Keeping Up With The Joneses (CVEs)

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Security Response Management

*Risk, Cost, and Best Practices in an Imperfect World*

- Keeping our products secure is a requirement for survival
- Security data is available, but can be a flood of data with varying quality and completeness
- Managing security defects can be very inefficient, resulting in high costs
- We need to share best practices, knowledge, awareness, automation, and tools
Agenda

- Understanding CVE sources
- Understanding CVE quality
- Understanding CVE volume
- Managing your security response
- Costs, best practices, solutions
- New open source ‘Security Response Tool’ (SRTool)
General Security Patch Workflow

- **Upstream CVE Sources**
  - Gather data/fixes/info
  - Publish CVE Data

- **You (OS Vendor/OEM/etc.)**
  - Scan upstream CVEs
  - Manage CVE response
  - Fix CVEs
  - Create patches

- **Customer**
  - Receive patches
  - Test/deploy

(Covered Topics)
CVEs

- CVE (Common Vulnerability Enumerations)
  - The enumerations of the community tracked security vulnerabilities, separated by the year reported (e.g. CVE-2018-12345)

- CVE content
  - Description field
  - Estimated severity score (CCSV), Low to Critical, 0.0 to 10.0
  - Estimated impact and domain scores, e.g. “Attack Vector”, “Privileges Required”, “User Interaction”, “Scope”, “Confidentiality”, …
  - List of affected products and their version numbers (CPEs)
  - List of support links (published information, patches, reproducers, …)
  - Weakness categories (CWE), e.g. “buffer overflow”, “pointer issues”
Upstream CVE Sources

- **MITRE**
  - Manages the list of CVEs

- **NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology)**
  - Manages the National Vulnerability Database (NVD) of CVEs

- **Hardware Vendors, Software Maintainers, Distros**
  - Many vendors track and share CVE's relevant to their product
  - Many CVE aggregators also available (e.g. cvedetails.com)

- **Mailing lists, websites, and forums (public and private)**
  - Preview of coming issues, place to discuss issues
## CVE Workflow: Normal/Expected

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community</th>
<th>MITRE</th>
<th>SI Vendors / Maintainers</th>
<th>Vendors (NDA)</th>
<th>NIST</th>
<th>Vendors (Public)</th>
<th>Customers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discover</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Private)</td>
<td>(Work)</td>
<td>(Test)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Work</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Test</td>
<td>Watch</td>
<td>Watch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fix – public</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Receive/ Fix</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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*MITRE, SI Vendors, Vendors (NDA), NIST, Vendors (Public), Customers.*
## CVE Workflow: Out-of-order/Delayed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community</th>
<th>MITRE</th>
<th>SI Vendors / Maintainers</th>
<th>Vendors (NDA)</th>
<th>NIST</th>
<th>Vendors (Public)</th>
<th>Customers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discover</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserved</td>
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<td>Work</td>
<td>Test</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fix – Public</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td>What?</td>
<td>What?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td>Some Patch</td>
<td>Some fix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td>More Patch</td>
<td>More fix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>All Patch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>All fix</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The focus here is not the vulnerability itself, but the process and cost in handling that vulnerability.
Quality of CVEs: Issues

- CVEs may only have a brief or incomplete description
- CVE affected product list (CPEs) may have gaps, errors, unexpected version deviations, even be empty
- CVE content may be misleading, mentioning one package when it actually affects a different package
- CVEs may have few, inaccurate, or missing content links (discussion, reproducers, patches)
- CVE status changes continually as new information is discovered and shared
- Sometimes delays in content updates
Quality of CVEs: Issues (2)

• The most recently created CVEs (within the last few months) are particularly prone to the above issues, but unfortunately these are often all that organizations have to work with for their pending releases (i.e. there is often no CPE data to work with)

• Tools (e.g. CVE scanners) must insure that (a) they are flexible in processing the information, (b) that they can differentiate between strong and weak data, (c) that expectations are set as to what the tool is able conclude and act upon, and that (d) humans are appropriately included in the process.
Quality of CVEs: Examples 1

- **CVE-2017-13220:**
  - The CPE says “cpe:2.3:o:google:android:-:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:*:***” then talks about upstream kernel issues and refers to a kernel SHA.

- **CVE-2014-2524:**
  - Has a CPE which claims all releases of “readline” 6.3 and below are vulnerable, but the problem only exists in 6.0 onwards.
Quality of CVEs: Examples 2

• CVE-2017-8872:
  – Against “libxml” resulted in a bug and patch, but upstream ignored it. An almost-identical patch was merged recently but no mention of the CVE was made

• CVE-2018-10195:
  – A case study in 'dark CVEs'. Reserved in MITRE, Red Hat have their own notice and a patch. Since it is for software which is long-dead, this patch will never go upstream.
Volume of CVE Data: Issues

- Volume of CVEs is 1000+ per month and growing
- Every new CVE must be evaluated, even if only a percentage may be applicable
- Costly in sheer numbers and required analysis overhead given the quality limitations
- Incorrectly categorizing a vulnerability can be even more costly in customer escalations and trust
Volume of CVE Data: Example

- Alerts:
  - 2011: 4150
  - 2012: 5288
  - 2013: 5186
  - 2014: 7937
  - 2015: 6488
  - 2016: 6449
  - 2017: 14614

- Fixed:
  - 2011: 341
  - 2012: 433
  - 2013: 645
  - 2014: 1844
  - 2015: 2330
  - 2016: 5157
  - 2017: 5436

- Supported Releases:
  - 2011: 3
  - 2012: 3
  - 2013: 4
  - 2014: 4
  - 2015: 4
  - 2016: 4
  - 2017: 5

CVE Examples:
- CVE-2011-1020
- CVE-2012-3412
- CVE-2013-4312
- CVE-2014-0160 aka Heartbleed
- CVE-2015-0235 aka Ghost
- CVE-2016-8800 aka DROWN
- Stack-heap Overflow CVE-2017-100034-66
Tools: CVE System Analysis

- Can be very valuable in targeting product specific review activities
- Tells you of known vulnerabilities, but not what you are NOT vulnerable to
- Scans almost exclusively in the category of 'needs investigation'
- Depends on known data
- Example: Nessus
Tools: CVE Build/Source Analysis

- Can be more precise than system analysis
- Possible for something to trigger a vulnerable warning for components never used
- You still need to determine what you are not vulnerable to, understand the items that were reported, etc.
- Depends on known data
- Examples: Black Duck, Yocto Project ‘cve-report’, Dependency Tracker
Security Response Management

• While there is heightened awareness about device vulnerabilities, what is often missing is awareness about the process of managing the security response process itself.

• Security response management is overhead, where costs need to be understood and reviewed.

• Security response management does not make money, but it does protect money.
Security Management: Issues

- The amount of work is growing, in the volume of CVEs and in the product support matrix
- The vulnerabilities often apply differently against different releases
- The data is often not well integration with other systems, for example defect managers, agile managers, compliance tools
- The data is often not aggregated in accessible ways
  - Difficult to share current data between development teams
  - Difficult to share current status between teams and management
  - Continual re-gathering status for reporting to management and customers
- Embargoed data requires special handling
  - Compliance tracking and reporting
  - Who knew what when
Security Management Services

• Some companies offload this process to external vendors
  – They can provide the missing expertise and/or resources
  – The pass-through can reduce customer response times
  – The external support can be expensive
Defect systems vs. Security Management

Defect systems are often poor security management systems

- Defects are per product, CVE's are across products
- An issue may need to be tracked before a CVE is created or published
- Hard to manage embargoed data in defect systems
  - Projects are normally public to entire product groups
  - Would require shadow projects
  - Would require a shadow project per authorized access list
- Awkward promoting private issues to public defects
Cost overview: Necessary costs

- Tracking upstream CVE's
- Creating and fixing defects
- Provide updates to customers, management
- Provide patches to customers
Cost overview: Unnecessary costs

- Repeated manual polling of upstream data, initial and all updates
- Repeated manual polling of defect status
- Manually un-assisted analysis of each CVE for vulnerability status, across products
- Manually re-analyzing each updated CVE for vulnerability status
- Manually tracking and sharing patches, reports, documents, ...
- Manually regathering status for customers, management
- Manually tracking private data, and "who knew what when"
- Manually repackaging data for public database
Best Practices

• Automate as much of the process as possible
  – CVE data gathering, updating, change notifications
  – Defect update polling, with filtered change notifications
  – Report tools for management and customers
  – History and audit tracking

• Use multiple sources
  – NIST, MITRE, distros, oss-security, linux-distros (private list), …

• Aggregate the data
  – Central database, central document store
Best Practices (2)

- Provide easy access to the data
  - GUI interfaces, command line scripts
- Be flexible with the data
  - Design for the imperfections of the upstream data
  - Defocus details (like version numbering) during analysis, to avoid big misses from small errors
- Provide tools for CVE inflow triage
  - Provide tools to help walk the volume of CVEs
  - Provide heuristics to help provide guidance given the gaps in the provided information
- Provide management for NDA information
  - Central but safe storage, user restrictions, easy promotion to public database
Introducing the SRTool

- Wind River has developed a tool called the “Security Response Tool” based on its cumulative experience.
- Its goal is to address the process pain points and inefficiencies, to scale with a limited staff, and to implement best practices.
- Wind River has shared this with open source.
Srtool Features for Best Practices

- **Automation** for multiple CVE source updates, defect status, report generation, history audit data
- **Easy access** via web interface and command line scripts
- **Data aggregation** in SQL database, download directory
- **Data flexibility** by design
- **Tool for CVE inflow triage**, with guidance heuristics
- **NDA management** via user model, deploy model
## Affected Products

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product Name</th>
<th>Investigation</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Defect</th>
<th>Release Version</th>
<th>Manage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Linux Customer Content Management</td>
<td>19118</td>
<td>Not Vulnerable</td>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>LINCGM-2020</td>
<td>LINCGM-2022</td>
<td>LINCGM-2160</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wind River Linux 5</td>
<td>112769</td>
<td>Vulnerable</td>
<td>Fixed</td>
<td>LIN5-24077</td>
<td>5.0.1.42</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wind River Linux LTS-17</td>
<td>120518</td>
<td>Vulnerable</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>LIN10-2989</td>
<td>LIN10-3041</td>
<td>10.17.41.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wind River Linux 9</td>
<td>125978</td>
<td>Vulnerable</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>LIN9-8155</td>
<td>LIN9-8164</td>
<td>9.0.0.15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wind River Linux 8</td>
<td>133082</td>
<td>Vulnerable</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>LIN8-8496</td>
<td>LIN8-8509</td>
<td>8.0.0.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wind River Linux 7</td>
<td>141608</td>
<td>Vulnerable</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>LIN7-9344</td>
<td>LIN7-9345</td>
<td>7.0.0.28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wind River Linux 7 SCP</td>
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<td>Open</td>
<td>SCP7-747</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wind River Linux LTS-18</td>
<td>149901</td>
<td>Not Vulnerable</td>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>LIN1018-313</td>
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<td>Wind River Linux 6</td>
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<td>Open</td>
<td>LIN5-14153</td>
<td>LIN5-14156</td>
<td>6.0.0.37</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wind River Linux 6 SCP</td>
<td>162016</td>
<td>Vulnerable</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>SCP6-1119</td>
<td>6.0.0.37</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SRTool: Object Model

- **Data source**: represents external content, like CVE data providers, defect system, and sustaining team
- **CVE**: the representation of the upstream CVEs
- **Vulnerability**: the mapping of CVE(s) issues across the products
- **Investigation**: the mapping of a vulnerability to specific product/defects
- **Defect**: the mapping to the organization’s defects (Jira, Bugzilla) to CVE’s via Investigations
- **Notifications**: automatic messaging of changed upstream CVE and internal defect status
SRTool: Functional Layout

Web Interface

SRTool Engine

SRTool Data Base (SQL)
| CVE | Vul | Inv | Defect | Notify |

Back end scripts

cron job (trigger incremental updates)

External Sources
- MITRE
- NIST
- Other...
- Jira/Bugzilla
- Sustaining

Reports

Report scripts

Public Facing DB

Custom data scripts

Data: Bulk files, cached CVEs

Data: Download cache

External Sources

MITRE
NIST
Other...
Jira/Bugzilla
Sustaining
SRTool: Guided Incoming CVE Triage

- CVE incoming rate 1000+ a month
- View for fast review and triage
- Heuristics from the previous defects to help guide the filtering process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Select</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Severity (VS)</th>
<th>Reasons For</th>
<th>Reasons Against</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>CVE-2018-1000002</td>
<td>Improper input validation bugs in DNSSEC validators components in Knot Resolver (prior version 1.5.2) allow attacker in man-in-the-middle position to deny existence of some data in DNS via packet replay.</td>
<td>3.7 LOW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>CVE-2018-1000003</td>
<td>Improper input validation bugs in DNSSEC validators components in PowerDNS version 4.1.0 allow attacker in man-in-the-middle position to deny existence of some data in DNS via packet replay.</td>
<td>3.7 LOW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>CVE-2018-1000004</td>
<td>In the Linux kernel 4.12. 3.10. 2.6 and possibly earlier versions a race condition vulnerability exists in the sound system, this can lead to a deadlock and denial of service condition.</td>
<td>5.0 MEDIUM</td>
<td>linux</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>CVE-2018-1000005</td>
<td>Gitlab Electron versions 1.8.2-beta 3 and earlier, 1.7.10 and earlier, 1.6.15 and earlier has a vulnerability in the protocol handler, specifically Electron apps running on Windows 10. 7 or 2006 that register custom protocol handlers can be tricked in arbitrary command execution if the user clicks on a specially crafted URL. This has been fixed in versions 1.8.2-beta 4, 1.7.11, and 1.6.16.</td>
<td>8.8 HIGH</td>
<td>windows</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>CVE-2018-1000006</td>
<td>Jenkins PMD Plugin 3.49 and earlier versions XML external entities in files it parses as part of the build process, allowing attackers with user permissions in Jenkins to extract secrets from the Jenkins master, perform server-side request forgery, or denial-of-service attacks.</td>
<td>8.8 HIGH</td>
<td>plugin xml</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SRTool: Next Steps

• The SRTool is under active open source development, so come join us!
• The design is modular, so it is easy to add your data sources and implement your business rules
• The SRTool is intended at this time to be an internal tool, with scripts to export clean data to the organization's public CVE site
• The community page is hosted here:
  – https://wiki.yoctoproject.org/wiki/Contribute_to_SRTool
Conclusion

• There is quite a wealth of vulnerability information available.
• With knowledge, awareness, adaptability, and automation, we can manage this struggle.
• We need to spend people’s time on the actual problems, not the process.
• Use these links to learn more:
  • https://lists.yoctoproject.org/listinfo/yocto-security
  • david.reyna@windriver.com (SRTool maintainer)

See a live SRTool demo at the Yocto Project Booth!