



CODESYS

Advisory 2019-07

Security update for CODESYS Control V3 OPC UA Server

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1 Affected Products

All CODESYS Control V3 runtime systems prior version V3.5.15.0 containing the CODESYS OPC UA Server supporting OPC UA Security are affected, regardless of the CPU type or operating system. OPC UA Security was initially released with version V3.5.11.0 of the CODESYS Control V3 runtime system.

- CODESYS Control for BeagleBone
- CODESYS Control for emPC-A/iMX6
- CODESYS Control for IOT2000
- CODESYS Control for Linux
- CODESYS Control for PFC100
- CODESYS Control for PFC200
- CODESYS Control for Raspberry Pi
- CODESYS Control RTE V3
- CODESYS Control RTE V3 (for Beckhoff CX)
- CODESYS Control Win V3 (also part of the CODESYS Development System setup)
- CODESYS Control V3 Runtime System Toolkit

2 Vulnerability overview

2.1 Type

Null pointer dereference, remote DoS

2.2 Management Summary

CODESYS Control runtime system may run into a null pointer dereference and end up in a denial-of-service condition, if it receives specific crafted requests from a trusted OPC UA client.

2.3 References

CVE: CVE-2019-13542 [6]

ICS-CERT: ICSA-19-255-04 [8]

CODESYS JIRA: CDS-65080

2.4 Severity Rating

3S-Smart Software Solutions GmbH has rated this vulnerability as medium.

The CVSS v3.0 base score of 6.5 has been assigned. The CVSS vector string is (CVSS:3.0/AV:N/AC:L/PR:L/UI:N/S:U/C:N/I:N/A:H). [7]

3 Vulnerability details

3.1 Detailed Description

The CODESYS OPC UA Server is an optional part of the CODESYS runtime system. The CODESYS OPC UA Server is used to exchange data between the runtime system and OPC UA clients like SCADA or HMIs. If an affected CODESYS Control runtime system receives specific crafted requests from a trusted OPC UA client - means server trusts the client certificate - it may run into a null pointer dereference and end up in a denial-of-service condition.

3.2 Exploitability

This vulnerability could be exploited remotely.

3.3 Difficulty

An attacker with low skills would be able to exploit this vulnerability.

3.4 Existence of exploit

No known public exploits specifically target this vulnerability.

4 Available software updates

3S-Smart Software Solutions GmbH has released version V3.5.15.0 to solve the noted vulnerability issue for all affected CODESYS products.

Please visit the CODESYS update area for more information on how to obtain the software update [3].

5 Mitigation

3S-Smart Software Solutions GmbH recommends using the available software update to fix the vulnerability.

Currently, 3S-Smart Software Solutions GmbH has not identified any specific workarounds for this vulnerability, in case the software update is not applied. However, if a trusted client exploits the vulnerability, it is sufficient to remove the client certificate from the OPC UA server's certificate trust store to thwart the attack.

As part of a security strategy, 3S-Smart Software Solutions GmbH recommends the following general defense measures to reduce the risk of exploits:

- Use controllers and devices only in a protected environment to minimize network exposure and ensure that they are not accessible from outside
- Use firewalls to protect and separate the control system network from other networks
- Use VPN (Virtual Private Networks) tunnels if remote access is required
- Activate and apply user management and password features
- Limit the access to both development and control system by physical means, operating system features, etc.
- Protect both development and control system by using up to date virus detecting solutions

For more information and general recommendations for protecting machines and plants, see also the CODESYS Security Whitepaper [1].

6 Acknowledgments

3S-Smart Software Solutions GmbH thanks those in the security community, who help us to improve our products and to protect customers and users through coordinated vulnerability disclosure.

This vulnerability was reported internally by the CODESYS Security Team.

7 Further Information

For additional information regarding the CODESYS products, especially the above-mentioned versions, or about the described vulnerability please contact the 3S-Smart Software Solutions support team [5].

8 Disclaimer

3S-Smart Software Solutions GmbH assumes no liability whatsoever for indirect, collateral, accidental or consequential losses that occur by the distribution and/or use of this document or any losses in connection with the distribution and/or use of this document. All information published in this document is provided on good faith by 3S-Smart Software Solutions GmbH. Insofar as permissible by law, however, none of this information shall establish any guarantee, commitment or liability on the part of 3S-Smart Software Solutions GmbH.

Note: Not all CODESYS features are available in all territories. For more information on geographic restrictions, please contact sales@codesys.com.

Bibliography

- [1] 3S-Smart Software Solutions GmbH: [CODESYS Security Whitepaper](#)
- [2] 3S-Smart Software Solutions GmbH: [Coordinated Disclosure Policy](#)
- [3] 3S-Smart Software Solutions GmbH CODESYS update area: <https://www.codesys.com/download>
- [4] 3S-Smart Software Solutions GmbH security information page: <https://www.codesys.com/security>
- [5] 3S-Smart Software Solutions GmbH support contact site: <https://www.codesys.com/support>
- [6] Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVE): <https://cve.mitre.org>
- [7] CVSS Calculator: <https://www.first.org/cvss/calculator/3.0>
- [8] ICS-CERT: <https://ics-cert.us-cert.gov>

The latest version of this document can be found here:

https://customers.codesys.com/fileadmin/data/customers/security/2019/Advisory2019-07_CDS-65080.pdf

Change History

Version	Description	Date
1.0	First version	22.07.2019
2.0	Software update available	29.07.2019
3.0	CVE and public reference added	18.12.2019