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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 ( )

Week 2 ( )

Week 3 ( )

## Week 4 : Assignment 4

The due date for submitting this assignment has passed.

Due on 2025-02-19, 23:59 IST.

Assignment submitted on 2025-02-18, 21:27 IST

1) Which of the following code snippets is most likely to cause an integer overflow vulnerability? **1 point**

- ☒ `int a = INT_MAX;  
int b = 1;  
int result = a + b;`
- ☐ `int a = 100;  
int b = 200;  
int result = a - b;`
- ☐ `int a = 10;  
int b = 20;  
int result = a * b;`
- ☐ `int a = 1000;  
int b = 10;  
int result = a / b;`

Yes, the answer is correct.  
Score: 1

Accepted Answers:

```
int a = INT_MAX;  
int b = 1;  
int result = a + b;
```

**Week 4 ()**

● Format string vulnerabilities (unit? unit=43&lesson=44)

● Integer Vulnerabilities (unit? unit=43&lesson=45)

● Heap (unit? unit=43&lesson=46)

● Heap exploits (unit? unit=43&lesson=47)

● Demo of Integer Vulnerabilities (unit? unit=43&lesson=48)

○ Demo of Integer Vulnerabilities II (unit? unit=43&lesson=49)

● Demo of Format String Vulnerabilities (unit? unit=43&lesson=50)

○ Week 4 Feedback Form : Information Security - 5 - Secure Systems Engineering (unit?

2) What is the primary danger of the following heap overflow code?

**1 point**

```
char *buffer = (char *)malloc(10);
strcpy(buffer, "This is a very long string that exceeds the
buffer size");
```

- ☒ It can corrupt adjacent memory chunks, leading to arbitrary code execution.
- ☐ It can cause the program to crash due to a segmentation fault.
- ☐ It can overwrite the return address on the stack.
- ☐ It can cause a denial of service by exhausting memory.

Yes, the answer is correct.

Score: 1

Accepted Answers:

*It can corrupt adjacent memory chunks, leading to arbitrary code execution.*

3) In glibc's heap implementation, what is the purpose of the "top chunk" in the following code?

**1 point**

```
void *chunk1 = malloc(100);
void *chunk2 = malloc(200);
free(chunk1);
free(chunk2);
```

- ☐ It is the first chunk allocated in the heap.
- ☒ It is a special chunk that serves as the boundary between allocated and free memory.
- ☐ It is used to store metadata about the heap.
- ☐ It is a chunk that is always free and never allocated.

Yes, the answer is correct.

Score: 1

Accepted Answers:

*It is a special chunk that serves as the boundary between allocated and free memory.*

4) Which of the following code snippets demonstrates a common technique to exploit heap metadata corruption? **1 point**

- ☐

```
char *buffer = (char *)malloc(10);
free(buffer);
buffer[0] = 'A';
```
- ☐

```
char *buffer = (char *)malloc(10);
buffer[10] = 'A';
```
- ☒

```
char *buffer = (char *)malloc(10);
free(buffer);
*(size_t*)(buffer - 8) = 0x41;
```
- ☐

```
char *buffer = (char *)malloc(10);
strcpy(buffer, "AAAAAAAAAA");
```

Yes, the answer is correct.

unit=43&lesson=51)

● **Quiz: Week 4 :  
Assignment 4  
(assessment?  
name=148)**

**Week 5 ()**

**Week 6 ()**

**Week 7 ()**

**Week 8 ()**

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**Lecture  
Material ()**

Score: 1

Accepted Answers:

```
char *buffer = (char *)malloc(10);
free(buffer);
*(size_t *) (buffer - 8) = 0x41;
```

5) What happens if an integer overflow occurs in the size calculation for a memory allocation request in the following code?

**1 point**

```
size_t size = 100;
size_t count = SIZE_MAX / size + 1;
void *buffer = malloc(size * count);
```

- ☐ The program will crash immediately.
- ☒ A smaller buffer than expected may be allocated, leading to a buffer overflow.
- ☐ The heap will be corrupted, and all future allocations will fail.
- ☐ The program will enter an infinite loop.

Yes, the answer is correct.

Score: 1

Accepted Answers:

*A smaller buffer than expected may be allocated, leading to a buffer overflow.*

6) In glibc's heap implementation, what is the purpose of heap consolidation?

**1 point**

- ☒ To merge adjacent free chunks to reduce fragmentation.
- ☐ To allocate memory more efficiently.
- ☐ To prevent double-free vulnerabilities.
- ☐ To detect heap overflows.

Yes, the answer is correct.

Score: 1

Accepted Answers:

*To merge adjacent free chunks to reduce fragmentation.*

7) Consider the following code snippet:

**1 point**

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

int main() {
    char *buffer1 = (char *)malloc(16);
    char *buffer2 = (char *)malloc(16);
    free(buffer1);
    free(buffer2);
    char *buffer3 = (char *)malloc(16);
    strcpy(buffer3, "Exploit Me!");
    strcpy(buffer1, "Overwrite!");

    return 0;
```

```
}
```

- ☐ The program will crash due to a segmentation fault
- ☒ The contents of `buffer3` will be overwritten with "Overwrite!"
- ☐ The heap metadata will be corrupted, leading to arbitrary code execution
- ☐ The program will terminate normally without any visible effects

Yes, the answer is correct.

Score: 1

Accepted Answers:

*The contents of `buffer3` will be overwritten with "Overwrite!"*

8) In glibc's heap implementation, which of the following best explains why `buffer3` reuses the memory previously occupied by `buffer1`? **1 point**

- ☐ The heap allocator uses a first-fit strategy to allocate memory.
- ☒ The heap allocator uses a last-in-first-out (LIFO) strategy for fastbins.
- ☐ The heap allocator merges adjacent free chunks to reduce fragmentation.
- ☐ The heap allocator uses a best-fit strategy to allocate memory.

Yes, the answer is correct.

Score: 1

Accepted Answers:

*The heap allocator uses a last-in-first-out (LIFO) strategy for fastbins.*

9) In glibc's heap implementation, the `prev_size` field of a chunk is only used when the previous chunk is free. **1 point**

- ☒ True
- ☐ False

Yes, the answer is correct.

Score: 1

Accepted Answers:

*True*

10) In glibc's heap implementation, the size of a chunk is always aligned to 8 bytes (on 32-bit systems) or 16 bytes (on 64-bit systems). If a user requests 24 bytes of memory on a 64-bit system, what will be the actual size of the allocated chunk (including metadata)?

No, the answer is incorrect.

Score: 0

Accepted Answers:

*(Type: Numeric) 32*

**1 point**

