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Agenda

- Race conditions
- Integer overflow
- Input validation
- SQL Injection



<https://flic.kr/p/6keSjR>



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Race conditions

- Arise when security-critical process occurs in stages
- Attacker makes change between stages
- Between authorization and use
- TOCTOU – time of check, time of use
- Security processes should be atomic



<https://flic.kr/p/e4RZaS>

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TOCTOU example

```
function readFile($filename){
    $user = getCurrentUser();

    //resolve file if its a symbolic link
    if(is_link($filename)){
        $filename = readlink($filename);
    }

    if(fileowner($filename) == $user){
        echo file_get_contents($filename);
        return;
    }
    else{
        echo 'Access denied';
        return false;
    }
}
```

Time of Check

Change a file with link to /etc/shadow HERE

Time of Use

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Integer overflow

- One of the most popular exploits
- Usually prepares grounds for memory exploits
- [Programmers rarely think about rare overflow cases..](#)
- Not only C/C++ - see [exploits of overflow in Java](#)

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Integer overflow explained

- Standard unsigned integer types

Type	Bits	Range	x86-32
unsigned char	8	0 - 255	255
unsigned short int	16	0 - 65,535	65,535
unsigned int	16*	0 - 65,535	4,294,967,295
unsigned long int	32	0-4,294,967,295	4,294,967,295
unsigned long long int	64	0 - 2 ⁶⁴ -1	0 - 2 ⁶⁴ -1

*at least

- What is the result of:

```
unsigned char c = 255 + 1
```

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Integer overflow explained

- Unsigned integers **wraparound (modulo MAX+1)**
- E.g., unsigned char:
the result of $250+8$ is 258 modulo 256, which is 2
- What is wrong with the following example:

```
for (unsigned int i = n; i >= 0; i--)
```



- Real-life example:
 - 1100 flights were grounded due to a crash of a flight-crew-scheduling software ([Comair, 2004](#))
 - The SW used a 16-bit counter, limiting the number of changes to 32,768 a month
 - Storms -> too many changes -> system crash



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Integer overflow exploitation

```
int* myfunction(int *array, unsigned int len)
{
    int *myarray; unsigned int i;
    myarray = malloc(len * sizeof(int));
    for(i = 0; i < len; i++)
        myarray[i] = array[i];
    return myarray;
}
```

- If len is large, $\text{len} * \text{sizeof(int)}$ will wraparound
- The consequent copy will overwrite the heap!

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Integer overflow explained

- Standard signed integer types

Type	Bits	Range	x86-32
char	8	-128- to 127	
short int	16	-32,768 to 32,767	
int	16*	-32,768 to 32,767	-2,147,483,648 to 2,147,483,647
long int	32	-2,147,483,648 to 2,147,483,647	-2,147,483,648 to 2,147,483,647
long long int	64	– 9,223,372,036,854,775,808 to 9,223,372,036,854,775,807	– 9,223,372,036,854,775,808 to 9,223,372,036,854,775,807

+

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Signed Integer Type - Sign and Magnitude

- The sign bit represents whether the value is negative (sign bit set to 1) or positive (sign bit set to 0)
- The other value bits represent the magnitude of the value in pure binary notation
- For Example:

00101011 = 43

10101011 = -43

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Signed Integer Type - Two's Complement

- Result of subtracting the number from 2^N
- To negate a two's complement value:
 - Toggle each bit, including the sign bit
 - Add 1 (with carries as required)
- For Example:
 - 00101011 = 43**
 - 11010101 = -43**

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Overflowing signed integers

- According to C/C++ standard the signed overflow behavior is undefined
- Compiler can do what ever it wants!
 - Breaking the program silently in unpredictable ways, depending on optimization
 - Changing the behavior with compiler updates
- In practice overflowing will usually result in negative values

Value	Representation
127	01111111
...
1	00000001
0	00000000
-1	11111111
...
-127	10000001
-128	10000000

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Signed overflow exploitation

```
int get_two_vars(int sock, char *out, int len)
{
    char buf1[512], buf2[512];
    unsigned int size1, size2;
    int size;
    if(recv(sock, buf1, sizeof(buf1), 0) < 0)
        { return -1; }
    if(recv(sock, buf2, sizeof(buf2), 0) < 0)
        { return -1; }
    /* packet begins with length information */
    memcpy(&size1, buf1, sizeof(int));
    memcpy(&size2, buf2, sizeof(int));
    size = size1 + size2; /* [1] */
    if(size > len)
        { /* [2] */ return -1; }
    memcpy(out, buf1, size1);
    memcpy(out + size1, buf2, size2);
    return size;
}
```

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Signed overflow exploitation

```
int get_two_vars(int sock, char *out, int len)
{
    char buf1[512], buf2[512];
    unsigned int size1, size2; int size;
    if(recv(sock, buf1, sizeof(buf1), 0) < 0)
        { return -1; }
    if(recv(sock, buf2, sizeof(buf2), 0) < 0)
        { return -1; }
    /* packet begins with length information */
    memcpy(&size1, buf1, sizeof(int));
    memcpy(&size2, buf2, sizeof(int));
    size = size1 + size2; /* [1] */
    if(size > len)
        { /* [2] */ return -1; }
    memcpy(out, buf1, size1);
    memcpy(out + size1, buf2, size2);
    return size;
}
```

size1 = 0x7fffffff
size2 = 0x7fffffff
size1 + size2 = -2!

Arbitrary memory write!

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Problematic conversions

- Mixing signed and unsigned – BAD idea (read [here](#) and [here](#))

- Rules for conversion are complex
- Converted to signed if fits, otherwise to unsigned
- Constants are always signed

```
int copy_something(char *buf, int len)
{
    char kbuf[800];
    if(len <= 800)
        return memcpy(kbuf, buf, len);
}
```

```
int main (void)
{
    long a = -1;
    unsigned b = 1;
    printf ("%d\n", a
> b);
    return 0;
}
```

Prints 0 in 64 bits
Prints 1 in 32 bits

- Truncating

```
unsigned int ui = 300;
unsigned char uc = ui;
uc = 300 - 256 = 44
```

memcpy expects
unsigned int
Passing len = -2 will cause
buffer overwrite

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Overflow detection and mitigation

- Proper type selection (large enough, matches the operated types)

```
short total = strlen(argv[1] )+ 1;
size_t total = strlen(argv[1] )+ 1;
```

- Range checking
 - Mostly forgotten
 - Causes code bloat

• Short is too short!
• Short is signed,
losing half of
values

- Compiler features (GCC and clang –ftrapv flag)
- [Automatic detection tools](#)

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Overflow detection and mitigation

- The [CERT C Secure Coding Standard](#) has several rules to prevent range errors:
 - INT30-C. Ensure that unsigned integer operation do not wrap
 - INT31-C. Ensure that integer conversions do not result in lost or misinterpreted data
 - INT32-C. Ensure that operations on signed integer do not result in overflow

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Range checks are not trivial

- Is this check enough?

```
unsigned int i, sum;
//set values to i and sum...
if (sum + i < UINT_MAX)
    sum += i
```

- No. It can wraparound too...

- The fix:

```
if (i <
    UINT_MAX - sum)
```



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Follow

security advice: always used signed integers. signing prevents data from being modified undetected by an adversary

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Input validation

- Range checks are an example of input validation

Consider: `strcpy(buffer, argv[1])`

A buffer overflow occurs if

`len(buffer) < len(argv[1])`

Software must **validate the input** by checking the length of `argv[1]`

- Becomes hard if the language is complex

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Server side validation

- Consider web form data
- Suppose input is validated on client

For example, the following is valid

`http://www.things.com/orders/final&custID=112&num=55A&qty=20&price=10&shipping=5&total=205`

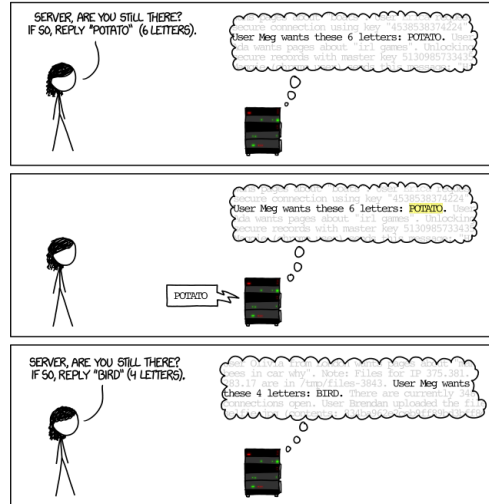
- Suppose input is not checked on server
- Why bother since input checked on client?
- Then attacker could send http message

`http://www.things.com/orders/final&custID=112&num=55A&qty=20&price=10&shipping=5&total=25`

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Input validation - Heartbleed

HOW THE HEARTBLEED BUG WORKS:



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Input validation - Heartbleed



```
struct {
    unsigned short len;
    char payload[];
} *packet;
```

```
//receive request
packet = malloc(amt);
read(socket, packet, amt);
//build response
buffer = malloc(packet->len);
memcpy(buffer,
        packet->payload, packet->len);
write(s, buffer, packet->len);
```

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Command injection

- Don't trust the user to do what he was supposed to!

```
filename = GetFileName()
system ("ls -l " + filename + "> output")
print output;
```

```
➤ Enter file name
➤ file; cat /etc/shadow    Prints the passwords file
```

```
filename = GetFileName()
filename = CanonicalFileName(filename)
system ("ls -l " + filename + "> output")
print output;
```

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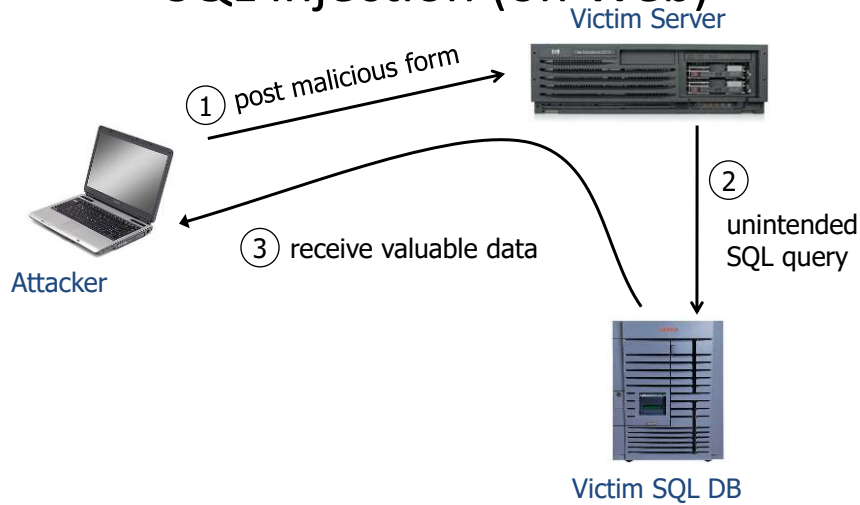
SQL injection

- Similar to command injection
- Uses SQL to abuse database command
- Exploits the lack of input validation or canonicalization
- One of the top web site vulnerabilities



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SQL injection (on Web)



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Sample Query

SELECT <columns> **from** <tbl> **where** <exp>

select * from comments
where user_id = 2;



2, 2, "I like sugar"
2, 3, "But not milk"

user_id	comment_id	comment
1	1	Test Comment
2	2	I like sugar
2	3	But not milk
3	4	Gordon is silly

comments

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Tautologies

SELECT <columns> **from** <tbl> **where** <exp>

select * from comments
where user_id = 2
OR 1=1;



1, 1, "Test Comment"
2, 2, "I like sugar"
2, 3, "But not milk"
3, 4, "Gordon is silly"

user_id	comment_id	comment
1	1	Test Comment
2	2	I like sugar
2	3	But not milk
3	4	Gordon is silly

comments

Tautologies are
useful for attacks

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Database queries with PHP

- Sample PHP

```
$recipient = $_POST['recipient'];
$sql = "SELECT PersonID FROM Person
WHERE Username=".$recipient;
$rs = $db->executeQuery($sql);
```

- What if 'recipient' is a malicious string that changes the meaning of the query?

```
$sql = "SELECT PersonID FROM Person
WHERE Username=x or 1=1";
```

Gets all
IDs!

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More SQL injection attacks (ASP)

```
set ok = execute( "SELECT * FROM Users
                  WHERE user=' " & form("user") & " '
                  AND   pwd=' " & form("pwd") & " '" );

if not ok.EOF
    login success
else fail;
```

```
ok = execute( SELECT ...
              WHERE user= ' ' or 1=1 -- ... )
```

The "--" causes rest of line to be ignored.

```
ok = execute( SELECT ...
              WHERE user= ' ' ; DROP TABLE Users ... )
```

attacker can add users, reset pwds, etc.

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More SQL injection attacks

```
set ok = execute( "SELECT * FROM Users
                  WHERE user=' " & form("user") & " '
                  AND   pwd=' " & form("pwd") & " '" );

if not ok.EOF
    login success
else fail;
```

```
user =
    ' ; exec cmdshell
        'net user badguy badpwd' /ADD --
```

Then script does:

```
ok = execute( SELECT ...
              WHERE username= ' ' ; exec ... )
```

If SQL server context runs as "sa", attacker gets account on DB server

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CardSystems attack

- CardSystems
 - credit card payment processing company
 - SQL injection attack in June 2005
 - put out of business
- The Attack
 - 263,000 credit cards stolen from database
 - credit cards stored unencrypted
 - 43 million credit cards exposed



<https://flic.kr/p/ayZf5K>

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CardSystems attack

- CardSystems
 - created a Job in the database server that pulled out new records every 4 (?) days. This is a very easy attack since most database servers allow scheduling of actions as Jobs.
 - SQL injection vulnerability was exploited, the attacker created a Job in the database server that pulled out new records every 4 (?) days. This is a very easy attack since most database servers allow scheduling of actions as Jobs.
 - put out of business
- The Attack
 - 263,000 credit cards stolen from database
 - credit cards stored unencrypted
 - 43 million credit cards exposed

What I have heard (from a trusted source) is that a SQL Injection vulnerability was exploited, the attacker created a Job in the database server that pulled out new records every 4 (?) days. This is a very easy attack since most database servers allow scheduling of actions as Jobs. We have developed similar and new attacks that allows to steal complete databases from Internet, I hope we will be presenting this at next Black Hat :)



<https://flic.kr/p/ayZf5K>

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Don't try this at home 😊



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SQL injection mitigation

- Parameters escaping: ' → \'
- Use pre-built SQL queries (ensures arguments are converted to proper types)



```
SqlCommand cmd = new SqlCommand(
    "SELECT * FROM UserTable WHERE
    username = @User AND
    password = @Pwd", dbConnection);

cmd.Parameters.Add("@User",
Request["user"] ); ...

cmd.ExecuteReader();
```

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Terms learnt

- Integer overflow
- Race conditions
- TOCTOU
- Input validation
- Server side validation
- Command injection
- SQL injection
- Canonicalization
- Escaping
- Prebuilt queries



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Summary

- Pay attention to integer ranges and conversions
- Be aware of race conditions
- Don't trust any input!
- Simple validation is not the best one