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DATE(S) ISSUED:

05/10/2016

SUBJECT:

Vulnerability in Windows Journal Could Allow for Remote Code Execution (MS16-056)

OVERVIEW:

A vulnerability has been discovered in Microsoft Windows Journal, which could allow for remote code execution. Windows Journal is a notetaking application included in various Windows operating system installations. This vulnerability is triggered if a user opens a specially crafted Microsoft Journal (.jnt) file. 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 no reports of this vulnerability being exploited in the wild.

SYSTEM AFFECTED:

- Windows Vista
- Windows 7
- Windows 8.1
- Windows 8.1 RT
- Windows 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 memory corruption vulnerability has been discovered in Microsoft Windows Journal, which could allow for remote code execution when handling specially crafted Journal (.jnt) files. An attacker could

exploit this vulnerability by sending an email enticing a user to open a specially crafted Journal file that is attached.(CVE-2016-0182)

Successful exploitation of this vulnerability could result in the attacker gaining the same rights 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.
- If patching is not possible immediately, multiple workarounds are listed in the Microsoft reference below.
- 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.

REFERENCES:

Microsoft:

<https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/security/ms16-056.aspx>

CVE:

<http://www.cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2016-0182>

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