

A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a close-up of a computer keyboard. A magnifying glass is placed over a key, and a yellow padlock is resting on the keyboard, symbolizing security and protection.

# Exploit Mitigations

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You know how to exploit a buffer overflow.

Like it's 1996.

Lets take you to 2016

.oO Phrack 49 Oo.

Volume Seven, Issue Forty-Nine

File 14 of 16

BugTraq, r00t, and Underground.Org  
bring you

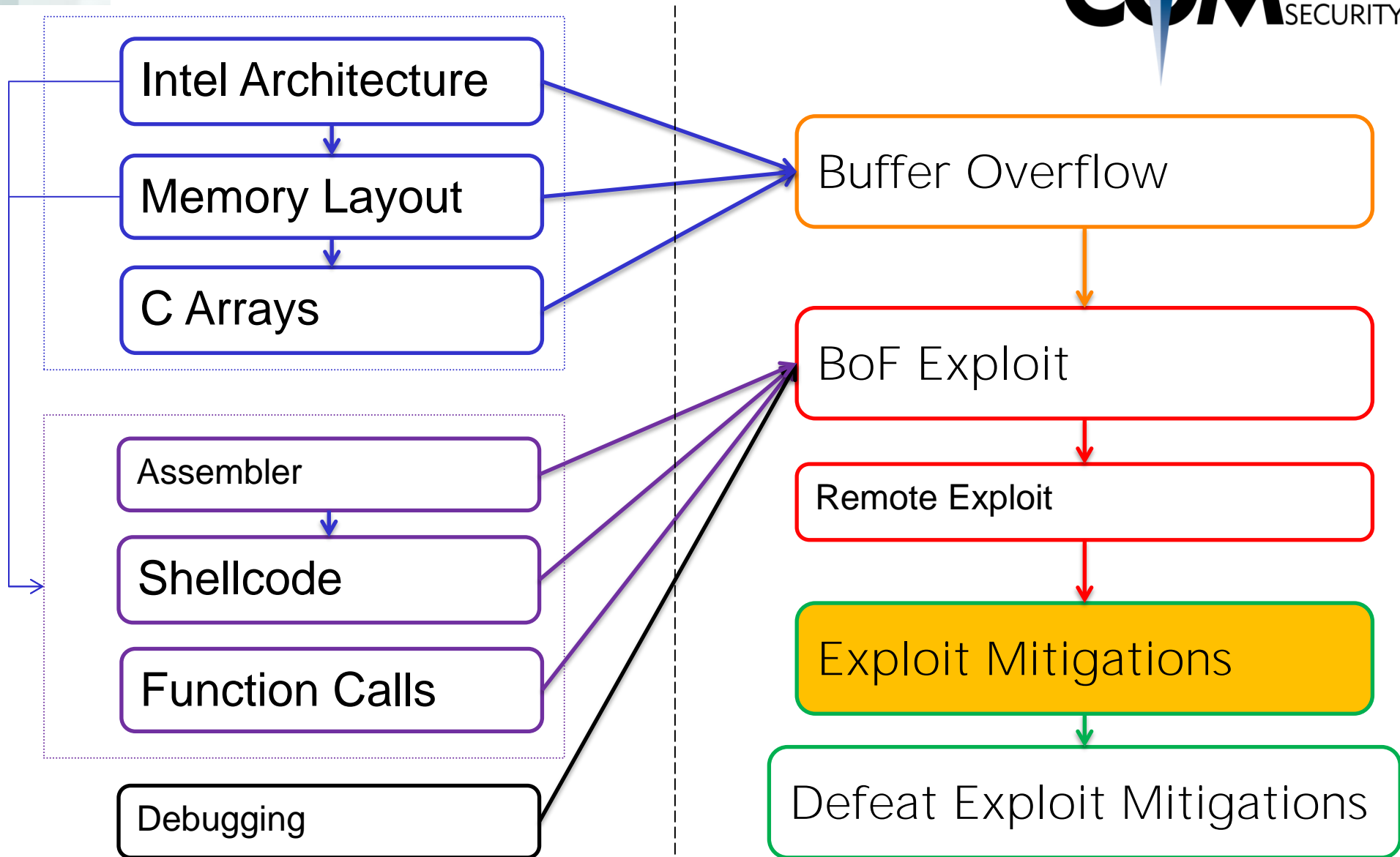
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
Smashing The Stack For Fun And Profit  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

by Aleph One  
aleph1@underground.org

`smash the stack` [C programming] n. On many C implementations it is possible to corrupt the execution stack by writing past the end of an array declared auto in a routine. Code that does this is said to smash the stack, and can cause return from the routine to jump to a random address. This can produce some of the most insidious data-dependent bugs known to mankind. Variants include trash the stack, scribble the stack, mangle the stack; the term mung the stack is not used, as this is never done intentionally. See spam; see also alias bug, fandango on core, memory leak, precedence lossage, overrun screw.

# Exploit Mitigations: Recap





DEP

Stack Canary

ASLR

ASCII Armor



# Exploit Mitigations: Security News



**Subject:** [anti-ROP mechanism in libc](#)  
**From:** [Theo de Raadt <deraadt \(\) openbsd ! org>](#)  
**OpenBSD** [2016-04-25 13:10:25](#)  
[26067.1461589825 \(\) cvs ! openbsd ! org](#)

[\[Download message RAW\]](#)

This change randomizes the order of symbols in libc.so at boot time.

This is done by saving all the independent .so sub-files into an ar archive, and then relinking them into a new libc.so in random order, at each boot. The cost is less than a second on the systems I am using.

## Grsecurity/PAX

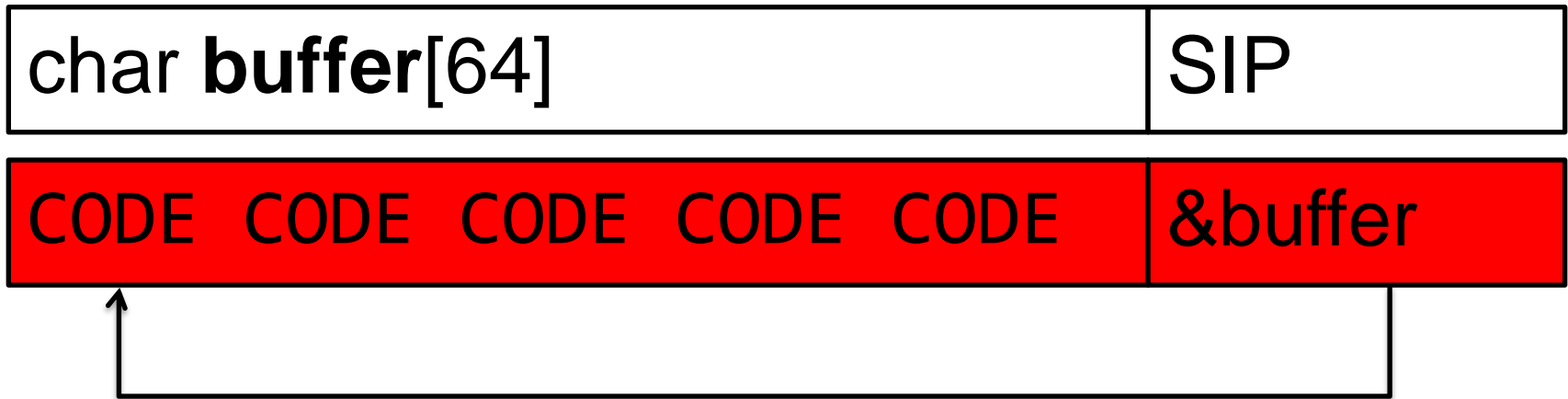
**RAP is here. Public demo in 4.5 test patch and commercially available today!**

April 28, 2016

Today's release of grsecurity® for the Linux 4.5 kernel marks an important milestone in the project's history. It is the first kernel to contain RAP, a defense mechanism against code reuse attacks. RAP was announced to the

## Linux Kernel 4.6

*Currently on i386 and on X86\_64 when emulating X86\_32 in legacy mode, only the stack and the executable are randomized but not other mmaped files (libraries, vDSO, etc.). This patch enables randomization for the libraries, vDSO and mmap requests on i386 and in X86\_32 in legacy mode.*

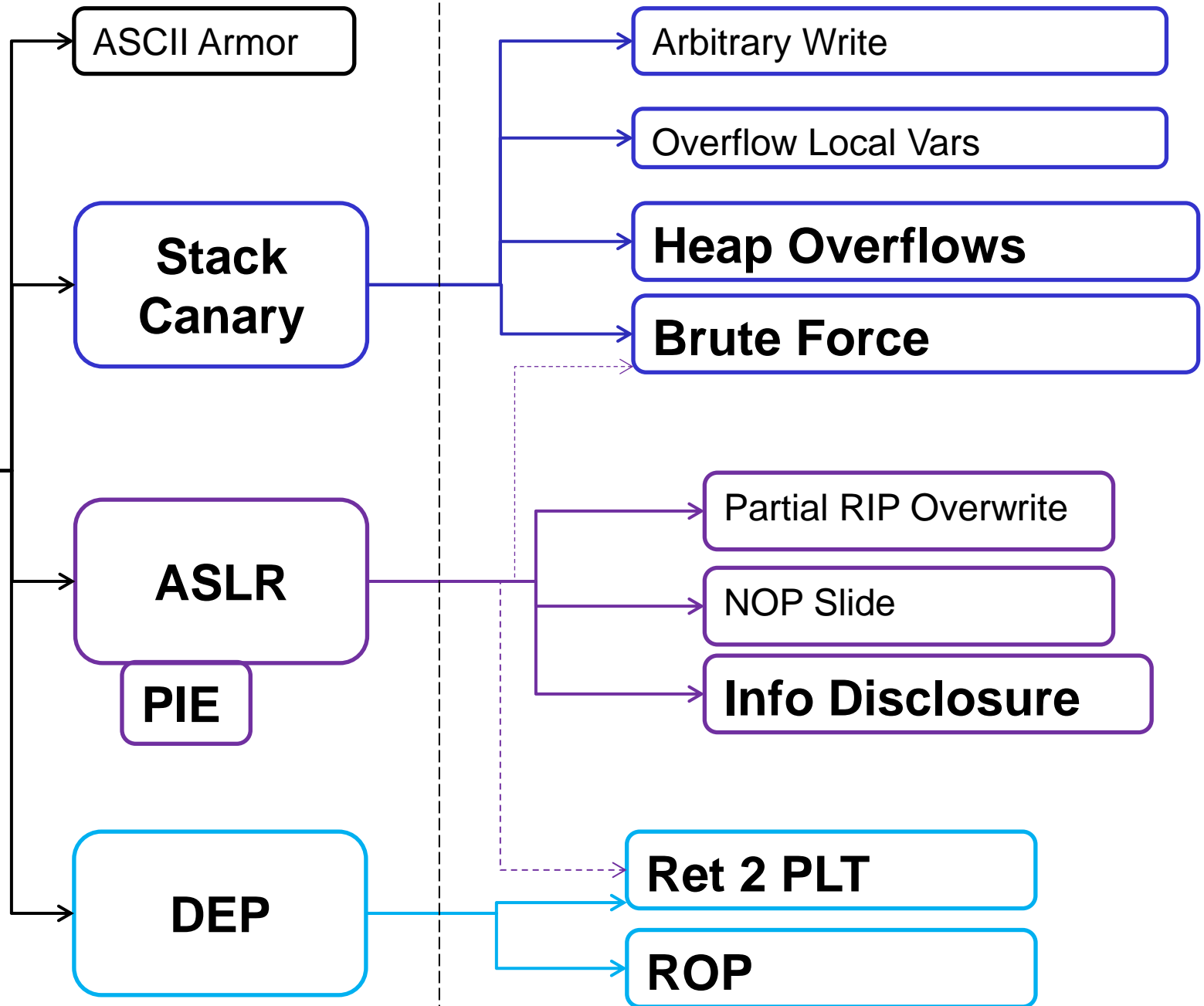


What is required to create an exploit?

- ✦ Executable Shellcode
  - ✦ Aka "Hacker instructions"
- ✦ The distance from buffer to SIP
  - ✦ Offset for the overflow
- ✦ The Address of shellcode
  - ✦ in memory of the target process



# Exploit Mitigations



Best Exploit Mitigation:

(Security relevant-) Bugs should not exist at all

Write secure code!

- ✦ Use **secure libraries**
- ✦ Perform **Static Analysis** of the source code
- ✦ Perform **Dynamic Analysis** of programs
- ✦ Perform **fuzzing** of input vectors
- ✦ Have a secure development lifecycle (SDL)
- ✦ Manual source code **reviews**
- ✦ ...

Developers, developers, developers

Not the focus of this lessons

Our focus: "Sysadmin/user view"

What can WE do to improve security on our systems?

- ✦ Without fixing other people's code

Two things:

- ✦ Compile Time Protection
- ✦ Runtime Protection



## Compile Time:

- ✦ Stack canaries
- ✦ PIE

## Runtime:

- ✦ ASLR
- ✦ DEP
- ✦ ASCII Armor

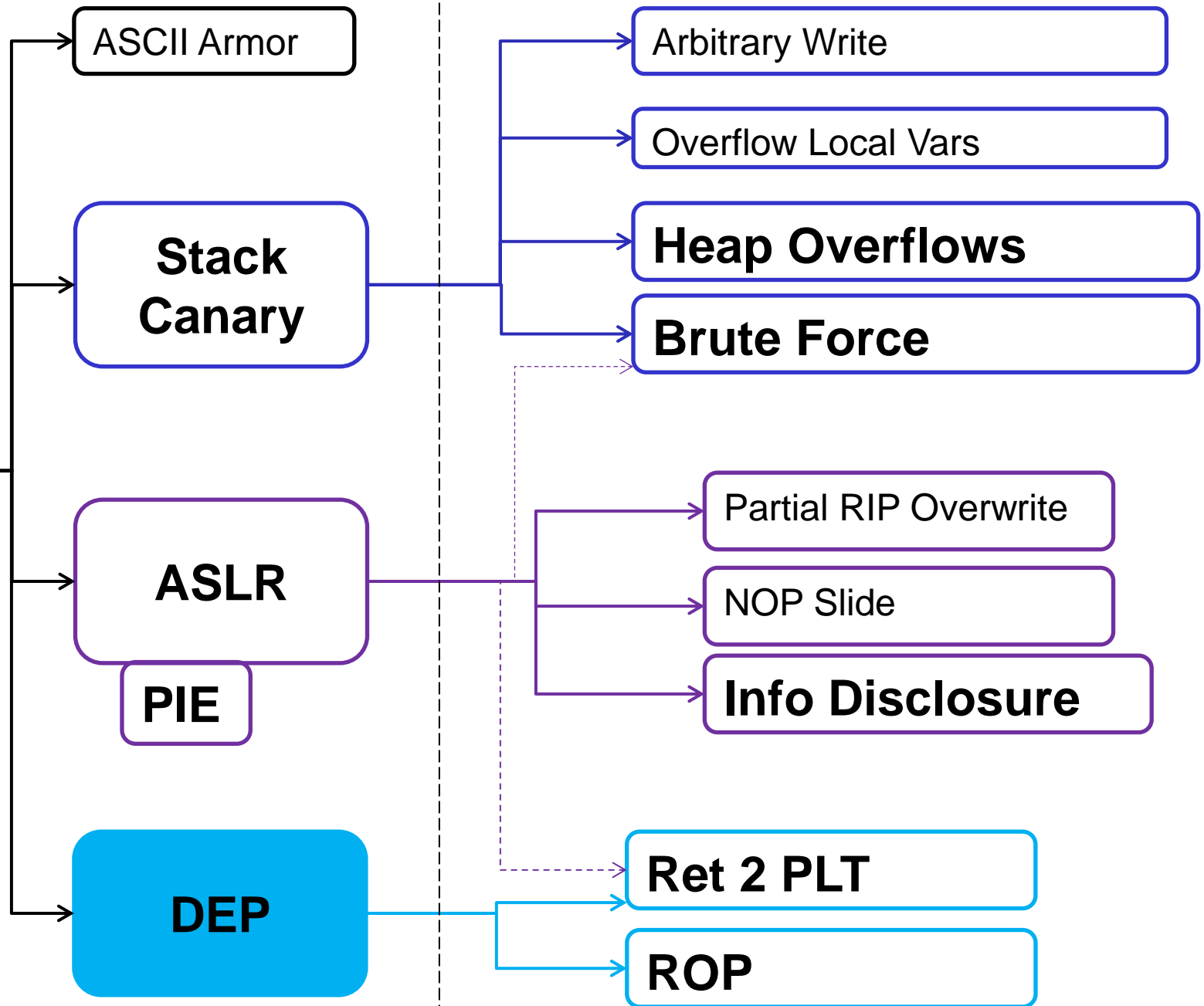
# Exploit Mitigation: DEP

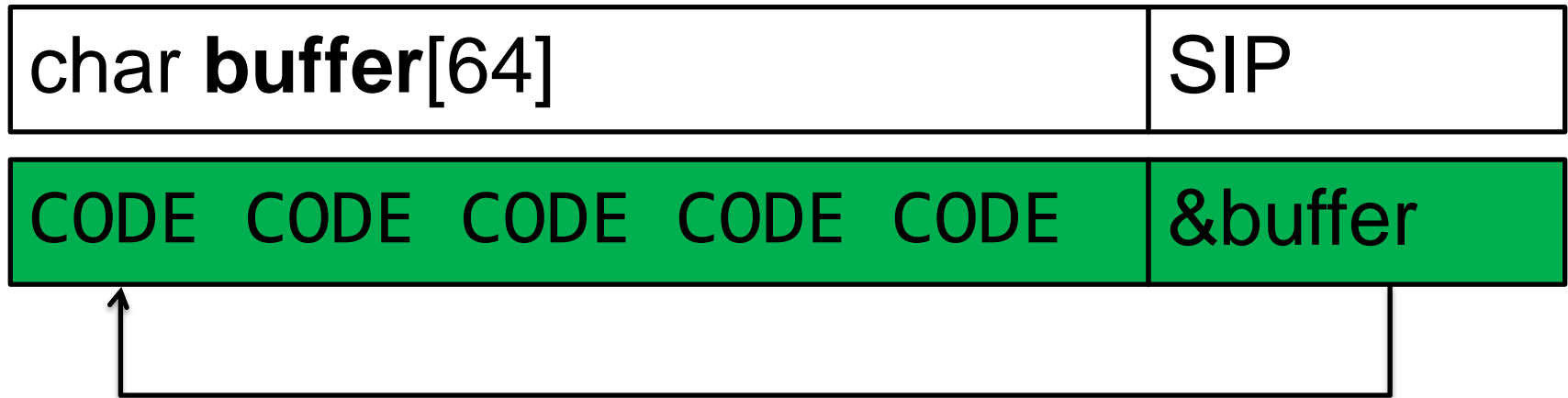
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# Exploit Mitigations





**DEP: Make stack not executable**

## DEP – Data Execution Prevention

- ✦ Aka: No-Exec Stack
- ✦ Aka: W^X (Write XOR eXecute)(OpenBSD)
- ✦ Aka: NX (Non-Execute) Bit

### 32 bit (x86)

- ✦ Since 386
- ✦ “saved” Xecute bit (Read / Write are available)

### AMD64 (x86-64)

- ✦ introduced NX bit in HW
- ✦ Or kernel patches like PaX
- ✦ For 32 bit, need PAE (Physical Address Extension, 32->36bit)

### Linux

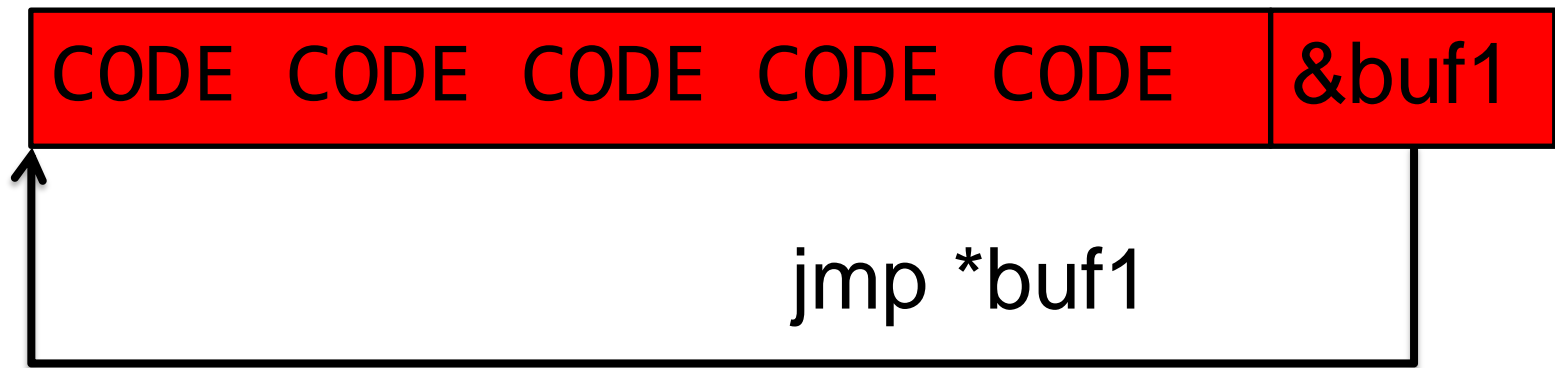
- ✦ Support in 2004, Kernel 2.6.8, default active

## Memory regions

- ★ Are mapped with permissions
- ★ Like files
  - ★ R Read
  - ★ W Write
  - ★ X eXecute
- ★ DEP removes X bit from memory which do not contain code
  - ★ Stack
  - ★ Heap
  - ★ (Possibly others)

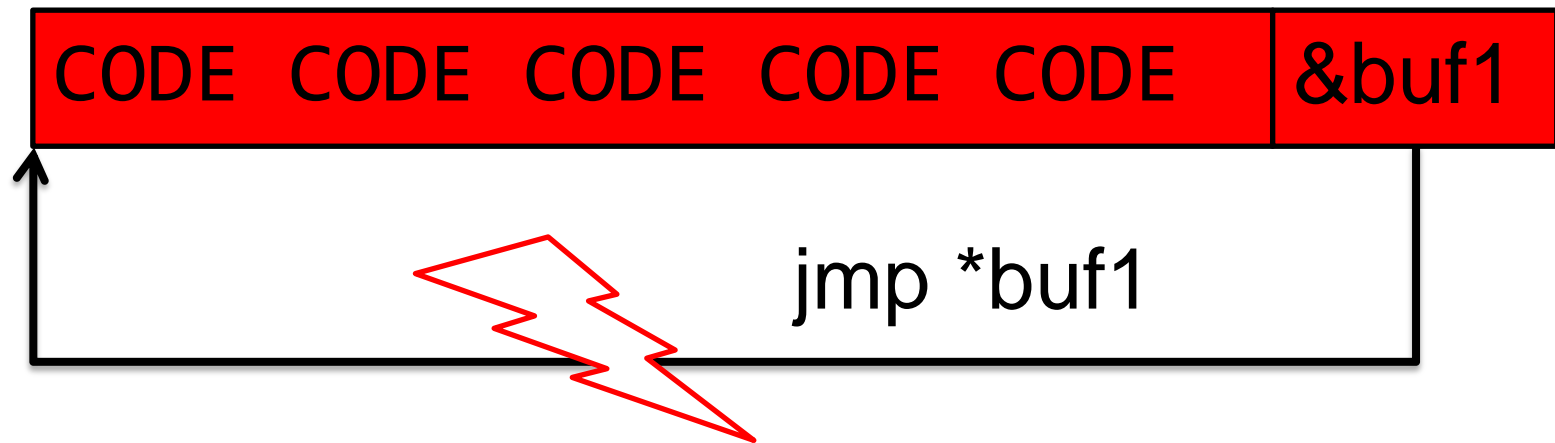
Without DEP:

Permissions: rw**x**



With DEP:

Permissions: rw-



**“Segmentation Fault”**



```
(gdb) r
```

```
Program received signal SIGSEGV, Segmentation fault.
```

```
0xbffff4ec in ?? ()
```

```
(gdb) info proc mappings
```

```
Mapped address spaces:
```

```
[...]
```

```
0xbffdf000 0xc0000000 0x21000 0x0 [stack]
```

```
(gdb) i r eip
```

```
eip 0xbffff4ec 0xbffff4ec
```

```
$ gcc system.c -o system && readelf -l system
```

## Program Headers:

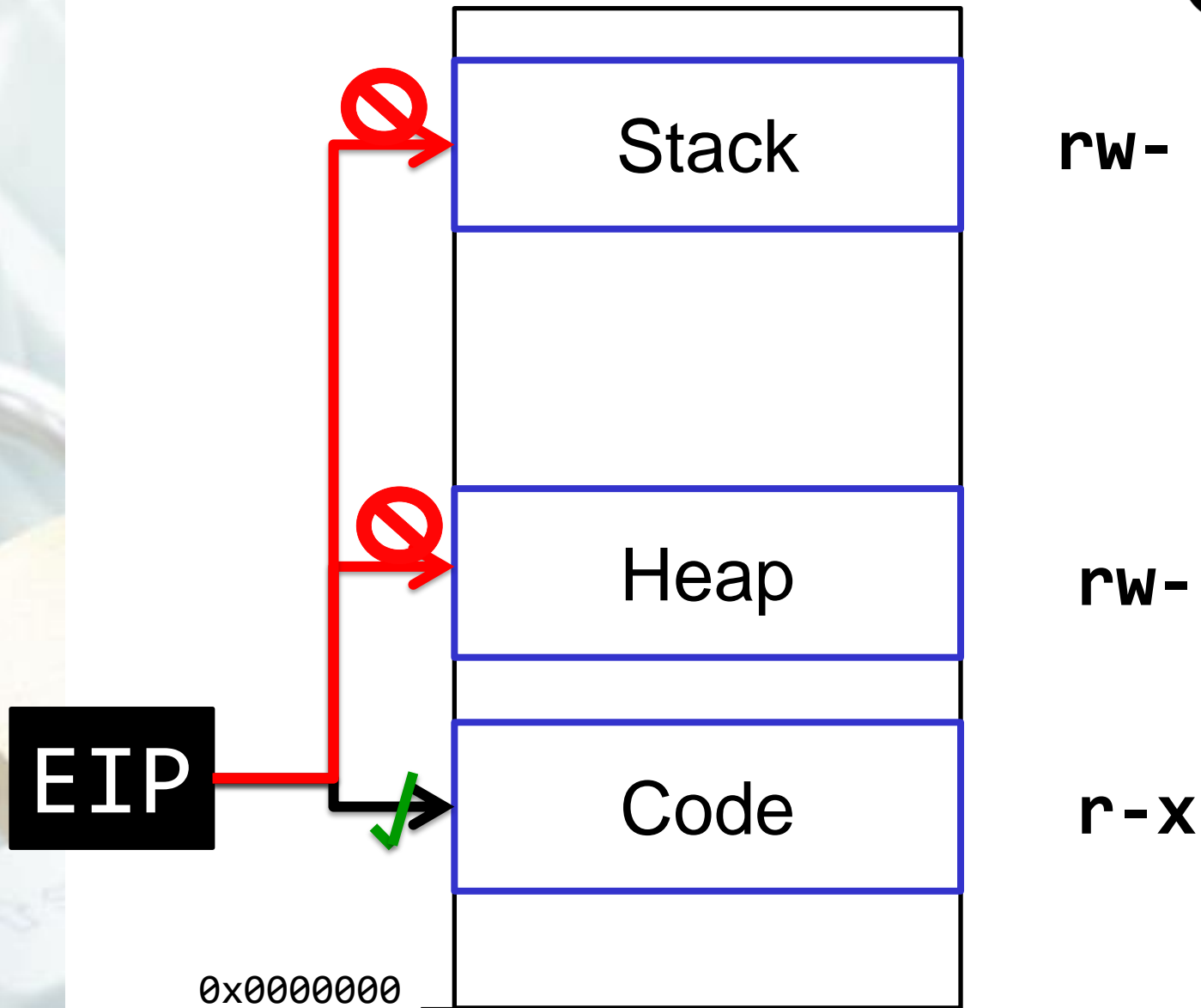
Type	Offset	VirtAddr	MemSiz	Flg	Align
PHDR	0x000034	0x08048034	0x00120	R E	0x4
INTERP	0x000154	0x08048154	0x00013	R	0x1
LOAD	0x000000	0x08048000	0x005d0	R E	0x1000
LOAD	0x000f14	0x08049f14	0x00108	RW	0x1000
DYNAMIC	0x000f28	0x08049f28	0x000c8	RW	0x4
NOTE	0x000168	0x08048168	0x00044	R	0x4
GNU_EH_FRAME	0x0004d8	0x080484d8	0x00034	R	0x4
<b>GNU_STACK</b>	<b>0x000000</b>	<b>0x00000000</b>	<b>0x00000</b>	<b>RW</b>	<b>0x4</b>
GNU_RELRO	0x000f14	0x08049f14	0x000ec	R	0x1

```
$ gcc system.c -z execstack -o system
$ readelf -l system
```

## Program Headers:

Type	Offset	VirtAddr	MemSiz	Flg	Align
PHDR	0x000034	0x08048034	0x00120	R E	0x4
INTERP	0x000154	0x08048154	0x00013	R	0x1
LOAD	0x000000	0x08048000	0x005d0	R E	0x1000
LOAD	0x000f14	0x08049f14	0x00108	RW	0x1000
DYNAMIC	0x000f28	0x08049f28	0x000c8	RW	0x4
NOTE	0x000168	0x08048168	0x00044	R	0x4
GNU_EH_FRAME	0x0004d8	0x080484d8	0x00034	R	0x4
<b>GNU_STACK</b>	<b>0x000000</b>	<b>0x00000000</b>	<b>0x00000</b>	<b>RWE</b>	<b>0x4</b>
GNU_RELRO	0x000f14	0x08049f14	0x000ec	R	0x1

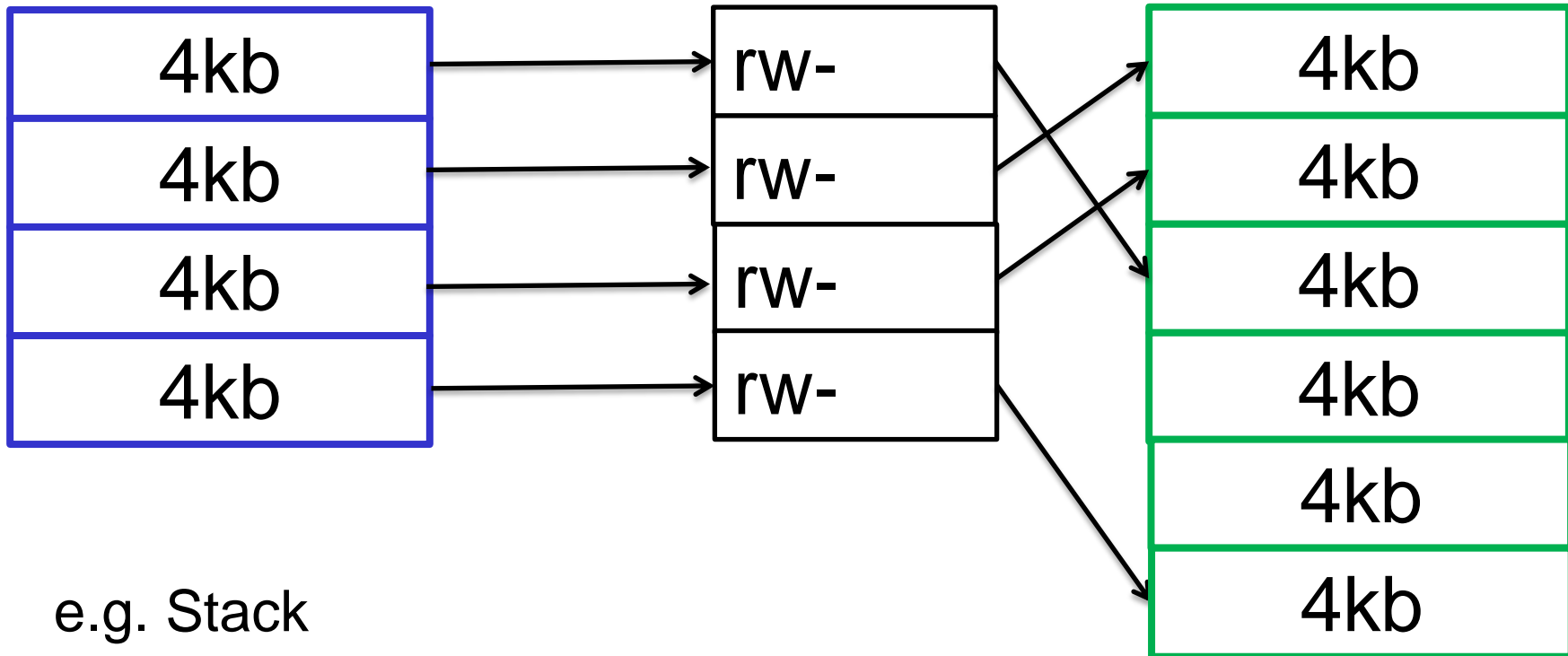
# Anti-Exploitation: No-Exec Stack



Memory Segment:

TLB:

RAM:



## Userspace

- ✦ Program sees  $2^{32}$  (or  $2^{64}$ ) 1-byte memory locations
- ✦ Cannot access it until it is "mapped"
- ✦ Mapping is based on pages
- ✦ Pages are 4096 bytes (4kb) size

## Kernelspace

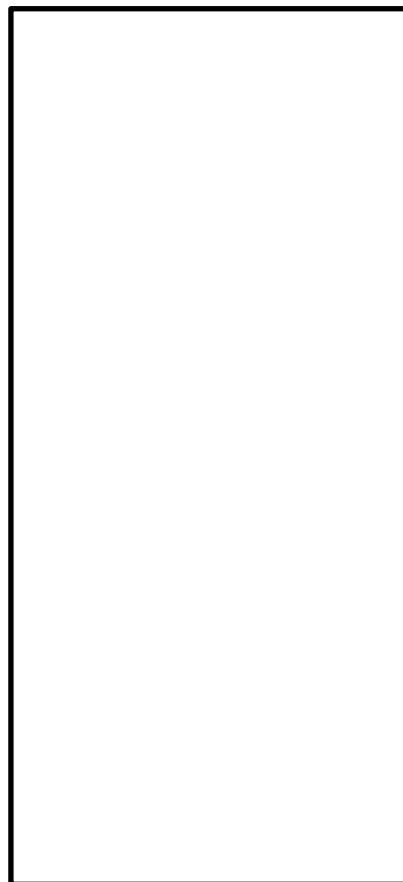
- ✦ Manages RAM
- ✦ Also sees  $2^{32}$  bytes (for itself)
- ✦ "Maps" userspace pages to physical pages
- ✦ Via the TLB



Process start

No memory mappings

Process



Kernel

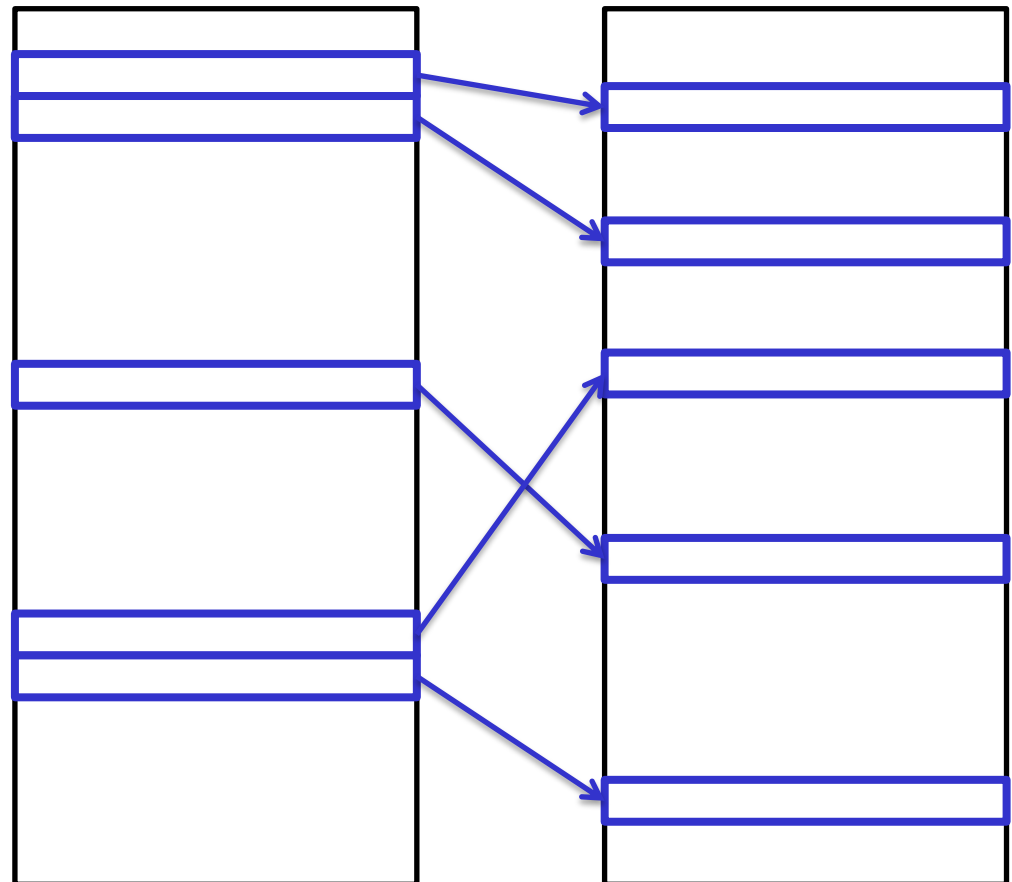


Process started

Memory is mapped

Process

RAM



# Anti-Exploitation: No-Exec Stack



GCC compiles automatically with no-exec stack



# Exploit Mitigation – DEP

- ★ Makes it **impossible** for an attacker to execute his own shellcode
- ★ Code segment: eXecute (no write)
- ★ Heap, Stack: **W**rite (no execute)

# Exploit Mitigation – DEP

- ✦ No-no: Write AND Execute
- ✦ Sometimes necessary
- ✦ Interpreted Languages
  - ✦ E.g. Java
  - ✦ Or JavaScript
  - ✦ Ähem \*Browser\* ähem

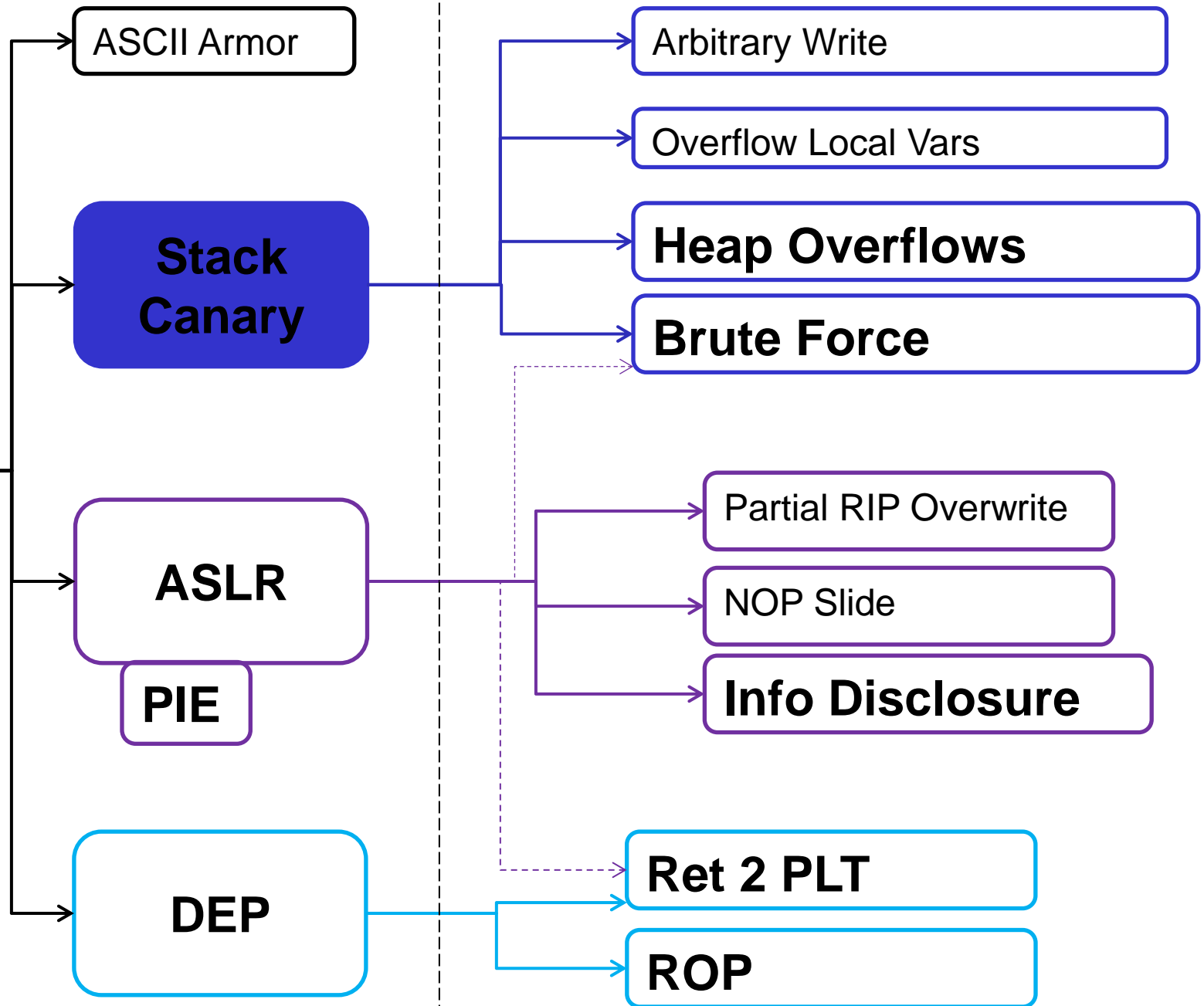
# Exploit Mitigation – Stack Protector

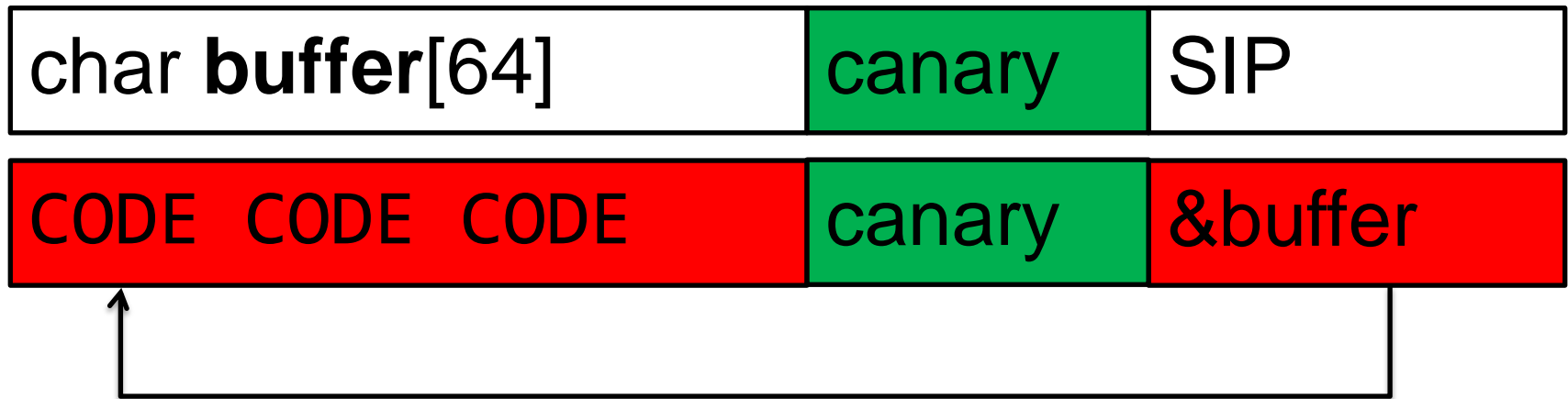
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# Exploit Mitigations





Aka:

- ✦ SSP: Stack Smashing Protector
- ✦ Stack Cookie
- ✦ Stack Canary

Secret value in front of control data

A value unknown to the attacker

**Checked before performing a "ret"**

- ✦ When returning from a function; "return;"
- ✦ Before using SIP

```
if (secret_on_stack == global_secret) {  
    return;  
} else {  
    crash();  
}
```

char buf1[16]	EIP
---------------	-----

char buf1[16]	EIP
---------------	-----

char buf1[16]	secret	EIP
---------------	--------	-----

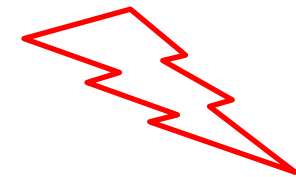
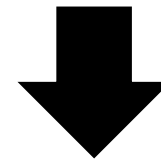
char buf1[16]	secret	EIP
---------------	--------	-----

char buf1[16]	55667	FF12
---------------	-------	------

CODE CODE CODE CODE	BBBB	AA00
---------------------	------	------

char buf1[16]	55667	FF12
---------------	-------	------

CODE CODE CODE CODE	BBBB	AA00
---------------------	------	------



“Segmentation Fault”

BBBB != 55667



## Stack Protector

- ✦ GCC patch
  - ✦ First: StackGuard in 1997
  - ✦ Then: ProPolice in 2001, by IBM
- ✦ Finally: Re-implement ProPolice in 2005 by RedHat
  - ✦ introduced in GCC 4.1
  - ✦ -fstack-protector
- ✦ Update: Better implementation by Google in 2012
  - ✦ -fstack-protector-strong
- ✦ Enabled since like forever by default
  - ✦ most distributions
  - ✦ most packages

When does the stack protector change?

- ✦ On `execve()`
  - ✦ (replace current process with a ELF file from disk)
- ✦ NOT on `fork()`
  - ✦ (copy current process)

Stack canary properties:

- ✦ Not predictable
- ✦ Be located in a non-accessible location
- ✦ Cannot be brute-forced
- ✦ Should contain at least one termination character

Stack protector in ASM, static analysis:

```
// get stack canary
mov     -0xc(%ebp),%eax

// compare with reference value
xor     %gs:0x14,%eax

// skip next instruction if ok
je      0x804846e <bla+58>

// was not ok - crash/exit program
call    0x8048340 <__stack_chk_fail@plt>
```

Stack protector in ASM, dynamic analysis:

```
=> 0x08048458 <+36>:    call    0x8048350 <strcpy@plt>
    0x0804845d <+41>:    mov     -0xc(%ebp),%eax
    0x08048460 <+44>:    xor     %gs:0x14,%eax
    0x08048467 <+51>:    je      0x804846e <bla+58>
    0x08048469 <+53>:    call    0x8048340 <__stack_chk_fail@plt>
```

```
(gdb) x/1x $ebp-0xc
```

```
0xbffff5cc:      0x2f140600
```

```
(gdb) info auxv
```

```
25   AT_RANDOM          Address of 16 random bytes      0xbffff7bb
```

```
(gdb) x/1x 0xbffff7bb
```

```
0xbffff7bb:      0x2f1406ae
```

# Stack Smashing Example



```
$ ./strcpy AAAAAAAAAAAAAA
```

```
*** stack smashing detected ***: ./strcpy terminated
```

```
===== Backtrace: =====
```

```
/lib/i386-linux-gnu/libc.so.6(__fortify_fail+0x45) [0xb76ff095]
```

```
/lib/i386-linux-gnu/libc.so.6(+0x10404a) [0xb76ff04a]
```

```
./strcpy[0x804846e]
```

```
./strcpy[0x8048489]
```

```
/lib/i386-linux-
```

```
gnu/libc.so.6(__libc_start_main+0xf3) [0xb7614533]
```

```
./strcpy[0x80483a1]
```

```
===== Memory map: =====
```

# Stack Smashing Example



(gdb) disas overflow

Dump of assembler code for function overflow:

```
0x08048434 <+0>:      push    %ebp
0x08048435 <+1>:      mov     %esp, %ebp
0x08048437 <+3>:      sub     $0x38, %esp
```

[...]

```
0x08048458 <+36>:     call    0x8048350 <strcpy@plt>
0x0804845d <+41>:     mov     -0xc(%ebp), %eax
0x08048460 <+44>:     xor     %gs:0x14, %eax
0x08048467 <+51>:     je      0x804846e <overflow+58>
0x08048469 <+53>:     call    0x8048340
                                <__stack_chk_fail@plt>
0x0804846e <+58>:     leave
0x0804846f <+59>:     ret
```

## Stack Canary





# Exploit Mitigation – Stack Protector

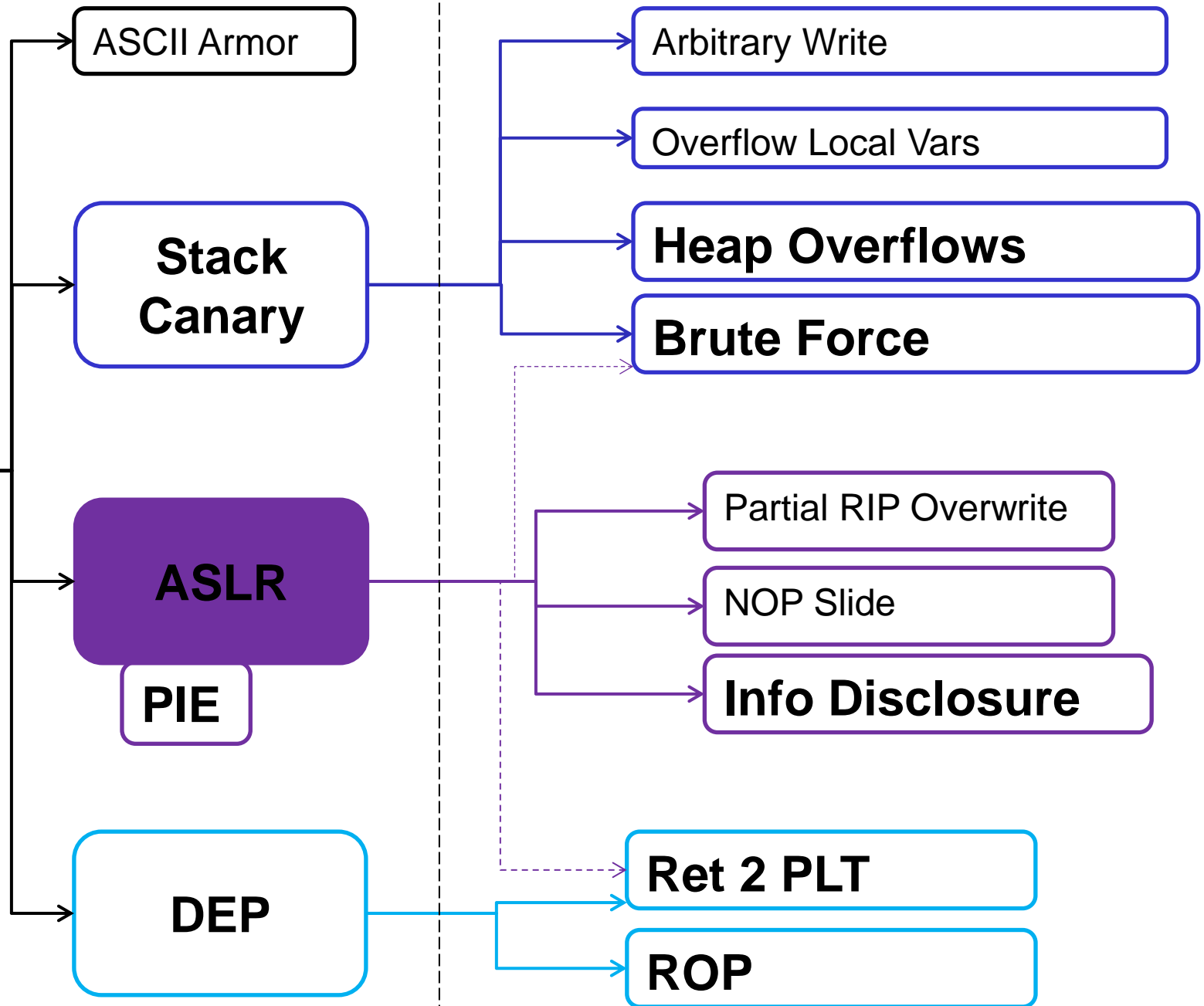


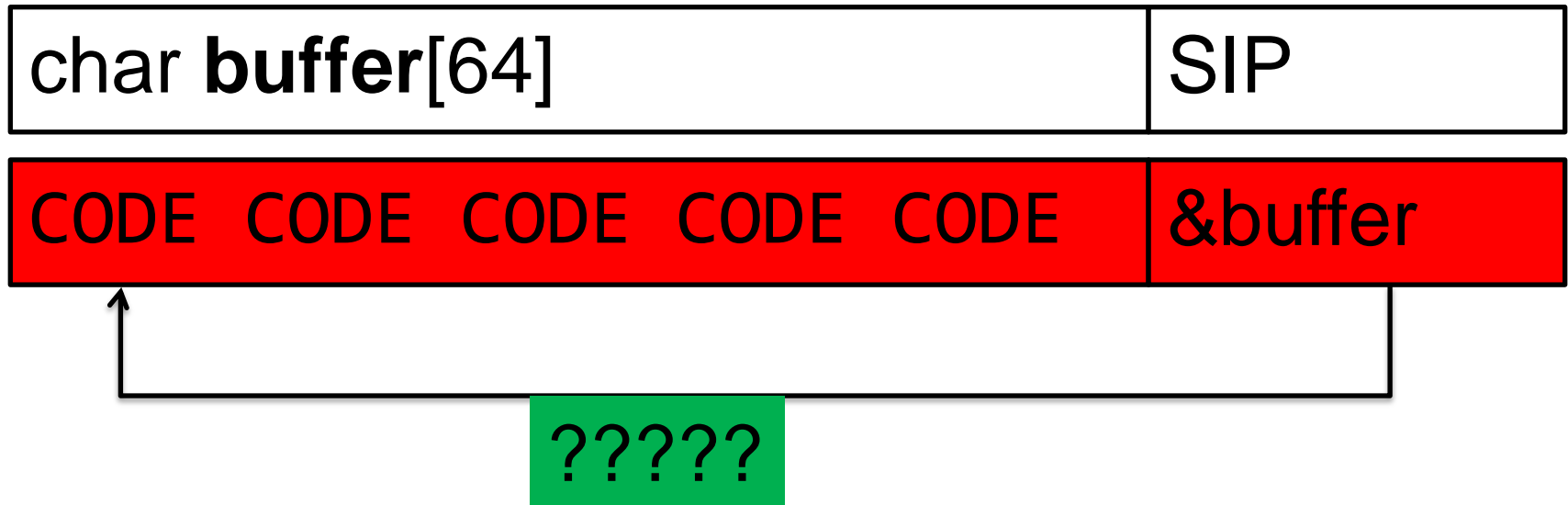
Arrival: Canary



# Exploit Mitigation: ASLR

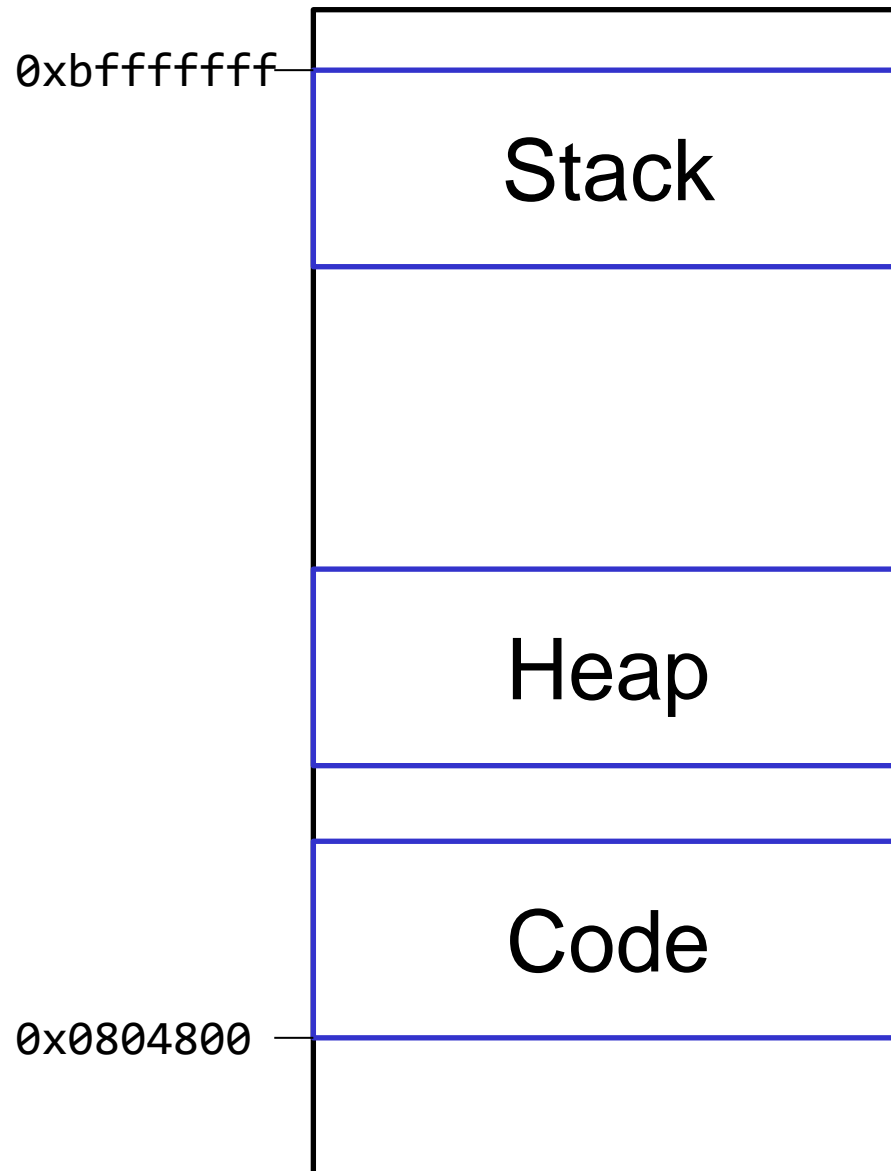
# Exploit Mitigations





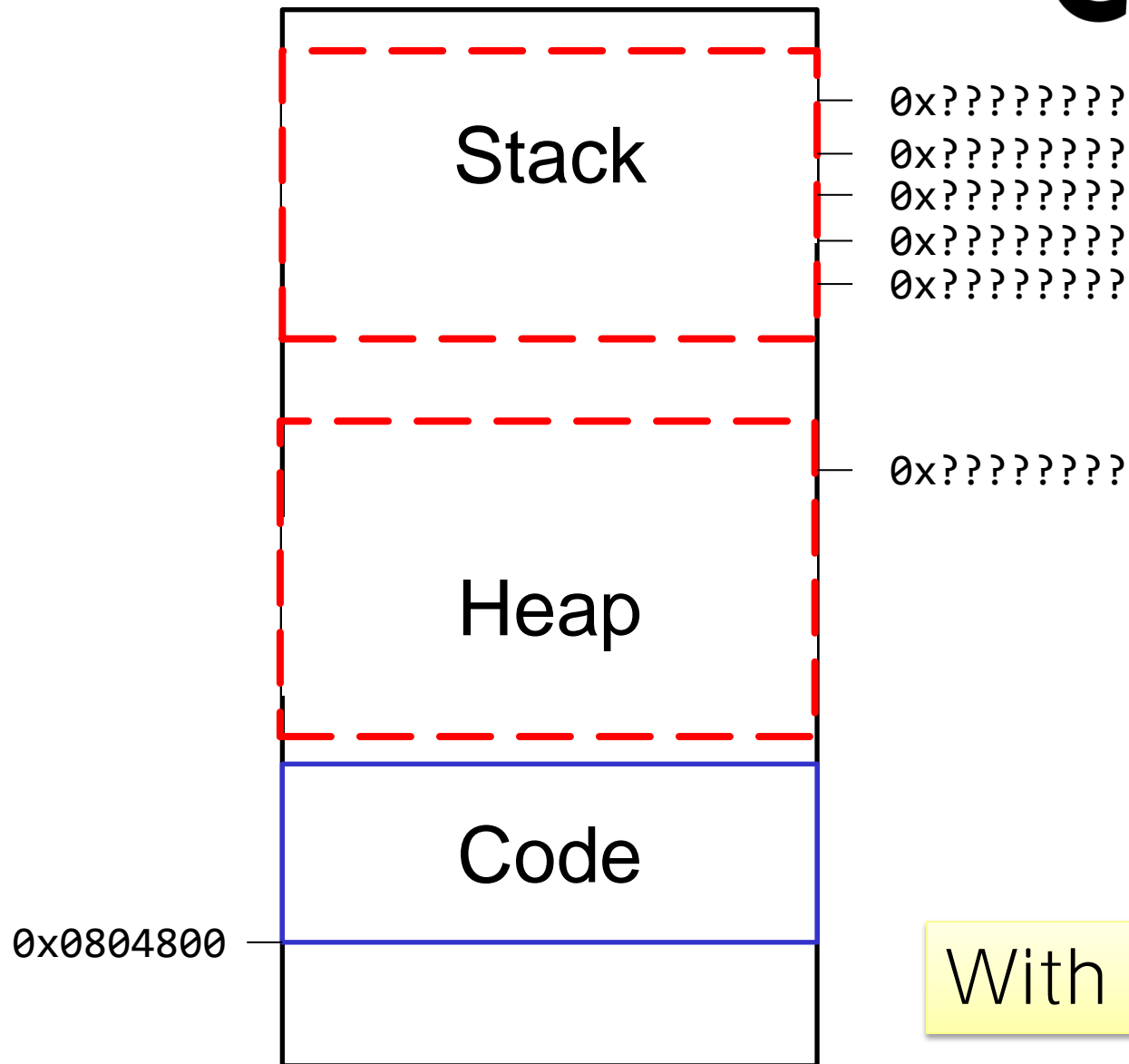
- Code execution is surprisingly deterministic
- E.g. Network service:
  1. fork()
  2. Parse incoming data
  3. Buffer Overflow is happening at module X line Y
- On every exploit attempt, memory layout looks the same!
  - Same stack/heap/code layout
  - Same address of the buffer(s)
- ASLR: Address Space Layout Randomization
  - Introduces randomness in memory regions

# Memory Layout



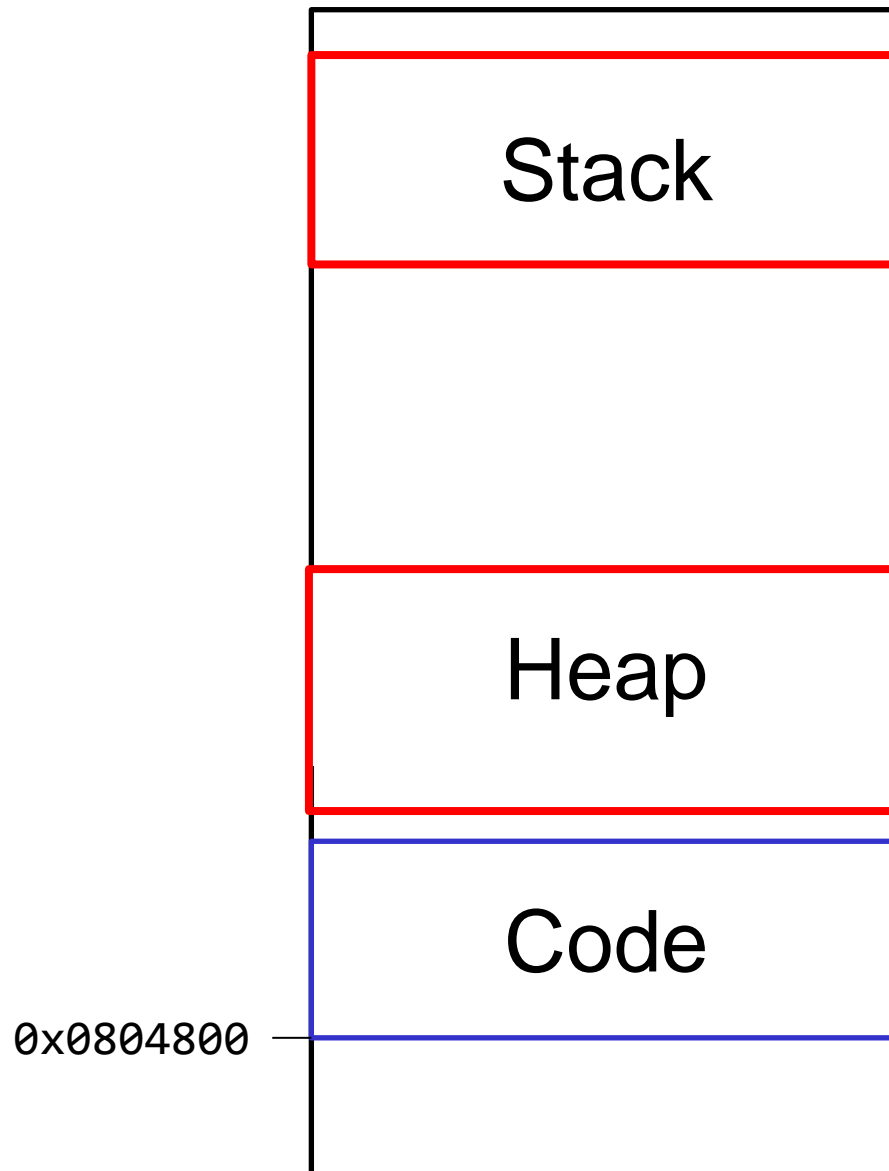
Without ASLR

# Memory Layout



With ASLR

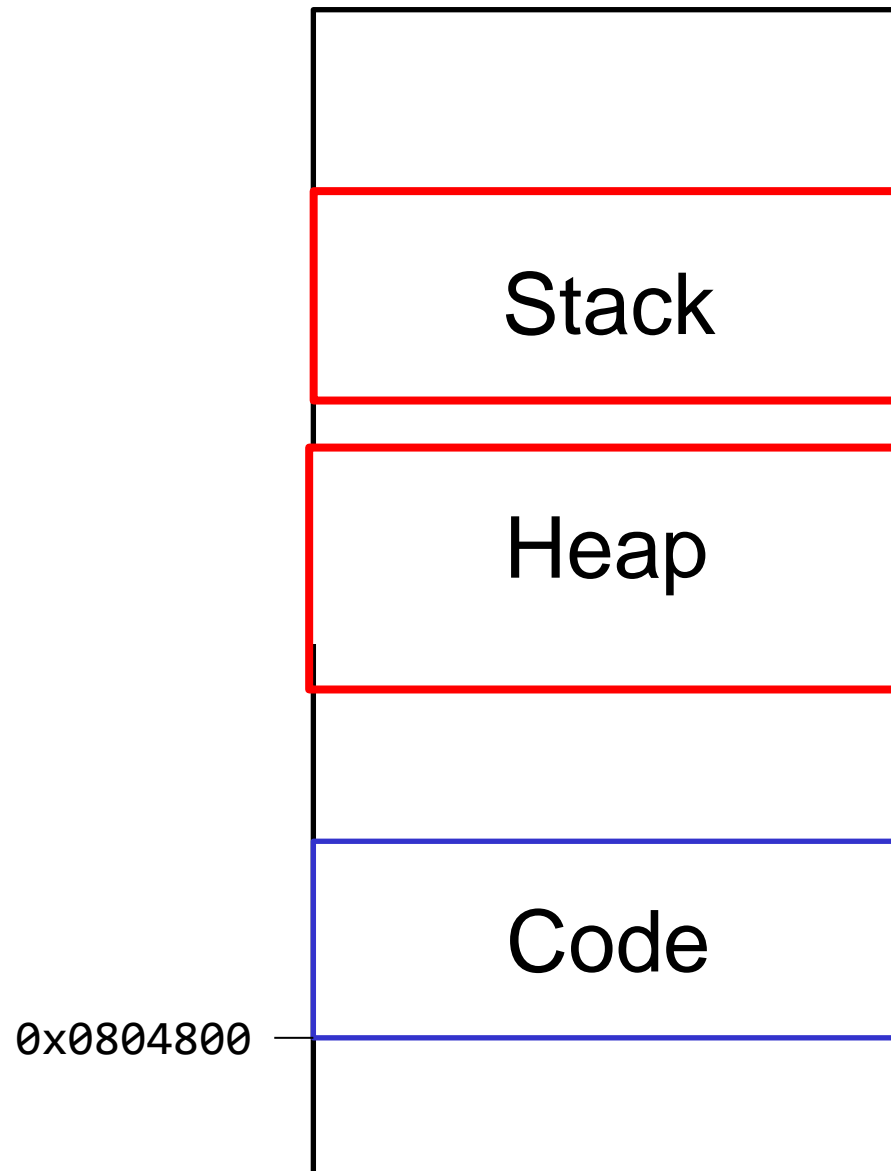
# Memory Layout



With ASLR, #1



# Memory Layout

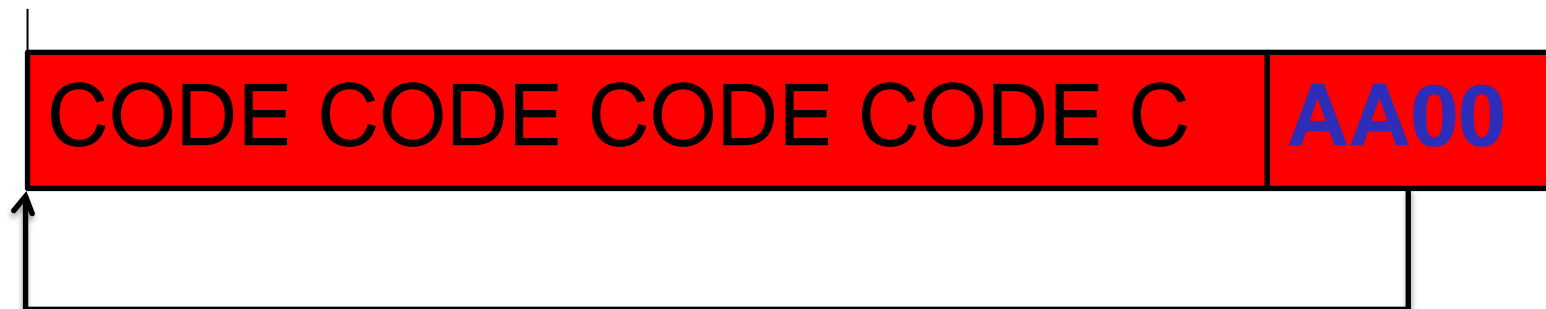


With ASLR, #2

0xAA00



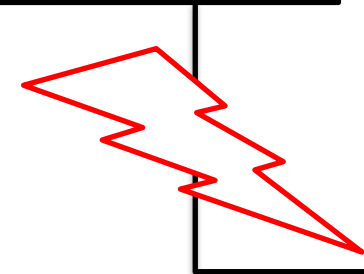
0xAA00



**0xBB00**



**0xBB00**



**“Segmentation Fault”**

**AA00 != BB00**

## Randomness is measured in entropy

- ✦ Several restrictions
  - ✦ Pages have to be page aligned: 4096 bytes = 12 bit
- ✦ Very restricted address space in x32 architecture
  - ✦ ~8 bit for stack (256 possibilities)
- ✦ Much more space for x64
  - ✦ ~22 bit for stack

## Default ASLR:

- ✦ Stack
- ✦ Heap
- ✦ Libraries (new!)

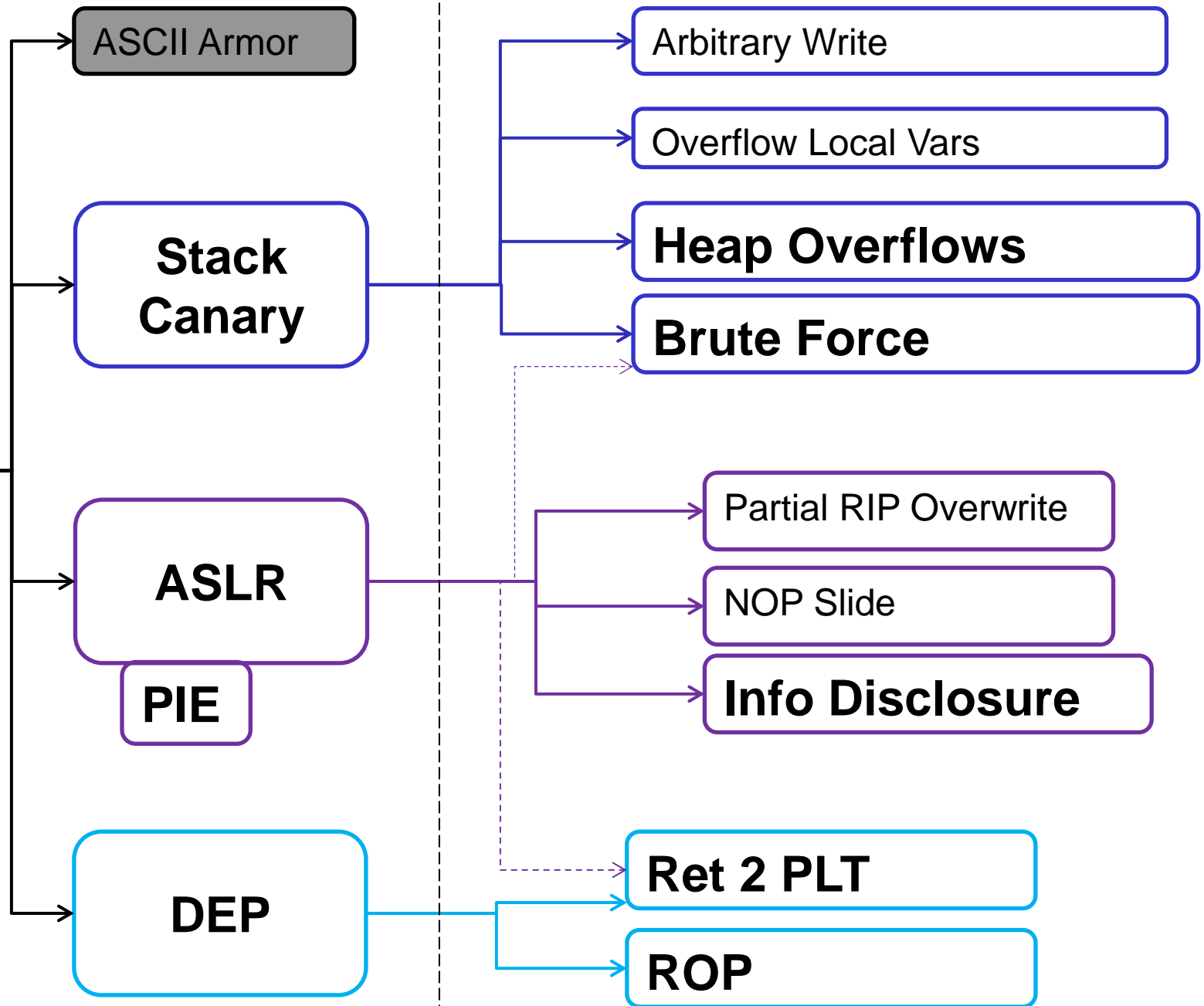
## Re-randomization

- ✦ ASLR only applied on `exec()` [`exec` = execute new program]
- ✦ Not on `fork()` [`fork` = copy]

Randomize Memory Layout

Attacker can't call/reference what he cant find

# Exploit Mitigations



## ASCII Armor:

- ✦ Maps Library addresses to memory addresses with null bytes



ASCII Armor:

- ✦ Maps Library addresses to memory addresses with null bytes

Why null bytes?

- ✦ In C, Null bytes are string determinator
- ✦ strcpy, strcat, strncpy, sprintf, ...

`strlen(AAAA\00BBBB\00) = 4`

```
(gdb) info file
```

```
0x0000000000400980 - 0x0000000000400d92 is .text
```

```
0x0000000000400830 - 0x0000000000400980 is .plt
```

```
0x0000000000400980 - 0x0000000000400d92 is .text
```

```
0x00000000006011f8 - 0x0000000000601200 is .got
```

```
0x0000000000601200 - 0x00000000006012b8 is .got.plt
```

```
0x00007ffff7b9ed80 - 0x00007ffff7b9eff8 is .got in  
/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libc.so.6
```

```
0x00007ffff7b9f000 - 0x00007ffff7b9f078 is .got.plt in  
/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libc.so.6
```

Recap:

- ✦ Putting important stuff at addresses with 0 bytes breaks strcpy etc.

# Exploit Mitigation - Conclusion

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# Exploit Mitigations

ASCII Armor

Stack  
Canary

ASLR

PIE

DEP

Arbitrary Write

Overflow Local Vars

Heap Overflows

Brute Force

Partial RIP Overwrite

NOP Slide

Info Disclosure

Ret 2 PLT

ROP



Stack canary: **detects/blocks** overflows

DEP: makes it impossible to **execute** uploaded code

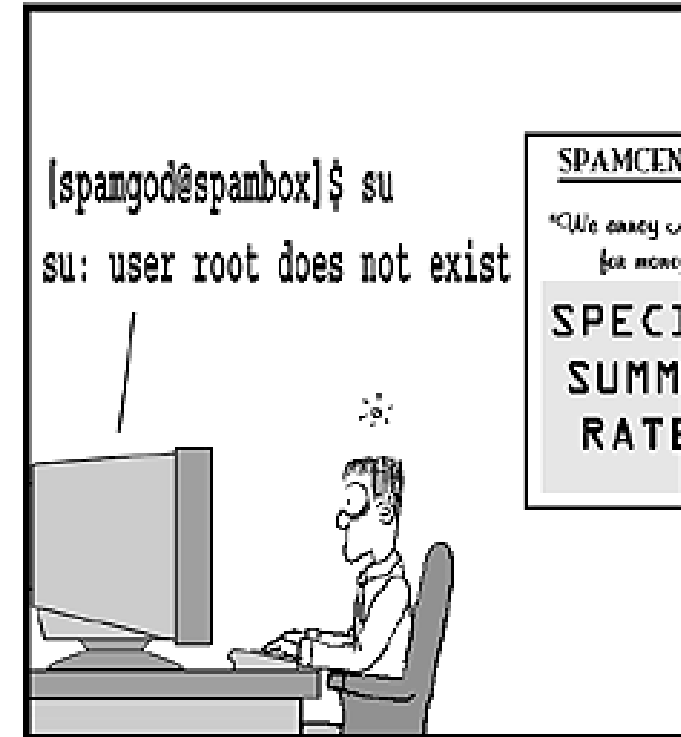
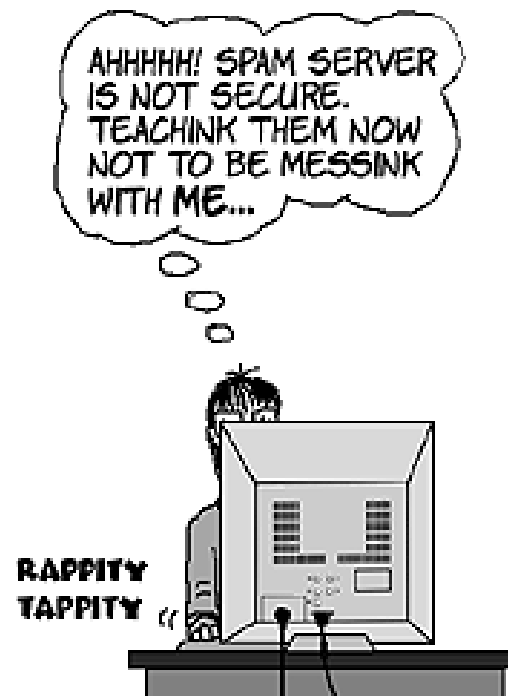
ASLR: makes it impossible to **locate** data

ASCII Armor: makes it impossible to **insert** certain data

# Recap! All Exploit Mitigations



USER FRIENDLY by Illiad



How is the state of Exploit Mitigations in Linux?

Easy: Everything active by default!

ASLR: System-level

DEP: System level

Stack Canary: Per-program (3<sup>rd</sup> party programs?)



<https://www.elttam.com.au/blog/playing-with-canaries/>

- ✦ Playing with canaries
- ✦ Looking at SSP over several architectures.