

NCA-04.041224: NCERT Advisory – Apple Products Latest CVE Patch Updates Available

Introduction. Apple has released security patches to mitigate critical vulnerabilities (CVE-2023-42916 & CVE-2023-42917) affecting WebKit Browser Engine. CVE-2023-42916 & CVE-2023-42917 is being actively exploited by threat actors to access sensitive data and execution of arbitrary code through crafted webpages on unpatched devices.

2. **Affected Products.** Apple iPhone, iPad and iPod running iOS versions (16.7.3 or older) are affected with the above mentioned vulnerabilities and consequently patches / updated versions are available.

3. **Recommendations.** Above in view, all users are advised to ensure the following:

a. **Specific Safety Steps**

- (1) CVE-2023-42916 & CVE-2023-42917 have been patched in iOS version 17.2. therefore, all Apple users should immediately upgrade to iOS latest version (17.2 or above) from the official Apple Store.
- (2) Enable Lockdown Mode (optional; extreme protection mode) to block a cyber-attack.

b. **Generic Security Steps for Apple Users**

- (1) Protect devices with strong passcodes and use two factor authentication on Apple ID.
- (2) Install apps from official Apple Store only to avoid malware / infection.
- (3) Use anonymity-based solutions (over internet while surfing) and mask identity of key appointment holders / individuals.
- (4) Always disable location from Apple devices/
- (5) Subscribe to Apple's security bulletins, threat notifications and auto OS update features.

4. **References.** Latest Cyber Security Platforms including Bleeping Computer, Security Week, CSIRTs etc.