



Real SAP Backdoors

Troopers12, March 19th - 23rd, Heidelberg





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- Founder of Virtual Forge (Heidelberg), responsible for Research & Development
- SAP Security Researcher, active since 2003
 - Received Credits from SAP for more than 20 reported 0-day Vulnerabilities
- Frequent Speaker at international Conferences
 - **SAP TechEd** 2004 (USA & Europa) / 2005 (USA) / 2006 (USA), DSAG 2009
 - **BlackHat** 2011 (Europe), **Hack in the Box** 2011 (Europe)
 - **Troopers** 2011, **RSA** 2012 (USA)
- Co-Author of „Sichere ABAP Programmierung" (SAP Press)
- Training Class WDESA3 @ SAP University



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS TO SECURITY RESEARCHERS

The SAP Product Security Response Team thanks all researchers and security IT professionals that helped with discovering and solving security vulnerabilities. Their findings have helped SAP to maintain the security and safety of its customers' and partners' SAP systems.

Our acknowledgements page lists those professionals we have worked with successfully in the past. The acknowledgements are published on a monthly basis and mention all security researchers who helped to improve the security and integrity of our customers' IT systems by respecting our disclosure guidelines. We thank all security researchers for their excellent work and hope to continue the fruitful relationship between security professionals and SAP.

ARCHIVE

[Here](#) you can find elder entries.

FEBRUARY 2012

[Virtual Forge](#), Sebastian Schinzel & Frederik Weidemann, SAP Security Note [1586410](#)

[Virtual Forge](#), Andreas Wiegenstein & Frederik Weidemann, SAP Security Note [1584930](#)

[Virtual Forge](#), Erich Prosche & Sandra Möckel, SAP Security Note [1607529](#)

[Virtual Forge](#), Andreas Wiegenstein & Sven Neuz, SAP Security Note [1597597](#)

[Virtual Forge](#), Andreas Wiegenstein, SAP Security Note [1661349](#)

[ERPSecurity](#), Joris van de Vis, SAP Security Note [1641329](#)

[ERPSecurity](#), Joris van de Vis, SAP Security Note [1644746](#)

[Zero Day Initiative](#), SAP Security Note [1649838](#)

[Zero Day Initiative](#), SAP Security Note [1649840](#)

[ESNC](#), Ertunga Aarsal, SAP Security Note [1667805](#)

[akquinet AG](#), Ralf Kempf, SAP Security Note [1644043](#)





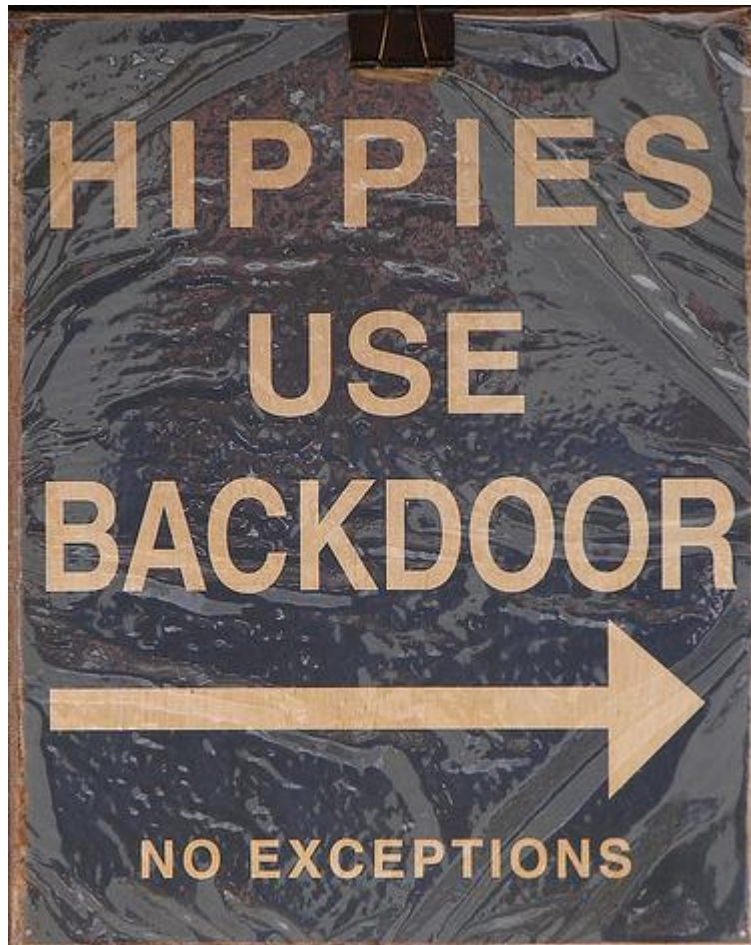
- 1. What is a Backdoor?**
- 2. SAP Technology / Security Basics**
- 3. SAP Backdoors**
- 4. How do you prevent Backdoors?**
- 5. Summary**

What is a backdoor?



**THIS IS
NOT
THE TOPIC
OF THIS TALK.

NO WAY.**



**ALSO
NOT
THE TOPIC
OF THIS TALK.**





“A backdoor in a computer system [...] is a method of bypassing normal authentication, securing remote access to a computer, obtaining access to plaintext, and so on, while attempting to remain undetected.”

(March 2012)



“A backdoor in software is a hidden feature that was designed to bypass a security mechanism.”

(Troopers, March 2012)

Characteristics:

1. Coverttness
2. Bypass
3. Intent

SAP Technology / Security Basics

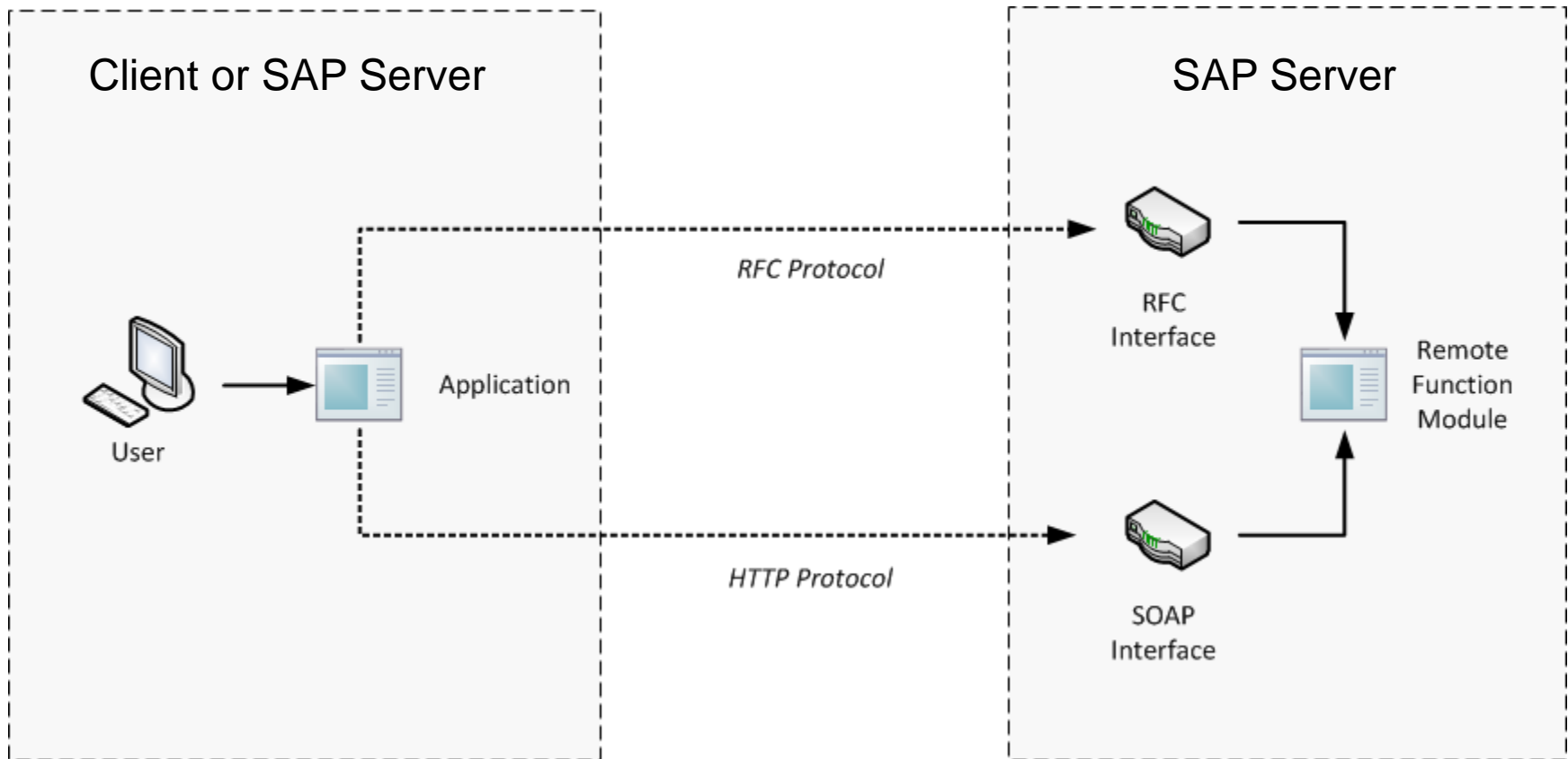
Advanced Business Application Programming

- Proprietary language, exact specification not (freely) available
- Platform-independent code
- Built-in transport system and version control
- Various programming paradigms:
 - Programs & Forms, Reports, Function Modules, Dynpros
 - Classes & Methods, Business Server Pages, Web Dynpro ABAP
- Integrated platform-independent SQL Standard: Open SQL
- Built-in authentication, roles and authorization model
- ABAP runs with very high Privileges
- ABAP uses an *explicit* Authorization Model

Remote Function Call (RFC)

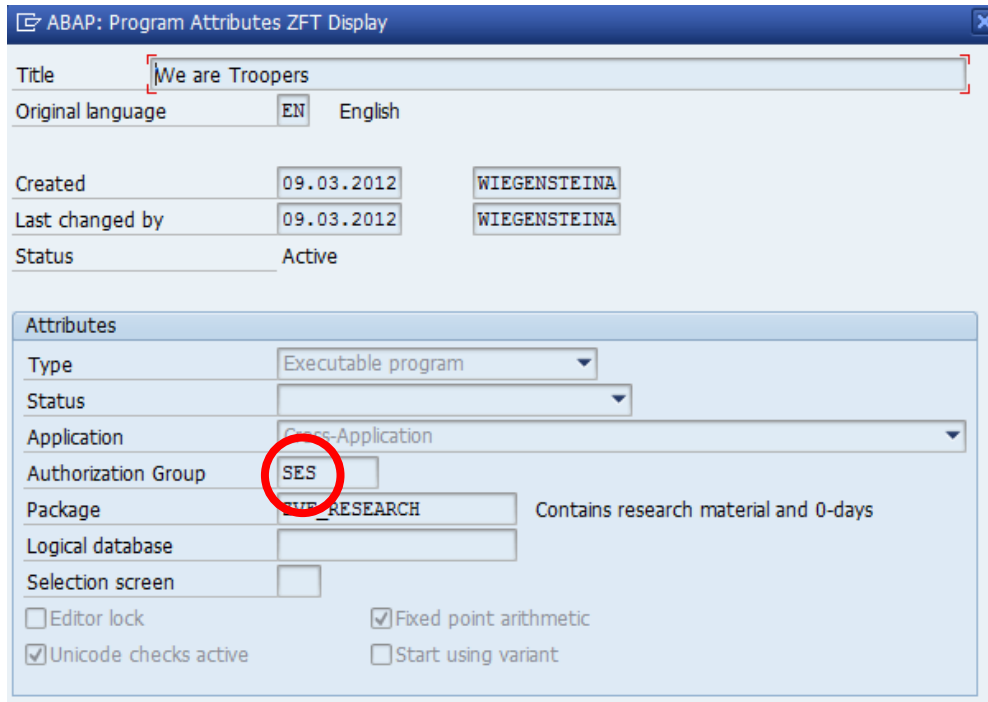


VIRTUALFORGE
we harden your software



- S_RFC authorization required to call Function Modules remotely
- > 33.000 RFC-enabled Function Modules on ECC 6.0

RFC authorizations are complex to maintain



ABAP: Program Attributes ZFT Display

Title: We are Troopers

Original language: EN English

Created: 09.03.2012 WIEGENSTEINA

Last changed by: 09.03.2012 WIEGENSTEINA

Status: Active

Attributes

Type: Executable program

Status:

Application: Cross-Application

Authorization Group: SES

Package: SUB_RESEARCH Contains research material and 0-days

Logical database:

Selection screen:

☐ Editor lock ☒ Fixed point arithmetic

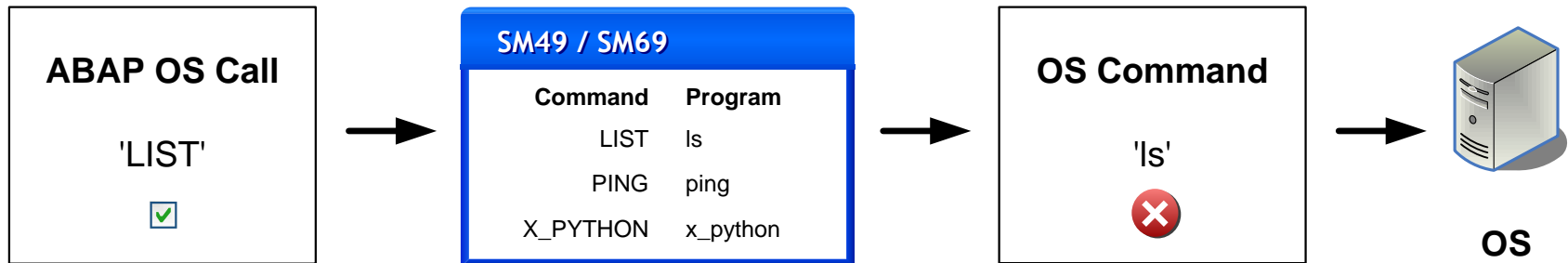
☒ Unicode checks active ☐ Start using variant

- Reports can only be executed locally via restricted transactions
- ~ 220.000 ABAP reports on ECC 6.0 in the SAP standard
- ABAP command `SUBMIT` executes reports and checks authorizations
 - Authorization is checked only if Authorization Group is maintained

SAP Backdoors



Controlled Operating System (OS) Command Execution



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- OS Commands must be pre-defined by Admin (white list)
- OS Commands must be executed through special API (`SXPG_CALL_SYSTEM` / `SXPG_COMMAND_EXECUTE`)
- Execution requires special authorization (`S_LOG_COM`)

Case #1 – Code (1)



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```
FUNCTION oiuh_submit_unix_call.  
* "-----  
* " * "Local interface (simplified excerpt):  
* "   IMPORTING  
* "       VALUE(SCRIPT_NAME) LIKE   RLGRAP-FILENAME  
* "       VALUE(LOGICAL_PATH) LIKE   FILENAME-FILEINTERN  
* "   TABLES  
* "       RESULTS STRUCTURE   OIUH_SYS_CONSOLE  
* "       SCRIPT_DATA STRUCTURE   OIUH_SYS_CONSOLE  
* "   EXCEPTIONS  
* "       CALL_FAILURE  
* "-----
```

Case #1 – Code (2)



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```
DELETE DATASET script_name.  
OPEN DATASET script_name FOR OUTPUT IN TEXT MODE ENCODING DEFAULT.  
LOOP AT script_data.  
    TRANSFER script_data TO script_name.  
ENDLOOP.  
CLOSE DATASET script_name.  
  
* CHANGE THE FILE MODE TO EXECUTE.  
CONCATENATE 'chmod 777' script_name INTO unix_command SEPARATED BY space.  
...  
CALL 'SYSTEM' ID 'COMMAND' FIELD unix_command  
           ID 'TAB'      FIELD results-*sys*.  
...  
* Execute the actual command  
CALL 'SYSTEM' ID 'COMMAND' FIELD script_name  
           ID 'TAB'      FIELD results-*sys*.
```




Function Module `oiuh_submit_unix_call` is *designed to* execute arbitrary OS commands, *bypassing* the white list defined in SM49/69.

Characteristics:

1. Coverttness
2. Bypass
3. Intent





Function Module `oiuh_submit_unix_call`**2** is an exact copy of `oiuh_submit_unix_call`.

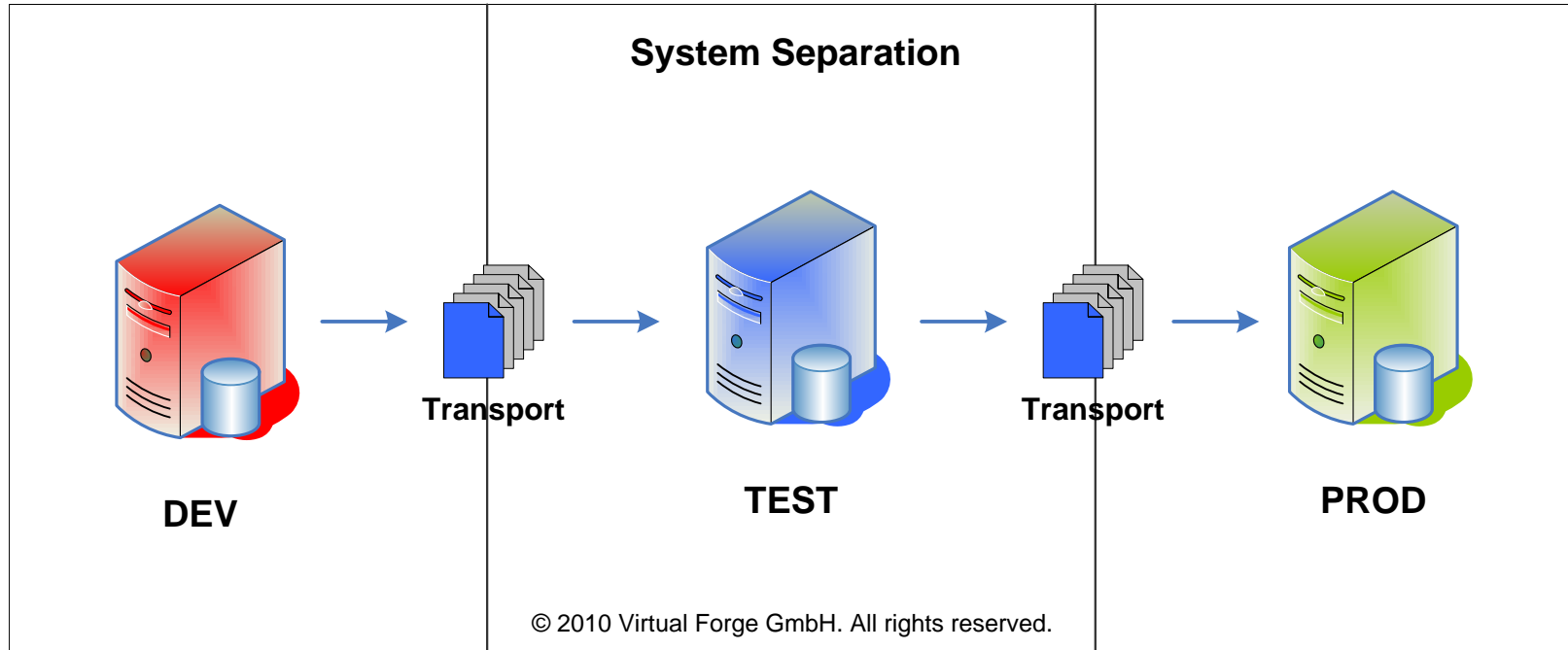
Both Function Modules also contain a Directory Traversal vulnerability.

VF Advisories: **SAP-BACK-01** and **SAP-BACK-02**

SAP Notes: 1560360 and 1558010

SAP CVSS Base Score: 6.0

SAP CVSS Base Vector: AV:N/AC:M/AU:S/C:P/I:P/A:P



Development process is well defined : DEV, TEST, PROD

- All ABAP code is tested before productive use
- No development possible on productive system

Case #2 – Code (1)



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```
FUNCTION rs_functionmodule_insert.  
* "-----  
* "Local Interface (simplified excerpt):  
* "  IMPORTING  
* "      VALUE(FUNCNAME) LIKE  RS38L-NAME  
* "      VALUE(FUNCTION_POOL) LIKE  RS38L-AREA  
* "      VALUE(REMOTE_CALL) LIKE  RS38L-REMOTE DEFAULT SPACE  
* "      VALUE(SHORT_TEXT) LIKE  TFTIT-STEXT  
* "      VALUE(SUPPRESS_CORR_CHECK) LIKE  RS38L-EXTERN DEFAULT 'X'  
* "      VALUE(SUPPRESS_LANGUAGE_CHECK) LIKE  RS38L-HEAD DEFAULT 'X'  
* "      VALUE(AUTHORITY_CHECK) LIKE  RS38L-HEAD DEFAULT 'X'  
* "      VALUE(SAVE_ACTIVE) LIKE  RS38L-HEAD DEFAULT 'X'  
* "  TABLES  
* "      SOURCE STRUCTURE  RSSOURCE OPTIONAL
```

Case #2 – Code (2)



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```
...  
CALL FUNCTION 'RS_ACCESS_PERMISSION'  
  EXPORTING  
    authority_check = authority_check  
...  
IF sy-subrc = 0.  
...  
  l_source = source[ ].  
  LOOP AT l_source INTO l_line.  
    INSERT l_line INTO code INDEX tabix.  
    tabix = tabix + 1.  
  ENDLOOP.  
  INSERT REPORT rs381-include FROM code.  
ENDIF.
```


Case #2 – Code (3)



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```
FUNCTION rs_access_permission.
```

```
*"-----
```

```
*"*"Lokale Schnittstelle (simplified excerpt):
```

```
*"  IMPORTING
```

```
*"      VALUE (AUTHORITY_CHECK) DEFAULT 'X'
```

```
...
```

```
l_authority_check = authority_check.
```

Case #2 – Code (4)



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```
...  
CASE mode.  
  WHEN 'MODIFY'.  
    IF l_authority_check NE ' '.  
      PERFORM accp_authority  
        USING      modus  
                  object  
                  object_class  
                  auth_object  
                  s_develop  
        CHANGING   trdir_inf.  
    ENDIF.
```



Function Module `rs_functionmodule_insert` is *designed to* create arbitrary remote-executable ABAP Code, *bypassing* the TEST System.

Characteristics:

1. Coverttness
2. Bypass
3. Intent



VF Advisory: **SAP-BACK-03**

SAP Note: 1589919

CVSS Base Score: 3.5

CVSS Base Vector: AV:N/AC:M/AU:S/C:N/I:P/A:N

SAP: 'BACKDOOR'

Case #3 – Code (1)



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```
FUNCTION RKC_FUNCTION_INTERFACE_GEN.  
* "-----  
* "Lokale Schnittstelle (simplified excerpt):  
* "  
* "      EXPORTING  
* "  
* "      REPID LIKE SY-REPID  
* "  
* "      TABLES  
* "  
* "      REP_TAB STRUCTURE RFCLINE  
* "  
* "      EXCEPTIONS  
* "  
* "      NOT_INSERTED  
* "-----
```


Case #3 – Code (2)



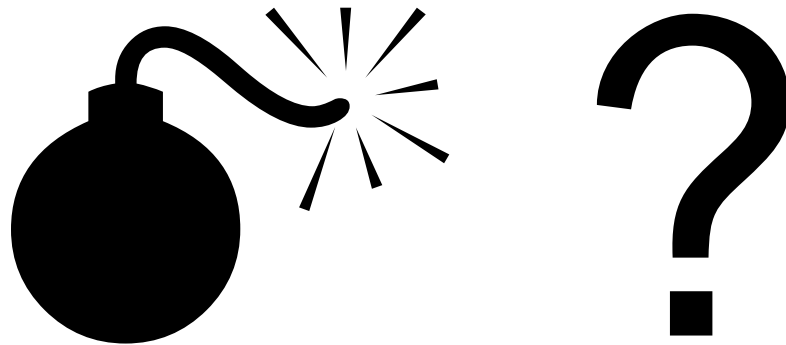
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```
DATA: BEGIN OF REP OCCURS 20.  
      INCLUDE STRUCTURE ABAPTEXT.  
DATA: END OF REP.  
  
REFRESH REP.  
LOOP AT REP_TAB.  
    REP = REP_TAB.  
    APPEND REP.  
ENDLOOP.  
REPID = 'RKCINTER'.  
INSERT REPORT REPID FROM REP.  
IF SY-SUBRC <> 0.  
    RAISE NOT_INSERTED.  
ENDIF.  
ENDFUNCTION.
```



Now we can create a report with arbitrary content.

But (how) can we execute it (remotely) ?



Case #3 – Code (3)



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```
FUNCTION HR99B_PARALLEL_REPORT_RUN.  
* "-----  
* "*"Local Interface (simplified excerpt):  
* "  IMPORTING  
* "    VALUE (REPID) TYPE  TRDIR-NAME  
* "  TABLES  
* "    VALUTAB STRUCTURE  RSPARAMS  
* "  CHANGING  
* "    VALUE (CV_TASK_NAME) TYPE  HR99B_TASK_NAME OPTIONAL  
* "-----  
  
SUBMIT (REPID) WITH SELECTION-TABLE VALUTAB AND RETURN. "#EC CI_SUBMIT  
  
ENDFUNCTION.
```



Function Module `RKC_FUNCTION_INTERFACE_GEN` is *designed to* create a Report that contains arbitrary ABAP Code, *bypassing* the TEST System.

Function Module `HR99B_PARALLEL_REPORT_RUN` is designed to execute reports *remotely*.

Characteristics:

1. Coverttness
2. Bypass
3. Intent



VF Advisory: **SAP-BACK-06**

SAP Note: 1592312

CVSS Base Score: 3.5

CVSS Base Vector: AV:N/AC:M/Au:S/C:N/I:P/A:N

SAP: 'BACKDOOR'

VF Advisory: **SAP-BACK-04**

SAP Note: 1558284

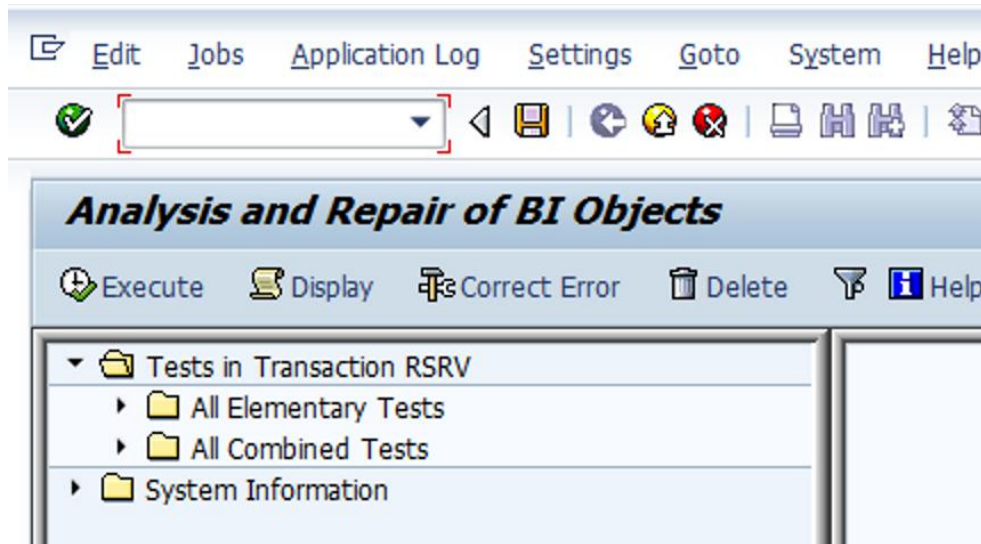
CVSS Base Score: 8.2

CVSS Base Vector: AV:N/AC:M/AU:S/C:C/I:C/A:P

Case #4 – SAP Transaction RSRV



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Characteristics:

1. Covertness
2. Bypass
3. Intent



Security Audits of a BSP (Web) Application of an SAP customer

One of the pages appeared to be blank

In the source code, the page checked for the usernames of three external developers...

...and would allow them to read data from a table of their choice in the SAP database

- Financial data
- Production data
- HR data ...

Generic table reader in BSP page.

Characteristics:

1. **Covert**ness
2. **Bypass**
3. **Intent**



A nice backdoor and 100% remote accessible

How do you prevent Backdoors?



- Perform peer reviews of *all* code
 - The backdoor can be everywhere
- Check for proprietary authorization logic / unusual options
- Check for (unexpected) modifications to the database
- Check for generic database access
- Prohibit certain coding practices by strict guidelines but don't rely on them



- Use static code analysis to detect suspicious code
- Check for command execution based on input
 - ABAP
 - Operating system
- Expect stealth techniques
 - Dynamic ABAP
 - Hidden OK Codes
 - #EC suppression
 - ...

Summary



- ABAP code can have backdoors
- Backdoors are difficult to spot
 - Designed to be covert
 - „Needle in the haystack“
- Check the background of your (external) developers
- Perform code audits before productive use
- Perform static code analysis as additional line of defense



Links

SAP Security Advisories researched by Virtual Forge
<http://www.codeprofilers.com/index.php/advisories.html>

Organizations



BIZEC – Business Security Initiative
<http://www.bizec.org>

Literature



Sichere ABAP-Programmierung
(SAP PRESS, 372 S., 2009)
*Andreas Wiegenstein, Markus Schumacher,
Sebastian Schinzel, Frederik Weidemann*



Questions?

McFly:

“Listen, you got a backdoor to this place?”

Bartender:

“Yeah, it's in the back.”

(Back to the Future III, 1990)



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