

Security Advisory Report - OBSO-1801-01

Intel processor flaw: Meltdown and Spectre vulnerabilities (CVE-2017-5715, CVE-2017-5753, CVE-2017-5754, CVE-2018-3639, CVE-2018-3640)

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Summary

Update #7:

- **CMR fix is available in V1 R3.4.0**
- **Spectre fix for Xpert is available in V6 R1.3.0 (Meltdown was fixed earlier)**
- **Spectre & Meltdown fix for Xpert is available in V5 R1.6.8**
- **Fix for OpenScape 4000 is available in V8 R2.22.1**
- **OSV updated**
- **Branch /SBC fix is available in V9 R4.3.0.**
- **Phones CP100 and 600E added.**

Most Unify products have been tested concerning performance with patches for Spectre and Meltdown applied.

Most products can be patched without performance issues.

For the remaining products we expect no performance issues, test are ongoing following new information from the security community and OS manufacturers.

Meltdown and Spectre exploit critical vulnerabilities in modern processors. These hardware bugs allow programs to steal data which is currently processed on the computer. While programs are typically not permitted to read data from other programs, a malicious program can exploit Meltdown and Spectre to get hold of secrets stored in the memory of other running programs. This might include your passwords stored in a password manager or browser, your personal photos, emails, instant messages and even business-critical documents.

Meltdown and Spectre work on personal computers, mobile devices and in the cloud. Depending on the cloud provider's infrastructure, it might be possible to steal data from other customers.

Meltdown breaks the isolation between user applications and operating system. (CVE-2017-5754)

The Meltdown technique can enable a user process to read 'kernel' memory, thus to potentially access sensitive information in memory.

So far Meltdown has only been proved on Intel processors.

Spectre breaks the isolation between different applications. (CVE-2017-5715, CVE-2017-5753)

Spectre covers two different exploitation techniques known as CVE-2017-5753 or "bounds check bypass" and CVE-2017-5715 or "branch target injection."

These techniques potentially make items in 'kernel' memory available to users by taking advantage of a delay in the time it may take the CPU to check the validity of a memory access call and thus again potentially access sensitive information in memory.

Spectre is harder to exploit but also harder to secure against. Researchers have verified it to work cross Intel, AMD and ARM processors.

These two vulnerabilities apply to all modern processors (Intel, AMD, ARM etc.) and consequently are present in all computing devices and operating systems.

Because these flaws cannot be fixed with a microcode update, an OS-level fix is required for the affected operating systems. The immediate solution comes in the form of a kernel Page Table Isolation (PTI), which separates the kernel's memory from user processes. But this solution increases the kernel's overhead, potentially causing the system to slow down depending on the task and processor model.

Spectre NG (CVE-2018-3639, CVE-2018-3640)

New variants for Spectre were found, they are hard to exploit and thus have a low priority.

As with Spectre and Meltdown closed systems like Unify products are affected with a lower priority.

Analysis, fixes, tests and release will follow the normal procedures.

On May 21, 2018, researchers disclosed two vulnerabilities that take advantage of the implementation of speculative execution of instructions on many modern microprocessor architectures to perform side-channel information disclosure attacks. These vulnerabilities could allow an unprivileged, local attacker, in specific circumstances, to read privileged memory belonging to other processes.

The first vulnerability, CVE-2018-3639, is known as *Spectre Variant 4* or *SpectreNG*.

The second vulnerability, CVE-2018-3640, is known as *Spectre Variant 3a*. Both of these attacks are variants of the attacks disclosed in January 2018 and leverage cache-timing attacks to infer any disclosed data

To exploit either of these vulnerabilities, an attacker must be able to run crafted or script code on an affected device.

<https://tools.cisco.com/security/center/content/CiscoSecurityAdvisory/cisco-sa-20180521-cpusidechannel>

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-cyber-chips/microsoft-google-find-fresh-flaw-in-chips-but-risk-is-low-idUSKCN1IM2IV>

<https://www.techspot.com/news/74447-eight-new-spectre-variants-affecting-intel-chips-discovered.html>

<https://thehackernews.com/2018/05/intel-spectre-vulnerability.html>

<https://www.intel.com/content/www/us/en/security-center/advisory/intel-sa-00115.html>

Details of the KAISER defense mechanism for KASLR

<https://gruss.cc/files/kaiser.pdf>

Very detailed paper from redhat

https://people.redhat.com/jcm/talks/FOSDEM_2018.pdf

VMWare advisory:

<https://www.vmware.com/us/security/advisories/VMSA-2018-0002.html>

There is an update for VMWare that includes CVE-2017-5715 (Spectre)

<https://www.vmware.com/us/security/advisories/VMSA-2018-0004.html>

State of Windows patches:

The Microsoft patches had a problem with some AMD processors, PCs are no longer bootable.

<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/4073757/protect-your-windows-devices-against-spectre-meltdown>

<http://www.zdnet.com/article/windows-10-meltdown-spectre-patch-new-updates-bring-fix-for-unbootable-amd-pcs/>

<https://www.theverge.com/2018/1/9/16867068/microsoft-meltdown-spectre-security-updates-amd-pcs-issues>

Intel microcode update with KB4090007 for Windows 10

[https://support.microsoft.com/de-de/help/4090007/intel-microcode-updates?ranMID=24542&ranEAID=hL3Qp0zRBOc&ranSiteID=hL3Qp0zRBOc-7TokXr_yXLtg_DDQhC.Tuw&tduid=\(265f5211f440fb92f251de4bec81bedc\)\(256380\)\(2459594\)\(hL3Qp0zRBOc-7TokXr_yXLtg_DDQhC.Tuw\)\(\)](https://support.microsoft.com/de-de/help/4090007/intel-microcode-updates?ranMID=24542&ranEAID=hL3Qp0zRBOc&ranSiteID=hL3Qp0zRBOc-7TokXr_yXLtg_DDQhC.Tuw&tduid=(265f5211f440fb92f251de4bec81bedc)(256380)(2459594)(hL3Qp0zRBOc-7TokXr_yXLtg_DDQhC.Tuw)())

KB numbers of patches for Operating Systems:

<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/4072698/windows-server-guidance-to-protect-against-the-speculative-execution>

State of SUSE patches:

SUSE is rolling out Spectre V2 mitigation soon using Retpolines rather than their current microcode approach

<https://www.suse.com/support/kb/doc/?id=7022512>

Linux test script to check vulnerability:

<https://github.com/speed47/spectre-meltdown-checker>

Details

Intel Processors Last-level Cache Side-channel Timing Attack Arbitrary Kernel Memory Local Disclosure (Meltdown) - (CVE-2017-5754)

Intel x86-64 processors contain a flaw in the fundamental design that may allow for privileged memory to be disclosed.

The issue is related to out-of-order process execution which is used as a performance feature to speed up operations.

Using a side-channel attack to exploit the timing differences introduced by the caches, an attacker can frequently flush a targeted memory location using the `clflush` instruction.

Doing this and measuring the time it takes to reload data, the attacker can determine whether data was loaded into the cache by another process between flushes.

In this case, since the attacker controls the covert channel, the method to introduces the flaw, and the ability to measure the side effect.

This may allow user programs to use crafted commands to access parts of the privileged kernel memory and disclose the contents.

The impact can range from disclosing sensitive information to disclosing the specifics required to defeat kernel address space layout randomization (KASLR), a defense mechanism designed to help prevent more serious attacks.

Currently, there are no known workarounds or vendor upgrades to correct this issue directly. However, various vendors have created workarounds to address this vulnerability.

Google notes that the KAISER defense mechanism for KASLR has the important (but inadvertent) side effect of impeding Meltdown. Google stresses that KAISER must be deployed immediately to prevent large-scale exploitation of this severe information leakage.

Google indicates that "every Intel processor which implements out-of-order execution is potentially affected, which is effectively every processor since 1995 (except Intel Itanium and Intel Atom before 2013)." This attack is independent of the operating system, and it does not rely on any software vulnerabilities.

On a press conference phone call on 2018-01-03, Intel emphasized that this is not a "procedural flaw or bug", rather it is a side-channel attack, while some news articles describe this as a "fundamental chip/processor design". As such, it is unknown if this can be patched by Intel; thus, operating system vendors are creating patches to workaround the issue.

Based on current testing, these patches may cause a fairly significant hit on CPU performance, potentially slowing down home systems, enterprise computers, and cloud service providers that use Intel chips by as much as 30%. Intel disputes this saying that most users will not observe that performance hit.

Some benchmark tests can be found here:

<https://www.techspot.com/article/1554-meltdown-flaw-cpu-performance-windows/>

Multiple Vendor Processors Speculative Memory Reference Functionality Arbitrary Kernel Memory Disclosure (Spectre) - (CVE-2017-5753, CVE-2017-5715)

Intel x86-64, AMD, and ARM processors contain a flaw in the handling of implicit caching that may allow for privileged memory to be disclosed.

The issues resides in the virtual memory implementation, which requires the processor to turn control of the processor to the operating system kernel to perform jobs such as writing to a file. This process has typically required the operating system kernel to be present in all virtual memory address space. When required, a program making a system call will cause the processor to switch to kernel mode, then switch back to user mode upon completion of the privileged actions. During this process, the kernel's data is 'invisible' to the user process, but in reality can be accessed.

- **(CVE-2017-5753)** Relying on the processor's branch prediction functionality, an attacker can trick the processor into speculatively loading data invoking an out-of-bounds read flaw.
- **(CVE-2017-5715)** Based on the ability for code in separate security contexts to influence each other's branch prediction, an attacker can target victim code that contains an indirect branch whose target address is loaded from memory and flush the cache line containing the target address out to main memory. Next, when the CPU reaches the indirect branch, it won't know the true destination of the jump, and it won't be able to calculate the true destination until it has finished loading the cache line back into the CPU, which takes a few hundred cycles. Therefore, there is a time window of typically over 100 cycles in which the CPU will speculatively execute instructions based on branch prediction.

This may allow userland programs to use crafted commands to access parts of the privileged kernel memory and disclose the contents via a side-channel attack. The impact can range from disclosing sensitive information to disclosing the specifics required to defeat kernel address space layout randomization (KASLR), a defense mechanism designed to help prevent more serious attacks.

Solution

Currently, there are no known workarounds or vendor upgrades to correct this issue directly. However, various vendors have created workarounds to address this vulnerability.

Since Spectre represents a whole class of attacks, there most likely cannot be a singular patch for it. While work is already being done to address special cases of the vulnerability, even the original website devoted to Spectre and Meltdown states: "As [Spectre] is not easy to fix, it will haunt us for a long time." (www.spectreattack.com)

Technical Information

In order to exploit this issue, an attacker needs to be able to cause the execution of such a vulnerable code pattern in the targeted context with an out-of-bounds index.

For this, the vulnerable code pattern must either be present in existing code, or there must be an interpreter or JIT engine that can be used to generate the vulnerable code pattern.

At the time of disclosure, Google has not identified any existing, exploitable instances of the vulnerable code pattern. Rather, their exploitation uses the eBPF interpreter or the eBPF JIT engine, which are

built into the Linux kernel and accessible to normal users.

On 2017-12-26, Tom Lendacky from AMD said that AMD processors are not affected, stating that their microarchitecture "does not allow memory references, including speculative references, that access higher privileged data when running in a lesser privileged mode when that access would result in a page fault." Subsequent news articles on 2018-01-03 have suggested AMD processors may be impacted, but not as severely. Google's publication indicates that this issue impacts AMD while the second vulnerability dubbed Meltdown does not impact AMD.

Arm Processor Security Update:

<https://developer.arm.com/support/security-update>

This issue will impact many large cloud computing environments including Amazon EC2, Microsoft Azure, and Google Compute Engine. Amazon will patch the issue on their cloud service infrastructure on 2018-01-04, and Microsoft will patch Azure Cloud machines on 2018-01-10.

Google notes that "almost every system is affected by Spectre: Desktops, Laptops, Cloud Servers, as well as Smartphones. More specifically, all modern processors capable of keeping many instructions in flight are potentially vulnerable."

Affected Products

Potentially all products using an Intel, AMD or ARM processor are affected by one or both vulnerabilities.

Unify products operate as closed systems, where only approved software is active.

This dramatically reduces the risk of the Spectre & Meltdown vulnerabilities to a low level where we can recommend that proactive patching of the operating systems, to mitigate risks associated with Spectre & Meltdown, is not necessary and not recommended at this point.

In case Unify products are operating in a virtual environment together with SW from a different supplier, installing the CPU patches for the hypervisor (e.g. ESXi) is recommended.

This will protect the Unify product from any malicious code that may be active on a separate virtual machine on the same host.

This recommendation overrules other recommendations below, usage of Unify VMs with other SW is not in our hands and under customer responsibility.

Desktops and workstations that run Unify clients should be patched against these vulnerabilities to ensure that no other applications running on the same machine have access to sensitive information used by our clients.

This is particularly important for systems used to administer our products as high privileged credentials might be in use.

No noticeable performance issues are expected for Unify clients.

We are actively testing the available operating system patches and will include them in future releases of our products, along with details of any performance impact caused by these patches. This will ensure compatibility with future operating systems patches while providing for ongoing performance and

stability. We will update our vulnerability advisory with additional details as new information becomes available.

Most Unify products have been tested concerning performance with patches for Spectre and Meltdown applied.

Most products can be patched without performance issues.

For the remaining products we expect no performance issues, test are ongoing following new information from the security community and OS manufacturers.

In case patching results in performance issues this can be solved individually by ticket system.

1.) Appliances:

1.a) Unify products not affected because of the processor used.

OpenScope 4000 IP Gateways and Line Cards

OpenScope Desk Phone CP100 and CP 20X

OpenStage TDM phones, Desk Phones IP 35G Eco SIP and HFA

OpenScope Cordless phones and basestation

WL3, WL3 Plus and WSG Server

OpenStage Xpert 6010p turret N4

1.b) Unify products using Intel processors that are affected by Meltdown and Spectre

These products operate as closed systems, where only approved software is active.

This dramatically reduces the risk of the Spectre & Meltdown vulnerabilities to a low level.

At the moment a patch is not necessary for each products, details see below.

Investigation is ongoing, if an update is required, this information will be distributed.

Performance tests are conducted with the current patches.

OpenScope Voice

Tests are ongoing, issues with the Spectre/ Meltdown fixes were faced, will be followed up with high priority.

OpenScope 4000

VmWare / ESXi VMSA-2018-0002 patch was tested. For OS4000 running on VmWare no functional problems and only small performance degradation found.

Customers can patch their VmWare installations hosting OS4000 central host and/or OS4000 SoftGate.

OpenScape 4000 V8 R2.22.0 has reached GA.

It ships the Suse SLES 11 SP4 kernel 3.0.101-108.68.1 and the microcode 1.17-102.83.27.1 to address all yet known Spectre and Meltdown vulnerabilities on all supported HW platforms.

For OS4K V7 no more RLC (Fix or Minor Release) is scheduled till end of support, that means no regular kernel updates are planned.

A SLES kernel update as part of OS4K Platform V7 R2 HotFix is not planned, due to the very low attack vector.

OpenScape Business X

no applications or JavaScript files can be installed, not affected

OpenScape Branch/ SBC

OSB/SBC V9 R4 patches available for Kernel 4.4 OpenSuse Leap.

OpenScape Branch/ SBC V9 R4.3.0 is GA and contains all Spectre/ Meltdown fixes.

No update planned for older version.

OpenScape Contact Center CDSS

patched Linux is under test, no target date yet

New installations should use OpenScape Contact Media Server.

Circuit Meeting Room (CMR)

A fix is available with Debian 9 in version V1 R3.4.0

This includes the latest available kernel with Spectre and Meltdown mitigation.

OpenStage Xpert 6010p turret (not N4)

Fix for Meltdown available, fix for Spectre in V6 R1.3.0 now, too.

Fix releases:

V5.1.6.8 is released with Meltdown/Spectre fixes for Turret N4, N5 side.

The exception is X9 device where we cannot provide mitigation as the device is too slow to handle.

The released images in V5.1.6.8 are the following:

OSXPRT-N4-2.9-debian_jessie_686-pae_2018-07-12_-_11-21__V6.1.img

OSXPRT-N5-2.9-debian_jessie_686-pae_2018-07-12_-_11-43__V6.1.img

OSXPRT-X9-2.9-debian_jessie_486_2018-07-12_-_12-08__V6.1.img

V6 R1.1 is GA with the following images, these also contain the Meltdown patch:

OSXPRT-INCOTEL-debian_jessie_686-pae_2018-02-01_-_14-36__V6.1.img

OSXPRT-N4-debian_jessie_686-pae_2018-02-01_-_14-12__V6.1.img

OSXPRT-N5-debian_jessie_686-pae_2018-02-01_-_14-24__V6.1.img

V6 R1.3.0 contains the Spectre fix, too. Status: field trial.

1.c) Unify products using non-Intel processors that are affected by Spectre only.

These products operate as closed systems, where only approved software is active.

Spectre is much more difficult to exploit than Meltdown.

At the moment no patch is necessary.

Investigation is ongoing, if an update is required this information will be distributed.

OpenScape Desk Phone CP 400/ 600 / 600E run in a protected environment and do not allow untrusted applications to be downloaded on them

OpenStage phones 15, 20, 20E, 40, 60 run in a protected environment and do not allow untrusted applications to be downloaded on them

OpenScape Desk Phones IP 35G, IP 55G run in a protected environment and do not allow untrusted applications to be downloaded on them

OpenScape Alarm Response (OScAR/ DAKS)

These devices were specifically developed as embedded devices with hardened operating systems that as a rule do not foresee the execution of third party applications or programs.

OpenScape Alarm Response Economy 100 is not affected at all due to the processor used.

2.) Unify Applications

2.a) Applications where the patches have not been tested yet:

Investigation about performance issues is ongoing.

OpenScape Contact Center Extension Concierge

Testbed upgrade was done, tests are planned until end of Q1 2019. This is a service tool.

2.b) Applications where the patches have been tested:

OpenScape Business S

No performance issues were found, the Spectre/Meltdown patch is released without restriction for OSBiz V2 R5

OpenScape 4000 Manager: no performance issues found, Linux patches can be applied.

OpenScape Xpert SM and MLC, Soft clients Windows 7/10 64 bits

No performance issues were found, patches can be applied

OpenScape Xpressions: no performance issues found, Windows patches can be applied. About 10% performance impact.

Our conclusion is that this will not result in problems for the great majority of installations. Only installations running pretty close to the CPU limit may be affected, but we are not aware of installations like this.

OpenScape Enterprise Express test results:

- Typical use load emulated
- All Operating systems involved were patched with available patches at that time
- Performance drop was less than 5% for these conditions

Patched can be applied for OSEE V9 R3.0.0 or later

OpenScape Voice Trace Manager test results:

- Typical use load emulated
- All Operating systems involved were patched with available patches at that time
- Performance drop was less than 5% for these conditions.

Patches can be applied for V8 R0.6.1 or later

OpenScape Common Management Portal (CMP)

Unify will follow the results & recommendations provided by UC as they are testing the entire platform
Patches can be applied for 7.0_4.44.0-571 included in UC V9 R3.0.9 or later

OpenScape Composer

Unify will follow the results & recommendations provided by UC as they are testing the entire platform
Patches can be applied for V1.0.8.5 included in UC V9 R3.0.9 or later

OpenScape Deployment Service (DLS) test results:

- Stress testing was performed up to the maximum capacity levels of the product
- Patching Windows host ONLY a 5% performance drop was experienced

Patches can be applied for V7 R3 CV496 or later

OpenScape Accounting

no problems expected, test will be performed with the next patch release.

OpenScape Fault Management

Performance tests completed, patches can be applied.

OpenScape Contact Center including Contact Media Server

Microcode updates via BIOS update, Microsoft patches and Linux kernel patches were applied, No significant performance issues were seen on V9 R2.1.0
Patches can be applied for V9 R2.1.0 or later

OpenScape Campaign Director

Patches can be applied for V7 R1.0.0 or later

OpenScape UC applications

The performance run executed on UC Applications Servers hosted on VMWare (ESXi 5.5) do not show any performance degradation after applying released patches on both ESXi 5.5 and the hosted OS SLES12 SP2.

Thus as a general rule and in order to minimize the potential impact of these vulnerabilities, UC Application Development recommends UC Applications customers to take the following action and install all Linux & ESXi related patches available with the latest updates from appropriate vendors.

OSV Survival Authority is part of UC/CMP.

Installed patch on esxi 5.5 :
VMware ESXi 5.5.0 build-7618464
VMware ESXi 5.5.0 Update 3

Installed patch on SLES12 SP2:
kernel-default-4.4.114-92.64.1.x86_64.rpm

No performance run was executed having installed UC directly on physical Servers.

As a general rule and in order to minimize the potential impact of these vulnerabilities, UC Application Development recommends UC Applications customers to install all Linux & ESXi related patches available with the latest updates from appropriate vendors using UC V9 R3.0.9 or later.

OpenScape License Manager

no problems are expected, it is installed on all products and will be tested along with the other products.

3.) Cloud Services

Circuit Backend Service is under Unify responsibility. A patch test showed no performance issues.

OpenScape Cloud is under Unify responsibility and will be updated as needed.

4.) Other products

OpenScape SESAP: all SESAP machines are of general use, where other software can be installed. We recommend that all systems should be patched according to Microsoft recommendations. Reported performance impact is low and can be neglected for SESAP internal applications.

Mediatrix gateways, ATAs, and Sentinel are NOT vulnerable.

<https://www.media5corp.com/media5-statement-meltdown-spectre-vulnerabilities/>

5.) Clients and applications

All Desktops and workstations that run Unify clients should be patched against these vulnerabilities to ensure that no other applications running on the same machine have access to sensitive information used by our clients. This is valid for mobiles, too.

This is particularly important for systems used to administer our products as high privileged credentials might be in use.

No noticeable performance issues are expected for Unify clients.

UC clients were tested and about 10% performance impact was measured.

Recommended Actions

Unify Appliances:

Most affected products have delivered an update with the patches. Details for updates are indicated under "affected products" above.

Unify application products:

Most applications have been tested for performance issues, patches can be applied.

In case problems are encountered please write a ticket.

Appliances that have been tested and can be patched against Meltdown and Spectre are indicated under "affected products" above.

Clients and apps

All Desktops and workstations that run Unify clients should be patched

Hypervisors like ESXi need to be patched.

State of ESXi patches:

<https://www.vmware.com/us/security/advisories/VMSA-2018-0002.html>

<https://kb.vmware.com/s/article/52345>

Unify **Security checklists** should be applied to block unauthorized users from access.

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Advisory: OBSO-1801-01, status: general release

Security Advisories are released as part of Unify's Vulnerability Intelligence Process. For more information see <https://www.unify.com/security/advisories>.

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