

# Writing x86\_64 Assembly

0xC0FFEE Virtual Workshop

17 April 2020

## Meeting Logistics

- Meet the moderator — Michael Higgo
- Question breaks
- Raise hand to ask a question — click on “Participants”
- Meeting being recorded
- Chat at <https://discord.gg/c8P23U> #0xc0ffee-chat

Don't be a dick

Please

## Prerequisites

```
> docker run -it singelet/x86_64_workshop
```

Or

```
> git clone https://github.com/singe/x86_64_workshop
```

0xC0FFEE



@singe

Dominic White

dominic@sensepost.com



## Why?

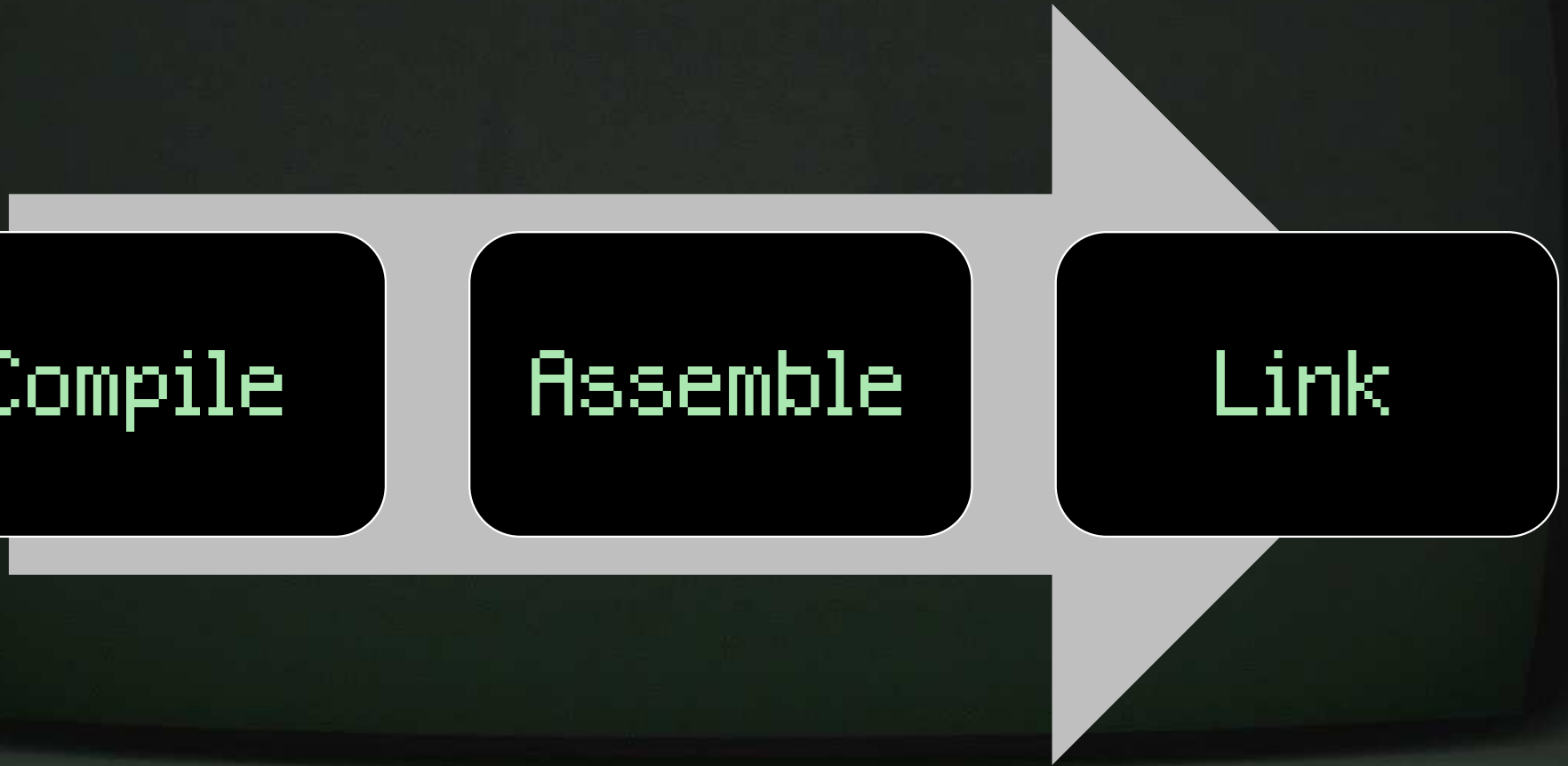
- Know
  - what's actually executing
  - how it works — mostly
  - how to change it
  - how to write your own
- Optimise — the compiler isn't always right
- Understand 1337 shellcodez — maybe
- Background for reversing


## Compiler Flow

Compile

Assemble

Link





# Screw slides — let's get dirty

You'll need your docker container

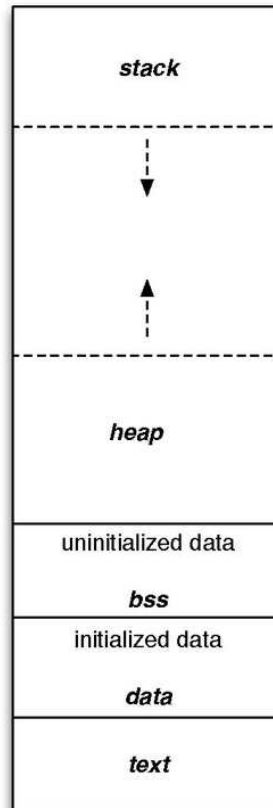


# Sections

.text — code

.data — initialised data

.bss — uninitialized data



## Registers

rsp — stack pointer

rip — instruction pointer

rax — return value

rdi, rsi, rcx, rdx, r8, r9 — args

## Instructions

push, pop — put something on or take something off the stack

mov — move a value from one place to another

lea — load the contents of the memory pointed at

call — call a function

syscall — call a syscall

ret — return from a function

## Building

`as -o output.o input.s`

`ld -o binary output.o`

# Registers

Register	Conventional use	Low 32-bits	Low 16-bits	Low 8-bits
%rax	Return value, callee-owned	%eax	%ax	%al
%rdi	1st argument, callee-owned	%edi	%di	%dil
%rsi	2nd argument, callee-owned	%esi	%si	%sil
%rdx	3rd argument, callee-owned	%edx	%dx	%dl
%rcx	4th argument, callee-owned	%ecx	%cx	%cl
%r8	5th argument, callee-owned	%r8d	%r8w	%r8b
%r9	6th argument, callee-owned	%r9d	%r9w	%r9b
%r10	Scratch/temporary, callee-owned	%r10d	%r10w	%r10b
%r11	Scratch/temporary, callee-owned	%r11d	%r11w	%r11b
%rsp	Stack pointer, caller-owned	%esp	%sp	%spl
%rbx	Local variable, caller-owned	%ebx	%bx	%bl
%rbp	Local variable, caller-owned	%ebp	%bp	%bpl
%r12	Local variable, caller-owned	%r12d	%r12w	%r12b
%r13	Local variable, caller-owned	%r13d	%r13w	%r13b
%r14	Local variable, caller-owned	%r14d	%r14w	%r14b
%r15	Local variable, caller-owned	%r15d	%r15w	%r15b
%rip	Instruction pointer			
%eflags	Status/condition code bits			

<https://web.stanford.edu/class/cs107/guide/x86-64.html>

## Instructions

push, pop — put something on or take something off the stack

mov — move a value from one place to another

lea — load the contents of the memory pointed at

call — call a function

syscall — call a syscall

ret — return from a function

jmp — jump somewhere

cmp — compare two things

jne — jump if not equal (used after cmp)

add, sub — like it says

624 others — <http://ref.x86asm.net/coder64-abc.html>

## Instruction Suffix

- **b** for 1 byte (8 bits)
- **W** for a word (2 bytes, 16 bits)
- **l** for a long or double word (4 bytes, 32 bits)
- **Q** for a quad word (8 bytes, 64 bits)

## Building

Simplest:

```
as -o output.o input.s
```

```
ld -o binary output.o
```

Linker

```
ld -dynamic-linker <ld.so> -lc -e <function> -o binary output.o
```



## More Building

~/build/Makefile

> make

> make clean

~/build/compile.sh

-h help This help

-a <arch> Specify the architecture default: x86\_64

-i <yes/no> Enable dynamic linking and libc import (Default: yes)

-r run Run the program after building it

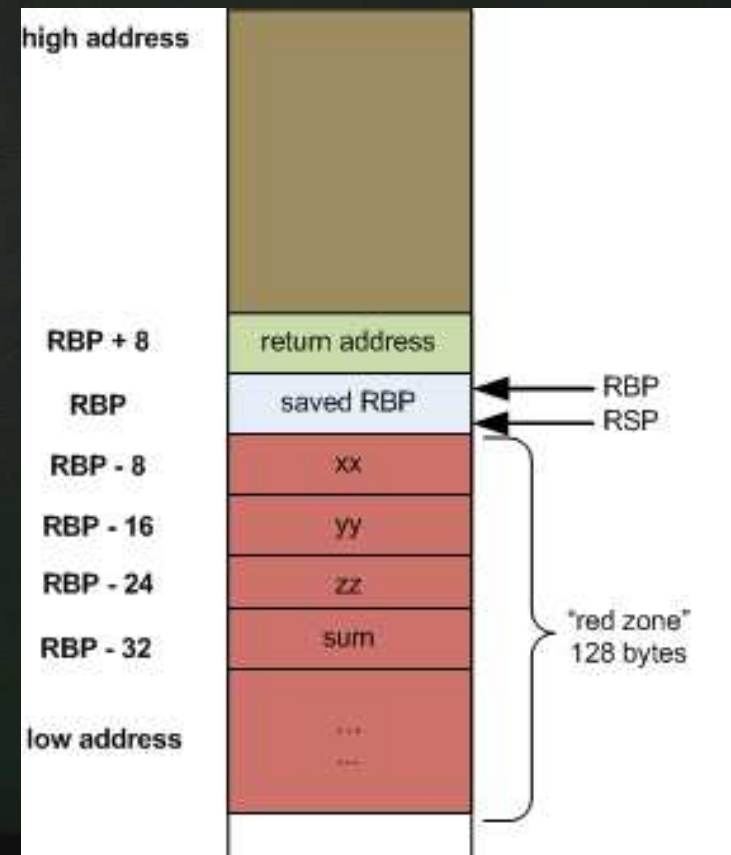
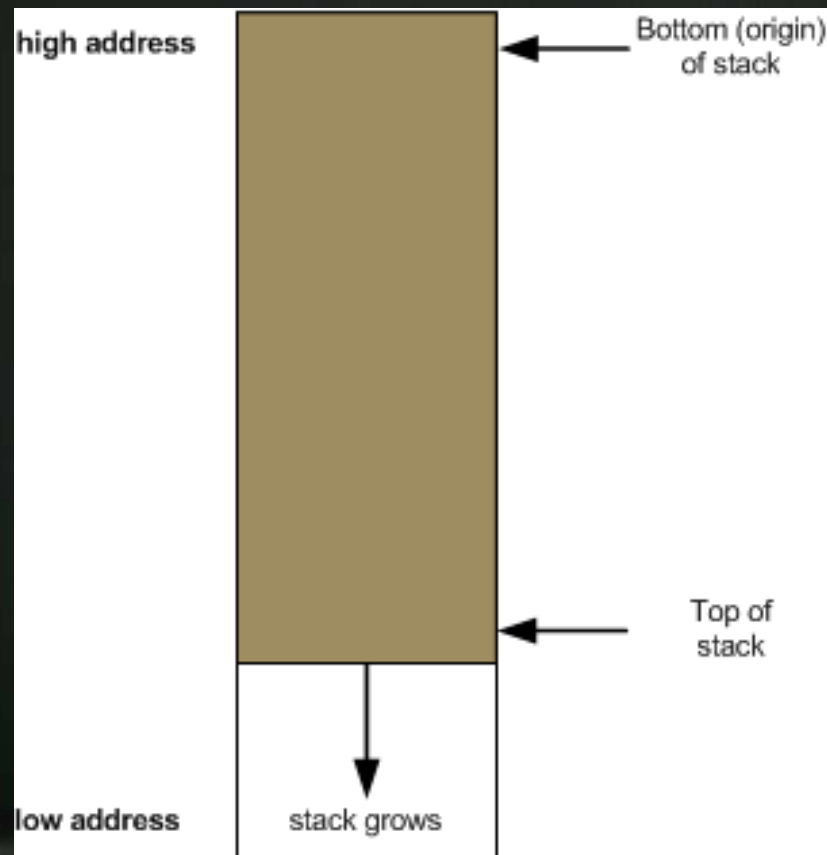
-c cleanup Delete the .o and binary afterwards

-x xxd Run the output through xxd when running it

-s strace Run the program with strace

> ./compile.sh -rc -i no <asms>

# The Stack



## syscalls

60 - exit

1 - write

436 more at:

[https://github.com/torvalds/linux/blob/master/arch/x86/entry/syscalls/syscall\\_64.tbl](https://github.com/torvalds/linux/blob/master/arch/x86/entry/syscalls/syscall_64.tbl)

## Using the Compiler

```
gcc -S <code.c>
```

Optimisations:

- fomit-frame-pointer

- fno-stack-canary

- O3

GodBolt Compiler Explorer

<https://godbolt.org/z/QpNjNF>

## Examining Files

objdump

- d disassemble

- j <section>

- h list section headers

- > objdump -d -j .text <binary>

readelf

- a everything

## `gdb`

`break *(<address or function name>)` - set a breakpoint

`break *_start`

`break *main`

`info file` - find entrypoint mostly

`run` - like it says

`nexti` - next instruction (step over)

`stepi` - next instruction

`x/16cb $rsi` - eXamine the memory pointed at by \$rsi 16 bytes (b) at a time in ASCII  
(c)

Thanks

>> @netspooky <<

@nickdesaulniers

@Rewzilla

@McGrewSecurity

@polarply

@SeanieCurran

@vyrus001

@ErrataRob

## References & Further Work

ASM & ELF mangling

<https://medium.com/@dmxinajeansuit/elf-binary-mangling-part-1-concepts-e00cb1352301>

Stack Layout

<https://eli.thegreenplace.net/2011/09/06/stack-frame-layout-on-x86-64>

Understanding CFI

<https://www.imperialviolet.org/2017/01/18/cfi.html>

Learning Simple ASM

<https://skilldrck.github.io/easy6502/>

X86\_64 Mach-O Intro

<https://nickdesaulniers.github.io/blog/2014/04/18/lets-write-some-x86-64/>