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1.01 Revised (January 2008)

In memory of Carlos J.P. You'll never walk alone.

1. Abstract

This paper explains an attack vector inherent to certain WDM audio drivers running on Windows Vista, XP, 2000 and 2003. Successful exploitation could lead to local escalation of privileges.

It is oriented towards researchers and developers with the aim of helping them to keep their code safe and/or to identify vulnerabilities.

2. Introduction

Nowadays, writing drivers for sound cards is even not necessary in some cases, whenever the manufactured device is fully compliant with the industry standards already implemented by Microsoft Windows. Anyway, if a driver is still necessary, Microsoft provides the WDM to reduce the complexity of the task (among other things). Specifically, for audio and video drivers, Windows includes the Kernel Streaming Architecture which allows developers to develop drivers in an easy way since most of the logic is implemented within Windows core components.



AVStream Architectural Overview

Image 1. Kernel Streaming architecture (msdn).

As the above image shows, those driver writers who face a WDM audio driver development should choose between drivers binded to the Port Class driver(portcls.sys) or directly to the KS (ks.sys). In many cases, PortCls.sys is the preferred one.

So, let's see how would be the common initialization sequence for these drivers:

1. Bind to the desired driver, I.e PortCls.sys, at Driver's entry point.

```
extern "C" NTSTATUS DriverEntry
(
PDRIVER_OBJECT DriverObject,
PUNICODE_STRING RegistryPath
)
{
return PcInitializeAdapterDriver (DriverObject,
RegistryPath,
XpAddDevice);
}
```

Reversing PcInitializeAdapterDriver we see the following:

module: portcls.sys

```
1.
2. mov
          ecx, [edi+18h]
3. push
          esi
         esi, ds: _imp__KsSetMajorFunctionHandler@8 ;
4. mov
  KsSetMajorFunctionHandler(x,x)
5. mov [ecx+4], eax
6. push 0Eh ; MajorFunction
7. push edi ; DriverObject
8. mov dword ptr [edi+34h], offset ?KsoNullDriverUnload@@YGXPAU_DRIVER_OBJECT@@@Z
   ; KsoNullDriverUnload ( DRIVER OBJECT *)
9. mov dword ptr [edi+0A4h], offset ?
   DispatchPnp00YGJPAU DEVICE OBJECT00PAU IRP000Z ; DispatchPnp(_DEVICE_OBJECT *,_IRP
   *)
10.mov
          dword ptr [edi+90h], offset ?
   DispatchPower@@YGJPAU DEVICE OBJECT@@PAU IRP@@@Z ; DispatchPower( DEVICE OBJECT
   *, IRP *)
         dword ptr [edi+94h], offset ?
11. mov
   PerfWmiDispatch@@YGJPAU_DEVICE_OBJECT@@PAU_IRP@@@Z ;
   PerfWmiDispatch( DEVICE OBJECT *, IRP *)
12.mov
          dword ptr [edi+38h], offset ?
   DispatchCreate@@YGJPAU DEVICE OBJECT@@PAU IRP@@@Z ; DispatchCreate( DEVICE OBJECT
   *, IRP *)
13. call esi ; KsSetMajorFunctionHandler(x,x) ; KsSetMajorFunctionHandler(x,x)
                ; MajorFunction
          3
14. push
15. push edi
                          ; DriverObject
          esi ; KsSetMajorFunctionHandler(x,x) ; KsSetMajorFunctionHandler(x,x)
16.call
          4 ; MajorFunction
17. push
18.push edi
                          ; DriverObject
19.call esi
20.push 9
          esi ; KsSetMajorFunctionHandler(x,x) ; KsSetMajorFunctionHandler(x,x)
20. push 9 ; MajorFunction
21. push edi Driverobic
22. call esi ; KsSetMajorFunctionHandler(x,x) ; KsSetMajorFunctionHandler(x,x)
                ; MajorFunction
23.push 2
                         ; DriverObject
24.push edi
25.call
26.push
          esi ; KsSetMajorFunctionHandler(x,x) ; KsSetMajorFunctionHandler(x,x)
          14h ; MajorFunction
27.push edi
                          ; DriverObject
28. call esi ; KsSetMajorFunctionHandler(x,x) ; KsSetMajorFunctionHandler(x,x)
29.push
          15h ; MajorFunction
30.push
31.call
          edi
                          ; DriverObject
          esi ; KsSetMajorFunctionHandler(x,x) ; KsSetMajorFunctionHandler(x,x)
32.xor
          eax, eax
33.pop
         esi
34.jmp short loc_25F74
```

The function installs directly IRP handlers for :

- IRP_MJ_PNP
 IRP_MJ_POWER
 IRP_MJ_SYSTEM_CONTROL
 IRP_MJ_SPSTEM_CONTROL
- IRP_MJ_CREATE (12)

Another seven remaining handlers are installed by using *KsSetMajorFunctionHandler*. It's interesting to see what the msdn says about this function:

The **KsSetMajorFunctionHandler** function sets the handler for a specified major function to use the internal dispatching. It routes through a **KSDISPATCH_TABLE** contained in the opaque object header to be the first element within a structure pointed to by an **FsContext** within a file object. The dispatching <u>assumes</u> the table and **FsContext** structure are initialized by the device using **KsAllocateObjectHeader**.

The verb "to assume" probably sounds really scary for all of you. Historically, software assuming things like fixed buffer sizes, inputs... has lead to important vulnerabilities.

How does the structure KSDISPATCH TABLE look like?

Typedef struct{		
PDRIVER DISPATCH DeviceIoControl;	11	IRP MJ DEVICE CONTROL
PDRIVER DISPATCH Read;	11	IRP MJ READ
PDRIVER DISPATCH Write;	11	IRP MJ WRITE
PDRIVER_DISPATCH Flush;	//	IRP_MJ_FLUSH
PDRIVER DISPATCH Close;	11	IRP MJ CLOSE
PDRIVER DISPATCH QuerySecurity;	11	IRP MJ QUERY SECURITY
PDRIVER_DISPATCH SetSecurity;	//	IRP_MJ_SET_SECURITY
PFAST_IO_DEVICE_CONTROL FastDeviceIoCo	ntrol;	//
DriverObject.FastIoDispatch.FastIoDevice	Contro	1
<pre>PFAST IO READ FastRead; //</pre>	Drive	rObject.FastIoDispatch.FastRead
<pre>PFAST IO WRITE FastWrite; //</pre>	Driv	erObject.FastIoDispatch.FastWrite
<pre>}KSDISPATCH_TABLE, *PKSDISPATCH_TABLE;</pre>		

KsSetMajorFunctionHandler is quite simple, it installs the proper IRP handler for *MajorFunction* ≥ 0 , otherwise installing the *FastIo* handlers.

module ks.sys [...] PAGE:00026FA2 PAGE:00026FA2 loc_26FA2: ; CODE XREF: KsSetMajorFunctionHandler(x,x)+6Bj PAGE:00026FA2 mov ecx, offset _DispatchRead@8 ; DispatchRead(x,x) short loc_26FE4 PAGE:00026FA7 jmp PAGE:00026FA9 ; _____ PAGE:00026FA9 PAGE:00026FA9 loc_26FA9:; CODE XREF: KsSetMajorFunctionHandler(x,x)+68jPAGE:00026FA9movecx, offset _DispatchClose@8 ; Dispatch mov ecx, offset _DispatchClose@8 ; DispatchClose(x,x) PAGE:00026FAE short loc_26FE4 jmp PAGE:00026FB0 ; PAGE:00026FB0 PAGE:00026FB0 mov ecx, offset DispatchCreate@8 ; DispatchCreate(x,x) PAGE:00026FB5 jmp short loc 26FE4 PAGE:00026FB7 ; _____ PAGE:00026FB7 PAGE:00026FB7 loc_26FB7: ; CODE XREF: KsSetMajorFunctionHandler(x,x)+5Dj mov ecx, offset _DispatchFlush@8 ; DispatchFlush(x,x) PAGE:00026FB7 PAGE:00026FBC jmp short loc 26FE4 [...] edx, [ebp+DriverObject] PAGE:00026FE4 mov PAGE:00026FE7 mov [edx+eax*4+38h], ecx ; DrvObj->MajorFunction[IRP MJ XXX] = DispatchXXXXX [...] PAGE:00026F74 eax, [ebp+DriverObject] mov eax, [eax+28h] ; DriverObject->FastIoDispatch PAGE:00026F77 mov PAGE:00026F7A dword ptr [eax+8], offset _DispatchFastRead@32 ; mov DispatchFastRead(x,x,x,x,x,x,x,x) [...]

The interesting part is the content of the installed IRP handlers: DispatchRead, DispatchWrite...

Let's see an example:

module: ks.sys					
PAGE:0002B578 DispatchWrite@	8 proc ne	ear		;	DATA XREF:
KsSetMajorFunctionHandler(x,x)+700				
PAGE:0002B578					
PAGE:0002B578 PDEVICE_OBJECT	= dword	ptr	8		
PAGE:0002B578 PIRP	= dword	ptr	OCh		
PAGE:0002B578					
PAGE:0002B578	mov	edi,	edi		
PAGE:0002B57A	push	ebp			
PAGE:0002B57B	mov	ebp,	esp		
PAGE:0002B57D	mov	ecx,	[ebp+PIRP]	
PAGE:0002B580	mov	eax,	[ecx+60h]	;	Irp->CurrentStackLocation
PAGE:0002B583	mov	eax,	[eax+18h]	;	IrpSp->FileObject
PAGE:0002B586	mov	eax,	[eax+0Ch]	;	FileObject->FsContext
PAGE:0002B589	mov	eax,	[eax]	;	*FsContext
PAGE:0002B58B	mov	eax,	[eax]	;	KSDISPATCH_TABLE
PAGE:0002B58D	push	ecx			
PAGE:0002B58E	push	[ebp+	+PDEVICE_O	BJ	ECT]
PAGE:0002B591	call	dword	d ptr [eax	+8];KsDsp->Write(pDev,pIrp);
PAGE:0002B594	pop	ebp			
PAGE:0002B595	retn	8			
PAGE:0002B595 _DispatchWrite@	8 endp				

These handlers are merely a wrapper that uses the KSDISPATCH_TABLE for routing the IRP. Now, remember what the MSDN said:

The dispatching <u>assumes</u> the table and **FsContext** structure are initialized by the device using **KsAllocateObjectHeader**.

What would happen if the device, by any reason, has not properly initialized FsContext ? **EAX** = = **NULL**.

Therefore, by issuing a I/O request (Read, Write,DeviceIoControl...) in the exposed device, the default driver's IRP handler DispatchWrite will dereference the pointer to the KSDISPATCH_TABLE at FsContext, which is defaulted to NULL within the kernel at the FILE_OBJECT's creation stage. Thus the trick seems obvious, user-mode processes can allocate memory at 0x00000000 with no restriction, so finally we are controlling the pointer that is being dereferencing. Exploit it is a trivial task:

- 1. Allocate user-mode memory at 0
- 2. Set a fake FsContext pointer at 0 pointing to any other user-mode memory address.
- 3. Copy into the desired address our fake KSDISPATCH_TABLE
- 4. Issue a Write, Read... operation in the vulnerable device.

But wait, things are not so simple. WDM Drivers that bind to either PortCls.sys or Ks.sys through the proper supplied API will get their devices correctly initialized. The real problem occurs when the WDM driver creates additional devices since then all of them share a unique driver object which, in this particular case, may turn out into a potential vulnerability.

At this point, we have covered just one piece of the puzzle. Perhaps the more simple part. In the second stage of this paper we are going to explain those cases in which a WDM Driver may need to create additional devices and finally, how an apparently safe driver becomes a vulnerable one.

3. Second Stage

We have seen the root of the issue. Once these concepts have been assimilated we are in disposition to dig deeply, explaining those common driver programming methods that make a driver suitable for being abused.

Devices whose purpose is not directly related with the Kernel Streaming API (KSA from now on) can be considered as "stranger" devices . We may define this term more globally as a device that has not been created or registered through the KSA so the KSA is not aware of it in any manner. These "stranger" devices share the same driver object with other KSA-related devices so default KSA's IRP handlers pose a potential vulnerability.

Scenario 1

One common practice in driver programming is to create devices that act as an interface to usermode applications. Nothing new but let's think for a while about the new situation we face when writing WDM audio drivers. We have initialized our driver object and its *n* devices through the KSA, so several IRP handlers which are fully, although **uniquely**, compliant with the KSA are installed. If we create additional device(s) for our user-mode service without notifying this event to the KSA we will be creating a potential attack vector as well.

Scenario 2

This one is the most interesting. Some relatively-old soundcards include a Gameport embedded. The Game Port connector used to be used by joysticks and that type of peripherals. Nowadays, USB is preferred for almost every modern gaming hardware so Microsoft has discontinued Game port support in Windows Vista. However, it still maintains a "user friendly incompatibility" in order to avoid being rude with older hardware.

Vista gameport.inf

; gameport.inf - Hooks up known gameports with a NULL service. ; Displays a name so the user can understand the device ; is not supported out of the box. ; This avoids the '!' in device manager.

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WDM means stability and backward compatibility and uniform architecture. This is the reason by which a driver, that was coded more than 8 years ago, can still be working in a Windows version for which it was not designed.

However, some WDM drivers may face now a different scenario while running on Microsoft Windows Vista. The Game port is no longer supported so this fact leads to important changes, not in the way the driver behaves but in the interfaces exposed by the driver.

Let's see the schema below to clear things up.



Image 2. Gameport Connector . Wikipedia.



Image 3. Devices commonly exposed by a SoundCard/Driver

Within the blued "Microsoft Kernel Streaming Related Area" shape we can find all those device(s) the OS creates to identify the SoundCard, moreover we see the FDO(s) our driver will create through the KSA for interfacing with these PDOs. We assume that these devices are properly initialized since there is no reason for not doing so (a driver incorrectly binded to the KS will not simply work).

On the other hand, the "Third-Party Driver Area" comprises those "stranger" devices we have been talking about previously. The startup sequence would be as follows:

In Versions prior to Vista

- 1. The PnP Manager issues a Query Relations request to our Driver that should create the GamePort PDO upon receiving this request.
- 2. The PnP loads gameenum.sys, creating an unnamed FDO for interfacing with the Gameport PDO, this FDO is attached to the stack. Thus, the access (its original IRP handlers we mean) to the PDO from user-mode is not possible, despite the fact the PDO could be a named device.

In Windows Vista

- 1. The PnP Manager issues a Query Relations request to our Driver that will create the GamePort PDO upon receiving this request.
- 2. The PnP does not creates any FDO for interfacing with the Gameport PDO since the Game Port is not supported . Therefore, the PDO remains exposed to user-mode applications.
- 3. If the developer has not implemented the logic for routing correctly the IRPs sent to this device, we can reach the installed KSA's IRP handlers that will dereference our controlled FsContext pointer, leading to arbitrary code execution in the Kernel.
- 4. We have fun.

All the stuff above is just a theoretical approach, but now we are going to see the second scenario in action.

The es1371mp.sys issue

This driver was created by CreativeLabs in the late 90's for widely extended "Ensoniq PCI 1371" based Sound Cards. Even today, this driver is actively used since several VMware products emulate that soundcard. In fact, the driver is automatically installed through Microsoft Windows Update. We are talking about a WDM driver with near ten years of life...and it works. Amazing. Unfortunately, Creative is no longer supporting neither the hardware nor the driver so don't expect a patch.

Let's begin.

Binding to the PortCls.sys:

module: es1371mp.sys

1. PAGE:00014CE8 st 2. PAGE:00014CE8	tart	proc near
	ra = duar	dptr 4
3. PAGE:00014CE8 a:		a pui 4
4. PAGE:00014CE8 a:	rg_4 = dwor	d ptr 8
5. PAGE:00014CE8		
6. PAGE:00014CE8	push	ebx
7. PAGE:00014CE9	xor	ebx, ebx
8. []		
9. PAGE:00014D2C	mov	esi, [esp+8+arg 0]
10.PAGE:00014D30	push	offset sub_14CCC ; AddDevice
11.PAGE:00014D35	push	[esp+0Ch+arg_4]
12.PAGE:00014D39	push	esi
13.PAGE:00014D3A	call	PcInitializeAdapterDriver

14.PAGE:00014D3F	cmp	eax, ebx
15.PAGE:00014D41	mov	dword ptr [esi+34h], offset sub_14780
16.PAGE:00014D48	jl	short loc_14D7A
17.PAGE:00014D4A	mov	dword ptr [esi+38h], offset sub_1803C
;overrides IRP_MJ_CREAT	Έ	
18.PAGE:00014D51	mov	dword ptr [esi+40h], offset sub_1803C ;
overrides IRP_MJ_CLOSE		
19.PAGE:00014D58	mov	dword ptr [esi+0A4h], offset
<pre>sub_17FC0;overrides IRF</pre>	P_MJ_PNP	
20.PAGE:00014D62	mov	dword ptr [esi+90h], offset sub_17FE4;
21.PAGE:00014D6C	mov	dword ptr [esi+70h], offset
<pre>sub_18072;overrides IRF</pre>	P_MJ_DEVI	CE_CONTROL
22.PAGE:00014D73	mov	dword ptr [esi+74h], offset sub_180AE;

The driver is overriding several default KSA's IRP handlers, later on we'll see why.

Let's take a look at the new DispatchCreate (line 17)

module: es1371mp.sys						
1. PAGE:0001803C	sub 1803C	proc nea	ar		; D.	ATA XREF: start
+620	_					
2. PAGE:0001803C					; s	tart+69o
3. PAGE:0001803C						
4. PAGE:0001803C	arg_0	= dword	ptr	4		
5. PAGE:0001803C	Irp	= dword	ptr	8		
6. PAGE:0001803C						
7. PAGE:0001803C		mov	eax,	[esp+arg_0]		
8. PAGE:00018040		mov	ecx,	[eax+28h]		
9. PAGE:00018043		push	esi			
10.PAGE:00018044			esi,			
11. PAGE:00018046				ptr [ecx+11		
	device by check:				he	DeviceExtension
12.PAGE:0001804D		jz		loc_18060		
13.PAGE:0001804F				[esp+4+Irp]	;	Irp
14.PAGE:00018053			-	18h], esi		
15.PAGE:00018056						riorityBoost
16.PAGE:00018058				fCompleteRe	que	st
17.PAGE:0001805E		jmp	short	loc_1806C		
18.PAGE:00018060	° 7					
20.PAGE:00018060	100 18060.				• C	ODE XREF:
sub 1803C+11j	100_10000.				, 0	ODE AREF.
21.PAGE:00018060		push	[ogn+	(1+Trp]		
22.PAGE:00018064		push	eax	HITD]		
23.PAGE:00018065		pusn	Cux			
24.PAGE:00018065	loc 18065:					
25.PAGE:00018065	100_10000.	call	PcDis	patchIrp		
26.PAGE:0001806A		mov	esi,			
27.PAGE:0001806C			,			
28.PAGE:0001806C	loc 1806C:				; C	ODE XREF:
sub 1803C+22j					, 0	
29.PAGE:0001806C		mov	eax,	esi		
30.PAGE:0001806E		pop	esi			
31.PAGE:0001806F		retn	8			
32.PAGE:0001806F	sub 1803C	endp				
	—	+				

We see how the routine discriminates between the upcoming GamePort PDO and the KSA device by checking a flag at the DeviceExtension. Thus, if the device receiving the IRP_MJ_CREATE is the KSA's device, the function routes it by calling PortCls!PcDispatchIrp which, at certain point, will initialize the FsContext. Otherwise, the IRP is completed.

Now, time to EsDispatchPnp (Line 19)

module: es1371mp.sys		
PAGE:00017FC0 sub 17FC0	proc ne	ar ; DATA XREF: start+700
PAGE:00017FC0		
PAGE:00017FC0 arg 0	= dword	ptr 4
PAGE:00017FC0 Irp	= dword	ptr 8
PAGE:00017FC0		
PAGE:00017FC0	mov	eax, [esp+arg_0]
PAGE:00017FC4	mov	ecx, [eax+28h]
PAGE:00017FC7	cmp	byte ptr [ecx+111h], 0 ; Discriminates
Device by checking certain of	fset wit	hin the DeviceExtension
PAGE:00017FCE	push	[esp+Irp] ; Irp
PAGE:00017FD2	push	eax ; int
PAGE:00017FD3	jz	short loc_17FDC
PAGE:00017FD5		sub_188F2
PAGE:00017FD5 PAGE:00017FDA	call	
	call	sub_188F2
PAGE:00017FDA	call	sub_188F2
PAGE:00017FDA	call	sub_188F2
PAGE:00017FDA PAGE:00017FDC ;	call	sub_188F2
PAGE:00017FDA PAGE:00017FDC ; PAGE:00017FDC	call	<pre>sub_188F2 short locret_17FE1 ; CODE XREF: sub_17FC0+13j</pre>
PAGE:00017FDA PAGE:00017FDC ; 	call jmp	<pre>sub_188F2 short locret_17FE1 ; CODE XREF: sub_17FC0+13j</pre>
PAGE:00017FDA PAGE:00017FDC ; 	call jmp	<pre>sub_188F2 short locret_17FE1 ; CODE XREF: sub_17FC0+13j</pre>
PAGE:00017FDA PAGE:00017FDC ; 	call jmp	<pre>sub_188F2 short locret_17FE1 ; CODE XREF: sub_17FC0+13j sub_18314 ; CODE XREF: sub_17FC0+1Aj</pre>

The same implementation, it checks the device that is receiving the IRP and routes it. Digging into the handler for the IRP_MJ_PNP we find out where the PDO is created

PAGE:00018314 sub 18314 proc near ; CODE XREF: sub 17FC0:loc 17FDCp PAGE:00018314 PAGE:00018314 arg 0 = dword ptr 8 PAGE:00018314 arg_4 = dword ptr 0Ch PAGE:00018314 PAGE:00018314 push ebp PAGE:00018315 mov ebp, esp PAGE:00018317 push esi PAGE:00018318 esi, [ebp+arg 4] mov eax, [esi+60h] PAGE:0001831B mov ecx, byte ptr [eax+1] ;MinorFunction PAGE:0001831E movzx IRP MN QUERY DEVICE RELATIONS == 7 PAGE:00018322 ecx, 0 sub PAGE:00018325 short loc 18370 jz PAGE:00018327 dec ecx PAGE:00018328 dec ecx jz snort . sub ecx, 5 jz sho PAGE:00018329 short loc 18365 PAGE:0001832B PAGE:0001832E short loc 1835A [...] PAGE:0001835A loc 1835A: ; CODE XREF: sub 18314+1Aj PAGE:0001835A push esi push [ebp+arg_0] call sub_181AA PAGE:0001835B push PAGE:0001835E Γ. . . 1

[•••]			
PAGE:00018110 sub_18110	proc near	;	CODE XREF: <pre>sub_181AA+45p</pre>
PAGE:00018110			

PAGE:00018110 var_8 PAGE:00018110 var_4 PAGE:00018110 arg_0 PAGE:00018110	= dword	ptr -8 ptr -4 ptr 8		
[] PAGE:0001811E	nuch	chy		Doviacobiost
	push	ebx		DeviceObject
PAGE:0001811F	push	1	;	Exclusive
PAGE:00018121	push	80h	;	DeviceCharacteristics
PAGE:00018126	push	2Ah	;	DeviceType
PAGE:00018128	push	0	;	DeviceName
PAGE:0001812A	push	180h	;	DeviceExtensionSize
PAGE:0001812F	push	dword ptr [eax+	8]	; DriverObject
PAGE:00018132	mov	[ebp+var 4], ec	x	
PAGE:00018135	call	ds:IoCreateDevi	ce	
PAGE:0001813B	test	eax, eax		
[]				
PAGE:00018158	mov	[esi+164h], eax		
PAGE:0001815E	mov	byte ptr [esi+1	11	h], 1 ; Sets Device Flag

Ok, all is up and running. This scenario has been working pretty well for years since you could not access the PDO. Nevertheless, in Vista the PDO is now exposed so the things have changed.

This PDO shares its driver object with the KSA's Device. Since the handlers Ks!DispatchCreate (ks.sys) and ks!DispatchRead has not been overridden after calling PcInitializeAdapterDriver, if we issue an I/O request (I.e IRP_MJ_WRITE (WriteFile) or IRP_MJ_READ (ReadFile)) in the PDO we'll reach the vulnerable scenario we talked about in the first few pages.

The final outcome is that even guest users might elevate privileges to SYSTEM on affected installations.

So...

Where is the vulnerability?

In this paper we have just presented the facts supported by the technical details everyone can verify. You decide where the vulnerability is and who could be blamed for it. Following a responsible policy disclosure Microsoft and VMware were contacted. They showed no interest.

How many drivers are affected?

We cannot say how many drivers are affected out there, but we strongly think there would be several affected. Check your computer and if you want, contact us. The code presented in this paper belongs to the following driver.

Creative Ensoniq PCI ES1371 WDM Driver es1371mp.sys v 5.1.3612.0 Only vulnerable when running on Microsoft Windows Vista.

What's the solution?

From a developer standpoint the solution is not too complex, if you are writing a WDM driver that needs to create "stranger" devices you have to override every IRP handler included in the KSDISPATCH_TABLE. Anyway, KSA provides the proper mechanism for creating additional devices securely. On the other side, Microsoft could avoid future problems by checking for a NULL FsContext pointer before dereferencing it.

4. Conclusion

Writing secure drivers (secure code really) is not an easy task, there are dozens of important concepts involved, moreover a strong knowledge of the OS you are programming for is highly recommended. There is a method for modeling risks in complex systems known as the "Swiss Cheese Theory". This model is widely used in Aeronautical Industry and is also suitable for analyzing risk factors within the IT security Industry. Imagine several slices of Swiss Cheese, with all those tiny holes, each of these slices is a layer that is potentially avoiding that the threat can go forward through the holes, finally reaching the last stage of system. If all the layers fail, the whole system gets compromised and you may face an airplane crashing, a building collapsing or an attacker taking the control of your computer. This paper is the story of what happens when all those "cheese" layers fails...

5. Downloads

<u>http://kartoffel.reversemode.com/downloads.php</u> *Ksdispatch_plugin.zip Exploit for es1371mp.sys* + WDM Audio Drivers checker.

6. Vulnerable Drivers/Products

Latest update: 01/07/2008

Products:

VMware Server - Guest OS: Vista + sound enabled VMware WorkStation - Guest OS: Vista + sound enabled

Drivers:

Creative Ensoniq PCI ES1371 WDM Driver es1371mp.sys v 5.1.3612.0



Reversemode Advanced Reverse Engineering Services contact (at) reversemode (dot) com www.reversemode.com