

Why is memory safety still a concern?

Mohamed (Tarek Ibn Ziad) Hassan

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[@M_TarekIbnZiad](https://twitter.com/M_TarekIbnZiad)

Ph.D. Candidacy Exam
April 9th, 2020.

Why is memory safety still a concern?

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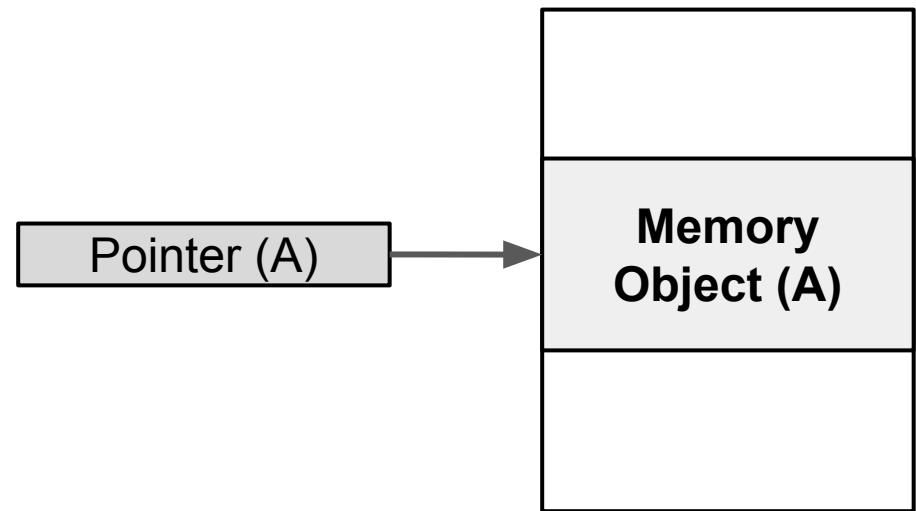
mtarek@cs.columbia.edu

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MEMORY SAFETY DEFINITION

A program property that guarantees **memory objects** can only be accessed:

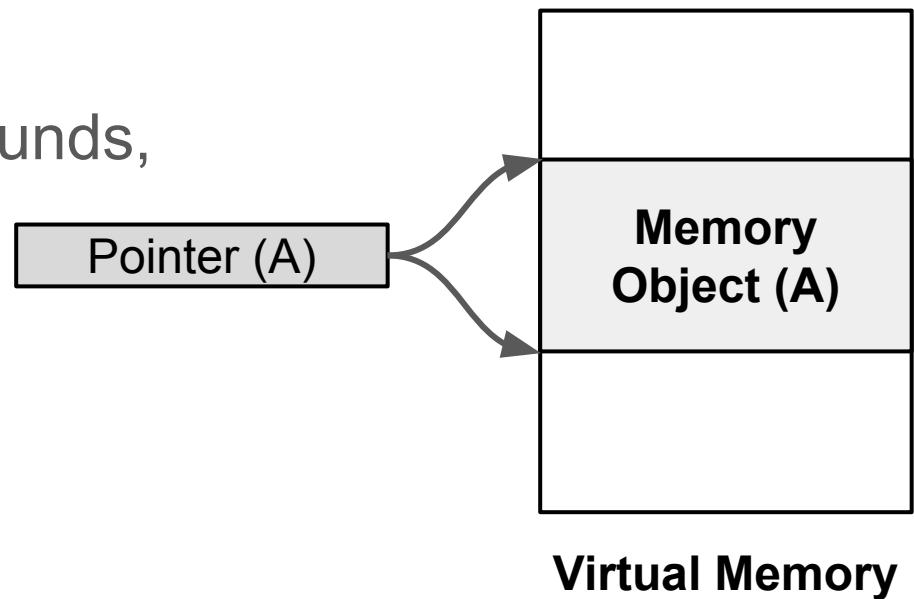


Virtual Memory

MEMORY SAFETY DEFINITION

A program property that guarantees **memory objects** can only be accessed:

- Between their intended bounds,

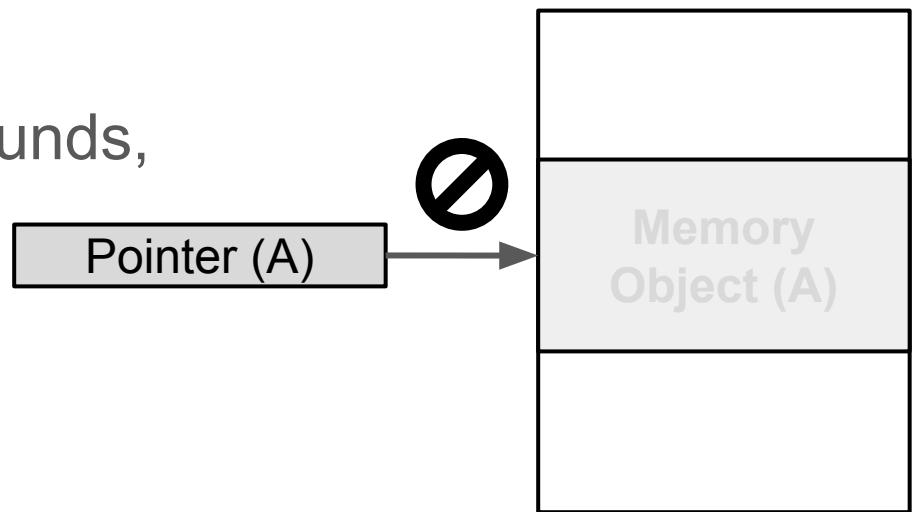


Virtual Memory

MEMORY SAFETY DEFINITION

A program property that guarantees **memory objects** can only be accessed:

- Between their intended bounds,
- During their lifetime,

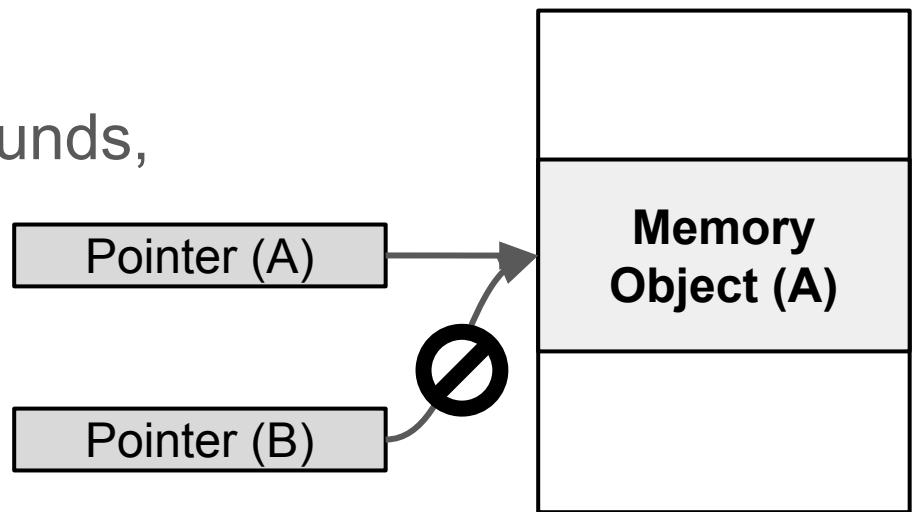


Virtual Memory

MEMORY SAFETY DEFINITION

A program property that guarantees **memory objects** can only be accessed:

- Between their intended bounds,
- During their lifetime, and
- Given their original (or compatible) type.

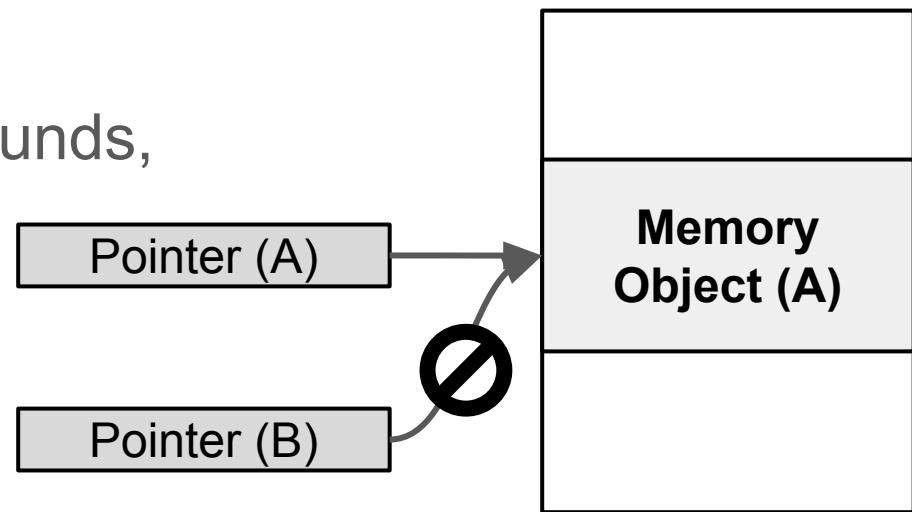


Virtual Memory

MEMORY SAFETY ~~DEFINITION~~ VIOLATIONS

A program property that guarantees **memory objects** can only be accessed:

- Between their intended bounds,
- During their lifetime, and
- Given their original (or compatible) type.



Virtual Memory

MEMORY SAFETY ~~DEFINITION~~ VIOLATIONS

A program property that guarantees **memory objects** can only be accessed:

- ~~Between their intended bounds~~, **Buffer overflow**
- During their lifetime, and
- Given their original
(or compatible) type.

MEMORY SAFETY ~~DEFINITION~~ VIOLATIONS

A program property that guarantees **memory objects** can only be accessed:

- Between their intended bounds,
- ~~During their lifetime, and~~ **Use-after-free**
- Given their original
(or compatible) type.

MEMORY SAFETY ~~DEFINITION~~ VIOLATIONS

A program property that guarantees **memory objects** can only be accessed:

- Between their intended bounds,
- During their lifetime, and
- ~~Given their original (or compatible) type.~~ Type confusion

MEMORY SAFETY IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM!

CABLE HAUNT —

Exploit that gives remote access affects ~200 million cable modems

Cable Haunt lets attackers take complete control when targets visit booby-trapped sites.

DAN GOODIN - 1/13/2020, 5:00 PM

Computing Sep 6

■ ■ ■

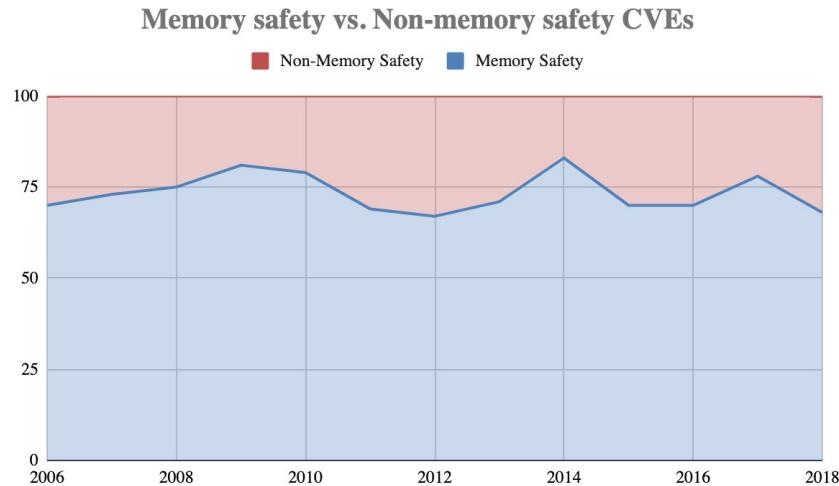
Apple says China's Uighur Muslims were targeted in the recent iPhone hacking campaign

The tech giant gave a rare statement that bristled at Google's analysis of the novel hacking operation.

EDITOR'S PICK | 42,742 views | Nov 21, 2018, 07:00am

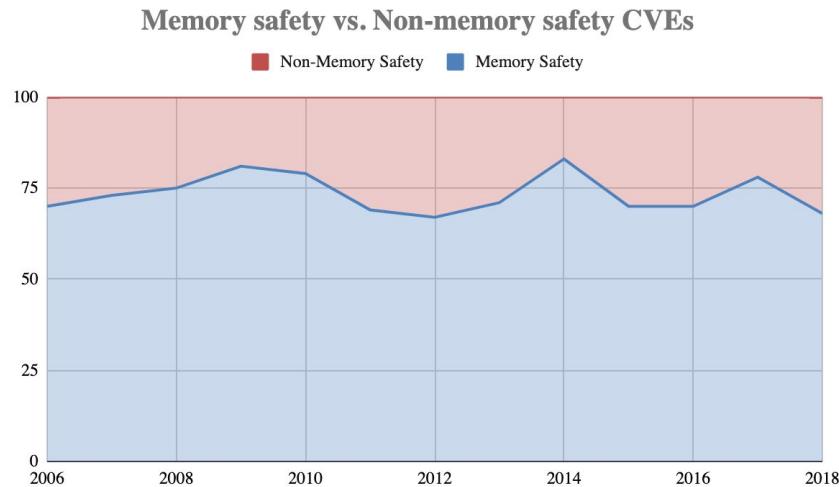
Exclusive: Saudi Dissidents Hit With Stealth iPhone Spyware Before Khashoggi's Murder

PREVALENCE OF MEMORY SAFETY VULNS

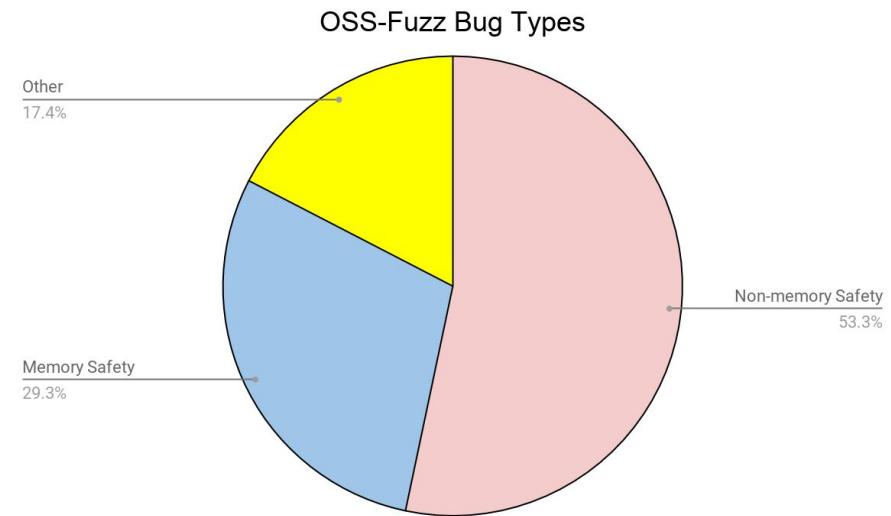


Microsoft Product CVEs

PREVALENCE OF MEMORY SAFETY VULNS

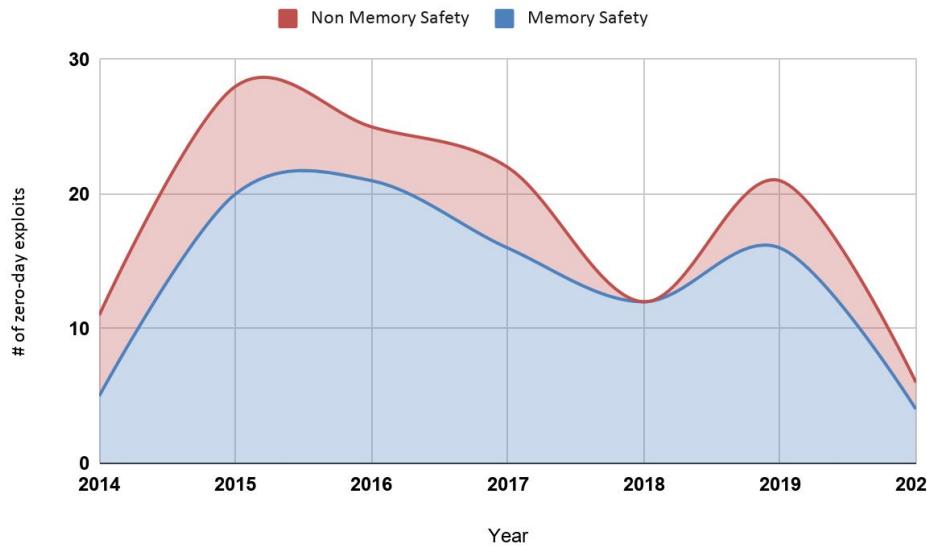


Microsoft Product CVEs



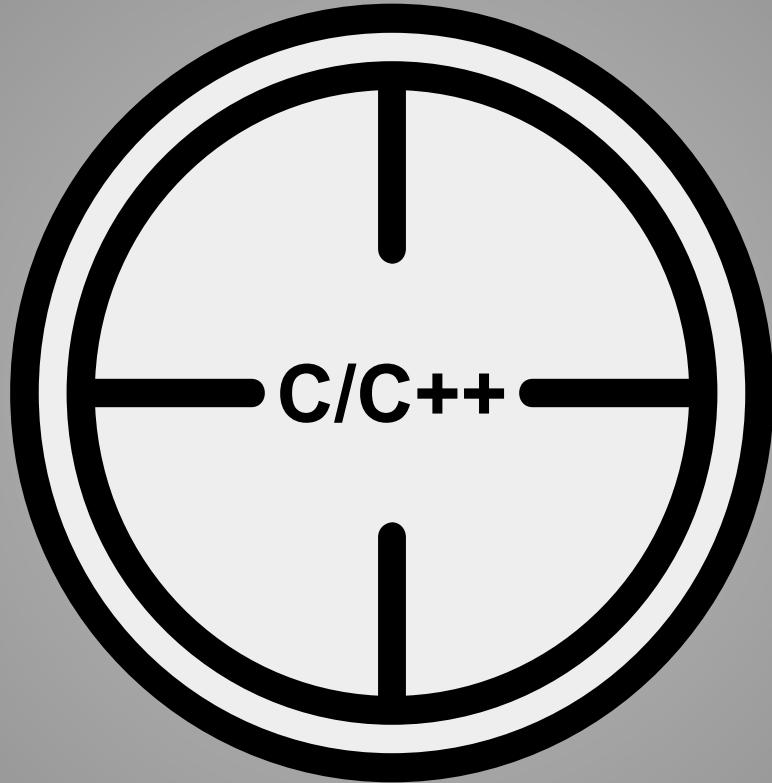
Google OSS-Fuzz bugs from 2016-2018.

ATTACKERS PREFER MEMORY SAFETY VULNS



Zero-day “in the wild” exploits
from 2014-2020

Source: Google Project Zero, 0day "In the Wild" [spreadsheet](#). Last updated: April 3rd, 2020



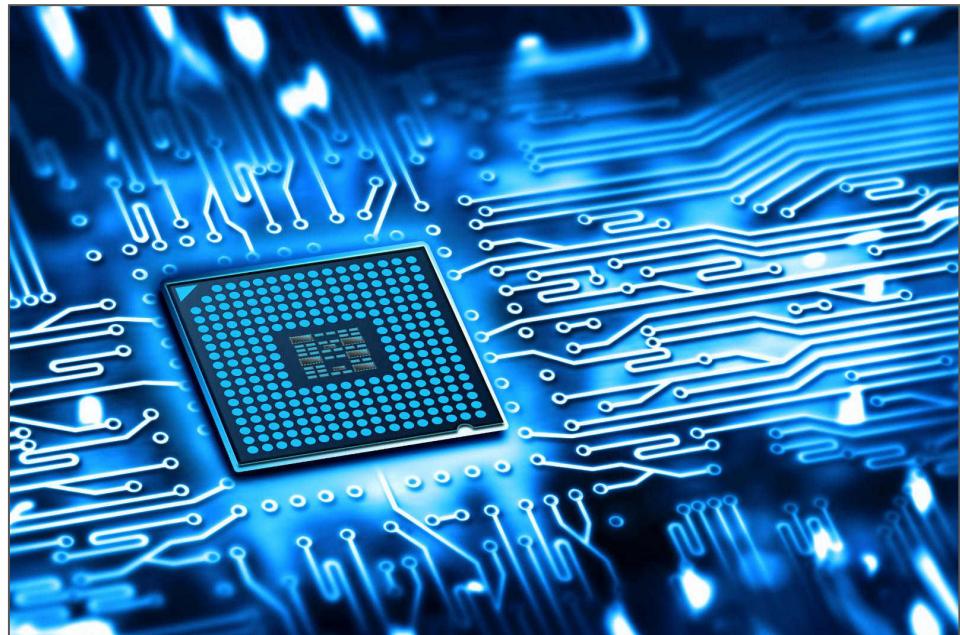
C/C++ IS HERE TO STAY

- Performance.



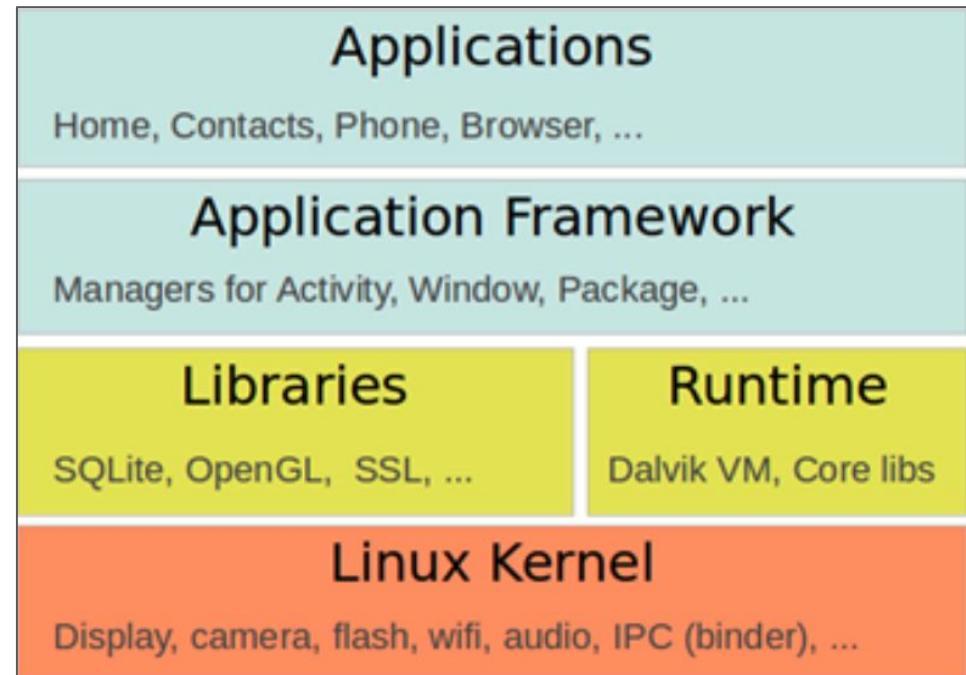
C/C++ IS HERE TO STAY

- Performance.
- Communication.



C/C++ IS HERE TO STAY

- Performance.
- Communication.
- Completeness.



C/C++ IS HERE TO STAY

- Performance.
- Communication.
- Completeness.
- Maturity.



C/C++ IS HERE TO STAY

- Performance.
- Communication.
- Completeness.
- Maturity.
- Legacy code.



REST OF THE TALK



Memory Corruption Attacks & Defenses



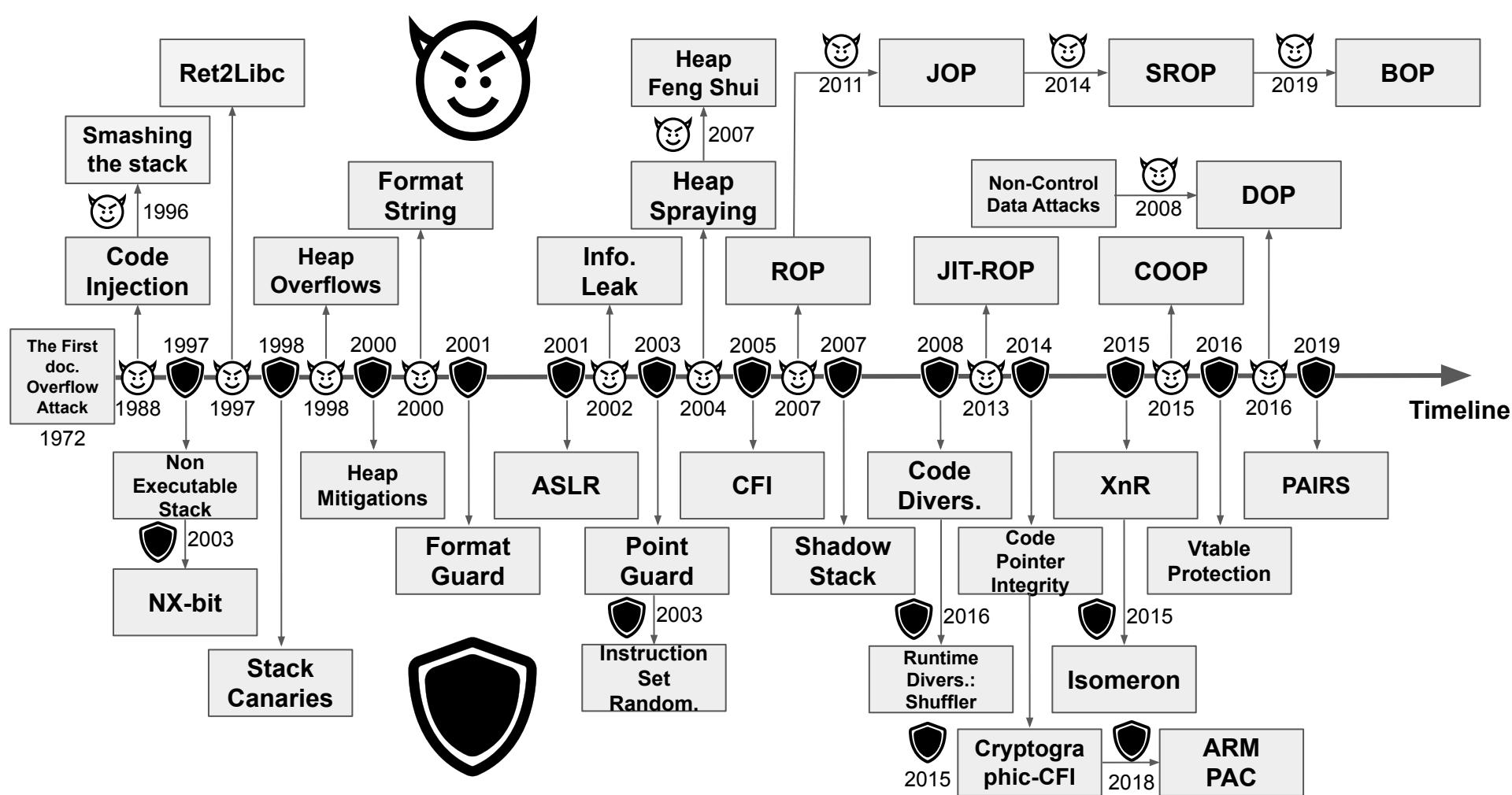
Memory Safety Techniques

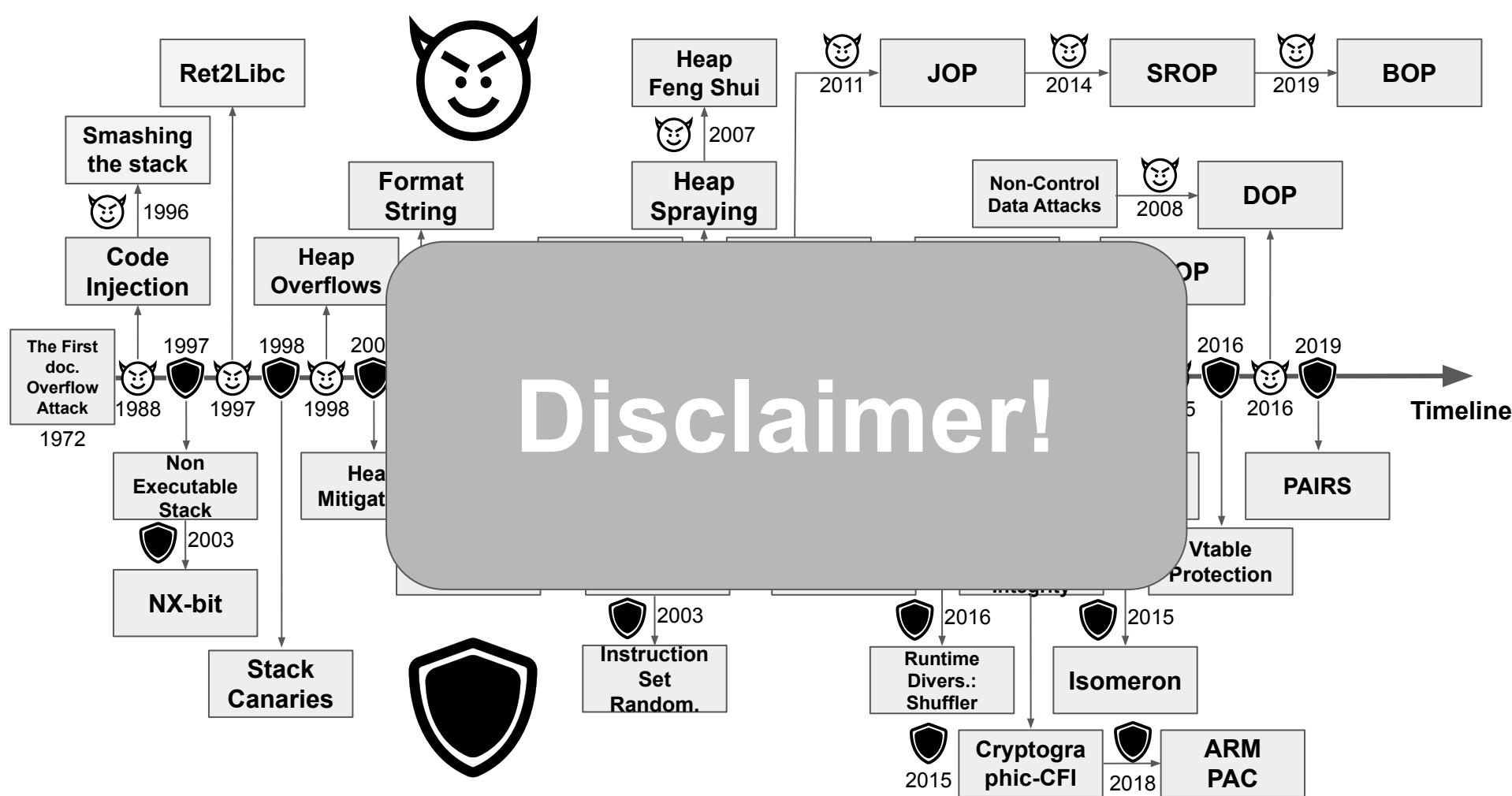


Future Work Map



Memory Corruption Attacks & Defenses







The First
doc.
Overflow
Attack
1972



Timeline



Source: James P. Anderson, Computer Security Technology Planning Study, October 1972
<http://seclab.cs.ucdavis.edu/projects/history/papers/ande72.pdf>



“the code performing this function does not check the source and destination addresses properly, permitting portions of the monitor to be **overlaid by the user**.

The First
doc.
Overflow
Attack

1972

Timeline →



Source: James P. Anderson, Computer Security Technology Planning Study, October 1972
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“the code performing this function does not check the source and destination addresses properly, permitting portions of the monitor to be **overlaid by the user**. This can be used to **inject code** into the monitor that will permit the user to **seize control of the machine**”

The First
doc.
Overflow
Attack

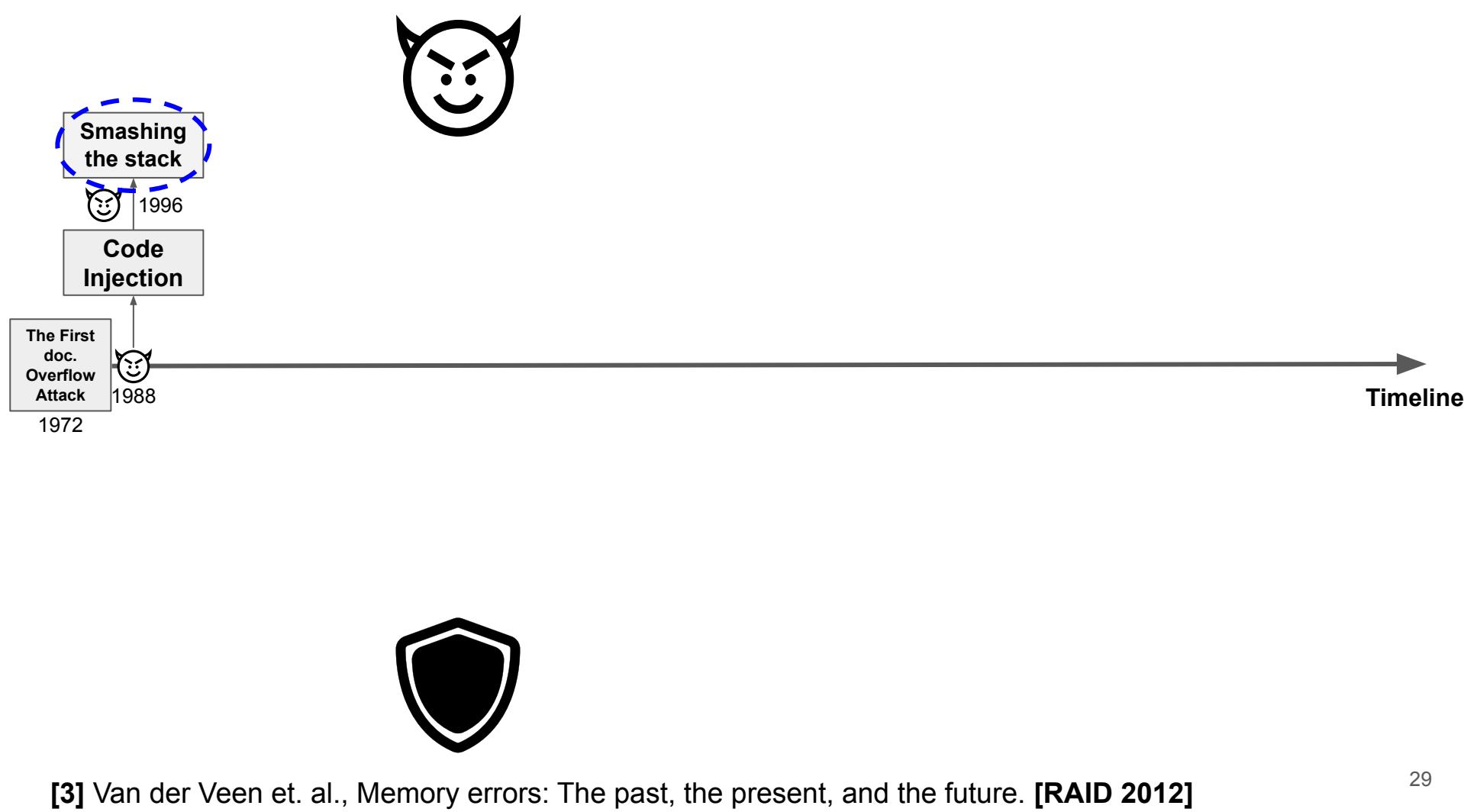
1972

Timeline →

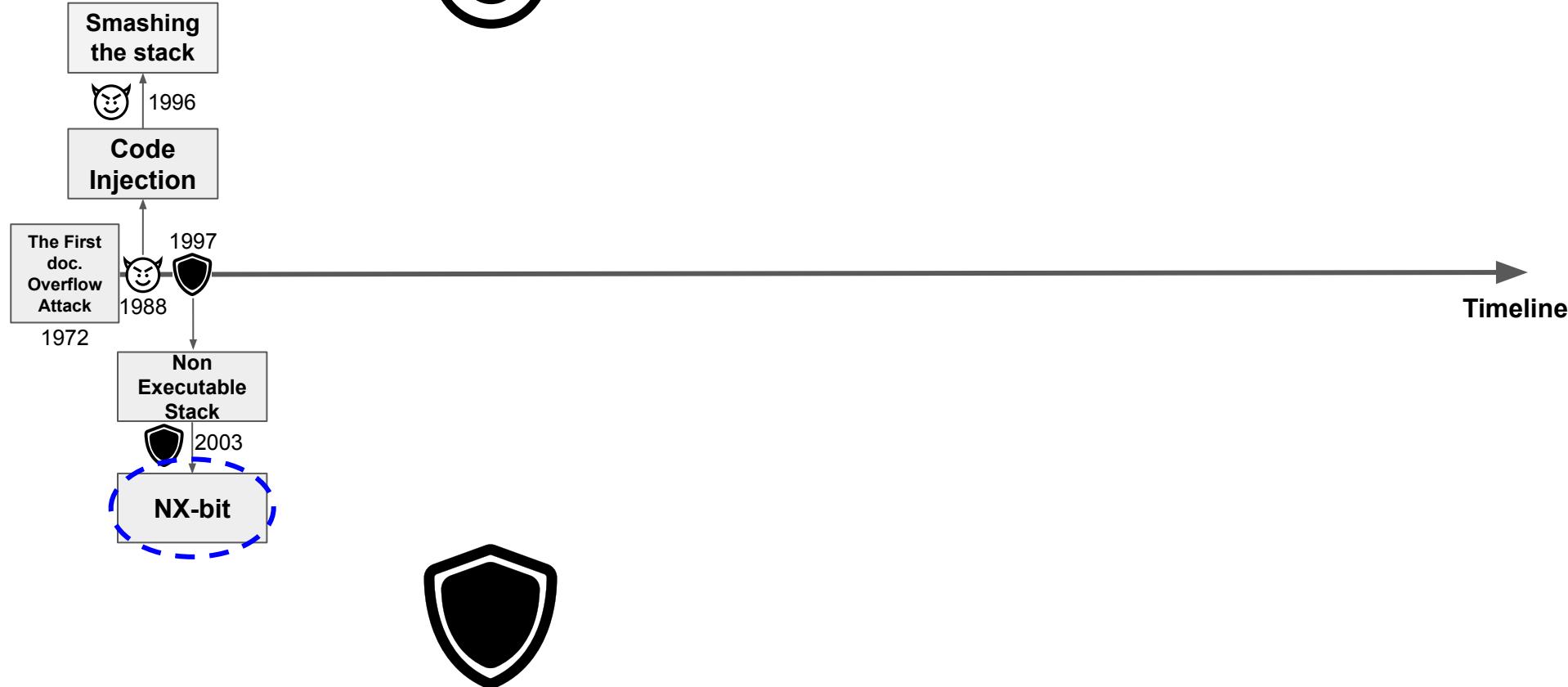


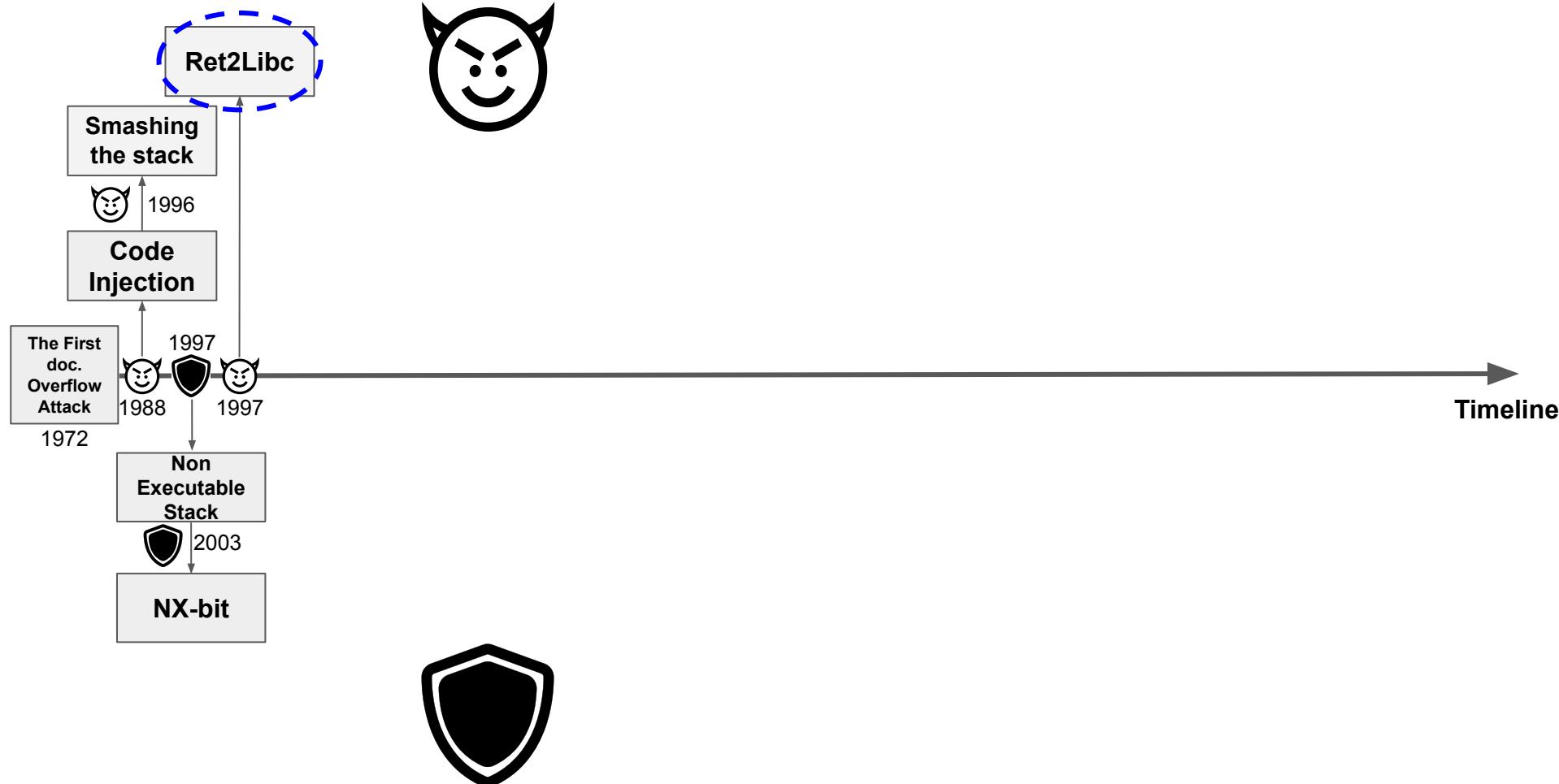
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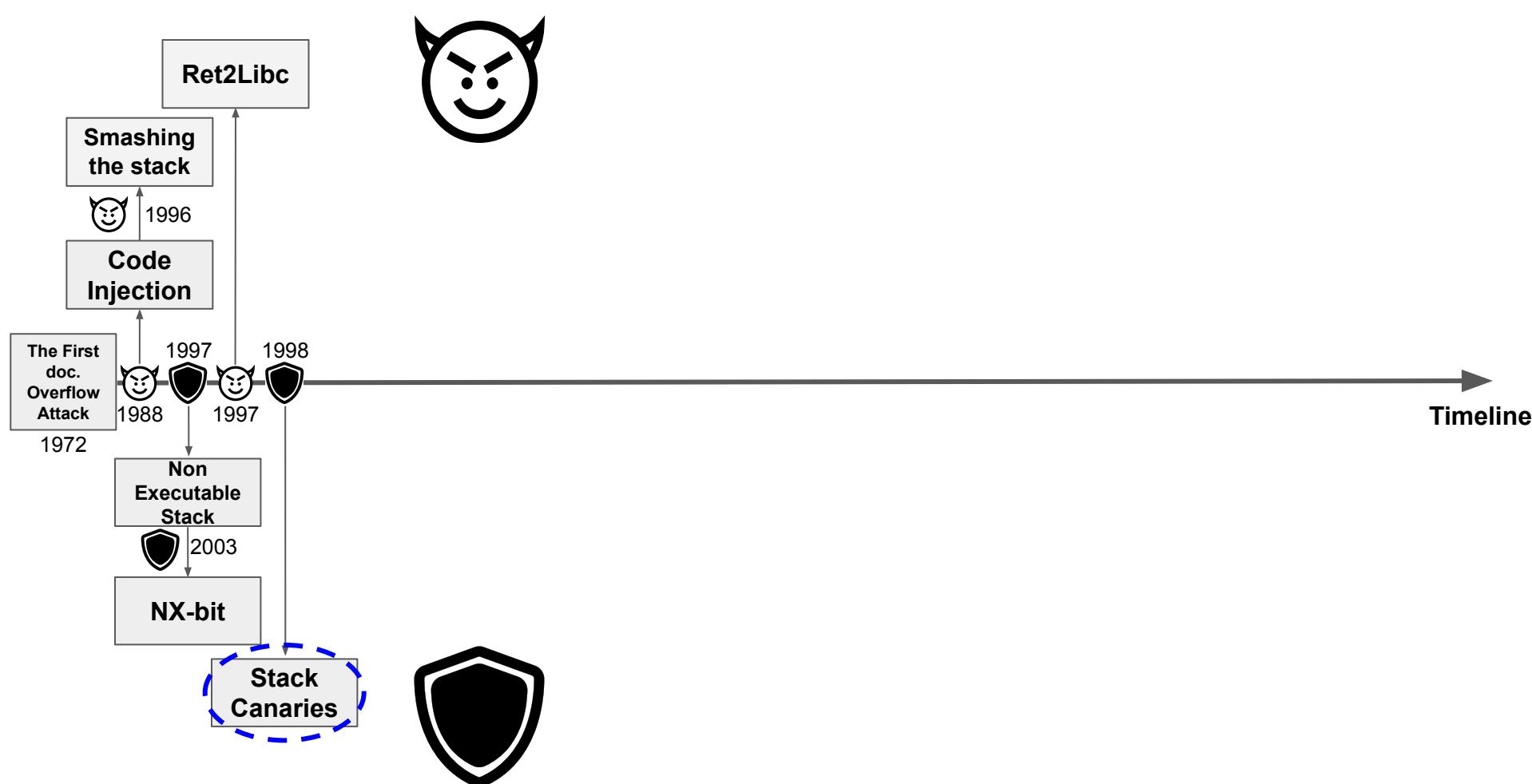


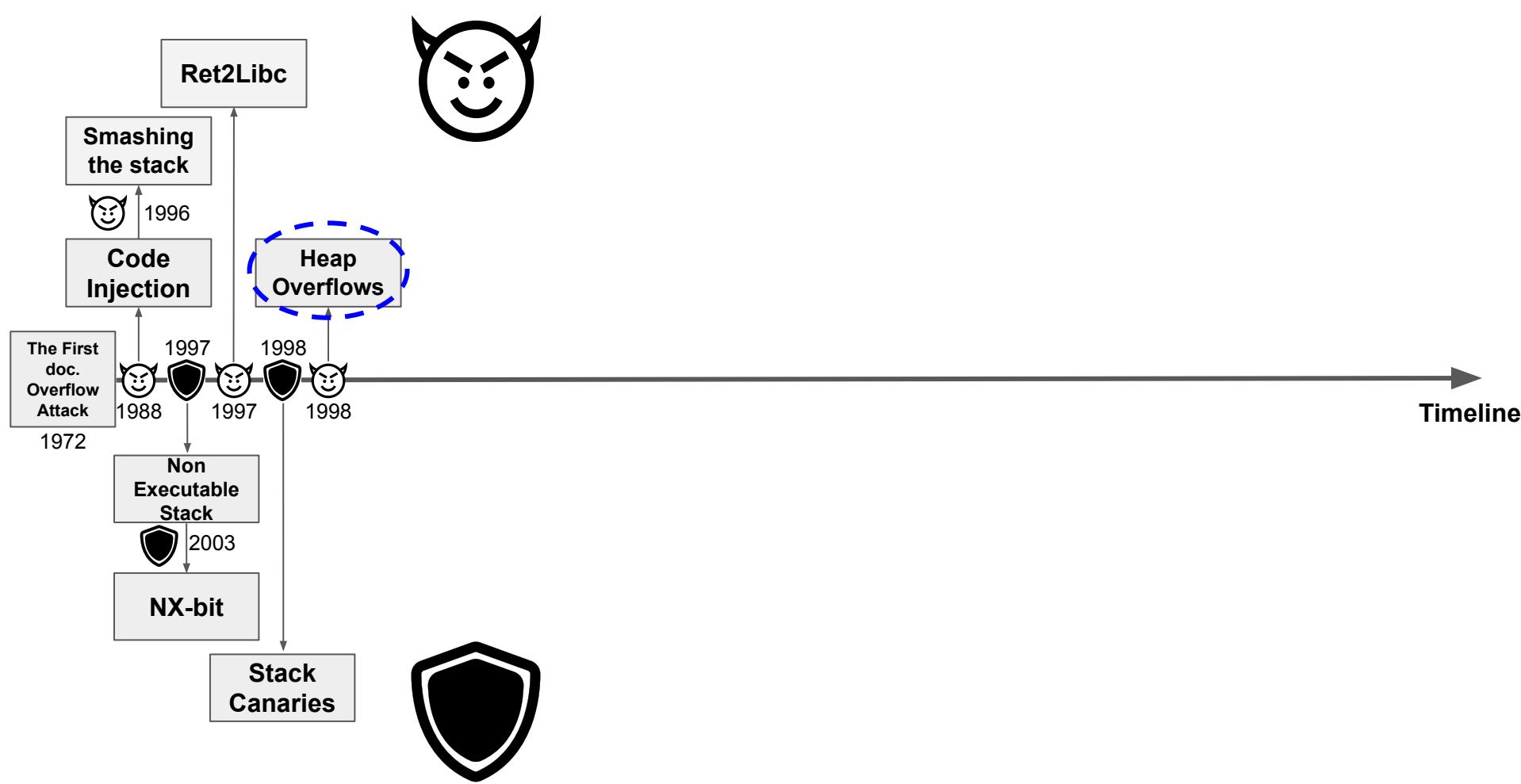


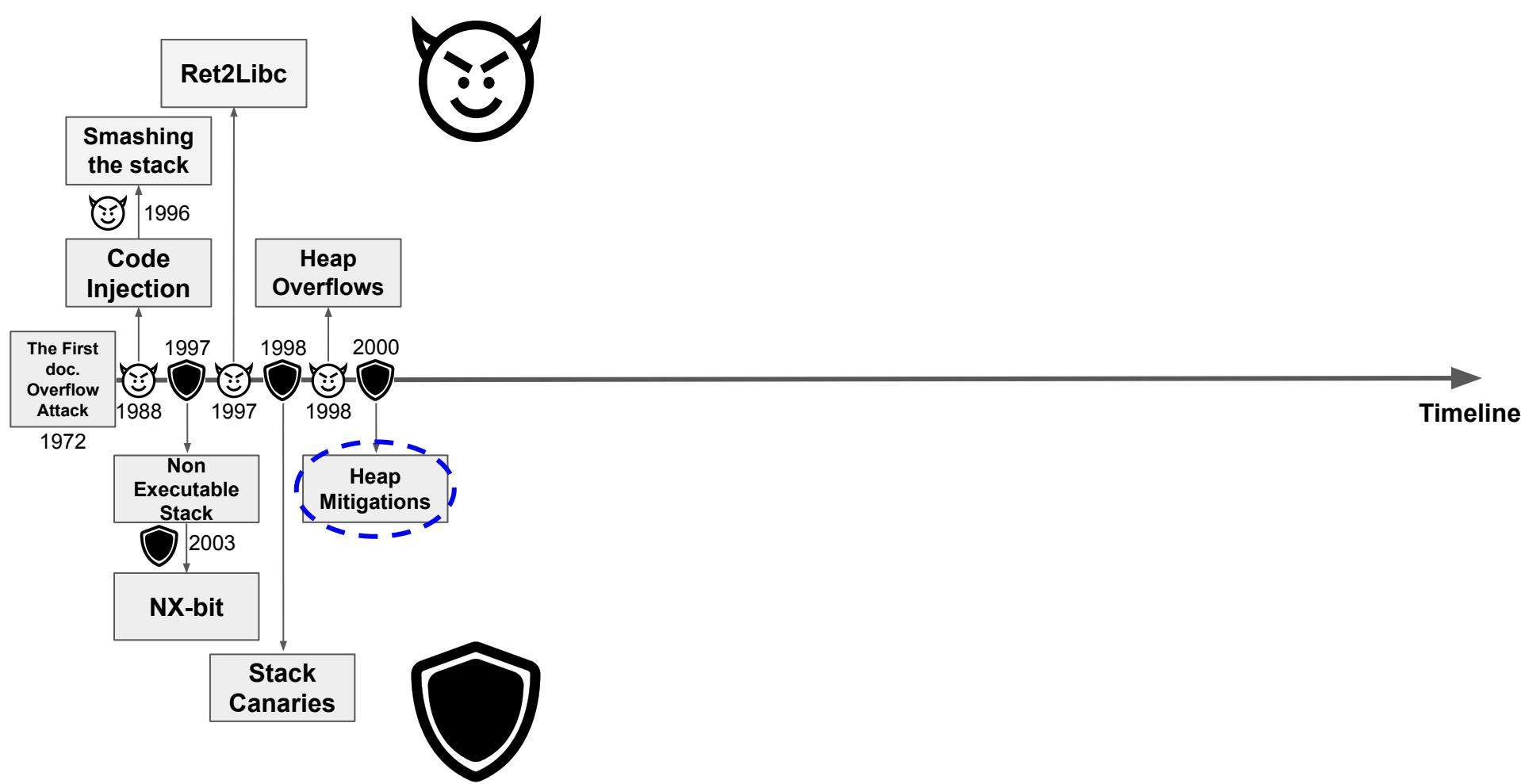


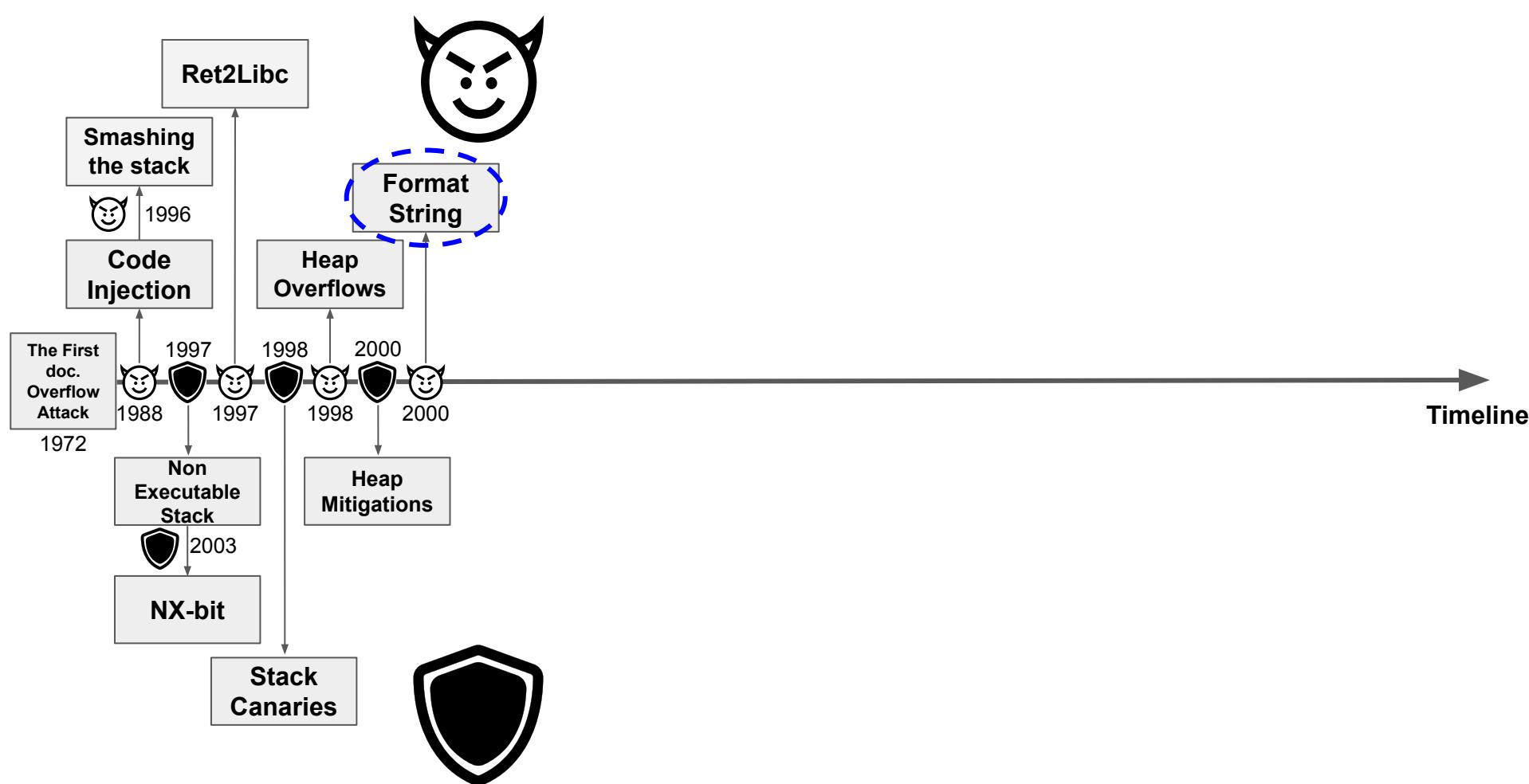


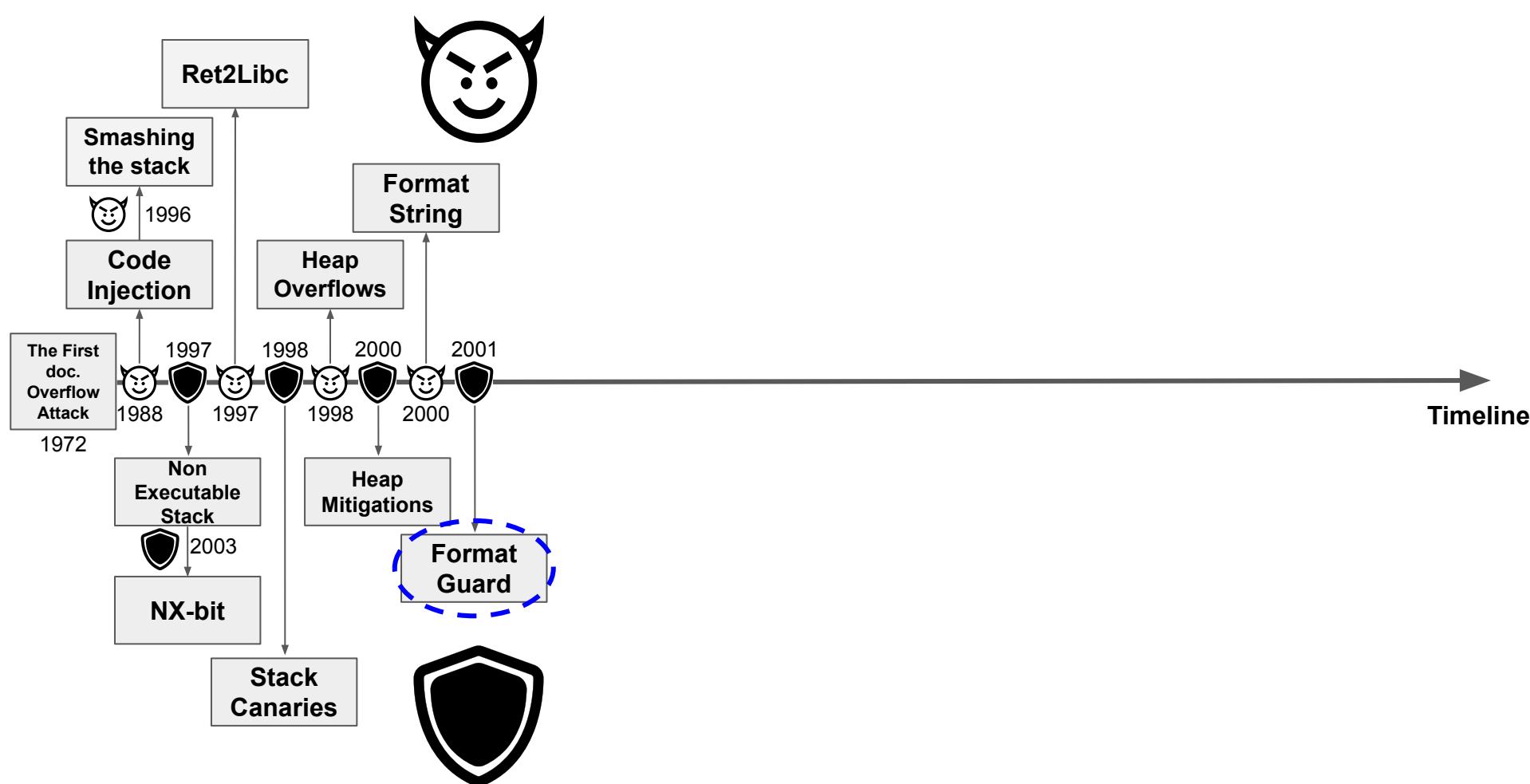


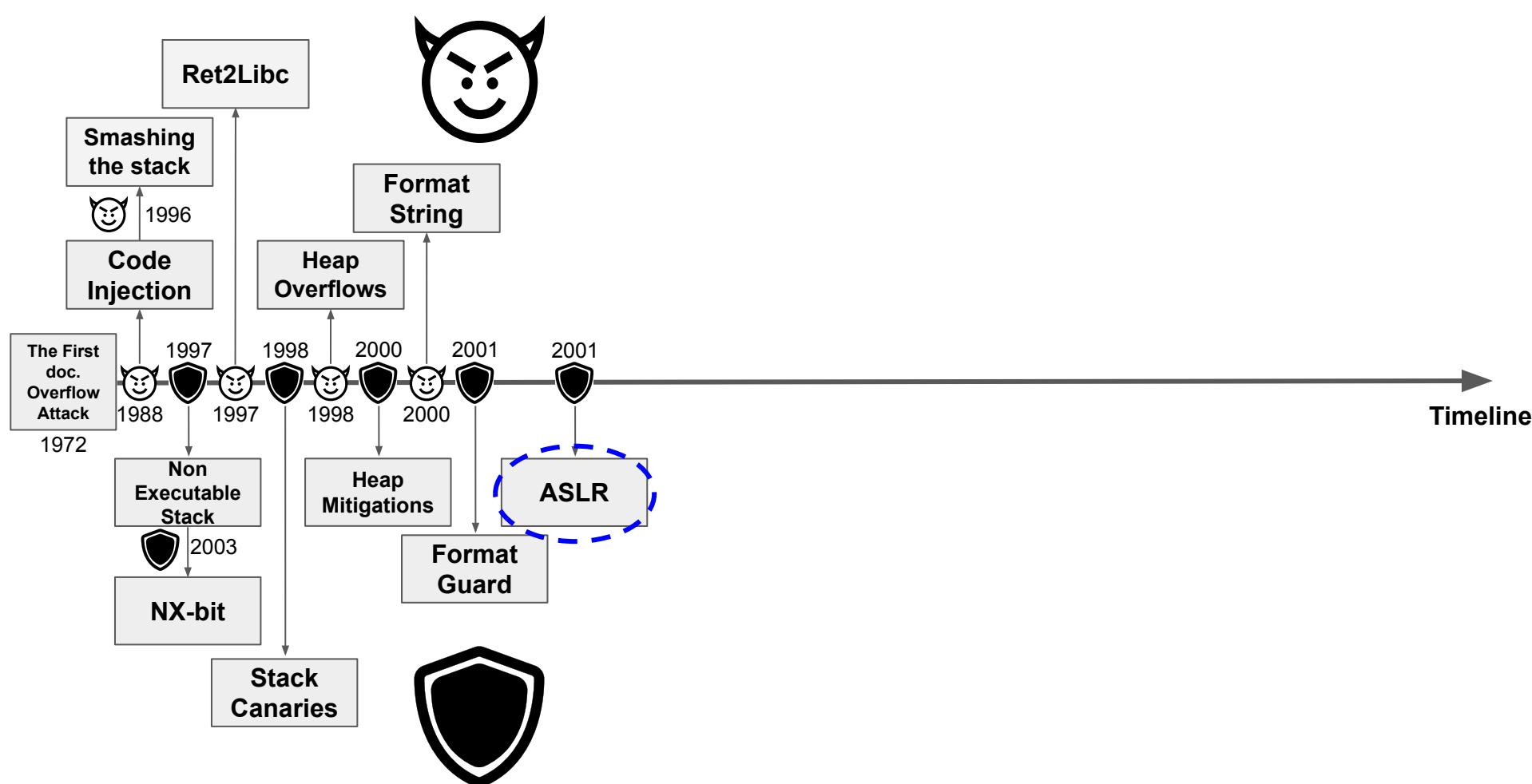


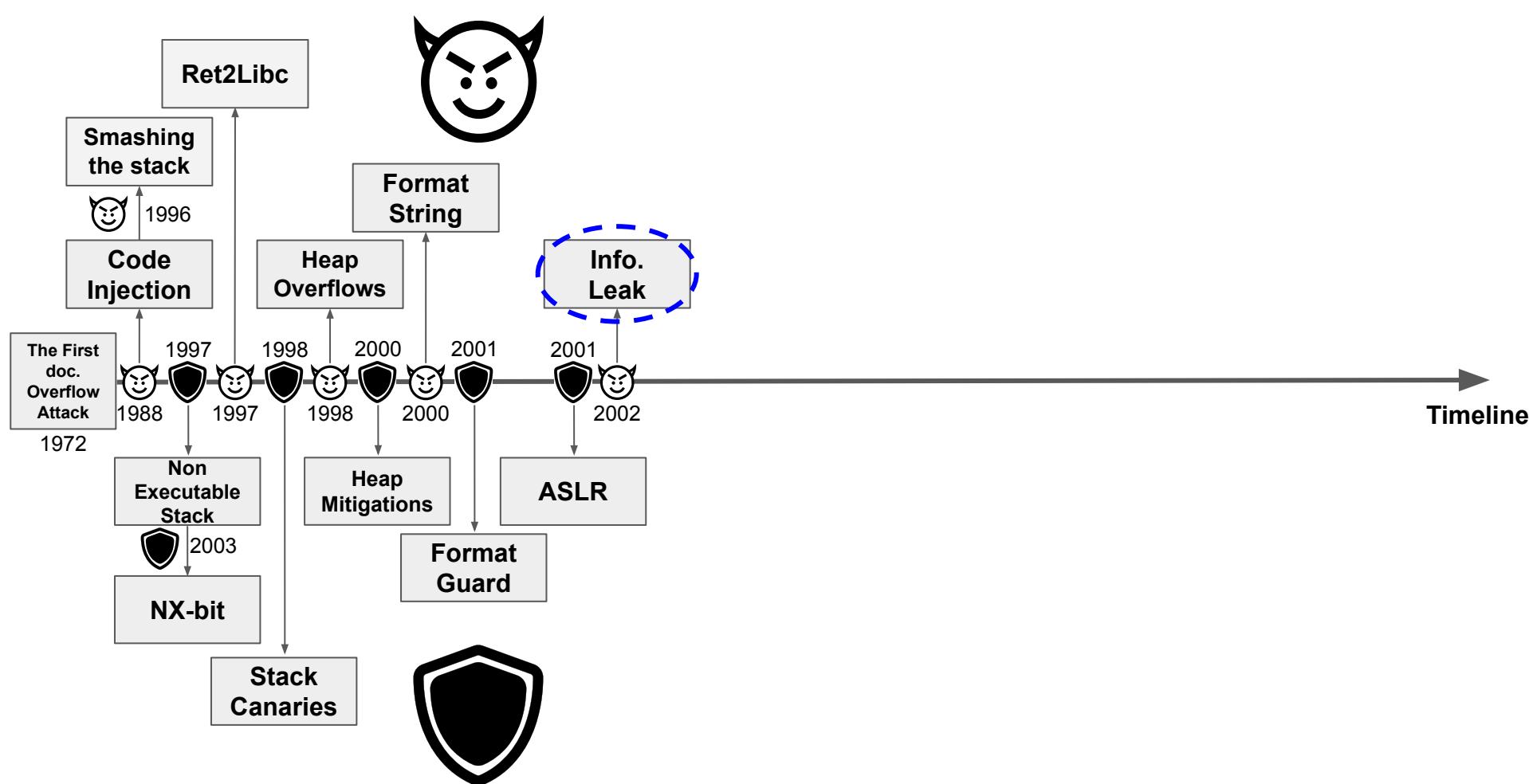


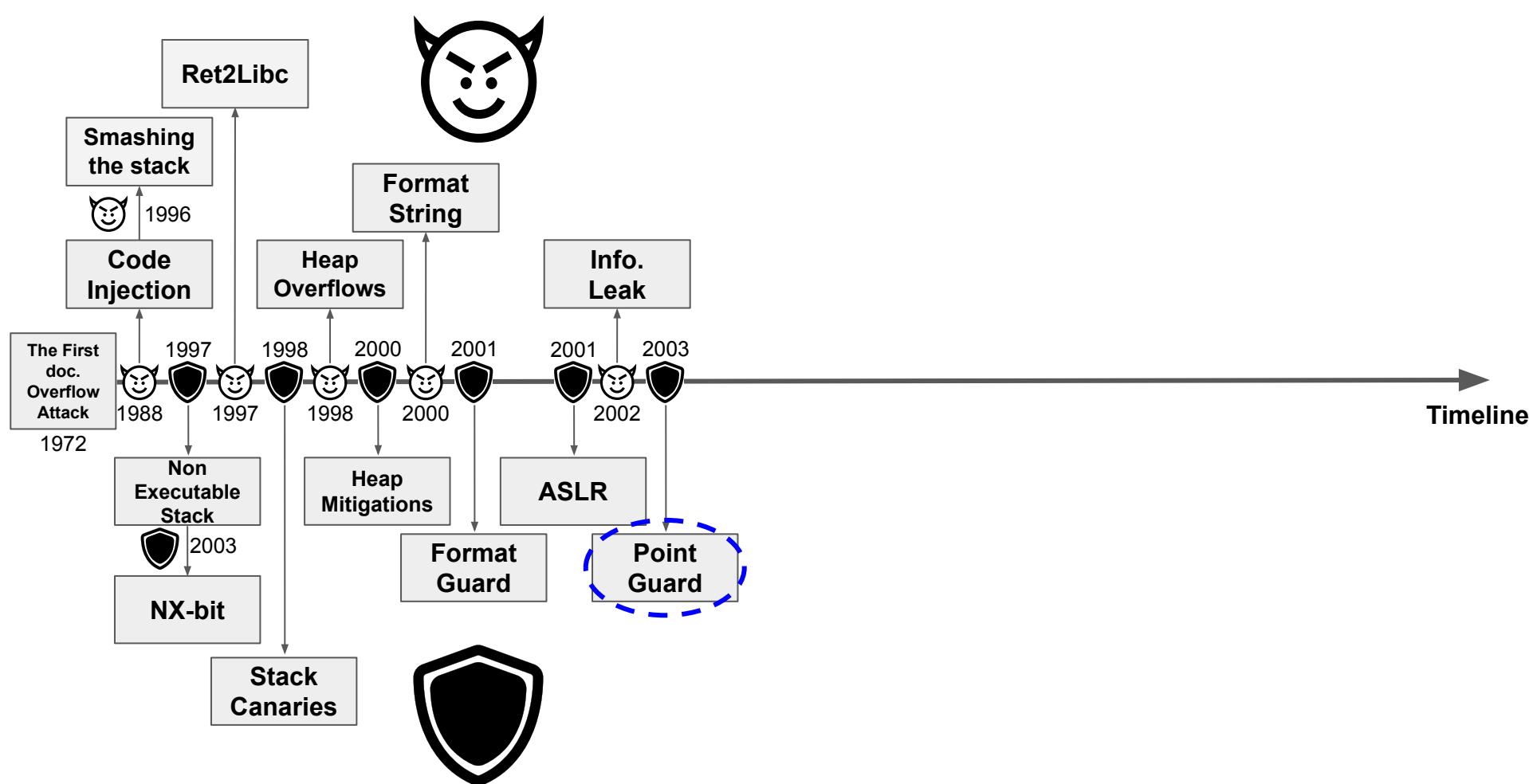


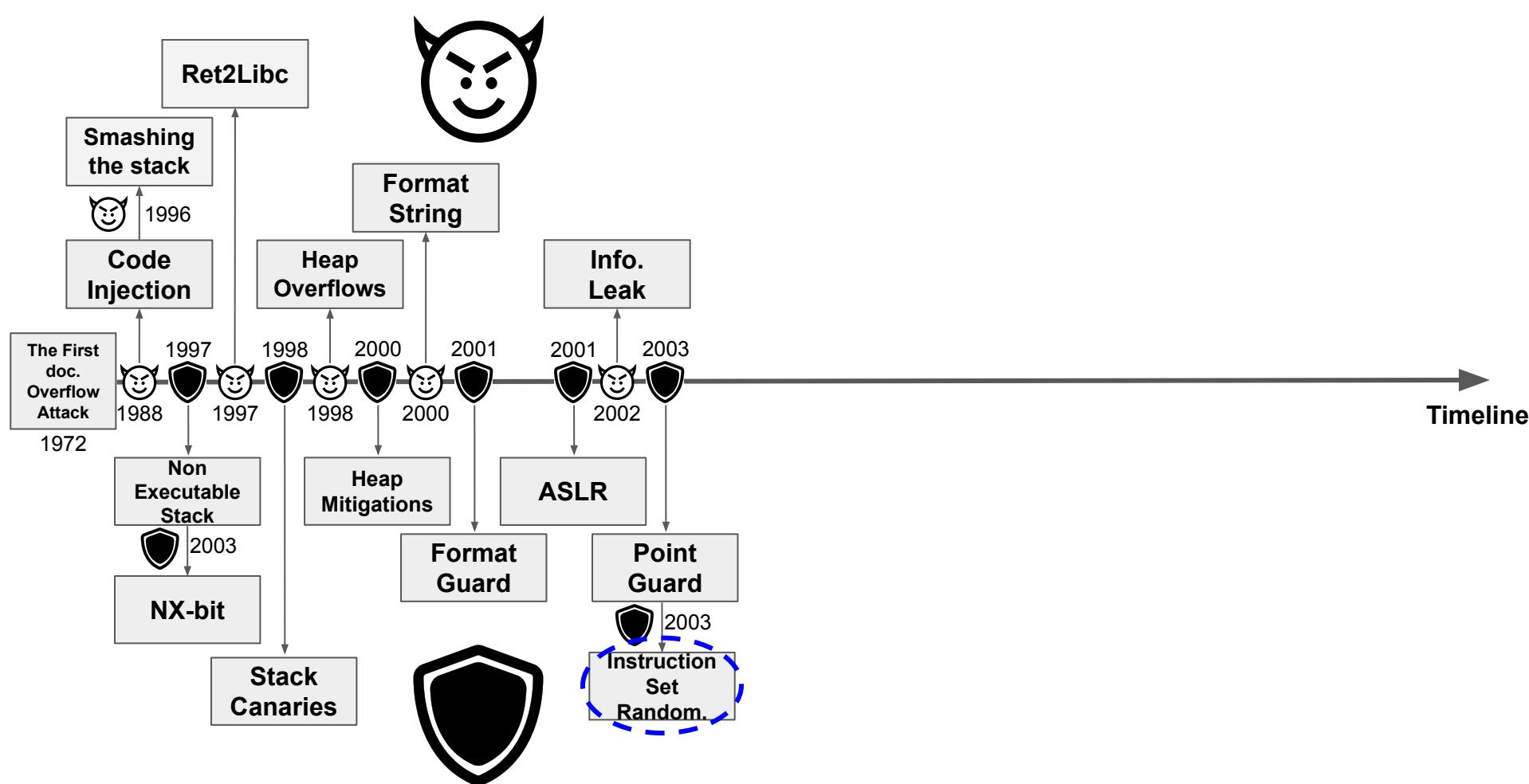


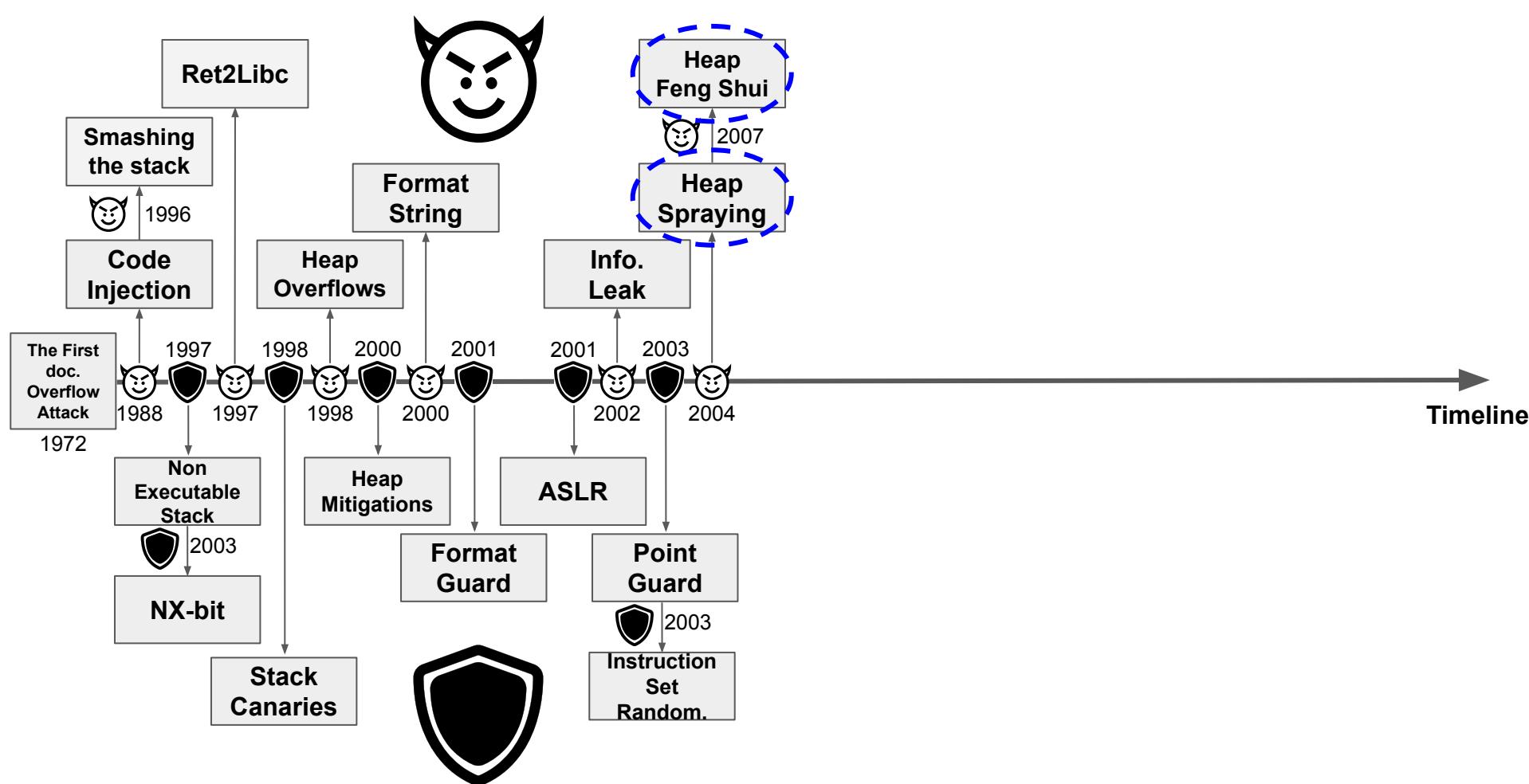


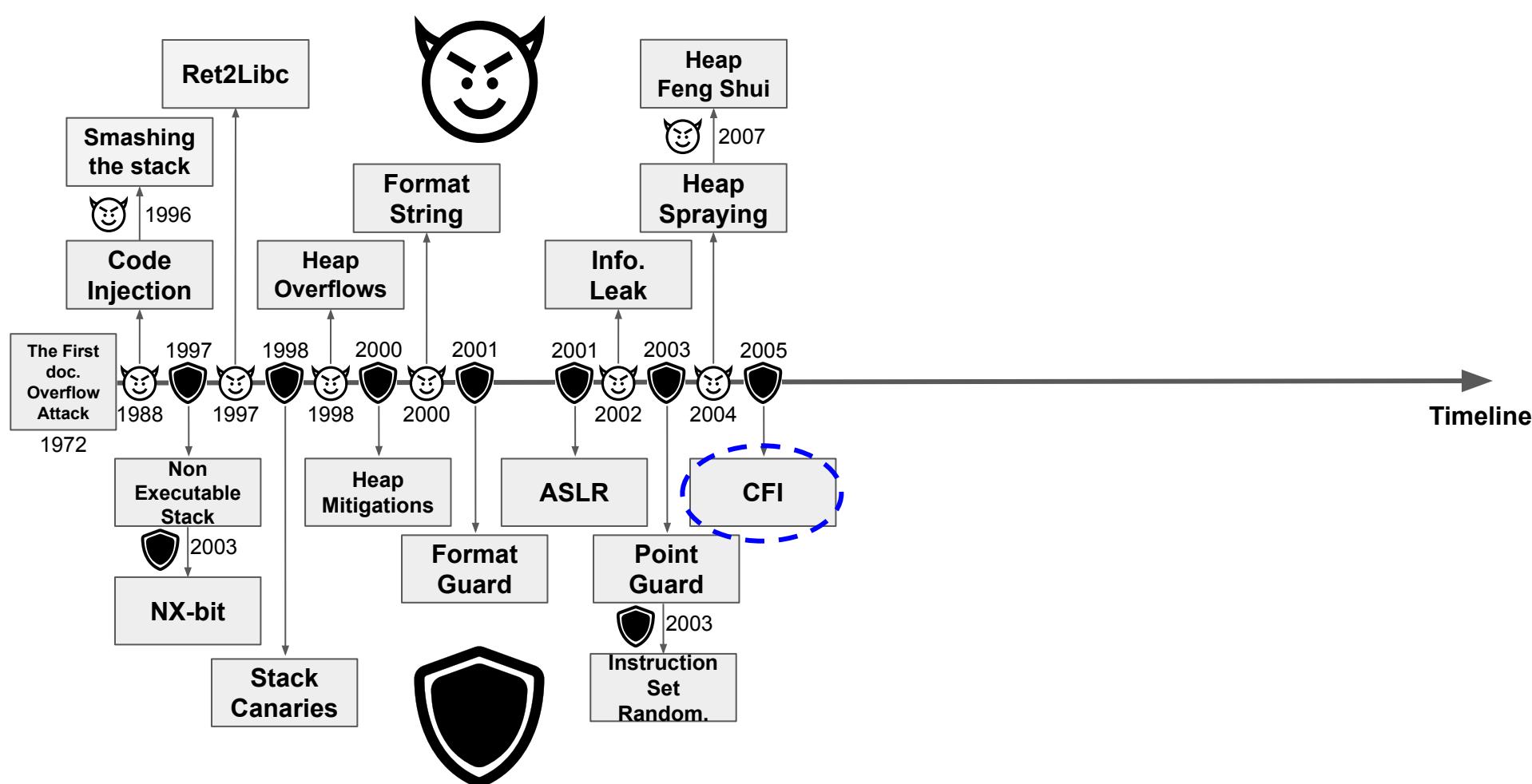


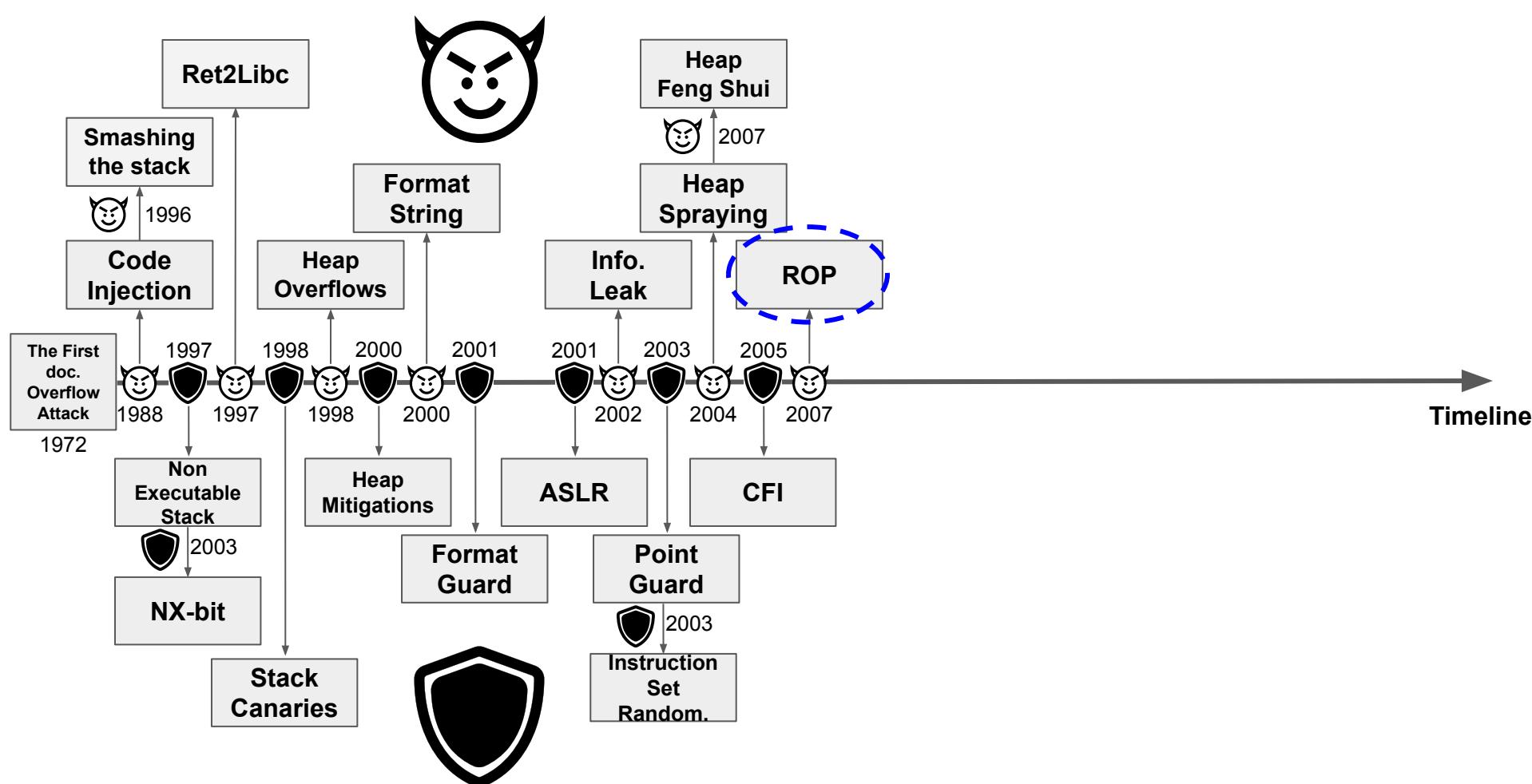








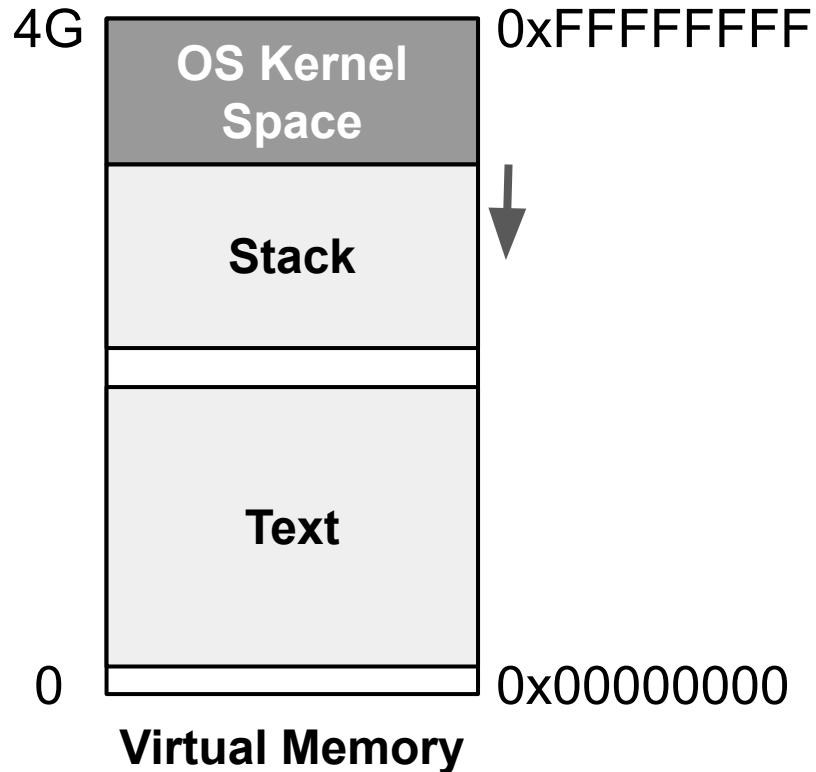






RETURN ORIENTED PROGRAMMING (ROP)

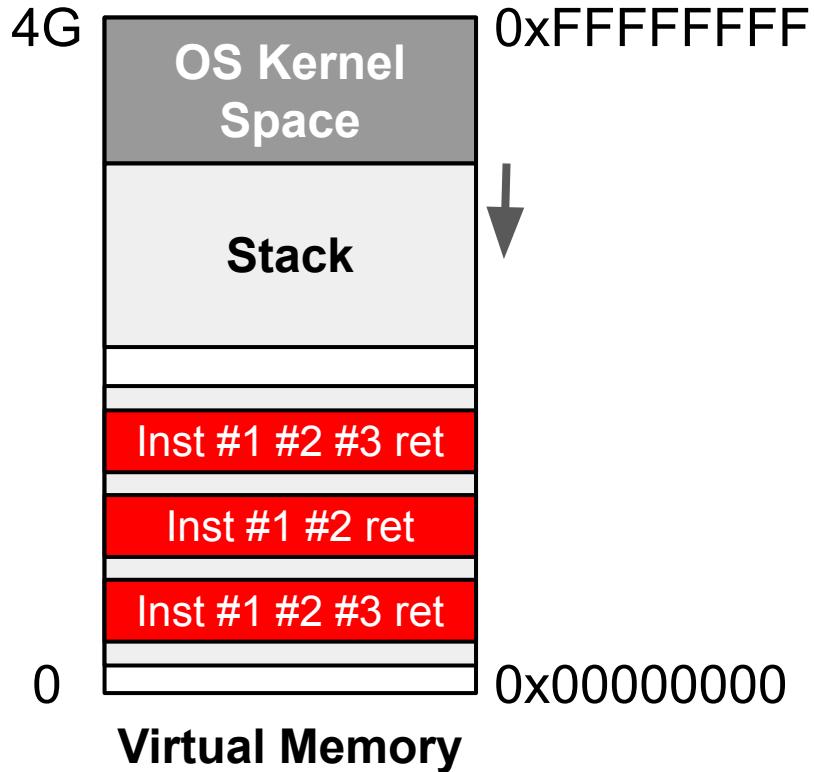
- Attack procedures:





RETURN ORIENTED PROGRAMMING (ROP)

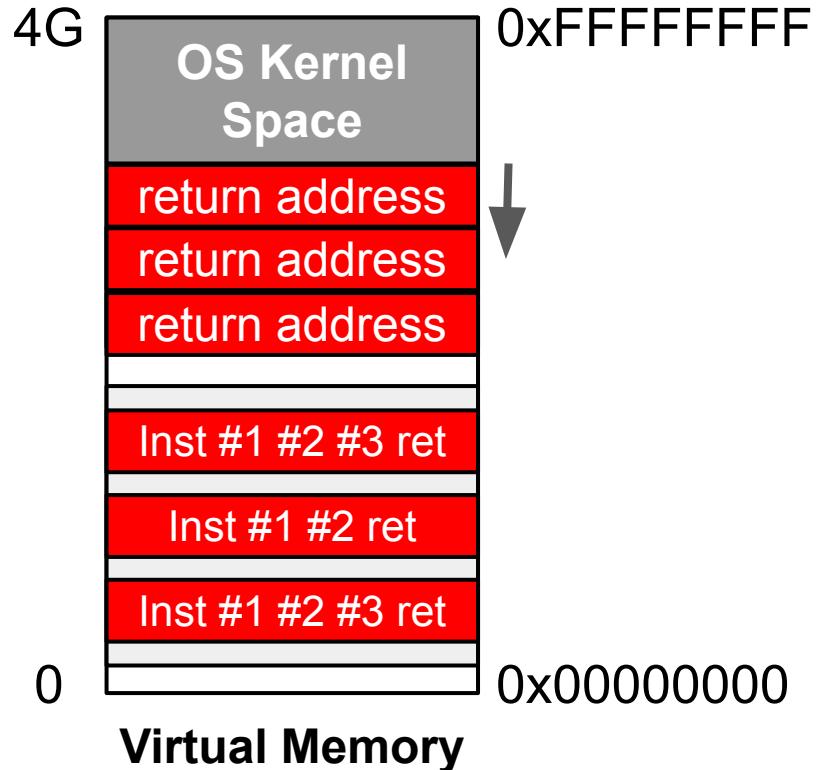
- Attack procedures:
 - Locate interesting gadgets.





RETURN ORIENTED PROGRAMMING (ROP)

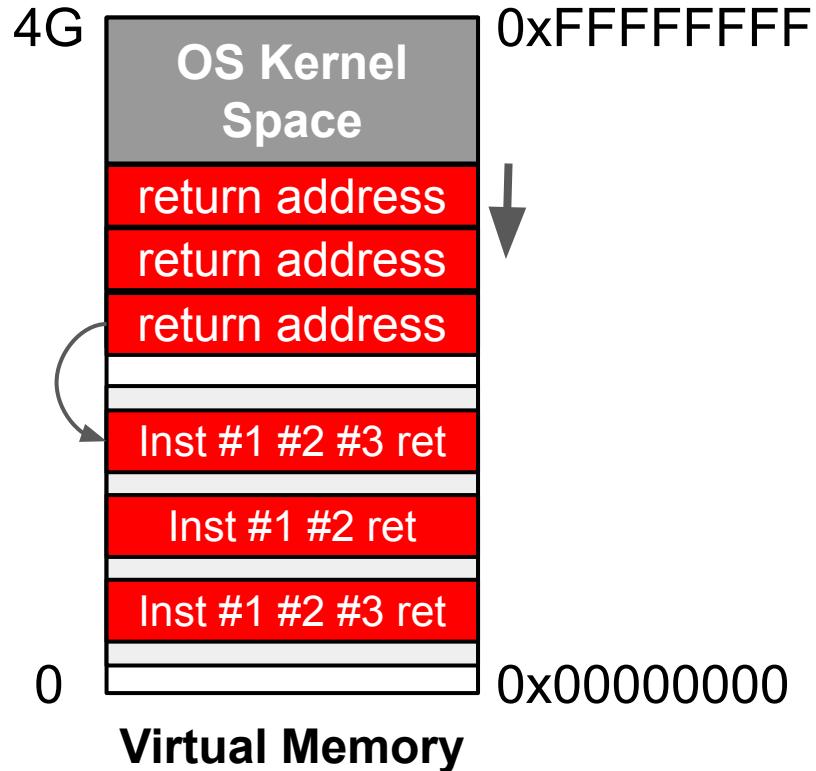
- Attack procedures:
 - Locate interesting gadgets.
 - Push sequence of gadget addresses to the stack.





RETURN ORIENTED PROGRAMMING (ROP)

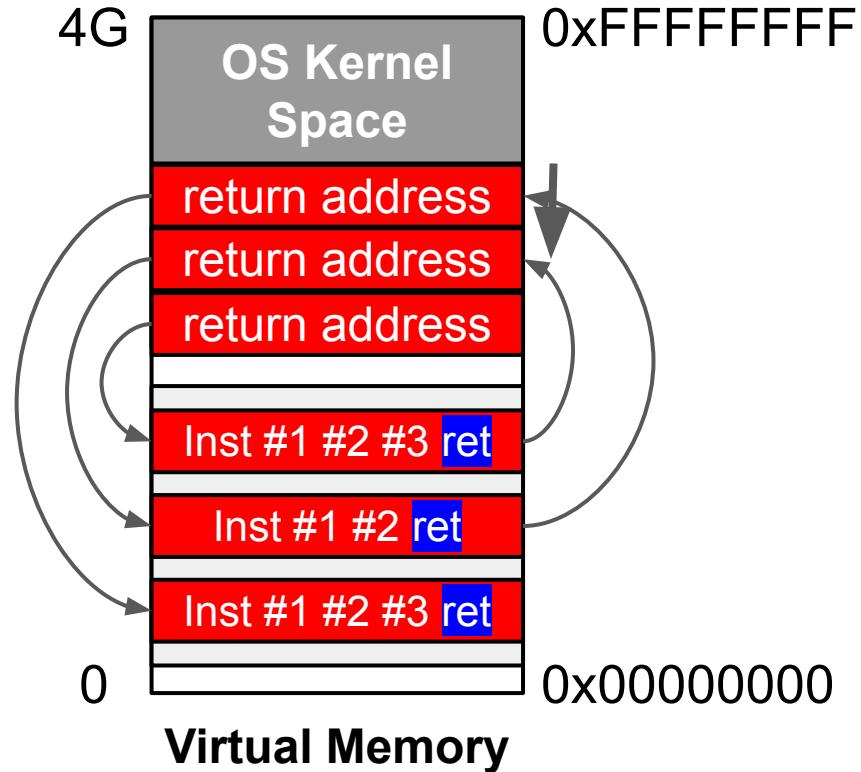
- Attack procedures:
 - Locate interesting gadgets.
 - Push sequence of gadget addresses to the stack.
 - Run!

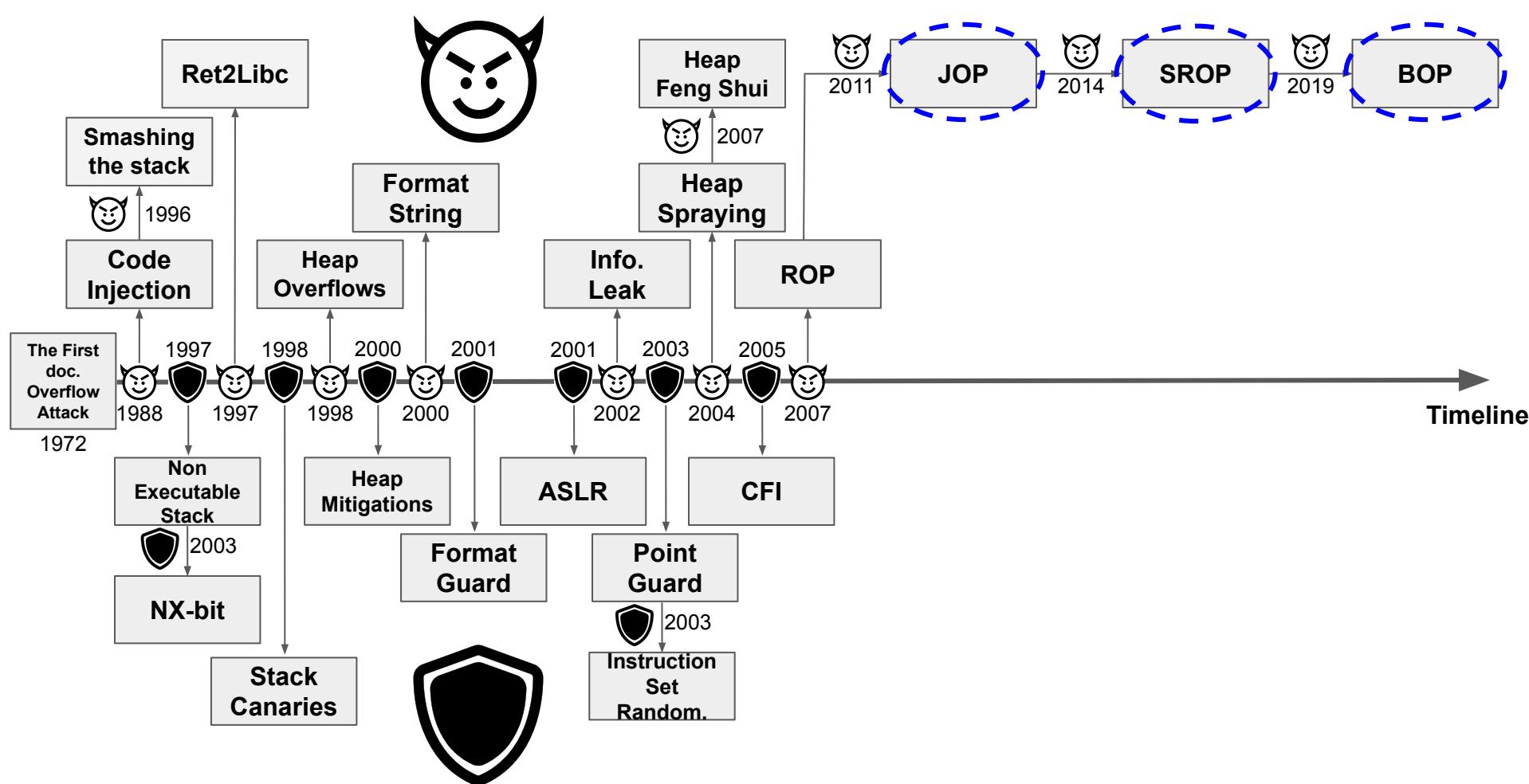




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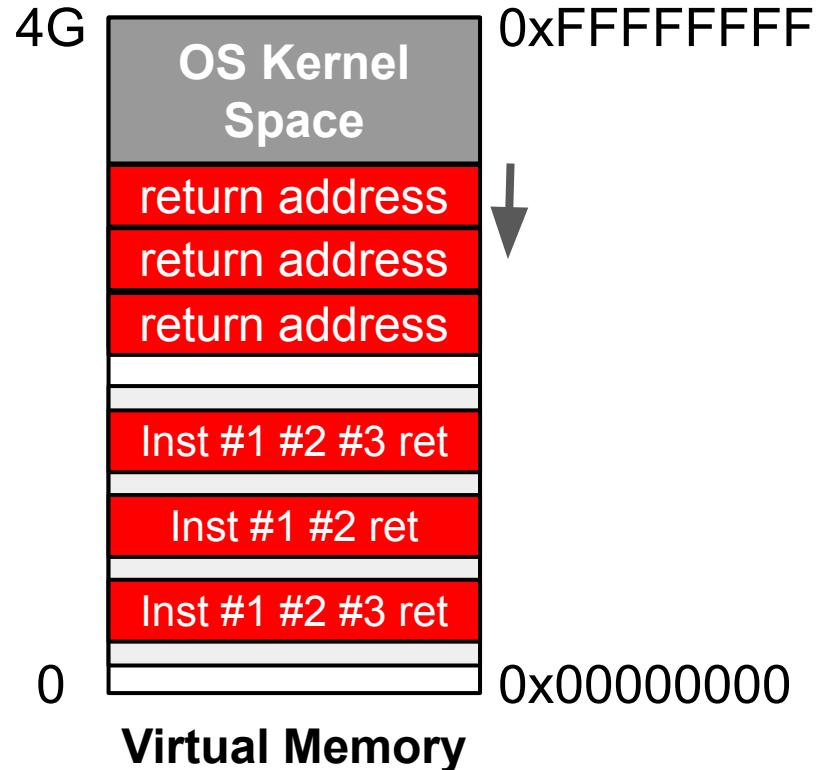






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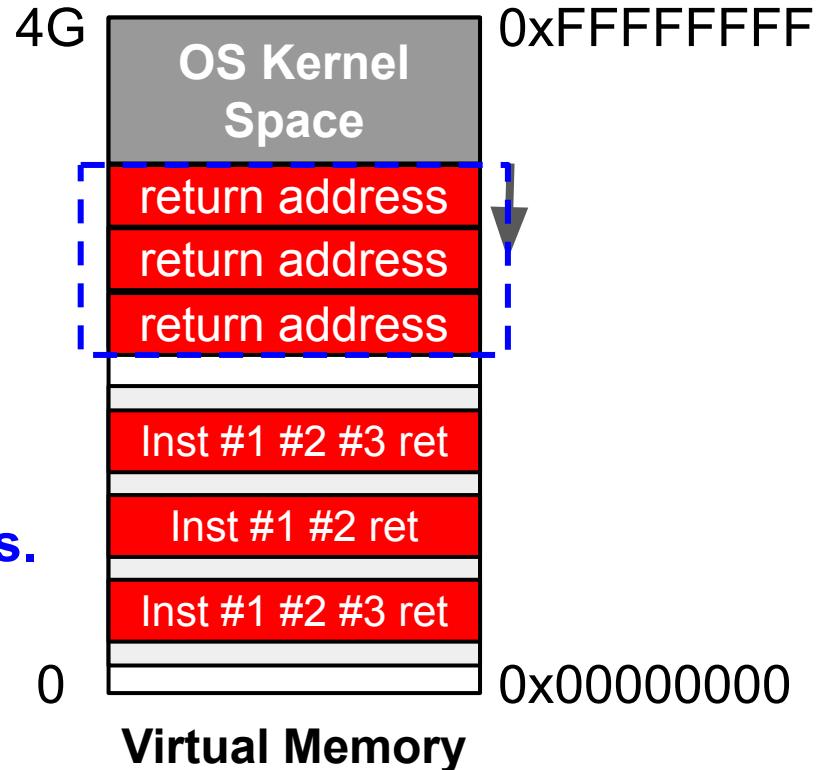
- Attack procedures:
 - Locate interesting gadgets.
 - Push sequence of gadget addresses to the stack.
 - Run!
- **Mitigations:**





RETURN ORIENTED PROGRAMMING (ROP)

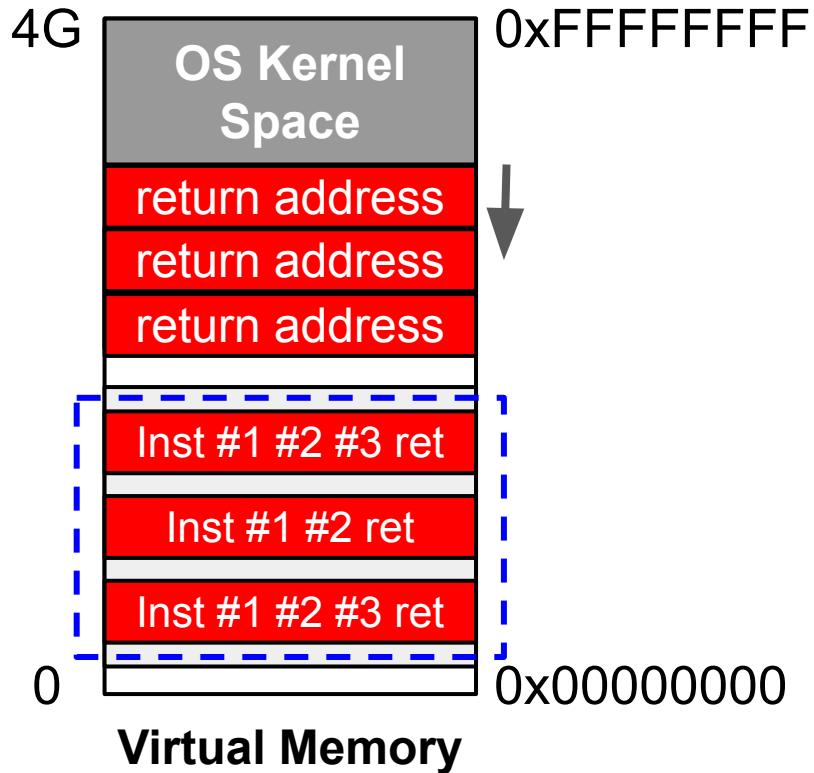
- Attack procedures:
 - Locate interesting gadgets.
 - Push sequence of gadget addresses to the stack.
 - Run!
- Mitigations:
 - **Protect the return addresses.**

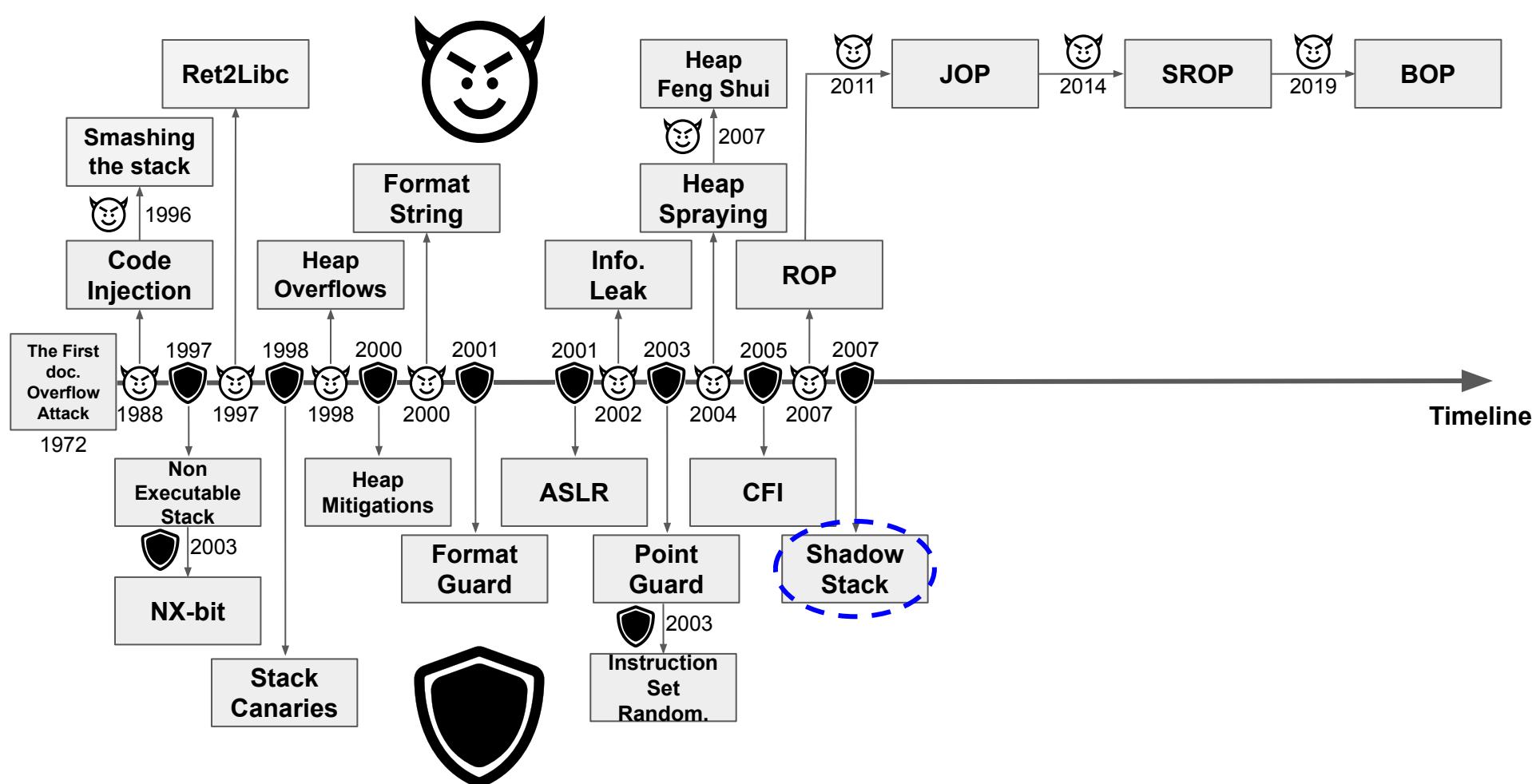


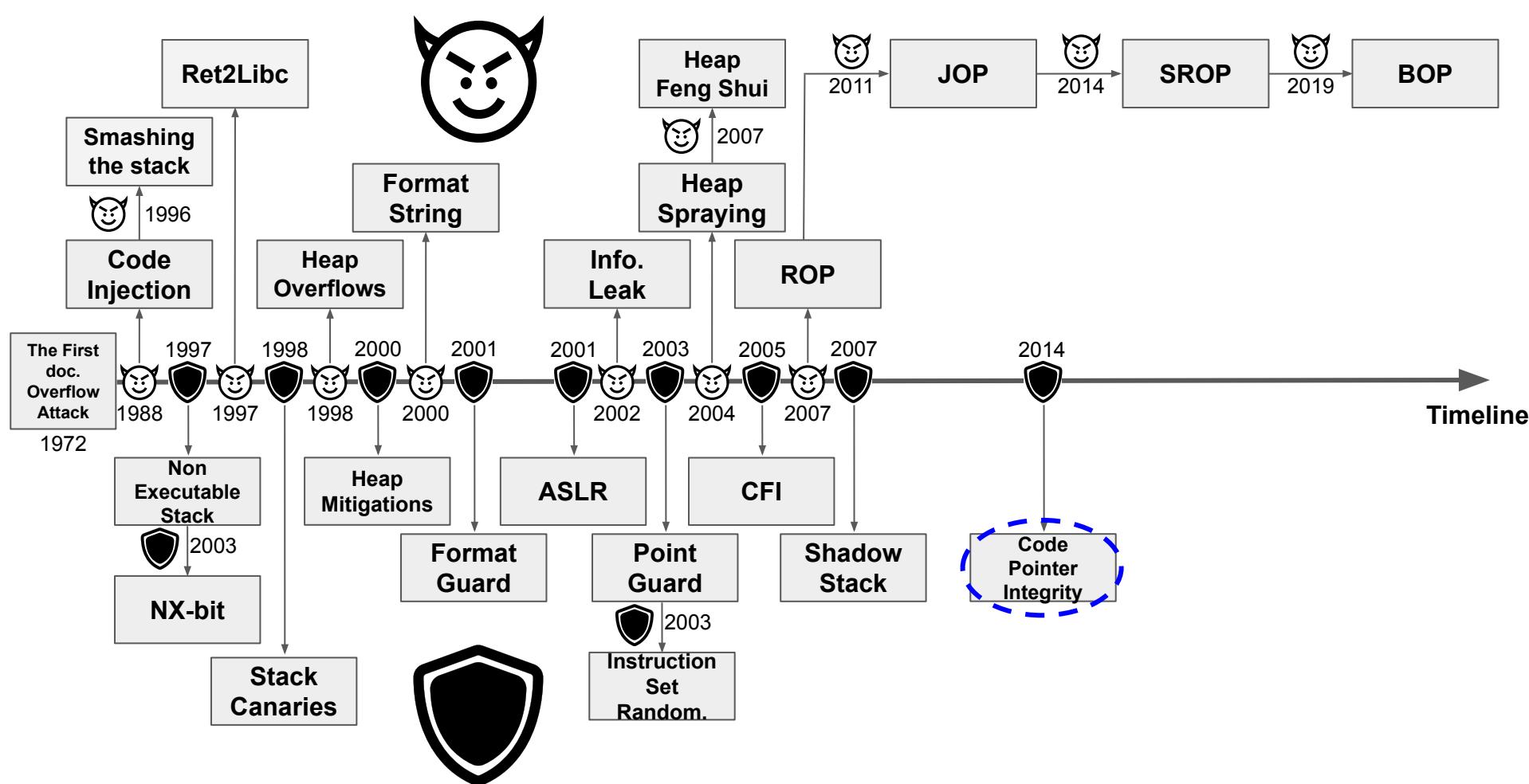


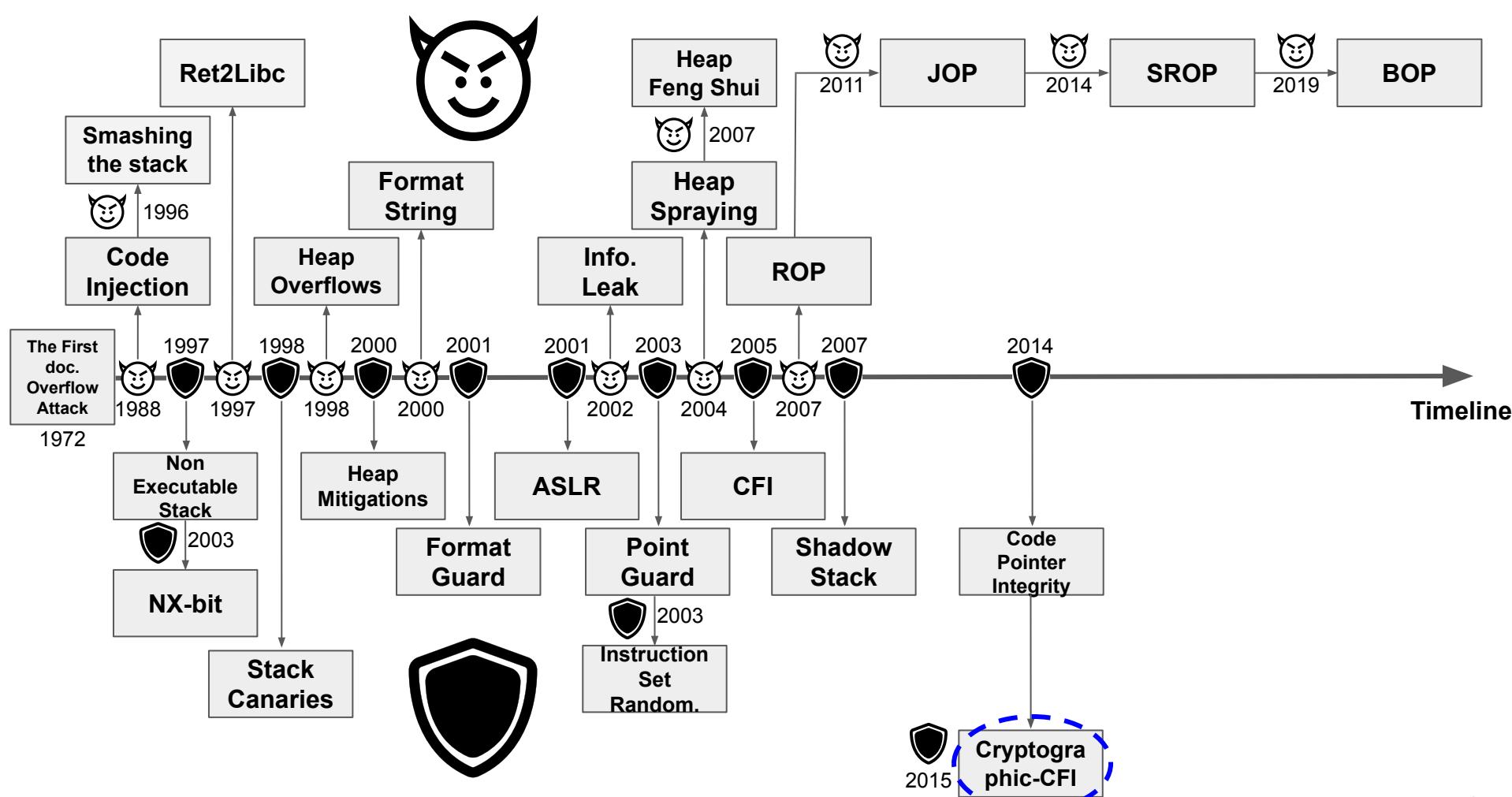
RETURN ORIENTED PROGRAMMING (ROP)

- Attack procedures:
 - Locate interesting gadgets.
 - Push sequence of gadget addresses to the stack.
 - Run!
- Mitigations:
 - Protect the return addresses.
 - **Protect the gadgets.**





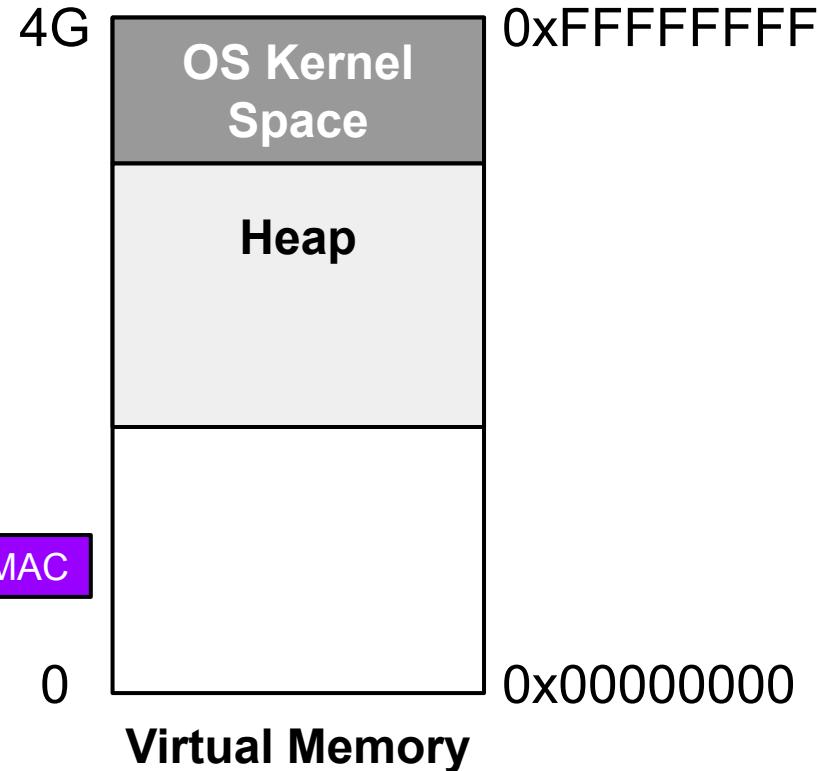
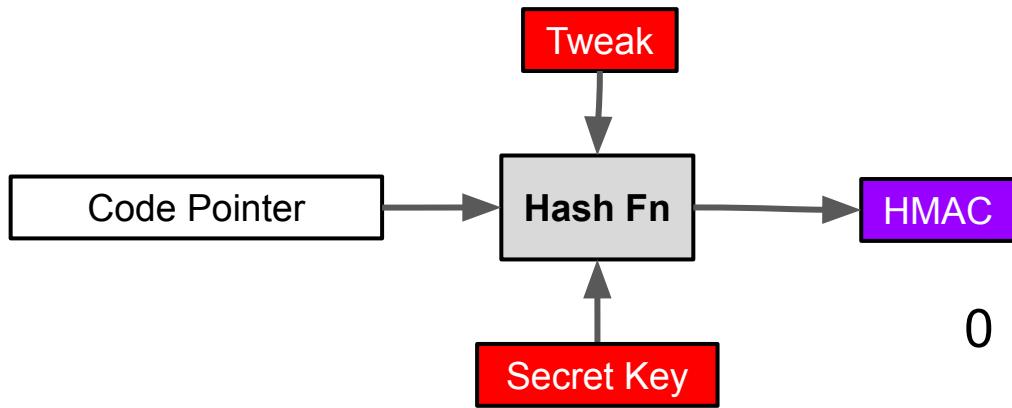






CRYPTOGRAPHIC CONTROL FLOW INTEGRITY

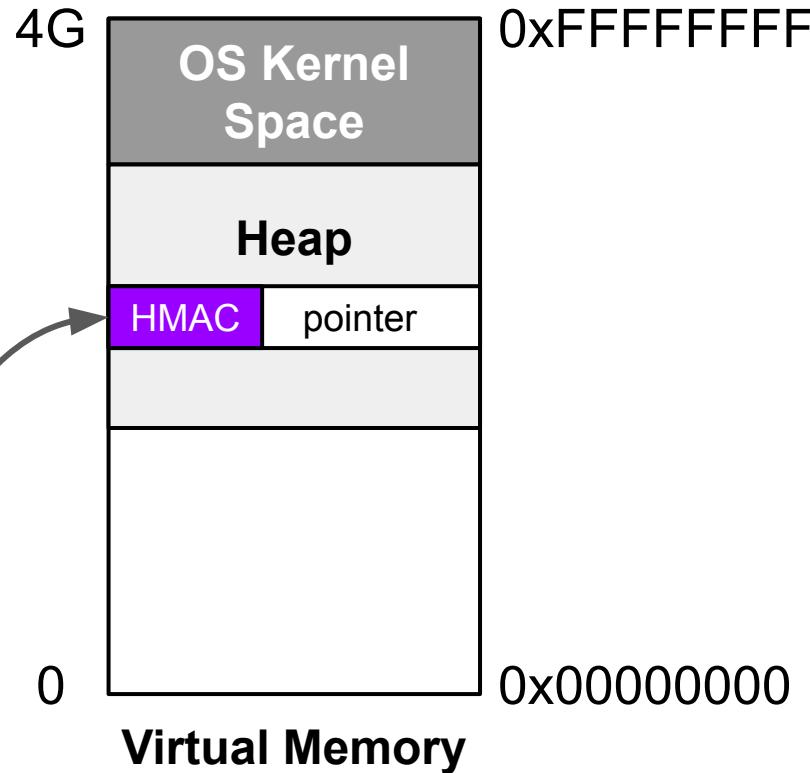
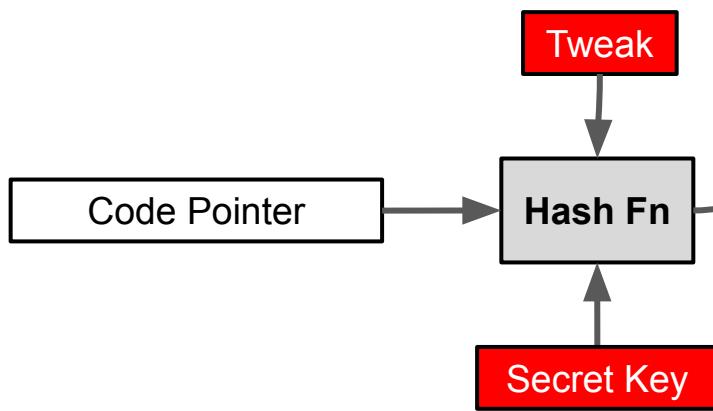
- Create message authentication code (HMAC) for code pointers.
- Store HMAC in pointer itself.
- Verify HMAC upon pointer load.





CRYPTOGRAPHIC CONTROL FLOW INTEGRITY

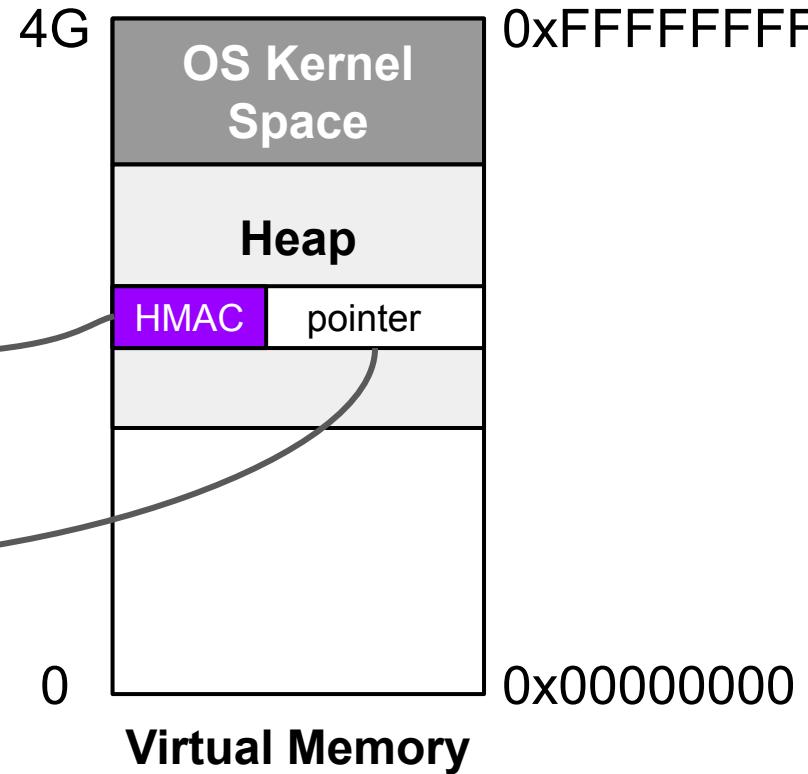
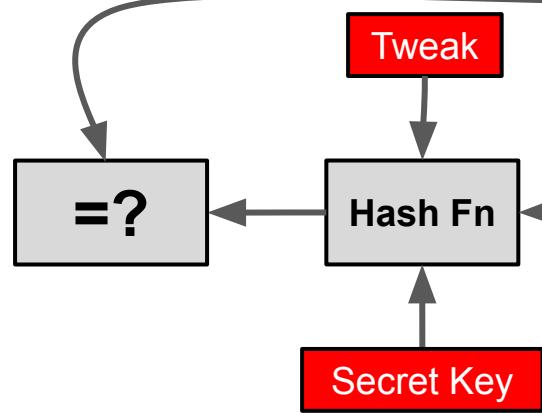
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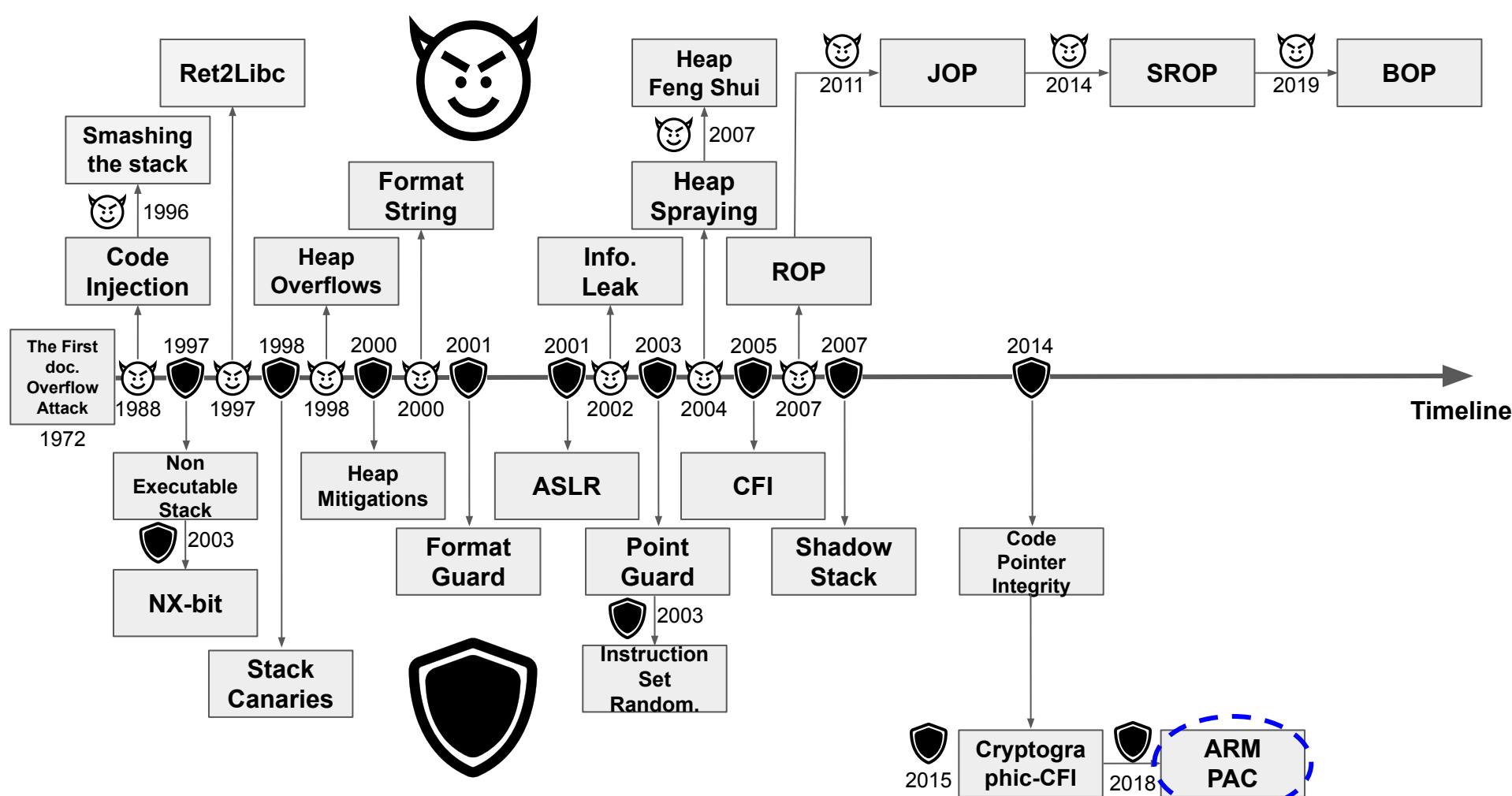


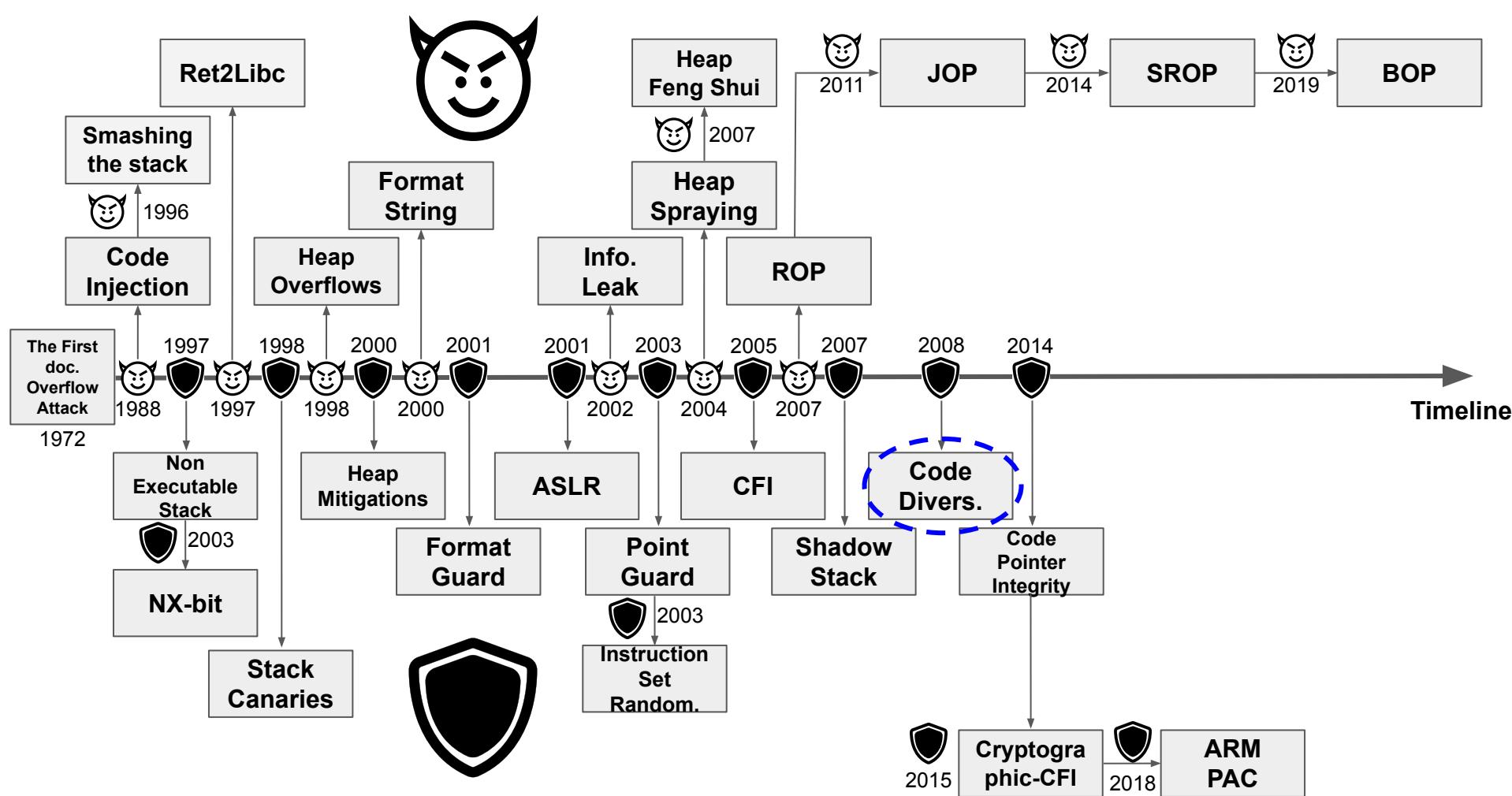


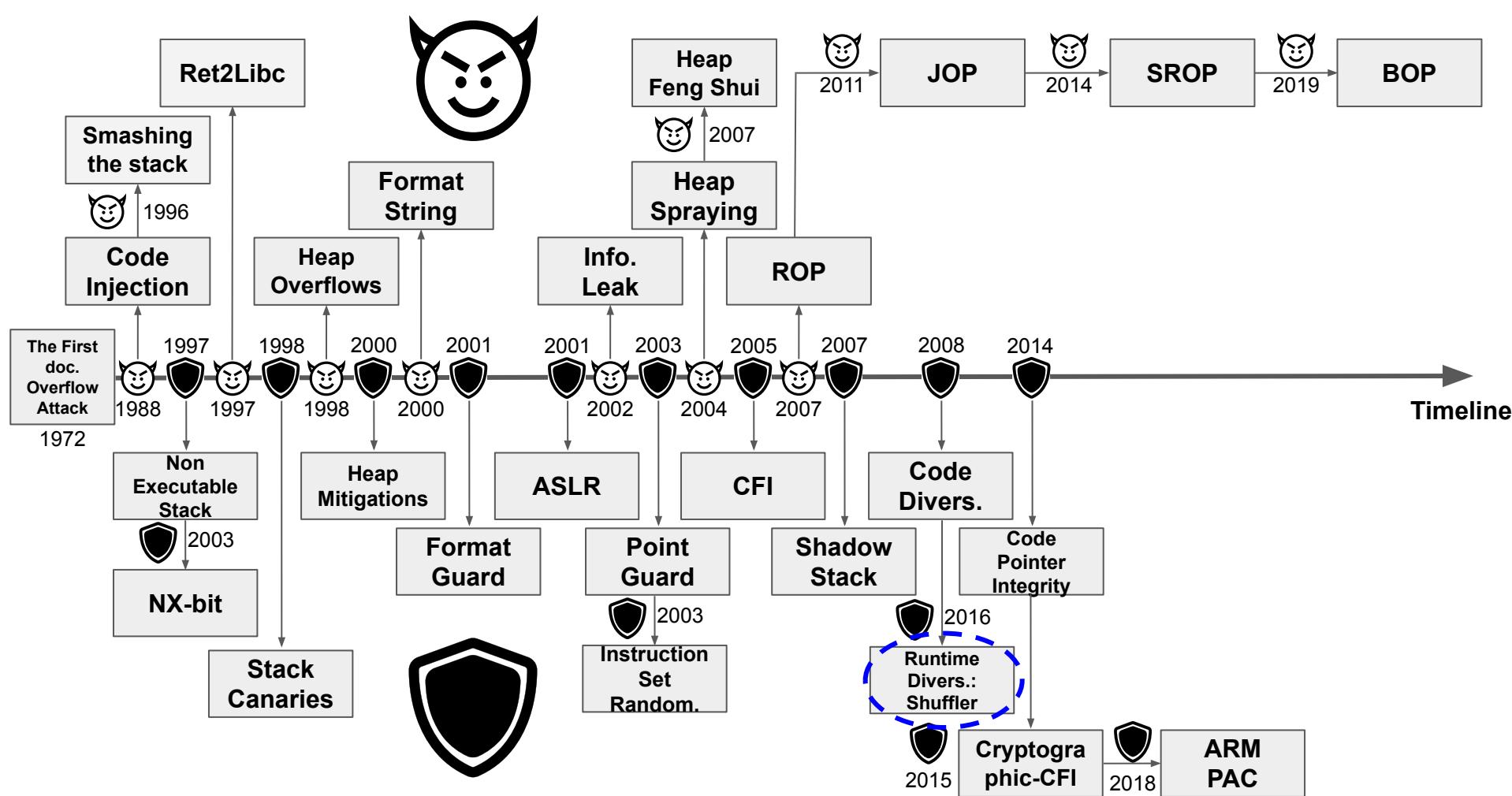
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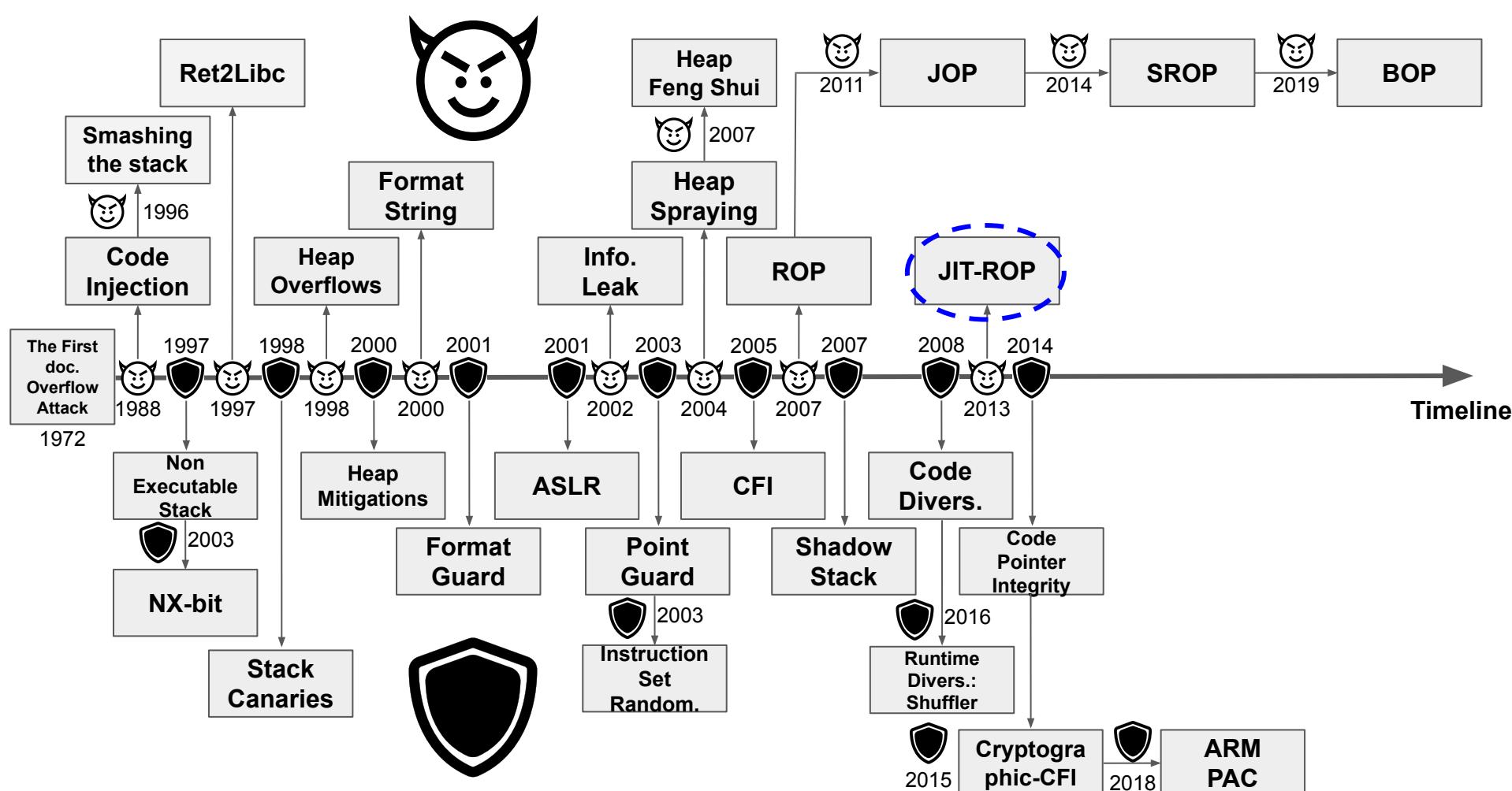
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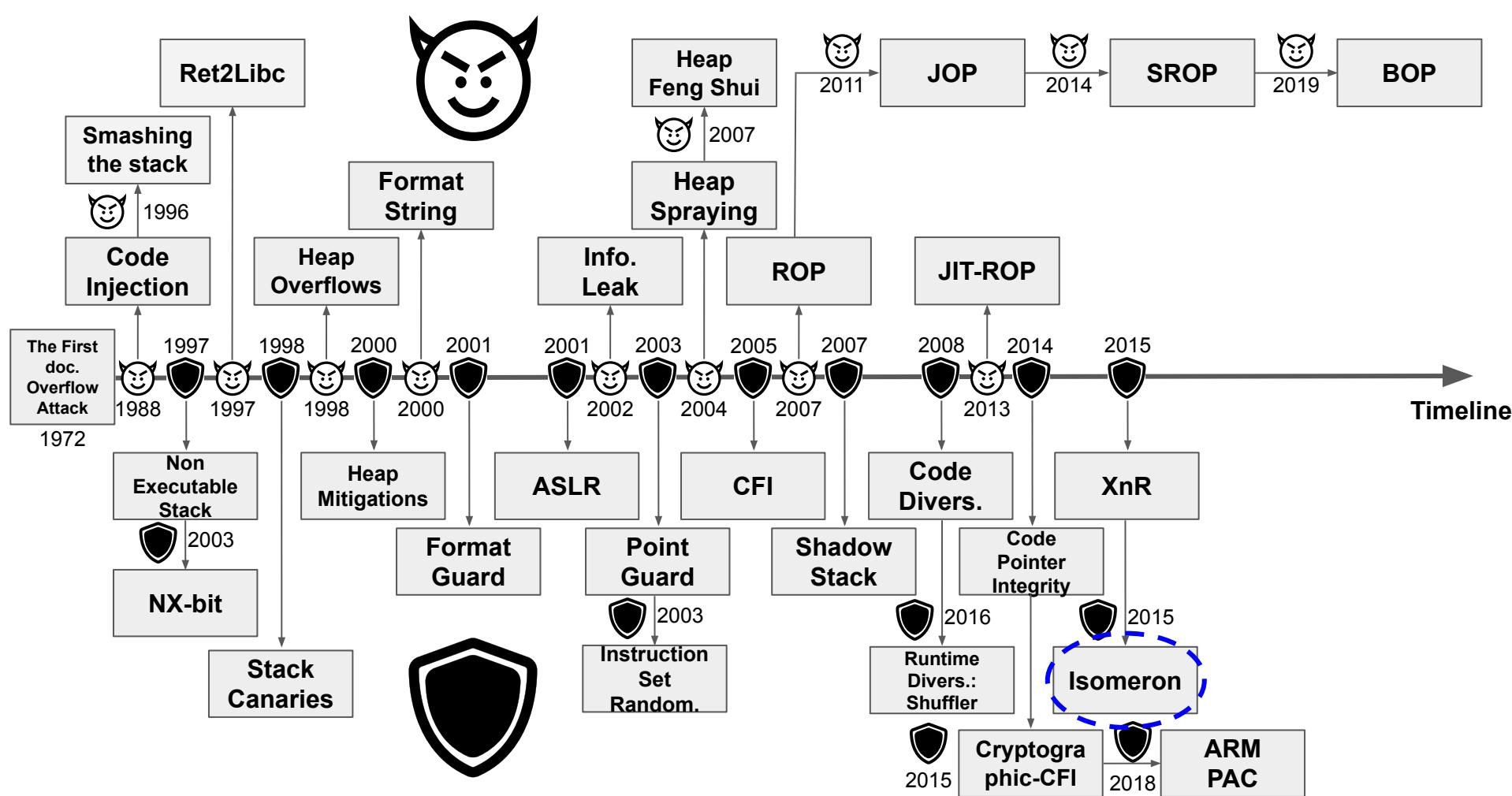








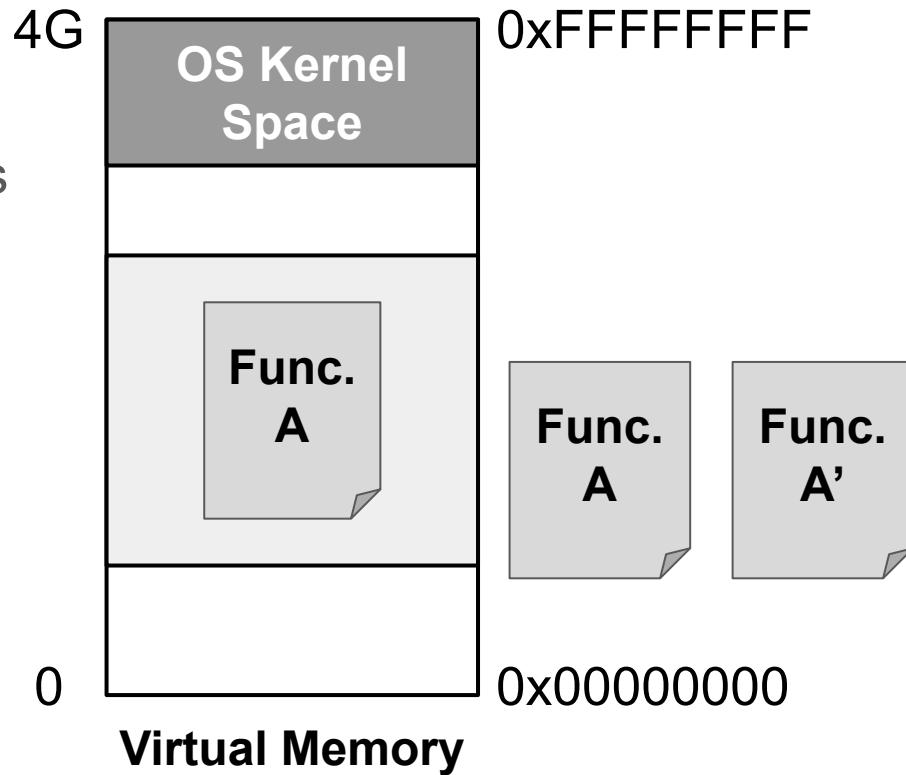






ISOMERON

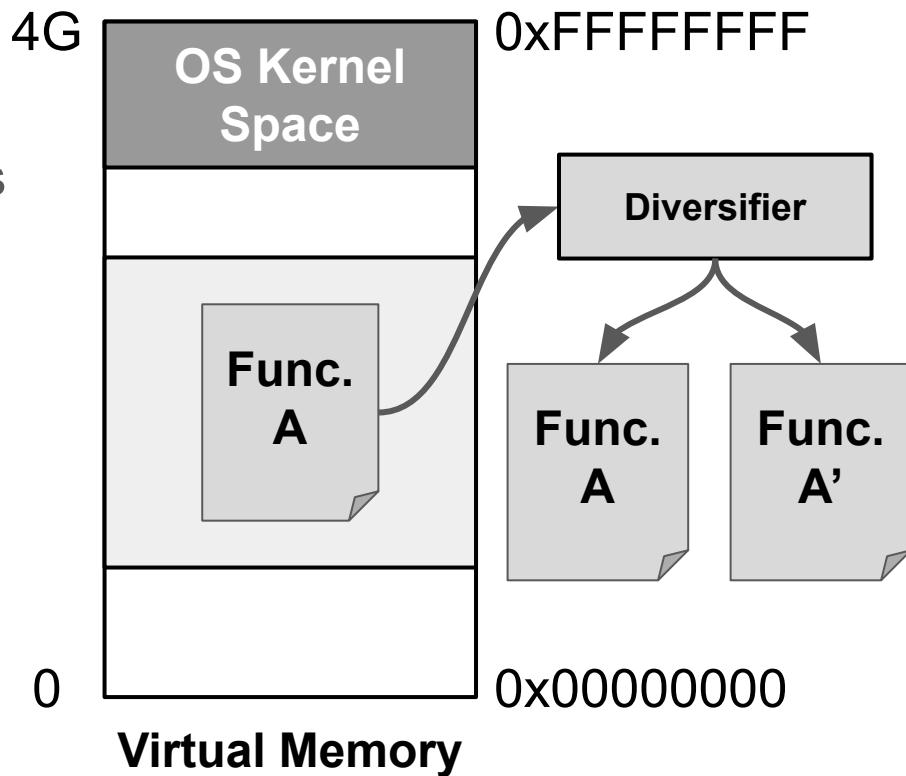
- Main Idea:
 - Create two diversified variants of each function.





ISOMERON

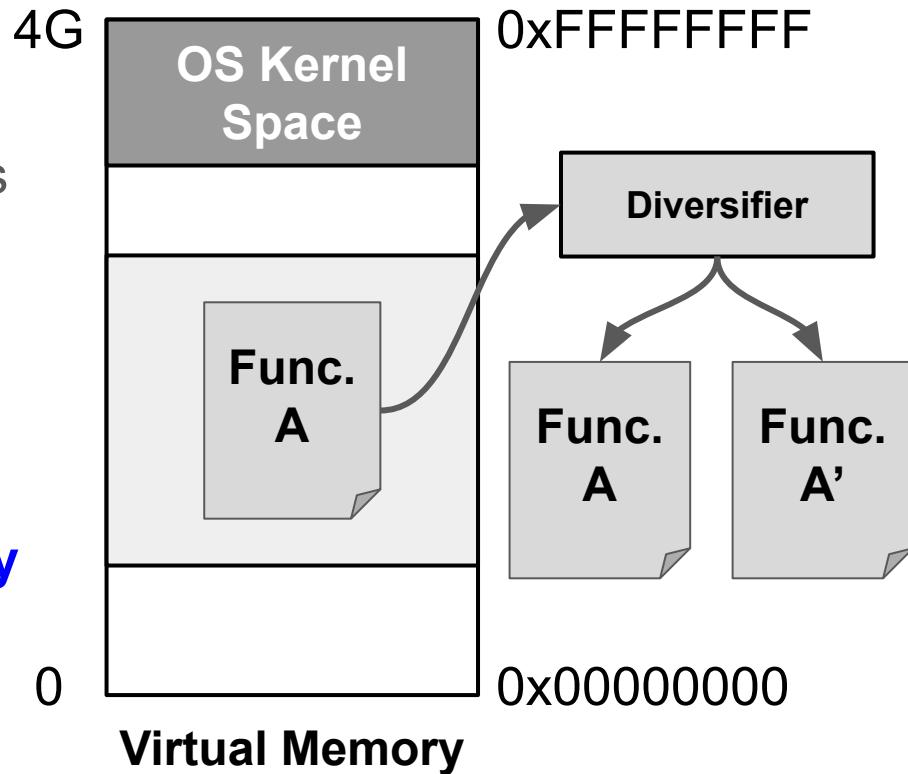
- Main Idea:
 - Create two diversified variants of each function.
 - Pick which variant to execute **randomly** at runtime.

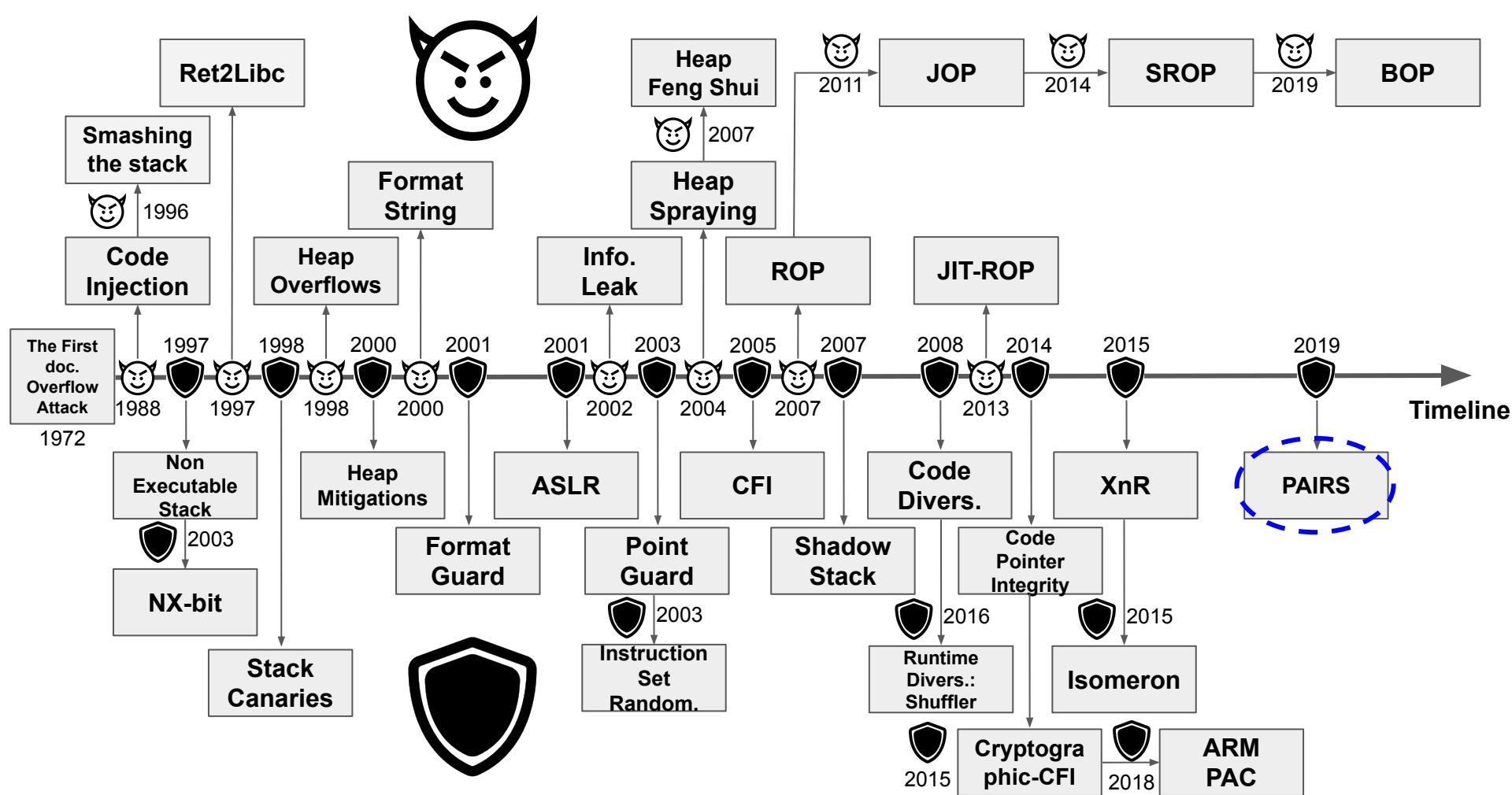




ISOMERON

- Main Idea:
 - Create two diversified variants of each function.
 - Pick which variant to execute randomly at runtime.
- Goal:
 - Prevent JIT-ROP from **reliably** building a gadget chain.







PAIRS

- Main Idea:
 - Insert TRAP instructions in the beginning of code basic blocks.

Original Copy

A0: TRAP
A1: MOVE
A2: ADD
A3: JUMP
B0: TRAP
B1: MOVE
B2: JUMP

Virtual Memory



PAIRS

- Main Idea:
 - Insert TRAP instructions in the beginning of code basic blocks.
 - Create two (or more) program copies in virtual memory.

Original Copy

A0: TRAP
A1: MOVE
A2: ADD
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B0: TRAP
B1: MOVE
B2: JUMP

Phantom Copy

A0: TRAP
A1: MOVE
A2: ADD
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B0: TRAP
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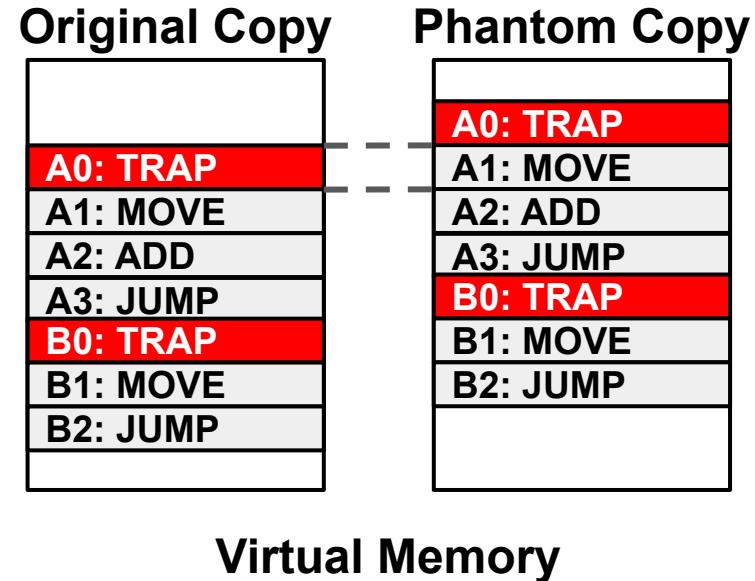
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- Pros and Cons:
 - + Negligible perf. overheads.





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 - Randomize the execution between the copies in runtime.
- Pros and Cons:
 - + Negligible perf. overheads.
 - No code pointers protection.

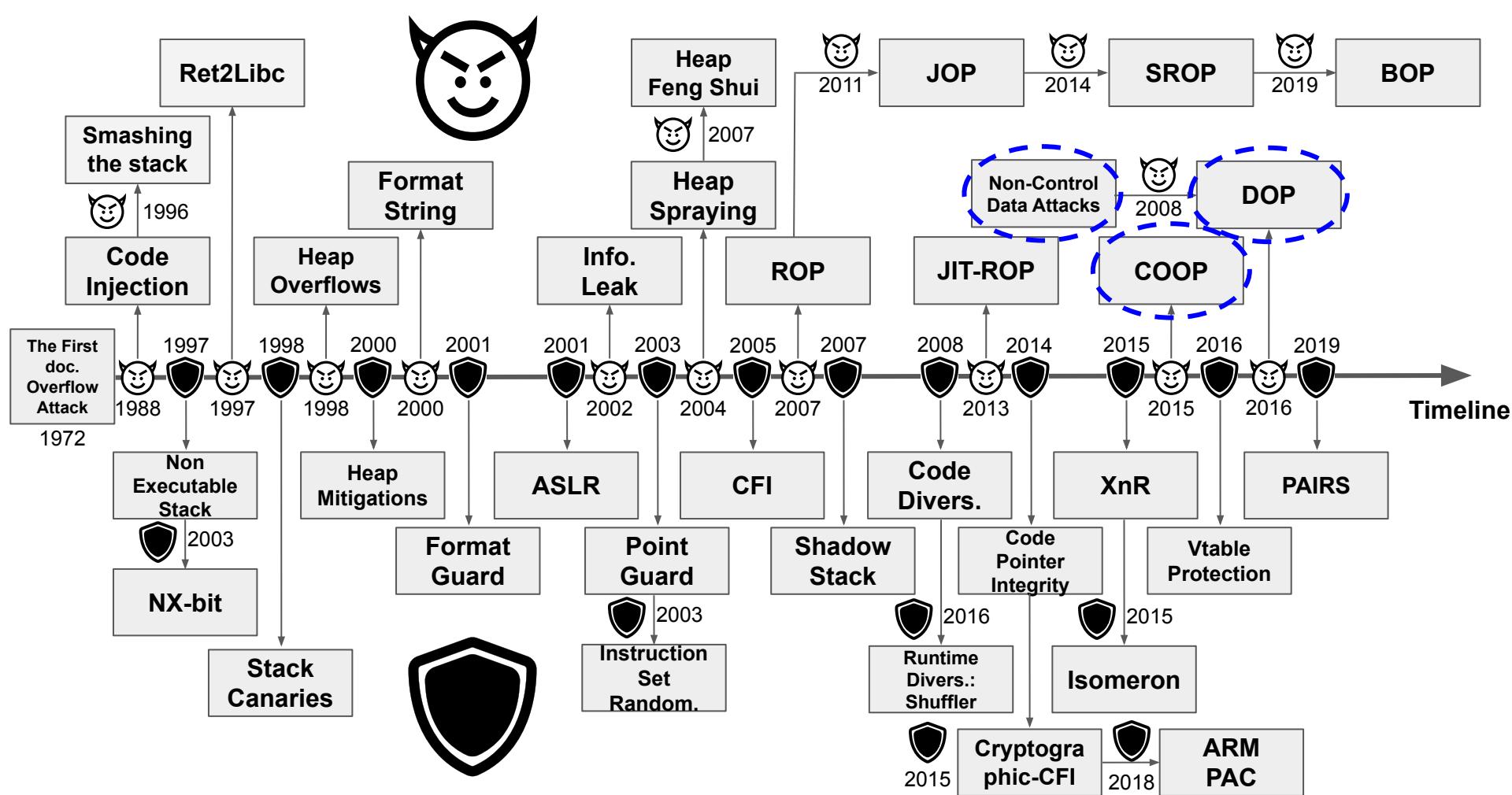
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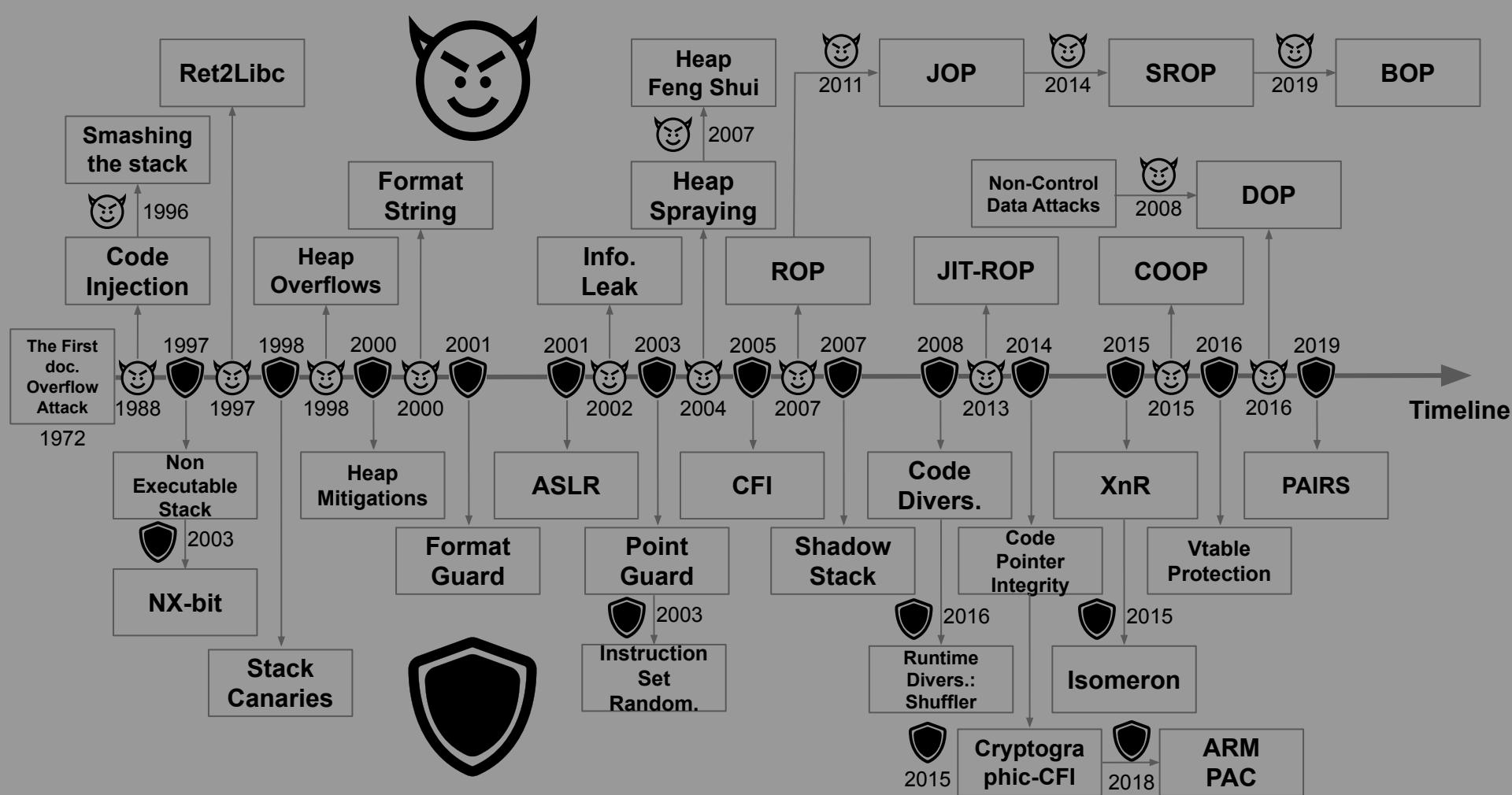
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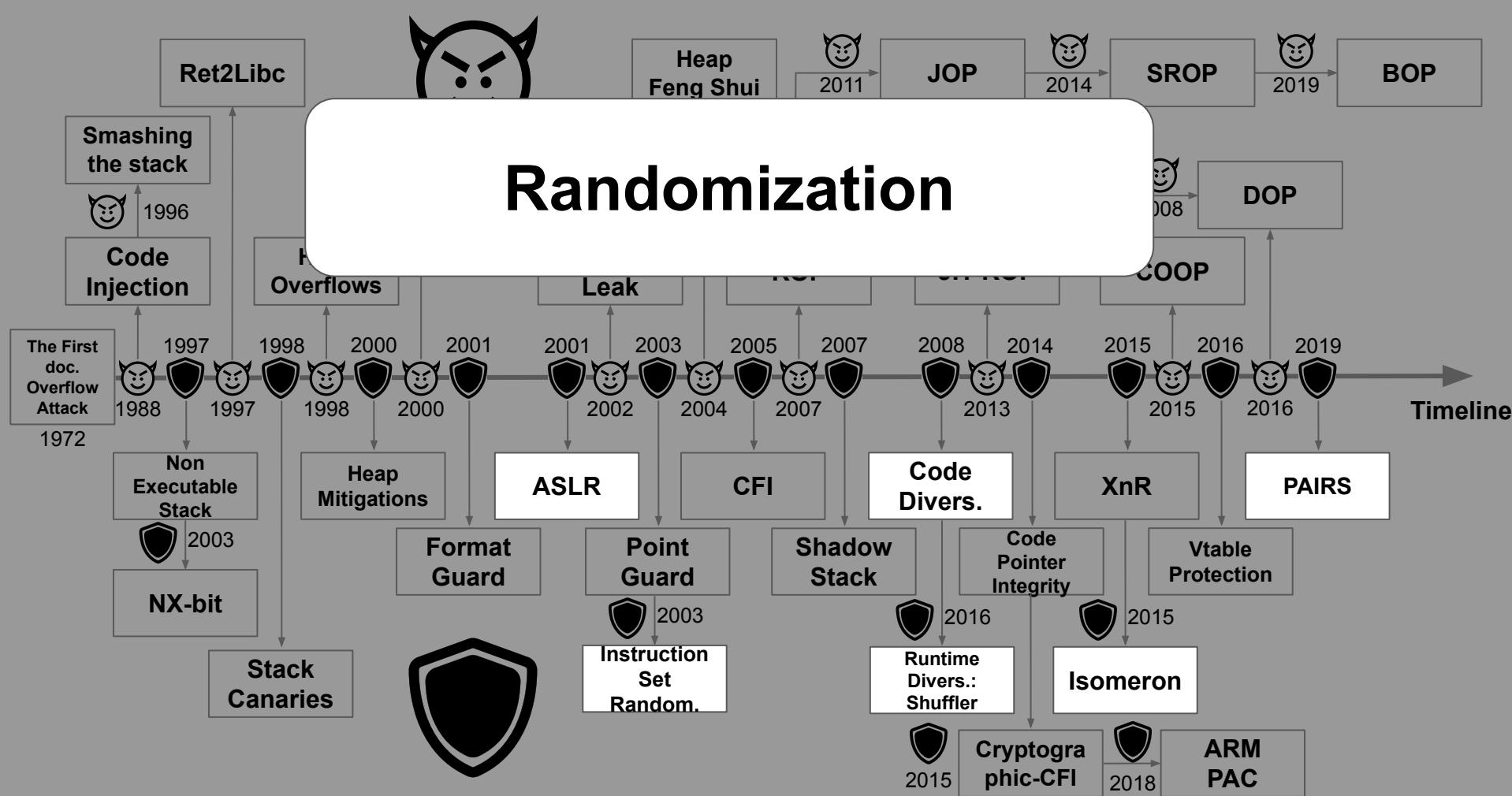
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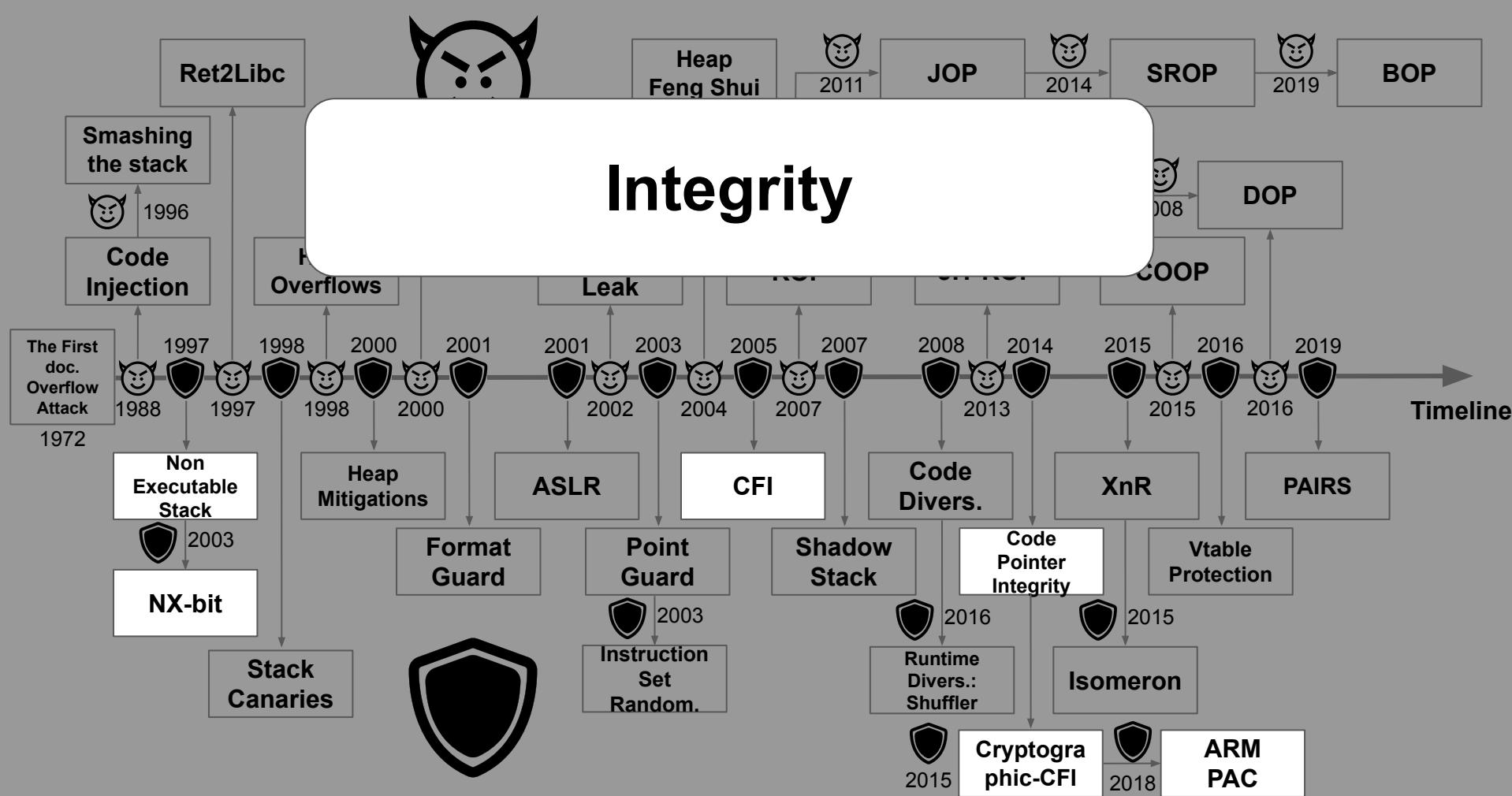
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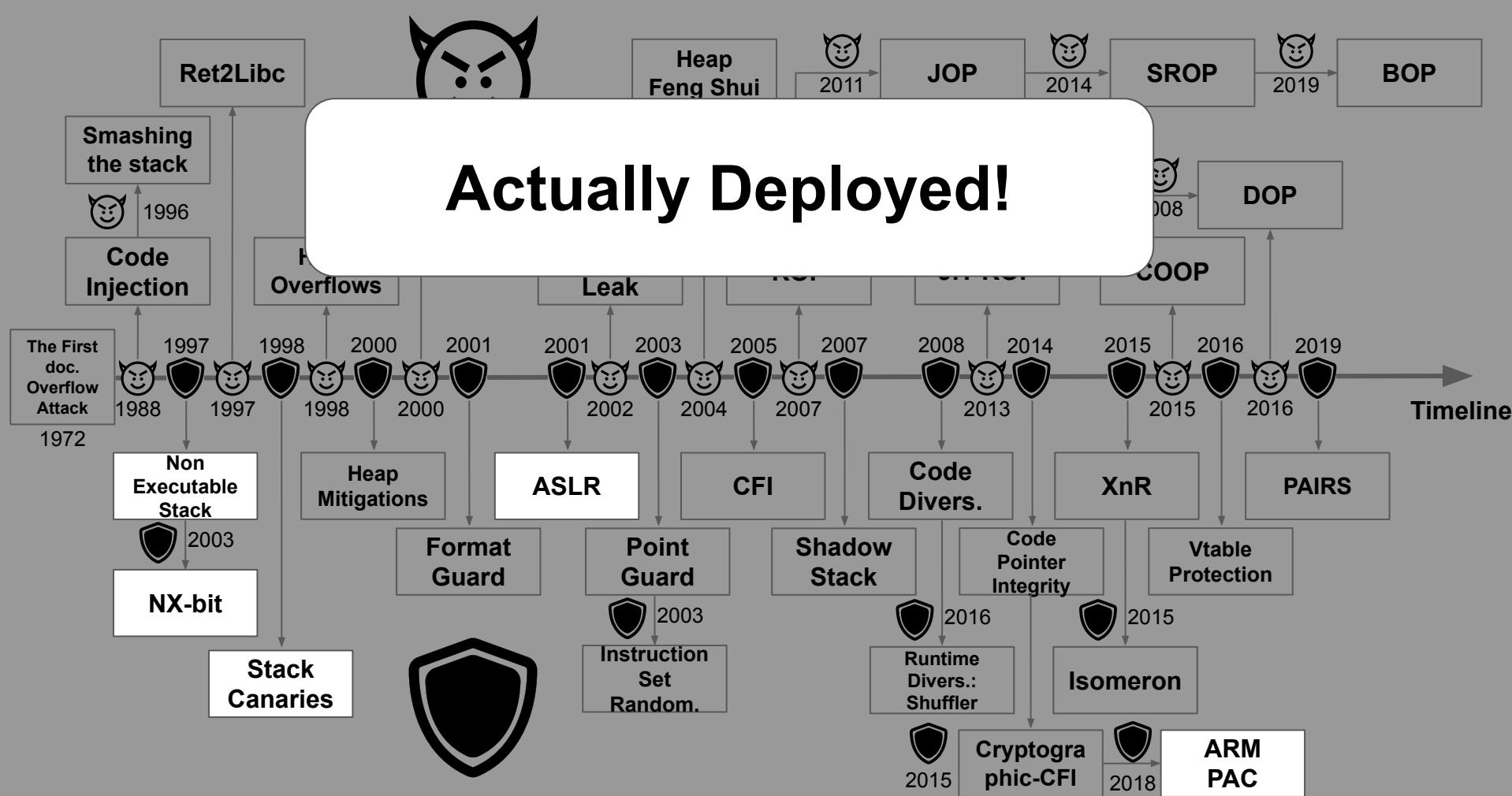
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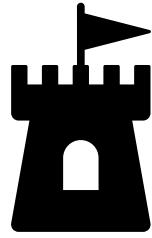












Memory Safety Techniques



MEMORY SAFETY TECHNIQUES



Spatial Memory Safety

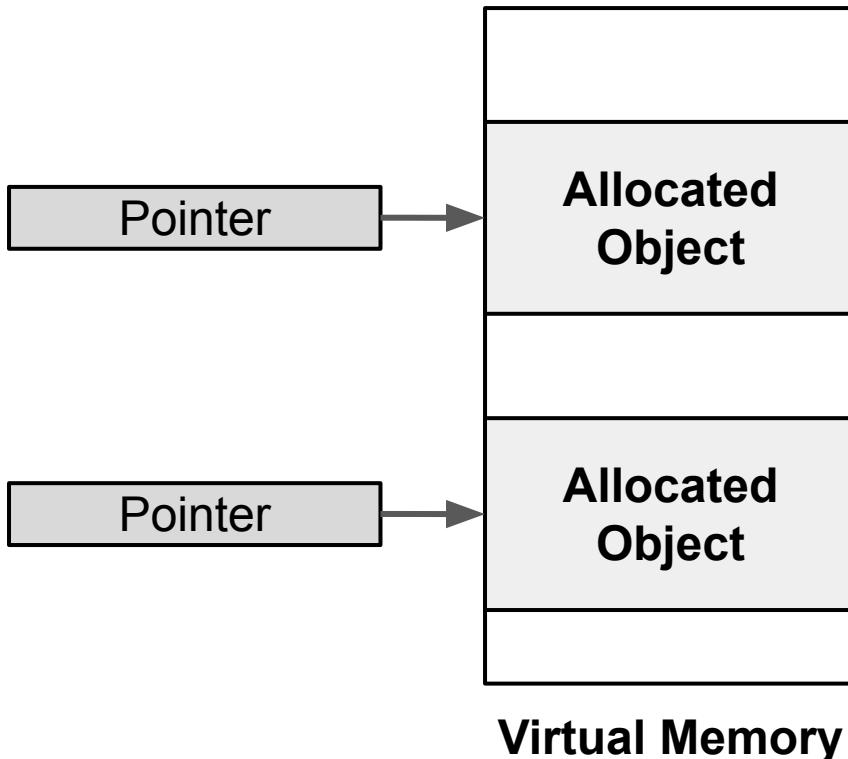


Temporal Memory Safety

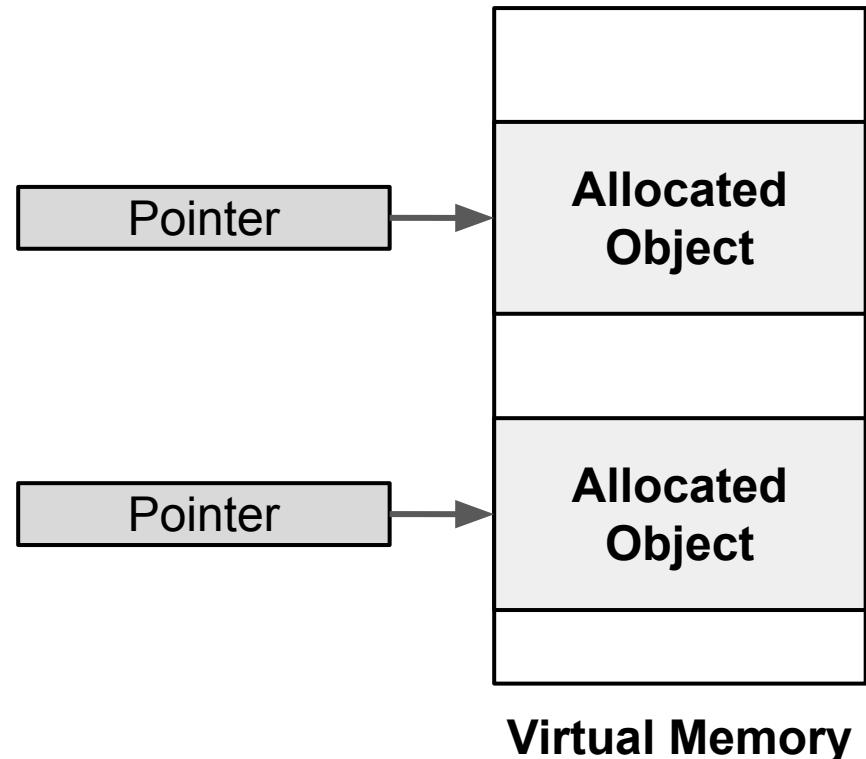


SPATIAL MEMORY SAFETY

Memory Whitelisting



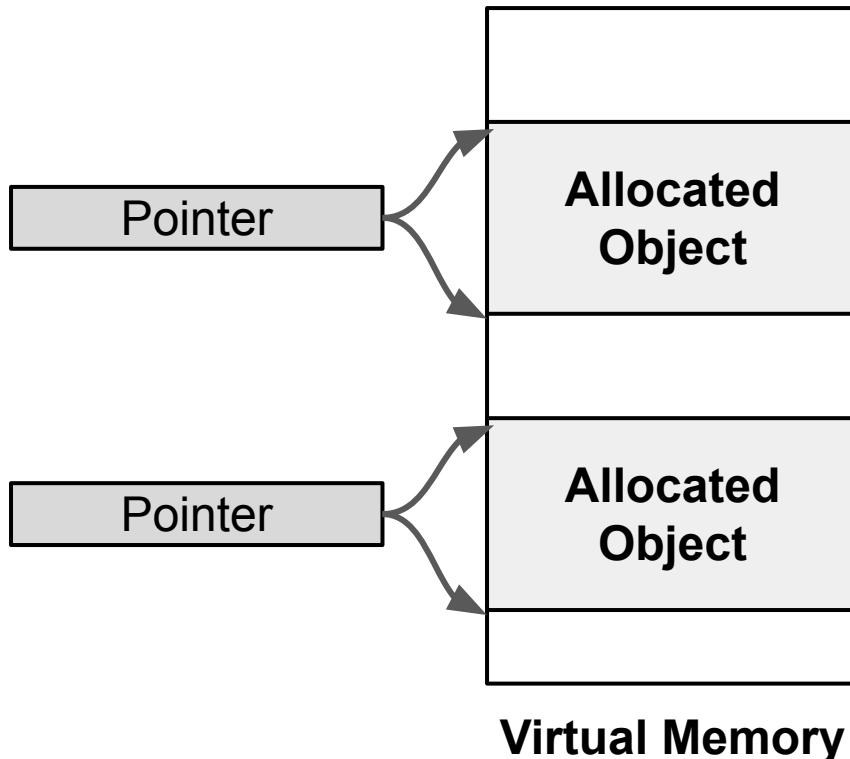
Memory Blacklisting



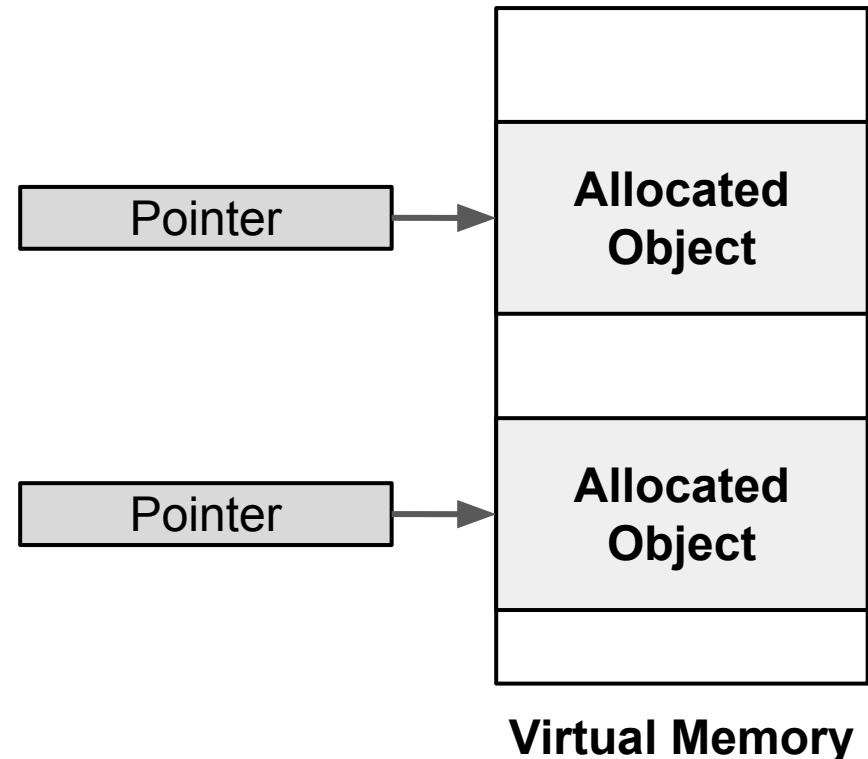


SPATIAL MEMORY SAFETY

Memory Whitelisting



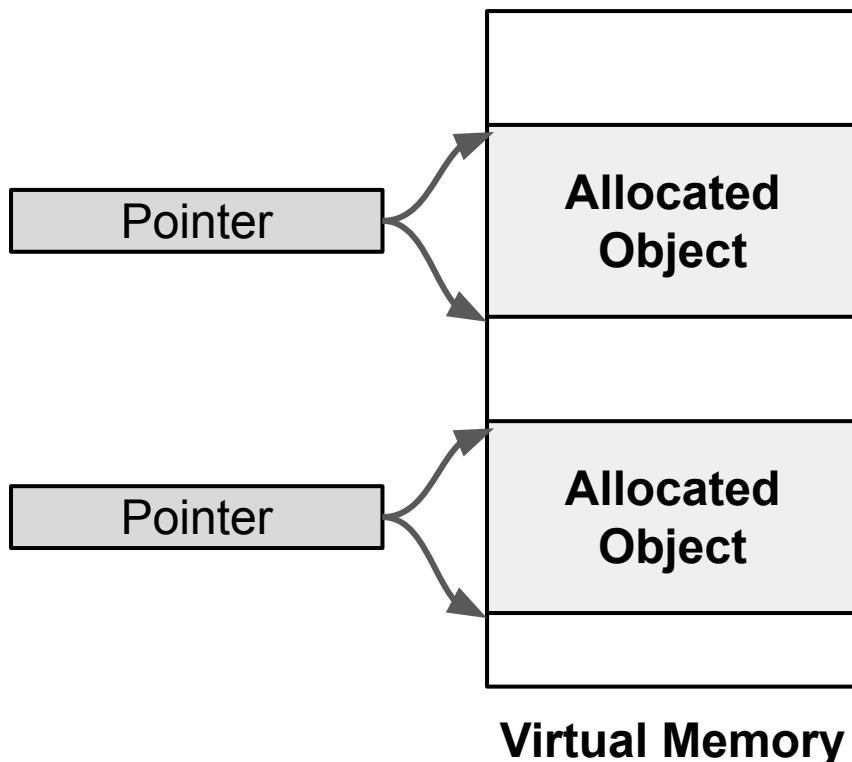
Memory Blacklisting



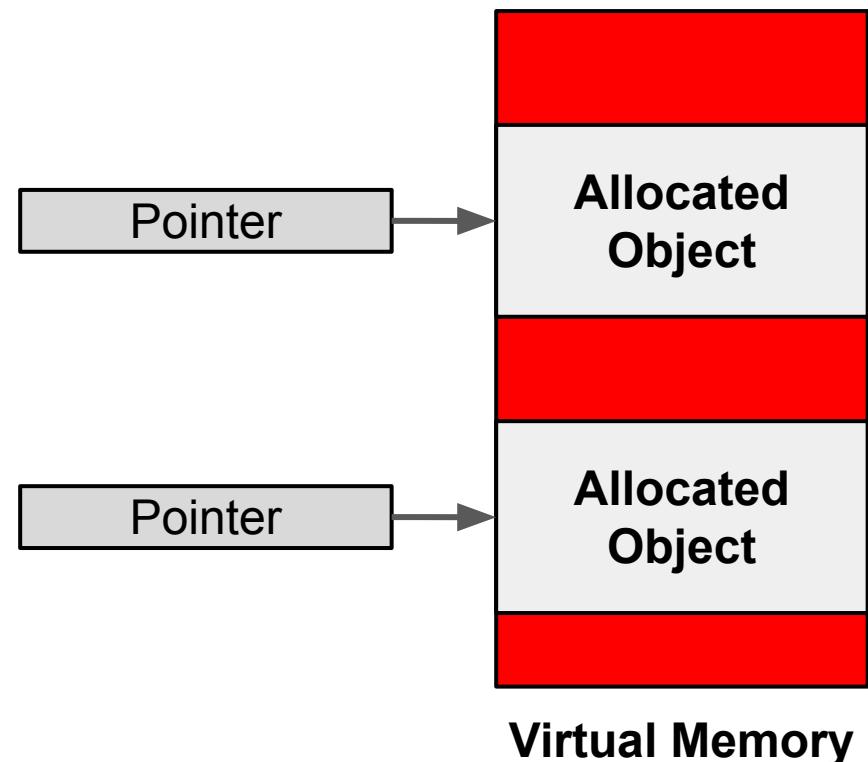


SPATIAL MEMORY SAFETY

Memory Whitelisting



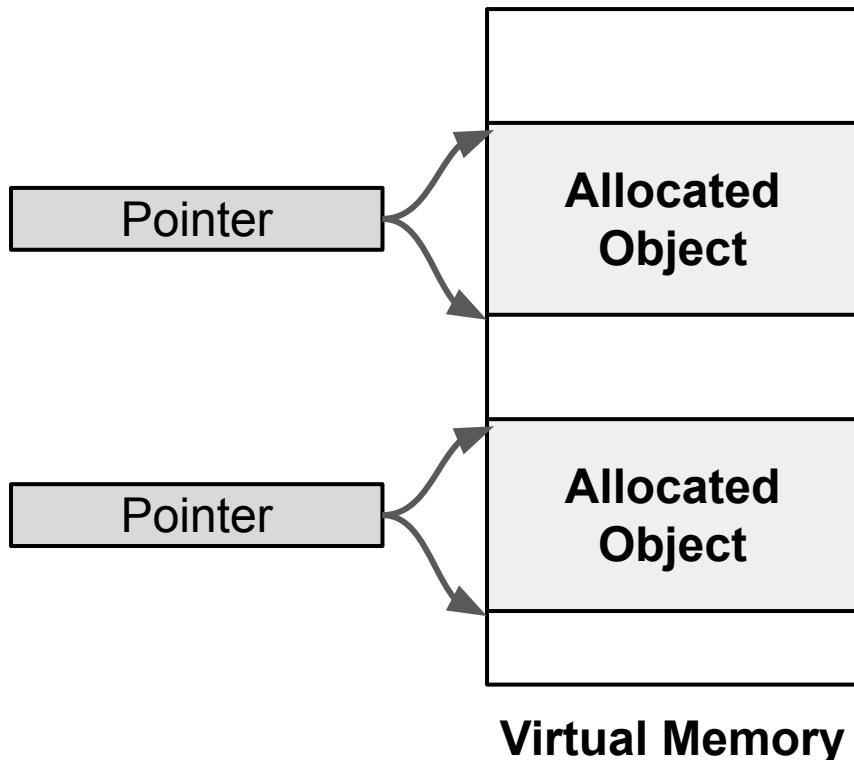
Memory Blacklisting



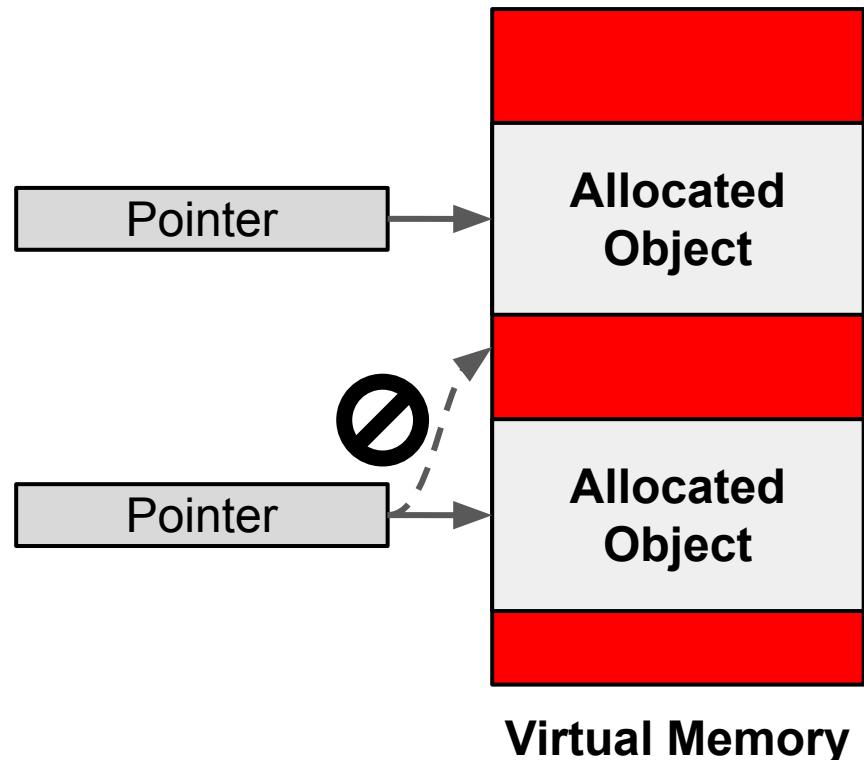


SPATIAL MEMORY SAFETY

Memory Whitelisting



Memory Blacklisting



	Whitelisting		Blacklisting
	Per-object	Per-pointer	
Disjoint Metadata	Compatible C Baggy Bounds	Mondrian M-machine Softbound, Hardbound Watchdog CUP, MPX	Purify Valgrind Dr. Memory Electric Fence ASan
Inlined Metadata	EffectiveSan	(aka Fat Pointers) CHERI Cyclone CheckedC	SafeMem REST CALIFORMS
Co-joined Metadata	ARM Memory Tagging SPARC ADI		
No Metadata	Lowfat s/w	Lowfat h/w	

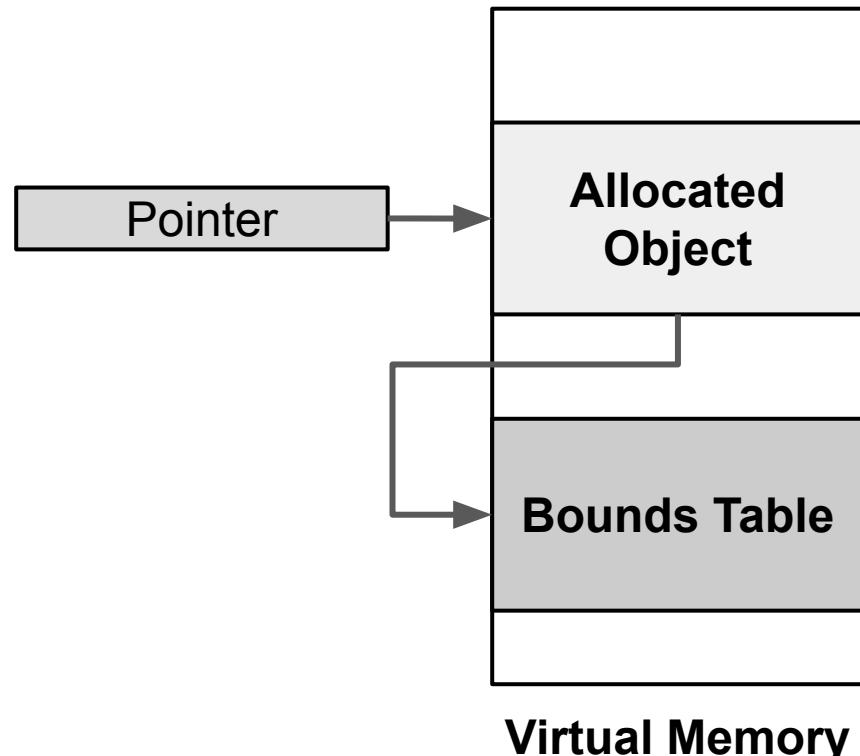
	Whitelisting		Blacklisting
	Per-object	Per-pointer	
Disjoint Metadata	Compatible C Baggy Bounds	Mondrian M-machine Softbound, Hardbound Watchdog CUP, MPX	Purify Valgrind Dr. Memory Electric Fence ASan
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WHITELISTING: PER-OBJECT DISJOINT METADATA

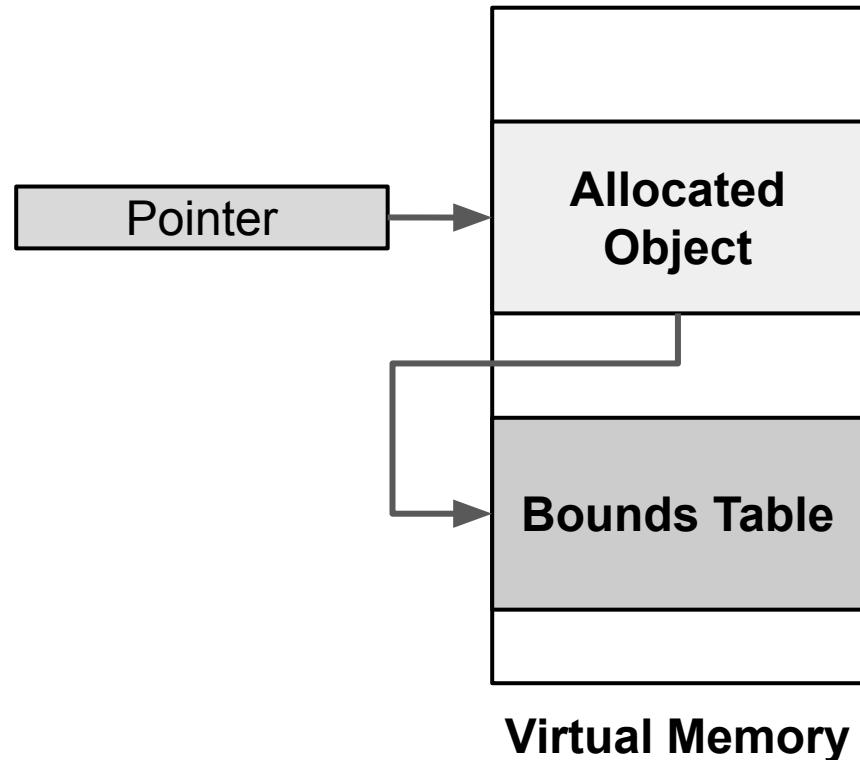
- Main Idea:
 - Record bounds information for each **object** in a bounds table.
 - Check on pointer **arithmetic**.





WHITELISTING: PER-OBJECT DISJOINT METADATA

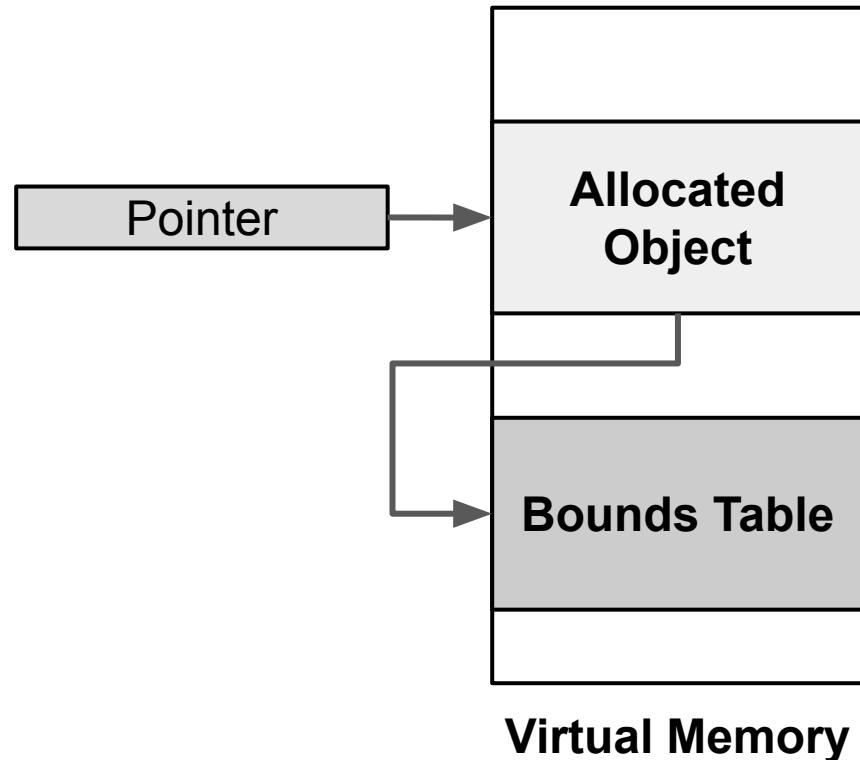
- Main Idea:
 - Record bounds information for each **object** in a bounds table.
 - Check on pointer **arithmetic**.
- Pros and Cons:
 - + Good binary compatibility.





WHITELISTING: PER-OBJECT DISJOINT METADATA

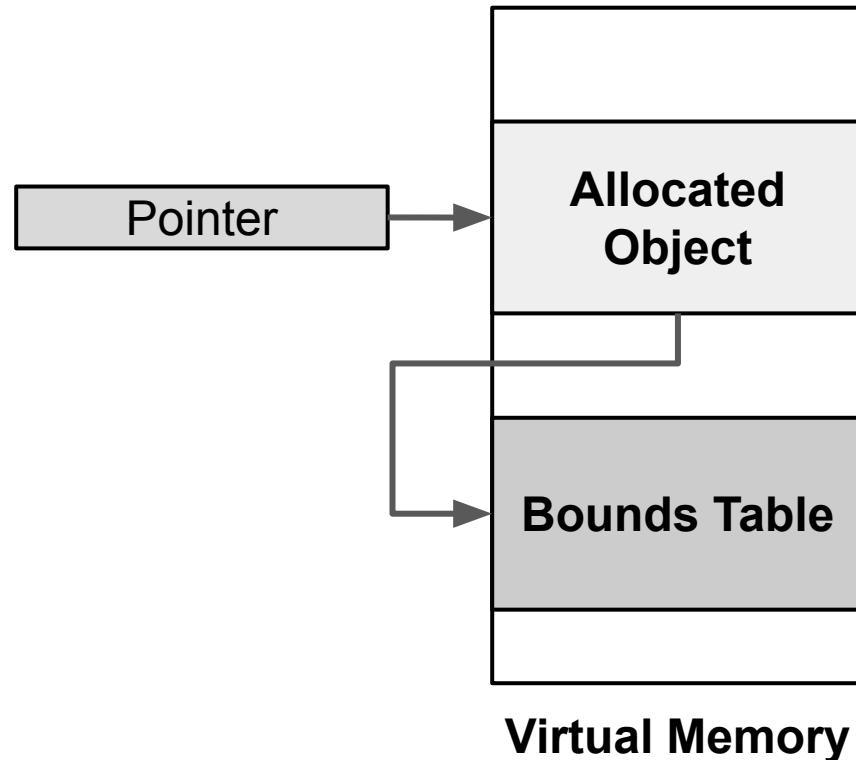
- Main Idea:
 - Record bounds information for each **object** in a bounds table.
 - Check on pointer **arithmetic**.
- Pros and Cons:
 - + Good binary compatibility.
 - Costly range lookups.





WHITELISTING: PER-OBJECT DISJOINT METADATA

- Main Idea:
 - Record bounds information for each **object** in a bounds table.
 - Check on pointer **arithmetic**.
- Pros and Cons:
 - + Good binary compatibility.
 - Costly range lookups.
 - No intra-object protection.

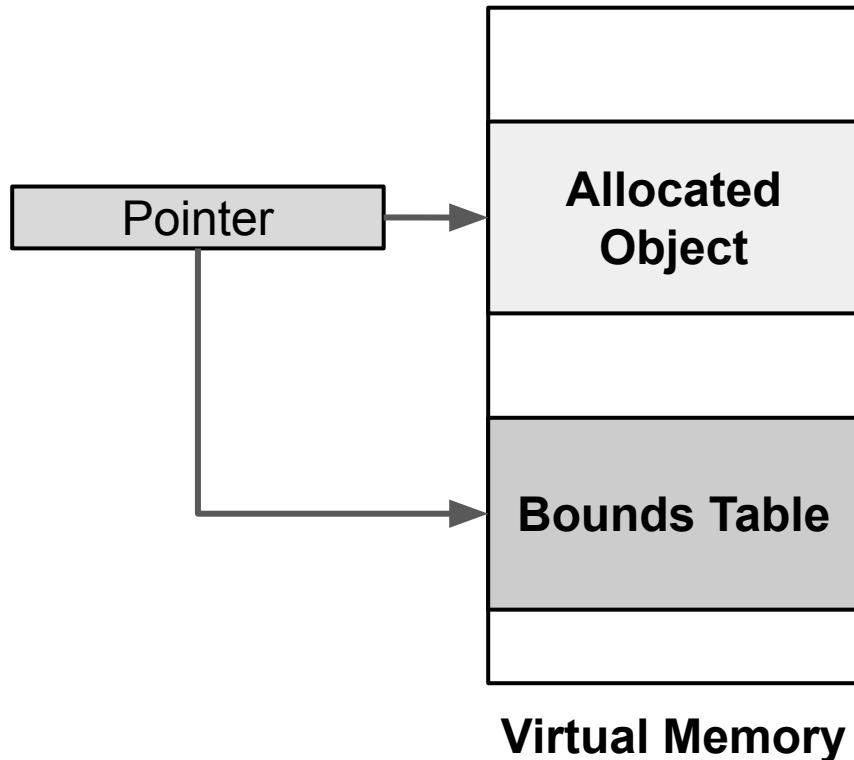


	Whitelisting		Blacklisting
	Per-object	Per-pointer	
Disjoint Metadata	Compatible C Baggy Bounds	Mondrian M-machine Softbound, Hardbound Watchdog CUP, MPX	Purify Valgrind Dr. Memory Electric Fence ASan
Inlined Metadata	EffectiveSan	(aka Fat Pointers) CHERI Cyclone CheckedC	SafeMem REST CALIFORMS
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No Metadata	Lowfat s/w	Lowfat h/w	



WHITELISTING: PER-POINTER DISJOINT METADATA

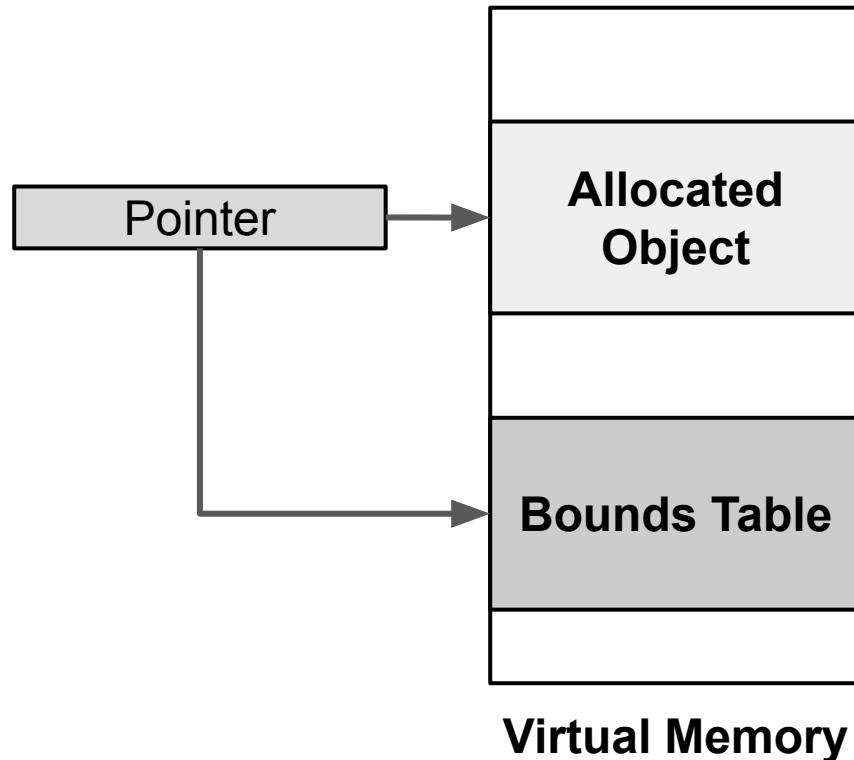
- Main Idea:
 - Record bounds information for each **pointer** in a bounds table.
 - Propagate metadata on pointer arithmetic.
 - Check on pointer **dereference**.





WHITELISTING: PER-POINTER DISJOINT METADATA

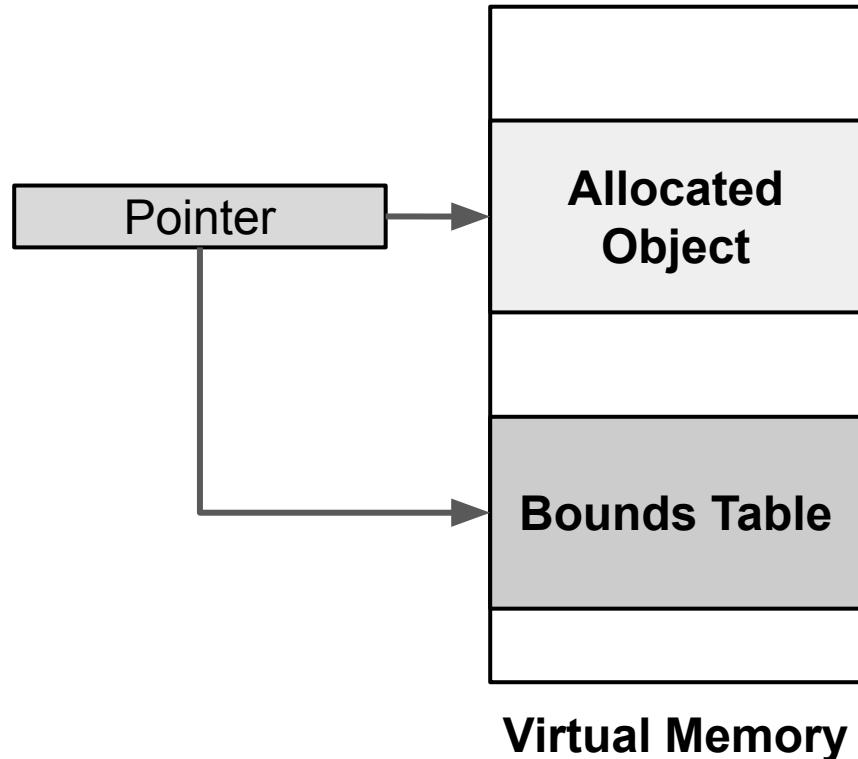
- Main Idea:
 - Record bounds information for each **pointer** in a bounds table.
 - Propagate metadata on pointer arithmetic.
 - Check on pointer **dereference**.
- Pros and Cons:
 - + Lower number of checks.





WHITELISTING: PER-POINTER DISJOINT METADATA

- Main Idea:
 - Record bounds information for each **pointer** in a bounds table.
 - Propagate metadata on pointer arithmetic.
 - Check on pointer **dereference**.
- Pros and Cons:
 - + Lower number of checks.
 - + Good binary compatibility.
 - Problematic for multi-threading.



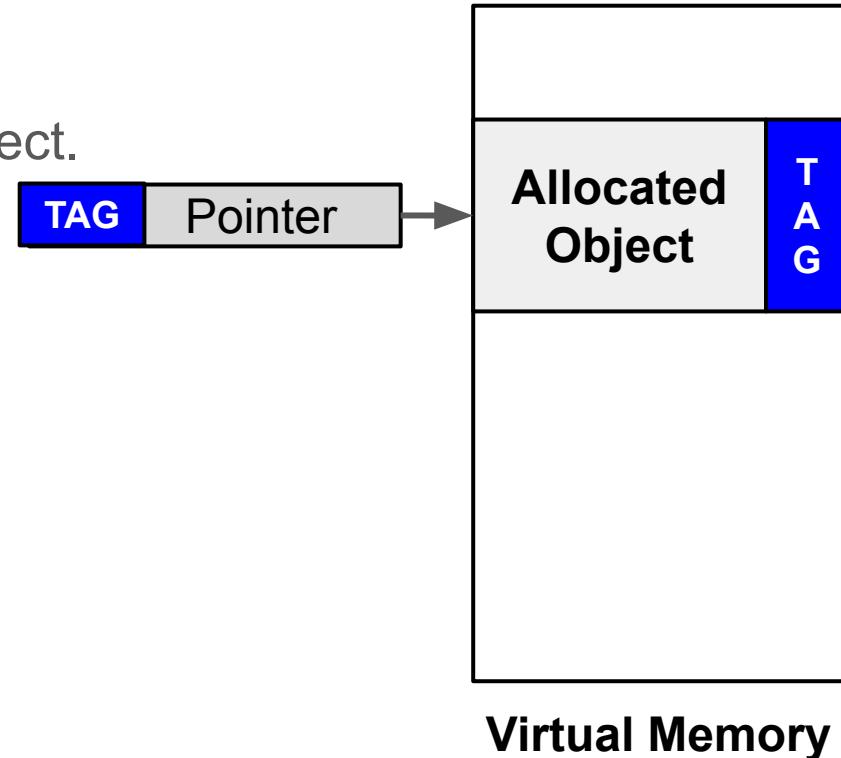
	Whitelisting		Blacklisting
	Per-object	Per-pointer	
Disjoint Metadata	Compatible C Baggy Bounds	Mondrian M-machine Softbound, Hardbound Watchdog CUP, MPX	Purify Valgrind Dr. Memory Electric Fence ASan
Inlined Metadata	EffectiveSan	(aka Fat Pointers) CHERI Cyclone CheckedC	SafeMem REST CALIFORMS
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WHITELISTING: CO-JOINED METADATA

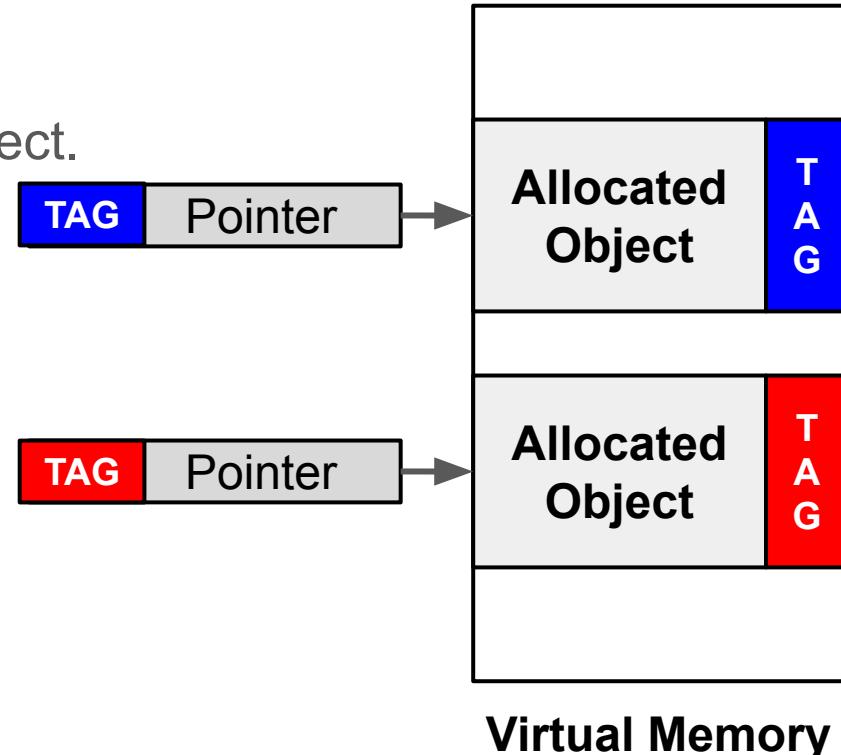
- Main Idea:
 - Assign a tag for each pointer/object.





WHITELISTING: CO-JOINED METADATA

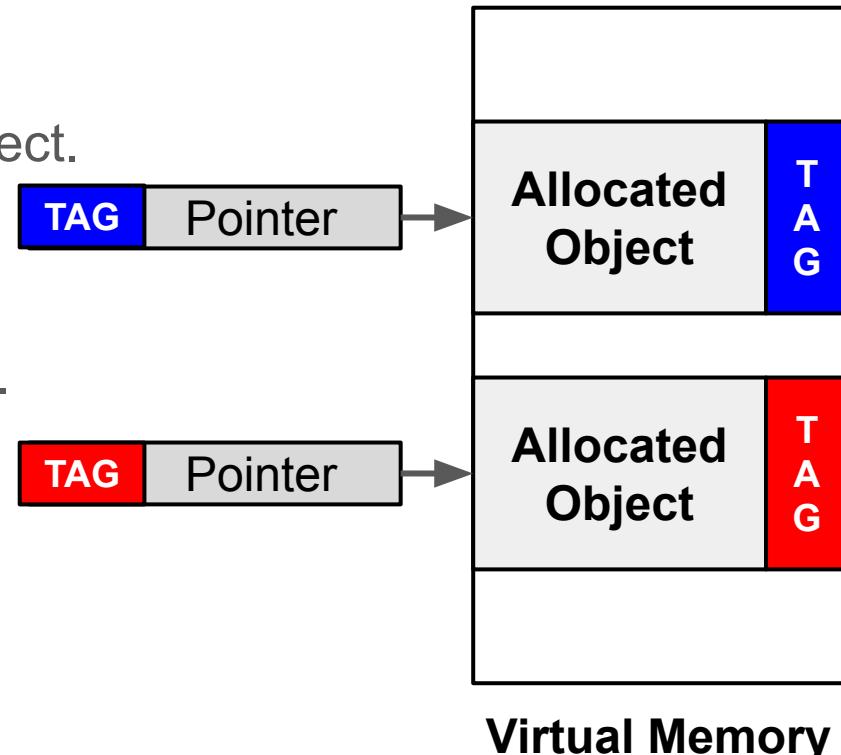
- Main Idea:
 - Assign a tag for each pointer/object.
 - Compare tags on pointer **dereference**.





WHITELISTING: CO-JOINED METADATA

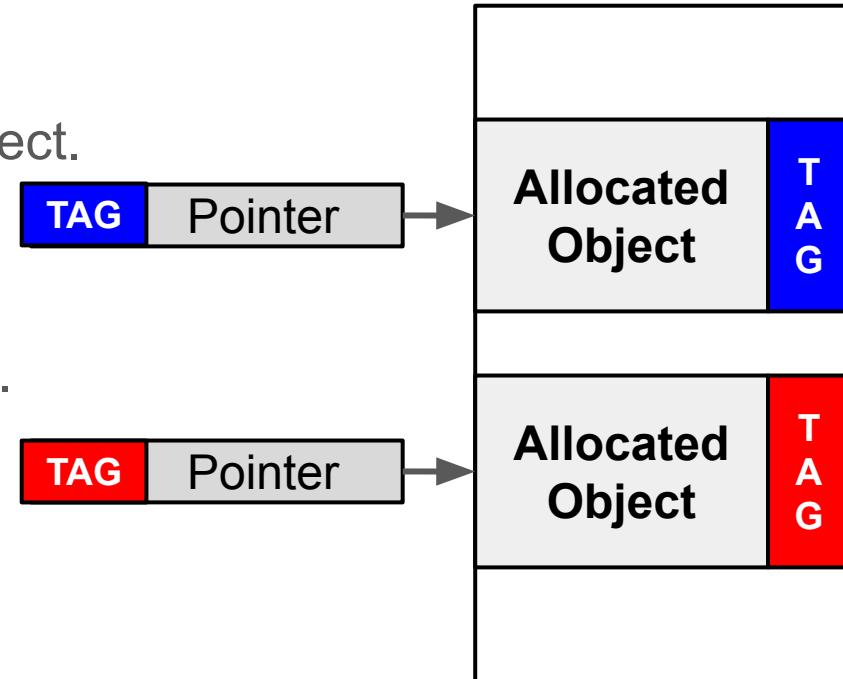
- Main Idea:
 - Assign a tag for each pointer/object.
 - Compare tags on pointer **dereference**.
 - E.g., SPARC ADI and ARM MTE.





WHITELISTING: CO-JOINED METADATA

- Main Idea:
 - Assign a tag for each pointer/object.
 - Compare tags on pointer **dereference**.
 - E.g., SPARC ADI and ARM MTE.
- Pros and Cons:
 - + Efficient check in hardware.
 - Limited entropy.

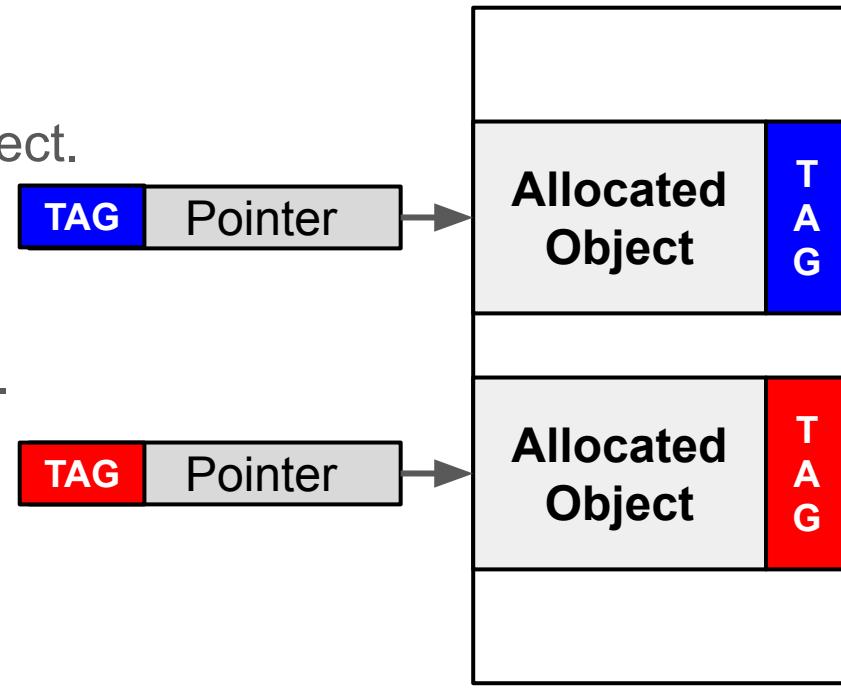


Virtual Memory



WHITELISTING: CO-JOINED METADATA

- Main Idea:
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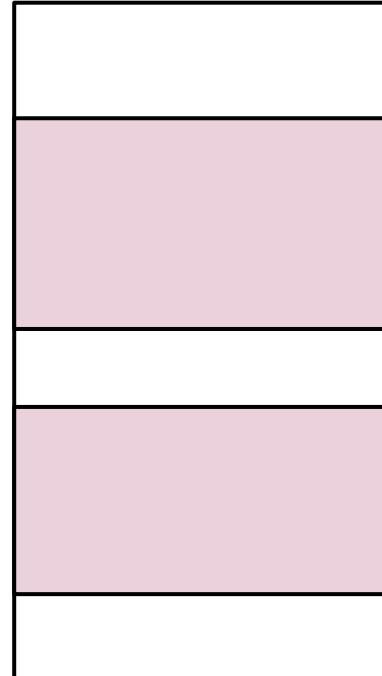


	Whitelisting		Blacklisting
	Per-object	Per-pointer	
Disjoint Metadata	Compatible C Baggy Bounds	Mondrian M-machine Softbound, Hardbound Watchdog CUP, MPX	Purify Valgrind Dr. Memory Electric Fence ASan
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No Metadata	Lowfat s/w	Lowfat h/w	



WHITELISTING: NO METADATA (**LOWFAT**)

- Main Idea:
 - Partition the heap into equally-sized regions.

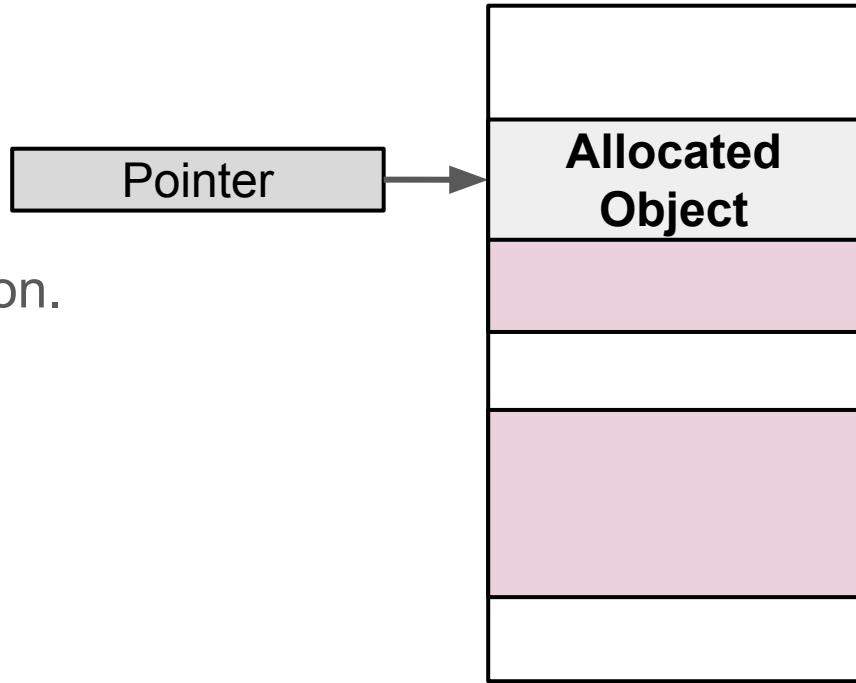


Virtual Memory



WHITELISTING: NO METADATA (**LOWFAT**)

- Main Idea:
 - Partition the heap into equally-sized regions.
 - Use one allocation size per region.

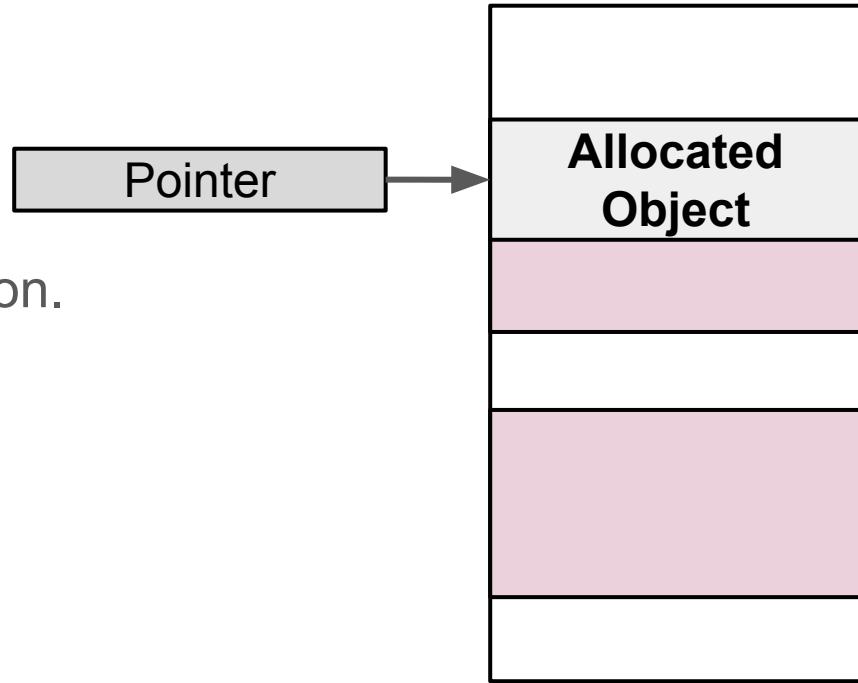


Virtual Memory



WHITELISTING: NO METADATA (**LOWFAT**)

- Main Idea:
 - Partition the heap into equally-sized regions.
 - Use one allocation size per region.
 - Check on pointer **arithmetic**.

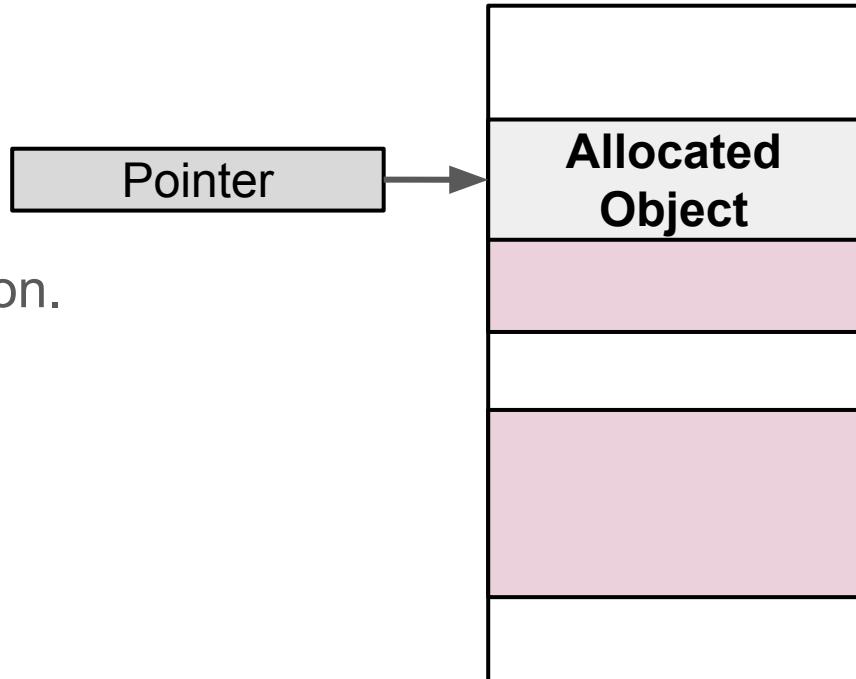


Virtual Memory



WHITELISTING: NO METADATA (**LOWFAT**)

- Main Idea:
 - Partition the heap into equally-sized regions.
 - Use one allocation size per region.
 - Check on pointer **arithmetic**.
- Pros and Cons:
 - + Good binary compatibility.
 - Memory fragmentation.
 - No intra-object protection.



Virtual Memory

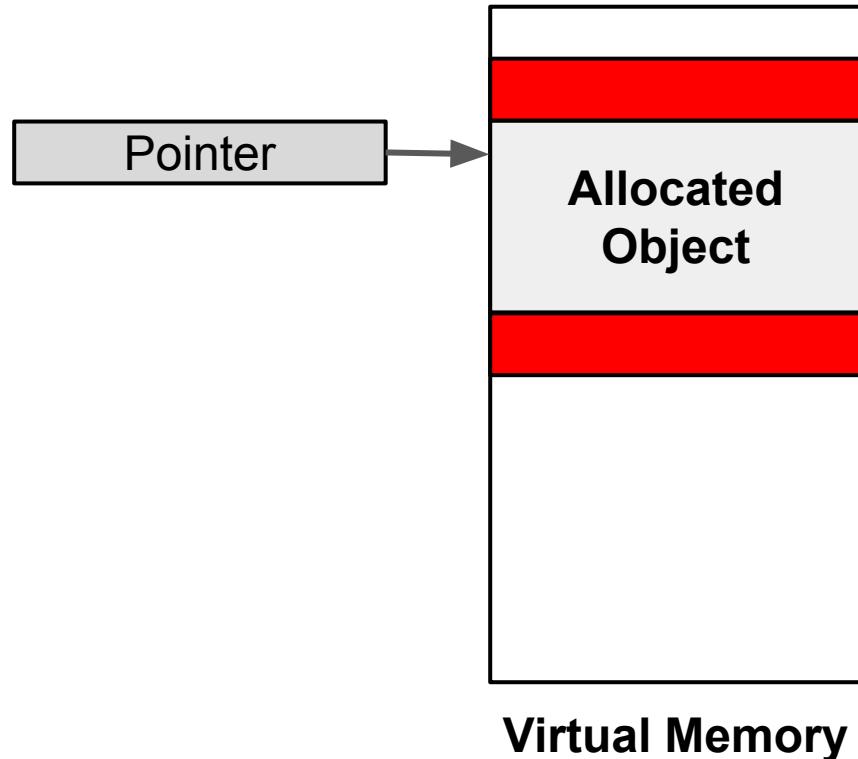
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	Per-object	Per-pointer	
Disjoint Metadata	Compatible C Baggy Bounds	Mondrian M-machine Softbound, Hardbound Watchdog CUP, MPX	Purify Valgrind Dr. Memory Electric Fence ASan
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BLACKLISTING: DISJOINT METADATA

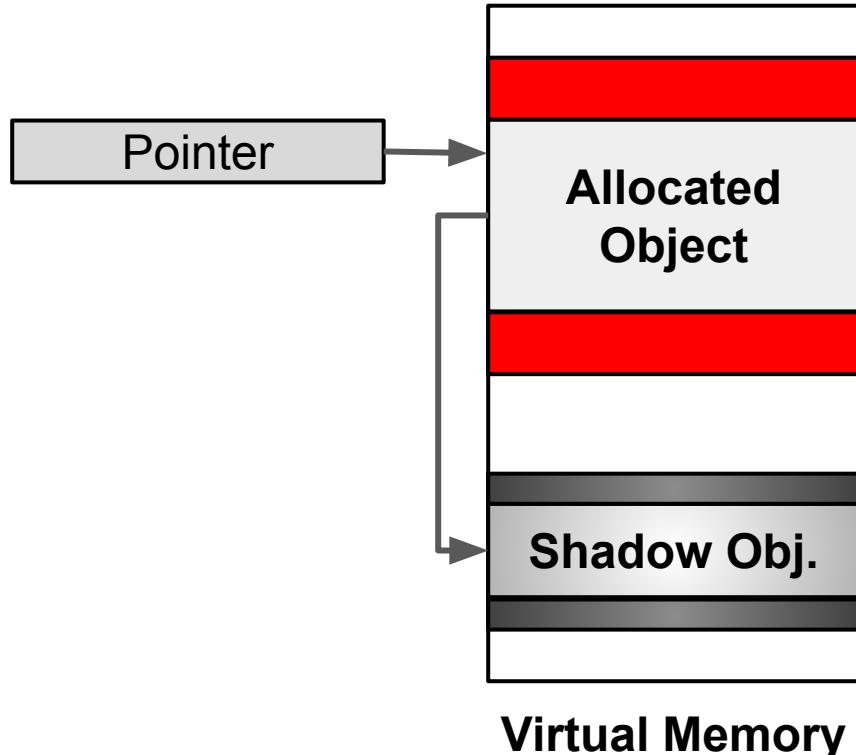
- Main Idea:
 - Guard objects with red zones.





BLACKLISTING: DISJOINT METADATA

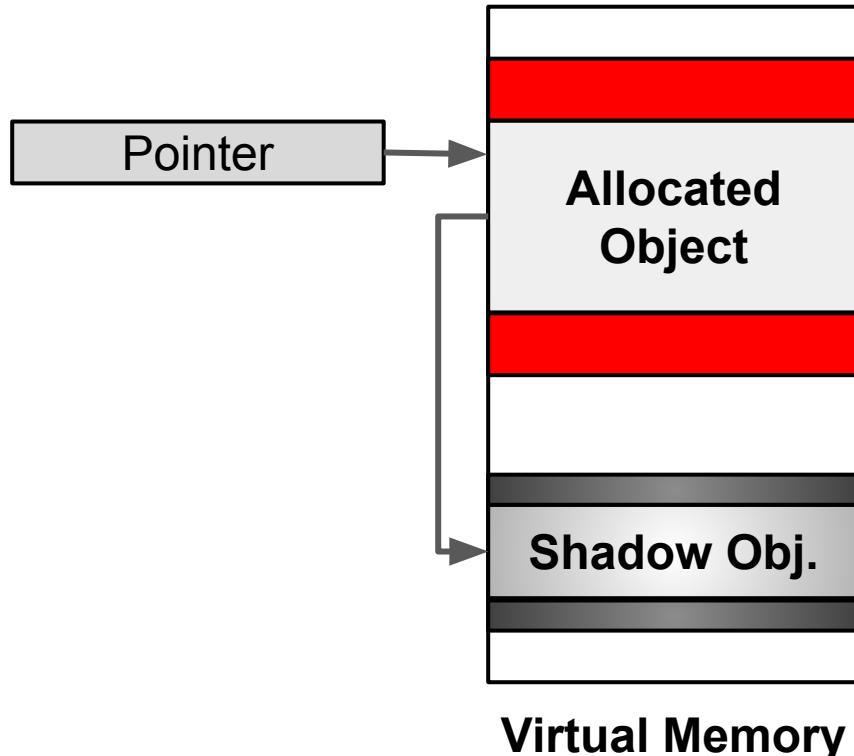
- Main Idea:
 - Guard objects with red zones.
 - Use shadow memory to identify red zone locations.





BLACKLISTING: DISJOINT METADATA

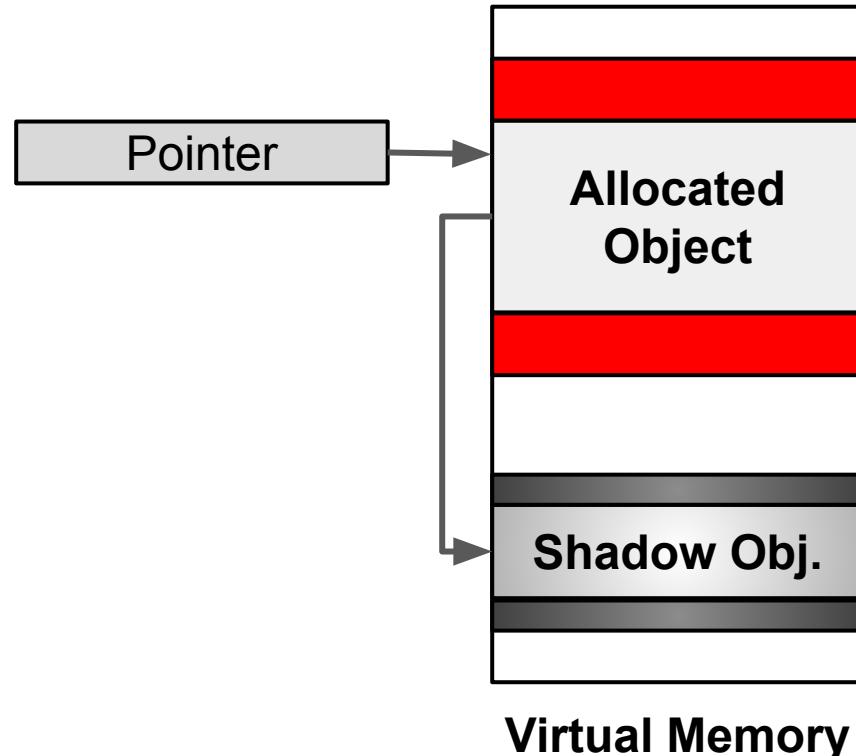
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 - Use shadow memory to identify red zone locations.
 - E.g., AddressSanitizer (ASan).





BLACKLISTING: DISJOINT METADATA

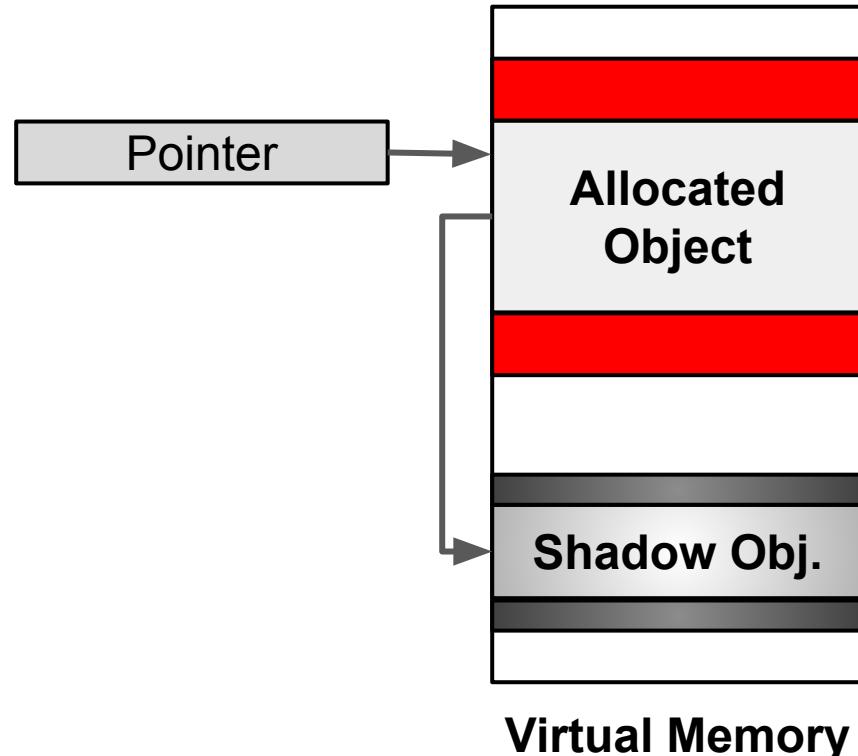
- Main Idea:
 - Guard objects with red zones.
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- Pros and Cons:
 - + No metadata propagation.
 - + Good binary compatibility.





BLACKLISTING: DISJOINT METADATA

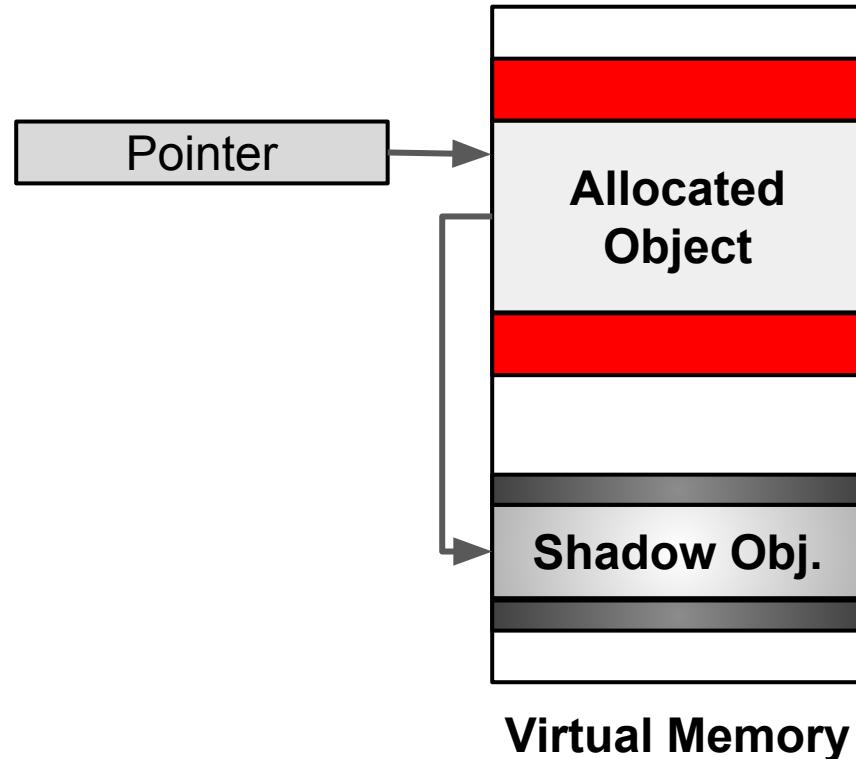
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 - + Good binary compatibility.
 - High memory footprint.





BLACKLISTING: DISJOINT METADATA

- Main Idea:
 - Guard objects with red zones.
 - Use shadow memory to identify red zone locations.
 - E.g., AddressSanitizer (ASan).
- Pros and Cons:
 - + No metadata propagation.
 - + Good binary compatibility.
 - High memory footprint.
 - Less precise than whitelisting.



	Whitelisting		Blacklisting
	Per-object	Per-pointer	
Disjoint Metadata	Compatible C Baggy Bounds	Mondrian M-machine Softbound, Hardbound Watchdog CUP, MPX	Purify Valgrind Dr. Memory Electric Fence ASan
Inlined Metadata	EffectiveSan	(aka Fat Pointers) CHERI Cyclone CheckedC	SafeMem REST CALIFORMS
Co-joined Metadata	ARM Memory Tagging SPARC ADI		
No Metadata	Lowfat s/w	Lowfat h/w	

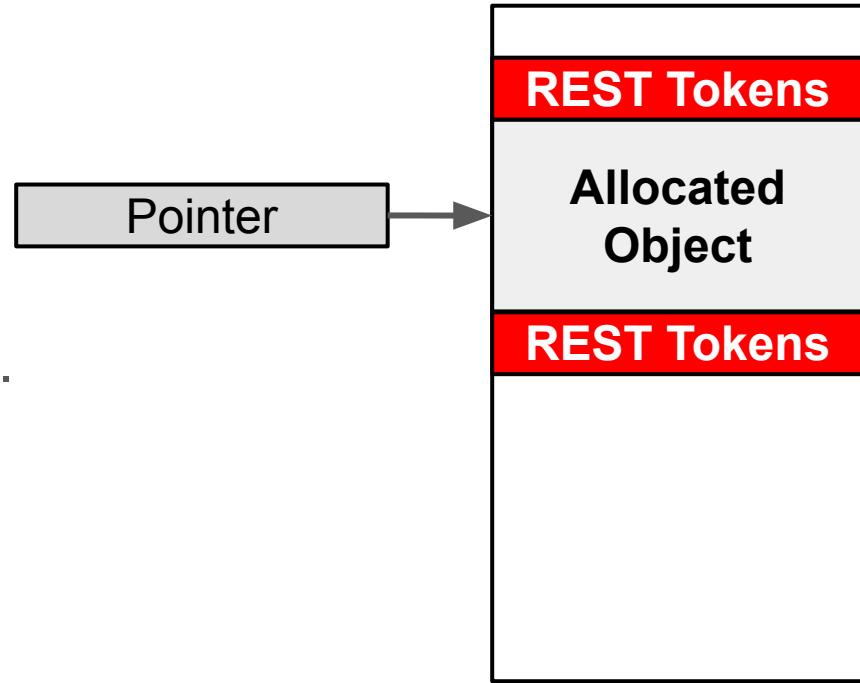
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BLACKLISTING: INLINED METADATA (REST)

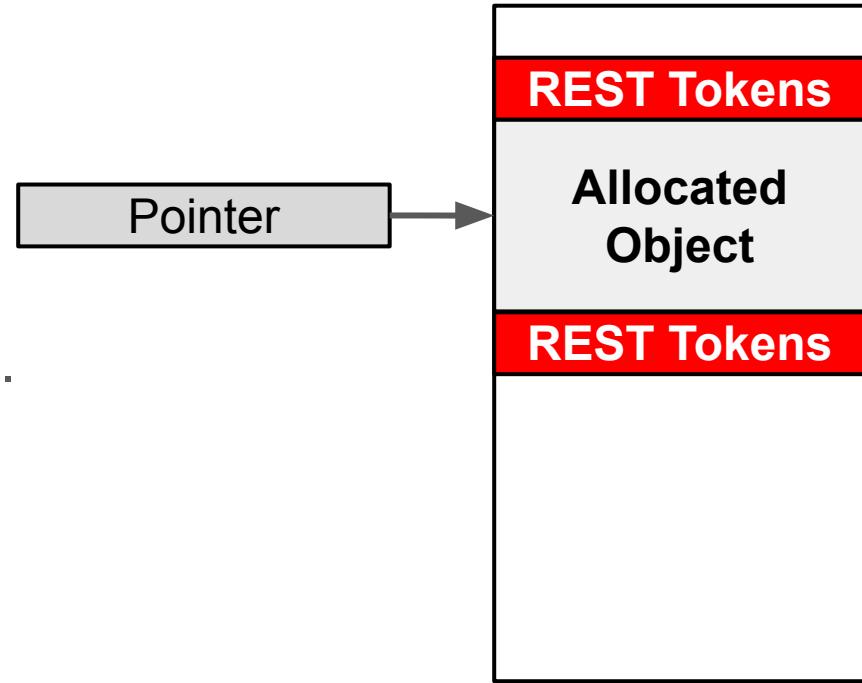
- Main Idea:
 - Store a unique value (Token) in locations to be blacklisted.
 - Issue an exception when a regular load/store touches them.





BLACKLISTING: INLINED METADATA (REST)

- Main Idea:
 - Store a unique value (Token) in locations to be blacklisted.
 - Issue an exception when a regular load/store touches them.
- Pros and Cons:
 - + Negligible perf. overheads.
 - + Good binary compatibility.

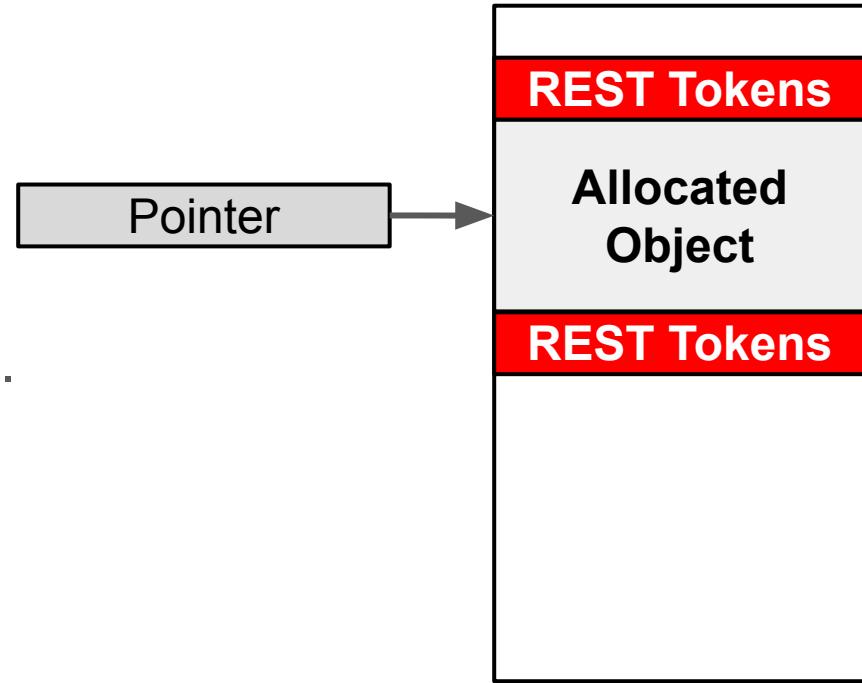


Virtual Memory



BLACKLISTING: INLINED METADATA (REST)

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 - Store a unique value (Token) in locations to be blacklisted.
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- Pros and Cons:
 - + Negligible perf. overheads.
 - + Good binary compatibility.
 - No intra-object protection.

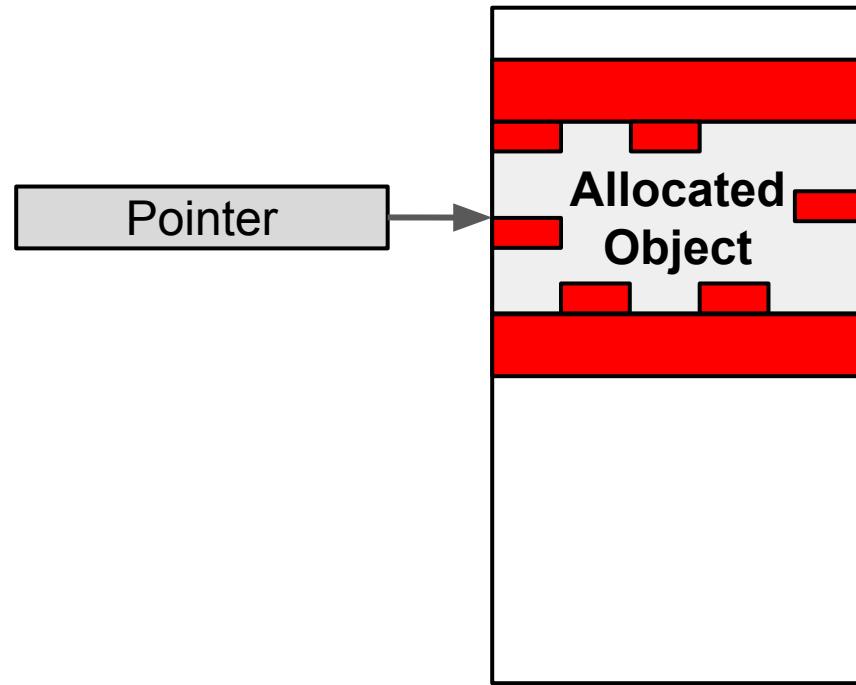


Virtual Memory



BLACKLISTING: INLINED METADATA (**CALIFORMS**)

- Main Idea:
 - Use natural padding bytes in structs to store the metadata.

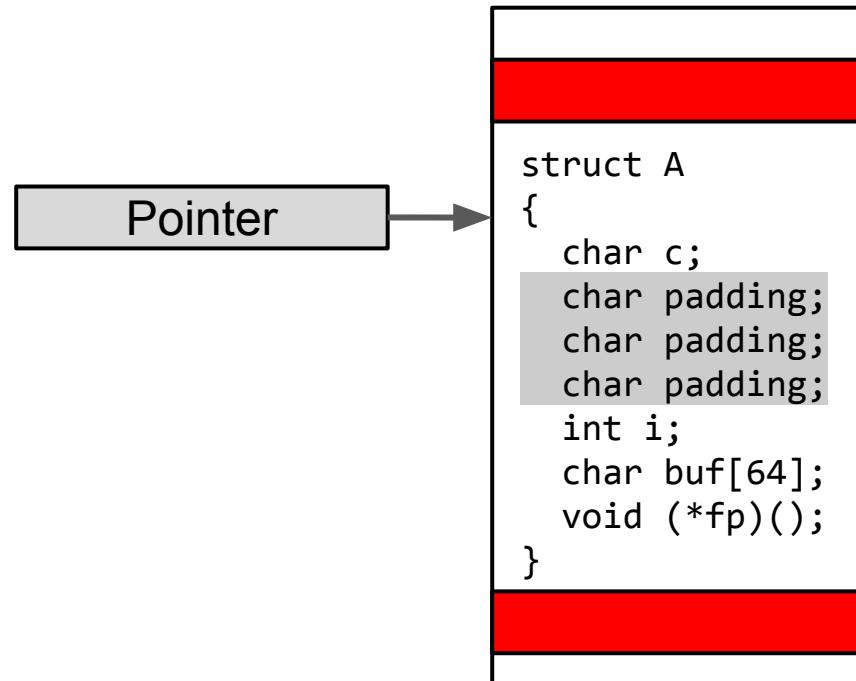


Virtual Memory



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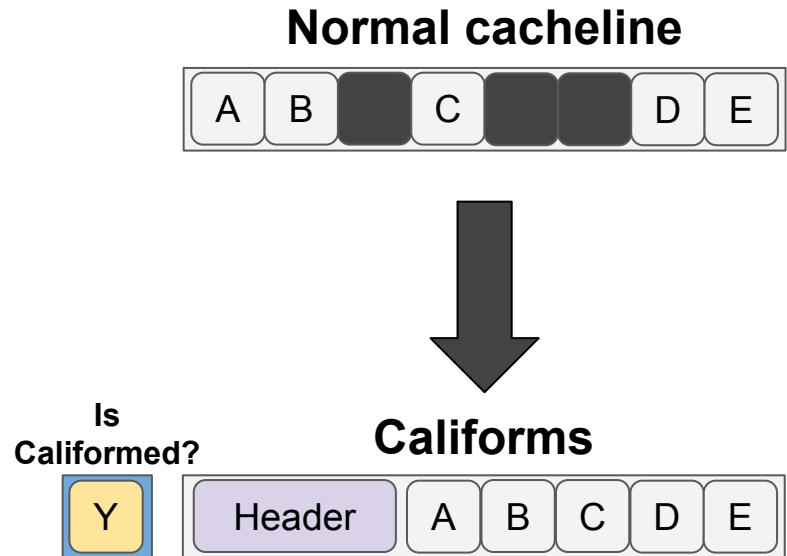


Virtual Memory



BLACKLISTING: INLINED METADATA (**CALIFORMS**)

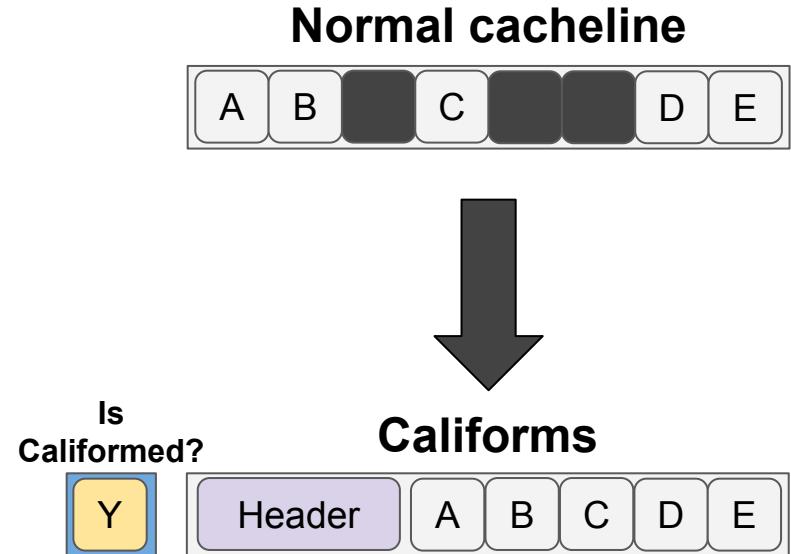
- Main Idea:
 - Use natural padding bytes in structs to store the metadata.
 - Only 1-bit of metadata is needed per each 64B cacheline.





BLACKLISTING: INLINED METADATA (**CALIFORMS**)

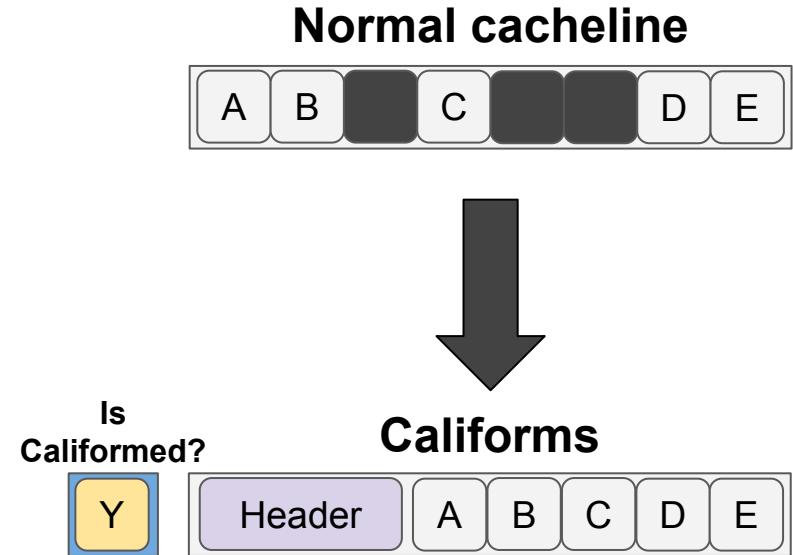
- Main Idea:
 - Use natural padding bytes in structs to store the metadata.
 - Only 1-bit of metadata is needed per each 64B cacheline.
- Pros and Cons:
 - + Intra-object protection.
 - + Negligible perf. overheads.





BLACKLISTING: INLINED METADATA (**CALIFORMS**)

- Main Idea:
 - Use natural padding bytes in structs to store the metadata.
 - Only 1-bit of metadata is needed per each 64B cacheline.
- Pros and Cons:
 - + Intra-object protection.
 - + Negligible perf. overheads.
 - Same paddings layout for objects of the same type.



	Whitelisting		Blacklisting	Randomized Allocators
	Per-object	Per-pointer		
Disjoint Metadata	Compatible C Baggy Bounds	Mondrian M-machine Softbound Hardbound Watchdog CUP, MPX	Purify Valgrind Dr. Memory Electric Fence ASan	
Inlined Metadata	EffectiveSan	(aka Fat Pointers) CHERI Cyclone CheckedC	SafeMem REST CALIFORMS	
Co-joined Metadata	ARM Memory Tagging SPARC ADI			
No Metadata	Lowfat s/w	Lowfat h/w		



MEMORY SAFETY TECHNIQUES



Spatial Memory Safety



Temporal Memory Safety

Naive Solution

Never use `Free()`

Naive Solution

Never use `Free()`

High memory consumption

& memory leaks!

Naive Solution	Never use <code>Free()</code>	
Garbage Collection (GC)	Regular	Hardware Accelerated GC
	Conservative	MarkUs

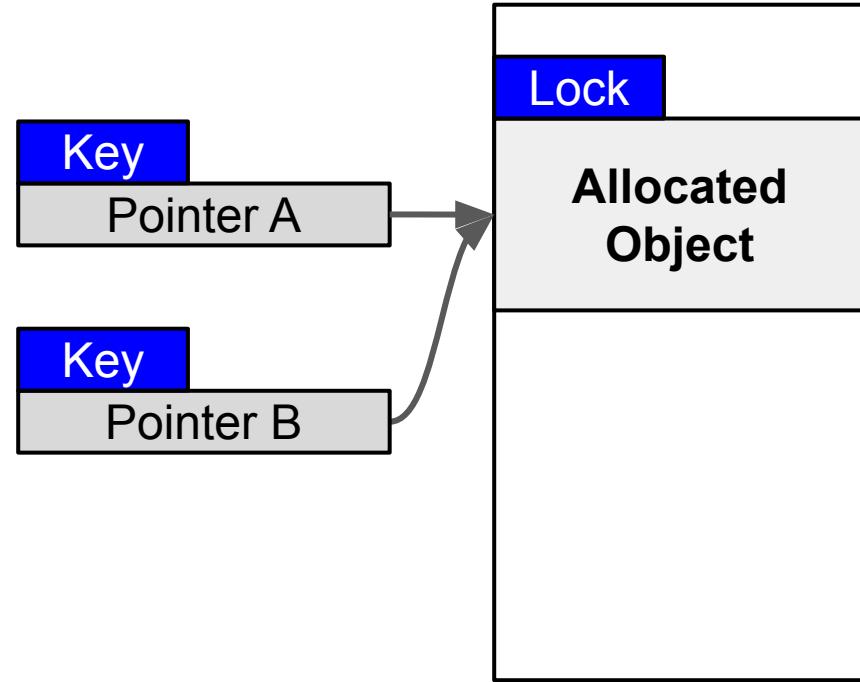
Naive Solution		Never use <code>Free()</code>
Garbage Collection (GC)	Regular	Hardware Accelerated GC
	Conservative	MarkUs
Memory Quarantining	Valgrind, ASan, REST, Califorms, CHERIvoke	

Naive Solution		Never use <code>Free()</code>
Garbage Collection (GC)	Regular	Hardware Accelerated GC
	Conservative	MarkUs
Memory Quarantining		Valgrind, ASan, REST, Califorms, CHERIvoke
 Lock & Key	Explicit	Change Lock
	Implicit	Change Lock
		Revoke key
		CETS, CUP
		Electric Fence, Oscar
		DangNull, DangSan, BOGO



LOCK & KEY: EXPLICIT LOCK CHANGE (CETS)

- Main Idea:
 - Use unique Lock per object.
 - Pass Lock to pointers as a key.
 - Propagate keys on pointer **arithmetic**.
 - Check on pointer **dereference**.

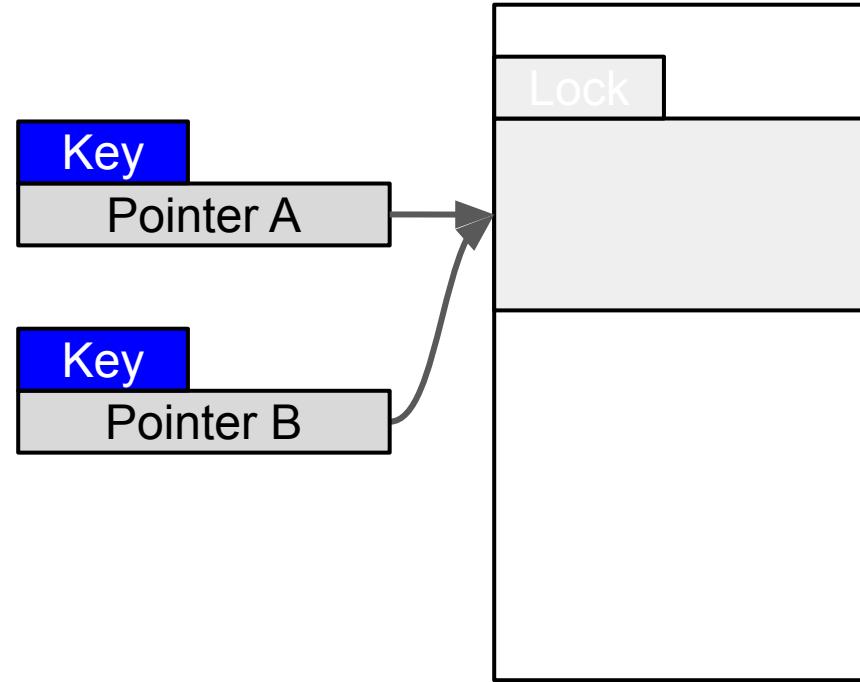


Virtual Memory



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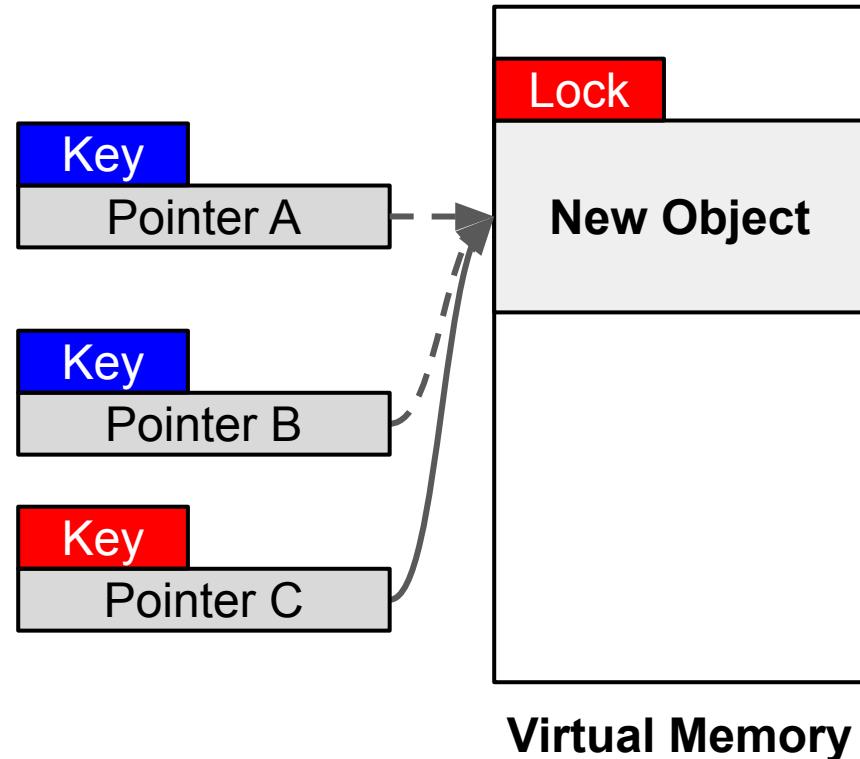


Virtual Memory



LOCK & KEY: EXPLICIT LOCK CHANGE (CETS)

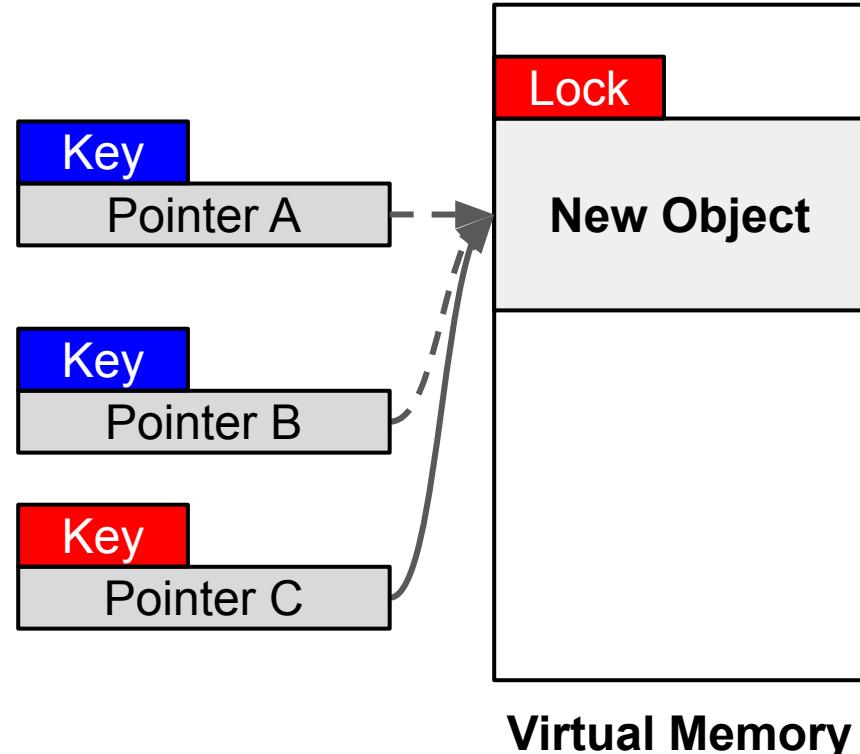
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LOCK & KEY: EXPLICIT LOCK CHANGE (CETS)

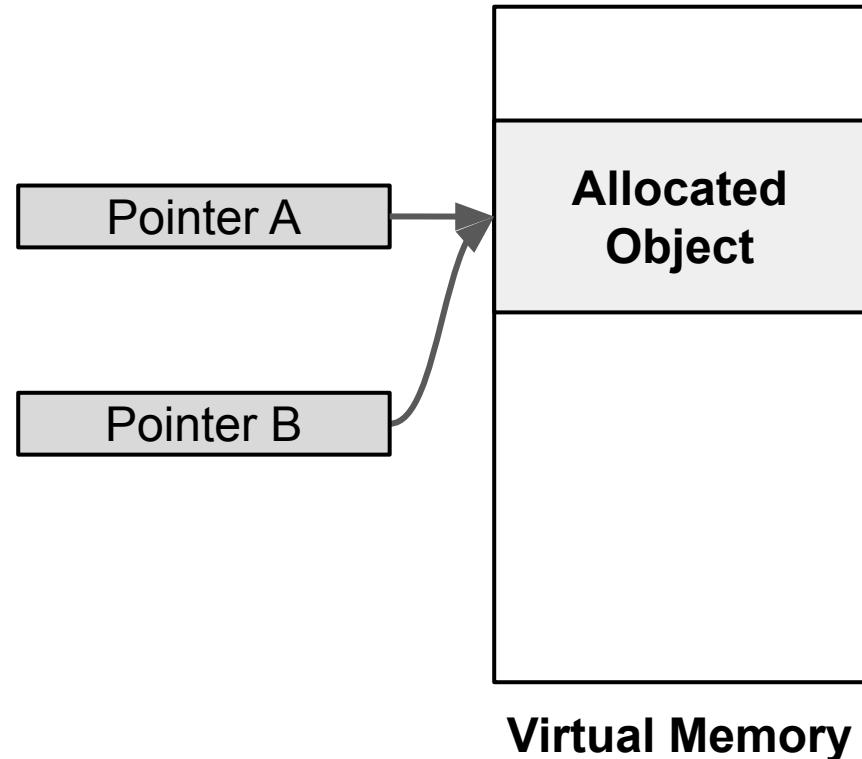
- Main Idea:
 - Use unique Lock per object.
 - Pass Lock to pointers as a key.
 - Propagate keys on pointer **arithmetic**.
 - Check on pointer **dereference**.
- Pros and Cons:
 - + Simple bounds checking.
 - High performance overheads.





LOCK & KEY: IMPLICIT LOCK CHANGE

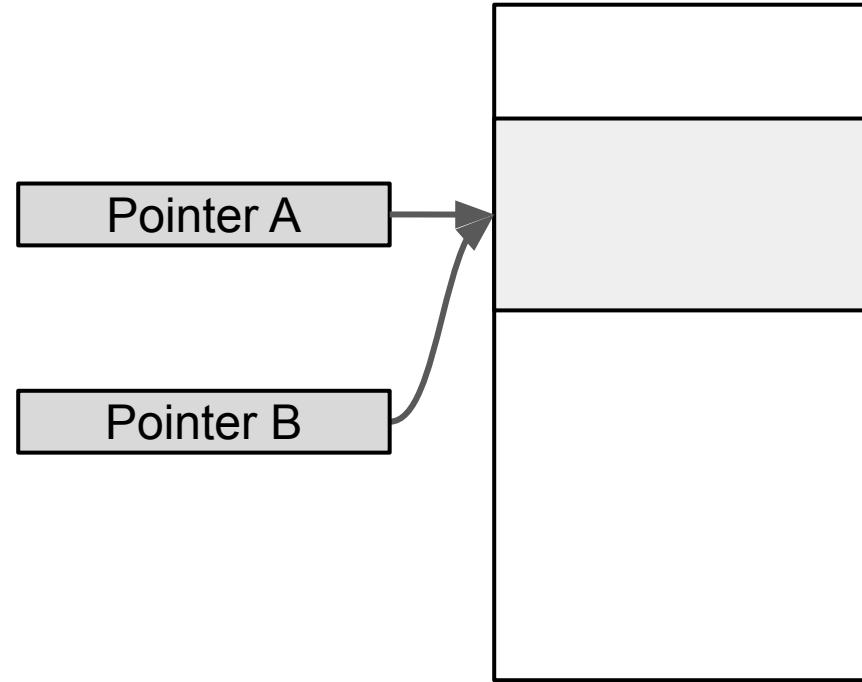
- Main Idea:
 - Use object address as a lock.





LOCK & KEY: IMPLICIT LOCK CHANGE

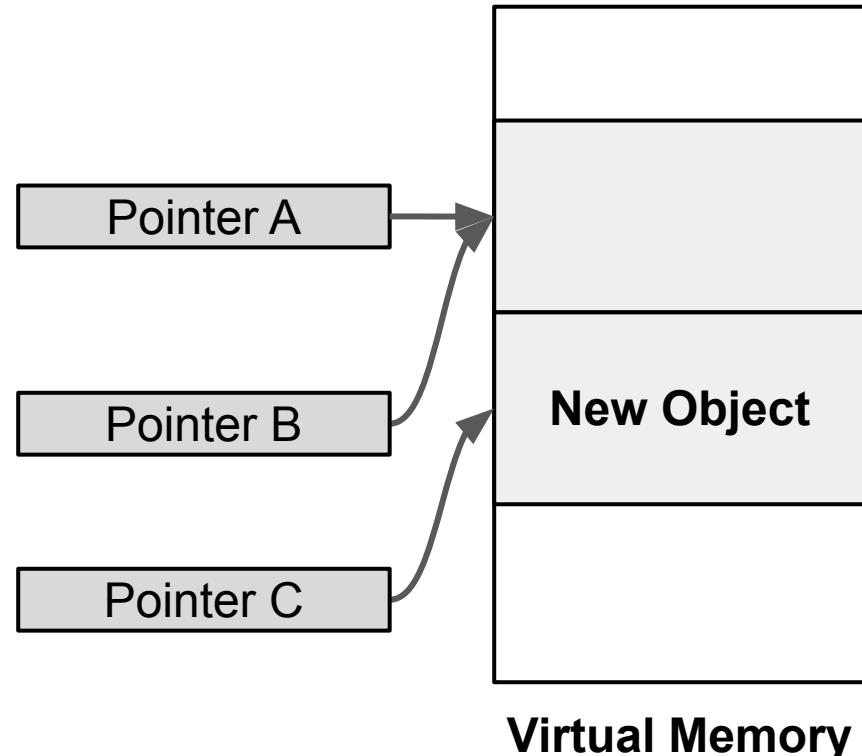
- Main Idea:
 - Use object address as a lock.
 - Mark virtual addresses as inaccessible upon free.





LOCK & KEY: IMPLICIT LOCK CHANGE

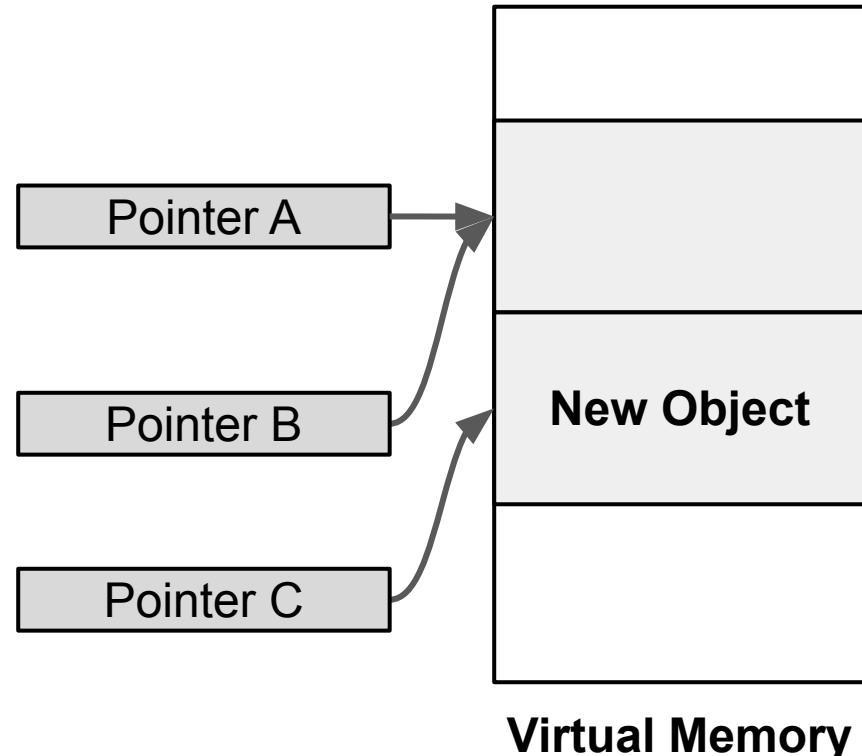
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 - Use object address as a lock.
 - Mark virtual addresses as inaccessible upon free.
 - Never reuse virtual addresses.





LOCK & KEY: IMPLICIT LOCK CHANGE

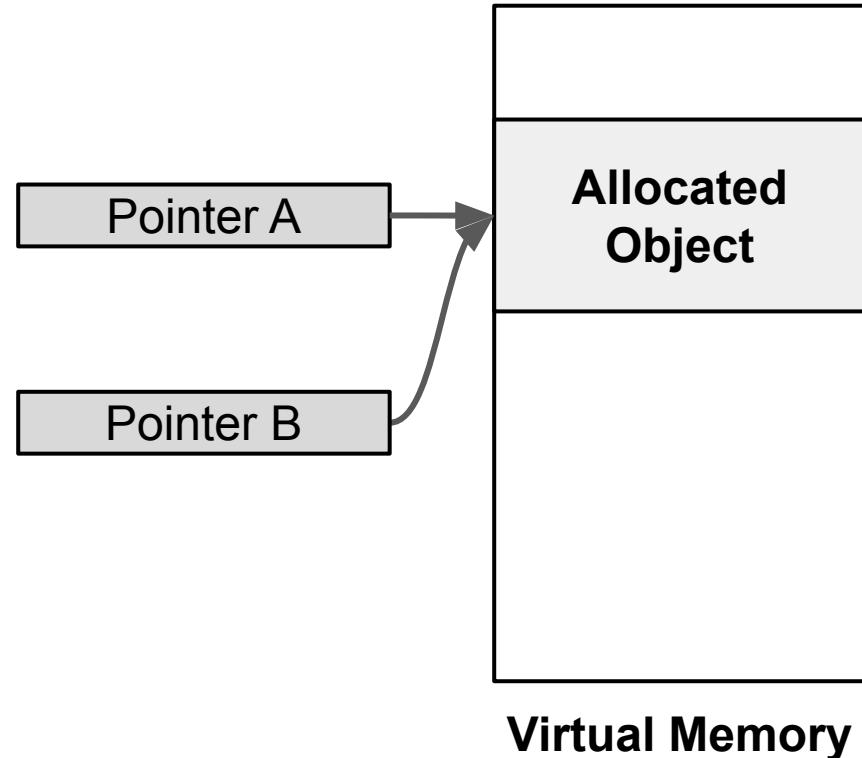
- Main Idea:
 - Use object address as a lock.
 - Mark virtual addresses as inaccessible upon free.
 - Never reuse virtual addresses.
- Pros and Cons:
 - + No per-pointer overheads.
 - High TLB overheads.





LOCK & KEY: IMPLICIT KEY REVOCATION

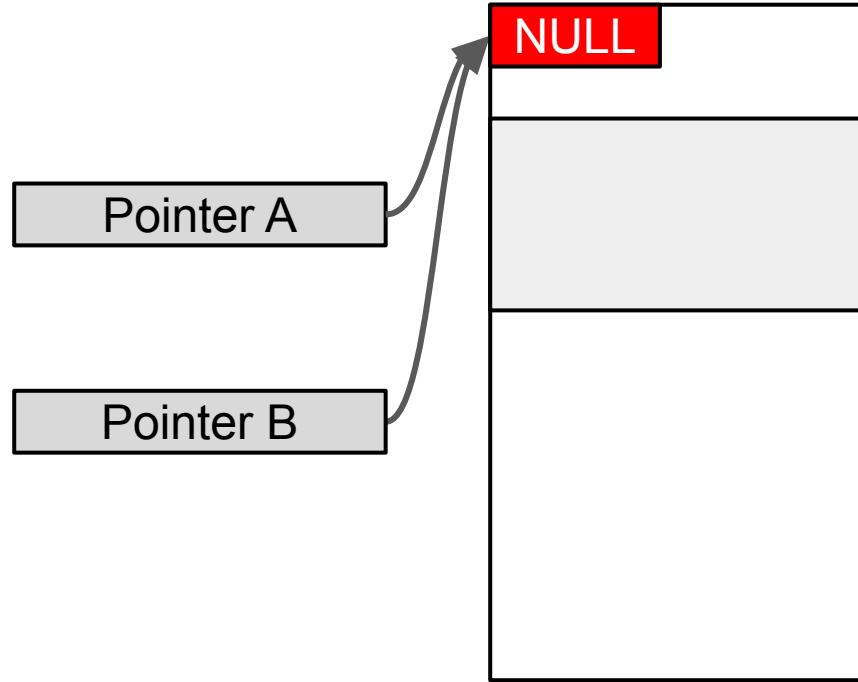
- Main Idea:
 - Use pointer value as a key.





LOCK & KEY: IMPLICIT KEY REVOCATION

- Main Idea:
 - Use pointer value as a key.
 - Nullify pointers upon `Free()`.

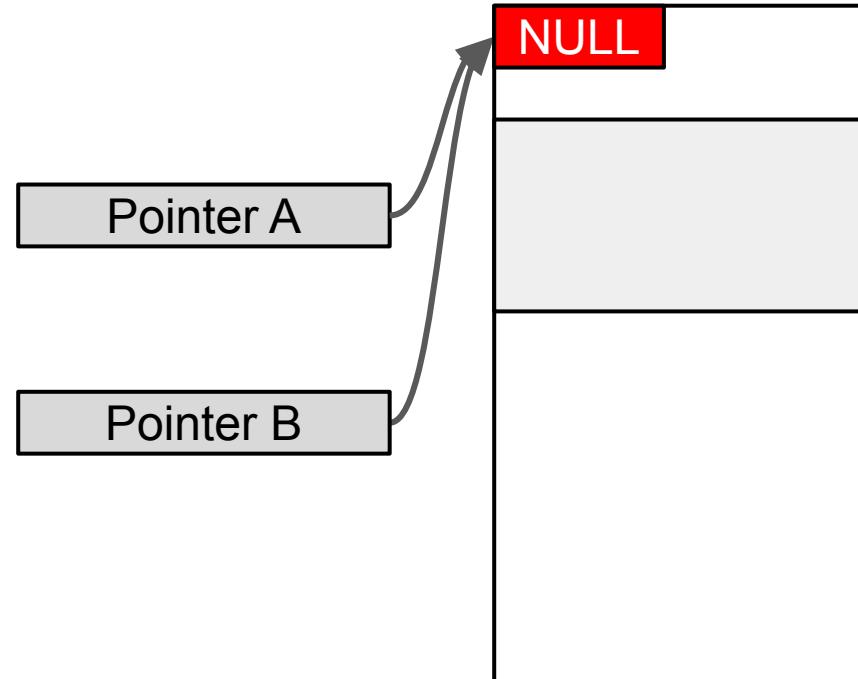


Virtual Memory



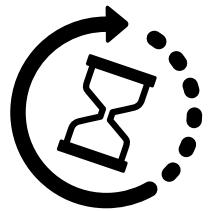
LOCK & KEY: IMPLICIT KEY REVOCATION

- Main Idea:
 - Use pointer value as a key.
 - Nullify pointers upon `Free()`.
- Limitations:
 - Overheads are proportional to the number of pointers.
 - May miss dangling pointers stored in registers.



Virtual Memory

Naive Solution		Never use <code>Free()</code>	
Garbage Collection (GC)	Regular	Hardware Accelerated GC	
	Conservative	MarkUs	
Memory Quarantining		Valgrind, ASan, REST, Califorms, CHERIvoke	
Lock & Key	Explicit	Change Lock	
	Implicit	Change Lock	
		Revoke key	
		CETS, CUP	
		Electric Fence, Oscar	
		DangNull, DangSan, BOGO	



Future Work Map



FUTURE WORK MAP





LOW-COST MEMORY SAFETY SOLUTIONS





LOW-COST MEMORY SAFETY SOLUTIONS

CALIFORMS



Hiroshi Sasaki, Miguel A. Arroyo, **Mohamed Tarek Ibn Ziad**, Koustubha Bhat, Kanad Sinha, and Simha Sethumadhavan, Practical byte-granular memory blacklisting using Califorms. [MICRO 2019] [**IEEE Micro Top Picks Honorable Mention**]

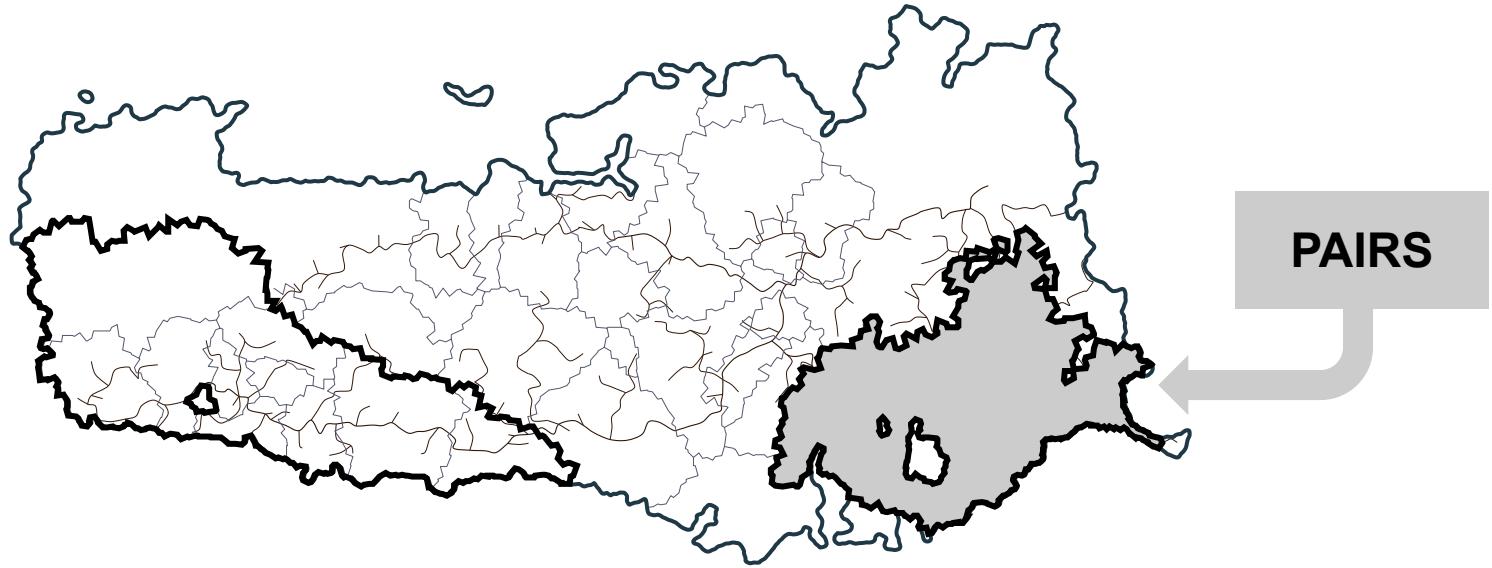


PROTECTING NON-64 BIT SYSTEMS





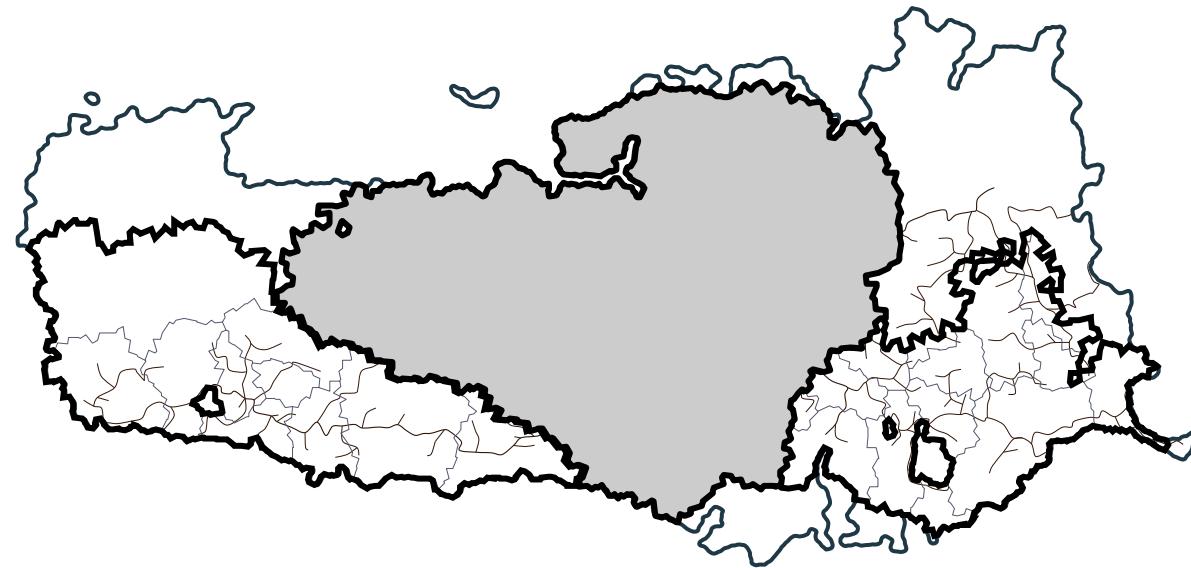
PROTECTING NON-64 BIT SYSTEMS



Mohamed Tarek Ibn Ziad and Evgeny Manzhosov, Practical Software Security on Heterogeneous Systems on Chips. [Qualcomm Innovation Fellowship Finalists 2020]

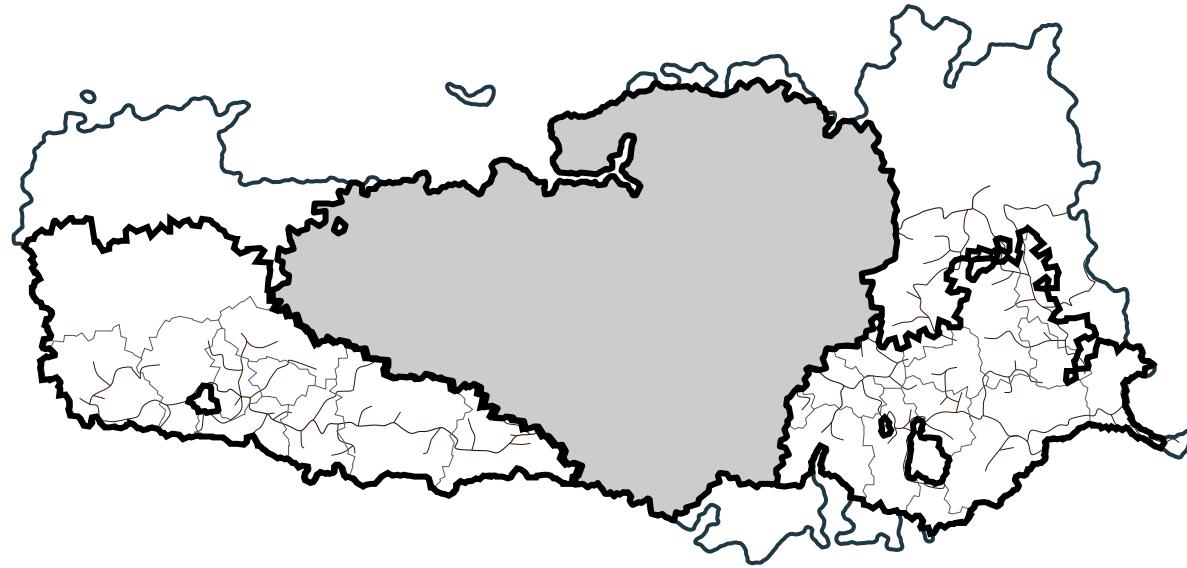


COHESIVE MEMORY SAFETY SOLUTIONS





COHESIVE MEMORY SAFETY SOLUTIONS



Mohamed Tarek Ibn Ziad, Miguel A. Arroyo, and Simha Sethumadhavan,
SPAM: Stateless Permutation of Application Memory. **[Submitted to USENIX 2020]**

Why is memory safety still a concern?

Mohamed (Tarek Ibn Ziad) Hassan

Ph.D. Candidacy Exam
April 9th, 2020.

Why is memory safety still a concern?

Mohamed (Tarek Ibn Ziad) Hassan

QUESTIONS?

<https://www.cs.columbia.edu/~mtarek/>
[@M_TarekIbnZiad](https://twitter.com/M_TarekIbnZiad)

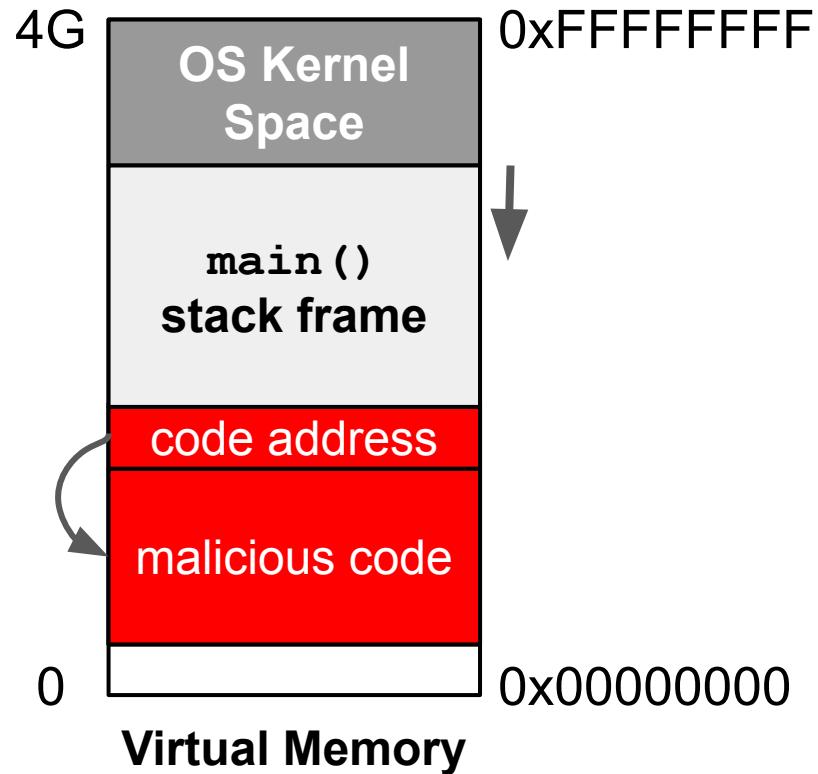
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Supplementary Slides



CODE INJECTION

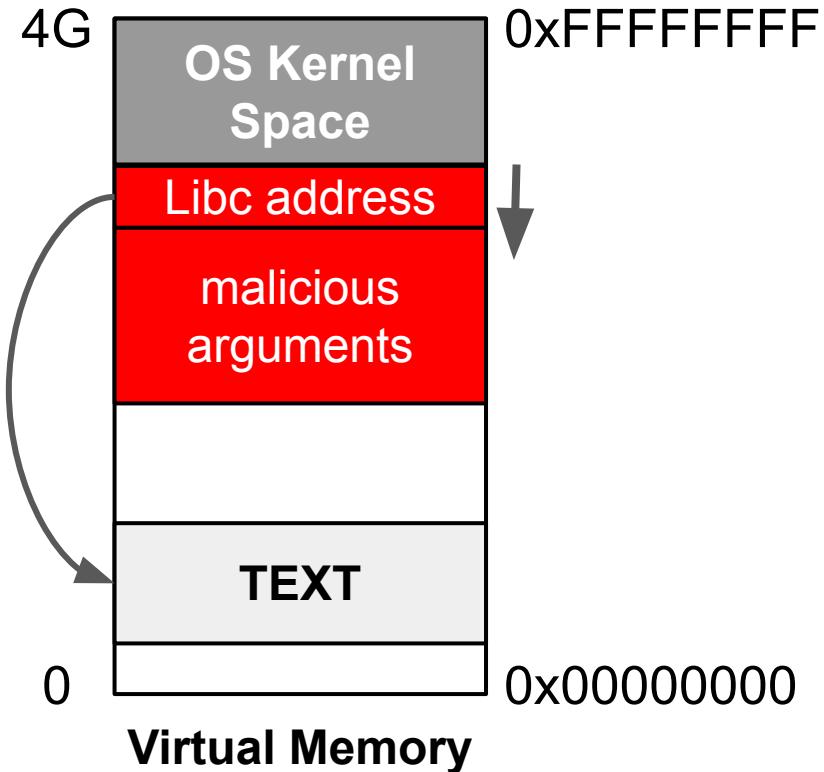
```
void main (int argc, char **argv) {  
    ...  
    vulnerable(argv[1]);  
    ...  
}  
  
void vulnerable(char *str1){  
    char str2[100];  
    strcpy(str2,str1);  
    [-----]  
    [ return; ]  
    [-----]
```





RETURN-TO-LIBC

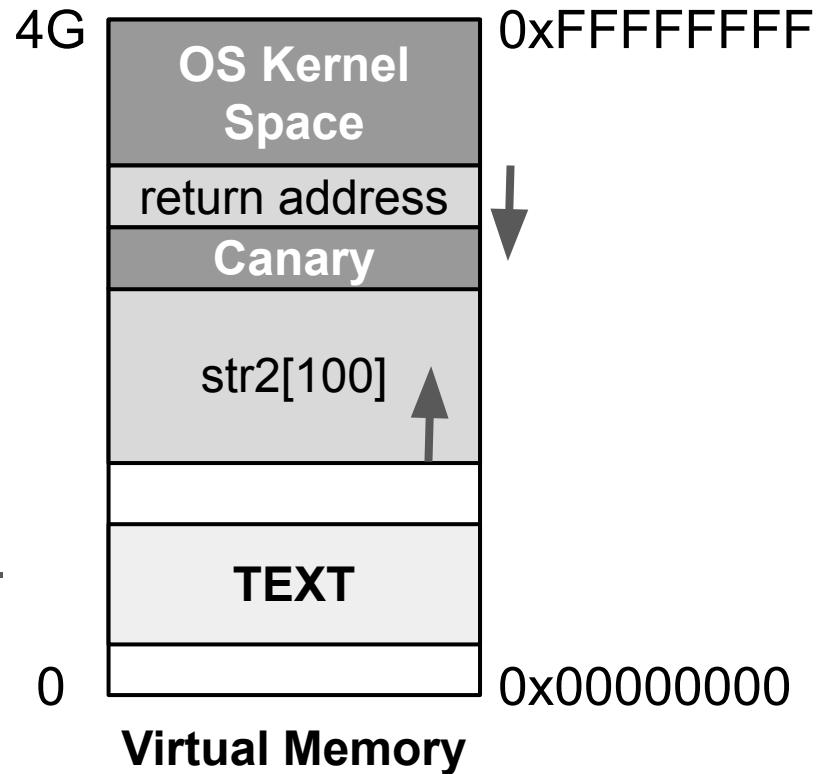
- Attack payload:
 - An address to libc function.
 - Function arguments.
- Limitations:
 - Execute whole functions.
 - Cannot target functions with '00' byte in address.





STACK CANARIES

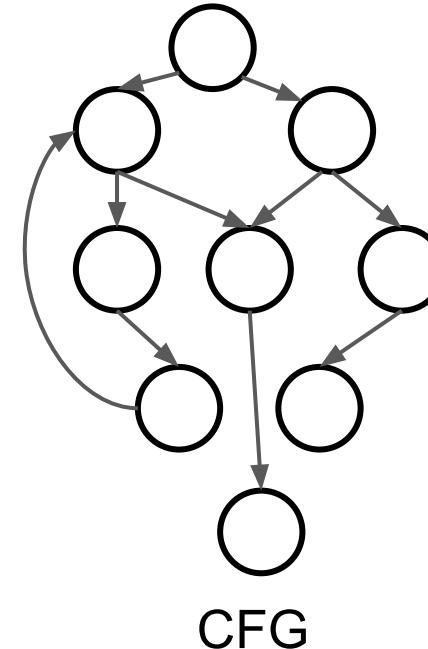
- Main Idea:
 - Insert unique variables on the stack.
 - Check their contents upon function return.
- Limitations:
 - Only detect continuous writes.
 - No read protection.





CONTROL FLOW INTEGRITY (CFI)

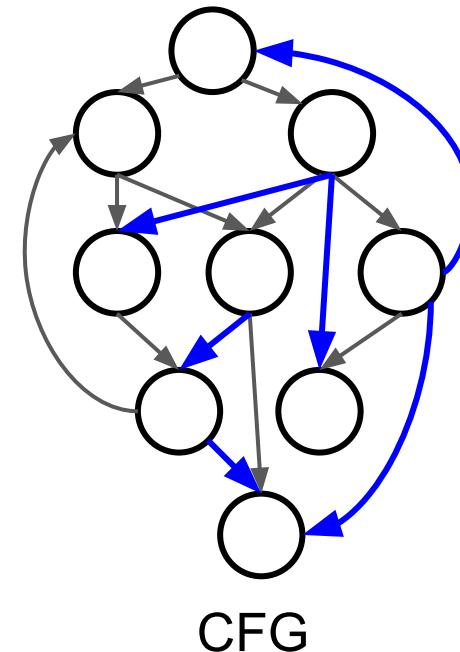
- Main Idea:
 - Construct a pre-defined CFG.
 - Statically with point-to analysis.
 - Dynamically with profiling.
 - Enforce it at runtime.
- Limitations:
 - Over-approximation.
 - Modularity.





CONTROL FLOW INTEGRITY (CFI)

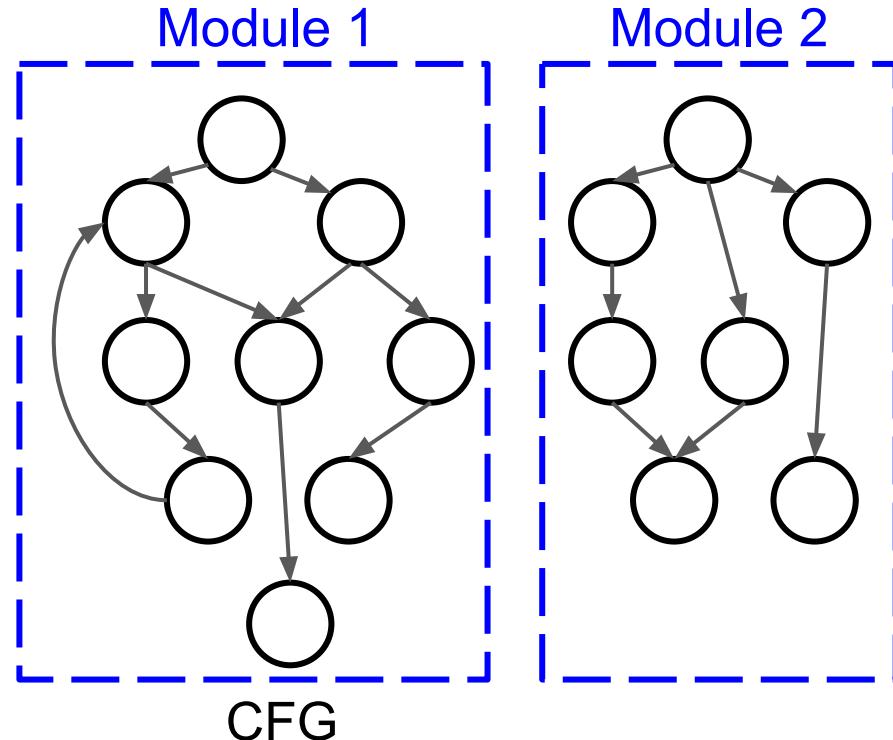
- Main Idea:
 - Construct a pre-defined CFG.
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 - Enforce it at runtime.
- Limitations:
 - **Over-approximation.**
 - Modularity.





CONTROL FLOW INTEGRITY (CFI)

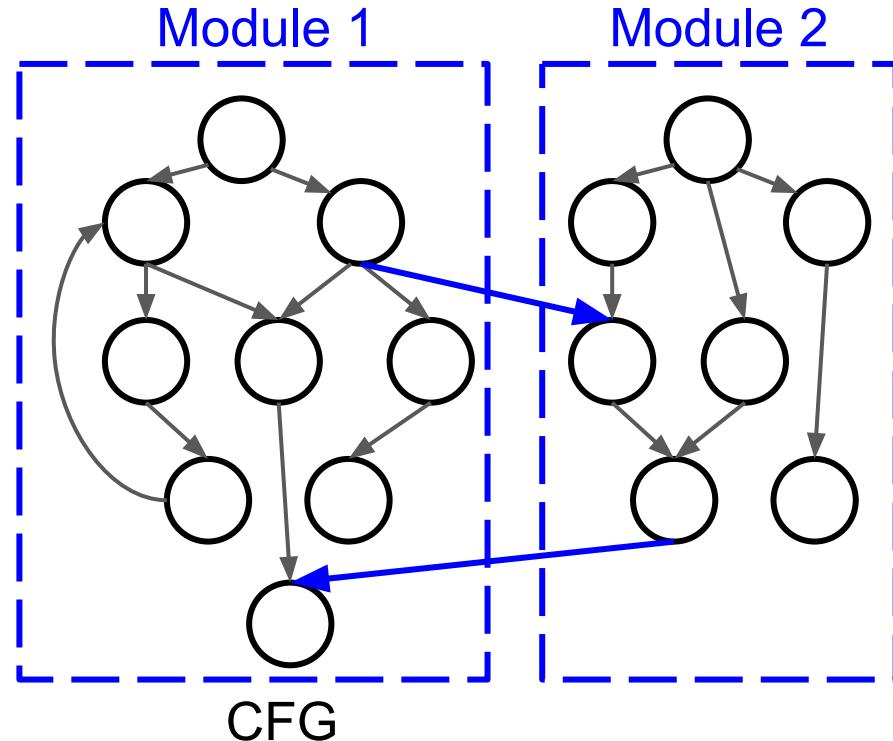
- Main Idea:
 - Construct a pre-defined CFG.
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 - Over-approximation.
 - **Modularity.**





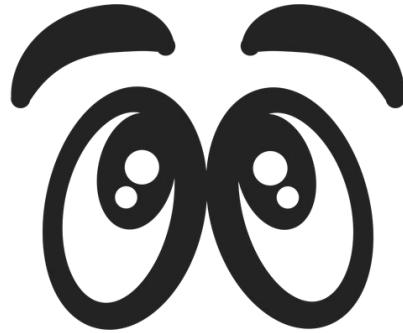
CONTROL FLOW INTEGRITY (CFI)

- Main Idea:
 - Construct a pre-defined CFG.
 - Statically with point-to analysis.
 - Dynamically with profiling.
 - Enforce it at runtime.
- Limitations:
 - Over-approximation.
 - **Modularity.**



Counterfeit Object Oriented Programming

What are C++ Virtual Pointers?





C++ CONCEPTS: OBJECT-ORIENTED

```
class A {  
public:  
    int x;  
    char *y;  
  
    void foo();  
    void bar();  
}
```



C++ CONCEPTS: OBJECT-ORIENTED

```
class A {  
public:  
    int x;  
    char *y;  
  
    void foo();  
    void bar();  
}
```

object: A

x: int
y: char*
foo(): void
bar(): void



C++ CONCEPTS: INHERITANCE

```
class A {  
public:  
    int x;  
    char *y;  
  
    void foo();  
    void bar();  
}
```

object: A
x: int
y: char*
foo(): void
bar(): void

```
class B : public A {  
public:  
    int z;  
}  
}
```

object: B
z: int
x: int
y: char*
foo(): void
bar(): void



C++ CONCEPTS: POLYMORPHISM

```
class A {  
public:  
    int x;  
    char *y;  
  
    void foo();  
    virtual void bar();  
}
```

object: A

x: int
y: char*
foo(): void
bar(): void

```
class B : public A {  
public:  
    int z;  
  
    void bar();  
}
```



C++ CONCEPTS: COMPILER

```
class A {  
public:  
    int x;  
    char *y;  
  
    void foo();  
    virtual void bar();  
}
```

object: A

x: int
y: char*
foo(): void
bar(): void

```
class B : public A {  
public:  
    int z;  
  
    void bar();  
}
```

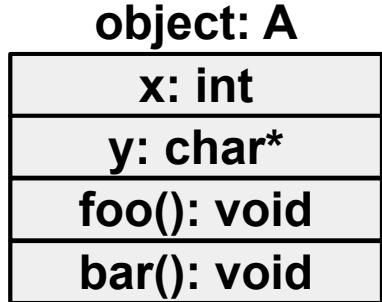
B::vTable

...
...
& B::bar

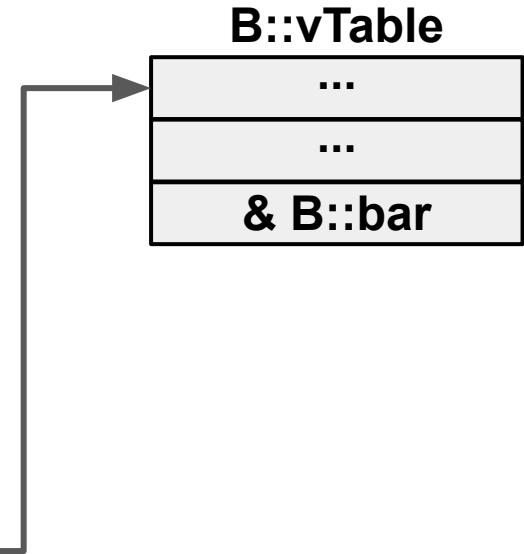
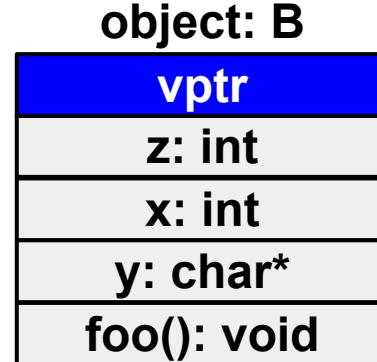


C++ CONCEPTS: COMPILER

```
class A {  
public:  
    int x;  
    char *y;  
  
    void foo();  
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}
```



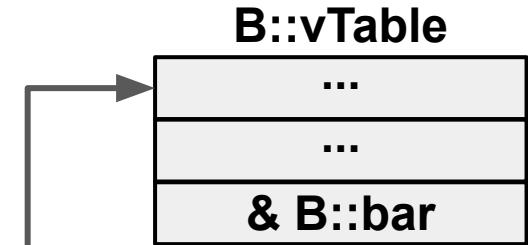
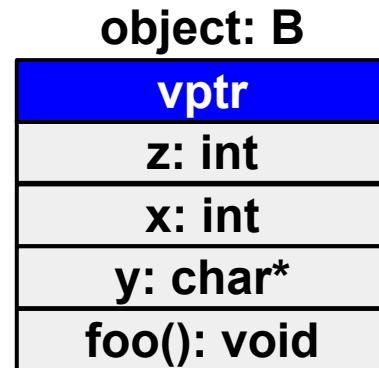
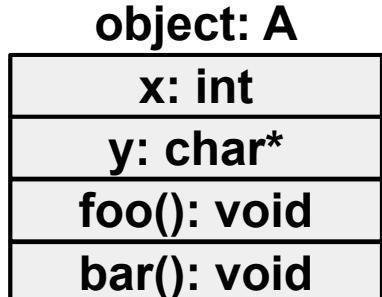
```
class B : public A {  
public:  
    int z;  
  
    void bar();  
}
```





C++ CONCEPTS: COMPILER

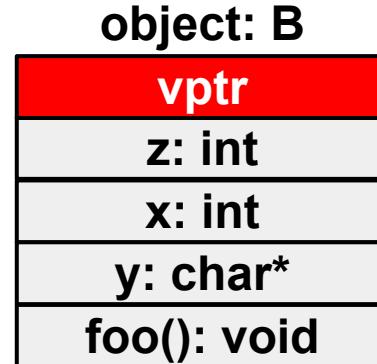
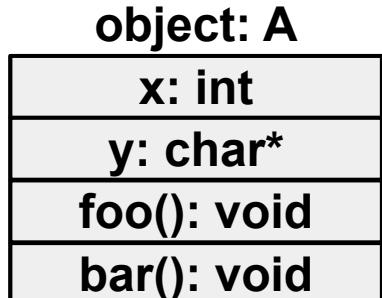
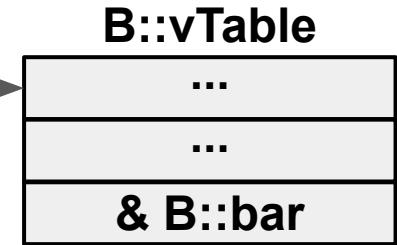
```
| vptr = load [object Base Addr]  
| vFunction = load [vptr + index]  
| Call [vFunction]  
|
```





COUNTERFEIT OBJECT ORIENTED PROGRAMMING (COOP)

```
vptr = load [object Base Addr]  
vFunction = load [vptr + index]  
Call [vFunction]
```

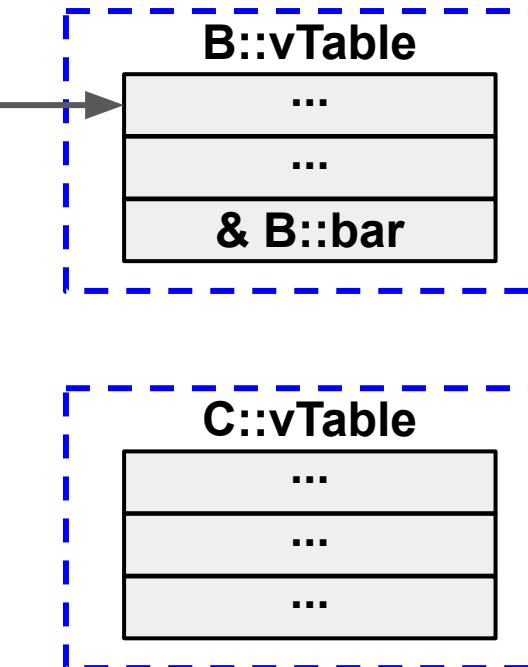
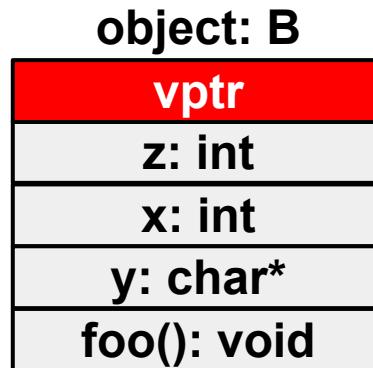
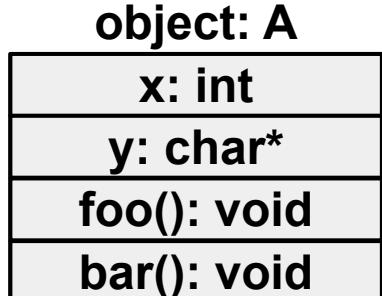




COUNTERFEIT OBJECT ORIENTED PROGRAMMING (COOP)

Steps:

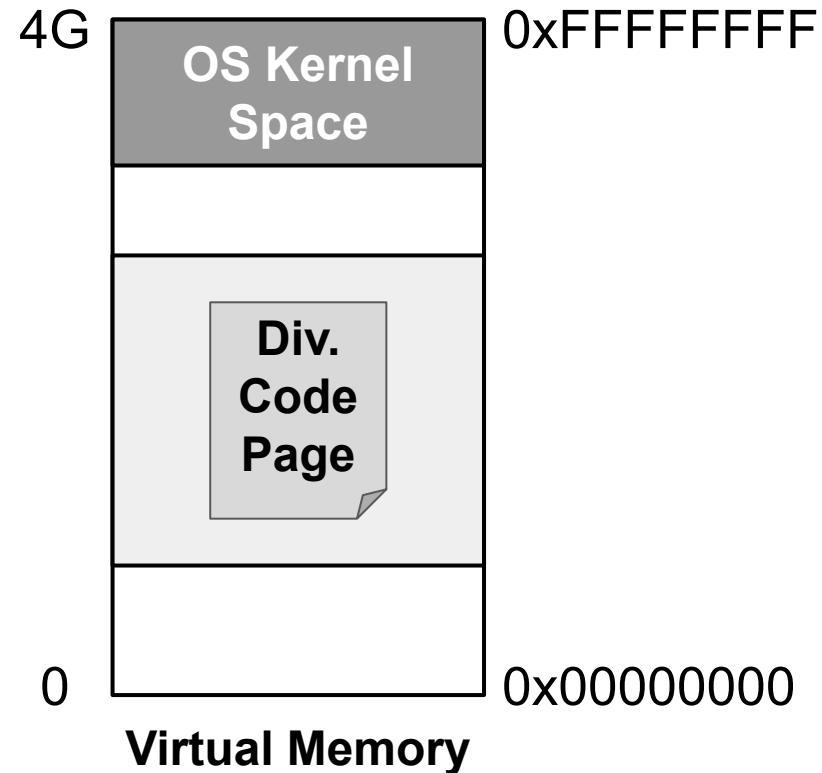
- Find a loop with virtual function calls.
- Inject counterfeit objects with attacker's vptrs.
- Overlap object fields for passing values.





JUST-IN-TIME ROP

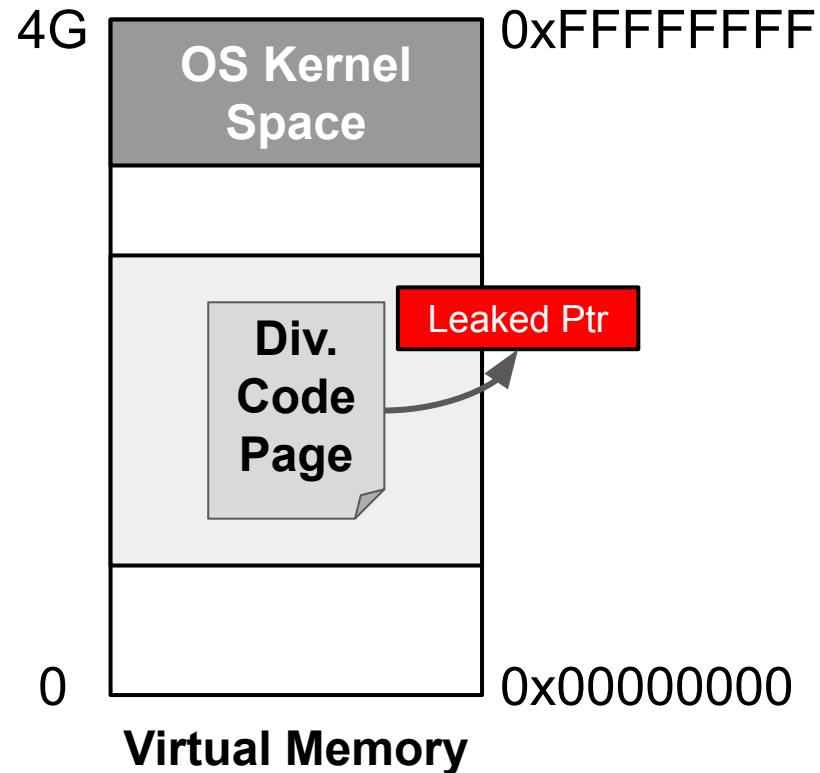
- Main Idea:
 - Repeatedly abuse a memory disclosure.





JUST-IN-TIME ROP

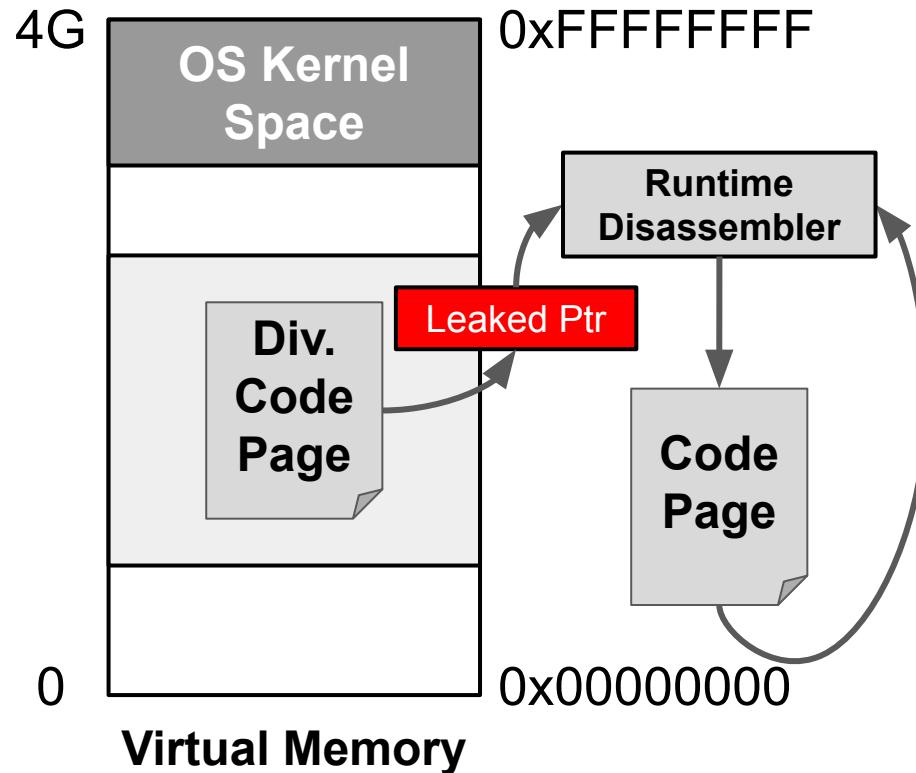
- Main Idea:
 - Repeatedly abuse a memory disclosure.
- Attack Steps:
 - **Leak one code pointer.**





JUST-IN-TIME ROP

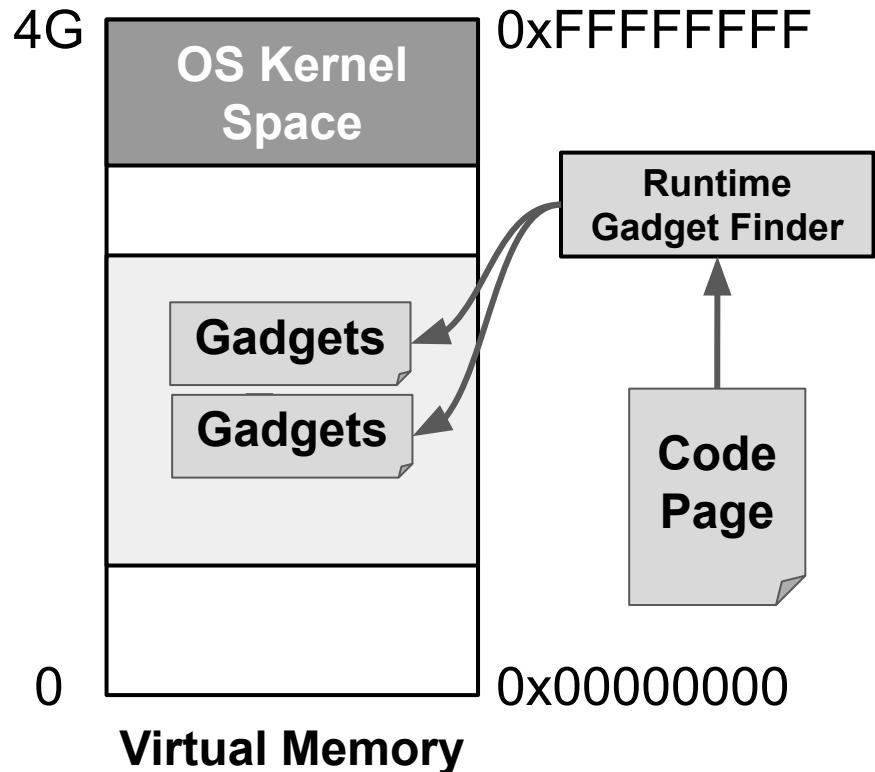
- Main Idea:
 - Repeatedly abuse a memory disclosure.
- Attack Steps:
 - Leak one code pointer.
 - **Scan code pages on the fly.**





JUST-IN-TIME ROP

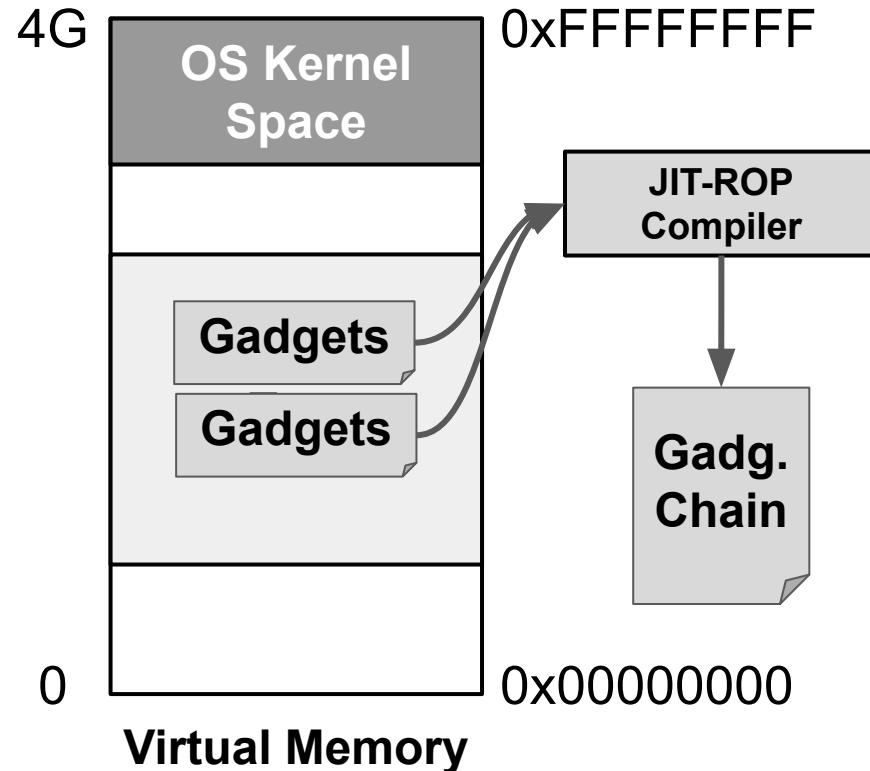
- Main Idea:
 - Repeatedly abuse a memory disclosure.
- Attack Steps:
 - Leak one code pointer.
 - Scan code pages on the fly.
 - **Pinpoint useful gadgets.**





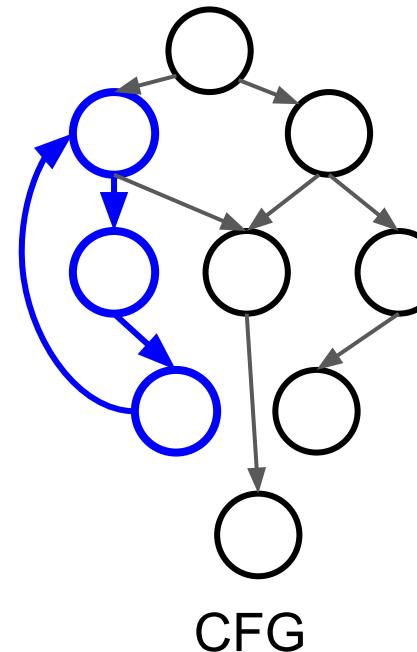
JUST-IN-TIME ROP

- Main Idea:
 - Repeatedly abuse a memory disclosure.
- Attack Steps:
 - Leak one code pointer.
 - Scan code pages on the fly.
 - Pinpoint useful gadgets.
 - **JIT-compile an ROP gadget chain.**



😈 DATA ORIENTED PROGRAMMING (DOP)

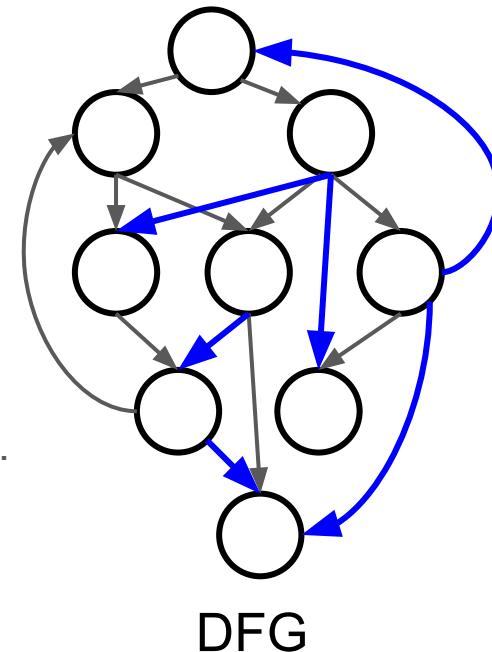
- Attack Steps:
 - Trigger a memory safety vulnerability.
 - Manipulate non control data.
 - Use the corrupted data.
- Goal:
 - Never change program CFG.





DATA FLOW INTEGRITY

- Main Idea:
 - Construct a compile-time DFG.
 - Load inst. → {IDs of store insts.} with point-to analysis.
 - Enforce it at runtime.
 - Tag every memory word with 2-byte shadow.
 - Write the ID to the Tag upon store.
 - Compare ID vs. set upon load.
- Limitations:
 - Over-approximation.





INTEL CONTROL FLOW ENF. TECH. (CET)

```
main() {  
    int (*f)();  
    f = test;  
    f();  
}  
  
int test() {  
    return  
}
```



<main>:
ENDBR
:
movq \$0x4004fb, -8(%rbp)
mov -8(%rbp), %rdx
call *%rdx
:
retq



<test>:
ENDBR
:
add rax, rbx
:
retq

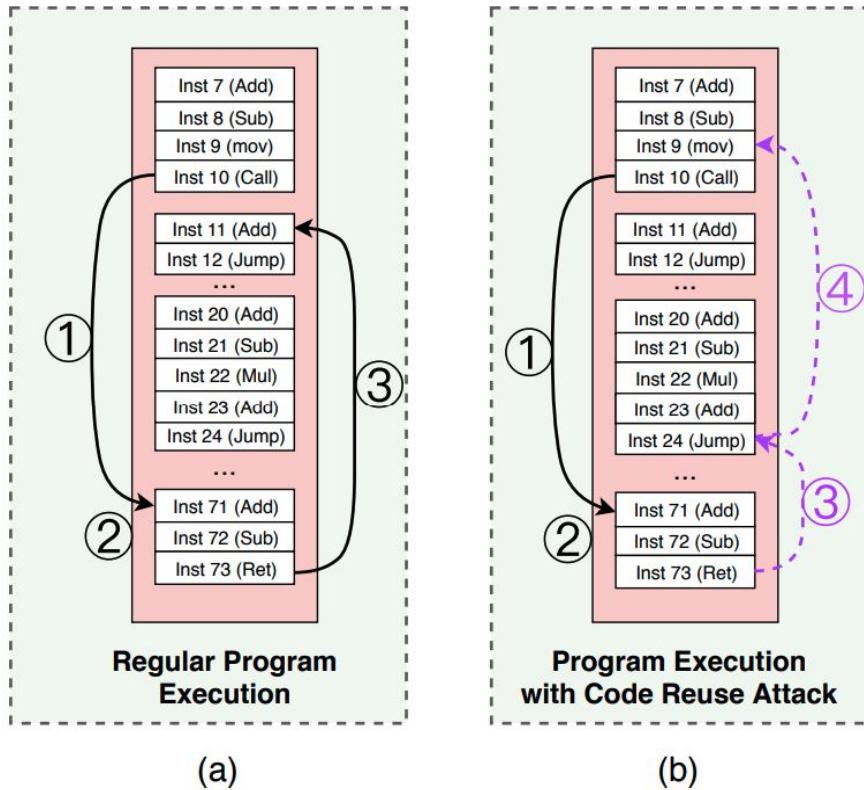


Source:

<https://www.linuxplumbersconf.org/event/2/contributions/147/attachments/72/83/CET-LPC-2018.pdf>

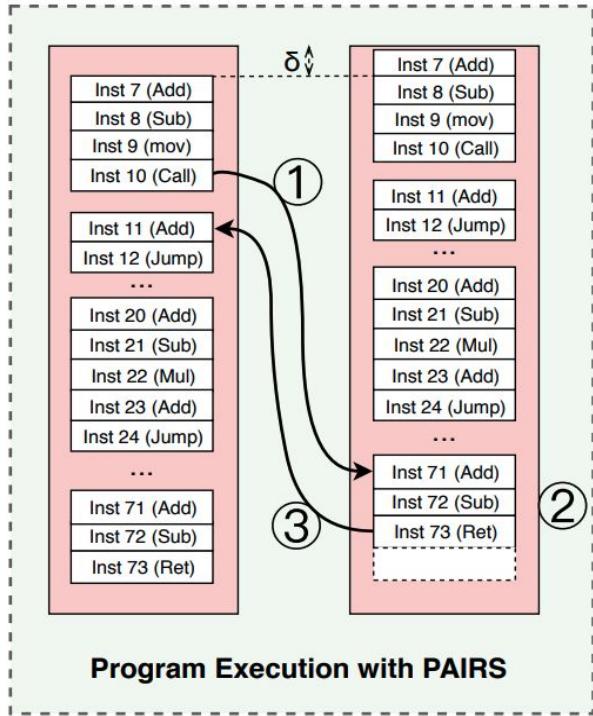


PAIRS vs. CODE REUSE ATTACKS

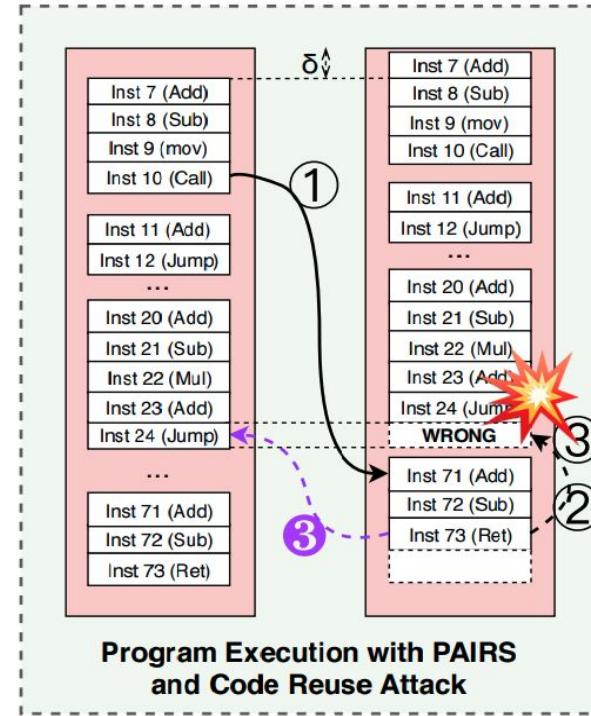




PAIRS vs. CODE REUSE ATTACKS



(c)



(d)

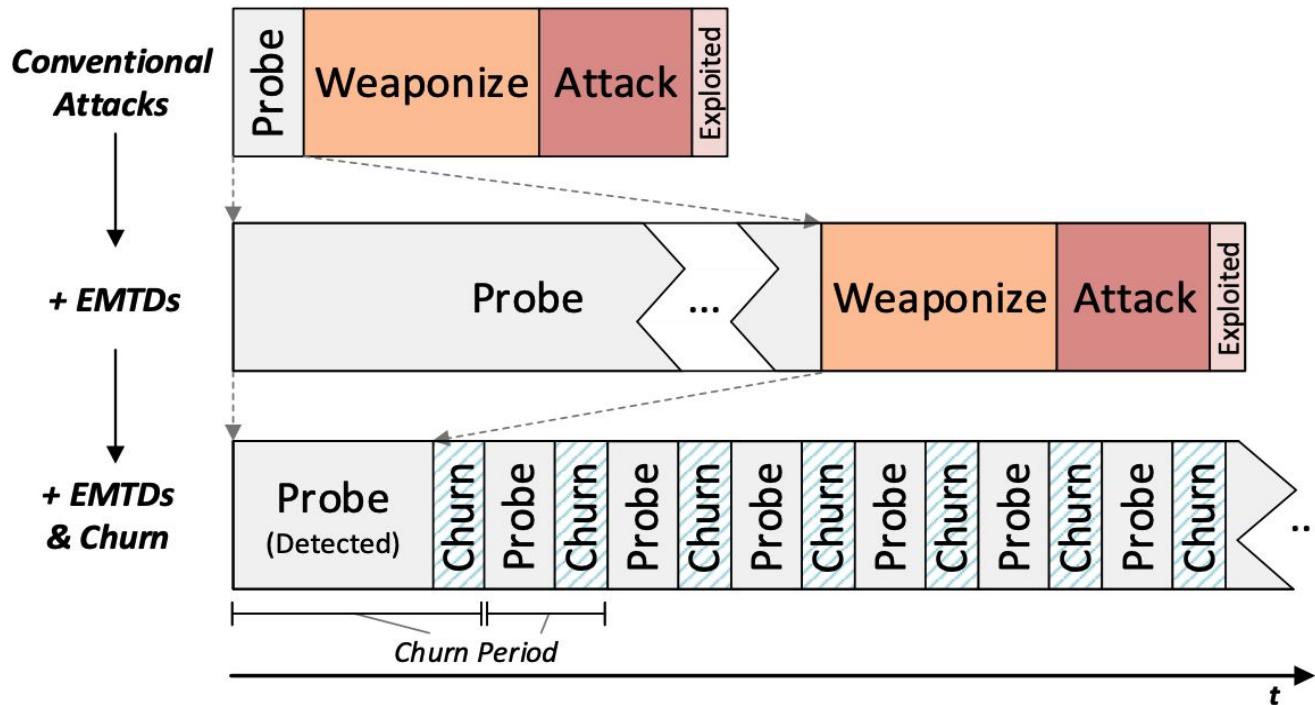


DATA SPACE RANDOMIZATION

- Main Idea:
 - Randomize the representation of data stored in memory.
- Approaches:
 - Use encryption with a unique key per variable.
 - DSR.
 - Statically randomize structs layout in a program.
 - GCC struct randomization.
 - Dynamically randomize objects layout in memory.
 - SALADS, SmokeStack, and POLAR.



MOVING TARGET DEFENSE (MORPHEUS)



Gallagher et. al., Morpheus: A Vulnerability-Tolerant Secure Architecture Based on Ensembles of Moving Target Defenses with Churn. [ASPLOS 2019]



CALIFORMS: INSERTION POLICIES

```
struct A_opportunistic
{
    char c;
    char tripwire[3];
    int i;
    char buf[64];
    void (*fp)();
}
```

(1) Opportunistic

```
struct A_full {
    char tripwire[2];
    char c;
    char tripwire[1];
    int i;
    char tripwire[3];
    char buf[64];
    char tripwire[2];
    void (*fp)();
    char tripwire[1];
}
```

(2) Full

```
struct A_intelligent {
    char c;
    int i;
    char tripwire[3];
    char buf[64];
    char tripwire[2];
    void (*fp)();
    char tripwire[3];
}
```

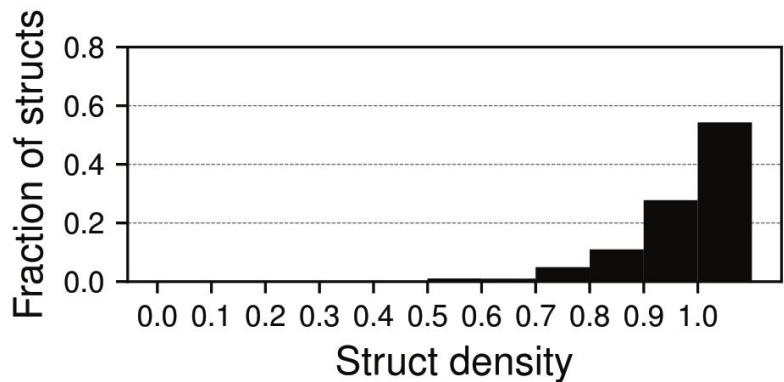
(3) Intelligent

Tripwire Insertion Policies

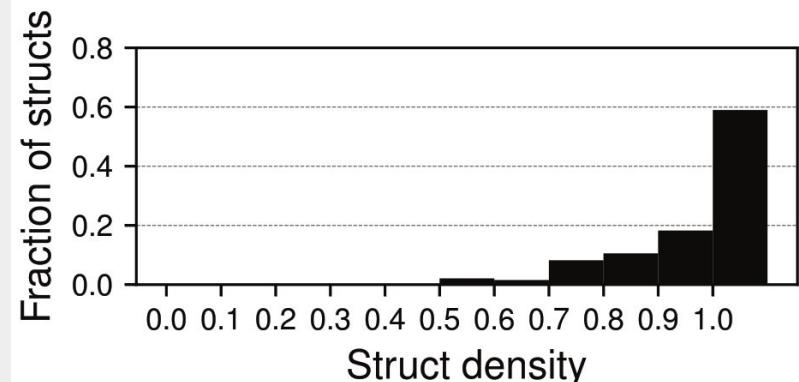


CALIFORMS: DEAD BYTES

Normally Occurring Dead Bytes



SPEC CPU2006 C and C++ Benchmarks

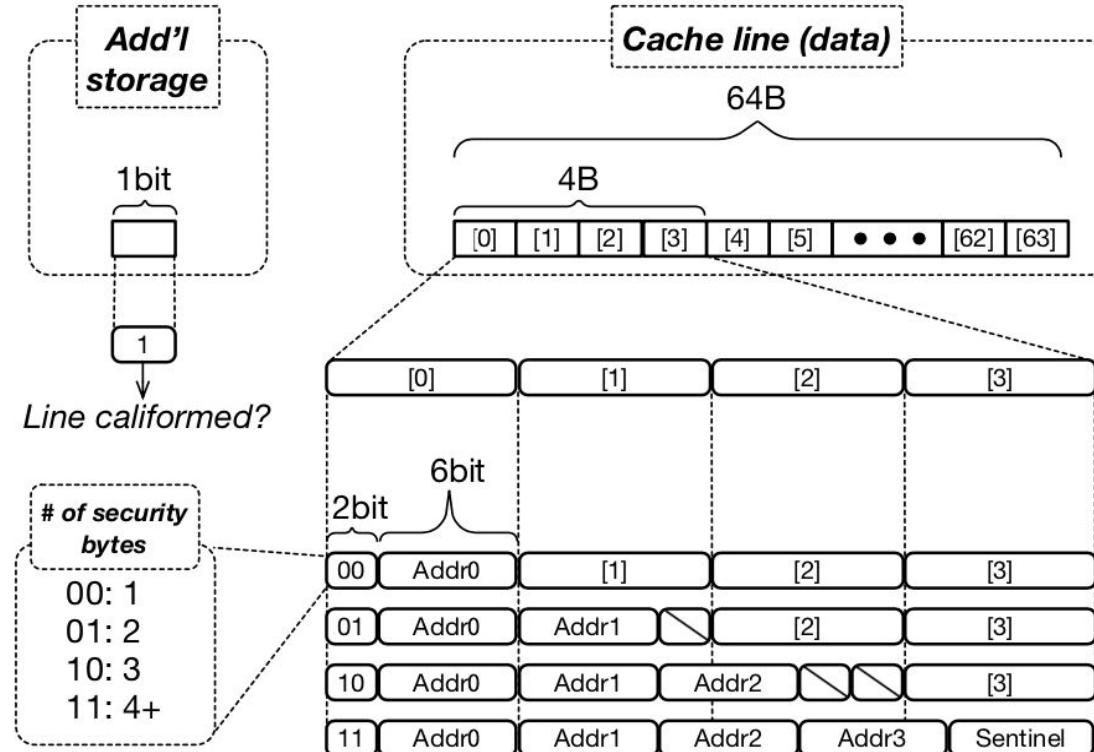


V8 JavaScript Engine

$$\text{Struct density} = \sum_i^{\text{#fields}} (\text{sizeof(field}_i\text{)}) / \text{sizeof(struct)}$$



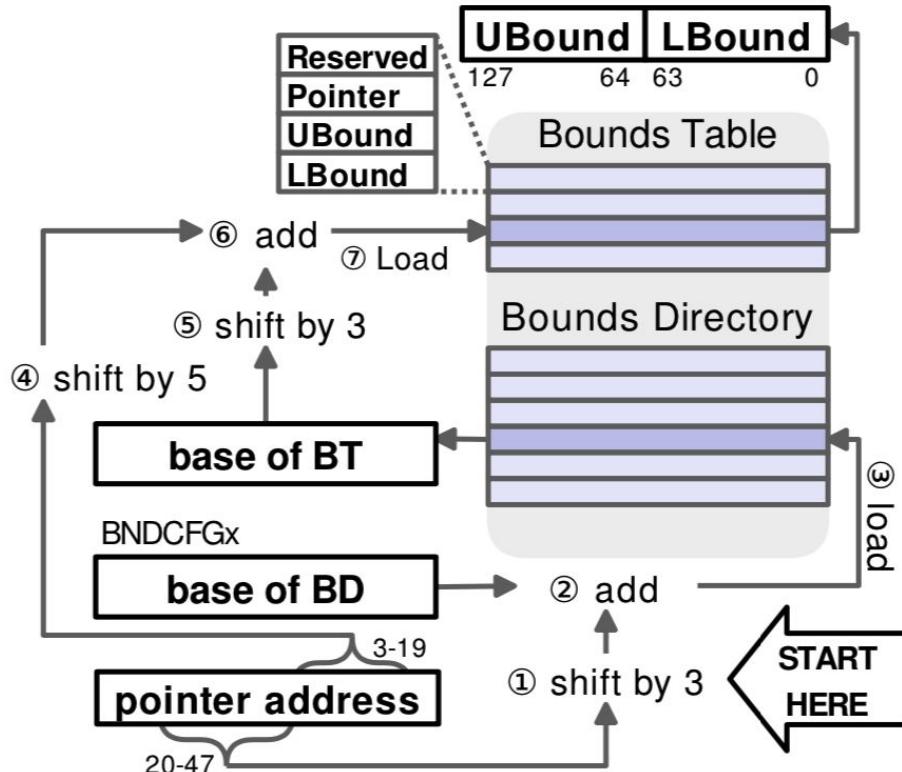
CALIFORMS: CACHELINE FORMAT





INTEL MPX

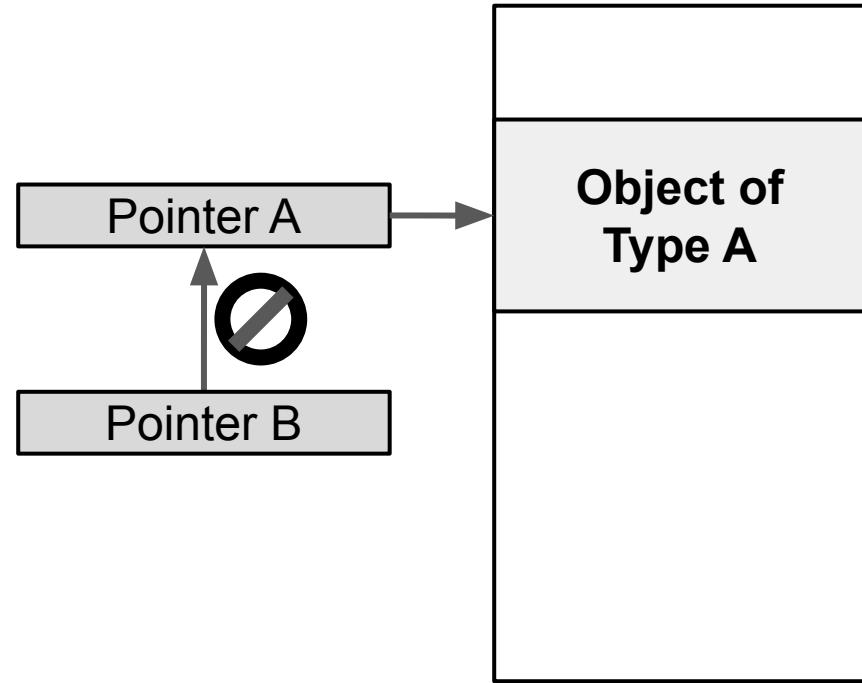
- Main Limitations:
 - High overheads (up to 4x).
 - Lack of multithreading.
 - Incorrect handling of several common C idioms.
 - Poor Interaction with other ISA extensions (like SGX).





TYPE SAFETY

- Main Idea:
 - Add runtime checks to detect incompatible type casting.

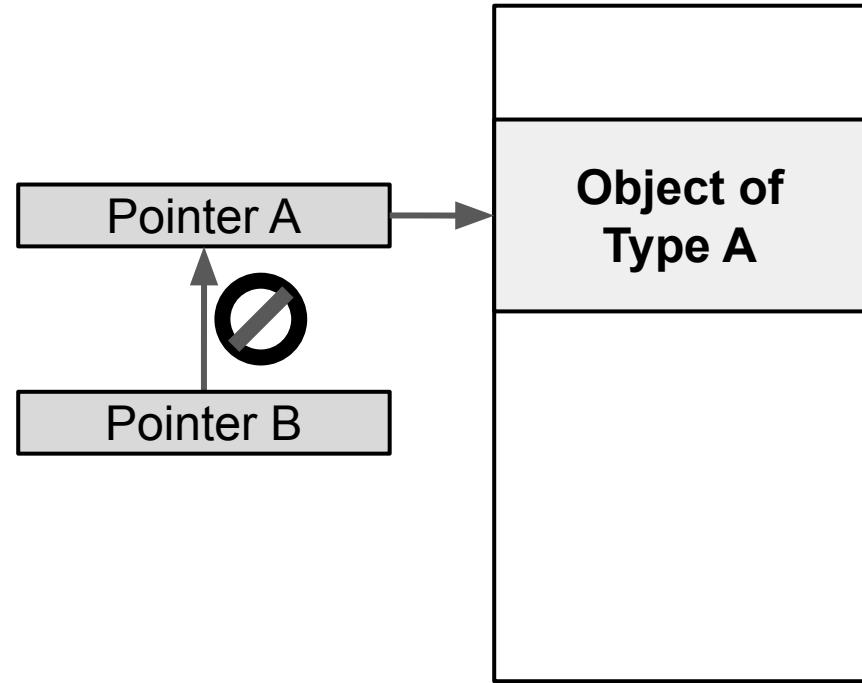


Virtual Memory



TYPE SAFETY

- Main Idea:
 - Add runtime checks to detect incompatible type casting.
- Examples:
 - UBSan and Clang CFI
 - RTTI-based verification.

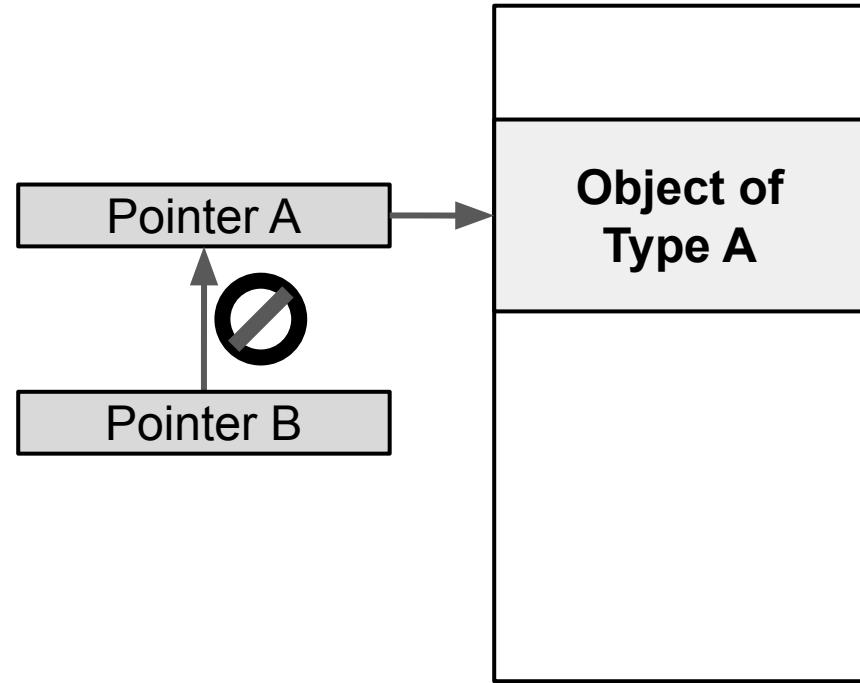


Virtual Memory



TYPE SAFETY

- Main Idea:
 - Add runtime checks to detect incompatible type casting.
- Examples:
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 - RTTI-based verification.
 - CaVer, TypeSan, and HexType
 - Custom metadata.

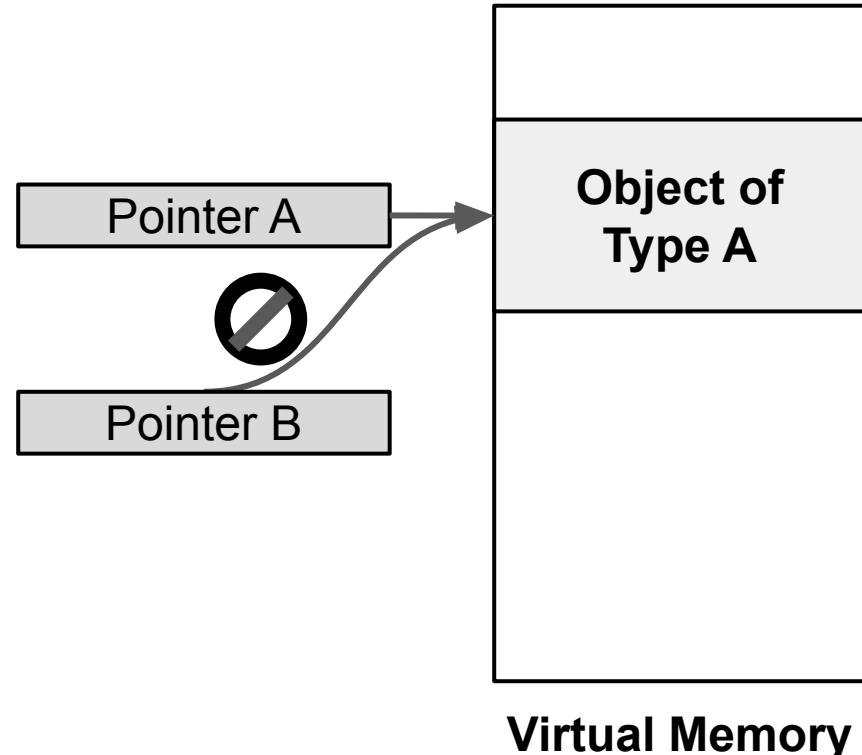


Virtual Memory



TYPE SAFETY

- Main Idea:
 - Add runtime checks to detect incompatible type casting.
- Examples:
 - UBSan and Clang CFI
 - RTTI-based verification.
 - CaVer, TypeSan, and HexType
 - Custom metadata.
 - Clang TySan and EffectiveSan
 - Check pointer dereference.



**End of
Supplementary
Slides**