

[j00ru] Fastcalc-hardened (PWN 500)

first blood: 217
solved 3 times

- Original fastcalc task from 2017 teaser:
 - Windows 32-bit, DEP, ASLR, stack cookies enabled.
 - Calculator for arithmetic expressions using SSE2 XMM registers as a stack, and Windows *Fibers* for scheduling.
 - Simple non-linear stack-based buffer overflow skipping the cookie and overflowing return address + 1 dword behind with a controlled 64-bit double.

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- Intended ASLR bypass:
 - The XMM regs are not preserved/restored between fibers.
 - `memcpy()` also uses them for big, aligned copies.
 - Trick: trigger `memcpy()` by creating a long expression, then execute `++++++` to leak the XMM6 value.
- Unintended solutions:
 - Overwrite `std::string` on stack to leak data.
 - Brute-force the very weak 8-bit ASLR.

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- Hardening applied:
 - Moved the `std::string` object on the stack to prevent leaks.
 - Changed the stack layout to overwrite `EBP+RET` instead of `RET+ARG`.
 - Partially fixed the XMM leak by resetting XMM registers at the beginning of the fibers (but not on preemption).
- Solution:
 - Use the XMM leak with a 106+ expression instead of 6+.
 - ... or easier: still brute-force the ASLR but with a slightly more difficult gadget / ROP.

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