

Re: Removable media security in FreeBSD

Source: <http://www.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/FreeBSD-Security/2003-06/0059.html>

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Date: 06/10/03

Date: Tue, 10 Jun 2003 03:38:30 -0700
To: Robert Watson <rwatson@FreeBSD.ORG>

On Sun, Jun 08, 2003, Robert Watson wrote:

> *On the "SECURE" front -- well, it depends a bit on how robust our file
> system support is. Bad UFS file systems can cause the FreeBSD kernel to
> behave improperly, since it's assumed that file systems will be clean or
> explicitly checked before mounting. I've never really experimented much
> with our FAT file system support to see how robust it is; we have a
> 5.2-RELEASE TODO list item to merge some robustness improvements from the
> Darwin implementation back into FreeBSD, which suggests our implementation
> could be improved on :-).*

FAT is somewhat less robust than UFS. In particular, its handling of media errors can lead to a tight loop in at least one place and a null pointer dereference in another. Improvements from Darwin would be much appreciated. I would be interested in knowing the licensing issues involved, if any.

freebsd-security@freebsd.org mailing list

<http://lists.freebsd.org/mailman/listinfo/freebsd-security>

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