NEWSFLASH

Don't Get Hacked: Fixing the PAN-OS Flaw

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What is the vulnerability

A zero-day command injection vulnerability in the GlobalProtect feature of Palo Alto Networks PAN-OS software for specific PAN-OS versions and distinct feature configurations may enable an unauthenticated attacker to execute arbitrary code with root privileges on the firewall. Tracked as **CVE-2024-3400**, the issue has a CVSS score of 10.0, indicating maximum severity.

Threat actors have been able to exploit the vulnerability to compromise the firewall to introduce a python based backdoor, create a reverse shell, download further tools on the device, exfiltrate data and move laterally within the network. The exact origins of the threat actor exploiting the flaw are presently unknown but Palo Alto Networks Unit 42 is tracking the malicious activity under the name **Operation MidnightEclipse**.

What is affected?

The flaw impacts the following versions of PAN-OS

PAN-OS < 11.1.2-h3

PAN-OS < 11.0.4-h1

PAN-OS < 10.2.7-h8, < 10.2.8-h3 , < 10.2.9-h1

The company also said that the issue applies only to firewalls that have the configurations for both GlobalProtect gateway (Network > GlobalProtect > Gateways) and device telemetry (Device > Setup > Telemetry) enabled.

How do you protect yourself?

This issue is fixed in hotfix releases of PAN-OS 10.2.9-h1, PAN-OS 11.0.4-h1, PAN-OS 11.1.2-h3, and in all later PAN-OS versions. Hotfixes for other commonly deployed maintenance releases will also be made available to address this issue. Palo Alto Networks states that hotfixes for rest of the versions will be released by the date 19/04/2024.

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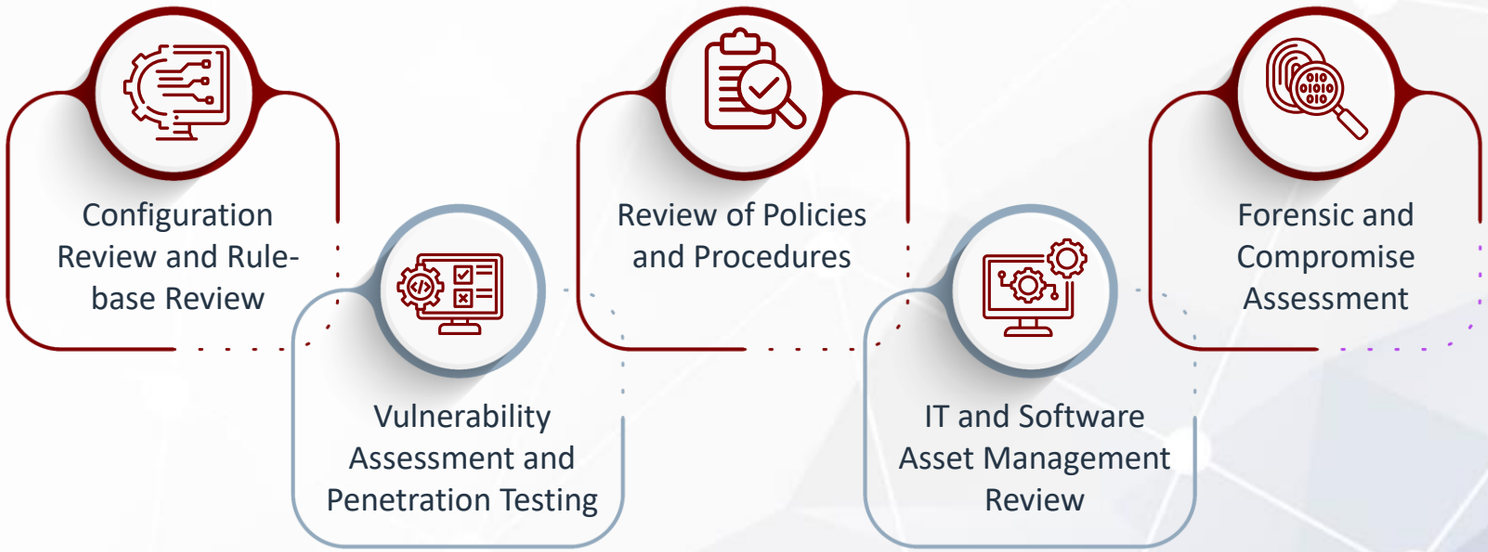
Mitigations and Workarounds

Customers with a Threat Prevention subscription of Palo Alto can block attacks for this vulnerability using Threat ID 95187 (available in Applications and Threats content version 8833-8682 and later). To apply Threat ID 95187, it must be ensured that vulnerability protection has been applied to the GlobalProtect interface to prevent exploitation of this issue on the device.

If you are unable to apply the Threat Prevention based mitigation at this time, you can still mitigate the impact of this vulnerability by temporarily disabling device telemetry until the device is upgraded to a fixed PAN-OS version. Once upgraded, device telemetry should be re-enabled on the device. If the firewalls are managed by Panorama, ensure that device telemetry is disabled in relevant templates (Panorama > Templates).

Additionally, it is recommended to conduct regular penetration testing, vulnerability assessments, configuration audits and rule-base reviews to fortify network defenses.

How can Nangia & Co LLP help?



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