Static Code Analysis

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Motivation

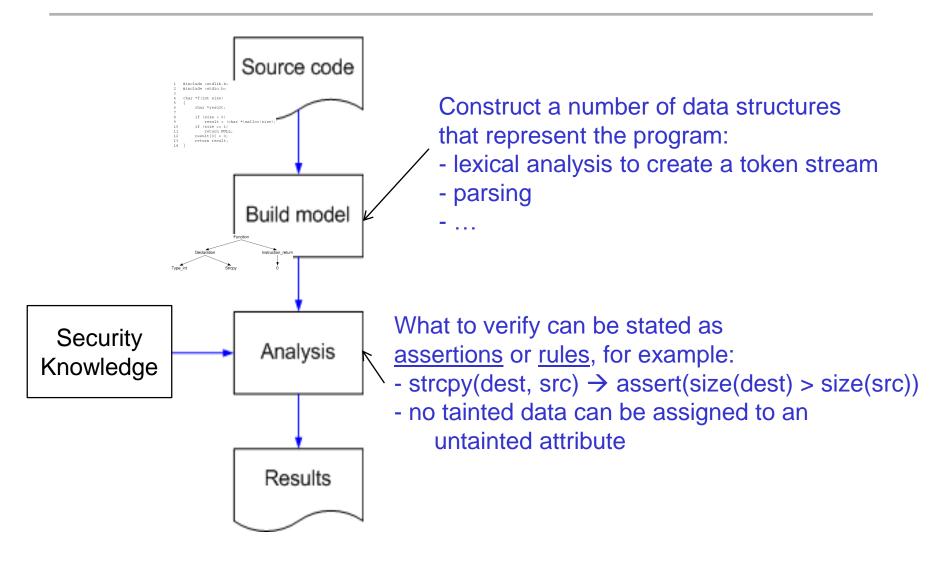
"So why do developers keep making the same mistakes? (...) Instead of relying on programmers' memories, we should strive to produce tools that **codify what is known** about common security vulnerabilities and integrate it directly into the development process."

⇒ David Evans e David Larochelle, Improving Security Using Extensible Lightweight Static Analysis

Static source code analysis

- Objective: to find vulnerabilities in the applications' source code automatically
 - similar to compiler's error checking but for bugs
 - similar to manual code reviewing but automatically
- "Static" because the code is not executed
 - some tools can analyze binary or intermediate code
 - ... but analyzing source code is simpler so more common

(Main) Components of a static analysis tool



Static analysis of source code

 Simple tools like grep and findstr can do a very basic form of analysis

```
grep gets *.c
grep strcpy *.c
```

- Limitations
 - * the user has to known which functions are dangerous
 - * the user has to do all the "greps"
 - ** does not distinguish between actual dangerous functions (e.g., strcpy) and instances of these strings that are not calls

Simplest static analysis tools

- Look for dangerous library/system calls
 - detect calls that are always dangerous (e.g., gets does not check array bounds) or which may be vulnerable to buffer overflows (strcpy or sprintf)
 - assign danger levels to the discovered potential flaws
 - Examples: RATS, Flawfinder, ITS4
- Main components
 - Database of vulnerable system/library calls
 - Code preprocessor to check what will be really compiled (and remove for instance the comments)
 - Lexical analyzer to read the names

Lexical Analysis

Breaks the code into tokens

Example lexical analysis rules

Example

```
if (ret) // sometimes true
mat[x][y] = END VAL;
```

Produces the following sequence of tokens

IF LPAREN ID(RET) RPAREN ID(mat) LBRACKET ID(x) RBRACKET LBRACKET ID(y) RBRACKET EQUAL ID(END VAL) SEMI

Example database (Flawfinder)

Function	Potential Flaw	Solution	Severity
access	Can lead to process/file interaction race	Manipulate file descriptors, not sym-	RISKY
	conditions (TOCTOU category A)	bolic names, when possible.	
acct	Can lead to process/file interaction race	Manipulate file descriptors, not sym-	RISKY
	conditions (TOCTOU category A)	bolic names, when possible.	
au_to_path	Can lead to process/file interaction race	Manipulate file descriptors, not sym-	RISKY
	conditions (TOCTOU problems)	bolic names, when possible.	
basename	Can lead to process/file interaction race	Manipulate file descriptors, not sym-	RISKY
	conditions (TOCTOU problems)	bolic names, when possible.	
bcopy	At risk for buffer overflows.	Make sure that your buffer is really big	MODERATE_
		enough to handle a max len string.	RISK
bind	potential race condition with ac-	Be careful.	LOW_RISK
	cess, according to cert. Also,		
	bind(s, INADDR_ANY,) followed		
	by setsockopt(s, SOL_SOCKET,		
	SO_REUSEADDR) leads to potential		
	packet stealing vuln		
drand48	Don't use rand() and friends for	Use better sources of randomness, like	RISKY
	security-critical needs.	/dev/random (linux) or Yarrow (win-	
		dows).	
erand48	Don't use rand() and friends for	Use better sources of randomness, like	RISKY
	security-critical needs.	/dev/random (linux) or Yarrow (win-	
		dows).	

Example output (Flawfinder)

Flawfinder version 1.24, (C) 2001-2003 David A. Wheeler. Number of dangerous functions in C/C++ ruleset: 128

• • •

- ./teste.cc:96: [4] (buffer) (sscanf:
 - The scanf() family's %s operation, without a limit specification, permits buffer overflows. Specify a limit to \%s, or use a different input function.
- ./maisteste.cc:97: [4] (buffer) strcat:

 Does not check for buffer overflows when concatenating to destination.

 Consider using strncat or strlcat (warning, strncat is easily misused).
- ./maisteste.cc:101: [4] (buffer) strcat:

 Does not check for buffer overflows when concatenating to destination.

 Consider using strncat or strlcat (warning, strncat is easily misused).

. . .

Overall, these tools ...

- Basic analysis tools to find vulnerabilities
 - they do something extra than grep, such as they do not issue alarms if the function name is part of a longer word or inside a comment
 - can be used in several languages (C, C++, Perl, PHP, Python)
- But they generate many false positives
 - E.g., strcpy, sprintf, access, are dangerous but their use is not necessarily a vulnerability
 - for example, a small program made at LASIGE (WOO) was tested with Flawfinder and RATS, generating about 80 alarms, <u>all</u> false
 - False positives put burden of doing manual checking on the human
- Therefore the quest in the area is for 2 goals
 - Find all vulnerabilities
 - Minimize number of false positives (and do the processing relatively quickly)

Positive aspects of static analysis in general

Summary:

- 1. Verifies code thoroughly and consistently, without bias or errors introduced by human auditors
- 2. Leads to the root of a security problem, not to its symptoms
- 3. Can find problems early in the development cycle, even before the code is run for the first time
- 4. When a new type of vulnerability appears, its definition can be inserted in the tool and the tool executed again (compare with manual code review)
- 5. Not only for security, also used to look for other kinds of bugs

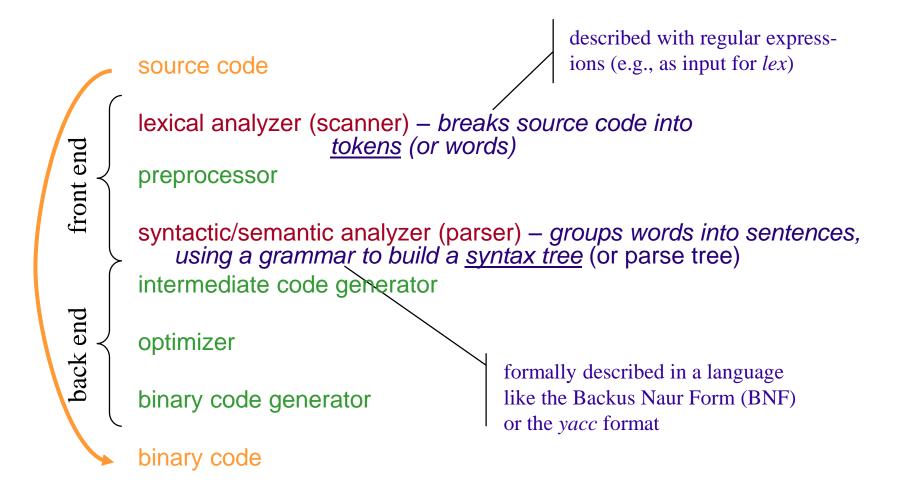
Limitations of static analysis

- 1. Limited scope / false negatives
 - only find the type of flaws they are programmed to look for
 - analysis is necessarily limited, since it is not feasible to test all conditions
 - more detailed analysis can take long (12 to 24 hours)
- 2. Tend to generate (many) false positives
 - * there is a tradeoff -- false positives vs false negatives (hits/misses)
 - * therefore manual work is still needed
- 3. Not a panacea to all problems
 - A fool with a tool is still a fool !!!

A fundamental limitation

- Static analysis is a computationally undecidable problem
 - the halting problem is undecidable (Turing)
 - perfect static analysis of a property can be shown to require solving the halting problem (Rice theorem, 1953)
 - * this does not mean that it is not <u>useful</u>, only that it cannot be <u>proved</u> to find all problems of a certain set

Typical compiler architecture



Characterizing static analysis tools

String matchers

- grep, findstr
- run directly over source code (before lexical analysis)
- Lexical analyzers
 - PATS, Flawfinder, ITS4
 - run over the tokens generated by the scanner
 - do not confuse a variable getshow with a call to gets (different tokens)
- Semantic analyzers
 - run over the syntax tree generated by the parser
 - do not confuse a variable gets with a call to function gets

SEMANTIC ANALYSIS

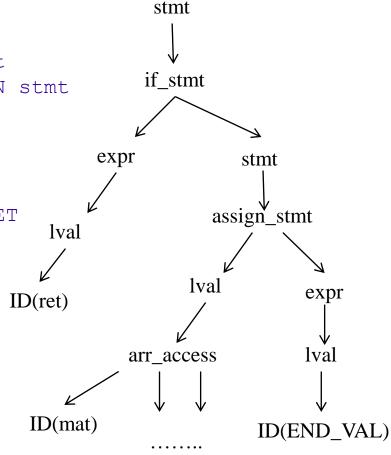
Syntax Tree (or Parse Tree)

 The parser uses a context-free grammar (CFG) to match the token stream and then derive a parse tree

Example rules for a CFG

```
stmt := if_stmt | assign_stmt
if_stmt := IF LPAREN expr RPAREN stmt
expr := lval
assign_stmt := lval EQUAL expr SEMI
lval := ID | arr_access
arr_access := ID arr_index+
arr_idex := LBRACKET expr RBRACKET
```

```
if (ret) // sometimes true
  mat[x][y] = END_VAL;
```

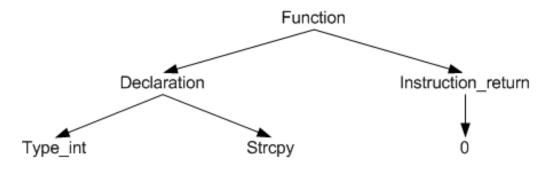


Abstract Syntax Tree (AST)

- Build a model of the program
 - do lexical analysis and parsing
 - build an <u>abstract syntax tree</u> (AST)
 - similar to the syntax tree but abstracting away details specific to compilation
 - an AST can be common to two languages (e.g., C/C++), have a single representation for loops, etc.
 - generate simultaneously a <u>symbol table</u>, which associates to each identifier the *type* and a *pointer to its definition/declaration*

AST example:

```
int main()
{
    // var. strcpy
    int strcpy;
    return 0;
}
```



Can be used for doing type checking

Type checking

- Data types are used to limit how variables are used
 - e.g., integer variables can't be assigned to string variables
 - * type checking is done by compilers and interpreters
- Verification based on the type systems of programming languages is important but limited for security (think about C)
- In any case, such type checking can find some integer manipulation vulnerabilities
 - signedness signed integer is attributed to an unsigned (or vice-versa)
 - truncation integer represent with N bits is assigned to an integer variable with less than N bits (e.g., int to short)

Control-flow analysis

- Basic idea is to follow the control paths of a program doing checks
 - control flow of a program defines a control flow graph
 - * the analysis goes through this graph checking a set of rules
- Take PREfix as an example (for C/C++)
 - Detects problems like: invalid pointer references, use of uninitialized memory, improper operations on resources like files (e.g., trying to close file that is not open) or memory (e.g., try to release memory that was already released)
 - It evaluates individual functions and reports errors

Example paths

```
#include <stdlib.h>
    #include <stdio.h>
3
                                   instructions
    char *f(int size)
5
         char *result:
6
              size > 0)
              result = (char *)malloc(size);
9
             (size ==/1)
10
              return NULL;
11
12
         result[0] = 0;
         return result;
13
14
```

- Simulating a path: traversing the AST of the function and evaluating the relevant instructions
 - in the end, the state of the memory is summarized

Control Flow Graph

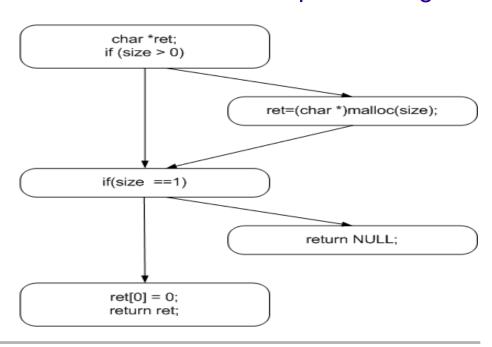
Use the AST to build a control flow graph

- <u>nodes</u> are *basic blocks*, i.e., instructions that are always executed in sequence
- edges represent potential control flow paths between basic blocks; back edges represent loops

a trace is a sequence of basic blocks that define a path through

the code

Can be used for doing <u>local control</u> <u>flow analysis</u> and <u>data-flow analysis</u>



```
example1.c(11) : warning 14 : leaking memory
                    problem occurs in function 'f'
                    The call stack when memory is allocated is:
                        example1.c(9) : f
                    Problem occurs when the following conditions are true:
                        example1.c(8) : when 'size > 0' here
                        example1.c(10) : when 'size == 1' here
                    Path includes 4 statements on the following lines: 8 9 10 11
                    example1.c(9) : used system model 'malloc' for function call:
                         'malloc(size)'
Example:
                    function returns a new memory block
                        memory allocated
    #include <st
    #include <stdio.h>
3
    char *f(int size)
4
5
         char *result;
         if(size > 0)
                                                        End of path
             result = (char *) malloc(size);
                                                          analysis
         if (size == 1)
             return NULL;
         result[0] = 0;
13
         return result;
14
```

```
example1.c(12) : warning 10 : dereferencing uninitialized pointer
     problem occurs in function 'f'
     example1.c(6) : variable declared here
     Problem occurs when the following conditions are true:
         example1.c(8) : when 'size <= 0' here
     Path includes 3 statements on the following lines: 8 10 12
Example:
```

```
#include <stdlib.h>
    #include <stdio.h>
                                        Setting a piece of memory
3
    char *f(int size)
                                           "result" without first
5
                                               initializing it
         char *result;
6
         if (size > 0)
8
9
              result = (char *) malloc(size);
10
         if (size == 1)
              return NULL;
11
12
         result[0] = 0;
13
         return result;
14
```

- What can we do when there is function call in the code being analyzed?
- A <u>model</u> is used to represent the outcome of an external function to the program (C library functions)
 - E.g., fopen has 2 outcomes: success, failure (but there are others where for example memory is allocated)
 - mainly concerned with the impact of the function execution (and not how it runs internally)
 - namely: parameters, return value, global/static variables accessed
- Models can also be created by the tool for the functions of the program, so that they can be used during the analysis of functions that call them

Local analysis

- analyses one function at a time
- does not consider the relations among them
- the form of analyses we just saw

Module-level analysis

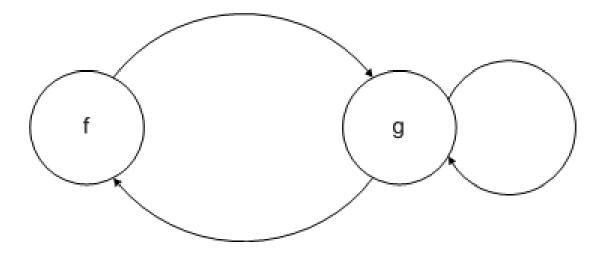
- one class / compilation unit at a time based on the models generated by local analysis
- does not consider relations among modules

Global analysis

analysis the whole program, given the previous analysis of functions and modules

Call Graph

A call graph represents potential control flow between functions or methods



Can be used for doing global control /data-flow analysis

Data-flow analysis

- Tries to understand how data moves through the program, namely from the input (attack surface) until dangerous instructions
- Typically involves traversing a function's control flow graph and noting where data values are generated and where they are used
- Probably the most common form of data-flow analysis in the security context is <u>taint analysis</u> (there are others)
- Take CQUAL as an example (for C)
 - uses type qualifiers to perform taint analysis
 - type qualifiers: \$tainted, \$untainted
 - requires someone to <u>annotate</u> functions as either returning data tainted or requiring untainted data
 - then uses type inference rules (along with pre-annotated system libraries) to detect vulnerabilities
 - e.g., format string vuln, user-space/kernel-space trust errors, XSS

Data-flow analysis (cont)

```
Taint introduction
                                                  Annotation saying that
$tainted char *getenv(const char *name);
                                                  the output is potentially
int printf ($untainted const char *fmt, ...);
                                                  malicious
tainted int getchar();
                                                 Taint checking
int main(int argc, tainted char *argv[]);
                                                  Annotation saying that
tainted char *getenv(char *name);
                                                  the input should not be
                                                  controlled by the
int printf untainted const char *fmt, ...);
                                                  adversary
int malloc (untainted size_t size);
```

- Taint propagation: the propagation of tainted data is defined through a set of rules, which say for example
 - \Rightarrow a = b and b is tainted \Rightarrow a becomes tainted

Data-flow analysis (cont)

- An example of detecting <u>format string vulnerabilities</u>
 - getenv returns a tainted string
 - printf requires an untainted format string

EXAMPLE TOOL: WAP

WAP: Web Application Protection



Objective

 Detect and remove input validation vulnerabilities in web applications programmed in PHP. The removal of vulnerabilities is performed by adding fixes to the source code.

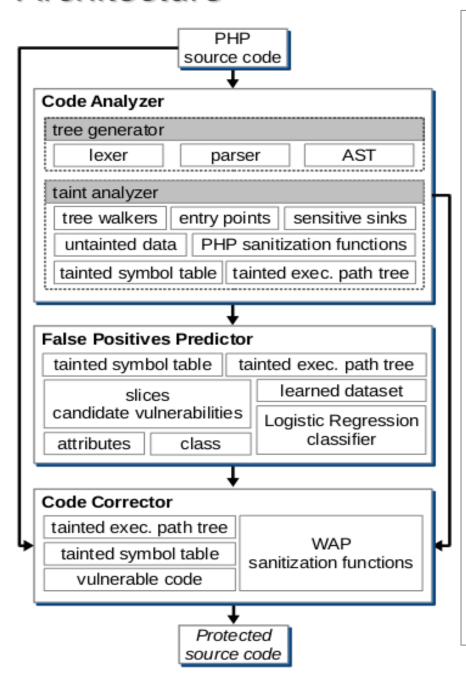
<u>Fixes</u>: uses functions developed in PHP to sanitize the input data (when needed)

<u>Vulnerabilities</u>: SQL Injection, XSS (reflected and stored), Remote File Inclusion, Local File Inclusion, Path Traversal, OS Command Injection, Source Code Disclosure, Eval Injection.

Mechanisms

- Static analysis of the code
 - semantic analysis
 - data flow analysis taint analysis
 Taint analysis: follow the input data and verify if it reaches functions that can be exploited with malicious inputs
- Static analysis of the code with machine learning
 - predict false positives

Architecture



Code Analyzer

Carries out the static analysis of the code



Tree generator:

The Parser generates a Abstract Syntax Tree (AST) of the PHP code.

Taint analyser:

Performs taint analysis using the tree walkers to navigate through the AST.

False Positives Predictor

For each detected vulnerability the classifier predicts if it is a false positive or a real vulnerability.

Code Corrector

Identifies for each vulnerability the:

- fix that needs to be insert to prevent exploitation;
- place in the original source code where the fix needs to be applied.

Modifies the source code adding the fix;

Produces a report explaining the observed vulnerabilities and how they were corrected.

Working ... taint analysis

 A variable that receives a value from an entry point (\$_GET) \$_POST) becomes tainted.

 A variable that receives a value from an expression or function that involves tainted variables, also becomes tainted.

```
$q = "Select * From users Where u = '$a'"; --> $q is tainted
```

 Tainted variables that are sanitized by specific sanitization functions becomes untainted.

```
$b = mysqli_real_escape_string($a); --> $b \(\epsilon\) untainted
```

Propagation of taintdness between function calls and files

Working... detection of SQLI & XSS...

(simplified version)	T	D
01: \$a = \$ _GET['user'];		-
02: \$b = \$_POST ['pass'];		-
03: \$aa = mysql_real_escape_string(\$a);		\$a
04: \$c = "SELECT * FROM users WHERE u = '\$aa'";		-
05: \$r = mysqli_query(\$c);		-
06: \$b = "wap";		-
07: \$d = "SELECT * FROM users WHERE u = '\$b' ";		-
08: \$r = mysqli_query(\$d);		-
09: \$b = \$_ POST['pass'];		-
10: \$query = "SELECT * FROM users WHERE u = '\$a' AND p = '\$b"';		\$a, \$b
11: \$r = mysqli_query(\$query);		\$query
12: \$user = str_replace("<", "", \$a);		\$a
13: echo "Hello \$user";		\$user

Tainted Symbol Table

T: taindness (0: untaint, 1: taint)
D: depends of ...

wap

Working... detection of SQLI & XSS...

	T	D
01: \$a = \$_GET['user'];		-
02: \$b = \$_ POST['pass'];		-
03: \$aa = mysql_real_escape_string(\$a);		\$a
04: \$c = "SELECT * FROM users WHERE u = '\$aa'";		-
05: \$r = mysql query(\$c);		-
06: \$b = "wap";		-
07: \$d = "SELECT * FROM users WHERE u = '\$b' ";		-
08: \$r = mysql query(\$d);		-
09: \$b = \$_ POST['pass'];	1	-
10: \$query = "SELECT * FROM users WHERE u = '\$a' AND p = '\$b"';	1	\$a, \$b
11: \$r = mysql query(\$query);	1	\$query
12: \$user = str_replace("<", "", \$a);		\$a
13: echo "Hello \$user"; SQL Injection	1	\$user

detected

T: taindness (0: untaint, 1: taint)
D: depends of ...

wap

Working... detection of SQLI & XSS...



	T	D
01: \$a = \$_GET['user'];	1	-
02: \$b = \$_POST ['pass'];	1	-
03: \$aa = mysql_real_escape_string(\$a);	0	\$a
04: \$c = "SELECT * FROM users WHERE u = '\$aa'";	0	-
05: \$r = mysql query(\$c);	0	-
06: \$b = "wap";	0	-
07: \$d = "SELECT * FROM users WHERE u = '\$b' ";	0	-
08: \$r = mysql query(\$d);	0	-
09: \$b = \$_POST ['pass'];	1	-
10: \$query = "SELECT * FROM users WHERE u = '\$a' AND p = '\$b"';	1	\$a, \$b
11: \$r = mysql query(\$query);	1	\$query
12: \$user = str_replace("<", "", \$a);	1	\$a
13: echo "Hello \$user";	1	\$user
12: \$user = str_replace("<", "", \$a); 13: echo "Hello \$user"; T: taindnes D: depends	`	int, 1: tain

D: depends of ...

Working... output...

```
wap
```

- + + + Type of Analysis: SQLI
 - > Summary:
 - Time of analysis: 00:00:01 H
 - Number of vulnerabilities found: 1
 - Number of vulnerable files: 1
 - List of vulnerable files:/home/user/example.php

```
= = = = Vulnerability n.: 1 = = = =
```

> Vulnerable code:

```
1: $a = $_GET['user'];
```

9: \$b = \$_POST['pass'];

10: \$query = "SELECT * FROM users WHERE u = '\$a' AND p = '\$b"";

11: \$r = mysqli_query(\$query);

> Corrected code:

- 1: \$a = mysqli_real_escape_string(\$_GET['user']);
- 9: \$b = mysqli_real_escape_string(\$_POST['pass']);

SYMBOLIC EXECUTION

Overview

- "Execute" the program
 - using symbolic input values, instead of concrete data values, and to represent the values of program variables as symbolic expressions over the symbolic input values
 - output values computed by the program are expressed as a function of the symbolic input values
- Main goals of symbolic execution for software testing
 - explore as many different program paths as possible in a given amount of time, and for each path to
 - (1) generate a set of concrete input values exercising that path=> allowing the creation of high coverage test suits
 - (2) check for the presence of various kinds of errors including assertion violations, uncaught exceptions, security vulnerabilities, and memory corruption => providing developers with concrete input that triggers the bug

Execution of a Program

- Execution path is a sequence of true and false, where
 - a true at the ith position in the sequence denotes that the ith conditional statement encountered along the execution path took the "then" branch
 - a false means that an "else" was taken
- Execution tree represents all execution paths

Example

```
int twice (int v) {
   return 2*v;
void testme (int x, int y) {
   z = twice (y);
   if (z == x) {
        if (x > y+10) ERROR;
int main() {
   x = sym input(); 1) S = \{x = x_0\}; PC = true\}
   y = sym_input(); 2) S = \{x = x_0, y = y_0\}; PC = true
   testme(x, y);
   return 0;
```

S = symbolic state kept over the execution, that starts the execution with $S = \{\}$ PC = symbolic path kept over the execution, that starts PC = true

- 3) $S = \{x = x_0; y = y_0, z = 2y_0\}; PC=true$
- 4) $S = \{x = x_0; y = y_0, z = 2y_0\}; PC = (2y_0 = x_0)$ and create new $PC^* = ! (2y_0 = x_0)$
- 5) $S = \{x = x_0; y = y_0, z = 2y_0\};$ $PC = (2y_0 = x_0) \land (x_0 > y_0 + 10)$ and create new $PC^{**} = (2y_0 = x_0) \land ! (x_0 > y_0 + 10)$

The processing of a PC only continues if it is satisfiable, meaning that there is some assignment of concrete inputs to symbol values that make the constraint true

Notice that as more if conditions are found, more paths have to be explored! *And this grows fast!*

In the end, the PC condition is solved by a SATisfiability solver to find concrete inputs that force that path to be taken

Example (cont)

```
int twice (int v) {
                                                Execution tree
   return 2*v;
                                                  testme()
void testme (int x, int y) {
   z = twice (y);
                                               false
                                                             true
   if (z == x) {
                                                            x > y + 10
        if (x > y+10) ERROR;
                                                       false
                                                                   true
                                           path1
                                                                  y = 30
int main()
                                                                  y = 15
                                                                  ERROR!
                                                    path2
   x = sym input();
   y = sym input();
                                 In order to execute path1 it is
                                                                      path3
   testme(x, y);
                             necessary to provide input \{x = 0; y = 1\}
   return 0;
```

COMPLEX STATIC ANALYSIS TOOLS

Commercial static analysis tools

- Ten years of static analysis tools
 - * they are toy tools (like Flawfinder)
 - * they became successful complex commercial tools
- Today's tools
 - address several different languages
 - integrated in an IDE to minimize effort to correct the discovered vulnerabilities
 - explain the vulnerabilities they discover
 - explain how these vulnerabilities can be exploited

Coverity Prevent

- Coverity was founded by Dawson Engler from Stanford Univ.
- Coverity Prevent
 - Supports most platforms, C/C++/Java
 - Checks all paths, all component interactions
 - Can analyze millions of LOCs overnight
 - Reports the location of the bugs

security vulnerabilities

Secure Coding Defects:

- Buffer overflows
- Integer overflows
- Missing/insufficient validation of malicious data and string input
- Format string vulnerabilities Defect Implications:
- Total system compromise
- Cross-site scripting attacks
- Denial of service attacks
- Privilege escalation
- Leaking confidential data
- Data loss
- SQL injection attacks

crash causing defects

- Null pointer dereference
- Use after free
- Double free
- Improper memory allocations
- Mismatched array new/delete

incorrect program behavior

- Deadcode caused by logical errors
- Uninitialized variables
- Invalid use of negative values

performance pegradation

- Memory leaks
- File handle leaks
- Custom memory and network resource leaks
- Database connection leaks

IMPROPER USE OF API'S

- STL usage errors
- API error handling

Coverity Prevent (cont)

- Used by companies like Juniper, Oracle, nVidia, palmOne
- Assessed the quality of the LAMP stack (Linux, Apache, MySQL,
 PHP/Perl/Python), 17.5 M LOCs, funded by the Dep. Homeland Security

Using this technology on the Linux 2.6.9 kernel, 950 defects were detected. The following table shows the raw counts broken down by bug type:

Туре	Total	Bug	Not Bug
Free	103	33	4
Overrun Dynamic	5	2	3
Overrun Static	119	13	3
Negative Returns	46	10	5
Forward Null	327	-	-
Deadcode	147	9	1
Null Returns	70	-	-
Resouce Leak	112	9	20
Reverse Null	161	-	-
Reverse Negative	7	-	-

Fortify Source Code Analysis Suite

- Originally based on Brian Chess' work
 - Checks most platforms and flavors of C/C++, Java
 - Used in companies like Wells Fargo, eBay, Oracle,...
- The Fortify Analysis Engine contains 4 analyzers
 - Data Flow Analyzer: Detects paths of potentially dangerous data
 - Semantic Analyzer: Detects use of vulnerable functions and understands the context of their use
 - Control Flow Analyzer: Accurately tracks sequencing of operations to detect improper coding constructs
 - Configuration Analyzer: Tracks vulnerabilities in interaction between configuration and code

Ounce Labs - Ounce 5.0

Product suite

- Source code vulnerability scanning engine (Ounce Core)
- Analysis of the results and assignment of remediation tasks (Ounce Security Analyst, Ounce Portfolio Manager)
- Interconnection with IDEs for fixing vulnerabilities; Visual Studio, Eclipse, IBM Rational (Remediation and Assessment Plugins)

Source code analysis

- Contextual Analysis™ cross-module, cross-language dataflow analysis; code is parsed into Common Intermediate Security Lang.
- SmartTrace™ sort of the opposite; checks if input data that follows a certain path is validated (to detect potential SQL inj, XSS)
- Allows introduction of new security policies + vulnerabilities

Assessment of tools

- There have been some efforts to assess the coverage of these tools
 - or at least to compare them
- SecuriBench
 - collection of open source web apps written in Java, with known vulnerabilities (including WebGoat)
- SAMATE group at NIST
 - is creating a reference data set for benchmarking static analysis tools
 - have done a comparison of several tools

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Bibliography

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