

TopResponse Threat Advisory

Release Date: August 15, 2008

Purpose: The Top Layer TopResponse team is issuing an advisory, which provides information needed to block attacks targeting the Microsoft Word SmartTag Vulnerability (MS08-042,CVE-2008-2244).

Top Layer Products: IPS 5500 E-Series.

Vulnerable Infrastructure: Microsoft Office Word 2002 SP3, Microsoft Office Suite 2002.

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: Certain versions of the Microsoft Word documents support a feature called “Smart Tags.” The feature allows data such as personal names, addresses, phone numbers, dates, and so forth, to be labeled within a Microsoft Word document. The implementation handling processing of the “Smart Tags” contains a vulnerability. 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 crafted Microsoft Word document.

Recommended Action: Top Layer recommends the following actions:

IPS 5500 E-Series Users: Download and apply Protection Pack 2008-08-14-01 (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-106196 is enabled in the IPS Rule Set used to inspect traffic that may contain Microsoft Word 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/ms08-042.msp

Relevant TLN Rules: tln-106196

Relevant TopResponse Protection Pack(s): 2008-08-14-01