



Defeating Non-Executable Memory Protections with Return Oriented Programming

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Agenda

- Intro
- Evolution of Memory Corruption Bugs
 - Exploitation techniques
 - Mitigations
 - Counter-Mitigations
- Return Oriented Programming
 - Analysis of Protection Mechanisms
 - Exploiting Windows
 - Exploiting Linux
- Affected technologies
- Outro

whoami

- Rubén Ventura Piña (tr3w)
twitter: trew_0
- Has worked giving application security assessment
- Speaker at some cons
- Experience as a trainer

Memory Corruption Vulnerabilities

- One of the oldest types of attacks
- High risk
- They are still here
- Yet another defense mechanism, yet another bypass

Memory Corruption Vulnerabilities

- Vulnerability development becomes much more harder
- Exploitation techniques become much more complex
- EIP=0x41414141 is harder to get
- Writing a reliable exploit takes a lot of time.

Memory Corruption Vulnerabilities

➤ Compiler protection mechanisms

- Stack Cookies
- 'Ideal Frame' layout
- Safe SEH

➤ OS protection mechanisms

- Heap protections
- NX Memory
- ASLR

Memory Corruption Vulnerabilities

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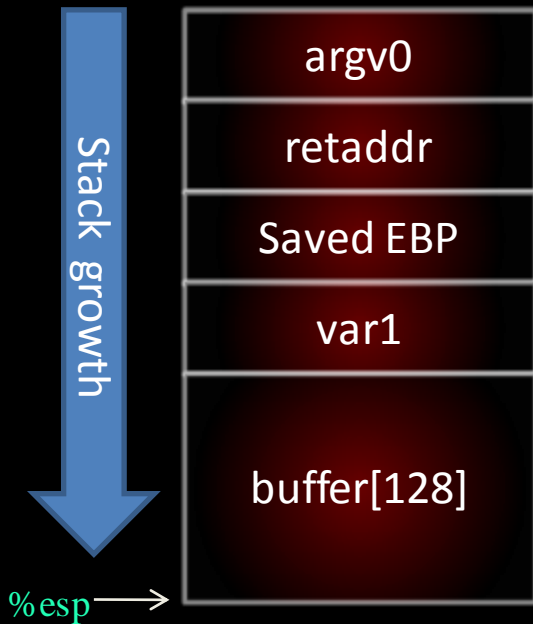
➤ OS protection mechanisms

- Heap protections
- NX Memory
- ASLR

Return Oriented Programming

- Modern exploitation technique
- Bypass to actual protection mechanisms
- Getting very popular

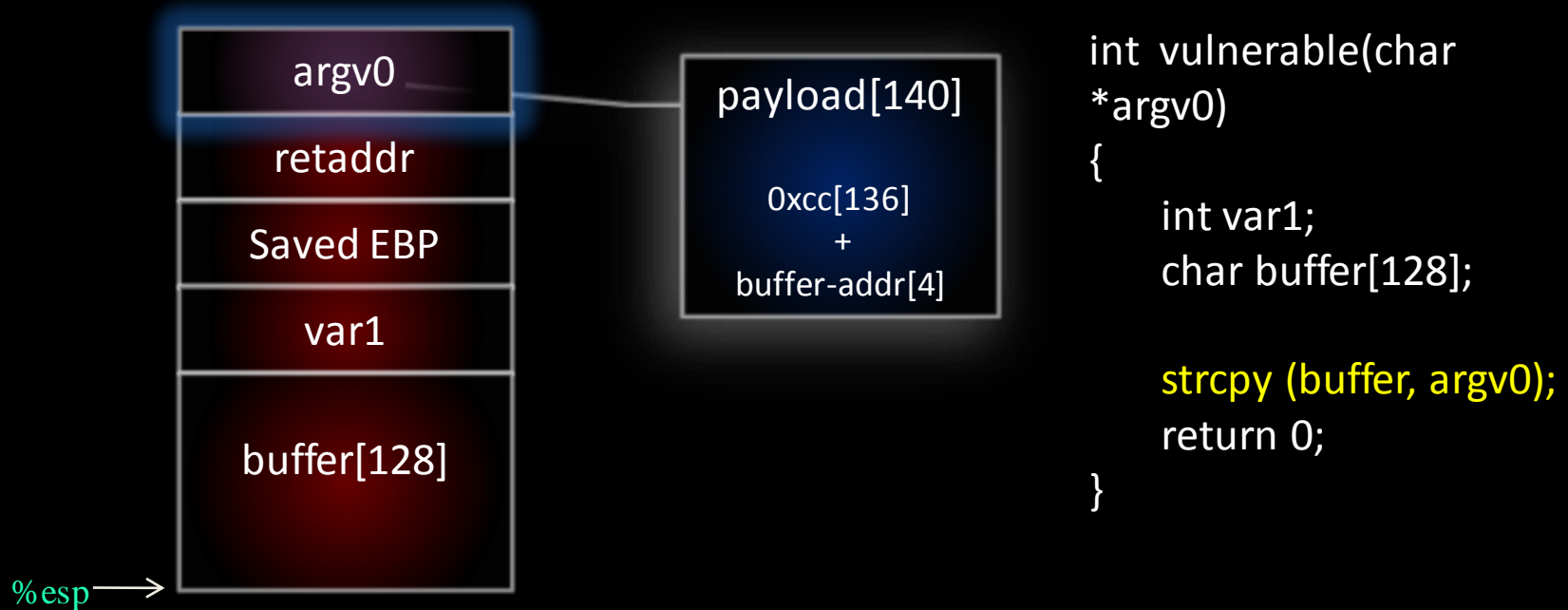
Code Injection



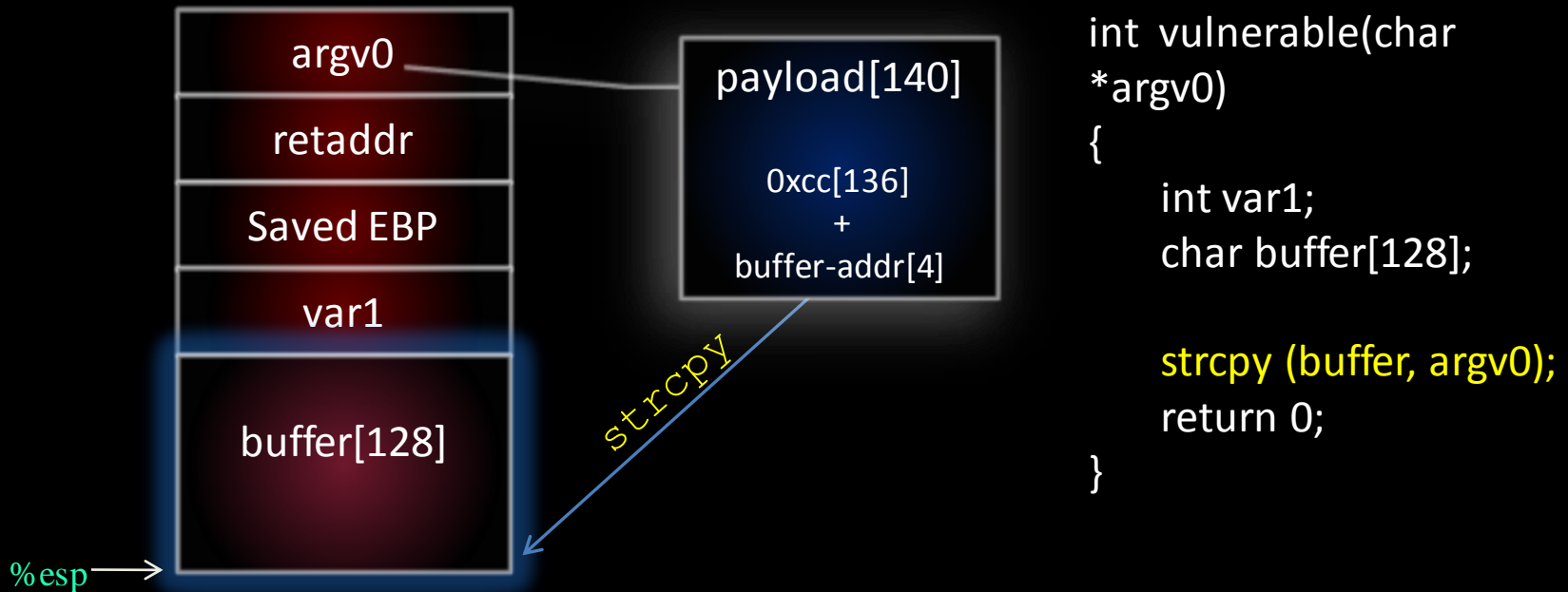
```
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{
    int var1;
    char buffer[128];

    strcpy (buffer, argv0);
    return 0;
}
```

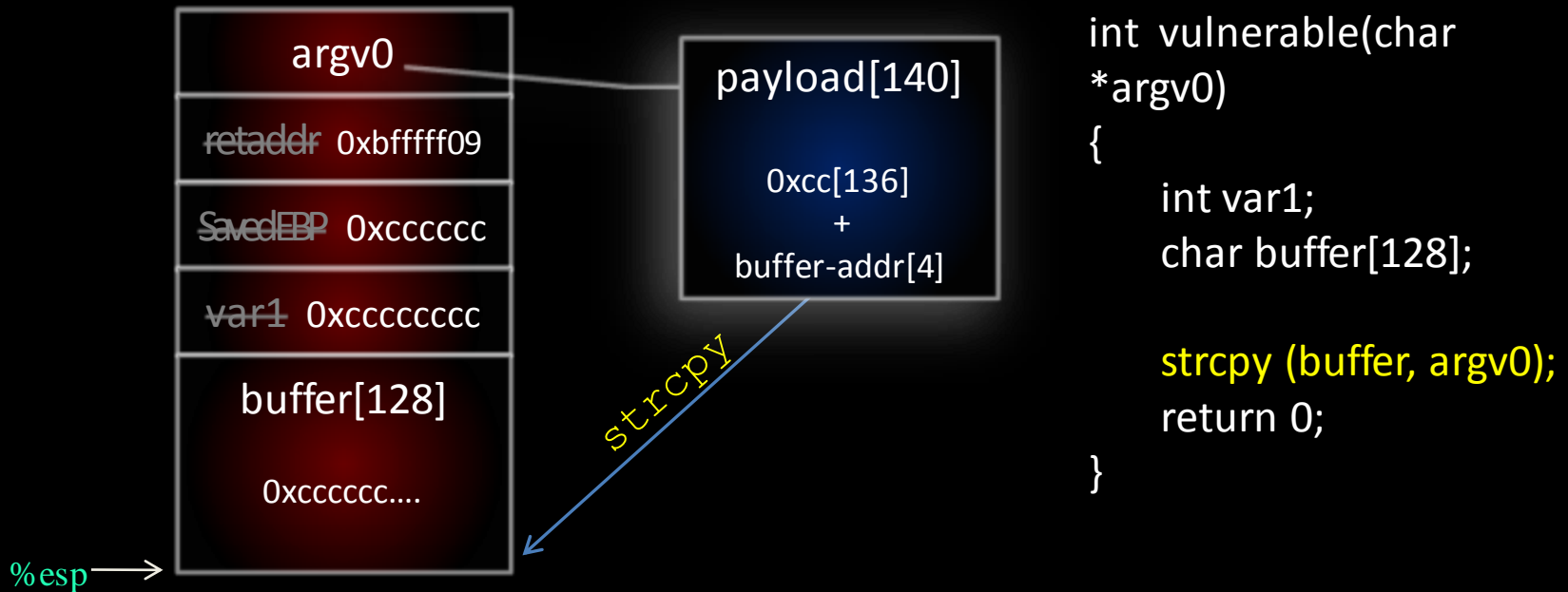
Code Injection



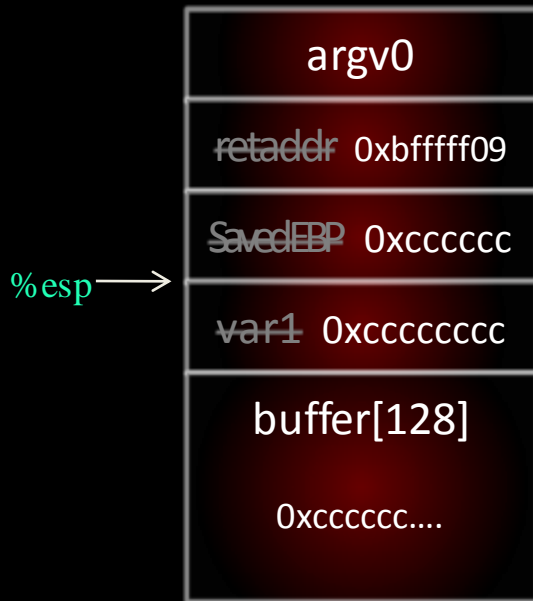
Code Injection



Code Injection



Code Injection

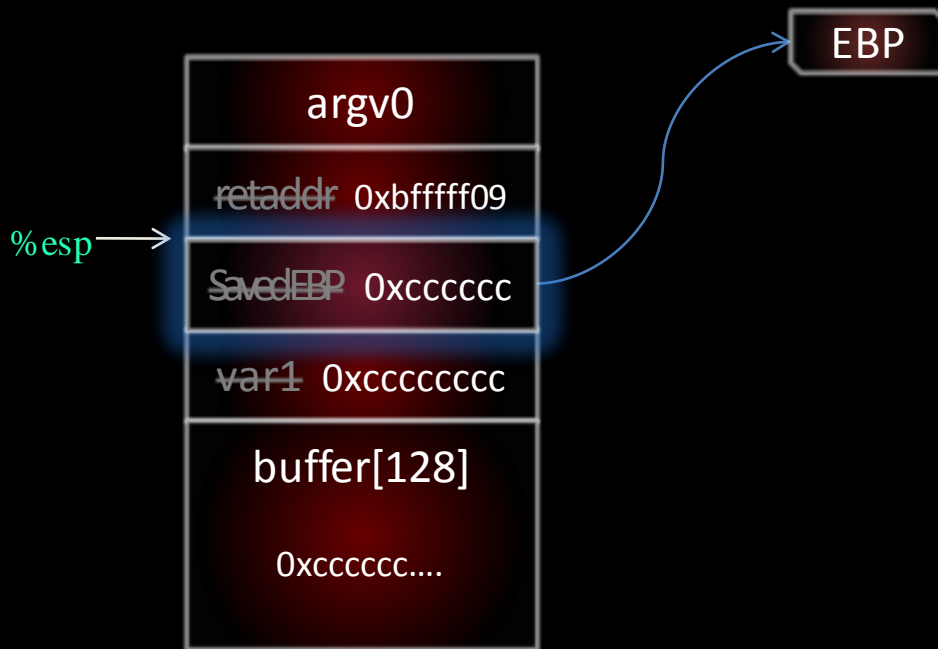


```
int vulnerable(char
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{
    int var1;
    char buffer[128];

    strcpy (buffer, argv0);
    return 0;
}

movl %ebp,%esp
pop %ebp
ret
```

Code Injection

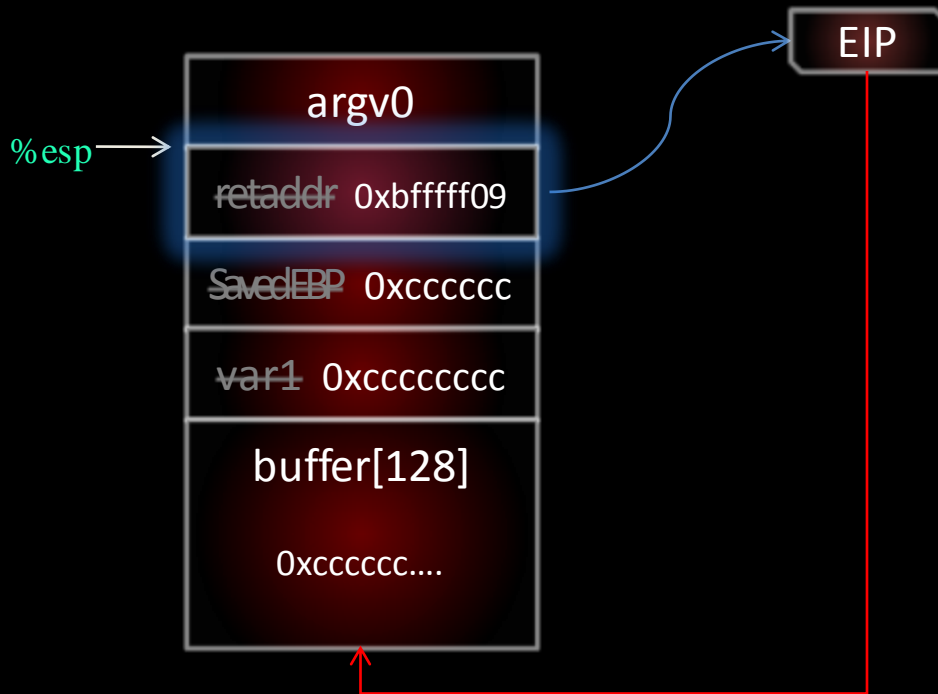


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```

Code Injection

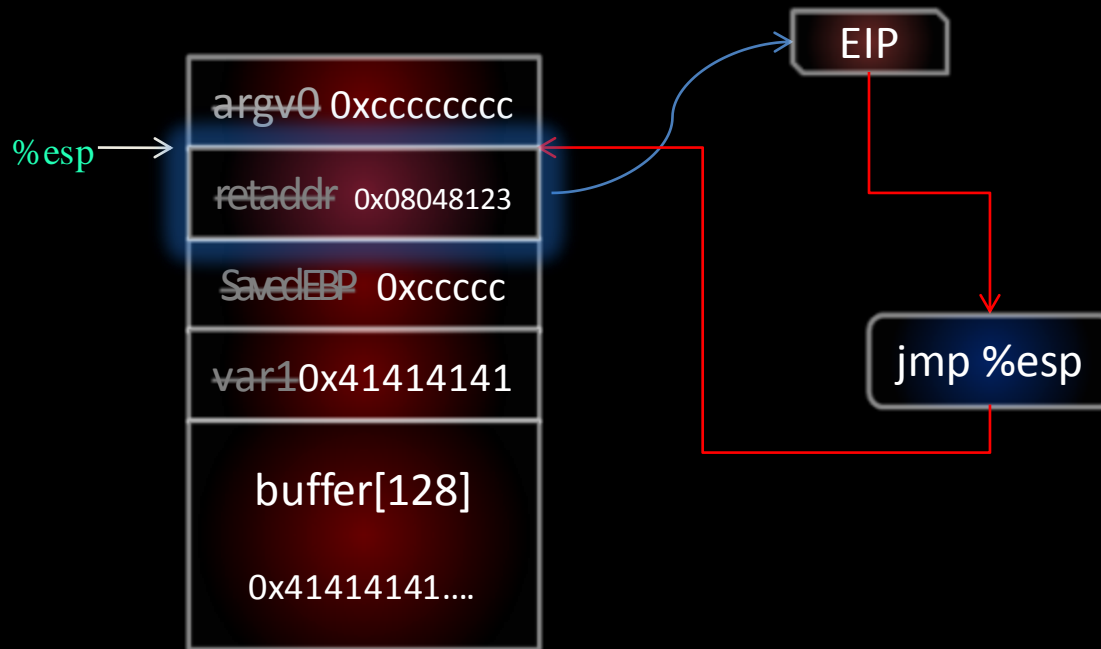


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Code Injection: jmp-through-reg

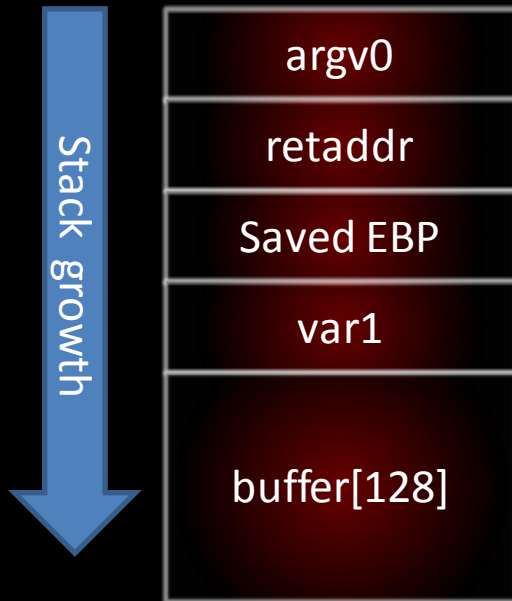


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movl %ebp,%esp
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```

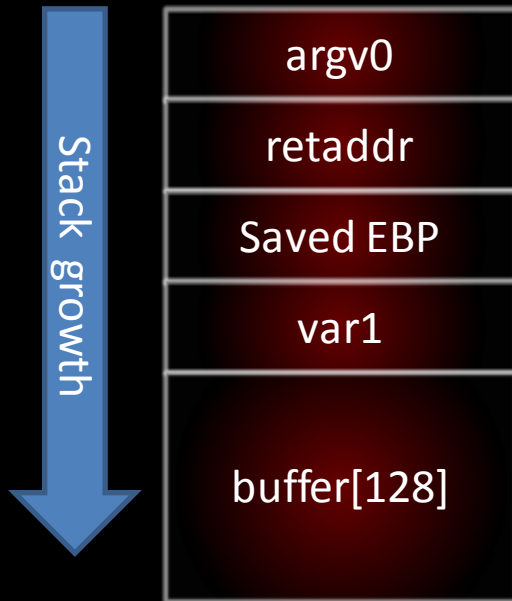

Code Injection



EIP is manipulated to redirect execution to the stack

Mitigations???

Code Injection



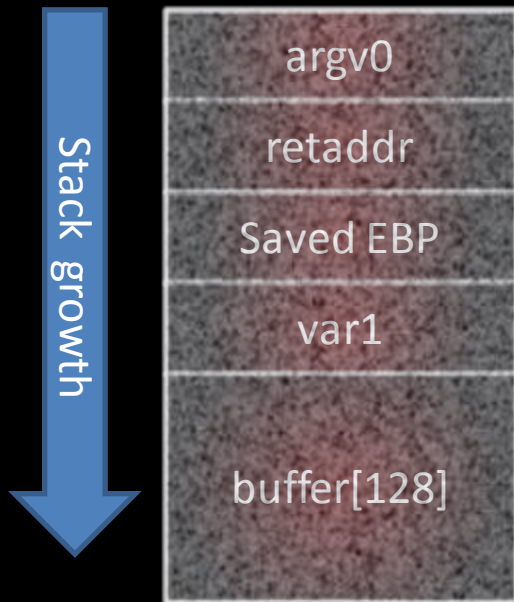
EIP is manipulated to redirect execution to the stack

Mitigations???

Non-Executable Stack

rxwp --> rw-p

Code Injection



EIP is manipulated to redirect execution to the stack

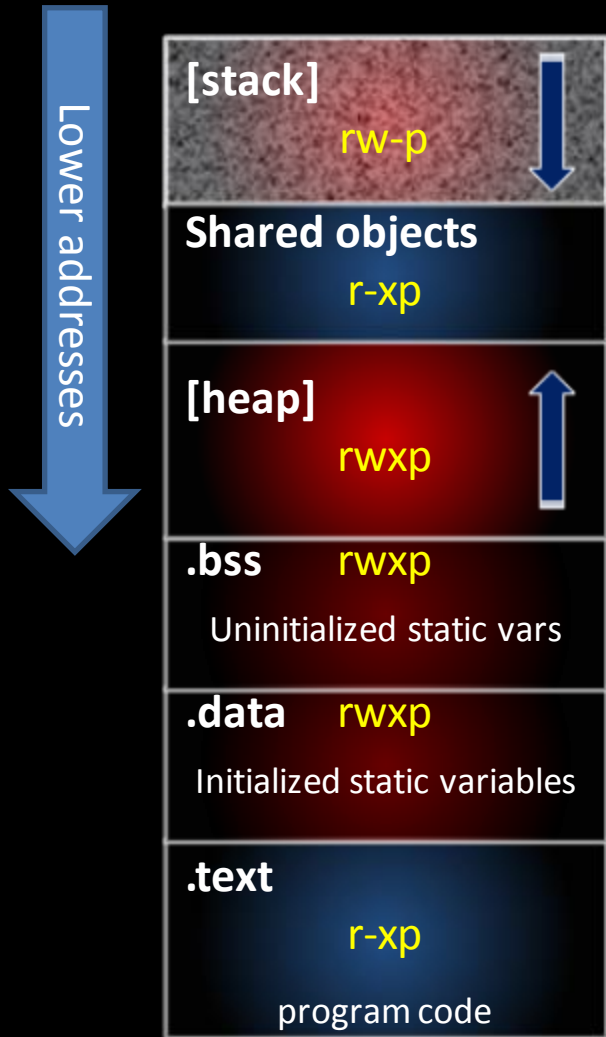
Mitigations???

Non-Executable Stack

`rxwp` --> `rw-p`

Placing shellcode in the stack and then jumping to it is not an option anymore

nx-stack



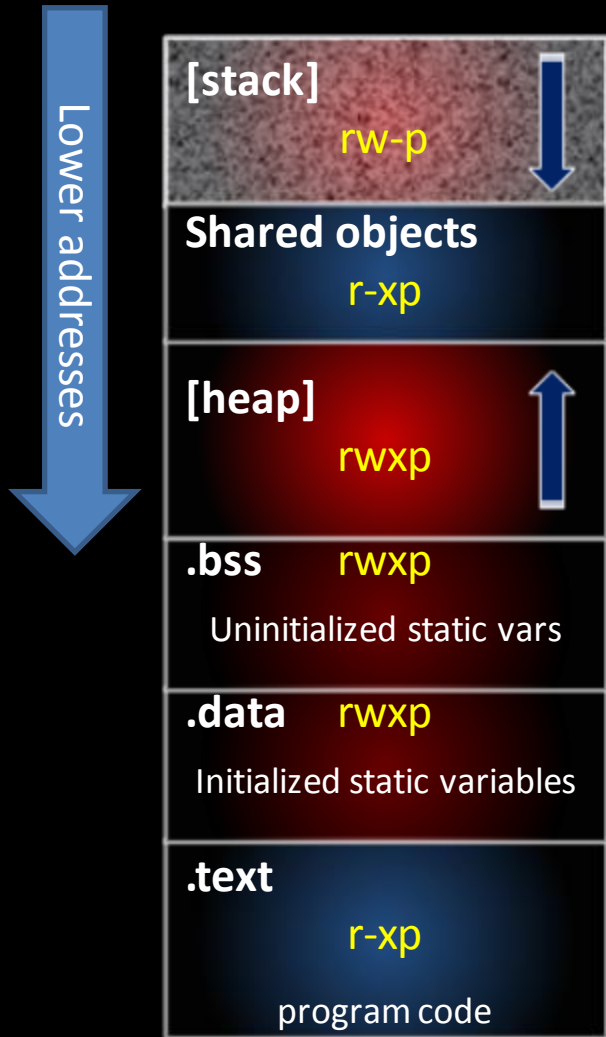
-> Linux: Solar Designer, 04-1997
- Adopted in other OS as well.

Weakness?

Code can be executed everywhere else!

Place shellcode in any other section and jump to it.

nx-stack



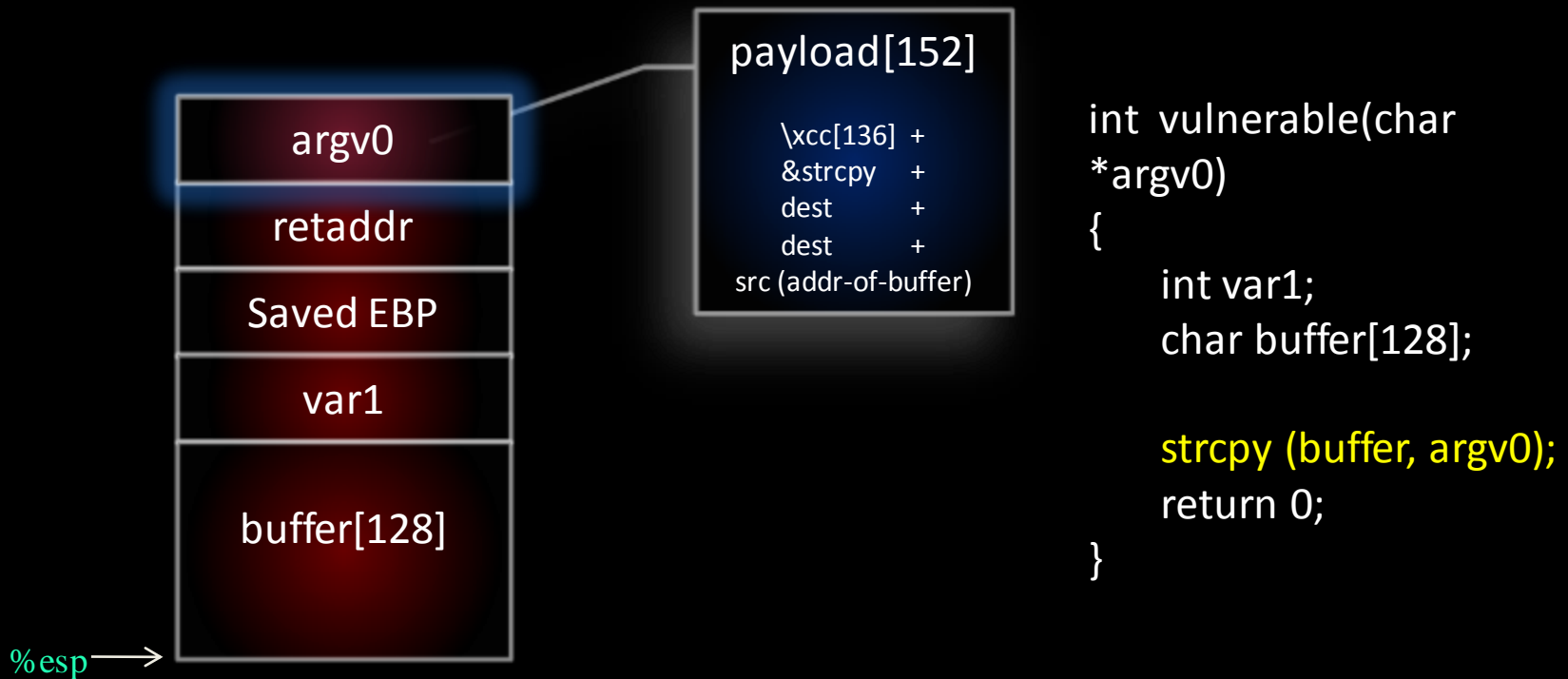
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Weakness?

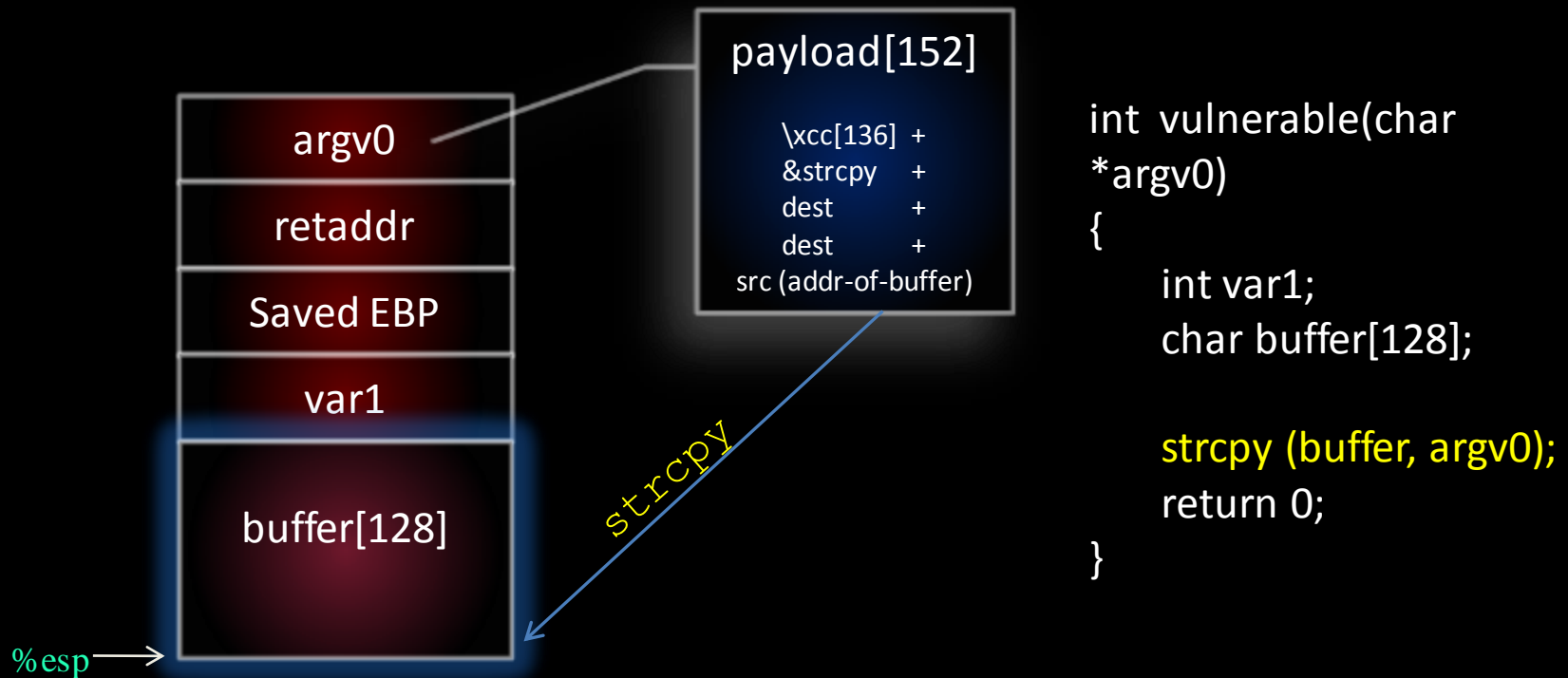
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Place shellcode in any other section and jump to it.

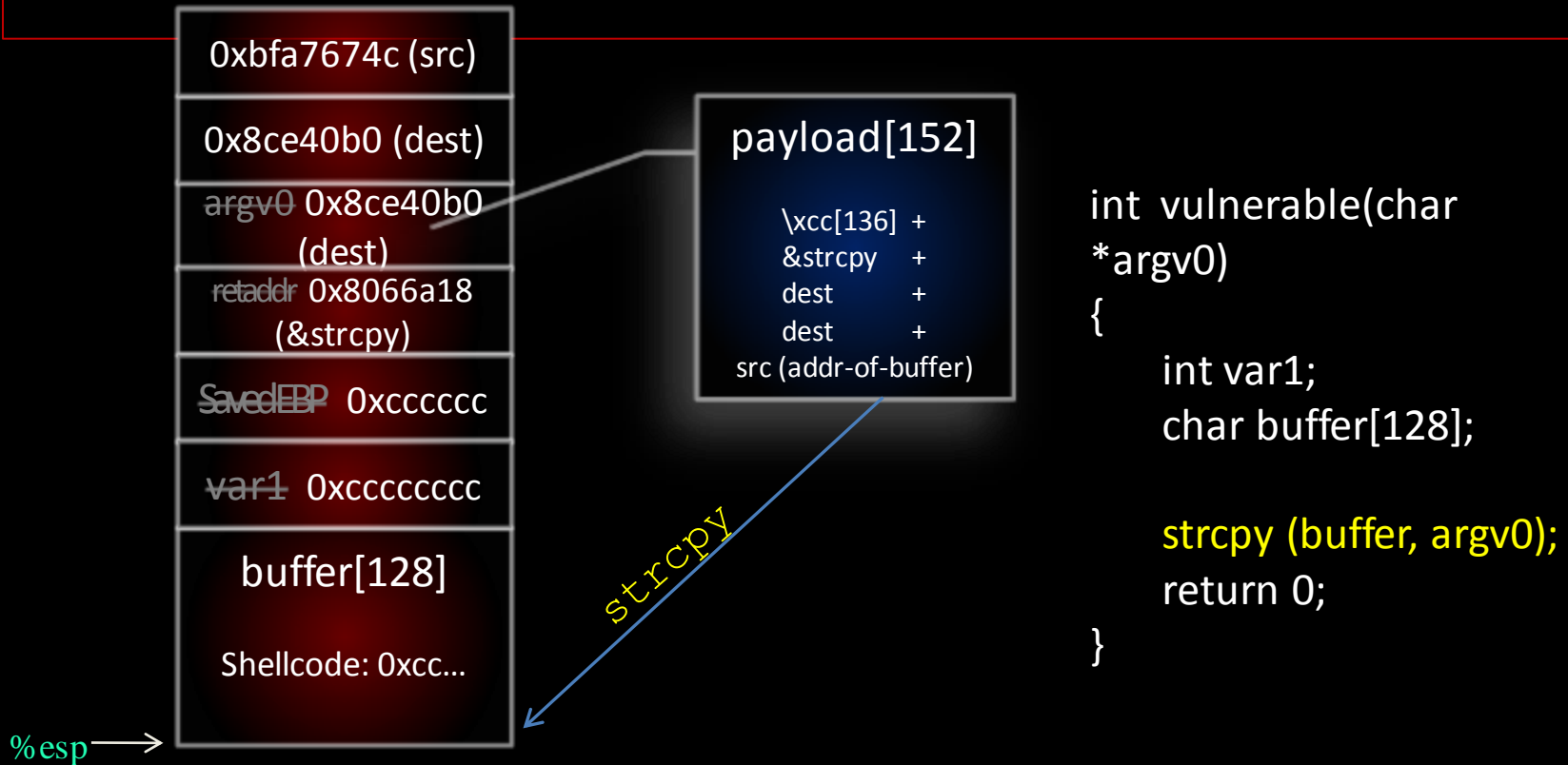
ret2strcpy



ret2strcpy



ret2strcpy



ret2strcpy

0xbfa7674c (src)
0x8ce40b0 (dest)
argv0 0x8ce40b0 (dest)
retaddr 0x8066a18 (&strcpy)
Saved EBP 0xcccccc
var1 0xcccccccc
buffer[128]
Shellcode: 0xcc...

Shellcode (0xcc)

```
int vulnerable(char  
*argv0)
```

```
{
```

```
    int var1;  
    char buffer[128];
```

```
    strcpy (buffer, argv0);  
    return 0;
```

```
}
```

%esp →

ret2strcpy

0xbfa7674c (src)
0x8ce40b0 (dest)
argv0 0x8ce40b0 (dest)
retaddr 0x8066a18 (&strcpy)
saved EBP 0xcccccc
var1 0xcccccccc
buffer[128]
Shellcode: 0xcc...

Address of strcpy()
in libc

```
int vulnerable(char
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{
    int var1;
    char buffer[128];

    strcpy (buffer, argv0);
    return 0;
}
```

%esp →

ret2strcpy

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Saved EBP 0xcccccc
var1 0xcccccccc
buffer[128]
Shellcode: 0xcc...

%esp →

Address of destination
buffer (eg somewhere
in the heap)

```
int vulnerable(char  
*argv0)  
{
```

```
    int var1;  
    char buffer[128];
```

```
    strcpy (buffer, argv0);  
    return 0;
```

```
}
```

ret2strcpy

0xbfa7674c (src)
0x8ce40b0 (dest)
argv0 0x8ce40b0 (dest)
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saved EBP 0xcccccc
var1 0xcccccccc
buffer[128]
Shellcode: 0xcc...

Same as below

```
int vulnerable(char
*argv0)
{
    int var1;
    char buffer[128];

    strcpy (buffer, argv0);
    return 0;
}
```

%esp →

ret2strcpy

0xbfa7674c (src)
0x8ce40b0 (dest)
argv0 0x8ce40b0 (dest)
retaddr 0x8066a18 (&strcpy)
Saved EBP 0xcccccc
var1 0xcccccccc
buffer[128]
Shellcode: 0xcc...

Address of source buffer
(Pointer to shellcode)

```
int vulnerable(char
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{
    int var1;
    char buffer[128];

    strcpy (buffer, argv0);
    return 0;
}
```

%esp →

ret2strcpy

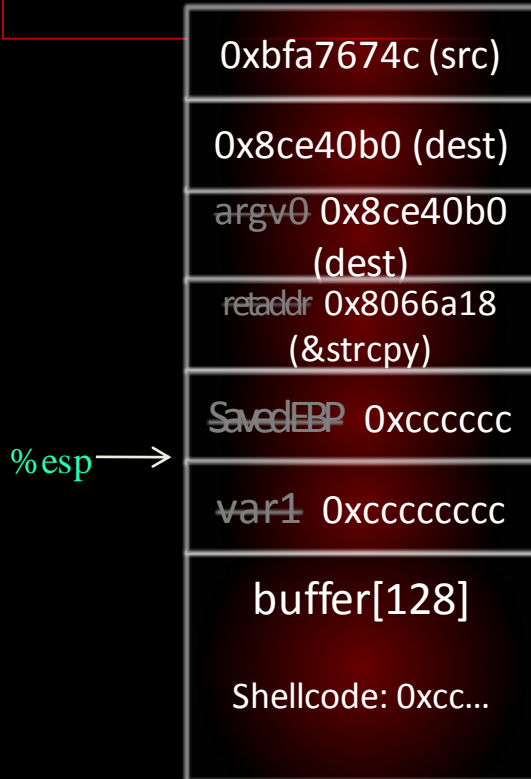
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buffer[128]
Shellcode: 0xcc...

%esp →

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ret2strcpy

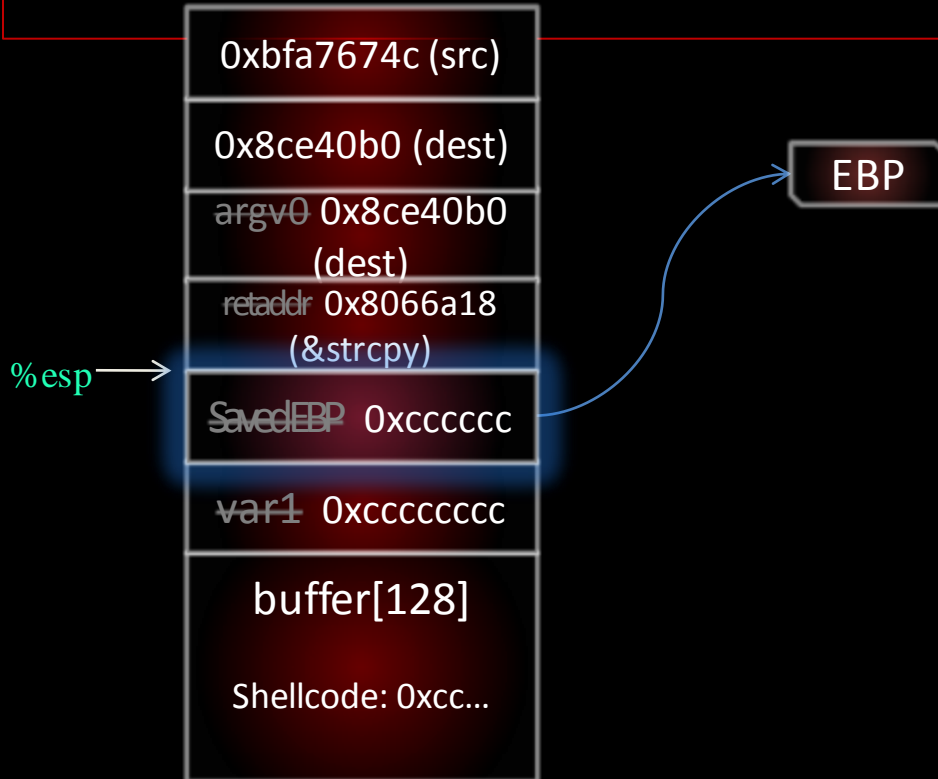


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ret2strcpy

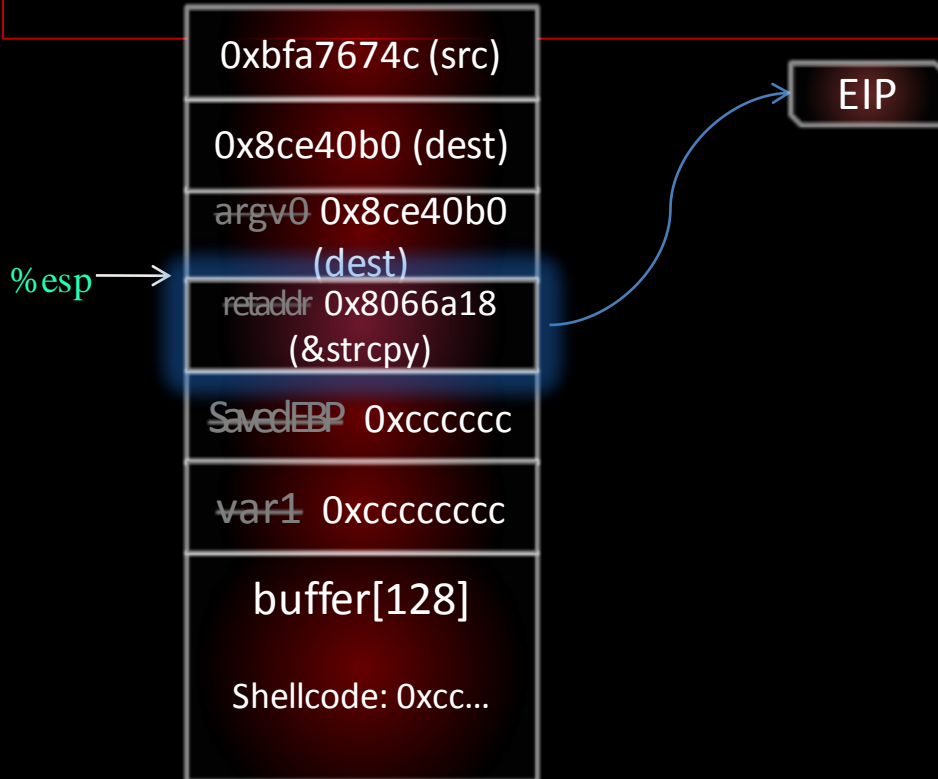


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}
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```
movl %ebp,%esp
pop %ebp
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```


ret2strcpy

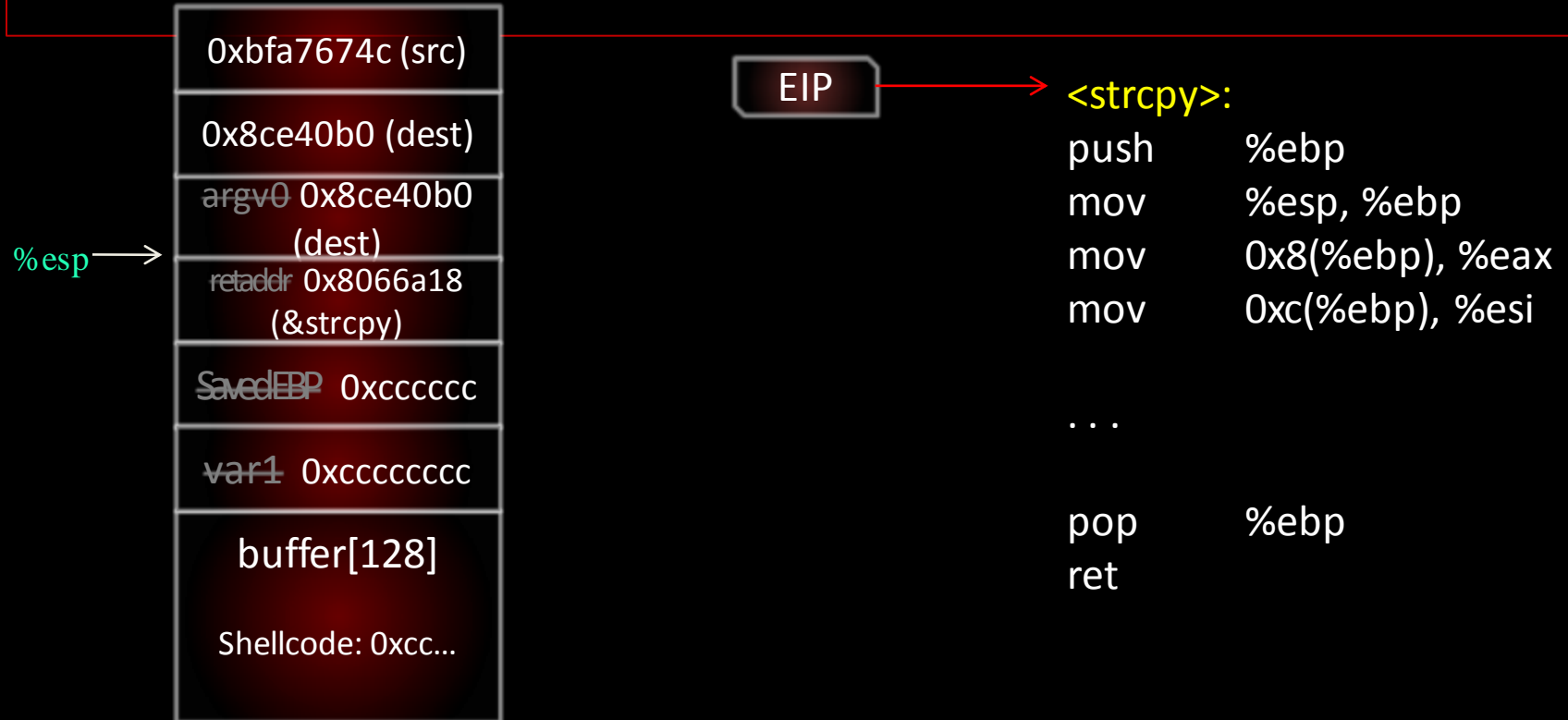


```
int vulnerable(char
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{
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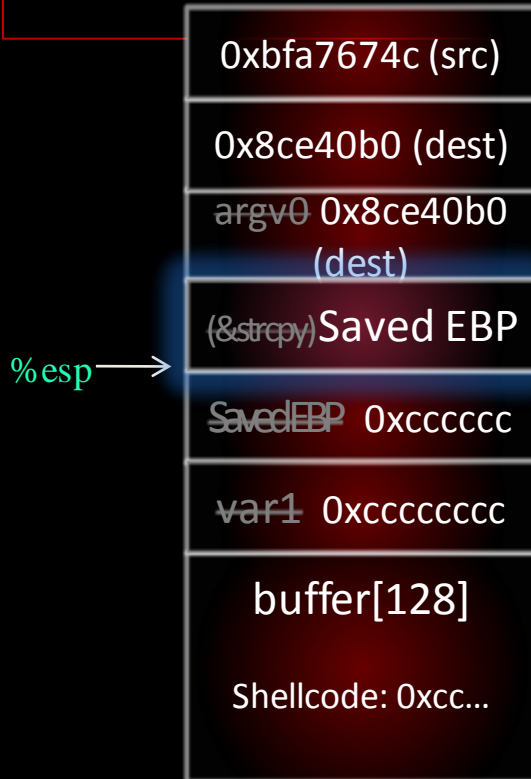
    strcpy (buffer, argv0);
    return 0;
}
```

```
movl %ebp,%esp
pop %ebp
ret
```

ret2strcpy



ret2strcpy



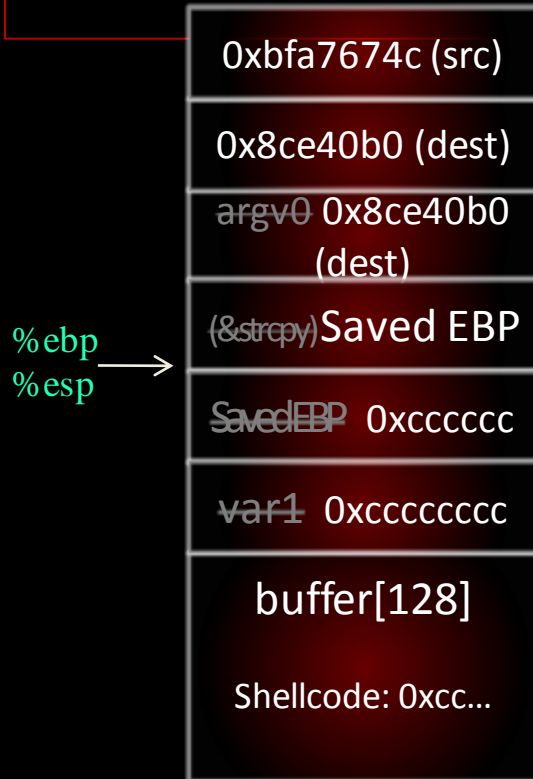
<strcpy>:

```
push    %ebp
mov     %esp, %ebp
mov     0x8(%ebp), %eax
mov     0xc(%ebp), %esi
```

...

```
pop     %ebp
ret
```

ret2strcpy



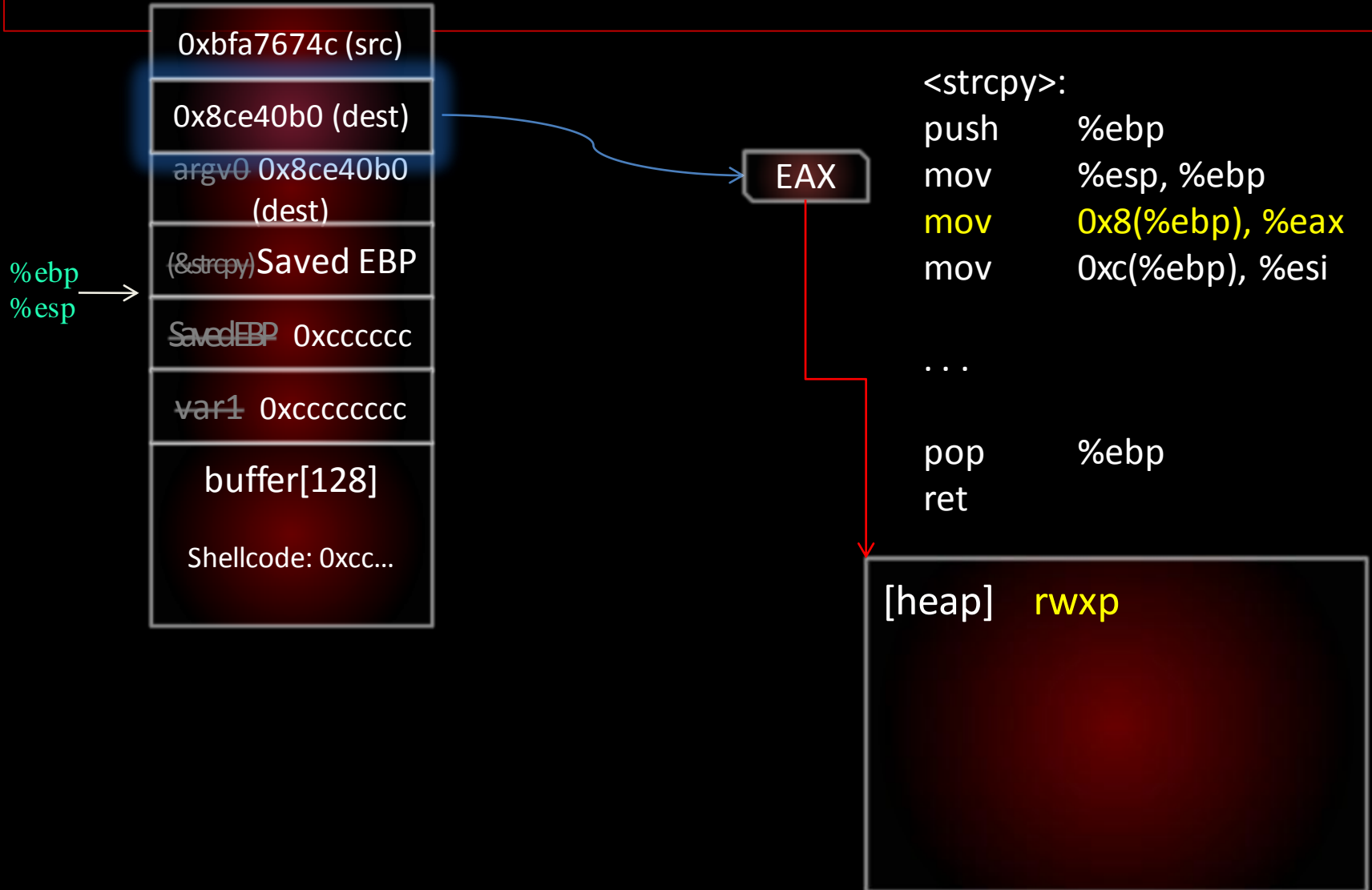
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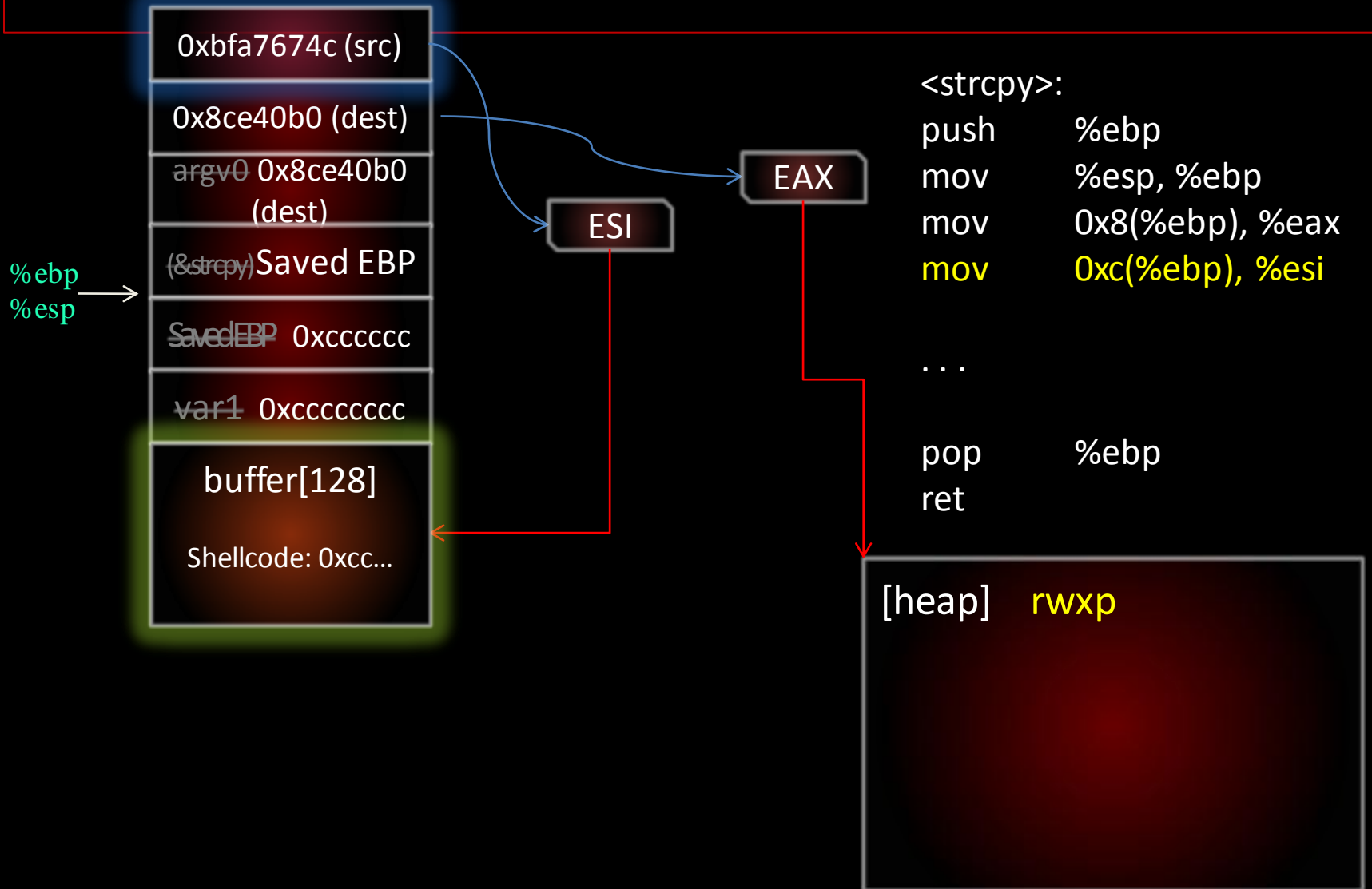
...

```
pop     %ebp
ret
```

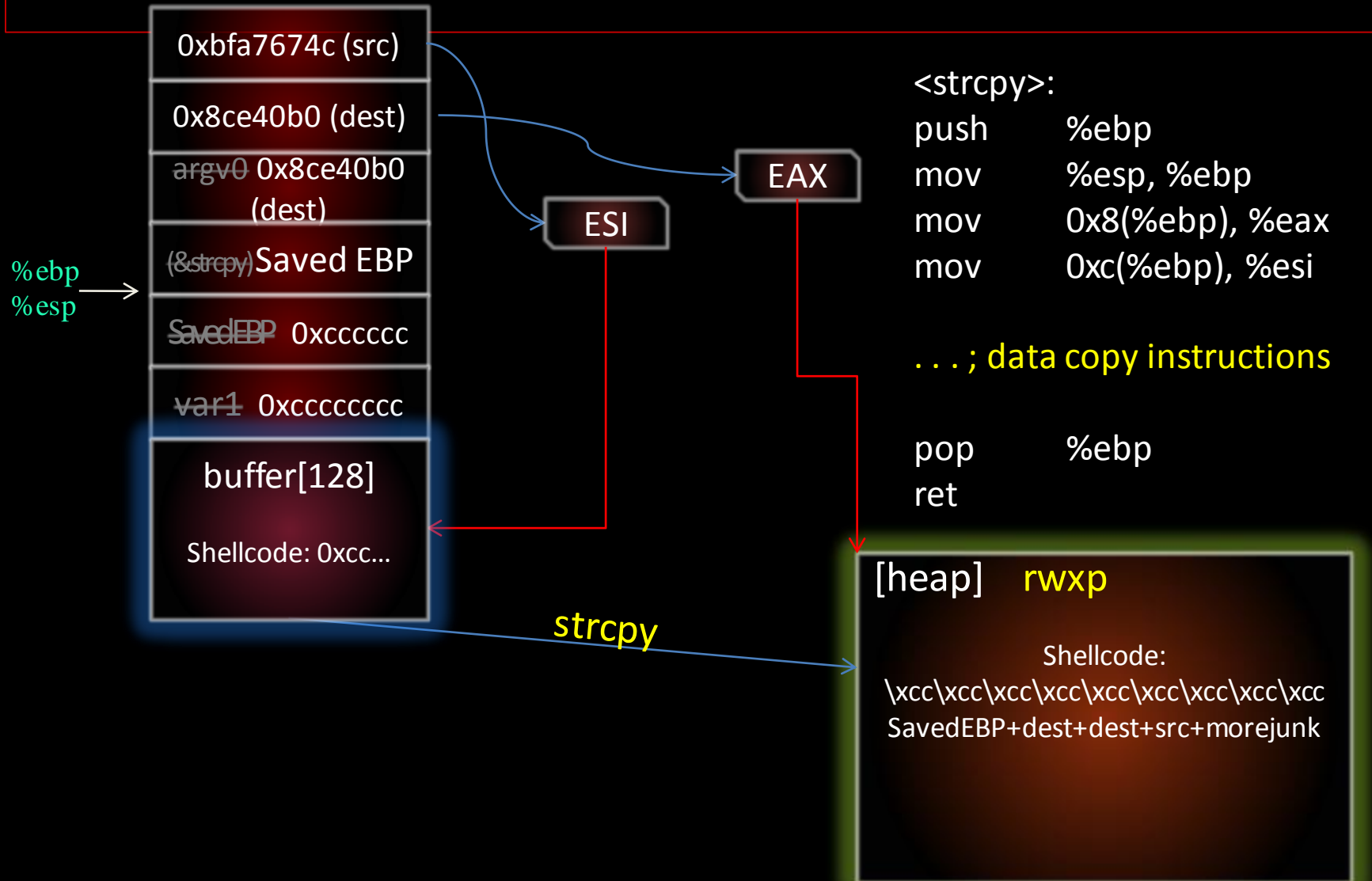
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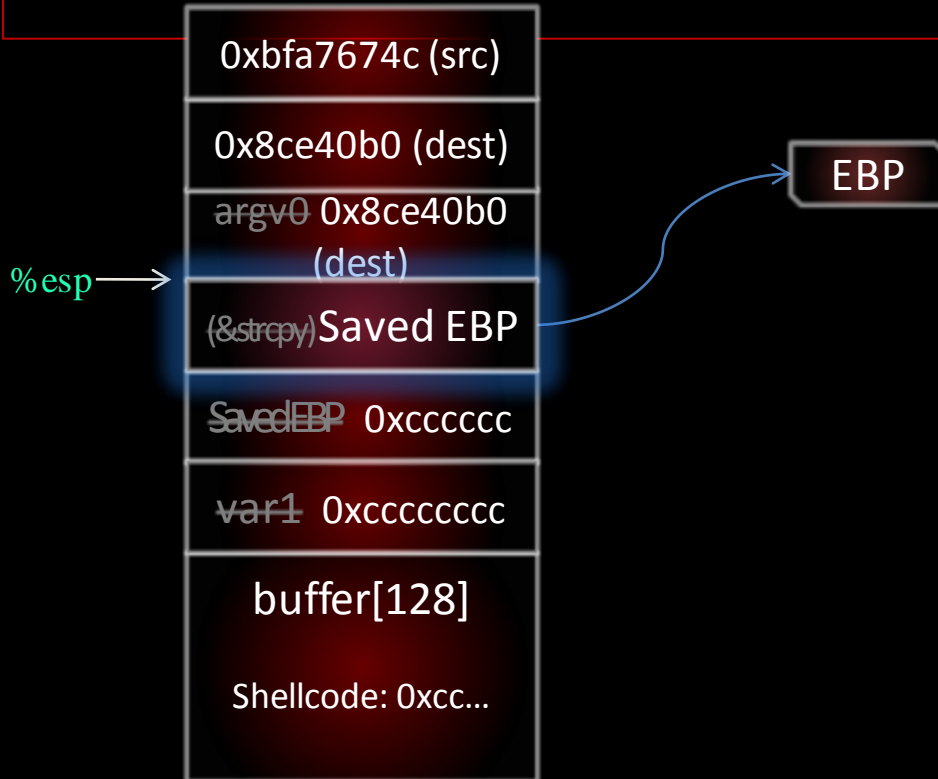
ret2strcpy



ret2strcpy



ret2strcpy



<strcpy>:

```
push    %ebp
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mov     0x8(%ebp), %eax
mov     0xc(%ebp), %esi
```

... ; data copy instructions

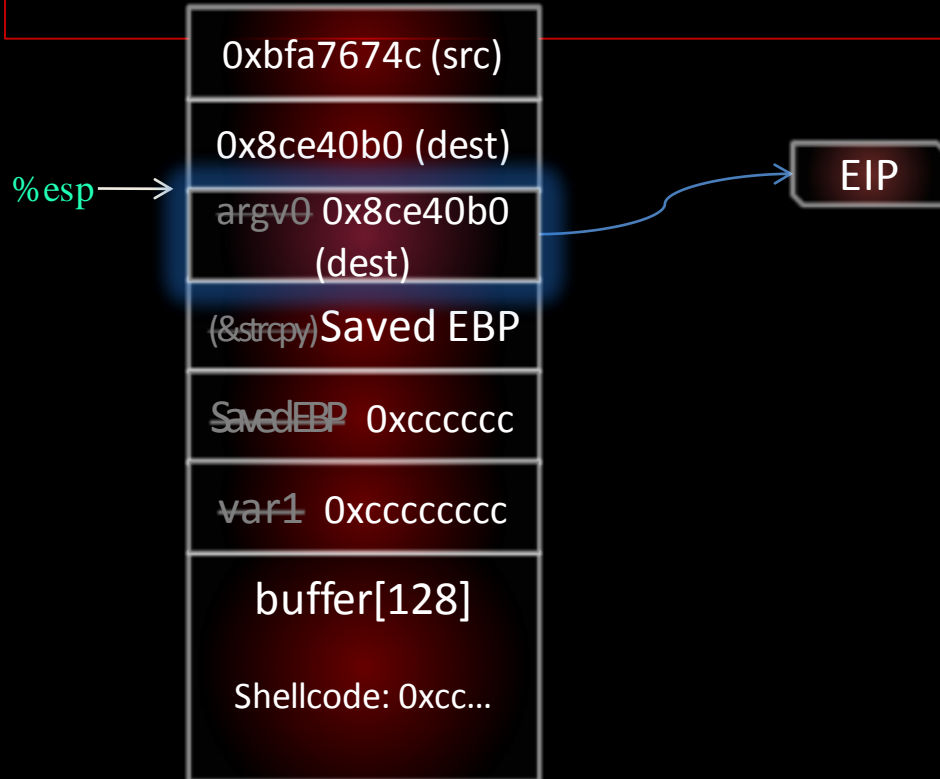
```
pop     %ebp
ret
```

[heap] **rwxp**

Shellcode:

```
\xcc\xcc\xcc\xcc\xcc\xcc\xcc\xcc\xcc
SavedEBP+dest+dest+src+morejunk
```


ret2strcpy



<strcpy>:

```
push    %ebp
mov     %esp, %ebp
mov     0x8(%ebp), %eax
mov     0xc(%ebp), %esi
```

... ; data copy instructions

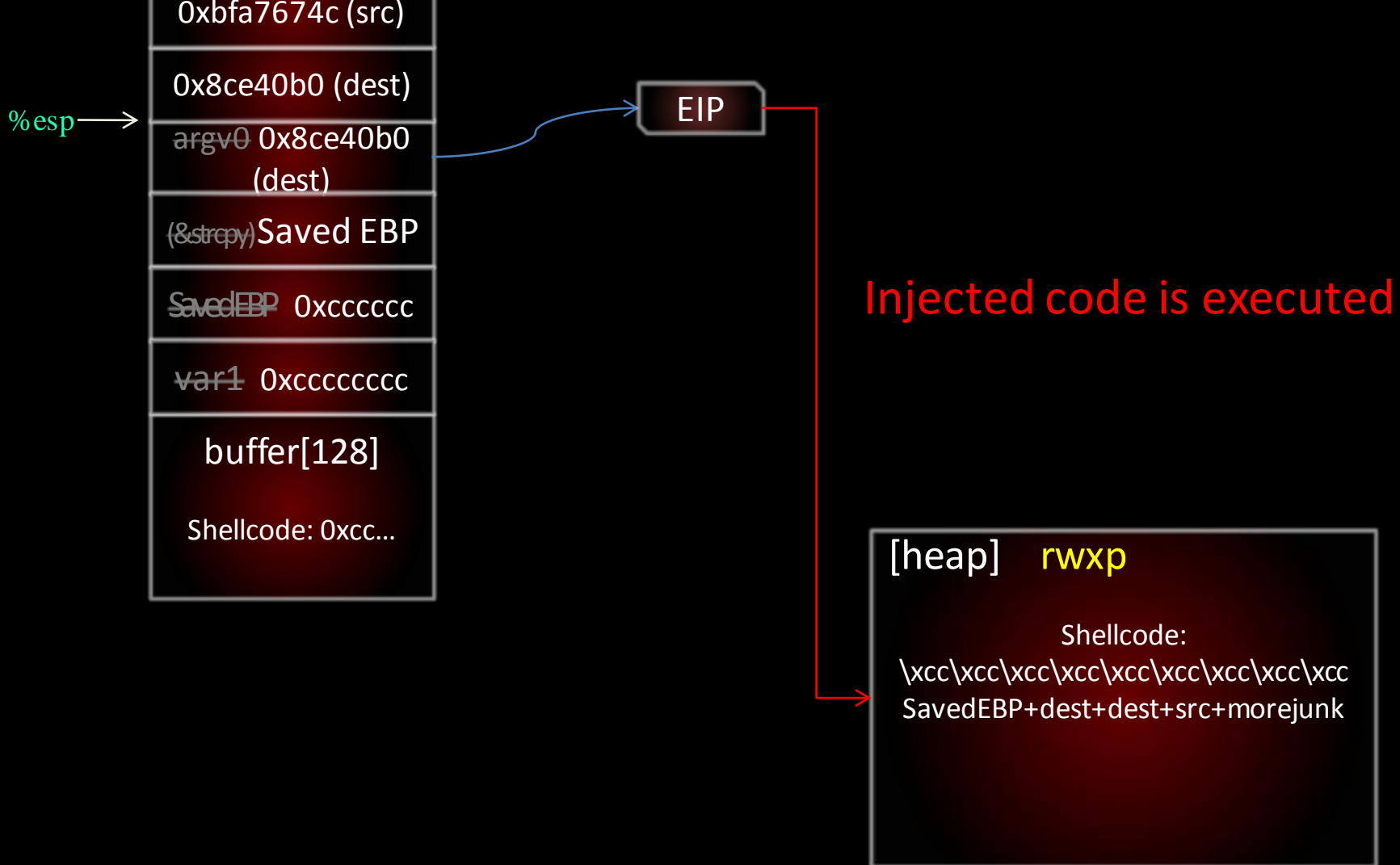
```
pop     %ebp
ret
```

[heap] **rwxp**

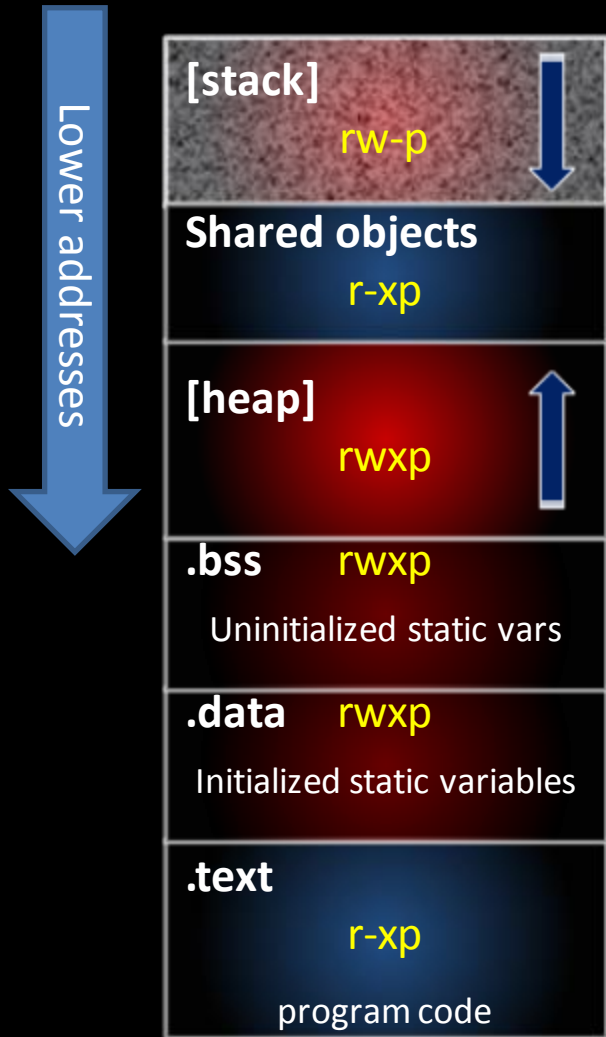
Shellcode:

```
\xcc\xcc\xcc\xcc\xcc\xcc\xcc\xcc\xcc
SavedEBP+dest+dest+src+morejunk
```

ret2strcpy



ret2strcpy

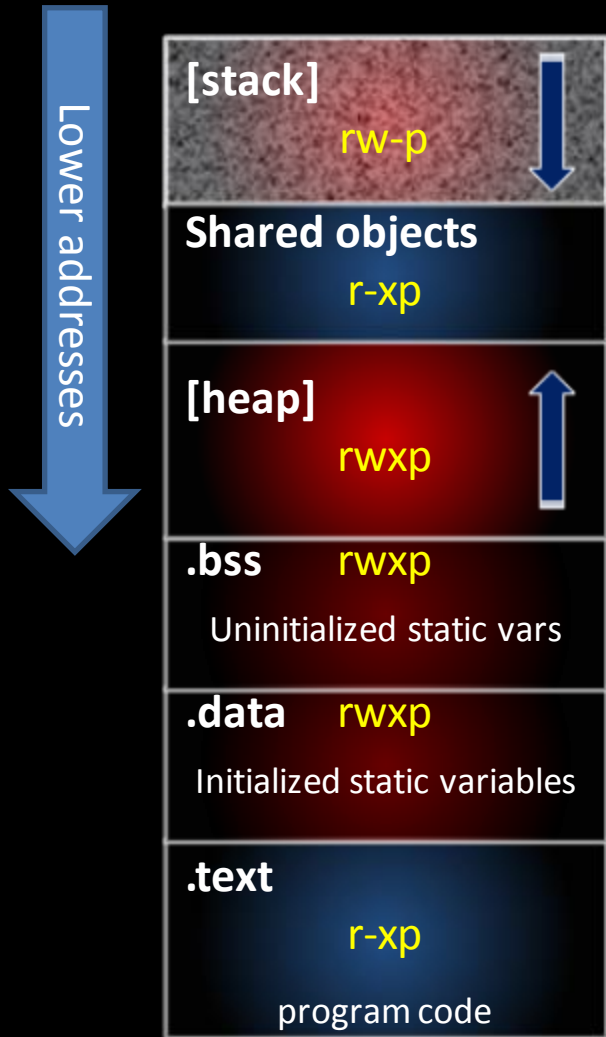


Shellcode is copied to any writable-and-executable memory region.

EIP is manipulated to redirect execution to shellcode in executable memory.

Mitigations???

ret2strcpy



Shellcode is copied to any writable-and-executable memory region.

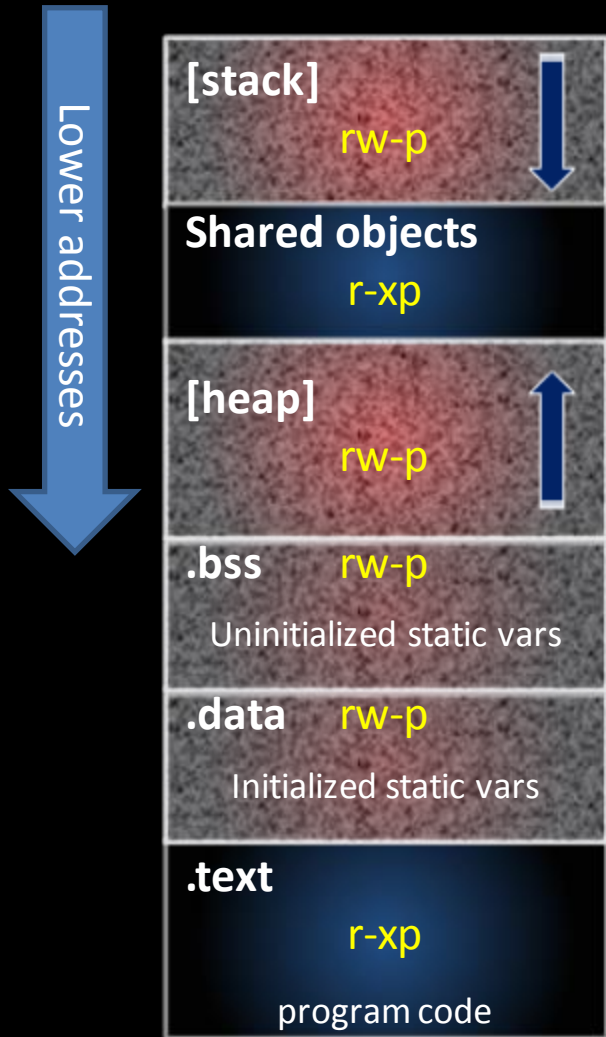
EIP is manipulated to redirect execution to shellcode in executable memory.

Mitigations???

Non-Executable Memory

Memory is either writable or executable, but not both

ret2strcpy



Shellcode is copied to any writable-and-executable memory region.

EIP is manipulated to redirect execution to shellcode in executable memory.

Mitigations???

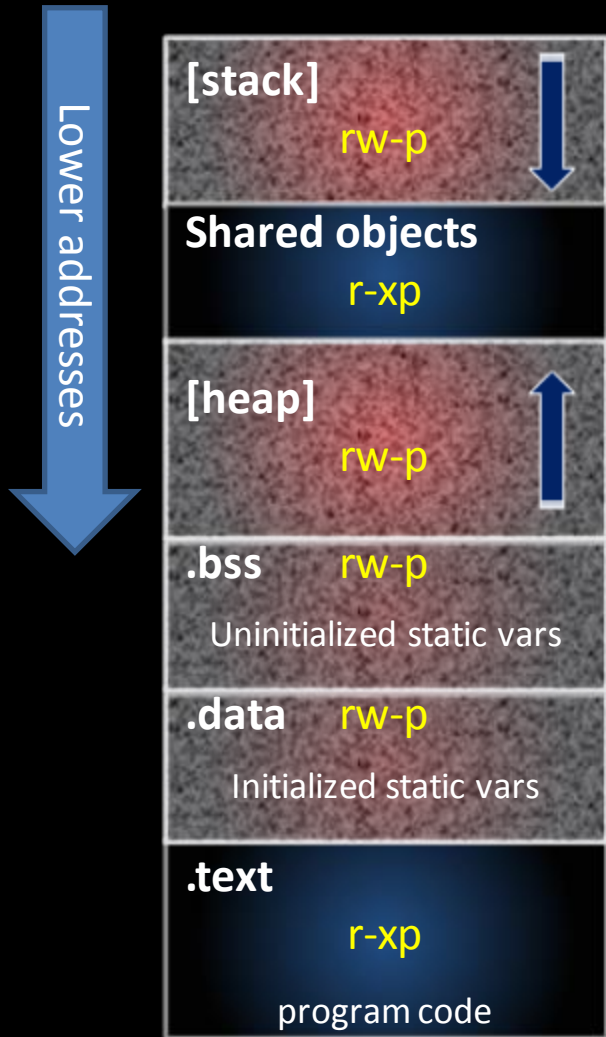
Non-Executable Memory

Memory is either writable or executable, but not both

W^X

Shellcode can not be injected anymore

NX-Memory



-> Linux: PaX, 2000

- Software emulation.

-> Windows: **Data Execution Prevention**

- Introduced in XP SP2

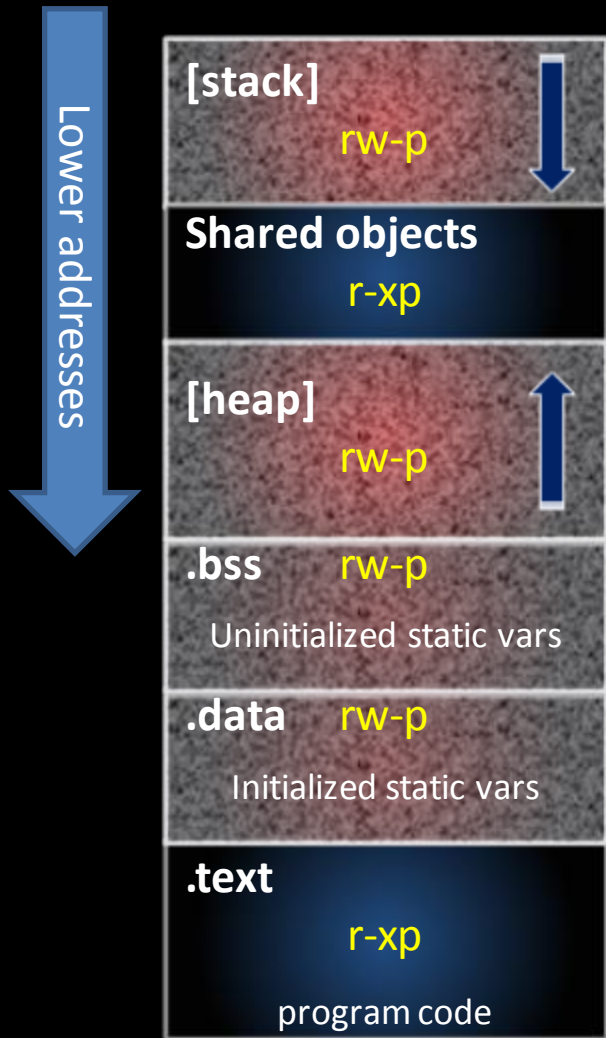
- Software and Hardware DEP

-> AMD: NX Bit

-> Intel: XD (eXecute Disable) Bit

Weakness?

NX-Memory



-> Linux: PaX, 2000

- Software emulation.

-> Windows: Data Execution Prevention

- XP SP2

- Software and Hardware DEP

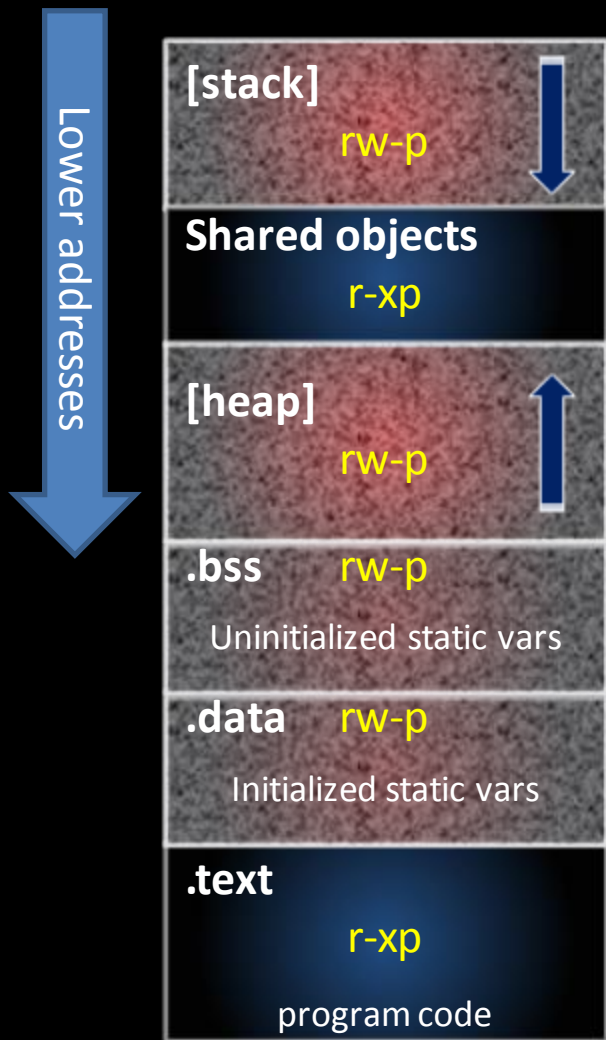
-> AMD: NX Bit

-> Intel: XD (eXecute Disable) Bit

Weakness?

There is still «legitimate» and executable code in the binary and libraries that can be used.

ret2libc



libc – Standard C Library

Built-in standard functions which can be linked with any C program.

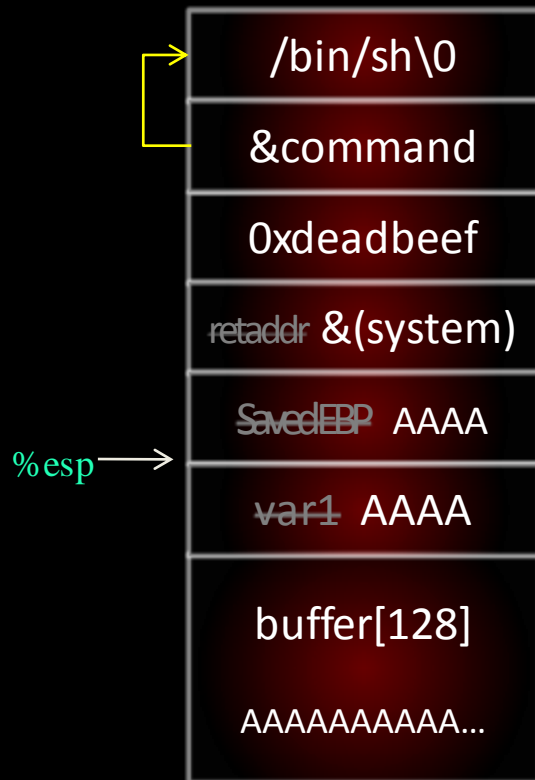
Return into a loaded library instead of injected code.

Frame faking:
Control data in the stack to set-up function arguments and return-addresses

i.e. `system()`

There is still «legitimate» and executable code in the binary and libraries that can be used.

ret2libc

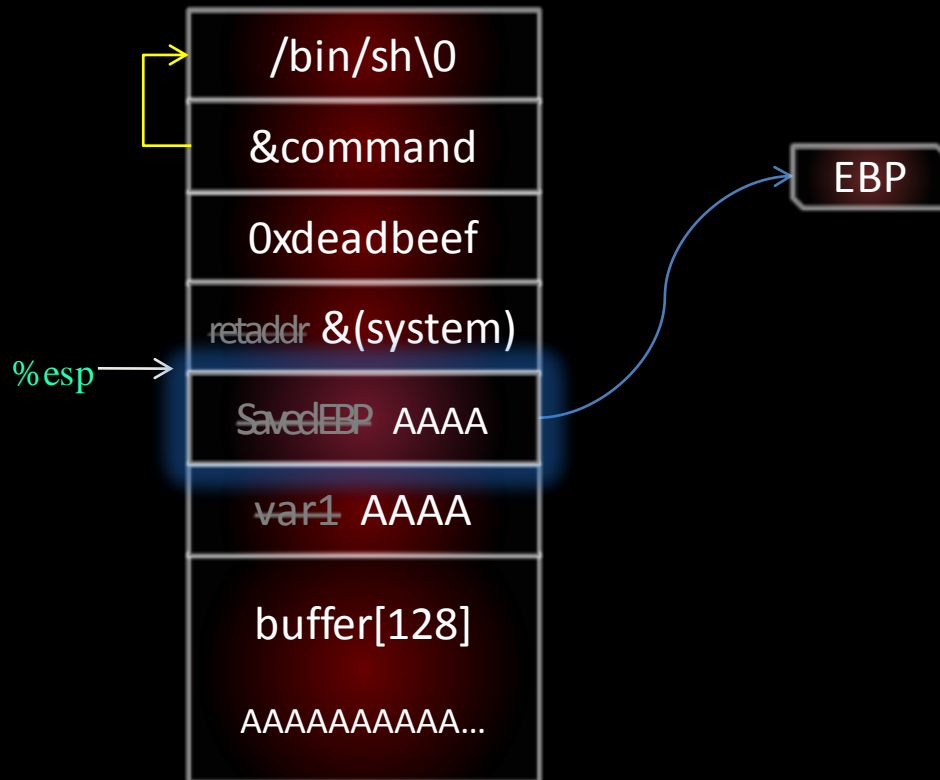


```
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*argv0)
{
    int var1;
    char buffer[128];

    strcpy (buffer, argv0);
    return 0;
}

movl %ebp,%esp
pop %ebp
ret
```

ret2libc

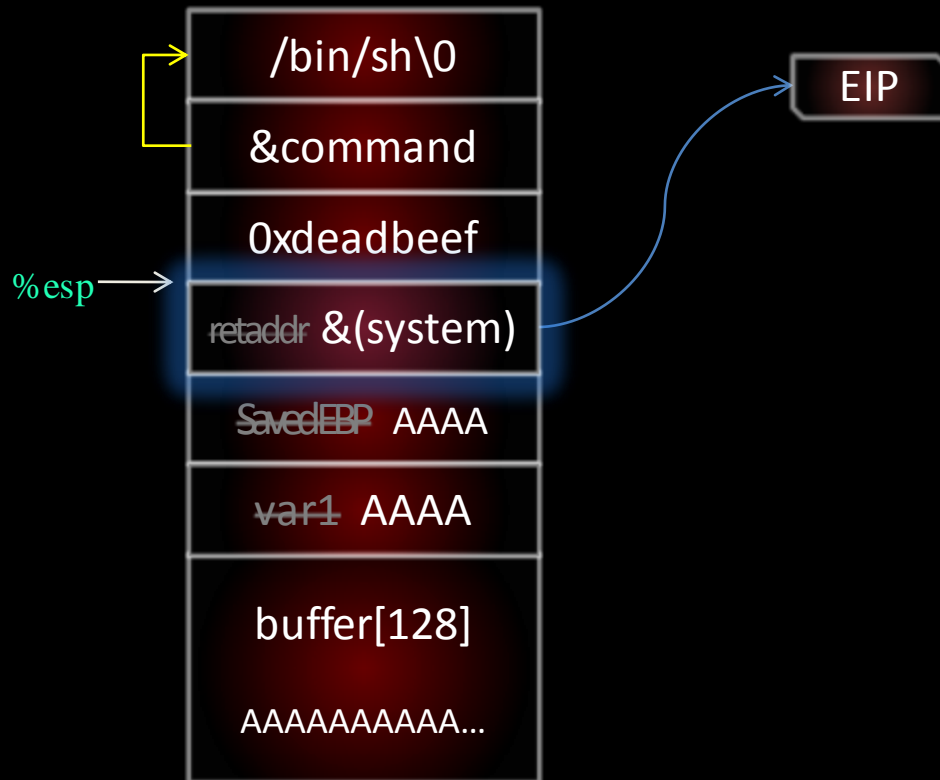


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movl %ebp,%esp
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ret2libc

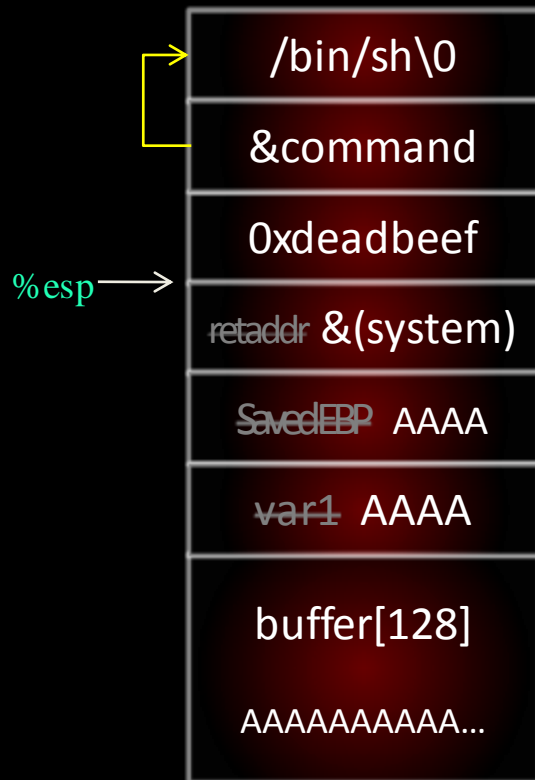


```
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{
    int var1;
    char buffer[128];

    strcpy (buffer, argv0);
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movl %ebp,%esp
pop  %ebp
ret
```

ret2libc



EIP

→ `<system>:`

`push %ebp`

`...`

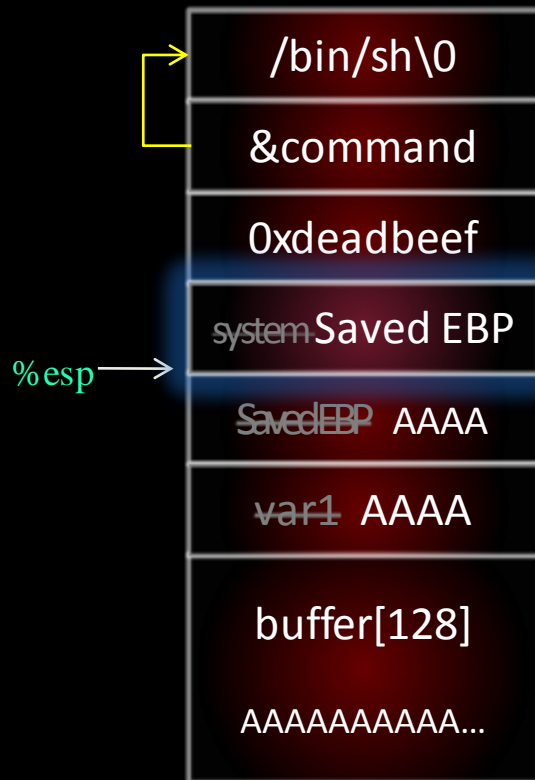
`mov 0x8(%esp), %esi`

`...`

`pop %ebp`

`ret`

ret2libc



<system>:

push %ebp

...

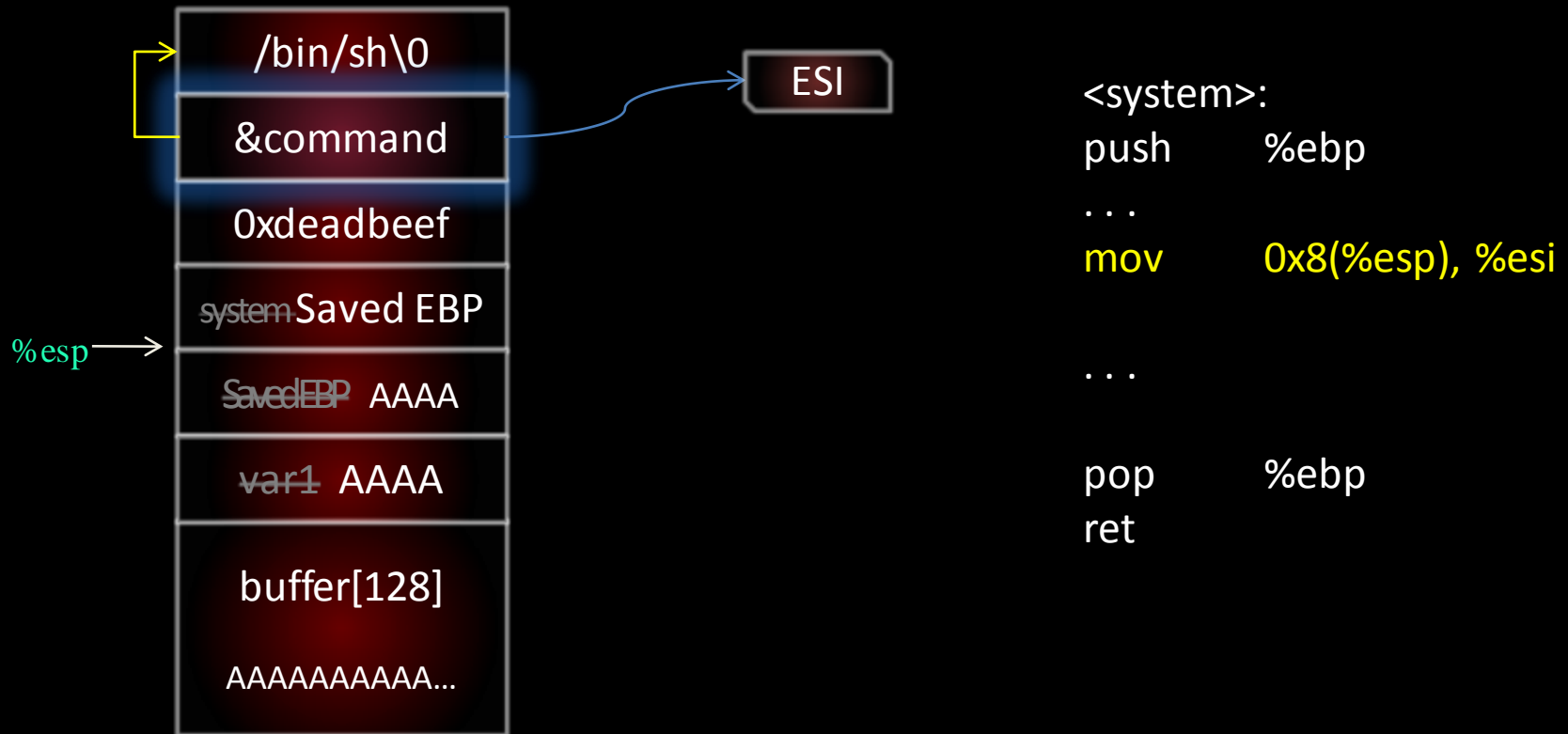
mov 0x8(%esp), %esi

...

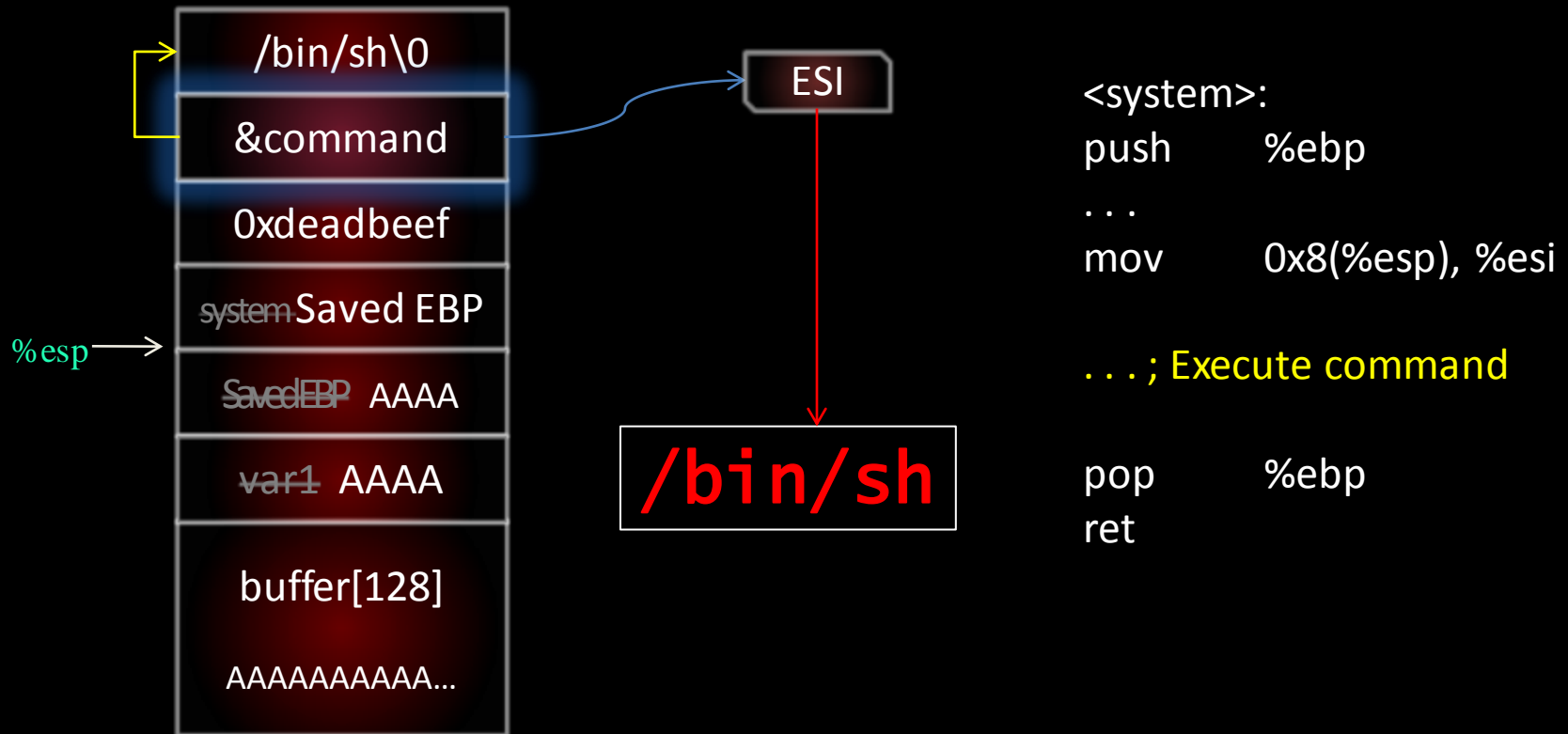
pop %ebp

ret

ret2libc



ret2libc



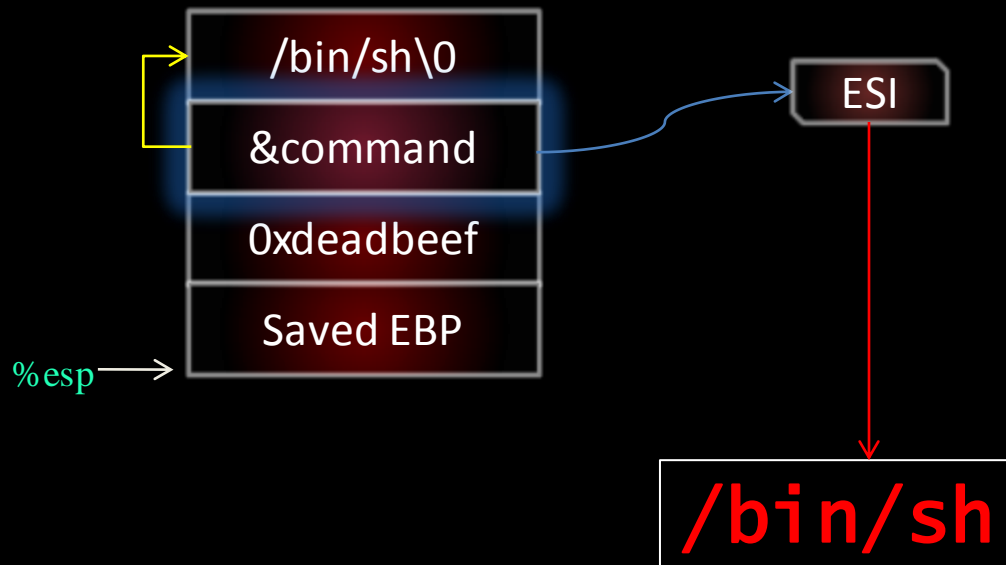
ret2libc

Limitations:

Only one function can be called

Usually more than one function is needed for complex computations.

Return Chaining



<system>:

push %ebp

...

mov 0x8(%esp), %esi

...; Execute command

pop %ebp

ret

Return Chaining

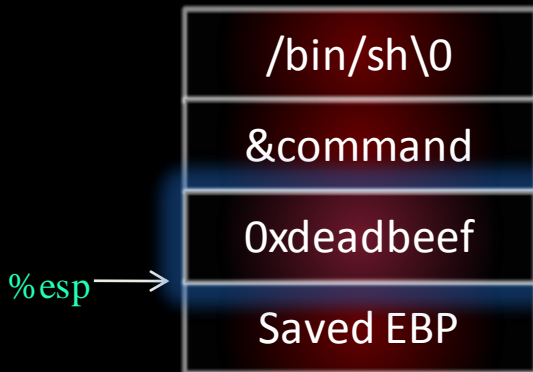


```
<system>:  
push    %ebp  
...  
mov     0x8(%esp), %esi
```

... ; Execute command

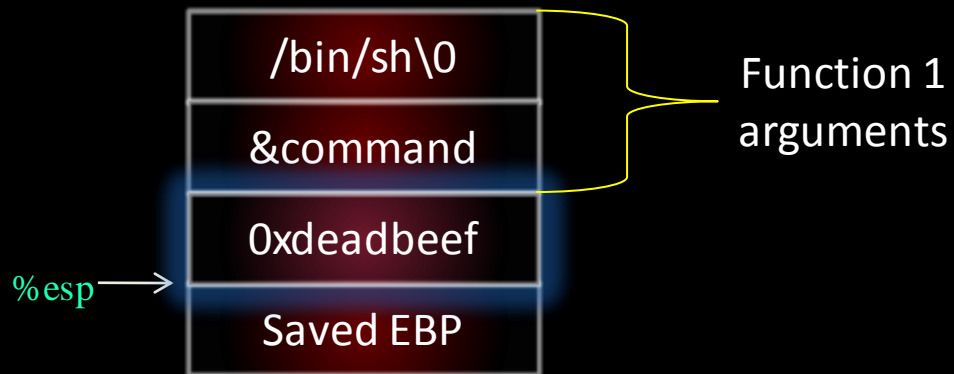
```
pop     %ebp  
ret
```

Return Chaining



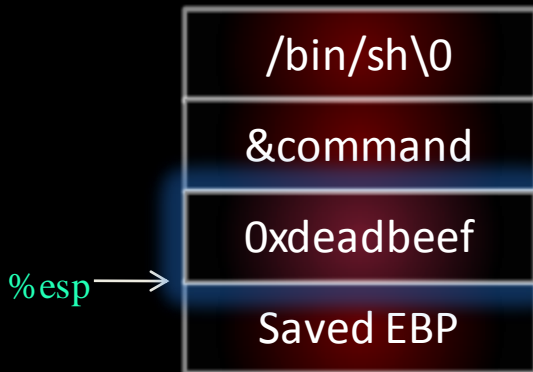
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<system>:  
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mov     0x8(%esp), %esi  
  
... ; Execute command  
  
pop     %ebp  
ret
```

Return Chaining



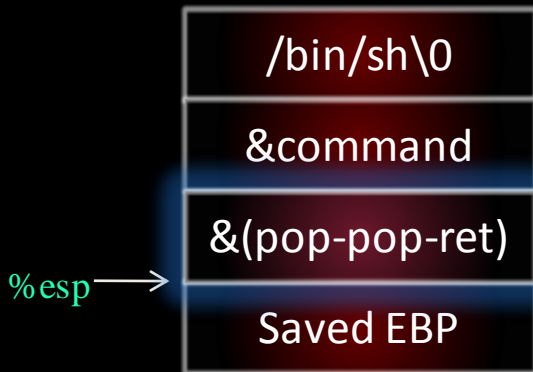
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Return Chaining



```
<system>:  
push    %ebp  
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mov     0x8(%esp), %esi  
  
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Return Chaining



<system>:

push %ebp

...

mov 0x8(%esp), %esi

... ; Execute command

pop %ebp

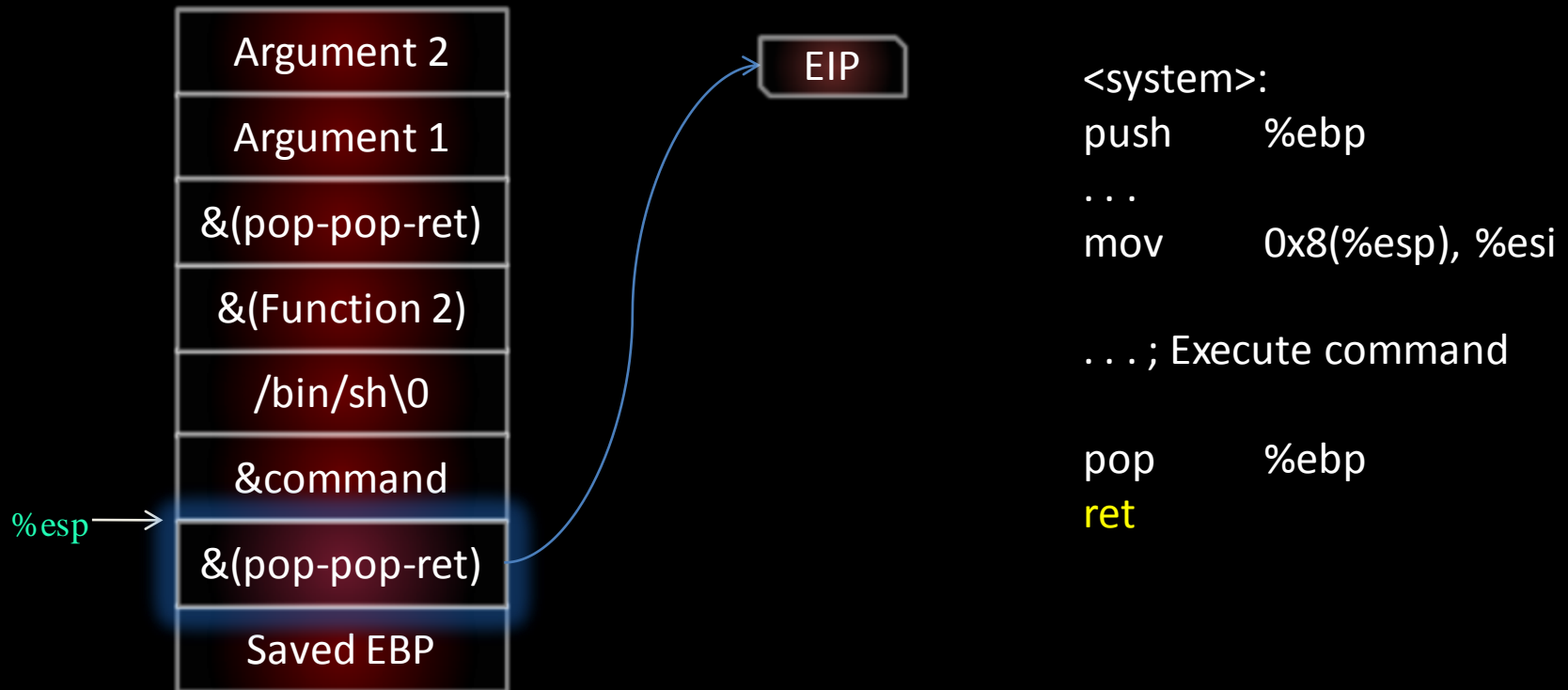
ret

Return Chaining



```
<system>:  
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pop     %ebp  
ret
```

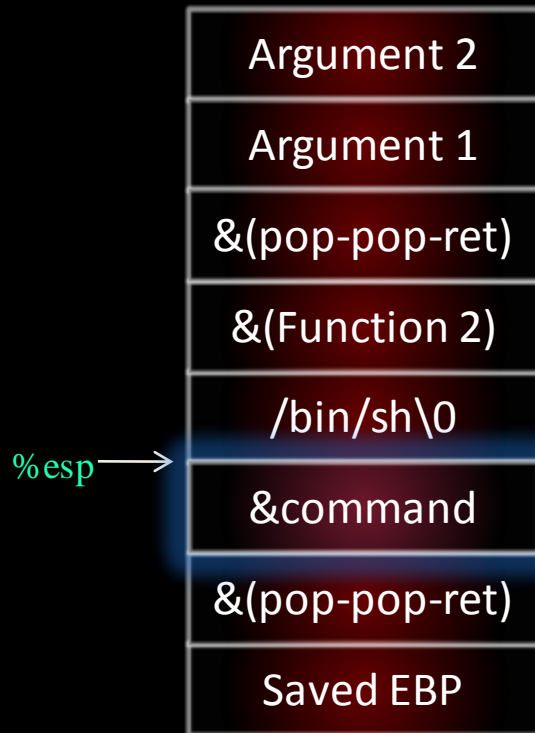
Return Chaining



Return Chaining



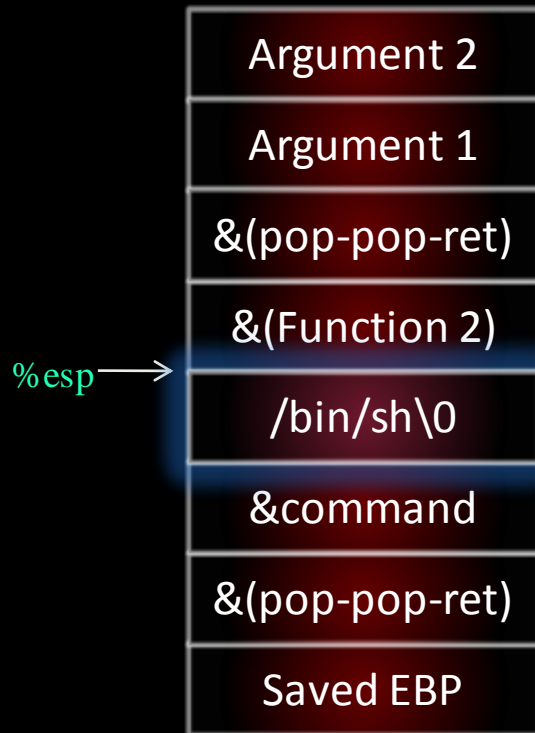
Return Chaining



<0x0805162c>:

```
pop    %esi
pop    %ebx
ret
```

Return Chaining



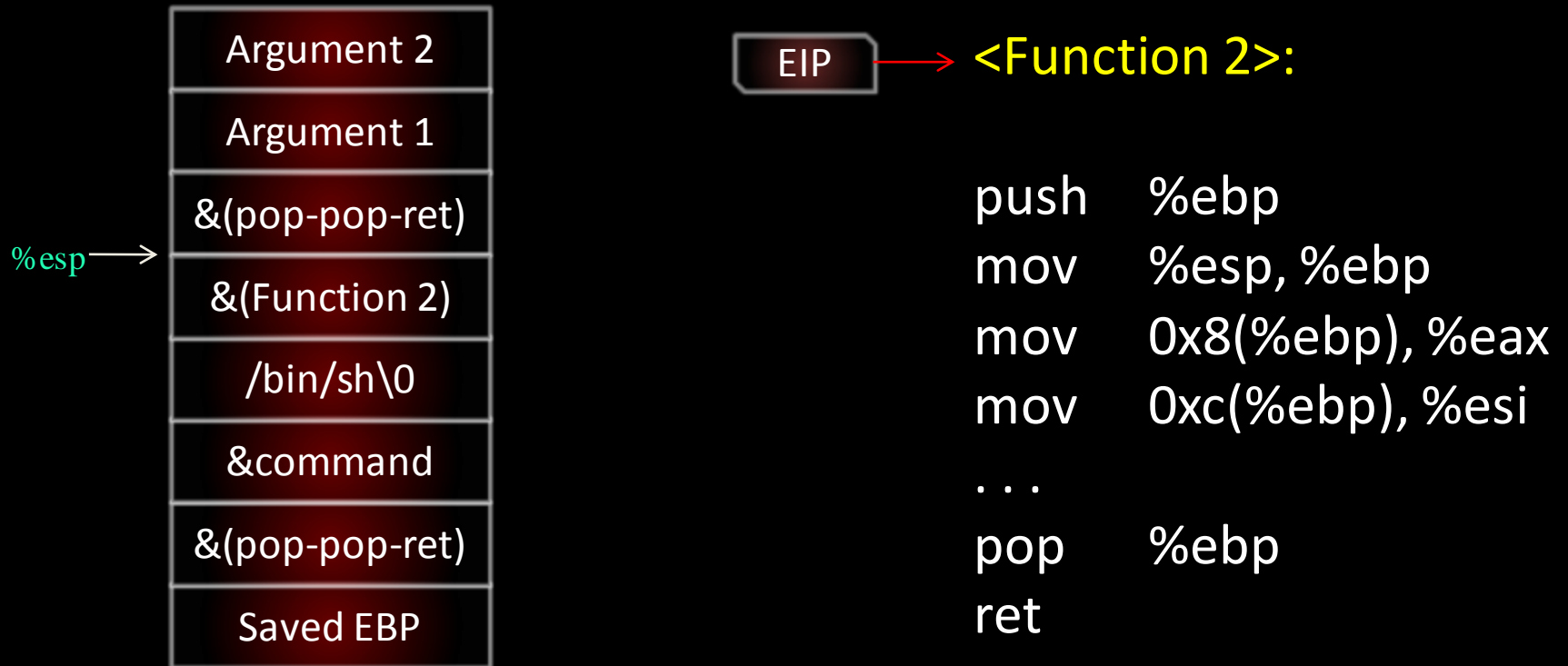
<0x0805162c>:

```
pop    %esi
pop    %ebx
ret
```

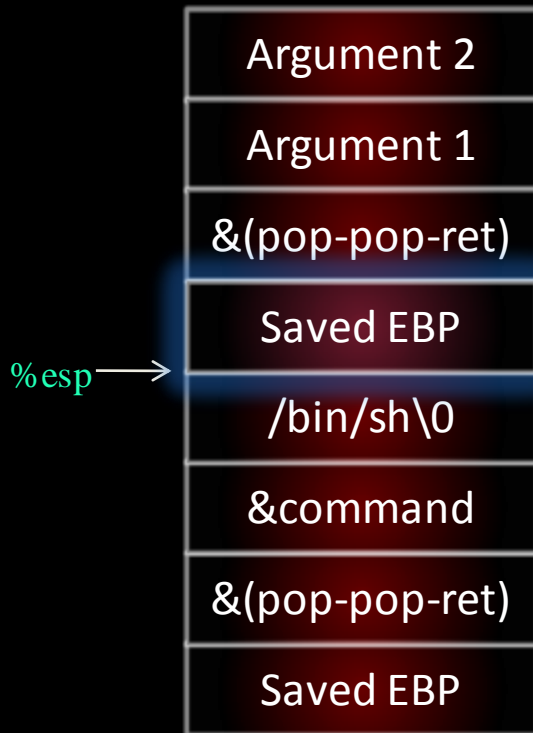
Return Chaining



Return Chaining



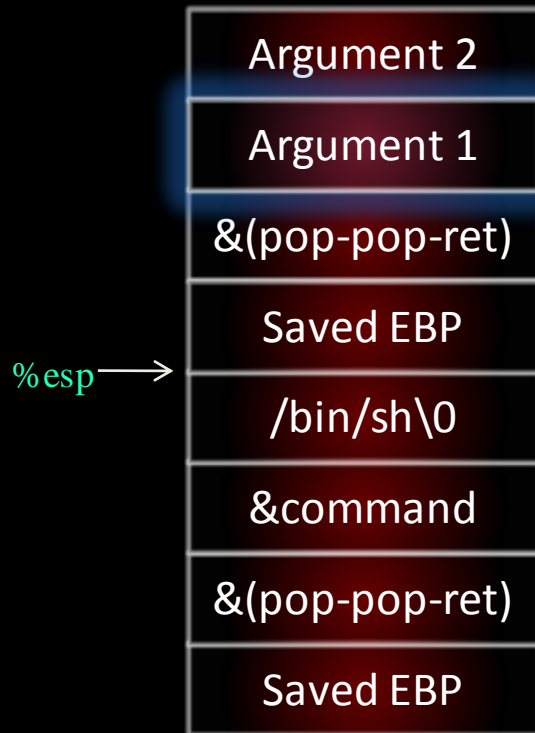
Return Chaining



<Function 2>:

```
push    %ebp
mov     %esp, %ebp
mov     0x8(%ebp), %eax
mov     0xc(%ebp), %esi
...
pop     %ebp
ret
```

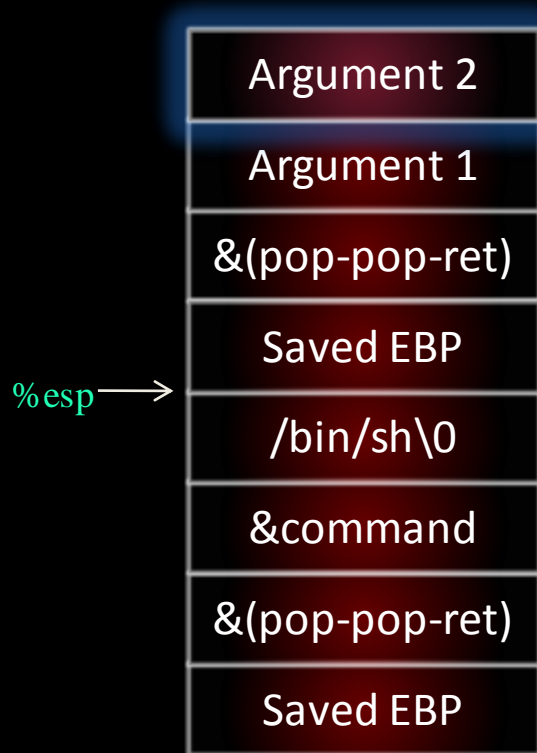
Return Chaining



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mov     0x8(%ebp), %eax
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...
pop     %ebp
ret
```

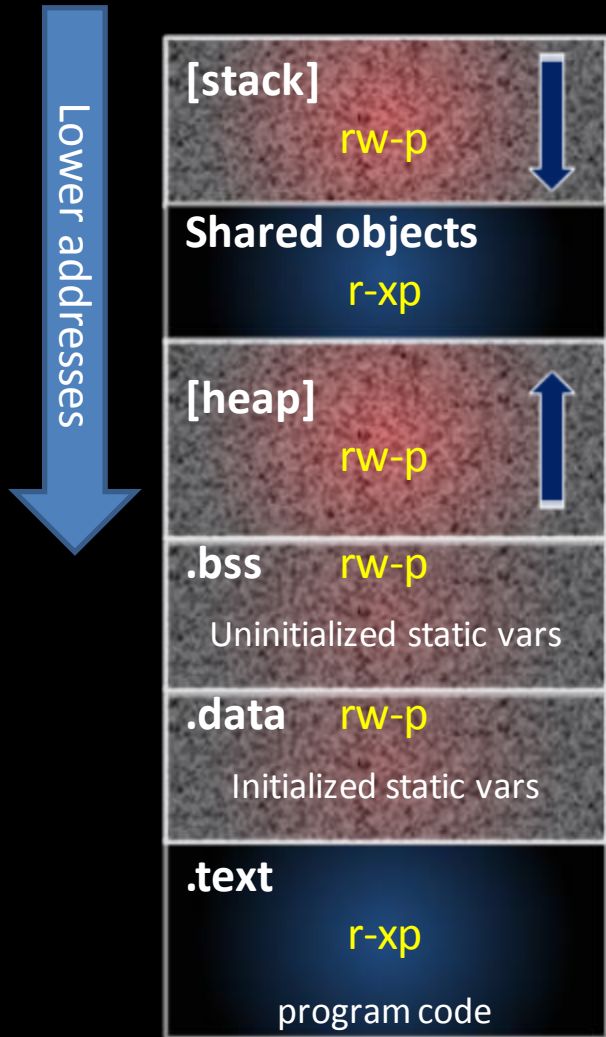
Return Chaining



<Function 2>:

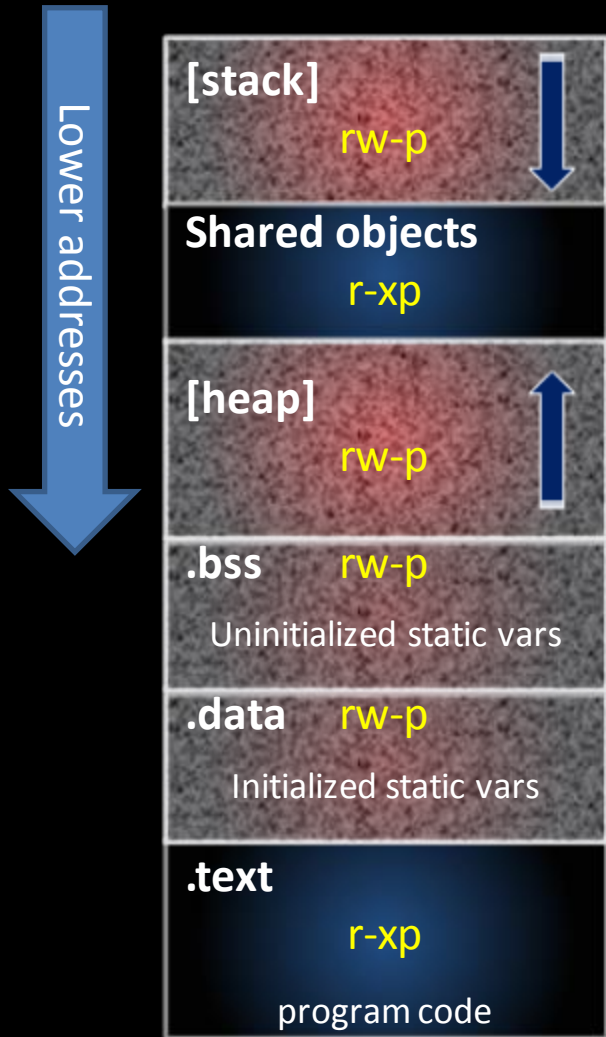
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...
pop     %ebp
ret
```


NX Memory



We can defeat NX-Memory by jumping to code located in the **binary** and **shared libraries**.

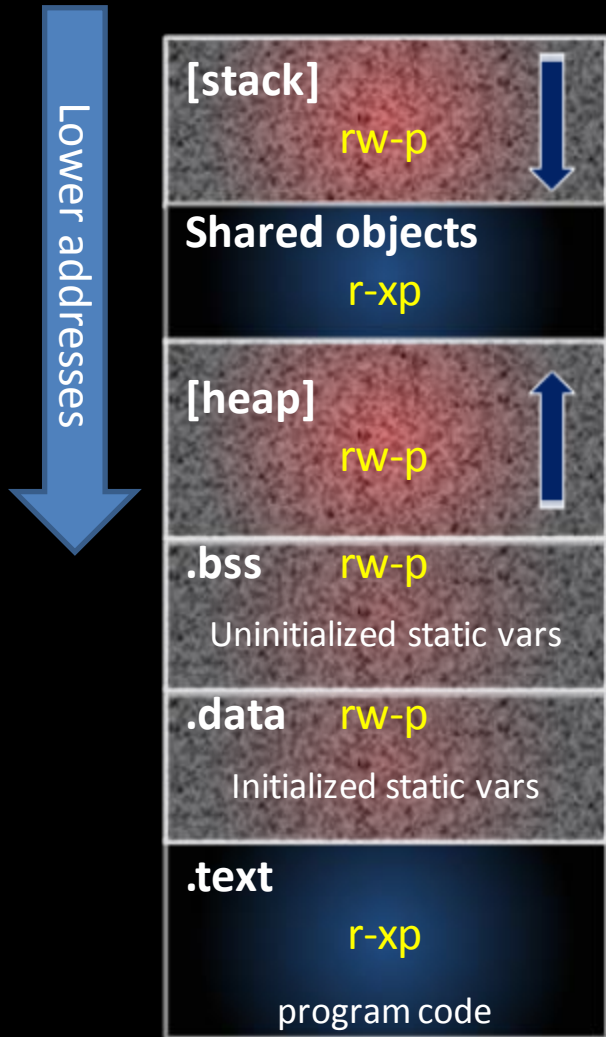
NX Memory



We can defeat NX-Memory by jumping to code located in the **binary** and **shared libraries**.

ret2libc
Return Chaining
ret2text
ret2plt
ret2dl-resolve

NX Memory

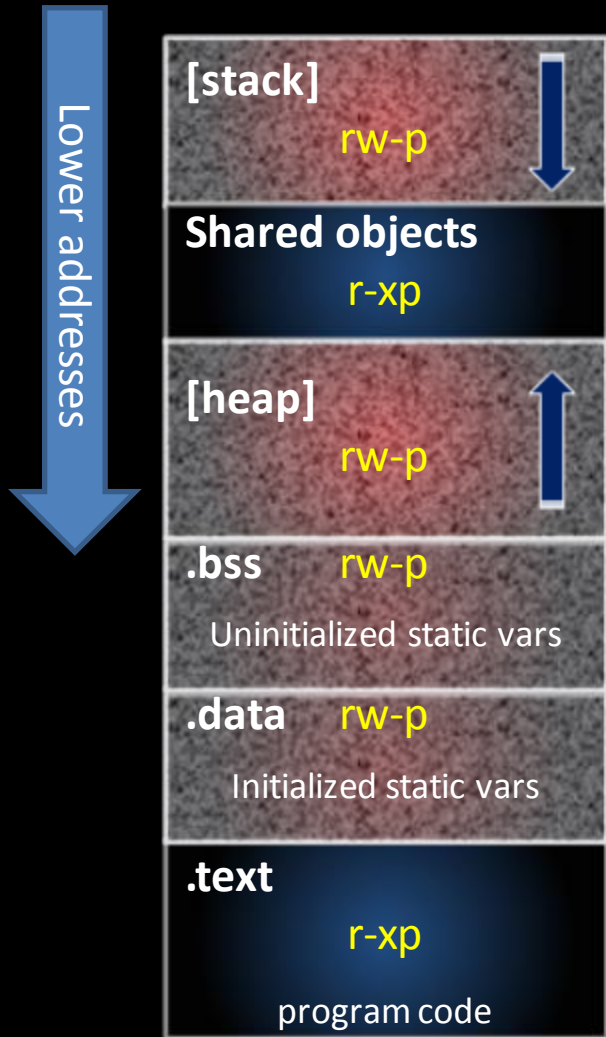


We can defeat NX-Memory by jumping to code located in the **binary** and **shared libraries**.

Downsides?

ret2libc
Return Chaining
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NX Memory



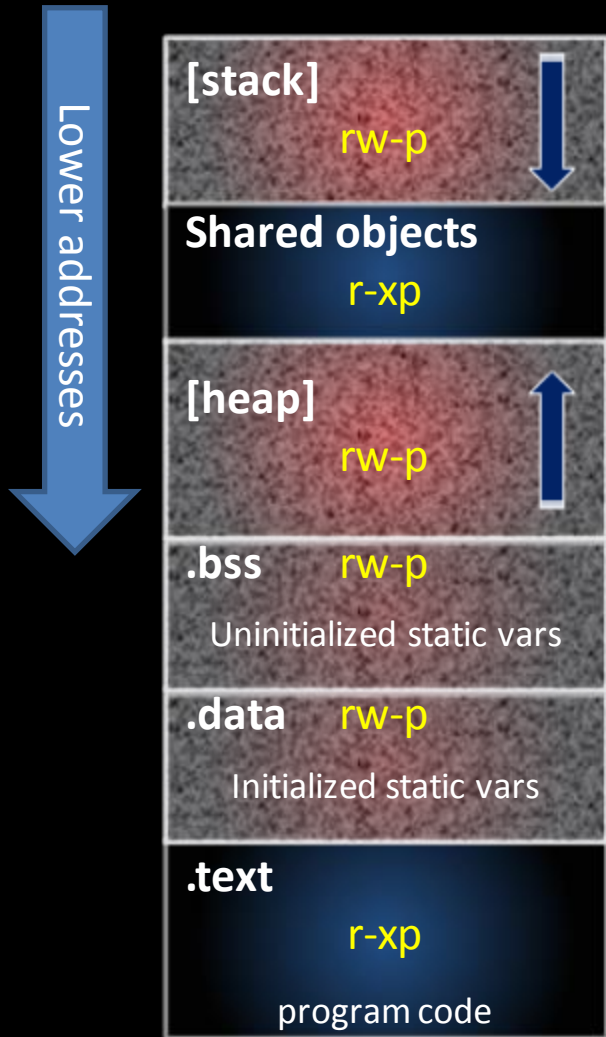
We can defeat NX-Memory by jumping to code located in the **binary** and **shared libraries**.

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Return Chaining
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Downsides?

- It's rare to find useful functions in the `.text` section
- Dependency on code provided by libraries
 - Remove dangerous instructions? i.e. `system()`
- It is always nice to have injected code (a.k.a shellcode)
- Complex operations are hard through ret-chaining
- Forget about having custom code

NX Memory



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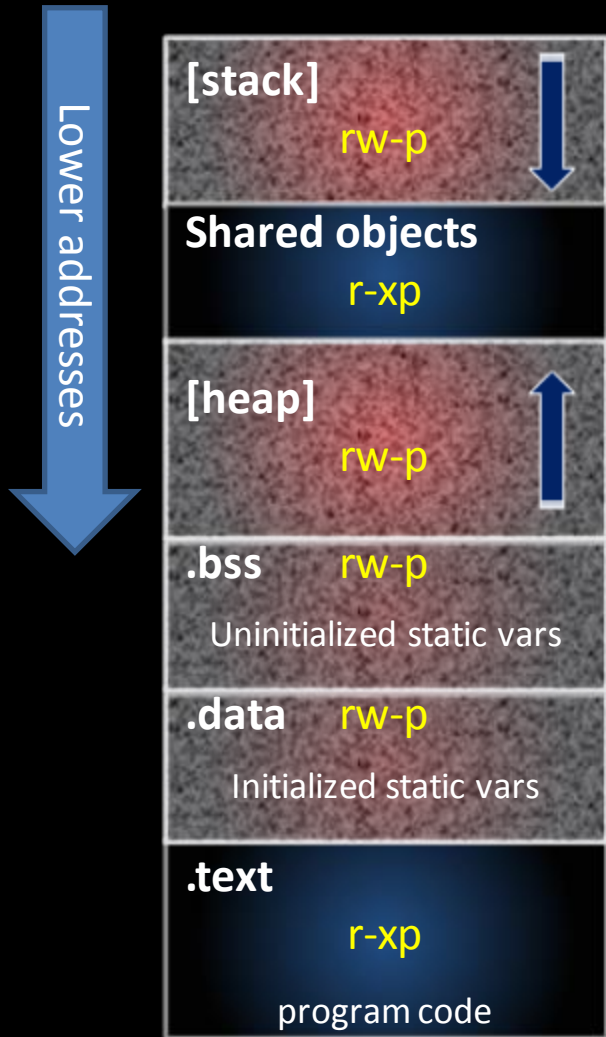
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RISK

NX Memory



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ret2libc
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ret2plt
ret2dl-resolve

Mitigations???

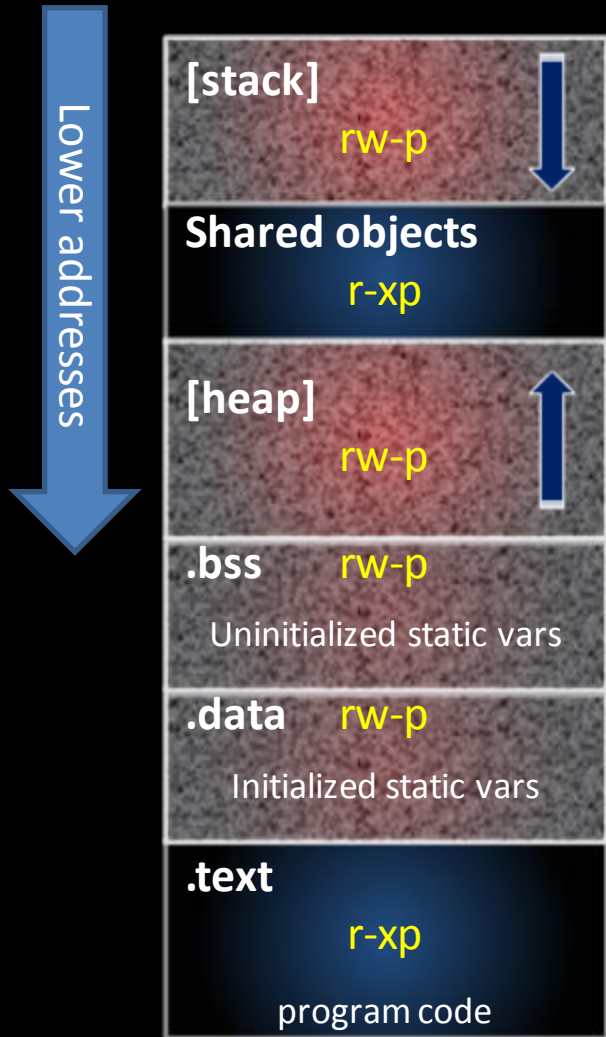
NX Memory

Mitigations???

AAAS

ASCII Armored Address Space

Linux Kernel Patch by Solar Designer



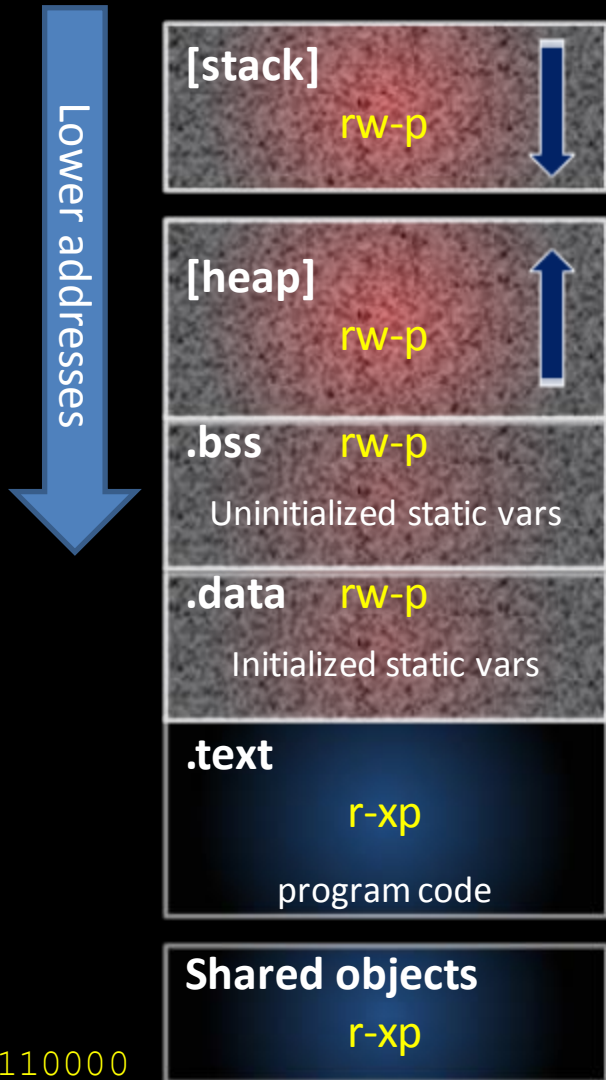
NX Memory

Mitigations???

AAAS

ASCII Armored Address Space

Linux Kernel Patch by Solar Designer



0x00110000

NX Memory

Mitigations???

AAAS

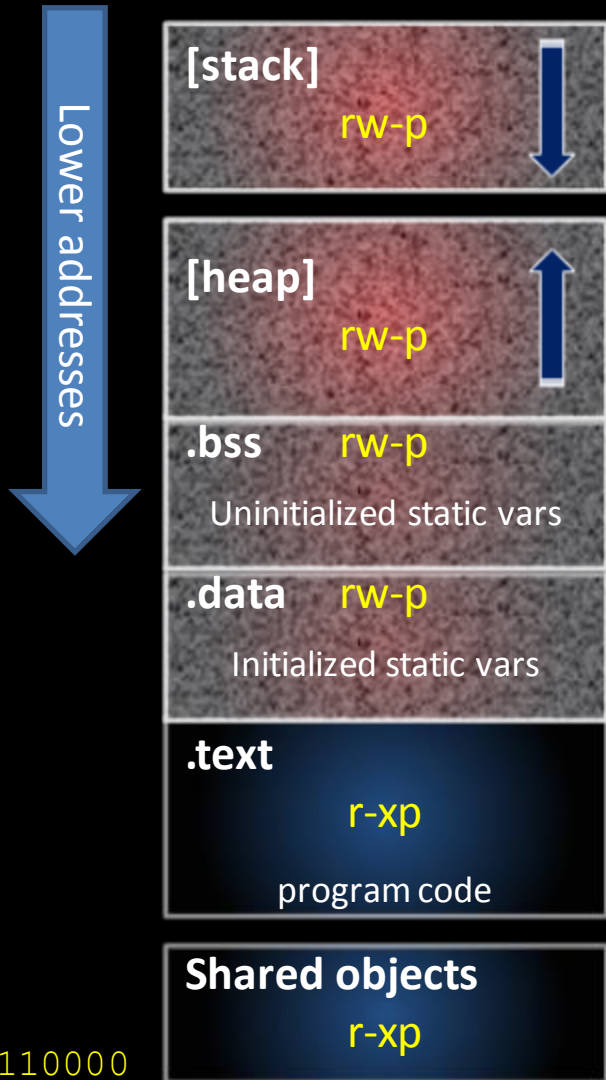
ASCII Armored Address Space

Linux Kernel Patch by Solar Designer

Loads shared libraries in memory addresses starting with NULL byte ('\\x00')

Functions such as gets() and strcpy() stop operating when NULL byte is reached.

Still bypassable with **partial overwriting**.



NX Memory

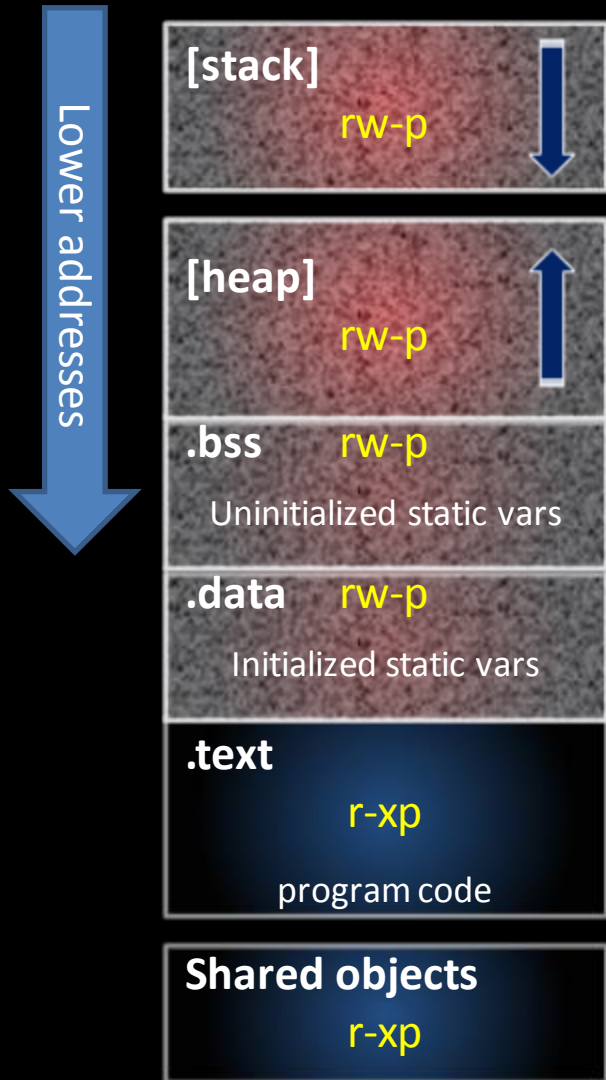
Mitigations???

The feared...

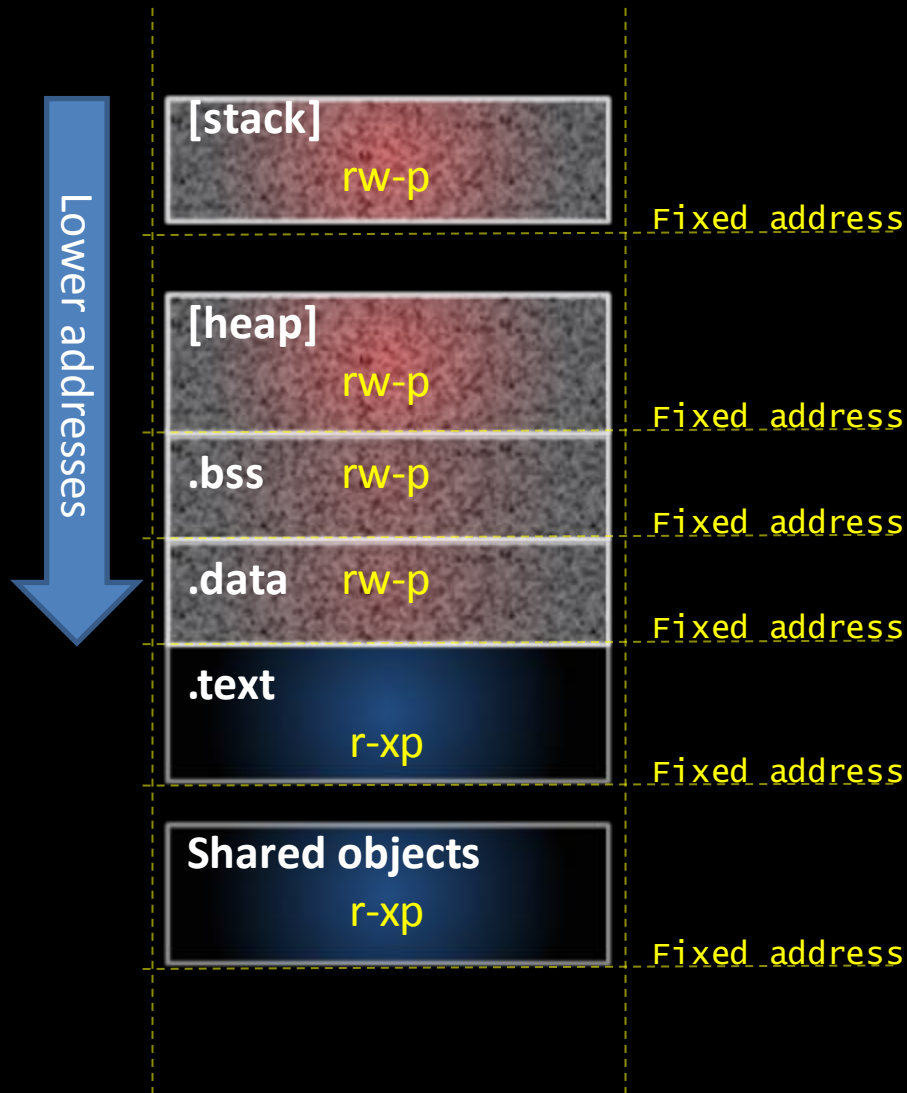
and hated...

ASLR

Address Space Layout
Randomization

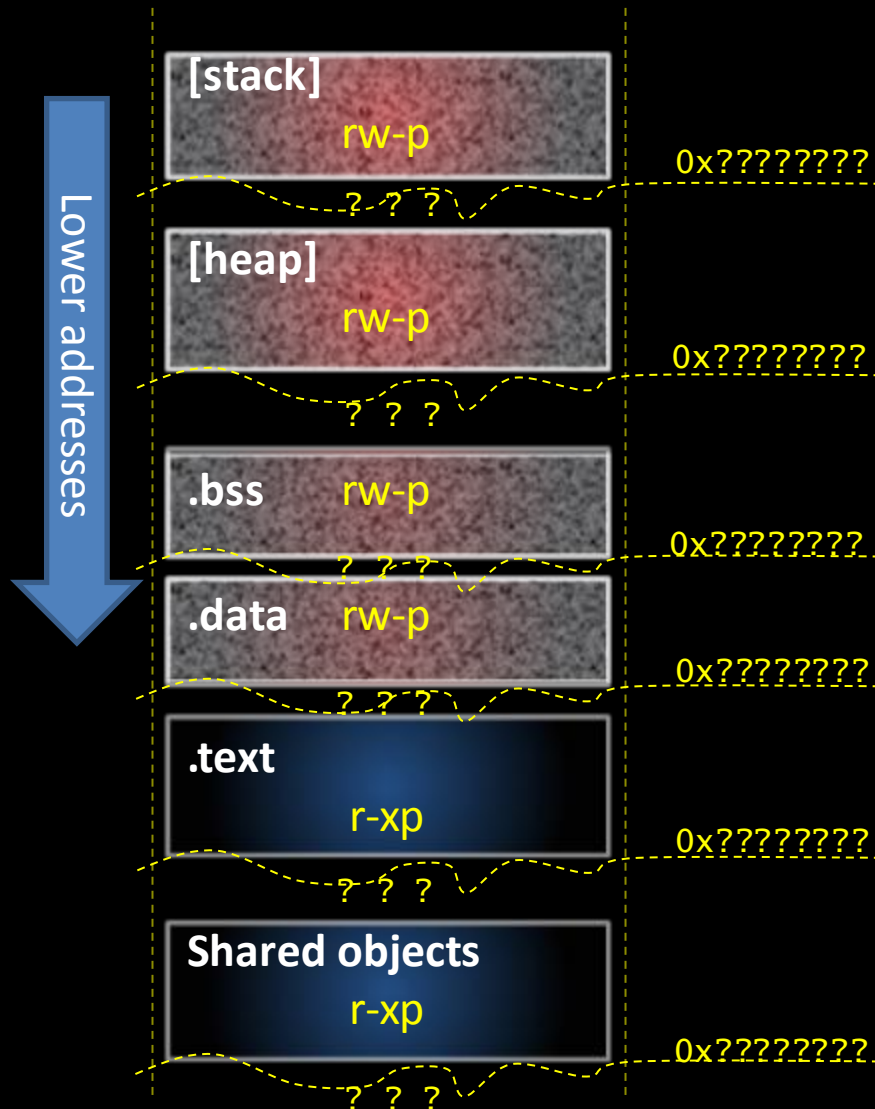


Address-Space Layout Randomization



Unless every address is unknown and unpredictable, there's always going to be room for some kind of attack.

Address-Space Layout Randomization



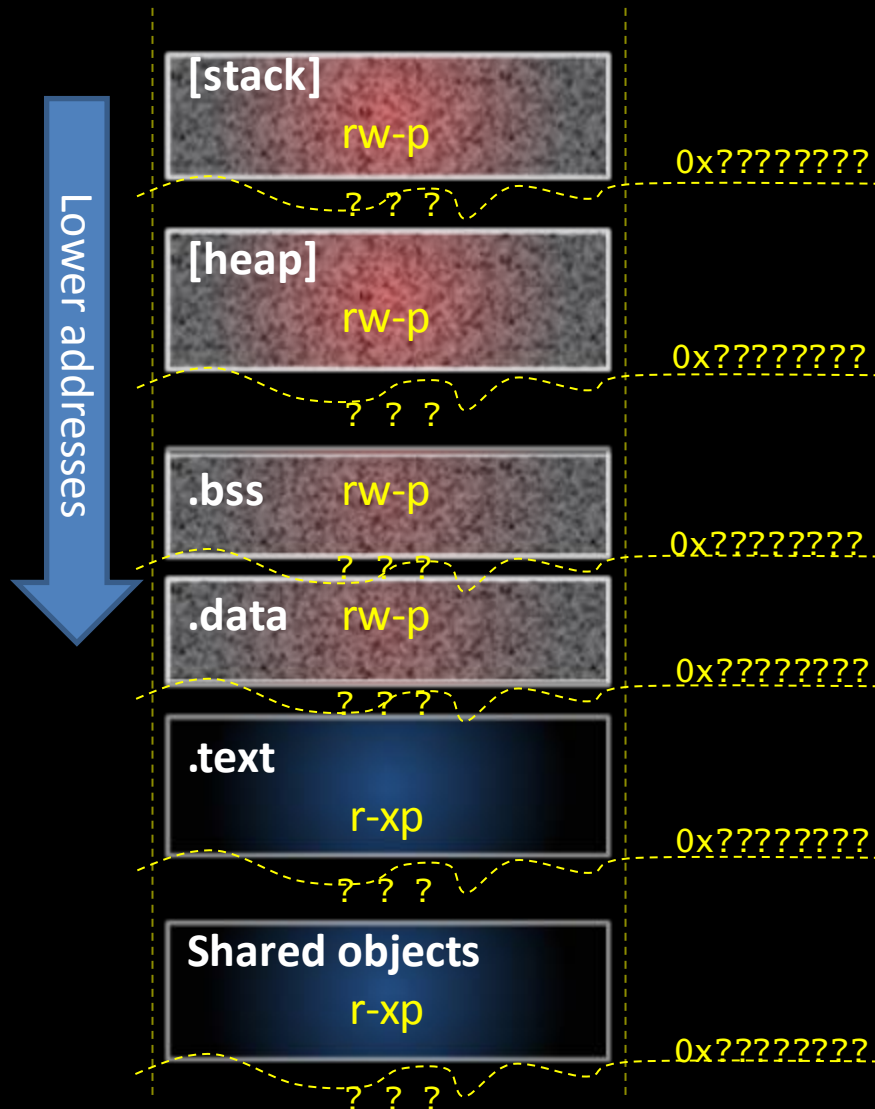
If the address of everything is randomized:

-> We can no longer jump reliably into shellcode in a stack/heap/PEB

-> We can no longer jump reliably into an instruction in a shared library.

-> We can no longer know where to point our payload's pointers.

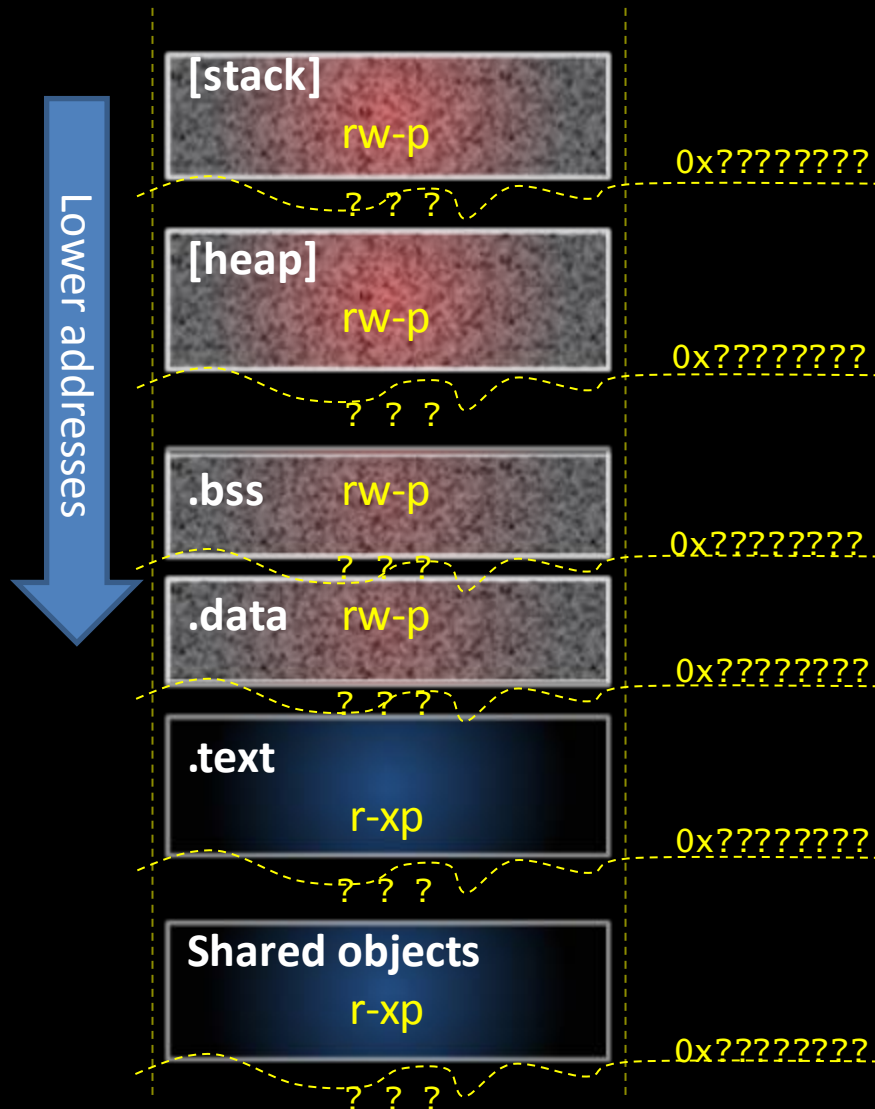
Address-Space Layout Randomization



Possible
circumventions:

- Brute forcing
- Reducing entropy
- Memory layout disclosure bugs

Address-Space Layout Randomization



Introduced to **Linux** by PaX in 2001

Implemented in **Windows** by default since Vista (2007).

Weak implementation in **Mac OS X**

Return Oriented Programming

The Shellcode Necromancer

Why ROP?

- Return-into-libc (and similar) attacks are considered much more limited than code injection.
- NX Memory protections seem to be weakening attackers.

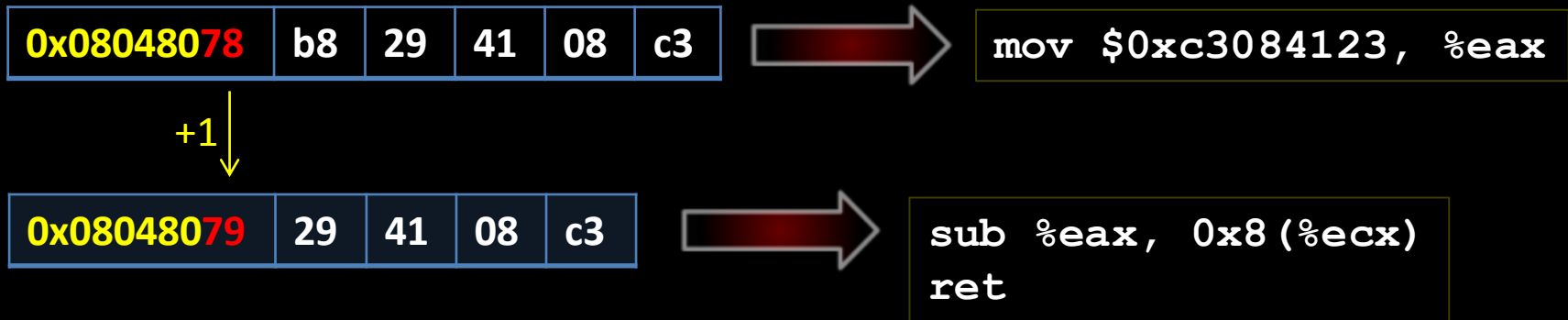
Work on ROP

- Based on the ideas of Sebastian Krahmer's 'borrowed code chunks' exploitation technique
- Original idea: *'The Geometry of Innocent Flesh on the Bone: Return-into-libc without Function Calls (on the x86)'* – Hovav Shacham
- Smart ROP (Zynamics) *'Everybody be cool, this is a roppery!'* – Izzo, Kornau, Weinmann
- Work in Linux *'Payload Already Inside: Data Re-use for ROP exploits'* – Long Le

What is ROP?

- A technique that turns return-into-code attacks as powerful as code injection.
 - Defeats NX Memory
 - Independent of code provided by libs and bins
 - Calls no functions at all
 - Uses instructions not placed by the assembler
 - Allows custom execution (shellcode necromancy)

Use of unintended instructions



- It may not be clear when does an instruction start or stop
- Finding unintended instructions by returning to the bytes in the middle of an instruction
- Takes advantage of X86 ISA ambiguity

Execution Flow

It is assumed that

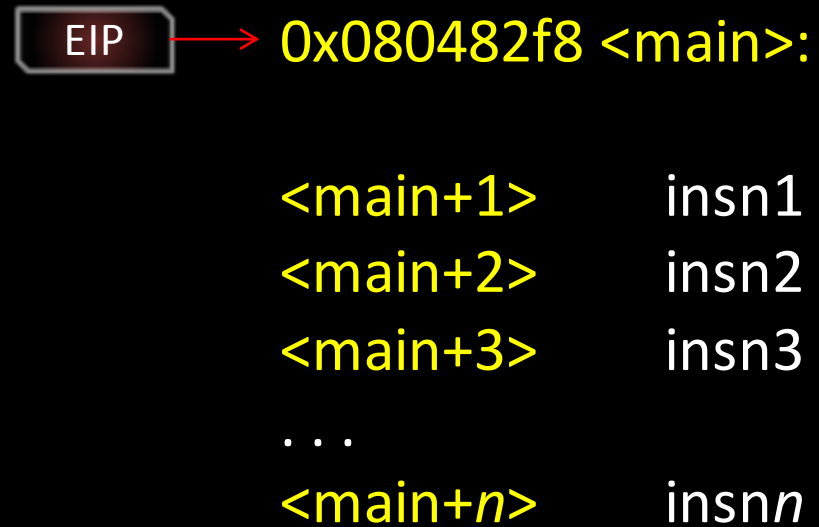
**ATTACKER HAS FULL
CONTROL OVER THE
STACK**

Execution Flow

In a program's normal execution

- EIP fetches instructions from memory
- EIP increments
- EIP fetches next instruction

Linear execution most of the time



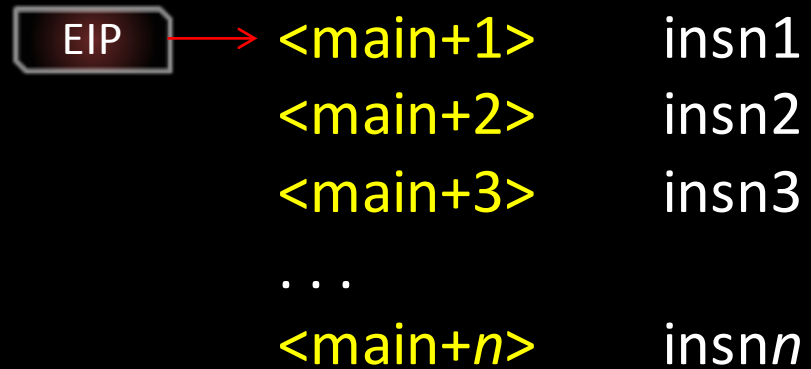
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0x080482f8 <main>:

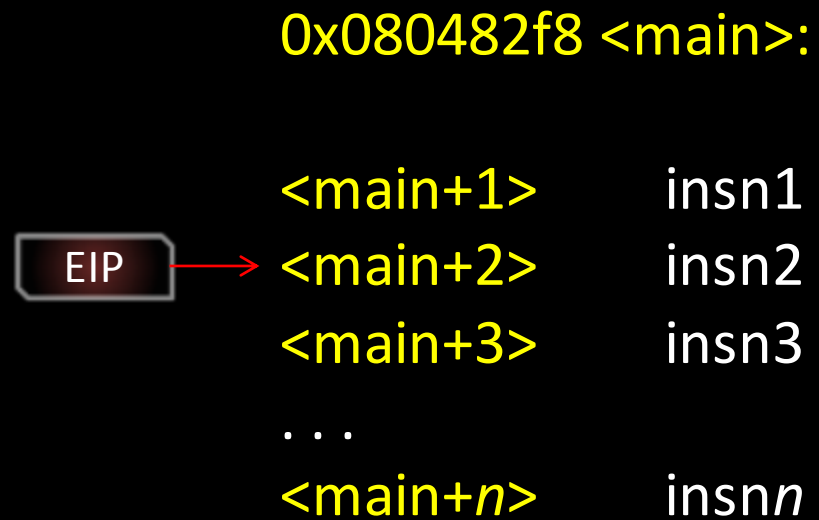


Execution Flow

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Execution Flow

In a program's normal execution

- EIP fetches instructions from memory
- EIP increments
- EIP fetches next instruction

Linear execution most of the time

0x080482f8 <main>:

<main+1> insn1

<main+2> insn2

<main+3> insn3

...

<main+n> insnn

EIP

A diagram showing a box labeled 'EIP' with a red arrow pointing to the right, towards the instruction addresses listed in the adjacent column.

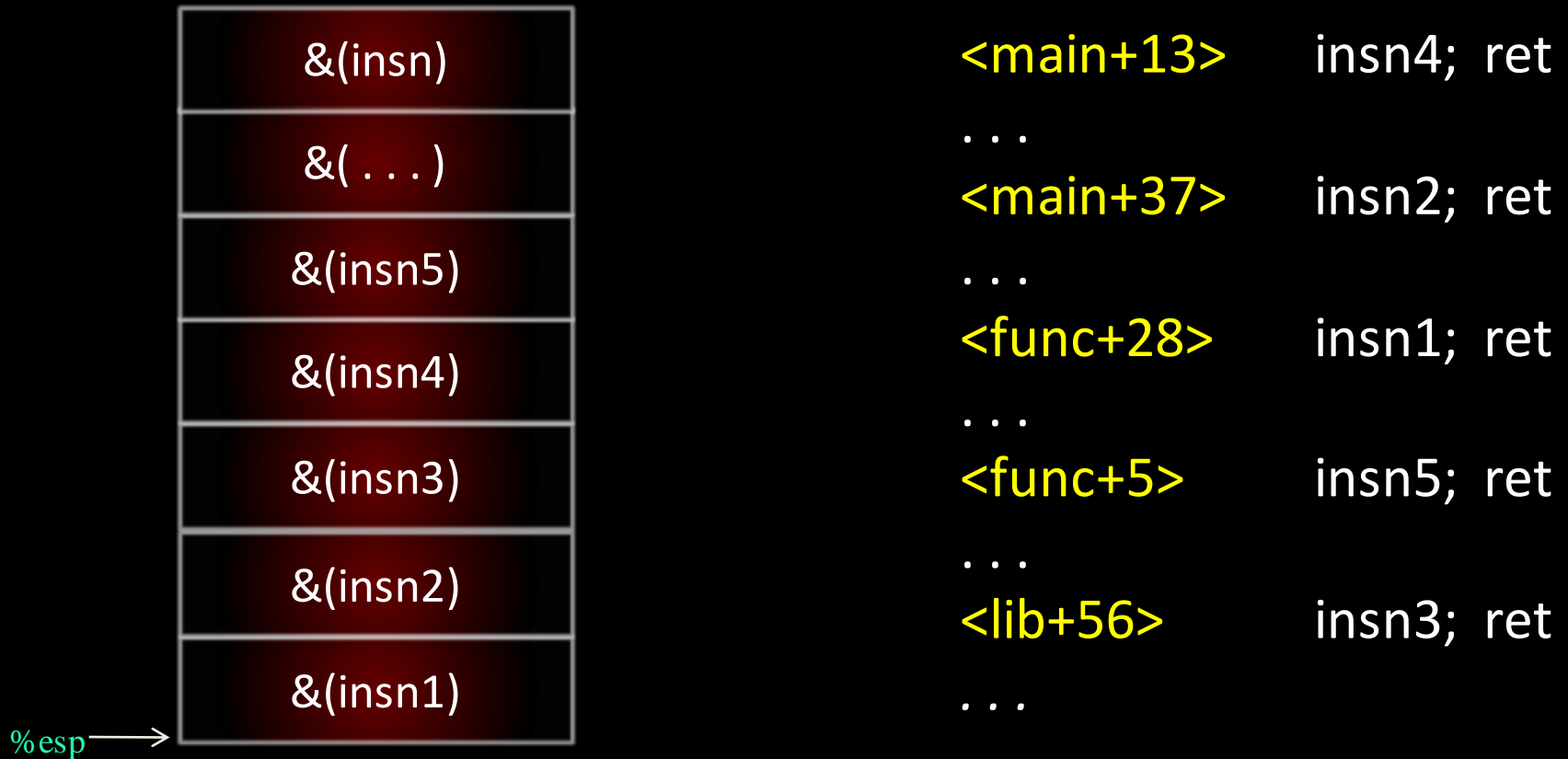
Execution Flow

&(insn)
&(. . .)
&(insn5)
&(insn4)
&(insn3)
&(insn2)
&(insn1)

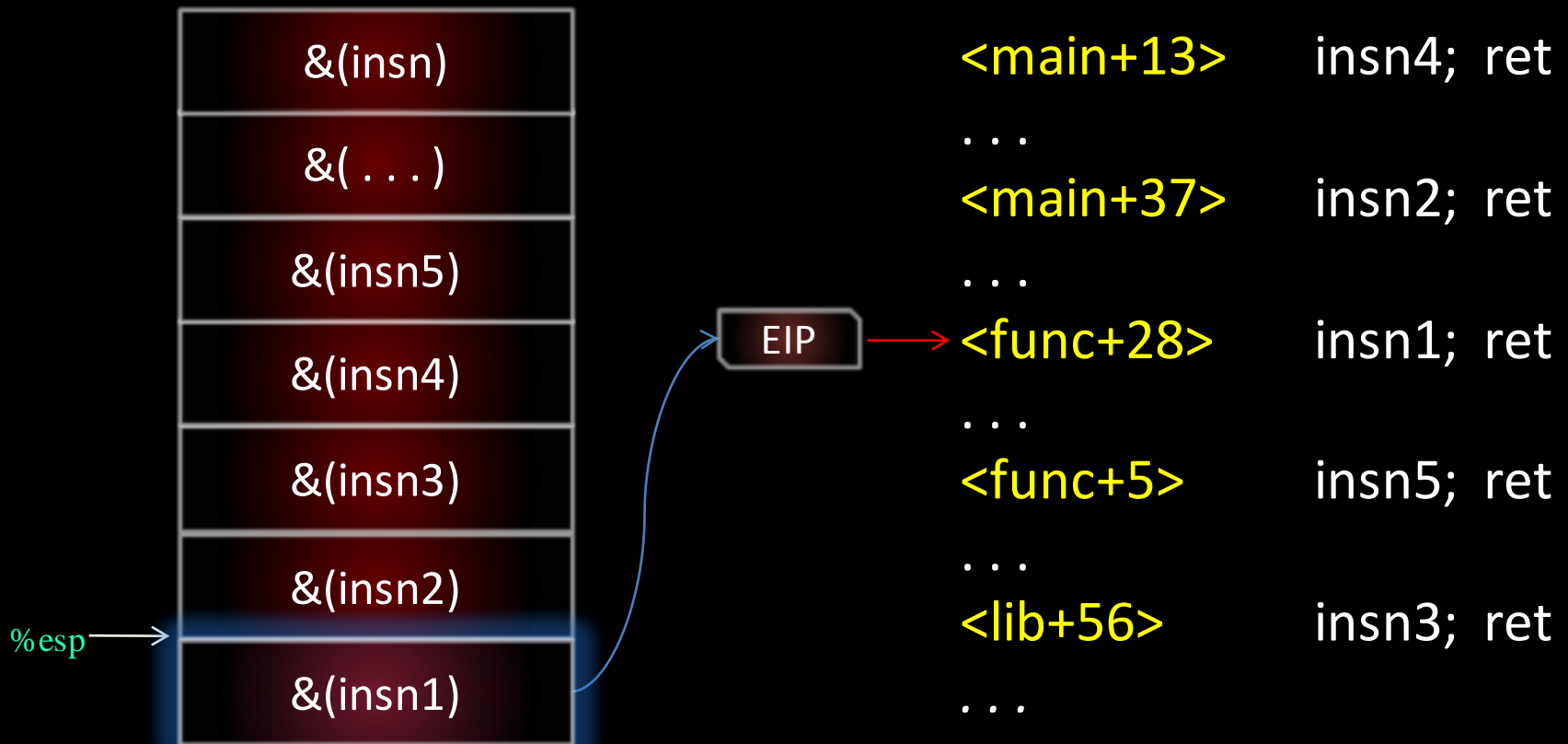
In Return Oriented Programming:

- The stack is overflowed with the address of many short blocks of instructions that end with ret
- The ret in the instruction makes EIP jump to the next address in the stack

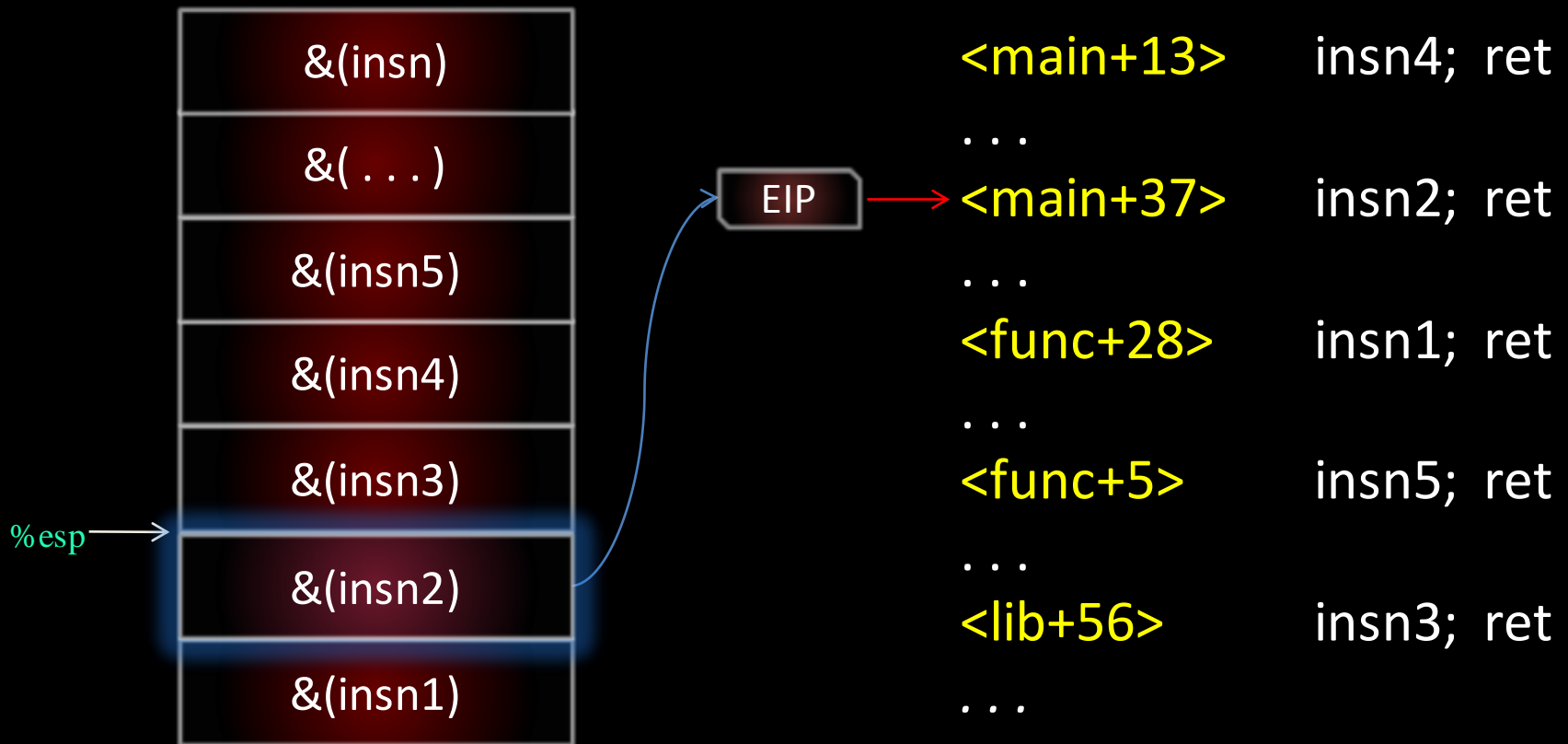
Execution Flow



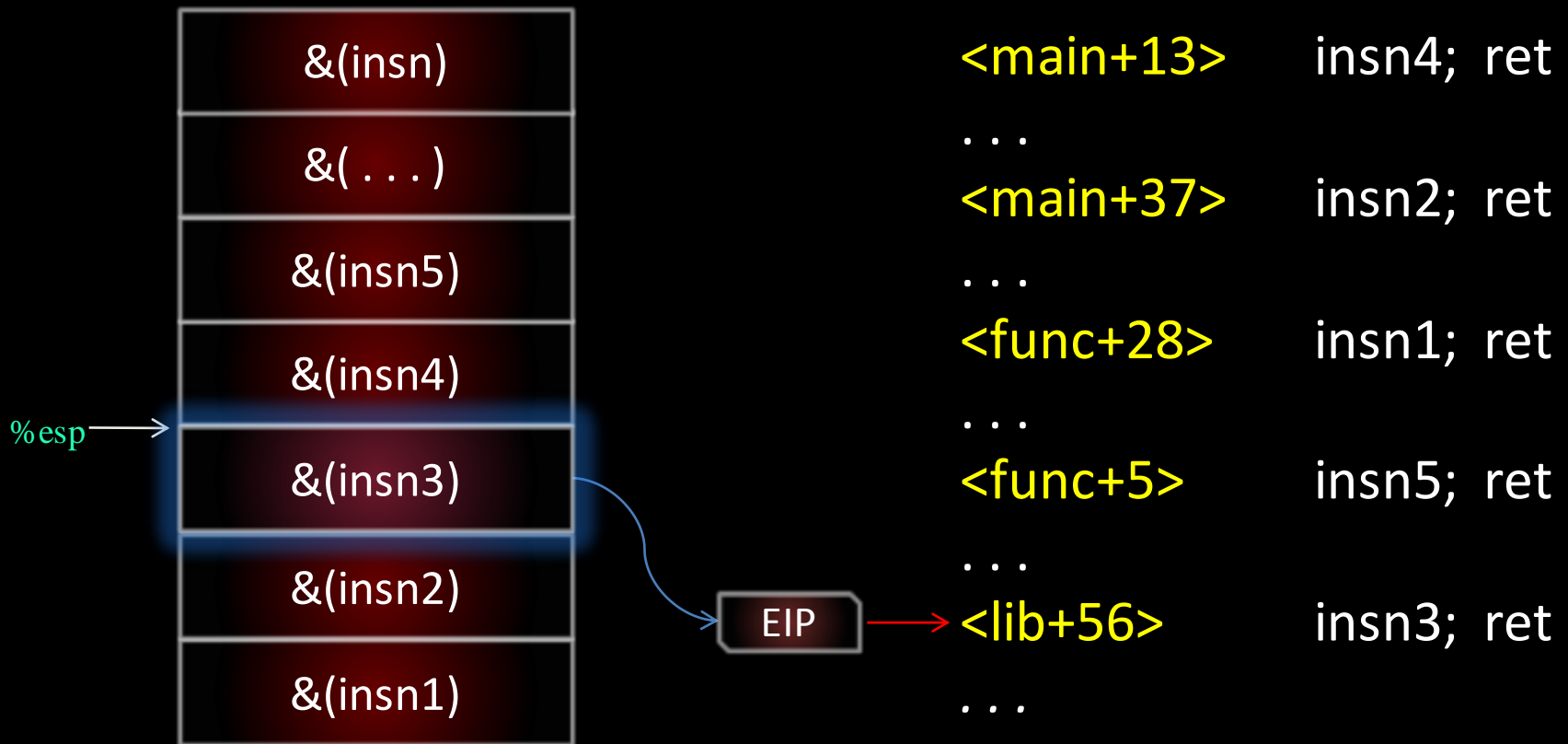
Execution Flow



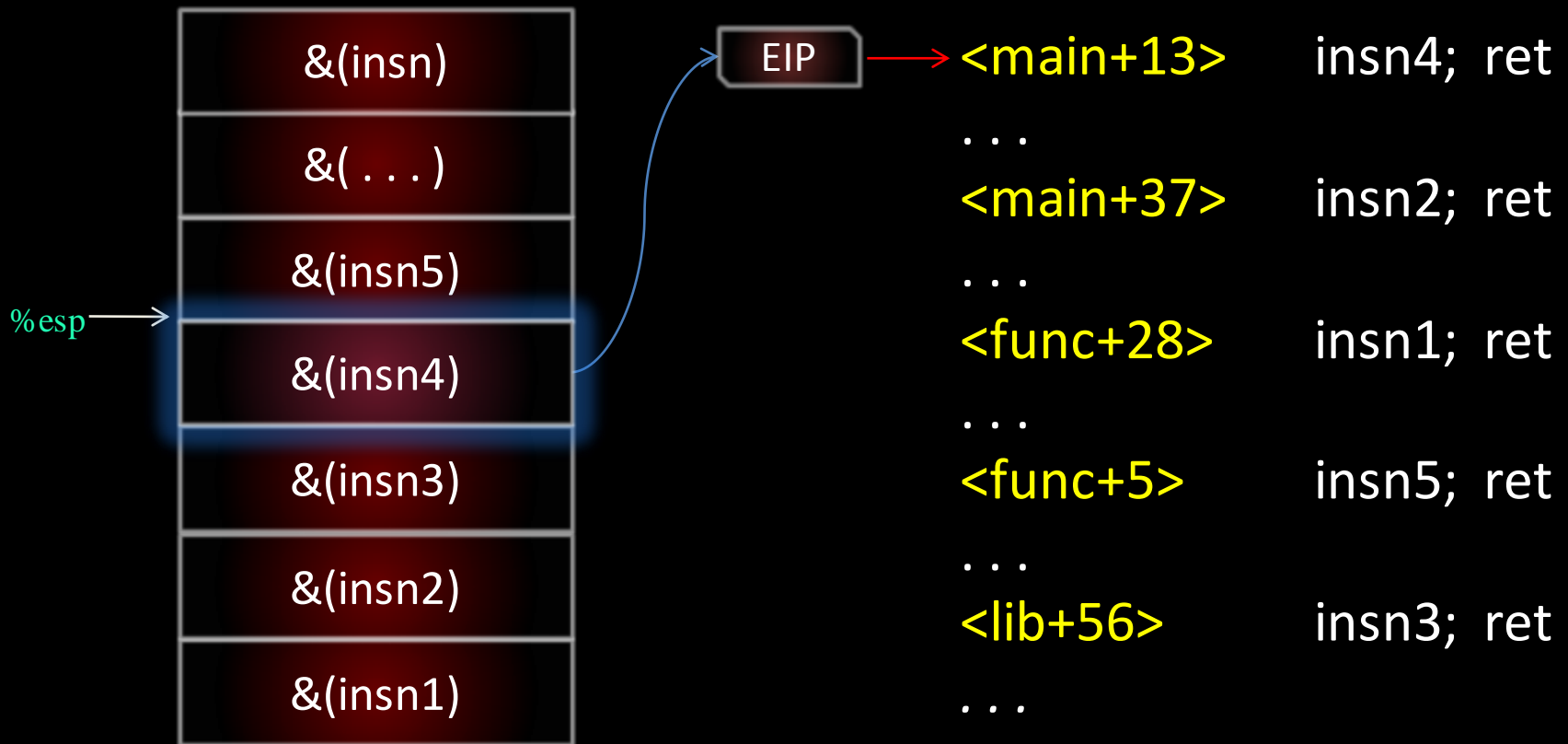
Execution Flow



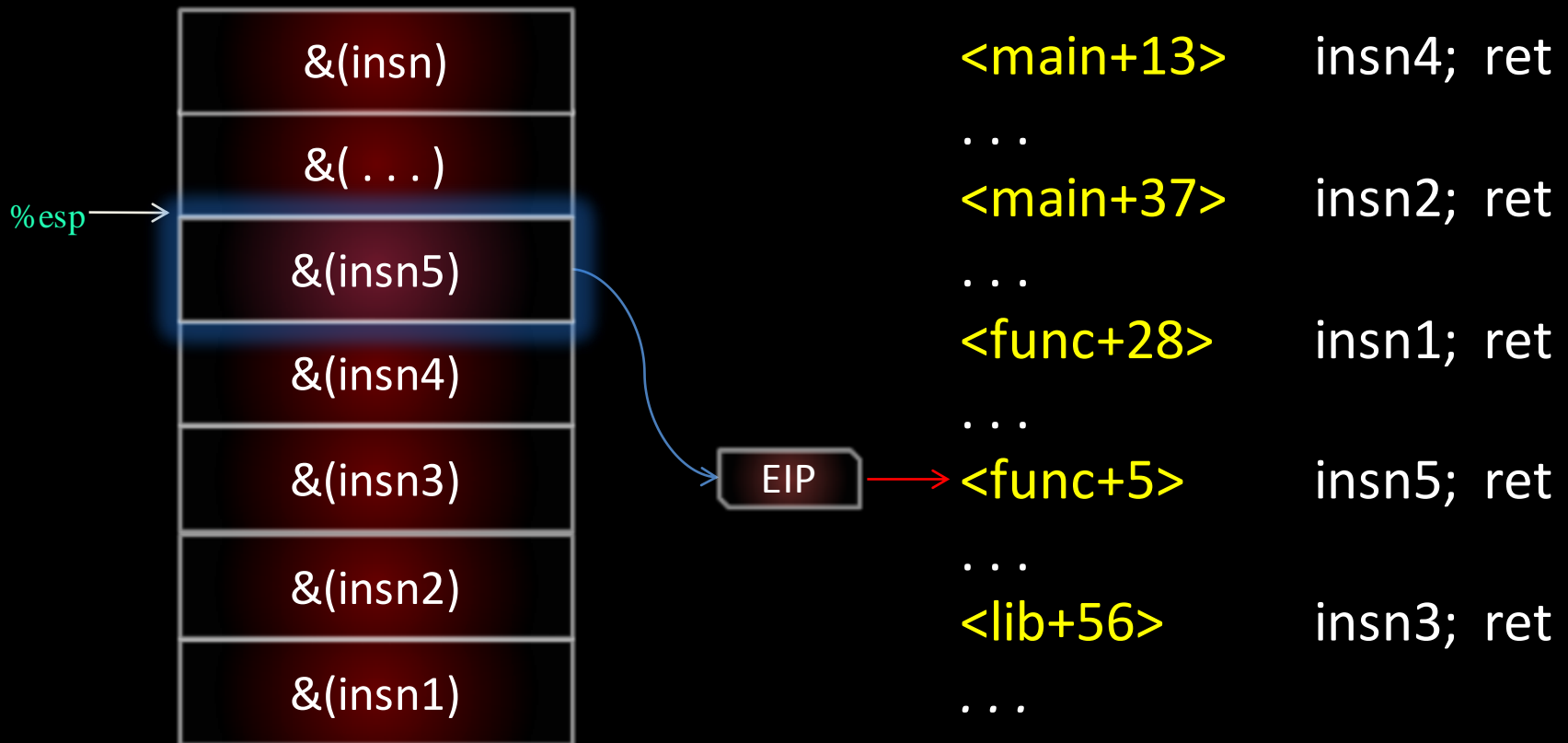
Execution Flow



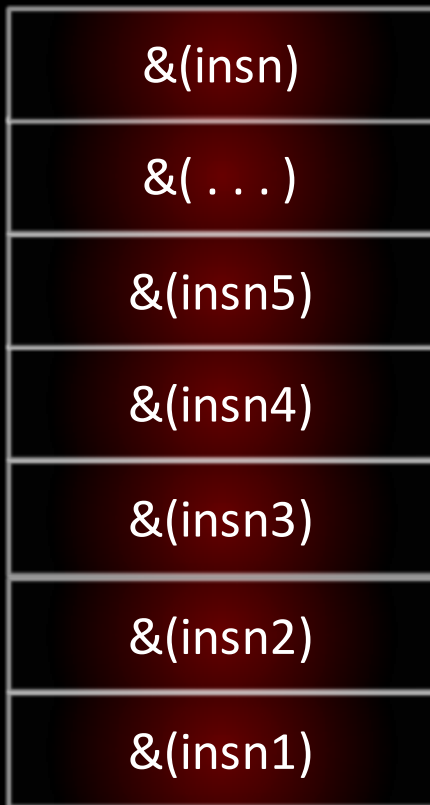
Execution Flow



Execution Flow



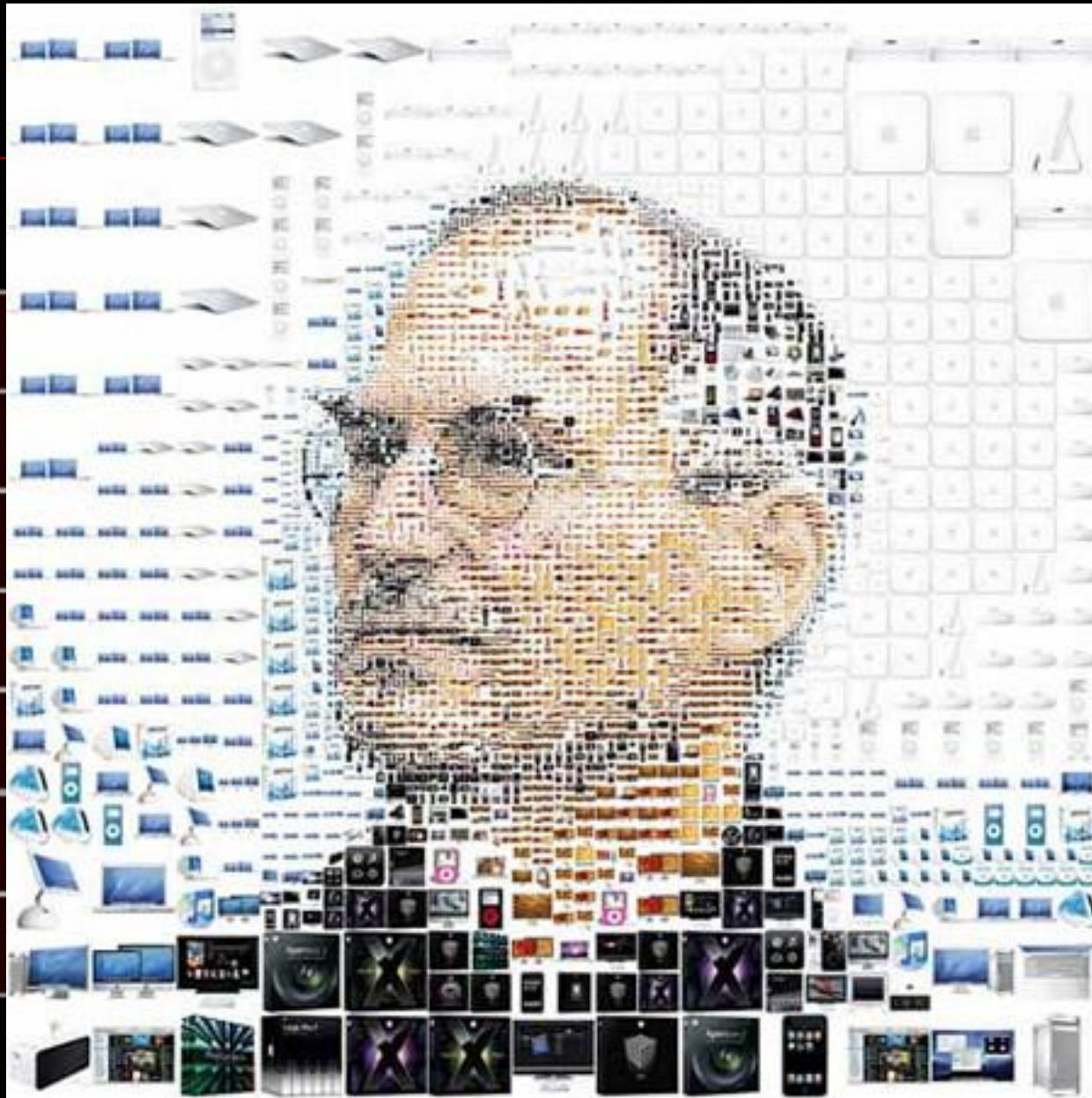
Execution Flow



In Return Oriented Programming:

- Small instructions sets are called one after another to simulate custom code execution.
- It is very probable to find in a binary all the instructions needed for any computation.

These instruction chunks are called **GADGETS**

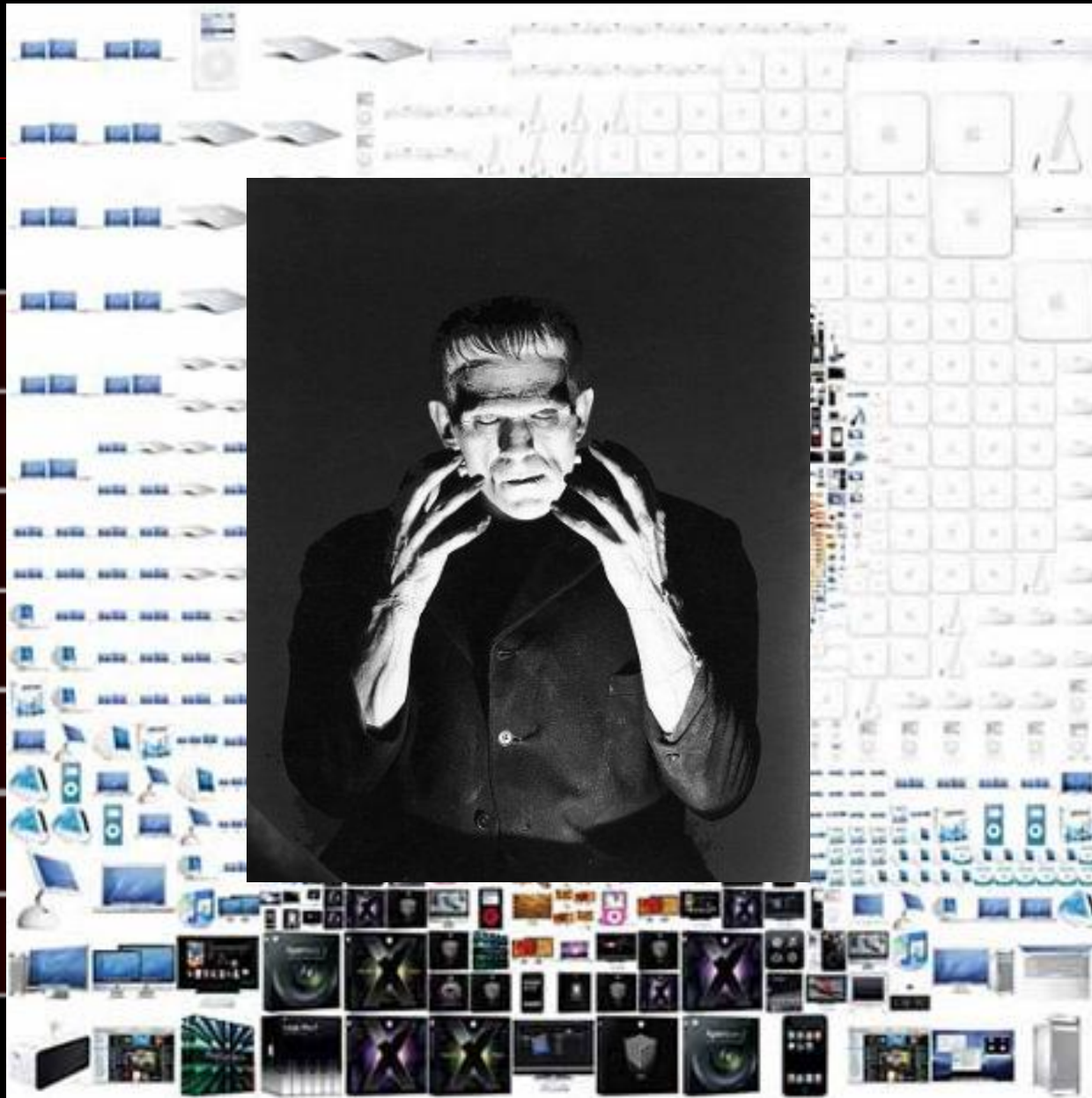


ing:

called
ate

n a binary
for any

called



ing:

called
ate

n a binary
for any

called

Example: Write word in memory

Write '0xdeadbabe' to address 0x10101010



0x08048624:
pop %edx
ret

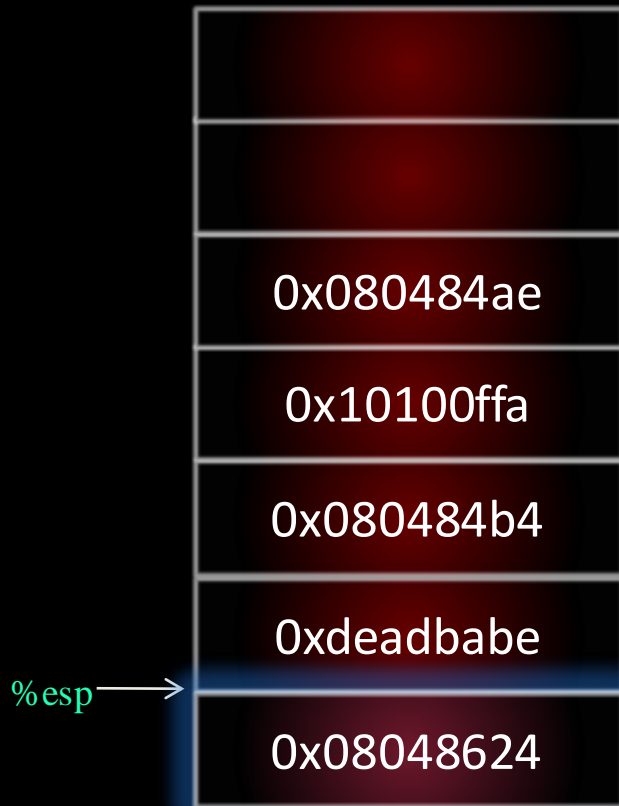
0x080484b4:
pop %eax
ret

0x0804a4ae:
movl %edx, 0x16(%eax)
ret

Example: Write word in memory

Write '0xdeadbabe' to address 0x10101010

// Load a constant : movl \$0xdeadbabe,%edx



0x08048624:

```
pop %edx  
ret
```

0x080484b4:

```
pop %eax  
ret
```

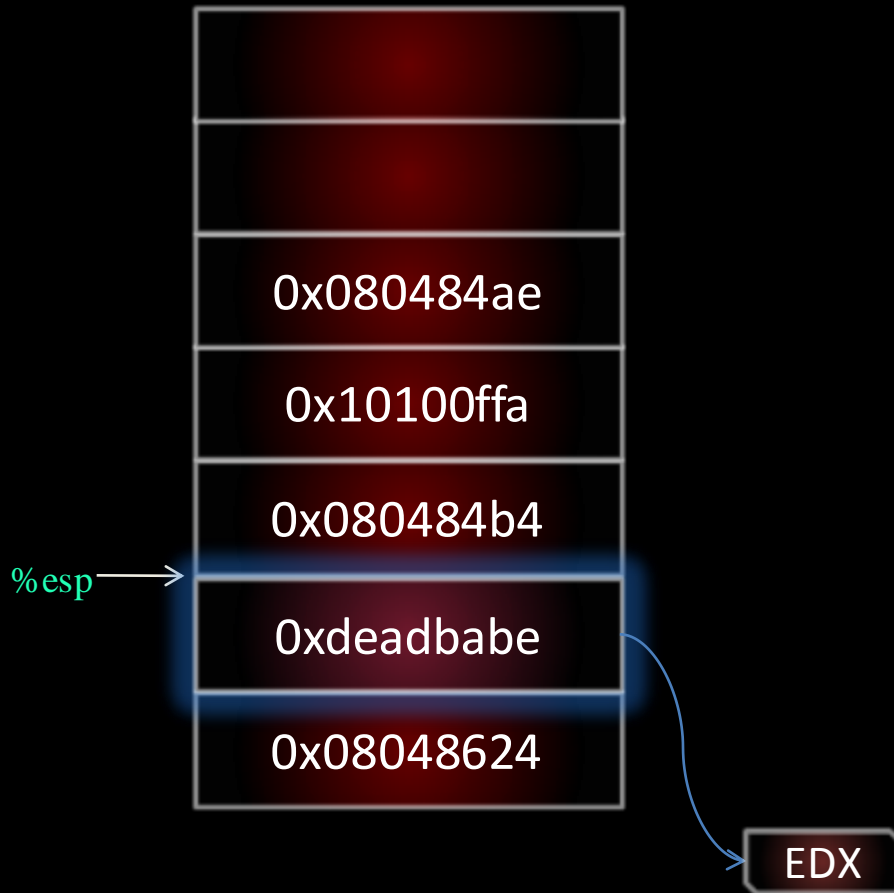
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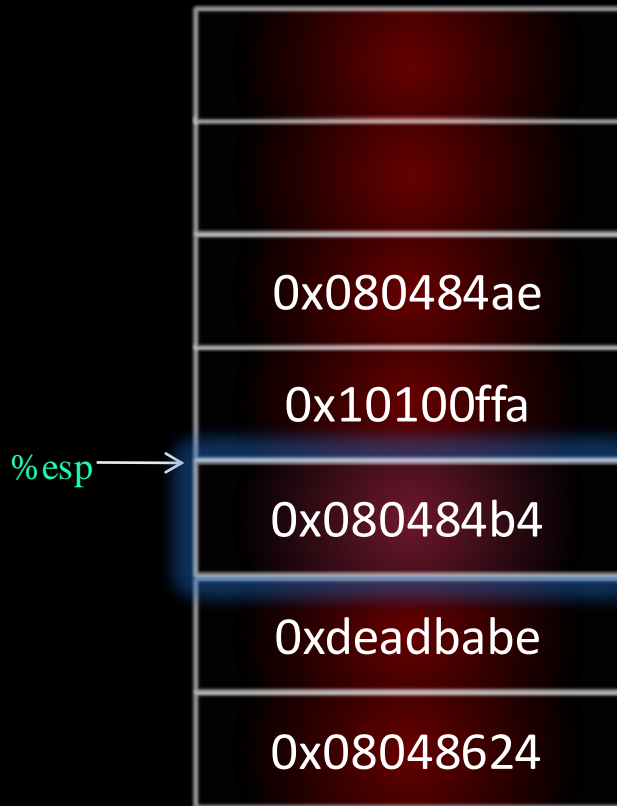
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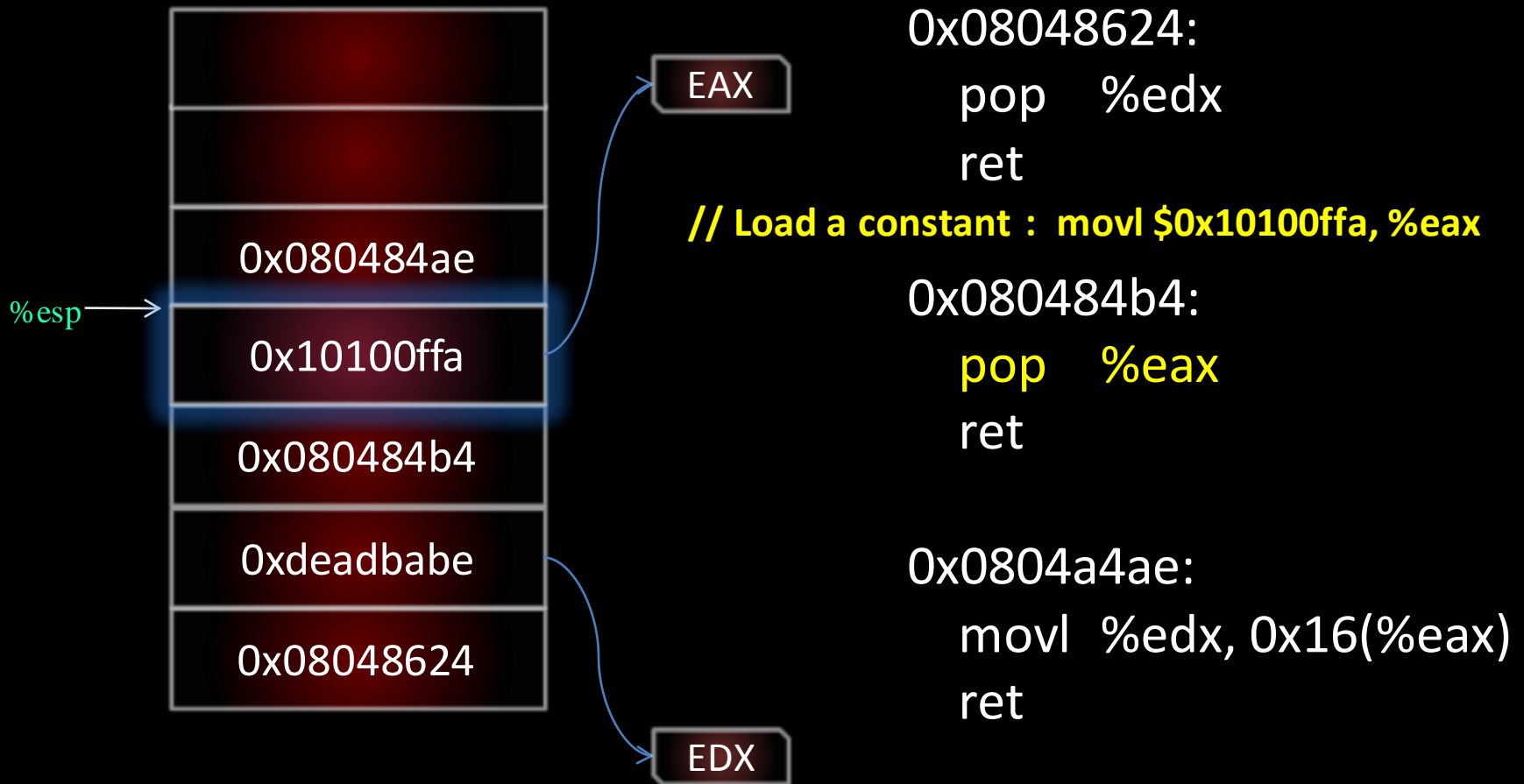
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EDX

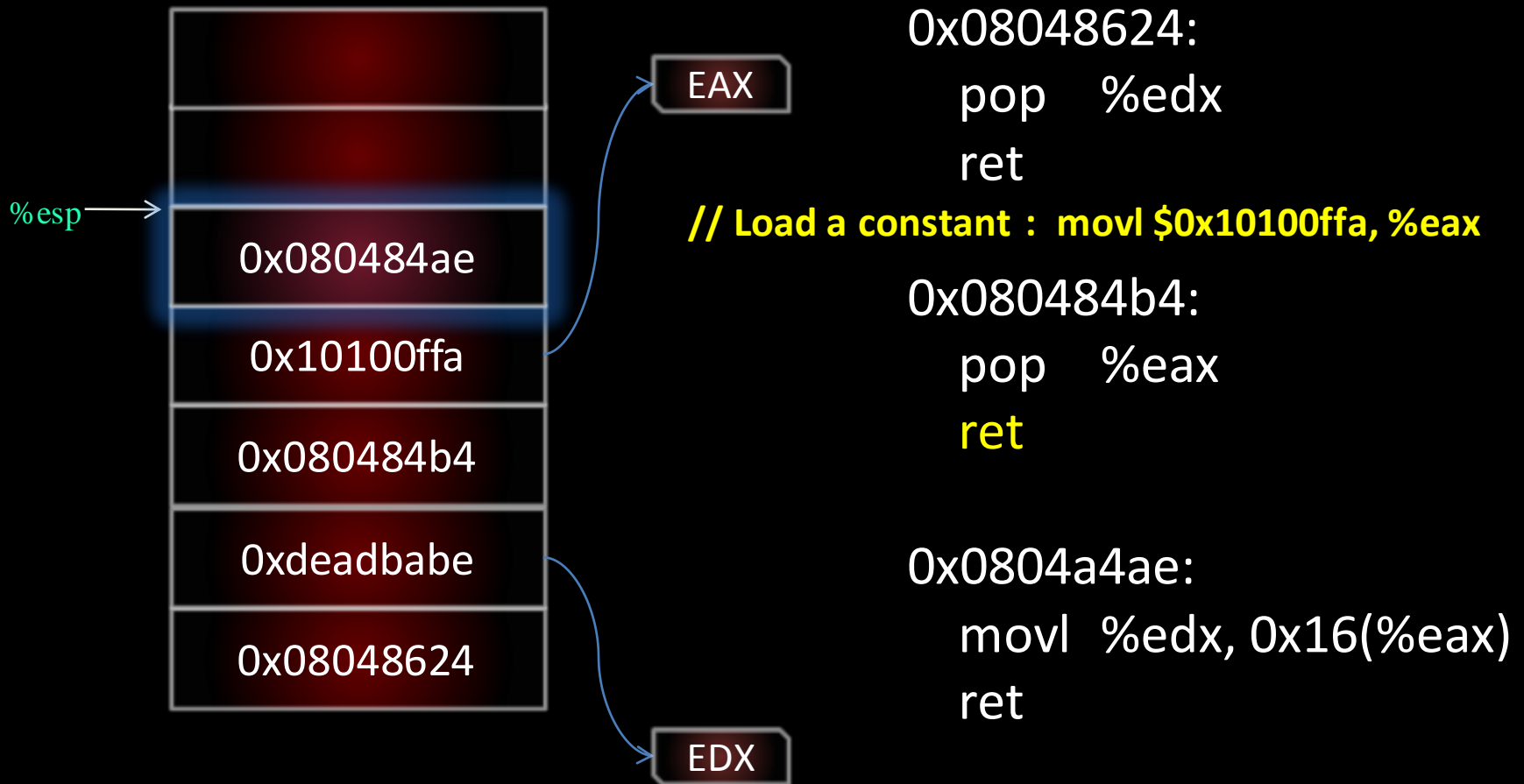
Example: Write word in memory

Write '0xdeadbabe' to address 0x10101010



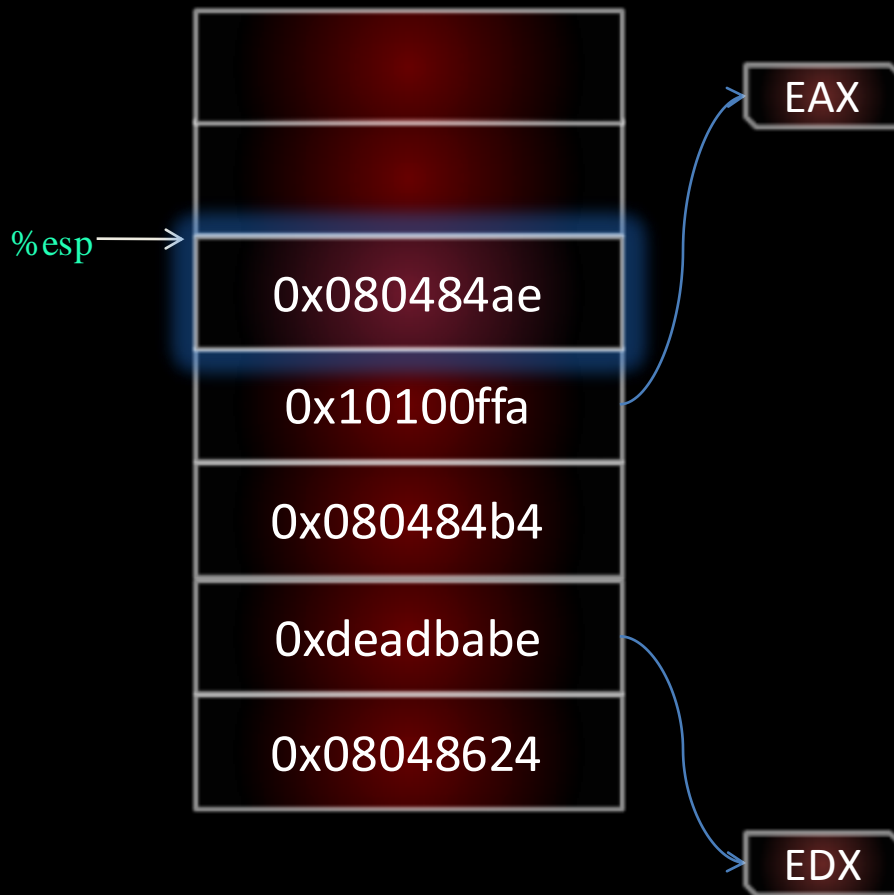
Example: Write word in memory

Write '0xdeadbabe' to address 0x10101010



Example: Write word in memory

Write '0xdeadbabe' to address 0x10101010



0x08048624:
pop %edx
ret

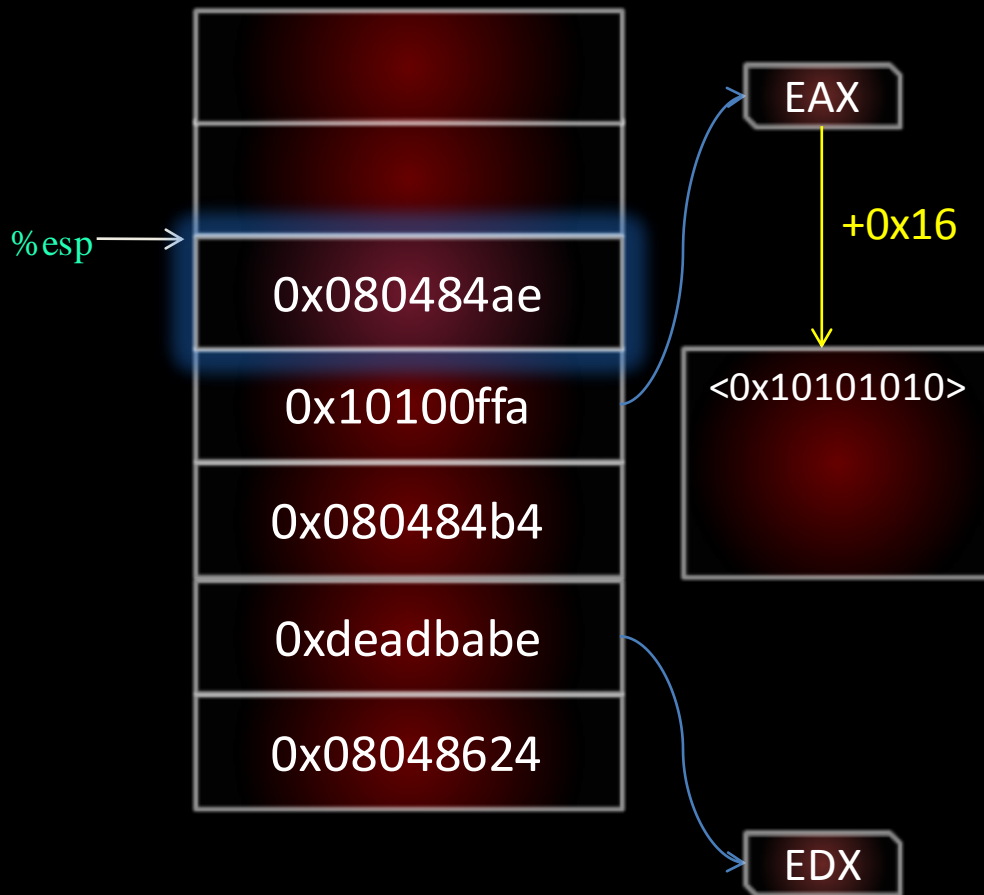
0x080484b4:
pop %eax
ret

// Store in memory

0x0804a4ae:
movl %edx, 0x16(%eax)
ret

Example: Write word in memory

Write '0xdeadbabe' to address 0x10101010



0x08048624:
pop %edx
ret

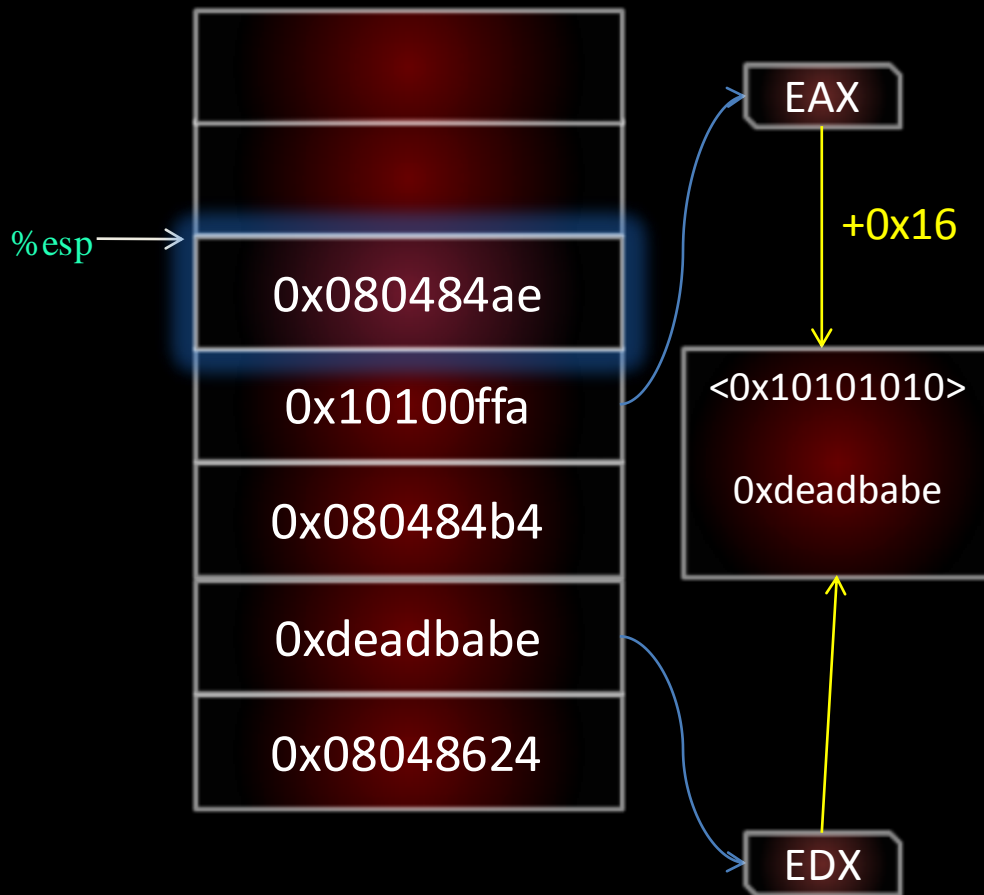
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pop %edx
ret

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pop %eax
ret

// Store in memory

0x0804a4ae:
movl %edx, 0x16(%eax)
ret

Finding useful instructions

- Scan executable for RET instructions
OpCode (0xc3)
- When RET is found, look backwards
- Make catalog of code chunks and addresses

GALILEO algorithm, *'The Geometry of Innocent Flesh in the Bone'*, Hovav Shacham

Exploiting payloads

Windows

Linux

Exploiting payloads

Windows

Linux

Data Execution Prevention

- Hardware DEP in Win32 uses NX/XD bit
- DEP Settings:
 - **OptIn:** Critical programs protected by default, other programs if supported.
 - **OptOut:** All programs protected by default (exception list)
 - **AlwaysOn:** No exceptions
 - **AlwaysOff:** DEP is turned off.
- Every module needs to be compiled with `/NXCOMPAT` flag

Data Execution Prevention

➤ Hardware DEP is

➤ DEP Settings:

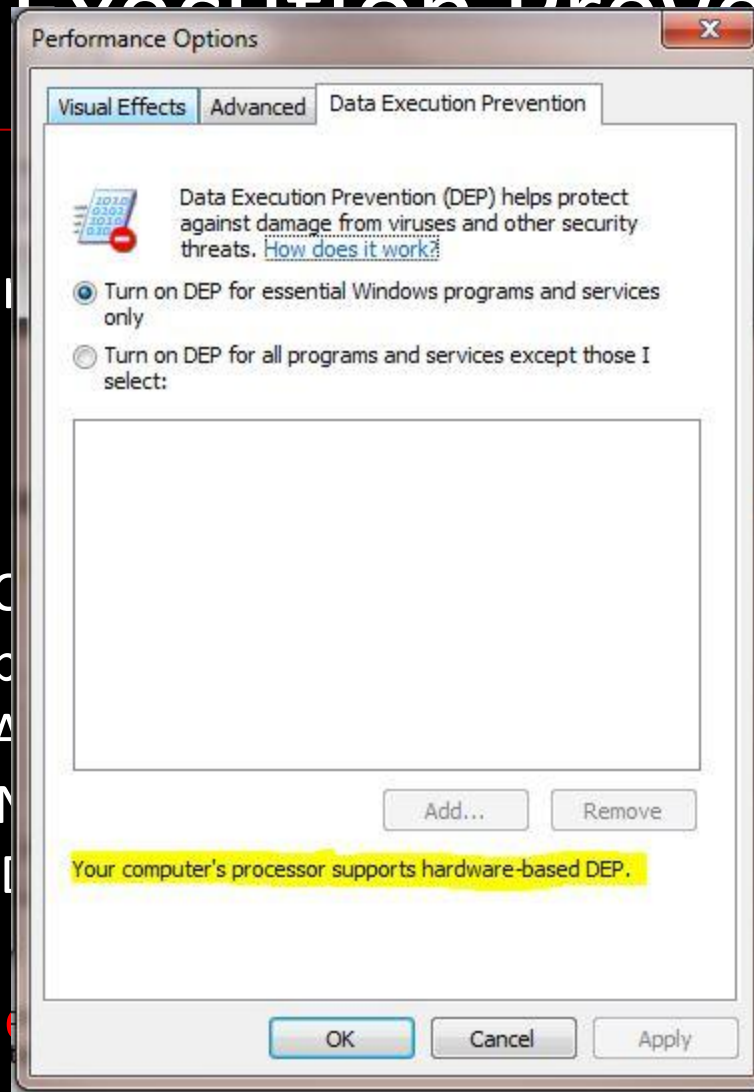
➤ OptIn:

➤ OptOut:

➤ AlwaysOn:

➤ AlwaysOff:

➤ Every module ne



default, other

t (exception list)

XCMPAT flag

➤ Hardware

➤ DEP S

➤ O

➤ O

➤ AI

➤ AI

➤ Every

CPU - main thread

Address	Hex dump	ASCII
0010F730	83C4 5E	ADD ESP,SE
0010F733	83C4 5E	ADD ESP,SE
0010F736	FFE4	JMP ESP
0010F738	004A 11	ADD BYTE PTR DS:[EDX+11],CL
0010F73B	0001	ADD BYTE PTR DS:[ECX],AL
0010F73D	0000	ADD BYTE PTR DS:[EAX],AL
0010F73F	0030	ADD BYTE PTR DS:[EAX],DH
0010F741	F710	NOT DWORD PTR DS:[EAX]
0010F743	0000	ADD BYTE PTR DS:[EAX],AL
0010F745	0000	ADD BYTE PTR DS:[EAX],AL
0010F747	0090 90909090	ADD BYTE PTR DS:[EAX+90909090],DL
0010F74D	90	NOP
0010F74E	90	NOP
0010F74F	90	NOP
0010F750	90	NOP
0010F751	90	NOP
0010F752	90	NOP
0010F753	90	NOP
0010F754	90	NOP
0010F755	90	NOP
0010F756	90	NOP
0010F757	90	NOP
0010F758	90	NOP
0010F759	90	NOP
0010F75A	90	NOP

ESP=0010F730

Address	Hex dump	ASCII
00446000	00 00 00 00 31 7A 43 001zC.
00446008	30 54 40 00 80 54 40 00	0T0,CT0.
00446010	00 56 40 00 30 57 40 00	..U0,0W0.
00446018	80 3F 41 00 60 C4 42 00	0?A,'-B.
00446020	F0 C4 42 00 10 5D 43 00	=-B,1JC.
00446028	90 60 43 00 00 00 00 00	E'C.....
00446030	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
00446038	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
00446040	53 65 6C 65 63 74 20 74	Select t
00446048	68 65 20 44 69 72 65 63	he Direc
00446050	74 6F 72 79 20 79 6F 75	tory you
00446058	20 77 69 73 68 20 74 6F	wish to
00446060	20 6F 75 74 70 75 74 2E	output.
00446068	2E 00 00 63 68 61 6Echan
00446070	67 65 64 00 73 65 63 00	ged.sec.
00446078	6D 69 6E 73 00 00 00 00	mins....
00446080	69 73 20 62 69 67 67 65	is bigge
00446088	72 20 74 68 61 6E 00 00	r than..
00446090	4D 42 00 00 25 64 00 00	MB..%d..
00446098	25 73 00 00 54 68 65 20	%s.The
004460A0	6F 75 74 70 75 74 20 64	output d
004460A8	69 72 65 63 74 6F 72 79	irectory
004460B0	20 69 73 20 6E 6F 74 20	is not
004460B8	6F 6E 65 20 69 6E 76 61	one inva
004460C0	69 6C 64 20 64 69 72 65	ild dire
004460C8	63 74 72 79 2E 20 21 20	ctry. !
004460D0	00 0A 00 00 4F 74 68 650the

0010F730 835EC483 5-^3
0010F734 E4FF5EC4 -^2
0010F738 00114A00 .J4.
0010F73C 00000001 0...
0010F740 0010F730 0%>.
0010F744 00000000
0010F748 90909090 EEEE
0010F74C 90909090 EEEE
0010F750 90909090 EEEE
0010F754 90909090 EEEE
0010F758 90909090 EEEE
0010F75C 90909090 EEEE
0010F760 90909090 EEEE
0010F764 90909090 EEEE
0010F768 90909090 EEEE
0010F76C 90909090 EEEE
0010F770 90909090 EEEE
0010F774 90909090 EEEE
0010F778 90909090 EEEE
0010F77C 90909090 EEEE
0010F780 90909090 EEEE
0010F784 90909090 EEEE
0010F788 90909090 EEEE
0010F78C 90909090 EEEE
0010F790 90909090 EEEE
0010F794 90909090 EEEE
0010F798 90909090 EEEE
0010F79C 90909090 EEEE
0010F7A0 90909090 EEEE

017EB000 00001000 Priv
017EC000 00004000 Priv
018DC000 00014000 Priv
019EB000 00001000 Priv
019EC000 00004000 Priv
01AEB000 00001000 Priv
01AEC000 00004000 Priv
019FA000 00001000 MSRMCoord

stack of th: Priv
stack of th: Priv
stack of th: Priv
PE header: Imag RW Guas: RW
de: Imag E RWE
ports,exp: Imag R RWE
ta: Imag RW RWE
locations: Imag R RWE

SEH chain of main thread

Address	SE handler
0010F730	0010F730

[23:00:32] Access violation when executing [0010F730] use Shift+F7/F8/F9 to pass exception to program

flag

Data Execution Prevention

- DEP could be turned off for the whole process by calling the function `NtSetInformationProcess()`
- «Permanent DEP» introduced in XP SP3 & Vista SP1, prevents DEP from being disabled.
- Windows OSs default settings:
 - **XP SP1-SP2, Vista SP0:** OptIn
 - **XP SP3, Vista SP1:** OptIn + Permanent DEP
 - **Windows 7:** Optin + Permanent DEP
 - **Server 2003 SP1:** OptOut
 - **Server 2008:** OptOut + Permament DEP

Data Execution Prevention

➤ Potencial DEP bypasses:

- `NtSetInformationProcess()`
- `SetProcessDepPolicy()`
- `VirtualProtect(PAGE_READ_WRITE_EXECUTABLE)`
- `HeapCreate(HEAP_CREATE_ENABLE_EXECUTE) + HeapAlloc()`
- `VirtualAlloc(MEM_COMMIT + PAGE_READWRITE_EXECUTE)`
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What about ASLR?

- You need to know the address of the gadgets for ROP.

DEP + ASLR = Hard Exploitation

- **Search for a module that doesn't opt-in for ASLR, then use the instructions from that module.**
- **Find a memory-layout disclosure bug.**

Exploiting payloads

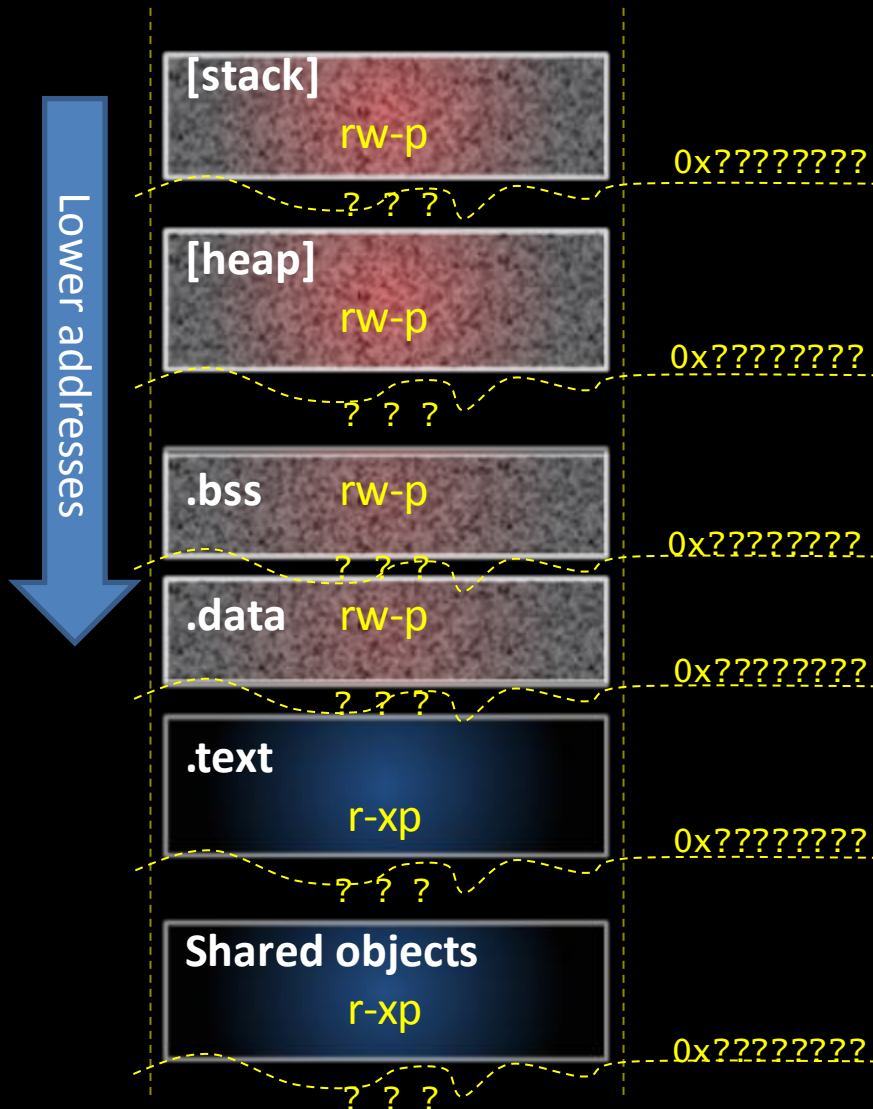
Windows

Linux

Linux NX Memory

- NX Memory can be implemented through different kernel patches
 - GrSecurity
 - PaX
 - ExecShield
- Many distros implement NX Memory
 - Ubuntu
 - Fedora (ExecShield)
 - Hardened Gentoo (Gr Security)
- Protection level varies depending in the implemented patch

Linux ASLR

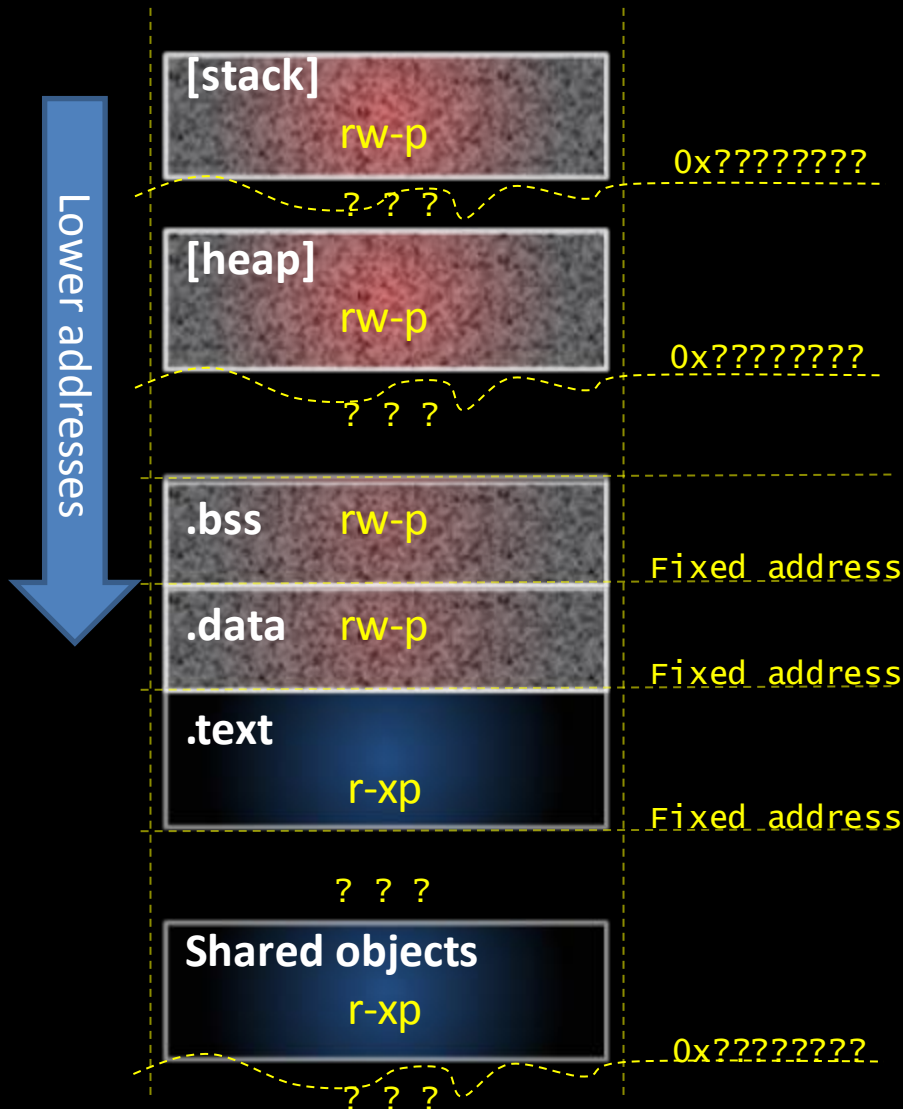


Introduced to **Linux** by PaX in 2001

Kernel has an ASLR implementation via `randomize_va_space`

Full ASLR? Not quite ;)

Linux ASLR

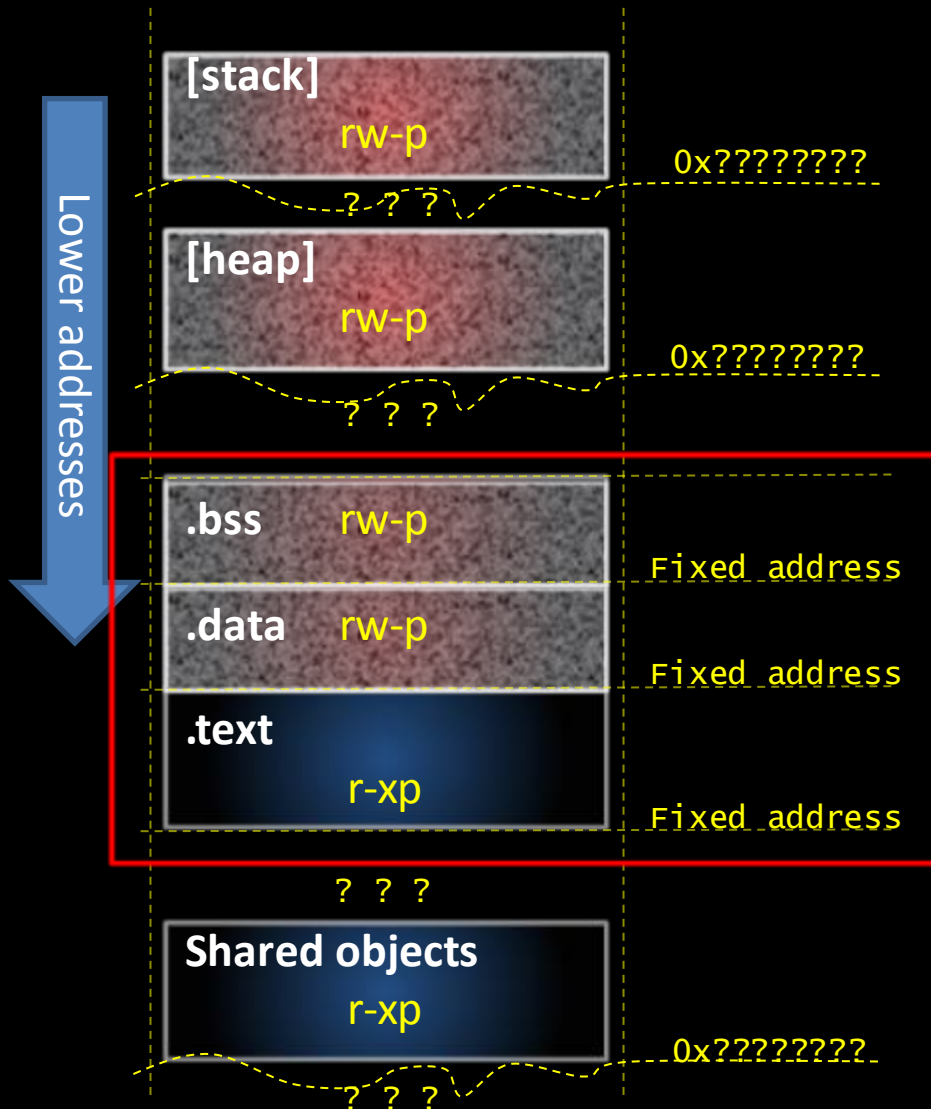


Full memory randomization in the process only when the program was compiled to be **Position Independent Executable**.

Otherwise, the exec base is not randomized. So not 100% ASLR

No-PIE code is still very common in most linux distros. (PIE decreases performance)

Linux ASLR



Full memory randomization in the process only when the program was compiled to be **Position Independent Executable**.

Otherwise, the exec base is not randomized. So not 100% ASLR

No-PIE code is still very common in most linux distros.

```
trew@DarkLight ~ $ readelf -S vuln
There are 30 section headers, starting at offset 0x92c:
```

Section Headers:

[Nr]	Name	Type	Addr	Off	Size	ES	Flg	Lk	Inf	Al
[0]		NULL	00000000	000000	000000	00		0	0	0
[1]	.interp	PROGBITS	08048134	000134	000013	00	A	0	0	1
[2]	.note.ABI-tag	NOTE	08048148	000148	000020	00	A	0	0	4
[3]	.note.gnu.build-id	NOTE	08048168	000168	000024	00	A	0	0	4
[4]	.gnu.hash	GNU_HASH	0804818c	00018c	000020	04	A	5	0	4
[5]	.dynsym	DYNSYM	080481ac	0001ac	0000b0	10	A	6	1	4
[6]	.dynstr	STRTAB	0804825c	00025c	000073	00	A	0	0	1
[7]	.gnu.version	VERSYM	080482d0	0002d0	000016	02	A	5	0	2
[8]	.gnu.version_r	VERNEED	080482e8	0002e8	000020	00	A	6	1	4
[9]	.rel.dyn	REL	08048308	000308	000008	08	A	5	0	4
[10]	.rel.plt	REL	08048310	000310	000048	08	A	5	12	4
[11]	.init	PROGBITS	08048358	000358	000030	00	AX	0	0	4
[12]	.plt	PROGBITS	08048388	000388	0000a0	04	AX	0	0	4
[13]	.text	PROGBITS	08048430	000430	0001dc	00	AX	0	0	16
[14]	.fini	PROGBITS	0804860c	00060c	00001c	00	AX	0	0	4
[15]	.rodata	PROGBITS	08048628	000628	000028	00	A	0	0	4
[16]	.eh_frame_hdr	PROGBITS	08048650	000650	000024	00	A	0	0	4
[17]	.eh_frame	PROGBITS	08048674	000674	00007c	00	A	0	0	4
[18]	.ctors	PROGBITS	080496f0	0006f0	000008	00	WA	0	0	4
[19]	.dtors	PROGBITS	080496f8	0006f8	000008	00	WA	0	0	4
[20]	.jcr	PROGBITS	08049700	000700	000004	00	WA	0	0	4
[21]	.dynamic	DYNAMIC	08049704	000704	0000c8	08	WA	6	0	4
[22]	.got	PROGBITS	080497cc	0007cc	000004	04	WA	0	0	4
[23]	.got.plt	PROGBITS	080497d0	0007d0	000030	04	WA	0	0	4
[24]	.data	PROGBITS	08049800	000800	000004	00	WA	0	0	4
[25]	.bss	NOBITS	08049804	000804	000008	00	WA	0	0	4
[26]	.comment	PROGBITS	00000000	000804	00002c	01	MS	0	0	1
[27]	.shstrtab	STRTAB	00000000	000830	0000fc	00		0	0	1
[28]	.symtab	SYMTAB	00000000	000ddc	000470	10		29	45	4
[29]	.strtab	STRTAB	00000000	00124c	000265	00		0	0	1

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to be

se is not
0% ASLR

distros.

Lower addresses

Key to Flags:

W (write), A (alloc), X (execute), M (merge), S (strings)

Linux Overflows Exploitation

- NX Memory + ASLR (w/out PIE) + AAAS bypass.
- Long Le's Technique '*Data Reuse for ROP Exploits*'
- 2 Stage attack:
 - Stage-0: Transfer payload to custom stack at fixed location
 - Stage-1: Execute payload from custom stack as normal ROP

Sta

trew@DarkLight ~ \$ readelf -S vuln

There are 30 section headers, starting at offset 0x92c:

om

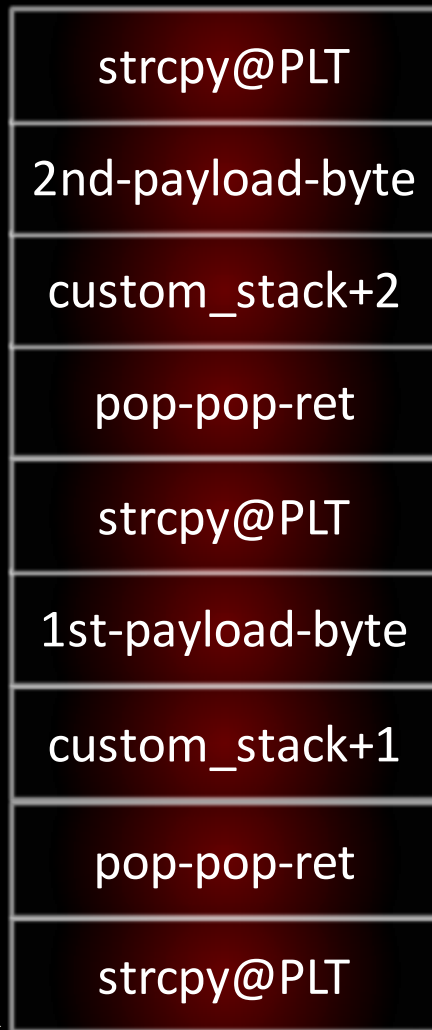
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Stage-0: Transfer payload to custom stack

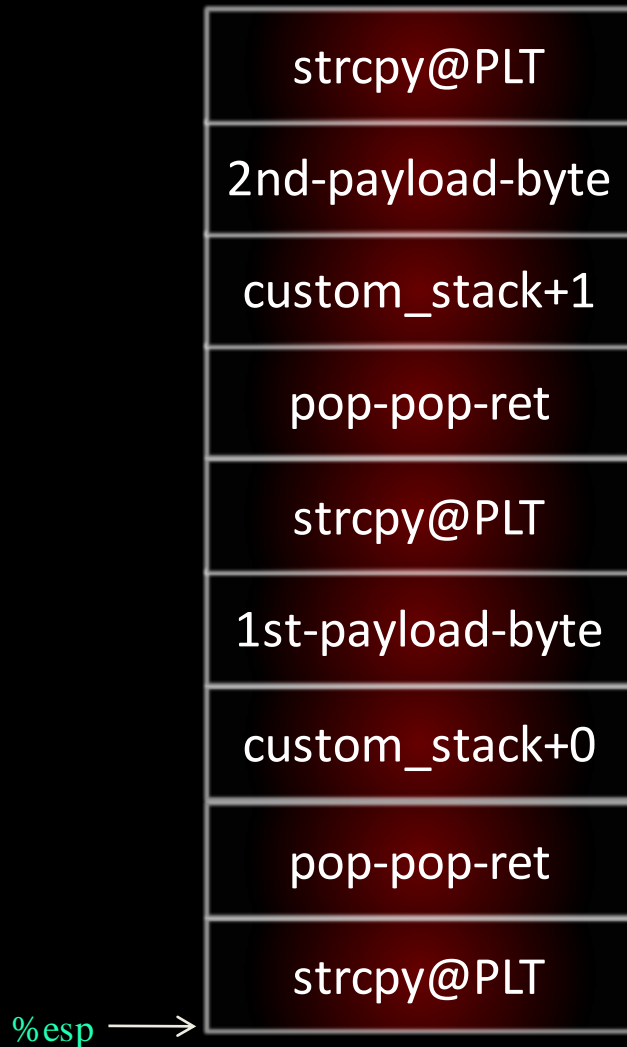


Search for individual bytes in binary to construct payload.

Copy with strcpy the bytes to custom stack, one-by-one.

Use Procedure Linkage Table to jump to strcpy.

Stage-0: Transfer payload to custom stack



Payload = ['/bin/sh']



.data custom stack (fixed location)

Stage-0: Transfer payload to custom stack



Payload = [`'/bin/sh'`]

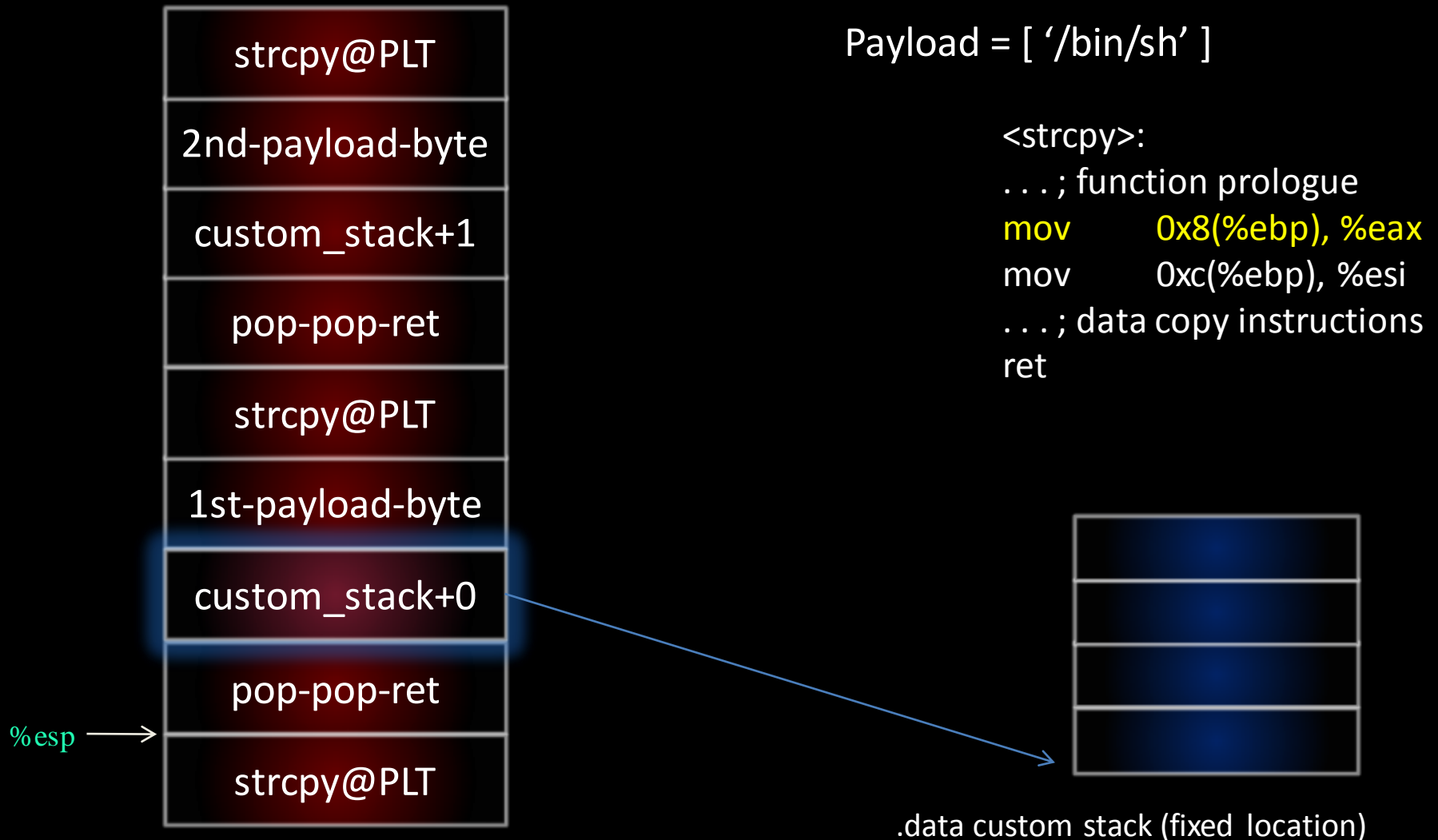
<strcpy>:

```
... ; function prologue  
mov     0x8(%ebp), %eax  
mov     0xc(%ebp), %esi  
... ; data copy instructions  
ret
```

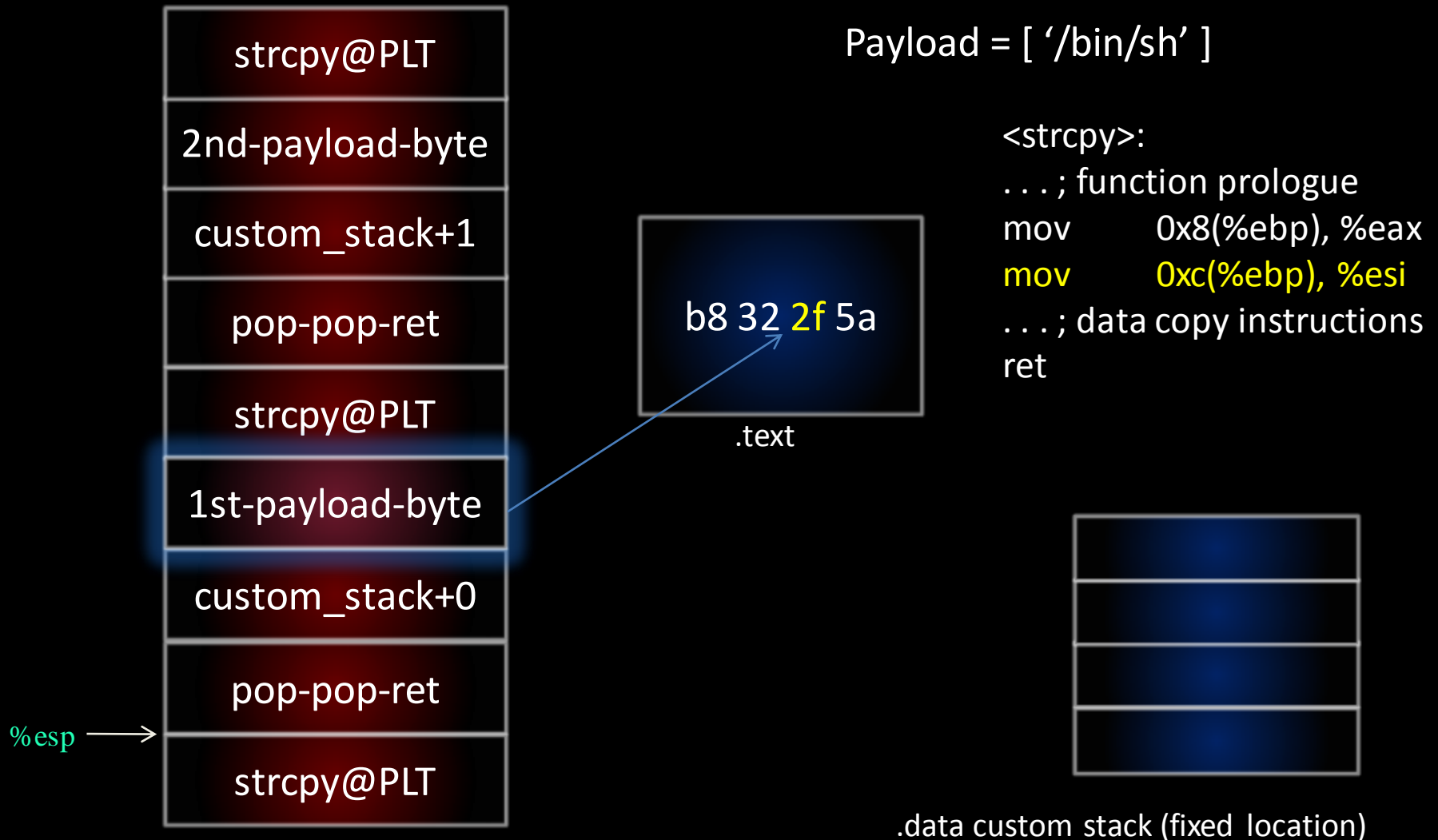


.data custom stack (fixed location)

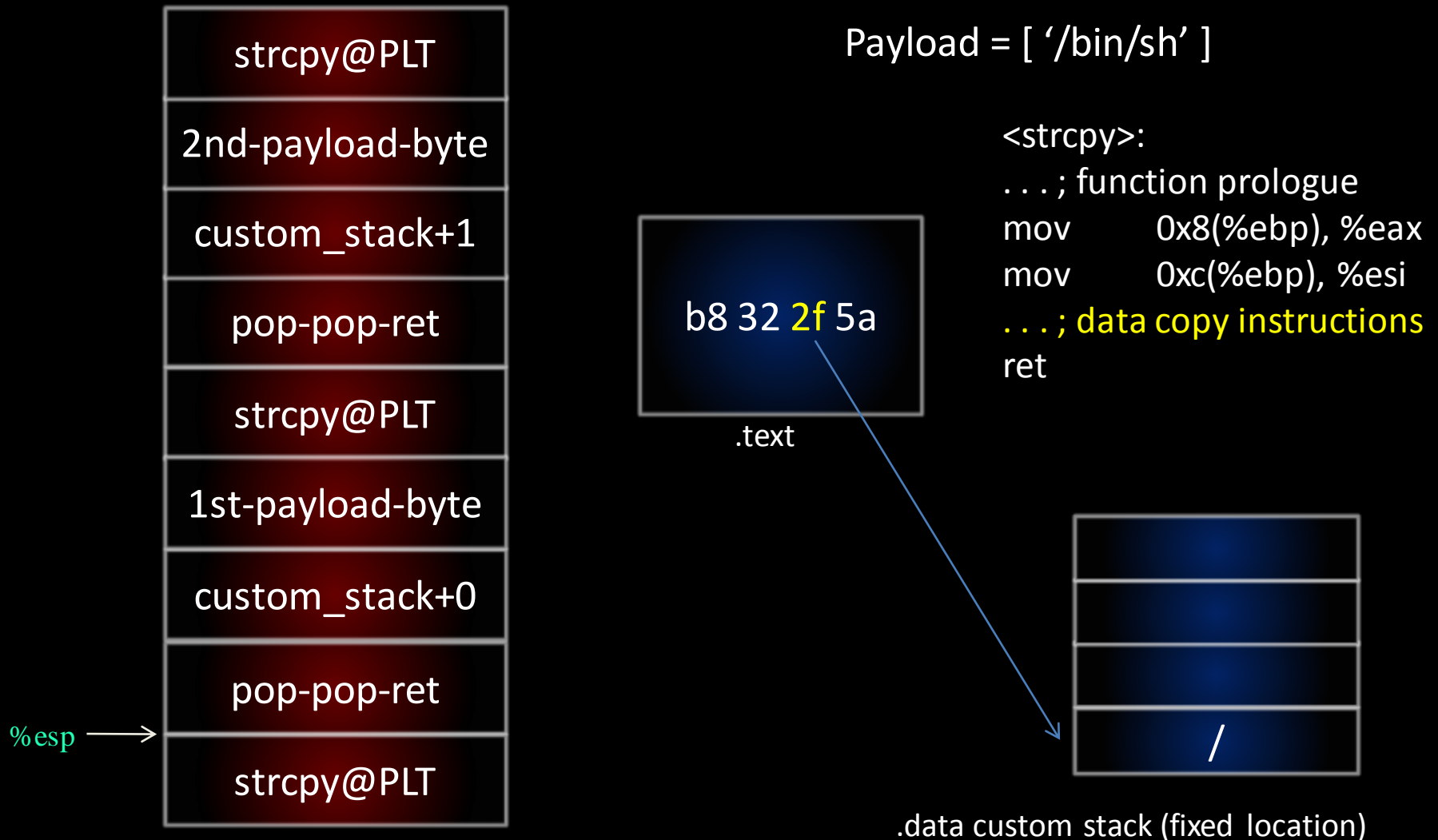
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Stage-0: Transfer payload to custom stack

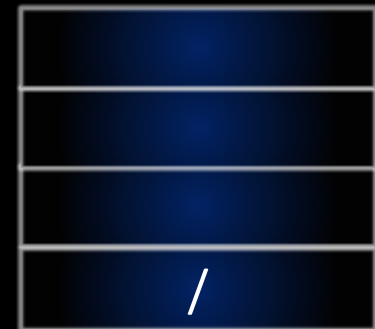


Stage-0: Transfer payload to custom stack



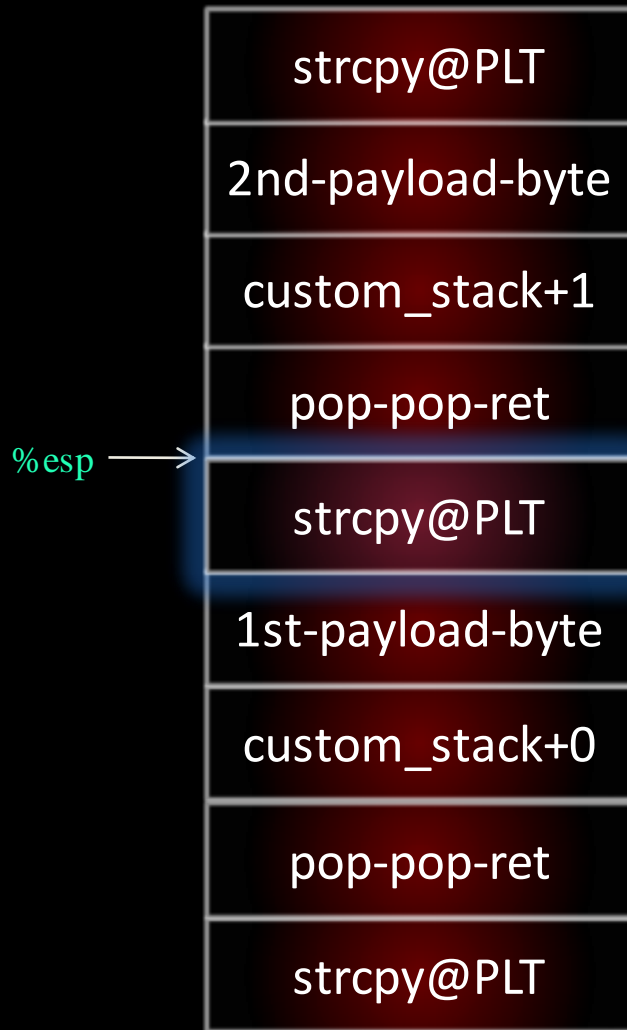
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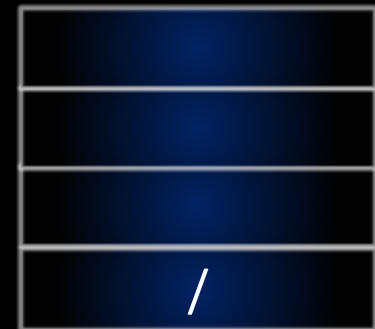
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Stage-0: Transfer payload to custom stack



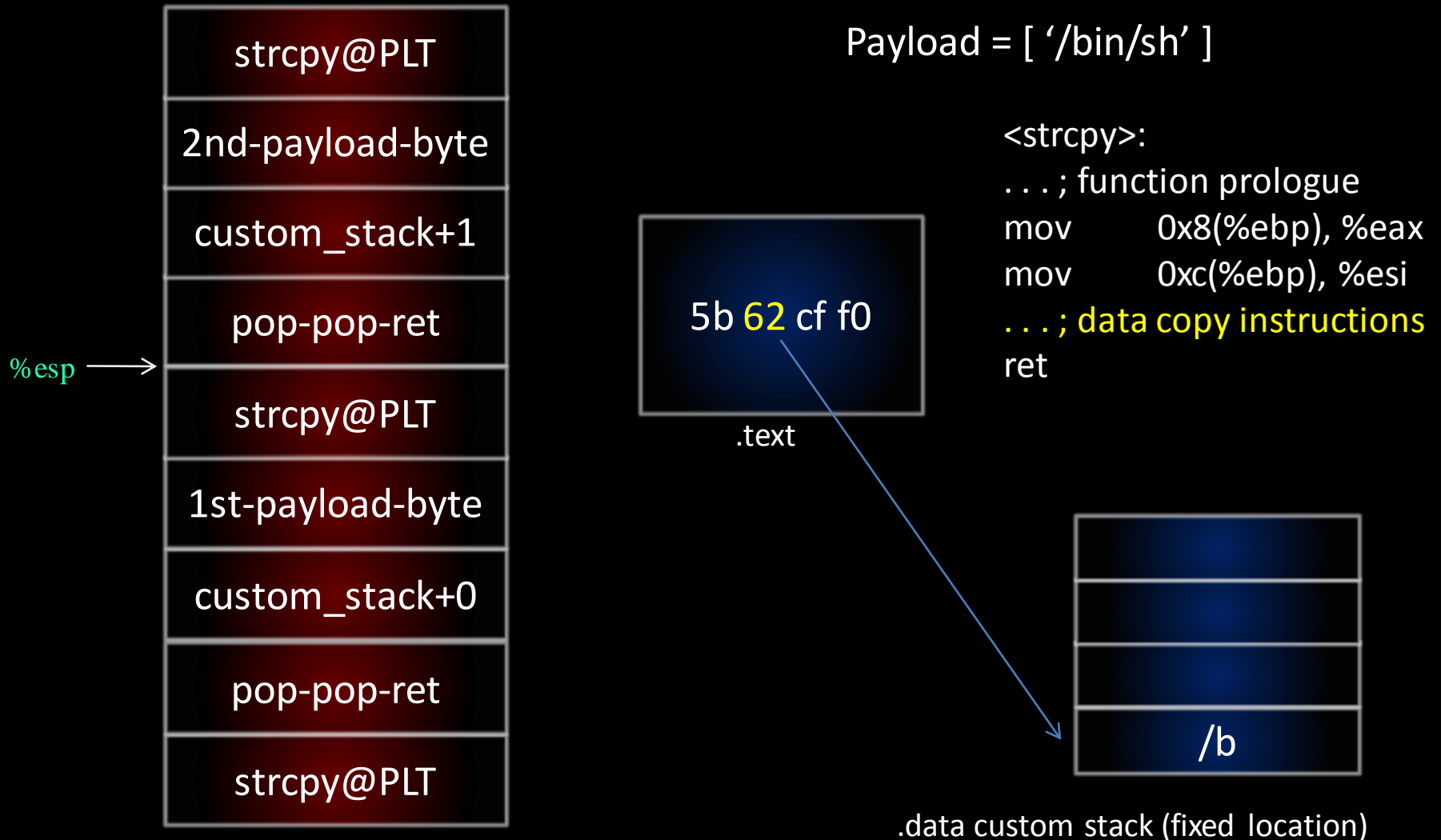
Payload = ['/bin/sh']

pop %ecx
pop %ebx
ret

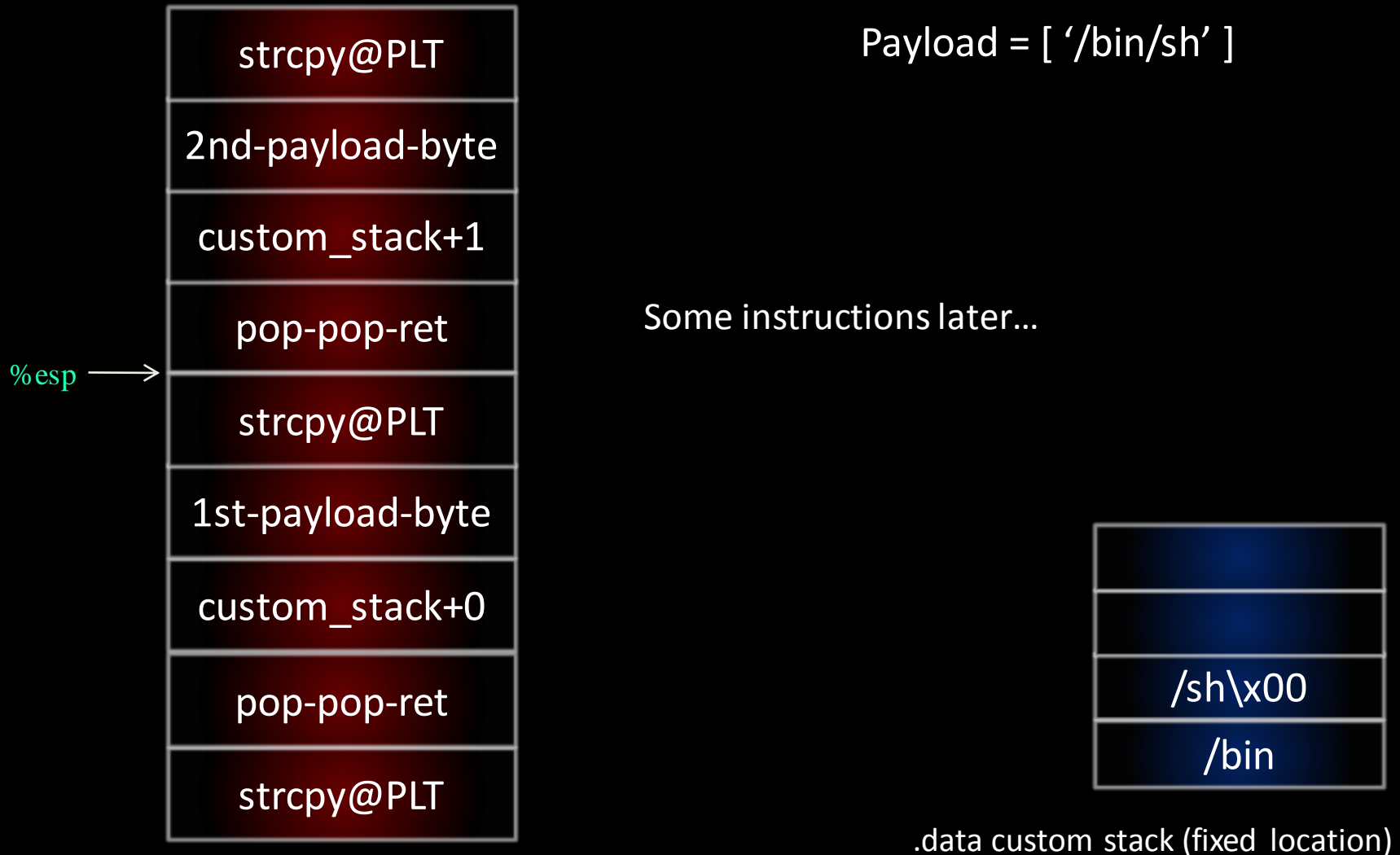


.data custom stack (fixed location)

Stage-0: Transfer payload to custom stack



Stage-0: Transfer payload to custom stack



From Stage-0 to Stage-1

Switch stack pointer to custom stack



.data custom stack (fixed location)

From Stage-0 to Stage-1

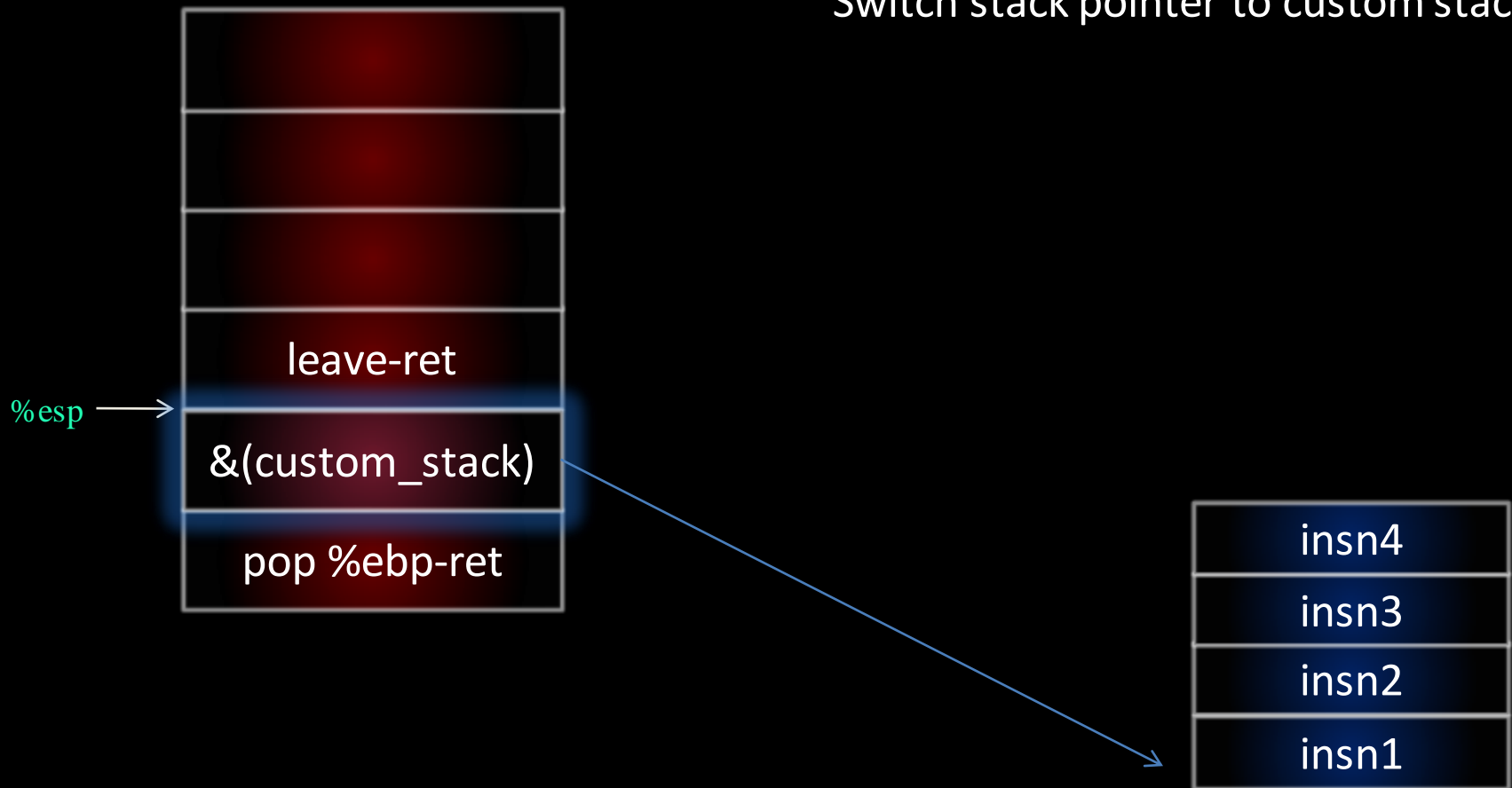
Switch stack pointer to custom stack



.data custom stack (fixed location)

From Stage-0 to Stage-1

Switch stack pointer to custom stack



.data custom stack (fixed location)

From Stage-0 to Stage-1



Switch stack pointer to custom stack

leave:

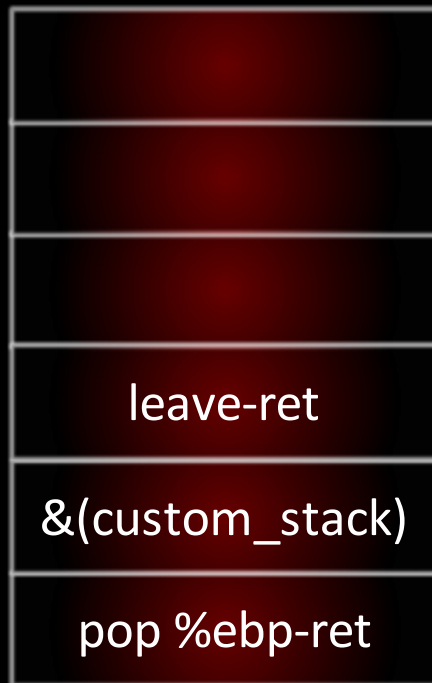
```
movl %ebp, %esp  
pop %ebp
```

ret



.data custom stack (fixed location)

From Stage-0 to Stage-1

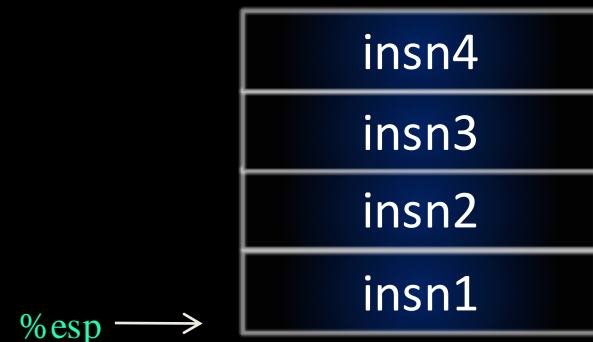


Switch stack pointer to custom stack

leave:

```
movl %ebp, %esp  
pop %ebp
```

ret



.data custom stack (fixed location)

Stage 1

➤ Possible payloads

- Chained `ret-to-libc` calls
- Return to: `mprotect() + memcpy() + mprotect`
- ROP Shellcode

Stage 1

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- Return to: `mprotect() + memcpy() + mprotect`
- `ROP Shellcode`

DEMO

Other Affected Technologies

- Hardware protected machines
- Code Signing
 - Xbox
 - iPhone OS

Outro

- NX Memory is not enough
- **ASLR makes things harder (it may still be feasible to exploit)**
- **Secure coding is still important**

Thanks 😊

Q & A

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Shouts!:

Ayzax, hkm, KBrown, lightos, nitr0us, sirdarckcat