Symantec’s pcAnywhere Hacked

Ryan Mahin

CS466: Computer Security

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pcAnywhere is a program by Symantec that allows the user of the program to connect to a personal computer anywhere so long as they are both connected to the internet.
Last month Symantec issued a warning to stop using their product until a patch is released.
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- “Honestly, the toughest part of incident response is being able to tell what the bad guy took” -Six-Year-Old Breach Comes Back To Haunt Symantec
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Nothing was done because all investigation of the produced inconclusive results at the time.
Extortion

- Hacker, YamaTough (affiliated with Anonymous), attempts to extort Symantec

Figure: Twitter profile
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Exchange emails for about a month.

Figure: Twitter profile
2012/1/25 yamatough yamatough@terra.com.ve
If we dont hear from you in 30m we make an official announcement and put your code on sale at auction terms. We have many people who are willing to get your code. Dont fuck with us.
Sam Thomas sam.thomas.sym@gmail.com 25 January 2012, 23:49:38
We are not trying to trick you. You said you had the PC Anywhere code and we were just being cautious. What would you have us do? We really don’t want our code out there. How do you want to proceed.
Result

**Symantec's pcAnywhere Leaked Source Code**

- **Type:** Other > Other
- **Files:** 1
- **Size:** 1.27 GiB (1368783787 Bytes)
- **Tag(s):** antisec anonymous leak source
- **Quality:** +32 / -0 (+32)
- **Uploaded:** 2012-02-07 05:40:04 GMT
- **By:** stun 🎟️
- **Seeders:** 208
- **Leechers:** 4
- **Comments:** 25

**Figure:** The Pirate Bay
First attack

- Two weeks later, a DOS python script is created.
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```python
#!/usr/bin/python

...
Exploit Title: PCAnywhere Nuke
Date: 2/16/12
Author: Johnathan Norman, spoof <at> exploitscience.org or @spoofyroot
Version: PCAnyWhere (12.5.0 build 463) and below
Tested on: Windows
Description: The following code will crash the awhost32 service. It'll be respawned
so if you want to be a real pain you'll need to loop this.. my initial impressions
are that controlling execution will be a pain.
...
```

**Figure:** Only 40 lines
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  - Files uploaded during installation were writable by all users.

Symantec Response

Issued numerous security patches.

“Symantec is not aware of any customers impacted by this issue, or of any attempts to exploit it in the wild.” Symantec Security Advisory

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Not a whole lot they can do...

- Source code of current products is almost identical to the 2006 products.
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”The only hope for Symantec and pcAnywhere is that these days users typically do not run their home or office computers with the ports required for this product open to the Internet” Remote Attack Code Surfaces
Sources


http://pastebin.com/2x8qZrWA https://thepiratebay.se/torrent/7014253


http://twitter.com/#!/yamatough

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