



Into the Wild: Exploring Today's Top Threats

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Rapid7 researchers analyze thousands of vulnerabilities each year to understand root causes, dispel misconceptions and share information on exploitability.

Identifying threats - the reality



April 13

Disclosure

Rapid7 makes the disclosure to Zyxel, who acknowledges on April 14, 2022.

April 28

Patches made available

Zyxel releases patches silently without coordinating with Rapid7.

May 9

We notice the patches are available

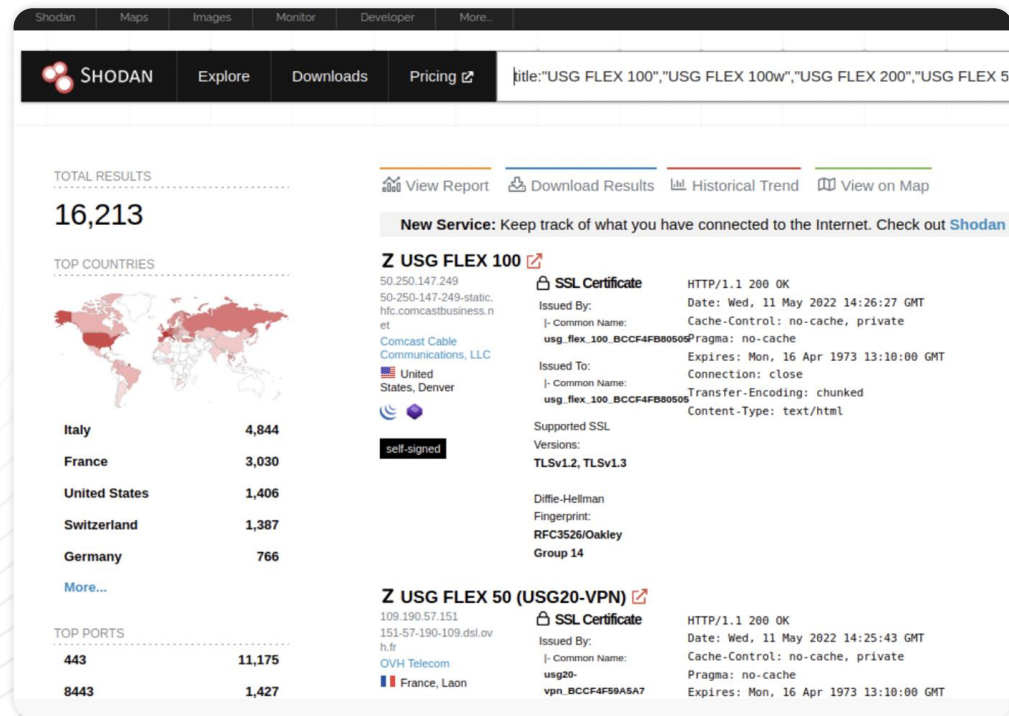
Rapid7 asks Zyxel for a response on the silent patches and indicates we will disclose the week of May 9, 2022. Research team publishes their disclosure May 12.

May 15

Someone I follow posted it on Twitter

I read the tweet and dig into the vulnerability

Sound the alarm....



Affected Model	Affected Firmware Version
USG FLEX 100, 100W, 200, 500, 700	ZLD5.00 thru ZLD5.21 Patch 1
USG20-VPN, USG20W-VPN	ZLD5.10 thru ZLD5.21 Patch 1
ATP 100, 200, 500, 700, 800	ZLD5.10 thru ZLD5.21 Patch 1

What exactly is this vuln, and am I covered?

- Vulnerabilities discovered by Rapid7's Emergent Threat Response (ETR) Team
- Unauthenticated RCE on Zyxel Firewalls, leveraging a command injection within an HTTP POST request
- Affects Zyxel firewalls with zero touch provisioning



You had a password of Welcome...

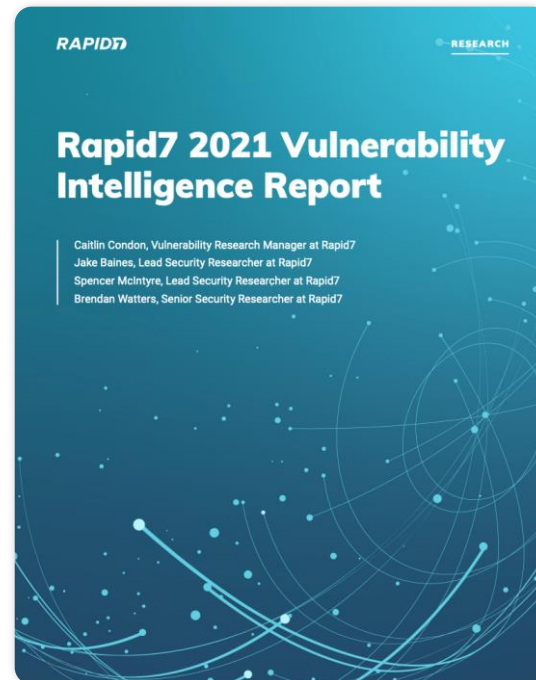
The Ryuk threat actors went from a phishing email to domain wide ransomware in 5 hours. They escalated privileges using Zerologon (CVE-2020-1472), less than 2 hours after the initial phish. They used tools such as Cobalt Strike, AdFind, WMI, and PowerShell to accomplish their objective.

Vulnerability Intelligence for Today's Threat Landscape

Rapid7 researchers analyze thousands of vulnerabilities each year to understand root causes, dispel misconceptions, and share information on exploitability.

Annual Vulnerability Intelligence Report:

- 50 high-priority threats that pose risk to organisations of all sizes
- Notable attack vectors
- Attack analysis that helps you predict and prioritise action



Threat Status



Widespread Threat

A vulnerability that is exploited by many attackers across many different industries and organisations.



Threat

A vulnerability that has been reported as exploited in the wild by reputable sources, including Rapid7's own Labs and services teams.



Impending Threat

A vulnerability that has not seen exploitation by adversaries, but in our view, is a likely and valuable attack target.

Current Threat Landscape

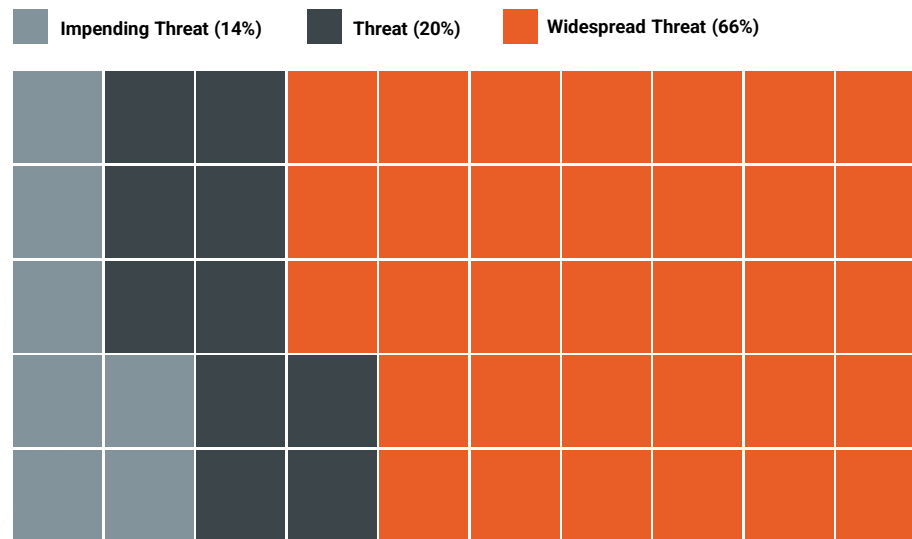
Dramatic increase in widespread attacks (136%)

- Many attackers, many targets
- Rise of “attacker economies of scale”
- 64% of widespread threat vulnerabilities were used in ransomware operations

Unprecedented rise in zero-day attacks

- More than half of widespread threats began with a zero-day exploit
- Red flag for conventional patch cycles, development of emergency protocols

2021 Vulnerability by Threat Status



71% decrease in time to known exploitation (TTKE)

Time to Known Exploitation (TTKE)

- Time between when a vulnerability becomes known and when it is used in the wild by adversaries
- Based on primary disclosure sources (vendor advisories, code repositories, open intel)
- Average time between disclosure and exploitation dropped from 42 days (2020) to **12 days** (2021)
- Driven largely by rise in zero-day exploitation
- Significant implications for security and IT teams



Vulnerability Class and Threat Status

Improper Access Control

Typically indicate a missing requirement e.g. authentication or configured to be overly permissive when security controls should restrict access.

Deserialization

Blobs of data that are wrapped in code and can be executed by surprise. Reputation for high exploitability and many off-the-shelf tools to build exploit chains.

Injection

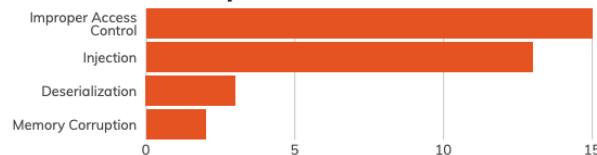
Use specially crafted input and techniques to compromise data integrity or run arbitrary code as a high-privileged user

Memory Corruption

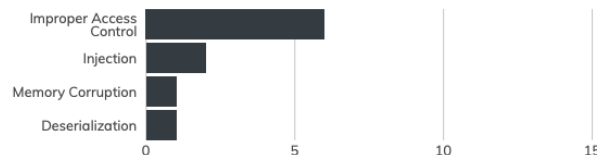
A misalignment of assumptions between a network or file protocol and the CPU; difficult to exploit reliably at scale, but often used in targeted attacks by sophisticated threat actors. Common in zero-day attacks on things like browsers.

2021 Vulnerability by Class and Threat Status

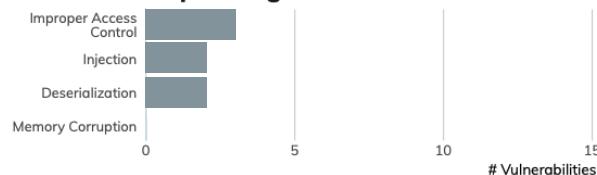
Widespread Threat



Threat



Impending Threat



Zero-Day Exploitation of Zoho ManageEngine ADSelfService Plus

- Rapid7 Managed Detection and Response (MDR) team discovered a threat campaign targeting ManageEngine ADSelfService Plus
- Custom scripts feature exploited by remote attackers with valid admin credentials
- Rapid7 vulnerability researchers wrote an exploit to mimic the zero-day attack
- Vendor assigned CVE-2022-28810, patched within three days
- Assess exposure with InsightVM, test security controls with Metasploit, detect attacks with InsightIDR

Exploitation

The vulnerability arose from a feature that allowed the `admin` user to execute arbitrary operating system commands after a password reset or account lockout status update.

Advanced (okhuman.ninja) Help X

Block User Reset & Unlock Password Sync Notification Automation General

Post Action

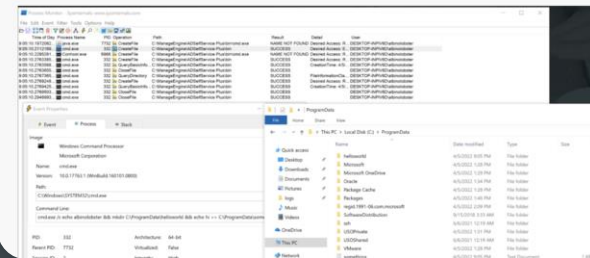
☒ Run without sanitization. Depending on the configured script, an attacker that is able to trigger a password reset could inject arbitrary operating system commands. For example, if the admin user configured the following script:

```
cmd.exe /c echo %username% %password% >> C:\ProgramData\something.txt
```

An attacker could inject arbitrary commands via password reset by providing a %password% like:

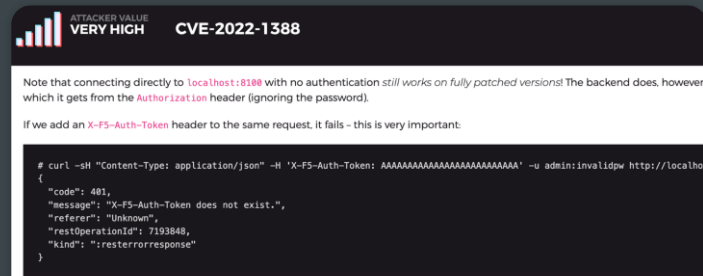
```
&& mkdir C:\ProgramData\helloworld && echo hi
```

Resulting in the directory "helloworld" being created in `C:\ProgramData\`.

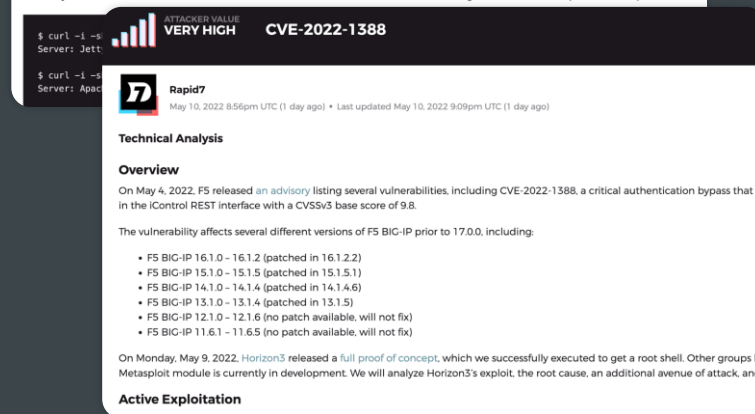


CVE-2022-1388: F5 BIG-IP Authentication Bypass RCE

- Network edge, trivially exploitable
- Rapid7 analysis of root cause, exploitation, and attack vectors
- Time to known exploitation = 5 days
- 2,500 internet-facing targets, more beneath the surface
- Search `/var/log/audit` for commands executed by `icrd_child`
- Assess exposure with InsightVM and Nexpose, test security controls with Metasploit



What's happening is this: on the unpatched server, the Apache frontend validates the authentication information if it's a cookie or HTTP header. On the patched server, the Apache frontend validates it if it's a `X-F5-Auth-Token`. We can see that this behavior changed between the unpatched and patched versions.



Prioritisation

2,100,000

7.9

Risk scoring

@InsightVM
Understand what compensating
controls exist within the environment.

RAPID7

@Metasploit
Understand the vulnerability,
determine likely impact



@ThreatConnect
Is the vulnerability being exploited?
Targeting my geo/industry

 **INTSIGHTS**
A RAPID7 COMPANY

What does this mean for my organisation?

- Patch vulnerabilities used in widespread attacks. If you haven't done so already, prioritise remediation for the highlighted vulnerabilities from 2021 and 2022.
- Know where your exposed and likely targets sit. Attackers home in on commonly exposed technologies (think VPNs and remote access gateways). vCenter Server or similar critical network infrastructure systems should be a high priority every time.
- Asset management is everything. Knowledge of, and responsibility for, the assets on the network go hand-in-hand. Scan everything, all the time, inside and out.
- Patch cycles and patch exceptions: Build in exceptions to your patching program today. Exceptional patching is becoming the low bar, and presumes "normal" patching. You can't up-level to effective emergency procedures without a strong "normal" VM foundation.
- Risk tolerance: It's okay to have risky systems, as long as that risk is articulated and accepted. Understanding vulnerability profiles can make risk calculations easier to understand and communicate.

Resources

<https://www.rapid7.com/info/2021-vulnerability-intelligence-report/>

- Full vulnerability dataset available at the end of the report, including threat status, attacker utility, vulnerability class, and time to known exploitation
- Most CVEs linked to technical analyses from our vuln research teams

<https://attackerkb.com/>

- In-depth exploitability analysis for active and impending threats

<https://blog.rapid7.com/tag/emergent-threat-response/>

- “What you need to know” synopses of critical vulnerabilities

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