# Finding Container Overflow Bugs

Kostya Serebryany, Google EuroLLVM 2014

### std::vector<T> v;

```
v.begin() v.end() v.begin()+
v.capacity()
```

- Ok: [v.begin(), v.end())
- Bad: [v.end(), v.begin() + v.capacity())
  - AddressSanitize/etc can not detect

### Good news #1

```
std::vector<int> v(4);
v.reserve(8);
v[6] = 0;
```

- libc++:vector[] index out of bounds
- libstdc++ with -D\_GLIBCXX\_DEBUG: attempt to subscript container with out-of-bounds index 6, but container only holds 4 elements.

### Good news #2

```
std::vector<int> v(4);
                  v.reserve(8);
                  auto it = v.begin();
                  *(it + 6) = 0; // BOOM
libc++:
  Attempted to add/subtract iterator outside of valid range

    libstdc++ with -D GLIBCXX DEBUG:

  attempt to advance a dereferenceable (start-of-sequence)
```

iterator 6 steps, which falls outside its valid range.

### Good news #3

```
std::vector<int> v(8);
                auto it = v.begin()+6;
               v.resize(4);
                *(it) = 0; // BOOM
libc++:
 Attempted to dereference a non-dereferenceable iterator
```

libstdc++ with -D\_GLIBCXX\_DEBUG:
 attempt to dereference a singular iterator.

#### **Bad news**

```
std::vector<int> v(4);
v.reserve(8);
int *p = v.data();
pass
p[6] = 0; // BOOM
```

- libstdc++ with -D\_GLIBCXX\_DEBUG:PASS
- AddressSanitizer:PASS

# **Year 2014**

# C++ container exports its internals as a raw pointer: what a shame!

### AddressSanitizer annotations

```
// Called on every change of size() or capacity()
  sanitizer annotate contiguous container (
  const void *beg, const void *end,
  const void *new mid, const void *old mid);
```

AddressSanitizer: container-overflow WRITE of size 4 at 0x..eff8 thread T0 #0 0x4859d7 in main t.cc:6

0x..eff8 is located 24 bytes inside
of 32-byte region [0x..efe0,0x..f000)
allocated by thread T0 here:
 #5 in main t.cc:4

#### Shadow bytes around the buggy address:

## Improved leak detector sensitivity

```
#include <vector>
std::vector<int*> *v;
int main() {
  v = new std::vector<int*>;
  v->push back(new int[100]);
 v->pop back();
```

## Current Status (std::vector<>)

- libc++:
  - Under review since Nov'13 (Ping!)
  - ~60 lines added, mostly trivial
  - Hidden under #ifdef

- libstdc++:
  - Submitted into google branch
  - Deployment in progress: 30+ bugs found

### Other containers

- std::string: same story
  - need to handle small in-place strings
- std::deque: a bit different
  - problematic for types < 8 bytes since ASan requires good regions to be 8-aligned