

Cyber Security Update

Security Notification – Processor Vulnerabilities (Spectre & Meltdown)

BACKGROUND

Meltdown (CVE-2017-5754) and Spectre (CVE-2017-5753 & CVE-2017-5715) exploit critical vulnerabilities in central processor units (CPU). These vulnerabilities allow an attacker to steal data which is currently processed on the computer. While applications are typically not permitted to read data from other programs, a malicious attacker could exploit Meltdown and/or Spectre to gain secrets stored in the memory of other running programs. This may include passwords stored in a password manager or browser, personal identifiable information, photos, emails, instant messages and even business-critical documents. While the vulnerabilities are significant, and proof of concept exploit code has been released, no known exploits have been found in the wild. Key points include:

- Because Meltdown and Spectre impact Intel, AMD, and ARM processors, all types of systems from desktop, to server, to cloud, to IoT and mobile devices are impacted.
- Windows, Linux, Red Hat, OS X (prior to High Sierra 10.13.2), iOS, and Android are all impacted by these vulnerabilities. OS remediation is to patch.
- These are information disclosure vulnerabilities that could allow an attacker to gain information about the target system.
- Exploiting the vulnerability may be done remotely using client-side JavaScript or other typical web-based attack methods.

IMPACTED PRODUCTS

Honeywell recently learned of the details of these security issues that affect certain CPUs. Details about the vulnerability were not provided in advance; however, Honeywell is investigating them fully and mitigation work is in progress. We will commit these mitigations for release as soon as possible, and will update any releases as additional information becomes available. We plan to update this notification as we determine which products are affected and security updates are available.

RESOURCES

- **Vulnerability Note VU#584653** <https://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/584653>
- **Meltdown & Spectre Website:** <https://meltdownattack.com/>