

Microsoft Releases Fix for RoguePlanet Microsoft Malware Protection Engine Privilege Escalation Vulnerability

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TL;DR

Microsoft has released a security update for CVE-2026-50656 (CVSS 7.8), a Windows Defender local privilege escalation vulnerability that could allow an authenticated attacker to obtain SYSTEM privileges on affected Windows 10 and Windows 11 systems.

The vulnerability was previously disclosed with public proof-of-concept exploit code.

Overview

There is a high-severity vulnerability (CVE-2026-50656, CVSS 7.8) in the Microsoft Malware Protection Engine used by Microsoft Defender on Windows 10 and Windows 11 systems. The vulnerability is caused by improper link resolution before file access and may allow an authenticated attacker to elevate privileges to SYSTEM through a low-complexity attack.

Affected Products

- Microsoft Malware Protection Engine versions prior to 1.1.26060.3008
- Windows 10
- Windows 11

CVE-2026-50656 was publicly disclosed in June after proof-of-concept exploit code was released by the researcher known as Nightmare Eclipse. Microsoft addressed the vulnerability by releasing Microsoft Malware Protection Engine version 1.1.26060.3008.

Although Microsoft states the vulnerability is not currently being actively exploited, the company has assessed that exploitation is more likely because a public exploit is available. Systems configured to receive Defender engine updates automatically should receive the fix without additional action. Organizations that manage updates manually should confirm the updated engine has been installed across affected endpoints.

Aspire Protects

- **Patch** - Verify Microsoft Malware Protection Engine has been updated to version 1.1.26060.3008 or later.

- Ensure Microsoft Defender engine and security intelligence updates are configured to install automatically whenever possible.
- If automatic updates are disabled or managed internally, manually deploy the latest Microsoft Malware Protection Engine update.
- Review endpoint management tools to confirm all Windows 10 and Windows 11 systems have received the updated engine.

TTPs to Watch

Privilege Escalation

- Exploitation for Privilege Escalation (T1068) – An attacker may exploit the vulnerability to obtain SYSTEM privileges on a vulnerable Windows system.

Defense Evasion

- Abuse Elevation Control Mechanism (T1548) – Attackers may abuse elevated privileges obtained through successful exploitation to bypass security controls.

IoCs

There are no known IoCs at this time. Aspire is actively monitoring and will notify customers if any are found. For more details on how we can help protect your organization, contact Aspire's Customer Success Management team.

Targeted Industries

Organizations running Microsoft Defender on Windows 10 or Windows 11 systems may be affected, particularly enterprise environments that centrally manage endpoint protection.

- Education
- Energy
- Finance
- Healthcare
- Legal
- Manufacturing
- Public Sector
- Retail

Aspire Service Offerings

- **Aspire Managed XDR (MXDR)**
 - [Aspire Managed XDR \(MXDR\)](#) combines next-generation eXtended Detection and Response (XDR) technology, a 24x7 security operations

center (SOC), and the expertise of a US-based team of security professionals to identify and respond to threats across a broader attack surface.

- Building on the existing capabilities of Managed Detection and Response (MDR), Aspire Managed XDR integrates and correlates telemetry from endpoints, network, cloud, email, identity, and more. This advanced platform creates valuable context enabling end-to-end visibility across all threat vectors.
- Experienced security analysts and incident responders deliver 24x7 threat detection, analysis, and investigations – with both automated and human-led response actions to quickly mitigate cyber attacks.
- **Aspire Incident Response**
 - The ability to respond effectively to data breaches is critical to every organization. When attacks occur, IT leaders need a process that will ultimately maintain business continuity, protect the company reputation, and avoid fines, legal fees, and remediation costs.
 - Aspire offers [incident response services](#) to help you prepare for, manage, and recover from data breaches and network attacks. An experienced team uses industry-leading threat intelligence and the most current security technology to quickly respond to attacks, reduce damage, and minimize exposure.

Supporting Documentation

[CVE-2026-50656 - Security Update Guide - Microsoft - Microsoft Defender Elevation of Privilege Vulnerability](#)