



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

**TLP: White<sup>1</sup>**

## **Vulnerability in Apache HTTP 2.4.49**

Dear Constituents,

CERT Tonga has come across a vulnerability was found in a change made to path normalization in Apache HTTP Server 2.4.49. This vulnerability is known to be exploited in the wild. It only affects Apache 2.4.49 and not earlier version.

### **How it works**

An attacker could uses a path traversal attack to map URLs to files outside the expected document root.

- Path traversal attacks involve sending requests to access backend or sensitive server directories that should be out of reach. Normally, these requests are blocked, but in this case, the filters are bypassed by using encoded characters (ASCII) for the URLs.
- Additionally, exploits of this vulnerability may lead to the leaking of the source of interpreted files such as CGI scripts.
- Successful exploitation allows threat actors to map URLs to files outside the expected document root by launching a path traversal attack and would give a remote attacker access to arbitrary files outside of the document root on the vulnerable web server.

### **What to do**

- Apply the latest Apache HTTP Server patch (2.4.50) for your platform.
- Apply the Principle of Least Privilege to all systems and services.

### **Reference**

[https://httpd.apache.org/security/vulnerabilities\\_24.html#CVE-2021-41773](https://httpd.apache.org/security/vulnerabilities_24.html#CVE-2021-41773)

<sup>1</sup> CERT Tonga adopts the [Traffic Light Protocol](#)

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