

# Python logic error when deal with re and muti-threading

## Bug Description

When use re and multi-threading it will trigger the bug.

Bug type: Logic Error

Test Enviroment:

- Windows 7 SP1 x64 + python 3.4.3
- Linux kali 3.14-kali1-amd64 + python 2.7.3

## Bug 0x00

When we deal with the pattern like the following

```
(.*(.)?)*bcd\\t\\n\\r\\f\\a\\e\\071\\x3b\\$\\\\\\\\?caxyz
```

the `regex.search()` will be hang up.

## POC for bug 0x00

```
#!/usr/bin/python

__author__ = 'bee13oy'

import re

source = "(.*(.)?)*bcd\\t\\n\\r\\f\\a\\e\\071\\x3b\\$\\\\\\\\?caxyz"

def run(source):

    print(source)

    regex = re.compile(r'+source+')

    sgroup = regex.search(source)

run(source)
```

## Bug 0x00 Analyze

the following code is where the program trapped into an **infinite loop**:

```
LOCAL(Py_ssize_t)
```

```

SRE(match)(SRE_STATE* state, SRE_CODE* pattern, int match_all)
{
    SRE_CHAR* end = (SRE_CHAR *)state->end;

    Py_ssize_t alloc_pos, ctx_pos = -1;

    Py_ssize_t i, ret = 0;

    Py_ssize_t jump;

    unsigned int sigcount=0;

    SRE(match_context)* ctx;

    SRE(match_context)* nextctx;

    TRACE(("!%p!%p!ENTER\n", pattern, state->ptr));

    DATA_ALLOC(SRE(match_context), ctx);

    ctx->last_ctx_pos = -1;

    ctx->jump = JUMP_NONE;

    ctx->pattern = pattern;

    ctx->match_all = match_all;

    ctx_pos = alloc_pos;

    .....

    /* Cycle code which will never return*/

    for (;;) {

        ++sigcount;

        if ((0 == (sigcount & 0xfff)) && PyErr_CheckSignals())

            RETURN_ERROR(SRE_ERROR_INTERRUPTED);

        switch (*ctx->pattern++) {

        case SRE_OP_MARK:

```

```

        /* set mark */

        /* <MARK> <gid> */

        TRACE(("!%p!%p!MARK %d\n", ctx->pattern,
                ctx->ptr, ctx->pattern[0]));

        .....
    }

```

## Bug 0x01

When we use Python multithreading, and use `join(timeout)` to wait until the **thread terminates** or **timed out**.

- when we create a **while cycle** in the sub thread like the following **testcase 1**. It can be exited normal with `join(timeout)`.
- when we write re code like the following **testcase 2**, It will never return and it will be hang up without any response.

**Attention:** If you want to test in testcase 1, please comment the code related re. If you want to test in testcase 2, please uncomment the `while()` cycle.

## POC for bug 0x01

```

#!/usr/bin/python

__author__ = 'bee13oy'

import re

import os

import threading

timeout = 2

source = "(.*(?:)?)*bcd\t\n\r\f\a\e\071\x3b\$\?\caxyz"

def run(source):

    #####

    # testcase 1 (Normal)

    # while(1):

```

```

#    print("test1")

#####

# testcase 2 (Bug:never return..)

print(source)

regexp = re.compile(r''+source+'')

sgroup = regexp.search(source)

def handle():

    try:

        t = threading.Thread(target=run,args=(source,))

        t.setDaemon(True)

        t.start()

        t.join(timeout)

        print("finished...\n")

    except:

        print("exception ...\n")

handle()

```

## Bug 0x01 Analyze

Bug 0x01 is based on Bug 0x00.

At first, it will run into the sub-thread, but it can't end normally. At this time, `join(timeout)` will wait for the sub-thread return or timed out, and try to call timed out function in order that main thread can get the control of the program.

The bug is that the sub-thread was into an infinite loop and the main-thread was into an infinite loop too, which causes the program to be hang up.

By analyzing the source code of Python, we found that:

- sub-thread is into an infinite loop
- main-thread is into an infinite loop

sub-thread trapped into an **infinite** loop is described in bug 0x00 Analyze.

the following code is where **main-thread** trapped into an **infinite** loop:

```
static void take_gil(PyThreadState *tstate)
{
    int err;

    if (tstate == NULL)
        Py_FatalError("take_gil: NULL tstate");

    err = errno;

    MUTEX_LOCK(gil_mutex);
    if (!_Py_atomic_load_relaxed(&gil_locked))
        goto _ready;

    /*Cycle code which will never return*/
    while (_Py_atomic_load_relaxed(&gil_locked)) {
        int timed_out = 0;

        unsigned long saved_switchnum;

        saved_switchnum = gil_switch_number;

        COND_TIMED_WAIT(gil_cond, gil_mutex, INTERVAL, timed_out);

        /* If we timed out and no switch occurred in the meantime, it is
time
        to ask the GIL-holding thread to drop it. */

        if (timed_out &&
            _Py_atomic_load_relaxed(&gil_locked) &&
            gil_switch_number == saved_switchnum) {
            SET_GIL_DROP_REQUEST();
        }
    }
}

.....
```

}