typical buffer overflow pattern

cause program to write past the end of a buffer

that somehow causes different code to run

(usually code the attacker wrote)

why buffer overflows?

for a long time, most common vulnerability

common results in arbitrary code execution

related to other memory-management vulnerabilities

- which usually also result in arbitrary code execution

network worms and overflows

worms that connect to vulnerable servers:

Morris worm included some buffer overflow exploits

- Morris worm: first self-replicating malware
- in mail servers, user info servers

2001: Code Red worm that spread to web servers (running Microsoft IIS)

overflows without servers

bugs dealing with corrupt files:

Adobe Flash (web browser plugin)

PDF readers

web browser JavaScript engines

image viewers

movie viewers

decompression programs

...

simpler overflow

```
struct QuizQuestion questions[NUM_QUESTIONS];
int giveQuiz() {
    int score = 0;
    char buffer[100];
    for (int i = 0; i < NUM_QUESTIONS; ++i) {
        gets(buffer);
        if (checkAnswer(buffer, &questions[i])) {
            score += 1;
        }
    }
    return score;
}
```

simpler overflow

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struct QuizQuestion questions[NUM_QUESTIONS];
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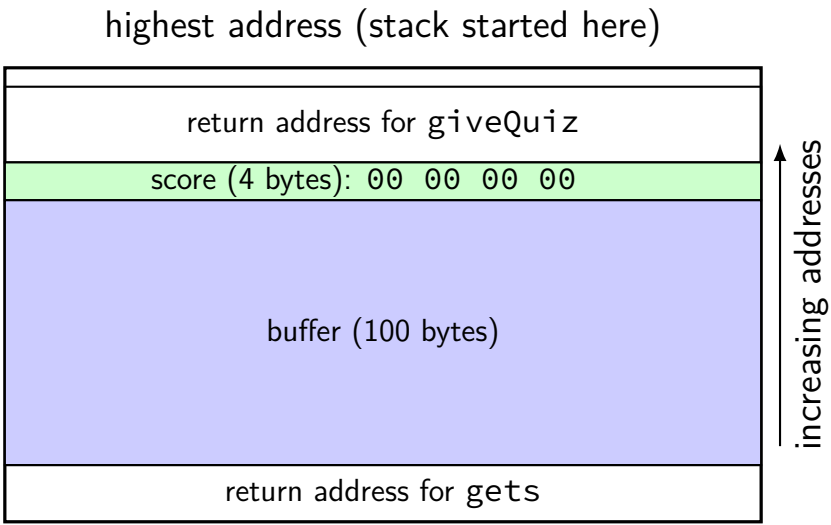
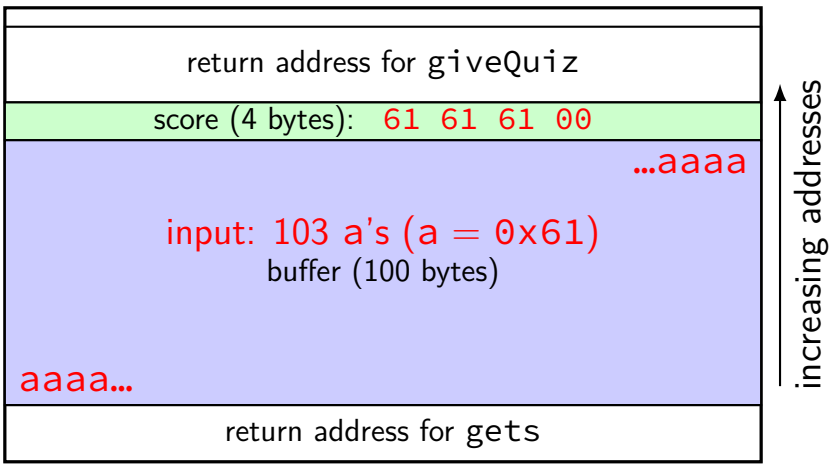
```

simpler overflow: stack



simpler overflow: stack



exercise: stack layout

```
GradeAssignment:
  pushq   %rbp
  pushq   %rbx
  xorl    %ebx, %ebx
  subq    $72, %rsp
  leaq    8(%rsp), %rbp
for_loop:
  movq    %rbp, %rdi
  call    gets
  movl    %ebx, %esi
  movq    %rbp, %rdi
  call    GradeAnswer
  leaq    24(%rsp), %rdi
  movl    %eax, (%rdi,%rbx,4)
  incq    %rbx
  cmpq    $10, %rbx
  jne     for_loop
  call    Process
```

```
int GradeAssignment(FILE *in) {
  int scores[10]; char buffer[16];
  for (int i = 0; i < 10; ++i) {
    gets(buffer);
    scores[i] =
        GradeAnswer(buffer, i);
  }
  Process(scores);
}
```

exercise: how many bytes after `buffer[0]` is the first byte of `scores[0]`?

exercise: stack layout

```
GradeAssignment:
  pushq   %rbp
  pushq   %rbx
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    scores[i] =
        GradeAnswer(buffer, i);
  }
  Process(scores);
}
```

exercise: how many bytes after `buffer[0]` is the first byte of `scores[0]`? answer: 16

exercise: overflow?

```
GradeAssignment:
  pushq   %rbp
  pushq   %rbx
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exercise: if input into buffer is 50 copies of the character `'1'` what is value of `scores[0]`?

exercise: overflow?

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  leaq    24(%rsp), %rdi
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```
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}
```

exercise: if input into buffer is 50 copies of the character `'1'` what is value of `scores[0]`?
answer: 0x31313131

backup slides