# **Kernel Pwn Cheat Sheet**

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#### **Kernel version**

 $\verb|commit|| 09688c0166e76ce2fb85e86b9d99be8b0084cdf9| (\texttt{HEAD} -> \texttt{master}, \texttt{tag:} \texttt{v5.17-rc8}, \\$ 

origin/master, origin/HEAD)

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Date: Sun Mar 13 13:23:37 2022 -0700

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

### **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

#### 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
              - new slab
                - allocate slab
                  - shuffle freelist
          - get freepointer safe
            - freelist ptr
              - \*(ptr + kmem\_cache.offset) ^
                freelist ^ kmem\_cache.random
  - case CONFIG\_SLAB
    - kmem cache alloc trace
      - slab alloc
        - do cache alloc
          - cache alloc
            - cache alloc refill
          - cache alloc node
            - cache grow begin
              - cache init objs
                - shuffle freelist

#### kfree

- case CONFIG\_SLUB
  - kfree
    - slab free
      - do slab free
        - likely(slab == c->slab) → likely(slab == slab->slab\_cache->cpu\_slab->slab)
        - slab free
          - set freepointer
            - BUG\_ON(object == fp);
- 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
- page
- vmalloc to page
- page to virt
  - o page\_to\_virt(page) = page\_offset\_base + (((page vmemmap\_base) / 64) <<
    12)</pre>
  - <u>va</u>
    - PAGE OFFSET
      - PAGE OFFSET
        - page\_offset\_base
  - PFN PHYS
    - PAGE SHIFT
  - page to pfn
    - page to pfn
      - vmemmap
        - VMEMMAP START
          - vmemmap\_base

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

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

#### 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
  - 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
  - o tty->ops->ioctl

#### setxattr

- <u>setxattr</u>
  - 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
        - exec binprm
          - search\_binary\_handler
            - request module
              - call modprobe
                - call usermodehelper setup
                - call usermodehelper exec

#### core\_pattern

- do\_coredump
  - format corename
  - call\_usermodehelper\_setup
  - call usermodehelper exec

#### n tty ops

- tty\_struct
  - tty Idisc
- n tty init
  - tty register Idisc