# **Kernel Pwn Cheat Sheet**

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# **Kernel version**

commit 09688c0166e76ce2fb85e86b9d99be8b0084cdf9 (HEAD -> master, tag: v5.17-rc8, origin/master, origin/HEAD)

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Linux 5.17-rc8

# **Kernel config**

config	memo	
CONFIG_KALLSYMS	/proc/sys/kernel/kptr_restrict	

CONFIG_USERFAULTFD	/proc/sys/vm/unprivileged_userfaultfd
CONFIG_STATIC_USERMODEHELPER	
CONFIG_SLUB	default allocator
CONFIG_SLAB	
CONFIG_SLAB_FREELIST_RANDOM	
CONFIG_SLAB_FREELIST_HARDENED	
CONFIG_FG_KASLR	
CONFIG_BPF	/proc/sys/kernel/unprivileged_bpf_disabled
CONFIG_SMP	multi-processor
CONFIG_HAVE_STACKPROTECTOR	cannary
CONFIG_RANDOMIZE_BASE	kasir
CONFIG_HARDENED_USERCOPY	prevent copying over object size

# **Process management**

### task\_struct

- task struct
  - thread info
    - syscall\_work
  - cred
  - tasks
    - init task
      - init cred
  - comm
    - prctl(PR\_SET\_NAME, name);

#### 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 = &current\_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
  - slab
    - slab\_cache
    - freelist
- offset
- random
- kmem cache node
- case CONFIG\_SLAB
  - kmem\_cache
    - array\_cache
      - entry
    - kmem cache node
      - shared

### \_\_kmem\_cache\_create

- case CONFIG\_SLUB
  - kmem cache create
    - kmem cache open
      - calculate order
      - calculate sizes
        - oo make
          - order objects
- case CONFIG\_SLAB
  - kmem cache create
    - set objfreelist slab cache
      - calculate slab order

#### 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
          - allocate slab
            - alloc slab page
            - shuffle freelist
    - get freepointer safe
      - freelist ptr
- 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
            - <u>phys addr nodebug</u>
              - 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
      - free one
        - 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)

## Copy from/to user

- 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

# **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);
  - o (user) setns(open("/proc/1/ns/mnt", O\_RDONLY), 0);
  - o (user) setns(open("/proc/1/ns/pid", O\_RDONLY), 0);
  - (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 |                         |

### ldt\_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
  - q\_messages → msg\_msg
- msgsnd
  - ksys msgsnd
    - do msgsnd
      - load msg

- alloc msg
- msgrcv
  - ksys\_msgrcv
    - do\_msgrcv
      - #define MSG\_COPY 040000
      - copy\_msg

#### subprocess\_info

- socket
  - <u>sys socket</u>
    - 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
  - <u>put pipe info</u>
    - 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 |
| n_tty_ops     | (read) scanf, (ioctl) fgets   |

### modprobe\_path

- execve
  - do\_execve
    - do execveat common
      - bprm\_execve
        - <u>exec\_binprm</u>
          - search\_binary\_handler
            - request\_module
              - call\_modprobe
                - call\_usermodehelper\_setup
                - call\_usermodehelper\_exec

#### core\_pattern

- <u>do coredump</u>
  - format\_corename
  - <u>call usermodehelper setup</u>
  - <u>call usermodehelper exec</u>

### 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 Idisc