

IF2130 – Organisasi dan Arsitektur Komputer

sumber: Greg Kesden, CMU 15-213, 2012

Machine-Level Programming: Memory Layout dan Buffer Overflow

Achmad Imam Kistijantoro (imam@staff.stei.itb.ac.id)

Robithoh Annur

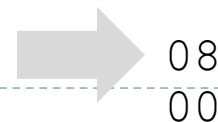
Bara Timur

Monterico Adrian

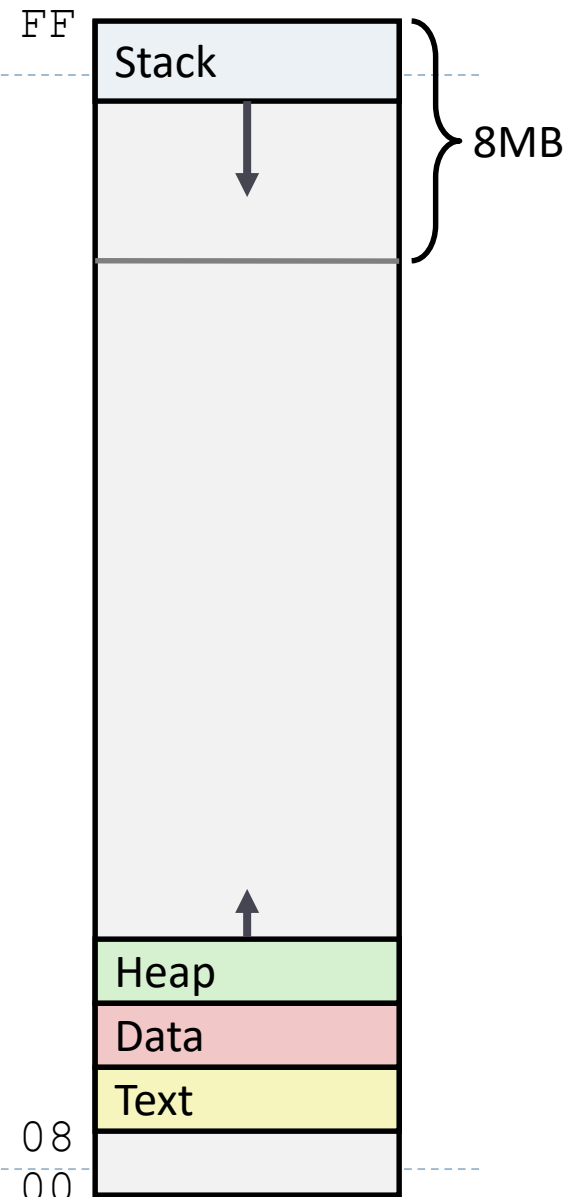
IA32 Linux Memory Layout

- ▶ **Stack**
 - ▶ Runtime stack (8MB limit)
 - ▶ E. g., local variables
- ▶ **Heap**
 - ▶ Dynamically allocated storage
 - ▶ When call `malloc()`, `calloc()`, `new()`
- ▶ **Data**
 - ▶ Statically allocated data
 - ▶ E.g., arrays & strings declared in code
- ▶ **Text**
 - ▶ Executable machine instructions
 - ▶ Read-only

Upper 2 hex digits
= 8 bits of address



not drawn to scale



Memory Allocation Example

```
char big_array[1<<24]; /* 16 MB */
char huge_array[1<<28]; /* 256 MB */

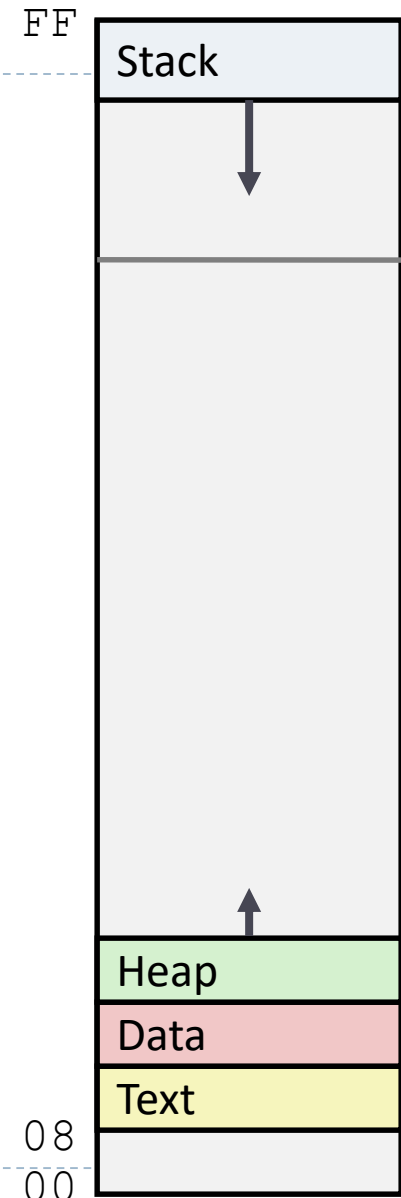
int beyond;
char *p1, *p2, *p3, *p4;

int useless() { return 0; }

int main()
{
    p1 = malloc(1 <<28); /* 256 MB */
    p2 = malloc(1 << 8); /* 256 B */
    p3 = malloc(1 <<28); /* 256 MB */
    p4 = malloc(1 << 8); /* 256 B */
    /* Some print statements ... */
}
```

Where does everything go?

not drawn to scale



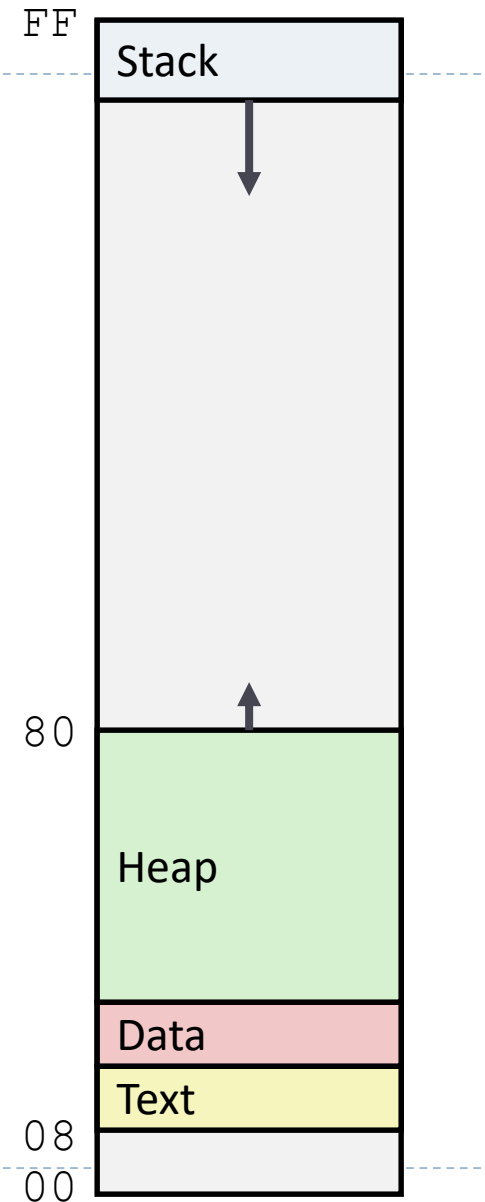
IA32 Example Addresses

address range $\sim 2^{32}$

\$esp	0xffffbcd0
p3	0x65586008
p1	0x55585008
p4	0x1904a110
p2	0x1904a008
&p2	0x18049760
&beyond	0x08049744
big_array	0x18049780
huge_array	0x08049760
main()	0x080483c6
useless()	0x08049744
final malloc()	0x006be166

malloc() is dynamically linked
address determined at runtime

not drawn to scale



```
imam@DELL-2020:~/if2130$ more memory_alloc.c
```

```
#include <stdio.h>
```

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

```
char big_array[1<<24];
```

```
char huge_array[1<<28];
```

```
int beyond;
```

```
char *p1, *p2, *p3, *p4;
```

```
int useless() { return 0; }
```

```
int main() {
```

```
    p1 = malloc(1<<28);
```

```
    p2 = malloc(1<<8);
```

```
    p3 = malloc(1<<28);
```

```
    p4 = malloc(1<<8);
```

```
    register long i asm("rsp");
```

```
    printf("rsp : %#010lx\n", i);
```

```
    printf("p3 : %#010lx\n", (long) p3);
```

```
    printf("p1 : %#010lx\n", (long) p1);
```

```
    printf("p4 : %#010lx\n", (long) p4);
```

```
    printf("p2 : %#010lx\n", (long) p2);
```

```
    printf("&p2 : %#010lx\n", (long) &p2);
```

```
    printf("&beyond: %#010lx\n", (long) &beyond);
```

```
    printf("big_array : %#010lx\n", (long) big_array);
```

```
    printf("huge_array : %#010lx\n", (long) huge_array);
```

```
    printf("main() : %#010lx\n", (long) main);
```

```
    printf("useless() : %#010lx\n", (long) useless);
```

```
    printf("malloc() : %#010lx\n", (long) malloc);
```

```
    getchar();
```

```
}
```

```
imam@DELL-2020:~/if2130$ ./memory_alloc
```

```
rsp      : 0x7ffe71da4d10
p3       : 0x7f72940cd010
p1       : 0x7f72a40ce010
p4       : 0x55da49fa03b0
p2       : 0x55da49fa02a0
&p2      : 0x55da38981040
&beyond  : 0x55da49981080
big_array : 0x55da48981080
huge_array : 0x55da38981060
main()   : 0x55da3897e188
useless() : 0x55da3897e179
malloc() : 0x7f72b416c260
```

```
imam@DELL-2020:~/if2130$ more /proc/412/maps
```

```
55da3897d000-55da3897e000 r--p 00000000 08:10 483032 /home/imam/if2130/memory_alloc
55da3897e000-55da3897f000 r-xp 00001000 08:10 483032 /home/imam/if2130/memory_alloc
55da3897f000-55da38980000 r--p 00002000 08:10 483032 /home/imam/if2130/memory_alloc
55da38980000-55da38981000 r--p 00002000 08:10 483032 /home/imam/if2130/memory_alloc
55da38981000-55da38982000 rw-p 00003000 08:10 483032 /home/imam/if2130/memory_alloc
55da38982000-55da49982000 rw-p 00000000 00:00 0
55da49fa0000-55da49fc1000 rw-p 00000000 00:00 0
7f72940cd000-7f72b40cf000 rw-p 00000000 00:00 0
7f72b40cf000-7f72b40f4000 r--p 00000000 08:10 30676 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libc-2.31.so
7f72b40f4000-7f72b426c000 r-xp 00025000 08:10 30676 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libc-2.31.so
7f72b426c000-7f72b42b6000 r--p 0019d000 08:10 30676 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libc-2.31.so
7f72b42b6000-7f72b42b7000 ---p 001e7000 08:10 30676 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libc-2.31.so
7f72b42b7000-7f72b42ba000 r--p 001e7000 08:10 30676 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libc-2.31.so
7f72b42ba000-7f72b42bd000 rw-p 001ea000 08:10 30676 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libc-2.31.so
7f72b42bd000-7f72b42c3000 rw-p 00000000 00:00 0
7f72b42d3000-7f72b42d4000 r--p 00000000 08:10 30668 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/ld-2.31.so
7f72b42d4000-7f72b42f7000 r-xp 00001000 08:10 30668 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/ld-2.31.so
7f72b42f7000-7f72b42ff000 r--p 00024000 08:10 30668 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/ld-2.31.so
7f72b4300000-7f72b4301000 r--p 0002c000 08:10 30668 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/ld-2.31.so
7f72b4301000-7f72b4302000 rw-p 0002d000 08:10 30668 /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/ld-2.31.so
7f72b4302000-7f72b4303000 rw-p 00000000 00:00 0
7ffe71d86000-7ffe71da7000 rw-p 00000000 00:00 0
7ffe71dda000-7ffe71ddd000 r--p 00000000 00:00 0
7ffe71ddd000-7ffe71ddf000 r-xp 00000000 00:00 0
```

[heap]

[stack]

[vvar]

[vdso]

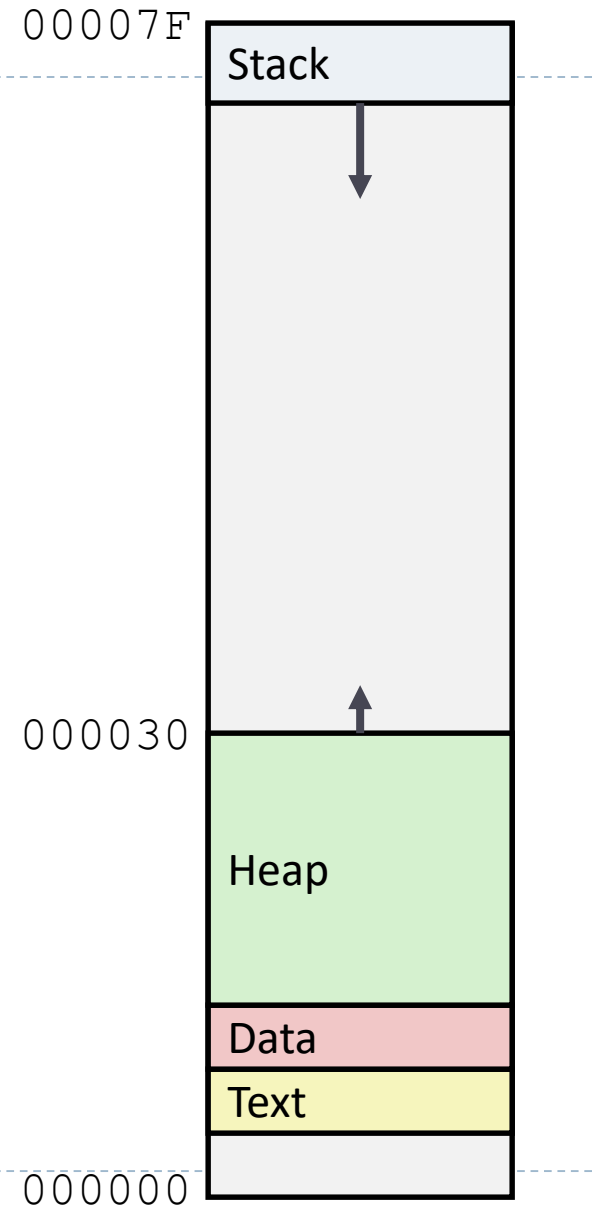
x86-64 Example Addresses

address range $\sim 2^{47}$

\$rsp	0x00007ffffff8d1f8
p3	0x00002aaabaadd010
p1	0x00002aaaaadc010
p4	0x0000000011501120
p2	0x0000000011501010
&p2	0x0000000010500a60
&beyond	0x0000000000500a44
big_array	0x0000000010500a80
huge_array	0x0000000000500a50
main()	0x0000000000400510
useless()	0x0000000000400500
final malloc()	0x000000386ae6a170

malloc() is dynamically linked
address determined at runtime

not drawn to scale



Today

■ Structures

- Alignment

▶ Unions

▶ Memory Layout

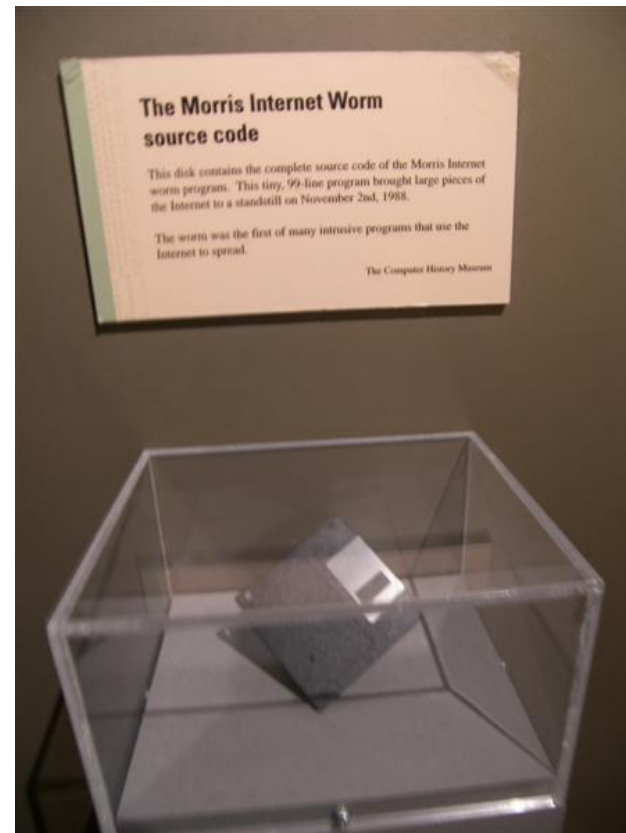
▶ **Buffer Overflow**

- ▶ Vulnerability
- ▶ Protection



Internet Worm and IM War

- ▶ **November, 1988**
 - ▶ Internet Worm attacks thousands of Internet hosts.
 - ▶ How did it happen?



By Go Card USA from Boston, USA - Museum of Science - Morris-Internet Worm, CC BY-SA 2.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=3959700>

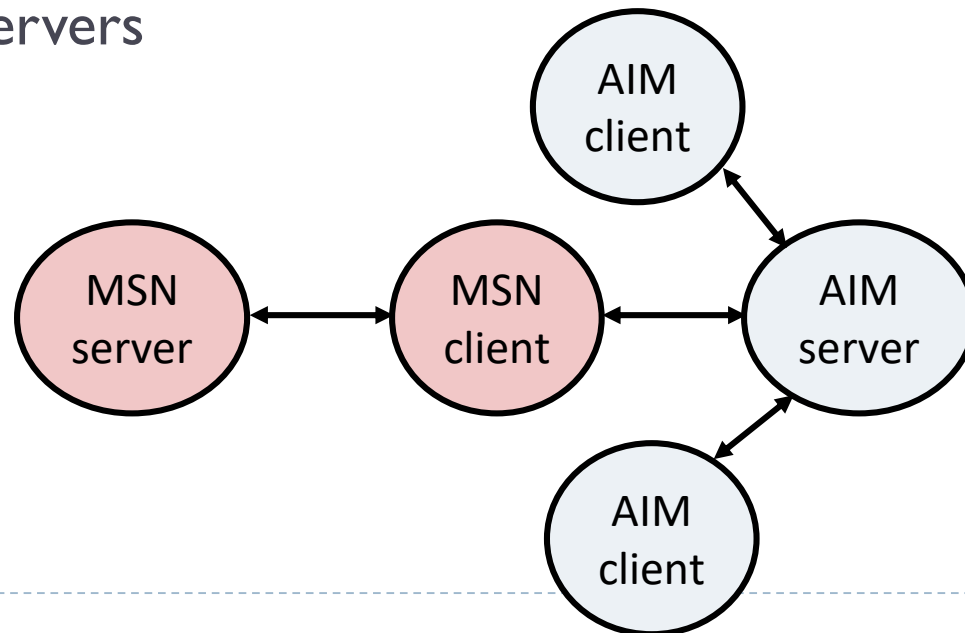
Internet Worm and IM War

▶ November, 1988

- ▶ Internet Worm attacks thousands of Internet hosts.
- ▶ How did it happen?

▶ July, 1999

- ▶ Microsoft launches MSN Messenger (instant messaging system).
- ▶ Messenger clients can access popular AOL Instant Messaging Service (AIM) servers



Internet Worm and IM War (cont.)

▶ August 1999

- ▶ Mysteriously, Messenger clients can no longer access AIM servers.
- ▶ Microsoft and AOL begin the IM war:
 - ▶ AOL changes server to disallow Messenger clients
 - ▶ Microsoft makes changes to clients to defeat AOL changes.
 - ▶ At least 13 such skirmishes.
- ▶ How did it happen?
- ▶ The Internet Worm and AOL/Microsoft War were both based on *stack buffer overflow* exploits!
 - ▶ many library functions do not check argument sizes.
 - ▶ allows target buffers to overflow.



String Library Code

► Implementation of Unix function `gets()`

```
/* Get string from stdin */
char *gets(char *dest)
{
    int c = getchar();
    char *p = dest;
    while (c != EOF && c != '\n') {
        *p++ = c;
        c = getchar();
    }
    *p = '\0';
    return dest;
}
```

- No way to specify limit on number of characters to read
- Similar problems with other library functions
 - **`strcpy`, `strcat`**: Copy strings of arbitrary length
 - **`scanf`, `fscanf`, `sscanf`**, when given **`%s`** conversion specification

Vulnerable Buffer Code

```
/* Echo Line */  
void echo()  
{  
    char buf[4]; /* Way too small! */  
    gets(buf);  
    puts(buf);  
}
```

```
void call_echo() {  
    echo();  
}
```

```
unix>./bufdemo  
Type a string:1234567  
1234567
```

```
unix>./bufdemo  
Type a string:12345678  
Segmentation Fault
```

```
unix>./bufdemo  
Type a string:123456789ABC  
Segmentation Fault
```



Buffer Overflow Disassembly

echo:

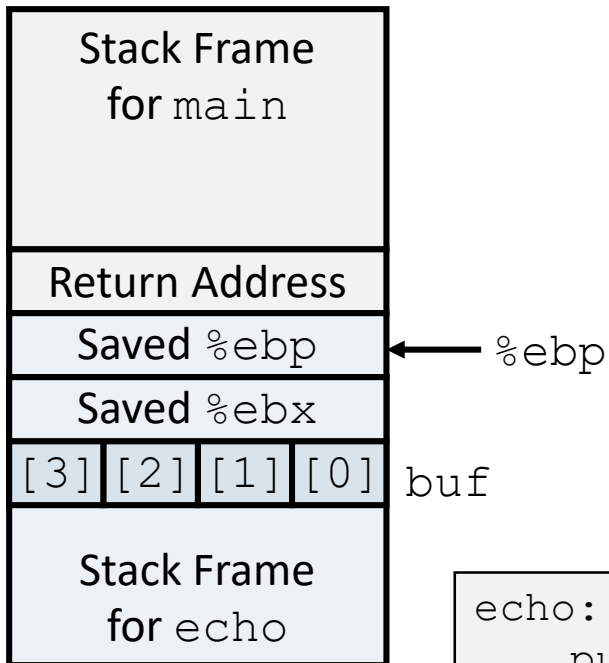
80485c5:	55	push	%ebp
80485c6:	89 e5	mov	%esp,%ebp
80485c8:	53	push	%ebx
80485c9:	83 ec 14	sub	\$0x14,%esp
80485cc:	8d 5d f8	lea	0xffffffff8(%ebp),%ebx
80485cf:	89 1c 24	mov	%ebx, (%esp)
80485d2:	e8 9e ff ff ff	call	8048575 <gets>
80485d7:	89 1c 24	mov	%ebx, (%esp)
80485da:	e8 05 fe ff ff	call	80483e4 <puts@plt>
80485df:	83 c4 14	add	\$0x14,%esp
80485e2:	5b	pop	%ebx
80485e3:	5d	pop	%ebp
80485e4:	c3	ret	

call_echo:

80485eb:	e8 d5 ff ff ff	call	80485c5 <echo>
80485f0:	c9	leave	
80485f1:	c3	ret	

Buffer Overflow Stack

Before call to gets



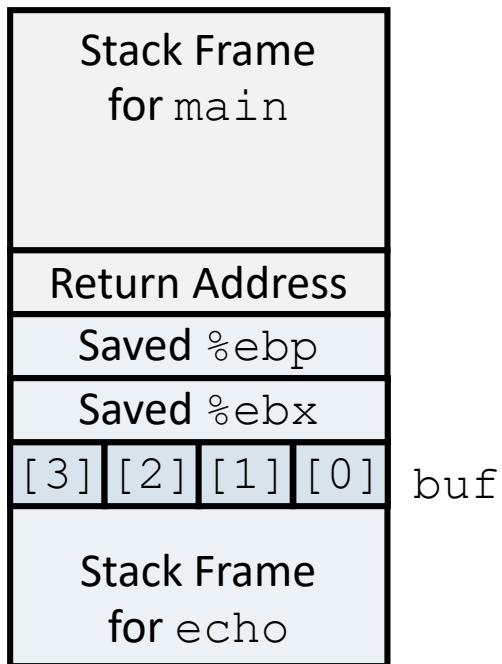
```
/* Echo Line */
void echo()
{
    char buf[4]; /* Way too small! */
    gets(buf);
    puts(buf);
}
```

```
echo:
    pushl %ebp                # Save %ebp on stack
    movl %esp, %ebp
    pushl %ebx                # Save %ebx
    subl $20, %esp           # Allocate stack space
    leal -8(%ebp), %ebx       # Compute buf as %ebp-8
    movl %ebx, (%esp)         # Push buf on stack
    call gets                 # Call gets
    . . .
```

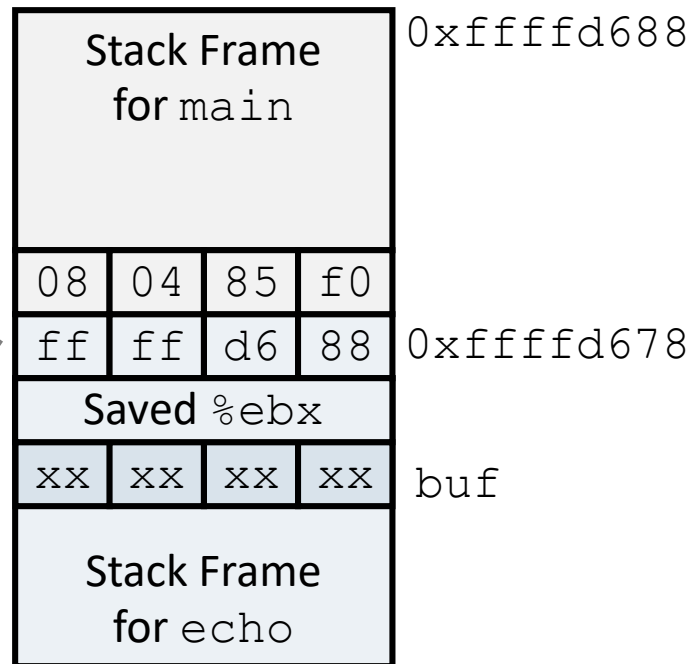
Buffer Overflow Stack Example

```
unix> gdb bufdemo
(gdb) break echo
Breakpoint 1 at 0x80485c9
(gdb) run
Breakpoint 1, 0x80485c9 in echo ()
(gdb) print /x $ebp
$1 = 0xffffd678
(gdb) print /x *(unsigned *)$ebp
$2 = 0xffffd688
(gdb) print /x *((unsigned *)$ebp + 1)
$3 = 0x80485f0
```

Before call to gets



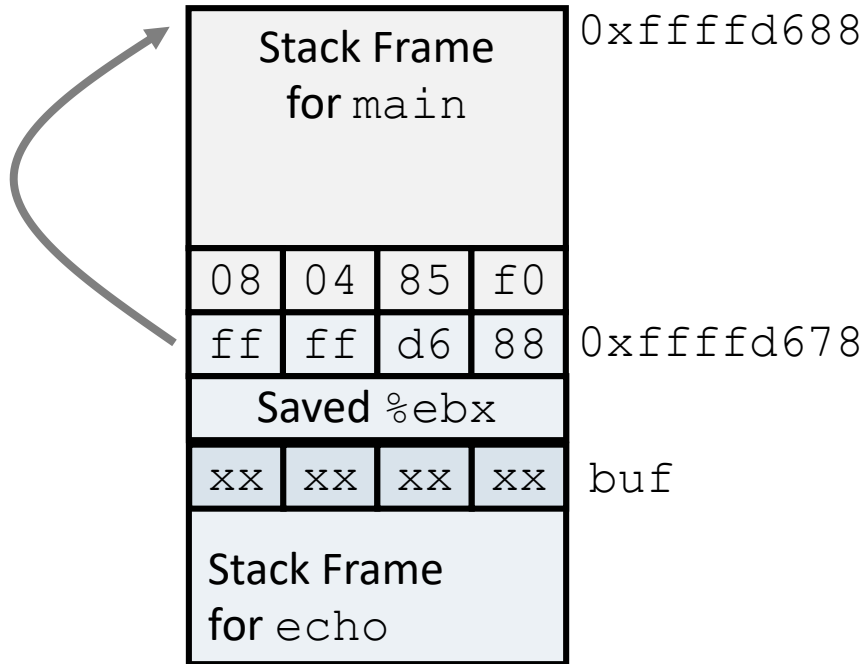
Before call to gets



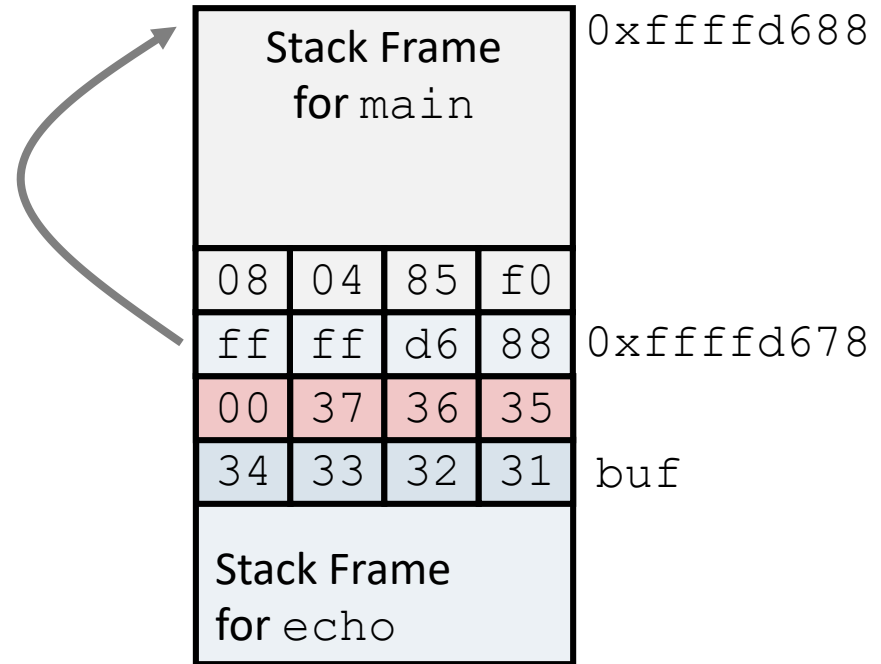
```
80485eb: e8 d5 ff ff ff call 80485c5 <echo>
80485f0: c9 leave
```


Buffer Overflow Example #1

Before call to gets



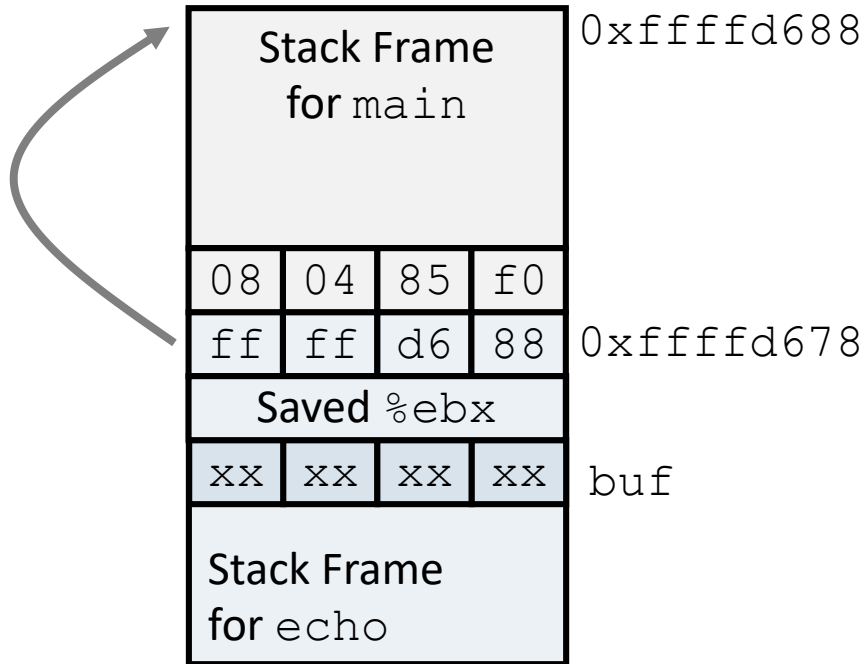
Input 1234567



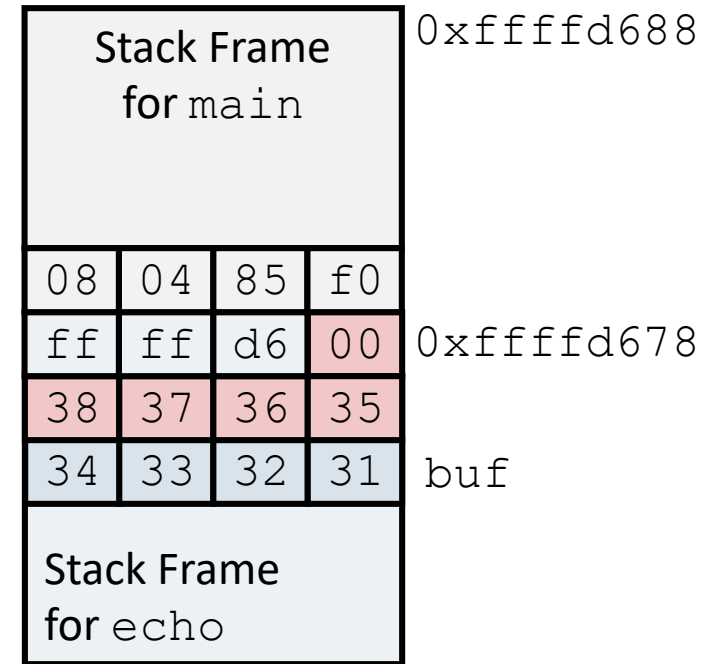
Overflow buf, and corrupt %ebx,
but no problem

Buffer Overflow Example #2

Before call to gets



Input 12345678

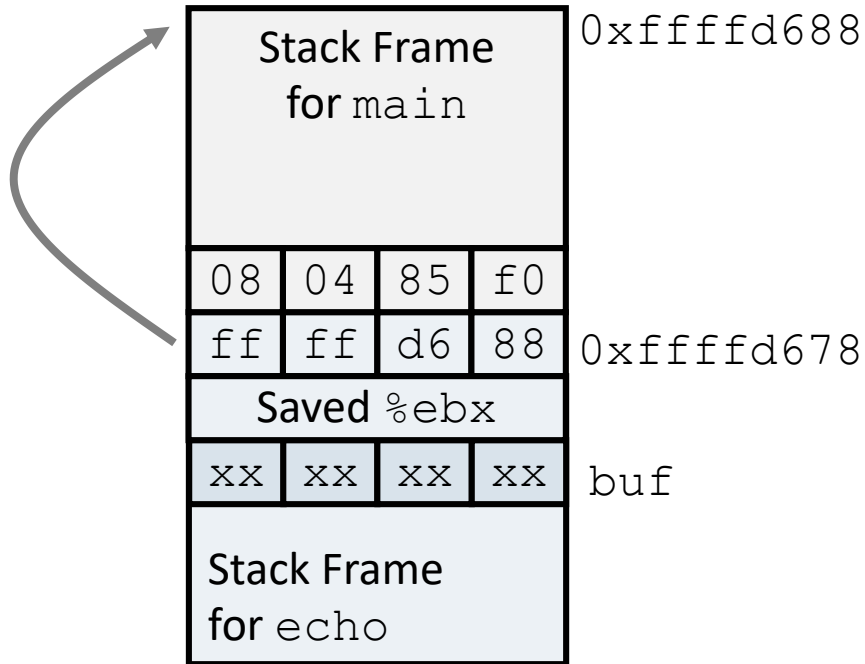


Base pointer corrupted

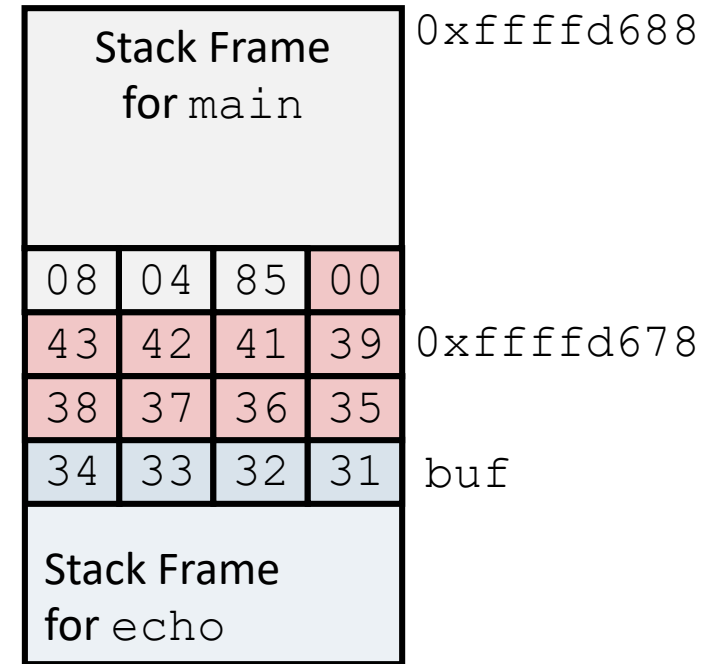
```
. . .
80485eb:  e8 d5 ff ff ff  call    80485c5 <echo>
80485f0:  c9              leave   # Set %ebp to corrupted value
80485f1:  c3             ret
```

Buffer Overflow Example #3

Before call to gets



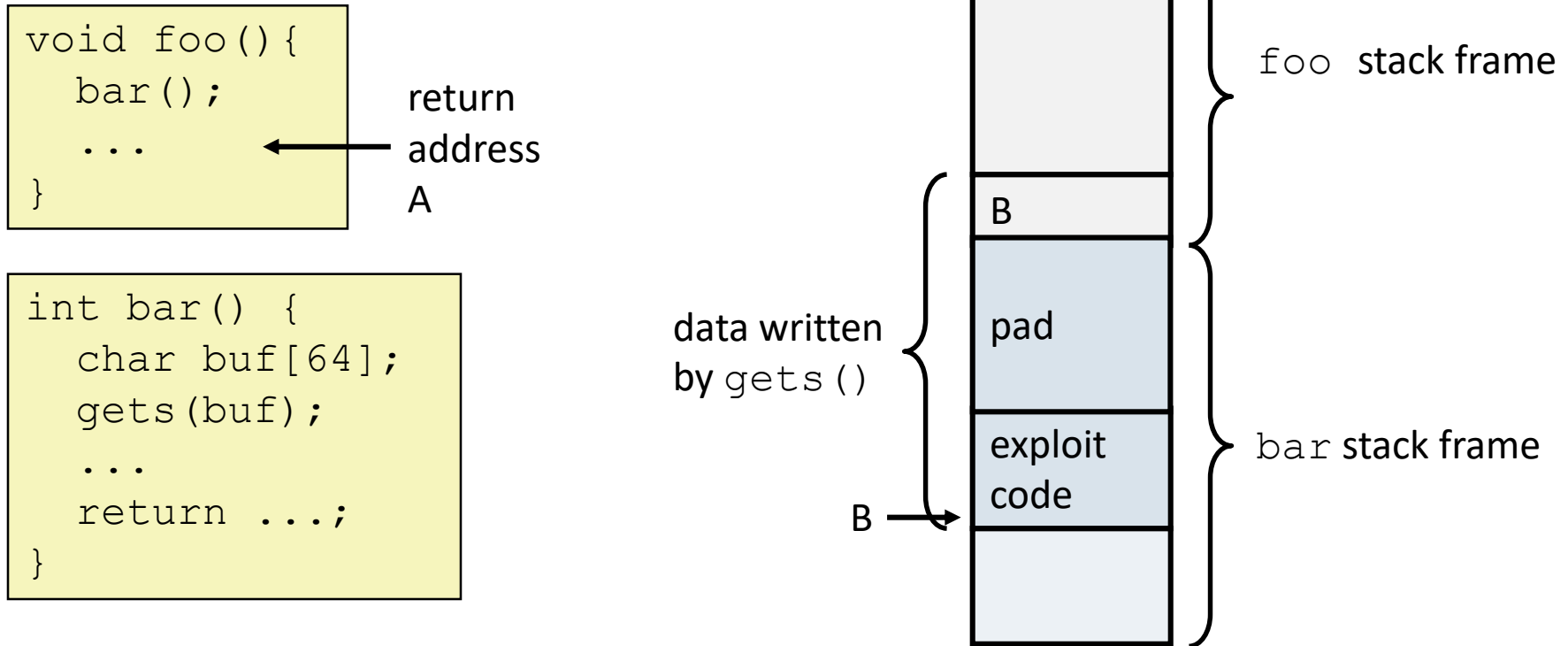
Input 123456789ABC



Return address corrupted

```
80485eb: e8 d5 ff ff ff call 80485c5 <echo>
80485f0: c9          leave # Desired return point
```

Malicious Use of Buffer Overflow



- ▶ Input string contains byte representation of executable code
- ▶ Overwrite return address A with address of buffer B
- ▶ When `bar()` executes `ret`, will jump to exploit code

Exploits Based on Buffer Overflows

- ▶ *Buffer overflow bugs allow remote machines to execute arbitrary code on victim machines*
- ▶ Internet worm
 - ▶ Early versions of the finger server (fingerd) used `gets()` to read the argument sent by the client:
 - ▶ `finger droh@cs.cmu.edu`
 - ▶ Worm attacked fingerd server by sending phony argument:
 - ▶ `finger "exploit-code padding new-return-address"`
 - ▶ exploit code: executed a root shell on the victim machine with a direct TCP connection to the attacker.



Exploits Based on Buffer Overflows

- ▶ *Buffer overflow bugs allow remote machines to execute arbitrary code on victim machines*
- ▶ IM War
 - ▶ AOL exploited existing buffer overflow bug in AIM clients
 - ▶ exploit code: returned 4-byte signature (the bytes at some location in the AIM client) to server.
 - ▶ When Microsoft changed code to match signature, AOL changed signature location.



Date: Wed, 11 Aug 1999 11:30:57 -0700 (PDT)
From: Phil Bucking <philbucking@yahoo.com>
Subject: AOL exploiting buffer overrun bug in their own software!
To: rms@pharlap.com

Mr. Smith,

I am writing you because I have discovered something that I think you might find interesting because you are an Internet security expert with experience in this area. I have also tried to contact AOL but received no response.

I am a developer who has been working on a revolutionary new instant messaging client that should be released later this year.

...
It appears that the AIM client has a buffer overrun bug. By itself this might not be the end of the world, as MS surely has had its share. But AOL is now *exploiting their own buffer overrun bug* to help in its efforts to block MS Instant Messenger.

....
Since you have significant credibility with the press I hope that you can use this information to help inform people that behind AOL's friendly exterior they are nefariously compromising peoples' security.

Sincerely,
Phil Bucking
Founder, Bucking Consulting
philbucking@yahoo.com

*It was later determined that this email
originated from within Microsoft!*



Avoiding Overflow Vulnerability

```
/* Echo Line */  
void echo()  
{  
    char buf[4]; /* Way too small! */  
    fgets(buf, 4, stdin);  
    puts(buf);  
}
```

- ▶ Use library routines that limit string lengths
 - ▶ **fgets** instead of **gets**
 - ▶ **strncpy** instead of **strcpy**
 - ▶ Don't use **scanf** with **%s** conversion specification
 - ▶ Use **fgets** to read the string
 - ▶ Or use **%ns** where **n** is a suitable integer



System-Level Protections

▶ Randomized stack offsets

- ▶ At start of program, allocate random amount of space on stack
- ▶ Makes it difficult for hacker to predict beginning of inserted code

▶ Nonexecutable code segments

- ▶ In traditional x86, can mark region of memory as either “read-only” or “writeable”
 - ▶ Can execute anything readable
 - ▶ X86-64 added explicit “execute” permission
-

```
unix> gdb bufdemo
(gdb) break echo

(gdb) run
(gdb) print /x $ebp
$1 = 0xfffffc638

(gdb) run
(gdb) print /x $ebp
$2 = 0xffffbb08

(gdb) run
(gdb) print /x $ebp
$3 = 0xffffc6a8
```

Stack Canaries

▶ Idea

- ▶ Place special value (“canary”) on stack just beyond buffer
- ▶ Check for corruption before exiting function

▶ GCC Implementation

- ▶ **-fstack-protector**
- ▶ **-fstack-protector-all**

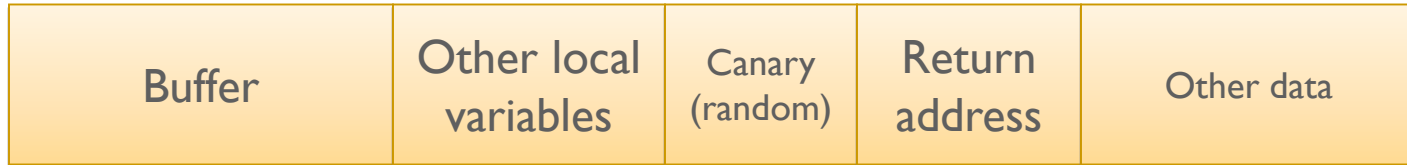
```
unix>./bufdemo-protected  
Type a string:1234  
1234
```

```
unix>./bufdemo-protected  
Type a string:12345  
*** stack smashing detected ***
```



Stack-based buffer overflow detection using a random canary

Normal (safe) stack configuration:



Buffer overflow attack attempt:



- ▶ The canary is placed in the stack prior to the return address, so that any attempt to over-write the return address also over-writes the canary.

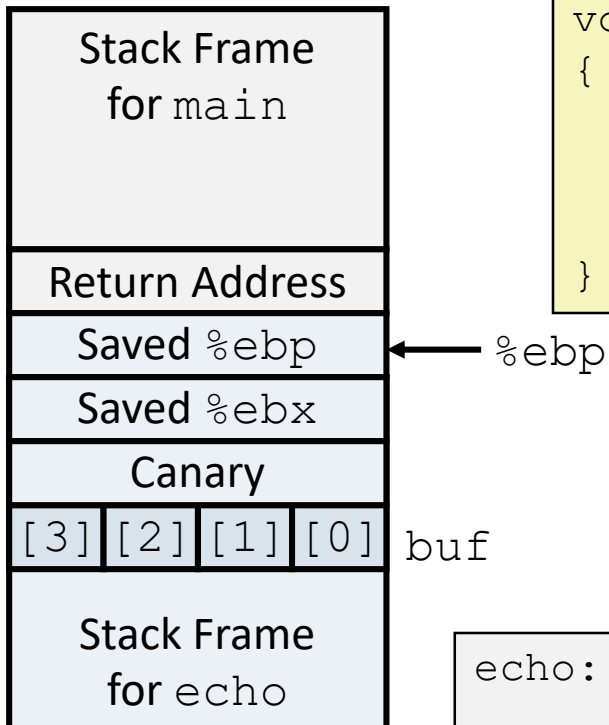
Protected Buffer Disassembly

echo:

804864d:	55	push	%ebp
804864e:	89 e5	mov	%esp,%ebp
8048650:	53	push	%ebx
8048651:	83 ec 14	sub	\$0x14,%esp
8048654:	65 a1 14 00 00 00	mov	%gs:0x14,%eax
804865a:	89 45 f8	mov	%eax,0xffffffff8(%ebp)
804865d:	31 c0	xor	%eax,%eax
804865f:	8d 5d f4	lea	0xfffffffff4(%ebp),%ebx
8048662:	89 1c 24	mov	%ebx, (%esp)
8048665:	e8 77 ff ff ff	call	80485e1 <gets>
804866a:	89 1c 24	mov	%ebx, (%esp)
804866d:	e8 ca fd ff ff	call	804843c <puts@plt>
8048672:	8b 45 f8	mov	0xfffffffff8(%ebp),%eax
8048675:	65 33 05 14 00 00 00	xor	%gs:0x14,%eax
804867c:	74 05	je	8048683 <echo+0x36>
804867e:	e8 a9 fd ff ff	call	804842c <FAIL>
8048683:	83 c4 14	add	\$0x14,%esp
8048686:	5b	pop	%ebx
8048687:	5d	pop	%ebp
8048688:	c3	ret	

Setting Up Canary

Before call to gets

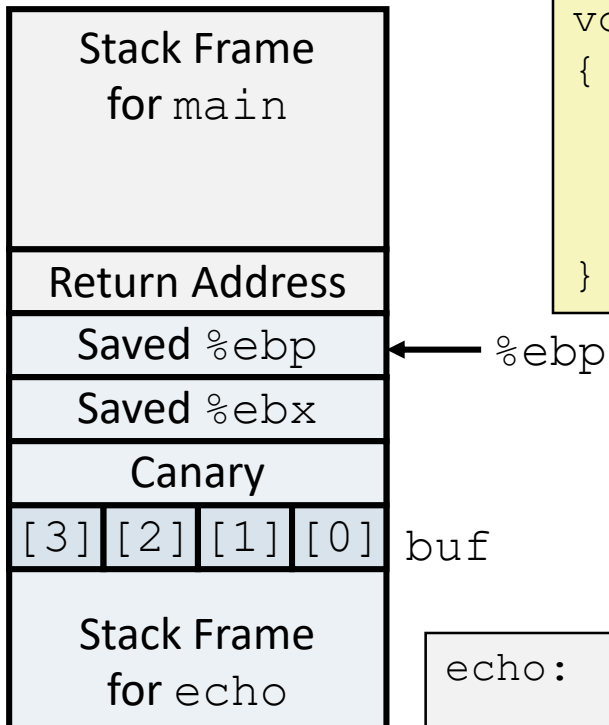


```
/* Echo Line */  
void echo()  
{  
    char buf[4]; /* Way too small! */  
    gets(buf);  
    puts(buf);  
}
```

```
echo:  
    . . .  
    movl    %gs:20, %eax    # Get canary  
    movl    %eax, -8(%ebp)  # Put on stack  
    xorl    %eax, %eax      # Erase canary  
    . . .
```

Checking Canary

Before call to gets

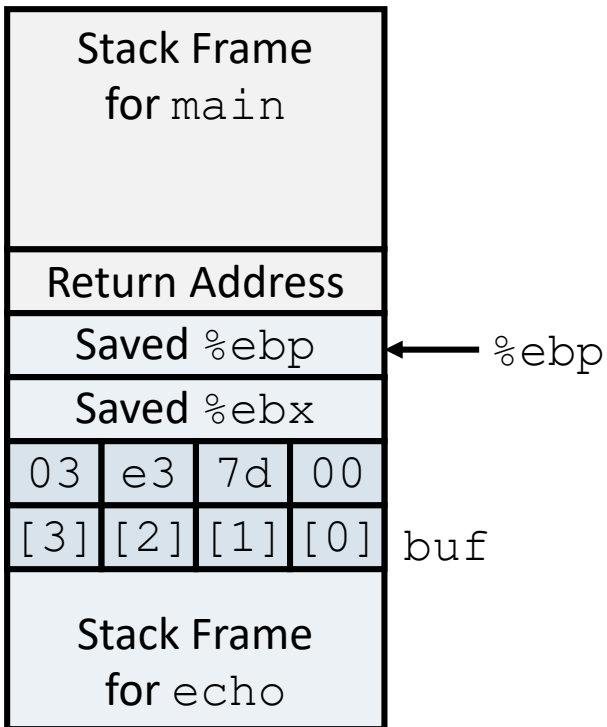


```
/* Echo Line */  
void echo()  
{  
    char buf[4]; /* Way too small! */  
    gets(buf);  
    puts(buf);  
}
```

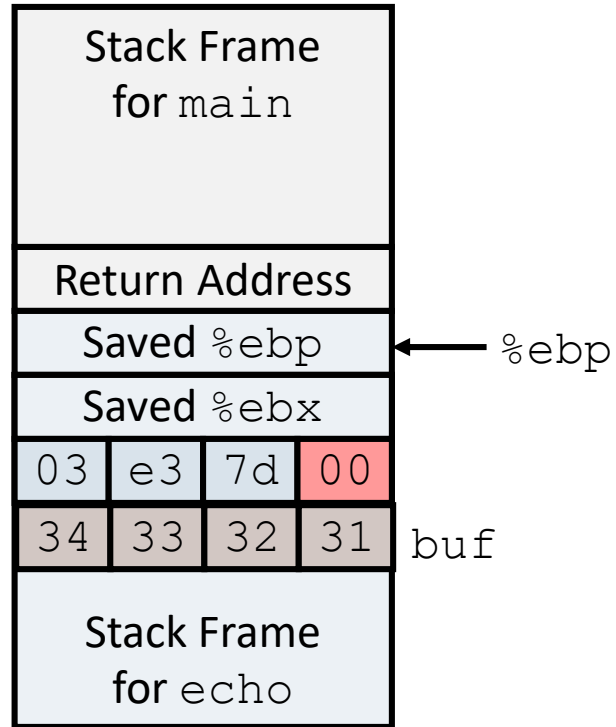
```
echo:  
    . . .  
    movl    -8(%ebp), %eax    # Retrieve from stack  
    xorl    %gs:20, %eax     # Compare with Canary  
    je      .L24             # Same: skip ahead  
    call    __stack_chk_fail # ERROR  
.L24:  
    . . .
```

Canary Example

Before call to gets



Input 1234



```
(gdb) break echo
(gdb) run
(gdb) stepi 3
(gdb) print /x *((unsigned *) $ebp - 2)
$1 = 0x3e37d00
```

Benign corruption!
(allows programmers to make
silent off-by-one errors)

Worms and Viruses

- ▶ **Worm:** A program that
 - ▶ Can run by itself
 - ▶ Can propagate a fully working version of itself to other computers
- ▶ **Virus:** Code that
 - ▶ Add itself to other programs
 - ▶ Cannot run independently
- ▶ Both are (usually) designed to spread among computers and to wreak havoc

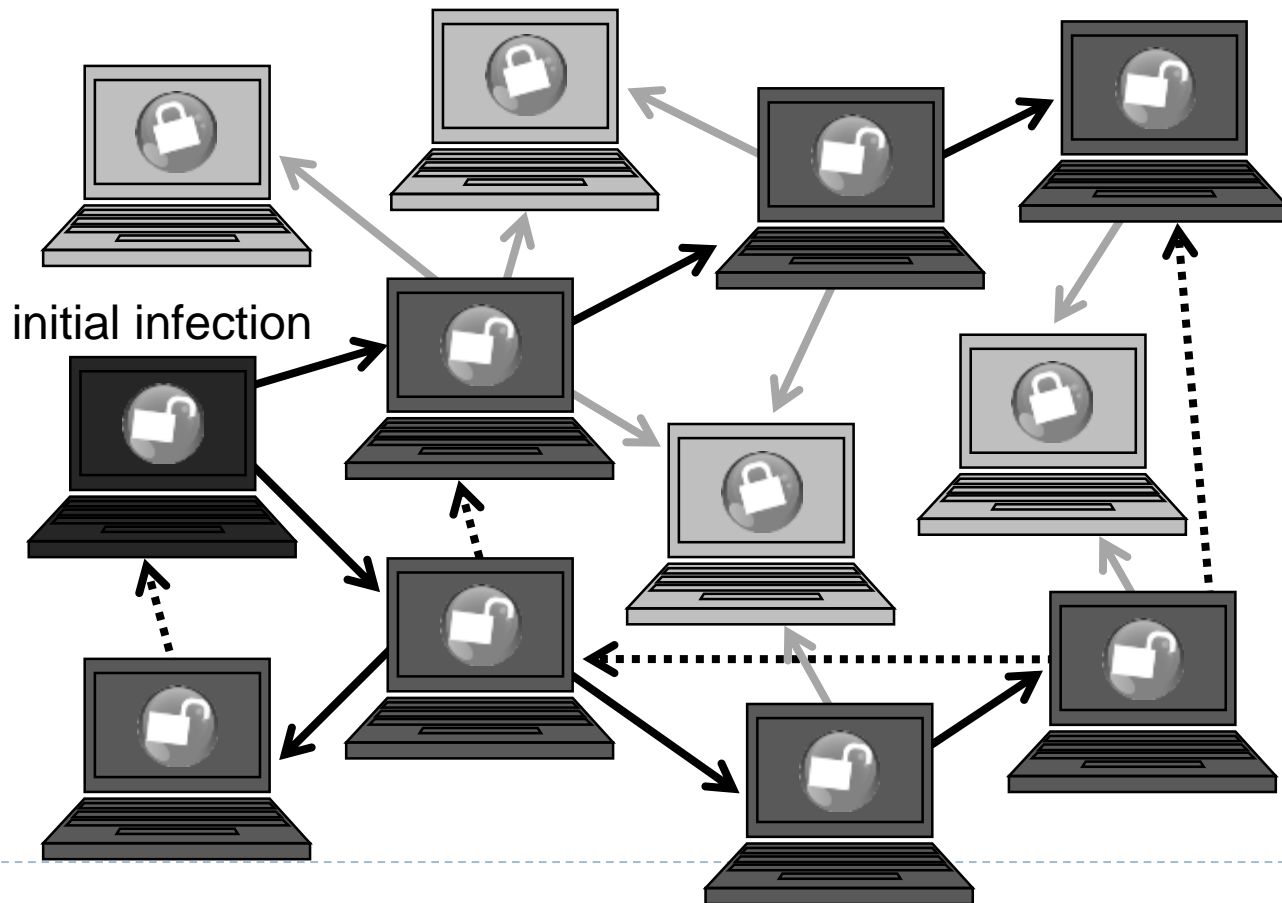


Computer Worms

- ▶ **Computer worm** is a malware program that spreads copies of itself into other computers through computer network.
- ▶ Computer worms are technically not computer viruses (since they don't infect other programs), but some people nevertheless confuse the terms, since both spread by self-replication.
- ▶ Computer worm will carry a malicious payload, such as deleting files or installing a backdoor.

Worm Propagation

- Worms propagate by finding and infecting vulnerable hosts.
 - They need a way to tell if a host is vulnerable
 - They need a way to tell if a host is already infected.



Computer Viruses

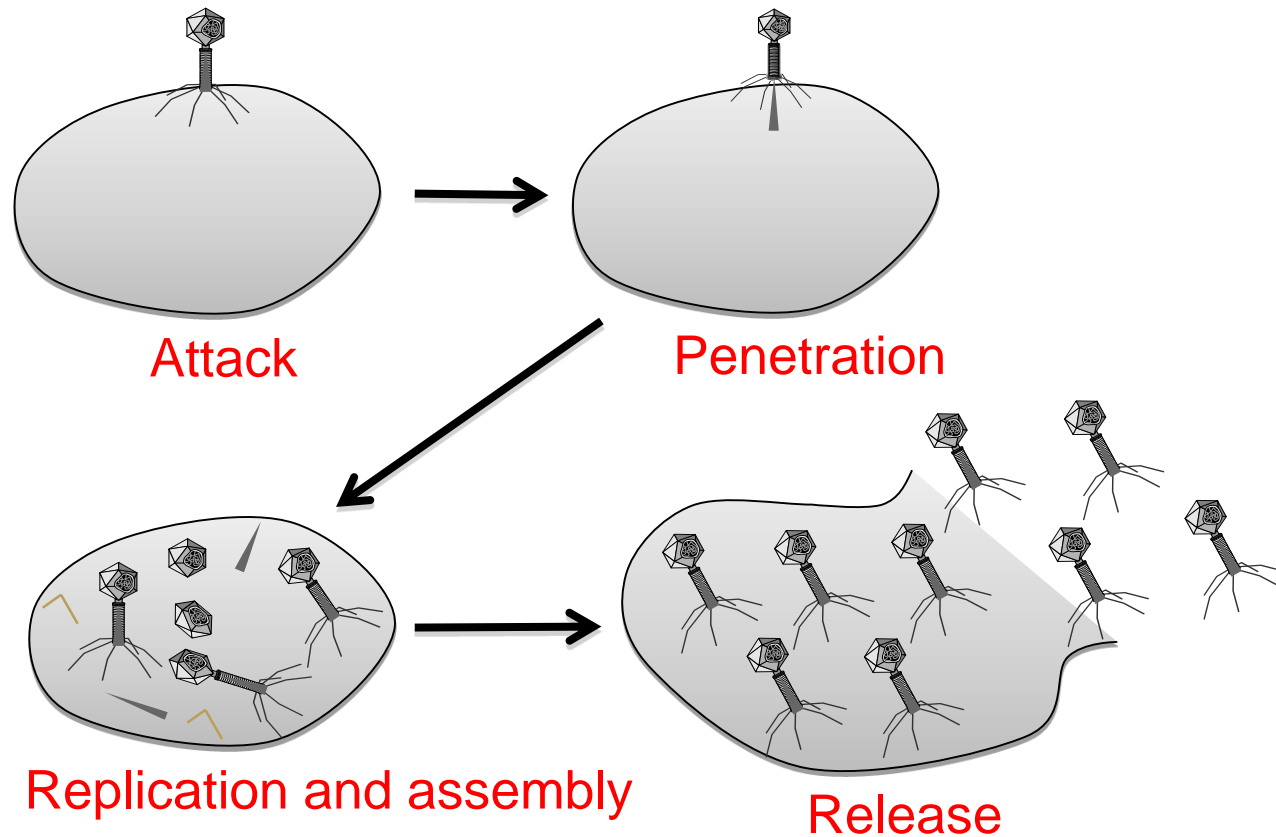
- A **computer virus** is computer code that can replicate itself by modifying other files or programs to insert code that is capable of further replication.
- This self-replication property is what distinguishes computer viruses from other kinds of malware, such as logic bombs.
- Another distinguishing property of a virus is that replication requires some type of **user assistance**, such as clicking on an email attachment or sharing a USB drive.

Computer Viruses

- A **computer virus** is computer code that can replicate itself by modifying other files or programs to insert code that is capable of further replication.
- This self-replication property is what distinguishes computer viruses from other kinds of malware, such as logic bombs.
- Another distinguishing property of a virus is that replication requires some type of **user assistance**, such as clicking on an email attachment or sharing a USB drive.

Biological Analogy

- Computer viruses share some properties with Biological viruses



Virus Phases

- ▶ **Dormant phase.** During this phase, the virus just exists—the virus is laying low and avoiding detection.
- ▶ **Propagation phase.** During this phase, the virus is replicating itself, infecting new files on new systems.
- ▶ **Triggering phase.** In this phase, some logical condition causes the virus to move from a dormant or propagation phase to perform its intended action.
- ▶ **Action phase.** In this phase, the virus performs the malicious action that it was designed to perform, called **payload**.
 - ▶ This action could include something seemingly innocent, like displaying a silly picture on a computer's screen, or something quite malicious, such as deleting all essential files on the hard drive.

Infection Types

■ Overwriting

- ❑ Destroys original code

■ Pre-pending

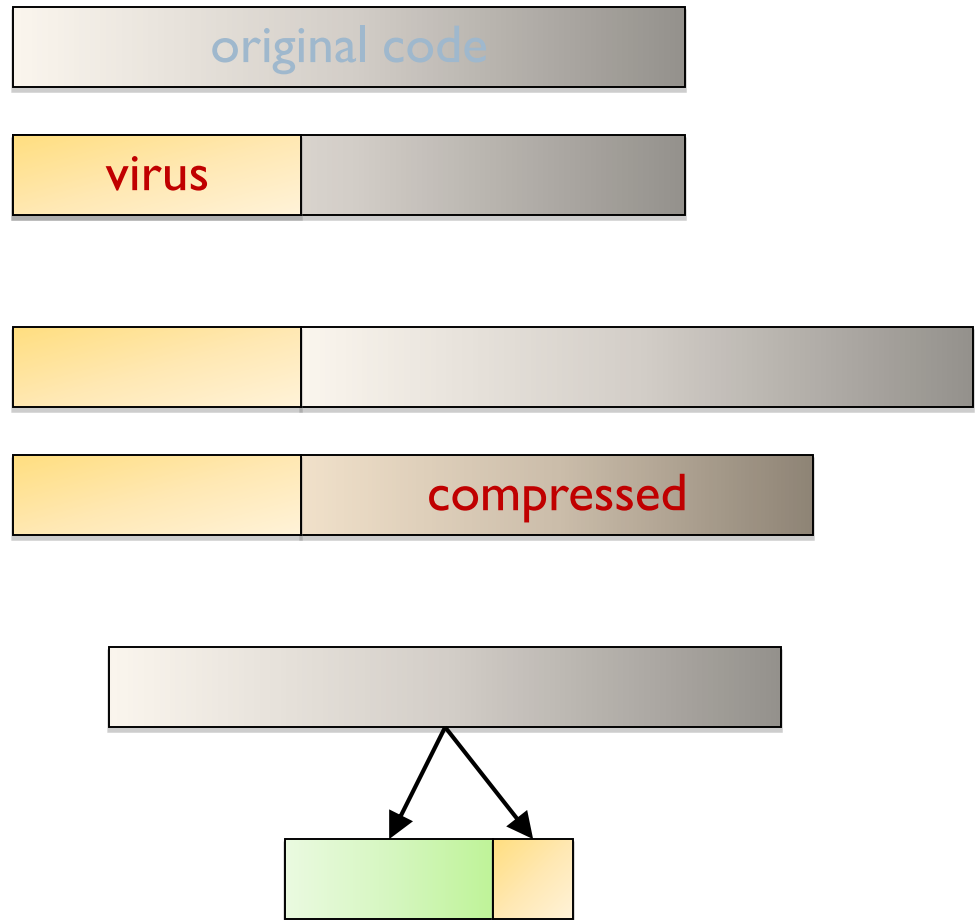
- ❑ Keeps original code, possibly compressed

■ Infection of libraries

- ❑ Allows virus to be memory resident
- ❑ E.g., kernel32.dll

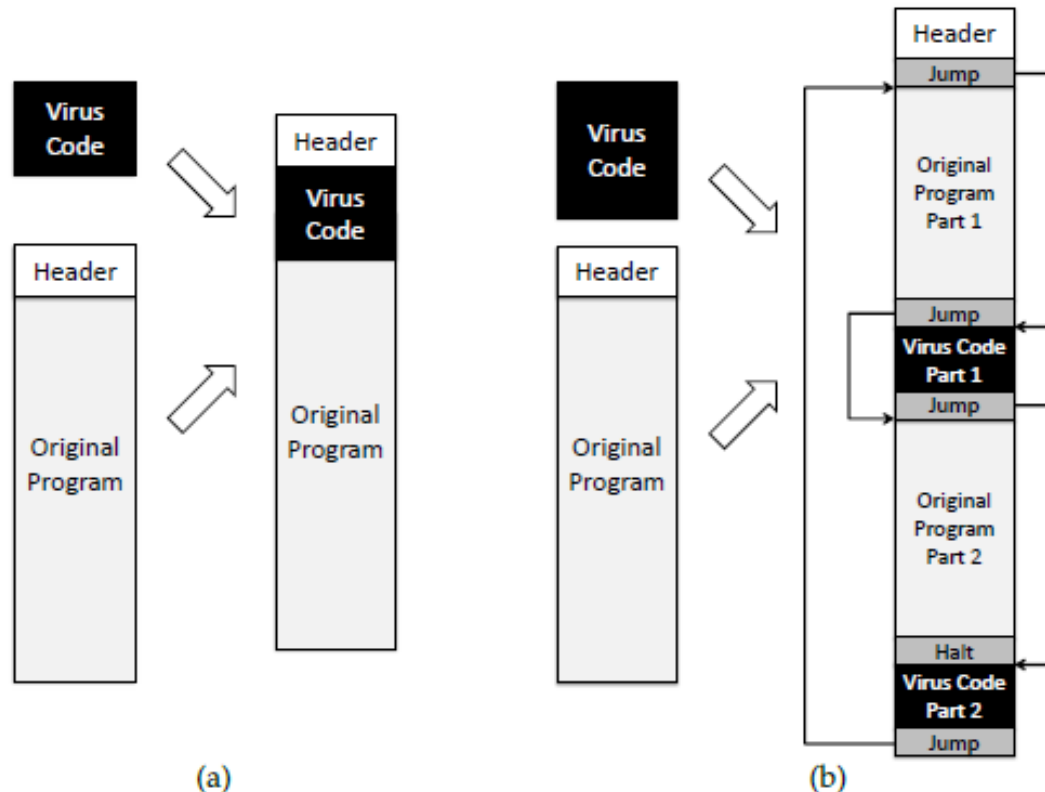
■ Macro viruses

- ❑ Infects MS Office documents
- ❑ Often installs in main document template



Degrees of Complication

- Viruses have various degrees of complication in how they can insert themselves in computer code.



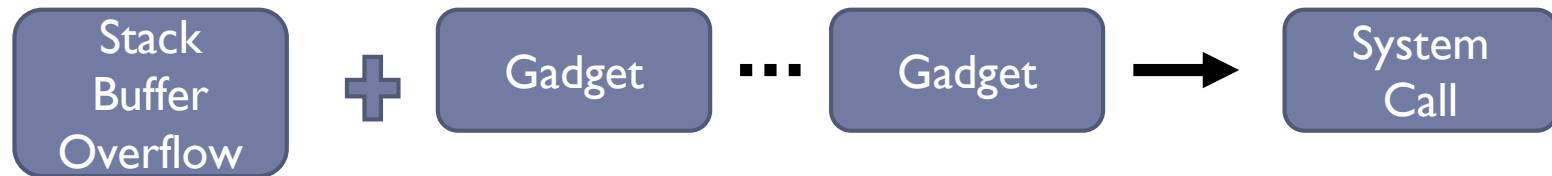
Behavior Based viruses

Monitored behaviors can include:

- ▶ Attempts to open, view, delete, and/or modify files;
- ▶ Attempts to format disk drives and other unrecoverable disk operations;
- ▶ Modifications to the logic of executable files, scripts of macros;
- ▶ Modification of critical system settings, such as start-up settings;
- ▶ Disadvantage : cannot predict future behavior

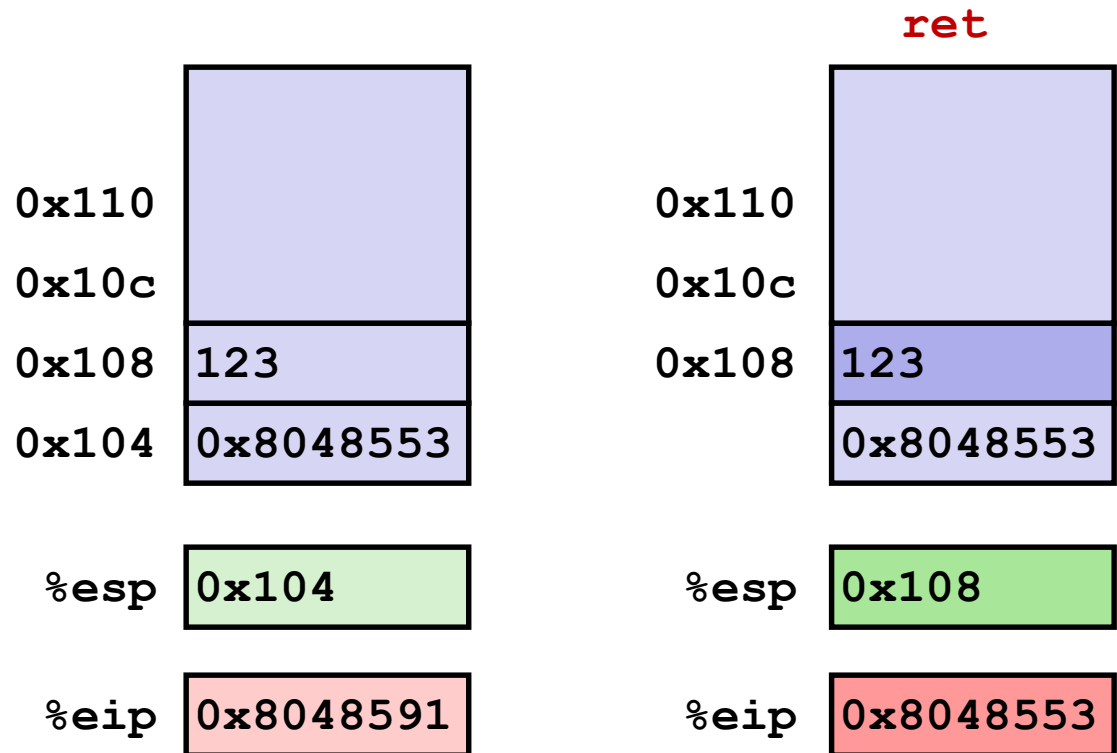
Return Oriented Programming

- ▶ Serangan dengan memanfaatkan standard library yang tersedia, tanpa harus menginjeksi kode



Procedure Return Example

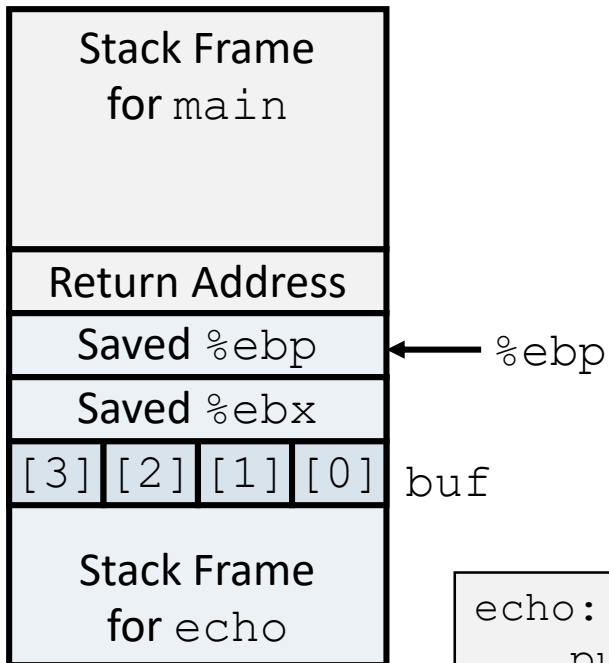
8048591: c3 ret



▶ **%eip:** *program counter*

Buffer Overflow Stack

Before call to gets



```
/* Echo Line */
void echo()
{
    char buf[4]; /* Way too small! */
    gets(buf);
    puts(buf);
}
```

```
echo:
    pushl %ebp                # Save %ebp on stack
    movl %esp, %ebp
    pushl %ebx                # Save %ebx
    subl $20, %esp           # Allocate stack space
    leal -8(%ebp), %ebx       # Compute buf as %ebp-8
    movl %ebx, (%esp)         # Push buf on stack
    call gets                 # Call gets
    . . .
```

Return oriented programming

- ▶ Gadget: potongan sekuens instruksi yang berakhiran dengan `ret` (return) => menjalankan instruksi yg ditunjuk stack

- ▶ Contoh gadget:

```
pop %ecx  
pop %eax  
ret
```

```
mov %eax, (%ecx)  
ret
```

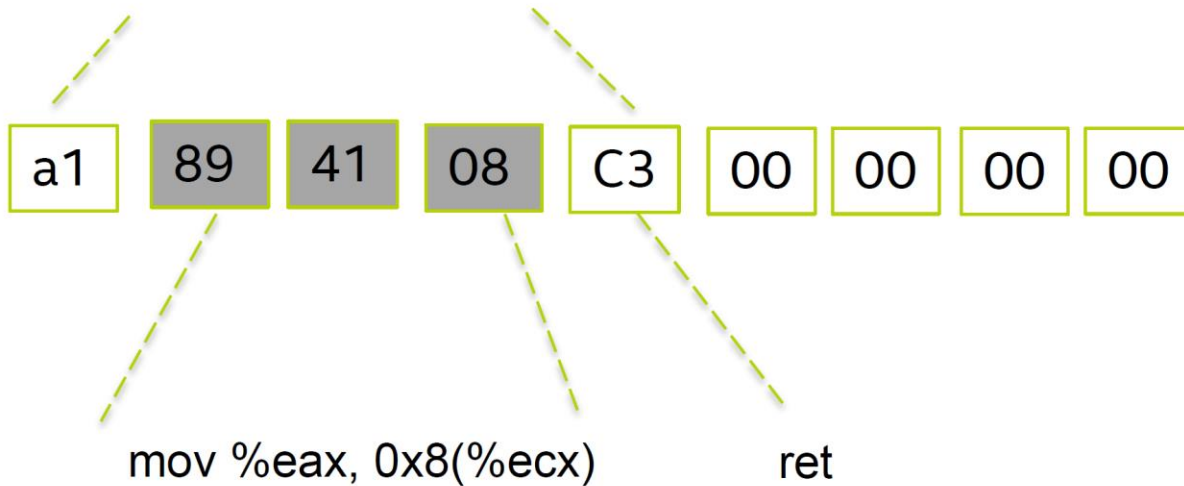
- ▶ Stack setup:

```
| <address of mov %eax, (%ecx)> |  
| <value to write>             |  
| <address to write to>        |  
| <address of pop %ecx; pop %eax; ret> |
```



Contoh gadget lain

mov 0xc3084189, %eax



ROP Attack

- ▶ Memanfaatkan call ke libc (return to libc)

any sufficiently large program codebase



arbitrary attacker computation and behavior,
without code injection

Teknik: kumpulkan db gadget dengan mencari ret (c3) pada kode, digunakan sebagai sekuens instruksi serangan



Today

■ Structures

- Alignment

▶ Unions

▶ Memory Layout

▶ Buffer Overflow

- ▶ Vulnerability
- ▶ Protection
- ▶ Return Oriented Programming





Buffer overflow

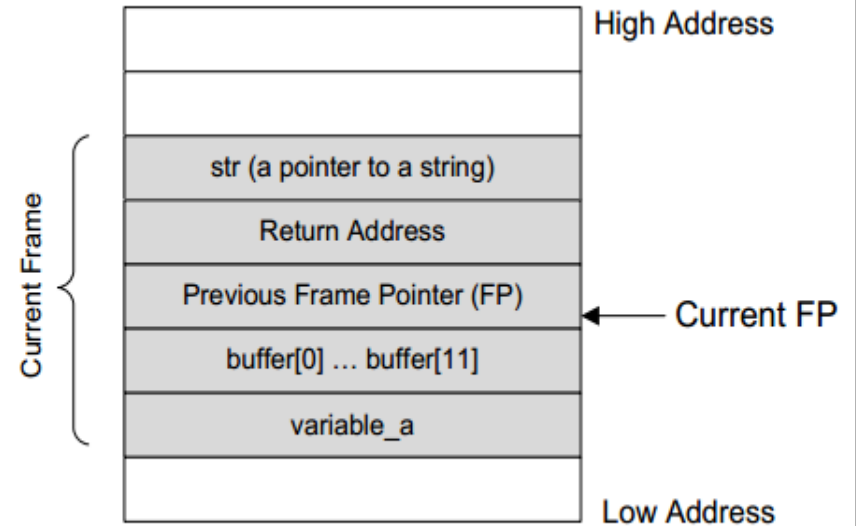
- ▶ An attempt to store too much information into an allocated space in a computer's memory.
 - ▶ A hacker can exploit a buffer overflow to overwrite the return address to point to a new program, rather than original correct program
 - ▶ This new program is inserted by the hacker into the system which allows them to access the OS and perform malicious attacks

```
char buffer2[8] = {0};strcpy(buffer2, "helloooooo  
hooooooooow are youuuuuuuu");
```

```
void func (char *str) {
    char buffer[12];
    int variable_a;
    strcpy (buffer, str);
}
```

```
Int main() {
    char *str = "I am greater than 12 bytes";
    func (str);
}
```

(a) A code example



(b) Active Stack Frame in func()

```
void func (char *str) {
    char buffer[12];
    int variable_a;
    strcpy (buffer, str);
} if (canary == secret)
```

```
Int main() {
    char *str = "I am greater than 12 bytes";
    func (str);
}
```

STACK BASICS

EXAMPLE

```
void function( int a, int b , int c){  
    char buffer1[5];  
    char buffer2[10];  
}  
void main() {  
    function(1,2,3);  
}
```

Lower Memory Address

Local Variables
buffer2
buffer1

Old Base Pointer
address of main()
function's stack frame

Return Address
address of the next line
of code in main()

Arguments
a
b
c

Higher Memory Address

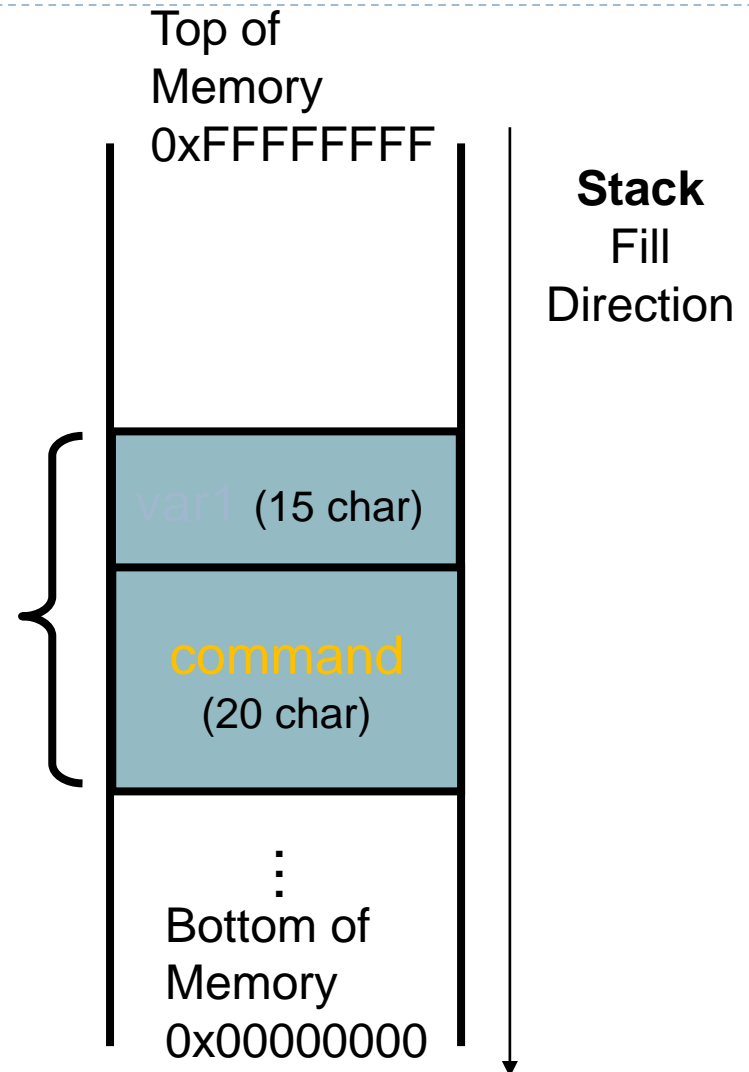


Buffer Overflow

domain.c

```
Main(int argc, char *argv[ ])  
/* get user_input */  
{  
    char var1[15];  
    char command[20];  
    strcpy(command, "whois ");  
    strcat(command, argv[1]);  
    strcpy(var1, argv[1]);  
    printf(var1);  
    system(command);  
}
```

- ▶ Retrieves domain registration info
- ▶ e.g., domain brown.edu

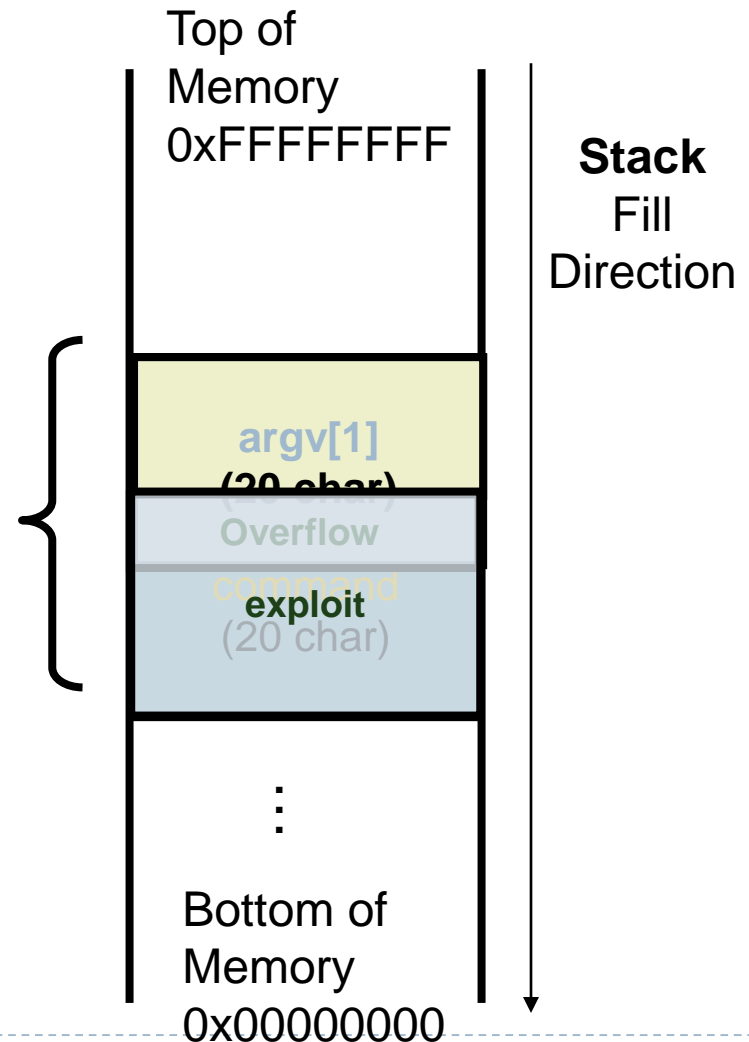


strcpy() Vulnerability

domain.c

```
Main(int argc, char *argv[])
/*get user_input*/
{
    char var1[15];
    char command[20];
    strcpy(command, "whois ");
    strcat(command, argv[1]);
    strcpy(var1, argv[1]);
    printf(var1);
    system(command);
}
```

- `argv[1]` is the user input
- `strcpy(dest, src)` does not check buffer
- `strcat(d, s)` concatenates strings



Buffer overflow

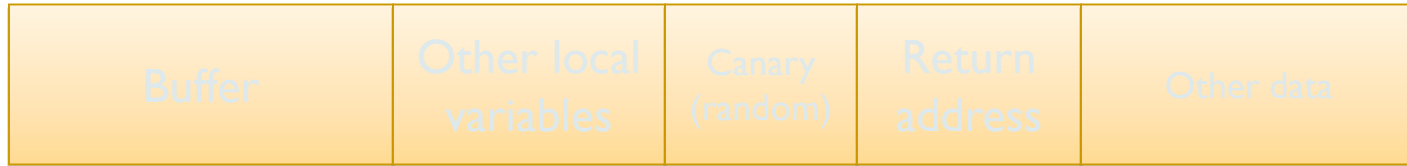
Name	Amount owing
John Smith	4500

Name: John Smith
Amount Owing: 4500

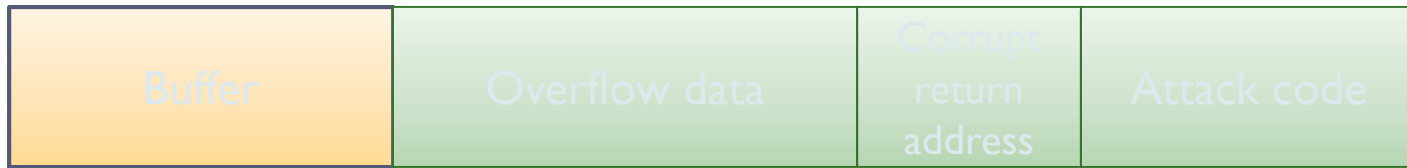
Name	Amount owing
John Smithxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	99999999990
Name: John Smithxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx xxxxxxxxxxx9999999999 Amount Owing: 1000 (the last 0 from 1000 was not written over.)	

Stack-based buffer overflow detection using a random canary

Normal (safe) stack configuration:



Buffer overflow attack attempt:



- ▶ The canary is placed in the stack prior to the return address, so that any attempt to over-write the return address also over-writes the canary.

```
/* This program has a buffer overflow vulnerability. */
/* However, it is protected by StackGuard */
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>

int func (char *str)
{
    int canaryWord = secret;
    char buffer[12];

    /* The following statement has a buffer overflow problem */
    strcpy(buffer, str);

    if (canaryWord == secret) // Return address is not modified
        return 1;
    else // Return address is potentially modified
        { ... error handling ... }
}
```

- Use strong type language, e.g. java, C#, etc. With these languages, buffer overflows will be detected.
- Use safe library functions.
 - Functions that could have buffer overflow problem: `gets`, `strcpy`, `strcat`, `sprintf`, `scanf`, etc.
 - These functions are safer: `fgets`, `strncpy`, `strncat`, and `snprintf`.

