



Security Conference 2022

# Coordinated Vulnerability Disclosure: the Perspective of a Telco Vendor

*Security in our DNA, Trust Through our Transparency*

Luca Bongiorno

05/Oct/2022



# Contents

- Disclosure Status
- ZTE's Approach on Vulnerability Response
- Case Study
- Conclusion

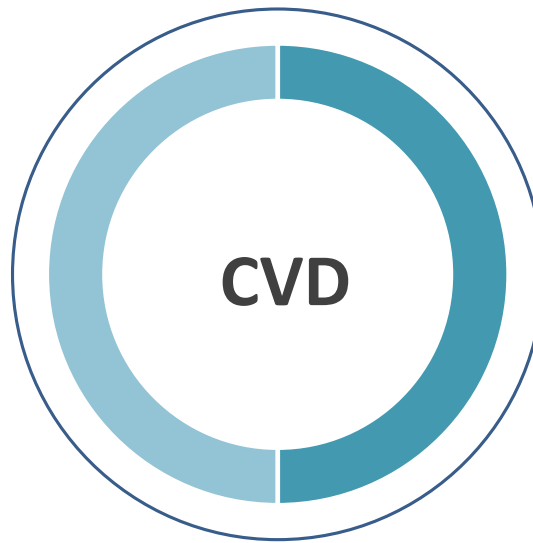
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# Vulnerability Disclosure: Global Overview



*Making a vulnerability fully public*



*Coordinated Vulnerability Disclosure*



*Selling or using a vulnerability yourself*

*\*Source: Coordinated Vulnerability Disclosure: The Guideline — NCSC*

# Telco's Vulnerability Disclosure Status



Most of Telco products are not accessible by a wider audience



Require mutual agreement on O&M between MNO & vendor



3rd party component management



Harsh time pressure for the end-to-end response process

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Receive Verify Disclosure Fix

Where to find ZTE's VDP:

ZTE

hackerone

YES WE H/CK

### Coordination



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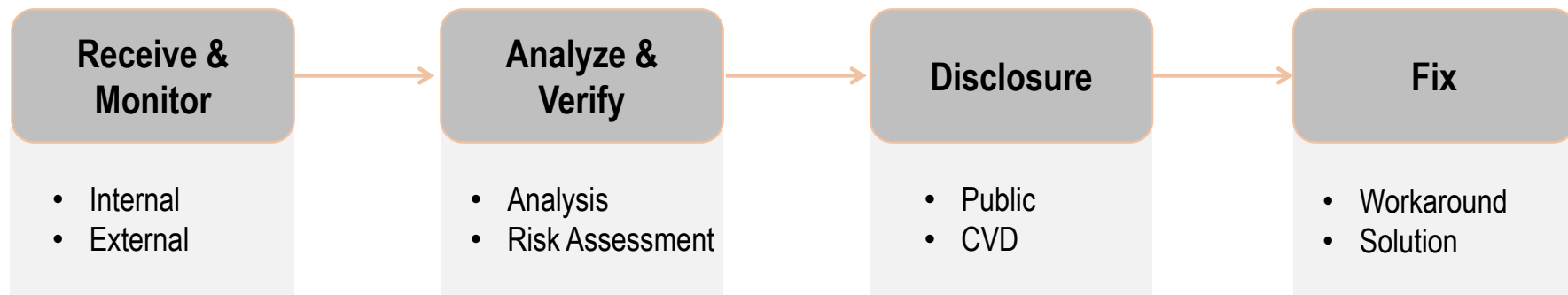
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YES WE H/CK

Coordination



## ZTE's Approach on Vulnerability Response



# How to Find Vulnerabilities



Internal

## Source code check



## Web security testing



## 3rd party component



## Fuzzing test



## Penetration testing



## System scanning



External



Reported by customers



Reported by components suppliers



Reported by white hat/CERT/other 3rd party



## Most Important 2 steps for Verifying Vulnerabilities



### Vulnerability Analysis

- Identify the vulnerability
- Reproduce the vulnerability and verify severity
- Locate the root cause



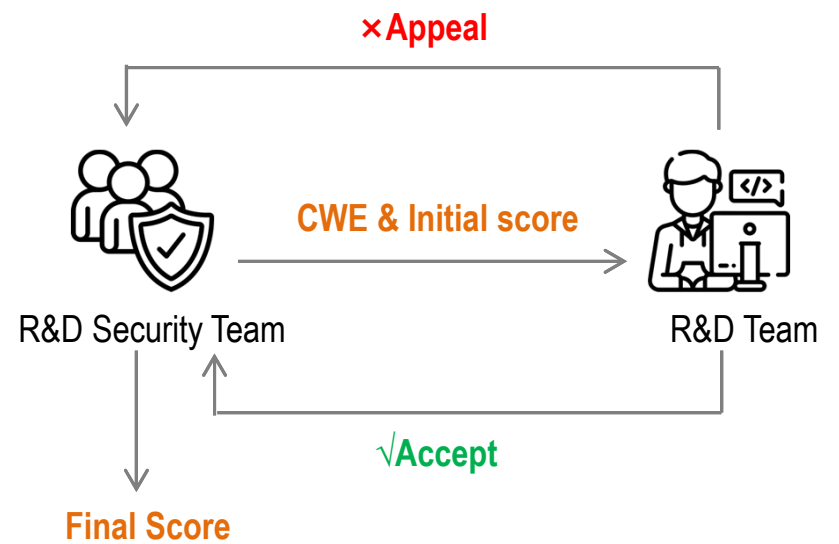
### Risk Assessment

- Prioritize the vulnerabilities
- Scope affected versions and products
- Convey the possible damage that the exploit might cause

# Severity Classification of Vulnerability

Severity of Known Vulnerability	
Level	Base Score Range (CVSS v3.0 Rating)
Critical	9.0 - 10.0
High	7.0 - 8.9
Medium	4.0 - 6.9
Low	0.1 - 3.9

## Severity of Newly Discovered Vulnerabilities



# Disclosure

## Coordinated Vulnerability Disclosure:

- **Customer-oriented: *\*Abide by the Law and Service-Level Agreement Always Come First***
  - **Critical/High:** ZTE's E&S teams communicate with customers at the earliest time according to the technical notice released by R&D.
  - **Medium/low/open issues:** ZTE's E&S teams regularly communicate with operators' branch offices to disclose the vulnerabilities and fixing progress.

## Public Disclosure:

- Public Security Bulletin:  
<https://support.zte.com.cn/support/news/NewsMain.aspx> including the following information:
  - Release date
  - CVE ID
  - Severity
  - Description
  - Affected products and version
  - Mitigation or solutions

*\*E&S: Engineering and Service, who provides operation & maintenance services.*

# Fix: Provide a Workaround and Solution

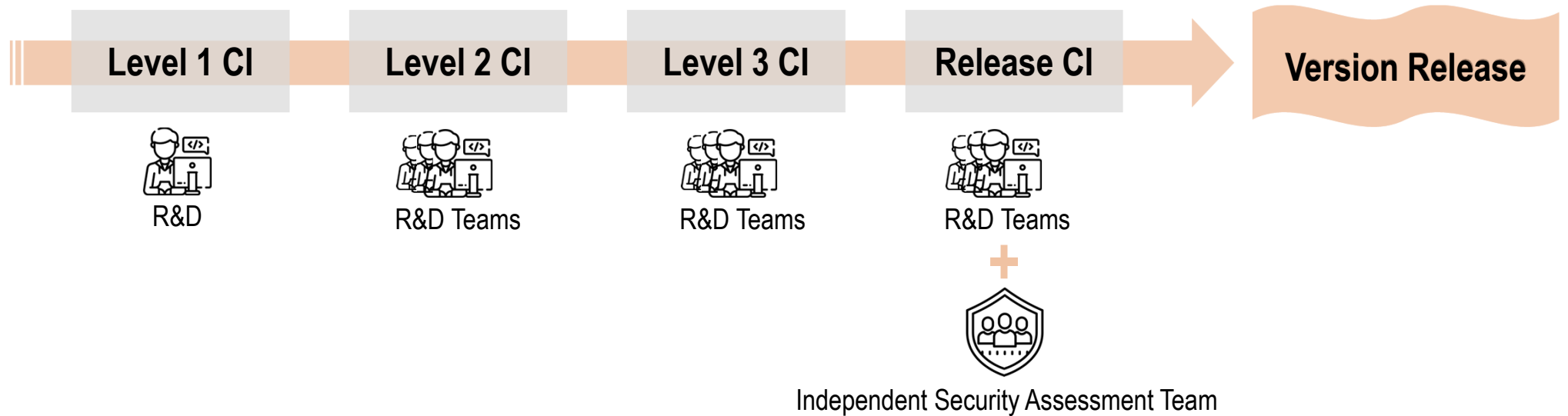
***\*Abide by the Law and Service-Level Agreement Always Come First***

## ZTE's Regulations

Incident Response Time	
Level	Mitigation Time
Critical	4 Hours
Major	24 Hours
Significant	2 Days
Minor	7 Days

Vulnerability Handling Time		
Level	Mitigation Time	Formal Solution
Critical <small>CVSS: 9-10</small>	7 Days	45 Days
High <small>CVSS: 7-8.9</small>	7 Days	45 Days
Medium <small>CVSS: 4-6.9</small>	-	90 Days
Low <small>CVSS: 0-3.9</small>	-	Abide by law & SLA

# Solutions are Integrated into New Version Release



\* CI: Continuous Integration

# Independent Security Assessment



## Value Added

*A transparency platform for global customers, regulators and other stakeholders to perform independent security assessment of ZTE products, services and processes*

## Function Verification



- Source code review
- Document review
- Penetration testing
- Knowledge transfer

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Verification



- Product security evaluation
- Process assessment
- Security maturity assessment
- Testing supervision

Belgium, Italy, Turkey, Germany\* @ Europe

Nanjing @ China

■ Cybersecurity Lab

■ Transparency Center

\* Cybersecurity Lab of Germany is under construction



## GSMA CVD Panel of Experts (PoE)

- ZTE: two experts in GSMA PoE group, working with Telecom's industry stakeholders
- Enables early notification of vulnerabilities
- Provides time to respond and remediate vulnerabilities before they become public
- Builds trust with security researchers and organisations
- Improves security awareness and readiness

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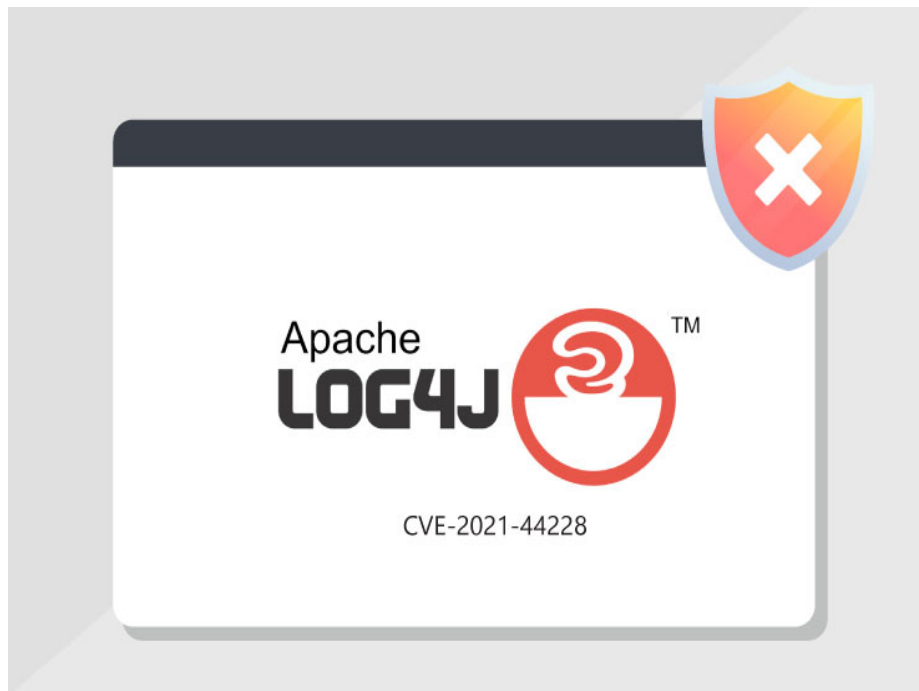
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# Apache Log4j Vulnerability



## Multiple Channels

2022.12.09 PSIRT/customers/suppliers started to report this issue.

## Quick Response

- **All product:** Check and analysis;
- **Affected products:** Provide solutions within specified time requirements;

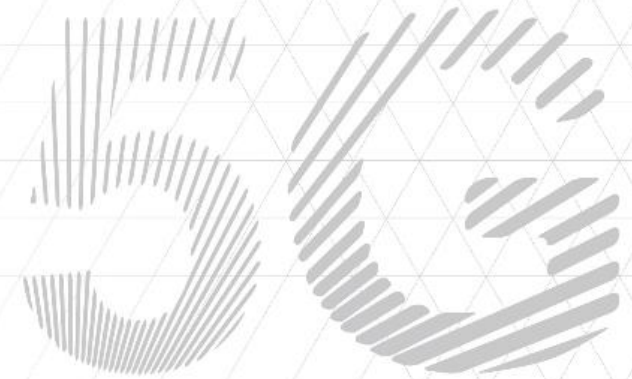
## Open and Transparent Disclosure

- **First notice:** Announce affected products on ZTE website;
- **Within 7 days:** R&D provided mitigation and released the notification;
- **Follow-up:** Fully solved issues in newer releases after communicating with customers.

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# Responsible, Timely, Coordinated and Transparent



# ZTE CVD Hackathon 2023

- 1st Cybersecurity CVD Hackathon of this kind!
- Open to Security Researchers, MNOs, Universities and Government Personnel!
- Access to 5G Telco targets!
- Pilot happening in 2023 in Rome!
- For more information contact us:

[CybersecurityLabEU@zte.com.cn](mailto:CybersecurityLabEU@zte.com.cn)



# Thank You!

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05/Oct/2022

