



HC3: Alert

July 22, 2021

TLP: White

Report: 202107221400

Exploitation of Pulse Connect Secure Vulnerabilities

Executive Summary

Since June 2020, unidentified threat actors have targeted vulnerabilities in certain Ivanti Pulse Connect Secure products. Threat actors gained initial access through the targeting of the following vulnerabilities: CVE-2019-11510, CVE-2020-8260, CVE-2020-8243, and CVE-2021-22893.

Upon exploitation, the threat actors “place webshells on the Pulse Connect Secure appliance for further access and persistence.” The threat actors’ access can allow them to perform: authentication bypass, multi-factor authentication bypass, password logging, and persistence through patching.

Report

Alert (AA21-110A) Exploitation of Pulse Connect Secure Vulnerabilities

<https://us-cert.cisa.gov/ncas/alerts/aa21-110a>

Impact to HPH Sector

This vulnerability is continuing to affect organizations using Ivanti Pulse Connect Secure products within U.S. government agencies, critical infrastructure entities, and other private sector organizations. While the impact to the HPH Sector is currently unknown, the threat actors’ targeting of critical infrastructure leaves the HPH as a potential target. Please remain informed on updates to these vulnerabilities as new information is reported.

References

CISA – Samples of Malware Targeting Pulse Secure Devices

<https://us-cert.cisa.gov/ncas/current-activity/2021/07/21/malware-targeting-pulse-secure-devices>

Pulse Secure – KB44755 - Pulse Connect Secure (PCS) Integrity Assurance Tool

https://kb.pulsesecure.net/articles/Pulse_Secure_Article/KB44755

CISA – STIX-formatted list of indicators of compromise associated with the vulnerabilities

<https://us-cert.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/AA21-110A.xml>

HHS – Active Exploitation of Pulse Secure Zero-Day Vulnerabilities by Multiple Threat Actors

<https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pulse-secure-vulnerabilities-analyst-note.pdf>

Contact Information

If you have any additional questions, please contact us at HC3@hhs.gov.

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