# Forced ARM CFI Through DBM Utilization.pdf

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## IoT - Internet of Trickery











## Aren't you tired of Overflows?

In one contemporary operating system, one of the functions provided is to move limited amounts of information between system and user space. The code performing this function does not check the source and destination addresses properly, permitting portions of the monitor to be overlaid by the user. This can be used to inject code into the monitor that will permit the user to seize control of the machine.

Can you guess when was this written?

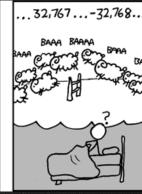
#### Haven't we suffered enough?

- Stack (based) Overflow
- Double Free
- Use After Free
- Heap Overflow
- •

The answer is 1972!









#### Problem

- Awareness (Lack of)
- Development Schedule
- Don't Care
- Awareness
- Awareness
- Awareness

#### Solution?

- Education
- Education
- Education
- Education
- Education
- Education
- ... Or we can force them ©

## DBM – Dynamic Binary Modification

- Examples
  - DynamoRIO
  - Pin

- Challenges:
  - Statically Linked Binaries
  - Non-PIE





For fuzzing



High overhead

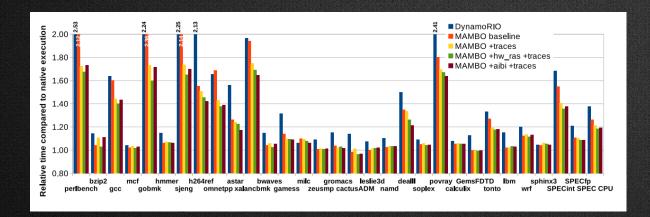




Almost **nothing** for embedded platforms

#### MAMBO

- "A low-overhead dynamic binary instrumentation and modification tool for ARM (now with both AArch32 and AArch64 support)"
- Can be praised here: https://github.com/beehive-lab/mambo
- Much love and thanks to Cosmin Gorgovan, Amanieu d'Antras, Mikel Luján on this beautiful project.
- Performs very good on the average case



| Tool                        | Geomean overhead <sup>1</sup> | Worst case overhead <sup>1</sup> |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| MAMBO-opt                   | 12%                           | 66%                              |
| MAMBO-baseline <sup>2</sup> | 26%                           | 165%                             |
| DynamoRIO                   | 34%                           | 159%                             |
| Valgrind                    | >200%                         | >5000%                           |

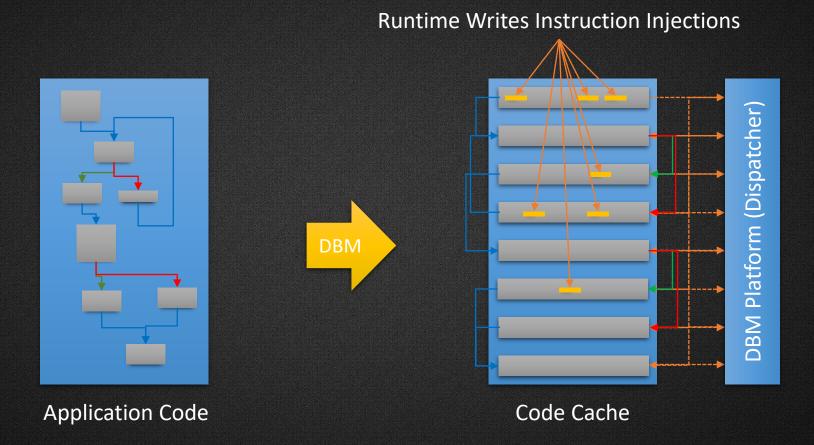
Performance of DBM tools for ARM

Relative execution time for SPEC CPU2006 on ODROID-XU3 (Cortex A7 in-order)

More performance graphs here

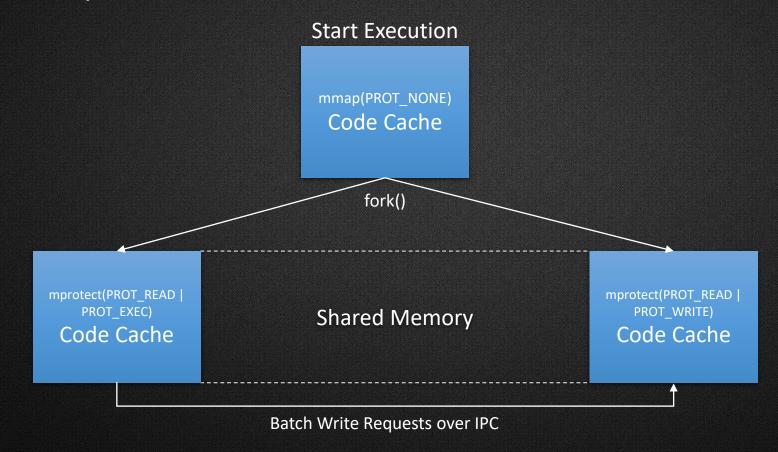
https://www.research.manchester.ac.uk/portal/files/65557332/cosmin mambo icpe2018.pdf

## How a DBM works

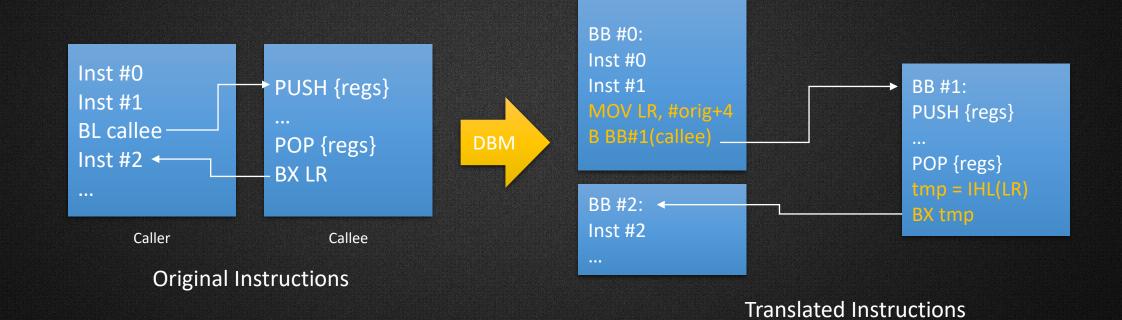


## The JIT Problem

JITs are a pain because of RWX



## How a DBM works (cont)



## Enforcing Mitigations - Requirements

- Preprocessed ELF Functions Table
  - Hook thread start
  - Preprocessing ELF during startup
  - Use all information available to map ELF Functions
    - Use cheap tricks and heuristics to find functions



#### Trouble in Paradise

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
static int foo1(int a)
    return a * 1;
static int foo2(int a)
    return a * 2;
static int foo3(int a)
typedef int (*fptr_t)(int);
 static fptr_t fptrs[] = { foo1, foo2, foo3 };
int main(int argc, char ** argv)
     int func;
    if (argc != 1 + 2)
        printf("Usage: %s <1|2|3> <val>\n", argv[0]);
        exit(1);
     func = atoi(argv[1]);
     if ((func < 1) || (func > 3))
        printf("Please choose a number between 1 to 3\n");
    printf("Res = %d\n", fptrs[atoi(argv[1]) - 1](atoi(argv[2])));
```

• IDA Failed in finding these functions

```
ext:00010492
                                                                                           Warning Warning
                                                                                                    IDA failed to display the program in graph mode.
                                                                                                    Only instructions belonging to functions can be displayed in graph mode.
                                                                                                    For other program items IDA uses the text representation.
                                                                                                    Don't display this message again
                                                                                                                                                                 OK
                                  LDR.W
                                                     R7, [SP],#4
```

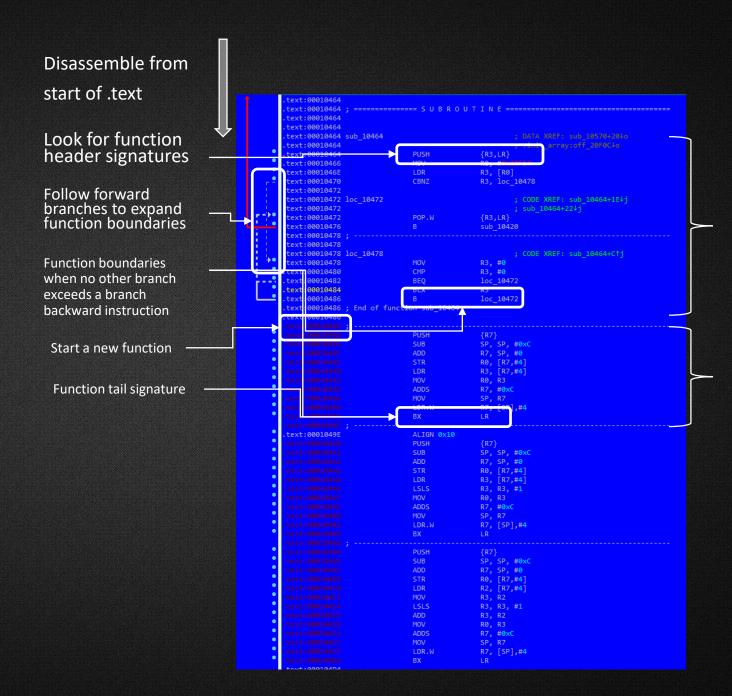
... This is what the cheap tricks are for.

**ELF Functions Table** 

.text:0010464

.text:0010488

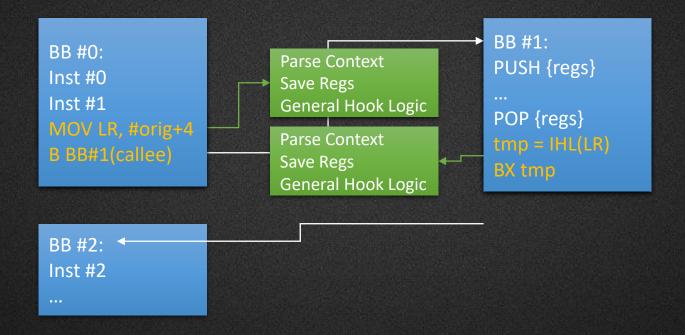
• • •



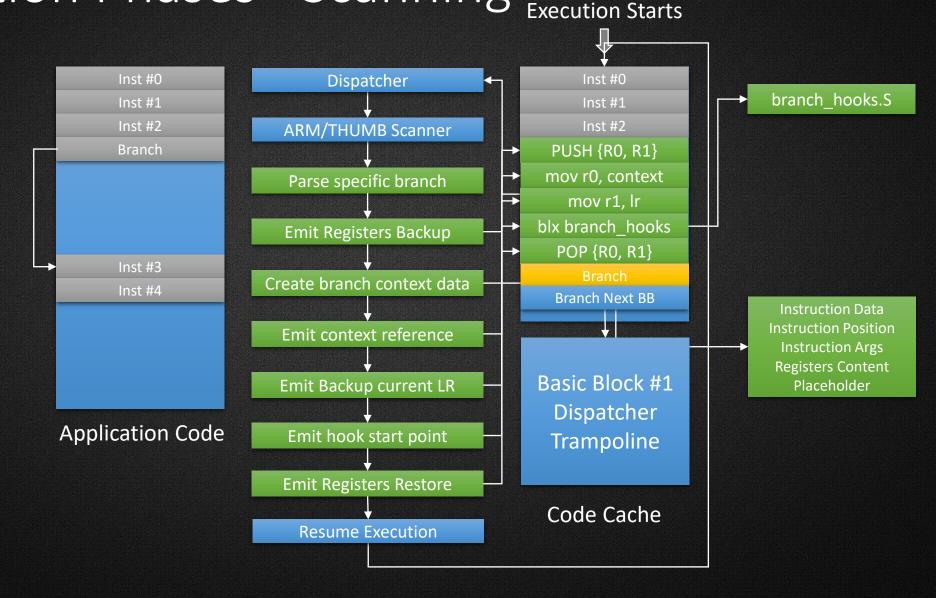
**Detected Function** 

**Detected Function** 

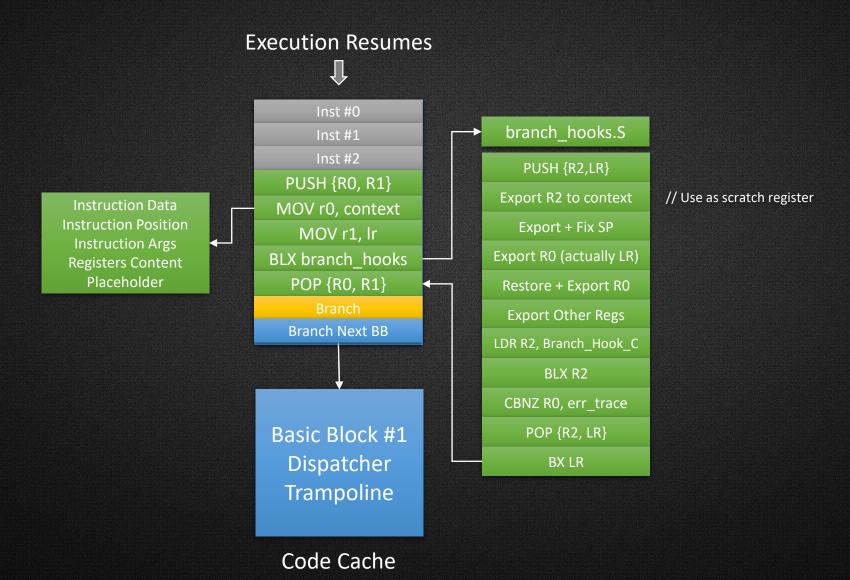
## Enforcing Memory Mitigations



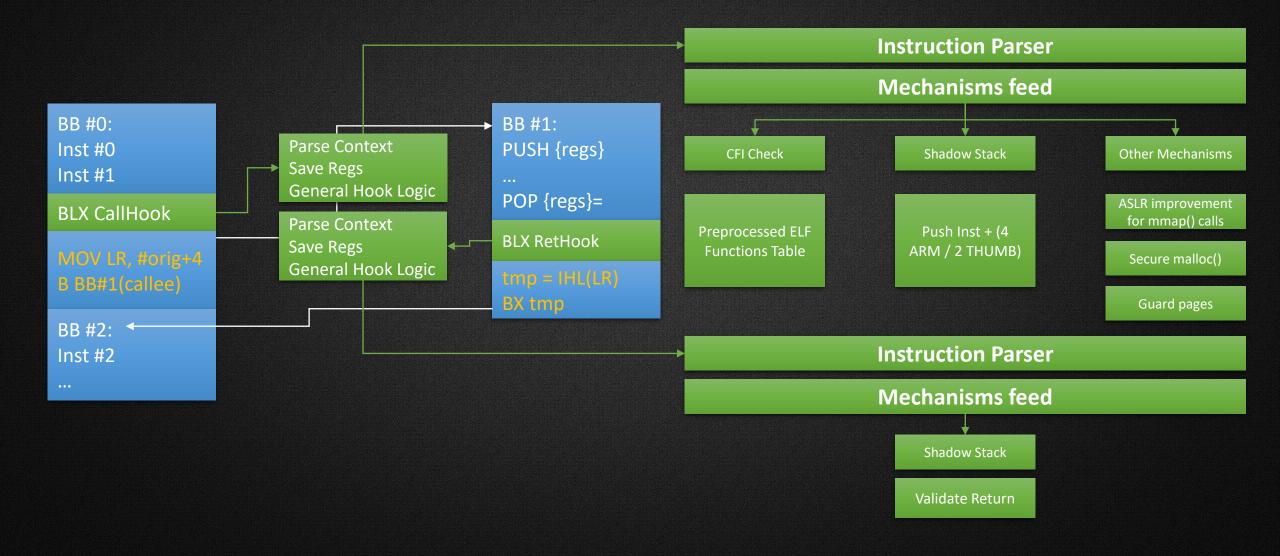
## Protection Phases - Scanning



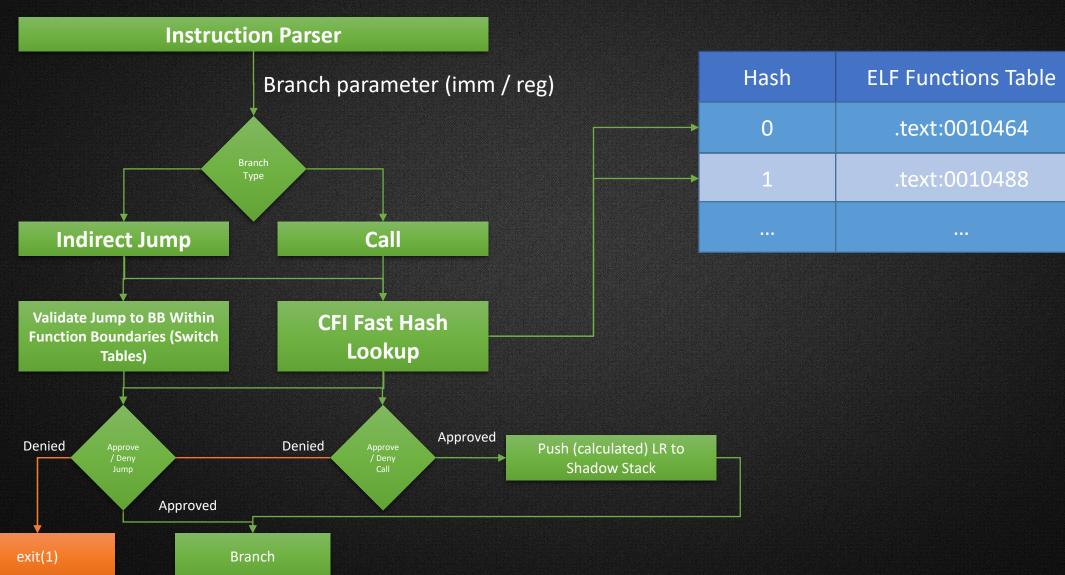
## Protection Phases - Running



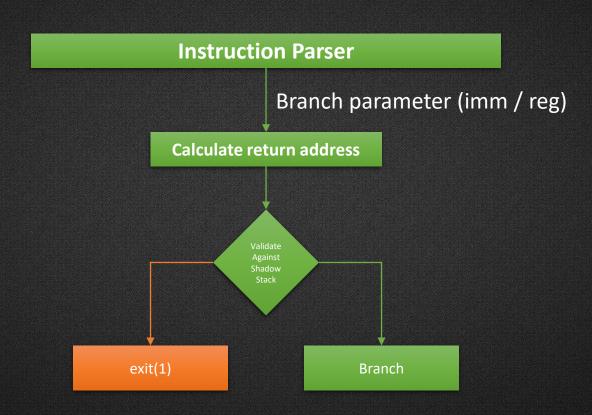
## Enforcing Memory Mitigations



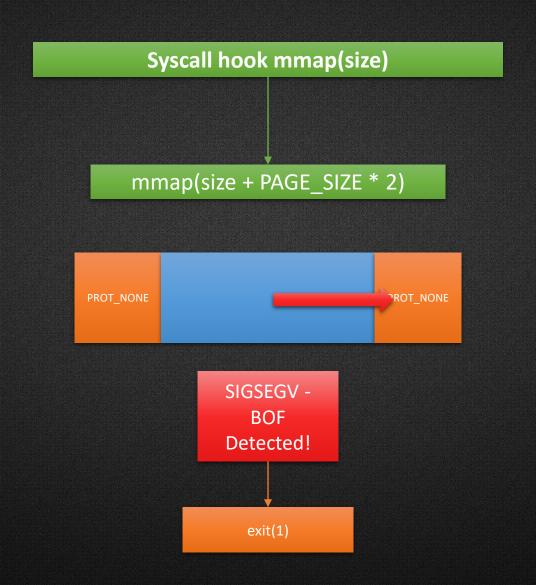
#### Coarse Grained CFI



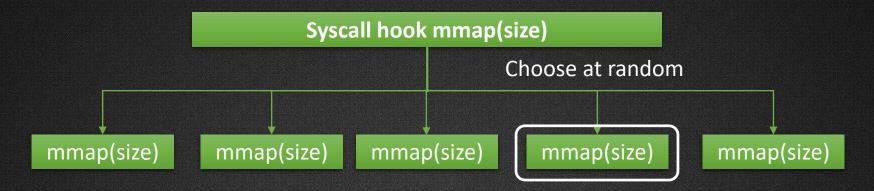
## Coarse Grained CFI



## Other Mechanisms (Guard Pages)

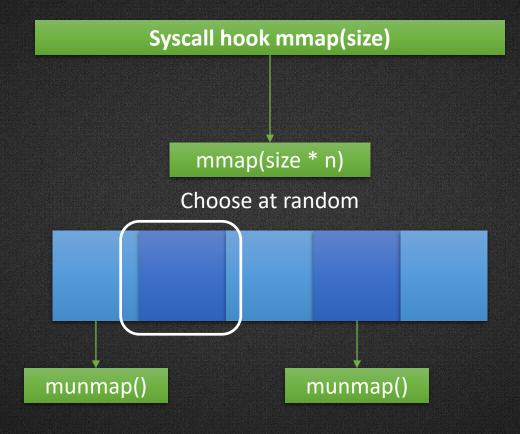


## Other Mechanisms (ASLR)



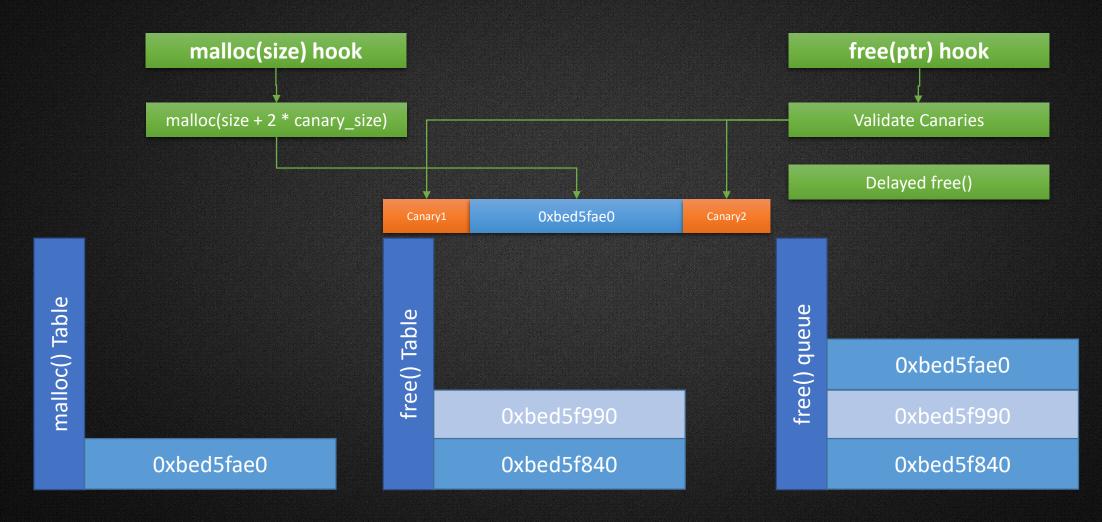
Multiple syscall overhead dependent on **n** calls Memory Fragmentation <sup>⊗</sup>

## Other Mechanisms (ASLR)



Better performance independent of **n** <sup>②</sup> Memory still fragmented <sup>③</sup>

## Lets Play with Malloc()



## Questions?