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IExpress

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Not to be confused with iXpress.

IExpress, a component of Windows 2000 and later versions of the operating system, is used to create self-extracting packages from a set of files. Such packages can be used to install software.

Overview [edit]

lExpress (IEXPRESS.EXE) can be used for distributing self-contained installation packages (INF-based setup executables) to multiple local or remote Windows computers. It creates a self-extracting executable (.EXE) or a compressed Cabinet (.CAB) file using either the provided front end interface (IExpress Wizard), or a custom Self Extraction Directive (SED) file. [1] SED files can be modified with any plain text/ASCII editor, like Notepad. All self-extracting files created by IExpress use CAB compression algorithms, are compressed using the Cabinet Maker (MAKECAB.EXE) tool, [2] and are extracted using the WExtract (WEXTRACT.EXE) tool.

IEXPRESS.EXE is located in the SYSTEM32 folder of both 32 and 64-bit installations of Windows. The front end interface (IExpress Wizard) can be started by manually navigating to the respective directory and opening the executable (IExpress.exe), or by typing IExpress into the Run window of the Start Menu. It can also be used from the command line (Windows Command Prompt or batch file) to create custom installation packages, eventually unattended. (automated operation):

IEXPRESS /N drive_letter:\directory_name\file_name.SED



Express Wizard interface guides the user through the process of creating a self-extracting package. It asks what the package should do: extract files and then run a program, or just extract files. It then allows the user to specify a title for the package, add a confirmation prompt, add a license agreement that the end-user must accept in order to allow extraction, select files to be archived, set display options for the progress window, and finally, specify a message to display upon completion.

If the option to create an archive and run a program is selected, then there will be an additional step, prompting the user to select the program that will be run upon extraction.

Security [edit]

The self-extracting packages created with lExpress have (inherent) vulnerabilities which allow arbitrary code execution because of the way they handle their installation command and their command line processing. [3][4] Additionally, because of the way Windows User Account Control handles installers, these vulnerabilities allow a privilege escalation. [5][6]

More specifically, the vulnerability comes in two versions: the most obvious one is that a /c: switch tells the package to run an arbitrary command in the extracted directory; the other is that the directory is predictable and writable by any ordinary user, so that the usual msiexec.exe command can be replaced by an attack payload. The latter has been fixed by Microsoft in MS14-049, but the former is only addressed by a policy to deprecate lExpress. There is also a DLL hijacking exploit possible with lExpress.

See also [edit]

• List of installation software

References [edit]

- 1. ^ MDGx: INF Guide: SED Overview

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- 2. ^ MS TechNet: IExpress Technology and the IExpress Wizard 2
- 3. ^ MS Knowledge Base: Command-line switches for IExpress software update packages ☑
- 4. ^ MS TechNet: IExpress command-line options ☑
- 5. ^a b FullDisclosure: Defense in depth -- the Microsoft way (part 11): privilege escalation for dummies 🗗

6. ^ a b c FullDisclosure: Defense in depth -- the Microsoft way (part 33): yet another (trivial) UAC bypass resp. privilege escalation 2 7. ^ "[CVE-2016-0014] Executable installers are vulnerable WEVIL (case 1): Microsoft's IExpress resp. WExtract, SFXCab, BoxStub, ..." 2 seclists.org.

External links [edit]

- MSDN: Using IExpress Wizard to Create a DPInst Installation Package ௴
- MS TechNet: IExpress Technology and the IExpress Wizard ☑
- MDGx: Internet Explorer Administration Kit (IEAK): Guides, Resources & Downloads ₺
- MDGx: Setup Information (INF) & Self Extraction Directive (SED) files: Guides, Resources & Downloads ௴

/ • T • E		Microsoft Windows components	[hide	
		APIs · Architecture (9x · NT) · Booting process · Games		
Management tools	App Installer · Command Prompt · Control Panel · Device Manager · Disk Cleanup · Drive Optimizer · Driver Verifier · DirectX Diagnostic Tool · Event Viewer · IExpress · Management Console · Netsh · Performance Monitor · Recovery Console · Resource Monitor · Settings · Sysprep · System Configuration · System File Checker · System Information · System Policy Editor · System Restore · Task Manager · Windows Error Reporting · Windows Ink · Windows Installer · PowerShell · Windows Update (Windows Insider) · WinRE · WMI			
Apps	3D Viewer · Calculator · Calendar · Camera · Character Map · Clipchamp · Clock · Cortana · Edge · Fax and Scan · Feedback Hub Get Help · Magnifier · Mail · Maps · Messaging · Media Player (2022) · Movies & TV · Mobility Center · Money · Narrator · Notepad · OneDrive · OneNote · Paint · People · Phone Link · Photos · Quick Assist · Remote Desktop Connection · Snipping Tool · Speech Recognition · Skype · Sports · Start · Sticky Notes · Store · Tips · Voice Recorder · Weather · Xbox			
Shell	Action Center · Aero · AutoPlay · AutoRun · ClearType · Explorer · Search (Indexing Service · IFilter · Saved search · Namespace · Special folder) · Start menu · Taskbar · Task View · Windows Spotlight · Windows XP visual styles			
Services	Service Control Manager · BITS · CLFS · Multimedia Class Scheduler · Shadow Copy · Task Scheduler · Error Reporting · Wireless Zero Configuration			
File systems	CDFS · DFS · exFAT · IFS · FAT · NTFS (Hard link · links · Mount Point · Reparse point · TxF · EFS) · ReFS · UDF			
Server	Active Directory · Domains · DNS · Group Policy · Roaming user profiles · Folder redirection · Distributed Transaction Coordinator · MSMQ · Windows Media Services · Active DRM Services · IIS · WSUS · SharePoint · Network Access Protection · PWS · DFS Replication · Print Services for UNIX · Remote Desktop Services · Remote Differential Compression · Remote Installation Service Windows Deployment Services · System Resource Manager · Hyper-V · Server Core			
Architecture	Boot Manager · Console · CSRSS · Desktop Window Manager · Portable Executable (EXE · DLL) · Enhanced Write Filter · Graphics Device Interface · Hardware Abstraction Layer · I/O request packet · Imaging Format · Kernel Transaction Manager · Library files · Logical Disk Manager · LSASS · MinWin · NTLDR · Ntoskrnl.exe · Object Manager · Open XML Paper Specification · Registry · Resource Protection · Security Account Manager · Server Message Block · Shadow Copy · SMSS · System Idle Process · USER · WHEA · Winlogon · WinUSB			
Security	Security and Maintenance · AppLocker · BitLocker · Credential Guard · Data Execution Prevention · Defender · Family features · Kernel Patch Protection · Mandatory Integrity Control · Protected Media Path · User Account Control · User Interface Privilege Isolation Windows Firewall			
Compatibility				
API	Active Scripting (WSH · VBScript · JScript) · COM (ActiveX · ActiveX Document · COM Structured storage · DCOM · OLE · OLE Automation · Transaction Server) · DirectX · Native · .NET · Universal Windows Platform · WinAPI · Windows Mixed Reality · Windows Runtime · WinUSB			
Games	Solitaire Collection · Surf			
Discontinued	Games	3D Pinball · Chess Titans · FreeCell · Hearts · InkBall · Hold 'Em · Purble Place · Spider Solitaire · Solitaire · T	inker	
	Apps	ActiveMovie · Anytime Upgrade · Address Book · Backup and Restore · Cardfile · CardSpace · CD Player · Cha · Desktop Gadgets · Diagnostics · DriveSpace · DVD Maker · Easy Transfer · Fax · Food & Drink · Groove Must Help and Support Center · Health & Fitness · HyperTerminal · Imaging · Internet Explorer · Journal · Make Com Media Center · Meeting Space · Messaging · Messenger · Mobile Device Center · Movie Maker · MSN Dial-up · NTBackup · Outlook Express · Pay · Phone Companion · Photo Gallery · Photo Viewer · Paint 3D · Program M Steps Recorder · Syskey · Travel · WinHelp · WordPad · Write	sic patible NetMeeti	
	Others	Desktop Cleanup Wizard · Games for Windows · ScanDisk · File Protection · Media Control Interface · MS-DOS Next-Generation Secure Computing Base · POSIX subsystem · HPFS · Interix · Video for Windows · Virtual DOS Windows on Windows · Windows SideShow · Windows Services for UNIX · Windows System Assessment Tool · Windows To Go · WinFS		
Spun off to	DVD Player · File Manager · Hover! · Mahjong · Minesweeper			
		⊕ Category - ⊚ List		

Category: Installation software

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