Ghost in the BLF

A two-year journey of chasing in-the-wild LPE exploits in Windows CLFS

Quan Jin & Yingqi Shi & Guoxian Zhong

DBAPPSecurity WeBin Lab



About us



Quan Jin @jq0904



Yingqi Shi @Mas0nShi



Guoxian Zhong@_p01arisZ







About this talk

- Our journey of chasing in-the-wild LPE exploits in Windows CLFS
- Show a Pandora's box of Windows CLFS exploits
- Quote and compare some works already done by other vendors
- Show some samples that other vendors had missed
- Provide some insights on in-the-wild Windows LPE 0days trends

Previous CLFS researches

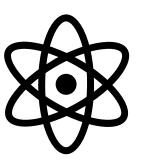
- DeathNote of Microsoft Windows Kernel Keen Lab
- CLFS Internals Alex Ionescu
- Attacking the Common Log File System 360
- Windows CLFS and Five Exploits Used By Ransomware Operators Kaspersky

Help in understanding this talk

Agenda







Hunt



Analysis



Variant



Summary



Start

The 1st CLFS Exploit (1day)

- Where did it come from
 - The exploit was from VirusTotal
- How we caught it
 - It hit a rule we wrote for the an exploit technique (Pipe Attribute)

```
v25 = output;
v27 = pfnNtFsControlFile(a1, 0i64, 0i64, 0i64, status, 0x11003Ci64, data, size, output, cb_output)
```

- Basic information
 - Unknown CVE
 - Compiled in September 2021, Caught in October 2021, "Patched" in September 2021

pContainer

```
typedef struct CLFS CONTAINER CONTEXT
                                                 NodeType = 0xC1FDF008
    CLFS_NODE_ID cidNode;
                                                 NodeSize = 0x30
    ULONGLONG cbContainer;
    CLFS CONTAINER ID cidContainer;
    CLFS CONTAINER ID cidQueue;
    union
                                                  Kernel pointer to CClfsContainer (!)
        CClfsContainer* pContainer;
                                                   ; const CClfsContainer::`vftable'
        ULONGLONG ullAlignment;
                                                   ??_7CClfsContainer@@6B@ dq offset ?AddRef@CClfsContainer@@UEAAKXZ
                                                                                   : DATA XREF: CClfsBaseFilePer
                                                                                   : CClfsContainer::CClfsContai
    CLFS USN usnCurrent;
                                                               dg offset ?Release@CClfsContainer@@UEAAKXZ ; CClfsCon
    CLFS CONTAINER STATE eState;
                                                               dq offset ?GetSListEntry@CC1fsContainer@@UEAAPEAU_SLI
                                                               dq offset ?Remove@CClfsContainer@@UEAAJXZ ; CClfsCont
    ULONG cbPrevOffset;
    ULONG cbNextOffset;
  CLFS CONTAINER CONTEXT, *PCLFS CONTAINER CONTEXT;
```

How it manipulates the pContainer

```
int64 fastcall CClfsLogFcbPhysical::FlushMetadata(CClfsLogFcbPhysical *pClfsLogFcbPhysical)
// Omit ...
v2 = CClfsBaseFile::AcquireClientContext(pClfsLogFcbPhysical->CClfsBaseFile, 0, &pCtxClient);
if (v2 >= 0 \&\& (pCtxClient = pCtxClient) != 0i64)
  eState = pCtxClient ->eState;
  Flag = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->Flag;
  pCtxClient ->llCreateTime = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientllCreateTime;
  pCtxClient->llAccessTime = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientllAccessTime;
  pCtxClient->llWriteTime = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientllWriteTime;
  pCtxClient->lsnOwnerPage = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientlsnOwnerPage;
  pCtxClient->lsnArchiveTail = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientlsnArchiveTail.ullOffset;
  pCtxClient->lsnBase = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientlsnBase.ullOffset;
  pCtxClient->lsnLast = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientlsnLast.ullOffset;
  pCtxClient->lsnRestart = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientlsnRestart.ullOffset;
  pCtxClient->cShadowSectors = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientShadowSectors;
  pCtxClient->fAttributes = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->fAttributes;
  eState = eState | 8; // 1-bit flip
  if ((Flag \& 0x10) == 0)
      eState = eState;
 pCtxClient->eState = _eState; // The 1st CLFS exploit write fake pContainer here
 // Omit ...
```

CLFS in April 2022

One CLFS CVE

- CVE-2022-24481
- A "varaint" of "The 1st CLFS Exploit", reported by us



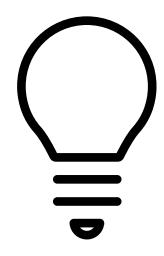
One in-the-wild CLFS CVE

- CVE-2022-24521
- Reported by NSA and CrowedStrike

One slide

Attacking the Common Log File System, BlackHat Asia 2022

What we think at April 2022



More exploits in CLFS may appear in the future



Hunt

How to catch them

- Rethink: How we caught the 1st CLFS exploit
 - It hit a rule we wrote for the **Pipe Attribute** exploit method, so the second may hit the rule again
- One begets two, two begets three, three begets all things



- Carefully research the first CLFS exploit
- Research on multiple dimensions: Code Similarity, PDB Path, Exploit Techniques, Strings, ect.
- Stay hungry, stay foolish
 - Collect the samples disclosed by others, and carefully research them
 - Study any clues that can be found: every blog, every slide, every ioc, ect.

The 2nd CLFS Exploit (1day)

How we caught it

It hit the rule we wrote for the Pipe Attribute exploit method (again)

Basic information

- Unknown CVE
- Compiled in April 2022, Caught in May 2022, Patched in April 2022

The interesting part

- The author believed he was writing an exploit for CVE-2022-24521, but he was not
 - C:\Users\123\source\repos\cve_2022_24521 (1)\CVE_2022_24521\x64\Release\CVE_2022_24521_clfs.pdb

How it manipulates the pContainer

```
int64 fastcall CClfsLogFcbPhysical::FlushMetadata(CClfsLogFcbPhysical *pClfsLogFcbPhysical)
// Omit ...
v2 = CClfsBaseFile::AcquireClientContext(pClfsLogFcbPhysical->CClfsBaseFile, 0, &pCtxClient);
if (v2 >= 0 \&\& (pCtxClient = pCtxClient) != 0i64)
  eState = pCtxClient ->eState;
  Flag = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->Flag;
 // The 2<sup>nd</sup> CLFS exploit write fake pContainer here, a.k.a Kaspersky Exploit #1
 pCtxClient ->11CreateTime = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->Clientl1CreateTime;
  pCtxClient->llAccessTime = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientllAccessTime;
  pCtxClient->llWriteTime = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientllWriteTime;
  pCtxClient->lsnOwnerPage = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientlsnOwnerPage;
  pCtxClient->lsnArchiveTail = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientlsnArchiveTail.ullOffset;
  pCtxClient->lsnBase = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientlsnBase.ullOffset;
  pCtxClient->lsnLast = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientlsnLast.ullOffset;
  pCtxClient->lsnRestart = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientlsnRestart.ullOffset;
  pCtxClient->cShadowSectors = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientShadowSectors;
  pCtxClient->fAttributes = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->fAttributes;
  eState = eState | 8;
 // Omit ...
```

The 3rd CLFS Exploit (0day)

How we caught it

It hit the rule we wrote for the Pipe Attribute exploit method (again)

Basic information

- CVE-2022-24521< This is an in-the-wild 0day caught by NSA and CrowedStrike
- Compiled in October 2021, Caught in August 2022(too late), Patched in April 2022
- Lack of proper validation on SignaturesOffset of _CLFS_LOG_BLOCK_HEADER

PDB Path

C:\Users\User\Desktop\2\x64\Release\exploit.pdb

How it manipulates the pContainer

CClfsBaseFilePersisted::WriteMetadataBlock

```
// The 3<sup>rd</sup> exploit write fake pContainer here
ClfsEncodeBlock(RecoderHeader, *(RecoderHeader + 4) << 9, *(RecoderHeader + 2), 0x10u,
1u);
v10 = CClfsContainer::WriteSector(*(this + 0x13), *(this + 0x14), 0i64, *(*(this + 6) + 24 * v8),
    *(RecoderHeader + 4), &v23);
if ( v7 )
   ClfsDecodeBlock(RecoderHeader, *(RecoderHeader + 4), *(RecoderHeader + 2), 0x10u, &v21);
   v17 = (this + 0x1C0);
        if ( *v17 && CClfsBaseFile::AcquireContainerContext(this, v6, &containerContext) >= 0 )
           containerContext->pContainer = *v17; // won't enter here
           CClfsBaseFile::ReleaseContainerContext(this, &containerContext);
        ++v6;
        ++v17;
                                 https://www.freebuf.com/articles/network/339537.html
```



The 4th CLFS Exploit (0day)

How we caught it

It hit several rules we wrote, include the Pipe Attribute rule (again)

Basic information

- CVE-2022-37969 <- This is an in-the-wild 0day caught by us
- Compiled in August 2022, Caught in August 2022, Patched in September 2022

New functions for arbitrary write

- clfs!CClfsContainer::Release -> nt!SeSetAccessStateGenericMapping
- clfs!CClfsContainer::Remove -> clfs!ClfsEarlierLsn

The 4th CLFS Exploit (0day)

```
int64 fastcall CClfsBaseFilePersisted::AllocSymbol(
      CClfsBaseFilePersisted *this,
      unsigned int a2,
      void **pNewSymbol)
// Omit ...
Size = a2;
BaseLogRecord = CClfsBaseFile::GetBaseLogRecord(this);
BaseLogRecord = BaseLogRecord;
if ( !BaseLogRecord )
  return 0xC01A000Di64;
pClfsLogBlockHeader = *(*(v6 + 0x30) + 0x30i64);
 *pNewSymbol = 0i64;
 cbSymbolZone = BaseLogRecord->rgContainers[0x3FC];
 if ( &BaseLogRecord->rgContainers[0x400] + cbSymbolZone + Size > (&pClfsLogBlockHeader->MajorVersion
                                                        + pClfsLogBlockHeader->SignaturesOffset) )
  return 0xC0000023i64;
 NewSymbol = &BaseLogRecord->rgContainers[0x400] + cbSymbolZone;
 memset(NewSymbol, 0, Size); // The 4th exploit set fake pContainer here
 BaseLogRecord ->rgContainers[0x3FC] += Size;
result = 0i64;
 *pNewSymbol = NewSymbol;
return result;
```



The 5th CLFS Exploit (1day)

How we caught it

It hit several rules we wrote, include the Pipe Attribute rule (again)

Basic information

- Unknown CVE
- Compiled in September 2022, Caught in October 2022, Patched in September 2022

New exploit technique

- Hijack calls in CClfsBaseFilePersisted::CheckSecureAccess
- clfs!ClfsMgmtDeregisterManagedClient, nt!PoFxProcessorNotification, nt!RtlClearBit

How it manipulates the pContainer

```
int64 __fastcall CClfsLogFcbPhysical::FlushMetadata(CClfsLogFcbPhysical *pClfsLogFcbPhysical)
// Omit ...
v2 = CClfsBaseFile::AcquireClientContext(pClfsLogFcbPhysical->CClfsBaseFile, 0, &pCtxClient);
if (v2 >= 0 \&\& (pCtxClient = pCtxClient) != 0i64)
  eState = pCtxClient ->eState;
  Flag = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->Flag;
  pCtxClient ->llCreateTime = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientllCreateTime;
  pCtxClient->llAccessTime = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientllAccessTime;
  pCtxClient->llWriteTime = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientllWriteTime;
  pCtxClient->lsnOwnerPage = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientlsnOwnerPage;
  pCtxClient->lsnArchiveTail = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientlsnArchiveTail.ullOffset;
  pCtxClient->lsnBase = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientlsnBase.ullOffset;
  pCtxClient->lsnLast = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientlsnLast.ullOffset;
  pCtxClient->lsnRestart = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientlsnRestart.ullOffset;
  pCtxClient->cShadowSectors = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientShadowSectors;
 // The 5<sup>th</sup> CLFS exploit write fake pContainer here, a.k.a Kaspersky Exploit #2
 pCtxClient->fAttributes = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->fAttributes;
  eState = eState | 8;
 // Omit ...
```

The 6th CLFS Exploit (1day)

How we caught it

• It hit several rules we wrote, include the **Pipe Attribute** rule (**again**)

Basic information

- Unknown CVE
- Compiled in October 2022, Caught in November 2022, Patched in October 2022

Exploit technique

- Same with the 5th CLFS exploit
- Kaspersky had talked about this case in their blogs (Exploit #3)
 - https://securelist.com/windows-clfs-exploits-ransomware-october-2022/111591/

How it manipulates the pContainer

```
int64 fastcall CClfsLogFcbPhysical::FlushMetadata(CClfsLogFcbPhysical *pClfsLogFcbPhysical)
// Omit ...
v2 = CClfsBaseFile::AcquireClientContext(pClfsLogFcbPhysical->CClfsBaseFile, 0, &pCtxClient);
if (v2 >= 0 \&\& (pCtxClient = pCtxClient) != 0i64)
  eState = pCtxClient ->eState;
  Flag = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->Flag;
  pCtxClient ->llCreateTime = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientllCreateTime;
  pCtxClient->llAccessTime = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientllAccessTime;
  pCtxClient->llWriteTime = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientllWriteTime;
  pCtxClient->lsnOwnerPage = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientlsnOwnerPage;
  pCtxClient->lsnArchiveTail = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientlsnArchiveTail.ullOffset;
  pCtxClient->lsnBase = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientlsnBase.ullOffset;
  pCtxClient->lsnLast = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientlsnLast.ullOffset;
 // The 6<sup>th</sup> CLFS exploit write fake pContainer here, a.k.a Kaspersky Exploit #3
 pCtxClient->lsnRestart = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientlsnRestart.ullOffset;
  pCtxClient->cShadowSectors = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientShadowSectors;
  pCtxClient->fAttributes = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->fAttributes;
  eState = eState | 8;
 // Omit ...
```

Two different exploit techniques

Developer (A)

- Hijack calls in CCIfsBaseFilePersisted::RemoveContainer
- Using nt!XmXchgOp and nt!HalpDmaPowerCriticalTransitionCallback to achieve primitive
- Example: the 1st CLFS exploit, (part of) the 3rd CLFS exploits

Developer (B)

- Hijack calls in CClfsLogFcbPhysical::CloseContainers
- Using clfs!ClfsSetEndOfLog or nt!SeSetAccessStateGenericMapping to achieve write primitive
- Using the exploit template of CVE-2021-26868
- Example: the 2nd CLFS exploit, the 4th CLFS exploit, the 5th CLFS exploit, the 6th CLFS exploit, the 10th CLFS exploit (later)

The 7th CLFS Exploit (0day)

How we caught it

We connected to this exploit after we hunt CVE-2023-28252 itw 0day

Basic information

- CVE-2023-23376 < This is an in-the-wild 0day caught by Microsoft
- The core exploit was compiled in January 2023, the sample was compiled in February 2023
- Caught by us in March 2023(too late), Patched in February 2023

Exploit technique

- Kaspersky had talked about this case in their blogs (Exploit #4)
 - https://securelist.com/windows-clfs-exploits-ransomware-cve-2023-23376/111593/

The 8th CLFS Exploit (0day)

How we caught it

It hit a simple rule we wrote for common CLFS exploit strings

Basic information

- CVE-2023-28252 < This is an in-the-wild 0day caught by us
- Compiled in March 2023, Caught in March 2023, Patched in April 2023

Exploit technique

- Kaspersky had talked about this case in their blogs (Exploit #5)
 - https://securelist.com/windows-clfs-exploits-ransomware-cve-2023-28252/111601/



Analysis

When we analyzed the 1st exploit

- Completely unfamiliar with Windows CLFS
 - At that time(October 2022), we hadn't come across CLFS vulnerabilities
- Very few reference materials
 - <u>DeathNote of Microsoft Windows Kernel</u>, KeenLab, 2016
 - CLFS Internals, Alex Ionescu, 2021



- Lots of reverse engineering and debugging
 - BLF file format is very complex when you don't have an 010 Editor template
 - But if you have, that's another story



010 Editor Template for BLF

Name	Value	Start	Size	Color	
> struct CLFS_LOG_BLOCK_HEADER Header		0h	70h	Fg:	Bg:
> struct CLFS_CONTROL_RECORD Record		70h	E0h	Fg:	Bg:
> struct ControlBlock		0h	150h	Fg:	Bg:
> struct ControlBlockShadow		400h	70h	Fg:	Bg:
∨ struct BaseBlock		800h	13A5h	Fg:	Bg:
> struct CLFS_LOG_BLOCK_HEADER Header		800h	70h	Fg:	Bg:
✓ struct RecordWrap		870h	1335h	Fg:	Bg:
✓ struct CLFS_BASE_RECORD_HEADER BaseRecordHeader		870h	1335h	Fg:	Bg:
> struct CLFS_METADATA_RECORD_HEADER RecordHeader		870h	8h	Fg:	Bg:
> GUID IdLog[16]	{906F30CB-1D35-11ED-B	878h	10h	Fg:	Bg:
> ULONGLONG ClientSymbolTable[11]		888h	58h	Fg:	Bg:
> ULONGLONG ContainerSymbolTable[11]		8E0h	58h	Fg:	Bg:
> ULONGLONG SecuritySymbolTable[11]		938h	58h	Fg:	Bg:
DWORD NextContainer	0h	990h	4h	Fg:	Bg:
DWORD NextClient	1h	994h	4h	Fg:	Bg:
DWORD FreeContainers	0h	998h	4h	Fg:	Bg:
DWORD ActiveContainers	0h	99Ch	4h	Fg:	Bg:
DWORD FreeContainersCount	0h	9A0h	4h	Fg:	Bg:
DWORD BusyContainers	0h	9A4h	4h	Fg:	Bg:
> DWORD ClientArray[124]		9A8h	1F0h	Fg:	Bg:
> DWORD ContainerArray[1024]		B98h	1000h	Fg:	Bg:
DWORD SymbolZone	1114Bh	1B98h	4h	Fg:	Bg:
DWORD Sector	0h	1B9Ch	4h	Fg:	Bg:
USHORT Unused	0h	1BA0h	2h	Fg:	Bg:
enum CLFS_LOG_STATE LogState	3h	1BA2h	1h	Fg:	Bg:
UCHAR Usn	1h	1BA3h	1h	Fg:	Bg:
UCHAR Clients	1h	1BA4h	1h	Fg:	Bg:



IDA C header file for CLFS

```
int64 fastcall CClfsLogFcbVirtual::FlushMetadata(CClfsLogFcbVirtual *pClfsLogFcbVirtual, int64 a2, int64 a3)
int64 *v4; // rax
__int64 v5; // rdx
int64 v6; // rbx
_CLFS_CLIENT_CONTEXT *pCtxClient; // [rsp+50h] [rbp+10h] BYREF
char v9; // [rsp+58h] [rbp+18h] BYREF
pCtxClient = 0i64;
LOBYTE(a3) = pClfsLogFcbVirtual->m ClientId;
v4 = (pClfsLogFcbVirtual->m_PhysicalFcb->GetClientBaseLsn)(pClfsLogFcbVirtual->m_PhysicalFcb, &v9, a3);
LOBYTE(v5) = pClfsLogFcbVirtual->m ClientId;
v6 = v4
(pClfsLogFcbVirtual->m PhysicalFcb->AcquireClientContext)(pClfsLogFcbVirtual->m PhysicalFcb, v5, &pCtxClient);
if ( pCtxClient )
  pCtxClient->llCreateTime = pClfsLogFcbVirtual->ClientllCreateTime;
  pCtxClient->llAccessTime = pClfsLogFcbVirtual->ClientllAccessTime;
  pCtxClient->llWriteTime = pClfsLogFcbVirtual->ClientllWriteTime;
  pCtxClient->lsnArchiveTail = pClfsLogFcbVirtual->ClientlsnArchiveTail.ullOffset;
  pCtxClient->lsnBase = pClfsLogFcbVirtual->ClientlsnBase.ullOffset;
  pCtxClient->lsnLast = pClfsLogFcbVirtual->ClientlsnLast.ullOffset;
  pCtxClient->lsnRestart = pClfsLogFcbVirtual->ClientlsnRestart.ullOffset;
  pCtxClient->lsnPhysicalBase = v6;
  (pClfsLogFcbVirtual->m_PhysicalFcb->ReleaseClientContext)(pClfsLogFcbVirtual->m_PhysicalFcb, &pCtxClient);
  return (pClfsLogFcbVirtual->m_PhysicalFcb->FlushMetadata)(pClfsLogFcbVirtual->m_PhysicalFcb);
else
  if ( *&WPP GLOBAL Control != &WPP GLOBAL Control && (*(*&WPP GLOBAL Control + 44i64) & 0x8000000) != 0 )
   WPP SF sdid(*(*&WPP GLOBAL Control + 24i64));
  return 0xC01A000Di64;
```



Identify different CLFS Exploits

- Identify whether a sample is 0day, 1day or nday
 - The simplest method is to create multiple reproduction environments(0day/1day/nday)
- Identify the root cause of a vulnerability
 - Reverse engineering
 - Debugging
 - Use 010 Editor template to parse malicious BLF log file (to find abnormal values)
- Classify an exploit under a specific CVE
 - Based on the analysis, categorize the new exploit into historical database

Some interesting exploits

- Samples with packing and anti-debugging
 - **CryptOne** -> CVE-2023-23376
 - Themida -> CVE-2023-28252
- Samples with code obfuscation
 - 6132342df727e2e9a4ac1310f6c8d6c5280bb723b3eb3f193555698a54a3be82 <- CVE-2023-28252
- Sample that doesn't work properly (unable to execute or BSOD)
 - 8ed4c3977a4a56308afbf114299cc34ff9a58c9c51558cc3bb3316392ed1235b **<-** BSOD, 28252
 - C236c957815d70d58af6320b02d4fc353f87459bbb2a1e6f1bbd77e5ce8cacac <- unable to execute, 28252

The 9th CLFS Exploit (nday)

- How we caught it
 - It hit a simple rule we wrote for common CLFS exploit strings (again)
- Basic information
 - Unknown CVE
 - Compiled in November 2023, Caught in November 2023, Patched in January 2022
- This exploit is distinguished from developer (A) and developer (B)
 - Winlogon.exe will crash after executing the exploit <- Injected low-quality shellcode
 - The exploit is not compatible with Windows 11

How it manipulates the pContainer

```
int64 fastcall CClfsLogFcbPhysical::FlushMetadata(CClfsLogFcbPhysical *pClfsLogFcbPhysical)
// Omit ...
v2 = CClfsBaseFile::AcquireClientContext(pClfsLogFcbPhysical->CClfsBaseFile, 0, &pCtxClient );
if (v2 >= 0 \&\& (pCtxClient = pCtxClient) != 0i64)
  eState = pCtxClient ->eState;
 Flag = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->Flag;
 // The 9<sup>th</sup> CLFS exploit write fake pContainer here
 pCtxClient ->11CreateTime = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->Clientl1CreateTime;
  pCtxClient->llAccessTime = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientllAccessTime;
  pCtxClient->llWriteTime = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientllWriteTime;
  pCtxClient->lsnOwnerPage = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientlsnOwnerPage;
  pCtxClient->lsnArchiveTail = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientlsnArchiveTail.ullOffset;
  pCtxClient->lsnBase = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientlsnBase.ullOffset;
  pCtxClient->lsnLast = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientlsnLast.ullOffset;
  pCtxClient->lsnRestart = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientlsnRestart.ullOffset;
  pCtxClient->cShadowSectors = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientShadowSectors;
  pCtxClient->fAttributes = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->fAttributes;
  eState = eState | 8;
  // Omit ...
```

The 10th CLFS Exploit (1day)

How we caught it

It hit the rule we wrote for the Pipe Attribute exploit method (again)

Basic information

- Unknown CVE
- Code obfuscation
- Compiled in November 2022, Caught in November 2023, Patched in September 2022

Exploit technique

Same with the 2nd CLFS exploit, it should be the same author

Look for the root cause

- Q: How to quickly locate
 - Reverse thinking
 - Set hardware breakpoint on the allocate memory area (e.g. VirtualAlloc)

```
; flProtect
                                               r9d, 4
.text:00000000004B62A2
                                       mov
                                                                ; flAllocationType
.text:00000000004B62A8
                                               r8d, 3000h
                                               edx, 1000000h
                                                                ; dwSize
.text:00000000004B62AE
                                       mov
                                                                ; lpAddress
                                               ecx, 40000000h
.text:00000000004B62B3
.text:00000000004B62B8
                                       call
                                               cs:VirtualAlloc
```

```
0: kd> ba r8 0x40000000
0: kd> g
Breakpoint 0 hit
0033:00007ff7`158252c0 c78424e807000000000000 mov dword ptr [rsp+7E8h],0
1: kd> k
                                           Call Site
 # Child-SP
                     RetAddr
00 0000005a`e78d4960 000001eb`5c46cc80
                                           0x00007ff7 158252c0
01 0000005a`e78d4968 00007ffc`1c404290
                                           0x000001eb \ 5c46cc80
02 0000005a`e78d4970 00000000`00000000
                                           0x00007ffc 1c404290
1: kd> g
Breakpoint 0 hit
CLFS!CClfsLogFcbPhysical::CloseContainers+0x70:
fffff802`46b49870 488b4008
                                          rax, qword ptr [rax+8]
```

- Where the pContainer changed
 - CClfsBaseFilePersisted::WriteMetadataBlock

```
Breakpoint 1 hit
                                                                      m rgContainers->ullAlignment && CClfsBaseFile::Acq.
rax=ffff80071a57a414 rbx=00000000000000000 rcx=0000000040000000
rdx=0000000000000000 rsi=ffffb68f0f61d1c8 rdi=ffffb68f0f61d000
                                                                   pCtxContainer->pContainer = m rgContainers->pContainer;
rip=fffff8052d96c071 rsp=ffffde8052daf410 rbp=ffffde8052daf668
                                                                   CClfsBaseFile::ReleaseContainerContext(this, &pCtxContag
r11=ffffde8052daf300 r12=ffffb68f13060101 r13=00000000000000000
r14=ffff80071a579000 r15=000000000000000000
              nv up ei pl zr na po nc
iopl=0
cs=0010 ss=0018 ds=002b es=002b fs=0053 gs=002b
                                                              ef1=00040246
CLFS!CClfsBaseFilePersisted::WriteMetadataBlock+0x201:
fffff805`2d96c071 48894818
                                        qword ptr [rax+18h],rcx ds:002b:ffff8007`1a57a42c=0000000000000000
1: kd> k
# Child-SP
                    RetAddr
                                         Call Site
00 ffffde80`52daf410 fffff805`2d96b9e0
                                         CLFS!CClfsBaseFilePersisted::WriteMetadataBlock+0x201
01 ffffde80`52daf4a0 fffff805`2d9434ef
                                         CLFS!CClfsBaseFilePersisted::FlushImage+0x40
02 ffffde80`52daf4e0 fffff805`2d97b1e0
                                         CLFS!CClfsLogFcbPhysical::FlushMetadata+0xef
03 ffffde80`52daf530 fffff805`2d995bfa
                                         CLFS!CClfsLogFcbPhysical::AllocContainer+0x180
                                         CLFS!CClfsLogFcbVirtual::AllocContainer+0x5a
04 ffffde80`52daf5d0 fffff805`2d99096c
05 ffffde80`52daf610 fffff805`2d96e445
                                         CLFS!CClfsRequest::AllocContainer+0x22c
```

```
NTSTATUS CClfsBaseFilePersisted::WriteMetadataBlock(CClfsBaseFilePersisted *this, uint a2, bool a3)
   // Omit ...
   for (unsigned int i = 0; i < 0x400; ++i)
       pCtxContainer = nullptr;
       rc = CClfsBaseFile::AcquireContainerContext(this, i, &pCtxContainer);
       if (rc >= 0) {
          pCtxContainer->pContainer = nullptr;
          this->m rgContainers[i] = pCtxContainer->pContainer; // Backup to class instance
          CClfsBaseFile::ReleaseContainerContext(this, &pCtxContainer);
       } else { /* Omit */ }
   // Omit ...
   for (unsigned int i = 0; i < 0x400; ++i)
     if (CClfsBaseFile::AcquireContainerContext(this, i, &pCtxContainer) >= 0 )
       pCtxContainer->pContainer = this->m rgContainers[i]; // Restore to File Common Block
       CClfsBaseFile::ReleaseContainerContext(this, &pCtxContainer);
```

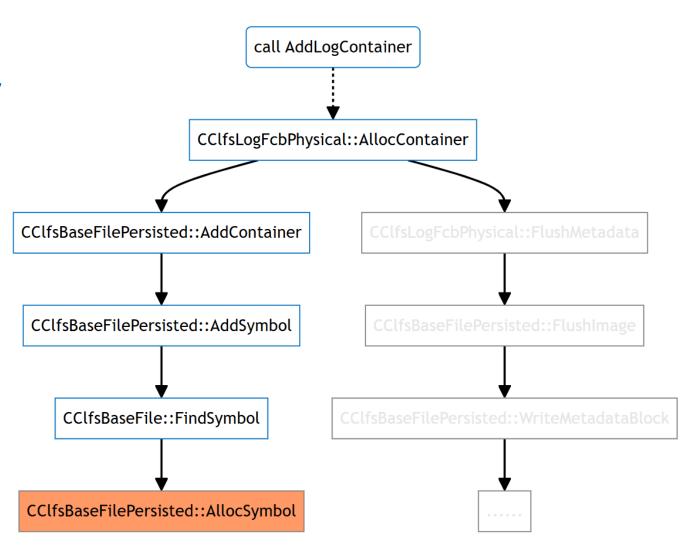
```
NTSTATUS CClfsBaseFile::AcquireContainerContext(CClfsBaseFile *this, UINT cid, PCLFS_CONTAINER_CONTEXT
*ppCtxContainer)
   NTSTATUS rc;
   // Omit ...
   if (precHdr)
       UINT v12 = precHdr->rgContainers[cid];
       if (v12)
          rc = CClfsBaseFile::GetSymbol(this, v12, cid, ppCtxContainer);
       else
          rc = STATUS_INVALID_HANDLE;
   return rc;
```

- Where the Container Symbol Changed
 - CClfsBaseFile::GetSymbol
 - CClfsBaseFilePersisted::AddSymbol
 - •

```
NodeType = 0xC1FDF006
typedef struct _CLFSHASHSYM
                                   NodeSize = 0x30
   CLFS_NODE_ID cidNode;
   ULONG ulHash;
                             Symbol name offset
   ULONG cbHash;
   ULONGLONG ulBelow;
                             (e.g. file path for _CLFS_CONTAINER_CONTEXT)
   ULONGLONG ulAbove;
   LONG cbSymName;
                             CONTEXT structure offset
   LONG cbOffset;
   BOOLEAN fDeleted;
                             (relative to _CLFS_BASE_RECORD_HEADER)
 CLFSHASHSYM, *PCLFSHASHSYM;
```

- Where the Container Symbol Changed
 - Allocate symbol when calling AddLogContainer





```
NTSTATUS CClfsBaseFilePersisted::AllocSymbol(CClfsBaseFilePersisted *this, unsigned int szAllocate, PCLFSHASHSYM
*ppSym)
   PCLFS BASE RECORD HEADER precHdr = CClfsBaseFile::GetBaseLogRecord(this);
   if (!precHdr)
       return STATUS LOG METADATA CORRUPT;
   PCLFS LOG BLOCK HEADER pblockHdr = this->m rgBlocks[ClfsMetaBlockGeneral].pbImage;
   *ppSym = nullptr;
   pSymbolZoneEnd = (char *)precHdr + sizeof(CLFS_BASE_RECORD_HEADER) + precHdr->cbSymbolZone;
   char *pBlockEnd = (char*)pblockHdr + pblockHdr->SignaturesOffset;
   if (pSymbolZoneEnd + szAllocate > pBlockEnd)
       return STATUS BUFFER TOO SMALL;
   memset(pSymbolZoneEnd, 0, szAllocate);
   precHdr->cbSymbolZone += szAllocate;
    *ppSym = pSymbolZoneEnd; // 0x8200 + 0x70 + 0x1338 + 0x3C = 0x95E4 (In File Common Block)
   return STATUS SUCCESS;
```

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Д	В	С	D	Е	F	0123456789ABCDEF
9590	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	3C	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
95A0	00	00	43	01	02	00	00	00	06	F0	FD	C1	30	00	00	00	c <mark>.</mark> ðýÁ0
95B0	16	00	D2	02	В8	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	ò.,
95C0	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	F0	13	00	00	68	13	00	00	ðh
95D0	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	07	FØ	FD	C1	88	00	00	00	ðýÁ [^]
95E0	00	00	00	00	40	9C	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	@œ
95F0	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	10	04	
9600	00	00	00	00	D4	13	00	00	Α4	13	00	00	00	00	00	00	ô¤
9610	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	40	00	00	00	40	00	00	00	40	
9620	00	00	00	40	01	00	00	00	Α4	13	00	00	01	00	00	00	@¤
9630	00	00	00	00	00	99	99	40	99	99	99	40	99	00	99	40	
9640	00	00	00	40	00		> Ba	aseR	leco	rdHe	eade	r					83

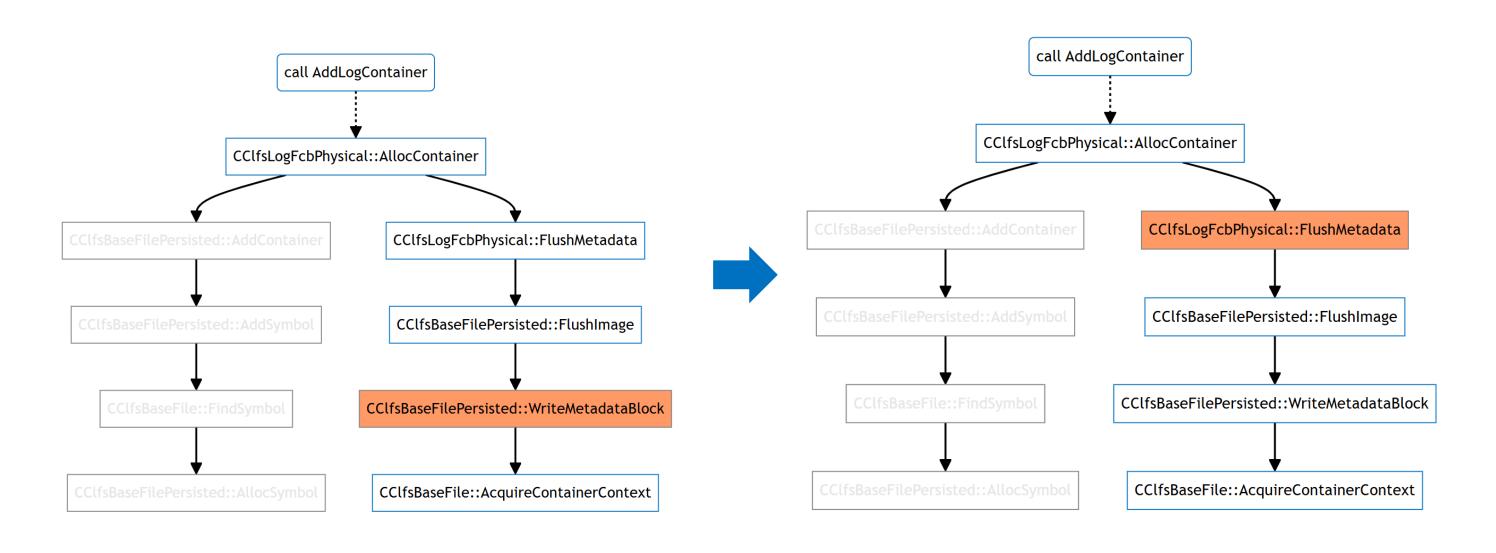


9630	00	00	00	00	00	00 00 40 00 00 00 40 00	00 00 40			
9640		00				. B. B. Ju J		8270h	1338h	struct CLFS_BASE_RECORD_HE
9650	00	00	00	00	00	∨ ClientContext		95A8h	0h	struct
9660	50	00	3F	00	3F	∨Context[0]		95D8h	88h	struct CLFS_CLIENT_CONTEXT
9670	73	3 00	65	00	72	> cidNode		95D8h	8h	struct CLFS_NODE_ID
9680	60	00	69	00	63	cidClient	0h	95E0h	2h	CLFS_CLIENT_ID
9690	67	7 00	2E	00	62	fAttributes	VIRTUAL (0h)	95E2h	2h	enum FILE_ATTRIBUTES
						cbFlushThreshold	9C40h	95E4h	4h	ULONG
						cShadowSectors	0h	95E8h	4h	ULONG

```
NTSTATUS CClfsBaseFile::FindSymbol(PUNICODE_STRING a1, PCLFSHASHTBL pHashTbl, char a3, int a4, PCLFSHASHSYM *ppHashSym
    // Omit ...
                                                                                         call AddLogContainer
    ULONG cbAlloc = szSym + cbHashSym + 0x30;
    PCLFSHASHSYM pNewHashSym = nullptr;
    NTSTATUS rc =
        pBaseFile->AllocSymbol(pBaseFile, cbAlloc,
                                                                                     CClfsLogFcbPhysical::AllocContainer
                 &pNewHashSym);
    if (rc < 0)
        return rc;
                                                                      CClfsBaseFilePersisted::AddContainer
    // Omit ...
    pNewHashSym->cidNode.cType = 0xC1FDF006;
                                                                      CClfsBaseFilePersisted::AddSymbol
    pNewHashSym->cbOffset =
          (ULONG)((char *)pNewHashSym -
                     (char *)precHdr + 0x30);
                                                                         CClfsBaseFile::FindSymbol
        (ULONG)((char *)pSymName - (char *)precHdr);
                                                                      CClfsBaseFilePersisted::AllocSymbol
     *ppHashSym = pNewHashSym;
    return STATUS SUCCESS;
```

```
NTSTATUS CClfsBaseFilePersisted::AddContainer(PUNICODE_STRING a1, ...)
    // Omit ...
                                                                                             call AddLogContainer
    NTSTATUS rc = CClfsBaseFilePersisted::AddSymbol(this, a1,
        &this->m_symContainerTbl, 0x30u, &v31, &offset);
                                                                                         CClfsLogFcbPhysical::AllocContainer
    // Omit ...
    PCLFSHASHSYM pSymContainer =
                                                                          CClfsBaseFilePersisted::AddContainer
          CClfsBaseFile::OffsetToAddr(this, offset);
    if (!pSymContainer)
                                                                           CClfsBaseFilePersisted::AddSymbol
        return STATUS INSUFFICIENT RESOURCES;
    // Omit ...
                                                                             CClfsBaseFile::FindSymbol
    precHdr->rgContainers[i] = pSymContainer->cbOffset;
                                                                          CClfsBaseFilePersisted::AllocSymbol
    // Omit ...
    return STATUS SUCCESS;
```

```
NTSTATUS CClfsBaseFile::AcquireContainerContext(CClfsBaseFile *this, UINT cid, PCLFS_CONTAINER_CONTEXT
*ppCtxContainer)
   NTSTATUS rc;
   // Omit ...
   if (precHdr)
       UINT v12 = precHdr->rgContainers[cid];
       if (v12)
          rc = CClfsBaseFile::GetSymbol(this, v12, cid, ppCtxContainer);
          rc = STATUS_INVALID_HANDLE;
   return rc;
```



How it manipulates the pContainer

```
int64 __fastcall CClfsLogFcbPhysical::FlushMetadata(CClfsLogFcbPhysical *pClfsLogFcbPhysical)
// Omit ...
v2 = CClfsBaseFile::AcquireClientContext(pClfsLogFcbPhysical->CClfsBaseFile, 0, &pCtxClient );
if (v2 >= 0 \&\& (pCtxClient = pCtxClient) != 0i64)
 eState = pCtxClient ->eState;
 Flag = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->Flag;
 pCtxClient ->llCreateTime = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientllCreateTime;
 pCtxClient->llAccessTime = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientllAccessTime;
 pCtxClient->llWriteTime = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientllWriteTime;
 pCtxClient->lsnOwnerPage = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientlsnOwnerPage;
 pCtxClient->lsnArchiveTail = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientlsnArchiveTail.ullOffset;
 pCtxClient->lsnBase = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientlsnBase.ullOffset;
 // The 10<sup>th</sup> CLFS exploit write fake pContainer here
 pCtxClient->lsnLast = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientlsnLast.ullOffset;
                                                                                         // high 4 bytes
 pCtxClient->lsnRestart = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientlsnRestart.ullOffset; //
                                                                                              low 4 bytes
 pCtxClient->cShadowSectors = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientShadowSectors;
 pCtxClient->fAttributes = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->fAttributes;
  eState = eState | 8;
  // Omit ...
```

How it manipulates the pContainer

∨ hashSym	
> cIdNode	
ulHash	D6527D4h
cbHash	60h
ullBelow	0h
ullAbove	0h
cbSymbolName	13D4h
cbOffset	13A4h
fDeleted	0h
∨ ctx	
> cidNode	
cbContainer	400000040000000h
cidContainer	1h
cidQueue	1000h
∨Ptr	
pContainer	40000000h
ullAlignment	40000000h
usnCurrent	4000000h
eState	ClfsContainerInactive (2h)
cbPrevOffset	0h

0h

cbNextOffset



Variant



Why is variant analysis important

17/40 in-the-wild 0-days from 2022 are variants of previously known bugs.

How we conduct variant analysis

Condition # 1

- The vulnerability itself never disappeared, however sometimes a simple check was added in a recent patch, causing the exploit to no longer work
- Typical example: The "patch" of 1st CLFS Exploit -> CVE-2022-24481

Condition # 2

- The developers seemed to understand the root cause and fixed the vulnerability, but they either didn't fix it properly or make a mistake
- Typical example # 1: The patch of CVE-2022-24481 -> CVE-2022-35803
- Typical example # 2: The patch of CVE-2023-23376 -> CVE-2022-28252

How the 1st CLFS Exploit use the vulnerability

```
int64 fastcall CClfsLogFcbPhysical::FlushMetadata(CClfsLogFcbPhysical *pClfsLogFcbPhysical)
// Omit ...
if ( v2 >= 0 && (pCtxClient = pCtxClient ) != 0i64 )
  eState = pCtxClient ->eState;
  pCtxClient ->llCreateTime = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientllCreateTime;
  pCtxClient->llWriteTime = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientllWriteTime;
  pCtxClient->lsnOwnerPage = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientlsnOwnerPage;
  pCtxClient->lsnArchiveTail = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientlsnArchiveTail.ullOffset;
  pCtxClient->lsnLast = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientlsnLast.ullOffset;
  pCtxClient->lsnRestart = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientlsnRestart.ullOffset;
  pCtxClient->cShadowSectors = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->ClientShadowSectors;
  pCtxClient->fAttributes = pClfsLogFcbPhysical->fAttributes;
   _eState = eState | 8; // 1-bit flip
  if ((Flag \& 0x10) == 0)
  pCtxClient->eState = eState; // The 1st CLFS exploit write pContainer here
  // Omit ...
```

- How microsoft "patch" this vulnerability
 - The patch checked the value of Client Context Offset to make sure it couldn't be less than 0x1368, the Client Context Offset in the 1st exploit was 0x2B5

```
int64 __fastcall CClfsBaseFile::GetSymbol(
     CClfsBaseFile *this,
     unsigned int offset,
      char a3,
      struct CLFS CLIENT CONTEXT **a4)
unsigned int v8; // ebx
BOOLEAN v10; // r15
struct CLFS CLIENT CONTEXT *v11; // rax
unsigned int v12; // [rsp+20h] [rbp-38h]
v8 = 0;
v12 = 0;
if ( offset < 0x1368 )
return 0xC01A000Di64;
*a4 = 0i64;
v10 = ExAcquireResourceSharedLite(*((PERESOURCE *)this + 4), 1u);
v11 = (struct CLFS CLIENT CONTEXT *)CClfsBaseFile::OffsetToAddr(this);
```

How to bypass the check

• What if we construct a Client Context Offset that is **greater than 0x1368**, and make the Client Context Offset point to a forged Container Context?

Make 1-bit flip great again

1: kd> .formats ffffd78f`c8725f30 // origin pContainer

Evaluate expression:

Hex: ffffd78f`c8725f30



1: kd> .formats ffffd78f`c87a5f30 // fake pContainer

Evaluate expression:

Hex: ffffd78f`c87a5f30

:(

Your device ran into a problem and needs to restart. We're just collecting some error info, and then we'll restart for you.

0% complete



For more information about this issue and possible fixes, visit https://www.windows.com/stopcode

If you call a support person, give them this info: Stop code: SYSTEM SERVICE EXCEPTION What failed: CLFS.SYS



The patch of CVE-2022-24481

- In the April 2022 patch, CLFS driver added a new function CClfsBaseFile::ValidateRgOffsets
 - The way of directly modifying the Client Context Offset has been fixed
 - Still no check for cidNode.cType

How to bypass the check

Set the cidNode.cType of Client Context to 0xC1FDF008 (the type of Container Context)

:(

Your device ran into a problem and needs to restart. We're just collecting some error info, and then we'll restart for you.

0% complete



For more information about this issue and possible fixes, visit https://www.windows.com/stopcode

If you call a support person, give them this info:
Stop code: ATTEMPTED EXECUTE OF NOEXECUTE MEMORY
What failed: CLFS.SYS





Summary

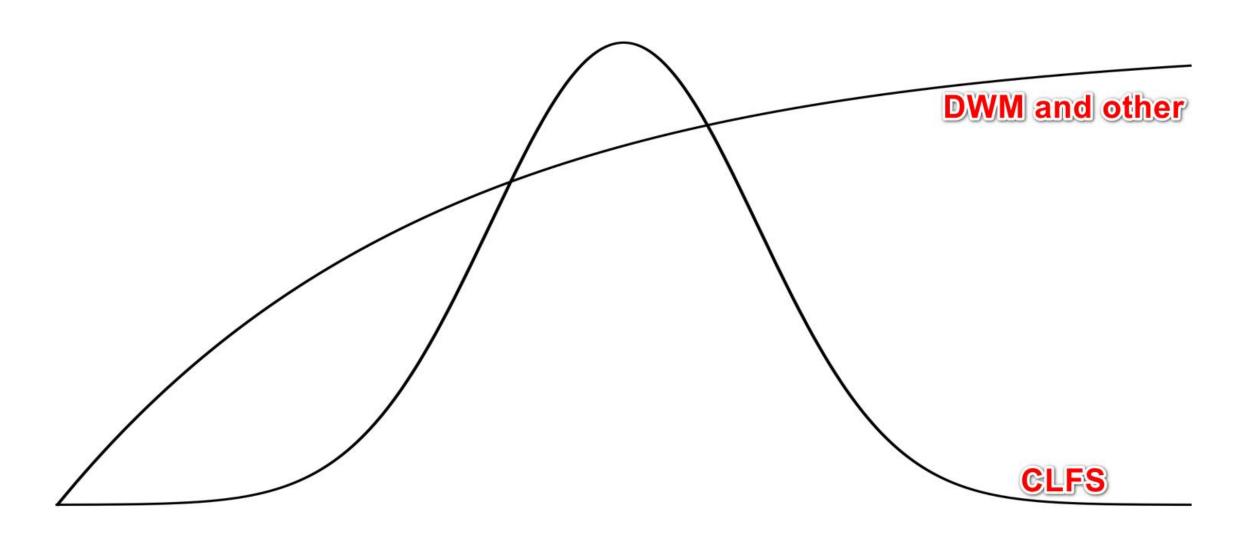
Hunt 10 itw CLFS exploits in 2 years

Exploit Name	CVE	Kaspersky Alias	SHA-256
The 1 st Exploit			86a8f267cf0f51c032f7b1777eb1e51f7cd1badf3f3894e2557a3f571fca9f3d
The 2 nd Exploit		Exploit #1	f94998b90a28c678e4ed6bdf851f339e02a58369435b20ad62858e0ea5bc8eba
The 3 rd Exploit	CVE-2022-24521		eb3452c64970f805f1448b78cd3c05d851d758421896edd5dfbe68e08e783d18
The 4 th Exploit	CVE-2022-37969		0a478f8d4f5f203e100a2a6c56a4e71a062ec463eb68c3f833fd74b3070af482
The 5 th Exploit		Exploit #2	234541906b3c50d907b6f7668632b57f0cb43002b4a8241eca1f4c412898c586
The 6 th Exploit		Exploit #3	9a676c29863d06a1344b7b983b9f8c15978ca9914542bec1c20c1c5e4985c529
The 7 th Exploit	CVE-2023-23376	Exploit #4	eecb4b46b140258887fde5cc95552359aad259a9ddc0d7801e2b7949108be15a
The 8 th Exploit	CVE-2023-28252	Exploit #5	018c464676b4a71be83bc073f482e94a4850e9c24abe4c4ed1285258ca95a21e
The 9 th Exploit			cd882d0dae4d0734c00a7838d810cab22d9207721fe3cdd4ac7ec3adf9555ea2
The 10 th Exploit			a37c848d279e68b7ff01c97c07baf7f33727abc6e1ee79348ff22597b259e9d4

Get 4 CVEs in this journey

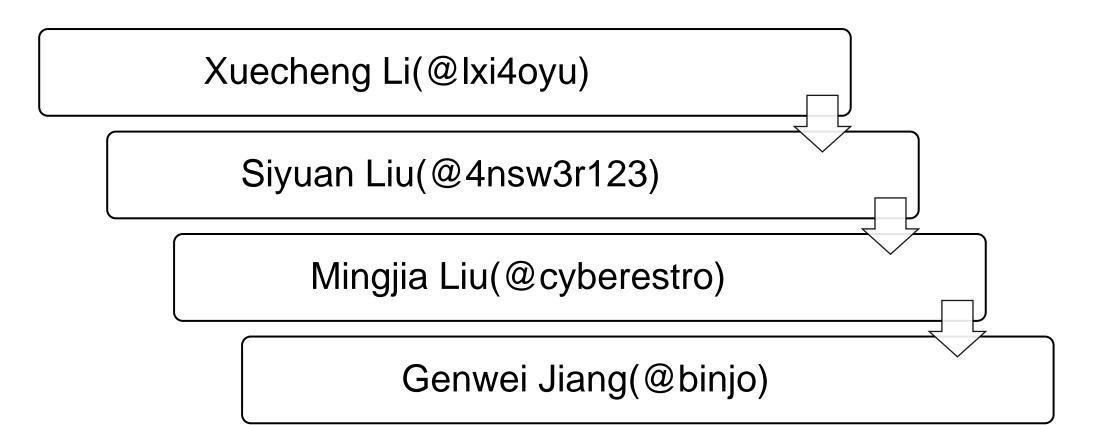
Apr 12, 2022	<u>Jinquan</u> with <u>DBAPPSecurity Threat</u> <u>Intelligence Center</u>	Windows Common Log File System Driver Elevation of Privilege Vulnerability	CVE-2022-24481
Sep 13, 2022	Zscaler ThreatLabz with Zscaler CrowdStrike Genwei Jiang with Mandiant, FLARE OTF Quan Jin with DBAPPSecurity	Windows Common Log File System Driver Elevation of Privilege Vulnerability	<u>CVE-2022-37969</u>
Sep 13, 2022	Mahendra Mishra of Microsoft's Windows Servicing and Delivery Group <u>xi4oyu</u> and <u>Quan Jin</u> with <u>DBAPPSecurity</u> <u>WeBin Lab</u>	Windows Common Log File System Driver Elevation of Privilege Vulnerability	CVE-2022-35803
Apr 11, 2023	Quan Jin with <u>DBAPPSecurity WeBin Lab</u> Genwei Jiang with Mandiant <u>Boris Larin (oct0xor)</u> with <u>Kaspersky</u>	Windows Common Log File System Driver Elevation of Privilege Vulnerability	CVE-2023-28252

Trends on itw Windows LPE Exploits



Acknowledgements







Thanks!