

9. Canary & DEP & ROP

Seongil Wi



Quiz #1

*

Score will be released soon!

HW2 Announcement



The due date has been extended!

- Due: Oct. 24, 11:59PM => Oct. 26, 11:59PM
 - (There was a VPN issue during Chuseok, so you may have had trouble accessing it ☺)

HW2 Announcement



- Software security
 - Hacking practice: Capture the Flag (CTF)
- CTF server: http://10.20.12.187:4000/
 - This server can only be accessed from the UNIST internal network.
 - Please use a VPN to access from outside! Just log in to https://vpn.unist.ac.kr and turn on VPN.

- Each flag is in the following format: flag{some_string}
 - -e.g., flag{C0N9R@7u1aT1on!}

Setting up a vagrant on M1/M2 MacBooks

The solution we strongly recommend is to dockerize the environment

- 1. Install docker
- 2. \$ mkdir YOUR_PATH; cd YOUR_PATH
- 3. Download our Dockerfile (https://websec-lab.github.io/courses/2023f-cse467/hw/Dockerfile) to YOUR_PATH
- 4. \$ docker build --tag cse467 .
- 5. \$ docker run -it -v <ABSOLUTE_PATH_HOST_DIR>:/data --name
 cse467 container cse467 /bin/bash

Setting up a vagrant on M1/M2 MacBooks

• If you want to stop your container: press ctrl+d

- If you want to resume your container:
 - 1. \$ docker start cse467_container
 - 2.\$ docker attach cse467_container

```
// ...
recv(sock, buf, sizeof(buf), 0);
printf(buf);
```

```
• buf = "Hello" // No problem
```

• buf = $\frac{m}{d}.\frac{d}{n}$ // Leak memory

 Format string vulnerability allows us to read arbitrary memory contents on the stack

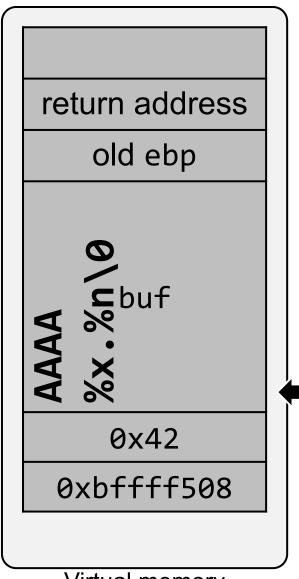
What about *arbitrary memory write*?



Format	Meaning
%d	Decimal output
%x	Hexadecimal output
%u	Unsigned decimal output
%s	String output
%n	# of bytes written so far

Nothing printed for %n





```
// ...
recv(sock, buf, sizeof(buf), 0);
printf(buf);

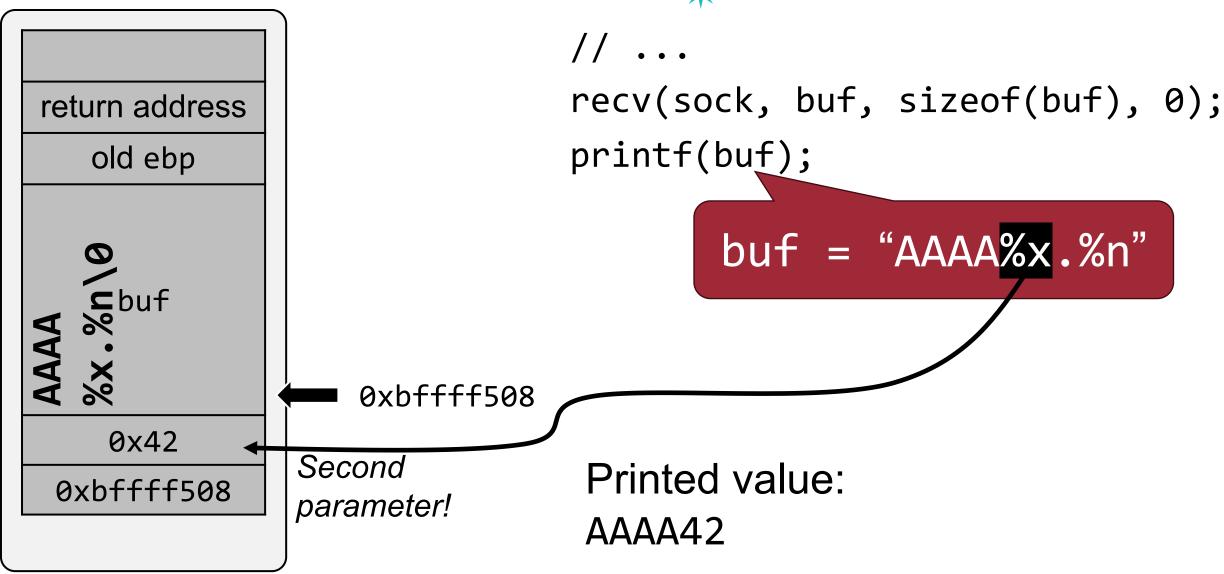
buf = "AAAA%x.%n"
```

0xbffff508

Printed value: AAAA

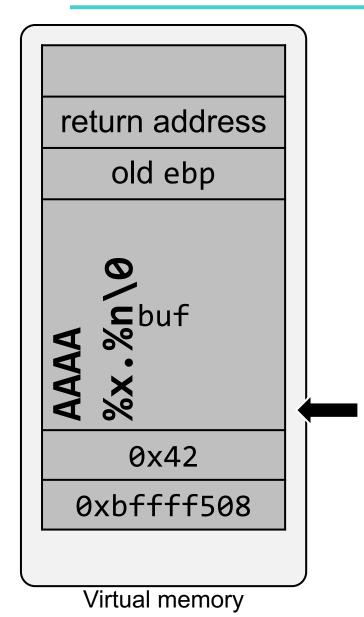
Virtual memory





Virtual memory





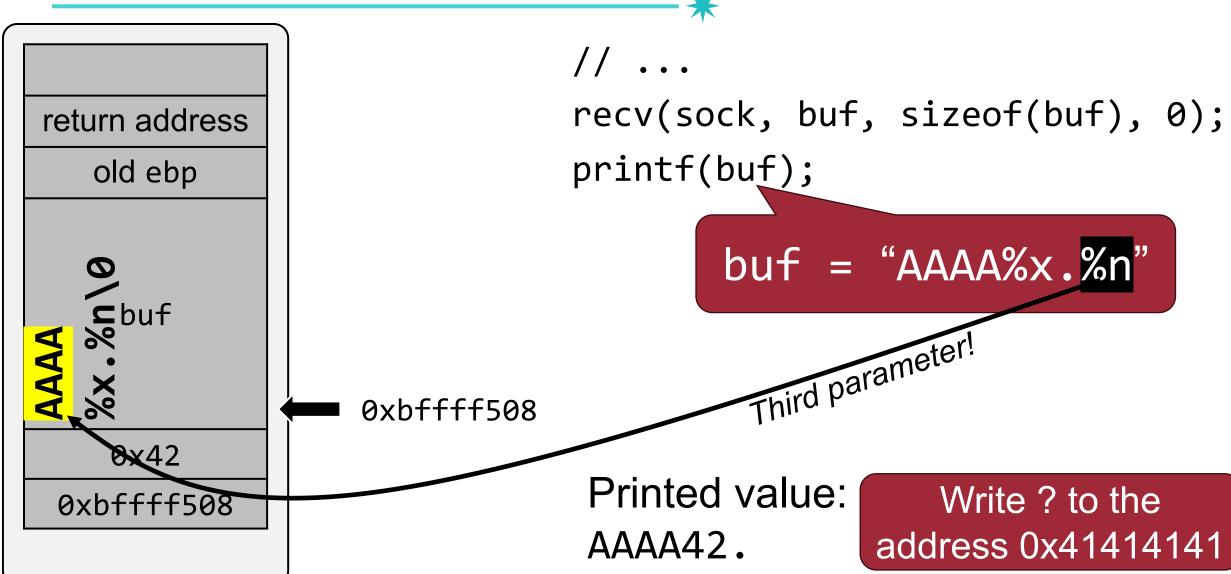
```
// ...
recv(sock, buf, sizeof(buf), 0);
printf(buf);

buf = "AAAA%x.%n"
```

0xbffff508

Printed value: AAAA42.

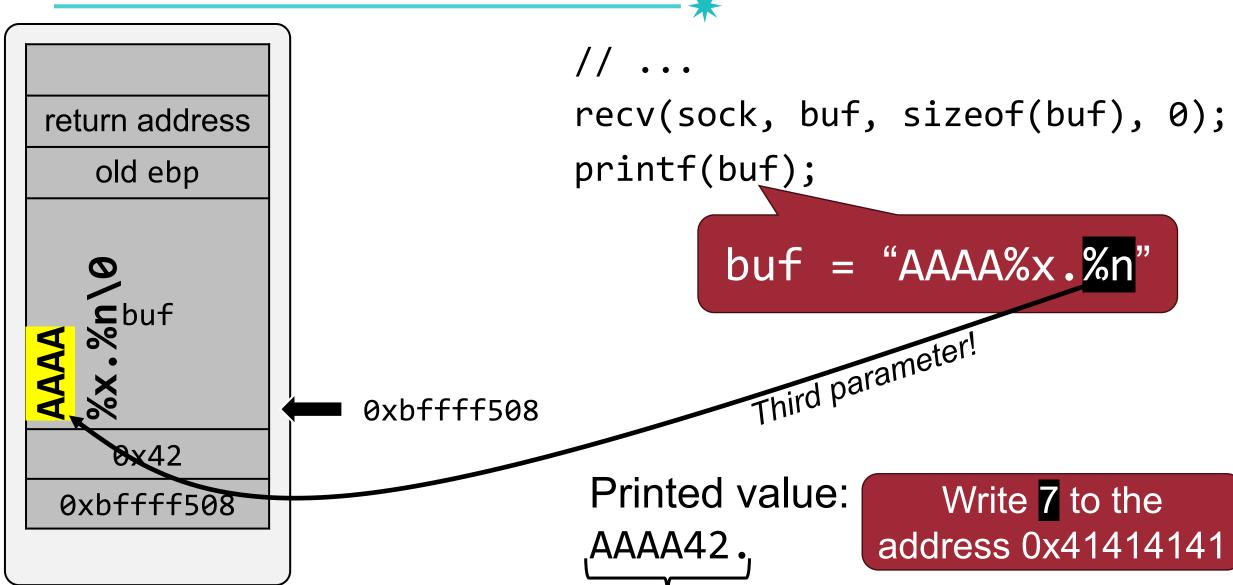




Virtual memory

Virtual memory





Recap: Optimization with Dollar Sign (\$)

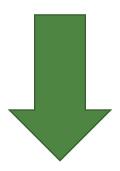
- Enables direct access to the n-th parameter
- Syntax: %<n>\$<format specifier>

Example

```
printf("%d, %d, %d, %2$d\n", 1, 2, 3);
// prints 1, 2, 3, 2
```

Recap: Optimization with Dollar Sign (\$)

\$ echo "AAAABBBBAAAADBBB%8722d%hn%58850d%hn" | ./fmt



\$ echo "BBBBBBB88730d%1\$hn%58850d%2\$hn" | ./fmt

Recap: Integer Overflow



Happens because the size of registers is fixed

Recap: Why Integer Overflows Matter?

 Usually, an integer overflow itself does not lead to control flow hijack exploits

 However, integer overflows can cause an unexpected buffer overflows

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Recap: Example



```
int catvars(char *buf1, char *buf2, unsigned len1, unsigned len2)
    char mybuf[256];
    if((len1 + len2) > 256) {
       return -1;
    memcpy(mybuf, buf1, len1);
    memcpy(mybuf + len1, buf2, len2);
    do_some_stuff(mybuf);
    return 0;
```

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Recap: Exam

What if len1=0x104 and len2=0xfffffffc?

```
buf2, unsigned len1, unsigned len2)
int catvars(char *buf1,
    char mybuf[256];
    if((len1 + len2) > 256)
                                    Len1=0x104 (=260)
       return -1;
                                   → Overflow already!
    memcpy(mybuf, buf1, len1);
    memcpy(mybuf + len1, buf2, len2);
    do_some_stuff(mybuf);
    return 0;
```

Prevention vs. Mitigation

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- Preventing buffer overflows
 - -Buffer overflows will never happen
- Mitigating buffer overflows
 - -Buffer overflows will happen, but will be hard to exploit them

How to Prevent Buffer Overflows?



Do NOT use C/C++! C is the root of evil!

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Easy to Prevent Buffer Overflows!

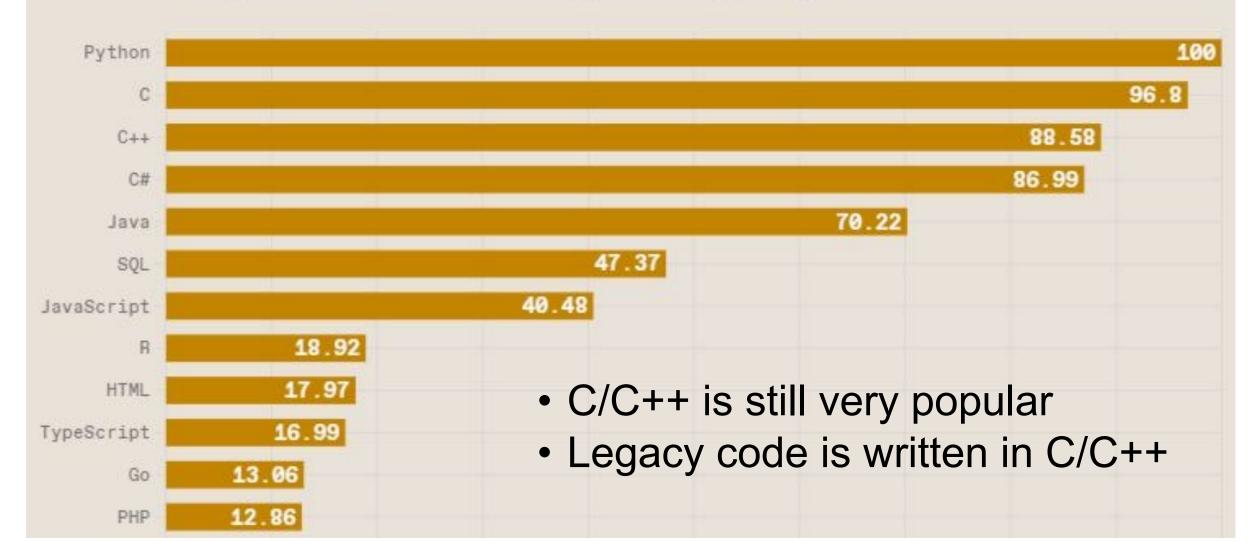
Have you ever seen buffer overflows in other safe languages such as F#, OCaml, Haskell, Python, etc.?

```
>>> x = array('1', [1,2,3])
>>> x[4]
Traceback (most recent call last):
   File "<stdin>", line 1, in <module>
IndexError: array index out of range
```

Unfortunately though ...



Top Programming Languages 2022



Okay ...



Let's mitigate it then ©

Preview: Mitigating Memory Corruption Bugs 25

Mitigation #1: Canary

argv

Check value before argc executing return!

return add

old ebp

Canary value

buf

0xbfffff508

Mitigation #2: NX (No eXcute)

Corrupted memory

Attacker's code (Shellcode)

Hijacked control flow

Make this region nonexecutable! (e.g., stack should be non-executable) Buffer Overflow Mitigation #1: Canary
is a bird



Canary in a Cole Mine



The bird would act as an early warning for harmful gas



Mitigating Buffer Overflows with Canary

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Early warnings of buffer overflows

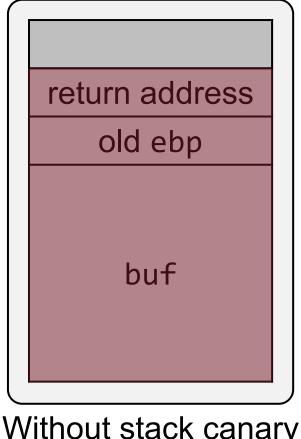
First introduced in 1998

StackGuard: Automatic Adaptive Detection and Prevention of Buffer-Overflow Attacks, *USENIX Security* 1998

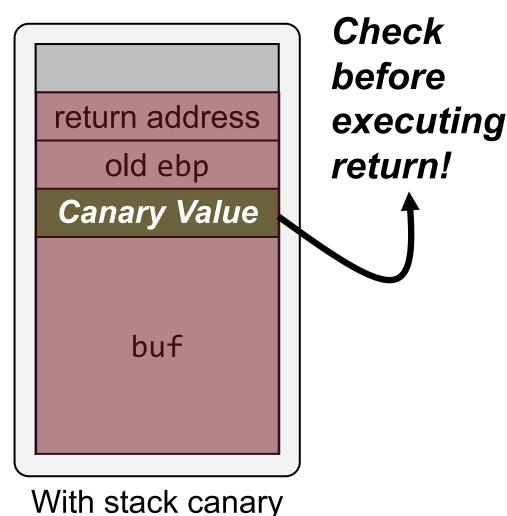
Not necessarily used for stack, but can also be used for heap

Stack Canary (a.k.a. Stack Cookie)

Key idea: insert a <u>checking value</u> before the return address



Without stack canary



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Check

before

return!

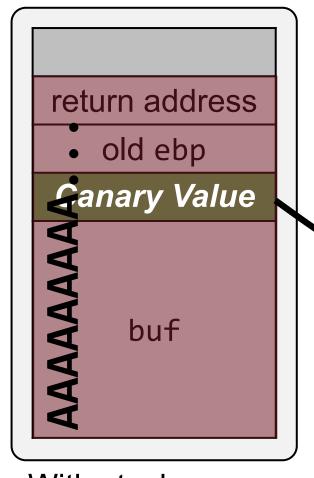
executing

Stack Canary (a.k.a. Stack Cookie)

• Key idea: insert a checking value before the return address

Before executing return, check...

(Inserted canary value) (Current canary value) 0x41414141 Canary Value Overflow is occurred! Stop the program



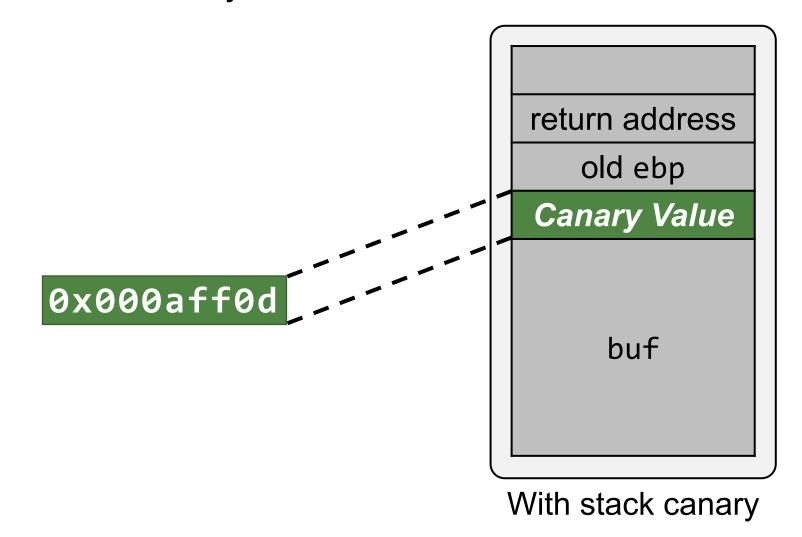
With stack canary

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StackGuard (1998)



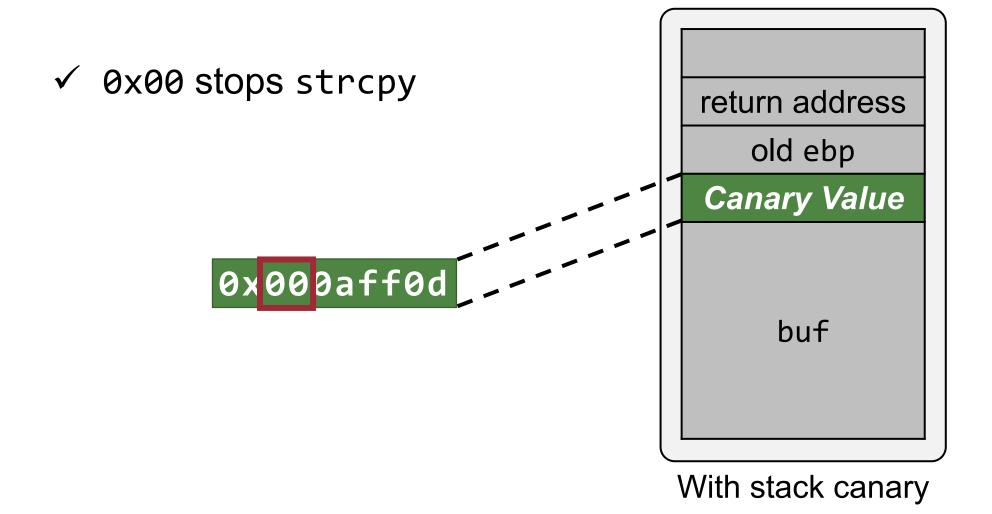
Uses a constant canary value 0x000aff0d



StackGuard (1998)

*

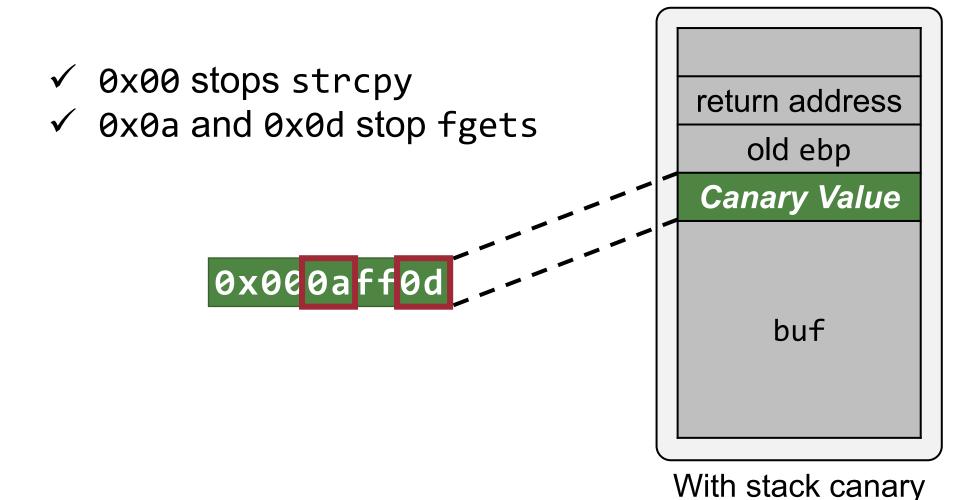
Uses a constant canary value 0x000aff0d



StackGuard (1998)



• Uses a constant canary value 0x000aff0d



StackGuard (1998)



Uses a constant canary value 0x000aff0d

- ✓ 0x00 stops strcpy
- ✓ 0x0a and 0x0d stop fgets
- ✓ 0xff stops EOF checks

0x000aff0d

return address old ebp Canary Value buf

With stack canary

Problem of Using a Constant Canary Value **

memcpy?

Problem of Using a Constant Canary Value Tolling Tropies of Using a Constant Canary Value Tropies of Using a Constant Canary Value Tropies of Using a Constant Canary Value Tropies of Using Tropies of Using a Constant Canary Value Tropies of Using Tropies of Usi

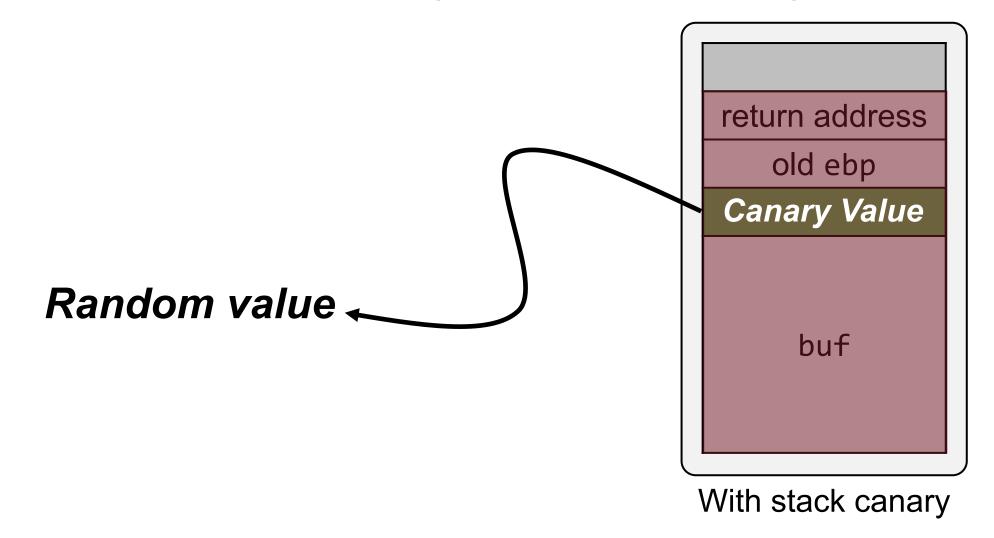
memcpy(void dest, void src, size_t n)

The memcpy() function copies **n bytes** from memory area src to memory area dest

Random Canaries

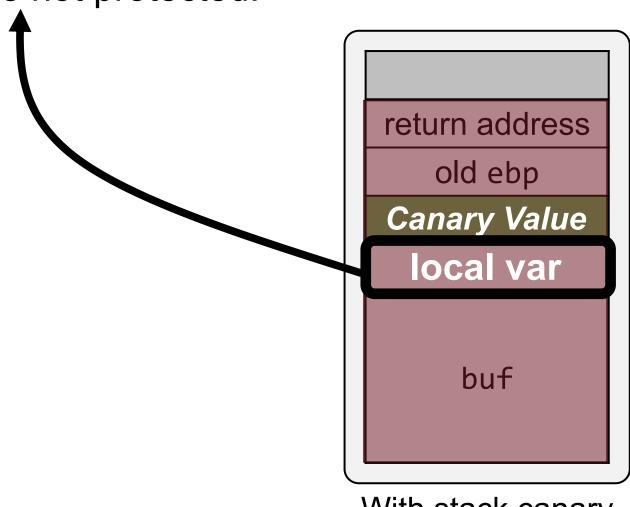


Pick a random value at process initialization, put it on the stack



Problem Still Exists

Local variables are not protected!



With stack canary

Solution: Reordering Local Variables

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- Always put local buffers <u>after local pointers</u>
- This idea is implemented by GCC 4.1 in 2005

GCC Stack Canary Implementation

```
80483fb: push ebp

80483fc: mov ebp, esp

80483fe: sub esp, 0x100

8048404: push DWORD PTR [ ebp+0x8 ]

8048407: lea eax, [ ebp-0x100 ]

804840d: push eax

804840e: call 80482d0 <strcpy@plt>

8048413: add esp, 0x8

8048416: leave

8048417: ret
```

Without stack canary gcc -fno-stack-protector

```
804844b: push ebp
804844c: mov ebp, esp
804844e: sub esp,0 x108
8048454: mov eax, DWORD PTR [ ebp+0x8 ]
8048457: mov DWORD PTR [ ebp-0x108 ], eax
804845d: mov eax, gs:0x14
8048463: mov DWORD PTR [ ebp-0x4 ], eax
8048466: xor eax, eax
8048468: push DWORD PTR [ ebp-0x108 ]
804846e: lea eax, [ ebp-0x104 ]
8048474: push eax
8048475: call 8048320
804847a: add esp, 0x8
804847d: mov eax, DWORD PTR [ ebp-0x4 ]
8048480: xor eax, DWORD PTR gs:0x14
8048487: je 804848e
8048489: call 8048310 <__stack_chk_fail@plt>
804848e: leave
804848f: ret With stack canary
```

gcc -fstack-protector

GCC Stack Canary Implementation

```
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```

```
80483fb: push ebp

80483fc: mov ebp, esp

80483fe: sub esp, 0x100

8048404: push DWORD PTR [ ebp+0x8 ]

8048407: lea eax, [ ebp-0x100 ]

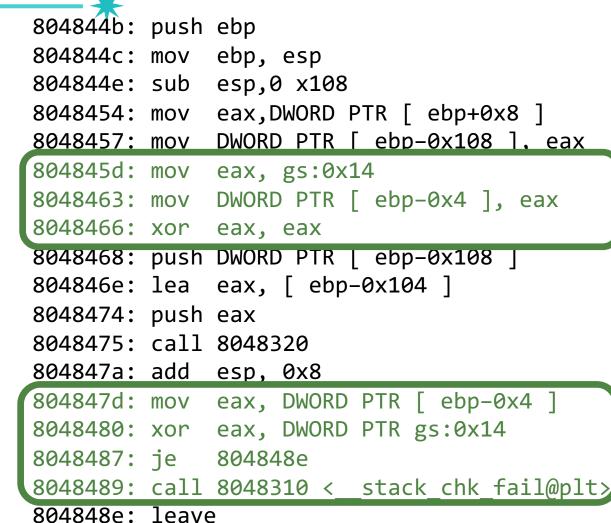
804840d: push eax

804840e: call 80482d0 <strcpy@plt>

8048413: add esp, 0x8

8048416: leave

8048417: ret
```



804848f: ret With stack canary

gcc -fstack-protector

Without stack canary gcc -fno-stack-protector

GCC Stack Canary Implementation



```
Random canary value
                           esp
                            x108
      at gs:0x14
                      WORD PTR [ ebp+0x8 ]
          8048457: mov
                       RD PTR [ ebp-0x108 ], eax
          804845d: mov eax, gs:0x14
          8048463: mov DWORD PTR [ ebp-0x4 ], eax
          8048466: xor eax, eax
          8048468: push DWORD PTR [ ebp-0x108 |
          804846e: lea eax, [ ebp-0x104 ]
          8048474: push eax
          8048475: call 8048320
          804847a: add esp, 0x8
          804847d: mov eax, DWORD PTR [ ebp-0x4 ]
          8048480: xor eax, DWORD PTR gs:0x14
          8048487: je 804848e
          8048489: call 8048310 < stack chk fail@plt>
          804848e: leave
         804848f: ret With stack canary
                   gcc -fstack-protector
```

Who Initializes [gs:0x14]?

Runtime Dynamic Linker (RTLD) does it every time it launches a process

```
// Below is roughly what RTLD does at process creation time
uintptr t ret;
int fd = open("/dev/urandom", O RDONLY);
if (fd >= 0) {
    ssize t len = read(fd, &ret, sizeof(ret));
    if (len == (ssize t) sizeof(ret)) {
        // inlined assembly for moving ret to [qs:0x14]
```

GCC Stack Canary Implementation

Random canary value esp at gs:0x14

Move canary value onto the stack

Why?

```
x108
             WORD PTR [ ebp+0x8 ]
8048457: mov
             RD PTR [ ebp-0x108 ], eax
804845d: mov eax, gs:0x14
 049463: MOV
             DWORD PTR [ ebp-0x4 ], eax
80484<u>66</u>: xor eax, eax
948468: push DWORD PTR | ebp-0x108 |
804846e: lea eax, [ ebp-0x104 ]
8048474: push eax
8048475: call 8048320
804847a: add esp, 0x8
804847d: mov eax, DWORD PTR [ ebp-0x4 ]
8048480: xor eax, DWORD PTR gs:0x14
8048487: je 804848e
8048489: call 8048310 <__stack_chk_fail@plt>
804848e: leave
```

804848f: ret With stack canary

gcc -fstack-protector

GCC Stack Canary Implementation

```
804844b: push ebp

804844c: mov ebp, esp

804844e: sub esp,0 x108

8048454: mov eax,DWORD PTR [ ebp+0x8 ]

8048457: mov DWORD PTR [ ebp-0x108 ]. eax

804845d: mov eax, gs:0x14

8048463: mov DWORD PTR [ ebp-0x4 ], eax

8048466: xor eax, eax

8048468: push DWORD PTR [ ebp-0x108 ]

bp-0x104 ]
```

Get current canary value from stack

80484/a: auu

Compare to the original canary value

Jump to the leave instruction if equal

```
804847d: mov eax, DWORD PTR [ ebp-0x4 ]

8048480: xor eax, DWORD PTR gs:0x14

8048487: je 804848e

8048.69: call 8048310 < stack_chk_fail@plt>
```

0x8

804848f: ret With **stack canary** gcc -fstack-protector

GCC Canary Implementation

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- Uses a random canary value for every process creation
- Puts buffers after any local pointers on the stack

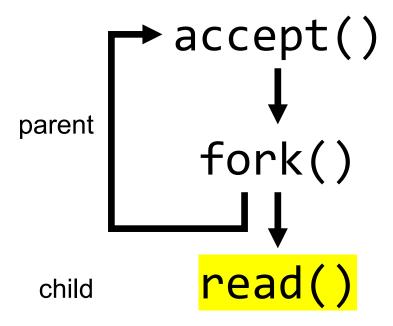
Attacking Canary Protection



Reused Canary Value

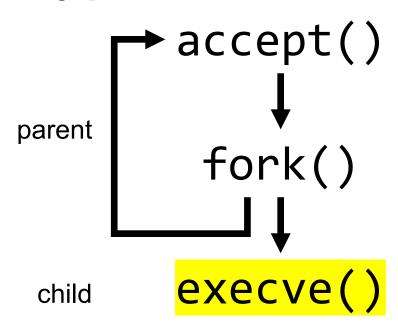


Uses a random canary value for every process creation



Server Type #1

e.g., OpenSSH does this

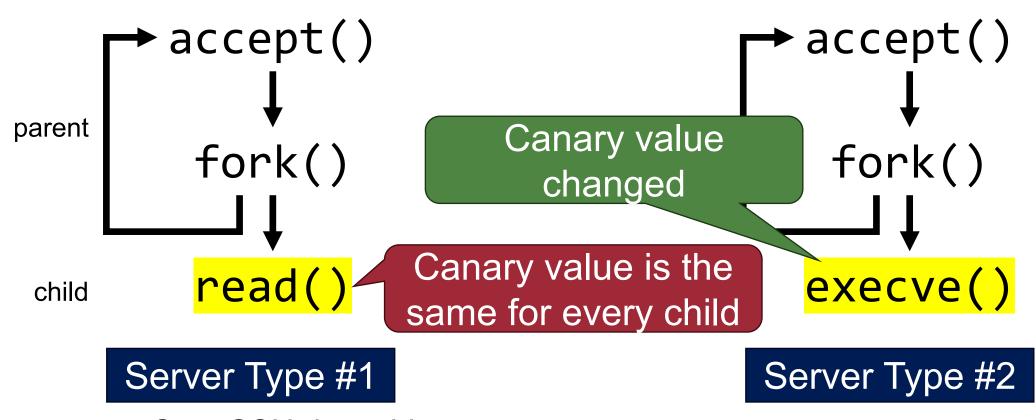


Server Type #2

Reused Canary Value

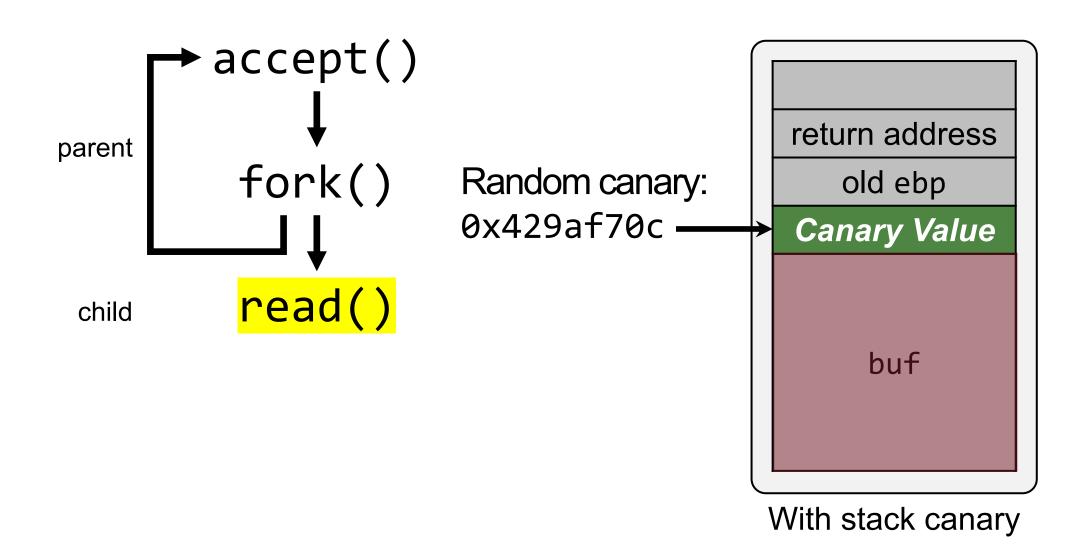
*

Uses a random canary value for every process creation



e.g., OpenSSH does this

Attack #1: Byte-by-Byte Brute Forcing



Attack #1: Byte-by-Byte Brute Forcing

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Try to overwrite only 1 byte with a character from \x00 to \xff until the program does not crash

Random canary: 0x429af70c —

Canary Value

return address

old ebp

buf 42 9a f7 0c

With stack canary

Attack #1: Byte-by-Byte Brute Forcing

Try to overwrite only 1 byte with a character from \x00 to \xff until the program does not crash return address Random canary: old ebp 0x429af70c Canary Value buf 1st try: insert \x00 buf 9a With stack canary

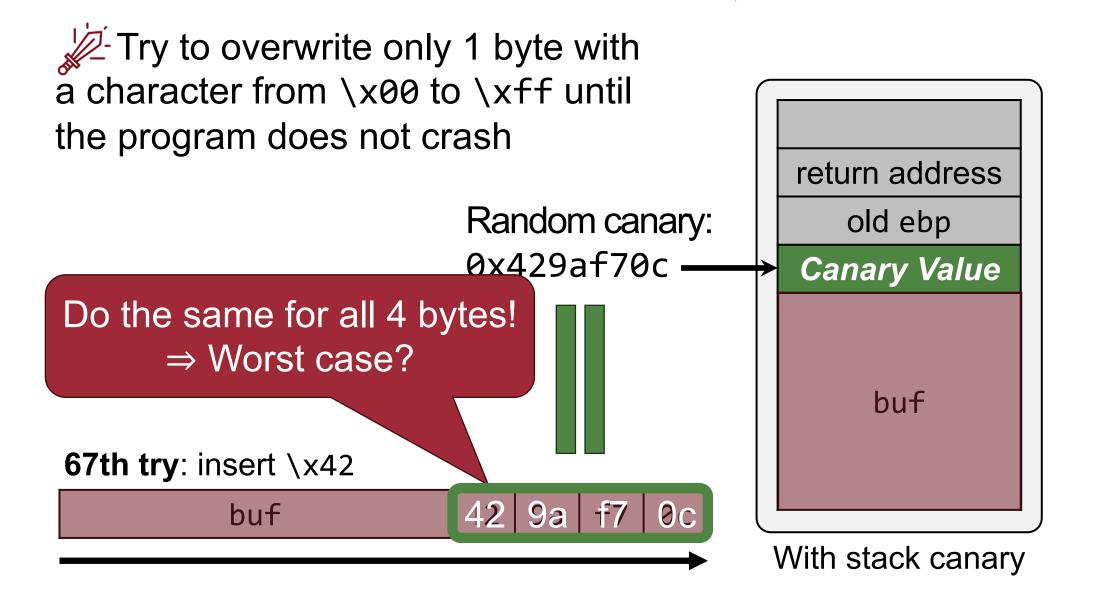
Attack #1: Byte-by-Byte Brute Forcing

Try to overwrite only 1 byte with a character from \x00 to \xff until the program does not crash return address Random canary: old ebp 0x429af70c Canary Value buf 2nd try: insert \x01 buf 9a With stack canary

Attack #1: Byte-by-Byte Brute Forcing

Try to overwrite only 1 byte with a character from \x00 to \xff until the program does not crash return address Random canary: old ebp 0x429af70c Canary Value buf **67th try**: insert \x42 buf 9a With stack canary

Attack #1: Byte-by-Byte Brute Forcing



Protecting Canary Brute-Forcing Attack

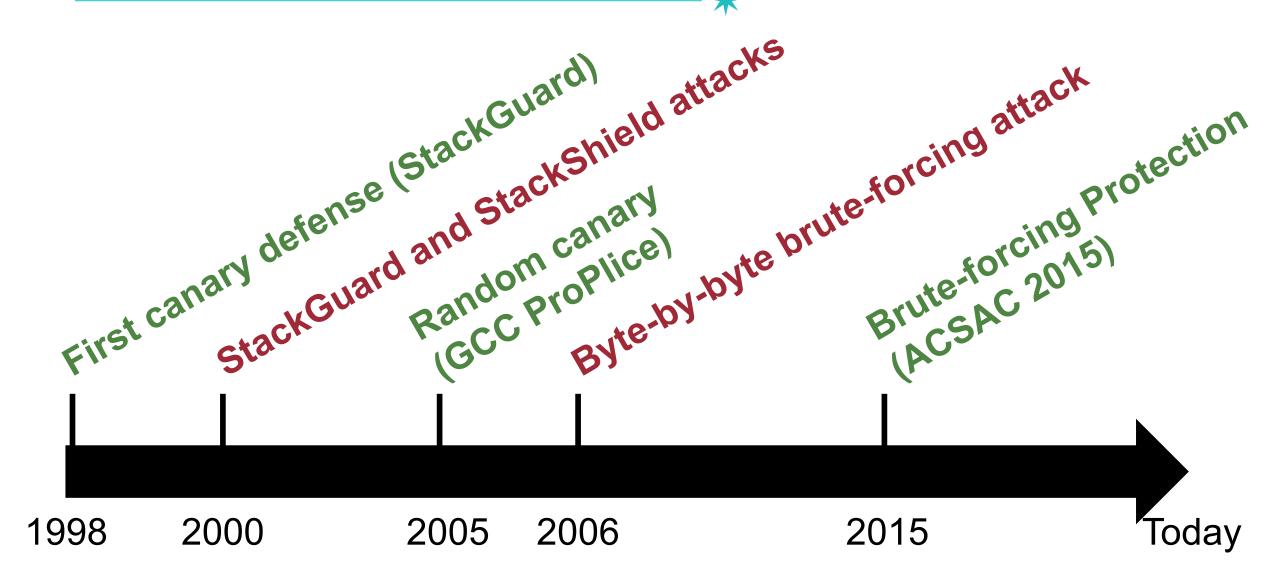
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(Optional Reading)

DynaGuard: Armoring Canary-based Protections against Brute-force Attacks, *ACSAC 2015*

Canary Attack and Defense Timeline







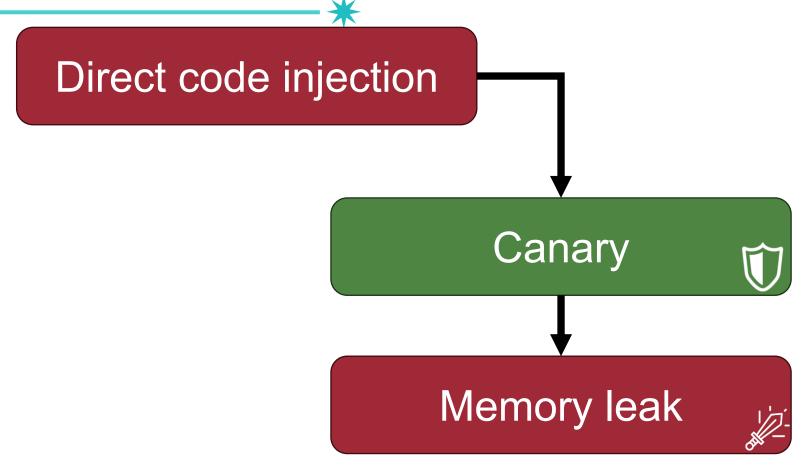
Attack #2: Leaking Canary Value

• If there is another vulnerability that allows us to *leak* stack contents, then we can easily bypass the canary check

Canary is inherently vulnerable to format string attacks

Control Hijack Attack / Defense So Far





Buffer Overflow Mitigation #2: **NX**



NX (No eXecute)

a.k.a Data Execution Prevention* (**DEP**)

Stack stores data, but not code. Therefore, OS makes the stack memory area *non-executable*

^{*} DEP *prevents* data execution, but it does not prevent buffer overflows

NX (No eXecute)



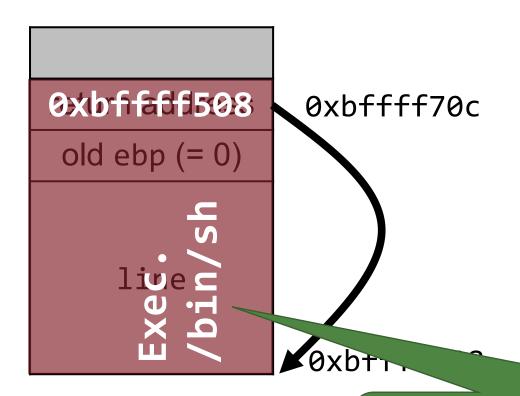
AMD Athlon™ Processor Competitive Comparison

FEATURES	AMD ATHLON™ CPU	PENTIUM® 4
Architecture Introduction	2006	2000
Infrastructure	Socket AM2	Socket LGA775
Process Technology	90 nanometer, SOI 65 nanometer, SOI	90 nanometer
64-bit Instruction Set Support	Yes, AMD64 technology	Depends, EM64T on some Pentium® 4 series
Enhanced Virus Protection for Windows® XP SP2*	Yes	Depends

On Linux, it is called W ⊕ X

- Every page should be either writable or executable, but NOT both
- Even though we can put a shellcode to a writable buffer, we cannot execute it if this policy is enabled

Mitigating Control Flow Hijack with DEP 65



Make this region *non-executable*! (e.g., stack should be non-executable)





Tool to set, clear, or query NX stack flag of binaries

```
$ /usr/sbin/execstack -s <filename>; clear NX flag
$ /usr/sbin/execstack -c <filename>; set NX flag
$ /usr/sbin/execstack -q <filename>; query NX flag
```

When NX is set, <u>return-to-stack exploit</u> will fail (i.e., the program will crash)

But,



DEP does not prevent buffer overflows. It prevents return-tostack exploits, though

Any other ways to exploit buffer overflows?

Code-Reuse Attacks

Bypassing DEP





- Return-to-stack exploit is disabled
- But, we can still jump to an arbitrary address of existing code
 (= Code Reuse Attack)

Code Reuse Attack #1: Return-to-Libc

- LIBC (LIBrary C) is a standard library that most programs commonly use
 - -For example, printf is in LIBC
- Many useful functions in LIBC to execute
 - -exec family: execl, execlp, execle, ...
 - -system
 - -mprotect
 - -mmap

Code Reuse Attack #1: Return-to-Libc



return address

old ebp (= 0)

line

Code Reuse Attack #1: Return-to-Libc

Addr. of "/bin/sh"

Dummy value

Addr.rof.system

old ebp (= 0)

Dummy value

"/bin/sh"

Argument to system

Why we insert dummy value?

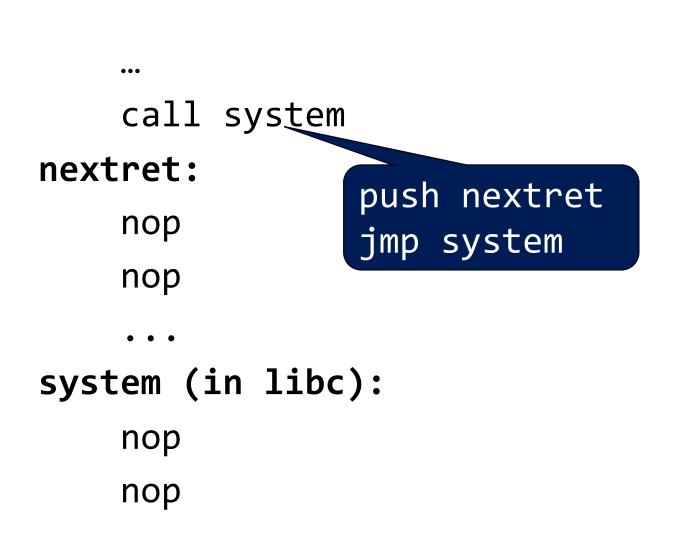
Return to system

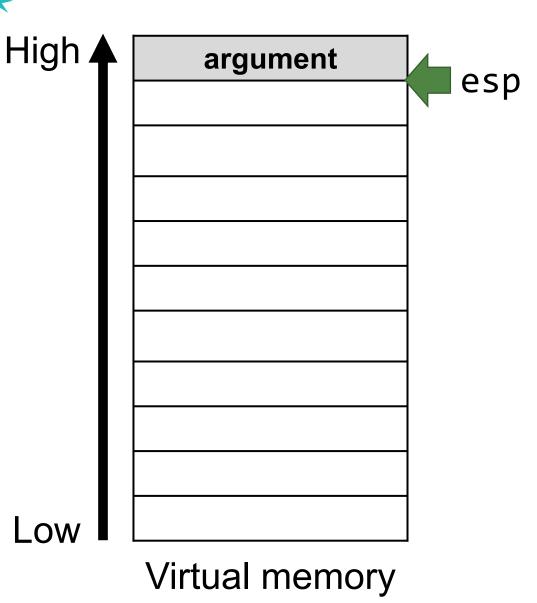
No injected shellcode!

Just inject a string value

Recap: Function Call (call)

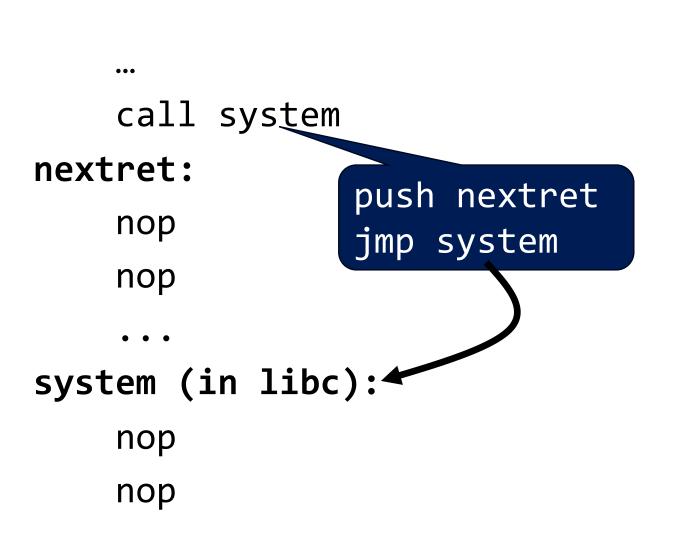


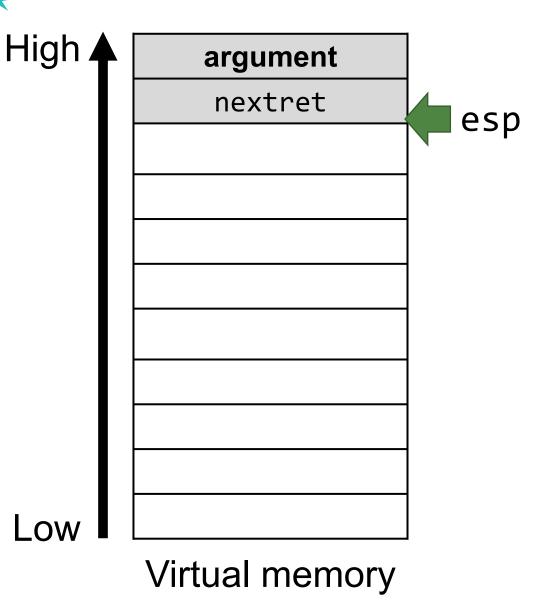




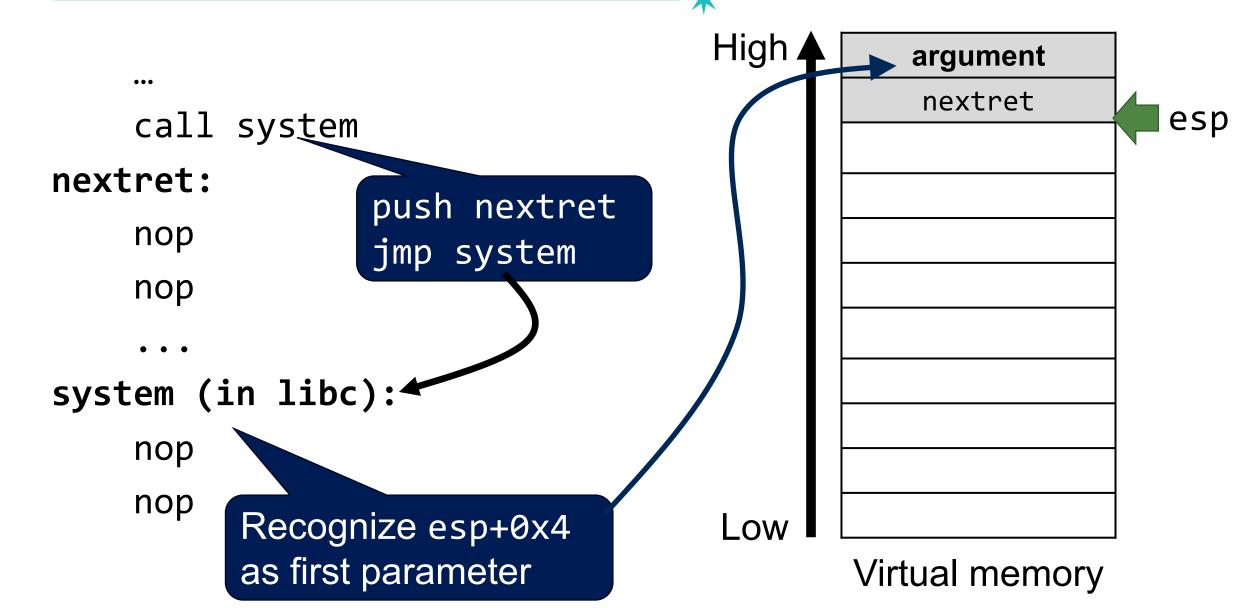
Recap: Function Call (call)







Recap: Function Call (call)



Code Reuse Attack #1: Return-to-Libc



Addr. of "/bin/sh"

Dummy value

Addr.rofsystem

old ebp (= 0)

Dummy value

"/bin/sh"

Argument to system

Fake return address!

Return to system

No injected shellcode!

Just inject a string value

Return-oriented Programming (ROP)

Code Reuse Attack #2: ROP

Generalized Code Reuse Attack

Formally introduced by Hovav in CCS 2007

"The Geometry of Innocent Flesh on the Bone: Return-to-libc without Function Calls (on the x86)"

Motivation of ROP





Return-to-Libc requires LIBC function calls, but can we spawn a shell without the use of LIBC functions?

- Different versions of LIBC
- LIBC may not be used at all
- Some functions in LIBC can be excluded

Return (ret) Chaining





Attacker's goal:

execute following instructions

add eax, ebx
mov ecx, eax
inc ecx
mov edx, 42

return address

old ebp (= 0)

line

Return (ret) Chaining



Attacker's goal:

execute following instructions

```
add eax, ebx
mov ecx, eax
inc ecx
mov edx, 42
```

42

Address of C

Address of B

rAddress of A

old ebp (= 0)

Return (ret) Chaining



Attacker's goal:

execute following instructions

add eax, ebx
mov ecx, eax
inc ecx
mov edx, 42

Somewhere in the binary code

A add eax, ebx ret

42

Address of C

Address of B

rAddress of A

old ebp (= 0)

Return (ret) Chaining



Attacker's goal:

execute following instructions

add eax, ebx
mov ecx, eax
inc ecx
mov edx, 42

ROP Gadget:
Instruction sequence
that ends with ret

A add eax, ebx ret

42

Address of C

Address of B

rAddress of A

old ebp (= 0)

Return (ret) Chaining



execute following instructions

```
add eax, ebx
mov ecx, eax
inc ecx
mov edx, 42
```

42 Address of C Address of B rAddress of A old ebp (= 0)

A add eax, ebx ret

Return (ret) Chaining

Attacker's goal:

execute following instructions

add eax, ebx
mov ecx, eax
inc ecx
mov edx, 42

pop eip
= jump to another
gadget

A d eax, ebx
ret

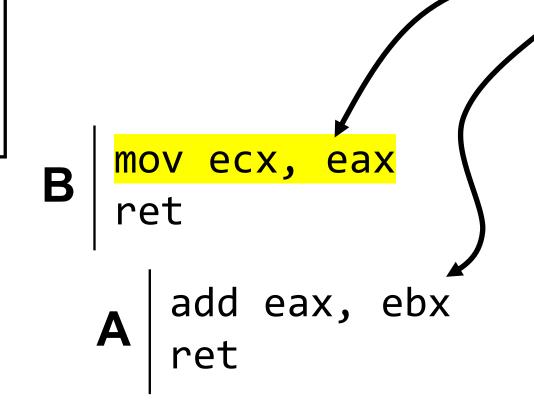
42 Address of C Address of B rAddress of A old ebp (= 0)

Return (ret) Chaining

Attacker's goal:

execute following instructions

add eax, ebx
mov ecx, eax
inc ecx
mov edx, 42



Address of C
Address of B
rAddress of A

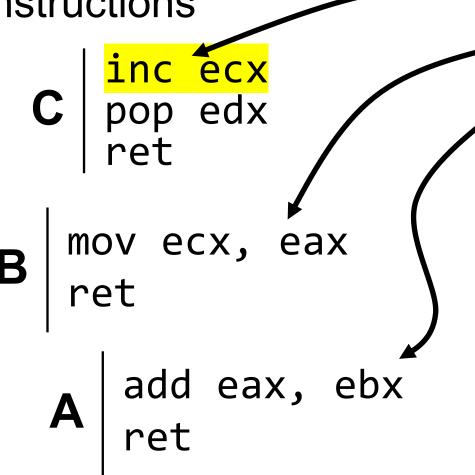
old ebp (= 0)

Return (ret) Chaining

Attacker's goal:

execute following instructions

add eax, ebx
mov ecx, eax
inc ecx
mov edx, 42



Address of C
Address of B

Address of A

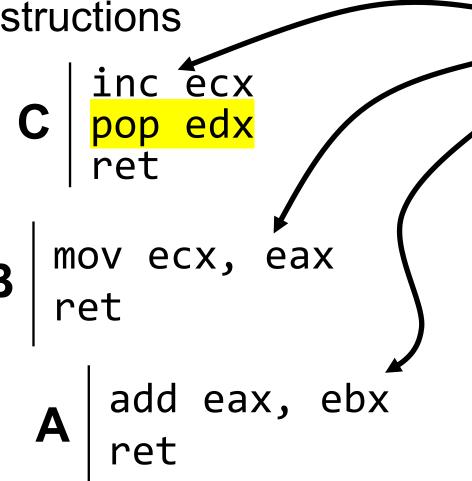
old ebp (= 0)

Return (ret) Chaining

Attacker's goal:

execute following instructions

add eax, ebx
mov ecx, eax
inc ecx
mov edx, 42



Address of C
Address of B
Address of A
old ebp (= 0)

Return (ret) Chaining



execute following instructions

add eax, ebx
mov ecx, eax
inc ecx
mov edx, 42

c | inc ecx pop edx ret | mov ecx, eax ret

Address of C
Address of B

Address of A

old ebp (= 0)

Return chaining with ROP gadgets allows arbitrary computation!

ROP Practice



Goal: Modify ptr to be 0x42424242 with ROP

mov [ptr], 0x42424242

Gadget A pop eax ret

Gadget B pop ebx ret

Gadget **C** mov [eax], ebx ret

return address

old ebp (= 0)

line

ROP Workflow



1. Disassemble binary

- 2. Identify useful instruction sequences (i.e., gadgets)
 - E.g., an instruction sequence that ends with ret is useful
 - E.g., an instruction sequence that ends with jmp reg can be useful (pop eax; jmp eax)
- 3. Assemble gadgets to perform some computation
 - E.g., spawning a shell

Challenge: Gathering as many gadgets as possible

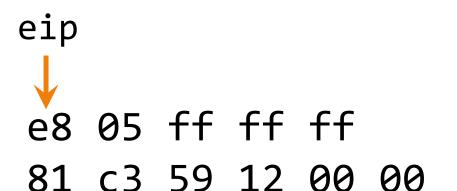
Many Gadgets in Regular Binaries?

x86 instructions have their lengths ranging from 1 byte to 18 bytes, i.e., it uses *variable-length encoding*

Therefore, there can be both **intended** and **unintended gadgets** in x86 binaries

Disassembling x86

```
97
```



```
call 8048330 add ebx,0x1259
```

What if we disassemble the code from the second byte (05)?

Unintended ret Insturction

```
eip

e8 05 ff ff add eax, 0x81ffffff
81 c3 59 12 00 00 ret
```

Unintended ret Insturction

```
eip
e8 <mark>05 ff ff ff</mark>
81 c3 59 12 00 00
```

```
add eax, 0x81ffffff
ret
```

Unintended ret Insturction



```
eip

e8 05 ff ff add eax, 0x81ffffff

81 c3 59 12 00 00 ret
```

Many Gadgets in Regular Binaries?

Also, program size may matter!

Larger code ⇒ More chance to get useful gadgets

Question

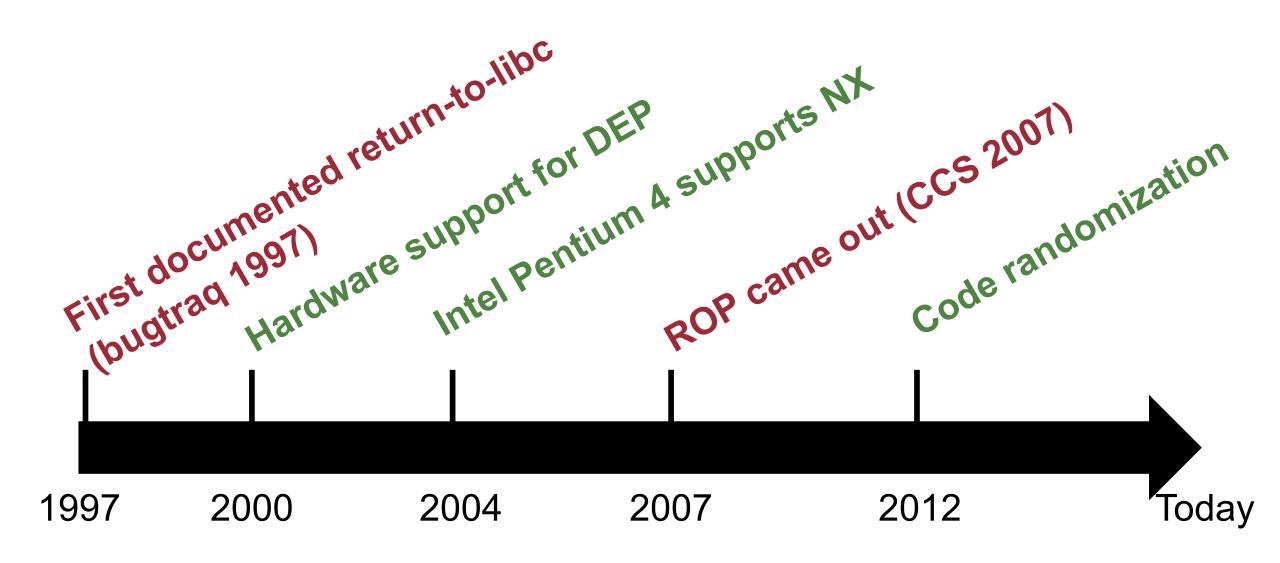


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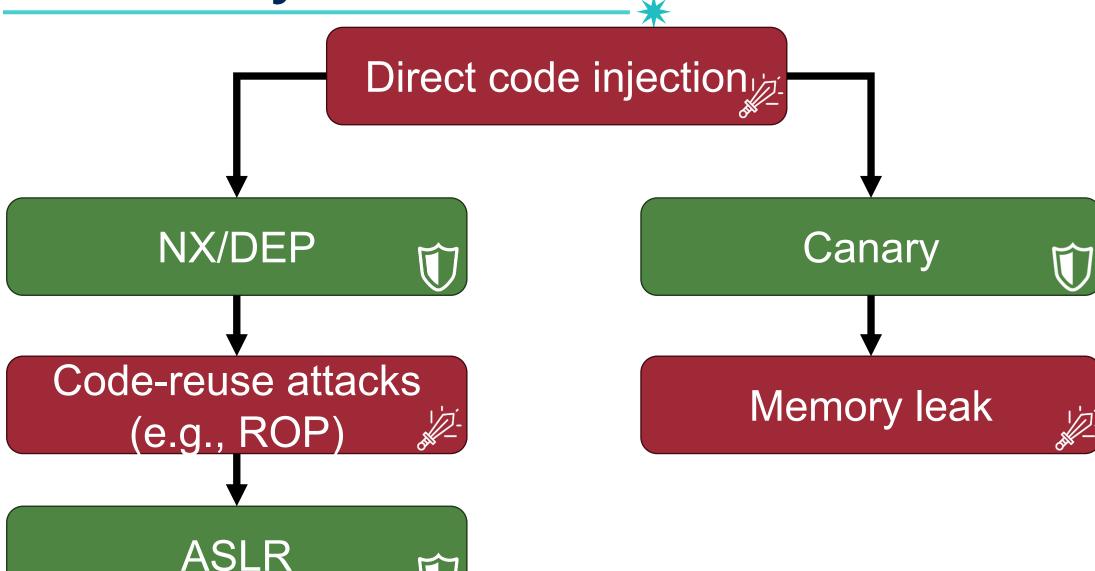
How can we mitigate code reuse attacks (ROP)?

Address randomization (ASLR)! (next lecture)

DEP and Code Reuse Attacks

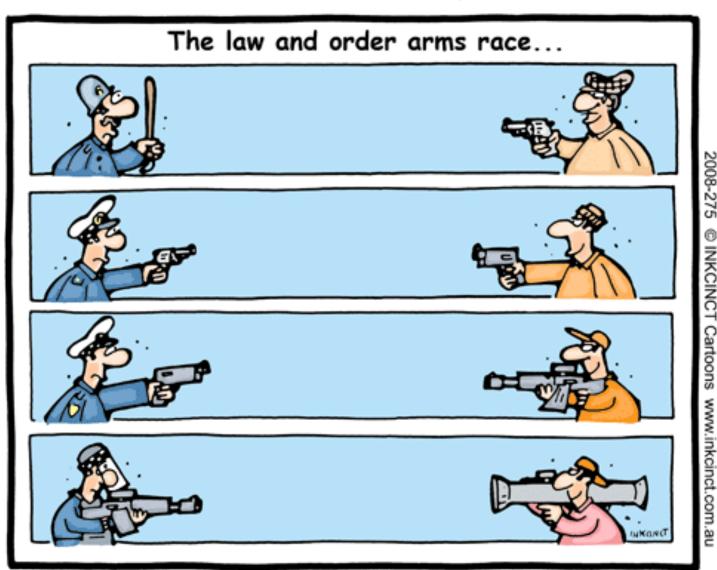


Control Hijack Attack / Defense So Far



Arms Race in Security





Summary



- *
- Two mitigation techniques against control flow hijacks
 - Stack canary
 - -NX (or DEP)
- Code reuse attacks allow an attacker to bypass DEP
- Many mitigation techniques are proposed for code reuse attacks, which will be covered next.

Question?