

Revealing Embedded Fingerprints: Deriving intelligence from USB stack interactions



Andy Davis, Research Director NCC Group







UK Offices

Manchester - Head Office

Cheltenham

Edinburgh

Leatherhead

London

Thame

European Offices

Amsterdam - Netherlands

Munich - Germany

Zurich - Switzerland



North American Offices

San Francisco

Atlanta

New York

Seattle



Australian Offices

Sydney



Agenda

Part One:

- Overview of the USB enumeration phase
- Different USB stack implementations
- USB testing platform
- Installed drivers and supported devices
- Fingerprinting USB stacks and OS versions

Part Two:

- The Windows 8 RNDIS kernel pool overflow
- Challenges faced when exploiting USB bugs
- Conclusions





Part One: Information gathering

- Why do we care?
- If you connect to a device surely you already know the platform?
- Embedded devices are mostly based on Linux anyway aren't they?
- May provide information useful for other attacks





USB Background stuff







Overview of the USB enumeration phase

- What is enumeration for?
 - Assign an address
 - Speed of communication
 - Power requirements
 - Configuration options
 - Device descriptions
 - Class drivers
- Lots of information exchange implemented in many different ways







The USB enumeration phase



| LS Control Transfer Addr Endp Data (18 bytes) Status Get Device Descriptor 0x00 0x0 12 01 10 01 00 00 00 08 OK |
|---|
| LS Control Transfer Addr Endp Data (0 bytes) Status ⇒ Set Address (0x01) 0x00 0x0 OK |
| LS Control Transfer Addr Endp Data (18 bytes) Status Get Device Descriptor 0x01 0x0 12 01 10 01 00 00 00 08 OK |
| LS Control Transfer Addr Endp Data (34 bytes) Status Get Configuration Descriptor 0x01 0x0 09 02 22 00 01 01 00 A0 OK |
| LS Control Transfer Addr Endp Data (4 bytes) Status Get String Descriptor 0 0x01 0x0 04 03 09 04 OK |
| LS Control Transfer Addr Endp Data (48 bytes) Status Get String Descriptor 2 0x01 0x0 30 03 44 00 65 00 6C 00 OK |
| LS Control Transfer Addr Endp Data (18 bytes) Status Get Device Descriptor 0x01 0x0 12 01 10 01 00 00 00 08 OK |
| LS Control Transfer Addr Endp Data (9 bytes) Status ← Get Configuration Descriptor 0x01 0x0 09 02 22 00 01 01 00 A0 OK |
| LS Control Transfer Addr Endp Data (34 bytes) Status Get Configuration Descriptor 0x01 0x0 09 02 22 00 01 01 00 A0 OK |
| LS Control Transfer Addr Endp Data (0 bytes) Status |

Set Configuration (0x01) 0x01 0x0



Enumeration phase peculiarities

- Why is the device descriptor initially requested twice?
- Why are there multiple requests for other descriptors?
- Class-specific descriptors:







Different USB stack implementations

- Typical components of a USB stack
- Windows USB driver stack
- Linux USB stack
- Embedded Access USB stack







Typical components of a USB stack

- Host Controller hardware
- USB System software:
 - Host Controller Driver Hardware Abstraction Layer
 - USB Driver



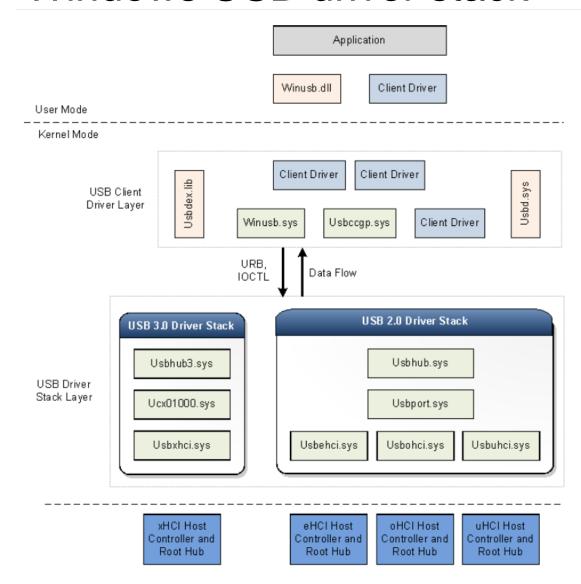
Application software





Windows USB driver stack





Client or Class Driver

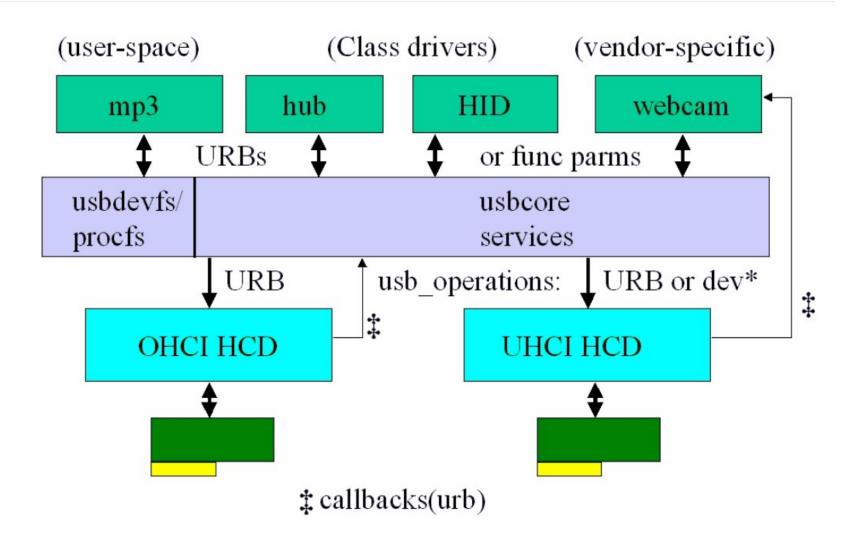
Microsoft-Provided
Helper Libraries

Microsoft-Provided
Inbox drivers

Hardware

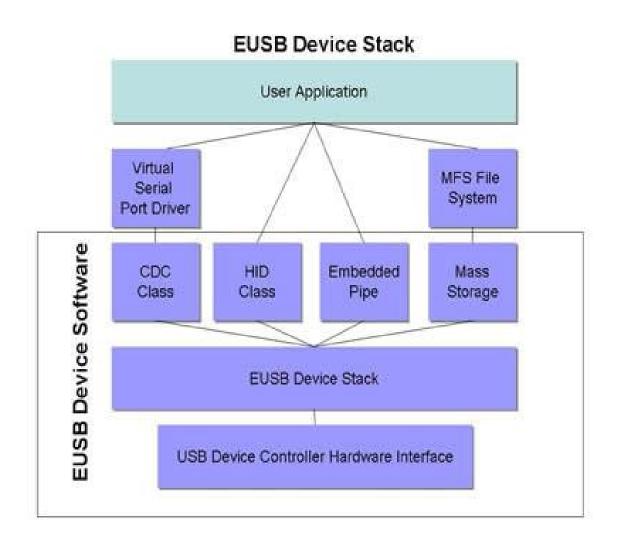
Linux USB stack





Embedded Access USB stack







Interacting with USB







USB interaction requirements

- Need to capture and replay USB traffic
- Full control of generated traffic
- Class decoders extremely useful
- Support for Low/High/Full speed required
- USB 3.0 a bonus





USB testing – gold-plated solution

Commercial test equipment









USB testing – the cheaper approach

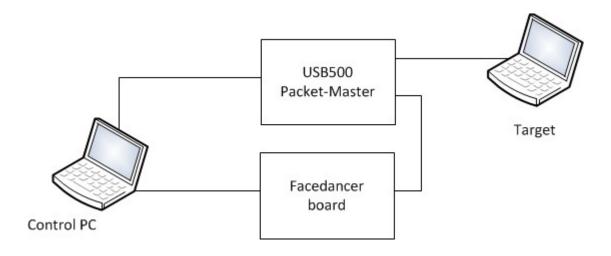
Facedancer (http://goodfet.sourceforge.net/hardware/facedancer21)







Best solution: A combination of both



- Device data can be carefully crafted
- Host response data can be captured
- Microsecond timing is also recorded
- All class-specific data is decoded





Information enumeration













Target list

- Windows 8
- Ubuntu Linux 12.04 LTS
- Apple OS X Lion
- FreeBSD 5.3
- Chrome OS
- Linux-based TV STB





Installed drivers and supported devices

- Enumerating supported class types standard USB drivers
- Enumerating all installed drivers
- Other devices already connected







Where is USB class information stored?

| Field | Value | Meaning |
|-----------------|--------|--|
| bLength | 18 | Valid Length |
| bDescriptorType | 1 | DEVICE |
| bcdUSB | 0x0110 | Spec Version |
| bDeviceClass | 0x00 | Class Information in Interface Descriptor |
| bDeviceSubClass | 0x00 | Class Information in Interface Descriptor |

Device Descriptor

| Field | Value | Meaning |
|--------------------|-------|---|
| bLength | 9 | Valid length |
| bDescriptorType | 4 | INTERFACE |
| binterfaceNumber | 0 | Zero-based Number of this Interface. |
| bAlternateSetting | 0 | Value used to select this alternative setting for the interface identified in the prior field |
| bNumEndpoints | 1 | Number of endpoints used by this interface (excluding endpoint zero). |
| binterfaceClass | 0x03 | HID |
| bInterfaceSubClass | 0x01 | Boot Interface |

Interface Descriptor



Installed drivers and supported devices

- Drivers are referenced by class (Device and Interface descriptors)
- Also, by VID and PID:

| idVendor | 0x090C | Silicon Motion, Inc Taiwan |
|-----------|--------|-------------------------------|
| idProduct | 0x1000 | Memory Bar |

- For each device class VID and PID values can be brute-forced (can easily be scripted using Facedancer)
- Valid PIDs and VIDs are available (http://www.linux-usb.org/usb.ids)



Enumerating installed drivers



Not installed:

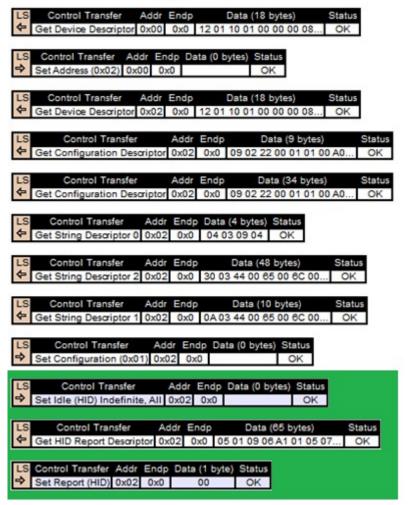


| | | | | | - | | | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------|---|--------------|-------|
| HS ← Ge | Contro et Devic | | Addr 0x00 | Endp 0x0 | | Data (* 00 02 | | | | tatus OK | |
| | ontrol 1 et Addre | | | | a (0 b | ytes) S | oK OK | | | | |
| HS ← Ge | Contro et Devic | Transf e Desc | Addr 0x1F | | | Data (* 00 02 | | | | tatus OK | |
| HS ← Ge | Cor et Confi | ntrol Tra guratio | | | Endp 0x0 | | | (9 byt | | | Statu |
| HS ← G | Cor et Confi | ntrol Tra guratio | criptor | | Endp 0x0 | 09 02 | Data 2E 00 | | | | Statu |
| HS ← G | Contro et String | l Trans Descri | _ | | _ | (4 byte 3 09 0 | | atus OK | | | |
| HS ← G | Contro et String | l Trans Descri | | Endp 0x0 | | Data 3 38 00 | (42 by 0 30 0 | • | | Status OK | 5 |
| HS ← G | Contro et String | l Trans Descri | | Ox0 | | Data 3 52 00 | (18 by 0 65 0 | • | | Status OK | |
| HS ← G | Contro et String | l Trans Descri | _ | Ox0 | _ | Data 3 30 00 | (26 by 0 30 0 | | _ | Status OK | 3 |
| HS ⇒ Se | Contr et Confi | ol Tran guratio | | | _ | ta (0 b | ytes) (| Status OK | | | |

All communication stops after "Set Configuration"

Installed:







Sniffing the bus - Other connected devices

Data from other devices will be displayed on other addresses

| FS Bulk Transfer (SP | LIT | Addr | Endp | Data (0 b | ytes) | Status | | | |
|----------------------|------|------|------|-----------|-------|--------|--|--|--|
| Class Transfer | | 0x08 | 0x2 | | | OK | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | (4 bytes) | | JS | | | |
| → Vendor Request | 0x04 | 0x0 | 7F ! | 54 12 4C | OK | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| FS Bulk Transfer (SP | LIT) | Addr | Endp | Data (0 b | ytes) | Status | | | |
| Class Transfer | | 0x08 | 0x2 | | | OK | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| FS Bulk Transfer (SP | LIT) | Addr | Endp | Data (0 b | ytes) | Status | | | |
| Class Transfer | | 0x08 | 0x2 | | | OK | | | |





Fingerprinting USB stacks and OS versions

- Descriptor request patterns
- Timing information
- Descriptor types requested
- Responses to invalid data
- Order of Descriptor requests









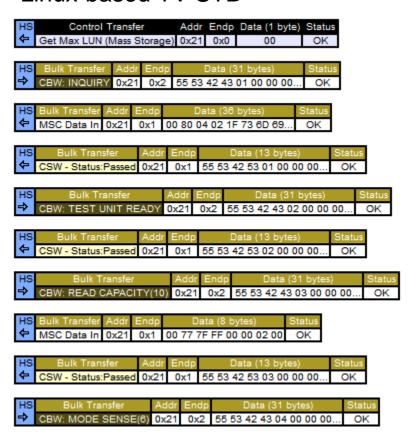




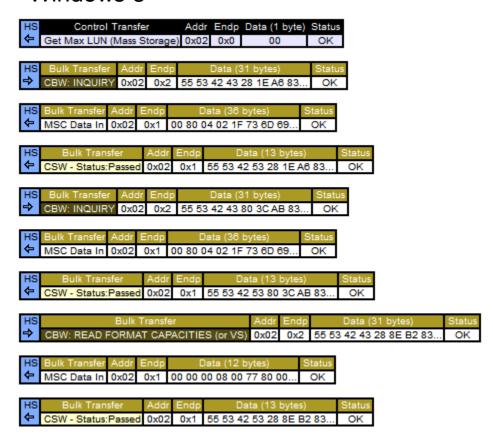
Matching req. patterns to known stacks



Linux-based TV STB



Windows 8



Request patterns unique elements?

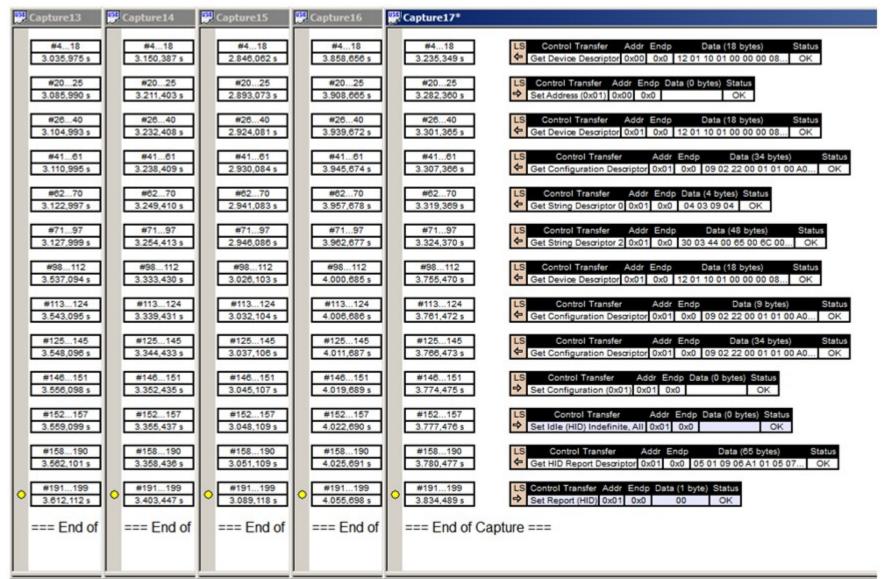




- Windows 8 (HID) Three Get Configuration descriptor requests (others have two)
- Apple OS X Lion (HID) Set Feature request right after Set Configuration
- FreeBSD 5.3 (HID) Get Status request right before Set Configuration
- Linux-based TV STB (Mass Storage) Order of class-specific requests

Timing information





Timing information



| Capture13 | Capture14 | Capture15 | Capture16 | Capture17* |
|----------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------------|---|
| #418 | #418 | #418 | #418 | #418 3.235,349 s LS Control Transfer Addr Endp Data (18 bytes) Status Get Device Descriptor 0x00 0x0 12 01 10 01 00 00 00 08 OK |
| 3.035,975 s | 3.150,387 s | 2.846,062 s | 3.858,656 s | |
| #2025 | #2025 | #2025 | #2025 | #2025 3.282,380 s LS Control Transfer Addr Endp Data (0 bytes) Status Set Address (0x01) 0x00 0x0 OK |
| 3.085,990 s | 3.211,403 s | 2.893,073 s | 3.908,665 s | |
| #2640 | #2640 | #2640 | #2640 | #2640 3.301,385 s Control Transfer Addr Endp Data (18 bytes) Status Get Device Descriptor 0x01 0x0 12 01 10 01 00 00 00 08 OK |
| 3.104,993 s | 3.232,408 s | 2.924,081 s | 3.939,672 s | |
| #4161 | #4161 | #4161 | #4161 | #4161 LS Control Transfer Addr Endp Data (34 bytes) Status 3.307,388 s Get Configuration Descriptor 0x01 0x0 09 02 22 00 01 01 00 A0 OK |
| 3.110,995 s | 3.238,409 s | 2.930,084 s | 3.945,674 s | |
| #6270 | #6270 | #6270 | #6270 | #6270 3.319,369 s Control Transfer Addr Endp Data (4 bytes) Status Get String Descriptor 0 0x01 0x0 04 03 09 04 OK |
| 3.122,997 s | 3.249,410 s | 2.941,083 s | 3.957,678 s | |
| #7197 | #7197 | #7197 | #7197 | #7197 3.324,370 s Control Transfer Addr Endp Data (48 bytes) Status Get String Descriptor 2 0x01 0x0 30 03 44 00 65 00 6C 00 OK |
| 3.127,999 s | 3.254,413 s | 2.946,086 s | 3.962,677 s | |
| #98112 | #98112 | #98112 | #98112 | #98112 LS Control Transfer Addr Endp Data (18 bytes) Status 3.755,470 s Get Device Descriptor 0x01 0x0 12 01 10 01 00 00 00 08 OK |
| 3.537.094 s | 3.333,430 s | 3.026,103 s | 4.000,685 s | |
| #113124 | #113124 | #113124 | #113124 | #113124 3.761,472 s LS Control Transfer Addr Endp Data (9 bytes) Status Get Configuration Descriptor 0x01 0x0 09 02 22 00 01 01 00 A0 OK |
| 3.543,095 s | 3.339,431 s | 3.032,104 s | 4.006,686 s | |
| #125145 | #125145 | #125145 | #125145 | #125145 3.788,473 s Control Transfer Addr Endp Data (34 bytes) Status Get Configuration Descriptor 0x01 0x0 09 02 22 00 01 01 00 A0 OK |
| 3.548,096 s | 3.344,433 s | 3.037,106 s | 4.011,687 s | |
| #146151 3.556,098 | #146151 | #146151 | #146151 | #146151 LS Control Transfer Addr Endp Data (0 bytes) Status |
| #152 15 | 191199 .612,112 s | - | 91199 03,447 s | #191199 #191199 #191199 3.089,118 s 4.055,698 s 3.834,489 s |
| #158. 190 | #158190 | #158190 | #158190 | #158190 LS Control Transfer Addr Endp Data (65 bytes) Status 3.780,477 s Get HID Report Descriptor 0x01 0x0 05 01-05 06 A1 01 05 07 OK |
| 3.56 101 s | 3.358,436 s | 3.051,109 s | 4.025,691 s | |
| 191199 | #191199 | #191199 | #191199 | #191199 3.834,489 s Control Transfer Addr Endp Data (1 byte) Status Set Report (HID) 0x01 0x0 00 OK |
| 3.612.112 s | 3.403,447 s | 3.089,118 s | 4.055,698 s | |
| === End of | === End of | === End of | === End of | === End of Capture === |
| | | | | |



Using timing for fingerprinting?

- Large amount of variance over entire enumeration phase:
 - 4.055s, 3.834s, 3.612s, 3.403s, 3.089s
- Much greater accuracy between specific requests:
 - Between String Descriptor #0 and #2 requests 5002us, 5003us, 5003us, 4999us, 5001us
- If we know the OS we can potentially determine the processor speed





Descriptor types requested

- Microsoft OS Descriptors (MOD)
- Used for "unusual" devices classes
- Devices that support Microsoft OS Descriptors must store a special USB string descriptor in firmware at the fixed string index of 0xEE. The request is:

| bn | nRequestType | bRequest | wValue | windex | wLength | Data |
|----|--------------|----------------|--------|--------|---------|--------------------|
| 10 | 000 0000B | GET_DESCRIPTOR | 0x03EE | 0x0000 | 0x12 | Returned String |

• If a device does not contain a valid string descriptor at index 0xEE, it must respond with a stall packet. If the device does not respond with a stall packet, the system will issue a single-ended zero reset packet to the device, to help it recover from its stalled state (Windows XP only).





Responses to invalid data

- Different USB stacks respond to invalid data in different ways
- Maximum and minimum values
- Logically incorrect values
- Missing data





Invalid data unique elements?



Windows 8 (all versions)

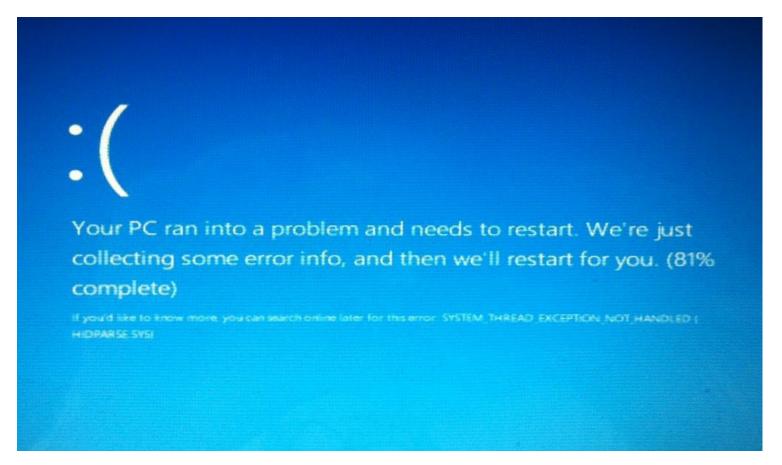
If you send a specific, logically incorrect HID Report descriptor this happens:

Invalid data unique elements?



Windows 8 (all versions)

If you send a specific, logically incorrect HID Report descriptor this happens:





Order of Descriptor requests

- Some USB stacks request data from devices in a different order
- Different drivers may request different descriptors multiple times
- Sometimes Device descriptors are re-requested after enumeration is complete





Part Two: Potentially exploitable USB bugs







The Windows 8 RNDIS kernel pool overflow

- MS13-027
- usb8023x.sys default (Microsoft-signed) Windows Remote NDIS driver that provides network connectivity over USB.
- When a USB device that uses this driver is inserted into a Windows host, during the enumeration phase the USB Configuration descriptor is requested and parsed
- When the following USB descriptor field is manipulated a Bug check occurs indicating a kernel pool overwrite:
 - Configuration descriptor --> bNumInterfaces field > actual number of USB interfaces

The field is "bNumInterfaces" in Table A2: USB Configuration Descriptor (http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/hardware/gg463298)



The Bug Check



```
BAD_POOL_HEADER (19)
The pool is already corrupt at the time of the current request.
```

<Truncated for brevity>

Arguments:

Arg1: 00000020, a pool block header size is corrupt.

Arg2: 83e38610, The pool entry we were looking for within the page.

Arg3: 83e38690, The next pool entry.

Arg4: 08100008, (reserved)

<Truncated for brevity>

WARNING: SystemResourcesList->Flink chain invalid. Resource may be corrupted, or already deleted.

WARNING: SystemResourcesList->Blink chain invalid. Resource may be corrupted, or already deleted.

SYMBOL NAME: usb8023x!SelectConfiguration+1bd





```
SelectConfiguration(x)
SelectConfiguration(x)+2
SelectConfiguration(x)+3
SelectConfiguration(x)+5
SelectConfiguration(x)+8
SelectConfiguration(x)+9
SelectConfiguration(x)+A
SelectConfiguration(x)+D
SelectConfiguration(x)+E
SelectConfiguration(x)+11
SelectConfiguration(x)+14
SelectConfiguration(x)+16
SelectConfiguration(x)+1C
SelectConfiguration(x)+1F
SelectConfiguration(x)+26
SelectConfiguration(x)+27
SelectConfiguration(x)+2C
SelectConfiguration(x)+2F
SelectConfiguration(x)+31
SelectConfiguration(x)+37
SelectConfiguration(x)+39
SelectConfiguration(x)+3C
SelectConfiguration(x)+3E
```

```
edi, edi
mov
push
        ebp
mov
        ebp, esp
        esp, 10h
sub
push
        ebx
        esi
push
        esi, [ebp+ptr Pool U802]
mov
push
        edi
        edi, [esi+1Ch] ; points to start of configuration descriptor
mov
        al, [edi+4]
                        ; al = bNumInterfaces
mov
        al, 2
                         ; compares with 2 (what it should be)
CMD
        loc 11877
jb
                         : no jump
MOVZX
        eax, al
        eax, ds:8[eax*8]; multiply bNuminterfaces by 8 then add 8 = 24
lea
push
        eax
call
        AllocPool@4
                         ; AllocPool(x)
        [ebp+ptr Pool U802 24 bytes], eax
mov
test
        eax, eax
jz
        loc 11877
                         ; no jump (AllocPool was successful)
xor
        ebx, ebx
        [edi+4], bl
                         ; compares bNumInterfaces with 0
CMP
        short loc 1171F; no jump
ibe
        esi, eax
mov
```

The crash point



```
SelectConfiguration(x)+9B
                            yet more interfaces to parse:
                                                                      : CODE XREF: SelectConfiguration(x)+CE11
SelectConfiguration(x)+9B
                                             push
                                                     0FFFFFFFFh
SelectConfiguration(x)+9D
                                             push
                                                     OFFFFFFFF
SelectConfiguration(x)+9F
                                                     0FFFFFFFFh
                                             push
SelectConfiguration(x)+A1
                                                     8
                                             push
SelectConfiguration(x)+A3
                                             push
                                                     ecx
SelectConfiguration(x)+A4
                                                     edi
                                             push
SelectConfiguration(x)+A5
                                             push
                                                     edi
SelectConfiguration(x)+A6
                                                     ds: imp USBD ParseConfigurationDescriptorEx@28
                                             call
SelectConfiguration(x)+AC
                                             test
                                                     eax, eax
SelectConfiguration(x)+AE
                                                     short loc 11770
                                             jz
SelectConfiguration(x)+B0
                                                     al. [eax+5]
                                             nov
                                                     [esi+4], al
SelectConfiguration(x)+B3
                                             nov
SelectConfiguration(x)+B6
                                                     short loc 11774
                                             jnp
SelectConfiguration(x)+B8
SelectConfiguration(x)+B8
SelectConfiguration(x)+B8
                            Loc 11770:
                                                                      ; CODE XREF: SelectConfiguration(x)+AETj
                                                     byte ptr [esi+4], 0; writes one null byte over the first byte of the next pool header
SelectConfiguration(x)+B8
                                             nov
SelectConfiguration(x)+B8
                                                                      ; this is where the corruption occurs
SelectConfiguration(x)+BC
SelectConfiguration(x)+BC
                            loc_11774:
                                                                      ; CODE XREF: SelectConfiguration(x)+86<sup>†</sup>j
SelectConfiguration(x)+BC
                                             ROVZX
                                                     eax, word ptr [esi]
SelectConfiguration(x)+BF
                                                     ecx, [ebp+ptr Pool U802 24 bytes]
                                             nov
SelectConfiguration(x)+C2
                                             add
                                                     esi, eax
SelectConfiguration(x)+C4
                                                     eax, byte ptr [edi+4]
                                             MOVZX
SelectConfiguration(x)+C8
                                             inc
                                                     ecx
SelectConfiguration(x)+C9
                                                     [ebp+ptr Pool U802 24 butes], ecx
                                             nov
SelectConfiguration(x)+CC
                                             CRP
SelectConfiguration(x)+CE
                                                     short yet more interfaces to parse
                                             jb
```



Analysis #1

When bNumInterfaces = 3 (one more than it should be) and bNumEndpoints = 2 (valid value)

Next kernel pool:

```
849c3b28 10 00 0a 04 56 61 64 6c-6b 8f 94 85 28 8c 90 85 ....Vadlk...(...
```

becomes:

```
849c3b28 00 00 0a 04 56 61 64 6c-6b 8f 94 85 28 8c 90 85 ....Vadlk...(...
```

So we're overwriting "PreviousSize" in the next nt!_POOL_HEADER - this is what triggered the original Bug Check when ExFreePool() is called





Analysis #2

When bNumInterfaces = 3 (one more than it should be) and bNumEndpoints = 5 (three more than it should be)

Next kernel pool:

```
84064740 17 00 03 00 46 72 65 65-48 2d 09 84 30 a8 17 84 ....FreeH-..0...
```

becomes:

```
84064740 17 00 03 00 00 72 65 65-48 2d 09 84 30 a8 17 84 ....reeH-..0...
```

So we're now overwriting "PoolTag" in the next nt!_POOL_HEADER





What's going on?

```
kd> dt nt!_POOL_HEADER
- +0x000 PreviousSize : Pos 0, 8 Bits
- +0x000 PoolIndex : Pos 8, 8 Bits
- +0x000 BlockSize : Pos 16, 8 Bits
- +0x000 PoolType : Pos 24, 8 Bits
- +0x004 PoolTag : Uint4B
- +0x008 ProcessBilled : Ptr64 _EPROCESS
```

By manipulating bNumInterfaces and bNumEndpoints in a USB Configuration descriptor we appear to have a degree of control over where in the next adjacent kernel memory pool I can overwrite a single byte with a null (the null write occurs four bytes after the end of the pool I control and I can also control its size and some elements of its contents so could also potentially overwrite the next pool header with something useful)





```
for (i=0; i<something->count; i++)
. . {
list[i].descriptor = USBD ParseConfigurationDescriptorEx (...);
if(!list[i].descriptor)
····break;
. . }
list[i].descriptor = NULL;
newthing = USB CreateConfigurationRequestEx(thing, list);
if(newthing)
ptr = &newthing->somemember;
----for (i=0; i<something->count; i++)
descriptor = USBD_ParseConfigurationDescriptorEx (...);
····if (descriptor)
ptr->someothermember = descriptor->whatever;
····else
·····ptr->someothermember = 0; ··// ·this is ·where ·I ·believe ·the ·corruption ·happens
ptr = ptr + ptr->Length;
. . } .
```



Challenges faced when exploiting USB bugs

- Lack of feedback channel
- The bug is often in kernel code
- Descriptors are generally very size-constrained



- Typical impact of USB exploitation typically restricted to privilege escalation
- What about USB over RDP?





Conclusions

- The USB enumeration phase reveals useful information for fingerprinting
- Class-specific communication is potentially even more revealing
- Even vendors with mature SDL processes have USB bugs
- USB bugs can potentially be exploited, to provide privilege escalation
- ...but it is extremely difficult to achieve reliably





Questions?

Andy Davis, Research Director NCC Group andy.davis 'at' nccgroup 'dot' com

