A TOOL FOR VERIFYING BUSINESS LOGIC BEYOND COMMON VULNERABILITIES

CPP-Summit

WHO ARE WE?

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鉴释首席架构师

- Compiler Scientist
- Director China Intel IOT Research Lab
- Director HP Compiler Technology Lab
- 10+ Patents granted in program analysis and compiler optimization

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鉴释首席科学家

- PhD in CS, USTC, Software Security Laboratory
- 8+ Years HP NonStop compiler backend & SDK engineer

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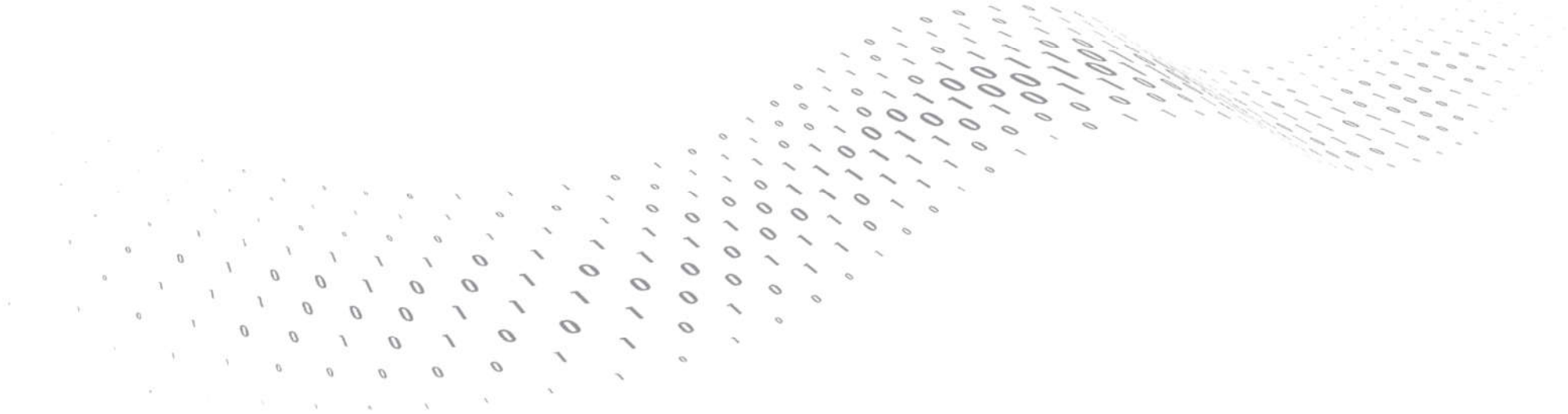

Xcalibyte's mission is to improve the quality of software by creating easy-to-use tools that help developers build & deploy reliable & secure code

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WHY ARE WE HERE?

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- IT Technology is at a turning point with:
  - **Domain Specific Hardware** e.g. AI which will be pervasive
  - Two decades of a **software boom** which needs to be sustained
  - Ubiquitous **distributed computing** in a connected world
- Software Challenges include:
  - Bugs occurring at greater frequency
  - 82% of security issues are from applications
  - 1 in 1000 lines of code having security Issues
  - 1 in 1400 lines of code having high severity security issues

Xcalibyte, is here to help!

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WHERE DO SECURITY ISSUES COME FROM?

- Vulnerabilities incubated in applications that are exposed
- Violations of underlying business logic

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WHAT IS BUSINESS LOGIC?

- Private/sensitive data protection
  - Password
  - Personal information
- Untrusted data sanitization
  - Injection
- Specific processing flow of data validation
  - Audit accounts for manipulation

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EXAMPLE: INJECTION

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Tainted data passed to Runtime.exec may cause issues

A

```
public class MyClass {
  public void myFunc(HttpServletRequest request) {
    ...
    String param = request.getParameter("taintedParam");
    String cmd = ... + param;
    ...
    Runtime r = Runtime.getRuntime();
    Process p = r.exec(cmd);
    ...
  }
}
```


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EXAMPLE: INJECTION

CPP-Summit

Tainted data passed to Runtime.exec may cause issues

B

```
public class MyClass {
  public void myFunc(HttpServletRequest request) {
    ...
    String param = request.getParameter("tainted Param");   #1
    String cmd = ... + param;
    ...
    Runtime r = Runtime.getRuntime();
    Process p = r.exec(cmd);
    ...
  }
}
```


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EXAMPLE: INJECTION

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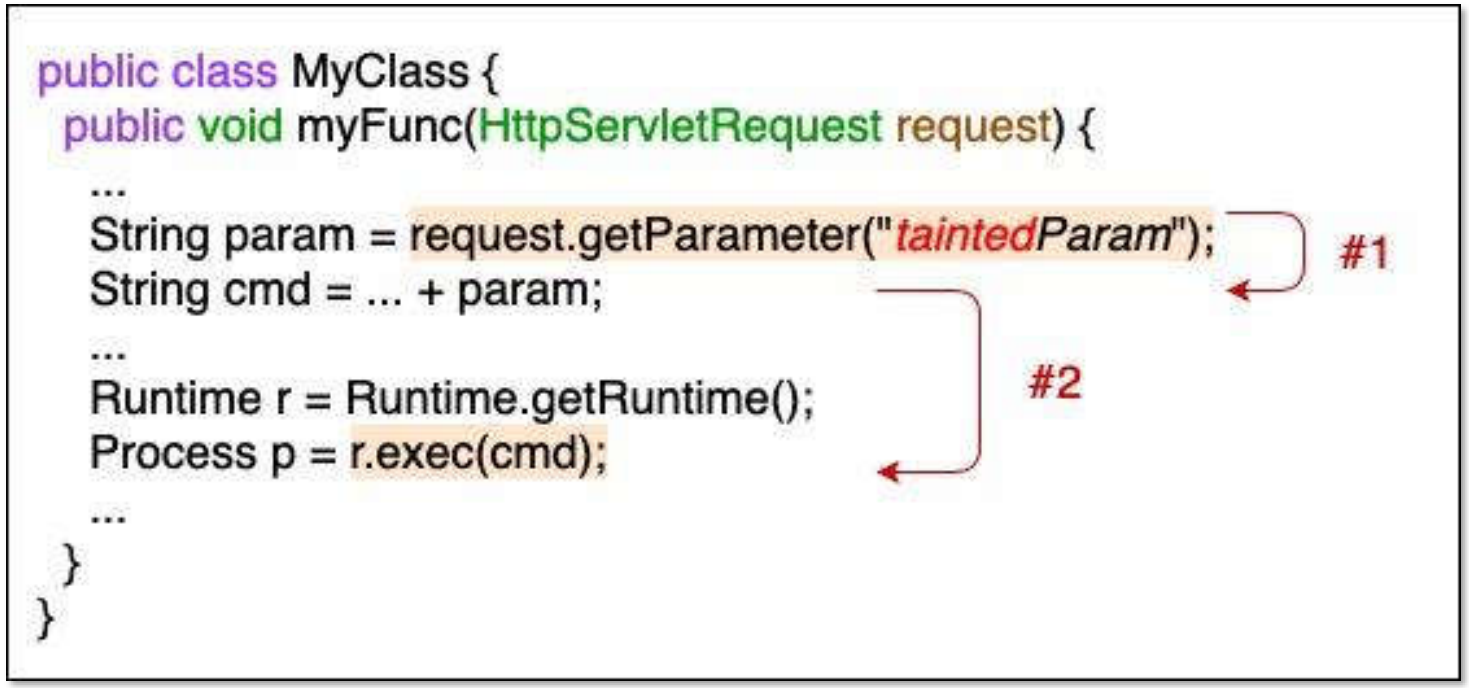
Tainted data passed to Runtime.exec may cause issues



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WHY IS VERIFYING BUSINESS LOGIC IMPORTANT?

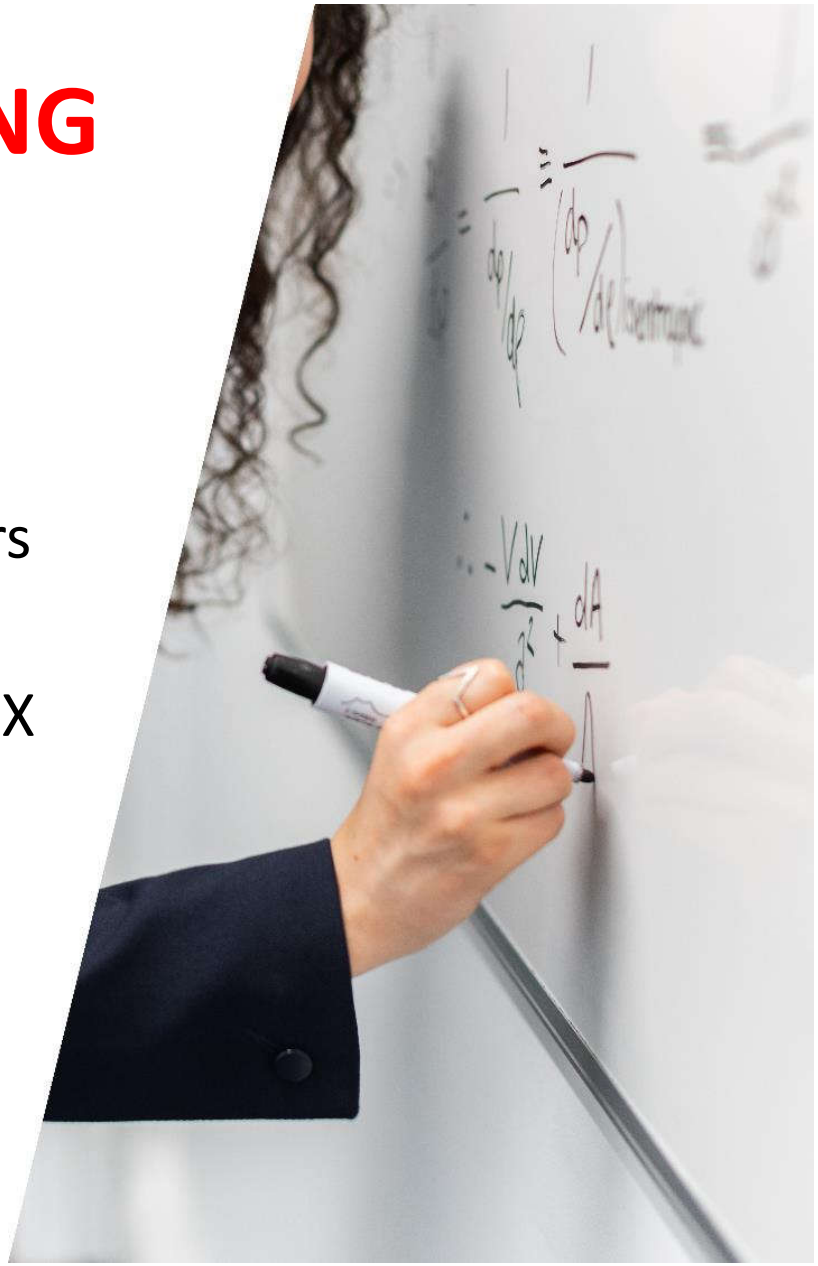
- In practice, many vulnerabilites result from violations of the underlying business logic
- Each company has specific business logic so universal checkers/ verifiers don't always work

The ability to customize for and verify business logic is needed!

CANDIDATE: THEOREM PROVING

- Requires strict mathematical methods capable of verification tasks
- Formalizing business logic into mathematical representation is non-trivial and hard for others to understand
- ‘Proving’ efforts are very time-consuming (~10X lines of Coq proof code vs. source code)
- Highly-qualified experts are required

Expensive and unaffordable for most companies!

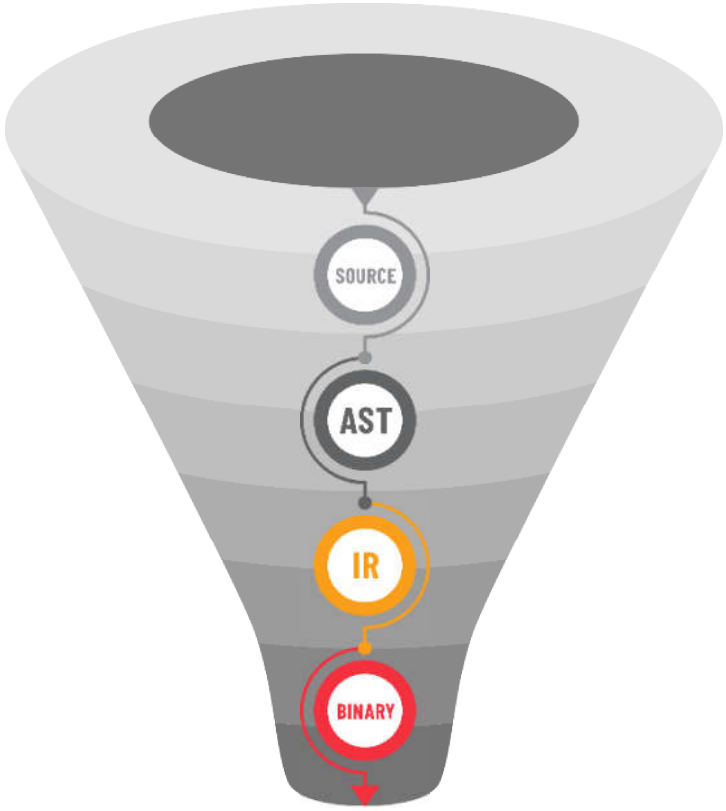


CANDIDATE: EXISTING SAST TOOLS

- Focused on revealing common vulnerabilities
  - Null Pointer Dereference (NPD), Use After Free (UAF), Use Uninitialized Variable (UIV)…
- Compiler based (type or data flow) techniques
  - Effective to discover vulnerabilities related to program syntax and feature
  - But not effective to discover vulnerabilities due to program semantics and business logic
- Few allow customization and only on pattern match rules only
  - Therefore, limited support

xcalscan PROGRAM ANALYSIS TECHNIQUES

- Analyze based on SSA IRs
  - Context sensitive
  - Flow sensitive
  - Cross file
  - Cross language
- On demand analysis
  - Less time
  - Less memory
- Symbolic evaluation
  - User customizable rules

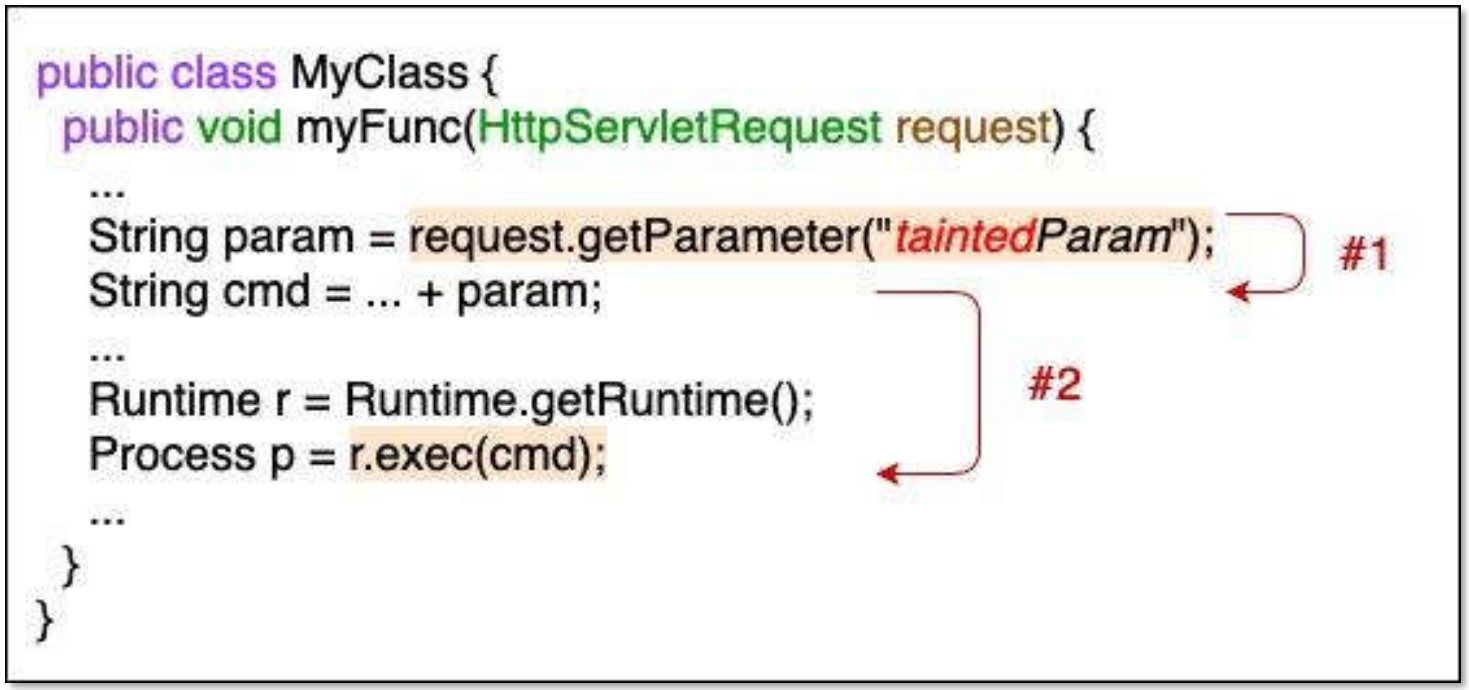


xcalscan VERIFYING BUSINESS LOGIC

- A symbolic evaluation framework
  - APIs to model side effects & to analyze user-defined rules
- No modification needed in customers' source code
- Supports analysis without complete source code due to 3rd party API
- Customers can define their own rules via the same programming language they use during development

EXAMPLE: INJECTION - DEFECT

Tainted data pass to Runtime.exec may cause issues



EXAMPLE: INJECTION - REMEDIATION

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Sanitize tainted parameter before execution

```
public class MyClass {
  public void myFunc(HttpServletRequest request) {
    ...
    String param = request.getParameter("tainted Param");
    String sanitizedParam = mySanitizer(param);
    String cmd = ... + sanitizedParam;
    ...
    Runtime r = Runtime.getRuntime();
    Process p = r.exec(cmd);
    ...
  }
}
```


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INJECTION – BUILD THE RULE, STEP 1

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#1 Recognize tainted variable

```
public interface ServletRequest {
  default public String getParameter(String var) {
    SEE.SideEffect(SEE.SetAttr(See.FuncRet(), "tainted"));
    ...
  }
}
```

```
public class MyClass {
  public void myFunc(HttpServletRequest request) {
    ...
    String param = request.getParameter("tainedParam");
    String sanitizedParam = mySanitizer(param);
    String cmd = ... + sanitizedParam;
    ...
    Runtime r = Runtime.getRuntime();
    Process p = r.exec(cmd);
    ...
  }
}
```


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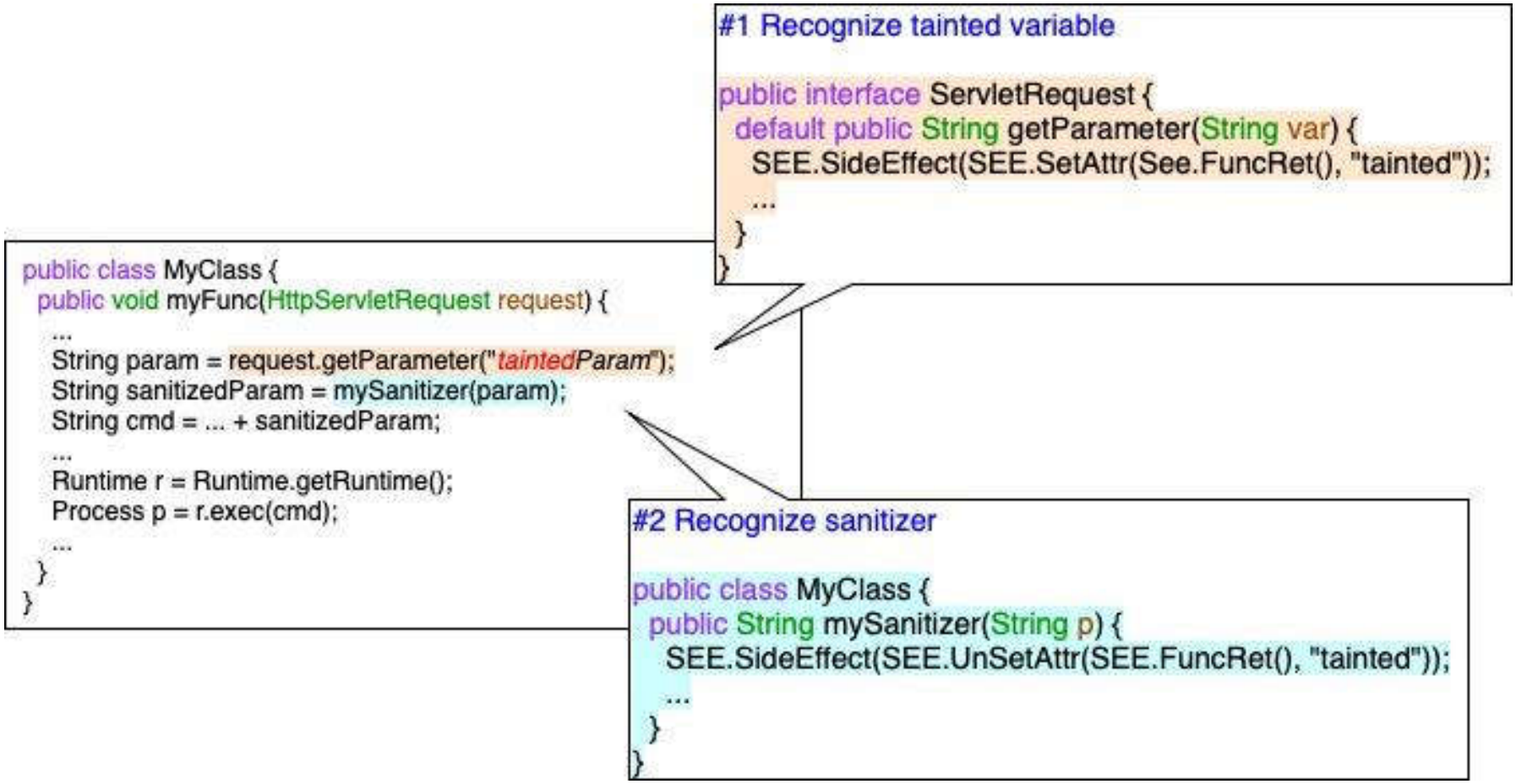
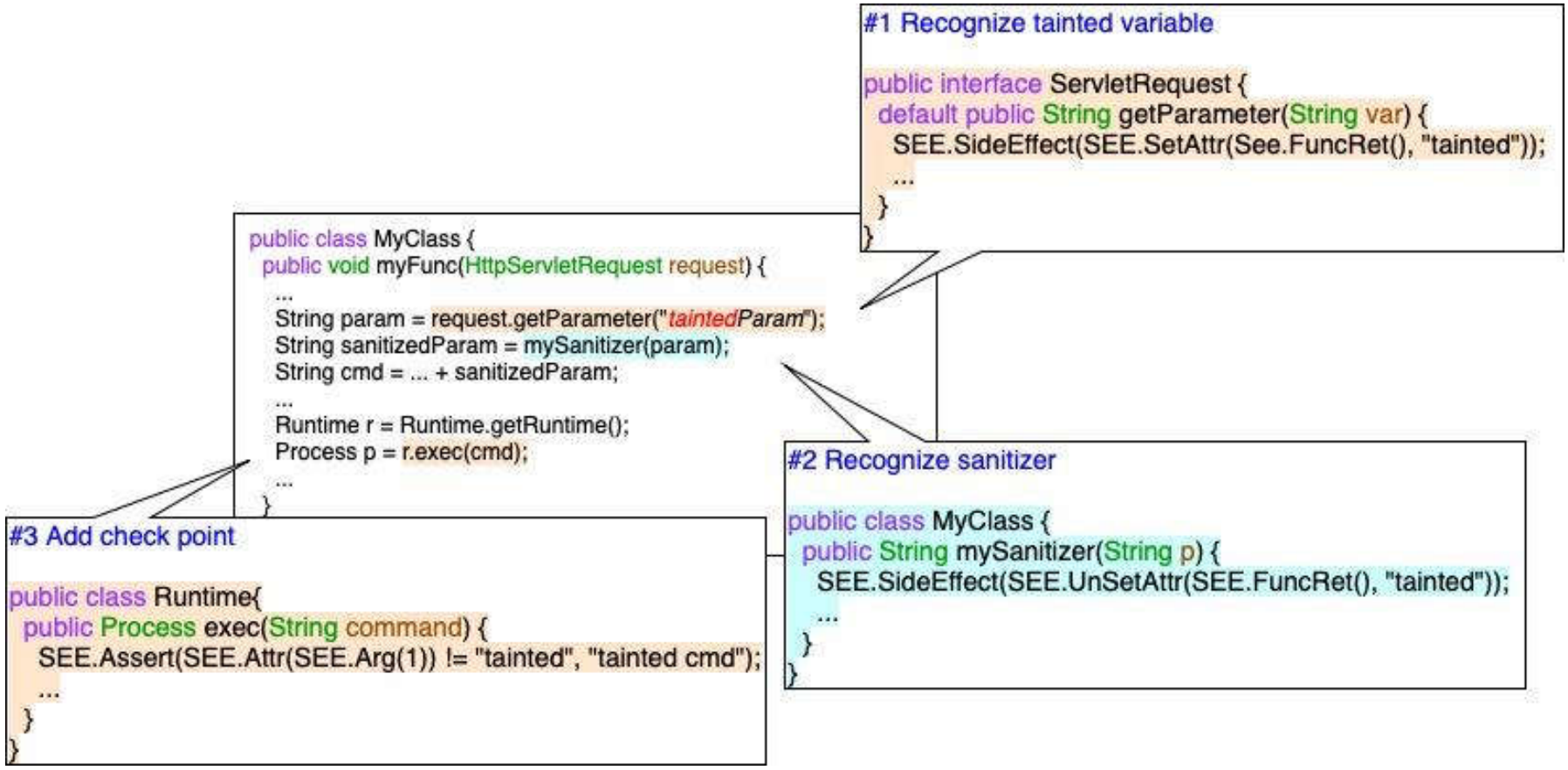
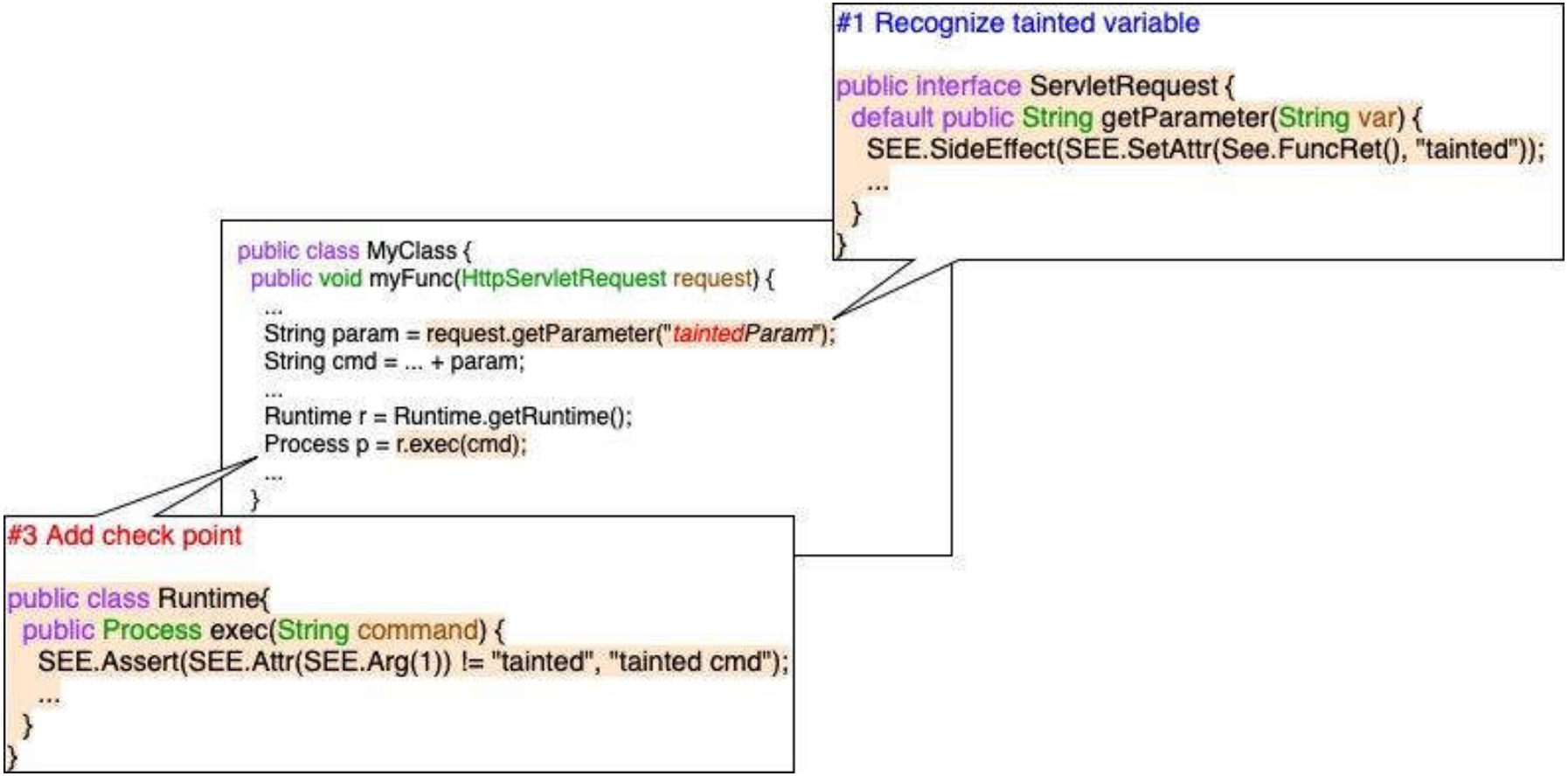
INJECTION – BUILD THE RULE, STEP 2



INJECTION – BUILD THE RULE, STEP 3



INJECTION – IDENTIFY THE VIOLATION

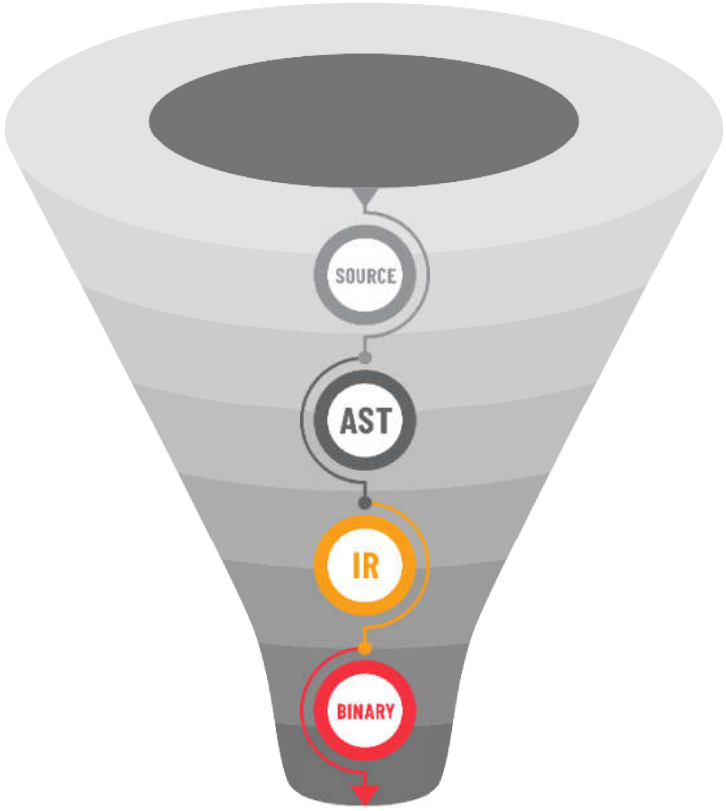


xcalscan EASY CUSTOMIZATION

- A symbolic evaluation framework
  - Boolean expression: a > b …
  - Programming concepts: types, super class …
  - Busines logic: call sequence, call depth limitation …
- We define semantic descriptor for standard runtime libraries
- User functions can be bound to rules available as well
- Selectable compliance standard checks
  - CERT, CWE, OWASP …
- Customizable locations to perform checking to stay focused
  - xxCoin account overflow/underflow check

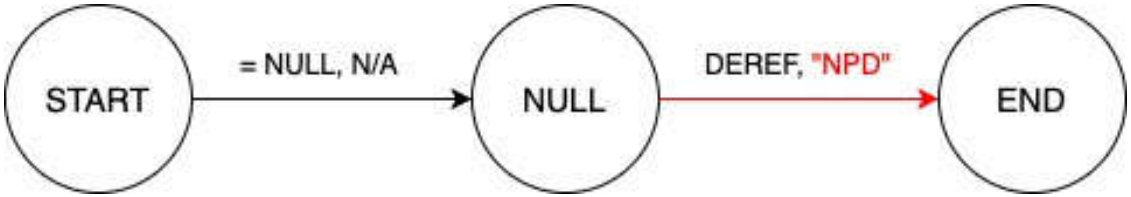
xcalscan COMMON VULNERABILITIES

- Analyze based on SSA IRs
  - Context sensitive
  - Flow sensitive
  - Cross file
  - Cross language
- On demand analysis
  - Less time
  - Less memory
- Symbolic evaluation
  - User customizable rules



EXAMPLE: NULL POINTER DEREFERENCE FSM ABSTRACTION

A straightforward thought about the checker



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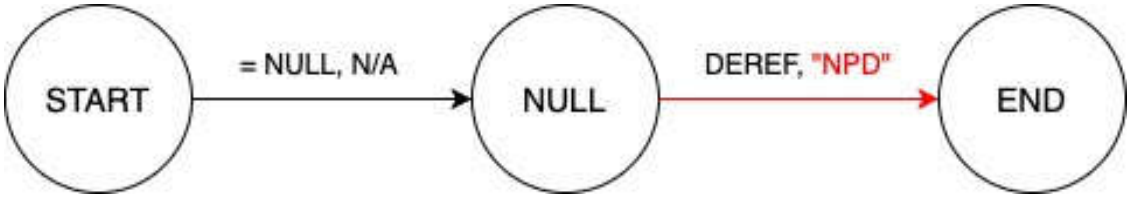
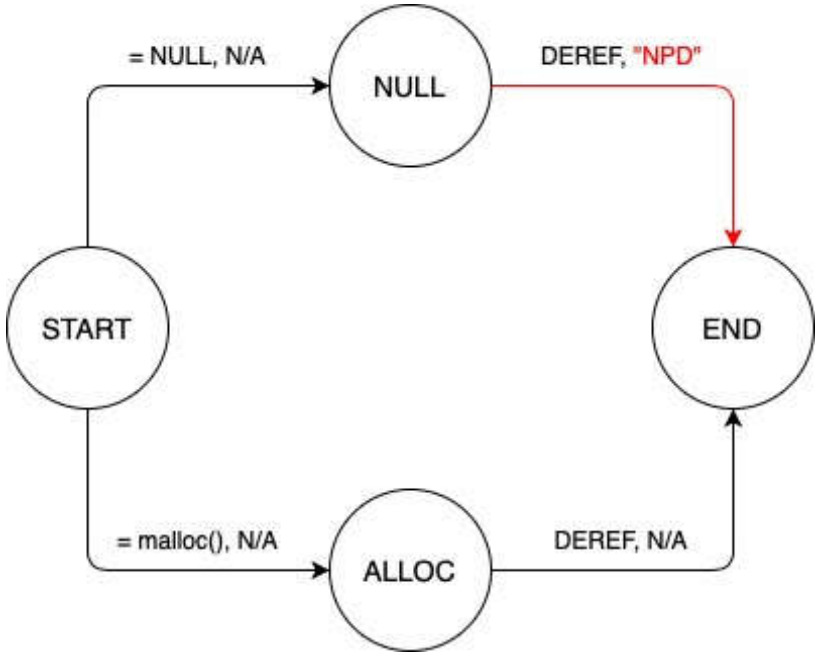


Think a little bit deeper: what's the 'good' behavior?

EXAMPLE: NULL POINTER DEREFERENCE FSM ABSTRACTION

‘good’ behavior: malloced pointer should be fine to dereference



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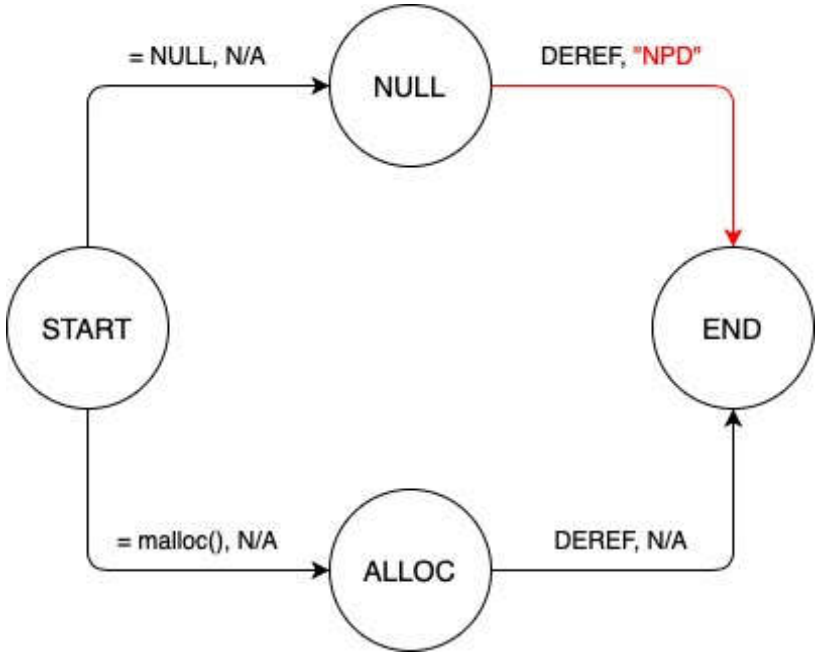
EXAMPLE: NULL POINTER DEREFERENCE FSM ABSTRACTION

It is not accurate: after malloc, the pointer may be free & malloc may fail

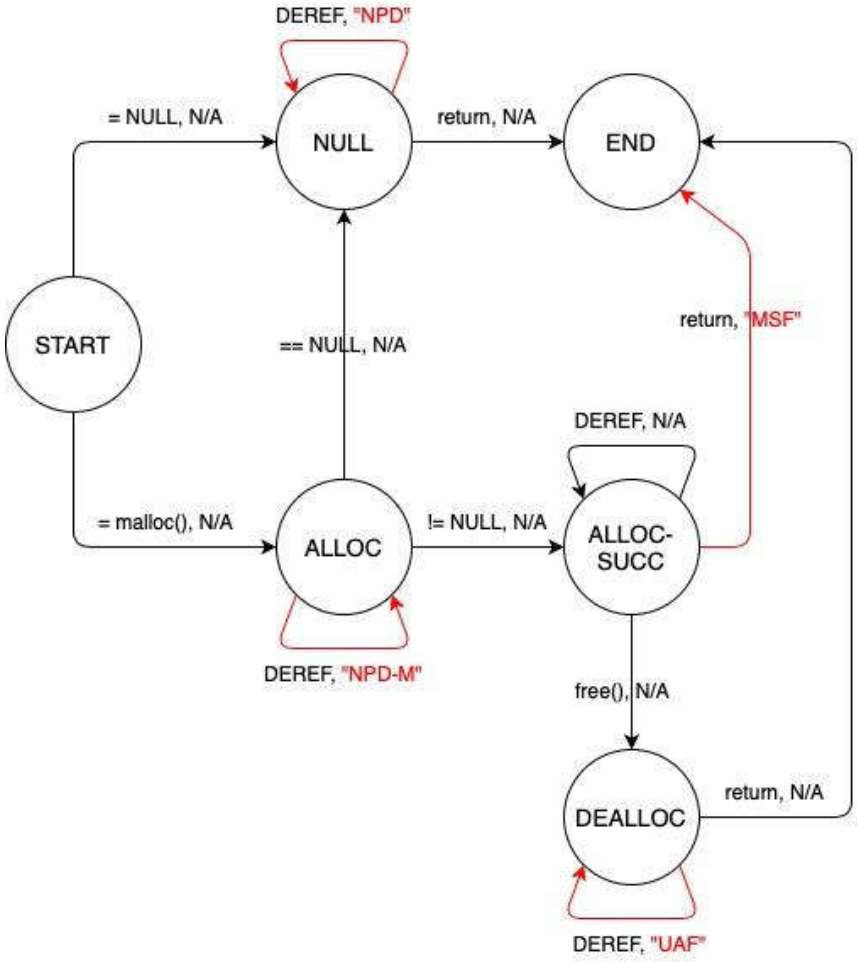


EXAMPLE: NULL POINTER DEREFERENCE FSM ABSTRACTION

Use After Freed

Null Pointer Dereference-Maybe

MiSsing Free



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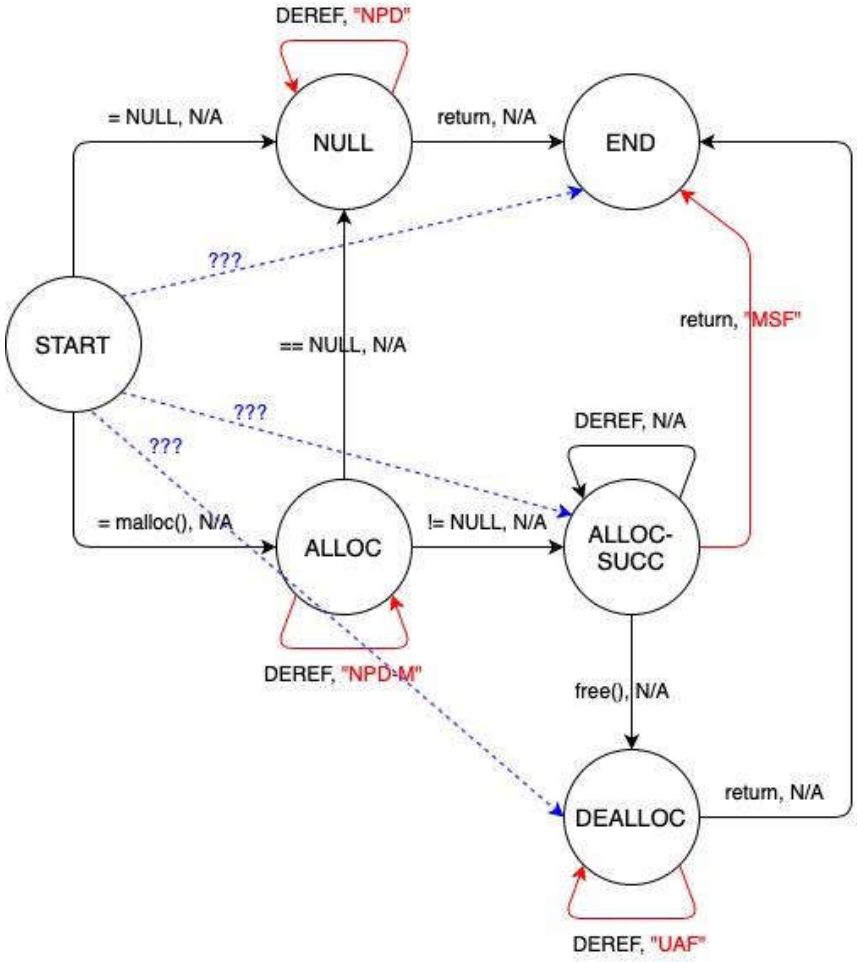
EXAMPLE: NULL POINTER DEREFERENCE FSM ABSTRACTION

Precise enough?



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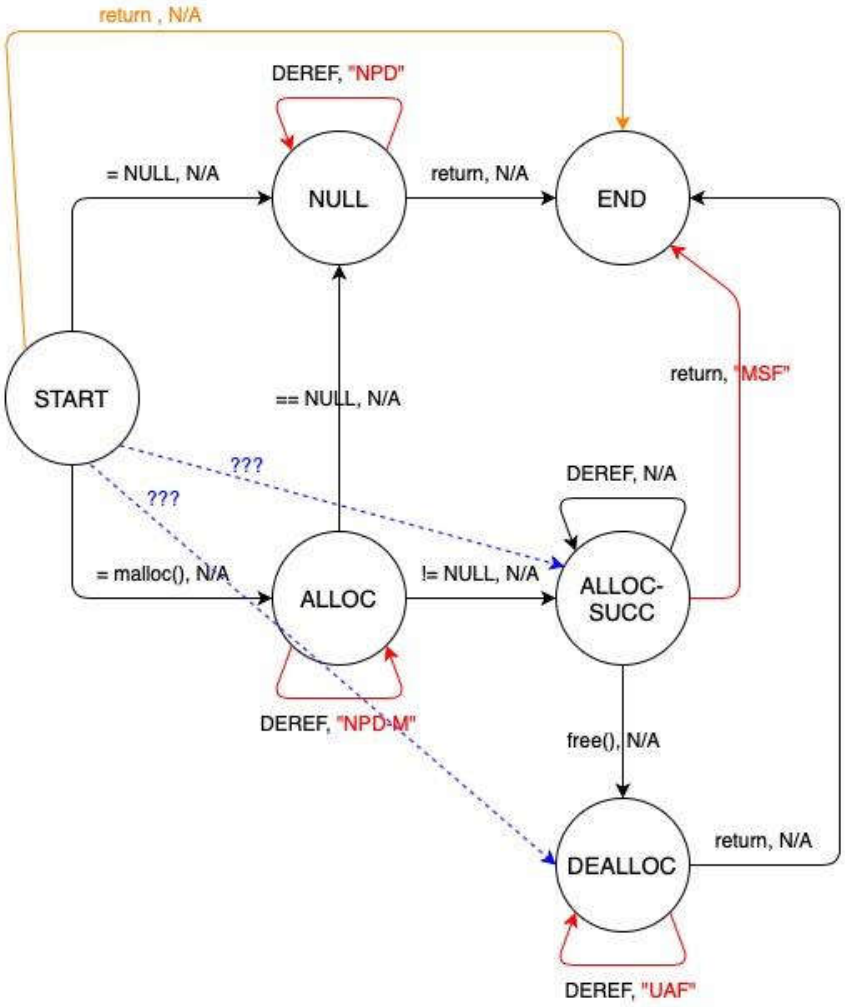
EXAMPLE: NULL POINTER DEREFERENCE FSM ABSTRACTION

No codes related



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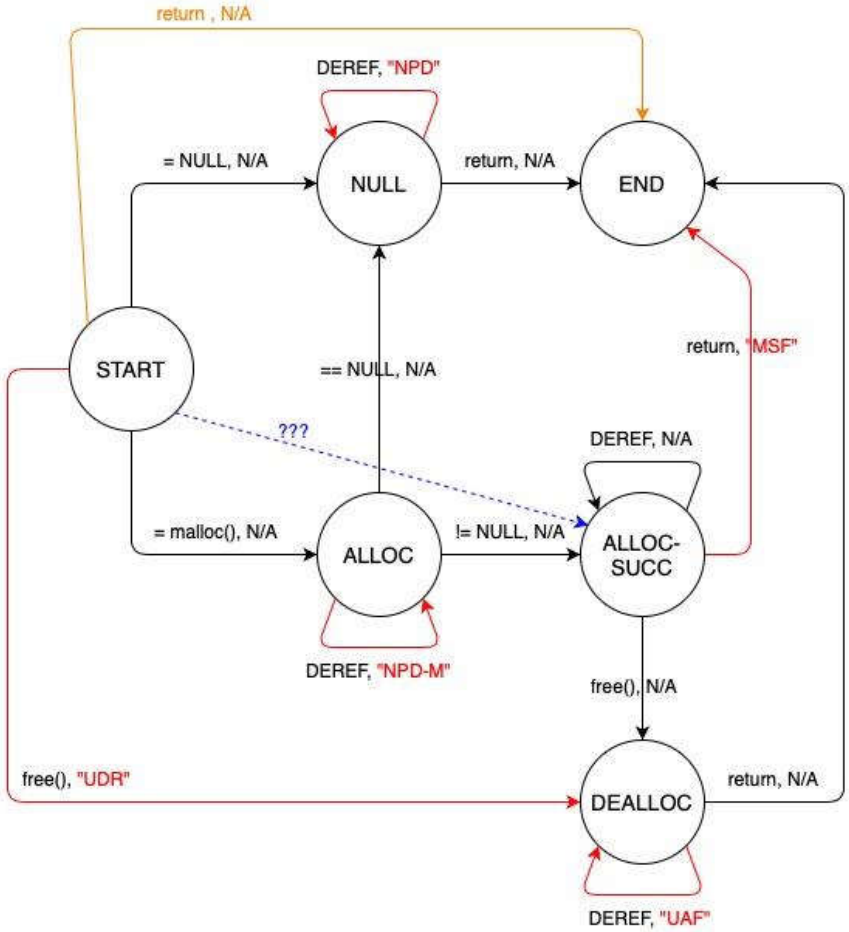
EXAMPLE: NULL POINTER DEREFERENCE FSM ABSTRACTION

Use Dangling Reference



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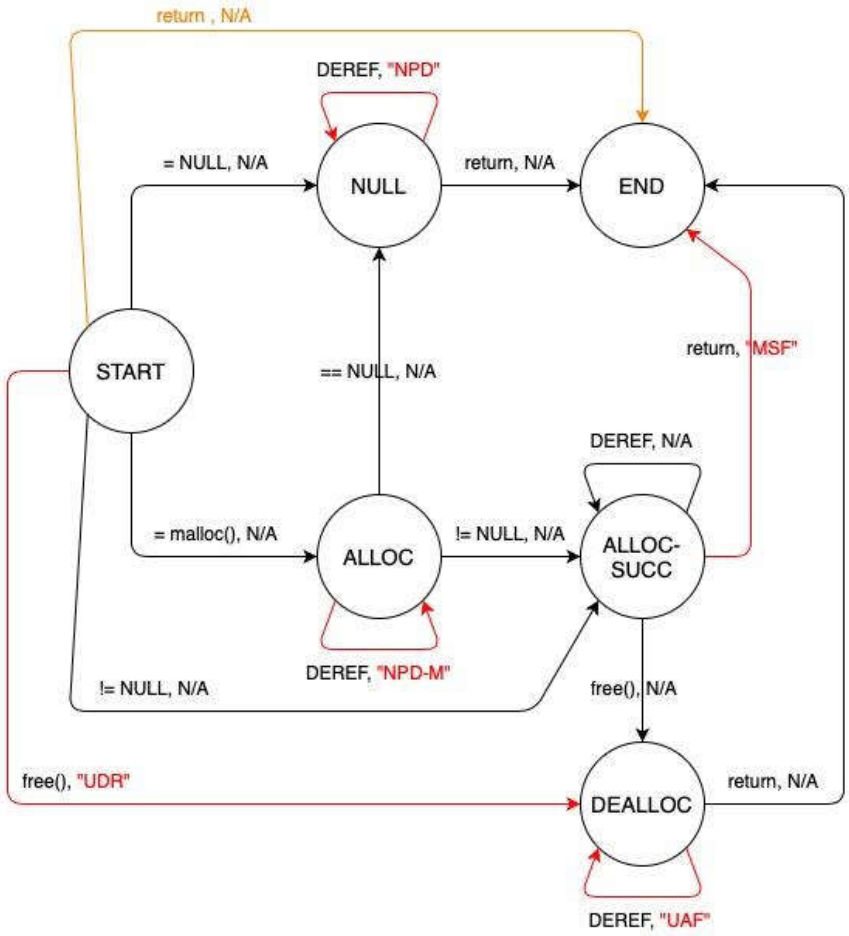
EXAMPLE: NULL POINTER DEREFERENCE FSM ABSTRACTION

A not-null check can avoid NPD as well

Consider library / SDK APIs



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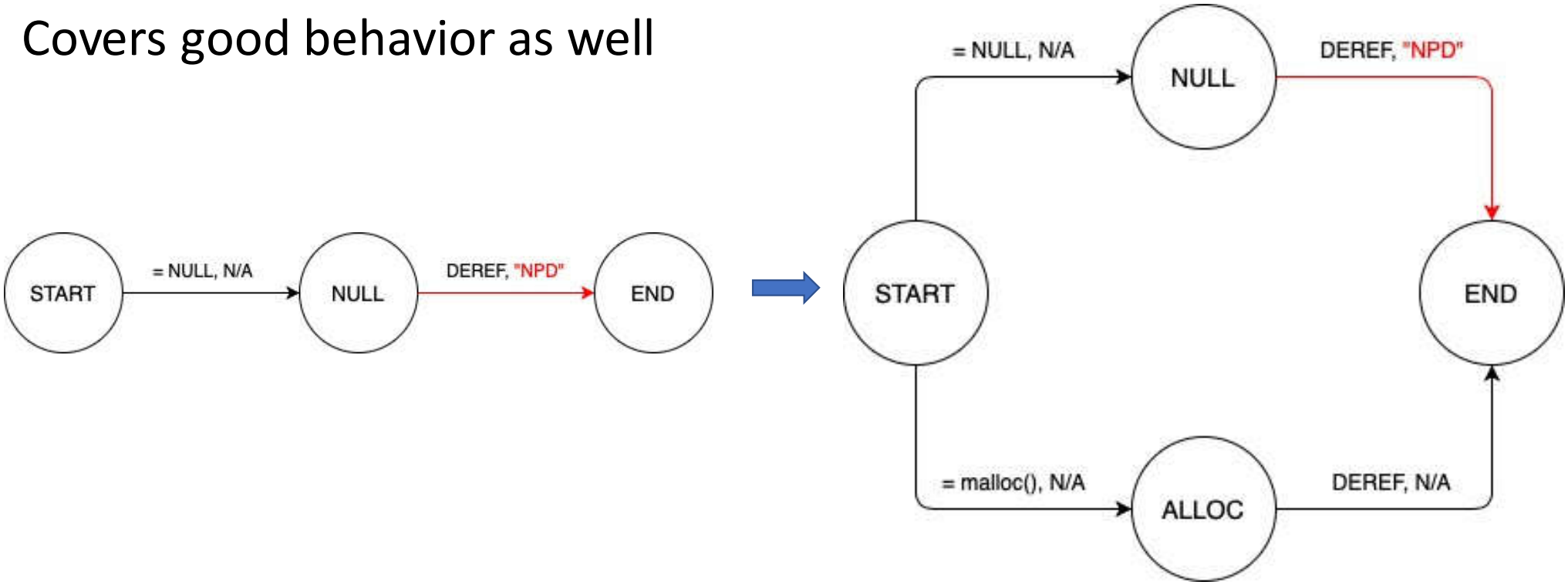
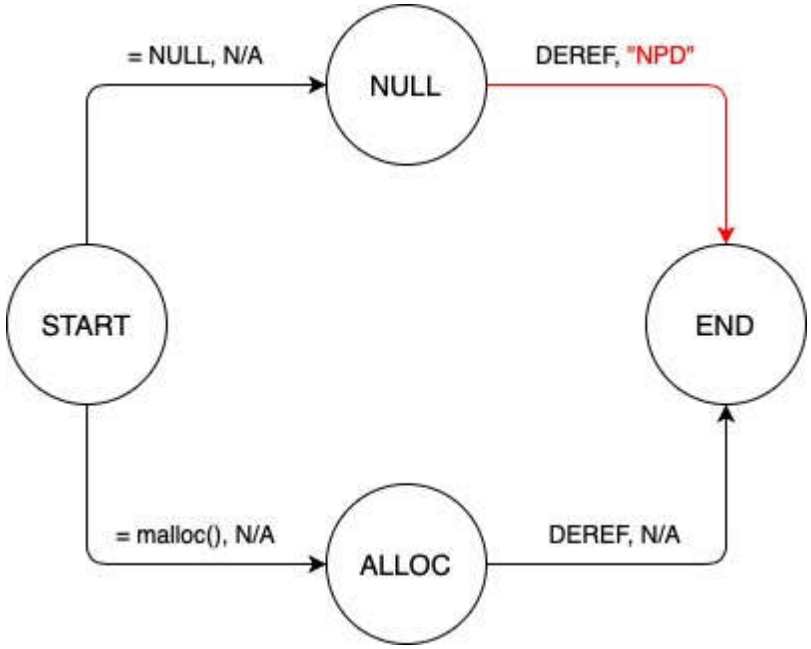
xcalscan FSM ABSTRACTION BUILD UP

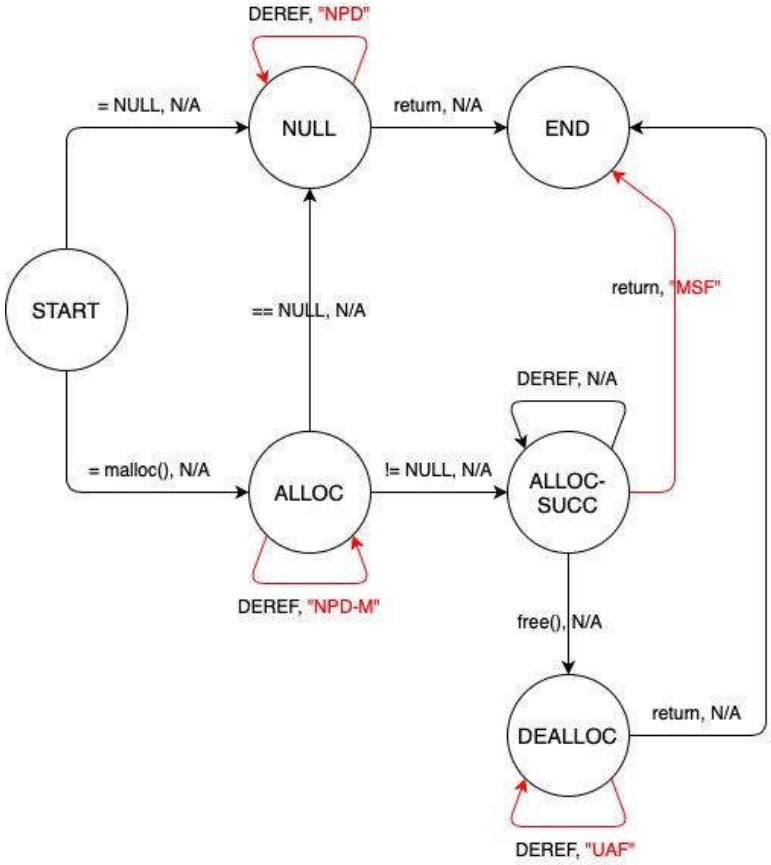
Covers good behavior as well



xcalscan FSM ABSTRACTION BUILD UP

Considers the side effects





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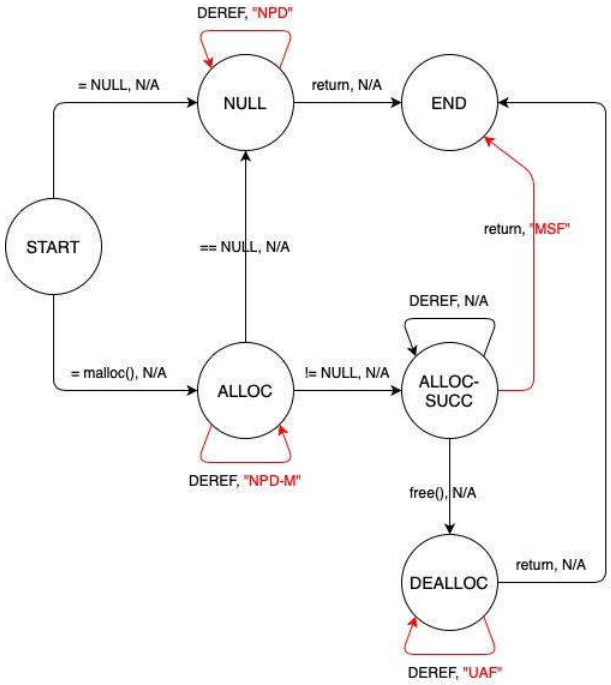
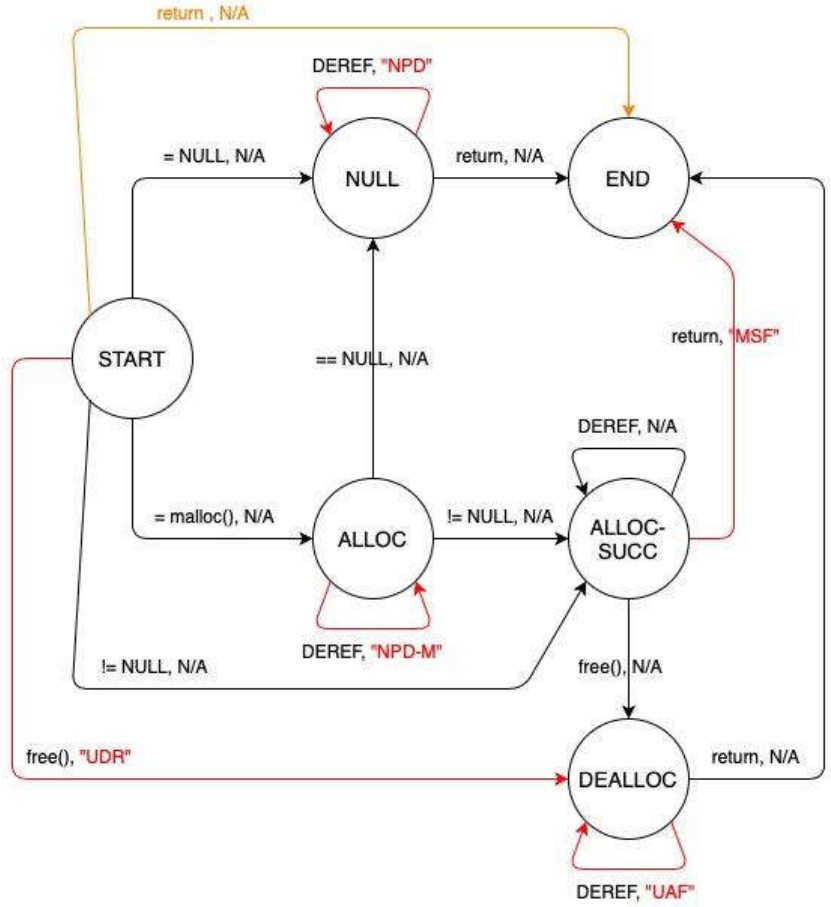
FSM ABSTRACTION BUILD UP

Tries to reach all other states from one





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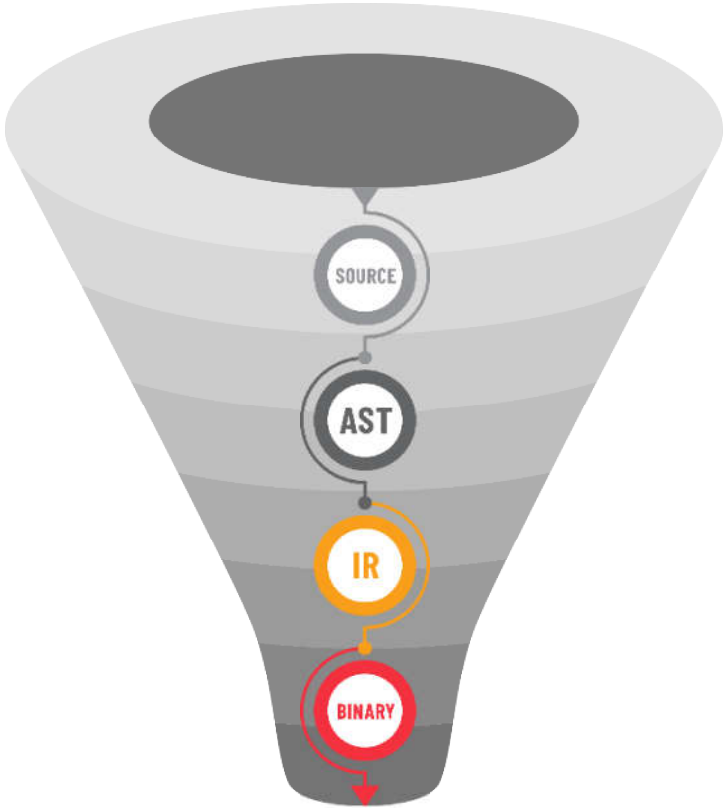
FSM ABSTRACTION BUILD UP

- Covers good behavior as well
- Considers the side effects
- Tries to reach all other states from one
- Iterates above until a fixed point

xcalscan PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

- Analyze based on SSA IRs
  - Context sensitive
  - Flow sensitive
  - Cross file
  - Cross language
- On demand analysis
  - Less time
  - Less memory
- Symbolic evaluation
  - User customizable rules



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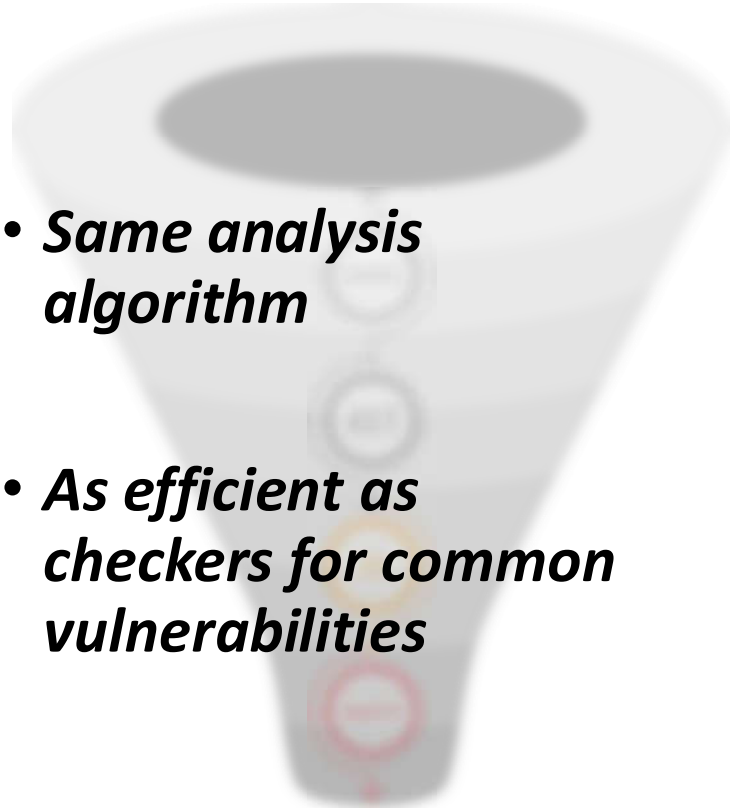

- ***Same analysis algorithm***
- ***As efficient as checkers for common vulnerabilities***

EVALUATION: TIME & MEMORY FOOTPRINT

PROJECT	LOC	XCALSCAN*		PINPOINT 1.5**	
		Scan Time	Memory Usage	Scan Time	Memory Usage
MySQL 5.5.10	1M	8m19s	11.2GB	1.5h*	60GB*
OpenSSL 1.0.1f	500K	2m28s	2.9GB	-	-
GDB 7.0a	490K	1m24s	3.5GB	-	-

C: ~3K LOC/s (65 projects, 16,438,505 LOC)
JAVA: ~0.5k LOC /s (9 projects, 736,828 LOC)

** XCALSCAN on CentOS7, 64GB Mem + 17GB Swap, Intel i7-9700 @ 3.00GHz (8 core)*
*** Source: PINPOINT PLDI2018 paper, https://www.cse.ust.hk/~charlesz/pinpoint.pdf*

EVALUATION: ACCURACY

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Juliet C	XCALSCAN	CLANG
True Positive (TP, Higher better)	64%	21%
False Positive (FP, Lower better)	6%	14%

- Benchmark
  - Juliet C has 74699 cases, 118 categories.
  - 42 supported, 26 of windows tests excluded

- Version
  - Clang 3.8.0-2

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EVALUATION: ACCURACY CONTINUED

PROJECT	RULE	XCALSCAN				OTHER TOOL			
		Errors reported	True Positive	False Positive	FP Rate	Errors reported	True Positive	False Positive	FP Rate
MySQL 5.5.10	NPD	261	147	114	43%	69	55	14	20%
	UAF	40	22	18	45%	19	12	7	36%
OpenSSL 1.0.1f	NPD	65	46	19	29%	48	42	6	12%
	UAF	18	6	12	66%	6	3	3	50%
GDB 7.0a	NPD	88	50	38	43%	12	11	1	8%
	UAF	15	4	11	73%	5	1	4	80%

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EVALUATION: CROSS PROCEDURE

Juliet C	XCALSCAN	XCALSCAN (cross procedure feature disabled)
True Positive (TP, Higher better)	64%	36%
False Positive (FP, Lower better)	6%	28%

- Benefit of cross procedure analysis
  - Higher True Positive rate
  - Lower False Positive rate

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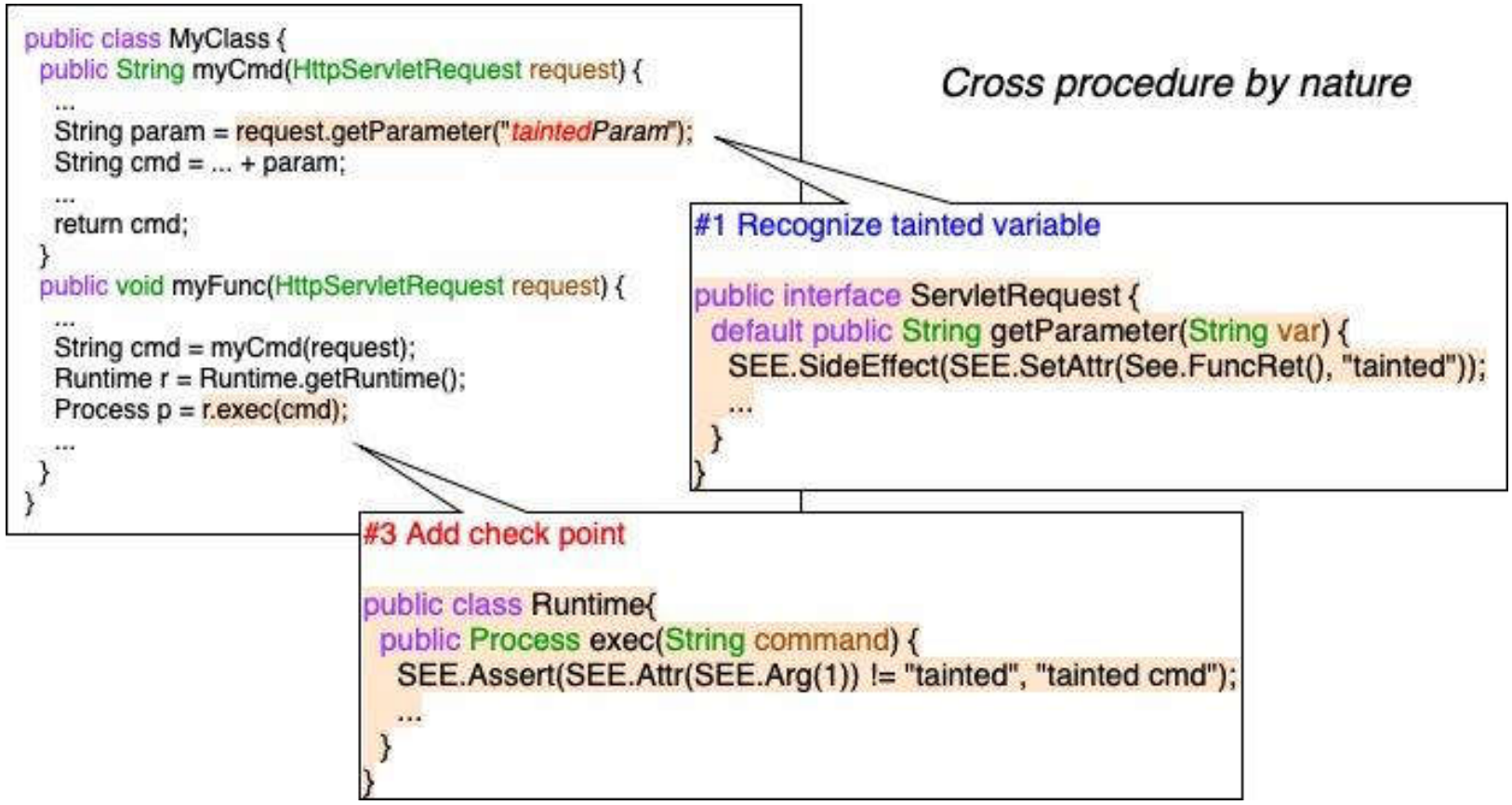
EXAMPLE: INJECTION – CROSS PROCEDURE

```
public class MyClass {
  public String myCmd(HttpServletRequest request) {
    ...
    String param = request.getParameter("tainedParam");
    String cmd = ... + param;
    ...
    return cmd;
  }
  public void myFunc(HttpServletRequest request) {
    ...
    String cmd = myCmd(request);
    Runtime r = Runtime.getRuntime();
    Process p = r.exec(cmd);
    ...
  }
}
```

EXAMPLE: INJECTION – CROSS PROCEDURE



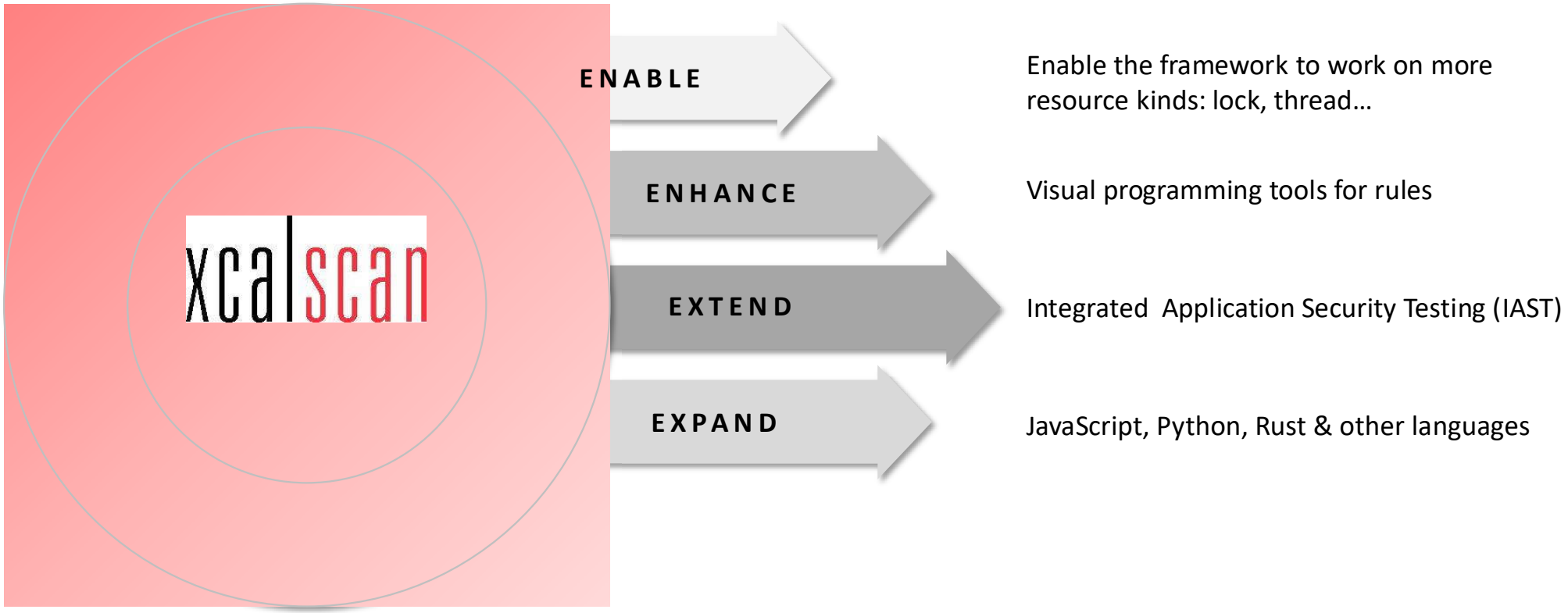
SUMMARY

1. Business Logic verification is critical

2. Symbolic evaluation enables customizability

3. Evaluate SAST by speed, memory consumption, accuracy & cross procedural capability

XCALIBYTE'S FUTURE DIRECTIONS



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Q&A

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