

Exploitation Techniques and Mitigations

Dark Arts of Computer Science

Alex Hirsch Patrick Ober 2016-01-15

Alex Hirsch, Patrick Ober 1/



Outline

Platform x86

Exploit printf

Buffer Overflow

Shell Code

Data Execution Prevention (DEP)

Return Oriented Programming (ROP)

Address Space Layout Randomization

(ASLR)

Stack Cookies (Canary)

Heap Corruption

Control Flow Integrity (CFI)

Polymorphic Code

A Word about x86_64 and ARM

Alex Hirsch, Patrick Ober 2/7:



Acknowledgement

We reuse a lot from MBE, a university course about modern binary exploitation at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (2015), because ...

of them: They did a great job

of you: You will see familiar

material

of us: We are lazy

Check them out: http://rpis.ec/

https://github.com/RPISEC/MBE



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Why x86?

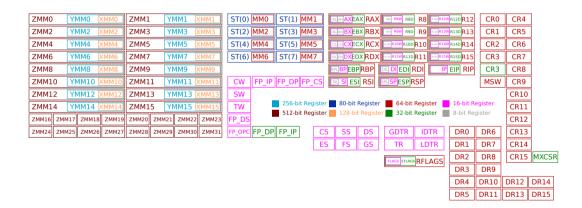
- ▶ It's simpler, yet not overly simplified
- ▶ People call it *more academic* *sigh*
- Most techniques can be translated easily
- Most material covers x86

Demonstrations: Ubuntu 14.04 LTS x86 inside VirtualBox

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Registers

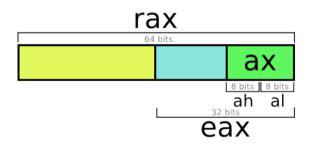


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Registers

- EAX Accumulator Register
- **EBX** Base Register
- **ECX** Counter Register
- **EDX** Data Register
- **ESI** Source Index
- **EDI** Destination Index
- **EBP** Base Pointer
- **ESP** Stack Pointer



- http://www.swansontec.com/sregisters.html / http://nullprogram.com/

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Memory Management

- Kernel manages physical memory through memory management unit (hardware)
- Process sees only virtual memory
- 4 KiB typical page size
- Addresses can be decomposed (page pointer + offset):

 $0xA1B2C3D4 \rightarrow 0xA1B2C000 + 0x3D4$

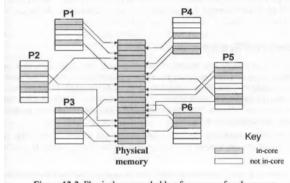


Figure 13-2. Physical memory holds a few pages of each process.

- Unix Internals by Uresh Vahalia



Process' Memory



You may already know some of this.

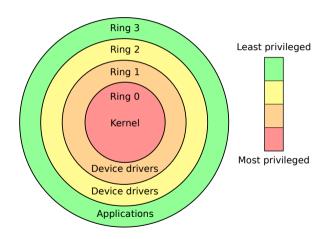
What we'll see today:

- Pages have permissions rwx (DEP)
- Layout not always the same (ASLR)
- Stack layout
- Lots of pointers

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System Call & Protection Rings



Your CPU can switch from a more privileged state to a less privileged one

Kernel does not run always, process cannot do everything (enforced by hardware)

Process uses *System Calls* to notify the kernel to take over (context switch)

```
int 0x80 ; old, but still works
call write : new. sysenter via VDSO
```

- Wikipedia



System Calls

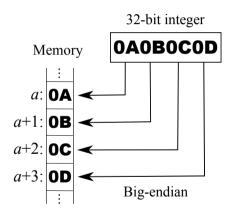
# _	Name		Registers									
-		\$	eax	\$	ebx 💠	ecx \$	edx	\$	esi	\$	edi	4
0 s	ys_restart_syscall	0x	00		-	-	-	-		-		
1 s	ys_exit	0x	01		int error_code	-	-	-		-		
2 s	ys_fork	0x	02		struct pt_regs *	-	-	-		-		
3 s	ys_read	0x	03		unsigned int fd	charuser *buf	size_t count	-		-		
4 s	ys_write	0x	04		unsigned int fd	const charuser *buf	size_t count	-		-		
5 s	ys_open	0x	05		const charuser *filename	int flags	int mode	-		-		
6 s	ys_close	0x	06		unsigned int fd		-	-		-		
7 s	ys_waitpid	0x	07		pid_t pid	intuser *stat_addr	int options	-		-		
8 s	ys_creat	0x	08		const charuser *pathname	int mode	-	•		•		
9 s	ys_link	0x	09		const charuser *oldname	const charuser *newname	-	-		-		

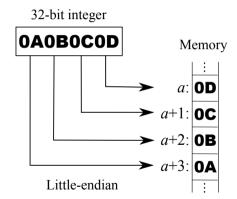
- http://syscalls.kernelgrok.com/

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Endianness





- Wikipedia

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Calling Convention

Defines:

- Where to place arguments
- Where to place return value
- Where to place return address
- Who prepares the stack
- Who cleans up (caller or callee)

Depends on:

- Your platform
- Your toolchain (language)
- Your settings (compiler flags)

C Declaration (cdecl):

- Arguments on stack (reverse order) stack aligned to 16 B boundary
- ► Return via register (EAX / ST0)
- On stack: old instruction pointer (IP) old base pointer (BP)
- Caller does the cleanup



Main Assumption

The target binary and libraries are known.

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Death by printf

```
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
5
           char passwd[100] = "AAAABBBB";
           char buf[100] = \{0\};
6
7
8
           scanf("%s", buf);
9
10
           if (strncmp(buf, passwd, 100) == 0) {
               printf("correct\n");
11
12
           } else {
13
               printf("You entered:\n");
14
               printf(buf);
15
               printf("\n");
16
17
18
           return 0:
19
```

```
| > echo foobar | ./format

You entered:

foobar

| > echo AAAABBBB | ./format

correct

| > echo '%08x' | ./format

You entered:

bfd98ed4
```

Oh look, a pointer, this may come in handy

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Death by printf

Demonstration

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Death by printf

- Even functions which look very simple / basic can be exploited
- RTFM
- But it gets better ...

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printf Oriented Programming

```
== dataptr++
== dataptr--
== *dataptr++
== *datapr--
== putchar(*dataptr)
== getchar(dataptr)
== if (*dataptr == 0) goto 'l'
== if (*dataptr != 0) goto '['
```

Brainfuck to printf format string compiler: http://github.com/HexHive/printbf

- New memory corruption attacks [32c3]



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Variants

Static Memory Corruption

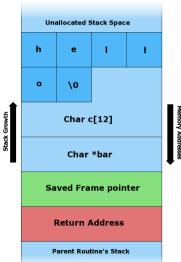
Dynamic Memory (Heap) Corruption

Stack Smashing

```
void foo(void) {
    static char buffer[64];
   /* ... */
void foo(void) {
    char *buffer = (char *) malloc(64);
    /* ... */
    free(buffer);
void foo(void) {
    char buffer[64];
    /* ... */
```



Smashing the Stack



- Here, you write from top to bottom
- You'll first overwrite local variables (bar)
- Followed by arguments
- Your saved return address
- The next frame

- Wikipedia

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Demonstration

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Idea

- Supply executable binary code via buffer
- Rewrite return address to point into buffer
- ► Binary code opens a shell upon execution

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Example

	> cat	shellcode.asm		> nasm	n -f elf shellco	de.asm	
				> objo	dump -d -M intel	shellcode.o	
1	xor	eax, eax	;Clearing eax register	000000	000 <.text>:		
2	push	eax	;Pushing NULL bytes	0:	31 c0	xor	eax,eax
3	push	0x68732f2f	;Pushing //sh	2:	50	push	eax
4	push	0x6e69622f	;Pushing /bin	3:	68 2f 2f 73 68	B push	0x68732f2f
5	mov	ebx, esp	;ebx now has address of /bin//sh	8:	68 2f 62 69 6e	e push	0x6e69622f
6	push	eax	;Pushing NULL byte	d:	89 e3	mov	ebx,esp
7	mov	edx, esp	;edx now has address of NULL byte	f:	50	push	eax
8	push	ebx	;Pushing address of /bin//sh	10:	89 e2	mov	edx,esp
9	mov	ecx, esp	;ecx now has address of address	12:	53	push	ebx
10			;of /bin//sh byte	13:	89 e1	mov	ecx,esp
11	mov	al, 11	;syscall number of execve is 11	15:		mov	al,0xb
12	int	0x80	;Make the system call		cd 80	int	0×80

Result:

\x31\xc0\x50\x68\x2f\x73\x68\x68\x2f\x62\x69\x6e\x89\xe3\x50\x89\xe2\x53\x89\xe1\xb0\x0b\xcd\x80

- https://dhavalkapil.com/blogs/Shellcode-Injection/

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Inject Shell Code

Demonstration

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Putting it together

- Starting position of the stack varies because of environment variables
 - ⇒ prepend shellcode with *NOP Sled* to improve our odds
- Return address will be located after buf
 - ⇒ append 'A's to our shellcode until we reach the return address
- ▶ Aim for the center of the NOP Sled

$$target = \frac{length(NOP Sled)}{2} + length(shellcode) + \#(A) + &RET$$

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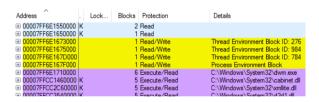
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Data Execution Prevention



Using Windows? Have a look at VMMap.exe from Sysinternals Suite

- Also known as write XOR execute (w^x)
- Sometimes called page protection
- Typically enforced by hardware
- rwx permissions per memory page
- segfault is triggered upon violation



Data Execution Prevention

Famous Quote

If your program simply segfaulted, consider yourself lucky.

Data Execution Prevention (DEP)

Data Execution Prevention

- We cannot execute supplied code anymore =(
- What now?
- Take control!

Alex Hirsch, Patrick Ober Data Execution Prevention (DEP)



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Idea

- ► Target may not have a gimme_shell_plz function.
- Create such a function by combining parts (**gadgets**) of available functions.
- x86 allows us to jump to any location (even between instructions)



Gadgets

```
> objdump -d /lib/i386-linux-gnu/libc.so.6 | grep -B5 ret
18f59:
             8h 54 24 04
                                               0x4(%esp),%edx
                                       mov
18f5d:
             83 c4 20
                                       add
                                               $0x20,%esp
18f60:
             5e
                                               %esi
                                       gog
18f61:
              5f
                                               %edi
                                       gog
18f62:
              5d
                                               %ebp
                                       gog
18f63:
             с3
                                       ret
  . . .
192d4:
             8b 54 24 2c
                                               0x2c(%esp),%edx
                                       mov
192d8:
             e8 23 fc ff ff
                                       call.
                                               18f00 < floatdidf+0x30>
192dd ·
             8h 44 24 18
                                               0x18(%esp),%eax
                                       mov
192e1:
             8b 54 24 1c
                                       mov
                                               0x1c(%esp).%edx
19265
             83 c4 24
                                       add
                                               $0x24.%esp
192e8:
             c3
                                       ret
  . . .
```

- Definition: Sequence of instructions ending with RET
- Target addresses are provided through the buffer and used one by one on ret
- We can also use library functions (ret2libc)



Return2libc

Demonstration



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A Word about x86_64 and ARM



Idea

- Randomize the location of (some) segments every time the program is run
- Return oriented programming cannot be used reliably anymore



/proc/self/maps

```
> cat /proc/self/maps
08048000-08054000 r-xp 00000000 08:01 131085 /bin/cat
08054000-08055000 r--p 0000b000 08:01 131085 /bin/cat
08055000-08056000 rw-p 00000000 08:01 131085 /bin/cat
08905000-08926000 rw-p 00000000 00:00 [heap]
b758d000-b7741000 r-xp 00000000 08:01 917531 /lib/i386-linux-gnu/libc-2.21.so
b7752000-b7753000 r-xp 00000000 00:00 [vdso]
bfb26000-bfb470000 rw-p 00000000 00:00 0 [stack]
```

some lines have been omitted



/proc/self/maps

```
> cat /proc/self/maps
08048000-08054000 r-xp 00000000 08:01 131085 /bin/cat
08054000-08055000 r--p 00000000 08:01 131085 /bin/cat
08055000-08056000 rw-p 00000000 08:01 131085 /bin/cat
0954e000-0956f000 rw-p 00000000 00:00 0 [heap]
b7595000-b7749000 r-xp 00000000 08:01 917531 /lib/i386-linux-gnu/libc-2.21.so
b775a000-b775b000 r-xp 00000000 00:00 0 [vdso]
bfbc9000-bfbea000 rw-p 00000000 00:00 0 [stack]
```

some lines have been omitted



/proc/self/maps

```
> cat /proc/self/maps
08048000-08054000 r-xp 00000000 08:01 131085 /bin/cat
08054000-08055000 r--p 00000000 08:01 131085 /bin/cat
08055000-08056000 rw-p 00000000 08:01 131085 /bin/cat
0913e000-0915f000 rw-p 00000000 00:00 0 [heap]
b75cc000-b7780000 r-xp 00000000 08:01 917531 /lib/i386-linux-gnu/libc-2.21.so
b7791000-b7792000 r-xp 00000000 00:00 0 [vdso]
bf8f88000-bf919000 rw-p 00000000 00:00 0 [stack]
```

some lines have been omitted



Breaking ASLR

- . text segment starts at 0x00400000 if not compiled with PIE (position independent executable)
- Info leak: If we manage to get pointer from the program we can calculate the ASLR offset, Remember the first example with printf
- Brute Force: Guessing may be a viable option on 32 bit



Info Leak Example

Lets say you managed to leak a pointer (0xb7e72280) and you know that this one usually points to printf.

Look how far away system is from printf, in the standard library. It's 0xD0F0 bytes.

We now know that system is at:

0xb7e72280 - 0xD0F0 = 0xb7e65190



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Idea

Put something between buffer and return address, which guards the return address

Terminator canaries: Render **string operations** useless by placing a terminator $(null, \r, \n, -1)$ before return address

Random canaries: Generate a random value, store somewhere *safe*, place on the stack and check before each return whether this value is still the same

Random XOR canaries: Same as above but scrambled to mitigate read-from-stack

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A look at GCC

```
#include <stdio.h>
2
 3
      void fun(void) {
          char buf[8] = \{0\};
4
 5
           fgets(buf, 256, stdin);
           /* break point */
6
           puts(buf):
8
9
10
      int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
11
          fun():
12
           return 0:
13
      > gcc --version
      gcc (Ubuntu 5.2.1-22ubuntu2) 5.2.1 20151010
         . . .
      > gcc -g -o vuln vuln.c
```

```
> gdb ./vuln
AAAAAA
Breakpoint 1, 0x000000000400671 in fun ()
(gdb) show-stack
Stack
0xbffff550: 0x00000003
                                   <-- esp
0xbffff554: 0x41414141
                                   <-- buf
0xhffff558: 0x0a414141
0xbfffff55c: 0x17981f00
                                   <-- canary
       (padding)
       (padding)
0xbffff568: 0xbffff578 (Saved RBP) <-- ebp
0xbffff56c: 0x0804852a (Saved RIP)
```

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Breaking the canary

```
5.2 2:56.03 - /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
2.2 0:00.02 - /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
2.2 0:00.03 - /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
1.8 0:00.02 - /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
2.2 0:00.08 - /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
2.2 0:00.02 - /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
2.2 0:00.02 - /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
2.3 0:00.02 - /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
2.4 0:00.02 - /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
2.5 - /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
2.6 0:00.02 - /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
2.7 0:00.02 - /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
2.8 0:00.02 - /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
```

- Server forks multiple times to create workers
- Memory is handled copy-on-write
 all workers share the same canary
- Server respawns workers if they die
- ▶ ⇒ infinite guesses

Most of the time you can write byte by byte and the first byte is 0:

$$\implies 2^8 \times 3 = 768$$
$$\implies 2^8 \times 7 = 1792$$

guesses at most 32 bit quesses at most 64 bit

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Heap vs. Stack

- ▶ Managed by the programmer through malloc / calloc / recalloc / free
- Mainly used for structs (objects), big buffers, persistent data
- non-linear structure
- Many different implementations (dlmalloc, ptmalloc, ...)
 some applications come with their own implementation
- Details depend heavily on implementation

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Overflow

Heap Segment

Previous Chunk Size

Chunk Size

Data

Previous Chunk Size

Chunk Size

Data

Previous Chunk Size

Chunk Size

Data

Heap Segment

Previous Chunk Size

Chunk Size

AAAAAAAAAAAA AAAAAAAAAAAAA

AAAAAAAAAAAAA

Data

heap overflow

Chunk Size

Dat



Attack Surface

- Anything that handles the now corrupted data can be viewed as additional attack surface
- Structs commonly contain function pointers which can be overwritten
- Use After Free: Pointer gets still used somewhere after free, pointer target is now attack surface, extremely common complex programs (browsers)
- ► **Heap Spraying:** Fill heap with exploitable code, viable on 32 bit, not so on 64 bit (~18 446 744 TB)

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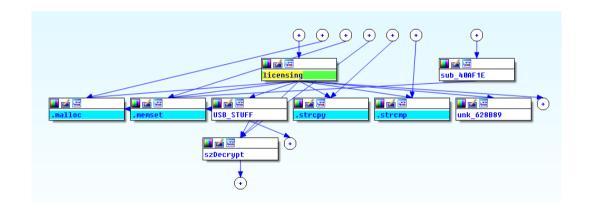
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Control Flow Graph



- unRAID emhttp inside IDA

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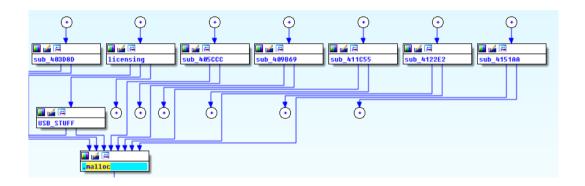
Control Flow Integrity

- Construct a set for each function f containing all functions where f gets called
- Check actual return destination against this set
- Abort if destination is not an element of the specific set

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Control Flow Bending



- unRAID emhttp inside IDA

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Control Flow Bending

- Control flow graph is heavily connected via common functions, like printf, malloc, memcpy, ...
- Such functions make it easy to transition from the attackers entry point to his target location (system)
- Transitions from function to function are valid (with respect to Control Flow Integrity)
- ▶ ⇒ whole path is malicious

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Stack Integrity

- ▶ Place return address on a *shadow stack*
- shadow stack protected by hardware
- lacktriangleright \Longrightarrow Function can only return to its current caller
- ▶ ⇒ Cannot bend control flow anymore

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Breaking Stack Integrity

- Idea: If the program contains a Turing complete **interpreter**, we can just use it to execute our malicious code.
- printf is such an interpreter

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Outlook

Code Pointer Integrity (Volodymyr Kuznetsov et al.)

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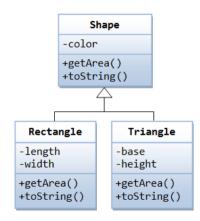
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Polymorphism



-ntu.edu.sg
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Polymorphism Polymorphic Code

- code which evolves during runtime
- often malicious code, but also used in DRM
- makes use of encryption
- makes static analysis hard, you basically need to reverse engineer the system, running it may not reveal all parts or be straight up lethal!

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Polymorphism Polymorphic Code

- malicious parts sometimes only triggered when special conditions are met (time, platform, events, ...)
- metamorphic engines are used to generated new code; little documentation / public knowledge; some even see it as taboo
- have a look at http://z0mbie.daemonlab.org/ and http://vxheaven.org/lib/vmd01.html

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Hijack Example (last year)

```
8
      void hijack(void) {
9
10
          void *page = (void *) ((uintptr_t) func1 & (uintptr_t) ~(4096-1));
                                                                                      28
                                                                                             void func1(void) {
11
                                                                                      29
                                                                                                 puts("func1");
          if (mprotect(page, 4096, PROT_READ | PROT_WRITE | PROT_EXEC) == 0) {
12
                                                                                      30
                                                                                             }
13
               /* calculate jump distance */
                                                                                      31
14
               intptr t imp = ((uintptr t) func2) - ((uintptr t) func1) - 5;
                                                                                      32
                                                                                             void func2(void) {
15
                                                                                      33
                                                                                                 puts("func2"):
16
               /* change first instruction to relative jump */
                                                                                      34
                                                                                             }
17
               ((char *) func1)[0] = 0xe9:
                                                                                      35
18
                                                                                      36
                                                                                             int main(void) {
19
               /* set jump distance (little endian) */
                                                                                      37
                                                                                                 func1():
               ((char *) func1)[1] = (jmp&0xff);
                                                                                                 func2();
20
                                                                                      38
21
               ((char *) func1)[2] = (imp&0xff00) >> 8:
                                                                                                 hijack():
                                                                                      39
22
               ((char *) func1)[3] = (jmp&0xff0000) >> 16;
                                                                                                 func1():
                                                                                      40
23
               ((char *) func1)[4] = imp >> 24:
                                                                                      41
                                                                                                 return 0:
                                                                                      42
                                                                                             }
24
25
26
```



Outline

Platform x86
Exploit printf
Buffer Overflow
Shell Code
Data Execution Prevention (DEP)
Return Oriented Programming (ROP)

Address Space Layout Randomization (ASLR)
Stack Cookies (Canary)
Heap Corruption
Control Flow Integrity (CFI)
Polymorphic Code
A Word about x86 64 and ARM



Modern Devices

Your laptop, your server:

likely x86_64

Your phone, your tablet, maybe even your watch:

probably ARM

Your router:

- probably MIPS
- maybe ARM somewhere in the future



About x86

- No instruction alignment (great for ROP Gadgets)
- Lot of instructions
- ▶ Instruction length varies (1 B to 15 B)
- mov is Turing Complete



About x86_64

- Successor to x86
- Also known as x64 or AMD64
- Fastcall calling convention
 - first few arguments put into registers (RDI, RSI, RDX, RCX, R8, R9)
 - this makes ROP much easier
- More entropy for ASLR (hard to bruteforce)



About ARM

- Used in low power devices
- Smaller number of registers (though 32 bit)
- Calling convention similar to fastcall (r0, r1, r2, r3)
- Instructions can work on multiple registers at once
- Special 16 bit mode (THUMB)
- Cache not flushed automatically



Fin.

OMG finally...

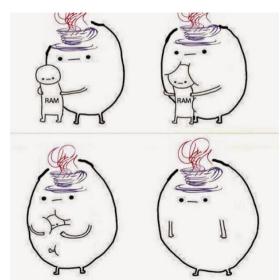
GitHub: https://github.com/HeapLock/ETnM

- Slides + Handout
- Writeup
- Examples

Alex Hirsch, Patrick Ober Conclusion 70/72



"But I use Java!"



- http://twitter.com/java_monitor

Alex Hirsch, Patrick Ober Conclusion 71/7:



"But Luse Java!"

Don't worry, we got you covered.

There are lots of different exploits out there, which share some similarities.

Have a look at this: http://foxglovesecurity.com/2015/11/06/

Alex Hirsch, Patrick Ober Conclusion 72/72