's hardware that operate separately from the operating system and firmware to allow for remote management and control, even when the system is shut down. This Cybersecurity Information Sheet (CSI), authored by the National Security Agency (NSA) and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), highlights threats to BMCs and details actions organizations can use to harden them. NSA and CISA encourage all organizations managing relevant servers to apply the recommended actions in this CSI.

Malicious actors target overlooked firmware

BINDING OPERATIONAL DIRECTIVES

Binding Operational Directive 23-02

June 13, 2023

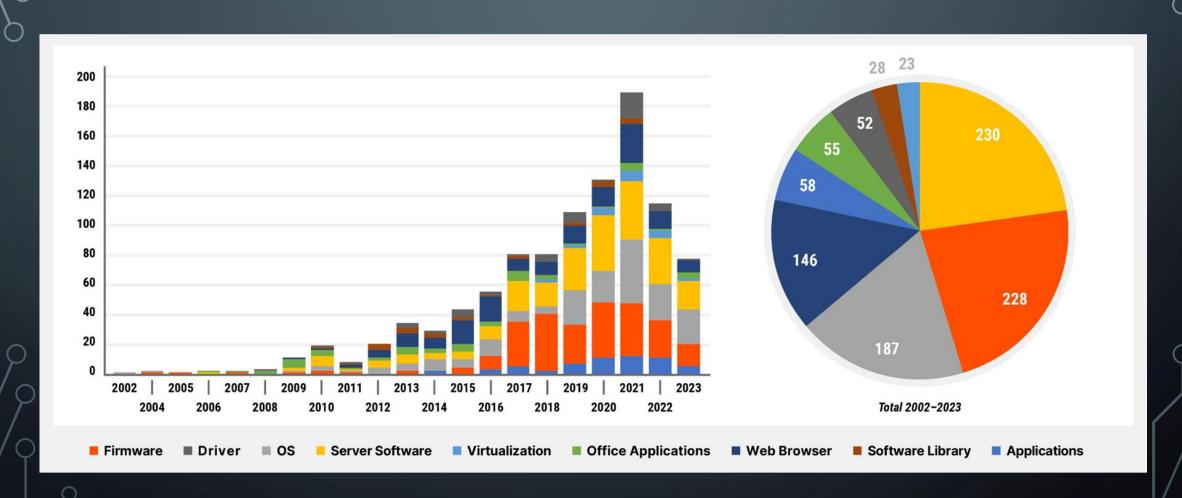
RELATED TOPICS: CYBERSECURITY BEST PRACTICES

MITIGATING THE RISK FROM INTERNET-EXPOSED MANAGEMENT INTERFACES

This page contains a web-friendly version of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's Binding Operational Directive 23-02: Mitigating the Risk from Internet-Exposed Management Interfaces.



KNOWN EXPLOITED VULNERABILITIES





"Firmware is the immutable law that governs the machine, the commandments etched into its very being"

--ChatGPT



COMMERCIAL OFFERINGS

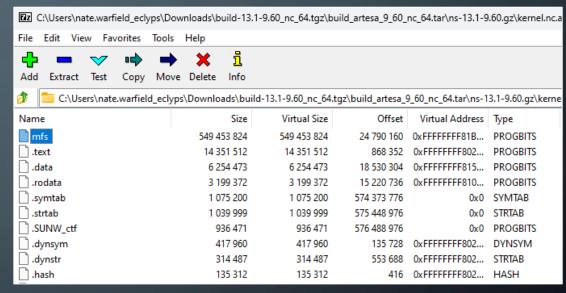
- Microsoft Defender for IoT
- OneKey
- Finite State
- Netrise
- Nozomi Networks
- Bugprove

- Limited firmware support
- SBOM
- Identify CVEs
- Identify CWEs
- Crypto material/passwords
- You're paying for the GUI



INITIAL ANALYSIS & UNPACKING

- Firmware requires unpacking first
- Complexity varies by vendor and version
- Sometimes binwalk is enough
- Somethings literally nothing will work
- Unblob >> binwalk
- Custom packing is a thing
- 7zip is your friend



DECIMAL	HEXADECIMAL	DESCRIPTION XML document, version: "1.0"		
Θ	0x0			
144	0x90	Copyright string: "Copyright>Copyright 2007-2021, Raritan Americas, Inc."		
154	0x9A	Copyright string: "Copyright 2007-2021, Raritan Americas, Inc."		
199	0xC7	Copyright string: "Copyright>"		
18746948	0x11E0E44	MySQL MISAM index file Version 7		



- Static analysis requires source code
- D(ynamic)AST analyzes running applications
- DAST is out of scope for this talk
- Semgrep (multi-language, has paid version)
- Progpilot (PHP)
- OSS tools are very limited (big money in SAST)

```
require_once('config/config.php');
require once('include/utils.php');
require once('include/class.sdk.php');
$sdkAdminObj = new SdkAdminClass();
if (isset($ POST['stopRunningJobId'])){
   $id = $ POST['stopRunningJobId'];
   $filename = "/mnt/sdk/tmp/job-$id.pid";
   if (file exists($filename)){
       $file = fopen($filename,"r");
        if ($file !== FALSE) {
            $pid = fread($file,filesize($filename));
            fclose($file):
            exec(escapeshellcmd("kill -15 " . escapeshellarg($pid)))
            for ($i=0; $i< $i++) {
                sleep(1);
                if (!file_exists("/proc/$pid")) break;
            if (file_exists("/proc/$pid")) {
                exec(escapeshellcmd("kill -9 " . escapeshellarg($pid)))
                sleep(1);
            unlink($filename);
            syslog(LOG_WARNING, "sdk: killing job $id (pid $pid)");
```



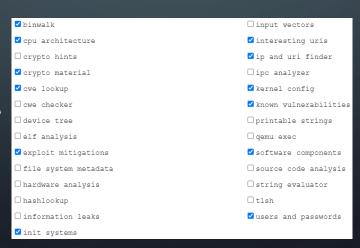
AUTOMATE ALL THE THINGS

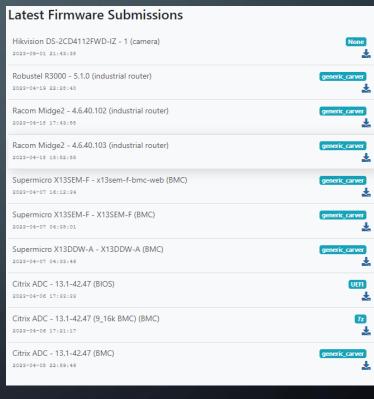
- Firmware analysis is generally slow
- Hard to perform analysis at scale
- Expensive to buy hardware
 - Wanna loan me your datacenter?
- EOL devices are still prevalent
- I'm not an RE expert & have limited time



FIRMWARE ANALYSIS AND COMPARISON TOOL (FACT)

- Automated unpacking via binwalk
- Password cracking via john the ripper
- Vulnerability identification
- QEMU emulation
- Database backend
- Web interface
- Fast(ish) with powerful VM



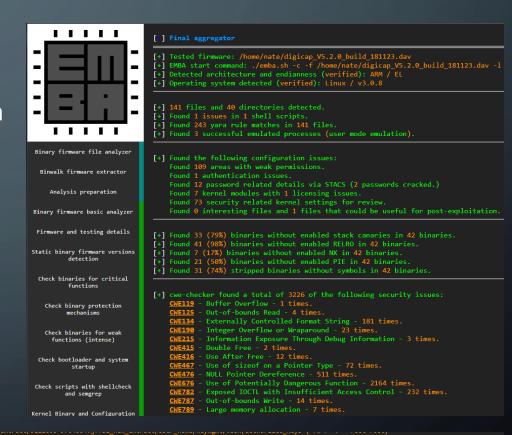




EMBEDDED ANALYZER (EMBA)

- CLI; web reports only
- Known Exploited Vulnerability correlation
- Generates SBOM (CycloneDX)
- Exploit data; availability, capabilities
- Uses semgrep for SAST
- ChatGPT integration (experimental)

```
root:ToCOv8qxP13qs:0:0:root:/root/:/bin/sh
admin:yiVXjXdLpGfug:0:0:admin:/:/bin/sh
root:yiNNyNaXWRwx.:0:0:root:/root/:/bin/sh
Loaded 3 password hashes with 2 different salts (1.5x same-salt boost)
                 (admin)
                 (root)
[*] John the ripper final status: 2 password hashes cracked, 1 left
[+] Password hash cracked: admin:12345:0:0:admin:/:/bin/sh
[+] Password hash cracked: root:duhao:0:0:root:/root/:/bin/sh
```



- [+] Warning: Possible authorized key backdoor detected: /logs/firmware/unblob_extracted/firmware_extract/5111808-9764864.jffs2_new_extract/user_home/keymgmt/.ssh/authorized_keys logs/firmware/unblob_extracted/firmware_extract/5111808-9764864.jffs2_new_extract/user_home/mgmt/.ssh/authorized_keys (-rw-r--r- root root)

 [+] Warning: Possible authorized_key backdoor detected: /logs/firmware/unblob_extracted/firmware_extract/5111808-9764864.jffs2_new_extract/user_home/mgmt/.ssh/authorized_keys
- logs/firmware/unblob extracted/firmware extract/5111808-9764864.iffs2 new extract/user home/solusr/.ssh/authorized keys (-rw-r--r- root root)
- [+] Warning: Possible authorized key backdoor detected: /logs/firmware/unblob extracted/firmware extract/5111808-9764864.jffs2 new extract/user home/solusr/.ssh/authorized keys /etc/defconfig/user home/keymgmt/.ssh/authorized keys (-rw-r--r-- root root)



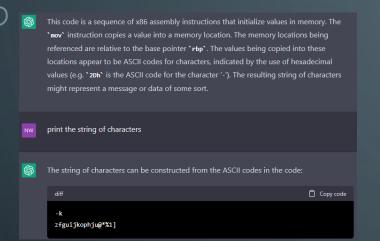
TUNING EMBA

- 76 modules; 44 test modules, 17 prep modules
- 2-36hrs per analysis (!)
- emba/config/module_blacklist.txt
 - \$99_grepit
 - S110_yara_check
 - \$15_radare_decompile_checks
- Test with a defined set of modules
- emba/helpers/running_modules.sh
- Add more resources
 - I run 12x 3.8Ghz AMD Ryzen cores + 32GB RAM





CHATGPT ALL SOME OF THE THINGS



```
rdx, [rbp+var A0]
       rax, [rbp+var 90]
       rsi, rdx
mov
        rdi, rax
lea
       rsi, [rbp+var_E0]
        rcx, [rbp+var A0]
lea
       rax, [rbp+var 80]
        rdx, [rbp+var B0]
lea
        [rsp+210h+var_210], rdx
        r8, rcx
        edx. offset aSSSSDevNull21 0 : "%s %s/%s %s >/dev/null 2>&1"
                        ; maxlen
mov
        edi, offset buf ; s
mov
        snprintf
        edi, offset buf
call
       executecmd
       eax, eax
       loc 401AE1
```

```
[rbp+var 9F], 0
        [rbp+var_C0], 2Dh ; '-'
mov
        [rbp+var BF], 6Bh ; 'k'
mov
        [rbp+var BE], 0
mov
        [rbp+var E0], 7Ah ; 'z'
mov
        [rbp+var DF], 66h; 'f'
mov
        [rbp+var DE], 67h;
mov
        [rbp+var DD], 75h :
mov
mov
mov
mov
         rbp+var D9], 6Fh ;
mov
mov
        [rbp+var D7], 68h; 'h'
mov
        [rbp+var D6], 6Ah ;
mov
         rbp+var D5], 75h ;
mov
        [rbp+var D4], 40h ; '@'
mov
        [rbp+var D3], 2Ah ;
mov
        [rbp+var D2], 25h; '%'
mov
        [rbp+var D1], 31h ; '1'
mov
        [rbp+var D0], 5Dh ; ']'
        [rbp+var CF], 0
lea
        rdx, [rbp+var 20]
        rax, [rbp+var 10]
       r8, rdx
        rcx, rax
        edx, offset aSSDevNull21 : "%s %s >/dev/null 2>&1"
                        : maxlen
       edi, offset buf ; s
       eax, 0
        snprintf
        edi, offset buf
call
        executecmd
test
        eax, eax
        short loc 400FE5
```

```
$
```

There are a few potential insecure coding errors in this code

- 1. Variable injection: The **`\$device_id`** variable is taken directly from
- `\$_REQUEST['device_id']` without any input validation or sanitization. This could allow an attacker to inject malicious code or data into the application.
- Command injection: The `exec` function is used to execute a system command with the
 `\$device_id` variable as a parameter. If the `\$device_id` variable is not properly
 sanitized, this could allow an attacker to inject malicious code into the system command
 and execute arbitrary code on the server.
- Cross-site scripting (XSS): The '\$_SESSION['csrf-token']' variable is not properly
 sanitized before being output to the page in the 'toggle_alignment' function. This could
 allow an attacker to inject malicious code into the page and steal sensitive user data.

To address these issues, it is recommended to:

- 1. Validate and sanitize any input variables, including '\$device id'
- Use parameterized queries or escape user input when constructing system commands to prevent command injection attacks.
- $\,$ 3. Properly sanitize any user input before outputting it to the page to prevent XSS attacks.



IT'S NOT AI AND IT WON'T TAKE OUR JOBS (YET)

- ChatGPT hallucinates like a VC bro at Burning Man
- No recognition of code interdependencies & imports
- Automated SAST is not reliable; tons of false positives
- Token limitations/price
- Too slow for at-scale analysis
- GPT3 >> GPT4
- Custom LLMs?



≔> gnssAutoAlign.php

- [*] AI-Assisted analysis for ./logs/firmware/unblob_extracted/firmware_extract/191-31707726.gzip_extract/gzip.uncompressed_extract/home/www-data/admin/gnssAutoAlign.php (-rw-r--r- root root)
- [*] AI-assisted analysis results via OpenAI ChatGPT:

"Potential vulnerabilities and exploits in the code:

1. In line 16, the value of the \"device_id\" parameter obtained from the user input (\$_REQUEST['device_id']) is directly used in the file paths withou t any validation or sanitization. This can lead to path traversal attacks, allowing an attacker to access arbitrary files on the server by manipula ting the \"device_id\" parameter.

=> gnssAutoAlign.php

- [*] AI-Assisted analysis for ./logs/firmware/unblob_extracted/firmware_extract/191-32165988.gzip_extract/gzip.uncompressed_extract/home/www-data/admin/gnssAutoAlign.php (-rw-r--r- root root)
- [*] AI-assisted analysis results via OpenAI ChatGPT:

"This code snippet has several potential vulnerabilities:

1. In line 4, the value of `\$device_id` is taken directly from the user input `\$_REQUEST['device_id']` without any form of validation or sanitization.

This could allow an attacker to inject malicious data, such as special characters or SQL injection code, leading to a potential security issue.



ADJACENT RESEARCH





```
Code analysis: command injection
Confidence MODERATE
Command injection
       gnssAutoAlign.php
                                                                                            .img_extract/171-29990134.gzip_extract/171-29990134_extract/home/www-data/adi
      On line 6.
                                            $angles = explode("\n", $angles);
                                            $yaw = explode("yaw: ", $angles[0])[1];
     Propagator 1
      anssAutoAlian.php
                                            $pitch = explode("pitch: ", $angles[1])[1];
      On line 6.
                                            $roll = explode("roll: ", $angles[2])[1];
                                    31
                                    32 }
       gnssAutoAlign.php
                                    34 if (isset($ POST['toggleAlignment'])) {
      On line 36.
                                            if ($status == "disabled") {
                                                 exec("/usr/local/sbin/www-scripts/various/doAutoAlignment " . $device_id . " > /dev/null &");
                                                $status = "starting";
                                    38
                                                exec("kill $(cat ". PID FILENAME . ")");
                                                $status = "stopping";
                                    43 }
                                    45 if (!isset($_REQUEST['periodicUpdate'])) {
                                            if(!isset($pageIndx) && !isset($subIndx))
```

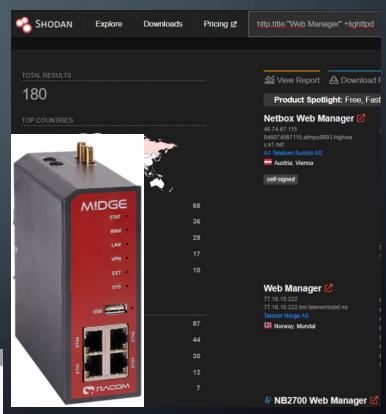




BUSTED: UNDOCUMENTED SECURITY PATCH

- OneKey blogs reused a screenshot
- Firmware contained GUI page & httpd server
- Shodan all the things
 - 'http.title:"Web Manager' +lighttpd
- RACOM M!DGE2 industrial router
- Firmware update shortly after 2nd OneKey blog
- Update contained the exact same fix
- No CVE mentioned







HOW NOT TO BUILD A BACKDOOR

- Initially detected as Cr4sh/SmmBackdoor
- Windows binary embedded in UEFI
- Written to disk on Windows startup
- Registers binary as a service
- Dropped binary then retrieves payloads
- No signature validation
- No certificate pinning
- Same technique as LoJax, MosiacRegressor, MoonBounce

WIRED

Millions of PC Motherboards Were Sold With a Firmware Backdoor



Hidden code in hundreds of models of Gigabyte motherboards invisibly and insecurely downloads programs—a feature ripe for abuse,...

31 May 2023

SecurityWeek

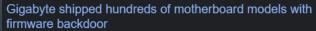
Gigabyte Rolls Out BIOS Updates to Remove Backdoor From Motherboards



Gigabyte has announced BIOS updates that remove a recently identified backdoor feature in hundreds of its motherboards.

05 Jun 2023

PC World





Gigabyte's motherboard backdoor installs software updates from unsecured web

05 Jun 2023

Sophos New

Researchers claim Windows "backdoor" affects hundreds of Gigabyte motherboards



Researchers at firmware and supply-chain security company Eclypsium claim to have found what they have rather dramatically dubbed a...

02 Jun 2023



(IN)SECURITY CAMERA SYSTEMS

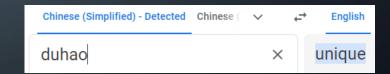
- Hikvision IP cameras
- Paid engagement for a government contractor
- Hardcoded passwords on 2 accounts
- Second proposed engagement ... also Hikvision
- SSH host key backdoor



```
root:ToCOv8qxP13qs:0:0:root:/root/:/bin/sh
admin:yiVXjXdLpGfug:0:0:admin:/:/bin/sh
root:yiNNyNaXWRwx.:0:0:root:/root/:/bin/sh

Loaded 3 password hashes with 2 different salts (1.5x same-salt boost)
12345 (admin)
duhao (root)

[*] John the ripper final status: 2 password hashes cracked, 1 left
[+] Password hash cracked: admin:12345:0:0:admin:/:/bin/sh
[+] Password hash cracked: root:duhao:0:0:root:/root/:/bin/sh
```





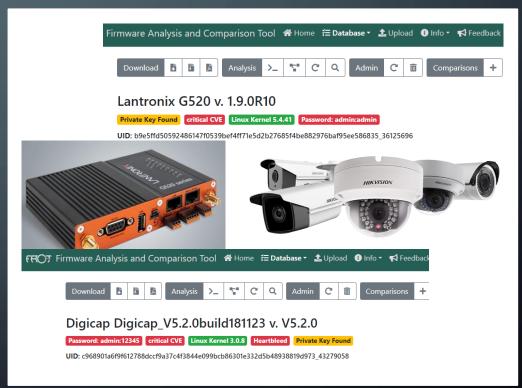
- [+] Warning: Possible authorized_key backdoor detected: /logs/firmware/unblob_extracted/i /etc/defconfig/user_home/keymgmt/.ssh/authorized_keys (-rw-r--r- root root)
- [+] Warning: Possible authorized_key backdoor detected: /logs/firmware/unblob_extracted/i /etc/defconfig/user_home/mgmt/.ssh/authorized_keys (-rw-r--r- root root)
- [+] Warning: Possible authorized_key backdoor detected: /logs/firmware/unblob_extracted/t/detc/defconfig/user_home/solusr/.ssh/authorized_keys (-rw-r--r-- root root)



THIS IS WHY WE CAN'T HAVE NICE THINGS, DARLING

- Shellshock (!)
- Heartbleed
- Default creds *everywhere*
- SMB vulns in network DVRs
- Linux 2.x & 3.x kernels

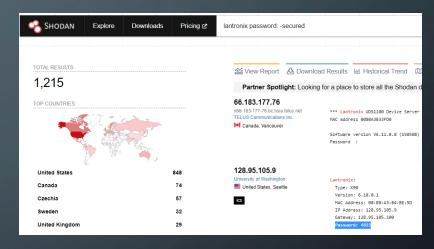
```
[+] Identified 763 CVE entries.
   Identified 317 High rated CVE entries / Exploits: 117
   Identified 411 Medium rated CVE entries / Exploits: 70
   Identified 35 Low rated CVE entries /Exploits: 12
   199 possible exploits available (3 Metasploit modules).
   Remote exploits: 0 / Local exploits: 4 / DoS exploits: 1 / Github PoCs: 195
```





BECAUSE YOU BREAK THEM

- Serial to Ethernet devices
- Passwordless accounts
- Shell scripts as shells
- Passwords displayed in banner
- 9 root accounts?
- ping \$1





root:P80k8vVYqFTSM:0:0:root:/root:/bin/sh
bin:*:1:1:bin:/bin:/bin/sh
daemon:*:2:2:daemon:/usr/sbin:/bin/sh
adm:*:3:4:adm:/adm:/bin/sh
sync:*:5:0:sync:/bin:/bin/sync
shutdown:*:6:11:shutdown:/sbin:/sbin/shutdown
uucp:*:10:14:uucp:/var/spool/uucp:/bin/sh
nobody:*:65534:65534:nobody:/home:/bin/sh
config::0:0:root:/:/bin/eric_config
serialconfig::0:0:root:/:/bin/eric_config_serial.sh
console::0:0:root:/:/bin/eric_config_unblock.sh
changemac::0:0:root:/:/bin/eric_config_mac.sh
changesh::0:0:root:/:/bin/eric_config_mac.sh
changepdu::0:0:root:/:/bin/eric_config_pdu.sh
ping::0:0:root:/:/bin/ping.sh
reset::0:0:root:/:/bin/ping.sh
reset::0:0:root:/:/bin/reboot.sh
rmoem::0:0:root:/:/bin/reboot.sh
rmoem::0:0:root:/:/bin/reom.sh



I HAD TO TAKE THEM AWAY

- Fortinet firmware is encrypted
- Fortinet firmware had zero ability verify file integrity (<v7.4.0)
- Fortinet does not support copying files to/from devices
- Forensics only performed via snapshots provided to Mandiant
- https://bishopfox.com/blog/breaking-fortinet-firmware-encryption



"Encryption here is not used for confidentiality because of the availability of VM images. Creating a malicious images (sic) and running it on the device is not possible because of image signing and verification." - Fortinet PSIRT

On the other hand, they promptly locked down access to firmware downloads, limiting each account to products with active licenses. As a trial user, you can now only download virtual machine images.



RESEARCH ROADBLOCKS

- Support contract requirements
- Proprietary formats
- Password protection
- Encrypted images
- Reseller-only access
- App-based updating

LILY HAY NEWMAN

SECURITY JAN 10, 2023 1:41 PM

A Widespread Logic Controller Flaw Raises the Specter of Stuxnet

More than 120 models of Siemens' S7-1500 PLCs contain a serious vulnerability—and no fix is on the way.

The <u>vulnerability was discovered</u> by researchers at the embedded device security firm Red Balloon Security after they spent more than a year developing a methodology to evaluate the S7-1500's firmware, which Siemens has encrypted for added protection



FIRMWARE BLIND SPOTS





















Remote Code Execution

Remote Code Execution

Remote Code Execution

CLOSING THOUGHTS

- Everything runs firmware
- Millions of new attack points connect daily
- Firmware attacks will continue to accelerate
- Firmware controls increasingly powerful systems
- Small research community without vendor support
- Attackers will continue to have the upper hand

	F5 Big-IP	CVE-2020-5902	Remote Code Execution
ı	VMware vCenter Server	CVE-2021-22005	Arbitrary File Upload
	Citrix ADC	CVE-2019-19781	Path Traversal
	Cisco Hyperflex	CVE-2021-1497	Command Line Execution
	Buffalo WSR	CVE-2021-20090	Relative Path Traversal
	Atlassian Confluence Server and Data Center	CVE-2021-26084	Remote Code Execution
	Hikvision Webserver	CVE-2021-36260	Command Injection
	Sitecore XP	CVE-2021-42237	Remote Code Execution
	F5 Big-IP	CVE-2022-1388	Remote Code Execution
	Apache	CVE-2022-24112	Authentication Bypass by Spoofing
	ZOHO	CVE-2021-40539	Remote Code Execution
	Microsoft	CVE-2021-26857	Remote Code Execution
	Microsoft	CVE-2021-26858	Remote Code Execution
	Microsoft	CVE-2021-27065	Remote Code Execution
	MANDIA wow reat or Google Coud	ANT Platform Solutions Intellige	nce Services Resources Company

Pulse Connect Secure

GitLab CE/EE

Atlassian

Microsoft Exchange

CVE-2021-44228

CVE-2019-11510

CVE-2021-22205

CVE-2022-26134

CVE-2021-26855

People's Republic of China-Linked Cyber Actors Hide in Router Firmware

Fortinet Zero-Day and Custom Malware Used by Suspected Chinese Actor in Espionage Operation

Barracuda ESG Zero-Day Vulnerability (CVE-2023-2868) Exploited Globally by Aggressive and Skilled Actor, Suspected Links to China



REFERENCE MATERIAL

- https://eclypsium.com/blog/vendor-re-use-opens-the-aperture-on-many-vulnerabilities/
- https://eclypsium.com/blog/supply-chain-risk-from-gigabyte-app-center-backdoor/
- https://www.welivesecurity.com/2023/03/01/blacklotus-uefi-bootkit-myth-confirmed/
- https://www.mandiant.com/resources/blog/fortinet-malware-ecosystem
- https://www.mandiant.com/resources/blog/unc3524-eye-spy-email
- https://www.mandiant.com/resources/blog/barracuda-esg-exploited-globally
- https://alperovitch.sais.jhu.edu/an-experiment-in-malware-reverse-engineering/
- https://securelist.com/cosmicstrand-uefi-firmware-rootkit/106973/
- https://research.checkpoint.com/2023/the-dragon-who-sold-his-camaro-analyzing-custom-router-implant/
- https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/directives/binding-operational-directive-23-02
- https://media.defense.gov/2023/Jun/14/2003241405/-1/-1/0/CSI HARDEN BMCS.PDF
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6T4QsltcZ6k (Ekoparty 2022 talk on hacking F5 & Citrix)

