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Content

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Saturday, September 1st, 2007

Firefox File Handling Woes

It seems recent ***URI remote command execution bugs*** in Firefox have long been forgotten. Mozilla put out a patch in a lighting fast manner, probably spurring on bravado like the ***"10 Fucking Days!"*** claim overheard at Black hat USA. Let's take a closer look at the vulnerability, starting with an interesting piece of the description provided in ***MFSA2007-27***:

> "...Further investigation by Secunia showed that a % not followed by a valid two-digit hexadecimal number also triggered the problem for the affected protocols. The Firefox and Thunderbird 2.0.0.6 releases contain fixes that prevent the original demonstrations of this variant, but it is still possible to launch a file type handler based on extension rather than the registered protocol handler. A way to exploit a common handler with a single unexpected URI as an argument may yet be found. Since this handling is a property of the Windows Shell API this variant appears to affect other internet-enabled applications that pass these URIs to the Windows Shell."

Well, to make a long story short, Nate and I have discovered a way to "...exploit a common handler with a single unexpected URI..." Once again, these URI payloads can be passed by the mailto, nntp, news, and snews URIs, allowing us to pass the payload without any user interaction. So, it seems that although the conditions which allowed for remote command execution in Firefox 2.0.0.5 have been addressed with a security patch, the underlying file type handling issues which are truly the heart of the issue have NOT been addressed.

We contacted Mozilla a while ago about the issue and they are working on it. We're going to refrain from giving out the exact details of how this particular issue is executed (based mainly on the efforts and conversations we've had with Jesse Ruderman), but we'll include a screenshot of a payload in action. In the screenshot below, we use the mailto URI, which passes the URI to the Windows File Handler, which calls the appropriate program (in this case Windows Scripting Host), which in turn calls our attacker controlled file. We've purposely pointed the Windows Scripting Host to a file that doesn't exist as the error message allows the user to see that WSH is using the URI passed from Firefox.

[image: uh-oh]

Posted by xssniper | Filed in Security

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