T1499 Interworking Denial of Service

Description: An adversary on a semi-public/roaming partner network may exploit weaknesses in Application Programming (API) interfaces on Network Functions (NF) that are exposed to the semi-public network, i.e. roaming partner network, which can lead to denial of service of the exposed NF.

Some 5G functions such as the SEPP and UPF have API’s that are exposed and accessible to other providers over an interworking network that is not Internet accessible. An adversary with a position on another organization, outside the targeted operator’s trust zone, could exploit a previously identified weakness in the target API to cause the NF to crash resulting in denial of service. The adversary may also potentially use volumetric techniques to degrade or deny service.

Labelling:

* Sub-Techniques: None
* Applicable Tactics: Impact

Metadata:

* Architecture Segment: Control-plane, User-plane
* Platforms: 5G
* Access type required: N/A
* Data Sources: Network Flow Logs, Application Logs
* Theoretical/Proof of concept/Observed: Theoretical

Procedure Examples:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Description** |
| Vulnerability Exploit | Adversary uses a vulnerability to cause the NF to crash |
| Volumetric attack | Adversary uses one or more volumetric techniques to degrade or deny availability of the NF |

Mitigations

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| --- | --- |
| **ID** | **Use** |
| M1016 | Vulnerability scanning of public APIs |
| M1050 | Use WAF to minimize potential exploit of vulnerabilities |
| M1037 | Use of network based DDoS mitigation capabilities to filter traffic upstream |
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Pre-Conditions

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| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Description** |
| API vulnerability | Adversary may need to identify vulnerabilities in the API to obtain initial-access, unauthorized information, or perform a denial of service |
| API credentials | Adversary may need to obtain credentials to collect unauthorized information |

Critical Assets

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| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Description** |
| SEPP | Security Edge Protection Proxy function which provides roaming interface for signaling traffic to roaming partner (MNO) networks |
| UPF | User Plane Function which provides roaming interface for user plane traffic to roaming partner (MNO) networks |
| AMF | Access and Mobility Function which provides roaming interface for signaling traffic to 4G networks via N26 interface |

Detection

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| --- | --- |
| **ID** | **Detects** |
| DS0015 | Monitor application logs for unusual requests or rate of requests |
| DS0029 | Monitor for unusual volumes or sources of requests to the service |
|  |  |

Post-Conditions

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Description** |
|  |  |

References:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **URL** |
| European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA): “ENISA Threat Landscape for 5G Networks” Report, December 2020. | https://www.enisa.europa.eu/publications/enisa-threat-landscape-report-for-5g-networks |
| R. Pell, S. Moschoyiannis, E. Panaousis, R. Heartfield, “Towards dynamic threat modelling in 5G core networks based on MITRE ATT&CK”, October 2021 | https://arxiv.org/abs/2108.11206 |
| TOP 7 REST API Security Threats, blog January 2019 | https://blog.restcase.com/top-7-rest-api-security-threats/ |

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