



**State of Alaska Cyber Security &  
Critical Infrastructure  
Cyber Advisory**

**November 8, 2016**

*The following cyber advisory was issued by the State of Alaska and was intended for State government entities. The information may or may not be applicable to the general public and accordingly, the State does not warrant its use for any specific purposes.*

**ADVISORY NUMBER:**

SA2016-165

**DATE(S) ISSUED:**

11/08/2016

**SUBJECT:**

Multiple Vulnerabilities in Adobe Flash Player Could Allow for Arbitrary Code Execution (APSB16-37)

**OVERVIEW:**

Multiple vulnerabilities have been discovered in Adobe Flash Player, the most severe of which could allow for arbitrary code execution. Adobe Flash Player is a widely distributed multimedia and application player used to enhance the user experience when visiting web pages or reading email messages. Successful exploitation of the most severe of these vulnerabilities could allow an attacker to execute arbitrary code by luring a victim to visit a specially crafted malicious website. If the current user is logged on with administrative user rights, an attacker could take control of an affected system. Depending on the privileges associated with the user an attacker could install programs; view, change, or delete data; or create new accounts with full user rights. Failed attacks may cause a denial-of-service condition.

**THREAT INTELLIGENCE:**

There are no reports of these vulnerabilities being exploited in the wild.

**SYSTEMS AFFECTED:**

- Adobe Flash Player Desktop Runtime 23.0.0.205 and earlier
- Adobe Flash Player for Google Chrome 23.0.0.205 and earlier
- Adobe Flash Player for Microsoft Edge and Internet Explorer 11 23.0.0.205 and earlier
- Adobe Flash Player for Linux 11.2.202.643 and earlier

**RISK:**

**Government:**

- Large and medium government entities: **High**

- Small government entities: **Medium**
- Businesses:**
- Large and medium business entities: **High**
  - Small business entities: **Medium**
- Home users: Low**

**TECHNICAL SUMMARY:**

Adobe Flash Player is prone to multiple vulnerabilities which could allow an attacker to take control of the affected system.

- These updates resolve use-after-free vulnerabilities that could lead to code execution (CVE-2016-7857, CVE-2016-7858, CVE-2016-7859, CVE-2016-7862, CVE-2016-7863, CVE-2016-7864).
- These updates resolve type confusion vulnerabilities that could lead to code execution (CVE-2016-7860, CVE-2016-7861, CVE-2016-7865).

Successful exploitation of the most severe of these vulnerabilities could allow an attacker to execute arbitrary code by luring a victim to visit a specially crafted malicious website. If the current user is logged on with administrative user rights, an attacker could take control of an affected system. Depending on the privileges associated with the user an attacker could install programs; view, change, or delete data; or create new accounts with full user rights. Failed attacks may result in a denial-of-service condition.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

We recommend the following actions be taken:

- Install the updates provided by Adobe immediately after appropriate testing.
- Remind users not to visit websites or follow links provided by unknown or untrusted sources.
- Inform and educate users regarding the threats posed by hypertext links contained in emails or attachments especially from un-trusted sources.
- Run all software as a non-privileged user (one without administrative privileges) to diminish the effects of a successful attack.

**REFERENCES:**

**Adobe:**

<https://helpx.adobe.com/security/products/flash-player/apsb16-37.html>

**CVE:**

<http://www.cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2016-7857>  
<http://www.cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2016-7858>  
<http://www.cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2016-7859>  
<http://www.cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2016-7860>  
<http://www.cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2016-7861>  
<http://www.cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2016-7862>  
<http://www.cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2016-7863>  
<http://www.cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2016-7864>  
<http://www.cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2016-7865>