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CVE-2021-22005: Critical File Upload Vulnerability in VMware vCenter Server

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osure Alerts

an advisory addressing 19
ding one critical flaw in vCenter
tedly simple to exploit.

Background

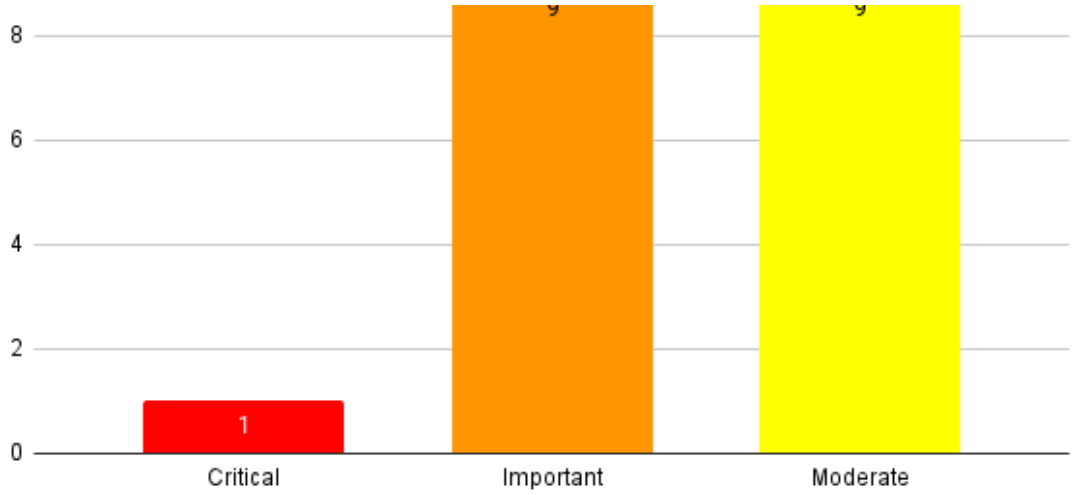
On September 21, VMware published a security advisory addressing 19 vulnerabilities in vCenter Server, its centralized management software for VMware vSphere systems. The full list of vulnerabilities patched includes:

CVE	Description	CVSSv3
CVE-2021-22005	vCenter Server file upload vulnerability	9.8
CVE-2021-21991	vCenter Server local privilege escalation vulnerability	8.8
CVE-2021-22006	vCenter Server reverse proxy bypass vulnerability	8.3
CVE-2021-	er unauthenticated API endpoint vulnerability	8.1
	er improper permission local privilege nerabilities	7.8
	er unauthenticated API information disclosure	7.5
	er file path traversal vulnerability	7.5
	er reflected XSS vulnerability	7.5

22014		
CVE-2021-22018	vCenter Server file deletion vulnerability	6.5
CVE-2021-21992	vCenter Server XML parsing denial-of-service vulnerability	6.5
CVE-2021-22007	vCenter Server local information disclosure vulnerability	5.5
CVE-2021-22019	vCenter Server denial of service vulnerability	5.3
CVE-2021-22009	vCenter Server VAPI multiple denial of service vulnerabilities	5.3
CVE-2021-22010	vCenter Server VPXD denial of service vulnerability	5.3
CVE-2021-22008	vCenter Server information disclosure vulnerability	5.3
CVE-2021-22020	vCenter Server Analytics service denial-of-service Vulnerability	5.0
	er SSRF vulnerability	4.3

021

curity advisory, VMware published a blog post and a
ddressing some foundational questions about the
s, only CVE-2021-22005 was assigned a severity of



Source: Tenable, 2021

Analysis

CVE-2021-22005 is a file upload vulnerability in the vCenter Server. An unauthenticated attacker capable of accessing port 443 over the same network or directly from the internet could exploit a vulnerable vCenter Server by uploading a file to the vCenter Server analytics service. Successful exploitation would result in remote code execution on the host. In its blog post, VMware notes that this vulnerability exists in vCenter Server "regardless of the configuration settings," y default in affected vCenter Server installations.

nerabilities patched in today's release aren't critical, mportant and Moderate severity flaws. The om privilege escalation and denial of service to n traversal vulnerabilities. These flaws will likely be ly affiliates of ransomware groups, that have already gh other means.

ast four months that VMware issued a patch for a Sphere. In May, VMWare disclosed CVE-2021-21985, a ability in VMware's vSphere Client.

o patch as the vulnerability is “trivial to execute”

y officer for Censys, tweeted that he discovered the ulnerability and that it “looks stunningly trivial to dded that users should “Patch now.”

> *It looks stunningly trivial to execute. Patch now.*
>
> *— Derek Abdine (@dabdine) September 22, 2021*

Proof of concept

At the time this blog post was published, there were no publicly available proof-of-concept (PoC) scripts for CVE-2021-22005. However, Abdine's warning implies that we may see PoC released shortly.

Solution

To address the 19 vulnerabilities disclosed in its advisory, VMware released patches for vCenter Server 7.0, 6.7 and 6.5. For a full breakdown of which CVEs are addressed in each release, please refer to the VMware advisory page.

For CVE-2021-22005, the following is a breakdown of the vCenter Server version, associated fixed version as well as the installation addressed.

Version of vCenter Server	Fixed Version	Installation
7.0	7.0 U2c	Any
	6.7 U3o	Virtual Appliance

er version 6.7 for Windows and version 6.5 for any
CVE-2021-22005.

ouraged to apply these patches as soon as possible.

s time, VMware has provided workaround instructions
the workaround should be considered a temporary
placement for upgrading to a fixed version.

ected systems

Get more information

VMware Advisory VMSA-2021-0020

VMware VMSA-2021-0020 Blog Post: What You Need To Know

VMware VMSA-2021-0020: Questions & Answers

VMware Workaround Instructions for CVE-2021-22005

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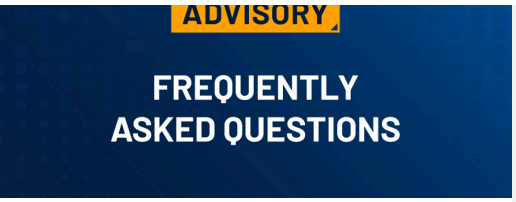
Satnam Narang

Satnam joined Tenable in 2018. He has over 15 years experience in the industry (M86 Security and Symantec). He contributed to the Anti-Phishing Working Group, helped develop a Social Networking Guide for the National Cyber Security Alliance, uncovered a huge n Twitter and was the first to report on spam bots appeared on NBC Nightly News, Entertainment nberg West, and the Why Oh Why podcast.

ide of work: Satnam writes poetry and makes hip- enjoys live music, spending time with his ootball and basketball, Bollywood movies and music by Yoda).



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October 23, 2024

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