مجلس الأمن السيبراني
CYBER SECURITY COUNCIL
United Arab Emirates

Critical XXE Vulnerability in Apache Tika Components

Tracking #:432318103

Date:08-12-2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The UAE Cyber Security Council has observed a critical XML External Entity (XXE) vulnerability impacting multiple Apache Tika modules. Successful exploitation could allow unauthorized file access on the server and, in severe cases, lead to remote code execution.

TECHNICAL DETAILS:

A critical XML External Entity (XXE) injection vulnerability has been identified in multiple Apache Tika components. An attacker can exploit the flaw using a specially crafted XFA file embedded within a PDF, leading to potential disclosure of sensitive files, SSRF, or other arbitrary entity resolution abuses.

Vulnerability Details

- CVE-2025-66516
- **Severity:** Critical
- A critical XXE vulnerability exists in Apache Tika's PDF processing logic. When parsing a malicious PDF containing an XFA form, vulnerable Tika components may process external XML entities, exposing the system to arbitrary file access or network interaction initiated by the attacker.
- CVE-2025-66516 corresponds to the same underlying issue described in CVE-2025-54988, but expands the scope of affected artifacts.

Impact

Exploitation of this vulnerability may lead to:

- Arbitrary file disclosure from the server filesystem
- Exposure of sensitive data
- Potential remote code execution, depending on server configuration
- Full compromise of the application environment in certain cases

Affected Versions:

- Apache Tika core (org.apache.tika:tika-core) 1.13 through 3.2.1
- Apache Tika parsers (org.apache.tika:tika-parsers) 1.13 before 2.0.0
- Apache Tika PDF parser module (org.apache.tika:tika-parser-pdf-module) 2.0.0 through 3.2.1

Fixed Versions

- tika-core: 3.2.2 or later
- tika-parser-pdf-module: 3.2.2 or later
- tika-parsers: 2.0.0 or later

RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

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/s5x3k93nhbkqzztp1olxotoyjpdlps9k