



Ministry of Meteorology Energy Information
Disaster Management Environment
Climate Change and Communications

Vulnerabilities in Microsoft Remote Desktop Services

Dear Constituents,

This is to inform users of a critical vulnerability in Remote Desktop Services which Microsoft has published patches for. This vulnerability affects older versions of Windows, including versions that are out of support. This vulnerability is likely to be exploited by self-replicating malware, which can spread quickly across the internet.

How it works

The Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) itself is not vulnerable. This vulnerability is pre-authentication and requires no user interaction. In other words, the vulnerability is 'wormable', meaning that any future malware that exploits this vulnerability could propagate from vulnerable computer to vulnerable computer in a similar way as the *WannaCry* malware spread across the globe in 2017.

Released Patches:

Microsoft has published information about a critical vulnerability affecting older versions of Windows. They have released patches for the following versions:

- ◆ Windows 7
- ◆ Windows Server 2008 R2
- ◆ Windows Server 2008
- ◆ Windows Server 2003
- ◆ Windows XP.

What to do?

- Also recommend disallowing RDP access from the internet if you don't need it. If you need remote access, configure a VPN with multi-factor authentication, rather than expose RDP to the internet
- CERT Tonga strongly recommends that Windows users ensure that their systems are currently patched and up-to-date

Currently supported versions are:

- Windows 7
- Windows Server 2008 R2
- Windows Server 2008.

Unsupported versions are:

- Windows Server 2003
- Windows XP.

Reference

1. Patches for Microsoft's current supported versions: <https://portal.msrc.microsoft.com/en-US/security-guidance/advisory/CVE-2019-0708>
2. Patches for Microsoft's unsupported Version:
<https://support.microsoft.com/en-gb/help/4500705/customer-guidance-for-cve-2019-0708>

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