

QuickTime Exploit Details Disputed

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There's definitely a serious vulnerability in QuickTime with Java code, but which browsers are affected?

A highly critical bug in Apple's QuickTime was the vector used to exploit a MacBook Pro last week at the CanSecWest security conference. But researchers are disputing what platforms are affected.

Even the researchers who wrote the exploit aren't entirely clear on what they have. The one who wrote it at first thought it a flaw in the Safari Web browser, but later on others showed it was actually a flaw in the interaction between QuickTime and Java.

Since the flaw is in QuickTime and Java, potentially any Java-enabled browser on a system with QuickTime is affected. Because of this, many sources are saying that Internet Explorer 6 and 7 are affected in those configurations .

But others are saying, as is Terri Forslof, manager of security response at TippingPoint , that IE's sandbox "does handle the vulnerability appropriately." The sandbox may only refer to IE7, or perhaps also to IE6 with SP2.

In the meantime, some are recommending that users disable Java in their browsers as the easiest way to block the attack. This may be the easiest block, but it has the potential to break other applications, so do it with caution.

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