Machine-Level Programming V: Advanced Topics

15-213/18-243, Spring 2014 9th Lecture, Feb. 11th

Instructors:

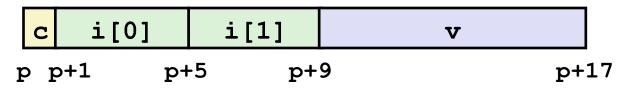
Anthony Rowe, Seth Goldstein and Gregory Kesden

Today

- Structures
 - Alignment
- Unions
- Memory Layout
- Buffer Overflow
 - Vulnerability
 - Protection

Structures & Alignment

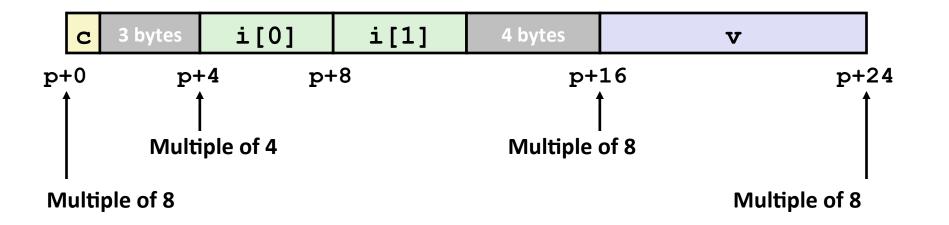
Unaligned Data



```
struct S1 {
  char c;
  int i[2];
  double v;
} *p;
```

Aligned Data

- Primitive data type requires K bytes
- Address must be multiple of K



Alignment Principles

Aligned Data

- Primitive data type requires K bytes
- Address must be multiple of K
- Required on some machines; advised on IA32
 - treated differently by IA32 Linux, x86-64 Linux, and Windows!

Motivation for Aligning Data

- Memory accessed by (aligned) chunks of 4 or 8 bytes (system dependent)
 - Inefficient to load or store datum that spans quad word boundaries
 - Virtual memory very tricky when datum spans 2 pages

Compiler

Inserts gaps in structure to ensure correct alignment of fields

Specific Cases of Alignment (IA32)

- 1 byte: char, ...
 - no restrictions on address
- 2 bytes: short, ...
 - lowest 1 bit of address must be 02
- 4 bytes: int, float, char *, ...
 - lowest 2 bits of address must be 002
- 8 bytes: double, ...
 - Windows (and most other OS's & instruction sets):
 - lowest 3 bits of address must be 000₂
 - Linux:
 - lowest 2 bits of address must be 00₂
 - i.e., treated the same as a 4-byte primitive data type
- 12 bytes: long double
 - Windows, Linux:
 - lowest 2 bits of address must be 00₂
 - i.e., treated the same as a 4-byte primitive data type

Alignment Examples

Address (hex)	Address (binary)	Alignment	Types (IA32)
0x00	000000000	1,2,4,8,	char, short, int, float, *, double
0x01	0b00000001	1	char
0x02	0b00000010	1,2	char, short
0x03	0b00000011	1	char
0x04	0b000001 <mark>00</mark>	1,2,4	char, short, int, float, *
0x05	0b00000101	1	char
0x06	0b00000110	1,2	char, short
0x07	0b00000111	1	char
0x08	0b00001 000	1,2,4,8	char, short, int, float, *, double
0x09	0b00001001	1	char
0x0a	0b0000101 0	1,2	char, short
0x0b	0b00001011	1,	char
0x0c	0b000011 00	1,2,4	char, short, int, float, *

Specific Cases of Alignment (x86-64)

- 1 byte: char, ...
 - no restrictions on address
- 2 bytes: short, ...
 - lowest 1 bit of address must be 02
- 4 bytes: int, float, ...
 - lowest 2 bits of address must be 002
- 8 bytes: double, char *, ...
 - Windows & Linux:
 - lowest 3 bits of address must be 000₂
- 16 bytes: long double
 - Linux:
 - Lowest 3 bits of address must be 000₂
 - i.e., treated the same as a 8-byte primitive data type

Satisfying Alignment with Structures

Within structure:

Must satisfy each element's alignment requirement

Overall structure placement

- Each structure has alignment requirement K
 - K = Largest alignment of any element
- Initial address & structure length must be multiples of K

Example (under Windows or x86-64):

K = 8, due to double element

```
        c
        3 bytes
        i [0]
        i [1]
        4 bytes
        v

        p+0
        p+4
        p+8
        p+16
        p+24

        Multiple of 4
        Multiple of 8
        Multiple of 8

Multiple of 8
```

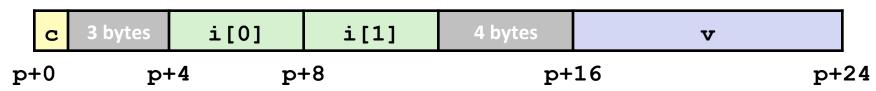
```
struct S1 {
  char c;
  int i[2];
  double v;
} *p;
```

Different Alignment Conventions

x86-64 or IA32 Windows:

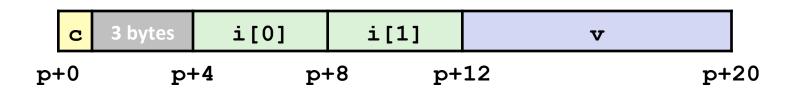
K = 8, due to double element

```
struct S1 {
  char c;
  int i[2];
  double v;
} *p;
```



■ IA32 Linux

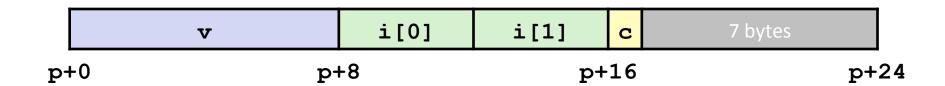
K = 4; double treated like a 4-byte data type



Meeting Overall Alignment Requirement

- For largest alignment requirement K
- Overall structure must be multiple of K

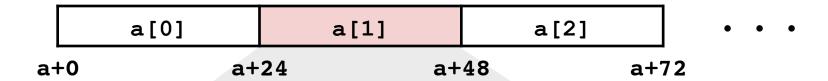
```
struct S2 {
  double v;
  int i[2];
  char c;
} *p;
```

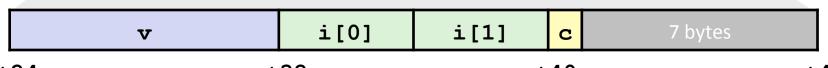


Arrays of Structures

- Overall structure length multiple of K
- Satisfy alignment requirement for every element

```
struct S2 {
  double v;
  int i[2];
  char c;
} a[10];
```

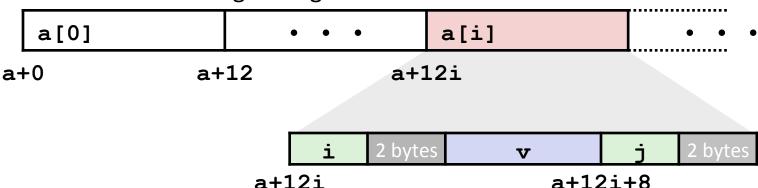




a+24 a+32 a+40 a+48

Accessing Array Elements

- Compute array offset 12i
 - sizeof(S3), including alignment spacers
- Element j is at offset 8 within structure
- Assembler gives offset a+8
 - Resolved during linking



```
short get_j(int idx)
{
   return a[idx].j;
}
```

```
# %eax = idx
leal (%eax,%eax,2),%eax # 3*idx
movswl a+8(,%eax,4),%eax
```

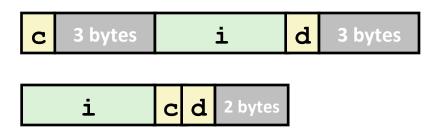
```
struct S3 {
   short i;
   float v;
   short j;
} a[10];
```

Saving Space

Put large data types first

```
struct S4 {
  char c;
  int i;
  char d;
} *p;
struct S5 {
  int i;
  char c;
  char d;
} *p;
```

■ Effect (K=4)



Today

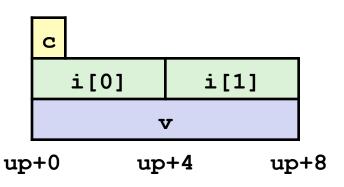
- Structures
 - Alignment
- Unions
- Memory Layout
- Buffer Overflow
 - Vulnerability
 - Protection

Union Allocation

- Allocate according to largest element
- Can only use one field at a time

```
union U1 {
  char c;
  int i[2];
  double v;
} *up;
```

```
struct S1 {
  char c;
  int i[2];
  double v;
} *sp;
```





sp+0

sp+4

sp+8

sp+16

sp+24

Using Union to Access Bit Patterns

```
typedef union {
   float f;
   unsigned u;
} bit_float_t;
```

```
u
f
) 4
```

```
float bit2float(unsigned u)
{
  bit_float_t arg;
  arg.u = u;
  return arg.f;
}
```

```
unsigned float2bit(float f)
{
  bit_float_t arg;
  arg.f = f;
  return arg.u;
}
```

Same as (float) u?

Same as (unsigned) f?

Byte Ordering Revisited

■ Idea

- Short/long/quad words stored in memory as 2/4/8 consecutive bytes
- Which is most (least) significant?
- Can cause problems when exchanging binary data between machines

■ Big Endian

- Most significant byte has lowest address
- Sparc

■ Little Endian

- Least significant byte has lowest address
- Intel x86

Byte Ordering Example

```
union {
  unsigned char c[8];
  unsigned short s[4];
  unsigned int i[2];
  unsigned long l[1];
} dw;
```

32-bit

c[0]	c[1]	c[2]	c[3]	c[4]	c[5]	c[6]	c[7]
s[0]		s[1]		s[2]		s[3]	
i[0]			i[1]				
1[0]							

64-bit

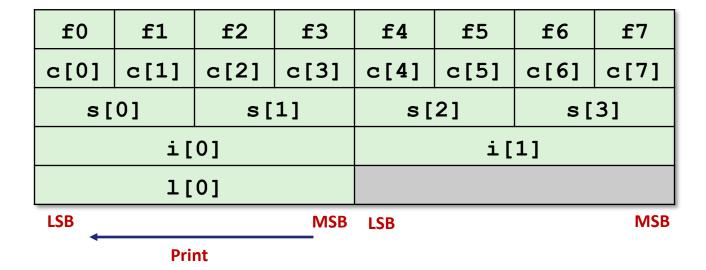
c[0]	c[1]	c[2]	c[3]	c[4]	c[5]	c[6]	c[7]
s[0]		s[1]		s[2]		s[3]	
i[0]				i[1]			
1[0]							

Byte Ordering Example (Cont).

```
int j;
for (j = 0; j < 8; j++)
                        dw.c[j] = 0xf0 + j;
printf("Characters 0-7 == [0x8x, 0x8x, 0
0x8x, 0x8x, 0x8x, 0x8x] \n'',
                         dw.c[0], dw.c[1], dw.c[2], dw.c[3],
                         dw.c[4], dw.c[5], dw.c[6], dw.c[7]);
printf("Shorts 0-3 == [0x8x,0x8x,0x8x,0x8x] n",
                         dw.s[0], dw.s[1], dw.s[2], dw.s[3]);
printf("Ints 0-1 == [0x%x,0x%x]\n",
                        dw.i[0], dw.i[1]);
printf("Long 0 == [0x%lx]\n",
                       dw.1[0]);
```

Byte Ordering on IA32

Little Endian



Output:

```
Characters 0-7 == [0xf0,0xf1,0xf2,0xf3,0xf4,0xf5,0xf6,0xf7]

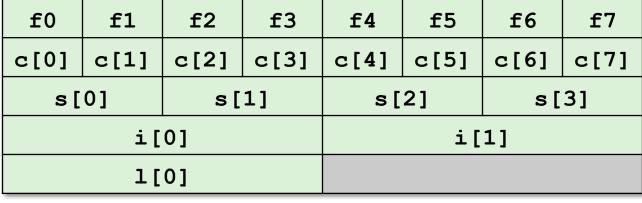
Shorts 0-3 == [0xf1f0,0xf3f2,0xf5f4,0xf7f6]

Ints 0-1 == [0xf3f2f1f0,0xf7f6f5f4]

Long 0 == [0xf3f2f1f0]
```

Byte Ordering on Sun

Big Endian



MSB LSB MSB LSB Print

Output on Sun:

```
Characters 0-7 == [0xf0,0xf1,0xf2,0xf3,0xf4,0xf5,0xf6,0xf7]

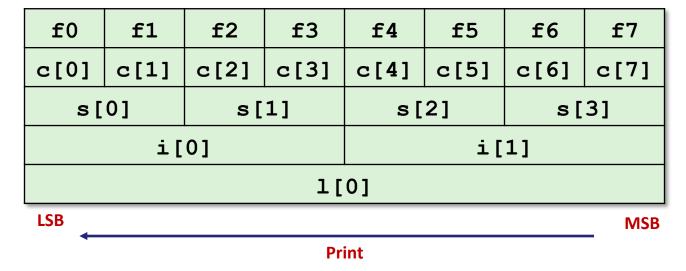
Shorts 0-3 == [0xf0f1,0xf2f3,0xf4f5,0xf6f7]

Ints 0-1 == [0xf0f1f2f3,0xf4f5f6f7]

Long 0 == [0xf0f1f2f3]
```

Byte Ordering on x86-64

Little Endian



Output on x86-64:

```
Characters 0-7 == [0xf0,0xf1,0xf2,0xf3,0xf4,0xf5,0xf6,0xf7]
Shorts 0-3 == [0xf1f0,0xf3f2,0xf5f4,0xf7f6]
Ints 0-1 == [0xf3f2f1f0,0xf7f6f5f4]
Long 0 == [0xf7f6f5f4f3f2f1f0]
```

Summary

Arrays in C

- Contiguous allocation of memory
- Aligned to satisfy every element's alignment requirement
- Pointer to first element
- No bounds checking

Structures

- Allocate bytes in order declared
- Pad in middle and at end to satisfy alignment

Unions

- Overlay declarations
- Way to circumvent type system

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IA32 Linux Memory Layout

Stack

- Runtime stack (8MB limit)
- E. g., local variables

Heap

- Dynamically allocated storage
- When call malloc(), calloc(), new()

Data

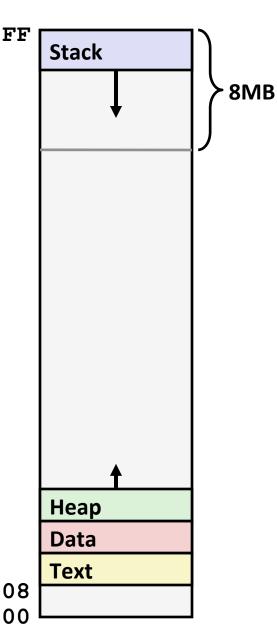
- Statically allocated data
- E.g., arrays & strings declared in code

Text

- Executable machine instructions
- Read-only

Upper 2 hex digits = 8 bits of address

not drawn to scale

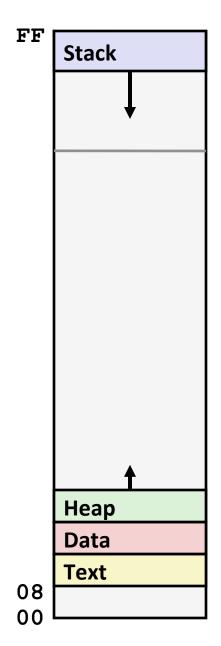


not drawn to scale

Memory Allocation Example

```
char big array[1<<24]; /* 16 MB */
char huge array[1<<28]; /* 256 MB */
int beyond;
char *p1, *p2, *p3, *p4;
int useless() { return 0; }
int main()
p1 = malloc(1 << 28); /* 256 MB */
p2 = malloc(1 << 8); /* 256 B */
p3 = malloc(1 << 28); /* 256 MB */
p4 = malloc(1 << 8); /* 256 B */
/* Some print statements ... */
```

Where does everything go?



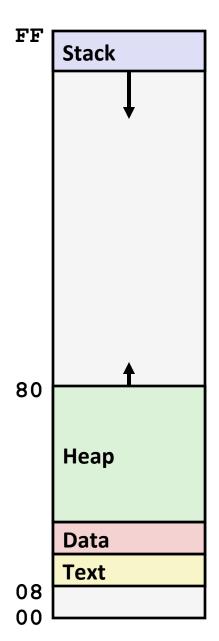
not drawn to scale

IA32 Example Addresses

address range ~2³²

\$esp	0xffffbcd0
p 3	0x65586008
p1	0x55585008
p4	0x1904a110
p2	0x1904a008
&p2	0x18049760
&beyond	0x08049744
big_array	0x18049780
huge_array	0x08049760
main()	0x080483c6
useless()	0x08049744
<pre>final malloc()</pre>	0x006be166

malloc() is dynamically linked address determined at runtime



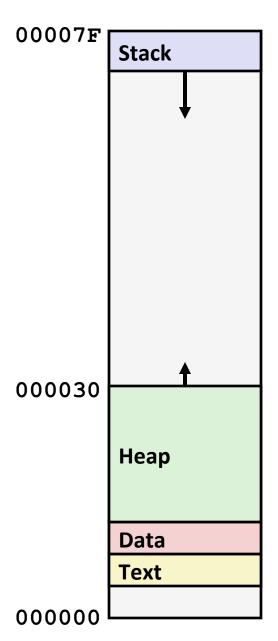
not drawn to scale

x86-64 Example Addresses

address range ~247

 $0 \times 00007 fffffff8d1f8$ \$rsp p3 0×00002 aaabaadd010p1 0x00002aaaaaadc010p4 $0 \times 0000000011501120$ **p2** $0 \times 0000000011501010$ &p2 $0 \times 0000000010500a60$ $0 \times 0000000000500a44$ &beyond $0 \times 0000000010500a80$ big array $0 \times 0000000000500 = 50$ huge array main() $0 \times 0000000000400510$ useless() $0 \times 0000000000400500$ 0×000000386 ae6a170 final malloc()

malloc() is dynamically linked address determined at runtime



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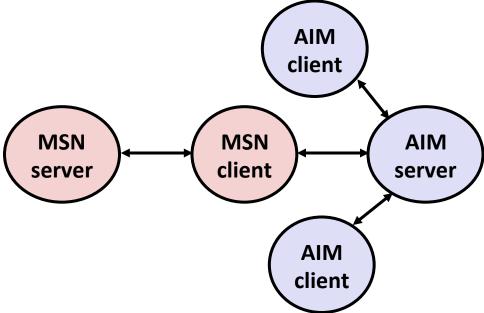
Internet Worm and IM War

- November, 1988
 - Internet Worm attacks thousands of Internet hosts.
 - How did it happen?

Internet Worm and IM War

- November, 1988
 - Internet Worm attacks thousands of Internet hosts.
 - How did it happen?
- July, 1999
 - Microsoft launches MSN Messenger (instant messaging system).

 Messenger clients can access popular AOL Instant Messaging Service (AIM) servers



Internet Worm and IM War (cont.)

August 1999

- Mysteriously, Messenger clients can no longer access AIM servers.
- Microsoft and AOL begin the IM war:
 - AOL changes server to disallow Messenger clients
 - Microsoft makes changes to clients to defeat AOL changes.
 - At least 13 such skirmishes.
- How did it happen?
- The Internet Worm and AOL/Microsoft War were both based on stack buffer overflow exploits!
 - many library functions do not check argument sizes.
 - allows target buffers to overflow.

String Library Code

■ Implementation of Unix function gets ()

```
/* Get string from stdin */
char *gets(char *dest)
{
   int c = getchar();
   char *p = dest;
   while (c != EOF && c != '\n') {
        *p++ = c;
        c = getchar();
   }
   *p = '\0';
   return dest;
}
```

- No way to specify limit on number of characters to read
- Similar problems with other library functions
 - strcpy, strcat: Copy strings of arbitrary length
 - scanf, fscanf, sscanf, when given %s conversion specification

Vulnerable Buffer Code

```
/* Echo Line */
void echo()
{
    char buf[4]; /* Way too small! */
    gets(buf);
    puts(buf);
}
```

```
void call_echo() {
    echo();
}
```

```
unix>./bufdemo
Type a string:1234567
1234567
```

```
unix>./bufdemo
Type a string:12345678
Segmentation Fault
```

```
unix>./bufdemo
Type a string:123456789ABC
Segmentation Fault
```

Buffer Overflow Disassembly

echo:

80485c5:	55	push %ebp
80485c6:	89 e5	mov %esp,%ebp
80485c8:	53	push %ebx
80485c9:	83 ec 14	<pre>sub \$0x14,%esp</pre>
80485cc:	8d 5d f8	<pre>lea 0xffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffffff</pre>
80485cf:	89 1c 24	mov %ebx,(%esp)
80485d2:	e8 9e ff ff ff	call 8048575 <gets></gets>
80485d7:	89 1c 24	mov %ebx,(%esp)
80485da:	e8 05 fe ff ff	call 80483e4 <puts@plt></puts@plt>
80485df:	83 c4 14	add \$0x14,%esp
80485e2:	5b	pop %ebx
80485e3:	5d	pop %ebp
80485e4:	с3	ret

call_echo:

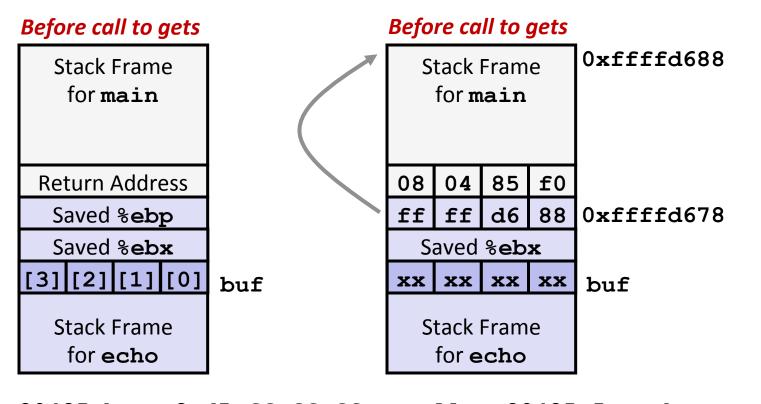
80485eb:	e8 d5 ff ff ff	call 80485c5 <echo></echo>
80485f0:	c 9	leave
80485f1:	c 3	ret

Buffer Overflow Stack

```
Before call to gets
  Stack Frame
   for main
                           /* Echo Line */
                           void echo()
 Return Address
                               char buf[4]; /* Way too small! */
  Saved %ebp
                   %ebp
                               gets(buf);
  Saved %ebx
                               puts(buf);
[3][2][1][0]
               buf
  Stack Frame
                  echo:
   for echo
                      pushl %ebp
                                            # Save %ebp on stack
                      movl %esp, %ebp
                                            # Save %ebx
                      pushl %ebx
                      subl $20, %esp
                                            # Allocate stack space
                      leal -8(%ebp),%ebx
                                            # Compute buf as %ebp-8
                      movl %ebx, (%esp)
                                            # Push buf on stack
                      call gets
                                            # Call gets
```

Buffer Overflow Stack Example

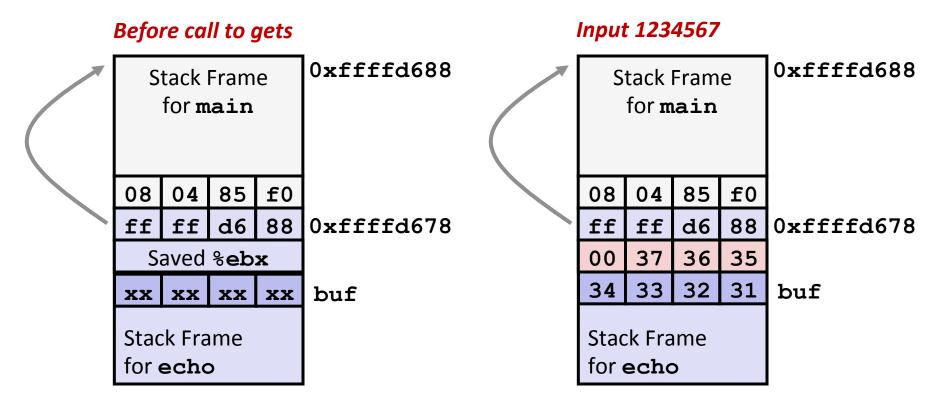
```
unix> gdb bufdemo
(gdb) break echo
Breakpoint 1 at 0x80485c9
(gdb) run
Breakpoint 1, 0x80485c9 in echo ()
(gdb) print /x $ebp
$1 = 0xffffd678
(gdb) print /x *(unsigned *)$ebp
$2 = 0xffffd688
(gdb) print /x *((unsigned *)$ebp + 1)
$3 = 0x80485f0
```



80485eb: e8 d5 ff ff ff call 80485c5 <echo>

80485f0: c9 leave

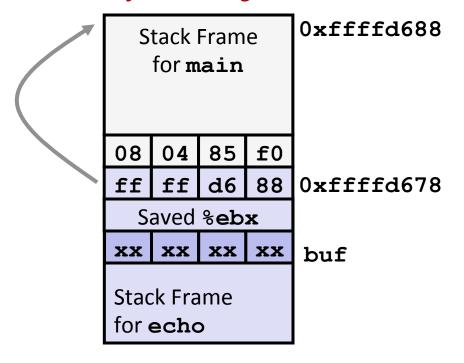
Buffer Overflow Example #1



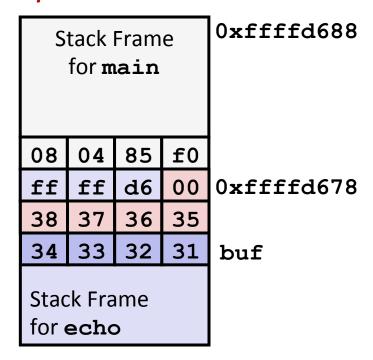
Overflow buf, and corrupt %ebx, but no problem

Buffer Overflow Example #2

Before call to gets



Input 12345678



Base pointer corrupted

. .

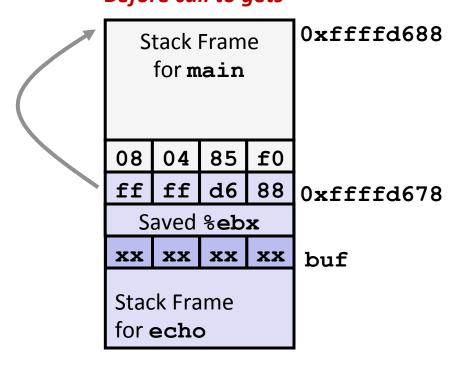
80485eb: e8 d5 ff ff ff call 80485c5 <echo>

80485f0: c9 leave # Set %ebp to corrupted value

80485f1: c3 ret

Buffer Overflow Example #3

Before call to gets



Input 123456789

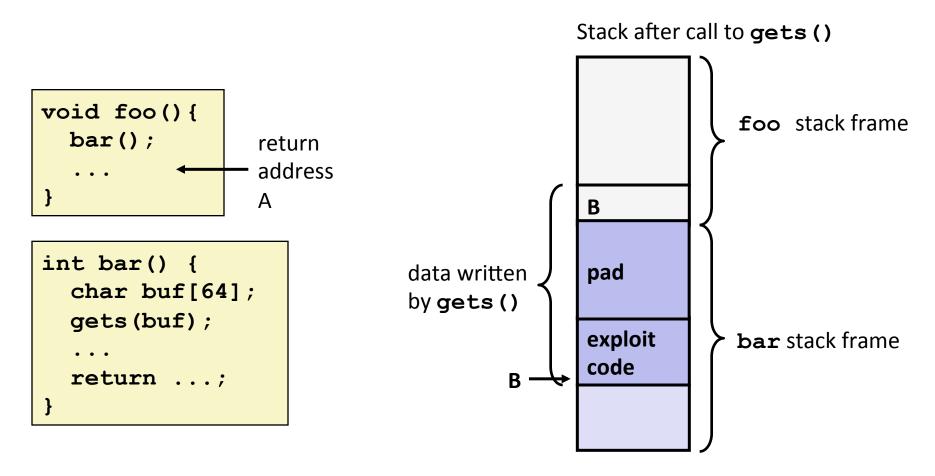
Stack Frame for main				0xffffd688
08	04	85	00	
43	42	41	39	0xffffd678
38	37	36	35	
34	33	32	31	buf
-	k Fra e ch o			

Return address corrupted

80485eb: e8 d5 ff ff ff call 80485c5 <echo>

80485f0: c9 leave # Desired return point

Malicious Use of Buffer Overflow



- Input string contains byte representation of executable code
- Overwrite return address A with address of buffer B
- When bar () executes ret, will jump to exploit code

Exploits Based on Buffer Overflows

- Buffer overflow bugs allow remote machines to execute arbitrary code on victim machines
- Internet worm
 - Early versions of the finger server (fingerd) used gets () to read the argument sent by the client:
 - finger droh@cs.cmu.edu
 - Worm attacked fingerd server by sending phony argument:
 - finger "exploit-code padding new-returnaddress"
 - exploit code: executed a root shell on the victim machine with a direct TCP connection to the attacker.

Exploits Based on Buffer Overflows

 Buffer overflow bugs allow remote machines to execute arbitrary code on victim machines

IM War

- AOL exploited existing buffer overflow bug in AIM clients
- exploit code: returned 4-byte signature (the bytes at some location in the AIM client) to server.
- When Microsoft changed code to match signature, AOL changed signature location.

Date: Wed, 11 Aug 1999 11:30:57 -0700 (PDT) From: Phil Bucking <philbucking@yahoo.com>

Subject: AOL exploiting buffer overrun bug in their own software!

To: rms@pharlap.com

Mr. Smith,

I am writing you because I have discovered something that I think you might find interesting because you are an Internet security expert with experience in this area. I have also tried to contact AOL but received no response.

I am a developer who has been working on a revolutionary new instant messaging client that should be released later this year.

. . .

It appears that the AIM client has a buffer overrun bug. By itself this might not be the end of the world, as MS surely has had its share. But AOL is now *exploiting their own buffer overrun bug* to help in its efforts to block MS Instant Messenger.

. . . .

Since you have significant credibility with the press I hope that you can use this information to help inform people that behind AOL's friendly exterior they are nefariously compromising peoples' security.

Sincerely,
Phil Bucking
Founder, Bucking Consulting
philbucking@yahoo.com

It was later determined that this email originated from within Microsoft!

Code Red Exploit Code (2001)

- MS IIS webserver vulnerability
- Starts 100 threads running
- Spread self
 - Generate random IP addresses & send attack string
 - Between 1st & 19th of month
- Attack www.whitehouse.gov
 - Send 98,304 packets; sleep for 4-1/2 hours; repeat
 - Denial of service attack
 - Between 21st & 27th of month
- Deface server's home page
 - After waiting 2 hours



Code Red Exploit

This access still shows up in many web server logs...

Avoiding Overflow Vulnerability

```
/* Echo Line */
#define MAX_STR_LEN 4

void echo()
{
    char buf[MAX_STR_LEN]; /* Way too
small! */
    fgets(buf, MAX_STR_LEN, stdin);
    puts(buf);
}
```

Use library routines that limit string lengths

- fgets instead of gets
- strncpy instead of strcpy
- Don't use scanf with %s conversion specification
 - Use fgets to read the string
 - Or use %ns where n is a suitable integer

System-Level Protections

Randomized stack offsets

- At start of program, allocate random amount of space on stack
- Makes it difficult for hacker to predict beginning of inserted code

Nonexecutable code segments

- In traditional x86, can mark region of memory as either "read-only" or "writeable"
 - Can execute anything readable
- X86-64 added explicit "execute" permission

```
unix> qdb bufdemo
(qdb) break echo
(gdb)
      run
(gdb) print /x $ebp
$1 = 0xffffc638
(qdb)
      run
(qdb) print /x $ebp
$2 = 0xffffbb08
(qdb) run
(gdb) print /x $ebp
$3 = 0xffffc6a8
```

Stack Canaries

Idea

- Place special value ("canary") on stack just beyond buffer
- Check for corruption before exiting function

GCC Implementation

- -fstack-protector
- -fstack-protector-all

```
unix>./bufdemo-protected
Type a string:1234
1234
```

```
unix>./bufdemo-protected
Type a string:12345
*** stack smashing detected ***
```

Protected Buffer Disassembly echo:

```
804864d:
          55
                                      %ebp
                               push
          89 e5
                                      %esp,%ebp
804864e:
                               mov
8048650:
          53
                                      %ebx
                               push
8048651: 83 ec 14
                               sub
                                      $0x14,%esp
8048654: 65 a1 14 00 00 00
                                      %qs:0x14,%eax
                               mov
804865a: 89 45 f8
                                      mov
804865d: 31 c0
                                      %eax,%eax
                               xor
804865f: 8d 5d f4
                               lea
                                      0xffffffff(%ebp),%ebx
8048662: 89 1c 24
                                      %ebx,(%esp)
                               mov
          e8 77 ff ff ff
8048665:
                               call
                                      80485e1 <gets>
804866a: 89 1c 24
                                      %ebx,(%esp)
                               mov
804866d:
          e8 ca fd ff ff
                               call
                                      804843c <puts@plt>
8048672:
          8b 45 f8
                                      mov
8048675: 65 33 05 14 00 00 00
                                      %qs:0x14,%eax
                               xor
804867c: 74 05
                                      8048683 < echo + 0x36 >
                               jе
804867e:
          e8 a9 fd ff ff
                               call
                                      804842c <FAIL>
8048683:
          83 c4 14
                               add
                                      $0x14, %esp
8048686:
          5b
                                      %ebx
                               pop
8048687:
          5d
                                      %ebp
                               pop
8048688:
          c3
                               ret
```

Setting Up Canary

Before call to gets

Stack Frame for main

Return Address

Saved %ebp

Saved %ebx

Canary

[3][2][1][0]_{buf}

Stack Frame for echo

```
/* Echo Line */
void echo()
    char buf[4]; /* Way too small! */
    gets(buf);
    puts (buf) ;
```

%ebp

```
echo:
   movl
        %gs:20, %eax # Get canary
          %eax, -8(%ebp) # Put on stack
   movl
   xorl
         %eax, %eax
                        # Erase canary
```

Checking Canary

Before call to gets

Stack Frame for main

Return Address

Saved %ebp

Saved %ebx

Canary

[3][2][1][0]

Stack Frame for **echo**

```
/* Echo Line */
void echo()
{
    char buf[4]; /* Way too small! */
    gets(buf);
    puts(buf);
}
```

buf

%ebp

```
echo:

...

movl -8(%ebp), %eax # Retrieve from stack

xorl %gs:20, %eax # Compare with Canary

je .L24 # Same: skip ahead

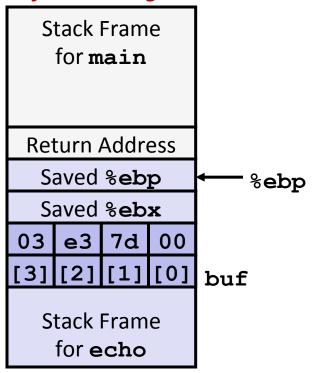
call __stack_chk_fail # ERROR

.L24:

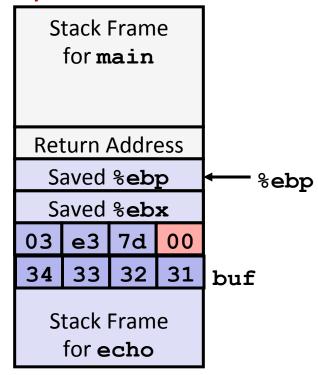
...
```

Canary Example

Before call to gets



Input 1234



```
(gdb) break echo
(gdb) run
(gdb) stepi 3
(gdb) print /x *((unsigned *) $ebp - 2)
$1 = 0x3e37d00
```

Benign corruption!
(allows programmers to make silent off-by-one errors)

Worms and Viruses

- Worm: A program that
 - Can run by itself
 - Can propagate a fully working version of itself to other computers
- Virus: Code that
 - Add itself to other programs
 - Cannot run independently
- Both are (usually) designed to spread among computers and to wreak havoc

Today

- Structures
 - Alignment
- Unions
- Memory Layout
- Buffer Overflow
 - Vulnerability
 - Protection