

-----BEGIN PGP SIGNED MESSAGE-----

Hash: SHA512

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FreeBSD-SA-16:33.openssh

Security Advisory  
The FreeBSD Project

Topic: OpenSSH Remote Denial of Service vulnerability

Category: contrib

Module: OpenSSH

Announced: 2016-11-02

Affects: All supported versions of FreeBSD.

Corrected: 2016-11-02 06:56:35 UTC (stable/11, 11.0-STABLE)

2016-11-02 07:23:19 UTC (releng/11.0, 11.0-RELEASE-p3)

2016-11-02 06:58:47 UTC (stable/10, 10.3-STABLE)

2016-11-02 07:23:36 UTC (releng/10.3, 10.3-RELEASE-p12)

CVE Name: CVE-2016-8858

For general information regarding FreeBSD Security Advisories, including descriptions of the fields above, security branches, and the following sections, please visit <URL:https://security.FreeBSD.org/>.

## I. Background

OpenSSH is an implementation of the SSH protocol suite, providing an encrypted and authenticated transport for a variety of services, including remote shell access.

During the SSH handshake procedure, the client and server exchanges the supported encryption, MAC and compression algorithms along with other information to negotiate algorithms for initial key exchange, with a message named SSH\_MSG\_KEXINIT.

## II. Problem Description

When processing the SSH\_MSG\_KEXINIT message, the server could allocate up to a few hundreds of megabytes of memory per each connection, before any authentication take place.

## III. Impact

A remote attacker may be able to cause a SSH server to allocate an excessive amount of memory. Note that the default MaxStartups setting on FreeBSD will limit the effectiveness of this attack.

## IV. Workaround

No workaround is available, but systems where sshd(8) is not used are not vulnerable.

## V. Solution

Perform one of the following:

1) Upgrade your vulnerable system to a supported FreeBSD stable or release / security branch (releng) dated after the correction date.

The sshd(8) service has to be restarted after the update. A reboot is recommended but not required.

2) To update your vulnerable system via a binary patch:

Systems running a RELEASE version of FreeBSD on the i386 or amd64

platforms can be updated via the `freebsd-update(8)` utility:

```
# freebsd-update fetch
# freebsd-update install
```

The `sshd(8)` service has to be restarted after the update. A reboot is recommended but not required.

3) To update your vulnerable system via a source code patch:

The following patches have been verified to apply to the applicable FreeBSD release branches.

a) Download the relevant patch from the location below, and verify the detached PGP signature using your PGP utility.

```
# fetch https://security.FreeBSD.org/patches/SA-16:33/openssh.patch
# fetch https://security.FreeBSD.org/patches/SA-16:33/openssh.patch.asc
# gpg --verify openssh.patch.asc
```

b) Apply the patch. Execute the following commands as root:

```
# cd /usr/src
# patch < /path/to/patch
```

c) Recompile the operating system using `buildworld` and `installworld` as described in [URL:https://www.FreeBSD.org/handbook/makeworld.html](https://www.FreeBSD.org/handbook/makeworld.html).

The `sshd(8)` service has to be restarted after the update. A reboot is recommended but not required.

## VI. Correction details

The following list contains the correction revision numbers for each affected branch.

Branch/path	Revision
stable/10/	r308199
releng/10.3/	r308203
stable/11/	r308198
releng/11.0/	r308202

To see which files were modified by a particular revision, run the following command, replacing `NNNNNN` with the revision number, on a machine with Subversion installed:

```
# svn diff -cNNNNNN --summarize svn://svn.freebsd.org/base
```

Or visit the following URL, replacing `NNNNNN` with the revision number:

[URL:https://svnweb.freebsd.org/base?view=revision&revision=NNNNNN](https://svnweb.freebsd.org/base?view=revision&revision=NNNNNN)

## VII. References

[URL:http://seclists.org/oss-sec/2016/q4/195](http://seclists.org/oss-sec/2016/q4/195)

[URL:https://cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2016-8858](https://cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2016-8858)

The latest revision of this advisory is available at

[URL:https://security.FreeBSD.org/advisories/FreeBSD-SA-16:33.openssh.asc](https://security.FreeBSD.org/advisories/FreeBSD-SA-16:33.openssh.asc)

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Version: GnuPG v2.1.15 (FreeBSD)

5/29/26, 10:06 PM

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