



Bug 2439040 (CVE-2026-26158) - CVE-2026-26158 busybox: BusyBox: Arbitrary file modification and privilege escalation via unvalidated tar archive entries

Keywords: Security

Reported: 2026-02-11 18:13 UTC by OSIDB Bzimport

Status: NEW

Modified: 2026-02-11 20:18 UTC ([History](#))

Alias: CVE-2026-26158

CC List: 14 users ([show](#))

Product: Security Response

Fixed In Version:

Component: vulnerability

Clone Of:

Environment:

Version: unspecified

Last Closed:

Embargoed:

Hardware: All

OS: Linux

Priority: high

Severity: high

Target Milestone: ---

Assignee: Product Security DevOps Team

QA Contact:

Docs Contact:

URL:

Whiteboard:

Depends On: [2439048](#) [2439049](#) [2439050](#)

Blocks:

TreeView+ [depends on](#) / [blocked](#)

Attachments ([Terms of Use](#))

OSIDB Bzimport 2026-02-11 18:13:37 UTC

[Description](#)

Affects: BusyBox v1.36.1 and v1.37.0 (likely affects earlier versions too)
CVSS: 9.3 (CRITICAL)
Component: data_extract_all.c in tar extraction - hardlink and symlink handling

Description:
Hardlink entries in tar archives are created without validation of the link_target path. This allows modification of files outside the extraction directory and bypasses existing path traversal mitigations.

This vulnerability has higher impact than the path traversal issue as it does not rely on relative paths or the current working directory.

Technical Details:

- Hardlink entries can point to absolute paths like /etc/passwd
- Symlink entries suffer from the same root cause (missing link_target validation)
- When extraction is performed with elevated privileges, attackers can modify critical system files

Impact:

Arbitrary file modification outside extraction directory, privilege escalation when combined with elevated extraction permissions, bypass of path traversal protections.

Note: While hardlinks and symlinks share the same root cause (missing link_target validation), I'm requesting a single CVE for this issue.

Note

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