

[UNIX] IBM AIX netpmon Local Buffer Overflow Vulnerability

Source: <http://www.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Securiteam/2005-02/0040.html>

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Date: 02/13/05

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Date: 13 Feb 2005 13:26:39 +0200

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IBM AIX netpmon Local Buffer Overflow Vulnerability

SUMMARY

The netpmon program is "a setuid root application, installed by default under multiple versions of IBM AIX, which can be used to monitor activity and report statistics on network I/O and network-related CPU usage".

Local exploitation of a buffer overflow vulnerability in the netpmon command included by default in multiple versions of IBM Corp.'s AIX Operating System could allow for arbitrary code execution as the root user.

DETAILS

Vulnerable Systems:

- * IBM AIX version 5.2 and prior

Immune Systems:

- *

The vulnerability specifically exists due to an unbounded string copying operation into stack memory. When provided with a long argument to the -O

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option (the ReportType option), the netpmon process will overwrite stack memory. This allows for the execution of arbitrary code by overwriting the saved return address.

Analysis:

Exploitation of this vulnerability is simple for a skilled attacker, however gid "system" is required in order to execute the vulnerable binary. Successful exploitation yields root access to the system.

Workaround:

Only allow trusted users local access to security critical systems; only allow trusted users access to the "system" group. Alternately, remove the setuid bit from netpmon using `chmod u-s /usr/bin/netpmon`

Vendor Status:

Vendor advisories for this issue are available at:

* For AIX 5.1:

<https://techsupport.services.ibm.com/server/pseries.subscriptionSvcs?mode=1&heading=AIX51&topic=SECURITY>
AIX 5.1 Security Advisories

* For AIX 5.2:

<https://techsupport.services.ibm.com/server/pseries.subscriptionSvcs?mode=1&heading=AIX52&topic=SECURITY>
AIX 5.2 Security Advisories

* For AIX 5.3:

<https://techsupport.services.ibm.com/server/pseries.subscriptionSvcs?mode=1&heading=AIX53&topic=SECURITY>
AIX 5.3 Security Advisories

Disclosure Timeline:

12/21/2004 – Initial vendor notification
01/07/2004 – Initial vendor response
02/10/2005 – Coordinated public disclosure

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The information has been provided by
<mailto:idlabs-advisories@idefense.com> iDEFENSE.

The original article can be found at:

<http://www.idefense.com/application/poi/display?id=197&type=vulnerabilities>
<http://www.idefense.com/application/poi/display?id=197&type=vulnerabilities>

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