



Australian Government

Attorney-General's Department



AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL
COMPUTER EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

CERT Australia Industry News

Oday vulnerability in Internet Explorer

Summary

Microsoft has acknowledged a new vulnerability affecting all currently supported versions of the Internet Explorer browser [1]. The vulnerability could allow remote code execution and there are public reports that it is being exploited in the wild, including in targeted attacks.

Technical Details

A previously undisclosed vulnerability in Internet Explorer versions 6, 7 and 8 which can be triggered using a specific combination of cascading style sheet (CSS) tags has been used in targeted attacks [2]. Proof of concept code which triggers this vulnerability has been publicly released.

Successful exploitation of the vulnerability and subsequent triggering of malicious code may result in execution of arbitrary code with the privileges of the user running Internet Explorer. Triggering the vulnerability without the inclusion of additional code can result in a denial of service via an application crash.

Business Impact

Generally this type of vulnerability would be used to direct an end user to a malicious website in order to install malware and take control of the infected machine.

However, in targeted attacks this vulnerability could be used to cause a higher level of impact.

For more information regarding patches/mitigations, please refer to the "Additional Information" section below.

Additional Information

[1] <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/advisory/2458511.mspx>

[2] <http://blogs.technet.com/b/srd/>

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