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HW 13

Compiler Hack

The root of the problem is when the compiler is in the same language as the code being compiled. The way the article describes the process in a few simple steps. First, you write code to retrain the compiler. Then you re-compile the compiler. Now the bug is introduced into the compiler and the malicious code can be run with the new compiler vulnerabilities that have been introduced.

If you believe your compilers have been compromised on your computer the best thing you can do is get rid of the compilers that are integrated into your computer and reinstall the compilers coming from a more trusted source (Even though you can't really trust any code that was written by you yourself, but some sources can be more trusted than others.)

I would say the next biggest thing behind compilers that we usually blindly trust are libraries. Far too often we are just looking for solutions to problems we face as programmers and immediately find ourselves some coding libraries online that help us conjure a solution quickly. Whether intentionally or not is most, cases unless the library was coded perfectly and the developers have integrity, there is always a risk in using someone else's code.