

AlphaSOC API

Security assessment by HashEye · prepared for AlphaSOC, Inc

HASHEYE AUDITED

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AlphaSOC API Security Assessment November 1, 2022 Prepared for: Chris McNab AlphaSOC, Inc. Prepared by: Artur Cygan

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Executive Summary Engagement Overview AlphaSOC, Inc. engaged HashEye to review the security of its API, specifically the clap and ae (Analytics Engine) components. From September 26 to September 30, 2022, one consultant conducted a security review of the client-provided source code, with one person-week of effort. Details of the project's timeline, test targets, and coverage are provided in subsequent sections of this report. Project Scope Our testing efforts were focused on the identification of flaws that could result in a compromise of confidentiality, integrity, or availability of the target system. We conducted this audit with full knowledge of the system, including access to the source code and documentation. We performed static and dynamic testing of the target system and its codebase, using both automated and manual processes. Summary of Findings The audit did not uncover any significant flaws or defects that could impact system confidentiality, integrity, or availability. A summary of the findings is provided below. EXPOSURE ANALYSIS Severity Count High 0 Medium 0 Low 1 Informational 6 Undetermined 0 CATEGORY BREAKDOWN

Project Summary Contact Information The following managers were associated with this project: Dan Guido, Account ManagerMary O'Brien, Project Manager dan@hashey.io, mary.obrien@hashey.io The following engineer was associated with this project: Artur Cygan, Consultant artur.cygan@hashey.io
Project Timeline The significant events and milestones of the project are listed below.
DateEvent
September 21, 2022Pre-project kickoff call
October 4, 2022Delivery of report draft and reportreadout meeting
November 1, 2022Delivery of final report HashEye 5AlphaSOC API Security Assessment PUBLIC

Project Goals The engagement was scoped to provide a security assessment of the AlphaSOC API. Specifically, we sought to answer the following non-exhaustive list of questions: • Is the authentication mechanism implemented properly? • Are keys and secrets managed securely? • Does the API expose any sensitive data? • Is any data at risk of corruption? • Are errors handled correctly? HashEye 6AlphaSOC API Security Assessment PUBLIC

Project Targets The engagement involved a review and testing of the targets listed below.
clap Repository<https://github.com/alphasoc/clap> Version 222c13e7157c44fd49ebd3ee5843e701aea263e9 TypeGo PlatformNative
ae Repository<https://github.com/alphasoc/ae> Version fc6fcc59774397ab664a6733664865b2bdce974e TypeGo PlatformNative HashEye 7AlphaSOC API Security Assessment PUBLIC

Project Coverage This section provides an overview of the analysis coverage of the review, as determined by our high-level engagement goals. Our approaches included the following: • A manual review of the clap and ae Go code • Automated analysis of the Go code with the gosec, ineffassign, and errcheck tools and triaging of the findings
Coverage Limitations Because of the time-boxed nature of testing work, it is common to encounter coverage limitations. The following list outlines the coverage limitations of the engagement and indicates system elements that may warrant further review: • Our review of the ae codebase focused on the executionof static analysis tools; our manual review of the codebase was a best-effort one. • The more complex handler logic in the clap code willrequire further review. HashEye 8AlphaSOC API Security Assessment PUBLIC

Codebase Maturity Evaluation HashEye uses a traffic-light protocol to provide each client with a clear understanding of the areas in which its codebase is mature, immature, or underdeveloped. Deficiencies identified here often stem from root causes within the software development life cycle that should be addressed through standardization measures (e.g., the use of common libraries, functions, or frameworks) or training and awareness programs.
CategorySummaryResult ArithmeticThe code performs relatively few arithmetic operations, none of which contain any issues. **Strong Auditing**The system contains a logging mechanism; however, errors returned by certain logging functions are not checked. **Satisfactory Authentication / Access Controls** The authentication mechanism is implemented correctly but will become more difficult to maintain as the number of handlers in the architecture increases. We also identified an unused insecure authentication mechanism in the code. **Satisfactory Complexity Management** The clap architecture, developed in house, does notuse a framework, which makes complexity management and the use of good code separation patterns more difficult. The lack of a framework can also lead to issues like that inTOB-ASOC-4, which concerns the use of a confusing authentication layer. Additionally, the handlers validate request data in an ad-hoc manner, and the architecture lacks a clear validation layer. **Moderate Cryptography and Key Management** The system uses a strong random number generator and a secure hashing function to generate keys. The keys, however, are at risk of being exposed for longer than is necessary, as detailed inTOB-ASOC-1. We also identified a low-risk use of an unsafe MD5 hash function (TOB-ASOC-5). **Moderate** HashEye 9AlphaSOC API Security Assessment PUBLIC

Data HandlingWe did not identify any serious data validation issues. However, we found that the clap handlers validate request data in an ad-hoc manner, which could lead to mistakes as the system is further developed. **Moderate Documentation**The main documentation is the public API documentation. The code does not ship with any developer documentation, and there are no README files in the repositories; nor are there any instructions on how to build and run the code. Additionally, the code comments are sparse and incomplete. **Moderate Maintenance**The lack of a README explaining how to maintain and deploy the code increases the difficulty of mitigating any emergencies. **Moderate Memory Safety and Error Handling** The system generally adheres to Go error-handling conventions. However, we identified unnecessary uses of panics to handle user-triggerable errors. Moreover, the errors returned by a number of functions are not handled. **Moderate Testing and Verification** Most of the modules contain a few unit tests; however, some of the modules have no testing whatsoever. **Moderate** HashEye 10AlphaSOC API Security Assessment PUBLIC

Summary of Findings The table below summarizes the findings of the review, including type and severity details. IDTitleTypeSeverity 1API keys are leaked outside of the application server Data

Exposure:Low 2Unused insecure authentication mechanismData Exposure:Informational 3Use of panics to handle user-triggerable errorsError Reporting:Informational 4Confusing API authentication mechanismAuthentication:Informational 5Use of MD5 can lead to filename collisionsCryptography:Informational 6Overly broad file permissionsAccess Controls:Informational 7Unhandled errorsError Reporting:Informational HashEye 11AlphaSOC API Security Assessment PUBLIC

Detailed Findings 1. API keys are leaked outside of the application server
Severity:LowDifficulty:High Type: Data ExposureFinding ID: TOB-ASOC-1 Target: clap/internal/dbstore/customer.go Description API key verification is handled by the AuthKey function (figure 1.1). This function uses the auth method, which passes the plaintext value of akey to the database (as part of the database query), as shown in figure 1.2.
func(s*CustomerStore)AuthKey(ctxcontext.Context, keystring)(*clap.User,error) {
internalUser,err:=s.authInternalKey(ctx,key) iferr==store.ErrInvalidAPIKey{
returns.auth(ctx,"auth_api_key",key) }elseiferr!=nil{ returnnil,err } returninternalUser,nil }
Figure 1.1: The call to the auth method (clap/internal/dbstore/customer.go#L73-L82)
func(s*CustomerStore)auth(ctxcontext.Context, funNamestring, valueinterface{}) (*clap.User,error){
user:=&clap.User{ Type:clap.UserTypeCustomer, } err:=s.db.QueryRowContext(ctx,fmt.Sprintf(` SELECT
ws.sid, ws.workspace_id, ws.credential_id FROM console_clap.%s(\$1) AS ws LEFT JOIN
api.disabled_user AS du ON du.user_id = ws.sid WHERE du.user_id IS NULL LIMIT 1
`,pg.QuoteIdentifier(funName)),value).Scan(&user.ID,&user.WorkspaceID, &user.CredentialID) ... }
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Figure 1.2: The database query, with an embedded plaintext key (clap/internal/dbstore/customer.go#L117-L141) Moreover, keys are generated in the database (figure 1.3) rather than in the Go code and are then sent back to the API, which increases their exposure.
gk:=&store.GeneratedKey{ err=tx.QueryRowContext(ctx, ` SELECT sid,keyFROM
console_clap.key_request() `).Scan(&gk.CustomerID,&gk.Key) Figure 1.3:
clap/internal/dbstore/customer.go#L50-L53 Exploit Scenario An attacker gains access to connection traffic between the application server and the database, steals the API keys being transmitted, and uses them to impersonate their owners. Recommendations Short term, have the API hash keys before sending them to the database, and generate API keys in the Go code. This will reduce the keys' exposure. Long term, document the trust boundaries traversed by sensitive data. HashEye 13AlphaSOC API Security Assessment PUBLIC

2. Unused insecure authentication mechanism Severity:InformationalDifficulty:High Type: Data ExposureFinding ID: TOB-ASOC-2 Target: clap Description The clap code contains an unused insecure authentication mechanism, the FixedKeyAuther strategy, that stores configured plaintextkeys (figure 2.1) and verifies them through a non-constant-time comparison (figure 2.2). The use of this comparison creates a timing attack risk. /* if cfg.Server.SickMode { if cfg.Server.ApiKey == "" { log15.Crit("In sick mode, api key variable must be set in config") os.Exit(1) } auther = FixedKeyAuther{ ID: -1, Key: cfg.Server.ApiKey, } } else*/ Figure 2.1: clap/server/server.go#L57-L67 typeFixedKeyAutherstruct{ Keystring IDint64 }
func(aFixedKeyAuther)AuthKey(ctxcontext.Context, keystring)(*clap.User,error) {
ifkey!="&&key=a.Key{ return&clap.User{ID:a.ID},nil } returnnil,nil } Figure 2.2:
clap/server/auth.go#L19-L29 HashEye 14AlphaSOC API Security Assessment PUBLIC

Exploit Scenario The FixedKeyAuther strategy is enabled. This increases the risk of a key leak, since the authentication mechanism is vulnerable to timing attacks and stores plaintext API keys in memory. Recommendations Short term, to prevent API key exposure, either remove the FixedKeyAuther strategy or change it so that it uses a hash of the API key. Long term, avoid leaving commented-out or unused code in the codebase. HashEye 15AlphaSOC API Security Assessment PUBLIC

3. Use of panics to handle user-triggerable errors Severity:InformationalDifficulty:Low Type: Error ReportingFinding ID: TOB-ASOC-3 Target: clap/lib/clap/request.go Description The clap HTTP handler mechanism uses panic to handle errors that can be triggered by users (figures 3.1 and 3.2). Handling these unusual cases of panics requires the mechanism to filter out errors of the RequestError type (figure 3.3). The use of panics to handle expected errors alters the panic semantics, deviates from callers' expectations, and makes reasoning about the code and its error handling more difficult.
func(r*Request)MustUnmarshal(vinterface{}){ ... err:=json.NewDecoder(body).Decode(v) iferr!=nil{ panic(BadRequest("Failed to parse request body","jsonErr",err)) } } Figure 3.1:
clap/lib/clap/request.go#L31-L42 // MustBeAuthenticated returns user ID if request authenticated, // otherwise panics. func(r*Request)MustBeAuthenticated()User{ user,err:=r.User() iferr==nil&&user==nil{ err=errors.New("user is nil") }elseif!user.Valid(){ err=errors.New("user id is zero") } iferr!=nil{ panic(Error("not authenticated: "+err.Error())) } return*user } Figure 3.2:
clap/lib/clap/request.go#L134-L147 deferfunc(){ ife:=recover();e!=nil{ iferr,ok:=e.(*RequestError);ok{ onError(w,r,err) HashEye 16AlphaSOC API Security Assessment PUBLIC

}else{ panic(e) } } }() Figure 3.3: clap/lib/clap/handler.go#L93-L101 Recommendations Short term, change the code in figures 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3 so that it adheres to the conventions of handling expected errors in Go. This will simplify the error-handling functionality and the process of reasoning about the code. Reserving panics for unexpected situations or bugs in the code will also help surface incorrect assumptions. Long term, use panics only to handle unexpected errors. HashEye 17AlphaSOC API Security Assessment PUBLIC

4. Confusing API authentication mechanism Severity:InformationalDifficulty:High Type: AuthenticationFinding ID: TOB-ASOC-4 Target: clap Description The clap HTTP endpoint handler code appears to indicate that the handlers perform manual endpoint authentication. This is because when a handler receives a clap.Request, it calls the MustBeAuthenticated method (figure 4.1). The name of this method could imply that it is called to authenticate the endpoint. However, MustBeAuthenticated returns information on the (already authenticated) user who submitted the request; authentication is actually performed by default by a centralized mechanism before the call to a handler. Thus, the use of this method could cause confusion regarding the timing of authentication. func(h*AlertsHandler)handleGet(r*clap.Request)interface{}{ // Parse arguments q:=r.URL.Query() var minSeverity uint64 if ms:=q.Get("minSeverity"); ms!=""{ var err error minSeverity, err = strconv.ParseUint(ms, 10, 8) if err != nil || minSeverity > 5{ return clap.BadRequest("Invalid minSeverity parameter") } } if h.MinSeverity > minSeverity{ minSeverity = h.MinSeverity } filterEventType := q.Get("eventType") user := r.MustBeAuthenticated() ... } Figure 4.1: clap/apiv1/alerts.go#L363-L379 Recommendations Short term, add a ServeAuthenticatedAPI interface method that takes an additional user parameter indicating that the handler is already in the authenticated context. HashEye 18AlphaSOC API Security Assessment PUBLIC

Long term, document the authentication system to make it easier for new team members and auditors to understand and to facilitate their onboarding. HashEye 19AlphaSOC API Security Assessment PUBLIC

5. Use of MD5 can lead to filename collisions Severity:InformationalDifficulty:High Type: CryptographyFinding ID: TOB-ASOC-5 Target: ae Description When generating a filename, the deriveQueueFile function uses an unsafe MD5 hash function to hash the destinationID that is included in the filename (figure 5.1). func deriveQueueFile(outputType, destinationID string) string{ return fmt.Sprintf("%s-%x.bdb", outputType, md5.Sum([]byte(destinationID))) } Figure 5.1: ae/config/config.go#L284-L286 Exploit Scenario An attacker with control of a destinationID value modifies the value, with the goal of causing a hash collision. The hash computed by md5.Sum collides with that of an existing filename. As a result, the existing file is overwritten. Recommendations Short term, replace the MD5 function with a safer alternative such as SHA-2. Long term, avoid using the MD5 function unless it is necessary for interfacing with a legacy system in a non-security-related context. HashEye 20AlphaSOC API Security Assessment PUBLIC

6. Overly broad file permissions Severity:InformationalDifficulty:High Type: Access ControlsFinding ID: TOB-ASOC-6 Target: ae Description In several parts of the ae code, files are created with overly broad permissions that allow them to be read by anyone in the system. This occurs in the following code paths: • ae/tools/copy.go#L50 • ae/bqimport/import.go#L291 • ae/tools/migrate.go#L127 • ae/tools/migrate.go#L223 • ae/tools/migrate.go#L197 • ae/tools/copy.go#L16 • ae/main.go#L319 Recommendations Short term, change the file permissions, limiting them to only those that are necessary. Long term, always consider the principle of least privilege when making decisions about file permissions. HashEye 21AlphaSOC API Security Assessment PUBLIC

7. Unhandled errors Severity:InformationalDifficulty:High Type: Error ReportingFinding ID: TOB-ASOC-7 Target: ae and clap Description The gosec tool identified many unhandled errors in the ae and clap codebases. Recommendations Short term, run gosec on the ae and clap codebases, and address the unhandled errors. Even if an error is considered unimportant, it should still be handled and discarded, and the decision to discard it should be justified in a code comment. Long term, encourage the team to use gosec, and runit before any major release. HashEye 22AlphaSOC API Security Assessment PUBLIC

Summary of Recommendations The AlphaSOC API is a work in progress with multiple planned iterations. HashEye recommends that AlphaSOC, Inc. address the findings detailed in this report and take the following additional steps prior to deployment: • Update the authentication and validation layers in the clap architecture by introducing additional abstractions or improving the existing ones. This will make those layers more explicit, simplify the handler logic, and enable the handlers to work with users that have already been authenticated and request data that has already been validated. It will also make the code more modular and easier to test and understand. • Improve the unit testing coverage. Write tests covering success and failure cases for all business logic, and test the code for data validation issues. • Improve the documentation by adding a README.md file to the root of each repository. At a minimum, each file should contain instructions for building, running, and testing the code. Each one should also include a brief overview of the architecture

and the use of dependencies. • Explicitly handle all errors in the system, and periodically run a static analysis tool such as gocheck to check for any unhandled errors. HashEye 23AlphaSOC API Security Assessment PUBLIC

A. Vulnerability Categories The following tables describe the vulnerability categories, severity levels, and difficulty levels used in this document. Vulnerability Categories CategoryDescription Access ControlsInsufficient authorization or assessment of rights Auditing and LoggingInsufficient auditing of actions or logging of problems AuthenticationImproper identification of users ConfigurationMisconfigured servers, devices, or software components CryptographyA breach of system confidentiality or integrity Data ExposureExposure of sensitive information Data ValidationImproper reliance on the structure or values of data Denial of ServiceA system failure with an availability impact Error ReportingInsecure or insufficient reporting of error conditions PatchingUse of an outdated software package or library Session ManagementImproper identification of authenticated users TestingInsufficient test methodology or test coverage TimingRace conditions or other order-of-operations flaws Undefined BehaviorUndefined behavior triggered within the system HashEye 24AlphaSOC API Security Assessment PUBLIC

Severity Levels SeverityDescription InformationalThe issue does not pose an immediate risk but is relevant to security best practices. UndeterminedThe extent of the risk was not determined during this engagement. LowThe risk is small or is not one the client has indicated is important. MediumUser information is at risk; exploitation could pose reputational, legal, or moderate financial risks. HighThe flaw could affect numerous users and have serious reputational, legal, or financial implications. Difficulty Levels DifficultyDescription UndeterminedThe difficulty of exploitation was not determined during this engagement. LowThe flaw is well known; public tools for its exploitation exist or can be scripted. MediumAn attacker must write an exploit or will need in-depth knowledge of the system. HighAn attacker must have privileged access to the system, may need to know complex technical details, or must discover other weaknesses to exploit this issue. HashEye 25AlphaSOC API Security Assessment PUBLIC

B. Code Maturity Categories The following tables describe the code maturity categories and rating criteria used in this document. Code Maturity Categories CategoryDescription ArithmeticThe proper use of mathematical operations and semantics AuditingThe use of event auditing and logging to support monitoring Authentication / Access Controls The use of robust access controls to handle identification and authorization and to ensure safe interactions with the system Complexity Management The presence of clear structures designed to manage system complexity, including the separation of system logic into clearly defined functions ConfigurationThe configuration of system components in accordance with best practices Cryptography and Key Management The safe use of cryptographic primitives and functions, along with the presence of robust mechanisms for key generation and distribution Data HandlingThe safe handling of user inputs and data processed by the system DocumentationThe presence of comprehensive and readable codebase documentation MaintenanceThe timely maintenance of system components to mitigate risk Memory Safety and Error Handling The presence of memory safety and robust error-handling mechanisms Testing and Verification The presence of robust testing procedures (e.g., unit tests, integration tests, and verification methods) and sufficient test coverage HashEye 26AlphaSOC API Security Assessment PUBLIC

Rating Criteria RatingDescription StrongNo issues were found, and the system exceeds industry standards. SatisfactoryMinor issues were found, but the system is compliant with best practices. ModerateSome issues that may affect system safety were found. WeakMany issues that affect system safety were found. MissingA required component is missing, significantly affecting system safety. Not ApplicableThe category is not applicable to this review. Not ConsideredThe category was not considered in this review. Further Investigation Required Further investigation is required to reach a meaningful conclusion. HashEye 27AlphaSOC API Security Assessment PUBLIC

C. Non-Security-Related Findings The following findings are not associated with specific vulnerabilities. However, they enhance code readability and may prevent the introduction of vulnerabilities in the future. • The word "confirmer" in the filename clap/apiv1/geteve/sns/subscriptioncofirmer_test.go is misspelled. • There is commented-out code in lib/clap/handler.go#L73-L82 that should be either incorporated into the codebase or removed. HashEye 28AlphaSOC API Security Assessment PUBLIC