مجلس الأمن السيبراني

CYBER SECURITY COUNCIL

United Arab Emirates

Critical Vulnerability in Apache Tika PDF Parser

Tracking #:432317623

Date:21-08-2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The UAE Cyber Security Council has observed a critical XML External Entity (XXE) vulnerability in Apache Tika's PDF parser module that could be exploited to access sensitive data and compromise internal systems.

TECHNICAL DETAILS:

A critical vulnerability exists in the Apache Tika toolkit, a widely used library for detecting and extracting metadata and text from over a thousand file formats. The flaw, tracked as CVE-2025-54988, affects the PDF parser module (org.apache.tika:tika-parser-pdf-module) and could allow attackers to access sensitive data or pivot into internal networks via XML External Entity (XXE) injection.

Vulnerability Details:

- **Vulnerability ID**: CVE-2025-54988
- **Severity**: Critical
- **Component**: Apache Tika PDF Parser Module (org.apache.tika:tika-parser-pdf-module)
- **Type**: XML External Entity (XXE) Injection
- **Affected Versions**: 1.13 through 3.2.1
- **Fixed Version**: 3.2.2
- **Affected Packages** (via dependency):
  - tika-parsers-standard-modules
  - tika-parsers-standard-package
  - tika-app
  - tika-grpc
  - tika-server-standard
- Exploitations of this vulnerability can lead to:
  - Read sensitive files on the host system
  - Trigger server-side request forgery (SSRF)
  - Exfiltrate data to attacker-controlled servers

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The UAE Cyber Security Council recommends applying the latest security updates released by the vendor.

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://lists.apache.org/thread/8xn3rqy6kz5b3l1t83kcofkw0w4mmj1w