Kernel Pwn Cheat Sheet

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Kernel version

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Linux 5.17-rc8

Kernel config

config	path	
CONFIG_KALLSYMS	/proc/sys/kernel/kptr_restrict	

CONFIG_USERFAULTFD	/proc/sys/vm/unprivileged_userfaultfd
CONFIG_STATIC_USERMODEHELPER	
CONFIG_SLUB	
CONFIG_SLAB	
CONFIG_SLAB_FREELIST_RANDOM	
CONFIG_SLAB_FREELIST_HARDENED	
CONFIG_HAVE_STACKPROTECTOR	
CONFIG_RANDOMIZE_BASE	
CONFIG_HARDENED_USERCOPY	
CONFIG_SMP	
CONFIG_BPF	/proc/sys/kernel/unprivileged_bpf_disabled
CONFIG_FG_KASLR	

Process management

task_struct

- task struct
 - thread info
 - syscall_work
 - cred
 - tasks
 - init task
 - init cred
 - comm
 - prctl(PR_SET_NAME, name);
 - thread struct
- start kernel
 - cred init
 - fork init
 - task struct whitelist
 - arch thread struct whitelist
 - <u>fpu thread struct whitelist</u>

current

- current
 - get current
 - current task
 - DECLARE PER CPU
 - DECLARE PER CPU SECTION

- PCPU ATTRS
 - case CONFIG_SMP
 - PER CPU BASE SECTION
- this cpu read stable
 - pcpu size call return
 - this cpu read stable 8
 - percpu stable op
 - case CONFIG SMP
 - movq %%gs:%P[var], %[val] where var = ¤t_task

- start_kernel
 - setup per cpu areas
 - case CONFIG_SMP
 - per cpu offset
 - per_cpu_offset[cpu] = pcpu_base_addr __per_cpu_start +
 pcpu_unit_offsets[cpu]
 - switch to new gdt
 - load percpu segment
 - cpu kernelmode gs base
 - fixed percpu data
 - DECLARE PER CPU FIRST
 - fixed percpu data
 - per cpu
 - case CONFIG_SMP
 - per cpu ptr
 - SHIFT PERCPU PTR
 - RELOC HIDE
 - case CONFIG_SMP
 - gs = &fixed_percpu_data.gs_base +
 __per_cpu_offset[cpu]

Syscall

- entry SYSCALL 64
 - pt regs
 - pt_regs may be use for stack pivoting
 - o do syscall 64
 - add_random_kstack_offset();
 - syscall enter from user mode
 - syscall enter from user work
 - syscall trace enter
 - SYSCALL_WORK_SECCOMP

- do syscall x64
- swapgs restore regs and return to usermode

Memory allocator

kmem_cache

- case CONFIG SLUB
 - kmem_cache
 - kmem cache cpu
 - freelist
 - <u>slab</u>
 - slab_cache
 - freelist
 - offset
 - random
 - kmem cache node
- case CONFIG_SLAB
 - kmem cache
 - array cache
 - entry
 - kmem cache node
 - shared

kmem_cache_create

- kmem cache create
 - useroffset = 0
 - usersize = 0
 - kmem cache create usercopy
 - create cache
 - case CONFIG_SLUB
 - kmem cache create
 - kmem cache open
 - calculate order
 - calculate sizes
 - <u>oo make</u>
 - order objects
 - case CONFIG_SLAB
 - kmem cache create
 - set objfreelist slab cache
 - calculate slab order
- start kernel
 - mm init
 - kmem cache init

- useroffset = 0
- usersize = kmalloc_info[INDEX_NODE].size
- create kmalloc cache
 - create boot cache
 - __kmem_cache_create

kmalloc

- kmalloc
 - kmalloc index
 - kmalloc index
 - case CONFIG_SLUB
 - #define KMALLOC_MIN_SIZE 8
 - case CONFIG_SLAB
 - #define KMALLOC_MIN_SIZE 32
 - kmalloc caches
 - kmalloc type
 - #define GFP_KERNEL_ACCOUNT (GFP_KERNEL | __GFP_ACCOUNT)
 - GFP_KERNEL → KMALLOC_NORMAL
 - GFP_KERNEL_ACCOUNT → KMALLOC_CGROUP
 - case CONFIG_SLUB
 - kmem cache alloc trace
 - slab alloc
 - slab alloc node
 - slab alloc
 - slab alloc
 - slab = c->slab =
 slub_percpu_partial(c);
 - new slab
 - <u>allocate slab</u>
 - alloc slab page
 - shuffle freelist
 - get_freepointer_safe
 - freelist ptr
 - swab
 - swab
 - swab64
 - constant swab64

- case CONFIG_SLAB
 - kmem cache alloc trace
 - slab alloc
 - do cache alloc
 - cache alloc
 - cache alloc refill

- cache alloc node
 - cache grow begin
 - kmem_getpages
 - alloc pages node
 - cache init objs
 - shuffle freelist

kfree

- case CONFIG_SLUB
 - kfree
 - virt to folio
 - virt to page
 - pa
 - phys addr
 - phys_addr_nodebug
 - x __START_KERNEL_map +
 __START_KERNEL_map PAGE_OFFSET
 - #define ___PAGE_OFFSET page_offset_base
 - pfn to page
 - pfn to page
 - vmemmap
 - VMEMMAP START
 - vmemmap_base
 - page folio
 - compound head
 - pageflags
 - folio_slab
 - slab free
 - do slab free
 - likely(slab == c->slab) → likely(slab == slab->slab_cache->cpu_slab->slab)
 - set freepointer
 - BUG_ON(object == fp);
 - slab free
 - put_cpu_partial(s, slab, 1);
- case CONFIG_SLAB
 - kfree
 - cache free
 - cache flusharray
 - <u>free one</u>

WARN_ON_ONCE(ac->avail > 0 && ac->entry[ac->avail 1] == objp)

Physmem

- page tables
 - page_offset_base
 - heap base address (by kmalloc) and it is mapped to /dev/mem
 - secondary_startup_64 can be found at page_offset_base + offset
 - vmalloc_base
 - vmemmap_base
 - base address of <u>pages</u>

Paging

- CR3 , Page Global Directory , Page Upper Directory , Page Middle Directory , Page Table Entry are used
- each register or variable holds an encoded pointer, not a raw pointer
- the 12~51 bits of each register or valiable indicates the base address of the next directory
- see <u>5.3.3 4-Kbyte Page Translation / AMD64 Architecture Programmer's Manual, Volume 2</u> for details
- last byte of Page Global Directory(PML4E) often be 0x67(0b01100111)

Usercopy

- · copy from user
 - check copy size
 - case CONFIG_HARDENED_USERCOPY
 - check object size
 - check object size
 - check heap object
 - case CONFIG HARDENED USERCOPY
 - case CONFIG_SLUB
 - check heap object
 - case CONFIG SLAB
 - check heap object
 - otherwise
 - check heap object
 - check page span
 - otherwise
 - check object size
- · copy to user
 - check_copy_size

Symbol

- EXPORT SYMBOL
 - EXPORT SYMBOL
 - EXPORT SYMBOL
 - cond export sym
 - cond export sym
 - cond export sym 1
 - EXPORT SYMBOL
 - KSYMTAB ENTRY
 - RO DATA
- kernel symbol value
 - offset to ptr

Snippet

- · gain root privileges
 - (kernel) commit_creds(prepare_kernel_cred(NULL));
- break out of namespaces
 - o (kernel) switch_task_namespaces(find_task_by_vpid(1), init_nsproxy);
 - (user) setns(open("/proc/1/ns/mnt", O_RDONLY), 0);
 - o (user) setns(open("/proc/1/ns/pid", 0_RDONLY), 0);
 - o (user) setns(open("/proc/1/ns/net", O_RDONLY), 0);

Structures

| structure | size | flag (v5.14+) | memo |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| ldt_struct | 16 | GFP_KERNEL_ACCOUNT | |
| shm_file_data | 32 | GFP_KERNEL | |
| seq_operations | 32 | GFP_KERNEL_ACCOUNT | /proc/self/stat |
| msg_msg | 48 ~ 4096 | GFP_KERNEL_ACCOUNT | |
| msg_msgseg | 8 ~ 4096 | GFP_KERNEL_ACCOUNT | |
| subprocess_info | 96 | GFP_KERNEL | socket(22, AF_INET, 0); |
| timerfd_ctx | 216 | GFP_KERNEL | |
| pipe_buffer | 640 = 40 x 16 | GFP_KERNEL_ACCOUNT | |
| tty_struct | 696 | GFP_KERNEL | /dev/ptmx |
| setxattr | 0 ~ | GFP_KERNEL | |
| sk_buff | 320 ~ | GFP_KERNEL_ACCOUNT | |

Idt struct

- modify ldt
 - write ldt

- #define LDT_ENTRIES 8192
- #define LDT_ENTRY_SIZE 8
- alloc ldt struct
- read ldt
 - desc struct
 - copy_to_user
 - copy_to_user won't panic the kernel when accessing wrong address

shm_file_data

- shmat
 - do shmat

seq_operations

- proc stat init
 - stat proc ops
- stat open
 - single open size
 - single open
- seq read iter
 - m->op->start

msg_msg, msg_msgseg

- msg queue
 - \circ q_messages \rightarrow msg_msg
- msgsnd
 - ksys msgsnd
 - do msgsnd
 - <u>load msg</u>
 - alloc_msg
- msgrcv
 - ksys msgrcv
 - do msgrcv
 - #define MSG_COPY 040000
 - copy_msg

subprocess info

- socket
 - sys socket
 - sock create
 - sock create
 - request module
 - call modprobe
 - call usermodehelper setup

timerfd ctx

- timerfd_create
- timerfd release
 - kfree_rcu

pipe_buffer

- pipe, pipe2
 - o do pipe2
 - do pipe flags
 - create pipe files
 - get pipe inode
 - alloc pipe info
 - #define PIPE_DEF_BUFFERS 16
 - pipefifo fops
- pipe write
 - buf->ops = &anon_pipe_buf_ops;
- pipe release
 - put pipe info
 - free pipe info
 - pipe_buf_release
 - ops->release

tty struct

- unix98 pty init
 - tty default fops
 - tty fops
- ptmx open
 - tty init dev
 - alloc tty struct
- tty ioctl
 - tty paranoia check
 - #define TTY_MAGIC 0x5401
 - tty pair get tty
 - tty->ops->ioctl

setxattr

- setxattr
 - path_setxattr
 - setxattr
 - vfs_setxattr may fail, but kvmalloc and kvfree complete successfully

sk_buff

- socketpair
 - sys socketpair
 - sock create
 - sock create
 - case PF_UNIX
 - unix family ops
 - unix create
 - case SOCK_DGRAM
 - unix_dgram_ops
 - unix_create1
 - sk->sk_allocation =
 GFP_KERNEL_ACCOUNT;
- unix dgram sendmsg
 - sock alloc send pskb
 - alloc skb with frags
 - alloc_skb
 - alloc skb
 - struct skb_shared_info is at the end of data

Variables

| variable | memo |
|---------------|-------------------------------|
| modprobe_path | /proc/sys/kernel/modprobe |
| core_pattern | /proc/sys/kernel/core_pattern |
| poweroff_cmd | |
| n_tty_ops | (read) scanf, (ioctl) fgets |

modprobe_path

- <u>execve</u>
 - <u>do_execve</u>
 - do execveat common
 - bprm execve
 - exec binprm
 - search binary handler
 - request module
 - call modprobe
 - <u>call_usermodehelper_setup</u>
 - call_usermodehelper_exec

core_pattern

- <u>do_coredump</u>
 - format_corename
 - call usermodehelper setup
 - call usermodehelper exec

poweroff_cmd

- orderly_poweroff
 - poweroff_work_func
 - orderly_poweroff
 - run_cmd
 - call_usermodehelper
 - call usermodehelper setup
 - call_usermodehelper_exec

n_tty_ops

- tty_struct
 - tty_ldisc
- <u>n tty init</u>
 - tty_register_ldisc