

# Micro Focus Data Center Automation Appliance

**Kernel Side-Channel Attacks - CVE-2017-5754 CVE-2017-5753  
CVE-2017-5715 (aka Meltdown and Spectre)**

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## Purpose

The purpose of this article is to discuss the issues related to speculative execution in modern-day processors as they apply to the Micro Focus Data Center Automation Appliance product. These issues are known industry-wide under the following CVE IDs: CVE-2017-5753, CVE-2017-5715, CVE-2017-5754 and under the code names Meltdown and Spectre.

## Introduction

Micro Focus Data Center Automation Appliance product uses the CentOS 6.9 Linux distribution as its Operating System. As such, the product is affected by the issues mentioned above.

## Mitigation

The mitigation falls into the category of Operating System Specific mitigations.

The mitigations takes the form of updating certain RPM packages as released by the Operating System vendor.

To update the RPM packages use the following command:

```
yum update kernel kernel-devel kernel-firmware kernel-headers
```

The RPM packages should be updated to at least the following versions (the Operating System vendor might release new versions with new mitigations as new information becomes available):

```
kernel-2.6.32-696.18.7.el6.x86_64  
kernel-devel-2.6.32-696.18.7.el6.x86_64  
kernel-firmware-2.6.32-696.18.7.el6.noarch  
kernel-headers-2.6.32-696.18.7.el6.x86_64
```

After the RPM packages have been updated, the Virtual Machine must be rebooted into the new kernel.

To verify that after reboot the new kernel is running use the following command (execution example):

```
[root@dcaa ~]# uname -r  
2.6.32-696.18.7.el6.x86_64
```

To be effective, together to the Operating System Specific mitigations, the Hypervisor Specific mitigations and Hypervisor Assisted Guest mitigations must be installed as instructed by the Vendor of the Hypervisor where the Appliance is running.

## Additional References

- <https://meltdownattack.com/>
- <https://googleprojectzero.blogspot.ca/2018/01/reading-privileged-memory-with-side.html>
- <https://access.redhat.com/security/vulnerabilities/speculativeexecution>
- <https://access.redhat.com/errata/RHSA-2018:0008>
- <https://lists.centos.org/pipermail/centos-announce/2018-January/022701.html>

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