



No eXecute  
(NX)

## WHAT IS IT?

Defines areas of memory  
as either instructions

Writable XOR Executable

## WHAT IS IT?

Shellcode is useless  
:(

Is it over?



# Return- Oriented Programming

## WHAT IS IT?

Chaining a bunch of code  
already present in the  
binary itself

## WHAT IS IT?

In fact, you've already done  
it twice just now!

Ret Gadget  
Jmp RSP Gadget

# Passing Parameters

x86

Params are pushed  
onto the stack

x86\_64

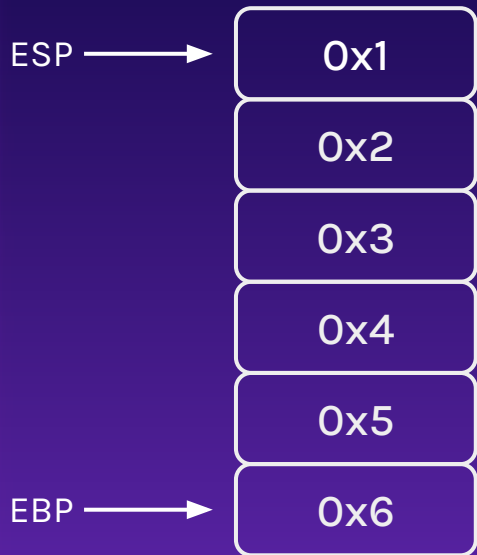
Parameters are  
stored in registers

# Sample Code

```
int func(int a, int b, int c,  
        int e, int f, int g) {  
    return a + b + c + d + e + f;  
}  
  
int main() {  
    func(1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6);  
}
```



## x86



## x86\_64



# Sample Code

```
int func(int arg1) {  
    return arg1;  
}
```

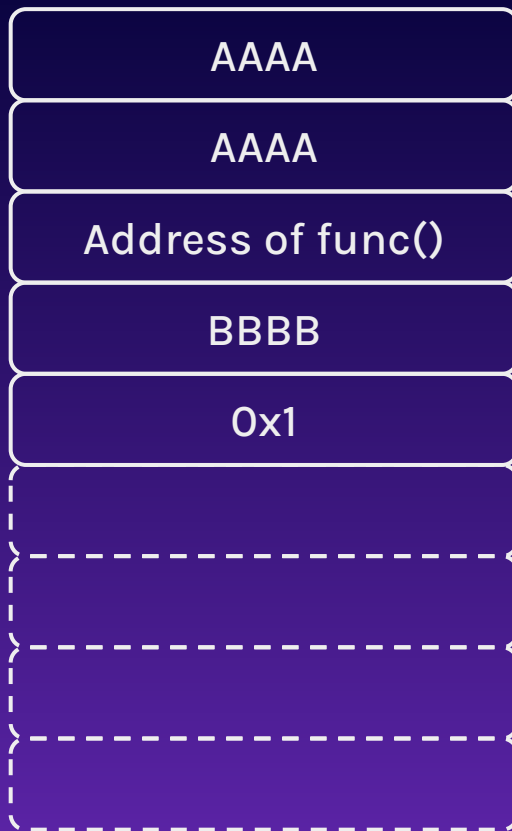
```
int main() {  
    char buffer[256];  
    gets(buffer);  
}
```

Next instruction  
ret

0x00000000



0xFFFFFFFF



← ESP

Next instruction  
**push ebp**

0x00000000



0xFFFFFFFF

AAAA

AAAA

Address of func()

BBBB

0x1



ESP

Next instruction  
`mov ebp, esp`

0x00000000



0xFFFFFFFF

AAAA

AAAA

AAAA

BBBB

0x1



ESP

Next instruction  
**pop ebp**

0x00000000



0xFFFFFFFF

AAAA

AAAA

AAAA

BBBB

0x1



ESP/EBP

arg1: [ebp + 0x8]

Next instruction  
ret

0x00000000



0xFFFFFFFF



← ESP

## WHAT HAPPENS?

EIP goes to 0x42424242

We can chain multiple  
return addresses



# Sample Code

```
int func1(int arg1) {  
    return arg1;  
}
```

```
int func2(int arg2) {  
    return arg2;  
}
```

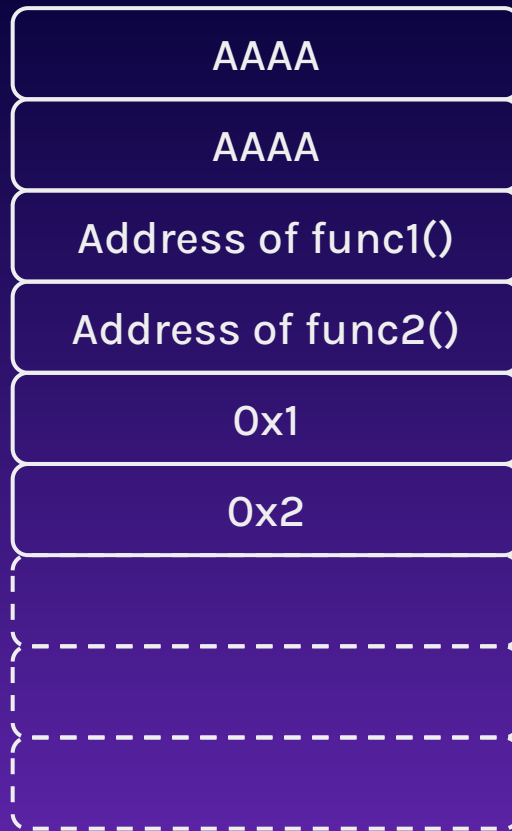
```
int main() {  
    char buffer[256];  
    gets(buffer);  
}
```

Next instruction  
ret

0x00000000



0xFFFFFFFF



ESP

Next instruction  
**push ebp**

0x00000000

0xFFFFFFFF

AAAA

AAAA

Address of func1()

Address of func2()

0x1

0x2

ESP

Next instruction  
`mov ebp, esp`

0x00000000



0xFFFFFFFF

AAAA

AAAA

AAAA

Address of func2()

0x1

0x2



ESP

Next instruction  
**pop ebp**

0x00000000



0xFFFFFFFF

AAAA

AAAA

AAAA

Address of func2()

0x1

0x2



ESP/EBP

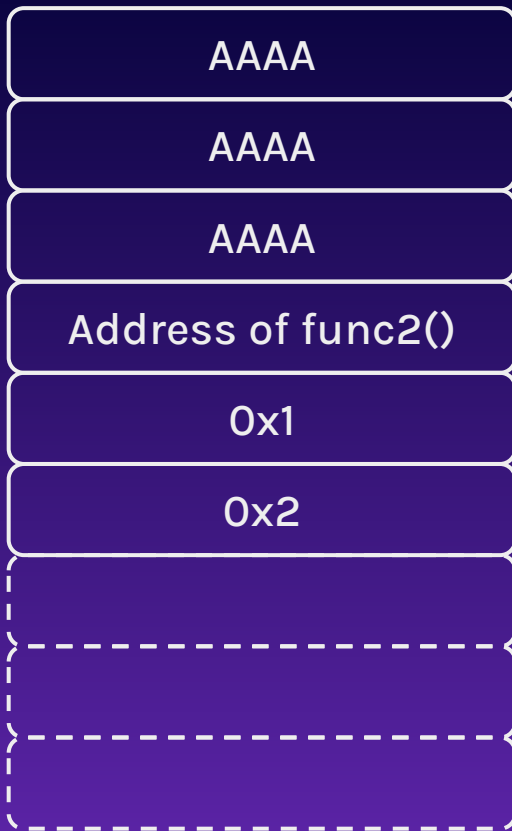
arg1: [ebp + 0x8]

Next instruction  
ret

0x00000000



0xFFFFFFFF



ESP

Next instruction  
**push ebp**

0x00000000



0xFFFFFFFF

AAAA

AAAA

AAAA

Address of func2()

0x1



ESP

0x2



Next instruction  
`mov ebp, esp`

0x00000000

0xFFFFFFFF

AAAA

AAAA

AAAA

AAAA

0x1

0x2

ESP

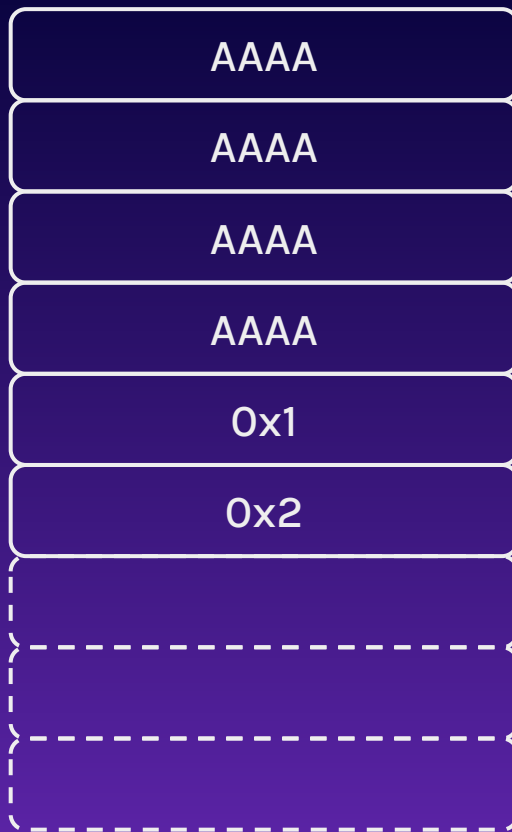


Next instruction  
**pop ebp**

0x00000000



0xFFFFFFFF



← ESP/EBP

arg2: [ebp + 0x8]

Next instruction  
ret

0x00000000



0xFFFFFFFF

AAAA

AAAA

AAAA

AAAA

0x1

0x2



ESP

## PROBLEM

Arguments taken  
are  $[ebp + 0x8]$

Max of 2 functions chained

## PROBLEM

What if function needs more than one argument?

What if more than 2 chained functions are required?

# ROP Gadgets

Machine instructions that are already present in the binary.

~Wikipedia-Kun

# POP-RET Gadget

A pop instruction followed by a ret instruction

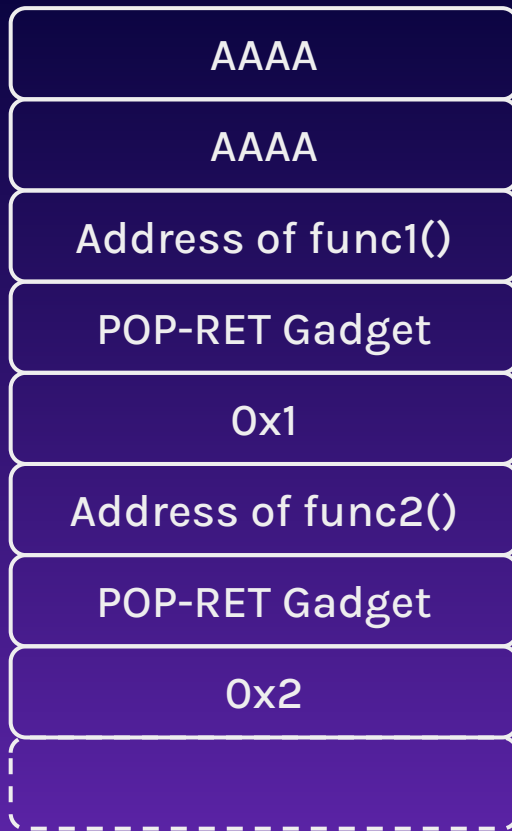
Place in between function address and arguments

Next instruction  
ret

0x00000000



0xFFFFFFFF

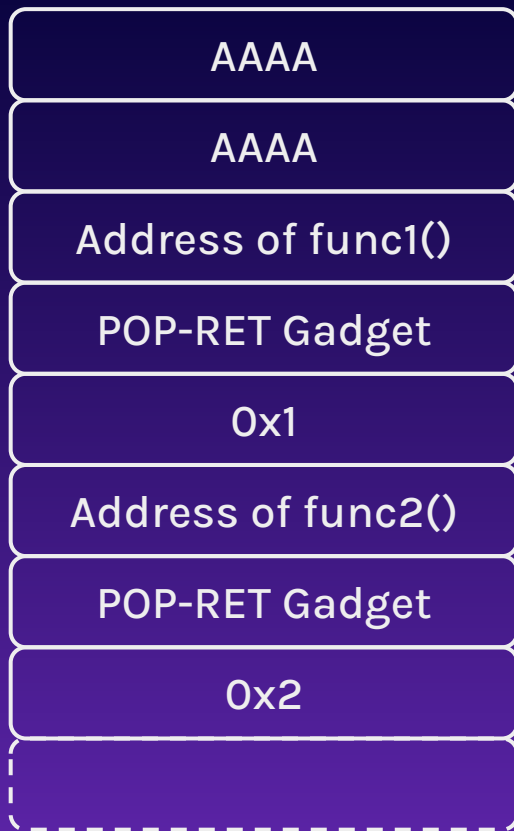


← ESP

Next instruction  
**push ebp**

0x00000000

0xFFFFFFFF



← ESP



Next instruction  
`mov ebp, esp`

0x00000000



0xFFFFFFFF

AAAA

AAAA

AAAA

POP-RET Gadget

0x1

Address of func2()

POP-RET Gadget

0x2



ESP

Next instruction  
**pop ebp**

0x00000000



0xFFFFFFFF

AAAA

AAAA

AAAA

POP-RET Gadget

0x1

Address of func2()

POP-RET Gadget

0x2



ESP/EBP

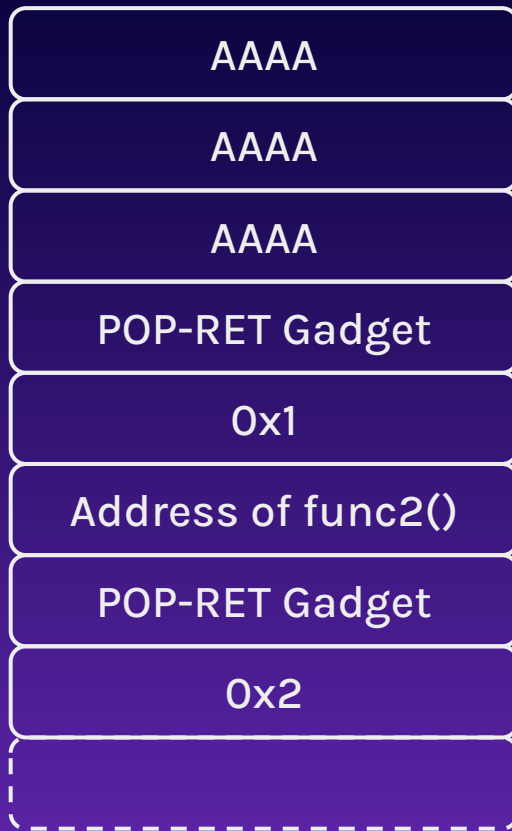
arg1: [ebp + 0x8]

Next instruction  
ret

0x00000000



0xFFFFFFFF



ESP

Next instruction  
**pop e??**

0x00000000

0xFFFFFFFF

AAAA

AAAA

AAAA

POP-RET Gadget

0x1

Address of func2()

POP-RET Gadget

0x2

ESP

Next instruction  
ret

0x00000000

0xFFFFFFFF

AAAA

AAAA

AAAA

POP-RET Gadget

0x1

Address of func2()

POP-RET Gadget

0x2

ESP

## WHAT HAPPENED

Notice how the stack layout  
is exactly how we started

Now we can chain as many  
functions as we like

HOW?

What if there are 2 or more  
arguments?

Just find a POP-POP-RET  
Gadget!



0x00000000



0xFFFFFFFF

AAAA

AAAA

Address of func1()

POP-POP-RET Gadget

Parameter 1

Parameter 2

Address of func2()

POP-RET Gadget

Parameter 1



HOW?

What about strings?


Recall that C strings are just  
character arrays

## HOW?

Reuse strings already present  
in the binary

Pass the address of the string  
as the parameter

# Finding Gadgets



```
pwndbg> ropper -- --search "pop e?";  
ret;"  
0x08048540: pop ebp; ret;  
0x080483a5: pop ebx; ret;
```

# Finding String

```
>>> from pwn import *  
>>> elf = context.binary =  
ELF("./binaryfile")  
  
# Finding Address of String  
>>> next(elf.search(b"somestring\x00"))  
12345678
```



0x00000000



0xFFFFFFFF

AAAA

AAAA

Address of func1()

POP-RET Gadget

12345678





# ROP Chain

Chaining a bunch of gadgets to chain  
multiple functions together

# ret2func.c

25 mins to pwn ret2func32

Download files at:

<http://ctfd.platypew.social>

nc pwn.platypew.social 30004

```
bool win1 = false;
```

```
bool win2 = false;
```

```
void func1(int arg1) {  
    if (arg1 == 0xdeadbeef)  
        win1 = true;  
}
```

```
void func2(int arg2) {  
    if (arg2 == 0xcafebabe)  
        win2 = true;  
}
```

```
void win(char* secret) {  
    if (!(win1 && win2)) {  
        return;  
    }  
  
    if (!strncmp(secret, "magicman", 8))  
        system("/bin/sh");  
}
```

```
void vuln() {  
    char buffer[64];  
    gets(buffer);  
}
```

