

COT Security Alert – VMware Vulnerability

The COT Security Administration Branch has become aware of multiple vulnerabilities that have been discovered in several VMware (virtual machine) products which could allow an attacker to gain unauthorized access and take control of a vulnerable system. Depending on the privileges associated with the logged in user or process, an attacker could exploit these vulnerabilities to install programs; view, change, or delete data; create new accounts with full user rights; or communicate with other systems. Unsuccessful exploitation attempts may cause a denial-of-service on affected systems. Details on these vulnerabilities may be found at <http://www.vmware.com/security/advisories/VMSA-2009-0005.html>.

The following actions may be taken:

1. Apply appropriate patches provided by VMware to vulnerable systems immediately after appropriate testing. See <http://support.vmware.com/selfsupport/download/>.
2. Do not visit un-trusted websites or follow links provided by unknown or un-trusted sources.
3. Apply the least amount of privileges needed to all services and users.
4. Ensure that antivirus software is current with the latest signatures.

Information, including affected versions, may be found at:

VMware: <http://www.vmware.com/security/advisories/VMSA-2009-0005.html>

Security Focus: <http://www.securityfocus.com/advisories/16649> and <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/34373>

SANS: <http://isc.sans.org/diary.html?storyid=6127>

NOTICE: COT is providing this information so that you are aware of the latest security threats, vulnerabilities, software patches, etc. You should consult with your network administrator or other technical resources to ensure that the appropriate actions for these alerts are followed. If you are a network administrator and need additional information, please call the Help Desk at 502.564.7576.

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