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Hash: SHA512

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FreeBSD-SA-26:11.amd64

Security Advisory
The FreeBSD Project

Topic: Missing large page handling in pmap_pkru_update_range()

Category: core

Module: amd64

Announced: 2026-04-21

Credits: Nicholas Carlini using Claude, Anthropic

Affects: All supported versions of FreeBSD.

Corrected: 2026-04-21 15:43:03 UTC (stable/15, 15.0-STABLE)
2026-04-21 15:44:28 UTC (releng/15.0, 15.0-RELEASE-p6)
2026-04-21 15:43:14 UTC (stable/14, 14.4-STABLE)
2026-04-21 15:45:32 UTC (releng/14.4, 14.4-RELEASE-p2)
2026-04-21 15:46:03 UTC (releng/14.3, 14.3-RELEASE-p11)
2026-04-21 15:43:57 UTC (stable/13, 13.5-STABLE)
2026-04-21 15:47:08 UTC (releng/13.5, 13.5-RELEASE-p12)

CVE Name: CVE-2026-6386

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

Memory protection keys are an amd64 CPU feature, available in modern Intel and AMD CPUs, which allow applications to apply access restrictions to regions of virtual memory. On FreeBSD this functionality is provided by the pkru(3) interface.

II. Problem Description

In order to apply a particular protection key to an address range, the kernel must update the corresponding page table entries. The subroutine which handled this failed to take into account the presence of 1GB largepage mappings created using the shm_create_largepage(3) interface. In particular, it would always treat a page directory page entry as pointing to another page table page.

III. Impact

The bug can be abused by an unprivileged user to cause pmap_pkru_update_range() to treat userspace memory as a page table page, and thus overwrite memory to which the application would otherwise not have access.

IV. Workaround

No workaround is available. The bug only affects amd64 systems.

V. Solution

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

Perform one of the following:

1) To update your vulnerable system installed from base system packages:

Systems running a 15.0-RELEASE version of FreeBSD on the amd64 or arm64 platforms, which were installed using base system packages, can be updated

via the pkg(8) utility:

```
# pkg upgrade -r FreeBSD-base
# shutdown -r +10min "Rebooting for a security update"
```

2) To update your vulnerable system installed from binary distribution sets:

Systems running a RELEASE version of FreeBSD on the amd64 or arm64 platforms, or the i386 platform on FreeBSD 13, which were not installed using base system packages, can be updated via the freebsd-update(8) utility:

```
# freebsd-update fetch
# freebsd-update install
# shutdown -r +10min "Rebooting for a security update"
```

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.

```
[FreeBSD 15.0]
# fetch https://security.FreeBSD.org/patches/SA-26:11/amd64-15.patch
# fetch https://security.FreeBSD.org/patches/SA-26:11/amd64-15.patch.asc
# gpg --verify amd64-15.patch.asc
```

```
[FreeBSD 14.4 and 14.3]
# fetch https://security.FreeBSD.org/patches/SA-26:11/amd64-14.patch
# fetch https://security.FreeBSD.org/patches/SA-26:11/amd64-14.patch.asc
# gpg --verify amd64-14.patch.asc
```

```
[FreeBSD 13.5]
# fetch https://security.FreeBSD.org/patches/SA-26:11/amd64-13.patch
# fetch https://security.FreeBSD.org/patches/SA-26:11/amd64-13.patch.asc
# gpg --verify amd64-13.patch.asc
```

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

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

c) Recompile your kernel as described in [URL:https://www.FreeBSD.org/handbook/kernelconfig.html](https://www.FreeBSD.org/handbook/kernelconfig.html) and reboot the system.

VI. Correction details

This issue is corrected as of the corresponding Git commit hash in the following stable and release branches:

Branch/path	Hash	Revision
stable/15/	9331e62e8b80	stable/15-n283066
releng/15.0/	649db49403a7	releng/15.0-n281023
stable/14/	4c0e5e3cc441	stable/14-n273998
releng/14.4/	5787df30dc3e	releng/14.4-n273686
releng/14.3/	979e645dd25e	releng/14.3-n271486
stable/13/	b8fc56193068	stable/13-n259846
releng/13.5/	a2f6f2d00125	releng/13.5-n259211

Run the following command to see which files were modified by a particular commit:

```
# git show --stat <commit hash>
```

Or visit the following URL, replacing NNNNNN with the hash:

<URL:https://cgit.freebsd.org/src/commit/?id=NNNNNN>

To determine the commit count in a working tree (for comparison against nNNNNNN in the table above), run:

```
# git rev-list --count --first-parent HEAD
```

VII. References

<URL:https://www.cve.org/CVERecord?id=CVE-2026-6386>

The latest revision of this advisory is available at
<URL:https://security.FreeBSD.org/advisories/FreeBSD-SA-26:11.amd64.asc>

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```
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```

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