

# ProFTPD: Local privilege escalation

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Flaw in the ProFTPD `mod_ctrls` module in versions `<1.3.1_rc1` allows an attacker to execute arbitrary code with the privileges of the FTP Daemon if the module is enabled. Also, versions prior to 1.3.0a allows remote attackers to execute code.

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- 0.1. `mod_ctrls` module flaw in ProFTPD versions `<1.3.1_rc1`
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The load average on my insignificant personal firewall/server machine on my home ADSL line went through the roof a few days ago and a quick close-up inspection of it revealed that dozens of IPs from China and Taiwan were connecting to the FTP service. And the attempt kept on coming, and they still do.

Which is why I came up with these four lines,

```
ps uax|grep prof|grep -v grep|while read f;do
  i=`echo $f| cut -f 5 -d ":" |cut -f 1 -d "("`
  echo '$IPTABLES -A INPUT -i eth0 -s '$i' -j DROP'
done
```

...which prints out a nice list of currently connected users in a format which fits nicely in a firewall configuraion.

However, the obvious question is why? Why would they do this? Why attack some FTP? The answer much likely has something to do with this: It was ProFTPD version 1.2.10.

This version, and all versions previous to 1.3.0a, allows remote code

execution in ProFTPD, possibly when only read access is given (as in anonymous logins allows) and definitively when write access is granted. ([CVE-2006-5815](#))

The latest flaw, from February 13, 2007, is this:

## 0.1. mod\_ctrls module flaw in ProFTPD versions <1.3.1\_rc1

The flaw allows local users who have access to the mod\_ctrls module, used by FTP server admins to configure the daemon at runtime, to obtain root privileges. ([CVE-2006-6563](#))

The solution is to disable mod\_ctrls or ensure only trusted users can access this feature or better, to upgrade to a 1.3.1rc1 (Released 12-Dec-2006) or a later version.

If you are using a ProFTPD version prior to 1.3.0a then you should definitively upgrade. Having your FTP targeted by a huge botnet in China is very bad indeed.

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