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DATE(S) ISSUED:

1/14/2014

SUBJECT:

Vulnerability in Adobe Reader and Acrobat Could Allow For Remote Code Execution (APSB14-01)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

A vulnerability has been discovered in Adobe Reader and Adobe Acrobat that could allow an attacker to crash or take control of the affected system. Adobe Reader allows users to view Portable Document Format (PDF) files, while Adobe Acrobat offers users additional features such as the ability to create PDF files. Successful exploitation 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. Failed exploit attempts will likely cause denial-of-service conditions.

THREAT INTELLIGENCE:

At this time these vulnerabilities are not publicly disclosed and there is no known proof-of-concept code available.

SYSTEMS AFFECTED:

- Adobe Reader XI (11.0.05) and earlier 11.x versions for Windows and Macintosh
- Adobe Reader X (10.1.8) and earlier 10.x versions for Windows and Macintosh
- Adobe Acrobat XI (11.0.05) and earlier 11.x versions for Windows and Macintosh
- Adobe Acrobat X (10.1.8) and earlier 10.x versions for Windows and Macintosh

RISK:

Government:

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

Businesses:

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

Home users: High

TECHNICAL SUMMARY:

Adobe Reader and Acrobat are prone to multiple memory corruption and use-after-free vulnerabilities which can result in remote code execution. Failed exploitation attempts may cause denial-of-service conditions. Successful exploitation 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. Failed exploit attempts will likely cause denial-of-service conditions.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The following actions should be taken:

- Install the updates provided by Adobe immediately after appropriate testing.
- Remind users not to visit untrusted websites or follow links provided by unknown or untrusted sources.
- Do not open email attachments from unknown or untrusted sources.

REFERENCES:

Adobe:

<http://helpx.adobe.com/security/products/reader/apsb14-01.html>

CVE:

<http://www.cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2014-0493>

<http://www.cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2014-0495>