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# Issues, lessons learned through the eyes of JPCERT/CC on the vulnerability handling framework in Japan

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### Agenda

Introduction to Vulnerability Handling Framework in Japan

Current Issues

- Lesson Learned
- Moving Forward



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# Introduction to Vulnerability Handling Framework in Japan

- In Japan, handling activities are specified in "Information Security Early Warning Partnership"
  - This partnership was created in accordance with the notification No. 235 issued in 2004 by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
    - -Last updated in 2014
- Handling of website vulnerabilities are also governed here.
  - —Today's focus will be on product vulnerabilities



November of 2003:

In response to the effects brought on by Blaster and Sasser worms, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) contracted the Information-technology Promotion Agency (IPA) to conduct a "Study Group on Information System Vulnerability Handling"

April 2004

Study results made public. Recommend that METI issue formal rules for handling vulnerability information. Rules should be generated in discussions with industry organizations and interest groups



#### July 2004

METI issued "Standards for Handling Software Vulnerability Information and Others" to ensure appropriate handling of vulnerability-related information when a vulnerability is reported

- —JPCERT/CC assigned to be the designated coordinator for handling vulnerability information
- —Joint announcement of "Information Security Early Warning Partnership Guideline" from JPCERT/CC, IPA JEITA, JISA, CSAJ, JNSA

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- \* JEITA Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association
- \* JISA Japan Information Technology Service Industry Association
- \* CSAJ Computer Software Association of Japan
- \* JNSA Japan Network Security Association

July 2004 (cont.)

JEITA / JISA jointly release "Vulnerability information handling guidelines for Product Developers" JPCERT/CC releases "Bylaws for product developers" to receive vulnerability information also released

—These bylaws were created in an attempt to prevent developers from "just taking" vulnerability information without responding to requests

Each year, "Study Group on Information System Vulnerability Handling" discusses issues, including operations of the framework to change things as necessary



- Major changes that affected operations since the initial 2004 partnership guidelines
  - —Notifications to vendors that use third-party libraries (2006)
  - Pre-notifications to critical infrastructure as necessary (2007)
  - —Issues in protocol specifications or encryption algorithms are not to be handled (2009)
  - Enable disclosure of a developers list who do not respond (2009)
    - Process actually started in 2011
    - In 2014, guideline was amended to disclose such vulnerability reports

—After one year, reporter can disclose vulnerability (2011)







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# Introduction to Vulnerability Handling Framework in Japan

- In this framework, JPCERT/CC acts as the interface with the vendor
  - Reports are received by Information-technology Promotion Agency (IPA)
  - -IPA interfaces with the reporter
  - —JPCERT/CC sometimes received reports directly (mostly from overseas researchers)
- Domestic vendors need to be "registered" to receive vulnerability information
  - —Open source developers are exceptions
  - -Registered vendors are part of "multi-vendor" coordination

## In addition to vendor coordination...

Direct reports from reporters and security vendors

 Collaboration with other coordination centers —CERT/CC
 —NCSC-FI
 —CNCERT/CC
 —KrCERT/CC

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### **Something new**

Publish list of "Non-responsive" vendors (2011)

—Long process, just to get it started...

- Various legal issues that needed sorting
- Currently limited to issues that can be verified (tested)
- An outside committee decides whether or not to publish

In some cases, advisories are published for products developed by such a vendor

- List is updated quarterly
  - Information is uploaded in stages
    (Developer name, Reported product name / version, time limit)



▲ Japan Computer Emergency (JP)   https://jvn.jp/en/reply/index.html	町 C 検索	☆ 自 💟 🕂	

Last updated:December 25, 201

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#### List of unreachable developers JVN Product Developer Information HOME **Overview** What is JVN ? Instructions IPA (Information Technology Promotion Agency) and JPCERT Coordination Center are seeking contact from developers or related parties of software products that have been reported through List of Vulnerability The Information Security Early Warning Partnership. Report VN\_JP VN JP(Unreachabl **Targeted Developers** TRnotes Targeted developers are ones who have had software products reported through The Information Security Early Warning Partnership and have been unreachable through contact information JVN iPedia posted on a website, etc. For the list of developers please see the below list. MyJVN JVNJS/RSS Vendor List Contact us: jvn@jvn.jp List of unreachable developers Please include the "Inquiry Number" in the subject line. Contact

Unreachable Developer List

Inquiry Number	Developer Name	Developer's Link	Initial List Date	Last Update	Other Information
DID#04630151	LunarNight Laboratory		15/09/18	15/12/25	
DID#16838412	LunarNight Laboratory		15/09/18	15/12/25	
DID#34961442	Remember The Milk		15/09/18	15/12/25	
DID#89907906	CutePHP.com		15/09/18	15/12/25	
DID#11985852	CutePHP.com		15/09/18	15/12/25	
DID#99539461	Medieval Software		15/09/18	15/12/25	
DID#90189163	yamagoya		15/09/18	15/12/25	

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### Stats: private reports and OSS



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#### Stats: # of advisories published



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#### What was expected to be achieved?

- Coordination between researchers and vendors through 3<sup>rd</sup> party organization
  - -to avoid anonymous full-disclosure
  - —researcher can tell someone responsible about what they found
  - -'responsible' actions taken by the vendor
  - -study of root cause
- Standardization of vendor's response to vulnerability —handling
  - -disclosure



### What has been achieved?

Coordination between researchers and vendors through 3<sup>rd</sup> party organization

#### -to avoid anonymous full-disclosure

#### yes: full-disclosure in Japanese rarely seen

- -researcher can tell someone responsible about what they found
  - yes: even the low hanging fruit is handled with care
  - yes: researcher can stay anonymous to vendors
  - Is the framework becoming an impediment to the communication between vendor and researcher??
- -'responsible' actions taken by the vendor
  - yes: to some extent. but depends on who you're talking about

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- -new comers are always immature
- -study of root cause
  - not sure... same mistakes are repeated

### What has been achieved?

Standardization of vendor's response to vulnerability —Probably not: vulnerability disclosure guideline was published in 2009

#### but only adopted by major vendors

http://www.jpcert.or.jp/english/vh/2009/vuln\_announce\_manual\_en2009.pdf

- —no: "hiding" fixes
  - 'update module' not 'security fix'
  - 'security enhancement' not 'vulnerability'
  - No advisories
  - Etc.

#### Protecting researcher

- Yes: JPCERT is a trusted entity (for the most part)
- Vendors don't threaten us as much (still receive threats sometimes)

Vulnerability Disclosure Guideline for Software Developers

Excerpt of Information Security Early Warning Partnership Guideline Appendix 5

#### Contents 1. Introduction



5. References

#### July, 2009

INFORMATION-TECHNOLOGY PROMOTION AGENCY, JAPAN JAPAN COMPUTER EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM COORDINATION CENTER JAPAN ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION COMPUTER SOFTWARE ASSOCIATION TO JAPAN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION JAPAN NETWORK SECURITY ASSOCIATION

#### **Lessons learned**

While a lot of vendors are responsive, there are still many vendors are not responsive to vulnerability reports

-No contact information

—Will not respond to coordination center, etc.

Some vendors do not want to publish

—Publicity

-Negative image, etc.

Handling large quantity of cases 'hides' critical or highimpact cases

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—Currently "need" to handle each case equally

—A case is a case

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#### **Lessons learned**

- Reports on old versions tend to not get responses or "put off to the side"
  - -Easy to understand support policies would make this easier
  - —Should we be asking reporters to test against the most recent version?
  - —Should we be asking vendors to fix every version of the product?
  - Widely used third party libraries require lots of coordination (OpenSSL, Apache Struts, etc.)
    - -Topic of various discussions
    - -Vulnerability Coordination SIG
    - -Try not to focus on this today

## **Issues / Limitations of current framework**

- System Integrators (S) are out of the scope of the information sharing framework
- Framework designed to coordinate with "product developers"





#### Not all bad

In the last 10+ years, lots of vendors have become receptive to vulnerability handling

- —Unfortunately, there are a lot left
- —What can we do to reach out?
- Creation of platforms for coordination
  - -HackerOne
  - -BugCrowd
  - —Etc.
- Still receiving lots of reports
  - —Lots of low impact reports (more on this later)
- Various community efforts discussing multi-party vulnerability coordination



### Not all bad

- More and more organizations are making policies related to vulnerabilities public
  - -Point of Contact or Group for this information
  - —What is a vulnerability?
  - -How its handled
  - -Severity Rankings (and priority)

  - —(What constitutes a bug for a bug bounty)

—Etc.



# **Thinking out loud**

How JPCERT should respond to vendors ...

- -who won't disclose vulnerability information to its users
- -who won't disclose advisory properly
- -who tries every way to avoid public disclosure

What statistic information would be valuable?

To convince organizations that disclosing vulnerabilities is NOT a bad thing

Share the (emerging) pattern of vulnerability among multiple developers ---- secure coding / development

-vulnerability of android apps

SSL/TLS certificate validation

path traversal in Zip file handling

 Find way to convey common issues in related products before we receive reports on individual products

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# **Thinking out loud**

- While the framework still serves its purpose, it needs to get "with the times"
  - —JPCERT/CC should become more of a facilitator in distributing vulnerability information as opposed to a 'dedicated' coordinator (coordinate as necessary)
    - Allow reporter to directly interface with developer (assist with language barrier as necessary)
    - JPCERT/CC can help guide coordination for any reporters or vendors that are new to the process

# **Thinking out loud**

- While the framework still serves its purpose, it needs to get "with the times" (cont.)
  - —Does coordinating reports on CMSs or PHP apps, old CGIs that have extremely small user bases help the community?
    - We need a metric besides "cases handled" or "JVN publications" to better represent the work that we do
  - —While the framework requires a patch/update prior to publishing, should open-source products be subject to this same requirement?

do they NEED to address vulnerabilities?

- —Vendors fix the software, system integrators apply the fixes…
  - Adjusting the embargo period for products that are widely used in other products



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▶ お問い合わせ ▶ サイトマップ ▶ English

	2009年4月 Microsoft セキュリティ情報 (緊急 5件含) に関する注意喚起					
	Ally youu lucas::					
For inquiri						
FULINGUIN	FOR INQUIRES ON JVIN.					
ivn@ivn in	Movable Type Enterprise におけるクロスサイトスクリプティングの 施動性					
	2009-06-1914:32 Serane Bach におけるセッション ID が推測可能な脆弱性					
For vulner						
vuis@jpce						
For only of						
For any other vulnerability related inquires						

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