

Insecure Deserialization Attacks



Often leads to remote code execution

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Serialization



- Memory object is written to file (.XML, .JSON) for storage or transmission over a network
- Object methods are removed
- Properties are left intact
- Python: `pickle.dump(object,file)`

Deserialization



- Memory object is created from a file
- Object properties and methods are available
- Python: `pickle.load(file)`

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Insecure Deserialization



Tainted memory object



Attacker injects malicious code into byte stream as object is reconstructed

Mitigating Insecure Deserialization Attacks



Never trust user/app input,
apply updates

Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVE)

The screenshot shows the CVE Mitre website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links like 'CVE List', 'CNAs', 'WGs', 'Board', 'About', and 'News & Blog'. Below this is a search bar and a 'TOTAL CVE Records: 152784' indicator. The main section is titled 'Search Results' and shows 'There are 342 CVE Records that match your search.' Below this is a table with columns 'Name' and 'Description'. The table lists several CVEs, including CVE-2021-3287, CVE-2021-3160, CVE-2021-3035, CVE-2021-3007, CVE-2021-29654, CVE-2021-28033, and CVE-2021-27335. Each entry includes a brief description of the vulnerability. At the bottom of the table, the URL 'cve.mitre.org' is displayed.

Name	Description
CVE-2021-3287	Zoho ManageEngine OpManager before 12.5.329 allows unauthenticated Remote Code Execution due to a general bypass in the deserialization class.
CVE-2021-3160	Deserialization of untrusted data in the login page of ASSUREWEB 359.3 build 1 subcomponent of ACA ASSUREX RENTES product allows a remote attacker to inject unsecure serialized Java object using a specially crafted HTTP request, resulting in an unauthenticated remote code execution on the server.
CVE-2021-3035	An unsafe deserialization vulnerability in Bridgecrew Checkov by Prisma Cloud allows arbitrary code execution when processing a malicious terraform file. This issue impacts Checkov 2.0 versions earlier than Checkov 2.0.26. Checkov 1.0 versions are not impacted.
CVE-2021-3007	** DISPUTED ** Laminas Project laminas-http before 2.14.2, and Zend Framework 3.0.0, has a deserialization vulnerability that can lead to remote code execution if the content is controllable, related to the _destruct method of the Zend\Http\Response(Stream class in Stream.php. NOTE: Zend Framework is no longer supported by the maintainer. NOTE: the laminas-http vendor considers this a "vulnerability in the PHP language itself" but has added certain type checking as a way to prevent exploitation in (unrecommended) use cases where attacker-supplied data can be deserialized.
CVE-2021-29654	AjaxSearchPro before 4.20.8 allows Deserialization of Untrusted Data (in the import database feature of the administration panel), leading to Remote Code execution.
CVE-2021-28033	An issue was discovered in the byte_struct crate before 0.6.1 for Rust. There can be a drop of uninitialized memory if a certain deserialization method panics.
CVE-2021-27335	KollectApps before 4.8.16c is affected by insecure Java deserialization, leading to Remote Code Execution via a ysoserial.payloads.CommonsCollections parameter.

cve.mitre.org

Disallow Remote Code Execution



Enable executable Allow/Deny lists



Use application containers

Mitigating Insecure Deserialization Attacks

Mitigating Insecure Deserialization



Deserialize only from hardened trusted sources

Use language-specific secure deserialization functions

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Enable Network Digital Signatures



```
#Sample Snort IDS rule to notify of Apache Struts exploit attempt
```

```
alert tcp $EXTERNAL_NET any -> $HOME_NET $HTTP_PORTS (
  msg:"SERVER-APACHE Apache Struts java.lang.ProcessBuilder class
  access attempt"; flow:to_server,established; http_uri;
  content:"${"; content:"java.lang.ProcessBuilder",nocase;
  service:http; reference:cve,2018-11776; classtype:attempted-user;
  sid:47690; rev:2; )
```