

16 July 2020  
300481631/pbsa56

## Security Advisory for PLCNEXT ENGINEER

### Advisory Title

Improper path sanitation on import of project files in PLCnext Engineer.

### Advisory ID

CVE-2020-12499  
VDE-2020-025

### Vulnerability Description

The build settings of a PLCnext Engineer project (.pcwex) can be manipulated in a way that can result in the execution of remote code.

The attacker needs to get access to a PLCnext Engineer project to be able to manipulate files inside. Additionally, the files of the remote code need to be transferred to a location which can be accessed by the PC that runs PLCnext Engineer. When PLCnext Engineer runs a build process of the manipulated project the remote code can be executed.

### Affected products

Article no	Article	Affected versions	Download
1046008	PLCnext Engineer	2020.3.1 and earlier	<a href="#">download</a>

### Impact

Availability, integrity, or confidentiality of an engineering workstation might be compromised by attacks using these vulnerabilities.

Personally liable partner:  
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### **Classification of Vulnerability**

Base Score: 8.2

Vector: CVSS:3.0/AV:L/AC:L/PR:L/UI:R/S:C/C:H/I:H/A:H

### **Temporary Fix / Mitigation**

We strongly recommend customers to exchange project files only using secure file exchange services. Project files should not be exchanged via unencrypted email. Users should avoid importing project files from unknown source and exchange or store project files together with a checksum to ensure their integrity.

### **Remediation**

Phoenix Contact strongly recommends updating to the latest version PLCnext Engineer 2020.6 or higher, which fixes this vulnerability.

### **Acknowledgement**

This vulnerability was discovered and reported by Amir Preminger of Claroty.

We kindly appreciate the coordinated disclosure of this vulnerability by the finder.