مجلس الأمن السيبراني
CYBER SECURITY COUNCIL
United Arab Emirates

Vulnerability in GNOME Yelp

Tracking #:432317050

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The UAE Cyber Security Council has observed a vulnerability in Yelp, the GNOME user help application pre-installed on Ubuntu and other GNOME-based Linux distributions, that could potentially be exploited for sensitive file disclosure and malicious code execution on affected systems.

TECHNICAL DETAILS:

Vulnerability Details:

- CVE-2025-3155
- CVSS Score 6.5 Medium
- A security vulnerability exists in Yelp, the GNOME help viewer application. The issue arises from improper handling of the ghelp:// URI scheme and the processing of .page files using XInclude and XSLT. This flaw allows attackers to read arbitrary files and execute malicious scripts on a victim's system.
- Exploitation involves crafting a malicious .page file that embeds sensitive file contents (e.g., /etc/passwd or SSH private keys) and injects scripts via SVG tags. The rendered HTML is processed by WebKitGtk, enabling script execution.
- Successful exploitation of this vulnerability can result in:
    - **Arbitrary File Disclosure**: Attackers can access sensitive files such as ~/.ssh/id_rsa, /etc/passwd, or other system files.
    - **Remote Code Execution (RCE)**: Malicious scripts injected into the HTML output can execute arbitrary code in the victim's browser or application environment.
- A proof-of-concept (PoC) exploit is available for CVE-2025-3155.

Affected Software:

- Yelp (GNOME User Help Application)

Affected Platform:

- Ubuntu Desktop (and other GNOME-based Linux distributions)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The UAE Cyber Security Council recommends applying the mitigation or workaround provided by Linux distributions.

Kindly circulate this information to your subsidiaries and partners as well as share with us any relevant information and findings.

The UAE Cyber Security Council extends its appreciation for the continued collaboration.

REFERENCES:

- https://nvd.nist.gov/vuln/detail/CVE-2025-3155