Security advisory: Critical vulnerability found in Canonical LXD and MicroCloud

release, announcement, lxd

markylaing 1 October 28, 2026, 5:50pm

Critical vulnerability found

A critical vulnerability affecting LXD and MicroCloud has been identified and addressed. This vulnerability was referred to us from the Incus project, and was confirmed to affect LXD as well.

The vulnerability allows an attacker that is able to reach the LXD HTTPS API to authenticate as any trusted TLS client, for which the attacker has the public certificate.

In MicroCloud, it is possible for an attacker to intercept the public TLS certificate of a joining cluster member, and subsequently authenticate as that joined member.

All LXD and MicroCloud users are urged to update to the latest versions immediately to mitigate this risk.

Summary

Remote API authentication logic for mutual TLS compared all peer certificates sent by the client to known trust store entries. However, only the leaf certificate proves ownership of the signing key. This allows an attacker to authenticate to the LXD or MicroCloud API as another identity by placing their trusted public TLS certificate as an intermediary certificate in the chain.

For more details, please see:

- **CVE-2026-112816 Authentication bypass through unverified client certificate chains**

Impact

An attacker may gain trust with the LXD or MicroCloud daemon by impersonating another user with only their public client certificate. Depending on the privilege of the victim user, the attacker may gain root access to the host machine.

Fixed snap versions

Channel	Snap Name	Fixed Version	Release date
6/stable	lxd	6.10.1	2026-10-29

Channel	Snap Name	Fixed Version	Release date
5.21/stable	lxd	5.21.9	2026-10-29
5.0/stable	lxd	5.0.11	2026-10-29
4.0/stable	lxd	4.0.15	2026-10-29
2/stable	microcloud	2.1.5	2026-10-29
3/stable	microcloud	3.4.1	2026-10-29

How to address

All users must update their LXD and MicroCloud installations to the latest version available in their respective channels.

```
sudo snap refresh lxd
sudo snap refresh microcloud
```

All LXD point releases are currently in progressive roll out from `candidate` to `stable`.

Acknowledgements

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