



Week 4: Reverse Engineering Part 1

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What is Reverse Engineering?

- Understanding how things work

In CTF:

- taking a compiled (machine code, bytecode) program and converting it back into a more human readable format.



Overview - Intro to x86 and x86-64

- ASM Basics
 - Registers
 - Instructions
 - Conditionals & Branching
 - Function calls & calling conventions
 - Syscalls
- Stack
- Workshop

ASM Basics - Syntax

- The examples show on the slides are in Intel syntax
- AT&T syntax differs in appearance
 - Direction of operands is opposite
 - Registers are prefixed with '%' and constants with '\$'
 - Memory operands are enclosed in parenthesis instead of brackets
 - Form for complex operations is more complicated
 - `[ebx + 20h] ⇒ 0x20(%ebx)`
 - Some instructions have suffixes (movb, movw, movl)

ASM Basics - General Registers

- Data Registers: RAX, RBX, RCX, RDX

| Register | Accumulator | | Counter | | Data | | Base | |
|----------|-------------|---------|---------|---------|------|---------|------|---------|
| 64-bit | RAX | | RCX | | RDX | | RBX | |
| 32-bit | | EAX | | ECX | | EDX | | EBX |
| 16-bit | | AX | | CX | | DX | | BX |
| 8-bit | | AH AL | | CH CL | | DH DL | | BH BL |

ASM Basics - General Registers

Pointer Registers: **EIP**, ESP, EBP

| Stack Pointer | | Stack Base Pointer | |
|---------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| RSP | | RBP | |
| | ESP | | EBP |
| | SP | | BP |
| | SPL | | BPL |



ASM Basics - Registers

| 64-bit register | Lower 32 bits | Lower 16 bits | Lower 8 bits |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| rax | eax | ax | al |
| rbx | ebx | bx | bl |
| rcx | ecx | cx | cl |
| rdx | edx | dx | dl |
| rsi | esi | si | sil |
| rdi | edi | di | dil |
| rbp | ebp | bp | bpl |
| rsp | esp | sp | spl |
| r8 | r8d | r8w | r8b |
| r9 | r9d | r9w | r9b |
| r10 | r10d | r10w | r10b |
| r11 | r11d | r11w | r11b |
| r12 | r12d | r12w | r12b |
| r13 | r13d | r13w | r13b |
| r14 | r14d | r14w | r14b |
| r15 | r15d | r15w | r15b |



ASM Basics - Segment Registers

- **.code (CS)** - the program code
- **.data (DS)** - global data
- **.stack (SS)** - local variables, function arguments, etc.
- Old method of accessing memory regions
- Modern operating systems use paging



ASM Basics - Paging

- Splits RAM into equal sized chunks (pages)
- Simplified explanation:
 - OS provides a page table that maps virtual memory to physical memory
 - Virtual memory is what program uses
 - Physical memory is actual location in RAM
 - OS handles switching between page tables

ASM Basics - Instructions

- Loaded in memory (in its own page or pages)
- Instruction Register (EIP/RIP) points to memory location of instruction to be executed next

Instruction Cycle

- fetch-decode-execute cycle
 - CPU fetches from memory address in instruction register
 - The encoded instruction is decoded
 - Required data is fetched from main memory and placed in registers
 - CPU performs the actions required by the instruction

ARM Basics - Data Types (Integer)

| Data type | Keyword | Bytes | C |
|-------------|-----------|-------|----------|
| byte | BYTE (b) | 1 | char |
| word | WORD (w) | 2 | short |
| double word | DWORD (l) | 4 | int |
| quad word | QWORD (q) | 8 | long int |

ASM Basics - Data movement

mov

- mov <reg1>, <reg2>
- mov <reg1>, <reg2>
- mov <reg1>, <mem>
- mov <mem>, <reg2>
- mov <reg1>, <const>
- mov <mem>, <const>

copies data from first operand to second operand

ASM Basics - Data Movement

push

- push <reg>
- push <mem>
- push <const>

places its operand onto the top of the stack

decrements ESP by 4 then places operand into the address in ESP

operand has to be 32 bit or 64 bit depending on architecture

ASM Basics - Data Movement

pop

- pop <reg>
- pop <mem>

removes top of the stack into operand

increments ESP by 4

operand has to be 32 bit or 64 bit depending on architecture

ASM Basics - Data Movement

lea

- lea <reg>, <mem>

places the address specified by second operand into first operand

lea edi, [ebx + 4*esi] - the value $\text{ebx} + 4 * \text{esi}$ is calculated and placed in edi

mov edi, [ebx + 4*esi] - the value in the address, $\text{ebx} + 4 * \text{esi}$, is placed in edi



ASM Basics - Arithmetic Instructions

- `add dest, src`
- `sub dest, src`
- `div divisor` → `eax` as dividend, `edx` as remainder
- `mul value` || `mul dest, value, value` || `mul dest, value`

ASM Basics - Logical Instructions

and, or, xor

- and <reg>, <reg>
- and <reg>, <mem>
- and <mem>, <reg>
- and <reg>, <const>
- and <mem>, <const>

Perform the operation on their operands

xor edx, edx - set contents of edx to zero



ASM Basics - Control Flow

- `cmp`
- `jmp, je, jle, jnz, jz, jbe, jge...`

Difference between JBE and JLE?

JBE for unsigned, JLE for signed

ASM Basics - Conditionals & Branching

- Single-branch conditionals

```
mov     eax, [var]
test    eax, eax
jnz     After condition
call    function
After condition...
```

```
if(var == 0){
    function();
}
// After condition...
```

ASM Basics - Conditionals & Branching

- Two-way conditionals

```
if (var == 7){  
    functionOne();  
}  
else{  
    functionTwo();  
}
```

//After condition....

```
cmp     eax, 7  
jz      else_statement  
call    functionOne  
jmp     After condition
```

```
else_statement:  
call    functionTwo
```

After condition...

ASM Basics - Loops

```
// Assume the array size is alright
```

```
c = 0;
```

```
while (c < 1000) {
```

```
    array[c] = c;
```

```
    c++;
```

```
}
```

```
mov ecx, DWORD PTR [array]
```

```
xor eax, eax
```

```
LoopStart:
```

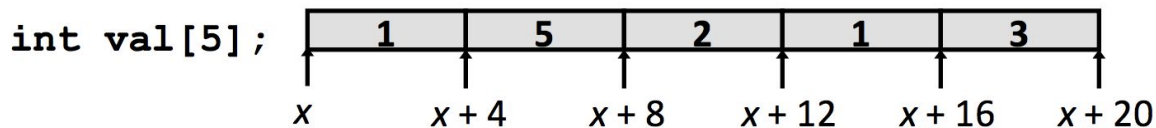
```
mov DWORD PTR [ecx+eax*4], eax
```

```
add eax, 1
```

```
cmp eax, 1000
```

```
jl LoopStart
```

ASM Basics - Array Accessing



- Register `edx` contains the starting address of the array
- Register `eax` contains array index
- Desired digit at $4 * \text{eax} + \text{edx}$
- Use memory reference

```
mov    eax, [edx + eax * 4]
```

ASM Basics - Function Calls

function(2, 10, 5)

```
push    5
push    10
push    2
call    function
```

- call <function>

- Differences between CALL and JMP?

JMP cannot store the current EIP on stack, it only loads

So CALL is basically push, jmp

ASM Basics - Function Calls

- `ret`
- `ret num`
- When callee is finished, caller's EBP is popped back into EBP
- RET remove the stack frame of the callee, incrementing ESP, popped the old EIP into EIP, and continue
- (depends on calling conventions)

So RET is basically `pop, jmp`

ASM Basics - Calling Conventions

- SystemV AMD64 ABI arguments passed in the registers
 - The first 6 integer arguments are passed in registers RDI, RSI, RDX, RCX, R8, R9
 - Arguments after that are pushed into stack

```
func(int a, int b, int c, int d, int e);  
// a in RDI, b in RSI, c in RDX, d in RCX, e in R8
```



ASM Basics - Calling Conventions

- x32 arguments passed in the stack

ASM Basics - Syscalls

- Linux x86 and x86_64 have different Syscall reference
- `int 0x80`
- `syscall` & `sysenter`

| Syscall Num | Param 1 | Param 2 | Param 3 | Param 4 | Param 5 | Param 6 |
|-------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| EAX | EBX | ECX | EDX | ESI | EDI | EDP |
| RAX | RDI | RSI | RDX | R10 | R8 | R9 |

RETURN
VALUE

ASM Basics - Syscalls

- 32-bit: `sys_execve` #11 0x0b
- 64-bit: `execve` #59 0x3b

```
xor    eax, eax
push   eax
push   0x68732f2f
push   0x6e69622f
mov    ebx, esp
mov    ecx, eax
mov    al, 0xb
int    0x80
```

| Syscall Num | Param 1 | Param 2 |
|-------------|---------|---------|
| EAX | EBX | ECX |
| RAX | RDI | RSI |

We will get into this more in shellcoding

Stack - grows down

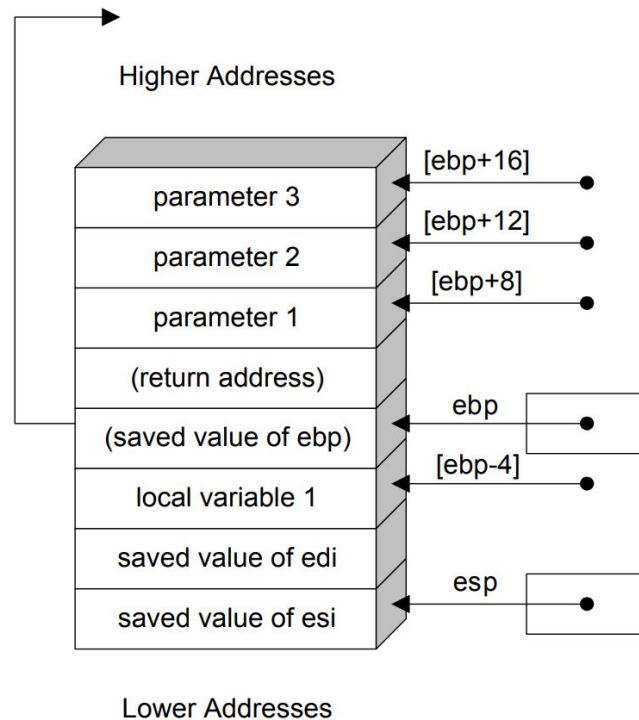
- From the highest to the lowest
- RSP points to the top of the stack
- Add something → RSP **decrements**

push rax:

```
sub rsp, 8  
mov [rsp], rax
```

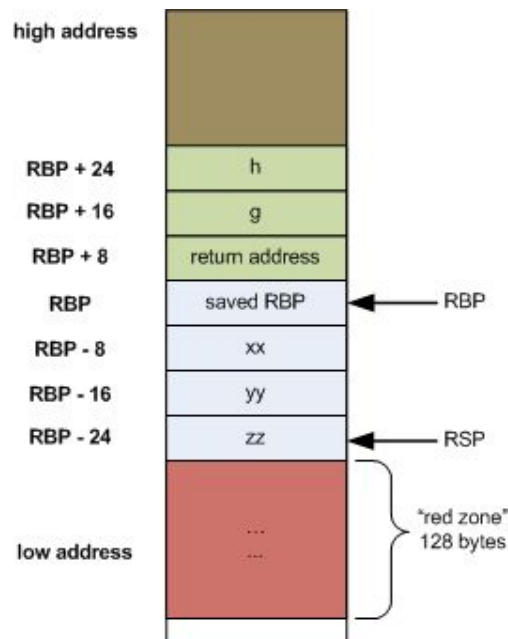
pop rax:

```
mov rax, [rsp]  
add rsp, 8
```



X86-64 Stack Frame Example

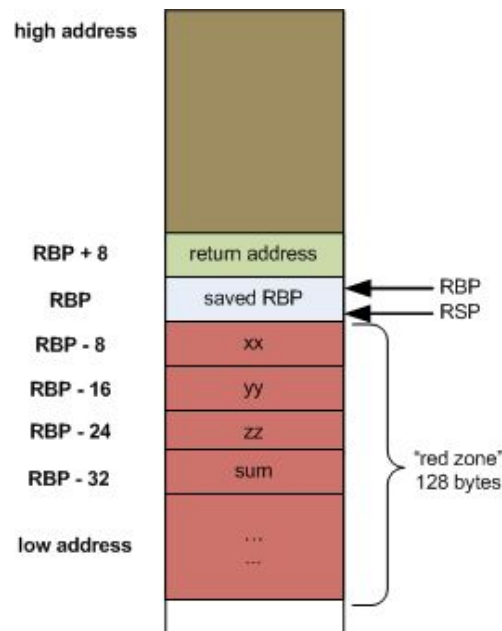
```
long myfunc(long a, long b, long c, long d, long e,  
long f, long g, long h){  
    long xx = a * b * c * d * e * f * g * h;  
    long yy = a + b + c + d + e + f + g + h;  
    long zz = utilfunc(xx, yy, xx % yy);  
    return zz + 20;  
}
```



| | |
|------|---|
| RDI: | a |
| RSI: | b |
| RDX: | c |
| RCX: | d |
| R8: | e |
| R9: | f |

X86-64 Stack Frame Example 2

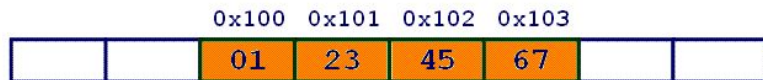
```
long utilfunc(long a, long b, long c){  
    long xx = a + 2;  
    long yy = b + 3;  
    long zz = c + 4;  
    long sum = xx + yy + zz;  
    return xx * yy * zz + sum;  
}
```



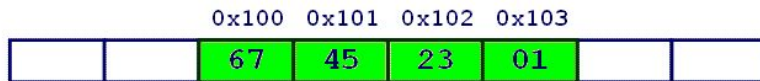
| | |
|------|---|
| RDI: | a |
| RSI: | b |
| RDX: | c |

ASM Basics - Endianness

- The order that bytes are arranged when stored
- 0x01234567



Big Endian



Little Endian



Workshop

- <https://github.com/osirislabs/Hack-Night/tree/master/Rev>



References

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