

TopResponse Threat Advisory

Release Date: August 20, 2008

Purpose: The Top Layer TopResponse team is issuing an advisory, which provides information needed to provide protection for the Microsoft Excel Axisparent Record Vulnerability (MS08-043,CVE-2008-3004).

Top Layer Products: IPS 5500 E-Series.

Vulnerable Infrastructure: Microsoft Excel 2000, Microsoft Excel 2002, Microsoft Excel 2003, Microsoft Excel Viewer 2003; Microsoft Office 2004 for Mac, Microsoft Office 2008 for Mac.

Alert Type: Critical Vulnerability

Risk Assessment: Critical

Threat Impact: Remotely exploitable vulnerability that could allow an attacker to control vulnerable systems

Advisory Impact: Prevention

Summary: Microsoft Excel provides support for graphing tools, pivot tables, charts, macros, and other advanced features in addition to spreadsheets. There is a vulnerability in the implementation of Microsoft Excel charts. The reported vulnerability could allow an attacker to execute arbitrary code on the users systems in the context of the logged-on user by enticing the user to open a specially Microsoft Excel document.

Recommended Action: Top Layer recommends the following action:

Download and apply Protection Pack 2008-08-18-02 (or later) to put this new protection into place. This is automatically applied to the “Recommended Client Protection” IPS Rule Set. In order to take advantage of the protection, make sure the IPS rule tln-106197 is enabled in the IPS Rule Set used to inspect traffic that may contain Microsoft Excel files.

References: Use the following sources for additional information:

Additional Information	Location
Top Layer Support Web site	http://www.toplayer.com/support
Microsoft Advisory	http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/bulletin/ms08-043.msp

Relevant TLN Rules: tln-106197

Relevant TopResponse Protection Pack(s): 2008-08-18-02