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DATE(S) ISSUED:

11/08/2016

SUBJECT:

A Vulnerability in Microsoft Video Control Could Allow for Remote Code Execution (MS16-131)

OVERVIEW:

A vulnerability has been discovered in Microsoft Video Control, which could allow for remote code execution. Microsoft Video Control is a lightweight ActiveX control that gives Automation clients access to features of DirectShow. This vulnerability can be exploited by convincing a user to open a specially crafted document or visit a specially crafted webpage. Successful exploitation of this vulnerability could result in an attacker gaining the same privileges as the logged on user. Depending on the privileges associated with the user, an attacker could then install programs; view, change, or delete data; or create new accounts with full user rights. Users whose accounts are configured to have fewer user rights on the system could be less impacted than those who operate with administrative user rights.

THREAT INTELLIGENCE:

There are currently no reports of this vulnerability being exploited in the wild.

SYSTEMS AFFECTED:

- Microsoft Windows Vista, 7, 8.1, RT 8.1, 10

RISK:

Government:

- Large and medium government entities: **High**
- Small government entities: **Medium**

Businesses:

- Large and medium business entities: **High**
- Small business entities: **Medium**

Home users: Low

TECHNICAL SUMMARY:

A remote code execution vulnerability exists when Microsoft Video Control fails to properly handle objects in memory. This vulnerability could be exploited if a user opens a specially crafted file or application from either a webpage or an email message. The Preview Pane is also an attack vector for this vulnerability. (CVE-2016-7248).

Successful exploitation of this vulnerability could result in an attacker gaining the same privileges as the logged on user. Depending on the privileges associated with the user, an attacker could then install programs; view, change, or delete data; or create new accounts with full user rights. Users whose accounts are configured to have fewer user rights on the system could be less impacted than those who operate with administrative user rights.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The following actions should be taken:

- Apply appropriate patches provided by Microsoft to vulnerable systems immediately after appropriate testing.
- Run all software as a non-privileged user (one without administrative privileges) to diminish the effects of a successful attack.
- Remind users not to visit un-trusted websites or follow links provided by unknown or un-trusted sources.
- Inform and educate users regarding the threats posed by hypertext links contained in emails or attachments especially from un-trusted sources.
- Apply the Principle of Least Privilege to all systems and services.

REFERENCES:

Microsoft:

<https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/security/ms16-131.aspx>

CVE:

<http://www.cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2016-7248>

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