Introduction to Information Security - CS 458 - Spring 2024

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Task 1: Generating Two Different Files with the Same MD5 Hash

We created two distinct files for this task that have the same MD5 hash values. These two files have the same prefix at the beginning, making them identical. We have used the md5collgen program to do this.

Creating a file named 'prefix.txt' and writing the content in to the file using nano command. Viewing the contents of the file using 'cat' command.

```
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ nano prefix.txt
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ cat prefix.txt
This is the assignment for introduction to information security.
This is the third lab assignmnet.
```

For a given prefix file 'prefix.txt', the following program generates two output files, out1.bin and out2.bin:

md5collgen -p prefix.txt -o out1.bin out2.bin

```
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ md5collgen -p prefix.txt -o out1.bin out2.bin
MD5 collision generator v1.5
by Marc Stevens (http://www.win.tue.nl/hashclash/)

Using output filenames: 'out1.bin' and 'out2.bin'
Using prefixfile: 'prefix.txt'
Using initial value: 344ccf2e85855d064bd58139102fa669

Generating first block: ..........
Generating second block: W.......................
Running time: 4.96938 s
```

Using the command, we have verified if the output files are distinct or not.

diff out1.bin out2.bin

```
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ diff out1.bin out2.bin
Binary files out1.bin and out2.bin differ
```

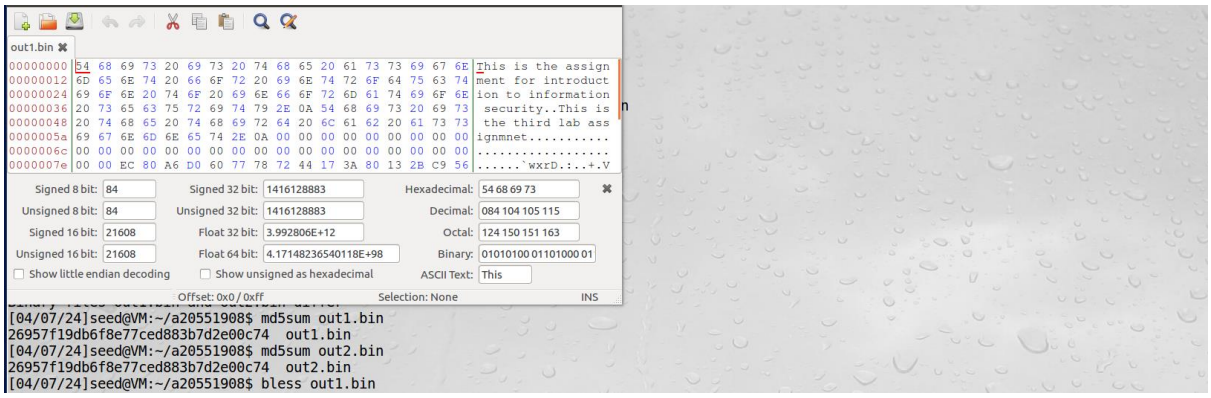
We have further verified each output file's MD5 hash using the md5sum command.

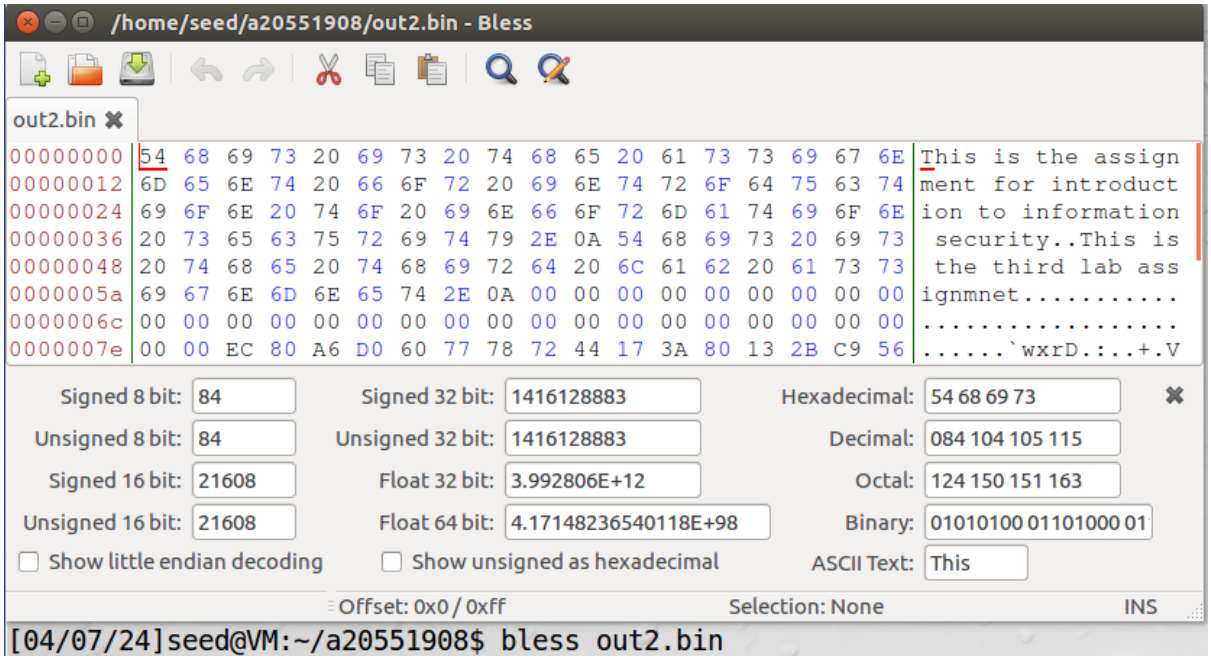
md5sum out1.bin

md5sum out2.bin

```
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ md5sum out1.bin
26957f19db6f8e77ced883b7d2e00c74  out1.bin
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ md5sum out2.bin
26957f19db6f8e77ced883b7d2e00c74  out2.bin
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$
```

Question 1. If the length of your prefix file is not multiple of 64 , what is going to happen?
Zeros will be padded into our prefix file if its length is not a multiple of 64. This is a result of the file being processed by MD5 in 64-byte per block.





The screenshots demonstrate that zeros were added to the file since its size was not a multiple of 64.

Question 2. Create a prefix file with exactly 64 bytes, and run the collision tool again, and see what happens.

Creating a prefix file ‘prefix1.txt’ whose length is exactly 64

```
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ nano prefix1.txt
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ ls -l
total 16
-rw-rw-r-- 1 seed seed 256 Apr  7 01:53 out1.bin
-rw-rw-r-- 1 seed seed 256 Apr  7 01:53 out2.bin
-rw-rw-r-- 1 seed seed  64 Apr  7 02:00 prefix1.txt
-rw-rw-r-- 1 seed seed  99 Apr  7 01:50 prefix.txt
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ cat prefix1.txt
This is the assignment for introduction to information security
```

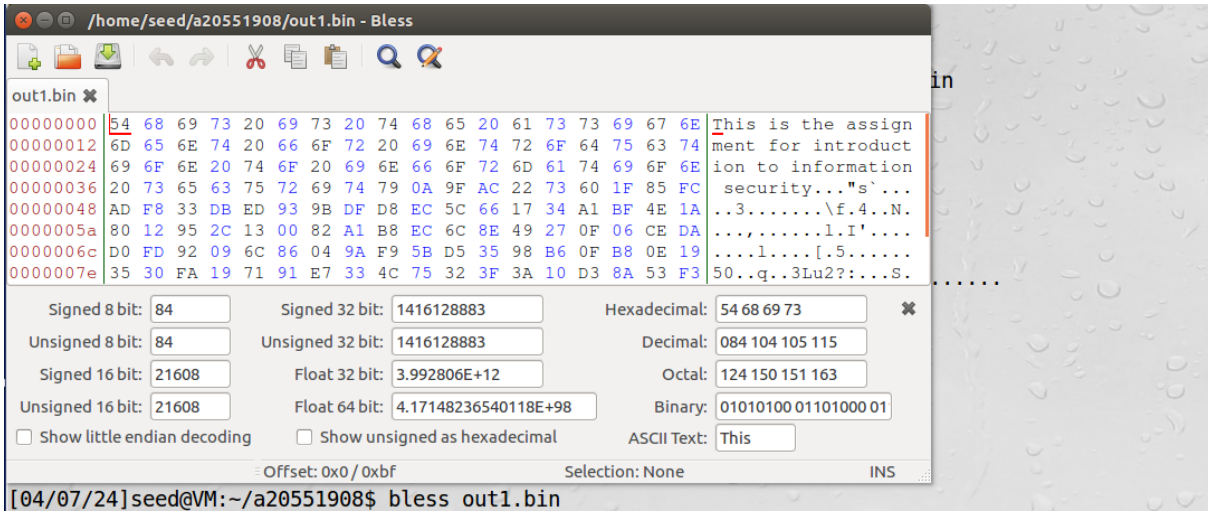
After running the ‘md5collgen -p prefix.txt -o out1.bin out2.bin’ command, the following commands are run.

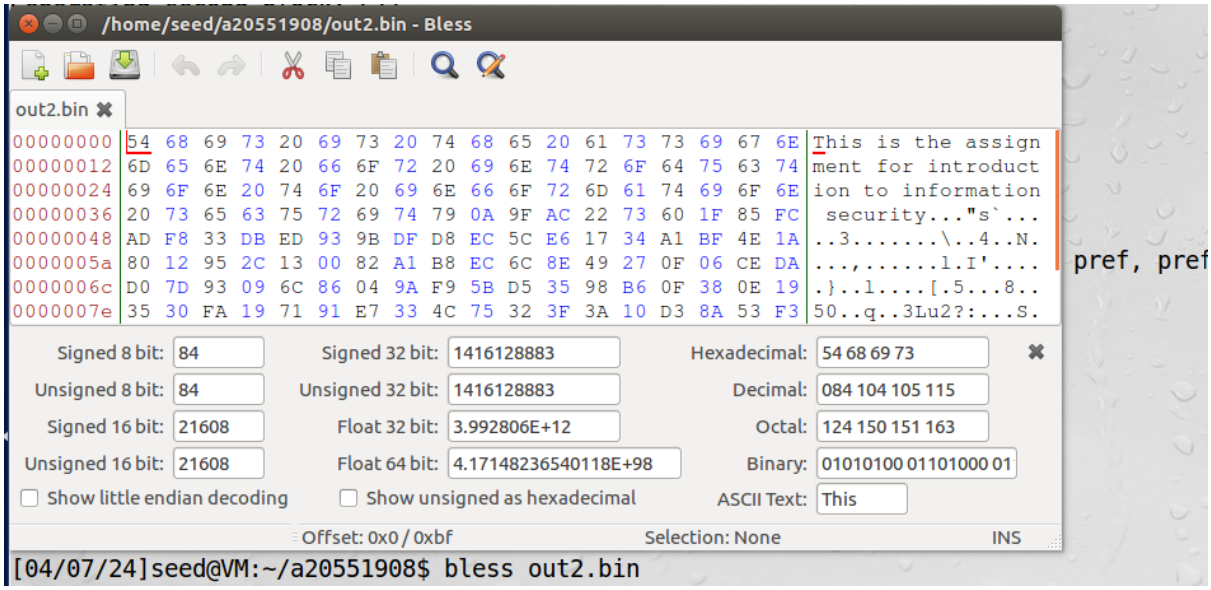
```
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ diff out1.bin out2.bin
Binary files out1.bin and out2.bin differ
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ md5sum out1.bin
02692bd447928f73436373c6569d7647  out1.bin
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ md5sum out2.bin
02692bd447928f73436373c6569d7647  out2.bin
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$
```

To observe if 0’s are padded or not we view the ‘out1.bin’ and ‘out2.bin’ using the following command

bless out1.bin

bless out2.bin





We observe that no zero's are padded as the file is of exactly 64 bytes.

Question 3. Are the data (128 bytes) generated by md5collgen completely different for the two output files? Please identify all the bytes that are different.

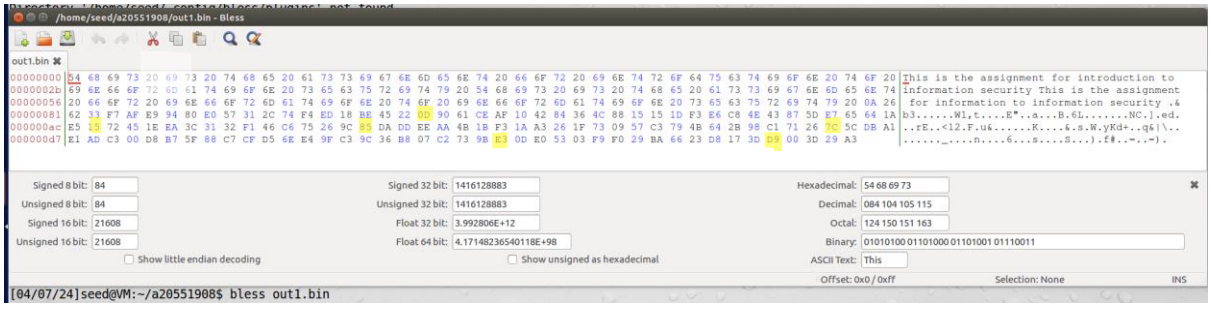
Created a new file named 'prefix2.txt' of 128 bytes. The following commands are run over the newly created file.

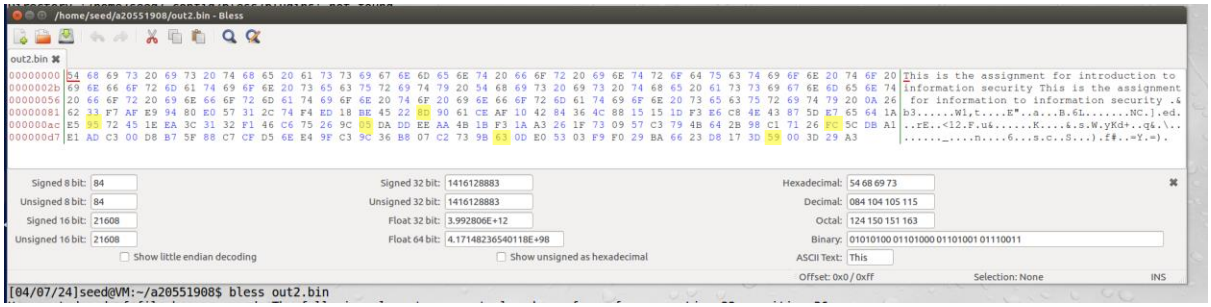
```
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ md5collgen -p prefix2.txt -o out1.bin out2.bin
MD5 collision generator v1.5
by Marc Stevens (http://www.win.tue.nl/hashclash/)

Using output filenames: 'out1.bin' and 'out2.bin'
Using prefixfile: 'prefix2.txt'
Using initial value: c7b44f5a134df7f23ff50c1dd917fd26

Generating first block: ..
Generating second block: S10.....................................
Running time: 3.80337 s
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ diff out1.bin out2.bin
Binary files out1.bin and out2.bin differ
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ md5sum out1.bin
b9b19452005c701e8dfd8bb859a9b74f  out1.bin
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ md5sum out2.bin
b9b19452005c701e8dfd8bb859a9b74f  out2.bin
```

In order to observe the difference in bytes we use 'bless'.





No, the data generated by md5collgen are not completely different, **only few bytes differ**. The bytes that differ are as follows:

out1.bin	out2.bin
0D	8D
15	95
85	05
7C	FC
E3	63
D9	59

2.2 Task 2: Understanding MD5's Property

The file prefix.txt will is used to verify if the MD5 hashes match. The produced files out1.bin and out2.bin will then have a random text appended to the end, and their MD5 hashes will be checked once again.

We will run the md5collgen again on the file 'prefix.txt'

```
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ md5sum out1.bin out2.bin
b9b19452005c701e8dfd8bb859a9b74f  out1.bin
b9b19452005c701e8dfd8bb859a9b74f  out2.bin
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ cat prefix.txt >> out1.bin
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ cat prefix.txt >> out2.bin
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ md5sum out1.bin out2.bin
55711c50f7cb9804da312b80cfb50565  out1.bin
55711c50f7cb9804da312b80cfb50565  out2.bin
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$
```

We observe that, the md5 values generated are the same for both 'out1.bin' and 'out2.bin'. Then we append and calculate the values md5 values. The freshly created MD5 hashes are different from the previously generated ones, yet they are the same, as we can see. This is due to the length extension vulnerability of the MD5 hash method. Given that both files' MD5 hashes matched, it is reasonable to assume that the internal state of the system following algorithm execution was the same.

```
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ cat out1.bin out2.bin > out3.bin
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ md5sum out1.bin out2.bin out3.bin
55711c50f7cb9804da312b80cfb50565  out1.bin
55711c50f7cb9804da312b80cfb50565  out2.bin
d9fc426fe6ed9ae1cac930ea6cab5f69  out3.bin
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$
```

2.3 Task 3: Generating Two Executable Files with the Same MD5 Hash

The following is the code:

```
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ nano task2.c
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ cat task2.c
#include<stdio.h>
unsigned char abc[200] = {'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A',
'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A',
'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A',
'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A',
'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A',
'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A',
'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A',
'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A',
'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A',
'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A'
};
int main()
{
  int i;
  for (i=0; i<200; i++){
    printf("%x", abc[i]);
  }
  printf("\n");
}
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$
```

Inorder to execute this code we use ‘gcc task2.c’. This generates a file ‘a.out’.

```
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ gcc task2.c
```

Divide file into 3 sections, using the following commands

head -c 3200 a.out > prefix
md5collgen -p prefix -o p q
tail -c 100 a.out > suffix
tail -c +3300 a.out > suffix

```
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ head -c 3200 a.out > prefix
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ md5collgen -p prefix -o p q
MD5 collision generator v1.5
by Marc Stevens (http://www.win.tue.nl/hashclash/)

Using output filenames: 'p' and 'q'
Using prefixfile: 'prefix'
Using initial value: 03b5f0c75ac026305caebb768395cb24

Generating first block: ....
Generating second block: W.
Running time: 3.88594 s
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ tail -c 100 a.out > suffix
```

Now we will concatenate the suffix to the two individual files.

cat p suffix > f1
cat q suffix > f2

```
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ cat p suffix > f1
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ cat q suffix > f2
```

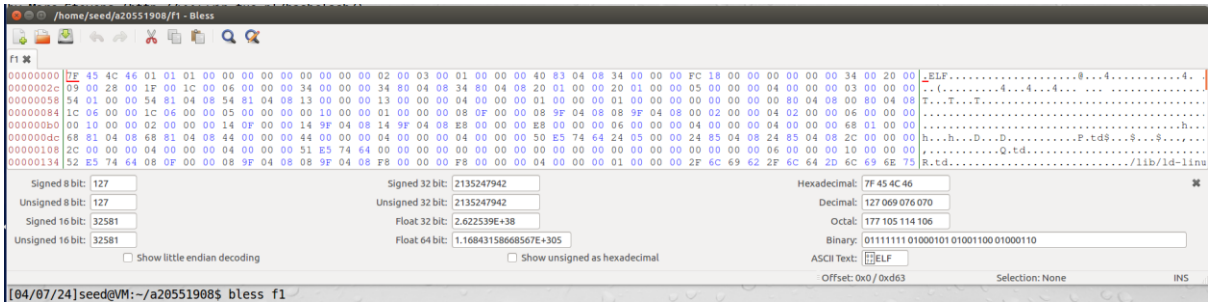
```
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ diff -q f1 f2
Files f1 and f2 differ
```

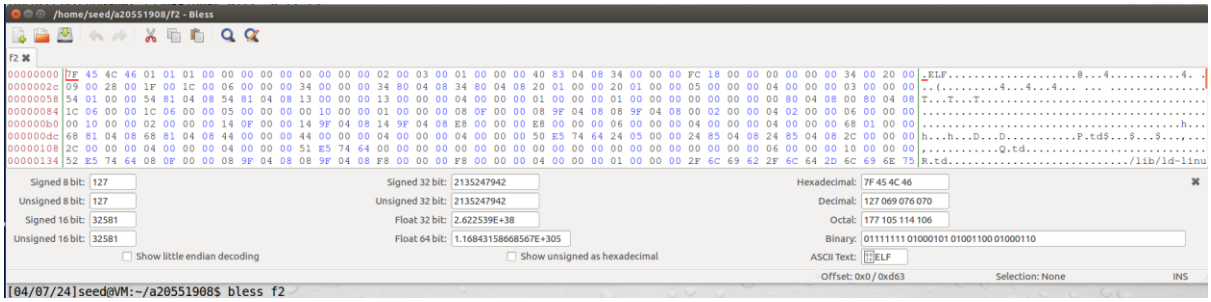
We see that the 2 files f1 and f2 differ, now lets see their MD5 hashes we use the following commands

diff -q f1 f2
md5sum f1
md5sum f2

```
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ md5sum f1
b2748f2ce77279080b47749c28e82d18  f1
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ md5sum f2
b2748f2ce77279080b47749c28e82d18  f2
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$
```

We observe that their MD5 hash values are similar.





The above are the binaries of ‘f1’ and ‘f2’.

2.4 Task 4: Making the Two Programs Behave Differently

For this, we develop two distinct programs. One program will consistently carry out benign instructions, while the other program will carry out malicious instructions. We manage to make these two programs share the same MD5 hash value.
The following is the code.

```c
#include<stdio.h>
unsigned char abc1[200] = {'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A',
'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A',
'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A',
'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A',
'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A',
'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A',
'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A',
'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A',
'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A',
'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A'
};

unsigned char abc2[200] = {'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A',
'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A',
'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A',
'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A',
'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A',
'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A',
'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A',
'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A',
'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A',
'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A','A', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'A'
};
```

```c
int main()
{
   int outcome = 1;
   int i;
   for (i=0; i<200; i++)
    {
       if(abc1[i] != abc2[i])
        { outcome = 0;
            break;
     }}
  if(outcome){
   printf("Running safe code");
}
else {
printf("Running malicious code\n");
} return 0;
}
```

```
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ head -c 4224 task.out > prefix
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ md5collgen -p prefix -o prefix1 prefix2
MD5 collision generator v1.5
by Marc Stevens (http://www.win.tue.nl/hashclash/)

Using output filenames: 'prefix1' and 'prefix2'
Using prefixfile: 'prefix'
Using initial value: 0ec0d9dcd0069e719a8cb270ec683ae3

Generating first block: ............
Generating second block: S00..
Running time: 11.4708 s
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ md5sum prefix1 prefix2
9626379d90d810cee5a4f13fb9be1b9e  prefix1
9626379d90d810cee5a4f13fb9be1b9e  prefix2
```

After we generate 2 files using “prefix”, add all bytes after 4352 in task4.out to suffix1.

head -c 4224 task.out > prefix

md5collgen -p prefix -o prefix1 prefix2

tail -c +4353 task.out > suffix1

```
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ tail -c +4353  task.out > suffix1
```

We will add first 8 bytes of suffix1 to prefix1 and prefix2 and generate prefix1_arr1 and prefix2_arr1.

Create suffix2 file which contains all bytes after the 8th byte in suffix1.

head -c 8 suffix1> arr1

cat p1 arr1 > p1_arr1

cat q1 arr1 > q1_arr1

tail -c +9 suffix1 > suffix2

```
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ head -c 8 suffix1 > array1
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ cat prefix1 array1 > prefix1_arr1
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ cat prefix2 array1 > prefix2_arr1
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ tail -c +9 suffix1 > suffix2
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$
```

We add the bytes between the ending of the first array and the beginning of the second array to create a file suffix3.In order to generate file1 and file2, we save the bytes starting with the second array in suffix to suffix1 and add them to prefix1_arr1 and prefix2_arr1.

tail -c +25 suffix2 > suffix1

head -c 24 suffix2 > suffix3

cat prefix1_arr1 suffix3> file1

cat prefix2_arr1 suffix3> file2

```
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ tail -c +25 suffix2 > suffix1
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ head -c 24 suffix2 > suffix3
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ cat prefix1_arr1 suffix3 > file1
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ cat prefix2_arr1 suffix3 > file2
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$
```

If one executable outputs "run safe code" while the other outputs "run malicious code," then the attack is successful. The abc2 arraycontent must match one of the created arrays in order to do this. Thus, we append the bytes in suffix1 to suffix2 after the second array.
Next, we transfer the initial array from prefix1_arr1 to the center section. To create executable files that are malicious and benign, the center file can be concatenated with file1 and file2 together with suffix 2.

tail -c +201 suffix1 > suffix2

tail -c +4161 prefix1_arr1> center

cat file1 central suffix2 > benign

cat file2 central suffix2 > malicious

```
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ tail -c +201 suffix1 > suffix2
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ tail -c +4161 prefix1_arr1 > center
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ cat file1 center suffix2 > benign
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ cat file2 center suffix2 > malicious
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$
```

Then we execute the following commands

md5sum benign

md5sum malicious
chmod +x benign
chmod +x malicious
./benign
./malicious

```
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ md5sum benign
03679f087bdb173aa789bd5f2b89a2f8  benign
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ md5sum malicious
03679f087bdb173aa789bd5f2b89a2f8  malicious
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ chmod +x benign
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ chmod +x malicious
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ ./benign
Running safe code[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$ ./malicious
Running malicious code
[04/07/24]seed@VM:~/a20551908$
```

We see that upon execution benign runs safe code and malicious runs malicious code, upon observing we can see that both generate the same md5 hash which implies, MD5 collision attack is achieved.