The RDP Exploit

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RDP: Remote Desktop Protocol

- Allows administrators to remotely control workstations & servers
- Operates on TCP port 3389.
- By default, does not require authentication to start a connection (presented with login screen).
The Exploit

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3. Attacker can direct the kernel to run arbitrary code.
The Bad News

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4. There are estimated to be ~5 million RDP endpoints on the Internet.
5. Proof of concept code already exists.
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2. Attacker does not need authentication on the network.
3. The default port is rarely changed.
4. There are estimated to be \(\sim 5\) million RDP endpoints on the Internet.
5. Proof of concept code already exists.
6. RDP runs as the SYSTEM user, which is similar to Unix’s root user.
The Good News

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3. Exploit was patched by Microsoft on March 13 (update now!).
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2. The RDP port is often left open through firewalls to allow administrators to remotely access machines.
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Authentication is done after the connection creation by default.
Sources

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