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 **ctruta** committed 2 weeks ago · ✖ 1 / 4

fix: Resolve use-after-free on `png_ptr->palette`

Give `png_struct` its own independently-allocated copy of the palette buffer, decoupling it from `info_struct`'s palette. Allocate both copies with `png_calloc` to zero-fill, because the ARM NEON palette riffle reads all 256 entries unconditionally.

In function `png_set_PLTE`, `png_ptr->palette` was aliased directly to `info_ptr->palette`: a single heap buffer shared across two structs with independent lifetimes. If the buffer was freed through `info_ptr` (via `png_free_data(PNG_FREE_PLTE)` or a second call to `png_set_PLTE`), `png_ptr->palette` became a dangling pointer. Subsequent row reads, performed in `png_do_expand_palette` and in other transform functions, dereferenced (and in the bit-shift path, wrote to) freed memory.

Also fix `png_set_quantize` to allocate an owned copy of the caller's palette rather than aliasing the user pointer, so that the unconditional free in `png_read_destroy` does not free unmanaged memory.

 [libpng18](#) ·  v1.6.56


1 parent [a3a2144](#) commit 7ea9eea 


 **5 files changed** +35 -29 lines changed


[↑ Top](#) 



 [pngread.c](#)

 [pngtran.c](#)

 [pngutil.c](#)

 [pngset.c](#)

 [pngwrite.c](#)

 **5 files changed** +35 -29 lines changed



```

  ▾ pngread.c
  ⬆️ @@ -779,12 +779,11 @@ png_read_destroy(png_structrp png_ptr)
779 779     png_ptr->quantize_index = NULL;
780 780     #endif
781 781
782 -     if ((png_ptr->free_me & PNG_FREE_PLTE) != 0)
783 -     {
784 -         png_zfree(png_ptr, png_ptr->palette);
785 -         png_ptr->palette = NULL;
786 -     }
787 -     png_ptr->free_me &= ~PNG_FREE_PLTE;
782 +     /* png_ptr->palette is always independently allocated (not aliased
783 +      * with info_ptr->palette), so free it unconditionally.
784 +      */
785 +     png_free(png_ptr, png_ptr->palette);
786 +     png_ptr->palette = NULL;
788 787
789 788     #if defined(PNG_TRNS_SUPPORTED) || \
790 789         defined(PNG_READ_EXPAND_SUPPORTED) ||
           defined(PNG_READ_BACKGROUND_SUPPORTED)
  ⬇️

```

```

  ▾ pngtran.c
  ⬆️ @@ -814,7 +814,13 @@ png_set_quantize(png_structrp png_ptr, png_colorp
palette,
814 814     }
815 815     if (png_ptr->palette == NULL)
816 816     {
817 -         png_ptr->palette = palette;
817 +         /* Allocate an owned copy rather than aliasing the caller's pointer,
818 +          * so that png_read_destroy can free png_ptr->palette unconditionally.
819 +          */
820 +         png_ptr->palette = png_voidcast(png_colorp, png_calloc(png_ptr,
821 +             PNG_MAX_PALETTE_LENGTH * (sizeof (png_color))));
822 +         memcpy(png_ptr->palette, palette, (unsigned int)num_palette *
823 +             (sizeof (png_color)));
818 824     }
819 825     png_ptr->num_palette = (png_uint_16)num_palette;
820 826

```

▼ pngutil.c

```

@@ -1053,19 +1053,6 @@ png_handle_PLTE(png_structrp png_ptr, png_inforp
info_ptr, png_uint_32 length)
1053 1053      /* A valid PLTE chunk has been read */
1054 1054      png_ptr->mode |= PNG_HAVE_PLTE;
1055 1055
1056 -      /* TODO: png_set_PLTE has the side effect of setting png_ptr->palette
to
1057 -      * its own copy of the palette. This has the side effect that when
1058 -      * png_start_row is called (this happens after any call to
1059 -      * png_read_update_info) the info_ptr palette gets changed. This is
1060 -      * extremely unexpected and confusing.
1061 -      *
1062 -      * REVIEW: there have been consistent bugs in the past about gamma and
1063 -      * similar transforms to colour mapped images being useless because the
1064 -      * modified palette cannot be accessed because of the above.
1065 -      *
1066 -      * CONSIDER: Fix this by not sharing the palette in this way. But does
1067 -      * this completely fix the problem?
1068 -      */
1069 1056      png_set_PLTE(png_ptr, info_ptr, palette, num);
1070 1057      return handled_ok;
1071 1058  }

```

▼ pngset.c

```

@@ -776,28 +776,38 @@ png_set_PLTE(png_structrp png_ptr, png_inforp
info_ptr,
776 776      png_error(png_ptr, "Invalid palette");
777 777  }
778 778
779 -      /* It may not actually be necessary to set png_ptr->palette here;
780 -      * we do it for backward compatibility with the way the png_handle_tRNS
781 -      * function used to do the allocation.
782 -      *
783 -      * 1.6.0: the above statement appears to be incorrect; something has to set
784 -      * the palette inside png_struct on read.

```

```

785 - */
786 779     png_free_data(png_ptr, info_ptr, PNG_FREE_PLTE, 0);
787 780
788 781     /* Changed in libpng-1.2.1 to allocate PNG_MAX_PALETTE_LENGTH instead
789 782     * of num_palette entries, in case of an invalid PNG file or incorrect
790 783     * call to png_set_PLTE() with too-large sample values.
784 + *
785 + * Allocate independent buffers for info_ptr and png_ptr so that the
786 + * lifetime of png_ptr->palette is decoupled from the lifetime of
787 + * info_ptr->palette. Previously, these two pointers were aliased,
788 + * which caused a use-after-free vulnerability if png_free_data freed
789 + * info_ptr->palette while png_ptr->palette was still in use by the
790 + * row transform functions (e.g. png_do_expand_palette).
791 + *
792 + * Both buffers are allocated with png_malloc to zero-fill, because
793 + * the ARM NEON palette riffle reads all 256 entries unconditionally,
794 + * regardless of num_palette.
791 795     */
796 +     png_free(png_ptr, png_ptr->palette);
792 797     png_ptr->palette = png_voidcast(png_colorp, png_malloc(png_ptr,
793 798         PNG_MAX_PALETTE_LENGTH * (sizeof (png_color))));
799 +     info_ptr->palette = png_voidcast(png_colorp, png_malloc(png_ptr,
800 +         PNG_MAX_PALETTE_LENGTH * (sizeof (png_color))));
801 +     png_ptr->num_palette = info_ptr->num_palette = (png_uint_16)num_palette;
794 802
795 803     if (num_palette > 0)
804 +     {
805 +         memcpy(info_ptr->palette, palette, (unsigned int)num_palette *
806 +             (sizeof (png_color)));
796 807         memcpy(png_ptr->palette, palette, (unsigned int)num_palette *
797 808             (sizeof (png_color)));
809 +     }
798 810
799 -     info_ptr->palette = png_ptr->palette;
800 -     info_ptr->num_palette = png_ptr->num_palette = (png_uint_16)num_palette;
801 811     info_ptr->free_me |= PNG_FREE_PLTE;
802 812     info_ptr->valid |= PNG_INFO_PLTE;
803 813 }

```



```
▼ pngwrite.c ...  
  ⋮  
1016 1016     png_ptr->trans_alpha = NULL;  
1017 1017     #endif  
1018 1018  
1019 1019 +   /* Free the independent copy of the palette owned by png_struct. */  
1020 1020 +   png_free(png_ptr, png_ptr->palette);  
1021 1021 +   png_ptr->palette = NULL;  
1022 1022 +  
1019 1023     /* The error handling and memory handling information is left intact at  
           this  
1020 1024     * point: the jmp_buf may still have to be freed. See  
           png_destroy_png_struct  
1021 1025     * for how this happens.  
  ⋮
```

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