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NPTEL (<https://swayam.gov.in/explorer?ncCode=NPTEL>) » Information Security - 5 - Secure Systems Engineering (course)



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Course
outline

About NPTEL
()

How does an
NPTEL
online
course
work? ()

Week 1 ()

- Introduction to Secure Systems Engineering (unit?)

Week 1 : Assignment 1

The due date for submitting this assignment has passed.

Due on 2025-02-05, 23:59 IST.

Assignment submitted on 2025-02-04, 22:14 IST

1) Which of the following sections in an ELF file contains the executable machine code?

1 point

- ☒ .text
- ☐ .data
- ☐ .bss
- ☐ .symtab

Yes, the answer is correct.

Score: 1

Accepted Answers:

.text

2) Which of the following is a common cause of buffer overflow vulnerabilities in software?

1 point

- ☐ Using dynamically allocated memory.
- ☒ Writing more data to a buffer than it can hold.
- ☐ Declaring global variables in a program.
- ☐ Using high-level programming languages like Python or Java.

Yes, the answer is correct.

unit=17&less
n=18)

- Program Binaries (unit=17&less
n=19)
- Buffer Overflows in the Stack (unit=17&less
n=20)
- Buffer Overflows in the Stack (unit=17&less
n=21)
- Using GDB to Understand a C Program's Stack (Demo) (unit=17&less
n=22)
- A Program that Skips an Instruction (Demo) (unit=17&less
n=23)
- Buffer Overflow in the Stack (Demo) (unit=17&less
n=24)
- Creating a Shell using a Buffer Overflow (Demo) (unit=17&less
n=25)
- Week 1 Feedback Form : Information Security - 5 - Secure Systems Engineering

Score: 1

Accepted Answers:

Writing more data to a buffer than it can hold.

3) Consider the following C program:

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>

int main() {
    char buffer[10];
    strcpy(buffer, "HelloWorldOverflow");
    printf("Buffer contains: %s\n", buffer);
    return 0;
}
```

If the **buffer** array can hold 10 characters, how many extra characters are written to memory due to the **strcpy** operation?

8

No, the answer is incorrect.

Score: 0

Accepted Answers:

(Type: Numeric) 9

1 point

4) Match the following

1 point

- | | |
|------------|---|
| A) .data | 1) Stores uninitialized global and static data |
| B) .bss | 2) Stores initialized global and static variables |
| C) .symtab | 3) Stores read-only data like string literals |
| D) .rodata | 4) Stores the symbol table for debugging |

☐ A-1 B-2 C-4 D-3

☐ A-1 B-3 C-2 D-4

☐ A-2 B-1 C-3 D-4

☒ A-2 B-1 C-4 D-3

No, the answer is incorrect.

Score: 0

Accepted Answers:

A-1 B-2 C-4 D-3

5) You are debugging a program in GDB and you have stopped at a breakpoint. The value of a variable **x** is **0x1000**, and the program counter (PC) is at address **0x2000**. If you use the GDB command **x/4xw \$pc**, what will be the output? **1 point**

☒ The contents of 4 words starting from address **0x2000**.

☐ The contents of 4 bytes starting from address **0x2000**.

(unit?
unit=17&less
n=26)

● **Quiz: Week 1 :
Assignment 1
(assessment?
name=145)**

Week 2 ()

Week 3 ()

Week 4 ()

Week 5 ()

Week 6 ()

Week 7 ()

Week 8 ()

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Material ()**

- ☐ The contents of 4 words starting from address **0x1000**.
- ☐ The contents of 4 bytes starting from address **0x1000**.

Yes, the answer is correct.

Score: 1

Accepted Answers:

The contents of 4 words starting from address 0x2000.

6) In the context of exploiting a buffer overflow vulnerability, which of the following is a **1 point** key characteristic of shellcode that makes it effective for executing arbitrary commands on a target system?

- ☐ Shellcode is typically written in a high-level language, making it portable across different architectures.
- ☒ Shellcode is designed to run correctly regardless of where it is placed in memory.
- ☐ Shellcode relies on external libraries to execute system calls, making it vulnerable to detection by security tools.
- ☐ Shellcode is executed by the operating system's kernel, bypassing user-space security mechanisms like stack canaries.

Yes, the answer is correct.

Score: 1

Accepted Answers:

Shellcode is designed to run correctly regardless of where it is placed in memory.

7) True or False:

1 point

The GCC flag **-fno-stack-protector** helps prevent buffer overflow vulnerabilities by disabling stack protection mechanisms.

- ☐ True
- ☒ False

Yes, the answer is correct.

Score: 1

Accepted Answers:

False

8) In a 32-bit system, we are debugging a program using gdb, and we run the following **1 point** command

`$ x/32x $esp,`

what is the size of the memory displayed in bytes?

- ☐ 1 byte
- ☐ 1024 bytes
- ☒ 128 bytes
- ☐ 32 bytes

Yes, the answer is correct.

Score: 1

Accepted Answers:

128 bytes

9) Suppose the above program is compiled as follows:

1 point

```
$ gcc prog.c -o prog
```

Which of the following statements will display the contents of executable sections?

- ☐ objdump -d -Intel prog
- ☐ objdump --disassemble-all prog
- ☐ objdump --disassemble prog.c
- ☒ objdump -D prog

No, the answer is incorrect.

Score: 0

Accepted Answers:

objdump -d -Intel prog

10) Match the following

1 point

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Instructions | a. Heap section |
| 2. Global and Static Data | b. Stack section |
| 3. Function call invocation | c. Data section |
| 4. Dynamic allocation | d. Text section |

- ☒ 1-d 2-c 3-b 4-a
- ☐ 1-a 2-b 3-c 4-d
- ☐ 1-d 2-d 3-c 4-a
- ☐ 1-a 2-b 3-d 4-c

Yes, the answer is correct.

Score: 1

Accepted Answers:

1-d 2-c 3-b 4-a